INSIDE

WT-Int. Crude - $24.23
WTIC Posted - $21.00
Natural Gas - $2.945

# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
March 13, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 270
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Brittany Miller

*In a light voter turnout...*

# Republicans favor Waller for judge

Former Snyder mayor Rod Waller took a 54-vote victory as the Republican nominee for county judge.

Waller

Local Republicans, in a light voter turnout, made Waller the party's pick for county judge, 550-496, over Ted Crenwelge.

Waller, with 52.8 percent of the GOP votes, led Crenwelge throughout the evening, starting with the release of early voting totals where he tallied 250 votes to Crenwelge's 185. But it was not until 10:30 p.m., when the final box was counted, that a clear winner was decided.

Waller carried eight of the 11 voting boxes and will face Janet Stribling in November. Stribling polled 478 votes in the Democratic primary.

Turnout was unexpectedly low as only 1,713, or 15.5 percent of the county's 11,026 registered voters, went to the polls.

"I'm pleased with the outcome and look forward to the November election," Waller said.

"I would like to thank everyone who voted Tuesday. I promise to have a clean, honest campaign for the general election, and I look forward to sharing my thoughts with every voter on the future of Scurry County," said Waller.

This morning Crenwelge congratulated Waller. "I really don't have anything else to say. I wish him well."

Floyd

In the Republican race for Scurry County commissioner in precinct 2, Robbie Floyd received 234 votes to Cliff Hall's 139.

In early voting, Floyd received 98 votes while Hall garnered 62. Floyd will face Democrat Jerry House in November. House the lone Demo candidate, polled 130 votes.

In the only other locally contested race, Precinct 4 commissioner Chloanne Lindsey easily outdistanced challenger Ronnie Clawson, a city fireman, with 75 percent of the votes, 208 to 68.

Lindsey

Lindsey, a Democrat, will now face Republican Keith Hackfeld in November. Hackfeld tallied 90 GOP votes.

In the Republican race for District 72 State Representative, Drew Darby received 429 votes in Scurry County, while Scott Campbell tallied 402. Mark Brown had 64 votes while Tom Goff had 54. Campbell, however, carried the four-county district to win without a runoff.

On the Democratic ballot, Jeri Slone received 259 votes and Clara "Betsy" Johnson was close behind with 252. Campbell and Sloan will square off in November.

Scurry County Democrats followed their counterparts across the state in the race for governor, casting 273 votes for Tony Sanchez and 219 for Dan Morales. Bill Lyon received 98 votes in the race while John Worldpeace had 9.

On the Democratic ballot for U.S. Senator to replace Phil Gramm, Ken Bentsen led in Scurry County with 32 percent of the votes while Victor Morales had 20.9 percent and Ron Kirk polled 19.8 percent.

Statewide, however, Morales led the ticket and will face Kirk in a runoff April 9. The successful runoff candidate will face Republican John Cornyn in November.

For General Land Office Commissioner, Jerry Patterson received 400 votes locally, while Kenn George had 368.

Lubbock resident Bob Craig received 469 votes in Scurry County for the District 15 State Board of Education, while Joyce Herron tallied 310.

The low voter turnout prompted both local Republican and Democratic officials to talk about more consolidation of voting boxes in the county.

**Republican County Judge Voting Results**

| Box | Waller | Crenwelge |
|---|---|---|
| Early | 250 | 185 |
| 5 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 30 |
| 7 | 107 | 86 |
| 8 | 35 | 61 |
| 9 | 12 | 8 |
| 10 | 86 | 77 |
| 11 | 1 | 6 |
| 12 | 18 | 16 |
| 13 | 6 | 4 |
| 14 | 0 | 5 |
| 15 | 22 | 17 |
| Total | 550 | 496 |

*Sanchez takes win...*

# Morales concedes governor's race

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Former Attorney General Dan Morales got his first taste of electoral defeat in Tuesday's Democratic gubernatorial primary, but don't expect that to keep him off future ballots.

While conceding victory to opponent Tony Sanchez in what he called the hardest battle of his political career, Morales said chances are good that he'll run for office again down the road.

"I've had such a good time on this campaign, we may just do it again," he told a small crowd of supporters shortly before midnight. "Don't be surprised if I come knocking on your door again soon."

He said he would back Sanchez, a Laredo banker and oilman, in November's general election against Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

"He ran an extremely tough and aggressive campaign — one of the most aggressive seen by a Democrat in this state in many years," he said. "We now have an opportunity to see to it that ultimately a Democrat is successful in November."

With 98 percent of precincts reporting statewide early today, Sanchez had 603,573, or 60 percent, of the Democratic vote and Morales had 331,425, or 33 percent.

Morales also backed away from earlier suggestions that his campaign might challenge the primary's outcome because of voting mishaps in his hometown of San Antonio.

The concession marked the end of a brief but uphill attempt to defeat Sanchez, who had far deeper pockets as well as a long head start in lining up support from party movers and shakers. Morales entered the race just before the filing deadline.

In January and February, Sanchez spent more than 20 times that of Morales. It is Sanchez' first political race.

While Morales fell in behind Sanchez, some of his more diehard supporters had a difficult time with the notion.

"It's scary when the Democratic Party in the state of Texas chooses someone with so little experience," said Corinne Saldana. "I'm not a gracious loser."

Morales' mother, Felicia, was buoyant despite the loss and bragging about her son.

"We're still so proud of Dan and we still think he would have made the most perfect governor," she said.

When asked if she would support Sanchez, she said, "No comment ... but I want the best for Texas."

During a brief appearance earlier in the night, Morales spoke about voting mishaps in Bexar County that prompted a judge to order polls to remain open an extra three hours.

Geronimo Rodriguez, Morales' campaign manager, said the campaign would consider all of its options, including a legal challenge, should Morales lose.

Dozens of polling stations in San Antonio opened late or not at all because of a shortage of election judges. Rodriguez said the closures favored Sanchez' chances and the obstacles to balloting may have suppressed turnout of Morales' supporters.

*District 72...*

# Late returns push Campbell over top for representative

Late returns in favor of Scott Campbell avoided an anticipated runoff for the Republican nomination to fill the District 72 state representative seat.

Campbell

In a see-saw battle all evening, it appeared that Campbell, a rancher and publisher, would face a runoff against San Angelo attorney Drew Darby.

However, late returns pushed Campbell, also from San Angelo, over the magic 50 percent mark.

In final unofficial tallies, Campbell received 4,167 votes, or 51 percent, compared to Darby's 2,972 votes. San Angelo attorneys Mark Brown and Tom Goff polled 593 and 379.

Campbell will face Democrat Jeri Sloan in the November general election along with Libertarian nominee Robert Restivo.

District 72 is comprised of Tom Green, Mitchell, Coke and Scurry counties.

Both Campbell and Darby had predicted a runoff for the Republican nomination to replace veteran lawmaker Rob Junell.

In Scurry County, it was a squeaker with Darby polling 429 votes while Campbell finished with 402. Brown garnered 64 votes and Goff picked up 54.

Darby won the early voting box 206-140, but Campbell captured all four voting boxes in Scurry County on election day.

Darby also led Campbell in Mitchell County, 73-56. In Coke County Campbell tallied 38 votes and Darby polled 24.

Campbell said he was pleased with the support he had received from the voters of Scurry County. "We got a lot of good help from the Farm Bureau and that helped a lot.

"We feel very good about the issues and we look forward to getting to know the people of Snyder and Scurry County. We were up there a lot and intend to be there more. We will have an open-door policy and look forward to getting to know the people and needs of Snyder folks. We have a sincere desire to help."

Darby, who had expected a runoff next month, said he accepted the results and will support the Republican nominee in the general election.

Campbell and Darby, both ranchers, spent considerable time in Scurry County.

Campbell was the only non-attorney on the Republican ballot.

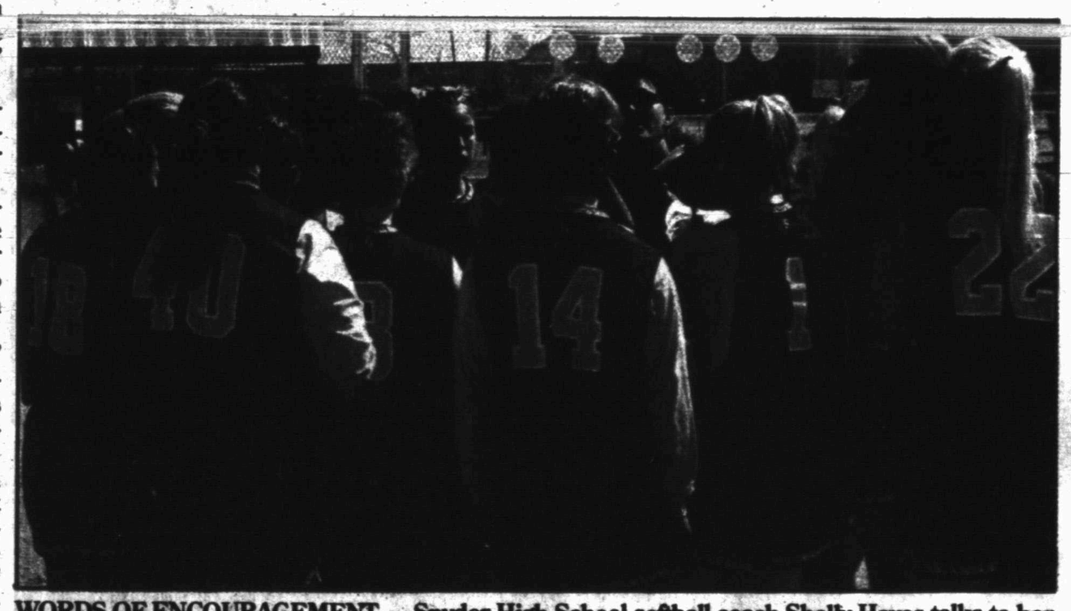
# Patterson-UTI buys five more drilling units

Patterson-UTI Engery Inc., headquartered in Snyder, Tuesday announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire privately-held Odin Drilling Inc.

The acquisition increases Patterson-UTI, the second largest provider of onshore contract drilling services, to 324 rigs.

Patterson-UTI will acquire five land drilling rigs in exchange for 650,000 shares of Patterson-UTI Energy common stock. The deal includes Odin's five SCR Electric land drilling rigs with an average depth rating of 17,600 feet, drawworks ratings ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 horsepower and averaging 1,300 horsepower. With the addition of these rigs, Patterson-UTI has more than 80 rigs capable of drilling in the 15,000 to 30,000 foot depth range.

Patterson-UTI Energy operates in oil and natural gas producing regions of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, Louisiana, Mississippi and western Canada. Patterson-UTI Energy also is engaged in the businesses of drilling and completion fluid and pressure pumping services.



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT — Snyder High School softball coach Shelly Hayes talks to her team between innings Tuesday during district action at Cates Field. The Lady Tigers scored the game's only runs in the bottom of the sixth to knock off Big Spring, 2-0. (SDN Staff Photo)

## THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

**The feller on Deep Creek says, "It takes a short time to lose a good reputation and a long time to earn another one."**

Tax deadlines, stock market losses, war, the fear of attack...

We all need things to take our minds off the serious stuff. Maybe you will find these less-than-weighty thoughts helpful.

—If four out of five people suffer from diarrhea, does that mean that one enjoys it?

—If you take an Oriental and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?

—People say something is out of whack. What in the heck is whack?

—If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

—If someone asks, "A penny for your thoughts" and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?

—Croutons are just stale bread, so why do they come in air-tight packages?

—When cheese has its picture taken, wonder what it says?

—Wise men and wise guys are truly opposites.

—Overlook and oversee certainly don't mean the same thing.

—"I am" is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. "I do" is the longest sentence.

—If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, should electricians be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed.

—Do tea company employees take coffee breaks?

—No one says, "It's only a game," as long as their team is ahead.

—Whatever happened to Preparation A through G?

—It is impossible to lick your elbow.

—People say "Bless you" when you sneeze because when you sneeze, the heart stops for a millisecond.

—In a study of 200,000 ostriches over a period of 80 years, no one reported a single case where an ostrich buried its head in the sand or even attempted to do so.

—The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

—Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is unique.

—23.23 percent of all photocopier faults worldwide are caused by people sitting on them and trying to make a picture of their bottoms.

Actually for a spring break antic, we recommend first trying to lick your elbow.

## ASK US

Q—When is the state baseball tournament?
A—June 5-8.

## FORECAST - ALMANAC

**Snyder Temps:** High Tuesday, 74 degrees; low, 35; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 45; no precipitation; total for 2002, 1.48 inches.

**Area Forecast:** Tonight, partly cloudy, low near 55; S winds 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy, breezy, high lower 80s; SW winds 15-25 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, low upper 40s.

Otay sunny
Warm

**Sunset:** 6:50 p.m.
**Sunrise:** 6:55 a.m.
Of 71 days in 2002, the sun has shone 68 days in Snyder.

## TODAY'S THOUGHT

**Never make fun of religion, politics, race or mothers.**

**—Mack Sennett**

MAR 13 2002

# Abuse settlement not end of woes for archdiocese

BOSTON (AP) — A multimillion-dollar settlement between the Archdiocese of Boston and 86 people who claim they were victims of sexual molestation by a priest hasn't slowed the ever-increasing barrage of such lawsuits.

Even as a lawyer announced a settlement of up to $30 million at a news conference Tuesday, several attorneys said alleged victims have filed at least 58 additional lawsuits against church workers or clergy, and more than a hundred people have contacted lawyers with claims of abuse.

"This obviously will not put the issue involving ... sex abuse by priests to an end," said attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who represented the 86 victims and families claiming sexual molestation by defrocked priest John J. Geoghan. "The investigations continue."

Under the settlement, which was reached Monday night after months of negotiations, the alleged victims and families will receive a total of $15 million to $30 million, according to Garabedian.

A dollar amount for most of the 86 will be determined during meetings with arbitrators, based on harm each suffered. The meetings, to be held between April and October, will determine compensation and not liability.

"Accepting this money is not going to end the turmoil in their lives," said Garabedian. "They are not going to be buying yachts and floating around the Bahamas. There's tremendous pain here."

Attorney Jeffrey Newman, who has filed 47 additional civil lawsuits against clergy and church workers, said discussions are already under way with the archdiocese about starting mediation and arriving at a sum to be distributed among victims.

In a statement, archdiocese spokeswoman Donna M. Morrissey said the settlement "is not an ending, but part of a larger effort to protect children, increase outreach to victims, continue the healing, and implement policy changes to make sure every measure is taken to prevent the abuse of children."

The archdiocese came under increased pressure in January following reports that it had ignored warnings about Geoghan, despite allegations of pedophilia stretching back three decades and across six parishes.

Geoghan has been accused by 130 people of molesting them during his decades as a priest. He is serving a 9- to 10-year prison sentence for groping a 10-year-old boy, and faces another criminal trial. Two child rape charges against him were dropped last week after a judge ruled the statute of limitations had expired.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law has since established a "zero tolerance" policy and given prosecutors names of 80 priests accused of abuse over five decades.

# Muffins for mom

Stanfield and West Elementary Schools hosted Muffins for Mom last Tuesday as part of Public School Week. In the top left photo, Dawn Carrillo and her daughter, Hope, stopped in for the early morning treat at Stanfield. At right, Adriana Jones and her son, Corey Jaramillo, enjoyed the breakfast treat at West. Hope is a first grader and Corey is a sixth grader.

Mothers who attended Stanfield's Muffins For Mom include from front to back, Brady Williams, Cissi Williams, Shawnee Williams, Tessa Holladay and Deanna Holladay, Brady is in the second grade and Shawnee and Tessa are kindergarten students.

Sixth grader Zachary White chose a muffin at West's early morning event.

SDN Photos By Shirley A. Gorman

## events

LOTTO TEXAS™

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RESULTS

**Texas Two Step**

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

5-20-26-35

Bonus number 2

(Estimated jackpot: $400,000)

**Cash Five**

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

10-11-12-21-34

**Pick 3**

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

3-2-4

# Artificial heart recipient has long-term plans

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Tom Christerson has lived with a self-contained artificial heart for six months, but he's more excited about another date further down the road.

"I hope when this is over, I can go home and get back to fishing," Christerson said Tuesday, in his first public comments since his Sept. 13 surgery.

Doctors say Christerson, the longest-living recipient of the AbioCor heart, could be casting his line at home in western Kentucky in four or five weeks if his recovery continues to go well.

On Tuesday, the 70-year-old walked unassisted into a room at Jewish Hospital and spoke with reporters for about 20 minutes.

He was asked if he considered himself a hero.

"I don't think I'm a hero; I just want to live," he said. One of his surgeons, Dr. Robert Dowling, replied, "We think you're a hero."

"You are, too," Christerson said.

Christerson is one of six recipients of the titanium-and-plastic device, but one of only two still living. The other is James Quinn, 51, who received his AbioCor heart in Philadelphia in November.

The first recipient of the AbioCor heart, Robert Tools, 59, died Nov. 30 after almost five months with the grapefruit-size device whirring in his chest.

Christerson said Tuesday that hearing about Tools' death didn't make him regret his surgery.

Christerson has only had small setbacks. He had a fever of 107 degrees in November after a negative reaction to medication. And his other surgeon, Dr. Laman Gray, said doctors removed a breathing tube from his throat only four to six weeks ago.

Still, Christerson has been able to take trips to a local mall, a restaurant on the Ohio River and a boat show. He made an appearance March 2 at a University of Louisville basketball game.

Close friends said Christerson's strong will has helped in his recovery.

"He is a very strong person; he's also very patient," said Christerson's pastor, the Rev. Bob Lowery.

Ronnie Beane said he and Christerson used to enjoy taking trips to riverboat casinos to do some casual gambling. Beane said his friend made the right bet when he decided to undergo the AbioCor surgery.

"He just felt like the odds were that he needed to do this," he said.

Berry's World

"MY WIFE AND MY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DON'T UNDERSTAND ME."

## Date Book

**Wednesday, March 13, 2002**

Today is the 72nd day of 2002, and the 83rd day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1639, Cambridge College is renamed Harvard University, in honor of clergyman John Harvard.

On this day in 1852, the now-famous "Uncle Sam" cartoon figure made its debut in the New York Lantern.

On this day in 1925, Tennessee passed legislation prohibiting the teaching of evolution in its schools.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Joseph Priestly (1733 - 1804), scientist (discovered oxygen); L. Ron Hubbard (1911 - 1986), sci-fi writer/Scientologist; William H. Macy (1950 - ), actor, is 52; Dana Delany (1956 - ), actress, is 46; Adam Clayton (1960 - ), U2 bassist, is 42.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1960, the NFL's Chicago Cardinals finalized their move to St. Louis. The team later became the Arizona Cardinals.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "When religion is not influential in a society or has ceased to be, the state inherits the entire burden of public morality. It then must use punishment and police. Yet this is unsuccessful as morality, not inherent in the individual, cannot be enforced with any great success." — L. Ron Hubbard

**TODAY'S MOON:** New moon (March 13)

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**THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS**

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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# Six months after Sept. 11, flight school receives visa approval for 2 terrorists

MIAMI (AP) — When envelopes of routine government paperwork arrived at Huffman Aviation school, the names on the forms immediately stuck out: Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi.

Those men are believed to have been two of the hijackers of the two jetliners that slammed into the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, killing almost 3,000 people.

The paperwork that arrived in the mail on Monday — the six-month anniversary of the attacks — contained both men's student visa approval forms from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Russ Bergeron, an immigration agency spokesman, attributed the embarrassing delay to a backlog of documents at a federal paperwork processing center in London, Ky.

He described the paperwork as "backup notification." He said the INS had already notified the men and the school last summer about the approvals.

Atta and Al-Shehhi trained at Huffman in Venice, Fla., in 2000 and early 2001, and were aboard the separate flights that struck the trade center towers.

The two initially entered the United States on visitor's visas but applied for M-1 student visas, given to immigrants attending technical schools in the United States. Foreign students are generally allowed to study in the United States as long as they apply for student visas, said Russ Bergeron, a spokesman for the immigration service.

The INS approved Atta's request in July 2001 and Al-Shehhi's request the following month, Bergeron said.

"The important thing to recognize is the decisions to change their status were made ... before Sept. 11, and at the time there was no information made available to INS regarding these people and their link to terrorism," Bergeron said.

But Rep. John Conyers, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, said the notification was a sign of the Bush administration's "misguided focus in pursuit of homeland security."

"I am astonished that while the INS is fixated on detaining and rounding up countless Arab-Americans without any justification, it has failed to take basic steps to ensure that visas are not issued to known terrorists," said Conyers, D-Mich.

Atta and Al-Shehhi were cleared to stay in the United States until Oct. 1, 2001, according to the forms, which were provided to The Associated Press by Rudi Dekkers, owner and president of the flight school.

"When they hit the buildings they were approved to be here," Dekkers said.

U.S. authorities believe Atta, 33, was aboard American Airlines Flight 11, which struck the north tower of the trade center, and that Al-Shehhi, 23, was aboard United Airlines Flight 175, which struck the south tower 17 minutes later.

Dekkers said Atta and Al-Shehhi completed the paperwork on Aug. 29, 2000, just before they began their six-month flight instruction program at the school.

The forms, filled out by an assistant at Huffman, indicated that both men met the English language requirements to study at the school. Atta listed his nationality as Egyptian, while Al-Shehhi said he was from United Arab Emirates.

On the form, Atta's name is spelled "Mohomed." The documents indicated the academic term lasting up to 12 months would cost $27,300.

# Italian journalist is killed by Israeli tank fire in West Bank

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Italian free-lance photographer was killed by Israeli tank fire in the West Bank town of Ramallah early today, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said.

The journalist, identified by colleagues as Raffaele Ciriello, 42, was on assignment for the Italian daily Corriere della Sera.

Fellow journalist Amedeo Ricucci said he and his colleague were following Palestinian gunmen through the center of Ramallah at about 9:30 a.m. when the Israeli tank appeared. He said soldiers on the tank fired a machine gun from about 150 yards without warning, striking Ciriello in the stomach.

Ricucci and another colleague, both of whom work for Italian television Rai Uno, were not hurt.

"Suddenly a tank appeared from a corner and it opened fire," Ricucci said. "There was no fighting in the area."

An army spokesman, Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz, expressed regret at the report of the death, but declined to discuss the circumstances until more information has been gathered.

"There has been cross fire for several days and we don't know where he has been killed," Rafowicz said. "We are not rushing to conclusions."

Residents and hospital officials in Ramallah said other people have been injured by gunfire today morning. Dr. Moussa Abu Hmeid, director of emergency departments in West Bank hospitals, said he has been getting telephone calls rep..ting wounded people, but said Israeli soldiers have surrounded the hospital, preventing him from dispatching ambulances.

Ciriello and Ricucci were among some 40 journalists in a hotel in Ramallah near the al-Amari refugee camp that came under Israeli tank fire early Tuesday morning. No one was injured. The army said it was returning fire from a gunman on the upper floors of the hotel. Journalists in the hotel said there was no gunman.

# Yates found guilty by Houston jury

HOUSTON (AP) — Defense attorneys turned their attention to trying to save Andrea Yates from death row after she was convicted of capital murder for drowning her five children in a bathtub.

Jurors deliberated for less than four hours Tuesday before rejecting defense arguments that Yates, 37, was insane on June 20 when she held the children underwater until they stopped breathing.

"Mental illness is still not understood and not appreciated," defense attorney George Parnham said. "I hope we'll be able to save her life."

The sentencing phase was scheduled to begin Thursday. Prosecutors, who did not comment after the verdict, were seeking the death penalty.

Yates has no previous criminal record and Parnham said the state likely will not be able to prove she poses a future danger to society, one of the questions jurors must answer to conclude Yates should be given the death penalty.

Parnham was expected to call Yates' husband and other relatives to the witness stand during the punishment phase.

Yates was convicted on two capital murder charges in the deaths of 7-year-old Noah, 5-year-old John and 6-month-old Mary. Charges have not been filed in the deaths of Paul, 3, and Luke, 2.

Defense attorneys and the prosecution agreed that Yates was mentally ill, but prosecutors said evidence showed she knew her actions were wrong.

"That's the key," prosecutor Kaylynn Williford said. "Andrea Yates knew right from wrong, and she made a choice on June 20 to kill her children deliberately and with deception."

Yates, a former nurse, had thought about harming her children for years and called police after the slayings, Williford said. Yates was overwhelmed with home schooling and housekeeping duties and may have committed the crime to punish her husband, the prosecutor said.

"Her motive to kill these children is maybe for us not to know," she told jurors during closing statements Tuesday.

Defense attorneys said Yates suffered from postpartum depression with severe psychosis and thought killing the youngsters would save them from eternal damnation.

"If drowning five children by a loving mother isn't a gross psychosis, there isn't any such thing as gross psychosis," defense lawyer Wendell Odom said in his closing arguments.

The eight-woman, four-man jury heard testimony from 38 witnesses over more than three weeks. After about two hours into deliberations Tuesday, jurors passed a note to District Judge Belinda Hill asking for an insanity definition.

Hill replied with Texas' legal definition, describing it as a severe mental disease or defect that keeps someone from recognizing his or her conduct was wrong.

Thirty minutes later, jurors asked for a cassette player. Among items in evidence were audio tapes of Yates' confession and her 911 telephone call to police the day of the drownings.

Less than an hour later, jurors sent word they had reached a verdict. After Hill read the verdict to the packed courtroom, there was no apparent reaction from Yates, who stood between her attorneys.

Yates' husband, Russell Yates, muttered, "Oh, God," then buried his head in his hands. Dora Yates put her arm around her son.

Deborah Bell, president of the Texas chapter of National Organization for Women, said she was shocked at the verdict. She held a candlelight vigil Tuesday night outside the courthouse, where about a dozen people attended, including some of Yates' relatives.

## Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

### *Teen concealing miscarriage must reach out for support*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing in response to "All Alone in Tucson, Ariz.," who is 14 and had a miscarriage. I had a similar experience. I, too, began having sex at an early age. It caused a lot of problems I am still dealing with in adulthood.

Sex is not fun and games. It can ruin your self-esteem faster than a speeding bullet. Once you lose your self-esteem, it can take years to get it back.

Also, having sex without regular visits to a gynecologist can jeopardize your fertility. In other words, when you finally find a man who deserves you, you may not be able to get pregnant. That's what happened to me, and it is heartbreaking.

I hope "All Alone" gets to a doctor and resolves her issues with her mother. They need to talk. It's important that she tell her mother that she needs her guidance. Boys come and go, but the mother-daughter bond lasts forever. — **FINDING MY WAY BACK IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF.**

**DEAR FINDING:** I'm sorry you have to learn these life lessons the hard way. I hope "All Alone" will learn from your experience and take your advice. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** We mothers need to remind ourselves that when our daughters are teen-agers, it's not important whether their room is neat or what kinds of clothes they wear. It's more important that they know we care for them — that we'll always be there for them no matter what happens in life. Many times mothers are the primary source of support and love. We must fulfill that role.

The only thing "All Alone" wants is the assurance that someone cares for her unconditionally. She wanted love from the boy who shunned her, from the child she lost, and from the mother she feels will "kill" her when she finds out she was having sex.

A mother's job is not so much to teach a child how to make a bed, study hard, or even not to have sex before marriage, as much as it must be to love her child, make sure he or she knows it every day, and to teach the child to love him or herself. If a mother can do these things, the child will be empowered to live life in a positive way. — **A MOTHER WHO LEARNED IN TIME**

**DEAR MOTHER:** You have said it beautifully.

**

**DEAR ABBY:** You should have told "All Alone" that there are helpful agencies like Planned Parenthood that provide help for teen-agers without requiring legal consent of an adult. Not only can they provide medical attention to ensure that "All Alone" is safe and can have children in the future, but they provide the emotional support and peer counseling necessary to give her confidence and renewed self-esteem.

In an ideal world, parents would all be approachable and helpful in a crisis. If they were, perhaps there would be no crisis. Since an ideal world doesn't exist, helpful agencies do — thank God. — **TEEN ADVOCATE IN NAPA, CALIF.**

**DEAR TEEN ADVOCATE:** I'm glad you wrote. I have long been a supporter of Planned Parenthood, which offers a full range of reproductive health services for both men and women, including premarital blood testing, contraceptive services, prenatal care and counseling — to name only a few.

Tomorrow I'll share more of the letters I have received from young women who identified with "All Alone's" experience.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

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

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## Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-13-02
♠ A Q 4
♥ 7 5
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ Q 9 5 4

West
♠ 7 3
♥ A K Q J 10 8 6
♦ 4 3
♣ 6 2

East
♠ J 9 8 6 5
♥ 2
♦ J 8 7 5
♣ 10 8 3

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 NT | 2 ♦! | Dbl. | Pass |
| 3 NT | Dbl. | Redbl. | All pass |

Opening lead: ??

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

### One man's bad news helps another

By Phillip Alder

It is well-known that one person's bad news is often someone else's good news. This deal is a good example. What do you think happened in three no-trump redoubled?

This deal occurred during a lunchtime rubber-bridge game at the Columbus Club, Indianapolis. South, Joe Cain, opened one no-trump. West was the imaginative Al Sobel, who was the chief tournament director of the American Contract Bridge League from 1942 until 1969. He overcalled two diamonds! North doubled for penalties. Now South, who had to get back to work, decided to end the rubber by jumping to three no-trump. With the fish on the hook, Sobel doubled. North, who was appalled at the penalty points thrown away, thought he saw how to recoup those "losses" — he redoubled.

Sobel was mentally patting himself on the back for his shrewdness. He was deliciously contemplating slowly cashing his seven heart tricks, which would result in three down and a penalty of 1,600 points.

However, suddenly East led the club three out of turn!

Today, South would surely follow Goldwater's Rule: Always accept a lead out of turn; if the opponent doesn't know whose lead it is, he won't know what to lead. Here, that would presumably result in South's winning an overtrick for plus 1,[illegible]00 (counting 100 for the insult and 500 for the three-game rubber).

In those days, though, declarer was allowed to request his left-hand opponent to lead from a specific suit. So, declarer asked Sobel to lead a diamond, which allowed Cain to rake in two redoubled overtricks. His afternoon at work flew by.

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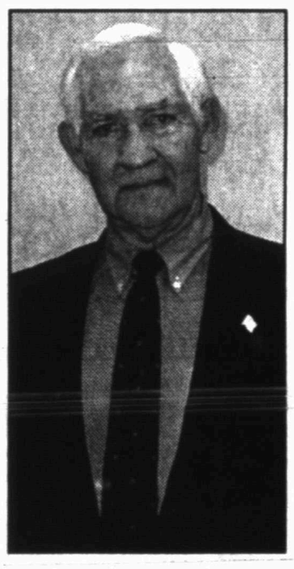

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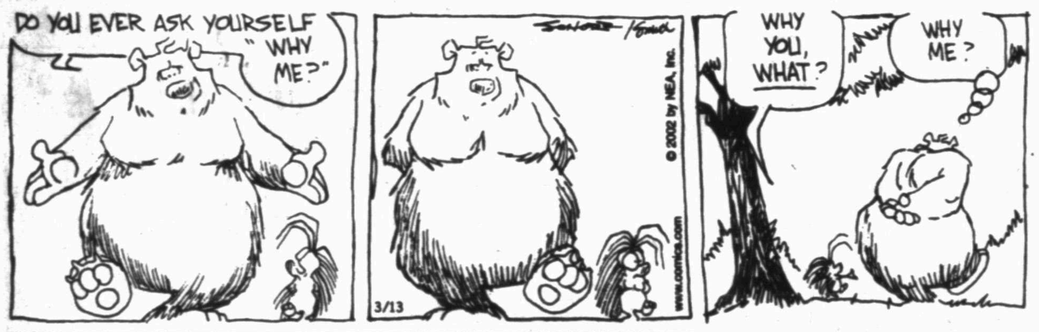


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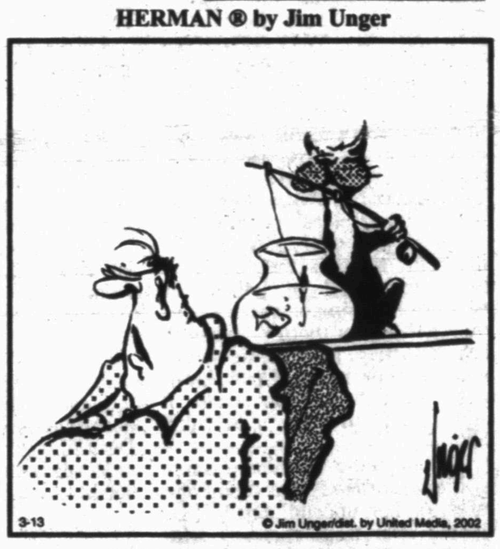


"Where's that dumb cat?"

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Mil. offense
5 Overly sentimental
10 Put up with
12 Strong point
13 Dwell
14 Concur
15 Escape
16 Viper
18 Likely
19 America's Cup entrant
21 Pleasure craft
25 Compliments
29 Snow house
30 Take – potshots
32 Oyster's treasure
33 Ferocious animal
34 Naval officer
37 Additional
38 Impede
40 Auditor
43 Gretzky's grp.
44 Units of measure
48 Disclaimer
50 Banff lake
52 Start burning
53 Opposed
54 Formation flyers
55 Ship's position

**DOWN**

1 Director Gance
2 Not foolish
3 Dog in "Garfield"
4 Showed the way
5 New draftees
6 Livy's bear
7 Tread
8 Quest
9 Up till now
10 "Woof!"
11 Wheel and –
12 Mist
17 Bribe
19 Unimaginative
20 Clergy member
21 Puppy noise
22 Screenwriter James
23 Plaid wearers
24 – d'oeuvres
26 Monogram pt.
27 Yearning sound
28 Fencing sword
31 Say incorrectly
35 Class
36 Highest degree
39 Fitzgerald of jazz
40 Canary quarters
41 Tree with needles
42 Hertz competitor
44 Gasoline or coal
45 Limerick locale
46 To be, to Caesar
47 Unisex garment
48 Toupee kin
49 Summer, in Quebec
51 Zoologist's eggs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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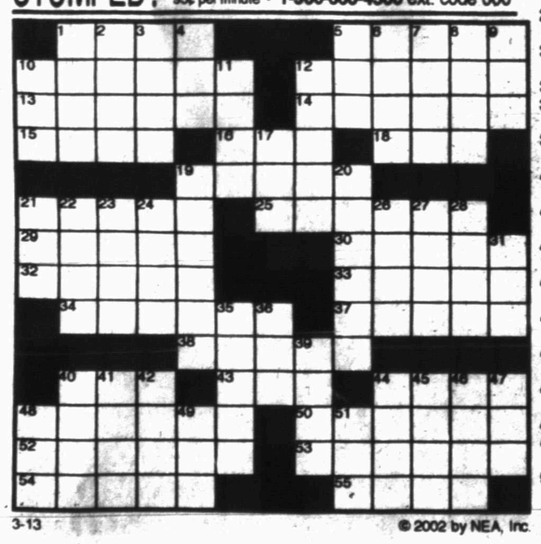

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Snyder Daily News
Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"IF YOU GET TIRED OF WALKING, GRANDPA, WE CAN *RUN* FOR A WHILE."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

# SPORTS

# Snyder sweeps district diamond games

## *Tigers hold off Chiefs in opener*

By Eric Drennan
*Sports Editor*

SAN ANGELO — The Snyder Tigers haven't had the best of luck at Chief Field over the past few years. Then again, the Tigers haven't fielded a team that could hit like this one in quite some time.

Snyder pounded out three doubles and two triples Tuesday en route to a 10-6 victory over Lake View in the District 4-4A opener at Chief Field.

The Tigers have 45 doubles and 10 triples to their credit through 20 games this season, and they needed all five of the extra-baggers to hold off the pesky Chiefs.

"This is a big win for us. We've had problems playing here in the past," said SHS coach Roland Herrera. "Lake View's got a good team. They're scrappy, and they're a lot better than a lot of people think.

"Our kids never gave up, and they were never satisfied with the lead they had. We kept hitting the ball hard, and trying to put more runs on the board. That's something we haven't done at times this year."

Both teams got off to a quick start with the score knotted at 4-4 after three innings before the Tigers took the lead for good in the top of the fifth.

Walks to Billy Pena and Tito Alaniz and a Lake View error netted one Snyder run. Senior Brooks Nunley notched another when he drove a 2-2 pitch into the right field corner for a triple that allowed Alaniz to stroll home.

Lake View cut the margin to 6-5 in the bottom of the inning before the Tigers struck again in the sixth. A one-out triple from Shay Franks was followed by a sacrifice fly by Riki Dorsett and Pena's second double of the day. Another Chief miscue allowed Pena to push the lead to 8-5.

Snyder capped its scoring in the seventh with two runs on no hits, two errors, a passed ball and a stolen base.

"The kids were aggressive on the base paths and at the plate," Herrera said. "We didn't have to tell them to be, they were doing it on their own. And in the field, they took care of business. They made Lake View earn every run they got."

Snyder committed only one error. That one coming in the Chiefs' final at-bat on a botched pick-off play.

Alaniz threw the first four innings for Snyder before giving way to Franks. Alaniz gave up four hits and four walks to go along with six strikeouts. Franks allowed three hits and two free passes while recording three strikeouts.

Snyder jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first on back-to-back doubles by Pena and Brandon McGuire, followed by a single from Stephen Ortegon.

Alaniz struggled early and the Chiefs took advantage in the bottom of the inning. A pair of walks combined with two hits pushed Lake View out front, 3-2.

The Tigers regained the advantage in the second on hits by Isaac Ramon and Franks, and a sacrifice bunt from Dorsett.

Snyder posted two runs in five of the seven innings. Lake View added a run in the third and another in the fifth. A leadoff walk and an error netted the Chiefs' final run in the seventh.

The win puts the Tigers in a four-way tie at the top of the district standings with Frenship, Andrews and Big Spring.

Snyder (13-6-1) continues the league race Friday when it hosts Levelland (4-10) at 5 p.m. at Moffett Field.

AT THE PLATE AND IN THE FIELD — Snyder High School baseball and softball teams registered District 4-4A victories Tuesday afternoon. Brooks Nunley, above, belts a hit for the Tigers in their 10-6 win over Lake View, while Chaelyn Robinson, below, makes a play in center field during the Lady Tigers' 2-0 win over Big Spring. (SDN Staff Photos)

| Snyder | ab | r | h | bi |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pena 2b | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| McGuire cf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ortegon c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Alaniz p | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunley ss | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pendleton 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ramon 3b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Franks dh | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Dorsett lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Totals** | **29** | **10** | **9** | **5** |

| Lake View | ab | r | h | bi |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Franklin 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Owen cf | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Pena p | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Simpson 1b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wright rf | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Sewell dh | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wa.Day c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| We.Day ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haynes lf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dietz 3b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | **27** | **6** | **7** | **6** |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Snyder** | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2— | 10 | 9 | 1 |
| **Lake View** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1— | 6 | 7 | 5 |

LOB - Snyder 6, Lake View 6. 2B - Snyder, (2)Pena, McGuire; Lake View, Pena, Wright, Sewell. 3B - Snyder, Nunley, Franks.

| Snyder | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaniz | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Franks | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| **Lake View** | **IP** | **H** | **R** | **ER** | **BB** | **SO** |
| Pena | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sewell | 1 1/3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Wright | 1 2/3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

| 4-4A SOFTBALL | District | |
|---|---|---|
| Team | W | L |
| Andrews | 3 | 0 |
| Lake View | 2 | 1 |
| Snyder | 2 | 1 |
| Big Spring | 2 | 1 |
| Frenship | 2 | 1 |
| Levelland | 1 | 2 |
| Estacado | 0 | 3 |
| Plainview | 0 | 3 |

| BASEBALL | District | | Season | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Team | W | L | W | L |
| Snyder | 1 | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| Frenship | 1 | 0 | 11 | 4 |
| Andrews | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| Big Spring | 1 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Plainview | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Lake View | 0 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Levelland | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Estacado | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 |

**Tuesday's results:** Snyder 10, Lake View 6; Big Spring 9, Estacado 6; Frenship 11, Plainview 0; Andrews 4, Levelland 2.

**Friday's games:** Levelland at Snyder; Plainview at Andrews; Big Spring at Frenship.

## *SHS girls break through against Big Spring, 2-0*

By Eric Drennan
*Sports Editor*

Snyder High School softball coach Shelly Hayes had told her team it could beat Big Spring if it just believed. In the sixth inning Tuesday, the Lady Tigers made believers out of everybody.

Snyder scratched out two runs in the bottom of the sixth to edge Big Spring, 2-0, in a District 4-4A contest at Cates Field.

The victory pushes the Lady Tigers into a four-way tie for second place at 2-1 with Big Spring, Lake View and Frenship.

For a Snyder squad that's seen its share of disappointments against the Lady Steers, the win was especially gratifying.

"This is a big win for us, because our girls needed to prove it to themselves that they could beat Big Spring," said SHS coach Hayes. "It's always a tough game when we play them. It's nice to come out on top this time."

Coming into Tuesday, the Lady Tigers had been using their bats to make up for miscues in the field. Against the Lady Steers, Snyder turned the formula around.

The Lady Tigers got solid pitching from Ashley Martinez, and played six innings of error-free softball before their bats came to life.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, Shelley Fisk laced a double into center field to get the rally started. A well-executed bunt-single by Valerie Hernandez moved Fisk to third base before Chaelyn Robinson drove her in with a single to break the scoreless tie.

After Dara Chambers was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Hernandez raced home on a wild pitch to give the Lady Tigers a two-run cushion.

Big Spring pitcher Alex Watkins recorded the next two outs on pop flies, but the damage had been done. Martinez got three Lady Steers to fly out in the top of the seventh to preserve the victory.

"Our defense really came through for us today," Hayes said. "We really needed it too, because Big Spring was doing a good job in the field and we were having a hard time hitting Watkins."

Big Spring never got a runner to third base and reached second only twice. Martinez surrendered four hits and a walk to go along with two strikeouts.

Snyder had similar problems through the first five innings. The Lady Tigers had reached second base just once entering the sixth, and its only real scoring threat had come in the fifth when Martinez led off with a single before the next three batters went down in order.

"I thought about sacrificing in the fifth, but the girls who were due up aren't as comfortable trying to bunt," Hayes stated. "I figured with the hitters we have, we would get our chances again over the next two innings. When the opportunity arose in the sixth, we took advantage of it."

Snyder's only district setback came at the hands of Lake View in the league opener. The Maidens are part of the four-team logjam chasing unbeaten Andrews.

"The girls know we should be 3-0. We let the Lake View game slip away and they know that," said Hayes. "Right now we're just taking it one game at a time. We'll enjoy this win for today, and then start getting ready for Frenship."

The Lady Tigers host Frenship at 2 p.m. Friday at Cates Field.

### Box Score

| Big Spring | ab | r | h | bi |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hufford ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Stewart c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Braxton rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Olague 1b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Watkins p | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Cain 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Caspy 3b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Long dh | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Chesworth lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | **23** | **0** | **4** | **0** |

| Snyder | ab | r | h | bi |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Freeman c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L.Martinez rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fisk ss | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Hernandez 2b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Robinson cf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Chambers 3b | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| A.Martinez p | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Johnson lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander 1b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | **24** | **2** | **6** | **1** |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Big Spring** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0— | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| **Snyder** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | x— | 2 | 6 | 1 |

LOB - Big Spring 4, Snyder 6. 2B - Snyder, Fisk.

| Big Spring | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Watkins | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| **Snyder** | **IP** | **H** | **R** | **ER** | **BB** | **SO** |
| A.Martinez | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

## Rockets top Sonics

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are learning how to finish games.

Cuttino Mobley scored 38 points, and the Rockets held off the Seattle SuperSonics for a 101-98 victory Tuesday night.

"That's two games in a row where we've executed in the fourth quarter and made the stops," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "So I couldn't be more pleased. I think we're learning to play the fourth quarters well."

For the second straight game, including a 95-92 win over Utah on Sunday, Houston held off a rally in the fourth quarter.

"That's all Rudy," guard Moochie Norris said. "He's been pushing us to play that way in the fourth quarter. He's trying to take us to the next level, and that's something we can take into next season. That's Rudy's whole game plan."

The Rockets went 11-of-21 on 3-pointers against the Sonics.

"Sometimes they go in," said Mobley, who was 6-of-10 on 3s, "and sometimes they don't. We were lucky, but we were playing the same style we always play."

Consecutive 3-pointers by Mobley, Steve Francis and Eddie Griffin keyed a 13-0 run that turned the game around in the fourth quarter.

"You always look better when you shoot well," Tomjanovich said. "We shot well because we got good shots."

Gary Payton, who had 24 points, wasn't impressed with Mobley's total.

## JV cruises to 16-0 victory

Snyder's junior varsity softball team is on a roll after recording a 16-0 rout of Levelland.

Snyder slapped seven hits in the contest which ended after two innings on the mercy rule.

Carol Tovarez and Kelsi Johnson belted triples for the Lady Tigers, while Destiny Proctor busted a double and a single.

Eric Hackfeld hit a pair of singles, and Kassey Burney recorded one hit.

Snyder is in action again Friday at 3:30 against Frenship at Cates Field.

## National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 40 | 23 | .635 | — |
| Boston | 36 | 27 | .571 | 4 |
| Philadelphia | 34 | 29 | .540 | 6 |
| Orlando | 33 | 30 | .524 | 7 |
| Miami | 29 | 33 | .468 | 10½ |
| Washington | 29 | 34 | .460 | 11 |
| New York | 23 | 39 | .371 | 16½ |

| Central Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 35 | 26 | .574 | — |
| Milwaukee | 36 | 27 | .571 | — |
| Indiana | 32 | 32 | .500 | 4½ |
| Charlotte | 30 | 33 | .476 | 6 |
| Toronto | 30 | 36 | .455 | 7½ |
| Atlanta | 23 | 39 | .371 | 12½ |
| Cleveland | 23 | 40 | .365 | 13 |
| Chicago | 16 | 49 | .246 | 21 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Midwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 45 | 18 | .714 | — |
| San Antonio | 43 | 21 | .672 | 2½ |
| Minnesota | 40 | 23 | .635 | 5 |
| Utah | 34 | 29 | .540 | 11 |
| Houston | 24 | 39 | .381 | 21 |
| Denver | 19 | 41 | .317 | 24½ |
| Memphis | 17 | 47 | .266 | 28½ |

| Pacific Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sacramento | 45 | 17 | .726 | — |
| L.A. Lakers | 44 | 18 | .710 | 1 |
| Portland | 38 | 25 | .603 | 7½ |
| Seattle | 36 | 29 | .554 | 10½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 33 | 31 | .516 | 13 |
| Phoenix | 30 | 34 | .469 | 16 |
| Golden State | 17 | 45 | .274 | 28 |

**Tuesday's Games**

Indiana 115, Golden State 101
Philadelphia 104, New York 96
Milwaukee 110, Chicago 81
New Jersey 86, Toronto 84
San Antonio 96, Memphis 84
Houston 101, Seattle 98
L.A. Lakers 107, Charlotte 66

**Wednesday's Games**

New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

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# Six Iran-Contra figures working for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the 1980s it was the biggest scandal of the Reagan administration, a covert arms-for-hostages overture to Iran — more popularly known as "Iran-Contra."

Today, a half-dozen alumni of that episode have found prominent jobs in the Bush administration.

The most recent is former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, 65. The retired admiral took over a new Pentagon counterterrorism office last month.

Poindexter was convicted in 1990 on five felony charges of conspiracy, making false statements to Congress and obstructing congressional inquiries. He was sentenced to six months in prison, time he never served.

An appellate court overturned the convictions in 1991, as well as similar ones against former White House aide Oliver North, the Marine lieutenant colonel who ran the illegal operation. The court ruled that their testimony to Congress, for which they had been given immunity from prosecution, had been improperly used against them.

The Iran-Contra scandal is scarcely mentioned today. But it brought near political paralysis to the closing days of the Reagan presidency.

"It involved wrongdoing," said veteran GOP consultant Charles Black. "People didn't serve the president well, and a lot of them paid a price for that."

Another former Iran-Contra defendant is Elliott Abrams. He now serves as Bush's special White House assistant for democracy and human rights. An assistant secretary of state under Reagan, Abrams pleaded guilty to withholding information from Congress, then was pardoned by the first President Bush.

One of the most outspoken Iran-Contra figures is Otto Reich, the State Department's top official for Latin America, who migrated to the United States shortly after the 1959 revolution in Cuba. In his first speech since joining the department in January, Reich said Tuesday that the United States can speed a democratic transition in Cuba by "not throwing a lifeline to a failed, corrupt, dictatorial, murderous regime."

From 1983 to 1986, Reich led a State Department office accused of a covert domestic-propaganda effort against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

Others given jobs by Bush:

—Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. Questions linger over the former Defense Department official's 1986 contacts with Israel on the Iran arms sales.

—U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte. His service in the 1980s as ambassador to Honduras, which the U.S.-supported Contra rebels used as a base, has drawn criticism.

—Budget Director Mitch Daniels. As Reagan's political director in 1986 and 1987, Daniels helped oversee a White House damage-control effort.

Senate Democrats raised Iran-Contra objections last year, particularly over the Reich and Negroponte nominations. The appointments of Abrams, and now Poindexter, drew little open criticism. Neither post is subject to Senate confirmation.

Congressional hearings made a celebrity out of North, who came across as a dashing, brash commando. He stood in contrast to Poindexter, round-faced and balding, his unruffled, pipe-smoking boss.

Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia professor who has written a book on political scandals, said someone with Poindexter's talent and experience "shouldn't be put in the penalty box for life," regardless of past misdeeds.

"I doubt you could find one American in 100,000 who could explain what the Iran-Contra scandal was all about," Sabato said.

With Israel serving as an intermediary, proceeds from the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran were funneled to anti-communist "Contra" fighters in Nicaragua, which defied a congressional ban.

After their convictions were set aside, North made an unsuccessful run for the Senate, then began a new career as a syndicated radio talk show host. Poindexter went into business as a private defense consultant.

Poindexter rejected an interview request.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer called him "an outstanding American and an outstanding citizen. ... The president thinks that Admiral Poindexter has served our nation very well."

Secretary of State Colin Powell, Reagan's last national security adviser, described Poindexter in his 1995 autobiography as "brilliant, but in a narrow, technical sense" and not up to the top National Security Council post. Under Poindexter, North and company, "the NSC had gone off the rails," Powell wrote.

Poindexter graduated at the top of his class at the Naval Academy in 1958 and holds a doctorate in physics from the California Institute of Technology.

An administration critic, Thomas Blanton, director of the private National Security Archive, said Poindexter has a daunting intellect and deep computer-systems expertise.

He also suggested political payback is at work in appointments of so many Iran-Contra figures. "They were good soldiers. They fell on their swords. Good soldiers get rewards — at least in this administration," Blanton said.

# 'Tarrant' ME disputes time of death

FORT WORTH (AP) — A homeless man who was struck by a car and lodged in the broken windshield likely only lived for a few hours afterward, the Tarrant County medical examiner says.

Police had said Gregory Glenn Biggs probably died two or three days after his head was trapped in the windshield during the hit-and-run accident.

But Dr. Nizam Peerwani said Tuesday that the extent of the man's injuries, including the near amputation of his left leg, indicates the 37-year-old Biggs probably died from a loss of blood just a few hours after being hit.

"He couldn't have died instantaneously," Peerwani told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a story in its online edition today. "There was some interval of time before he died. ... No way are we going to support two or three days that he was alive. We are talking in hours."

Chante Mallard, a 25-year-old nurse's aide, is charged with murder in Biggs' death. She remained in Tarrant County Jail early today with bail set at $250,000.

Police spokesman Duane Paul said investigators received conflicting information about the man's time of death from a Feb. 26 interview with Mallard and from the woman who first tipped police after hearing Mallard discuss the accident at a party in mid-February.

Mallard told police the accident occurred in the early morning hours of Oct. 26, the day before Biggs' body was discovered by two men in Cobb Park. The tipster said Mallard told friends at the party that Biggs did not die for a couple of days, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

"She (the tipster) was told one thing; the detectives were told another thing by Chante Mallard," Paul said. "We're trying to sort through everything and determine exactly what the time frame was."

Paul said regardless of how long it took for Biggs to die, evidence shows he was alive after the accident.

"The amount of time that it took for Mr. Biggs to die does not affect our investigation or our case," Paul said. "It still appears that she did not render any type of aid for Mr. Biggs, either sought aid or provided any type of medical assistance for Mr. Biggs."

Peerwani, who performed the autopsy on Biggs, said he wants to review police and crime lab reports before providing the district attorney's office with a more specific estimate of the time of death.

A police investigation revealed that after Biggs had been struck by Mallard's car, Mallard panicked, then drove home a few miles with the injured man lodged in her windshield.

There, she parked the car in the garage and apologized profusely to Biggs, but never sought help for the dying man, police said. Friends of the woman, who police are still seeking, later helped dispose of the body in Cobb Park, police said.

Peerwani said the condition of Biggs' body at the time it was found indicates it was dumped at the park within a day or so of the accident.

"The body was fairly well preserved, not decomposing," Peerwani said. "I don't think this accident occurred two or three days before the body was found. Based on preservation of the body, I would suggest it is not anymore than a day or so."

## Scaffolding operator blamed for collapse that killed three

CHICAGO (AP) — The contractor operating the scaffold on the John Hancock Center that collapsed in high winds and triggered a deadly accident violated manufacturer's specifications, a city official said.

Buildings Commissioner Mary Richardson-Lowry said Denver-based AMS Architectural Technologies did not follow specifications stating that the heavy rig should be secured to either the base or top of the office tower in bad weather.

"All indications are that (the scaffold) was not where it should have been when we have severe weather forecasted," she said Tuesday.

The scaffold fell Saturday and crushed two cars on Chestnut Street, killing Nanatta Cameron, 39, and Melissa Cook, 29, both of Chicago, and Jill Semplinski-Nelson, 27, of Olathe, Kan.

The National Weather Service recorded wind gusts of up to 58 mph at a downtown airport around the time of the collapse. Forecasts issued the day before the collapse called for gusts of 45 mph.

A spokesman for AMS disputed the city's conclusion that the contractor is responsible.

"We believe this is a design issue, not an operational issue," Ray Hanania said. "We did everything to the letter."

Hanania said the scaffold was not being used and was docked Saturday at the 42nd floor of the building.

Richardson-Lowry said the city's Law Department is researching what penalties the city could levy for failure to follow a scaffold maker's specifications.

## Harrison Ford will star in new movie

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Harrison Ford will appear in the role of American aid worker Fred Cuny, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances in Chechnya in 1995, German film company Internationalmedia said.

Ford, 59, will co-produce the film with David Fanning, whose 1997 documentary, "The Lost American," forms the basis for the movie. The screenplay is by "Gladiator" screenwriter William Nicholson, Internationalmedia said Tuesday.

Cuny, who had worked in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bosnia, vanished in April 1995 in Chechnya, where separatist rebels have been battling Russian government forces for years.

Work on the film is scheduled to begin next year.

## On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

# Stay away from the creamers

**DEAR DR. BLONZ:** I recently purchased a book on low-fat cooking. The author states that liquid nondairy creamer can be used as a substitute in creamed dishes, soups etc. When I looked at the label, I saw partially hydrogenated soybean oil listed as the second ingredient. Since I have followed your column for a number of years, you can imagine how that made me cringe. Could you please comment on whether she is right? Or should I forget the whole idea? I would appreciate your comments, because I have high cholesterol and need to watch my diet carefully. — R.P., San Diego

**DEAR R.P.:** Coffee creamers are an interesting story. As cholesterol consciousness began to take hold, a rash of cholesterol-free products began to sprout up in the marketplace. Nondairy creamers found a niche, as people felt a need to shift from milk or half-and-half to a cholesterol-free alternative. These creamers were thought to represent a healthier choice, but it was a dubious move, in my opinion. The products usually contain a similar amount of fat, and it's doubtful that the 5 milligrams of cholesterol per tablespoon of half-and-half have any real impact on one's health.

To compound the problem, most coffee creamers contain partially hydrogenated oil as the No. 1 ingredient (after water). There is an ever-increasing body of research which, from a health standpoint, shows that this is the worst type of fat we can consume. The nondairy creamers, nonetheless, were touted as a better (cholesterol-free) alternative for coffee and breakfast cereals. How ironic that consumers might be drawn to such products in the belief that they represent a more healthful choice. My advice is to steer clear of the recipes that rely on nondairy creamers — unless, of course, you can find one that is made without partially hydrogenated oil.

**DEAR DR. BLONZ:** My question has to do with the safety of hard-cooked, dyed Easter eggs. I will be making bag-lunches for Easter for a group of homeless people. If they dye hard-cooked Easter eggs to put in the lunches, how long will these eggs keep without concern for food poisoning? These lunches would be given out one to two days before Easter, and there would be no refrigeration available after the bag lunches are given out. — C.P., San Francisco, Calif.

**DEAR C.P.:** Hard-cooked eggs, whether for Easter or any other use, are a perishable food. Because they are such a plentiful source of nutrients, they are just as attractive to microorganisms as they are to us. The hard-boiling process might help destroy the bacteria and other microorganisms inside the egg, but it will also help destroy the natural protective coating on the egg.

Basic food safety dictates that a perishable food, such as an egg, should not be considered "safe" if it is away from refrigeration for over two hours. The food won't automatically make you sick after this time, but the degree of risk begins to grow at a rapid rate. Unless you are very efficient, it's unlikely that you will be able to go through the egg-dying and distribution process within a two-hour period.

You mentioned that the lunches would be given one to two days before Easter without refrigeration. Add to that the fact that you are planning on distributing the eggs to the homeless, a group in which food supplies are at a premium. This makes it almost certain that the eggs will be eaten. From a food-safety point-of-view, the eggs in the lunch are a risky idea.

**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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## Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

# How to treat asthma

**DEAR DR. GOTT:** My son, 31, has suffered from asthma for years. He's happily married and enjoys his pets, plants and dried flower arrangements — all of which aggravate his condition. Just how serious is this for his well-being?

**DEAR READER:** It could be quite serious. Although I understand your concern about your son's health, only he can choose which steps he can take to improve it. For some asthma patients, the disease is a life-threatening handicap requiring aggressive therapy; for others, it may be an occasional nuisance, consisting of periodic wheezing and cough.

In either instance, asthma attacks can be frightening and may progress to serious respiratory difficulty — without warning. Therefore, in my experience, asthmatics ordinarily modify their behavior and environment as much as they can to prevent the bronchial spasms that characterize the disease. This includes absolute prohibition against smoking (or exposure to second-hand smoke), as well as an avoidance of animal dander, plant pollens and other contaminants in the air we breathe. House dust, which is often trapped in dried arrangements (that are rarely changed or discarded) is a substance that frequently aggravates asthma, as will air pollution and upper respiratory infections.

Your son will have to make up his mind about which environmental factors to avoid. Perhaps he should even be tested by an allergist to identify these factors. If he is the kind of person who has a more or less persisting, chronic asthma — that is, he is rarely free of symptoms — the bronchial spasm (although low-grade) could lead to permanent lung damage, such as emphysema. In this situation, he could be helped by taking a drug to prevent asthma, such as Singulair or Accolate. If, on the other hand, his asthma is infrequent, the attacks could be treated (or aborted) by an albuterol inhaler.

The most satisfactory resolution to this problem, in my opinion, would be for him to discuss his asthma-pattern with his family physician. In this way, your son can work with the doctor to identify causes of the asthma and to take preventive measures. Also, the practitioner can advise him about appropriate medications to be used in to improve his breathing during an acute attack.

**DEAR DR. GOTT:** How has the treatment of peptic ulcers changed?

**DEAR READER:** Dramatically. Years ago, the only therapy was diet and frequent milk and cream feedings, along with bicarb of soda.

Subsequently, antacids (such as Maalox, Gelusil and Riopan) became the rage. These agents were inexpensive, more palatable, more effective and did not provide excess cholesterol.

Later, the treatment of peptic disease was revolutionized by the introduction of drugs (such as Pepcid, Tagamet and Zantac) that reduce the production of excess gastric acid, a primary case of ulcers and reflux.

Now there is even a more effective treatment: stronger drugs (such as Prevacid and Nexium) that block stomach acid are available by prescription and may be supplemented by antacids as needed.

Finally, bacterial infection (with a germ called H. pylori) is a significant cause of peptic disease in many patients. When present, H. pylori is treated with antibiotics.

The therapy of peptic disease has evolved over the past decade to the point at which powerful (but safe) medications are almost always successful in curing not only symptoms but the disorders themselves.

**A NOTE TO READERS: For updated and revised Health Reports on "Erectile Dysfunction" and "Coronary Artery Disease," send $2 for each report to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title(s) of the Health Report(s). Also, be on the lookout for more updated Health Reports.**

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## Markets

### Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

| | High | Low | Last | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMR Corp | 28.77 | 28.21 | 28.21 | —.60 |
| AOL TimeWrn | 26.25 | 25.90 | 26.01 | —.34 |
| AT&T Corp s | 16.12 | 15.74 | 15.84 | —.30 |
| Albertsons | 32.98 | 32.30 | 32.34 | +.94 |
| Alltel | 58.04 | 57.50 | 57.94 | +.19 |
| AmEl Pw | 44.90 | 44.55 | 44.77 | —.02 |
| AndarkPtr | 56.80 | 55.99 | 56.39 | +.53 |
| ATMOS Egy | 23.55 | 23.00 | 23.31 | +.06 |
| Aviall | 7.94 | 7.80 | 7.93 | +.18 |
| BP PLC | 52.46 | 52.10 | 52.20 | —.17 |
| BakerHughes | 39.95 | 38.31 | 38.32 | —1.05 |
| Bank of Amer | 68.46 | 67.54 | 68.20 | +.20 |
| BellSouth | 38.65 | 38.43 | 38.55 | —.15 |
| vjBeth Steel | .51 | .50 | .50 | +.01 |
| BurlNoSFe | 30.70 | 29.83 | 30.67 | +.48 |
| Caterpillar | 58.89 | 58.30 | 58.64 | —.27 |
| ChevronTex | 90.00 | 89.16 | 89.16 | —.46 |
| Citigroup | 48.98 | 48.23 | 48.65 | —.68 |
| CocaCola | 48.10 | 47.60 | 47.86 | —.03 |
| ColgatePal | 55.34 | 54.65 | 54.71 | —.56 |
| ComclMetals | 38.50 | 38.29 | 38.50 | +.01 |
| Cooperin | 40.50 | 40.15 | 40.17 | —.28 |
| DaimlrChry | 44.60 | 44.15 | 44.23 | +.31 |
| DeltaAirl | 37.12 | 36.42 | 36.48 | —.88 |
| Dillards Inc | 23.24 | 22.10 | 23.24 | —.06 |
| DowChem | 32.55 | 32.01 | 32.42 | +.02 |
| DuPont | 47.50 | 46.77 | 47.32 | +.08 |
| EastmanChem | 45.95 | 45.32 | 45.87 | +.55 |
| EstKodak | 31.85 | 31.09 | 31.25 | —.75 |
| EDS Corp | 63.65 | 62.97 | 63.41 | —.49 |
| Entergy | 42.74 | 42.30 | 42.62 | —.12 |
| ExxonMobil s | 44.09 | 43.36 | 43.38 | —.62 |
| FstBksAm | 39.90 | 36.50 | 39.90 | +2.10 |
| FootLocker | 16.63 | 16.09 | 16.40 | —.95 |
| GenDynam | 91.70 | 90.40 | 90.47 | —.03 |
| GenElec | 40.76 | 40.33 | 40.53 | —.57 |
| GenMills | 47.15 | 46.75 | 46.79 | —.01 |
| GenMotors | 60.43 | 60.02 | 60.10 | —.90 |
| GaPacific | 28.31 | 27.91 | 28.15 | —.34 |
| Goodrich | 32.20 | 31.67 | 32.08 | +.21 |
| Goodyear s | 28.25 | 28.01 | 28.15 | —.16 |
| GlAtlPac | 27.10 | 26.60 | 27.06 | +.26 |
| Halliburtn | 17.55 | 16.81 | 16.85 | —.25 |
| Hanson ADS | 36.81 | 36.42 | 36.42 | —.48 |
| HartleHanks | 30.30 | 29.78 | 30.30 | +.20 |
| HomeDepot | 48.00 | 47.55 | 47.73 | —.62 |
| Honeywellintl | 40.74 | 39.61 | 40.31 | +.14 |
| IBM | 108.65 | 107.68 | 108.11 | —.39 |
| IntlPaper | 44.21 | 43.50 | 43.91 | —.72 |
| JohnsonJn s | 63.68 | 63.40 | 63.51 | —.14 |
| vjK mart | 1.95 | 1.60 | 1.82 | +.23 |
| KinderMorg | 47.97 | 47.43 | 47.43 | —.20 |
| Kroger Co | 22.60 | 22.26 | 22.44 | +.46 |
| LockheedM | 57.48 | 56.81 | 57.12 | +.02 |
| Lowes Cos s | 43.49 | 42.88 | 43.29 | —.33 |
| Lubys | 6.76 | 6.58 | 6.62 | —.12 |
| LucentTech | 5.35 | 5.21 | 5.22 | —.38 |
| MarathonOil | 30.00 | 29.58 | 29.64 | +.17 |
| MayDeptStr | 36.91 | 36.55 | 36.77 | —.25 |
| Medtronic | 45.25 | 44.71 | 44.80 | —.15 |
| Motorola | 14.37 | 14.17 | 14.22 | —.19 |
| NCR Corp | 44.95 | 44.32 | 44.64 | —.18 |
| Navistar | 44.95 | 44.25 | 44.40 | —.68 |
| PNM Rescs | 28.75 | 28.45 | 28.45 | —.39 |
| Penney JC | 22.45 | 20.50 | 22.09 | —.07 |
| PepBoys | 15.30 | 15.10 | 15.28 | +.04 |
| PepsiCo | 50.26 | 49.63 | 49.69 | —.24 |
| Pharmacia | 42.99 | 41.78 | 42.65 | +.50 |
| PhelpDodge | 41.20 | 40.55 | 40.60 | —1.29 |
| PhilipPet | 63.01 | 62.31 | 62.34 | —.06 |
| PilgrmPrd B | 12.62 | 12.55 | 12.60 | +.08 |
| Praxair | 60.27 | 59.60 | 59.81 | —.46 |
| ProctGamb | 85.52 | 84.20 | 84.50 | —.78 |
| RadioShack | 29.23 | 28.68 | 28.91 | —.23 |
| ReliantEngy | 25.05 | 24.72 | 24.95 | +.15 |
| RoyalDut | 54.65 | 54.40 | 54.40 | —.49 |
| SBC Comm | 39.00 | 38.70 | 38.84 | +.06 |
| SaraLee | 20.78 | 20.48 | 20.57 | —.21 |
| Scripps EW | 80.30 | 77.50 | 80.29 | +3.18 |
| SearsRoeb | 52.60 | 52.15 | 52.22 | —.75 |
| SherwinW | 28.60 | 28.15 | 28.43 | —.20 |
| SouthernCo s | 25.95 | 25.65 | 25.72 | —.17 |
| SwstAirl | 20.09 | 19.91 | 19.92 | —.18 |
| SprintFON | 16.05 | 15.65 | 15.76 | —.31 |
| SprintPCS | 11.99 | 11.66 | 11.70 | —.35 |
| Sunoco Inc | 42.15 | 41.24 | 41.80 | +.56 |
| TXU Corp | 52.12 | 51.73 | 51.88 | —.24 |
| TempleInland | 57.70 | 56.70 | 57.52 | —.61 |
| TexInd | 42.40 | 42.05 | 42.40 | +.25 |
| TexasInst | 32.88 | 32.12 | 32.36 | —.39 |
| Textron | 49.80 | 49.01 | 49.20 | —.46 |
| TriconGlbR | 57.40 | 56.00 | 57.40 | +1.80 |
| TrinityInds | 23.24 | 22.77 | 22.83 | —.41 |
| TylerTech | 4.74 | 4.69 | 4.70 | +.08 |
| UnionPacif | 61.00 | 60.61 | 60.95 | —.13 |
| USSteel | 17.40 | 17.19 | 17.21 | —.43 |
| UnitedTech | 75.00 | 74.15 | 74.62 | —.38 |
| Unocal | 38.81 | 38.04 | 38.18 | —.26 |
| VerizonComm | 47.74 | 47.15 | 47.68 | +.22 |
| WalMart | 62.81 | 61.30 | 61.58 | —.65 |
| WellsFargo | 49.98 | 49.71 | 49.94 | +.04 |
| WstnGasRs | 36.32 | 35.98 | 36.03 | +.05 |
| WinnDixie | 16.56 | 16.30 | 16.35 | —.23 |
| Xerox Cp | 10.22 | 10.02 | 10.20 | +.06 |

MAR 13 2002

# Scurry County Country

## Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

**Do You Know How Much Water You Use in a Day?**

An average American family of four uses about 88,000 gallons of water a year. This amounts to an average of more than 240 gallons a day for the household or more than 60 gallons per person per day. In large homes, with several bathrooms and irrigated lawns, families can use more than 75 gallons of water per person per day.

Most of the water used indoors is in the bathroom. It is estimated that 75 percent of all the water used indoors is used in the bathroom. Most standard showerheads in homes use 5 to 10 gallons of water per minute. For a ten-minute shower that is 50 to 100 gallons of water. By simply buying and installing a showerhead with an output of only 2.5 gallons per minute, you can save as much as 75 gallons per shower. Multiply that by four, the average size family can save as much as 300 gallons of water per day or a whopping 2,100 gallons a week. The average cost of $5 to $25 per showerhead will soon pay for itself in saving on your water bill.

Faucet leaks are obvious. The cause of leaking faucets is usually due to a worn out washer that can be easily replaced. Replacement washers can be purchased from hardware or home-improvement centers for only a few cents. But as the chart below shows, this investment can pay off big in monthly water savings.

| Leak | Gals.wasted/month |
|---|---|
| A slow steady drip | 350 |
| A fast drip | 600 |
| A small stream | 2,000 to 2,700 |
| A large stream | 4,600 |

Remember it's not only the faucets used daily but also those not used as much such as faucets in the basement or outside.

Outdoors, irrigation of lawns and gardens and the practice of washing the family car make up the majority of outdoor water use.

Other things we use each day require water for their manufacturing. For example, it takes 148 gallons of water to produce a Sunday newspaper, 32 gallons of water to produce a pound of steel, and 158 gallons to produce a pound of aluminum. It requires almost 80,000 gallons of water a year to provide one person with food. Water is not only needed to grow food, but to also process food into an edible form. For example, it takes 148 gallons of water to make a loaf of bread and 285 gallons to make a pound of ground beef. You can make a difference by determining your water use habits and looking for ways to conserve water in your home or landscape.

## Shortage of lettuce means skyrocketing prices in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California is facing one of its worst lettuce shortages and the highest prices in 15 years, potentially pushing the cost of lettuce across the nation to $3 a head.

A spell of unusually cold weather this year stunted most of Arizona's lettuce crops, pushing back their harvest window, while California's Imperial Valley lettuce turned out to be weaker than expected.

"Because of the cold weather, the crops didn't get as big and we didn't get as many," said Eric Schwartz, president of operations at Dole Fresh Vegetables in Salinas.

The steady demand and diminished supply have translated into skyrocketing prices for most of the country. Markets have seen record prices in Northern California, jumping from around $12 a carton to nearly $50.

"Every once in a while, Mother Nature comes along and slaps us in the face," said Henry Gong, owner of the Star Market in Salinas. In recent days, Gong and his competitors have had to charge up to $3 for a head of lettuce.

More than 50 percent of the nation's lettuce comes from three California areas — the Imperial Valley in the southeastern corner of the state, the area centered around Huron in Fresno County and the area around Salinas in Monterey County, according to Jesus Valencia, farm adviser for the University of California system.

The lettuce farms rotate harvests to maintain a year-round supply of lettuce. The Imperial Valley usually harvests in the late fall, Huron in the spring and Salinas in the late spring and summer. Vegetable wholesalers rely on Arizona, because of its warm weather, during the winter months.

Steve Skuba of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable Market News said he's never seen prices this high in his 25 years as a market reporter.

Cartons hit $40 in 1995 after floods wiped out much of the lettuce in the Salinas region.

## Ag Talk

By Charlie Stenholm, Congressman 17th District

**House and Senate Farm Bill Negotiations**

There hasn't been much action yet on the farm bill.

While staff members from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees continue to meet to work out differences between the two bills, House Members and Senators have not yet begun formal negotiations.

Those of us serving as conferees on the farm bill heard from several major farm and commodity groups this week urging Congress to concentrate efforts on Title I, the commodity section that deals with the so-called program crops.

These groups urged Congress to provide critically needed financial stability to farmers and ranchers in times of low prices, and to lessen dependence on the emergency assistance packages we have seen in recent years.

Last year's budget provided $73.5 billion in additional funding available for agriculture over the next ten years. The farm groups have urged that at least two-thirds of this funding should be directed to commodity programs.

Among the groups expressing these views were the National Cotton Council, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Grain Sorghum Producers and the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation.

As I have indicated in the past, there are significant differences between the House and Senate bills, and it will not be easy working out these differences.

The House and Senate bills differ on loan rates, payment limits, conservation, country of origin labeling, and a ban on packer ownership.

On the subject of payment limits, I have been trying to work out a compromise in an effort to bridge the gap between the House and Senate bills.

The House farm bill had a payment limit of $550,000, while the Senate bill would limit annual government payments to farmers from a maximum of $500,000 to $275,000.

The Senate payment limitation language was written by folks who don't necessarily appreciate the significant differences in agriculture among the various parts of the U.S., nor do they fully understand the impact that payment limits could have on cotton and rice producers.

Cotton and rice are more expensive to grow and producers in the southern and western regions of the country would be hit harder by the Senate's payment limits than large corn and soybean farms in the Midwest.

When farmers increase the size of their farms, the nation's taxpayers should not necessarily be required to subsidize every acre that these producers want to farm.

By the same token, I believe that once House Members and Senators begin to fully understand that there are significant differences in production costs and profits on various crops, there might be a shift on the issue of payment limitations. Let me add that there are already payment limits in place.

Of course the big question remains just how long it will take to finish the farm bill. Getting President Bush to sign a farm bill by Easter has to be the goal of everyone working on the issue.

At this point in time, however, it is anyone's guess as to when the bill will be completed. Unfortunately, House Members and Senators have not yet had the first meeting.

**USDA Announces New Cotton Redemption System**

The USDA recently announced that it will begin using a new time-saving registry to speed up loan repayments. Cotton producers will be able to offer harvested cotton as collateral for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) marketing assistance loans.

In the past, producers often authorized merchants to repay their loans at more than 300 USDA Service Centers, meaning that merchants had to have the correct paperwork on file at all of those offices.

Under this new registry system, a cotton merchant will submit one form to USDA headquarters with an original or impressed signature of all representatives authorized by that merchant to redeem cotton.

This new system should speed up processing and save time for producers.

**Trade Promotion Authority Update**

With the Senate occupied with campaign finance reform and energy legislation, the bill to grant the president expanded authority to negotiate trade agreements, otherwise known as Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), has been postponed indefinitely.

I believe the president should have the full support of Congress in negotiating on behalf of U.S. interests, and I took an active role in getting this legislation passed in the House.

I am hopeful the Senate will not drag its feet in passing this legislation that is critical to both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors of the U.S. economy.

**Steel Tariffs May Impact U.S. Agriculture**

On the subject of trade, there is growing concern in agricultural circles that President Bush's decision to impose tariffs on steel imports will have a negative impact on the U.S. in agricultural trade disputes.

Several countries have announced plans to ban or restrict imports of U.S. agricultural products. I hope the U.S. will not become engaged in a trade war, and I will be carefully following this issue.

*Congressman Stenholm represents the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture*

## Markets

### Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 1,696 head of cattle for the Saturday, March 9, sale. Feeder steers and heifers mostly steady. Slaughter cows were $2 to $4 higher and bulls were steady. Bred cows were $25/hd. lower; pairs were steady to weak. Trading was active and demand good.

**Feeder steers:**
200-300: 123-133
300-400: 111-120
400-500: 102-112
500-600: 90-96.50
600-650: 84.50-91
**Feeder heifers:**
200-300: 111-120
300-400: 100-109
400-500: 90-92.50
500-600: 81.50-82.50
600-700: 77-80.50
700-800: 71-74.50
**Replacement cows:**
Bred cows (5-7 months): 550-640
Bred cows (3-7 months): 410-550
Cow & calf pairs: 700-790
Aged pairs: 590-720
**Slaughter cows:**
Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs.: 42-47
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 44-48.50
Boners high yielding: 1150-1400: 48-52.50
Lean: 900-1200 Lbs.: 38.50-46
900-1000 Lbs.: 37-44
Under 750 Lb.: 29.50-39
**Slaughter bulls:**
Yield Grade 1-2: 1300-2100 Lbs.: 52-60.50
High dressing: 1000-1300 Lbs.: 62.50-[illegible]
Low dressing: 1000-1300 Lbs.: 43.50-50

### Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 645 head of cattle for the Thursday, March 7, sale. Cows were $2 better. Yearlings and calves were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 42-51.50
Canner and low cutters: 33-42
Slaughter bulls: 52-66
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 105-135
400-500: 90-110
500-600: 90-101
600-700: 82-90
700-800: 77-84
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 95-110
400-500: 85-95
500-600: 78-84
600-700: 75-82
700-800: 65-75
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 80-90
700-800: 70-77.50
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 725-925
Grade: 550-700
Springers: 400-675
Baby calves: 15-230
Doodlers: 230-300

## Lawmakers trying to boost number of shellfish farms

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — In an attempt to jump-start Alaska's tiny shellfish industry, state lawmakers are considering legislation that could more than double the number of shellfish farms.

Two bills moving through the Alaska Legislature require the state Department of Natural Resources to identify 60 potential new sites for shellfish grown in suspended nets, which would be mostly oyster and some mussel farming.

In addition, the agency would need to find 20 sites for clam farming and 10 sites for geoduck farming.

The measures call for the Department of Natural Resources to work with the Departments of Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation, shellfish growers and the general public to identify suitable sites.

The idea is to avoid some of the conflict that now surrounds aquatic farming applications.

"This will give somebody a degree of certainty than they never had in the past," said Rodger Painter of the Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association.

Division of Commercial Fisheries Director Doug Mecum said the current process can be frustrating and time-consuming. Farmers don't find out until after they've applied for a site that Fish and Game won't permit it because it conflicts with other fisheries or harms habitat.

"The current process says, 'Go find a rock and bring it back to me and I'll tell you if it's the right one,' Mecum said.

## Molecular map of peanut plant made

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — University of Georgia researchers say they have completed the first comprehensive molecular map of the peanut plant — a breakthrough that could lead to advances for farmers.

The map of peanut plant genes could help scientists breed peanuts that taste nuttier, fight off disease better and yield a better crop, said Andrew Paterson, director of the university's Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory.

"I do think that agricultural genomes have maybe not been given sufficient priority," Paterson said. "We're fortunate to live in a country and a time when food is dirt cheap, and it's not necessarily always going to be the case."


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BY BILL O'NEAL

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Missing teen-agers likely kidnapped

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP) — Federal agents say they are virtually certain that two teen-age girls who disappeared from the same apartment complex two months apart were kidnapped.

Authorities at first explored the possibility that the girls, who attended the same school and were on the same dance team, had run away. However, they took no extra clothes or makeup.

"We're looking at this as an abduction," FBI Special Agent Charles Mathews said Tuesday.

Ashley Pond and Miranda Gaddis, both 13, lived in the Newell Creek Village Apartments, attended Gardiner Middle School and were teammates on the school dance team.

Ashley disappeared on Jan. 9 and Miranda vanished on Friday.

"I just want her to come home," said Miranda's mother, Michelle Duffey, who has been posting fliers with her daughter's photo.

The FBI sought information about anyone with an abnormal interest in children who has acted nervous in recent weeks, who has unexplained cuts or scratches on their hands, or may have missed work on the days the girls disappeared.

On Friday, Duffey went to her job as an office manager at an engineering company at 7:30 a.m, leaving Miranda still in a bathrobe and eating breakfast. Miranda was to catch her school bus at 8:05 a.m.

Fearing there could be another kidnapping, some residents of the Newell Creek Village complex said they were moving out.

"We have a little baby. We don't want to wait to find out," Hannah Gonzales said.

Another resident, John Buck, walked around with a long-barreled pistol in a holster under his arm. He said he has sent his girls to live in Washington with relatives and plans to move to Colorado.

"They just fell off the face of the Earth," Buck said of Ashley and Miranda, who used to play with his daughter.

# Close race results in runoff for Senate

By The Associated Press

Laredo millionaire Tony Sanchez outspent rival Dan Morales, then outpolled him in a surprisingly lopsided contest that gave the Democrats their first Hispanic nominee for Texas governor.

Meanwhile, schoolteacher Victor Morales and former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk slipped into a runoff ahead of Houston congressman Ken Bentsen in a neck-and-neck race for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination,

With 98 percent of precincts reporting early today, Sanchez had 60 percent of the vote compared with Dan Morales' 33 percent.

"If my boys wouldn't tease me, I might start crying," Sanchez, referring to his grown sons, told jubilant supporters in Austin.

The historic win brought national attention for Texas Democrats.

"The Democrats are very happy about it, because there's been some small worry about the Hispanic vote being nibbled away by the Republican Party," said Allan Saxe, a political science professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. "This spells good news for the Democratic Party."

The intensity between the two front-running candidates increased in the campaign's final weeks as the two fought for the right to challenge incumbent Republican Rick Perry.

The race took a strange twist on election day when a judge granted Morales' request for three additional hours of voting at some stations that didn't open on time in his hometown of San Antonio.

In Harris County, voters in at least nine precincts were unable to vote because of unstaffed polling places.

The gubernatorial battle began when Morales, a former Texas attorney general, made a surprise entry into the contest and frustrated Sanchez's plans to sew up the Democratic nomination without major opposition.

That turned out to be not a bad thing for Sanchez, said Cal Jillson, professor of political science at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"It also forced him to drive his name recognition through the roof. He's now set to run a substantive campaign against Governor Perry," he said.

The two traded barbs about their heritage and campaigns, as well as affirmative action.

The men held what was believed to be the first debate in Spanish for a U.S. gubernatorial race, although Morales translated his answers into English — calling it the state's "principal language."

Sanchez ran strongly among Hispanics, Jillson said.

Morales accused Sanchez, a banker, of trying to buy a victory with his vast personal wealth, while Sanchez said he was fighting to distinguish himself from the "professional politician" in the race.

With the hotly contested governor's race absorbing most of the spotlight, less attention was paid to the race to replace longtime Republican Sen. Phil Gramm. The front-running Senate Democratic hopefuls were Kirk, Bentsen and Victor Morales, who may have been better known because of his unsuccessful race six years ago.

# 'Dr. Chaos' should remain locked up, prosecutors say

CHICAGO (AP) — A man charged with storing deadly cyanide in Chicago's subway waived his right to a bond hearing today before a federal magistrate who called him "an extreme danger to the community."

Joseph Konopka, 25, was returned to his cell after the five-minute hearing to await action by a federal grand jury investigating the stash of cyanide.

"The court is convinced that this defendant intended to do no good and that he intended to use the chemicals to harm the community," federal Magistrate Judge Edward A. Bobrick said.

He said he wouldn't have granted bond if Konopka had asked.

Konopka, who said nothing during the court appearance, was a fugitive from vandalism charges in four Wisconsin counties when he was arrested Saturday.

In addition to waiving his right to a bond hearing today, he also waived his right to a preliminary hearing on whether the government has enough evidence to hold him. Federal prosecutors now have 30 days to get an indictment or charge him in a criminal information.

Defense attorney Matthew Madden declined to comment after the hearing.

Authorities said Konopka was carrying a vial containing one gram of sodium cyanide when he and a 15-year-old were arrested late Saturday in a utility tunnel at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The juvenile told FBI agents Konopka had taken over an area in a Chicago Transit Authority underground passageway to store chemicals, authorities said.

Federal agents said they found almost a pound of sodium cyanide and four ounces of potassium cyanide in a storage room under Chicago's downtown Loop district, a block from the federal courthouse.

A spokesman said the FBI is trying to determine where Konopka got the cyanide, as well as how he got keys to the locked passageway in the subway.

Wade Freeman, a chemistry professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago, said cyanide is "fairly common" and could be ordered from dozens of chemical supply houses around the country. Mixing the quantity of cyanide found in the subway with acid would create "a very big puff" of toxic gas, Freeman said.

Mayor Richard Daley has ordered the CTA to inspect the subway system and seal off any unused storage rooms or tunnels.

# Snyder Healthcare Center will begin accepting residents

Snyder Healthcare Center, after evacuating its 49 residents July 17 because of the discovery of black mold in the administrative offices, will begin accepting residents Thursday.

Gloria Mann, administrator, said today the building was approved by state inspectors and that the facility is under "substantial compliance."

"Our license for operation never expired, so this was treated as a renewal inspection rather than an initial inspection," she said. "We did not expect to be closed for this long, but we got a lot of work done and a building this old needs a lot of cosmetics."

Mrs. Mann said residents who left the home during the evacuation will not be required to go through regular protocol for admission, but new patients will.

"When a family comes to us and expresses a need for assistance we send some representatives to meet with the patient and evaluate the circumstances," she said. "We will not accept a resident sight unseen."

Mrs. Mann expects to regain approximately 36 of the residents who left the facility in July and also sees no shortage of workers for the home as applications for employment have continued to come in after the closing.

"It's going to be a busy time for us, but we are trying to work the employees and the residents back into our routine in an organized fashion," she said.

For information on admission, Mrs. Mann can be contacted at 573-6332.

Mrs. Mann said she's proud of the work accomplished at the nursing home and is ready to get back to normal. "It's been too quiet around here."

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| 5.09% | 5 Yr. | $1,000 |

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# Pair of accidents reported Tuesday

***Accidents***

Snyder officers responded to an accident on College Ave. just after 5 p.m. Tuesday in front of Wal-Mart.

Involved in the mishap were a 1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass driven by Lou Collins, 57, of 4400 Ave. U Apt. 2B11 and a 1997 Chevrolet passenger van driven by Corinne Hernandez, 39, of 1407 Ave. M.

EMS paramedics transported Hernandez and a passenger in the van, Carrie Gaona, 20, to Cogdell Hospital. Hernandez was admitted for observation and Gaona was treated and released.

At 11:40 a.m. Tuesday a minor accident was reported at College Ave. and 25th Street. A tractor-trailer driven by Jerry Coplan, 31, of Aspermont ran over a sign on the square. There were no injuries.

***Arrests***

Deputies arrested a 40-year-old man Tuesday afternoon on an outstanding warrant from Nolan County for theft by check.

Another 40-year-old man was taken into custody by deputies at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 7:20 Tuesday night, A 19-year-old woman was arrested for failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying expired motor vehicle registration.

DPS troopers arrested a 22-year-old man on Texas Highway 208 at 12:03 a.m. today just south of Dunn for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

***Close patrol***

Officers initiated a close patrol in the 2000 block of West Dr. at the request of a resident on the street.

## Clarification...

Raven Luna was eliminated in the fifth round of Saturday's regional spelling bee in Lubbock, not the first round as reported Tuesday.

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

### Community garden planning

There will be a planning session for the community garden at 7 p.m. Thursday at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church. All interested are invited to attend. For more information, call BeBe Boren, coordinator, at 574-1967 or 806-629-4475.

### FBC support groups

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

### Iglesia de Cristo

Iglesia de Cristo, 501 N. College Ave., will have a special study program on the Book of Revelations from 7-8:15 p.m. Friday.

### UW board meeting

Directors of the Scurry County United Way will meet at noon Monday at 2311 Ave. T.

### Community choir class

A community choir class will begin Monday in Western Texas College's Fine Arts Theatre. The class will meet Mondays from 7-9 p.m. for seven weeks, followed by a performance on April 26. The class is free and registration will be on the first day of class. Call 573-8511 for more information.

### Scurry County 4-H Club meeting

The Scurry County 4-H Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at East Elementary.

### Free income tax help

Free income tax aid for low to middle income citizens of any age is available each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center located, 2603 Ave. M.

### SHS class of 1992 reunion

The 1992 class of Snyder High School is needing addresses for classmates. Call Melanie at 573-4022, Julie at 573-1634 or Amy at 573-4793. The reunion will be held at the end of July.

### Enchilada dinner

The third annual Knights of Columbus enchilada dinner is Sunday, March 24, at West Elementary. Serving will be from noon until 5 p.m. Adult plates are $5 and child's plates are $3. Meal includes tea and dessert.

### Foster care meeting

To learn more information of foster care and adoption, attend an informational meeting to be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, at the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center.

### Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has windbreak trees available for sale. Extra hardwood trees are $1 each and Evergreens are $2.25. Call 573-6317 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### American Legion membership drive

The American Legion is holding its membership drive and if you or a family member served in the military, you could be eligible for membership in the American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion. Call 573-4082, 573-6542 or 574-6805 for more information.

### Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes taught by certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides are held at WTC from 8 a.m. until noon Tuesday through Thursday, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include G.E.D., E.S.L., and refresher courses. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.

### ESL, GED classes

Classes for E.S.L., GED and computers are held at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Region 14 classroom at 4200 College Ave. For more information, call 574-6012.

### Discovery School

Discovery School will be providing summer childcare from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for children ages birth to 10 years. For more information call 573-4770.

### Cancer treatment transportation

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

# 'Dear Abby' letter prompts call to police in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Advice columnist Jeanne Phillips, known to millions of readers as Abigail Van Buren, called police after receiving a "Dear Abby" letter from a man who wrote about his pornographic fantasies of having sex with children.

The 28-year-old letter writer was arrest Monday, and police said 40 pornographic photographs of children were found his computer. Charges were pending.

The man admitted writing the letter, but denied acting on his fantasies, police said.

"I lost sleep, didn't sleep for days, because I really believe this man wrote to me genuinely seeking help," Phillips told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in its today editions. "I was torn, because my readers do turn to me for help, yet there was the priority of the safety of those young girls."

The "Dear Abby" column's credibility is based on the anonymity given those seeking her advice, and making the call to police was "an extremely difficult thing to do," Phillips said.

"I believe he was seeking help and I hope that is considered, and I hope he gets the help he so obviously needs," Phillips said.

Jeanne Phillips, whose mother, Pauline Phillips, created the Dear Abby advice column 46 years ago, has contributed to the column since the early 1980s.

MAR 13 2002

# More remains are pulled from rubble

NEW YORK (AP) — The remains of 11 firefighters and two civilians were pulled from the World Trade Center rubble Tuesday as workers continued in the last stages of the recovery effort, said a fire department spokesman.

As of last week, 148 firefighters' bodies had been found and positively identified through DNA testing — fewer than half of the 343 who were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, said spokesman Pat Cleary.

The remains removed Tuesday were found in a six-story heap of debris where the south tower once stood, Cleary said. They will undergo DNA testing to confirm their identities, said David Billig, another fire department spokesman.

About 100 firefighters lined up to salute as the remains, carried on stretchers draped in American flags, were carried to an ambulance.

Just one day earlier, hundreds of firefighters had gathered for the funeral of Richard Allen, 31, who had only four months on the job at Ladder Co. 15, based in lower Manhattan's South Street Seaport area.

"He was very energetic," said fire Chief Butch Brandes, who knew Allen from when they were lifeguards together at Jacob Riis Park. "He called me up the Friday night before 9-11. He was complaining that it wasn't that busy. I told him all it takes is one."

Firefighters came from as far away as Chicago and Maryland for Allen's funeral, where they stood eight deep in two-block-long lines in 35-degree weather.

On Sunday, the crew dug out a battered fire engine belonging to Engine Co. 55, which lost five firefighters when the towers collapsed.

# Congress to look into Global Crossing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is turning its attention to the bankruptcy of Global Crossing Ltd. even as its investigation into the collapse of Houston-based Enron Corp. moves forward.

The bankrupt telecommunications company said it will comply with a request from a congressional committee for documents about its accounting practices and pay for top executives.

Global Crossing, which filed for bankruptcy protection in January, is under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Congress joined the fray on Tuesday when leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee gave Global Crossing chief executive John Legere two weeks to turn over records.

It is too early to say whether congressional scrutiny of Global Crossing's bankruptcy, the nation's fourth-largest, will be as intense as the focus on the failure of Enron, the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

But lawmakers said they want to determine whether Global Crossing concealed its true financial condition, similar to the way Enron has acknowledged misstating earnings, revenue and debt. They noted Enron and Global Crossing used Arthur Andersen as their auditor.

"Was Global Crossing a corporate giant toppled by a recession in the telecommunications industry or was it instead a paper tiger created by questionable bookkeeping?" asked Ken Johnson, spokesman Rep. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-La, the committee chairman.

Global Crossing, based in Bermuda but run out of offices in Beverly Hills, Calif., spent $15 billion over five years building a 100,000-mile fiber-optic network, only to see its fortunes decline last year amid weak demand for bandwidth and investors' increasing concerns about the company's debts.

The company listed $12.4 billion in debts in its bankruptcy filing. It faces a hearing in federal bankruptcy court in New York on today on a proposed $750 million rescue plan.

Lawmakers want Global Crossing to explain its practice of selling capacity on its network to a customer, then buying a similar amount of capacity on the customer's network. A former executive first raised questions about the practice last year, alleging that it inflated revenues.

Legere said last week that he has asked the board of directors to commission an independent review of accounting practices. Company spokesmen have previously denied the allegations.

The committee also is seeking records on loans, stock sales and bonuses involving directors and officers. Senior executives cashed in $1.3 billion in stock in the three years before the company filed for bankruptcy. Legere was one of at least two executives whose multimillion-dollar loans from the company were either reduced or forgiven.

# Central Command discloses attack that killed 14 people

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military disclosed Tuesday that American fighter jets attacked a vehicle in eastern Afghanistan on March 6, killing 14 people, including women and children. One child was wounded.

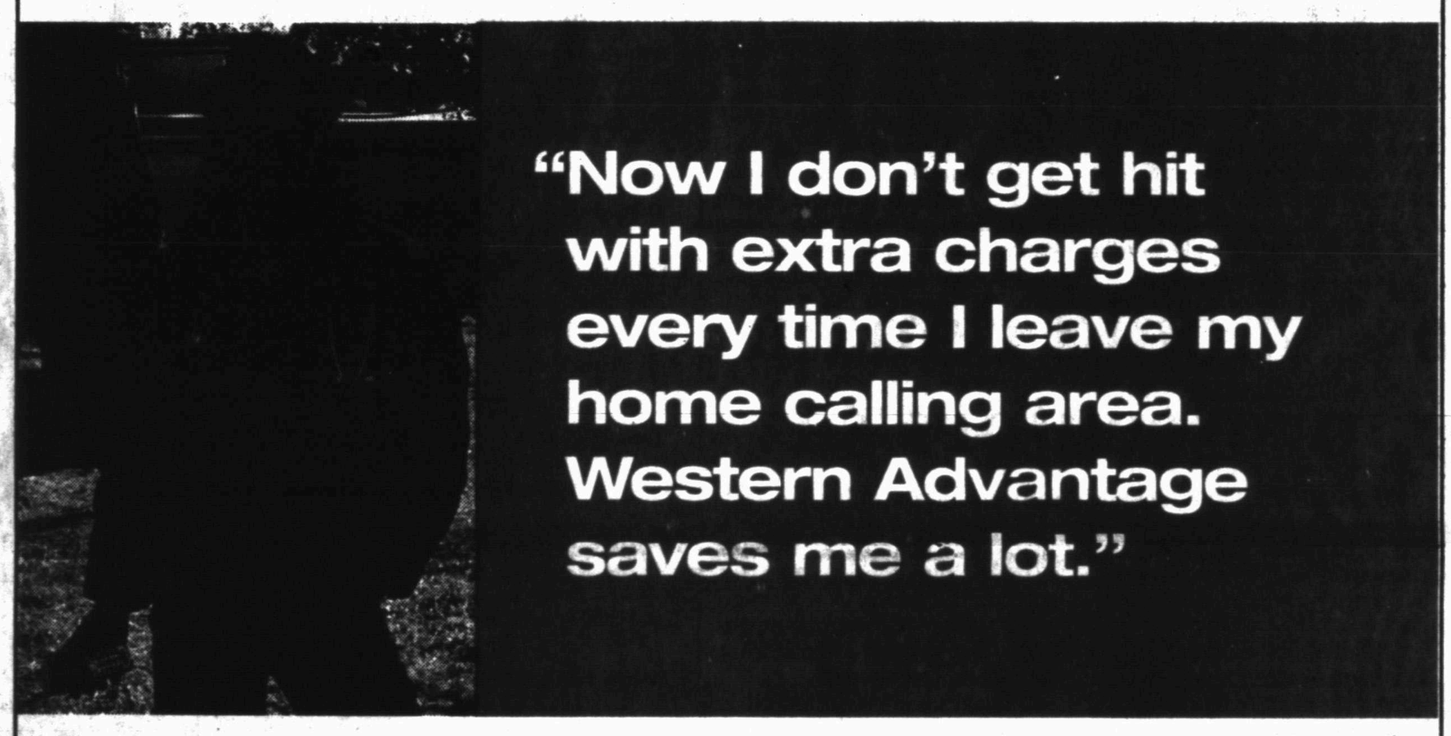
The announcement by Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, said the wounded child was taken to a military hospital and is listed in stable condition.

A Central Command spokesman, Air Force Lt. Col. Martin Compton, said it has not been determined whether all 15 people were civilians, but he said U.S. officials believe they were somehow affiliated with the al-Qaida terrorist network. He said he did not know if they were Afghans.

The vehicle was attacked by two U.S. fighters after it was spotted leaving what Compton described as a compound known to be used by al-Qaida members. He said it was located near Shikin, in Paktia province, near the Pakistan border. Compton said he did not know the type of vehicle.

The attack happened at mid-morning March 6. Asked why the incident was not disclosed earlier, Compton said U.S. military officials needed time to piece together what happened before making the announcement.

Most of the dead were men, but some were women and children, Central Command said. It was not more precise about how many were women and children.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# Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, March 14, 2002

The year ahead could be your time for weeding out that which is unproductive in your life, be it activities or friends, and replace them with quality situations that propels you to success.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — There won't be any free rides being handed out or getting something for nothing today. If you want to add dollars to your wallet, you'll have to work for it. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you don't feel deeply confident about what you're doing today, you'll attract negative results. Believe in yourself first, and the rest will take care of itself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Feeling sorry for yourself brings on depression and hopelessness, making matters worse for you instead of better. In order to operate effectively today, turn your attitude around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your luck will not hold out for you where money is concerned today, so don't plan on Dame Fortune to be there for you if you spend or invest funds foolishly. Be prudent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Because ambitious objectives might not be too easily fulfilled today, be prepared to exert a vigorous second or third effort to achieve what you envision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Although sometimes a hunch or feeling could put you on the right track, today will not be one of those days. Give priority to your logical assessments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The deals might be out there, but chances are you'll not recognize them too easily today. Sleep on any money-making propositions before you take a plunge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't allow others to influence your thinking today if you are wrestling over a problem that needs to be solved. Chances are their way will only confuse the matter further.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you hope to accomplish your goals today, you had better keep your eye on the ball. It might be all too easy to take things for granted and get careless if you let your guard down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be careful about what you say and to whom today when it comes to offering your opinion about something important. You might be wrong in ways that could prove costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't agree to do something that is opposed to your better judgment today just because it's an easy out. Chances are the person who'll get hurt will be you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Just do what needs doing today without any moaning. Otherwise you might attempt to conceive an elaborate rationalization that will deceive no one but you.

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