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WT-Int. Crude - $25.05
WTIC Posted - $21.50
Natural Gas - $3.310

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
March 20, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 276
10 Pages 50¢

Home of James Allen Shields

Area receives up to 2" of benefical rain

Scurry County farmers – as well as gardeners - got an early shot in the arm Tuesday and early today as up to two inches of rain has fallen in the county, soaking the land with much-needed moisture prior to the planting season.

One and two-tenths of rain was reported this morning at the water treatment plant in Snyder following the slow rains that continued most of Tuesday night.

Weldon and Trellice Perry reported two inches some five miles east of Snyder, while Joe Landrum recorded 2.5 inches in Fluvanna.

Two inches was recorded by Fred Cross at Loyd Mountain and Sid Johnson reported 1.9 inches at Polar. North of town, Jerry House received 1.5 inches.

Lighter amounts were recorded in the southeast part of the county as Hermleigh residents received the least precipitation, with half an inch falling there while one inch was recorded at Dunn.

Ira got considerably more rain than Hermleigh, with Jessie Lindsey reporting 1.9 inches at his home.

Joe Hefner of the Farm Service Agency said this week's precipitation is just what area farmers were hoping for.

"It was a great rain," he said. "Anytime we get rain, it's good. But this will be very beneficial because it's going to soak in and help everyone."

Hefner said the rain should help the wheat growing in fields now and could turn the crop, which is usually used just for grazing, into grain.

The moisture will be "very good" for cotton producers who will begin planting the 2002 crop in May, according to Hefner.

"One of these days, we're going to need a good hard rain to fill up some of these tanks around the county," he added, "but any form of precipitation is greatly appreciated around here."

All three local gins received over an inch of rain during the period.

Farmer's Co-Op reported 1.4 inches at its location just east of town. The Scurry County Gin, west of Snyder, recorded 1.3 inches and 1.5 inches was reported at the Inadale Gin on U.S. 84.

Similar amounts were reported in the western portion of the county, with 1.6 inches falling in Union and 1.5 inches recorded at Gail in Borden County.

The Lake J.B. Thomas area received from 1.1 to 1.2 inches and Colorado River Municipal Water District officials report some runoff into the lake.

"We've had reports of Bull Creek running 30-foot wide but only about six inches deep," said John Grant, general manager of the water district.

"We do expect the lake to gain some water," Grant said.

He also said that Lake Ivie and Lake Spence should also benefit from the recent rains.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	1.2
North of city	1.5
East of city	2.0
West of city	1.75
CRMWD office	1.2
Lake Thomas	1.1
Hermleigh	.50
Fluvanna	2.5
Polar	1.9
Loyd Mountain	2.0
Camp Springs	1.3
Dunn	1.0
Ira	1.9
Union	1.6
Gail	1.5
Gins	
Farmers Co-Op (E)	1.4
Sc. County (W)	1.3
Inadale	1.5

Totals as reported by area residents for Tuesday night and early today.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Always put off 'til tomorrow what you are ashamed to do today."

We like punny things. In case you don't, just moan and read no further.

This collection of bad puns is recommended only if you are collecting stuff to lay on your brother-in-law at the next family gathering.

—A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

—A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

—The wife likes to make pottery, but to her husband it's just kiln time.

—Dijon vu – the same mustard as before.

—Practice safe eating – always use condiments.

—The man fired his masseuse for rubbing him the wrong way.

—A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

—A shotgun wedding is a case of wife or death.

—The guy used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

—The guy worked as a lumberjack, but his company gave him the axe.

—A man had an affair to break the monogamy.

—Marriage is the morning after the knot before.

—A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

—Corduroy pillows make headlines.

—Some believe that dancing cheek-to-cheek is a form of floor play.

—Banning the bra was a big flop.

—Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

—A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.

—Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

—The math teacher says that life without geometry is pointless.

—When you dream in color, it's really a pigment of your imagination.

—Reading while sunbathing makes one well-red.

—When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

—A population explosion is when people take leave of their census.

—Rich relatives are the kin we love to visit.

—A psychologist is a scientist who pulls habits out of rats.

—With some people you have to read between the lies.

—An epitaph is often a monumental liar.

These just prove one critic of puns to be correct. He said:

"A pun is the lowest form of humor, especially when you didn't think of it first."

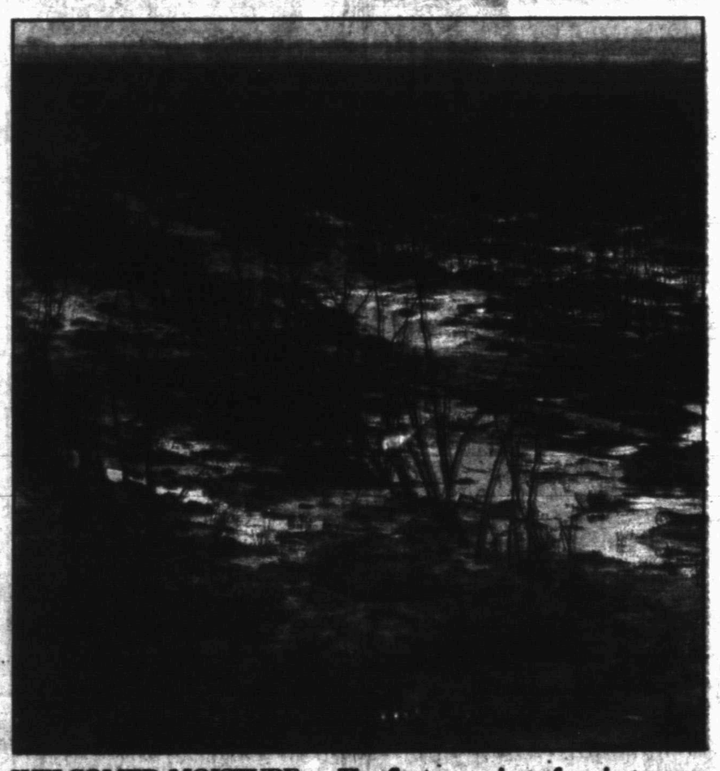
Blood drive will continue

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and United Blood Services (UBS) will hold a blood drive Thursday at the hospital.

The drive will be conducted in the donor coach parked at Cogdell Hospital.

Donors will be able to donate blood from noon until 7 p.m.

All blood donors will receive a T-shirt, as well as a mini-physical that includes checks on temperature and iron levels.



WELCOMED MOISTURE — The first morning of spring was a wet one, but no one complained as up to two inches of rain fell throughout the county. Cotton fields, like the one pictured above, were soaked by the rains Tuesday and early today, giving the upcoming planting season a healthy head start. (SDN Staff Photo)

HEADED TO ZONE — Snyder High School drama students will perform *Julius Caesar* in the 5-4A south zone contest Thursday at San Angelo Lake View. In this scene, conspirators are plotting to kill Julius Caesar. From left, seated in front are Sterling Millhollon and Joanna Burk. Standing in back from left are Hayli Henderson, Clark Reed, Haley Elkins and Jeff Scott. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Thursday in San Angelo...

One-act to contest

Snyder High School drama students will present a very different interpretation of *Julius Caesar* at Thursday's 5-4A south zone one-act play contest at San Angelo Lake View High School.

Snyder will perform at 6 p.m., the last of five plays. Andrew High School kicks off the round of plays at 3 p.m. with *Inherit the Wind*. Lak View's *Insanity of Mary Girard* performs at 4 p.m. Big Spring's *Medea* takes the stage at 5 p.m.

Kathleen Cochran, theatre instructor at McLennan Community College in Waco, will be the judge.

Brad Vincent, SHS drama director, said they are focusing on "trying to do the best show we can. It will be a very different show but we have a strong group."

The actors and actresses in Snyder's play include Tanner Beard as Antony; Kendall Brewster, Lucius; Joanna Burk as Pindarus; Sara Cantu as Portia; Caleb Durham as the soothsayer and Lucius; Haley Elkins as Casca; Hayli Henderson as Cassius; Malorye Miller as Calpurnia; Sterling Millhollon as Decius; Clark Reed as Brutus; RJ Sanders as Octavius; Bobby Sands as Julius Caesar; Jeff Scott as Metellus; Nicole Slaboda as Volumnius; and Bret McClendon as a soldier.

Members of the crew include Brandy Birkenfeld as the production manager; Justin Cox, technical director; Josh Proctor and Eric Courtney, production assistants; Amber Alexander, costumes and fabrics; Shawn Atkins, understudy and production assistant; and Bret McClendon, stage manager. Since McClendon has a role in the play, Birkenfeld will assume his duties on the crew.

Weevil program to continue here

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) announced Tuesday that cotton producers in the Rolling Plains Central Boll Weevil Eradication Zone have voted to continue a weevil eradication program in the 22-county zone that includes Scurry.

The final tally was 1,734 voting to continue the program and 200 voting against.

Producers also voted to keep Woody Anderson of Mitchell County as the area's representative on the statewide board of directors for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

TDA issued 3,753 ballots to producers who were eligible to vote in the referendum, and 1,934 ballots were returned with the March 11 postmark deadline.

City, schools, WTC...

Filing deadline here for boards

Today is the deadline for filing for positions on the Snyder, Hermleigh and Ira school boards, along with the Western Texas College board of trustees and the Snyder city council.

So far, the only contested races that have developed are on the Hermleigh school board as three persons filed Monday.

Roy Gill and Tony Molina joined incumbents Tony Lambaren and Larry West in seeking a full term on the board, while Wesley Shankles filed to join Burton Sandefur in seeking an unexpired term.

Ira superintendent Jerry Church said Gill listed his occupation on the filing papers as a construction foreman for Grimmett Bros., while Molina is an operator for WSI. Shankles is a welder.

Incumbents Sid Wall, Fran Farmer and Lance Autry have filed for re-election at Ira, while Glenn Clarady and Mark McCormick are seeking another term on the Snyder school board. Doug Neff is a candidate for the post currently held by Janet Stribling. Stribling, the Democratic nominee for county judge, is not seeking re-election as trustee.

Incumbents Drew Bullard and Jackie Greene are seeking a six-year term on the Western Texas College Board.

Incumbents Vernest Tippens, David Harrell and James Ashley have filed for the Snyder city council, as has Ron Shaw. Councilman I.E. Martin is not seeking another term.

Texas law provides that if there are no locally contested races, the present boards can declare the candidates duly elected.

ASK US

Q—Who pays Frankie Grimmett to work on Moffett Field?

A—The salary is funded by a portion of the billboard sales at the ballpark.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 54 degrees; low, 44; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 44; 1.2 inches precipitation; total for 2002, 2.72 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, patchy fog; low upper 30s; light, variable winds. Thursday, sunny, warmer; high upper 60s; S winds 5-15 mph.

Logan Tabor
Sunny

Sunset: 6:55 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:46 a.m.
Of 79 days in 2002, the sun has shone 74 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Assume responsibility for the quality of your own life.
—Norman Cousins

MAR 20 2002

Implanted defibrillators may save lives

ATLANTA (AP) — Implanted defibrillators like the one given to Vice President Dick Cheney last summer could protect the lives of millions of U.S. heart attack survivors with weakened hearts, a new study concludes.

The study found the devices reduce the risk of dying by one-third, an improvement unmatched by any development in the care of heart patients in a generation.

"We are talking about preventing the sudden death of people who are active and functioning," said Dr. Arthur J. Moss of the University of Rochester. "The opportunity here is quite profound."

The devices constantly check for abnormal beats and zap the heart back to normal in case of cardiac arrest. About 250,000 people collapse with cardiac arrest outside hospitals in the United States each year, and 95 percent of them die.

Moss's study suggests the implanted defibrillators should be considered for all who meet two criteria: a history of heart attack and evidence of resulting heart weakness.

Some heart specialists worry about the vast number of people who would qualify for the devices and wondered if it will be possible to narrow down the selection to those who would benefit most.

The findings are "very impressive," said Dr. Sidney Smith, research director of the American Heart Association. But "we are talking about a lot of people who would receive defibrillators. We need to identify a subset who would benefit the most."

Until now, they have been reserved for the rare few who survive cardiac arrest or are found to be at high risk through electrophysiological testing, which involves deliberately trying to trigger heart rhythm problems with a catheter that is snaked into the heart.

Moss presented the results at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology in Atlanta, and they will also be published in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The $7 million study was financed by Indianapolis-based Guidant Corp., which makes the defibrillators.

Moss said at least 2 million Americans — and perhaps more — could benefit from the defibrillators, and there will be 300,000 more every year.

The devices cost about $20,000, though higher demand could eventually drive that down. With surgery and a one-night hospital stay to install them, the total cost is $40,000 to $60,000. In addition to Guidant, they are made by St. Jude Medical and Medtronic.

Moss's study involved 1,232 heart attack survivors who also had diminished heart pumping power, a common consequence of the damage caused by a heart attack.

The doctors studied people whose ejection fractions were 30 percent or less. Ejection fraction is the amount of blood pumped from the heart with each beat. It is measured with a routine echocardiogram. Normal is 50 percent or more.

The volunteers were randomly assigned to get an implanted defibrillator or standard drug treatment. The study was stopped in November when it became clear that those getting the devices were doing much better.

After an average of 20 months, the death rate from any cause was 14 percent in those who received defibrillators and 20 percent in people who did not. The difference translates into a 31 percent reduction in risk of death.

Moss said this improvement in survival is the biggest since the introduction of beta blocker drugs for heart disease in the 1970s.

The implanted devices work the same as the external defibrillators that are now becoming standard equipment in sports arenas, airport terminals and other public places.

Cardiac arrest happens most often after age 60. Doctors estimate that half of all cases result from electrical disturbances that send the heart into chaotic quivering. Defibrillators are designed to correct these.

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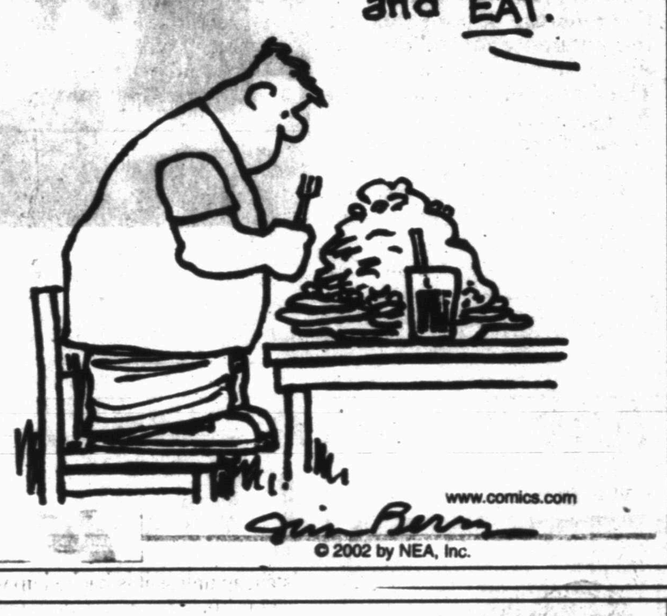

Advisory panel says new cold pill not safe enough for general use

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP) — An experimental pill taken as a cold begins can clear up runny noses a day sooner than usual — but Picovir faces a big hurdle before it goes on pharmacy shelves.

Government scientists decided it may not be safe enough to be taken by millions of Americans.

Even a one-day reduction in sniffles may be important for many people, advisers to the Food and Drug Administration acknowledged.

But because the common cold typically is a weeklong annoyance and not a real danger, any treatment must mount "a very substantial bar" of safety proof, panelist Dr. L. Barth Reller of Duke University said Tuesday.

So far, the advisers decided unanimously, Picovir hasn't met that test. One of the biggest problems is that Picovir appears to reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills so much that some women might accidentally become pregnant.

They also worried that attacking just colds could cause dangerous mutations among related viruses in the family Picovir targets, bugs that cause more serious infections like meningitis.

"By treating a relatively mild disease ..., if we have serious infections down the road, we might not be able to treat" them, FDA adviser Dr. Jonathan Schapiro of Stanford University said.

Today's over-the-counter remedies ease symptoms by temporarily drying up runny noses or suppressing cough. Picovir maker ViroPharma Inc. hopes its drug, known chemically as pleconaril, will become the first prescription remedy to attack the actual virus that causes many, although not all, colds.

The FDA isn't bound by its advisers' recommendations but usually follows them. A final decision is expected by summer.

Picovir began generating excitement last winter when scientists reported a study of 2,000 adult cold sufferers. Overall, those given Picovir recovered a day faster — in an average of six days — than people who took dummy pills. Some patients started to feel better within a day of starting treatment.

FDA's advisers pointed out a list of caveats:

—Picovir worked only if taken within the first 24 hours of the start of sniffles. It had to be taken three times a day, with meals.

—Smokers, who can have longer, more serious colds than other people, got no benefit.

—No one knows yet if it works or is safe for children, who get colds far more often than adults; those studies are going on now.

Date Book

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Today is the 79th day of 2002, and the 1st day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published.

On this day in 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono.

On this day in 1996, Erik and Lyle Menendez were found guilty for murdering their parents.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henrik Ibsen (1828 - 1906), dramatist; Ozzie Nelson (1906 - 1975), "Ozzie and Harriet" star; Fred Rogers (1929 -), "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" star, is 73; Pat Riley (1945 -), basketball coach, is 57; Bobby Orr (1948 -), hockey star, is 54; William Hurt (1950 -), actor, is 52; Spike Lee (1957 -), actor/director, is 45; Holly Hunter (1958 -), actress, is 44, Michael Rapaport (1970 -), actor, is 32.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1897, the first known intercollegiate basketball game took place. Yale defeated the University of Pennsylvania 32-10.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The most that Spike (Lee) ever tells an actor is, 'Here's the script. Ready? Action!' And, it used to be very funny for me to watch the seasoned veterans say, 'Well Spike, what is your vision?' Spike says, 'I paid you good money to act. That's my vision. Now act. Action!'" - Branford Marsalis

TODAY'S MOON: In between the new moon (March 13) and the first quarter (March 21)

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TEXAS LOTTERY

Texas Two Step

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

22-26-29-34

Bonus number 22

Estimated jackpot: $800,000

Cash Five

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

1-9-35-36-38

Pick 3

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

8-9-3

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Intelligence agent pleads guilty to spying for Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. intelligence analyst who prosecutors say spied for Cuba throughout her 16-year career faces 25 years in federal prison after entering a guilty plea to espionage charges.

Ana Belen Montes, 45, revealed the identities of four undercover agents to Cuban officials during her time as a spy.

Montes was spying for Cuba from the time she started work at the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1985 until her arrest on Sept. 21, prosecutors say. By that time, she was a senior intelligence analyst and had used short-wave radio and coded pager messages to give Cuba U.S. secrets so sensitive they could not be fully described in court documents.

Montes entered a guilty plea Tuesday.

"Yes, those statements are true and accurate," she told U.S. District Court Judge Ricardo Urbina after the charges were read. When Urbina asked whether one reason she had agreed to plead guilty was "the fact that you committed the crime," Montes replied, "Yes."

Roscoe Howard Jr., U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said law enforcement officials do not know whether any of the information Montes transmitted to Cuba was shared with other countries. However, the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington heightened the need to "get her off the streets" and influenced the timing of her arrest, he said.

Howard added that, to the government's knowledge, Montes received only nominal payments for expenses. He would not speculate on her motivation.

A U.S. official familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Montes was believed to have been recruited by Cuban intelligence when she worked in the Freedom of Information office at the Justice Department, between 1979 and 1985, and was asked to seek work at an agency that would provide more useful information to Cuba.

School's zero tolerance policy criticized

BEDFORD (AP) — Taylor Hess says the 10-inch bread knife found by a school security guard in the bed of his pickup was accidentally left behind from a box of personal belongings owned by his ailing grandmother.

But the knife could end up costing the 16-year-old honor student the rest of his junior year of high school. Hess was expelled from L.D. Bell High School two weeks ago under the state's zero-tolerance weapons policy. An appeal is set for Thursday.

School officials have said their hands are tied by the policy, despite the student's claim that the knife was left by accident after he and his father boxed up his grandmother's linens, books and kitchenware to drop off at a Goodwill store.

His father said the policy is misguided and leaves no room for extenuating circumstances.

"Zero tolerance doesn't mean zero judgment or rights," Robert Hess said.

Gene Buinger, superintendent of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford School District, said Tuesday that Hess' expulsion was mandated by the state education code.

"We're very limited in what we can do," Buinger said at a news conference. "I understand the public's frustration. I'm frustrated, too."

Hess is just one of many students across the nation to be expelled after violating zero-tolerance policies, which were created to prevent school violence and keep campuses safe.

Students have been punished for handing out mints to classmates, possessing a nail clipper and taking a plastic ax to a class Halloween party under these policies. Some have been arrested.

An 8-year-old boy in Jonesboro Ark., was suspended for three days after pointing a breaded chicken finger at a teacher and saying, "Pow, pow, pow."

Last year, the American Bar Association voted to recommend ending the policies, saying they are unfair and inappropriate for many children.

"Zero tolerance has become a one-size-fits-all solution to all the problems that schools confront," said a report accompanying the resolution.

The Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Adrienne Sobolak cautioned that the education code doesn't have the words "zero tolerance" written in the policy and said the local districts do have some discretion in determining punishment.

"Every case has to be looked at individually," she said. "People have to use their common sense and discretion to make any decision."

Buinger said school officials could shorten Hess' expulsion because the teen had a knife, not a gun.

For now, Hess is taking classes at a local alternative school. He faces the possibility of being placed in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, although Hess hopes the appeal before district officials will allow him to return to Bell.

But if the expulsion is upheld, the family said, Hess will probably go to private school.

"I already know I'm not going to the juvenile justice program," Hess said. "I'm not going to be put in there. I don't belong there."

Perception about increased influence of religion fades

WASHINGTON (AP) — The public's belief that religion is playing an increasing role in American life grew sharply in the months after Sept. 11, but now has slipped back again, a poll found.

Polls taken near the end of the year showed more than three-fourths of the public felt the influence of religion on American life was increasing. The poll released today by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press showed that more than half — 52 percent — now think religion's effect is in decline — about the same number who felt that way a year ago.

"Religion was in the air after Sept. 11 in a way that hadn't been the case for a long time and may not be the case for a long time in the future," said Andrew Kohut, director of the center. "I've never seen such a dramatic change disappear so quickly."

Kohut said there was a great deal of religion involved in public discussions of the attacks and "an awful lot of people were praying."

By a 2-1 margin, people said the September terrorist attacks were the result of too little religion in the world rather than too much. But many also acknowledged the role that religion plays in conflict. Two-thirds said religion plays a significant role in most wars and conflicts in the world.

The poll also found that:

—More than six in 10 — 63 percent — said religion is very important in their lives and another 24 percent said it was fairly important. That's higher than 20 years ago, when approximately half said it was very important.

—While the public holds a generally favorable view of Muslims in this country, people were about evenly divided on their overall opinion of Islam, the Muslim religion.

—Half said Islam is no more likely than other religions to encourage violence. When people were asked whether "some religions" are more likely to encourage violence than others, almost half agreed, and four in 10 disagreed.

The poll of 2,002 adults was taken for the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life from Feb. 25-March 10 and has an error margin of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Faulkenbery inducted into honor society

Sherry Faulkenbery, a senior at McMurry University, was recently inducted into the Psychology National Honor Society (Psi Chi).

Psi Chi is recognized by the government and gives automatic GS3 level for government jobs to all members. Faulkenbery is exploring her options after graduation.

She is married to Paul Faulkenbery and they have a child Bailey. She is the daughter of Wayne and Janet Highfield and daughter-in-law of Jesse and Carolyn Faulkenbery. All live in Snyder.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Book full of favorites brings laughs to convalescing aunt

DEAR ABBY: Last week, my 87-year-old Great Aunt Grace was transferred from the hospital to a convalescent facility for therapy following surgery. Her children all live far away. Because she is so special, I told them I would visit her often and take care of her needs. Shortly after her transfer, I visited her and asked if there was anything she wanted me to bring from her home. She asked me to bring her a couple of family photos and a booklet that she kept in her nightstand. She explained that when she was blue, reading it cheered her up.

Abby, it was your "Keepers" booklet. When I took it to her, she asked me to read to her from the booklet, because her glasses had been broken in the fall that fractured her hip. We both got a much-needed laugh from "The Monkey's Disgrace." Some of the pieces about children moved me deeply.

I would like to have a booklet for myself. I couldn't find it at the bookstore. Where can I get it? — OLLIE IN CARSON CITY, NEV.

DEAR OLLIE: Thank you for the kind words about my booklet. It can be ordered by sending a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus a check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 62054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

P.S. For those who are curious about "The Monkey's Disgrace," read on:

THE MONKEY'S DISGRACE
(Author Unknown)

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
Discussing things as they are said to be
Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two,
"There's a rumor around that can't be true
"That man descended from our noble race
"The very idea is a great disgrace.

"No monkey has ever deserted his wife
"Starved her babies and ruined her life.
"And you've never known a mother monk
"To leave her babies with others to bunk
"Or pass from one on to another
"Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

"Here's another thing a monkey won't do
"Go out at night and get on a stew
"Or use a gun or club or knife
"To take some other monkey's life.
"Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss
"But, brother, he didn't descend from us."

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband I have been happily married for four years. Recently I made the mistake of telling him about my wild sexual past, and now he doesn't trust me! I was only trying to be honest. Is this fair, Abby? — MISUNDERSTOOD WIFE IN NORWALK, CALIF.

DEAR WIFE: It's not fair, but bear with it until your insecure spouse calms down and wises up. He is now comparing himself to all of the men you have slept with. Your husband doesn't view himself as the beneficiary of your vast experience. How shortsighted of him.

**

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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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, March 21, 2002

Something inside you that needs expression will be accentuated in the year ahead. It could act as a magical power that intensifies your feelings for one who is or will be near and dear to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Being too set upon doing everything your way will draw rebuke from others. Fortunately, you'll start to consider their needs as well. 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.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Help from others that you didn't expect could be there for you whenever you find yourself in over your head. Where your pals draw the line, however is with work you cause yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Spending big and putting on affectations to impress people will end up being self-defeating. Your natural, charming self is all they want to see.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Unfortunately, your usual ability to assess challenging opposition might not be operative. Be careful not to get yourself in a situation where you're overmatched.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Talk is cheap unless it is backed up with action. So, if someone comes to you for help, demonstrate your compassion. Don't just pay it lip service.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Don't desert your principles to go along with a group who wants to do something that isn't kosher. You know better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Unless you're absolutely certain that the persons with whom you're involved are focused on the same objectives as you are, go it alone. You'll do better being your own person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's wonderful that your popularity is at a high point at this time, but if you ignore your responsibilities in order to bask in the sun of acclaim, you'll end up in trouble with your boss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Even though you may mean well, your methods or procedures could cause problems for the person that you're trying to help. Don't complicate things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Should any domestic disagreement occur, stifle it immediately, or it could ruin the rest of the day. Be a conciliator, rather than a combatant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Your powers of concentration might not be up to their usual ability. Temporarily shelve any mental project that calls for close attention.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Instead of utilizing your usual strong suits, you may waste a lot of valuable resources doing nothing.

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Fridays 7:00-8:00 p.m. - March 22, 29 April 5, 12
Registration - Friday, March 22 6:30
For More Info725-1010 or 574-1595

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Everything First Class and Guaranteed Condition
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$79/Month includes entire family!
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Accidental Expense
Dental (part A&B)
Your Choice
Plus Many More!
(915)263-3028 Or 1-888-579-1053 Today!

Spring is here and the Scurry County Health Unit wants to encourage our Community to *GET PHYSICAL!!!* Walk. jog, bike ride, swim, play baseball, basketball, or any activity that keeps you moving.

Exercise is good for your health.
* **HEART HEALTH** - Give your heart a workout. Help lower you risk for heart disease and stroke.
*__WEIGHT CONTROL__ - Burn off extra calories. Use exercise to take off pounds or stay at your desirable weight.
*__ENERGY__ - Get more energy with exercise. It gives you the feeling you can do more.
*__SLEEP BETTER__ - Get rid of tension and relax with exercise. A relaxed body rests more peacefully.
*__MUSCLE TONE__ - Be a slimmer, trimmer you. Different workouts shape and tone different muscles.

Walking is a great form of exercise! It is fun and easy, and best of all, it gets the job done. Brisk walking can give your heart a workout. Good shoes are the only thing you need. Walking is pleasant alone, with a partner, or while listening to a radio.

So let's get started. *LET'S GET PHYSICAL!*

Did you take
FEN-PHEN?
The diet drug Fen-Phen was marketed under several names including **Redux**, **Pondimin**, **Fenfluramine**, or **Dexfenfluramine**. If you took these diet drugs, you should know that it may not be too late to opt-out of the nationwide class action for the purpose of pursuing a lawsuit against the drug company individually
FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE, NON-INVASIVE ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC SCREENING, PLEASE CALL US
713-963-0400 or 800-859-9009
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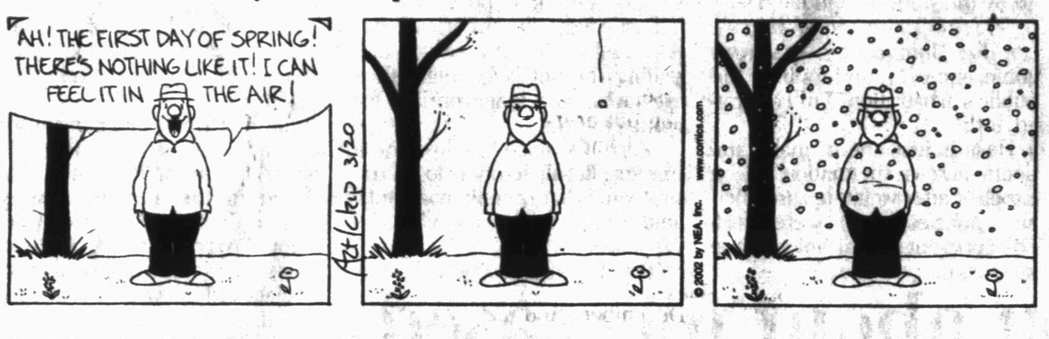
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056
dfriend@billbasslaw.com
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
We often work in conjunction with other law firms on clients' cases.

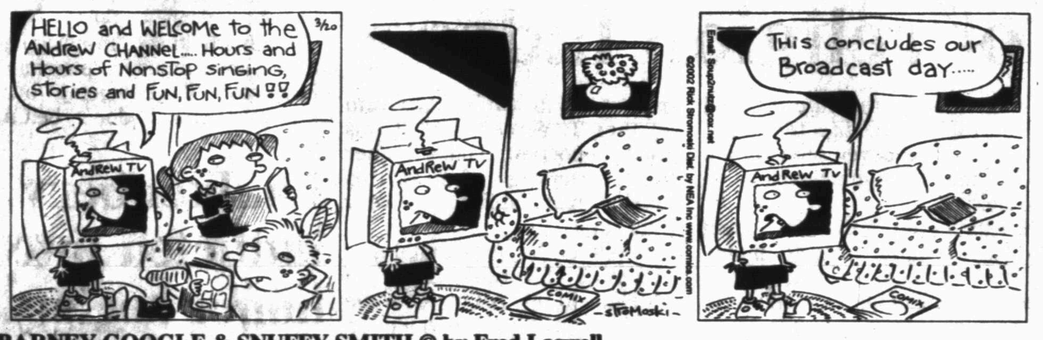
MAR 20 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

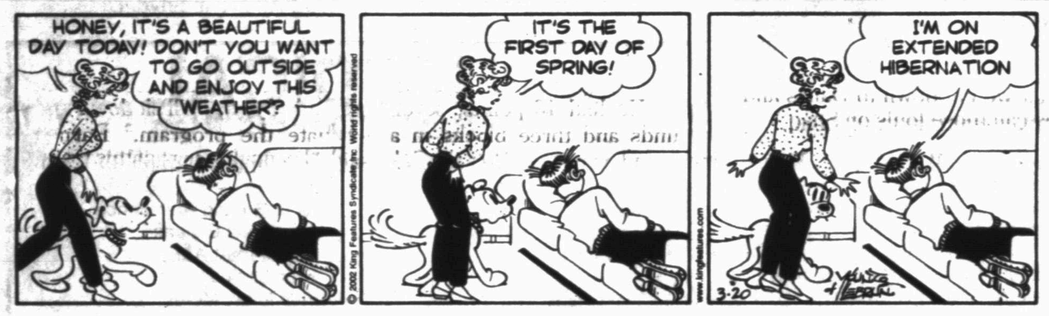


SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



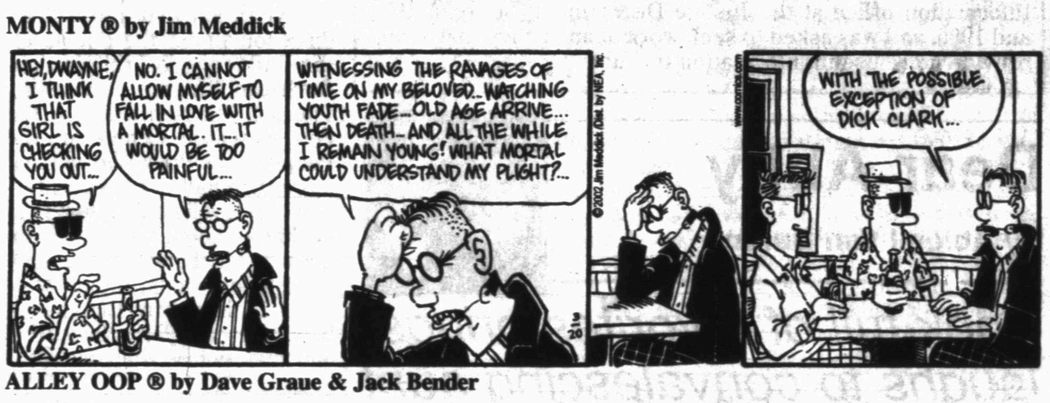
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

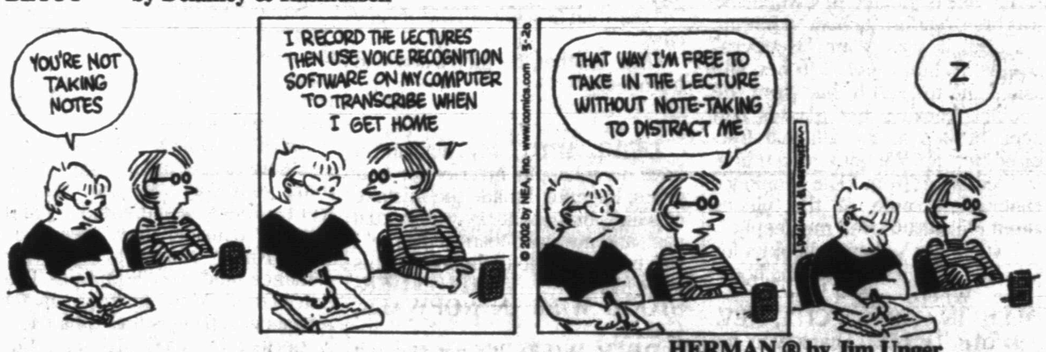
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Can the guy downstairs borrow some milk?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 In the least (2 wds.)
6 Rascals
12 Curie discovery
14 Hoodlums
15 Difficult
16 Second man on the moon
17 "– Alibi"
18 Gehrig of baseball
19 Investor's Fannie
21 – cubes
23 Air rifle pellets
26 Obstruction
27 Ooh's partner
28 Fabric rolls
30 Mischievous child
31 Health org.
32 Harden
33 Campaign tactic
35 Financial wiz
37 Lawyer's charge
38 Freighter's load
39 Acquired
40 Like the horizon
41 Remick of films
42 Blower
43 Tongue-clicking sound
44 Aloha wreath
46 Make an effort
48 Charm
51 Got, as salary
55 Frothy dessert
56 Nod off
57 Stiffened
58 Modify

DOWN

1 Actress Joan Van –
2 Shoe color
3 Commotion
4 Supple
5 Stringed instrument
6 Not fresh
7 Rocky Mountain st.
8 Bird expert
9 Dugout VIP
10 Upsilon follower
11 FICA ID
13 Countlees
19 Whale or elephant
20 Electrical unit
22 Cuban dance (hyph.)
24 Cliffs
25 Run of luck
26 Part of CD-ROM
27 Curly hairdo
28 Prejudice
29 Fortune-teller
34 Eternal
36 Breathed hard
42 Put away
43 Yodeler's locale
45 Slacken off
47 – avis
48 Qty.
49 "The Raven" poet
50 Word play
52 Can. province
53 WNW opposite
54 German article

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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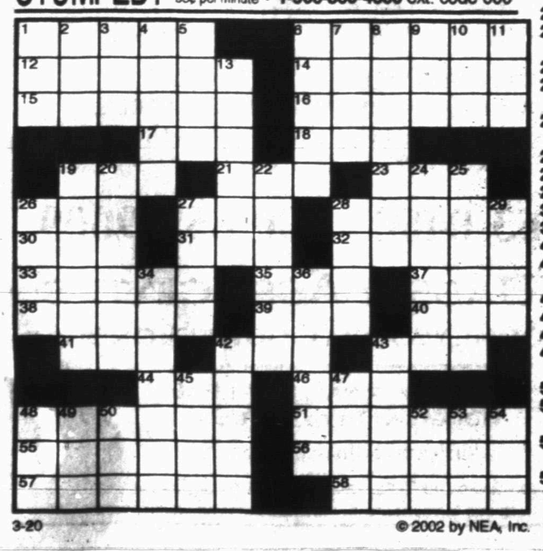

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"MR. WILSON SURE LIKES HANGIN' OUT WITH FLOWERS."

SPORTS

Tigers' game postponed for second time

Strike two.

For the second day in a row, the Snyder Tigers' district meeting with Big Spring at Moffett Field has been postponed. The game is now set for 5 p.m. Thursday.

The contest was originally scheduled for Tuesday night, then pushed back to 4 o'clock today before more wet weather forced another postponement.

Andrews and Lake View were the only District 4-4A teams to get their game in on Tuesday, with the Mustangs rolling to a 12-2 victory.

Frenship and Estacado are scheduled to meet today, as is Levelland and Plainview.

After facing Big Spring, the Tigers turn around Friday and visit Frenship at 4:30.

In district softball action, the Snyder Lady Tigers square off with Plainview at 4:30 Thursday.

HEADED TO FIRST — Snyder senior Vanessa Freeman makes her way to first base during the Lady Tigers' victory over Frenship last week. Snyder squares off with Plainview at 4:30 Thursday at Cates Field. The game, originally set for Tuesday, was rescheduled due to wet field conditions. (SDN Staff Photo)

UT's Erskin steps up, hopes for scholarship

AUSTIN (AP) — Deginald Erskin is not considered the catalyst of the Texas Longhorns' offense and doesn't want to be.

"I'm never the go-to guy," Erskin said. "I'm only the fourth option. And I hope we don't change. I don't want to be the first option."

But the Longhorns probably wouldn't be in the Midwest Regional semifinals without him.

The junior forward became the latest to play the role of hero for No. 6 seed Texas (22-11). His 17 points, including a key three-point play, sent the Longhorns past Mississippi State and into the NCAA second round for the first time since 1997.

Texas plays No. 2 seed Oregon (25-8) in Madison, Wis., on Friday.

Erskin has been a role player all season, getting most of his minutes on the court by playing defense, grabbing rebounds and staying out of the way of guards T.J. Ford and Brandon Mouton. He has started 22 games this season, averaging 7.8 points in 18.8 minutes per game.

He's filled key roles for the Longhorns after the loss of senior star Chris Owens to a knee injury in December. And he's done it without any guarantees from coach Rick Barnes about his future with the Longhorns.

In 2000, Erskin walked away from a full scholarship and a standout career with a losing North Texas team, intent on living his dream of playing for Texas.

He spent a year practicing with the Longhorns and paying his own way through school before Barnes eventually gave him a one-year scholarship when chronic knee problems forced William Wyatt to quit playing.

Since then, Erskin has played hard not only to win, but to get the most out of his time in a Texas uniform.

"I always wanted to be here, since I was in seventh grade," Erskin said. "I turned down scholarships at other places to be here and be a part of this university."

"I really didn't know how much I would contribute this season. I had to know my role on this team."

That role has greatly expanded in the postseason.

Erskin leads the Longhorns in scoring since the start of the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments, averaging 14.5 points in four games in an offense geared to go elsewhere. He had 16 points, seven rebounds and three blocks in a first-round win over Boston College.

At 6-foot-6, 218 pounds, he's quick enough to drive the lane and big enough to defend in the post.

"We call him 'The Beast,'" guard Royal Ivey said. "He's like Charles Barkley, he's such a great athlete. He's like a freak of nature."

The only question for Erskin is what happens next. He says he won't talk to Barnes about his future until after the season is over. Depending on what Texas does in the tournament, that could be in a few days or another two weeks.

"I'm just playing," Erskin said. "If at the end of the season coach decides to bring me back, I'm more than happy and grateful. If he decides otherwise, I'll just have to move on and find another place to play."

When asked about Erskin after the win over Mississippi State, Barnes quipped: "Right now, I ought to put him on double scholarship."

Asked about it again on Tuesday, the coach said he'll evaluate Erskin with the rest of the team after the season.

Although scholarships are often assumed to be for a four-year athletic career, they're actually one-year grants-in-aid that are renewed annually at the school's discretion. Every scholarship player is under the same system, from the standouts to the seldom-used substitutes.

Although he wouldn't commit, Barnes suggested Erskin's future at Texas is safe.

"Like I do with all these guys at the end of year, we'll sit down and evaluate the program," Barnes said. "Deginald's part of this team. He has been, he always will be."

Mavs make most of Bryant's off night

DALLAS (AP) — Like a good relay team, the Los Angeles Lakers usually pass the scoring baton from Shaquille O'Neal to Kobe Bryant without skipping a beat.

But when O'Neal picked up his fourth foul against the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night, Bryant didn't come through. His next two shots went in and out of the basket, then he went to the free throw line and banged his first attempt off the front rim.

The Mavericks capitalized on O'Neal's absence and Bryant's cold shooting to go on a 13-2 run, gaining a 114-98 victory over a team that can certainly be called their nemesis.

Dallas had lost seven straight and 41 of 44 to Los Angeles.

"It's probably a big win for them, but we just didn't play well," said Bryant, who finished with 12 points on 4-of-18 shooting. "We'll take it and move on."

Steve Nash scored 30 points, Michael Finley added 22 and Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points and 11 rebounds. Raef LaFrentz had 12 points, 13 rebounds and several of the fouls that helped send O'Neal to the sideline with five minutes left in the third quarter.

O'Neal finished with 32 points and 10 rebounds.

"It was a big win for us psychologically to beat the team we've struggled against so many times," Finley said. "To know we can beat that team is good."

The Mavericks came in confident because they'd lost only 105-103 in Los Angeles on Sunday.

"This win doesn't feel as great because we had a real good chance for two," Nash said.

The Lakers had their five-game winning streak snapped and endured one of their most lopsided losses of the season.

"We're weak in mind and body," coach Phil Jackson said. "I thought we looked soft, especially in the third period."

While LaFrentz covered O'Neal, defensive stalwarts Adrian Griffin and Greg Buckner shared the assignment of guarding Bryant. Griffin said their success was a combination of "being aggressive against him, and it wasn't his best day shooting."

Another key for Dallas was attacking the basket instead of relying on outside shots. The Mavs took only 24 3-pointers, compared to 40 on Sunday, and got to the foul line far more often. Dallas was able to open room in the lane by keeping LaFrentz and Nowitzki out near the 3-point line.

"On Sunday, we didn't take advantage of Shaq being away from the basket," Nowitzki said. "Tonight we did and got some layups."

Jackson was upset that O'Neal got into foul trouble. His ire was aimed at the officials, not his big man, because he thought LaFrentz got away with flopping.

Jackson said LaFrentz did the same thing Sunday but the refs weren't buying it. The coach said he told his assistants, "I bet you a dollar we get down to Dallas and they call those fouls on Shaq."

NFL doesn't budge on tuck rule

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — After 22 hours of discussion, the NFL's competition committee got nowhere on the tuck rule. So it tabled action for further review — and many more hours of discussion.

The controversial rule that determined when a ball knocked free from a quarterback becomes a fumble instead of an incomplete pass has drawn headlines since the playoffs. New England's Tom Brady lost the ball when hit in the final two minutes of a game against Oakland, which recovered what initially was ruled a fumble.

But referee Walt Coleman overruled himself after watching the instant replay, explaining that Brady stopped his throwing motion, but had not yet tucked away the ball away, making it an incomplete pass.

New England completed that drive with a tying field goal, won on another field goal in overtime, and two games later won the Super Bowl.

Almost since that January night in Foxboro, the rule has been examined. And re-examined. Yet not even the chairmen of the league's competition committee agree on what should be done.

"As we discussed it, it didn't get clearer, it got murkier," said Tampa Bay general manager Rich McKay, who doesn't want any changes. "Replay has made things murky. The calls are made with players going 100 mph, then television slows it up so you can look at it frame by frame. Fans think the calls are obvious, but they're not."

So McKay favors leaving the rule the way it is, meaning the ball must be fully tucked in before it can be ruled a fumble if it is knocked free.

Jeff Fisher, the other committee chairman and coach of the Tennessee Titans, would prefer something else. But he wasn't about to suggest anything radical.

"You can't approach this thing in a knee-jerk fashion because of the effect it has on the game," he said. "This has a big, big effect on the game."

Kings rout Rockets, 110-87

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Chris Webber scored from everywhere, while Steve Francis and Cuttino Mobley took far too many poor shots.

The result was another easy victory in a season full of them for the Sacramento Kings.

Webber had 35 points and 12 rebounds as the Kings regained sole possession of the NBA's best record with a 110-87 victory Tuesday night over the Houston Rockets.

Sacramento, which has struggled all season away from Arco Arena, followed up a 4-1 East Coast road trip by improving the NBA's best home record to 31-3. With the Lakers' loss at Dallas, the Kings opened a one-game lead over Los Angeles atop the Western Conference with 16 games remaining for both teams.

Last week, Webber said he thinks the Kings will need home-court advantage to beat the two-time champion Lakers in the playoffs.

"We've been looking for that stride, and we're finally starting to feel it," Webber said. "We're starting to feel a little bit better about things. All we can do is keep on winning the games we're supposed to win, and we feel like we can win any game."

Webber dominated the game from inside and outside, hitting layups and long jumpers with equal skill. He went 15-of-20 from the field and had five assists to go with his second-largest offensive output of the season

Meanwhile, Francis had 13 points on 4-of-15 shooting. He and Mobley were 0-for-10 on 3-point attempts, contributing to Houston's 1-for-15 night behind the line.

"You can't say it was one of those nights," said Francis, who had eight rebounds, eight assists and five turnovers. "That's one of our good assets: making 3-pointers. We weren't able to make 3-pointers, or even shots from inside the arc. If you can't match them points for points, you're in trouble."

Sports Briefs

Girls basketball camp scheduled

The Snyder Tiger girls basketball camp is set for May 28-31 at the SHS gym. The camp is for incoming third through ninth graders, and cost is $60, which includes a camp T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the elementary and junior high schools, or can be picked up at the SHS girls basketball office. Players can pre-register through May 15.

Flyers get Oats from Capitals

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — With two of their top centers hurt, the Philadelphia Flyers acquired center Adam Oates from the Washington Capitals for a minor leaguer and three draft picks.

Stars, Devils make trade

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars tried boosting their playoff chances by sending center Joe Nieuwendyk and forward Jamie Langenbrunner to the New Jersey Devils for center Jason Arnott, forward Randy McKay and a first-round pick.

Penguins dump defenseman

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins, on the verge of missing the playoffs for the first time in 12 years, traded defenseman Darius Kasparaitis to the Colorado Avalanche for forward Ville Nieminen and defenseman Ricky Berry.

Jordan goes through workout

DENVER (AP) — Michael Jordan practiced with the Washington Wizards for the first time since undergoing knee surgery, but said he has no plans to play Wednesday against the Nuggets or Thursday in Utah.

Cardinals sign free agents

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Cardinals have made their biggest foray into free agency with the signing of cornerback Duane Starks for five years at $23 million, and tight end Freddie Jones for three at $5.1 million.

Skating judge files formal complaint

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The French judge at the center of the Olympic figure skating scandal is fighting back against her accusers with a formal complaint sent to the International Skating Union.

Marie-Reine Le Gougne's attorney said the complaint charges ISU technical committee chairwoman Sally Stapleford and pairs referee Ron Pfenning "exercised undue influence" over her and made false accusations.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	42	25	.627	—
Boston	38	29	.567	4
Orlando	37	30	.552	5
Philadelphia	35	31	.530	6½
Washington	31	36	.463	11
Miami	30	35	.462	11
New York	26	40	.394	15½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	39	27	.591	—
Milwaukee	36	30	.545	3
Indiana	34	32	.515	5
Charlotte	33	33	.500	6
Toronto	30	38	.441	10
Atlanta	26	40	.394	13
Cleveland	25	42	.373	14½
Chicago	17	51	.250	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	47	20	.701	—
San Antonio	45	21	.682	1½
Minnesota	41	26	.612	6
Utah	36	31	.537	11
Houston	25	42	.373	22
Denver	19	45	.297	26½
Memphis	17	50	.254	30
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	48	18	.727	—
L.A. Lakers	47	19	.712	1
Portland	41	25	.621	7
Seattle	38	30	.559	11
L.A. Clippers	35	33	.515	14
Phoenix	30	37	.448	18½
Golden State	17	49	.258	31

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 100, New Jersey 97
Philadelphia 91, Miami 79
New York 101, Memphis 92
Orlando 101, Milwaukee 91
Minnesota 112, Toronto 80
Atlanta 102, Chicago 96
Dallas 114, L.A. Lakers 98
Detroit 94, Utah 87
Seattle 110, Golden State 93
Sacramento 110, Houston 87

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Portland at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 9 p.m.

Thursday's Games

New York at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Memphis, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Denver at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Thanks!

The Snyder High School 2002 Senior Class would like to additionally thank **UNITED SUPERMARKETS, WILL FEWIN,** assistant manager and **EXXON TIGER MART** for their contributions to the Canyon Reef Relay Concession Stand Fundraiser.

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MAR 20 2002

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOE W. SENTELL

Notice to all persons is hereby given that the original letters testamentary upon the estate of, deceased, was issued to me the undersigned on the 14th day of March 2002, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that I now hold such letters. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered, the county below named, are hereby required to present the same to me at the address below given, before suit upon same is barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time required by law may be notified to Mildred Boren Sentell, 2612 32nd St., Snyder, Texas 79549 or Preston Poole, Attorney, P.O. Box 296, Post, Texas 79356.

DATED: March 14th, 2002

(s) Mildred Boren Sentell
Independent Administratrix
Estate of Joe W. Sentell,
Cause # 5729

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

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Hockey puck kills girl at NHL game

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A trip to a Columbus Blue Jackets game, given as an early 14th birthday present, ended in tragedy.

Brittanie Cecil died Monday night, two days after being struck by a puck that ricocheted off a defenseman's stick and into the crowd.

Brittanie, who would have turned 14 today, became the first spectator to die after being hit by a puck at an NHL game.

The eighth-grader at Twin Valley South Middle School near Dayton was struck in the head by a shot early in the second period of the Blue Jackets' 3-1 victory over the Calgary Flames on Saturday night at Nationwide Arena.

Columbus center Espen Knutsen's slap shot appeared to be deflected by a defenseman, with the puck flying over the high glass.

Larry Young, 61, was sitting one row in front of and two seats to the left of the girl and said he was hit in the back of the head by the puck. He believes the puck hit Brittanie and then glanced off the back of his head before hitting a small child who was sitting one seat behind him to his left.

"I felt this sudden stinging pain," Young said Tuesday from his home in Winchester, about 60 miles east of Cincinnati. "I put my hand up to my head and it was covered in blood."

His wife, Rosemary, was sitting next to him and said she didn't realize anything had happened until she heard the little girl behind her scream.

"I turned around and she was holding one hand to her mouth and had the puck in her other hand," Mrs. Young said. "That's when Larry told me he was hurt, too."

The Young's son, Kenny Ford, also of Winchester, was sitting in the same row with his parents and said he looked back at the small child who appeared about 5 years old.

"Then I looked down the row and saw the 13-year-old crying and shaking with her head in the lap of the woman she was with," Ford said.

Ford and his mother accompanied his father to the first-aid station, where both girls also were taken.

"The 13-year-old girl was talking and holding a towel to her forehead above her eye," said Mrs. Young, who said medics looked at the girl's wound and said she needed to go to a hospital.

"She started to seem a little disoriented about the time she left," Mrs. Young said.

Larry Young's wound, a cut about the size of a quarter, was bandaged and he returned to the game with his wife and son.

"I was really lucky," he said. "I feel so sorry for the girl and her family."

Brittanie lived with her mother in West Alexandria and was visiting with her father, a Columbus resident. Her parents, David Cecil and Jody Naudascher, are divorced.

The parents would not comment Tuesday about the tragedy, but Brittanie's great-grandmother expressed the family's shock.

Property insurance costs are soaring

HOUSTON (AP) — For Houston, Harris County and other local governments, the cost of doing business has soared since Tropical Storm Allison and the events of Sept. 11.

Local governments are expecting to pay rates three to four times higher than in previous years, and some officials say it's more difficult to get insured at all.

Acts of terrorism are no longer covered in regular property insurance policies, requiring cities to take out a costly separate policy.

The city of Houston, with $4.6 billion in property, will likely have to cobble together as many as 12 separate carriers to match its $300 million in coverage of previous years. So far, it has obtained only $25 million in coverage, at a cost of $3.5 million.

The $25 million contract was scheduled for discussion today by the Houston City Council, which also expects to pay as much as $5.5 million more for additional property and terrorism policies.

By comparison, the city paid $2.4 million last year for $300 million in coverage, which included acts of terrorism.

Officials first considered buying $100 million in terrorism coverage, but — staggered by the $2 million price tag — are now looking into only $25 million in coverage. That would be enough to pay for the destruction caused by the bombing of a city building, but not enough to pay for a plane crashing into downtown or one of Houston's airports.

The annual property insurance tab for Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority's has nearly quadrupled, from $177,000 in 2001 to $663,000 this year.

Harris County expects to pay $1.5 million in property insurance this year — triple that of last year — and its deductibles will be higher. The county is considering buying separate terrorism insurance and also will have to get coverage for its new football stadium.

School districts also are budgeting for sizable increases in property insurance costs.

Rick Stockton, the risk manager for Klein Independent School District, said the system's premiums will nearly double, but that he had expected a bigger increase.

"It's bad," he told the Houston Chronicle, "but it could have been worse."

Kirk Jenings, risk manager in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, said he anticipates at least a 55 percent increase in insurance premiums when he starts seeking insurance proposals next month "and that may be conservative."

Houston ISD's risk manager, Brad Bailey, said officials kept premiums from increasing this year by agreeing to substantially larger deductibles.

Property insurance rates had started to increase nationwide at the beginning of 2001 because of declines in the stock market. Then Tropical Storm Allison hit in June with about $5 billion in damage, reminding insurance carriers of Houston's proximity to the Gulf Coast and its storms.

"Tropical Storm Allison certainly made Houston a large question mark in the minds of underwriters," said Randy Schuler, a partner with John L. Wortham & Son, the insurance broker for the city, HISD, Metro and several other local entities. "That was only a tropical storm. What would happen if we had a hurricane?"

Just three months after the tropical storm, terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, costing insurance companies worldwide tens of billions of dollars.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-20-02
♠ 7 6 3
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ A K Q 3

West
♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ 9 7 6
♦ 10 5 4
♣ 8 6 5

East
♠ Q 9 4
♥ K 10 8 3
♦ A J 9 7
♣ 7 4

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	6 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 2

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

More from the work of Work

By Phillip Alder

It is interesting how much excellent card-play advice is in Milton C. Work's "Auction Bridge Complete" (John C. Winston Co., 1926). Admittedly whist books had been published in England since the early 1700s, and the leading players had carried out copious card-play analysis. Also, a form of bridge began in the late 19th century.

In this deal from the Work book, how would you try to land 12 tricks in no-trump after an opening spade lead?

Obviously, one wouldn't wish to reach six no-trump. And in the days of auction bridge, South would open one no-trump and buy it there. But he would try to win 12 tricks because if he were successful, he would receive the small-slam bonus. Today, South would open two no-trump, and North would raise to three.

You wish to lead four times toward the closed hand, twice to take heart finesses and twice to collect a pair of diamond tricks. But this requires four dummy entries.

After winning the first trick, lead the club nine and overtake with dummy's queen. Take a heart finesse. Next, overtake the club 10 with dummy's king. (If someone discards, play East for king-doubleton of hearts or ace-doubleton of diamonds — both unlikely because West would probably have led that suit at trick one, not a spade.) Take a second heart finesse. Now overtake the club jack with dummy's ace, and play a diamond to the king. Finally, return to dummy by leading the carefully preserved two to the three (the deuce to the trey!) and call for another diamond. Here, you rake in those 12 tricks.

Yes, it's lucky West didn't lead a club, but always watch your entries.

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Alleged crime family members arrested

NEW YORK (AP) — The reputed No. 3 man in the Bonanno organized crime family and a dozen other alleged mobsters were arrested and charged with murder and other crimes dating to 1984.

Authorities said the move dealt the biggest blow to the secretive Bonannos since the family was stung by the infiltration of an undercover FBI agent in the mid-1980s in the "Donnie Brasco" case.

Anthony Graziano and the other defendants — including a captain, acting captain and five soldiers in the Bonanno family — were arrested during pre-dawn raids at their homes Tuesday, authorities said.

They were charged with murder, drug trafficking, extortion and other crimes.

Indictments unsealed in Brooklyn federal court Tuesday identified Graziano, 61, as the "consigliere" of the Bonannos.

In that position, "Graziano has access to the full resources of the Bonanno crime family, which includes more than one hundred soldiers and countless associates who make money through crime, and who are capable of extreme violence," court papers said.

Prosecutors allege Graziano ordered the murder of two associates of the Colombo crime family to avenge a 1994 shooting at a Bonnano-controlled nightclub on Staten Island.

The killing was carried out by a bloodthirsty crew of cocaine dealers in Brooklyn run by Graziano, then a Bonanno captain, court papers said. The crew allegedly committed numerous slayings and acts of torture: One victim was burned with a blow torch, another was dragged around a room by noose around his neck.

If convicted, Graziano could face life in prison. A call to his attorney was not immediately returned.

Prosecutors said Graziano rose to third in command following the 2001 racketeering indictment of his predecessor, Anthony Spero. A jury convicted Spero last April of ordering three mob-related murders, loansharking and gambling; he is awaiting sentencing.

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Don't sweat the timing

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What is the best time to take a multiple vitamin/mineral supplement? With food or on an empty stomach? Should they be taken together or alone? Should some be spaced out over a day, or is it OK to take all of them at once? — **J.M, Longmeadow, Mass.**

Dear J.M.: The priority should ALWAYS be the quality of your diet, not the supplements. That being said, a general rule is to take your vitamins and mineral supplements at mealtime, when the body's absorptive machinery is in gear. Ingesting some oil helps, as it facilitates the absorption of the fat-soluble nutrients. Dividing the supplement between meals makes sense, especially if there are multiple pills, but it is nothing to get hung up about.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: In your recent article on macular degeneration, I was surprised that you did not mention bilberry. I have suffered from macular degeneration since 1990, and I began taking bilberry a few years ago, after reading of its use by British Royal Air Force pilots in World War II. At my next checkup, the retina specialist saw improvement in my tests. A few years ago, I had difficulty threading needles, even with glasses. Now I can do it without glasses. I also had problems reading small print in newspapers and maps, but today I do much better with both. The bilberry I take is inexpensive, but I feel it helped my vision, and my doctor agrees. - **M.B., Edison, N.J.**

Dear M.B.: Please forgive the omission. Dried blueberry fruit, in particular the bilberry (known in America as the huckleberry), contains color compounds know as anthocyanins (anth-oh-sigh-anin-z). These pigments act as antioxidants, and they have been shown to be useful for treating visual problems, including macular degeneration and glaucoma. In an earlier column I mentioned the compounds lutein and zeaxanthin and provided a list of good dietary sources, including spinach, corn and kale. Lutein and zeaxanthin are also antioxidant color compounds from the carotenoid family. There is a definite "color" theme here. Consider it a good overall strategy to include "colorful" whole foods (vegetables and fruits) in your diet every day. They usually contain healthful compounds that can assist in combating not only the progression of macular degeneration, but other degenerative chronic diseases, as well.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I was surprised recently to discover, on label inspection, that a can of light tuna packed in water contains 0.4 grams of trans fatty acids. Why would this be? Where does it come from? I came up with this number by subtracting the saturated and unsaturated fat content from the total fat content. The leftover number (I have been told) is the trans fatty acid content. It is not actually written on the can, but it states that the per-serving total fat is 1.5 grams, the saturated is 0.4 grams, and the unsaturated fat is 0.7 grams. Since the saturated and unsaturated fats total 1.1 grams, that leaves 0.4 grams trans fatty acids. This is what I am being taught in a natural health class here in Canada. Any insight would be appreciated. - **H.B., Toronto, Canada**

Dear H.B.: It is possible that your health class is teaching inaccurate information, or perhaps you misunderstood, so let's go through the calculation. First, it is true that the total fat is the sum of the saturated and unsaturated fat. It is also true that trans fatty acids are not presently listed on labels — a situation that I hope will change in the near future. There are other factors that need to be considered. The first is that the numbers on the label might not be precise because they are rounded off. The next, and perhaps most important, factor is that partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (the source of the trans fatty acids) has to be listed on the ingredient list if it is a part of the product. Canned tuna does not usually contain partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. If you did not find it listed as an ingredient, then the "missing" 0.4 grams of fat is indeed a product of mathematical rounding.

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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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	26.10	25.65	25.87	—.58
AOL TimeWrn	26.15	25.60	25.70	—.75
AT&T Corp s	15.63	15.29	15.45	—.30
Albertsons	32.28	32.00	32.10	—.18
Alltel	55.05	54.60	54.75	—.10
AmEl Pw	45.24	44.63	44.90	—.29
AndarkPtr	58.29	57.02	57.33	—.96
ATMOS Egy	24.40	23.89	23.90	—.10
Avialf	8.65	8.55	8.62	+.02
BP PLC	52.50	52.16	52.49	—.07
BakerHughes	39.42	38.75	39.30	—.12
Bank of Amer	68.28	67.89	68.14	—.72
BellSouth	38.44	38.11	38.22	+.11
vjBeth Steel	.42	.40	.40	—.01
BurlNoSFe	30.55	30.20	30.31	—.27
Caterpillar	59.75	59.00	59.30	
ChevronTex	90.79	89.80	90.74	+.04
Citigroup	49.86	49.25	49.47	—.43
CocaCola	49.48	49.12	49.39	+.19
ColgatePal	57.18	56.80	57.13	+.25
ComclMetals	39.00	38.86	38.95	—.05
CooperIn	41.45	41.12	41.34	+.04
DaimlrChry	46.94	46.54	46.72	—.83
DeltaAirl	33.84	32.88	33.02	—1.06
Dillards Inc	24.79	24.35	24.55	—.08
DowChem	34.50	34.01	34.30	+.30
DuPont	49.78	48.80	49.46	+.37
EastmanChem	48.50	48.05	48.32	+.94
EstKodak	32.00	31.32	31.67	—.33
EDS Corp	64.89	63.69	63.75	—1.15
Entergy	41.22	40.85	40.98	—.50
ExxonMobil s	43.67	43.50	43.56	—.24
FstBksAm	41.50	40.80	40.80	
FootLocker	17.10	16.85	17.00	+.05
GenDynam	93.96	92.67	93.26	+.15
GenElec	40.14	39.10	39.16	—.74
GenMills	48.19	47.15	47.33	—.67
GenMotors	60.80	60.20	60.34	—.49
GaPacific	29.97	29.60	29.63	—.17
Goodrich	31.25	30.88	31.09	—.49
Goodyear s	25.97	25.48	25.84	—2.11
GtAtlPac	27.97	27.61	27.70	—.18
Halliburtn	16.97	16.57	16.88	—.04
Hanson ADS	38.58	38.35	38.40	—.18
HarteHanks	30.00	29.70	29.88	—.27
HomeDepot	49.99	48.92	49.92	+.42
HoneywellIntl	39.99	39.15	39.20	—.79
IBM	106.90	105.85	106.05	—1.44
IntlPaper	44.90	44.51	44.73	+.03
JohnsonJn s	65.49	64.48	64.54	—.95
vjK mart	1.70	1.62	1.64	—.01
KinderMorg	49.05	48.50	48.95	—.05
Kroger Co	22.45	22.19	22.19	—.18
LockheedM	58.27	57.80	57.98	—.43
Lowes Cos s	44.88	43.70	44.87	+.48
Lubys	6.89	6.60	6.60	—.23
LucentTech	4.43	4.10	4.40	+.10
MarathonOil	29.45	29.15	29.28	—.26
MayDeptStr	37.15	37.01	37.10	—.03
Medtronic	46.27	45.53	45.90	—.14
Motorola	13.79	13.40	13.46	—.54
NCR Corp	45.30	44.35	44.56	—.88
Navistar	44.16	43.52	43.77	—.38
PNM Rescs	28.80	28.18	28.25	—.38
Penney JC	22.75	22.10	22.73	+.40
PepBoys	15.90	15.79	15.85	—.04
PepsiCo	51.05	50.55	50.66	—.58
Pharmacia	45.29	44.80	44.94	—.88
PhelpDodge	42.17	41.80	42.10	—.07
PhillipPet	63.34	62.85	63.34	—.30
PilgrmPrd B	13.80	13.70	13.76	+.16
Praxair	60.95	60.10	60.52	+.15
ProctGamb	89.89	89.10	89.40	—.54
RadioShack	29.74	29.34	29.61	+.20
ReliantEngy	25.33	25.14	25.16	—.36
RoyalDut	55.16	54.88	55.14	—.26
SBC Comm	39.40	38.89	39.06	—.19
SaraLee	20.98	20.80	20.89	—.10
Scripps EW	81.14	80.82	80.88	—.17
SearsRoeb	52.40	51.40	52.27	+.64
SherwinW	29.60	29.11	29.41	+.28
SouthernCo s	26.50	26.07	26.15	—.28
SwstAirl	18.70	18.25	18.70	—.36
SprintFON	15.82	15.52	15.55	—.15
SprintPCS	10.40	10.03	10.21	—.03
Sunoco Inc	41.89	41.22	41.58	—.31
TXU Corp	53.38	52.81	53.00	—.38
TempleInland	59.89	59.30	59.35	—.44
TexInd	43.17	42.25	43.00	+.25
TexasInst	34.18	33.66	33.88	—.69
Textron	51.49	50.88	51.01	+.27
TriconGlbR	58.45	57.70	58.30	—.15
TrinityInds	24.24	24.03	24.08	—.22
TylerTech	5.09	5.05	5.05	
UnionPacif	61.40	60.99	61.00	—.54
USSteel	16.97	16.70	16.86	—.14
UnitedTech	74.10	73.65	73.82	—.28
Unocal	39.01	38.14	38.60	—.41
VerizonComm	48.12	47.70	47.97	+.28
WalMart	63.44	62.93	63.17	—.21
WellsFargo	49.98	49.51	49.70	—.49
WstnGasRs	36.73	36.30	36.46	—.27
WinnDixie	16.00	15.76	15.78	—.22
Xerox Cp	10.77	10.51	10.60	—.17

Ads 573-5486

Classified

SDNC

MAR 20 2002

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

When it comes to home landscaping, many gardeners remain confused about how to create gardens that they want. Efforts at landscaping can be disappointing despite spending a substantial amount of money. The important thing to remember is that developing an attractive, properly functioning landscape is best done using a process.

The first step is to decide on the style your garden will have. Look at other gardens and figure out what style you are most comfortable with.

Gardening books, magazines and books on landscaping present photographs that can inspire you and help you make a decision. The style you choose is generally a matter of taste, but should strongly be influenced by the architecture of the house. The chosen style will guide the more aesthetic aspects of the landscape design.

There are two general styles that you might first want to consider. The formal style is characterized by bilateral symmetry, clipped planting, geometrically-shaped plants and beds, orderly rows of plants regularly spaced, traditional garden accents (classical statues for example), a central decorative feature such as fountain, "crisp" building materials (smooth painted wood, out stone, brick) and everything neatly manicured. This style can be very effective, but can also appear stiff, lifeless and boring. It is a style that requires relatively high maintenance.

The second general style is informal. In this type of landscape plants are allowed to develop their natural forms (pruned but not regularly sheared), and they are arranged more irregularly in a way that resembles nature. The lines in the landscape and the shape of the beds tend to be curved and flowing. There are few straight edges and no geometric shapes. Building materials are more relaxed and may even be rustic. This style of landscape design is generally less when it comes to maintenance.

As an alternative, or in addition, you may want to consider one of the distinct design styles that have developed through many centuries of landscape design. If you have sufficient design skill, you may even be able to combine the features or one style with those of another. Some of the popular ethnic styles include oriental (Japanese and Chinese), Spanish, French formal and English cottage styles. There are also economical styles such as desert-like (if appropriate), tropical and native. Get a feel for what suits your taste and the style of your home and use it.

Think about your budget. Although it would be nice to garden with unlimited funds, the available money for the project must be considered. Don't forget that once the plan is drawn up, it can be installed in sections over time allowing the cost to be broken up into more manageable installments.

The next part is going through the process to develop a landscape design. These steps help you to organize your thoughts and efforts so that what you end up with is what you want and need.

Step One: List your needs. Think about yourself and your family, and decide what your landscape needs to include to provide for their needs. Write the list down on paper. It might include such features as privacy, outdoors living area (patio, deck courtyard, etc.), shade flowerbeds, vegetable garden, swimming pool, greenhouse, children's play area and storage. Basically, all the things the landscape needs to provide and include. Be thorough.

Step Two: Study your site. Become familiar with the grounds. Notice the compass directions. Which areas are shady or sunny, wet or dry. Note existing features such as trees, buildings, beds, fences, walks and the like. Draw up a simple sketch of the property showing the relevant features. Better yet, draw up a scale drawing. A scale drawing is much more effective when you actually start to do the design. Any inexpensive book on landscaping has directions on how to do a scale drawing. Once the drawing is done, make copies of it to draw on. You will be playing with various ideas, and need copies to try those ideas out. Never draw on the original.

Step Three: Diagram space needs. In this step you decide how much space different activities and areas will need and where in the landscape they will be located. At this time you will see how many things in your list you will actually be able to fit into the landscape. On your scale drawing copy, draw circles or ovals to indicate where and how large areas will be. For instance, a circle would represent where and how large the vegetable garden would be, where the play area would be, where the patio would be and so forth. Try several arrangements until the best one is found.

Step Four: Shape the spaces. Now, decide exactly what shape the areas will have. If you indicated flowerbeds with an oval to indicate where and how big they will be, at this point you decide how they will actually be shaped. Although you don't actually select the plants at this stage, you should decide on the characteristics that the plants should have (size, flowering, color, evergreen, etc.) This is a creative stage. It will be guided by the previous steps as well as the style you have decided for the garden.

Step Five: Select the materials. At this point, you select the components that will be chosen to create the landscape. If, for instance, in step one privacy was listed, in step two it was decided what view needs to be blocked, in step three the location of the privacy screen is determined, in step four the size of the screen is determined (how tall, how wide) and in this step what the screen will be composed of is decided. You may choose to plant a ligustrum hedge, or build a lattice fence or a brisk wall. Go through the rough plan selecting what plants will be used, what surfacing materials, etc. Cost is a factor that enters into which materials are selected.

4-H winners announced

4-H members placing in the San Angelo Livestock Show with their projects were:

Jordan Stansell, champion middleweight American steer and first place, middle weight American steer.

Alex Koonce, 4th place showmanship and 8th place light weight British steer.

Laramie Gilbert placed 11th with his class I Exotic steer.

Tyrelle Gilbert placed 12th with his class II Exotic steer.

Jada Bilano placed 13th with her heavy weight American steer and Corbin Smith placed 11th with his heavy weight Hamp swine.

Other 4-H members participating were Kira Bilano, Jordan Derryberry and Kailea Shaw.

Ag Talk

By Charlie Stenholm, Congressman 17th District

House and Senate Begin Farm Bill Negotiations

On Wednesday, March 13, House Members and Senators began meeting to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the farm bill.

Staff members from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have been working around the clock for the past few weeks to prepare for these negotiations.

In the meantime, those of us serving as conferees on the farm bill have been meeting with agricultural producers and other interested parties in an effort to write a farm bill that best meets the needs of U.S. agriculture.

Last year's budget gave agriculture $73.5 billion in additional funding over the next ten years.

The bulk of this money will be distributed in the commodity portion of the farm bill, and the most difficult issue facing the conference is deciding how to distribute this spending.

Given the restrictions of the budget, I think the House did a good job in writing a bill that addresses the competing needs of U.S. agriculture, and it will now fall on us to convince our colleagues in the Senate about the wisdom of the House bill.

At this point in time, there are still significant differences between the House and Senate farm bills regarding payment limits, conservation spending, and the Senate bill's ban on packer ownership of animals 14 days prior to slaughter.

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.

The bottom line is this: for the past four years, our farmers and ranchers have had to rely on ad hoc emergency payments because of the shortcomings of the 1996 Freedom to Farm law.

It is time to put some certainty back into our farm policy and that is why I am urging my colleagues to get a good bill finished as soon as possible that will allow our producers to plan for the future.

Of course, the question most folks continue to ask is 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 this issue, and I am hopeful that we can get a farm bill out in time to affect the 2002 crops.

House and Senate staff will continue to work through the weekend, and I hope we will have a farm bill by Tuesday, March 19.

USDA Predicts Positive Forecast for Agricultural Economy

At the recent Agricultural Outlook Forum, the USDA predicted an optimistic future for the agricultural economy. I wish I shared that optimism.

USDA is predicting increases in cash receipts from farming, in addition to the government funding that will come as a result of the farm bill currently before Congress.

The USDA also predicted that the planted acreage for the eight major crops - corn, sorghum, barley, oats, wheat, rice, upland cotton, and soybeans - will rise to roughly 257 million acres by 2011.

The agricultural outlook will improve when there is an increase in agricultural demand and a rise in U.S. exports. By the end of 2011, USDA projects that farm income will exceed the 1996 record year of $54.9 billion. Once again, these positive projections do not include the additional $73.5 billion that will be spent over the next ten years as a result of the new farm bill.

Again, I don't get too excited by these kind of predictions, but let's hope they prove to be true.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 1,234 head of cattle for the Saturday, March 16,4 sale. Feeder steers and heifers $1 to $3 lower. Slaughter cows were $1 to $3 lower and bulls were $1 lower. Bred cows and pairs were steady. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 121-130
300-400: 109-115
400-500: 98-107
500-600: 89-94
600-700: 73-76
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 113-122
300-400: 99-108
400-500: 86-91
500-600: 78.50-81.50
600-700: 72-74
Replacement cows:
Bred cows (5-7 months): 550-620
Bred cows (3-7 months): 425-550
Cow & calf pairs: 710-810
Aged pairs: 635-715
Slaughter cows:
Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs.: 36-43
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 40-46
Lean: 900-1200 Lbs.: 39.50-49.50
800-1000 Lbs.: 36-44.50
Under 750 Lb.: 34.50-38.50
Slaughter bulls:
Yield Grade 1-2: 1300-2100 Lbs.: 53.50-59.50
High dressing: 1000-1300 Lbs.: 61.50-64
Low dressing: 1000-1300 Lbs.: 47.50-49.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 1,063 head of cattle for the Thursday, March 14, sale. Cows were $2 cheaper. Yearlings and calves were $2 to $3 cheaper. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 40-49.50
Canner and low cutters: 33-40
Slaughter bulls: 50-58
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-125
400-500: 90-107
500-600: 85-95
600-700: 78-85
700-800: 75-82.50
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-107
400-500: 80-92
500-600: 75-81
600-700: 72.50-80
700-800: 65-75
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 75-85
700-800: 65-72.50
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 700-900
Grade: 550-700
Springers: 350-700
Baby calves: 100-210
Doodlers: 225-290

Scurrying Around Snyder

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

This is the second in a series on child abuse. Today's topic: Prevent Bullying:

Parents

•Encourage your children to make friends, and provide opportunities for them to do so.

•Provide opportunities for your child to be assertive and build self-esteem.

•Make your child aware of the kind of body language that encourages bullying.

•Tell your child to ignore bullies. Bullies feed on attention.

•Help your child practice responses that would discourage teasing.

•Encourage your children to tell an adult if someone hurts them.

•Explain to your children that they have the right to be safe at school.

•Contact the school and speak with your child's teachers.

•Get the school and PTA involved to form an anti-bullying, program and policy.

•Work with your school on how bystanders react to bullying. Teach them to walk away.

•If you think your child is a bully, stop the behavior and try to understand why he is acting out.

School Personnel

•Develop a policy on bullying.

•Carefully listen to details about the incident. Clarifying information such as who, where, when and witnesses.

•Respect confidentially of a student who is a witness

•Thank the witness for their information.

•Approach the victim gently.

•Give the victim time to give you the details.

•Once the victim divulges the information, just listen. Try not to interrupt.

•Be empathetic and state your concern.

•Ask the student for ideas to facilitate change.

•Explain what procedures will take place to assure their safety.

•Inform their teacher and other staff members of the situation.

•Contact the parents or guardians of both the bully and the victim.

•Until the situation is resolved, continue to monitor and talk to everyone involved.

All Children Can

•Treat everyone with respect.

•Give support and encouragement to positive things.

•Work together.

•Appreciate differences and similarities.

•Talk and think in a positive manner about yourself and others.

•Find an adult to help when someone is being bullied.

•Not laugh, help or encourage someone who is bullying.

•Ask your teacher and classmates to make an anti-bullying rule and plan for the class.

It's up to you to prevent child abuse and neglect, take it personally.

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Snyder Daily News

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Parties push dueling budgets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats began pushing a $2.1 trillion budget for next year through the Senate Budget Committee today, saying it focuses on a goal President Bush ignores: halting the use of Social Security funds to create federal surpluses.

But Republicans preparing to push a fiscal blueprint of their own through the House say their plan, which largely resembles Bush's 2003 budget, has the right priorities. It would increase defense and domestic security spending while cutting other programs to bring deficits under control.

The two competing proposals were taking separate paths through Congress today in an election-year showdown contrasting how each party hopes to apportion federal resources — and appeal to voters.

The Democratic-controlled Senate Budget Committee was expected to approve a fiscal plan on Thursday written largely by Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D. It would require the president and lawmakers to agree next year to enough savings — now estimated at $433 billion — to balance the budget without Social Security by 2008.

"We ... have an obligation and responsibility to face up to these long-term budget needs," Conrad said.

Enacting such savings now with a weak economy would be wrong, Conrad said.

The panel's top Republican, Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico, called Conrad's proposal "a grand illusion." He said it did little but let lawmakers postpone until next year the tough choices about which programs to cut and taxes to increase.

"I don't think the American people want any new taxes," Domenici said. He said shoring up Social Security and Medicare for the retirement of baby boomers could be achieved only "by the growing, prospering American economy and by reform."

In the House, majority Republicans were hoping to move a budget of their own today. Their plan would rely on $831 billion in Social Security funds to turn overall federal deficits into surpluses beginning in 2004.

"We will pass a budget," predicted House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas. "It will be as close to balanced as humanly possible given we have a war."

Congress' budget is a nonbinding blueprint that sets overall targets that are often ignored when lawmakers write later spending and tax bills. Even so, it is always a political battlefield because it lets each party highlight its priorities.

Al-Qaida, Taliban still trying to regroup

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — The battlefield commander in Operation Anaconda said today that al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, fueled by a fresh influx of cash, are trying to regroup in eastern Afghanistan despite the just-concluded American offensive there.

Citing intelligence data, Maj. Gen. Frank Hagenbeck said local al-Qaida leaders are trying to rebuild their forces in Paktia province, site of the biggest U.S.-led offensive of the Afghan war and a longtime Taliban and al-Qaida stronghold.

"I can tell you there are al-Qaida operatives in Paktia right now who are going to great lengths to try to regroup or regenerate," Hagenbeck said in an interview with three news organizations in his office at Bagram Air Base. "They are also spending a lot of money to regroup."

Hagenbeck, who commanded U.S. forces in Operation Anaconda, declined to elaborate on what measures al-Qaida operatives were taking to rebuild their forces. He predicted more al-Qaida activity in the months ahead as the weather improves.

"This is traditionally the campaigning season. The end of March and into April and somewhat into May. So we expect to see some increased enemy activity," he said.

Gunmen attacked U.S. and Afghan troops late Tuesday near the former theater of Operation Anaconda. An American soldiers was wounded in the arm during the firefight at an airfield outside the volatile eastern town of Khost, said Commander Frank Merriman, spokesman for U.S. Central Command.

U.S. troops and their Afghan allies called in air support from an AC-130 gunship and a B-1 bomber, which illuminated the area with flares, U.S. Central Command said in a statement. The identity of the attackers was unclear.

Three U.S.-allied soldiers were killed in fire at a checkpoint outside the airfield, Afghan officials said.

A contingent of up to 1,700 British soldiers is on its way to Afghanistan to join the fight against al-Qaida forces and will begin arriving at Bagram in coming days. Hagenbeck said the force will give the coalition more options.

"It will allow us to conduct more simultaneous missions, because we'll have more troops here than in the past," he said.

Hagenbeck also said two U.S. 10th Mountain Division units — the 187th Infantry and 431st Infantry — will be rotated out of Afghanistan and should return to Fort Drum, N.Y., by mid-April. They will be replaced by more troops from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, he said.

Police investigate shattered doors at Snyder One-Stop

• ***Shattered door***

Officers were called to Snyder One-Stop at 2 this morning as the front door to the business had been shattered. The owners were notified and the cause of the breakage is under investigation.

• ***Subject with knife***

A citizen called officers at 10:49 p.m. Tuesday and reported a person had just left a residence in the 2500 block of Avenue W carrying a switchblade knife. The person making the complaint did not want to file any charges, and the man with the knife was advised of the complaint.

• ***Missing person located***

DPS troopers made contact with a man near the Willow Park Inn at 1:30 a.m. today. A check on his background revealed the man had walked away from a Salvation Army drug rehab unit in Midland. The man said he had left the rehab unit voluntarily and that he was en route to Van Horn to pick up his vehicle. He was provided shelter for the night at the Travel Inn.

• ***Gas drive off***

Rip Griffin's reported a gas drive off Tuesday morning in the amount of $29.47.

• ***Juvenile problems***

Officers were called to the JP office at 11:28 a.m. Tuesday as a juvenile there was causing problems. The female juvenile was transported to the Law Enforcement Center and later released to a parent.

• ***Accident***

Snyder officers investigated an accident at 4:46 p.m. Tuesday that was attributed to slick roads.

Manuel Castillo of Fort Hood was driving a 2002 Ford pickup northbound in the 1400 block of Highway 84 when the vehicle slid off the roadway. Castillo was towing a 1966 Ford pickup and unsecured items fell from the towed vehicle and struck the newer model pickup. There were no injuries.

Obituaries

Joe Villa

1981-2002

Jose Villa Sr. of Snyder died Monday, March 18, in Hermann Hospital in Houston.

Rosary for Mr. Villa, 20, is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Fr. Leo Moras officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Joe Villa

Born Nov. 24, 1981 in Snyder, he was a 2000 graduate of Snyder High School and had worked for B&F Well Servicing before becoming ill.

He married Krista Villarreal on Aug. 27, 2001 in Lorenzo.

Survivors include his wife, Krista Villa of Abernathy; a son, Jose Luis Villa Jr. of Abernathy; a stepson, Aaron Rodriguez of Abernathy; his mother and stepfather, Rosa and Carlos Martinez Jr. of Snyder; his father, Vicente Villa Jr. of Snyder; a sister, Margarita Villa of Snyder; his in-laws, Luis and Janetta Villarreal of Abernathy, an ex sister-in-law, Lisa Villa; five brothers and three sisters-in-law, Pedro and Anna Villa, Otaviano and Amanda Villa, Marcus and Isbell Villa, Juan Carlos and Steven Martinez, all of Snyder.

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Corky Houston

1934-2002

COLORADO CITY — Dave W. "Corky" Houston, former Snyder resident, died Monday, March 18, in a Big Spring hospital.

Funeral service is set for Mr. Houston, 67, at 2 p.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church in Colorado City with the Rev. David Phillips officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home in Colorado City.

Corky Houston

Born July 31, 1934 in Slaton to Dave and Eunice Starnes Houston, he was a 1951 graduate of Snyder High School and had lived in Colorado City since 1962. He was the former owner of Corky's Hardware in Colorado City. Mr. Houston was a member of the First Methodist Church and the Colorado City Kiwanis Club.

His father, Dave Houston, preceded him in death.

Survivors include a son, Sam Houston of Houston; a daughter, Mary Alice Parham of Colorado City; his mother, Eunice Houston of Snyder; a sister, Nita Brown of Snyder; a niece and nephew, Debbie Early and Dave Brown, both of Snyder; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Family visitation will be from 6-8 this evening at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

Eugene Barkowsky

1933-2002

LAMESA — Eugene Barkowsky, brother of Dr. Edward Barkowsky of Snyder, died Tuesday, March 19, in Lakeside Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mr. Barkowsky, 68, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Lamesa First United Methodist Church. The Rev. David Black, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Don Stribling. Burial will follow in the Lamesa Memorial Park.

Born Nov. 22, 1933 in Dawson County, he married Joy Cook on May 25, 1957 in Flower Grove. A 1951 graduate of Flower Grove High School, he graduated from Texas Tech University in 1955. He also earned his master of education degree from Texas Tech.

Mr. Barkowsky taught school for 40 years and was principal of Lamesa High School in the 1970s. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he also was past president of the Lamesa Kiwanis Club and a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Survivors are his wife, Joy Barkowsky of Lamesa; two sons, Kelvin Barkowsky of Lamesa and Steve Barkowsky of Lubbock; a sister, Joyce Davidson of Lamesa; another brother, Harvey Barkowsky of Austin; a grandson, Jon Barkowsky; and a granddaughter, Riley Barkowsky.

Henry Demery

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Henry Dean Demery, twin brother of Gloria Dean Dunkins of Snyder, died Tuesday, March 19, in St. Francis Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria.

Funeral service will be held Saturday in the Winnfield Funeral Home in Natchitoches.

Survivors include his mother, Martel Demery of Natchitoches; another sister, Margie Demery of Natchitoches; three brothers, Milbert Demery, Julius Demery, both of Natchitoches, and Albert Demery of Dallas.

He was preceded in death by his father and a brother.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Prom help

Parents and junior students are encouraged to help with decorating the Scurry County Coliseum this week in preparation for Saturday's prom. Work is from 5-9 nightly, and a large number of imitation Ficus trees are also needed. Put your name on them and they will be returned. Please bring to the coliseum by this evening.

GED pre-registration and test dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED tests will be from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Thursday in the GED testing center, Building 7B, on the WTC campus. The math segment will begin at 8 a.m. Friday. For more information about the GED test, call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112.

FBC services televised

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

Community Services Fair

Scurry Community Services will host a Community Services Fair from 4-6 p.m. Thursday at 2800 2nd Street. Participating programs include early child intervention, family planning, Gateway Family Services, Noah's Attic, protective and regulatory services, health unit, mental health center, Snyder Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, fire department, department of human resource, W.I.C., WTC, Food Cupboard, Chips Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Snyder Child Day Care. Call 573-7403 for more information.

Beginning clogging lessons

Sign up now for beginning clogging lessons to be held at 8 p.m. Thursday at the coliseum annex. Call Shirley Miller at 573-0807 for more information.

Senior center banquet

The 23rd annual Scurry County Senior Center volunteer recognition banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Senior Center.

Boy Scout car wash

Boy Scouts Troop No. 2 will hold a car wash beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wal-Mart. Donations will be accepted.

PTK induction

Western Texas College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter will formally induct new members at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Fine Arts Theatre. A reception will follow in the foyer.

Noah's Ark Church

The church will have Tony Bethel of Cathedral of Praise Church in Abilene at its 6:30 p.m. Sunday service. The church is located at 119 36th St.

Healing and communion service

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at 1411 25th St. with Marvin and Joan Applin. Call 573-1517 or 281-358-9389 for additional information.

Enchilada dinner

The third annual Knights of Columbus enchilada dinner is Sunday 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.

Snyder Lions Club

Snyder Lions Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church as part of Holy Week Services.

Gateway Family Services

Gateway Family Services has a parenting discussion group from 10:30–11:30 a.m. every Tuesday, focusing on parenting issues and special challenges. The family violence support group also meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Cancer board meeting

The Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital.

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 at the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center.

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.

MAWC game day

There will not be a fourth Wednesday game day and luncheon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club due to the Holy Week Services.

First Church of the Nazarene

The First Church of the Nazarene will have an Easter egg hunt following the Easter service that begins at 10:45 a.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.

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.

MAR 20 2002

Fewer jetliners are diverted for air rage since September 11

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — Depending on your view, Bangor International Airport is the last major U.S. airport for jets headed across the Atlantic or the first for incoming flights. Either way, it's a convenient place to dislodge unruly passengers on international flights.

Before Sept. 11, that happened about once a month. But since the terrorist attacks, air rage has forced only one jetliner to be diverted to Bangor. That's good news for airlines, airline workers and air travelers — but a mixed blessing for airports in places like Bangor and Newfoundland, Canada, because landing fees from diverted jets meant a small but tidy profit.

"It's a bonus, let's put it that way. It's a bonus when we have those flights," said Larry Pittman, manager of Canada's airport in Goose Bay, Newfoundland, which is on the mainland in Labrador.

Since Sept. 11, the only air rage incident that has forced a plane to land in Bangor involved a passenger who slapped a flight attendant. Newfoundland's four key airports at Gander, St. John's, Goose Bay and Stephenville have recorded no air rage-related landings since Sept. 11.

The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in Alaska, which plays the same role for Pacific flights, also has seen no passenger jets diverted for air rage since the attacks, said Morton Plumb Jr., airport director.

Many airline industry observers believe air rage is down after Sept. 11 but federal statistics on the trend are incomplete.

In Bangor, it's a far cry from the international attention that came when three flights were diverted in little more than a month in 1999. Two were diverted for drunken and abusive passengers, and a third passenger went berserk when a plastic bag of cocaine he ingested broke open.

Last May, the airport had two air rage incidents in the same day, one a Britannia Airways Boeing 767, the other a British Airways Boeing 747. Three passengers ended up in the local lockup.

The landing fees can be lucrative. A small corporate jet might pay as little as $18 to land in Bangor, but a Boeing 747 would pay $700, and other fees and services could bring the sum to $2,500 or more.

Last year, the Bangor airport made $50,000 in providing services to jets that were forced to land because of air rage passengers, officials said.

Revenues from flights diverted for air rage were just a small part of the Bangor airport's international revenues of $1.8 million last year, officials said. But every little bit is important, especially since the airport is seeing fewer regularly scheduled international flights.

Modern jetliners don't have to stop as often for fuel, so most of them continue flying right over Bangor. Those flights dropped 45 percent from 1,674 in the 1997 fiscal year to 934 last year, officials said.

Against that backdrop, the airport has aggressively marketed its ability to handle any type of situation, including medical emergencies, refuelings, mechanical problems — and air rage.

Big increase in eye disease predicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of blind or visually impaired Americans is likely to double over the next 30 years as the giant baby boom generation ages, the National Eye Institute reported today.

Currently, more than 1 million Americans are blind and another 2.4 million suffer some vision impairment, according to the report, "Vision Problems in the U.S."

"Disturbingly, the number of Americans with age-related eye disease and the vision impairment that results is expected to double over the next three decades," according to the report, prepared in conjunction with Prevent Blindness America.

"The bottom line is, if nothing is done and we just go on the way we're going now, we're going to have a massive increase in the number of visually impaired and blind in America," Dr. David S. Friedman, lead author of the report, said in an interview.

"This should be a catalyst for attention to this problem. Vision loss has such an impact on the ability to live freely," said Friedman, a professor at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

Friedman isn't surprised by the growing number of people at risk. "The demographics of the U.S. is such that one would expect very large increases."

Indeed the millions of baby boomers born between 1946 and 1965 are now in the age group where vision problems become increasing evident.

"Blindness and visual impairment from most eye diseases and disorders can be reduced with early detection and treatment," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

"That's why eye health education programs that encourage those at high risk for eye disease to have regular dilated eye exams are essential in preventing vision loss," Thompson said in a statement.

Dr. Paul A. Sieving, director of the eye institute, called for an increase in public attention to eye disease.

The study lists four primary threats:

—Diabetic retinopathy, a common complication of diabetes in which blood vessels in the retina break, leak or become blocked, impairing vision over time. It affects nearly half of all people with diabetes to some extent and risk increases with age. There are an estimated 5.3 million Americans currently affected.

The report said laser surgery and a procedure called a vitrectomy are effective in treating diabetic retinopathy.

—Age-related macular degeneration currently affects 1.6 million Americans. It primarily affects the part of the retina responsible for sharp central vision. There are two forms of this disease, called dry AMD and wet AMD. AMD is the most common cause of legal blindness and vision impairment in older Americans.

Currently there is no generally accepted treatment for dry AMD, but laser therapies to destroy leaking blood vessels can help reduce the risk of advancing vision loss in many cases of wet AMD. Research indicates a combination of zinc, beta-carotene and vitamins C and E may also reduce the risk of advanced AMD by 25 percent.

—Cataract, which is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens. Most cataracts appear with advancing age, but there are additional factors, such as smoking, diabetes and excessive exposure to sunlight.

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world, and affect nearly 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older. By age 80, more than half of all Americans develop cataracts.

Surgical treatment can eliminate vision loss due to the disease, but cataracts still account for a significant amount of vision impairment in the United States.

—Glaucoma, a disease that causes gradual damage to the optic nerve that carries visual information from the eye to the brain. Because the loss of vision is not noticed until a significant amount of nerve damage has occurred, half of all people with glaucoma are unaware of it.

Orbitz investigation still on

NEW YORK (AP) — The government is moving forward with its investigation of online travel company Orbitz, which has been under scrutiny for potentially anticompetitive behavior since its launch nine months ago.

The Department of Transportation last week asked Chicago-based Orbitz to provide confidential documents pertaining to its business plans and contracts. The agency's request, made in a letter dated March 12, also extended to the five airlines that own Orbitz, its business partners and several competitors.

A copy of the letter was obtained by The Associated Press late Tuesday.

"We seek to determine whether the terms of participation in Orbitz are unreasonably restricting competition in the airline and airline distribution businesses," said the letter, signed by the Transportation Department's assistant secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Read C. Van de Water.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

How to handle fear of injections

DEAR DR. GOTT: Even as an adult, I HATE injections. They always hurt. What can I do about this?

DEAR READER: Let me give you a rather long-winded but, I hope, light-hearted answer.

I can remember, when I was a kid, getting shots in the doctor's office. We seemed to receive more frequent injections in those days than we suffer today because few shots were combined (such as modern measles/mumps/rubella) and each had to be administered separately. Moreover, tetanus immunization was an annual ritual; now tetanus toxoid is required every 10 years.

Further, the classic glass syringe and heavy needle were truly formidable. Being re-usable, the equipment had to be sterilized (primitively, in most instances) and, more important, the needles were dull, dull, dull; even though the doctor may have sharpened them periodically, they still hurt.

Therefore, shots were never fun, and I anticipated my visits with the pediatrician with the same enthusiasm I would now reserve for hemorrhoid surgery.

Finally, old-fashioned injections were ordinarily administered by a starched, humorless, no-nonsense matron who believed the pain of the shot would be lessened by giving the injection slowly. More accurately, she gave the vaccine in a staged sequence of jabs: first through the skin, then poke through the fat, at last a final plunge into the muscle, a short (sic!) pause — while she fumbled, doing something, I don't know, I couldn't look — and, at long last, the injection itself. Folks, this ain't good. No reputable shot-giver using a hopelessly dull needle should inject in this manner.

Thank heaven things have changed. Today's syringes and needles are disposable, so the risk of infection is nil. The possibility of hepatitis, a viral liver inflammation, is likewise eliminated. Only the good Lord knows what viruses and microbes survived the old sterilization process. But modern equipment is assiduously factory-sterilized — and is used only once.

Modern needles, too, have changed. They are now thin and tiny. What I like about them most, though, is that they're sharp, straight from a sealed container and have never been used.

Of course, the technique of administration has improved as well. During my training, I learned my stuff from an ex-Navy corpsman: You hold the syringe and needle as though shooting darts; with the other hand, firmly pinch a roll of skin; then flick the shot into the tissue with a single quick motion from about six inches away. Painless.

While I appreciate your fear and pain, I believe - with modern inoculations properly given — that patients' apprehension stems more from the former than the latter. When I give shots, patients uniformly express surprise at what little unpleasantness is produced. Therefore, I urge you to reconsider your position, find a skillful practitioner, bring your tetanus booster up to date and see if I'm not right.

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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