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WT-Int. Crude - $26.54
WTIC Posted - $23.25
Natural Gas - $2.945

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
July 29, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 76
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Sheila Means

Burglary marks store's final week in business

By Bobby Allen
SDN Staff Writer

Just days before going out of business, Video One was once again the site of a break-in, with several hundred dollars and merchandise stolen, and damage done to the back door and front window of the store.

At 9:10 a.m. Sunday, police investigated a broken glass pane in the front of the store, where it was determined a burglary had occurred.

Elizabeth Blair, owner of Video One, said several DVDs and $600 in cash were taken. Blair said she felt violated by the burglary, which occurred the weekend before the store closes its doors July 31.

"It's like being kicked when you're down," she said. "I don't know what's going on in Snyder, but something needs to be done."

Blair said she was getting account of her inventory this morning, to make sure more items are not missing. She said she had no idea who would want to do this to her and her business. "For this to happen when you're struggling really hurts," she said.

She said she found evidence the thieves tried to pick the lock on the front door, before smashing the window.

Sgt. Keith Ward of the Snyder police department said the back door was heavily damaged, with the perpetrators peeling back the steel skin of the door in an attempt to expose the locking mechanism. After those attempts failed, the robbers simply broke out the front glass.

Ward said an investigation is underway, but police did not have any suspects as of this morning. Ward also said that no connection had been made to a similar break-in at the store in May.

Two residential burglaries also took place this weekend. Saturday morning, Linda Rich reported a welder and tools taken from a barn in the 9000 block of CR 395, and Jose Castillo requested officers just after noon Saturday in reference to approximately $1,100 worth of CDs and other items stolen from his residence in the 2900 block of 23rd Street the previous evening.

Ward also said car burglaries are up in town, with a rash of recent vehicle break-ins on the east side of town.

Burglars are getting bolder, as Sgt. Ward noted that many are now breaking out car windows to loot vehicles with valuables left inside.

Two such burglaries occurred over the weekend, with Brian Walker reporting a pair of binoculars stolen from his vehicle in the 400 block of 36th Place early Sunday, and Orlando Garcia reporting his truck being broken into and money being stolen while parked in the 1900 block of Coleman.

BUSTED—Detective Sgt. Keith Ward inspects the broken front window at Video One, site of one of a string of burglaries to hit Snyder recently. The thieves tried several means of entry into the store before breaking out the window and crawling through the opening. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Adjacent to the airport...

Leaking fuel reason county is buying land

By Bobby Allen
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County's decision to buy more than 28 acres of land adjacent to Winston Field is being driven by fuel contamination and the resulting cleanup efforts.

The leaking aviation fuel, from a tank installed when the airport was constructed in 1951,was first detected in 1994 in a water table north of the big hangar at Winston Field.

Since then, the county has been engaged in a Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) remediation project to get rid of the errant fuel.

The remediation project continuing at the airport, which prompted an offer from the county to buy the land owned by Travis and Helen Hatter, is being run in cooperation with Enprotec, a Lubbock environmental engineering company that conducts tests at the site.

Airport manager Rodger Sullenger said the cleanup has been an ongoing process for many years.

"In 1987, they drilled a monitor well and didn't find anything," Sullenger said. "Then in 1994, they found green gas in a stream of water." He said dozens of monitor wells have been drilled since then, and gas had been found seeping towards the northeast of the airport. "I don't understand why it's migrating," he said.

The fuel leaking at the airport is 130-octane, which was replaced with 100 low-lead aviation fuel in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The 130-octane fuel is no longer manufactured.

Sullenger said he inquired six months ago about purchasing 1,000 feet of Hatter's land south of the airfield to extend the runway, but the deal never came to fruition. County Judge Ricky Fritz said there was no interest from the seller to piece-meal the land to sell it off in different-sized parcels.

Sullenger said he wanted the extension so that the airport could handle larger jet traffic to increase fuel sales. "We have plenty of room for smaller jets, "he said. "But for larger aircraft on a hot day with no wind and a full load — that runway starts looking short." He added that the current runway can support 60,000-pound dual wheel jets, but larger, private jets can weigh up to 125,000 pounds.

Fritz said the project has a limited financial burden for the county, as all costs for the clean up, besides deductibles, are reimbursed every year to the county.

"So far, it has cost $400,000, and we have been reimbursed all but $30,000."

Fritz said the project would take an additional three years to get rid of the remaining fuel. He said the wells closest to the original tank are now devoid of all fuel and petroleum fumes, and all the remaining fumes are underground.

Perched water tables are pockets of water that rest 20 to 25 feet below ground, and are not a source of potable water.

Sullenger said the fuel is nowhere near any drinking or irrigation water, and it is approximately 80 to 180 feet above the water table.

The county's proposal to acquire the additional land adjacent to the airport will have no impact on aviation operations, Sullenger said.

He also said it would be in everyone's best interest if the county purchased the land. "It would be easier for him (Hatter) and better for us to get it burned off."

Ira ISD sets budget work

Ira ISD will hold a budget workshop this evening at 6:30 as the trustees begin work on the 2002-2003 budget.

The school board is facing a 12.63 percent loss in values for the year as the certified tax values dropped from $101,281,916 last year to the present $88,491,550.

Interim superintendent James Bible will lead the budget workshop.

Bridge to reopen in Oklahoma

WEBBERS FALLS, Okla. (AP) — Crews have finished repairs more than a week ahead of schedule on an interstate bridge where 14 people fell to their deaths after it was hit by a towboat in May.

Traffic was scheduled to resume today over the bridge, restoring some normalcy to the lives of residents in the small town that suffered through the tragedy. The victims were to be remembered upon the reopening of the bridge, said Webbers Falls Mayor Jewell Horne.

Cars and trucks plunged into the muddy Arkansas River on May 26 after a towboat pushing two barges slammed into the bridge along Interstate 40.

Historic locomotive to have new home soon

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Engine No. 5, the last steam engine of the Roscoe, Snyder and Pacific Railway, will soon be moved to a new location — one more fitting of its historical significance.

The locomotive, on display in Towle Park since 1956, will be moved to Scurry County Historical Park on the coliseum grounds near the Dodson House and the Dermott School, both historical landmarks.

The move is part of the planned revamping of Towle Park, but has been talked about for some time, according to Scott Crenwelge, head of the county parks department.

"We are moving the locomotive now because of the planned changes in the park, but the historical commission has been wanting to do this for quite a while," Crenwelge said. "It's a very good fit to have the train right over here with these other historical buildings. And it will look nice there too."

The locomotive, originally a coal burner and later converted to fuel, was built in Philadelphia in 1920.

A Baldwin locomotive, the engine belonged to the RS&P railroad, which reached Snyder in 1908 with passenger and freight service.

The engine weighs 111,400 pounds with its tender weighing in at just over 33,000 pounds. It was retired and donated to Scurry County in March of 1956 and was moved to its current location by Canyon Trucking Co., which donated labor to haul the engine.

Similar circumstances exist today, according to Crenwelge.

"Patterson-UTI has volunteered to donate the manpower and equipment necessary to move the locomotive across town," he said. "We're going to take it right up College Ave. and down 37th Street. It should be a pretty neat operation."

Crenwelge also said Burlington Northern Sante Fe also has agreed to lend a helping hand and set the tracks on which the locomotive will rest. The tracks were moved to Scurry County from a different location and are more than 120 years old.

A date for the move has yet to be set because of BNSF scheduling conflicts.

"I think we'll get about a week's notice when they decide they can come in here and help us out," he said. "But that will be plenty of time."

Crenwelge added that another exciting possibility is that the locomotive will be left open to the public without the restraints of a fence like the one that surrounds the engine now near Kiddie Park.

"We're excited to be doing this," he said "The equipment is donated and the labor is volunteered. This shouldn't cost the county anything and everyone stands to benefit from the move."

Mobile home has fire damage

Fire crews responded to a blaze early Sunday morning, and were able to save the home of a local resident.

The fire department was dispatched at 2:42 a.m. to a home at 2509 28th St. owned and occupied by Sabeano Belman.

BCD to hear requests for open house assistance

The Development Corporation of Snyder and the chamber of commerce will ask the Board of County Development for funds to help with the Aug. 19 dedication ceremony of the Air Force's Lone Star electronic scoring system.

Total being requested is $2,000.

The agencies will request money to help fund the grand opening of the site. Several high-profile politicians and military members are expected to attend the dedication.

The requests will be presented at Tuesday's BCD meeting at noon in the DCOS boardroom.

SDN staffers to pen column

Beginning with Tuesday's edition, the SDN column will have new authors four days each week.

Publisher Roy McQueen will continue to write a Sunday column, but SDN staffers will pen the long-standing column the other days.

Staff writer Bobby Allen will write the column on Tuesdays, while News Editor Shirley Gorman and Lifestyles Editor JoAnn Nunley will alternate on Wednesdays.

The newspaper's management trainee Brian Brisendine will offer his thoughts on Thursday, followed by Managing Editor Wade Warren's column on Fridays.

Warren said "We hope you will find the 'My Turn' editions of The SDN Column both entertaining and thought provoking."

ASK US

Q—Who puts out the SHS football programs?

A—The student council produces the football programs as a fund raiser. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad for the program should contact the high school at 573-6301.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 99 degrees; low, 75; high Sunday, 96; low, 74; 7 a.m. Monday, 74; no precipitation; total for 2002, 13.71 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; 30% rain chance; low lower 70s. Tuesday, partly cloudy; 20% rain chance; high mid 90s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy.

Staphany Arizmendi
Rain Chance

Sunset: 8:42 p.m.
Sunrise: 7 a.m.
Of 209 days in 2002, the sun has shone 202 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The greater part of our happiness depends on our disposition and not our circumstances.
—Martha Washington

JUL 29 2002

Rescued miner recounts dark days waiting

SOMERSET, Pa. (AP) — Trapped 240 feet underground in a flooded mine for three days, one thought kept creeping back into Blaine Mayhugh's mind: He didn't kiss his wife goodbye before he left for work.

As more than 150 rescue workers and neighbors above ground struggled to reach them, he and eight other coal miners fought to keep their heads above the cold water, huddled together for warmth, and hoped.

"It was the only day in my life I never kissed my wife before I went to work. It had to be the day," he said Sunday, breaking down into sobs as he stood with his arms around his wife, Leslie.

In a rescue that transfixed the nation, all nine miners were pulled safely from the Quecreek Mine in rural western Pennsylvania after water from an abandoned mine flooded the shaft where they were working.

A desperate rescue operation with tons of heavy equipment and 18 medical helicopters finally paid off when rescuers reached the miners Sunday morning and pulled them up a narrow shaft, one by one, in a yellow cylindrical capsule.

"What took you guys so long?" the miners said when they spoke to rescuers for the first time. They reportedly asked for chewing tobacco and beer — which doctors wouldn't allow. And they were ravenously hungry.

At the rescue site, workers cheered and danced, and the Sipesville Fire Hall, where the families of the men had been gathering, burst into celebration at the news they were all alive.

As each was slowly raised, one by one, through the narrow hole in a 7-foot-tall yellow cage, at least two gave a thumbs up. Their coal-covered faces managed smiles. Rescuers greeted them with applause and shouted out nicknames.

But underground, Mayhugh described a nightmarish scene: The men tied themselves together so they would "live or die as a group." On Thursday, when the water in the shaft was rising, he asked his boss for a pen.

"I said, 'I want to write my wife and kids to tell them I love them,'" said Mayhugh, choking back tears.

"Everybody had strong moments," he said. "At any certain time maybe one guy got down, and then the rest pulled together and then that guy would get back up and maybe somebody else would feel a little weaker. But it was a team effort. That's the only way it could've been."

All nine were immediately taken to local hospitals; six were released on Sunday. Three remained hospitalized, including Randy Fogle, who has a history of heart problems and complained of chest pains while in the mine.

One of the miners was briefly in a decompression chamber after experiencing early symptoms of the bends, an excruciating condition caused by sudden changes in pressure, said Dr. Russell Dumire, a trauma surgeon at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, where six of the men were taken.

Also under observation was Mayhugh's father-in-law, Thomas Foy, 51.

Foy told family members "he'll never go underground again," said his daughter, Tonya Butler, 26.

Though they were covered in coal dust and their heavy-duty clothes were soaked through, the miners surprised medical personnel who had prepared to treat them for symptoms of hypothermia or the bends. Decompression chambers, ambulances and helicopters were at the scene 55 miles southeast of Pittsburgh — the same rural area where the hijacked Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11.

In a small, close-knit community still fresh from that tragedy, the happy ending brought smiles across town and crowds to the site. Restaurant and gas station signs trumpeted "Nine Alive!" and "Prayers Answered."

The miners became trapped about 9 p.m. Wednesday, when they inadvertently broke into an abandoned, water-filled mine that maps showed to be 300 feet away.

Mayhugh said a 4-foot wall of water — as many as 60 million gallons — came crashing through the breached wall.

"We tried to outrun it, but it was too fast," he said.

But they were able to warn a second crew, which escaped.

"They are the heroes. If not for them, there'd be dead bodies," said mine worker Doug Custer, among the group who escaped.

The trapped miners spent roughly five hours in the water, at one point attempting to break through another wall to try to bring the water level down. Instead, the level rose, forcing them to swim in their heavy miners' clothes, Mayhugh said.

The miners also huddled around a pipe funneling down warm air.

Drilling a rescue shaft to the men began more than 20 hours after the accident when a drill rig arrived from West Virginia. Drilling was halted early Friday morning because a 1,500-pound drill bit broke after hitting hard rock about 100 feet down, delaying the effort by 18 hours.

A second rescue shaft was started, and it wasn't until Saturday that measurable progress was being made on both shafts.

David Hess, secretary of the state Department of Environmental Protection, promised a joint federal-state investigation to help determine why underground maps apparently showed the abandoned Saxman Mine some 300 feet away from where the miners were working.

"There was a lot of roller-coaster, but I was upbeat the whole time," said Randy Popernack, a cousin of Mark Popernack, one of the trapped men. He was at home calling distant relatives with the good news.

"I am mining people," he said. "Never give up. Never give up."

On the Net:
State mine bureau:
http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/dms/dms.htm

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 30, 2002

For those Leos who have taken the time to prepare themselves properly in whatever field of endeavor they have chosen, the year ahead will turn out to be a banner one. For those who haven't, it's not too late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — A meeting with an old friend or contact you established a number of years ago could once again become significant. The two of you might get involved in an interesting endeavor. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There is a good chance for success today, but it is likely to come about through a joint venture. Neither you nor your counterpart can pull this off without the help of the other.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Should an unhappy friend come to you today for counsel, don't soft pedal it. You won't really be able to help this person unless you tell it like it is, warts and all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — When you take on a job today, you'll take pride in doing it right, even if it means a whole lot more work for you. The high standards you set for yourself will pay off handsomely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — The right balance between treating life and yourself seriously, and playing things like a game, can be found today. By doing so, you'll produce more winning scores than losing ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — By drawing upon your tenacity, courage and will to win, there isn't any doubt that you will be successful today. This triple threat represents the elements needed for achievement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You are always an excellent communicator, but today it will be more significant for you. What you orate or put in writing will impress others and achieve desired results.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — What you can do today that others can't is to take a marginal commercial or financial situation and turn it into a working force that produces an impressive yield.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Sometimes it is wise to let our hearts rule our heads when dealing with our friends and family, but today is not one of those days. Only cold logic can be of help to them at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Chances are, you may run across something today that you thought you had tossed out. Interestingly, it might be more valuable to you now than when you first acquired it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Tending to a relationship with an old pal may be the most important thing you do today. The cementing of this friendship will have long-term benefits you wouldn't otherwise enjoy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Your reputation can be considerably enhanced today by helping others to fulfill their ambitions and achieve their objectives. These people will be in your corner when you'll need a boost.

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Rescue effort about family, community

SOMERSET, Pa. (AP) — Their home has been swamped by rescue workers, volunteers and neighbors. The field at the edge of their farm has been turned into ruts of mud and broken stone. And Lori and Bill Arnold couldn't be happier.

"You smiled so much it hurt," Lori Arnold said Sunday after nine cold, tired miners breathed fresh air again following three trying days in a flooded mine.

The Arnolds' dairy farm — 140 acres and 80 milking cows — was the site of the entrance to the Quecreek Mine. Within hours of Wednesday's accident, the farm was transformed into a massive work site, where generators hummed all night and neighbors lined up to help.

In this rural part of Pennsylvania, people either farm or mine, Bill Arnold said. And they're far from strangers, he said, describing his walk down the hill on the night the miners' crisis began to unfold. One crew emerged safely from the mine after being warned about the flooding by the trapped miners.

"I walked into kids I grew up with. Their husbands and brothers were down there. Their sons," he said. "The last guy out of the hole I rode the school bus with."

That first night, Lori Arnold made two calls about 3 a.m. By the next morning, she said, they were flooded with food for the rescue workers. "One person made 30 meatloafs."

Not everything went so smoothly. Some fences got knocked down. Her husband was a bit worried that the milk cows might cause some trouble.

"We don't need to get trampled to death by a herd of cattle stampeding," he said. But his worries passed.

Everyone prayed, and everyone stayed positive, Lori Arnold said.

"What I will remember is everyone you passed, they were always smiling. ... That's what I'll remember — the smiles."

Her husband nodded. "You make good things happen," he said. "You just don't take no for an answer."

Now, like everyone else, they're taking a few deep breaths.

"My house is a mess. I've had 15 people in there taking showers," Lori Arnold said, and smiled.

For the state mining officials who oversaw the rescue, their to-do list includes a state-federal investigation into the causes of the accident and one whopping big cleanup, said Jay Scott Roberts, deputy secretary of mineral resources at the state Department of Environmental Protection.

"We have to give Mr. Arnold his farm back," Roberts said, stepping carefully across a shin-deep puddle of mud.

Did pilot fail breath test before flight?

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating whether a pilot for a Delta Air Lines regional carrier failed a breath test before boarding his Atlanta-bound flight.

The 28 passengers aboard were removed at around 6:40 a.m., nearly a half-hour after scheduled departure from the Wilmington International Airport, said Airport Director John Rosborough. All passengers were diverted to other flights.

Rosborough couldn't confirm whether the co-pilot of the twin-engine plane failed the test. FAA spokesman Christopher White said his agency was investigating "the alleged violation of an alcohol-related regulation regarding ASA Flight 4240." ASA stands for Atlantic Southeast Airlines.

The pilot was not identified.

FAA guidelines say no crew member can have more than a 0.04 blood alcohol level and may not drink alcohol within eight hours of duty. Violations can lead to license revocation.

Rosborough said the crew member was stopped from boarding the plane at around 6 a.m. Sunday by a security officer with the Transportation and Security Agency. The agency holds random alcohol testing, but it was unclear why the pilot was stopped.

Berry's World

"FRANKLY, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL BE ABLE TO FREEZE YOUR BODY IN THAT POSITION."

Date Book

Monday, July 29, 2002

Today is the 210th day of 2002 and the 39th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1846, sailors and Marines from the U.S. sloop Cyane captured San Diego, Calif.

On this day in 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation for the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

On this day in 1981, Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in an internationally televised ceremony.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), writer; Booth Tarkington (1869-1946), writer; Benito Mussolini (1883-1945), Italian dictator; Paul Taylor (1930-), dancer and choreographer, is 72; Peter Jennings (1938-), broadcast journalist, is 64.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1983, Steve Garvey's 1,207-game streak — a National League record — ended when he injured his thumb in a home-plate collision.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot. How is it possible that society should escape destruction if the moral tie is not strengthened in proportion as the political tie is relaxed?" — Alexis de Tocqueville

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (July 24) and last quarter (Aug. 1).

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events LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:

1-5-12-18-41-44

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $4 million

Pick 3

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

2-5-1

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Texas...

Deadly virus hits heart of horse country

HOUSTON (AP) — The West Nile virus, a mosquito-born disease that causes brain inflammation in birds, humans and horses, has been reported in at least 16 horses since the illness was first confirmed in Texas last month, and officials said they believe the number is much higher.

Despite the high-rises and highways, Southeast Texas is undeniably horse country, and West Nile is striking at its heart. Texas has an estimated 1.2 million horses — hundreds of thousands of them living in mosquito-prone areas of the state. Last year, Florida counted more than 600 horse cases of West Nile virus.

A horse pastured on the west side of Beaumont was one of the first in Texas to die from West Nile virus. First came the stumbling gait, the horse's left front hoof crossing over the right, like a drunk trying to walk a straight line.

As the horse's brain swelled, his rear legs buckled, which causes some animals to sit on their hindquarters like dogs. In the final stage, the 14-year-old gelding flopped over on his side, hooves uselessly paddling the air, the Houston Chronicle reported today.

"I've never seen this many neurological cases appear at the same time, ever," said Beaumont-area veterinarian Harvey Schneiter, who recounted treating the animal and ultimately euthanizing it with an injection. "We were concerned about (West Nile virus) coming."

Texas horses are vulnerable to a number of diseases that affect the nervous system, including Eastern equine encephalitis (also spread by mosquitoes) and an infection caused by a herpes virus. West Nile is making a yearly problem worse.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. We can anticipate many more cases. It's going to be with us and continue to spread, especially throughout the unvaccinated population," said Terry Conger, epidemiologist with the Texas Animal Health Commission. "The main thing (we're) recommending is vaccination and wherever possible mosquito control."

People can't get West Nile from an infected horse. Dogs and cats appear to be resistant to the disease.

Counties reporting West Nile in horses are Harris, Austin, Brazoria, Jefferson, Montgomery, Orange and Waller. Officials are having a hard time getting a reliable count because many owners don't bother to get diagnostic blood work done. In some cases, a veterinarian will make a diagnosis based on symptoms alone, or may draw blood on one horse to help diagnose two or three horses showing similar signs.

"I suspect in Harris County, the numbers are mounting up to the hundreds," Conger said.

Demand for a vaccine that prevents West Nile in horses is so great, some owners are having difficulty getting a veterinarian lined up to give the shots. Conger has received complaints about price gouging, with some vets charging $50 per dose. The shots typically run about $18 each.

"We're going through this stuff like it's free," said Schneiter, who barrels from one far-flung patient to the next in a beat-up Ford pickup. "Of the horses we've treated, none were vaccinated."

The vaccine, which requires an initial dose followed by a booster, came on the market last year. It takes two months from the first shot for a horse to develop immunity — meaning many recently vaccinated horses are vulnerable. Conversations with horse owners indicate many are unaware of the vaccine or the time it takes to protect a horse.

Recent flooding raises concerns about dam safety

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Recent rains across South Texas have raised concerns about whether the state's dams are inspected frequently enough to guarantee safety and peace of mind to those who live near a reservoir.

Earlier this month, there were questions about whether 90-year-old Medina Dam would hold up if water from a week of heavy rains poured over its top.

State officials agree that state oversight of Texas' more than 7,200 dams has been weakening, leaving some structures uninspected for 20 years or more, the San Antonio Express-News reported in its online edition Sunday.

Although Texas has only five state safety officials — a ratio of 1,440 dams per official, whose experience level is said to average one year — authorities have noted that private owners and other agencies directly manage dams. Consequently, they say, the long-standing decline in state monitoring has not endangered residents living near dams.

But they said that as dams get older and as downstream development balloons in many areas, leaders should ponder the state's role in protecting residents from catastrophic, dam-destroying floods.

"People need to be concerned," said Rep. David Counts, D-Knox City, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, which made an unsuccessful pitch for spending on dam safety in 1999. "They don't need to be alarmed."

Lori Spragens, executive director of the National Association of State Dam Safety Officials, said of Texas' five dam safety officials: "That's not even a program. Texas needs to do something. They've got to get a program."

One arrested after chase through three counties

TYLER (AP) — A Dallas man was arrested early Sunday after leading authorities on a chase through three East Texas counties that reached speeds of at least 95 mph.

Benjamin Garcia, 22, was taken into custody by Department of Public Safety troopers and Smith County deputies after a pickup truck he was driving was rammed by a squad car.

He had avoided a spike system designed to flatten the vehicle's tires. Several gunshots also were fired at the tires during the chase.

The chase began early Sunday after a Harrison County deputy spotted a pickup truck that had just been reported stolen.

"Harrison County deputies told me that Garcia was traveling between 95 and 105 miles per hour during the chase and was not concerned about the other drivers' safety," Smith County sheriff's Maj. Bobby Garmon said in a story in today's Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Garmon said that when Garcia approached the spikes deployed by Troopers Cpl. Wayne Hellen and Brant Doddy he tried to run over Hellen. Hellen fired five shots at the vehicle's tires.

The chase ended when Smith County Deputy James Finch rammed the truck from the rear and caused it to spin out as Garcia tried to cut across the Interstate 20 median.

The DPS said Garcia resisted arrest as he was being removed from the truck.

Garcia was in the Smith County Jail on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, unlawful carrying of a weapon, two counts of aggravated assault on a public servant with a deadly weapon, evading arrest and a warrant out of Dallas County for possession of a controlled substance.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Caregiving daughter resents dad's attempts to control her

DEAR ABBY: I am a 34-year-old woman who recently started dating a 40-year-old man I'll call Vince. We get along great and like each other very much.

The problem is my 83-year-old father. When Mom passed away last year, I was chosen to move back home to look after him. Suddenly I have a curfew — which I ignore — and Dad doesn't like me going out with Vince.

If this continues, it will ruin a potential relationship before it has a chance to develop. How can I convince my father I am no longer a child and should be allowed to live my own life while I'm still young enough to have one? — **UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR UNDER HOUSE ARREST: Your father is well aware that you are not a child. I don't know his mental status, but it appears he does not want to lose a companion and housekeeper he can control.

I don't know who chose you to be your father's primary caregiver, but unless you put your foot down now, you will be taking orders from everyone until your father dies.

Work out a reasonable schedule with your siblings or a caretaking service so that you have enough private time for a life of your own. The alternative is your father being cared for by a full-time professional caregiver, and you moving out on your own.

**

DEAR ABBY: A co-worker sent me an invitation to a party celebrating her son's graduation from college. The envelope was addressed with a computer mailing label.

The party fell on a day I work, so I didn't even consider attending. I have never met the young man and have no social relationship with his mother. My initial reaction was to ignore the whole thing, but my wife thought I should send a gift of money as a matter of courtesy — which I did.

Here's the clincher: I received a thank-you note written in my co-worker's handwriting! What do you make of this, Abby? — **PERPLEXED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR PERPLEXED: It's sad, really, because it shows the extent to which your co-worker has failed as a parent. The man's mother appears to be in complete control of her son's social life — from who will attend his graduation party to acknowledging his gifts. Expressing gratitude for a gift is something her son should have learned by the age of 10.

**

DEAR ABBY: "Going Coconuts" complained that she and her fiance are having a Hawaiian-themed wedding and had received an invitation to a pre-wedding potluck luau at the home of her future brother and sister-in-law. She felt hurt and angry because they had "stolen" her theme. You sided with her.

I disagree. Her future in-laws may have been only trying to extend the theme of the wedding. "Coconuts" needs to remember that you don't marry just the man — you also marry the family. This is no time to start a feud. If she doesn't attend the party, she'll be starting off on the wrong foot with her fiance's family.

I think you — and "Coconuts" — took it the wrong way. — **HAPPY INDIANA IN-LAW**

DEAR HAPPY IN-LAW: I received a stack of letters from readers echoing your sentiments. I did not consider that the brother and sister-in-law might simply be applying the theme of the wedding rather than co-opting it. It would have been better had I offered the bride-to-be a dose of cool reality rather than a soft shoulder. I hope my advice didn't pour cold water on a hot party. Mea culpa.

**

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

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 07-29-02
♠ A J 8 3
♥ K J 2
♦ K J 5
♣ 5 3 2

West
♠ 6
♥ 10 6 5 3
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A K Q 10 6

East
♠ 7
♥ A 9 8 7 4
♦ 9 8 7 4 3
♣ 9 4

South
♠ K Q 10 9 5 4 2
♥ Q
♦ A Q
♣ J 8 7

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

South is in four spades, and West leads the diamond queen. If you were the declarer, what would you do at trick two?

North makes a limit raise, showing four or more trumps and 10-12 support points (counting high-card points and shortage points — here, one for the doubleton diamond).

You have nine tricks: six spades, two diamonds and one club. Your plan should be to take the club finesse. If it wins, no problem. But if it loses, perhaps West won't find the killing heart shift. However, if you start with a round of trumps, East can make the position clear to partner by discarding the heart ace. (True, discarding the club three should work as well, but the heart ace is much more dramatic. That card won't be overlooked by partner.)

You can do better, though. You should win trick one in the dummy and immediately take the club finesse. If it wins, you draw trumps and claim. And here, when it loses, West hasn't seen his partner's eye-opening discard. Perhaps West will plod on in diamonds. Then dummy's club jack will be your 10th trick. But if West is on the ball, he will have noticed his partner's discouraging diamond five at trick one and will find the heart shift by a process of elimination.

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Tuesday, July 30, 2002

Giving both sides a chance for sagacity

By Phillip Alder

Oscar Wilde wrote many sapient pieces, but this is highly debatable: "The man who sees both sides of a question is a man who sees absolutely nothing at all."

Most instructive bridge deals contain a single facet, but occasionally one comes along that gives both sides a chance to glitter.

What's everybuggy buzzing about?

Make a beeline to join us in studying David, a little guy who did big things with God's help!

Bug Safari

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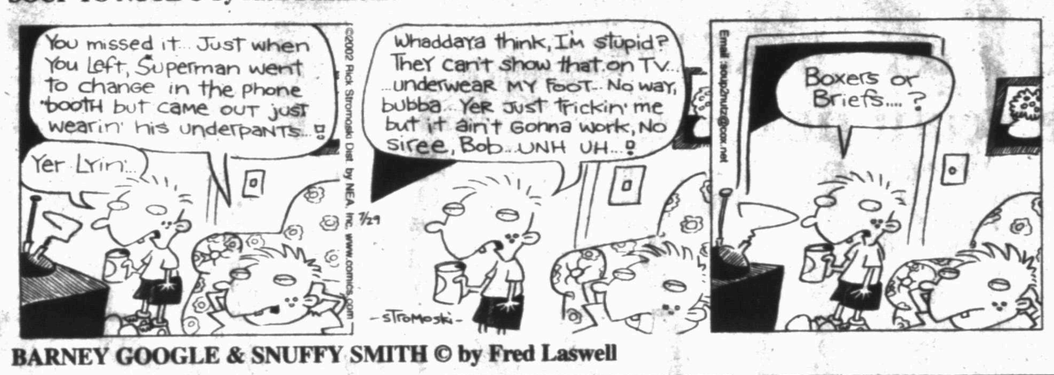

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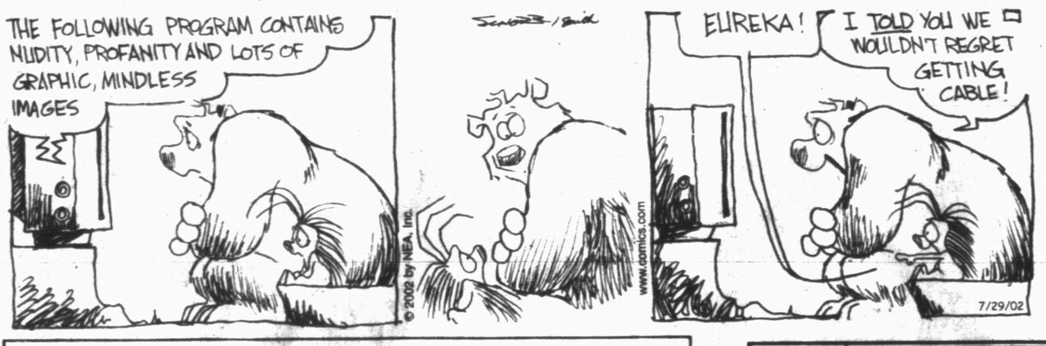

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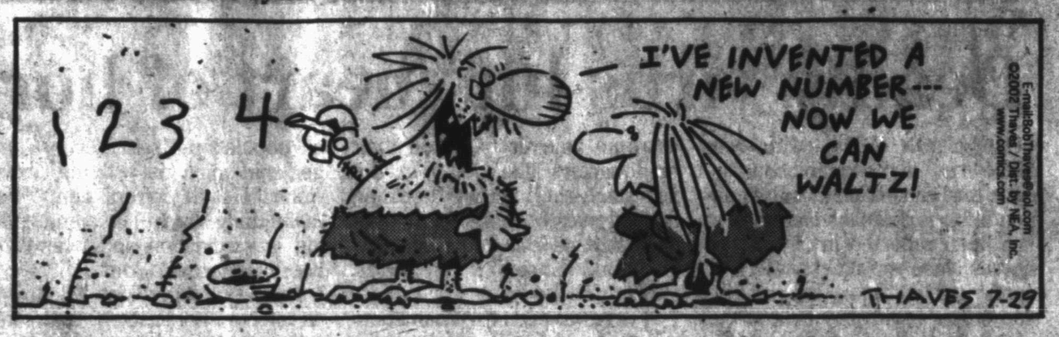

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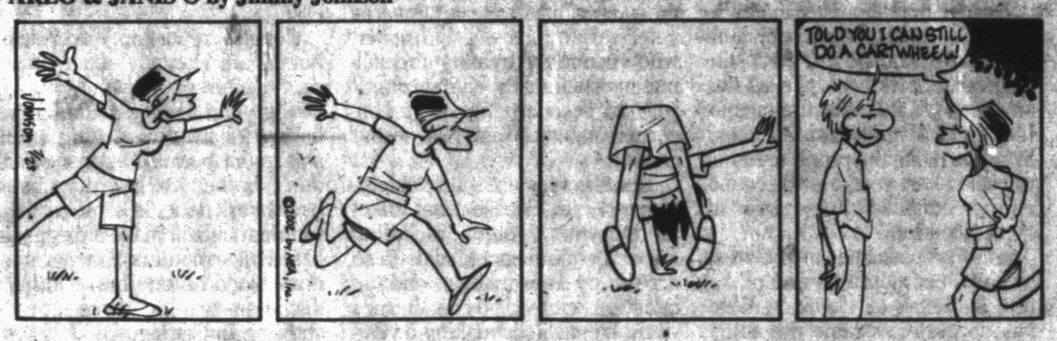

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"Have you finished with the financial section?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Bother
4 Thicken
7 Suitcase
10 High dudgeon
11 Light bulb filler
13 Do the wrong thing
14 Raggedy doll
15 "— Sue"
16 MD's org.
17 Aerie builders
19 Crummy
21 Hearty laugh
22 No, in Paris
23 — onto (seizes)
26 Backed out
30 Grasslands
31 Young wolf
32 Hagen of films
33 Snort of disgust
34 Above, to a bard
35 Ounce fraction
36 Heaped up
39 Be frugal
40 Possess
41 Aurora, to Socrates
42 Jot down
45 Usual practices
48 Facilitate
49 Set free
51 Fraternity letter
53 Sorbet
54 Automotive jobs
55 Paddle cousin
56 Afternoon social
57 Closet need
58 Duo

DOWN

1 By means of
2 Osprey kin
3 TV's Warrior Princess
4 Euclid or Plato
5 Scrambled —
6 Cut timber
7 Admirer
8 Octopi have eight
9 Cloudy
11 High mark (hyph.)
12 Synthetic fabric
18 Fitness centers
20 — -man band
22 Corn Belt st.
23 Morose
24 Toy-block brand
25 Don Ho's home
26 Regretted
27 Hindu teacher
28 Airline guesses
29 Knight's wife
31 "Fargo" director
33 Hubby of Lucy
37 "Positively —!"
38 Reside
39 Pajama coverers
41 Mitigated
42 Stick around
43 Pilaf base
44 Glimmering
45 Drifter
46 Slow run
47 News anchor Bernard —
50 Royal pronoun
52 Cortes' quest

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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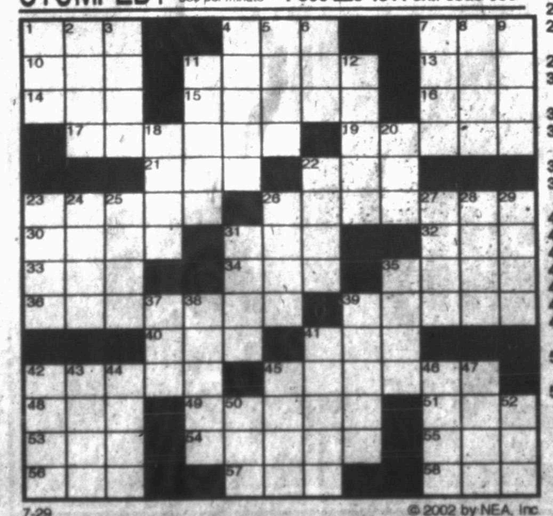

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

SPORTS

Ekuban ready to return for Dallas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Ebenezer Ekuban didn't enjoy his season as a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader.

After injuring his back in the first half of last year's opener and having surgery, Ekuban didn't play again. All the Cowboys' No. 1 pick of 1999 could do was watch as his teammates struggled to another 5-11 record and he lost his starting job.

"There are no words that can describe the frustration that you go through, especially just sitting there," Ekuban said. "Being a cheerleader instead of being a participant, that was the hardest part."

Ekuban is fully recovered from the herniated disc. But he is in training camp working on the second team at right defensive end behind Peppi Zellner, who had a breakthrough season after replacing him.

In most cases, coach Dave Campo doesn't believe in starters losing their jobs because of injury. But Zellner had 51 tackles and 22 quarterback pressures to become a solid force on defense.

When Campo talked to Ekuban during the offseason, the coach said it didn't seem right for Zellner to be taken out of the starter's role after a great season. Ekuban agreed.

"I said let him be the starter and let me earn my job back. And that's what we are doing now," Ekuban said. "Peppi is doing a tremendous job. He's making my task very hard trying to get my job back, but I'm pushing him and he is going to keep pushing me."

Zellner (6-foot-5, 285 pounds) and Ekuban (6-3, 265) were part of the same Cowboys draft class. Ekuban was the 20th overall pick out of North Carolina, and Zellner was a fourth-round pick from Fort Valley State.

"Peppi was raw, a lot more than Ebenezer coming in," Campo said. "He's made good progress. He's a very physical player and gives you that tenacity and that toughness, a little bit on the edge doing everything it takes to win."

Zellner spent most of his first two seasons on special teams, but missed the last month of 2000 after knee surgery. Ekuban, meanwhile, established himself as one of the team's top pass rushers and led the team with 61/2 sacks in 2000 despite starting just two games.

Ekuban went into last season as the starter opposite right end Greg Ellis, the No. 1 pick of 1998 who had been Ekuban's teammate at North Carolina. While that ended because of the injury, he's not worried about getting hurt again.

"My mindset is to just go out there and don't worry about getting hurt," Ekuban said. "I'm not going to play hesitant. All I can control is going out there when I'm healthy and doing the job to the best of my capabilities. That's all I'm worried about."

The competition for the starting job should make both players better, and only help the Cowboys. No matter which player ends up as the starter, Ekuban and Zellner will both get plenty of playing time.

"You can't lose with either one of them. Both guys are high energy and they have a lot of talent," said defensive ends coach Jim Jeffcoat. "It's going to be a great battle."

SPIKE — Snyder's Chaelyn Robinson goes up for the kill during Lady Tiger volleyball action last fall. Local players start honing their skills for this season Wednesday at Snyder Volleyball Camp. This year will be the Lady Tigers' first under new head coach Laura Moses. (SDN Staff Photo)

Gray fires 66 to top junior field

Stafford Gray fired the low round of the day to earn the title of the Scurry County Golf Association Junior Championship.

Gray, a senior at Snyder High School, carded a 6-under-par 66 to win the 15-17 age division. Tanner Bloom was runner-up with an 88.

Blake Seale won a three-player playoff to take top honors in the 13-14 age group. Seale, Wes Chandler and Matthew Schoolcraft turned in matching scores of 99 to force the extra holes.

Chandler took second behind Seale, with Schoolcraft finishing third. Ryne Trout came in with a 113 to finish fourth in the flight.

In the 10-year-old division, Remmington Bloom tallied a 53 to take the top slot.

Robbie Rinehart fired a 40 to win the eight-year-old group.

First place in the six-year-old division went to Logan Rinehart with a 54.

Gray, Rinehart team up to win adult-child event

SHS senior Stafford Gray and eight-year-old Robbie Rinehart teamed up to claim top honors Saturday at the SCGA Adult-Child Golf Tournament.

In the point system format, Gray and Rinehart tallied 110 points to earn the victory. Gray also teamed up with Harold Lacik to grab second place with 88 points. Mark and Blake Seale were third with 84, and Pete Greene and Alan Gray took fourth with 81.

In the second flight, Logan Rinehart paired with Stafford Gray to secure first place with 72 points. Don and Wes Chandler were runners-up with 70, and Kathy and Tanner Bloom tallied 67 to take third.

In the third flight, Barbara and Lonnie Leatherwood finished in a first-place tie with John and Remmington Bloom. Both teams accumulated 64 points. Third place went to Richard and Ryne Trout with 50.

Astros shut out Pirates again

HOUSTON (AP) — Losing a season-high six in a row and suffering a four- game sweep was bad enough, but being shut out three of the four games in hitter-friendly Minute Maid Park was particularly troubling to Pittsburgh's Kevin Young.

"The big thing is being shut out three times in a hitters park," Young said after Wade Miller and four relievers combined on a five-hitter as the Houston Astros shut out the Pirates 4-0 Sunday.

Houston has won nine of its last 11 games.

"As tough as losing has been on us as a team, getting shutout three times is hard to take. We had good starting pitching, we just didn't give them an opportunity to win," Young said. "It's kind of snowballing. It takes its toll on you when you go out and play as hard as we have."

Houston outscored Pittsburgh 19-3 in the series sweep. The Pirates hadn't been shut out three times in four games since 1986.

"The Astros are playing well. They have had great defense, timely hitting and good pitching. It's been the opposite for us. We've pitched pretty well, but we didn't swing the bats like we are capable of. That will haunt you," Pittsburgh manager Lloyd McClendon.

Kirk Saarloos won the opener of the series 8-0 Thursday, and Roy Oswalt and Billy Wagner combined on a 3-0 victory Saturday. Houston has five shutouts on the season.

Miller (8-3) won his fifth straight since coming off the disabled list May 29. He allowed four hits and three walks in five innings before leaving with right biceps fatigue.

Pete Munro, Pedro Borbon, Ricky Stone and Octavio Dotel finished the game.

Houston manager Jimy Williams credits pitching a defense with Houston's recent success.

"This has been pretty impressive pitching. The reason is that we are getting strike one a lot and we are playing good defense," Williams said. "Whenever you throw a lot of eggs on the wall it means your pitching is good and your defense is strong."

Craig Biggio agrees with Williams' analysis.

"The pitching staff has done a nice job, we are scoring just enough runs amd we are making some big defensive plays," Biggio said.

Kip Wells (10-8) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings to record the loss.

"That's the way this game goes. Teams go through stretches when they a struggling offensively. We're in one of those funks now," Wells said.

Jose Vizcaino led off the game for Houston with a single and scored on Biggio's double in the gap in left-center. Biggio moved to third on a groundout and came home on a wild pitch by Wells for a 2-0 lead.

Miller worked out of trouble early. The Pirates loaded the bases in the first and third innings and put a runner in scoring position in the second.

"I thought we had their guy on the ropes early, but we couldn't get the two-out hits," McClendon lamented.

Miller is optimistic about Houston's future.

"I think we are coming around a lot. Our hitting is coming around and our rotation is set. We have a pretty strong bull pen too," Miller said.

Wells settled down after the opening two batters, allowing just three hits and no runs after the opening two hits.

Brad Ausmus and Barry Wesson added RBI singles in the seventh for Houston to make it 4-0.

Sports Briefs

Football booster club

Snyder Tiger Football Booster Club meets Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. at the SHS athletic film room. The public is encouraged to attend.

Volleyball camp

Snyder Volleyball Camp for junior high and high school players begins Wednesday and runs through Friday. Lean Ann Roberts, head coach at Veribest High School, will serve as director.

Junior high players will work out from 2-4 p.m., while freshmen practice from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sophomores, juniors and seniors will go through drills from 8-10 a.m. and again from 5-7 p.m.

Cost is $20 for junior high and freshman athletes and $30 for upperclassmen. To register, call Coach Roberts at (915) 486-2660 or SHS coach Laura Moses at 573-8531.

Softball tournament

The USSSA Men's Class E State Softball Tournament is set for Aug. 9-11 at Winston Field. Cost is $175 per team and deadline to enter is Aug. 8.

To enter, call Chris Maxfield at 573-6862 (day) or 573-4332 (evening).

Blowout partnership tournament

The 14th annual Blowout Partnership is set for Aug. 17-18 at the country club. Entry fee is $300 per team and deadline to register is Aug. 10.

Format is scramble the first day and lowball for the final round. Teams will be pre-flighted by certified combined handicaps. Each flight will receive cash prizes.

Junior golf tournament

The Western Texas College Junior Golf Championship is scheduled for Aug. 9. Entry fee is $10 for players 11-under and $15 for ages 12-up. For more information, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

Cargile golf tournament

The Kiwanis Cargile Scholarship Foundation benefit Golf Tournament is set for Aug. 10 at Western Texas College. Format is four-person scramble and cost is $30 per player.

Cash prizes will go to the top four teams. Contests for closest-to-the-hole, longest drive and hole-in-one will be held. To register, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

SISD athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals are all incoming seventh and ninth grade athletes, students new to SISD athletics, athletes in their third year of high school, and all students who answered "yes" to questions 1, 4, 5, 6 or 7 on their medical history form.

The school district pays for physicals through Friday with the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Wolboldt and NP Beth Ashley. Incoming seventh and ninth graders can pick up physical forms in the doctors' offices.

WGA weekly play day

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly play day each Tuesday at 9 a.m. Format is blind partners.

Sunday couples tournament

A couples golf tournament will be held the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 at the country club golf course.

Major League Baseball

National League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	67	38	.638	—
New York	54	50	.519	12½
Montreal	52	53	.495	15
Florida	51	54	.486	16
Philadelphia	49	55	.471	17½
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
St. Louis	58	44	.569	—
Cincinnati	54	50	.519	5
Houston	53	51	.510	6
Pittsburgh	47	58	.448	12½
Chicago	44	59	.427	14½
Milwaukee	38	67	.362	21½
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Arizona	64	41	.610	—
Los Angeles	59	46	.562	5
San Francisco	58	47	.552	6
Colorado	48	57	.457	16
San Diego	43	62	.410	21

Saturday's Games
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3
Cincinnati 2, N.Y. Mets 1, 11 innings
Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 3
Arizona 4, San Diego 3
Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 1
Florida 7, Montreal 2
Milwaukee 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings
Houston 3, Pittsburgh 0

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 1
N.Y. Mets 6, Cincinnati 5
Montreal 4, Florida 1
Milwaukee 5, Colorado 3
Houston 4, Pittsburgh 0
San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 1
Arizona 5, San Diego 4, 10 innings
St. Louis 10, Chicago Cubs 9

Monday's Games
No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games
Colorado (Chacon 5-7) at Pittsburgh (Beimel 1-5), 7:05 p.m.
Arizona (Batista 5-7) at Montreal (Vazquez 8-6), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Benes 0-3) at Florida (Tejera 6-3), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Rueter 8-6) at Philadelphia (Myers 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Mlicki 3-6) at N.Y. Mets (Estes 3-8), 7:10 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ishii 12-6) at Cincinnati (Moehler 1-0), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Quevedo 6-7) at Atlanta (Moss 6-4), 7:35 p.m.
San Diego (BJJones 7-5) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 4-3), 8:05 p.m.

American League
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	65	38	.631	—
Boston	61	42	.592	4
Baltimore	48	53	.475	16
Toronto	44	58	.431	20½
Tampa Bay	33	70	.320	32
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	64	42	.604	—
Chicago	50	56	.472	14
Cleveland	45	58	.437	17½
Kansas City	43	61	.413	20
Detroit	40	63	.388	22½
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Anaheim	62	41	.602	—
Seattle	63	42	.600	—
Oakland	60	45	.571	3
Texas	44	60	.423	18½

Saturday's Games
Seattle 3, Anaheim 1
Boston 4, Baltimore 0
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 4
Minnesota 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings
Detroit 5, Cleveland 1
Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 1
Texas 10, Oakland 6, 10 innings

Sunday's Games
Boston 12, Baltimore 3
Cleveland 9, Detroit 6
N.Y. Yankees 9, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 4, Toronto 0
Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 2
Anaheim 1, Seattle 0
Oakland 12, Texas 2

Monday's Games
Baltimore (Driskill 6-4) at Tampa Bay (P.Wilson 2-7), 7:15 p.m.
Toronto (Carpenter 4-1) at Kansas City (Byrd 13-7), 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (O.Hernandez 5-3) at Texas (Rogers 11-5), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (Fossum 2-1) at Anaheim (Sele 8-7), 10:05 p.m.
Detroit (Lima 2-4) at Seattle (Garcia 11-7), 10:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Wright 0-1) at Oakland (Hudson 7-9), 10:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Detroit (Maroth 3-3) at Seattle (Halama 5-3), 6:35 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (D.Wells 11-5) at Texas (Myette 0-2), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 13-7) at Minnesota (Lohse 10-5), 8:05 p.m.
Toronto (Walker 3-2) at Kansas City (Asencio 2-3), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (P.Martinez 13-2) at Anaheim (Ortiz 9-7), 10:05 p.m.

Armstrong rides to fourth victory

PARIS (AP) — Before long, Lance Armstrong will begin training for No. 5.

Holding a glass of champagne during the final stage, Armstrong won his fourth straight Tour de France on Sunday. The commanding victory of more than seven minutes proved yet again he is the master of one of the most punishing tests in all sports.

The 30-year-old Texan finished in the main pack as the cyclists completed the 20th stage from Melun, outside Paris, to the sycamore-lined Champs-Elysees.

With many among the thousands of fans waving U.S. flags, Armstrong moved within one victory of the Tour record of five titles. He is the winningest American in the event, having passed Greg LeMond's three titles. No Tour de France rider who has won four titles has failed to win a fifth.

"Of course, I'll try to win by preparing," Armstrong said Sunday, speaking in French on TV. "But cycling is always complicated, and it's always difficult to reach the highest level."

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Wreckage from 1950 crash found

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. investigators searching for the remains of two CIA pilots killed in a plane crash 50 years ago in China's northeast said today they found wreckage but no bodies.

An aging witness led the U.S. Army team to a crash site, and officials planned to test debris found there to see if it was from the C-47 that was shot down on Nov. 29, 1952, during a mission to pick up an anti-communist Chinese agent.

Team members said they would take the debris and photos and measurements of the site back to the United States for study, and decide later whether to continue the search in China.

"We will need more investigation," said Aaron Lehl, a civilian analyst for the eight-member team from the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

Lehl said he knew of no other American planes missing in that hilly, wooded area. So if the debris is shown to be U.S.-made aircraft parts, "then we are very hopeful that this is the aircraft that went down on that evening," he said at a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

The team searched for shallow graves where a 78-year-old Chinese villager said he helped to bury the badly burned bodies of the pilots near the crash site, but "we did not find any remains," said Franklin Damann, an anthropologist.

The CIA plane was shot down near the North Korean border in the region formerly known as Manchuria. Its pilots — Robert C. Snoddy of Eugene, Ore., and Norman A. Schwartz of Louisville, Ky. — were killed and two CIA officers aboard who survived the crash were captured and spent two decades in Chinese prisons.

John T. Downey of Connecticut and Richard G. Fecteau were held until President Nixon publicly acknowledged they were CIA officers.

Chinese and U.S. forces were fighting on opposing sides in the Korean War, and the CIA was trying to undermine the fledgling Chinese communist government.

The CIA plane took off from an airfield near Seoul, South Korea, and had dropped "extraction equipment" — poles that the plane would use to pick up the Chinese agent, Lehl said. He said the plane circled for about 45 minutes and was coming in for the agent when Chinese forces hit it with .50-caliber machine gun fire.

Lehl said he didn't have any information about the identity or fate of the Chinese agent.

The U.S. team began their search early last week and worked through the weekend. They were guided to the site by the villager who they said was the last survivor of a group that arrived about six hours after the crash and buried the pilots' bodies.

The team had to cross a rushing, rain-swollen stream using a sling chair strung on a cable set up by Chinese authorities. They said the Chinese farmer was too frail to cross the stream, but was close enough to point out the crash site.

"We did find ... a nice tight pocket of 20 (to) 30 meters of aircraft wreckage," said Damann.

The team used metal detectors to search a 300-square-foot area and dug test pits looking for debris, he said.

Damann said none of the items found bore any serial numbers that would confirm it was from a C-47 or markings from the aircraft manufacturer, McDonnell Douglas.

China's agreement to let the U.S. Defense Department to search the site was the first time that Beijing has cooperated on a search for the remains of Americans who died in China during the Cold War.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said this month that China decided to permit the search to promote "friendship between the two peoples and in a humanitarian spirit."

The Pentagon and advocates for the missing hope that China will provide more information about the fate of others, including U.S. soldiers captured by Chinese troops during the 1950-53 Korean War. An estimated 8,100 U.S. servicemen are missing from that war.

About 20 Americans who disappeared in China during the Cold War are still missing, according to Benjamin Wong, a member of the search team and an official of the Pentagon's office for prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

Pilot error cited in Ukraine crash

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — The bright sun lighting their grim faces, hundreds of family members and survivors gathered today for a memorial ceremony on the charred Ukrainian airstrip where a military jet plowed into air show spectators, killing at least 83.

Also, the country's top prosecutor said pilot error and irresponsible planning likely caused the crash.

Prosecutor General Sviatoslav Piskun said the Su-27 was flying too low before Saturday's crash in western Lviv and organizers should not have allowed stunts to be performed directly over spectators.

"As of now, we may surely say that it was military negligence," he said in the capital, Kiev. "Also there were signs of criminal actions by pilots. They used this vehicle incorrectly."

Other possible causes include mechanical failure of the 15-year-old plane and terrorism, Piskun said. The two pilots originally planned to use another Su-27 for the show but it was replaced at the last minute, he said.

Ukraine's air force commander and a top officer were detained, the plane's two pilots were under investigation and the country's defense minister submitted his resignation.

All of Ukraine, a France-sized former Soviet republic of 50 million people, held a day of mourning today for the victims of the world's deadliest air show accident. Television stations canceled entertainment programming and black ribbons were tied around flagpoles in Kiev.

Eighty-three people, including 23 children, were killed and 116 people were injured, according to the Emergency Situations Ministry. Seventy-two bodies were identified by today.

The first funerals were held today.

Relatives of the dead and spectators who survived the disaster, clutching carnations and handkerchiefs, streamed today into the Sknyliv air base for a brief memorial ceremony led by Ukrainian Orthodox clerics singing songs and reading prayers. One woman held a candle.

Flowers were strewn around the singed turf where the fighter jet exploded in a huge ball of fire. The site was cordoned off by security officials.

The jet was performing a risky maneuver at low altitude when it nicked the ground, sliced off the nose of a plane on the ground and roared through a crowd of hundreds of spectators. The pilots catapulted and survived.

"The plane started killing people as it was coming in," said Ivan Kravchenko, who saw the crash from about 50 yards away. "I thought, 'It's flying too low over people. This is not a good stunt.'"

He said his grandson, 4-year-old Vitaly, asked him later, "Grandpa, is that what's supposed to happen?"

Raisa Volodymyrova was standing next to the Il-76MD that was clipped by the Su-27.

"There were piles and piles of people around me. There was a body of a child lying on me," she recalled tearfully at today's ceremony.

At a chapel next door to Lviv's central morgue, where refrigerated trucks continued delivering bodies, a funeral service was held for Oleh Scherdynyn, who was watching the show with four friends and was to be married soon.

His mother was overcome by grief and left 15 minutes into the Greek Catholic service in the dilapidated, dim church. A young female relative fainted.

The accident was the latest blow for Ukraine's cash-starved military.

Defense Minister Vladimir Shkidchenko submitted his resignation Sunday, which was being considered by President Leonid Kuchma. Shkidchenko's predecessor was fired after a Ukrainian missile accidentally downed a Russian passenger jet over the Black Sea.

Air Force Commander Gen. Col. Vladimir Strelnikov and Lt. Col. S. Opyshchak were fired by Kuchma and detained on suspicion of "negligent attitude to military service that led to grave consequences," the Prosecutor General's Office said. Kuchma also fired the chief of the general staff.

A court will decide whether to arrest the two pilots after they recover from their injuries, prosecutors said.

Toxic hay another problem for farmers

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — As drought deepens around the country, farmers in Montana hoping to salvage damaged grain fields for hay are being warned to be careful.

State agriculture officials say the hot, dry weather can make some of the remaining plants toxic to cattle by raising nitrate levels.

Already this year, many of the field and laboratory tests showed elevated nitrate levels in small grains — barley and wheat, for example — that producers grew and now intend to hay.

For producers already hit hard by drought, it's just one more thing to deal with.

"I'm at the point of, 'What's next?' I think we all are," farmer Bill Icenoggle said.

Under normal growing conditions, nitrogen is taken from the soil by plants as nitrate, which the plants convert to protein. But when plants are stressed — exposed to extreme heat or cold, for example — nitrate is accumulated faster than it can be converted.

That leads to levels that can sicken cattle, cause them to abort their calves or even kill them, agriculture officials say.

Concern with the potential for nitrate poisoning, though hardly new, has intensified in recent years on Montana farms and ranches because of drought conditions.

Icenoggle's cattle and grain farm in north-central Montana has gotten little rain since spring. If that doesn't change soon, he's worried he'll end up in the same situation as last year — with tons of high-nitrate oat hay he can't feed his cattle without mixing it with healthier forage.

Producers often can blend elevated-nitrate hay with other forage, making it safe to feed cattle. In extreme cases, farmers have had to plow under their fields or burn hay with dangerous nitrate levels.

"Testing before you cut can save you from making a big mistake," said Darren Crawford, the Glacier County agent. "If you burn it, what a waste. Not only of hay but also of money and time spent haying and stacking."

High nitrate has been reported in cereal grains such as barley, oats and wheat, as well as sudangrass and, sometimes, alfalfa, said Dennis Cash, the extension forage crop specialist at Montana State University.

The effect on cattle varies with an animal's consumption and its tolerance level, Cash said. Symptoms of nitrate poisoning can set in within hours, even minutes, depending on the amount of forage ingested, officials say. Those symptoms include watery eyes and muscle tremors.

Because the drought is widespread, farmers looking to buy hay are being advised to ask for a nitrate test from sellers.

"In the last couple years, we've had lots of hay come in and we're not always sure of the quality," Cash said. "My number one concern, especially if it is cereal or sudangrass hay, is to request a nitrate test," he said. "If it's hot, it's not worth the money or potential loss of cows or calves."

Requesting a nitrate test is standard business practice for farmer Dean Peterson, who said he'll likely have to buy at least 200 tons of hay this year.

"I thought we were in better shape than last year until that hot spell speeded up the dry-out," Peterson said. "We'll manage. We just have to adapt. We've been adapting for four years now."

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Garlic creates stinky problem

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a question regarding the use of garlic that I hope you can answer. I am aware of the benefits of including garlic in one's diet, and I have been taking an odorless garlic supplement daily for about a year. I have been made aware of the fact that my body and breath emanate a garlic odor. Is there anything I can do to counteract this odor? — **T.M., San Diego, Calif.**

Dear T.M.: I consider food to be the best and most "tasteful" way to add garlic to the diet, but I realize that not all foods benefit from its unique flavor. In addition, many people do not appreciate the odor that frequently follows a meal containing garlic. The characteristic odor of garlic comes as its components disburse throughout in the body. When they travel to the lungs, these compounds give rise to "garlic breath," and, when they reach the skin, an odor becomes noticeable — especially during perspiration. These factors help explain why brushing one's teeth or even taking breath mints might be ineffective in hiding the smell.

Chewing on a few sprigs of fresh parsley along with garlicky food can help tame the immediate problem for some. But, as time goes by, the telltale effects of the herb known as the "stinking rose" can bloom once again. Different people react to garlic differently, so the need for assistance, and the degree to which remedies work, can vary.

Many kinds of garlic supplements are now available in health food stores. Capsules often contain an oil extract of garlic, but they do not prevent odor. All they do is delay its presence until the garlic goes through the body. Your problem, however, is that you are taking a supposedly "odorless" garlic supplement and you still experience these problems. It might be worthwhile to try changing to another brand. You might consider a deodorized, aged garlic extract, which appears to offer similar health benefits to whole-clove garlic.

Aside from its culinary assets, there is research that garlic has a number of beneficial health effects. Some studies have found that garlic can lower blood pressure and help decrease elevated cholesterol levels. Garlic is also known to decrease the tendency of the blood to clot, so its use in individuals with heart disease or those with blood-clotting disorders needs to be monitored by a physician. There is also some concern that garlic can interfere with saquinavir, a medication used to treat HIV/AIDS. When in doubt, it is always best to consult a health professional.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I was sitting at my desk, eating canned, sliced peaches and looking at the nutrition label, and I wondered how to cut some calories. In products like canned fruit and tuna, which are packed in juice or oil, respectively, does the calories per serving include the calories from the liquid? If I drained most of the juice or oil off the food before eating it, approximately how many calories (or fat grams, if appropriate) would be saved? — **N.B., Contra Costa County, Calif.**

Dear N.B.: The Nutrition Facts panel describes the portion upon which the numbers are based. If there is no qualification, it can be assumed that this portion includes the entire contents. In this case, it would be 1 cup of the peaches plus the juice. You, of course, have the option of draining the juice to avoid some of the sugar calories. You can also decrease sugar and carbohydrate calories by using fresh fruits or fruits packed in water, juice or light syrup rather than those packed in heavy syrup. You can do the same with tuna by draining the oil — or, even better, using a water-packed brand of tuna.

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	11.20	10.52	11.17	+ .77
AOL TimeWrn	11.53	10.91	11.30	+ .40
AT&T Corp	9.35	9.15	9.33	+ .19
Albertsons	29.42	28.58	29.27	+ .52
Alltel	37.73	36.94	37.59	+ .66
AmEl Pw	30.30	29.51	29.82	+ .52
AndarkPtr	41.80	41.07	41.67	+ 1.07
ATMOS Egy	21.20	20.65	21.06	+ .26
Aviall	12.79	12.06	12.75	+ .69
BP PLC	44.59	43.94	44.32	+ 1.78
BakerHughes	27.78	26.80	27.41	+ .85
Bank of Amer	63.70	61.88	63.40	+ 1.75
BellSouth	24.01	23.50	23.80	+ .48
BurlNoSFe	29.05	28.56	28.96	+ .36
Caterpillar	45.90	44.00	45.64	+ 2.09
ChevronTex	72.81	71.51	72.50	+ 1.69
Citigroup	33.25	31.30	32.86	+ 2.12
CocaCola	49.20	47.87	49.14	+ 1.69
ColgatePal	52.03	50.69	51.79	+ 1.54
CmclMetals s	19.16	18.88	18.98	+ .27
Cooper Inds	28.59	28.00	28.49	+ .54
DaimlrChry	43.68	42.71	43.54	+ 1.89
DeltaAirl	15.22	14.59	15.15	+ .94
Dillards Inc	25.25	23.75	25.18	+ 1.43
DowChem	30.48	29.45	30.24	+ .79
DuPont	43.48	42.10	43.15	+ 1.27
EastmanChem	44.45	43.19	43.84	+ 1.18
EstKodak	30.00	28.92	29.65	+ 1.05
EDS Corp	33.92	32.45	33.90	+ 1.80
Entergy	37.28	36.45	36.75	+ .20
ExxonMobil	36.01	35.15	35.88	+ .79
FootLocker	11.55	11.20	11.51	+ .36
GenDynam	85.40	84.00	84.00	—.70
GenElec	29.91	28.49	29.56	+ 1.76
GenMills	40.37	40.05	40.29	+ .44
GenMotors	48.58	43.40	46.49	+ 3.44
GaPacific	23.20	22.16	23.14	+ 1.94
Goodrich	22.24	21.86	22.11	+ .51
Goodyear	17.31	16.82	17.31	+ .86
GtAtlPac	16.35	15.55	16.01	+ .82
Halliburtn	13.57	13.10	13.40	+ .42
Hanson ADS	29.91	29.32	29.32	+ 1.61
HarteHanks s	19.02	18.40	18.98	+ .78
HomeDepot	30.76	29.30	30.32	+ 1.02
Honeywellntl	32.66	31.45	32.40	+ 1.75
IBM	70.37	68.00	69.67	+ 3.27
IntlPaper	39.90	39.00	39.81	+ 1.16
JohnsonJn	50.11	49.65	49.74	+ .13
vyK mart	.67	.62	.67	+ .05
KinderMorg	38.72	37.99	38.51	+ 1.97
Kroger Co	19.93	19.27	19.87	+ .62
LockheedM	62.25	60.35	61.54	+ 1.42
Lowes Cos	37.74	35.95	37.30	+ 1.71
Lubys	6.18	6.05	6.18	+ .13
LucentTech	1.63	1.52	1.58	+ .05
MarathonOil	22.85	22.35	22.77	+ .61
MayDeptStr	30.40	29.38	30.36	+ 1.10
Medtronic	38.24	37.65	37.92	+ .67
Motorola	12.00	11.11	11.47	+ .57
NCR Corp	25.20	23.50	25.06	+ 2.06
Navistar	27.23	25.77	26.86	+ 1.60
PNM Rescs	19.50	19.11	19.18	—.02
Penney JC	18.10	17.51	18.01	+ .46
PepBoys	13.40	12.95	13.40	+ .40
PepsiCo	41.50	40.35	41.12	+ .92
Pharmacia	42.50	41.61	42.16	+ 1.16
PhelpDodge	35.05	34.75	35.00	+ 1.08
PhilipPet	48.95	47.93	48.84	+ 1.35
PilgrmPrd B	11.24	11.17	11.17	—.07
Praxair	53.90	52.05	53.87	+ 2.31
ProctGamb	86.87	84.46	86.87	+ 2.67
RadioShack	26.68	25.71	26.61	+ 1.40
ReliantEngy	9.50	8.55	8.93	+ .03
RoyalDut	43.92	43.45	43.75	+ 1.04
SBC Comm	26.85	25.98	26.20	—.05
SaraLee	18.20	17.86	18.20	+ .41
Scripps EW	75.30	74.49	75.24	+ 1.00
SearsRoeb	48.96	47.80	48.73	+ 1.56
SherwinW	28.35	27.25	28.25	+ .86
SouthernCo	27.15	26.39	26.57	—.07
SwstAirl	13.23	12.80	13.12	+ .99
SprintFON	7.45	6.80	7.21	+ .16
SprintPCS	3.49	3.10	3.34	+ .34
Sunoco Inc	34.83	34.10	34.58	+ .95
TXU Corp	41.25	40.28	40.67	+ .07
TempleInland	54.58	53.35	54.41	+ 1.91
TexInd	27.19	26.66	27.15	+ .92
TexasInst	23.35	22.48	22.94	+ .63
Textron	39.00	37.30	38.87	+ 1.75
TrinityInds	18.44	17.90	18.31	+ .55
TylerTech	5.10	4.64	4.80	+ .12
UnionPacif	58.55	57.80	58.38	+ 1.38
USSteel	16.75	16.22	16.70	+ .70
UnitedTech	68.46	66.30	68.35	+ 2.56
Unocal	31.54	30.54	31.51	+ 1.03
VerizonComm	30.11	29.60	30.01	+ 1.23
WalMart	49.41	47.60	48.97	+ .79
WellsFargo	49.00	48.26	48.66	+ .96
WstnGasRs	29.99	29.05	29.99	+ 1.69
WinnDixie	15.61	15.41	15.60	+ .21
Xerox Cp	6.70	6.41	6.45	+ .08
YumBrands s	29.89	29.40	29.53	+ .31

JUL 29 2002

Interest in potential candidates growing

NEW YORK (AP) — Centrist Democrats' interest in the economic messages of potential presidential candidates has grown because the shifting political landscape has convinced many that their party's nominee could actually have a chance in the 2004 presidential race.

Those at the annual meeting of the Democratic Leadership Council, or DLC, were due to hear from five of the potential candidates over the next two days. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry were set to speak today. House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards were expected Tuesday.

Former Vice President Al Gore, the 2000 Democratic nominee, and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean were not coming.

The corporate accounting scandal and struggling economy have raised Democratic hopes.

"This is not just a beauty contest," New Hampshire state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro said. "There is a strong feeling that we could win in '04."

Lieberman, who was Gore's running mate, arrived in New York early to meet with delegations from such early caucus and primary states as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina and meet with reporters.

He said Gore told him recently that "he has not decided to run. It was a 50-50 matter."

Gore's absence was noted disapprovingly by some Democrats. "It's a little surprising," said D'Allesandro, who said he considers Gore a good friend. "He seems to be speaking out more, though."

Some DLC officials have criticized Gore's 2000 campaign for taking a tone they considered too populist on the economy.

Lieberman said he and Gore ran on a program that was faithful to New Democrat values, but said some of the campaign rhetoric about "the people vs. the powerful" may have sent the wrong message.

"It was not the pro-growth approach," Lieberman said. "It ultimately made it more difficult for us to gain the support of some of the middle class, independent voters who don't see America as 'us vs. them,' but more in (President) Kennedy's terms of a rising tide lifts all boats."

Lieberman said that message was inconsistent with Gore's previous record and "ultimately hurt." He has pledged not to run if Gore does.

Many DLC members said they expect the current economy to change the political landscape for this year's congressional, gubernatorial and local races as well as the 2004 challenge to President Bush.

"I can't help but think the Democrats fight more for small business, everyday people, Republicans are more for the corporate ... bigger business," said Colorado state Rep. Cheri Jahn. "This is going to be huge against the Republican administration."

White House spokesman Scott Stanzel countered: "President Bush has shown great leadership on the economy. He has provided tax relief for all Americans. His corporate fraud task force is cracking down on executives who break the law."

Stanzel said Bush "leadership led to passage of the corporate responsibility bill, which he looks forward to signing into law."

Lieberman said the president "had to be dragged kicking and screaming" to support the measure.

He and other Democrats at the meeting said it's important for the party's candidates to push for accountability without coming across as anti-business.

"They need to remember that we are in the progressive tradition that believes in private enterprise to create opportunity and growth and believes in public activism to make sure that opportunity is widespread," said Al From, founder and chief executive of the DLC. But he said the economy is certain to play a role in upcoming elections.

Enron's top art collection to be sold

HOUSTON (AP) — With an initial budget of $20 million and the blessing of senior management, an in-house art committee at Enron Corp. went on an art-buying spree from late 2000 until last fall, when it became clear the company was headed for disaster.

The committee was under a mandate to assemble a world-class collection of contemporary art, bold pieces that would promote the company's image as a trend-setter in creating new trading markets for enegry, broadband and water.

Today, however, the deal is off. Most of the purchased works are in storage, being readied for sale. And while art lovers lament the loss, others view the spending spree as symbolic of the arrogance of Enron's leadership.

"Here are essentially these crooks who are selling their stock options while not telling Wall Street and their own employees what is going on," said Dr. W. Michael Hoffman, director of the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley College outside Boston.

"To be amassing a collection of art while the ship is sinking — it's the symbol of the thing," he told the Houston Chronicle.

"The ideals were very high," said Barry Walker, a Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, curator who served on the committee. "They wanted an important collection. They were striving to be cutting edge and to represent the Enron culture — which at that time sounded like a good thing."

As the company slid quietly into bankruptcy over the next year or so, committee members spent or committed $4 million acquiring works considered masterpieces of the Pop, Op and Minimalist genres.

They purchased a vinyl sculptured light switch for $590,000 and voted to commission a Scandinavian artist to transform the Jetson-like circular walkway linking Enron's towers into a mammoth public artwork.

Monique Shankle, who was laid off from Enron's compliance section when the company declared bankruptcy, said that the executives' "priorities were not in order."

"The employees' livelihoods should have taken precedence over an art collection," she said. "This money spent on the art collection would have gone a long way in helping (laid-off) employees."

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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight

Friendly Flower Shop, located at 3203 College Avenue would like to introduce the Debbie Mumm greeting card line (Leanin Tree). The envelopes are beautifully designed and decorated which makes each card an extra special treat to send and receive.

New silk flowers, foliage, bushes and lots of berries are arriving daily and real oak-leaf wreaths in beautiful colors are arriving for fall.

They still carry the popular Circle E candles, and have just recently added Cowboy Candles, a new line, with scents such as "Saddle," "Bandanna," "Sage in Bloom," "Burnin' Daylight" and many more.

The folks at Friendly Flower Shop are now offering handmade quilts, throws, tote bags, jackets and much more. Most of the items are quilted patchwork and some are applique. These make excellent gifts for brides, graduates, birthdays and Christmas. You can also special order from the catalogue. This group also has baby quilts, bedding and all nursery needs. A lay-a-away plan is available.

Go by Friendly Flower Shop and see all the new things.

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Finding people for airport screening jobs said difficult

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government, now recruiting passenger screeners at almost every commercial airport, is finding a surprisingly high percentage of unqualified applicants and far fewer female candidates than expected.

The Transportation Security Administration already has scrapped the goal of filling half of all screening positions with women. The aim now is one-third.

Officials have stepped up advertising and recruitment campaigns — job fairs were held at seven cities during the weekend and six more are scheduled this week — and are trying to attract more women by offering part-time positions or seasonal work.

The agency, created in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, is hiring screeners at 415 of the nation's 429 commercial airports. Five airports will continue to have privately employed screeners under a pilot program approved by Congress, but the other 424 are supposed to have an all-federal work force by Nov. 19.

Agency officials maintain they can meet the congressionally imposed deadline. Less certain are many lawmakers, the Transportation Department inspector general and the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

"Initial difficulties in hiring and training the passenger screener work force will make it challenging for TSA to meet the deadline for federalizing this work force," said Gerald Dillingham, the GAO's director of civil aviation issues.

Under the aviation security law passed after Sept. 11, screeners must be U.S. citizens, have a high school degree or one year of full-time work in airport screening or other security job, and be proficient in English.

The starting salaries are $23,600 to $35,400, plus health insurance, retirement benefits and paid leave. Those in high-cost metropolitan areas get more.

The private-sector screeners being phased out generally earned minimum wage, or around $10,000 a year, and often received no benefits.

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta insists the agency is on track to have enough screeners in place by the deadline, though only about 5,000 of the roughly 30,000 total jobs have been filled.

"You start out slowly," he said.

In some places, the start has been exceedingly slow.

The agency needs 2,300 screeners to staff the three New York-area airports — La Guardia, Kennedy and Newark — but only 368 people accepted job offers as of mid-July, said Alexis Stefani, the Transportation Department's assistant inspector general.

In many cases, applicants who meet the initial qualifications do not show up for prehiring tests, which measure English skills and the ability to deal with the public, Stefani said.

The TSA has adjusted its outlook and now expects only one-third of those deemed qualified to actually show up for the preliminary tests and more than half of those fail.

Two El Paso men charged with murder in immigrants' death in tractor-trailer

DALLAS (AP) — Trapped in the stifling heat and darkness of a crowded tractor-trailer for nine hours, more than 40 illegal Mexican immigrants poked drinking straws through tiny openings and even punched a small hole in the roof to draw gasps of air.

But the heat was too much.

By the time the truck stopped Saturday on its route from El Paso to Dallas, two immigrants were dead and dozens more were hospitalized for heat exhaustion. The temperature hit 96 degrees in Dallas on Saturday.

Immigration officials said they believe more than just the two men arrested in the deaths were involved in a much bigger smuggling operation.

"There's very few smuggling trips or loads that are just a one-time deal. This is an organization. There's other individuals involved. There's people who bring them across the border. There's people who hold them in safe houses. There's people who transport them," said Anne Estrada, who oversees the Dallas district of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Troy Dock and Jason Sprague, both of El Paso, were being held Sunday on murder charges in the Collin County jail for the two men's deaths. Bond was set at $1 million each.

According to their employer, Boyd Logistics Inc. of El Paso, Dock and Sprague were new hires on their first job. The truck was carrying medical supplies.

"The employees were not authorized to make any unscheduled stop, except for refueling," said company owner Keith Boyd. "We are cooperating fully with authorities and will push with all due speed to determine how this occurred."

Of the more than 40 immigrants believed to have been riding in the truck on Saturday, only 27 have been accounted for, regional INS spokesman Lynn Ligon said.

Most left the 53-foot trailer Saturday afternoon at a south Dallas truck stop. Exhausted and dehydrated, many of the wearied immigrants stumbled to nearby homes searching for water.

The truck then left but was later found parked at a truck stop in Anna, a small town about 40 miles north of Dallas.

Seven people remained in area hospitals Sunday evening, undergoing treatment for heat exhaustion.

Ligon said authorities were not sure where in Mexico the immigrants were from, or where they had crossed the border. According to witnesses, the immigrants said they paid between $1,500 and $2,000 for the trip to Dallas.

Recent rains brought more mosquitos

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Flooding from this month's rains drove some people from their homes.

Just the opposite happened with several species of bugs, such as the American cockroach.

The cockroach typically stays outdoors, unlike its brown cousin, the German roach. Other insects, such as ground beetles, pill bugs and earwigs, also have become more noticeable, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported today.

The same is true with fire ants, which lived farther underground during the drought but since have become more noticeable.

The increased moisture in the soil probably will lead to a larger sustained bug population that is larger than before, said L.J. Cohen, president of Pest Fog, who said he expects more business, since people no longer have the threshold they once did for critters.

"It used to be, no matter what you did, you would always have roaches," he said. "People's tolerances, I don't think, are as great now, because it is possible to live in a somewhat insect-free environment."

Daniel Sprenger, vector control supervisor with the Corpus Christi city-county health department, said weather does influence insect populations, but it is just one of several factors. The city is too busy battling with St. Louis Encephalitis-infected mosquitoes to devote much attention to bugs that are just nuisances, he said.

"We are preoccupied with the disease problem," he said. "We haven't been able to deal with the pest problem."

"The main bug that has come along that is a pest for us is the mosquito," said Paul Thornton, general manager of the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens.

Mexico launches last-ditch effort to spare citizen's life

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican government announced Sunday that it has sent an appeal to Texas Gov. Rick Perry asking him to cancel the planned Aug. 14 execution of Mexican citizen Javier Suarez, who was sentenced to die for the murder of an undercover drug agent in 1988.

The letter from Mexico's embassy in Washington asked Perry to grant Suarez clemency based on purported new evidence about his mental state at the time of the killing.

"Neurological and psychiatric experts have discovered new evidence about Javier Suarez' mental state at the moment of committing the crime. This evidence were not considered by the jury, and surely would have influenced the verdict," the Foreign Relations Department said in a press release.

The government did not specify what the new evidence was.

No one denies that the then 19-year-old Mexican killed an undercover agent who was posing as a drug buyer. But Suarez' supporters insist it was a non-premeditated murder, which are generally not subject to the death penalty.

They say Suarez got mixed up with drug traffickers the same night of the murder because they had threatened to hurt his family and that he shot the agent in a moment of fear and confusion.

There are now 17 Mexicans facing the death penalty in Texas and 54 in the whole of the United States, according to ministry figures. Four have been executed over the plast 10 years: three in Texas and one in Virginia.

All ordinary legal means to halt the execution of Suarez, now 33, were exhausted at the end of June.

Stinnett fires police chief

STINNETT (AP) — The Stinnett City Council has fired its police chief, saying he lied about having a peace officer certification.

The council took less than five minutes to dismiss Craig Clowdus at a special meeting called Friday night. The vote was unanimous.

Clowdus was not at the meeting.

Mayor Tommy Batson said Clowdus presented a letter purportedly signed by an agent of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education confirming that he had passed a peace officer's test on April 9.

The agency sent a representative to Stinnett on Wednesday to discuss what the city thought was valid documentation. City officials learned that the agency had no record of Clowdus taking the test.

"There was no question," mayor pro-tem Jim Corbitt told the Amarillo Globe-News. "Once TCLEOSE made the official statement to us, it was the inevitable thing. We had to act on this."

The city declined to accept Clowdus' attempt on Tuesday to resign via a faxed letter from Elk City, Okla., where Clowdus reportedly worked as a canine officer in the jail system before he was hired at Stinnett.

Because he was fired with cause, Clowdus will receive no more pay or benefits, Corbitt said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Early signs of a neurological disorder

DEAR DR. GOTT: My wife, in her early 60s, is showing a huge personality shift. She is snappish at the least provocation and seems chronically angry. She was really undone when, as an executive director of a non-profit organization, she got her first licking from her boss. Her mother and grandmother both had Alzheimer's disease, and this threat paralyzes her with fear. She is awaiting an appointment with a neurosurgeon. Could she have Alzheimer's disease?

DEAR READER: Based on the limited information you provide, I believe that the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is, at best, premature. But it is unquestionably a consideration. On the other hand, anger and a short emotional fuse could reflect simple tension and stress. These symptoms could also be early indications of other neurological disorders. While anger and short temper may be signs of a serious nerve disease, I would expect memory loss and cognitive problems as well, if she were to have Alzheimer's. I'm also concerned that your wife has, for years, been fearing the worst because of her family history. This has certainly added to her level of chronic anxiety and may be a factor in her present symptom complex. (The same phenomenon affects us all, to a greater or lesser extent, as we grow older and approach the age at which our mothers and/or fathers died. There is somehow the thought that we won't exceed that magical limit — but we usually do.)

I agree that medical intervention is appropriate, even though there is no definitive test or confirmation for early Alzheimer's disease. However, I don't understand why you have picked a neurosurgeon. These specialists are oriented to surgical problems in the nervous system. In my opinion, your wife needs one heck of a neurologist, a specialist in the diagnosis of neurological disorders. Because such a physician will undoubtedly order extensive testing that may not be available in community hospitals, I further urge you to seek out a neurologist who is on staff at an academic institution or at a tertiary care, teaching hospital. Given your wife's apprehension and your concerns, I recommend that you go right "to the top." Please let me know the results of her medical analysis.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Alzheimer's Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope plus $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 176, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am plagued by dry mouth. I have no known medical ailments and do not smoke. I've seen several doctors, all of whom say there is no cure; they suggest increasing my fluid intake, sucking on lozenges and chewing gum. Is there any help for me?

DEAR READER: Dry mouth, a common ailment, has many causes, ranging from the trivial (over-use of astringent mouthwash) to the serious (Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that affects the eyes, mouth, liver and joints). Ill-fitting dentures can cause dryness of the mouth.

If your doctors have thoroughly tested you for underlying medical conditions, such as Sjogren's syndrome, and have confirmed that you're in good health, I suggest an appointment with your dentist, who may discover the cause of your problem and suggest appropriate therapy.

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Oil Patch News

Garza County

Shenandoah Petroleum Corporation will drill the No. 221 Lott Trust in the Lazy JL field, 14 miles south of Post. Planned for a depth of 6,200 feet, location is in Section 21, Block 1, Jasper Hays survey.

McClure Oil Co. Inc. will drill the No. 10-W Kirkpatrick in the Rocker A field, eight miles southeast of Post. Contracted for a depth of 5,000 feet, drill site is in Section 945, Block 97, H&TC survey.

McClure Oil will drill the No. 9-W Kirkpatrick in the Rocker A field, eight miles southeast of Post. Also scheduled for a depth of 5,000 feet, location is in Section 945, Block 97, H&TC survey.

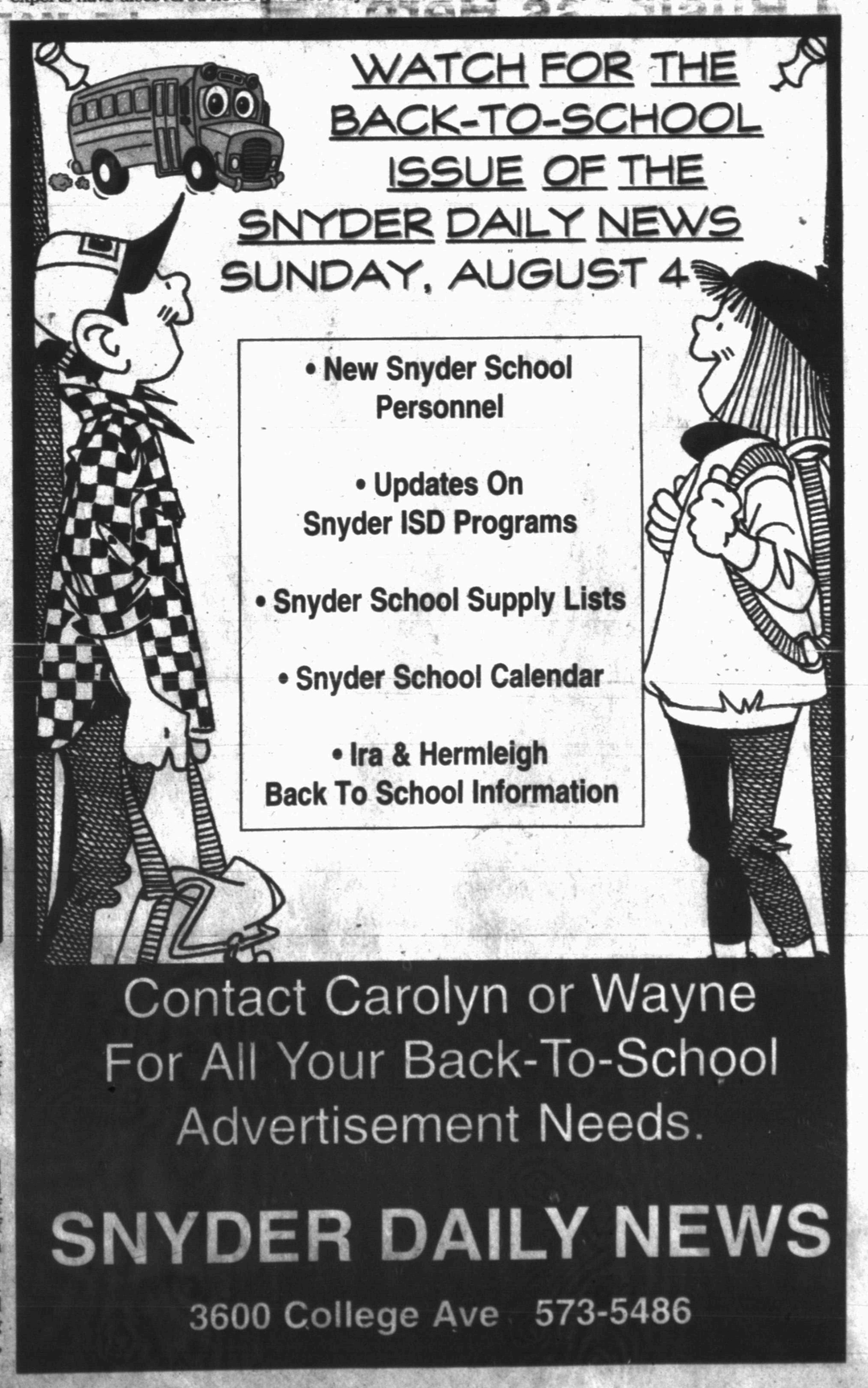
Kent County

Mobil Producing will drill the No. F38AW in the Salt Creek field, eight miles northwest of Clairemont. Planned for a depth of 7,800 feet, location is in Section 13 John Rodman survey.

Howard County

Southwest Royalties Inc. will drill the No. 7-13 in the Signal Peak field, five miles south of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 8,100 feet, location is in Section 13, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Jack N. Blair will drill the No. 1 May, a 11,000-foot wildcat located four miles southwest of Big Spring. Location is in Section 15, Block 33, T1S, T&P survey.



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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Palestinians defy Israeli army curfew

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Thousands of Palestinians defied the Israeli army's around-the-clock curfew today for the second straight day, and took to the streets of Nablus as shops and banks opened to accommodate them.

If Nablus residents effectively lift the curfew on their own, such actions could spread to other West Bank cities. Palestinian residents under curfew have not previously challenged the army restrictions on a mass scale.

The army, which has imposed the curfew in most West Bank cities and towns for the past 40 days, remained in armored vehicles ringing the city. But troops did not enter Nablus and made no moves to drive residents off the streets and back into their homes.

"There is a curfew and we are aware of the violations," military spokesman Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz said of the situation in Nablus. "For the moment, we are not responding."

At the edge of the city, the troops allowed trucks with supplies to enter, but blocked passenger cars. Some Palestinians said troops were firing in the air over cars to turn away those approaching the city limits.

Israel planned to hand over $15 million today to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, the first of three installments, both sides said. Israel has withheld the tax revenues due the Palestinians for much of the past 22 months of fighting.

Israel had been demanding international supervision of the money to ensure it wasn't used to fund Palestinian militants, but agreed to place the cash under the responsibility of the new Palestinian finance minister, Salam Fayed.

Within U.S. borders...

More power for military considered

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Guard troops helping to guard borders with Canada and Mexico can't look for lawbreakers while they are flying to their new posts, and some haven't been allowed to carry weapons on duty.

White House officials say such problems show why the Bush administration is studying whether to ask Congress to loosen the 124-year-old ban on soldiers doing law enforcement work inside the United States.

"Let's review those kind of issues right now, when we have some time, so in the future if the military needs to be called up domestically, we have these issues worked out," said Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for the White House Office of Homeland Security.

But Pentagon officials, including Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, say there's no good reason to change the military policing ban, known as the Posse Comitatus Act.

"It's not clear to me that there's any need to change Posse Comitatus at this time," Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week. "It has not been pointed out what the advantages to doing that would be."

Military officials have resisted any expansion of their domestic role, saying troops are trained to fight wars, not crimes. Added domestic duties since the terrorist attacks — such as providing fighter jet patrols over major cities — also have strained some military units' time and budgets.

One top military leader said, however, he would support an expanded role for the military inside the United States.

Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, who will head the new military command charged with defending American territory, told The New York Times he would support changes in Posse Comitatus that would help the military protect Americans. He did not say what specific changes he favored.

Rumsfeld said he didn't plan to recommend any adjustments to the military's role. "I don't think anyone should hold their breaths waiting for changes in Posse Comitatus," he said.

Congress passed the law in 1878, at the end of the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. It ended the Army's police role both in the South and in the West, where soldiers either enforced the law directly or local officials pressed them into service as a posse.

Posse comitatus is a Latin phrase meaning "power of the county." In this case, it's another way of saying law enforcement is not the military's responsibility.

Russian investigators examine flight data recorders from jet

MOSCOW (AP) — Authorities examined flight data recorders today from the wreckage of a wide-bodied Russian jet that slammed into a forest outside Moscow just after taking off, killing 14 crew members. Two flight attendants survived the crash.

The Pulkovo airlines Il-86 passenger jet was returning to its home airport in St. Petersburg after a flight from the Black Sea resort of Sochi when it crashed Sunday, just after taking off from Sheremetyevo-1 airport. The pilots did not have time to tell controllers there was a problem, aviation officials said. Only the crew was aboard.

The plane hit the ground so hard that its front section was unrecognizable amid the blackened wreckage except for a wall of fuselage. Two flight attendants who were in the tail section survived the crash — one with minor injuries while the other was in serious but stable condition at a Moscow hospital, officials said.

All four cockpit crew members and 10 flight attendants were killed, officials said. Work to find and identify the bodies was slow because of the destruction, but a Russian aviation official said three "black boxes" — two data recorders and an audio tape — were found.

"They are all in decent condition and we are able to take information from them," said Oleg Yermolov, deputy director of the Interstate Aviation Committee, which investigates plane crashes in Russia and several other former Soviet republics. "This process is in full swing right now."

Yermolov would not speculate about the cause of the crash.

The plane crashed about 200 yards from the runway, authorities said. The site is not far from the Dmitrov highway northwest of Moscow, which at the time was crowded with traffic as Muscovites headed home from a hot summer weekend.

Maxim Khmelov, 13, was at a nearby beach with a friend trying to cool off on the clear, sunny day when he saw the Il-86 nose down and then bank before hitting the ground, sending up a plume of smoke went up "like a mushroom cloud."

The crash came a day after another Soviet-era plane, an Su-27 fighter jet, plowed through a crowd of spectators at an air show in western Ukraine, killing at least 83 people.

In a ditch among birches and brush outside Moscow, smoke rose from the smoldering wreckage of the Il-86 long after the flames were out.

About 100 army conscripts in camouflage helped comb the crash site for bits of debris in the investigation Sunday.

Obituaries

Robert Lomax

1925-2002

Robert Lomax, a Scurry County farmer, died Sunday, July 28, in the VA Medical Center in Big Spring after a lengthy illness.

Graveside service for Mr. Lomax, 77, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Ira Cemetery with the Rev. Charles Day, pastor of Ave. D Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born May 27, 1925 in Groom, he married Sara Kruse in 1953 in Lovington, N.M. She died April 10, 1986.

Mr. Lomax was a member of the American Legion and also was preceded in death by two brothers, H.M. and Pete Lomax.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Nancy Lomax of Ira; three sisters, Wanda Rae of Abilene, Georgia McLeod of Spearman and Betty Davis of Granbury; two brothers, Kenneth Lomax and Howard Lomax, both of Abilene; and two grandchildren, Kyle Lomax and his wife Nicole of Snyder, and Cody Lomax of Ira.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

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Adam Salazar

1934-2002

LUBBOCK — Adan "Adam" Moreno Salazar, the brother of Diamantina Munoz of Snyder, died Friday, July 26.

Funeral service for Mr. Salazar, 68, was set for 11 a.m. today in Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church with the Rev. David Cruz officiating. Burial was to follow in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park.

Born July 20, 1934 in Sinton, he moved with his family to Lamesa. He married Andrea Acosta on Aug. 24, 1954 in Tahoka.

He was a farm worker in O'Donnell and also worked as an independent truck driver in Michigan. He then owned and operated the Dairy Mart in O'Donnell and in 1979 he became a general contractor.

Survivors include two sons, Adam Salazar of Lubbock and Israel Salazar of Frisco; three daughters, Mary Ann Salazar and Martha Salazar, both of Lubbock, and Patty Stroud of Frisco; six other sisters, Eva Chavarria, Gloria Vera and Aurora Ybarra, all of Lamesa, Ernestina Hernandez of Williams, Calif., Elsa Cooper of Lockney and Senaida Quintana of Plainview; and 11 grandchildren.

Chrystlene Woolsey

1924-2002

Chrystlene Woolsey of Snyder died Sunday, July 28, at her home following a lengthy illness.

Services for Mrs. Woolsey, 77, are pending at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Mrs. Woolsey was born Dec. 25, 1924.

Girl injured in bike accident

•Major accident

Snyder police, emergency medical personnel and sheriff's deputies responded to an accident at 30th Street and Avenue V involving a 2000 Chevy pickup driven by Bobby Beard, 54, of 4514 Fredonia and a bicycle ridden by Amanda Geraldon, 12, of 3109 39th Street. The girl was taken by ambulance to Cogdell Memorial emergency room, where she was treated and released.

•Arrests

Just after noon Saturday, a 21-year-old was arrested on city warrants for failure to identify and failure to appear.

Police arrested a 37-year-old man in the 400 block of Coliseum Drive at 1:35 a.m. Sunday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 19-year-old female was taken into custody at 3:45 a.m. Sunday in the 2500 block of 28th Street for minor in consumption of alcohol and city warrants for minor in possession of alcohol and failure to appear.

Police arrested a 41-year-old man in the 2900 block of Denison just after 2:30 p.m. Sunday for public intoxication.

•Theft

Just after 2 p.m. Saturday, Lee McGinty reported his bicycle stolen from the Boys' Club. He found the bike Sunday afternoon.

Leslie Sutton reported at 4:45 p.m. Sunday the theft of a pygmy goat in the 2600 block of Avenue A.

•Criminal mischief

A woman reported juveniles knocking on doors at the Western Crest apartments at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Officers responded to a report at 3:11 p.m. Sunday of toilet paper and chalk writing on a house in the 2600 block of 37th Street.

Births

Esmael and Sandra Torres of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Esmeralda Torres Aruajo, at 3:25 p.m. on July 27 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Esmeralda weighed eight pounds, one ounce.

Paternal grandparents are Manuel and EuFrecina Torres of La Gloria, Mexico. Maternal grandmother is Esperanza Alvidrez of Chihuahua, Mexico.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Museum exhibit

A special exhibit of Harley-Davidson, Indian motorcycles and Cushman motor scooters continues through Aug. 22 at the Scurry County Museum on the Western Texas College campus. The free exhibit is entitled Ready To Roll and all bikes are owned by residents of Scurry County.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established for James Weldon Buchanan at American State Bank to help with cancer treatment expenses. The account name is James Weldon Buchanan Medical Fund, #4802659.

Car wash

Our Lady of Guadalupe CYM is having a car wash until 5 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot of United Supermarkets. Cost is $5 or a donation.

Monthly cruise night

Snyder Wheels Club will have its monthly cruise night at the Sonic Drive In at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Church of God VSB

"Can Do Buckaroos of Can Do County" for ages 5-12 is theme for Vacation Bible School at the Snyder Church of God, 21st and Ave. O, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

SHS volleyball boosters

Snyder High School volleyball boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the SHS gym. Laura Moses, new coach, will be present. All high school volleyball parents are urged to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Love That Serves God," followed by "The Living and True God."

Atheneum Study Club

Atheneum Study Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club to plan programs for the coming year.

Genealogical society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Scurry County Library. Officers will be elected and visitors are welcome.

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.

Cheerleader fundraiser

SHS freshmen cheerleaders will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts from 7 to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 5, at Wal-Mart.

Head Start registration

Head Start registration will be held Aug. 5-9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children must be at least three years old and family must meet income guidelines or child must have a diagnosed disability. Birth certificate, current immunization records, Social Security Card and proof of family income are required. For information, call 573-7403.

East Side Bug Safari

Make a beeline to join us at Vacation Bible School at East Side Church of Christ to study David, a little guy who did big things with God's help. Classes for kindergarten through fifth graders will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 5-9.

Alzheimer's meeting

An Alzheimer's meeting to help families and caregivers will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Aug. 13 in the library at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Call Kinney Robinson at 573-9377 for more information.

Fall poetry contest

Mesquite Country Writers Guild is accepting entries for its fall poetry contest. Theme is open and there is a 20-line limit. Deadline is Aug. 15 and entry fee is $2. First prize is $50, second is $30 and third is $20. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. State Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Sonshine School registration

Sonshine School for ages two through five, is underway and informational packets are available at 37th Street Church of Christ office weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon, and from 1-4:30 p.m. Registration fee is $30 and monthly tuition is $45. Open house and registration is 9 a.m. Aug. 15. Call 574-1960 for more information.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Calling all poets

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild is inviting poets to send an original poem to be published in the fall newsletter, "Bards of a Feather." Theme is open with a 20-line limit. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Three firefighters killed

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. (AP) — Three firefighters were killed when their fire truck drove off a narrow, smoke-shrouded road and plunged 800 feet down a mountainside in the latest tragic turn of a fire season that has become one of the deadliest in recent memory.

Officials said little was known about Sunday's accident, but they suspect the conditions around the 1,500-acre fire in the Klamath National Forest some 20 miles south of the Oregon border played a major role. Two firefighters were injured.

Dave Poucher, a regional safety officer for the U.S. Forest Service, said the dirt road the engine was driving on was very narrow — about 11 feet wide — and the dark of night was made worse by smoke from the fire.

"The Forest Service is a family. When there is a tragedy, we all cry together," Poucher said. "You may not know them, but all of a sudden you feel it in the back of the throat, like they are your brother or sister."