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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Jan. 29, 2004
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Home of Corey Knipe

Hospital employee pay is hot topic

By Roy McQueen
SDN Publisher

Compensation — or the lack of it — dominated most of the discussion at this morning's Cogdell Hospital board meeting.

In a 2½-hour meeting prior to an executive session to review applications for the vacant chief executive officer's post, the board tabled a two-part proposal for extra pay for director of nurses Cheryl Chance who also is acting CEO.

Last March, the board okayed a two-tiered salary structure for the director of nurses and for the chief financial officer based on reduced operating costs — including lowering the number of employees or full-time equivalents (FTEs).

The CFO is no longer employed, but past board chairman Carl Williams, in a letter to the board, noted that Chance is due $4,242 because he said the goals were met.

In addition, Williams said that hiring an interim CEO would have cost $9,000 a month. His letter suggested that the acting CEO be paid 30 to 50 percent of that amount.

Board member Terry Williams, noting that the hospital is in a financial turnaround mode, countered that it would be more appropriate to form a compensation committee to look at all staff salaries.

Williams said that the board had frozen salaries in 2000 when cash at the hospital was at $2.5 million. "Now we have $300 to $400,000 and had to get a payment from the commissioners court."

Dink Foree, who was elected board chairman on a split vote, said a compensation study was done in 2000, but the past administration had violated the guidelines set for salaries.

Williams made a motion to table action on the reimbursements and to form a compensation committee to study all staff salaries. Foree said he had been advised by the county attorney that the board can not go back and make pay retroactive.

The discussion hit hard on inequities of pay throughout the hospital. "A lot of things were not transparent (from the last administration), Williams said. "Who knows what we're going to find."

Interim CFO Ron Hunt suggested that the incentive payment for cost reductions to Chance be based on audited figures.

Williams then amended his motion to concur with Hunt's suggestion and to form a compensation committee to study all salaries in the hospital — including those who have taken on additional responsibilities.

Williams, Mark Cullifer, Wade Warren and Foree voted for the motion while Dr. Charles Church and Bo Robinson cast "no" votes.

In the nursing and administrative report, Chance said the committee needs to meet promptly to consider more competitive salaries for nurses.

Chance said one LVN is leaving a $10 per hour job at the hospital to take a $14 job at a nursing home. "It's a sad commentary," said Chance.

Hunt added that the nursing shortage will become acute nationwide, and that the cost of agency nurses, if available, will become more costly.

Chance said the hospital needs to start advertising for nurses and that increased pay will be important. "People don't want to move to Snyder. When I moved here in 1977, Snyder was progressive, but it's not any more."

Chance also said that a marketing program for the assisted-living facility needs to be implemented. In the 23-bed facility, there are currently 15 patients.

Net patient revenues for the month of December were $1.7 million and net loss for the month was $194,355.

Hunt said that almost $100,000 of the loss was due to a year-end inventory of supplies and that he made the adjustment from the balance sheet to the operating statement rather than waiting for the auditors.

Hunt spent considerable time explaining to board members the way contractual and Medicare adjustments are made.

Hunt noted that downsizing of the hospital from 99 to 49 beds will result in increased reimbursements — some $65 per visit to the rural health clinic by Medicare patients.

Out-going board members Carl Williams and Bill Voss were due to be recognized, but were not present.

Foree was named chairman after being nominated by Terry Williams. Robinson nominated Dr. Church.

Robinson and Cullifer voted for Church while Williams and Warren voted for Foree. Deadlocked, Foree then cast a vote for himself to become chairman.

Church was named board vice president and Williams was elected secretary.

Regarding the rural health clinic, Chance said one nurse practitioner from Arizona accepted and then turned down the position. Another interview is set for Saturday.

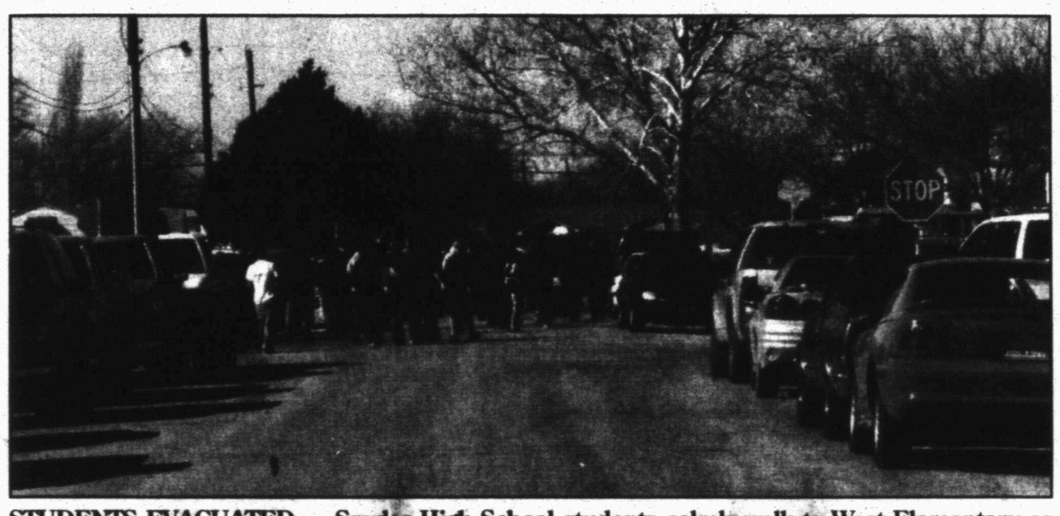
Dr. Bid Cooper, chief of the medical staff, proposed a by-law change allowing an observation period increase from three to five hours to determine if a patient is in labor.

J.B. Tate, a part-time employee of the hospital and Cogdell Foundation, gained approval to submit a $50,000 grant application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs. The funds would be used to purchase a van and a baby warmer.

In administrative reports, it was noted that Christy Brown, administrative assistant, has taken a job with University Medical Center in Lubbock and Friday will be her last day at Cogdell.

JoBeth Hardegree, quality improvement director, said that Cogdell will receive $75,000 from Medicare for participating in a quality of care program.

Following a the executive session the board announced that each member will pick eight CEO candidates and then the board will pick up to eight candidates for personal interviews.



STUDENTS EVACUATED — Snyder High School students calmly walk to West Elementary as a safety precaution after a bomb threat was received at the school on Wednesday. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

Bomb threat response praised

Snyder law enforcement officers responded to a bomb threat at Snyder High School shortly after 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Last Thursday a person contacted the alternative education program saying that there was a bomb in the building. The program's five students were evacuated to the Junior High.

With the latest incident however, evacuating the schools 723 students took a little more time.

"Under the circumstances, we were pleased with the way that the staff and the students handled the bomb threat," said Snyder Supt. Dr. Ronny Collins. "We have procedures in place and when the call was received the staff started taking the proper steps right away."

Students were evacuated near the start of their lunch hour to the Towle Park barn and to West Elementary where they waited while Snyder and Scurry County law enforcement along with school faculty and staff began conducting a search of the school building.

"We conducted a search of the buildings and classrooms in the high school and did not locate anything unusual," said Snyder Police Sgt. Brian Haggard. "After the search was completed, we determined that it was safe to let the kids go back into the school."

After a delayed lunch, students were allowed to leave at about 2:15 p.m. and were instructed to return at 3 p.m. followed by regular dismissal at 3:30 p.m.

"The safety of the kids is our number one concern," Dr. Collins added. "There were so many people who did a great job."

The expense of responding to a fraudulent incident such as this takes an enormous toll on Snyder and Scurry County citizens.

"The person who is responsible for this hurts more than just the school," said Sgt. Haggard. "Everyone pays a price. Not only does it cause everyone to experience fear and worry unnecessarily; it's an expense to the citizens for law enforcement and for fire and rescue to respond. It affects the whole community."

Festivities set to open WTC baseball field

Western Texas College will host festivities Friday morning to inaugurate the new baseball facility on campus before the start of the opening day game between the Westerners and Vernon College.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Snyder Goldcoats will follow the 11 a.m. introduction of WTC board of trustees members Lee Presswood, Carolyn Barbee, Jay Kidd, Eddie Peterson, Drew Bullard, Scott Richburg and Jackie Greene.

The WTC cafeteria will then host a tailgate party immediately following the ribbon cutting until 1 p.m. at the baseball field. Ballpark fare featuring hamburgers and hot dogs will be on the menu. Cost for the meal is $5 and the public is invited to attend.

The teams will begin batting practice at 11:30 a.m. and will take infield and outfield after both teams bat.

The teams will be introduced at 1:30 p.m. and Devin DeLoera will sing the National Anthem at 1:45.

Albert DeLoera, who helped sponsor the Westerners in purchasing uniforms, will throw out the first pitch at 1:55 p.m.

Tyler Trout, 2003 graduate of Snyder High School and slated as the opening day starter, will get the season underway with the first pitch at 2 p.m.

SECURITY ADVANCMENT — Price Daniel Prison Unit Security officers receiving promotions were (front row) Michael Logan, Danny Ragan, Rhonda Roemer, Gregory Howard (standing) Richard Kruger, Kyle Herrley, Malcom Small and Frankie Sanchez. (SDN Staff Photo)

PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS — Non-Security personnel promotions went to (front) Linda Warren, Esther Cabrera, Marie McRoberts, Debbie Roemisch (standing) Gaston Tarbet, Robert Warren, Tammy Boen, James Gamel and Stephen McIlroy. See story on page 10. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN
MY TURN
by Annie Rowe

I would like to know how to get an application. I mean, do I go to a website or write a letter or what?

I'm talking about how you sign up to get a blessing from Pope John Paul II.

Now he seems like a heck of a nice guy because he hands out a lot of divine approval to everyone from scout troops to pets on parade.

Recently, a group of break-dancers were asked to perform for the Pope and afterwards, he blessed the youngsters for spinning on their headsand twisting their appendages like a bunch of Gumby dolls.

Now, don't get me wrong. I think talent in any form is a gift from God.

But, what's wrong with gettin' a little blessin' for two steppin'?

I grew up in South Texas where dancing is as much a genealogical heritage as it is a rite of passage from childhood into adolescence.

Didn't you ever hear Tanya Tucker sing San Antonio Stroll? In the song she sings about being left behind when she was too young to boogie. But when she finally learned all the right moves, her maw, paw and big sister would take her along.

Nowadays some well-meaning busybody would report her neglectful parents for leaving her home alone to listen to The Grand Ol' Opry on the radio.

What I mean is I don't believe break-dancers deserve any more favoritism from the Pope than country dancers do.

Think about it, there's a lot of dedication that goes into perfecting the Cotton Eye Joe. Added to that, you have to learn the "words" to it. My fellow "kickers" know the verbiage.

I really believe that this needs to be brought to the Pope's attention. Don't get me wrong. I have a great deal of respect for anyone who can throw themselves into a one and a quarter twist backward from a flat-footed position. (Yes, they do that.)

But, should there not be equal consideration for those who can do the Cowgirl Twist, the Chill, the Electric Slide, the Bump and Grind and the ever-popular Chicken Dance without so much as a bathroom break?

So what's the next step? A committee, perhaps. We'll start a group called PEST: Papal Eucharist Solicitors of Texas and I'll cast the first vote for Willie Nelson as chairman.

Now, which one can translate "Hey Cowboy, wanna cut a rug?" into Italian for me.

Tax deadline approaching

The deadline for payment of property taxes in Scurry County is nearing.

Diana Williamson, Scurry County tax collector, said Jan. 31 is the deadline for paying taxes. However, since the last day of January falls on Saturday, taxpayers may bring payments in person no later than Monday. If the payment is mailed, it must be postmarked by Jan. 31.

"If someone wants to mail a tax payment, it must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31. However, if taxpayers would like to wait until Monday, they may come in and pay over-the-counter and avoid any penalties," she said.

After Monday, penalties and interest will be added to the payments.

ASK US

Q—If a Snyder athlete quits a sport, must they wait until the season is over before beginning another sport? Is this a local or a UIL rule?

A—It is a local rule that a student athlete must wait until he or she is dismissed by their coach before starting a new sport.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Vetta Underwood...

...has been a resident of Snyder since 1955. She is married to Hazel Underwood and they have two children: Jim Underwood of Snyder and Deana Flavel of San Angelo and they have five grandchildren. Vetta's favorite hobbies are crocheting and being a member of the Emmaus Reunion Group.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't ever go in someplace until you figure how in the heck you're gonna' get yourself back out.

—Red Adair

JAN 29 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Book fair

Scurry Community Services book fair continues through Friday.

Business After Hours

Chamber of commerce members are invited to meet for Business After Hours from 5-7 p.m. today at the chamber office. Light refreshments will be served. The session will give chamber members the chance to network and get acquainted.

Hermleigh booster club

The Hermleigh Booster Club will meet at 7 this evening in the school cafeteria.

Church of God revival

The Church of God, 1411 College Ave., is hosting a revival today through Sunday. All services will be at 7 p.m. with the exception of 5 p.m. services on Sunday. Evangelist is Stephen Smith from Colorado.

Graduation planning meeting

Parents of SHS seniors are invited to attend a planning meeting at 7 tonight at the Student Center to discuss end-of-school activities.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Turkey shoot

A turkey shoot sponsored by the Scurry County Rodeo Association starts at 10 a.m. Saturday and continues until dark at the rodeo grounds on Gary Brewer Rd. For more information, contact Jeff Minor at 207-3832.

MAWC luncheon Sunday

Martha Ann Woman's Club will have a luncheon Sunday. Open to the public, tickets are $8.50 per plate with serving to begin at 11:30 a.m. Entrée is choice of roast or stuffed chicken breast. Reservations are needed by calling 573-3427, 573-643 or 573-5586.

AA meeting

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

Krispy Kreme doughnuts

Snyder High School band students will take orders for Krispy Kreme doughnuts until next Thursday. Cost will be $6 a dozen or two or more dozen for $5 each. Delivery is Feb. 10. Profits will be applied to the band's spring trip to Winter Park Colorado.

WTC GED testing dates

Western Texas College has scheduled six GED testing dates: Feb. 13, Feb. 20, March 12, March 26, April 16 and April 30. To take the test or for more information contact Betty Thompson at 573-2310 or Emily Hataway 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

United Way fundraiser

United Way is selling tickets for a Super Bowl Prizes project, one for $2 or six for $10. Items include black leather chair-and-a-half, 19-inch TV, two large topping Pizza Hut pizzas. To purchase tickets or for more information call 207-1929, 573-5311, 207-1385 or 574-1931.

Girl Scout cookie sales

Snyder Girl Scout cookie sales continue through Feb. 11. Cookies will be delivered from March 6-21. To place an order call chairman Alicia Graves at 573-7722 or service unit manager Judi Martin at 573-7556.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Saturday for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

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.

What's up guidelines

Effective Feb. 1, items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

Turkish genocide lawsuit settled

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The descendants of some 1.5 million Armenians who were killed nearly 90 years ago in the Turkish Ottoman Empire will share in a $20 million settlement of a lawsuit for unpaid life insurance benefits.

The settlement with New York Life Insurance Co. announced Wednesday will help bring justice to survivors of those killed during "a deliberate, systematic and government-controlled genocide that began in April 1915," said state Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, who helped negotiate the agreement.

Brian Kabateck, an attorney of Armenian descent who represented the plaintiffs, said the settlement is a step toward winning U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide.

"Hopefully, a large company like New York Life paying a settlement will go a long way toward achieving acknowledgment," Kabateck said. "Certainly the Armenian genocide deserves as much acknowledgment as the Holocaust and other tragedies of the 20th century."

Armenians have long asserted that 1.5 million people were executed between 1915 and 1919 by Turkish authorities who accused them of helping the invading Russian army during World War I.

Turkey rejects the genocide claim and says Armenians were killed in civil unrest during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. France and Russia are among countries that have declared the killings a genocide, but the United States has not made such a declaration.

Exxon Mobil ordered to pay billions

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered Exxon Mobil Corp. to pay about $6.75 billion in punitive damages and interest to thousands of Alaskans affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Exxon Mobil has 30 days to appeal the order by U.S. District Judge Russel Holland, who ordered the Irving, Texas-based company to pay $4.5 billion in punitive damages and an estimated $2.25 billion in interest.

The money is to go to 32,000 fishermen, Alaska Natives, landowners, small businesses and municipalities affected by the 11-million gallon spill in Prince William Sound.

"We have now closed the trial court doors for the last time in this litigation after 15 years," said David Oesting, lead attorney for the plaintiffs. "We're definitely on track to the end of the entire dispute."

Exxon Mobil said it plans to appeal. Spokesman Tom Cirigliano said the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has twice vacated Holland's decision in the case.

The judge had been ordered by the appellate court to reconsider the damages awarded in an earlier ruling in light of a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year about punitive damages.

"This ruling flies in the face of the guidelines set by the appeals court," Cirigliano said.

In 2002, Holland reduced the Exxon punitive damages award to $4 billion after a three-judge panel sent the original $5 billion verdict back, saying it was excessive.

For his latest ruling, the judge was to consider a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year involving a Utah traffic accident and damages awarded in that case.

Attorneys from both sides argued that the Supreme Court case, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. v. Campbell, supported their damages claims. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled that a state court jury's award of $145 million to punish the insurance company was grossly excessive when actual damages were $1 million.

The high court held that the ratio of punitive to actual damages should not exceed single digits, or 9-to-1.

Exxon attorneys argued that injury to plaintiffs was only economic and damages should be based on a lower ratio. Exxon has already paid $3.2 billion on cleanup, settlements and other fees and penalties, attorneys said.

But lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that the key issue is conduct, and that Exxon's was among the worst. They said Exxon knew that tanker Capt. Joe Hazelwood had alcohol problems but still allowed him to pilot the Exxon Valdez. Attorneys calculated the actual damages caused by the spill at more than $500 million, which equals roughly $5 billion when the 9-1 ratio is applied.

Holland agreed with the higher ratio.

"The decision by Exxon to leave Capt. Hazelwood in command of the Exxon Valdez is the critical factor in evaluating the quality of Exxon's conduct and therefore the amount of punitive damages," Holland wrote.

Given the case's history, the amount of the award was astonishing, said Los Angeles attorney Curt Cutting, who has worked on numerous punitive damage cases, including filing a friend-of-the-court brief in the State Farm matter.

"I can't imagine what the district court saw in the State Farm opinion to make it increase the amount rather than decrease," Cutting said. "The point of punitive damages is to punish and deter defendants for their conduct, not to compensate plaintiffs in the case, whether there are one or 10,000. I would expect the 9th Circuit to greatly reduce the award. The appellate court's opinion was very clear that it thought $5 billion was excessive."

Gov. Frank Murkowski said Exxon's appeal shows there is no end in sight for the legal dispute, which has lasted a decade.

"It would be helpful if the two parties would consider discussing a settlement, so that any award that might come from the lawsuit could have application during the lifetime of the thousands of plaintiffs," Murkowski said.

The spill occurred March 23, 1989, less than three hours after the 987-foot ship Exxon Valdez left the Alyeska Pipeline terminal in Valdez. The ship grounded at Bligh Reef, rupturing eight of its 11 cargo tanks and spewing some 10.8 million gallons of crude oil into the sound.

DCOS reception slated on Friday

The Development Corporation of Snyder (DCOS) will host a reception at 9:30 a.m. Friday to introduce Kevin Christian, executive director for the newly-formed regional economic development office in Abilene.

The reception will be in the DCOS offices at American State Bank and the public is invited.

The office was established to work with community leaders and companies to create jobs and attract businesses to the area.

Gov. Rick Perry said Christian would be "his eyes and ears in this area" and would have a seat at the table with regional economic development officials working to attract jobs.

Self-serve units will sell tickets

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lottery officials plan to install about 1,000 self-serve units at retail outlets across the state to dispense tickets for games like Lotto Texas, Mega Millions and Cash Five.

The ATM-like machines will also be able to scan tickets from previous drawings and tell players whether they have won money.

"We think the players will like them," lottery spokesman Bobby Heith told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "You can purchase your tickets and check to see if you have a winner without taking up the retailer's time."

In an open letter to players on the lottery's Web site, Reagan Greer, the Texas Lottery Commission's executive director, said the self-service terminals should be up and running by August.

The terminals will be similar to the instant ticket, or scratch-off game vending machines in use at some lottery retail locations.

"Players will have the option of using a play slip or a touch screen to quickly and easily choose specific games, pick the numbers they want or play Quick Picks," Greer said in his letter. "Customers will be able to use cash bills to purchase tickets for the exact amount."

The machines will sell tickets for all the lottery's online games — those where players can choose their own numbers.

World Almanac

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2004

Today is the 29th day of 2004 and the 39th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1861, Kansas was admitted into the union as the 34th state.

In 1891, Queen Liliuokalani became the last monarch of the Hawaiian Islands.

In 1984, Ronald Reagan announced that he would run for a second term as U.S. president.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Thomas Paine (1737-1809), patriot/philosopher; William McKinley (1843-1901), U.S. president; Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), playwright, writer; W.C. Fields (1880-1946), comedian; Tom Selleck (1945-), actor, is 59; Oprah Winfrey (1954-), TV personality, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1958, the career of catcher Roy Campanella of the Brooklyn Dodgers ended as he was partially paralyzed in an automobile accident.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Start every day off with a smile and get it over with." — W.C. Fields

TODAY'S FACT: Edgar Allan Poe published his famous poem "The Raven" anonymously in the New York Evening Mirror on this day in 1845. He was paid $15.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 9 — The top price in dollars for a Broadway theater ticket in 1973.

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (Jan. 29).

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Today's chuckle

'Go before you go' slogan considered

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — "Go before you go."

That's the slogan under consideration for a new campaign in Minneapolis to combat public urination.

The bar business is thriving in the city's Warehouse District, and many patrons are apparently leaving with a full bladder.

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association plans to spend $10,000 in an effort of convince patrons to use the bar restrooms before they call it a night.

The association's Kim Motes calls public urination a nuisance crime, that makes a mess of their neighborhood.

Public urination is also a civil crime punishable by an $80 fine.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday (Wednesday, Saturday) night:

Winning numbers drawn: 01-02-30-33-39 (numerical order). Bonus Ball: 14.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 02. Prize: $30,990.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 29. Prize: $1,940.

Number matching four of five: 1,019. Prize: $119.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 923. Prize: $116.

Number matching three of five: 41,670. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 12,081. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 56,724. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $70,000,000.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 07-13-16-26-32.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: $0.

Matching four of five: 116. Prize: $507.

Matching three of five: 3,939. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 40,717. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-3-3
(Night) 8-1-9

Knowles to perform

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Beyonce Knowles will perform the halftime show at this year's NBA All-Star Game at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 15.

The 53rd NBA All-Star Game, featuring the top players from the Eastern and Western conferences, will be televised by TNT (8 p.m. EST), the NBA announced Tuesday.

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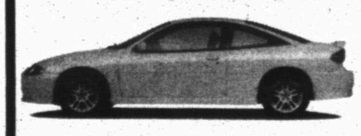

2003 Chevy Cavalier, 2 Dr.

2003 Chevy Cavalier, 4 Dr.

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or
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*All Have Miles Under 15,000
*WAC
*6.9% for 60 months, TTL Down

2003 Pontiac Grand Am, 4 Dr.

2003 Pontiac Sunfire, 2 Dr.

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SNYDER REALTOR BOARD — The board of realtors met Tuesday at the Snyder Country Club where president Abel DeLoera introduced new officers and directors. From left are, first row, secretary/treasurer Dee Kemp, Fran Farmer, Shirley Drum, Faye Blackledge, Tresa Cornett, Sherry DeLoera; middle row, Kayla Moreland, Lora Lord, Linda Cole, Rita Knox, Doris Spikes; top row, DeLoera, Keith Hackfeld, Anne Sims, John Shirley, Temi Matthies and Ford Spikes. Not pictured are vice president Bill Dryden, Wenona Evans, Joan Tate, Annette Waller, Sarah Jamison, Jeffrey Martin, Darryl Calley, Helen McLeod, David Cotton and Shelby Clayton. New directors include Hackfeld, Moreland and Blackledge. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Diet helps control weight and food allergies

For some people, to diet means a menu to control or manage body weight. For others, a special diet is necessary to maintain health. For example, an estimated one in 4,700 Americans has been diagnosed with celiac disease. These people cannot tolerate wheat, oats, barley or rye in their diet. More than 30 million Americans are lactose intolerant or have a dairy allergy.

It's a good idea to have safe alternatives to serve for special occasions. This special bread, developed by Red Star Yeast, uses alternative flours and contains no milk products, and is simple to make, so it can be enjoyed by those who need to avoid gluten and milk in their food.

FESTIVE FRUIT BREAD
Gluten-free/Lacto-free

2 cups white rice flour
½ cup potato starch
½ cup tapioca flour
1/3 cup cornstarch
1 Tbsp. xanthan gum
3 Tbsp. sugar
1½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 packet (¼ oz.) Red Star Active Dry Yeast
2/3 cups water
¼ cup vegetable oil
3 eggs (¾ cup), room temperature
1 package (6 or 7 oz.) dried fruit bits

Thoroughly blend dry ingredients except dried fruit bits. Do this either in a bowl with a wire whisk or shake together in a gallon size, self-sealing plastic bag. Heat water and oil to 120 to 130 degrees.

Bread Machine Method

Pour water and oil into baking pan; add eggs. Add dry ingredients to liquid ingredients.

Select the DOUGH cycle for mixing. After the mixing action begins, help any unmixed ingredients into the dough with a rubber spatula, keeping to edges and top of batter to prevent interference with the kneading blade. Press STOP when the mixing is complete. Fold in dried fruit bits. Do not allow the dough to rise in the bread pan.

Mixer Method

Pour water and oil into mixing bowl; add eggs. With the mixer on a low speed, gradually add dry ingredients to liquid ingredients until all dry ingredients are well blended. Beat on medium speed about 5 minutes. Fold in dried fruit bits.

Rising and Baking

Pour dough into a lightly greased ring mold; allow to rise approximately 40 minutes to an hour. Bake at 375F for 40 to 45 minutes; use a toothpick to test for doneness. Allow bread to set in pan for 10 minutes before inverting onto cooling rack. Cool completely before slicing. If desired, lightly dust with powdered sugar before slicing.

Makes 1 loaf.

Additional recipes are available by calling 1-800-4-CELIAC or visiting www.redstaryeast.com.

United Way sets luncheon

Scurry County United Way has set its appreciation luncheon for 11:45 Monday at the Western Texas College Museum.

The Jack Smartt award will be presented to volunteers who helped in a special way in this year's campaign. The goal was $85,000 to help in the support of 10 agencies.

Receiving funds from the UW are the Snyder Child Day Care, Boys and Girls Club, Gateway Family Services, Snyder Area CADA, Girl Scouts — West Texas Council, Buffalo Trail Boy Scouts, American Red Cross, Food Cupboard, Snyder Volunteer Firemen and Scurry County Youth Outreach.

The cost of the meal will be $8 and an RSVP is needed by Friday by calling 573-5311 and leave a message.

The event will be over at 1 p.m. in order for volunteers to return to work.

CADA and United Way plan project

Scurry County United Way and the Anti-Drug Connection have joined hands in a Superbowl Prizes project. Proceeds will go to the United Way to help support 10 local agencies.

Tickets are $2 each, or six tickets for $10, for a chance to win:

1. A black leather chair-and-a-half (seats two), donated by Warehouse Furniture. The retail value is $599 and it is manufactured by The Little Ashley Co.

2. A 19-inch Emerson color TV donated by the Snyder Wal-Mart.

3. Two large one-topping pizzas worth $16.99, donated by the Pizza Hut.

Anyone wanting to purchase or has questions concerning the tickets may call Lyn Chaney, 207-1929; UW, 573-5311; Angela Velasquez, 207-1385; or the Anti-Drug office, 574-1931.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-29-04
♠ 10 5 4
♥ K 9 8 5 2
♦ Q 9
♣ A K J

West
♠ Q
♥ A 6 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ Q 9 8 6 4

East
♠ J 2
♥ 10
♦ A K 10 8 7 3
♣ 10 7 3 2

South
♠ A K 9 8 7 6 3
♥ Q J 7
♦ 4 2
♣ 5

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 5

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2004

The women's team won also

By Phillip Alder

The Venice Cup for women's teams ran concurrently with the Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo last November. In the final, USA-1 faced China, which had won the qualifying stage. (The Netherlands finished third.)

It was a seesaw struggle. There were six sessions of 16 deals each, and the margin to the U.S. team after each segment was minus seven, minus four, plus 23, minus four, plus 24, and plus 19, the final score being 229-210.

The winning team was Betty Ann Kennedy — Kathie Wei-Sender, Jill Levin — Sue Picus, and Janice Seamon-Molson — Tobi Sokolow.

In the fifth session, when the United States assumed the lead for good, two three-diamond openings on six-card suits not made by the Chinese produced big gains. This was the first.

When Sokolow (East) opened three diamonds, the defense against four spades was easy: diamond to the king, diamond ace, heart to the ace, heart ruff: plus 100 to USA-1.

At the other table, Levin (North) and Picus had a free run to four spades. West guessed to lead a low club. Declarer took dummy's two tops, discarding a diamond loser, drew trumps, and conceded two red-suit tricks: plus 650. This gave USA-1 13 points.

In the second deal, Seamon-Molson and Sokolow stopped in five hearts after Blackwood told them that two aces were missing. At the other table, where Levin opened three diamonds, the next player doubled, and Picus jumped to five diamonds. When the fourth player contested with five hearts, the doubler guessed to bid six, one down when the U.S. pair cashed those aces.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Sad vision of her future stirs woman to make changes now

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with "Waiting in Wisconsin," whose boyfriend promised her an engagement ring three years ago. Six months ago, I broke up with my boyfriend. We had lived together for four years and everyone assumed we would marry.

I needed to take the next step in our relationship. We discussed it, and he told me he was not ready and might not be for several more years — if then. I agonized about it for several months. Then one day, I envisioned myself five years down the road in the same situation — together but no closer to marriage. I broke down and cried.

It was then that I finally accepted what I already knew in my heart. If he wasn't ready in five years, he might never be. I moved out.

Upon reflection, I think part of the reason I needed the commitment was that I wasn't sure of his love for me. I also believe that he wasn't ready to get married because he wasn't convinced that our relationship was the best for him.

Your advice to "Waiting" was absolutely right. She should move on and waste no more time. I am now in a relationship that is more satisfying than I ever thought possible. Leaving that previous relationship was the hardest thing I ever had to do, but the best decision I've ever made because I listened to my heart. — **DID THE RIGHT THING, SANTA CLARA, CALIF.**

DEAR D.T.R.T.: Making the decision to move on isn't easy. Sometimes admitting to ourselves that what we want may not be what the good Lord has planned for us can be painful. However, the most precious commodity we have is time. I'm pleased you didn't waste any more than you did.

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: For three years, the man I thought would be the father of my children talked about marriage. He would call me and say, "Start planning the wedding," and I'd be overjoyed. Then he'd say, "We'll do it after ( )." (He had a million excuses.)

The last straw was when he served in Iraq. We were rocky before he left. I stood by him and cried and waited for him to return home. The day he left Iraq, he called to say he had already asked his best friend to be our best man, and we'd be engaged before his discharge from the Army — in two months' time.

Well, he got back. He got his discharge and moved to Texas — and still no ring. I decided I'd had enough. Instead of getting my ring finger, he got another one.

I have never been happier. Please tell "Waiting" that the sooner she lets this loser go, the sooner she'll find a real man. — **NO MORE DRAMA IN GEORGIA**

DEAR NO MORE DRAMA: They say a gesture is worth a thousand words. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: That woman should not wait another day to move on! My girlfriend was with her childhood sweetheart for 15 years. Each year, he would raise the income level he felt he needed before getting married. In the process, he diminished her self-esteem to the point that she felt no one would want her. She finally had enough and threw him out.

Within two weeks, he had another "sweetie" sleeping over, and six months later he married the girl. — **LIFE'S TOO SHORT**

DEAR L.T.S.: How sad that it took your friend so long to realize she had made a bad investment. However, she should look on the bright side. If they were still together, she'd still be waiting.

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

NA Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; form information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY

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

NA Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for more information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Fund established

A fund has been established for the benefit of Mrs. David (Judi) Martin to help with the cost of treatments and reconstructive surgery caused by squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma cancer.

The family has no insurance due to a recent job change.

Contributions may be deposited at West Texas State Bank, account number 343-6276-05. Five hundred dollars has been donated and $2,000 dollars must be raised before treatment can begin, according to a spokesperson for the family.

PALETTE PROGRAM — Rachael Martin stayed from July 9-Dec. 23 in Louis Trichardt, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Her husband, Bob, worked in Kutama Sinthumule Maximum Security Prison (now known as GEO Group Inc.) as a program advisor. He retired as regional superintendent at Windham School Dist., TDCJ. Rachael told the group about her experiences and displayed souvenirs and photos from Africa. The Palette Club will meet again on Feb. 12 at the terminal building at Winston Field. From left are Lila Guinn, Nettie Faye Gardner and Martin. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Snyder Oaks Corner

John Sneed

John Sneed is our resident of the month. He was born in Wingate, Texas on July 26, 1919. He was in the army for 4 years spending 3½ years in the South Pacific. He worked as a carpenter for many years and always enjoyed his work. He and his wife loved to fish and had a camper out at J.B. Thomas and spent a lot of time fishing and enjoying each others company. He has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. We are proud to have him as one of our Snyder Oaks family.

Snyder Oaks Care Center
210 E. 37th St. 573-9377

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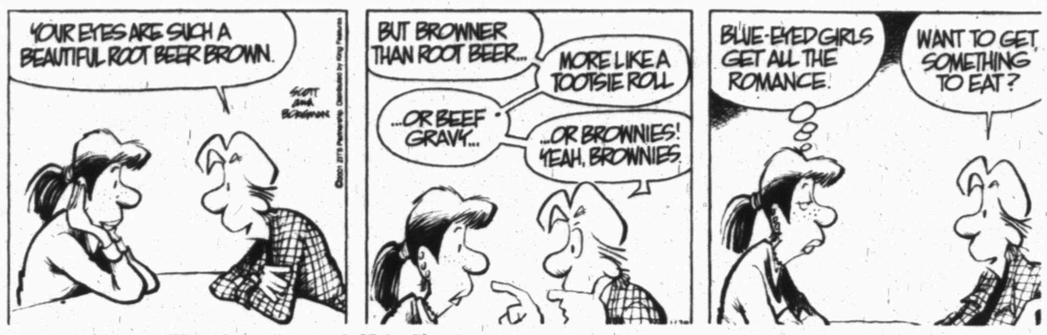
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

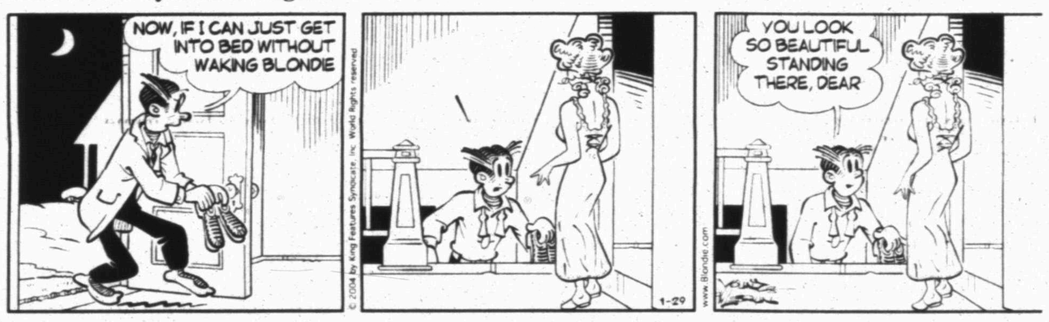


THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

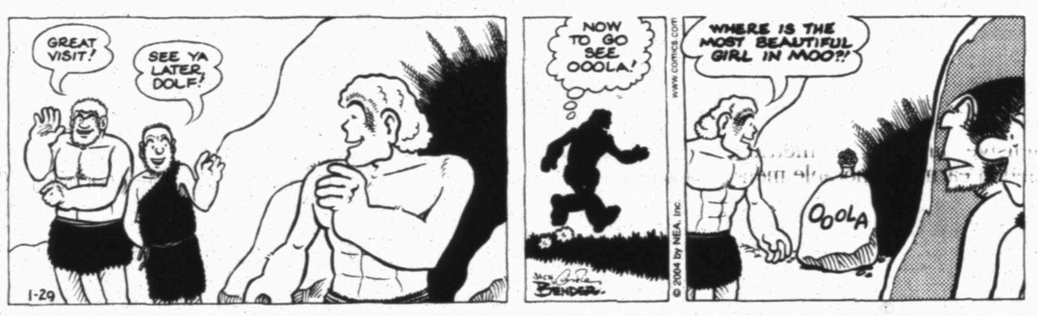
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

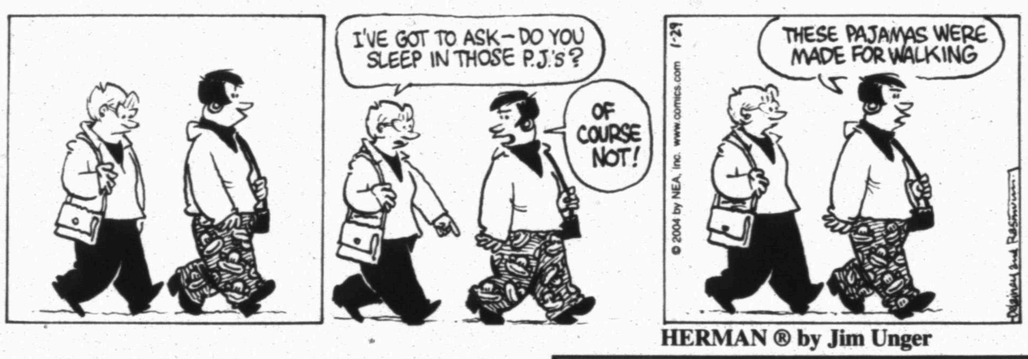
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Make wavy
6 Lout
11 Cromwell's name
12 Gentleman
13 Impolitely
14 Farthest point
15 Web-footed birds
16 Jeannie portrayer
17 Cal Tech grad
19 Uniform
23 Atlas page
26 Mellowed
28 Twosome
29 Health food
31 Lagoon maker
33 Saying
34 Used to it
35 Kind of talk
36 Fast jets
39 Place to sleep
40 Yukon transport
42 Dampens
44 Novelist — Bagnold
46 Helen, in Spanish
51 More heroic
54 Orchestra member
55 Hop a plane
56 Wholly absorbed
57 Four-bagger
58 New drivers, usually

DOWN

1 Private eye's lead
2 Carnival attraction
3 Folksinger Burl —
4 Brawl
5 Get nosy
6 Cry of dismay
7 Tag — (accompany)
8 Motorcycle, slangily
9 Bauxite or galena
10 Keats work
11 Internet suffix
12 Seville parent
16 Omelet ingredient
18 "Mona Lisa" singer
20 Love madly
21 Decreed
22 Daring
23 Mannequin
24 Wide open
25 Wrinkle-nosed dog
27 Aykroyd or Marino
29 Barks shrilly
30 Legal matter
32 Basin
34 Ego ending
37 Eddy
38 Koppel of "Nightline"
41 Dig into the files
43 Fishing net
45 Not e'en once
47 Practical knowledge
48 High spirits
49 Pinches
50 Diligent insect
51 Last degree
52 Galleon cargo
53 Loud thud
54 Zoo staffer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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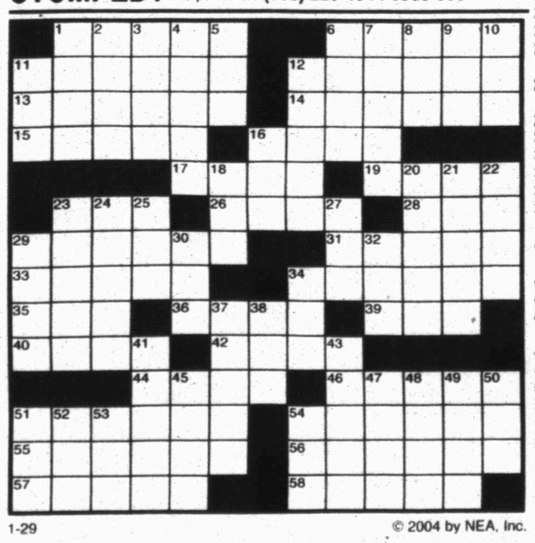

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"NAME YOUR GAME, DAD."

"You're supposed to adjust the machine; this chest X-ray only shows the top of his head!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

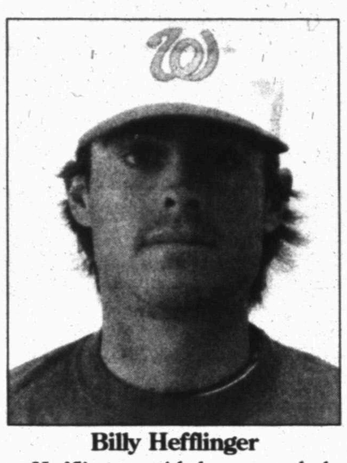
WTC baseball: New coach, new home, new attitude

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

New Western Texas College baseball coach Billy Hefflinger knows all about the struggles his team had in its inaugural season.

And now, with a new skipper taking the helm of a Division I baseball program at the age of 27, and a new field and new approach, this season feels like a new beginning for the Westerners.

"I'm definitely excited about getting it going. To be so young and be in charge of a college team is an exciting opportunity," Hefflinger said. "The main thing this year is a positive atmosphere. I truly think we have a very good team."



Billy Hefflinger

Hefflinger said the most challenging part for him in taking over the program was handling the administrative part of the job — sending out recruiting letters, meeting area coaches and familiarizing himself with the region.

"The biggest challenge is that you are always recruiting and always working," he said. "It's more office time. It takes a lot of hours and commitment. It's a seven-day-a-week job."

The Westerners went 11-41 and just 4-29 in conference play in their inaugural campaign under coach James King, who was replaced by Hefflinger last fall.

And while pitching would seem the likely culprit for last season's troubles, Hefflinger said several factors hindered the team's progress.

"I don't believe pitching was our weakness — defense was our weakness," he said. "We didn't have a set infield, and we had one of our catchers playing short. Cody (Guzman) went 0-9 last year, and Cody's not an 0-9 pitcher."

The Westerners will carry 15 hurlers on the roster, adding three new arms to the staff, including Snyder graduates Logan Hill and opening day starter Tyler Trout.

"This year we are going with an emphasis on destroying the hitters' timing. With 15 pitchers, if a guy is struggling, we're going to relieve him."

Sophomore Josh Heiney will bring experience to short, while Rosenberg High graduate Derek David will help solidify the left side of the infield at third base.

"Our defense will be more sound this year," Hefflinger said. "And our pitching will be better because of the defense."

In addition to stability in the lineup, Hefflinger said he wants to play an aggressive brand of baseball, with hit-and-runs and steals to take advantage of the team's most pronounced strength.

"Our team speed is phenomenal," he said. "I don't believe in the book — we are going to take every risk possible. My philosophy is it gets you 90 feet closer to scoring. We'll put an emphasis on base-running and press teams to create holes."

Hefflinger said the team integrated the attacking philosophy on the base paths in the fall, and it translated into roughly 70 steals for the Westerners during the preseason.

Another positive factor for the Westerners this season — one that Hefflinger points to as extremely important to the team — is a new home to practice and play on. In 2003, the Westerners split practice times between the high school practice field, North Park and an empty dirt patch on campus that is the site of the new field.

"Last year, we didn't have a place to call home," he said. "North Park was functional, but this is better. It will be a huge help."

WTC athletic director Dave Hanes is enthusiastic about the coming season and the job Hefflinger has done since taking the helm.

"We have a great group of guys who have come together as a team this year. I think everyone will be impressed with their enthusiasm and effort," Hanes said. "We may have situations during the season where we find ourselves out-manned, but I can guarantee you that we won't be out hustled. Coach Hefflinger has done an impressive job instilling a strong work ethic and winning attitude which I believe will be reflected in the won-lost column this season."

Hefflinger said he is in a good situation with the core group of players.

"I feel very fortunate to have this group of guys," he said. "We've got guys that will run through a brick wall."

Hefflinger has made a concerted effort to get his players out into the public eye — going to Tiger football games and being a part of the 'Meet-the-Tigers' night sponsored by the SHS booster club, not only to raise awareness of the program, but to help the players become part of the community.

"We really want the community to come out and support these guys," he said. "It's college baseball, and the program is beneficial to the community."

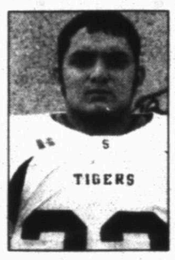
Hefflinger said he would fill out his line-up card for Friday's opener late today, but has Trout penciled in to take the mound.

First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Ramon named to TSWA Team

Snyder linebacker Isaac Ramon earned a spot on the Collin Street Baker/Texas Sports Writers Association's third team, the final postseason football award in the state.

Ramon, already named to the All-State team and honored as the Defensive MVP of District 3-3A, recorded 97 tackles with 35 assists, with 14 tackles behind the line of scrimmage. He also forced seven fumbles and recovered four, while recording three sacks and nabbing an interception. He was the leader of a defense that surrendered just 202 yards per game.



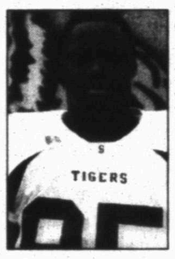
Ramon

Snyder junior offensive lineman Ricky McNatt and senior defensive lineman Demetrius Brandon earned honorable mention.

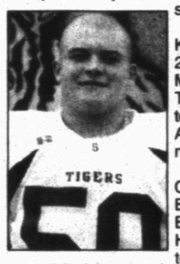
Brandon had 46 tackles, six for loss, and a sack for the Tigers, while McNatt helped anchor a line that paved the way for the offense to gain 4,006 yards in 13 games.

Snyder head coach Chad Rogers is already getting excited for the 2004 campaign.

"I'm looking forward to next year's list," Rogers said.



Brandon



McNatt

TSWA Class 3A 2003 All-State Team

FIRST TEAM:
Offense:

Linemen — Eddie Rollman, Burnet, 6-4, 297, sr.; Nick Willson, Atlanta, 6-1, 290, sr.; Jermany Griffin, Marlin, 6-3, 288, sr.; and Kellen Heard, Wharton, 6-6, 380, sr.

Center — Eric Wilson, Abilene Wylie, 6-3, 250, sr.

Tight end — Tim Jackson, Everman, 6-3, 170, jr.

Wide receivers — Brian Christian, Decatur, 6-2, 175, jr. and Jordan Shipley, Burnet, 6-0, 180, sr.

Quarterback — Stephen McGee, Burnet, 6-4, 205, sr.

Running backs — Terrius Purvey, Gainesville, 6-1, 185; jr.; Lashon Thayer, Gatesville, 6-0, 195, sr.; and Baylen Laury, Forney, 5-9, 165, sr.

Placekicker — Brandt Goeke Bellville, 6-2, 165, sr.

Defense:

Linemen — Brian Jones, Everman, 6-1, 270, sr.; Jeremiah Chapman, China Spring, 6-4, 235, sr.; Giles Montgomery, Sweetwater, 6-4, 238, sr.; and (tie) Kelley Taylor, Burnet, 6-3, 225, jr. and Stryker Sulak, Rockdale, 6-5, 225, sr.

Linebackers — Ty Kuhn, Burnet, 6-2, 210, sr.; John Sadler, Marlin, 5-9, 215, sr.; Trey Bennett, Newton, 6-1, 215, sr.; and Andy Rickerson, Forney, 6-0, 190, sr.

Secondary — Chris Briggs, New Boston, 5-10, 175, sr.; Brian Penn, Barbers Hill, 6-1, 170, sr.; Matterial Richardson, Marlin, 6-0, 195, sr.; and Dallas Washington, Atlanta, 6-1, 195, sr.

Punter — Orlando Ochoa, Port Isabel, 6-2, 170, jr.

Kick-returner — Dallas Washington, Atlanta, 6-0, 190, sr.

Offensive Player of the Year — Jordan Shipley, Burnet.

Defensive Player of the Year — John Sadler, Marlin.

Coach of the Year — Ben Scharnberg, Atlanta.

Jazz snap Mavs' winning streak

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Dallas' nine-game winning streak is over, thanks in large part to a player the Mavericks didn't re-sign last summer.

Raja Bell scored 18 points against his former team, including two free throws with 12.3 seconds remaining that forced the Mavericks to go for two 3-pointers that wouldn't fall in the Utah Jazz's 91-88 win Wednesday night.

"I told my teammates before this game. I said, 'I don't care if I score a point. Please, just beat them tonight,'" said Bell, who spent last season with the Mavericks before signing with the Jazz as a free agent. "We got the 'W' and that's all I really care about."

The Jazz used a big night by Bell, Andrei Kirilenko's 25 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks and a huge rebounding advantage to beat the Mavericks for the second time in three games this season.

Utah outrebounded Dallas 45-24 and won for the second straight game after losing five in a row.

"Basically when you get outrebounded as bad as we did tonight, it's awful hard to win," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said.

The Jazz rallied from an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter, but had to survive some tense moments in the closing seconds before they could celebrate the win.

Michael Finley, who scored 29 for Dallas, put up a tying 3-point attempt that bounced off the rim.

Tigers close to landing Pudge

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivan Rodriguez is close to moving from the World Series champions to a team coming off one of the worst seasons in major league history.

Rodriguez and the Detroit Tigers were on the verge of agreeing to a $40 million, four-year contract, The Associated Press learned Wednesday night.

The 10-time All-Star catcher was to be examined in Texas on Thursday by Dr. Andrew Dossett, two baseball sources told the AP on the condition of anonymity. Dossett is the spine consultant to the Rangers and has treated Rodriguez for many years.

If all goes well in the exam, the agreement between the free agent and Detroit could be announced Friday, one of the sources said.

The deal contains a team option for 2008 that could make the contract worth $50 million over five years, one of the sources said.

Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

"We've been working diligently with the Tigers on this matter," said Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras. "We're having further meetings on Thursday."

Rodriguez, 32, spent his first 12 seasons with the Rangers, then became a free agent and signed a $10 million, one-year deal with the Marlins.

Rodriguez hit .313 last season with 16 homers and 85 RBIs, and he was MVP of the NL championship series win over the Chicago Cubs.

Baltimore and Seattle also were said to be interested in Rodriguez.

Bulldogs try to keep playoff hopes alive Friday in Dawson

The Ira Bulldogs will try to keep pace in District 7 when they head to Dawson Friday night to take on the Dragons at 8.

Ira (9-8, 4-2) lost post player Brian Proctor on the opening tip Tuesday, then lost the tilt to district-leading Grady, 62-44.

The Lady Bulldogs (8-12, 2-4) will try to get back on the winning track against the Lady Dragons at 6:30 p.m., after falling to Grady Tuesday, 52-35.

The Hermleigh cagers also are on the road Friday, heading to Trent to take on the Gorillas.

Hermeligh was swept Tuesday by Loraine.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers are at home against Sweetwater Friday.

Sports Briefs

Basketball booster club

The SHS boys and girls basketball booster club will meet in the gym Friday immediately following the conclusion of the boys game.

Football booster club

The SHS football booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at China Dragon.

Lindros sustains eighth concussion

NEW YORK (AP) — Eric Lindros sustained another concussion and left the New York Rangers' game against the Washington Capitals.

Lindros, plagued by seven previous concussions in his career, took a hard hit along the boards from Capitals defenseman Jason Doig in the second period and was knocked to the ice.

Majerus will resign because of health concerns

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah basketball coach Rick Majerus will resign at the end of the season after his latest health problem put him in the hospital with chest pains.

Assistant Kerry Rupp will coach the Utes in the interim, though Majerus, 55, could return and finish out the season if his health allows. Rupp will guide the team Saturday against BYU.

The health of the portly Majerus has always been a concern, especially after he had heart bypass surgery in 1989 — just six games into his first season at Utah.

Crazy Legs Hirsch dead at 80

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch died. He was 80.

Hirsch died of natural causes at an assisted living facility, according to Wisconsin assistant athletic director Steve Malchow.

Hirsch earned his nickname for his running style as a halfback and receiver for the NFL's Los Angeles Rams from 1949-57.

In college, Hirsch starred at Wisconsin for one season, then completed his career at Michigan. He was assigned to Michigan for schooling in 1943 while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1968 and served as Wisconsin's athletic director from 1969-87.

Area Sports Caendar

TODAY

Basketball: Snyder girls at Frenship Tournament, 6:30 p.m.
IJHS at Highland Tournament

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls vs. Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Sweetwater, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys at Dawson, 6:30 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls at Trent, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Sweetwater, 6 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh boys vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls at Frenship Tournament, 8 p.m.
Baseball: WTC vs. Vernon JC, season opener, 2 p.m.

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder girls at Frenship Tournament
IJHS at Highland Tournament
Snyder frosh boys at Lamesa Tournament
Baseball: WTC vs. Vernon JC, DH, noon
Softball: WTC at El Paso College Tournament
Tennis: SHS at Midland College, dual matches, 9 a.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	25	11	11	5	66	142	116
New Jersey	26	12	10	1	63	115	89
N.Y. Islanders	24	20	5	1	54	142	125
N.Y. Rangers	19	21	7	4	49	134	144
Pittsburgh	11	32	5	3	30	101	189

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	27	13	8	3	65	137	121
Ottawa	27	13	7	3	64	170	107
Boston	22	14	11	4	59	124	120
Montreal	24	19	6	2	56	124	112
Buffalo	21	25	5	1	48	124	133

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	24	16	6	3	57	129	111
Atlanta	21	23	6	2	50	142	151
Florida	17	21	11	3	48	115	139
Carolina	17	23	9	2	45	95	123
Washington	15	29	5	2	37	120	158

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	28	15	7	2	65	165	122
St. Louis	25	16	7	1	58	121	116
Nashville	24	18	6	2	56	118	127
Columbus	14	26	7	3	38	103	142
Chicago	12	27	7	5	36	110	148

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	29	11	8	2	68	156	112
Vancouver	28	14	7	2	65	147	115
Calgary	25	18	4	3	57	118	108
Minnesota	17	20	15	0	49	112	117
Edmonton	19	23	8	1	47	126	134

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	24	12	11	4	63	127	105
Dallas	24	20	9	0	57	109	117
Los Angeles	20	15	11	5	56	134	129
Phoenix	18	16	13	2	51	124	126
Anaheim	15	22	8	6	44	107	135

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Wednesday's Games

Philadelphia 3, Florida 3, tie
Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
St. Louis 1, Atlanta 1, tie
Dallas 5, Ottawa 3
San Jose 4, Calgary 1
Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3, OT

Today's Games

Washington at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	23	20	.535	—
Boston	22	25	.468	3
New York	20	27	.426	5
Miami	19	27	.413	5½
Philadelphia	19	27	.413	5½
Washington	13	31	.295	10½
Orlando	13	34	.277	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	34	13	.723	—
Detroit	30	16	.652	3½
New Orleans	26	19	.578	7
Milwaukee	25	20	.556	8
Toronto	21	22	.488	11
Cleveland	17	28	.378	16
Atlanta	14	32	.304	19½
Chicago	13	33	.283	20½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	31	13	.705	—
San Antonio	30	17	.638	2½
Dallas	29	17	.630	3
Houston	26	19	.578	5½
Memphis	25	19	.568	6
Denver	27	21	.563	6
Utah	23	22	.511	8½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	31	12	.721	—
L.A. Lakers	27	15	.643	3½
Seattle	22	22	.500	9½
L.A. Clippers	19	24	.442	12
Portland	19	24	.442	12
Golden State	19	25	.432	12½
Phoenix	17	30	.362	16

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 106, Boston 103
Cleveland 94, Miami 93
Indiana 101, Phoenix 79
Orlando 104, Washington 100
Toronto 94, Philadelphia 84
Portland 88, Memphis 76
New Orleans 101, Milwaukee 100
Utah 91, Dallas 88
Denver 115, Chicago 99
Sacramento 99, Houston 94
L.A. Lakers 96, Seattle 82
Golden State 97, Minnesota 90

Today's Games

New Jersey at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Portland at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Sacramento at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

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On cable...

FCC: Satellite services gaining ground

WASHINGTON (AP) — Satellite television providers such as DirecTV and the Dish Network that didn't exist 10 years ago now have captured almost one-quarter of all households who pay for TV, the Federal Communications Commission reported Wednesday.

The agency's 10th annual report on TV competition also found subscribers to cable and satellite services have a choice of more than 300 channels beyond the conventional network broadcasts, triple the number a decade ago.

"The vast majority of Americans enjoy more choice, more programming and more services than any time in history," the FCC said.

The FCC report provides support for Chairman Michael Powell and the other two Republicans on the five-member commission, who have been criticized by consumer advocates and lawmakers for enacting new media ownership rules allowing companies to own more TV and radio stations.

Supporters of the rules, which have been challenged in federal court, say that the increased competition from cable and satellite networks has made the old limits on ownership obsolete.

The FCC said the number of non-broadcast channels — such as HBO, CNN and ESPN — has grown from slightly more than 100 in 1994 to more than 330 in 2003.

Despite the increased number of channels, consumer advocates said, most viewers still get their news from the network stations and a handful of cable stations owned by the networks' parent companies, such as MSNBC (General Electric), Fox News Channel (News Corp.) and CNN (Time Warner, which also owns the WB network).

"You have to look at what people actually watch to form an opinion about political issues," said Gene Kimmelman, senior director for public policy at Consumers Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. "A handful of companies control the channels consumers watch most for news and information."

The FCC report found that cable, which had a near-monopoly 10 years ago on delivering programming to households willing to pay for it, now has 75 percent of the market. Satellite services have 22 percent. Other competitors, such as telephone companies or electric utilities, have the rest of the market. About 70.5 million households subscribe to cable; 23.7 million get satellite service.

"The FCC's report reaffirms the sweeping competitive changes that have taken place in the video marketplace over the past 10 years," said Robert Sachs, president of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

Even with the increased competition, cable rates have continued to rise faster than inflation. Congress deregulated the cable industry in 1996; over the next seven years rates increased by 53 percent, while inflation rose 19 percent.

Cable operators say the higher prices reflect increased costs to operators, including technical improvements to systems, better customer service, additional services and new and improved channels.

Texas death row inmate admits to killings

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A death row inmate confessed to over a dozen killings just before he was executed Wednesday night, about a month after his punishment was postponed while courts considered an appeal.

After he was strapped to the death chamber gurney, Billy Frank Vickers, 58, admitted for the first time that he shot grocery store owner Phillip Kinslow during a botched robbery in 1993. He was being executed for that crime.

"It was nothing personal, I was just trying to make a living," Vickers said.

Vickers also took credit Wednesday for more than a dozen other killings. He said there were "several more that I had done or that I had been a part of, and I'm sorry but I am not sure how many. There must be a dozen or 14, I believe, all total."

He mentioned no names, except in the case of a former Texas oil millionaire who was accused and later acquitted of killing his stepdaughter in 1976.

"One I would like to clear up is Cullen Davis — where he was charged with shooting his wife," Vickers said, without elaborating or taking clear responsibility for the slaying.

Cullen Davis was accused of killing his second wife's 12-year-old daughter at his Fort Worth mansion. Priscilla Davis, his second wife, was wounded and her boyfriend was killed. Cullen Davis was later acquitted of murder-for-hire charges in a separate case.

Jack Strickland, a former prosecutor who worked on the Davis case, said Wednesday night that he had never heard of Vickers and doubted that he was involved in the shooting.

"For some perverse reason known only to him (Vickers), he once again screwed with the system. I certainly don't put any stock in it, not the slightest bit," Strickland said.

Vickers also referred to an inmate serving a life term for a murder, but said the inmate's father was responsible for the crime. "I did not do it, but I was with his daddy when it was done," he said.

Vickers also expressed remorse.

"I wish to say to my family, I'm sorry for all the grief I've put you through," he said.

He died at 6:21 p.m., six minutes after lethal dose began. It was his second visit to the death house in about seven weeks.

On Dec. 9, Vickers spent about 10 hours in a small holding cell just outside the death chamber while courts considered an appeal challenging the constitutionality of the lethal drug combination used in executions.

When the appeal was not resolved by midnight, six hours after he was scheduled to die, the execution warrant expired and Vickers was returned to death row.

Accuser's father cannot visit his children

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The father of Michael Jackson's young accuser appeared on the verge of tears Wednesday after a judge denied his request to see his children.

Barred from contacting the boy and his brother and sister, the father had asked to visit his son because of rumors the boy is sick and because he hoped to determine if Jackson molested him.

Although he denied the request, Superior Court Judge Richard E. Denner scheduled a Feb. 24 hearing to hear any additional evidence showing why the father should be allowed to have contact with the boy.

Jackson has pleaded innocent to seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts on a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. He is free on $3 million bail pending trial.

The father pleaded no contest to child cruelty in 2002 and spousal abuse in 2001 and was barred from seeing his children. The boy's mother filed for divorce in October 2001. The father's attorney, Russell Halpern, said he has since completed classes in parenting and anger management.

The Associated Press is not identifying the father to avoid identifying Jackson's accuser.

The father has said that if rumors about the boy's health are true, then it is important his side of the family get back in touch to be available as potential organ donors.

William Dickerman, a former attorney for the family, told The Associated Press last week that the boy was ill. Jamie Masada, a friend of the family, said in November the boy's remaining kidney was failing, though he said last week his condition was improving.

Halpern said an attorney for the mother produced doctors' letters saying the boy was in stable condition. It was unclear whether that meant the boy had been hospitalized.

The boy has lost a kidney to cancer surgery, but law enforcement officials suggested the boy is healthy in another letter Halpern said the mother's attorney had.

Her attorneys declined to comment.

The father declined interview requests.

"I appreciate your concern but I can't comment. It's really difficult," he said. Asked if there was anything he wanted to tell his family, he replied, "Just how much I miss them."

Patterson-UTI Energy posts last quarter gains

Patterson-UTI Energy, headquartered in Snyder, reported a tenfold increase in net income on a 48 percent increase in revenues for the last quarter of 2003.

Net income for the quarter totaled $20.4 million, 25 cents per share, compared to net income of $1.8 million, two cents per share, for the fourth quarter of 2002.

Revenues for the quarter were up 48 percent to $208.3 million, compared to $140.9 million for the fourth quarter of 2002.

Net income for the 12 months ended Dec. 31 increased to $55.3 million, 68 cents per share, compared to net income of $2.2 million, or three cents per share, for the previous year.

Revenues for the year increased by 47 percent to $776.2 million compared to $528.0 million in 2002.

Cloyce Talbott, Patterson-UTI chief executive officer, said, "While demand for drilling rigs remained relatively stable during the last half of 2003, average revenues and margin per drilling day continued to increase in the fourth quarter.

"Our average revenue per drilling day increased by $180 to $9,760 and our average margin per drilling day increased by $240 to $2,840 compared to the third quarter of 2003.

"During the fourth quarter, we had an average of 191 rigs operating, including 12 in Canada, compared to 192 in the previous quarter, including 11 in Canada. We estimate that our rig count will average 186 rigs operating in January, including 15 in Canada."

The CEO said January activity levels were impacted by slow post-holiday start-ups and weather delays, but a steady pickup is noted at the end of January. Also he said customer inquiries are increasing as 2004 drilling programs commence.

"We expect our rig count will continue to increase as the first quarter progresses," Talbott added.

"We are also very pleased with the performance of our pressure pumping services and oil and natural gas exploration and production business segments. The performance of our drilling and completion fluids services business segment was hindered by continued weakness in the Gulf of Mexico."

Mark S. Siegel, company chairman, said, "Our results for the quarter continue to demonstrate the earnings leverage that we are able to achieve as revenues increase and daily margins improve.

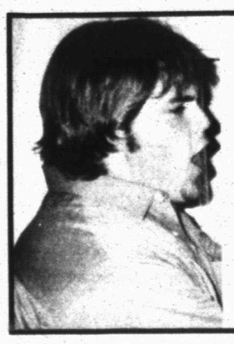
"Looking ahead, we believe that Patterson-UTI continues to be well-situated to enhance its position as a leading provider of onshore contract drilling services to exploration and production companies in North America. During the year we increased our drilling rig fleet by 19, bringing our total land-based drilling rig count to 343. Our balance sheet continues to be strong. We ended the year with $100 million in cash and cash equivalents, $200 million in working capital and no long-term debt, providing us with the opportunity to be patient buyers of additional drilling capacity when the opportunity arises," Siegel concluded.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	16.90	16.38	16.48	—.02
AT&T Corp	20.00	19.60	19.60	—.17
Albertsons	23.69	23.54	23.54	—.01
Alltel	49.55	49.02	49.04	—.23
AmEl Pw	33.22	32.20	32.55	+.28
AndarkPtr	49.89	48.33	49.22	—.73
ATMOS Egy	25.82	25.57	25.72	+.10
Aviall	15.60	15.45	15.51	—.09
BP PLC	48.33	48.05	48.05	—.39
BakerHughes	36.29	35.51	36.00	—.08
Bank of Amer	81.01	80.00	80.76	+.26
BellSouth	29.61	29.34	29.49	—.01
BurlNoSFe	32.45	32.15	32.15	+.36
Caterpillar	80.16	78.50	78.76	—.86
CenterPoint	10.65	10.46	10.58	+.28
ChevronTex	87.80	87.02	87.06	+.33
Citigroup	49.63	49.05	49.45	+.62
CocaCola	50.15	49.10	49.80	+.41
ColgatePal	51.39	51.00	51.27	+.42
CmclMetals	28.92	28.01	28.43	—.29
ConocoPhill	66.66	65.87	66.63	+.31
Cooper Inds	55.82	54.96	55.10	+.52
DaimlrChry	48.64	48.08	48.10	—.26
DeltaAirLines	11.91	11.42	11.43	—.11
Dillards Inc	16.75	16.30	16.56	+.02
DowChem	42.75	41.66	41.70	+.60
DuPont	44.55	43.87	44.04	+.37
EastmanChem	39.10	38.40	38.92	+.57
EstKodak	29.25	28.63	28.71	—.42
EDS Corp	24.14	23.90	24.05	+.01
Entergy	58.31	57.53	58.13	+.30
ExxonMobil	41.60	40.45	41.44	+.63
FootLocker	24.64	23.80	24.00	—.27
GenDynam	94.14	92.39	93.64	+1.19
GenElec	34.15	33.88	33.97	+.21
GenMills	46.12	45.80	46.07	+.32
GenMotors	52.46	51.25	51.28	—1.18
GaPacific	29.20	28.74	28.77	—.15
Goodrich	31.64	31.20	31.31	+.04
Goodyear	10.79	10.13	10.13	—.17
GtAtlPac	8.97	8.57	8.65	—.11
Halliburtn	30.35	28.77	29.94	+.53
Hanson PLC	36.95	36.73	36.76	—.04
HarteHanks	22.20	21.80	22.00	—.51
HomeDepot	35.38	34.90	35.13	+.29
HoneywellIntl	36.23	35.80	36.10	+.42
IBM	98.20	97.42	97.90	+.52
IntlPaper	42.45	41.91	41.96	—.05
JohnsonJn	53.67	53.03	53.51	+.35
KinderMorg	60.47	59.51	59.57	—.28
Kroger Co	18.60	18.42	18.58	+.15
LockheedM	49.96	49.50	49.81	+.06
Lowes Cos	54.00	53.03	53.10	—.70
Lubys	3.65	3.61	3.63	—.05
LucentTech	4.81	4.32	4.37	+.01
MarathonOil	33.63	33.10	33.19	—.26
MayDeptStr	32.48	31.73	32.09	—.11
Medtronic	48.45	48.11	48.45	+.45
Motorola	17.05	16.67	16.69	—.21
NCR Corp	40.36	39.20	39.95	+.50
Navistar	50.35	48.70	48.71	—1.43
PNM Rescs	30.24	30.05	30.11	+.14
Penney JC	25.98	25.29	25.76	+.21
PepBoys	22.18	21.55	21.71	—.28
PepsiCo	46.90	46.37	46.85	+.60
PhelpDodge	75.03	72.70	73.24	—.91
PilgrimsPride	19.65	19.50	19.61	—.03
Praxair s	36.20	35.62	35.69	—.32
ProctGamb	99.69	98.69	99.65	+1.03
RadioShack	32.70	32.10	32.30	+.24
RoyalDut	47.98	47.70	47.71	—.12
SBC Comm	25.61	25.26	25.26	—.30
SaraLee	20.99	20.68	20.90	+.17
Scripps EW	94.40	93.91	94.40	+.20
SearsRoeb	46.00	41.25	42.85	—2.95
SherwinW	33.83	33.22	33.70	+.40
SouthernCo	30.50	29.99	30.13	+.14
SwstAirl	15.40	15.11	15.12	—.05
SprintFON	17.50	17.13	17.15	—.20
SprintPCS	8.10	7.47	7.61	—.45
Sunoco Inc	57.04	56.15	56.44	—.38
TXU Corp	24.51	24.20	24.33	+.20
TempleInland	59.59	58.42	58.53	—.75
TexInd	35.67	35.20	35.22	—.29
TexasInst	31.02	30.16	30.45	—.25
Textron	54.58	53.49	53.87	—.71
TimeWarner	18.18	17.65	17.66	—.30
TrinityInds	33.20	32.65	32.66	—.09
TylerTech	10.54	9.50	9.99	—.21
UnionPacif	65.40	65.00	65.13	+.03
USSteel	33.66	33.02	33.28	
UnitedTech	96.00	94.80	95.40	+.05
Unocal	37.90	37.41	37.46	—.15
VerizonComm	36.90	36.20	36.47	—.29
WalMart	53.80	53.23	53.57	+.30
WellsFargo	57.86	56.99	57.77	+.71
WstnGasRs	47.03	46.48	46.92	+.02
WinnDixie	9.20	8.96	9.08	—.13
Xerox Cp	14.93	14.59	14.64	—.14
YumBrands	33.79	32.60	32.76	—.62



Oh my gosh! I'm 22!
Happy Birthday Corey!
We love you Corey
Mom, Dad, PawPaw Ken, Grandma Joyce, Grandma Becky & PaPa Lloyd

JAN 29 2004

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Bush campaign shifts gears for possible run against John Kerry

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a new Democratic front-runner in John Kerry, President Bush's re-election campaign is quietly shifting gears, preparing for the possibility it will confront a war hero and current senator.

The line of attack is the same: Whether Howard Dean or Kerry, the Democrats' nominee would be a left-leaning New Englander who wants to "raise taxes" and reverse course on Iraq, campaign officials and Bush advisers say.

"This week's front-runner is very much like the front-runner of two weeks ago: a Northeast liberal who motivates his support based on anger and negativity," said Bush campaign spokesman Terry Holt.

There is debate within Bush's administration and inside his re-election headquarters about how hard to strike at Kerry, of Massachusetts, who won the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary.

Some of Bush's political advisers take credit for successfully tarring Dean as an angry liberal, and are now suffering a kind of buyer's remorse. They wonder whether their criticism fueled the rise of Kerry.

He is a decorated Vietnam War veteran, knowledgeable about domestic and foreign affairs, and has a certain gravitas and strength as a debater.

Knocking down Kerry now, they say, could help ignite the candidacy of a Democrat some Bush campaign officials fear even more: Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, who finished a strong second in Iowa but slumped to fourth place in New Hampshire, just behind retired Gen. Wesley Clark, his other Southern rival. A recent poll showed Edwards with a slight lead in South Carolina's critical primary next Tuesday, and he holds a strong appeal elsewhere in the South, which was Bush Country in 2000.

Some Bush campaign advisers worry that Edwards' promise to end what the candidate charges are the "two Americas" — one for the wealthy and privileged and the other for working people and the poor — could have broad appeal. Bush operatives are also mindful that in Edwards' 1998 election, about six in 10 women backed him, and black voters supported him by a 9-to-1 margin.

As Democrats moved on to the next round of primary states, Bush was heading to New Hampshire today, two days after the primary, to polish his image after months of pummeling by the Democrats.

Later in the evening, Bush was raising re-election money in Greenwich, Conn. He has more than $130 million, a sizable war chest that will allow him to hammer the Democrats between now and August.

Officially, the administration says it is above the Democrats' fray. White House corridors were abuzz Wednesday with talk of New Hampshire and the Democratic candidates.

The Republican National Committee began compiling dossiers on each of the potential Democratic candidates as early as January 2002, and Bush's re-election campaign now has those files at its fingertips.

The campaign's rap on Kerry: He casts himself as an enemy of special interests, while cozying up to them and benefiting from them as a senator; He has spent most of his career in Washington; He has a privileged background that leaves him out of touch with the concerns of everyday Americans; He is an "old Left" liberal in the mold of Edward Kennedy and Michael Dukakis; His populist talk smacks of "class warfare."

Republican Party chief Ed Gillespie, who has criticized Kerry as being more liberal than Kennedy, was continuing the anti-Kerry message in a speech today.

Studios sue actor over leaks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two major movie studios sued an actor and longtime member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who allegedly leaked "screener" copies of movies that were then reproduced and distributed on the Internet.

Columbia Pictures Industries and Warner Bros. filed the lawsuits against Carmine Caridi, a 20-year Academy member who has appeared in "The Godfather: Part II" and "NYPD Blue."

Caridi, 70, has told investigators he sent VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to his Illinois friend, 51-year-old Russell Sprague, who used a software program to convert the VHS tape into DVD format and then sent the original tapes back to Caridi, authorities said.

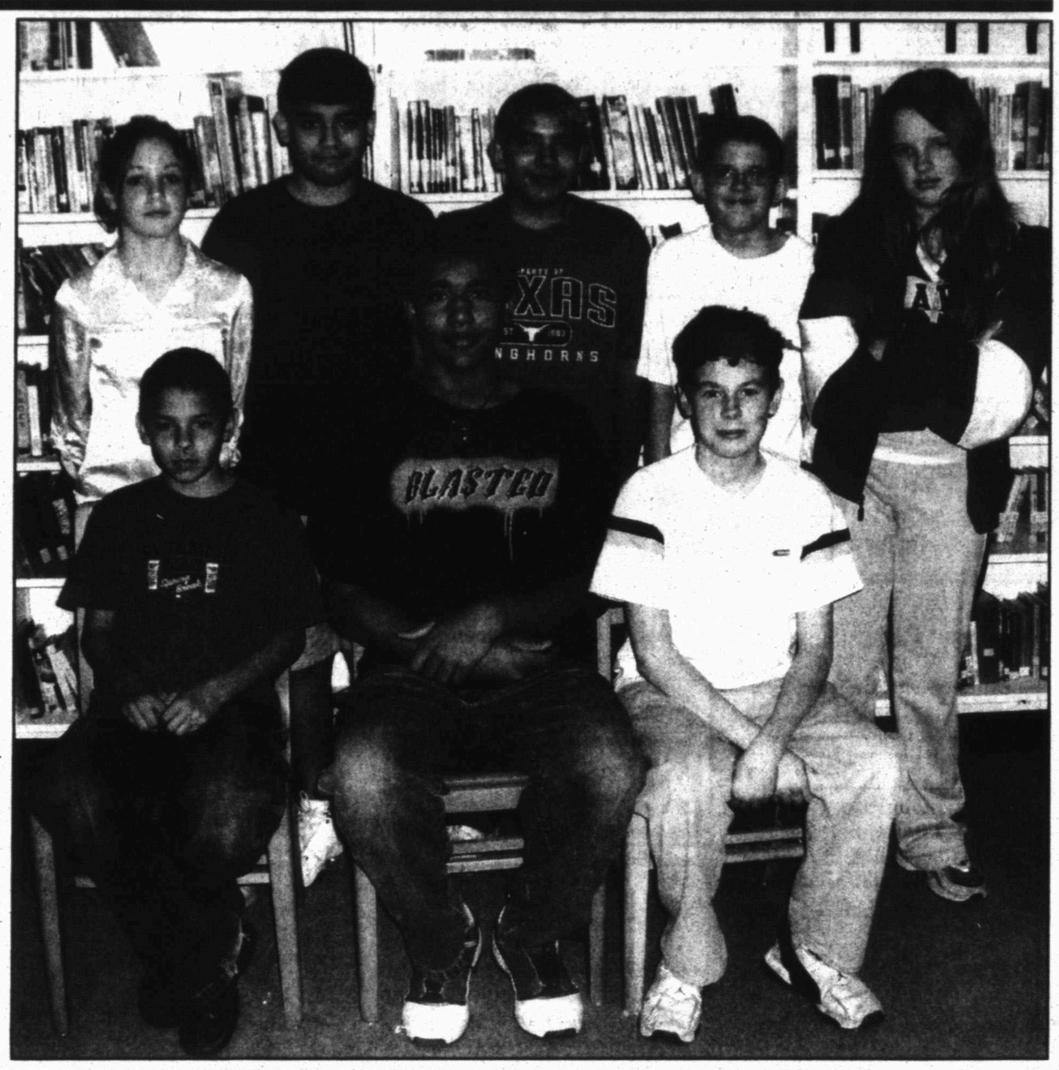
Investigators said a search of Caridi's Hollywood apartment turned up 36 original Academy screener tapes, including "The Last Samurai," "In America," "Shattered Glass" and "Mona Lisa Smile."

Warner Bros. seeks damages of a minimum of $150,000 for each infringing use of its releases "The Last Samurai" and "Mystic River." In a separate complaint, Columbia is asking for its choice between actual damages or $150,000 for each infringing use of "Something's Gotta Give" and "Big Fish."

Caridi's attorney, Richard Millard, did not immediately return calls Wednesday. An attorney for Warner Bros. declined to comment. An attorney for Columbia did not return messages left late Wednesday.

Caridi has said he received no money for the films. He allegedly told investigators he believed Sprague was a film buff and merely wished to watch them.

Sprague was arrested and charged with criminal copyright infringement last week. Caridi has not been charged.



SEVENTH AND EIGHTH UIL WINNERS — Hermleigh seventh and eighth graders recently won awards in UIL competition. Seventh graders in the back row are from left Marissa Davis, second place team dictionary skills, fifth place individual dictionary skills, fourth place impromptu speaking, fourth place oral reading, second place ready writing, second place team science I; Julian Fuentes, second place team dictionary skills, sixth place individual dictionary skills, second place team listening, third place team maps, graphs and charts, fifth place ready writing, fifth place spelling; Jonathan Hernandez, second place team listening; Rustin Webb, sixth place impromptu speaking, second place individual listening, second place team listening, third place team maps, graphs and charts, second place team science I; Casey Williamson, second place team dictionary skills, fourth place individual dictionary skills, fifth place individual maps, graphs and charts, third place team maps, graphs and charts, first place modern oratory, third place ready writing, second place team science I, second place individual science I, sixth place spelling; eighth graders in front are Jake Alaniz, fourth place individual dictionary skills, fifth place individual listening, third place team listening; Derek Anderson, third place team listening; Brett McClure, fifth place individual listening, third place team listening, fourth place individual science II. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 30, 2004

In the year ahead, consider all contingencies before giving up that which you have going for you now for something new and different. If you need a change, try to view old involvements from a fresh perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Desires for instant gratification could trigger a bum deal for you today. Don't settle for immediate returns in situations where you stand to gain a great deal more with time.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — By scattering your forces today, you can count on ending up with a nonproductive day. You'll fare far better and accomplish much more in the long run by doing just one thing at a time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're not necessarily a person who takes time to think about what you're going to say before you say it, but today, it behooves you to do so. Spontaneous remarks could get you into trouble.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Think twice before inconveniencing friends financially today. If you are collecting for a fund-raising event, don't pressure anybody into donating what they can't afford at the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — There is nothing wrong with your abilities to achieve your goals today, but what could do you in is your impatience. If things don't work right away, you may throw in the towel prematurely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be particularly mindful of past experiences that didn't work out well for you should a similar situation arise again today. If you failed to learn from them, you're destined to repeat them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Why would you want to get involved again in a new enterprise with an individual who has introduced complications in your life previously? Think before you agree to team up again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Even if you believe you're a quick thinker with the ability to make on-the-spot decisions, take all the time available to you today so that you don't rush to judgment. You could be way off track.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — If you do things in fits and starts today (especially when taking on a tedious task) chances are you're not going to be proud of the results. Consistency will become important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You might meet someone socially today who could cause your heart to palpitate, but get to know this person better before making any commitments. The bloom could quickly fade.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It may take all the patience, tolerance and understanding you've got when dealing with a family problem today, but it'll be worth it. If you lose your cool, it'll only make matters worse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — This is definitely the wrong day to experiment with any new methods, techniques, tools, materials or machinery where your work is concerned. You could be accident-prone.

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Fewer people sent to state jail facilities

HOUSTON (AP) — For the first time in years, the number of Harris County residents sent to state jail on low-level drug possession charges is falling.

The drop in state jail admissions for possession of less than 1 gram of a controlled substance follows two new mandates from state lawmakers last year — a newly created Harris County drug court program and a law requiring probation rather than jail for first-time, nonviolent offenders.

"This is very welcome news," said Rep. Ray Allen, a Republican from Grand Prairie who backed the bill prohibiting jail for first-time offenders. "Criminal prosecutions in Harris County were more aggressive than any other place in the state."

Harris County faced heavy statewide criticism last year after reports that nearly half of all low-level drug offenders in state-funded jails came from here, although the county accounts for about 16 percent of the Texas population.

After climbing by about 40 percent in two years, from 3,243 in 2000 to 4,475 in 2002, the number of Harris County residents sent to state jail on the lowest felony drug offense dropped by 5 percent, to 4,241 inmates in 2003, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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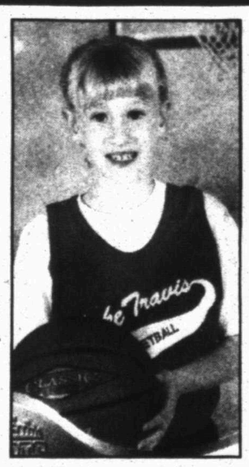

First year in Lake Travis Youth Association Basketball League, she averaged 8 points a game.

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NASA sets today to remember the astronauts who died

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — In a hopeful sign of cultural shift, NASA has set aside today as a day to remember the Columbia, Challenger and Apollo dead and the tragic consequences of getting it wrong.

The Day of Remembrance falls three days before the first anniversary of the Columbia disaster. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe plans to make it an annual late-January event, coming as close as it does to all three of the nation's space program catastrophes.

The Apollo 1 fire during a countdown test on Jan. 27, 1967, left three astronauts dead. The Challenger explosion during liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, left seven dead. The Columbia breakup during re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003, killed seven more.

Seventeen casualties all because of lousy human judgment.

"It's a time to continually, continually remind ourselves of what the price is for getting this wrong," O'Keefe said earlier this month. "There are seven families that will live with this forever, and it's something we can't any single day ever forget."

NASA's redemption for Columbia is moving forward, slowly, in small, sometimes barely perceptible ways.

These days the e-mailed gripes to the boss from NASA employees are often signed. More workers stand up at meetings and ask questions. More time is spent in making careful decisions.

Not everyone on the inside likes what they see in terms of cultural shift, including the widower of one of the Columbia astronauts. Some of the accident investigators who assailed NASA for its broken safety culture still hear grumbling from the lower working levels, and say they're not surprised.

Those at the top appear to be working hard to eradicate fear of reprisal for speaking out, one of the flaws in the system that doomed Columbia.

"Obviously, that kind of attitude comes from the top down," says Jose Garcia, a retired space shuttle operations manager who took his complaints about NASA safety cutbacks all the way to the White House in 1995.

Garcia keeps in touch with many of his former co-workers and the word is, "things are getting better, they're headed in the right direction."

The fact that NASA is putting aside its "bunker mentality" and seeking outside help to achieve cultural change is encouraging, says Diane Vaughan, a Boston College sociologist who assisted in the Columbia inquiry.

"They are up against the obstacle of time, of course, because it takes a long time to change culture," says Vaughan, author of the 1996 book, "The Challenger Launch Decision."

Regents eye 21% jump in A&M tuition

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University is proposing a 21 percent tuition increase for the fall 2004 semester.

The proposal, announced by A&M President Robert Gates, would increase tuition from the spring semester by $19.50 per credit hour, or about $300 for students carrying a 14-hour semester workload.

It would constitute a 33 percent increase over what they paid in fall 2003.

"This is a significant increase," Gates acknowledged during a presentation about the proposal. "State support has declined from almost half to a third of our expenditures while tuition and fees have increased from a fifth to a fourth. It's unlikely this trend will change: Students will share an increasing portion of this burden of the cost of their education."

Texas A&M University System board of regents will consider the increase at its March 25-26 meeting.

Although Gates had recently suggested a fall 2004 tuition hike was likely, the proposed increase comes just six months after A&M officials, particularly regents, vowed that they would keep tuition increases moderate and not abuse their new power to set tuition as high they want.

After the Texas Legislature deregulated tuition last year, universities were given authority to raise it as needed.

As some schools took great advantage of the new freedom, some legislators publicly wondered if tuition deregulation was a mistake. The University of Texas-Austin raised tuition and fees 26 percent from fall 2003 to fall 2004. UT-El Paso increased them 28 percent.

A&M's proposed increase would represent a smaller percentage if it included fees, but school officials Wednesday had not yet made such a calculation for fall 2004.

Gates emphasized Tuesday that the tuition increase was necessary to offset an expected 2005 budget deficit of nearly $23 million and to improve the quality of education.

"This tuition increase we have tried to frame and apply almost exclusively into reinvestment into the faculty," he said.

The university plans to bring in more than 400 tenured and tenure-track professors over the next several years, Gates said.

A&M student body President Matt Josefy said Wednesday that students intend to make Gates accountable for the promise that they'll be the beneficiaries of the tuition increase.

About 100 people, mostly students, attended the forum. Josefy said he has not detected student outrage about the proposal.

Gates said tuition would not increase next spring, but said it is possible it could rise again in 2005-06.

Kerry lines up endorsements; Howard Dean shakes up staff

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic front-runner John Kerry, building on his New Hampshire triumph, pocketed fresh endorsements from the party establishment on Wednesday and launched television commercials in the next round of primary states. Howard Dean shook up a campaign in peril.

"I still have the same underdog mentality," Kerry said as he left Boston for Missouri, the first of seven states on a campaign itinerary leading to next week's round of balloting.

But it was Dean who was scrambling to regain his balance, replacing his campaign manager with a longtime associate of Al Gore and asking aides to defer their paychecks for two weeks.

"Governor Dean asked Roy Neel to join the campaign CEO and Joe Trippi resigned as campaign manager," said Tricia Enright, a campaign spokeswoman.

One source said Trippi, the architect of Dean's antiestablishment campaign, turned down an offer to stay on as senior adviser.

Kerry, winner of the kickoff Iowa caucuses last week, added New Hampshire to his campaign trophy case on Tuesday with a double-digit victory over Dean. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Joe Lieberman finished farther back.

A total of 269 pledged delegates are at stake next week in primaries in Missouri, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arizona and Delaware as well as caucuses in New Mexico and North Dakota.

After single-state contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, the candidates' travel schedules reflected the changed nature of the race. Kerry went first to Missouri, where Dick Gephardt's recent departure from the race created a wide-open race. Edwards started in South Carolina; Clark and Lieberman in Oklahoma.

After staying off the air last week except to advertise to New Hampshire voters, Kerry's campaigned opened its checkbook to pay for commercials in each of the Feb. 3 states.

His primary victory reaped immediate dividends in the form of endorsements from former Sens. Jean Carnahan and Tom Eagleton in Missouri.

Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the dominant black politician in his state, also intends to endorse Kerry, according to campaign and other officials.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, too, signed on after remaining neutral in his state's caucuses earlier this month. "He's the Democrat best positioned to provide President Bush with the strongest debate and the best chances for success in the fall," he said of Kerry.

Electability has emerged as a key issue this year for Democrats, many of whom rate ousting Bush their highest priority. In interviews as they left their polling places on Tuesday, one in five New Hampshire voters said the quality that mattered most was a candidate's ability to defeat Bush. Kerry won the support of 60 percent of those voters.

Carnahan, the widow of former Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan, lost her seat in the 2002 elections. Eagleton retired from the Senate rather than seek re-election in 1986.

Activists see dangerous trend in animal abuse at fraternities

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Fraternity brothers have dropped a puppy off a Mississippi River bridge, beaten a goose to death with a golf club and abandoned an unconscious, intoxicated pig in a park.

In December, Phi Kappa Psi members killed, skinned, burned and ate a raccoon at the University of Georgia.

These and other acts on campuses across the country have drawn the fury of animal lovers who say such abuse has grown into a dangerous trend because it is too often treated as innocent college hijinks.

"Animal cruelty is a crime and certainly can't be accepted. Years ago it had to be made clear that rape is a crime," said Ann Chynoweth, The Humane Society of the United States' counsel to investigative services.

She recently wrote to the North-American Interfraternity Conference, asking it to educate its 350,000 undergraduate members about animal cruelty and its connection to human violence.

But Pete Smithhisler, spokesman for the Indianapolis-based conference, dismissed the idea that animals are in any more danger at fraternity houses than anywhere else.

"No, we don't believe it's a trend," he said. "I'm sure it came to light because it was a fraternity. Do we think that incidents like these happen everywhere? Yeah."

The Humane Society said the puppy's death at Quincy University in Illinois, the goose beating at Davidson College in North Carolina, and incidents involving pigs at both Wake Forest University in North Carolina and Clarkson University in Massachusetts back up its claims.

Experts on the Greek culture acknowledge that meanness toward animals could be a byproduct of the wild behavior and drinking that have been part of fraternity life for years, despite efforts to change the "Animal House" stereotype.

"With alcohol, they lose all sense of propriety, they just don't think about what they're doing. You see some ugly things when that happens," said Dr. Thomas "Sparky" Reardon, dean of students at the University of Mississippi, which has banned animals at parties to try to avoid instances of cruelty.

Stephen Sweet, a sociology professor at Ithaca College, said the intense loyalty the fraternities require of pledges and members often warps the line between right and wrong.

"It seems absolutely insane but if everybody says, 'This is what you've got to go through,' then it becomes something where they'll submit," said Sweet, author of a book on the fraternity culture.

The Humane Society has asked the North-American Interfraternity Conference to add to its expectations for fraternity members some recognition that the humane treatment of animals is part of living with respect for others. Academic integrity, drug and alcohol use, and abuse of human beings and property are already addressed.

The fraternity group doesn't plan to add anything about animal cruelty, Smithhisler said.

"It's really unfortunate that these guys thought that was a really neat thing to do but I was pleased to hear that their fraternity brothers are holding them accountable," he said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

A simple way to reduce high blood pressure

DEAR DR. GOTT: My wife and I disagree about an issue concerning blood pressure. I have found that if I take several deep breaths before having my pressure checked, the level will be significantly lessened. This technique has been so successful that my doctor has, as a trial, taken me off antihypertension medication.

My wife is convinced that I am giving him misleading data. She wants to know how long my BP remains at that the reduced level.

However, I've monitored the situation at home. My low readings persist for hours. All I have to do is to take a deep breath, relax, hold it for about 10 seconds, exhale slowly, and repeat the process three or four times. I won't bore you with my theory about how this works.

Does this make sense to you?

DEAR READER: Absolutely. And, with all respect to your spouse, I give you a gold star.

Blood pressure levels change from minute to minute, literally. You could be sitting in my office with a normal pressure; if I tell you that you have cancer, your blood pressure could skyrocket. Similarly, stress of any kind can raise the BP. Such stress is a common consequence of visiting the doctor.

What you have inadvertently discovered is a simple method to relieve stress by deep breathing. Such activity appears to relax arterial spasm. (Could this be the reason physically active people tend to have low blood pressures? Possibly.)

I routinely have patients perform this maneuver and am seldom disappointed. Here is my personal record-holder: a 55-year-old, apprehensive man came to the office for an exam. His BP was 220/110. Several minutes later, I encouraged him to relax and take three deep breaths. His BP dropped to 120/70.

That was more than 30 years ago.

He has never required treatment, continues to remain active, has no medical problems — and invariably breathes deeply when in the office, with spectacular results.

Understandably, this technique doesn't work for everybody, but when it does, brother, it does.

In answer to your question, you are not providing "misleading data"; in fact, you are supplying vital information that your doctor has (reasonably) considered and acted upon. Follow his advice about appropriate follow-up.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: You have suggested that health care personnel and other citizens may wish to complain about the restrictiveness of the new HIPAA law about patient privacy. I agree with you, but how can I respond?

DEAR READER: By contacting your congressman or congresswoman. Modifications of HIPAA will only be possible through our legislators.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Best Available Copy

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

NASA readies one rover to roll

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Opportunity rover could roll off its lander and onto Mars as early as Sunday, giving NASA scientists more chances for exploration just days before the rover's convalescent twin, Spirit, could resume its own work.

Opportunity unfolded its front wheels and locked them into position, leaving just a few more tasks before it's ready to travel the final 10 feet onto the surface of Mars, mission members said Wednesday during a news conference at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration still wants to adjust the forward tilt of Opportunity's lander, pitching it down 5 degrees to smooth the six-wheeled robot's path. Engineers hoped to complete that work in time for a late Sunday roll-off, said rover activity lead scientist Rick Welch.

Meanwhile, engineers worked to regain full control of Spirit, which has been sidelined for a week on the other side of the planet with crippling software problems.

"We are working to get complete control of the vehicle but still aren't quite there yet," said Jennifer Trosper, a mission manager.

Spirit began using its high-gain antenna again late Wednesday, which should speed the transmission of data to Earth needed to debug the rover's problems. It also took its first picture in more than a week, mission manager Mark Adler said. The picture shows Spirit's arm, poised as it had been in front of a rock scientists had dubbed Adirondack.

"Everything's right where we left it," Adler said.

To fix Spirit, engineers planned to either selectively pluck files from its flash memory or, if that fails, simply wipe it clean.

Depending on the outcome, Spirit could return to its science work early next week, Trosper said. It could resume taking engineering pictures before then, after a weeklong pause.

While parked 6,600 miles away, Opportunity has been busy snapping its own surroundings, taking more than 500 pictures with its panoramic camera.

Price Daniel Unit names promotions

A number of promotions and reassignments were announced at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Price Daniel Unit.

"We are very glad to have the type of staff that we do here at the Price Daniel Unit, said assistant warden Richard Thomas. "They are very dedicated and it's a real pleasure to see the success we have."

The security division saw 11 promotions — Kyle Herrley to captain; Rickey Mayfield, Frankie Sanchez and Danny Ragan to lieutenant; Gregory Howard, Richard Kruger, Michael Logan, James Minnix, Malcom Small and Robert Thompson to sergeant.

Promotions for non-security personnel were Tammy Boen to clerk IV human resources; Esther Cabrera to clerk III inmate records; James Gamel to agricultural specialist; Stephen McIlroy to offender grievance; Marie McRoberts to clerk III supply; Rhonda Roemer to food service manager; Debbie Roemisch to mailroom assistant supervisor; Gaston Tarbet, chaplain; Linda Warren, administrative assistant in the warden's office; and Robert Warren, industrial specialist V factory.

"The staff here is one of the best groups I've ever seen in the way they work together as a team." Thomas said. "They share a real concern for the safety of one another and for the unit as a whole. These are a very high caliber of staff who have been chosen for these positions."

Some economists say interest rates could rise this summer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve policy-makers reinforced some economists' belief that interest rates could move higher this summer, dropping an assessment that they could stay near rock-bottom levels for a "considerable period." Central bank officials said the economy was expanding briskly.

The change by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues came Wednesday with agreement to hold a key short-term interest rate, called the federal funds rate, at a 45-year low of 1 percent, where it has been since last June.

Since its August meeting, policy-makers had been saying they foresaw holding rates low for a "considerable period." But that phrase is now gone. Instead, the Fed said it "can be patient in removing its policy accommodation."

Economists viewed the new language as a first step by Fed policy-makers to prepare Wall Street and Main Street for higher interest rates down the road.

Investors were jolted by the new language, interpreting it as signal that higher rates were likely to come sooner than previously expected. Stocks fell sharply in trading.

But economists offered different opinions about the timing of a possible increase in the funds rate — the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans and the Fed's primary lever to influence economic activity.

There seemed to be agreement among economists that there will not be a rate increase at the Fed's next meeting on March 16.

"The Federal Reserve is putting a little less pressure on the accelerator and may be coming a little closer to putting its foot on the brake," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

Reaser predicts the Fed could begin to nudge up rates as early as its June 29-30 meeting and that by the end of this year, the funds rate could rise to around 2 percent.

Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group, agreed with that timing. At Wednesday's meeting, the Fed "has made its first move in implementing its exit strategy from a 1 percent funds rate," Hoffman said. "The door has been opened to a funds rate hike."

Any increase in the funds rate would mean a similar boost to commercial banks' prime lending rate, currently at 4 percent, the lowest level since 1959. The prime rate is the benchmark for many short-term consumer and business loans.

Delay sought in Stewart trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A defense lawyer sought today to delay the testimony of the government's star witness against Martha Stewart and her ex-stockbroker, saying new doubts had surfaced about what led the witness to execute the stock sale at the heart of the case.

Richard Strassberg, the lawyer for broker Peter Bacanovic, said doubts were raised by a 2002 FBI statement given by Jeremiah Gutman, the former lawyer of Douglas Faneuil, the star witness.

Gutman's FBI statement said that Gutman was unsure whether Bacanovic or ImClone Systems founder Sam Waksal had asked Faneuil to tip Stewart that the Waksals were selling ImClone shares on Dec. 27, 2001, Strassberg said in Manhattan federal court.

Strassberg said he had just received the information Wednesday night, and that it was inconsistent with the government's theory — that Bacanovic ordered Faneuil to tip Stewart.

U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum said she would consider delaying Faneuil's testimony, which was set to begin later today.

Snyder officers arrest two people

• Arrests

Snyder officers made two arrests on Wednesday.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody in the 1300 block of 26th St. at 5:30 p.m. for making an offensive gesture.

A 22-year-old woman was arrested in the 1900 block of 26th St. at 5:32 p.m. on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• Minor accident

A minor accident was reported at 4:59 p.m. Wednesday in the 1900 block of 26th St. The mishap involved a 2001 Ford Escort driven by Amanda Marie McBee, 22, 1406 N. Ave. R and an unoccupied 1989 Cadillac DeVille owned by Jean Hayes of 1301 40th.

• Burglary

Deputies were called to a residence at 8 p.m. Wednesday at 209 CR 221 in reference to a burglary of the residence. Two cases of beer were stolen.

• Criminal mischief

A caller reported at 9:12 a.m. Wednesday that someone had driven through the yards at 2208 and 2210 40th St. during the night.

• Spot lighters

A pickup was reported to be spotlighting on FM 1609 at 8:47 p.m. Wednesday. Deputies made contact with the driver who said he was a relative of the landowner.

• Loud music

A report of loud music in the 1200 block of 26th St. was called in at 11:12 p.m. Wednesday. Officers located the source of the music and they were advised to lower the volume.

Obituaries

Otha McIntosh

1921-2004

Otha McIntosh, longtime Snyder resident, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Otha McIntosh

Funeral service for Mrs. McIntosh, 82, will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired Baptist minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Sept. 6, 1921 in Bell County, she married David McIntosh on May 24, 1966 in Colorado City. She worked for 26 years as a checker at Piggly Wiggly and was a member of the Union Baptist Church, the VFW Auxiliary and the Ira Craft Club.

Survivors include her husband, David McIntosh of Snyder; two daughters, Sandra Lewis of Dimmitt and Julia Hardin of Washington, D.C.; a son, Robert Boyd of Snyder; seven grandchildren, Casey Sandman of Houston, Debra Spain of Austin, Jackie Cornett of Dimmitt, Chris Hardin of Alpine, Trent and Laura Boyd of Snyder and Darrell Lewis of Dallas; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be from 6 to 7 this evening at the funeral home.

Friends are contributing to the American Cancer Society.

Jo Ella Young

1929-2004

BRADY — Jo Ella Young, sister of Nell Spence of Snyder, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Eden.

Service for Mrs. Young, 74, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Heritage Funeral Home Chapel. David Cozart, formerly of Snyder, will officiate. Burial will follow in Rest Haven Cemetery.

Born on Feb. 23, 1929 in Placid, Tex. she married Arthur Young Jr. on Oct. 17, 1947 in Rochelle. Mrs. Young was a retired nurse and a Baptist. She was a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary and a member of the Hillbilly Hits Fan Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paschal and Flora Cottle Waddill; and one sister, Lillie Mae Mathews.

Survivors include her husband, Arthur Young Jr. of Brady; one daughter, Kathy Richardson and husband Bob of Austin; two sons, Arthur G. Young of Dallas and James O. Young and wife Dolores of Austin; a twin brother, John Waddill and wife Bobbie of Brackettville; two other sisters, Billie Frenzel of Hobbs, N.M., and Roxie Wiley of Garland; two grandchildren, Christopher Young of New York City and Jazymn Young of Austin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be James Mathews, Stanley Cozart, H.P. Hampton, Bill Wiley, Larry Simmons, Marvin Lee and Buster Williams.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 1/30	Sat 1/31	Sun 2/1
54/34	67/37	51/29
Sunny skies. High 54F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:40 AM, Sunset 6:14 PM	Sunrise 7:39 AM, Sunset 6:15 PM	Sunrise 7:39 AM, Sunset 6:16 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
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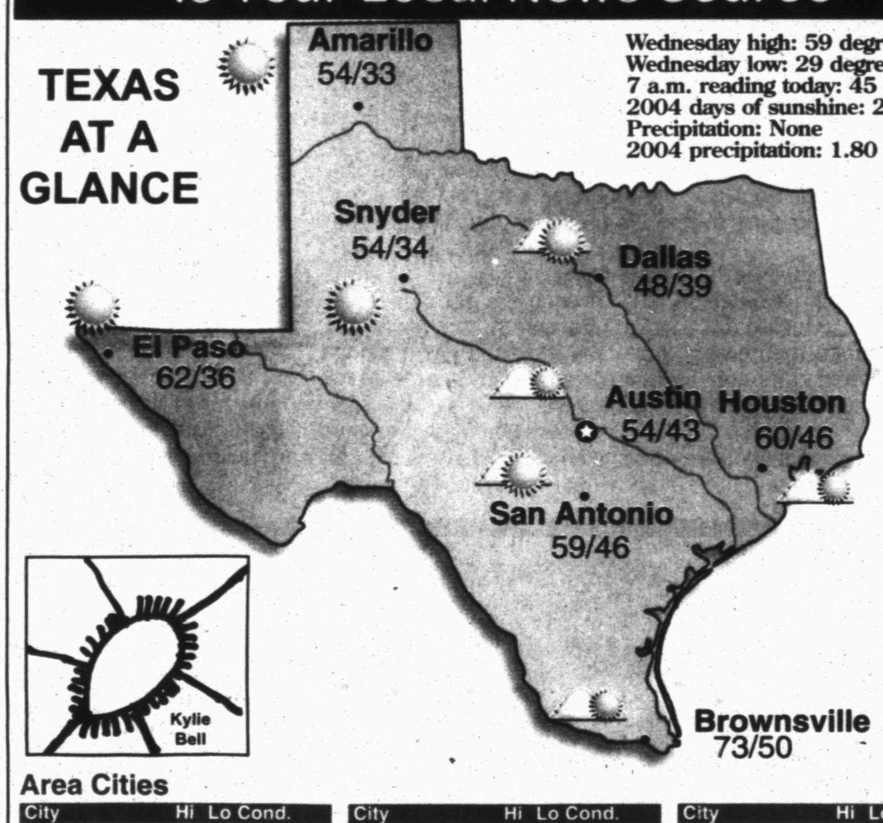
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Wednesday high: 59 degrees
Wednesday low: 29 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 45 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 27 of 28
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 1.80 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	52	38	sunny	El Paso	62	36	sunny	Midland	62	37	sunny
Amarillo	54	33	sunny	Fort Stockton	62	40	sunny	Raymondville	73	47	pt sunny
Austin	54	43	pt sunny	Gainesville	45	35	mst sunny	Rosenberg	60	45	pt sunny
Beaumont	63	48	pt sunny	Greenville	51	37	mst sunny	San Antonio	59	46	mst sunny
Brownsville	73	50	pt sunny	Houston	60	46	pt sunny	San Marcos	59	44	mst sunny
Brownwood	51	38	mst sunny	Kingsville	72	48	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	50	38	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	69	49	pt sunny	Livingston	58	43	pt sunny	Sweetwater	51	37	sunny
Corsicana	52	39	pt sunny	Longview	53	41	pt sunny	Tyler	52	38	pt sunny
Dallas	48	39	mst sunny	Lubbock	60	35	sunny	Weatherford	47	35	mst sunny
Del Rio	60	45	mst sunny	Lufkin	57	43	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	46	34	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	27	cloudy	Houston	60	46	pt sunny	Phoenix	70	46	sunny
Boston	29	12	mst sunny	Los Angeles	66	50	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	44	rain
Chicago	9	-3	pt sunny	Miami	74	62	rain	Seattle	45	36	rain
Dallas	48	39	mst sunny	Minneapolis	2	-1	pt sunny	St. Louis	17	9	flurries
Denver	54	31	pt sunny	New York	26	15	pt sunny	Washington, DC	31	14	flurries

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 29	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20

UV Index

Fri 1/30	Sat 1/31	Sun 2/1
4	4	4
Low	Low	Low

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

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