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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
March 17, 1997
Vol. 47 No. 270
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Jake Thompson

April 7 date for lease info

April 7 has been set by Scurry County Commissioners Court as the date Community Health Systems of Brentwood, Tenn. is to submit a final lease proposal for Cogdell Hospital to the court for consideration.

Following that date, the court can consider contacting other health-care companies or just consider the offer from CHS, said County Attorney Mike Hartman during this morning's meeting of the court.

Community Health Services has offered to lease Cogdell for a 30-year period with up-front payments totaling nearly $9 million.

The court signed a due-diligence agreement with CHS on Feb. 24. Accountants and attorneys representing CHS are expected at Cogdell Wednesday through Friday to finish examining records.

Another agenda item this morning called for the court to consider a cut-off date for lease proposals for both CHS and St. Mary Hospital of Lubbock.

However, St. Mary administrators indicated to the court last week that they do not plan to submit a lease proposal, citing instead their recently-signed three-year managment contract with Cogdell Hospital's board of managers on Jan. 30.

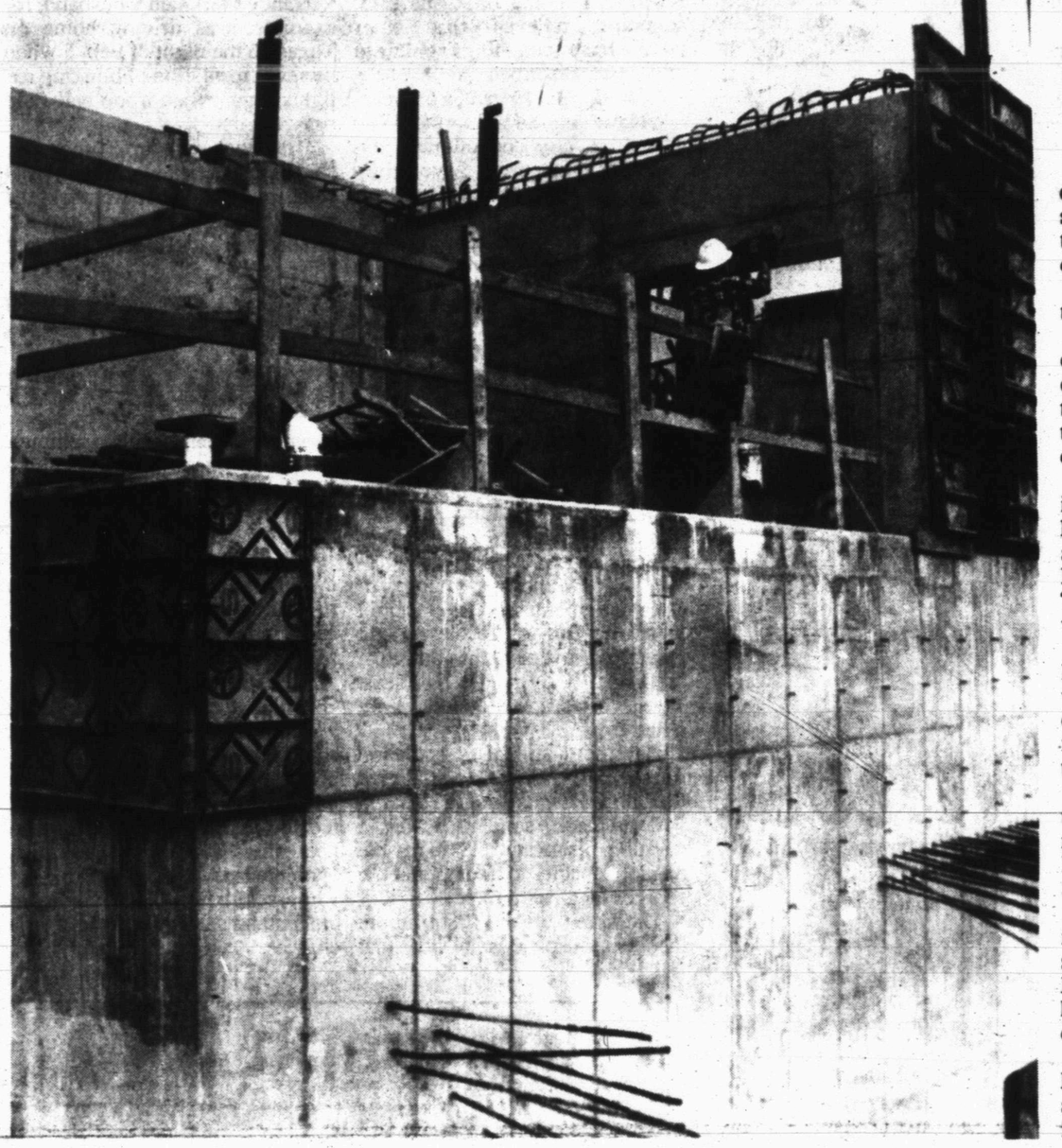
In a letter to County Judge Ricky Fritz on Wednesday of last week, St. Mary president and chief executive officer Charley Trimble said St. Mary is pleased with the current form of partnership.

Trible's letter said St. Mary has a sincere desire to continue its relationship with the local hospital. The letter concluded by stating, "We hope that our nine-year partnership will be considered as you deliberate its future."

A committee made up of selected commissioners, hospital board members and hospital employees has been formed to study Community Health Systems and visit healthcare facilities the company owns or leases.

In other action this morning, the court agreed to a six-month contract with West Texas Centers for Mental Health/Mental Retardation for office space and related items.

Judge Fritz presided. All commissioners were present.



SMOOTHING IT OUT — Johnny Riley works to smooth out some concrete at the City of Snyder water treatment plant being constructed adjacent to the present plant in the 3100 block of Avenue M. The new facility is expected to be completed in August. (SDN Staff Photo)

Filing deadline three days away

Anyone considering filing for one of 12 city and school board seats up for election in May needs to know that Wednesday is the deadline.

The filing period will end with the close of business on that day.

Heading into the last three days of the filing period, there is only one contested race and one seat that has no candidate. Both of those are in the city council election.

The contested race has three individuals running for two at-large spots on the council. They are Terry Martin and incumbents Dayton Robertson and Ron Shaw. The two candidates with the most votes will win seats on the council.

Still without a candidate is the District 3 city council seat, vacated last year by former councilman Kenny Gambrell. Anyone filing for that seat will be seeking to complete an unexpired term.

The other city government seat up for election is the office of mayor. The current mayor, David Holt, has filed for another term and is unopposed.

On the Snyder ISD board, incumbent Richard Chambers is seeking to retain his Place 3 seat. Mike Levens has filed for Place 2, held by out-going trustee Geraldine Parker.

At Ira, trustees Bo Robinson, Place 4, and Dirk Dunn, Place 5, are seeking another term. Neither is opposed.

There are no contested seats on the Hermleigh board, either. Four at-large places — three full term and one partial term — are up for election. Seeking full terms are incumbents Chip Roemisch, Tim Dacus and John Williamson. Seeking the one-year unexpired term is David Higgins.

Anyone seeking to file should do so at Snyder, Ira or Hermleigh ISD business offices, or City Hall.

The elections are all set for May 3. Early voting is April 14-29.

Court to consider TV debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today agreed to decide whether a state-owned Arkansas network violated a political candidate's rights when it excluded him from a 1992 televised debate.

The court's ruling, expected sometime in 1998, could carry great importance for public broadcasting stations nationwide.

A federal appeals court ruled against the Arkansas network, a decision the justices were told casts a "chill on state-related public broadcasters' editorial freedoms."

The Clinton administration had urged the court to hear the network's appeal.

In other cases, the court:

—Rejected a challenge to a Florida law that makes it easier for the state to sue tobacco companies for Medicaid money spent to treat smoking-related illnesses. The court, without comment, turned down industry arguments that the law unfairly seeks to "stack the deck" against tobacco companies.

—Agreed to decide whether Louisiana may retain its open-primary system for electing members of Congress. The court said it will decide whether the system complies with federal law even though winners often are chosen before the national election day in November.

—Granted a hearing to three corporate giants seeking to scuttle the personal-injury lawsuit of a Georgia electrician who says his exposure to PCBs helped cause his lung cancer.

—Let California virtually ban the sale of non-obscene, erotic publications from newsracks on public streets.

—Denied an appeal by San Francisco aimed at letting the city keep a 103-foot-tall Christian cross in a public park.

The public TV dispute arose when editors for the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) decided that independent congressional candidate Ralph P. Forbes' participation in a televised debate the network was sponsoring "would detract from the debate's usefulness to its intended audience."

The network, comprised of public TV stations, chose to invite only the Democratic and Republican candidates for the district in which Forbes was running.

Forbes sued, and a federal jury ruled in 1995 that his exclusion had not violated his free-speech rights.

College, museum boards meet at 7

Board members from Western Texas College and Scurry County Museum will put their heads together tonight to discuss some possible changes in their financial agreement.

The topic is the only item for the special meeting, set for 7 o'clock in the college board room.

Western Texas College currently contributes just over $16,000 to the museum annually. That amount includes employee benefits, almost $4,500 of which is benefits for two former museum employees, who are now retired.

The museum is proposing that the college increase the subsidy to $17,000 and have the museum pay current employee benefits. The college would still pay benefits for the retired workers. According to college administrators, that would increase the college's subsidy about $5,300 annually.

The museum's budget is about $73,000 annually, most of which is salary and benefits for the administrator, classified-clerical staff and part-time help. The museum has several resources for funds, including $36,861 from the county and $20,264 from the museum association.

The college also pays for utilities, maintenance, custodial help, grounds maintenance and insurance for the museum. Those items total almost $60,000 annually, but are expenses the college would incur at any rate.

Something the college board will have to consider tonight are the intangible benefits of having the museum on campus.

Budget talks reach standstill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, saying that talks with the White House were at a standstill, today proposed working with congressional Democrats to come up with an alternative balanced budget plan.

Lott, R-Miss., said "no progress has been made" in efforts to find common ground with the White House budget proposal "so we're also going to begin working on the next plan, and that would be to try to come up with a congressional plan, perhaps one that would have bipartisan support."

He suggested cooperation with a group of moderates from both parties that has compiled their own budget proposal, one that would reach balance in 2002 without the tax cuts sought by the administration and the Republican leadership.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, responding to Lott's comments, said the idea of Republicans and Democrats sitting down together to discuss the budget was "not any real brilliant new proposal or strategy, but I think it could work."

The Senate Budget Committee chairman, Sen. Pete Domenici on Sunday signaled an end to the latest standoff between the White House and the GOP leadership when he said he is ready to talk to the administration about a balanced budget deal. He also asserted that White House reluctance to rein in spending on such benefits as Medicare dooms other programs to devastating cuts.

Without more savings from entitlement programs, "the rest of government will have to be dramatically reduced," Domenici, R-N.M., said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Domenici last week put a damper on the already poor prospects for budget talks, saying they were finished. Closed-door negotiations with White House officials have made little progress, and GOP leaders want President Clinton to submit a new budget plan, saying his current proposal does not reach true balance by 2002.

Domenici was a little more optimistic Sunday, saying he was heartened by the words of White House budget director Franklin Raines, who appeared with him on the program. "Maybe we ought to get back and try to start working together," the senator said.

Raines promised that "the president will support sufficient changes in Medicare to extend the trust fund for 10 years" and said the White House is ready to sit down with Congress to work out a deal. "The time is coming where we're going to have to get serious."

The Clinton budget proposal announced a month ago includes about $100 billion in Medicare savings. But Republicans say that is not enough and does not address the long-term viability of the health program for the elderly.

Domenici said that if more is not done in entitlements savings, at least $190 billion will have to be cut from other domestic programs, affecting such areas as education and the environment. That is more than three times the $51 billion envisioned in the Clinton plan.

Pursuit catches up to juveniles

Four Amarillo juveniles are in custody in Sweetwater this morning following a high-speed chase Sunday evening which took them through Scurry County.

Snyder area DPS Trooper Pat Alexander and Scurry County Sheriff's Deputy Delwyn Davis were involved in the pursuit.

The 1979 Chevy Nova was eventually stopped near Roscoe on CR 104 in Nolan County.

Scurry County Sheriff's dispatchers received a 911 call around 7:30 Sunday about a south-bound vehicle driving recklessly on Highway 84.

Alexander spotted the Nova near Ezell-Key Grain Co. and ascertained it had been stolen in Amarillo. He and Davis began pursuing the vehicle, which was occupied by four juvenile runaways from Amarillo. Two of the juveniles were 13 years of age, one was 14 and the other 15.

After their arrest in Nolan County, the four were released to juvenile authorities there.

ASK US

Q—When is the last day to register to vote in the May 3 city council and school board elections?

A—April 3.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 55 degrees; low, 30; high Sunday, 58; low, 42; 7 a.m. Monday, 55; no precipitation; total for 1997, 5.05 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear. Low around 50. W-NW wind 10-20 mph. Tuesday, sunny. High 70-75. N wind 10-20 mph.

Ashley Pruitt
Sunny

Sunset: 6:53 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:50 a.m.
Of 75 days in 1997, the sun has shone 66 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist feats this is true.

James Branch Cabel

MAR 17 1997

West Columbia has own version of 'X-Files'

WEST COLUMBIA — The search for extraterrestrial intelligence probably goes on in important, top-secret places, but in this small town 50 miles south of Houston, look no farther than the public library.

In West Columbia, population 4,372, the library is UFO Central.

It not only keeps a healthy sampling of reading material on unidentified flying objects; it also plays host to occasional meetings of sky watchers who swap UFO stories and view videotapes of blinking lights they believe to be alien spacecraft.

As a result, people with UFO tales tend to confide in the town librarian, Sally Taylor, a good-natured woman who listens patiently and keeps an open mind.

"It's very prevalent in this area," advises Ms. Taylor. "There are so many people that come in and say something's happened to them. I just give them Doc's number."

"Doc" is what everybody calls M.D. Wagner, who is not a doctor but is the unofficial leader and father confessor of UFO watchers in Brazoria County.

A soft-spoken man of 60 who lives in a log cabin west of town near the San Bernard River, Wagner, a Dow Chemical Co. retiree, has been organizing UFO meetings open to the public since 1992. He admits his wife, Rose, "thought I flipped" when he told her of his plans to hold his first UFO talk at the American Legion Hall in Brazoria about five years ago.

Since then, the Wagners have remained married, and he's still holding meetings, the last one convening on a recent rainy night.

He warmed up the crowd by saying: "Brazoria County is a real hot spot — has been for a long time. UFOs are real. Where they're from, I don't know."

A group of 17 spectators listened patiently before speaking up.

A nurse told of seeing three aircraft emerge from a larger object in the night sky. "They circled the mother ship three times," she said.

A middle-aged man in a gimme cap said alien visitors are interested in mining sulphur from the Damon area.

"They're watching us. They're studying us," he said, adding that he has suffered "missing time." In UFO parlance, that means he has been abducted but cannot recall what occurred because the aliens wiped his memory clean.

A woman seated next to him said she has been having flashbacks of being interrogated by men dressed in white smocks.

No one batted an eye at the stories, which went on for about two hours, except for an elderly woman who occasionally cast glances to either side and muttered, "My God."

These UFO believers are not alone. A poll conducted in 1995 by the Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University in Athens found half of all Americans believe flying saucers could be real and the federal government is covering up what it knows about extraterrestrial beings.

In 1990, a Gallup Poll found 47 percent of Americans believe UFOs are real.

Brazoria County UFO watchers don't need opinion polls to assure them in their beliefs, however. Still, the UFO meetings seem to serve a purpose similar to group therapy: It gets people together and lets them talk about subjects they might not feel comfortable discussing elsewhere.

The nurse who spoke of three aircraft emerging from the "mothership," for instance, admitted she had not told anyone about what she saw for two years until she attended the UFO meeting.

"I didn't realize there was this much of it going on," she said, sounding relieved that other people have seen things similar to what she described.

Indeed, Bill Bertram, a 65-year-old Navy veteran and former West Columbia city councilman, says the UFO meetings have given many Brazoria County residents the courage to come forward.

"They've been keeping it to themselves all this time, thinking, 'Who's gonna believe me?' They're starting to come out of the woodwork now," said Bertram, who says he spotted his first UFO five years ago.

Of course, there are plenty of people who wouldn't dream of going to one of the UFO get-togethers at the library — including some people who have seen startling, unexplained things in the sky.

Nancy Markham's husband, for example, was driving home on Texas 36 the night of Feb. 5 when he saw a formation of blinking red lights bigger than a football field pass overhead.

"It shook him up," she said. "He doesn't believe in this UFO stuff, but he almost went off the road and the guy behind him did run off the road. He really thought he was gonna see it on the 6 o'clock news."

Ms. Markham, a 52-year-old retired hairdresser, asked that her husband's name not be disclosed. She couldn't convince him to come to the library and talk about what he saw.

"He says that's just for people with nothing better to do than sit around and gossip," she said.

Maybe so, but plenty of people think otherwise.

"I could easily go into denial and become a total skeptic," declares Pat Parrinello, 48, a West Columbia computer programmer who helps Wagner organize the UFO meetings. "But I want to know where the suckers are coming from."

If enough other people do, the UFO meetings may become regular monthly affairs.

Competency hearing scheduled for teen suspect in church fires

DALLAS (AP) — The mental capacity of an 18-year-old charged in two black church fires in Greenville remains at issue, months after he was arrested on arson charges.

Mark Anthony Young of Greenville confessed last summer to setting fire to the New Light House of Prayer and the Church of the Living God in the Northeast Texas city, investigators have said.

But the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and relatives of Young, who is black, contend he has a learning disability and lacks the mental capacity to understand the charges against him.

The fires were the first of more than 40 suspicious blazes that plagued Greenville last summer. Authorities have said the church fires were not racially motivated and that Young was angry at his mother.

Sources told The Dallas Morning News that possible plea bargain negotiations have stalled and a judge was moving toward a March 24 trial.

U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater heard evidence last week on whether Young's confessions should be tossed out.

He said he would rule after a hearing Thursday on Young's mental competency. He wants to hear this week from a court-appointed psychologist and other witnesses about Young's ability to understand and help fight the charges.

Defense lawyers last week argued that Young's alleged confessions should be tossed out because he was not able to understand or assert his right to remain silent, or request legal counsel.

Greenville special education workers testified Young tested with a 53 IQ three years ago and cannot read or write well.

But educators said Young has highly developed "masking" skills that help him conceal his disability to casual observers.

Defense attorneys also said Young didn't fit the profile of a racist firebug, having no criminal record. He graduated from high school with a diploma from the special education department.

Agents said Young told them he set the fire that caused about $2,000 damage to The Church of the Living God on June 10, a few hours after a blaze that nearly destroyed the New Light House of Prayer the previous day.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

RUWCO Oil and Gas Corp. has completed the No. 1 Bullard unit in the Tri-Rue field, three miles northwest of Ira. The well was finaled to produce 87 barrels of 42 gravity oil and no water. Location is in Section 150, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Phillips Petroleum has completed the No. 206 Jo-Mill west unit, 12 miles southwest of Gail. The well was completed to produce 160 barrels of 39 gravity oil and 70 barrels of water. Perforations were from 7,396-412 feet, and location is in Section 9, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Collins and Ware Inc. will drill the No. 212 North von Roeder field unit, 10 miles north of Vincent. Planned for a depth of 7,000 feet, location is in Section 93, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Fagadau Energy Corp. will drill the No. 1-15 Clayton in the Rockanbamm field, 11 miles northwest of Gail. Contracted for 6,800 feet, drill site is in Section 15, Block 31, T6N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

Merit Energy has completed the No. 1418 Coleman Ranch unit, two miles west of Cuthbert. The well was finaled to produce 35 barrels of 25 gravity oil and 114 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,664-971 feet, and location is in Section 5, Vacancy Strip survey.

Parker and Parsley Development has completed the No. 371 Mary Foster in the Iatan East Howard field, nine miles southwest of Westbrook. The venture was finaled to produce 77 barrels of oil and 139 barrels of water. Perforations were from Section 10, Block 29, T1S, T&P survey.

Parker and Parsley has completed the No. 385 Mary Foster in the Iatan East Howard field, nine miles southwest of Westbrook. The well was finaled to produce 13 barrels of oil and 140 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,462-3,283 feet, and location is in Section 9, Block 29, T1S, T&P survey.

Parker and Parsley will drill the No. 404 Mary Foster in the Iatan East Howard field, nine miles southwest of Westbrook. Planned for a dpeth of 3,350 feet, drill site is in Section 7, Block 29, T1S, T&P survey.

Parker and Parsley will drill the No. 408 Mary Foster in the Iatan East Howard field, nine miles southwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,300 feet, drill site is in Section 7, Block 29, T1S, T&P survey.

Kent County

Pioneer Exploration Co. will drill the No. 8-8 Bilby Wallace in the Clairemont field, one mile southeast of Clairemont. Planned for a depth of 6,900 feet, location is in Section 8, Block 98, H&TC survey.

Johnson Royalties Inc. has completed the No. 6 Strayhorn in the Fullerville northeast field, two miles south of Polar. The well was finaled to produce 22 barrels of 32 gravity oil and five barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,362-367 feet, and location is in Section 22, Block 5, H&GN survey.

Bexco Operating will drill the No. 1-428 Daniels, three miles northeast of Jayton. Planned for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 428, Block D, H&TC survey.

Garza County

WSM Oil Co. has completed the No. 5 Cross in the WTG field, 10 miles north of Post. The well was finaled to produce 21 barrels of oil and 17 barrels of water. Perforations were from 3,098-182 feet, and location is in Section 13, Block 4, K. Aycock survey.

J.M. Huber will drill the No. 5-5 Post Estate in the BLP field, nine miles northeast of Post. Planned for a depth 8,000 feet, location is in Section 5, Block 4, K. Aycock survey.

Palmer Oil Properties will drill the No. 1-4 JK in the Coulter field, 11 miles southwest of Post. Contracted for 6,000 feet, the re-entry project is located in Section 14, Block 1, Jasper Hays survey.

Yates Energy Corp. will drill the No. 2-943-A Kirkpatrick in the Roxanne field, six miles northwest of Justiceburg. Planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, location is in Section 943, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Yates Energy Corp. will drill the No. 2-940 UNOCAL in the Roxanne field, eight miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, location is in Section 940, Block 97, H&TC survey.

HAT Oil and Gas will drill the No. 2 Crooked Stick in the Tobe field, four miles southwest of Justiceburg. Planned for a depth of 8,200 feet, location is in Section 30, Block 6, H&GN survey.

Howard County

Bettis, Boyle and Stovall has completed the No. 5 Fern Winters in the Sara-Mag field, 21 miles north of Big Spring. The well was finaled to produce 120 barrels of 40 gravity oil and no water. Perforations were from 7,458-469 feet, and location is in Section 9, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Midland Oil and Gas has completed the No. 1 Bulldog in the Middleton field, five miles northwet of Knott. The venture was completed to produce 175 barrels of 42 gravity oil and no water. Perforations were from 9,290-320 feet, and location is in Section 37, Block 34, T&P survey.

J. C[illegible]mpson will drill the No. 1-[illegible]mm in the Pinnell field, 11 [illegible]s southwest of Big Spring. Contracted for 10,500 feet, drill site is in Section 17, Block 34, T&P survey.

Santa Fe Energy Resources Inc. will drill the No. 2-36 Powell Ranch in the Hutto south field, six miles south of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 8,000 feet, location is in Section 36, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Pioneer Exploration Co. has completed the No. 2 R.R. Petty in the E.A. field, four miles south of Nolan. The well was finaled to produce 12 barrels of 43 gravity oil and 20 barrels of water. Perforations were from 6,096-128 feet, and location is in Section 13, Block Z, T&P survey.

R.L. Adkins Corp. will drill the No. 1-27 Dickson, a 7,500-foot wildcat located three miles west of Maryneal. Drill site is in Section 27, Block X, T&P survey.

Patterson Petroleum will drill the No. 115 North Nena Lucia field unit, four miles west of Mayneal. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, location is in Section 152, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Amerac Energy Corp. will drill the No. 1 McLeod,a 7,500-foot re-entry wildcat located eight miles northwest of Blackwell. Drill site is in Section 213, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Hallwood Petroleum will drill the No. 1 Connally unit in the Dora north field, 14 miles southeast of Sweetwater. Planned for a depth of 6,200 feet, location is in Section 3, Block 6, T&P survey.

Fisher County

Oryx Energy has completed the No. 708 Claytonville Canyon Lime unit, 10 miles northwest of Roby. The well was completed to produce 88 barrels of 40.3 gravity oil and 1,140 barrels of water. Perforations were from 5,147-6,368 feet, and location is in Section 183, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Patton Exploration will drill the No. 2 Thompson, a 4,400-foot wildcat located 11 miles northeast of Rotan. Location is in Section 100, Block 1, H&TC survey.

Patton Exploration will drill the No. 11 Half Moon, a 4,000-foot wildcat located eight miles northeast of Rotan. Drill site is in Section 111, Block 1, H&TC survey.

Cholla Petroleum Inc. will plug and abandon the No. 1 Byrd, three miles southwest of Sweetwater. Drilled to a depth of 4,123 feet, location was in Sction 70, Block 22, T&P survey.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Several critical changes you've been unable to execute-in the past might be accomplished in the year ahead. These new factors could bring benefits to both you and your loved ones.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It looks like a matter that has caused you anxiety recently can be rectified. Begin building your bridge today. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Alliances with people you are very close to should prove productive today. However, be careful of dealings you have with mere acquaintances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not turn a deaf ear to suggestions offered to you by your mate today. He or she will be able to recognize things that might go over your head.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Avoid financial entanglements you feel doubtful about today. There could be justification for your doubts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your personal executive touch might be required today in an arrangement that also affects others. Be decisive and clear about your intentions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not be intimidated by shifting circumstances today. They may push you into challenging situations, but you have the wherewithal to handle them adroitly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do not escape into daydreams today. You know better than most that if you want something to develop, you're the one who can make it happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Instead of worrying about what you don't know, probe your mind for the knowledge and experience you possess. Do not be afraid to step into the fray.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) An alliance you cherish has been a trifle frayed lately, but, it can be comfortably rectified today if each party is honest about what disturbs him or her.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) It might take some serious searching to ferret out a good bargain today, especially if you're looking to buy a big-ticket item. Be persistent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Share everything equally today in an arrangement you have that requires teamwork. Success is indicated if there is a parity of effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) In order to achieve your objectives today, your goals must be well-defined. Shooting at fuzzy targets could be a frustrating experience.

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Date Book

March 17, 1997

Today is the 76th day of 1997 and the 87th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1755, the land that became Kentucky was purchased for $50,000.

On this day in 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

On this day in 1992, in a whites-only referendum, more than 68 percent of South Africa's whites voted to negotiate an end to apartheid.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Jim Bridger (1804-1881), frontiersman; Bobby Jones (1902-1971), golfer; Sammy Baugh (1914-), football great, is 83; Mercedes McCambridge (1918-), actress, is 79; Nat "King" Cole (1919-1965), singer; Rudolf Nureyev (1938-1993), ballet dancer; Kurt Russell (1951-), actor, is 46; Danny Ainge (1959-), basketball player, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1976, boxer Hurricane Carter was granted a second murder trial, thanks largely to publicity created by a Bob Dylan song.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "We only want that which is given naturally to all peoples of the world, to be masters of our own fate... and in cooperation and friendship with others." — Golda Meir

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1993, several vehicles were rolled when a 3-foot-high wall of water washed across I-15 near Cedar City, Utah.

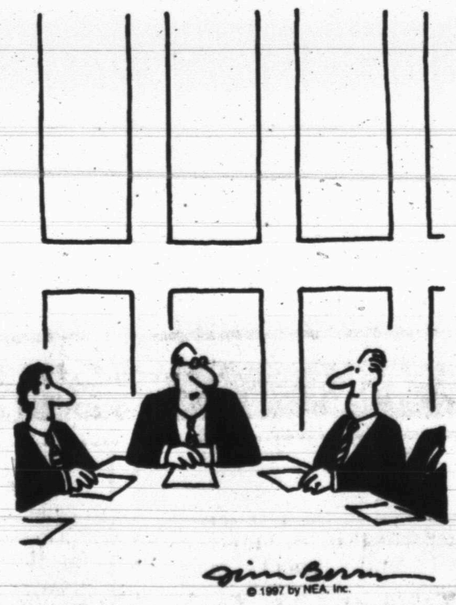
SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (March 15) and full moon (March 23).

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The We'll Never Know Department: Why do they call women's hairdos "permanents"?

Berry's World



"Now, Fred, let's have your report on the 'Life on Other Planets as a Source for Cheaper Labor' project."

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Bill McClellan, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Stargazers, Family Community Education Club, 3117 Ave. T; for more information, call Pauline Broyles at 573-5144; 7 p.m.

Delta Kappa Gamma; Zeta Lambda Chapter; MAWC; 7 p.m.

Alateen; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-8971 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Art Guild Study Club; MAWC; 6 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Hermleigh Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Lodge; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughters Club; MAWC; 11:30 a.m.

Cosmorama Study Club; meet at Cullifer's Corner Greenhouse; 4:15 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; country club; noon.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 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 appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome; 3 p.m.

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.

Some school explosion survivors gather

NEW LONDON (AP) — Survivors of the New London School explosion, the worst disaster involving school children in U.S. history, gathered during the weekend to remember victims and recount stories about how they survived.

A teacher turned on a light switch at 3:05 p.m. on March 18, 1937, setting off an explosion of natural gas that had leaked into the school building and was held beneath the structure.

At least 275 students, 15 teachers, a school secretary and two visitors died in the explosion. Some say the death toll may have been higher. Because of the extent of destruction and the impact of the blast, it will likely never be possible to determine the exact death toll.

Parents and oilfield workers braved the rain to dig through the school building in a frantic search for survivors and to recover the bodies of the victims.

Alma Stroud, 40, died of a heart attack after finding the body of her 16-year-old daughter in the rubble. She had spent the entire night searching.

About 300 students survived.

Despite the tragedy, something good came out of it. About two months later, the Texas Railroad Commission, which governs the oil and natural gas industry in the state, ordered that natural gas, which then had no telltale odor, would have to have an odorant added.

Many believe that there would have been many more people killed in gas explosions if the odorant had not been added.

"No telling how many hundreds of lives have been saved because of the odorant put in gas," survivor Bill Thompson said while attending the reunion on Saturday.

The school, a brick building with red tile roof, was located in the middle of an oil field in the oil-rich area of Rusk County in East Texas. Seven working oil wells were located on the school property.

Oil companies at the time had little use for natural gas. Much of it was burned off using vents.

School officials had decided to tap into a natural gas pipeline in order to use the gas for heating the school building. The oil company didn't care and school officials saved the $3,000 per year they had been spending for commercial natural gas.

A state investigator wrote after the explosion that school officials had meant well.

"There was niggardly thought of saving, but a thrifty thought of not uselessly spending," H. Oram Smith of the Texas Inspection Bureau wrote in his report.

Emotions still run high about the blast even after almost 60s years.

Thompson survived the blast because he traded classroom seats with a girl so that he could flirt with a little girl named Billie Sue Hall.

Thompson and Ms. Hall survived the blast, but the girl he traded seats with died under a heap of twisted concrete, bricks and metal.

"I felt guilty about that for a long, long time," he said. "I thought God made a mistake and I should be dead.

"But I came to terms with the guilt that maybe I caused her death. It was in God's hands, and God makes no mistakes."

He has never told the dead girl's relatives what happened that day, but he says he still might do it.

"I started to call her brother and tell him, but I just didn't know if it would hurt that family or not," he said.

A granite monument erected two years after the explosion lists the names of only 250 students. Some parents refused to allow their child's name to be chiseled into the rock.

The New London School explosion was the third-worst disaster of the 20th century in Texas. The Galveston hurricane of 1900 killed 6,000 to 8,000 people and more than 600 were killed in a chemical explosion at Texas City, near Houston, in 1947.

New London is located about 130 miles east of Dallas.

Fuhrman signs his new book

SANDPOINT, Idaho (AP) — Mark Fuhrman, the ex-detective branded a racist at O.J. Simpson's murder trial, was a hit in his new hometown, where hundreds lined up for a signed copy of his book.

"I think he's just super," one woman said. "He could be my neighbor anytime."

Organizers said they sold about 1,000 copies of the book "Murder in Brentwood" on Saturday.

"This is what America's all about," Fuhrman said, praising those gathered. "It's not politicians and attorneys and celebrity athletes who murder people.

"These are the people who make the world go around and we ignore them."

Fuhrman moved to the Sandpoint area after leaving the Los Angeles Police Department in disgrace. At Simpson's criminal trial, the defense introduced evidence showing that Fuhrman had lied on the witness stand about his use of racial epithets.

Critics have attacked his book, which blames police colleagues and prosecutors for Simpson's October 1995 acquittal on murder charges.

Baylor seeks part of proceeds from health care system sale

WACO (AP) — Baylor University will give the Baylor Health Care System its freedom only if it is guaranteed a share of the proceeds from any future sale, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported Sunday.

Sources told the newspaper that different ways of sharing the proceeds are being considered.

"One of the possible scenarios being explored would be payments to Baylor University for a certain number of years," said a source knowledgeable about the ongoing discussions. "But Baylor would have to get some sort of additional participation if the system is ever sold. For that, regents would forgo ongoing governance of the health care system."

A second source confirmed the stipulation, but would not comment on it.

Linda Miller, head of the Volunteer Trustees of Not-for-Profit Hospitals in Washington D.C., said she has talked with consultants working on the Baylor deal. None has mentioned a scenario where the health care system would buy its freedom from the university, she said.

Baylor officials announced in January that they were considering options for the Dallas-area hospital system.

Aside from a sale, other options include consolidating the system with other nonprofit hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Talk of selling the health care system diminished with the appointment of a new committee by Baylor's regents to look at options for the health care system.

The door is still open for Baylor Health Care System to merge with Harris Methodist Health and Presbyterian Healthcare systems, said Al Herman of the national accounting firm of Arthur Anderson, an adviser on the merger.

The two Dallas-Fort Worth giants announced last month they would merge without Baylor, which had initiated discussions among the three health care systems.

"It made sense two months ago," Herman said. "It still makes sense."

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 03-17-97
♠ 4
♥ K 10 2
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ K 10 9 5 3

West
♠ A 10 2
♥ A Q J 8 7 5
♦ J 3
♣ J 2

East
♠ 7 6
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A 10 9 8 4
♣ 7 6 4

South
♠ K Q J 9 8 5 3
♥ 3
♦ Q 5
♣ A Q 8

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ J

It's now or never

By Phillip Alder

Usually aces should be retained to kill kings and queens, not cashed early when they collect only twos and threes. However, there are times when it is important to take a trick prior to moving on to the next stage in defeating the contract.

In today's deal, how should the play go in four spades?

The jump to four spades was aggressive, but South expected some goodies to appear in the dummy as the opponents hadn't bid above the one-level.

West guessed well to lead the diamond jack. ("My stronger minor, partner.") Judging correctly that this wasn't a singleton, East played the encouraging 10.

After winning with the diamond queen, South led a sneaky spade jack. When it won the trick, he continued with the spade queen. West won with the ace (dummy discarding a club) and immediately returned his second diamond. On winning with the eight, East had an unenviable choice. If he led back a low diamond, South would discard his heart loser. But when he tried the diamond ace, declarer ruffed with the spade king, played a club to dummy's king, and discarded his heart on dummy's diamond king. West could ruff, but the defense had won only three tricks: two spades and one diamond.

When you are working for a trump promotion, it is usually right to cash your side-suit winners first, so that declarer cannot counter with a loser-on-loser play. Here, if West cashes the heart ace before leading his second diamond, the contract dies. A third diamond ensures the setting trick for West's spade 10.

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Vice president tickles funny bone of the elite

WASHINGTON (AP) — This time, Al Gore did not dance the Macarena to elicit laughs.

He just poked a little fun at his boss.

The vice president wowed Washington's elite Saturday night at the annual Gridiron Club dinner, where he literally stood in for President Clinton, hobbled by knee surgery that followed a freak accident Friday.

Gore said that when he had asked the president if he was looking forward to the dinner, he was told: "Al, I'd rather fall down a flight of stairs."

"Ironic, isn't it?" Gore said in his customary deadpan delivery.

Comedian Al Franken was said to have been recruited late to extend the vice president's remarks at the dinner from an introduction to a full comedy routine.

The 60 members of the exclusive Gridiron Club are Washington journalists. The club's sole purpose is to lampoon the high and mighty at its annual dinner, which has been held for 112 years.

Guests at the dinners are diplomats, members of Congress, ranking government officials and, normally, the president — all of whom are the brunt of much of the sendups.

Clinton made his apologies on video tape.

"Obviously I'm in no condition to do a standup routine. ... I feel my pain," he said.

Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson, chairman of the Senate committee that will investigate campaign finance irregularities, spoke for the Republicans. Clinton is always "one step ahead of me," he joked, but "I never dreamed he'd cut himself off at the knees."

Though Gore insisted, "My counsel advised me there's no controlling legal interest that says I have to do this," his impromptu performance was the hit of the evening, especially his footwork in dodging jokes about a recent news conference where he defended making fund-raising telephone calls from the White House.

"I'm proud of that news conference, and as a matter of policy I promise never to do it again," Gore said — basically quoting what he said about the phone calls.

The vice president noted that the Democrats have had to return millions of dollars in campaign donations from questionable sources.

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Snyder, Texas , 573-9782

Would you consider buying one-half of a furnace?
Not many people would! But...

■ What if I bought the other half and installed it in your home or business along with a new air conditioning system! I'll bet it already sounds like a better deal! That's what I will do! If you buy one of our Smart Indoor Living Systems during the months of March or April I will write you a check or deduct 1/2 the cost of the furnace!

(Snyder, Texas) - An unusual marketing experiment announced by Don McMillon of Snyder Heating and Air Conditioning allows 22 homeowners to buy a brand new, fully warranted central heating and air conditioning system for about $59.00 per month. This incredible offer will end once these systems are sold.

Snyder Heating and Air does not just want to sell you a "box" and call it air conditioning. Our Smart Indoor Living System is a total comfort system which addresses the health problems of indoor air pollution, bad tasting water, humidity control, mold and mildew problems - just to name a few.

Plus, Snyder Heating and Air gives you a **25%± energy savings GUARANTEE which simply says: If you don't save at least 25%± on your energy bills over your old central system during the first year... We'll Write You A Check For The Difference.**

What could be fairer than that?

Snyder Heating and Air puts this guarantee in writing because we have confidence in our unique methods and skills.

Just take a look at this: After the GUARANTEED energy savings, an average homeowner (figured on a 3-ton system) could only be out $34 per month for a brand new, fully-warranted system!

And speaking of warranty, nobody covers you better than Snyder Heating and Air. That's because these systems come with a 5-year parts and labor warranty* which means...

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Don McMillon said, "If your old, energy wasting system is going to break, it'll probably be during the peak of summer when it's working the hardest. By then, this offer will be over and you may even have to wait for service. So, please, if you've thought about getting a new system, give us a call at 573-1753 or 1-(800) 552-1753 before all these systems are sold."

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



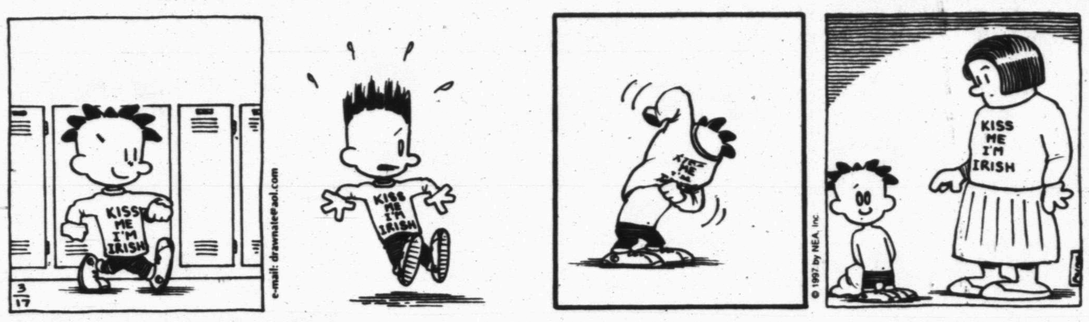
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

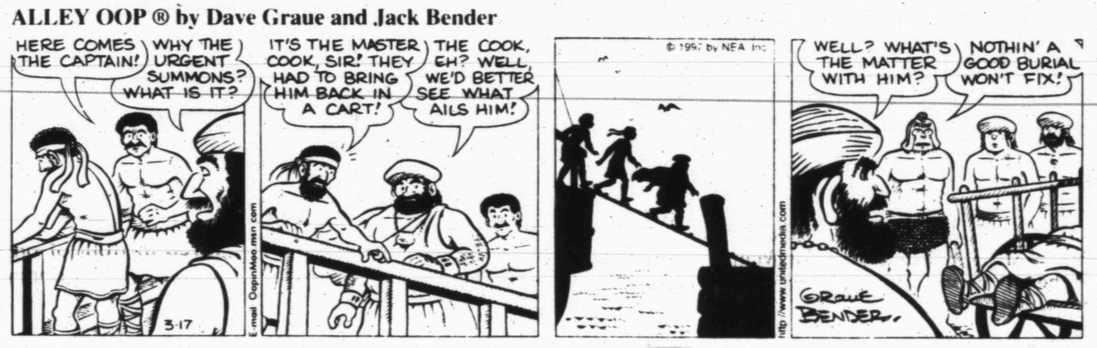
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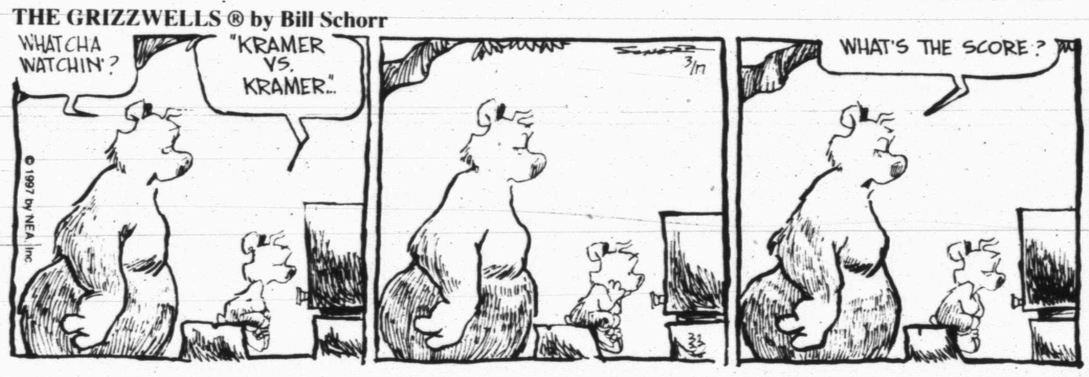
BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Future plant
5 Eisenhower's predecessor
11 Actor Fonda
13 Work on a cartoon
14 Got up
15 Horse homes
16 Bargain-hunter's words (2 wds.)
18 Relax
19 Actor Ron —
20 Important time period
22 Remote
24 — out (uses frugally)
26 Toddler
29 Ways of walking
31 Attack verbally
33 Blimp, e.g.
35 Singer Como
36 Thickness
37 Approximately (2 wds.)
39 Female sandpiper
40 Furry wrap
41 Mai — (cocktail)
43 Clairvoyant
46 Jump
49 Wasting away
52 Sobbing
54 Windier
55 Type of orange
56 One or the other
57 — White

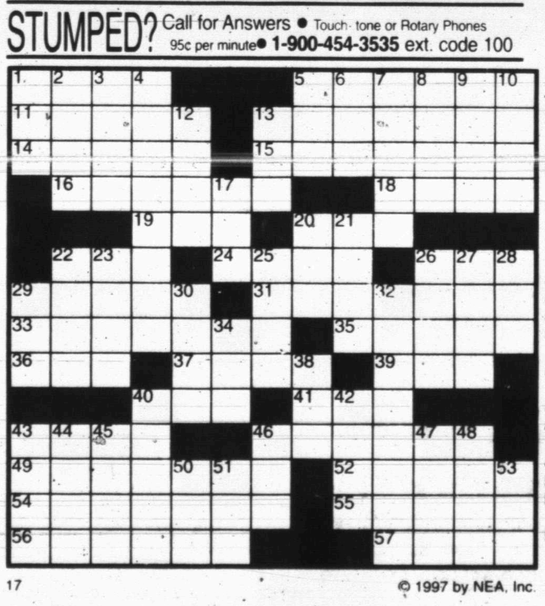
DOWN

1 Healthy place
2 Architect Saarinen
3 English school
4 Cakes and puddings
5 Explosive (abbr.)
6 Narrow inlet
7 Shadow
8 Man or boy
9 Custard apple
10 Robin's residence
12 Genuine
13 Enzyme
17 Soap ingredient
20 Poetic contraction
21 Invitation inits.
22 Get an F
23 Well ventilated
25 Bundles of hides
26 Car part
27 Fairy-tale giant
28 — will be done
29 Aperture
30 Frighten away
32 Strangeness
34 A Gershwin
38 Ear (comb. form)
40 Thin soup
42 Car
43 Wise one
44 Needle case
45 Formerly, formerly
46 Unit of light
47 Actor James —
48 Therefore
50 Apple —
51 Feminine pronoun
53 Evergreen tree

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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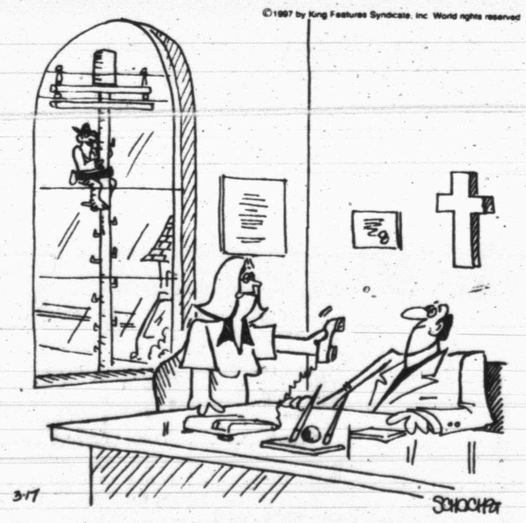
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Rick H

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Colleges in Lubbock Chr Incarnate Word State Universit Baptist Unive shown an inter

"As far a anyone," said Rick's father, right now."

District 5-4 All-South Plai seven players a the team.

Joining Hend squad was Leve Pitts, Estacad Woodruff, Plai Robertson and Robert Reed.

Pitts was na year and Estac Moore was na year.

Joining the Hereford junio Lubbock Co Erica Valek, Katrisa O'Neal Missy Frazier Monterey junio

O'Neal was n year and Levell was named co

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Vancouver

Pacif

x-Seattle
L.A.Lakers
Portland
Sacramento
L.A.Clippers
Phoenix
GoldenState

x-clinched playoff s

Sunds

New Jersey 89, New
Miami 101, Houston
Milwaukee 102, Ind
Orlando 100, Vanco
Minnesota 119, Bos
Detroit 86, Seattle 8
Portland 106, L.A. C
Dallas 89, Sacramen
L.A. Lakers 98, Tor

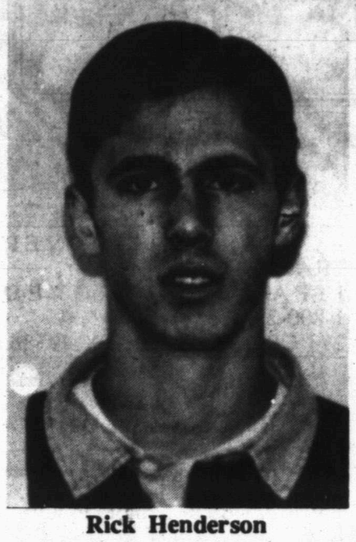
Monda

Milwaukee at Bosto
Utah at Charlotte, 7
Orlando at Atlanta,
Detroit at Cleveland
Washington at San A
L.A. Lakers at Denv
Phoenix at Golden S

Tuesd

Philadelphia vs. T
Gardens, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at New Y
Houston at New Jer
Minnesota at Indian
Seattle at Chicago, 8

SPORTS



Rick Henderson

Henderson All South Plains

Snyder senior Rick Henderson has been named to the All-South Plains basketball team.

Henderson averaged 19.4 points a game and 5.3 rebounds a game for the Tigers. Henderson was also named to first team All-District.

Colleges from as far as Kansas such as Southwestern College, Friends University, Benedictine College and Kansas Wesleyan College have shown an interest in signing Henderson.

Colleges in Texas such as Lubbock Christian University, Incarnate Word College, Tarleton State University and East Texas Baptist University have also shown an interest in Henderson.

"As far as signing with anyone," said Ron Henderson, Rick's father, "he's wide open right now."

District 5-4A dominated the All-South Plains squad, landing seven players and two coaches on the team.

Joining Henderson on the boys squad was Levelland senior Jason Pitts, Estacado senior Charles Woodruff, Plainview senior Matt Robertson and Sweetwater senior Robert Reed.

Pitts was named player of the year and Estacado coach Jimmy Moore was named coach of the year.

Joining the girls squad was Hereford junior Julie Rampley, Lubbock Coronado freshman Erica Valek, Plainview senior Katrisa O'Neal, Levelland senior Missy Frazier and Lubbock Monterey junior Alison Cudnoski.

O'Neal was named player of the year and Levelland's Dean Weese was named coach of the year.

11-0...

Tigers rip Andrews for first place win

The Snyder Tiger varsity baseball team wasted no time winning the championship trophy Saturday night.

The Tigers ignited for all 11 of their runs in the first inning to take an 11-0 shutout of the Andrews Mustangs.

The game ended in the fifth inning due to the eight-run rule in effect for the tournament.

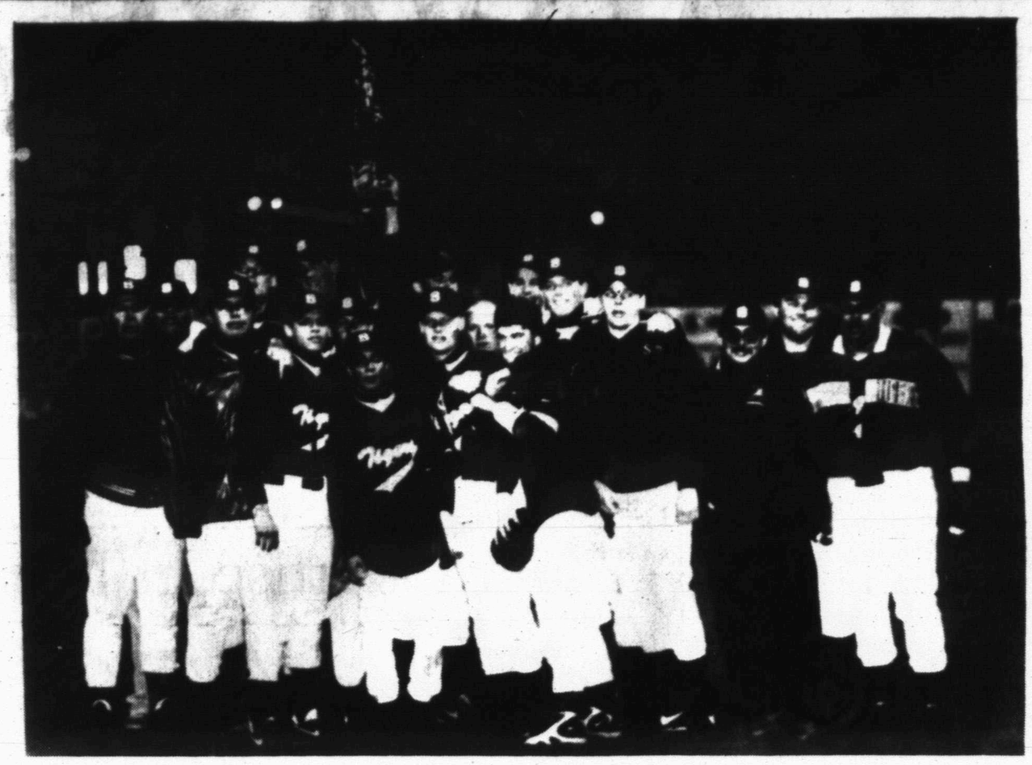
John Border went one for two and Eric Lang hit one for one. Kyle Beck hit one for one while Patrick Cumbie went one for three. Berryman hit one for two and Trevor Thompson hit one for three.

Clay Berryman scored the win on the mound for Snyder, giving up only three hits and fanning four.

Fort Stockton dropped Roosevelt, 2-1, for the third place trophy and Seminole defeated Denver City, 6-4, for the consolation trophy.

Other scores Saturday: Abilene Wylie 7, Sweetwater 3; Huntington 4, Colorado City 3; Big Spring 7, Brownfield 2.

The Tigers will continue their season Tuesday when they travel to Andrews at 5:30 p.m. for a rematch of the championship game. Snyder begins district play March 25 when they host the Lamesa Tornadoes at Moffet Field at 7:30 p.m.



WE'RE NUMBER ONE — The Snyder Tiger varsity baseball team celebrates after its 11-0 shutout of the Andrews Mustangs in the Snyder Baseball Tournament's championship game. (SDN Staff Photo)

Longhorns advance to Sweet 16 with nailbiter

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Louisville is advancing on DeJuan Wheat's sore wing and a prayer, Texas on just the prayer.

Two big names survived the NCAA East Regional in Pittsburgh and will play Friday in Syracuse, but many will remember the little team that almost could.

Coppin State, the tiny Baltimore school that can barely get a game against non-conference Division I opponents, almost beat Texas at its own game Sunday in the NCAA second round.

Texas likes to blitz opponents with 3-pointers, a relentless press and superior quickness. But Coppin State not only would not go away, it almost went where no 15th seed had gone before — to the field of 16.

"They never quit. They kept coming at us and coming at us," Dennis Jordan after Texas' 82-81 victory before a wildly pro-Coppin crowd. "The more we came at them, the more they came at us."

The Eagles (22-9), dispelling any doubts that Friday's upset of South Carolina was a once-in-a-generation anomaly, rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit for a 3-point second-half lead.

The capacity crowd of 17,509, cheering as if Mario Lemieux had just finished a hat trick, gave the Eagles a home-court advantage they don't even have back home.

"What a thrill," said Coppin coach Ron "Fang" Mitchell, who, like many, never sat down during the furious second half. "Where I come from, I'm happy if I can get 20 people cheering for us."

Even the Longhorns (18-11), accustomed to what coach Tom Penders called, "Being everybody's holy war," couldn't believe the ruckus.

"We've played in front of big crowds before, but when Coppin State did something great, it was crazy," Texas' Al Coleman said.

Coppin set the stage for a memorable finish, stealing the ball to set up a potential game-winning shot. But DeJuan Vasquez — it was a big day for DeJuans — stole reserve forward Fred Warrick's inbounds pass with four seconds left, leaving the Eagles so close, yet still so far away.

"Until that final second ticked off, we thought we would win the game," the Eagles' Reggie Welch said. "If it's not for the steal, we win the game."

Texas star Reggie Freeman scored 22 points, but made only six of 17 shots, and was outplayed by the Eagles' Antoine Brockington, who scored 27 on 11-for-15 shooting. He was 5-for-6 from 3-point range, several from NBA range.

"A lot of the shots, we were right in his face," Penders said. "I can't say I was praying, but I almost was."

NCAA BASKETBALL SCORES

EAST REGIONAL
Second Round
At Lawrence Joel Coliseum
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Saturday, March 15
North Carolina 73, Colorado 56
California 75, Villanova 68
At Pittsburgh Civic Arena
Pittsburgh
Sunday, March 16
Louisville 64, New Mexico 63
Texas 82, Coppin State 81
Regional Semifinals
At The Carrier Dome
Syracuse, N.Y.
Friday, March 21
North Carolina (26-6) vs. California (23-8)
Texas (18-11) vs. Louisville (25-8)

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
Second Round
At The Pyramid
Memphis, Tenn.
Saturday, March 15
Kansas 75, Purdue 61
Arizona 73, College of Charleston 69
At Charlotte Coliseum
Charlotte, N.C.
Sunday, March 16
Providence 98, Duke 87
Tennessee-Chattanooga 75, Illinois 63
Regional Semifinals
At Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center
Birmingham, Ala.
Friday, March 21
Kansas (34-1) vs. Arizona (21-9)
Providence (23-11) vs. Tennessee-Chattanooga (24-10)

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Second Round
At The Palace of Auburn Hills
Auburn Hills, Mich.
Saturday, March 15
Iowa State 67, Cincinnati 66
UCLA 96, Xavier, Ohio 83
At Kemper Arena
Kansas City, Mo.
Sunday, March 16
Clemson 65, Tulsa 59
Minnesota 76, Temple 57
Regional Semifinals
At The Alamodome
San Antonio
Thursday, March 20
UCLA (23-7) vs. Iowa State (22-8)
Minnesota (29-3) vs. Clemson (22-9)

WEST REGIONAL
Second Round
At The Huntsman Center
Salt Lake City
Saturday, March 15
St. Joseph's 81, Boston College 77, OT
Kentucky 75, Iowa 69
At The McKale Center
Tucson, Ariz.
Sunday, March 16
Utah 77, North Carolina Charlotte 58
Stanford 72, Wake Forest 66
Regional Semifinals
At San Jose Arena
San Jose, Calif.
Thursday, March 20
Kentucky (32-4) vs. St. Joseph's (26-6)
Utah (28-3) vs. Stanford (22-7)

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	48	17	.738	—
NewYork	47	18	.723	1
Orlando	36	28	.563	11½
Washington	30	34	.469	17½
NewJersey	20	44	.313	27½
Philadelphia	17	47	.266	30½
Boston	12	54	.182	36½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	56	9	.862	—
Detroit	47	17	.734	8½
Atlanta	43	22	.662	13
Charlotte	42	23	.646	14
Cleveland	34	29	.540	21
Indiana	30	34	.469	25½
Milwaukee	27	37	.422	28½
Toronto	23	42	.354	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	48	17	.738	—
Houston	43	22	.662	5
Minnesota	32	32	.500	15½
Dallas	22	42	.344	25½
Denver	19	45	.297	28½
SanAntonio	16	48	.250	31½
Vancouver	11	56	.164	38

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Seattle	45	19	.703	—
L.A.Lakers	43	21	.672	2
Portland	38	28	.576	8
Sacramento	28	37	.431	17½
L.A.Clippers	27	36	.429	17½
Phoenix	26	38	.406	19
GoldenState	25	39	.391	20

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Games
New Jersey 89, New York 74
Miami 101, Houston 80
Milwaukee 102, Indiana 98
Orlando 100, Vancouver 89
Minnesota 119, Boston 101
Detroit 86, Seattle 83
Portland 106, L.A. Clippers 94
Dallas 89, Sacramento 88
L.A. Lakers 98, Toronto 90, OT

Monday's Games
Milwaukee at Boston, 7 p.m.
Utah at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Philadelphia vs. Toronto at Maple Leaf Gardens, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Lady Tigers fall in consolation final

The Lady Tiger varsity and JV softball squads both ended play in the Canyon Reef Spring Break Classic Saturday with losses.

The varsity took on Coahoma in the consolation semifinals Saturday. Snyder was down 10-0 in the third, but the Lady Tigers rallied for 11 runs in the remaining three innings to take a close 11-10 win.

Snyder was forced to rally again in the consolation finals against Big Spring Lady Steers, but Snyder couldn't reproduce their semifinal heroics, falling 9-5.

The JV lost its first game of bracket play Friday, so the Lady Tigers set their sights on the consolation trophy.

Snyder blew out Hermleigh, 16-3, in their first game of the consolation draw.

The Lady Tigers then faced a tough Lubbock Monterey squad that ended Snyder's tournament with an 8-7 squeaker in the consolation finals.

The Lubbock Coronado Lady Mustangs edged the Abilene High Lady Eagles, 7-5, to take the championship trophy.

Other scores Saturday: Lubbock Monterey 12, Colorado City 4; Abilene High JV 6, Monahans 4; Lubbock High 12, Abilene High 4; Andrews 13, El Paso Eastwood 7; Clyde 8, Breckenridge 5; Lubbock Coronado 8, Midland Christian 6; Abilene High 6, Hawley 5, Lubbock Coronado 7, Abilene High 5.

The Lady Tigers continue their season Tuesday when they travel to Big Spring to face the Lady Steers. The JV will start at 5 p.m. and the varsity will get underway at 6:30.

Tech survives Montana, faces Stanford tonight

By The Associated Press

Half the bracket is filled for the round of 16 in the NCAA women's basketball tournament, and the form chart is still intact.

The higher seeded teams, all of them playing at home, won the eight second-round games on Sunday — although two No. 1 seeds had to go into overtime to escape upset bids.

Second-ranked Old Dominion turned back Purdue 69-65 in the Mideast Regional after the Lady Monarchs' Mery Andrade missed a layup that would have won it in regulation.

In the East, No. 4 North Carolina needed Chanel Wright's 25-foot shot to force the overtime, then pulled away to beat No. 24 Michigan State 81-71.

Fifth-ranked Louisiana Tech, No. 6 Georgia, No. 8 Alabama, No. 12 Virginia, No. 16 Illinois and No. 18 Colorado also are in the regional semifinals.

Louisiana Tech overwhelmed No. 13 Auburn 74-48 in the Mideast; Georgia beat Arizona 80-74 and Virginia downed Utah 65-46 in the West; Illinois beat Duke 85-67 and Colorado defeated No. 19 Stephen F. Austin 66-57 in the Midwest and Alabama got by St. Joseph's 61-52 in the East.

The regional semifinals are next Saturday, and for Virginia's Lisa Hosac it'll be like going home — sort of. The West Regional is in Missoula, Mont. Hosac is from Littleton, Colo.

The remaining second-round games are tonight. Tulane plays at George Washington and Notre Dame plays at Texas in the East; Connecticut entertains Iowa and Tennessee plays host to Oregon in the Midwest; Marquette plays at LSU and Florida is at home against Southern Cal in the Mideast; and Kansas entertains Vanderbilt and Stanford plays host to Texas Tech in the West.

Appleby wins Honda Classic

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — As an amateur in Australia, Stuart Appleby used to drive 200 miles to Melbourne to play 36-hole rounds on the weekend. That came in handy for the marathon finish to the Honda Classic.

He couldn't always see a scoreboard, but he knew the tight pin placements and wind that rattled the flagsticks would prevent anyone from running away with the tournament.

And when he did have an idea what it would take to win, Appleby managed to reach down and find it.

The 25-year-old Australian earned his first PGA Tour victory Sunday with the kind of kick that usually wins long distance races.

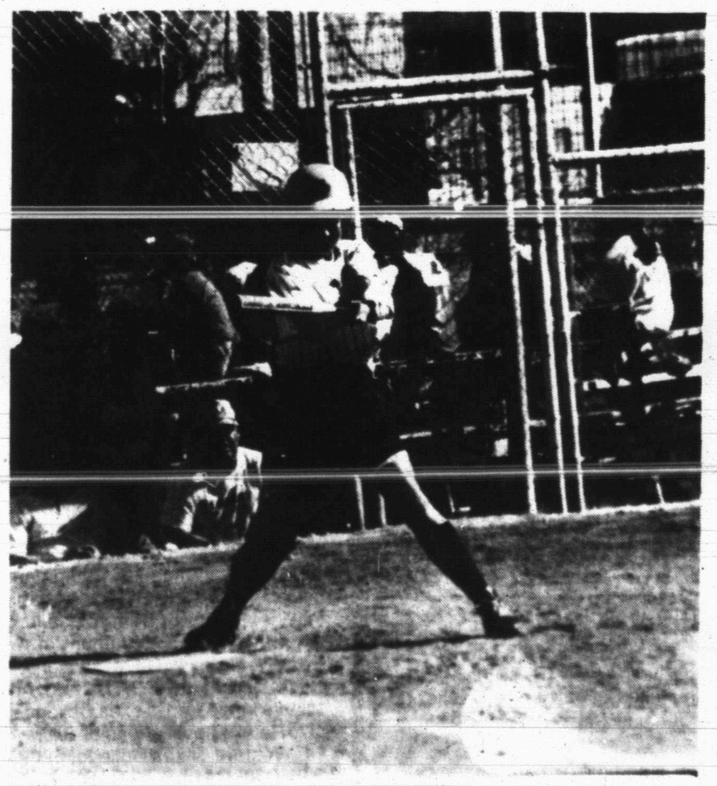
He holed a 65-yard wedge from a thick patch of rough for eagle to catch up with Payne Stewart, made a 6-foot birdie putt two holes later for the lead and then played well enough to win the Honda Classic by one stroke over Stewart and Michael Bradley.

Colin Montgomerie was alone in fourth at 277. Paul Stankowski, who led the first two rounds, shot 72-73 and was among nine players at 278. At one point, eight players shared the lead during the 36 holes.

"Nobody was going to run away with it," Appleby said. "With the pins and with the wind, that wasn't going to happen. You had to be hanging in there. I was really digging into my resources, milking it dry coming home."

Rain that washed out the second round Friday led to the first 36-hole final on the PGA Tour since Fred Couples won the 1994 Buick Open.

"It was one day to go but a long way to go," said Appleby, who shot rounds of 67 and 71 to finish at 14-under 274 and earn $270,000. "I knew it was Sunday, but I knew it was really Saturday."



THE CRACK OF THE BAT — Snyder's Darcee Purcell takes a swing at a pitch in the Lady Tigers' 9-5 loss to the Big Spring Lady Steers. Snyder finished second in the consolation half of the bracket. (SDN Staff Photo)

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Snyder Daily News

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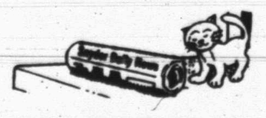
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Neat 3-2-1cp $49T
201 Hickory 2-1 $13T
3203 Irving Reduced $79.5T
411 31st 3-1¼-1 $26T
W. 30th 3-2-2cp Nice $75T
2100 42nd 3-2-1 $52.5T
3000 Crockett 4-3½-2 Pool
3503 44th 3-2 w/Off.$64.5T
4304 Lubbock 3-2-1 $53.9T
2-2cp **3714 Austin** $25T
Nice 3-1-2 **3908 Eastridge** 30T
3-2-2 **3503 Kerrville** $49.T
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Registries help limit parental rights and protect adoptions

By HELEN O'NEILL
Associated Press Writer

Bob Olivieri has snatched occasional glimpses of his son in the nine years since his wife, Carol, surrendered their baby for adoption. But he's given up any hope of raising the boy himself.

"I'm just waiting for the proper time," the New York City police officer says with bitter certainty his son will eventually come searching for him.

"I wonder how he'll feel when he learns the truth, that his parents are married and live a short distance away, that they fought all the way in the courts for him, that he has a younger sister who didn't get a childhood with her brother."

Olivieri's crime was failing to sign up with New York state's registry of putative fathers. Among other things, it gives unmarried men who believe they've fathered a child a chance to declare paternity before the child is adopted.

For two years, Olivieri had no idea he'd fathered a child. He found out after reconciling with and marrying the mother, but the child had long since gone to adoptive parents. The courts rejected Olivieri's paternity pleas.

More and more states are embracing the idea of paternity registries — setting deadlines by which fathers must register and rejecting their claims once the time limit expires. Generally, the registration window opens the day following conception and closes about a month after the baby is born.

The registries are a direct response to drawn-out court fights and images of sobbing children being wrenched from the only homes they know and handed to strangers — their biological parents.

Illinois created its registry after the traumatic return of 4-year-old "Baby Richard" to his birth parents, Otakar and Daniela Kirchner, in 1995. The birth mother gave the boy up for adoption when he was 4 days old.

'Jedi' tops weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A week after Howard Stern's movie whipped "The Empire Strikes Back," the third chapter of George Lucas' sci-fi trilogy, "Return of the Jedi," struck back.

With $16.3 million in ticket sales, the re-release of "Return" helped eject "Private Parts" from the No. 1 perch at the box office, according to industry estimates on Sunday.

Stern's kinder, fluffier version of his autobiography was third with $9 million, behind "Jungle 2 Jungle." The new Tim Allen comedy grossed $11.3 million, according to Exhibitor Relations Co., Inc.

"Jungle 2 Jungle" saw its earnings drop only 12 percent from the previous weekend, considered a strong showing. The film drew mixed reviews but had the advantage of Allen's connection with his popular ABC sitcom "Home Improvement."

Stern's film dropped 38 percent — not unusual for a first-run film — a week after it knocked "The Empire Strikes Back" from atop the box office.

"Empire" was tied for fourth place with the gangster film "Donnie Brasco" at $5.5 million each.

The only new film to debut in the top 10 was "love jones," which grossed $4 million for ninth place. The movie about romance in the young, black middle-class was voted an audience favorite at the Sundance Film Festival.

The film noir crime drama "City of Industry" debuted out of the top 10, earning $800,000 in limited release.

"Jedi" had the weakest re-release opening of the trilogy. "Empire" had $22.3 million and "Star Wars" grossed $35.9 million. All three opened in "special edition" versions with spiffed-up effects and a few new scenes.

About 800 theaters were playing the movies concurrently, said Tom Sherak, chairman of 20th Century Fox's Domestic Film Group.

"I think having them all out now is a good thing. The timing was right," he said. "When we did this, we said 'Let's tell the whole story together.'"

The trilogy was expected to earn $250 million in re-release, Sherak said, noting that the films have a built-in audience base.

"The story of 'Star Wars,' all these years, has never really left the culture. I mean toys, videos," he said. "Everybody's grown up with these movies, in one way or the other."

"Star Wars" was in ninth place at the box office with $2.26 million, behind the Oscar-nominated "Sling Blade," which was seventh with $3 million, and the Clint Eastwood thriller "Absolute Power," which grossed $2.5 million.

In tenth place was the raunchy dating comedy "Booty Call" with $2.2 million in earnings.

Final weekend box office figures were to be released Monday.

The top 10 films from Friday through Sunday:

1. "Return of the Jedi," $16.3 million.
2. "Jungle 2 Jungle," $11.3 million.
3. "Private Parts," $9 million.
4. "The Empire Strikes Back," $5.5 million.
4. "Donnie Brasco," $5.5 million.
6. "love jones," $4 million.
7. "Sling Blade," $3 million.
8. "Absolute Power," $2.5 million.
9. "Star Wars," $2.26 million.
10. "Booty Call," $2.2 million.

Two people arrested here

Two people were arrested over the weekend in Snyder, including one on outstanding warrants from Municipal Court.

Officers arrested a 25-year-old male at 8:01 p.m. Saturday in the 1100 block of 13th Street on city traffic warrants and for failure to appear.

At 1:38 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 21-year-old male in the 3000 block of Avenue K for public intoxication.

In other activity, an officer was requested by Nina Lara at 9:17 a.m. Saturday at 1311 19th Street in reference to criminal mischief to her mobile home. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

Two offense reports for family violence were submitted, one at 11:44 p.m. Saturday and at 12:26 p.m. the same day.

Officers were called to the 1100 block of 30th Street at 1:32 a.m. Sunday in reference to a fight between two men. The subjects left the scene as officers arrived.

An officer was requested at 2:42 a.m. Saturday in reference to a possible prowler at a residence on N. Ennis Creek Rd.

Officers were called to the Golden Corral at 4:21 p.m. Sunday in reference to an assault taking place. A criminal trespass warning was issued to one subject.

Officers also investigated two accidents that occurred on private property over the weekend and one that happened Friday.

At 10 p.m. Saturday, officers investigated a minor one-vehicle accident on the parking lot of Snyder Lanes. Toby Delce, 200 38th St., was driving a 1995 Chevrolet that backed into a tree.

At 9:26 p.m. Sunday, officers investigated a minor two-vehicle accident on the parking lot of Lawrence IGA at 4111 College. Involved were a 1990 Pontiac driven by Amber Martinez of Box 796 and a 1988 Ford pickup driven by Heath Irvine of Hermleigh.

At 2:30 p.m. Friday, officers investigated a two-vehicle accident on the parking lot of Lawrence IGA at 30th and College Avenue. Involved were a 1997 Saturn driven by Darth Coots of 2808 Westridge and a vehicle which left the scene.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: (March 14) Nellie Davis, 4610 CR 254 No. 24; Sara Spykes, 1607 52nd No. 66; Laura Greene; 5400 College No. 108; Sandra May, 1269 N. Ave. O; (March 15) Steven Rodriguez, 600 34th; (March 16) Mikki Clinkinbeard, 2313 42nd; Paul Sawyer, 3112 Ave. R; Gladys Smith 10199 Round Top Road; Edith Wiggins, 3756 Highland Drive.

DISMISSALS: (March 14) Beetha Moore, John Moore, Martha Schiebel, Leona Snider, Alean Taylor, C.J. Thornton, Laura Greene, Richard Morris, Melanie Sullenger; (March 15) Kathie Ballard; (March 16) Sandra May, Steven Rodriguez.

CENSUS: Long-term Care, 38, Medical 7; ICU, 1; Total 46.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	85⅝	84⅞	84⅞	— ⅛
AT&T Corps	36⅛	35⅝	35⅝	— ¼
AirTouch	25⅝	25	25	— ⅛
Albertsons	36⅜	36	36	— ¼
AlldSignal	73¼	72¼	72¼	— ¼
Alltel	34¼	33⅜	33¾	— ⅛
AmerOnline	43⅜	42⅛	42⅛	—1¼
AmStores	44⅛	44⅛	44⅛	— ⅛
Ameritech	62	61¼	61¼	— ⅛
Amoco	88	87⅛	87⅛	
AndarkPtr	57⅞	57⅛	57⅛	+ ⅛
Armcolnc	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	— ⅛
AtlRichfld	127¼	126	126	— ⅜
ATMOS Egy	25		24⅛	25
Aviall	10⅜		10⅜	10⅜
BakerHughes	38		37⅜	37⅜ — ⅜
BellAtl	64⅛		63⅜	63⅜ — ⅜
BellSouth	44⅛		43⅜	43⅜ —1⅛
BethSteel	8⅜		8⅛	8⅛ + ⅛
BritPet	134⅜	133	134⅛	—1⅜
BurlNoSFe	81⅛	81⅛	81⅜	— ⅛
Caterpillar	81⅛	80⅛	81	— ⅛
CenSoWst	23⅛	23	23	— ¼
Chevron	67⅛	66⅜	66⅞	— ½
Chrysler s	30⅛	30	30⅛	— ⅛
Coastal	48	47⅛	47⅜	— ⅜
CocaColas	59⅜	58⅛	58⅜	— ⅜
ColgatePalm	108⅜	107¼	107¼	—1⅛
ComclMetals	29½	29⅜	29⅜	— ⅛
CooperIn	46⅜	46	46	— ⅛
CyprusAmax	24½	24⅛	24⅛	— ⅜
DallSemicn		26⅜	25⅜	26⅜
DeltaAirl	85⅜	84½	85	— ⅛
DigitalEq	30¼	29½	29½	— ½
Dillard	32		31½	31½ — ⅛
DowChem	83		82⅜	82⅜ — ⅜
DresserInd	30⅜	30⅛	30⅛	— ⅛
DuPont	112⅜	111¼	111¼	— ⅜
EastmanChem	55¼	54⅜	54⅜	— ⅛
EstKodak	87⅞	86⅛	87	—1⅜
EDS Corp	43⅜	43	43⅛	— ⅜
Enserch	21⅜	21⅛	21⅛	+ ⅛
Entergy	25⅜		25⅛	25⅜
Exxon	101⅞	100⅝	100⅝	— ⅜
Exxonwi	51⅛	50⅜	51¼	+ ⅛
Flowers	24⅞	24⅛	24⅛	— ⅛
FordMotor	31⅞	31⅛	31⅛	— ½
GTE Cp	45½	45	45	— ⅜
GenDynam	66⅛	66⅛	66¼	— ⅛
GenElec	103⅜	102⅛	102⅛	— ⅛
GenMills	62⅛	61⅛	61⅜	— ⅜
GenMotors	58	57⅛	57⅜	— ⅛
GaPacif	77	76⅛	76⅜	— ⅜
GlobalMar	21⅜	20⅜	21¼	+ ⅛
Goodrich	40	39⅜	39⅜	— ⅛
Goodyear s	54⅛	53⅜	54	+ ⅛
GtAtlPac		27⅛	27⅛	27⅛
Haliburtn	69⅛	68⅜	68⅜	— ⅜
Hanson ADS n	23⅜	23⅛	23⅜	— ⅛
HarteHanks	28⅛	28⅛	28⅜	— ⅛
HomeDepot	58⅛	57⅛	57⅜	— ⅜
HoustonInds	21⅜	21⅛	21⅛	— ⅜
IBM	143¾	141⅜	141⅜	—2¼
IntlPaper	43⅜	42⅜	42⅜	— ⅜
JohnsnJn s	57⅛	56⅜	56¼	—1
K mart	12⅜	12	12	— ⅛
Kroger	56⅛	55½	56⅛	+ ⅛
Litton	41		40⅜	41 — ⅛
LockhdMart	84¼	83⅜	84⅛	— ⅛
Lowes Cos	38⅞	38⅛	38⅛	— ⅛
Lubys	19⅜	19⅛	19⅛	— ⅛
LucentTech n	53		51⅜	51⅜ —1⅛
MayDeptStrs	49¼	48¼	48½	+ ⅛
Medtronic	64¾	64⅛	64¼	—1⅛
Mobil	131¼	130	130⅝	+ ⅛
Monsanto s	40⅝	40⅛	40½	— ⅛
Motorola	55⅛	54⅜	55	— ⅛
NCR Corp n	36⅞	36⅛	36¼	— ⅛
NationsBk s	58⅜	58	58	— ⅛
Navistar	9⅝	9½	9½	— ⅛
NoramEngy	15		14⅞	14⅞ — ⅛
Norwest	50⅜	49	49	—1⅛
Nynex	48⅛	47⅞	48⅛	— ⅛
OryxEngy	19½	19⅛	19⅝	— ⅛
PacTelesis	40		39¼	39⅜ — ⅜
PanEnergy	43⅜	43⅛	43⅛	— ½
Penney JC	49⅞	49⅜	49¼	— ⅛
Pennzoil	53⅜	53⅛	53¼	— ⅜
PepBoys	33⅜	33⅛	33¼	— ⅜
PepsiCo s	31⅛	30⅞	31	— ⅛
PhelpDodge	76¼	75⅞	75⅞	— ¼
PhilipPet	41¼	40⅝	40⅝	+ ⅛
Polaroid	42⅞	42⅛	42⅛	— ⅜
Praxair	48⅞	48⅛	48⅜	— ⅛
ProctGamble	125¼	124¼	124⅜	—1⅜
PubSNwMx	17⅞	17 9-16	17⅝	+ ⅛
RoyalDutch	177		175⅛	175⅜ —2
SBC Comm	55		54⅜	54⅜ —1
SaraLee		39⅜	39⅛	39⅜
SearsRoeb	54⅞	54⅛	54⅛	— ⅜
SherwinW	55⅛	55⅛	55½	— ⅛
SmthBchADS	73⅞	73⅜	73⅜	—1⅜
SouthernCo	21¼	20⅝	21⅛	+ ⅛
SwstAirlines	23½	23⅛	23⅛	— ⅜
Sprint	42⅞	42¼	42⅜	— ¼
SunCo	27⅝	27⅛	27⅜	+ ⅛
TNP Ent	24		23¼	23⅜ — ⅛
Tandy	52¼	51⅛	52	— ⅛
TemplInl	55⅛	55⅛	55⅛	— ⅛
Tenneco	39⅝	39⅛	39⅝	+ ⅛
Texaco	101¼	100⅝	100⅝	— ⅛
TexasInds	27¼	26⅞	27	— ⅛
TexasInst	86⅛	82½	82½	—3⅝
TexUtil	36⅜	36⅛	36½	+ ⅛
Textron	102	101⅝	101⅝	— ⅛
Travelers s	53¼	51⅞	51⅝	—1⅜
TrinityInds	32⅜	32⅛	32⅝	+ ⅜
TritonEngy	40⅛	39⅝	40	+ ⅛
Tyler	1⅞	1⅞	1⅝	+ ⅛
US WestCm	34 7-16	34	34	— ⅛
USWstMda	19¼	19	19	— ⅛
USX Delhi	14⅛	14	14⅛	+ ⅛
USX-Marathn		27	26⅝	27
USX-USS	29¼	28⅛	28⅝	— ⅛
UnCarbde	49	48⅛	48⅛	— ⅛
UnPac s	60⅛	59⅛	60¼	— ⅛
UnitedTech s	75⅛	74⅛	75	—1
Unocal	39⅛	39	39	— ⅛
WalMart	28⅛	28⅛	28½	— ⅛
WstnGasRs	19¼	18⅞	19¼	+ ⅜
WestghEl	19⅛	19	19⅛	— ⅛
WinnDixie		33¼	33	33
Woolworth	22⅛	22⅛	22½	— ⅜
XeroxCp s	61⅜	60	60	—2
ZenithE		9⅝	9⅝	9⅝

Remedy sought for state's uninsured drivers

DALLAS (AP) — You didn't cause the accident, but the driver of the battered pickup that rammed into your new Lexus doesn't have insurance.

Sorry. You pay.

Ron Vines, an Allstate insurance agent in Plano, said an accident involving uninsured drivers is the biggest headache in his business.

"You can almost feel your customers burning up on the other end of the line when you explain to them why we have to take money out of their pocket," he said.

Many legislators say the problem is getting out of hand, and they are searching for ways to catch Texans who ignore the state law that requires all drivers to have auto insurance coverage.

More than a dozen bills to curb uninsured motorists have been filed, including one that would automatically jail for six days any driver caught more than once without insurance.

"We need to solve this problem one way or another," said Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, chairman of the House Insurance Committee. "When you have a law on the books that is being ignored on such a wide basis, that sets a bad precedent. Unfortunately, there is not any solution that has jumped out at us so far."

Industry spokesman Jerry Johns said drivers who comply with the law and carry coverage are paying higher premiums every year because of the large number of uninsured drivers.

"The cost for uninsured motorist coverage has risen dramatically over the past five years, and that can be directly attributed to the number of people roaming around on Texas roads without insurance," said Johns, president of Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

The situation is worst in Cameron County, where 34.2 percent of the drivers are uninsured, according to the Department of Public Safety. El Paso County is next with 32.4 percent, then Dallas County, 22.6 percent.

The statewide average is 17.5 percent.

State law has required drivers to carry auto insurance since 1982. The compulsory insurance law was beefed up in 1991 when the Legislature voted to require that motorists show proof of insurance when obtaining a license tag, auto inspection or a new driver's license.

But in addition to those who never get insurance at all, there are those who obtain insurance but cancel it once they've gotten the license or permit they needed.

The penalties for not having insurance increased in 1991 to a maximum $350 fine for the first offense and up to $1,000 for second and subsequent offenses — along with impoundment of the vehicle until the driver obtains an insurance policy. Usually a driver can get out of the fine by obtaining insurance and returning to court.

Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, is pushing a bill to establish a central database at the Department of Public Safety to track whether drivers have a valid insurance policy.

When a driver is stopped for a traffic violation or shows up to get a new driver's license, law enforcement officials could tap into a central computer and find out whether the person has insurance.

Other proposals in the Legislature would make it a felony to use a fake insurance ID, double the fine for not having insurance and sharply restrict the right of uninsured motorists to file suit after an accident.

On the other hand, a bill by Rep. Glenn Lewis, D-Fort Worth, would rescind the law. He contends that drivers should not be forced to buy insurance if they don't have enough money.

The industry is near unanimous in its support for a no-fault insurance system in which drivers in accidents are compensated by their own insurers regardless of fault.

Immigration law changes due April 1

DALLAS (AP) — In the shadow of downtown's glittering skyline, an impoverished immigrant neighborhood is bracing for the wave of changes sparked by a major rewrite last year of the nation's immigration laws.

From a squat two-story yellow building that dominates streets of ramshackle bungalows, the immigrant caseworkers at Proyecto Adelante are none too confident that their clients can negotiate the shifting political and policy landscape.

This West Dallas neighborhood is ground zero for the American dream that beckoned many immigrants to come here by means legal or illegal, one of countless such neighborhoods nationally.

And with many of the new law's most far-reaching policies taking effect April 1, the community is readying itself for a new reality.

"The stakes have gone through the ceiling," said Paul Zoltan, a counselor at Proyecto Adelante, an advocacy group that has been assisting Guatemalans, Salvadorans and other immigrants since 1982.

Zoltan said he's often greeted with tears when he explains the effects of the new law. "A lot of them break down and start bawling about all of this," he said in a recent interview.

A key decision facing undocumented immigrants is whether to remain in the country after April 1. Those apprehended after then face three years of banishment if unlawfully present for less than a year. For those here a year or more without permission, they will be banned from readmission for a decade. If caught here during the 10-year ban, they face permanent banishment.

Loathe to leave behind families and jobs, many will stay, gambling that they won't get caught, said Zoltan.

Authors of the new law say the nation cannot ignore the scope of the illegal immigrant problem. Some 5 million people are here without authorization, a number that swells by 275,000 annually.

The United States, they add, can't afford to take in all of those who want to be here, bringing with them the need for education, medical care and social services.

But Freddy, a 25-year-old Salvadoran who has been here for five years under temporary protected status, worries that Washington's new policies are too punitive.

"It'll be very hard for everyone, for all immigrants," said the supermarket worker. "They should be fairer with us. We've had terrible problems in our countries."

Also as of April 1, the law speeds up removal proceedings and limits courts' authority to review those decisions; and expedites asylum procedures, making it easier to deny admission at U.S. ports of entry.

Asked to assess the law's impact, Zoltan sighed and said: "It's really hard to see the big picture because it's coming at us so rapidly."

Several miles away, at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's regional headquarters, administrators share Zoltan's view.

"We are really taking on a new life as of April 1," said INS Dallas District Director Arthur Strapp, whose region spans 123 North Texas counties and all of Oklahoma.

"This is going to have more impact on the agency ... than anything we've ever seen," the 30-year INS veteran said.

INS recently issued a thick sheaf of regulations designed to translate Congress' mandate into concrete procedures. To master those regulations — and deal with the 55 types of paperwork that need to be eliminated or modified — the agency has embarked on a massive training course for some 17,000 employees.

"It's going to be almost like learning a new foreign language," said Strapp.

At the same time INS is in the midst of retraining, the agency also is coping with other ramifications of the law: A sharp surge in citizenship applications, and undocumented immigrants voluntarily turning themselves in with the hope that court proceedings initiated now will keep them in the country longer.

Contemplating the challenges, Strapp said: "We'll make this work."

Business breaks will be part of any debate on tax cut issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Corporate America came to the House Ways and Means Committee with an angry message.

"We strongly object to the use of the term 'corporate welfare,'" Dick Hayes, a senior vice president of Wells Fargo & Co., told the tax-writing panel.

Hayes was part of a contingent of bankers, Wall Street brokers, major retailers and even garbage haulers who took issue with various parts of the Clinton administration's plan to rid the tax code of what budget writers politely call "unwarranted benefits." Translation: $34.3 billion of various incentives and breaks for businesses that liberals deride as "corporate welfare."

Cutting those provisions is a key element in financing the middle class tax cuts contained in President Clinton's budget plan. But judging from the collective corporate and political firepower aimed at the provisions, they have a tough road ahead.

Questions by Republicans on Ways and Means last week showed they had little appetite for the administration proposals.

Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill., asked the corporate witnesses: "One of the things I've tried to get at for years is that businesses don't pay taxes. Now would you disagree with that statement? ... It comes out of the pockets of consumers."

The witnesses nodded in agreement and then unloaded on the Clinton plan.

Hayes, representing the American Bankers Association, took issue with White House plans to end $10.4 billion in business tax breaks through the year 2002, ranging from a scale-back in deductions for stock dividends to tightening use of tax loss credits.

The list goes on.

According to an Associated Press review of the testimony and the president's budget proposal, the National Retail Federation opposed new accounting provisions that would raise $1.5 billion; the Securities Industry Association criticized $7.1 billion in revenue raisers; the American Automobile Manufacturers Association opposed $11.3 billion in tax changes; and the Public Securities Association, a bond trade group, was against $2.9 billion in changes.

The groups' objections, which overlapped in many cases, generally concentrated on proposed tightening of foreign tax credits and deductions on bonds and preferred stock.

Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, objected to provisions totaling $15.2 billion: an extension of a payroll surtax for a federal unemployment insurance fund, tightening of foreign tax credits and a change in how people account for their capital gains taxes.

"They threaten worker salaries by hiking the payroll tax, they raise taxes on the 10 million middle-income investors and they penalize companies that create export jobs," Archer said. The committee will review the tax code by "reforming-or eliminating anachronistic provisions," he said, but he opposes provisions that he believes increase taxes on workers.

Fred T. Goldberg, Internal Revenue Service commissioner during the Bush administration and now a private attorney in Washington, asserted that the tax changes would hit average people the hardest as corporations pass on the cost.

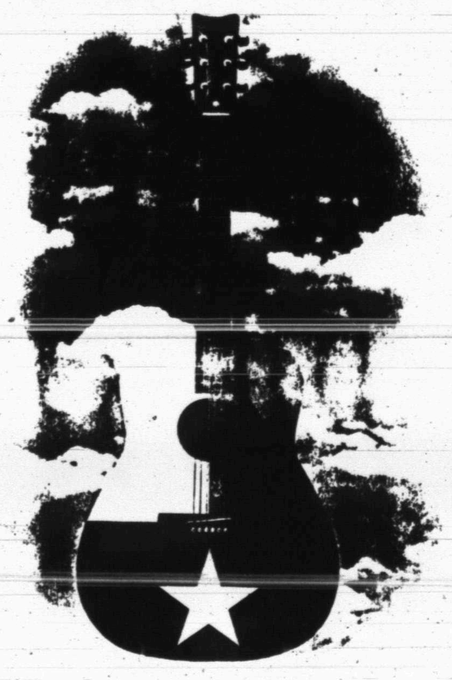
"It is going to come out of people's pockets, and people who are going to be paying are largely going to be workers," Goldberg said. He said it is a mistake to call the provisions "corporate welfare."

"These are tax increases that will discourage and penalize the very activities that are essential to savings, investment, job creation and economic growth," he said.

But Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., saw the issue differently, asking the witnesses for specific guidance as lawmakers pick through the budget to trim spending programs.

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Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

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Grassroots Literary Project Sprouts Many New Chapters

DEAR ABBY: I am the father you mentioned who loved reading aloud to my children so much that I started Rolling Readers. It is now California's largest nonprofit children's literacy organization. We were proud to see the letter from Miss Mary Ann detailing her joy as a volunteer reading to her "story children" each week, and the satisfaction she receives when she gives them new books three times a year during our "book giveaways."

The response from Dear Abby readers across the United States and Canada has been unbelievable. We have received more than 10,000 calls and letters from people who wish to volunteer, and individuals and groups who are eager to start a local chapter of Rolling Readers in their communities. Already chapters are forming in St. Louis, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Tampa, New York, Chicago, and dozens of smaller communities.

Reading aloud to youngsters is such a simple yet profound way to share our love of books and reading. Over the years we have been inspired by the quality of volunteers willing to spend an hour each week helping to create "reading and caring communities." They include socially conscious high school students, police detectives, judges, retirees and homemakers. They share our alarm that there is a crisis in our country.

For 30 years our society has grown increasingly less literate, with the biggest decline occurring in those needy children already struggling near the bottom. These Rolling Readers understand that this crisis needs to be solved in a typically American fashion — individually, by thousands of concerned citizens willing to give of their time to make a difference in the lives of these children.

Abby, thank you for spreading this important message. We would also like to thank the thousands of your readers who have sent letters or called to volunteer. Together we are creating "reading and caring communities" across the country. After all, a love of children and a love of books go hand in hand.

ROBERT CONDON,
ROLLING READERS USA

DEAR MR. CONDON: I'm delighted that your worthwhile organization struck such a responsive chord with my readers. America's most precious resource is our children, and literacy is the first step in preparing them to lead productive lives. I wish you and your dedicated volunteers continued success in this important effort.

***

DEAR ABBY: Often, when my husband and I are in a conversation with another couple, something happens that really "bugs" me. The other couple both start talking at once, the woman to me and the man to my husband. It's impossible to listen to both and I have to choose.

Obviously, if I listen to the man I'll be rude to the woman. Sometimes I'm more interested in the conversation the man and my husband are having. What can I do? I feel like throwing up my hands and leaving the room. What could I say?

FRUSTRATED IN CANADA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: The next time it happens, smile at the woman and say, "Just a moment, if you don't mind; I'd like to hear this ..."

***

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY IRISH FRIENDS: On this St. Patrick's Day, may I extend this Irish blessing to you:

May you never forget
What is worth remembering
Or remember what is best forgotten.

P.S. Have a joyous St. Patrick's Day. If you're drinking, don't drive. And if you're driving, don't drink.

***

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-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Murdoch escalates war over couch potatoes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Space: The final frontier?

Whether or not Rupert Murdoch is a Star Trek fan, his plan to beam hundreds of TV channels — including local stations — directly into people's homes via satellite leaves cable television executives, gathered for a convention here this week, wishing somebody would beam him up.

Already, Murdoch's latest venture — a $1 billion stake in a Denver-based direct broadcast satellite company — is being referred to as the "Death Star."

Even Wall Street thinks the combination of EchoStar Communications with ASkyB, the nascent satellite television business of Murdoch's News Corp., makes a potentially formidable competitor to the $25 billion cable industry. Cable stocks plunged 8 to 10 percent after Murdoch's Feb. 24 announcement.

Kenneth Goldman, a money manager who watches media companies for Entermedia Growth Partners of Denver said consumers can expect more viewing choices than ever.

Telephone companies have scaled back plans to compete head-to-head with local cable systems. And microwave-delivered "wireless cable" has yet to evolve into the competitor policy makers had hoped. But direct broadcast satellite TV is cable's biggest nightmare.

"Cable is worried because Rupert Murdoch has shown a willingness to lose gobs of money to build new businesses. He takes big risks," Goldman said. "The Murdoch deal restores a cloud of competition that seemed to be waning over the cable industry."

Decker Anstrom, president of the National Cable Television Association, said a message of this week's cable convention is "we're going to meet that competition with a growing sense of confidence."

But in a sign of tension, the conference scuttled a session on how cable and direct broadcast satellite companies — called DBS in the industry — can work together.

Of the 100 million U.S. homes with television, about 65 million have cable. Just 4.5 million households have direct-broadcast satellite TV, but the industry could grow to 21 million customers by 2001, according to some projections.

The cable industry is about as entrenched as the Big Three networks were before Murdoch's Fox television, home to "The Simpsons," "Married with Children" and NFL football, shook them up. DBS is a real threat because it's digital and can offer customers better sound and picture quality and more channels than the average cable system, which provides 54.

Plus, unlike other DBS providers, Murdoch says his new venture, to be called Sky, will also offer local TV programming in some markets. DBS users today generally need to either plug "rabbit-ears" or basic cable into their satellite receivers to get local stations on their sets.

If Murdoch pulls this off investors worry it would cost cable companies subscribers. Analysts expect cable companies will focus more on creating new local programming choices to combat that fear.

Cox Cable Communications' system San Diego, for instance, bought exclusive rights to 125 Padres' professional baseball games, which it will air this spring on a local programming channel it created: Channel 4.

Similarly, Comcast Corp. is supposed to offer local sports events on its cable system in Philadelphia.

Florida's loss is Texas' gain in relocation plan

DALLAS (AP) — With most Blockbuster Entertainment Corp. employees opting against following their company from Florida to Texas, up to 600 jobs are up for grabs in the city where the $3 billion chain started about 11 years ago.

About two-thirds of the 900 headquarters workers for the world's largest video rental company have turned down various relocation packages.

About 40 percent of Blockbuster's available jobs in Dallas pay hourly wages while the remainder are salaried, said Rosanna Durruthy, Blockbuster's vice president of staffing and relocation.

"It's a broad range" of jobs, she said. "From information systems to finance and accounting, retail merchandising and store planning, online technologies, corporate relations, human resources, the office of the general counsel — a bit of everything."

Many of those who chose to stay in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said they had strong family ties there, according to Jonathan Baskin, a Blockbuster senior vice president.

Others, he said, viewed Dallas "as a long way to go for an hourly job."

Also, the rental giant did not pay full moving expenses for everyone. Fewer and fewer employees are opting for long-distance moves when their company departs.

The Viacom Inc. subsidiary will be headquartered in six floors of downtown's Renaissance Tower. Ms. Durruthy said company recruiters have already hired about 100 people in recent weeks.

The first wave of Blockbuster employees who accepted transfers arrives at the end of March, said Baskin. He said the relocation is expected to be finished by early June.

It is a homecoming of sorts for Blockbuster, which started in Dallas in 1985 with a single store. Billionaire H. Wayne Huizenga bought the chain in 1987 and moved the head office to Fort Lauderdale.

In 1994, New York-based Viacom, the media conglomerate that owns Paramount films, MTV cable and Simon & Schuster books, bought Blockbuster from Huizenga, severing the company's strongest tie to the Florida city.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Is prostate drug the best choice?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am an 80-year-old man. I have but one problem: an enlarged prostate gland that caused me to have to get up several times a night to urinate.

I read about Proscar in your column and asked my doctor about it. He said that it was ineffective and put me on Hytrin instead. The medicine has worked fine. I no longer am awakened at night. Why did you mention Proscar when Hytrin is superior?

DEAR READER: As men age and their prostate glands enlarge, the condition causes several symptoms that are related to both the glandular growth and the bladder spasm that accompanies it.

In the first instance, men may develop a weak urinary stream, difficulty voiding, and an inability to empty the bladder fully. Patients with such symptoms are often helped by Proscar, a prescription medicine that shrinks the prostate. The drug, although safe, usually takes several weeks to be effective.

Bladder spasm, on the other hand, causes urgency, frequency, night-time urination, dribbling, and incontinence. For these symptoms, physicians commonly prescribe drugs, such as Hytrin and Cardura, which relax the bladder muscle.

Such medications do not reduce the size of the prostate; unlike Proscar, they merely treat many of the consequences of prostatic enlargement, leading almost immediately to welcome relief.

Therefore, your doctor was correct. In your case, Hytrin was probably a better choice, given your symptom. Eventually, however, you may have to take Proscar, too, if and when you develop signs of prostatic obstruction.

Many men, as they age, discover that both drugs are necessary. Remember that Hytrin also lowers the blood pressure, so this should be periodically monitored.

Furthermore, prostate cancer can also cause the gland to swell, so you should have regular rectal examinations (at least yearly), as well as a PSA blood test for prostate cancer. Such malignancies are treated with surgery, radiation or hormones.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "The Prostate Gland." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are deodorant stones safe to use?

DEAR READER: This is a natural product: stones mined from special salt beds. When rubbed under the arms, tiny amounts of salt adhere to the skin and kill bacteria (the cause of perspiration odor).

Deodorant stones are safe to use, but they may not be as effective as the usual, commercial deodorants.

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Business and Industrial News

I.E. Martin adds new line of radiators

I.E. Martin's Quick Service wants to keep both you and your equipment cool.

I.E. Martin's Quick Service has long been known for quality automotive air conditioning sales and service. That continues along with an expanded line of new radiators to keep your equipment running efficiently.

I.E. Martin is the new dealer for agricultural and industrial radiators. Martin's has complete radiators (tanks and cores) for John Deere, Ford, International, Case and Massey Ferguson.

Starting as low as $266 for a complete new radiator, Martin's is offering an introductory 10 percent discount on new radiators. All new radiators come with a one-year factory warranty.

"It's more economical to get a complete new radiator than to repair one," Martin said. "Come by and we'll give you a turnkey price. We'll install it for you or you can take and install it yourself."

With hot weather approaching, Martin reminds vehicle owners to have their vehicle air conditioning systems checked. There is no charge for a systems check.

Martin's Quick Service is also the authorized dealer for air conditioner compressors. "We have the lowest prices on compressors anywhere," Martin said. In stock are compressors that fit most American-made cars and trucks. Compressors for imports are also available.

Because of the high cost of conventional auto air refrigerants, motorists may want to consider having their vehicle retrofitted to use R-134-A instead of the costly freon. A retrofit can be accomplished for as low as $160.

Martin said spring specials will be advertised in the April edition of $ $aver$. Watch for the money-saving coupons in the Snyder Daily News, in your S.O.S. or in the mail.

"We don't want you to lose your cool this summer. Plan now to get your cooling systems in shape to endure the West Texas heat," Martin said.

Martin's Quick Service is located at 1701 College Avenue or you can give him a call at 573-4325.

Command sergeant major reassigned

FORT HOOD (AP) — The command sergeant major of the 4th Infantry Division has been reassigned following a preliminary investigation of sexual misconduct, a division spokesman says.

Maj. Mark Newell, division spokesman, said Sunday that Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sills has been temporarily assigned to administrative duties.

Sills has been reassigned while the investigation is continuing, Newell said. The investigation is being conducted by the Army's Criminal Investigation Division at Fort Hood.

Further details on the findings of the investigation were not released and Sills could not be reached for comment, the Killeen Daily Herald reported today.

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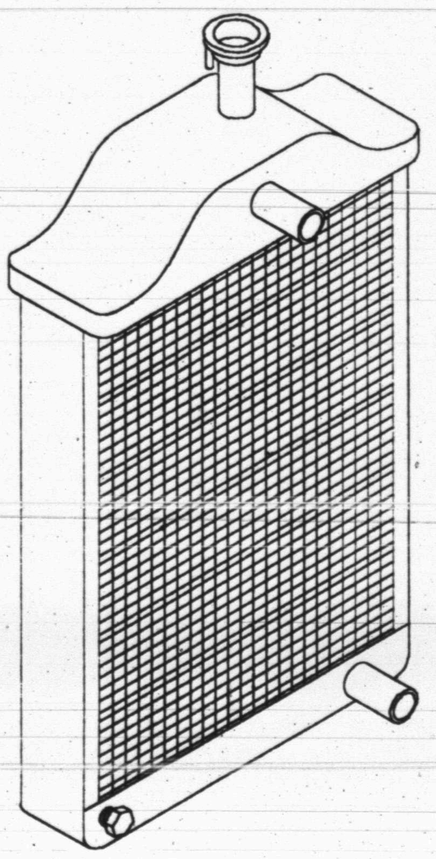
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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Gore taking up slack for injured boss

WASHINGTON (AP) — Filling in for his hobbled boss, Vice President Al Gore announced today that former Vice President Walter Mondale and former Republican Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker will lead a White House effort to pressure Congress for campaign finance reform.

Mondale and Kassebaum Baker have agreed to serve as co-chairmen of a commission designed to "help educate the public, rally public opinion and expand the circle of reform," Gore said.

Clinton, recovering from knee surgery with a curtailed public schedule, is under mounting criticism for his role in questionable Democratic fund-raising practices during the 1996 elections. Gore, who plans to run for the presidency in 2000, has acknowledged that he solicited political donations by telephone from his White House office.

Arguing that the time is ripe for campaign finance reform, Gore said, "We have unprecedented public focus" on the topic. Then he said with a chuckle: "I can bear personal testimony to that."

Gore, Mondale and Kassebaum Baker were meeting Clinton in the White House residence after the announcement. The president had planned to host the event himself but bowed out after he injured his right knee Friday.

Clinton returned to the White House on Sunday, less than 48 hours after undergoing surgery for the torn tendon.

Gore was pinch-hitting for Clinton all day.

Aid for school construction proposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — School districts and states with crumbling or overcrowded schools would share $5 billion in construction seed money under legislation prepared by the Clinton administration.

Education Secretary Richard Riley provided details Friday of the bill, to be introduced next week in the House and Senate. If enacted, the measure would fulfill a campaign promise President Clinton made last year.

Many Republican lawmakers oppose using federal dollars for building or repairing local schools. They argue that federal construction would cost more because of the law requiring payment of union wages on projects financed by the federal government.

But Riley said the administration cannot stand by while millions of children crowd into old, often dangerous buildings, or jam into trailer classrooms in rapidly growing areas places like Broward County, Fla.

"Students who are forced to attend unsafe or overcrowded schools generally have a lower academic performance," Riley told reporters. "However, states and school districts are hard-pressed at this time of already tight budgets to develop adequate solutions to these problems."

In Broward County, where Clinton had planned to promote the bill before a knee injury forced him to cancel the appearance, voters rejected a penny increase in their sales tax two years ago to pay for schools. The last school bond issue approved was for $317 million in 1987.

The Broward school district, the nation's fifth-largest, could qualify for $16.4 million in federal money to support $70 million worth of building. The federal dollars would pay half the interest on borrowing for construction. The administration says that overall, the $5 billion would spur $20 billion worth of construction over two years.

Department officials could not say Friday whether the money would enable a district such as Broward to build new schools without raising the sales tax. But they did say it would lower the cost of financing, making it easier for voters to support school bond issues.

"This is designed not to replace what any county might do, but to say to that county, 'This is a very good time for you to go forward with it,'" Riley said.

A school district borrowing $1 million for construction now pays an average $2 million over 25 years, assuming a 5 percent interest rate, the department said. The subsidy would lower that overall cost to $1.5 million.

Of the money, $2.45 billion would go to school districts with large numbers of poor students. New York would get $287.3 million; Chicago, $117 million; and Los Angeles, $116 million. On the low end, Knox County, Tenn., schools would get $5 million; Lafayette Parish, La., schools, $4.5 million.

Another $2.45 billion would go to states based on the number of poor students. California and Texas would top that list at $221.7 million and $211.2 million, respectively.

The remaining $100 million would go to schools on Indian reservations and in the territories.

Russian foreign minister arrives in Washington for critical talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov holds pre-summit talks here, the Clinton administration is ruling out any limits on NATO expansion or the weapons that new members could bring into the alliance.

Still, Primakov's visit could produce guidelines for a new round of U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons cutbacks and on a charter to link Russia to NATO without giving it a veto over military actions.

He was due to see Secretary of State Madeleine Albright today, Defense Secretary William Cohen on Sunday and President Clinton on Monday, a day before Clinton leaves for Helsinki, Finland, and a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, all former allies of Russia, are expected to be invited this summer to join NATO in 1998, and a senior U.S. official said Friday that Romania and Slovenia also were candidates for membership.

While the administration has offered several concessions to counter Russia's objections to NATO's expanding to its western border, the official told news agency reporters that the United States would not negotiate limits on the new members.

France is promoting entry of Romania, another former Russian ally, and Slovenia, a former Yugoslav republic, is also under consideration, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Slovenia was not in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact as the other leading candidates were.

Yeltsin registered his objections again Friday to the eastward expansion of NATO.

"What the Americans are proposing — moving conventional weapons to the territory of Eastern Europe — would amount to a 'cordon sanitaire' (buffer zone) around Russia," he said. "We won't go along with that."

Administration officials say there is no way Russia can stop the expansion.

But, trying to placate Moscow, the administration has proposed a charter under which Russia would be granted full membership in the G-7 grouping of the world's major democracies. The two sides are working on guidelines for reducing their nuclear weapons arsenals beyond the sharp cuts provided by the 1993 START II treaty.

The Russian parliament is balking at ratifying the agreement, which strips Russia of its most potent long-range warheads and permits a buildup in single-warhead missiles that its economy cannot afford.

Obituaries

W.D. Darlin

1910-1997

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the East Side Church of Christ for W.D. Darlin of Snyder. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery. Tom Holcomb, minister, and Surry Gillum will officiate.

Mr. Darlin, 86, died Saturday, March 15, at his residence in Snyder after a lengthy illness.

Born on April 13, 1910, in Sulphur Springs, he married Leila B. Seaton on Nov. 27, 1932 in Spur. Mr. Darlin was retired from United Supermarkets. He was a member of East Side Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Leila Darlin of Snyder; two sons, Charles Darlin of Snyder and Walter Bruce Darlin of Dallas; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Stubblefield

1917-1997

EASTLAND — Reba Stubblefield, the sister of Kenneth Pitner of Snyder, died Friday, March 14, in a Bridgeport nursing center.

Service for Mrs. Stubblefield, 79, was held Sunday afternoon in the Bethel Baptist Church. Graveside service was held Monday morning in the Eastland Cemetery.

Born in Snyder, she married Charlie Stubblefield in 1938, and he preceded her in death. A homemaker, Mrs. Stubblefield was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, Charles Stubblefield of Abilene; a daughter, Carol Rynearson of Decatur; another brother, Ted Pitner of Hurst; a sister, Nita Patrick of Corsicana; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Amy Brown

1897-1997

ROTAN — Amy Lora Brown, 99, died Friday, March 14, at Snyder Healthcare Center.

Funeral service was set for 3 p.m. today in the Rotan First Baptist Church. Burial was to follow in the Belvieu Cemetery.

Born in Freestone County, she was a longtime Fisher County resident. She married Felix Brown in 1917 in Roby, and he preceded her in death.

A homemaker, Mrs. Brown was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, F.W. Brown of Mabank; a daughter, Annie Mae McKimmey of Rotan; four grandchildren, including Kay Carter and Karen McKimmey, both of Snyder; and five great-grandchildren.

Exxon allowed tax break

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today let Exxon take a multimillion-dollar tax break on natural gas production by using figures that exceed its true income from gas sales.

The court, without comment, turned down the government's argument that Exxon was not entitled to take such a large deduction.

Until 1974, energy producers could take a tax deduction for depletion of natural gas resources, based on a percentage of their income for selling the gas. If the producer didn't sell the gas at the well site, the income was calculated at the market rate for on-premises gas sales.

Starting in 1975, lawmakers adopted a new way to calculate the tax break. But the percentage method still was used for long-term contracts already in effect and for independent producers.

The case acted on today involved Exxon's 1974 tax bill for natural gas sales from thousands of wells in Texas.

The gas was being sold under long-term contracts at prices that, by 1974, were far below the going rate. Therefore, the income figure Exxon used for calculating its tax break was much higher than its actual income.

After auditing Exxon's tax return, the Internal Revenue Service decided the Irving, Texas-based company could not calculate the tax break by using a market rate that exceeded its true income for natural gas sales.

The IRS reduced Exxon's tax deduction by about $11 million, which raised its tax bill by about $5 million.

Exxon paid the tax under protest and sued in the Court of Federal Claims.

Jury selection begins in trial

Jury selection was still underway in 132nd District Court this morning in the trial of a Scurry County man charged with felony theft.

Prosecutors say 40-old Roy Starr and another man stole a 1965 Chevrolet pickup from the front of John's Machine Shop on Oct. 6, 1996, stripped it and sold the parts. The vehicle was owned by Gerardo Silva.

A Scurry County grand jury indicted Starr and Eddie Glenn Mills on theft charges last November. Mills' case is pending.

Dana Cooley, district attorney, is prosecuting the case. Starr, of 1000 30th St., is represented by by Isaac Castro, a local attorney.

What's Up?

VFW, auxiliary meet tonight

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 7 this evening. Nomination for officers for 1997-98 will be held.

Bible study video tapes

Bible study video tapes are airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. They are followed by a new series titled "Hope for Life's Journey." The fourth Bible tape, "The Providentially," will air at 7 this evening. It will be followed by "When God Went to Prison."

Satellite town meeting

Snyder citizens are invited to participate in a satellite town meeting on "School-to-Work Opportunities: Workplaces as Learning Environments" at 7 p.m. Tuesday on Channel 32. Viewers can call the program using a toll-free number to ask U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley questions.

Grief support group

The grief support group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Hermleigh Booster Club

Hermleigh Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the high school.

Stanfield Parent Council

Stanfield Parent Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the school cafeteria.

Boys & Girls Club meeting

The Boys & Girls Club board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the club, 1500 28th Street. Agenda items include summer fund-raising events, employee salaries, building renovations, adding additional board members and United Way. Visitors are welcome.

Ministerial Alliance to meet

The Ministerial Alliance will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday at Rudy's.

Skate Night planned

Snyder Noon Kiwanis will sponsor Skate Night from 6-9 p.m. Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum. Admission is $2 for skaters and $1 for spectators. Concessions will be available. All ages are welcome. Bring your own skates.

Art and writing contest

Area schools are invited to participate in the 11th annual Texas Wildflower Program at Scurry County Museum. The program will feature creative art and writing. Projects will be accepted March 24-27. The display will open April 7 and close May 9. For information, call 573-6107.

Ira gospel singing

Ira First Baptist, Church of God, Church of Christ and United Methodist are hosting a community singing at the Ira School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Call Judy Smallwood at 573-5785 or Linda Darnell at 573-9527 to have your group placed on the program. Everyone is invited.

Easter sunrise service

East Side Church of Christ invites everyone to a sunrise service to be held March 30 at the J.R. Cave Ranch, approximately five miles south on Highway 208. More detailed information is forthcoming.

Senior Swimnastics

Senior Swimnastics is held each Tuesday and Thursday at the Western Texas College pool from 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Free tax help provided

An AARP tax aide is available Wednesdays at the Senior Center from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. to help middle and low income older taxpayers prepare their personal income taxes. For information, call 573-4035 or 573-3822.

Wildflower tours available

Scurry County Museum will be conducting wildflower tours from April 7-30. Tours should be scheduled at least five days in advance by calling 573-6107. The tours will be given by Western Texas College botany students.

SNS needs financial help

Snyder Neighbors Sharing, which repairs homes of persons over 65 or disabled, is in need of donations for the April 26 workday. Donations can be mailed to SNS, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, or dropped off at Sam Robertson's Insurance or the West Elementary School office.

Adult education classes

GED and ESL classes are available at Western Texas College. Times are 8-11 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact the college continuing education department for more information.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
1-7-1
(one, seven, one)

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 11-12-26-39-44-46.
Estimated jackpot: $9 million.
Number matching six of six: none.
Matching five of six: 86. Prize: $2,159.
Matching four of six: 6,090. Prize: $109.
Matching three of six: 119,236. Prize: $3.
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
Estimated jackpot: $15 million.