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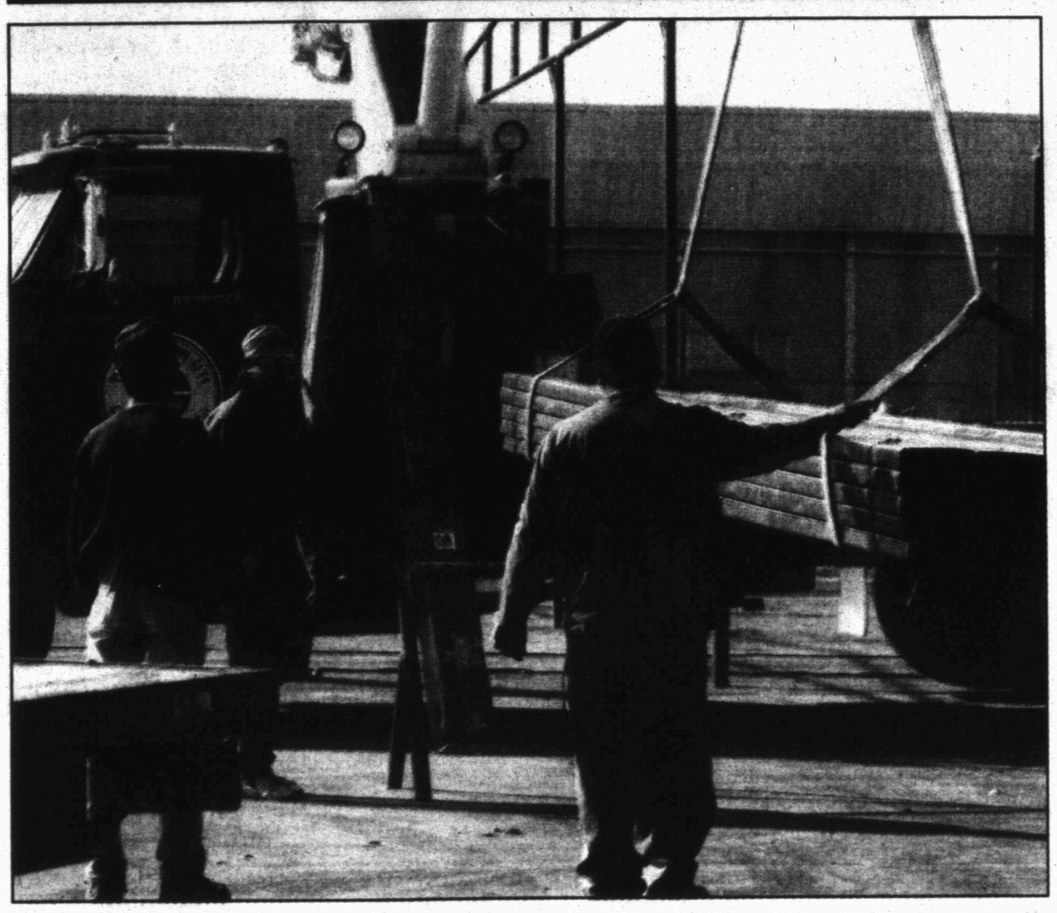
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

Jan. 23, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 230
10 Pages 50¢

Home of W.C. McFatridge



NEW BATTING CAGES — Snyder baseball booster club president Larry Price operates the crane while crews keep an eye on the materials to build the new batting cages/bullpens at the old tennis courts on the SHS campus. The structure will have a roof and lights to allow practice at night and during wet weather. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Six reported Thursday...

Car burglaries are continuing

Snyder law enforcement officers were inundated with a number of calls Thursday reporting vehicle burglaries.

"We're having a rash of car burglaries, it's as simple as that," said Snyder Police Sgt. Brian Haggard. "It's a real problem that needs to get cleared up as soon as possible."

Six vehicles were reported burglarized. The first occurred in the 800 block of 16th, three cars were reported burglarized on 23rd, followed by a burglary on Ave. O where a window had been broken to gain access into the vehicle, and finally a burglary on Milburn St. A number of assorted items such as CD's, cell phones, purses and miscellaneous change was taken.

"It appears that the perpetrator is going through the neighborhoods checking cars to see if they're unlocked, and once found, the items are being stolen. The burglaries could possibly be avoided by taking the time to lock car doors when getting out," said Haggard.

Haggard advises residents not to leave anything of value in their vehicle, even when stopping for a short time.

"Don't leave anything out where it can be seen. Take anything of value with you and I can't stress the importance of locking the vehicles."

The best defense against theft can come from the community. Sgt. Haggard advises Snyder and Scurry County citizens to call whenever they see someone or something suspicious.

"Sometimes what seems like a little thing can turn out to be a big thing. If someone sees something, please call the police or sheriff's department. It may clear up a lot of burglaries around here," Haggard said.

The dispatch number at the Law Enforcement Center is 573-3551.

Clinic hires physician's assistant

Bill McGuire, PAC, will join the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Rural Health Clinic beginning Monday morning.

McGuire will be at the clinic on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found for Christine Heady.

Heady, a nurse practitioner, resigned her position at the clinic and is now working at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice units in Colorado City.

"McGuire is a physician's assistant with 30 years of experience," said Nick Blythe, clinic administrator.

"The clinic will continue to provide the same services that we have always provided," said Blythe. "If we have provided health care services to you or your family in the past, you can be assured that we will continue to offer the same high quality of service that we always have."

Blythe said a physician's assistant practices in much the same manner as a nurse practitioner.

"They can write prescriptions like a nurse practitioner can," said Blythe.

Blythe said the clinic hours would remain the same, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, and 2-5 p.m.

Vasquez not guilty, but jailed on similar charge

An eight-woman, four-man jury deliberated just over two hours Thursday before finding Johnny Vasquez Jr. innocent of the felony charges of burglary of a home with intent to commit assault.

Vasquez, 20, of 4700 Ave. R had been accused of breaking into a residence at 218 31st St. last August and assaulting Nikki James, 18.

The innocent verdict did not end Vasquez's problems with the law as he is now in jail accused of breaking into the same residence Monday.

His bond on the charge of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit a felony is $15,000.

Vasquez is again accused of assaulting James.

Snyder attorney Pete Greene was the defense attorney for Vasquez in the trial, and the state's evidence was presented by assistant district attorney Ben Smith.

District Attorney Dana Cooley delivered closing arguments for the state along with Smith.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong presided.

Court upholds commuted sentences given by governor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The state Supreme Court ruled today that former Gov. George Ryan had the power to commute the sentences of every Illinois death row inmate before he left office last year.

The Republican governor commuted the sentences of 167 inmates and pardoned four others, acting three years after he temporarily halted all executions in Illinois.

The state attorney general challenged Ryan's constitutional authority in 32 of the cases, arguing that 21 of the inmates hadn't sought clemency as required by state law and 14 didn't have death sentences at the time because their cases were being appealed. Three inmates fell into both categories.

The Supreme Court justices said today that a governor's pardon power is essentially unreviewable.

"We believe that the grant of authority given the governor ... is sufficiently broad to allow former Gov. Ryan to do what he did," Justice Bob Thomas wrote for the majority.

No dissents were filed, though the justices added that they felt pardons and commutations should be handled individually, rather than in the mass fashion Ryan used when he cleared death row.

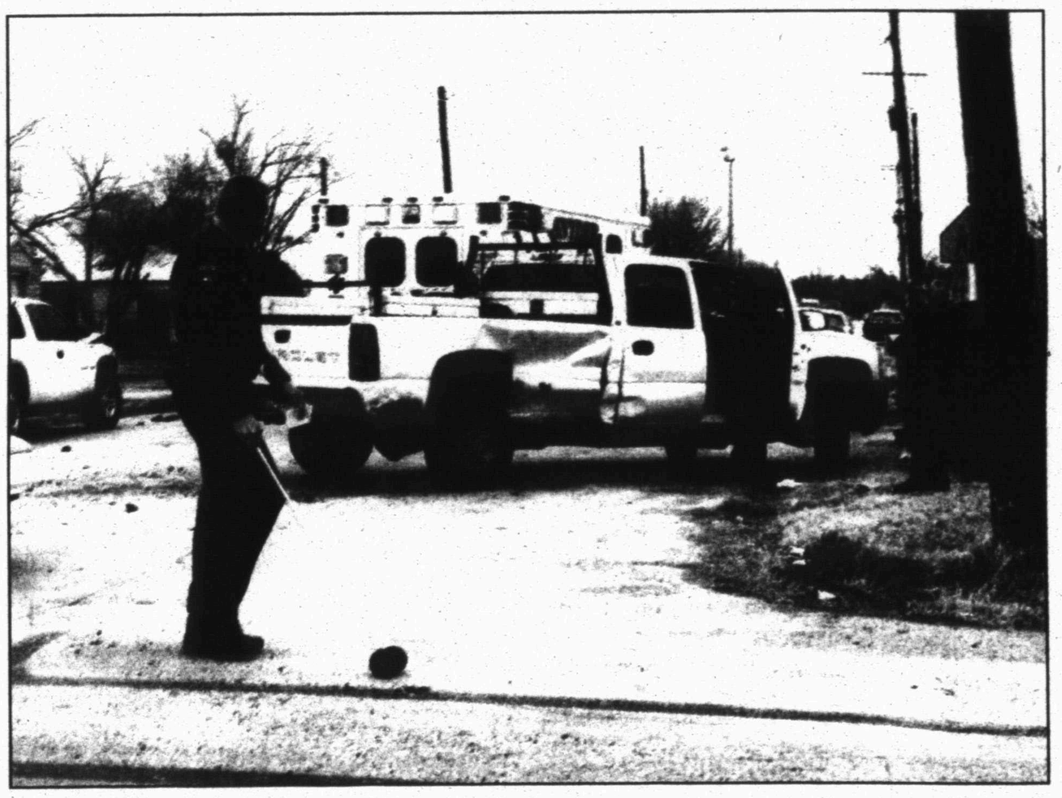
Ryan issued the moratorium on executions in Illinois after it was discovered that 13 death row inmates had been wrongly convicted, prompting fears that a flawed criminal justice system could lead to others unjustly being condemned.

State lawmakers approved a package of bills last spring designed to reform the death penalty system and reduce the likelihood of wrongful convictions, and Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Tuesday declared the state's death penalty reforms complete, though he said he would wait to see how the reforms affected future trials before officially lifting the execution moratorium.

Two inmates have been sent to death row since the blanket commutations.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office, backed by prosecutors throughout the state, filed the lawsuit challenging the 32 Ryan commutations, arguing that Ryan overstepped his power.

But attorneys representing the state's executive branch, supported by death penalty critics and former Gov. Jim Thompson, said the governor's power to grant pardons, reprieves and commutations cannot be overturned because the state Constitution grants that authority to be used on "such terms as he thinks proper."



MEASURING THE MISHAP — Officer Lee Ortiz takes measurements at the scene of an accident at 28th and Ave. J Wednesday. The collision involved a 2002 Dodge Dakota driven by Jeremy Hanes, 23, of 1003 23rd and a 2003 Chevrolet pickup driven by Mauel Sandoval Jr., 30, of 3718 Austin Ave. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN
by Wade Warren



We started out in the newspaper business in Lamesa with the old daily Lamesa Reporter.

As a result, we read the now semi-weekly Lamesa Press-Reporter as often as we can as it comes into our office.

There were some words on the front page of the Jan. 14 edition that I did not ever think I would see coming from Lamesa — beer and wine sales.

A member of the Lamesa city council, Pepe Lucio, is spearheading a campaign to offer beer and wine for sale within the city limits of the Dawson County seat for off-premise consumption.

Lucio has organized a petition drive for citizens to vote on the proposition and following a presentation to that community's economic development board, the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) formally endorsed the petition.

"All we are requesting with this petition is to allow the citizens the opportunity to vote it in or vote it out," said the city councilman.

Lucio said he believes the legal sale of beer and wine would bring added revenue to the City of Lamesa through increased sales tax.

He also said he felt that any negative impact would be minimal since beer and wine is already available just outside the south city limits of Lamesa at Los Ybanez.

Lucio went on to say that the election is an opportunity to create jobs and increase tax revenue.

A couple of the members of the LEDC, Lamesa's equivalent of the Development Corporation of Snyder, said they had been contacted by members of the community who are strongly opposed to the legalization of beer and wine sales in Lamesa.

But they both said if the proposition was looked at purely as a way of economic development, both agreed that the proposal would be good for Lamesa and supported the idea of local residents being given the opportunity to vote on the issue.

The Lamesa City Council has also approved a resolution supporting the petition drive.

One of the members of the council, a DPS trooper, was one of the members voicing his support for the petition drive.

The trooper said alcohol is already available in Lamesa whether it (the council) wanted it or not, and added that he felt the opportunity should be given to citizens to determine what is sold there.

Organizers of the drive must gather 1,098 signatures to call the election. That number is based upon 35 percent of the persons who voted in Lamesa in the last gubernatorial election.

And in the same edition, something else that I thought never would be printed anywhere was some out-of-towner praising Lamesa basketball fans.

For me, this is even more far out than a wet-dry election there.

"I applaud the Lamesa parents and fans as a 'rare find' in today's arena of sports," wrote an Abilene Wylie fan. "They set a lovely example," she continued.

A lovely example? Yeah, right.

People in Lamesa believe they were born with a whistle in their mouth and were swatted on the rear with a basketball rulebook to start them breathing.

I just wish the doctor had sent the rulebook home for them to read and the Good Lord had given them enough sense to understand it.

ASK US

Q—Where is the firm located that is heading the search for a new CEO at the hospital?

A—The organization is headquartered in Austin with an office in Cuero.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Ginny Griffith...

...was born in Snyder but moved away until returning in 1996. Her husband is David Griffith and they have three children: Kelli, Eric and Kara Griffith, who all live in Houston. Ginny's favorite hobbies are quilting, gardening, church activities and volunteering with Odyssey Hospice and the American Cancer Society.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Accomplishment is 85 percent attitude and 15 percent skill.

—Zig Ziglar

JAN 23 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Krispie Kreme Doughnuts

Snyder Little Dribblers will be selling Krispie Kreme Doughnuts from 7 a.m. until noon Saturday at Wal-Mart for $6 per dozen.

Girl Scout game day

All registered Snyder Girl Scouts are having a game day from 12:30-2 p.m. Saturday. Girls are encouraged to bring their favorite game.

Stanfield Winter Wonderland

Stanfield Elementary students and their families are invited to the annual Winter Wonderland from 5-7 p.m. Saturday in the school cafeteria and gym. Tickets at the door will be 4 for $1.

Marriage enhancement seminar

Snyder's First Church of the Nazarene is offering a marriage enhancement seminar, *Making Marriage Work*, from 2-5 p.m. Saturday and also Saturday, Jan. 31. Call 573-5601 for more information.

Girl Scout cookie sales

Snyder Girl Scout cookie sales begins Saturday and will run through Feb. 11. Cookies will be delivered from March 6-21. If you have not been contacted and would like to place an order call chairman Alicia Graves at 573-7722 or service unit manager Judi Martin at 573-7556.

Chili supper

Hermleigh senior class will hold a chili supper from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sunday in the Hermleigh cafeteria. Adult tickets are $5, and a child's plate is $3.

Concert at Word Is Life

"Moving into Worship," a concert in movement with Randall Bane, is set for 7 p.m. Sunday at the Word Is Life Church, 312 Coliseum Dr.

Chamber board to meet

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce board will meet at 11:30 a.m. Monday at the chamber.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Only One God Has Spoken," followed by "The Strait Gate and the Narrow Way."

Ira Masonic Lodge

Ira Masonic Lodge #934 will have its stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Book fair

Scurry Community Services is hosting its annual book fair from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through next Friday. Family night is 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Graduation planning meeting

Parents of 2004 SHS graduates are encouraged to attend a planning meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Student Center to discuss end-of-school activities.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Genealogy Society to meet

The Genealogy Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the library. Kathy Nelson will present the program "Behind Every Great Man." Visitors are welcome.

Krispy Kreme doughnuts

Snyder High School band students will take orders for Krispy Kreme doughnuts until Feb. 4. Cost will be $6 a dozen or two or more dozen for $5 each. Delivery date will be Feb. 10. Profits will be applied to the band students' spring trip to Winter Park Colorado.

United Way fundraiser

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

TOPS open house

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) #56 will hold an open house from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity United Methodist Church.

LVN testing dates

The last LVN testing date is Tuesday. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

Fourth Wednesday game day

Martha Ann Woman's Club will have its Fourth Wednesday game day and luncheon Wednesday, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Games of choice will follow. For reservations by 5 p.m. Tuesday, call 573-3427, 573-5586 or 573-6443.

Senior swimnastics

Senior swimnastics are at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Jan. 31 for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

What's up guidelines

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



GUEST SPEAKER — Jenny Shoemaker of the Art Institute in Dallas spoke to family and consumer science classes at Snyder High School. From left are Micaela Quiros, Chela Hernandez and Jenny Shoemaker. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Art Institute represenative speaks at SHS

Jenny Shoemaker, a representative of the Art Institute of Dallas, spoke to Mrs. Carolyn Limmer's and Mrs. Carolyn Derouen's classes in family and consumer sciences at Snyder High School.

Shoemaker told the classes about many of the 30 Art Institutes in the USA, but focuses primarily on the campus in Dallas.

Some of the highlights of her program included a power-point presentation on the programs of study offered in the culinary arts, fashion design and interior design.

Students were given the opportunity to see the educational programs and how they were shaped around the practical needs of employees who hire creative professionals.

The presentation concluded with a question-and-answer session and an opportunity to request more information on career fields of interest.

Starved boy's mom has been jailed on charges of abuse

SAN ATNONIO (AP) — The mother of a Bexar County boy who died of starvation while in the care of relatives has been arrested on felony abuse charges.

Liza Ochoa, 23, was arrested Thursday in San Antonio, four weeks after the death of 4-year-old Jovonie Ochoa. The boy's 25-year-old aunt, Delores Esqueda, was arrested on felony abuse charges Thursday in Kirby, the San Antonio Express-News reported today.

Authorities are attempting to hold Ochoa accountable for her son's death even though she wasn't living with him at the time and apparently visited him only once in the last six weeks of his life.

Esqueda, along with Jovonie's paternal grandmother and an uncle, were caring for the boy.

In addition to a child abandonment charge, Ochoa was being held on two of the same charges filed against the three caregivers — injury to a child and child endangerment.

The boy's paternal grandmother, Maria Palacios, 46, and 19-year-old uncle, Geronimo Esqueda, were charged Thursday with injury to a child, unlawful restraint and child endangerment. They were being held on $100,000 bond at the Bexar County Jail early today morning, according to jail officials.

Liza Ochoa, whose bond was set at $200,000, was also in Bexar County Jail early this morning. Bond was not immediately set for Delores Esqueda.

Jovonie and his two older sisters, 5 and 6, were sent by their mother to Palacios' crowded house in western Bexar County in October. Ochoa has testified in court that she was using heroin at the time and no longer could care for her kids.

Palacios shared the home with her husband, who hasn't been charged, and the Esquedas — who are Palacios' children — as well as Delores Esqueda's four young children.

Supporting reports that the boy had been duct-taped and tied to his bunk bed, the Medical Examiner's Office indicated the child had been lying on his back for several weeks before his death, an arrest affidavit indicated.

Maria Esqueda, Jovonie's 21-year-old aunt, said she saw her mother duct-taping Jovonie on numerous occasions.

None of the other children in the home showed signs of physical abuse. All remain in state custody.

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Experienced Counter help and delivery person needed.
Joe's Pizza
2500 25th Street

Joe's Pizza
Philadelphia Style
You Don't Eat Pizza Every Day, But When You Do, Eat Real Pizza
EAT JOE'S PIZZA!
573-8555

Today's chuckle

Judge sides against defeated candidate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carson's cookie case crumbled.

Councilwoman Julie Ruiz Raber was sued by an opponent for alleged electioneering after she delivered cookies to nearly every poll worker in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson on election day last March.

But Superior Court Judge Alexander Williams III ruled Tuesday that the gesture — delivery of snickerdoodles to 24 of 30 polling places — didn't constitute electioneering. The decision allows Ruiz Raber to keep her council post.



"I was fighting for democracy," Ruiz Raber said, calling it a sour grapes "frivolous lawsuit."

Vera Robles DeWitt, a former councilwoman, filed the suit in April after losing the election by 181 votes. Her attorney, Fredrick Woocher, said the cookie deliveries were an attempt to influence voting.

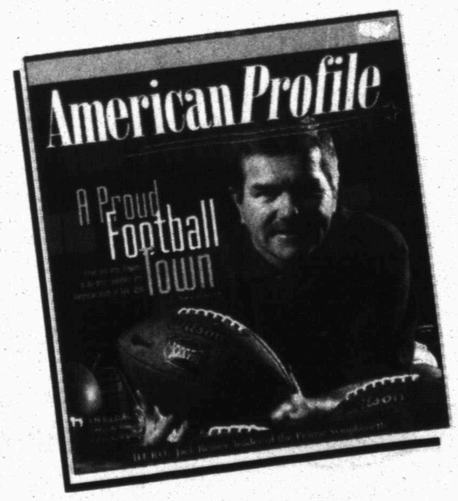
But Ruis Raber's lawyer, Douglas Otto, said electioneering also involves intent and written rules.

"My one-word definition of electioneering is campaigning. That did not take place here," the judge said.

In Next Week's American Profile...

The town that makes footballs

When Super Bowl Sunday rolls around, the residents of Ada, Ohio, will have their eyes on the football...literally. That's because Ada is the home of every football made in America.



In Addition...
- Handy Hints
- Chicken wings

American Profile
Celebrating Hometown Life

World Almanac

Friday, Jan. 23, 2004

Today is the 23rd day of 2004 and the 33rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1922, in Toronto, insulin was injected into a human patient with diabetes, successfully lowering a patient's glucose blood levels for the first time.

In 1968, North Korean patrol boats captured the USS Pueblo.

In 1997, Madeleine Albright was sworn in as the first female secretary of state in U.S. history.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Stendhal (1783-1842), novelist; Edouard Manet (1832-1883), artist; Ernie Kovacs (1919-1962), comedian; Chita Rivera (1933-), actress/singer, is 71; Rutger Hauer (1944-), actor, is 60; Princess Caroline of Monaco (1957-) is 47.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1979, Willie Mays was voted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The shepherd always tries to persuade the sheep that their interests and his own are the same." — Stendhal

TODAY'S FACT: The lowest temperature recorded in the United States over the 30 years from 1971 to 2000 was minus 79.8 degrees Fahrenheit, at Prospect Creek, Alaska, on this day in 1971.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 2,000,000 — The highest mileage ever recorded for a car, a 1966 Volvo P1800-S (3,218,688 km).

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Jan. 21) and first quarter (Jan. 29).

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events
LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Thursday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 37-16-1-26-27.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 135. Prize: $502.

Matching three of five: 4,284. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 46,366. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-5-2
(Night) 0-4-9

Studdard works out

NEW YORK (AP) — He doesn't exactly look like a gym rat, but Ruben Studdard says he likes a good workout.

The "American Idol" winner was an offensive tackle at Alabama A&M University, and says he tries to exercise when he can.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Local/Nat



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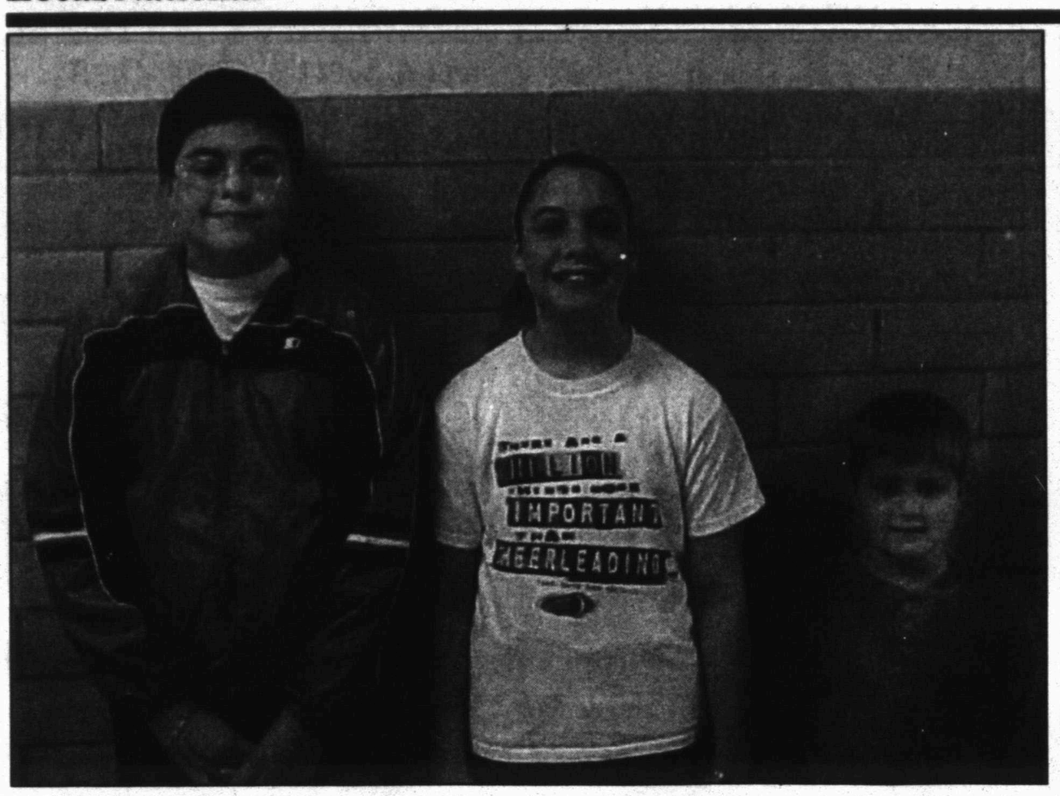
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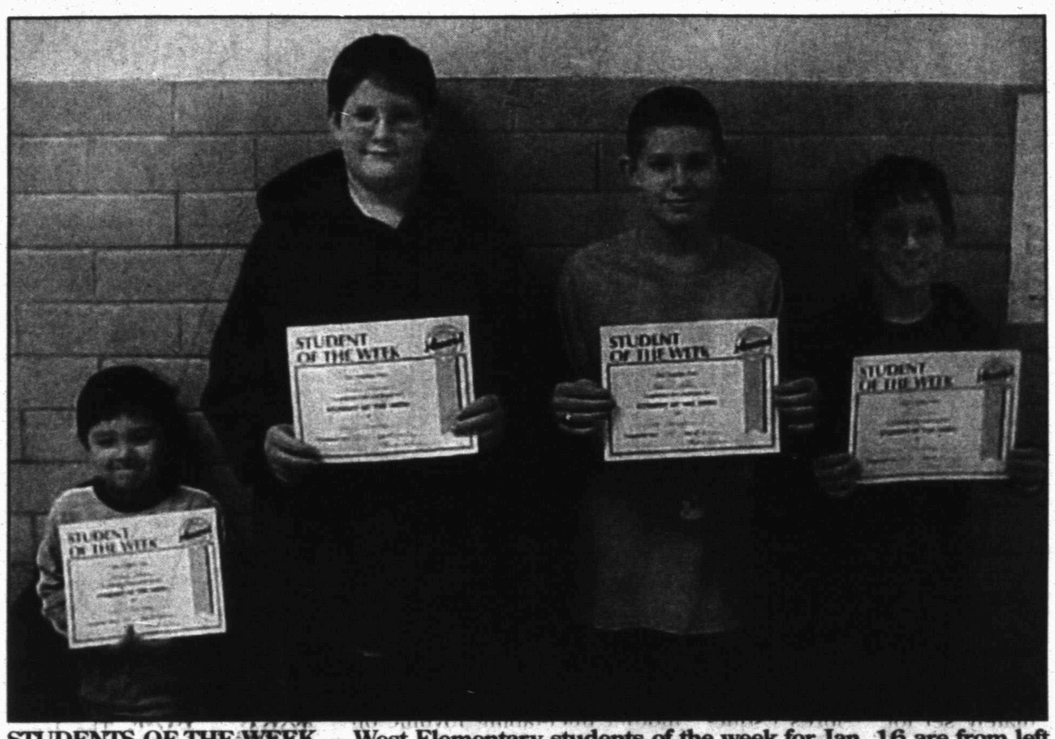
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STUDENTS OF THE WEEK — West Elementary students of the week for Dec. 12 are from left, Jonathan Verduzco, Amanda Midwell and Swade West. Not pictured are Ragan Rice and Alondra Rodarte. (Contributed Photo)



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH — West Elementary students of the month for December are from left, Megan Leatherwood, Jonathan Verduzco, Garrett Hale and Allison Highfield. Tarryn Velasquez is not pictured. (Contributed Photo)



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK — West Elementary students of the week for Jan. 16 are from left Brandon Martinez, Kenyon Gafford, Shane Hicks and John Buchanan. Not pictured are Chance Hicks and Erica Romero. (Contributed Photo)

FBI traces bootlegging, illegal Internet distribution to actor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — FBI agents say they have traced the bootlegging and illegal Internet distribution of Hollywood films to an actor who is an Academy Award member, and have arrested one of his acquaintances.

Carmine Caridi admitted in an affidavit released Thursday that he sent every so-called "screener" videotape he's received for the past three years to an acquaintance in the Chicago area, Russell W. Sprague.

Sprague, 51, was arrested at his home in Homewood, Ill., on Thursday after a search of his home turned up hundreds of films, many of which had been converted to DVD and had the Academy's encryption code erased, along with an array of duplicating equipment, authorities said.

Sprague is charged with criminal copyright infringement and was to appear in a federal court in Chicago today, officials said. A woman who answered the telephone at Sprague's home Thursday evening hung up without comment.

Caridi, 69, said he sent copies of about 60 movies he received each year to Sprague via Federal Express. Once Sprague made a copy, he'd send them back to Caridi, the FBI said.

Caridi, a veteran film and TV actor, has been a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for more than 20 years. He appeared on TV's "NYPD Blue" and such films as "The Godfather: Part II" and "The Godfather: Part III."

He said he received no money for the screener copies, and allegedly told investigators he believed Sprague was merely a film buff who wished to watch them.

Investigators said a search of Caridi's Hollywood apartment turned up 36 original Academy Award VHS screener tapes, including "The Last Samurai," "In America," "Shattered Glass" and "Mona Lisa Smile." Also found in his apartment were large quantities of FedEx shipping labels bearing Sprague's address, authorities said.

Two screeners that circulated on the Internet, "Something's Gotta Give" and "Big Fish," have been identified by Sony Pictures as having been shipped to Caridi.

Warner Brothers studio recently alerted the FBI that copies of its "The Last Samurai" and "Mystic River" were being made freely available for download on the Internet. It was unknown if those copies have yet to be traced.

Attempts to contact Caridi, who has not been charged, were not immediately successful. An Academy spokeswoman declined comment.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which represents studios, last year banned the distribution of screener DVDs and videotapes over concerns about bootlegging, but partly lifted the ban after complaints from filmmakers, producers and independent production companies.

The studios changed the policy in October to allow the shipment of encoded videocassettes to Academy Award voters only. A federal judge in December, however, granted a temporary injunction lifting the screener ban in a lawsuit brought by independent production companies, which argued the policy put them at a disadvantage. The studios then sent screener tapes to thousands of other awards voters.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Couple hide in apartment when mom bangs on door

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Larry," and I have been together four years. Two years ago, his mother moved into the same apartment complex.

Every weekend, Larry's mother walks over to our apartment and bangs on the door. If we don't answer, she peeks in the windows. If she spots a light on in our apartment, she goes back to hers and starts calling nonstop.

We are trapped! Weekends are our quiet time, and Larry has asked his mother to call before coming over. She ignores his request.

I like to sleep late on Saturday and Sunday. I'm tempted to say something to her the next time she pounds on our door uninvited and wakes us, but I need to be sure she will listen and know I am serious. Any suggestions? — **TRAPPED IN MELBOURNE, FLA.**

DEAR TRAPPED: Your boyfriend's mother has the hide of a rhino. She sees her son as an extension of herself, so according to her logic, why should she be shut out?

Your best bet would be to move to a security building where this woman will not have the kind of access to you that she does now. Make it "Larry's idea," because if his mother gets the impression that you're standing between her and her "cub," she'll try to devour you.

**

DEAR ABBY: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the unnamed heroes who provide hospice care. They are well aware that, in spite of the many gestures of compassion and the kindness they bestow, the patient to whom they have become attached is eventually going to die. Yet that never stops hospice workers from being there for their patients and their patients' families.

Hospice workers make sure the patient doesn't experience pain, is emotionally supported, and that the caregivers have time to run errands and take much-needed breaks.

When the patient passes away, it's the hospice workers who comfort family members and friends. My own family was blessed with three wonderful ladies and a priest who were there to the end for my grandmother. I will always be grateful for their emotional and spiritual support.

I hope my letter will encourage other families facing the terminal illness of a loved one to grant him or her quality of life by allowing that person to die with the dignity that hospice care provides. Sign me ... **GRATEFUL IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR GRATEFUL: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your beloved grandmother.

I have long been a supporter of hospice care. It provides physician services, nurses, home health aides, social workers, clergy, specially trained volunteers and bereavement counselors. As long as a patient is eligible, hospice is covered by Medicare, most private insurers and, in most states, Medicaid.

For more information about hospice care, contact one of your local hospice programs. You physician can refer you. In addition, call the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) toll-free: (800) 658-8898, or visit the Web site, www.nhpco.org, for information about and referrals to local hospice programs.

**

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

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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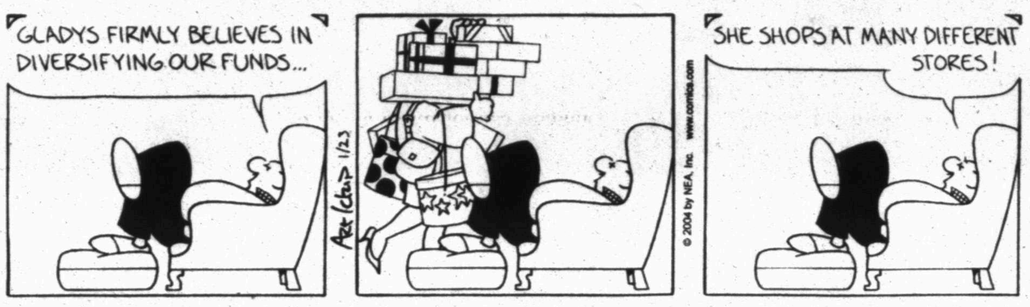
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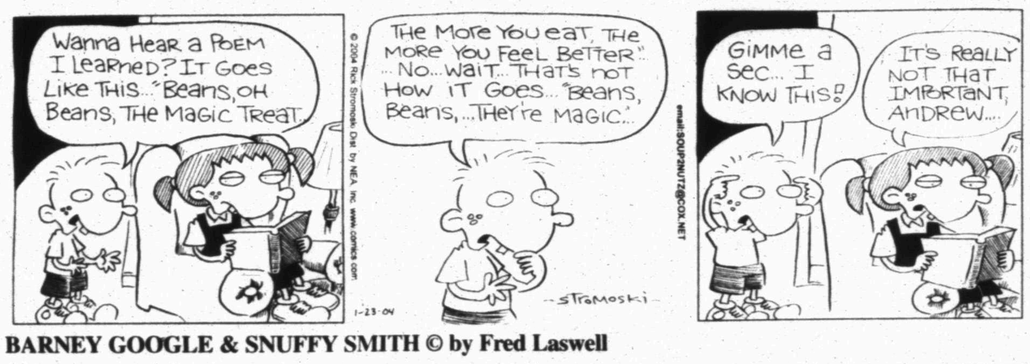
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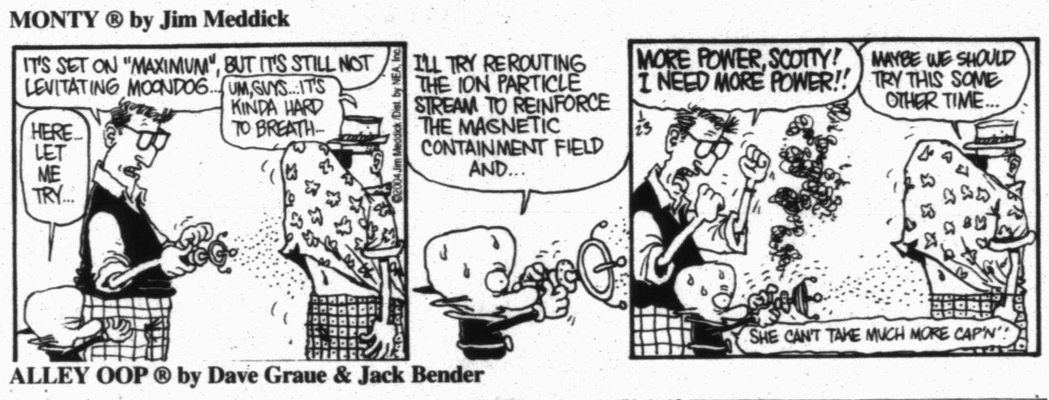
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"Make sure he's home in an hour."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 1492 vessel
5 Herd of whales
8 Sheik, usually
12 Frat letters
13 Reuben bread
14 Corn Belt state
15 Kennedy and Koppel
16 Feeling lousy
17 Zen riddle
18 Surprise attacks
20 Consolidate
22 Sock hop locale
23 Flop
24 Solo
27 Fillet a fish
30 Capture
31 TV spots
32 Shade tree
34 Impress greatly
35 Air pump meas.
37 Disguise item
38 Quick-dry fabrics
40 Surgical tool
42 Rocky Mountain tribe
43 Actor — Holm
44 Poetry
46 Sherlock Holmes creator
49 Nature preserve
50 Alphabet ender
52 Zeus' wife
54 Baxter or Bancroft
55 Mountain curve
56 Roman poet
57 Do garden work
58 Ready
59 Breeze

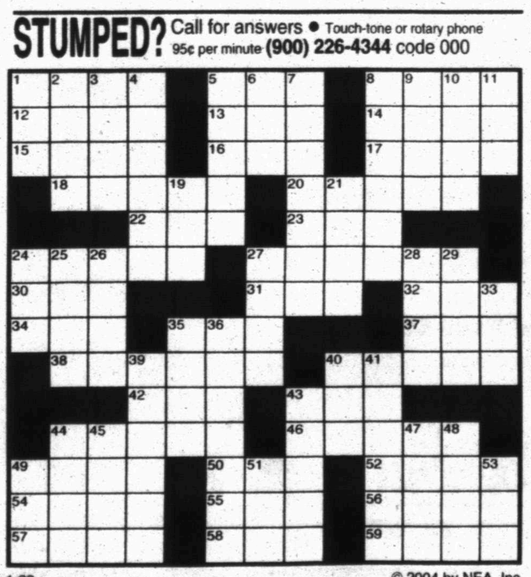
DOWN

1 Meshwork
2 Livy's road
3 Nothing, to Juan
4 Designate
5 Chandelier pendant
6 Olive —
7 Misled
8 Japanese martial art
9 Skylight locale
10 Not home
11 Prohibit
19 Use henna
21 Gists
24 Compilation
25 Grassy spot
26 Follow orders
27 Rostrum
28 Current events
29 Nobelist — Wiesel
33 Baseball VIP
35 Poker winnings
36 Reacts to pepper
39 Prowled
40 Thai neighbor
41 Notwithstanding
43 I.e. words
44 Barn topper
45 Marine bird
47 Name in jeans
48 Leprechaun's land
49 Rabbit's foot
51 Flight dir.
53 Tack on

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for answers ● Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute **(900) 226-4344** code 000



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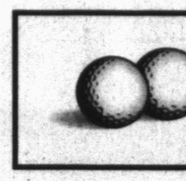
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"WHEN YOU WERE A KID, I'LL BET COMPUTERS WERE MADE OUT OF WOOD, RIGHT?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Best Availabl





FIRST SIGNS — The Snyder baseball team under blue sk weather Thurs pation of the paign. Above, keeps his eye o ing batting pra second base Grimmett, rig over to first drills. The Ti district schedu at home aga They kick off t schedule at W The team's fi will be Feb. 9 a home against trict oppone Greenwood. (S tos by Bobby A

Snyder

The Snyder La their undefeated on the line at 6:3 they travel to Lan the reigning 3-3A Tors.

Snyder (21-2, 12th in the latest can take control with a victory. T handled Merkel while Lamesa (14 double overtime Sweetwater, 62-57

The Tigers (8-

National

EASTERN CO
Atlantic D

New Jersey
Boston
Philadelphia
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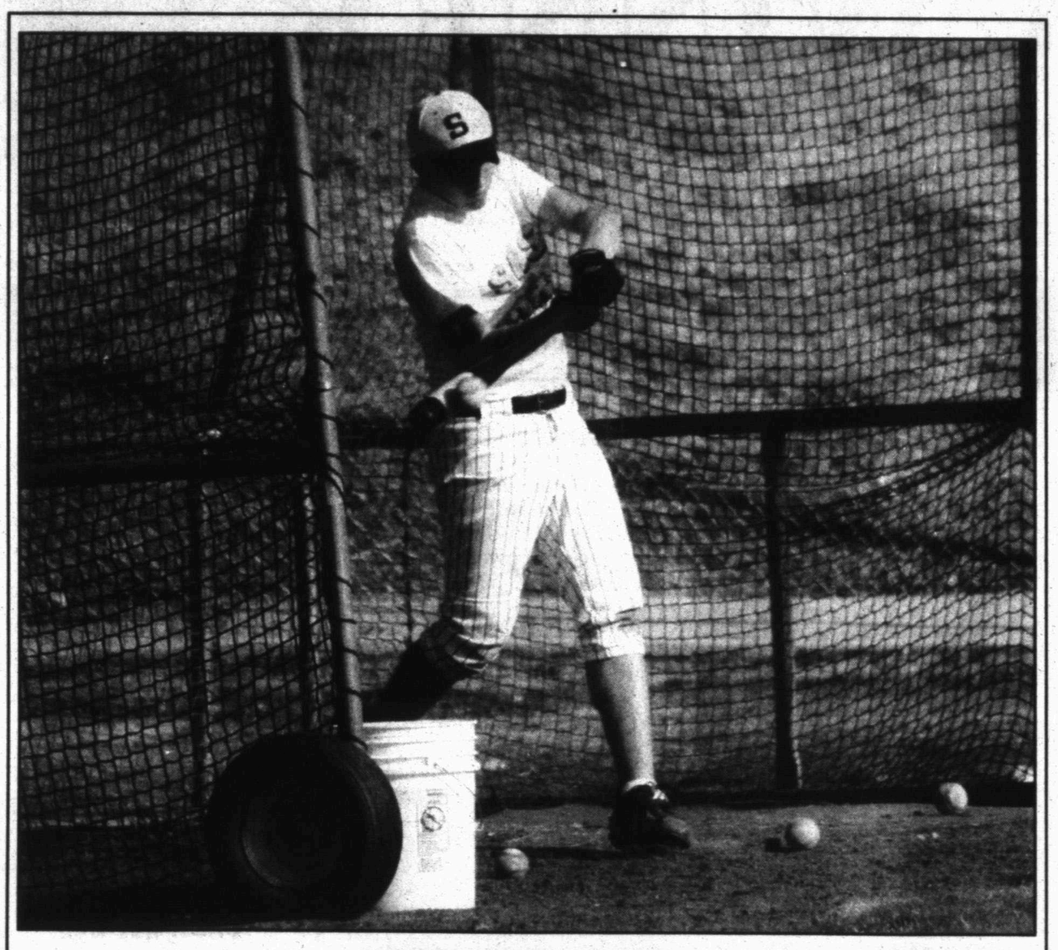
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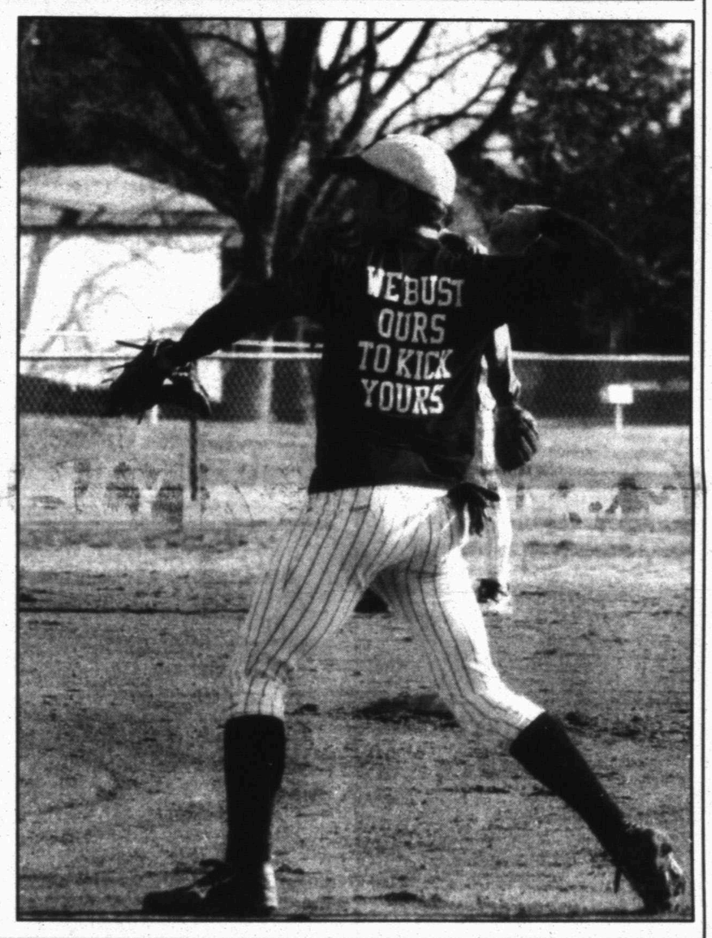
Pacific D

Sacramento
L.A. Lakers
Seattle
L.A. Clippers
Portland
Golden State

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SPORTS





FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING — The Snyder Tigers varsity baseball team worked out under blue skies and crisp weather Thursday in anticipation of the 2004 campaign. Above, Jordan Dea keeps his eye on the ball during batting practice. Starting second baseman Blake Grimmett, right, wings one over to first during infield drills. The Tigers open the district schedule March 26 at home against Lamesa. They kick off the pre-district schedule at Wylie Feb. 24. The team's first scrimmage will be Feb. 9 at 4:30 p.m. at home against 2003 bi-district opponent Midland Greenwood. (SDN Staff Photos by Bobby Allen)

UNC, Kansas suffer upsets

By The Associated Press

Florida State never gave up, and Richmond refused to be intimidated.

That's the way to pull off an upset against North Carolina or Kansas.

Two of the nation's most storied programs lost in stunning fashion Thursday night, with the Tar Heels blowing a big lead and the Jayhawks falling at home to an Atlantic 10 team.

First, the host Seminoles erased a 24-point deficit and shocked No. 7 North Carolina 90-81 in overtime, ending a four-game losing streak.

"It was fools' gold for us, making all the jump shots and thinking it was going to be easy," said first-year Tar Heels coach Roy Williams, who spent 15 seasons at Kansas.

Then, the gutsy Spiders edged No. 12 Kansas 69-68 on Tony Dobbins' fadeaway jumper with a second left, snapping the Jayhawks' 52-game home winning streak against unranked opponents.

"Nobody said that everybody had it all figured out," said Keith Langford, who led Kansas with 18 points.

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 2 Stanford 67, UCLA 52; and No. 14 Arizona 109, Oregon St. 75.

Mike Skrocki scored 23 points to lead the Spiders (10-8), who became the first unranked team to win at Kansas since Nebraska on Feb. 10, 1999.

"I thought our kids handled the pressure very well," Richmond coach Jerry Wainwright said. "A building cannot make a shot for you."

With Kansas (11-3) clinging to a 68-67 lead and the shot clock running out, Aaron Miles tried a 3-point shot that Dobbins knocked away. Miles got the ball back, but there wasn't time to shoot again and Richmond got the ball back on a shot clock violation.

Dobbins dribbled into the lane on the ensuing possession, spun and swished the game-winner. Kansas had time for one inbounds pass, but Wayne Simien was called for a pushing foul and Richmond ran out the clock.

"I wouldn't have shot it if I didn't think it was going to go in," Dobbins said. "I let it go, and it felt great. I didn't shy away from it."

Florida State looked completely overmatched as North Carolina's accurate shooting keyed a 21-0 run that helped build a 42-18 lead with just more than five minutes left in the first half.

But Seminoles reserve point guard Todd Galloway tied it at 78 on a 3-pointer from the corner with 7.2 seconds remaining in regulation, tying the game for the first time since the opening tip.

Riding the momentum of a stunning rally, the Seminoles quickly took control in overtime.

Tim Pickett scored six of his 30 points in the extra period.

Mavs pummel depleted Lakers

DALLAS (AP) — It took 13 years — and a rash of injuries — for the Mavericks to beat the Lakers twice in a season.

Playing without its stars, Los Angeles lost to Dallas 106-87 on Thursday night.

The Mavericks' win makes this the first season since 1990-91 that the Lakers haven't won the season series; they tied 2-2. Dallas also is 4-5 in the last nine meetings after going 3-41 in the previous 44.

Although the Lakers were without superstars Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and Karl Malone, the win was still sweet for the Mavericks, who won for only the 21st time in 103 meetings.

"The only thing that matters is they're still the Lakers, the history they represent and the championships," said Antawn Jamison, who tied his season high with 26 points in just 27 minutes.

Jamison scored seven during an 18-2 spurt in the third quarter that turned a suddenly tight game into a rout.

Ira hosts Borden Co.

The Ira Bulldogs have an opportunity to seize sole possession of second place in District 7A when they host rival Borden County at 8 tonight.

The Bulldogs (8-7, 3-1) moved over .500 for the first time this year with a 61-34 victory over Sands Tuesday. Borden County (13-11, 3-1) kept pace in district with a 58-53 victory over Klondike Tuesday.

Ira got a season-high 22 points from move-in Brian Proctor Tuesday, as well as double-digit scoring outputs from Jake Barnes and Wes Kellner.

The Lady Bulldogs (8-10, 2-2) have a chance to make up ground on the Lady Coyotes (18-5, 4-0), who have yet to lose in district play.

The Ira girls evened their district mark Tuesday by topping Sands, 54-22.

Tip-off for the Lady Bulldogs is scheduled for 6:30 tonight.

IJHS girls advance at Highland

The junior high Lady Bulldogs advanced to the second round of the Highland Tournament Thursday, overcoming a 10-2 first quarter deficit to top Loraine, 37-32.

After hitting just one field goal in the first quarter, Ira came back to tie the game at 16-16 at halftime, before outscoring Loraine 21-16 in the second half.

Rebecca Juarez led all players with 19 points, and A'Lex Koonce added 10.

Laura Juarez contributed six and Kayla Pittman added two for the team, which will play the winner between Blackwell and Westbrook at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

If they win, the ladies will play at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, and at 4:30 p.m. should they lose.

Snyder in Lamesa tonight

The Snyder Lady Tigers put their undefeated district record on the line at 6:30 tonight when they travel to Lamesa to take on the reigning 3-3A champion Lady Tors.

Snyder (21-2, 4-0) — ranked 12th in the latest TABC poll — can take control of the district with a victory. The team easily handled Merkel Tuesday, 62-33, while Lamesa (14-8, 3-1) needed double overtime to get past Sweetwater, 62-57.

The Tigers (8-15, 0-2) will try to claim their first district win of the year when they tip-offf with Lamesa (9-13, 1-1) at 8.

Lamesa barely escaped against Sweetwater Tuesday for their first win of the 3-3A schedule, 43-42.

The Hermleigh Cardinals and Lady Cardinals head to Highland tonight, with the girls tipping off at 6:30 and the boys getting started at 8.

Both Hermleigh clubs are looking to win their first games of the year in district.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	23	11	10	5	61	133	111
New Jersey	23	12	10	1	57	106	84
N.Y. Islanders	22	20	4	1	49	134	121
N.Y. Rangers	18	19	7	4	47	127	131
Pittsburgh	11	30	5	3	30	96	178

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	26	12	8	3	63	133	118
Ottawa	26	12	7	3	62	158	101
Boston	22	13	10	4	58	121	116
Montreal	24	16	6	2	56	122	102
Buffalo	19	24	5	1	44	115	128

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	22	16	6	3	53	117	107
Atlanta	21	21	5	2	49	139	144
Carolina	16	21	9	2	43	89	116
Florida	15	20	10	3	43	104	129
Washington	14	27	5	2	35	116	149

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	28	14	6	2	64	161	115
St. Louis	25	14	6	1	57	118	110
Nashville	23	17	6	2	54	113	120
Columbus	13	25	7	3	36	96	135
Chicago	12	25	7	5	36	105	141

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	27	11	8	2	64	148	108
Vancouver	26	14	7	2	61	140	112
Calgary	24	16	4	3	55	113	97
Minnesota	17	18	14	0	48	108	105
Edmonton	19	21	8	1	47	122	127

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	22	12	11	4	59	119	104
Los Angeles	18	15	10	5	51	124	122
Dallas	21	20	8	0	50	97	110
Phoenix	17	15	13	2	49	118	122
Anaheim	14	21	8	5	41	96	125

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

Thursday's Games

Buffalo 3, Boston 2
Colorado 1, Atlanta 1, tie
Ottawa 6, Pittsburgh 5
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
Chicago 7, Columbus 0
Tampa Bay 3, Edmonton 2
Calgary 4, Nashville 0
Phoenix 2, San Jose 1
Detroit 5, Los Angeles 4

Today's Games

N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Montreal at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 9:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	21	19	.525	—
Boston	21	23	.477	2
Philadelphia	19	23	.452	3
New York	19	25	.432	4
Miami	16	26	.381	6
Washington	12	28	.300	9
Orlando	11	32	.256	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	33	11	.750	—
Detroit	29	14	.674	3½
Milwaukee	23	19	.548	9
New Orleans	23	19	.548	9
Toronto	20	20	.500	11
Cleveland	14	28	.333	18
Atlanta	13	30	.302	19½
Chicago	12	30	.286	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	28	12	.700	—
San Antonio	28	15	.651	1½
Dallas	25	16	.610	3½
Denver	26	18	.591	4
Houston	24	17	.585	4½
Memphis	23	18	.561	5½
Utah	21	20	.512	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	30	10	.750	—
L.A. Lakers	25	14	.641	4½
Seattle	20	20	.500	10
L.A. Clippers	17	22	.436	12½
Portland	17	23	.425	13
Golden State	17	24	.415	13½
Phoenix	16	27	.372	15½

Thursday's Games

Sacramento 95, Cleveland 89
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Golden State at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Today's Games

Orlando at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Houston at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
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American Legion
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Members & Guests

Sports Briefs

Meet the Tigers

The baseball and softball booster club will host 'Meet the Tigers' Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum.

A hamburger supper will be served at 5 p.m. Cost is $5.

Player introductions will begin at 6 p.m. to include the SHS and WTC baseball and softball teams.

Cow chip bingo will commence at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 and will be available at the door.

Volleyball tournament

There will be an indoor volleyball tournament Saturday at Scurry County Boys and Girls club. Call 573-7321 for more information.

Cy Young winner Halladay cashes in

TORONTO (AP) — AL Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a $42 million, four-year contract.

Halladay, 22-7 with a 3.25 ERA last season, gets $6 million this year, $10.5 million in 2005, $12.7 million in 2006 and $12.8 million in 2007.

Bulger replaces McNabb on Pro Bowl roster

NEW YORK (AP) — Donovan McNabb dropped out of the Pro Bowl because of a rib injury, and was replaced by St. Louis Rams quarterback Marc Bulger.

Bulger and Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck will back up starter Daunte Culpepper of Minnesota.

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WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON PG13

. When a hot young actor, Tad Hamilton agrees to participate in a "win a date" contest to promote his new movie, his world is turned upside-down when he finds himself falling in love with the winner, a grocery store checkout girl from West Virginia named Rosalie. Tad unwittingly inspires Rosalee's longtime best friend, who works with her to also admit his love for her. **Starring: Kate Bosworth, Josh Duhamel, Topher Grace, Gary Cole, Ginnifer Goodwin**

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Real Estate

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3001 Beaumont 3-2-2, 2 LA's...$97.5T
3201 Houston 3-2-2....Reduced $92T
4704 El Paso 3-2-2.....$89.9T
2904 34th 2-2½, 2 LA's.....$89.5T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2.....$87.5T
1601 Hilltop Lane 3-1-2cp.....$49.5T
2212 28th Contract Pending $44.5T
4109 Eastridge 3-2-2.....$41.5T
New! 2214 40th 3-2-1.....$39.5T
3749 Avondale 3-1¾.....$39T
West 180 3-1-2.....$31.5T
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2101 41st Neat, clean, corner, 3-1-1cp $30's
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4507 Galveston - Extra Nice - 3-2-2, pool..Call
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2215 40th 3-1.....Low $30's
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REDUCED! 600 29th 2-1-1, office, den...$18T
3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining..$35T
REDUCED! 1.710 A's 3-2-2, 15mi. S 208 $65T
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3201 Houston 3-2-2, very nice.....$92T
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2205 42nd 3-1-1 plus.....$34T
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1802 College Ave. garage/warehouse....$16T
1701 25th St.....$90T
Commercial for rent or lease W. 37th $800/mo.
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Shop w/2 offices & waiting room, fenced yard, .87 A's 23rd St. Old Gail Rd.....Call

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Jewish leaders screen Gibson film, condemn Jews' depiction

By The Associated Press

Representatives of two Jewish groups who attended screenings of Mel Gibson's upcoming movie "The Passion of the Christ" said Thursday it contained offensive stereotypes about the Jewish role in the crucifixion.

The American Jewish Committee, which sent its interfaith experts to church screenings in Florida and Illinois, said the movie contained "unnecessary and destructive imagery of Jews" and "represents a disturbing setback" to relations between Jews and Christians.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, who has accused Gibson of holding anti-Semitic views, saw the film for the first time Wednesday night in Florida. He said it is an "unambiguous portrayal of Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus."

Gibson, who directed, funded and co-scripted the film, has repeatedly denied that his movie maligns Jews. His spokesman, Alan Nierob, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

Jewish groups have been worried that Gibson's script would ignore modern teaching by the Roman Catholic Church and many other denominations that Jews were not collectively responsible for Christ's death. The notion of Jewish guilt fueled anti-Semitism for centuries.

An article about the film in The New Yorker magazine last September indicated Gibson would keep a biblical verse out that upsets Jews and has been used to justify anti-Semitism: "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). That verse was not included in a version of the film The Associated Press saw last month.

But Rabbi James Rudin, a longtime interfaith expert for the American Jewish Committee, a New York-based public policy group, Rabbi David Elcott, the organization's director of interreligious affairs, and Foxman all said the verse was now in the film. The movie is scheduled to be released on Ash Wednesday — Feb. 25.

"It's very disturbing that that was added," Rudin said. "It's not just another verse from the Gospels. It's a chilling verse because I know, and everyone knows, that that verse is the basis of blood libel."

Elcott said the movie was not anti-Semitic, but called it "inflammatory" instead. And he said he did not anticipate any violence against Jews as a result of the movie.

But he, Rudin and Foxman, feared it would generate ill will toward Jews, especially overseas, where anti-Semitism is on the rise.

"The movie undermines the sense of community that has existed between Jews and Christians for decades," Elcott said. "This film makes it more important than ever for like-minded Christians and Jews to reassert their dedication to promoting interfaith harmony."

Publishing executive Brewster ousted as head of Gruner+Jahr

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniel Brewster, the publishing executive who went up against Rosie O'Donnell in a bitter court fight over her failed magazine has been ousted as head of Gruner + Jahr USA, the company announced.

Axel Ganz, head of Gruner + Jahr's international magazine unit, will oversee G+J's U.S. operations until a replacement is found for Brewster, the company said in a statement Thursday.

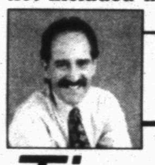
Brewster's departure had long been rumored in publishing circles after the company suffered a public relations debacle with the trial against O'Donnell, who accused the company of improperly inflating its circulation figures.

G+J stood by its reporting practices but appointed an outside publishing consultant after the trial to do a wide-ranging review of the company's circulation accounting.

Brewster's superiors at G+J, which is a unit of the German media giant Bertelsmann AG, had previously stood by Brewster when questions arose in the past about some of his decisions, particularly a commitment of $360 million to buy Fast Company magazine in late 2000 just as the Internet bubble was collapsing.

Brewster came to Gruner & Jahr nearly four years ago from American Express Publishing with a mission to jazz up and expand the relatively sleepy magazine company, whose titles include Fitness, Inc. and YM.

Brewster decided to retire McCall's, the company's women's magazine, and relaunch it as Rosie in a joint venture with O'Donnell. But the partnership turned sour as disagreements arose over the editorial direction of the magazine.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Tis the season for the blahs

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What vitamins, supplements, minerals, etc., can be taken to counter the effects of SAD? This happens to me every winter. Thank you. — **L.L., Des Plaines, Ill.**

DEAR L.L.: Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is a form of depression that affects susceptible individuals each year during the months when there are fewer daylight hours. For those living in the Northern Hemisphere, this would be during November, December, January and February. For those in the Southern Hemisphere, the critical period would be April, May, June and July. The farther the distance from the equator, the greater the risk. SAD is most prevalent in people between 20 and 50 years of age, and women are affected more than men by a ratio of four to one. You could think of SAD almost as a deficiency disease in which sunlight is the missing nutrient. Without sufficient sunshine, the body's internal clock seems to go out of alignment, and a form of depression is the net result. Since it was first recognized as a disorder in the 1980s, daily exposure to bright light has been found helpful in reducing or eliminating symptoms.

As far as traditional nutritional supplements are concerned, one study in the Journal of Psychopharmacology found that supplements of vitamin D (400 or 800 IU per day) were helpful. This finding is interesting, as the body produces vitamin D when exposed to sunlight. Unfortunately, though, most of the follow-up studies were equivocal at best. Few other studies have shown any promise. That means that, aside from exposure to bright light, there isn't any particular supplement that appears to have the right stuff to counter the effects of SAD.

If SAD makes an annual visit to your life, you should speak with your doctor to decide if daily doses of high-intensity full-spectrum light would be appropriate. Be sure to consult your doctor first, because this type of therapy is not recommended if, for example, you have an eye problem or are taking medications that might increase your sensitivity to light.

A bit of caution here: Many articles on SAD suggest the use of the herb St. John's wort as a possible antidepressant. The logic here is that St. John's wort has been effective in cases of mild to moderate depression. The active ingredient in St. John's wort is believed to be a compound called hypericin, and one of the side effects of this herb is that it makes the skin sensitive to sunlight (photosensitivity). The caution with St. John's wort and SAD stems from a research report suggesting that the light-reactive hypericin also finds its way into the eyes, where it can react with light and form free radical compounds that can cause damage in some cases.

Information to this effect was presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Photobiology and appeared in an issue of the journal New Scientist. The report stated that the combination of St. John's wort and bright light could increase the risk of cataracts. The implication here is that those taking St. John's wort should protect their skin from exposure and wear eye protection. Conversely, those who opt for light treatments for SAD should refrain from taking St. John's wort.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	17.60	16.30	16.98	+ .13
AT&T Corp	20.05	19.76	19.81	— .59
Albertsons	23.61	23.50	23.51	
Alltel	50.24	49.52	49.61	— .20
AmEl Pw	32.19	31.87	31.96	— .12
AndarkPtr	52.07	51.35	51.71	+ .60
ATMOS Egy	25.39	25.20	25.29	+ .06
Aviall	16.21	16.00	16.16	+ .14
BP PLC	48.95	48.52	48.54	— 1.08
BakerHughes	35.90	35.10	35.66	+ 1.11
Bank of Amer	82.34	81.70	81.72	+ .02
BellSouth	29.50	29.34	29.42	+ .03
BurlNoSFe	33.25	32.75	33.06	+ .06
Caterpillar	84.09	83.20	83.65	— .35
CenterPoint	10.42	10.34	10.36	— .02
ChevronTex	87.36	86.76	86.87	— .28
Citigroup	50.94	50.50	50.55	— .14
CocaCola	49.80	49.35	49.66	+ .33
ColgatePal	51.60	51.25	51.36	+ .12
CmclMetals	30.41	30.17	30.28	+ .04
ConocoPhill	67.77	67.00	67.48	+ .09
Cooper Inds	57.90	57.28	57.78	+ .48
DaimlrChry	49.21	48.92	48.92	— .34
DeltaAirLines	12.33	12.00	12.11	— .22
Dillards Inc	18.16	17.76	17.96	+ .10
DowChem	40.92	40.44	40.65	— .14
DuPont	43.29	42.75	42.81	— .44
EastmanChem	39.50	39.06	39.06	— .20
EstKodak	30.85	29.90	29.92	— 1.03
EDS Corp	24.48	24.26	24.36	+ .04
Entergy	58.24	57.45	57.76	— .21
ExxonMobil	41.43	41.01	41.02	— .26
FootLocker	25.09	24.83	24.85	— .24
GenDynam	92.45	91.79	91.98	+ .01
GenlElec	33.89	33.50	33.63	+ .11
GenMills	45.78	45.50	45.78	+ .30
GenMotors	54.32	54.04	54.04	— .23
GaPacific	30.04	29.53	29.97	— .08
Goodrich	32.81	32.17	32.19	— .31
Goodyear	10.70	10.06	10.52	+ .16
GtAtlPac	8.89	8.68	8.88	+ .01
Halliburtn	28.55	28.08	28.29	+ .06
Hanson PLC	36.45	36.23	36.40	— .37
HarteHanks	22.64	22.47	22.51	— .05
HomeDepot	36.21	35.89	35.99	+ .06
HoneywellIntl	36.05	35.75	35.86	— .07
IBM	98.21	97.20	97.84	+ .33
IntlPaper	43.20	42.84	43.00	— .37
JohnsonJn	53.55	52.95	53.01	— .04
KinderMorg	61.75	61.18	61.57	+ .25
Kroger Co	18.75	18.60	18.62	— .04
LockheedM	51.15	50.67	51.08	+ .11
Lowes Cos	55.75	55.29	55.48	+ .27
Lubys	3.71	3.65	3.68	+ .03
LucentTech	4.15	3.84	4.09	+ .04
MarathonOil	34.40	34.13	34.17	+ .06
MayDeptStr	32.67	32.32	32.62	+ .21
Medtronic	49.00	48.70	48.74	— .23
Motorola	16.98	16.68	16.94	+ .23
NCR Corp	41.04	40.73	40.86	+ .11
Navistar	52.75	51.63	52.13	— .62
PNM Rescs	30.37	30.15	30.23	+ .05
Penney JC	27.49	27.21	27.43	+ .17
PepBoys	23.49	23.00	23.42	+ .42
PepsiCo	46.72	46.21	46.21	— .33
PhelpDodge	79.63	77.39	78.90	+ 1.51
PilgrimsPride	17.99	17.49	17.69	— .29
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RadioShack	33.94	33.28	33.80	+ .53
RoyalDut	48.31	47.88	48.00	— .23
SBC Comm	26.60	26.33	26.35	+ .03
SaraLee	20.54	20.25	20.25	— .24
Scripps EW	93.44	92.30	93.32	+ 1.12
SearsRoeb	48.15	47.39	47.75	+ .23
SherwinW	34.21	34.00	34.13	— .03
SouthernCo	30.34	30.05	30.15	+ .07
SwstAirl	15.70	15.32	15.48	— .01
SprintFON	18.58	18.30	18.53	+ .03
SprintPCS	8.01	7.91	7.93	— .04
Sunoco Inc	57.41	56.00	57.36	+ 1.29
TXU Corp	25.90	25.56	25.65	— .10
TempleInland	62.69	61.99	62.24	— .47
TexInd	37.09	36.85	36.95	— .10
TexasInst	32.04	31.12	31.28	— .45
Textron	57.78	57.00	57.00	— .64
TimeWarner	19.25	18.80	19.12	+ .36
TrinityInds	35.44	34.97	34.97	— .49
TylerTech	10.57	10.38	10.52	— .01
UnionPacif	67.06	66.42	66.46	— .70
USSteel	36.95	36.10	36.61	— .03
UnitedTech	95.60	94.61	94.75	— .48
Unocal	38.92	38.30	38.88	+ .24
VerizonComm	37.65	37.37	37.50	+ .01
WalMart	53.91	53.18	53.69	+ .51
WellsFargo	57.59	57.15	57.19	+ .09
WstnGasRs	48.60	48.05	48.39	+ .19
WinnDixie	9.30	9.20	9.23	— .07
Xerox Cp	13.69	13.34	13.63	+ .24
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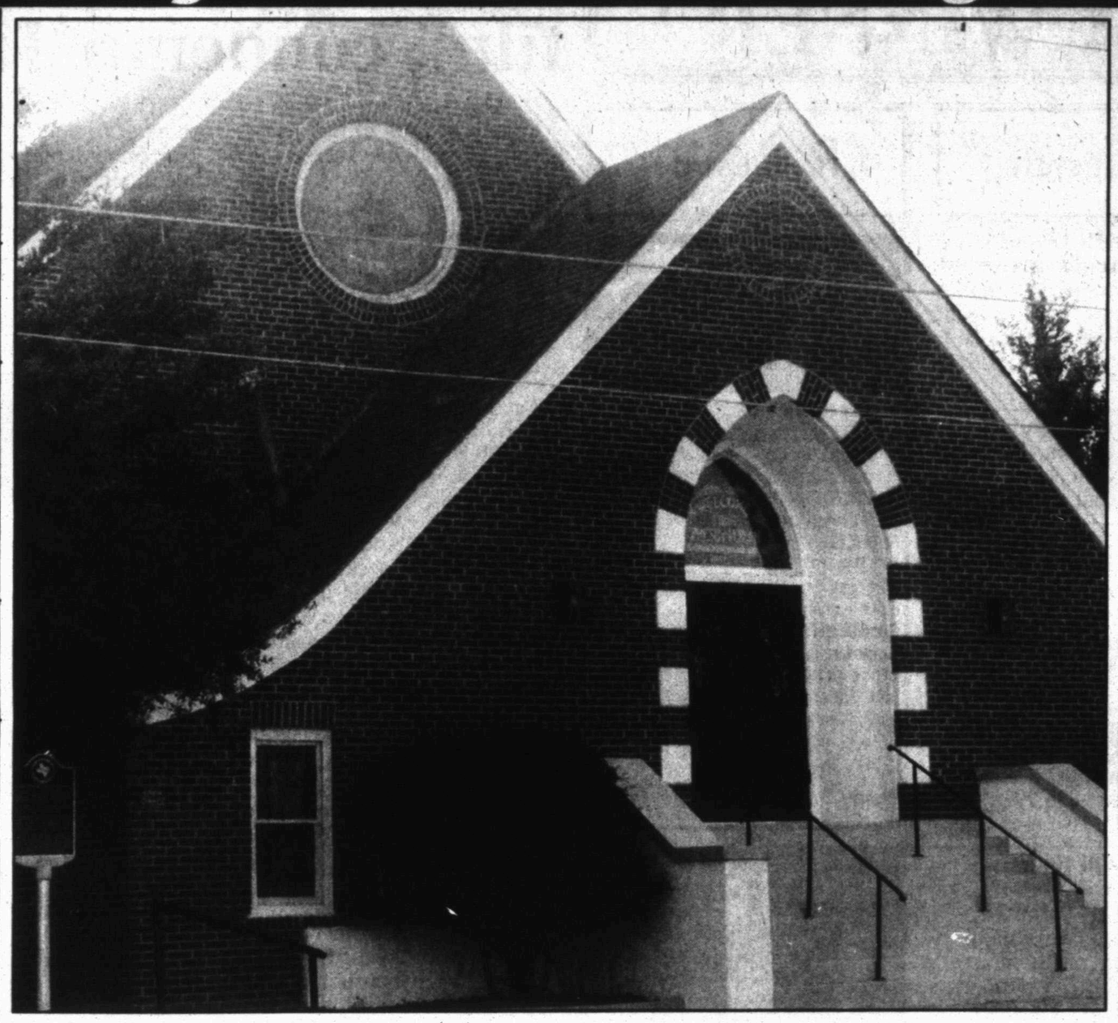
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APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 150

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Astro

By Bernice

Saturday, Jan
The year ahead
weeding out the d
and concentrating
projects or ventur
tribute to your g
mind what directi
head in and stay o

AQUARIUS (Ja
— Treat your reso
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PISCES (Feb.
— There's no ro
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premises.

ARIES (March
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tions with others to
ly if a confidential
come up. Don't as
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TAURUS (Apri
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ment you'll be shar
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you may not suit ot

GEMINI (May 2
When it comes to
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just when you migh
most.

CANCER (June
— Easy chores th
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ones that cause y
problems today. F

Brokaw wi Television

NEW YORK (
Brokaw will make
his own when he's
Museum of Televis
annual gala.

Brokaw will be
the Feb. 19 event
Astoria in New
extraordinary body
approaches his re
this year as anchor
editor of 'NBC Nigh
museum said this w

Previous honoree
ed Alan Alda, Carol

Dr. Go

By Peter Got

Exercise

DEAR DR. GOT
I disagree about exe
work a 60-hour we
take care of our far
time. Between the
chickens, turkeys a
dark when I go to
when I get up.

Working with
sumes an extra hou
very least, plus mo
(if I have to mend
forth) on weekends.

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"hit the exercise n
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consider it. I figure
around 50-pound ba
60-pound bales of
exercise.

DEAR READE
it does.

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ing. I cannot believe
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offices.

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cerned that you ma
overdoing things. H
all need some free
Your schedule see
with that goal. Bu
tant, your level of
be more than enou
good cardiovascula

Please show my
wife and ask her to
matters, such as wh
bly too tired at nigh

Best Available Copy

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004

The year ahead may be a time of weeding out the debris in your life and concentrating only on those projects or ventures that can contribute to your growth. Keep in mind what direction you want to head in and stay on course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Treat your resources respectfully today and deal only with what you have at hand. If the replacements or replenishments you're expecting are delayed, it would put you in a serious bind.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — There's no room for wishful thinking in your affairs at this time, so if a serious judgment call is required today, base your conclusions solely on existing, realistic premises.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be guarded in your conversations with others today — especially if a confidential matter should come up. Don't assume the other person knows what you know and talk too freely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You might get some good ideas about modifying a social arrangement you'll be sharing with others today, but don't do so without discussing it with them. What suits you may not suit others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — When it comes to matters where your reputation is on the line, don't press your luck too far. Dame Fortune could be looking the other way just when you might need her the most.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Easy chores that you can do automatically could be the very ones that cause you the biggest problems today. Focus your full attention at all times on every task you have to perform.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Be extra alert and wary when out shopping today. There's a good chance a sharpie may offer you something on the side in order to entice you to go along with his or her bum deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Although there is ample opportunity around you today, you must not treat your good luck with indifference. Grab your breaks where and when they come, because they won't be there later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Quantity of work is not the same as quality of work. You won't want the boss to think that if there is little value to your motion and effort, you might as well not even be there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There is a strong chance that you could have a tendency to overindulge today if you're not careful. Have a good time with your friends, but don't get carried away with too much of anything.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be supportive of family members today instead of comparing them to others. What you see in the people around you is only the side that they want the world to see. Everyone has shortcomings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It is always important to think your moves through carefully before embarking on any venture or project, but today this will become more vital because you could tend to be a bit impulsive.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Part of Alaska to be open to drilling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Gale Norton signed off on a plan Thursday for opening most of an 8.8 million-acre swath of Alaska's North Slope to oil and gas development. Some of the drilling could occur in areas important for migratory birds, whales and wildlife.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management will use the plan to manage a northwest portion of the government's 23.5 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Geologists believe the reserve may contain 6 billion to 13 billion barrels of oil.

It is located just west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where President Bush wants to open a 1.5 million-acre coastal plain to drilling as one of his top energy priorities. The Senate, in debating a massive energy bill, has rejected drilling there.

Environmentalists said the management plan threatens the health of Arctic tundra, ponds and lakes that are home to wildlife and migratory birds and provide a vital subsistence hunting and fishing ground for native Alaskans.

"It makes no sense to industrialize this incomparable wilderness area when there's only about six month's worth of economically recoverable oil ... and it would take at least 10 years to get it to market," said Charles Clusen, director of the Alaska lands project for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

The plan makes 7.23 million acres available for energy leasing, but will defer leasing the other 1.57 million acres for a decade to see if more environmental studies are needed, Interior Department officials said.

All energy leases will be subject to strict environmental standards, the officials said, while other provisions are meant to protect water quality, vegetation, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats and subsistence uses.

The Interior Department proposed the management plan in January 2003. With few changes, the plan includes creation of a 102,000-acre Kasegaluk Lagoon Special Area fenced off from leasing. It is considered particularly sensitive, as it is home to beluga whales, spotted seals and the black brandt, a migratory wild goose.

The plan designates special study areas of more than a half-million acres each for the Pacific black brandt and caribou. It also requires habitat studies for eiders, a bird whose existence is imperiled, and yellow-billed loons, and sets restrictions to minimize loss of foraging habitat for raptors around the Colville River Special Area.

Norton said oil and gas from the North Slope will help increase domestic energy production and stabilize prices in the long term.

"This plan will help produce energy in an environmentally responsible manner with the best available technology, while protecting the important biological, subsistence and cultural values found in this area," she said.

The reserve was set aside in the 1920s for potential energy development.

Environmentalists said the management plan rewards Bush administration friends in the oil and gas industry.

"This decision certainly gives big oil and gas plenty to be thankful for," said Eleanor Huffines, regional director in Alaska for The Wilderness Society.

Bye Bye Bennifer: Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez call it quits

NEW YORK (AP) — The on-again, off-again relationship between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is off. Again.

And this time, it looks like it's for good.

Jennifer Lopez ended the engagement, one of her publicists told The Associated Press on Thursday.

A spokesman for Lopez at Dan Klores Communications said in a statement: "I am confirming the reports that Jennifer Lopez has ended her engagement to Ben Affleck. At this difficult time, we ask that you respect her privacy."

People and Us Weekly magazines first reported the breakup on their Web sites Thursday afternoon.

Affleck's publicist, Ken Sunshine, would only say: "As usual, we never comment on the private lives of our clients."

Lopez, 34, and Affleck, 31, have been the subject of near-constant media scrutiny for the past year and a half.

In the video for Lopez's 2002 hit "Jenny From the Block," in which she makes fun of the paparazzi, Affleck rubs her legendary posterior while basking in the sunshine on a boat. In another song from her album "This Is Me ... Then," titled "Dear Ben," she professes her affection for Affleck.

But then their romantic comedy, "Gigli," was considered the cinematic disaster of the year before it even debuted in August.

They were supposed to have married a month later, but abruptly postponed their lavish plans "due to the excessive media attention surrounding our wedding."

Since then, the media has followed their every move, keeping track of who Lopez was with and whether she wore her 6.1-carat pink diamond Harry Winston engagement ring. Even a routine trip to a Georgia courthouse to get a gun license for Affleck drew a horde of photographers and celebrity reporters.

This would have been the first wedding for Affleck. Lopez has been married twice before — to waiter Ojani Noa in 1997 and to dancer Cris Judd in 2001. Noa lasted a little more than a year; Judd for nine months.

She also famously dated Sean "P. Diddy" Combs — back when he was still "Puffy" — for two years before the couple broke up in February 2001.

Now the former couple will appear on screen together again in "Jersey Girl," due out March 19.

Lopez plays Affleck's wife, but she dies 12 minutes into the movie.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-23-04
♠ —
♥ 10 7 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 9 6 5 4 2

West
♠ Q J 10 7 5 4
♥ K J 9 4
♦ A K 6
♣ —

East
♠ 6 2
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ J 10 5 2
♣ J 8 7

South
♠ A K 9 8 3
♥ —
♦ Q 8 4
♣ A K Q 10 3

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Dbl.	5 ♣	Dbl.
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
6 ♣	Dbl.	All pass	

Opening lead: ♦ A

Friday, Jan. 23, 2004

The lead increases dramatically

By Phillip Alder

With only three deals remaining in the final of last year's Bermuda Bowl, Italy led the United States by eight international match points (imps): 290-282. These boards were dynamite.

At the first table, the Italians reached five clubs by South. This contract would surely have failed, and often quoted is the saying that the five-level belongs to the opponents. But in a wild auction, it wasn't impossible from West's point of view that they could make five of a red suit. However, they had a slight misunderstanding, ending in five diamonds doubled instead of five hearts doubled. Declarer Meckstroth ruffed the club-ace lead in the dummy (West), took the two top trumps, and played a heart to his ace. But South ruffed and cashed four black-suit tricks for three down: 500 to Italy. (Five hearts doubled would probably have cost only 300.)

In this auction, Bob Hamman (South) opened one club, strong and artificial. West's first double advertised extra values; East's double asked his partner to pick a red suit at the five-level. Now, surely Paul Soloway (North) should have doubled. When he passed, South thought his partner had something in diamonds.

West started with three rounds of diamonds. After that, if declarer had drawn trumps, he would have eventually lost a spade. And when instead he ruffed all of his low spades in the dummy, East overruffed the third. Either route meant minus 300.

The net result was worth 13 imps to Italy and the team now led by 21. The match looked over.

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Brokaw will be honored by Museum of Television and Radio at Feb. 19 event

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Brokaw will make some news of his own when he's honored at the Museum of Television & Radio's annual gala.

Brokaw will be recognized at the Feb. 19 event at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York for "his extraordinary body of work as he approaches his retirement later this year as anchor and managing editor of 'NBC Nightly News,'" the museum said this week.

Previous honorees have included Alan Alda, Carol Burnett, David Brinkley, Dan Rather and Barbara Walters.

Brokaw, 63, joined NBC News in 1966 and has been the anchor and managing editor of the network's nightly newscast since 1983.

The Museum of Television & Radio, which has locations in New York and Los Angeles, collects and preserves TV and radio programs and ads to make them available to the public.

On the Net:
http://www.mtr.org

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Exercise levels can be excessive

DEAR DR. GOTT: My wife and I disagree about exercise. We both work a 60-hour week, but I also take care of our farm in my "free" time. Between the horses, pigs, chickens, turkeys and a cow, it is dark when I go to bed and dark when I get up.

Working with livestock consumes an extra hour a day, at the very least, plus more than 4 hours (if I have to mend fences and so forth) on weekends.

My wife thinks that I ought to "hit the exercise machines" for a workout at the end of each day. Frankly, I'm too exhausted even to consider it. I figure that throwing around 50-pound bags of feed and 60-pound bales of hay counts as exercise.

DEAR READER: And, indeed, it does.

Your level of activity is astonishing. I cannot believe that you could be expected to obtain additional exercise from machines, which were probably invented and developed for sedentary adults who sit in chairs all day in front of computers, complaining that they don't have enough bottled water and refusing to walk up the flight of stairs to their offices.

Based on the information you provided, I conclude that your level of activity and fitness is nothing short of spectacular. In contrast to your wife's perception, I'm concerned that you may, in reality, be overdoing things. For example, we all need some free time to unwind. Your schedule seems inconsistent with that goal. But, more important, your level of exercise should be more than enough to maintain good cardiovascular conditioning.

Please show my response to your wife and ask her to focus on other matters, such as why you are possibly too tired at night.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have cardiomyopathy that was diagnosed seven years ago, 25 years after an attack of scarlet fever. Could this have been the cause?

DEAR READER: Scarlet fever and rheumatic fever, both caused by infection with streptococcus bacteria, are rarities today, largely because strep infections are usually treated promptly with antibiotics.

Both diseases can affect the heart (and other organs), the pericardium (heart covering), the cardiac valves and the heart muscle. But these reactions are usually evident only in the acute phase of the infection — although the damage may be permanent.

Cardiomyopathy is a serious deterioration of the cardiac muscle, leading to heart failure, exercise intolerance, difficulty breathing and other symptoms. To my knowledge, it is not a consequence of scarlet fever. Nonetheless, in theory, it could be. In many cases, the treatment of cardiomyopathy with medications is fairly standardized regardless of cause.

If you have cardiomyopathy, you should be seeing a cardiologist. Ask him or her if your scarlet fever may have played a role.

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

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

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

NASA engineers working on rover

Calif. (AP) — NASA engineers got a half-hour of transmissions this morning from the Spirit rover and planned further communications to try to diagnose and possibly patch up their ailing robotic patient on Mars.

NASA heard from the six-wheeled rover for 10 minutes at about 4:30 a.m. and received data for 20 minutes about an hour later.

"The spacecraft sent limited data in a proper response to a ground command, and we're planning for commanding further communication sessions later today," Pete Theisinger, rover project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said in a statement early today.

Officials did not immediately elaborate on the signals. If they contain significant data, the transmissions would mark the first such signals in two days — a period of anxious waiting for scientists after normal communications halted Wednesday.

Engineers hope Spirit will manage to send some engineering data, which can be used to assess the health of the spacecraft, pinpoint any problems and allow NASA to begin working on a potential fix or fixes.

Scientists and spokesmen at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory did not immediately return calls seeking comment today. The statement said today's signal was received by NASA's Deep Space Network antenna complex near Madrid, Spain.

Since Wednesday, its 19th day on Mars, the Spirit had sent back to Earth only meaningless radio noise or simple beeps acknowledging receipt of commands.

Among the possible causes: a corruption of its software or computer memory. If the software is awry, NASA can fix it from Earth by beaming patches across more than 100 million miles of space or by rebooting the rover's computer. But if the problem lies with the rover's hardware, the situation would be far more grave — perhaps beyond repair.

Halliburton fires employees who took kickbacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Halliburton has fired employees who allegedly took kickbacks from a Kuwaiti subcontractor helping to supply U.S. troops in Iraq, the company said.

Spokeswoman Wendy Hall said today the company reported the "irregularities" to Pentagon auditors and criminal investigators.

"We found it quickly, and we immediately reported it," Hall said in a statement. "We do not tolerate this kind of behavior by anyone at any level in any Halliburton company."

The Wall Street Journal reported today that two employees of Halliburton subsidiary KBR accepted up to $6 million in kickbacks from the unnamed Kuwaiti firm. Hall said the company could not discuss specifics of the charges.

The kickback allegations involve KBR's contract to supply U.S. Army troops in Iraq, not its separate contract to rebuild Iraqi oil facilities and deliver gasoline to civilians. Pentagon auditors are seeking a criminal probe into findings that KBR and Kuwaiti firm Altanmia Marketing Co. overcharged by $61 million for fuel deliveries.

Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, has denied overcharging on that contract.

The Pentagon's inspector general's office, which is investigating both allegations, declined comment today.

Today's disclosure is the first admission by Halliburton that its employees were involved in possible corruption involving Iraq contracts.

Halliburton disclosed last year that another KBR employee paid more than $2 million in bribes to a Nigerian official to get favorable tax treatment. A French judge investigating a KBR joint venture in Nigeria with a French firm has reportedly warned that Cheney, who headed Halliburton from 1995 until 2000, could be subject to criminal charges in France. Cheney has denied any wrongdoing.

Democrats today renewed their criticism of Halliburton and their demands for further investigations into the company's contracts.

"All of Halliburton's contracts with the government need to be terminated," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. "This is a fatal blow to the company's credibility and the administration's ability to defend these contracts."

Critics have cited Halliburton's contracts as evidence of Bush administration favoritism toward corporate friends.

Births

Freddie and Felicia Martinez of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Freddie Martinez Jr., on Jan. 18 in Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital. Freddie Jr. weighed seven pounds and was 20 inches long.

Fred and Gloria Castillo of Snyder and Felix and Ninfa Martinez of Hermleigh are his grandparents.

Fred and Margie Lopez of Snyder announce the birth of their seven-pound, 11-ounce son, Gabriel Carlos Lopez, born at 5:55 p.m. on Jan. 22 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

His grandfather is Gilbert Lopez Sr. of Big Spring.

Hostages still in prison tower

PHOENIX (AP) — Since Sunday, two prison guards have been held hostage by a pair of inmates in a three-story, gray-block watchtower flanked by barbed wire fence and believed to be stocked with weapons.

Over the long days and nights, coffee and water have been sent in; at least one gas canister has been tossed out. But aware that the inmates hold the high ground and the lives of two guards, authorities are doing the only thing they can: keep talking.

The tower is a freestanding structure with two enclosed floors and a screened third floor and overlooks a yard for high-risk inmates. Prison officials will not say whether the tower is stocked with weapons, but note that it was built to be secure.

Because the inmates have a high position on open ground, few options exist to end the hostage situation quickly, said Paul Sutton, a criminal justice professor at San Diego State University who has studied prison life.

Law enforcement "can't rush it. Snipers are going to have a real tough time shooting. All they can do is talk," Sutton said.

The inmates probably chose the best place in the prison to hole up, he said. The negotiators' best hope is that the inmates finally get hungry or otherwise desperate enough to let them in, Sutton said.

Talks with the two inmates continued for a fifth day Thursday, an encouraging sign to prison officials.

"The longer (the talks) go on, the more the quality and quantity improve," said Ivan Bartos, a prison warden in Yuma who has been helping officials at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis in Buckeye, west of Phoenix.

The hostage standoff began Sunday morning after an inmate attacked two guards and a worker in a kitchen. That prisoner and another inmate then got into the observation tower where the two guards were stationed.

Since then, negotiators have been allowed to see the guards twice; on Thursday, the guards climbed to the top of the watch tower on their own. Negotiators talked to the guards — one male and one female — as recently as Wednesday, and both indicated they were all right.

Corrections officials have been careful to withhold information about the inmates' demands, their identities and criminal history or their captives.

Bartos said withholding the information is largely a tactical decision. Negotiators must assume that the inmates have access to broadcast media, he said.

"We don't want them to know what we know," he said.

Sutton said refusing to give the inmates' names or other information may also deprive the inmates of something they likely want: media attention.

"They don't have an opportunity to articulate any kind of grievance," said Sutton.

Man arrested on Mitchell Co. warrants

• Arrests

Snyder officers took a 39-year-old man into custody in the 2500 block of Ave. V at 12:43 p.m. Thursday. Frausto Perez Bernardo, 2601 Ave. U, was arrested for forgery and a Mitchell County warrant for enforcement of child support.

An 18-year-old male was taken into custody at Snyder High School at 11 a.m. Thursday for misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Officers arrested a 20-year-old man on a Dallas County warrant for criminal trespass at 1:53 p.m. Thursday in the 900 block of 25th.

A 27-year-old man was taken into custody in the 100 block of Milburn at 9:22 p.m. Thursday for Class A assault for family violence.

A 44-year-old man was arrested at 25th and Ave. U at 10:51 p.m. Thursday and charged with misdemeanor DWI.

• Shoplifter

An employee of Wal-Mart reported a female subject running from the store after attempting to steal some DVDs. The woman dropped a purse containing some of the DVDs in the parking lot. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

• Minor accident

A minor accident with no injuries was reported at the intersection of 33rd St. and Crockett at 2:26 p.m. Thursday. The mishap involved a 2001 Cadillac driven by Lola Marley Swinney, 76, of 4364 CR 230 and a 1999 Ford Ranger pickup driven by Tanner Benjamin Reed, 17, of 2500 32nd. St.

DPS troopers investigated a minor accident on U.S. 180 west of the Scurry County Gin at 3:37 p.m. Thursday.

• Hit and Run

A motorist reporting that her vehicle had been struck by a vehicle that had fled the scene, requested an officer in the 2400 block of 40th St. at 3:37 p.m. Thursday.

• Family disturbance

A caller requested an officer to a home on Milburn at 8:55 p.m. Thursday to advise that her daughter was having problems with her husband. An offense report for family violence was submitted.

• Criminal mischief

A caller reported at 7:11 p.m. Thursday from the 3000 block of Ave. M that the door of a storage shed behind his residence had been shot.

An officer was requested in the 200 block of 31st Street by a woman reporting a juvenile had thrown an ice cream cone and hit her vehicle.

Obituaries

Glyn Murphy

1918-2004

BRECKENRIDGE — Glyn Ed Murphy, a former area resident, died Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Hendrick's Medical Center in Abilene.

A memorial service for Mr. Murphy, 85, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Morehart Mortuary Chapel in Breckenridge. Cremation is planned.

Born Dec. 1, 1918 in Snyder to W. Ed and Frieda von Roeder Murphy, he was reared in Borden County and attended school in Gail before graduating from Ranger High School. He attended Texas Tech University and served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Mr. Murphy was a rancher and also owned a vending machine business, moving to Breckenridge from House, N.M. in 1955. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and Elks Lodge.

His parents, a son and a brother preceded him in death.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Maxine and Gerry Cockrell of Abilene; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Desley Murphy of Sidney, Australia; two brothers, Brent Murphy of Snyder and Bruce Murphy of New Mexico; and four grandchildren, Lynzey, Matt, Mareesha and Louis Murphy, all of Australia.

Memorials may be made to the Stephens County Memorial Hospital or to the Breckenridge Elks Lodge.

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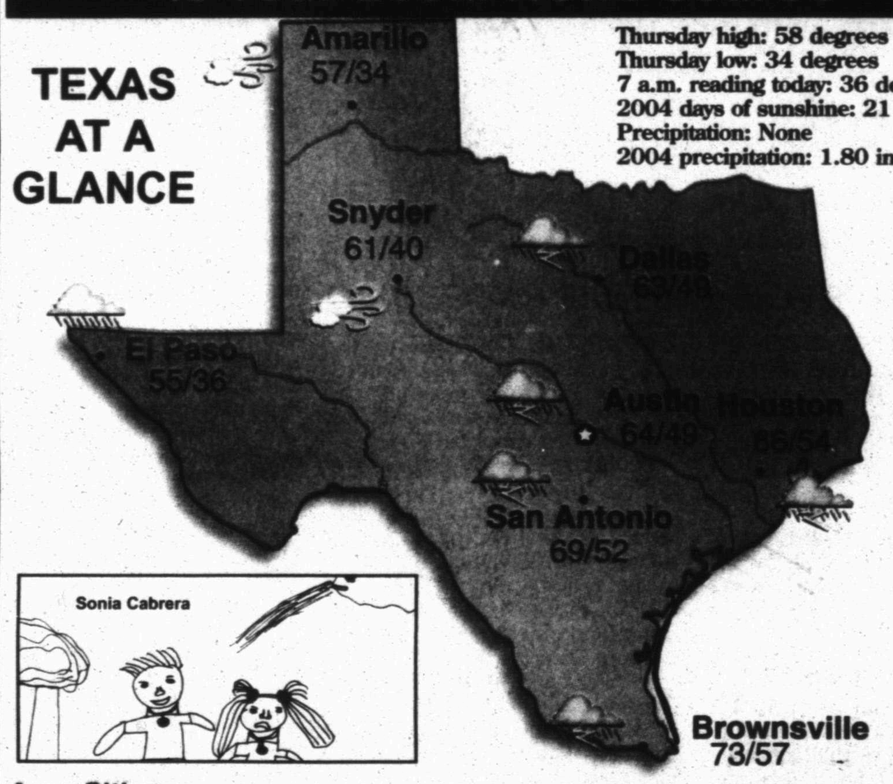
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 1/24	Sun 1/25	Mon 1/26
61/40	61/43	60/31
Windy. Cloudy skies will become partly cloudy in the afternoon. High 61F.	Sunny and wind. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	More clouds than sun, windy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:43 AM / Sunset 6:08 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM / Sunset 6:09 PM	Sunrise 7:42 AM / Sunset 6:10 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Thursday high: 58 degrees
Thursday low: 34 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 36 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 21 of 22
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 1.80 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	62	45	t-storm	El Paso	55	36	rain	Midland	62	38	windy
Amarillo	57	34	windy	Fort Stockton	62	41	windy	Raymondville	73	54	t-storm
Austin	64	49	t-storm	Gainesville	60	44	t-storm	Rosenberg	65	54	t-storm
Beaumont	65	55	t-storm	Greenville	62	46	t-storm	San Antonio	69	52	t-storm
Brownsville	73	57	t-storm	Houston	66	54	t-storm	San Marcos	66	50	t-storm
Brownwood	65	48	t-storm	Kingsville	73	54	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	63	47	t-storm
Corpus Christi	70	54	t-storm	Livingston	65	50	t-storm	Sweetwater	62	44	t-storm
Corsicana	63	50	t-storm	Longview	62	49	t-storm	Tyler	62	48	t-storm
Dallas	63	49	t-storm	Lubbock	63	36	windy	Weatherford	61	44	rain
Del Rio	70	47	t-storm	Lufkin	64	52	t-storm	Wichita Falls	62	42	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	54	44	pt sunny	Houston	66	54	t-storm	Phoenix	62	48	rain
Boston	17	2	windy	Los Angeles	62	49	pt sunny	San Francisco	56	44	rain
Chicago	31	22	cloudy	Miami	68	56	sunny	Seattle	43	32	rain
Dallas	63	49	t-storm	Minneapolis	19	12	sn shower	St. Louis	43	37	pt sunny
Denver	52	26	pt sunny	New York	23	10	flurries	Washington, DC	33	20	cloudy

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 21	Jan 29	Feb 6	Feb 13

UV Index

Sat 1/24	Sun 1/25	Mon 1/26
Low	Low	Low

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

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