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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY
Feb. 6, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 248
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Peggy Vernon



GET YOUR KICKS — Yellow belt Evan Tedder and red belt Xavier Jaramillo spar Thursday while black belt Alex Jaramillo officiates. West Texas TaeKwonDo Academy is preparing for Saturday's 18th annual West Texas TaeKwonDo Championships at Scurry County Coliseum. The school will enter 20 fighters of all ages and skill levels. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Competition brings visitors to community

TaeKwonDo tourney starts Saturday

Folks can get their kicks at Scurry County Coliseum Saturday, as the 18th annual West Texas TaeKwonDo Championships get underway.

Greg Gafford, fifth-degree black belt and owner of Snyder's West Texas TaeKwonDo Academy, said the event, which draws between 300 to 400 people each year, would have a special demonstration this year from the U.S. National Champion Demonstration Team.

"The neatest thing about this year is the demo team," Gafford said. "There are 35-40 black belts in the team and they are very good."

The team is also known as Team Chip after Master Instructor and four-time world champion breaker Chip Townsend, who will put on a speed kick demonstration, breaking baseball bats with no resistance.

Townsend has ties to Snyder, having worked summers during his youth at Patterson UTI and trained at West Texas Academy.

The demonstration is scheduled for 1 p.m., and Gafford said anyone who wants to come watch is welcome.

The championships feature schools from all over the southwest, including two schools from Mexico.

Aside from TaeKwonDo schools in Abilene, Lubbock, Midland and Odessa, schools from Amarillo, Dallas-Ft. Worth, El Paso, San Antonio and Houston will participate.

New Mexico academies from Albuquerque, Clovis and Hobbs also will compete, as will schools from Oklahoma and a newcomer this year from Romance, Ark.

Admission to the championships is $5 for adults and $3 for children 12 and under.

Fighters from West Texas TaeKwonDo Academy that are scheduled to compete are Justin Armstrong, Joseph Benz, Alex Jaramillo, Seth Jaramillo, Xavier Jaramillo, Larry Jaramillo, Koe Alvarez, Slade Birkenfeld, Kaiden Gamble, Rubi Jaimes, Ashley Kincheloe, Regan Lindsey, Joshua Morrell, Ray Newton, Fernando Ramirez, Nelson Sears, Hunter Wickline, Daniel Shlezinger, Evan Tedder and Lauren McQuirk.

Competition starts at 10:30 a.m.

Two plead guilty to Allsup's staged robbery

Two persons involved in the staged robbery of Allsup's in Snyder last fall pleaded guilty Thursday in 132nd District Court.

Angel Mae Southern and Darla Gaylene Traylor, both charged with theft by engaging in organized criminal activity, were sentenced by District Judge Ernie Armstrong.

Southern, 29, of 2807 37th Street, was sentenced to two years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice state jail facility, probated for five years. She also was fined $1,000.

Darla Gaylene Traylor, 45, of 3112 39th Street was sentenced to serve 11 months in the Scurry County jail and pay $1,364.17 in restitution.

Traylor's conviction also resulted in the revocation of two probated sentences for forgery, both occurring in 1996. She was ordered to serve 11 months on each count in a state jail facility. All three terms will be served concurrently.

James Benjamin Northcutt, 25, of 3106 Ave. T pleaded guilty to theft of less than $1,500 with two prior convictions.

Judge Armstrong assessed a two-year state jail sentence and ordered Northcutt to pay $150 in restitution.

Robert Martinez, 33, of Colorado City, pleaded guilty to a Sept. 26 charge of felony driving while intoxicated. Martinez, who had two prior DWI convictions, was sentenced to serve five years in prison.

Alberto Rodriguez Jr., 24, of 3011 40th pleaded guilty to an Oct. 24 charge of DWI with a child under 15 years of age as a passenger. Rodriguez was ordered to serve two years in a state jail facility, probated for 5 years. He also was fined $1,000 and must serve 240 hours in the Scurry County jail.

A five-year probated sentence for burglary of a building for Jedidah Lydell Hubbard, 24, of Lubbock was revoked. Hubbard must now serve two years in state jail facility.

Katina McGaha Balcom's probated sentence for forgery by passing also was revoked. Balcom, 31, of 1208 28th Street, must now serve two years in a state jail facility.

Parts of Midwest receive more snow

By The Associated Press

Parts of the Midwest saw still more snow today, leftover rain threatened to flood states from Mississippi to Maryland, and the white stuff was too much even for at least one ski resort.

Heavy ice caused trees to fall across power lines in southern West Virginia, leaving about 38,000 customers without electricity early today, and utilities couldn't predict whether the worst had come.

"How long the ice is on the trees and how thick it is will determine how widespread this will be. It could be very ugly," American Electric Power spokesman Phil Moye said.

Hundreds of schools closed. New Hampshire and western Maine were expecting up to 6 inches of snow by the end of the day, and parts of Kentucky and Tennessee were under water warnings after up to 5 inches of rain a day earlier.

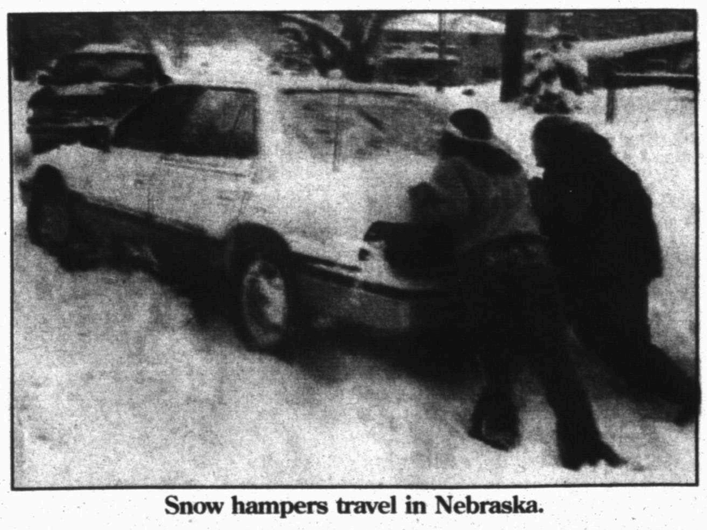
Castana, in western Iowa, already had 23 inches of snow on the ground before the latest storm dumped 3 to 8 inches across the state Thursday and into today morning.

"Oh, you just deal with it," said Sue Browning, who raises cattle with her husband just outside town. "You just take your tractor and shove it wherever you can."

Steve Gannon, who traveled from Des Moines to Cedar Rapids, was less charitable, calling the storm "the worst I've ever driven through."

"You could only follow the guy in front of you and hope he was paying attention," he said.

Dispatchers in western Iowa guessed that at least 70 cars and trucks had ended up in highway ditches.



Snow hampers travel in Nebraska.

Body of missing Florida girl found

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — The body of an 11-year-old girl whose abduction was captured by a surveillance camera was found in a church parking lot, and a mechanic has been charged with her murder, officials said today.

Sarasota County sheriff's officials said Carlie Brucia's body was found about 1 a.m. outside a church a few miles from the car wash where she was abducted. Authorities did not say how she died or whether she had been raped.

Sheriff Bill Balkwill said Joseph P. Smith, 37, has been charged with the girl's murder. Smith is believed to be the tattooed man in a mechanic's shirt who was seen in the surveillance video leading Carlie away by the arm Sunday evening, authorities said.

Investigators found the body after negotiations with Smith, said a law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity. Earlier, authorities had said Smith was not cooperating.

"We now stand ready to complete our obligation, and assure you that he will pay the ultimate price for what he did to her," Capt. Jeff Bell said.

The girl's father, Joe Brucia, somberly thanked "all the (law enforcement) people behind me and all the people that were behind them in their efforts to find my daughter." He also thanked "the community that was so involved."

The Central Church of Christ was surrounded by yellow crime scene tape today, and about a dozen detectives walked in a line across the field in an evidence sweep. They declined to comment.

Carlie's stepfather, Steven Kansler, and some friends gathered at the edge of the church property this morning, kneeling in a prayer circle.

Rod Myers, the church's minister, said a Bible study group met there Wednesday night but nobody saw the body because it was dark.

"We are all upset about it, and we all feel helpless when things like this happen," Myers said.

In the front yard of Carlie's home, decorated with banners and posters reading, "We love you, Carlie," another small group of supporters joined hands and bowed their heads in prayer.

Brewer named Hermleigh's AD, head coach

Jason Brewer was named the new athletic director and head coach for the Hermleigh school district during a called meeting Thursday night.

Brewer, 29, will begin his duties Monday as he has been released from his contract with the Charlotte school system. He has been Charlotte's head coach and previously had been the head coach at Cotulla.

Four members of the Hermleigh board were present at the meeting and voting in favor of Brewer's contract at $50,600 per year were Roy Gill, Alan Culp and Tim Dacus. Sherene Digby abstained.

Brewer, and his wife, Christy, have two young daughters — Austin is two years old and Ashton is five months old.

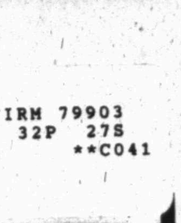
Hermleigh Supt. Marvin Beaty said this morning that he is very happy to have Brewer on board.

The Cardinals will be stepping up from six-man action this fall to 11-man and will be in a district with Bronte, Forsan, Roby, Roscoe, Sterling City and Winters.

THE SDN COLUMN

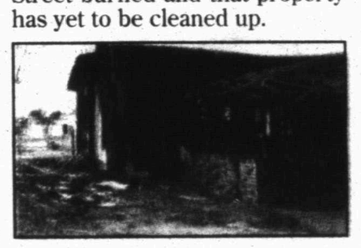
MY TURN

by Wade Warren



Doris and J.C. Harrison are not happy folks.

Just before Thanksgiving, a mobile home adjoining their residence in the 200 block of 30th Street burned and that property has yet to be cleaned up.



"I don't really think anyone has made an attempt to do anything about the mess," said Doris.

"People keep saying they are going to do this and do that, but they haven't done anything.

"When the building burned downtown, they got right on it," said Doris.

Mrs. Harrison also implied and later said that if the fire had been on the other side of College Avenue, the city would have already forced the owner of the property to have it cleaned up.

Doris said she had talked to Cy Posey, fire marshal, and Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey about cleaning up the site.

"Both of them said they had to wait on other things to happen before anything could get going about cleaning it up," said Doris.

"Trevey said he had brought it before the commissioners' court but nothing has happened," she added.

The Harrisons said they are pretty fed up with all the folks in government in Snyder and Scurry County that might have something to do with cleaning up the fire mess.

When asked who she felt was to blame for the delay in getting rid of the mess, she said she is blaming everybody together.

"I'm blaming everyone together, they should get their ducks in a row.

"I think my county commissioner should be number one in getting something done. This is a hazard over there. You would think Trevey would want to make people happy."

Doris also said she had tried to talk to the city manager awhile back but couldn't get in touch with him.

"I think they said he was out of town."

On Wednesday, however, Doris did talk to City Manager John Gayle.

"He said he wasn't familiar with the situation but would do what he could to work the problem.

"He did explain that certain procedures had to be followed concerning clean up matters such as this. He assured me that the burned mobile home would be gone in 45 days."

She didn't say so, but we bet Doris has the 45th day circled and is marking off each day in red on her calendar.

Stay tuned, we'll report back on this in March.

FEB 06 2004

ASK US

Q—Who is responsible for the removal of the mistletoe from the trees around the courthouse?

A—Anything within the courthouse square is the responsibility of the county.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Ed Sumruld...

...grew up in Snyder, but moved away for several years and moved back seven years ago. Ed has two sons, Michael Sumruld and Jimmy Sumruld who live in Houston. Ed's favorite hobbies are hunting and fishing.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Today is when everything that's going to happen from now on begins.
—Harvey Firestone, Jr.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Scouting food drive

Local Boy, Cub and Girl Scouts will hand out bags today for non-perishable food items (no glass please) to benefit the Snyder Food Cupboard. Donations will be picked up starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. If items have not been picked up by noon, call 207-2260.

New Saturday landfill hours

Starting Saturday hours of operation for the Snyder landfill will be from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Flag retirement ceremony

Snyder Boy Scouts will hold a flag retirement ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday on the south side of the courthouse. For more information call Joe Hefner at 573-0171.

Retirement reception

Western Texas College past and present computerized business technology students are hosting a retirement reception for Joann Snider from 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Donations to help defray expenses would be appreciated. Contact Robert Lane at 573-6500 or Fredine Ward at 325-728-8830.

Eagle Scout project

Share a books with Stanfield Elementary by dropping off any new or used book at First United Methodist Church, Texas Savings Bank, Colonial Hill Baptist Church or Pizza Inn. Students will earn books through projects at Stanfield and to take the books home.

Noah's Ark Church evangelist

Noah's Ark Church, 18th St. and Ave. R, will have Lee Gomez of Brownfield as guest evangelist at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Crystal River

Crystal River will be at Trinity United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Sunday. At 10:45 a.m. Sunday, they will perform at The First Baptist Church in Loraine.

Retired teachers

Scurry County retired teachers will meet at noon Monday at The Shack. Janie Romine, county librarian, will speak.

What's up guidelines

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.

Joann Snider retires from Western Texas

Joann Snider last month retired from teaching in the computerized business technology department at Western Texas College.

Past and present CBT students are sponsoring a reception in her honor on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. in the Martha Ann Woman's Club at 1600 Martha Ann Blvd..

Mrs. Snider was reared in Mitchell County, where she graduated from Colorado High in 1957. After graduation, she obtained an associate degree from WTCD, bachelor of art degree and a master of business administration from San Angelo State College.

Upon earning her teaching credentials, she taught keyboard on the high school level at Colorado High, where she was responsible for setting the curriculum and requisitioning the equipment for computer classes.



Joann Snider

Business courses of all types from accounting 1 and 2, keyboarding, computerized accounting, Desktop Publishing, Microsoft Word, and others were all within her teaching capabilities.

Today's chuckle

Post card delivered almost 48 years later

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — A postcard mailed to a 7-year-old girl in a hospital has arrived — almost 48 years after she died of an inoperable brain tumor.

Marilyn DeVrieze said her niece, Sharon Kaye Thiele, treasured a special pair of red shoes and was even photographed for a newspaper story with the shoes when she spent about 3 months in Moline Public Hospital in 1956-57 before she died of the tumor.



People from across America mailed cards to the youngster when she was a patient at the hospital, DeVrieze of Rock Island, Ill., said.

"She got a lot of cards from all over," DeVrieze said.

One of those cards addressed to the eldest daughter of Vernon and Lois Thiele of Moline, Ill., mailed Nov. 6, 1956, from Portland, Ore., arrived Tuesday, nearly 48 years too late.

The card was discovered by Trinity Medical Center employees, and DeVrieze picked it up Wednesday when she learned it existed.

Marilyn was newly married to Frank DeVrieze and living in Rock Island when her niece fell ill.

"She was beautiful, and very smart," DeVrieze said.

Third lawyer leaves Robert Blake case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The murder trial of Robert Blake was postponed indefinitely after a judge relieved the actor's third defense lawyer because of "irreconcilable differences" between the attorney and his client.

The case had been scheduled to enter the final phase of jury selection later this month, but prosecutors said they will now have to start the process from scratch.

"I'm sorry," Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp said Thursday after stunning the courtroom with her announcement. "I just did not have a choice in the matter."

She spent nearly an hour in her chambers with Blake and attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. before announcing her decision. As they left court, neither Blake nor Mesereau would discuss the nature of the dispute which ended their relationship after some 14 months.

Schempp set a hearing for Feb. 23, by which time she said she hoped Blake would have a new lawyer.

"I'm very, very sorry, that Mr. Mesereau left," Blake said outside court. "I am deeply, deeply grateful to him for saving my life."

Sources close to the case who spoke on condition of anonymity said it was Mesereau's decision to leave the case, and that Blake wanted him to remain. It was Mesereau who won Blake's release on $1.5 million bail after many months in jail.

District attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said prosecutors were taken by surprise.

"We're a little shell-shocked right now," she said.

Blake, 70, is charged with shooting his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, 44, to death as she sat in a car outside Vitello's Italian restaurant in Studio City, where the two had just had dinner in 2001. Bakley was the mother of Blake's daughter, Rosie, who was born in 2000.

Mesereau's former co-counsel, Dana Cole, said he had been speaking to Blake about the dispute.

"Tom wanted to be the captain of the ship and Blake was trying to do the case by committee, consulting lawyers who never tried a case," Cole said. "He was forcing Tom to consume time over unimportant things."

Mesereau is the third lawyer to leave Blake's defense. His original lawyer, Harland Braun, left in November 2002, followed by attorney Jennifer Keller in January 2003.

Defense witness in Scott Peterson case dies

MODESTO, Calif. (AP) — A witness who claimed to have seen Laci Peterson hours after police allege her husband killed her has died, potentially dealing a blow to Scott Peterson's defense.

Vivian Mitchell, 78, died early Wednesday of natural causes, according to her family.

She was one of three people who said she saw Laci Peterson alive midmorning on Dec. 24, 2002. Authorities assert Scott Peterson killed his pregnant wife the night before or early that morning, then drove to San Francisco Bay and dumped her body.

Prosecutors have charged Scott Peterson, 31, with two counts of murder. His trial may start later this month in San Mateo County, where it was moved because of extensive publicity in Modesto, where the couple lived. If convicted, Peterson could face the death penalty.

Peterson's defense already has started questioning potential jurors in San Mateo County.

Paul Strand, a political science professor at San Diego State University, confirmed Thursday he's conducting the poll but refused to elaborate, citing a gag order. Strand also conducted one of two surveys the defense cited in its successful bid to move the trial out of Stanislaus County.

Mitchell, who lived nine blocks from the Petersons' home, was one of three people who said they saw Laci Peterson walking her dog about 10 a.m. Christmas Eve.

State to conduct surprise visits at Cameron Co. jails

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — The Texas Commission on Jail Standards says it will conduct surprise visits at Cameron County jails amid staffing and overcrowding problems.

The announcement comes after detention centers in the county were found to be in violation of an October order which sought reductions in the inmate population and staff increases, TCJS officials said.

"We are going to have to know that they are staffed up to the necessary numbers," TCJS executive director Terry Julian said today in the Brownsville Herald. "We will see what is actually there on the floor."

Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa said the county is trying to comply with the agency's requests.

The TCJS, which is in charge of ensuring that all county jail facilities conform to minimum standards of construction, maintenance and operation, found deficiencies in county jails dating back to November 2002.

If the surprise visits uncover problems, the county will be ordered to reduce its inmate population, through transfers or releases, until enough staffing is available.

At the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center, for example, Hinojosa said the inmate population has been reduced by working with judges. Also, work schedules have been revise to have enough guards on duty.

But in the 128 days since the order was issued, the facility was overcrowded on 94 days, according to county and state records.

Hinojosa said he would ask county commissioners to hire additional workers.

Meanwhile, the TCJS said it plans to meet with Willacy County Commissioners to discuss widespread plumbing problems and female overcrowding found during a Jan. 6 inspection of the Willacy County Jail in Raymondville.

"They can't continue on just patching that old jail.

Plea expected for suspect in murder dating to 1978

PLAINVIEW (AP) — Children left behind when Georgia Ruiz was slain in 1978 want the 83-year-old man accused in her death to spend the rest of his life in prison.

They will find out today whether a judge will accept a plea agreement that would send Margarito "Mike" Hernandez to prison for 25 years. An earlier deal for a 20-year prison sentence was rejected because family members wanted to make sure that he died there and were pushing for at least five more years.

Mark Yarbrough, a court-appointed district attorney from Lamb County, said he reached a deal with Hernandez's attorney. Kregg Hukill, Hernandez' attorney, did not immediately return a call Thursday seeking comment.

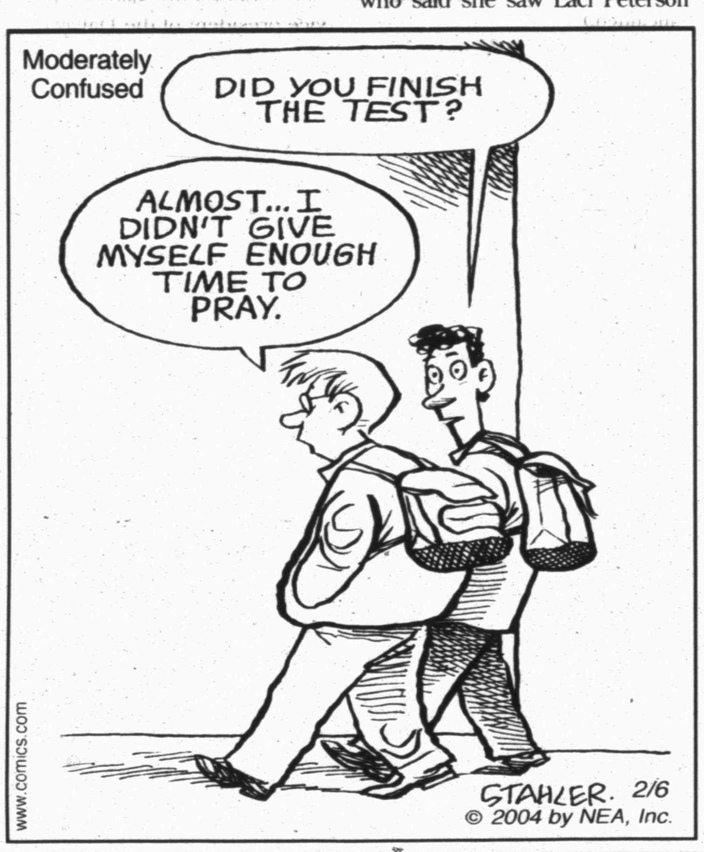
Hernandez, who turns 84 on Feb. 20, is accused of shooting Georgia Ruiz, the mother of eight, to death in her home 25 years ago. He was arrested in July as he crossed the U.S.-Mexico border into El Paso. After a routine check, immigration officials discovered Hernandez was wanted in the slaying.

"I hope he dies in prison," one of her sons, Lupe Ruiz, said.

One of the victim's sister said she would like to see a longer sentence.

"Really that's not much," said Janie Bruno, 51, of Houston. "He hasn't got much more to go but it's not enough. We'll never get our sister back."

Georgia Ruiz, 46, was shot twice in the chest Dec. 21, 1978, as she sat in an overstuffed chair in her living room. There was no struggle and the gun was never recovered, Plainview Police Chief William Mull said.



World Almanac

Friday, Feb. 6, 2004

Today is the 37th day of 2004 and the 47th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1778, representatives of the United States and France signed an alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts ratified the Constitution, thus becoming the sixth U.S. state.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI died of cancer.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593), dramatist, poet; Aaron Burr (1756-1836), politician, former U.S. vice president; Babe Ruth (1895-1948), baseball player; Zsa Zsa Gabor (1917-), actress, is 87; Bob Marley (1945-1981), musician; Ronald Reagan (1911-), former U.S. president, is 93; Tom Brokaw (1940-), broadcaster, is 64.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1958, the Boston Red Sox signed Ted Williams for $135,000, at the time the highest salary in baseball history.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Who ever loved that loved not at first sight?" — Christopher Marlowe

TODAY'S FACT: Christopher Marlowe, considered the greatest English playwright before Shakespeare, was stabbed to death in a tavern brawl at the age of 29.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 108.7 — Area in acres of Vatican City, the world's smallest independent state.

TODAY'S MOON: Full moon (Feb. 6)

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events

LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 11-34-20-1-30

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: 0.

Matching four of five: 120. Prize: $614.

Matching three of five: 4,591. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 48,013. Prize: $2.

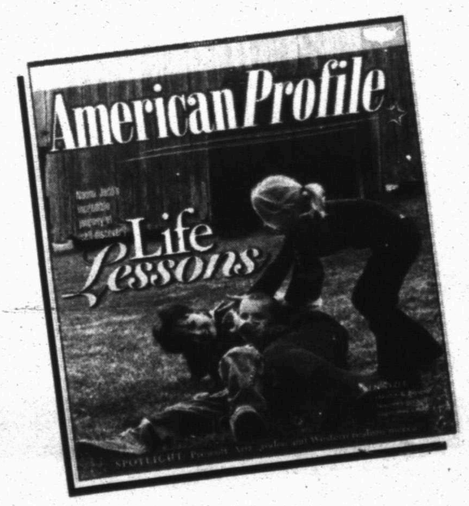
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-4-6
(Night) 3-1-2

In Next Week's American Profile...

Naomi shares her life lessons

To Naomi Judd, living the good life these days has little to do with the fame and fortune that came with being half of the country duo The Judds. Rather, according to Judd, it has everything to do with the choices under our control.



In Addition...
- Health and fitness
- Naomi's grilled vegetable salad

American Profile
Celebrating Hometown Life

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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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.

Best Available Copy



CHIPPER WINNERS — The Snyder Baseball Boosters cow chip bingo winners received their prizes on Jan. 24. Pictured are Darryl Robertson, softball booster representative; winners Effie Elliot, Morris Allred, Chris Maxfield; and Larry Price, baseball booster president. Not pictured is winner Jeff Reed. (Contributed photo)

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Girl who lost her boyfriend assuages her grief with sex

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of nine months, "Brent," was killed in a car accident. I have been a mess ever since. I dropped out of school and have no job. I do not live with my parents, and I no longer have the love of my life.

One of Brent's best friends, "Doug," and I recently spent two intimate nights together. It was special and felt right.

Doug has had a girlfriend for almost two years. They are expecting a baby any day now. He has told me he wants to break up with her and move away with me because he feels he should look after me.

Another of Brent's good friends, "Brian," is a player. Brian doesn't respect women, but since he and I became close after the accident, he respects and watches out for me, too. One thing led to another with Brian, too, and we have done the deed many times.

I have feelings for both Doug and Brian, even though they don't come close to what I felt for Brent. Am I a horrible person for sleeping with Brent's two best friends after his death? I need advice on how to get out of this mess. — **GRIEVING WITH SEX**

DEAR GRIEVING: Do not mistake what has happened with Brent's friends for love. It's time you talk to your spiritual adviser, join a grief support group and seek individual counseling. If possible, return to your parents for a while until you get your life back in order. It is important that you complete your education so you can become financially as well as emotionally independent.

P.S. Neither one of the young men you mentioned appears to be solid and mature enough for a serious relationship, so I urge you not to depend on either of them for anything. Both have taken advantage of your vulnerability.

**

DEAR ABBY: I turned 18 last year. When I started college, I moved in with my grandma on my father's side. My parents were furious. They said I moved out because "Gram" doesn't give me rules or chores.

I moved in with Gram because she doesn't see, hear, drive or even move well anymore. I drive her wherever she needs to go. My parents refuse to believe that I moved out to help Gram. It has reached the point that my parents no longer speak to her — and I no longer speak to my parents.

It was not my goal to make waves in the family. What can I do to fix the problems I've caused? And how can I get everyone on speaking terms again? Please help. — **BIG PROBLEM IN A LITTLE TOWN**

DEAR BIG PROBLEM: You appear to be the daughter of very controlling parents. At 18, you are old enough to decide where you want to live, and the arrangement you have made appears to be mutually beneficial.

Being a companion to an elderly person in failing health is a heavy responsibility and certainly isn't chore-free. (Could it be that your parents miss your free labor at their house?) It is not your responsibility to "get everyone on speaking terms again." From my perspective, you not only deserve a pat on the back but also a thank-you for taking care of your grandmother.

**

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

**

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

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Former president Bush leaving politics to George W. and Jeb

EDINBURG (AP) — Former President George Bush says he's staying out of politics because he's "the older guy now" and it's time to give his sons a chance. One is president and another is governor of Florida.

"They shouldn't be worrying about what their dad said," he said. Bush said he goes to 10 political events a year.

"I had my chance. We got some things right, we messed up some things ... I just sit there and do what I vowed I would never do — talk back to the television," Bush told students at the University of Texas-Pan American.

He invited students to watch him take his last parachute jump at Texas A&M University on his 80th birthday in June.

After regaling students with stories of war and peacetime jumps, he said, "I would like to make a benign and nice parachute jump."

The former president participated in a question-and-answer session with a panel of high school and college students, part of an annual fundraising event at the university.

Despite saying he stayed out of politics, Bush went on to say he supported the war in Iraq and took a thinly veiled jab at Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton when a female student asked him about women taking leadership roles.

"I know one female that very much wants to be president, but it's a different ticket from me ... and I'm not sure it's gonna happen," he said.

On the war, he said President Bush made the right choice.

"The toughest decision a president makes is when he sends somebody else's sons or daughters into combat, to battle. I had to do it three different times," he said.

"The bottom line is are we better off?; are the Iraqi people better off?; is Saddam out of office or in office?", he said. "I get a little annoyed when they say there was no coalition, there were plenty of countries that were with us."

He said he learned to deal with criticism as president but not as the parent of one.

"It hurts much more when the critics get on our sons than when they did me," the former president said. "I think that's normal."

A thousand high school students were bused in from high schools from Port Isabel to Laredo, all chosen by their principals to attend their event. They gave Bush a standing ovation as he took the stage, which was set up with bookcases and armchairs. One student was escorted out after giving a "Go Kerry" cheer, referring to the Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

On another subject, Bush said leadership went back to an "underpinning of values," He said his mentors were his parents and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, a peer he said he admired for "putting communism in the ash bin of Russian history."

The Q&A in was followed by a $5,000-a-plate scholarship fundraiser for the university.

At the dinner, Bush praised the performance of the Donna High School choir.

"I would like to have had them at the half time instead of Janet Jackson," he said. Justin Timberlake tore off a piece of Janet Jackson's top, exposing her breast during the NFL halftime show in Houston on Sunday.

The UTPA foundation, independent of the university, paid for the event. Foundation spokesman Gilbert Maldonado would not say how much the former president was being paid.

Winter storms bringing new worries for Kansas cattlemen

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — With calving under way on Midwest ranches, a wave of winter storms is forcing already-weary cattlemen to try and keep their newborn calves from freezing to death.

Debbie Lyons-Blythe and her husband, Duane Blythe, have 250 cows that calve each year in January and February on their ranch near White City in northeast Kansas.

Usually at night they check on their heifers every four hours. But with the current cold, snowy weather, they are checking all their cows every two to three hours — especially at night.

It takes an hour to go through all the herds. Then they go back to sleep for an hour or two before doing it all over again.

"I don't think my husband and I have had a full night's sleep since we started calving," Debbie Lyons-Blythe said this week. "It sounds like we have a new baby, but actually it is a lot more work than a new baby."

Despite their efforts, five of the 25 calves born since Monday have died in the extreme temperatures within an hour of birth.

This week, with the weather warming briefly before the arrival of a new storm, Lyons-Blythe watched her newborn calves running and kicking belly-deep through the snow.

"When the weather does clear and the cows are healthy and you think about how many you have saved, it is a good thing," she said. "It is a good life."

In north-central Kansas, Tom Forshee was following much the same drill for his 125 cattle. Heifers on the verge of birthing are checked at least every three hours.

"You get used to it after a while," he said. "That is part of the love of cattle."

Forshee uses a hair dryer to thaw the calves' ears when they are born. So far, he hasn't lost any calves to the cold.

The last two winter storms have dropped between 8 to 10 inches of snow on his remote ranch, and more snow is forecast. The wintry mix of ice and snow has made daily chores more time consuming.

After warming up the trucks and shoveling snow, Forshee uses the tractor to uncover a dry spot for the cattle to feed on. Then he chops any ice on the water trough, adding more from the 1,000-gallon tank he uses to haul water to cattle he has on a field of milo fodder 20 miles away. He checks the cows that are near their calving time.

In the afternoon, Forshee hauls hay to feed them. But at times the ice on the big round bales gets so thick, he can't break the wire holding each bale together. When the ice gets really bad, he rolls the bales down the road a bit to knock the ice off.

Come evening, Forshee begins another round of chores and checks the heifers throughout the night.

The cold is also taking a toll on the state's vast feedlot industry: Cold cattle lose weight. Terry Handke, a Muscotah feedlot operator and president of the Kansas Livestock Association, figures the recent ice storm took 30 to 40 pounds off each animal.

"Those pounds are pretty important — the ones at the top end — because that is where your profit is," Handke said.

When a storm hits across much of the state it costs 20 or 30 pounds of weight loss for each animal, meaning the loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds of beef production in states such as Kansas, where there is a big feedlot industry, he said.

Wal-Mart top grocer in Dallas, Fort Worth area

DALLAS (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is the No. 1 grocer in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, signifying its growth in the grocery market.

"Conventional retailers are worried about them," said Al Meyers, vice president of the Dallas office of Retail Forward, a retail consulting firm based in Ohio.

"I suspect it does imply they'll be marching forward in a number of markets," Meyers said.

Wal-Mart, with its Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets, has about a 25 percent share in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area, according to the 2004 edition of "Market Scope," a publication of TradeDimensions International Inc. The report was released Wednesday.

Albertsons is No. 2 with 17.6 percent, followed by Safeway's Tom Thumb with 15 percent. Kroger had 12.7 percent and Minyard Food Stores had 9.1 percent.

"I think it reflects the company's success in converting its discount stores into Supercenters," said Mark Miller, an analyst for William Blair & Co.

After loading groceries into her sports utility vehicle on Thursday, 28-year-old Amy Llana of Dallas said her reason for choosing a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market was simple: "The prices are so much cheaper."

She says she passes by several other grocery stores, including Albertsons, to go there.

"They started out in smaller, rural county seat locations, attracting people from counties away," Meyers said. "They're obviously very adept now at serving suburban and urban populations."

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 02-06-04
♠ K 8
♥ K 7 6 3
♦ K 4 2
♣ A J 4 3

West
♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 9 5
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 10 8 6

East
♠ —
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ K 9 7 5 2

South
♠ A 10 9 6 5 4 2
♥ A Q 4
♦ 8 6
♣ Q

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ Q

Friday, Feb. 6, 2004

From par result to winners' circle

By Phillip Alder

In almost all forms of bridge, you rely a little on luck. If your opponents play perfectly, you are unlikely to be a winner. But there is one event in which the opponents are irrelevant: a par contest. The deals are preset and usually only one side can score points on each deal; but neither pair knows who that is at the beginning. The key is to find the best declarer-play or defense, and only the best will work — as in this example.

Look at the North-South hands. You (South) are the declarer in four spades. West leads the diamond queen and continues the suit. You lose the first two and ruff the third. How would you proceed?

This layout was devised for the 1936 World Par Olympiad. In this auction, North's response of two no-trump is natural and game-forcing, promising 13-15 points. Then South bids where he wants to play.

You can afford to lose one trump trick, but not two. Luckily, there is a safety-play available. At trick four, lead a low spade from your hand. If West discards, go up with dummy's king and lead the eight back toward your hand, through East's queen-jack. Here, though, West follows low. You must finesse dummy's eight.

If the eight loses to an honor in the East hand, the suit is splitting 2-2 or 3-1. Dummy's king and your ace will remove those still lurking. Here, however, East discards. You cash dummy's spade king, return to hand with a heart (or via the club ace and a club ruff), cash the spade ace, and concede one trump trick to West.

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♥1992 Ford Explorer V-6, XLT $2,750
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MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



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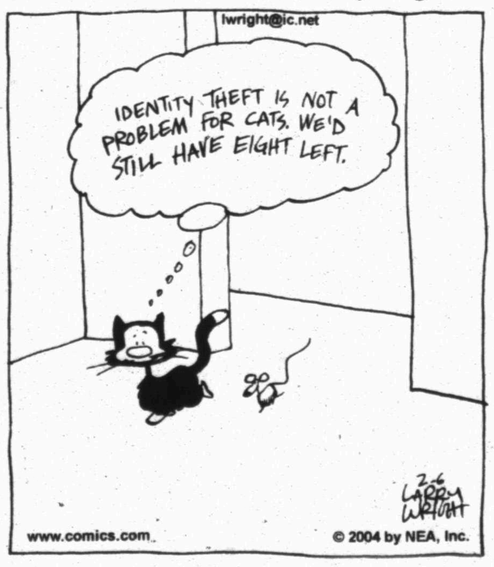


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I'll skip the dessert menu. I don't like too many surprises in one day."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Urban transport
4 Hog enclosure
7 Wretched
10 Eggs, to Ovid
11 Stepped on
13 Tempo
14 Rookie socialite
15 Tend the lawn
16 "Off the Court" author
17 Appetizers
19 Jetty
20 Impress
21 Zen riddles
23 Query starter
26 Tangy
28 Tease good-naturedly
29 Got acquainted
30 Striped cat
34 Poker bet
36 Recent, in combos
38 Vote in favor
39 From Hong Kong
41 Shaman's quest
42 Mullah's text
44 Curtain hanger
46 Large lizard
47 Champagne buckets
51 Quit flying
52 Proficient
53 Woof
55 Strong emotion
56 Recital piece
57 Fr. holy woman
58 Capt.'s heading
59 Mountain curve
60 Came down with

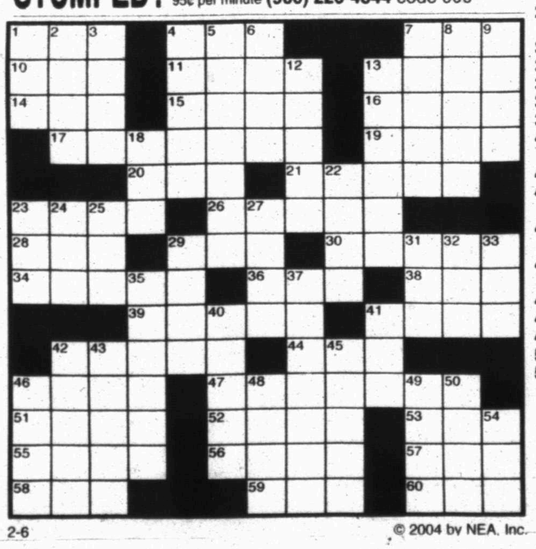
DOWN

1 Fish buy
2 With, to Henri
3 Rum-soaked cake
4 Kind of hat
5 Acrobat's bar
6 Blouse part
7 Washbowl
8 Hurts
9 Bambi, e.g.
12 Writing tables
13 Yellow fruit
18 Abolitionist — Turner
22 "Beetle Bailey" pooch
23 Mo. parts
24 Strike
25 Oklahoma town
27 Long-active volcano
29 Geologic formation
31 Loud noise
32 Casual farewell
33 Longing
35 Martial art
37 Signs up
40 Machu Picchu builders
41 Keats opus
42 Weights in Canada
43 Relish tray item
45 Low-fat spreads
46 Peril at sea
48 Woodwind
49 Not cautious
50 Tijuana Ms.
54 Served the meal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"CAN I GET OUT NOW, MOM? I'M CLEANER THAN THE WATER!"

Best Availabl

Lady for 2

Having already district title with tw the Snyder Lady T run their winning games and compl sweep of 2003 dis Lamesa at 6:30 to Gym.

The Lady Tige clinched the dis thanks to a 37-32 nole and a Lame loss to Denver Cit

Lamesa could ha the second playo win, but instead dr with Sweetwater.

When the tean Jan. 23, the Lady bled for a 49-42 vic

The Tigers (8-1

Top-r OT w

CHAPEL HILL For the second games, Chris Du big shot to keep D

The senior's rev 6.5 seconds left in the top-ranked Bl No. 17 North Ca overtime on Thur ing Duke its 16th

Last week, Du with 36.4 seconds Blue Devils hold o 56-49. Two game came up big agai tying 3-pointer McCants by racin and hitting a twist Jawad Williams.

"I don't think an teams could've ha overtime)," said D nine points and six to do both of us a

Shelden Willian and 12 rebounds 8-0 Atlantic Coas He had two of hi overtime and also big defensive pla minute to force a Tar Heels (13-6, 3

Daniel Ewing a for Duke, while Deng had 17 rebounds, and J.J. 14 points.

Duhon's layup fifth win in the la North Carolina's

Nati

EASTERN CO

Atlantic D	W	L
Philadelphia	28	12
New Jersey	28	14
N.Y. Islanders	26	21
N.Y. Rangers	20	24
Pittsburgh	11	36

Northeast	W	L
Toronto	30	14
Boston	27	14
Ottawa	28	15
Montreal	28	20
Buffalo	23	26

Southeast	W	L
Tampa Bay	28	17
Atlanta	21	27
Florida	18	23
Carolina	17	26
Washington	17	31

WESTERN CO

Central D	W	L
Detroit	31	15
Nashville	26	20
St. Louis	26	20
Columbus	15	28
Chicago	14	29

National

EASTERN CO

Atlantic D

New Jersey
New York
Boston
Miami
Philadelphia
Washington
Orlando

Central D

Indiana
Detroit
Milwaukee
New Orleans
Toronto
Cleveland
Atlanta
Chicago

WESTERN CO

Midwest

Minnesota
San Antonio
Dallas
Denver
Houston

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

Lady Tigers aim for 24th in a row

Having already sewn up the district title with two games to go, the Snyder Lady Tigers will try to run their winning streak to 24 games and complete the season sweep of 2003 district champion Lamesa at 6:30 tonight at Tiger Gym.

The Lady Tigers (25-2, 8-0) clinched the district Tuesday, thanks to a 37-32 win over Seminole and a Lamesa (16-10, 5-3) loss to Denver City.

Lamesa could have wrapped up the second playoff spot with a win, but instead dropped into a tie with Sweetwater.

When the teams squared off Jan. 23, the Lady Tigers scrambled for a 49-42 victory.

The Tigers (8-19, 0-6) desperately need a win, having lost seven in a row. They fell to Lamesa (10-16, 2-4) Jan. 23, 56-47.

The Ira varsity cagers host Sands tonight, with the girls getting started at 6:30 and Bulldogs tipping-off at 8.

The Bulldogs (11-8, 6-2) remain two games back of district leader Grady and a game ahead of rival Borden County for the other playoff spot in District 7.

The Hermleigh Lady Cardinals, who captured their first district win Tuesday with a 52-34 win over Blackwell, will try to win their second straight tonight when they travel to Westbrook for a 6:30 start.

The Cardinals will tip-off with the Wildcats at 8.



BUNDLED UP — Snyder varsity golfer Jake Cottrell putts on the second hole at the start of the 2004 Snyder Invitational golf tournament. Golfers were dressed for the winter weather, as temperatures hovered around 30 degrees this morning at Scurry County Golf Course. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Top-ranked Duke gets OT win over Tarheels

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — For the second time in three games, Chris Duhon made the big shot to keep Duke at No. 1.

The senior's reverse layup with 6.5 seconds left in overtime lifted the top-ranked Blue Devils past No. 17 North Carolina 83-81 in overtime on Thursday night, giving Duke its 16th straight win.

Last week, Duhon's 3-pointer with 36.4 seconds left helped the Blue Devils hold off Florida State 56-49. Two games later, Duhon came up big again, answering a tying 3-pointer from Rashad McCants by racing up the court and hitting a twisting shot against Jawad Williams.

"I don't think anybody on both teams could've handled (another overtime)," said Duhon, who had nine points and six assists. "I tried to do both of us a favor."

Shelden Williams had 22 points and 12 rebounds for Duke (19-1, 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference). He had two of his five blocks in overtime and also came up with a big defensive play in the final minute to force a turnover by the Tar Heels (13-6, 3-5).

Daniel Ewing added 19 points for Duke, while freshman Luol Deng had 17 points and 12 rebounds, and J.J. Redick added 14 points.

Duhon's layup gave Duke its fifth win in the last six years on North Carolina's home court.

First-year Tar Heels coach Roy Williams, a former assistant to Dean Smith, fell to 1-4 all-time against Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"That was a big-time college basketball game and it's tough saying that when you're on the short end," Williams said. "If I could coach to the enthusiasm we had in the building, I'd be one hell of a coach."

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 2 Stanford 81, Arizona St. 51; No. 8 Gonzaga 93, Pepperdine 73; California 87, No. 12 Arizona 83; and No. 24 Utah St. 57, Cal Poly SLO 43.

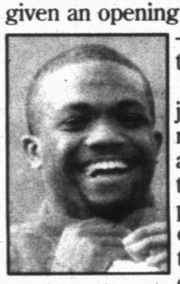
There was a buzz in the Smith Center minutes after the game ended. It was the noise a crowd makes when it's disappointed, yet still energized.

"You're told it's a rivalry and everything, but when you're on the court, the emotion of everybody — your teammates and the Carolina players — it's like you're giving it everything," Deng said. "It was just a fight from both teams and Chris made an unbelievable play to win it for us."

McCants scored 27 points for North Carolina, including the 3 with 13 seconds left that tied the game at 81. Sean May had 15 points and 21 rebounds for the Tar Heels, but was 7-for-18 from the field and missed a number of close-in shots.

Judge rules Clarett, other teenagers eligible for draft

NEW YORK (AP) — Ohio State star Maurice Clarett was given an opening to run through — all the way to the NFL.



Maurice Clarett

A federal judge gave the running back and other teenage football players the opportunity to turn pro by declaring Thursday that an NFL rule barring their eligibility violates antitrust law and "must be sacked."

"I was pleased that the rule was brought down," Clarett said at a news conference. "It gives kids an opportunity to choose."

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin said legal issues are so clearly in Clarett's favor a trial is unnecessary. The NFL said it will appeal, and it will probably try to block the ruling before the April draft.

Clarett's lawyer, Alan Milstein, called it a "total victory."

Clarett declined to say whether he'll enter the April draft after his lawyers advised him that Ohio State has warned even a declaration to join the NFL would rule out any chance of returning to college ball.

Not being able to play football the past year has been hard, Clarett said, but added that the time off allowed his body to rest.

"I've been playing football since I was 5," he said. "It's been stressful."

Jeff Pash, the executive vice president of the NFL, said the ruling left him "really surprised" but confident on appeal because its findings contradicted those of past court rulings.

Clarett sued the league last year to challenge its 1990 rule that a player must be out of high school three years to enter the draft.

The ruling, if it holds up on appeal, means that high school football players and college underclassmen will be able to make the jump to the pros just like their counterparts in the NBA.

Dozens of basketball players, including Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, have gone to the NBA straight after high school in recent years, becoming instant celebrities and signing shoe endorsement deals.

St. John's suspends top scorer after allegations

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The woeful season for the St. John's men's basketball team got even worse.

The school expelled senior Grady Reynolds and permanently suspended leading scorer Elijah Ingram, a sophomore who also faces expulsion, and disciplined four other players Thursday after a 38-year-old woman told Pittsburgh police she met several players at a strip club and was raped in a player's hotel room.

Pittsburgh police charged the woman, Sherri Ann Urbanek-Bach, of Astoria, N.Y., with fictitious reports, attempted extortion and prostitution after interviews with the woman and players.

"We believe financial gain was a motive in this case," Pittsburgh police Lt. Kevin Krause told reporters. "Evidence suggests there were demands for money. When the demands were not met, she filed her report."

According to police, several players went to a strip club after the Red Storm's 71-51 loss to Pittsburgh on Wednesday night. The woman told police she met the players around 2:30 a.m. Thursday, then went with them to a hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, where she told police she was raped.

Urbanek-Bach remained in custody early Friday awaiting arraignment. A telephone listing under her name in New York was disconnected and she could not be reached for comment.

Although the woman was charged and Pittsburgh police said no players would be charged with rape or sexual assault, St. John's disciplined the players "for violation of team rules and behavior inconsistent with St. John's mission and values." St. John's officials did not detail the alleged violations of team rules.

Sideline Views

by Bobby Allen



Saladgate won't go away.

In case you've been buried from the neck down in the Sahara all week, Texas Tech head coach Bob Knight and Tech Chancellor David Smith were in a very public verbal altercation at an "upscale grocery store" (whatever that means) in Lubbock Monday.

After reading the memo Smith wrote concerning his confrontation with Knight, and hearing Knight's non-apology the other day, several things are indisputable:

— Smith and Knight dislike each other.

— Knight continues to act like a four-year-old. From the idiotic, expletive-filled interview on ESPN up until this incident, Knight's behavior has become more erratic and more controversial. But it's nothing he hasn't done before — he just had not done it while at Tech.

— Knight instigated the shouting match. He can claim all he wants that he was provoked, but Smith approached him privately, and Knight made it public with his boorish response.

— Knight had the wrong reaction. The General's defenders say Smith should have known better than to approach Knight that way, given his history. But when your boss gives you compliment — even if you think it's backhanded — you don't shout in his face, especially in front of a dozen eyewitnesses.

— Knight berated Smith in such an aggressive manner that he had to be restrained by his friend, Tech athletic director Gerlad Myers.

— Knight got out of his car at a red light after the dust-up, abandoning it with the driver's door open on 50th Street and running across the road. For what purpose?

Bob Knight has done a lot of good things for the university. He has raised a ton of funds for the library and has shown a deft touch when dealing with individual fans. He has put Texas Tech basketball on the map, and continues to insist on discipline and accountability from his players.

Unfortunately, Knight does not insist on those same qualities from himself, and has never taken responsibility for his aberrant behavior.

Saying he should have shaken his head and walked away from his boss instead of shouting at him doesn't get a rose pinned on him.

Anyone else would have been — and should have been — fired on the spot.

The hero-worship for Knight — a great coach who has not won a championship in 17 years — remains a mystery, considering how often he has shown just what kind of person he truly is.

This is going to end badly for the coach and the university.

Better it should be sooner rather than later.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	28	12	11	5	72	158	123
New Jersey	28	14	10	1	67	123	100
N.Y. Islanders	26	21	5	2	59	153	135
N.Y. Rangers	20	24	7	4	51	143	157
Pittsburgh	11	36	5	3	30	109	207

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	30	14	8	3	71	152	131
Boston	27	14	11	4	69	142	128
Ottawa	28	15	7	4	67	180	120
Montreal	28	20	6	2	64	139	123
Buffalo	23	26	5	1	52	132	141

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	28	17	6	3	65	147	119
Atlanta	21	27	6	2	50	150	170
Florida	18	23	11	3	50	122	150
Carolina	17	26	10	2	46	105	138
Washington	17	31	5	2	41	129	173

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	31	15	8	2	72	181	131
Nashville	26	20	6	2	60	130	142
St. Louis	26	20	7	1	60	129	134
Columbus	15	28	8	3	41	112	153
Chicago	14	29	7	5	40	125	163

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	30	11	9	4	73	167	123
Vancouver	31	15	7	3	72	168	127
Calgary	26	20	5	3	60	132	123
Minnesota	19	20	15	2	55	123	125
Edmonton	22	24	8	1	53	141	144

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	26	13	11	5	68	138	111
Dallas	27	20	9	0	63	118	122
Los Angeles	21	15	13	5	60	145	139
Phoenix	18	19	14	3	53	136	148
Anaheim	17	23	8	7	49	119	148

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

Thursday's Games

Boston 6, Buffalo 2
Toronto 5, Ottawa 4, OT
Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 1
Montreal 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Vancouver 4, New Jersey 0
Detroit 3, Colorado 2, OT
Tampa Bay 5, Nashville 2
St. Louis 2, Calgary 1
San Jose 5, Phoenix 0

Sunday

All-Star Game at St. Paul, Minn., 2 p.m.

3-3A Basketball Standings

Team	Girls District W	L	Season W	L
*Snyder	25	2	8	0
Lamesa	16	10	5	3
Sweetwater	23	5	5	3
Denver City	13	13	3	5
Seminole	7	18	2	6
Merkel	4	23	1	7

*District Champion

Team	Boys District W	L	Season W	L
Merkel	23	4	6	0
Denver City	20	8	4	2
Sweetwater	13	9	3	3
Seminole	12	12	3	3
Lamesa	10	16	2	4
Snyder	8	19	0	6

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	27	20	.574	—
New York	23	27	.460	5½
Boston	22	28	.440	6½
Miami	21	29	.420	7½
Philadelphia	21	29	.420	7½
Washington	14	33	.298	13
Orlando	13	38	.255	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	36	14	.720	—
Detroit	33	17	.660	3
Milwaukee	26	22	.542	9
New Orleans	26	23	.531	9½
Toronto	23	24	.489	11½
Cleveland	19	30	.388	16½
Atlanta	16	34	.320	20
Chicago	14	36	.280	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	34	14	.708	—
San Antonio	33	18	.647	2½
Dallas	31	18	.633	3½
Denver	29	21	.580	6
Houston	27	21	.563	7
Memphis	27	21	.563	7
Utah	24	25	.490	10½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	34	12	.739	—
L.A. Lakers	29	18	.617	5½
Seattle	23	25	.479	12
L.A. Clippers	22	25	.468	12½
Portland	22	25	.468	12½
Golden State	20	27	.426	14½
Phoenix	18	33	.353	18½

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia 96, L.A. Lakers 73
San Antonio 96, Seattle 90

Today's Games

L.A. Clippers at Washington, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Lamesa, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys vs. Sands, 6:30 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls at Westbrook, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh boys vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls vs. Lamesa, 8 p.m.
SJHS B boys in Snyder Tournament
SJHS A boys at Lamesa Tournament
Baseball: WTC at NMJC, noon
Softball: WTC at Galveston Tournament
Golf: Snyder boys in Snyder Tournament
Snyder varsity girls at San Angleo

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder girls at Frenship Tournament
IJHS at Highland Tournament
Snyder frosh boys at Lamesa Tournament
SJHS B boys in Snyder Tournament
SJHS A boys at Lamesa Tournament
Baseball: WTC at NMJC, noon
Softball: WTC at Galveston Tournament
Golf: Snyder boys in Snyder Tournament
Snyder varsity girls at San Angleo
TaeKwonDo: Championships, Scurry County Coliseum,

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Thursday 5th Adults 1/2 Price 5pm - 9pm
Fishing Pond & Casting Kids Contest
Ladies Night Friday 6th from 5 to 9 pm Ladies Free
Free Parking • Best Buys of the Season • Special Financing
Thursday, February 5 • 5 - 9 p.m. • Gun Show Opens Friday
Friday, February 6 • 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Saturday, February 7 • 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, February 8 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Ector County Coliseum
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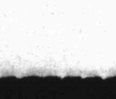
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Resume should demonstrate experience in leadership, management skills, accounting skills, and ability to communicate orally and in writing. Non-profit experience preferred. Send resume to:
Attn: Resource Dept.
P.O. Box 949C
Snyder, TX 79550

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Only experienced & qualified need apply. References required.
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207 Hwy 84 Bypass

Baby-sitter needed for 6 & 2 year olds, P/T from 5–10p.m. approx. 4 nights per week. Must have own transportation. Call 325-207-0255

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Truck drivers needed with oilfield experience. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truck driving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must.
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Laborers needed immediately for rail car repair in Roscoe, TX. Pay ranges from $8/hr. to $13/hr. Contact the Texas Workforce Center, 6200 College Ave., Room 101 (WTC Campus), Snyder, to fill out an application. No phone calls accepted. EOE

Part-time chair-side dental assistant needed 9a.m. – noon. Will train. Send resume to:
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Snyder, TX 79550

Rolling Plains Physicians Office
in Sweetwater has an opening for an x-ray technician, certification in mammography helpful. Benefit package includes PTO, holiday pay, 401K, health insurance. Interested parties may fax resume to (325)235-5925 or apply at TWC.

Snyder Healthcare Center
needs LVN's full-time & Dietary part-time. Apply in person, 5311 Big Spring Hwy.

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wanted to play for Sunday morning services, special evening services, & Wednesday evening choir practice. First Presbyterian Church, Snyder. Call church office at 573-6915, leave message.

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2619 College Ave. 573-2850

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Electric treadmill - like new, Coffee table, Clothes, Knick-knacks.

YARD SALE
212 35th St.
Friday & Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Kid's clothes – toddler, Lots of toys, etc. Free gas cook stove.

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Garage Sale
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2908 37th Brick 2-2, den/living area	$50's
2110 40th - Nice, Clean 3-1, FP	$30's
2906 37th - Firs Contract Pending	$20's
2800 Denison - Lovely home! - 3-2½, 2 living areas, 2 car garage	$100's
Cute - 210 33rd St.	$29.9T
212 28th Large 3-2, game room	$58T
2214 40th 3-1½-1	$39.5T
2101 41st Neat, clean, corner, 3-1-1cp	$30's
208 35th - Cute 2-1-1, dining	$23T
New! 2 story, 3-2, game room, 5 acres	$100's
2803 El Paso Great Location & Extra Nice!! 4-2, office	Reduced to $107.5T
Picture Perfect 3-2-2, metal fence, corner lot	$92T
3749 Avondale Updated/Daring 3-1¾, storage	$30's
Colonial Hill - 3-1¾-2	$74.5T
Wants Offer! 4003 Midland 4-2-2	$90's
2901 Westridge - Must See! 3-2-2LAs-2	$100's
4507 Galveston - Extra Nice - 3-2-2, pool	Call
109 34th Cute Contract Pending	$20's
2215 40th 3-1	Low $30's
2311 26th - Unique! 1-1, corner	$30's

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Large Family Home - 2807 Westridge 6 bdrm, 4 bath-4 car gar.	Reduced $175T
2800 Denison 3-2½-2 LA's-2	$146.9T
2609 37th 3-2½-2, 3 LA's	$107.5T
4517 Galveston 3-2-2, 2 LA's	$97.5T
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	Red. $87.5T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2	$87.5T
1601 Hilltop Lane 3-1-2cp	$49.5T
2212 28th 2-2-2LA's-2	$44.5T
4109 Eastr Contract Pending	$41.5T
New! 2214 40th 3-2-1	$39.5T
3749 Avondale 3-1¾	$39T
West 180 3-1-2	$31.5T
3766 Dalton 2-1	$28T
224 33rd 2-1-2 living areas	$25T
Mobile Home 4-2, country living	Call
150 Acres + 3-2-2LA's	Call for details
80 Acres on Pleas SOLD Rd	$52.5T
Several residential lots, E. 35th St.	Call
McBeth Pecan Farm - House, 15+ acres, some equipment included	Reduced
E. 180 Lots avail. w/mobile hook-ups	Call
Car Lot w/comm. bldg 709 Hwy 180	$40T
1402 College - Commercial lot	$8T
Westerner Golfland	Call for details
600 37th Large Commercial Bldg.	Call
Commercial Bldg - College Ave	Call
Large comm. bldg 1822 26th	$44.5T
Comm. bldg in good shape 1818 26th	$35T

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Wenona Evans 573-8165
Bill Dryden 573-9739
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Country 4 acres, 7 mi. East, 4-2-1, brick..$55T
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3-1¾-2cp, 2 storage areas, 220 35th...$35T
Fluvanna 3-2, den on .34 A's water well Bargain
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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80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building .....Call
Good Shop Bldg. or Garage 1802 College $16T
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3401 Houston CONTRACT PENDING	$62T
2803 El Paso 4-2, office, lrg. CP	Reduced Call
3311 Ave. U 3- CONTRACT PENDING	$82.5T
Nice! 2701 47th CONTRACT PENDING	$150T
2609 37th 3-2¾-2	$107.5T
2205 42nd 3-1-1 plus	$34T
3104 41st 3-1¾-2cp, sprinkler syst	$53T
Country - For Sale or Rent: 378 CR 251 2-1-1, 2 acres	Reduced $30T
403 36th 3-2- CONTRACT PENDING	$49.5T
Doublewide in Country 4-2, nice, leased land	Call

COMMERCIAL

1801 22nd	CALL
1802 College Ave. garage/warehouse	$16T
1701 25th St	$90T
Commercial for rent or lease W. 37th	$800/mo.
Commercial: 2005 26th St	$45T
Shop w/2 offices & waiting room, fenced yard, .87 A's 23rd St. Old Gail Rd.	Call
Local restaurant - great location	Reduced

COUNTRY

5 Acres, Mobile home, 2-1, water well, shop, 4 miles west of Hermleigh	Reduced $16T
Reduced 3-2-2 brick home, 50 acres - 40 acres pasture & 8 acres orchard NE of Snyder on CR 1105	$98T
New - Ira - Brick 3-2-2, 1 acre	Call

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160 Acre Farm - East of Dunn, CR 4136	$475/Acre
Get-a-way or Home Site - .7.5 acres, Round Top Acres - tank stocked w/fish, dock 2 water wells, fenced, 2 storage bldgs.	Call
Corner Lot 1910 17th St	$3,200
960 Acres -Ira- 480 A's CRP & 480 A's shinnery, brick 4-3, lrg. shop, excellent quail hunting	Call
152 Acres - Farm - East of Dunn on CR 4136	$450/acre
Round Top Acres 5 to 21 acre tracts	Owner Finance
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Somber memorial held for soldiers killed in Iraq crash

FORT CARSON, Colo. (AP) — Four of the nine soldiers killed when their helicopter went down in Iraq last month were memorialized Thursday as modest heroes dedicated to saving lives — American and Iraqi.

"They asked for nothing and in a moment gave everything," Maj. William LaChance, commander of the 571st Medical Company based at Fort Carson, said in a letter read at a service attended by nearly 700 people.

The Jan. 8 crash near Fallujah killed five other U.S. soldiers whom the four-member medical evacuation team was taking for treatment.

Many soldiers, including LaChance, say they believed the helicopter was shot down, despite being marked with a red cross. The Army has not determined the cause of the crash, a Fort Carson spokesman said.

The dead were fondly recalled Thursday not only as expert pilots and medics, but as loving husbands, boyfriends and fathers.

Chief Warrant Officer Philip A. Johnson Jr., 31, of Mobile, Ala., was the pilot in charge that day. He was accompanied by pilot Chief Warrant Officer Ian D. Manuel, 23, of Jacksonville, Fla., and two medics: Sgt. Michael A. DiRaimondo, 22, of Simi Valley, Calif., and Sgt. Christopher A. Golby, 26, of Johnstown, Pa.

Ronald Golby said his son loved to fly, and that he and his wife, Dawn, supported their son's choice to enter the Army to help pay for an education.

"We expected he was fairly safe from rockets because of the red cross," said Golby, wearing a pin for the 571st. "It's unheard of for somebody to fire on a red cross vehicle."

In front of the crowd stood a wooden podium marked with symbols of grief —. photographs of the men, four pairs of empty boots, guns topped with helmets and dog tags hanging from trigger guards.

Brother is sentenced to life in prison for killing

FORT WORTH (AP) — One of two brothers charged with murder in the apparent random shooting death of a stranger has been sentenced to life in prison.

Claude E. Thomas, a 30-year-old plumber, was sentenced by jurors after about an hour of deliberation Thursday.

On Nov. 13, 2002, Claude Thomas and his brother, Billy Thomas, 31, were driving around town with shotguns when they passed Eric Baker, who was drinking beer with a woman in an alley.

According to prosecutors, Claude Thomas stopped a few feet from Baker, pointed a shotgun out the driver's side window and shot Baker in the head.

Defense attorneys argued that it was Billy Thomas who shot Baker, not Claude. Prosecutors, meanwhile, described Claude Thomas as "a heartless, heartless coward. He is the man you should fear most. Give this man a life sentence. He earned it," prosecutor Mike Parrish said.

Billy Thomas also faces a murder trial in Baker's death. He remains in the Tarrant County Jail.

The Thomas brothers also have been charged with attempted murder for shooting a bicyclist about an hour before Baker was shot.

Dispatcher alleges former chief instituted no-complaint policy

TEXAS CITY (AP) — A police dispatcher says in a formal grievance that the former police chief ordered civilian workers to never lodge sexual harassment or other complaints against police officers.

In the grievance filed Thursday, Texas City police dispatcher Sharon Fox said the orders came from Jerry Purdon, who retired as chief in December 2002.

"We were civilians, trying to make complaints about the sexual harassment going on at the police department," Fox said today in the Houston Chronicle. "We were advised that we were not allowed to make accusations against any officer because officers stick with officers and we would lose and no longer have our jobs."

Fox said she filed a grievance after Purdon called the dispatch office on Wednesday and asked that he speak with a female dispatcher instead of the male who answered.

"He said, 'Just to let you know, this is not a sexual harassment call,'" Fox said.

Fox said Purdon asked for and received phone numbers for several other police departments. She said she took Purdon's statement to her as a subtle threat.

Purdon acknowledged making the call, but declined to discuss specifics of the conversation.

"That's none of your business," he said.

Purdon took a part-time job as the city's homeland security director after retiring from the chief's job. According to the newspaper, he resigned Thursday.

Tuesday, acting Texas City Police Chief Anthony Morgan was accused of sexually harassing female employees and other women in the past decade, including state District Judge Susan Criss.

Markets Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	15.90	15.51	15.80	+ .17
AT&T Corp	19.32	19.07	19.29	+ .24
Albertsons	23.65	23.35	23.44	—.07
Alltel	49.76	49.32	49.68	+ .23
AmEl Pw	33.13	32.76	32.95	+ .15
AndarkPtr	49.28	48.50	48.84	+ .19
ATMOS Egy	25.05	24.87	24.96	+ .09
Aviall	15.14	14.88	15.14	+ .17
BP PLC	47.27	46.68	47.25	—.02
BakerHughes	35.25	34.58	34.93	+ .08
Bank of Amer	82.85	82.00	82.74	+ .74
BellSouth	29.98	29.38	29.96	+ .31
BurlNoSFe	32.48	32.00	32.45	+ .65
Caterpillar	78.17	76.40	78.10	+ 1.78
CenterPoint	10.19	10.06	10.15	+ .06
ChevronTex	85.41	84.72	85.13	+ .10
Citigroup	49.25	48.21	49.14	+ 1.03
CocaCola	51.00	50.23	50.83	+ .45
ColgatePal	54.90	54.52	54.65	+ .03
CmclMetals	28.12	27.85	28.12	+ .11
ConocoPhill	65.90	65.05	65.55	+ .27
Cooper Inds	56.80	55.87	56.62	+ .70
DaimlrChry	46.77	46.10	46.74	+ .41
DeltaAirLines	9.78	9.59	9.71	+ .05
Dillards Inc	17.50	17.00	17.38	+ .33
DowChem	42.45	41.60	42.43	+ .52
DuPont	44.34	43.96	44.25	+ .08
EastmanChem	40.14	39.74	40.07	+ .27
EstKodak	29.44	28.74	29.41	+ .45
EDS Corp	22.50	21.40	21.94	—1.35
Entergy	59.30	58.83	59.11	+ .25
ExxonMobil	40.53	40.10	40.33	—.05
FootLocker	24.00	23.00	23.77	—.09
GenDynam	96.91	95.13	96.89	+ 1.38
GenElec	33.60	32.98	33.33	—.19
GenMills	45.20	44.85	45.09	+ .21
GenMotors	48.87	47.98	48.87	+ .36
GaPacific	27.90	26.85	27.89	+ .90
Goodrich	29.72	29.00	29.52	+ .30
Goodyear	9.75	9.25	9.69	+ .46
GtAtlPac	7.97	7.83	7.92	—.02
Halliburtn	29.59	29.12	29.40	
Hanson PLC	39.46	39.20	39.41	+ .24
HarteHanks	22.35	22.22	22.31	—.03
HomeDepot	36.36	35.58	36.23	+ .73
HoneywellIntl	35.98	35.31	35.89	+ .41
IBM	99.24	98.25	98.96	+ .26
IntlPaper	42.14	41.09	42.10	+ .80
JohnsonJn	54.65	54.27	54.47	—.03
KinderMorg	59.66	59.20	59.51	+ .15
Kroger Co	18.95	18.69	18.94	+ .10
LockheedM	49.70	49.10	49.30	—.40
Lowes Cos	54.57	53.30	54.50	+ .81
Lubys	3.41	3.40	3.40	—.03
LucentTech	4.34	4.25	4.31	+ .08
MarathonOil	32.06	31.65	32.00	+ .34
MayDeptStr	34.00	33.47	33.65	+ .15
Medtronic	47.95	47.25	47.78	+ .53
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TXU Corp	23.69	23.35	23.64	+ .21
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TexInd	34.76	34.34	34.75	+ .25
TexasInst	30.80	30.10	30.78	+ .75
Textron	55.65	54.37	55.50	+ 1.12
TimeWarner	17.54	17.26	17.48	+ .20
TrinityInds	31.44	30.90	31.44	+ .48
TylerTech	9.30	9.07	9.22	+ .07
UnionPacif	64.80	63.97	64.73	+ .41
USSteel	33.41	32.36	32.99	+ 1.12
UnitedTech	94.70	92.65	94.26	—.24
Unocal	35.45	35.12	35.29	+ .07
VerizonComm	37.18	36.30	37.17	+ .28
WalMart	56.95	56.00	56.85	+ .60
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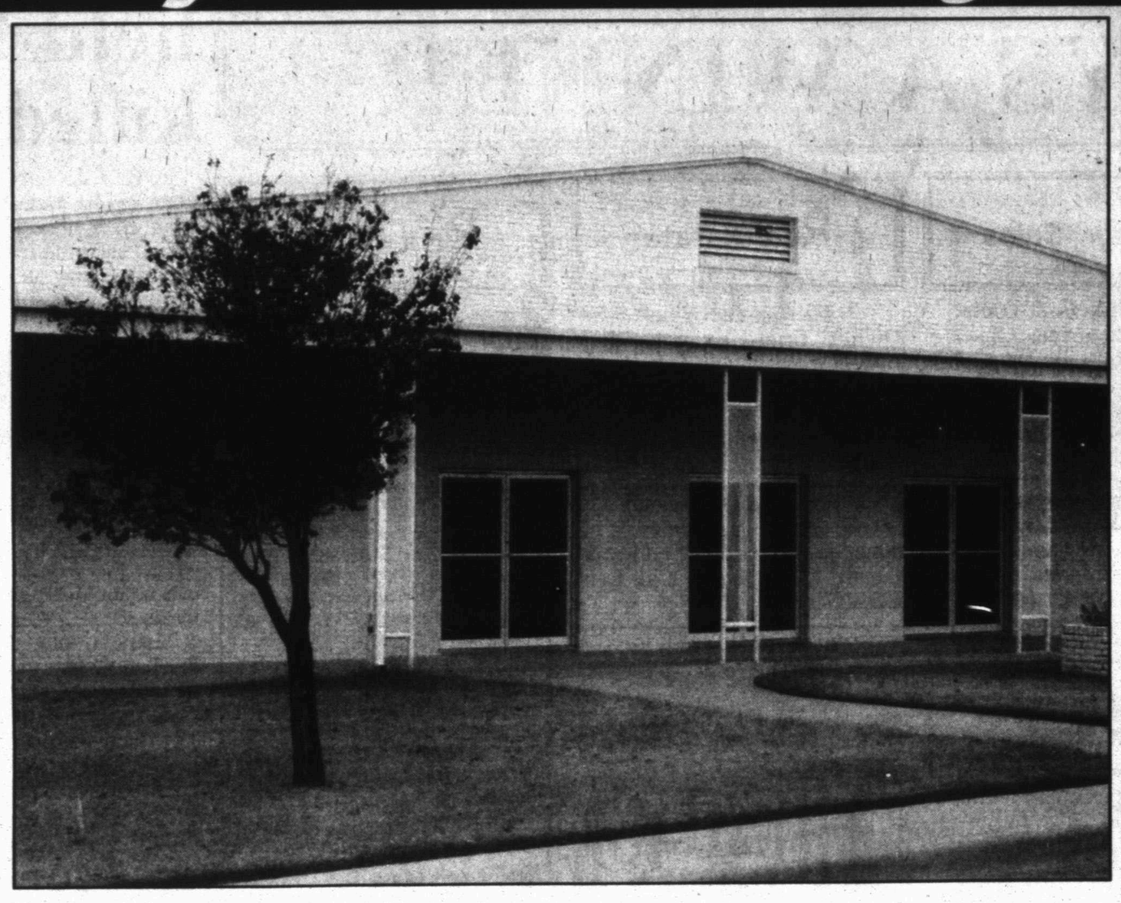
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CHEERLEADERS VISIT — Four second grade classes at Stanfield were treated to a special program by Snyder High School cheerleaders who demonstrated how to perform stunts with push and pull motions, The crowd-pleasing stunts were the "basket toss" and the "cradle catch that used spotters and flyers. They closed the program with a spirit generating cheer using clapping and stomping. Stanfield teachers include Carolyn Martin, Sheila Collier, Laura Hamby and Elvira Gonzales. (Contributed Photos)

Writing to Congress might be final victim of bioterror attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Somewhere in America, a classroom of children is likely busy scribbling letters to Congress, perhaps asking for a flag that flew over the Capitol for their school or legislation outlawing beets at dinnertime.

Or an elderly woman, using careful penmanship, may be pleading to her congresswoman to get a local post office renamed after one of her heroes, or to get help with a Social Security dispute.

These could be the ultimate victims of this week's ricin attack on the Senate, the second time in history — both in the past 28 months — that the U.S. Capitol mail has shut down because of a letter laced with poisonous white powder.

Some lawmakers are now questioning whether it will ever be safe again to open and read unsolicited letters from their constituents.

Despite the flood of e-mails, faxes and telephone calls that Congress receives daily, handwritten and typed letters are still the main way members of the House and Senate correspond with the people who elected them.

"Most people still send letters, about 5,000 a week in my office here in Washington, so it's still the principal method by which people will communicate with us," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio.

No one among the several thousand employees of Congress became ill this week from the latest attack by mail. But dozens of people had to be decontaminated and three Senate office buildings were shut down after an intern in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's office found a suspicious white powder while going through letters in his mailroom.

The powder tested positive for ricin, a deadly poison relatively easy to make from castor beans. More than 6,000 workers were locked out their offices for two days, many of them longer, as experts collected, tested and likely destroyed unopened letters throughout the Capitol to ensure no others posed a biohazard.

It was the second time since October 2001 that congressional interns opening letters have proved to be the weak point in the Capitol's security. The targets of anthrax-laced letters back then were Frist's predecessor as majority leader, Democratic Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

"Something has to be done, because we can't continue to put these young interns in danger like this," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate Rules Committee.

Lott is looking at new computer technology already being tested in the House for scanning letters and delivering them to lawmakers' offices digitally.

However, many worry that any further change would make pen and paper the slowest and most unreliable way to talk to Congress. After the 2001 anthrax attack, Congress decided to irradiate most mail, delaying its arrival by two weeks on average.

Often, letters from their constituents are yellowed or shredded by the decontamination screening, if they show up at all, lawmakers complain. And nothing angers people more than writing to Congress and not getting a response.

"I just received in, I think either October or November, a Christmas card from December 2001. That was the postmark on it, December 2001," said Olympia Snow, R-Maine. "And people wonder why we have a problem turning around our mail — not that part of it isn't our fault."

Letters have been a key element of the Capitol since it opened in 1800.

Woman shot in face testifies in murder trial in Michigan

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — The prosecution's key witness in the murder trial of two men accused of killing a Michigan hotel clerk told jurors that she was shot in the face as she begged for her life.

Rachel Joost, a 28-year-old computer consultant from Cedar Park, Texas arrived in the Detroit area the night of Sept. 1 and was looking forward to checking in at the Troy Holiday Inn.

When she arrived, she found a dead hotel clerk and a man with a gun.

"I pleaded for my life," she said in court Thursday. "I heard a gunshot, I fell to the floor. ..."

As the gunman stood over her pulling the trigger again and again, the gun jamming, she closed her eyes, "pretending to be dead."

John Spratt, 30, of Oak Park and Brandon Burns-Perry, 17, of Detroit and a third man, Thomas Jackson, 24, of Detroit, are charged with murdering hotel clerk Michelle Eberhard, 35, of Redford Township, during an early morning robbery Sept. 2.

Jackson also is accused of shooting Joost. He will stand trial Feb. 23, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Prosecutors contend the three men planned the robbery, in part for money and also as revenge, because Jackson had been fired from his job at the hotel six months earlier.

The men, and a woman, Shirley Haywood, 36, of Detroit drove to the hotel around midnight, Sept. 1, assistant prosecutor Marc Barron told jurors.

After tying up Eberhard with a phone cord and fatally shooting her in the head, the two men left with about $500 in cash, with Haywood driving the getaway car, prosecutors contend.

Pratt told police he became worried that he had left fingerprints on the phone cord, and he, Haywood and Jackson returned to the hotel to retrieve the cord.

Joost was sitting in the deserted lobby, wondering where the clerk was, when Haywood and Jackson came in. Jackson showed her his gun, then led her to a back room, where Eberhard lay dead on the floor. Then, she said, he turned the gun on her.

Joost said that as she lay wounded on the floor, she waited until she could no longer hear the men, then ran out of the room and called her husband in Texas on her cell phone. He told her to call 911.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004

In the year ahead, it behooves you to build a sturdier and more substantial foundation of knowledge pertaining to your chosen field of endeavor. Your efforts will enhance your expertise and give you an edge over others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Regardless of the difficulty of a challenge, you are capable of overcoming the toughest of obstacles today. If your work or career is involved, don't take this day off.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be extra considerate and attentive to people you encounter socially today. Something of consequence to you personally can result through a new chum.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — All tasks that need to be taken care of today that could affect your family's comforts should be given top priority. Put them at the top of your agenda instead of merely attempting to fit them in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone that you are very fond of and who has great respect for your input may come to you today for some advice. The kindest way you could help this person is to level with him or her.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Provided you stay in familiar areas where you have some experience, material conditions can turn out well for you today. Gains are likely to be garnered from sources you previously tapped.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — One of your greatest assets today will be in problem-solving, whether it is your own predicament or someone else's. Once you come up with a solution, follow it through to the letter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — This could be one of those days where old debts are being repaid. In fact, something of value to which you're entitled (but has been frustratingly delayed) may come through for you today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — An old project on which you've worked hard and diligently has good chances for showing a successful completion today. Put your hand to doing what needs doing and see what happens.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be careful today not to tip your hand prematurely in a competitive career situation in which you may find yourself today. Let the other person play the cards first; hold your trump to the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You could be on a roll where building new friendships is concerned, and today is a perfect day to cultivate someone's fellowship you'd like to acquire. Treat this person warmly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Owing to the assistance and input of another, you may have a chance today to fulfill an ambitious objective you've been harboring. This person will help supply you with the know-how you lack.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Base any important decision on the practical aspect of the issue, not hopes or maybes, and you shouldn't have any trouble resolving it today. You won't go wrong by being realistic.

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.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Pinpointing the risk of heart disease

DEAR DR. GOTT: My grandfather and father died from heart attacks in their early 50s. I'm now 45 and worry a great deal about whether I, too, may be developing coronary artery disease, although I have no symptoms and passed a stress test with flying colors. Is there any simple test that will tell whether I am at risk?

DEAR READER: A substance in the body, called C-reactive protein (CRP), is creating a great deal of interest as a novel biomarker for coronary artery atherosclerosis.

CRP levels in the blood are elevated as a result of many kinds of inflammation, including infection, connective tissue diseases (such as lupus), obesity, malignancies, smoking — and coronary artery disease. Therefore, in the presence of elevated CRP in people who have no other identifiable causes, researchers have discovered that this protein is an easy and helpful method of discovering hidden coronary disease, as well as providing a way to monitor patients with known coronary blockages.

Consequently, in your case, this simple blood test would, if positive, assist your doctor in addressing the issue you raised: whether you may have inherited a gene for premature heart disease. A positive test would also provide a compelling reason for you to alter any risk factors, such as overweight, smoking, high cholesterol levels and a sedentary lifestyle. Ask your primary care physician about this.

Although there are, as yet, no formal guidelines about the use of CRP in tracking the general population, many authorities are now urging the inclusion of CRP in routine, periodic blood sampling, along with measurement of blood fats and PSA, a test for prostate cancer.

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.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been told that Xanax can cause cancer of the pancreas. Is this true?

DEAR READER: Not to my knowledge. Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication, is a safe drug, but does have the possibility of habituation if used regularly or in high dosages.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I began hormone replacement therapy (HRT) at 49 but stopped at 56 because of media warnings about cancer risk. Although I have been able to control my hot flashes by taking a 55-milligram soy tablet each day, I worry that this natural product may have the same potential for harm that HRT has. Am I overreacting?

DEAR READER: Yes. To my knowledge, soy and other plant-based phyto-estrogens do not, like traditional HRT, lead to cancer, heart disease and other noteworthy complications. While you may have to take the soy for several years, you should suffer no ill effects or negative consequences.

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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MOVIES Book of the Best

BUTTERFLY EFFECT R

. A young man struggling with the psychological effects of sublimated childhood memories devises a technique of traveling back in time to inhabit his childhood body, but he finds that every trip back has unintended results on his present self, leading him to travel back again and again, trying to repair the damage that he's only making worse and worse. **Starring: Ashton Kutcher, Amy Smart, Eldon Henson, Eric Stoltz**

ALONG CAME POLLY PG13

Ben Stiller plays risk-averse Reuben Feffer, whose best-laid plans for life and love careen wildly off track when his bride dumps him on their honeymoon. Stunned, humiliated and in the grip of acute indigestion, Reuben plans to play it safer than ever. But a chance encounter childhood friend named Polly shoots him into a whirlwind living in the moment. **Starring: Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston, Debra Messing, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Hank Azaria**

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Investigators widen search for ricin source

WASHINGTON (AP) — Searches of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's offices in Tennessee have uncovered no ricin or other evidence that might explain how the poison wound up in his Capitol Hill mailroom, officials said today.

The senator's six offices in Tennessee reopened Thursday after being closed for two days while the FBI and other investigators checked the mail and searched for other evidence. Nothing was found, said a federal law enforcement source speaking on condition of anonymity.

The inability to locate a piece of mail connected to the Senate ricin scare has led investigators to expand their probe to include the possibility that someone placed the poison in the mailroom in Frist's Washington office or that it arrived in an envelope or package that moved through the office before the poison was discovered Monday afternoon.

"We are taking a look at every possible angle," said Michael Mason, chief of the FBI's Washington field office.

Mail has been the primary focus of the probe since an intern found a small amount of ricin on a mail-sorting machine in Frist's office. No further ricin or other evidence was in the stacks of letters nearby.

Investigators now must consider if the ricin was placed on the machine by someone or if it had spilled out of an older letter and been there for a long time. If so, investigators would have to trace the paths of these older letters.

Bomb in Moscow subway car kills dozens of people

MOSCOW (AP) — A bomb ripped through a Moscow subway car during rush hour this morning, killing 39 people and wounding more than 120 in what some reports called a suicide attack. It was the deadliest terrorist blast in the capital since Russia launched its second war in Chechnya.

President Vladimir Putin blamed the explosion on Chechen rebels and said it was aimed at sowing chaos before next month's presidential election.

"Russia doesn't conduct negotiations with terrorists — it destroys them," Putin said.

Moscow has been on alert following a series of suicide bombings that officials have blamed on Chechen rebels.

Today's blast struck the second car of a train after it pulled away from the Avtozavodskaya station, heading northwest toward the Paveletskaya station on the Moscow metro's busy circle line. After the explosion, the train traveled several hundred more feet before coming to a stop, police spokesman Kirill Mazurin said in a TV interview.

The blast was equivalent to 11 pounds of TNT, said Deputy Mayor Valery Shantsev.

The Interfax news agency quoted unidentified police sources as saying the attack was carried out by a female suicide bomber. The agency reported authorities have a videotape of the suspected attacker and her alleged accomplice standing on a platform before boarding the train.

Shantsev said investigators had not found shrapnel, which usually fills suicide bombers' explosives. He said that the bomb had likely been in a suitcase or backpack on the floor of the subway car, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Interfax later quoted a police source as saying a suicide bomber was only "one of the most probable versions" and that there was no information on whether it was a man or a woman.

Police issued a composite sketch of a man accused of involvement in the bombing.

Lawmaker Valery Draganov, who represents the Avtozavodskaya district, told Echo of Moscow radio that body parts were scattered along the tracks. Inside the badly damaged train, bodies covered in soot sat side-by-side still in their seats.

The line where the explosion occurred is one of Moscow's deepest, and the injured were brought up on stretchers on the long escalators to ambulances crowded outside the Avtozavodskaya station, southeast of downtown Moscow.

Tenet speech leaves questions unanswered about use of data

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director George Tenet says intelligence analysts gave the White House an objective view of the threat posed by Iraq. Tenet didn't answer a question emerging as a top campaign issue: Did the Bush administration accurately describe that intelligence in making the case for war?

Tenet offered a forceful defense of prewar intelligence in a speech at Georgetown University on Thursday, one day before President Bush had been expected to name a commission to examine intelligence failures in Iraq and elsewhere. Final details of the commission were still being worked out this morning, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, and it was not clear when an announcement would be made.

This morning, Bush met with Charles Duelfer, who is taking over the weapons search in Iraq, and told him that he "wants him to find the truth ... it is important that we know all the facts," McClellan said.

Sensing a campaign issue in this election year, Democrats have been clamoring to find out whether the White House pressured analysts or manipulated intelligence, but it's not clear whether the commission will address those areas.

Democrats have questioned the independence of the commission, since all nine members will be named by Bush. McClellan said "I think you can expect that the president will appoint highly qualified individuals with integrity who have a lot of experience to bring to the table."

Administration officials say that in addition to assessing how well U.S. intelligence did in determining the existence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the commission also will look at the bigger picture of fighting terrorism and monitoring U.S. adversaries, such as those in Iran and North Korea.

The White House has yet to reveal the names of any of the commission members, but an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., would be one.

David Kay, the former CIA adviser for the Iraqi weapons search, said Thursday that the commission should look into whether political leaders manipulated intelligence data.

More endorsements for Kerry

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — Democratic presidential frontrunner John Kerry picked up the support of former rival Dick Gephardt and his labor-union base today while his closest opponents for the party's nomination exchanged negative words in the South.

"I'm here today adding my voice to all of yours to say that we want and need this man to be the next president of the United States," Gephardt said, standing at Kerry's side.

The former House Democratic leader, who quit the race after Iowa's caucuses, said Kerry will push for better health care and offers the best chance to defeat President Bush.

"We must win the White House," the Missouri lawmaker said. He delivered his endorsement in this blue-collar suburb of Detroit, the base of what Gephardt had hoped would be a successful Michigan caucus campaign. Instead, he strode to the stage of a banquet hall with Kerry and asked a crowd of just 200 to support his former rival.

"Over the course of the campaign, I found that we shared common goals," Gephardt said. Ignoring months of public and private sparring, Kerry asserted that he, Gephardt and their staffs had never "traded a negative" comment.

Man arrested on Liberty Co. warrant; 2 accidents worked

Arrest

DPS troopers took a 24-year-old man into custody in the 900 block of 25th St. at 3:17 p.m. Thursday on a warrant from Liberty County for Class B theft and failure to appear.

Accidents

Two accidents occurred in Snyder on Thursday.

The first was a two-vehicle minor at 3600 College Ave. at 2 p.m. The mishap involved a 1986 Ford driven by Eugene McBeth, 76, 210 E. 27th St. and a 2001 Chevrolet driven by JoAnn Niedecken, 68, 1911 Martha Ann Blvd.

A motorcycle accident involving a 2003 Honda VTX 1300 was reported in the 4500 block of Galveston at 6:27 p.m. Cory Grafton Cochran, 18, 4508 Galveston, was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Burglary

An employee of the VFW reported at 1:35 a.m. this morning a deposit bag with the day's receipts missing and finding an ex-employee hiding in a bathroom stall. An offense report for felony burglary of a building was submitted.

Theft

An employee of the city landfill reported a theft at 10:25 a.m. Thursday. An air compressor had been taken and an offense report for state jail felony theft was submitted.

At 8:22 p.m. Thursday, a theft was reported at a home at 3009 Ave. N.

Telephone harassment

A woman reported receiving harassing phone calls from another subject at 1:53 p.m. Thursday. A report for assault by threats was filed.

Family disturbance

A caller reported a disturbance at a home on Rose Circle at 1:04 p.m. Thursday. A couple was involved in a verbal disagreement over a child custody issue.

A woman reported having trouble with her husband at her home on Ave. J at 10:32 p.m. Thursday.

Loud music

A complaint of loud music in the 1200 block of 26th St. was received at 2:15 a.m. this morning. Officers located the source and advised them to lower the volume.

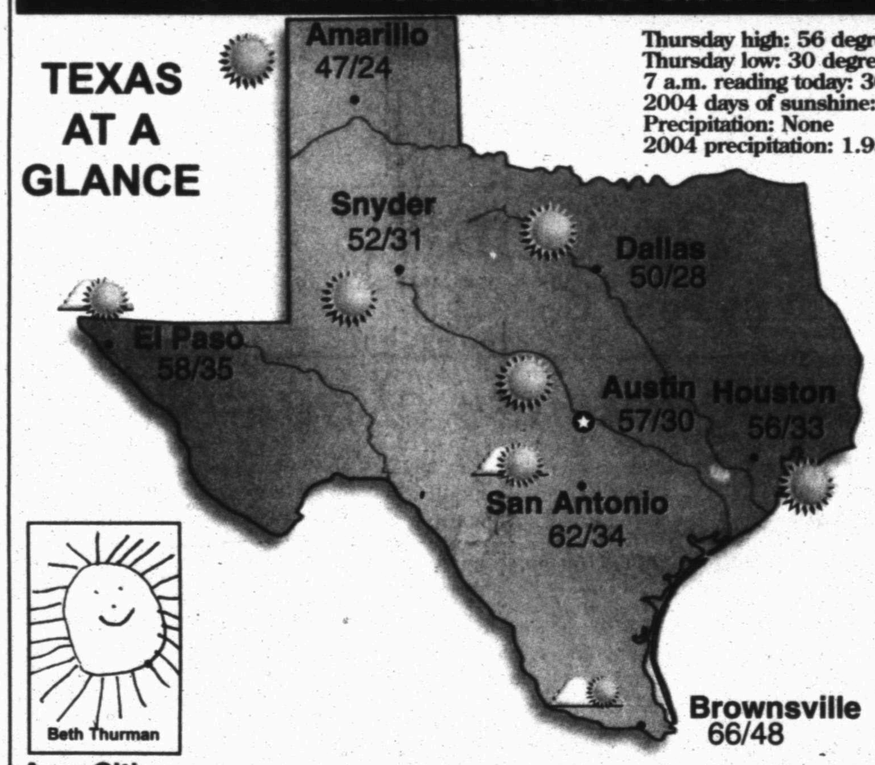
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 2/7	Sun 2/8	Mon 2/9
52/31	54/36	53/28
Mainly sunny. High 52F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.
Sunrise 7:34 AM / Sunset 6:22 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM / Sunset 6:23 PM	Sunrise 7:33 AM / Sunset 6:23 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Thursday high: 56 degrees
Thursday low: 30 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 30 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 35 of 36
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 1.95 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	52	31	sunny	El Paso	58	35	mst sunny	Midland	55	34	sunny
Amarillo	47	24	sunny	Fort Stockton	57	36	mst sunny	Raymondville	65	44	pt sunny
Austin	57	30	sunny	Gainesville	47	23	sunny	Rosenberg	56	32	sunny
Beaumont	55	31	sunny	Greenville	48	24	sunny	San Antonio	62	34	mst sunny
Brownsville	66	48	pt sunny	Houston	56	33	sunny	San Marcos	59	30	sunny
Brownwood	54	29	sunny	Kingsville	64	42	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	25	sunny
Corpus Christi	61	42	mst sunny	Livingston	54	26	sunny	Sweetwater	53	33	sunny
Corsicana	51	27	sunny	Longview	51	25	sunny	Tyler	50	25	sunny
Dallas	50	28	sunny	Lubbock	53	28	sunny	Weatherford	50	25	sunny
Del Rio	63	38	mst sunny	Lufkin	55	26	sunny	Wichita Falls	49	27	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	42	24	windy	Houston	56	33	sunny	Phoenix	68	42	pt sunny
Boston	41	22	windy	Los Angeles	68	49	mst sunny	San Francisco	56	43	mst sunny
Chicago	27	2	sn shower	Miami	78	51	t-storm	Seattle	48	38	rain
Dallas	50	28	sunny	Minneapolis	17	-1	mst sunny	St. Louis	26	7	pt sunny
Denver	41	18	mst sunny	New York	44	21	windy	Washington, DC	47	22	windy

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 28

UV Index

Sat 2/7	Sun 2/8	Mon 2/9
5	4	4
Moderate	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

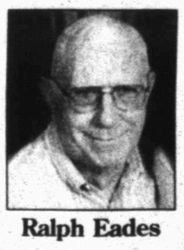
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Obituaries

Ralph Eades

1926-2004

Ralph Eades, longtime Snyder resident, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock after a sudden illness.



Ralph Eades

Funeral service for Mr. Eades, 77, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the East Side Church of Christ with Tom Holcomb, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in the Dunn Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born on Feb. 12, 1926 in Snyder, he married Betty Jo Crabtree on Nov. 25, 1948 in Snyder. She died Sept. 10, 1998. Mr. Eades was retired after 33 years with Sun Oil Co. where he was a mechanic. He also retired from Wal-Mart in September, 2003, after 13 years service.

His parents, John and Drucilla Belle Eades, two sisters and 10 brothers preceded him in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Peggy Eades of Colorado City; a son and daughter-in-law, Ricky and Diane Eades of San Angelo; five grandchildren and their spouses, Clay and Kassandra Eades of Colorado City, Becky and Robert Garza of Wichita Falls, Amy Eades and Leslie Eades, both of Colorado City; and Megan Eades of San Angelo; and three great-grandsons, Keelan and Keegan Eades of Colorado City and Mason Garza of Wichita Falls.

Family visitation will be from 7 to 8 this evening at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials to the West Texas Rehab Center, 4601 Hartford St. in Abilene, 79605.

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