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EL PASO TX 79902

Forget Them Not...

Memorial Day, May 27, 1996

INSIDE

Six Flags Installs Metal Dectector 3
Comic Page 4
Lazier Wins Indy 500 5
Should "Free Willy" Go Free 8
Residents, Police Tackle Crime 9

WT-Int. Crude - $21.63

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

May 27, 1996
Vol. 47 No. 23
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Kyler Billingsley

Rural bankers struggling to ward off drought crisis

CANADIAN — Banker Jay Godwin jumps from his four-wheel-drive Chevrolet Suburban and crouches down on the ground of Fred Hale's cow pasture. He snaps open his pocketknife and begins digging in the dirt. Soft puffs of dust rise around the blade as a black bull lumbers by.

"Nothing but talcum powder," says Godwin, digging a little deeper. "Not a sign of moisture."

It may not look like it, but Godwin is conducting vital bank business. An important part of his job as president of First State Bank in this east Panhandle town is to assess the worth of the people who want to borrow money, and that includes knowing the condition of their cow pastures. Never in the 43-year history of his bank has that task been more complicated, or more crucial.

As farmers and ranchers buckle under financial hardships brought on by drought, mercurial markets and rising costs, agricultural lenders across Texas are becoming more cautious in an effort to ward off what some say could become a rural banking crisis.

Danny Klinefelter, an economist and finance specialist with the agricultural extension service at Texas A&M University in College Station, warns that the drought — which has been worsening for the past three years — could speed a trend of buyouts and consolidations among small agricultural banks. If the dry spell continues into next year, Klinefelter says, the number of such combinations "will be incredible," and some small banks may even shut down.

Agriculture bankers are well aware of the stakes. "This is a very critical year for agriculture in our area," says John C. Anderson, president and chief executive of Hale County State Bank in Plainview. "If the farmers have problems, then we're going to have some problems."

In fact, those problems are already here, and getting worse. The first-quarter survey of agricultural banks by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, released this month, recorded high anxiety levels among bankers across the state. Bankers in one West Texas area estimated that 25 percent of its farmers would go out of business this year if they don't get rain. Bankers statewide reported that loan repayments were slowing and requests for extensions and renewals of short-term loans were rising as farmers and ranchers suffered heavy financial losses. It's unusual for Anderson's bank to have even 5 percent of its farmers ask for extensions, for instance; this year, 60 percent needed them.

"The changes that are happening to the ag sector right now are pretty dramatic, and they affect not only the farmer, but the banker who must follow those changes and learn to adapt," says Fiona Sigalla, the Federal Reserve economist who assembled the report.

While farming banks are facing the potential for a disastrous season because of the drought, livestock bankers are hurting even worse. This is the third year ranchers have suffered as oversupplies have pushed cattle prices down and the cost of feed has risen. The drought has just deepened the crisis, drying up grazing pastures at a time when ranchers can't afford to feed their livestock grain. To stay in business, they must borrow more to raise less.

"I'd like to tell you something positive about this, but it's real hard to right now," says Godwin.

For bigger city banks, whose loan portfolios are diversified across business, real estate and consumer loans, agriculture doesn't loom large on their bottom line. But agricultural lending is the bread and butter for a majority of the state's smaller, rural banks. In the Panhandle, for instance, agriculture — mostly livestock-related — makes up 60 percent to 70 percent of most banks' loans, bankers say.

The soaring risk of those loans puts bankers in a Catch-22 situation: Without the loans, the bank doesn't make money. But if the loans aren't repaid, the bank could go under. Wary of repeating the banking disaster that accompanied the collapse of the state's real-estate and energy sectors in the 1980s, agricultural banks are cracking down on credit.



RECEPTION — Some 463 people turned out for a retirement reception for Rev. Miller and Sandra Robinson Sunday afternoon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Robinson served as pastor of Colonial Hill Baptist Church for 32 years. Shown with them are Kumummud and Dr. Anil Goswami of Odessa. The couple's son, John Lloyd Robinson of Dallas, is shown in back. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



MEMORAL DAY SERVICES - Charles Day, pastor of the Avenue D Baptist Church, delivered the Memorial Day message this morning during special services on the lawn of the Scurry County Courthouse. Jesse Longoria, in the back, participated in the program also. (SDN Staff Photo)

Summer classes set to begin at WTC

Western Texas College will hold registration and begin summer classes on Tuesday.

Early registration, for students planning to attend 8 a.m. classes, will be held from 7:15 until 8 o'clock.

Other registration periods are 8 until 11:30 a.m., 1 to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 6 o'clock.

Students should bring a driver's license, Social Security card, TASP and ACT or SAT scores, if available, a high school transcript or completed early admissions form, if applicable.

Placement testing is required if ACT or SAT scores are unavailable. Placement testing will be administered Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

While funds last, WTC is offering one free class to qualifying students who will be high school seniors next year. Students having completed their junior year and who have taken driver's education at WTC may qualify.

Daytime academic classes meet Mondays through Thursdays, ending July 3. Evening class nights vary, depending on the course, and end July 25.

For enrollment information, call 573-8511, ext. 313 (counseling office) or 394 (admissions office).

Sales tax rebates down slightly for the month

May's sales tax rebates for the City of Snyder were down slightly for the month but remain up for the year, according to information from the State Comptroller's Office.

Snyder received $121,842.72 for the month, off last May's receipts of $123,296.36 by 1.17 percent. For the year, the city has taken in $602,172.64, an amount up 3.23 percent from the same period in 1995.

Sales tax rebates received by Scurry County show the same trend. The county received $55,899.49 this month, compared to $59,159.45 in May of 1995, down 5.51 percent. For the year, the county has received $297,191.21, an increase of 6.69 percent over the same period in 1995.

This month's sales tax rebates include taxes collected on March sales by businesses filing monthly returns in April and businesses filing quarterly returns for January, February and March.

Abilene, Big Spring, Sweetwater, Post, Colorado City and other area cities show a drop in sales tax rebates compared to last May, but most indicate a rise comparing 1996 to 1995.

Statewide, the comptroller's office delivered $196.8 million in May sales tax rebates, 1.4 percent more than the allocations of one year ago.

City	May'96	May'95	+/-	Year'96	Year'95	+/-
Abilene	$2,069,495.33	$2,133,106.56	-2.98%	$9,097,126.03	$8,671,692.70	4.90%
Big Spring	$353,554.82	$360,150.72	-1.83%	$1,518,911.47	$1,517,170.48	0.11%
Colorado City	$40,298.98	$38,656.62	4.24%	$165,768.11	$153,286.37	8.14%
Lamesa	$76,315.12	$93,745.51	-18.59%	$355,918.09	$375,390.44	-5.18%
Lubbock	$2,150,731.32	$1,991,567.93	10.08%	$10,070,121.35	$8,773,899.08	14.77%
Post	$21,497.18	$22,276.39	-3.06%	$99,892.55	$88,001.45	13.51%
Roby	$2,087.34	$2,360.72	-11.58%	$8,242.46	$7,670.47	7.45%
Rotan	$13,601.75	$16,316.80	-16.63%	$52,731.36	$58,038.42	-9.14%
Snyder	$121,842.72	$123,296.36	-1.17%	$602,172.64	$583,275.53	3.23%
Sweetwater	$171,757.46	$182,291.67	-5.77%	$759,657.88	$712,961.32	6.54%

ASK US

Q—Since July 4 is on a Thursday, will Snyder's annual celebration be moved to the 6th?

A—No. The celebration is planned for Wednesday and Thursday, July 3-4.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 85; low, 68; high Sunday, 93; low, 55; 7 a.m. reading Monday, 56; no precipitation; total for 1996, 2.13 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear. Low, lower 60s. S wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, mostly sunny. High, lower 90s. S wind 10-20 mph.



Bridget Block
Mostly Sunny

Sunset: 8:41 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:41 a.m.
Of 147 days in 1996, the sun has shone 143 days in Snyder.

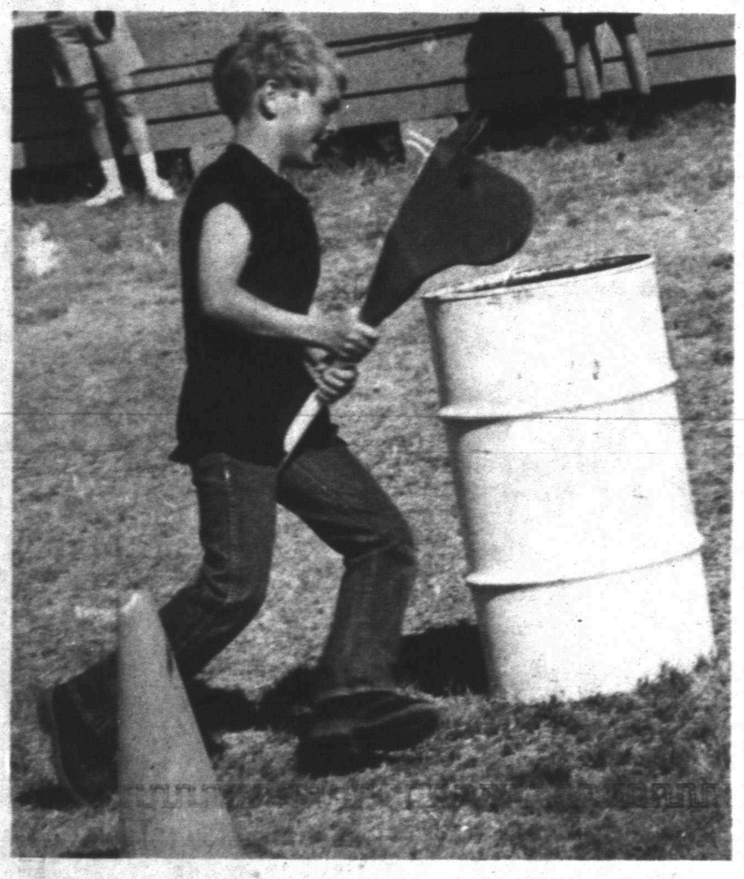
TODAY'S THOUGHT

The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favor is like dew on the grass.

Proverbs 19:12









BARRELL RACING — Barrel race competitors during Hermleigh's recent Stick Horse Rodeo included top left, Bobby Lane; bottom left, Robby Anderson; top right, James Coonrod; and bottom right, Misty Ritch. Students rode specially made horses complete with names and an announcer called ride-by-ride action. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Challenge delaying police promotions

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Police Department has shelved promotions involving more than 70 patrol officers pending a challenge of the city's affirmative action policy.

The Dallas Police Patrolmens Union, with about 500 officers below the rank of sergeant, has asked a federal court to halt all the senior corporal promotions — and the 5 percent raises that go with them — through the end of the year.

That's when the union's 1993 challenge to the department's affirmative action plan is scheduled to be heard in federal court.

Department officials responded Thursday by delaying promotions for the first group of 20 officers.

"I understand why they're doing it, but it's frustrating because I get caught up in it when I was looking forward to getting promoted," David Graham, a white officer who was among those expecting a promotion, told The Dallas Morning News.

"It's the fact that you're missing out on a pay raise for the time being and the seniority. Hopefully, it will be resolved soon so everyone can get on with their lives."

The union's suit claims that minority officers with lower test scores were illegally promoted in 1993 over whites with higher scores. The trial is scheduled for December.

Sgt. Jack Means, president of the union, said the group asked for the delay in promotions after learning that police officials planned this year to use the practices questioned in the lawsuit — promoting lower-scoring minorities over higher-scoring whites.

Officials confirmed that lower test scores among minority candidates this year have made it necessary to employ the city's affirmative action guidelines.

"Affirmative action for the Dallas Police Department is just wrong," Means said. "Its time is past. It's losing everywhere now, and you can't support it anymore. We're all equal; let the tests be the equalizer."

Senior corporals make up one of the largest, most versatile officer groups. Its members serve as investigators, detectives and patrol supervisors.

"The department is obligated to abide by a City Council policy, and the affirmative action plan is a council policy," assistant executive chief Manuel Vasquez said.

"I think it's best for this department if we have the ability to fill these vacancies because it's an important rank."

Senior Cpl. Perro Henson, president of the Texas Peace Officers' Association, which represents black officers, defended the affirmative action policy and criticized the Patrolmens Union effort.

"I think it's just a stalling tactic to keep African-Americans from being promoted," Henson said. He and other black officers say the civil service exams are culturally biased against minorities.

The Dallas Police Association, the department's largest officer group, also filed a lawsuit in 1993 over the promotions policy. It was filed on behalf of 17 white patrol officers who were skipped over when the senior corporal promotions were announced.

Oil Patch News

Garza County

Kerry Petroleum will drill the No. 9 Connell in the Rocker A field, six miles southeast of Post. The well is contracted for 3,000 feet, and location is in Section 9, Block 6, GH&H survey.

Kerry Petroleum Inc. will drill the No. 10 Connell in the Rocker A field, six miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,000 feet, location is in Section 9, Block B, GH&H survey.

Kerry Petroleum will drill the No. 11 Connell in the Rocker A field, six miles southeast of Post. Also planned for a depth of 3,000 feet, drill site is in Section 9, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Howard County

Palo Petroleum Inc. will drill the No. 1-44 Middleton, a 9,000-foot wildcat located four miles southeast of Vealmoor. Location is in Section 44, Block 32, T3N, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Tucker Drilling Co. will drill the No. 3 TXL in the Lake Trammel South field, four miles north of Maryneal. Planned for a depth of 5,700 feet, location is in Section 31, Block X, T&P survey.

Chisholm Exploration Inc. will plug and abandon the No. 1 Fat Cat, a 7,165-foot wildcat located seven miles south of Roscoe. Location was in Section 96, Block 24, T&P survey.

Sinclair Oil Corp. will drill the No. 4-A Lain , a 4,200-foot wildcat in the Sabre Tooth field, 12 miles southwest of Sweetwater. Location is in Section 55, Block X, T&P survey.

Sinclair Oil Corp. will drill the No. 2 Davis, a 6,000-foot wildcat, 16 miles southeast of Sweetwater. Location is in Section 185, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Memorial to Unknown Soldier Honors Sacrifice Made for All

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: You seem to have answers to just about everything, so I'm wondering if you can help me on this:

When was the Unknown Soldier buried in Washington, D.C.? Also, in which branch of the military was he? In which war did he fight? How was he identified? Was the soldier a male or a female?

Thanks for any information you can give me.

LILLIE NORRIS, HUGO, OKLA.

DEAR LILLIE NORRIS: When World War I ended, officials from the Allied countries — Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States — found that the bodies of many soldiers killed in battle could not be identified. The governments decided to honor the memory of those soldiers in some special way. Each government chose a symbolic unknown soldier (probably male since females were not sent into battle at that time), buried the remains near their national capitol, and built a monument in honor of that soldier.

Belgium placed its unknown soldier in a tomb at the base of Colonnade of the Congress in Brussels.

France buried its unknown soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe in the center of Paris, and keeps a perpetual flame burning over the grave.

Great Britain buried its unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey.

Italy's unknown soldier lies in front of the monument to Victor Emmanuel in Rome.

The unknown soldier of the United States was one of four unidentified war dead taken from American cemeteries in France. An American soldier, Sgt. Edward Younger, selected the soldier from these four. The remains were brought to the U.S. Capitol to lie in state.

On Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1921, the soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The tomb, completed in 1931, has a white marble sarcophagus over the grave and bears the inscription, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

Congress later directed that an unknown soldier from each of three wars — World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War — be buried near or beside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The World War II and Korean War unknown soldiers were buried in marble crypts at the head of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day in 1958. The unknown soldier from the Vietnam War was buried between them.

A memorial amphitheater, built by the Grand Army of the Republic to honor members of the armed forces killed in battle, stands near the tomb. Memorial Day services are held there each year.

An honor guard from the Honor Guard Co. of the 1st Battle Group, 3rd Infantry, Fort Myer, Va., keeps a sentry on duty at the tomb at all times. The sentry is changed every hour during the day and about every two hours at night.

Today we honor all those who have given their lives in the line of duty — on land, at sea and in the air.

God speed the day when we can settle our differences with words instead of bombs and gunfire. Only then we can claim to be truly civilized.

* * *

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

'Mission: Impossible' exceeds $52 million to take box office lead

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Mission: Impossible" was projected to earn at least $52.5 million over the four-day Memorial Day holiday weekend, easily ousting "Twister" from the No. 1 spot at the box office, industry sources said.

"Twister" is still making a strong showing with an estimated $36 million take in its third weekend of release.

"Mission: Impossible" set new marks for a May debut and best Memorial Day weekend: The old May debut mark was set by "Twister" with $41 million, and 1994's "The Flintstones" was the old holiday record holder with $37.2 million.

Another new film, the Leslie Nielsen farce "Spy Hard," was in third place with a $10.4 million take.

The figures are preliminary estimates of ticket sales Friday through today. Final figures were due out Tuesday.

1. "Mission: Impossible," $52.5 million to $54.5 million.
2. "Twister," $36 million.
3. "Spy Hard," $10.4 million.
4. "Flipper," $5 million.
5. "The Truth About Cats and Dogs," $2.6 million.
6. "The Craft," $2.4 million.
7. "Primal Fear," $1.28 million.
8. "The Birdcage," $1.2 million.
9. "Toy Story," $1 million.
10. "Heaven's Prisoners," $800,000.

Because he did not have a valid patent on the cotton gin, Eli Whitney made almost no money on his most-famous invention.

Berry's World



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Local



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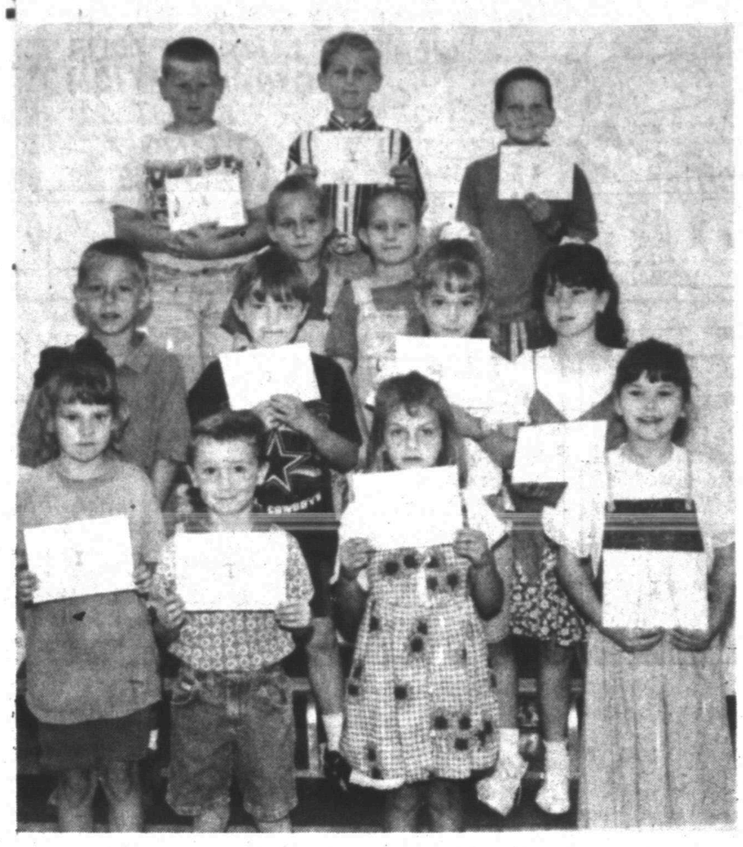
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A HONOR ROLL (1-3) — These first through third grade students at Ira were named to the "A" Honor Roll for the entire 1995-1996 school year. From left, bottom row, Nickelynn Bays, Tyrelle Gilbert, Kate Wall, Terryn Autry; second row, Corbin Clements, Blake Mayo, Aryn Calley, Jessica Odom; third row, Rachel Caldwell and Sara Caldwell; top row, Brandon Crane, Colton Long and Kevin Marshall. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



A HONOR ROLL (4-7) — The following Ira fourth through seventh graders were named to the "A" Honor Roll for both the fall and spring semesters of the 1995-1996 school year. From left, bottom row, Jess Wall, Wes White, Amanda Calley, Rusty Josey; middle row, Michael Allen, Colter Brown and Celeigh Sterling; top row, Loryn Brown, Kacie Daves, Morgan Clements and Kendra Krop. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

'Six Flags' installs metal detectors

ARLINGTON (AP) — Don Robertson said he was surprised when he entered Six Flags Over Texas with his family and they had to pass through metal detectors.

"There are just some things that don't seem to go together, and metal detectors and amusement parks are just one example," said Robertson, of Waco. "It doesn't bother me. I guess it makes me feel a little bit safer."

The metal detectors were installed before the park's summer season in response to the concealed-weapons law that took effect in January, not because of any in-park incident, said Nancy St. Pierre, a Six Flags spokeswoman.

"There is a prohibition in the law for theme parks," she said. "We installed them as a direct response to the weapons law, as a way to make sure our park remains a safe place for our visitors."

Under the law, any business that serves the public can place a sign outside its property prohibiting guns or other weapons. Businesses also have the right to install metal detectors and are not required to register with the city or police department, said Sam Goodall, assistant legal adviser to the Arlington Police Department.

Many businesses place a "no guns allowed" sign outside the building, but Six Flags is the only Arlington business known to have installed metal detectors.

AstroWorld theme park in Houston, which is owned by Six Flags Theme Parks Inc., a Time Warner Entertainment company, also has metal detectors, but Fiesta Texas in San Antonio, which the company manages and is hoping to buy, does not.

"We recently acquired that property, and management is evaluating what to do there," Ms. St. Pierre said.

Last year, Six Flags acquired Wet 'n Wild in Arlington, but no metal detectors have been placed there.

When visitors pay to park, the attendant hands them brochures that include a black and yellow flier informing them about the metal detectors and reminding them that weapons are prohibited in the park. Additional signs are posted at the park's entrance near the ticket booths. Guests are required to pass through the detectors after passing through the turnstiles at the park's entrance.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 5-27-96
♠ A Q 8 3
♥ J
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 10 6 5 4

West
♠ 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ K 10 8 7
♣ A K 9 8 7

East
♠ 9 6
♥ A K Q 5 2
♦ J 5 2
♣ Q 3 2

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

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: East

South	West	North	East
			1 ♥
1 ♠	Dbl.	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	All pass	

Opening lead: ♠ 4

the heart nine, discarding dummy's last diamond. I had lost three heart tricks but that was all. I had the rest on a crossruff.

If East switches to a diamond at trick three, I cannot do it. If I finesse the queen (or duck to West), a trump return holds me to nine tricks. If I win with the diamond ace and run the heart 10, discarding a diamond from the dummy, East wins with the king, plays a diamond to his partner, and a trump exit again leaves me a trick short.

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From The Land Down Under

By Phillip Alder

On February 9, I flew away from the snow in the northeast to the warmer weather in Australia. My first port of call was Sydney, where I spent a few days as the guest of Suzie and Ron Klinger. One evening, I played in a practice match with Peter Newman, one of Australia's best young players, against Bobby Richman, an American who has lived in Sydney for years, and Ron. Richman and Klinger were training for the trials to select the Australian team for the World Team Olympiad, which will be held next October on the Greek island of Rhodes.

In this deal, West's initial double was negative, showing length in the minors. His second double just announced extra values.

Knowing we were sacrificing, Klinger led a trump. I won with dummy's queen and called for the heart jack: queen, four, six.

Not foreseeing the danger, Richman returned his second spade. I won in hand with the jack and ran the heart 10, discarding one of dummy's diamonds.

After winning with the king, East switched to a diamond, but it was too late. I won with the ace and advanced

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, May 28, 1996

In the year ahead, several opportunities might come your way and you will not have to expend much effort. However, if you do not act quickly, you will not achieve the results you desire.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A member of the opposite sex might be more attentive to you today than usual. Enjoy the attention, but do not read too much into this behavior. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you don't think clearly today, you might promise the same thing to two different people. Try to avoid putting yourself in this position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Use caution in regard to household purchases today. Your artistic judgment might not be up to par and you could acquire a permanent eyesore.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today, it will not be wise to lend money to someone who has neglected to repay an old debt. Remind your friend of this fact if he or she turns up the pressure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Try to wrap things up today if there is a matter you would like to conclude with an associate. Time will not be on your side, so act fast!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today if you want someone to believe your tales, remember that embellishing the facts will not impress your listeners.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You may have a strong urge to spend extravagantly today and you might waste your resources in foolish ways. Keep your wallet in your purse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It will be essential to state your objectives explicitly today. If you do not use reliable methods, you could complicate a current project.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today there will be a thin line between healthy optimism and wishful thinking. Take care not to trip on your own shoestrings.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Financial involvements with friends could be complicated today. Try to avoid having to split a bill among several friends.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Indecisiveness could drain your enthusiasm and limit your ability to accomplish meaningful goals today. You should play to win.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you are too optimistic today, you might treat a serious matter with indifference. You should remain positive, but try to be realistic at the same time.

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Only about 1.6 percent of the Earth's water is fresh. Most of the water is frozen at the North Pole and Antarctica.

The African eagle can swoop at a speed of more than 100 mph and brake to a dead stop in 20 feet.

McDonald's
Of Snyder
Book A Birthday At Our Play Place
573-7732
3414 College Ave.

Cinema I & II
1907 Snyder Shopping Center
573-7519
NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE
Matinees Wed., Thurs., Sat. & Sun.
$2.50 All Seats!
You're Going To Flip Over "Flipper"!
Elijah Wood and Paul Hogan in
FLIPPER
SHOWTIMES 7:00 & 9:00 PG
"Two Thumbs Up" - Siskel & Ebert
Uma Thurman & Janeane Garofalo
THE TRUTH ABOUT DOGS & CATS
SHOWTIMES: 7:15 & 9:15 PG 13
OPEN MEMORIAL DAY
Matinees Sat., Sun. & Mon.
All Seats $2.50
Flipper ..... 2:00 p.m.
Truth About Cats 2:15 p.m.
Summer Kid Show Tickets Now On Sale! G-rated show each Wed. for 10 wks. during the summer for $5. Tickets must be pre-purchased to get this price.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

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

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

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

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers; Trinity Methodist Church (south wing); noon; for more information, call 1-800-359-3131.

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

Dialogue; cancer support group, CMH board room; 7-8 p.m.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

Scurry County Museum; Western Texas College; open from 1 to 4 p.m.

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



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$1 A Week Student Work Ads

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☆Up to 15 words
☆Ad will run everyday
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☆May pay up to 10 weeks in advance

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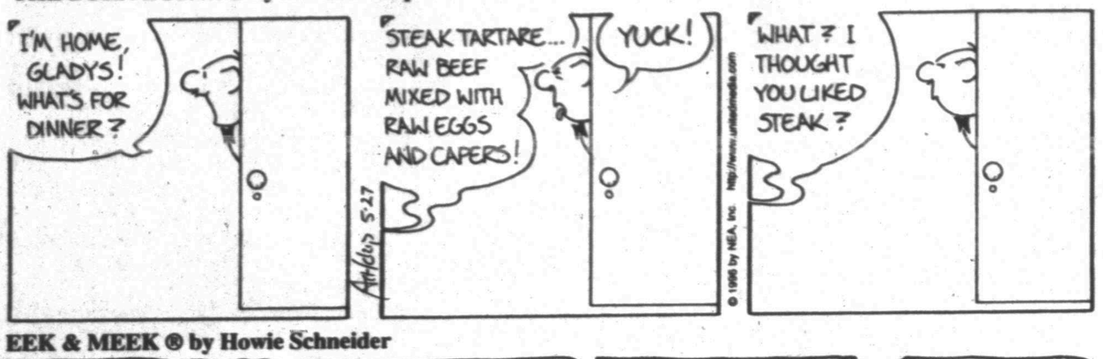


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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Pep
5 Decade number
8 Nothing
12 Part of the eye
13 Hawaiian instrument
14 Genus of olive trees
15 Birthmarks
16 Soak (flax)
17 Baseball player Thompson
18 Dublin's country
20 Compiles
21 Printer's measures
22 Roman dozen
23 Rice field
26 Aida role
30 Chill
31 Steep
32 Author Fleming
33 Pro — (for the time being)
34 Dole's st.
35 Mother of Mlle.
36 Type of tissue
38 West Point freshman
40 Rubber tree
41 Golfing gadget
42 Comedienne Prentiss
45 Harsh rule
49 Vases
50 Move like a bunny
51 Chicken —
52 Spouse
53 Inhabitant (suff.)
54 Irish
55 Goad
56 — for two
57 Small spots

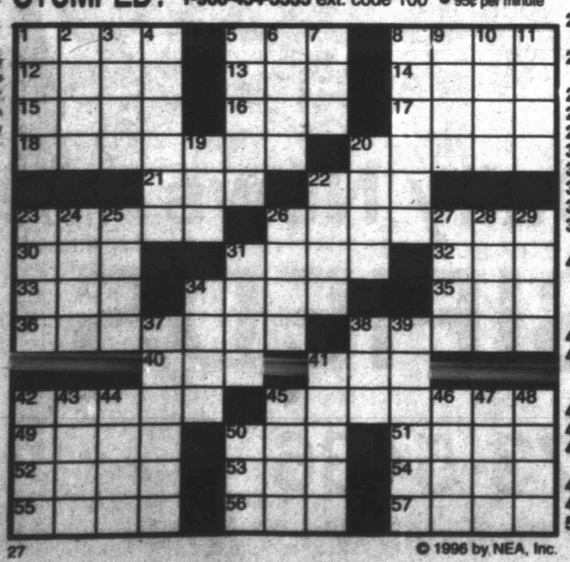
DOWN

1 Pueblo Indian
2 Eternally
3 Golfer Ballesteros
4 Followed
5 Rotates
6 — out (stretched)
7 After deductions
8 Rum drink
9 Author — Wiesel
10 Depend
11 Kind of grain
19 Actress Irving
20 Pig's sound
22 Dec. holiday
23 Pocket bread
24 Shot a hole-in-one
25 Actress Moore
26 First-rate (2 wds.)
27 Frost
28 Poetic foot
29 Large knife
31 Writer's encl.
34 Tropical nut
37 Throbbed
38 Through
39 Gave out secret info
41 Aggressive personality category (2 wds.)
42 Type of shoe
43 Resin-producing tree
44 Do — others
45 Carry
46 Actor Robert De —
47 Aerie
48 — St. Laurent
50 Smack

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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SPORTS

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

By The Associated Press
National Basketball Association Playoffs
All Times EDT
CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7)

Saturday, May 18
Seattle 102, Utah 72
Sunday, May 19
Chicago 121, Orlando 83
Monday, May 20
Seattle 91, Utah 87
Tuesday, May 21
Chicago 93, Orlando 88
Friday, May 24
Utah 96, Seattle 76
Saturday, May 25
Chicago 86, Orlando 67, Chicago leads series 3-0
Sunday, May 26
Seattle 88, Utah 86, Seattle leads series 3-1
Monday, May 27
Chicago at Orlando, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
Tuesday, May 28
Utah at Seattle, 9 p.m., (NBC)
Wednesday, May 29
Orlando at Chicago, 9 p.m., if necessary (NBC)
Thursday, May 30
Seattle at Utah, 9 p.m., if necessary (NBC)
Friday, May 31
Chicago at Orlando, 9 p.m., if necessary (NBC)
Saturday, June 1
Utah at Seattle, TBD, if necessary (NBC)
Sunday, June 2
Orlando at Chicago, 7 p.m., if necessary (NBC)

Note: If Eastern Conference series is completed in less than six games, a possible Game 7 in the Seattle-Utah series would be played Sunday, June 2.

Lazier makes no apologies for Indy 500 victory Sunday

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — No asterisk, no apology.

Buddy Lazier is the winner of the Indianapolis 500, a pain-filled symbol of the painful split that reduced auto racing's richest, fastest day to a channel-switching, we-crash-first-you-crash-last game of brinksmanship.

The Indianapolis 500 had the tradition, the renegade U.S. 500 in Michigan the names. Michigan began with a 12-car crash just as the green flag was about to drop; Indy ended with a crash just as the checkered flag fell.

Want more signs from above? Try a darkening cloud over Indy, gathering gloom over Michigan, weather befitting the state of Indy-car racing.

With the defection of many of the top teams and drivers to Michigan, Indy was loaded with rookies and also-rans. Yet, in a wild finish with four lead changes in the closing laps Sunday, it was the veteran Lazier, still hobbled by a back injury, who crossed the finish line first.

Will there be an asterisk by his name?

"Obviously, I hope not," Lazier said after navigating the 200 laps at a rather ordinary average speed of 147.956 mph. "I gave it everything I had, my heart and soul. And I think everybody else out there did the same."

Problem was that not everybody else was out there this year.

Tony George, president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, founded his own Indy Racing League to reduce costs, steer Indy racing back to its traditional oval-track roots and open the door to more drivers who might otherwise be kept out without major sponsorship.

But when he gave the IRL preference at Indy, the rival Championship Auto Racing Teams balked and organized its own Memorial Day weekend race, taking Indy's hottest stars with it.

Mo matter. Lazier's name will be enshrined right along with Foyt, Mears, Andretti and all the Unsers.

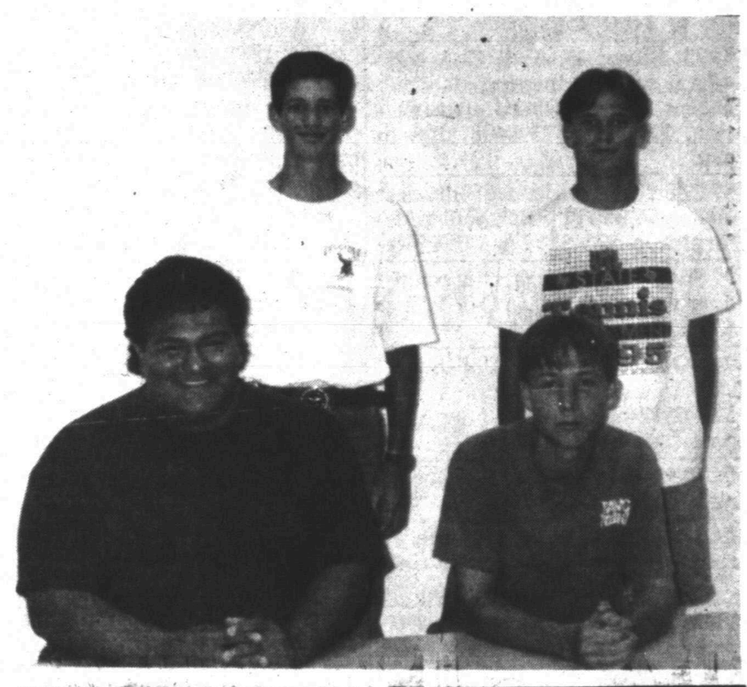
"The stars are born at this race track," said Ron Hemelgarn, Lazier's car owner, mindful of the criticism from CART that this year's Indy field was second-rate. "There are great stars at Michigan and some great teams, but this is the place, and I'm sure each one of those would like to be here."

In their place, 17 rookies started at Indy, the most since 1930. But after pole-starter Tony Stewart left with a blown engine, it was a race of veterans.

The 28-year-old Lazier, who walks with a cane because of a broken back sustained at Phoenix in March, took the lead with seven laps to go and beat Davy Jones by .695 of a second, the third-closest finish ever. Third was Richie Hearn, one of four rookies among the nine drivers still running at the end.

"You know, this is extra, extra sweet coming back from such a huge injury. I've never been hurt as badly as I was hurt," said Lazier, who had never finished higher than seventh in 54 Indy-car starts but now stands to reap more than $1 million at tonight's victory dinner.





OUTSTANDING ATHLETES—The outstanding male and female athletes were recoginized recently at the Ira sports banquet. Outstanding female athletes were (top photo L to R) Jody Rankin in basketball and Brook Wilkes in track. The top male athletes were (bottom photo) first row Ociel Castelan, powerlifting; and Heath Mathis, baseball. Second row are Jeremy Howard, basketball; and Wade Wiggins, track. (Contributed Photo)

Bulls show Magic what it takes to be the best

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Anfernee Hardaway measured his words carefully, then conceded the Orlando Magic need to be more like the Chicago Bulls.

"It's like everybody knows their role and everybody plays well together," the Magic's third-year point guard said Sunday.

"They are going out there focusing on defense and rebounding, then the scoring comes whenever it comes. That's how you're going to win. Until we get that mindset of defense first, we're not going to be winning anything."

If that sounds like Hardaway had given up on Orlando's chances of coming back from a 3-0 deficit in the Eastern Conference finals, he hadn't. The lingering pain of being swept from the playoffs the past two seasons wouldn't allow a concession statement before today's Game 4.

"We've been down this road before, and it's a hurting feeling. We don't want it to happen again this year, especially at home," he said. "It's really embarrassing with the talent that we have, even though we do have injuries, to get swept by a team even as great as the Bulls."

Chicago won a record 72 games during the regular season and moved within one victory of its fourth trip to the NBA Finals by holding the usually high-scoring Magic to 67 points on 34 percent shooting in Game 3.

Orlando averaged a league-high 105 points on 52 percent shooting through the first two rounds of the playoffs, yet managed just 79 per game on 43 percent marksmanship in the first three games of this series.

"I think their egos are a little crushed right now. But it's not our jobs to worry about what they feel like. We need to go out there and do our job," Chicago's Dennis Rodman said, eyeing a sweep.

"Their focus is not there. You can see it in their eyes. It's like: 'The hell with it. Let's go home.'"

Indiana swept Orlando in the first round of the playoffs two years ago. And although they beat the Celtics, Bulls and Pacers to get to the 1995 NBA Finals, the Magic failed to win a game against the Rockets in the championship series.

Rangers end long road trip with win over KC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Going home is always a happy feeling.

Happiness for a banged-up Texas Rangers team is going home after finishing off a nine-game road trip with two victories in Kansas City.

The Rangers held off the Royals 6-4 Sunday to finish the nine-game trip with four wins. The most-often used phrase in the Texas clubhouse Sunday was "it could have been much worse."

Texas was having trouble scoring runs with Juan Gonzalez and Rusty Greer out of the lineup with injuries. Pitching was inconsistent until Rick Helling, called up from Triple-A Oklahoma City on Friday to start for the injured Kevin Gross, stopped the Royals on three hits over eight innings Saturday.

Then Ken Hill, who is on a roll and leads the league in ERA, was too much Sunday.

"It was a weird trip," said Rangers reliever Mike Henneman, who finished both weekend games for saves No. 13 and 14. "We have a lot of expectations. Now we can go home and maybe get Juan and Rusty back.

"Guys worked their tails off and we came out of it with four Ws and that is a lot better than it could have been."

Astros extend winning streak to three games

HOUSTON (AP) — A modest three-game winning streak doesn't have the Houston Astros jumping for joy. It does have them on top of the NL Central by a season-high two games.

"I've said all along this division race is going to go right down to the wire," Houston manager Terry Collins said after the Astros beat Chicago 7-2 Sunday for their first three-game home sweep of the Cubs in seven years. "The good thing for us is it keeps us in first place at least two more days and now we can go on the road with hopefully a little momentum."

Shane Reynolds (7-3) pitched seven strong innings, allowing four hits and two runs, walking one and striking out 10 while running his Astrodome record against the Cubs to 5-1.

Jeff Bagwell drove in three runs with a double and a sacrifice fly.

"I don't think it's any secret the key to our success is going to be whether the pitchers do their jobs," Reynolds said. "Everyone knows our lineup is going to score some runs, the question is whether the pitching is going to be there.

Reynolds has a 1.86 ERA against the Cubs in the Astrodome.

Oklahoma State wins trip to World Series

LUBBOCK (AP) — Oklahoma State earned its 20th trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. by winning the NCAA Central II Region tournament.

Cowboy shortstop Tripp MacKay went 4-for-6 at the plate and drove in four runs to lead Oklahoma State to the 10-2 victory over Southern California on Sunday.

In the early game, Southern California beat Texas Tech 13-10 to end the Red Raiders' season.

OSU (45-19) put game out of reach in fourth by scoring five runs off USC starter and loser Paul Sanchez (1-1) to break a scoreless tie.

Second-baseman Rusty McNamara led off with double to left, and with one out, Danny DiPace reached base on an infield single.

Singles by Josh Holliday and Tony Roossien scored two runs, and a double by Brian Aylor made it 3-0.

MacKay then drove in two of his four runs with a bloop double to left.

Trojan Jacque Jones tried to rally USC in the home half of fourth with his third home run of tournament. But OSU starter and winner Ryan Graves (10-2) pitched the Cowboys out of the inning.

OSU scored three in the sixth and tacked on in seventh to stake a 10-1 lead. MacKay, who was named tournament MVP, had RBI singles in each of those innings.

The Cowboys will make their 20th trip to Omaha and their 10th under head coach Gary Ward.

"It's special to go to Omaha, no matter how many times you've been before," Ward said. "It will be exciting."

USC finished at 44-16-1.

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Tech takes 12th in golf finals

LaQUINTA, Calif. — Texas Tech golfer Brooke Lowrance finished the 72-hole NCAA Women's Golf Championship the same way she stated, by shooting a final round 81.

The Snyder High School grad fired a four-round total of 323 (81-76-85-81) to finished in a tie for 48th in the individual race.

The Lady Raiders took 12th in their first appearance in the women's finals played at the LaQuinta Resort Dunes Golf Course after posting a 1,288.

San Jose State won a playoff with Arizona to win the championship with a 1,240. Texas was third followed by UCLA, Stanford, Arizona State, Duke, LSU, Florida and Tulsa to round out the top 10.

West Texas teams gone from playoffs

The high school baseball season came to an end for two more West Texas Class 4A teams over the weekend.

After winning the first game Friday, 6-3, Andrews was swept Saturday in two games by Sherman, 6-4 in 11 innings and 11-6 in the rubber match.

The Big Spring Steers had their backs to the wall Saturday following a 13-3 whipping by Fort Worth Arlington Heights and did not fare any better Saturday. Arlington Heights took the series in two with a 13-2 win.

Sherman and Arlington Heights will face off this week with the winner of the series advancing to Austin for the UIL State Baseball Tournament.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

By The Associated Press
AMERICAN LEAGUE
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
NewYork	27	19	.587	—
Baltimore	27	20	.574	½
Toronto	21	28	.429	7½
Boston	19	28	.404	8½
Detroit	12	38	.240	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	33	14	.702	—
Chicago	29	18	.617	4
Milwaukee	22	25	.468	11
Minnesota	22	26	.458	11½
KansasCity	23	28	.451	12

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	30	19	.612	—
Seattle	26	22	.542	3½
California	23	25	.479	6½
Oakland	22	26	.458	7½

Saturday's Games
Minnesota 6, Toronto 4, 10 innings
Cleveland 7, Detroit 6
Oakland 6, Baltimore 3
Chicago 9, Milwaukee 7
Texas 2, Kansas City 1
Boston 10, California 3
New York 5, Seattle 4

Sunday's Games
Minnesota 9, Toronto 3
Cleveland 5, Detroit 0
Baltimore 6, Oakland 1
Chicago 12, Milwaukee 1
Texas 6, Kansas City 4
California 12, Boston 2
Seattle 4, New York 3

Monday's Games
Boston (Wakefield 2-5) at Oakland (Wojciechowski 5-0), 4:05 p.m.
Chicago (Fernandez 5-2) at Toronto (Janzen 2-0), 7:35 p.m.
Detroit (Thompson 0-0) at Kansas City (Belcher 5-2), 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland (McDowell 5-2) at Texas (Pavlik 6-1), 8:35 p.m.
New York (Pettitte 6-3) at California (Abbott 1-7), 10:05 p.m.
Only games scheduled

Tuesday's Games
Chicago (Baldwin 3-1) at Toronto (Viola 1-2), 7:35 p.m.
Minnesota (Mahomes 1-2) at Milwaukee (Sparks 3-5), 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Hershiser 4-3) at Texas (Oliver 3-2), 8:35 p.m.
New York (Rogers 3-0) at California (Grimsley 2-4), 10:05 p.m.
Boston (Clemens 3-4) at Oakland (Wasdin 0-0), 10:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Erickson 2-4) at Seattle (Milacki 1-1), 10:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	32	17	.653	—
Montreal	29	21	.580	3½
Philadelphia	24	24	.500	7½
Florida	25	26	.490	8
NewYork	20	28	.417	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	25	26	.490	—
St.Louis	22	27	.449	2
Cincinnati	19	25	.432	2½
Chicago	21	29	.420	3½
Pittsburgh	19	30	.388	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
SanDiego	31	19	.620	—
LosAngeles	27	24	.529	4½
SanFrancisco	25	23	.521	5
Colorado	23	23	.500	6

Saturday's Games
San Diego 7, New York 2
San Francisco 3, Philadelphia 2
Pittsburgh 6, Atlanta 2
St. Louis 5, Florida 0
Los Angeles 5, Montreal 3
Houston 5, Chicago 2
Colorado 7, Cincinnati 5

Sunday's Games
Los Angeles 4, Montreal 3
Florida 8, St. Louis 2, 7 innings, rain
Atlanta 6, Pittsburgh 3, 13 innings
New York 1, San Diego 0
Houston 7, Chicago 2
Cincinnati at Colorado, ppd., rain
Philadelphia 10, San Francisco 1

Monday's Games
Houston (Kile 5-3) at Pittsburgh (Smith 2-2), 1:05 p.m.
Colorado (Ritz 4-4) at St. Louis (Stottlemyre 4-2), 1:15 p.m.
Atlanta (Glavine 5-3) at Chicago (Telemaco 2-0), 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Smiley 4-4) at Florida (Leiter 6-4), 4:35 p.m.
San Diego (Hamilton 7-3) at Montreal (Fassero 3-4), 7:35 p.m.
Only games scheduled

Tuesday's Games
Houston (Hampton 3-3) at Pittsburgh (Ruebel 0-0), 7:05 p.m.

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How did education law work?

AUSTIN (AP) — Some major provisions in the education reform law, and how they've worked so far:

HOME-RULE SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Details:
Local voters can adopt a home-rule charter to free their school district from many state regulations. They still are subject to standards including accountability, school finance, elementary class-size limits for low-performing campuses and the no-pass, no-play rule.
How it's worked:
No school district has yet opted to become home rule. Opinions on why include that it's too soon; there are strict rules for becoming home ruled, such as voter turnout of at least 25 percent; election expense; key state requirements that still apply to home-rule districts; and that increased flexibility for all districts has made the prospect less attractive.

OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTERS
Details:
The State Board of Education was given authority to grant charters for up to 20 open-enrollment charter schools. The publicly funded schools are independent of school districts, able to enroll students regardless of district lines and free of many state regulations.
How it's worked:
The board this year granted charters for all 20 slots available. Additional applications had to be turned away.

SCHOOL CHOICE
Details:
Students may transfer from a low-performing public school to another school, with the receiving school district's approval.
How it's worked:
The Texas Education Agency plans to survey districts later on the issue. Backers of school choice say there has been little use of the program, in large part because many school districts won't accept the transfers.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE
Details:
Teachers have the right to remove disruptive students from the classroom. School districts must have alternative education programs, where students who commit certain offenses must be referred. Offenses requiring expulsion are specified.
How it's worked:
Teachers applaud strong discipline, but teacher groups say there are questions on whether the law is being implemented everywhere. The Texas Association of School Boards says the section needs to be clarified. Some school officials question restrictions on their discretion over expulsion.
In a lawsuit by a student against the discipline measure, a federal judge ruled it was unconstitutional to move pupils from regular to alternative classes without formal hearings.

NO-PASS, NO-PLAY
Details:
Failing students' suspension from extracurricular activities is cut from six to three weeks, if they can bring up their grades to passing in that time. Students can practice or rehearse during the suspension period. The provision doesn't apply to honors classes.
How it's worked:
Backers say the changes have helped keep students motivated to get their grades back up. Some, however, voice concern that the changes detract from an emphasis on academics.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PERMITS
Details:
School districts may hire people to teach a particular class who are not certified as teachers. The education commissioner can veto the selection.
How it's worked:
As of May 24, 193 school district permits had been approved and 124 denied. The Texas State Teachers Association hopes the section will be repealed, saying it contradicts high standards for the teaching profession. Backers say it's been used appropriately and the commissioner's oversight provides a safeguard.

TEXTBOOKS
Details:
The State Board of Education is instructed to compile lists of textbooks that are error-free, meet

See EDUCATION, Page 10

Jack Ford's throwing another party — the GOP Convention

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Remember Jack Ford?
He's the would-be forest ranger who admitted he once smoked pot and held get-togethers with Bianca Jagger and George Harrison at his dad's place — the White House — back in the 1970s.
Twenty years later, Jack's back on the national scene and he's helping plan another party — this summer's Republican National Convention in his adopted hometown of San Diego.
But don't expect him to pass joints out to delegates or invite any of the Beatles to the San Diego Convention Center.
The former first son has grown up.
"I think there's a certain maturing process that goes on," said Ford, now 44 and wearing suits instead of lumberjack shirts. "It's one of those things where your priorities change: families, friends, going to bed early at night versus the good old college days when having a good time was more important."
These days, Ford has taken a leave of absence from his regular job as president of a marketing company to work as executive director of the San Diego Host Committee. The nonprofit group raises money, coordinates activities outside the convention center and welcomes the thousands of delegates to the Aug. 12-15 convention.
"I told him he would be dealing with an awful lot of prima donnas," former President Ford said in a recent interview. "He just has to keep his cool and do his best."
Ford, the second child of the 38th president and longtime House majority leader, has attended every GOP convention since 1964, when he worked as a page. Officials say the Washington, D.C.-born Ford is more qualified for the position than anyone else in San Diego.
"He sees it from the perspective that few people do," said Mayor Susan Golding. "What he's brought is an overall view of what the convention is all about and what it ought to look like when it's done."
When Richard Nixon resigned in 1974, Gerald Ford assumed the presidency and Jack Ford became the first son — or the stifled first bachelor.
"How'd you like to go out drinking with two 55-year-old (Secret Service) agents on your tail?" Ford, then 23, told The Washington Post.
Like his mother Betty, Ford quickly gained a reputation for being candid. He said he never tried "hard drugs" but admitted to smoking marijuana and supported decriminalizing the drug.
Then there was the interview in Andy Warhol's Interview magazine, complete with photographs of Ford with his arms around Bianca Jagger in the Lincoln bedroom.
He also brought one of the Beatles to the White House. In December 1974, newspapers across the country ran pictures showing Ford introducing George Harrison to the president in the Oval Office.
"Certainly, there was a change from the Republican stereotype that existed," Jack Ford said recently. "I think there was a whole scene change in terms of the public's perception of the Republican Party, from my mother to me to my dad."
Ford worked full time on his father's 1976 presidential campaign, and the two remain close, talking at least once a week about the upcoming convention.
After President Ford lost the race, his son, who had earned a degree in forest science a year earlier, moved to California to help launch Outside magazine, now the nation's largest outdoors magazine.
He also continued making news years after moving out of the White House. In 1983, he refused to take a sobriety test and his driver's license was suspended for six months. The next year, he allegedly tried to swipe signs at the Los Angeles Olympics, but was never charged. He married in 1989.
"I don't think anyone would claim that they've been perfect through their life," Ford says now. "As long as people can find it in their hearts to recognize the imperfections of mankind, I can feel pretty comfortable."

Anti-government group declares Texas its own country — again

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — It was a glorious day for John C. VanKirk, standing there on the steps of the state Capitol proclaiming Texas a nation unto itself.
As it was 150 years ago, it is today, he bellowed ... the mighty Republic of Texas! Cheers and whoops rose from the crowd of more than 300, and VanKirk basked in them.
"Ladies and gentleman, Texas is legally — legally — no longer part of the United States of despair," he shouted. "Texas is free. It's once again sovereign and its people will not be denied. God bless the Republic of Texas!"
It was Jan. 16 and VanKirk had just ordered Gov. George W. Bush to vacate his office. As president of the Republic, VanKirk would be moving in.

"How wacky do you think I am?" VanKirk asks seriously, leaning forward on his sofa.
Dressed in a short-sleeved shirt and tie, the 49-year-old former businessman is sitting in the living room of the new two-story house he leases near San Antonio.
It looks more like a bachelor pad than the headquarters of a sovereign nation. Nearly two dozen hunting trophies and gun posters cover the freshly painted walls. The living room is furnished with just a ragged couch and chairs. The garage has been turned into a makeshift office where three "citizens of the Republic" are sitting at long, collapsible tables, working on computers. A Lone Star flag drapes from the rafters.
Like most native Texans, VanKirk is enormously proud of the state's maverick heritage and its Alamo heroes.
Texas is the only one of the contiguous 48 states to have been its own country, from 1836 to 1845. The allure of the Republic is so intense that eight attempts have been made over the years to return to nationhood.
The state's tourism slogan even plays on its past: "Texas — it's like a whole other country." But for VanKirk and his supporters — Texas really IS a whole other country: They believe Texas was never legally annexed by the Union and therefore has been under martial law for the past 150 years.
"If they weren't so serious about it, it could be viewed as a comedy," says Felix D. Almaraz, a history professor at the University of Texas-San Antonio. "Because of the seriousness, I think it's rather tragic."
Indeed, VanKirk's agenda goes much deeper than Texas pride.
Like a growing number of Americans, he and his supporters have a deep distrust of the federal government. They resent income taxes, environmental regulations that encroach on their private property rights and government intrusion into their private lives. Disdainful of federal agents, they use Waco and Ruby Ridge as rallying cries.
Similar sentiments have given rise to armed militias, numbering more than 400 across the country. The Montana Freemen, for example, who like the Republic of Texas members consider themselves a separate government with their own court system, have been holding federal agents at bay for more than a month.
Several "citizens" of the Republic have been convicted of using phony money orders, and one top member was jailed for contempt after a judge ruled he filed false liens against a title company. VanKirk himself acknowledges trying to use an $87,000 bogus money order several years ago to buy property.
No acts of violence have been attributed to the Republic of Texas, but authorities are wary of the group, which is forming an armed militia and wants to take over the government.
"It's a revolution. I certainly want it to be a bloodless one if possible," VanKirk says. However, he adds, "There's no way one man can guarantee that."

The smell of sausage wafts in from the kitchen, where VanKirk's security adviser is making a pot of lunchtime gumbo. VanKirk is contemplating the rebirth of the Republic — the days before a confrontation split the group in two.
It was two years ago that Richard McLaren, a 42-year-old West Texas rancher with a history of land disputes with the federal government, recruited VanKirk to the cause. VanKirk had been in the real estate, ranching and oil equipment businesses and hadn't paid federal income taxes for six years.
The two men understood each other — or so they thought. At an old cotton gin last December, they adopted a constitution and elected a council, including a secretary of defense assigned to form a militia. Following the lead of movements in 40 other states, they also formed a common law courts system.
Under the Republic, they envisioned a country in which there would be no income taxes — the government would operate on a 1 percent import-export tax instead. Citizens would be free to pray in schools and not be burdened by overbearing government regulations.
Over the winter, the Republic gained strength. VanKirk's impassioned speeches at the Alamo and the Capitol attracted hundreds of people — including tax protesters, militia members and others with anti-government sentiments.
But by March, McLaren and VanKirk weren't getting along. McLaren accused VanKirk of being "dictatorial" and "going off the deep end." At a meeting in Lubbock, the council voted to oust VanKirk.
Ever since, McLaren has taken over leadership of his faction of the Republic, calling himself "ambassador." Hundreds of people attend each monthly recruiting meeting around the state.

Education law quotes

AUSTIN (AP) — Comments about the education reform law as it approaches its one-year anniversary on Thursday:

"I think we're absolutely on the leading edge of education reform. ... I think that Senate Bill 1 will go down in history as a great piece of education legislation, and I think that we ought to give it a chance to work." — Gov. George W. Bush.

"It's now crystal clear ... if the law doesn't specifically give either the Legislature or the State Board of Education authority in an area, it resides with the local school board and school district. That's a very significant provision in Senate Bill 1." — James Crow, Texas Association of School Boards.

"My concern is that a strong segment of our society does not have the quality parents that SB 1 provided assistance for. SB 1 was good for the direction it was focused in, for good parents to be able to oversee the education of their children. I don't criticize that. That's good. But children with good parents basically don't have a problem to begin with." — Sen. Gregory Luna, D-San Antonio.

"I think it has tried to change the mindset of the educators ... The state's not telling them how to do their job. The state's expecting them to do their job. All we're going to do is check on the results. I think some of them are just beginning to understand how free they are to design the method that best works for them." — Senate Education Committee Chairman Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, Senate sponsor of the law.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Abnormal valve may weaken heart

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 24-year-old granddaughter has been diagnosed with a thick, folded heart valve. She's been told it will have to be replaced one day. Is this condition genetic? Is there a chance of heart attack?

DEAR READER: I can't tell from your brief description whether your granddaughter's abnormal valve is congenital or acquired. She certainly could have been born with it, or it might have developed later — as a consequence of rheumatic fever, for instance.

In either case, it is not functioning properly and is preventing the normal flow of blood through the heart. While this abnormal valve does not place her at risk for a heart attack, it may — over time — cause the heart to overwork and become weak. If and when that occurs, the valve will have to be repaired or replaced.

Early signs of trouble include exercise intolerance and difficulty breathing. Your granddaughter should be closely monitored by a cardiologist, who will probably order periodic cardiograms and ultrasound examinations to assess cardiac function.

Also, because abnormal cardiac valves are prone to infection, your granddaughter should take antibiotics before having dental work or any other procedure that releases bacteria into the bloodstream.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suffered a rotator cuff tear about 1-1/2 years ago and still have pain and stiffness — despite therapy. Is this unusual?

DEAR READER: The rotator cuff refers to tissues that stabilize the shoulder joint. Once torn or severely injured — a common consequence of strenuous activity — the cuff may partially heal, but — in my experience — patients are frequently left with some disability, such as pain and stiffness, necessitating surgical repair.

The operation can be performed relatively easily through an arthroscope (the "Band-Aid" procedure) by any qualified orthopedic surgeon.

If you are content to put up with your discomfort, leave well enough alone. If, however, your shoulder pain is interfering with a normally vigorous life, you should be examined by an orthopedist, have an MRI scan performed, and consider surgical correction.

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

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DEAR DR. GOTT: My doctor says I have viral stomatitis in my mouth. The tip of my tongue feels as if it was singed with a hot liquid, and I have blisters inside my mouth. I understand the condition can't be cured, but can be treated with Zovirax. I'm worried this might continue for the rest of my life.

DEAR READER: If you have viral ulcers in your mouth (as proved by virus cultures), they can be treated with anti-viral drugs, such as Zovirax, Famvir and others. Unfortunately, such ulcers may recur — especially at times of stress — so you may need to take the prescription medicine repeatedly.

However, in my experience, if you use the medication, you will find that the ulcers are less severe and occur less frequently. Thus, although viral stomatitis is a life-long affliction, you should be able to control it satisfactorily.

Remember that canker sores resemble viral ulcers and are differentiated from them by the virus culture that I mentioned. Anti-viral drugs are ineffective in curing canker sores, the cause of which is a mystery.

Children's advocate arranges days of support for children

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marian Wright Edelman wants this week's Stand for Children rally to do for America's children what a 1963 march did for civil rights and what Earth Day did for the environment.

More than 3,000 organizations are joining the Children's Defense Fund, founded by Edelman, in sponsoring the rally Saturday at the Lincoln Memorial. It's coming not a moment too soon, she says.

Every 32 seconds, somewhere in the United States, a child is born into poverty, according to statistics gathered by the fund. Every 15 minutes a baby dies and gunfire claims a youngster's life every two hours.

The rally will feature activities for children and families, including music and dance, reading circles, sing-alongs and exhibits. Organizers say politicians are welcome to attend, but they will not be speaking.

A highlight will be a children's march to the Lincoln Memorial, orchestrated to encourage a deeper public commitment to protecting the nation's youth.

"This is about values and what America wants to stand for, and if it doesn't stand for its children, it doesn't stand for anything," Edelman said last week.

The defense fund's 1996 yearbook paints a sad portrait of life as a child in a nation that leads in military technology and exports, the value of goods and services produced and in the number of millionaires and billionaires among industrialized nations.

Every day in the United States, according to the yearbook:

—2,660 children are born into poverty; 27 die from it.

—8,493 children are reported as abused or neglected; three die.

—15 children are killed by firearms.

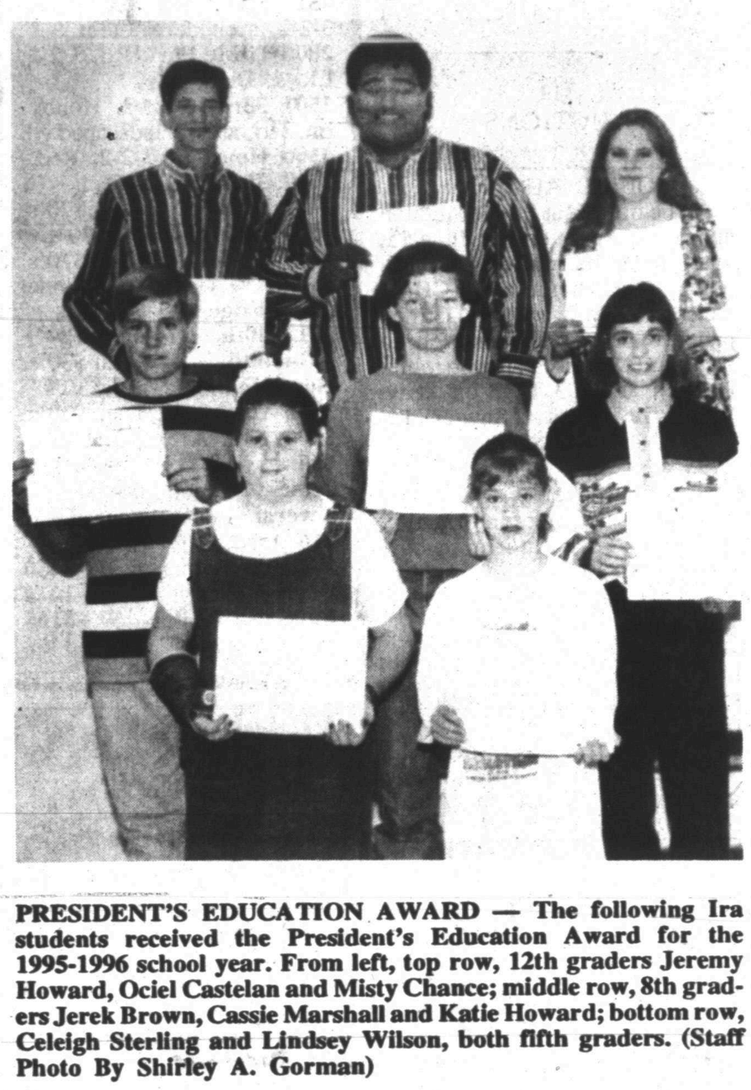
—2,833 children quit school.

—2,700 become pregnant.

—790 are born at low weights.

Among developed countries, the report said, America also loses the most children to gunfire, and has twice the rate of teen-age births as England and five times the rates of France, Italy and other Western European nations.

"We've got far more wallet than will" in the United States, Edelman said. "It's a spiritual poverty problem, not a financial poverty problem."



PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD — The following Ira students received the President's Education Award for the 1995-1996 school year. From left, top row, 12th graders Jeremy Howard, Ociel Castelan and Misty Chance; middle row, 8th graders Jerek Brown, Cassie Marshall and Katie Howard; bottom row, Celeigh Sterling and Lindsey Wilson, both fifth graders. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Senators say voters won't respond to negative TV ads

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Democratic senators say the American public is fed up with personal mudslinging displayed in advertisements being run on behalf of both presidential candidates.

A new Clinton campaign ad portrays Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., as a quitter, and a Republican spot ridicules a lawyer's claim that a sexual harassment case against Clinton could be delayed because he is commander in chief.

"These two ads really should be seen as warning signals to the parties that are sponsoring them," Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said on "Fox News Sunday."

"If this junk keeps up, honestly, a lot of voters are going to be turned off and either not vote or vote for a third- or fourth-party candidate," he said.

Lieberman took issue with a new Democratic campaign spot that portrays Dole, the retiring Senate majority leader, as "quitting, giving up, leaving behind the gridlock he helped create."

"Nobody thinks Bob Dole is a quitter," Lieberman said.

Lieberman also cited a Republican spot that refers to a sexual harassment case against Clinton. In a brief to the Supreme Court, Clinton's lawyer said the president's role as commander in chief of the armed forces might entitle him to a postponement of a civil suit filed by a former Arkansas state employee who says Clinton propositioned her in 1991.

"They're both bad ads and I don't think they're successful ads," Lieberman said. "I think, frankly, ultimately they're a waste of money because they don't make a point."

Controversy lingers: should 'Free Willy' whale go free?

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Twice a week, 11-year-old Sarra White peers through a thick glass window at Keiko the whale, swimming alone in his 2-million-gallon pool.

She loves the orca, but she hopes someday he will be gone.

"I'll know that he'll have a better life out in the wild," said Sarra, who with classmates has raised more than $5,000 for the star of "Free Willy" to return to his home in Icelandic waters.

The release of the 16-year-old killer whale would make a true story of 1993's "Free Willy," the tale of an unhappy, ailing whale who returned home. The film focused attention on Keiko's poor living conditions at a Mexico City amusement park, where he lost hundreds of pounds and wore out his teeth chewing on the sides of his small pool.

But whether Keiko will get his movie ending — and whether he can survive on his own — still is intensely debate in the marine industry and animal welfare circles.

The marine park industry long has disparaged the release plan, predicting the whale would die.

"He's a sick animal, he's been in a public display facility and he has worn teeth. Now what do you think his chances are?" said Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks director Marilee Menard. Captive animals should be released only to repopulate a threatened species, she said.

Animal welfare advocates say Keiko's natural instincts should allow him to flourish at sea.

For now, the 8,000-pound whale is the top tourist attraction at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, where attendance has risen by 150 percent since he arrived on Jan. 7.

Keiko moved to his new, larger home with the help of $7 million in donations from whale-lovers worldwide who had learned of his poor health.

After 10 years performing for his food in a small tank at a Mexico City amusement park, Keiko was about 2,000 pounds underweight, had a wartlike skin virus, a weakened immune system, digestive problems and bad teeth.

Since January, he has gained between 500 and 1,000 pounds. His skin is 80 percent healed.

Researchers are making plans to search for the pod of whales from which he was captured at age 2, and want to teach him how to catch live fish.

The decision whether to try to release the whale rests with the board of directors of the Free Willy-Keiko Foundation.

Dave Phillips, the president, says the orca has a "good shot" at freedom.

"To those who think we're not going to succeed, give us time. A lot of those same people said we wouldn't get this far," Phillips said.

The biggest hurdle to Keiko's freedom could be the Icelandic government, which firmly rejected an exploratory request in 1994. The officials think Keiko could infect infect other whales with unknown viruses and bacteria and question the humaneness of releasing a captive whale. Killer whales are also plentiful in Icelandic waters.

Phillips hopes those who believe in Keiko's freedom could change the country's mind.

"There will be those that will insist we will never release Keiko until he's swimming off, until he's gone," Phillips said.

New bride shows off her giant veil

ASCOLI PICENO, Italy (AP) — Here comes the bride. And there goes her veil — down the aisle and out the door.

Claudia Armillei paraded through her town and into the church Sunday trailing a 1,320-foot creation of lace, ribbon and mesh fabric.

The mayor presided over the procession through the mountain town about 150 miles northeast of Rome. A team of assistants — and some passersby — helped tote the mammoth veil.

The 23-year-old bride said she believed it was the longest bridal veil ever made. No one wanted to ruin her wedding day with the news that the Guinness Book of Records has no such listing.

Date Book

May 27, 1996

Today is MEMORIAL DAY. It is the 148th day of 1996 and the 69th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1871, 25,000 Parisians were killed when French soldiers crushed the Paris Commune.

On this day in 1937, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge opened.

On this day in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to international tensions by declaring a national emergency.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), financier; James "Wild Bill" Hickok (1837-1876), U.S. marshal; Isadora Duncan (1878-1927), dancer; Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978), U.S. vice president; Vincent Price (1911-1993), actor; Sam Snead (1912-), golf great, is 84; Herman Wouk (1915-), writer, is 81; Henry Kissinger (1923-), U.S. secretary of state, is 73; John Barth (1930-), writer, is 66; Harlan Ellison (1934-), writer, is 62.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1993, baseball great Dale Murphy retired.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity." — Harlan Ellison

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1924, 53 people were killed across the deep South when tornadoes touched down across the region.

SOURCE: 1996 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (May 25) and full moon (June 1).

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ARMY SCHOLAR AWARDS — Ira High School's top seniors received U.S. Army Scholar Athlete awards for the 1995-1996 school year. From left are, Sgt. 1st class Bill Gray, Jeremy Howard, valedictorian; Misty Chance, salutatorian and Sgt. Virgil Martin. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Youngsters 'kicking' drugs

BROOKSHIRE (AP) — At Royal Middle School in this community 35 miles west of Houston, martial arts training has surged in popularity as part of an anti-drug movement.

Tae kwon do kicks and karate chops are an integral part of life at the school, following the unexpectedly successful introduction two months ago of TV star Chuck Norris' "Kick Drugs Out of America" martial arts program as a substitute physical education activity.

Almost half of the school's 340 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades are enrolled in a martial arts program.

Norris, a six-time world karate champion before turning to acting, launched the program in Houston in 1991 at the invitation of then-President George Bush. Today, it operates in 16 Texas schools.

Program officials say "Kick Drugs Out of America" is built around an anti-drug, anti-gang, anti-violence theme that stresses discipline, obedience and self-confidence.

Rollie Ford, principal of Royal Middle School, says that's the main reason he sought it for his school.

"Brookshire doesn't look much like Houston, but a lot of the problems kids face are identical," he says.

The program at Royal Middle School began in March. Thus Ford lacks numbers to show its impact on juvenile misbehavior. But he's already seeing encouraging signs, he told the Houston Chronicle.

"I've noticed a big reduction in hallway scuffles. They've gone from several weekly to, maybe, one. A lot of flareups get stopped by the karate kids themselves," he beams.

Pupil demeanor is changing in other ways, too, he said.

Residents, police join forces to tackle crime rate in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Once a month, in various parts of Dallas, police officers sit down with residents over coffee and donuts to discuss crime in the neighborhood.

For the past three years in Dallas, at the direction of Police Chief Ben Click, residents and neighborhood groups have been brought into the mix in a broad effort to catch criminals and prevent crimes.

It's part of a philosophical shift in the way crime is being fought in Dallas and around the country, say police and the people they protect.

"The key to fighting crime in a big city is strong neighborhoods. And we're doing everything we can to make Dallas neighborhoods stronger," Click told The Dallas Morning News. "I don't know of any city in the country that's doing it any better than we are."

In Dallas, officials can point to dozens of programs that have drawn thousands of residents into volunteer police work, as well as placing more officers in neighborhoods to resolve problems never considered part of their jurisdiction.

The effort has the enthusiastic support of long-established neighborhood groups, particularly those in northeast Dallas, where residents and police have organized a massive crime-prevention effort.

"You can't run away from crime," said John Pepitone, a retired pharmaceutical salesman. "The best you can do is stay put and try to do something about it."

Pepitone uses his home computer, voice mail and fax machine to keep members of the Town Creek Homeowners Association updated on suspicious activities around their homes, which are valued at $175,000 to $475,000.

"We aren't going to carry a gun or try to enforce the law," said Pepitone, 67. "We just want to know when to call the police."

At the heart of the police effort is a 2-year-old program called Interactive Community Policing that designated 72 officers to work on community problems.

Officers Bervin A. Smith and David A. Carillo, muscular men in traditional blue uniforms, don't look or sound like social workers as they attack neighborhood problems within a dozen patrol zones in northeast Dallas.

Armed with a fistful of complaints and pictures of potholes provided by an annoyed northeast resident, they made their daily rounds recently of apartment complexes and businesses that tend to attract trouble.

Over the next eight hours, the two officers made an arrest for drug possession at an apartment complex after being alerted to "drug activity" by a manager. They chewed out a man who appeared to be operating a car-repair business in a residential area. They mediated a dispute between two neighbors over a stolen weed trimmer.

Recently, the 78 crime-watch groups in northeast Dallas took the extra step of forming a network that will share information about criminal activities that are likely to affect more than one neighborhood.

"Things may happen all around us that we don't know about," said Larry Jones, president of the new Northeast Organized Neighbors. "It's important to get people involved so they know each other. The police can't do it alone."

In the northeast substation on Northwest Highway, one civilian volunteer analyzes offense reports, looking for trends that might assist investigators. Another volunteer edits the station's newsletter, not shy at all about telling officers what she needs from them.

Several other civilians scour neighborhoods with a wish list of equipment that police need, including filing cabinets, lockers, night binoculars and computer software. Last week, they located a used computer for the station.

Dallas took a stab at community policing with a handful of officers in 1991 under Click's predecessor, Bill Rathburn. The next year, a $2.1 million federal grant allowed Dallas to hire 28 neighborhood liaison officers.

The effort expanded broadly under Click, who experimented with many of the concepts in his previous job as an assistant chief with the Phoenix police. He said police officers have unnecessarily distanced themselves from residents.

"We worried about burglaries, robberies and car thefts," he said.

The Hunza in northwest Kashmir are the only group of people to be completely free of cancer in any form.

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Business and Industrial News

Harley Bynum puts quality, care first

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Earning the title of Master Photographer is no small accomplishment.

Of the thousands of photographers in Texas, only 53 have earned the degree given by the Professional Photographers of America.

Harley and his wife, Judy, can add a special touch to any photograph with specialty decorative matting and custom framing.

"Judy is skilled and trained in framing, and we have attended various seminars to keep up to date with the latest trends and styles in custom matting," Harley said.

Harley and Judy can custom frame just about anything, including photographs, documents and diplomas.

They also frame cross-stitch, wedding invitations, limited edition prints and posters of all sizes.

"We sell western prints here, or you can buy prints elsewhere and bring them in for framing," Harley said.

Individuals can also bring pictures they have taken in for framing.

If you have keepsakes, medals or any type of memorabilia you would like to display, Harley and Judy also do shadow boxes.

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Harley Bynum is also a full-service photography studio. Although he specializes in children's photography, Harley also does family pictures, weddings, senior pictures and anniversary parties.

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SERVICE-MINDED — Harley Bynum Photography is a quality and service-minded photography and framing studio. Harley offers a variety of services including custom framing and matting. He can also display keepsakes and other memorabilia in a special shadow box. Right now Harley has a special on photographing your child in an adorable angel setting. (SDN Staff Photo)

Official survives machine-gun attack

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Gunmen attacked Qatar's health minister, spraying his car with more than 100 bullets, government sources said Sunday. The minister escaped unhurt.

The attack occurred early Friday at a gas station in Doha, the Qatari capital. The attackers pulled up in a car and opened fire, said the sources, who are close to the minister and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ali Saeed al-Khayarin pursued his attackers in a brief car chase, but they escaped.

No other details of the attack were available, and it was not known whether anyone was hurt.

Squatter evicted from church lawn

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A homeless man evicted from a church lawn, where he said God wanted him to live, was nowhere to be seen Sunday after he was arrested and then bailed out of jail by an anonymous benefactor.

Jim Dunn started living on the lawn of First Congregational Church more than a year ago, after another church asked him to leave its parking lot. He lived in a makeshift tent, accompanied by his dog, a collie named Kaye, and used rest rooms at nearby gas stations.

Many church members at first welcomed him, but after a few rats appeared, the congregation voted on May 16 to ask him to leave.

On Friday he was arrested on a trespassing complaint. He was released Saturday after someone anonymously posted his $220 bail, according to the Akron Municipal Clerk of Courts office. Another court appearance was set for Tuesday.

Dunn, 52, was seen wandering the church's neighborhood later Saturday, waving to passing motorists, but on Sunday reporters didn't spot him anywhere in the area, the Akron Beacon Jou[illegible] reported.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Worker finds cockpit voice recorder

MIAMI (AP) — A police sergeant searching the murky waters where ValuJet Flight 592 crashed into the Everglades found the crucial cockpit voice recorder Sunday afternoon.

The voice recorder could provide important clues as to why the DC-9 crashed May 11, killing all 110 people aboard.

"When we stopped for a break, I said, 'God, so far I've just prayed for you to keep everyone safe out here and I haven't asked for your help finding anything. Now I'm asking you to help us find this recorder,' " said Metro-Dade Sgt. Felix Jimenez.

"The next time I put my probe into the water, it hit the recorder," Jimenez told The Associated Press.

The recorder was sent to the headquarters of the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington for analysis, spokesman Mike Benson said. It was shipped in a water-filled cooler to keep the tapes from drying out.

The outer case holding the recorder showed "impact damage" but no fire damage, Benson said after the box arrived in Washington. The recorder itself looked "still sound and in good shape."

Because of the holiday, it was unclear when analysis of the recorder would start, Benson said.

"We want to know what happened in the cockpit, the last moment. We are hopeful that the conversation between the pilot and other sound will give us important clues," Benson said.

Jimenez said he was wading shoulder-to-shoulder with a group of eight divers during a routine search when he came upon the "black box."

"If it was in there, I knew we were going to find it because we were finding human remains and bits of debris as small as 2 inches by 2 inches," Jimenez said.

He said the recorder was under 18 inches of water and partially submerged in the Everglades muck southeast of the crater where the plane nose-dived. The recorder was about 150 feet from where the flight data recorder was found May 13.

Earlier Sunday, investigators said they found fire and smoke damage in the passenger cabin of the aircraft.

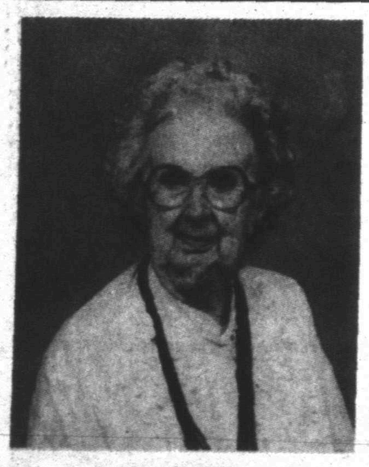
Speculation of the cause of fire has focused on the 119 oxygen canisters loaded into the planes's front cargo hold, which lies underneath the cabin. ValuJet was not authorized to carry the canisters, which contain a volatile mix of chemicals used to provide oxygen to passenger emergency masks.

Investigators also found the aluminum frame of a passenger seat that was partially melted and heavily damaged by fire, said NTSB spokesman Greg Feith. He said it would take temperatures of at least 500 degrees to cause that type of damage.

Also found was a blackened support structure and smoke-damaged floor beams, both from inside the passenger cabin.

Investigators are using the aircraft debris to reconstruct the forward part of the cargo hold to find the pattern of smoke and fire, which could tell them where the fire began and how it spread.

Obituaries



Alta Couch

Alta Couch

1916-1996

Alta Lillian Couch, 80, died Saturday, May 25, in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

Funeral service is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Officiating will be the Rev. Rusty Dickerson, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born in Duncan, Okla., she married Carl Thomas Couch in 1938 in Waurika, Okla. He died in 1984.

A homemaker, Mrs. Couch had lived in Snyder since 1945 and she was a charter member of the Trinity United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star Chapter 352 in Sweetwater and was a past Matron of the the Snyder Chapter. Mrs. Couch was also a former owner of the Highland Beauty Center.

Survivors include a daughter, Donna Fortenberry of Austin; and three grandchildren, Tracy, Trey and Travis Fortenberry.

Lena Thompson

1959-1996

Graveside service for Lena Gayle Thompson of Snyder was set for 10 a.m. today in the Snyder Cemetery. Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Thompson, 37, died Thursday, May 23, in Tatum, N.M. following a sudden illness.

Born in Snyder, she is survived by her mother, Verna Sellars of Snyder; a daughter, Danna Thompson of Snyder; a son, Joe Hodge of Snyder; three sisters, Linda Hardy of Ira, and Lila Blakey and Laura Campbell, both of Snyder; four brothers, Floyd White of Snyder, James White of Huntsville, Ray Derrick of Wichita Falls, and Jerry Derrick of Andrews; and 21 nieces and nephews.

Personal, Professional Service

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Ex-Navy secretary blames 3 entities for Navy's problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy is being damaged by the "gutter reporting" of journalists out to find scandal in the ranks, former Navy Secretary John Lehman says.

The Reagan administration official also condemned the Clinton White House for imposing policies of "political correctness" on the Navy and the Senate Armed Services Committee for impeding the career advancements of officers linked to the 1991 Tailhook sexual assault scandal.

It is "terribly damaging to the very fiber of the Navy as an institution, this continuing attack from so many quarters," Lehman said Sunday on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

Appearing earlier on the program, Deputy Defense Secretary John White denied that the Navy's combat readiness has suffered because of a string of incidents, including Tailhook, a recent rash of F-14 fighter plane crashes, criminal activities at the Naval Academy and the suicide of the service's top officer, Adm. Jeremy Boorda.

"The Navy is doing well. It is performing its missions around the world," White said. "At the same time, the society's changing and the Navy's changing, and it's a struggle."

But Lehman pointed to reports of sexual abuse at the 1991 convention of the Tailhook Association, a support group for naval aviation, as an example where officers were victims of media "character assassination."

Following what should have been a minor story, he said, "14 admirals have been cashiered, 300 naval aviators have been driven out of the Navy or their careers terminated."

Questioned about his own alleged public lewdness at a 1981 Tailhook convention as detailed in a new book, Lehman didn't deny the story outright. But he called it a "perfect example of the depths that coverage of the Navy has fallen to."

"Every Navy leader of recent times and now every senior admiral has been subjected to this kind of gutter reporting," he contended.

Lehman compared Boorda's suicide to the 1949 death of Defense Secretary James Forrestal, who became depressed by what he considered unfair attacks on his policies and jumped from a window two months after resigning his post.

Lehman said the Senate Armed Services Committee, led by such friends of the military as Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., had stood by while the careers of more than 300 naval personnel were being ruined.

Injured woman said satisfactory

A Snyder woman, injured when a go-cart struck her while while she was in her front yard, is listed in satisfactory condition and has been taken out of intensive care, according to a University Medical Center spokesperson.

Mozelle Wade, 76, of 111 36th St., suffered leg injuries Thursday evening when she was hit by a go-cart driven by a 15-year-old juvenile.

Wade was first taken to Cogdell Hospital by Snyder EMS and later transferred to Lubbock by First Flight.

Education

Continued From Page 7

physical specifications and contain essential elements that children are to be taught. If textbooks meet requirements, school districts can buy them with state money, regardless of whether the Education Board thinks they contain objectionable material.

How it's worked:

Some Education Board members have balked at their diminished power over textbook content. The board approved operating rules specifying it has the authority to express an opinion about textbooks adopted under the law.

12 people arrested by area law officers

Twelve people were arrested over the Memorial Day weekend, including nine on alcohol-related charges.

One felony arrest was made also. Esmeralda Barrera, 42, of 1157 N. Avenue O was taken into custody at 3:25 p.m. Sunday in the 1400 block of Avenue K on a blue warrant for parole revocation, Class B theft and resisting arrest. Also placed into custody was a 17-year-old female for resisting arrest.

Officers arrested a 55-year-old male at 10:57 a.m. Saturday in the 1600 block of 25th Street for public intoxication.

A 26-year-old male was arrested at 11:49 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of 27th Street for public intoxication.

Four people were taken into custody at 1:52 p.m. Saturday in the 800 block of College Avenue. Arrested for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated, no driver's license and no insurance was a 25-year-old male. Also arrested for public intoxication were a 22-year-old male and two females, ages 23 and 24.

At 12:42 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 19-year-old male for public intoxication in the 2800 block of Avenue H.

Officers arrested a 21-year-old male at 12:05 this morning in the 1300 block of 28th Street on outstanding warrants for speeding, failure to appear and Class C assault/family violence.

Officers arrested a 17-year-old male at 1:16 a.m. today in the 1000 block of 27th Street for public intoxication.

A 27-year-old male was arrested at 3:27 this morning in the 1200 block of 29th Street for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

In other activity over the weekend:

—A reported garage fire at 25th Street and Avenue E at 7:33 a.m. Saturday was actually a fire in a barbecue pit.

—Jose Cabrera contacted police at 7:52 a.m. Saturday to report someone struck his 1990 Chevrolet pickup. A hit and run report was filed. at 10:14 a.m. Sunday, police identified the other vehicle as a 1981 Pontiac driven by Mario Medina.

—Glenn Baker contacted authorities at 10:22 a.m. Saturday to report some power lines down across from Western Texas College. TU Electric and the fire department were notified.

—George Kiker contacted officers at 1:07 p.m. Saturday in reference to someone damaging his 1991 Mustang. A report for Class B criminal mischief was filed.

—A woman came to the sheriff's office at 7:55 p.m. and filed charges for Class C assault.

—The fire department was called to a dumpster fire in the 1400 block of 24th Street at 10:22 p.m.

—Police were called to the 3000 block of 38th Street at 2:22 a.m. Sunday in reference to two subjects fighting. Several subjects were issued citations for minor in possession and released to their parents.

—Sweetwater PD contacted a Scurry County dispatcher at 8:14 a.m. Sunday to help locate an Abilene Christian University van bound for Colorado. A student had been left behind on the trip. A local DPS trooper located the van and advised subjects of the situation.

—Snyder firefighters extinguished a grass fire at 6:50 p.m. Sunday at 17th Street and Avenue R.

What's Up?

Hope For Life's Journey series

The Hope For Life's Journey series of video tapes is airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. "Child Abuse: The Unspeakable Sin" will air at 7 this evening.

Jury call cancelled

The jury panel scheduled to report Tuesday in 132nd District Court has been dismissed.

Genealogy meeting set

Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the county library. The program will be part one of the Video Research Guide. Visitors are welcome.

SHS Class of 1986

Snyder High School Class of 1986 is needing current addresses to plan its 10-year reunion. Contact Amy Wilson Hodges, 573-1944; Steve Lee, 573-2176; Shirley Raschke Scifres, 573-2655; or Mike McWilliams, 573-6543.

DL office notes key dates

The local driver's license office will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and will be closed Friday.

Car wash and bake sale

Snyder High School cheerleaders will have a car wash and bake sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in the Walmart parking lot.

Barbed wire help needed

Scurry County Museum is looking for collectors of barbed wire who would be willing to lend their collections to the museum from June 18 through July 18.

The museum plans to display the barbed wire during the Western Swing Festival in June and into the following month.

Help is also needed in presenting the history of barbed wire and telling of its importance on the range. Anyone who has a collection or who can help is asked to call 573-6107.

Vacation Bible Schools

•SNYDER FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Begins Wednesday at 7 p.m. and continues each Wednesday night in June. Ends Sunday, June 30 with closing celebrations. Games, Bible teaching. Patterned after the 1996 Olympic Games. Ages 3-10. Call 573-5601 for more information.

•FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
June 10-14, 9 a.m. until noon.

•TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Kingdom of the Son, a prayer safari. June 17-21, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Games, crafts, songs, snacks, Bible Stories.

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth $12 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 9, 16, 26, 33, 39 and 50.

There were 119 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth $1,767. There were 6,881 tickets with four of six numbers, with each winning $110. And there were 136,105 tickets sold with three of six numbers, with each worth an automatic $3.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Wednesday night's game will be $18 million.

Pick 3

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

5-4-6

(five, four, six)

Animal activists protest Sea World's new exhibit

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The debut of Sea World's hands-on whale exhibit, Shamu Backstage, attracted thousands of visitors who wanted to wade through a shallow pool to touch, feed and help train six 4,000-pound killer whales.

It also drew about 50 protesters who demanded the whales be freed.

Animal activists have long protested capturing, breeding and forcing whales to perform at neighboring Shamu Stadium, but the new interactive exhibit, which opened Saturday after more than a year of construction, had them spouting with anger.

"It's not natural ... these hands-on, touchy-feely exhibits. They're the most artificial, the most unnatural of anything going on at Sea World," said Jane Cartmill, an organizer of San Diego Animal Advocates.

Large Memorial Day weekend crowds watched the whales — all known as Shamu or Baby Shamu — through a 70-foot long window, or walked upstairs to the top of their pool, climbed into a shallow end and petted them.

"People who come and have a close personal experience with the animals now have the option ... to go away with a better sense of respect and understanding for the animals," said Jim Antrim, the park's general curator.

The protesters, including one dressed as a whale, called for the animals to be liberated, not confined to the water-park equivalent of a petting zoo.

"They're denied the acoustical stimulation of the sea, the visual

Sea World of California, a 150-acre park on San Diego's Mission Bay, is one of several owned nationwide by St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch.

stimulation of the natural world," Cartmill said. "Now they're treated like somebody's bathtub rubber duck."

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Ida King, Snyder Oaks; Elois Pruitt, 3848 Shady Oaks Lane.

DISMISSALS: Margry Sorrells.

CENSUS: 40 (Med., Surg.-4, Long-term Care-36).