SEARCH FOR BABY — Local law enforcement officials, Sgt. Steve Warren and Sheriff Darren Jackson are shown with Sweetwater and Nolan County personnel in searching Snyder's landfill for the body of a new-born baby Friday afternoon. The search was called off around 6:30 p.m.

For Sweetwater baby...

City landfill searched

Law enforcement personnel from Scurry and Nolan counties spent most of Friday afternoon in the city of Snyder landfill looking for the remains of a newborn baby whose mother said she had put in a trash dumpster in Sweetwater on March 5.

Aided by landfill dozers and back-hoes, the search began around 1 p.m. and concluded around 6:30 p.m.

Sweetwater Chief of Police Jim Kelley said Friday afternoon that if the remains were not found on Friday, the search would not continue.

"This happened over two weeks ago and about 200 tons of garbage is dumped in here daily. Finding the body would be a long, long shot," said Kelley.

Searchers knew the general area to begin looking, however, as landfill superintendent Eli Torres keeps a record of where trash is dumped via a grid system.

"We know it was dumped in this general area," said Kelley as he gestured toward an area being combed by search dogs trained to look for bodies. "We're just not sure how deep it may be."

Kelley said officials became aware of the situation when a 20-year-old Sweetwater woman had emergency surgery in Rolling Plains Hospital to stop severe bleeding.

"The doctor found the umbilical cord and the placenta during surgery," said Kelley. "When she was able, the girl told the doctor about the baby being born at her home and her putting it in the dumpster wrapped in a towel."

"The girl said the baby never did move," added Kelley.

Kelley said he did not know what charges might be filed against the girl.

"It could be a charge of homicide, or lesser charges," said Kelley.

SEARCH DOGS — Four dogs from the Thunderstorm Search and Rescue Team were used in the search for the body of a Sweetwater baby Friday.

INSIDE

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WT-Int. Crude - $15.93
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

March 27-28, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 280
46 Pages 75¢

Home Of Chris Richards

Air Force hearing moved; report draws H.E.P.A. fire

An organization opposed to the Air Force's plan to increase low-level training flights over an eight-county area — including Scurry — has won at least one small battle.

The April 7 hearing on the proposal was originally scheduled at the Snyder High School cafeteria — a site Heritage Environmental Preservation Assoc. (H.E.P.A.) members objected to as too small and out-of-the-way for the public to attend.

The session has now been moved to the Worsham Auditorium on the high school campus, beginning at 5 p.m.

As expected, the Air Force's two-inch thick environmental impact study has drawn the ire of H.E.P.A.

A consultant with the group, William Weida, who is a former professor at the Air Force Academy, claims the Air Force's noise calculations are all based on a person being in an urban environment.

"The Air Force knows full well that they are intentionally underestimating the noise levels that people hear in the country or rural areas," Weida said.

H.E.P.A. is headed by Buster Welch, a rancher in Fisher and Scurry counties.

Welch has opposed the Air Force's plans from the outset.

"It's unbelievable that something like this can happen in America. I've worked my whole life to get my ranch, and now the Air Force wants to put me out of business overnight," said Welch. "What ever happened to private property rights?"

The Air Force plans include low-level flying missions with B-1 and B-52 bombers over most of Scurry, Kent, Fisher, Stonewall, Garza, Borden, Dawson and Lynn counties.

Frank Bond, H.E.P.A.'s attorney, is alarmed at the number of flights the Air Force wants to conduct over the area.

See Air Force, Page 12A

State officials slate Snyder visit Thursday

Snyder will once again be in the spotlight this week, hosting the chairman of both the Texas Railroad Commission and the Natural Resource Conservation Commission Thursday afternoon.

State Rep. David Counts has arranged the visits of Railroad Commissioner Chairman Tony Garza and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Chairman Robert Huston.

While in Snyder, Rep. Counts will lead the two state officials on a tour of Torch Energy, SACROC and Sharon Ridge fields, the City of Snyder's water treatment and waste-water plants, plus the Western Texas College Workforce Education Center which houses distance learning facilities.

Chairman Garza will tour the oil-related sites, while Chairman Huston will tour the sites the TNRCC oversees — the city's water treatment plant and its waste-water facility.

Both officials will tour the WTC Workforce Education Center around 4 p.m. and then attend a public reception at 4:30 p.m. at the Scurry County Museum on the WTC campus.

In January, Rep. Counts and Snyder Mayor David Holt arranged the visit to Snyder by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and other state officials.

In addition to Garza and Huston, others expected from Austin Thursday include Gene Acuna, director of public relations for the railroad commission and Duncan Norton, TNRC general counsel.

Torch Energy plant manager Mike Post will host the group's tour at the Torch plant, while PennzEnergy production superintendent Pete Hagist, systems analyst Don Orsburn and Patterson Energy's chairman Cloyce Talbott will conduct the tour for Garza at SACROC.

Joining Garza in the tour of the Sharon Ridge Field will be Leamon Hood and Marty Toombs of Altura Energy, Roger Lollar of Anadarko, while Exxon will be represented by Ross Cornett and Roy Baze.

City Manager John Gayle will lead the tour of the city's facilities while Mike Thornton and John Gibson will direct the tour of the WTC educational center. Thornton is dean of continuing education while Gibson is the director of workforce education.

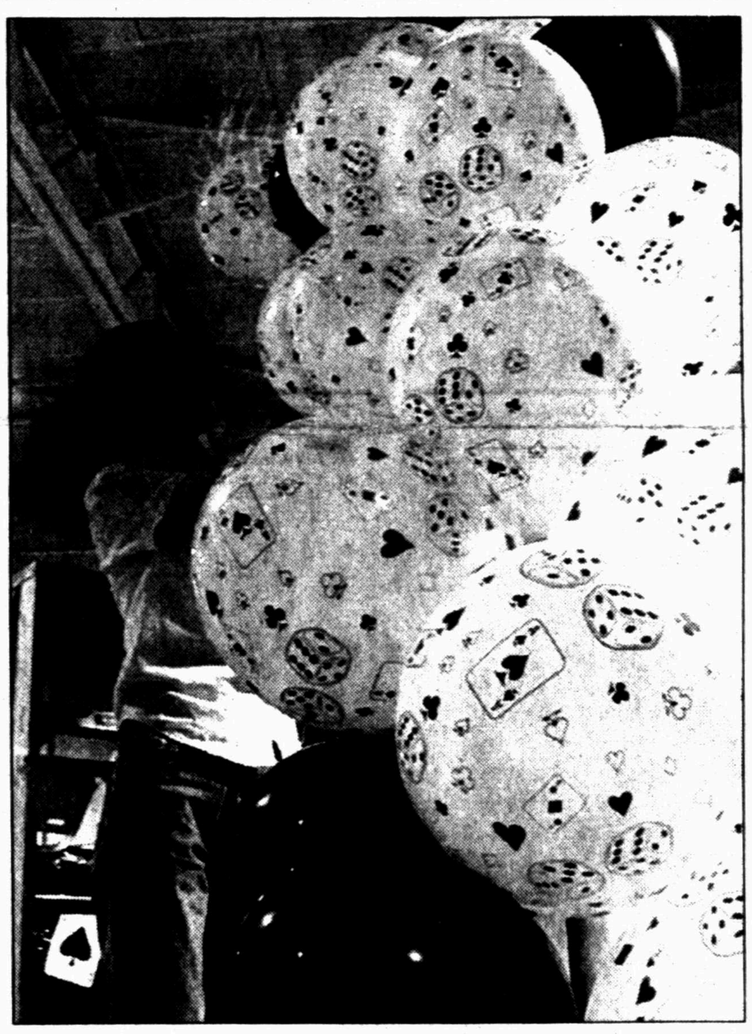
The public reception at the museum will be hosted by WTC President Dr. Harry Krenek.

Holy Week
Worship Schedule

Monday - Thursday
First Presbyterian Church
Service & Meal
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

~~~

Daily Speakers
Monday - J.D. Smith
Tuesday - Tommy Culwell
Wednesday - Thomas Minton
Thursday - Gerald Leatham
Friday - 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
First United Methodist Church
Lloyd Stice



PROM PREPARATIONS — The finishing touches were being added Friday afternoon to decorations for Snyder High School's junior/senior prom set 8 p.m. Saturday at the National Guard Armory. Junior Laura Canada adds balloons to an archway. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)

Monday morning...

Reception set for warden

The new senior warden at the Price Daniel Unit, Wilhelmenia Howard, will be introduced to the public Monday during a "get-acquainted reception" at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

The reception, which will be held from 10 until 11:30 a.m., is being hosted by the chamber, Development Corporation of Snyder and the city of Snyder.

Mrs. Howard, along with her husband, Tony, have moved here from Amarillo.

In Amarillo, Mrs. Howard served as the senior warden at the Neal Unit. Mr. Howard is the supervisor of internal affairs for this area of the TDCJ.

The new warden is a native of Killeen and has her bachelor's and master's' degrees in psychology. She has been with the TDCJ since 1985.

She has spent most of her career with TDCJ in the Gatesville area prison units, including death row for women.

She and her family moved to Amarillo in 1993 to open the Neal Unit there.

She and her husband have two sons, Kasey and Horatio.

In Amarillo, Mrs. Howard was active with the chamber of commerce, having served on its board of directors. She also served on the criminal justice advisory board at Amarillo College.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Net worth should not be confused with self-worth."

We were talking to ole what's-her name about proms of the past.

While it was a traumatic affair 30 years ago, today it seems insignificant. She reminded us it's closer to 40 years ago. Now that's traumatic.

She was at the same prom, but we don't remember seeing her there. I guess we were too busy trying to figure out how to get out of there.

We never liked the prom. It was too much trouble — and nobody had ever heard of a tuxedo. You wore a dark suit and church shoes — brown or black — the only dress pair you had.

Those shoes worn just weekly seldom required little effort to shine 'em up. We do remember one guy who bought some shiney patent leather ones for the big night. The bright shoes matched the shine on the back of his black britches.

Proms were much more mundane in those days. Getting ready for the prom meant a haircut. If you really wanted to do it up right, you could get it at the barbershop. And the way they cut hair in those days, you couldn't tell if it was done at home or by a licensed professional.

If you didn't have a driver's license, then parents could give you a lift and pick you up afterwards. There was nary a stretch limo in the ole days.

Even with a beginner's license, the nifty thing to do would be to ask an older girl to the prom. That way, she could be your licensed driver in the front seat — eliminating the need for a parent.

But with a real license, one could borrow the family Ford Fairlane 500 4-door and have a real prom date.

Girls actually did opt for a fancy dress. They were likely borrowed from an older sister. Shoot, they could even be worn a second time. Can't remember whether shoes had to match. It was at a prom that we learned that a white flower is always a safe bet. It goes with any color.

In those days, guys even went with guys to the prom — but not as dates. Guys had just rather sit around and gawk at some of their friends making miscues in trying to do everything proper.

In those days, it wouldn't be long before the guys were in one corner and the gals in another — talking about one another.

And the really serious prom daters left early anyway. They ended up at the local Dairy Mart, splitting a burger and fries.

And they always ended up making plans for next year — save money for two burgers.

ASK US

Q—Who do you contact if you suspect a business of Medicare fraud?

A—You may call the U.S. Government Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 64 degrees; low, 48; 7 a.m. Saturday, 52; .03 of an inch precipitation; total for 1999, 1.99 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, mostly cloudy; 40% rain chance. Lows 40-45. Sunday, mostly cloudy; 20% rain chance. Highs 65-70.

Laura Lynn
Rain

Sunset: 7 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.
Of 85 days in 1999, the sun has shone 80 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"We are not here merely to make a living. We are here to enrich the world, and we impoverish ourselves if we forget this errand.

Woodrow Wilson
~~~

Perry suggests higher ed committee

AUSTIN (AP) — Every aspect of higher education will be up for examination by a proposed special commission that will focus on accessibility, affordability and giving students the skills they need to succeed, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry said Friday.

"Everything will be on the table," Perry said of the proposed Special Commission on 21st Century Colleges and Universities.

"I'm a big proponent of higher education. ... This will give higher education a platform in which to not only talk about the really good things they've done, but what they can and should do in the next 100 years," he said. "What warts that may be there, certainly those will be up for discussion, too."

Perry, a Republican, said he will work with House Speaker Pete Laney and other lawmakers on how best to structure the commission, which he said likely will be named in June and then report to the 2001 Legislature.

"We must continue to look closely at what we are doing in all areas of higher education and make sure we don't lose momentum as we approach the 21st century. Certainly this is of great concern to many legislators, and I look forward to working with Lieutenant Governor Perry on this issue," said Laney, D-Hale Center.

Universities, community colleges and technical institutions all will be examined for ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency, Perry said. Funding will be among the issues studied, he said.

"The community colleges, for instance, I think have a substantial opportunity to be better utilized in the state of Texas. ... All of the institutions out there I think need to be analyzed for how can we best utilize them and how do we fund them," he said.

The commission should look at such things as the proper scope and mission for each institution, whether Texas is getting the most for its money and the best ways to recruit faculty and attract students, he said.

With lifelong learning in mind, Perry said the panel also should look at such things as night and weekend classes and computerized 'virtual universities' for people who work, have children at home or live in rural areas.

Perry added that he would like to bring experts in from across the country to give input.

"I would like to see as broad and intensive look at higher education as we have ever had in the state's history," he said.

"We'll ask a lot of hard questions. But I think it will be a very productive and a very positive process that not only elevates higher education's reputation but also advances the notion that higher education is going to play a very, very important role in Texas in the 21st century. And we have to be ready and willing to support it financially and structurally. That's my goal in naming this commission," he said.

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HERALD OF TRUTH
God And The Rebellious Child"
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Rapid Refund

Four SHS students recognized

Four Snyder High School students have been recognized by the RadioShack/Tandy Scholars program.

Those receiving certificates include Nickolas Means for being the outstanding math/science/computer student. Means also received a certificate for being in the top two percent of his class as did Brett Gibson, Reid Johnson and Vanessa Jones.

This is the 10th year that the RadioShack/Tandy Scholars program has made awards to teachers and graduating seniors at American High Schools.

Religious Briefs

Holy Week Services

The Scurry County Ministerial Alliance will sponsor Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian Church Monday through Thursday. Services will be at noon with a community luncheon following each service. Good Friday services and breakfast will be at 7 a.m. April 2 at First United Methodist Church.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Overcoming Hardship," followed by "When God Went to Prison."

Lions, Rotary

The Snyder Lions Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church to participate in the Holy Week service. The Rotary Club will do the same on Thursday.

FBC Easter musical

"At The Name of Jesus," a musical for Easter, will be presented by the First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. next Friday and Saturday. The public is invited.

Colonial Hill music ministry

The music ministry of Colonial Hill Baptist Church will present The Easter Story, "Celebrate Him" at 7 p.m. next Friday and Saturday. There is no admission charge.

Garage sale items needed

Lighthouse Assembly of God, 1900 Trinity Blvd., is accepting items for their garage sale to benefit the church building fund. Furniture, appliances and other items are appreciated. Clothes are not needed at this time. Call 573-5124 or 573-2947 for pickup.

Support groups

Four different support groups meet the second Thursday of the month at the First Baptist Church. The groups include divorce recovery, cancer-grief support group, a group for parents of teens and a group for adult-children caring for elderly parents. Child care is provided.

Ira ag science teacher to attend Austin meet

AUSTIN — Richard Long, agriculture science and technology teacher from Ira, will attend the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Board of Directors annual meeting April 11-12. Long has been teaching agriculture for 16 years.

Board members who attend the annual meeting will decide the direction, policy and budget for the association's upcoming fiscal year. They will meet with various elected officials as well as to discuss current legislative issues and policies affecting the association membership. Representative David Swinford, R-Dumas, has been invited to address the board members at a Monday morning breakfast.

James "Bud" Weston, president of the association, stated, "Agriculture education continues to change with the introduction of new technologies and a more diverse student population and we intend to meet these challenges of the future and continue to educate youth responsibly about the role of agriculture science in today's marketplace."

The Ag Teachers Association was founded in 1940 and its membership annually reaches the 90% range of ag science and technology teachers in the state.

Town Hall meeting set

COLORADO CITY — Veterans are invited to attend a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at the Civic Center in Colorado City, 157 West 2nd St.

Those attending will include Jerry McRae of Waco, director of Veterans Affairs Regional Office; and Victor Silvester, Desert Shield Desert Storm Association.

Other representatives will be from the Medical Center in Big Spring, Texas Veterans Commission and Texas Land Board.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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We've got that hometown spirit and we're passing it around!

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If you are already a patient, we will do your services for no charge on that day.

Please call our office today to schedule your appointment.

CAST OF AMBER WAVES — Hermleigh's one-act entry, "Amber Waves," will compete in the district contest set Monday at Dawson School in Welch. From left, standing, Joe Romero, Caleb Callaway, Joey Garza, Jared Higgins; seated, Crystal Jackson, Randi K. Herrington, Brandy Wood, Tiffanie Moore, Andrea Rodriguez. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

One-act play...

Ira, Hermleigh head to district on Monday

Ira and Hermleigh dominated zone one-act play competition Thursday in Westbrook.

Ira's "The Imaginary Invalid," a French comedy, and Hermleigh's "Amber Waves" will both compete in district competition Monday at Dawson School in Welch.

Besides advancing, the two schools claimed a hefty share of the individual awards. Top acting honors went to Ira's Tye Shirley who was named best actor and Emily Hardy, also of Ira, who was named best actress.

Ira also placed two on the all-star cast, Tosha Walker and Case Hardy. Three students from Hermleigh received all-star cast recognition. They include Randi K. Herrington, Caleb Callaway and Tiffanie Moore.

Honorable mention all-star cast recognition was bestowed on Hermleigh's Jared Higgins and Shade Everton and Korby Calley, both from Ira.

Mary Spieker, who directed Hermleigh's play, said the cast "performed very well and I am extremely proud of them."

Sue Parham, who directed Ira's play said, "I am very pleased. I felt this was by far our best performance."

She noted that comments from the judge, Dr. David Allen of Midland College, included, "This (Ira's play) was a very good production played with verve. The characters were played with a good sense of style and timing."

Other Hermleigh students appearing in "Amber Waves" are Crystal Jackson, Brandy Wood, Andrea Rodriguez, Joe Romero, Joey Garza.

Other cast members in Ira's "The Imaginary invalid" are Terri Robinson, Lindsy Josey, Bryce Wilkins and Trey Shirley.

Alternates are Dani White and Kendra Krop.

Members of Ira's crew are Katie Howard, Cody Kellner, Leicia Knight, Casey Chaney.

Sands' one-act was named alternate.

Loop and Grady, who advanced from the West Zone, wil also compete at District Monday.

Tye Shirley

Emily Hardy

Proposed ranch opposed

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Don Imus has encountered a wave of opposition over water use at his proposed ranch for sick children.

The nationally syndicated radio personality has raised millions of dollars for the children's ranch, which he hopes to open this summer.

Imus' water plans call for pumping up to 100 acre-feet of water per year from four proposed 900-foot-deep wells. One acre-foot, the amount needed to cover an acre a foot deep, is about 326,000 gallons.

"We're concerned about the impact on the wells around here of any deep pumping," said Nicasio Romero, a commissioner on the El Ancon Acequia, an irrigation association.

Body found near Yosemite is missing teen-age tourist

SONORA, Calif. (AP) — They thought they were prepared for the worst.

Yet when the families of three missing tourists learned that one of the women's bodies was discovered near Yosemite National Park, news was no less painful to bear.

Authorities on Friday said the body found near a reservoir west of Yosemite was that of 15-year-old Julie Sund, and that the second body found last week in the trunk of their torched rental car likely was her friend, Silvina Pelosso.

"We were prepared to hear this news, but we were not ready when we heard it. My feelings at this time are as any mother's," said Raquel Pelosso, Silvania's mother, on Friday night.

Julie, her mother Carole Sund, 42, and Silvina, a 16-year-old exchange student from Cordoba, Argentina, all disappeared six weeks ago while on a sightseeing trip. Mrs. Sund's body was identified Monday as one of two corpses were found in the trunk of their torched rental car in remote Sierra Village.

"We will bring all available resources to bear to solve this horrible crime," said FBI agent James Maddock. "We are all committed to solving this crime and bringing those responsible to justice."

He would not comment on how Julie or the other sightseers died or what led investigators to her body.

After Julie's body was identified, family members recounted jovial stories about the young woman, a violinist and cheerleading squad member who was preparing to go to college.

"She's just a really sweet girl and typical teen-ager. I'm going to miss her so much," said Carole Carrington, Julie's grandmother, choking back tears at a press conference at her Modesto hotel. Flags there were flying at half mast.

Mrs. Sund, Julie and Silvina were last seen alive Feb. 15 just outside Yosemite, eating hamburgers at the Cedar Lodge restaurant in El Portal.

Julie's body was found on a steep, grassy hill that drops into Don Pedro Lake reservoir, about an hour from where their torched car was found. It also is on one of the most direct routes to Modesto, where Mrs. Sund's billfold was found.

Maddock said investigators still have not been able to move the timeline past when the women were last seen at the Cedar Lodge restaurant.

Dental records were used to identify Mrs. Sund and her daughter.

Applications for transfers due by April 30

Students who reside outside the Snyder Independent School District , but wish to attend the Snyder Public Schools during the 1999-2000 school year must complete application for transfer by Friday, April 30, or a tuition fee may be assessed.

Parents may come by the School Administration Building at 2901 37th St. to file for student transfers at any time during the month of April. The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The office will be closed April 2 and 5 for the Easter holiday.

Family gets Fannie Mae home

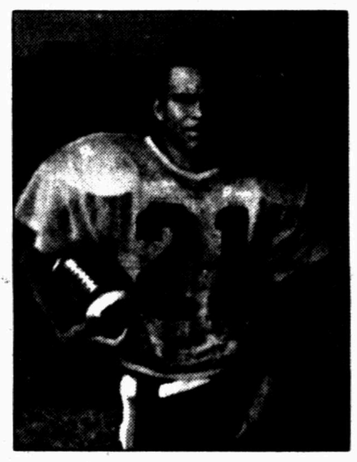
LEAGUE CITY (AP) — Seven surviving octuplets and their parents are set to move in to a new six-bedroom home courtsey of Federal National Home Mortgage Association, known as Fannie Mae.

The parents, Nkem Chukwu and Iyke Louis Udobi, accepted the keys to the 5,384-square-foot house at a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the home Friday.

"It's finer inside than outside," Ms. Chukwu said.

The two-story home southeast of Houston was built in 1992 and is appraised at $274,000, according to county real estate records. Fannie Mae donated the home to a trust for the family after being approached by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston.

The family lives in Houston. They plan to move in after the four octuplets who are still hospitalized are released.



Mario Saenz, Jr.

Saenz receives National award

Mario Saenz Jr., an eighth grader at Snyder Junior High School, has been named a United States National Award winner in football, by the U.S. Achievement Academy.

He is the son of Mario and Mary Lou Saenz of Snyder and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Vaughn Sr. of Laredo and Criselia Saenz and Diego Saenz, both of Freer.

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The Easter Story....

"Celebrate Him"

Friday, April 2nd 7:00pm
Saturday, April 3rd 7:00pm

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WTC WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

You are cordially invited to attend a reception in honor of Commissioner Tony Garza, Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas & Mr. Robert Huston, Chairman, Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
Thursday, April 1, 1999
4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.
Scurry County Museum
6200 South College Avenue
Snyder, Texas

Department of the Month
H.I.M. DEPARTMENT
Health Information Management

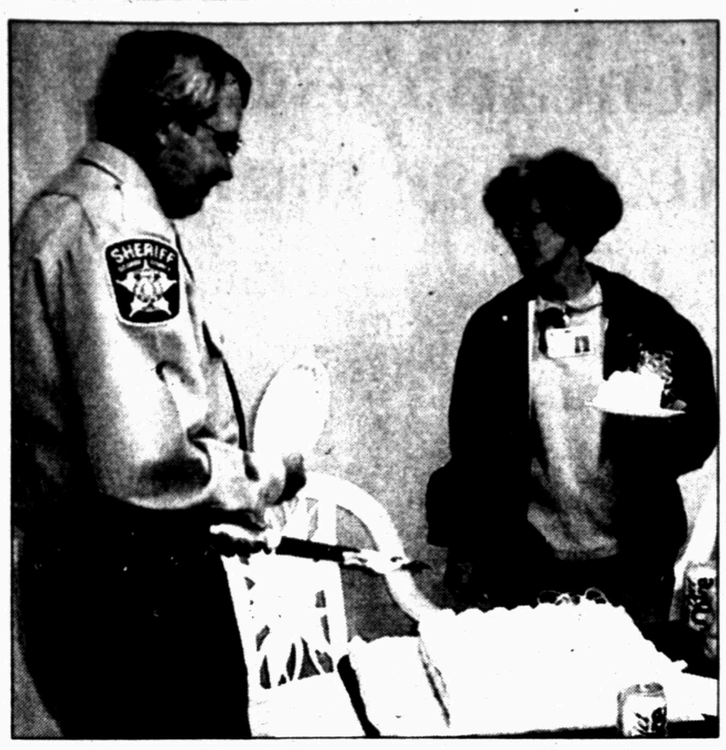
Front row (from left) Starla Kubena, Betty Woodard, Dept. Manager. Back row, Katy Doty, Duffy Small, Sharon Fry, Darlene Burk, Jerri Riley, Supervisor.

In announcing this selection, Jeff Reecer, CEO, commented on the unique contributions made by these dedicated professionals. Members of this department work as a team to provide quality management of medical records and other patient health information, including developing methods to ensure that patient health information remains confidential.

In addition to data management, the H.I.M. Department has the primary responsibility for developing and implementing systems for compliance with constantly changing federal and state healthcare laws and regulations.

They also serve as a means of communication between the physician and other health professionals contributing to the care of patients.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital



MOVING DOWN THE ROAD — A "going away" party was held Thursday at the Law Enforcement Center for Ann Galey. Galey works in the drivers' license office which is relocating to the Diamond M building. The office is scheduled to open Monday in its new home, if the computers are running properly. Chief Deputy Delwyn Davis is also pictured. (SDN Staff Photo)

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Suspect in Shepard's slaying was a dropout

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Like the gay college student he is accused of killing, Russell Henderson is a slightly built young man who was raised on the dusty high plains of Wyoming.

Just 10 months apart in age, Henderson and Matthew Shepard wound up in the same city, where they frequented some of the same nightspots and even had mutual acquaintances.

But when their paths crossed back in October, they were heading in different directions.

While the 5-foot-2, 105-pound Shepard was educated in Europe and had big plans for the future, Henderson, at 5-feet-7, 138 pounds, was a high school dropout who held unskilled jobs. He had had minor scuffles with the law, but no history of violence.

Henderson, his buddy Aaron McKinney and Shepard met in a college bar last fall. Eighteen hours later, Shepard was found near death, tied to a fence, bloodied by a pistol-whipping. Henderson was jailed after trying to outrun a police officer and was soon named a suspect in Shepard's death. McKinney was arrested soon afterward.

Jury selection continued Friday in Henderson's trial on charges of murdering Shepard. McKinney is scheduled to stand trial on identical charges in August. Both men could get the death penalty.

Police allege Henderson and McKinney, both 21, pretended to be homosexuals, lured Shepard out of the Fireside Lounge and took him to a remote area east of Laramie and attacked him. They believe Henderson and McKinney intended to rob Shepard, but also targeted him in part because he was gay.

Henderson's girlfriend is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty Dec. 23 to accessory after the fact to murder. McKinney's girlfriend goes on trial in May on an accessory charge.

In a preview of his defense strategy, attorney Wyatt Skaggs told prospective jurors this week that Henderson witnessed the beating but did not participate in it.

Born Sept. 24, 1977, Henderson was raised by his mother, Cindy Dixon, who often left him in the care of his grandparents and aunts.

Little is known about Henderson's father, and his mother died of exposure in January on a two-lane road north of Laramie, several hours after she left a bar. Police said it may have been an accidental death.

At school, Henderson blended in with the crowd, just another dark-haired, polite young man. One of his childhood loves was scouting. He earned 21 merit badges to become an Eagle Scout.

But Henderson dropped out of high school and moved out of his grandmother's home. He piled up a series of petty offenses, mostly traffic violations.

At 15, Henderson took a night job at Taco Bell, said Tammy Shields, his manager at the time. "He was always on time and, if he wasn't he would always call and let us know," she said. "He just didn't say much. He went and did everything you told him to."

Eventually, Henderson and McKinney were hired by a roofing company, working long hours, said Doc O'Connor, who also owns Doc's Western Village apartments and gave McKinney a place to stay.

Henderson's life took a bad turn shortly after midnight on Oct. 7 when police responding to a vandalism call spotted Henderson and McKinney as they got out of a black pickup and crouched down.

Officer Flint Waters turned on the patrol car's lights and the two men bolted in different directions. Waters tackled Henderson a half-block away when the young man was slowed by hedges in a back yard.

Police said Waters found a bloody .357 Magnum in the back of the pickup and asked Henderson if it had been fired. According to police, Henderson laughed and said, "I guarantee you won't find anyone with a bullet in them."

CHILI SOUP — Celia Barrera's bilingual kindergarten students made chili soup and served it at the end of Public School Week. Guests (top photo) included from left, Roger Garza, Ector Rodriguez and Jim Rosson, principal. Students (middle photo) are from left, clockwise are Anna Rivera, Roxanna Arrellano, Ana Cabrera, Tania Rodriguez, Eddy Estrada, Mayra Benitez, Abby Infante, Norma Juarez. Mrs. Barrera (bottom photo) is standing behind from left, Kat Higgins, Lilliana Hernandez, and Berenice Soberon. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Datebook

March 27, 1999

Today is the 86th day of 1999 and the eighth day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1955, Steve McQueen made his television debut, appearing in "The Chivington Raid," a Goodyear Playhouse production.

On this day in 1958, Nikita Khrushchev became premier of the Soviet Union in addition to his post as first secretary of the Communist Party.

On this day in 1988, Tina Turner sang "Honky Tonk Woman" with Mick Jagger at a concert in Osaka, Japan.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen (1845-1923), physicist; Edward Steichen (1879-1973), photographer; Dashiell Hammett (1894-1961), writer; Louis Simpson (1923-), poet, is 76; Sarah Vaughan (1924-1990), singer; Anthony Lewis (1927-), journalist, is 72; Cale Yarborough (1940-), auto racer, is 59; Michael York (1942-), actor, is 57.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1994, "Magic" Johnson coached his first game for the LA Lakers, who defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 110-101.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "He who sleeps in continual noise is wakened by silence." — William Dean Howells

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (March 24) and full moon (March 31).

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March 28, 1999

Today is the 87th day of 1999 and the ninth day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1834, the U.S. Senate censured President Andrew Jackson for the removal of deposits from the Bank of the United States.

On this day in 1969, former president Dwight Eisenhower died in Washington, D.C., at the age of 78.

On this day in 1970, 16-year-old Jane Berins of the United Kingdom set a world record by go-go dancing for 18 hours.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), religious reformer; Maxim Gorki (1868-1936), writer; Nelson Algren (1909-1981), writer; Edmund S. Muskie (1914-1996), U.S. politician; Freddie Bartholomew (1924-1992), actor; Dianne Wiest (1948-), actress, is 51; Reba McEntire (1955-), singer, is 44.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1977, Marquette defeated North Carolina 67-59, winning the NCAA basketball championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A person is a person because he recognizes others as persons." — Desmond Tutu

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (March 24) and last quarter (March 31).

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Charges upgraded

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Two men accused of fatally beating a man and burning his body because he was gay could be executed in Alabama's electric chair now that charges against them have been upgraded to capital murder.

Steven Eric Mullins and Charles Butler Jr. had been charged with murder for the Feb. 19 killing of Billy Jack Gaither of Sylacauga. That charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison and allows for parole.

The First Baptist Church of Snyder
invites you and your family to join us for a special time of Praise and Worship
10:00 a.m. Easter Morning
in the Snyder High School Worsham Auditorium
3801 Austin Ave.
A nursery will be provided for children birth - 3 years of age in the Nursery Suite of the First Baptist Church.
Dr. Marty Akins, Pastor
First Baptist Church
1701 27th Street
Snyder, Texas
573-2631

Snyder Multi-Specialty Clinic
1805 27th Street
574-1300

Mara DeLaVega, MD	Family Practice
Anna Rosinska, MD	Internal Medicine
Micheal Stephens, MD	Family Practice
Gene Stokes, MD	Internal Medicine
Guido Toscano, MD	Internal Medicine

All physicians are accepting new patients
First Care, BCBS, Medicare, Medicaid, HealthSmart, HealthSelect & ProNet accepted.
se habla Español

Jury convicts Kevorkian of 2nd-degree murder

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian made a video of himself killing a man and dared prosecutors to charge him. Then he ordered jurors to convict him if they looked at him and saw a murderer.

They did.

Now after participating in what he says are more than 130 suicides over nine years, the 70-year-old crusader for assisted suicide and euthanasia faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

The jury convicted Kevorkian of second-degree murder Friday in the Sept. 17 death of 52-year-old Thomas Youk, who suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, rejecting Kevorkian's argument that "there are certain acts that by sheer common sense are not crimes."

Prosecutor David Gorcyca said state guidelines call for a minimum of 10 to 25 years. Kevorkian's defense attorney said he would ask for no prison time. Kevorkian was also convicted of delivery of a controlled substance, which has a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

Kevorkian escaped a first-degree murder conviction, which would have sent him to prison for life without possibility of parole. He told The Oakland Press of Pontiac that the verdict wasn't rational.

"Manslaughter, I could understand how they would arrive at that. But murder? This? They must have been an astonishingly cruel jury," he said. "I got what I wanted — a conviction. Why? That proves how corrupt the society is, and how malevolent are those who run it."

It was the retired pathologist's first murder trial. In four previous felony trials on assisted suicide charges, his defense relied on evidence of the pain and suffering by people who died with his help. The earlier trials resulted in three acquittals and one mistrial.

This time, that defense wasn't allowed.

And this time, prosecutors had the tape that Kevorkian gave to CBS's "60 Minutes" of himself injecting Youk with a fatal dose of drugs. In past cases, Kevorkian has said his clients used his home-made devices to control the carbon monoxide or intravenous chemicals that killed them.

Kevorkian baited the prosecutors on "60 minutes."

"I've got to force them to act," he said. "They must charge me. Because if they do not, that means they don't think it was a crime."

No, they didn't, said prosecutor John Skrzynski. "If Jack Kevorkian had not videotaped this, no one would have ever known it happened," he said after the verdict.

"Dr. Kevorkian has even begged and sometimes taunted me into prosecuting him," Gorcyca said. "Today a jury of his peers granted him his ultimate wish."

To convict on second-degree murder, the jury only had to agree Kevorkian either intended to kill or do great bodily harm, or created a high risk of death or great bodily harm.

Kevorkian, who served as his own attorney during the swift trial, showed no reaction as the verdicts were read after 12 hours of jury deliberations. He remained free on bond after agreeing to do nothing unlawful.

"No assisted suicide. No injection. No anything," Judge Jessica Cooper told him.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 14.

Defense attorney David Gorosh said he would pursue an appeal.

"Dr. Kevorkian is certainly no murderer," said Gorosh, who resumed his role Friday morning after Kevorkian withdrew as his own attorney. "We believe it's certainly unjust to equate an act of compassion to an act of murder."

Kevorkian won the right to represent himself despite the misgivings of the judge, who asked him: "Do you understand you could spend the rest of your life in prison?"

"There's not much of it left," he responded.

Kevorkian sometimes stumbled in his efforts to serve as his own lawyer. He called no witnesses after the judge refused to let him call Youk's widow and brother, who supported Kevorkian, to the stand. Prosecutors had argued that their testimony was irrelevant.

In closing arguments, Skrzynski likened Kevorkian to "a medical hitman in the night" and asked jurors not to let him make a political statement with Youk's death.

Kevorkian told jurors that he acted out of compassion, and that he was merely doing his duty as a physician to relieve Youk's suffering. He compared himself to civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

"There are certain acts that by sheer common sense are not crimes," he told jurors. "Just look at me. ... Honestly now, do you see a criminal? Do you see a murderer? ... If you do, then you must convict.

"And then, take the harsh judgment of history, and the harsher judgment of your children and grandchildren if they ever come to need that precious choice."

Kevorkian's only prior conviction was in November, on misdemeanor charges related to a scuffle with police outside a hospital where he and an associate were dropping off a body.

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY

Macaroni, cheese & ham, mustard greens, diced carrots, lettuce tomato salad, chocolate cake w/white frosting

TUESDAY

Oven fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, sliced pineapple and cheese salad, coconut pudding

WEDNESDAY

Swiss steak, cauliflower w/cheese, asparagus, carrot/raisin salad, peach cobbler

THURSDAY

Grilled ham, baked potato, green peas, fresh spinach salad, bread pudding

FRIDAY

Closed for Easter holiday

Senior Center News

MONDAY

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11 a.m.

TUESDAY

88 play begins at 10 a.m. and the Golden K Kiwanis meet at noon. Swimnastics at Western Texas College is from 2:15-3:45 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

WEDNESDAY

Line Dancers will practice at 1 p.m. and the Cloggers at 2 p.m. Assistance in income tax filing will not be available this Wednesday. However, this service will be available April 6, 7 and 14 from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m.

THURSDAY

The Easter celebration will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the Easter Egg Hunt followed by the sing-a-long and the bonnet contest. All seniors are encouraged to wear a beautiful, silly or "Easter-eggy" hat. Be creative and have fun.

FRIDAY

The Senior Center will be closed Friday through Monday for the Easter holidays.

Mark your calendar on April 11 for the Golden K Kiwanis Fish Fry. The serving line will be open from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tickets, $6 each, will be available through April 11. Take-out plates will also be available. Everyone is encouraged to support the organization.

MayDay, the center's main fund-raiser, is only six weeks away. Seniors are encouraged to volunteer. Our success depends on the participation and support of the entire community, including businesses and individuals.

A special day is planned for "Senior Mothers" since MayDay (May 8) is the day before Mother's Day. Volunteers Grady and Molly Morris will be back for the quilt auction and the Mobil cooking team will be back for its second year to prepare the brisket for the barbecue.

ODB more famous for rap sheet than rap music

NEW YORK (AP) — ODB is becoming more famous for his rap sheet than his rap records.

Days after being released from jail on drug charges, the Wu-Tang Clan rapper, whose real name is Russell Jones, was arrested Friday and accused of driving with a suspended license. He was subsequently jailed.

His lawyer, Peter Frankel, said Jones will plead innocent.

Jones, 30, has a growing rap sheet.

On Wednesday, he pleaded innocent in Los Angeles to a charge that he violated a new California law banning violent felons from wearing body armor.

He was a day late for that hearing because he was arrested Monday in New York on misdemeanor drug charges. In that case, police allegedly found a small amount of crack cocaine after a traffic stop.

Polynesian Garden will be open at the Varsity Square location thru Monday, March 29

-CLOSED-
Tuesday, March 30 thru Sunday, April 4

OPEN AT NEW LOCATION
3415 Snyder Shopping Center (Across From United)
Monday, April 15

WILSON MOTORS
STAMPEDE FOR SAVINGS

99 Ranger

$171.49 Mo.[1]
1 Based on MSRP of $15,695 RCO .75% APR. 36 mos., 44% Residual, Final Balloon of $6,905.80. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #90206)

99 Taurus SE

$291.00 Mo.[2]
2 Based on MSRP of $20,745 RCO1.25% APR. 36 mos., 43% Residual, Final Balloon of $8,920.35. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #9046)

99 ExplorerXLT

$377.00 Mo.[3]
3 Based on MSRP of $29,125 RCO 4% APR. 36 mos., 52% Residual, Final Balloon of $15,145.00. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #90300)

99 Expedition XLT

$399.00 Mo.[4]
4 Based on MSRP of $34,190 RCO 8% APR. 24 mos., 69% Residual, Final Balloon of $23,591.10. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $$13306.35 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #90305)

99 Windstar SE

$379.00 Mo.[5]
5 Based on MSRP of $29,135 RCO 3.5% APR. 36 mos., 48% Residual, Final Balloon of $14,320.80. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #90375)

99 Escort ZX2

$216.00 Mo.[6]
6 Based on MSRP of $15,860 RCO 4% APR. 36 mos., 45% Residual, Final Balloon of $7,137.00. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #9053)

99 Escort SE

$235.00 Mo.[7]
7 Based on MSRP of $15,060 RCO 6% APR. 36 mos., 41% Residual, Final Balloon of $6,174.60. Based on 12,000 mi. yr. $0 cash down +TT&L, rebate to dealer. WAC. (St. #9015)

March Madness Payment Busters! Cash or Trade

1995 Buick Century

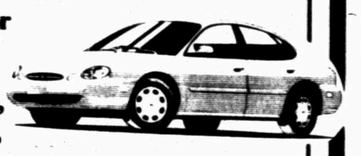
Sale Price $8,160 or $165.00 mo.
4 Door, Low Miles, Power Win/Locks, New Tires.
Cash down $1,063, 60 mos financing @ 10.5% APR. WAC +TT&L

1993 Buick Regal

Sale Price $6,995 or $166.85 mo.
Gran Sport, 4 Door, Leather Int., Alloy Wheels, Must See
$0 Down, 60 mos financing @ 11.99% APR. WAC +TT&L

1993 Honda Accord LX

Sale Price $8,995 or $190.00 mo.
4 Door, Auto., Solid White, 1 Owner, only 54,000 miles
Cash down $1,084, 60 mos financing @ 11.99% APR. WAC +TT&L

1998 Ford Taurus

Sale Price $12,995 or $229.00 mo.
4 Door, Low Miles, Power Win/Locks, New Tires.
Cash down $1,355.99, 72 mos financing @ 9.5% APR. WAC +TT&L

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SPORTS

With 8-6 setback to Steers...

Lady Tigers slip into second-place logjam

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

Going into Friday's district softball game, the Lady Tigers knew they had a chance to seize sole possession of second place in the 5-4A standings.

What they didn't know was just how many chances they would get and how difficult it would be to capitalize on them.

Snyder stranded 11 baserunners and squandered a seventh-inning lead Friday night to fall to Big Spring, 8-6.

Instead of having second place all alone, the Lady Tigers now find themselves in a four-team battle for the runner-up spot after four games.

"We just couldn't pull it together tonight," Snyder coach Carmen Bohannon said. "I'm disappointed in our 2-2 record right now, because I know we can play better and the girls know we can play better."

For Big Spring, the win pulled the Lady Steers even with Snyder, Lake View and Ft. Stockton in second place. Andrews leads the district at 4-0, with Sweetwater in the cellar at 0-4.

"We had been struggling entering tonight's game," said Big Spring coach Dan Arista. "I'm proud of the way our girls played. There were a couple of times when we could have folded up the tent and went home, but our girls found a way to come back and win the game."

The contest was filled with missed opportunities for Snyder and extra chances for Big Spring.

The Lady Tigers got the leadoff batter aboard in all but two innings, but struggled to drive runners in from scoring position.

Snyder left a runner at third base in the fourth frame and managed just two runs out of a bases-loaded and no-outs situation in the sixth.

However despite the missed opportunites, the Lady Tigers still held a 6-5 lead entering the top of the seventh.

But a pair of Snyder errors to start the final stanza allowed Big Spring to scratch out three runs on only one hit to reclaim a 8-6 advantage.

"We made some bad fielding decisions and didn't make some plays that we usually make," Bohannon remarked. "I thought we hit the ball well at times. But when we needed a clutch hit, we couldn't drive in any runs."

The Lady Steers jumped on top, 2-0, in the top of the first, before a two-RBI single from Darcee Purcell helped Snyder grab a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the frame.

After Big Spring knotted the tally in the second, Lady Steers right fielder Teri Denton belted a solo homer in the third to push her team back on top, 4-3.

The Lady Tigers pulled even again in the fourth, when two walks and a long fly ball by Christy Tomlinson scored Amy Ricks.

Big Spring took a 6-5 advantage in the top of the sixth, leading into Snyder's best chance of the night to put the game away in the bottom of the inning.

With nobody out, Whitney Webb, Cameron Mackey and Tomlinson loaded the bases for the Lady Tigers.

Starla Davis drove in Webb, and Mackey scored on a wild pitch, before Arista made a pitching change.

With the bases still loaded and no outs, Big Spring's Casie Acri retired the next three Snyder batters in order on a strikeout, a pop-up and a fly ball to kill the Lady Tiger rally.

Big Spring carried the momentum gained from the defensive stand to the plate in the top of the seventh, scoring three runs to steal the win.

The Lady Tigers, now 13-8 on the season, wrap up the first half of the district schedule Tuesday at Sweetwater.

5-4A Softball

Team	District W	District L	District Pct.	Overall W	Overall L	Overall Pct.
Andrews	4	0	1.000	13	6	.684
Snyder	2	2	.500	13	8	.619
Lake View	2	2	.500	12	10	.545
Big Spring	2	2	.500	15	6	.714
Ft.Stckton	2	2	.500	13	5	.722
Swtwater	0	4	.000	7	9	.438

Friday's results: Big Spring 8, Snyder 6; Andrews 8, Lake View 2; Ft. Stockton 9, Sweetwater 2.

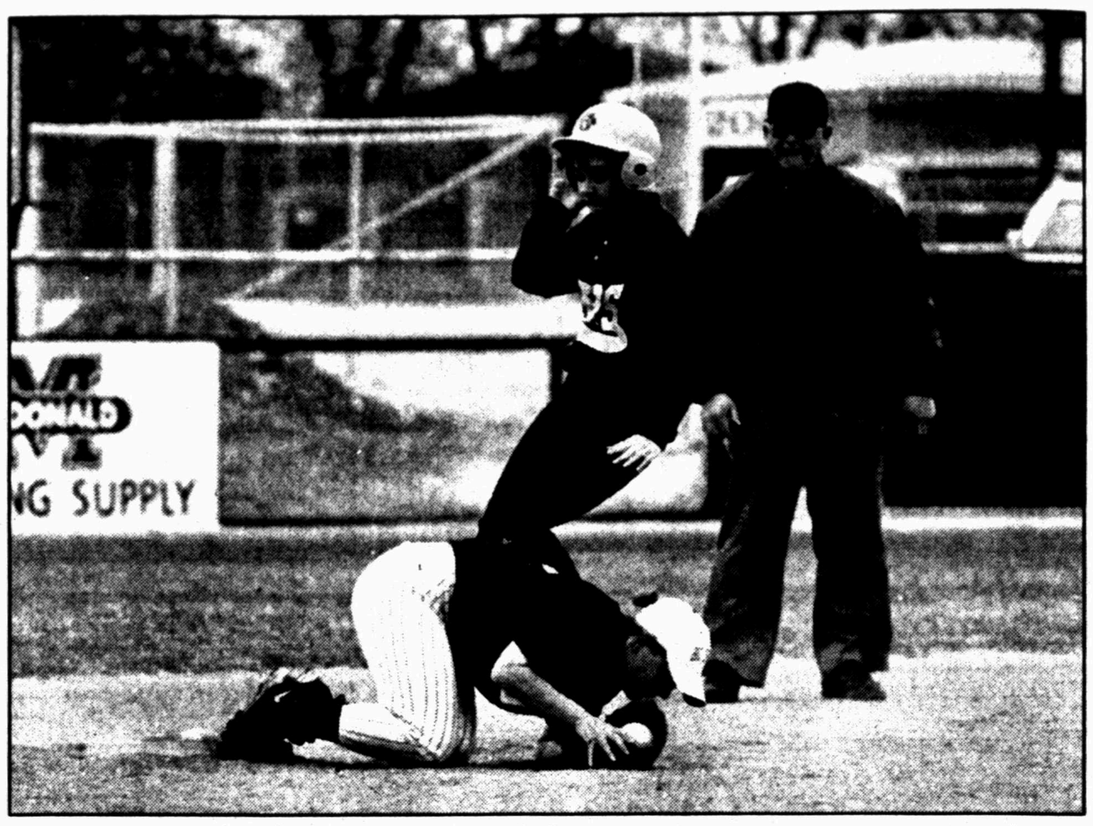
Big Spring	ab	r	h	bi
Marino 2b	4	0	1	1
Jackson ss	3	1	1	1
Canales p	4	2	0	0
Valdez 1b	4	1	0	0
Paredez lf	4	1	1	2
Denton rf	4	1	1	2
Hernandez 3b	4	1	2	1
Sheen dh	4	1	2	0
Casey c	4	0	1	0
Totals	35	8	9	7

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Webb lf	4	2	2	0
Mackey cf	5	1	1	0
Tomlinson ss	4	1	3	2
Davis c	4	0	2	1
Shoemake cr	0	1	0	0
Martinez p	3	0	1	0
Purcell 1b	4	0	1	2
Rinehart 2b	3	0	0	0
Ricks 3b	3	1	0	0
Newman rf	3	0	1	0
Totals	33	6	11	5

Big Spring	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	— 8	9 3
Snyder	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	— 6	11 5

LOB - Big Spring 7, Snyder 11. HR - Denton.

Big Spring	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Canales	5	10	6	6	5	4
Morales	2	1	0	0	0	3
Snyder	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
Martinez	7	9	8	3	1	8



AM I SAFE? — Snyder's Jennifer Newman tries to beat Big Spring shortstop Amy Jackson to second base Friday evening during the Lady Tigers 8-6 setback at Cates Field. Newman was forced out on the play. (SDN Staff Photo)

Duke to face No. 1 Purdue in women's Final Four title game

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — OK, Duke men, now it's your turn.

Nicole Erickson had 22 points and Michele VanGorp had 20 and the women Blue Devils held Georgia's Miller twins to 31 combined points to reach the national title game with a 81-69 victory over the Lady Bulldogs on Friday night.

Duke's men will try to match the success of their female counterparts Saturday when they face Michigan State in the national semifinals at St. Petersburg, Fla.

The female Blue Devils, making their first trip to the Final Four, will face Purdue or Louisiana Tech in the championship game Sunday night.

Following up on their shocking defeat of three-time defending champion Tennessee in the East Regional final, Duke built a 15-point lead early in the second half and used a late 16-3 run to rebuild its advantage after Georgia pulled within six.

Georgia Schweitzer added 13 points for Duke (29-6), which was 9-of-16 on 3-pointers.

Coco Miller scored 18 points and identical twin Kelly Miller added 13 for Georgia (27-7). The Millers averaged a combined 37 points per game this season. Freshman center Tawana McDonald had 14 points for the Lady Bulldogs.

The Blue Devils' defeat of Tennessee on Monday made Duke the second school to send its men's and women's teams to the NCAA tournament Final Four in the same season. Georgia was the other, in 1983.

The absence of Tennessee and star Chamique Holdsclaw, the two-time national player of the year, took some of the luster off the women's Final Four. There were large patches of empty seats in the 17,709-capacity San Jose Arena.

Leading by six points at halftime, the Blue Devils — who are 22-0 this season when leading at halftime — opened the second half with a 14-5 run to take their biggest lead of the game to that point.

After Coco Miller opened the half with a basket to pull the Lady Bulldogs within four points, VanGorp hit a 3-pointer from the baseline — just her second of the year.

McDonald then picked up an offensive foul, her third, and went to the bench. VanGorp immediately hit a shot in the lane, and Peppi Browne added a basket to make it 47-36.

After a basket by Coco Miller and a free throw by McDonald, Schweitzer had a three-point play and followed with a steal and uncontested layup. Brown hit two free throws to give the Blue Devils a 54-39 lead.

The Lady Bulldogs responded with a 13-4 run while VanGorp sat on the bench after getting her third foul. VanGorp returned to hit a shot and begin an 8-2 run — including six straight free throws — to give Duke a 66-54 lead.

A layup by Erickson made it 68-55, and Erickson hit another shot as the 30-second shot clock was expiring to make it 70-55 with five minutes remaining. A 3-pointer by Erickson seconds later, and a 3-pointer by Lauren Rice, gave Duke a 76-57 lead with 3:13 remaining.

Duke's experience showed in the opening minutes as the Blue Devils, who started three seniors, built a 17-7 lead and went the first 10 minutes of the game without committing a foul.

NCAA BASKETBALL SCORES

Women's NCAA Tournament
THE FINAL FOUR
At San Jose Arena
San Jose, Calif.
National Semifinals
Friday, March 26
Duke 81, Georgia 69
Purdue 77, Louisiana Tech 63
National Championship
Sunday, March 28
Duke (29-6) vs. Purdue (33-1), 9 p.m.

THE FINAL FOUR
At Tropicana Field
St. Petersburg, Fla.
National Semifinals
Saturday, March 27
Ohio State (27-8) vs. Connecticut (32-2), 5:42 p.m.
Duke (36-1) vs. Michigan State (33-4), 30 minutes after first game
National Championship
Monday, March 29
Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NewJersey	39	22	9	87	207	173
Pittsburgh	36	23	12	84	218	189
Philadelphia	32	22	17	81	208	172
N.Y.Rangers	30	32	10	70	198	200
N.Y.Islanders	20	43	9	49	163	211

Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	40	21	10	90	204	150
Toronto	39	28	5	83	229	209
Buffalo	32	24	14	78	182	155
Boston	32	27	12	76	187	162
Montreal	29	33	10	68	167	181

Southeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	31	28	14	76	187	186
Florida	27	27	17	71	183	186
Washington	29	37	6	64	182	191
TampaBay	17	49	5	39	152	258

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	36	30	6	78	216	184
St.Louis	31	30	11	73	207	188
Nashville	25	40	7	57	170	229
Chicago	21	40	11	53	169	227

Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	37	26	9	83	205	181
Calgary	28	32	11	67	189	197
Edmonton	27	34	11	65	196	196
Vancouver	20	41	11	51	170	225

Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	45	15	12	102	206	146
Phoenix	35	25	12	82	181	172
Anaheim	32	28	11	75	189	173
SanJose	27	28	17	71	166	167
LosAngeles	27	39	5	59	164	188

x-clinched playoff berth

Friday's Games
Toronto 7, Carolina 2
San Jose 1, Ottawa 1, tie
Florida 4, Nashville 1
Detroit 6, Tampa Bay 1
Colorado 3, Washington 1
Edmonton 2, St. Louis 1
Anaheim 5, Dallas 1

Saturday's Games
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, Noon
Chicago at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, Noon
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1:30 p.m.
San Jose at Edmonton, 2 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 3 p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 3 p.m.
Los Angeles at Colorado, 3 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

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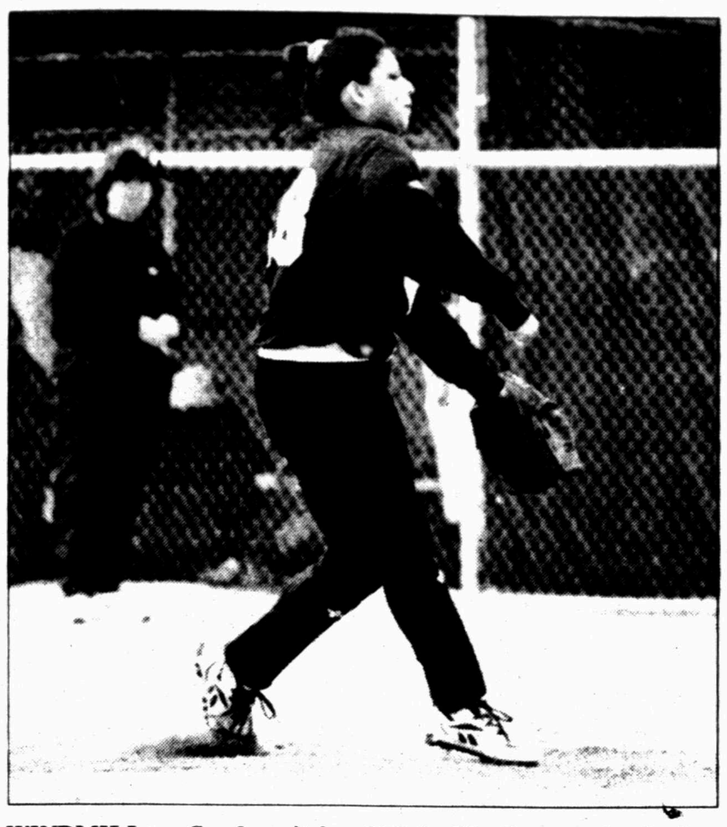

WINDMILL — Snyder pitcher Kristin Martinez works during action Friday night against Big Spring at Cates Field. Martinez went the distance in the Lady Tigers' 8-6 district setback. (SDN Staff Photo)

Clutch hits lift Tigers to win

After surrendering a two-run lead in the final two innings, the Snyder Tigers responded with a pair of blasts in their last at bat to gain some momentum for district play.

James Allen Shields and Clint Hook belted back-to-back doubles in the seventh inning Friday night to rally Snyder to a 6-5 victory over Frenship in the Tigers' final tune-up before 5-4A competition begins on Tuesday.

Neither squad could sustain the momentum for any period of time, as runs came sparingly, rather than in bunches.

After Frenship knotted the score at 5-5 in the top of the seventh, Shields led-off the bottom of the frame with a double to center field.

Following a Frenship pitching change, Hook smashed his second hit of the night, scoring courtesy runner Matthew Grimmett from second base to rescue the Snyder win.

Hook and the Tigers' fielders kept Frenship off the basepaths for most of the night. Frenship stranded only one runner, but managed to manufacture runs with a trio of sacrifices.

Frenship grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the opening frame on a sacrifice fly, before Snyder answered in the bottom of the inning.

An RBI-single from Hook and two errors allowed a pair of Tigers to cross the plate for a 2-1 Snyder advantage.

A sacrifice bunt and two infield singles pulled Frenship even at 2-2 in the third. A Snyder doubleplay ended the threat when Hook scooped up a ground ball, wheeled and threw to Johhny Pena at second base who in turn threw out the Frenship batter on his way to first.

Snyder went back on top in the fourth, 4-2, on a wild pitch and single by Matt Rodgers which scored Ralph Ramon.

Two more Frenship runs in the sixth evened the game at 4-4, before a Pena single scored Brad Roemisch for 5-4 Snyder lead entering the last inning.

Another sacrifice fly by Frenship made it a 5-5 game in the top of the seventh, leading to the doubles by Shields and Hook in the Tigers' final at bat.

With the win, Snyder heads into district play with a record of 14-6. Game time for Tuesday's 5-4A opener at Ft. Stockton has been changed to 6:30.

Frenship	ab	r	h	bi
Moure 2b	3	1	2	0
Potts cf	3	1	1	1
Nesteby rf	2	0	0	1
Milam dh	3	1	2	1
Swan 1b	3	0	1	0
Bice p	2	1	0	0
Gilliam 3b	3	0	0	0
Gary lf	2	1	1	1
Vineyard ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	23	5	7	4

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Pena 2b	4	0	1	1
Rodgers ss	3	1	1	1
Shields dh	4	1	1	0
Grimmett pr	0	1	0	0
Hook p	4	0	2	2
Ward 3b	3	0	1	0
Bedell lf	2	1	1	0
Alexander rf	3	0	0	0
Ramon c	3	1	1	0
Roemisch cf	2	1	1	0
Totals	28	6	9	4

Frenship ..... 1 0 1 0 0 2 1 — 5 7 4
Snyder ..... 2 0 0 2 0 1 1 — 6 9 2

None out when winning run scored.
DP - Snyder 1. LOB - Frenship 1, Snyder 6. 2B - Shields, Hook.

Frenship	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bice	6	8	6	3	3	4
Riddle	0	1	0	0	0	0
Snyder	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
Hook	7	7	5	4	1	4

Ohio St. knows role of underdog

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — If any team in America knows what it's like to have no chance, it's Ohio State.

They've come this far, from the emptiness and frustration of an 8-22 season all the way to the Final Four in one year. The Buckeyes are not ready to stop dreaming just yet.

"Coach said we're playing with the house money right now," guard Brian Brown said. "Nobody expected Ohio State to be in the Final Four. I think we've messed up a lot of people's pools."

Ohio State (27-8) plays Connecticut (32-2) today in a national semifinal game that some view as a prelude to the main event, Duke and Michigan State. If people want to overlook the Buckeyes, that's fine with them.

But remember, to get here they've already knocked off No. 1-seeded Auburn and St. John's — two pretty impressive upsets.

"I feel like we're playing an undercard," said Scoonie Penn, whose emergence as a sensational scorer and floor leader sent the Buckeyes on this improbable journey. "We probably don't get spoken about as much as the other teams. They're the No. 1 seed, we're the No. 4 seed. I feel like we've been in that situation all season, playing the underdog role."

That's the understatement of the tournament. Ohio State was pitiful last year, going 1-15 in the Big Ten. Penn, who followed coach Jim O'Brien from Boston College, had to watch from the sideline.

Whether Ohio State keeps going may depend on the guard matchups.

Penn and UConn's Khalid El-Amin don't know each other from way back, the way their coaches do. They do know how to run a team, motivate everyone who crosses their path and turn 5-foot-10 bodies into catalysts that seem perfectly built for the last weekend in March.

To get Ricky Williams...

Saints willing to give up draft picks

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson says he's willing to sign off on a deal to give up all the team's picks in this year's draft for the chance to select Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams.

Saints coach Mike Ditka said last week at the NFL owners' meeting that he would trade all six 1999 draft picks and additional future picks to move up from No. 12 in the first round and get the running back from Texas.

"If that's what Mike and Bill Kuharich (the Saints general manager) feel is the thing to do, they have my vote," Benson told the San Antonio Express-News in Friday's editions.

Benson said he thinks Williams, who set a bevy of NCAA records including most yards and touchdowns, could be the catalyst to make the Saints winners. New Orleans went 6-10 this past season, its fifth straight losing record.

"We're satisfied on the defensive side of the ball. And we're not going to be swinging through quarterbacks trying to find somebody. The one piece of the puzzle (missing) is a running back," Benson said.

Benson has heard rave reviews about Williams from Texas coach Mack Brown, who became friendly with the Saints' owner when Brown coached at Tulane. Benson also was impressed with an NFL interview of Williams.

"It was outstanding," said Benson, who saw the session on videotape. "He no doubt would bring a lot to the Saints. Nothing changes our mind about him from what we've seen on his record."

Williams is a projected top-five pick, putting his fate in the hands of Cleveland, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Washington.

The Saints own the 12th pick of the first round and one pick each in rounds 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. They traded their No. 2 pick in mid-February to the St. Louis Rams for wide receiver Eddie Kennison.

A year ago, the Saints unsuccessfully offered all their 1998 draft picks to Arizona with the intention of selecting either Peyton Manning or Ryan Leaf.

The draft in April 17-18.

WTC secures numerous spots in Saturday's finals

ODESSA — Riding a streak of momentum from Thursday's performance, Western Texas College continued to find success Friday at the Odessa JC rodeo.

Eight Lady Westerners and nine WTC men were in the running for Saturday night's final round, led by Jill Childers and Sequin Downey.

Childers was in first place heading into the short round of the breakaway roping event, while Downey was holding the top spot in goat tying.

Joining Childers in the finals of the breakaway competition will be Lauren Middleton. The two freshman will also join Downey in the goat tying finals, along with Brandee Brock.

Heading into Saturday morning's slack, Brock was holding down the runner-up spot in barrel racing, with Tara Bynum sitting fifth.

For the Western Texas men, Casey Baize bucked his way into the second slot in bullriding. Leland Wood was holding down second in the saddle bronc event, with Wes Stephenson in fifth place.

Stephenson fared well in the bareback riding, as well, grabbing third place, with Kyle Bowers nabbing fifth.

Luke Richards earned a spot in the steer wrestling finals, while Wood, Eric Greer and Matt Gully did the same in team roping.

Entering the weekend, barrel racing was the only women's event yet to finish the long round. In men's action, the steer wrestling and roping finals were set, while all other events featured slack Saturday morning.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	19	8	.704	-
Orlando	20	9	.690	-
Philadelphia	15	12	.556	4
NewYork	16	13	.552	4
Washington	11	16	.407	8
Boston	9	17	.346	9½
NewJersey	5	22	.185	14
Central Division				
Indiana	19	8	.704	-
Atlanta	17	11	.607	2½
Detroit	16	12	.571	3½
Milwaukee	15	12	.556	4
Cleveland	13	12	.520	5
Toronto	13	14	.481	6
Charlotte	11	15	.423	7½
Chicago	8	20	.286	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Utah	21	6	.778	-
Houston	19	9	.679	2½
SanAntonio	18	10	.643	3½
Minnesota	16	12	.571	5½
Dallas	10	19	.345	12
Denver	7	21	.250	14½
Vancouver	5	23	.179	16½
Pacific Division				
Portland	22	5	.815	-
L.A.Lakers	19	11	.633	4½
Seattle	14	12	.538	7½
Phoenix	14	15	.483	9
Sacramento	13	16	.448	10
GoldenState	12	15	.444	10
L.A.Clippers	2	24	.077	19½

Friday's Games

Boston 90, Philadelphia 84
Indiana 100, New Jersey 91
Atlanta 93, Chicago 81
Charlotte 90, Orlando 82
Detroit 90, Milwaukee 85
Minnesota 100, Miami 93
Dallas 98, Denver 79
Toronto 93, San Antonio 91
New York 94, Phoenix 87
Seattle 104, L.A. Clippers 98
Utah 85, Vancouver 80
Golden State 100, Washington 96
Sacramento 111, L.A. Lakers 109

Saturday's Games

Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 9 p.m.
Utah vs. L.A. Clippers at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Miami at Orlando, 12:30 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 12:30 p.m.
Seattle at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Houston at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Sports Briefs

SCC tourney dates

Upcoming tournaments at Snyder Country Club include a three-man scramble April 17 and a pro-am event April 19.

Scramble teams must have a minimum combined handicap of 30, with a maximum of 15 strokes difference between the first and third player.

For more information, contact the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

Senior league registration

Snyder Senior Little League is now taking applications for managers. Senior-aged players will be divided into a 13/14-year-old league and a 15/16-year-old league.

Managers should indicate on the application which age division they would prefer. Applications can be picked up at Caprock Securities located at 2517 College Ave.

Player registration will begin next Monday and run through Thursday, with late sign-ups April 5-6. Registration fee for players has dropped to $35 this season, and competition could be extended to include games against Sweetwater and Colorado City.

For more information, contact Mickey Nunley at 573-5883, Tommy Green at 573-2646 or Kaprece Bedell at 573-8169.

Pitching clinics scheduled

Pitching clinics for girls' fast-pitch softball will be held every Wednesday. Classes are limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF AN ABANDONED VEHICLE(S).
Notice is hereby given that a 1985 Chevrolet Van will be sold at Public Auction on March 31, 1999 at 10:00 A.M. at Nichols Wrecker Service, 1304 Ave. T, Snyder, Texas 79549 in Snyder, Scurry County, Texas.
This vehicle is an Abandoned Motor Vehicle under the terms of the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Article 1436-3, VPC, and will be sold under the provisions of this Act.
Darren Jackson, Sheriff
Scurry County, Texas
(s) Bobby Goodwin, Deputy

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Scurry County Commissioners' Court will open bids for Replacement of Computer Cable on Monday, March 15, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., during Regular Session of the Commissioners' Court. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas 79549.

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POSITION: **Proposed Position: DEAN OF VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTION** DEPARTMENT: Vocational Ed Division EMPLOYMENT: Full-time SALARY: College Scale; contingent on budget for 1999-2000 QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree, preferred; bachelor's degree required. DUTIES: Supervise, develop, and evaluate all areas of the vocation education for credit and certification. Keep abreast of business and industry needs. Coordinate budget preparation, recruitment efforts, and courses in the vocation area. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION: April 26, 1999. SEND RESUMES TO: Ms Terry Busby, Director of Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549-9502. DATE OF EMPLOYMENT: August 1, 1999.
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERANS STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

Management & Training Corporation is currently seeking applicants for the start-up of the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility in Post, Texas. Interviews will be conducted beginning the week of April 12, 1999, for positions in the following areas:

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- **Programs/Educationa/Recreation**
- **Accounting - Clerk**
- **Counseling/Religious**
- **Maintenance**
- **Mail Room**
- **Commissary**
- **Clerical/Receptionist**

Please submit your resume &/application to: Dalby Correctional Facility, Attn: Human Resources, 130 E. Main, Post, TX 79356 or FAX to (806)495-3157. For additional information, please contact Deann Ulm or Marta Williams at (806)495-2999. EOE M/F/V/D.

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Great Location 3-2-2	$84,500
3-1½-1cp 3718 Sunset	$58,000
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587 A's Approx 8 Mi. W. of Ira	$95,000
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W. Hwy. 180 ...2.13 A's 3-2-cp	$39,500
2-1-1 CH/A 310 34th	$22T
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Lovely 4-3-2cp Study Office 3001 Crockett Reduced $108T.
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3781 Avondale 3-1-1 CH/A.
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2210 33rd 3-3-2-Lovely view!
2811 Ave. U 3-2-1 ..... $56.5T.
3005 Ave U 3-2-4cp Red. $65T.
3404 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ... $60T.
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Com. Bldg. W.25th/Lub. Hwy.
Acreage-14 to 650 acres avail.
Commercial Prop. Good Loc.
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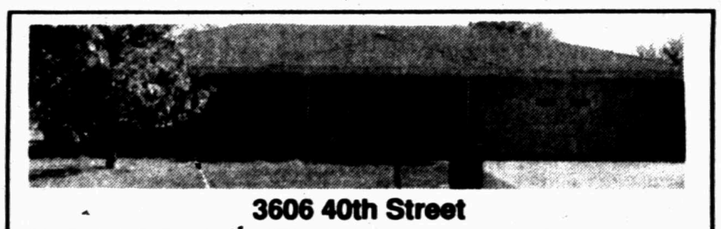

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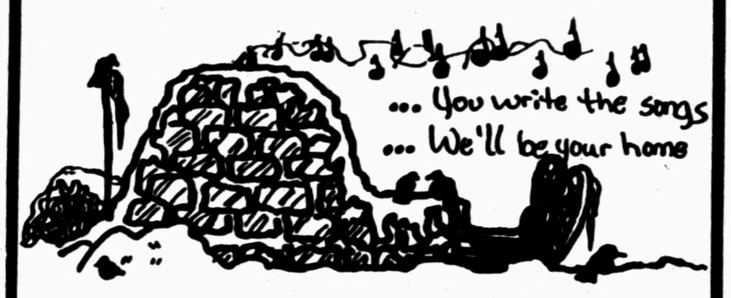

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ADORABLE 3-1	$30's.	3101 Ave. W	$60's.
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CHARMING! 2-1-2cp	$30's.	3403 Irving	$70's.
Cute & Clean 2-1-1	$20's.	4202 El Paso	$80's.
Close To West 3-1-1	$40's.	4113 Jacksboro	$80's.
Close To Park 3-2-1	$40's.	3303 Irving	$100's.
Motivated Seller 4-2	$30's.	4104 Jacksboro	$60's.
Brick 4-1-cp	$40's.	3309 Houston	$100's.
Eastridge 4-2-2	$30's.	New! 4002 Midland	$90's.
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West 37th 3-2-1	$40's.	3613 41st Pool	$90's.
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1892 Sante Fe 3-2-2	Nice $90's
4704 El Paso 3-2-2 Fireplace CH/A.	$82.9T.
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5 Acres	3-3-cp Pool & Shop-Large.
IRA	3-2½-2cp W/Land & Large Shop.
4008 Jacksboro 3-2-2	Nice....Low $60's.
3-1½ + 2 Living Areas	2206 42nd!
2700 47th 4-2-2	Special.* New Home *.
3404 Jacksboro	Reduced 3-1½-2 $57,000.
3606 40th 3-2-2 Fireplace	$52,500.
3009 35th 3-2-2 appx 2036 sq ft	$70's.
3204 Irving 3-2-2	Say Yes! $60's.
2807 Ave. W 4-2½-2	Very Special!
3 Acres Brick 4-3	Close to Town..$60's.
3605 Irving 3-1	Close to Schools.....30T.
4111 Kerrville 3-2-2	Must See! $60's.
Elec. Business For Sale-You be the Boss.	
3803 Galveston 3-1	W/DEN CH/A $34T.
Extras Plus! 4005 Midland 4-3-2	$105T.
3310 Ave V Nice Amenities!	Red. to $65T.
3 or 4 Bd 1¾ Baths Near H.S.	Only $39.5T
3 or 4 Bed w/Screened Porch 4019 Denison.	
Unique 4-1¾-3 3733 Avondale	$49.5T.
We Have Commercial Buildings & Land.	
Close To Town 2-1-2cp	$20's.
Great Investment! 3-1-1 CH/RA	$10T.

Judge's alleged bias may be on trial in Powell case

By The Associated Press

Retired state District Judge Tom Blackwell may never have guessed that a 12-year-old letter he sent to the state parole board could jeopardize the death sentence of a thrice-condemned cop killer.

But on Friday, Blackwell set an April 30 hearing that may open the door to a new punishment trial in the case of David Lee Powell, 47, who earlier this month was again sent to death row for the 1978 killing of Austin police officer Ralph Ablanedo.

It is familiar ground for Blackwell, who presided over Powell's first trial in 1979 and this month's resentencing trial, as well as the separate 1979 trial of Powell's female accomplice, Sheila Meinert.

Defense lawyers will argue before Blackwell at the April hearing that, among other things, the judge's letter recommending Ms. Meinert's early release proves the judge was not impartial during Powell's most recent trial.

"Once the judge took that position, he disqualified himself if he ever had to reconsider the issue in the future," said Steven Losch, Powell's Longview-based appeals attorney.

Blackwell, on two occasions, asked the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant Ms. Meinert early release.

"I agree that the death penalty in (Powell's) case was warranted," Blackwell wrote in a March 12, 1987, letter, his second such correspondence with the board. "Sheila Meinert, on the other hand, was a victim of circumstances.

"Sheila Meinert was convicted and given a 15-year sentence by the jury not for any acts of hers but because of the terrible actions of David Lee Powell."

In spite of his letters to the parole board, Blackwell told defense lawyers that he knew of "no reason" why he should recuse himself from Powell's third trial, according to court transcripts from a Jan. 8 hearing.

Blackwell's secretary said Friday he would not comment on the case.

Ablanedo, 26, was shot to death with an assault rifle on May 18, 1978, after pulling Powell over on a traffic stop with Ms. Meinert in the car. Powell had a Soviet-made AK-47, a .45-caliber handgun and a hand grenade inside his red Ford Mustang. When other officers arrived at the scene, someone threw the grenade at Officer Joe Villegas, but it failed to explode.

Powell was twice convicted and sentenced to death for Ablanedo's shooting. Ms. Meinert was convicted of attempted capital murder for helping Powell in the incident.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Powell's 1979 conviction. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals threw out Powell's 1991 sentence, but not his conviction, from the second trial. A Travis County jury gave him his third death sentence this month — and Powell's lawyers contend Blackwell's bias was evident throughout.

The judge "refused to conduct hearings about any motion that accused Meinert of shooting Ablanedo," and "frequently interrupted counsel's objections, oral motions and arguments about that theory," according to a motion Losch filed on Friday.

Losch argues that Blackwell's intransigence was compounded by prosecutorial misconduct that prevented the defense from presenting evidence to support the theory that Ms. Meinert shot Ablanedo or was otherwise involved. Those theories could have refuted some of prosecutors' claims about Powell, Losch says.

The first theory focused on whether Ms. Meinert used a third, previously unknown gun to fire the first shots at Ablanedo.

The motion accuses Travis County assistant district attorney Robert Smith of falsely claiming in a court pleading before this month's trial that an FBI test on bullets recovered from Ablanedo's exhumed body would cause the samples to be destroyed, thereby preventing the defense's experts from testing them.

Court records show that an FBI metallurgist, Charles Peters, later testified that he never told Smith the testing would destroy the samples.

"We alleged that it was a lie and we proved it," Losch said.

Smith did not return repeated phone messages left by The Associated Press.

The second theory was that it was Ms. Meinert who threw the hand grenade at Villegas. In all three trials, the prosecution argued it was Powell who threw it.

"Whether or not Powell threw the grenade mattered tremendously at the punishment phase, because if he didn't, that would be much less evidence of his dangerousness," Losch said.

A jury's decision on a defendant's "future dangerousness" is the dividing line between a life or death sentence. In order to sentence someone to death under Texas law, the state must show there is a probability that a defendant would commit future acts of violence.

A 1986 petition opposing Ms. Meinert's parole that includes the signature of former Powell prosecutor and current state Rep. Terry Keel, R-Austin, says Ms. Meinert "threw a hand grenade toward Officer J. Villegas."

Yet during Powell's second trial five years later, Keel reiterated the state's claim that Powell threw the grenade.

"I don't know of any evidence that Sheila Meinert threw the grenade," Keel told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "The evidence showed she was a party to the offense. But in Texas, there is no legal distinction between the party and principal."

The contradiction between what the petition says and what Keel said "cannot be an accident," Losch contends.

"How can the state speak out of both sides of its mouth?" he said. "Terry Keel is going to have a full opportunity to explain that at Powell's hearing for a new trial."

Controversial street crime unit revamped in N. York

NEW YORK (AP) — The police department announced major changes in its elite crimefighting unit on the heels of reports that four of its white members were indicted for murder in the killing of an unarmed black immigrant.

Officers in the Street Crime Unit will now wear uniforms instead of plainclothes, and 50 slots at the predominately white division will be reassigned to minority police officers, under changes announced Friday by Police Commissioner Howard Safir.

The changes are partly in response to concerns voiced by political and community leaders as well as city residents, Safir said. The changes may take place as early as Sunday, he added.

Safir, Mayor Giuliani and the unit have been under intense criticism and scrutiny ever since four of the unit's officers fired 41 bullets at Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4 in the vestibule of his Bronx home. He was hit 19 times.

Weekend off to busy start

The weekend got off to a busy start as eight people were taken into custody Friday and early Saturday.

At 4:42 p.m. Friday, a 25-year-old male was arrested on a Louisiana warrant for felony parole violation following his release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Michael Jenkins of San Antonio had just been released from the Price Daniel Unit when he was taken into custody by deputies and held for extradition to Louisiana.

Two subjects were arrested at 10:19 p.m. Friday in the 1700 block of Avenue R. A 21-year-old female was taken into custody for making alcohol available to a minor and for no liability insurance. A 16-year-old male was arrested for consuming alcohol and possession of marijuana. He was released to his parents.

Officers took an 18-year-old male into custody at 2:34 a.m. Saturday in the 1100 block of College on oustanding city warrants for no drivers license and two counts of failure to appear.

A 32-year-old male was jailed for driving while license suspended early Saturday. Officers arrested him in the 1600 block of Avenue M at 2:43 a.m.

Officers were called to the Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency room at 3:08 a.m. in reference to a possible assault.

Upon arrival, officers advised the incident was in reference to a major one-vehicle accident at Huffman and Old Lubbock Hwy. Two male subjects, ages 19 and 20, were taken into custody for public intoxication.

A 25-year-old male was arrested for public intoxication by officers in the 700 block of 27th Street at 4:50 a.m. Saturday.

In other activity, deputies located a 16-year-old female at 11:14 a.m. Friday who had been reported as a runaway on March 16. The girl was picked up in the 900 block of Avenue Q and transported to the juvenile probation office.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Quintella Rose and Devoun Robles of Big Spring.

DISMISSALS: Jessica Hopper, Daren Hopper, Robert McMann and Adela Rodriquez.

CENSUS: 37 (Med., Surg.-9, Long-term Care-25, CCU-1, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, March 28, 1999

Since your ambitions and capabilities can now be constructively fused together, the year ahead offers tremendous possibilities for you. Get out there and try your new wings!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) There's more blood that you can get out of an old turnip if you primp the pumps once more. There is still some life left in an old endeavor that was once successful. Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Through old friends, you might get an opportunity to meet some new people today. Take advantage of that, because fresh contacts could usher in exciting prospects.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you can figure out productive ways to upgrade or revise an endeavor that has gone sour on you, chances are you'll find the keys to getting it going once again.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Should you have to make a choice today between siding with an old friend or a new buddy, you'd be better off favoring your pal who has withstood the test of time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Some very favorable influences could be hovering over both your financial affairs and career matters today. However, it will be up to you to recognize and take advantage of them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A situation that affects you but has been totally in the hands of another, might come under your management today. Get a firm grip on it and prove you're the one capable of handling it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Some of your doubts concerning the motives of a person you're involved with might be alleviated today. Chances are you'll discover that she or he is forthright and sincere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) By talking things over with a friend whose judgment you respect, you could get the advice or counsel you're seeking. This person might have some very constructive suggestions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You might have to work a little bit harder, but if you elevate your sights slightly higher today, it could put you over that fine line from mediocrity to recognition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There are strong indications that if you've been wanting to strengthen some bonds with someone you're attracted to, this is the day to try it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be receptive to all proposals today, but especially if one is brought to you by someone you've experienced success with in the past. Something interesting could be on the horizon.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This is an excellent day to sit down and have a meeting of the minds with your mate or someone you have close ties with, for mutual concerns can be rectified.

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Your Birthday

Monday, March 29, 1999

The year ahead could offer you opportunities to make a significant amount from very little by building on small favors. The secret will be to attack each situation with boldness and confidence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Try to mingle with prestigious or influential people today, especially if you want to further your work or career. They tend to be more in tune with your interests at this time. Major changes are ahead for Aries in the coming year. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There's a good chance you could derive benefits through other channels today: Seek out new avenues in order to add to your resources.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't waste any time today negotiating what you want if you see an open door. You could be luckier than usual in securing the agreement or commitment you desire.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You can do anything you set your mind to today if you just have faith in yourself. Don't be afraid to think big where your personal ambitions are concerned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Social contacts could be extremely lucky for you today, so try to make some time for socializing with good friends who want to see you succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even if business concerns aren't usually part of your daily lifestyle, try to pay particular attention to commerce. Something in this area holds an exceptional opportunity for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Being a warm and friendly person will serve you well today. Paying special attention to everyone you encounter, even those who are rarely noticed, will not go unrewarded.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A bonus or some kind of dividend could be in the offing today for exceptional work performed for another. Make sure you do your best when servicing others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Get out and mingle today with fresh faces at new places. There's a good chance you could make a valuable social contact who might benefit your life considerably.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Even though you might not notice her at first, Lady Luck will be in your corner today, so when nice things start to happen, you'll know who to thank.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Dealing with grandiose plans or blueprints are your cup of tea today. The bigger the situation, the greater your chances will be for fortuitous results.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) The area in which you could score the greatest will be one that deals with your career or vocation. Pay particular heed to asserting yourself in a commendable manner today.

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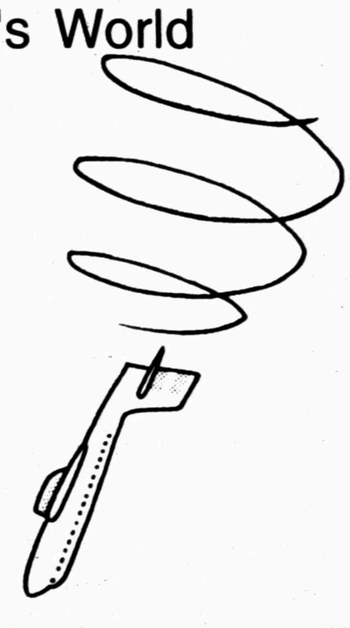
Berry's World



www.comics.com

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"This is the captain speaking. Will the passengers who brought Furbies aboard, please do something to incapacitate them. Thank you."

Card Of Thanks

Thank You

We, the family of Roy M Hanson, would like to express our gratitude to the community for the outpouring of prayer and support during the illness and death of our loved one.

We wish to especially thank the entire staff of Cogdell Hospital for the excellent care and genuine concern shown during his stay. The love each of you have shown is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
The family of Roy M. Hanson

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

What is polycythemia?

DEAR DR. GOTT: My son is 32 and was recently diagnosed with polycythemia for which he was advised to give blood. Why?

DEAR READER: Polycythemia means "too many red blood cells," the exact opposite of anemia. It can be a primary disorder or it can be secondary to other conditions, such as lung or heart disease. Polycythemia is a normal consequence of living at high altitudes, where there is less oxygen and the body must compensate by producing more red corpuscles, the cells that carry oxygen in the blood stream.

Polycythemia often causes the blood to become too thick, leading to heart and kidney damage. Phlebotomy (blood letting) is one way of treating the disorder, because blood cells are withdrawn and discarded; the remaining blood is less viscous. There are other methods of treating this disorder, using special drugs.

Secondary polycythemia usually responds to efforts to correct the underlying affliction — that is, by improving heart and lung function. High-altitude polycythemia needs no therapy; it is a normal physiological adaptive mechanism.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: During a routine exam, my doctor discovered that I have a hydrocele. He told me not to worry about it because I'm 82. Please comment.

DEAR READER: A hydrocele is an accumulation of fluid beneath the thin membrane that covers each testicle. It causes a squishy enlargement of the testicle that can be easily felt through the scrotum. In young men, it can be surgically removed if it causes symptoms of pressure, heaviness or embarrassment. In older men, however, it usually requires no treatment, because it is painless and harmless.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suffer from painful rectal bleeding. One doctor diagnosed radiation burns from cobalt therapy I had years ago for prostate cancer; a surgeon told me that I have an ulcerating tumor and to leave it alone. What would you do?

DEAR READER: I'd get another opinion. The difference between radiation burns and tumors is like the difference between night and day. The former can be treated with local therapy and special enemas; the latter may require surgery or chemotherapy.

If I were you, I'd go to a gastroenterologist for an examination and, perhaps, a biopsy. Such a specialist should be able to diagnose the problem and help you explore possible treatments. For you to be expected to ignore the painful bleeding is not only unrealistic, it's also bad medicine.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband is 47. About a year ago he fell on the ice and hurt his ribs. About once a month since then, his vision starts to "pulsate" and afterward he gets a terrible headache. These attacks are coming more frequently and I'm worried. What should we do?

DEAR READER: From your description, I assume that your husband did not injure his head during the accident. This distinction is important because concussion (brain bruising) can cause headache and visual difficulties lasting many months.

If your husband simply injured his ribs, he will have to find another explanation for his symptoms. Common possibilities include hypertension and migraine. He should be examined by a neurologist, a specialist in headaches, to establish a diagnosis so that treatment can be started.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm an 86-year-old man, and I realize that as we get older, we will all have some mental loss. For the last six or eight months, mine has become excessive. I'm forgetting my life-long friends' names, cities and places. Is there any help or hope for me?

DEAR READER: All of us experience some waning mental powers — such as declining recent memory — as we age. However, when the process rapidly progresses or becomes pronounced, medical attention is mandatory. Aside from the normal benign forgetfulness of old age, there are several serious conditions causing memory loss. These include micro-infarct dementia ("mini-strokes"), Alzheimer's disease, alcohol brain-damage, thyroid disorders and vitamin deficiencies. Many of these afflictions are curable — or at least treatable — if diagnosed before permanent and widespread damage occurs.

If I were you, I'd start with your family doctor, who will examine and test you — and, if indicated, refer you to a neurologist for a second opinion. Don't delay in obtaining a thorough medical evaluation.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've heard on TV that if you were going to drink apple juice, it should be pasteurized. Since I can't present a strong argument to my husband before he purchases the drink, he won't listen to me. Can you help?

DEAR READER: Perhaps. Unpasteurized fruit drinks, especially apple juice and cider, may contain contaminants, notably E. Coli bacteria, which can cause serious illness. Pasteurization kills these bacteria, so if your husband insists on drinking unpasteurized apple juice he is taking a risk — albeit small — of contracting E. Coli. The simplest and safest solution is to consume juices that have been properly sanitized.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is there any health concern about a child constantly wearing nail polish? Sign me the concerned grandmother of an 11 year old.

DEAR READER: Nail polish is harmless at any age. There should be no health consequences from this practice.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Sometimes when I urinate, there are bubbles in the water. Is this something to worry about?

DEAR READER: No. This is a normal phenomenon that is more common in men than in women, because the urine usually travels from a greater height and disrupts the surface tension of the water in the bowl.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Student's promise ring does not mean what teacher thinks

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter recently turned 14. When she was asked what she wanted for her birthday, she said, "A promise ring." My husband and I sat quietly as our hearts raced with fear of what was coming next. She slowly explained that promise rings are given to daughters by their fathers and a promise is made that the daughter will refrain from having sex until she is married. Years ago, the significance of a promise ring was different.

Needless to say, she got the promise ring for her birthday and has not taken it off since. Abby, I'm asking you to print this letter because when my daughter wore her ring to school the next day, she was ridiculed, degraded and insulted by her teacher for wearing it.

If the teacher had taken a moment to allow my daughter to share the experience with her, she would have thought the ring was a terrific idea. However, my daughter was not given the opportunity. All the students know the significance of promise rings. The teacher was the only one in the dark. Sometimes things aren't as they seem.

PROUD MOTHER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR PROUD MOTHER: I agree the concept is terrific, because it allows parents and their daughters to discuss and reinforce their family values. If the teacher was guilty of making disparaging remarks about your daughter's ring, you should certainly make your feelings known to the teacher. The significance of the promise ring needs to be explained to this educator.

***

DEAR ABBY: I'm 27 and engaged to be married next year. "Hal" is honest, loving and compatible, and has all the qualities I've looked for in a man. He has helped me develop into a better and happier person. We've been together five years.

Abby, I'm having second thoughts about our upcoming wedding. I had very little previous dating experience, and I find myself attracted to other men, curious about being with other men sexually and wanting to date others. Yet I don't want to cheat on Hal, and I don't want to get married and then be overwhelmed with these feelings.

My friends and family love Hal and would think I'm a total idiot for the way I feel, so I can't confide in them. I'm also afraid that if I tell Hal my feelings, and postpone or call off the wedding, I could be making the gravest mistake of my life. Help!

BEWILDERED IN BOSTON

DEAR BEWILDERED: Hal sounds like a wonderful man. However, if you want to date others, you are not ready to be married. I don't have a crystal ball to tell you whether he's the right man for you; only you can decide that. I urge you to have a frank discussion with your fiance about your doubts. You should marry no one until you are sure you want to spend the rest of your life with that individual.

***

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY MUSLIM READERS: Happy Eid Al-Addah.

***

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law is a restaurant owner. The atmosphere is casual and slightly sports-oriented, so many of his patrons take their young children to dine. The majority of the time, this is not a problem. However, some adults take children who do not want to be there. They yell and scream and run around the restaurant unattended. It's very disruptive for other patrons.

The staff takes juice, crackers, crayons and coloring books to entertain the children while the adults converse, yet the children continue to be disruptive, and the adults at the table make no effort to address the situation.

On occasion, my brother-in-law has had to ask the adults to do something about the children's behavior and has been met with some very rude responses from the patrons. He needs some additional input about what to do. We'd appreciate any suggestions as to how adults should handle situations where children are misbehaving in a restaurant.

ROCHELLE IN PHOENIX

DEAR ROCHELLE: The disruptive behavior you describe is not the fault of the children; the parents are responsible for their children's behavior. If the youngsters create a nuisance for other diners, their parents should be asked to give them a "timeout" — in other words, remove them from the premises until they settle down.

***

DEAR ABBY: I must disagree with your readers who responded to the mother who wanted her daughter to marry a man of means. I also believe the mother knows her daughter better than they possibly could. For most, giving up one's standard of living would send the "thrill" of married life out the window very soon.

Love does *not* conquer all! No, I am not a snob; I am an 81-year-old "always been poor" lady. I have seen what loss of material things can do to anyone who is not accustomed to doing without. Remember, Abby, men who lost their fortunes committed suicide by jumping out of tall buildings in 1929-1930. People are like that.

Oh, no, a disillusioned wife won't jump out of a window, but she might seriously consider fleeing the coop. A 19-year-old girl has plenty of time to meet young people and evaluate acquaintances before deciding on a life partner.

A CARING PERSON,
DANVILLE, ILL.

DEAR CARING PERSON: Thank you for your letter of support. Although you and I agree, the majority of those who wrote to me felt that the mother was selling her daughter short, the young man showed great promise, and the daughter should follow her heart.

***

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who would like to be more confident and less fearful about asking a guy out. Deep down I believe that the guy should be the one to do the asking. I also have a fear of rejection.

There are several guys I'm interested in, but I can't muster the courage to ask them out. What should I do?

WENDY

DEAR WENDY: Although your feelings are understandable, it is common and acceptable these days for a woman to ask a man out. In order to avoid rejection, drop some "hints" to see if there is any interest before popping the question. And remember: Practice makes perfect. After doing it a few times, you'll find it easier to approach men.

P.S. Between you and me, men also suffer fear of rejection at the prospect of asking a woman out. Now you can empathize.

***

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Anger over Kosovo doesn't carry over to uranium plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's anger at the United States over the bombing in Yugoslavia apparently is muted when it comes to rescuing a uranium deal that could yield as much as $12 billion to the financially beleaguered country.

Only hours after NATO forces began their attacks in Yugoslavia, prompting outrage from Moscow, Russia and the United States quietly signed an agreement aimed at salvaging the multibillion dollar uranium deal that ran run into trouble in recent months.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and Russia's minister of atomic energy, Yevgeny Adamov, toasted the agreement with champagne Wednesday night in a ceremony at the Energy Department, officials confirmed Friday. The signing was given no advance publicity.

Earlier that day, NATO missiles and aircraft began attacking Yugoslavia over strong Russian protests. Only the day before, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov canceled his trip to Washington in midflight because of the impending NATO airstrikes.

The uranium deal is a key part of the Clinton's administration's nuclear nonproliferation efforts. To Russia, the agreement worth $12 billion over 20 years means access to badly needed hard currency.

The agreement "will facilitate the conversion of highly enriched uranium from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons into fuel for U.S. nuclear reactors," an Energy Department statement said.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the signing occurred at all signals the importance both governments place on it.

The agreement is part of a complicated arrangement reached in 1993 between the United States and Russia for the sale of 550 tons of Russia's highly enriched uranium, used in nuclear weapons, to the United States.

About 40 tons of Russian weapons-grade uranium, diluted so it can be used in civilian reactors, already has been shipped to the United States. But in recent months the program has foundered with Russia threatening to stop further shipments.

"Since December it's been dead in the water," said a U.S. official who attended Wednesday's ceremony.

As the deal is structured, Russia sends diluted weapons-grade uranium to the private United States Enrichment Corp., which pays Russia, then sells the now low-enriched uranium to utilities for use in power reactors.

Part of the deal has Russia taking ownership of the natural uranium that the Russian highly enriched uranium replaces. Because of a glut in the uranium market, the Russians have been unable to sell the natural uranium at the price they anticipated and have stopped shipping diluted highly enriched uranium as agreed in 1993.

The new agreement includes a commitment by the United States to take 22,000 tons of natural uranium off the market, while Russia agrees to stockpile some uranium. Congress last year provided $325 million to begin the purchases.

With the agreement in place and the government stockpiles propping up uranium prices, three Western companies went forward this week to commit to buy much of the natural uranium Russia is expected to obtain from sale of the weapons-grade uranium, officials said.

Woman delivers baby using sperm from dead husband

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In the first known birth of its kind in the United States, a woman in California has had a baby using sperm that was extracted from her dead husband as he lay in the morgue.

Gaby Vernoff, who is in her 20s, gave birth to the girl on March 17 at an undisclosed Los Angeles hospital. Ms. Vernoff was impregnated in July with sperm that been taken from her husband, Bruce, 30 hours after he had died suddenly of an allergic reaction.

Acting at the widow's request, fertility specialist Dr. Cappy Rothman led a team that went to the coroner's office, made an incision in Vernoff's scrotum and extracted the sperm from the epididymis, the long coiled tubes behind each testicle where sperm cells mature. The sperm was kept frozen for 15 months before Ms. Vernoff became pregnant.

"I just did it because the family was in so much stress and so much grief," said Rothman, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at Century City Hospital.

Vernoff, who lived in Los Angeles and was in his early 30s, was said to be happily married. The couple had no children.

Rothman has performed or supervised postmortem sperm extractions about a dozen times since 1978, when he took sperm from a man killed by a car. But the Vernoff case represents the first birth anywhere to be achieved this way, he said.

Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, said he knows of at least 45 cases nationwide in which someone had requested that sperm be taken from a dead man. But he said this is the first publicly acknowledged case in the United States in which a birth resulted.

It's not unusual for a man to have his sperm frozen if he knows he is ill or dying.

Pentagon announces a $2 billion arms sale to Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon intends to sell 50 F-16 fighters to Israel for $2 billion.

The deal, announced Friday, includes radars and navigation-targeting systems, associated support equipment and contractor services.

A Defense Department statement said Israel needs the aircraft, built by Lockheed Martin Corp. of Orlando, Fla., to supplement its present inventory of fighter planes and to improve its defense against air threats.

"The F-16 enhances Israel's ability to defend itself and supports U.S. regional objectives for Israel's national security," the statement said.

The planes will be capable of firing AIM-20 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles; AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seeking air-to-air missiles, and a wide variety of air-to-ground munitions, the Pentagon said.

Dee Myers named to board

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Dee Dee Myers, President Clinton's former press secretary, has been named to the board that runs the California State University system.

Gov. Gray Davis appointed Myers, of Los Angeles, to the CSU Board of Trustees on Friday. The board oversees 22 campuses and 270,000 students.

Board members do not receive a salary, but are paid for expenses.

Myers, 37, was the president's press secretary from 1993 until 1994. She was the first woman and the youngest person to hold the job.

She has been a contributing editor specializing in politics for Vanity Fair magazine since 1995.

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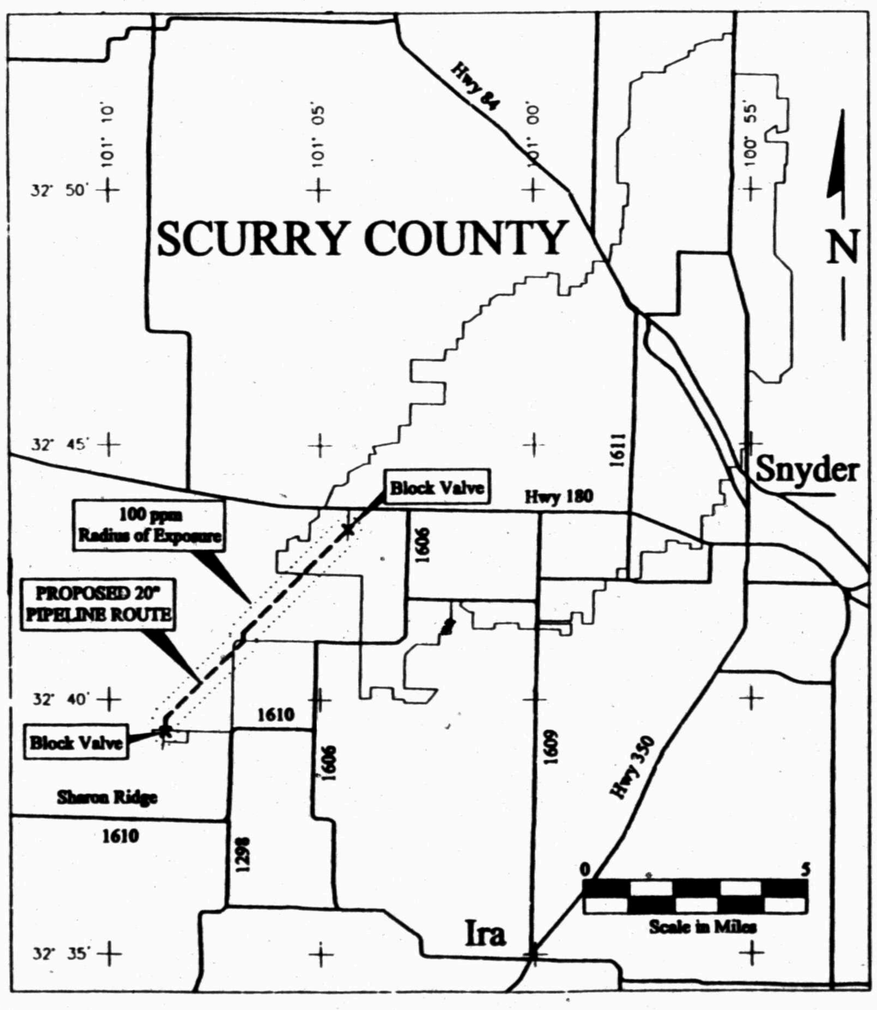

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PIPELINE PERMIT

PennzEnergy Exploration & Production, L.L.C., 4632 W Hwy 180, Snyder, Texas 79549, has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to construct 7.5 miles of 20" buried pipeline in Scurry County, Texas to gather produced gas at the Sharon Ridge Canyon Unit, Tank Battery 5. The gas transported within the proposed gas gathering line will contain concentrations of Hydrogen Sulfide greater than 100 ppm. In the event of a leak, the radius of exposure of Hydrogen Sulfide for 100 ppm could extend 1,577 feet on either side of the pipeline based on methods outlined in 16 Texas Administration Code 3.36. The radius of exposure of Hydrogen Sulfide for 500 ppm could extend 720 feet on either side of the pipeline. The proposed sour gas pipeline will be located in Scurry County as shown on the plat. The pipeline will be constructed and operated in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Railroad Commission of Texas specifying construction material and methods for the safe operation of sour gas pipelines. A copy of the application is available at the office of the Scurry County Clerk, located at 1806 25th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549.

Any owner or occupant of land located within the 100 ppm radius of exposure of the proposed sour gas pipeline desiring to protest can do so by mailing or otherwise delivering a letter referring to Gas Utilities Docket Number 8937 and stating their desire to protest:

Docket Services
Office of General Counsel
Railroad Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, TX 78711-2967

Protests must be received no later than May 1, 1999. It is recommended that a copy of this notice be included with the letter.

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Possible war crimes in Kosovo...

U.S. now gathering evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Saturday Serb troops continue to attack ethnic Albanian civilians in Kosovo. But NATO warplanes have been unable so far to attack Yugoslav forces directly involved in what the White House calls the "barbaric activity" of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Clinton reaffirmed his determination to "defuse a powder keg at the heart of Europe."

"Our military operation has been under way for several nights now. In this time, Serb troops have continued attacks on unarmed men, women and children," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. "This is all the more reason for us to stay the course. We must, and we will, continue until Serbia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic, accepts peace or we have seriously damaged his capacity to make war."

Shortly after Clinton spoke, NATO began a fourth day of strikes as a Navy-launched Tomahawk cruise missile slammed into the vicinity of Belgrade, a senior alliance official.

A senior U.S. defense official said the strikes, expected to intensify after dark in Yugoslavia, would shift to some extent toward targets in the Kosovo province, where Serb forces have been conducting operations against the ethnic Albanian population.

The U.S. military, using satellite photos and real-time images from unmanned surveillance aircraft flying over Yugoslavia, is trying to document reports of increasing Serb assaults against Kosovo Albanians, executions of civilians and looting and torching of ethnic Albanian-owned businesses in Kosovo's capital Pristina, officials said.

"Dark things are happening," NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Saturday at a news conference in Brussels. He cited indications that large groups of Kosovo Albanians — conspicuously lacking adult men — have been spotted under forced guard of Serb forces.

Bad weather has been thwarting most though not all of the manned NATO warplanes running attack missions, according to Air Commodore David Wilby of Britain's Royal Air Force.

Despite those difficulties, Wilby said, "Currently there are no plans for us to take offensive ground operations in Kosovo." About 12,000 NATO troops are training in Macedonia for a possible peacekeeping or peace enforcement mission in Kosovo.

Clinton said he was "deeply impressed by the solidarity" of the 19 NATO countries who signed off on the mission and thanked U.S. military personnel for "risking their lives to protect peace in the Balkans."

The president said he committed U.S. forces to the mission to "save the lives of innocent civilians in Kosovo from a brutal military offensive; to defuse a powder keg at the heart of Europe" and to "prevent a wider war we would have to confront later."

Intelligence information gathered about alleged ethnic cleansing will help direct NATO airstrikes, which began Wednesday against Serbian military targets across Yugoslavia and also focus inside Kosovo, the Pentagon said. Moreover, evidence of war crimes will be turned over to the U.N. Tribunal in The Hague for possible prosecution.

NATO airstrikes were led Friday night by B-52 bombers that can launch satellite-guided cruise missiles. Air Force F-117A stealth fighter-bombers also took part in the attacks, the Pentagon said.

A Navy ship fired one cruise missile during the day Friday, the only daytime NATO assault so far, aiming at what Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon called "a target of opportunity."

Salt Creek Gas Plant gets 1998 safety award

Mobil Exploration & Producing's Salt Creek Gas Plant has been recognized by the Gas Processors Association (GPA) for achieving a perfect safety record during 1998.

Steve Bearden, operations supervisor for the plant, said the award signifies how much to heart the Mobil employees take working safely.

"This is the fourth year in a row our plant has received this award for no injuries," said Bearden.

The Salt Creek plant, which processess approximately 125 million cubic feet a day of produced gas, was recognized for the award in ceremonies in Nashville, Tenn.

"We are extremely proud of this accomplishment and the industry-wide recognition it brings to the Salt Creek plant," said M. Jack Rathbone, general manager of the Permian Basin business unit. "To have the entire staff complete the year totally accident free — no first aid, medical treatment or lost-time accident — is truly outstanding," Rathbone said.

Bearden said if the Salt Creek plant remains accident free during 1999, it will be eligible for the GPA's prestigious five-year award.

Mobil's gas operations — which consist of Salt Creek and the Mary Ann Gas Plant in Mobile, Ala. — achieved a combined 172,332 total man-hours in 1998 without a lost-time accident.

Only two other companies qualified for recognition for the same number of man-hours.

Obituaries

Ruth Miles

1927-1999

Ruth Archie Miles of Phoenix, Ariz., a former resident of Snyder, died Saturday, March 20, in Arizona.

Service for Mrs. Miles, 71, is set for 11 a.m. Monday in Phoenix.

She and her husband, J.B. Archie, lived in Snyder in the early 1970s. Their children all graduated from the old Lincoln School. She later married Willie (Snake-Eye) Miles, also a Snyder resident in the 1970s.

Survivors include two sons, J.B. Archie Jr. of Albuquerque and Charlie Joe Archie of Fort Riley, Kan.; two daughters, Virginia of Arizona and Louise Archie of Fort Worth; and her mother, Hattie Turner of Arizona.

Ruben Campos

1972-1999

Ruben Campos of Austin, formerly of Snyder, died in a car accident Saturday, March 27, in Austin.

Graveside service for Mr. Campos, 27, is set for 10 a.m. Monday in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mr. Campos, a student, was born March 16, 1972 in Snyder.

Survivors include his parents, Ramon and Elisa Campos of Snyder; three sisters, Linda Hernandez and Susie Johnston, both of Snyder and Dorothy Campos of Houston; two brothers, Herman Campos of Snyder and Abel Campos of Diboll; his maternal grandmother, Theresa Chavarria of Roby; and several nieces and nephews.

E.E. Wallace Jr.

1918-1999

POST — E.E. Wallace Jr. of Post, rancher and oil man, died Thursday, March 25, at his residence.

A memorial service for Mr. Wallace, 80, will be set at a later date under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

Born on Aug. 10, 1918 in Anson, he married Norma Martin on Feb. 7, 1980 in Tyler. Mr. Wallace was in the cattle and oil business and farmed and ranched in Scurry County.

Survivors include his wife, Norma Wallace of Post; one son, Arnold Wallace of Carthage; two stepsons, Jymmy Joe Martin of Mineral Wells and Stacy Martin of Dallas; one daughter, July Gay Alexander-Bryan; three stepdaughters, Sharon Conley-Pineville of W. Va., Jeni Rinehart-Kermit and Judy Bailey of Brownwood; 22 grandchidren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Hospice Family, 1212 13th Street Suite 101, Lubbock 79401.

Commissioners will consider burning ban

Scurry County Commissioners Court will once again consider proclaiming a county-wide burning ban.

The item is one of six new business items on the court's agenda when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

According to Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz, the state has requested that all counties west of Interstate 35 reinstitute a burn ban.

"We're one of the last few (counties) that do not have one in place," Fritz said.

If adopted, the burn ban would go into effect immediately.

Also on the agenda, the court is scheduled to consider seeking bids to replace the courthouse roof.

Fritz said the roof is at least 25 years old. "We have been having leaks again. The roof is worn out."

Currently, the Scurry County Coliseum roof, also about 25 years old, is being replaced.

In other business, the juvenile probation department is to seek approval of state funds for internet access.

New laws require that the department submit reports over the internet, and to meet that requirement, the department will need to upgrade its computer technology.

State funds will pay for the upgrade.

The county's technology policy requires all county departments to obtain court approval prior to obtaining any additional technology.

Commissioners will also consider a resolution authorizing Hermleigh Water Works to apply for a grant to replace the overhead water storage system.

The Texas Community Development Program application would be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

The court is also expected to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In one other item of business, commissioners will consider going out for sealed bids to sell a truck sleeper.

In one item of old business, the court will vote on a contractor to install computer cables throughout the courthouse.

Bids were open at the March 15 meeting, but the item was tabled pending a more detailed review of the bids.

Round Top work slated

The first phase of reconstructing Round Top Road will begin Monday and motorists are urged to find an alternate route if possible.

The work will extend two miles from the intersection of FM 2763 and Round Top Road.

It is expected the work will take three to four weeks.

The road is to be re-constructed and widened by one foot using road and bridge funds from both Precincts 3 and 4. The road is the dividing line between the two precincts.

Air Force

Continued From Page 1

"It will be an increase from about 100 sorties per year to over 2,300," said Bond. "That's an increase of over 2,000 percent and the jet bombers are much louder and fly much lower than the planes we are used to."

John Oudt, chairman of the group's legal committee, said if the Air Force's plans are implemented, it will be the end of the quiet, peaceful life known in the area today.

"What new business would want to move into Snyder, Post or Lamesa knowing that the whole area is under one perpetual air raid," Oudt asked.

"The Air Force wants to turn our rural area into one big 'noise dump'. We don't want it," emphasized Oudt.

Welch said hunting is a big industry in the area, but hunters have already told him they would not be back "if the bombers were overhead."

Welch added that the Air Force study did not report on what effect the noise might have on his cattle.

The report did say that the flying activities are not expected to produce measurable impacts on the economic value of the land affected since the area has been generally flown over since the 1940s.

Welch concluded, "B-1 bombers don't mix well with ranching, farming, hunting, horses, grandkids or sleeping good at night."

events WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Special Olympics dance

There will be a battle of the bands Saturday at the VFW from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. to raise funds for Special Olympics. Texas Mesquite and Highway 208 are donating their time and talent. Cost is $6 per person and all door proceeds will go the the Special Olympics.

'89 reunion planning

A planning session is set for 3 p.m. Sunday to finalize plans for the SHS Class of 1989 reunion. Anyone with information should call Christy Smith at 573-8392 or Lena Garcia at 573-1420.

Reception for warden

A reception to welcome Warden Wilhelmenia Howard and her husband, Tony, to Snyder will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Howard is the new warden at the Price Daniel Unit, and Tony is TDCJ regional supervisor for internal affairs.

Cancer Society meeting

The American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital. Plans will be made for Relay for Life.

Genealogy society

Geneology Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Scurry County Library. Everyone is invited to hear a program by Jo Thrower on "Things Pertaining to the Civil War."

East Elementary parent council

The East Elementary School parent council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the school library.

Free tax aid service

Free tax help is available Wednesday at the Senior Center. Help is also available for shut-ins. Call 573-3822 or 573-4035.

Silent auction

Phi Theta Kappa, honorary society at WTC, will host a silent auction to raise funds to attend the international conference. Items are on sale and last day to bid is 10:45 a.m. Thursday when winner will be announced. For more information call Carolyn Osborn at 573-8511, ext. 313.

Hamburger cookout

Scurry County officials are hosting a county-wide hamburger cookout starting at 5:00 p.m. Thursday on the courthouse square to show support for the local economy. The cookout will conclude in time for the townhall meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

Townhall meeting

State Rep. David Counts, along with Mayor David Holt, will conduct a townhall meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Snyder City Hall.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 7 p.m. April 5 at the Hermleigh Community Center. For more information, call 863-2355 or 863-2338.

Public hearing for bomber training

The Air Force will hold a public hearing on the proposed Realistic Bomber Training Initative (RBTI) on Wednesday, April 7, from 5-9 p.m. at Snyder High School.

Golden K fish fry

Golden K Kiwanis Club fish fry will be held from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at the Senior Citizens Center. Cost is $6 for adults and children under 6 can et free. Takeout plates will be available.

American Legion officers

The American Legion Layne Kite Post #181 will elect officers on April 12.

Softball tournament

A men's softball tournament to benefit Special Olympics is planned April 17-18 at Winston Park. It will be double elimination and cost is $100 per team. Entry fee is due by April 9 by contacting Coach Stewart or Daisy Braziel at 915-573-1114.

Class of '79 reunion

The SHS class of 1979 is planning a class reunion. Anyone wanting to help plan or work on the reunion is asked to contact Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

Windbreak trees available

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has extra windbreak trees, both hardwood and evergreens, available.

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
7-22-29-86

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
9-4-9

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
7-15-20-28-31

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Charles Anderson writes 'Scurry' book

Charles G. Anderson's latest book on Scurry County history chronicles the years 1821-1864 in the life of Confederate General William Read Scurry "Dirty Neck Bill," for whom the county is named.

Slated for publication in June, "Confederate General William Read 'Dirty Neck Bill' Scurry (1821-1864) will feature large print and contain rare photos and maps, letters and documents obtained from members of the Scurry family and libraries.

Anderson also wrote the the information on the front of the jacket.

The book is being published by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc. and designed by Wayne Burney. The printer will be Rose Printing Co. in Tallahassee, Fla.

Anderson said the new book "is in celebration of the millennium. I worked on it for about 15-18 years as I was doing research for other projects."

Scurry County was named for General Scurry in 1876. "Scurry County and Snyder are unique in that the county is named for a Confederate general and the town (county seat) was named for Union private Pete Snyder. Probably no other county in the nation has such an unusual arrangement," he added.

Highlights of Scurry's story include the fact that he grew up in Gallatin, Tenn. shortly after the war of 1812. His father, Thomas Scurry, fought in that war along with Gen. Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston.

In 1840, the 19-year-old Scurry joined his brother, Richardson, in Texas where he practiced law.

The war with Mexico in 1846 interrupted Scurry's law practice, and he enlisted with the second Texas Mounted Volunteers of Col. George T. Wood.

Returning to Texas after the war, Scurry married his 15-year-old sweetheart, Janette. During the years leading up to the Civil War, Scurry represented East Texas in the Legislature where he and Sam Houston became bitter enemies.

When the Civil War began, Scurry joined forces with Gen. H.H. Sibley in New Mexico. He was later involved in the Red River Campaign of 1863-1864. He was killed at the battle of Jenkins' Ferry in Arkansas on April 30, 1864.

Scurry's men gathered at Tulip, Ark. on May 2 and laid him to rest in full military honors. After a short time, Scurry's body was taken to Austin. Friends and family gathered at the Texas State Cemetery on June 1, 1864 for Scurry's funeral.

Anderson was born Sept. 20, 1930, in a tent on an Indian reservation in Oklahoma. His parents were working for Carter Oil Company at the beginning of the great Depression. He was educated in East Texas in the rural schools of Titus County and Mount Pleasant. Anderson served in the U.S. Air Force for four years during the Korean War and then enrolled in Abilene Christian University.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at ACU and was employed with Snyder ISD for 32 years, where he served as teacher and principal at the elementary and junior high levels.

Anderson and his wife, Marge, have two sons: Marcus is a counselor in the Killeen School System and Chuck is an obstetrician-gynecologist in Abilene. They have six grandchildren.

Anderson has been active in the preservation of Scurry County history, having served as chairman of the Scurry County Historical Commission, the Museum Board, and the Scurry County Sesquicentennial Committee.

He recently completed six years as a member of the SISD board of trustees where he served as president.

In December of 1998, Anderson was diagnosed with lung cancer. After weeks of treatment and surgery at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, he is gradually regaining his strength.

"SCURRY" BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED — Charles Anderson, far right, is shown presenting the manuscript of his new book, "Confederate General William Read (Dirty Neck Bill) Scurry, 1821-1864," to Ron Nielson, representing Rose Printing Company of Tallahassee, Fla. The photo was taken at the Gen. William R. Scurry Marker on the north side of the courthouse. Pictured from left are, Jean Everett, member of the Scurry County Historical Commission, Marge Anderson, Billy Bob McMullan, president of the Scurry County Historical Commission, Nielsen and Anderson. (SDN Staff Photo)

BISD teachers laid off due to lower oil prices

LUBBOCK (AP) — In what could become a pattern among Oil Patch school districts, Brownfield school officials have cut 17 teaching jobs because they expect lower oil prices to cut into their tax revenue.

"We have no recourse but to cut," said Debbe Roesler, business manager for the Brownfield Consolidated Independent School District. "There's no place for us to go."

The district had already assumed a lean budget, Ms. Roesler said, but compounded by the loss of 180 students in two years — state aid is tied to enrollment — forced the district into another round of budget cuts.

"We've already cut the fat," Ms. Roesler told the Lubbock Avalanche Journal. "I really think now we're starting to cut into the meat."

The district figures to save about $500,000 by cutting 17 probationary teachers, each with less than three years' experience, and six aide positions. Officials said they might have to rehire up to seven teachers in order to stay within state-required teacher-student ratios.

Brownfield's problems are expected to spread to other West Texas districts.

As oil prices have foundered, the number of active rigs hit an all-time low this year. When rigs shut down, the property where they sit loses value, which translates into fewer tax dollars for school districts.

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander has estimated that schools across the state will lose $154 million because of oil-related declines in property value.

Brownfield school board President Rusty Andrews said the cuts weren't easy to make.

"For those teachers it was not a matter of the quality of teaching because they were excellent teachers," he said. "It was strictly a matter of the budget."

The effect of oil-related revenue cuts will also be felt by students, officials said.

Extracurricular activities are likely to be restricted to within 60 miles of home, they said. Athletic or academic teams that qualify for area or state competitions might not be able to go.

"We're dropping all but what's mandated by law," said Ms. Roesler, who let her payroll clerk go. "I've been doing time cards at night."

Although oil prices are starting to recover, the rebound won't help anyone immediately, said Andrews, the school board president.

"It's a very serious problem that has to be addressed long term," he said. "I think every district in Texas that has minerals and agriculture sees that."

City of San Antonio considering whether to limit watering lawns to just once a week

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Watering lawns just once a week could become a year-round practice under a plan tentatively approved by a panel of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

The plan would also clamp down on outdoor water use at a stricter threshold than under previous proposals.

As part of a conservation program endorsed Thursday, a three-stage drought plan would mandate once-a-week lawn watering when the aquifer level at the Bexar index well falls to 650 feet above sea level.

Drought plans adopted by cities across the region currently don't limit watering to once a week until the aquifer drops to 636 feet.

"I think universally we've gotten approval of the concept that there needs to be more emphasis on year-round conservation," said Weir Labatt, a Bexar County representative on the authority's board and chairman of the group charged with drafting the plan.

"The logic and our hope is that we'll get into a critical period less often," he said.

The working group and the board's AMPC will vote on April 29.

EGG-travaganza

March 29 - April 3

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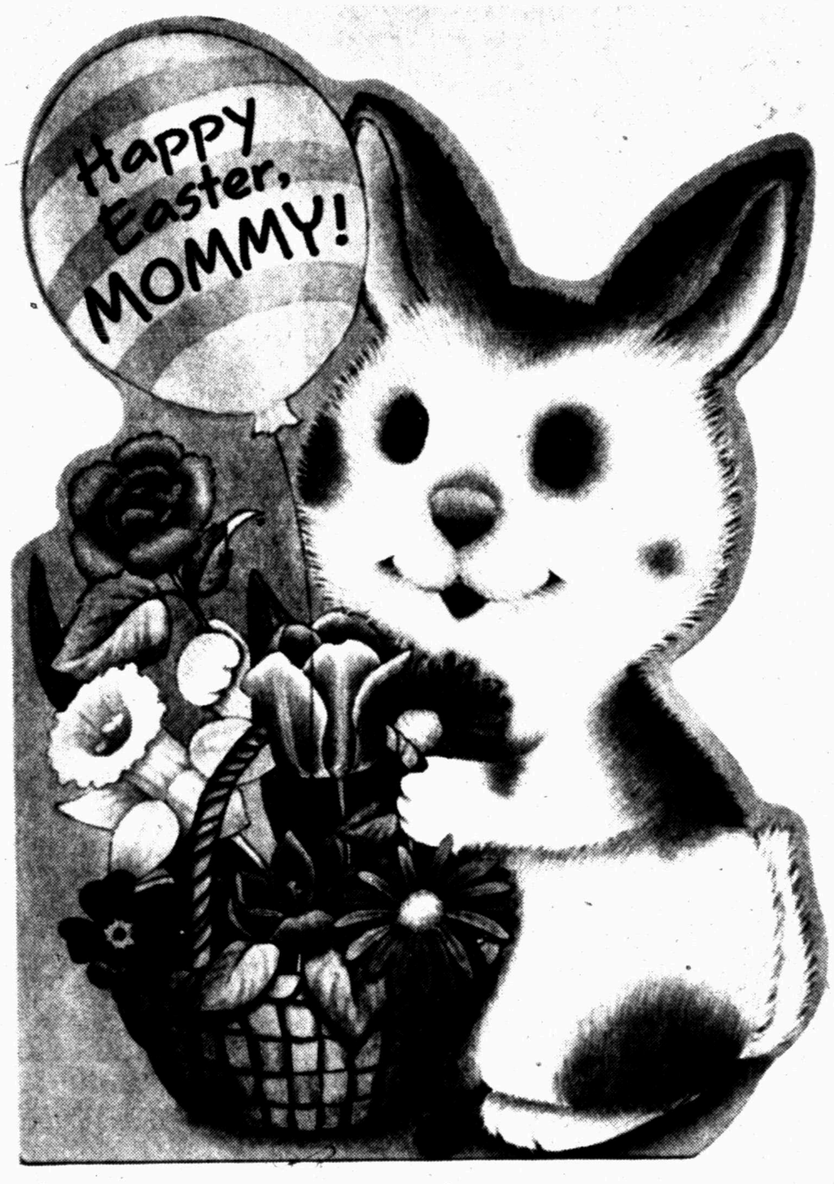

The Pleasure's Mine

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Virginia Bloom Owner

PLANNING DECORATIONS — Maribeth Vestal and Carol Miller, members of the Martha Ann Woman's Club directors in charge of decorations, get an early start planning decor for the upcoming style show and luncheon, "Spring Profile." Three stores will be featuring fashions, Hackfeld's Bar-H-Bar in Snyder and Harold's and Talbots in Lubbock. Tickets are $10 and may be purchased by calling 573-6443, 573-6717 or 573-3427. A 968-page cookbook is now on sale for $15 by MAWC and may be bought by calling the same numbers, or Linda Walton at 573-5233.

Hinkle, Franklin exchange vows...

Wed in candlelight ceremony

FLOYDADA — Pepper Renay Hinkle and Jeffrey Wayne Franklin, both of Lubbock, were married Saturday, Jan. 2, at 7 p.m. in the Floydada First Baptist Church.

Dr. Martin Akins, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Snyder, officiated the double-ring ceremony.

Billy G. and Duffy Hinkle of Floydada are parents of the bride and the groom's parents are E L and Linda Franklin of Snyder.

Vows were exchanged at an altar area adorned with seven candelabras featuring ivory candles and greenery with white enchantment lilies, snapdragons, larkspur and baby's breath adding special touches.

Fourteen pew candelabras were placed down the center aisle and were accented with greenery, white alstromeria lilies, burgundy tea roses, baby's breath and ribbon.

Pew bows, made by Nikki Yeary, aunt of the bride, were made of white tulle with gold flecks and shimmering gold ribbon. Heavenly white angels stood in each corner of the choir loft. Evergreen featuring tiny white lights and gold bows gave special effects to the front doorways and banisters of the church.

Candlelighters were Lindsey and Jennifer Weatherman, cousins of the bride from Floydada.

Jim Jordan of Amarillo provided the organ music and Todd Keller of Plainview sang "We Are Not Ashamed (of the Gospel of Jesus Christ)" as the candles were being lit. Rendi Meeks and Jeff Burch of Lubbock sang a duet "Jesus in Your Eyes." During the lighting of the unity candle, Jeff Burch sang "I Do Cherish You."

The groom surprised the bride by singing "Keeper of the Stars," which he had recorded earlier for the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Franklin
(Contributed Photo)

The bride wore a gown created in a rich candlelight Italian satin. The soft scalloped neckline was accented with a full-length fitted sleeves. Imported Alencon lace embellished with pearls and sequins adorned the princess bodice. A fitted waistline allowed the full ball gown skirt to float gracefully to the floor. A detachable train cascaded from the back waistline and fell into a cathedral length train. Scalloped Alencon lace finished the hemline of the gown and train.

She carried a bouquet of white roses with ivory and white ribbon streamers. A pair of navy crocheted gloves was attached to the bouquet to serve as "something blue." The gloves were worn by the bride's great-grandmother, Marjorie McElyea, on her wedding day in 1935. "Something new" was her wedding gown and "something old" was a double stranded pearl necklace which belonged to the groom's late maternal grandmother, Sybil Thomas. "Something borrowed" was a pearl promise ring belonging to the bride's maternal grandmother, Jean Williams.

Matron of honor was Laura Jordan of Lubbock and Maid of honor was Stephanie Taylor of Dallas. Bridesmaids included Becky Burch of Lubbock, Lezlie Warren, Katie Smith and Shea Sanders, all of Floydada. The attendants wore floor-length navy gowns made of Windsor satin that featured a scalloped neckline and long sleeves. Beautiful rosettes embellished the back waistline of the gowns with long sashes. The bridesmaids carried clear crystal vases with lit floating candles. The vases were embellished with gold bows with navy and burgundy ribbon holding burgundy tea roses and baby's breath.

Flower girl Karly Buchanan of Snyder wore a floor-length ivory satin gown with pretty rosettes across the back waistline. She also wore a halo adorned with miniature white roses and baby's breath with streamers of ivory and navy ribbon which softly accented the V-neck in the back. She carried an ivory basket decorated with sheer ivory satin ribbon and filled with white rose petals.

Ring bearers were Blair Beck and Connor Beck of Midland, nephews of the groom. Both were dressed in black tuxedos with a white vest and white bow ties to match the groom. Blair carried the bride's wedding ring and Connor carried the groom's ring, which were placed on the pillows made of ivory satin and sheer ivory ribbon streamers that were tied to each ring.

Best men were Michael Rubin of Dallas and Brandon Weaver of Snyder. Serving as groomsmen were James Weaver of Fort Worth, Kevin Dollins of Tyler, Chad Hinkle, brother of the bride from Floydada, and Brett Merritt of Lubbock.

Ushers included Chris Black of Fort Worth, Bryan Zettle of Dallas, Robert Stueve of Lubbock and Carl McClurg of Fort Worth.

Male attendants wore black tuxedos with navy vests and black bow ties, accented with a single burgundy rose boutonniere. The groom was dressed in a black tuxedo, a white vest and a white bow tie. He wore gold cuff links belonging to his father. His boutonniere was a single white rose accented with gold leaves.

Kayla Turner and Shayla Turner of Floydada presided at the registry table covered with a navy cloth and a white lace overlay. Crystal angels adorned the table and candles accented the bride's book which was covered in ivory satin and sheer ivory ribbons matching the ring bearers pillows and the flower girl's basket.

A reception, held in the fellowship hall of the church, featured large ivory candles with navy and gold rings centering each guest table that was covered with white cloths. Ficas trees containing tiny white lights adorned the room and volvo candles decorated the room. Greenery surrounded candles were placed in the windows, providing candlelight for the reception.

Reba Moore of Floydada and Melva Dorman prepared hors d'ouvres for guests. A long rectangle table featured many delectable choices for everyone.

The bride's four-tiered cake, made by Stacy Reeves of Floydada, was decorated with burgundy roses, alstromeria lilies and baby's breath. Gold ribbon streamers cascaded down the cake. Ivory heart-shaped mints were also served. Kayla Turner of Floydada and Heather Breckel of Wichita Falls presided at the bride's table.

Members of the houseparty included Reba Moore, Melva Dorman, Stacy Reeves, Barbara Cocanougher, Lorene Newberry, Nicole Odom and Randi Duke.

The groom's table was covered in a navy cloth with a lace overlay. Melissa Olson of Lubbock served. The oval-shaped double-tiered red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting was made by Reba Moore of Floydada. The cake, made by Reba Moore, was given a special touch with the groom's initials monogrammed in chocolate on an additional miniature oval cake that set on the corner of the cake. Chocolate covered strawberries were placed around the cake with tuxedo strawberries cascading off the cake. A large goblet held additional strawberries for guests. A wooden cross which was draped at the base in navy flowers and gold ribbon which brought the eye to a Bible belonging to the groom's late maternal grandfather, Wayne Thomas. The Bible was opened to one of the groom's favorite scriptures, Phillippians 4:13.

The bride's going away attire was a royal blue raw silk suit. As the couple left the church, burgundy silk filled with birdseed and placed in white baskets were passed out to the well wishers by Lindsey Jennifer Leatherman and Karly Buchanan. The newlywed couple left the church in a white limousine for a ski trip to Steamboat, Colo.

They have made their home in Lubbock where the groom is employed with Tom James Company and the bride will begin her student teaching in the Frenship School District during the spring semester.

The bride is a graduate of Floydada High School and is a senior at Texas Tech, majoring in childhood education. The groom is a 1989 graduate of Snyder High School and Texas Tech in 1993.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in Lubbock. Bailey Stoker of Snyder provided piano music during the dinner.

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

Bridal Registry

Monica Rosson
and Scott Squiers
Keely Willmon
and Nathan Williams
Charlene Carnes
and Blair Williams
Shelly Englert
and Whitley Bradberry
Haley Boaz
and Steven Ratliff
Brea Hensley
and Rick Post
Samatha Boyd
and Jimmy Campbell
Susan Gauntt
and Alexander Brice
Jennifer Barnes
and Michael Rodriquez
Kaly Cooper
and Shane Beauchamp
Kimberly Loeffler
and David Krenek
Tamara Byrd
and Brian Crawford

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Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

Jane Hinton directed all games at the Snyder Country Club. Duplicate Bridge Club did not meet Tuesday night.

FRIDAY
March 19
North-South

Group A
1. Durelle Gorman, Dorothy Rosson.
2. Alta Cates, Jane Hinton.

Group B
1. Durelle Gorman, Dorothy Rosson.
2. Billisue Stuard, Monte West.

East-West

Group A
1. Margaret Birdwell, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Billie Marie Long, Shirley Stewart.

Group B
1. Billie Long, Shirley Stewart.
2. Martha Fagin, Maribeth Vestal.

SUNDAY
March 21
1. Pat Floyd, Margaret Presswood.
2. Jane Hinton, J.O. Morrison.
3. Alta Cates, Louise Thompson.

Time-saving Idea: stirfry is a quick way to create a balanced meal, especially if you have a food processor or volunteer slicers and dicers.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-27-99
♠ 9 4 2
♥ K J 6 4
♦ A Q 4
♣ K 9 2

West
♠ J 10
♥ 8
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ Q 8 7 6 5 3

East
♠ K Q 8 6 5 3
♥ 9 7 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10

South
♠ A 7
♥ A Q 10 5 3
♦ K J 8
♣ A J 4

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ J

Don't be in a hurry

By Phillip Alder

Sen. Bob Packwood claimed, "Judgment comes from experience, and great judgment comes from bad experience."

Bridge players can relate to that. You gain judgment, especially in the bidding, from experience. And you learn more, especially about cardplay, from your mistakes than from your successes.

Today's deal was declared carefully by someone who had jumped to faulty conclusions earlier in his career. He wasn't going to make that kind of error again. What would you have done in his place? Look only at the North-South hands and plan the play in six hearts. West leads the spade jack.

North's response of three no-trump was a forcing raise, showing four-plus hearts and 13-plus points. (This permits a jump to three hearts to be used as the invaluable limit raise.)

With one unavoidable spade loser, many players would think everything depended on the club finesse. However, South decided to take his time. After winning with his spade ace, declarer drew trumps, took his three diamond tricks ending in the dummy, and exited with a spade. East went in with the queen (necessary to keep his partner from being endplayed) and continued with the spade king, declarer ruffing and West discarding a club.

South paused for thought. East had started with six spades, three hearts and at least three diamonds. So, he had at most one club. Needing East to have a singleton 10 or queen, South cashed his club ace. When the 10 appeared, declarer played a club to dummy's nine.

If your contract appears to depend on a key finesse, delay taking it if you can. You never know what might turn up.

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May 9, 1999

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CHRISTOPHER MCGRATH MASTER GLASS BLOWER

Christopher "Christy" McGrath grew up around the crystal factory and wanted to be a part of the great tradition that is Waterford Crystal. That opportunity came in 1978. Christy interviewed, took the required tests and started as an apprentice glass blower. In 1983, Christy qualified as a glass blower and three years later became a master glass blower. He has worked on the entire range of Waterford Crystal stemware, specializing in lamps and chandeliers, as well as many sports trophies, and the Bing Crosby Memorial glasses.

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ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Loeffler of Marion, Texas, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Loeffler, to David Krenek of Snyder. David's parents are Dr. and Mrs. Harry Krenek of Snyder. A May 22 wedding is planned in San Antonio. (Contributed Photo)

Dedicated gardener can find the time

POUND RIDGE, N.Y. (AP) — In the midst of ever-dizzier speeds, a good place to slow down is the garden. You get time for reflection.

For sure, this is easier for retirees than for working people. But I've known dedicated gardeners who would find time for both job and garden, even rising earlier in the morning to tend their beloved plants and breathe easy among them.

Drop a seed in the ground, or in a flat under lights, and you've got to wait for it to sprout. Maybe it won't, if the seed is sick or dead or if the light, soil, humidity and temperature aren't right. But it will take at least a few days, and maybe a couple of weeks, or even more than a month, for you to find out.

That's part of the scene — the waiting, the anticipation and then the delight of seeing that first touch of green or the sense of failure if nothing shows.

But no message flashes across a screen saying you've goofed and telling you to retry or press any key to continue.

In a culture of sound bites and fast chips, slow motion may be tiresome to some. In fact, speed lovers have made some inroads into gardening. To cut time, many people have abandoned seed-sowing altogether in favor of ready-to-go plants. At a nursery, I've seen people spend hundreds of dollars in a single day on plants. They'll have lettuce patches and flowerbeds overnight.

Of course, with perennial ornamentals and trees, the time involved in getting growth makes it sensible to buy plants. But annual flowers and vegetables may easily be raised from seed, depending on your interest.

Gardening completely with store-bought plants resembles painting with numbers or eating only in restaurants or bringing takeout meals home. It's not art or cooking.

But you might ask what's wrong with beautifying your place with store-bought plants or cutting nursery-bred fresh lettuce leaves out of the garden? Who cares that they come from the nursery or, if you're well-off, that you hire somebody to do all the work?

Augusta Carter, a Georgia-born master gardener I knew, once told me, "A gardener has to get grimy and dirty and enjoy what comes out of real work. If you're one of those people who are afraid to get your fingernails soiled or broken and you don't want to put on dirty old jeans and old sneakers and get out and dig, you're not really a gardener."

Now dead, she was 81 at the time, but still intensely involved in the gardening she first got to love as a child in Georgia's red soil.

There are levels of gardening, of course. For some, it's just a kind of decor, like wallpaper or furniture. For others, it's a passion.

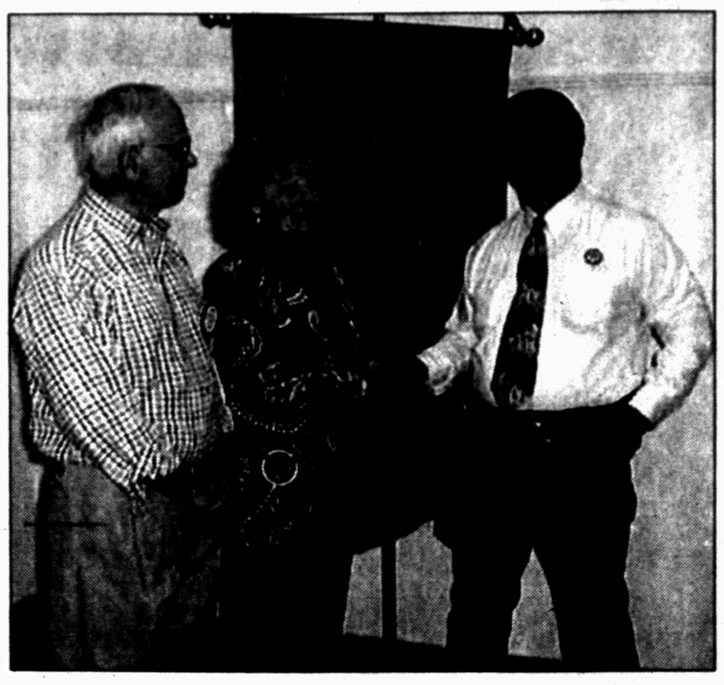
Even today, these aficionados not only plant from seed packets, they know how to save seeds from their own plants and propagate them. Many old-time tomato and pepper growers are reproducing heirloom varieties year after year with the seeds they expertly save.

But the signs seem to point the other way. I've just seen two new books — "The 20-Minute Gardener" and "The 20-Minute Vegetable Gardener," both by Tom Christopher and Marty Asher. They give helpful hints on how you can garden in just 20 minutes a day, or 40 if you're doing both veggies and flowers.

In this time-saving climate, more and more seedhouses nowadays are offering pots of annual plants to be shipped to you at the right time, all set to go in the ground.

Even the great American pastime of mowing the lawn is affected. I do mine with an easy-to-use cordless electric mower. I asked my hardware store recently why they don't stock them.

The answer I got was, "Few people around here are even buying gas-driven mowers any more. They hire landscaping crews to come in and do the lawn for them."



RANGER HONORED — Texas Ranger John Billings, right, received the Outstanding Law Enforcement employee of the quarter from Rotarian Glenda Glasscock at Thursday's meeting at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. At left is Rotary president Rollin Swanson. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Texas Ranger named outstanding lawman

The Snyder Rotary Club pays tribute to a local law enforcement officer each quarter. Texas Ranger John Billings was recipient of that award Thursday at the noon Rotary meeting at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Billings graduated high school at Edinburg and attended Pan American University on a music scholarship. While attending Pan American, Billings was an active member of the Edinburg Police Reserve Unit as sergeant.

He has served as city police officer in Donna and attended the Rio Grande Valley Police Academy in Harlingen. In 1973, he completed the Texas Deparment of Public Safety training academy in Austin and was commissioned as a patrolman in Corpus Christi. He transferred to Bishop so he and his wife could attend Texas A&I University in Kingsville where they lived for 14 years.

Billings was promoted to Texas Ranger and stationed in Snyder in 1987. There are currently 107 Texas Rangers and he serves with Company E-Midland. His territory includes Borden, Fisher, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan and Scurry counties, but has been assigned to other areas on criminal and felony investigations.

Billings' wife, Brenda, teaches first grade at West Elementary. They have two sons, Bryan, a correctional officer at the Price Daniel TDCJ Unit and attends WTC, and Matthew, a junior at Snyder High School.

The Rotary Club will meet Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church to attend Holy Week service.

School Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with a choice of milk and breakfasts are served with choices of assorted dry cereal and juice.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY
Breakfast Pizza

TUESDAY
Cinnamon Roll

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast Burrito

THURSDAY
French Toast Sticks

FRIDAY
Easter Holiday

LUNCH

MONDAY
Hamburger on a Bun or
Sub Sandwich
Potato Puffs
Green Beans
Apple

TUESDAY
Hot Dog on a Bun or
Meatloaf
Ranch Style Beans
French Fries
Chocolate Cake

WEDNESDAY
Pizza or
Chicken Nuggets
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Peas
Peaches

THURSDAY
Burrito or
Chalupa
W.K. Corn
Tossed Salad
Ice Cream Cup

Ira

MONDAY
Chicken Sandwiches
French Fries
Peaches

TUESDAY
Vegetable Soup
Peanut Butter Sandwiches
Cheese Wedge
Crackers
Peanut Butter Chewies

WEDNESDAY
Chili Cheese Burritos
Corn
Crackers
Pears
Birthday Cake

THURSDAY
Patti Melts
French Fries
Pork & Beans
Plain Cookies

FRIDAY
School Holiday

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY
Fruit
Buttered Grits
Toast

TUESDAY
Juice
Scrambled Eggs
Toast

WEDNESDAY
Fruit
Dry Cereal
Toast

THURSDAY
Juice
Cinnamon Rolls

FRIDAY
Easter Holiday

LUNCH

MONDAY
Swiss Steak
Au Gratin Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Chilled Pears

TUESDAY
Lasagna
Cream Style Corn
Soft Bread Sticks
Baked Apples

WEDNESDAY
Frito Pie
Ranch Style Beans
Tossed Salad
Crackers
No Bake Cookies

THURSDAY
Sliced Turkey/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Hot Rolls
Easter Cake

Hot accordionists

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) — They pushed. They pulled. They squeezed. One of them leaped off the stage and one rapped. But one thing none of the accordionists did was squeeze out "Lady of Spain."

These were hot accordionists, after all, and that would have been lukewarm at best. When all was said and done at the Welk Resort on Thursday, the winner and "America's hottest accordionist" was Dwayne Dopsie — the youngest son of Rockin' Dopsie Sr., the late, great "king of the zydeco."

Peanuts are the number one snack nut consumed in the U.S., accounting for two-thirds of the snack nut market.

Leashed sheep stroll sidewalk

NEW YORK (AP) — It was the morning rush hour on 42nd Street, a jumble of honking taxis and rushing pedestrians, bicycle messengers and hot pretzel vendors.

Bus driver Jose Cruz figured he'd seen all there was to see after 13 years on the job — and then he spotted the two sheep. He's seen a parrot, a llama, even a potbellied pig.

But not sheep being walked down the sidewalks on leashes held by a well-dressed man and woman. Cruz grabbed the bus microphone Thursday and gave his passengers a heads-up.

"If you look to your right, you'll see a couple walking theis sheep," Cruz said across the public address system.

Heads turned briefly, but passengers quickly returned to their newspapers. The crowd on the street didn't stop, either.

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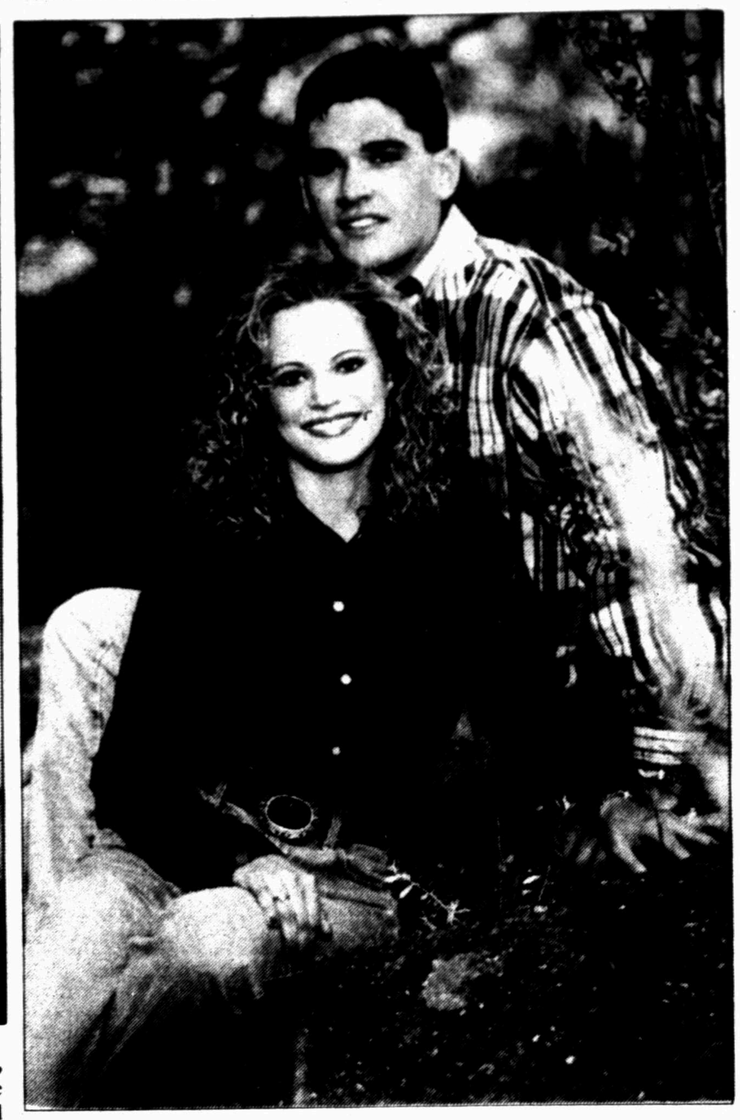
MAY WEDDING PLANNED — Joe Gordy and Ryan McMillan are planning a wedding ceremony for 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, in the First Presbyterian Church in Graham. The future bride is the daughter of Dan and Carol McMillan of Graham. The prospective groom is the son of Billie Gordy of Snyder and Joe L. Gordy of Odessa. (Contributed Photo)

JUNE NUPTIALS SET — Katy Cooper and Shane Beauchamp, are planning their outdoor wedding ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on June 5 at the home of Jack Greene. The bride's parents are Chuck and Debra Cooper and the prospective groom's parents are Paxton and Lisa Beauchamp.(Contributed Photo)



BYRD-CRAWFORD TO WED — Ed and Belinda Byrd of Crosbyton announce the engagement of their daughter, Tamara Lynn Byrd, to Brian Thomas Crawford. He is the son of Bob and Pam Snedeker of Snyder and Tom and Kristy Crawford of Attica, Ind. Tamara, a 1996 graduate of Crosbyton High School, is a student at Texas Tech University Health Science Center's Communications Disorders department. Brian is a 1994 Snyder High School graduate, employed at Gene Messer Mitsubishi in Lubbock. A wedding is planned for 6 p.m., June 12 at the Bacon Heights Baptist Church in Lubbock. (Contributed Photo)

FIVE GENERATIONS — Lois and Bud Skaggs of Snyder, far right, were visited by relatives and gave the opportunity for this five generation photo. From left are Melvin Davenport, their son-in-law; Linda Davenport, their daughter; Shellie Hamby of Hereford, their granddaughter; Alisa Martin of Hereford, their great-granddaughter; and Lois, holding Brittany Martin of Hereford, their great-great-granddaughter. (Contributed Photo)

***

There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Man decorates ostrich eggs

ATLANTA (AP) — For Bob Morgan, chicken eggs are just too puny to decorate for Easter. He uses ostrich eggs — each the size of a cantaloupe.

Morgan bought a male ostrich and two females when he retired from his job at a Kmart last year, "to occupy time and possibly make a little money on the side."

Since each of his ostrich hens lays a four-pound egg about every other day, he soon had plenty of eggs.

"Coming up on Easter, I thought it would be neat to have some ostrich eggs hanging on a tree instead of those little plastic eggs," Morgan said.

So he used a dental drill on 11 of the eggs to make a hole in each end, blew out the yolk and colored the shells with watercolors and spray paint.

A Little Bit Of Humor

Gail: What is a mosquito's favorite sport?
Gary: Skin-diving.

Mike: Which insect eats the least?
Mary: A moth; it just eats holes.

Kelly: Why does a frog make a good outfielder?
Anna Marie: He's great at catching flies.

Sean: What do you get when you cross a bee with a cow?
Lauren: A humburger.

Patient: Doctor, Doctor, I feel like a bee.
Doctor: Buzz off, I'm busy.

Gail: How does a flea get from one place to another?
Raymond: By itch-hiking.

Flutie's life filmed

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Doug Flutie's comeback will soon be the stuff of a TV movie.

The agent for the Buffalo Bills quarterback said an agreement has been struck to develop a movie based on Flutie's life.

"We signed with a film production company, who optioned it to a network," agent Jack Mula said this week. "There's a likelihood of it airing this holiday season.

There was no word on who might play the quarterback, who was the Heisman Trophy winner in 1984 after a season that included his last-ditch touchdown pass to give Boston College a 47-45 upset victory over the University of Miami.

Flutie returned to the National Football League last season after eight years as a star in the Canadian Football League, leading the Bills to the playoffs.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Al-Anon, Snyder Park Club; noon.

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

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Vueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 6 to 7 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information, call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

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

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club will have a plant exchange at the meeting at Martha Ann Woman's Club; hostesses, Marie Armstrong; 9:30 a.m.

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; houseshoe courts, located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information, call 573-9762; 3 p.m.

Just For Today NA; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 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 appointment, call 573-9742.

Just For Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Scurry County AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

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Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Angela Morris, 1999 Ford Explorer from Wilson Motors.

Bobby Jack and Gwen Cumbie, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Randy and Victoria Hanes, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Jimmy Callaway, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Jason Morris, 1999 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

W.G. Potter, 1999 Mercury from Wilson Motors.

Aaron Combs and Britton Hull, 1999 Ford Mustang from Wilson Motors.

Chad Whitsell, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jerry Scrivner, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Richard Smith, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Nancy Hughes and Danny Harland, 1999 Buick from Big Country Autoland.

Tim and Dianna Riggan, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Roofs by Nicholas, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Hood Parker Jr., 1999 Ford Explorer from Wilson Motors.

J. Crockett and Elizabeth Clark, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Abel Vargas, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Jeffrey D. Smith, 1999 Chevrolet Suburban from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

Paul Landin and Dolores Gonzales Villegas, both of Hermleigh.

Jean Rene Farquhar and Shirley Marie Tovar, both of Snyder.

Anastacio Anthony Alvarez of Arlington and Olivia Madrid of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Ira ISD vs. Keith H. Bristow, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Ira ISD vs. Faynell Gray, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Hermleigh ISD vs. Henry and Lucy Herrera, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Ira ISD vs. Marcia Lavone Johnson, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Ira ISD vs. W.D. Rhoades, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Ira ISD vs. Donald Everett Sunderman, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Scurry County vs. Juan Velasquez, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Scurry County vs. Joe Ray Shy, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Scurry County vs. Gerado S. Luna, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. vs. Ronal B. Gladson, suit on account.

Action in District Court

Jonah White and Billy-Bob Teeth Inc. vs. Rodney B. Clifton, individually, and The Amazing Toy Company, Charlotte Clifton and The Original Billy-Bob Teeth, L.L.C., order of dismissal with prejudice.

Deed Records

Becky Harrell Hale and Kathy Harrell Voss to Becky Harrell Hale, all of Section 148, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Becky Harrell Hale and Kathy Harrell Voss to Kathy Harrell Voss, all of Section 147, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Robert Theodore Keeley, independent executor of the estate of John Otis Cole, to Robert Theodore Keeley, tract one being 153.6 acres being the southeast one-quarter of Section 194, Block 3, H&GN survey; tract two being 642.8 acres being all of Section 141, Block 3, H&GN survey; tract three being 318.8 acres being the west one-half of Section 138, Block 3, H&GN survey; tract four being 79.7 acres being the south one-half of Section 142, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Joe C. and Sermin Surber to Eber Suber, the east 80 acres out of the north one-half of Lot 1 in Block 51 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Krystal Joy Grahamn to Jimmy W. and Kathy Brooks, all of Lot 19 in Block A of the Towle Place Addition.

Perry Minner to Charles Henry and Floyda Mae Collins, the south 90 feet of Lot 4 in Block 7 of the T.N. Nunn Addition.

Zafar-Ul-Islam to Nasiro and Bernarda Rodriguez, the north 33 feet of the south 90 feet of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 12 of the Grayum and Clark's Subdivision of the Cody Heights Addition.

Earline Anneta Brooks to Jimmy Weldon Brooks, Mary Lucille Clinkinbeard, Billy Wayne Brooks and Bobbie Anita Forbes, all of Lot 5 of the R.G. Davenport Acres plat of the Kirkland and Fields Survey.

Arthur Lawson Dennis, independent executor of the estate of Harvey Ben Dennis, to Arthur Lawson Dennis, 4.098 acres out of the southeast one-quarter of Section 181, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Jackie M. Pevehouse to Karen L. Pevehouse, 5 acres in the west one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 156, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Doesn't lower store prices...

Tomato glut hurts growers

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) — Florida's tomato growers and their employees are taking a beating, hurt by competition from Mexico and an abundant harvest.

But even growers receive less and less money for their crops, large supermarkets aren't lowering prices to consumers — a situation that may soon get scrutiny from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers are angry with the North American Free Trade Agreement, which opened the market to cheap tomatoes from Mexico.

Florida supplied 65 percent of the tomatoes consumed in the United States before NAFTA, and Mexico sold the rest, said Skip Jonas of the Florida Tomato Committee, a growers group. Now the market shares have flip-flopped.

"Every year I see farmers going broke or quit," said Robert Borek, a second-generation farmer from Homestead, near Miami, who is contemplating getting rid of his 250 acres of tomatoes.

Borek's tomato crop used to account for half the income on his 1,500 acre farm. "My only two choices are to quit or to stay in this thing till I go bankrupt."

Farmers say the flood of cheap fruit from Mexico was exacerbated by this year's favorable growing weather.

"The growing in both Florida and in Mexico has been ideal this year. We've just had too many tomatoes," Jonas said. "It's just very unusual."

As of Wednesday, the average price paid to farmers was 22 cents a pound, down from 28 cents last week, said Bob Blankenship, an economics researcher for the state agriculture commissioner. The Florida Tomato Committee estimates that 28 cents to 32 cents per pound is the break-even point.

NAFTA hasn't helped, Florida's tomato growers say. Cheap land and abundant water in Mexico — in addition to growers who don't have to pay for Social Security, worker's compensation or unemployment benefits — makes the playing field uneven.

There is no limit on the amount of tomatoes Mexico can export to the United States.

Florida officials have been told the U.S. Department of Commerce is investigating whether Mexico is dumping cheap tomatoes in the U.S. market. Lawsuits over the issue in 1996 were settled with an agreement that set a floor price for both Mexican and U.S. growers.

But with all the problems, U.S. supermarket prices for tomatoes are stable or even higher, Blankenship said.

In Florida, for instance, the retail price went up from $1.48 to $1.52 a pound last week. "We're puzzled why that would be happening," he said.

Congressional representatives have asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to step in. Annette Clauson, an economist with the department, said Thursday it is considering whether to open an investigation.

Mickey Clerc, a spokesman for the big southern supermarket chain Winn-Dixie Stores Inc., sought to explain the disparity. "There are a lot of steps in between the field and the product packaged and offered for sale in the supermarket. Our objective is to be competitively priced."

Alva looks to college for economic help

ALVA, Okla. (AP) — Even Alva officials admit they have little to offer when it comes to economic development, nothing that makes the little northwestern Oklahoma town stand out from the crowd.

As Mayor Stan Kline puts it, the town's greatest attributes are a safe environment, a relatively high quality of life and good people — pitches that businesses looking for a new location hear from just about every town they consider. Market incentives speak louder than anything.

"These bigger communities, they can actually come up with cash money," Kline said. "In a community of less than 5,000 people, it takes every dime we generate to run the city. We don't have $3 or $4 million to draw a company."

So the city has come up something experts say is a first, a municipal version of Economics 101 that relies on Alva's one truly unique resource — Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

The proposal is simple: enact a 1 percent city sales tax to fund scholarships for new students at the college. Supporters say more people in town means more money spent at local businesses — and that could make Alva more attractive to industry.

"That's where you get the economic development, having these students living in Alva either in our dorms or in apartments and buying things in town," Northwestern spokesman Steve Valencia said.

Alva residents will vote on the proposal May 11. Kline said the tax would raise about $500,000 per year, which would be split between scholarships and development of parks and recreation areas.

Tim Venable, managing editor of the economic development trade journal Site Selection, said many communities collect a local tax to fund development efforts. He said using a college as the main draw is new.

"What a community like this has to do, and it sounds like what they're doing, is they have to look for that distinctive feature and capitalize on that," he said. "It's tough for small communities."

Alva knows. There's no interstate, and its population dipped below 10,000 in the last census. It is 110 miles away from Oklahoma City.

With 536 student employees and a payroll of $6.5 million, Northwestern is by far Alva's largest employer. Agriculture accounts for most of the rest.

The liberal arts and teacher education college has 1,369 students. Joe Struckle, the university's president for 24 years, said the school hopes to double enrollment over the next few years, and scholarships would help.

For the plan to work, Northwestern must be able to attract new students to a town with a two-screen movie theater and one that's an hour's drive from the nearest shopping malls. One condition of the scholarships would be that students must live in Alva.

Struckle said he believes Alva residents will approve the tax measure, but knows he and other supporters have lobbying to do.

"We're going to have to produce, and we know that," he said. "By God, you can always give money away."

State to test 911 database

AUSTIN (AP) — Southwestern Bell has agreed to let state 911 officials test a new emergency database provided by a competitor.

The agreement means Texas can continue plans to track emergency calls from wireless phones.

"We're happy because we'll be able to proceed with the pilot project," said Carey Spence, deputy director of the state 911 system.

State authorities chose SCC Communications over Southwestern Bell to provide a new 911 database, but ran into opposition from Bell in its implementation.

When SCC Communications tried to test the system in Houston, Bell officials refused to link the database, saying it might jeopardize the phone network.

State 911 authorities complained to the Public Utility Commission that Bell officials were delaying life-saving improvements to the network.

Cooking voyeurs eating up products of Food Network

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Nuts about food? These people line up at 6 a.m. on a Saturday to see the chef.

Inside the studio, 2,000 people jump to their feet, cheering and clapping, as the music plays and an announcer shouts, "Let's get ready to rumble."

The whooping fans were assembled for the taping of a show by Emeril Lagasse, a gourmet chef with blue-collar appeal who has turned the Food Network into "Must See TV."

Once a 24-hour outlet for Julia Child reruns, the cable channel has become eye candy for food voyeurs who watch more for entertainment than cooking advice.

"It's a form of vicarious tasting," said American studies professor Warren Belasco of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. "It's the vicariousness of watching others cook."

The Food Network is on the crest of a cooking tidal wave. Its audience has more than tripled since its debut five years ago, making stars of its chefs-turned-hosts. The network hawks cookbooks, sponsors local food fairs and has built an Internet recipe database — www.foodtv.com — that gets an estimated 1.2 million hits per month.

Other channels are airing more food-related shows too. The American Program Service, which distributes shows to public television stations, carried 43 cooking shows in 1998, up from 28 in 1993.

"The power of TV, I'm just starting to understand. It's irrational, really, how it can bring cooking to the masses," said chef Ming Tsai, host of the Food Network's "East Meets West with Ming Tsai."

"To see someone roll sushi is so much more instructive than describing how to turn 45 degrees, add rice, press down, whatever. A picture is worth a thousand words," he said.

The Food Network isn't about to vie with "NYPD Blue" for ratings, averaging just 90,000 viewers daily. But that is more than three times the 26,000 who tuned in in 1995, according to Nielsen Media Research.

About 199,000 viewers tune in nightly for "Emeril Live," the network's No. 1 show. In contrast, the top 10 prime-time shows average 11 million to 18 million viewers while the top-rated cable shows attract 2.5 million to 5 million viewers.

"It's niche marketing, and more and more people are very comfortable watching these kinds of networks," said Nielsen spokesman Jack Loftus.

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Setbacks can be a good thing

Deanie Francis Mills

If you've ever experienced a career setback, especially the kind that is ongoing and causes financial struggles, and you're in the middle of it and someone says, "This may turn out to be the best thing that ever happened to you," and you seriously consider committing a homicide, or at least assault and battery because you can't see it no way, no how ... then be sure and watch the Academy Awards ceremony every year, because there is always a story in there somewhere that proves the truth of this.

Those of us who are movie buffs and who enjoy watching the Oscars every year, are still reeling from the shock that, although Steven Spielberg won Best Director for his powerful World War II epic, "Saving Private Ryan," the movie itself was passed over as Best Picture in favor of a delightful romantic comedy called "Shakespeare in Love."

"Shakespeare in Love" is one of those kinds of movies that many people don't go see at first because they think things like, "I never really cared for Shakespeare in high school," or, "It must be a chick-flick period piece and I'm not into that," But the first thing to catch such person's attention is the rave critical reviews that span the globe, followed by word-of-mouth groundswell of people who not only saw it once, but went back again and again.

I'm guessing that many of you reading this have not seen it, because it has not come to Snyder, yet and is still relatively hard to find on screens in West Texas. I have seen it, and let me tell you, a delicious treat it truly was. The movie is, first of all, one of the most brilliantly written screenplays I've ever seen.

It is surprisingly hilarious, from the opening scene to the last, romantic without being cheesy, sexy without being obscene and so completely engaging that you forget you're even watching a movie.

Good, they say, is in the details, and the world of Elizabethan culture, both for the struggling lower classes and royalty, is so vividly realized that you can almost smell the chamberpots being dumped out the windows onto the street below. But it's not the sort of period piece that makes you feel as if you are trapped inside a history lesson. Rather, it takes the very commercial world of Hollywood film making and transfers it to the ups and downs of bringing theatre alive — and it does it in thoroughly entertaining ways.

The hapless producer, played by Geoffrey Rush, "who won the Best Actor Oscar for "Shine"), promises the Queen, (in an Academy Award-winning performance by Dame Judi Dench), that he will put on a comedy for her by renowned playwright Willliam Shakespeare if she'll open a theatre for him, and she agrees because tragedies put her to sleep.

But poor Will is suffering writer's block. Ink stains all of his fingers and the pages he writes are scribbled over by such witticisms as his own name, signed over and over. He's desperate until he meets the beautiful Viola, and is then inspired to begin the play, "Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter."

When Viola, who longs to be an actor even though it is illegal for women to appear on stage, shows up disguised as a man, and gets cast as Romeo, things just start going wildly crazy, and the developing drama is as full of suspense as it is comedy. You forget to eat popcorn, you're so engrossed in finding out what happens, while all along, the players stand around in rehearsal and wait impatiently for Shakespeare to finish the next scene.

Gwyneth Paltrow, as Viola, was near perfection and won the Academy Award to prove it. And here is where it gets interesting. It seems that the film's director, John Madden, came very close to having a deal with Universal Studios to get "Shakespeare in Love" made back in 1992 with Julia Roberts playing the Gwyenth Paltrow part of Viola.

But at the last minute, the deal fell apart. "When you come that close to getting a project made into a movie," he said after the Oscars, "and then it falls apart, the project is then orphaned. It puts a taint on it." (Think "snakebit.") They spent the next five years making the rounds. Finally, having no other choice, they found a British studio to make the film. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Now, I'm as big a fan of Julia Roberts as the next person. She's charming in contemporary romantic comedies, and she showed some range in "Steel Magnolias." But she can't handle the challenges of a British accent, (she's tried to with disastrous results), and frankly, she never could have pulled off the virtuoso performance of Gwyneth Paltrow. Had Roberts been cast as originally planned, there would have been far fewer Academy Awards nominations. It might have won Best Screenplay and awards for art direction and the like, but it probably never would have even been nominated Best Picture, much less won the prize over a Steven Spielberg masterpiece like "Saving Private Ryan."

During those five years of wandering in the wilderness, I know the director and screen writer of "Shakespeare in Love" must have surely despaired. They knew they had this wonderful project, but they couldn't convince anybody else of it. It must have been a devastating, frustrating time.

But all along ... it was the best thing that could have happened.

Deanie Mills writes a weekly column for the Snyder Daily News

SAINTS AND SINNERS

GEORGE PLAGENZ

Lesson for Y2K: Slow down

Robert Frost says in one of his poems that some people believe the world will end in fire. Others, writes Frost, say it will end in ice.

Today we have many more options to choose from.

While some worry that a Y2K glitch in the computer system will shut down the world, people like Jeremy Rifkin in his book "Time Wars" (Henry Holt & Co., 1987, out of print) think that unless we slow down in our lifestyles, mankind's future may be in doubt.

The first sufferer from jet lag, says Rifkin, should have made us realize that our obsession with going places and "faster is better" was exacting a heavy price from the human body. We now know, writes Rifkin, that the fast-paced life is utterly incompatible with the biological rhythm of our bodies and the natural world.

Thus, says Rifkin, we are setting the stage for a dramatic struggle between those who propose we ride the fast lane into the next millennium and those who counsel us to go quietly into that coming time.

We would probably be better off if we adopted the stay-at-home philosophy of the Proper Bostonian lady who, when asked why she doesn't travel, replied, "Why should I travel when I'm already here?"

What she was saying was, when you have found a place where you are happy, stay there.

Today people choose to be herded like cattle into the cramped quarters of an airplane where they can wait several hours on a queued-up runway before taking off into the crowded and not-always-friendly skies.

In the old days they might have driven or taken the train. But the rails are rusty over which once sped the Twentieth Century Limited, the Silver Chief or the Zephyr — the most civilized form of transportation ever known to man.

Highway travel, unsafe at any speed, is less safe than ever now.

The Proper Bostonian is a vanishing species, but those who are left have changed little. They are likely to live on Beacon Hill most of the year and then, when summer comes, get into the family Pontiac (considered properly unostentatious) and make the leisurely drive to Maine, where they stay put until Labor Day has come and gone.

Some say travel is "broadening" and makes people more interesting.

Socrates was pretty interesting, but he limited his travels to walking tours around Athens. Jesus, another interesting person, never set foot outside Palestine. Darwin went round the world and had his fill. He spent the rest of his life in his own house.

Although millennium fever is rising, most of us don't really expect the world to come to an end in the year 2000. What we ought to be concerned about, however, while the world is still intact, is recovering the quality of life that began slipping away from us as this millennium drew to a close.

If we hope to improve life in the next millennium, we are going to have to stop more often to smell the roses — as well as the grass, the tomatoes and the soil.

Smells are said to be so intimately connected with memory that they can instantly transport us back to a past reminiscent of our happier days.

Perfumers, catching on to this secret, have come out with a fragrance called "Grass" that can evoke a summer day redolent of freshly cut grass. Another perfume named "Tomato" smells like tomatoes ripening on the vine. You can also dab on something behind your ears called "Dirt," a "musky miasma of moss, leaves and compost."

One whiff of a fragrance called "Clean Wet Laundry" and one called "Cake Batter" can take us back to the wonderful kitchen and back-yard smell of childhood when our hearts were young and gay.

Tell Them

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State Senator
TOM HAYWOOD
Call: (512) 463-0130
Fax: (512) 463-0155
Write:P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

U.S. Representative
CHARLIE STENHOLM
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Fax: (202) 225-2234
Write:1211 Longworth
Wash D.C., 20515

U.S. Senator
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
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Call: (202) 224-2934
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Letters to the editor must be signed and must give the address of the writer. Letters should be of reasonable length. the newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters if they contain libelous material or information deemed in poor taste.

Following a long-standing policy and practice, Snyder Daily News does not publish letters pertaining to a candidate or issue once an election has been called.

Opinions in favor of or in opposition to an issue or candidate may be puclished in paid political advertisements.

Letters to be published the weekend edition must be submitted no later than noon Thursday.

Survivor Lap

Dear Editor:

Cancer Survivor, this is your personal invitation to participate in the Survivor Lap of the Relay for Life being held in Snyder April 30th at Tiger Stadium. The relay will begin at 7 p.m. with your lap.

There will be golf carts available for anyone who may need one. We encourage you to participate in this event and let Scurry County and the American Cancer Society honor you as a survivor.

Please contact Janet Wesson at 573-9914 or Bonnie Hodge at 573-8285 for more information.

Sincerely,
Janet Wesson
Bonnie Hodge

God Bless you

Dear Editor:

Dear church brothers, sisters and friends, and beloved enemies.

I have asked but little of you, and now there is something of tremendous importance that I must ask of you.

If I ever forget who I am, and falsely accuse you would you please draw me aside and kindly rebuke me.

If I ever forget who I am, and (silently) join in with anyone who falsely accuses you, would you please draw me aside and kindly rebuke me.

And if I ever forget who I am, and abandon, reject or despise you in your struggles and anguish of life, please draw me aside and kindly rebuke me.

Daily I pray God abundantly bless you to the extent that I may flourish in the overflow of your perfected service to Him.

Johannas Eicke
%08505-026
P.O. Box 9000A
Seagoville, TX 75159

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Teachers' pay

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

As a group, we Texans take inordinate pleasure in pointing out to the less fortunate that in any number of categories, we're No. 1: best highways, most maniacal high school football fans, most authentic honky-tonks. ... However, we are notably reticent with regard to our shortcomings. One of the most inexplicable, and embarrassing, of these now occupies center stage in Austin: When it comes to paying public school teachers a living wage, let alone one commensurate with the importance of their contributions, we trail the pack. . . badly.

The numbers are remorseless. As matters now stand, teachers salaries in Texas — the great, powerful, self-congratulatory state of Texas — rank 36th in the nation. It would take a $6,000 raise just to get Texas teachers annual salaries up to the national average of $38,611, state Sen. Carlos Truan pointed out Monday during a teachers rally at the Capitol.

For years, governors and lawmakers were able to sidestep the issue, pleading that the states coffers simply did'nt contain enough cash to make a meaningful dent in the status quo. Teachers, though understandably dismayed, buckled down and continued to tote the load, looking toward some happier day when they could press their cause in a reasonable expectation of getting more action and less poor-mouthing.

Now, at long last, the day has arrived — and it's time to translate all that rhetoric about excellence in public education into a hefty across-the-board hike for Texas teachers. I'll-be-getting-back-to-you-on-that won't pass muster this time.

The crucial difference, of course, is that in this legislative session, the governor and the members of the House and Senate find themselves in the pleasant position of having to decide how to deal with a budget surplus.

That has set off a veritable feeding frenzy, with interest groups and special constituencies converging from every point of the compass to claim their share of the bounty. Already the hedging has begun: Currently, Gov. George W. Bush's position is that the state ought to funnel money back to the school districts with a strong recommendation that it be applied to teacher pay.

His caution is understandable, but he and the rest of the states leadership must move beyond it. Texas teachers have been on short rations entirely too long. Some have left the profession and migrated to the private sector. But many others have hung in there in the hope that, eventually, their claim would be heard and heeded. The day is at hand. It's time to stand and deliver.

Computerizing records

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The Texas Legislature has an opportunity to address campaign finance reform this session, and the first order of business should be to require electronic filing of campaign finance reports.

Cleaning up the mess that is Texas politics could start with an old editors advice to a young reporter: Follow the money. But the public cant follow the money easily because this state does not have a system that provides accessible, searchable and immediate information on whos donating to whom.

A 1996 study conducted by Public Citizens Texas office revealed that 62 percent of campaign contributions came from political action committees and businesses. Eighty percent of the money was donated from outside of a candidates electoral district. Nine urban ZIP codes in downtown Austin, Dallas and Houston produced 48 percent of the money going into candidates pockets in 1996.

A whopping 90 percent of the donations were for $100 or more. The individual citizens check for $5, $10 or $20 barely made a ripple in the vast pool of political cash.

But John Q. Citizen cant readily find out that information without poring over reams of paper filed in Austin. Under the current antiquated system, the election is long over before anyone can sort out contributions and expenditures.

Both the House and the Senate have bills that would require candidates to submit campaign contributions and expenses via the Internet. Small campaigns — those that limit contributions and expenses to under $5,000 — would be exempt.

To make this work, however, the Legislature needs to include the money necessary for the Ethics Commission, which monitors elections, to upgrade its computer system in order to accept information in todays databases. The technology at the commission is outdated, and thats a kind description

Fourteen states already require electronic filing for political candidates. There is no good argument for why Texas shouldn't be the 15th.

Bipartisan agreement

Amarillo Globe-News on Clinton scandals lead to bipartisan agreement:

Funny how a couple of scandals can turn what had been for years a partisan battle into a rare bipartisan agreement.

That is an apt description of the U.S. Senate's overwhelming support of a national missile defense system — a bill which breezed through the Senate 97-3 Wednesday. A similar bill was approved by a 317-105 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday.

A national missile defense system now has bipartisan support because of a change in policy by Democrats and the Clinton administration. President Clinton had threatened to veto a national missile defense system in the past, but seems to have changed his tune following a series of scandals involving China.

The most serious allegations, that Chinese officials illegally obtained nuclear weapons technology from a federal laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., more than likely opened the president's eyes.

This scandal, combined with accusations the Clinton administration accepted illegal campaign contributions and sold U.S. satellite technology to China, apparently placed a new priority for Democrats to support a national missile defense system. Democrats cited several amendments, primarily the continuation of nuclear arms reduction in Russia, that made the national missile defense bill more attractive.

Considering the current troubling political atmosphere surrounding the Clinton administration and China, it seems more probable Democrats recognized the overwhelming need for a national missile defense system due in part to an administration that has damaged national security.

FDA panel to reassess safety of diabetes drug

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Federal officials said Friday they have linked 38 cases of acute liver failure to the diabetes drug Rezulin and believe the risk of liver problems grows over time as patients take the drug.

In all, Food and Drug Administration officials have discovered 43 cases of acute liver failure among Rezulin patients, 38 of which were probably caused by the medicine, the officials told a panel of scientific advisers weighing the drug's safety.

Of those 43 people, seven had a liver transplant and survived, five survived without a transplant and 28 died. Officials did not know the outcome of the other three cases.

At the same time, several doctors told the FDA scientific advisers that Rezulin helps many of their toughest diabetes patients, and the benefits outweigh the risk.

"No drug is 100 percent safe," said Dr. Steven Edelman of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Diego. "But diabetes is a serious disease."

Only an estimated 45 percent of Rezulin patients are getting the proper liver testing to detect problems in time to treat them, under the best-case scenario, said Dr. David Graham, an FDA epidemiologist. Thus, it's impossible to say if a better job of liver testing would save a significant number.

Very few Rezulin patients have used the drug for more than several months, but Graham argued that the longer patients do use it, the greater the risk of liver damage. Using the data that exist, Graham created a model to estimate that among people who use Rezulin for six months, as many as one in 1,800 could have liver failure.

The FDA believes it has received reports of only about 10 percent of the liver damage that may have occurred among Rezulin users, because there is no law requiring doctors to report patient side effects.

"There is no question that individual patients have benefited" from Rezulin, Graham said. But "the longer you stay on troglitazone (Rezulin), the greater the risk of developing acute liver failure."

The 16-month debate over the safety of the novel drug, taken by 750,000 Americans, has sharply divided diabetes specialists.

Of all the medications sold for type 2 or so-called adult onset diabetes, Rezulin is the only one that targets the disease's underlying cause. It has helped patients for whom other therapies failed and thus are at higher risk of serious complications.

But other specialists have stopped prescribing Rezulin because it can attack some patients' livers. On Monday, Britain ruled that Rezulin was too dangerous to sell in that country.

The Food and Drug Administration long has warned patients of the liver risk, and urges they get repeated, rigorous liver tests to catch early signs of damage. For many such patients, stopping Rezulin can reverse liver damage, FDA drug chief Dr. Janet Woodcock said.

But the FDA called the highly unusual safety meeting Friday because of the alarming finding that some patients who took all those precautions still died — from severe liver toxicity that arose just weeks after they had passed a liver test.

The panel of scientific advisers is itself under intense scrutiny because some of the scientists have conducted research financed at least indirectly by Rezulin's manufacturer, Warner-Lambert Inc. The same panel enthusiastically backed Rezulin's initial approval in December 1996.

One opponent of the drug, consumer advocate Dr. Sidney Wolfe of Public Citizen, contends that ill-informed doctors are using Rezulin in ways that worsen the risk. How? By prescribing Rezulin to patients who are supposed to try less risky therapies first, and by not properly conducting liver tests.

"There are lots of people who are dead from this drug, and in most cases I think they're people who could have responded to something else," Wolfe says.

The FDA has spent months investigating more than 100 reports of problems among Rezulin users to sift out which patients' liver toxicity Rezulin actually could have caused — and which diabetics may have become ill or died for totally unrelated reasons.

Warner-Lambert plans to ask FDA's advisers to allow more diabetics to use Rezulin, by letting the drug be combined with older diabetes therapies.

Even Rezulin's harshest critics don't expect the advisory group to take the drastic step of recommending that Rezulin be banned. But it has many options, from taking no action to recommending much stricter safety steps that could hinder how often doctors prescribe Rezulin.

The FDA typically follows its advisers' recommendations.

Regardless of the outcome of Friday's hearing, experts expect Rezulin sales could soon drop off dramatically because two new drugs that promise Rezulin's benefit without the liver risk are awaiting FDA approval.

About 15 million people have adult-onset diabetes. Their bodies' natural insulin gradually loses its ability to convert blood sugar into energy. Insulin and other medicines can help control many patients' blood sugar, but an estimated 1 million diabetics need additional help. Uncontrolled diabetes leads to kidney damage, blindness, heart disease and other complications.

Rezulin, known chemically as troglitazone, was widely hailed as the first drug to attack this underlying diabetes trigger by somehow resensitizing the body to insulin. Many patients need fewer daily insulin injections; some have even been able to quit insulin.

But the FDA has been issuing escalating warnings about the liver side effects since November 1997.

Nears goal

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Philharmonic's musical director is one step closer to his goal of working with jazz great Wynton Marsalis on an original composition.

Kurt Masur first spoke to Marsalis about a collaboration five years ago.

"I heard something he composed for his band and what he did with improvisation and thought he was someone who might be refreshing to work with the Philharmonic.

Q&A

What is cocaine?

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

What is Cocaine?

Cocaine as defined in *The American Heritage dictionary* "A narcotic alkaloid extracted from coca leaves, sometimes used as a local anesthetic and widely as an illegal drug." Cocaine has many slang names such as crack and coke just to name a few. Cocaine is a powerful central nervous system stimulant that heightens alertness, provides intense feelings of pleasure, and inhibits the appetite and the need for sleep. Cocaine is grown in South America on remote farms located in the Andes Mountains. Most plants will produce leaves for almost fifty years. The leaves of the coca plant are harvested from three to four times a year. Cocaine comes in many forms, the most popular is in rock form called crack.

It takes approximately 150 pounds of coca leaves to make one pound of powder cocaine. The addictive properties of the coca-based stimulant help to fuel its popularity as a flavoring agent in food and drinks. Once harvested the leaves are treated with salt and covered with gasoline and allowed to sit. The liquid is later drained and further refined into cocaine base. Cocaine base is further refined, using hydrochloric acid, into cocaine HCL or powder cocaine. The effects of cocaine use are similar to those of amphetamines, only more intense and shorter in duration. Its use has many health and physical side effects the following is just a partial listing:

- Heart palpation's
- Chest pain
- Nausea
- Energy loss
- Dry mouth and nose
- Runny nose
- Fever
- Muscle spasms
- Paranoia
- Heart failure
- Nose bleeds
- Insomnia
- Sore throat
- Voice Problems
- Depression
- DEATH

If tried by summary of conviction, a first offense for cocaine possession carries a maximum penalty of a $1000 fine and 12 months prison term. If tried by indictment, cocaine possession carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. Possession with intent to export or import is an indictable offense and carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

Safety issues raised

By The Associated Press

You're on one of those amusement park rides that simulates white water rafting or a fast ride down a log chute. Then the improbable happens — the boat tips or someone stands and topples out.

When people wind up in the water, it's highly unlikely that anyone running the ride will have medical training, access to a lifeguard or even a simple flotation device ready to toss.

Instead, employees will probably shut down the ride, keep visitors (and themselves) out of the water and wait for park paramedics.

That was the response at Six Flags Over Texas on Sunday when a raft carrying a dozen people flipped, leaving one woman dead and 10 others hospitalized. Several bystanders described jumping into the 4-foot-deep water as park employees stayed on the side and ordered them to keep out.

"There was confusion and chaos. People running the ride didn't appear to have a procedure or a plan," said Wendy Crown, a dive instructor who tried to resuscitate the 28-year-old Arkansas woman who later died. "Waiting for a paramedic? That's not a plan. You don't have the luxury of time in a drowning incident."

Paramedics stationed at the Arlington, Texas, park came within minutes, officials said. They are the only ones Six Flags requires to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation — something not even the state mandates.

Six Flags is still investigating the incident, including what caused the boat to tip, the park's response and whether having a lifeguard on hand would have helped.

In the meantime, inspectors, safety consultants and industry groups say Six Flags' response was appropriate, standard and legal. They also say that serious problems on the rides are unheard of.

Frequent callers losing phone privileges

BOSTON (AP) — Fidelity Investments has told 30,000 frequent callers to go online — or listen to an automated operator — rather than hang on the line for the personal touch of a telephone representative.

Last week, Fidelity sent letters to 25,000 customers who call often for fund balances, stock quotes or other information, telling them to use its Web site or automated phone system instead. That was after sending a similar letter to 5,000 customers last year.

Those who continue making calls will be routed to special representatives who won't give them answers, but will direct them to the routine information.

Those frequent callers represent only a fraction of the world's largest mutual fund company's 15 million customers. But the campaign has miffed some.

"Offensive and insulting," Michael Fischler, a professor at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, told The Wall Street Journal. "The message is really clear: Don't bother us. You're annoying us. Get in line, or we don't want your business."

But one Fidelity watcher applauded the move.

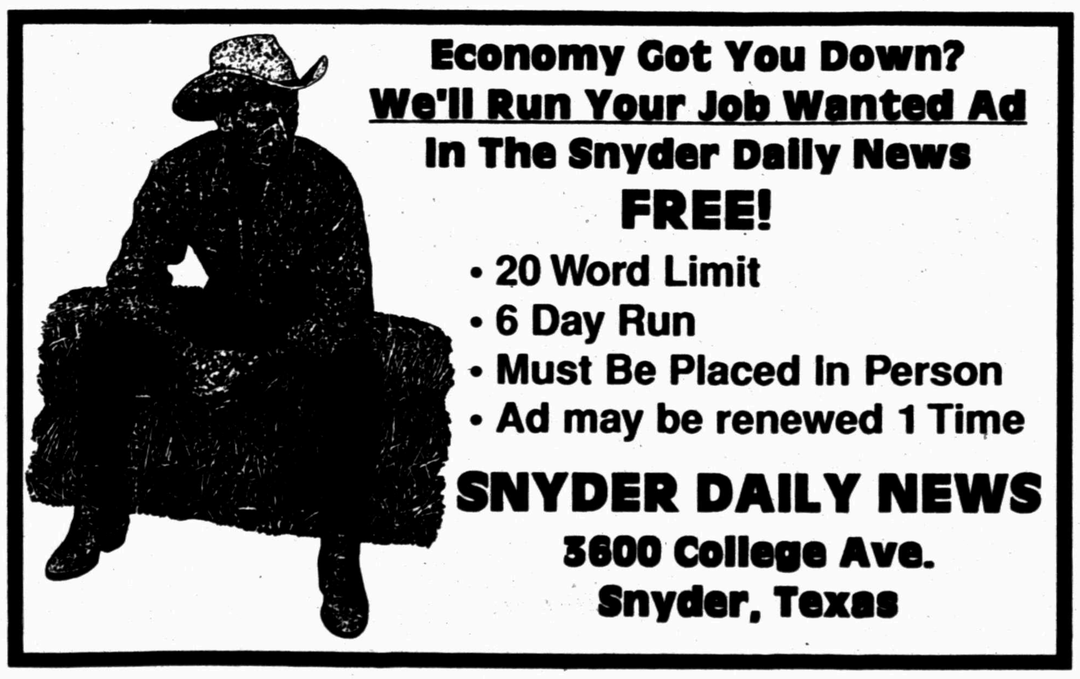
"The more they can drive their customers to the Internet, the more they reduce their costs," David O'Leary, president of N.H.-based Alpha Equity Research, said Friday.

A phone call fielded by a human being costs Fidelity $13, while an automated phone call costs only $1.

The people who call often — sometimes every hour — are just lazy, retired or have nothing else to do, said O'Leary. "These are people who are just behind the curve in terms of using technology," he said.

Many customers simply need instruction on how to use Fidelity's automated telephone system or Web site, said Anne Crowley, a Fidelity spokeswoman.

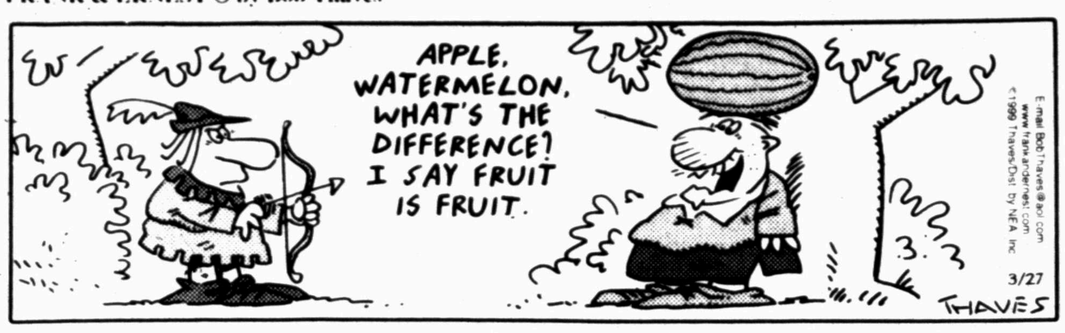
"Most people, once they've been shown it, said, 'This was great,'" Crowley said, noting Fidelity spends at least $500 million every year updating its technology.



Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

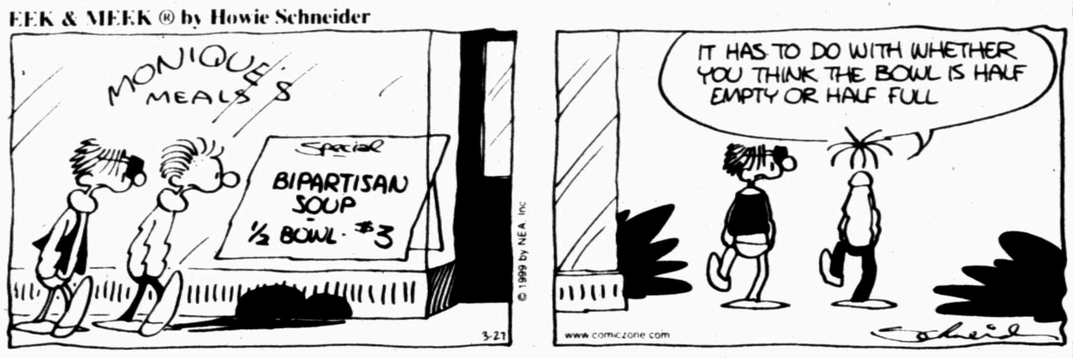
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

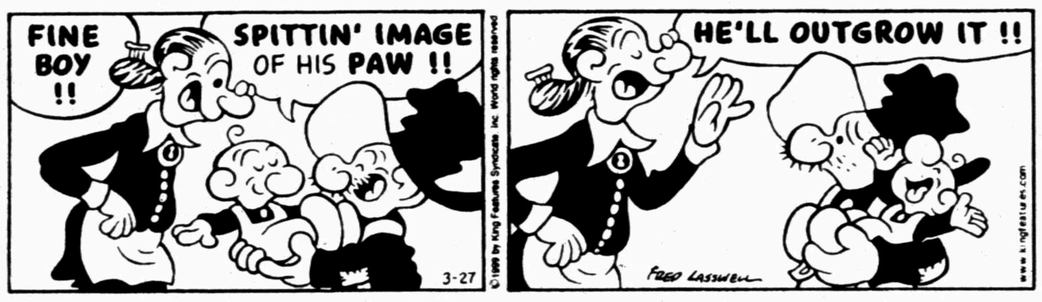
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

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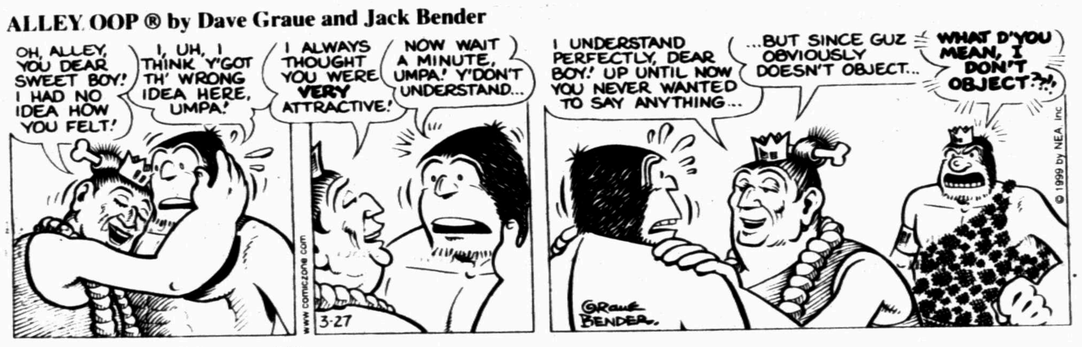
BLONDIE © By Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Patrick of the Knicks
6 — Ono
10 Lap harp
12 In the direction of
14 Marcos' first lady
15 Group of nine
16 WWII-era agcy.
17 Collar shape
19 She, in Cherbourg
20 Impure
23 Receded
26 Sushi ingredient
27 Grandfather clock numeral
30 "Egad!"
32 Most ready to eat
34 Yokel
35 Sacred Egyptian beetle
36 Lawyer: abbr.
37 Study
39 Hole — — (golf coup)
40 Narrow waterways
42 Join, as oxen
45 Org. for 1 Across
46 Videotape type
49 Actress — May
51 Biblical character
54 Covered with metal
55 Using the Internet
56 "Monopoly" card
57 Recipient of a gift

DOWN

1 Singer — Pinza
2 Weakling
3 Virginia willow
4 Lemieux's org.
5 High-school diploma test
6 Over there
7 Possessed
8 Film critic Pauline —
9 By mouth
11 Sitarist — Shankar
12 Seesaws
13 White House initials
18 Compass pt.
20 Camper's equipment
21 One who is hooked
22 Bring out
23 Poet Pound
24 Sports match
25 Piece of sculpture
27 — Beach, Fla.
28 "No man — — island"
29 "Let — —" (the Beatles)
31 Derided
33 Shallow vessels
38 Arrest
40 River in France
41 "Othello" villain
42 Nevertheless
43 Smelly
44 "Citizen —"
46 Artery's kin
47 Whet
48 Cut
50 Comedian Sparks
52 Ky. neighbor
53 Unclaimed mail dept.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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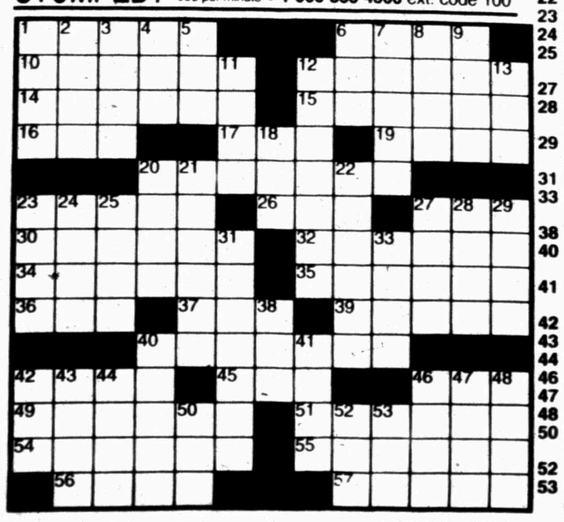

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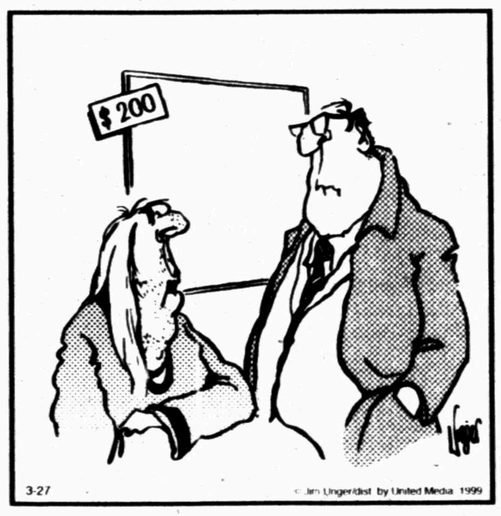
Try saying this three times really fast.

The skunk on the stump stunk.

HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"Sure you can have it for ten bucks, but wouldn't you rather own a $200 painting?"

Alec: What is black and white and found in the Gobi Desert?
Mitch: A lost penguin.

Brynt: How do hens dance?
Blake: Chick to chick.

As 'n' NEWSPAPER

How many times does the letter N appear below?

Answers: We counted fourteen

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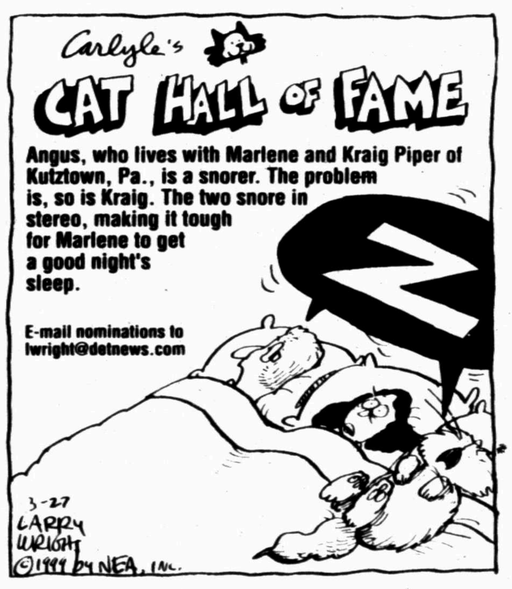
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



"STOP WITH THE PRETEND SNEEZES, DENNIS. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLERGIC TO CARROTS."

Venerable bomber enters its third war in 40 years

NEW YORK (AP) — From the helicopter over South Vietnam in 1968, the scene was deceptively placid. A tropical sun glinted off the river where it carved a lazy S through the mangrove and jungle a mile away.

"Twenty seconds," said a voice on the radio.

A pause, and then a garden bloomed in the river bend, huge brown flowers sprouting from the earth, each with a bright orange center. One row of flowers, another, a third. Doughnut-shaped shock waves from ton after ton of bombs. Mission accomplished.

The B-52s high above Indochina flew on — and still fly Friday.

No warplane in history has lasted longer than the B-52, flown more missions, dropped more explosives or held on so sturdily against the march of technology. The lumbering aircraft are back in action over Yugoslavia — their third war — in NATO's bid to force Serb President Slobodan Milosevic to the peace table.

Despite the proven worth of radar-evading "stealth" aircraft, the Air Force says the slow but steady B-52 will remain on duty for another 40 years.

"It drives like a truck, but it's very capable and very versatile — a high altitude bomber that can also deliver cruise missiles at low level," said Lt. Gen. E. G. "Buck" Shuler, who logged 2,000 hours in B-52s before he retired in 1991 as commander of the 8th Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. "It's also a great investment for the American taxpayer."

What happened that day in Vietnam gives a picture of why the craft is still in use: power and versatility.

At 35,000 feet, the three B-52s were too high to be seen or heard; the bombs seemed to be falling from nowhere. Dust and smoke blotted out the instant moonscape.

"Arc Light, on target," said the laconic radio voice.

Flying in "cells" of three, each plane dropped 30 tons of bombs into a target a half-mile long and a quarter-mile wide, the equivalent of about 20 city blocks.

Communist soldiers dug deep bunkers to try to survive the sudden hell of a strike that sometimes wiped out entire regiments. A North Vietnamese defector said being caught in one was "like being dead for 30 seconds."

Ex-B-52 commander Col. Max Pickard of Memphis, Tenn., recalled: "The GIs told us they'd sometimes find enemy soldiers just sitting there, holding their ears."

The eight-engined bomber with the droopy, 185-foot wingspan and 40-foot sharkfin tail cost $9 million apiece when the last "H" model rolled off the Boeing Co.'s assembly line in 1962.

Conceived at the height of the Cold War, the B-52 StratoFortress was designed to deliver nuclear weapons to the heart of the Soviet Union. For years, B-52s waited on 15-minute alert, 24 hours a day, for the call that never came. By early 1965, dozens were being drafted from the Strategic Air Command for duty in southeast Asia.

The bomber's Vietnam debut was anything but auspicious — two B-52s collided on takeoff on the first mission from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam, killing all 12 crewmen. Overall, 20 B-52s were lost in Indochina, where the craft also flew secret missions in Cambodia and Laos.

But none were lost to enemy action until December 1972, when President Nixon ordered the behemoths to attack North Vietnam for the first time in an effort to drive Hanoi authorities back to the peace table in Paris.

In 11 days that became known as the "Christmas raids," B-52s struck military targets around Hanoi and Haiphong. Fifteen aircraft were lost to Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles — the very reason they'd stayed clear of the North previously.

Hanoi soon exhausted its missile supply, returned to the talks and agreed to a cease-fire in March 1973.

The B-52 came out of retirement in 1991 for the Gulf War.

Rice extract shown to lower cholesterol

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A rice extract criticized by government officials because it closely resembles a prescription medicine has been shown to be a powerful means of lowering cholesterol.

The results of one of the first two U.S. studies of the substance, called Cholestin, were presented Thursday in Orlando at a medical conference sponsored by the American Heart Association.

It showed that people with mildly elevated levels can drop their cholesterol about 35 points by taking four capsules of Cholestin a day.

Cholestin is made from red yeast that has been fermented on rice. Its chief ingredient is a naturally occurring form of lovastatin, a prescription cholesterol-lowering medicine.

Cholestin's introduction in 1997 blurred the already fuzzy line between food supplements, which can be sold without a prescription, and drugs that require approval of the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA declared Cholestin to be an unapproved drug and attempted to block its sale. Cholestin's manufacturer, Pharmanex Inc. of Simi Valley, Calif., sued and won.

Last month, a federal judge in Salt Lake City ruled that Cholestin fits the definition of a dietary supplement and can stay on the market. The FDA has not said whether it will challenge that decision.

Until now, all of the data on Cholestin's health effects have come from China, where the rice extract has been used for centuries as a spice in such foods as Peking duck.

Last month, Dr. David Heber of the University of California at Los Angeles published a report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition on 83 volunteers. He found that eight weeks of Cholestin lowered their cholesterol an average of 17 percent.

The latest study was directed by Dr. James Rippe of Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and found similar results. Doctors in 12 medical practices across the country put 233 people on Cholestin for eight weeks. Their cholesterol levels fell from an average of 242 to 206.

Both studies were financed by Pharmanex, and both Heber and Rippe are members of the company's medical advisory board.

"This is a promising new development worthy of further research," said Dr. Thomas Pearson of the University of Rochester, speaking for the heart association.

However, he cautioned against going on Cholestin without getting a doctor's advice. "This should be integrated into the overall care plan," he said.

Lovastatin, sold by Merck Inc. as Mevacor, was the first of a powerful new class of cholesterol-lowering medicines known as statins. The smallest lovastatin pill on the market is 10 milligrams, while a daily four-pill regimen of Cholestin adds up to 5 milligrams of lovastatin.

Cholestin can be bought without a prescription, but the price is similar to Mevacor. A month's supply of Cholestin costs about $30. A month of 40 milligram Mevacor pills costs about $150. But these pills can be cut into four pieces, bringing a 10 milligram-a-day dose down to $37 monthly.

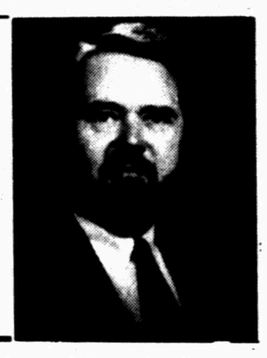
Still, Rippe said many people may prefer Cholestin because it is a natural rather than synthetic form of the drug, and it offers one more option for those who need to lower their cholesterol.

"I'm not saying, 'Eat a cheeseburger for lunch and than take Cholestin,'" he said. "It should be used in conjunction with exercise, diet and weight reduction."

Pharmanex's sponsorship of scientific research to back up its health claims is relatively unusual among supplement makers. Another study nearing completion will look at the effects of Cholestin when eaten in a twice-daily power bar.

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



At the Front of the Pack: The Art of Leadership

If you think you're a born leader, but have no followers, you may just be taking a walk.

— a paraphrased proverb

Many people talk about leadership: Few really know what it is. Many set out to become great leaders, but few acomplish the task.

For those of you who would like to develop your leadership skills, I offer these words of wisdom. I gleaned them from some great resources, which I list at the end of this column.

Leadership Characteristics

•**Leaders are laborers worthy of their hire.** A leader is one who "shows the way," "marks the course for others" and "guides by example." Leaders can expect no more effort from their followers than they put forth personally. Leaders love to labor and they love their labor.

•**Leaders are earnest.** The word earnest means to be "serious and intense," "zealous and sincere" and "focused on the most important matters." One of the great characteristics of leadership may be the ability to discern what is important that needs attention, and what is trivial that can be ignored.

•**Leaders maintain positive attitudes.** As I grow older, I become more convinced that maintaining a positive attitude is critical to personal success. I am also convinced that it is easy to maintain a good attitude simply by following the advice found in Philippians 4:8.

•**Leaders are diligent.** The word diligent describes those who are "hardworking," those who work with "careful, steady effort" and those who are "dependable and steadfast." Great leaders from history have demanded diligence from those around them. They got it because they set the example with their own diligence.

•**Leaders are filled with enthusiasm.** W. Clement Stone described enthusiasm as "inspiration to action." Leaders are inspired to act. And they inspire action in others. When people are filled with excitement they talk. When they are filled with enthusiasm they act. Actions have always spoken louder than words and produced more results.

•**Leaders are responsible.** I've noticed that difficult tasks tend to move toward those who are willing to do them. Personal growth comes from exercising your will to accomplish, and accepting the responsibility for getting it done. Harry Truman had a sign on his desk that read, "The buck stops here."

•**Leaders are self-confident.** I believe there is a direct link between confidence and capacity. As you grow in the assurance of your abilities you acquire the capacity to achieve more. More than 2,000 years ago, Publis Vergilius Maro — the Roman poet better known as Virgil wrote: "They can do all because they think they can."

•**Leaders are humble.** All great leaders give credit to others. Alexander Pope wrote "Who builds a church to God and not to fame, will never mark the marble with his name." I might add that the more you blow your own whistle the more likely you are to run out of steam.

•**Leaders have integrity.** To me integrity is "the quality of sound moral principles," "dealing with honesty and sincerity" and "avoiding spin, lies and stategic omissions." Remember this: This is eternal, lies are temporary. A friend in the insurance business says that honesty is the only policy, but there aren't nearly enough policyholders. Matthew 6:33 offers great advice in the area. When your priorities are right, living is great.

The following books provide many great leadership examples and further direction: "The Bible," "Developing the Leader Within You" by John C. Maxwell and "The Book of Leadership Wisdom," by various business leaders.

Don Taylor is the co-author of *Up Against the Wal-Marts*. You may write to him in care of *Minding Your Own Business*, P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

Fire ants seen in California

KERMAN, Calif. (AP) — Would fire ants make it to California? Fresno County Agriculture Department entomologist Norman Smith always knew it was a question of when, not if.

The pest, a major problem in the Southeast, has indeed been spotted in the Golden State, causing officials to go on heightened alert.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture last week announced statewide plans to eradicate the vicious ants, setting aside $2.8 million in seed money to assist counties and cities in the effort. The state also planned to add inspectors at border stations and work closely with local governments to remove the insect.

"We'll get this eradicated," Smith said, turning over soft dirt in an almond orchard in west Fresno County where he found hundreds of fire ant mounds. "It's possible here because once we get rid of this, that'll be it. The problem isn't as widespread as in the South."

The ants, which are native to South America, were first spotted in the southern United States in the late 1920s. Since then, the insects have dominated 11 Southeastern states, affecting human health, agriculture and the environment.

"By the time they said 'uh-oh,' it was too late," Smith said.

In October, the problem moved west when fire ants were discovered in Southern California after contaminated nursery stock was transported from Nevada.

The same fire ants known to viciously attack people also can hurt agriculture.

"They cause a whole raft of problems," said Sanford Porter, USDA Agriculture Research Service entomologist in Gainesville, Fla. "For example, they'll chew the bark of young citrus trees, eventually killing them. Citrus growers in Florida lose about 5 percent to 20 percent of their trees that way."

The ants also can decrease soybean production by a couple percent, he said.

Sir Ian attends with Monica L.

LONDON (AP) — Sir Ian McKellen, who missed out on an Oscar last week for his role in "Gods and Monsters," arrived at the British premiere of his movie Thursday night with Monica Lewinsky.

"I was at home and didn't have a date," explained the 59-year-old actor. "She was coming to London and I thought we want to give her a good welcome."

The pair met at a post-Oscars party in Los Angeles, shortly after McKellen lost out on the Academy Award for best actor to Italian star Roberto Benigni, who won for his role in "Life is Beautiful."

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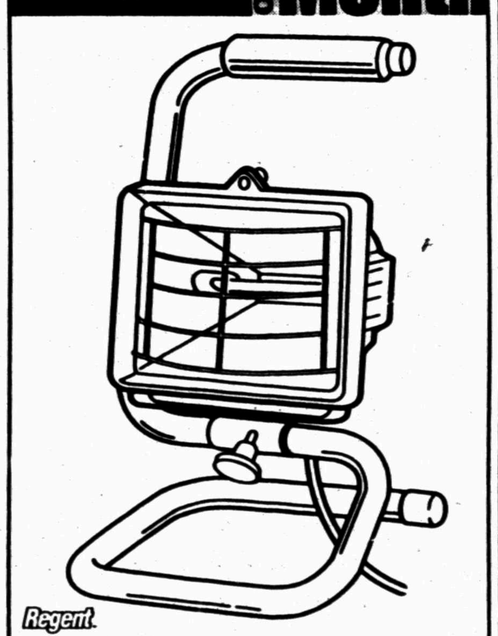

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Grand jury forewoman would have indicted Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — The forewoman of the grand jury that investigated the Monica Lewinsky case says she believed President Clinton behaved badly in his personal life and she would have voted to indict him for perjury if prosecutors had asked her to.

But Freda Alexander, who stepped from behind the grand jury's wall of secrecy on Thursday and spoke openly about her 18-month experience on the panel, said she sympathized with Clinton and believed his personal failings should not have become public or led to his impeachment.

"It was personal and of a civil nature," Ms. Alexander said in an interview with The Associated Press. "He didn't do anything that I can see that took away my liberty or was a crime against the state."

Ms. Alexander said the panel's work — hearing from a parade of witnesses, some weeping at times — was emotionally intense. She defended Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr but said she sometimes felt sorry for Ms. Lewinsky and presidential secretary Betty Currie as they were pressed to testify about the president. She portrayed Linda Tripp, the co-worker who turned Ms. Lewinsky in to prosecutors, as determined to damage Clinton and gather material for a book.

Jurors are forbidden by law from disclosing what goes on in the grand jury room. But Ms. Alexander, 46, said she felt she could talk about the Clinton case because so much of it was made public following Starr's report to Congress. She said she might even write a book.

Starr's office had no comment.

Ms. Alexander said Clinton was not honest with the grand jury about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. She was offended by his assertion that "a reasonable person" would define sexual relations only as intercourse.

"If they had asked if he committed perjury, I would say yes," Ms. Alexander said. Still, she believes seeking an indictment would have been "overkill."

"What's a man supposed to do, when they're trying to protect their family and not hurt innocent people?" she asked.

She believes there was not enough evidence for a criminal indictment of Clinton for obstructing justice by covering up the affair — the other charge considered in the Senate impeachment trial along with perjury.

Nonetheless, Ms. Alexander, who is divorced and has two sons in their 20s, said it was proper for the grand jury to investigate the Lewinsky matter and that Starr unfairly was demonized for doing his job.

"I don't think Ken Starr is the devil incarnate. I think it's very sad that he's been put in that role," Ms. Alexander said. Instead, she blamed the independent counsel law for giving too much power and unlimited money to prosecutors.

Ms. Alexander, who is black, said investigating the president was "very difficult" for her because she "had a very high regard" for Clinton for appointing minorities to high-level administration jobs.

She said she believed Ms. Lewinsky paid a high price for youthful mistakes. The former White House intern's testimony about being confronted by Starr's prosecutors was so moving — "there were very few dry eyes" in the room — that Ms. Alexander gave her a hug at the end.

Michael Ross, a criminal defense lawyer and expert on grand juries, called it "a little bit of a shock" that Ms. Alexander discussed the case and said the fact that much of the panel's work has been disclosed publicly does not necessarily free her from adhering to secrecy rules.

Starr sent Congress a report and three volumes of supplemental information about the investigation, including transcripts of grand jury testimony. The House released the information publicly.

Grand jurors' names are not released by federal courts. Ms. Alexander was first identified in USAE, a weekly newspaper covering conventions and hotels, which published a story saying she was suing a hotel that fired her during her grand jury service. She would not comment on the lawsuit.

Study says small temperature changes can harm ecosystems

WASHINGTON (AP) — A temperature change of only a few degrees can disrupt a community of animals, according to a researcher who studied how hot and cold affects the delicate balance of starfish and mussels in Oregon's tidal waters.

Eric Sanford of Oregon State University said his study, published Friday in the journal Science, suggests that if a key species in a community of animals is particularly sensitive to temperatures, a slight warming or cooling can start a whole cascade of rapid changes affecting every animal in an ecosystem.

Sanford said in an interview that he found a 5-degree change in temperature is enough to change dramatically the feeding habits of the starfish, a five-armed creature that feeds mainly on mussels and is common along the Pacific coast of the United States.

The finding, said Sanford, has important implications for understanding the effects of global warming.

"Many people have assumed that the effects of climate change would be gradual," the researcher said in an interview. "But this shows that if an important species in a community is highly sensitive to temperature, then the effects of a small temperature change can happen rapidly."

In his study, Sanford tracked the feeding patterns of starfish kept in the laboratory at different temperatures. He checked his results by manipulating the population of starfish and mussels in two areas along the Oregon coast.

Sanford found that a temperature drop of 5 degrees caused the starfish to virtually stop feeding on the mussels. This allows the mussels to rapidly expand in population.

Conversely, when the water temperature was increased by 5 degrees, Sanford said starfish went on a feeding binge, quickly reducing the population of mussels.

Either way, he said, there are dramatic changes in the tidal community of animals.

Strongest explosion ever observed happened 9 billion light-years away

WASHINGTON (AP) — It happened a long time ago in a place far, far away, but a gamma ray burst detected in January was the most powerful explosion ever observed, releasing in just seconds an energy wave equal to billions of years of light from thousands of suns.

In a series of studies published Friday in the journal Science and next month in Nature, a team of international researchers say the explosion occurred 9 billion light-years from Earth.

Just what caused the explosion is still a mystery.

"It is probably something to do with massive stars," said S. George Djorgovski, a California Institute of Technology astronomer who is co-author of a study in Nature. "The real truth is, we don't know."

The gamma ray burst was detected by Italian and U.S. science satellites that sent an alert to a network of ground instruments and telescopes. Within seconds, telescopes focused on the area of the sky where the burst originated and captured views in visible light. Later, more powerful telescopes photographed the explosion's afterglow.

The alert enabled astronomers, for the first time in history, to capture optical views of a gamma ray burst event as the detection was underway. Analyzing this light helped the scientists determine that the burst happened so far away that it took 9 billion years for the light to reach Earth. Light travels about 6 trillion miles a year in space.

Djorgovski said an analysis of light and other energy spewing from the explosion suggests that for a very brief instant the explosion was more luminous and energetic than the whole rest of the universe.

"If the gamma rays were emitted equally in all directions, their energy would correspond to 10,000 times the energy emitted by our sun over its entire lifetime of about 5 billion years," he said in an interview. "Yet the burst last only a few tens of seconds."

Djorgovski said there is some evidence the energy was detected as a concentrated beam that was pointed at the Earth. A beam would give an impression of greater energy in the explosion, just as a flashlight beam focused on one spot appears to be brighter than an uncovered bulb that scatters the same amount of light in all directions.

But even if the gamma ray energy were sent out in a beam, said Djorgovski, that would reduce the energy estimate only by a factor of 10 to 100.

"It would still be the most powerful explosion ever observed," he said.

Gamma ray bursts were discovered in 1967, but the phenomenon remains mysterious. The bursts occur randomly across the sky several hundred times a year, lasting for only a few milliseconds to a few minutes. Because of the short duration, large telescopes in the past could not be focused in time to catch optical views. The satellite alert system now makes that possible.

Djorgovski said there have been more than 150 theories proposed to explain gamma ray bursts. The two leading ideas, he said, both involve massive stars. One theory proposes that the burst occurs when two massive stars merge and form a black hole. Another theory proposes that the energy eruption comes from a hypersupernova, a stellar explosion much larger than that of an ordinary supernova.

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Pie thrown

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — One of Gov. Jesse Ventura's bodyguards took the hit for his boss: A banana cream pie smack in the back of the head.

City and state officials weren't laughing.

"It appears to be a prank, albeit not a very funny one," said Ventura spokesman John Wodele. "We are taking it very seriously. It is an assault."

The pie was thrown as Ventura, who was meeting with a neighborhood group Thursday night, walked past a group of protesters who were behind a police line. They were protesting Ventura's budget plan, which would cut funding for the arts and nonprofit organizations.

The bodyguard took the brunt of the pie, though some hit Ventura on the left arm.

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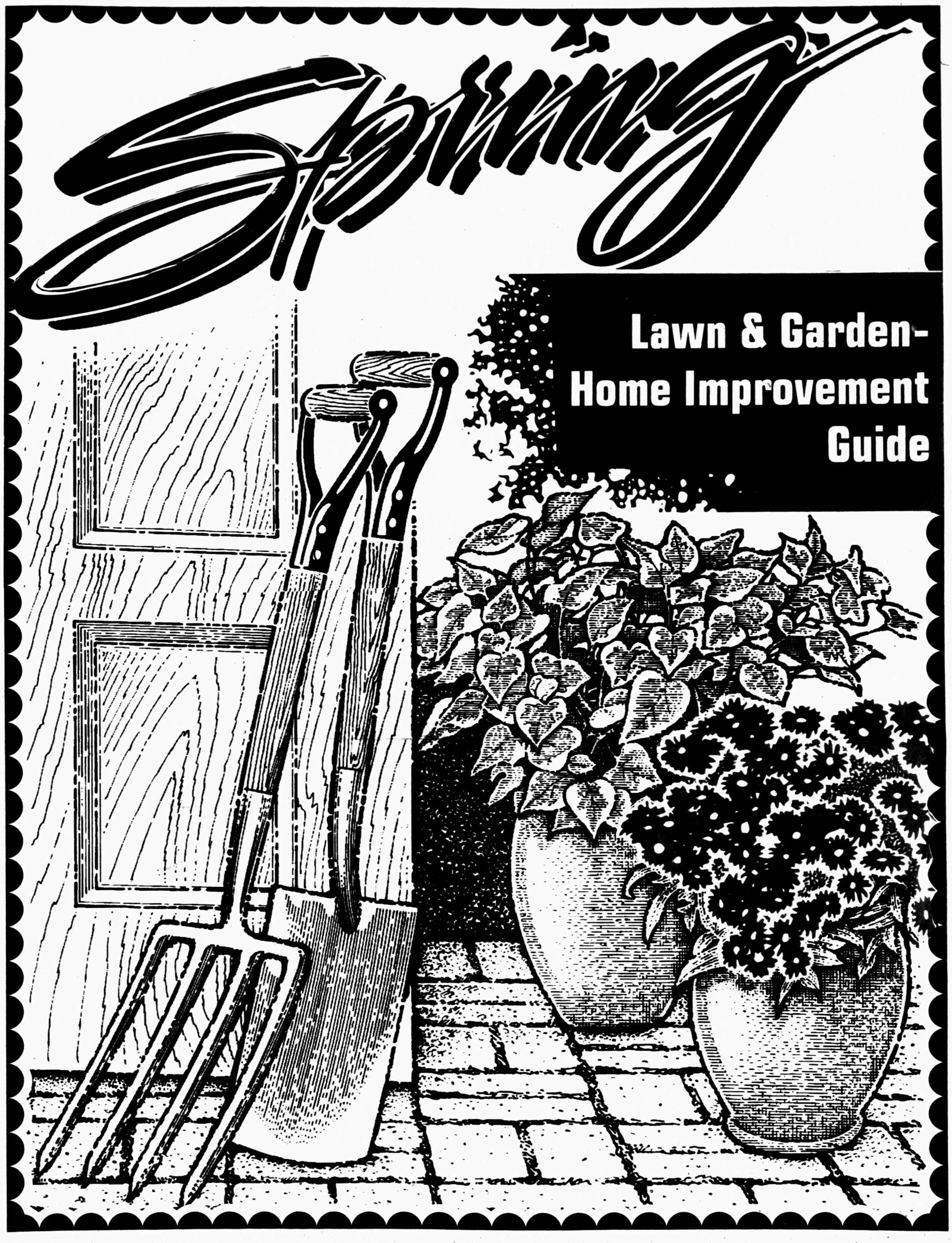


The Snyder Daily News

Section C

Sunday Mar. 28, 1999

MAR 28 1999

Enjoy the Pleasures and Rewards of a Fruitful Garden

'Reap' the Rewards Of a Healthy Growing Garden

"April showers bring May flowers," the adage goes. However, when it comes to gardening — a pastime that lasts year-round — showers alone don't cut it.

In order to have a lush and vibrant garden harvest of flowers, vegetables, herbs and spices — not to mention a healthy lawn adorned with bustling leafy trees and well-kept hedges — you'll have to get working on your greens.

Whether your garden spans across acres of land, a few yards or merely the length of your urban apartment's window box, that plot of land requires special care and attention. But before you begin imagining the solace of tending your garden under the sun while the warm rays massage your shoulders and back, or the thrill of picking the season's first harvest, you need to consider a few basic items that will help you sow the seeds for a successful garden.

Tools — You may have a "green thumb," but usually it takes a tool in hand to make it useful. Some basic tools every gardener should own include gardening gloves, a hand fork and trowel, pruners, a spade, fork and hoe, a watering can and hose, wheelbarrow, lawn mower, and rake.

Soil — More often than not, what your garden yields only is as good as the soil it grows from, so healthy soil should be every gardener's top priority. A good place to start is with digging into and turning over the soil. This increases the amount of air spaces in the soil and encourages plant growth. Clearing away weeds and debris also is important, and when necessary, weed-killer and fertilizer can remedy problem soil conditions.

Bulbs and seeds — Before you select the bulbs or seeds you'd like to plant, consider what kind of climate is most suitable for what you're planting. Consider the maximum growth the plant will achieve, how it will thrive in your specific soil conditions, and what kind of aesthetic appeal it might contribute in relation to the other plants or trees you're planning to grow.

Trees, shrubs and flowers — In addition to new bulbs and seeds, you need to make time for the plants you've already grown. Pruning trees and shrubs encourages them to flower and grow, while keeping them manageable and neat. Flowers, specifically roses, annuals and some perennials, benefit from deadheading — removing dead flower heads to encourage new buds.

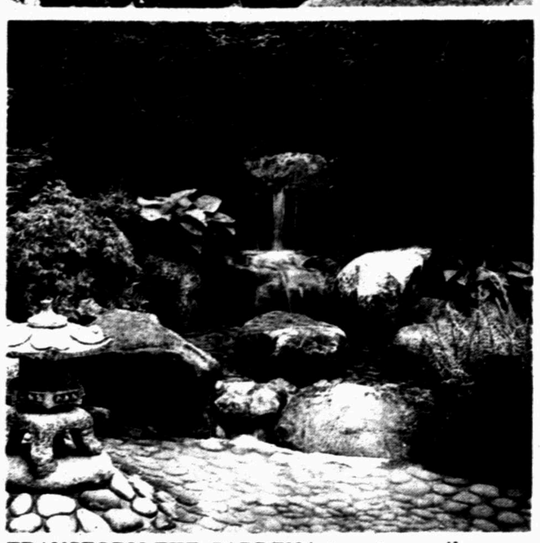
Lawn — Mowing the lawn makes grass more dense and less susceptible to weeds. Grass grows most rapidly during mild or cool weather, especially when the ground is moist, so you'll have to mow more frequently in the spring and fall to keep a well-tended lawn. In summer, or when the weather is warm and dry, mow less frequently and set the mower blades higher.

Borders, fences and hedges — From elaborate landscaping to creative boundaries to shading to just plain privacy, the reasons for creating borders, raising fences or planting hedges are many. A border of flowers or plants can lend a personalized, artistic mark to a garden. Fences, which range from sturdy constructions to lighter-weight trellises, can provide an effective screen as well as an ideal place to plant climbers, hedges or various vines.

Gardening is year-round, yet rewarding work. The more you tend to your garden, the more responsive it will be. So, get your tools ready and "plot" your agenda — you'll soon be reaping the ripe rewards of a healthy, well-kept garden.

Reduce Toil — Prepare the Soil

Whether planting a bed of flowers, plants, vegetables or herbs, the key to ensuring a healthy and productive garden begins with preparing your soil. Before planting, make sure that the soil is free of weeds and debris. Regularly digging up and removing weeds can help keep them under control, but for problem weeds, weedkiller often is more effective and will reduce the amount of time you spend toiling over these invasive pests. As for soil composition, aerating by digging into or forking over the soil will encourage plant growth, as well as bring large stones to the surface. Adding compost improves the soil's texture, structure and ability to hold moisture, while applying fertilizer will help you maintain a healthy, fertile garden from year to year.



TRANSFORM THE GARDEN into a tranquil, green paradise through style, perspective and detail. Whether you prefer the subtle pattern of a sunken pond with stepping stones, the serene minimalism of a Japanese garden, the soothing effect of running water or the physical delight of an eye-catching, edible planting scheme, "The Tranquil Garden" can help you plant the seeds for achieving that ideal garden retreat.

Plant the Seeds for a 'Tranquil' Green Paradise

A garden should be "a refuge from the stresses and strains of modern life, a place to observe the changing seasons and be at one with nature," writes Kay Fairfax, author of "Country Living Gardener: The Tranquil Garden" (Hearst Books).

If you long for a peaceful, verdant paradise that will soothe and inspire you throughout the changing seasons, take a walk through "The Tranquil Garden" and learn how to transform your outdoor space into a relaxing retreat.

Ripe with creative, yet practical ideas and lush illustrations to help you select the ideal elements for cultivating your dream garden, the book shows you how to achieve a garden that not only reflects your individual lifestyle, but also harmonizes with your home.

To help plant the seeds and form a vision of the garden that will bring you the most pleasure, Fairfax suggests you consider the following:

Style — From natural to formal to oceanside to exotic, there is an array of garden styles to consider. Your garden should satisfy all of your senses — sight, sound, smell, touch and even taste. However, it also should fit your lifestyle.

Perhaps you're fascinated by the serene minimalism of a Japanese garden. If you don't have a lot of time to dedicate to your garden and require a low-maintenance style, a Japanese garden, in which the dominant elements are water, gravel, wood and pebbles, makes an ideal choice.

If, however, you want to enjoy the true physical delights of a garden — like fresh tomatoes, mushrooms, potatoes and herbs for cooking up your favorite recipes — there's no better choice than an edible garden.

Perspective — To achieve perspective, the sum of a garden's parts — like color, shade, light, planting or ornaments — must add up to a balanced, cohesive whole.

One way to achieve perspective in the garden is by creating variations in pattern. For example, a sunken pond with stepping stones and plantings of flowers and grasses can create an eye-catching formation that reflects balance and harmony.

Another way to vary pattern is with imaginative planting schemes, like a pot of cabbage surrounded by stalks of ruby chard, which introduce interesting focal points.

Detail — From structural features to building materials to natural elements, detail is what makes a garden complete. The ideal detail for your garden may be a wall, a seat, an ornament or even a path.

If you have the resources, a water feature — like a soothing waterfall spilling into a pebble pool — can have a powerful effect on the senses. Bringing light, movement and sound to a garden, water may be the most natural way to pool tranquility into your garden.

How to Tell a Good Potato

These are the requisite qualities for a good potato when one is cut in two; there must be a considerable amount of moisture, though not too much; rub the two pieces together and a white froth will appear; this signifies the presence of starch, and the more starch, the better the potato.

— The Shaker Manifesto, 1881

Courtesy of "Wisdom From a Shaker Garden" (Penguin Studio), by Kathleen Mahoney GT997456

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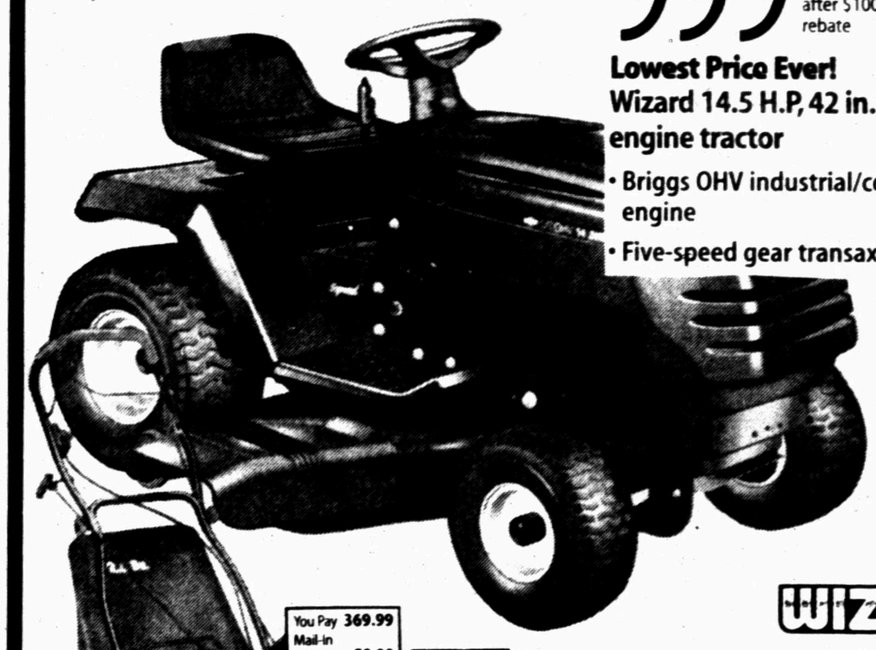

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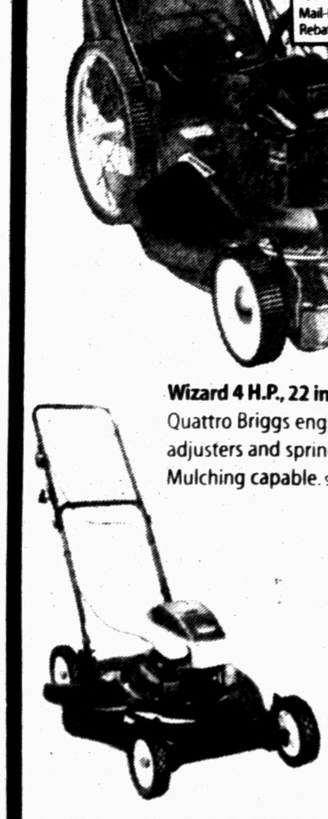

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Durable, Colorful Porcelain Tile

(NAPS)—What's old is new when it comes to home decor.

An ancient blend of earth, water and fire, ceramic tile may be one of the oldest and simplest surfacing materials in the world. New technological developments in tile have provided a product that makes it more durable than natural stone, difficult to stain or scratch, and easy to live with.

The new material is porcelain stone tile, and it offers two distinct advantages over surface-glazed ceramic tile:

- Ingredients are colored as the porcelain tile is mixed so the color goes all the way through. In ordinary tile, the color is just on the surface.
- Porcelain stone tile is fired at very high temperatures, making it harder and so durable that it actually outlasts marble and granite.

Porcelain stone tiles (not to be confused with the fragile porcelain used for dolls and china) can be polished to a high gloss, and they come in a variety of colors, finishes and designs including stone looks realistic enough to fool a geologist. Because of the through-body color, the tiles can be cut into any pattern using high-speed water jet technology to shape even the most complex custom designs.

Architects and designers favor porcelain stone tile for such heavy-duty projects as airports and shopping malls. And now homeowners are discovering the pleasures of living with high-style, low-maintenance porcelain stone all through the house.

Crossville Ceramics is the leading manufacturer of porcelain stone tile in the U.S. For a free brochure on tile ideas for the home, call 1-931-484-2110, or visit the company's Web site at www.crossville-ceramics.com.

Easy Tips For Keeping Carpets Cleaner

(NAPS)—Keeping carpets clean can extend carpet life, and it's easier than it used to be. These hints may help:

- According to recent research, many Americans don't clean their carpets as often as they should. The survey reveals that one out of three Americans will only vacuum when there is visible dirt and debris, and one out of four Americans avoid the chore of vacuuming their carpet as long as possible.
- Vacuuming more often would prevent dirt from becoming ground into the carpet. The average person vacuums their carpet every 6.1 days—roughly once per week as opposed to twice-weekly as recommended by experts at the Carpet & Rug Institute.
- When buying new floor coverings, look for carpets that are easier to clean. Much progress has been made in addressing carpet stains. For example, scientists at DuPont recently introduced the Advanced Teflon® Repel System, a technology that leading carpet mills use to engineer and manufacture Stainmaster™ carpets that actually push away spills and dirt to help prevent staining and soiling.

Thanks to new technology in these carpets, you save clean-up time and, according to tests, your carpet stays 40 percent cleaner in several ways:

1. Dirt and other tiny particles are repelled from the fiber, preventing them from damaging or becoming embedded in the carpet.
2. Dust and dirt are prevented from sticking to fibers, easing their removal through normal vacuuming.
3. Spills bead up on most carpet surfaces, allowing quick and easy blotting.

The DuPont Stainmaster Web site offers a thorough guide to removing a vast array of stubborn and difficult stains ranging from fruit punch to ketchup and even worse. To obtain these helpful tips, visit their home page at www.dupont.com/stainmaster.

For more information on the new Stainmaster technology, call 1-800-4DUPONT.

Simplify Cleaning With These 10 Timesaving Tips

(NAPS)—Did you know that Americans spend 26 to 50 hours a week on household chores? That's a lot of elbow grease, especially since a majority of that time is spent on the kitchen, the toughest room in the house to clean.

Paula Jhung, author of *How to Avoid Housework* and *Guests Without Grief*, is an expert at maintaining a clean home while barely lifting a finger. Try these 10 simple tips from Paula, and before you know it, you'll have a "self-cleaning" home.

1. Avoid scrubbing a hard-to-clean blender by whipping up a soap and water shake. The blender becomes a self-cleaning machine.
2. Eliminate smelly sponges and dishrags in the kitchen by using an odor-fighting anti-bacterial sponge such as those offered by Scotch-Brite™ and O-Cel-O™ brands. These sponges have built-in anti-bacterial protection which kills odor-causing bacteria in the sponge through hundreds of uses.
3. Place a spoon rest on the stovetop. It not only adds to the decor of the kitchen but eliminates stains and messy cleanups.
4. Line burners with aluminum foil to catch unwanted splatters and cut down on cleaning time.
5. Store all cleaning products in a bucket or caddy and in one central location so time is not spent gathering cleaning supplies.
6. Select cleaning tools that can be used for a variety of jobs. Scotch-Brite Scrub sponges have a scouring side which is designed to clean the toughest household messes as well as a soft cellulose side for everyday cleaning.
7. Cut down on dishwashing by cooking in containers that can go from the oven to the table to the refrigerator.
8. Clean as you go to avoid mountains of grungy pots and pans at the end of a meal.
9. Soak up monstrous spills with a highly durable Scotch-Brite Super-Absorbent Sponge. These sponges soak up spills 30 percent faster than ordinary sponges.
10. Sweeten a smelly garbage disposal by running lemon or lime peels through it occasionally. A sweet-smelling kitchen appears cleaner.

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Hardwood Floor Care

(NAPS)—The natural beauty of wood floors enhances any decorating style and brings warmth and elegance into any room of your home. Because wood flooring is durable, versatile and easy to clean, it has become the most popular floor covering available. Rediscover hardwood flooring for its variety of species, designs, styles, colors and prices to meet any budget.

To help you make an informed decision about your wood flooring needs, the National Wood Flooring Association has published a step-by-step brochure to help choose the type of floor and finish that fits your needs. *Wood Flooring: A Lifetime Of Beauty* guides you through the process of selecting your floor and includes a wood flooring scorecard to record your personal choices.

Also available from NWFA is an "Easy Hardwood Floor Care" card which offers general care and cleaning instructions for all types of wood floor finishes, including how to clean spills and stains. For copies, please write to NWFA, 16388 Westwoods Business Park, Ellisville, MO 63011.

The NWFA also offers wood flooring information through its consumer hotline, 1-500-443-WOOD. For 25 cents a minute, a wood-flooring expert can address any aspect of maintaining, refinishing and installing wood floors, as well as furnish a list of member professionals in your area. Online users can view the NWFA's Web site at www.woodfloors.org.

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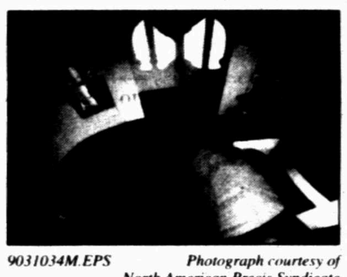

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Do-It-Yourself Hints For First-Time Homeowners

(NAPS)—If you're a first-time homeowner, you know that adding that personal touch will transform your house into a family retreat. Whether you're planning to restore a dated kitchen or refinish worn wood floors, free expert advice is yours for the asking.

Wood Beautiful, a free 36-page magazine, is available at participating hardware stores and home centers during Minwax National Woodworking Month, or through the Wood Beautiful Hotline, 1-800-44-STAIN. The hotline also has recorded tips from Norm Abram, host of the popular PBS series, "The New Yankee Workshop," and Bruce Johnson, craftsman and editor for *Country Living* magazine. Johnson offers these tips:

- A small project that makes a dramatic difference? Wood finishing. If your new house or condominium seems bare, you can easily add warmth with decorative moldings, wainscoting and wood shutters.
- To match the color of a new fiberglass or steel door to existing wood moldings, simply wipe on Minwax Gel Stain. Its unique, non-drip formula makes staining easy, even for the first-time finisher. To make it even easier, remove the door from its hinges and lay flat to stain.
- Thinking about investing in new kitchen cabinets? First try giving existing cabinets a facelift. Clean all exposed wood surfaces with mineral spirits to remove dirt, wax and grease. Then sand the old finish to give it some "tooth" for the new stain and finish to adhere. For a two-tone decorator look, choose a traditional wood tone in Minwax Wood Finish™ for cabinet frames and a contemporary color in Minwax Accents™ Decorative Stain for door panels. Top with crystal-clear Polycrylic® Protective Finish. Finally, install hardware to complete the new look.
- Save money on furniture by shopping at flea markets and yard sales. With a fresh finish, a second-hand piece can become a beloved treasure. Don't be fooled by a worn surface. Beautiful wood may be hiding under layers of old paint or a dulled finish. Remember, the type of wood will determine how you go about removing it.
- If you're not sure of the finish, try the Formby's Cotton Ball Test: Touch the wood in an inconspicuous place with a cotton ball dampened with acetone nail polish remover. If the cotton ball sticks or the finish softens, it's varnish, lacquer or shellac. Use Formby's Furniture Refinisher, which will gently dissolve the finish as it conditions the wood. If there's no effect when you apply the cotton ball, the finish is paint or polyurethane, and a paint remover is needed. Use one especially made for furniture, as opposed to all-purpose strippers, which tend to be harsh and may strip away the wood's rich patina or raise the wood grain.

"Doing it yourself will save money and add value to your home," says Johnson. "And you'll find that the satisfaction you get from finishing your project is the best reward."

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Dazzling New Design Possibilities

(NAPS)—From classic elegance to contemporary flair, improvements in design technology are increasing the choices homeowners have in decorating their homes.

Old styles are being reinterpreted with new zest as we nostalgically view the passing century, say experts at Carole Fabrics, a leading manufacturer of custom draperies, top treatments, bed coverings, fashion accessories and fabric-by-the-yard.

In response to the recent trend toward casual—which was perhaps becoming too casual—designers are returning to the formal grace of classic designs from the past.

However, since few are prepared to sacrifice comfort, these classic styles are being interpreted in a way today's homeowners can feel comfortable with. Here are some notable design trends:

Classic Elegance is formal, without being stuffy. This timeless design harkens to a bygone era of comfortable living, incorporating tapestry, paisley, sheer curtains, fringe and swags.

Romantic Elegance is visionary, fanciful and original. It incorporates a soft, feminine touch with sheer, translucent curtains. The use of ties, bows, ribbons and trim reflects the importance of detail. This look often features soft, shimmery pastels.

Primitive Elegance includes symbols from cultures around the world. Hieroglyphics, cave drawings, primitive symbols, stone, wood, leather and patina, all worn through the ages, contribute to this "Global Scavenger Hunt Design."

Natural Elegance is a tribute to nature. This environmental design for the late 1990s brings together natural motifs in a very classic interpretation. Nature—flowers, ferns, leaves and branches—is combined with natural materials like cotton, linen and stone to form environmentally elegant interiors.

Other trends include Ethnic Patriotism, a true melting pot of cultures and tastes; A La Carte Living, an individual, eclectic mix; Cozy Home, offering comforting, country formality; and Simplicity, which features clean, spare lines, shapes and designs.

Carole Fabrics offers over 5,000 fabric choices in custom draperies, top treatments, bed coverings, fashion accessories and fabric-by-the-yard.

Products are available through designers and retailers. For more information, call 1-800-CAROLE-2.

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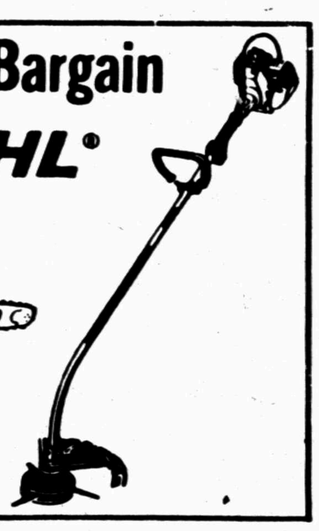

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Give Your Home The Light Touch

(NAPS)—Here's a bright idea: You can have a delightful new look in a room for very little, if you shed the proper light on the subject.

Evaluating your lighting needs before launching into a home or room makeover can help ensure your full satisfaction with your project. People making such lighting decisions can now get help from a user-friendly *Application Guide* about lighting.

The guide, created by Lightolier, shows typical rooms and suggests ways to analyze lighting problems. It includes instructions on creating a lighting plan, the reasons for selecting each lighting element, and refers readers to suggested fixtures within each type. Lightolier has long been considered a leader in the lighting industry.

The guide also describes the broad range of bulbs now available and suggests methods of controlling lighting for convenience, safety and atmosphere.

Deciding what to light can often be approached as a layered composition that considers task lighting, accent lighting or ambient lighting. The nature of the objects and surfaces being lighted plays an important role in lighting decisions.

For example, is the subject light or dark itself? Is it polished and mirror-like? Is it finely or coarsely textured? Does the color enhance or subdue? The answers to these questions can affect how much or what kind of light you use.

Once you've analyzed the space and decided what to light, you can decide how best to light it using three basic lighting techniques:

- Ambient lighting provides general overall illumination for safety and comfort.
- Accent lighting directs extra light and thus extra attention to selected objects.
- Task lighting illuminates areas where work is done. Paperwork and reading generally require plenty of well-diffused light from the rear or side. For kitchen or hobby tasks, a concentrated light from above usually works best.

Having decided what to light and how to light it, you're ready to determine what to light it with. Do you want incandescent, halogen or fluorescent light? Should the lamp be free-standing, hanging or recessed? Should the controls simply turn it on and off, or do you want them to change the light scene to suit the mood or activity? Keeping your answers to these questions in mind can help you keep your eye out for the right fixtures for you.

For more information, Lightolier's *Application Guide* and the other components of the Designing With Light Home Lighting Kit can be ordered by calling 1-800-544-5983.

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Lay Down the Path to a Lovely Garden

The bulbs and seeds are planted, the flowers and borders are in bloom, and everything green and leafy has been mowed, shaped or pruned. Wondering what's missing?

How about a path leading to your garden paradise. Why not follow the yellow — or even red — brick road to a new walkway idea for the garden. It's as easy as laying your own path.

There are several great reasons for incorporating a walkway in the garden. First and foremost, a walkway reduces damage to the lawn. Just think of all the traffic your grass must endure each time you go to check on or water your garden — not to mention all the trips you'll be making during harvest time. Creating a walkway can help keep the grass between your house and garden healthy.

According to "The New Gardener" (DK), by Pippa Greenwood, a walkway also can bring form and function to a garden. Functionally, it provides easy access to different areas of the yard, reducing the risk of damage to newly flowering plants.

As for form, a walkway can change your garden's appearance, even alter the perception of its proportions. A straight, narrow path, for example, can make a short garden appear longer, while one that meanders can break up an overwhelming expanse of green.

The degree to which a walkway can alter your garden's appearance also has a lot to do with the type of material you choose. From a path of stepping stones to paving slabs to gravel to brick, the choices of materials and styles are many.

Be sure to remember when deciding where and how to construct a path, that it should be wide enough for one person and a wheelbarrow, if not for two people to walk comfortably side by side.

If you aren't sure about what type of walkway you want, a brick path can be an ideal choice. Though it may take some time to lay, a brick path is very attractive and long-lasting. In fact, if the job is done well, a brick path almost is indestructible.

Whether you choose engineering brick, red brick or terra cotta, once you've laid a path made of this material, you'll appreciate how convenient and practical brick can be.

To lay your own brick path, you'll need some pegs, string, a level, crushed stone, concrete, bricks, mortar, a length of wood, a club hammer, a broom and a watering can.

Begin by measuring out and marking the area of the path with pegs and string (allow space for edging bricks when calculating the width of a path). Lay and compact the crushed stone to create a firm foundation.

Next, lay the edging bricks (or strips) using string lines and pegs to ensure they are straight and at the right height. The bricks will need to be bedded on concrete footing and then the joints filled with mortar.

For the main area of the path, the bricks can be laid in a number of creative patterns. While bricks can be laid on sand as well, bedding them on mortar will make the path more stable in the long term.

To deter weeds from growing in the joints, mortar between the bricks. This also will help prevent the bricks from coming loose.

Then, allow the path to set. If the weather is dry, sprinkling water onto the surface will help it set.

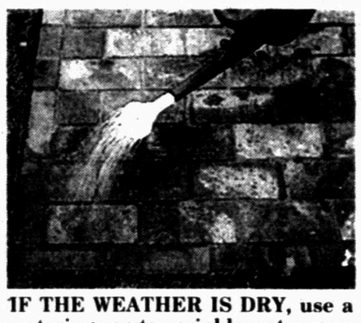
In no time you'll have an eye-catching path to lead the way to your garden — just follow your own brick road.

MARK OUT the path using pegs and string, and excavate the area to the depth of the bricks plus the foundation. Lay and compact the crushed stone, leaving room for a footing for the edging.

MAKE A concrete footing at the edges of the path and lay the edging bricks. Apply mortar between the joints, tamp down the bricks and check the level.

LAY 1 INCH of mortar on the crushed stone, and bed the bricks onto it leaving spaces for joints. Tamp down the bricks until level using a length of wood and the handle of a club hammer.

SPRINKLE DRY MORTAR over the completed path and brush it into the joints. Using a thin piece of wood, press the mortar between the joints to eliminate air pockets. Clean up any excess mortar.



IF THE WEATHER IS DRY, use a watering can to sprinkle water over the pointing to set it. In wet weather, moisture from the soil and air will do this. Clean up the surface of the bricks, if necessary. *GT997418*

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Indoor-Outdoor Wicker Shrugs Off the Elements

With winter behind you and spring home-improvement projects well underway, the warmer weather brings to mind thoughts of sunshine, barbecues and relaxing outdoors. And, when it comes to relaxing, there could be nothing more appealing than a white wicker chaise set invitingly under a shade tree — and nothing more inconvenient than having to haul it to shelter at the first sign of rain. After all, spring can be a very wet season.

What if you could combine the comfort and the breezy, "belle époque" elegance of wicker with the weather resistance of wood or aluminum? Pour a cool glass of lemonade and put up your feet, says the Home Furnishings Council. Wicker with an attitude is here.

Made from woven wood products or extruded resins, the new generation of indoor-outdoor wicker is exactly what its name implies: handsome, comfortable furniture that looks terrific indoors, while standing up to the outdoor elements.

"The biggest problem with natural rattan and wicker is that it expands and contracts, and the feet pull the moisture right up into the frame," says Dale Campbell with Lloyd Flanders, a leading manufacturer of indoor-outdoor wicker. "We use an aluminum frame instead, which eliminates swelling and splitting, and the legs have plastic capped feet."

While the frames are aluminum, the look of the lines is entirely traditional, and startlingly close to natural wicker. "In our indoor-outdoor collection, the woven materials are striated, which looks much more natural than a single color," says Peter Schultz, with California-based Casual Living Worldwide. "It is hard to tell the difference."

An added benefit of this next-generation wicker is its versatility. Because it doesn't fray or decay with outdoor use, it looks good enough to move into a sun-room or even living room for winter enjoyment.

"I live in the middle of Wisconsin, and I leave our wicker pieces out on the deck year-round," says Schultz. "They get wind, snow, rain — and the next year they'd look good anywhere in the house. I think they'll be around a lot longer than any of us."

Bottom line? Durable, double-duty wicker gives you double the use; move a wicker rocker indoors in November, where it lends a breezy, summery touch to a winter room; and move it back out in spring or summer, for comfortable lawn-lounging.

"These new materials give you a durable product that is beautiful as well, with lots of fashion options," Campbell concludes. "You can't beat it."

For more information on indoor-outdoor wicker or to learn how to receive a free copy of the latest edition of "HAVEN: Planning a Comfortable Home" decorating guide, call 1-800-521-HOME.

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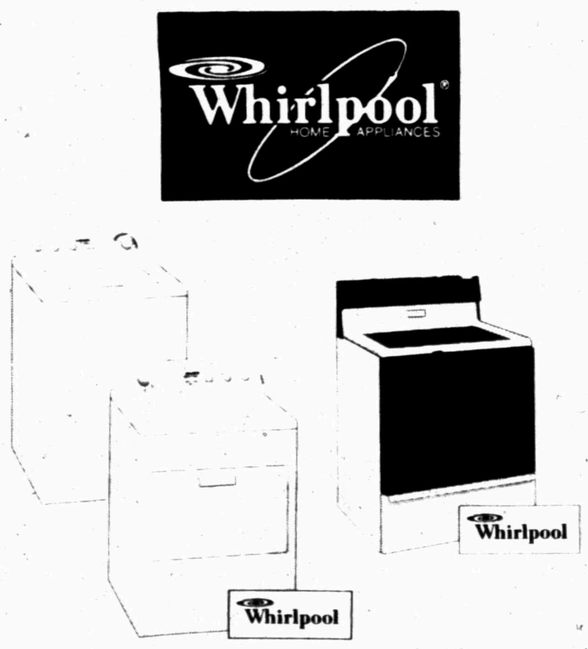

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Tips for a Green Lawn and a Greener Wallet

When spring arrives, it's time to get your yard in shape. Everyone wants a lush, green lawn, but beware of the hidden expense of water waste. If you follow a few simple steps for water conservation inside and outside your home, you'll end up with that great looking yard without the big expense when the water bills come.

MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN

Every year, the average American family wastes around 32,000 gallons of water — that's the volume of a medium-sized swimming pool. Most of that waste occurs in the bathroom, sometimes because we leave the water running without thinking (do we really need to let it run the whole time while we're brushing our teeth?). Other times, the water and money is draining away without us even knowing it.

The chief culprits are:

- running toilets
- inefficient fixtures
- leaking plumbing
- excessive lawn-watering

HOSIN' AROUND THE YARD

It takes 660 gallons to water a typical 1,000 square-foot lawn with 1 inch of water — the same amount of water you use inside your house in a week. It's easy to cut this in half and save money by remembering these basics:

- **Use the right equipment.** While most sprinklers do a pretty good job, there is a difference in hose nozzles. When you're washing the car or spraying your garden, a pistol-type nozzle is best because you can adjust the flow rate or stop it completely to answer the phone or chat with a neighbor.
- **Set a schedule.** Your lawn doesn't need dousing every day. Watering every other day is fine, especially if you do it in the early morning or evening when the sun won't evaporate the water before it can soak in.
- **Maximize water usage.** If you have a smaller lawn and more plants, you should use irrigation hoses. These target smaller amounts of water right at the root level of your garden. Mulching around trees and shrubs also will maximize your water usage by reducing the amount of water lost through evaporation. Additionally, "recycling" rainwater from roof downspouts for watering your garden will help you cut back.

GO WITH THE FLOW

Indoors, you can start saving water immediately by tackling one of the biggest water-wasters first — your toilet. If your old one has had it, buy a new low-flow model. These toilets use about 1.5 gallons per flush, as opposed to the standard version that sinks 4 gallons per use. Otherwise, try these methods for conserving water and saving money in the bathroom:

- Install a toilet dam to reduce the holding capacity of your tank and use less water per flush. No need for a plumber or fancy contraption from the hardware store. Just use an old ½-gallon plastic soda bottle. Fill it with water and drop it in the tank, but be sure to leave at least 3 gallons of water, or you might be plunging until next spring.
- Leaks and drips from your toilet add up. A running toilet can waste up to 100 gallons a day, and jiggling the handle only is a short-term fix. Get the right replacement parts (usually just a new flange) and do the job in less than 10 minutes.
- Some leaks from the tank to the bowl are slower and quieter. Here's a tip on how to check for slow leaks: squeeze a couple drops of food coloring into the tank, then wait. If color appears in the bowl, you're sitting on a problem.
- Just like it's a good idea to inspect your car's belts and hoses, you occasionally should check all the plumbing connections. If you don't have plumbing tools, large-jawed VISE-GRIP® locking pliers let you get around all the various-sized pipes and couplings, and will make freeing frozen or rusted bolts easier. Be sure to check basins, sinks and all pipe connections in the basement.

WATER DOWN THE DRAIN: A WASTE OF ENERGY

Hot water accounts for almost 20 percent of energy lost in the home, and about half of that is from shower use. Most showers run at around 5 gallons per minute, which is twice as much water (and energy) as you could be using. Check your flow rate by running the shower into a measurable bucket for 30 seconds and doubling the measurement. Any good plumbing-fixture store will carry 2.5-gallon shower heads to cut the flow and save you money.

Don't forget your faucets, either. Installing faucet aerators effectively halves the volume of water but adds bubbles so that the flow appears the same. And, if you run the dishwasher or clothes washer without a full load, it's like pouring money and water down the drain.

Making plans and taking precautions to save water around the home and yard this spring may seem like a headache, but it won't hurt nearly so much as a big water bill at the end of summer.

Tender Blossoms

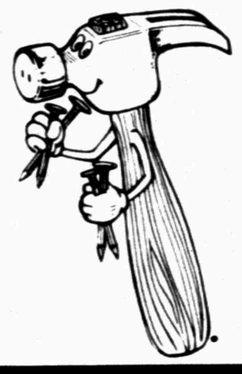
Roses are red, violets are blue, gardening is a hobby people any age can do. Whether you are 6 years old or 60 years old, you need not be an experienced "gardener" to enjoy the thrill that growing flowers, vegetables, shrubs or trees brings. A simple sprinkle of water on a single flower, some sunlight, and a lot of love and care is all you need to make a garden grow. *GT997455*

BRIGHT TIPS FOR SPRING-CLEANING

Spring is the time to castaway winter's dull shadow, and when it comes to spring-cleaning, there's no better way to make things bright than by polishing the metal throughout the home.

From the brass chandelier to the silver candlestick holders to the copper pans to the stainless steel appliances in the kitchen, metal enhances the home with beauty and style. Following are some helpful tips to ensure that these household items and other favorite treasures maintain their lustrous appearance for generations, courtesy of Mr. Metal, an all-metal cleaner from Northern Labs Inc.

- Keep metal dry to prevent tarnishing. When oxygen and moisture combine and come in contact with metal, oxidation occurs, causing a damaging coating that can dull or destroy the metal's surface.
- Don't mix stainless and sterling in the dishwasher. If they touch, it creates a chemical reaction that can leave black spots on the silver.
- Don't use abrasive cleaners that can scratch and dull metal surfaces.
- Unless specified for a particularly durable type of metal, avoid using steel wool or scouring pads to clean.
- Wear cotton gloves when cleaning metal. Otherwise, acid in the skin can tarnish the surface.
- Rub metal with straight, back-and-forth motions, rather than in circles. This helps maintain a uniform appearance.
- Prevent undiluted dish-washing detergents from coming into contact with metal, as it can damage the finish.
- Apply metal cleaner with a clean, soft, lint-free cloth. Turn frequently to avoid reusing the soiled portion.
- For ornate objects, apply metal cleaner generously and allow to dry. Rinse the cleaner with a wet sponge.



Home-Brewed Compost — With a Twist of Peat

(MS) — Homemade compost — sweet, rich and friendly — can use a helping hand in the garden; horticulturists extend its value dramatically with equally beneficial Canadian sphagnum peat moss.

Backyard composters, whose "product" is their pride and joy, mix leaves, grass clippings, kitchen scraps and anything else they can get their hands on (even weeds) into piles or bins, then throw in a bit of old compost to inoculate and jump-start the decomposition. If the piles are kept aerated and moist, a batch of useable compost can be finished in less than a month.

However, such "hot" composting is hard work and, since composting isn't a race, most folks simply pile it all up, mix it a time or two, and let it simmer slowly on its own for four or five months. It eventually works fine, though some bits may need sifting out to be composted again.

Whether you are a fast or slow composter, the finished product — full of life, dark, crumbly and packed with nutrients — is great for garden soil, and saves money on other soil amendments. However, there can be drawbacks.

Extension horticulturist Felder Rushing, a longtime composter from Miss., claims to be so proud of his home-grown compost, he almost wants to gift-wrap it. "But," he says, "compost alone doesn't cut it. Compost makes my soils sticky and easy to compact, then it quickly disappears, eaten up by microbes. Besides, there's never enough to go around; to keep my three bins working, I have to beat other composters to curbside piles of leaves and clippings, and I still can't make enough."

According to Rushing, even municipal compost, a great trend in recycling that he and other members of the Garden Writers Association actively support, has problems. "I use it, but it's highly variable, hard to haul and store, and may contain oak tannins or other impurities."

What to do? Rushing mixes his compost 50:50 with perfectly complementary peat moss. Even though sphagnum peat moss — especially the dependable, red-brown kind harvested from a tiny portion of literally millions of acres of high-grade sphagnum bogs in Canada — seems a bit pricey compared with homemade or municipal compost, it always has been a staple. It's a given to gardeners, because its universally acclaimed benefits far outweigh the cost. Canadian sphagnum peat moss binds sandy soils, aerates heavy or clay soils, holds moisture and nutrients, and lasts up to eight times as long as compost in the soil. It's also convenient, easy to use, stores well in its compact bag (which can be reused for garden chores) and, just as important, it is "predictable."

It's a win-win solution to soil-improvement dilemmas. Peat moss extends the volume and soil life of compost, and helps reduce soil compaction. It even can be mixed directly into compost bins as new batches are started, where it will help aerate the pile while grabbing and holding water (which is released slowly as needed, saving water and time). It traps nitrogen that otherwise would be lost as ammonia, and holds other valuable nutrients that leach from compost. When used as a "cap" on a compost pile, it can control occasional kitchen-scrap odors.

For more information about composting and the benefits of peat moss, visit www.peatmoss.com or contact your county extension horticulture agent. To order free brochures on composting and other gardening tips, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 55 cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. GT99, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438.

ADDING CANADIAN PEAT MOSS to your compost improves quality and reduces odors.

Redecorating Your Home?

(NAPS)—One of the hardest steps in redecorating a room is often the first: getting started. Here are some tips from the Carpet and Rug Institute on taking the leap.

Turn to newspaper articles and design magazines for help. Don't be afraid to use the decorating ideas you find there.

- Tear out pages with ideas that catch your eye and keep them in a file or drawer. Study the elements you like and pay special attention to how the room is balanced (where furniture is placed and how the different colors complement each other).
- Once you have an idea of what you want to do to a room and have decided what will fit your lifestyle and personality best, take the pages to the store with you.
- Find the unusual and use your imagination. Don't be afraid to experiment a little. You can even experiment on a limited budget. Carpet alone can refresh all your furnishings. New, solid color, highly textured styles are a good transition to more interest on the floor. Real pizzazz can come with floral, geometric and Oriental patterns to coordinate with plaid, solid and striped fabrics. Remember that an area rug placed over carpet, wood, tile or sheet vinyl can add color, the pizzazz of another pattern, comfort underfoot, warmth and enhanced sound absorption.
- More and more people are choosing darker colors for walls and floors; the family of greens is very popular in both carpet and paint. Just remember that because floors and walls are two of the biggest elements in a room, using darker colors can make the room look cozier.
- Lighter colors on the floor can make the room seem larger, and carpet texture can add a new, fresh appearance to the room.

For more information about ideas, call 1-800-882-8846, or visit CRI's Web site at www.carpet-rug.com.

Keep Your Lawn And Garden Weed-Free

(MS) — Weeds. A recent survey calls them the No. 1 gardening headache, and is it any wonder? Drive by any suburban yard and you'll see neighbor upon neighbor hunched over their lawns and gardens, working feverishly to eradicate every single dandelion.

Weeding doesn't have to be a dreaded, backbreaking chore. "There are simple solutions to make pulling weeds quicker and easier," says gardening expert Gerry Hood.

According to Hood, the top trick to keep your lawn and garden weed-free is to add plenty of Canadian sphagnum peat moss to the soil in order to loosen the soil, resulting in easier weed pulling. Simply work 2 inches of peat into the top 6 inches of soil before planting.

"The bottom line is that you need healthy soil," says Hood. "Healthy soil is like an immune system. It keeps all the plants stronger so they're better able to crowd out weeds."

For a free brochure on weed prevention and other gardening tips, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 55 cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. GT99, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438. *GT997430*

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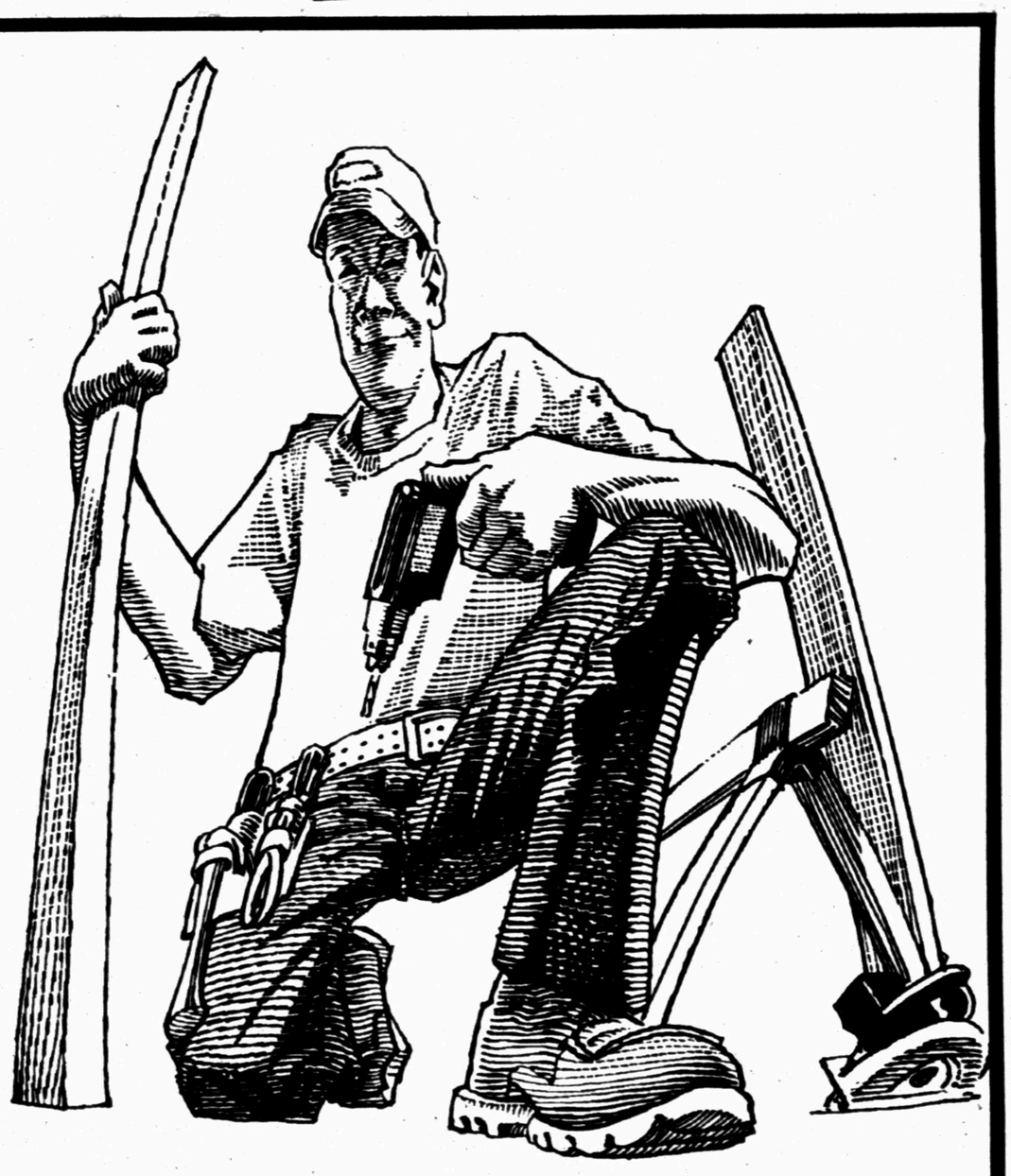

How to Select a Professional Remodeling Contractor

(MS) — The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), a trade association representing nearly 40,000 remodeling professionals, strives to educate remodeling homeowners on how to select a professional remodeling contractor, how to get the most for their remodeling dollars and how to avoid the horror stories that are so well documented. Following are some tips for a successful remodeling experience:

SELECT A PROFESSIONAL

- Ask friends, family and co-workers for contractor referrals
- Ask contractors for recent customer references and check them carefully
- Look for members of NARI, the sign of professionalism and excellence in remodeling
- Check their legal status — make sure they are properly licensed or registered
- Verify their insurance policies (workers' compensation, property damage and personal liability)
- Check with your Department of Consumer Affairs or the Better Business Bureau for outstanding complaints

SIDESTEP THE PITFALLS

- Steer away from high-pressure sales tactics
- Get everything in writing (projected start and completion dates, warranties, payment schedule)
- Do not pay in full upfront; payments should include a down payment and progress payments
- Do not obtain your own building permits
- Document problems with performance or materials
- Do not necessarily go with the lowest bid — make sure you compare apples to apples
- Plan for lifestyle disruptions, dust and delays during the project
- Expect and budget for contingencies

NARI
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For a free "Select a Professional Remodeling Contractor" brochure, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NARI, 4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, Va. 22311 or visit http://www.Remodel-Today.com or http://www.NARI.org on the Internet. *SH997266*

Talent does what it can; genius does what it must.

—unknown

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PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY of nutrients to the roots of your trees and shrubs with Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes.

You Need to Feed Those Trees

(MS) — With spring just around the corner, it's time to get out and work in the yard. This year, why not pay special attention to those trees and shrubs on your property?

Horticulturists say that spring is a great time to get your trees and shrubs in shape. One of the best ways to do this is by fertilizing. That's right — fertilizing.

Now, this does not mean taking a few extra laps around the tree with your grass fertilizer. Those types of fertilizers are absorbed quickly by grass roots before they have a chance of reaching your trees' roots. It means feeding trees and shrubs with specially formulated food and nutrients that get directly to the roots.

If the thought of fertilizing always has made you a bit nervous, don't worry. Several products on the market now have made getting healthy, fast-growing trees, shrubs and evergreens easier than ever.

Gone are the days when you had to fool with messy, smelly sprays and granular fertilizers. Now, fertilizing trees and shrubs can be as easy as hammering a spike into the ground. In fact, with one product, Jobe's® Fertilizer Spikes, that's really all you have to do.

Specially designed to feed trees and shrubs at the roots, where they need it most, Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes for Trees and Shrubs act like a vitamin for the tree — a long-lasting vitamin. Created with a special slow-release formula, it supplies the entire plant with nutrients for at least three months.

Since the spikes feed plants underground, they make yards safer for children, pets and other animals. In addition, you won't have to worry about wasteful chemical runoff polluting nearby water sources.

Another easy-to-use product that feeds trees and shrubs underground is the Ross® Root Feeder. Like the spikes, the root feeder delivers food, nutrients and water directly to the roots for immediate results.

Fertilizing trees and shrubs is easy with the root feeder. To use it, insert the feeding tube into the soil around the plant's drip line and then connect it to a hose. Fill the fertilizer chamber with a Ross fertilizer refill, turn the hose on and let the water flow through to the roots.

When you feed your trees and shrubs at the roots in the spring, you'll be able to enjoy the results all summer long. Best of all, your trees will be strong, healthy and prepared for the hot months ahead. For even better results, feed your trees again in the fall.

Available in a variety of formulas, Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes and the fertilizer refills for the Ross Root Feeder can be purchased at just about any local garden center, hardware store, chain retailer or by calling (800) EASY-INC.

So, no matter what type of trees or shrubs you have in your yard, you'll be able to fertilize them properly.

Step-by-Step Guidelines To Exterior Painting

Painting the exterior of a home can be intimidating unless you know the proper techniques.

To avoid common mistakes, the Weatherbeater Paint Pros offer the following exterior painting tips:

1. Evaluate — Assess the area to be painted to determine if there are any surface imperfections that need repair.

2. Make a list of the materials you will need. Don't forget surface-preparation materials (i.e. caulk, primer, etc.) and paints, applicators, dropcloths, scrapers, ladders, masking tape, etc.

3. Prepare the surface thoroughly following the instructions on the paint-can label. Be sure to:

- Scrape all the loose paint from the area until most of the bare surface is exposed.
- Sand to dull and make the surface as smooth as possible.
- Use a commercial cleaner to wash the surface carefully, then rinse thoroughly.

4. The general rule of thumb is to always use a primer. The exception is if you're covering an existing paint with a similar color or darker color and the surface is in good shape. However, primers never hurt and only can enhance your result.

Tip: Try the water test — To determine if a previously painted surface needs to be primed, sprinkle a little water on the area to be painted. If the water soaks in, a primer is needed.

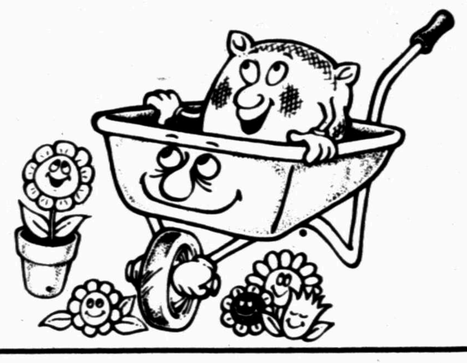
5. Paint the surface following the instructions on the paint-can label. When more than one can of paint is needed, mix some of the old paint with the new for uniform color. This is called boxing.

- Do not try to overspread or stretch paint because a thin film will affect the paint's durability.
- Paint from top to bottom, starting with the eaves and fascia. Walls are next; then trim.
- Always keep a wet edge to your painting job. After painting a section, immediately paint the next area before drying. If painting lap siding, follow a board all the way across until reaching a natural break (i.e. a window or door), before going on to the next board.

6. Weather can affect paint's durability by interfering with the drying and curing process.

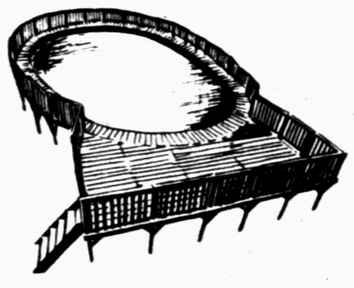
- Ideal temperature for exterior painting is between 60 F and 90 F. Do not paint if, over the next 24 to 48 hours, the temperature is expected to drop below 45 F or if rain is in the forecast.
- Do not paint in bright sunlight, which can cause paint to dry too fast.

Do-it-yourselfers can visit their local Sears paint department, where specially trained sales associates can answer questions about the painting process. Consumers also can call the Weatherbeater Paint Pros at 1-800-9-PAINTS from anywhere in the continental United States from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST on Saturdays. Useful painting tips also are available on the Internet at http://www.Sears.com/paint. *SH997264*



Vivid, artsy, ornate decor for the home office might be all it takes to keep the creative ideas flowing, as a variety of patterns keeps this office looking fresh. A tilted bookcase offers a creative slant, helping to take the edge off of work (visually, at least). A floor-to-ceiling metal lattice for hanging newspapers, magazines and art keeps sights aimed high, as shown here, courtesy of "The Home Office Book" (Artisan), by Donna Paul.

The right choice for above-ground pool owners.



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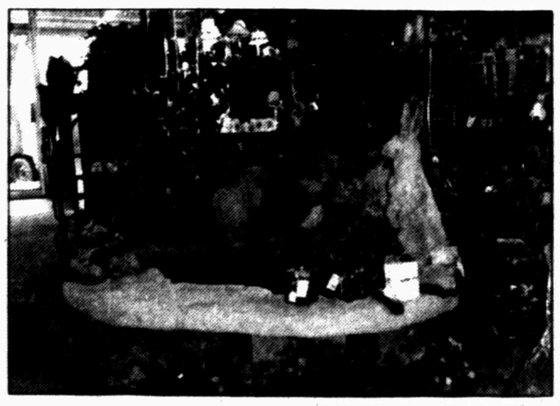

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Nature May Have Shortchanged Your Soil:

Peat Moss Helps Correct Many Deficiencies

(MS) — A good foundation is the most important ingredient of any endeavor. Whether dancing, writing, building or gardening, a strong, well-prepared foundation is the key to success. Just try writing a novel without solid language skills, or singing an opera without having mastered your scales.

Creating a garden is much the same. Only in gardening, good soil is the foundation you need before you can create landscape masterpieces.

Most garden plants long for luxurious, loamy soil. "Fit" soil — soil that is full of organic material, of near-neutral pH and with the capacity for good drainage — produces healthy, better-looking plants. Soil this fit, however, is unusual in the United States; it must be made.

This is not as daunting a task as it sounds. To improve soil, begin by answering some basic questions:

FOR THE HEALTHIEST FLOWER and vegetable beds, dig 2 inches of peat moss into the top 6 inches of soil every year.

• **Texture** — To determine your soil's texture, scoop up some of it and study it. If it runs through your fingers, then it's too sandy. Water, along with nutrients, will drain too quickly to benefit plants.

If it's thick and lumpy and clings together in a ball, then you have heavy soil, most likely with a high clay content. Plant roots will have a hard time penetrating such soil, and they will starve due to lack of air and water.

Adding a large quantity of organic material improves the texture of all soils. Canadian sphagnum peat moss is the easiest choice, and it offers the fastest results. An all-natural, biodegradable and odor-free organic material, Canadian peat is available in bales at nurseries and garden centers.

If you have compost available, blend it 50:50 with the peat moss; it adds nutrients and helps improve the soil texture.

• **Dig into soil** — Spread 2 inches to 3 inches of peat/compost over the soil and dig into the top 6 inches to 8 inches. This mixture loosens clay soils and improves aeration and drainage. As well, it absorbs moisture and reduces the leaching of fertilizer in sandy soil.

• **Soil pH** — If your soil is well-balanced, fertilizers will work correctly and plants will thrive. You can't judge your soil's chemical composition just by looking at it. You need to know its pH.

A soil's "pH" describes its alkalinity or acidity, as measured on a scale of 0 to 14, with pH 7 representing neutral. Lawns, vegetables and most flowers prefer a neutral or slightly acidic soil, between 5 and 6.5. Take a 3-inch deep sample of soil to your garden center and have them test it for pH. They will recommend a remedy if the pH is off.

• **Important nutrients** — A balance of the three major plant nutrients — nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium of potash (K) — is necessary for good soil. When you shop for fertilizer, you'll see that the bags are labeled with three-number formulas, like "5-10-10."

Before planting, spread the fertilizer on top of your soil in the suggested quantity, then dig or till it into the top 3 inches. Few soils are born perfect. However, if you've followed these suggestions, you've created a foundation. Fit soil now is yours and gardening masterworks await you.

For the free brochure, "How to Garden With Peat Moss," send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 55 cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept GT99, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438. *GT997400*

Bent So Your Back Won't Be

Better a bend in the handle than a major bend in your back. Such is the concept behind the new Ames® ErgoConcept Garden Rake and seven other long-handled tools designed by Ames Lawn and Garden Tools with input from ergonomists and medical professionals to keep the user in a more upright position. The strong contoured handles allow for proper leverage while reducing the bending and stooping that can produce backaches and muscle aches. Ames, which is celebrating its 225-year anniversary as the oldest continuing manufacturing business in the hardware and lawn/garden industry, also is offering two shovels, two lawn rakes, a garden hoe, cultivator and flexible steel-tined rake with the ErgoConcept handles. For the Ames retailer near you, call 1-800-725-9500 or visit Ames' BackYard U.S.A. home page on the Internet at http://www.ames.com.

Protect Your Kitchen And Bath Investment

(NAPS)—Items considered special in your home deserve special cleaning practices.

Homeowners who have made a substantial investment in new sinks, appliances or cookware should make sure those items—and their surfaces—aren't accidentally marred.

While appearances count, it's important to prevent surfaces from being scratched for more than aesthetic reasons. When surfaces are scratched, dirt quickly settles into the scratch, making the surface much harder to clean.

To remove stains, rinse the surface cleaner and leave a smoother finish, experts suggest using a gentle, non-abrasive cleanser.

"It's important to use a non-scratching, non-dyed, non-chlorinated cleanser, not only for day-to-day cleaning, but also to polish away discolorations, pot marks and hard water spots," said Ben Stark of the Faultless Starch Company.

The cleanser should contain "only gentle abrasives and a good grease-cutting biodegradable detergent," Stark said. "You don't need the silica abrasives, perfume, dyes or chlorine found in many cleansers."

One leading brand of cleanser, Faultless Starch's Bon Ami, has the gentle abrasive quality that makes it suitable to use on new and valuable hard surfaces. In fact, "Hasn't scratched yet" is the product's longtime slogan.

"If you've invested a lot of money into new countertops, new sinks, high-end cookware or expensive tile, a non-scratching cleanser like®Bon Ami could help protect the investment you've made in your kitchen or bath," Stark said.

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What People Most Enjoy About Shopping

(MS) — For homeowners, the arrival of spring after a long, cold winter signals a new beginning and an opportunity to say: Out with the old, in with the new!

Besides the usual spring-cleaning, often this line of thinking leads homeowners to the furniture store, where a dazzling array of furniture and accessories makes the thought of home fix-ups too appealing to ignore.

However, according to a recent survey by America's Research Group, it's not just the furniture that customers enjoy. The top answers people gave when asked what they most enjoy about shopping for/buying furniture include:

- It makes my home fresh and gives it a new look; I am tired of the old.
- Seeing what is new.
- Shopping in a newly opened store.
- It leads to other home improvements, like carpeting and accessories.
- It's a decision I get to make.
- A chance to get a professional's input on how to improve my home.
- A chance to buy an item now, but pay for it later.
- Returning to a store where I have had previous experiences and met a great salesperson.

New Faucet Features Built-In Water Filter

(NAPS)—Drinking a lot of water can be a healthful way to replenish your body.

In fact, we all need water to survive, considering our bodies are made up of 65 percent water.

One company is offering a new breakthrough method to helping keep fresh, cleaner water on tap.

The company, Moen, recently introduced a filtering faucet system, called PureTouch, that eliminates the need for under-the-counter systems or having bottled water delivered. The carbon filter, developed by Culligan, is built directly into the faucet.

According to Moen, the PureTouch faucet produces filtered water at a cost of about 10 cents per gallon, far less than the average 90 cents per gallon of bottled water.

Other highlights of the filtering system are as follows:

- Three filtering options. The MicroTech 5000 filter removes 93.3 percent of chlorine and improves taste and odor; 99.5 percent of lead; and 99.98 percent of the potentially harmful microorganisms Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Two other filters are available: The MicroTech 3000 improves taste and odor and reduces both chlorine and lead; the MicroTech 1000 reduces chlorine and improves taste and odor. The filters do not remove beneficial fluoride. Each replaceable filter cartridge filters about 200 gallons of water.
- You can pull the spout, attached to a flexible hose, out from the faucet. This eliminates the need for a separate hose spray.
- The system is available in such designer finishes as warm sand, crisp glacier and bright chrome.
- The faucet has a battery-operated electronic indicator to tell you when water is being filtered and when to change a filter cartridge.
- There are three operating modes selected by convenient fingertip buttons: an aerated stream for everyday kitchen use; a wide, forceful spray for easy cleanup; and filtered water for drinking or cooking. The first two modes bypass the filter to prolong its life.
- An ergonomic design fits any hand size comfortably while smooth surfaces allow easy cleaning.

To learn more about the PureTouch system, call 1-800-BUY MOEN or visit www.moen.com on the Internet.

FREE FOR THE ASKING

It's Easy to Keep Soil Fit and Healthy

(MS) — In gardening, good soil is the foundation that you need to create landscape masterpieces.

Creating fit soil is not as daunting a task as it sounds. To improve soil, dig 2 inches of Canadian sphagnum peat moss into the top 6 inches of soil every year. Taking this step to prepare your yard's soil will help ensure healthy grass in no time.

To order free brochures on lawn-care tips and techniques, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 55 cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. GT99, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438. You also can visit www.peatmoss.com on the Internet. *GT997453*

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Experts Offer Tips and Techniques to Help Your Lawn Recover From Wacky Weather Damage

(MS) — From the freak storms that rained down on some parts of the country to the uncommonly warm weather that roasted the rest, El Niño definitely has left its mark.

The wacky weather wreaked havoc on lawns and gardens from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Ore., and just about everywhere in between.

However, if El Niño left your lawn weak and brown, you're not without options. Gardening experts recommend a simple technique called "top dressing" to help it recover. With a rake, spread ¼ inch to ½ inch of Canadian sphagnum peat moss over the grass. The peat moss will settle into the soil and act like a sponge, naturally holding moisture and reducing the amount of water your lawn requires. The peat moss also helps hold vital nutrients and releases them over time to feed the hungry grass.

"You also can aerate your lawn to help it recover," says Gerry Hood, president of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association. "But renting a power aerator can be expensive, so often it makes sense for several neighbors to chip in and rent one together." Aeration removes plugs of soil from a lawn, loosening compacted areas and promoting deeper grass-root growth.

"If El Niño's wrath means it's time to install an entire brand-new lawn, don't panic. Taking a few steps to properly prepare your yard's soil will help ensure healthy grass in no time.

Dig or rototill 2 inches of peat moss into the top 6 inches of your soil to help condition it and lay the groundwork for a lush, green yard. Then, after you break up any lumps and level the soil, either spread high-quality grass seeds or lay the sod, and water lightly. And, remember to moisten the seeded or sodded area at least once a day (more during hot or dry periods) for two to three weeks.

To order free brochures on lawn-care tips and techniques, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 55¢ cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. GT99, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438. You also can visit the company's Web site at www.peatmoss.com.

FOR THE HEALTHIEST GRASS, naturally, spread ¼ inch to ½ inch of peat moss over the entire lawn every two years.

IN 1997, severe weather inflicted more than $8 billion in damage to homes in the United States. CertainTeed's vinyl siding with RigidForm™ technology gives your home protection with special engineering that resists heavy winds. *SH997283*

Explore Exterior Colors With Free Online Tools

(MS) — Is your house starting to look down in the dumps? If you're mulling over an exterior make-over, you can ease into the process with free online tools for computer users.

At the Rollex Corp. Web site (http://www.rollex.com), the interactive "Designer Color Tool" helps get your creative juices flowing. It lets you mix and match colors of siding and related products on a sample house. "The High-Tech Home," a syndicated newspaper column, called this point-and-click color palette "a very cool feature."

First, choose a roof color that matches your own. Then, explore lines of maintenance-free aluminum, vinyl and steel siding, each with its own color offerings. You'll find about a dozen siding colors, a dozen trim colors, and 23 colors of soffit, fascia, and "rainware" (gutters and downspouts) for thousands of combinations. (Designers recommend using no more than three colors.)

Soffit? Fascia? For the jargon-challenged, Rollex's Web site includes a searchable glossary designed like an illustrated encyclopedia of construction terminology. Here, you'll come face to face with fascia: "a horizontal facing board that runs beneath and is attached to the roof rafters of a home."

A detail view in the color tool area lets you zoom in on an upper-level corner of the sample house for a closer look at how all the elements work together.

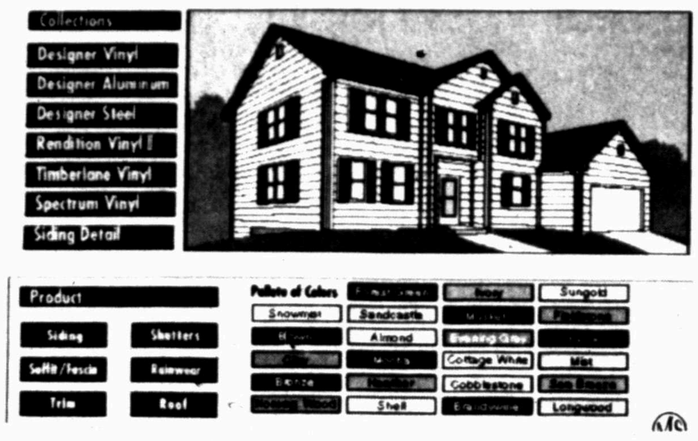
For professional color guidance, head to the site's "Color Reference Guide" to see suggested combinations.

"Since it's only a simulation, you can let your imagination run free," says Gary Heitsch, marketing services manager for Rollex, manufacturer of vinyl, aluminum and steel siding-system products. "Some users enjoy concocting off-the-wall color combinations that would gross out the neighbors."

Since a computer gives only a rough idea of product colors, the ultimate test is to get product samples and hold them up in front of your house in natural daylight, building professionals say.

"Your exterior remodeling is something you and your neighbors will have to live with for years to come," Heitsch notes. "You can hide an ugly sofa by closing the curtains. An inferior exterior is on permanent public display," he says.

For those who don't have Internet access or prefer to browse off-line, the entire contents of the company's Web site are available on a free Windows PC-compatible CD-ROM. To order the CD, write to Rollex Corp., CD Offer, 2001 Lunt Ave., Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.



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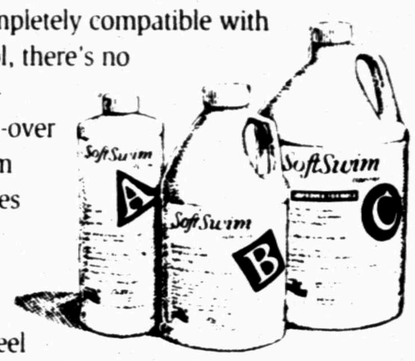

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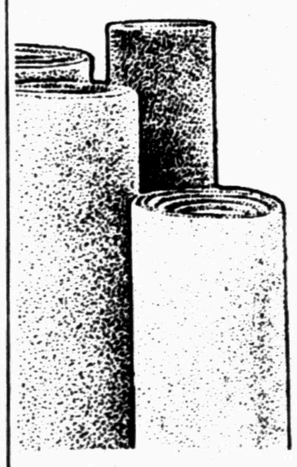

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