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WT-Int. Crude - $35.58
WTIC Posted - $32.25
Natural Gas - $6.100

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Feb. 24, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 257
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Lou Meadows

For May 3 election...

Hermleigh board has contested races

Hermleigh ISD has had four candidates file for three positions on its school board and is currently the only entity guaranteed to have an election on May 3.

School boards and city councils can vote not to hold an election if there are no contested races.

Incumbents Tim Dacus and Joe Roemisch have filed for another term at Hermleigh, and they will be challenged by Benny Sauceda and Jimmy Digby.

Dacus was first elected to the Hermleigh board in 1996, and Roemisch was elected last year to fill a one-year unexpired term.

Dacus works for Sun Oil Co. as an electrical technician. He and his wife, Tiny, have a son, Dustin, in the fifth grade at Hermleigh, and a daughter, Delinda, a third grader.

Roemisch is the president of Production Pump and he and his wife, Debbie, have a daughter, Jennifer, attending McMurry, and a son, Jeremy, attending Western Texas College.

Sauceda works for bp Pipeline and he and his wife, Adelpha, have a daughter, Reecie, who is a senior at Hermleigh High School, and two small children. Louis Fernando is four, and Claudia is two.

Digby works for BJB Construction and he has a son, Zachary, who is in kindergarten.

The term of Alan Culp also is expiring at Hermleigh.

Two incumbent members of the Snyder school board filed for another term last week.

Mike Levens, Place 2, and Richard Chambers, Place 3, both will seek re-election.

At Ira, Dennis Taylor filed for his second term last week, and Shane Smith filed this morning.

Smith is seeking his first full term as he was elected to a one-year unexpired term last spring after being appointed to fill out an unexpired term. Smith works for Ira Pump and Supply.

He and his wife, DeDe, have two children. Ashton is in the ninth grade and Jordan is a seventh grader.

Last week, Snyder Mayor Francene Noah filed for her second term.

In addition to the mayor's post on the Snyder city council, the terms of at-large members Terry Martin and John Reed are up for election this spring.

The deadline for filing for any of the offices is March 19, and the last day to register to vote is April 13. Early voting begins April 3.

Western Texas College will not have a trustee election this year as college board terms expire only in even years.



BRAVING THE COLD — City workers Samual Arizmendi (left) and Wayne Kimery were bundled up this morning as they worked on water lines at 27th Street and Ave. Z. Temperatures hovered at 17 degrees and the wind chill was zero. (SDN Staff Photo)

Snyder students start TAKS

Snyder students will join their counterparts across Texas in taking the new Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests (TAKS) beginning Tuesday.

The TAKS is replacing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) and will test more students, and is expected to be more difficult.

Grades four and seven will take the TAKS writing test Tuesday, while ninth graders will take the reading portion. Students in grades 10 and 11 will take the Language Arts portion of the test.

Also on Tuesday, some juniors and seniors at Snyder High School will take the TAAS exit level writing re-test. This is for students who have not yet passed the TAAS.

On Wednesday, 11th and 12th grade students who have not passed the exit level math portion of the TAAS will be re-tested, and on Thursday, 11th and 12th grade students who have not passed the exit level reading test will be re-tested.

The TAKS is a result of a 1999 Texas Legislature bill that is part of a district's accountability system put in place by the Texas Education Agency.

The assessment is part of the accountability system that evaluates districts and campuses based on factors such as test scores, dropout rates and attendance.

U.S. hoping to move troops into Turkey

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States hopes to begin moving troops and equipment into Turkey as early as this week, preparing for an expected second front in a possible war with Iraq, Pentagon officials said Saturday.

They confirmed a tentative agreement on U.S. aid to Turkey, whose parliament could vote on the deal Tuesday. A Turkish official said the deal involved $5 billion in grants and $10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States.

But several U.S. officials said significant issues were still under negotiation. One American official said talks centered on the complex terms of the loan.

Turkey, a NATO ally and Iraq's northern neighbor, is pivotal for the Pentagon's plans for a two-pronged invasion of Iraq if President Bush decides on war. Talks dragged on for weeks on the U.S. request to base tens of thousands of troops in Turkey, whose citizens overwhelmingly oppose military action in Iraq.

At least a half-dozen U.S. military ships are waiting off Turkey's coast, part of a flotilla of more than three dozen vessels carrying equipment and supplies for the American ground troops.

In Crawford, where the president was spending the weekend on his ranch, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said negotiations on final details of the deal with Turkey were continuing.

"And I anticipate they will continue for a little bit longer. I think it's fair to say that nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to," Fleischer said.

U.S. war plans call for the Army's 4th Infantry Division, supported by elements of the 1st Infantry Division, to gather in Turkey for a possible thrust south toward Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and the capital of Baghdad.

The 4th Infantry's 17,000 troops are on alert for deployment but remain at their home bases — Fort Hood and Fort Carson, Colo. They would be flown to Turkey on passenger planes.

Pentagon officials and military analysts say attacking Saddam's military from two directions would mean a quicker battle with less risk for U.S. and allied military forces. Tens of thousands of U.S. troops already are massing in Kuwait, along Iraq's southern border.

Some details of the U.S.-Turkish pact still had to be worked out, officials from both countries said Saturday. Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul said Saturday that the Cabinet would take up the issue of basing U.S. troops in the country, but did not give a date.

Governors, Bush to eye Medicaid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to win federal assistance for states' ailing finances, the nation's governors head to the White House for a meeting with President Bush and top administration officials to discuss Medicaid and homeland security.

Bush was to sit down today with the states' top elected officials, who gathered in Washington over the weekend for four days of meetings on how they can work with the federal government to fix some of their most troubling problems.

Welcoming the governors and their spouses to a formal dinner Sunday night, Bush recalled the good advice his counterparts gave him when he was governor of Texas. He listed the responsibilities he and the governors shared — homeland security, job creation, affordable health care. "We'll meet them together," he said.

States are in their third year of shrinking revenues and budget cuts, with some $30 billion of additional cuts overall needed in the next few months. Next year looks even worse, with governors predicting an $82 billion gap between spending demands and their weak tax revenue.

Plans for the meeting with Bush caused partisan friction among the governors, as Democrats complained the administration was setting limits on the usually free exchange of ideas. They said the White House planned to allow just two questions that had to be approved before the gathering.

White House officials promised a wide-ranging exchange.

Republican Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, vice chairman of the National Governors Association, said he was confident the meeting would be open and constructive. He said he was asked to give the administration his question beforehand "so no one's caught flatfooted."

Kempthorne said the constraints were more about the demands on Bush's time than anything else, and that he expected the limits would be put aside. "He's going to want to talk with the governors. That's his style," he said.

Republican Bill Owens of Colorado complained that Democrats were politicizing the annual sit-down. "When Republicans met with President Clinton, we didn't whine over what points of access we had," said Owens, who heads the Republican Governors Association. "We treated the president with respect."

On Sunday, a proposal to ask Washington for "immediate federal fiscal relief" to help states cover their budget shortfalls and spur their economies.



MUSICAL TO DEBUT THURSDAY — Snyder Junior High School's *Bye Bye Birdie* will open at 7 p.m. Thursday at the school auditorium. Sydney Wright, who plays Kim MacAfee, is pictured blowing kisses to a poster of rock star Conrad Birdie, played by Ramsey Herrera. Tickets are $5. Other performances are set for Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

ASK US

Q—What is the wind chill factor?

A—It is a measure of how quickly the body loses heat. It is not the same as a thermometer reading. At 11 a.m. today, the temperature here was 17 degrees, with wind chill of zero.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Marilena Marshall...

...is a substitute teacher mainly at West and Central. Her husband, Tommy, drives an oil truck. They have a daughter, Margaret, who attends Northeast. Marilena likes to read to children and work with them. The Marshalls moved to Snyder last October.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got.
—Betty Ford

At 7:30 a.m...

DCOS board meets Tuesday

The board of directors of the Development Corporation of Snyder will meet at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Agenda items for the meeting set for the DCOS offices in the American State Bank building include the monthly report from executive director John DeLille, and the January financial statements.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Why Right is Right," followed by "Advice to Those Who Marry."

Technology booster meeting

The SHS Technology Student Association booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the shop classroom to discuss the trip to Waco.

Scurry County welfare board meeting

The Scurry County welfare board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center.

Horseshoe pitching tourney

Horseshoe pitching team members and anyone else interested are to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the chamber of commerce to plan an upcoming tournament.

Ira ISD pictures proofs

The picture proofs for Ira ISD casual pictures and friendship pictures have been passed out to students. Envelopes are also available to purchase copies of each class group picture. Proofs must be returned by Tuesday with or without purchasing a package of pictures.

Weather spotter training

The National Weather Service will conduct a Skywarn spotter training class from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Snyder Fire Station, 1911 27th. Any interested person is invited.

Community garden planning

A planning meeting for the 2003 community garden will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Persons interested in growing food for the needy, or having a family garden at the site are welcome.

Genealogical Society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Scurry County Library. The program will be "Stories of Early Transportation: Horse and Buggy Days."

MAWC game day

Martha Ann Woman's Club will have its fourth Wednesday luncheon and game day beginning at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Cost is $8. Reservations should be made by calling 573-3427 by Tuesday afternoon.

SJHS's *Bye Bye Birdie*

Snyder Junior High School drama and choir departments will present *Bye Bye Birdie*, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and March 3-4 at the junior high auditorium. Tickets are $5 each and all seats are reserved.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

Scurry Lodge 706 to meet

Scurry Lodge #706 AF&AM will have a called meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday for work in the Fellowcraft and Master Degree. All Master Masons are invited.

GED pre-registration and testing dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED tests will be Thursday at the GED testing center at WTC in building 7B. Testing will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The math portion of the test will be given at 8 a.m. Friday. For more information about the GED test, call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

Snyder Oaks family council

The family council of Snyder Oaks Care Center will meet from 6:30-7:30 Thursday. The meeting is for resident's family members for a program presented by Brenda Elkins of the Area Agency of Aging.

Chicken spaghetti fundraiser

Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection will host a chicken spaghetti fundraiser Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Tickets are $6 for adults and $4 for children 6-12 and persons 50 and older. Carry-out orders will be available. Call 573-1141 or 574-1931 to purchase tickets or come by 2513 College Ave.

Stanfield book fair

The Stanfield book fair will be held from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. March 3-6. Sales will benefit the school library.

Stanfield Muffins for Moms

In observance of Public School Week, Stanfield Elementary will host Muffins for Moms Tuesday, March 4, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

Withered flowers needed

The First Assembly of God youth group is needing withered flowers for a project. Call Camelia Soa at 574-2922 to have them picked up.

Trees still available

The Soil and Water Conservation office still has several varieties of trees available at $1 each. These include Lace Bark Elm, Sand Plums, Russian Olive, Honeylocust, Amur Honeysuckle, Desert Willow, Pinyon Pine and Aromatic Sumac. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

Private, memorial services held for teen

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Family and friends planned private and public memorial services for the Mexican teenager who survived a botched heart-lung transplant but died two days after receiving a second set of organs.

Meanwhile, medical examiners are trying to determine what ultimately killed Jesica Santillan. A lawyer for the 17-year-old's family said an autopsy planned today was appropriate.

"We just want to make sure we know what the cause of death was," attorney Kurt Dixon said Sunday. "If there's going to be legal action down the road, you want to have a definite cause of death. You don't want to speculate about that."

Two memorial services — one public and another private — were scheduled for Tuesday, said Mack Mahoney, a family friend and Jesica's chief benefactor. He said he believed the family would return her body to Mexico for burial.

On Sunday, family, friends and strangers gathered at a church prayer service and at a vigil outside the hospital where Jesica died.

Some who knew Jesica only from news stories joined her former teachers and parishioners at Our Lady of the Rosary Church for a Mass in Spanish.

"The least we can do is come to pray for her and her family," said John Montoya, who came with his wife, children and parents.

Candles burned beside a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico. Below was a picture of Jesica dressed as the saint for her role in the church children's play in December.

In Durham, more than 60 people prayed the rosary across the street from Duke University Medical Center. They lit candles and released white balloons to symbolize Jesica's freedom from pain.

Jesica, whose own heart had a deformity that kept her lungs from getting oxygen into her blood, died Saturday.

She never regained consciousness after her first heart-lung transplant, which her body rejected because the organs didn't match her blood type. Doctors said they didn't check the compatibility before surgery began Feb. 7.

By the time a matching set of organs was implanted Thursday, she was near death. The new organs performed well, but Jesica's brain had swelled and was bleeding Friday.

Dixon said doctors took Jesica off life support before her family could contact other physicians to get a second opinion on her condition.

Dr. James Jaggers, the transplant surgeon, said in a taped statement released Saturday that he had hoped Jesica would be "one of those lucky few."

"Unfortunately, in this case, human errors were made during the process" to match the organs with the patient, he said. "I hope that we, and others, can learn from this tragic mistake."

Jesica's family had paid a smuggler to bring them from their small town near Guadalajara, Mexico, to the United States so she could get the medical care, relatives have said.

Tourist said in critical condition after being run over by police SUV

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A French tourist was in critical condition early today, two days after her sister was killed when a police sport utility vehicle ran the women over as they sunbathed on a beach.

Sandrine Tunc, 26, was in critical but stable condition in intensive care at Jackson Memorial Hospital, spokeswoman Conchita Ruiz-Topinka said. Her parents arrived in Miami late Sunday.

Tunc and her sister, Stephanie, 27, were struck by the SUV as they lay on a crowded beach Saturday, authorities said. Officer George Varon apparently didn't see the two as he searched for robbery suspects who had been reported nearby.

Varon, a seven-year veteran, was placed on administrative leave while the accident was under investigation. He wasn't using a siren and witnesses said the women didn't see his vehicle coming.

Police said the vacationing sisters lived in Britain, but did not say where in Britain or where they were from in France.

Few sunbathers were on the beach Sunday afternoon under overcast skies. Nothing remained at the accident scene except tire tracks.

Anthony Holdgate of Essex, England, was lying on the sand Sunday near where the sisters were struck. The vacationer said people were now driving more cautiously along the beach.

"They're looking twice now at least," Holdgate said.

Another European sunbather was killed in a similar accident in 1993. Christa Emilie, 67, of Berlin, was struck by a police car on New Smyrna Beach.

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Today's chuckle

Bank teller's mistake leads to theft charges

BELVIDERE, N.J. (AP) — A man who tried to profit from a bank teller's mistake could learn the hard way: It doesn't pay to be dishonest.



Charles A. Delvecchio Jr., 36, who received $2,600 from a bank teller when he cashed a check for about $26, has been charged with theft.

Prosecutors said the error was made when Delvecchio went to a Fleet Bank branch April 3, and he left without reporting the mistake.

Bank officials contacted Delvecchio when they discovered the error, but they said he refused to return the money. He was arrested the next day and the money was recovered, authorities said.

Delvecchio was indicted this week by a Warren County grand jury, and faces up to five years in state prison if convicted.

Date Book

Monday, Feb. 24, 2003

Today is the 55th day of 2003 and the 65th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 11 articles of impeachment against Andrew Johnson.

On this day in 1946, Juan Domingo Peron was elected president of Argentina.

On this day in 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-0 in favor of overturning a lower courts ruling in the case of Hustler magazine and Larry C. Flint v. Jerry Falwell. The case resulted from a parody the magazine published regarding Moral Majority head Jerry Falwell, which the Supreme Court ruled was within the magazine's First Amendment rights to run.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Wilhelm Carl Grimm (1786-1859), writer; Winslow Homer (1836-1910), artist; Abe Vigoda (1921-), actor, is 82; Joseph I. Lieberman (1942-), senator, is 61; Steven Jobs (1955-), co-founder of Apple computer company, is 48; Paula Zahn (1956-), television personality, is 47.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1980, the United States Olympic hockey team defeated Finland and won the gold medal at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I want to put a ding in the universe." — Steve Jobs

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Feb. 23) and new moon (March 2).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $7 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 08-20-29-37-41-51.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $9 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-4-9
(Night) 6-8-7
Cash Five
6-10-12-14-35

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War prospects are added worries for married couples

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The mobilization of forces for possible war with Iraq involves something that may be new to the annals of warfare — married couples in uniform.

With the numbers of women in uniform swelling in the ranks of U.S. forces, young soldiers of both genders are meeting, courting and marrying. Today, one of every 10 active-duty troopers in the U.S. Army is married to another soldier, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Maj. Maria Zumwalt, executive officer of the 13th Corps Support Command's 2nd Chemical Battalion, has been ordered to Kuwait as part of a huge troop buildup forming south of Iraq. Her husband, Maj. Timothy Zumwalt, is comptroller with the 4th Infantry Division and most likely will be ordered to Turkey, where he'll join a large force expected to swoop into northern Iraq next month.

The Fort Hood couple have a daughter Carson, 2, and two sons Rio, 9, and Jack, 4. With war brewing, their stresses grow.

"It's hard, especially in this job that requires me to be here very, very long hours," Maria Zumwalt told the newspaper. "As soon as you walk into the battalion you have to take that sadness and a little bit of frustration you have of not being able to be there for your kids and put on a new face, and it's like, everything is good."

Like the Zumwalts, who met at Fort Riley, Kan., in 1991, the couples might have brief courtships, then negotiate with commanders to assure they are assigned to the same installations.

The first vehicle for change was the all-volunteer force that replaced the draft in 1974. In 1973 four of five soldiers were single and the average age was 22. Today, a little over half of its troops are married, and the average age is 27. Single parents make up just under 8 percent of the Army, and 47 percent of soldiers have kids.

Some things took time to change. Single female soldiers who got pregnant were forced out of the Army until the early 1980s. Single and married women were then given the choice to serve until the baby was born or stay on active duty.

The choice is still offered, but dual-military and single-parent soldiers must meet the terms of the Defense Department's Family Care Plan to stay in uniform. The plan, in use since the mid-1980s, is a legal document that requires the Zumwalts and other soldiers to place their children with surrogate parents while they are deployed.

Under the plan, Carson, Jack and Rio must have a second permanent home if their parents do not return from Iraq — a real possibility in this war. Maria Zumwalt's 2nd Chemical Battalion will be responsible for finding chemical and biological weapons that U.S. troops might face in Iraq.

"It's kind of like your whole life flashes in front of you because you know that you're going to miss a lot of things just in the time you're going to be gone, and we don't know how long we're going to be gone," said Maria, 37, a resident of Harker Heights near Killeen and a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Sgt. Ester Minor is a Temple native and divorced mother of a 4-year-old girl who took advantage of enlistment rules that allowed her to choose where she can be posted. In her case, she chose Fort Hood, near her parents and ex-husband, Louie. Her daughter, Alexandra, will stay with her father in nearby Belton.

"She doesn't understand why I have to leave, but she understands that I am leaving and I don't know when I'm going to be back," Minor said of her daughter. She said she has tried to explain the reasons for her leaving, but she said, "the only thing she sees, the only thing she hears, is that I'm not going to be here. She doesn't really care why."

Said Maria Zumwalt: "You're always thinking, this is a personal choice we made. No one made you raise your hand, but this is what we get paid for and this is what we trained for and there's no turning around now. Not even for the kids, as harsh as that may sound."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003

Don't be afraid to take a chance on your own conceptions in the year ahead. Ventures that you personally take control of and direct could be earmarked for large successes.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Should you get involved in a new venture today, don't worry too much about the financial aspects involved. If you put the other pieces together properly, all should fall into place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Once you establish an objective today, don't let your eyes drift off of your target. If you are bold and persistent, success will not elude you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You are presently in a very hopeful cycle in which, if you want something badly enough, you will be able to figure out ways to acquire it. Don't lower your expectations or goals today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Pull out all the stops and go for the gold at this time. Starting today and lasting all week, your chances for finding success in your ambitious interests are better than usual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Now is the time to move on any matter you have thoroughly studied and understand well. You're in a cycle for action, not contemplation or further reflection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Even though it may not be too obvious at this time, something you are presently working on with another could turn out to be rewarding. Today may show the first signs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — This is the time to take measures to shore up any relationship you have with those who are important to you. Conditions are exceptionally good today for mending fences and healing hearts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Tie up any loose threads in all projects that you've left dangling. You're sharper than usual and you might even surprise yourself as to how much you can get done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Today you could be the recipient of some good news about how well you're accepted and liked by a particular person or a new group with whom you've become palsy-walsy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If your financial picture has been solid or is starting to brighten up a bit, today may be a good day to go shopping for personal items and items for your home or family. It'll give you a lift.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Ways can be found today to advance a personal interest or overcome obstructions that have been in your path for far too long. Your communication skills are better than usual.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — A situation about which you've been concerned looks like it can be worked out favorably for you today. For the first time in a long time, you'll be free from negative interference.

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3 PC COFFEE TABLE & END TABLE SET Glass Top-Black With Brass Accent Base. Reg. $99.95 SALE $49

FUTON SOFA With thick pad - sturdy built sofa by day - sleeps 2 people by night Reg. $249.95 SALE $149

5 PC. FAMILY ROOM GROUP Sofa, Rocker, Chair and 2 End Tables, Closeout, Reg. $599.95 SALE $299

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6 PC TRADITIONAL BEDROOM In mint and natural color. Reg. $1,499.95 SALE $797

7 PC CONTEMPORY BEDROOM In a rich natural color. Includes headboard, footboard, rails, dresser, mirror, chest, nightstand Reg.$1599.95 SALE $788

5 PC BEDROOM includes large dresser, hutch, mirror, bookcase headboard, nightstand chest. Reg. $699.95 SALE $447

6 PC BEDRO... dresser, hutch... nightstand, canno... and foot. Reg. $1199.... SALE ...688

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5 PC. CONTEMPORY WROUGHT I... TABLE with delux... 1 only Reg. $799.... SALE $3...

7 PC CHERRY LA... TABLE With 6 delu... chairs, ...1 only - Reg. $949.9... SA... ...17

8 PC. NA... WOOD DINING... ...$388

EN...

...L BAR ...SALE ...and colors SA... $24 & Up

SOLID WOOD LARGE DRESSER Hutch mirror and nightstand, close-out price Reg. $799.95 SALE $338

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4 DRAWER CHEST Good storage space, nice wood grain finish, 2 per family Reg. $69.95 SALE $33

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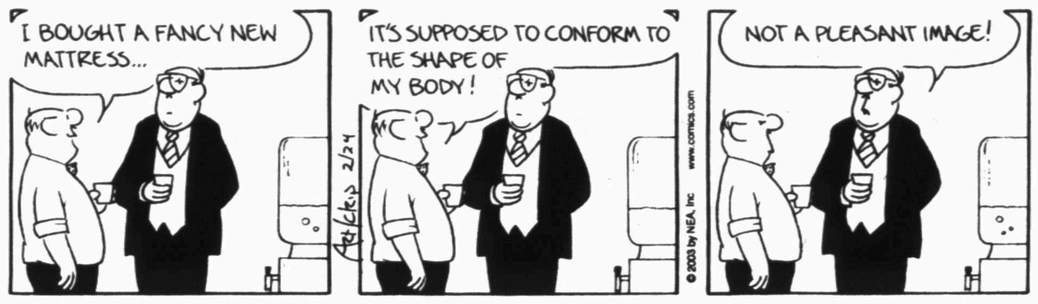
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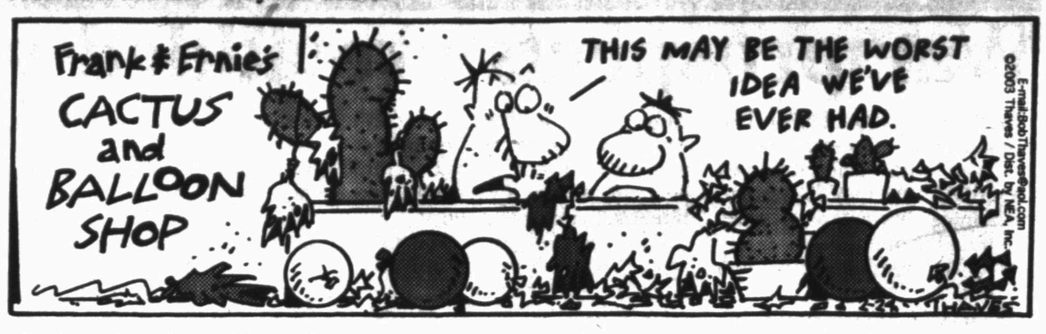
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Weird
4 Imitated
8 Honeycomb
11 Flag down
13 It may be spliced
14 Raw metal
15 Cancel
16 Storm about
17 Cargo hauler
18 Shaped like the earth
20 Goat cheese
21 Sultry — West
22 Door opener
24 Wanderer
27 Refusal
30 Casts a vote
31 Musicians' stints
32 Dana or Damone
34 Beat the field
35 Soft caps
36 Marketed
37 Getaway
39 Family members
40 Census info
41 Semi's front
42 PC owner
45 Whine
49 Tennis stroke
50 Fiber source
53 Doing nothing
54 Pen point
55 "— Ha'i"
56 Clucking sounds
57 Yankovic and Molinaro
58 Stylish
59 Part of i.e.

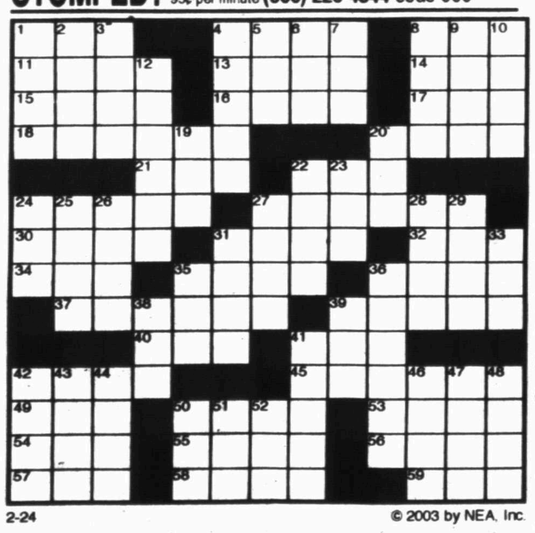
DOWN

1 Klutz's cry (2 wds.)
2 Smear
3 Pickling herb
4 See eye to eye
5 Pod vegetable
6 MIT grad
7 Billy — Williams
8 Made cloth
9 Smell — —
10 Lucy Lawless role
12 Andes ruminants
19 Smidgen
20 Memo acronym
22 Barbecue extras
23 Naval off.
24 Currently
25 Sheriff Taylor's kid
26 Atlas abbr.
27 Thin coin
28 Stratford's river
29 Graceful rhythm
31 Stare at
33 PC media
35 The "it" game
36 Yield
38 Kind of pool
39 Bond rating
41 Skeptic
42 Longest arm bone
43 Plant's need
44 Wanes
46 Store stock (abbr.)
47 Wapitis
48 Lie down
50 London radio
51 Super Bowl roar
52 Muhammad —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	A	B			F	I	T		Q	U	A	D
O	B	I		U	R	N	S		U	R	S	A
O	L	D		N	I	C	K		E	A	S	Y
	Y	E	L	P	S			M	E	L	T	
			O	A	K		D	E	N			
B	L	A	N	C		W	A	T	S	O	N	
R	E	N		K	N	E	W			S	U	E
A	G	O			U	L	N	A		L	B	S
	O	N	E	I	L	L		G	L	O	S	S
			C	O	L		R	A	E			
	L	U	L	U			E	V	A	D	E	
T	U	N	A		D	O	S	E		U	S	E
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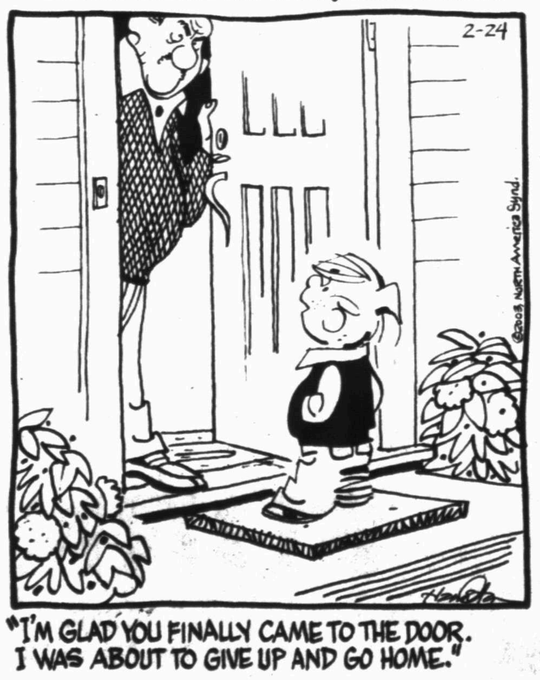
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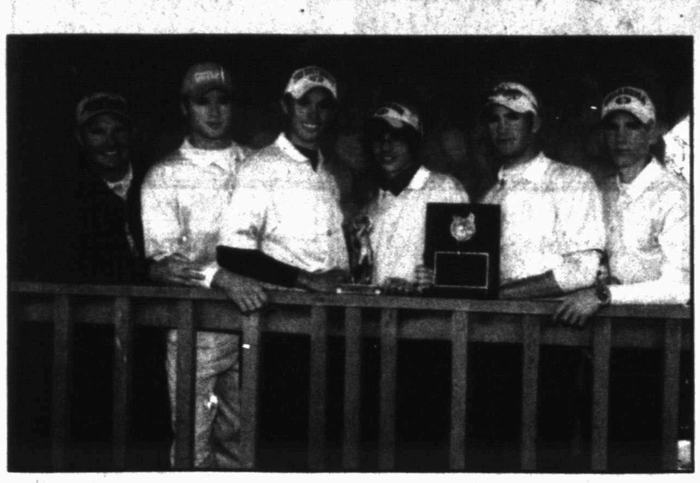
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY CAME TO THE DOOR. I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP AND GO HOME."

SPORTS



TOURNEY CHAMPS — The Snyder varsity golfers took first place at the Tall City Invitational in Midland this weekend. They are, from left, Coach Matt Glenn, Zach Starnes, Brady Reed, Matt McCormick, Stafford Gray and Alan Gray. (Contributed Photo)

Tigers split twinbill at Pecos

PECOS — The Snyder Tigers salvaged the second game of a Saturday twinbill at Pecos Saturday after letting the first one slip away.

"It was a great learning experience for us," said head coach Charles Bollinger. "We hadn't been on the field for three days, and we were counting on the guys remembering the routine from practice. And we saw how important that is."

The Tigers dropped the first game, 7-6, after leading 6-3 heading into the sixth.

Bollinger said the team had mental lapses, especially on defense, which came to the forefront in the bottom of the sixth, as Pecos scored four in the frame to steal the win.

"We just had too many mental errors," Bollinger said. "We got lackadaisical. That's why we play preseason, to correct these things, but I was disappointed in the mental aspect."

He said the team began to play to protect the lead instead of just playing relaxed, and that mindset was reflected in the way the defense approached the ball.

"We gave them extra outs," Bollinger said.

Chance Greenwood pitched five innings, giving up two earned runs and striking out five on four hits.

Greenwood was two-for-three with two singles. Marcus Villarreal smashed two doubles and drove in a run, and left fielder Marcus Rodriguez was one-for-three with an RBI.

"Pecos is a scrappy group," Bollinger said. "It was typical Pecos-Snyder games. You come to Pecos, you better play the whole seven innings, or you're going to get beat."

In the second game, the Tigers fell behind 3-0 and went into the seventh inning trailing 9-6, before a five-run explosion gave the team the split in the doubleheader.

Bradley Price tied the game with a bases-loaded walk, and Rodriguez drilled a two-run single in the next at-bat to put the Tigers up to stay, 11-9.

Logan Hill pitched three shutout innings for the victory.

Greenwood swung the hot bat Saturday, pulling Snyder back into the second game with a three-run bomb in the third inning. He was three-for-five in the tilt.

Shawn Roemisch was three-for-four with a RBI, and Villarreal slapped a double in the seventh inning comeback.

The pitching staff also stepped up to help out, as Tyler Trout got the start and lasted less than an inning, walking three batters in the opening frame. Ty Collier, who pitched four innings before giving way to Hill, relieved him.

"Some of our guys didn't have great games, and other guys stepped up," Bollinger said. "Marcus Rodriguez played well. He was in a tense situation (bases loaded) in the seventh, and he stroked it right up the middle. That's what we're working on — don't feel the pressure, just play ball. We need to realize that this is a team game, and if you don't approach it that way, you're going to be in trouble."

Tonight's scheduled game against Trinity Christian has been postponed until Tuesday at 5 p.m. due to cold weather.

Snyder wins Tall City

The varsity Tigers smoked the field at the Tall City Invitational in Midland last weekend, besting their nearest competitor in Division III, Abilene Wylie, by 10 strokes with a team total of 625.

"I think we had sparks," head coach Matt Glenn said. "We haven't put all four scores together yet."

Stafford Gray paced the Tigers with a team-best 153, followed by Brady Reed's 157.

Both Snyder golfers turned on the heat on day two, bettering their day-one scores by five strokes each.

Zach Starnes led all players at the end of day one with a two-under-par 70, but he carded an 89 on day two to finish the tourney with a 159.

Tiger Matt McCormick also picked up five strokes, carding an 83 and a 78 for a total of 161.

The Tigers' number-five player, Alan Gray, shot an 86 and an 84 for a 170, but only the top four scores are included in the team total.

"It's nice to win, but you always want to play to your potential," Glenn said. "We have had one or two kids go low and the others are high. If we can get all four clicking, we'll be a great team."

Team standings:
1. Snyder 625, 2. Abilene Wylie 635, 3. Monahans 636, 4. Memphis 651 5. Pecos 655, 6. Permian 660, 7. Canyon 661, 8. Dalhart 666, 9. Tie; Van Horn 672, Trinity 672, 10. Greenwood 683, 11. Seminole 688, 12. M. Christian 695, 13. Borger 701, 14. Odessa 704, 15. Fort Stockton 705, 16. Sweetwater 757, 17. Iowa Park 798.

WTC loses starter at El Paso

The Western Texas College baseball squad's struggles continued last weekend, only this time the team lost more than a game.

Shaun Hansen, the Westerner's most consistent pitcher this season, was lost for the rest of the season Saturday with torn ligaments in his left (pitching) shoulder.

"It hurts bad," assistant coach Billy Hefflinger said. "He is our number one pitcher, and he could eat innings. Hopefully someone will step up and take those innings for us."

After dropping both games Friday, 8-1 and 11-5, WTC (4-13, 0-4) got a solid outing from southpaw Cody Guzman, only to see the defense collapse in the 5-2 defeat.

Guzman gave up just one earned run around four Westerner errors, before he went down with a strained groin.

Hefflinger said the team is hopeful that Guzman will be available for this weekend's pair of doubleheaders against Howard College.

Snyder native Shay Franks was rocked in the second game at El Paso Sunday, as WTC was pounded 23-8 in the finale.

Tyrrell Henley was two-for-four with two doubles.

Hefflinger said the pitching failed in the second tilt, as El Paso banged out 23 hits.

"The pitching didn't have it. They were leaving everything belt-high," he said, adding that El Paso is a quality team that was one series away from the College World Series last year.

Hefflinger said the recent struggles haven't dampened the spirit of the squad, which has hit the ball at a .304 clip this season and had some solid pitching performances wasted by the defense.

"We're fine, we just need to pick it up. The staff is throwing too many pitches, but we'll be all right if we can cut down on our errors," he said. "If we can take care of Howard, we can get back to .500 in conference."

The Westerners will host Howard in twinbills on Friday and Saturday, with the first game each day beginning at noon.

Lady Dusters sweep Cisco

With monsoon-like conditions in the Dallas metroplex last weekend, the Lady Dusters returned home looking to get some real-game action.

What they got was two more games against Cisco, which the Lady Dusters (11-1, 2-0) handled 10-2 and 10-0 in a doubleheader Sunday at Cates Field, improving to 5-0 against Cisco on the season.

"We are playing well — against the same team," said head coach Rodney McNeill. "The last two weekends would have been a step up in talent for us, but I've been preaching to the girls about not worrying about the things we have no control over. We go play who we have to play and take care of them."

Patricia Gonzales and Amber House combined to throw five innings of shutout ball in the opener.

Gonzales (5-1) struck out three and gave up three hits through three, while House retired the last six Cisco batters in relief.

The Lady Dusters jumped on Cisco early, plating six runners in the initial frame.

Katy Moore and Crystal Martinez each went three-for-four with 3 RBI, and both launched long home runs.

Amber Taylor and Tabitha Rodriguez were two-for-three with an RBI apiece.

Brandy Jordan (4-0) and Sarah Thornton combined to strike out five through six innings in the 10-2 win in the finale.

WTC gained the victory despite leaving nine runners stranded.

The team connected for 14 hits in the contest, hitting .453 in the doubleheader.

Taylor was three-for-four with a run and three RBI, and Candace Dupree was three-for-four with a three-run double.

Dupree also swiped a base in the tilt.

The Dusters will begin the conference schedule in earnest this week, with 10 conference games on tap.

The team was scheduled to play Odessa College in a twinbill Tuesday. Those games have been tentatively rescheduled for Wednesday at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Snyder netters grab second place at ECISD Invitational

One more tournament, one more step towards state.

The Snyder tennis team finished in second place behind Midland High at the Ector County Independent School District Invitational at Odessa last weekend.

"We had an excellent tournament," said head coach Ted Phillips.

Pat Vargas and Andra Dunham claimed first place in girls doubles, winning 6-4, 6-2 in the finals.

Tanner Reed finished in second in the boys singles, after falling to Midland High's Marcos Valdez in the championship match. Valdez has been to the state meet in Class 5-A.

Horacio DePaz wound up in third in boys singles.

Jackie Beccue and Afton Sutter placed 12th in girls doubles, while Cozy Jones captured fourth place in singles.

Stephanie Williams finished eighth in girls singles.

The boys fared well in the doubles competition, with Curt Phillips and Adam Rodgers earning fifth, and Joe Ynguanzo and Matt Hale placing 12th.

The team will compete in the Class 3-A Region I tournament this weekend in Levelland, and will advance to the state meet in Waco March 7-8 if it places first or second at the regional meet.

Team Standings:
1. Midland High
2. Snyder
3. Amarillo Tascosa
4. Odessa High
5. Odessa Permian
6. San Angelo Central
7. Big Spring
8. Borger

Three power lifters raise personal bests

Three Snyder powerlifters hoisted personal-best weights at the Lubbock High tournament Saturday.

Andrew Bane lifted 1,095 pounds for first place in the 181-pound class in Division II.

Nathan Clarady had a personal record of 940 pounds, and Catherine Johnson raised the most weight she has lifted this year with 365 pounds.

Casey Newby claimed second place in the 148-pound class in Division II with a total of 660 pounds.

Neither Tony Pena nor Robert Rios qualified in the tournament, but Pena has qualified for the regional tournament in Floydada on March 8.

Pena will represent the 123-pound class, while Josh Knox will be heading to the regional tourney in the 275-pound class.

Two other lifters from the team — Bane and Josh Montoya — are in the running as alternates at the regional tournament, but will not be named until later today.

Astros lineup taking shape

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Five days before their first spring training game in the Grapefruit League, the Houston Astros lineup is taking shape.

Team Manager Jimy Williams has named center fielder Craig Biggio as the likely leadoff hitter while shortstop Julia Lugo should be batting second. Williams said first baseman Jeff Bagwell probably will have the third spot in the lineup while outfielder Lance Berkman will bat clean up followed by newly acquired second baseman Jeff Kent batting in the fifth position.

Williams has even named Roy Oswalt the starting pitcher for the Astros opening day game at Minute Maid Park in Houston on April 1 against the Colorado Rockies.

Williams is upbeat about the wealth of veterans on the team and said he can see many players filling leadership roles this year.

"We're not looking for a speaker of the house here. We're looking for a daily leader. Maybe (pitcher Wade) Miller can lead today and Oswalt tomorrow. Biggio can lead the next day and Bagwell the day after that. They have enough to think about; they have enough to do, they have enough to focus on much less being a leader.

"I think that's over used. I think that the best way to lead is to have the team lead and look for different leaders on a daily basis. ... That's what you're looking for, to get production on a positive fashion from a lot of different folks," Williams said.

Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker said he feels "comfortable" with the group of players the club has in training camp now.

"But, everyone's undefeated this time of year," he said.

Houston has its first preseason game at home Saturday against the New York Yankees.

Sports Briefs

Tennis booster club

The tennis booster club will meet tonight at 7 in the tennis court dressing rooms.

Army paratroopers injured at race

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. (AP) — Three Army skydivers were injured Sunday when strong wind knocked them to the ground before a NASCAR race.

Two jumpers were in stable condition at a hospital and the other was in good condition.

One jumper sailed into the garage area and bounced off the top of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s hauler.

Groundhog Tournament

2003 Groundhog Tournament

Championship Flight
1. David Sharrock-John Meldicott 64-66 130; 2. Larry Anderson-Tom Lay 65-66 131; 3. Rick Hopper-Randy Hogan 65-67 132; 4. Billy Brock-Pete Greene 68-67 135; 5. (tie) Alton Patterson-Randy Weaver 67-69 136; Mike Carter-Chad Carter 67-69 136.

First Flight
1. Shawn Ragland-Kelly Ragland 67-66 133; 2. Cody Cox-Keith Mills 66-72 138; 3. Billy Wayne Harris-Russell Fisk 70-70 140; 4. Pop Kidd-Jene Steakley 68-75 143; 5. Johnny Powell-Bob Hart 69-75 144; 6. (tie) David Holt-Brandon Martin 72-73 145; James Barnhill-Stacy Ogle 73-72 145; 8. Eicke Perry-Johnny Reed 70-77 147.

Second Flight
1. James Caldwell-Paul Gobel 71-70 141; 2. Kevin Winter-Jason Marcum 69-74 143; 3. (tie) Randy Glasscock-Wes Key 74-71 145; Don Chandler-Dale Jenkins 73-72 145; 5. Gary Smith-Rick Williams 71-75 146; 6. Levi Mandrell-Danny Ogle 70-78 148; 7. Blake Rundell-Duane Deckard 73-78 151.

Third Flight
1. Eddie Benitez-Chris Palacios 75-70 145; 2. Kenny Miller-Buddy Powell 74-77 151; 3. Curt Rinehart-Mica Schoenbelen 75-77 152; 4. George Aldrete-Joe Salinas 75-81 156; 5. John Bloom-Duane Seay 80-78 158; 6. Bobby Velasquez-Adrian Ramos 78-81 159.

Fourth Flight
1. Bryan Brunson-William Cotton 77-78 155; 2. Ted Crenwelge-Scott Crenwelge 79-77 156; 3. (tie) Steve Wilson-Chuck Tylich 78-79 157; Bo Alvarez-Ruben Olvera 77-80 157; 5. Juan Escobedo-Gabe Costillo 78-83 161; 6. Keith Boyd-Mickey Nunley 81-81 162; 7. Les Rinehart-Tommy Lane 80-88 168; 8. David Hines-Dwayne Robertson 88-92 180.

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Murder suspect is caught in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — A 36-year-old man sought on murder warrants from California and Florida has been arrested in Houston.

Demorris Andy Hunter of Oakland, Calif., remained jailed in Houston pending extradition to Oakland.

The Houston Violent Crimes Task Force arrested Hunter at a house in southeastern Houston about 4 p.m. Friday, the Chronicle reported. The task force consists of FBI agents, Houston police and Harris County sheriff's deputies.

He was sought in the March 26, 2002, shooting death of Ivora Denise Huntly of Oakland. Witnesses told Oakland police they saw Hunter running from the scene.

During the Oakland police investigation of that slaying, an Orlando, Fla., court issued a warrant for Hunter charging him with murder in the May 26, 2002, strangulation of Orlando hospital secretary Theresa Ann Green, 38. Orlando police found Green's body in the trunk of an automobile, the newspaper reported.

Hunter also is charged in a federal arrest warrant issued in June with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution in the Huntly slaying.

He had been featured on the weekly television program "America's Most Wanted" and was one of the fugitives listed in the Crime Alert section of the FBI Web page.

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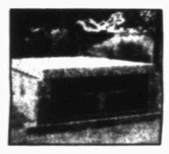
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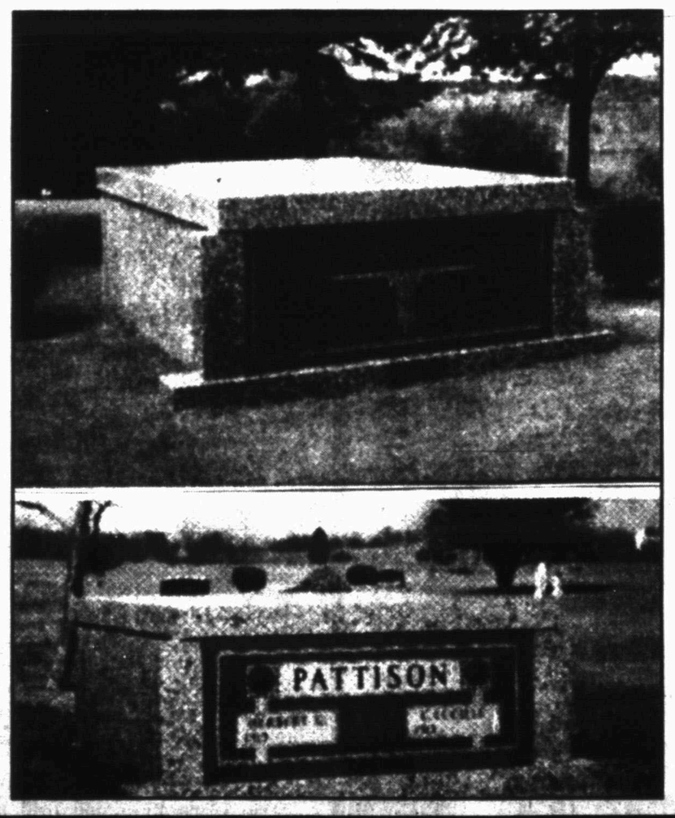
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FEB 24 2003

Fort Hood soldier dies after being shot in training exercise

FORT HOOD (AP) — The Army continues to investigate the shooting death of a Fort Hood soldier after he was shot in the back during a training exercise at a rifle range.

Sgt. Benjamin Franklin Moore II, 25, from Hamilton, Ohio, was shot while conducting M-16 night fire training at about 8:30 p.m. Friday, a Fort Hood spokesman said.

Maj. Vic Harris said initial reports indicate that Moore was engaging targets when another soldier's M16 rifle discharged accidentally in a subsequent firing order, striking Moore in the back.

Moore was airlifted to Fort Hood's Darnell Army Community Hospital, where he died shortly after arrival Friday night, Harris said.

"This is tragic accident," Harris, spokesman for the 1st Calvary Division spokesman, said. "It is highly unusual and very seldom do exercises produce any casualties."

Moore was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division's 1-9 Cav. His 24-year-old wife of about one year, Shauna Moore of Killeen, said that her husband joined the Army in April 1999 as a way to pay for college, and had been stationed in Germany and Kosovo.

Moore's family said he had been stationed at Fort Hood in Central Texas since September. Mrs. Moore joined him there in January after giving birth in December to their first child, Hanna Marie.

Mrs. Moore ssaid that she expected her husband to come home around 10 p.m. Friday, but she fell asleep waiting for him and was awakened by a knock on the door after midnight. She opened the door to find a chaplain and casualty officer.

Columbia's loss resonates at learning centers

BROWNSBURG, Ind. (AP) — The sixth-graders stand in a circle beneath the dome of a simulated night sky as Janet Krebs tells the long-ago story of seven brave astronauts who died reaching for space.

Under the youngsters' feet, a mosaic depicts the space shuttle Challenger soaring on a pillar of smoke and surrounded by seven stars with the names of the crew who died in its Jan. 28, 1986, explosion.

"Seventeen years ago — that's like ancient history for you guys. But you are standing in a living memorial to those astronauts," Krebs explains to the 11- and 12-year-olds.

The setting — two weeks after Columbia's fatal re-entry — is the Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center, one of 44 centers erected nationwide to honor Challenger's astronauts by inspiring children through imaginary space missions.

Krebs, a teacher who is a "flight director" at the center, tells the students the Columbia astronauts who died Feb. 1 knew the risks of spaceflight. Columbia's crew would certainly have wanted them to press on with their "mission" to establish the first city on the moon.

"Those seven astronauts, just like the Challenger astronauts, would still want you to come here today and stay inspired about space and to continue the mission of exploration," she says.

"And that's why you're here today, isn't it?"

When the Challenger exploded 73 seconds after it roared away from its launch pad in 1986, the event horrified America's schoolchildren, who were watching the televised launch in classrooms and assembly halls.

> *"Those seven astronauts, just like the Challenger astronauts, would still want you to come here today and stay inspired about space and to continue the mission of exploration," — Janet Krebs, teacher and "Flight director" of learning center*

They were waiting for New Hampshire schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe to teach the first lessons from space — a dream that's still unrealized.

June Scobee Rodgers, whose husband, Francis "Dick" Scobee, was the Challenger's commander, says she and the other Challenger families dreamed up the learning centers to create something positive from the tragedy.

The goal was to inspire children in science, math and technology by sending them on simulated missions to the moon, Mars and comets.

"The families came together because the world knew how the Challenger astronauts died and we wanted the world to know how they lived," says Scobee Rodgers, founding chairman of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education in Alexandria, Va.

She periodically gets e-mails from children who say their Challenger Center experience instilled excitement about science.

"We often have a mindset that science is facts and memorizing those facts for tests. But science is really exploration and discovery and solving problems."

Petite and spiky-haired, Krebs paces about the ready room in her blue, NASA-like flight suit, gearing up Connie Wyant's sixth-grade class for their lunar mission. Sure, it's pretend, but she wants the kids to realize it's also a big test of their intellect and ability to work together.

Half the 32 students from Fall Creek Intermediate School are going to the moon; the others will stay behind at "mission control" to guide their classmates to a safe landing in the lunar highlands.

Each group is divided into teams that will handle tasks such as communications, life support and navigation.

Krebs mixes instruction with good-natured cajoling. She tells the kids that she'll get them into low Earth orbit, but getting to the moon is up to them.

She slyly turns away from the student-astronauts toward the mission control students and whispers, "Can they drive?" — a comment that sends the class into laughter.

"OK, we're moving out," Krebs shouts. "Destination, the moon!"

The first Challenger Learning Center opened at the Johnson Space Center in Texas in September 1988 — the same month shuttle flights resumed after their post-Challenger grounding. The idea quickly grew, leading to almost four dozen centers in this country and three in Canada and Great Britain.

Each community builds its own Challenger center, but the nonprofit Challenger Center for Space Science Education provides the software, curriculum, educational materials and flight director training.

The centers are found at schools, colleges and science museums. Money comes from corporate and individual donations, sometimes state and federal money or community grants.

Vance Ablott, the Challenger Center's president and CEO, says this network reached nearly a half-million students last year.

"If you ask an 8-year-old child to describe the future for you, it almost always involves the stars, space travel and living on other planets, because that's how they see themselves, and us, in the future."

"If you understand that, then you realize how important space is as the tool, a theme to reach those students and motivate them."

The 16 student-astronauts are shepherded down a winding, white hallway reminiscent of a "Star Wars" set and into their "spacecraft" through a rotating darkroom door.

Inside, they find a futuristic white room with computers, experiment bays and audio and video connections linked to their 16 classmates in "mission control" — a nearby room lined display terminals and monitors showing a launch pad.

For the next two hours, amid shouting and rushing about, the students stay busy monitoring instrument panels and relaying data back to mission control for analysis. Mission control then sends back its orders.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Woman is nuts to socialize with friend who deceived her

DEAR ABBY: Recently the six ladies in my garden club got together to celebrate the birthday of one of the "girls." We are all in our 50s and 60s and have been friends for years. They all know I have an allergy to nuts, and eating even one can cause a violent reaction. Therefore, I always make a point of asking if nuts are in any of the dishes served at our get-togethers.

One of the ladies, "Mary," served a beautiful casserole. When I asked her if it contained any nuts, she said, "Of course not — I know you're allergic." Just before we sat down to eat, one of the other women pulled me aside and warned me not to eat any of Mary's casserole because it did, indeed, have nuts.

When I confronted Mary and asked if it was true, she laughed and replied, "This so-called allergy is all in your head, and I was going to do you a favor by proving it to you today."

Abby, I have seen several doctors about my allergy. It is not "in my head." Nuts can cause my blood pressure to skyrocket and cause terrible headaches and vomiting. How should I handle my friendship with Mary after this incident? — **ALLERGIC TO NUTS IN GEORGIA**

DEAR ALLERGIC: Friendship with Mary? Mary is not your friend. She deliberately placed your life at risk. Avoid her — and her casseroles — at all costs.

**

DEAR ABBY: You recently printed many telltale signs of a cheating spouse. What are the signs that someone likes you? My friends tell me this guy at work has a crush on me. How can they see it, and I cannot? — **WONDERING IN MONTANA**

DEAR WONDERING: Because the signs can vary. Some to consider:

(1) The person "lights up" and usually seems to have a lot to say to you.

(2) The reverse can also be true. The person becomes tongue-tied in your presence.

(3) The person makes a point of being complimentary.

(4) The person makes excuses to see you, call you, e-mail you.

Readers, would you care to add to this list?

**

DEAR ABBY: I'll bet more than a few people made New Year's resolutions to do some kind of good deed this year. I would like to help those who have procrastinated by recommending a volunteer job in a nonprofit organization.

This year, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is celebrating 30 proud years of service, placing older adults in positions of impact, allowing seniors to shape the communities in which they live.

If your readers are interested in volunteering, we can send them to schools, museums, hospitals, libraries, senior centers — even to the zoo. The list is never-ending. Thanks for spreading the word, Abby. — **MERYL SUNSHINE, SAN FRANCISCO RSVP OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

DEAR MERYL: It is my pleasure to spread the word. RSVP is a unique program for people 55 and older who are willing to donate anywhere from four to 40 hours a week. Its flexibility allows persons of various skill levels and expertise to help resolve problems that affect their communities. Volunteers provide food for the homeless and hungry, mentor children, assist in community policing, prepare tax returns for elderly and low-income individuals, and much more.

To become an RSVP volunteer, call toll-free: (800) 424-8867 or check the Web site www.seniorcorps.org.

**

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

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Oil Patch News

Borden County

Chevron will drill the No. 3446 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, location is in Section 14, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Chevron will drill the No. 3427 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Contracted for 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 14, Block. 38, T4N, T&P survey.

Xeric Oil and Gas Corp. will drill the No. 2-B Jerry Clayton in the Jo-Mill field, six miles north of Vealmoor. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 42, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

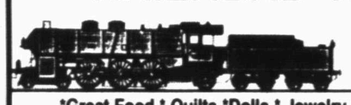
Trio Consulting will drill the No. 2901 Kohler-Brennand, an 8,300-foot wildcat reentry, eight miles northwest of Westbrook. Drill site is in Section 29, Block 26, H&TC survey.

Howard County

LCS Production has completed the No. 4 Yarbar in the Would Have field, five miles northwest of Big Spring. The well was completed to produce 214 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 5,600-611 feet, and location is in Section 16, Block 33, T1N, T&P survey.

LCS Production has completed the No. 5 Yarbar in the Would Have field, five miles northwest of Big Spring. The well was completed to produce 320 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 5,592-608 feet, and location is in Section 16, Block 33, T1N, T&P survey.

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Study: Blood thinner cuts risks of recurring clots

BOSTON (AP) — For the first time, doctors have proven that long-term treatment with low doses of a standard blood thinner can reduce the risk of dangerous recurring blood clots in the legs and lungs by two-thirds.

The treatment, using the drug warfarin, was so effective that doctors say it should immediately be offered to the hundreds of thousands of people who suffer these clots each year.

"This is a very safe method for the long-term prevention of potentially fatal recurrent blood clots," said Dr. Paul Ridker, who directed the study at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The federally financed study was stopped early and released today. The results will be published in the April 10 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine and were posted on the journal's Web site.

The American Heart Association estimates that each year, about 2 million people suffer a deep vein thrombosis, a clot in a vein deep in the leg. The result is painful swelling that becomes life threatening if the clot floats to the lungs. This complication occurs in about 600,000 people annually, killing 60,000.

More than half of all cases result from surgery or trauma, such as broken bones, and are not likely to recur. However, Ridker estimates that 750,000 people each year have a deep vein thrombosis resulting from more obscure causes, often an inherited tendency to spontaneously form unwanted clots. Almost a third of these people get another clot within eight years.

His study compared low-dose warfarin and dummy pills in people at risk for these recurring clots. It began in 1998 and was scheduled to end in 2005. However, the early results were so dramatically positive that researchers decided it would be unethical to continue giving people placeboes, so the study was stopped in December.

"This disease generally affects younger people, most of whom are otherwise healthy. The issue of how to manage it is a very, very big problem. Anything that reduces the risk is a major advance, and this is one," said Dr. Andrew Schafer, head of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ridker said that treatment with the generic drug, introduced in 1954, costs pennies a day.

The study was initially intended to enroll 750 people with an average follow up of four years, but it was stopped after 508 patients. Repeat clots occurred in 14 people on low-dose warfarin and 37 getting dummy pills. Four people on warfarin died, as did eight in the comparison group.

The major worry was uncontrolled bleeding, especially strokes. However, the only bleeding stroke occurred in someone in the comparison group. Five people taking warfarin and two on placeboes developed bleeding bad enough to require hospitalization, although all recovered.

The biggest drawback of warfarin is the difficulty establishing the right dose. Two people the same size, sex and age may require vastly different amounts of the medicine to achieve the same result. Doctors set the dose by repeatedly testing the drug's effect on patients' blood clotting.

On the Net:
Journal:
http://content.nejm.org/

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-24-03
♠ A K J 7 6
♥ A K 10
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ A

West
♠ Q 5
♥ J 8 6 3
♦ A 3
♣ J 8 6 4 3

East
♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ 9 5 2
♦ K 4
♣ K 7 5 2

South
♠ 9 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ Q 10 9 5 2
♣ Q 10 9

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ 4

Monday, Feb. 24, 2003

Youngsters play better and better

By Phillip Alder

Although in this country few youngsters are coming into bridge, in Europe they are competing in large numbers. And the standard of these players in their teens and early 20s is better than ever.

Here is an excellent defense produced by two young Danes, Andreas Marquardsen (East) and Martin Schaltz (West). The deal occurred during Denmark's match against Sweden in the 2002 European Youth Championship, played in Torquay, England.

In this auction, the two-club rebid artificially announced at least 16 points. At both tables, the diamond suit was lost, although five diamonds is easy to make.

In three no-trump, each declarer realized that if he played on diamonds, he would lose two diamonds and at least three clubs. So, after winning with dummy's club ace, he cashed the spade ace, crossed to hand with a heart, and led up a spade, collecting West's queen with dummy's king. (Ducking the spade queen is an excellent idea.) Two more rounds of spades put East in.

The Swedish West had thrown hearts, so East cashed the club king and led another club, permitting South to claim. East should have led a low club. South might get it right, especially if East had signaled enthusiastically at trick one, but he could easily go wrong.

Schaltz did better, discarding two clubs on the spades. Marquardsen got the message, returning a heart. Declarer cashed dummy's last spade, East and West throwing clubs, then led a diamond. However, East went in with his king and led his last heart. When West won the next trick with the diamond ace, he cashed the heart jack, then played a club to his partner's king: one down.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Officials want to quiz nightclub owners

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — A day after family members visited the charred site of a deadly nightclub fire, the state attorney general said the club's owners have not answered questions from investigators about the blaze that killed at least 97.

State Attorney General Patrick Lynch said today that Jeffrey Derderian has not answered questions since Thursday night when The Station, which he owns with his brother, burned to the ground. He said Michael Derderian has never answered questions.

"There are questions I believe they could assist us with if they answered," he said on CBS' "The Early Show."

Lynch said the heavy metal group Great White, which returned to Los Angeles, has been cooperative. The band's pyrotechnics display was believed to be the cause of the fire.

An attorney for the band, Ed McPherson, said today that guitarist Ty Longley, missing since the blaze, had died in the fire.

"The band's a mess," McPherson said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Great White was just getting into its first song at The Station late Thursday when sparks from their pyrotechnics apparently ignited foam tiles in the ceiling. Fire officials said the entire building was engulfed in three minutes.

Subway officials, arson suspect detained

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Police investigating a subway fire that killed at least 133 people last week sought arrest warrants today for nine subway officials and the man accused of starting the blaze.

The 10 suspects were formally detained late Sunday and early today, said Lt. Choi Woong-ju of the Daegu city police department. Two of the subway officials and the arson suspect remain hospitalized with injuries from the Feb. 18 fire.

Authorities intend to file charges of negligent manslaughter — an offense that carries a maximum of five years in prison — against the nine officials, another police officer said on condition of anonymity.

The main suspect who allegedly started the fire when he ignited a carton filled with gasoline faces a charge of manslaughter by arson and could be executed if found guilty, the official said.

There is no limit on how long suspects can be detained after a warrant application is filed with a court. However, judges usually respond to such requests within 24 hours.

The devastating fire in South Korea's third-largest city injured 147 people, and officials say that more than 300 people are still missing.

Nevada volunteers searching for debris find pieces of metal

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Teams searching for parts shed by the space shuttle Columbia as it broke apart found more small metal fragments Sunday in a rural part of southeast Nevada.

Digital photographs of the material were sent to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston for analysis. Several small scraps of aluminum were also found Saturday.

NASA has not confirmed whether any debris west of Texas came from the shuttle.

Casey Wood, who was sent by NASA to aid in the search, said he was "80 percent sure the items" were from Columbia. Wood is an employee of NASA contractor United Space Alliance in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The search of about 30 square miles near Panaca, about 170 miles north of Las Vegas, began Friday and was expected to conclude today. NASA requested on Sunday that the search be expanded about 35 miles west of Panaca, search officials said.

A NASA official had told searchers that the hilly, sagebrush-covered desert near the Nevada-Utah state line could contain a six-foot chunk of the shuttle's landing gear, said Bob Williams, a sheriff's volunteer and a spokesman for the Nevada search effort.

Finding the landing gear could give investigators important clues about why the shuttle broke apart on Feb., 1, killing all seven crew members. The board investigating the accident has determined Columbia almost certainly suffered a breach along its wing and possibly its main landing gear compartment that allowed searing air to blast inside during its descent at nearly 12,500 mph.

The search teams turned up several metal scraps. Maj. Garret Coleman, of the Nevada Wing Civil Air Patrol, said some of the pieces he saw were from 1 to 4 inches long.

"It looks like tin foil with a fibrous material attached to it," said Coleman. "It's not charred, but there is some darkness to it that looks like it was exposed to some heat."

Arrests top police report in Snyder

•Arrests

Officers arrested a 24-year-old man at the College Park Apartments just before 7 p.m. Saturday for criminal trespass.

At 9:20 p.m. Saturday, a 39-year-old man was taken into custody in the 1400 block of 22nd Street for abusive 9-1-1 calls.

Two subjects were arrested in the 1800 block of Ave. E at 1:15 a.m. Sunday. Taken into custody were a 45-year-old man and a 46-year-old woman, both for public intoxication.

DPS troopers arrested a 42-year-old man on U.S. 84 at 10:47 p.m. Sunday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 2:12 a.m. today, officers arrested a 32-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman in the 100 block of N. College Ave. for public intoxication.

•Thefts

A woman reported damage to a window on her car Saturday morning in the parking lot at Cogdell Hospital. An officer advised an offense report for burglary of a vehicle would be submitted.

Just before 9 a.m. Saturday, a woman reported her purse stolen from her car at Snyder Healthcare Center. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was submitted.

•Disturbance

A woman on FM 1606 reported at 10 p.m. Sunday that her husband assaulted her. Deputies responded to the home and advised an offense report for Class C family violence would be filed.

•Vandalism

Mike Carter reported vandalism at Central Elementary Sunday morning.

Several windows were broken with rocks, but no damage was reported inside the building. Officers were dispatched and submitted an offense report for Class B criminal mischief.

•Criminal trespass

A man requested officers at a residence on Hill Ave. at 7 a.m. Sunday and reported another subject entering the home and trying to take two children. Three officers responded and advised the subject was served with a criminal trespass warning not to return to the residence.

•Close patrol

A man in the 3900 block of Eastridge reported dumpsters were overturned in the 3900 block of Eastridge Saturday. A close patrol was requested.

•Gas drive offs

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off worth $14.20 at 10:45 p.m. Saturday.

A drive off in the amount of $18.06 was reported from Skinny's on 37th Street at 9:23 a.m. Sunday.

At 10:15 a.m. Sunday, a clerk at Allsup's in Hermleigh reported a drive off worth $19.

Obituaries

Mrs. Abernathy

1918-2003

LORAINE — Billie Ruth Tartt Abernathy, the mother of Judy Brown of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb. 22, in Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria, La.

A memorial service was held this morning in Alexandria.



Abernathy

A funeral service for Mrs. Abernathy, 84, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church in Loraine with the Rev. Bobby Magee officiating. Interment will follow in the Loraine Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 9, 1918 to Will and Chera Young, longtime Callahan County ranchers, she was a 1939 graduate of Abilene Christian University.

She was a teacher in the Loraine Independent School District for 29 years and farmed in Mitchell County. While in Loraine, she served as a community volunteer and was a member of the First Baptist Church. After moving to Pineville, La., she was a member of the Kingsville Baptist Church. She married George Abernathy in 1988, and he died on Aug. 20, 1990.

She also was preceded in death by an infant brother, Max Young; a sister, Verna Jo Corder; and her parents.

Survivors include three other daughters and sons-in-law, Loretta and Danny Magee of Pineville, Gwen and Gary Book of Little Rock, Ark., and Karen and Mitch Hamer of Midland; another son-in-law, Donny Brown of Snyder; seven grandchildren, Gina Gotschall of Oklahoma City, Nolan Daniel of Pineville, Lance Bell and Cody Bell of San Angelo, Ben Brown of Snyder, Landon Hamer and Cameron Hamer of Midland; and one great-granddaughter, Kaylee Daniel of Pineville.

Grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

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Juanita Swalley

1909-2003

LUBBOCK — Juanita Swalley, a native of Scurry County, died Friday, Feb. 21.

Graveside service for Mrs. Swalley, 93, was set for 3 p.m. today in the Lubbock Cemetery with the Rev. Wayne Williams officiating.

Born Sept. 26, 1909 in Snyder, she was a graduate of Lubbock High School. She married Ed Swalley in 1932 in Lubbock and he died in 1962.

Mrs. Swalley, a Baptist, was a homemaker and worked with her husband in the livestock business.

Survivors include several cousins.

Don Gill

1929-2003

SWEETWATER — Milton Donald "Don" Gill, a former resident of Fluvanna, died Sunday, Feb. 23, in Wise Regional Hospital in Decatur.

Funeral service for Mr. Gill, 73, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery.

Born June 30, 1929 in Garden City, he was married to Gwendolyn Louise Timms who died in 2002.

Mr. Gill, a retired rancher, had lived in Fort Sumner, N.M., for 25 years. He was a Korean War veteran.

Survivors include three sons, Randy Gill of Midland, Richard Gill of Denver, Colo., and Ronald Gill of Paradise; a brother, Vernon Gill of Garden City; a stepdaughter, Gwen Burgess of Sheridan, Wyo.; five grandchildren; and one step-grandson.

Johnny Lentz

1949-2003

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. — Johnny Ray Lentz, brother of Louis Midwell of Snyder, died Friday, Feb. 21, in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix.

Memorial service for Mr. Lentz, 53, is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday in Simes Mortuaries Casa Grande Chapel in Casa Grande. Bill Lentz, his brother of Tucson, will officiate.

Mr. Lentz , born June 5, 1949 in Morrilton, Ark., moved from Texas to Arizona 17 years ago. He and his family moved to the Hyder Valley in 2000. Mr. Lentz was a diesel mechanic with the Paloma Ranch 16 years before he retired due to health.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William A. and Bessie (Worley) Lentz; a son, Gilbert Guadian; and a grandson, Nicholas Guadian.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Lentz of Hyder Valley; two sons, Joe Lentz and Shane Lentz, both of Hyder Valley; two sisters, Glenda Faye of Phoenix and Linda Irwin of Coolidge, Ariz; two other brothers, Fred Lentz and Ed Lentz, both of Texas; and three grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

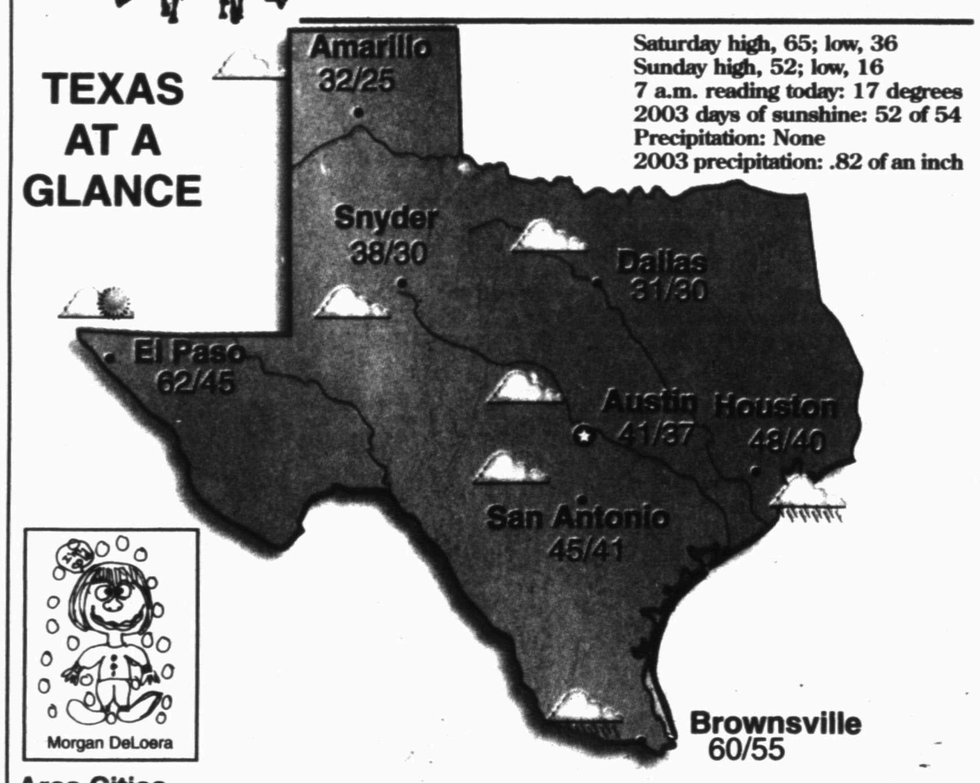
Tue 2/25	Wed 2/26	Thu 2/27
38/30	57/33	57/30
Overcast. High 38F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	Clouds giving way to sunshine in the afternoon.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:16 AM Sunset 6:37 PM	Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 6:38 PM	Sunrise 7:14 AM Sunset 6:39 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 65; low, 36
Sunday high, 52; low, 16
7 a.m. reading today: 17 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 52 of 54
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: .82 of an inch

Morgan DeLoera

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	30	29	cloudy	El Paso	62	45	cloudy	Midland	44	36	cloudy
Amarillo	32	25	cloudy	Fort Stockton	51	39	cloudy	Raymondville	57	51	rain
Austin	41	37	cloudy	Gainesville	27	25	cloudy	Rosenberg	48	40	rain
Beaumont	48	38	cloudy	Greenville	27	26	cloudy	San Antonio	45	41	cloudy
Brownsville	60	55	rain	Houston	48	40	rain	San Marcos	42	39	cloudy
Brownwood	33	31	cloudy	Kingsville	55	49	rain	Sulphur Springs	28	27	cloudy
Corpus Christi	50	43	rain	Livingston	45	34	rain	Sweetwater	31	28	cloudy
Corsicana	30	29	cloudy	Longview	33	28	cloudy	Tyler	32	31	cloudy
Dallas	31	30	cloudy	Lubbock	42	31	cloudy	Weatherford	28	26	cloudy
Del Rio	51	47	cloudy	Lufkin	45	35	cloudy	Wichita Falls	27	26	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	45	33	cloudy	Houston	48	40	rain	Phoenix	62	51	t-storm
Boston	27	8	windy	Los Angeles	59	48	rain	San Francisco	58	41	pt sunny
Chicago	19	13	pt sunny	Miami	80	67	t-storm	Seattle	49	33	pt sunny
Dallas	31	30	cloudy	Minneapolis	17	8	mst sunny	St. Louis	23	17	cloudy
Denver	28	13	sn shower	New York	31	11	pt sunny	Washington, DC	35	21	cloudy

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 23	Mar 3	Mar 11	Mar 18

UV Index

Tue 2/25	Wed 2/26	Thu 2/27
3	5	6
Low	Moderate	Moderate

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

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