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INSIDE

Raiders, Cowboys Square Off 6A
Brown Leads 2 Tripe To Europe 8A & 9A
Republic Of Texas Land Sold 13A
Starr Must Defend Himself 14A
Scurry County Folks 1B

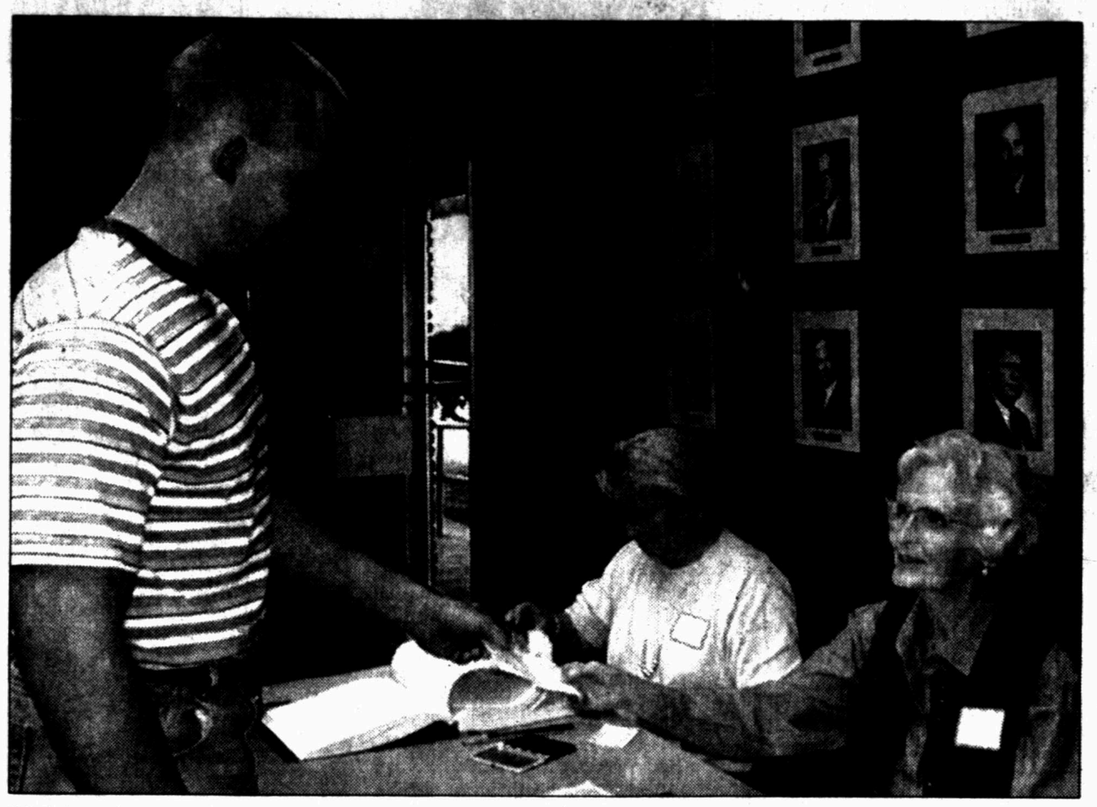
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Aug. 8-9, 1998
Vol. 50 No. 83
40 Pages 75¢

Home Of Nell & Hoss Clayton



ELECTION DAY — Bobbie Taylor (right) checks Sean Duncan's voter registration card before he signs the signature roster in Saturday's $20.4 million school bond election. Francene Allen-Noah is pictured in the background checking the registration list for another voter's name. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bond vote continuing Saturday

Voters have until 7 p.m. Saturday to cast their ballots in the $20.4 million Snyder Independent School District bond election.

Voting is taking place at Snyder City Hall.

The early voting period drew 871 voters.

The election was called by the district's trustees in May in order to repair and renovate the district's facilities.

Each campus in the district will receive major renovations if the bond issue passes, ranging from $6,293,167 at Snyder High School to $124,300 at Travis Gym.

Each elementary school has over $2 million in renovations scheduled.

Central Elementary will be closed if the bond issue passes and three to five additional classrooms will be built on the other elementary campuses.

School officials are hopeful that if the bond issue passes, state money will be made available in the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature to pay for up to 47 percent of the $20.4 million.

Glickman, Stenholm, Counts...

Federal and state officials here Tuesday, Wednesday

There will be lots of activity in Snyder this week as the city will host U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and U.S. Congressman Charles Stenholm on Tuesday, and State Rep. David Counts and Texas Department of Criminal Justice deputy executive director Art Mosley on Wednesday.

Glickman and Stenholm will host a town hall meeting at Lorber Industries and tour the facility, and the two will also inspect drought-devastated crops in the Snyder area.

Also expected at the Lorber plant Tuesday is company president Arnold Lorber and chief executive officer of Lorber Industries, Michael Gruener, both from California.

The meeting will get underway at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and is expected to last until 11 o'clock.

Lorber Industries will also provide a meal for those in attendance. Reservations need to be made by calling the Development Corporation of Snyder at 573-1544 by 5 p.m. Monday.

Following the luncheon, a tour of Lorber's spinning mill will be conducted.

During the morning, agriculture producers will hear from Glickman and Stenholm regarding the drought and related activities in an effort to develop solutions to the crisis.

"Given the many demands and pressures on Secretary Glickman as a result of the ongoing drought and depressed farm economy, I especially appreciate his willingness to return to the 17th District," said Stenholm.

Glickman had visited in Wise County late last month.

Stenholm said Lorber's plant is good news for Snyder and West Texas.

"I am very excited about Lorber's new facility in Snyder and the potential it has for improving the economy in Scurry County and the surrounding area," said Stenholm. "With all of the negative news about agriculture these days, I am sure Secretary Glickman will enjoy seeing the new state-of-the-art facility and seeing firsthand the promise it holds for the cotton industry in West Texas."

Counts and Mosley will be in Snyder for the prison warehouse expansion groundbreaking ceremony at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

A pre-construction meeting is set for Tuesday. Actual construction of the 60,000-square foot addition to the existing warehouse is expected to begin Aug. 17.

The expansion includes 20,000-square feet of cold storage to house bulk inventories of frozen foods, meats and other perishable goods.

The project will cost $4.6 million.

The Snyder distribution center is the first regional distribution center for the state's prison system. It will serve 22 units in West Texas, and when completed, is projected to save TDCJ $1 million annually in transportation costs.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Research is what you do when you really don't know what you're doing."

There's a couple of important events here early this week.

On Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm will accompany Dan Glickman to Snyder where the U.S. agriculture secretary will meet with local producers at Lorber Industries.

Lorber will give tours of their new textile spinning mill and Lorber is hosting a luncheon for the visitors.

Expected to be part of Tuesday's activities are Arnold Lorber and Michael Gruener from Lorber's California headquarters.

Still several weeks away is a grand opening planned to mark the opening of Lorber's new plant in the industrial park.

Then at 9 a.m. Wednesday, officials will be in Snyder for the groundbreaking for the expansion of the Snyder prison warehouse and distribution center located on U.S. 84.

State Rep. David Counts and Art Mosley, deputy executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice,will be on hand for the ceremony. Counts was instrumental in getting the TDCJ project in Snyder.

Also planning to be on hand is Snyder's Henry Clark, retired manager of TU Electric in Snyder.

Henry was president of the industrial foundation when it signed the agreement to build the 70,000-square foot building for Ritz-Craft of Texas, a motor home manufacturing company.

On Friday Clark brought by a key chain that was given out on Dec. 24, 1970 at the opening of the plant. Special speaker on that occasion was Texas Gov. Preston Smith.

Before being given to the prison system in 1988, the building was used for a mobile home manufacturer, an electric blanket plant and by another RV manufacturer.

Clark, who was manager of TU Electric in Snyder from 1964 to 1985, was a longtime workhorse in Snyder's economic development efforts in those years.

Clark said people like Mickey Nunley, Bill Wilson Jr. and Harry Reed and Roger Mize were involved in many projects. "We came so close, so many times," Clark said.

Two chrome-plated shovels used in the prison groundbreaking in 1988 will be used again Tuesday. One of the shovels belonged to another TU manager, the late Jack Smartt.

Ann Smartt donated the shovel for use in the project. Jack followed Clark as TU manager and was active in the Price Daniel prison project.

But Clark and Smartt would both quickly tell you, progress is a community effort.

Clinton says...

U.S. won't give in to terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the face of the first simultaneous attacks against American targets in different countries, President Clinton vowed today not to pull back a single diplomat or contingent of U.S. troops overseas. The death toll of Americans has climbed to 11, he said.

"To turn our backs on those taking risks for peace, to weaken our opposition to terrorism — that would give terrorism a victory it must not and will not have," the president said in a live radio broadcast from the Oval Office.

Friday's bombing attacks at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were most likely "the first time we have had two such coordinated explosions," said Thomas Pickering, the State Department's third-ranking official.

The explosions killed at least 110 people, and the number injured topped 2,200. The 11 Americans were killed in Kenya, along with five Kenyan employees at the embassy. The State Department said two U.S. embassy officers were missing and presumed dead.

Twelve American citizens were hospitalized — 10 embassy officers and two private citizens. Of the 12, 10 were to be flown to Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Five injured Kenyan employees at the embassy were scheduled to join them on the trip.

An American officer at the embassy in Dar es Salaam was gravely wounded by flying debris and was flown to London for treatment. Three U.S. flights were due to arrive in Dar es Salaam today carrying security officers and investigators.

Longtime Snyder doctor now retired

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

After 40 some years in the practice, Dr. Robert Pierce, M.D., has hung up his stethoscope.

His retirement was official last Friday and he says now he is ready to relax.

"This will free us up and give us a chance to relax a little," he said, referring to himself and his wife, Estelle.

Pierce, born and reared in Snyder, joined the Navy in 1943.

He returned to Snyder in 1946 before heading to Fort Worth to attend Texas Christian University.

From there, he attended medical school at Galveston University, graduating in 1955.

He returned to Snyder in 1956.

"I've been here every since and it has been constant," he said.

Orginally, Dr. Pierce did not plan to stay in Snyder.

"I intended to go back to Galveston, but stayed in Snyder because father had had a heart attack."

The doctor says he has no regrets about staying, though.

"It has not been a bad thing, the Lord has blessed me."

Dr. Pierce mentioned often the Lord's blessings upon him.

"The Lord has blessed me with good health and good people. My wife has also been a help and inspiration."

Mrs. Pierce has mixed feelings about the retirement.

"I don't know if I'll be happy or sad," she said. "I know I'll miss the people."

As far as what the future holds in store, the Pierces are unsure.

"I'm not sure we will stay in the Snyder area, we may move down around Ft. Worth," Dr. Pierce said.

He added that probably won't be anytime soon.

"But for the time being, we have too many ties to just pick right up and move."

Dr. Pierce spoke fondly of his experiences over the years.

"Snyder is a good place. I have no real bad memories here, but with Dr. McSpadden's passing, I decided it was time for me to let up."

He said some of his fondest memories were of his days working with "the old crew," referring to Drs. Carl Dillaha, W.B. McSpadden, John Rains, Ray Cockrell and Harry Ward.

"We were a pretty close bunch," he said.

He said a great deal has changed for the better over the years in the area of medicine especially with the advancement of technology, but "us old fellows did good for what we did."

In his career, Dr. Pierce said he has delivered over a thousand babies, assisted surgeries, worked with heart patients and handled innumerable other cases.

He's even seen a few miracles.

He recalled the story of a man who came into the emergency room saying,"I think I have the flu."

"I told him, man, you don't have the flu...his heart stopped five times while we were in there. He lived another ten years after that," Dr. Pierce said.

"There have been a lot of things like that. Yes, I think I have seen a few miracles."

While reminiscing, Dr. Pierce recalled his first days in Snyder. He said when he arrived the doctor he was to work with asked him if he thought he could handle everything.

Dr. Pierce assured him he could. The other doc then left for Ruidoso.

"He just left me with it," Dr. Pierce said.

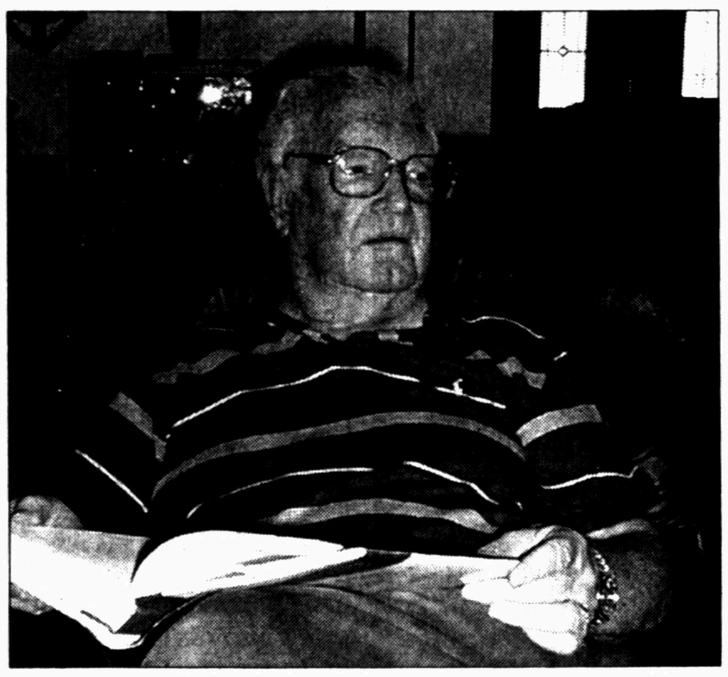
The first case, he said, that amounted to anything was out at the old Sun camp.

"A lady had had a heart attack and I went out there. The Lord was with me," he said.

From then on, he was the doctor on call for Sun. He also was the Santa Fe doctor as well as the County Health officer since 1956.

But to sum up his doctoring years, Dr. Pierce said all in all, good things have happened.

"If there has been a central theme in my life, it is that the Lord has been good to me."



Dr. Robert Pierce

ASK US

Q—What was the first year that the Texas Football magazine was published?

A—1960. It featured University of Texas running back Jack Collins on the cover.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 96 degrees; low, 66; 7 a.m. Saturday, 71; no precipitation; total for 1998, 5.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, clear. Low 70-75. SE wind 5-10 mph. Sunday, mostly sunny. High near 100. S wind 5-15 mph.



Alyssa Davis
Sunny

Sunset:
8:34 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:05 a.m.
Of 219 days in 1998, the sun has shone 217 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"The things we fear most in organization — fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances — are the primary sources of creativity."

Margaret J. Wheatley

AUG 09 1998

After being trapped in trunk...

Five young girls die of heat exhaustion

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (AP) — The five girls, ages 2 through 6, often scampered through the summer haze and shrieked with delight in a small swimming pool.

Dennis Morgan, a neighbor, remembers chatting with the little troupe Thursday afternoon as he watered his lawn and the five whiled away another scorching afternoon.

A day later, their tiny bodies were covered in white sheets, lying on the grass as relatives wept.

Police said the girls — two sets of sisters who were cousins and an unrelated family friend — died of heat exposure Friday afternoon, trapped while playing in the trunk of a car.

"One grandma has lost four grandchildren Saturday," said Lt. Charles Illsley, a police spokesman.

The mother watching the five told police she was in her house while the children played outside in the yard. When she went to check on them and couldn't find them, she called neighbors and the mothers of the other girls to begin a search.

Nearly an hour later, two police officers and one of the mothers popped open the trunk of the dark green Saturn sedan parked in front of the house.

"I don't know if it was instinct, but one of the officers went from car to car and popped the trunk on one of the cars and found the remains of the children," Illsley said.

The temperature at the time was about 96 degrees in the Salt Lake City area.

It was not immediately known how the children got the trunk open. Police late Friday had not found the key to the vehicle but said there is a device inside the car that automatically opens the trunk.

"We don't know how the trunk was activated, who activated it or why the children were playing in the trunk," Illsley said.

Autopsies were expected to be performed Saturday on the girls. Police declined to identify them or their families.

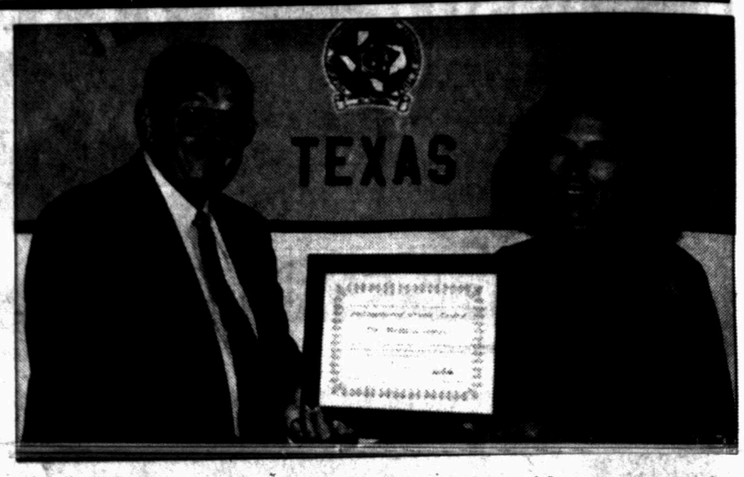
There have been at least two similar incidents in the last month.

On July 13, four young cousins in Gallup, N.M., died of heat and asphyxiation after climbing in the trunk of a black car, which a doctor said could have reached 140 degrees. Relatives searching for the children drove the car for nearly an hour before finding the bodies in the trunk.

Last Sunday, two young boys were found dead with two puppies in the trunk of their parents' car in Greensboro, Pa.

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RECIPIENT — Scott Windham, VATAT president, presents the Administrator Award to Dr. Melissa Jones. (Contributed Photo)

VATAT picks three from Snyder ISD

WICHITA FALLS — A Snyder teacher, a former teacher and an administrator have received recognition from the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas.

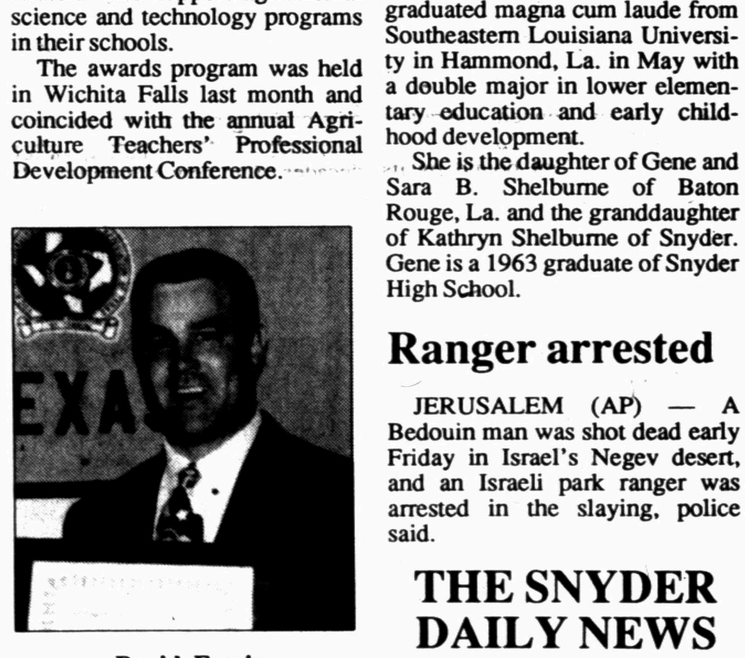
David Frazier, Snyder High School ag instructor, and Bob Hand, who reccently resigned as ag instructor, has been named this year's recipients of the Vocational Teachers Association of Texas Area Radio Award.

The VATAT radio award recognizes teachers who utilize their local radio station to help promote their FFA chapter and the agricultural science department.

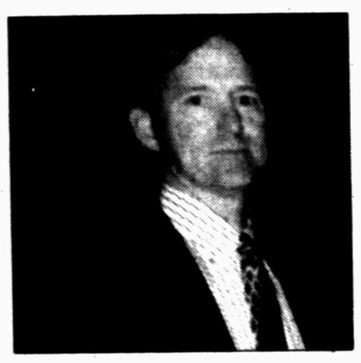
Dr. Melissa Jones, SISD assistant superintendent, was honored with the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of the Texas Area Distinguished Service Award to the School.

The award recognizes administrators who support agricultural science and technology programs in their schools.

The awards program was held in Wichita Falls last month and coincided with the annual Agriculture Teachers' Professional Development Conference.



David Frazier



Bob Hand



Heather Noel Shelburne

Shelburne graduates

Heather Noel Shelburne graduated magna cum laude from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La. in May with a double major in lower elementary education and early childhood development.

She is the daughter of Gene and Sara B. Shelburne of Baton Rouge, La. and the granddaughter of Kathryn Shelburne of Snyder. Gene is a 1963 graduate of Snyder High School.

Ranger arrested

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Bedouin man was shot dead early Friday in Israel's Negev desert, and an Israeli park ranger was arrested in the slaying, police said.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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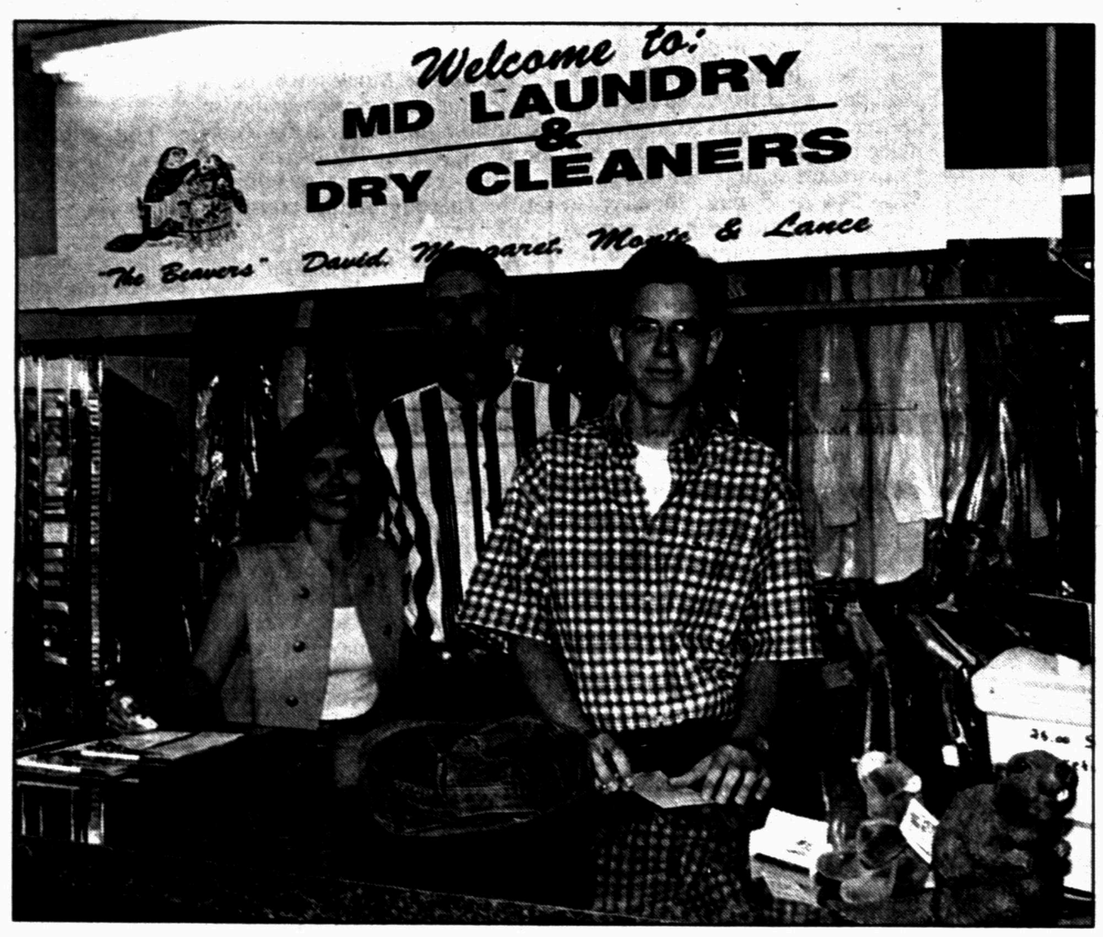
By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
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Looking Good!



Making their customers look good makes them look good.

And for almost a year, MD Laundry and Dry Cleaners has worked to win the confidence of Snyder area customers.

A family-owned business, the doors opened at the location in Snyder Shopping Center on Oct. 13, 1997. Owners are Margaret and David Beaver of Fluvanna.

The Beavers have been pleased with the reception of the business, and say first-year projections were achieved within two months after opening. Since then, they have added additional equipment to keep up with the work load.

In addition to the Beavers' hands-on management, their 16-year-old son, Lance, worked all summer and the high school junior will continue to work before and after school. The Beavers have one other son, Monte, 19, who is a spring graduate of Clarendon College and who is employed with Abraxis in Ira.

Vital in making satisfied customers is the dedicated staff at MD Laundry and Dry Cleaners. Ester Martinez and Socora Chaidez each have 24 years of experience in the business while Teresa Morin has 15 years of experience. Sally Martin started when the firm opened in October.

Lucille Massingill does customer alterations and Ted McMillon, a veteran of the laundry business in Snyder, handles pickup and delivery.

The Beavers have been married almost 23 years. David is a 1979 graduate of Texas Tech and they returned to Fluvanna that year. Margaret has attended nursing school, cosmotology school and has taught aerobics.

Members of the Fluvanna United Methodist Church, David has served for nine years on the county ASCS committee.

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NORTHEAST OPEN HOUSE — Staci Bollinger has been busy getting her classroom at Northeast ready for the new school year which begins next week. She is shown arranging Mr. Wizard. On Tuesday, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., the school plans an open house. Students and parents are invited to attend. Students are asked to bring their supplies with them. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Jury awards $760 million to 38 former Lockheed workers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury awarded $760.6 million in punitive damages to 38 former Lockheed Corp. employees who claimed they were harmed by toxic chemicals while building the stealth fighter for Lockheed, attorneys said Friday.

The judgment against five chemical manufacturers — but not Lockheed — follows a compensatory damages verdict last week in which the workers were awarded $25.4 million.

The Superior Court lawsuit was filed by former employees who worked on the radar-evading jet during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, claiming they were never advised of the danger posed by the chemicals.

The verdict against Exxon Corp., Unocal Corp., Ashland Inc., Shell Oil Co. and DuPont was reached Thursday and announced Friday.

"The same arrogance that these defendants had with respect to their warnings was manifested by their refusal to enter into any meaningful settlement negotiations," plaintiff lawyer Thomas Girardi said in a statement.

The companies will appeal, said defense attorney Larry Janssen.

"This verdict is a complete travesty because this jury assessed punitive damages without ever hearing about the conduct of the defendants," he said.

Barry Lane, a spokesman for Unocal Corp. in El Segundo, said the company's role in the case involved the sale of 110 gallons of Naptha, a solvent commonly sold in retail stores, to Lockheed in 1984. He also said that judgments against Unocal pertained to only eight defendants.

"The jury was not allowed to review Unocal's conduct in this case to evaluate it for damages. It's our view that the jury's decision was not based on evidence of conduct," he said.

The largest share of the judgment went against Exxon, which was ordered to pay $252 million.

Date Book

Aug. 8, 1998

Today is the 220th day of 1998 and the 49th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1940, the Battle of Britain began.

On this day in 1963, 15 thieves stole more than $7 million in Britain's Great Train Robbery. Only $1 million was ever recovered.

On this day in 1974, President Richard Nixon announced that he would resign at noon the following day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nathaniel Palmer (1799-1877), American explorer; Matthew Henson (1866-1955), American explorer; Emiliano Zapata (1877-1919), Mexican leader; Ernest O. Lawrence (1901-1958), physicist; Esther Williams (1923-) swimmer-actress, is 74; Mel Tillis (1932-), singer-songwriter, is 66; Dustin Hoffman (1937-), actor, is 61; Connie Stevens (1938-), singer-actress, is 60; David "The Edge" Evans (1961-), musician, is 37.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1920, Detroit's Howard Ehmke pitched the shortest game in American League history, defeating the New York Yankees in 1 hour and 13 minutes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees."— Emiliano Zapata

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1995, the normally windy peak of Mount Washington, N.H., experienced a rare four consecutive hours of calm.

SOURCE: 1998 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day after full moon (August 7).

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Cliff Foster accepted into program at CC

Twenty-five individuals have been accepted into the 1998-1999 Clarendon College Ranch and Feedlot Operations program, including Cliff Foster of Snyder.

Established in 1974, the program allows students who are interested in ranch or feedyard-related careers to gain new knowledge and technical skills to meet the needs of coping with today's complex agricultural programs.

An exclusive program, RFO students must complete academic coursework, as well as extensive fieldwork conducted on ranches and feedlots.

During the program, it is not unusual for RFO students to have logged more than 8,000 miles across Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico by visiting top ranches, feedyards and agricultural centers.

Advisers favor approval of arthritis drug

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — With a warning for premenopausal women, government advisers are recommending approval of the first new drug in more than a decade for rheumatoid arthritis.

Arava, made by Hoechst Marion Roussel, does not cure the crippling ailment. But it appears to work as well as the gold-standard treatment, a cancer drug, at treating swollen, painful joints. It also appears to slow the progression of the disease.

"This drug does good things in joints," Dr. Kenneth Brandt of Indiana University said Friday before fellow advisers to the Food and Drug Administration unanimously recommended Arava's approval for sale.

The FDA is not bound by its advisers' recommendations, but typically follows them.

Rheumatoid arthritis affects about 2 million Americans, the vast majority of them women.

It is not the kind of arthritis that plagues the elderly as their joints essentially wear out. Instead, rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease — the immune system goes awry and attacks patients' own cartilage. It typically strikes between ages 25 and 50.

The best treatment Saturday is methotrexate, a cancer drug. But it causes troublesome side effects, and its effectiveness wanes over time, leaving patients with few options.

Arava, known chemically as leflunomide, is the first in a series of promising new treatments now approaching the market, after decades of no new alternatives. It works by blocking the overproduction of immune cells that are responsible for most of the arthritis's inflammation.

Hoechst studied 480 Americans with moderate disease. Some 41 percent of Arava patients saw their arthritis improve, compared with 19 percent of patients taking dummy pills. Methotrexate patients improved about the same as Arava patients.

Then Hoechst took X-rays of patients' hands and feet, studying bone erosion and cartilage disappearance to track the disease's progress. Arava patients did worsen. But in a year of study, placebo patients worsened four times more quickly than Arava patients. Methotrexate also slowed the disease's progression but not as much as Arava did.

Arava did cause side effects in more than one-fourth of all patients, including diarrhea and hair loss. But it did not seem as prone to causing the serious problems that methotrexate sometimes can, such as kidney failure, said Dr. Marc Hochberg of the University of Maryland, who monitored the study's safety. Methotrexate also works by blocking immune cells, but targets a different enzyme than Arava to do the job.

Arava does have a significant problem: Unlike most drugs that dissipate shortly after patients take the last dose, Arava can take at least six months to clear out of the body. Also, animal studies suggest it can cause numerous birth defects.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy now accepting applications

The United States Coast Guard Academy is now accepting and processing applications to the class of 2003. Appointments are tendered solely on the basis of an annual nationwide competition with no congressional nominations or geographical quotas.

Applications must be submitted to the Director of Admissions prior to Dec. 15. Candidates must arrange to participate in either the SAT I or ACT prior to or including the Dec. 1998 administration.

Appointments are based on the candidate's high school record, performance on either the SAT I or ACT and leadership potential as demonstrated by participation in high school activities, community service and part-time employment.

Most successful candidates rank in the top quarter of their high school class and have demonstrated proficiency in both mathematical and applied science.

Candidates must be unmarried at the time of the appointment, have no legal obligations and must have reached the age of 17 but not 23 by July 1, 1999. Candidates must be assured of high school graduation by June 30, 1999.

Coast Guard candidates obtain an excellent undergraduate education at no personal expense. In addition, they receive pay and allowances for living expenses.

The academy curriculum emphasizes engineering and science, leads to a bachelor of science degree, and establishes a solid foundation for a challenging career.

Graduates of the academy are commissioned as ensigns in the U.S. Coast Guard.

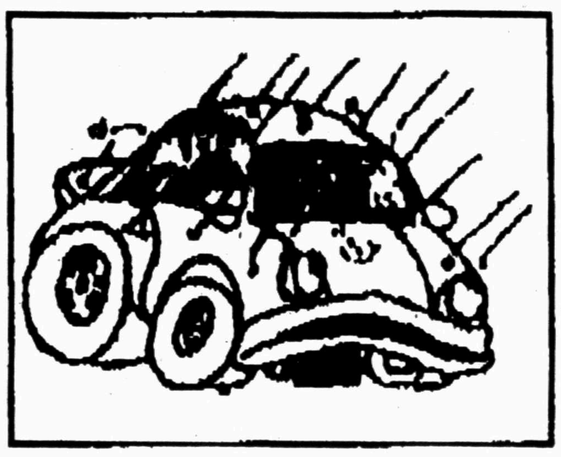
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Rock and Roll Hall of Fame...

Elvis Presley exhibit to open

CLEVELAND (AP) — The King may have left the building long ago, but die-hard Elvis Presley fans can still rummage through whatever he left behind — and that's all right, mama.

Saturday, Presley becomes the first musician to have a major exhibit dedicated solely to him at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

"Elvis was the logical choice. He was the first real rock 'n' roll star," said Jim Henke, the hall's deputy director and curator.

The exhibition is billed as the largest collection of Elvis memorabilia ever assembled outside of Graceland, Elvis' home in Memphis, Tenn.

It features objects that fans would expect — guitars and studded jumpsuits — and some they may not — the yet-to-be-King's crayons and a TV with a bullet hole.

"If he didn't like a TV show or was angry at something he would blow the screen out," Henke said.

There's a now-ragged trunk the Presley family used to move from his first home in Tupelo, Miss., to Memphis.

Presley's seventh-grade report card shows The King was an "A" student in spelling but could manage only a "D" in science.

A job application Elvis filled out for a trucking company shows him described as a "playboy-looking type" by his interviewer. He didn't get the job.

A high school band program shows the first time Presley's name was ever in print for a performance: It was misspelled "Prestly."

For Presley aficionados who have made the pilgrimage to Graceland, some of the show will be familiar. About 70 percent of the items are on loan from Graceland, while others are borrowed from private collectors.



NEW TEACHERS — New Snyder teachers and new school personnel attending a luncheon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club Tuesday are from left, back row, Diane Benbow, Clark Humphrey, Kathy Scott, Jason Whitney, Rebecca Wesson, Sam Huffman; front row, John Gatlin, Lynn Price, Kristi Drennan, Carolyn Torres, Allison McCarter, Hermleigh ISD; Trena Dorsett. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Angelica Ramirez...

Navy airman completes five-month deployment

Navy Airman Angelica M. Ramirez, daughter of Francisco Ramirez and Antonia Avila, recently completed a five-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp.

Ramirez was one of more than 2,900 Sailors and Marines aboard the ship, which departed its homeport of Norfolk, Va. in February as the command ship for the USS Wasp Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)

The ARG also included the amphibious transport dock USS Trenton, the dock landing ship USS Portland are the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

During the deployment, Ramirez' ship participated in several multinational exercises including Dynamic Response, Destined Glory and Determined Falcon.

Ramirez' ship also responded to a distress call from a merchant vessel burning off the coast of Crete where Sailors and Marines assisted the ship's crew in controlling the blaze and rendering to injured crew members.

In addition, the USS Wasp won the Allen G. Ogden Award for fire prevention and protection. The ship also won the second consecutive Secretary of the Navy's Environmental Award for environmental protection in air, water and noise pollution control.

While on deployment, crew members on Ramirez' ship participated in "Freedom Fest," a three-day 4th of July celebration for sailors at Naval Air Station, Sigonella.

During the festivities, Ramirez and fellow sailors treated children from a local orphanage to lunch on board the USS Wasp.

The 1995 graduate of Snyder High School joined the Navy in June of 1996.

Man breaks into store, dines on lobster

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Call it the case of the well-fed burglar.

Clark Dounouk is accused of breaking into a gourmet food store as many as 35 times over the past two months and feasting on lobster, champagne, shrimp and well-aged wine.

"He was living good. It was his nightly dining spot," Detective William Erickson said Friday. "He was eating better than we are."

Dounouk, 18, was charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of larceny after authorities got an anonymous tip.

Police said Dounouk entered the upscale Ann Howard Cookery through an unlocked rear door in June and July and raided the kitchen to scarf up shellfish, deli meat, champagne and liquor.

Shop manager Hannelore Joeckel said she was not aware of the break-ins until police notified her of the arrest.

Joeckel said the rear door had been broken and had been replaced with a temporary door that had no lock.

The door now sports a new lock, she said.

Avenue D Baptist sets revival

Avenue D Baptist Church is planning a revival Sunday through Friday. Herman Cramer will be the evangelist and Robert Haymie will direct the music.

Sunday morning services will be at 9:45 and 10:45 a.m. The evening service will begin at 7 p.m.

Weekdays services will begin at 7 p.m. to be followed by fellowship and a covered dish meal. A Bible study and luncheon is also planned at noon daily.

Cramer, who is from Seguin, speaks at about 40 revivals each year. Haymie is the music director at Parkway Baptist Church in Lubbock.

Cramer graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth in 1975. Previously he had been a successful farmer. He pastored the First Baptist Church in Dilley for five years before becoming an evangelist.

He and his wife, Judell. have two daughters, Cindy and Caren.

Haymie began singing in youth choirs at church. He continued to sing and play instruments all through school. He is committed to sing in churches of all sizes. He is married to Jana, who supports his ministry.

A nursery will be provided.



Herman Cramer

Local boy attends camp for diabetics

GAINESVILLE — Camp Sweeney, located east of this North Texas Community, now has a special meaning for Travis Hatfield of Snyder. You see, these young people have diabetes.

Each summer, Camp Sweeney offers over 600 young people, between the ages of 6 and 18, a fun and educational atmosphere to help them grow and develop an active, responsible lifestyle to manage their diabetes.

With its 340 acres, including Lake Dealey, this camp offers a life-time foundation in such vital needs as blood-glucose monitoring, insulin injections, diet and exercise.

Around the clock medical attention is offered by the 80 member staff including training on the importance of a healthy lifestyle in coping with diabetes.

Camp Sweeney offers many activities including horseback riding, soccer, crafts, swimming and publications. Camp Sweeney operates a radio station at KPEC 91.9 FM and can be found on the worldwide web at www.campsweeney.org.

Camp Sweeney began as the dream of Dr. J. Shirley Sweeney, an endocrinologist, and has grown since 1950 to meet the ever-increasing demand for its special programs. It has now served over 1,200 young people.

About 95 percent of campers receive scholarship aid to defray tuition costs. Camp Sweeney is funded from individuals, foundations and the United Way.

The camp is operated by the Southwestern Diabetic Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 918, Gainesville, 76241, 940-665-9502.

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PRESENTERS — Snyder teachers and other school personnel have attended special meetings and presentations in preparation for the new school year which begins Wednesday. Presenters include from left, Kathryn Roberts, Carolyn Garza, James Beauchamp, Ricky Fritz, Donna Fowler, James Sundell, Leslie Cooley, Barbara Vincent, Dee Wilson. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Families of switched babies planning weekend meeting

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — They've swapped baby pictures, endured the aggravations of public scrutiny and corresponded via attorneys.

Now the families involved in the saga of two newborns apparently switched at a Virginia hospital are planning to get together to discuss the ordeal.

The relatives of Callie Johnson and Rebecca Chittum will meet for the first time over the weekend, said Pete Robey, a lawyer for one of the families. The location and place will remain secret so their talk can be private, and the children won't be coming along, he said Friday.

The two blond, blue-eyed 3-year-old girls were apparently given to the wrong parents shortly after they were born at the University of Virginia Medical Center.

Callie went with Paula Johnson, a 30-year-old who works for a construction company, and Rebecca went with Kevin Chittum and fiancee Whitney Rogers, who died in a car crash on July 4. Rebecca's grandparents, who are now caring for the child, were told of the switch a week ago.

Last month, DNA testing in Paula Johnson's paternity lawsuit revealed that the baby she took home from the hospital wasn't hers.

Travis Rogers, Whitney's brother, said family members are comforted by Ms. Johnson's recent statements that she doesn't want to take Rebecca away from the family she knows.

"I thank God that we've got somebody in this situation with us that's sensible," Rogers told The Roanoke Times.

Ms. Johnson and ex-boyfriend Carlton Conley, who separated a few months before Callie was born, insist they can reach a private agreement on custody and visitation rights with Rebecca's grandparents.

The Daily Progress of Charlottesville also reported Friday that a woman who witnessed the birth of Ms. Johnson's child, Callie Marie, said the child was banded with an identification bracelet within minutes of her birth on June 29, 1995.

Melissa Conley, the sister-in-law of Ms. Johnson's former boyfriend, said she saw the pink bracelet on Callie's wrist when she held her moments after she was born.

That account contrasts with one given by Ms. Johnson, who has said her child wasn't banded until about three hours after she was born.

Cynthia A. Johnson, attorney for Ms. Johnson, declined to comment on Ms. Conley's version of events in the birthing room.

Officials at the hospital believe Ms. Rogers left with the wrong child on July 2, and that Ms. Johnson left two days later with Ms. Rogers' child. An investigation being led by the university police with assistance from the Virginia State Police still has not determined how the baby switch took place.

Finalists named for $1 million drawing

AUSTIN (AP) — Seven finalists were named Friday for a $1 million Texas Lottery drawing to be held Aug. 15 in El Paso.

The lottery said the seven are: Ace Guerrero, Houston; Beatrice Barnes, San Antonio; Barbara J. Richardson, Grand Prairie; Sathaniel A. Fisher, Houston; Bobby J. Williams, Dallas; Eddie Emery, Mount Pleasant; and Kim D. Bigley, Austin.

Of the seven, one will win the $1 million prize. One will win $50,000, another $25,000, two will get $15,000 each and two will get $10,000 each.

Brenda Flores, coordinator of the program for the lottery, said players who scratch a Lone Star Millionaire game ticket with a star symbol can mail in the ticket to enter the drawings. For this drawing, about 113,000 entries were received, she said.

14-year-old boy

Genius earns master's degree

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Michael Kearney entered the world ahead of schedule and hasn't slowed down. He started high school at 5, and by the time he was 10, was a college graduate and reporter for a TV show.

Now 14, he's receiving his master's degree in chemistry from Middle Tennessee State University today. His average: A-minus.

Not bad for a kid whose parents were told he might be "slow" because he was born prematurely.

"They told me not to expect much," said Cassidy Kearney, Michael's mom. "I don't know why doctors give those kind of predictions about children. I don't really think they know what they're talking about."

Michael, who plans to earn a doctorate and — no kidding — might try to become a game show host, sounds like a natural for the job when asked to describe how he feels about his latest accomplishment.

"I'm happy. I'm giddy. I'm spiffy," he said. "Everyone's sending me money, so I'm happy. It's not so much the graduation, it's the cash. The cold, hard cash."

Michael already has been a guest on a number of TV shows, including "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." He also was a reporter for the now-canceled syndicated show "Mike and Maty" in 1994-95.

In 1995, independent producers asked him to be host of a trivia game show. A pilot was taped but the show never was picked up because network officials thought it awkward to have a child correct an adult, Mrs. Kearney said.

Michael, whose IQ is above 200, originally enrolled in MTSU as a mass communications major to prepare for a career in show business. He dropped it for chemistry when that sparked his interest more.

Michael's parents say they knew they had an unusual child when he started speaking at 4 months and reading at 8 months. But they didn't realize how unusual.

"We thought he would just get ahead a few grades," recalled Kevin Kearney, Michael's dad.

Michael slept little as a small child, always searching for things to satisfy his curiosity. When he was 3, he took apart a TV to see how the people got inside. Although he was able to put some of it back together, his parents had to buy a new one.

During what normally would have been his preschool years, Michael's parents taught him advanced subjects. At 5, after his family moved to California, he enrolled in high school. He graduated a year later, then went to Santa Rosa Junior College.

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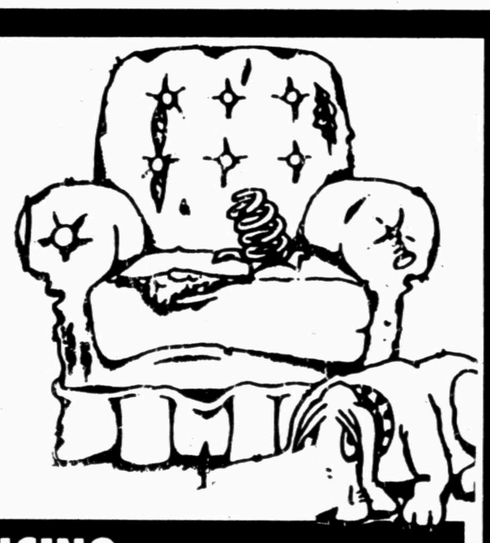
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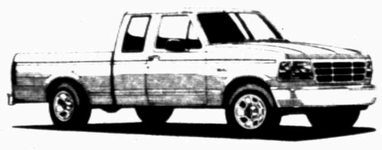
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SPORTS



LIKE THIS — Snyder assistant coach Roland Herrera instructs players during defensive drills recently at the SHS prtactice field. The Tigers continue workouts next week, with the Watermelon Bowl slated for Friday. (SDN Staff Photo)

Gruden debuts against Dallas; Smith likely to see little action

IRVING (AP) — Jon Gruden makes his NFL debut as Oakland's new head coach Saturday night against the Dallas Cowboys, and he hopes his Raiders play better than they did in a scrimmage two days ago.

The Cowboys beat Oakland 7-0 Thursday night in a scrimmage at El Paso, and Oakland, one of the hottest offensive teams in the NFL last year, didn't score in 40 plays.

Dallas coach Chan Gailey said he was pleased with the way his team played in the scrimmage, but added, "We don't want to hurt our arms patting ourselves on the back."

Gailey was offensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers last year. He lost 20-19 to Seattle in his debut last week.

Gruden, former offensive coordinator for Philadelphia, knows the heat will be on him from the start, even in exhibition games.

"I understand the expectations and commitment of this franchise," he said.

Coach Al Davis said of Gruden, "I like Jon's passion, his resiliency."

Oakland had an excellent offense last year, and players like wide receiver Tim Brown, quarterback Jeff George, running back Napoleon Kaufman and tight end Rickey Dudley return.

George tied Mark Brunell of Jacksonville for the best quarterback rating in the NFC last year at 91.2. He hit 60 per cent of his passes and threw 18 touchdown passes.

However, Oakland was last in the NFL in defense, allowing an average of 382 yards per game.

Gailey only played his starters a quarter against Seattle and was expected to do about the same against Oakland.

"We need to see our young players under fire," Gailey said.

Dallas will likely see its backup quarterback from last season, Wade Wilson, in the game against them. Wilson is listed third on the Oakland depth chart.

Also playing for Oakland against Dallas is former Cowboys No. 1 draft pick Russell Maryland.

On disply for the Raiders will be their two first round draft picks, cornerback Charles Woodson of Michigan and offensive lineman Mo Colllins, a 6-foot-4, 335-pounder from Florida.

Emmitt Smith, who suffered a slight arm injury last week, could see limited action against the Raiders, but Brown isn't expected to play. He was in Los Angeles with his wife, Sherice, who gave birth to a girl last week.

Oakland beat Dallas 34-27 last year and holds a 12-5 advantage in preseason games. The teams have split six regular-season games.

They play again in Texas Stadium on Sept. 27.

Wetteland stymies Vaughn again in Texas' 4-3 victory

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas closer John Wetteland faced Boston slugger Mo Vaughn with two outs in the ninth representing the tying run for the second straight game.

And the result was the same.

Wetteland struck out Vaughn to register his 31st save, matching last season's total, as the Rangers won their sixth straight with a 4-3 victory over the Red Sox on Friday night.

A weary Wetteland, appearing in his fourth straight game, altered his pitching pattern from Thursday night when he went almost exclusively with his fastball.

"I wanted to pitch guys a little differently than last night," said Wetteland, who has three saves and a win over the four-game span. "Against Vaughn, I wanted to give a different look than last night, so I threw a lot more breaking balls. This would have been a difficult game to let slip away. The guys played inspired baseball tonight."

Vaughn noticed the change in Wetteland's pitch selection.

"He switched the whole pattern on me," Vaughn said. "He started me out with two hard breaking balls."

Rick Helling outdueled Pedro Martinez for his 15th victory as the Rangers tied their longest winning streak of the season.

Martinez (15-4) recovered from a three-run first to strike out a season-high 13. He allowed four runs, six hits and two walks in 6 2-3 innings.

"Anytime you face a guy like that, a Cy Young winner, you want to get off to a good start," said Will Clark, who had a two-run homer in the first for the Rangers. "From there he got into a groove and only got tougher. Three runs is a big cushion against a guy like Pedro."

Trailing 4-3 with runners on first and second and two outs, Martinez was taken out of the game in the seventh by manager Jimy Williams after throwing 124 pitches. Martinez angrily shouted to himself as he walked to the dugout.

"I'm not big on coming out of a game," Martinez said. "It's my pride. I don't get mad at anybody."

Helling (15-6) allowed three runs and seven hits over six innings, leaving after Mike Benjamin's leadoff double in the seventh. Tim Crabtree got out of the seventh without allowing a run and the Rangers bullpen held the Red Sox scoreless on one hit over the final three innings.

Helling struck out three and walked two as he extended his career-high for victories by prevailing against the AL's ERA leader.

"When you face a guy like that, you know runs are going to be hard to come by," Helling said. "The key was getting three in the first against one of the best pitchers in baseball. From there I just tried to do my job."

Juan Gonzalez's major league-leading 119th RBI helped Texas take advantage of an error by first baseman Vaughn in the fifth, breaking a 3-all tie. Tom Goodwin led off with a single and Luis Alicea bunted. Vaughn fielded the ball and threw over the head of second baseman Benjamin, putting runners at second and third. Gonzalez's sacrifice fly drove in Goodwin with an unearned run.

The Rangers capitalized on a couple of rare mistake pitches by Martinez in the first. Rusty Greer hit a run-scoring double and after Gonzalez struck out, Clark hit his 16th homer, a two-run shot over the Rangers bullpen in right field.

Boston tied it with a three-run fourth, highlighted by RBI singles from Darren Bragg and Damon Buford and Scott Hatteberg's sacrifice fly. The Red Sox got a

31-16...

Backup QBs lead Oilers over Falcons

ATLANTA (AP) — George McCullough returned an interception 21 yards for a touchdown and James Ritchey and Ron Powlus, battling for a backup spot at quarterback, each threw a touchdown pass as the Tennessee Oilers routed the Atlanta Falcons 31-16 in the exhibition opener for both teams Friday night.

The Oilers, who had lost six consecutive exhibition games, had little trouble winning the matchup of teams that finished last season with 8-8 records by winning seven of their last 11 games.

Ritchey steered the Oilers on a 66-yard drive that started in the third quarter and ended 1:22 into the fourth when he connected on a 31-yard pass with Isaac Byrd, who beat Juran Bolden on the right sideline.

Powlus, the rookie from Notre Dame, hit Kevin Dyson on a 46-yard scoring strike down the left side on the first play after Samari Rolle intercepted a pass by Tony Graziani.

The Oilers also got a 48-yard field goal from Al Del Greco while Powlus was running the show, but that came after he moved the team only eight yards following Barron Wortham's recovery of an onside kickoff by the Falcons at the Atlanta 38.

Both coaches wanted to look at their backup quarterbacks, with Atlanta starter Chris Chandler playing only one quarter and Tennessee's Steve McNair just under a half.

Astros draws big crowd

HOUSTON (AP) — The playoffs haven't arrived yet. But Randy Johnson has — and that was enough to excite Houston Astros fans.

Johnson made his first Astrodome start Friday night since he was obtained in a trade with the Seattle Mariners minutes before the July 31 trade deadline.

Fans young and old reacted as if the playoffs already had started.

"When you see him on ESPN every night, you know he's one of the premier players in the league," said 16-year-old Jessica Berman.

She expects Johnson's addition to boost interest in the Astros.

"It will make them pay attention more at least," she said. "Jeff Bagwell is a great player but nobody was paying attention."

Fans paid attention Friday night.

They scrambled to the Astrodome ticket office early Friday in the rain to scoop up the remaining tickets, creating a sellout. Standing room only tickets went on sale shortly before game time.

The club announced a record attendance of 52,071, the most people to watch a regular-season game in the 'Dome.

Placards welcoming Johnson to Texas were passed out to fans before the game. On one side the placard was inscribed "Welcome to Houston Big Unit" and on the other side was a huge "K."

Astros general manager Gerry Hunsicker was delighted with the turnout.

"Hopefully, this will be one of many nights like this," Hunsicker said. "I think having crowds like this will fire everybody up."

Avid fans like Jessica are glad the Big Unit is on their side. She remembers her shock at hearing the news.

"It was 11:58 at night and I was listening to Sports Center and I heard them say it," she said. "I screamed and ran down stairs and tried to call someone and tell them about it."

Last year's playoff game with the Atlanta Braves drew an all-time record 53,688 but Astros fans didn't have much to cheer about since the Braves won the game and swept the Astros in the best-of-five game series.

The Astros hope to go deeper in the playoffs this season.

"I think this is fantastic, I can't believe one man could make all this much difference," said season ticket holder Mary Lea Taylor of Humble. "I think we've got a good shot at it (World Series) and heaven knows we need it."

The Astros had sold 27,000 tickets to Friday's game before the Johnson trade came about and they've taken off since then. The Astros have drawn 1,397,665 fans for 52 home games this season, an average of 26,878.

The Astros regular season record was 51,527 set May 15 in a 3-2 victory over Atlanta.

Vendors loaded up with extra hot dogs, sodas and beer and the Dome's work force was boosted from 450 to 1,000.

Kevin Knowlton of nearby Bellaire, a season ticket holder, attended the game with his two children, Kimberly, 15, and Paul, 8.

"This adds a dynamic to the team that was needed," Knowlton said. "I don't know him as a person but you'd think he'd appreciate 50,000 fans showing up for his first start."

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Preseason

Thursday's Game

New York Jets 29, Philadelphia 15

Friday's Games

Detroit 13, Arizona 10, OT

Tennessee 31, Atlanta 16

Saturday's Games

Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.

Jacksonville at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

Miami at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Kansas City vs. Tampa Bay at Norman, Okla., 8 p.m.

Cincinnati at New York Giants, 8 p.m.

Denver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

New Orleans at Green Bay, 8 p.m.

Oakland at Dallas, 9 p.m.

Indianapolis at Seattle, 10 p.m.

San Francisco at San Diego, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Minnesota at New England, 7:30 p.m.

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East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	77	39	.664	-
NewYork	61	52	.540	14½
Philadelphia	56	58	.491	20
Montreal	47	69	.405	30
Florida	41	75	.353	36
Central Division				
Houston	69	46	.600	-
Chicago	64	52	.552	5½
Milwaukee	57	58	.496	12
St.Louis	54	60	.474	14½
Cincinnati	52	64	.448	17½
Pittsburgh	51	65	.440	18½
West Division				
SanDiego	75	41	.647	-
SanFrancisco	62	54	.534	13
LosAngeles	59	57	.509	16
Colorado	52	64	.448	23
Arizona	44	71	.383	30½

Friday's Games

Arizona 6, Montreal 4

Cincinnati 17, Milwaukee 0

Houston 9, Philadelphia 0

St. Louis 16, Chicago Cubs 3

N.Y. Mets 8, Colorado 7

Los Angeles 3, Pittsburgh 1

San Diego 6, Florida 3, 13 innings

Atlanta 5, San Francisco 0

Saturday's Games

Chicago Cubs (M.Clark 6-11) at St. Louis (Osborne 1-2), 1:15 p.m.

Atlanta (Millwood 12-6) at San Francisco (Darwin 7-9), 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Reynoso 2-0) at Colorado (B.M.Jones 5-4), 4:05 p.m.

Arizona (Telemaco 4-5) at Montreal (Hermanson 9-9), 7:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (Woodard 9-5) at Cincinnati (Reyes 1-4), 7:05 p.m.

Philadelphia (Loewer 5-4) at Houston (Lima 10-6), 8:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Lieber 8-12) at Los Angeles (Mlicki 6-5), 10:35 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Milwaukee (Karl 8-5) at Cincinnati (Parris 1-2), 1:15 p.m.

Arizona (Wolcott 1-1) at Montreal (Thurman 2-0), 1:35 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Wengert 1-1) at St. Louis (Oliver 0-1), 2:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Beech 3-7) at Houston (Reynolds 13-7), 2:35 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Nomo 5-8) at Colorado (Kile 7-14), 3:05 p.m.

Florida (Larkin 3-6) at San Diego (Hitchcock 5-4), 4:05 p.m.

Atlanta (Smoltz 10-2) at San Francisco (Gardner 8-5), 8:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Peters 5-8) at Los Angeles (Park 10-5), 8:05 p.m.

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
NewYork	82	29	.739	-
Boston	66	47	.584	17
Baltimore	59	55	.518	24½
Toronto	56	59	.487	28
TampaBay	44	68	.393	38½
Central Division				
Cleveland	64	50	.561	-
KansasCity	52	63	.452	12½
Minnesota	51	62	.451	12½
Chicago	49	63	.438	14
Detroit	46	67	.407	17½
West Division				
Texas	63	51	.553	-
Anaheim	60	53	.531	2½
Seattle	52	62	.456	11
Oakland	52	63	.452	11½

Friday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 2, 1st game

N.Y. Yankees 14, Kansas City 2, 2nd game

Seattle 6, Detroit 3, 1st game

Seattle 7, Detroit 1, 2nd game

Oakland 7, Toronto 6

Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 1

Baltimore 16, Minnesota 9

Anaheim at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain

Texas 4, Boston 3

Saturday's Games

Seattle (Cloude 6-7) at Detroit (Powell 2-2), 1:15 p.m.

Oakland (Haynes 7-4) at Toronto (Hentgen 10-8), 4:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Rusch 6-14) at N.Y. Yankees (Hernandez 6-3), 4:05 p.m.

Anaheim (Dickson 9-9 and Sparks 5-2) at Chicago White Sox (Sirotka 10-10 and Navarro 8-13), 2, 4:05 p.m.

Cleveland (Nagy 9-7) at Tampa Bay (Rekar 1-3), 6:35 p.m.

Baltimore (Ponson 5-6) at Minnesota (Radke 10-9), 8:05 p.m.

Boston (Wakefield 13-5) at Texas (Sele 13-8), 8:35 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Seattle (Florie 5-6) at Detroit (Swift 9-6), 1:05 p.m.

Oakland (Oquist 6-9) at Toronto (Clemens 14-6), 1:05 p.m.

Cleveland (Wright 9-7) at Tampa Bay (Arrojo 11-8), 1:35 p.m.

Kansas City (Pichardo 6-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 13-6), 1:35 p.m.

Baltimore (Mussina 10-5) at Minnesota (Milton 6-8), 2:35 p.m.

Anaheim (Finley 8-5) at Chicago White Sox (Baldwin 7-4), 2:05 p.m.

Boston (Wasdin 5-4) at Texas (Stottlemyre 1-0), 8:05 p.m.

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SPORTS

Manning, Leaf must prove their worth as top two picks

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press Writer

The time has come for Peyton Manning and Ryan Leaf.

The two rookie quarterbacks will make their highly anticipated pro debuts Saturday night. Manning, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, will start for Indianapolis at Seattle, and Leaf, the No. 2 pick, will start for San Diego at San Francisco.

Manning, who held out for five days, signed a six-year contract worth as much as $48 million last week and was told he will play the first half Saturday night.

"I don't know whether that will alter during the three games after that," he said. "Whatever time I'm in there, I'm going to try to make the best out of it."

Manning, whose only competition is two inexperienced journeymen, Kelly Holcomb and Bill Musgrave, was chosen the starting quarterback for the Colts shortly after being drafted.

Leaf was named the starter earlier this week, making him the first Chargers rookie to go into a season as the No. 1 quarterback.

"First start ever in the pros against the (first) team to win five world championships is kind of big," Leaf said.

"It'll be fun. I'll just go out and do what I know I can do and allow everybody else around me to make me look better and do things to take the pressure off me."

This is the first full weekend of NFL exhibitions, with the start of the season only four weeks away.

Jason Hanson kicked a 38-yard field goal 2:50 into overtime to lift the Detroit Lions to a 13-10 exhibition victory at home over the Arizona Cardinals on Friday night.

In the only other game, Tennessee beat Atlanta 31-16.

Hanson's 34-yarder with one second remaining in the fourth quarter forced the overtime, climaxing a battle of two promising backup quarterbacks.

The Cardinals' Stoney Case, battling Dave Brown for the right to back up Jake Plummer, was 12-of-21 for 126 yards. Charlie Batch, who was 8-of-16 for 133 yards, hooked up with Germane Crowell for a 48-yard bomb to the Cardinals 24 as the Lions drove 60 yards in five plays to set up Hanson's overtime field goal.

"I told the line to protect, and they firmed up," said Batch, on the play that set up the winning field goal. "Once we drew the safety up, it was a matter of getting Germane the ball. Germane just made a good move on the ball."

In Atlanta, George McCullough returned an interception for a touchdown, and James Ritchey and Ron Powlus, battling for a backup spot at quarterback, each threw a touchdown pass for the Oilers.

Saturday night, the Denver Broncos open at St. Louis, but John Elway won't be there.

Elway will be in Rochester, Minn., with his wife Janet, who underwent surgery Thursday for what is believed to be Crohn's Disease, a chronic disease of the intestinal tract.

So Bubby Brister will start at quarterback for the Broncos, with Brian Griese, who may be Elway's eventual replacement, ready to get his first action as a pro.

The Baltimore Ravens open their new $220 million stadium against the Chicago Bears. A sell-out crowd of 69,000, a rarity for an exhibition, is expected.

"We want to show the fans what we have," Ravens coach Ted Marchibroda said. "We want to play well right from the beginning and continue to do that."

In other games Saturday night, Buffalo is at Pittsburgh, Jacksonville at Carolina, Miami at Washington, Kansas City vs. Tampa Bay at Norman, Okla., Cincinnati at the New York Giants, New Orleans at Green Bay and Oakland at Dallas.

The Bengals-Giants game will be the first played on grass at Giants Stadium.

The grass, put over the artificial turf for the Major League Soccer season, will be removed for the regular season, when the Jets and Giants both use the facility. It could be used permanently if a way is found to keep it fresh with two pro teams, several college games and a number of rock concerts at the stadium.

Minnesota is at New England on Sunday.

USA nabs hoop victory

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Yugoslavia, Russia, Greece and the United States are in the semifinals of the World Basketball Championship — and nobody is more relieved to survive than the unheralded Americans.

European champion Yugoslavia, which plays the best basketball outside of the NBA and got the silver medal behind the Dream Team in the '96 Olympics, was supposed to make it. The Yugoslavians were 70-62 winners Friday over Argentina.

Russia, silver medalists in the '94 worlds and the most experienced, physical team in the tournament, beat Lithuania 82-67.

Greece, the home team trying to match its last major basketball medal — a gold 11 years ago in the European championship — held on for a 69-62 victory over Spain in front of 18,000 boisterous fans at Olympic arena.

The Americans? The no-name composite drafted when the NBA players were locked out won 80-77 when Italy's Carlton Myers missed a 3-pointer with seven seconds left. The English-born Italian finished with a tournament-high 32.

Russia faced the United States today, with Greece looking for its first win against bitter Balkan rival Yugoslavia since 1987.

"There's all the expectation on us since we got here," said U.S. center Gerard King, who had nine points. "Some people said we wouldn't get there. It's a sigh of relief, but we're not quite there yet."

Michael Hawkins topped the U.S. team with 16 points, while Wendell Alexis had 14 and Kiwane Garris 11.

"There's a kind of sense of relief," Garris said. "Back home people are talking that we're not going to do this, not going to do that. Now we've got to take advantage and go for the gold and not just settle for a medal."

The Americans trailed by seven with just under five minutes to play and looked like they'd become the first U.S. team to finish without a medal in the worlds since 1978. But Garris hit a 3-pointer, a closer shot from the wing and knocked down three key free throws to help secure the victory.

"A lot of teams get down like we were and it's like a dam breaking," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "But these guys stuck with it against a very tough opponent. They (the Italians) probably deserved to win it. There's something special about this group of guys."

Yugoslavia, without more top-line talent than anyone but the U.S. team, is still the favorite to win it all Sunday and match its 1990 world title. Dejan Bodiroga led five Yugoslavians in double figures with 14 points. Juan Alberto Espil led Argentina with 18.

"There are no easy opponents any longer," Yugoslavia coach Zeljko Obradovic said. "Whoever thought this would be an easy game was proven wrong."

Guard Vassiliy Karassev scored 31 points for Russia.

"We had some bad moments on offense and somebody had to take over," said Karassev, who was 9-of-14 from the field and 12-of-14 on free throws. "Sometimes you're a hero when you do that and sometimes you're not."

Turned on by the flag-waving sellout, Greece built an early lead and then held on in a tight second half.

Nikos Economou led Greece with 21 points and Ignacio Rodriguez had 12 for Spain, which was looking for its first major medal since a bronze in the '91 Euros. Spain's Alberto Herreros, who averaged 20.5 points to lead all players in preliminary play, had only six.

"All the losses against Yugoslavia will give us extra motivation," Greek guard Aggelos Koronios said. "I think we have the strength of win, but the four teams in the semifinals are almost equal."

In consolation games, Andrew Gaze's 33 points led Australia past Canada 88-71, while Brazil defeated Puerto Rico 76-64.

Unheralded golfers lead Buick Open

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP) — It isn't all that unusual for unknowns to be leading at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club. In fact, regulars have come to expect it.

So everything appeared perfectly normal as Brandel Chamblee, seeking his first victory on the PGA Tour, grabbed a 1-stroke lead over rookie Kent Jones after the second round of the Buick Open on Friday.

Chamblee, with the aid of an eagle on the par-5 seventh, shot 4-under-par 68 for an 11-under 133. Jones shot 67 for a 134 total.

Dudley Hart (69) and Phil Blackmar (68) were third at 135. Defending champion Vijay Singh (70) was tied with Steve Stricker (67) at 136 heading into the third round today.

Tiger Woods, using Warwick Hills as a tuneup for the PGA Championship next week at Redmond, Wash., shot 68 for 6-under 138.

It would not be a huge surprise if Chamblee should hang on for the win. Many golfers have tasted victory for the first time at Grand Blanc, about an hour north of Detroit.



TOSS HIM & TIE HIM — Snyder's Clayton Hirt competes in the goat tying event recently at the High Plains Junior Rodeo Finals in Clovis, N.M. Hirt took home the top spoty in the event. (Contributed Photo)

Johnson powers Houston to shutout of Philadelphia

HOUSTON (AP) — The Big Unit made a big entrance in his home debut for the Astros.

Johnson thrilled a record crowd with a five-hitter for his 20th career shutout in his Astrodome debut, leading the Houston Astros to a 9-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night.

"I know what rock stars feel like after walking out to the bullpen before the game," Johnson said. "I'm used to maybe 200 people watching me warm up in Seattle. When you've got 50,000 fans doing that when you first come out, that's exciting."

Johnson, 2-0 with Houston after going 9-10 with Seattle, helped attract 52,071 fans, the most ever for a regular-season game in the Astrodome.

He got thunderous cheers when he was introduced with the starting lineup. He was obtained July 31 and pitched seven innings against Pittsburgh last Sunday in his first NL game since 1989.

"I was overwhelmed by the attention I got," Johnson said. "Even when I'm not out there, fans should support this team because it's championship caliber. I've been on the AL West championship team with the Mariners, and this team has the same type of character. It's exciting to be a part of that."

Johnson didn't let the Phillies off the hook.

"I've faced him in three periods, when he was at Montreal, Seattle and now," Phillies outfielder Gregg Jefferies said. "At Montreal, he was just 'Here it comes.' He just threw pure gas. At Seattle he started to learn that slider.

"But this Randy Johnson is the best one I've seen. He's mastered the slider and his changeup is great too. And of course, he throws 95, 96, 97 all the time. He's become an unbelievable pitcher."

Jeff Bagwell homered twice to raise his season total to 25, hitting a three-run homer in the third and a solo shot in the sixth. It was Bagwell's third multihomer game this season, the 14th of his career.

Johnson, making just his 12th NL start, struck out eight and walked one, getting his third shutout of the season.

Hirt grabs top spot at rodeo finals

CLOVIS, N.M. — Clayton Hirt led all Snyder competitors recently at the High Plains Junior Rodeo Association Finals.

Hirt, competing in the 8-under age division, took home the top spot in goat tying after posting first and second place finishes in the two rounds.

Hirt was also third in the average in breakaway roping.

In the 16-19 age group, Darcee Purcell registered the second fastest times in her two rounds to claim the runner-up spot in the average. Purcell also raced to the front in the opening round of barrel racing, helping her to grab third in the average in the event.

Russell Riggan tied down third place overall in ribbon roping. Riggan was third in the first round and ninth in the second round.

The Clovis event was the final action of the year for the HPJRA which will resume in April 1999.

HPJRA FINALS
In Clovis, N.M.
8-under age group
Goat tying: Clayton Hirt, first in average.
Breakaway roping: Clayton Hirt, third in average.
9-12 age group
Ribbon roping: Hadley Hirt, ninth in first round.
Breakaway roping: Hadley Hirt, fifth in second round.
16-19 age group
Tie down roping: Russell Riggan, fourth in first round.
Ribbon roping: Russell Riggan, third in average; Stoni Riggan, third in average; Shelley York, ninth in average.
Team roping: Russell Riggan, ninth in average.
Breakaway roping: Shelley York, third in average; Stoni Riggan, tenth in second round.
Goat tying: Stoni Riggan, sixth in average.
Pole bending: Darcee Purcell, second in average.
Barrel racing: Darcee Purcell, third in average; Stoni Riggan, third in second round.

Sports Briefs

Blowout Partnership

The 10th annual Blowout Partnership will be held next Saturday and Sunday at Snyder Country Club. Format is a two-man lowball. Field is limited to the first 64 teams and entry fee is $300 per team.

Cash prizes in each flight will be $800 for first, $600 for second and $500 for third place. There will be shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Junior high football

All Snyder 8th graders wanting to play football must be at the SJHS field house Monday between 4 and 6 p.m. for the issuing of equipment.

Equipment will be issued to 7th graders Tuesday between 4 and 6 p.m. at the field house.

Any junior high students interested in being a student manager should also report to the field house.

Football meeting

Snyder coach David Baugh will conduct a meeting for all parents of Snyder High School football players Monday at 7 p.m. in the student center.

Football Referees

Referees are needed for local jr. high, freshmen and junior varsity football games. Training will be provided and payment will be on a per-game basis.

Anyone interested should contact Phil Robinson at 573-7985 (day) or 573-7970 (night) before Monday.

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will hold its Tuesday play day beginning at 9 a.m. Format will be Nassau Tournament. Couples play will be held Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Hunting permits

Applications for hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir WMA are being accepted through next Saturday. For more information, contact the Colorado River Municipal Water District at (915) 267-6341.

LOCAL GOLF RESULTS

Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College
Skins winners: Curtis Fletcher, Russell Fisk, Kenneth Parker, Ricky Hunter, Alan Fine, Darvin Baze, Darold Baldwin.
Three-man scramble: Tommy Baker, Ricky Hilburn and Darvin Baze, 62.
Stroke play tourney
A flight: Jay Kidd and Sam Robertson, winners; Ernie Armstrong and Russell Fisk, runners-up.
B flight: Rick Beard, Ricky Hunter and Mike Rodriguez, winners; Nolan von Roeder, R.B. von Roeder and Kenneth Parker, runners-up.
C flight: Alan Fine, winner; Rick Hilburn, runner-up.
D flight: Tommy Wright amd Mutt Thompson, winners; Darold Baldwin and Don Campbell, runners-up.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	17	8	.680	-
Cleveland	15	9	.625	1½
NewYork	14	10	.583	2½
Detroit	13	12	.520	4
Washington	2	22	.083	14½
WESTERN CONFERENCE	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
x-Houston	24	2	.923	-
Phoenix	13	10	.565	9½
LosAngeles	10	14	.417	13
Utah	7	17	.292	16
Sacramento	7	18	.280	16½

x-clinched playoff berth

Friday's Games
Houston 61, Detroit 57
Sacramento 76, Washington 55
Saturday's Games
Los Angeles at New York, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Sunday's Game
Los Angeles at Washington, 4 p.m.

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Study criticizes ads for and against tobacco bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A $40 million advertising campaign against proposed tobacco legislation contained many claims that were false or misleading, a university study says.

The Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania questioned the accuracy of the ads, credited with helping to defeat Senate legislation in June that called for raising cigarette taxes and curbing teen smoking.

The study has complaints about ads that support the legislation, too.

"A large audience has been repeatedly exposed to misleading, uncorrected claims," said the study's author, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication and director of the center.

The ads against the legislation, paid for by the tobacco and anti-smoking interests, are continuing to run, albeit less often than earlier in the year.

"The objective of the advertising campaign was to defeat bad tobacco tax legislation," said Steve Duchesne, a spokesman for the tobacco industry. "The objective now is to ensure that it doesn't get put back on the radar screen. Some members up on the Hill have vowed to bring it back time and time again during the course of the legislative session."

The Annenberg Center report found that many claims made in the ads were false. For example, the "new taxes for working people" the ads complained about would be paid only by smokers, and not every smoker has a job, the center said.

Duchesne said that between 40 and 50 million Americans smoke, so the tax would be widespread. He said many stations demanded that the industry back up its claims with documentation before they carried the commercials.

"The assertions made in the ads are legitimate," he said. "They are factual and very straight forward."

Bowen leads two trips to Europe

Beth Bowen, one of Snyder's premier travelers, organized two trips abroad this summer.

From June 8-18 she and a group of adults toured London, the Normandy beaches, St. Malo, then Paris, France and England. She noted that while it was a 114 degrees in Snyder, they experienced bitter cold when they visited Stonehenge.

The travelers included Jerrald Bowen, Grace Trevino, Bev Ball, Frank Miller, Jerry Bowen, Linda Trevino, Arthur Trevino, Gayle Lomax, Virginia Lomax, Joan Graham, Carol Miller, Helen Scott and Judy Robinson.

From July 5-15, she and three girls visited London, Paris, Lucerne, Switzerland, Innsbruk, Austria and Munich, Germany.

They included Jamie Burleson who graduated from Snyder High School in May and will be a freshman at Southern Methodist University. Others were Tamra Anderson who will be a senior at SHS and Julie Lay Springer, former resident.

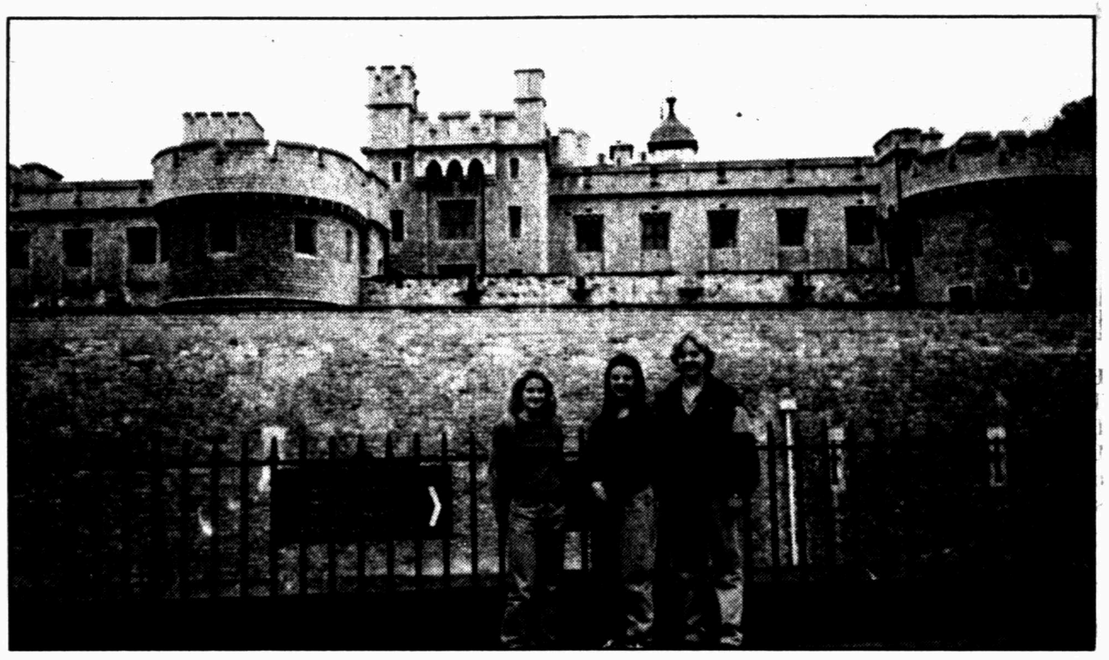
Next summer, Bowen will be taking two groups abroad as well.

One trip, primarily for students, will be to Berlin, Prague, Budapest, and Vienna, Austria. However, Bowen said no one has to be a student to participate.

She will also be taking another group, primarily adults, to Australia.



STONEHENGE — This group of Snyder residents visited Stonehenge on a bitter cold day. The travelers included (front) Jerrald Bowen, Grace Trevino, Diana Platts, tour guide; Bev Ball; (back) Frank Miller, Jerry Bowen, Linda Trevino, Beth Bowen, Arthur Trevino, Gayle Lomax, Virginia Lomax, Joan Graham. (Contributed Photo)



THE TOWER OF LONDON — Standing in front of the Tower Of London are from left, Tamra Anderson, Julie Springer, Jamie Burleson. (Contributed Photo)

Cancer stamp

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new postage stamp issued this week that funds breast cancer research is "the perfect idea for fighting this disease," Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., said Saturday.

In the Republican Party's weekly radio address, Faircloth hailed the stamp as an innovative way to back research for breast cancer, which will kill an estimated 44,000 women this year.

Under court order, archives to start snipping old Nixon tapes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Decades after the fighting over his tapes began, Richard Nixon is finally getting at least part of his wish.

The National Archives, under a court order it had fought for years, on Monday will begin cutting up the original tapes from the Watergate years and returning portions dealing with private matters to the late president's estate.

That's a sizable chunk of the tapes — about 820 hours out of 3,700.

Nixon went to his grave in 1994 immensely frustrated that the government still had custody of the material even though the Supreme Court in 1977 had ruled that private conversations would have to be returned.

The private parts of the tapes were never meant for the public's ears.

"He wanted to make absolutely sure that family and personal conversations were never made public," said John Taylor, who is an executor of the Nixon estate and runs the privately-financed Nixon library in Yorba Linda, Calif.

Taylor said the executors probably would destroy the personal outtakes from the original tape. But he said nothing was being lost to history, calling the long dispute "entirely an emotional and symbolic issue."

Archivist of the United States John Carlin has asked the Nixon estate to accept a full "master preservation copy" of the tapes so that the full record will be preserved intact.

"This would allow the political conversations, which are included in those private or personal materials, to be preserved in context with other conversations and possibly to be made available to the public in the future," the archives said in a statement.

Taylor said the Nixon estate wouldn't tamper with the "preservation copy." But he also said the estate would never make public the portions that deal with strictly personal matters.

"At no point does the Nixon estate ever intend to do anything that could cause history to have the opportunity to listen to family and personal portions," he said. "The Nixon estate made a solemn promise to the president and his family."

However, some portions of the "private" tapes being returned to the Nixon estate are about political matters rather than family matters — the 1972 re-election campaign, for example. Taylor did not rule out the possibility that some of that material eventually might reach the public.

That would please Nixon historian Stanley Kutler. He had no objection to the public being denied access to strictly personal conversations but said political discussions were a different matter. "That's what Watergate was all about," he said.

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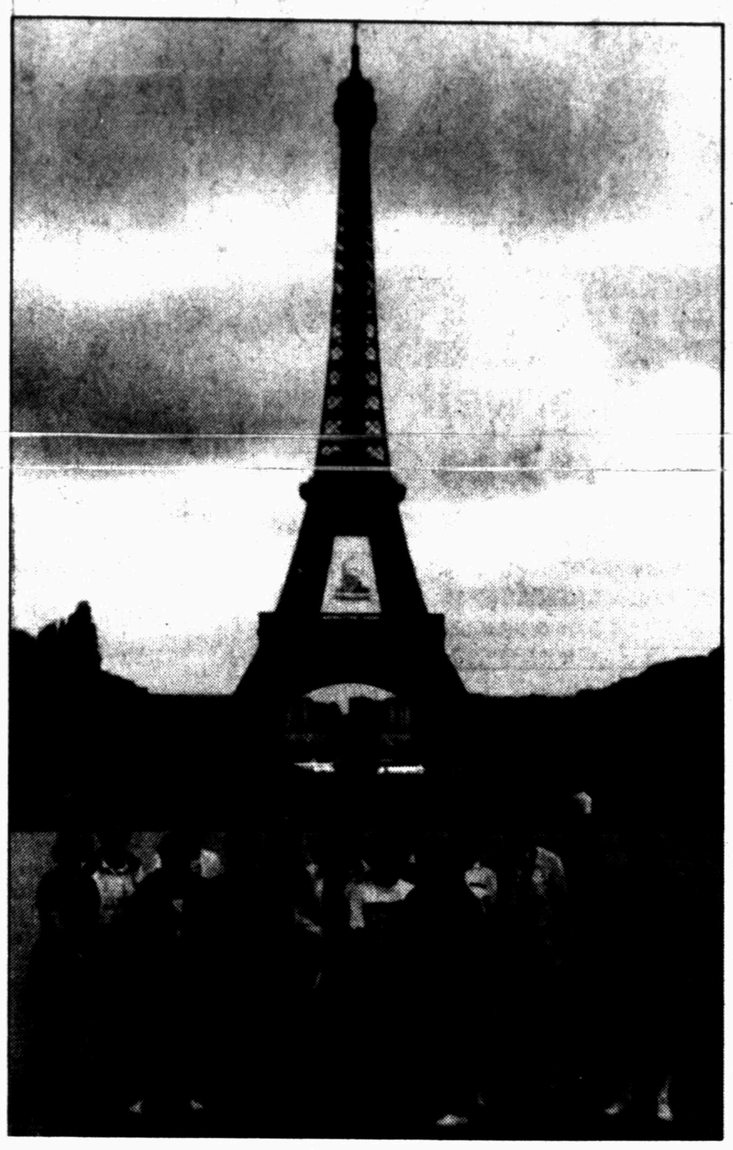
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EIFEL TOWER — The Snyder travelers also visited the Eifel Tower in Paris. They included Jerrald Bowen, Grace Trevino, Diana Platts, tour guide; Bev Ball; Frank Miller, Jerry Bowen, Linda Trevino, Beth Bowen, Arthur Trevino, Gayle Lomax, Virginia Lomax, Joan Graham, Carol Miller, Helen Scott, Judy Robinson. (Contributed Photo)



LION MOUNTAIN — Shown at Lion Mountain in Lucerne are from left, Juli Springer, Beth Bowen, Tamra Anderson, Jamie Burleson. (Contributed Photo)

Bumper crop of ragweed expected

DALLAS (AP) — It's something to sneeze at.

Drought and heat may take a toll on most crops, but ragweed can thrive in such conditions. And that spells trouble for allergy sufferers.

Microdata Inc., an environmental consulting firm, released a study this week that predicts that most of the southern United States will be inundated with pollen this fall.

This year's wet spring primed the soil for productivity, and warm temperatures during June and July — ragweed's major growing season — ensured that ragweed would prosper, said David Frenz, vice president and director of research of the Minneapolis-based Microdata.

"Ragweed can really deal with the extremes better than cash crops," said Frenz. "You had every element in the mix for a bad season."

Frenz said this year probably will rival 1996 for the worst allergy season in recent memory. That year, a drought drove up pollen counts to unprecedented levels, he said.

New York governor's veto costs taxi driver millions

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A Long Island cab driver and father of two who says he tossed his lottery ticket in the trash before realizing it was worth $7.4 million had another stroke of bad luck.

Gov. George Pataki on Friday vetoed a bill that would have given Howard Reid a hearing before the state Lottery Division and the chance to become the first Lotto winner in New York to be awarded a prize without a ticket.

Pataki did leave the door open for Reid to eventually collect, instructing state lottery officials to develop an administrative review process "through which clear-cut injustices can be addressed."

"I remain sympathetic to the plight of individuals who can demonstrate convincingly that they purchased but misplaced winning tickets for substantial prizes," Pataki wrote in his veto message.

The bill only applied to the May 31, 1997, lottery drawing. Reid claims he held one of four winning tickets for that $70 million drawing. He said he had selected a lump-sum prize option that would have been worth $7.4 million.

In New York, a person must have a valid lottery ticket to collect. Other states, including Connecticut, have procedures for those who misplaced tickets.

Reid's lawyer, Jerrold Parker, said his client was disappointed but remained hopeful a solution was in the works.

Parker said Reid was "a religious lottery player" and has several receipts that support his claim of purchasing the winning ticket. Reid said he threw the winning ticket out after misreading the numbers.

State lottery officials say there were 28,056 unclaimed prizes just for the May 31, 1997, drawing. Of those, 76 were for prize amounts over $100 for a total of $7.75 million. Pataki said the bill could have led to hundreds of hearings.

State studies Big Bend haze to find air pollution source

ODESSA (AP) — The sky over Big Bend is not what it used to be.

Wind patterns crisscrossing South Texas are blowing in clouds of pollution and haze.

But scientists with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission said they can find out where these unwelcome clouds are coming from if they study the air above Big Bend.

The Odessa American reported Friday that the commission has started flights over the region with a special plane that monitors air masses traveling across Texas, the Gulf of Mexico and northern Mexico.

Ken Rozacky, project manager for aircraft monitoring in the state, said the flights will measure haze intensity, oxides, ozone readings, temperature, dew point and wind conditions.

Rozacky said studying the wind will help scientists determine where the pollutants are coming from. He said air pollution is rarely from one source.

Fran Sage, the chair of the Big Bend Regional Sierra Club, said she would like to see more done about cleaning up the sky over South Texas.

"Mexico is meeting its own environmental laws, and that's what is required by NAFTA," Sage said. "I'd like to see both countries (Mexico and the United States) go beyond what is required by law."

The Environmental Protection Agency is playing a part in the state's effort to study the haze. The airplane flights, which will last through September, are being financed by a $218,000 EPA grant.

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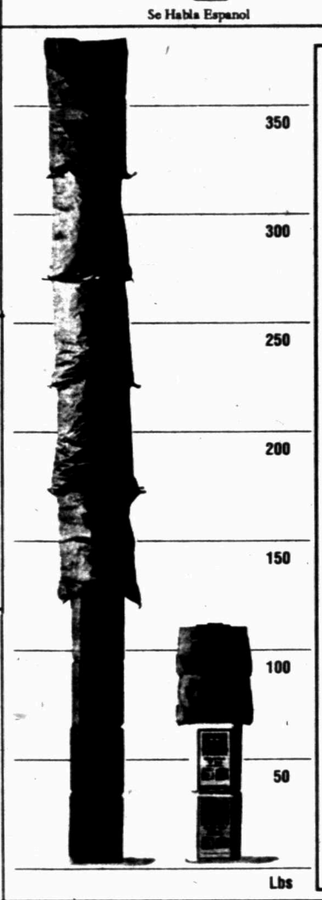
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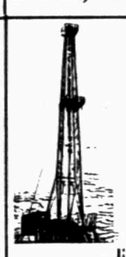
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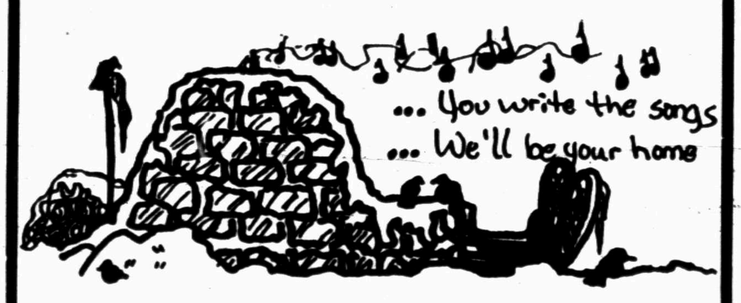
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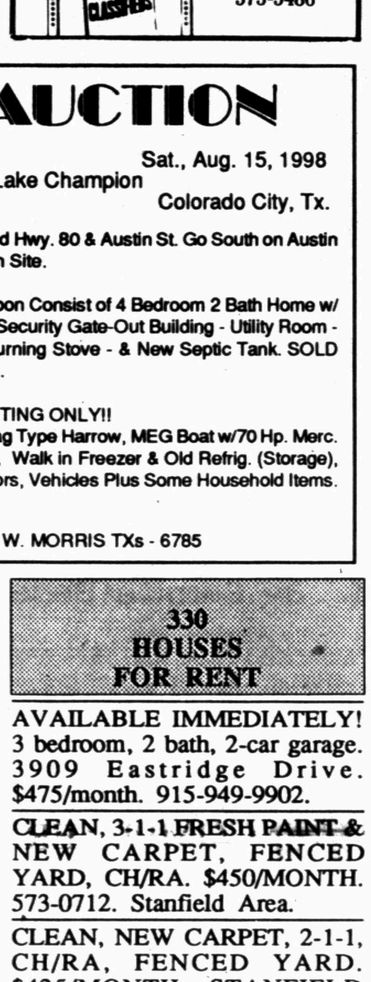


Furnished or Unfurnished
700 E. 37th Street 573-3519

WESTERN CREST & WINDRIDGE VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Under New Management
1 or 2 BR Available Starting At $375 Offering Covered Parking, Swimming Pool, 24 Hr. Maintenance, Landscaping, Playground.
573-1488

UNFURNISHED/FURNISHED 2 Bedroom Apartments. $275 & Up. Bills & Cable T.V. Paid. No Pets! For More Information 573-5773.

FOR RENT: EFFICIENCY APARTMENT. BILLS PAID. 573-7127.



Snyder Daily News Classified Ads
573-5486

FACTORY REBATE
$1400 TO $1800 ON SELECT FLEETWOOD HOMES. CALL J. HITE HOMES, ABILENE, 800-378-0998 OR 793-9999.

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom 2 bath Mobile Home. 573-1711.

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE! WITH LOT. REDUCED! This month only! $9,000. 573-8990 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

345 MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR SALE

SEVERAL MOBILE HOME LOTS for sale. Plumbed & Ready. Bargain Priced! $100 Down $75 month. 573-2251.

SDN
Classified Ads Call 573-5486

360 REAL ESTATE

ABSOLUTE TOP CASH PAID! For Real Estate notes. Receive offer over the phone. Call 1-800-687-6663.

FANTASTIC BARGAIN! West of Colorado City. Assume loan w/ little down. 3-2-2cp on 4.45 acres. 573-4810.

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Sold as is! $7,500. 2411 29th Street. 573-0719 for more information.

GOV'T FORECLOSED homes from pennies on $1. Delinquent Tax. Repo's. REO's. Your Area. Toll Free (1) 800-218-9000 Ext. H-2441 for current listings.

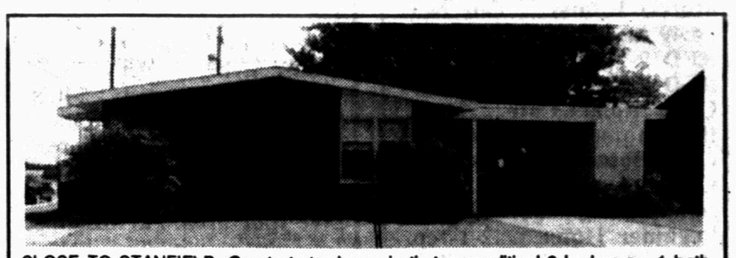
HOME FOR SALE: Nice & Clean 3-1, CH/A & fenced backyard. New flooring in parts of home. $32,000. 3406 44th. 573-5495.

HOUSE FOR SALE at 609 25th Street. Inquire at 101 25th after 4 p.m.

1. Section of Land NE Scurry Co.
2. 3118 38th Street 2 bedroom
3. For rent or sale - 111 Peach St. 2 bdr
4. 2401 Ave. Y 12,500 Terms
Roswell Rigsby Real Estate
573-7682



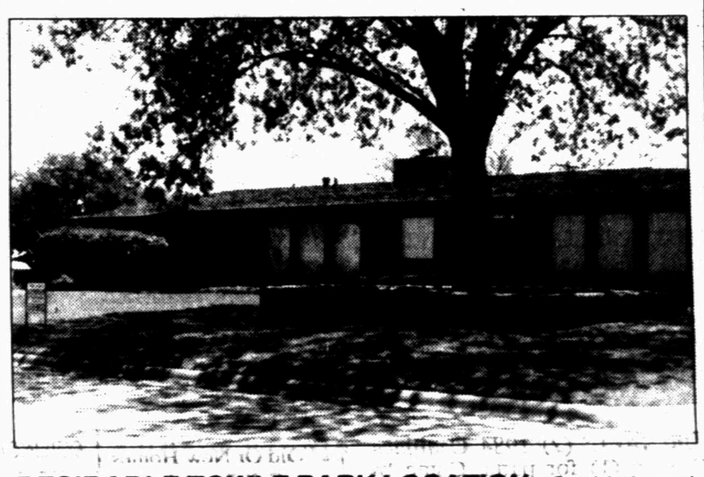
NICE NEIGHBORHOOD 2 - 1 3/4 - 1 car garage. Also nice covered RV parking. Call to view $59,000.
Faye Blackledge **573-1223**, Heritage Home Realtors **573-5056**



CLOSE TO STANFIELD, Great starter home in tip-top condition! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, carport, nice fenced yard - $35,000.
Faye Blackledge **573-1223**, Heritage Home Realtors **573-5056**



Oversized, one story, 2 bedr. 2 bath, 2 car garage TOWNHOUSE... Vacant... ready to move into!!! Immaculate condition!!!Unbelievable closets. $84,500.
Call Dolores Jones, **573-5308** or Heritage Homes, 573-5056



DESIRABLE TOWLE PARK LOCATION *- Sophisticated brick home offers established landscaping, spacious backyard with shop. 4 bdrms., 3 baths, family room with fireplace, huge den with wet bar, livingroom and dining room, stunning master suite and bath, 2 car carport.* ***REDUCED TO SELL!***

Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612 or 573-1755 **2405 25th Street**

Tired of paying $200 or more each month for your electric bill?

Visit Hillcrest in Colorado City to see how you can lower your utility costs and own your home at the same time. Hillcrest is offering new energy-efficient, low-maintenance homes that you can call your own. Down-payment and closing cost programs are available for qualified buyers. You can purchase one of the existing new homes ready to occupy. Or you can choose your own lot and select the best plan for your family.

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A COVENANT COMMUNITY

Call 915-728-3454



Unique picturesque setting!!! House/guest house/extra large sunroom/PLUS 27 fenced acres. Creek accessible by bridge... West edge of town. SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
Dolores Jones **573-5308**, Heritage Home Realtors **573-5056**

Need To Buy A Home?
Read The SDN Classified Ads.
Want To Sell Your Home?
Advertise In The SDN Classified Ads.
Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave.
573-5486

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

JACK & JACK
611 Coliseum Dr.
Ford Spikes Owner Broker
573-8571 573-3452

RED 3-1-Fpl Nice $37.5T
2-1-1 Neat-Homey $29.5T
3-1-1 2109 43rd St. $49T
Fresh & Ready 3-2-2 Col. Hill
20 Acres 3-1-2 Cp. Sheds
Exec. Office Lease or Sale.
3-2 2A CP $56.9T Ira.
Mobile Homes.....One New
14.49 Ac. 3-2 Hot Tub Sp. Sys.
RED 2-2 Older Brick $22T
RED 2-1-1-Den Cor. Lot $33T
Cross Roads Cafe.....Ira
Hist. Home 5-3-2 2300 32nd.
Ctry. Home 1+A E. Hwy 180
C. City Lake Lot Cherry Crk
New Listing.....2-1½.
Beginner Home.....2-1-1cp.
Rotan 8A 2-1-Bsmnt $39.9T
904 E. Johnson 2-1-Den.
108 N. Richards 3-1-1 St/Bldg
Shirley Drum 573-1550
Ford Spikes 573-6602

STEVENSON REAL ESTATE
2405 25th Street
573-5612 or 573-1755
Bill Dryden, Broker/Owner

7 Lots Towle Park $49.5T
2811 Ave. U CH/A 3-2 $56.5T
2211 27th 4-2-2 $39.5T
3503 40th 3-1½-1 $41.5T
Approx. 500 Acres Fluvanna
40 Acres FM 1611 & 230 $41.5T
14 Acres East Hwy. 180 $18T
3006 38th 4-2 $35T
653 A's Close-In w/sm House
310 36th 3-1 CH/A Newly refinished $31.5T
2305 30th 3-2 $49.5T
5502 Cedar Crk 3-2½-2 $120T
3601 Hill Ave 3-3-2 $75T
Office Building w/15 Storage Units on College Ave.
2800 46th 4-3-2 lovely $175T
4103 Eastridge 3-2-2 $39.5T
3725 Ave U 3-1-1cp $29.5T
2107 41st 3-1 Own/Fin. $27.5T
3108 39th Brick 3-1-cp $31T
3110 41st 2-1-den Assume
3101 Ave A 4-2-2cp Reduced
3007 41st 3-1-2cp Red $45T
Comm. Bldg. Westside of Sq
2210 33rd St. 3-3-2-location!
Com. Bldg. 2503 Ave U $21.5T
Wenona Evans 573-8165
Doris Beard 573-8480
Bill Dryden 573-9739

HERITAGE HOMES REALTORS
3405 Snyder Shopping Center, Suite B
(915) 573-5056

2707 38th 3 bdrms, Shop w/ Carport, Well taken care of $30's
Walk to School...4-2-2 $60's
Rotan-Priced Right 3-2-1 $37.5T
Great Family Home has 4 bdrs. 2 bths, living & den $73.5T
West Brick 3-1-shop $40's.
Southern Plantation Home 5 bdrs. 3 bths, Pool & more!
Panoramic View!
3-3-2..Ready for new owners!
Live your dream in this great 3-2-2-deck, windows galore $175T.
Exceptional 4 bedroom 2 bath. large rooms, landscaped. Guest Quarters $90's.
Extra Spacious! Value Priced! 3-3-deck, celler, game room & 2 Living Area's $60's.
This 9 Acre Ranchette offers a comfortable 3-2-2 car garage, sunroom w/hot tub & a shop most dream about $147,500.
IRA..Get close to nature, lovely 3-2 Mble H. w/vaulted ceilings, wood deck, 18 A's $68T.
Debby Miller 573-2075
Dolores Jones 573-5308
Faye Blackledge 573-1223
Joan Tate 573-8773

Elizabeth Potts, Realtors
1707 30th Suite C
573-8505
Terri Matthies, Owner Broker

2207 41st "Owner Says Sell"
4111 Kerrville 3-2-2 Fireplace
West 37th 4-2-office $40's
Reduced 217 36th 3-1.. Call
218 36th 3-2-1 Corner Lot $30's
Close to Town 2-1-1 $27.5T
3-3-2 NEW Paint-Carpet-Tile!
3-1¾-1 2901 Ave. Z.
OWNER ANXIOUS 3503 44th
Lrg. 4-1¾ REDUCED $69.5T
2501 33rd Spacious!
Affordable 2-1-1 2310 Sunset
3117 Ave. T 3-1¾-cp $39T
2508 31st 3-1¾-2 $56T
Close to Schools 3-1-1cp $30T
Large Comm. Bldg 1801 22nd
3704 Muriel 2-1-1cp....Call!
Fluvanna Farm over 500 Acres.
LOCAL RESTAURANT!
Country Listings $25T-$120T
Huge Country Home.....Call.
Sarah Jamison 573-4028
Rita Knox 573-7082
Jackie Buckland 573-8193
Annette Waller 573-9467

010 LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of DIXIE GLASS, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,450.

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of DIXIE GLASS, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by Ricky Fritz, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 6th day of August, 1998, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to ROBERT L. GLASS, 1708 E. CR 130, Midland, Tx 79706 within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 6th day of August, 1998.

(s)ROBERT L. GLASS
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
DIXIE GLASS, deceased

361 RESORTS

RUIDOSO CONDO Nice, Near Race Track! 2-2¼, Swimming Pool & Jacuzzi. $125/nightly, 2 Night Minimum. 505-437-1088 leave message.

PLAY IT SMART... GET INTO THE CLASSIFIEDS 573-5486

PUBLIC NOTICE

Scurry County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing regarding the creation of a new voting precinct box. It will allow interested citizens to comment on the creation of a new voting precinct. The meeting will be held at the Scurry County Health Unit, located at 911 26th Street, Snyder, Texas at 5:00 p.m., August 17, 1998.

(Maintenance Project)

NOTICE TO CONTRACTOR
OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORK

Sealed Proposals For:

CSJ NO. 6031 39 001

Remove and Replace Metal Beam Guard Fence in Scurry County

Will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation located at:

4250 N. CLACK, ABILENE, TEXAS
UNTIL 2:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1998

then publicly opened and read.

****

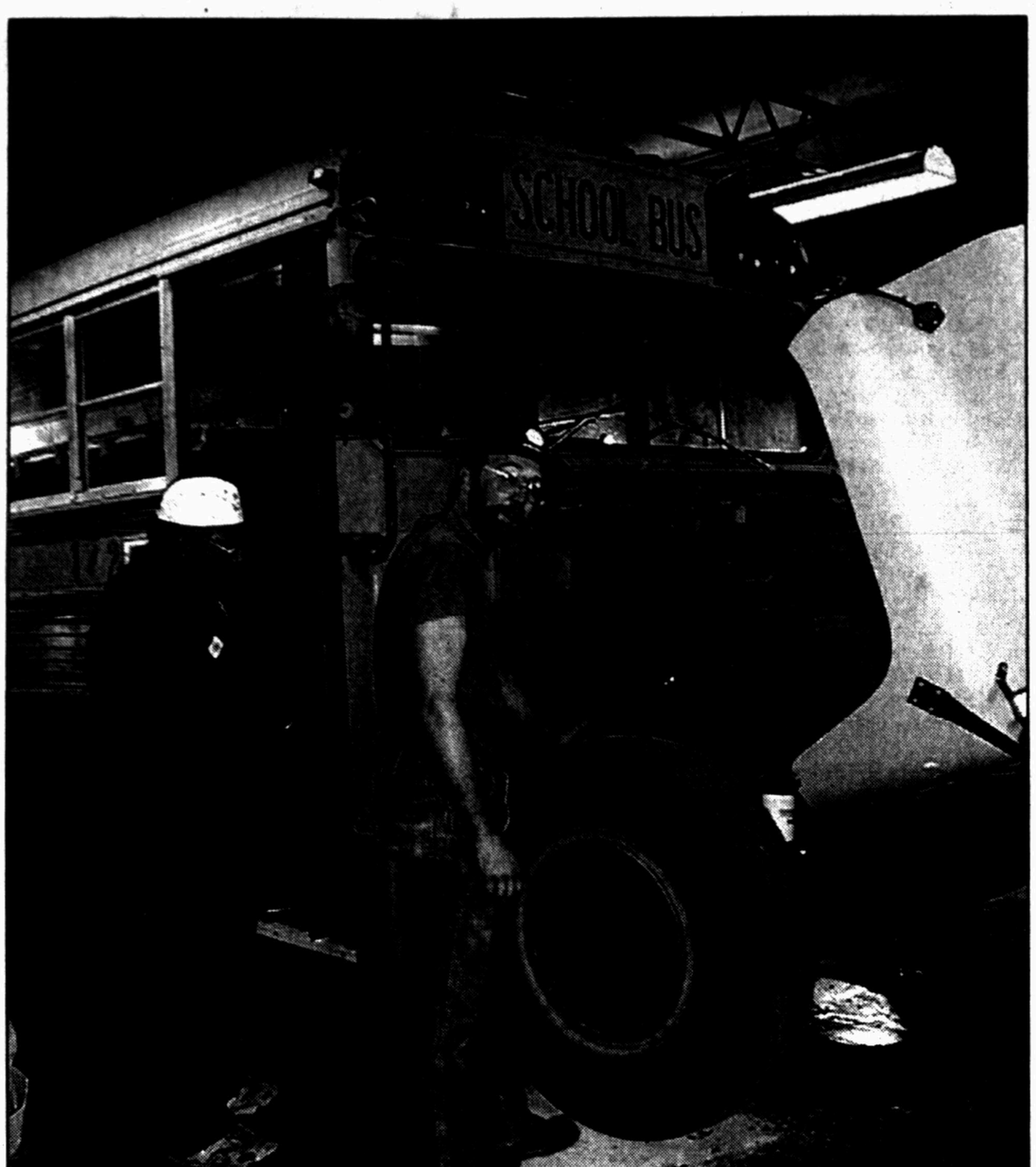
ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A PRE-BIDDERS CONFERENCE FOR THIS CONTRACT.

****

Bidding proposals and plan viewing will be available ON AND AFTER MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1998 at the District Office located at:

4250 N. CLACK
ABILENE, TEXAS
TELEPHONE: (915)-676-6852
CONTACT: SAUNDRA J. COLLINS

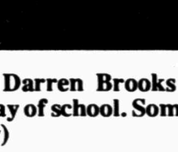
Usual Rights Reserved.



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT BUSY — Oscar Sauceda, left, and Darren Brooks are inspecting the braking system of this bus, in preparation of Wednesday's first day of school. Some 40 buses are being readied for the big day. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Aug. 9, 1998

In the year ahead, you could have better earning capacity than you did last year. However, there's also a chance your extravagant urges will be stronger. Try to keep them in balance; it'll be worth the effort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be drawn into close contact with someone who isn't what he/she seems to be today. This is a captivating individual, so don't fall prey to charm and wit. Leo, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE 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.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Make every effort to keep promises and commitments to loved ones today. You'll feel ashamed later on if you let someone down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A close associate you're depending on might not comply with your expectations today because s/he is unaware of your motives. Be frank and forthright in dealings with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It's best not to lend your resources or something you cherish to a person you know only casually. This individual might be a poor caretaker.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your demeanor and the way you dress might be of more importance today than you realize. People you're involved with will judge your outward appearance

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Guard against inclinations to prejudge people today. Your attitude could create complications for yourself and others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't let your ego draw you into situations or activities today that you can't afford. Know when to say "no" and mean it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You're still in a good achievement cycle, so be sure to target meaningful objectives for yourself. You can do impressive things if you have the will and desire to go for it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Generosity is a virtue with which you're well endowed. Be careful not to give more to a person than s/he has the right to ask for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It looks like you have to be firmer and more obvious if you want a friend to take care of a long-standing obligation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There's a possibility you may succumb to pressure from others and make a poor decision where your career is concerned today. Don't give in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Things aren't likely to work out well today if you attempt to give others the burdens you should be carrying. Even if they lend a helping hand, they may gum things up.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Aug. 10, 1998

Your standing among peers will become greater and greater in the year ahead. In situations where you didn't mind letting others lead, you'll be a challenger for chairman of the board.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be on the alert today for new ways to supplement your income. If you check out the right areas, you could uncover something rewarding. Major changes are ahead for Leo in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and SASE 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.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have a number of loyal friends you may not be aware of, so don't be bashful about asking for help if you need back-up. They'll stand behind you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) That significant break you've been hoping for appears to be getting nearer and nearer. There is a substantial opportunity around you now, so make the most of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) By all means accept social invitations today. You'll enjoy yourself, and you might meet new and constructive contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You'll get stronger as you near the finish line today. Don't fret if you have a slow start; you'll generate plenty of speed in the home stretch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Not only will you have an abundance of bright ideas today, you'll also know how to use the clever concepts of associates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Material prospects look encouraging for you today, and there's a possibility you'll be able to add to your resources through unused channels.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You have an attractive personality to begin with, and today these enviable qualities will be accentuated. Be yourself, and you'll win.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A family member may be your benefactor today. This person will help you gain from situations others initiate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Big ideas could prove beneficial to you today. They may involve something you're hoping to sell, or an arrangement you have with a large organization.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Major achievements are probable now in matters affecting your career. If there's something significant you're anxious to start, do it today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Matters requiring leadership may be placed in your hands instead of others' today. Accept the challenge; it'll prove you have the right stuff.

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Births

Darin and Nathlie Clawson of San Angelo announce the birth of their daughter, Brady Nacole Clawson, at 4:57 p.m. on June 6 in Shannon Women's and Children's Hospital.

Grandparents are Ronnie and Sandra Clawson of Snyder and Larry and Elizabeth Wieck of Delhart. Great-grandparents include Joe and Dorothy Fudge of Snyder, B.F. Clawson of Rotan, and John and Edna Wieck of Umbarger.

Card Of Thanks

Thank You

We know God will bless each and every one of you, our friends, who helped us with food and sent flowers and cards. We needed your prayers and we could feel God's blessing. To all of you, our precious friends, Thank You! We are praying for you all.

The Family of Bobby Edmiaston
Jean Anne, Teresa, C.B. & Gary

Two arrested on warrants

Outstanding warrants sent two subjects to jail Friday.

Officers arrested a 24-year-old female at 11:25 a.m. in the 800 block of 24th Street on warrants for issuance of bad checks.

At 5:04 p.m., a 25-year-old female was arrested in the 1800 block of 24th Street on outstanding warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

In other activity, an offense report for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was submitted at 8:18 a.m.

An offense report for Class C assault/family violence was submitted at 8:35 p.m.

Lorenzo Larralde requested an officer in the 1900 block of Coleman at 11:08 p.m. in reference to a burglary. An offense report for burglary of a residence was submitted.

Classified The link between buyer and seller
Snyder Daily News
573-5486

Closing arguments set Monday

HOUSTON (AP) — Closing arguments will be heard Monday in the capital murder trial of an ex-bookmaker accused of hiring his brother to kill his wife two months after she filed for divorce.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys spent Friday haggling over the jury's instructions after both sides rested Thursday. Bob Angleton, an ex-bookie and former police informant, did not testify in his own defense.

Angleton is accused of hiring his brother, Roger Angleton, to kill his wife in their River Oaks home on April 16, 1997. Doris McGown Angleton, 46, was shot a dozen times after she returned home to retrieve a softball bat at her husband's request.

Roger Angleton killed himself in jail last February, leaving a suicide note in which he admitted killing Mrs. Angleton but said his brother was not involved. In a setback to Bob Angleton's defense, a judge ruled Thursday that the notes were inadmissible.

The defense wrapped up its case after the Angletons' twin 14-year-old daughters testified on their father's behalf.

The girls told jurors the last time they saw their mother alive was when she dropped them off at their softball game where their father, the team's manager, was conducting batting practice.

Mrs. Angleton told her daughters she was going home to change clothes and would return later. Alessandra Angleton testified she then asked her mother to bring a bat that had been left at the house.

But under cross-examination, Alessandra acknowledged she had told a grand jury that her father told her mom to get the bat. Nicole Angleton confirmed that.

When Bob Angleton and his daughters returned home after the game, Angleton saw a back door ajar and called police, who found Mrs. Angleton's body.

Prosecutors have questioned why Angleton never tried to go into the house and check on his wife. But Nicole Angleton testified that she and her sister told him not to go inside "because we were scared somebody might come outside and hurt us."

If convicted, Angleton could receive the death penalty.

School district contractor found guilty of kickbacks

DALLAS (AP) — A former contractor for the Dallas Independent School District was convicted Friday in connection with kickbacks involving unperformed roofing repairs.

A federal court jury found William Morris Risby guilty of taking more than $383,000 from the district during a three-year scheme to defraud the district, prosecutors said.

The 41-year-old Risby was convicted of 64 counts including conspiracy, embezzlement, engaging in kickbacks and money laundering.

Risby, owner and controller of Time Saving Construction, was indicted in March with James D. Hargrave, a former DISD inspector, after a year-long federal investigation of school district corruption.

Of the $1.6 million that the district paid Time Saving for roof repairs from December 1993 through April 1997, work was not performed on $383,070 of that total, according to the indictment.

Hargrave plead guilty in April. Risby was convicted of paying Hargrave approximately $103,000 in kickbacks through third parties.

Risby could face up to 705 years in prison and fines of as much as $17.5 million when he is sentenced.

In testimony Wednesday, Hargrave testified that he believes one current and two former district officials received kickbacks in a scheme to charge the district for repairs that were never made.

Hargrave told the jurors he saw Risby give Michael Henderson, the former assistant superintendent for maintenance, an envelope similar to the one containing cash that he received.

He said Risby told him he was paying kickbacks to Henderson, purchasing director Lester Mays and Matthew Hardin Jr., the former chief financial officer. All three denied wrongdoing.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Can nasal spray retard bone loss?

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have osteoporosis and have been prescribed Miacalcin Nasal Spray. Is this an effective antidote?

DEAR READER: In treating osteoporosis, doctors must judge whether patients need prescription drugs that reverse the calcium loss from bones or those that merely stabilize the situation by preventing further bone loss. Fosamax, for example, actually increases bone calcium; other products, such as hormones and Miacalcin, simply prevent further calcium losses. Therefore, your nasal spray will probably be effective — but not as effective as pills. Whether this is the best option for you is a decision you and your doctor should make. Miacalcin is a suitable substitute for those patients who, for one reason or another, cannot tolerate Fosamax.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Osteoporosis." 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: Does ginkgo biloba have any health benefits? I have a friend who regularly uses it to increase mental functioning.

DEAR READER: I was surprised to see a review of ginkgo in a recent issue of The Medical Letter (June 19, 1998).

Although its effectiveness was based largely on foreign studies, the herb was judged to have some value in treating dementia. Apparently, ginkgo is available in France and Germany as a licensed drug, an indication that its production is scrupulously monitored.

The experiments revealed that ginkgo may help improve thinking in patients with dementia. No conclusions were offered about whether normal people should consume the herb as a preventative.

An occasional user may experience a bleeding tendency.

The Medical Letter consultants concluded that the purity and potency of ginkgo extracts in the United States are unknown, because the compound is licensed as a dietary supplement. In my opinion, this fact is yet another indictment of government agencies that are not required to supervise the manufacture of commonly used herbs, because such products are classified as "dietary supplements," rather than the drugs that they really are.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Because of a history of breast cancer, I cannot take female hormones. Nonetheless, menopause has resulted in incapacitating hot flashes. Do I have other options for treatment?

DEAR READER: Unfortunately, no. Your body is reacting to the deficiency of female hormones. However, the addition of supplemental hormones could lead to an activation of the breast cancer. Therefore, you're stuck.

You will have to endure the hot flashes until, over time, they disappear — usually within a year or two. The use of supplemental hormones could be dangerous for you. I advise you to be patient. Wait for the hot flashes to diminish, and follow your gynecologist's advice.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: I am an unmarried, healthy 60-year-old man. Ever since childhood, I've been lonely. Is this a sign of disease? I've tried self-hypnosis but that didn't work. What can I do?

DEAR READER: Many of us are lonely. This is a very common complaint expressed by many children, adolescents and adults. Being lonely is different from being alone — and it hurts. It is not a disease; it's an attitude.

Judging from your brief description, I wonder whether you may have difficulty with interpersonal relations. Chronic loneliness may reflect a problem concerning your inability to commit to another human being. In psychological terms, you may feel that the risk of closeness (and possible rejection) exceeds the pain of being isolated and lonely.

All of us experience loneliness following death, divorce and a plethora of other events. Kids are lonely when they feel that they are not accepted into the peer group. Some people experience severe loneliness after the death of a pet.

These situations are normal.

On the other hand, your case causes me concern. Were you married? Do you have children? Siblings? Good friends? In what ways are you motivated to seek meaningful companionship?

If the answers to these questions are "no" and "none," you may need counseling or other psychological help. Your doctor can make the appropriate referral.

However, if you are lonely because of a recent loss (that brought back memories of childhood), you have several options. You need to meet people and "connect." Consider a support system for grieving spouses, join a church group, contact friends and relatives, invite your neighbor in for dinner, become active in your community's YMCA — the possibilities are endless.

What is important is that you take the initiative, no matter how daunting that may seem. In a phrase, if you're lonely, get off your butt and meet people. If this is a chronic problem, get professional help, because depression may play an important role.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Help II: Substance Abuse and Mental Health." 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: We enjoy your column and wish that you would publish a book about the letters you don't print. It would be a best seller.

DEAR READER: Absolutely.

However, you should know that I do publish controversial letters. The ones that I don't publish are uninteresting because of the unseemly emphasis on the prurient. Some are a lark. Others are obvious phonies. Many are simply repeats of material that I have previously covered.

As a general rule, I enjoy letters that are out of the ordinary. When appropriate, I'll publish and answer them.

DEAR DR. GOTT: A reader wrote that he could better control his flow of urine if he raised his arms above his head while answering a call of nature. You pooh-poohed this. Our office staff attempted an experiment.

While urinating, each of us raised our arms as high as possible. All seven women and four men dribbled down our legs. This was not a success.

DEAR READER: I'm not surprised. What an office! It's nice to know that I'm correct at least some of the time.

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No truth to suit, M. Douglas says

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Douglas says there's no truth to a lawsuit alleging he struck a caddy with a golf ball and then made a racial comment while walking away.

"We rushed to his aid and then I immediately left to seek help," Douglas said Friday, a day after James Parker, who is black, filed an $85 million federal lawsuit against the actor.

"At no time did I or anybody in my presence make any racial slurs and the suggestion that it was I who hit the ball and uttered the comment claimed is totally false and slanderous," Douglas said.

Parker's lawsuit alleges he was hit and injured by a ball launched by the actor at the Elmwood Country Club in Westchester County in October 1997.

Republic of Texas land sold; 'embassy' could be removed

EL PASO (AP) — The Republic of Texas "embassy," where armed group members engaged police in a standoff last year, is likely destined for demolition now that a conservation group has bought the land it sits on.

The Nature Conservancy of Texas was the high bidder this week for the 18-acre parcel in the Davis Mountains where Republic leader Richard McLaren launched his efforts to re-establish Texas as an independent nation.

The group's first priority will be to clean the land and find a way to deal with the Republic "embassy," a trailer attached to a crude cabin, James King, the conservancy's director of land protection, said Friday.

"I don't think the building is worth salvaging. We'll probably remove it if we can," said King.

The land in the Davis Mountains Resort, a rugged rural community 175 miles southeast of El Paso, had been seized by the state as restitution for unpaid fines, King said. The Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Department auctioned it off Tuesday on the state's behalf.

The conservancy paid $26,000, including about $1,300 in back taxes.

King said the conservancy's immediate plans are to manage the lot as a satellite to the group's 12,000-acre preserve on an adjacent ranch.

King said the main reason the group bought McLaren's property was that it offered access to remote sections of the preserve and will help prevent the trespassing that was all too common when the Republic was entrenched there.

An unintended consequence is that it is giving resort residents a chance to close the book symbolically on the Republic.

"It tickles me to death. I think it's poetic justice. I love it," said M.A. Rowe, one of two resort residents whose April 27, 1997, abduction by Republic militia touched off the weeklong standoff with scores of police.

"I can't even describe how that's going to be," she said. "It kind of finalizes everything. He's been out of here physically for some time, but to get anything that belongs to him out of here will be even better."

McLaren and several of his followers eventually surrendered May 3. McLaren is now serving a 99-year prison sentence after being convicted of an organized crime charge stemming from the kidnapping.

Controlling interest sold, McLarty said

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — No stranger to high-powered negotiations, former Clinton administration adviser Mack McLarty sold a controlling interest in his family's car dealerships.

McLarty will be chairman of a new venture between McLarty Automotive Group and Philadelphia-based Asbury Automotive Group, which bought an undisclosed stake.

The McLarty Group has six locations and 19 dealership franchises in Arkansas and Texarkana, Texas. The deal was announced Thursday.

"This is a profoundly changing industry, McLarty said. "And this is how we are going to ride that wave of change."

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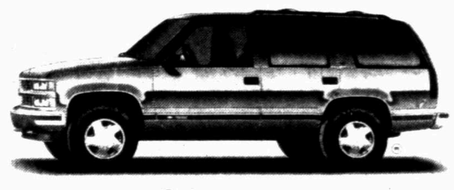
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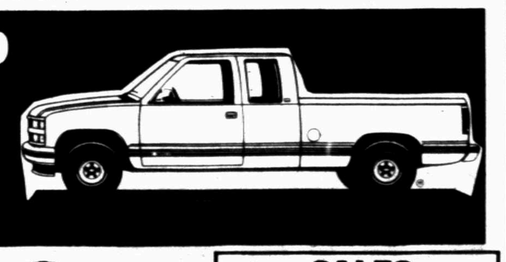
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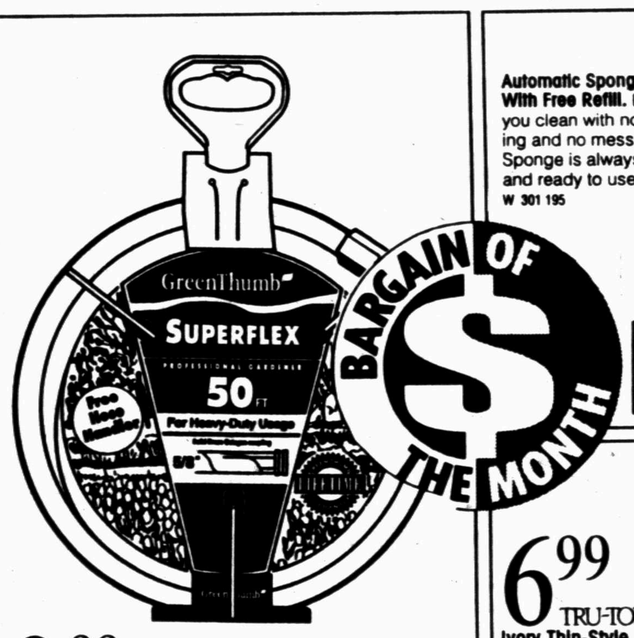


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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Starr must defend himself on news leaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a series of court victories and negotiated agreements quickened the pace of his investigation, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr must pause to convince a judge he should not be held in contempt for news leaks.

In court papers unsealed Friday, U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson said Starr could face civil or criminal contempt, unless he can prove his office was not responsible for disclosure of secret grand jury information.

Johnson made clear that she was incensed about the disclosures and said a contempt proceeding against Starr "could serve to stop the flow of leaks damaging to the targets of this grand jury investigation. Even if the ... allegations are found to be false, the ... hearing should set an example for those parties who are the source of the damaging leaks."

In opinions and orders issued in June and July, Johnson said Starr's own comments to a magazine — and statements he made before television cameras acknowledging one of her secret rulings — were evidence he may have violated grand jury secrecy rules.

Johnson noted that in sworn affidavits, Starr's aides "do not deny" they were the source of information for news articles submitted by President Clinton's lawyers.

She said prosecutors "too narrowly" interpreted the requirement that they keep grand jury matters secret. Starr was incorrect, the judge found, when he was quoted in a magazine as saying that pre-testimony interviews witnesses had with his staff were not covered by the secrecy rule.

Starr and his staff must appear at a proceeding to rebut the leak allegations to the judge's satisfaction or face penalties ranging from civil contempt of court to referral to the Justice Department for possible criminal charges.

"The court finds that the serious and repetitive nature of disclosures to the media of (secret evidence) strongly militates in favor of conducting a show-cause hearing," Johnson wrote.

Starr said in a statement Friday that his office did not violate grand jury secrecy rules and "we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate that fact to the district court."

Sharp favors using National Guard to haul hay to cattle

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptroller John Sharp suggested to state legislators Frodau that Texas follow Oklahoma's lead and use the National Guard to transport hay to ranchers whose cattle herds are starving in the drought.

Sharp's proposal was one of many offered to a joint hearing of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee as lawmakers assessed the financial impact of the drought.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said the drought has resulted in $1.75 billion in direct losses to farmers and ranchers with a ripple effect of just under $5 billion in losses to the Texas economy.

Both Sharp and Perry said those numbers will grow and far exceed the 1996 drought, which cost farmers $1.9 billion directly and the state economy roughly $5 billion.

"We've got chest-high dried out corn stalks, stunted rows of cotton plants and deeply cracked fields with nothing growing," Perry said. "Even though it's early August, it looks like the dead of winter wherever you go."

To help ranchers hold onto cattle herds wasting away in the drought, Sharp recommended having the Texas National Guard help transport hay.

Sharp said in Oklahoma 50 Guard trucks are transporting hay to devastated ranchers at a cost of roughly $10,000 per day.

Under the Texas Disaster Act, Gov. George W. Bush has ordered the temporary suspension of a state law requiring a commercial license for people hauling hay beyond 150 miles of their homes.

Bush said he hoped suspending the law would free up commercial hauling of hay to desperate ranchers.

"Having the Texas Guard distribute hay is a feasible option we are looking at," said Bush spokeswoman Linda Edwards. "But private transportation companies are starting to express interest in the transportation of hay, and we want to see first if that will provide the solution."

Among other proposals aimed at helping farmers, Sharp recommended the state pay for eradicating boll weevils in cotton growing regions while the cotton-munching pests' numbers are down.

Both Sharp and Perry recommended that the state should use prison labor to clear water-gulping brush, such as cedar, mesquite and cactus.

China anxiously waits for possible flood diversion

BEIJING (AP) — Flood workers struggled Saturday to plug a major breach along China's raging Yangtze River, while final preparations were made to safeguard cities by deliberately inundating the land and homes of hundreds of thousands of people if the river keeps rising.

About 330,000 people had been evacuated from an area in central Hubei province that would be flooded if the government gave the last-ditch order to dynamite dikes to divert water away from the Yangtze and protect its weakened embankments downstream, officials said.

Those embankments protect rich farmland and cities, including Wuhan with 7 million people, but threaten to give way after weeks of torrential rain and record-high waters. Officials fear a flood crest surging down the river could cause them to collapse.

One such levee partially collapsed Friday in the southeastern city of Jiujiang, releasing a torrent of water that was nearly 7 feet deep in parts of the city of 500,000 people. Residents were urged to evacuate.

Disaster workers sank eight boats to try to plug the 130-foot-wide breach, Xinhua said. If they can overcome shortages of filling materials, officials expected to stop the leak in about 24 hours, Xinhua said.

Among the plugging materials used were stone, coal, rice, sand and soybeans, and more than 30,000 soldiers and civilians were working to build dams to stop the water, it said.

To take the pressure off the Yangtze embankments, preparations were in place to dynamite dikes and open floodgates to divert waters into Hubei's Jingjiang flood plain. The area was evacuated earlier, but the move still would require the approval of China's State Council, or Cabinet.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Ira Masonic Lodge meeting

A.L. (Jack) Dunn will receive a 60-year certificate and pin at the Ira Masonic Lodge Saturday night at 7 o'clock. It will be an open house and everyone is invited to enjoy ice cream and cake.

SHS class reunion

The Snyder High School class of 1958 will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday at Snyder National Bank to continue planning the class' 40th reunion.

Back-to-school bash

A community-wide back-to-school bash for youth will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday on the First United Methodist Church parking lot. "Jackson Swing" will be in concert.

SHS band boosters

Snyder High School band boosters will have a meeting of all band parents at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the band hall. All parents with students in the junior high or high school band should attend.

Snyder Junior High tour

Snyder Junior High School students are invited to tour the building and locate homerooms between 7 and 8 p.m. Monday.

Quarterback Club meeting

Snyder Tigers Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the SHS student center. Coach David Baugh, Athletic Trainer Steve Krueger and Counselor Charlene Light will speak to parents of high school gridders.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge 987 will have a regular stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday. All regular Master Masons are invited.

Bible study tapes airing

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV Channel 2. The tapes to be shown Monday at 7 p.m. are "Hope from Revelation," followed by "The Beautiful Lifestyle."

Open house

Stanfield Elementary will hold an open house on Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. It will give parents an opportunity to meet with their children's teachers.

Northeast open house

Northeast Elementary School will have an open house from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Students and their parents are invited to meet the teachers. Students are also asked to bring their school supplies with them.

Choir boosters meet

SHS Choir Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the choir room. All choir parents are urged to attend.

Children's Day Out registration

The Children's Day Out program at First United Methodist Church will register pre-school children, ages 1-4, on Tuesday and Thursday. To register call Melissa at 573-4770.

Through the Bible study

A Bible study with Les Feldick and hosted by Harlan and Darlene Amox is held each Tuesday from 7:30 until 9 p.m. Call 573-2699 for additional information.

AARP board meeting

A meeting of the AARP board will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the home of Marie Armstrong at 3209 Austin Ave.

FACT meeting

There will be an organizational meeting at 3 p.m. next Sunday for FACT (Fast Action for Children of Texas) at Snyder Savings and Loan. The group is open to anyone who may feel they have had problems with the Texas Attorney General's child support division.

SHS class schedules

Class schedules will not be mailed to Snyder High School students in grades 10-12 before school starts. Students will receive their schedules in their advisory class on the first day of class Wednesday. Advisory rooms will be posted on the doors and in the halls of the school.

Woman's club benefit supper

A chicken fried steak benefit supper will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Cost is $8 for adults and $4 for children under 10. Call 573-3427 for reservations.

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
32-34-69-96

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
8-7-3

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
34-9-23-14-11

Feature

Jessica S

Loc

By Shirley
New

Music and p
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1997 RITZ RE
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Gorman)

Jessica Sollis...

Local girl likes to 'fiddle' around

By Shirley A. Gorman
News Editor

Music and performing runs in the family.

Wendell Sollis plays the banjo in Texas Sand, a local country music group. His wife, Dustee, performs with a dummy named Sam, and often accompanies the group. Their daughter, Jessica, plays the piano and is learning to play the fiddle.

Just thinking about a fiddle stirs up music memories of a time long ago. The fiddle is the same as a violin. How they are played determines which instrument it is.

Jessica became interested in the fiddle by listening to her dad, and Texas Sand's other members, Jackie and Valerie Greene and Vince Moss, practice. One day they let her play with them.

That's all it took to spark Jessica's interest. Valerie became her instructor. During the school year, they met for weekly lessons and Jessica usually practiced from 15-30 minutes each day.

She laid off this summer, but when school cranks up again, she will return to fiddle lessons every Wednesday.

Since she started two years ago, Jessica has been gradually improving and gaining experience.

She sometimes practiced with Texas Sand when the Rusty Spur first opened at the Wagon Wheel Ranch.

She has performed on several occasions, including the Lincoln, N.M. Cowboy Gathering and the 1997 revue at the Ritz Theatre, where she played with her dad, mom and Sam.

Jessica has also played the fiddle during recent beauty pageant talent contests, winning second place and a college scholarship at one.

She plays songs from the 1800s to present day, sometimes dressing according to the time period of the music.

She enjoys playing the fiddle because it is so relaxing and allows her "to get away from everything."

Since her dad is a member of the 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Memorial) Jessica said she has learned quite a bit about the 1800s.

Jessica has been playing the piano for about five years. She said that has helped her "big time" in learning to play the fiddle because she already knew the notes and rhythm. Lynn Bethel is her piano teacher.

She recently served as a counselor at Bethel's annual music camp. In previous years, she had attended the camp as a student.

Jessica also performs in several piano recitals each year including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine Day and end-of-the-school-year.

While Jessica enjoys playing the fiddle, she has no desire to make a career of it. "I just want to have fun with it now."

When she's not playing the fiddle, Jessica likes to listen to today's music. She is also interested in cars and someday hopes to be able to design them. She wants to study engineering technology. Her dad and two grown brothers also like cars and she said they all love to discuss them.

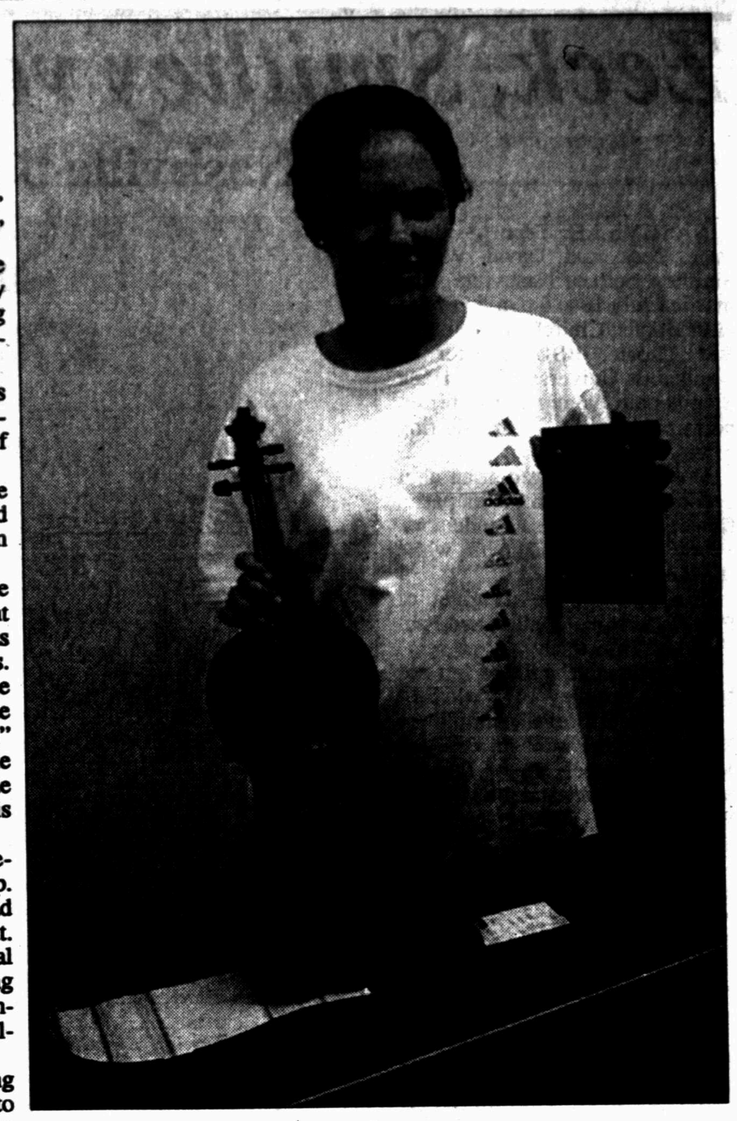
Besides music, Jessica also likes sports, especially basketball. And she is active in the First Baptist Church's youth group.

Jessica's a seventh grader and since this will be her first year at the junior high, she said she is "kind of scared" but, she added, "I think it will be fun."

Scurry County Folks



1997 RITZ REVUE — The Sollis family performed at the 1997 Ritz Revue. Jessica played the fiddle. Wendell played the banjo and Dustee did a routine featuring Sam. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



FIDDLE PLAYER — For the past two years, Jessica Sollis, has been learning to play the fiddle. She recently won second place and a college scholarship in a beauty pageant talent contest. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

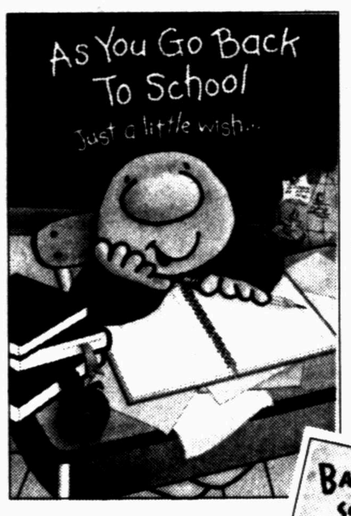
Heidi Fleiss interviewed in jail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Heidi Fleiss, the now-jailed Hollywood Madam, says running a call girl business is a grind.

"I feel I was dealing with the toughest commodity on earth ... I think it would be easier to run General Motors than to do what I was doing," she said in an interview scheduled to air Oct. 19 on A&E's "American Justice."

Fleiss is serving a 37-month federal prison sentence in Dublin, Calif., for tax evasion and money laundering and a concurrent state sentence of 18 months after pleading guilty to attempted pandering.

She said the men who used her service should have also been punished equally and she complained about one client in particular — actor Charlie Sheen, who spent $53,000 on her services in 1992 and then testified against her.



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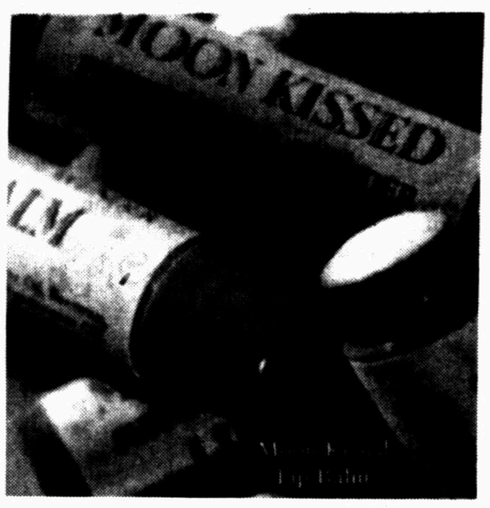


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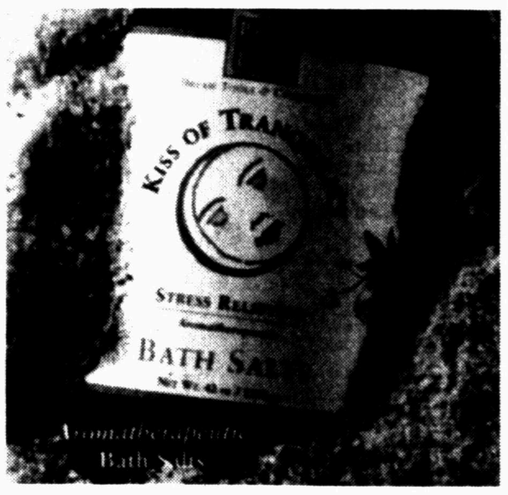


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AUG 09 1998

Zeck, Smithey vows are pledged

In Nashville Baptist church

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Julie Faye Zeck and David Wayne Smithey, both of Nashville, were married July 18 at 6 p.m. in Forest Hills Baptist Church in Nashville. Bill Choate, BSU director of Vanderbilt University, and Hank Stopplebein, young life minister, performed the double-ring ceremony.

Vows were pledged at an altar decorated with baskets of pastel flowers and brass candelabra. Pews were marked with white flowers and ivy.

The bride is the daughter of Pam Patterson of Dallas, and Paul Zeck of Houston.

The groom is the son of Jim and Margaret Smithey of Nashville.

Grandparents of the couple are Pat and Faye Patterson, Bill and Martha Schiebel, all of Snyder, Margaret Walker and the late Zeb Walker, and Jack and Lois Smithey of Nashville. Kim Mitchell of Georgetown, Texas, registered guests at a table decorated with pastel flowers and pictures of the bride and groom.

A flute and guitar duet provided music before and during the ceremony. The service began with guests singing "The Doxology." The processional was "Trumpet Tune," by Handel.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a white silk satin organza dress designed by Vera Wang. It had a fitted bodice, a wide collar, cuffs of satin, and long illusion sleeves. The full skirt featured a bustle back and chapel-length train edged in satin. The bride's illusion veil was also chapel length.

The bride's bouquet was a dozen calla lilies tied with white ribbon.

The groom's black tuxedo included a three-button coat and a seven-button vest, completed with a Euro tie. The groom escorted his mother down the aisle, and then escorted the bride's mother.

Dani Patterson, cousin of the bride from Taylor, Texas, lit the candles beside the unity candle for mother of the bride and the groom's parents.

Pat Patterson, grandfather of the bride, read scripture from Colossians 3:12-14, 17 and Matthew 7:24-27, and Blake Robertson, cousin of the bride, read Shakespeare's Sonnet 116.

Maid of honor was Emily Zeck, sister of the bride from Brooklyn, N.Y. Bridesmaids were Joellen Qualls of Lubbock, Jaycie Wright of Snyder, Carlye Clark of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Suzanne Eberhardt of Jackson, Tenn. Their dresses were black georgette with a scoop neckline, short sleeves and flared ankle-length skirts.



Mr. and Mrs. David Wayne Smithey
(Contributed Photo)

The attendants each carried bouquets of six cala lilies.

Best man was Lee Smithey, brother of the groom from Austin. Other attendants included Scott Farmer of Greenville, S.C., David Eberhardt of Jackson, Tenn., Kurt Gordon of Nashville and Elle McKay of Portland, Ore. Usher was Brad Thorpe of Maynardville, Tenn. Male attendants wore black tuxedos and bow ties.

Cousin of the bride Craig Robertson was ring bearer and he wore a black suit and carried the rings in a small wooden box.

Bobbi and Kailey Patterson, cousins of the bride from Taylor, were flower girls.

Candlelighter and flower girls wore princess-style, long dresses of white voile over pastel lining trimmed with matching ribbon roses. Their dresses were made by Faye Patterson, grandmother of the bride from Snyder.

Following the exchanging of vows, the couple lit the unity candle, knelt and took Holy Communion from a silver chalice engraved with their names and wedding date.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, they were presented as David and Julie Smithey, then the congregation read the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26.

As Handel's recessional music "Hornpipe" was played, the attendants stood on each side of the aisle forming a "tunnel of love" for the couple to walk through.

The reception was held at the Cumberland Club, in the ballroom overlooking the city. The bride's five-tiered square cake was frosted with white fondant and was trimmed with fresh pastel flowers and ribbon icing. The groom's three-tiered chocolate cake was decorated with strawberries dipped in white and dark chocolate. It was served along with strawberries in a heart-shaped chocolate basket. A buffet dinner served the wedding party, family members and guests.

The Manhattan Swing Orchestra played "It Had to Be You" for the bride's and groom's dance. Before the song ended, guests were invited to join them. As the couple left the reception, guests showered them with bubbles.

Sandra Robinson of Snyder was wedding coordinator and a special guest was W.T. Pooh.

Mrs. Smithey is a 1993 graduate of Snyder High School and a 1997 graduate of Vanderbilt University with a degree in engineering science and cognitive studies. She received a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt University on July 11.

The groom, a 1993 graduate of Franklin Road Academy in Nashville, is a 1997 graduate of Vanderbilt University with a degree in mechanical engineering. He will be a 1998 graduate of the University of Illinois with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

The groom's parents hosted the rehearsal dinner at the University Club of Vanderbilt University. Decorations were brightly colored fresh flowers, and the guests were entertained with a video and stories of the couple in their growing-up years.

After a honeymoon to Lake Tahoe and San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Smithey are at home in Champaign, Ill.



MARRIED IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — Dr. Carl Dillaha and Bobby Jack and Gwen Cumbie announce the marriage of their children, Maribeth Helen Dillaha and Patrick Irvin Cumbie. Patrick and Maribeth were married on May 19 at the First Presbyterian Church in Snyder. (Contributed Photo)



AUGUST WEDDING — W.T. and Belinda Cox announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Carrie Jo Cox, to Joey Hall, son of Ronnie and Laura Hall of Midland. A 10 a.m., Aug. 21 wedding ceremony will be at the courthouse gazebo. (Contributed Photo)

Woellert's children surprise couple on 50th anniversary

On July 11 a surprise, informal golden wedding anniversary event was hosted for Henry and Dora Woellert at their residence, 1902 29th Street, by their children.

Henry Leo Woellert married the former Dora Mae Goebel of Hermleigh on July 10, 1948 at the Snyder courthouse. They have lived in Snyder since 1950.

Mr. Woellert retired after working for McCormick Inc. for 42 years. He previously worked for Witco Carbon Co. in Eunice, N.M.

The couple's children are Donna J. Curott from Gilbert, Ariz., Terry L. Woellert from Dallas and Timothy D. Woellert from Oklahoma City.

Mr. and Mrs. Woellert have four grandchildren, one step-grandchild, one foster grandchild and two foster great-grandchildren.

Their granddaughter, Stephine Woellert, and daughter-in-law, Tammy Woellert, served the cake and punch.

Keeping in accordance with the colors of gold and white, the guests were served with chocolate and vanilla anniversary cake, punch, mints and nuts.

Out-of-town guests were from Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico and various communities in Texas.



Henry Leo and Dora Mae Woellert
(Contributed Photos)

Bridal Registry

Rachel Wilson
and Kevin McMillan
Shannon Canada
and George Broyles
Elyse Merritt
and Brandon Terry
Misty Clem
and Jack Haley
Somer Dennis
and Mark Love
Jennifer Tovar
and Martin Orosco
Alicia Drum
and Sterling Scott Trevey
Laurie Jones
and Tyson Cromeens
Deana Schwarz
and Rodney White
Micah Brown
and Kelly Franks
Mary Ann Gonzales
and Jonathan Patrick
Jennifer Spence
and Wes Seilhant
Christy (Strong) Nix
and Billy Nix
Maribeth (Dillaha) Cumbie
and Patrick Cumbie
Sarah Fagin
and Joe Cutrona
Jean Turner
and Thomas W. Brown
Krisha Grandon
and Ricky Sollis
Christi Clark Markham
and Jay Clark Markham

Infant Registry

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Sat. 10:00-4:00

Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

FRIDAY
July 31

Jane Hinton directed games for Duplicate Bridge Club.

1. Martha Fagin, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Mary Bast, Johnye Van Dever.
3. Dot Casey, Louise Thompson.

SUNDAY
No game

TUESDAY
Aug. 4

1. TIE: Shirley Stewart, J.O. Morrison and Jane Hinton, Frances Stevenson.
2. Ann Davis, Louise Thompson.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 08-08-98
♠ K 7 5
♥ Q
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A J 6 5 3

West
♠ 10 4 3
♥ J 10 8 7
♦ Q 8 4
♣ Q 10 7

East
♠ Q J 8
♥ 9 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 7 6
♣ 9 8

South
♠ A 9 6 2
♥ A K
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ K 4 2

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	7 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

When the odds clearly dictate

Today's deal was sent to me by William Perel, from Pawnee, Okla. He watched it being played last year in an Austrian ski lodge.

After the given auction, South was in seven no-trump. West led the heart jack. Declarer won with his king, cashed the club king, then played a club to dummy's ace. At this point, Mr. Perel could take no more, so left. Later, he learned that South had finished two down. What do you think?

Let's start with the bidding. Those of you who have studied my methods will know I would open that South hand with one no-trump, showing 15-17 points; but playing 16-18, one diamond is correct.

North's three clubs is acceptable, though I prefer two clubs. Needing room for a full investigation, why gobble up so much space on the first round?

South should either raise to four clubs or rebid three no-trump.

Presumably North took three spades as showing extras because ownir g four aces and four kings doesn t mean one will have 13 tricks.

The declarer's play in the club suit is right if East has queen-doubleton, but loses if West has queen-third. *A priori*, the odds are 13.56 percent that East will have queen-doubleton and 20.34 that West will have queen-third. So, finessing on the second round of clubs is a *much* better play. (Remember: eight ever.)

The same thing applies to the diamond suit. So, as Mr. Perel concluded, South should have schussed home in seven no-trump. But he shouldn't have been there — six no-trump is sufficient.

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In Colo

Loc

Kelli Lee Lock
Alan Harmon,
exchanged nuptia
on June 20 in Colo
Church.

Dr. Tommy
officiated the d
before an altar dec
candelabras bede
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tulle and ivory bo
bristol pedestals t
baskets of fresh
the altar and chur
decorated with c
and matching t
Matching ribbo
pews. Fresh flowe
piano and organ

The bride's pa
Marilyn Lockhar
the groom's paren
Mary Jo Harmo

The bride's g
Bobbie and De
Snyder and Cec
Schwartz of Haw
grandparents are
ary Harmon of T
and Mr. and
Monaghan.

Organist was
Ira and vocalis
Timora. Musi
included "There
grandmothers an
seated, and "Thro
Love," before
recited.

The bride, give
her father, wore
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bodice, basque w
with a long tra
peplum adorned
satin roses and

For "somethin
carried her gre
handkerchief; "
were pearl earri
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thing borrow"
bands from her
"something blue

Her short, be
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carried a bouqu
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yellow roses, s
purple spider m

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Robert Jeffr
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Introd
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Medical Cen

Colton G
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20½ inches

Paternal g
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rents are G
Hodge of Sn

In Colonial Hill Baptist Church...

Lockhart, Harmon married

Kelli Lee Lockhart and Bradley Alan Harmon, both of Dallas, exchanged nuptial vows at 2 p.m. on June 20 in Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, officiated the double-ring rites before an altar decorated with arch candelabras bedecked with greenery, baby's breath and dusty rose tulle and ivory bows. Two square bristol pedestals topped with large baskets of fresh flowers flanked the altar and church railings were decorated with clear lights, fern and matching tulle and bows. Matching ribbon marked the pews. Fresh flowers decorated the piano and organ.

The bride's parents are Bill and Marilyn Lockhart of Snyder and the groom's parents are Curtis and Mary Jo Harmon of Rockwall.

The bride's grandparents are Bobbie and Dee Lockhart of Snyder and Cecil and Etheline Schwartz of Hawley. The groom's grandparents are Don and Rosemary Harmon of Terra Haute, Ind., and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Monaghan.

Organist was Paula Howard of Ira and vocalist was Carmen Timora. Musical selections included "There is Love," as the grandmothers and mothers were seated, and "Through the Eyes of Love," before the vows were recited.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory satin with a beaded princess bodice, basque waist and full skirt with a long train and beaded peplum adorned with three large satin roses and beads.

For "something old," the bride carried her great-grandmother's handkerchief; "something new" were pearl earrings and necklace from the bride's parents; "something borrow" were wedding bands from her grandmother; and "something blue" was her garter.

Her short, beaded ivory veil attached a beaded headpiece. She carried a bouquet of fresh long-stemmed flowers of pink and yellow roses, small yellow and purple spider mums, lilac lilies and pink snapdragons. They were tied with ivory ribbon.



Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Alan Harmon
(Contributed Photo)

Maid of honor was Amy Steakley of Arlington and bridesmaids were Annie Burt of Snyder, Lynnetta Hibdon, cousin of the bride from Lubbock, and Holly Goebel, cousin of the bride from Snyder. They wore short-sleeved, floor-length A-line dresses in dusty rose shantung. They featured bows in the back, made by Lana Galloway. Their bouquets were fresh roses, daisies, snapdragons, tied with satin ribbons.

Kaitlyn Denise Hibdon, cousin of the bride from Lubbock, was flower girl.

The groom wore a black full-dress tuxedo, an ivory shirt, a black bow tie and cummerbund and black shoes. The bride's father and groomsmen — Tommy Hibdon, cousin-in-law of the bride from Lubbock, and another cousin, Chris Goebel from Snyder, and best man Chris Clark from Dallas, all wore black contour tuxedos with ivory shirt, black bow ties, cummerbunds and black shoes.

Julie Berryhill of Snyder registered guests on a table topped with doilies, made by the bride's aunt, Janie Story of Abilene, and a tall clear vase with pink, yellow and white gladiolas.

The reception, held in the fellowship hall, was catered by Linda Freeman with the Farmer's Daughter Catering in Sweetwater.

The bride's table was laid with an ivory cloth adorned with an ivory tulle skirting. Small twinkle lights with antique rose garland formed the tiered valance on the table.

Round tables, placed on either side of the bride's table covered with ivory tulle and decorated similar to the bride's table, held a punch fountain and silver coffee service. This was backed by a large tri-fold lattice screen decorated with small lights, ivory tulle and antique rose garland.

The bride's cake French vanilla cake was decorated with a rolled fondant icing and gum paste roses.

The groom's table was covered with a burgundy cloth and skirting. Heralding the Aggie tradition, the groom's cake was the stacked Aggie bonfire. It was covered with chocolate curls and was topped with an edible outhouse. From the cake, the Aggie War Hymn was played. Mints in the shape of the state of Texas and the A&M emblem were accompanied by Corps boots, hat and sabre.

The buffet table, covered with an ivory cloth, served meats, cheese and French bread and other vegetables and fruit in a watermelon basket.

Serving were cousins of the bride, Cindy Wood of Hobbs, N.M., and Cassie Callaway of Snyder, MeLanie Adkins and Stephanie Brannan, both of Abilene.

Wedding flowers were by Glenda Glasscock at Countryplace; photography was by Tom Gonzales, Mr. Geez Photography; and the ceremony was coordinated by Patsy Parmer.

Following their Las Vegas honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. Harmon are at home in Dallas.

The bride is a 1993 Snyder High School graduate and a 1997 graduate from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and is teaching at Brandenberg Middle School in Garland.

A 1996 graduate of A&M with a bachelor's degree in accounting, the groom is employed with ATMOS Energy in Dallas.

Ask Anne & Nan

By Anne B. Adams and Nancy Nash-Cummings

By Anne B. Adams and Nancy Nash-Cummings

DEAR ANNE AND NAN: Where does that single sock of a pair go when it disappears in a load of laundry? It doesn't go down the drain because that's impossible, and it isn't caught in other clothing because I always search but never retrieve. I now put socks in a mesh bag and stick the bag in the washing machine and am not so plagued, but I still want to know where the missing ones went. I have a whole drawer of unmatched socks. — **ROXIE J. ROBINSON, Wellington, Kan.**

DEAR ROXIE: Anne and Nan blame it on their "sock ghost" and blame their ever-dwindling supply of teaspoons on their "teaspoon ghost." As far as we know, though we both live in old houses, these are the only two resident ghosts we have. They might even be the same ghost doing double duty.

At one time we thought we'd solved the mystery of the missing single sock when we were told to look underneath the spindle of our washing machine; but we came up empty-handed, or empty-footed, as the case may be.

Your idea of using a mesh bag is a good one, as it is apparently "ghost proof." There are a couple of other options available. Home Trends, 1450 Lyell Avenue, Rochester, NY 14606-2148 carries Sock Clips in their catalog. They are catalog number 2703; a set of 32 colored clips is $14.95, plus $4.50 shipping. You can call Home Trends at (800) 810-2340.

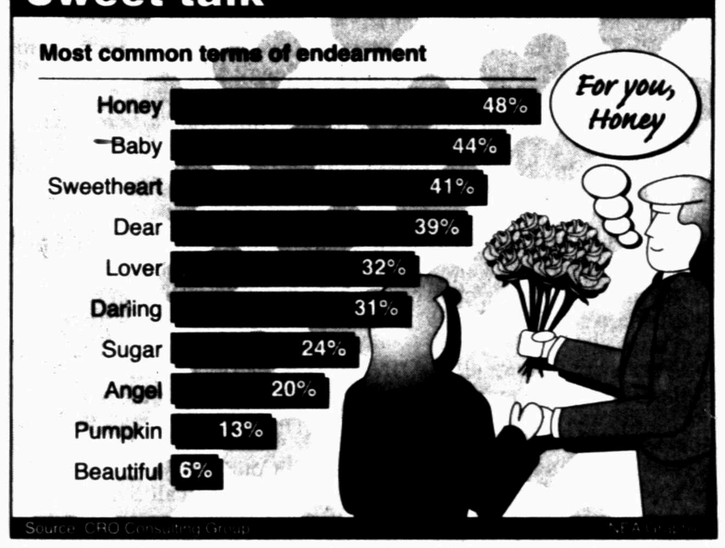
The Walter Drake catalog carries round plastic disks which, when slid over the sock tops, hold the pairs together. Write to them at 94 Drake Building, Colorado Springs, CO 80940, or call (800) 525-9291. A set of 12 is catalog number H3292 and costs $1.99 plus $2.99 shipping. The advantage of the clips or disks over your mesh-bag idea is that each pair of socks can be clipped together before they are thrown into the laundry hamper, making the tedious post-laundry business of sorting and matching socks unnecessary.

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ASK ANNE & NAN



Sweet talk



Almost half of the survey respondents listed "honey" as their moniker of choice for loved ones. And June is the time for love; it's the most popular month for weddings.

Social Security tries to convince lady she is dead

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Despite being officially dead, Rosie Nelson nevertheless struggled into the Social Security Office for a nice little chat.

Mrs. Nelson, 64, who has collected Social Security disability benefits since a 1981 back injury, was notified by letter Friday that she died June 29. Her benefits were cut off.

Officials only backed down after Mrs. Nelson appeared in person — very much breathing — with documentation and a picture I.D. in hand to prove her continuing existence.

"It was harder to prove she was alive than she was dead," said Mrs. Nelson's daughter, Donna Lappert.

Robert Jeffries, a spokesman for the Social Security office, said Mrs. Nelson should receive a check by Thursday. The office could not immediately pinpoint the reason for the mix-up.

Mrs. Hall celebrates 93rd birthday with family, friends

A birthday luncheon was held on Aug. 2 for Mary Walker Hall who is 93 years old.

The occasion was held in the home of a daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Brice Fuqua.

Others attending included Jean and Jim Summer of Midland; Cele and Lindsey Gandy of Christoval; Evelyn and Carl Stanley of Sweetwater; Maxine and Paul Barren of Loraine; Lee, Britt, Breanna and Corrina Fuqua of Abilene; Lori, John, Jordan and Aaron Williamson of Hermleigh; Lonice and J.J. Hall of Ira; Susan, Joe, and Josh and Johathan Hall of Ira.

From Snyder were Mary Hall; Ruby Hall; Theresa and Hamp Yearwood; Brenda and Larry Lee; Melissa, Steve and Sterling Lee, all of Snyder.



Mary Hall

Introducing...
Colton Gregory Barnett



Steve and Wendy Barnett announce the birth of their son, Colton Gregory. He was born July 23, 1998, in Trinity Medical Center in Carrollton.

Colton Gregory weighed eight 8 lbs., 7½ oz. and was 20½ inches long.

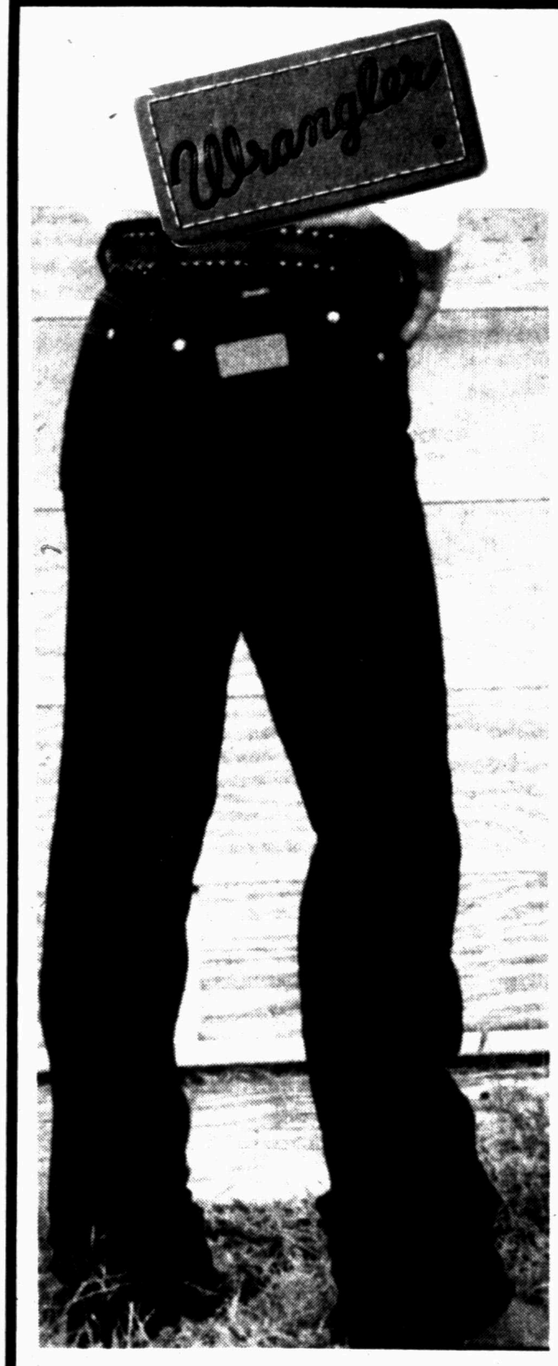
Paternal grandmother is Loraine Hampton of Ashland, Ky., and maternal grandparents are Greg and Bonnie Hodge of Snyder.

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Karol Blackwell & Mitch Brumbelow
Kelli Lockhart & Brad Harmon
Misty Clem & Jack Haley
Amy Hodges & J.J. Vollet
Julie Lang & Brandon Lee
Pamela Kerr & Anthony Stelluti
Mecca McCowen & Chris Dedmon
Maribeth (Dillaha) Cumbie & Patrick Cumbie
Jean Turner & Thomas W. Brown
Somer Dennis & Mark Love
Elyse Merritt & Brandon Terry
Jennifer Tovar & Martin Orosco
Mary Ann Gonzales & Jonathan Patrick
Deana Schwarz & Rodney White
Micha Brown & Kelly Franks
Jennifer Spence & Wes Seilhant
Christy Strong Nix & Billy Nix
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AUG 09 1998

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Martha Ann Woman's Club board of directors; MAWC; all members are urged to attend; 4 p.m.

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

Al-Anon, open meetings, 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. 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Defensive Driving Course; Monday and Tuesday at 6 to 9 p.m. in the Snyder Savings & Loan community room, 27th and College Ave; for more information, call 573-2850. No reservations necessary.

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

American Legion Layne Kite Post 181 and Auxiliary; 7:30 p.m.

White Buffalo Stamp Club; community room at Snyder National Bank; visitors welcome; 7:30 p.m.

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

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

TUESDAY

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

Snyder Shrine Club; call 863-2702 for meeting place; 6 p.m.

Canyon Gun Club; 1910 25th; 7:30 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 open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & 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 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

AARP board (only) meeting at Marie Armstrong's home, 3209 Houston Ave.

Just for Today NA; open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

Noah Project Advisory Committee; MAWC; noon.

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

Three support groups — Divorce Recovery, Cancer/Grief and Caring for Aging Parents; First Baptist Church, east door; 6:30 p.m. For information, call 573-2631. Anyone is welcome to attend and child care will be provided.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

Just for Today NA; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 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 appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

Just for Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 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 open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & 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.

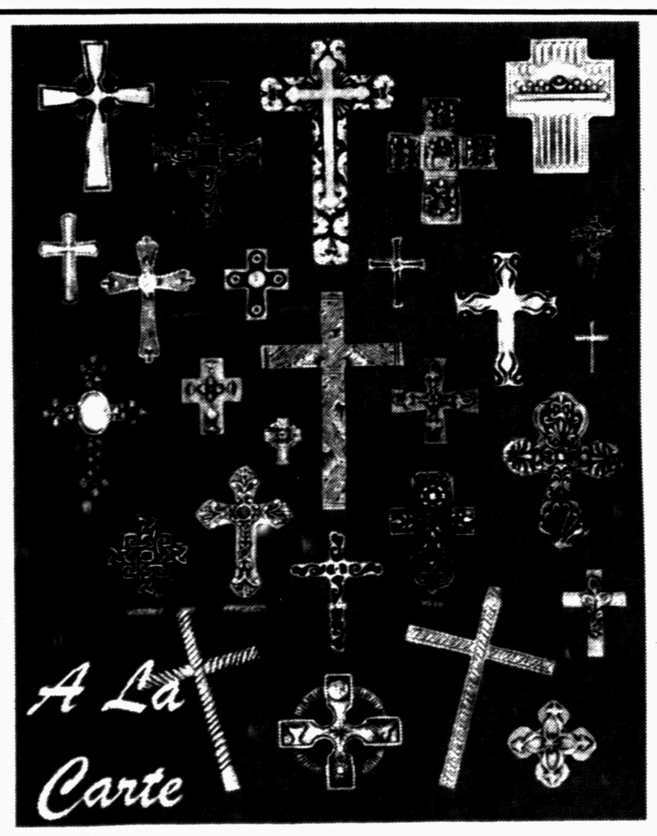
Just for Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

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

Just For Today closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, or 573-8018; 5 p.m.



McWilliams Pharmacy
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Ira High School graduate plans September vows

Thomas Wayne Brown, son of Jim and Janet Brown of Ira and Jean Duross Fitzpatrick Turner are making wedding plans for Sept. 19 in New Haven Lawn Club in New Haven, Conn.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Jane Lippincott Fitzpatrick of Somerville, Mass., and Wesley James Turner of Danville, Ga.

Brown is the grandson of Jim and Opal Brown of Ira, and Vernon and Ivean Bell of Lubbock.

Miss Turner graduated from Yale University in May with a Ph.D. in psychology after completing her undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire. Brown is enrolled in the Ph.D program in psychology at Yale and graduated from Brandeis University in 1995.

Snyder School Menu

BREAKFAST

All meals are served with choice of milk. All breakfasts are served with assorted dry cereal, or another food choice, and chilled juice.

WEDNESDAY

Donut

THURSDAY

French Toast w/Syrup

FRIDAY

Scrambled Eggs w/Toast

LUNCH

WEDNESDAY

Pizza or
Hamburger
French Fries
Lettuce & Tomato, Chocolate Pudding

THURSDAY

Burrito or
Crispy Tacos
Lettuce & Tomato
Refried Beans
Chilled Fruit

FRIDAY

Corn Dog
BBQ on a Bun
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
Cookies

Nielson media sets prime time ratings for week

By The Associated Press

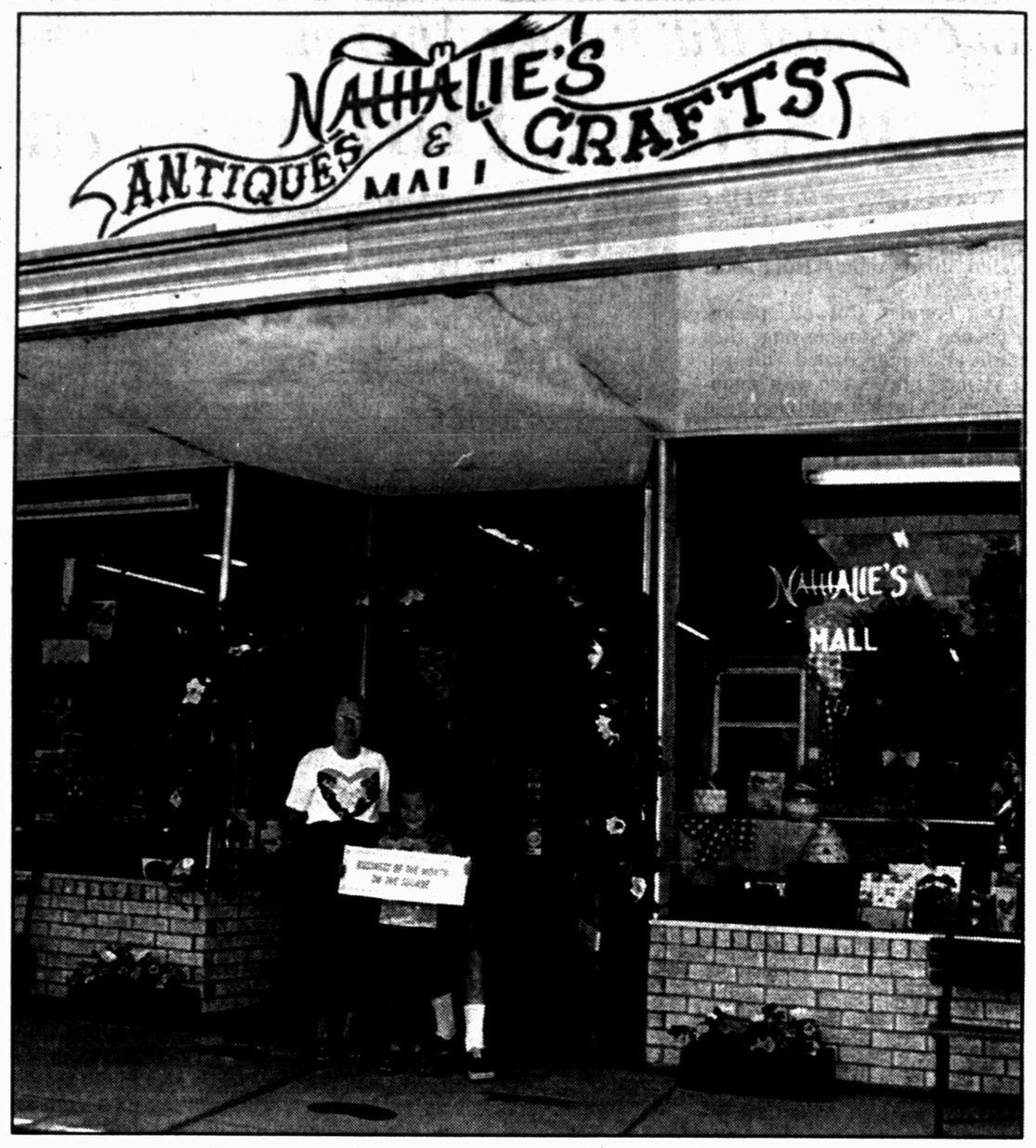
Prime time ratings as compiled by Nielsen Media Research for July 27-Aug. 2.

An "X" in parentheses denotes one-time-only presentations. The rating is the percentage of the nation's estimated 98 million TV homes. Each ratings point represents 980,000 households.

1. (7) "60 Minutes," CBS, 11.2, 10.9 million homes.
2. (11) "Just Shoot Me," NBC, 10.7, 10.4 million homes.
3. (1) "Seinfeld," NBC, 10.6, 10.3 million homes.
4. (2) "ER" NBC, 9.7, 9.5 million homes.
5. (12) "Dateline NBC-Tuesday," NBC, 9.6, 9.4 million homes
6. (14) "Dateline NBC-Monday," NBC, 9.2, 9.0 million homes
7. (8) "Touched by an Angel," CBS, 8.7, 8.5 million homes.
8. "CBS Tuesday Movie: Pelican Brief," CBS, 8.3, 8.1 million homes
9. "Guinness World Records: PRMTM," Fox, 8.2, 8.0 million homes
9. (18) "PrimeTime Live, ABC, 8.2, 8.0 million homes.



Nylon was first introduced to the public in 1938.



Nathalie's Gift and Tea Room

Downtown Business of the Month

Nathalie's began in 1985 in Rotan and then she began to go to gift markets and sell wholesale in 1987.

She and her husband, Joe Kelley moved their business to the square in September of 1991 where they have many arts and crafts booths, selling on consignment.

They chose downtown Snyder because at that time the square was so vacant, and they chose the north side because it did not have an appealing appearance to people who drove through Snyder. They envisioned livening it up and that they did.

"We' also wanted to give area antiquers and crafters a place to display and sell their wares without having the investments of having their own shop," Nathalie said.

In the back two-thirds of their shop at 1803 25th Street, is Nathalie's Wholesale where they produce ceramic jewelry. "The Lord spoke to me and told me 'I have made you creative, and if you will come and create with Me, I will give you more ideas than you can create in three lifetimes.'" And He has been faithful to that promise. "We have been a leader in our industry and have been copied by many," Nathalie remarked.

Nathalie's largest account was the Cracker Barrel Restaurant & Stores which they serviced for two years. "As we approach the new millinieum, we can see a shift in market attendance and a growing interest in shopping through the Internet," she said. "We are in the process of adapting to those trends."

In the meantime, out of cyberspace and back in Snyder, we are planning to reopen the Tea Room where the speciality will be quiches and desserts. But, the feature attraction along with the good food is the warm, intimate atmosphere. When the Tea Room was opened before, it was our prayer that our guests would sense the presence of Jesus in that place and that they would feel His love and peace. That is still Nathalie's and Joe's prayer as they dust off the recipes and fluff up the napkins. Nathalie will be doing the cooking and Patsy Hart will be baking specialty cakes and an invitation is extended to Maxine Ragland to join them in baking her famous meringue pies.

"We desire to be a blessing to the people of Snyder, and to be open to them for a place of refreshing in a dry and thirsty land," she concluded.

Avocados, the powerhouse fruit

Plant-based foods are good for you

By Elizabeth Pivonka, Ph.D., R.D.
President, Produce for Better Health Foundation

By virtue of being a plant, avocados contain certain vitamins and minerals with significant health benefits. Plant-based foods, including avocados, also contain phytochemicals (*phyto* means plant) that have health-enhancing and protecting properties, particularly against cancer and heart disease.

Fruit and vegetables are some of the main sources of essential vitamins and minerals in American diets. Avocados are no exception. They are cholesterol-free, sodium-free and contain potassium, vitamin C, vitamin E, B6, and folate.

Avocados also contain monounsaturated-fat, or the "good fat," which some studies have shown to reduce serum cholesterol levels. In fact, I like to use avocados as a substitute for sour cream, mayonnaise, cheese, or cream cheese on sandwiches or in salads. They don't contain the saturated fat, cholesterol or sodium of those items, and have all the benefits of being a plant food.

The trick is to know how to peel it. Here's how:



Step one — once ripe (ripe fruit will be firm, yet will yield to gentle pressure when squeezed gently in the palm of your hand), cut the avocado lengthwise around the seed. Rotate the halves to separate.

Step two — remove the seed by sliding the tip of a spoon gently underneath and lifting it out.

Step three — peel the fruit by placing the cut side down and removing the skin with a knife or your fingers, or simply scoop out the avocado meat with a spoon. Be sure to sprinkle all cut surfaces with lemon or lime juice to prevent discoloration.

Remember, eating 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day is one of the most important health choices you can make. Avocados together with other fruits and vegetables can help you reach your 5 A Day.

Pasta Salad Nicoise

¼ cup fat-free Italian Dressing
¼ cup sliced red onion
½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
2 lg. sliced black olives
1 can (6 oz.) drained water-packed tuna
2 cups cooked and drained rotini pasta
4 leaves green leaf lettuce
½ diced California avocado
2 cloves minced fresh garlic
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
¾ cup diced fresh tomato

In a small bowl, combine the dressing, basil, garlic and red pepper flakes. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine rotini pasta, tuna, tomato, avocado and red onion. Add dressing and toss. Line four plates with lettuce leaves, spoon on salad and garnish with olive slices. Serves 4.

Per serving: 210 calories, 5g fat, 0.7 saturated fat, 0.8g. polyunmsaturated fat, 7mg cholesterol, 303 mg sodium, 26g total carbohydrate, 2g dietary fiber, 4g sugars, 16g protein.

For more information about 5 A Day, check www.5aday.com. Or for recipes on how to use avocados, send a SASE to Produce for Better Health Foundation, Avocado Recipes, 5301 Limestone Rd., Suite 101, Wilmington, DE 19808.

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Most of AF's 'astro chimps' to be used in further research

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most animals in the chimpanzee troop that helped put America into space have been given by the Air Force to a New Mexico foundation that was once fined for violating animal care standards and now is being investigated for a second complaint.

The Air Force announced Thursday that it was awarding 111 research chimpanzees to the Coulston Foundation of Alamogordo, N.M. The firm has operated the Air Force research ape facility at Holoman Air Force Base since 1993.

Another 30 chimps in the Air Force troop are being given to Primarily Primates Inc., the operator of a large animal sanctuary near San Antonio.

The apes are descendants or companions of Ham, the first chimpanzee to fly in space, and of Enos, the first chimp to orbit the Earth. Some were used in early jet airplane research, developing such equipment as ejection seats, and in more recent years, more than half of the animals have been used in AIDS and hepatitis experiments. Some are still considered diseased.

Some animal rights activists said they were appalled that most of the Air Force chimps were going to Coulston instead of to organizations that would retire the animals without subjecting them to further research.

Jane Goodall, a famed chimpanzee researcher, was "shocked and saddened that the Air Force awarded the majority of the chimps to Coulston," the Jane Goodall Institute said in a statement.

"It amazes me that the Air Force would ignore the voices of so many who want these chimpanzees retired and, instead, sentence them to a life of fear, pain and loneliness in an establishment well known for its inability to care for chimpanzees," Goodall said.

A number of people, including some astronauts, had urged the Air Force to retire the animals instead of subjecting them to further research.

None of the 141 animals in the chimpanzee troop being sent to Coulston or Primarily Primates was ever launched into space, said Air Force Col. Jack Blackhurst. Minnie, the last surviving "astro-chimp" from the space program's early days, died in March at age 41. She had been the back-up for Ham and Enos.

Blackhurst said Coulston and Primarily Primates were selected from among four organizations that had bid to take possession of the chimpanzees. The Air Force compared Coulston's record of animal care inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and concluded "it did as well or better than the other chimpanzee facilities in the country," he said.

None of the 30 animals going to the San Antonio sanctuary had been used in medical tests, he said. Most of them are older, with an average age of 27. All but five are female.

Army Lt. Col. Denver Marlow, a veterinarian, said 77 of the animals have been exposed to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, or to hepatitis, and they must now be considered infectious.

Don McKinney, a Coulston spokesman, said the 111 animals are part of a herd of more than 650 chimps that Coulston has under its care.

They will be used for medical research, including studies into Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and arthritis, and for breeding, he said.

Coulston was found in violation of animal care regulations in 1993 after three chimps in the company's care died, McKinney said, adding that the company paid $20,000 in penalties and made another $20,000 in facility improvements.

Coulston was subject to another "adverse finding" after two chimpanzees died in recent months, said McKinney. He declined to discuss the deaths, but confirmed that "a judicial procedure is in progress" as the result of findings by USDA inspectors.

A coalition that included the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Doris Day Animal League and the Animal Welfare Institute had proposed a permanent sanctuary for the animals in Florida.

Blackhurst said that proposal was evaluated, but the Air Force concluded Coulston best met the requirements for receiving the animals. He said the criterion included such things as the financial ability to care for the chimps for many years.

Q&A

What is a designated driver?

(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. The current series is dedicated to supplying general information to our readers. Getting back to the basics, we are using the ABC's as a structured guideline. Each week, the column will concentrate on such topics as Addiction, Blackouts, Cocaine, etc. Readers may want to cut out the articles and save them as a resource for future reference.)

ABC's of Substance Abuse
(Article 4 of 26)

D ~ DESIGNATED DRIVER

A young man submitted the following question to our staff at the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse:

If a person, 21 years of age or older, is a passenger in a car being driven by a non-drinking designated driver, can the passenger be arrested for public intoxication if the driver is stopped by a local police officer for a traffic violation?

According to Ben Smith, Municipal Court Judge, the answer is circumstantially yes. If a passenger in a car is intoxicated to the point of endangering him/herself or others, that person can be arrested for public intoxication because the roads and highways are considered to be public property.

According to Sgt. Trevlyn Pitner, Special Services Division (Snyder Police Department), the number one concern of the local police officers is the SAFETY of each citizen of our community. Pitner explained, "As a police officer, it is *not* our intention to punish people. Our primary purpose is to *protect* them." Pitner continued, "The Snyder Police Department supports the non-drinking designated driver concept. It should be noted, however, that the responsibilites of the non-drinking designated driver include:

- controlling the drinking passenger,
- ensuring the safety of the driver and/or other passengers in the vehicle, and
- providing safe end results for him/herself and all passengers in the vehicle.

Before a person agrees to becoming the non-drinking designated driver, he or she should realize that IT IS A TOUGH JOB and the responsibilites of the non-drinking designated driver should be taken seriously!"

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquiries may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-568-6722. Information on help

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Bruce Reece, 1998 Chevrolet van from Big Country Autoland.

Rat Holes Inc., 1998 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Garland D. Williams, 1998 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Ed Hammond, 1998 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Pat Bills, 1998 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Pedro O. and Janie P. Martinez, 1998 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Glesby-Marks Corporation, two 1998 Ford pickups from Wilson Motors.

Tommy and Homer F. Guin, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Sierra Well Service Inc., 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Shirley J. and H.A. Miers, 1998 Chevrolet Blazer from Big Country Autoland.

Kevin Clay Smith, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Rodney Brooks, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Keith I. and Darci J. Weiser, 1998 Chevrolet wagon from Big Country Autoland.

David and Jeanette Sutton, 1998 Pontiac from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

San Juan Sanchez of Sweetwater and Michele Diane Hernandez of Snyder.

Vernon Mitchell Brumbelow and Karol Lynn Blackwell, both of Snyder.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of John Kevin Jones and Robin Michelle Jones, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Joel LaMoin Collier and Christy Ann Williams Collier, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Virginia Valadez and Ramon Valadez Jr., divorce granted.

In the marriage of Elois Wood Aviles and Saul Rodriguez Aviles Jr., divorce granted.

East Texas Distributing vs. Jerry Owen and Sherry Thompson, dba The Movie Stop, order of dismissal.

Deed Records

Stanley L. Clark to Don Gray, a 147-acre tract out of Section 179, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Lindy Clark to Judy Ann James, individually and dba John's Machine and Radiator, all of Lots 1-4 of the J.O. Hamilton Subdivision of Block 2 of the Casstevens Subdivision of Block 15 of the Cody Addition.

Roger D. and Mary Batchelor to Walter N. and Viola Stone, all the west 50 feet of the west 100 feet of Lot 2 in Block 26 of the Grayum and Nelson Heights Addition.

Michael W. and Noreen Taylor to Dolores Jones, all of Lot 2 in Block 1 of the Cedar Creek Addition.

Mark S. Graham to Regina Rhodes, all of Lot 18 in Block 1 of the Wall Addition.

T&K Dairy Farm, Ltd. to T&K Dairy Farms, a general partnership, 88.596-acre tract in the northeast part of Section 35, Block 3, H&GN survey.

June Presley, Joe Vincent and Max Vincent to Rugerio Y. and Anita Reyes, all of Lot 2 in Block 2 of the Cullum Addition.

Dolores Jones to Jackie A. Rowling, all of Lot 2 in Block 1 of the Cedar Creek Addition.

John Douglas and Mindy Rachelle Ward to Glenn David and Lynn K. Strong, all of Lot 2 in Block 2 of the Wall Addition.

Rosemary Escobedo Silva to Guadalupe Escobedo, the west 100 feet of Lot 1 in Block 35 of the Cody Addition.

Larry D. and Norma Pickerel to Mark Roger and Amy Leigh Hargrove, a 0.365-acre tract in the southeast one-quarter of Section 181, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Carmen Yanez to Ramon Yanez, all of Lot 1 of the Gary Subdivision of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 1 of the Nunn Addition.

Margie Shelton to Thad Shelton, the south 88 feet of Lot 12 and the south 88 feet of the west 13 feet of Lot 11 in Block 51 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Douglas E. and Brandye R. Hughey to Jerry and Melinda Pechacek, five acres in the southwest one-quarter of Section 91, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Margarita Puente to Janice Lee Villa, all of the north 50 feet of the south 250 feet of Lot 1 in Block 20 of the Original Town of Snyder.

DPS: Prison bus crash kills guard, injures five inmates

CENTERVILLE (AP) — A prison guard was killed and as many as five inmates were hurt Friday morning in a crash of a state prison bus, Texas Department of Public Safety officials said.

The midmorning wreck occurred on State Route 7 near the Interstate 45 junction on the western fringe of Centerville, located halfway between Houston and Dallas. No inmates escaped.

The bus rested on its side after the wreck, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Larry Fitzgerald said. More prison buses were dispatched to transport uninjured inmates on to Huntsville.

DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange said four or five prisoners were hurt, but their names and the extent of their injuries weren't available. Injured prisoners were transported to hospitals in Crockett, Palestine and Madisonville, Fitzgerald said.

A total of two guards and 41 prisoners — including four high-risk inmates under administrative segregation — were headed to Huntsville from the Hughes Unit at Gatesville, Fitzgerald said.

Kimbell names new director

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Kimbell Art Museum has named Timothy Potts, director of Australia's oldest and largest public art collection, as its new director.

"He is a wonderful fit for the Kimbell," Kay Fortson, president of the Kimbell's board of directors said today. "We felt he was a man of vision, he was creative, he could take us into the 21st century."

Potts, director of the National Galley of Victoria in Melbourne, succeeds Ted Pillsbury, who announced his retirement in January after 17 years.

"The Kimbell presents a unique and irresistible opportunity to combine excellence in collecting, exhibitions and scholarship," Potts said in a written statement released by the Kimbell. "I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to play a part in shaping its future."

The job at the Louis Kahn-designed museum, regarded as one of the world's best small institutions, pays about $400,000 a year. The Kimbell also has one of the biggest acquisition budgets in the country at about $8 million a year.

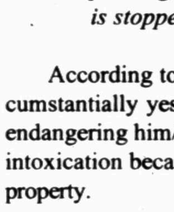
Kindermusik. a good beginning never ends

VALERIE'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC

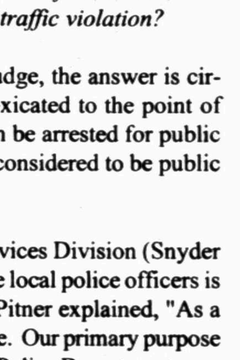
PRESENTS

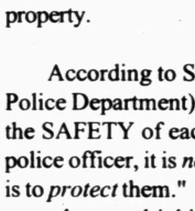
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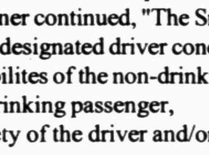
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AND
"HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS"





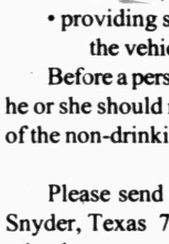
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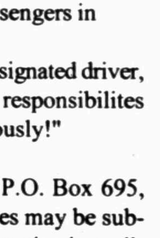
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No... No... No... No... No...

Deanie Francis Mills



Of all the absolutely lovely graduation gifts my daughter received, one of the most special came from her Uncle Travis and Aunt Bobbie (Kent's older brother and sister-in-law). Having discovered that she loved musical theatre, they gave her three top-dollar tickets to the New York Broadway traveling production of "Phantom of the Opera," which was showing in a limited run at Fort Worth's magnificent Bass Hall. When she opened the card from them at her after-graduation party last spring and the tickets fell out, she burst into tears of joy.

Her Uncle Travis had ordered three tickets so that we could go together with her, an incredibly thoughtful gesture on his part, especially considering the price of the tickets, ($65 apiece). But this summer has been unbelievably hectic for Kent, who is a livestock nutritionist and feed salesman. Drought and heat conditions have put ranchers in crises, and he has driven quite literally all over this huge state for weeks on end, advising worried clients and presenting programs at various professional organizations trying to help keep people in business.

So the closer it came to the date of the play — August 1 — the more he began to balk. Even though Jessica and I assured him that we would do the driving, it still seemed more like an upcoming ordeal to him than an enjoyable family outing. Even worse, his company was planning to do inventory that very weekend and needed him there. So he urged Jessica to take a friend instead.

Now, those of you who know my daughter will attest that she is a most reasonable young person, sweet and cheerful of disposition, hard-working, and shy. She doesn't drink or party, stays out of trouble, works and saves her money for college. A good kid. In all her life, she has never given us grief.

But this time, she just flat put her foot down. No, she said. I don't want to take a friend. I want to go with my mom and dad.

Her dad, who can be quite stern on occasion, made it clear that the matter might not be up to him, that people were counting on him, and that anyway, he didn't want to go.

I don't care, she said. You're going and that's that.

Somewhere along the line, we attempted a compromise, we wouldn't have to make a weekend of it. It's only four hours to Fort Worth and we were attending a 2 p.m. matinee. No reason we couldn't drive up Saturday morning and drive back that same evening after the play.

Sorry, he said. Jessica, why don't you call your friend Chris from theatre camp, who lives in Arlington, and take him?

No. I want you.

Exasperated, he thought up another friend of ours, Steve, who works in the book business and has helped me promote my books in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Steve was once very active in Fort Worth's Casa Manana theatre as an actor and still does some voice-over work. Steve would love to go, her dad said. Why don't you take Steve?

No.

Two days before the play, Kent talked to his boss, who told him they would manage just fine without him, and suddenly it seemed he'd run out of excuses. Dutifully, he got up early and put on a tie and jacket and away we went, with Kent stuffed in the back of the Suburban while we drove.

The new Bass Hall is built along the lines of famous opera houses, with five tiers of balcony seats surrounding a huge magnificent stage. The building's architecture and angel theme is absolutely exquisite — right down to huge angels adorning the outside corners of the building that stretch some two stories high and blow brass trumpets. Inside, maybe a hundred feet above the floor of the auditorium a huge domed ceiling, (think Capitol Rotunda), painted blue with puffy clouds. Just to enter the building is to feel a sense of awed privilege.

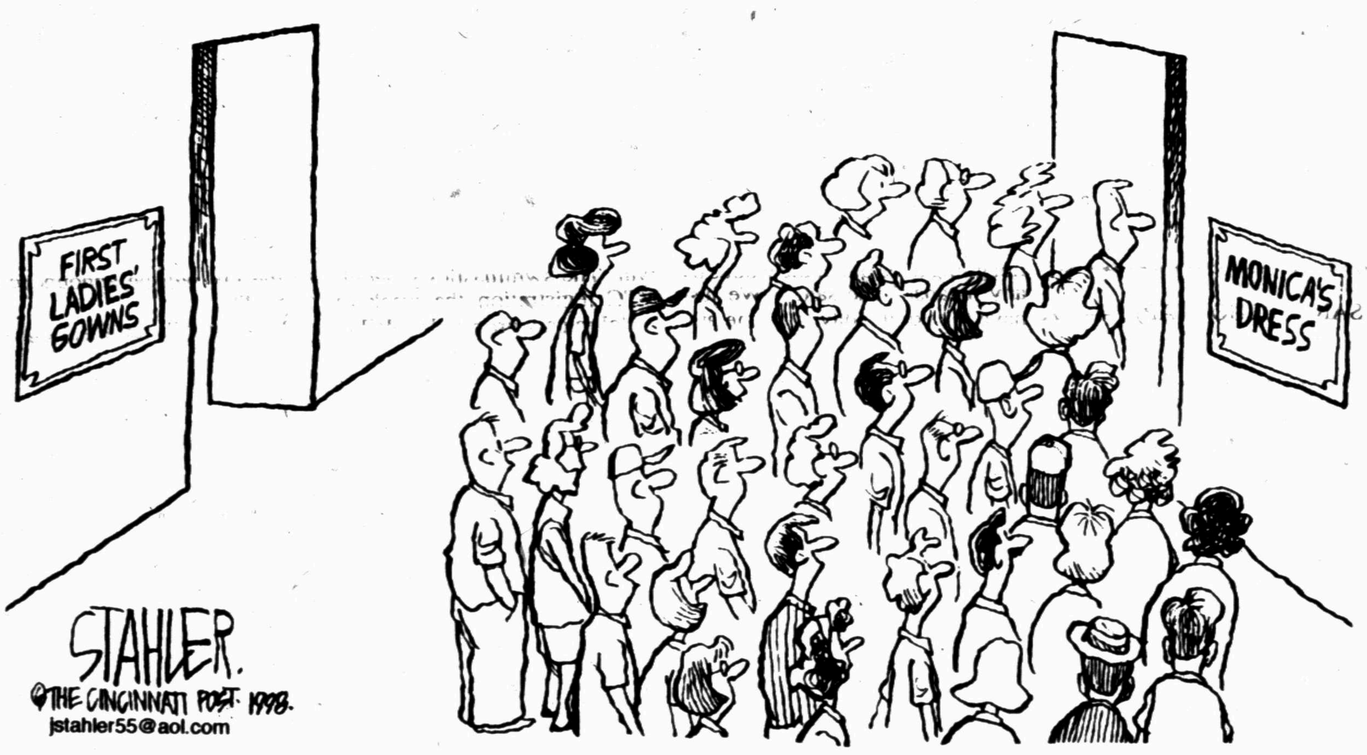
This production of "Phantom," was the same one that packed houses on Broadway up to a year in advance of performances — same costumes, same sets. The story, a magical Gothic romance set at the Paris Opera House of the 19th Century, is done as a breath-taking spectacle of dazzling costumes, spellbinding sets — including a foggy lake floating with candles — and the music! Oh, the music! It soars to the highest balconies and brings tears to the eyes of the crankiest Aggies.

There are moments in a family that you can't schedule or plan ahead, moments where everything you are together and everything you hope to be apart are brought to life in mesmerizing, life-affirming beauty, like a prayer that reaches straight into the soul of God. For our theatre-loving family and future-actress daughter, this was one of those moments.

In a few short weeks, our little chick will sprout wings of her own and fly the nest, soaring to heights of her own invention. Moments like those will be fewer and further-between.

She may be only 18, but her heart harbored a wisdom beyond her years, when she faced her daddy and said, No.

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT





JOSEPH SPEAR

Mike McCurry is the best

President Clinton's tribute to his departing press secretary Mike McCurry was felicitous but it didn't really do him justice.

"Quite simply," the president said in a press-room appearance on July 23, "Mike McCurry has set the standard by which future White House press secretaries will be judged."

Clinton should have added past press secretaries as well. In three decades in Washington, I have seen a dozen of them come and go, and quite simply, Mike McCurry is the best ever.

He has every tool a presidential spokesman must have. He has access to key White House players, including the man he works for, and thus exudes credibility and speaks with authority. He is extraordinarily intelligent and articulate, rarely appearing to be out of his depth, no matter what the subject. He is facile and witty. He is respectful, most of the time, of the journalists he serves, but is never in awe of them.

"I'll refer you to my transcript yesterday," he once told an aggressive reporter, "which referred to my transcript the day before." To CNN's Wolf Blitzer he once said, "The president was just having a very good laugh at your most recent report." Asked a scandal question by the New York Post's obstreperous (not to say obnoxious) reporter Deborah Orin, McCurry said, "I don't think it's worth my time to check."

He does have a temper, but he contains it well. The press' insatiable lust for the steamy details of Clinton's sex life, and their imaginative excuses for the pursuit of such, thoroughly irritated McCurry, and he refused to research inquiries about the charges leveled by the likes of Paula Jones, Kathleen Willey and Monica Lewinsky. He would pass on official statements and the comments of Clinton's lawyers, but that was it.

To appreciate McCurry's talents, transport yourself back 25 years and picture Ronald Ziegler dealing with the Watergate crisis. Bland, insipid, wind-him-up-and-listen-to-him-recite Ron Ziegler. He never gave a substantive answer to a question in six years. The master of Madison Avenue prattle, he was given to such terms as "Time frame," "input" and "program." This is getting to a point which I am not going to discuss beyond what I have said," he would say. Follow-up questions met with such responses as "I am completed on what I had to say," or a declaration that he could "only be as factual as the facts permit."

And that memorable moment in 1973, when Ziegler stood before the White House press and declared that the administration's investigation of itself was showing promise and that all previous Watergate statements were now to be considered "inoperative."

Remember Ron Nessen, Gerald Ford's spokesman? He had perfect credentials for the job: a former NBC correspondent who was wounded while covering the Vietnam war. I know Nessen and can vouch for his sincereity and decency, but he was hotheaded and simply could not get along with his boss' tormenters.

Ronald Reagan's flack, Larry Speakes, was competent enough, but he lacked access to higher-ups. George Bush's prolocutor Marlin Fitzwater was also able, but too much of a wooden Indian.

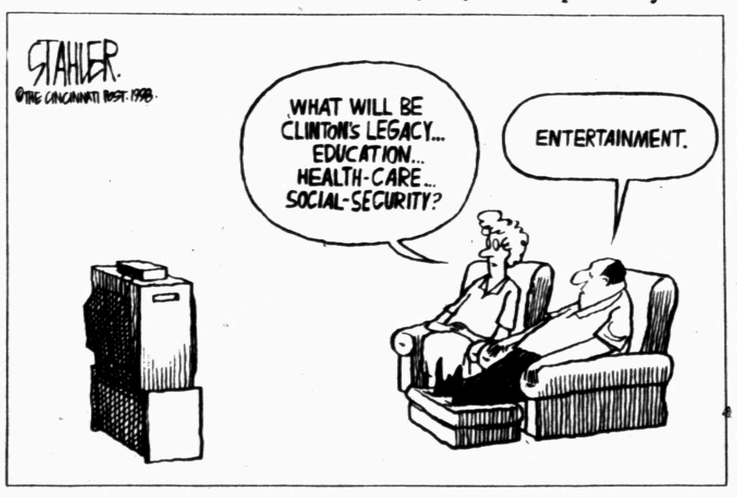
You may have noticed that I skipped over Jimmy Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell. I saved him for last because, in my judgment at least, he was the most like Mike McCurry. He was fast on his feet, funny, clever, cagey and, as a virtual son of the man he worked for, his words carried great weight.

He was also irreverent. In a 1977 interview with Time magazine, he compared reporters to hyperactive bird dogs: "You feed 'em and groom 'em and exercise 'em for six months. And then you finally turn 'em loose and they piss all over the truck and bite roots and eat butterflies. They go crazy."

But, like Nessen, Powell's downfall was his temper. He grew increasingly cynical and left office feeling bitter and angry.

Mike McCurry, in contrast, will depart this October much admired by the people who badgered him. He will be sorely missed.

Most of all, I'll wager, by the man for whom he went to battle every day for the past 3½ years.



Editorial Comment

Teacher support

The Monitor (McAllen)

Support is growing once again for making school teachers accountable for their students' performance. That support appears in a movement to pin instructors' salaries at least partly on how well they do their jobs.

Republicans have embraced this topic as the fall election nears, both at the national and local levels, with proposals to use educators' quality with their compensation. Some people decry the measure. The critics say merit pay lends itself too easily to abuses, in which administrators would give "favorite" teachers better compensation, regardless of their performance.

This isn't the first time, nor the only way, teaching ability has come under officials' scrutiny. Falling standardized test scores and tales of illiterate high school graduates strengthens the argument of those who want our teachers to be more accountable. Then-Gov. Mark White lost his re-election bid in 1986 largely because of his support for teacher testing.

It's important to note that privatization of education would largely eliminate the problems and concerns of merit pay for teachers.

One of the primary problems with public education is that decisions such as compensation and even retention of teachers are made by administrators and school boards. But these people don't have a direct stake in their decisions. Under the current system it is possible, however unlikely, that school officials could give favored treatment to instructors who are friends, regardless of their performance.

In private schools, those most directly affected by teaching quality — students and their parents — can vote with their pocketbooks. They can raise concerns with school officials, or take their students and their money elsewhere. Schools would be pressured to address the concerns, either by demanding improvement or replacing the teacher, in order to maintain attendance — and income.

Merit pay critics note that such a system could lead to large disparities in teacher pay. We see nothing wrong with that. Indeed, higher pay is used in almost every other business as an incentive for employees to excel.

Good teachers deserve proper compensation; after all, their ability to prepare young minds for the future could help them find solutions to tomorrow's challenges. Private schools could be expected to compete for the best teachers, driving their salaries up. On the other hand, teachers who couldn't prove the quality of their work might find it hard to find work at any salary.

Is this so wrong? Do we really want bad teachers to remain in our schools? Good teachers will always find work, and earn better pay than that which is currently provided. After all, public school-teachers' salaries are limited by the public's resistance to higher taxes. But the current compensation system, which places weight on tenure, also provides job security to some instructors who can't adequately teach their students.

The question of tying teachers' salaries to performance deserves some thought. But as long as the bulk of our education system remains in government hands, it will be difficult to answer that question satisfactorily.

Texas' high-tech work force

The Dallas Morning News

For decades, the oil and agriculture industries provided leaders for Texas. That was largely because their work was right here in Texas, connected to the land and the soil.

Today's global, technology-based economy has changed all that. The state's expansive high-tech companies, typified by the "Telecom Corridor" in Richardson, form the backbone of the modern Texas economy. But for many high-tech innovators, whose businesses often take them all over the world, Texas is only a place to live.

Changing that dynamic, and getting more people from the state's inventive and entrepreneurial technology community involved in solving state and local problems, presents one of Texas' great challenges.

Vin Prothro, who chairs Gov. George W. Bush's Science and Technology Council, has a particular goal for the state's technology community. The Dallas Semiconductor Corp. chairman wants people from within the industry to press Texas legislators during their 1999 session to invest ample funds in the state's community colleges and in high school advanced placement courses. Those reforms would help improve the skills of workers coming into the Texas workforce.

The state's schools indeed provide a natural place for the Texas technology community and the state's civic needs to coincide.

That's why some relationships already exist between large computer companies and Texas colleges.

Still, the gap between the state's universities and its technology community remains sizable, especially when one considers the legion of start-up technology companies spreading out across Texas.

The University of Texas at Dallas, for example, sits in the middle of Richardson's Telecom Corridor. It draws strong support from several big technology companies like Texas Industries, Nortel, Ericsson and Electronic Data Systems. But only a few of the corridor's dynamic start-up companies have been big players in the university's life.

That's troubling because UT-Dallas' mission fits naturally with the work of the Telecom Corridor's 550 high-tech companies. UT-Dallas places great emphasis on math and sciences. And it recruits top-tier high school students who can eventually feed into the area's technology companies.

The 1999 Texas Legislature presents an opportunity for UT-Dallas leaders and young, entrepreneurial Telecom Corridor executives to change this situation. They could work together as a team in presenting the school's needs to Texas legislators.

The university needs additional money to recruit more aspiring young faculty members and to offer scholarships to more premier high school seniors. Those professors and students could in turn expand Telecom Corridor's innovative work, just as Stanford and MIT helped fuel a technological explosion in California's Silicon Valley and along Massachusetts' Route 128.

Investing in the work of specialized schools like UT-Dallas would make a real difference in the new Texas economy. So would sizable investments in the state's community colleges and advanced placement courses. This message is one that technological leaders should carry to Austin. Speaking up for Texas schools would allow the high-tech team to become a new force within the state's civic life.

Anti-bacterial agents may aid drug resistance

By Joseph Verrengia
AP Science Writer

Pushing your cart down the supermarket aisle is a drill in germ warfare.

According to the glaring labels on toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, moisturizers or dish detergent, your life might depend on blasting those bugs with new and improved antibacterial formulas.

Geneticist Stuart Levy of the Tufts University Medical School in Boston wants to call a truce.

A study by his research team, published in the current issue of Nature, shows that a widely used antibacterial agent triggers a genetic change in bacteria that could worsen life-theatening drug resistance.

Levy described the use of triclosan and other antibacterials outside of hospitals as a "fad that has crept up on us to the point where it is overwhelming when you go to the supermarket."

"People think they are sterilizing the world by using these products and, in fact, they are potentially changing it," Levy said. "They really are over-the-counter antibiotics."

Levy recommends reserving antibacterial products for home use for when things must be ultra-clean, such as when someone is chronically ill.

"Healthy households don't need to use triclosan," Levy said. "Soap and water is enough."

Companies that use triclosan in their products said the product has been used safely for more than 30 years.

Originally, many of those products were reserved for use in hospitals, commercial food processing plants and other operations where public health standards required ultra-clean conditions.

In the past few years, Colgate-Palmolive and other consumer products giants have been touting best-selling antibacterial versions of their most familiar brands.

The antibacterial craze isn't reserved for cleaning products. Clothing manufacturers incorporate agents into fibers so your gym socks won't stink. Furniture makers are mixing them into plastics and varnishes to inhibit germ growth on toddlers' high chairs and other surfaces.

Manufacturers said the Tufts study does not convince them that they should rethink their strategy.

"There is no real-world evidence of a link between resistant bacteria and triclosan," said Glenn Cueman, president of North Carolina-based Microban Inc., which makes germ-fighting plastics.

The Tufts study was started because of infection experts' concern that they are running out of medicines that they know will kill dangerous bacteria.

Germs can genetically mutate into tougher super-strains if they are repeatedly exposed to, but not killed by, antibiotic drugs and antibacterial agents. The top six bacteria found in hospitals are resistant to at least one drug.

Public health officials have blamed the indiscriminate prescription of antibiotics by doctors for the spread of drug-resistant bacteria.

The Tufts study suggests the recent widespread use of antibacterial agents in everyday products might have similar results.

Triclosan is a more general-acting "biocide." Effective in low concentrations, it was assumed to work by dissolving the membrane walls of bacteria.

Levy's group determined in tests on an E. coli bacterium that triclosan actually has a specific target — an enzyme involved in making the bacterium's cell wall.

Levy said it is the same biological target that a kind of antibiotic uses to fight tuberculosis. TB, which kills up more than 3 million people worldwide annually, becomes more difficult to cure with the emergence of several drug-resistant strains.

Weeds could add to water shortage

HARLINGEN (AP) — Exotic plants clogging up the Rio Grande are threatening to push rock-bottom reservoir levels even lower.

Two tenacious aquatic weeds — hydrilla and waterhyacinth — have had an explosive increase in growth this year in the Rio Grande and are clogging up parts of the river, according to a Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

The report will be part of a House-Senate committee hearing on drought economic impacts in Austin today.

The Valley can't spare any reservoir water to unclog the Rio Grande, since the levels in the region's two reservoirs, Lake Amistad and Falcon Dam, are at 20 percent capacity.

That's as low as it's been since at least 1970, said Rio Grande Valley Watermaster Cindy Martinez.

"Any kind of measure that we take by which we have to increase releases, that's going to affect our levels," Ms. Martinez said. "It's important that we try to eradicate these weeds."

An almost-solid mat of the weeds covers the Rio Grande top to bottom in a six-mile stretch just north of Brownsville, according to Parks and Wildlife. Scattered areas of dense growth of the weeds are found along the river and connected irrigation canals from Falcon Dam.

The plants are a problem because, not having any natural enemies, they grow unchecked and once they clog up parts of the river, water managers have to release more water from the Falcon Reservoir to push the water through the dense growths.

Hydrilla is an underwater plant native to Africa, Asia and parts of Europe. In the 1950s, it was introduced to Florida as part of the aquarium trade and has since spread throughout the United States. Hydrilla infests at least 85 Texas lakes.

Waterhyacinth is a floating plant native to South America that now infests at least 29 Texas lakes.

It was probably introduced to the United States at a trade expo in New Orleans in 1884. By the late 1890s it was such a problem that Congress passed the River and Harbor Act of 1899 giving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authority to bring the waterhyacinth population under control. Waterhyacinth causes water to evaporate up to five times faster than normal.

Officials say the immediate solution for ridding the river of the weeds is a mechanical harvester.

"It's quick," explained Earl Chilton, aquatic habitat enhancement program director for Texas Parks and Wildlife who headed a team of people from both sides of the border looking into the water weed problem. "You don't have to wait."

A long-term solution, however, will probably involve bringing in animals that eat the plants like grass carp, hydrilla flies or waterhyacinth weevils.

"In the long term, biological control is less expensive if it works," Chilton said.

Waterhyacinth weevils have been successful in Mexico, but less so in Texas.

"So far in Texas our experience has been that waterhyacinth weevils have only thinned out the water hyacinths and caused the plants to become much smaller," Chilton said.

Hydrilla flies are still experimental and although grass carp has been used successfully in other parts of Texas, they would need to be contained so they don't eat other plants, Chilton said.

Although herbicides are another option for long-term control of the weeds, conflicts in herbicide regulations between the United States and Mexico would make that plan difficult.

Discussions continue with Mexico over how the weed control program will be implemented and sharing of costs, Chilton said.

"We've been meeting with Mexican officials for the last several months and they're excited about the use of biological controls," Chilton said.

In any case, unstuffing the Rio Grande will only help the water shortage in the Valley a little. Martinez said some fall rain is also needed to replenish the reservoir a bit.

"Unless we get major rainfall and we get it in the reservoir we're not going to be out of the woods by any means," she said. "We just have to take it a day at a time and hope for the best."

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY
Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, cream gravy, okra & tomatoes, mixed fruit, coconut cookie

TUESDAY
King Ranch chicken, mixed vegetables, fried potato rounds, cucumber onion salad, apple crisp

WEDNESDAY
Pork w/gravy, potatoes augratin, mustard greens, sliced pineapple/cheese salad, gingerbread

THURSDAY
Beef-a-roni, tossed salad, Italian green beans, cauliflower, white cake w/strawberries

FRIDAY
Fried fish, butter beans, Harvard beets, carrot/raisin slaw, brownie

Senior Center News

Seniors that pre-registered for the J.B Tate Sr. Memorial Tournament may begin play on Monday. Bridge begins at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday's activities include 42/88 which begins at 10 a.m. The Social Security representatives will be available from 10 a.m. to noon. The Golden Kiwanis Club will meet at noon.

On Wednesday, Anne Gregory will entertain seniors with her piano playing which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Line dancing will begin at 1 p.m.

Thursday's events will include game night at 6 p.m., including bridge, 42/88 and dominoes.

On Friday, the blood pressure clinic and bridge begin at 9:30 a.m. and the sing-a-long begins at 11:30 a.m.

Daily activities include pool quilting, exercise and walking in the gym. The swimnastics schedule for the fall will be announced after WTC registration the week of Aug. 24.

Volunteers are needed daily to help with quilting, meal deliveries and congregate meal service.

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Getting to the heart of the matter

If you study business writings, you'll learn that every author has a few pet strategies for business success. Some may focus on technology, branding and positioning. Others may champion quality control, financial management or personnel skills.

If you record all the great writers' "must-do" tips, the list would be a mile long. Most items on the list would qualify as good service and would help you succeed in business.

I have a "must-do" for that list. I believe satisfying customers should be at the top. You see satisfied customers are the heart of the matter.

The wrong focus

The line was long, and the customers were growing restless. One customer asked if there had been a death behind the counter. Another wondered how you could tell — no one was moving. I heard one harried worker tell another to hang on because the owner was on her way.

Sure enough, the owner appeared in moments. She immediately surveyed the lines and went to an order station. I expected the owner to open the register and get things moving. Instead, she ran the register totals to see what volume of business the store had done for the day. After repeating the action on the drive-through register, she disappeared into her office.

A few moments later, she came out of the office and began picking up trash and restocking inventory. I wanted to yell, "Please wait on customers, we're all tired of waiting."

For this small-business owner, other elements were more important than caring for customers. Customers came after procedures. Customers came after seeing what kind of day the store was having. Customers weren't the heart of the matter, they were just an unwanted by-product of doing business. The business wouldn't exist if the competition were stronger.

Getting to the heart

There are many ways to keep your customers satisfied. Here are a few quick tips to help you get to the heart of the matter.

•**Focus**. From the top down the emphasis of every organization must be to serve the customer. When the owner has other priorities, employees aren't at fault when the system breaks down.

•**Training**. Personnel experts cite stress as a major cause of employee turnover. One major cause of stress is the lack of a thorough training program. Businesses are so desperate for warm bodies to go to work that they just stick the newly hired folks into a slot and hope they can help.

•**Make one sale at a time.** It may sound trite, but you really can't do two things at one time. Therefore, put all of your energy into serving one customer and serving the customer well.

•**Ignore distractions.** Recently, while traveling, I stopped at a well-known ice cream chain to enjoy one of the chain's cool treats. There were only two others in line so I assumed it would be a brief wait. That's when I noticed two store folks were talking which left only one working.

I waited. Finally, the manager noticed I was watching his visit and approached the counter to take my order. Just then the phone rang. The manager excused himself and hurried to the phone. He turned his back to me and began a lengthy conversation. I waited a full minute then left. As I backed out, the manager came to the window and gestured to me that I was still number one in his book.

•**You're only as good as your last customer moment**. You can never relax. Customers are like elephants, their memories are good. Every customer service moment must be a positive one, because customers really are the heart of the matter.

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.

Security flaw found in software

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A repaired version of the popular e-mail program Eudora was made available on the Internet Friday, fixing a security flaw that could enable a hacker to ruin data or plant a virus on computers that run the software.

The security breach came to light Thursday, a little more than a week after flaws were revealed in two other popular e-mail programs, Microsoft's Outlook and Netscape's e-mail client that comes with its Communicator suite.

A Eudora user reported the bug earlier this week, according to San Diego-based Qualcomm Inc., which produces the software.

Qualcomm Friday fixed the bug in a test version of the next generation of Eudora, which it made available on its World Wide Web site. But because it hasn't been thoroughly tested, like any so-called beta version, the fix itself could come with its own set of problems.

The company said a small program, called a patch, to fix the specific problem was to be made available later in the day.

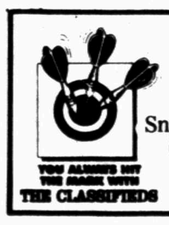
Alternatively, the company suggested Eudora users turn off the Microsoft viewer, which would make it impossible to link to e-mail attachments that could pose a security risk.

The bug allows someone to send Eudora users e-mail with attachments that could erase files on the recipient's hard disk or plant a virus, said Matthew Parks, manager of Qualcomm's Eudora product line.

The flaw would be triggered when the user clicked on a hostile hyperlink in the e-mail. Instead of linking to a Web page, the action would execute the attached file, which could then do the damage.

"There's been no report of instances of anybody losing data from this problem," Parks said Thursday. "Within two days of hearing about it, we actually will have the problem solved."

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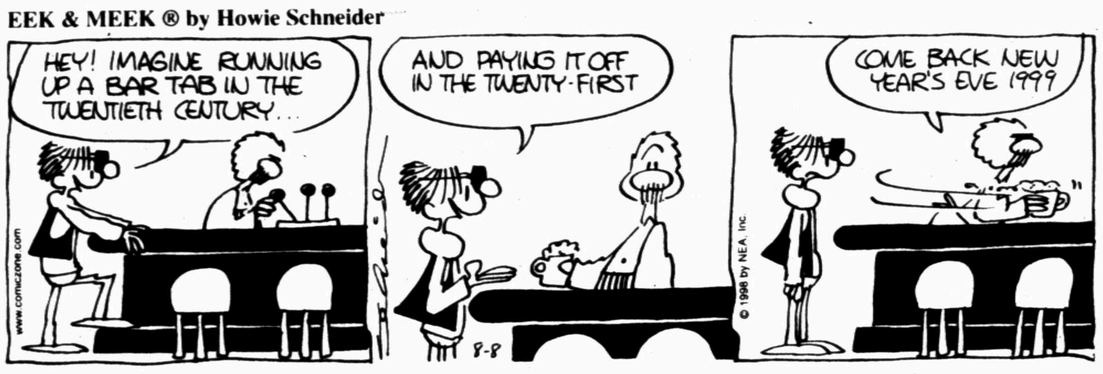
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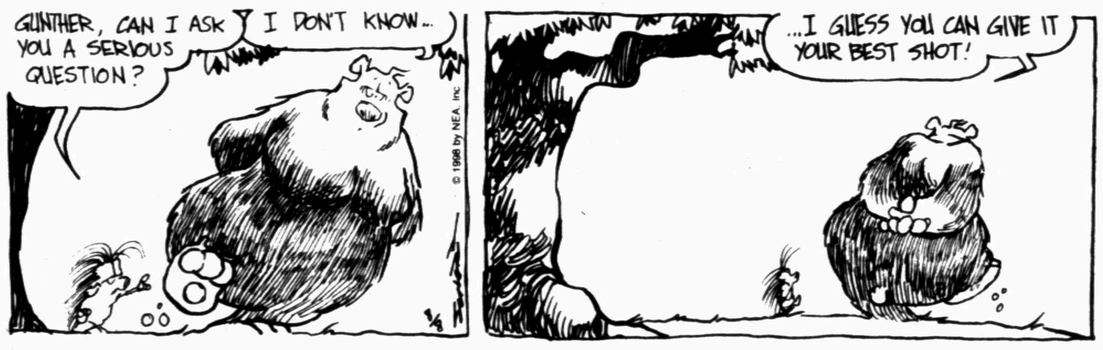
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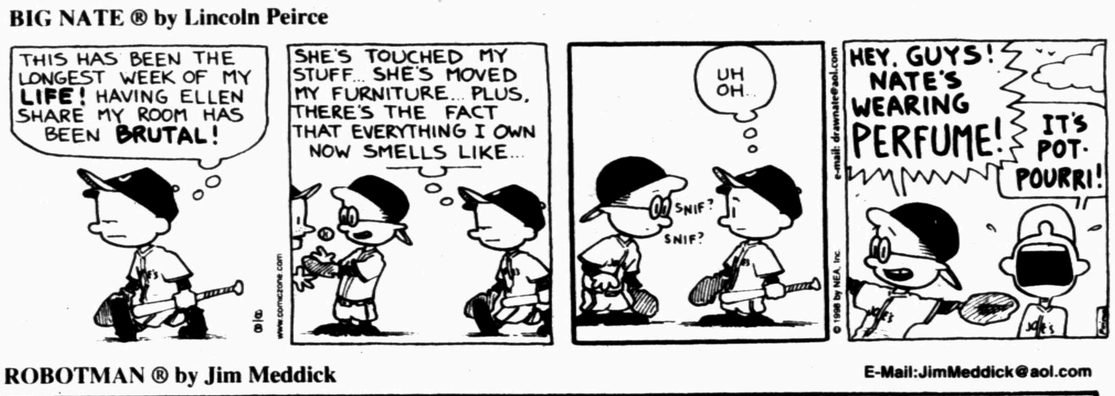
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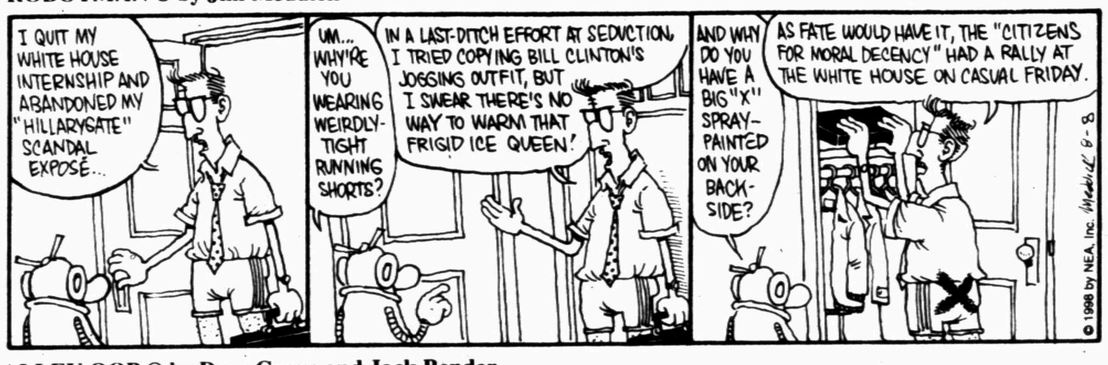


BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

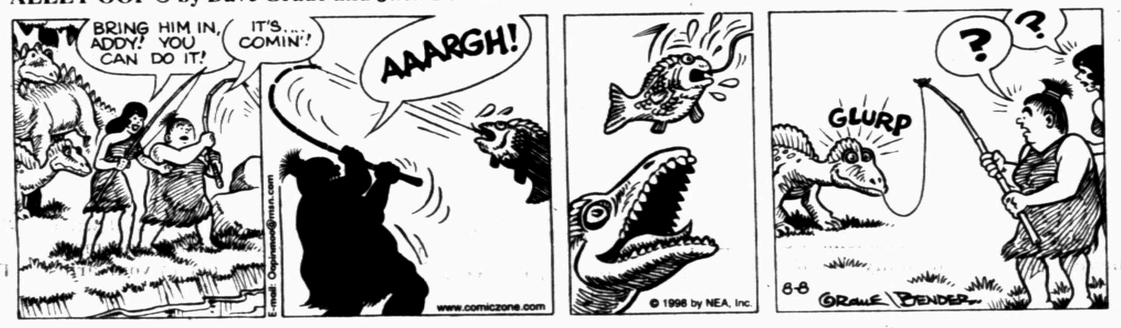


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E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"Here, eat as fast as you can. I have some big tippers waiting for this table."



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 — nous
6 Young girl
10 Absolute ruler
12 Shelved
14 Neither masculine nor feminine
15 Sedative
16 Had a meal
17 Globe
19 Actress Cannon
20 Put into motion
23 Newspaper, radio, etc.
26 Sgt., e.g.
27 Pale
30 Washed away
32 Winter melon
34 Texas city (2 wds.)
35 Sea hawk
36 Type of shirt
37 Unit of Siamese currency
39 Heavy books
40 Showiest, in a way
42 Author Grey
45 Demon
46 IRS employee, perhaps
49 Actress Merle —
51 Severe experience
54 Ventilating
55 Origin
56 Ballerina's strong points
57 There are 52 in a year

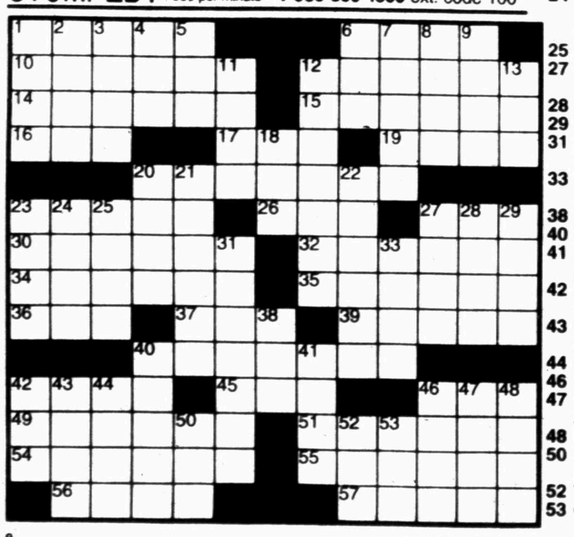
DOWN

1 Sicilian volcano
2 Russian no
3 Not false
4 Rodent
5 Compass pt.
6 Baby's sitting spot?
7 Stay
8 Kill
9 Bristle
11 Horse pace
12 Cigarette filler
13 Cozy room
18 Move fast
20 Verdi opera
21 Type of salad
22 Breakfast breads
23 Run into
24 Writer — Stanley Gardner
25 Private info
27 — up (practice)
28 Busy as — —
29 Negatives
31 Finishing the i's
33 Dick and Jane's dog
38 Tiny —
40 Eagle's nest
41 Long heroic poem
42 Small organisms
43 Not much (2 wds.)
44 Roman tyrant
46 Wax
47 Get ready for a trip
48 Bar brews
50 Switch positions
52 Tier
53 Owing

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





"The chair is $50. if you can get him out it. If you can't, it's $10."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Sliced lemons complaints makes some readers pucker

DEAR ABBY: The number of people who take the time to write a letter, address it, stamp it and mail it only to complain about ridiculous, everyday things blows my mind. The lady who wrote complaining that restaurants don't slice lemons the way she likes them for her iced tea flabbergasted me. Maybe she should take a reality check.

When someone or something starts getting on my nerves, I find that taking a moment to think about its importance in the grand scheme of things really helps. This may seem morbid, but I do so by imagining that I am on my deathbed. Think about it: Do I want to lie there and say, "I've had a wonderful life full of challenges, beauty and love," or do I want to say, "I should have worried more about that snotty salesperson, or the paperclip requisition form"?

We can't all be easygoing all the time — and we shouldn't be — but the key is keeping things in their proper perspective.

Abby, the advice you gave the lemon-wedge lady was right on. If she doesn't like what's offered, she should bring her own darn lemons. That's a pretty good concept to keep in mind when it comes to just about anything.

MONIQUE BYRNE,
FREMONT, CALIF.

DEAR MONIQUE: Thank you for your support. I received a fistful of criticism for having printed that letter. Read on for a sample:

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "Incognito," who wrote to complain about her lemons being sliced instead of being cut into wedges in restaurants. Abby, I am only 16 years old, but I have enough sense to keep my mouth shut about small things. If I ever complain about my lemons being sliced wrong, I would hope to God that someone would slap my face.

There are people starving all over the world who would love to have a sliced lemon. I think your response to "Incognito" was way out of line. You told her it would be a "no-brainer" for chefs to provide lemon wedges. *Hello*? Lemon wedges?

Abby, with all the problems we have in the world today, lemon wedges should be the least of our worries. Don't you think that a more appropriate response to "Incognito" would have been, "Get over it!"? I do.

SKYLAR HOLBROOK,
MIDLOTHIAN, VA.

DEAR SKYLAR: Not all problems are of equal importance to all people. I thought "Incognito's" letter provided an interesting change of pace and I'm sorry you did not agree that it was worthy of my column. Telling people to "get over it" is not very helpful; furthermore, it's not my style. I'm here to help my readers.

***

DEAR ABBY: Ever since you printed the letter from the lady who said that reading sexy books had improved her sex life, romance and sexy books have been flying off the shelves, according to the Friends of the Library bookstore here in Hot Springs, Ark.

There used to be a glut of these books in the store, but now the managers are begging for more books to be donated to fill the shelves again. What a novel way to promote literacy.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
VOLUNTEER

DEAR FRIENDS VOLUNTEER: If it's getting the job done, then I'm all for it. I have always encouraged people to read, read, read. Read for information and read for pleasure. Our libraries are filled with knowledge and joy, and it's all there, free for the taking.

***

Abby shares more of her favorite, easy-to-prepare recipes. To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, More Favorite Recipes, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: I desperately need some advice. I am a physician, married to a beautiful woman for 20 years, and we have three teen-age children. My wife and I are in our 40s.

In 1995, my wife confessed she had a seven-year affair with my best friend. He would come to our house after I went to work and they would have sex in our bed. Although my wife never showed me any affection during that period, I blamed it on the strain of raising three children, never suspecting her infidelity.

She let word of the illicit affair slip when I teased her about her old boyfriends. I was devastated, but I didn't let on. She apologized, and our marriage continued for the sake of the children. In the last two years, my wife has been especially loving and affectionate toward me.

Earlier this year, my married sister-in-law (I'll call her Marie) stayed with us for four months. She confided to me that she had an unsatisfactory sex life with her husband. One thing led to another, and we slept together several times. Marie has since returned home.

Now I feel guilty and would like to confess this indiscretion to my wife to clear my conscience, but I am not sure how she'll react.

Though it will even things out, I do not want to hurt my wife or expose Marie's behavior. Should I tell my wife about the affair with her sister?

ONLY HUMAN IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ONLY HUMAN: I question your motives for confession. Remember the pain that your wife's confession caused you? While confessing may be good for the soul, it will undoubtedly hurt others. I suggest you confess to your clergy instead.

***

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, you printed a piece about a place called "The Rainbow Bridge" — where our pets go when they die.

Often, over the last few years, I wish I had saved the article to give to friends whose pets have passed away. I try to tell them about it, but I know I can't do justice to the beautifully written tribute.

I'm sure if you reprinted it, many would find comfort from it.

WAITING HOPEFULLY,
MIDDLESEX, MASS.

DEAR WAITING HOPEFULLY: It has been several years since I printed "The Rainbow Bridge," and I'm pleased to share it once again:

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors. Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge, there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing: They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth. So, each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly looks up! The nose twitches. The ears are up. The eyes are staring. And this one suddenly runs from the group.

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace. Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

***

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Family of Mexican man shot by police wants case probed

HOUSTON (AP) — Acting on information from an informant, members of a Houston Police Department gang task force stormed into an apartment last month where they believed illegal drugs were being sold.

When the man who lived there locked himself inside his bedroom, the officers kicked in the door and began firing.

Thirty-three bullets later, 23-year-old Pedro Oregon Navarro was dead, shot a dozen times, including nine times in the back.

But the investigation in the wake of the fatal shooting shows the officers had no warrant, the informant was not registered with the police as required by department rules covering drug informants, no drugs were found in Oregon's apartment, and a gun officers said Oregon had pointed at them never was fired.

"They went knowingly and consciously in search of their own heroics and forgot to abide by the rules," says Tony Cantu, a Hispanic activist in Houston. "I'm a Republican and I believe in no government intrusion. If the police department coming into your apartment without a warrant is not intrusive, what is?"

The case has mobilized many Houston Hispanics, prompting calls for rallies and strategy sessions to pressure authorities to prosecute the officers and punish them.

"It's frightening that officers would illegally enter a residence and shoot a man in the back," Paul Nugent, an attorney hired by Oregon's family, said Thursday. "Evidence seems to indicate he was shot in the back while he was on the floor. We think he dove to the floor for cover when the police kicked in the door.

"We hope there's a vigorous investigation. The family is afraid there will be a whitewash and the officers' actions will somehow be justified."

Six officers who took part in the raid, including a sergeant, are suspended with pay pending the outcome of investigations. At least two are under way, one by the department's internal affairs division and another by homicide detectives and the district attorney's office, which is to present its case to a grand jury the week of Aug. 17.

The Mexican government has expressed its concern because Oregon, the father of two, was from Michoacan, Mexico. And the new national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, Houston attorney Rick Dovalina, wants the Justice Department to look into the case.

"The bottom line is they shot an innocent young man in the back after an illegal entry," Dovalina said.

The Justice Department, while monitoring the case, is not actively involved, spokeswoman Karen Guerriero said.

The case also has put a spotlight on the department, which has been hit in recent weeks by instances of bicycle patrol officers filing false time sheets and the suspension of an officer accused of raping several women.

But Police Chief Clarence Bradford, who won't talk about the Oregon case while it is under investigation, denies accusations his department has a discipline problem.

"I see some officers who probably in fact need to revisit what they're going to do as Houston police officers and remember the oath that we all took when we pin on our badge about servicing the citizens of Houston," he said.

Neighbors' buying house

DILLEY, Ore. (AP) — Instead of protests or threats, residents in this rural community are using another approach to keep a convicted child molester from moving into their neighborhood — they're buying his mother's house.

Residents say the $250,000 is a cheap price to pay for their children's safety, which they say would be jeopardized if Jonathan Hawes moved in with his mother later this month.

Hawes' mother, Wendy Brewton, was unavailable to comment on the deal late Thursday.

Hawes, 27, will be freed Aug. 18 after serving nearly five years in prison. He was convicted of following two 10-year-old girls from an elementary school and sexually assaulting them in 1993.

Hawes was planning to move into Brewton's home in Dilley. The home met basic supervision conditions because no minors live there or visit, said Bob Severe, senior Washington County parole and probation officer.

But neighbors wouldn't have it.

They hand-delivered to parole officials a petition with 170 signatures opposing the move. They held a community meeting at which residents suggested everything from putting Hawes' face on a wanted poster to taking him to Greenland. And they came up with the purchase plan.

"We want to buy you out instead of burn you out," neighbor Paul Unger told Brewton.

Prompted by threats, Brewton signed a sale agreement with a group of three or four Dilley families on July 31 to sell her home.

She'll get "top dollar" for her mobile home and the 28 acres around it, said Steve Fredricksen, a 42-year-old father of two.

"If I don't do everything possible to protect my children before something happens, I'll never forgive myself," said Fredricksen, who's already pledged to pay one-third of the closing price.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, PH.D.

What happens when milk is homogenized?

By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I enjoy your column. My question is this: I have read in a few health and nutrition books that the process of homogenization in dairy foods may be a major factor in heart disease. This theory was put forth by Dr. Kurt Oster, former chief of cardiology at Park City Hospital in Bridgeport, Conn. Do you know if any studies are being done in the United States or abroad to substantiate this? I understand proponents of the theory point to the fact that heart disease rates are much lower in countries, such as France, that don't homogenize most of their milk, and higher in countries such as Finland, that do. Also, could you tell me which dairy products are subject to homogenization (is yogurt or cheese?) and what the difference is between homogenization and pasteurization? Thank you. — J.L., Agoura, Calif.

DEAR J.L.: Homogenization is a physical process that breaks the normally large fat globules in whole milk into smaller, more uniform particles by forcing the milk through a small opening under pressure. The fat then remains evenly distributed throughout the milk. Most commercial milk products, including yogurt and cheese, are made from homogenized milk.

I have heard the argument that homogenization is dangerous, and I don't buy it. As the theory goes, there is an enzyme in cow's milk (xanthine oxidase) that is not well absorbed. When the milk is homogenized, the enzyme is absorbed to a greater degree.

According to the theory, the absorption of the enzyme brings about changes in our arteries and, in essence, starts us marching down the road to heart disease. As conspiracy theories go, this one has had a small number of followers over the years. The bottom line, though, is that the science simply isn't there. Studies have rejected the concept that the homogenization of milk is a major risk factor in heart disease. Using France and Finland as support for the theory ignores major differences in diet and lifestyle habits between these two countries.

Pasteurization, named after Louis Pasteur, is the process by which milk is heated sufficiently to destroy harmful micro-organisms. A typical pasteurization involves heating above 135 degrees Fahrenheit (57.2 degrees Celsius). Pasteurized milk is not sterile, but approximately 97 percent to 99 percent of the bacteria are killed, including tuberculosis, salmonella and streptococcus.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I read your column every week, and I am curious to know your opinion of a company that deals in the field of health and nutrition. It is called Reliv International. Have you heard of it? Also, I would like to know your opinion of their products. I am taking them now. I find that my energy level is enhanced because the supplement is in a powdered form. I would be curious to know if you have ever heard of them. — M.D.

DEAR M.D.: First, let me say that I know of no reason that a powdered supplement would offer special energy-enhancing attributes. Most supplements are formulated to dissolve before they reach the absorptive surfaces of the intestines.

I want to preface my remaining comments by saying that while I consider good foods and physical activity to be the keys to good health, I am pleased that you are experiencing benefits and I certainly wish you every success from whatever products you might take.

That being said, I have indeed heard of Reliv International. Although the company might disagree, I find them to be similar to any of a number of other supplement companies that offer health-related products to the public through multi-level marketing (MLM). Most such companies, and those who get involved with them, seem to feel as though "their" organization has found the answer — and that all their competitors are substandard. The typical approach argues that people will always be eating junk foods and that we need their unique supplements to survive.

Mixed in with all the "save-your-life" health advantages comes a well-scripted portrayal of potential monetary gain. Over the years, I have become skeptical of MLM companies because there's little control over what is said by the independent distributors as they attempt to sell products and expand their financial network. I have been to meetings — not of the Reliv Organization — where folks took turns claiming cures for diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy, and before anyone even had a chance to stop clapping, the discussion shifted to all the money that could be made.

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

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is the author of the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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NUTRITION

ED BLONZ, PH.D.

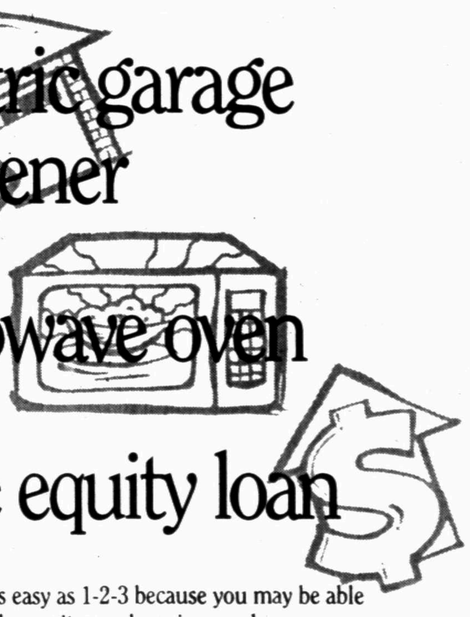


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Feds study seat belts, other safety measures

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid a public debate over seat belts in school buses, the government is ordering a major review of school bus safety.

Federal regulators, in a report Friday to Congress, find that large school buses are one of the safest forms of transportation.

But mindful that buses ferry "the nation's most precious cargo — children," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is conducting the first comprehensive review of school bus safety since the 1970s.

The $1 million, two-year review will examine all school bus crash data and agency crash testing and consider all possible safety upgrades, including padding the sides and roofs of buses or adding padded arm rests.

As the review begins, safety officials are writing guidelines recommending that new buses transporting children 4 or younger have lap belts or anchors to secure child or booster seats.

Agency officials said they probably would recommend changing only a few rows of seats because the seats would have to be spaced wider to accommodate child seats.

The recommendations would affect about 3 percent of the 23.5 million children who ride 440,000 school buses to and from class each day.

NHTSA contends school buses are among the safest vehicles on the road, noting that large buses are more massive than most vehicles they collide with and better able to absorb crash energy. The high-backed bus seats are padded and spaced about 24 inches apart to cushion students in a crash.

Only 11 children under age 19 are killed in school bus crashes each year, the report to Congress found. More children are killed each year — about 25 — trying to get off or on the bus, many of them hit either by a passing car or the bus.

In addition, about 8,500 children are injured in school buses nationwide each year, 350 seriously, the report said.

Phil Recht, NHTSA's deputy administrator, said the school bus seat system, known as compartmentalization, "has proven to be extremely effective," but officials want to take "a comprehensive look to see if we can do better."

Several groups have strongly advocated installing seat belts in buses, arguing that padded seats do not help when a large truck slams into the side of a school bus or the bus rolls over.

"We need seat belts to keep the kids in the compartment," said Arthur Yeager of the National Coalition for School Bus Safety.

Government officials, though, worry that lap seat belts could cause children to double over, hitting their heads in accidents, while shoulder belts might be impractical to install.

Only about 20 percent of school bus deaths are in side-impact or rollover crashes, NHTSA officials said.

Ted Finlayson-Schueler, executive director of the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute in Syracuse, N.Y., said he welcomed the government research, since so many children are injured in school buses.

The actual crash data is sparse. Two states require seat belts on large school buses — New York and New Jersey, but only New Jersey mandates that the belts be used.

Microsoft wants part of suit dismissed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Emboldened by a recent appeals court ruling in its favor, Microsoft next week will ask a federal judge to throw out the most important parts of the government's broad antitrust case.

Microsoft said Thursday that it believes the favorable ruling combined with evidence it has uncovered from business rivals undercuts the most dramatic claims made against it by the Justice Department and 20 states.

"We believe the court can resolve this case now without the need for an expensive and time-consuming trial," said William Neukom, the company's vice president for law and corporate affairs.

At a hearing in U.S. District Court in Washington, the judge sounded skeptical about Microsoft's intentions. The company said it will formally make its request Monday.

"You certainly are entitled to do that," Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson told Microsoft's lawyers. "You do realize I am in a position to deny a request for summary judgment?"

Microsoft attorney John Warden said a federal appeals court ruling in June refutes one of the government's central claims, that Microsoft acted illegally by bundling its Internet browser within Windows.

The appeals court had called the bundling "a genuine integration," which is legal, because a single combined product offers benefits over separate ones. That ruling overturned an earlier decision by Jackson in a related case.

The government contends Microsoft's bundling amounts to illegal "tying," because it forces customers who use Windows also to use the company's web browser.

Warden said Microsoft also uncovered evidence from rival Netscape Communications during its trial preparations to refute another government claim: that its decision to include its browser effectively shut Netscape out of the market.

Also Thursday, the judge rejected Microsoft's requests to limit the government's interviews with Bill Gates, the company chairman, and to impose tight secrecy agreements before the company hands over the blueprints to its Windows software.

Lawyers for the Justice Department and 20 states said investigators want to talk with Gates for two days. But Microsoft called that an "unfair and misguided imposition" and sought to hold the questioning to eight hours.

"I do not intend to plan a time restriction on the length of time that Mr. Gates can be deposed," the judge said, telling government lawyers they can interview Gates "as long as it is necessary."

The deposition was scheduled to begin Wednesday at an unspecified location.

Prison administrators get fed bounties

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under a new bounty system, Texas jail administrators have earned nearly $353,000 for helping the federal government discover inmates who are illegally receiving Social Security or welfare benefits.

The Social Security Administration said Thursday that in the past 15 months, it has paid $352,600 in bounties to Texas jail and prison officials who helped remove 1,001 inmates from federal benefits rolls.

Texas ranks fourth among states in bounties, behind California, New York and Louisiana.

Nationally, the government has paid out $6.2 million in bounties to jail officials who have helped uncover 17,280 recipients who wrongly received benefits while behind bars.

"This shows that creative and common-sense solutions like our bounty system can stop fraud cold," said Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., who co-authored the bounty provisions.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer said he hopes that the numbers of stopped payments will rise as more jail administrators learn of the bounty program.

"It's great to see how local and state law enforcement officials have responded to Congress' efforts to reduce illegal payments to inmates," said Archer, R-Houston. "It is unconscionable that, for years, inmates living in prisons at taxpayers' expense had been simultaneously drawing benefit checks illegally."

In the past, the Social Security Administration relied on prisoners to report their ineligibility for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security payments upon incarceration.

"Imagine that: An honor system for convicts," said House Ways and Means Committee spokesman Trent Duffy.

During a major 1996 overhaul of welfare policies, Shaw and Rep. Wally Herger, R-Calif., crafted the bounty system, which pays prison administrators $400 if the government is able to halt the inmate's benefits within 30 days of incarceration; $200 if the reporting occurs within 30 to 90 days.

In most cases, welfare checks are sent to an inmate's house rather to the prison, so corrections officials do not see them. But participating law enforcers send names of all new inmates to the Social Security Administration, which compares the names against its database of beneficiaries.

It is difficult to estimate the exact taxpayer savings that have resulted to date from the bounty program because of the fact that the savings depend on the length of the sentence of each inmate removed from the government rolls.

But the Social Security Administration's inspector general told Congress earlier this year that an estimated $3.5 billion could be saved over six years by ferreting out people who are wrongly receiving welfare and SSI payments while behind bars.

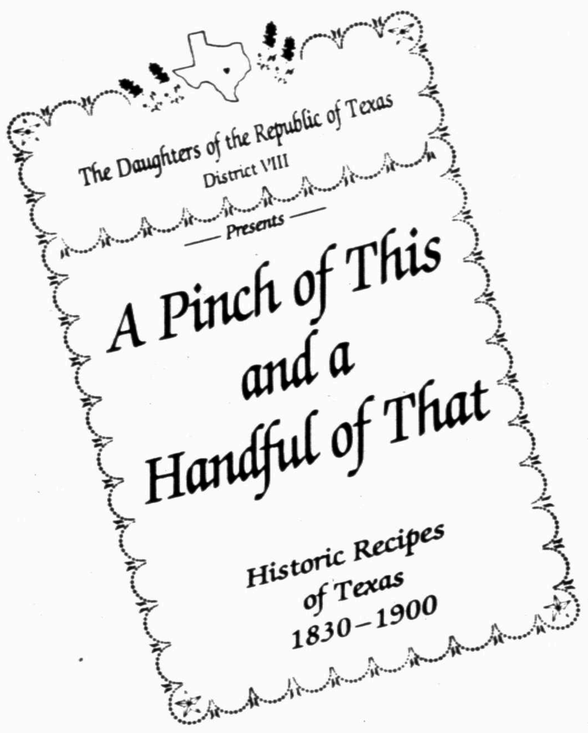
Woman found after boat collision

GALVESTON (AP) — The body of a Louisiana woman washed ashore Galveston Island Thursday, one day after her boat collided with a towboat in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

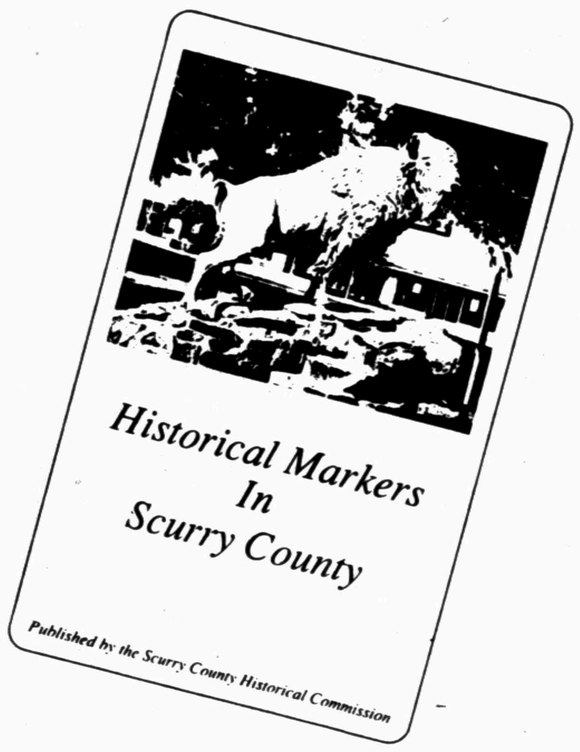
Laurel Broom, 32, of Haughton, La., had been missing since Wednesday afternoon when her 17-foot pleasure boat collided with a tug pushing four barges just east of the Galveston Causeway.

Mrs. Broom and her husband, Richard, were knocked overboard. Richard Broom, whose age was unavailable, was rescued uninjured shortly after the accident. Mrs. Broom was last seen trying to swim toward the rescue boat, Coast Guard officials said.

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