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WT-Int. Crude - $34.00
WTIC Posted - $30.75
Natural Gas - $5.25

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Feb. 12, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 247
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Paul Jones

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Annie Rowe

The idea of the kids growing up and leaving home is a fairly new concept for me. I anticipated a hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach. I expected spontaneous fits of emotional upheaval at the sight of things like crayon drawing or third grade school pictures.

But the fact is, they won't give me a chance to miss 'em.

My son and daughter's views on moving out differ greatly. Cody seems in no hurry to leave. He has a girlfriend and their relationship is in the early stages when they are still trying to impress one another, so to cut a long story short, it's not necessary for me to have the job of meeting his nutritional needs. He eats a lot of sandwiches at her house.

Now Lacey is a different story. She's moved out, yes, but I'm still feeding her!

She does her laundry at my house and I can let her slide with that one because she's actually doing the physical labor. The thing that's becoming a bit of an issue between her and I are the meals.

Here's the deal. When I get home from work I'm fine with some crackers, a can of soup and Seinfeld re-runs.

Then the phone will ring and my precious daughter will request an order of King Ranch Chicken or something.

Lacey is a very intelligent, hard-working girl. And she has one immense talent for self-preservation. As a chameleon changes colors to suit its surroundings and a turtle will retreat to the protection of its shell, Lacey's IQ will plummet to somewhere around 56 when she sees herself in dire straits.

I got a cookbook from Pat Cornett. It's called "Ranch Hand Favorites" and the sales benefit the Circle 6 Ranch camp. I considered this a sort of "self-help" book for my girl. Kind of a culinary intervention so to speak. I proudly handed it over.

"What's this?" my little angel asked.

"That's called a cookbook. It's full of recipes with easy directions that will aid you in feeding yourself from now on," I replied.

She began to thumb through the pages.

"Doesn't have too many pictures."

This is where the IQ starts to decline.

"It's not supposed to. It has DIRECTIONS,"

She stopped at a recipe for Sweet Potato Soufflé.

"This says three C's cooked mashed potatoes. What does the C mean?" she asked.

"It means cups."

She looked closer at the recipe.

"There's no frame of reference. How do you know that doesn't stand for three Chevrolets of mashed potatoes?"

She thumbed through to Chicken Stuffed Peppers.

"Mom, what does t-s-p stand for? I just don't understand what that means."

Here's where a little drama is inserted.

"What kind of a Ph.D. do you have to be to understand this? Does t-s-p stand for two-silly-penguins or temporary-sand-Pomeranians? I just don't GET IT!"

It all went downhill from there. Of course, I got up and fixed her a bowl of soup as well. But I gotta tell you, I'm considering a strict diet of potted meat and crackers. That'll fix her.

Administrative contracts on SISD agenda

Personnel matters will highlight the Snyder school board meeting at 6 this evening in the school administration building.

Action is expected on recommended contract extensions from Dr. Ronny Collins, SISD superintendent.

Dr. Collins is recommending the contracts of Rod Cottrell, executive director of curriculum and special programs, and Karen Waller, executive director of business and finance, be extended one year to expire June 30, 2006.

Absent from the list of recommended contract extensions is Dr. Melissa Jones, who currently serves as the SISD personnel director. Prior to being named to head the district's personnel office by Collins, Jones was the assistant superintendent for curriculum, special programs and personnel.

Collins said Jones has indicated she was not coming back to the district next school year.

"There's no sense in doing a contract if the person is not coming back," Collins said, noting that he would look at options related to replacing the personnel director, or absorbing the position.

"I'll be looking at the budget and enrollment," said Collins.

Other administrative contracts recommended for the two-year extension includes Larry Scott, SHS principal; assistant SHS principals Bill Bell and Al Phillips; junior high principal Kellye Starnes; Ralph Ramon, assistant principal at SJHS; Thomas Fogleman, West principal; Carmen Carpenter, Northeast principal; Pam Hart, Central principal; and Jean McMillon, Stanfield principal.

Also up for extension are Dixie Haggard, director of special programs, and Chad Rogers, athletic director and head football coach.

All contracts expire June 30, 2006.

Lee Presswood, principal at East Elementary, is a contract employee and his pact will be considered at a later date.

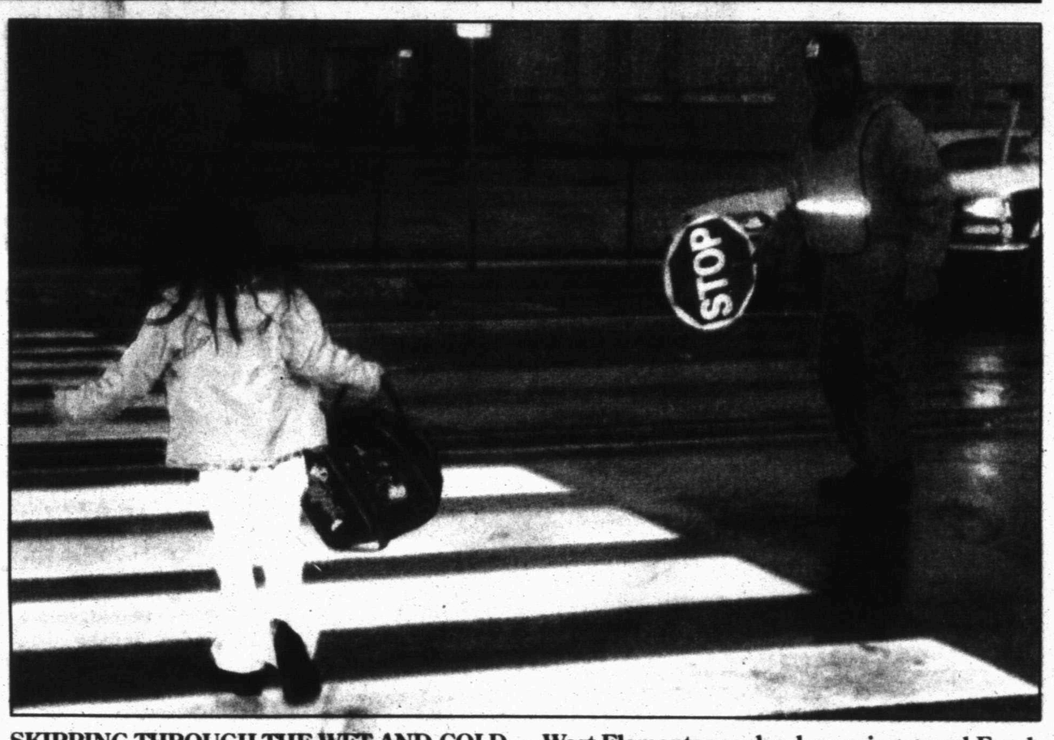
The contract of Mike Carter, director of maintenance and transportation, also will be considered for a one-year extension to expire June 30, 2005.

The board also will consider the resignation of junior high science teacher Sonja Hanks who has accepted a position with the Windham School District.

A closed session is scheduled before the trustees vote on the contract extensions.

Trustees also will meet in closed session to discuss a settlement offer with an insurance company.

In one other action item, the board will call the May 15 trustee election as the terms of at-large members Luann Burleson and Cathy Peoples will expire.



SKIPPING THROUGH THE WET AND COLD — West Elementary school crossing guard Frank Ortegon helps a student cross safely to a warm classroom. The frigid temperatures are expected to remain through Saturday. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

Center attracts tenant

Work has begun on a long-vacated space in Varsity Square shopping center as a site for a new clothing retailer.

Soon all of the headaches will pay off with the opening of a new store called Bargain Warehouse Outlet.

Bargain Warehouse Outlet is targeted to open next month, located between Eckerd Drug and Family Dollar. The company, which has stores in Lubbock and Dallas, carries name-brand close-outs from major clothing retailers such as J.C. Penney, Sears and Macy's.

"We have other stores in several areas, including the Dallas area," said Rick Rodriguez, spokesman for Bargain Warehouse Outlet. "We carry new, name-brand clothing items, including accessories, from name-brand stores."

Rodriguez added that he appreciates the welcoming attitude of the residents of Snyder, many of them already having been loyal customers of the Lubbock store.

"We had a large number of customers who would drive to our Lubbock store and tell us to think about opening a store in Snyder, so we started to research the possibility.

"We looked at a map and saw Snyder and its proximity to surrounding towns such as Roby, Sweetwater and Colorado City. This has been about six months in the making, but we're finally to the point where we will open very soon," said Rodriguez.

Bargain Warehouse Outlet is expected to be open March 1. Representatives will be at the Varsity Square location accepting job applications Wednesday and will be looking to fill a number of positions.

"We are very excited to be opening the new store there. We appreciate everyone's support and we're looking forward to becoming part of Snyder and the surrounding community."

Joe Holguin remodels the store interior in preparation for the opening of the outlet store.

Holiday prompts closings

A number of closings have been announced for Snyder and Scurry County in observance of President's Day on Monday.

Snyder ISD will have a work day Friday and students will not attend school due to the teacher in-service day. Snyder students and staff will have a holiday on Monday in observance of President's Day. Hermleigh and Ira schools will follow their regular schedule.

Snyder city offices and Scurry County governmental offices will be closed on Monday. The county library will be closed on Saturday and Monday.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh Post Offices also will be closed on Monday and there will be no home delivery of mail in Snyder. Mail will be placed in boxes in Snyder.

American State Bank, First American Bank, Snyder National Bank, Texas Savings Bank and West Texas State Bank also will close on Monday as it is a federal holiday.

Now on stage...

TO OPEN TONIGHT — Tartuffe, a 17th century comedy, will open at 7 tonight at Worsham Auditorium. In this scene, Stephanie Parmer, who portrays Orgon's wife, is trying to get away from Tartuffe, played by Logan Martin, who is making unwanted advances. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Production opens at SHS

Snyder High School varsity drama students will bring Moliere's play *Tartuffe* to life beginning at 7 tonight at Worsham Auditorium.

Other performances will follow at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for students. To reserve tickets, contact the SHS office.

Director Michael McQuerry calls the play "lighthearted", adding that it approaches the sensitive subject of hypocrisy in such a way that it enables the audience to laugh and think. "The kids are so energetic and their commitment to each other is more clear now than in earlier productions. This is great as we head to one-act competition."

Tartuffe, written in the 17th century, is a comedy. The characters aren't necessarily realistic. They include a hypocrite, a clever maid who doesn't mind stating her opinions, a blustering young man, and foolish and tyrannical father and a naïve and very timid young girl.

Tartuffe's plot centers around Orgon, the father, who wants to hold on to his control of his family. He gets duped by Tartuffe who pretends to a religious zealot.

In the slapstick comedy, Tartuffe, a religious hypocrite, will be played by Logan Martin.

Jason Hook will portray Orgon, the husband of Elmire. Hook is no stranger to comedy as he has performed in seven plays so far.

"I love doing it (comedy)," Hook said. "I love to make people laugh. It's exciting to be on the stage."

Lacee Early and Blake Robertson will portray Orgon's daughter, Mariane, and Coleman Welch will play Valere, the man Mariane loves.

The problem is that during this era, the father of the family had complete control over who his daughters married.

Aurelie Senillon portrays Madam Pernelle, Orgon's mother. Corie Hernandez and Stephanie Parmer will both play Orgon's wife.

Michael Nelson and Paul Jackson will portray Cleante, Orgon's brother-in-law. Kerissa Shipp will play Dorine, Mariane's lady maid. Adrian Brooks will portray Monsieru Loyal, a bailiff.

Other characters will include Lance Turner as a gentleman of the King's Guard, and Nathan Graves as Flipote, one of Madame Pernelle's maids.

Jeff Stanfield is the stage manager. Nathan Graves serves as the house manager; technical director in Jerry Ashley and Paul Fritz is in charge of costumes.

ASK US

Q—When will SBC offer DSL high speed Internet service in Snyder?

A—When contacted at 1-800-792-4638, SBC reported that no plans have been established for the implementation of DSL high speed Internet at this time.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Joan Dryden...

...is a 22-year resident of Snyder. She is married to Randy Dryden and they have five children; Josh, Christina, Amber, Jadie and Kurt, and a new son-in-law; Mark Cave, who is married to Christina. Joan is a stay-at-home mom and her hobbies are gardening, crafts and spending time with her kids.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Failure isn't falling down. It's staying down.
—Mary Pickford

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Tartuffe coming to SHS

Snyder High School department of drama will present *Tartuffe*, a farcical comedy, at 7 p.m. today though Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday at Worsham Auditorium. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for students.

European travel planning

Adults interested in traveling to Germany, Austria and Switzerland this summer will meet in the basement of Texas Savings Bank at 6:30 this evening. For more information, call Beth Bowen at 573-2670 and leave a message.

First Baptist support group

First Baptist Church sponsors a support group for persons facing difficulties – including cancer, divorce, grief, etc. It meets on the first floor Adult 6 Department at 6:30 tonight.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

TO AIR SATURDAY — Snyder High School KTXS Academic Challenge Team members include from left Josh Kemp, captain; Josh Payne, Seth Cooper and Matthew Kerr. SHS' match with Jim Ned will be broadcast at 6 p.m. Saturday on KTXS, channel 12. (Contributed Photo)

Academic challenge to air on Saturday

Following a lackluster first half on Jan. 26, Snyder High School's KTXS Academic Challenge Team rallied to defeat Jim Ned, 210-170.

Team members include Josh Kemp, captain; Josh Payne, Matthew Kerr and Seth Cooper.

The team now advances to third round competition against Ballinger in March.

SHS' match with Jim Ned will be broadcast at 6 p.m. Saturday on KTXS, channel 12.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Full figured girl must learn to choose the right clothes

DEAR ABBY: I would like to reassure "Darlene in Dallas," the 12-year-old girl who is looking for ways to make boys realize she is more than her ample bustline. I feel her pain. I have been full-busted most of my life, beginning with a DD prior to high school and continuing up from there.

As an image consultant, I advise my clients how to dress for a particular effect.

First, she should not be ashamed of her figure. She is special and beautiful — and not just because she is well-endowed. She doesn't need to wear tents, but she should choose tops that skim the body rather than tight or low-cut garments that accentuate her cleavage.

Interesting jewelry, hair clips or headbands will draw the eye upward to her face and take the emphasis away from her chest.

If she has shapely legs, she should wear skirts and pants with funky patterns. That, too, will draw the eye away from the bustline.

And above all, she should learn to love herself. I wish her my best. She is not alone. — **DIANE D., NORWICH, CONN.**

DEAR DIANE D.: Bless you for lending your expertise. A number of readers responded to that letter with helpful suggestions. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Tell her to buy some "birth control glasses." A pair of unflattering glasses will stop any boy dead in his tracks. My sister got a pair of nonprescription glasses for that very reason. — **WALLY IN AUSTIN**

DEAR WALLY: Really? My mother used to say that men who DON'T make passes at girls who wear glasses are asses. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Darlene in Dallas" to ask her mother or another adult to take her to a lingerie store for a proper brassiere fitting. There are bras specifically designed to minimize a woman's size. Good support is a necessity for large-breasted girls and women to prevent back, shoulder and tissue/nerve damage. I know this from experience. — **BEEN THERE, TOO**

DEAR B.T.T.: What a great suggestion. I'm sorry I didn't think of it.

DEAR ABBY: I must take issue with your response to the 12-year-old girl who wants boys to like her for who she is and not because of her big bust. You suggested she "impress them with attributes she wants them to notice ..."

A 12-year-old wants to attract boys, and you want to give her a healthier way to do it. As a psychologist who works with children and adolescents, I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences of sexual behavior in those who are so young. That girl should focus on developing interests other than boys. She should explore her talents, get involved in helping others through volunteer work, participate in sports, spend time with her girlfriends, talk to her brother, father, pastor or rabbi — anything other than worry about better ways to attract boys. — **Ph.D. IN YORBA LINDA, CALIF.**

DEAR Ph.D.: I agree that ideally Darlene should be encouraged to focus her attention on developing her talents and personality. However, at 12 she IS receiving attention from boys, and she needs to learn how to handle it NOW.

**

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

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To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Vote fraud investigated

EL PASO (AP) — West Texas law officers have arrested a precinct chairwoman in connection with an investigation into bogus mail-in ballot requests during recent water board elections.

Patricia "Patty" Lee PiInon was arrested Tuesday on charges of four counts of tampering with government records, each of which is a second-degree felony, El Paso County sheriff's spokesman Rick Glancey said.

Authorities said three of the counts are related to Saturday's El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 board elections, while the fourth relates to last year's mayoral election.

PiInon, a Democratic chairwoman of Precinct 81, was free on $5,000 bond.

"She's been a very involved precinct chair for the longest time, and once she gets behind her candidate, she's a hard worker," county Democratic Party Chairman Rick Melendrez told the El Paso Times in Thursday's editions.

Eckerd fires three pharmacists who wouldn't fill prescription

DENTON (AP) — Eckerd Corp. has fired three pharmacists who declined to fill an emergency contraception prescription for a woman who had been raped, one of the pharmacists said Wednesday.

Gene Herr, 33, of Denton said he and two co-workers were fired on Jan. 29, six days after refusing to fill the prescription.

Eckerd has declined to comment on their employment status. Joan Gallagher, the vice president of communications for Largo, Fla.-based Eckerd only would say the company had taken the appropriate disciplinary action.

Herr said he declined to fill the prescription for the so-called "morning-after pill" because he believes it could have killed the embryo if the woman already had conceived. Though he had declined five or six times in the past to fill such prescriptions, it was the first time he had been handed one for a rape victim, he said.

"I went in the back room and briefly prayed about it," said Herr, who had worked for Eckerd for five years. "I actually called my pastor at Denton Bible Church and asked him what he thought about it."

The two other pharmacists who were present at the time also declined to fill the prescription. Herr would not name them.

The rape victim had the prescription filled at a nearby pharmacy.

Gallagher said Eckerd's employment manual says pharmacists are not allowed to opt out of filling a prescription for religious, moral or ethical reasons.

Herr said he did not know about that policy until his supervisors questioned him about it shortly before he was fired.

"In my mind if I agree to work for someone knowing that that's their policy, then I should submit to that policy. But I didn't even know about it," he said.

He declined to discuss his future plans.

Morning-after pills are higher doses of the hormones in regular birth control pills and have been sold under the brand names Plan B and Preven since 1998.

Taken within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse, the pills are at least 75 percent effective at preventing pregnancy. They work by preventing ovulation or fertilization of an egg. If fertilization already has occurred, they prevent the egg from implanting into the uterus — the medical definition of pregnancy.

Neil Bush's deal with Houston foundation raises some concerns

HOUSTON (AP) — A watchdog group is questioning the legality of a deal between Neil Bush and a charitable foundation that appears to benefit his educational software company.

The HISD Foundation benefits schools in the Houston Independent School District.

According to the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, Bush apparently helped the foundation raise money to buy his company's eighth-grade U.S. history software for more than a dozen of the district's schools.

According to the Houston Chronicle, the director of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization said the deal not only raises legal red flags but also ethical concern.

"The spirit of (IRS) laws are to prevent this kind of self-dealing, particularly in the name of philanthropy," said director Rick Cohen. "It sounds like it really pushes the border of legality."

A vote by district's school board is set for today on the whether to take $115,000 Bush's Austin-based company, Ignite, helped raise as part of a plan to bring innovative learning tools to district schools at a low cost.

Defense Department releases criteria for closing U.S. bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Defense has drafted its final criteria for recommending military installations for closure in 2005.

The criteria were to be published in the Federal Register on today. Texas lawmakers who got an early peek said the criteria appear to be unchanged from draft criteria proposed by the Defense Department.

Don Stewart, a spokesman for Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said the criteria are written broadly to ensure that if the process is fair, Texas should do well. Cornyn and Texas Gov. Rick Perry had not suggested any changes to the criteria.

Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, said he would question a DOD official about the criteria in a hearing today. He said Fort Hood would do well when evaluated under the criteria.

Texas has 17 major military installations with an economic benefit believed to be about $43 billion a year. The sector employs about 232,000 uniformed personnel and civilians, according to state officials.

The DOD informed Congress of the final criteria in a letter from Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz to Rep. Don Young, House Appropriations Committee chairman.

In the letter, the DOD said that in giving priority to military value of installations it will consider:

— Current and future missions capabilities and the impact of a closure on operational readiness for all military forces.

— availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace at existing and receiving locations, including training areas for use by the military for homeland defense training and other activities

— ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total force requirements

— costs

Under the heading "Other Conditions," the DOD listed timing of costs and savings, economic impact to adjacent communities, ability of communities to accommodate forces and environmental impact.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and other Texas congressional members had asked for changes to the criteria.

Hutchison, who serves on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, wanted 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to study overseas installations and determine how eliminating U.S. bases would affect homeland security.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said he believes the military has about 20 percent to 25 percent excess capacity at its bases.

A law passed by Congress in 2003 requires the Pentagon to give the base closing commission a list of bases recommended for closure by May 2005. The commission then picks the bases to close and Congress may approve or reject the entire list.

Congressional members often fight hard against closure of bases in their districts.

The Following Financial Institutions Will Be Closed Monday, Feb 16 In Observance Of

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Please Transact Your Business Accordingly

Texas Savings Bank

West Texas State Bank

Snyder National Bank

events

LOTTO TEXAS

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-13-16-42-43. Bonus Ball: 25.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: None.

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: $11,826.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 6. Prize: $3,579.

Number matching four of five: 368. Prize: $125.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 331. Prize: $123.

Number matching three of five: 14,982. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 4,534. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 21,231. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $7 million.

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-17-21-32.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $38,857.

Winning tickets sold in: New Caney.

Matching four of five: 180. Prize: $98.

Matching three of five: 4,881. Prize: $8.

Matching two of five: 44,705. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-3-8
(Night) 6-9-5

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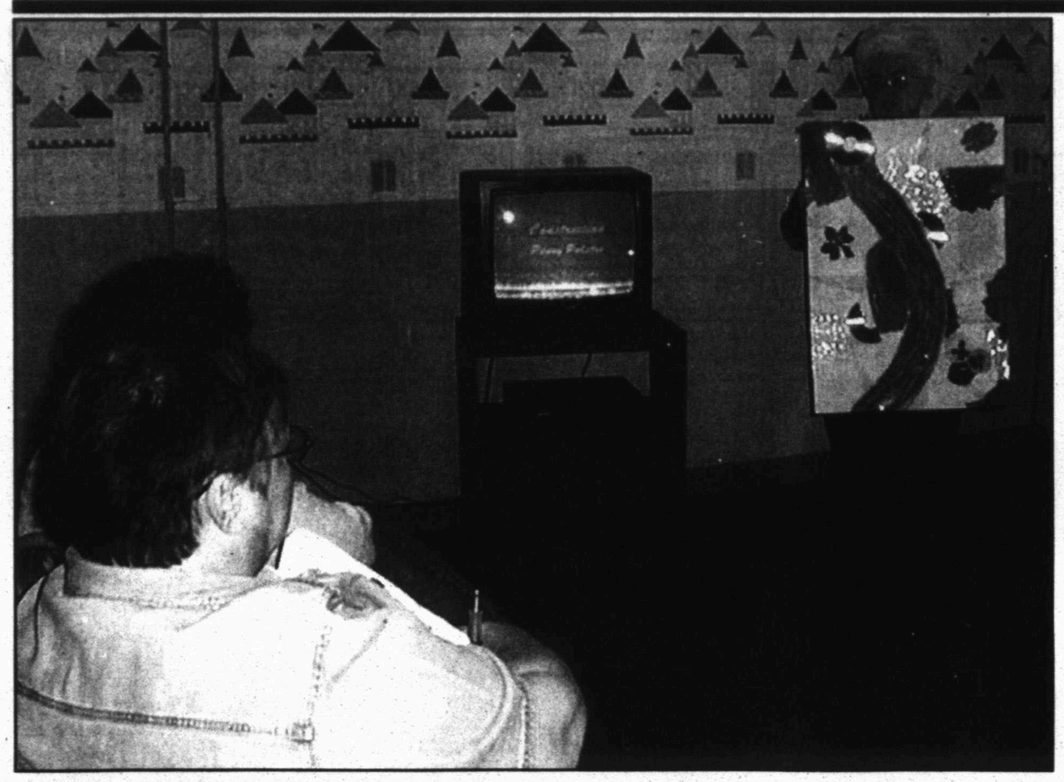

SNYDER GARDEN CLUB MEET — Sandra Browning, Snyder Garden Club president (right), presented the program "Designing from the Handbook," at the recent meeting held at the Scurry County Library. Browning recently received her National Accredited Flower Show Judge credentials. Master Flower Show Judge Maggie Ridgway, of Ridgway Florist and Greenhouses in San Angelo, will present "Plants of the Bible" at the March 4 meeting at the Scurry County Museum on the WTC campus. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving Course; Texas Savings Bank; no reservations necessary, for more information call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

PROCLAMATION — Francene Noah signed a proclamation that declared Feb. 12 as Joann Snider Computerized Business Technology Day at Western Texas College for her loyal dedication and commitment to WTC and the community. She has been a business technology department instructor at WTC for 20 years. A longtime, active member of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, she serves as a director of Gateway Family Services, is a lifetime member of the Martha Ann Woman's Club and teaches private piano lessons. Pictured with Mayor Noah is Robert Lane. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North ♠ A J 3 ♥ 6 3 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ K 7 6 3 2	02-12-04
West ♠ 10 8 6 5 ♥ A J 9 8 5 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ —		East ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ K Q 10 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ Q 10 4
	South ♠ K Q 4 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A K 5 ♣ A J 9 8 5	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004

Did you want to bid no-trump?

By Phillip Alder

The South hand in today's diagram is the same as in yesterday's. If you read that column, perhaps you thought that South should have either opened one no-trump or rebid three no-trump after his partner's three-club limit raise. If so, read on!

First, though, suppose you are South, the declarer in five clubs. The defenders cash two heart tricks, then exit with a diamond. How would you play the trumps?

I agree with South's opening one no-trump if he uses the 16-18 range. But that hand is too strong for a 15-17 no-trump because the good five-card suit is worth an extra point. What is good? I usually work on queen-jack-fifth or better. (Why use 15-17? One no-trump is the second-best opening bid, and you will have 15 points almost three times more often than 18.)

Rebidding three no-trump over partner's three-club response would have worked fine yesterday. Here, though, it is a disaster, the defenders taking the first five tricks in hearts.

South should rebid three diamonds, promising a stopper in the suit. North continues with three spades, showing a stopper in spades and denying one in hearts. South, aware that three no-trump is out, jumps to five clubs.

It is rare to lead an unsupported ace, but West knows his opponents are weak in hearts.

After winning trick three, you have no problem if trumps are 2-1. But if they are 3-0, you can pick them up only if East holds the tripleton. So, play a club to dummy's king.

What is the best opening bid? Seven no-trump!

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Best Sellers

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
2. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
3. "Divided in Death" by J.D. Robb & Nora Roberts (Putnam)
4. "The Amateur Marriage" by Anne Tyler (Knopf)
5. "New Spring" by Robert Jordan (Tor)
6. "The Zero Game" by Brad Meltzer (Warner)
7. "The Cat Who Talked Turkey" by Lilian Jackson Braun (Putnam)
8. "Absolute Friends" by John le CarrDe (Little, Brown)
9. "Retreat, Hell!" by W.E.B. Griffin (Putnam)
10. "The Second Chair" by John Lescroart (Dutton)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "The South Beach Diet" by Arthur Agatston (Rodale Press)
2. "The Proper Care & Feeding of Husbands" by Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins)
3. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
4. "The Ultimate Weight Solution" by Dr. Phil Mcgraw (Free Press)
5. "Automatic Millionaire: A Powerful One-Step Plan to Live and Finish Rich" by David Bach (Broadway Books)
6. "The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O'Neill" by Ron Suskind (Simon & Schuster)
7. "American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Fortune, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush" by Kevin Phillips (Viking)
8. "Naomi's Breakthrough Guide: 20 Choices to Transform Your Life" by Naomi Judd (Simon & Schuster)
9. "Give Me a Break: How I Exposed Hucksters, Cheats, and Scam Artists..." by John Stossel (HarperCollins)
10. "Dude, Where's My Country" by Michael Moore (Warner)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown (Pocket)
2. "The Ultimate Weight Solution Food Guide" by Dr. Phil McGraw (Pocket)
3. "The King of Torts" by John Grisham (Dell)
4. "Chesapeake Blue" by Nora Roberts (Jove)
5. "Digital Fortress" by Dan Brown (Griffin)
6. "Deception Point" by Dan Brown (Pocket)
7. "Captivated" by Nora Roberts (Silhouette)
8. "The Jester" by James Patterson and Andrew Gross (Warner)
9. "Wild Rain" by Christine Feehan (Avon)
10. "Key of Valor" by Nora Roberts (Jove)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "South Beach Diet Good Fats/Good Carbs Guide" by Arthur Agatston (Rodale)
2. "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel GarcDia MDarquez (Perennial)
3. "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd (Penguin)
4. "All He Ever Wanted" by Anita Shreve (Little, Brown/Back Bay)
5. "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel (Harcourt)
6. "Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides (Picador)
7. "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier (Random House)
8. "Dr. Atkins' New Carbohydrate Gram Counter" by Robert C. Atkins (M. Evans)
9. "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" by Robert T. Kiyosaki and Sharon L. Lechter (Warner)

Births

Terri and John Kraft of Andrews announce the birth of their son, Shae Daniel Kraft, at 4:05 p.m. onFeb. 11 in Permian Regional Medical Center in Andrews. Shae weighed six pounds, 11 ounces and was 18.4 inches long.

He was also welcomed by a sister, Jessica Martin. Grandparents are Herbert and Ruby Stout of Snyder and Bernie and Mary Kraft of Andrews.

Alesia Brotherton and Billy Knott of Snyder announce the birth of their seven pounds, 13-ounce daughter, Katlynn Marie Knott, at 3:04 p.m. on Feb. 10 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Alesia's paternal grandparents are Tom and Arvella Sumpter of Borger and Willie and Teresa Knott of Odessa. Maternal grandparents are Dianne Marlen of San Antonio and the late Milton Brotherton.

Trinity Xade Castillo was born at 5:36 a.m. on Feb. 11 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, seven ounces. Parents are Nikki Hudson and Salvador Castillo of Snyder.

Paternal grandparents are Elidia Guerrero and Ramiro Castillo of Lubbock and maternal grandparents are Tammy and Gaylon Hudson of Carthage.

Tio R. and Vicky Castillo of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Cyrus Gage Castillo, at 8:06 a.m. on Feb. 6 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Agustine and Rosa Castillo. Maternal grandparents are Guadalupe Jr. and Dora Silva, and Kathy Kelly. All are of Snyder.

Fines are refunded

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — The city of Hagerstown, in a flurry of regret, is refunding $100 fines it imposed on dozens of residents this winter for failing to shovel their sidewalks.

The refunds are part of a regulatory overhaul prompted by public outrage that an 86-year-old widow was charged $223 dollars for not clearing her walk promptly after a December snowstorm. Mary Jane "Sadie" Zook said the neighbor couldn't clear her walk in time.

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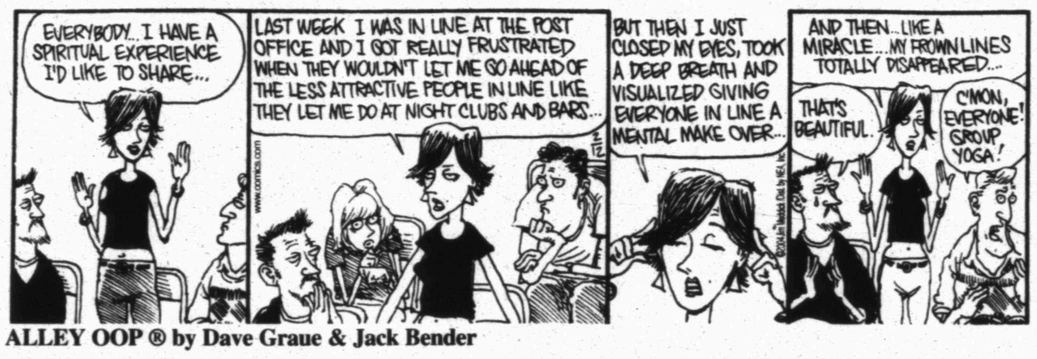
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Rough, as a diamond
6 Commend
10 Unmanned spacecraft
12 Hesitate
14 Cooking oil choice
15 Virtuoso
16 Breakfast nook
18 Rumor, perhaps
19 Give as an example
21 Lose color
23 Old soldier
24 Hamelin pest
26 Presage
29 Muckraker — Tarbell
30 Cribbage counter
32 Mouse appendage
34 Friar's room
36 Individual
37 Eland cousin
38 Tinted
40 Brownie
42 Drumstick
43 Hero sandwiches
45 Time to beware
47 Glamorous wrap
50 Formal prayer
52 Old Chevy model
54 Like margarita glasses
58 Ugly cuts
59 Shop tool
60 Discern
61 Vestibule

DOWN

1 Grocery ID
2 Brady Bill opposer
3 Debate side
4 "Lusitania" sinker (hyph.)
5 Check casher
6 Rio Grande town
7 CTRL neighbor
8 Tel. or elec.
9 He loved Lucy
11 Cul-de- —
12 Type of bean
13 I-70
17 Most frequent
19 Granted
20 Where Venice is
22 CPR giver
23 "Old" London theatre
25 Military addr.
27 Cliffside nester
28 Poker pair
31 Salon supply
33 Carry
35 Guitarist — Paul
39 Took the edge off
41 Windup
44 Prejudice
46 "Blowin' in the Wind" singer
47 Kindhearted
48 Gen. — Bradley
49 Basilica part
51 Poisonous snake
53 "Now I see!"
55 Tunnel blaster
56 Poetic adverb
57 Not rainy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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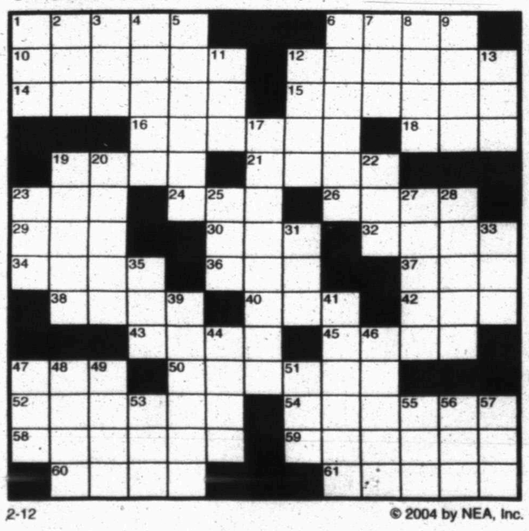

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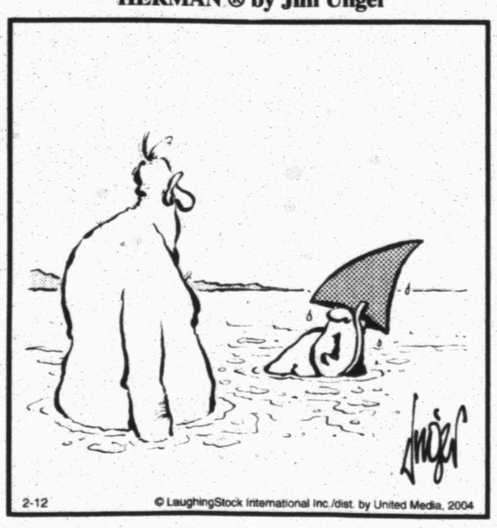
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"HONESTY MAY BE THE BEST POLICY, JOEY, BUT SOMETIMES KEEPIN' YOUR MOUTH SHUT IS BETTER."



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"Can't you take a joke?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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SPORTS

Late run spurs Sooners past Raiders

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — The throbbing pain in De'Angelo Alexander's sprained right ankle had him hobbling everywhere from the parking lot to the locker room.

Everywhere but on the court, that is.

With No. 18 Texas Tech making a frantic second-half rally Wednesday night, Oklahoma's sophomore guard started worrying about a lot more than his sore ankle.

"It bothered me, but I had to look past it," Alexander said. "We were kind of going into a drought. My team needed me."

Alexander sparked a late 13-2 run with a couple of 3-pointers and freshman Lawrence McKenzie scored 15 points, helping Oklahoma bounce back from its lowest scoring output in nearly 50 years with a 63-48 victory.

The Sooners (15-5, 5-4 Big 12) looked nothing like the offensively clueless squad that was routed 66-37 by Texas on Sunday, their lowest point total since 1955.

Oklahoma went 9-for-22 from 3-point range — a stark turnaround from its 1-of-21 showing in Austin — and scored just often enough to hold off the Red Raiders (17-6, 5-4) down the stretch.

"I was real proud of how our team bounced back," coach Kelvin Sampson said. "We just keep plugging and we'll be OK."

Alexander and Drew Lavender each scored 11 points for the Sooners, who have won 48 of their last 50 home games. The win — Oklahoma's first over a Top 25 team this year — moved the Sooners into a fourth-place tie in the Big 12 with Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders have lost four of their past five games after a 12-game winning streak.

Andre Emmett, the Big 12's leading scorer, led Texas Tech with 22 points. Devonne Giles was the only other Red Raider to score in double figures with 10 points.

It was Texas Tech's first game in Norman since last year's dispute over a slow-starting clock that allowed Oklahoma to win a pivotal Big 12 showdown. The loss infuriated Texas Tech coach Bob Knight and severely strained his relationship with Sampson.

In the final seconds of the win, Oklahoma's fans taunted the notoriously temperamental coach with chants of "Go home Bobby!"

At the game's end, Knight and Sampson hurriedly shook hands and didn't speak to each other.

Oklahoma, unranked for the first time in 46 weeks, led 23-8 after 10 minutes and controlled much of the game's tempo from there.

"Oklahoma put us in a hole to start out the ballgame," Knight said. "Oklahoma really responded well to their game over the weekend. When we played well and got back into it, they really responded and rose to the occasion."

Still, the Sooners didn't exactly set the nets on fire.

Oklahoma, the worst-shooting team in the conference, went 2-of-20 from the field during one stretch that allowed Tech to go on a 14-3 run that cut its lead to 34-33.

But Alexander hit consecutive 3s and McKenzie followed with two free throws and a 3-pointer to give the Sooners a 56-43 lead with 4:09 to play.

Alexander, who wasn't even expected to play after spraining his ankle in the loss to Texas, challenged his teammates before the game to forget about Sunday's humiliating loss.

Too many more lopsided defeats, he warned, and Oklahoma would have a hard time earning an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament.

"I actually told my teammates that I don't want to play in the NIT, honestly," Alexander said. "I want to play in the NCAA."

The only Sooner who went scoreless was, ironically, leading scorer Jason Detrick. Detrick missed all four of his field goal attempts.

It was Oklahoma's second straight win in which its leading scorer at the time didn't have a point. Lavender was shut out in the Sooners' 75-48 win over Iowa State on Feb. 4.

"We don't have a leading scorer," Sampson said. "The way our team plays has nothing to do with the stat sheet."

Oklahoma nearly matched its point total from Sunday's debacle in the first half.

The Sooners went into halftime with a 31-21 lead, mostly by forcing the Red Raiders into 16 turnovers and holding them to 31 percent shooting.

Texas Tech, which was held to a season low in points, had twice as many turnovers (16) as field goals (8) in the first half.

"Our guard play has not been good in terms of getting the ball to people that are open," Knight said. "We have to figure out something to take care of that."

Feds seek indictment against BALCO labs, Bonds' trainer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal prosecutors are seeking indictments against a nutritional supplements lab, its founder and the personal trainer of baseball star Barry Bonds, The Associated Press has learned.

A grand jury in San Francisco was to be presented with indictment papers by prosecutors this morning, according to federal law enforcement sources, who spoke Wednesday night with the AP on condition of anonymity.

Grand jurors have spent several months probing the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative and its founder, Victor Conte. Another target of the grand jury has been personal trainer Greg Anderson.

The two federal law enforcement sources would not divulge what charges prosecutors were seeking from the grand jury, which has been probing possible violations of tax laws and the allegedly improper distribution of steroids.

Conte has denied supplying athletes with banned substances. He did not immediately respond Wednesday night to an e-mail seeking comment.

The law enforcement sources said no indictments were being sought now against any athletes.

A parade of top athletes from at least five sports, ranging from Bonds to Olympic track star Marion Jones to boxer Shane Mosley, appeared before the grand jury probing BALCO and Anderson from late October to mid-December.

Conte has been accused of providing the recently discovered steroid THG to athletes. Five track and field athletes face two-year suspensions for THG use, while four Oakland Raiders players also flunked tests for the steroid unmasked by anti-doping officials last summer.

The steroid was uncovered only after an unidentified track coach gave the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency a syringe containing a substance that ultimately was identified as THG. That coach said he got the substance from Conte, who has denied the accusation.

BALCO, which operates out of an inconspicuous building in the shadow of San Francisco International Airport, claims it takes blood and urine samples from athletes and then prescribes a regimen of supplements to compensate for vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

Yao outduels Shaq

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao Ming outplayed Shaquille O'Neal — his Western Conference backup in Sunday's NBA All-Star game — with 29 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 102-87 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

"When a guy that size gets going, he's hard to stop," Horace Grant said. "He got going tonight and he was a dominant center. He's a great passer and defender. There was no slack in his game. He was shooting, blocking shots and passing. It was his night tonight."

With Yao leading the way, the Rockets pulled away in the fourth quarter. Yao hit five free throws and three field goals, including a hook over O'Neal in the final 6:12. He also scored 11 of Houston's final 15 points.

Yao got more votes than O'Neal and will start for the Western Conference in the All-Star game. O'Neal has outscored Yao 116-63 in their matchups.

O'Neal, who finished with 24 points and nine rebounds, fouled out with 3:20 to play. Bryant came off the injured list and scored 14 points for the Lakers.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson praised Yao but also felt his team was fatigued in the final game of a seven-game road trip.

St. Joseph's stays perfect

By The Associated Press

Saint Joseph's ends every game with a win, and its fans finish each night with the same cheers.

"Undefeated" and "The Hawk will never die" were heard again Wednesday night following No. 3 Saint Joseph's 81-67 victory over Dayton — its 21st win of the season.

The Hawks (21-0, 10-0 Atlantic 10) and No. 2 Stanford (20-0) remain the only unbeaten teams in Division I, and Saint Joseph's appears to be immune to any pressure there might be.

"Every day is a challenge," junior guard Delonte West said of the streak. "A day that you don't bring it in practice is a challenge. A day where you walk around with your nose in the air is a challenge. We can't take anybody lightly, especially a team in our conference."

Dayton (19-4, 9-1) is considered the second-best team in the Atlantic 10 and the Hawks dispatched of the Flyers, as they have everyone else this season.

West had 24 points and backcourtmate Jameer Nelson had 16 points and seven assists.

"They're a veteran team with unbelievable court savvy because of Nelson and West," Dayton coach Brian Gregory said.

In other games involving ranked teams Wednesday, it was: No. 1 Duke 93, Virginia 75; No. 6 Mississippi State 79, No. 25 South Carolina 75 in overtime; No. 13 Cincinnati 80, South Florida 67; No. 17 Wisconsin 54, Iowa 52.

Sideline Views

by Bobby Allen

What the Lady Tigers have done on the basketball court has been nothing short of magical this year.

Twenty-five straight wins, a perfect mark in district play — and a district championship — and a 27-2 overall record for a team that has taken Snyder by storm.

The SHS gym began to fill up at the start of district, and by the time it was over, there wasn't an empty seat in the house.

And now, the enthusiasm has reached fever pitch, as many folks in town are talking about a state title for the Snyder five.

While that is certainly in the realm of possibility, let's take a step back and remember the make-up of this team, which makes this season all the more amazing — regardless of what happens from here on out.

This is a team of dedicated players, willing to work, easily coached and determined to play their best basketball no matter the opponent.

But it is also a team of teenage girls, many of whom can't drive yet, or were not even in high school last year.

There's Terann Ragland, the freshman point guard with the best ball-handling skills in the district and a persistent defender willing to sacrifice her body for every possession.

She was in the eighth grade last year.

Jordan Stansell, the lanky post with a mean streak who has at times controlled the glass against more experienced and bigger foes, played for Snyder Junior High last season.

Sirena Medrano, who took over at point last season as a freshman, has the basketball acumen of a senior and the fearlessness to penetrate the lane. Sequoya Powell emerged as a freshman last year along with Medrano, and also has been a major contributor for the squad this year.

Teddi Crenwelge and Sarah Henson, two sophomores who have distinguished themselves this year with maximum effort and a willingness to take whatever role and however many minutes they are given.

And, of course, the mother hen, Erin Burleson — a dead-eye three-point shooter, the leader of the team, and, to use head coach Mike Martin's word, the "glue" that holds this baby bunch together. Her role in this team's success can't be understated, nor can it be fully explained by examining her play.

She brings those mythical intangibles — leadership, accountability and influence — to the Lady Tigers, who would not have gotten to this point without her.

Obviously, Martin has done a phenomenal job with this group of youngsters who apparently haven't realized they aren't supposed to be this good, this young. Not to mention getting 14 and 15-year-old girls on the same page. But that is for another column, after the party's over, the court is swept off and the gym doors close on the 2004 season.

Right now, let's admire how a collection of young, inexperienced girls have exceeded all expectations, and given Snyder major bragging rights and a truckload of excitement.

No matter what happens in the playoffs, the 2003-2004 Lady Tigers have been the best story of the young year, and have given "Wait 'till next year" a whole new meaning.

allen@snyderdailynews.com

Sports Briefs

Basketball time change

The times for Friday's scheduled home district games against Denver City have been moved up.

The JV and the freshmen will tip-off at 6 p.m., and the varsity club will get underway at 7:30.

Judge refuses to stay ruling, Clarett to enter draft

NEW YORK (AP) — Maurice Clarett is ready to enter the NFL draft, clearing another legal obstacle when a federal judge rejected the league's request to suspend her ruling.

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin concluded the Ohio State running back could face harm if excluded from the draft. She said the NFL would not be irreparably harmed if Clarett and other underclassmen are eligible.

NFL lawyer Gregg Levy said the league will ask the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to stay Scheindlin's ruling while it appeals.

More night baseball for Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — The Cubs will be allowed to increase their night games at Wrigley Field from 18 to 30 per season by 2006 under an ordinance approved by the Chicago City Council.

The limit will increase to 22 this year, 26 in 2005 and 30 in 2006 under the ordinance, approved by a 42-0 vote.

NCAA will experiment with instant replay

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA Football Rules Committee has recommended that instant replay be used on an experimental basis during Big Ten conference games in 2004.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	31	20	.608	—
New York	25	29	.463	7½
Boston	23	30	.434	9
Philadelphia	22	31	.415	10
Miami	22	32	.407	10½
Washington	16	34	.320	14½
Orlando	13	41	.241	19½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	39	14	.736	—
Detroit	33	21	.611	6½
New Orleans	28	24	.538	10½
Milwaukee	27	24	.529	11
Toronto	25	25	.500	12½
Cleveland	20	33	.377	19
Atlanta	18	35	.340	21
Chicago	14	38	.269	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	37	15	.712	—
San Antonio	35	18	.660	2½
Dallas	33	19	.635	4
Houston	30	22	.577	7
Memphis	30	22	.577	7
Denver	30	23	.566	7½
Utah	26	27	.491	11½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	37	13	.740	—
L.A. Lakers	31	19	.620	6
Portland	24	26	.480	13
Seattle	24	27	.471	13½
Golden State	23	28	.451	14½
L.A. Clippers	22	29	.431	15½
Phoenix	18	37	.327	21½

Wednesday's Games

Miami 111, Orlando 98
New Jersey 105, Cleveland 85
Philadelphia 113, Washington 88
Sacramento 96, Detroit 94
Memphis 110, L.A. Clippers 102
New Orleans 106, New York 98
Minnesota 77, Utah 66
Houston 102, L.A. Lakers 87
Golden State 110, Phoenix 99

Today's Games

Boston at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 9 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Basketball:	Snyder varsity boys vs. Denver City, 7:30 p.m.
	Snyder JV boys vs. Denver City, 6 p.m.
	Snyder frosh boys vs. Denver City, 6:30 p.m.
Baseball:	WTC vs. NMMI, 3 p.m.
Softball:	WTC at Midland Tournament
Tennis:	Snyder at Big Spring Tournament
Golf:	Snyder JV boys and girls at Big Spring

SATURDAY

Baseball:	WTC vs. NMMI, DH, noon
Softball:	WTC at Midland Tournament
Tennis:	Snyder at Big Spring Tournament
Golf:	Snyder JV boys and girls at Big Spring

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Kerry advisers plot election strategies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nomination within reach, John Kerry's advisers are discussing strategies for sharpening his message, spending his money, airing TV ads and collecting a winner's share of the 538 electoral votes in November's general election.

While the candidate focuses on defeating John Edwards and Howard Dean to sew up the Democratic race, parts of his mushrooming political team have put President Bush firmly in their sights.

"In a cycle that has been this unpredictable, the Kerry campaign is wise to stay focused on the task at hand. But engaging the administration serves a dual purpose for Senator Kerry," said Democratic strategist Michael Feldman.

"Going toe-to-toe with President Bush is also the best way to secure the Democratic nomination," Feldman said. His former boss, Al Gore, polished off the 2000 Democratic nominating struggle while at the same time eying Bush.

With each of his 12 primary season victories, Kerry has stepped up his criticism of Bush. He calls White House foreign policy feckless, Iraq policy reckless, domestic policy ruthless and distortions of his own record baseless.

"George Bush and the Republican smear machine has begun trotting out the same old tired lines of attack," Kerry said recently, adding that he has news for Republicans: "I am not going to back down."

Thus, he's already begun to build up his general election campaign.

It starts, as with much in American politics, with money.

Kerry plans to tap $15 million in the Democratic National Committee coffers to respond to a multimillion-dollar TV ad campaign Bush is poised to unleash once Democrats select a nominee.

In addition, Democratic interest groups are raising tens of millions of dollars that can be spent to criticize Bush, though not in coordination with Kerry.

Campaign aides are just beginning to develop a budget for the period between when the nomination is settled — as early as March 2 — and the nominee officially accepts it in early August. The aides say they're acting out of caution, not overconfidence, because there won't be much time to prepare for Bush's onslaught if Kerry finishes off Dean and Edwards.

Several officials involved in the process said an early estimate is that Kerry could raise $40 million. He did not accept public financing in the primary races, freeing him from federal spending caps.

Kerry won't match Bush's $200 million pace, but aides said he and his allies can close the gap enough to compete. Just as Gore ran ads in Orlando, Tampa and West Palm Beach while Bush saturated all of Florida, Kerry's spending will have to be selective and smart, aides said.

The same officials are pouring over demographic data to begin the process of selecting battleground states.

Several states narrowly won by Gore will be hard for Kerry to defend, including Oregon, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Bush will have to fight to retain states such as Nevada, New Hampshire, Florida, West Virginia and Ohio.

Kerry advisers are trying to determine if there are some new opportunities such as increasingly Hispanic Arizona or even Virginia, a traditionally GOP state with a Democratic governor and scores of veterans. Kerry is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Population shifts cut against the Democratic nominee. The 21 states won by Gore will be worth 260 electoral votes in November, seven fewer than four years ago.

If he wins the nomination, one of Kerry's biggest decisions will be the choice of a running mate. Advisers say there have been no official talks, but conversations always seem to come back to Edwards of North Carolina and Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, who dropped out of the race after a poor showing in Iowa last month.

Edwards would give the ticket regional diversity, but the Midwest is more important to Kerry than the GOP-dominated South.

Democratic governors from the Midwest, such as Iowa's Tom Vilsack, are also possibilities.

White House issues more military data

By The Associated Press

The White House released more documents to support President Bush's service in the Alabama Air National Guard, while several members of the Guard unit said in interviews they don't remember ever seeing Bush at their Montgomery base.

But, they told The Associated Press, that doesn't mean he didn't serve.

Bush, who piloted jets as a Guard 1st lieutenant in Texas, was assigned temporarily to the unit in Alabama in 1972, where he worked on a political campaign for a family friend. Democrats have charged there is no proof that Bush actually showed up for duty.

"I don't remember seeing him. That does not mean he was not there," said Wayne Rambo, who was a first lieutenant with the 187th Supply Squadron at Dannelly Air National Guard Base at the time. The AP contacted more than a dozen former members of the unit on Wednesday, and none could recall ever running into Bush.

However, all were quick to point out that it was a large unit with up to 800 members and Bush was not a celebrity then.

Retired Maj. Norman Rahn, 74, who was with the 187th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in 1972-73, said he doubts anyone would remember an out-of-state pilot who spent a total of six to 10 days on base in a three-month period 32 years ago.

"He was not a member of our unit," Rahn told the AP on Wednesday. "We didn't own him."

The White House hardened its defense of Bush's National Guard service, saying documents released Tuesday and Wednesday had proven that Bush fulfilled his military obligation.

Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said requests for additional records show that some people "are more interested in trolling for trash for political gain" with the presidential election nine months away.

The White House late Wednesday released a copy of a dental evaluation Bush had at Dannelly on Jan. 6, 1973, which McClellan said documented that the president had served in Alabama as required.

The White House obtained the dental record, along with other medical records it did not release, from the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, McClellan said. The record was accompanied by a statement from Dr. Richard J. Tubb, the president's current physician, who stated that he read Bush's records, which covered a period from 1968 to 1973, and concurred with the doctors' assertion that Bush was "fit" for service.

"The records reflect no disqualifying medical information," Tubb said.

Meanwhile, a retired Texas National Guard officer said Wednesday he overheard a conversation in 1997 between then-Gov. Bush's chief of staff, Joe Allbaugh, and then-Adjutant Gen. Daniel James of the Texas Air National Guard in which he contends those two men spoke about getting rid of any military records that would "embarrass the governor."

Former Lt. Col. Bill Burkett told the AP that he saw documents from Bush's file discarded in a trash can a few days later at Camp Mabry in Austin. Burkett described them as performance and pay documents. He said the documents bore the header: "Bush, George W. 1lt." — meaning first lieutenant.

James and Allbaugh denied the allegations, which Burkett said he had previously discussed on Web sites and in letters to Texas legislators in 1998.

"The alleged discussion never happened," said James, who appointed by the president in 2002 to lead the Air National Guard. "I have never been involved in, nor would I condone any discussion or any action to falsify any record in any circumstance for anyone."

Allbaugh, now a Washington lobbyist, told The Dallas Morning News that Burkett's assertions were "hogwash."

Bush, who spent most of his service in Texas, received permission to perform his duties in Alabama while working on the unsuccessful U.S. Senate campaign of Winton "Red" Blount, a family friend.

Democrats say they want to see paperwork that would shed light on why Bush missed an annual physical exam in May 1972. The White House says he did not need to get one because he was not flying at the time.

Democrats have been delving into Bush's service ever since Vietnam veteran John Kerry became the Democrats' presidential front-runner. The party chairman, Terry McAuliffe, helped resurrect long-running questions about Bush's record when he charged that the president had been "AWOL," or absent without leave, during his time in Alabama.

Bush enlisted in the Texas Air National Guard at Ellington Air Force Base in May 1968. In May 1972, records show he requested and got permission to perform non-flying duties in Alabama.

Convicted killer in two knife slayings to be executed tonight

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Terry Marbut likes to talk about the special relationship he had with his daughter Sandi.

"I kind of raised her like a tomboy — played baseball, rode motorcycles, liked to hunt and fish," Marbut said this week. "We were very close."

When she moved out and was joined by Jennifer Weston, a cousin from Indiana, it was at a home across the street and within sight of where she grew up in Grandview in Johnson County.

"They were out of the house but right there under my nose," Marbut says.

It was there he discovered the butchered bodies of his daughter, 18, and Weston, 19, the evening of July 31, 1993.

"Unless you've experienced it, you can't imagine it," Marbut says.

Sandi Marbut had been stabbed or slashed about 40 times with a dull buck knife, its blade blunted to about 3 inches in length. Weston had 66 stab wounds.

Bobby Ray Hopkins, 36, a former bull rider from New Mexico on probation for dealing cocaine, was set to die today for their slayings.

Hopkins would be the sixth Texas inmate put to death this year and the second in as many nights.

On Wednesday, Edward Lagrone, 46, maintaining his innocence while strapped to the Texas death chamber gurney, received lethal injection for the 1991 slaying of a 10-year-old girl he impregnated. Two elderly women, great-aunts of the girl, also were killed in the shotgun rampage in Fort Worth.

"The first six months (after the slayings) was a living hell," Marbut says. "I don't remember a whole lot other than the things going on involving the case."

Hopkins' name surfaced as authorities canvassed a crowd that gathered outside the home where the killings occurred. Bystanders told officers Hopkins, who was wanted for a probation violation, had previously been at a party there and had argued with Sandi Marbut over $40 missing from her purse.

"She said she'd had a problem with this guy and asked if she could have a gun," said Terry Marbut, who rejected his daughter's request. "She was afraid of this guy."

A Texas Ranger tracked down Hopkins. A blood spot on his boot matched the blood of the victims. A bootprint from the slaying scene matched Hopkins' boot.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	15.85	15.39	15.67	+ .32
AT&T Corp	20.00	19.86	19.90	—.07
Albertsons	24.66	23.45	24.66	+ 1.04
Alltel	50.40	50.12	50.30	—.13
AmEl Pw	33.54	33.29	33.49	
AndarkPtr	52.20	51.38	52.10	+ .32
ATMOS Egy	26.11	25.98	26.11	—.05
Aviall	15.50	15.42	15.45	—.02
BP PLC	47.70	47.25	47.60	—.32
BakerHughes	37.64	35.69	37.11	+ 1.43
Bank of Amer	82.19	80.00	81.78	—.21
BellSouth	30.51	30.02	30.02	—.65
BurlNoSFe	33.20	32.80	32.88	—.45
Caterpillar	79.25	78.39	78.39	—.57
CenterPoint	11.00	10.47	10.50	+ .25
ChevronTex	87.82	87.15	87.72	+ .15
Citigroup	49.97	49.44	49.70	—.04
CocaCola	51.70	51.32	51.48	—.32
ColgatePal	55.25	55.00	55.00	—.07
CmclMetals	30.40	30.03	30.31	+ .15
ConocoPhill	68.73	67.84	68.52	+ .19
Cooper Inds	57.49	56.94	57.26	+ .16
DaimlrChry	47.77	47.47	47.62	—.31
DeltaAirLines	10.09	9.75	9.95	+ .16
Dillards Inc	17.53	17.34	17.34	—.17
DowChem	43.95	43.26	43.91	+ .28
DuPont	44.53	44.21	44.42	—.18
EastmanChem	42.75	42.30	42.69	+ .13
EstKodak	29.19	28.83	28.91	—.46
EDS Corp	20.90	20.65	20.80	
Entergy	59.35	58.88	59.09	—.36
ExxonMobil	41.98	41.55	41.93	+ .01
FootLocker	24.51	24.00	24.42	+ .47
GenDynam	96.29	95.40	95.82	—.05
GenElec	33.29	32.98	32.99	—.09
GenMills	45.05	44.84	44.85	—.14
GenMotors	49.80	49.11	49.72	—.08
GaPacific	30.02	28.50	29.84	+ .12
Goodrich	30.36	30.18	30.25	—.11
Goodyear	9.85	8.40	8.96	
GtAtlPac	8.29	8.00	8.20	+ .12
Halliburtn	31.45	30.90	31.26	+ .22
Hanson PLC	41.55	41.26	41.26	+ .61
HarteHanks	22.44	22.31	22.42	—.09
HomeDepot	36.86	36.51	36.57	—.26
HoneywellIntl	36.80	36.05	36.48	+ .38
IBM	100.30	99.76	99.77	—.19
IntlPaper	43.55	43.04	43.26	—.06
JohnsonJn	54.73	54.31	54.67	+ .26
KinderMorg	61.60	61.15	61.51	—.07
Kroger Co	19.49	18.90	19.27	+ .32
LockheedM	49.70	49.19	49.55	+ .25
Lowes Cos	57.81	56.84	56.86	—.80
Lubys	3.79	3.62	3.73	—.01
LucentTech	4.48	4.35	4.44	+ .08
MarathonOil	33.59	33.10	33.55	+ .05
MayDeptStr	35.45	34.10	34.91	—.30
Medtronic	48.08	47.54	47.84	+ .46
Motorola	17.90	17.52	17.52	—.32
NCR Corp	45.86	45.10	45.84	+ .22
Navistar	49.36	48.62	49.20	—.28
PNM Rescs	31.60	31.39	31.49	—.28
Penney JC	28.39	28.02	28.35	+ .10
PepBoys	22.12	21.99	22.09	+ .13
PepsiCo	50.98	50.70	50.74	—.36
PhelpDodge	86.51	84.01	84.90	+ .86
PilgrimsPride	21.80	21.05	21.55	+ .40
Praxair s	36.47	36.08	36.14	—.62
ProctGamb	103.13	102.10	102.16	—1.04
RadioShack	34.03	33.53	33.82	—.12
RoyalDut	47.91	47.57	47.81	—.34
SBC Comm	25.86	25.46	25.48	—.48
SaraLee	21.95	21.42	21.47	—.05
Scripps EW	98.78	98.10	98.42	—.10
SearsRoeb	46.46	45.76	46.28	+ .28
SherwinW	35.95	35.66	35.71	—.20
SouthernCo	29.92	29.40	29.63	+ .21
SwstAirl	14.99	14.74	14.90	+ .26
SprintFON	18.65	18.32	18.34	—.15
SprintPCS	9.99	9.53	9.88	+ .25
Sunoco Inc	59.12	58.45	58.94	—.03
TXU Corp	25.13	24.80	24.85	+ .15
TempleInland	62.55	62.15	62.30	—.25
Texind	36.94	36.52	36.88	+ .28
TexasInst	31.94	31.31	31.72	+ .10
Textron	56.97	55.40	56.65	+ .41
TimeWarner	17.80	17.69	17.69	—.18
TrinityInds	33.07	32.55	32.94	+ .31
TylerTech	10.09	9.55	9.90	—.19
UnionPacif	66.09	65.59	65.63	—.52
USSteel	36.27	35.39	36.20	+ .56
UnitedTech	95.89	95.10	95.21	—.50
Unocal	37.64	36.97	37.52	+ .02
VerizonComm	38.20	37.43	37.65	—.55
WalMart	57.45	56.75	57.03	—.04
WellsFargo	58.26	57.53	57.56	—.64
WstnGasRs	49.69	49.12	49.66	+ .56
WinnDixie	6.72	6.56	6.68	—.02
Xerox Cp	15.24	15.04	15.17	+ .14
YumBrands	35.32	34.70	34.95	+ 1.24

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Setting an example

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 76 and slim. Through the years, I have been bombarded by media reports of the epidemic of obesity in adults and children. So much therapy has to do with telling overweight people what to do.

In contrast, I've found that role-modeling is much more effective. I don't believe we will be able to address the issue of obesity until professionals practice what they preach. Many doctors and health professionals are stout. When I asked a friend if her doctor had ever dealt with her weight problem, she responded, "No, she's much heavier than I am."

It seems to me that health care professionals need to set an example. What do you think?

DEAR READER: Glory, glory, hallelujah. If we cannot set an example, the national surge to curb obesity will be useless. How can an overweight physician possibly be an acceptable advocate of weight loss? I don't know. But I do know that obese practitioners are everywhere, pushing diets, urging weight loss, giving opinions. All the while, these practitioners are assuming that, for them, weight-loss programs are an unnecessary inconvenience. Bull.

If we, as doctors, cannot follow our own advice, then that advice is unrealistic. For years, in my community, a grossly overweight doctor counseled his patients about obesity. When they didn't follow his urgings, the doctor gave up — in contrast to losing weight himself. Role-modeling is clearly an important ingredient in any weight-reduction program. We professionals owe it to our patients to be consistent in our advisories, and to behave ourselves.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Losing Weight" which includes my "no flour, no sugar" diet. Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: The new federal regulations about patient privacy are, in my opinion, preposterous.

When you consider that identification theft in this country is rapid, by the click of a mouse. The new HIPAA regulations are absurd. If I or anyone in my family were admitted to hospital following a motor vehicle accident or other catastrophic disaster, and were unable to respond, a surviving family member or parent cannot be told of the accident or be permitted to be at the bedside to comfort and be comforted.

I hope that this law is repealed. The only fairness is to the legal consultants who would collect if the new law were ignored.

DEAR READER: While the implications of the new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) have yet to be determined, I agree with you that the potential consequences are significant. All health care providers are concerned about patient privacy issues, yet the new law appears to carry these concerns to extremes. In my view, such alternatives are not necessary. For instance, doctors should be allowed some flexibility, depending on circumstances, when it comes to notifying families of acute medical tragedies. This practice has rarely been abused in the past. Therefore, while HIPAA will not probably be repealed, it should — in my opinion — be modified and amended.

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Happy Birthday Sherry Early

FEB 12 2004

Best Available Copy

Eye lenses implanted in owl with cataracts

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A great horned owl found starving in the wild because it had gone blind could be released this spring after having new lenses implanted in its eyes.

The owl, named Minerva by medical personnel, underwent two hours of eye surgery Jan. 22, and Dr. Chris Murphy said she was in good condition during a follow-up exam Wednesday.

"Perfect," said Murphy, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist. "Ounce for ounce, this is considered one of the toughest birds on the face of the earth."

Minerva was found in emaciated condition in early December, after someone told wildlife rehabilitators Sue and Jerry Theys an owl had been sitting on a fence for three days.

Sue Theys, who netted the owl, said she suspected the owl had cataracts. After a local veterinarian confirmed the diagnosis, the couple brought the owl to Murphy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Murphy had a pair of lenses on hand that had been custom-made six years ago for another great horned owl that proved to be an unfit candidate for the surgery. The lenses were designed by Murphy and Dr. Chuck Stuhr, and were made for free by Storz Ophthalmics, a company that has been bought by Bausch & Lomb.

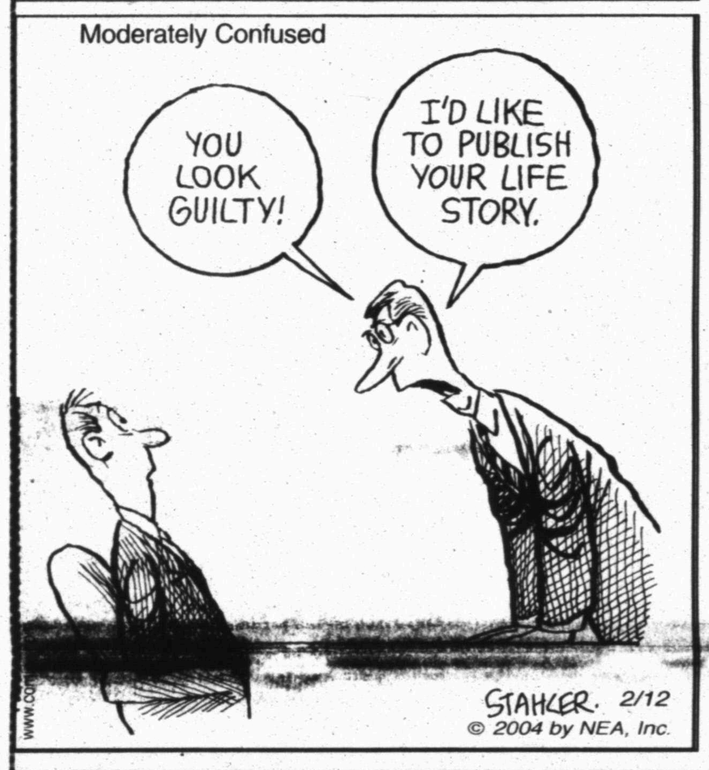
With Murphy supervising, Dr. Renee Carter and fellow resident Katie Diehl implanted the new lenses.

"To the best of my knowledge, this has not been done anywhere," Murphy said.

The Theyses, who operate Wildlife of Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitation, paid for $300 of the $1,800 procedure, with the veterinary school donating the rest.

During her recovery, the Theys have been giving Minerva antibiotic eye drops three times daily and feeding her rats and an occasional rabbit.

Moderately Confused



Lawmakers want to stop indecency on TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — Janet Jackson's exposed breast was the talk of Capitol Hill on Wednesday, with lawmakers and regulators saying it's the latest example of all that's wrong with TV and should serve as the impetus for government to get tough with broadcasters.

At a pair of hearings, lawmakers excoriated Mel Karmazin, president of Viacom Inc. His company owns CBS, which broadcast the raunchy Super Bowl halftime show that included Jackson.

Members of the House Telecommunications Committee spent more than two hours grilling Karmazin, who again apologized for the show that ended with singer Justin Timberlake tearing off part of Jackson's top and exposing her right breast to 90 million TV viewers.

"You knew what you were doing," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., her voice cracking. "You wanted us to be all abuzz. It lines your pockets."

Karmazin insisted that CBS and MTV did not know about plans to rip off Jackson's top, nor the crotch-grabbing dance steps that were also included in the halftime show. He said none of those actions took place during rehearsals.

"Everyone at Viacom and everyone at CBS and everyone at MTV was shocked and appalled and embarrassed at what had happened," Karmazin said.

To prevent a repeat, he said CBS will air live programming on a five-minute delay, which was done for the Grammy awards this week. He said the network-owned stations would also buy equipment so that locally televised live programs would also be time-delayed. And he said the network was reviewing its standards for commercials in response to criticism over a movie trailer for a horror film and Super Bowl ads showing a flatulent horse and a crotch-biting dog.

The halftime show, produced by CBS' corporate cousin MTV, drew more than 200,000 complaints to the Federal Communications Commission.

National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, also testifying before the House panel, said he expressed concerns about the halftime show in December and even considered dismissing MTV as producer. But he decided to move forward following a meeting with CBS President Les Moonves, and because of MTV's track record in producing the 2001 halftime show.

"Clearly, there was a wide gap over what was appropriate," Tagliabue said. "We should have recognized it earlier. We gave the keys to the car to someone else to drive without assuring they knew how to drive the car safely, and they crashed."

All five FCC commissioners appeared before the House panel and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and urged Congress to give them a more powerful tool to use against broadcasters.

Legislation in both houses would increase the maximum fine for indecency from $27,500 to $275,000. The FCC already has said it will begin fining broadcasters for each incident rather than each program.

"Cost-of-doing-business fines will never stop Big Media's slide to the bottom," Commissioner Michael Copps said. "All of the fines we have imposed against Viacom could be paid for by adding one commercial to the Super Bowl, and the company would probably end up with a profit."

Viacom is no stranger to the fight over indecency. Its Infinity Broadcasting subsidiary paid $1.7 million in 1995 to settle several cases against disc jockey Howard Stern, and the FCC last year proposed fining the company $357,000 for a radio segment on the "Opie and Anthony Show" in which a couple was said to be having sex in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Viacom is contesting the fine for its broadcast of the Opie and Anthony show. Karmazin said the show was tasteless and gross, but not indecent.

He called on the FCC to issue rules defining what is an indecent program.

"What's happened is the standard has changed," Karmazin said. "It is not exactly clear what is meant by indecency.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said the commission has been able to enforce indecency standards for decades, and doesn't need to go through a time-consuming process to write a rule.

"It's a red herring," Powell said. "There is no ambiguity with the indecency standard. It's existed for 30 years."

On the Net:
Federal Communications Commission: http://www.fcc.gov
Senate Commerce Committee: http://commerce.senate.gov
House Energy and Commerce Committee: http://energy-commerce.house.gov

World Almanac

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004

Today is the 43rd day of 2004 and the 53rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1912, Hsuan-T'ung (Pu Yi), the last emperor of China, was forced to abdicate his throne.

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York City.

In 1999, the U.S. Senate voted down two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), U.S. president; Charles Darwin (1809-1882), scientist; Franco Zeffirelli (1923-), director, is 81; Bill Russell (1934-), basketball player, is 70; Arsenio Hall (1955-), TV personality, is 48.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1878, Harvard baseball player Fredrick Thayer patented the catcher's mask.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me." — Abraham Lincoln

TODAY'S FACT: Many of Hollywood's top stars never won an Academy Award for acting — including Charlie Chaplin, Kirk Douglas, Greta Garbo, Gene Kelly, Barbara Stanwyck, Orson Welles and Natalie Wood.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 125 — The fastest speed in miles per hour ever attained by a steam locomotive (1938).

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Feb. 6) and last quarter (Feb. 13)

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Director receives film award

BERLIN (AP) — Argentine director Fernando Solanas was recognized for his lifetime's work, receiving the Berlin International Film Festival's honorary Golden Bear award ahead of a screening of his new documentary.

Organizers cited Solanas' observations of Argentina and its political and social climate over more than three decades, starting with his documentary movie debut, "La hora de los hornos (The Hour of the Furnaces)," in 1967.

Festival chief Dieter Kosslick described him as an "outstanding and courageous director."

Solanas' 1972 feature film, "Los Hijos de Fierro (Sons of Fierro)," was banned in Argentina, and in the mid-1970s, he went into exile in Paris. He returned to his homeland the following decade, going on to make "El Sur (The South)," which won the best director prize at Cannes in 1988.

Solanas, now 67, served as a member of the Argentine parliament from 1993 to 1997, when he returned to filmmaking.

The Berlin festival marked his lifetime achievement award Tuesday by screening his new documentary, "Memoria del saqueo (A Social Genocide)," which addresses Argentina's recent crises — tackling issues such as corruption and squandering of public money.

"My film aims at contributing to the urgent and indispensable discussion under way in my country, in Latin America, in the entire world, on the inhumanity of globalization," Solanas said in a statement.

Today's chuckle

Two coaches wed after basketball game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — It was one post-game celebration Aletha Penn and Steve Cassity couldn't miss.

The girls' high school basketball coaches were married on the court after their teams played against each other Tuesday night.

"Basketball brought us together," said the bride. "I don't know. It just seemed natural for us."

She and Cassity met at a basketball camp and kept in touch. She spent some time in New York working in fashion design, while he was in Wichita as an assistant coach at Wichita State University.

Eventually, Penn returned to Kansas City to coach, and Cassity said he called her "to ask about a couple of her players."

"Let's be honest here," Penn said. "I don't think he was interested in my players."

Cassity, who later got a high school coaching job, proposed to Penn at one of her basketball practices. Penn suggested they get married in the gym on the night they coached against each other.

The groom's team beat the bride's 65-to-60.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 13, 2004

If you've been looking to find a good friend, the year ahead is likely to produce one. You will be fortunate in establishing meaningful new relationships you'll enjoy that will endure throughout the years.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't set your standards by those of others, because you could be rather lucky today in obtaining something which may be of small value to another, yet be of substantial worth to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Regardless of circumstances or conditions today, maintain a positive, hopeful attitude, because you could be more fortunate than you realize. In fact, if you think you're lucky, you will be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There can always be a few wrinkles in one's life, but today the overall conditions appear to be quite favorable for you. Things look especially good in matters, that pertain to your finances or career.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It's not to your advantage to place important assignments in the hands of others today. No matter how busy you are, be advised that you're the one who can pull off something big, not underlings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Something in which you're presently involved (which doesn't seem to be of great importance) is going to produce far greater benefits than you have imagined. Keep plugging along.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Lady Luck will be rooting for you today if you venture into a new enterprise or project. She'll wave her magic wand and make things go far easier for you than they would have otherwise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your luck, ambitions and desires mesh well together today, so don't waste your time on meaningless projects. Set objectives that are truly worthy of your time and energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You'll do particularly well today in involvements where you have opportunities to express your imagination, creativity and talents. Think expansively and develop progressive projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Chances are there will be a number of possibilities for personal gain today beyond your usual channels. Your best breaks could come from someone who you helped previously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — By showing a willingness to cooperate today, associates with whom you'll be dealing will go a few extra steps for you and do things for you that they know will please you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Turn to projects that have already been producing a profit for you if you are looking for increased gains. Chances are you'll discover today that you've only been tapping the surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Your thoughtfulness and tact will not go unnoticed or unappreciated by those who are the recipients. Today's behavior will serve to sow seeds for your future good.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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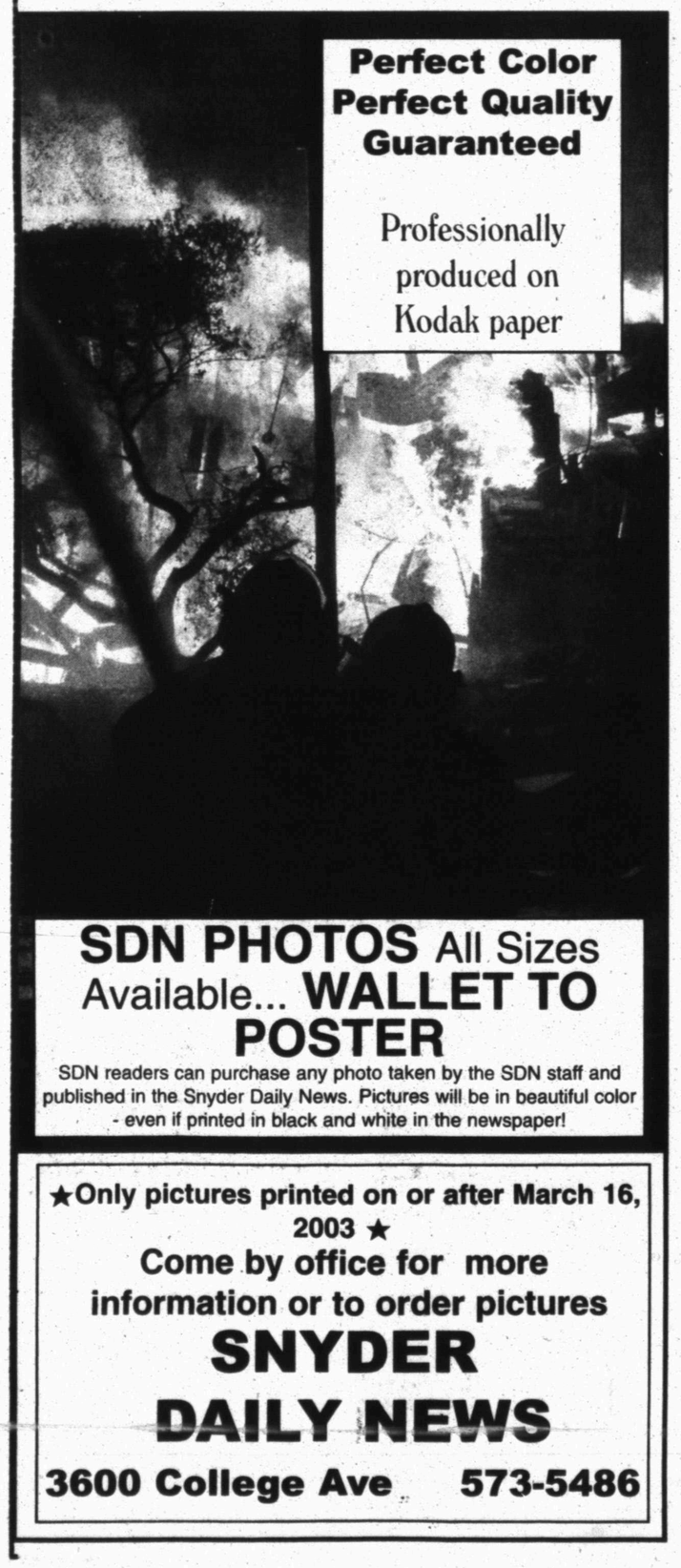
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FEB 12 2004

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Jury hears tape of broker's interview

NEW YORK (AP) — Headphone-equipped jurors heard Martha Stewart's stockbroker give his account of her sale of ImClone Systems stock in a recording the prosecution claims is dotted with lies.

The recording of broker Peter Bacanovic's interview with the Securities and Exchange Commission in February 2002 is the first time jurors at the stock-trading trial have heard either defendant speak.

In the interview, played Wednesday, Bacanovic describes a plan he and Stewart made in December 2001 to sell her 3,928 shares of ImClone if it fell to $60 per share. She sold on Dec. 27 — just before the stock dropped on bad news.

"How low does this have to go before you're prepared to part with this?" Bacanovic claims he asked Stewart.

When Stewart said she didn't know, Bacanovic said he suggested, "Well, how about $60 a share? Does that sound reasonable?"

He said she answered, "Yes, sure, $60."

The government contends Stewart and Bacanovic hatched the story to cover the real reason for the sale on Dec. 27, 2001 — that Bacanovic sent word to Stewart that ImClone CEO Sam Waksal was trying to dump his shares.

Prosecutors followed the Bacanovic tapes by calling to the witness stand an FBI special agent who took notes in each of Stewart's two interviews with the SEC in 2002.

By placing the two elements of the case back-to-back, prosecutors hoped to draw out inconsistencies in the explanations Stewart and Bacanovic gave in early 2002 for the ImClone sale.

For example, special agent Catherine Farmer said Stewart claims in the interviews to have spoken to Bacanovic when she sold. Bacanovic said Stewart had spoken to Douglas Faneuil, Bacanovic's assistant.

Stewart also told the SEC that she and Bacanovic had not discussed Waksal in early 2002, when news was breaking of an investigation into Waksal's suspicious trading. Bacanovic said they had.

The Bacanovic tapes were played at a high volume in the courtroom and on wireless headphones worn by jurors. The hour marked a stark contrast from the nine days of standard witness testimony and screen-projected exhibits.

Bacanovic, speaking quickly and often interrupting himself, said in the SEC interview that he never told Stewart that ImClone stock was falling when he left a message for her on Dec. 27 — only that he and his assistant "gave her the price of the stock."

That statement contradicts testimony earlier this week from Stewart's personal assistant, who said she took down this message from Bacanovic on that day: "Peter Bacanovic thinks ImClone is going to start trading downward."

Lawmakers reject compromise over gay-marriage issue

BOSTON (AP) — The Massachusetts Legislature narrowly rejected a compromise proposal Wednesday that sought to legalize civil unions but ban same-sex marriages, delivering a setback to lawmakers who wanted to avoid taking the divisive issue head-on.

The defeat of the compromise means that lawmakers will return to the Statehouse today to consider either an outright ban on gay marriage or letting the state's constitution remain intact.

The joint House and Senate session adjourned for the evening about 8:30 p.m. after about six hours of debate.

The bipartisan proposal was crafted by Senate leaders who wished to overturn a high court decision legalizing gay marriage while still extending equal benefits to gay couples. It was rejected 104-94.

The compromise would have made Vermont-style civil unions automatically legal in Massachusetts in November 2006, the earliest an amendment could be placed on a ballot for voter approval. At that time, any gay couples married in Massachusetts would be stripped of their licenses and considered part of a civil union.

Massachusetts was thrust into the epicenter of the national gay marriage debate in November when the Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4-3 that that it was unconstitutional to bar same-sex couples from marriage.

The court definitively reaffirmed the decision last week, clearing the way for the first state-recognized gay marriages in U.S. history to start taking place in May.

Rep. Philip Travis, a Democrat who sponsored the original ban on gay marriage, said the compromise proposal would have asked voters to decide on two potentially conflicting initiatives — a ban on gay marriage and the legalization of civil unions — with one vote.

"It goes beyond what the people wish to vote on," Travis said. "It is almost like offering a true-false question. How do you respond by voting yes or no at the ballot box?"

People from across the country were confronted with tight security and a throng of reporters as the lawmakers entered the volatile national debate over gay rights.

Impromptu rallies erupted outside the two-century-old building, and hundreds of people lined both sides of the street, holding signs, waving flags and eliciting honks from passing cars.

The chants broke out spontaneously in pockets up and down the street, and included, "Hey hey, ho ho homophobia's got to go."

Three arrests, two accidents reported

• Arrests

Three arrests were made in Snyder on Wednesday.

At 8:55 a.m. officers arrested a 21-year-old woman in the 3900 block of College Avenue on a city warrant for public intoxication.

DPS troopers arrested a 29-year-old man at 10:47 a.m. in the 900 block of 25th St. on a Brady County warrant for motion to revoke probation.

At 10:20 p.m. officers arrested Olga Castenada, 36, 312 25th St., on a felony warrant for parole violation.

• Accidents

At 10:18 a.m. Tuesday, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at College Ave. and 25th St. The mishap involved a 1982 Olds Delta 88 driven by Adislado Ramon Garcia, 68, 601 25th St. and a 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix driven by Tatiana Nail, 31, 2564 N. Ennis Creek Rd.

Officers responded to an accident at 11:50 a.m. Tuesday at 37th St. and Ave. V involving a 2001 Ford Taurus driven by Karen Marie Parker, 53, 2358 Sunset, and a 1999 Dodge Intrepid driven by Isaac Nolan Ramon, 17, 3797 Ave. V.

• Theft

A caller reported at 12:19 p.m. Wednesday that some items had been taken from a yard at 1001 24th St.

• Criminal mischief

At 1:36 p.m. Wednesday a caller reported some damaged furniture in the 1500 block of Coliseum Dr.

Officers responded to a report of damage to the Walls building on the Hwy. 84 Bypass at 5:51 p.m. Wednesday.

• Gas drive off

A clerk at McD's reported the theft of $6 worth of gasoline.

Obituaries

Mary Pearson

1926-2004

Mary Francis Pearson, long-time Snyder resident, died Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Pearson, 77, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Larry McAden, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at 4 p.m. in the Old Andrews Cemetery.

Born Aug. 25, 1926 in Snyder, she married James Elvis Pearson on July 27, 1946 in Snyder. He died in 1980.

A homemaker, Mrs. Pearson also was a former resident of Andrews and was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

She also was preceded in death by a son, James Timothy Pearson; and three brothers, Jeff Rogers, Wade Rogers and Dock Rogers.

Survivors include two sons, Mark Pearson and his wife, Roseann, and Clark Pearson, all of Houston; a sister, Tommy McGinty of Snyder; six grandchildren, Heidi, Rachel, Erin, Megan and Leif Pearson; and one great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Sosa

1929-2004

Alexandra R. Sosa, 74, died Tuesday, Feb. 10, at her home in Snyder.

Rosary for Mrs. Sosa is set for 7 this evening in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Deacon Frank Ortegon will officiate.

Mrs. Sosa

Funeral Mass is set for 2 p.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with the Rev. Eduardo Teo officiating. Interment will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born July 17, 1929 in Marion, Mrs. Sosa was preceded in death by her common-law husband, Juan Ramos; one son, Roy Sosa; and by four brothers; and four sisters.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Eva and Albino Aguirre of Snyder and Ninfa and Felix Martinez of Hermleigh; six sons and five daughters-in-law, Cruz and Rachel Sosa of New Braunfels, Andrew and Anna Sosa, Tony and Dominga Sosa, Adam and Diana Sosa, David and Gracie Sosa, all of Snyder, and Flavio Sosa of San Antonio; three brothers, Timoteo Rodriguez of Shertz, Pascual Rodriguez of Lake McQueeney and Delfino Rodriguez of West Palm Beach, Fla.; two sisters, Natividad Martinez of Loxahatchee, Fla., and Santos Coronado of Amarillo; 35 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

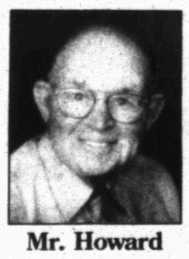
Pallbearers will be Felix Martinez Jr., Andrew Sosa Jr., Cruz Sosa Jr., Christopher Lee Sosa, Adam Sosa Jr., Marcelino Agurrie, Joey Sosa and David Sosa Jr.

Melvin Howard

1920-2004

Melvin Howard, long-time Snyder resident, died Wednesday, Feb. 11, at his home after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Howard, 83, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Revs. Danny Williams and Walter McCall will officiate. Burial will follow in the Ira Cemetery.



Mr. Howard

Born April 24, 1920 in Lawrence, Ala., Mr. Howard was a U.S. Army veteran and had retired after 33 years with Monsanto as an operator.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra McClellan of Midland; three sons, Richard Howard of Granbury, Melvin Howard of Montgomery and Anthony Howard of DeSoto; a sister, Flo Rasco of Snyder; a special friend, Coy Dee Mebane of Snyder; six grandchildren, Wendy Hunter of Snyder, Kelly Stultz of San Angelo, Nicole Van Buren of Cypress, Michael Howard and Ashley Howard, both of Desoto, and Elizabeth Howard of Montgomery, Texas; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Friends are contributing to Odyessy Hospice, 1510 S. Gregg in Big Spring, 79720.

Hazel Burg

1921-2004

DUBLIN — Hazel Murdoch Burg, the sister of Paul Gray and the aunt of Gordon Gray, both of Snyder, died Tuesday, Feb. 10 at her home in Dublin.

Funeral service for Mrs. Burg, 83, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Harrell Funeral Home Chapel with Steven Parker and James Cutrera officiating. Burial will follow in the DeLeon Cemetery.

Born Jan. 9, 1921 in Proctor, she married Marcus Burg on Jan. 25, 1990 in Stephenville.

A supervisor for the Green Thumb organization, she was a member of the Community Baptist Church in Dublin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rush and Gertie Gray; her first husband, R.G. Murdoch, in 1984; a daughter, Gerry Kay, on Oct. 2, 2003; four sisters; and one brother.

Survivors include her husband, Marcus Burg of Dublin; two sons, Ronald Murdoch of Abilene Johnny Gale Murdoch of Germany; two step-daughters, Kathy Stull of San Antonio and Joanie Burg of Washington, D.C.; two other brothers, R.O. Gray Jr. of Comanche and Jack Gray of Cisco; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15
34/26	44/34	62/34
Mostly cloudy with snow flurries and snow showers becoming more widespread .	Snow showers at times. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise 7:29 AM, Sunset 6:27 PM	Sunrise 7:28 AM, Sunset 6:28 PM	Sunrise 7:27 AM, Sunset 6:29 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
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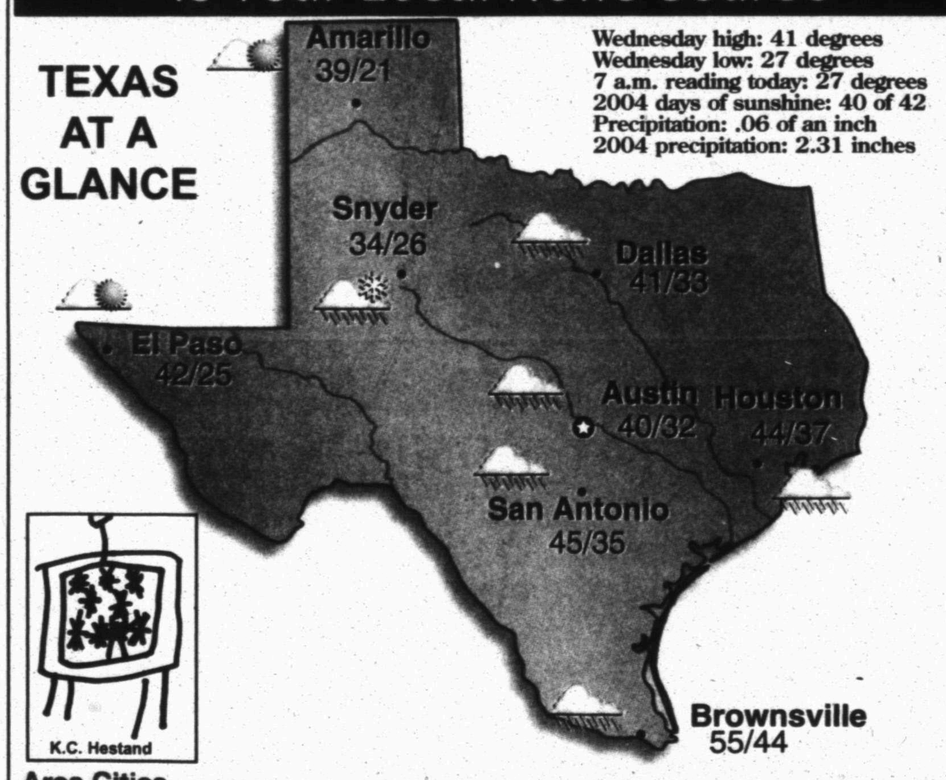
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Wednesday high: 41 degrees
Wednesday low: 27 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 27 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 40 of 42
Precipitation: .06 of an inch
2004 precipitation: 2.31 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	37	30	sn shower	El Paso	42	25	pt sunny	Midland	35	27	sn shower
Amarillo	39	21	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	39	27	sn shower	Raymondville	53	40	rain
Austin	40	32	rain	Gainesville	38	29	pt sunny	Rosenberg	44	36	rain
Beaumont	45	37	rain	Greenville	40	32	pt sunny	San Antonio	45	35	rain
Brownsville	55	44	rain	Houston	44	37	rain	San Marcos	42	32	rain
Brownwood	40	30	mixed	Kingsville	49	39	rain	Sulphur Springs	41	32	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	46	40	rain	Livingston	44	33	rain	Sweetwater	36	29	sn shower
Corsicana	41	32	rain	Longview	44	32	cloudy	Tyler	42	32	rain
Dallas	41	33	rain	Lubbock	37	25	sn shower	Weatherford	38	32	mixed
Del Rio	46	36	rain	Lufkin	45	32	rain	Wichita Falls	41	29	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	55	35	pt sunny	Houston	44	37	rain	Phoenix	63	39	sunny
Boston	44	28	pt sunny	Los Angeles	69	48	sunny	San Francisco	56	47	cloudy
Chicago	34	25	sunny	Miami	81	69	pt sunny	Seattle	50	39	rain
Dallas	41	33	rain	Minneapolis	31	20	mst sunny	St. Louis	38	27	sunny
Denver	42	22	sunny	New York	45	30	sunny	Washington, DC	48	29	sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15
3	5	5
Low	Moderate	Moderate

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

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