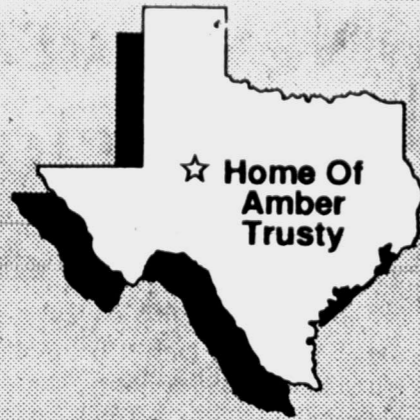


March 1,
1995

Vol. 45 No. 259
Snyder, Texas 79549
10 Pages, 50¢

West Texas
Intermediate Crude
\$18.50



WEDNESDAY

Snyder Daily News

Ask Us

Q—Is there a limit on the number of terms someone can serve on the school board?

A—According to the SISD early voting clerk, who consulted state officials, there is no limit on the number of terms someone can serve.

Local

Teachers

Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon Monday in the Senior Center.

Barbecue

Noah Project is sponsoring a barbecue luncheon Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Church. Plates are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children age 12 and under.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service will be held at the First Christian Church at 7:15 this evening. Holy communion will be served. The public is invited.

Musical

"From Where I Stand," the sixth grade musical, will be held 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Worsham Auditorium. Admission is 50 cents per person at the door.

Graduation

Parents of Snyder High School graduating seniors are encouraged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school student center to plan graduation activities. Senior students are also invited to attend and give their input.

Pancakes

The annual Kiwanis Pancake Feast will be held from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the West Elementary cafeteria.

Tickets are \$3.50 per person and allow the purchaser's name to be put in a drawing for a color television set.

Tax help

Dot Stokes, AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, is offering free tax help to low or moderate-income taxpayers age 60 and older Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2603 Ave. M., through April 15.

Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Tuesday, 38 degrees; low, 27 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Wednesday, 27 degrees; no measurable precipitation; total precipitation for 1995 to date, 1.71 inches.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy with freezing rain likely. Low near 30. East wind 10-20 mph. The chance of measurable precipitation is 70 percent. Thursday, cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain, mixed with freezing rain early. High in the mid 40s. Southeast wind 10-20 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 6:42. Sunrise Thursday, 7:10. Of 59 days in 1995, the sun has shone 55 days in Snyder.

Balanced budget showdown delayed

Amendment proponents search for 67th vote to push it through

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supporters of a balanced-budget amendment today delayed a showdown roll call on the measure until at least Thursday as they sought the single, decisive vote needed to avert a stunning defeat for a premier Republican priority.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., today abruptly put the Senate into recess as amendment proponents searched for the 67th vote needed to ship the measure to the states for ratification. They were offering a plan to wavering Democrats that would gra-

dually protect Social Security from budget cuts.

"This is no time for retreat," Dole said as he recessed the Senate to provide time for the private negotiations.

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, a chief sponsor of the amendment, said he believed a final vote would be held within the next two days, even if the measure might lose. Dole was more vague, saying, "it could" when asked if the vote would occur this week.

Craig said the Social Security proposal was being offered to at

least four wavering Democrats: Sens. Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Dianne Feinstein of California and Harry Reid of Nevada.

"This is a strong offer," Craig said in an interview. "If they're serious about wanting to protect Social Security, they'll have to take a serious look at the proposal. If they're just using it for politics, it won't work."

But in a morning news conference minutes before Dole recessed the Senate, Conrad and Dorgan continued to say they would not

support the balanced-budget amendment unless the GOP protects the Social Security trust fund from spending cuts.

"This is not about exempting Social Security," said Dorgan. "This is about whether we will be honest and true to our word about creating a trust fund for future generations. ... I don't intend to budge on this issue."

Conrad also said he would not vote for the amendment as presently written.

"So we have a fundamental difference here with those who are

promoting this amendment," he said. "It is just fundamentally wrong to take Social Security trust fund monies to balance the budget."

On the Senate floor, the mood was still bitter from Tuesday night, when Dole suddenly called off a promised, final vote on the amendment and recessed the chamber until today.

Dole said today that even if the amendment is defeated, he'd leave it on the Senate calendar, available to be called up for a vote during the 1996 election season.

Committee endorses handgun bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A Senate committee has endorsed legislation that would allow licensed Texans to carry concealed weapons.

The measure by Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, was forwarded to the full Senate after 5-1 passage Tuesday by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. The vote came at the end of a 7 1/2-hour public hearing.

Patterson told the committee the bill restores to citizens their right to bear arms, which is provided under the Texas Constitution.

"We're allowing citizens to do what the constitution already says they have a right to do," he said.

Opponents said the bill would return Texas to the days of the Wild West.

"More guns, more bullets being fired, more instances of anxiety and more instances of momentary animosity escalating into showdowns and ambushes. ... This scenario is one of greater danger, not greater safety," said Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, who cast the dissenting vote.

West filed a bill Tuesday that would allow Texas citizens to vote

on the issue in a statewide referendum. He said he also would try to amend Patterson's bill to make it contingent upon voter approval.

Texas is one of 12 states that prohibit carrying handguns in most circumstances. Current law restricts citizens to having handguns at home or on other premises under their control and while hunting, fishing and traveling. A handgun can be in an automobile only in the trunk.

If Patterson's bill is passed and signed into law, eligible Texans could apply for a license to carry concealed handguns.

Applicants would have to undergo a criminal background check and 10 to 15 hours of instruction and pass an exam in handgun proficiency. A four-year permit would cost \$140.

The measure restricts the carrying of handguns at certain places, including government buildings, schools and businesses that derive at least 51 percent of their income from the sale of alcohol.

Patterson said he believes allowing Texans to arm themselves would deter crime. "I truly, sincerely believe this will make things safer, not less safe."



ALLAN POLUNSKY

Polunsky new TDCJ chair

AUSTIN — Allan Polunsky, the only Republican on the nine-member criminal justice board, has been named chairman by Gov. George W. Bush.

Polunsky, a San Antonio attorney, has just completed a six-year term on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice board and has been reappointed to a new term.

Polunsky replaces Carol S. Vance, a former Harris County district attorney, as chairman.

The terms of Robert Wilson of Lubbock and Thomas Dunning of Dallas also expired in February. It is expected that Bush will name Republicans to fill those six-year terms.

"Gov. Bush and I share a conservative law-and-order agenda," Polunsky said. "That is what the citizens of Texas have demanded, and I'm committed, along with him and members of the legislature, to delivering this."

Polunsky was on the board in 1987 when Snyder was selected as a site for the Price Daniel Unit. Polunsky was on the site visit team, attended the ground breaking and grand opening and later spoke at a graduation of correctional officers at Western Texas College.

Last November, when Snyder's Learning Resource Center and Chapel received board approval, it was Polunsky who praised Snyder for its partnership with the TDCJ.

Clay Walker to perform in coliseum on March 25

Snyder Chamber of Commerce officials are finalizing details for country-western star Clay Walker to perform March 25 at Scurry County Coliseum.

"We are excited about bringing a performer such as Clay Walker to Snyder," said chamber manager Donna Fowler. "This is the quality of show that we are striving to attract."

She added that this will be the same show Walker performs in larger cities and will not be a "scaled down" version. "It will be about a three-hour show with laser lights — the works," said Fowler.

Among Walker's hits are "Live Until I Die," "Where Do I Fit In The Picture," and "If I Could Make A Living."

Ticket information will be

released as soon as it becomes available, chamber officials said.



CLAY WALKER

Early Bird swap meet will open here Friday

Snyder Wheels' annual Early Bird Swap Meet will be held Friday through Sunday at the coliseum annex building.

No admission will be charged at the event, which will include hundreds of vendors with automotive items and an antique car display. Hours will be from 7 a.m.

until approximately 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7 a.m. until afternoon on Sunday.

Booths are available for those wishing to sell vehicle-related items. They are \$20 for inside, \$17 for covered and \$15 for outside. For information, call Bettie Greene at 573-8309.

'Master Harold' debuts tonight

Athol Fugard's "Master Harold...and the boys" begins a four-show run tonight on the Western Texas College campus.

The play deals with race relations in South Africa prior to the banishment of its governmental policy of apartheid.

Performances will continue through Saturday in the Fine Arts Theatre at 8 o'clock nightly.

The play revolves around a 16-year-old white boy who has given himself the title of "Master Harold." The "boys" are two black men.

Cast as Hally, the 16-year-old, is J.J. Hawkins of Graham. The other roles are played by Marlon Hall of Vernon, who portrays a non-violent 50-year-old, and L.S. McClain of Snyder.

Play director Michael Endy said the play is intended for mature audiences. It contains adult themes and is not intended for children.

Tickets are \$5 for adults. WTC students and faculty are admitted free. Reservations may be made by calling 573-8511, ext. 234.



NEW PRACTICE — Dena A. Reecer announces she is opening her law practice in Snyder. She is a graduate of the Texas Tech School of Law and the University of Texas. She previously served as the assistant district attorney for the 110th District and county attorney protem in Floyd County. She and her husband Jeff, who is chief executive officer at Cogdell Hospital, have a two-and-a-half year old daughter, Chloe. (SDN Staff Photo)

The SDN Column

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "If computers get any more powerful, we should organize them into committees. That'll do 'em in."

Before and after, but especially during the legislative sessions, people who vote go to Austin and try to impress the people they elected.

It's call lobbying, and a delegation from West Texas, including folks from Snyder, will be in the state capital next Tuesday for Texas Midwest Day, sponsored by the Texas Midwest Community Network.

There is debate on whether City Manager John Gayle should be allowed back in the Capitol. A few weeks ago, Gayle was in Austin attending a solid waste seminar. When finished, Gayle decided to drop by the Capitol and see State Rep. David Counts.

When finished, Gayle asked a woman in the office for directions to the men's room. Following di-

rections in the newly-renovated Capitol is not an easy task.

Gayle stepped off the elevator and opened what he thought was the correct door. Instead, he found himself in the capital rotunda where memorial services for former Agriculture Commissioner John White were in progress.

Trying to be inconspicuous, Gayle sunk into a nearby seat and started to gaze around the room, recognizing Gov. Bush, Lt. Gov. Bullock, Jesse Jackson and several other dignitaries.

Right in the middle of the eulogy, Gayle's beeper sounded, alerting him to call his secretary, Gloria Myers, back in Snyder.

Before Gayle could get the beeper shut down, two DPS officers in charge of Capitol security came and escorted Gayle to a telephone.

Gayle did make the call to Gloria, but not without instructions to wait at least 30 more minutes before beeping him again.

You can take the boy out of the country...

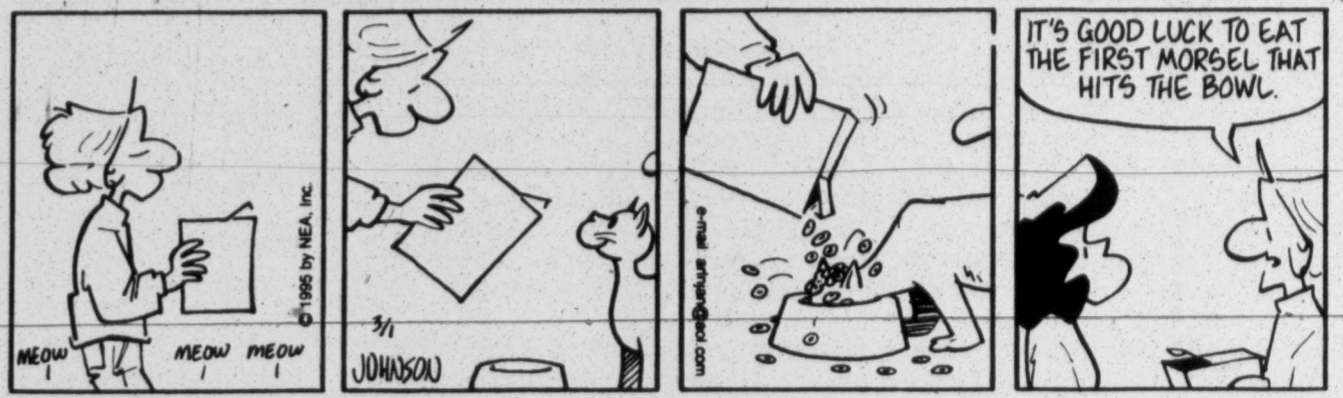
Comics Page



THE BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



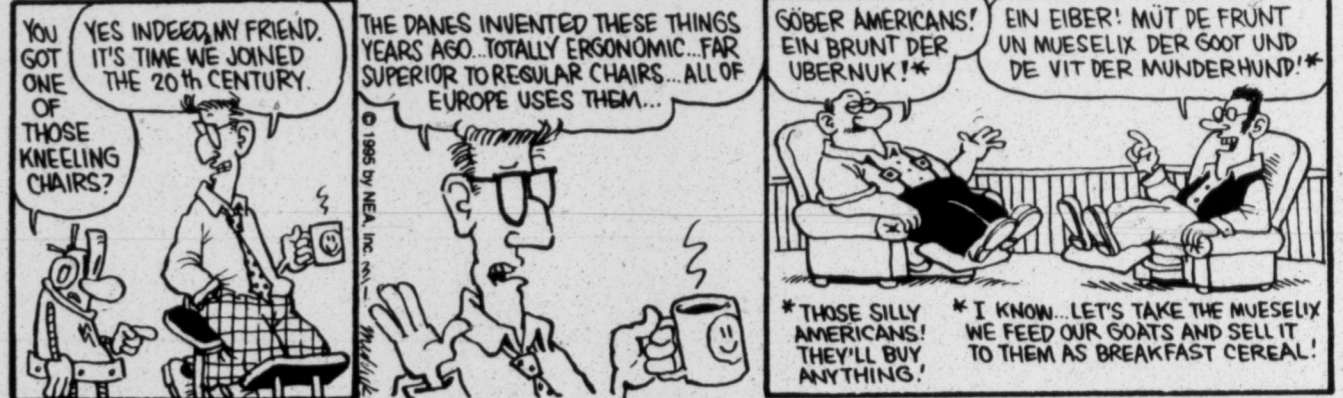
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Barney Google and Snuffy Smith® By Fred Lasswell



ROBOTMAN® by Jim Meddick



BLONDIE® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



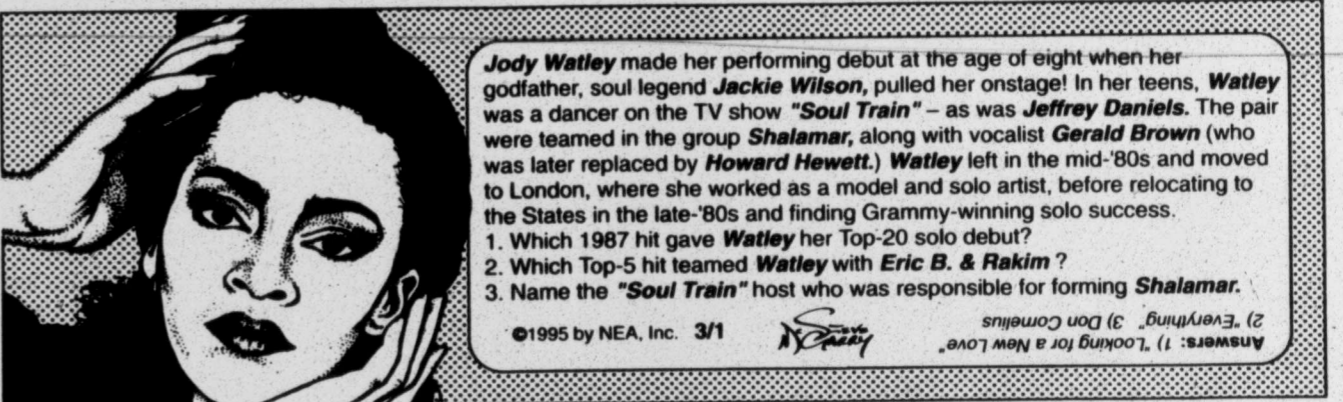
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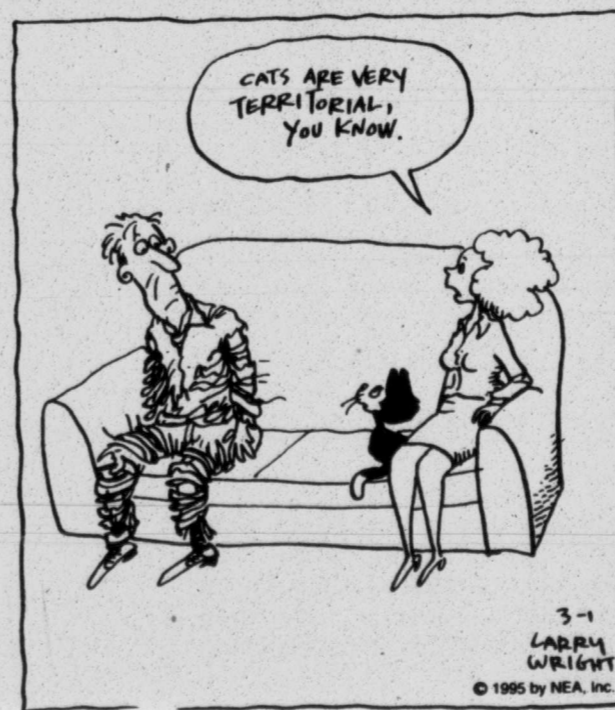
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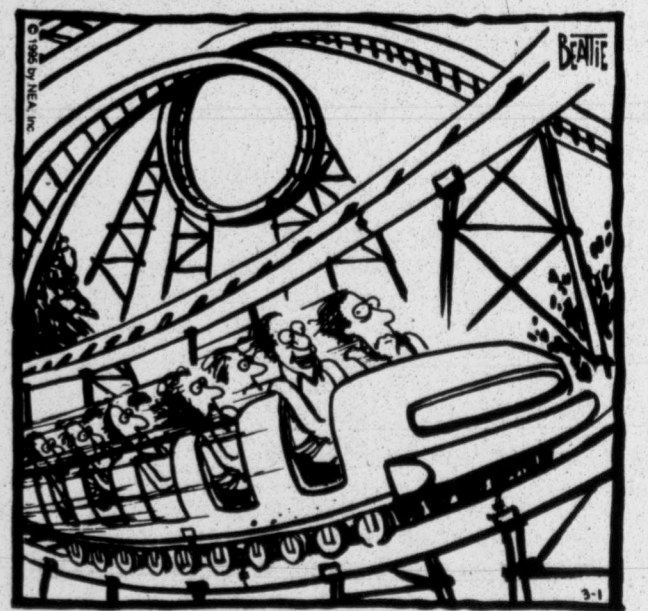
POP CULTURE™ by Steve McGarry



KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright



BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Coal or oil
- 5 Money supply
- 9 Lion's name
- 12 School of modern art
- 13 Olive genus
- 14 Terminate
- 15 Filled with wonder
- 17 From — — Z
- 18 Garden tobi
- 19 Right (sl.)
- 21 Baker's unit
- 24 Concerning (2 wds.)
- 25 Strange
- 27 Terrible
- 31 Pen point
- 32 Stitched
- 34 Memo
- 35 Spiral
- 37 Bag
- 39 Map abbr.
- 40 Boredom
- 42 Not as old
- 44 Resorts

DOWN

- 46 People of action
- 47 Joined
- 50 Edible rootstock
- 51 Pro —
- 52 Roman arena
- 57 Sixth sense (abbr.)
- 58 Busy as —
- 59 Finnish first name
- 60 Draft agcy.
- 61 Penny
- 62 A Scott
- 1 Drug agcy.
- 2 Labor org.
- 3 Dutch town
- 4 Whips
- 5 Golf cry
- 6 Eskimo knife
- 7 Head supports
- 8 North or South —
- 9 Jacob's wife

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ELLS	ELLE	MIN
ESAU	ELLA	INE
RASP	LABRADOR	
OTT	ISM	KIND
DER	ARUI	
OLIVER	INNATE	
KITE	ITSA	MOB
ARC	AGEE	EBRO
YAHWEH	NICENE	
ESTE	MOR	
ELMS	MAP	GEL
PORTICOS	ERDA	
ILE	KATE	KIEV
CAD	EWER	ESNE

STUMPED?

Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones
1-900-454-3535 ext. code 100 • 95¢ per minute

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15			16						17	
		18			19		20			
21	22	23			24					
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47	48	49				50				
51			52		53		54	55	56	
57			58					59		
60			61					62		

LAFF-A-DAY



DENNIS THE MENACE



"I thought watching your brother's parrot would be cute, but that foul language has got to stop!"

"THAT'S A NEST, JOEY. IT'S WHAT BIRDS LIVE IN UNTIL THEY CAN AFFORD A BIRDHOUSE."



Scurry County Country



CFSA Report

By Joe B. Hefner,
Acting CFSA Executive Director

"Producers who sign up for the 1995 farm programs and who have at least minimal crop insurance may receive 50 percent of their estimated deficiency payments in advance on their crops of wheat, feed grains and upland cotton," said Joe B. Hefner, Acting County Executive Director for the Scurry County Consolidated Farm Service Agency.

"Among other recently announced provisions of the 1995 farm programs the prohibition on planting designated crops, such as soybeans and other oilseeds, on up to half the Acreage Conservation Reserve (ACR)," said Hefner. This decision was in response to the weakening soybean market.

Oats continue to be allowed as a cover crop on ACR, but it cannot be harvested. A new feature this year permits the planting on flex acres of fast growing trees for fuel — known as biomass.

The planting of experimental or industrial crops on ACR and conserving use acres will be permitted. These crops include castor beans, chia, crotaalaria, coiffeur, hesperaloe, kenaf, lesquerilla, meadowfoam, milkweed, plantago ovato, sesame and crabe.

Farmers who receive U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits from crop stabilization and certain other programs must have at least minimum, called catastrophic or

CAT, insurance to receive benefits from programs," said Hefner. "They can get CAT insurance from the county office or from a private insurance agent for a nominal fee. The small fee is waived in the case of limited resource farmers." A limited resource farmer is one who had a gross annual income of less than \$20,000 in 1993 and 1994 or a producer on a farm of less than 25 acres, where crops constitute the majority (not to exceed \$20,000) of the producer's income. Limited resource farmers must provide proof of qualifying income or certury on the application that he or she qualifies for the waiver of fees. They are urged to check the free insurance option at their local CFSA (formerly ASCA) county office.

TDCJ to purchase record 4.7 million pounds of beef

HUNTSVILLE — The Texas prison system will buy a record 4.7 million pounds of beef to feed state prison inmates during the coming year.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials say the all-time high beef buys are needed to feed the 146,000 inmates TDCJ will house when the current prison and state jail expansion program is completed this year.

Additionally, 20,000 prison staff members are expected to buy their meals daily in prison dining halls. That adds up to a half a million meals a day or more than 181 million meals a year.

The record beef purchases will be needed despite the agency's recently announced plans to use a vegetable protein meat supplement in some dishes.

TDCJ has used meat extenders for several years. The agency went to the new supplement VitaPro last month when TDCJ became the national distributor of the product to prisons in other states. TDCJ's profits from this venture will help pay for prison costs, thus saving Texas tax dollars.

The agency's involvement with the protein supplement will not change its double distinction as both a major beef purchaser and a major beef producer.

As a beef producer, the agricultural division of TDCJ runs about 10,000 head of mother cows, primarily Brangus and Braford, on its lands at 13 prison sites and expects to sell about 8,500 calves on the open market in the coming year.

Eye on Texas

Isn't that juicy!

Shoppers in Texas grocery stores buy produce grown within the state as well as imports from other states and countries. Some of the winter season fruits and vegetables in Texas markets that may have been grown in Mexico include:

- Bananas
- Pineapples
- Strawberries
- Tangerines
- Watermelons
- Asparagus
- Tomatoes
- Eggplants
- Cucumbers
- Onions
- Green onions
- Carrots
- Green beans
- Green peppers



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and U.S. Department of Agriculture.



The Emu Report

By Shirley Pate, Pate Emu Farm

Emu Today and Tomorrow published an article by Deborah Stuard, regarding assisting malpositioned chicks to hatch. She covered the definition of malpositioned, as any chick that does not pip his beak into the air sac end of the egg. A chick needs that extra air to breathe as he exerts the extra effort required to break through the egg shell. He can breathe through the membrane, but the extra exertion can cause him to suffocate for lack of oxygen.

She stated, "many believe that genetics contribute to malpositioning and that the malpositioned chick should not be assisted to carry on poor genetics. But with our industry still learning, I do not believe genetics play as big a factor as poor egg management does."

Weight loss plays a role in the positioning of the chick. Eggs that lose less than 10% of their initial weight often produce chicks that are swollen and cannot maneuver and turn as a healthy chick can.

Egg turning can make a difference in egg management. Stuard believes that the emu species may require a 180 degree turning during incubation. Maria Minnaar also shares this idea. She changed her tray positions mid-season in 1994 and experienced better results from eggs that were only turned twice a day but given a complete top to bottom 180 degree turn.

The more difficult question is how do you know that a chick is malpositioned? You can tell if the chick has internally pipped on his

own if the egg no longer tilts up on the air sac end and the tapping sounds different.

Once you have determined beyond a reasonable doubt that the chick is malpositioned, the next thing to do is break a small, no bigger than a nickel at first, hole in the air sac end of the egg. Stuard presses her finger against the membrane to feel for the point of the beak, the bird will naturally press back, if you feel the beak, great! Simply moisten the membrane with sterile water and tape the shell shut to hold in moisture and continue to wait for the little guy to hatch.

If no beak is found, she moistens the membrane with Neosporin ointment. It is an oil-based antibiotic that makes the white membrane transparent and allows you to see through to the chick.

If no beak is apparent she breaks the shell away being careful not to tear the inner clear membrane and the network of blood vessels.

Once the head is located, slip

your finger into the inner membrane being careful to push aside any blood vessels. Quickly slip your finger in and pull out the head. Now the chick has all he needs, fresh air and a yolk sac for nourishment. He needs to remain in the shell until he has internalized the yolk sac. Moisten the membrane with antibiotic ointment and gauze and tape the chick back into the shell with only the head remaining out.

From Stuards overall observation, after being removed from the hatcher, there was no noticeable difference in the chicks that were malpositioned and those that hatched on their own.

Hopefully this will help some of you if you have the misfortune to have a malpositioned chick. For further information call, Pate Emu Farm, 915-573-5340.

Because founder Robert Baden-Powell believed in ambidexterity, the Boy Scout handshake is performed with the left hand.

Cannon bulls listed in report

Joe Canon, of Gail, owns 2 bulls listed in the 1995 Spring Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association headquartered in St. Joseph, Mo.

Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on more than 3,800 sires.

The information is in the form of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). It is compiled from Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) submitted by breeders to the American Angus Association.

EPDs are excellent indicators of the genetic merit animals have for specific traits, says John Crouch, director of performance programs for the American Angus Association. When using EPDs with high accuracy values, cattle producers can depend on EPDs for predicting performance.

Traits in which EPDs are available include birth weight, weaning weight, milk, maternal and yearling weight as well as carcass traits including marbling, rib eye area and external fat thickness.

Lubbock cattle auction

The market was steady to lower on a run of 1,076 head of cattle for the Feb. 23 sale. Cows steady to \$1 cheaper, yearlings and calves \$2 to \$3 lower. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows, (high dressing - cutters - utility) were 40.50-46.50; canners and low cutters, 35 to 40 and slaughter bulls 50 to 58.50.
Feeder steers choice: 300 to 400, 85 to 105; 400 to 500, 80 to 95.50; 500 to 600, 73 to 80.50; 600 to 700, 68.50 to 72.50; 700 to 800, 65 to 72.50.
Feeder heifers choice: 300 to 400, 75 to 85.50; 400 to 500, 72.50 to 82.50; 500 to 600, 68.50 to 75.50; 600 to 700, 65 to 73.50; 700 to 800, 62.50 to 70.50.
Feeder bulls good and choice: 500 to 600, 65.50 to 77.50; 700 to 800, 62.50 to 70.50.
Cpw and calf pairs: good 600 to 1,000, grade 400 to 575.
Springers 350 to 750; baby calves 100 to 190; doodlers 125 to 225.

Colorado City livestock auction

COLORADO CITY — All classes of cattle were steady on 600 head sold at the Colorado City Livestock Auction on Saturday, Feb. 25.
Heifers: 200-400, 80-95; 400-600, 72-80; 600-800, 68-72.
Steers: 200-400, 90-115; 400-600, 80-90; 600-800, 70-80.
Bred Cows Good: 600-700; Older: 400-500.
Pairs: Good: 700-800; Older: 500-600.
Packer cows: Good: 44-46; Fat: 38-43; Old Shelley: 20-35.
Good packer bulls: 50-61.

Sweetwater cattle auction

The market was steady to weaker on a run of 987 head of cattle for the Wed. Feb. 22 sale. Stocker calves were steady with Feeder cattle 2 cwt lower. Pairs and bred cows steady with packer cows and bulls steady.

- STEERS
- 300-400: 90-105.
- 400-500: 82-95.
- 500-600: 75-84.
- 600-700: 68-75.
- HEIFERS
- 300-400: 82-92.
- 400-500: 73-80.
- 500-600: 68-75.
- 600-700: 64-70.
- BRED COWS
- Good: 500-600.
- Older and plainer: 375-500.
- Pairs
- Good: 700-850.
- Older and plainer: 550-700.
- PACKER COWS
- Good: 42-48.
- Low yielding: 37-42.
- PACKER BULLS
- Good: 55-60.
- Low yielding: 50-55.

THE TEA ROOM AT NATHALIE'S


This Week's Specials
Thursday - Chicken in White Wine
Friday - Farmer's Pork Roast
Saturday - Soups, Salads, & Quiches
Monday - Pecan Chicken
Tuesday - Hot Baked Ham & Cheese Hoagies Served With Tomato Herb Soup
Wed. - Thai Pork w/Spicy Peanut Sauce

Our Jewelry Only Booth 40% OFF For A Short Time Only
•Posts •Loops •Collar Clutches
•Bracelets •Pins & Barrettes

Lunch Served 11:00 - 2:00
Reservations Recommended But Not Required
Call 573-6437 1803 25th Street
Carry Out Available

MCDONALD'S OF SNYDER HAPPY HOUR
Mon.-Fri. 2:30/4:30 p.m.
2 For 1 - Buy Any Non-Discounted Burger At Regular Price And Receive Second One FREE!!!

If You Hurry, You Can Catch The Tail End Of This Game.



ARMADILLO DOLLARS LOTTERY

PRIZE BOX


END OF GAME NOTICE

Tickets for Armadillo Dollars are going fast. But you can still catch one and redeem any winners until August 28, 1995. (The game closes officially on March 1, 1995.)

To play Armadillo Dollars, just match three armadillos in a vertical, horizontal or diagonal row, and you could win up to \$10,000.

You can claim prizes up to \$40 wherever you see the official Texas Lottery sign. The \$1,000 and \$10,000 prizes must be claimed at any of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers, or by mail using a claim form available at any Texas Lottery retailer.

Questions, call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO.



TEXAS LOTTERY

Overall odds of winning, 1 in 4.70. Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1995 Texas Lottery

Book inspired 'tough love' welfare approach

WASHINGTON (AP) — To fight poverty in the 19th century, Americans shipped street children west to work as unpaid farm hands, paid people to take indigents into their homes, and crowded the wretched into poorhouses.

That was better than the way America treats the poor today, says author Marvin Olasky. His book inspired House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "tough love" approach to welfare reform.

"It is one of the great works of our time," Gingrich said recently about Olasky's "The Tragedy of American Compassion."

Olasky's conclusions about early American poverty-fighting differ starkly from those of other academics who study the same events.

Olasky, a journalism history professor at the University of Texas and editor of World, a Christian news magazine, researched old newspaper accounts and the journals of early American religious leaders and philanthropists.

He praises religious-based charities that roused platoons of volunteers to give love and personal guidance to the "worthy poor" — those willing to work and accept spiritual salvation.

Able-bodied men who refused to work for their supper were turned away, he said. The charities believed giving handouts only encouraged begging, he said.

"We know how to fight poverty," Olasky told a congressional committee in January. "We had a successful anti-poverty program a century ago."

Other historians paint a bleaker picture.

"There is a very strong historical consensus" that efforts of charities and local governments failed to reduce the number of people in poverty, said David Hammack, professor of social policy history at Case Western Reserve University.

Olasky believes most modern American anti-poverty efforts are misguided and destructive.

He opposes churches giving soup and sandwiches to the homeless without requiring work in exchange, just as he opposes government welfare programs.

"Now we may miss fewer people materially, but we have a system devoted to sustaining them in poverty," Olasky said in an interview.

Giving food to a homeless alcoholic allows him to spend his change on alcohol and doesn't push him into treatment or religious salvation, Olasky said.

But there have always been some charities that gave aid to all who came. Today, religious groups of many faiths run

America's best-known programs to give emergency food and shelter, without making moral demands.

"We do this because we value every human being and believe they are made in the image of God," said the Rev. Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA. The group also offers alcoholism treatment.

Olasky says other historians

have either ignored or smugly rejected "pre-20th century moral understandings."

Some of his unusual interpretations:

—Historians have generally described poorhouses as filthy, degrading institutions that herded together children, the elderly, the disabled, alcoholics, the mentally ill, the shiftless and the destitute.

Olasky calls them a "despera-

tion safety net" for the idle whom church volunteers considered unworthy of help. Because of their "poor reputation," he writes, "no one would be attracted into pauperism."

—He praises as selfless souls those who took the poor into their homes and received county payments to cover their expenses. But many ruthless people abused the poor to turn a profit, said Peter

Dobkin Hall, a Yale University researcher who studies the history of nonprofit groups.

"In New England in the 1700s, they auctioned off the town poor to the lowest bidder, the person willing to take them in for the least money," Hall said.

You can tell spring is almost upon us. The highway is packed with blooming idiots.

DATE BOOK

March 1, 1995



Today is the 60th day of 1995 and the 71st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1932, Charles Lindbergh's infant son was kidnapped from his New Jersey home.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), sculptor; William Dean Howells (1837-1920), novelist-editor; Glenn Miller (1904-1944), musician; David Niven (1910-1983), actor; Ralph Ellison (1914-1994), writer; Robert Lowell (1917-1977), poet; Dinah Shore (1917-1994), singer, is 78; Harry Belafonte (1927-), singer, is 68; Robert Conrad (1935-), actor, is 60; Ron Howard (1954-), director, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1988, Wayne Gretzky notched his 1,050th assist, breaking Gordie Howe's NHL record. Howe took 26 years to do what Gretzky accomplished in nine.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All pro athletes are bilingual. They speak English and profanity." — Gordie Howe

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1980, a tornado in Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, Fla., blew a woman off her sixth floor balcony and left a small fishing boat hanging from power lines. In tornadoes, remember to get as close to the ground as possible.

SOURCE: 1995 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: New moon.



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Dear Abby



Teen Couple Ask for Advice On How Far Is Far Enough

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are both 16, and we are now wondering in this day of undefined morals how far to go with each other.

We have both been raised to believe that sex should wait until after marriage. Other than that, we are not sure what is socially acceptable regarding this rather touchy subject.

We would appreciate any information you could give us. Please sign us ...

NEED TO KNOW

DEAR NEEDS: If you believe that sex should wait until after marriage, apply the "domino theory" to anyone to whom you are attracted: Eye contact leads to a smile, a smile leads to a kiss on the cheek, which leads to a kiss on the lips, which leads to caressing, then stroking, fondling, petting, and then total intimacy, which means all the way.

The sooner young lovers draw the line, the easier it is to apply the brakes.

P.S. Thanks for asking an important question.

...

DEAR ABBY: Lately I have been getting all sorts of items through the mail that I neither need nor want.

I am asked to make a donation for a "worthy cause." The last gift had my name stamped on it in "gold."

Every time I respond to something like this, I get an assortment of other "gifts" I do not need.

The letter from these people says I may return it, but I don't see why I should spend my money returning something I didn't ask for in the first place.

What should I do?

ON THE SPOT

DEAR ON THE SPOT: You are not obligated to return anything you did not order.

You are free to throw it away, give it away or use it. The choice is yours.

...

DEAR ABBY: I am old enough to remember World War II, and when the enemy captured the "Spice Islands," this made spices scarce, including black pepper.

At that time, some restaurants answered the problem by putting coarsely ground black pepper in shakers with small holes.

Recently an eatery in my town has done the same thing. My question: Is it "ladylike" to unscrew the top of the pepper shaker to get the pepper out?

NO LADY IN CARSON CITY

DEAR NO LADY: Absolutely ... and the salt, too, if necessary.

...

DEAR ABBY: Why do some people always have to brag about their kids? I have a relative who bores people to death about how terrific his kids turned out. When they were in school, their teachers had never seen such brilliant students. And now that they're working, they have absolutely saved their companies from bankruptcy. You can't even say hello to this relative without hearing a broken record of his children's accomplishments.

Abby, isn't bragging about your own a little on the tacky side?

BORED TO TEARS

DEAR BORED: Yes, but be charitable and try not to look bored. What may sound like a broken record to you is a parent's favorite tune.

...

For Abby's favorite family recipes, send a long, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet No. 1, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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