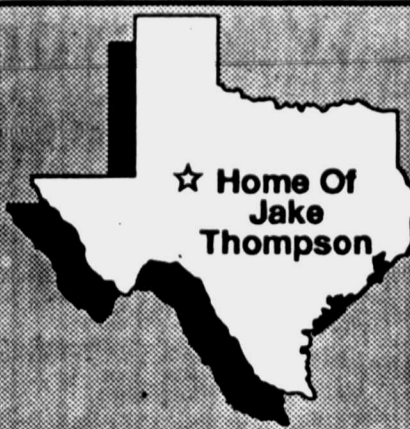


Mar. 17,
1995

Vol. 45 No. 273
Snyder, Texas 79549
10 Pages, 50¢

West Texas
Intermediate Crude
\$18.20



FRIDAY

Snyder Daily News

Ask Us

Q—When Kmart closed Monday night, had they sold everything in the store?

A—According to store officials, the decision to close the store on Monday night instead of Tuesday resulted in several hundred dollars worth of children's clothes and other items remaining. Store employees pooled the money to buy the remaining items and donated them to the Noah Project.

Local

Class of '75

Snyder High School Class of 1975 will hold a meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at Pizza Inn. For more information, call 573-7559.

WTC boosters

Western Texas College Booster Club will meet at noon Monday at Golden Corral. The public is invited. The luncheon is dutch treat.

AARP

AARP will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Senior Center for a covered dish meal. A program will follow. The board will meet at 11:15 a.m.

Youth Center

Scurry Youth Center board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Anyone interested in Scurry County youth is invited to attend.

Work day

Scurry Youth Center will have a work day from 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the center building, located behind the Dairy Queen on the East Highway. Those volunteering to help are asked to bring clean-up materials.

Catfish

Snyder Golden K Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a fresh catfish dinner from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sunday at the Senior Citizens Center. Price is \$6 per meal, free for children under age 6.

Skate Night

Snyder Noon Kiwanis Club is sponsoring another Skate Night from 6-9 p.m. Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum. Admission is \$2 for skaters and \$1 for spectators. Skates will not be furnished. Concessions will be available.

Play day

Scurry County Sheriff's Posse will host an open play day Saturday at the rodeo grounds on Gary Brewer Road. Registration begins at noon. Events start at 1 p.m. Call 573-8647, 573-6031 or 573-0718.

Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Thursday, 71 degrees; low, 44 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Friday, 44 degrees; no precipitation; total precipitation for 1995 to date, 2.14 inches.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear. Low 45-50. Light south wind. Saturday, mostly sunny. High around 80. South wind 10-20 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 6:53. Sunrise Saturday, 6:50. Of 75 days in 1995, the sun has shone 68 days in Snyder.

Committee approves \$77.6 billion budget

AUSTIN (AP) — Medicaid recipients, low-income children and the elderly will lose services under a proposed \$77.6 billion budget endorsed by House budget writers, social services advocates say.

The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved the proposed state budget for 1996-97 and sent the measure to the full House on a 26-0 vote.

The bill increases spending on public education, juvenile justice and health and human services. But it does not go far enough, critics say.

"If this represents the best we can do for people in Texas, it should make us question our priorities," said Dianne Stewart, director of the Center for Public Policy, a think tank that follows the budget process. "People have to be at the top of our list as a state if we want to maintain our economic prosperity into the next century."

Despite a 7.9 percent increase in spending on health and human services, the proposed budget is \$950 million short of the funding necessary to continue serving

those in need, Ms. Stewart said.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Junell, D-San Angelo, said the bill makes "education No. 1, which I think is important that that was our No. 1 goal ... and there's not going to be a need for any tax increase."

The proposed budget is an increase of 3.7 percent over current spending.

The plan recommends a \$1.8 billion boost in state spending on public education, including \$170 million to help school districts with construction needs. It also would fully fund public schools as required by the state finance law.

While schoolchildren are protected, teachers would not see a boost in their salaries under the proposal.

Spending on public safety and criminal justice would increase by nearly \$1 billion under the plan, with about 75 percent of that needed to open and operate new state prison beds.

Another \$56 million would go into Texas Youth Commission operations toward new juvenile

lockups.

The measure also would increase Medicaid spending by nearly \$1 billion.

The proposal represents a "reasonable spending plan," said Karen Hughes, spokeswoman for Gov. George W. Bush.

Junell acknowledged that the plan falls short of matching state agency requests for funds in human services, education and criminal justice.

He said an additional \$300 million may be needed to operate public schools because of enrollment increases; spending on Medicaid falls short \$270 million to \$311 million; and spending on juvenile justice is short another \$20 million to \$40 million.

Higher education officials also have estimated that they need an additional \$250 million to \$300 million to meet budget demands.

Under the proposed budget, the state still has \$200 million in available revenue that will be fought over, along with any additional dollars that can be scraped up.

Sex offenders

The Senate Criminal Justice Committee passed a bill in which a person who is convicted of a first-degree sex offense and has two previous felony convictions — one of which is a sex offense — would receive the automatic 40-year sentence. No time for good behavior would be credited. See story, Page 9.

Casino gambling

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock urged a Senate committee to take quick action on casino gambling, then move on. The chief Senate sponsor of casino gambling, Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said he would press only for a proposed constitutional amendment that, if approved by two-thirds of the Legislature and ratified by voters, would make casino gaming legal. See story, Page 9.

Juvenile justice reform

The House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues has endorsed a bill which calls for reforms to the juvenile justice system. The measure would allow 14 year-olds to be tried as an adult; add a dozen crimes to the current list of offenses for which youths would face incarceration in an adult prison; and allow law enforcement agencies to share photographs and fingerprints of youth offenders. See Story, Page 3.



WEST TEXAS SURPRISE — Through satellite wizardry, three area residents spoke briefly with Oprah Winfrey Thursday morning, each sharing memories of actor Brad Maule's youth. From left

are Dorothy Martin, longtime fan; Maule, Louise Williams of Rotan, former babysitter; and Jerry Worsham, Maule's drama instructor at Snyder High School. (SDN Staff Photo)

Maule makes surprise visit

By Shirley A. Gorman
SDN News Editor

It was quite a surprise! As three area residents shared early memories of Brad Maule with Oprah Winfrey via a satellite linkup Thursday morning, the former Camp Springs native, who

portrays Dr. Tony Jones on ABC's "General Hospital," waited just a few feet away for his cue to walk in and surprise his longtime friends.

Dorothy Martin's home in Camp Springs was temporarily turned into a television studio as the seg-

ment was taped. The program — about small town men who go on to do well — will be aired at a future date.

In addition to Mrs. Martin, a longtime fan who shared her three scrapbooks with the audience, (See MAULE, Page 8)

Roemisch files for HISD board

Joe Roemisch, a sales representative with Production Pump and father of two, filed this morning as a candidate for the Hermleigh school board.

Roemisch becomes the fourth candidate to file for one of two at-large places coming up for election May 6 on the HISD board.

Others who have filed are Tony Lambaren, Larry Bridges and Sherene Digby. They are seeking

the terms currently held by Carole Haynes and Neil Beeks. Neither incumbent has filed for reelection as yet. The deadline to file as a candidate is Wednesday.

Because the two seats are at-large, the two candidates who receive the most votes in the election will serve on the board.

Roemisch has two children attending Hermleigh School, a

DCOS board welcomes new member, pays bills

The Development Corporation of Snyder on Thursday welcomed new board member Roy McQueen and handled routine items.

Board members approved previous minutes and payment of bills, as well as a \$99 expenditure to allow executive director Doug Hutchinson to attend a management seminar.

McQueen, publisher of the Snyder Daily News, replaces David Holt on the board. Holt resigned last month in order to run for

mayor. Board members agreed to call a special meeting for 5 p.m. Wednesday to discuss bylaws and other pending business.

The board also met in executive session Thursday to discuss personnel and land acquisition. No action was taken when the board reconvened in open session.

All board members were present, to include McQueen, Jack Gorman, Roy Baze, Bill Seale and John Fagin.

No-pass, no play rule to be eased

AUSTIN (AP) — The no-pass, no-play rule would be eased, state control over schools would be loosened and parents would have more choices of where to educate their children under a bill passed by the Senate Education Committee.

The bill by committee Chairman Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, passed with a 6-1 vote shortly before midnight Thursday and next goes to the full Senate for consideration. Ratliff said that could be on March 27.

He said his bill is meant to allow school districts to design programs best-suited to meet their students' needs "and not try to meet the needs of some one-shoe-fits all system."

The House Public Education Committee, meanwhile, is working on its own education reform bill. On Thursday, it tentatively approved a more drastic change in the no-pass, no-play rule than did its Senate counterpart.

The rule — a key part of sweeping education reforms approved in 1984 — currently suspends failing students from extracurricular activities for six weeks.

The House committee proposal would cut the extracurricular suspension period to three weeks; allow students to practice or rehearse during the suspension period; and exempt advanced placement classes from the rule.

"We haven't heard one, one, one bit of data to support that this (no-pass, no-play rule) works. This was someone's well-intentioned idea 10 years ago," said Rep. Ric Williamson, R-Weatherford.

The House panel plans to take another look at the proposal after it is put into written form.

The Senate committee proposal, by comparison, would allow a school district by board policy to cut a student's extracurricular suspension to three weeks only the first time a student fails a class.

Students could get one shortened extracurricular suspension during junior high school, and one during high school under the Senate proposal. They could practice or rehearse during the three-week suspension.

Senate OKs concealed handgun bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The debate over carrying concealed weapons now moves to the Texas House.

Senators on Thursday voted 23-7 to allow Texans to obtain licenses to carry concealed weapons.

Approval came after a second day of emotional debate about whether having more guns on the streets would make Texans safer or endanger them further.

Under the bill, authored by Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, Texans would have to meet certain qualifications to be eligible for a handgun permit.

They would have to be legal Texas residents; at least 21 years old; never have been convicted of a felony; have not been delinquent in making a child support payment; and not be chemically dependent or of unsound mind.

They also would have to be trained, pass an exam and pay \$140 for a four-year permit.

The SDN Column

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A class reunion is a gathering where most of the people your own age look a lot older than you are."

Keeping tabs on our neighbors: Excuses are easy, but a minister in Granbury has challenged his flock to come up with some statements that would be most pleasing.

Roger Enlow, in the Hood County News, printed the "Top 10 Statements Pastors Would Like to Hear."

--Hey, it's my turn to sit in the front pew!
--I was so enthralled, I never noticed the sermon went overtime by 20 minutes

--Personally, I find witnessing more enjoyable than golfing.

--Preacher, I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to the TV evangelists.

--I volunteer to be the permanent Sunday School teacher for the junior high class.
--Forget the guidelines, let's pay him a living wage.

--I love it when we sing hymns we've never sung before.

--Since we're all here early, let's start the worship service early.

--Preacher, I'd like to pay your way to that Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

--Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment more than the church's annual business meeting.

But most people have their own interests and determination. Most of us are sort of like the little guy in Hereford who was bogging his heels at eating his vegetables.

After a long battle, the kid gave in to his mother and began to take tiny bites of the green stuff on his plate.

"Okay," he said. "I'll eat it so I can grow up and be tall and strong. But once I'm tall and strong, nobody is gonna make me eat my vegetables."

O.G. Nieman, in the Hereford Brand, says the kid is showing characteristics of a president.

Sessions added to law

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate has narrowly approved a bill that would expand the state Open Meetings Act to make certain that governmental bodies open briefing sessions to the public.

The bill by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, was sent to the House on a 17-11 vote.

Wentworth has said the measure stems from his "real life experience" as a county commissioner and university regent. He said he has seen a briefing evolve "into a debate or a deliberation on matters of public policy, including ... the expenditure of public money."

Wentworth's bill would require a briefing session to be subject to the same open government requirements — including posting notice — as other meetings if it met certain conditions.

It would apply if a quorum of the governmental body attends the session; members solicit information from, or give information to, a third person about public business or public policy; and the governmental body includes at least four members.

"It's real simple. It's just good business," Wentworth said Thursday. "All we're talking about is letting the people that pay the taxes ... watch us when we make decisions."

The bill is supported by Common Cause, a citizen group that wants to close what it calls the "loophole" that currently allows a quorum to legally meet behind closed doors with staff to receive information or ask questions, as long as there is no discussion between members of the governmental body.

Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, opposed the measure, calling it "a mess."



DEEP CREEK BEAUTIFICATION — Employees of Lawrence IGA spent part of last Saturday planting "Hometown Proud" trees along Deep Creek. Shown, left to right, are Reo Odorizzi, Andy Poe, C. R. Perez, Larry Hildebrand and Sammy Hancock. Planting the trees are Melissa Perez and Jennifer Perez. (SDN Staff Photo)

Public may be able to buy new-generation cable boxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — One day, consumers may be able to buy set-top boxes to bring cable TV, the Internet, home shopping and other services into their homes as easily as they can buy telephones now.

The nation's nearly 60 million cable subscribers rent set-top boxes now — if they need one — from their local cable companies.

Some of the boxes are needed so people without cable-ready sets can receive cable channels. Other boxes are needed for customers to receive scrambled cable channels — pay services like HBO and Showtime.

The House's top telecommunications policy-maker, Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va., wants consumers to have the option of buying these and the next generation of boxes that will have the power of computers and will let consumers send and receive an array of futuristic services.

Bliley and Rep. Edward

Markey, D-Mass., introduced a bill Thursday to do that, and predicted the legislation would make such devices less expensive.

The bill would require cable and other companies that plan to deliver entertainment and other services through television sets to let customers choose between renting and buying equipment.

It would give consumers the same freedom they have to buy telephones, answering machines and other communications equipment.

Bliley's proposal is not so much concerned with existing cable boxes — whose rental prices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission — as with the next generation of equipment.

Time Warner, overhauling cable systems in Ohio, Florida and elsewhere to provide interactive services, has angered some customers because the changes will require them to rent more expensive set-top boxes even if they don't want the new services.

"Virtually every area where Time Warner has rolled out boxes, we have gotten complaints," said Morgan Broman, spokesman for the FCC's Cable Services Bureau. The complaints have prompted a broader review of set-top box regulations, he said.

In addition to cable companies, telephone and wireless companies are building sophisticated networks to deliver video and other

services to consumers. Because companies are using their own technologies, consumers likely would need a box — whose price would not be regulated under current law — from each provider to receive service. That could be expensive.

"Experience has shown that retail availability lowers prices," said Markey, referring to what happened with consumer telephone equipment.

Smelling potential profits in sales of the new equipment, major electronics retailers — including Circuit City, Radio Shack, Sears and Montgomery Ward — are pushing for the bill.

"Retailers are always looking for the next product to sell," said Stephen Cannon, senior vice president and general counsel of Circuit City Stores Inc. "There's going to be a full panoply of devices that will be created. Things we haven't imagined yet."

The cable industry, which hadn't seen Bliley's bill, has had concerns.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The Pick 3 winning numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

8-8-0
(eight, eight, zero)

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

Waco woman claims half of lotto jackpot

AUSTIN (AP) — Vanessa Gilpin, a Waco truck stop waitress, won nearly \$19 million but kept working — at least until her shift was over.

Ms. Gilpin, 36, Thursday claimed half of the \$37.9 million Texas Lotto jackpot in Wednesday night's drawing. She will receive \$947,500 annual payments for 20 years.

"I was on the job when I found out I had won," Ms. Gilpin said after claiming her prize.

"So I just tucked the ticket back in my purse, called my boss to tell her and continued serving my customers until my shift ended at 11 o'clock," she said.

Her share of the jackpot totals \$18.95 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 5, 11, 17, 23, 41 and 46.

Lottery spokesman Keith Elkins said Ms. Gilpin's ticket was purchased in Elm Mont, just outside of Waco. A second winning ticket was purchased at Chapman's Fruit Stand in Waco, but the holder hasn't yet come forward, Elkins said.

There were 379 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth \$1,365. There were 20,838 tickets with four of six numbers, with each winning \$89. And there were 374,668 tickets sold with three of six numbers, with each worth an automatic \$3.

Dear Abby



Dad Hesitates to Tell Children About New Woman in His Life

by Abigail Van Buren

© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: I am a 60-year-old widow. Two years ago, I met a wonderful 65-year-old gentleman whose wife has been in a nursing home for two years. She has Alzheimer's disease and doesn't recognize him or their children.

This gentleman and I have developed a very close relationship, although we do not live together. We love each other very much; in fact, he recently bought me a new car and has included me in his will. My family has accepted him, and includes him in all our family gatherings.

He has told his friends about our relationship, but he refuses to tell his adult children because it might hurt them.

Abby, I don't expect to be included in their family gatherings, but I think they should know about our involvement. If he became ill, I'd like to care for him, or if he should die, they would find out about me because I am in his will.

Should he tell his children? Sign me ...

ANXIOUS IN SUN CITY

DEAR ANXIOUS: He most assuredly should tell his children about you. And don't be so sure that they don't already know.

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday I attended a funeral for a dear friend I have known for years. Several of

her survivors thanked me for coming to the funeral.

I am a middle-aged man and have been to several funerals lately, and at each one, I have been thanked by members of the family. I have to admit, I did not know how to respond to these "thanks." Please answer in your column, as I am sure there are others who need to know.

ALFRED PERRETT,
ANDALUSIA, ALA.

DEAR MR. PERRETT: You could say, "I am glad I was able to be here." If you know the person well, a smile and a pat on the hand — or even a hug — might be welcome.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Twenty years ago, I found this lovely Irish prayer whose author is unknown:

Take time to work,
It is the price of success.
Take time to think,
It is the source of power.
Take time to play,
It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read,
It is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly,
It is the road to happiness.
Take time to love and be loved,
It is the privilege of the gods.
Take time to share,
Life is too short to be selfish.
Take time to laugh,
Laughter is the music of the soul.

Have a joyous St. Patrick's Day, but if you're drinking, don't drive. And if you're driving, don't drink.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Rappers arrested

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Two members of the rap trio Digable Planets were arrested after a nightclub brawl.

Maryann "Ladybug" Viera and Ishmael "Butterfly" Butler face charges of obstructing governmental administration and trespassing. Viera also faces charges of resisting arrest, harassment and assault.

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BLONDIE® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



THE GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



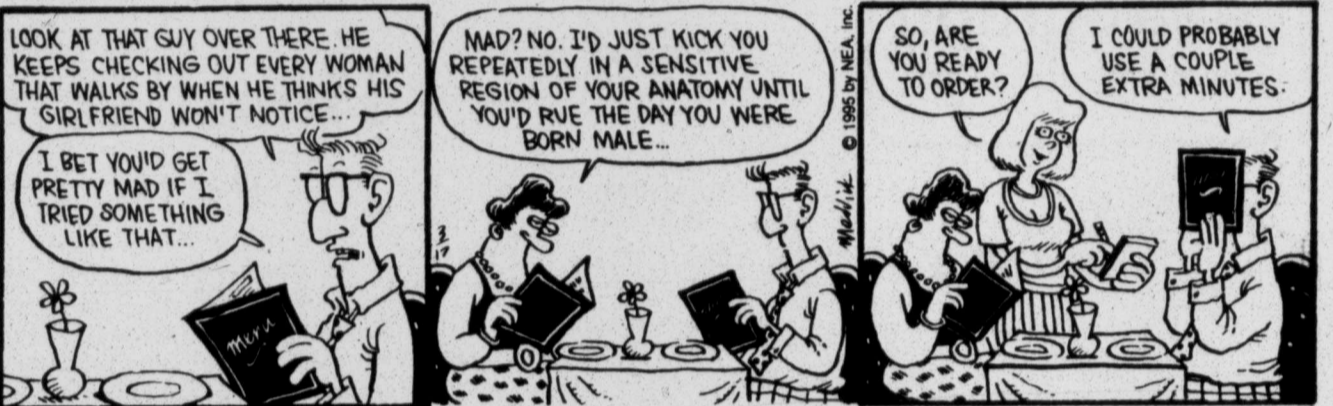
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POP CULTURE™ by Steve McGarry



NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 — Sumac
 - 4 Twirl
 - 8 Fireplace part
 - 12 Roman 3
 - 13 It's off to work —
 - 14 Director Jacques —
 - 15 Writing tool
 - 16 Sharp-sighted
 - 18 Go in
 - 20 Sweet potato
 - 21 Spring month
 - 22 Roman 56
 - 24 East Indian palm
 - 26 What landlubbers lack (2 wds.)
 - 30 Remains at ease
 - 33 Over there
 - 34 Ego
 - 36 Portico
 - 37 Zola heroine
 - 39 Western marsh plant
- DOWN**
- 1 Cry of pain
 - 2 Appearance
 - 3 Slangy contraction
 - 4 Veers
 - 5 Edible seed
 - 6 — Pop

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	B	B	S	E	G	G	C	A	R	S	
A	E	R	I	T	O	O	A	T	O	M	
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K	I	N	G	R	A	H	E	T	T	A	
E	N	O	S	A	P	T	D	E	E	R	

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- 8 Sault — Marie
- 9 Salary-check dispenser
- 10 Willow
- 11 Neat
- 17 Arabian commander
- 19 Cloth measure
- 23 By the time — to Phoenix
- 25 Footlike part
- 26 Auld Lang —
- 27 Of the dawn
- 28 Hardening
- 29 Poor area
- 31 Drink heavily
- 32 — boat
- 35 Coat lapel
- 38 A Carter
- 40 Main courses
- 43 TV antenna type
- 45 Female deer
- 47 Native of India
- 49 Bark
- 50 Hawaiian food fish
- 52 Country of Asia
- 54 Actor — "Neat"
- 55 First-rate (2 wds.)
- 56 Unclothed
- 58 Actress West
- 59 Mao — tung

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DENNIS THE MENACE



Measure passes panel

HOUSTON (AP) — A Senate committee has given a green light to a bill in which some repeat sex offenders would face mandatory life sentences without parole for 40 years.

The measure was approved Thursday by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. It was in a package dubbed "Ashley's Laws" in memory of 7-year-old Ashley Estell, who was abducted from a suburban Dallas park and murdered in 1993.

"If we can't lock them up and throw away the key, then at least we ought to give them 40 years," said Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, the bill's sponsor.

Michael Blair, who was convicted of killing Ashley, had been released from prison shortly before the girl's death after serving 18 months of a 10-year sentence for indecency with a child.

The committee expanded the life-sentence bill, originally targeted at child molesters only, to include all sex offenders.

Shapiro, who originally wanted child molesters to serve life sentences without parole, met opposition from state prosecutors because the punishment would be longer than the life sentence for capital murder.

Under the bill, a person who is convicted of a first-degree sex offense and has two previous felony convictions — one of which is a sex offense — would receive the automatic 40-year sentence. No time for good behavior would be credited.

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486



DONATION — Price Daniel Unit assistant warden Chuck Biscoe, right, presents a donation to the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Accepting the donation was Karon Keller, executive director of the Snyder Area CADA, and board member Robert Adams. The money is made from photo sales at the unit on visiting days. (SDN Staff Photo)

Ex-prison guard convicted in death of prison inmate

HOUSTON (AP) — A Southeast Texas man faces as much as 20 years behind bars after becoming the first Texas prison guard to be convicted of killing an inmate.

Joel Lambright Jr., 21, was convicted late Thursday in the fatal beating of Michael McCoy, 30. The manslaughter verdict reached against the former prison guard was the second-most severe verdict that could have been reached.

The punishment phase of the trial was scheduled to begin today.

Jurors in Livingston deliberated six hours before convicting Lambright in the death of McCoy, a Dickinson car thief and burglar who was incarcerated in the Terrell Unit. McCoy died hours after the Oct. 7 attack that was allegedly triggered when the inmate spit at Lambright through his cell door.

At one point, jurors were divided 9-3 between a guilty verdict for murder or for manslaughter.

Less than an hour later, they returned their decision.

"This should have a good effect for all parties — the prisoners and the guards who are charged with overseeing them," lead prosecutor Latham Boone said of the verdict.

Lambright, the son of a former Corrigan police chief, had been employed as a guard at the maximum security unit near Livingston only seven months at the time of the episode.

Another guard, Alex Torres, 31, also charged with McCoy's murder, will be tried later.

The attack on McCoy, who was in his cell at the time, came after an afternoon scuffle between a dozen or more prisoners and about 10 prison guards.

The initial incident set off seven hours of sporadic battling between guards and prisoners, and authorities contend that guards later hunted and assaulted inmates who had participated in the attack.

Prosecutors say Lambright, a former pizza parlor worker, recruited Torres to assist him in beating McCoy. The pair then pounded the inmate to death with their hands and feet.

Four other TDCJ guards have been charged with aggravated assault in the Oct. 7 melee. Six prisoners were charged with retaliation for their alleged attacks on guards.

The disturbance and killing brought new attention to how poorly guards are trained to handle often disruptive inmates.

The Hershey Chocolate Co. became the first corporate sponsor of a PGA tournament in 1933.

Committee hears testimony on casinos

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock has said he hopes a Senate committee will take quick action on casino gambling, then move on to other things.

"Either vote it down or vote it up and we'll be on our way," Bullock said Thursday. "I don't want it (the casino issue) to interfere with schools" and other issues facing the 1995 Legislature.

The chief Senate sponsor of casino gambling, Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said Thursday he would press only for a proposed constitutional amendment that, if

approved by two-thirds of the Legislature and ratified by voters, would make casino gambling legal. He said a second measure, spelling out details of casino regulation, would come later.

"I'm trying to come up with the best way of getting enough votes in the Texas Legislature to get it on the ballot so the people of Texas can decide," Ellis said.

"I haven't seen any evidence that I can get the votes for the enabling legislation and the constitutional amendment, so I decided to run with the constitutional amendment," he said.

Their comments came after the Senate State Affairs Committee heard testimony that Fort Worth's tourism industry is faltering because people are leaving the state to gamble.

"(Tourism) is vital to the state of Texas. It is vital to the city of Fort Worth," said Holt Hickman, representing the Fort Worth Stockyards. "The tourism is going to Louisiana."

Hickman and former Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen said gambling in Texas is necessary to compete with neighboring states.

Hickman said the developers of the Stockyards have spent \$50 million to create a mall, a Wild

West amusement park and several historical exhibits, not to mention nationally renowned country music club Billy Bob's Texas.

"Even though we have all these attractions and have spent more than \$50 million, the Stockyards is struggling because last year the casinos in Louisiana opened."

It is estimated that 65 percent, or about 555,000, of the people going to Louisiana casinos are from Texas, he said.

That competition for tourism will be compounded when the recently approved New Mexico gambling industry gets into full swing, he said.

"What we have to decide is will we be with this new economic development tool or are we going to be behind it," Bolen said, indicating casinos can create millions of dollars in taxes, thousands of jobs and other ventures, such as hotels.

The Texas Restaurant Association, which opposes Ellis' amend-

ment, commissioned a poll released Thursday that said 55 percent of the 1,203 registered voters surveyed oppose casino gambling.

The poll also said that 68 percent of those surveyed feared casinos would attract organized crime.

The TRA also paid for Robert Goodman, a University of Massachusetts professor who directed a nationwide study of gambling, to testify.

The research showed no popular movement for the expansion of gambling, instead it is largely the work of lobbyists and legislators, Goodman said.

Back taxes bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Smile, Allen Funt, you're in arrears.

State officials have hit Funt and other producers of the "Candid Camera" television show with a bill for more than \$400,000 in back taxes.

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