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MONDAY

# Snyder Daily News

## Ask Us

Q—What are the dates of the Scurry County Fair this year?  
A—The fair will be held Sept. 19-21.

## In Brief

### Crypt opened

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The remains of President Zachary Taylor were removed from a crypt today to check out an author's theory that the 12th U.S. president was poisoned.

The coffin was taken from the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office for tests. A crowd of 200 people stood by silently — about half from the media.

Taylor's cause of death was listed as gastroenteritis following his sudden illness and death almost 141 years ago.

Clara Rising of Holder, Fla., claims Taylor was killed for opposing the spread of slavery into the Southwest and did not die of natural causes.

## Local

### AARP chapter

Local chapter 2063 of AARP will have a pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m. today in the senior center.

Entertainment will follow the meal.

### Foundation

A meeting of the WTC Scholarship Foundation board will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Snyder National Bank boardroom.

### AJRA committee

The AJRA National Finals Rodeo committee will meet at 7 p.m. today in the chamber of commerce boardroom.

### Breakfast

The July 4th Prayer Breakfast committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the chamber of commerce boardroom.

### Chamber board

Snyder Chamber of Commerce board of directors will meet at 4 p.m. today in the chamber boardroom.

### City Council

Joe Newman, representative of the sales tax division of the state comptroller's office, will profile recent legislative changes in the Sales Tax for Economic Development Act in a special meeting of the Snyder City Council today at 6:30 p.m.

### Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Saturday, 91 degrees; low, 64 degrees; high Sunday, 90 degrees; low, 67 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Monday, 69 degrees; no precipitation; total precipitation for 1991 to date, 8.88 inches.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of mainly evening thunderstorms. Low in the upper 60s. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Tuesday, some early morning low clouds otherwise mostly sunny. High in the mid 90s. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 8:50 p.m. Sunrise Tuesday, 6:39 a.m. Of 165 days in 1991, the sun has shone 160 days in Snyder.

Could take a week...

## Texas school finance hearing begins

AUSTIN (AP) — The latest court fight over Texas school finance has a new twist: This time, wealthy school districts are attacking the funding system as unconstitutional.

Lawyers predicted a hearing in the case, which began today

before State District Judge F. Scott McCown, would last at least a week.

Previous, successful challenges to the way Texas funds public education have been brought by school districts that lack much local property wealth,

seeking the same ability to raise education funds as their richer counterparts.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the current \$14 billion-a-year system, which includes wide funding disparities because of school districts'

reliance on their own property tax revenue.

To even out access to funding, lawmakers in April passed a bill that is designed to shift hundreds of millions of dollars in property tax money from wealthier to poorer school districts. Unless overturned, it will be in effect for next school year.

The law creates education taxing regions, drawn largely along county lines, to impose a minimum local property tax rate. School districts in each taxing region will share the revenue from the minimum tax.

Local school districts also may tax more, without pooling the revenue, to enrich programs and for construction.

The state guarantees every school district a certain amount

of money, in state and local funds combined, for each penny of property tax, up to a certain level. There also is a revenue cap that is meant to control wide funding disparities.

Wealthy districts say the law creates an unconstitutional state property tax, and unconstitutionally transfers local tax money from one school district to another.

Because the school finance law provides for each county education taxing region to be governed by an appointed panel of school board members, they also argue that the law dilutes the voting strength of minorities.

One group of wealthy districts — including Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Coppell, Barbers Hill (see FINANCE, page 8)

## CED board to meet today

The newly elected County Education District 11 board of trustees will hold its organizational meeting at 5 p.m. today in the Snyder ISD business administration boardroom.

Representatives of appraisal districts encompassed by the

county education district (CED) are also expected to attend.

The CED is one of 188 created statewide by Senate Bill 351 and amended by House Bill 2885. They were formed as a way to coordinate and dispense equal funding for an educational system based on unequal property taxes and constantly fluctuating tax rates. The CED boards' purpose is to exercise a portion of the taxing power in the representative school districts, and of distributing that tax revenue back to those school districts.

While the board meets this evening to make plans, a hearing also began today in Austin to question the constitutionality of the new school finance law. It has been challenged by a number of wealthy school districts who oppose the so-called "Robin Hood" approach of the law.

The CED 11 board will be made up of one trustee each from 11 school districts in Scurry, Kent, Garza, Crosby and Ralls counties.

Snyder ISD's representative to the board, Terry Martin, will call the meeting to order.

Others on the board include Jimmy R. Hudgins, Hermleigh; Sidney D. Wall, Ira; Buddy Baldrige, Jayton; Edwin Moore, Ralls; Duane Shock, Crosbyton; Jeff McClure, Roby; Mark W. Kirkpatrick, Post; and Dr. Vick Burk, Rotan. Efforts to obtain the names of representatives from Lorenzo and Southland ISDs were unsuccessful this morning.

During today's meeting, CED board members will be sworn in and are to elect a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary. The board will then adopt a resolution calling for an Aug. 10 election concerning various tax exemptions, including homesteads, non-income-producing property such as cars and boats, and for disabled and

elderly residents. A companion election will be held by each county in the district for exemptions on the tier one portion of school taxes.

The CED board will also discuss the process of selecting an entity or entities with which to contract for tax assessment, collection and distribution.

## Extradition hearing set for escapee

An extradition hearing for Travis Dale Gray, the Price Daniel Unit escapee who was captured last Thursday in Largo, Fla., is expected to be held sometime Tuesday, according to Texas Ranger John Billings.

During the hearing, Gray will be allowed to either waive extradition back to Texas, or to fight extradition. Should he oppose extradition, authorities would file for a warrant through the state governor's office in Texas, which would be forwarded to Florida — a process which could take about 45 days.

The exact time of Tuesday's extradition hearing was unavailable as of noon today.

Gray, 32, was indicted for escape by a 132nd District Court grand jury here on July 1. The escape charge, without enhancement, is a third degree felony and carries a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Gray's apprehension came just six days short of the anniversary of his June 20, 1990, escape from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice medium-security prison here.

Billings, assisted by the Scurry County sheriff's department, directed the manhunt for Gray who was serving a 45-year sentence for the murder of his first wife.

Based on information fed by Ranger Billings to police in Largo, Fla., a town of about 50,000 in Pinella County, Gray was arrested near an apartment complex where he was employed as a maintenance man.

His current wife, Missy, reportedly was the apartment assistant manager. When arrested, Gray had a .25 magnum on his person and a machete in his car and has been charged with two felony counts.

Gray was convicted on March 1, 1990, in the strangulation and drowning death of his wife, Tammy, at Lake Colorado City on June 23, 1988. Gray first told authorities that he had pulled his wife from the lake. She was alive when first brought to a Colorado City emergency room, but died a (see EXTRADITION, page 8)

## Accident takes life of six-year-old girl

A two-vehicle accident here Sunday evening left a six-year-old Snyder girl dead and her mother in serious condition at a Lubbock hospital.

Jennalee Dawn Alexander was pronounced dead at 11:19 p.m. at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, after being transferred from the accident scene by Snyder EMS. Her mother, 32-year-old Brenda Cox Alexander, was also transported by EMS to Cogdell, where she was treated for fractured ribs, possible damage to the lungs, a fractured arm and multiple contusions. She was transported to Lubbock Methodist Hospital at 2:20 a.m. today by helicopter.

A nursing supervisor at Lubbock Methodist said that Mrs. Alexander was listed in serious condition in the surgical intensive care unit at mid-morning today.

The accident occurred about 10:39 p.m. Sunday at the intersection of Farm Road 2763 and Round Top Road.

(see ACCIDENT, page 8)



SUMMER DRAMA — Carcie Posey, far right, was among the students in Ellie Dryden's "Creative Dramatics" class this morning in the Fine Arts Theatre at Western Texas College. The group's activities included games and drama exercises. (SDN Staff Photo)

## Redistricting study on hold; county okays bids, transfers

Scurry County Commissioners took no action on a proposal from an Austin law firm to do a preliminary redistricting study

of county precincts as they met this morning at the county courthouse.

In other business, the court approved a request for bids and equipment transfers and discussed a new computer system and a monthly swap meet.

Commissioners are expected to act on the proposal from Sam Clonts of Bickerstaff, Heath and Smiley during next week's meeting. The proposal, for \$2,500, included a preliminary study of county precincts and population changes.

According to census results, the county's population increased some 1.6 percent from 1980 to 1984. The city has a population of 12,195.

No action was taken concerning Scurry County Appraisal District's plans to purchase a new computer system with the city. In an emergency meeting of the appraisal board last week, a \$62,000 budget amendment was

approved for the purchase. The county's portion of the purchase would be approximately \$13,000.

Don Edgmon attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of having a monthly swap meet at the county coliseum annex. Commissioners said they were in the process of discussing changes at the coliseum and that the swap meet might work into those discussions. It was noted that a coordinator for the event would be needed.

Approved was a request from Frances Billingsley to request bids for the microfilming of county clerk records. Billingsley said the money had been budgeted for the microfilming.

In other business, equipment transfers were noted, the minutes were approved and bill were paid.

County Judge Bob Doolittle presided at the meeting. Present were commissioners C.D. Gray (see COUNTY, page 8)

## South Africa repeals sesegregation law

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Parliament today abolished the last major apartheid law in an overwhelmingly vote that ends the racial classification of South Africa's citizens.

The repeal of the Population Registration Act was a milestone in the dismantling of apartheid. But the action did not address the biggest race reform still confronting South Africa: negotiating a new constitution that will give blacks the vote.

Enacted in 1950, the Population Registration Act was the foundation of virtually all apartheid measures and caused "discriminatory humiliation and

heartsores." Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw said during last week's Parliamentary debate Cape Town.

"The repeal of the act ... is a momentous occasion," The Citizen, a pro-government daily, said in an editorial today. "The act determined the place in South African society of all its people, on the cradle to the grave."

Racial classification determined where a person could live, which schools one could attend, which public toilets one could use and which cemeteries one was buried in.

The only party in the tricameral Parliament to vote against repeal of the act was the

pro-apartheid Conservative Party, the official opposition in the white chamber of Parliament.

Parliament approved a replacement measure that ends all new race classifications and removes race references that remained in other laws. But people already racially classified will remain so until a new constitution is negotiated.

The repeal of the Population Registration Act is likely to bring a further easing of foreign sanctions, which have been steadily crumbling over the past year in response to de Klerk's reforms.

De Klerk was to address Parliament after the voting, and was expected to reiterate his

readiness to begin black-white talks on a new constitution that will give the 30 million blacks equal voting rights.

But the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups say before negotiations can start the government must free all political prisoners and do more to end violence in the black townships.

Some 4,000 blacks have been killed in violence during the last 18 months. The ANC has repeatedly claimed that de Klerk has not done enough to end the violence, mainly between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

During last week's debate, Parliamentary member Jac Rabie told the mixed-race chamber of Parliament that nearly everyone in his family was classified differently. Rabie himself was once classified Asian, but is now officially of mixed-race.

The new law, he said, "means my white uncles and I are now the same."

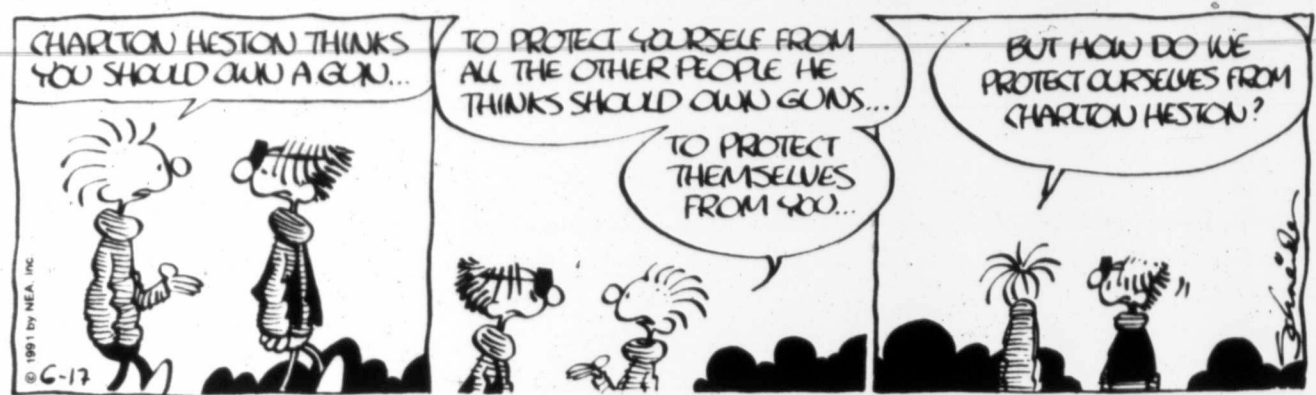
Conservative Party member Willem Botha said the Population Registration Act was one of the country's best laws, and was repealed because the ruling National Party "has become ashamed to be white."







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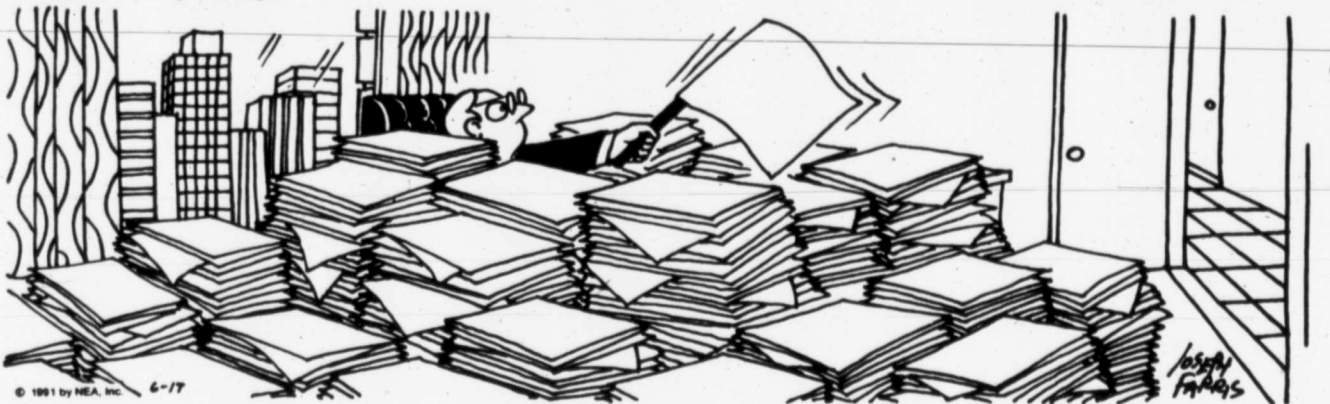
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# NEA PUZZLES

## ACROSS

- 1 Change color of
- 4 Opera by Verdi
- 8 Am not (sl.)
- 12 Brown shade
- 13 Chimney passage
- 14 Maple genus
- 15 Safety signal (2 wds.)
- 17 Rent
- 18 Stagnant
- 19 Affirmative
- 21 Actress
- 22 Characteristic
- 24 — Johnny
- 26 Indications
- 27 Thru-banded armadillo
- 29 Name
- 31 W. Coast coll.
- 35 Advise

## DOWN

- 36 Pun, e.g. Chicago
- 40 Study
- 41 Stage in development
- 44 Goody
- 45 Car assemblers' assn.
- 46 Perform again
- 49 Scandinavian capital
- 51 Of a brain membrane
- 53 Not from a labor group
- 55 Ballet movement
- 56 Bomb failures (sl.)
- 57 — Johnny
- 58 Abominable snowman
- 59 Sources of metal
- 60 Nevertheless

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 1 1944 invasion date
- 2 Christmas
- 3 Made bigger
- 4 CIO partner
- 5 — my heart in San Francisco
- 6 Twofold
- 7 Of aircraft
- 8 Joyful exclamation
- 9 More frigid
- 10 Gumption
- 11 Shady plants
- 16 Television stations
- 20 Tea
- 23 Believer in an ism
- 25 Violent outbreak
- 26 Knight's title
- 27 Surmounting
- 28 Unit of light
- 30 — Jima
- 32 Awkwardly
- 33 Girlfriend
- 34 Yes
- 37 Neighbor of Md.
- 39 Over (poet.)
- 41 Fido's offspring
- 42 — Selassie
- 43 Anticipate
- 44 Meteorological device
- 47 Opposite of ecto
- 48 Sullen
- 50 Step —
- 52 Flower necklace
- 54 Navy ship pref.

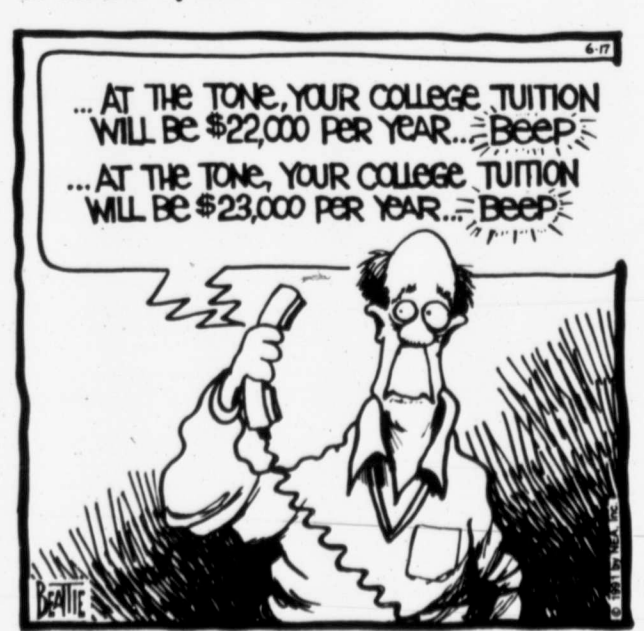
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DENNIS THE MENACE















# Report says poor, elderly pay too much

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 2 million poor, elderly Americans are needlessly paying \$29.90 a month for government health benefits they're entitled to get for free, an advocacy group said today.

"The problem is that you don't get the benefit if you don't apply for it," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA Foundation. "The government has neglected to notify people of their new rights."

The non-profit group said that under the congressional budget agreement approved last fall, older Americans living below the poverty level no longer are re-

quired to pay out-of-pocket costs for Medicare coverage.

About 4.2 million senior citizens qualify for the so-called Medicare buy-in, but more than half aren't receiving it, according to a study by the foundation.

Therefore, it said, monthly Medicare premiums of \$29.90 a month, or \$358.80 a year, are being needlessly deducted from 2.2 million to 2.3 million Social Security checks.

These poor, elderly people also may be needlessly paying \$728 a year for Medicare deductibles and the first 20 percent of doctor bills, the foundation said.

In California, for example, 89

percent of those who are eligible, or 225,000 people, aren't receiving the benefit, the foundation said.

"We call upon Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan to ensure that the elderly poor get the protection they deserve from fast-rising, unaffordable Medicare costs," Pollack said.

Families USA is an advocacy group that works on behalf of senior citizens and their families.

Gail Wilensky, director of the federal Health Care Financing Administration, said some fin-

dings in the Families USA report did not seem reasonable, although the agency had not had a chance to evaluate it in detail.

"We think that we have, in fact, responded to the legislation in a reasonable way," she said. HCFA, which oversees Medicare and Medicaid, has sent instructions to regional offices about how to phase in the new assistance, she added.

To be eligible for the Medicare buy-in, senior citizens must have incomes below \$6,620 a year and less than \$4,000 in assets.

## TAXING TIMES

Effective federal tax rates on selected families.

	1980	1985	1990	1991
POOREST 20%	8.4%	10.6%	9.5%	8.5%
MIDDLE 20%	20.0%	19.3%	20.2%	20.7%
RICHEST 20%	27.3%	24.0%	26.0%	26.8%
TOP 1%	31.8%	24.9%	27.5%	28.9%

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office NEA Graphic

The poorest 20 percent of U.S. families is now taxed by the federal government at a slightly higher rate than in 1980. Meanwhile, the richest 20 percent is taxed at a slightly lower rate than in 1980.

# Combat for women soldiers considered

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — Army Capt. Michele Barlean thought that being a woman soldier meant she would end up "divvying up beans and bullets to send to the boys."

But during the Persian Gulf War, she wound up leading a Chinook helicopter platoon of 42 men who ferried enemy prisoners of war, hauled howitzers and rescued downed aircraft.

"I've been proven in combat," said the 26-year-old soldier, who flew 53 combat hours in her cargo helicopter. "I've met that challenge."

The war created new opportunities for women to serve in combat. Now Congress is considering repealing laws that limit women's combat roles.

A subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee will meet Tuesday to consider letting the Air Force, Navy and Marines use women to fly aircraft in combat.

The full House already has voted to allow, but not require, those services to use women in battle.

The Army is not covered by the legislation. It has written its own regulations to keep women out of the posts most likely to be involved in front-line combat — infantry, attack helicopters and some artillery jobs.

Army women can serve in combat when their duties take them there, however. The Gulf War was the first large-scale test of that policy.

Barlean, a member of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), said she learned to be a combat leader at West Point.

"I used to sit back in class and say, yeah, great, but I'll never have to do that," she said. "I thought I'd be sitting in Oklahoma divvying up beans and bullets to send to the boys over there."

More than 90 percent of Army career fields are now open to women, according to the Pentagon.

Women made up about 6 percent of the combined U.S. forces sent to the Persian Gulf. Fourteen women were killed, 21 wounded and two taken prisoner.

Army Staff Sgt. Christi Ran-

dolph, 29, said women have earned a shot at all combat jobs.

"What does combat really mean?" she asked. "Aren't you in danger when the Scuds blow up above your head?"

Randolph was two miles away when 28 soldiers, including three women reservists, were killed in a Scud missile attack on barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Other Army women are reluctant to call for females in infantry units.

Most women don't have the physical strength or desire to join the infantry, said Staff Sgt. Jenni Comley of a support unit for the Green Berets at Fort Campbell.

"If you ask them to crawl through the mud and under barbed wire and get shot at, they'd say no, even if they are into women's lib," said Comley, who saw women soldiers bring curling irons to the desert.

Maj. Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, commanding general of the 101st, said the division's women performed "superbly." But Peay, who will be the Army's new deputy chief of staff for operations, doesn't favor expan-

ding women's combat roles.

Last week, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf said women should be excluded from some combat roles, even though they performed well in Operation Desert Storm.

"I am very much in favor of women's rights," Schwarzkopf told Congress. But, he said, "I do not believe we want our infantry 50 percent men and 50 percent women."

### Key to city given to singer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin got the key to the Queen City of the Lakes, where she spent four years of her life.

Franklin, 49, was in town for a concert.

Best known for such hits as "Respect," "Think" and "Natural Woman," Franklin was an infant in 1942 when she moved to Buffalo from Memphis with her father, the Rev. Clarence L. Franklin. In 1946 the Franklins moved to Detroit.

## Berry's World

POPULARITY

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# BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

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protector, which is similar to Scotch Gard.

In some cases they can clean the carpet as inexpensively as you can rent a machine. Many times when people try to do it themselves and the carpet won't come clean, they keep adding detergents to the machine. This results in the carpet becoming too wet. Also, the detergent leaves a residue in the carpet and the carpet seems to get dirty quicker. Bryant's doesn't leave a

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### Get an education

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Former Chicago Bears running back Gale Sayers has a message for young athletes: Get an education.

Now owner of a computer supply company in Chicago, the former football player said he admires athletic achievements but disregards them in job applicants.

"I just want to know what skills you can bring to my company," he said. "Hopefully, coaches, parents and administrators are telling that to these kids. You'd better get your degree."

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