





# Russia's hard-line parliament rejects Gaidar nomination

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's hard-line parliament today refused to confirm President Boris Yeltsin's reformist prime minister, dealing a blow to the government's free-market reforms.

Yegor Gaidar won 467 votes, 54 short of the necessary majority to be confirmed by the Congress of People's Deputies, said Yuri Nestorov, a member of its electoral commission. He said 486 deputies voted against Gaidar. Twenty-two ballots were invalid, and the remaining 26 lawmakers did not vote.

The rejection of Gaidar, a major setback for Yeltsin, does not mean the 36-year-old architect of Russia's economic reforms would be ousted as acting prime minister, however.

Deputy Irina Vinogradova said Yeltsin told her that if Gaidar lost, he would be retained in his post for another three months, as allowed under Russian law, the Interfax news agency reported.

Yeltsin's opponents had lashed out at Gaidar in parliamentary debate,

saying his policies had led to "the destruction of Russia and its people."

Gaidar has outraged much of the Congress with his attempts to steer Russia toward a market-driven economy, a program that has been accompanied by skyrocketing prices and slumping factory production.

Since the Congress convened on Dec. 1, Gaidar has been the focus of the battle between Yeltsin and the hard-liners, many of whom were elected to the body in 1990, before the Soviet collapse.

Gaidar is an important symbol in the West of Russia's reforms. In April, he lobbied successfully to get the world's seven richest democracies to pledge \$24 billion in aid for Russia.

In a speech to Congress before the vote, Gaidar acknowledged that his reforms had made him unpopular.

"I know the attitude in society and in parliament toward my candidacy," he said. "It is one of the most unpleasant jobs that exists."

In the debate that followed, hard-



**A pro-Communist supporter holds a portrait of Lenin on one hand and a sign reading 'Motherland is Not for Sale' during a protest in Moscow's Red Square today.**

line deputies lashed into Gaidar and Yeltsin.

Sergei Baburin, the leader of the Rossiya faction, said Gaidar's poli-

cies have led to "the destruction of Russia, the destruction of its people."

"This government has existed for a year already and still hasn't pro-

duced an economic program," said Vladimir Isakov, a leader of the hard-line Russian Unity faction.

"Gaidar has been carrying out a program of economic reform, which he has presented neither to the Congress nor to the people; he only presented it to the International Monetary Fund," Isakov said. "Russian Unity does not support either this reform or this head of government."

Viktor Aksyuchits, another hard-liner, derided Gaidar's plan as a "pseudo-market utopia."

"The only reason why Gaidar is being imposed on us is because he is controllable, and not only by the president," Aksyuchits said.

Among the deputies who defended Gaidar was Dmitry Volkogonov, a Yeltsin military adviser and historian.

"Crisis is our main enemy, not anyone in this hall," Volkogonov said. "Gaidar's candidacy is a historic compromise. ... We should look at him as the hope for a better future."

Gaidar's rejection torpedoed a

compromise proposed Tuesday by Yeltsin under which Congress would confirm Gaidar and the president would surrender his right to appoint, without legislative approval, four key Cabinet ministers.

By retaining Gaidar as acting prime minister, Yeltsin can avoid nominating a new Cabinet and forestall a confrontation over the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, security and interior.

Hard-liners are trying to remove Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, whom they blame for Russia's diminishing military and political power abroad.

Yeltsin is likely to face a show-down over Gaidar and Kozyrev again in April, at the next session of the 1,041-member Congress.

Although the Congress rejected Gaidar, it did accept Yeltsin's proposal, voting 749-142 to amend the constitution and give the smaller Supreme Soviet legislature the right to approve or reject nominations to the four Cabinet posts.

## Charles and Diana separating; no plans for divorce

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana have agreed to separate but have no plans to divorce, Prime Minister John Major said today, confirming years of speculation of a royal romance gone sour.

"This decision has been reached amicably and they will both continue to participate fully in the upbringing of their children," Major said, reading a statement issued by Buckingham Palace.

Because there will be no divorce, he said Diana remains eligible to be crowned queen once Charles takes the throne. The couple will continue to appear together in public from time to time, he added.

The decision was the latest development in what Queen Elizabeth II recently confessed was a horrible year. Her daughter Anne was divorced; her son Andrew separated from his wife Sarah, who later was photographed in a topless romp with her American "financial adviser"; and the queen's home at Windsor Castle was devastated by fire Nov. 20.

"The queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip), though saddened, understand and sympathize

with the difficulties that have led to this decision. Her majesty and his royal highness particularly hope that the intrusions into the privacy of the prince and the princess may now cease," Major said, reading from the palace's announcement.

The same statement was read to the House of Lords by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor.

The romance of the serious-minded prince and the bashful kindergarten teacher captured the world's attention, and their marriage at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981, was a global television spectacular.

Diana bore two sons — William in 1982 and Henry in 1984 — and became the public's darling as she matured into a confident spokeswoman for compassionate causes.

Recent opinion polls found the public overwhelmingly sided with Diana in the couple's presumed marital problems.

Edward Heath, a member of Parliament and former Conservative prime minister, said Major's statement "must be one of the saddest announcements made by any prime minister in modern times."

Dennis Skinner, a maverick left-wing

lawmaker, rose to say the monarchy had pushed "the self-destruct button" and predict "the reigning queen could possibly be the last."

But Major drew cheers from Conservative and Labor legislators with his retort: "We live in a monarchy and, if I may speak personally, I hope and believe we always will."

Charles, 44, and Diana, 31, appeared together Monday night at the Royal Variety Show, but were not seen speaking to each other. They made separate public appearances today.

The announcement came four days before Princess Anne, 42, was to take 37-year-old naval Cmdr. Timothy Laurence as her second husband.

Throughout the year, Charles and Diana made unwanted headlines about their marital troubles, but speculation became feverish after the publication in June of "Diana: Her True Story," by Andrew Morton. The book claimed Diana had been in such despair over the marriage that she attempted suicide and said the couple's relationship was a loveless sham.

In August, *The Sun* newspaper published transcripts of what appeared to be a telephone conversa-

tion between Diana and longtime friend James Gilbey, who called her "Squidgy" and told her many times that he loved her.


A four-day public visit to Korea in November provided the tabloids with a stream of pictures of Charles and Diana looking glum and awkward in each other's company. When Diana returned to London, she issued an extraordinary statement denying there was any rift between her and her in-laws, but she said nothing about the marriage.

Later, the *Daily Mirror* reported it had heard a tape recording of Charles having an affectionate telephone conversation with Camilla Parker Bowles, an old girlfriend with whom he remained on close terms.

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## Police find prosecutor's mother dead at her business

TEXARKANA (AP) — The victim of a beating death here was the mother of an Arkansas prosecutor whose chief deputy's mother was stabbed to death six years ago, police say.

The body of Marcelline Kennedy, 65, who owned Haltom Appliance, was found in her business on Monday, officers said. She had been beaten with a blunt object, police said, but no motive has been established.

Prosecutor Brent Haltom of

Lewisville, Ark., was at Little Rock at a drug task force seminar when his chief deputy, Chuck Black, notified him of the death of his mother.

"He was in shock just like we all are," Black said. "I bet we are the only prosecuting attorney's office in the nation where both our mothers have been brutally murdered."


On Aug. 14, 1986, Black's mother was stabbed to death. Jonas Whitmore is on Arkansas' death row

after being convicted of the crime.

"I hope this investigation and case has the similar ending," Black said.

Mrs. Kennedy's body was found at the back of her store, Texas-side police Capt. Duke Schofield said, after police responded to a call from a business next door. He said a shopper had gone into Mrs. Kennedy's business but, finding no one there, went next door and phoned police.

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# Mood darkens as mine rescue efforts continue



Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, center, talks to rescue personnel as he tours the still-smoldering Southmountain Coal Co.'s No. 3 mine in Norton, Va., on Tuesday. (AP Photo)

NORTON, Va. (AP) — Rescuers made steady progress today drilling a narrow hole to a shaft where eight men were working when a huge explosion rocked a coal mine.

As the effort dragged on, relatives who had held vigil since Monday's explosion became less and less optimistic.

"I hope they're alive, but if they're up in the (mine) face and they hit that pocket of methane, there's no chance," said Jackie Burnette, a cousin of two men in the Southmountain Coal Co.'s No. 3 mine in southwest Virginia.

Rescuers trying to reach the men retreated early Tuesday after detecting dangerous levels of methane gas, smoke and heat.

Mine safety officials began drilling a narrow hole toward the shaft 900 feet below ground. Inspectors planned to read gas levels at the point where rescue teams were forced to turn back to determine if it was safe to continue the remaining 300 feet to where the miners were thought to be.

By 3 a.m., 13 hours after drilling began, they had gone 750 feet.

The shaft also may provide ventilation and allow inspectors to lower a camera into the chamber.

"We will try to look around and see what we can see," said Benny Wampler, assistant director at the Virginia Division of Mines.

"There is the possibility that there is (healthy) atmosphere elsewhere in the mine that they could have traveled to," Wampler said. "We never give up hope."

Michael Gentry, 17, refused to give up on his uncle, Danny Ray Gentry.

"I'm one of those that still has hope," he said. "The family is waiting, hoping they find the bodies. They don't believe they're alive."

A ninth miner crawled to safety shortly after the blast. Robert K. Fleming was transported Tuesday to the University of Virginia Hospital's burn center, said Bill Hendrick, spokesman for St. Mary's Hospital in Norton.

There was no word on the cause of the blast. Explosions in coal mines can be caused by ignition of airborne coal dust or methane, although safety measures suppress dust and ventilation systems remove or dilute methane.

There was another reminder of the danger of mining Tuesday about 55 miles to the north, in southern West Virginia. Falling rock — a "roof fall" — killed one coal miner and injured two others inside the Alma Ridge Inc. Mine No. 1 near Thacker, state authorities said.

In Virginia's Wise County, nearly all of the 39,000 residents know someone who works in the coal mines. Eva Masterson's son was injured four years ago in a mining accident, and her other son still works in the mines.

"You never know when it's going to happen to you," she said Tuesday as she cooked hamburgers at Shannon's Corner Store. "When they go out, you don't know if they'll come back or not."

## Lights! Camera! Action! greet troops

By ROBERT BURNS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon was tickled pink at the prospect of worldwide news coverage of its mercy mission to Somalia, but the military's glee evaporated in a flash when television lights clicked on to record the first troops hitting the beach.

Suddenly, in a scene certainly unique in U.S. military history, a score of Navy frogmen and Marines sneaking up the beach to sniff out potential hostile Somali forces came face to face with, not the enemy, but a swarm of reporters and TV cameras.

The glare of lights blew the camouflaged troops' cover. And the Pentagon brass blew their tops.

"Some of them were extremely upset," said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Gradisher, a Pentagon spokesman. Senior officers began calling Gradisher's public affairs office almost immediately after the first TV pictures were broadcast, he said.

"The reaction was, 'What's going on here? The actions of the press could lead to somebody getting hurt,'" Gradisher said.

"Fortunately, it turned out all right."

Pentagon officials had encouraged coverage by giving news organizations advance notice of the landing time and place. This was a chance to show off the Marines' amphibious landing capabilities — something they haven't done since the Korean War.

But this was no D-Day at Normandy, the epic World War II invasion of Europe by about 1 million U.S. and allied troops along a 84-mile stretch of the French coast. Those troops fought a bloody 76-day campaign that was the beginning of the end of the war for Nazi Germany.

D-Day was cloaked in secrecy. The Somali action was just the opposite, undoubtedly the most advertised Marine landing ever. With almost no prospect of organized — or even disorganized — Somali armed resistance, the Pentagon didn't have to worry about secrecy.

Marine Maj. Frank Libutti, briefing reporters in Mogadishu earlier Tuesday, virtually invited reporters onto the beach, saying they could freely cover the troops' arrival.

But the Pentagon apparently didn't anticipate the problem of lighting up the beach. It said the lights made easy targets of the landing party, rendered the troops' night vision equipment useless and interfered with their mission.

"These are troops that are trained to work in the dark, that have night vision equipment and that were surprised, to say the least, by all the lights and flashes," said Pete Williams, the assistant defense secretary for public affairs.

Television network officials said the Pentagon should have advised them not to use lights.

Tom Goodman, spokesman for CBS News, said CBS first showed pictures from Somalia at 4:50 p.m. EST and got the no-lights request from the Pentagon "within an hour."

"If the Pentagon had said earlier that lights might have been some kind of problem, there's no question that they would not have been used," Goodman said. "The word did not come down until after the fact, and we immediately complied."

Col. Dave Burpee, director of the Directorate of Defense Information at the Pentagon, said many private

citizens had called his office after seeing the live TV coverage of advance forces arriving on Somalia's shores.

"We're getting a lot of phone calls ... expressing everything from frustration to anger," Burpee said. He said the callers included relatives of troops involved in Operation Restore Hope.

"They view it as putting their loved ones potentially at risk," Burpee said.

He acknowledged that the Pentagon itself had taken pains to publicize in advance the Marine landing in hopes it would discourage armed resistance.

"There is a benefit in making known your presence and the size of the force — that there not be any misunderstanding" among the Somali gunmen who might try to oppose the landing, Burpee said.

After the advance teams arrived on the Somali beaches, the Pentagon issued a "press advisory" in Washington asking that members of the news media in Somalia keep off the landing beaches and paved areas around the airport where the main contingent of 1,800 Marines was arriving.

## FDA to speed process on serious illness drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starting next year the government will move quickly to put new but unproven drugs into the hands of the sick if the medicines show promise against life-threatening or disabling diseases.

New rules being published by the Food and Drug Administration reflect the Bush administration's push to streamline the agency's process for approving drugs, especially for people with terminal diseases such as cancer and AIDS.

The rules could take effect in about 30 days.

"Accelerated approval, conditional approval, these were innovations built upon the agency's commitment to provide access to experimental drugs for those dying of life-threatening disorders," FDA Commissioner David Kessler said in a speech Tuesday.

While there has been widespread approval for getting experimental drugs into the hands of people dying from such diseases as AIDS and cancer, some in Congress have criticized the Bush administration for wanting to do likewise with drugs that treat less serious ailments.

A recent report by the House Government Operations Committee complained about that.

Rep. Donald M. Payne, D-N.J., said he supported use of such drugs to aid the dying but said the White House was forcing the FDA to allow the use of experimental drugs for less-than-life-threatening illness.

"This is nothing more than a parting gift from the Bush administration to those who seek to lower FDA's approval standards for all drugs," said Payne, chairman of the Government Operations subcommittee on human resources.

The rules came from the Council on Competitiveness, chaired by vice President Dan Quayle. The panel had recommended accelerated approval for drugs for "any condition, regardless of its severity, when the condition lacks satisfactory alternative therapy."

The FDA narrowed that to diseases considered serious or life threatening. It cited AIDS, cancer, Alzheimer's, heart failure and angina pectoris as examples of life-threatening illnesses; arthritis, asthma, diabetes, lupus and depression as serious diseases.

## Alleged rape case victim to take stand

By FRED PIERETTI  
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A mentally retarded woman who accuses four young men of sexually assaulting her does not understand the inviolability of her own body or the nature of sexual intercourse, her former guidance counselor says.

Carol Bolden testified Tuesday the woman was a "lonely and vulnerable 17-year-old at the time of the alleged attack nearly four years ago."

At the request of defense attorneys, Superior Court Judge R. Benjamin Cohen scheduled a hearing today to determine whether the woman, now 21, was competent to testify.

If judged competent, as both sides expected, the woman was to take the stand today in the nine-week-old rape trial.

The men, former varsity baseball players at Glen Ridge High School in suburban New York City, are charged with sexually assaulting the woman in the basement of a Glen

Ridge home in March 1989. The alleged attack included penetration with a baseball bat, broomstick and a stick.

Prosecutors say the woman, who has an IQ of 64 and the social skills of an 8-year-old, was forced or coerced into a sexual performance and that the men should have known she was mentally defective.

The defense contends she is a "Lolita" who aggressively and provocatively pursued sexual encounters, then bragged about her exploits.

Bryant Grober, 20, Christopher Archer, 21, and 21-year-old twins Kyle and Kevin Scherzer face charges of aggravated sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual conduct and conspiracy.

Bolden counseled the young

woman for more than a year before she was asked to leave Columbia High School in Maplewood in December 1987.

Bolden said the woman was vulnerable because she made no friends at the school, and even other mentally retarded students made fun of her.

"She was always basically alone. She was the oddball," she said.

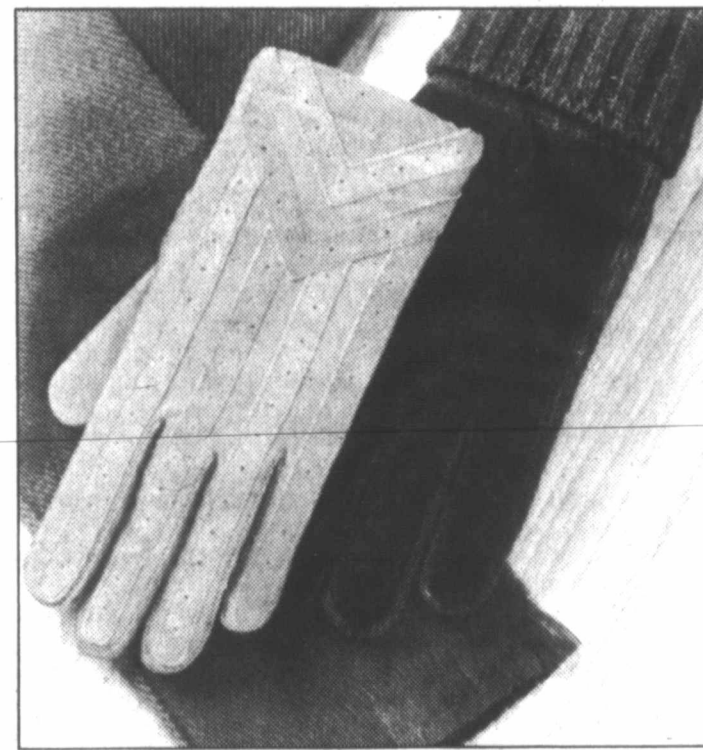
"In her mind a friend is a friend, and if someone comes up and touches you, that's a nice thing," Bolden said.

The defense contends that the school expelled her because she repeatedly used inappropriate sexual language and propositioned male students.

Bolden said the woman was asked to leave because she was unable to function in the classroom and was not progressing in her classes.

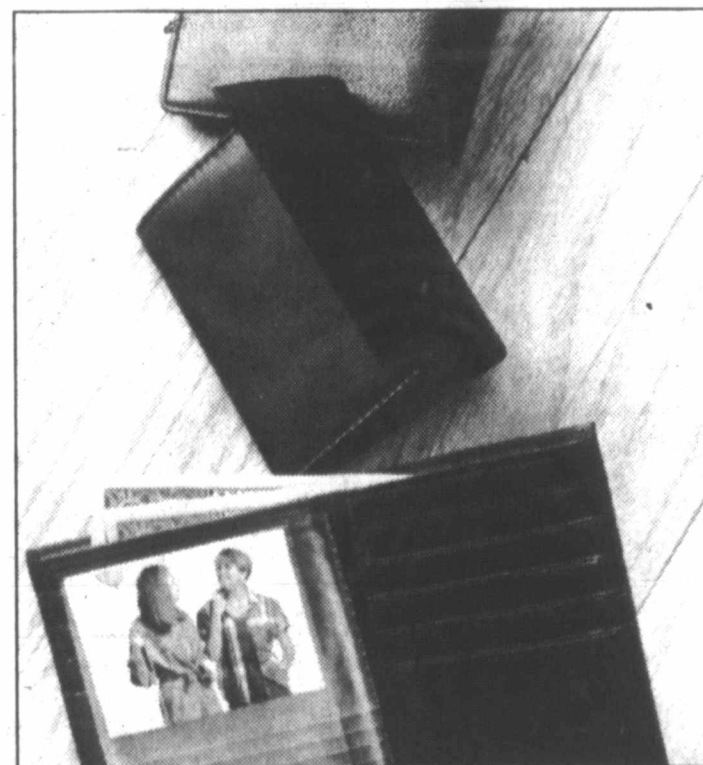
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# Raw milk sickens hundreds of kids

CHICAGO (AP) — Hundreds of schoolchildren across the country have fallen ill with diarrhea after drinking raw, unpasteurized milk during field trips to dairy farms, a study has found.

People aren't aware of the dangers of drinking unpasteurized milk despite increasing public education efforts, study co-author Michael T. Osterholm, a Minnesota epidemiologist, said Tuesday from Minneapolis.

Milk that has not been pasteurized — heated to kill bacteria — may carry several kinds of germs that can make people sick. The researchers traced one: campylobacter.

"Many people have never heard of campylobacter," Osterholm said. "But it's probably the most common cause of bacterial diarrheal disease."

The study by researchers from the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health was prompted by a 1981 outbreak of campylobacter among children who visited a Minnesota dairy farm.

From 1981 through 1990, researchers found that 458 children got sick in 20 outbreaks traced to campylobacter in raw milk in 11 states.

Fifteen outbreaks, or 75 percent, occurred after school field trips to dairy farms at which children consumed raw milk, researchers said.

Children typically got sick three

days after drinking the milk and stayed sick for about four days. Their illnesses included diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, headache and vomiting.

"Drinking raw milk represents an unacceptable health hazard for all persons unless they truly understand and accept the risks they are taking," wrote Dr. Herbert L. DuPont in an editorial accompanying the report in today's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

DuPont, director of infectious diseases at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, did not take part in the study.

Far more cases probably occurred than were found because many never are reported, researchers said.

Most states ban sales of raw milk, and five years ago the Food and Drug Administration prohibited interstate shipments of raw milk packaged for consumer use.

California had the highest number of outbreaks, with four, followed by Idaho, with three. Two top dairy states, Wisconsin and New York, reported none.

"From a nutritional and health point of view, (raw milk) has no advantages, and there are obviously risks," said Mona R. Sutnick, a Philadelphia dietician and a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association.

## Floating fisherman



A Chinese man floats on a raft made from an inner tube as he fishes in a Beijing canal Wednesday. (AP Photo)

## Whistleblower scientist restored to job

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scientist is getting his job back at the Environmental Protection Agency after an investigation concluded he was fired because he raised health concerns about fluoride that were contrary to EPA policy.

The order by an administrative law judge, disclosed Tuesday, reinstates William Marcus to his \$87,000-a-year job and requires the EPA to pay him compensatory damages of \$50,000 because of emotional stress brought on by his dismissal last May.

The 52-year-old toxicologist said in a telephone interview that he relishes returning to the agency where he had worked for 18 years. The ruling "removed a cloud from my reputation that was unjustly put there through lies and manufactured evidence," he said.

Marcus' dismissal last May 13 came after a lengthy investigation that focused on the scientist's outside activities as an expert trial witness. The EPA accused him of improperly using agency information for private gain, being improp-

erly absent from work and engaging in outside employment that appeared to pose a conflict of interest.

But Administrative Law Judge David Clarke Jr., concluded that the EPA's charges were not supported by fact, were only "a pretext" and that Marcus actually was fired "because he publicly questioned and opposed EPA's fluoride policy."

The EPA had no immediate comment on the ruling. "Until we see the decision it would be premature for us to comment," said agency spokesman John Kasper.

Marcus' lawyer, Steve Kohn, who disclosed the ruling, called it "the most significant case to date for an environmental whistleblower involving the EPA."

The agency produced employee time cards allegedly showing Marcus had been involved in his private work as an expert trial witness when he should have been doing EPA work. Marcus argued that he used annual leave time on the days cited by EPA investigators and accused agency officials of falsifying time

cards that showed him improperly absent because of illness.

Marcus maintained that his superiors at the EPA knew about his outside work and that his dismissal instead stemmed from the controversial internal memorandum he wrote in 1990 challenging the agency's position on the health effects of fluoride.

When the memorandum was leaked to the press, it caused embarrassment to senior EPA officials, Marcus argued. Clarke, the administrative law judge, agreed and said the dismissal violated federal whistleblower protection laws.

Clarke wrote that after Marcus' fluoride memo became public he had to submit weekly activity reports, lost his right to routinely engage in outside work and was restricted to "studying the least controversial chemicals." He also was prohibited in engaging in issues involving fluoride, said Clarke.

The judge noted that in a number of other cases where EPA employees faced charges they were given only short suspensions.

## Discovery astronauts prepare for landing

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Discovery's crew wrapped up its military work in orbit and dodged a piece of space junk before preparing for a planned homecoming today.

The space shuttle was scheduled to return to Kennedy Space Center this afternoon, one week after blasting into orbit. Weather forecasters said low clouds over NASA's spaceport could delay landing, but NASA spokesman Kyle Herring said early today that conditions appeared favorable.

Discovery had two opportunities today to land at Kennedy and two more at NASA's alternate touchdown site, Edwards Air Force Base in California, where fog was the main concern.

The crew was roused this morning by the Marine Corps Hymn.

"I'm at attention on the flight deck," shuttle pilot Marine Col. Robert Cabana radioed down to Mission Control. "We're rising and shining, Houston."

Late Tuesday, the astronauts had to swerve to avoid a small but potentially dangerous piece of space junk. It was the third time in two years that a shuttle crew had to duck debris.

Mission Control told shuttle commander David Walker to change course after determining the 4-inch piece of debris would pass too close to the spaceship and its five-man crew.

But Mission Control commentator James Hartsfield said a collision was unlikely even if Discovery didn't move away.

Under NASA flight rules, a shuttle can fly no closer than 1.3 miles above, below or beside another orbiting object, or 2.5 miles behind another object.

Even tiny objects can do major damage upon impact, given the average orbiting speed of 17,500 mph.

The U.S. Space Command, which is tracking more than 7,000 objects in orbit, most of them junk, could not tell what the debris was, spokeswoman K. Cormier said.

A space junk experiment aboard Discovery had to be canceled Saturday. A dead battery prevented the astronauts from shooting six metal balls into space that researchers had hoped to track in orbit with radar and telescopes.

Discovery's astronauts unloaded their primary payload, a secret Defense Department satellite, shortly after arriving in orbit Dec. 2.

On Tuesday, the astronauts recorded the glow around the shuttle's tail, which results from interaction between the orbiter surfaces and particles in space.

They also began stowing equipment, including an Army laser

receiver and a computerized Navy camera system they had been working with for five days.

Only two of the mission's 20 laser-sending opportunities were successful, but officials said that was enough to prove a spacecraft could receive laser signals beamed up from the ground. Bad weather spoiled many of the tests, while ground equipment trouble ruined others.

Cloudy weather also interfered with the camera experiment. The astronauts had to skip many of the intended ground targets and instead focus on clearer sites.

Air Force Lt. Col. James McLeroy of the Defense Department's Space Test Program said the astronauts took nearly 200 pictures with the system, which is designed to plot the latitude and longitude of objects photographed.

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# Government expands GM trucks probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government expanded its investigation into whether some General Motors pickup trucks are prone to fires but a consumer group still wants the automaker to recall the 4.7 million vehicles.

The Center for Auto Safety said a recall could prevent hundreds of injuries and deaths and avoid the costly investigation announced Tuesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The inquiry could take several months.

"The longer we wait to get a recall, the more innocent victims are going to be burned and possibly killed from this defect," said Debra

Barclay, a spokesman for the consumer group. "There is still not a recall. We still have these fire bombs on the road."

GM insists that the vehicles are safe and surpassed government regulations for fuel system reliability.

The automaker said in a statement, "We trust and believe the agency will conclude — as any fair reviewer would — that there is no basis upon which to conclude that these vehicles contain a safety-related defect."

In question are 1973-87 Chevrolet and GMC C/K series full-sized pickup trucks.

The trucks were made with

"sidesaddle" tanks mounted outside the frame rails. The consumer groups say that position makes the vehicles more vulnerable to fires and explosions in side-impact crashes.

The center claims at least 300 people have died in fires and explosions resulting from such crashes.

Tuesday's action by NHTSA upgrades the probe from a preliminary evaluation, during which the agency and the manufacturer exchange paperwork, to an engineering analysis. In that stage, government engineers study the alleged defect.

"The agency has been involved in a complicated review of a great deal

of information on this issue during the past four months, and there is no question further investigation is needed to determine whether these trucks contain a safety-related defect," said Marion Blakey, who heads the agency.

The action doesn't mean the agency has concluded a safety-related defect exists, she said.

Blakey said data from accidents and crash tests as well as the question of how the trucks are designed would be reviewed.

The probe began Aug. 14 with a petition by the Center for Auto Safety and Public Citizen, another consumer group.

# 12

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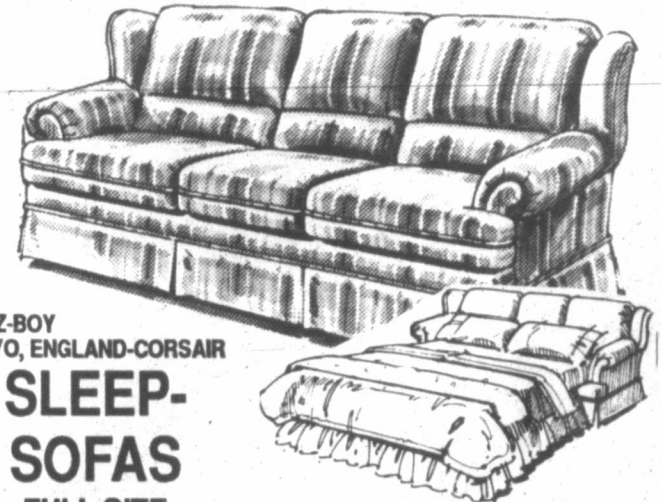
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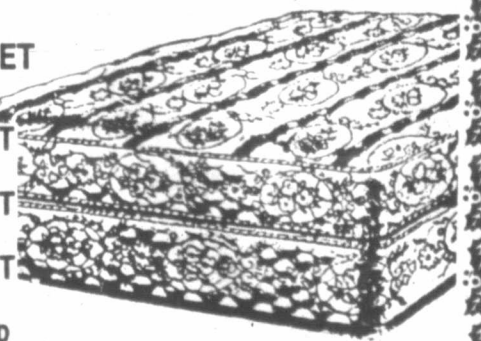
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# Food

## Holiday treats may be decorative as well as edible



Gingerbread Cookies may be used as decorations for the Christmas tree or the Apricot Cardmom Wreath may set the mood for a holiday dinner party.

## Drink to cap perfect evening

By NANCY BYAL  
Food Editor  
Better Homes and Gardens  
Magazine

Simple yet elegant, a smooth after-dinner drink puts a cozy cap on your holiday feast or party. Yet, how do you choose from the wide assortment of brandies, liqueurs, dessert wines and dessert coffees available? Clip and save the guide below and find a few that suit your taste.

### Brandies

Brandies come in flavors ranging from heavily sweetened brandy-based liqueurs to fiery unaged brandies. Traditional brandy is made from distilled grape wines and is aged. Cognac, the king of the brandy family, comes from wines produced only in the Cognac region of France. Other imported brandies include Grappa, an Italian brandy usually not aged before bottling, Metaxa, a Greek brandy, and Pisco, a Peruvian brandy.

Brandy blends include B&B, a mixture of Benedictine and brandy, and Chartreuse, a green or yellow brandy flavored with herbs, plants and extracts.

Fruit brandies are made from a

wide variety of fruits other than grapes and may or may not be aged. Some fruit brandies include apple, Calvados, or applejack; apricot, also called abricotine; blackberry; cherry (the German version is called kirschwasser); peach; pear; plum (called slivovitz by central Europeans); and raspberry brandy.

### Liqueurs

Liqueurs are also known as cordials. Liqueur flavorings are derived not only from fruits, but also from fruit stones and peels, flowers, herbs, seeds, barks, roots and vegetable extracts. The basis for liqueurs can be brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, or other spirit mixed or redistilled with flavoring materials. A sugar syrup is added, then the liqueur is aged. Cremes are extra-sweet and smooth liqueurs.

Some of the many interesting liqueurs include advocaat (egg nog), Amaretto (almond), creme de cassis (black currant), creme de cacao (coffee), creme de menthe (mint), Curacao (orange), Kummel (caraway seed), Pimento (spicy), Sambuca (anise), Kahlua (coffee) and Galliano (anise).

### Dessert Coffee Drinks

To make your own hot coffee

drink, start with 1/2 cup of hot strong coffee and choose from the suggestions below. Top off your steaming cup with some whipped cream and ground cinnamon or nutmeg.

Cafe Alexander: Stir in 1 tablespoon creme de cacao and 1 tablespoon brandy.

Cafe Benedictine: Stir in 2 tablespoons Benedictine and 2 tablespoons light cream.

Cafe Caribe: Stir in 1 tablespoon coffee liqueur and 1 tablespoon rum.

Cafe Columbian: Stir in 2 tablespoons coffee liqueur and 1 tablespoon chocolate-flavored syrup.

Cafe Israel: Stir in 2 tablespoons chocolate-flavored syrup and 2 tablespoons orange liqueur.

Cafe Nut: Stir in 2 tablespoons Amaretto or hazelnut liqueur.

Dutch Coffee: Stir in 2 tablespoons chocolate-mint liqueur.

Irish Coffee: Stir in 1 tablespoon Irish whiskey and 2 teaspoons sugar.

Orange-Brandy Coffee: Stir in 1

## Raspberries, chocolate make sugarplum dessert

By The Associated Press

Christmas is the time for sugarplums, which are round pieces of sugary candy. These festive Sugarplum desserts are meringues filled with chocolate custard and garnished with cocoa and raspberries.

### Sugarplums

4 egg whites  
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1 cup granulated sugar  
2 cups (12-ounce package) semisweet chocolate chips  
1-3rd cup granulated sugar  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1 tablespoon butter or margarine  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3/4 cup whipping cream  
1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
1/4 cup seedless raspberry preserves  
Cocoa powder  
Fresh raspberries

For the meringues: In a large mixer bowl, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until foamy. Gradu-

ally add sugar, beating until soft peaks form. Stir in 1 cup of the chocolate chips. Drop by 1/4 cups onto parchment paper or foil-lined baking sheets. With tip of spoon, shape each into 3- to 4-inch circles. Bake in a preheated 275-degree F oven for 50 minutes or until very lightly browned and crusty. Turn oven off; let stand for 1 hour in closed oven. Cool completely. Store in airtight container up to 1 week.

For the chocolate custard: In a small saucepan, combine 1-3rd cup granulated sugar, the 2 tablespoons cornstarch and the 1/4 teaspoon salt. Stir in milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly; boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat, stir in remaining 1 cup chocolate chips, butter and vanilla. Stir until smooth. Press plastic wrap directly onto surface of custard. Cool completely.

For topping: In a small bowl, beat 3/4 cup whipping cream and 1 tablespoon granulated sugar until stiff peaks form.

To assemble: Spread about 1/2

teaspoon raspberry preserves into each meringue shell. Top with chocolate custard and topping. Garnish with cocoa and fresh raspberries. Makes 16 desserts.

The holiday season is synonymous with entertaining. It's the time of year when family and friends get together to enjoy the festivities of the season.

Creative holiday decorating makes the home warm and welcoming and guests will be surprised to learn that the decorations were baked right there in the kitchen.

Here are some easy and inexpensive holiday entertaining and decorating tips for the frequent or once-a-year host or hostess:

Invite the neighborhood to a tree-trimming party

- Whip up a batch of gingerbread men or butter cookies prior to the party

- Let guests thread ribbons through the top of the cookies and adorn the tree with personalized ornaments

- Be sure to have extra cookies on hand for them to enjoy at home

Host a holiday brunch with a memorable centerpiece that's easy on the budget

- A homemade bread wreath, such as an Apricot Cardamom

Wreath (recipe attached), sets the mood for an elegant gathering when a colorful candle is placed in the center

- Gingerbread houses decorated with gumdrops, hard candies and marshmallows make wonderful centerpieces for informal parties

- Use gingerbread men as placecards; simply write guests' names on them with icing

- Gingerbread men placecards become instant party favors - if guests don't eat them first!

Be prepared when friends drop by unexpectedly by keeping homemade goodies in the refrigerator or freezer

- Have a few round bread loaves stored in the freezer

- When guests make a surprise visit, hollow out the top portion of a bread loaf, fill with the dip of your choice and serve with pretzels, chips or cut vegetables

Involve the kids and turn cookie decorating into a fun family activity

- Children can place decorated cookies in lunch bags that they color themselves; then tie with a

ribbon and they can give them as gifts to their schoolmates and friends

Entertaining during the holidays can be easy and fun, and Land O'Lakes is standing by ready to help. Call the Land O'Lakes Holiday Bakeline, 1-800-782-9606, to reach Land O'Lakes home economists who can answer holiday baking questions. Open through December 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Bakeline is designed to help holiday cooks bake their buttery best this holiday season.

Bakeline callers will also receive a free copy of "Heart-warming Gifts from the Kitchen," a leaflet filled with favorite holiday recipes from Land O'Lakes - perfect treats to serve at home during the holidays. Helpful baking tips are also provided along with creative ideas for wrapping homemade goodies to give as gifts.

These innovative decorating tips will help the holiday host or hostess celebrate with lots of style - but without spending a lot of money. Let the festivities begin!

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# Lifestyles



## The Book Report

by Ellen Malone, Lovett Library Staff

*The Copper Beech* by Maevie Binchy

Following the success of *Circle of Friends* and *Firefly Summer*, the author examines the drama behind life in one small Irish village. While unmarried schoolmistress Maddy Ross mourns the loss of her dreams, Eddie yearns for the father who abandoned him and Maura longs to give her son the childhood she never had. Through it all, the lofty copper beech tree outside the schoolhouse bears witness to the hopes, dreams and disappointments of the residents of Schanccraig.

*Driving Force* by Dick Francis  
An originator of the racetrack mystery genre adds another stall to his stable of best sellers. Usually a stickler for security around the track, young ex-jockey Freddie Croft bends the rules one night and picks up a hitchhiker in one of his horse vans. When the passenger turns up dead, Freddie swept into the vortex of a malign conspiracy that threatens to destroy his enterprise or take his life.

*The Stars Shine Down* by Sidney Sheldon

A new twisting, turning plot from Sidney Sheldon. He pens another page turner, in which nothing is as it seems. Climbing out of a sordid past, Lara Cameron finally reaches the pinnacle of international fortune and renown. But just as she feels she has achieved her wildest ambitions, a simple act of revenge by a

discarded lover could ruin everything. Set in Scotland, Nova Scotia, Chicago, New York, Rome and Reno, *The Stars Shine Down* promises to be another global Sheldon success.

*Voodoo, Ltd.* by Ross Thomas  
A new, fast paced crime thriller from the Edgar Allan Poe Award-winning author. The sparks fly when ex-carmy and Princeton graduate Arthur Case Wu and his partner, Quincy Durant, investigate the disappearance of two kinky British hypnotists. Germany entrepreneur Enno Glimm has hired them to find the two missing persons because they alone can prove that his client, actress Lone Gamble, is not guilty of murder.

*Joshua in the Holy Land* by Joseph F. Girzone  
A new novel by the author of *Joshua*. Joshua, the new messiah, makes a pilgrimage to the place where it all began, only to discover that the region is as divided and violent as it was two thousand years ago. Joshua retraces his steps through the Holy Land — Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and finally, Jerusalem — to an uplifting, and unexpected, conclusion. Filled with resonances from the Gospels, the novel offers readers a satisfying addition to the "Joshua" series.

*Every Living Thing* by James Herriot  
The first new book of memoirs by the best selling author of *All*

*Creatures Great and Small* in 10 years. Retired now from the veterinary practice that he made world famous in previous best sellers, the author never the less continues to share stories from his life in Yorkshire, England. Fans of the loveable veterinarian's legendary storytelling will easily recognize in *Every Living Thing* the warmth, humor, drama, color and humanity that have endeared James Herriot to millions of readers.

*It Doesn't Take a Hero* by Norman Schwarzkopf  
For a brief, but history making moment in 1991, the eyes of the world were upon the commander of the Allied Forces in the Persian Gulf, who determination steered a nation and led it to victory. Now, in one of his most heralded publishing events in recent years, the general recalls his achievements on and off the battlefield, discusses his ideals and personal vision, and analyzes the changes in the American military. With this full-scale autobiography, the much admired figure marches back into the public eye in typically grand style.

## Newsmakers



Jeanne Brown

Jeanne Brown, Walnut Creek, Calif., daughter of Kay Dickerson of Pampa, was named one of the outstanding employees of 1992 at the Contra-Costa Times in Walnut Creek. She serves in the centralized services of the pre-press department of the newspaper.

\*\*\*  
Joe Van Zandt, Pampa, was honored at a retirees' honor luncheon at the annual staff conference of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Van Zandt join the extension service as an agricultural agent in 1961 and served in Live Oak,



Dr. Zerle Carpenter, left, director of the Extension Service, congratulates Joe Van Zandt on his retirement from the service.

Parmer, Moore, Hansford and Gray Counties.  
He plans to do consulting on farm management.

\*\*\*  
Six Pampanos were named to the Texas Zeta chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honor scholarship society on Nov. 19. Membership is limited to juniors and seniors who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Named were Janet Caswell, senior nursing major; Johnny W. East, junior premedical major;

Brenda Leigh Graham, senior generic special education major; Starla Kindle, senior elementary education major; Melanie D. Langford, senior elementary education major; and Michele Sheffield, senior music performance major.

\*\*\*  
Navy Seaman Recruit Lann E. Harlan, son of Eddie G. and Sandra L. Harlan, Skellytown, completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

He is a 1990 graduate of Borger High School, Borger.



## Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

### Adopted son is rejected the second time around

DEAR ABBY: We have a 21-year-old adopted son. "Jim" had never expressed interest in meeting his natural mother until two of his doctors suggested it might be a good idea. The reason was because of many medical problems he has had. When he discussed it with us, we were very supportive. We had always told him that he was given up for adoption because of his mother's love for him and her feeling that he needed more than she could give — which we truly believed.

When Jim pursued finding her, he knew she could possibly refuse to meet him or the courts might refuse to open the file. However, the courts did open the file and located the natural mother. The woman agreed for Jim to have limited information about his background, but she refused to meet him or give him any information about his biological father or about any other siblings.

Now I wish the courts had refused to open the file rather than having the mother refuse to meet Jim. I know her reasons are probably justified, but even though he says it doesn't matter, I can feel his pain in (again) feeling rejection.

I'm wondering what your opinion is. No names or cities, please.

PENNSYLVANIA MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: It is most unfortunate that your son was "rejected" in the manner that he was. His feelings could have been spared had there been a more sensitive "go-between"

handling the possible meeting. Apparently, the woman did not want anyone to know anything about that part of her life. Perhaps, in time, she will change her mind.

Meanwhile, God bless you — it is your good fortune to have this lovely son. Please don't judge his biological mother too harshly. God only knows what kind of a life she has had.

\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I'm another tall woman, but I didn't appreciate the advantages of being tall until I grew up.

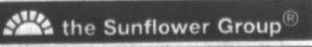
When I was in junior high school, I was 5 foot 11 and towered over all the boys and most of my teachers. Somehow I survived the painful remarks all tall girls get at that age.

I found that most tall girls preferred dating tall men — they said it made them feel more "feminine." Not me. I always measured a man from his eyebrows up!

In college, I was attracted to a cocky little 5-foot-6-inch shrimp who delighted in dating tall women. (He said he enjoyed cutting them down to his size.) He was a straight A student, a whiz on the track team and a star on the debate team. He was also a terrific salesman. I married the guy. His mother was afraid we would have giraffes, but our children were average in height.

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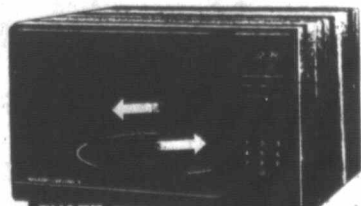
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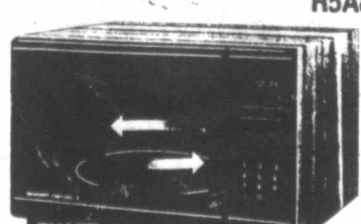
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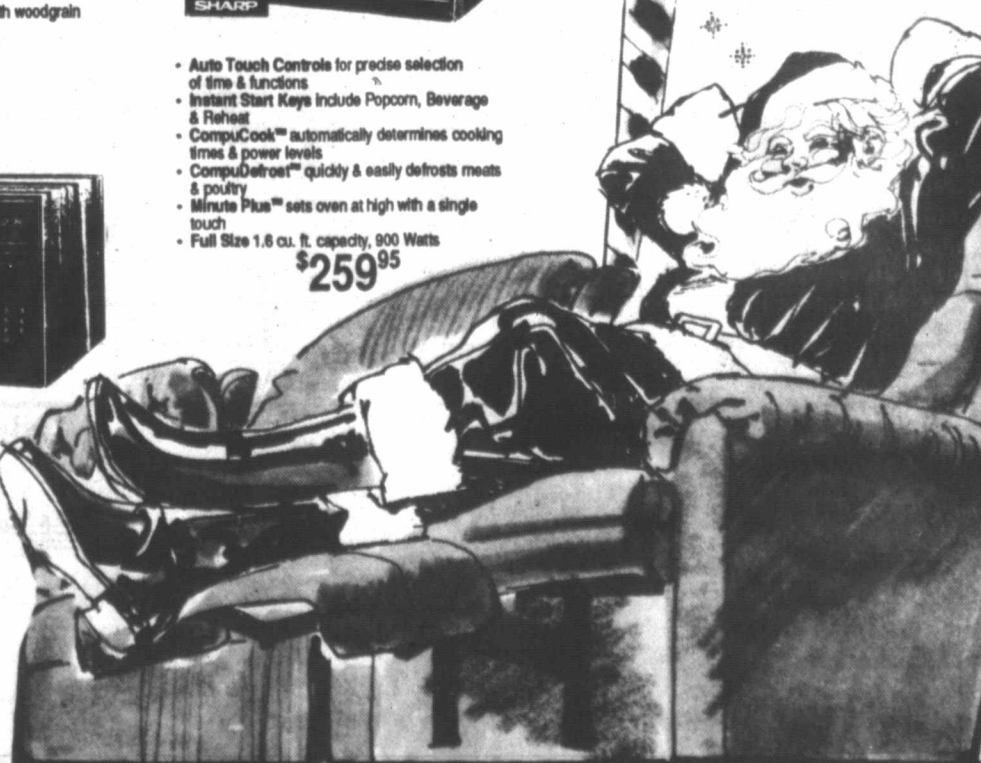


- Auto-Touch Controls for precise selection of time and functions.
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DECEMBER 9 1992

# The Pampa News Comic Page

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- Candle part
  - Earth
  - Domestic animal
  - Produce
  - Metric unit
  - Asian women's quarters
  - Armored mammal
  - annum
  - After deductions
  - Agree
  - Barbra Streisand movie
  - Staircase part
  - Grand Canyon State
  - Songs for two
  - TV news source
  - Zola heroine
  - Actor Bruce

- DOWN**
- Basketball league (abbr.)
  - Comparative suffix
  - Wheel projection
  - Novelist
  - Short play
  - Petroleum
  - ease
  - Freed
  - Pontiff
  - Home of Adam
  - Sour
  - Actor Alain
  - Potato
  - Marina sight
  - Tennessee
  - Ford
  - Baseball teams
  - Soundness of mind
  - Snatch
  - Spooky
  - Attempts
  - Sleep noisily
  - Oklahoma town
  - Bullet
  - Short sword
  - Top points
  - Beat grain out of husks
  - Glacial ice
  - Prosper
  - Unused
  - Turns right
  - Attention-getting sound
  - Age
  - Compass pt.
  - German article
  - Over (poet.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

OBI	BLAB	BLAH
OUT	YIPE	YORE
PST	PIUS	LAID
STOMA	SOLIDLY	
OSE	TIN	
DROSED	PEALE	
YEWES	REDS	OER
ABE	BOND	SNAG
DADDY	TATTERS	
ATE	YOU	
DRAPERY	SNIDE	
YAWP	REVS	OYL
ERAL	OTOE	UNI
RAYE	RIND	SEE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
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31			32				33		34		
35		36		37				38		39	
40				41		42			43		
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47	48	49						50			
51				52		53			54	55	56
57				58					59		
60				61							62

WALNUT COVE

Why is the grass always greener on the other side of the fence, Glen?

Is it fate? Providence? Or is it just a matter of perspective?

Our septic tank drains onto their property.

ARLO & JANIS

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

SLOW DANCING, LIKE WE DID IN COLLEGE!

IT DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE DANCING!

WE HAD TO TELL THEM SOMETHING!

EEK & MEEK

36% OF THE 43% WHO VOTED WITH 61% OF THE POPULATION IN 24% OF THE DISTRICTS ROLLED...

AGREED WITH 47% OF THE UNDECIDED IN MORE THAN 5% OF THE CASES REVIEWED...

WITH A 98% MARGIN OF ERROR

JOHN'S BAR

B.C.

BUY ALL MY BOOKS AND YOU CAN BE AS RICH AS ME!

HOW MUCH ARE THEY?

500 CLAMS.

WOW, HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH ALTOGETHER?

IF I MAKE THIS SALE—500 CLAMS.

GET RICH EASY BOOKS

MARVIN

THIS IS MARY LINTBAUGH AND IT'S TIME FOR AN "ANIMAL RIGHTS UPDATE"

BORN FREE...

MARY LINTBAUGH HAS CHALLENGED THE "BABY TALK"

...THAT SEGMENT OF THE SHOW WHERE I ATTEMPT TO PROVE TO YOU PEOPLE THAT ANIMALS DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS!

UH...FOLKS...IT APPEARS OUR OFFICIAL CALL SCREENER, BITSY SNERDLEY, HAS A PHILOSOPHICAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THE HOST

GRRR!

MARMADUKE

"I'll give you a tip...don't take him along when you tell it to the judge."

KIT N' CARLYLE

WATCHING TELEVISION WHEN YOU HAVE A CAT...

ALLEY OOP

I CAN'T BELIEVE MARTY CRANE WOULD STOOP TO SUCH TACTICS JUST TO GAIN CONTROL OF A MAIL ROUTE!

I DON'T KNOW, BILL...I'VE HEARD THINGS ARE PRETTY SLOW OVER THERE!

WHERE'S HIS OUTFIT LOCATED?

HE RUNS HIS OPERATION OUT OF A SMALL FIELD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CITY!

ANY OBJECTIONS IF I GO OUT THERE 'AN' NOSE AROUND?

I GUESS WE COULDN'T LOSE ANYTHING BY IT COULD WE?

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"I wasn't yawning. I was just stretching my mouth."

SNAFU

I ALWAYS REALIZE CHRISTMAS IS COMING WHEN THE DECORATIONS GO UP AT THE MALL.

IT DOESN'T HIT ME TILL MY KIDS START BEHAVING...

WINTHROP

WINTHROP? ARE YOU IN THERE?

NOBODY HOME

WINTHROP'S INNER SANCTUM

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

BY DICK CAVALLI

THE BORN LOSER

WATER FOUNTAIN

WATER FOUNTAIN

PRINCIPAL

FRANK AND ERNEST

WE'VE SET OUR BIOLOGICAL CLOCKS ON SNOOZE CONTROL.

PEANUTS

GARFIELD

ODIE LOOKS GOOD IN A HAT

BY JIM DAVIS

## Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** More can be accomplished today with an effective partnership arrangement than through independent action. Be a team player instead of a loner. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You're likely to be able to perform physical tasks more efficiently today than mental ones. Give your muscles a workout and your mind a rest.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** The odds are tilted slightly in your favor today in situations that have elements of chance. However, this doesn't give you license to be a foolish risk taker.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Do not be overly concerned today with how you will handle developments that could be problematic. You tend to worry too much about negative factors that may never materialize.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Try to spend some time today catching up on your paperwork and/or correspondence. Put things in an orderly frame and make those phone calls you've been neglecting.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Financial indicators look reasonably positive for you at this time. Target areas that could be meaningful to you money-wise and focus your efforts and energies there.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Your independence will be very important to you today and you won't like being imposed upon by others. Try to avoid people whom you know have a tendency to do just that.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Strive to be helpful wherever you can today, because what you do for others will bring you true gratification and happiness. Look out for the other person.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Being around pretentious people could make you feel very uncomfortable today, so try to give them as wide a berth as possible. You won't be too appealing either if you put on airs.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You're in a good achievement cycle today so it's important that you aim for impressive targets and objectives. Shoot high, because even if you fall short, you could still be a winner.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Don't treat your hunches or perceptions indifferently today. Your intuition regarding the outcome of events could be more accurate than usual.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** You have good friends in the right places, and today, with a few subtle hints, you should be able to solicit appropriate aid in help with something you can't do on your own.







# Shooting to overcome: Disabled hunters get chance

By TED ANTHONY  
Associated Press Writer

THREE FORKS OF WILLIAMS RIVER, W.Va. (AP) — Walking in the snowy woods atop Kinneson Mountain, Dorsey Smith strikes an uncommon balance. Under one arm is a Remington .12-gauge shotgun. Under the other is a wooden crutch.

Hobbled by polio in infancy, Smith got by on one strong leg most of his life until a back injury in 1988 weakened him further. He thought he would have to give up hunting, his lifelong love.

But the U.S. Forest Service office in West Virginia's eastern mountains is making sure he doesn't have to: It has set aside a wedge of the Monongahela National Forest for disabled hunters.

"It used to be I could go like you or anybody. But now, coming up in years and with one leg, it's just a paradise for guys like me," said Smith, 68. "To me, this is the best thing that ever happened around here."

Many states issue special permits to hunters with disabilities, but few offered more support until West Virginia and the U.S. Forest Service began looking for ways to make hunting easier for them three years ago.

The Forest Service now also offers areas for disabled hunters in Oregon and Montana, and more are planned, says Joe Meade, national access coordinator for the service.

So far in West Virginia, two areas, one on Kinneson Mountain and one about 30 miles away in



(AP Photo) Dorsey Smith of Richwood, W.Va., prepares to scout a government-sponsored Handicapped Hunter Access in West Virginia last month.

Camden-on-Gauley, have been set aside for disabled hunters. "Even if they don't bag an animal out there, they appreciate the

opportunity," said Don Kinerson, a U.S. Forest Service ranger in nearby Richwood.

"There aren't that many folks that need it, but it doesn't cost anything," he said. "More people will come as word gets around."

High in the national forest, about 250 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., the woods are replete with deer, turkey and squirrel. Even the occasional bear passes through, as tracks in the snow on a recent morning indicated.

Scarcely any able-bodied hunters endure the long walk into these woods and only disabled hunters' vehicles are permitted past the locked iron gate that blocks the access road.

Smith is the exception; he still walks. Other hunters who use wheelchairs can hunt from the driver's seat of their cars or trucks, since their permits exempt them from a West Virginia law prohibiting loaded guns inside vehicles.

"If it wasn't for something like this setup," Smith said, "I'd have to give it up."

The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law last year, is praised by handicapped people as an effective way to legislate accessibility so they can get into public places. But forests, even public forests, still are mostly inaccessible.

Still, attitudes are changing as more people with disabilities venture into the world of recreation, advocates say.

"Handicapped people are becoming a little more geared to sports,"

said Julie Haft, a volunteer for the National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Association in Washington, D.C.

"I think something has awakened in people that's been there for so long, but they just haven't had the opportunities or facilities to do it," she said.

Slowly, such opportunities are emerging.

Haft's organization sponsors such activities as "Fun Runs" for handicapped people in Washington, D.C., and ski competitions across the country. There even is a U.S. Disabled Ski Team.

Fishing, too, has caught on. More than 25 states offer sites or programs of varying scope to help make angling accessible, according to the Sport Fishing Institute in Washington, D.C.

And the National Ocean Access Project is trying to put such watersports as sailing and motorboating within reach of people with disabilities.

Meade's boss at the Forest Service, Bob Ross, called the West Virginia hunting preserve an innovative way the service is "expanding our recreation horizons."

Smith, who was hunting for squirrels, doesn't think in such grand terms. He has his eyes on simpler, more rewarding things.

He aimed his green Ford pickup, with its "Sexy Grandpa" sign in the window, up the winding, snowy road to the place that gives him chances his disability might otherwise have stolen.

He hopes one day this winter to find a deer in his rifle's cross hairs. A squirrel is fun, after all, but it's not the big one.

"I just enjoy bagging one of them babies," Smith said, looking around the woods and inhaling a large helping of the crisp breeze.

"The fresh air, the trees, the game I get to see," he said. "I love it all."

**Buckle up - it's the law - and just plain sense**

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## Keating tells jury that deals were legitimate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charles Keating Jr., responding for the first time to charges that he swindled Lincoln Savings investors, testified that allegedly fraudulent land sales and payments were bona fide business deals.

Testifying in his federal trial Tuesday, Keating replied "No," "Never" and "Absolutely not" to questions about 14 land and securities deals that prosecutors describe as the heart of their case.

He repeatedly denied allegations of fraud by a parade of government witnesses who have struck plea bargains.

Keating is accused of bilking Lincoln investors and living like a king on looted funds, leaving taxpayers a record \$2.6 billion bill when the Irvine, Calif.-based thrift collapsed.

Keating, chairman of Phoenix-based American Continental, Lincoln's parent company, has become

the symbol of the savings and loan debacle. He claims he is being made a scapegoat by government officials seeking to escape blame.

The U.S. District Court jury has not been told that he was convicted of securities fraud last year in state court and is serving a 10-year prison sentence. Keating's lawyer did not put up a defense to those charges.

The government maintains that as Lincoln faced huge losses in 1986 and 1987, Keating devised bogus land sales to create false profits and engineered a looting of Lincoln while he and his family maintained a lavish lifestyle.

Keating and his son, Charles Keating III, are charged with fraud, racketeering and conspiracy. Keating faces a maximum of 525 years in prison and his son faces 475.

His denials of wrongdoing were replies to questions from defense lawyer Stephen C. Neal.

One of the allegations involves a \$5 million loan Keating had Lincoln make to Arizona homebuilder R.A. Homes to reimburse it for a down payment on property Lincoln was selling near Tucson.

Lincoln and a subsidiary made a profit of about \$8.4 million on the deal, the government says. It argued R.A. would not have purchased the land without Lincoln's fraudulent assistance and that Keating promised R.A. the company would make a profit while making no loan payments.

But Keating insisted Tuesday he had agreed to make a \$2 million loan to R.A. for another purpose eight months before the September 1986 land deal and that the other \$3 million was a separate loan.

Asked about the government allegations, he replied loudly, "It was not a sham transaction."

He told how American Financial

Corp., which he helped Cincinnati tycoon Carl Lindner found in 1959, grew to be a diversified financial company with more than \$1 billion in assets by 1975.

AFC subsequently acquired Continental Homes in Phoenix, which Keating said he originally didn't think much of. But he said he eventually decided to keep it for himself, renaming it American Continental Corp.

Keating bought Irvine-based Lincoln in 1984, after the S&L industry was deregulated, allowing him to invest its deposits in direct land development and junk bonds.

## Serb tanks withdraw, leaving airport road open

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Serb tanks pulled back today from a key stretch of road connecting Sarajevo and its airport, but the resumption of aid flights remained in limbo despite growing need in the Bosnian capital.

Days of fierce fighting eased by morning. The occasional boom of artillery was heard from the direction of the western suburbs of Otes and Stup, but much less frequently than in recent days.

Although central Sarajevo was generally quiet, hospital officials reported that a missile, apparently fired from Serb positions on hills around the city, smashed into a bread line, killing five and wounding 30.

And a statement from Muslim-led government loyalists said Serbs had assembled 250 civilians in a human shield and were using them to advance toward the capital from Vogosca to the northeast. There was no independent confirmation.

Sporadic fighting was reported in northwestern Bosnia, with Croatian radio saying Serb artillery and infantry targeted Bihac and the nearby town of Cazin.

There were unconfirmed reports that a new U.N. aid convoy had arrived. But the airport, shut down Dec. 1 after a plane was hit by small-arms fire, remained closed.

The humanitarian airlift supplies 40 percent of the city's food needs. U.N. officials said the airport might be reopened today, but only for flights resupplying U.N. peacekeepers.

Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said children in Sarajevo were increasingly begging for food and that adults were malnourished.

"People are extremely dry and haggard. They no longer resemble the photos on their ID cards, they've lost so much weight," she said.

Serb forces on Tuesday offered safe passage out of Sarajevo to all people who feel "threatened by cold and winter." But their offer was eyed with suspicion in Sarajevo as a possible propaganda ploy and an attempt to shift blame for the thousands who may die this winter from cold and hunger.

The Serbs gave no date or details on who would oversee such an exodus or how it would be carried out.

The Bosnian government has opposed wholesale evacuation of Sarajevo, saying it make the city impossible to defend.

The airport road was blocked Tuesday by four Serb tanks firing at the government-held western suburb of Dobrinja, Sarajevo's defenders said. The highway is the only connection between the city and non-Serb held territory.

It was not clear why the Serbs withdrew their tanks from the airport road. But Serb leaders have frequently given assurances that they want aid to get to Sarajevo and relieve suffering there, so any long-term Serb presence on the road would have further damaged their image and risked an international military effort to reopen the road.

At least 17,000 people have been killed and more than 100,000 officially reported missing since the government in Sarajevo declared Bosnia-Herzegovina's independence from Yugoslavia in February.

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