

Hijacked jetliner stormeu; death

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Security forces stormed a hijacked Air France jetliner with some 170 hostages today, triggering an explosion and starting an exchange of gunfire on the tarmac at Marseille's airport.

Some deaths were reported in the attempt to rescue the passengers and crew of the plane, which was seized Saturday in Algiers by five armed Islamic radicals.

The assault occurred after hijackers killed a fourth hostage and

dumped the body out of the plane.

Live television showed a white flash and sparks flying from the rear of the aircraft at 5:20 p.m. (11:20 a.m. EST). Fire engines rushed to the plane.

Television reporters said gunshots were also heard as several fire engines rushed to the rear of the scene as dusk fell at the airport.

The plane flew to Marignane airport, 25 miles northwest of Marseille, early today after a 40-hour standoff in Algiers.

Sixty-five passengers had been freed since the gunmen commandeered the Airbus A-300 Saturday morning. Three passengers — a Frenchman, a Vietnamese and an Algerian policeman — were killed while the jetliner stood on the tarmac at Algiers.

A total of 169 passengers and crew were thought to still be on board when the rescue attempt began.

The hijackers, armed with at least two Kalashnikov assault rif-

les and two automatic pistols, seized the plane Saturday as it prepared to leave for Paris.

Algerian officials said one of the hijackers was a member of the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical Muslim extremist faction in Algeria.

The group has claimed responsibility for most of the deaths of the 71 foreigners killed in the last 15 months as radicals tried to starve the Algerian government of

the foreign technical expertise it needs to run its oil and other industries. France, which once ruled Algeria, has been the extremists' chief target, and 23 French citizens have been killed.

More than 11,000 people have died in the insurgency, which began in January 1992 when the army-installed government canceled the second round of parliamentary elections to stop Islamic fundamentalists from win-

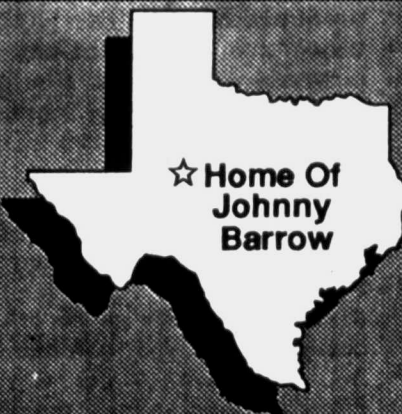
ning. Today was the third anniversary of the first round of elections, which the Islamic Salvation Front won overwhelmingly.

It wasn't clear what the five hijackers wanted, aside from going to Paris. A news report said they had demanded freedom for two jailed Muslim leaders. But an Algerian Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday they had dropped that demand.

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MONDAY

Snyder Daily News

Ask Us

Q—How can I contact State Senator-elect Tom Haywood?

A—You may write Mr. Haywood at 1416 8th St., Wichita Falls, 76301 or call his office at 817-723-1566.

In Brief

Clinton Xmas

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Christine Marie Zgorski grows up, she can brag that the president of the United States attended her Baptism.

President Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea attended Christmas services Sunday at the Foundry United Methodist Church. The service included the baptism of Christine, daughter of Gary and Suzy Zgorski of Glassboro, N.J.

After church, the Clintons were joined at the White House by Mrs. Clinton's mother, Dorothy Rodham; Clinton's late mother's husband, Richard Kelley; and Clinton's brother, Roger, his wife and their infant son.

Local

Video series

The Family Life series continues at 7 this evening on Cablevision Channel 2 with "Faith and Inquiry: Tough Questions Jesus Asks."

Appreciation

An appreciation reception will be held from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 in the county courtroom for Justice of the Peace Wanda Rushing and County Judge Bob Doolittle, who are leaving office.

Candlelight

The July Fourth Breakfast/Community-Wide Candlelight Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the chamber of commerce. Visitors are welcome.

Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Friday, 53 degrees; low, 32 degrees; high Saturday, 58 degrees; low, 29 degrees; high Sunday, 60 degrees; low, 28 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Monday, 34 degrees; no precipitation; total precipitation for 1994 to date, 11.55 inches.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Low near 40. Tuesday, cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. High near 50 and east wind 10-20 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 5:48. Sunrise Tuesday, 7:41. Of 359 days in 1994, the sun has shone 351 days in Snyder.



NEW DIRECTORS — New directors of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce were elected recently and they will begin their terms on Jan. 1. Shown, left to right, are Julie Sentell, Ronnie Shields, Rob Sanders, Gary Luft and Keith Hackfeld. (SDN Staff Photo)

Scurry County jobless rate shows only slight reduction

The jobless rate is down less than one percent in Scurry County for the month of November, according to statistics released by the Texas Employment Commission.

Unemployment countywide dropped from 5.6 percent in October to 5.5 percent in November, according to the TEC.

TEC bases its calculations on an estimated county workforce of 7,690 people, 7,277 of which were employed. The 421 unemployed but seeking employment represents 5.5 percent.

Scurry County began the year with 7.4 percent. That rose to 7.6 percent in February and the year's high of 8.2 in March. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.7 percent in April and May. Other monthly calculations were 8.0 in June, 7.1 in July, 6.0 in August and

September, 5.6 in October and 5.5 in November.

Unemployment for the city of Snyder is also down less than one percent from 6 percent in October to 5.9 percent in November. These calculations are based on an estimated city labor force of 5,171 people, 4,066 of which were employed.

TEC statistics for the state are based on an estimated labor force of 9,497,000 people, 8,966,800 of which are employed. The remaining 531,000 make up 5.6 percent.

TEC November figures for area counties included:

—Fisher County: 4 percent, based on a labor force of 1,929, with 1,837 employed and 92 seeking employment.

—Kent County: 3 percent, based on a labor force of 434, with 421 working and 13 seeking employment.

—Mitchell County: 6.7 percent, based on a labor force of 3,470, with 3,237 working and 233 seeking employment.

—Nolan County: 6.7 percent, based on a labor force of 8,152, with 7,603 working and 549 seeking employment.

Motorists gets more assistance than he wanted

An 18-year-old Rockport man, Elmer Ray Lanier Jr., was arrested Sunday afternoon at the intersection of U.S. 84 and College Avenue and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle as a result of a "feeling" by DPS Trooper Kevin Wilkie.

Wilkie was working a "motorist assist" call when the subject began to act "real nervous," according to the trooper.

"The longer I was out there, the more nervous he became so I ran a check on the vehicle," said the trooper. "The 1990 Ford Taurus had been reported stolen from Arkansas County."

"I ended up assisting him alright," said Wilkie, "but probably not the way he was expecting."

Harry T. Wilkerson

Man killed while crossing U.S. 84

A relatively quiet Christmas day turned quickly to tragedy Sunday evening when a Snyder man died from injuries after being struck by a vehicle as he attempted to cross U.S. 84, a four-lane highway filled with holiday traffic.

Killed, apparently instantly, was 53-year-old Harry Thomas Wilkerson.

The accident occurred about 7 p.m. near the U.S. 84 intersection with U.S. 180.

DPS Officer Kevin Wilkie said Wilkerson, his wife and son were attempting to return to their mobile home by crossing the four-lane highway after buying hamburgers at Burger King.

Investigators said Wilkerson was struck in the west-bound lane by a GMC Jimmy driven by 26-year-old Billy McFadden of Midland. The victim was knocked into the median.

The victim's wife and teenage son were not injured. DPS officers said no citations were issued, and trooper Wilkie said this morning he did not expect to issue any citations.

Wilkerson was pronounced dead by Snyder Municipal Court Judge Tommie Mills at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home where services are currently pending.

Volunteers help Christmas spirit

By the Associated Press

Volunteers passed out meals to the destitute and gifts to the needy Sunday while some postal workers donned Santa suits to suspend a child's disbelief one more year.

At the Blue Dolphin restaurant in Kalamazoo, Mich., owner Julie Stamos said her family served nearly 1,500 meals of turkey, baked ham or prime rib to needy people. They also offered free rides and delivery to shut-ins, she said.

Around New York, free turkey dinners and donated clothing spread Yuletide warmth in a city often known for its harsh streets.

The 115-year-old Bowery Mission served about 500 turkey meals.

"If it wasn't for the mission, I wouldn't have nothing to do," said Ricardo Smith, 40, a homeless man. "In this country, nobody should be homeless."

But it is a country of contrasts. At the Los Angeles Mission on Christmas Eve, some Hollywood stars — Jennifer Gray, Sally Kirkland and Justine Bateman included — helped serve 4,000 holiday meals for the homeless.

In Atlanta, 4,500 volunteers passed plates in a human chain from the basement kitchen of a middle school up stairs to a gymnasium for an anticipated 50,000 diners at the Feed The Hungry and Homeless supper.

"We have whole families here," said the Rev. Hosea Williams, founder of the annual dinner. "They want their kids to see the true meaning of Christmas, that it is better to give than receive."

In Seattle, some 300 Jewish volunteers did just that, stepping in at retirement homes and hospitals to give others time off to be with their families.

"They accept no compensation and the workers they replace get paid as if they had worked," said Dalbert Rychter, who began the program with the B'nai B'rith's Project Brotherhood in 1974.

President Clinton, his wife, Hillary and daughter, Chelsea, attended services at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington. They spent the rest of the day at the White House with relatives.

One man burned in gas explosion

AUSTIN (AP) — An explosion and fire sparked from a natural gas leak burned one man and forced 36 people from their homes Christmas night.

Jimmy Salazar was celebrating Christmas with his family when the explosion ripped through his home about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, blowing out some windows, said Marc Saenz, spokesman for the Austin Fire Department.

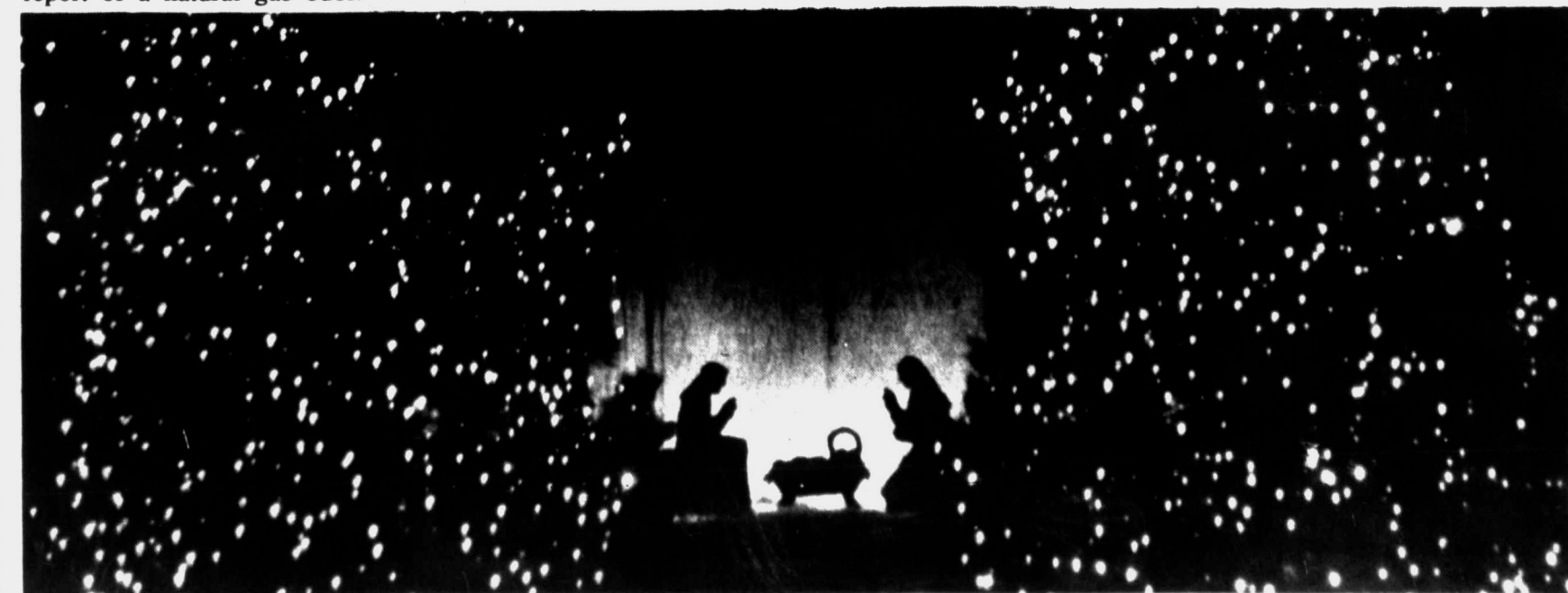
Gas fumes had leaked into the Salazar home and accumulated in the bathroom, where an electric heater sparked the explosion, Saenz said. The resulting fire melted a shower curtain, he said.

Salazar, 50, was treated for burns to his forehead and ears and released from St. David's Hospital on Sunday night.

Seven homes in the East Austin neighborhood were evacuated until Southern Union Gas Co. capped the leak at 8:14 p.m., Saenz said. Several residents were treated at the scene for headaches and burning and itching eyes.

Bobbie Barker, an assistant vice

president with Southern Union Gas, said a crew had been called to the area Saturday to investigate a report of a natural gas odor.



SECOND PLACE — The home of Lynn and Billie Smith, West 37th and FM 1611, took second place honors in the 1994 Goldcoats' Christmas Lighting Contest. The spacious display featured

this manger scene along with several animals outlined in lights. (SDN Staff Photo)



CHRISTMAS AT OK CORRAL—Central students in Judy Moss' and Judy Barkowsky's classes performed "Christmas at the OK Corral" last week. Mrs. Barkowsky's students (top photo) are from left, back row, Andrew Bane, Rankin Hardin, Erin Burleson, Sarah Hernandez, Brian Rios, Jeremy Stout and Tray Goswick; middle row, Tanner Reed, Lee Scott, Michael Esquivel, Leslie Carrizales, Tiffany Barry and Paula Carranza; front row, Amanda Whisenhunt, Stephanie Williams, Hayley Elkins, Lacie Thompson,

Robert Garza and Matthew Flores. Mrs. Moss' students (bottom photo) are from left, back row, Ricky Rios, Clinton Mayo, Trey Woolsey, Clayton Floyd, Christina Loyola, Sarah Crawford and Brandi Davenport; middle row, Candice Gordon, Anne Capetillo, Sharon Grove, Satorina Martinez, Jed Martin, Marissa Chaidze, Leslie Burks and Mary Ann Gonzales; front row, Chad Martin, Macario Martinez, Gerrico Greenlee, Destiny Proctor and Dustin Orsak. (SDN Staff Photo)



New York police stunned by year's 12th suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — Officer Timothy Torres was planning for the future, talking to police counselors about becoming a homicide detective like his father. Then, just before dawn Christmas morning, he took a break from walking his beat, stopped into a Times Square restaurant for a bite to eat — and shot himself in front of two stunned colleagues. Torres, 26, was the 12th New York City officer to commit suicide this year, a post-Depression record. "When 12 guys kill themselves, something's not working," said Frank Tusciano, a police union board member and founder

of Cop Care Inc., a voluntary, non-profit support group for troubled officers. "These guys are afraid of saying, 'I need help,' because then you're weak." Some officers said Torres' death underscored the need for a system outside the department to help police officers deal with job pressures and domestic problems. Torres was spending his first Christmas since divorcing his wife six months ago and had been "emotionally upset" recently, said spokesman Sgt. James Coleman. But Lt. James Robert, who met with Torres on Thursday to discuss the officer's career plans, said

he saw nothing then that seemed reason for concern. "He was fine," Robert said. "He was going to take some college courses. He was planning it all out. ... He wanted to follow in his father's footsteps." The last assignment Torres had before killing himself was to talk an emotionally disturbed man into going to a hospital to get help. Afterward, he took a break, joined by officers Tyler Ward and Michael Sciabba. With Sciabba standing nearby, Torres finished his meal, "went back to a rear booth to talk to Ward, sat down, and then shot himself," Coleman said. Torres, a member of the department for 21 1/2 years, was assigned to Midtown South, a precinct that bills itself as the "world's busiest," covering Times Square and the Garment District. Recently he had volunteered to work the midnight shift, walking a beat that included streets lined with porno houses, saloons and cut-rate retail stores.

At the Midtown South station house, an American flag dangled at half-staff and a Christmas tree blinked forlornly in the lobby. Officers in uniform and civilian clothes came and went, brushing past reporters without speaking. Among the visitors was Torres' father, Cesar Torres, a retired homicide detective. "It is very difficult thing to accept something like this in the middle of such a beautiful season," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "But unfortunately sometimes during the holiday season these pressures get even greater and greater for some people."

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the 12-state North Central region is broken into eastern and western divisions. The five East North Central states are Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The seven West North Central states are Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Straight-faced...

Demos keep optimism

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats claim, with a straight face, that they are energized by their new minority role and will win back majority status in two years. Republicans say their 230-seat majority will grow even larger in the 1996 elections. No one knows who's right, but Americans can count on battles for party dominance like none witnessed in decades.

While Republicans have captured center stage, touting changes they plan for the 104th Congress, Democrats have been quietly planning their own strategies. "We've been under assault from a minority, so we understand (what works)," said Democratic Rep. George Miller.

Miller, a northern Californian with strong environmentalist views, was known for his hard ball tactics against pro-development Republicans on the Natural Resources Committee he chaired.

An 11-term House veteran whose victory margins have never dipped below 63 percent since his first re-election in 1976, Miller is securely positioned to lead an assault against the GOP as the new vice chairman of policy for House Democrats.

Strategies are different from the minority side, said Miller.

Clearly, Democrats were shocked by their losses Nov. 8. They had scoffed at the GOP's nationally directed "Contract With America" campaign. Congressional elections are won on local issues, they'd said.

When the vote count proved them wrong, they went through a period of disbelief, then mourning.

"It was like righteous indignation," said Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat.

A civil rights leader whose political activism dates to the desegregation marches of the 1960s, Lewis says Democrats "are not going to roll over and play dead."

The Democrats' majority status for 40 years gave the party the security to engage in infighting. They're a much more diverse group by sex and ethnic background than the Republicans, which led to differences that regularly played out publicly.

That's changed, the Democrats now say.

"Coming off defeat, we have had to come together," said Rep. Vic Fazio of California, Democratic caucus chairman. "We are energized about taking back majority control in two years."

If they hold all the seats they have now, Democrats need only to unseat 14 Republicans to get back on top.

"We've got to get a message out there," said Rep. Joe Moakley of Massachusetts. The GOP takeover cost him one of the most powerful jobs in the House — chairman of the Rules Committee, the panel that controls which legislation gets to the floor.

"We're hoping it's a two-year aberration," Moakley said of the GOP majority. "They kicked us in PR (public relations). ... We have to show the tightness. We have to change our way of communicating. We have to get working Americans believing Democrats are their friends."

It's not going to be easy, more than one Democrat acknowledged.

"There's something else wrong we don't understand," said Louise Slaughter of New York.

"There has to be some great connection, that only Democratic in-

cumbents lost from one end of the country to the other."

Slaughter, entering her fifth term, got 57 percent of the vote in her Rochester-area district, which is about evenly divided Democrat-Republican. Since her earliest days in Congress, she's been a player among House leaders and will serve on a new leadership advisory group created by incoming Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

Voters may not yet realize how extreme a change they created, says Rep. Bruce Vento of Minnesota.

"This underlines the importance of Congress," said Vento, entering his 10th term and losing his national parks and public lands subcommittee chairmanship in the GOP sweep.

For four decades, while the presidency and the Senate flipped back and forth between parties, the voters took for granted the Democratic reliability of the House, said Vento.

"There has been a strong and steady Congress, stability for 40 years," he said. But now, "the situation is very fluid."

Psychic strikes out on most predictions

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — It was the year that wasn't.

Cindy Crawford and Richard Gere did not have triplets. Hillary Rodham Clinton did not plead guilty to shoplifting lipstick. Charles Manson did not get a sex-change operation.

Those were some of the way off — and, ultimately, way off — predictions from the tabloid psychics for 1994.

A 1995 prediction from the folks at the Skeptical Inquirer: The psychics will be wrong again next year.

"I can't think of any specific predictions that have come true," said Barry Karr, spokesman for the Buffalo-based publication that puts together a scorecard each year to hold the fortune tellers accountable. "And I can't see the

success rate improving in 1995."

Various psychics already have predicted that in 1995, singer Whitney Houston and boxer Mike Tyson will marry, a plant that grows in northern Florida will cure AIDS and volcanic eruptions in August will create a new land mass joining Cuba with the rest of North America.

"Don't hold your breath," said George Emery, who has been watching the seers since the '70s.

Among the predictions for 1994, and what actually happened:

— Prediction: "Sister Act" star Whoopi Goldberg will give up acting to join a convent. Reality: Unfunny "Sister Act" sequel mistaken by audiences for a documentary.

— Prediction: Icon namesake Madonna will marry semi-androgynous '80s pop star Boy George. Reality: Icon namesake Lisa Marie Presley marries semi-androgynous '80s pop star Michael Jackson.

— Prediction: Office workers would flee from the Sears Tower in Chicago after it begins to lean like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Reality: Perfectly vertical Sears Tower sold to group from Boston, where they have pizza.

— As always, the tabloid psychics missed all the truly unexpected news of 1994, such as the O.J. Simpson case, the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding affair, the baseball and hockey strikes, and the takeover of Congress by the Republican Party," Emery said.

Other predictions from 1994 that haven't come to pass yet (although there's still almost a week left):

— Scientists will perfect a car that would run on tap water.

— Jay Leno will quit "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

— Madonna will marry a Middle Eastern sheik and become a "totally traditional wife," complete with long robes and veil.

— Princess Diana will reveal that an appliance repairman and a postal worker fathered her two sons.

— Frank Sinatra will be appointed ambassador to Italy.

— Pope John Paul II will decree that married couples can only have sex on the first Friday of each month.

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Dear Abby



Marriage's Free Fall Began With Stumble Down the Aisle

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: On the topic of disastrous weddings, mine ranks right up there at the top!

While I was walking down the aisle, someone stepped on my train, ripping it from the back of my gown. My aunt immediately sprang from her seat yelling, "I'll fix it!" The wedding then ground to a halt while she tried unsuccessfully again and again to reattach it. I finally proceeded down the aisle with one hand behind me gripping my ripped train, and while ascending the steps leading to the altar — I fell!

By then I was so distracted that when the rabbi reached the Hebrew portion of the ceremony, I couldn't follow what he was saying. The rabbi then exclaimed, "I'm stopping the ceremony because whatever the bride is repeating is gibberish, so I will begin again — this time in English!"

When I was handed the goblet of wine, I drank it all, leaving none for the groom. Once more, the ceremony was stopped so more wine could be poured. I was so embarrassed.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, as we walked back up the aisle, the rabbi called out, "You forgot your bride bouquet!" Then I turned around and retrieved it.

That's not all. When we arrived at our reception, the chef rolled out the cart bearing our gorgeous "wedding" cake. It was decorated with "Happy Birthday," and someone else's name on it.

A.L. FORT LAUDERDALE
P.S. My marriage turned out just like my wedding — a total disaster!

...

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this letter because I have hit a stumbling block with my mother-in-law. We have two daughters, but for

some reason, she favors "Susie," the older daughter. She always buys Susie more expensive presents than "Becky." She tried to justify it by saying that Susie is bigger and more mature, but why should Becky get a raw deal because she is younger?

I have talked to my mother-in-law about this, but she just doesn't get it.

Becky's feelings are constantly being hurt, and she's getting old enough to realize what's going on. The favoritism is so obvious that I'm afraid Becky will grow to resent her grandmother — and her older sister, too.

Why can't she treat them equally, as we do, even though they are two very different children?

NO TOWN, PLEASE

DEAR NO TOWN: If it will make you feel any better, this problem exists in many other families. The first grandchild in most families usually gets more attention than those who follow.

Tell Grandma that her partiality is noticeable, and ask her to please work harder at being evenhanded in matters concerning her granddaughters. The alternative to that would be restricting her access to the girls in order to avoid hurting the younger one.

...

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.)

Oil Patch News

Kent County

Mobil Producing will drill the No. 331 Wallace, a 6,900-foot wildcat located five miles west of Jayton. Drill site is in Section 33, Block L, H&TC survey.

Marathon Oil Co. will drill the No. 2 Bilby Wallace Account 1 in the Clairemont east field, five miles west of Jayton. The re-entry project is planned for a depth of 6,536 feet, and location is in Section 31, Block L, H&TC survey.

Scurry County

Spalding Energy Inc. will drill the No. 4 Fuller in the Corazon field, two miles northwest of Fullerville. The re-entry project is planned for a depth of 2,300 feet, and location is in Section 88, Block 5, H&GN survey.

Borden County

Lakewood Operating has completed the No. 1 Addax in the Hobo northwest field, 17 miles southeast of Gail. The venture was finished to produce 119 barrels of 47 gravity oil and no water. Perfor-

ations were from 7,103-115 feet, and location is in Section 50, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Mitchell County

Parker and Parsley Development Co. has completed the No. 121 Mary Foster in the Iatan East Howard field. The re-entry project was finished to produce two barrels of 29.4 gravity oil and 550 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,314-3,021 feet, and location is in Section 16, Block 29, T2S, T&P survey.

Fisher County

Durango Operating Inc. will drill the No. 6024 Y6, a 5,000-foot wildcat located two miles northwest of Hamlin. Location is in Section 24, W.E. Kayne survey.

Nolan County

Union Pacific Resources Co. will drill the No. 1 H.L.C., a 6,057-foot wildcat located three miles east of Maryneal. Location is in Section 170, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Battle line being drawn on casino gambling in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — People on both sides of the legalized gambling issue already are working behind the scenes, preparing for a battle when the Legislature convenes in January.

Groups such as organized labor and racetrack investors are joining forces to support gambling. An equally diverse group is forming in opposition to casinos, including horse breeders, the 6,200-member Texas Restaurant Association and the San Antonio City Council.

A casino amendment would require a two-thirds vote in the state House and Senate and approval by Texas voters.

Jeff Hooper, executive director of the 3,300-strong Texas Thoroughbred Breeders Association, said the organization opposes casinos. In particular, Hooper said, the breeders distrust the proposed revenue-sharing plans under discussion for combined casino and horse-track operations.

"We can row our own boat," he said.

Texans Against Gambling, a citizens' group formerly known as Texans Who Care, is organizing opposition to all legalized gambling in Texas.

But to labor unions, casinos mean jobs, said Gale Van Hoy of the 75,000-member Texas Building and Construction Trades Council.

"We're 100 percent for them," Van Hoy said. "Most casinos are 100 percent union-built."

Jerry Carroll, a part-owner of still-unopened Retama Racetrack

in San Antonio, said his support for casinos is purely pragmatic.

"If Texas is going to have them, then we absolutely must have them at the track, too," said Carroll, who's also the chairman of Turfway Park in Covington, Ky. Retama co-owner Joe Straus Jr. opposes casinos for Texas.

In Corpus Christi, where owners of the money-losing local dog track hope to boost attendance by offering additional gambling as soon as possible, the Chamber of Commerce cited potential for "dramatic economic impact" in a decision to back casino legalization.

Meanwhile, seven of the nation's largest gaming companies have banded together to lobby for casino-style gambling, despite opposition from Gov.-elect George W. Bush.

But the head of the new group, the Texas Association for Casino

Development, said he wants to meet with Bush and try to sell him on the economic benefits of casino gambling.

Last week, the big gaming companies each pledged \$100,000 to the pro-casino lobbying effort, an official with one of the companies said.

Floyd said the companies in the association are: Dallas-based Hollywood Casino Corp., the Promus Cos. Inc., Boyd Gaming Corp., Station Casinos, Bally Gaming International, Caesars and Seven Circles Resorts.

In San Antonio, Mayor Nelson W. Wolff and the City Council voted in early November to oppose casinos.

Their position paper stated that casino expenditures could shift some spending away from other industry areas, particularly retail, restaurant and other retail activities.

Empty train derails, delays run

EMERYVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Amtrak began a San Francisco Bay area-to-Chicago run about five hours late after three cars on an empty train derailed.

Two sleeping cars and a baggage car slipped off the track Sunday as the California Zephyr was being shuttled to Emeryville to begin its daily run, Amtrak spokesman Howard Robertson said.

No one was injured, he said.

About 50 passengers were waiting at Emeryville, a lighter than normal load given the holiday, Robertson said. The cause of the derailment was under investigation.

"If it had to happen, I'm glad it happened under these conditions," he said.

The derailed cars remained upright and the Zephyr began its trip about five hours of the scheduled 10:05 a.m. departure.

MONDAY

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-4158 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Alateen; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-8971 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 863-2349, 573-8626, 573-1141; 8 p.m.

Overeaters Anonymous; board room of Cogdell Memorial Hospital; 7:30 p.m.; call 573-8322 for more information.

TUESDAY

TOPS TX56; 5:30 p.m. weigh-in and meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Jean Yearwood at 573-9444.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-4158 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m. New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-1141, 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-3956, 573-2101, 573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Martha Ann Woman's Club Salad Luncheon and Game Day; reservations needed by 5 p.m. Monday by calling 573-3427; \$6.50 per person; serving begins at 11:30 a.m., games of choice follow.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-4158 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30-8 p.m. SOS (Singles of Snyder) volleyball and games; First Baptist Church Family Life Center; 7 p.m.

Scurry Lodge 706; AF and AM degree classes; 7 p.m. Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3308 or 573-2101. Bilingual Group of Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for more information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center, 9:30-11 a.m.; Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency waiting room; 1-2 p.m. ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment; 573-9742 or 573-2763. Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 863-2349; (Last Friday of the month is the birthday, open meeting); 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-4158 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-1141, 863-2349 or 573-8626; 10 a.m. Scurry County Museum; Western Texas College; open from 1 to 4 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder County Club; 1:30 p.m. Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.



THIRD GRADE — Hermleigh third grade "reindeers" who performed in the annual Christmas program include from left, front row, Rachel Alfaro, Cupid; Amanda Bayer, Blitzen; Courtney Bridges, Dasher; and Whitney Stewart, Donner; middle row, Dustin Williamson,

Santa; Edward Arellano, Rudolph; Krystal Beasley, Dancer; back row, Valerie West, Prancer; and Justin Williamson, Vixen. Toni Jackson, Comet, is not pictured. Cindy Rogers is the teacher. (SDN Staff Photo)

Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are there alternatives to joint replacement? I've had one total hip replacement and it's time for the other. While my doctor answers all my questions, I'd like to determine if you have alternative suggestions.

DEAR READER: Whether or not to have a joint replaced is a very personal decision; there are no strict medical criteria for the operation — as there are for replacement of an aortic aneurysm and other life-saving surgery. People don't die from a painful arthritic joint; they just suffer.

Most joint replacement operations are performed because of crippling arthritis. Initially, arthritic pain (and the inflammation that accompanies it) can be relieved by over-the-counter drugs, such as aspirin and ibuprofen.

However, as the arthritic process progresses — as it almost always does — stronger, prescription medicine is usually required. Voltaren, Motrin, Feldene, Naprosyn, Ansaid, Day Pro, Lodine, and others are used for this purpose.

In most cases, patients respond favorably to these drugs — which do cause

side effects (stomach irritation and intestinal bleeding) in many instances. (Such complications can successfully be prevented by using Cytotec, a prescription medication that protects the intestinal lining from irritation caused by the drugs I mentioned.)

For unknown reasons, some arthritis sufferers experience increasing pain, even when they are treated with medicine. Also, some people cannot tolerate the drugs. Eventually, the joints become so stiff and uncomfortable that a severe handicap ensues. In such patients, a prosthetic joint may enormously improve the quality of life, mobility and independence.

Some arthritics use high doses of medicine and will go to almost any extreme to avoid surgery. Others choose to have joint replacement relatively early. As I said, this is a personal decision, best made in conjunction with a qualified orthopedic surgeon.

Other methods to postpone surgery include cortisone shots and a program of physical therapy that may be prescribed by a physiatrist, an M.D. specialist in rehabilitation.

Because the non-surgical treatment of arthritis is — in most cases — so

effective, most patients put off having a joint replacement until other therapeutic options have been exhausted.

The fact that you have undergone one successful hip replacement indicates that your arthritis is severe and you would probably be helped by having the other hip replaced, too. Follow your surgeon's advice.

To give you more information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "An Informed Approach to Surgery." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$2 plus a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 2433, New York, NY 10163. Be sure to mention the title.

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DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

NORTH 12 26 94			
▲ A 10 3			
♥ 10 4			
♦ 10 6 5			
▲ A J 9 7 5			
WEST			
♥ K Q 8 7 3			
♦ Q 7 4 3 2			
♠ 6 4 2			
EAST			
▲ 8 6			
♥ A J 6 2			
♦ K J 9			
♠ K Q 10 8			
SOUTH			
♥ K Q J 9 7 5 4 2			
♦ 9 5			
♠ A 8			
♣ 3			
Vulnerable: Both			
Dealer: South			
South	West	North	East
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Pass	5 ♥	5 ♠	All pass
Opening lead: ♥ K			

Wisdom advises caution

By Phillip Alder

In the British Commonwealth, today is called Boxing Day because lords of the manor traditionally gave their serfs gifts in boxes. Nevertheless, one automatically conjures up a picture of pugilists in the ring. And as the Israeli statesman Abba Eban said, "History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives."

At the bridge table, sometimes the right play is the last one you consider. However, if you make a habit of analyzing all the alternatives, you will eventually realize which is best and make the winning play. Today's deal is like that.

South opened four spades, of course. East doubled to show cards and West bid his best suit. After North's five spades, West was tempted to go to six diamonds but rightly resisted the temptation.

West cashed the heart king, then played a heart to his partner. What should East lead now?

Under different circumstances, the diamond jack would work well but it is clearly useless here. How about the club king? That can also achieve nothing. If South has a club loser, it isn't going anywhere. Here, this defense just helps South establish dummy's fifth club for a discard, using all three of dummy's trump entries in the process.

The killing defense is a trump switch, which uses up one of dummy's entries prematurely. South must lose a diamond at trick 13, for one down.

Phillip Alder's new book, "Get Smarter at Bridge," is available, autographed upon request, for \$14.95 from P.O. Box 169, Roslyn Hts., NY 11577-0169.

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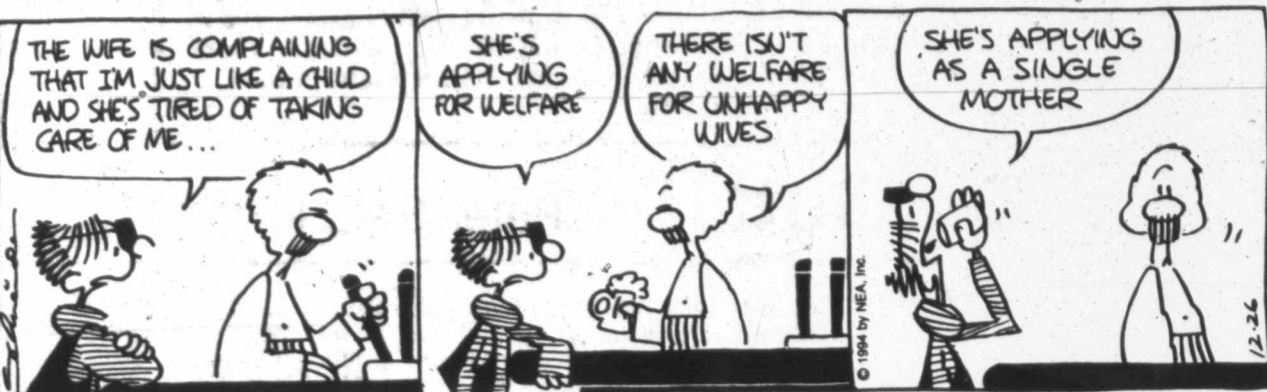
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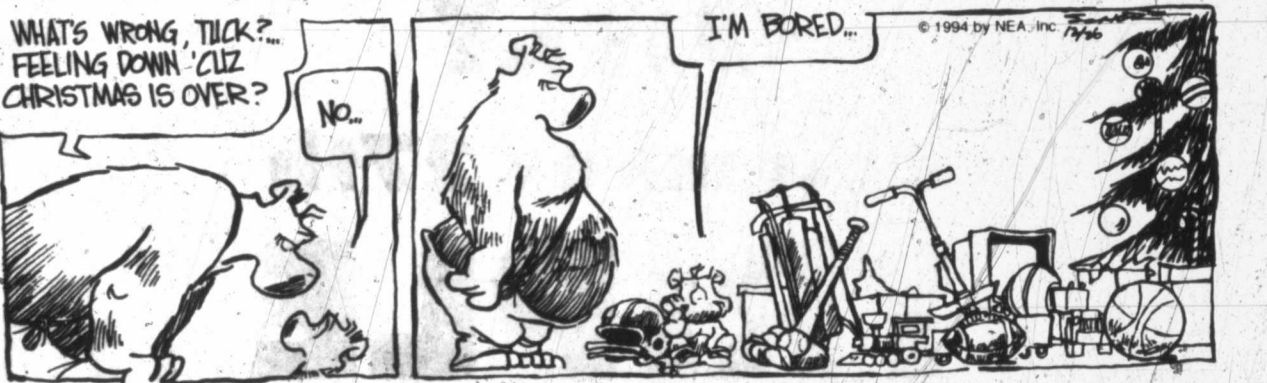
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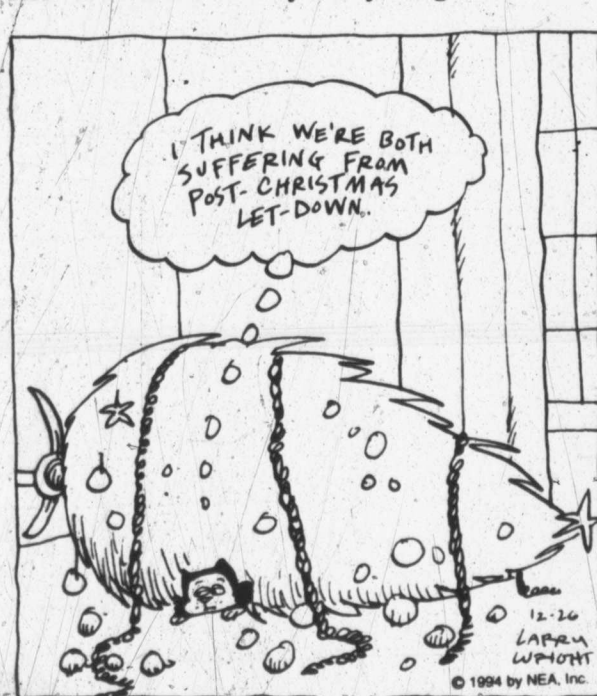
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LAFF-A-DAY



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Pea holder
- Waterston and Donaldson
- Identical
- Claire, Wis.
- Israeli airline (2 wds.)
- Verve
- Boxing-victory abbr.
- Singer Fitzgerald
- Spoke
- Ancient chariot
- Aruba and St. Thomas
- Average grade
- That man
- Time for laundry
- Closest material
- City in Nevada
- Achy
- Airline info
- Wide shoe size
- Ily
- Paving stone

DOWN

- Baseball's — Rose
- Shade trees
- Pairs
- Sowed
- Everyone
- African land
- Cut
- Open —
- Actor Alida
- Meter —
- Terminates
- Reverberation
- Parasites
- Mollify
- Unwanted plant
- Toward shelter
- Beehive
- Bear
- Judge
- Aleutian island
- Rodents
- Fragrant flower
- Eyelid swelling
- Lean-to
- Aquatic mammals
- Sleeping sickness fly
- East wind deity
- Time division
- Rent
- Actress Judith —
- Brew coffee
- Confidence game
- Vast ages
- Period of fasting
- Vessel's curved planking

Answer to Previous Puzzle

XMAS	SNAGGED
DRAMA	OUTLINE
OAKUM	OCTOBER
EYECUP	LAP
KRONER	DLO
DST	AREA
OKAPI	AR
PERT	AT
EERO	DEER
STY	DONKEY
SIR	EMERGE
SLOEGIN	ISAAC
TAURINE	TEMPO
ARRANGE	ESSE

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Sports

NFL braces for playoff action

Packers' surge could spell trouble for opponents

by The Associated Press
Even after 16 games, the Green Bay Packers don't know how their season ended.



Thanks to the New England Patriots and Miami Dolphins, the Packers (9-7) are still in the running for the NFC Central title.

They'll find out, finally, if it is to be theirs when San Francisco meets the Minnesota Vikings tonight in the final NFL regular-season game.

A Minnesota victory will give the title to the Vikings, but a loss will make Green Bay the champion.

"It's a special day," Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren said after the Packers closed the season with a 34-19 victory Saturday over Tampa Bay. "We've had our backs to the wall all season. If the breaks fall right, we'll host a playoff game next week."

New England did its part for the Packers by beating the Chicago Bears 13-3, and Miami followed through with a 27-20 victory Sunday night over Detroit.

That eliminated those two playoff-bound NFC Central teams from the title chase. If San Francisco, at 13-2 the team with the best record in the league, can finish off Minnesota, Green Bay would open the playoffs next week at home against Chicago.

"We're peaking," quarterback Brett Favre said after the Packers' third consecutive victory. "I think everybody would agree that this 9-7 team is much better than last year's 9-7."

The victory over Chicago kept alive, for a day, New England's hopes of winning the AFC East title. Miami ended that hope, however, by winning Sunday night. Miami and New England finished 10-6, but the Dolphins got the title by virtue of beating the Patriots twice.

Still, the Patriots are in the playoffs — and a lot faster than many figured possible for a team that lost 14 games only two seasons ago.

"The lesson is that it's always a little premature to talk about the contenders or the (non-) contenders because a lot could happen," coach Bill Parcells said. "This is perfect evidence... where you can win seven straight and make something on the last day of the season."

Parcells' Patriots are riding a seven-game winning streak, longest current run in the NFL. The next longest is the six-game run of the New York Giants, who missed the playoffs despite a 9-7 record when Green Bay beat Tampa Bay.

By winning Sunday night, Miami plays at home next weekend against Kansas City, a team it dispatched 45-28 two weeks ago. Joe Montana missed that game with an injury, but is expected to be healthy this time.

"It's pretty sweet," Montana said after KC qualified with a 19-9 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders. "The alternative, going home, was not very attractive."

In another game with playoff implications on Saturday, San Diego earned the AFC's No. 2 seed by beating No. 1 seed Pittsburgh 37-34, relegating Cleveland to No. 3 despite the Browns' 35-9 victory over Seattle.

Also, Atlanta beat Arizona 10-6 in a game that didn't matter for the Cardinals, who were eliminated from the playoffs earlier in the day by the New York Giants' 15-10 victory over NFC East champion Dallas.

Also on Saturday, it was Indianapolis 10, Buffalo 9; Cincinnati 33, Philadelphia 30; New Orleans 30, Denver 28; Houston 24, the New York Jets 10; and Washington 24, the Los Angeles Rams 21.

Dolphins 27, Detroit 20
Miami wrapped up Detroit's Barry Sanders and the AFC East title — and gave scooter-bound coach Don Shula another milestone victory.

Regular-season victory No. 319, surpassing the mark held by the late George Halas, was achieved as Dan Marino threw for 285 yards and Bernie Parmalee scored three touchdowns. Shula, still wearing a cast following Achilles tendon surgery, roamed

the sidelines on a motorized scooter.

Miami held Sanders, the NFL's leading rusher, to 52 yards on 12 carries. Sanders needed 169 yards to become the third 2,000-yard rusher in NFL history.

Patriots 13, Bears 3
New England is 15-17 since Parcells took over, but has won 14 of its last 20.

A major reason, of course, is the rapid development of quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who set an NFL mark with 691 passes. His 400 completions fell four shy of Warren Moon's record.

Giants 15, Cowboys 10
The Cowboys came to New York undermanned and with nothing to play for. NFL scoring leader Emmitt Smith didn't play and quarterback Troy Aikman was benched after five series.

Packers 34, Buccaneers 19
The Packers were 1-6 on the road and had to win to get into the playoffs. So they blitzed Tampa Bay (6-10), which had won its last four games.

Sterling Sharpe went over the 1,000-yard receiving mark for the fifth time and caught three touchdowns passes as the Packers out-gained the Bucs 433-214. Favre threw for 291 yards and set team records for completions (363) and TD passes (33) in a season.

Chiefs 19, Raiders 9
Kansas City and Los Angeles wound up 9-7, but the Chiefs advanced on the strength of a season sweep of the Raiders, who have dropped 10 of the last 11 meetings.

Mark Collins returned an interception 78 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half at Los Angeles.

Falcons 10, Cardinals 6
The Cardinals (8-8), already out of the playoff chase because the Giants won, lost when Ronald Moore's dive from the Atlanta 1 was stopped by linebacker Jessie Tuggle on the final play.

Chargers 37, Steelers 34
At San Diego, the Chargers finished 11-5 after a 6-0 start. They scored 28 points in the fourth quarter even though quarterback Stan Humphries was out with a bruised right thumb. Natrone Means' 20-yard touchdown run on

fourth-and-1 tied the game, and John Carney's 32-yard field with three seconds left won it.

Colts 10, Bills 9
Buffalo (7-9) finished with a losing record for the first time since 1987. The four-time defending AFC champions lost when Steve Christie's 46-yard field goal try bounced off the right upright as the game ended.

For Indianapolis (8-8), Marshall Faulk rushed for 82 yards, giving him a team rookie record 1,282 for the season.

Bengals 33, Eagles 30
Philadelphia (7-9) lost its seventh straight in another strange finish.

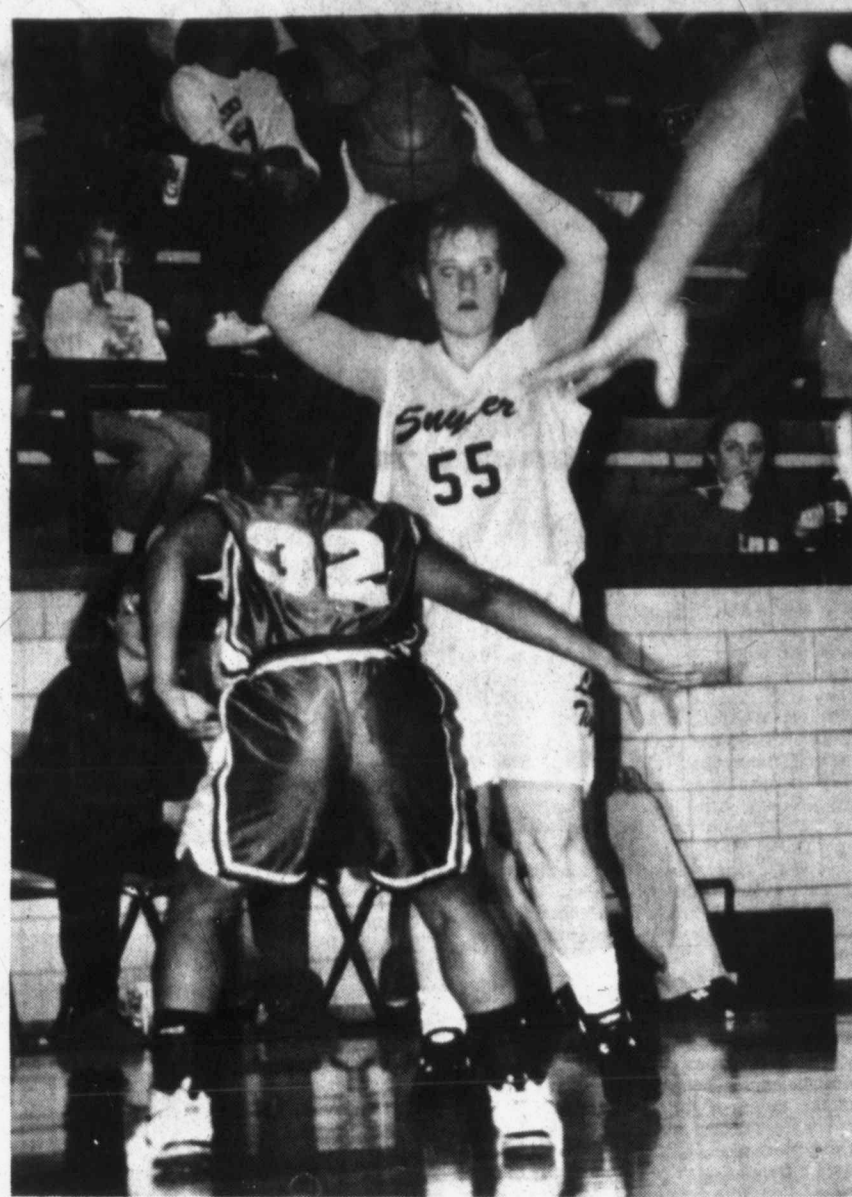
The host Bengals (3-13) kicked two field goals in the final three seconds. Doug Pelfrey tied it with a 22-yarder, then the Eagles' Brian O'Neal flubbed the squibbed kickoff, turning over the ball with one second left. Pelfrey hit a low, wobbly kick from 54 yards as time expired.

Saints 30, Broncos 28
At Denver, Jim Everett finished off a fine comeback season with another strong effort, passing for 343 yards and three touchdowns before hurting his elbow. Torrance Small caught six passes for a career-high 200 yards, including TD catches of 36 and 75 yards for New Orleans (7-9). Denver also wound up 7-9.

Oilers 24, Jets 10
Houston (2-14) won for the first time since Sept. 25. The Jets (6-10) dropped their fifth straight as the host Oilers, ranked 28th in scoring, gained 382 yards.

Redskins 24, Rams 21
In perhaps the last NFL game at Anaheim Stadium, the Redskins finished 3-13, their worst record since they were 1-12-1 in 1961. The Rams (4-12) lost their last seven and now might be headed for St. Louis.

Browns 35, Seahawks 9
Vince Testaverde threw for two touchdowns — a 35-yarder to Mark Carrier in the first half and a 3-yarder to Derrick Alexander in the second half — and scrambled for a 1-yard score of his own. Carrier also scored a touchdown on a 14-yard end-around.



THE OVERSEER — Snyder point guard Jodi White and the Lady Tigers will attempt to win their second game in a row when they take on Sonora, tomorrow, in the first round of the 64th annual Reagan County basketball tournament. The Lady Tigers scored a season high 78 points in their game against Alpine. (Photo by Todd Stanley)

Eagles tack defeat on No. 11 Wildcats

Kansas State's May shut down in Aloha Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) — Boston College's Eric Shorter didn't like what the Kansas State players were saying in the days leading up to the Aloha Bowl.



May

play anyone and stuff like that.

"Well, if they're No. 11 in the country, we're No. 10," he added after unranked Boston College beat Kansas State 12-7 Sunday.

"This is a time for giving and we gave them a butt-kicking. This is Big East football. And Big East football is one of the best in the nation."

In the week leading up to the game, the Eagles, 6-4-1 during the regular season, were frequently asked if they deserved to face a team that went 9-2 and had won its last five games by an average of 32-13.

"It just seemed like the atmosphere was that we didn't belong here because we weren't good enough and they didn't belong here because they were too good," linebacker Stephen Boyd said. "I think we proved the point that we're a good football team."

They certainly made a believer of K-State quarterback Chad May.

May, who passed for 2,571 yards and 18 touchdowns during the regular season, spent a frustrating afternoon running for his life as the Boston College defense showed him a variety of twists and stunts.

"All I can say is that their defensive line did a great job and played better than our offense," he said. "We couldn't get anything going."

"We have play-action in our offense, but we didn't have a running game so play-action didn't work that much."

"They just came after me and whatever they did, it worked. I had nowhere to go. I just didn't have enough time to even look up to another guy, and that hurt us."

As it turned out, May was sacked eight times — four by defensive end Mike Mamula — for 71 yards in losses. That resulted in K-State having a negative net 61 yards rushing for the game.

All told, May, who was sacked only 29 times during the season, completed 13 of 31 passes for 185 yards. He was intercepted twice.

BC's points came on a 2-yard plunge by Justice Smith, a 35-yard field goal by David Gordon and a safety when Mamula dropped May in the K-State end zone. The only points the Wildcats could muster came on a fumble recovery in the BC end zone by Chris Sublette after a blocked punt.

TCU readies for Virginia

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — Texas Christian and Virginia football players spent Christmas on the practice field here, preparing for the Independence Bowl.

The two teams arrived Sunday morning and checked into hotels before dressing in pads and holding practice. TCU Coach Pat Sullivan said he's preparing his team to present a balanced offense against Virginia.

Virginia held a closed practice Sunday at the Caddo Parish Stadium. But TCU (7-4) allowed reporters to watch as the team had some contact during practice at the Shreveport Pirates practice field.

Sullivan said he planned to hold a full practice Monday and run through game strategy Tuesday.

The Independence Bowl is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday at Independence Stadium.

Blue claims 38-27 win

Stellar offensive performances abound

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — So much for Johnny Majors' theory that college all-star games are custom-made for defense.

The 57th annual Blue-Gray game was like Arena Football, up and down the field, orchestrated by offenses which looked as if they had been together all season rather than just a week. Maybe someone forgot to tell the defenses what time to show up on Christmas Day.

"That's about the most points I've ever given up," said Mississippi linebacker Abdul Jackson, looking exhausted and obviously disgusted after the Blue's 38-27 victory. "It still hurts, even if it was just an all-star game."

The 65 points was a Blue-Gray record, eclipsing the Gray's 40-20 victory in 1953. There were 738 total yards between the teams. There was a touchdown pass to a quarterback (Eastern Kentucky's John Sacca caught the wobbly spiral thrown by Georgia tailback Terrell Davis).

There were a couple of attempts to duplicate Deion Sanders' touchdown dance. One was a dead-ringer by Mississippi's Roell Preston. The other by Auburn's Joe Frazier was, well, let's just say Don Cornelius won't be knocking at his door.

But that was about the only misstep by the offenses on this day, rendering moot what Majors had to say about defenses usually dominating all-star games. The Pitt coach had lamented beforehand about the lack of time for players from different teams to adjust to each other, to develop the delicate precision and timing so necessary for success.

Hindsight is always 20-20, but Middle Tennessee State quarterback Kelly Holcomb, the Gray MVP, insisted that he wasn't surprised by the explosion of points.

Little-known Joe Aska of Central Oklahoma, a native of the Virgin Islands who is blind in his

right eye, was the Blue MVP and the offensive star on a day filled with them.

He rushed seven times for a game-high 69 yards, scoring two touchdowns and setting up another with a 35-yard scamper. He caught two passes for 20 yards. He returned three kickoffs for 86 yards, running one back 46 yards to midfield to set up the Blue's winning touchdown drive in a wild fourth quarter.

The Blue quarterbacks — UCLA's Wayne Cook and New Mexico's Stoney Case — threw 24 passes, completing 16 for 186 yards. Holcomb was 9-of-16 for 158 yards and a touchdown, but Preston was the Gray's top offensive player with four catches for 122 yards, including a spectacular 40-yard touchdown grab as he was falling out of the end zone.

The Gray led 20-17 heading to the final period, but the Blue turned unstoppable. Three straight drives resulted in touchdowns, offsetting the Gray's lone TD.

The key series came with the Gray trailing 31-27 and facing a fourth-and-10 at midfield with about five minutes to go. Auburn coach Terry Bowden, handling the Gray offense, elected to punt, but his defense couldn't stop the Blue. Even on fourth-and-13 at the Gray 32, Cook came through with a 31-yard completion to New Mexico's David Sloan to set up the clinching score.

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NFL Glance

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
	East			Pct.	PF	PA			
x-Miami	10	6	0	.625	389	327			
y-New England	10	6	0	.625	351	312			
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500	307	320			
Buffalo	7	9	0	.438	340	356			
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	264	320			
Central									
x-Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750	316	234			
y-Cleveland	11	5	0	.688	340	204			
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	276	406			
Houston	2	14	0	.125	226	352			
West									
x-San Diego	11	5	0	.688	381	306			
y-Kansas City	9	7	0	.563	319	298			
L.A. Raiders	9	7	0	.563	303	327			
Denver	7	9	0	.438	347	396			
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	287	323			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE									
	East			Pct.	PF	PA			
x-Dallas	12	4	0	.750	414	248			
N.Y. Giants	9	7	0	.563	279	305			
Arizona	8	8	0	.500	235	267			
Philadelphia	7	9	0	.438	308	308			
Washington	3	13	0	.188	320	412			
Central									
y-Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	335	300			
y-Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	382	287			
y-Detroit	9	7	0	.563	357	342			
y-Chicago	9	7	0	.563	271	307			
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	251	351			
West									
x-San Francisco	13	2	0	.867	491	275			
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	348	407			
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	313	389			
L.A. Rams	4	12	0	.250	286	365			

Saturday's Games									
Atlanta 10, Arizona 6									
Indianapolis 10, Buffalo 9									
New York Giants 15, Dallas 10									
Green Bay 34, Tampa Bay 19									
New England 13, Chicago 3									
Cincinnati 33, Philadelphia 30									
Cleveland 35, Seattle 9									
Kansas City 19, Los Angeles Raiders 9									
New Orleans 30, Denver 28									
Houston 24, New York Jets 10									
San Diego 37, Pittsburgh 34									
Washington 24, Los Angeles Rams 21									
Sunday's Game									
Miami 27, Detroit 20									
Monday's Game									
San Francisco at Minnesota, 8 p.m.									

NBA Glance

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
	Atlantic Division			W	L	Pct.	GB		
Orlando	18	8		692					
New York	12	12		500		7%			
New Jersey	12	16		429		9%			
Boston	10	15		400		10%			
Philadelphia	9	16		360		11%			
Miami	8	15		348		11%			
Washington	7	16		304		12%			
Central Division									
Cleveland	17	8		680					
Indiana	15	8		652		1			
Charlotte	14	11		560		3			
Chicago	13	12		520		4			
Atlanta	11	15		423		6%			
Detroit	9	14		391		7			
Milwaukee	7	17		292		9%			

Milwaukee	17	292	9%	
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	18	8	.692	
Houston	14	9	.609	2%
SanAntonio	13	9	.591	3
Dallas	12	10	.545	4
Denver	13	11	.542	4
Minnesota	5	19	.208	12
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	19	6	.760	
Seattle	16	8	.667	2%
L.A.Lakers	15	8	.652	3
Portland	10	10	.500	5
Sacramento	13	11	.542	5%
GoldenState	9	15	.375	9%
L.A.Clippers	3	22	.120	16

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**020
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Fight against federal ban mired in red tape

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An education program aimed at stopping a federal ban on oysters on the half shell is tangled up in federal red tape.

"The FDA will go into the beginning of next year saying nothing has been done, when in fact, it hasn't been done because they're holding up the money," said Mike Voisin, president of the Louisiana Oyster Dealer and Grower Association.

Earlier this year, Louisiana's congressional delegation snagged \$500,000 as seed money to begin yet another public education pro-

gram on the risk from a bacteria found in some oysters.

The move was an effort to stave off a proposed ban by the Food and Drug Administration on all oysters harvested from the Gulf of Mexico from April through October. Under the proposal, the oysters would have to be shucked and sold in containers with warnings they should only be eaten cooked.

The FDA proposed the ban because some Gulf oysters contain the vibrio vulnificus bacteria that can kill people with certain health conditions like diabetes or liver problems. Vibrio vulnificus oc-

curs naturally in all U.S. waters, but only Gulf oysters would be restricted.

Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., and Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., arranged to shunt the money from the National Marine Fisheries Service to the FDA to design and carry out an education program.

Lawmakers hoped that doing something about the threat will keep the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, a group of state officials and business representatives that sets rules for the industry, from approving a full ban. The ISSC meets again in August.

"To this point, the FDA hasn't made a decision what to do with the money," said ISSC executive director Ken Moore. "We've been waiting for an answer from the FDA before doing any work on our own program, obviously, because the one we develop will be dependent upon any resources made available."

"Still, we aren't just sitting around waiting. We've applied for a few grants as well," he said.

Philip Spiller, acting director of the FDA's Office of Seafood, said the \$500,000 is available. "We are in the process of planning the best way to use it in light of all of the things that are being done by others. We don't want to plow the same old ground."

Spiller said the FDA has not concluded that consumer education is the only solution to tackling the vibrio vulnificus issue.

"You have significant subpopulations that are at risk," Spiller said. "But, how do you educate an individual who doesn't identify himself in an at-risk category, a person who is an alcoholic with liver damage, for example."

Spiller said the agency is also considering further research into the vibrio organism to determine why it primarily affects oysters in

the Gulf.

"There is a difference of opinion as to what the next step should be in terms of dealing with this

problem and as to what should be done beyond consumer education," said Brad Stone, an FDA spokesman.

Spiller said the FDA intends to work with the ISSC once the federal agency has determined its next step.



SECOND GRADE — Hermleigh second grade "dinosaurs" taking part in the school's Christmas program are from left, front row, Amy Botts, James Coonrod, Cassie Harbin and Lennon Lane; middle row, Chris Pippin, Shae Rine-

hart, Misty Ritch and Tyler Rogers; back row, Karl Smith, Brenda Torres, Joseph Yruegas and Justin Kelley. Debra Dennis is the teacher. (SDN Staff Photo)

Paralyzed police officer just glad to be alive and at home

HOUSTON (AP) — It has been only four months since officer Merle Taylor's motorcycle collided with a Lincoln Continental in an accident that left him paralyzed permanently from the chest down.

But Taylor, 32, said he holds no grudges against the woman who reportedly ran a red light and hit him last Aug. 23. He's just happy to be alive. The Houston police officer spent his first night at home since the accident Christmas Eve.

"A lot of people get depressed at the holidays over what they don't have," said Taylor, a 13-year veteran of the Houston Police Department. "When you get in my position, you think about what you do have, not what you don't have."

Taylor gets around in a wheelchair. He can breathe and eat by himself and has gained coordinated use of his arms, better than many of his hospital-mates at the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in the Texas Medical Center.

But Saturday, he got the Christmas present he'd been hoping for: a quiet time at home in Friendswood, happily warding off the Christmas Eve pleas of his two children to open the presents a day early.

"Just one. Pleaseee?" asked Courtney, 8, crawling on her father's wheelchair like a new gym toy.

Taylor said the last thing he remembers before his injury, which occurred on a Monday just after lunch, was the previous weekend — his 12th wedding anniversary. On that Saturday, he and his wife, Melanie, took Courtney and their son Travis, 5, to see a movie.

Then they left the kids at grandma's house, and saw another movie by themselves. Feeling giddy, they hurried to another theater and saw a third movie.

The next day, Sunday, Taylor remembers Melanie playing basketball with a neighborhood child in the driveway. The next thing he recalls is waking up a week later with his wife standing over his hospital bed.

The accident was at the corner of Main and McGowen near downtown Houston. The 6-foot-4, 290-pound officer, wearing his helmet, went face-first into the automobile.

He fractured his skull, broke his neck and right arm, damaged a facial nerve and eye muscle and could not breathe on his own.

As he lay near death, his friends rallied — including a loyal former patrol partner, Danny Vaughan.

Vaughan himself went through a long recovery process from a serious injury. Vaughan was shot twice in the face at a police substation in March of last year. He suffered brain damage, lost his right eye and uses a cane.

Taylor woke up and eventually rid himself of his breathing and

feeding tubes. He set about the slow business of rehabilitation without a period of bitterness or sorrow.

Sgt. Cliff Simmons remembers the first thing Taylor said to him after his breathing tube was out: "Sarge, I think I'm going to need a sick day."

Rehabilitation is hard, full-time work, and Taylor said he wouldn't want anyone to think his mood has always been upbeat. He is taking computer courses, however, in the hope that he can return to work at HPD.

The Taylor house was clean and warm on Christmas Eve with a big Christmas tree in the living room. Fred the guinea pig was snug in his cage. A hospital van deposited Taylor and temporarily left in the living room a special lift to get him into bed.

The insurance work hasn't been completed to make the house wheelchair-accessible.

After spending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at home, Taylor will return to The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research and stay into February.

Top teacher says success is no secret

HOUSTON (AP) — The woman who recently was named the nation's top bilingual education teacher said the secret to her success is no secret at all. Anyone with heart could do what she has done, she said.

"I feel very passionate about teaching. It is something I can't separate from my life, or by leaving it at school," said Irma Rohatgi, 42, who teaches at Fondren Elementary School in Houston.

"When I look at my students I look at them as inventors, doctors and the leaders of tomorrow.

When I look at my children, I look at what they might be in the future," she said.

And she practices what she teaches.

At home, her family is not only bilingual, but trilingual — speaking Spanish, English and Indian. She's married to an Indian, Rakesh Rohatgi, who is a mechanical engineer. She has a "very multicultural family," she said.

"We decided our children should be exposed to both religions and cultures. And we will try to keep them trilingual," Mrs. Rohatgi said of her son and daughter.

The ability to speak multiple languages is a good goal for anyone, she told The Houston Post.

Mrs. Rohatgi came to America from Monterrey, Mexico, at age 5 not knowing English.

"I was always put in the slower classes," Mrs. Rohatgi said.

What happened to her is what happens to many children, she said. She didn't really become comfortable speaking English until near the end of elementary school. But she had the cognitive skills that her classmates had. It was just that learning a new language had set up a barrier.

"If you can ride that bicycle here, you can ride that bicycle in China. When children hear in their native language what a teacher is saying, they go, 'Oh, yeah, I already know how to divide,'" Mrs. Rohatgi said.

Mrs. Rohatgi's principal, Mary Ashmore, described the bilingual teacher as "very deserving. ... She is an excellent, excellent teacher."

Mrs. Rohatgi will receive her award from the National Association for Bilingual Education in February during the organization's convention in Phoenix.

Mrs. Rohatgi graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and later the University of Houston with an elementary education degree and bilingual certification.

It is the second consecutive year the Houston Independent School District has produced the national bilingual teacher of the year. Last year, the winner was Julie Guajardo, of Love Elementary School in Houston.

Gay couple wins right to adopt 4-year-old boy

SEATTLE (AP) — A gay couple has been allowed to adopt a 4-year-old boy, ending a custody struggle with the boy's mother, who gave him away and then tried to get him back.

Ross and Luis Lopton, who had been the boy's foster parents, and a King County Superior Court commissioner signed the adoption papers Friday.

"I'm living here forever," the boy, Gailen, told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. He calls Ross "Daddy" and Luis "Papa."

Gailen was placed with the Loptons in September 1993, a year after his mother, Megan Lucas, surrendered her parental rights.

When she learned that Gailen had been placed with a gay couple, Lucas tried to rescind her decision and retain her parental rights. But a Superior Court judge rejected the request because it was filed a day too late under state law.

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Close In, 3-2-2cp, nice custom.
2900 Westridge, large custom.
117 Scurry St., good house with 60 lots, 3-2-2, fenced.
405 32nd, 3-2-cp, new paint, clean, fenced backyard.
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2900 Westridge, 3-3/4 -2.
2513 31st, 3-2/4 -2, \$112T.
2207 42nd, 3-2-1, \$39T
6A, Earth Shelter home in town.
3103 Ave. W, 3-2-cp, \$51T.
Brick, 3-2-2, acreage, NE.
East, Lg. 3-2, 5A, \$110T.
2366 Sunset, 3-2-cp, 50T.
Townhouse, 2-2-2, \$85T.
3001 Crockett, 4-2/4 -2cp.
3113 Ave. T, Own. Fin 3-2-3.
405 32nd, 3-2-cp, \$34,900.
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513 34th, 2-1, \$15T.
404 33rd, 3-2-1, \$45T.
402 33rd, 2-1-cp, \$16T.
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Bomber dies, 12 wounded

JERUSALEM (AP) — A suicide bomber who tried to blow up a bus filled with Israeli soldiers Sunday was a former Palestinian policeman who felt guilty about putting down riots in the Gaza Strip, Islamic militants said.

The 25-year-old bomber died and 12 people were wounded, including one American woman cut by flying glass.

The blast outside the Binyanei Ha'Ouma convention center scattered glass and metal across the main western road into Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, forcing it shut during rush hour. Christmas was a regular working day for the city's mainly Jewish and Muslim population.

The bus driver had just picked up about 35 soldiers and air force personnel at 6:20 a.m., shut the back door and moved the bus forward a few yards.

The bomber apparently stood at a phone booth next to the bus stop, said police spokesman Eric Bar Chen. There were conflicting reports whether the bomb was strapped to his body or in a suitcase.

The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas group claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Aymen Radi, a former PLO policeman uneasy about his role in squelching riots in Gaza City last month. Fifteen people died in the unrest, all worshippers at a mosque in a Hamas stronghold.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for most of the attacks that have killed 94 Israelis since Israel and the PLO made peace in September 1993, including the October bus bombing in Tel Aviv. The militants maintain the agreement betrays Palestinian demands for statehood.

Radi's brother Talal, 21, said: "My brother proved that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and no one can prevent us from entering Jerusalem."

Radi left a note at home saying that he planned the bombing "to go to heaven" as part of a holy war against Israel, Army Radio reported.

In a fax to The Associated Press, Izzedine al-Qassem, Hamas' militant wing, said Radi was carrying 22 pounds of dynamite.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has taken over the regulatory functions previously performed by the Atomic Energy Commission.

College enrollment shows slight drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tuition increases combined with a shrinking pool of high school graduates has contributed to a slight dip in college enrollments, the American Council on Education says.

The declines were less than 1 percentage point in most states, the council said in a report Monday, while increases also were minimal in states reporting enrollment growth.

An improved economy also was a factor, providing job opportunities for some young people who might otherwise have enrolled in college.

Eleven of 17 states responding to a survey said they posted modest enrollment declines at the start of the 1994-1995 school year, the council said.

The council said the year-to-year rate of decline appears to be slowing. Last year, 12 of 16 states reported decreases — the most in the seven-year history of the survey.

State and national education officials attribute the fall to a dearth of applicants and the lingering effects of the state budget crises of the early 1990s, the group said.

"Cuts in state appropriations for higher education earlier in the 1990s forced many schools to raise tuition, reduce course offerings, and/or limit the number of students they serve," the council said.

The council surveys education officials in 20 states each year to

gather information on two- and four-year private and public schools. Enrollments in the 17 states that provided the most complete data accounted for more than 40 percent of total enrollment in the 1993-1994 school year.

A growing Hispanic population contributed to an across-the-board enrollment increase in Texas, the group said. Enrollment there rose 1.2 percent at community colleges and 0.3 percent at four-year institutions.

Twelve states reported continued increases in the number of minority students attending college. Six reported no change and one posted a decrease.

Enrollments are expected to increase over the next several years as the number of high school graduates rises, the council said. The federal government's Education Department expects the numbers to grow by 5 percent this school year, from 2.5 million in 1993-1994 to more than 2.6 million.

Of the 18 states that reported data on four-year institutions, 11 experienced enrollment reductions. That's compared with 10 of 17 states that did so last year.

Fourteen of the 18 states reporting community college data showed shrinking populations.

"The decreases ranged from a low of 0.4 percent in Virginia to a high of 7.2 percent in Minnesota," the council said. "Last year, declines ranged from 0.4 percent in Louisiana to 9 percent in California," which has the nation's largest community college system.

This year, California experienced a 1.4 percent drop in two-year college enrollment, the council said. Only four states — Arizona, Washington, Texas and Mississippi — reported increases of between 0.2 percent and 1.9 percent.

"Enrollment caps and state-level budgets are the culprits," said David Pierce, president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

R.C. Read

1916-1994

Service is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home for R.C. Read, 78, of Snyder with the Rev. Jim Moseley, pastor of the Westbrook First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Roby Cemetery.

Mr. Read died at 2:15 a.m. Sunday in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Born on Nov. 6, 1916, in Hamilton, he married Odessa Norwood on Aug. 12, 1938, in Comanche. She died Dec. 4, 1986. Mr. Read, a Snyder resident since 1951, had worked as a carpenter.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

Surviving are two sons, Gail Read of Grapevine and Clyde Read of Austin; one daughter, Laquita Daniel of Abilene; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and special friends, Marie Moore and family of Snyder.

Frances Walker

1897-1994

Service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Cisco First Christian Church for Frances Roena Walker, 97, who died Friday in Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Officiating will be the Rev. Donnie Price, and burial will follow in the Cisco Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Walker had been a resident of Snyder since August, moving from Lubbock.

A resident of Lubbock for almost 50 years, Mrs. Walker was a member of the Lubbock First Christian Church and was in the advertising business.

Born in Cisco, she married Roy Little who died in 1923 and Ralph Walker who died in 1967. She was also preceded in death by a son, a daughter, nine brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews, including Gene Huestis of Snyder.

Obituaries

Marvin Gary

1903-1994

Services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home for former Snyder resident Marvin Gary, 91, of Floydada who died at 6:15 a.m. today in his daughter's home.

Among the survivors are his wife, Estelle Gary of Snyder; two daughters, Inez Miller of Floydada and Virginia Morris of Longview; and two sons, John Gary of Weatherford and Tommy Gary of North Carolina.

Edward Flores

1990-1994

Edward B. Flores, age four, was pronounced dead this morning at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Justice of the Peace Wanda Rushing ruled death due to natural causes as the child had been ill since birth.

Flores was taken to the Cogdell emergency room from the family's apartment in Park Village Apartments about 9:27 a.m.

Born May 20, 1990, he is survived by his mother, Patricia Flores. Services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Rosa Tully

1898-1994

SULPHUR SPRINGS — Service was held Saturday at the Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel for Rosa B. Tully, 95, who died Thursday in Leisure Lodge Nursing Home. Burial followed in the City of Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

She was the mother of Dr. Jim Tully of Sulphur Springs and formerly of Snyder.

Born in Cove, Ark., she married Joseph Lee Tully on July 9, 1913 in Arkansas. He died in 1974.

Mrs. Tully was a homemaker and a member of the League Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include another son, R.L. Tully of Warrenton, Va.; two daughters, I.V. Bruno of Porter, Tex. and Floy Moore of Sulphur Springs; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Lee and Rosa Tully Memorial Scholarship at Western Texas College.

Lewis Cox

1894-1994

RULE — Funeral service is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Rule First Baptist Church for Lewis "Bert" Cox Jr., 100, who died Saturday in a Haskell hospital. Burial will follow in the Willow Cemetery in Haskell.

He was the father of Hershel Cox of Snyder.

Born in Colgate, Okla., Mr. Cox had lived in Rule for 57 years, and was a member of the First Baptist Church. He married Ruth Naomi Coker in 1914. She preceded him in death.

Survivors include two daughters, Pearl Rinehart of Rule and Lovell Hines of Haskell; two other sons, Willard Cox and L.B. Cox Jr., both of Haskell; 10 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Civil War's human side is focus of book

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thomas P. Lowry set out to explore more deeply the human side of the Civil War, to take figures remembered in bronze and stone and put more flesh and blood on them. Well, flesh, anyway.

The war, it turns out, was a battle of the blue and the gray and the bawdy.

In his book "The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War," Lowry leaves no doubt there was plenty of it — tender, inventive, violent, much of it bringing awful disease, the sum of it making more bearable the deprivations of the time.

Now, he says, the "manifold dimensions of love and lust in the Civil War stand revealed for those who care to see them."

Prostitution was rampant, even licensed by the Union in Memphis, Tenn., and Savannah, Ga., and men went into battle with pocket pornography made to look like Bibles. "Amours with the Nuns" was one hit.

U.S. awaiting word on captured helicopter pilot

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Christmas marked another day in captivity for American pilot Bobby Hall, whose helicopter either was shot down or crashed in communist North Korea.

Hall's U.S. Army OH-58C helicopter strayed across the Demilitarized Zone on Dec. 17. Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon was killed. His body was returned Thursday.

Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., who helped worked out that repa-

tration, said that his agreement with the North had called for Hall to be freed "very soon." He had hoped that meant by Christmas.

But North Korea has said Hall, a chief warrant officer, will not be released until after it finishes its investigation into the incident.

A low-level meeting aimed at convincing the North to free Hall was held Sunday at the truce village of Panmunjom, in the Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas.

Jim Coles, a spokesman for the U.S. and U.N. military force in Korea, said officials hoped that contact would lead to a higher-level meeting. He said Monday that no session had been set up yet.

Pyeongyang has said Hall is in good health, but has allowed no foreign contact with him.

The United States has insisted the helicopter was on an unarmed routine training mission when it crossed the Demilitarized Zone.

South Pacific star dies at age 78

ROME (AP) — Rossano Brazzi, who starred in the movie "South Pacific" and played other hit romantic roles in the 1950s and 1960s, has died in Rome, Italian news reports said today. He was 78.

The ANSA news agency, quoting sources close to the actor's family, said Brazzi died Saturday in a Rome hospital from an undisclosed virus that affected his nervous system.

Brazzi played in more than 200 movies, most of them shot in the United States.

His first Hollywood appearance was in "Little Women" (1949), but it was "The Barefoot Contessa" (1954) which made him a star specializing in roles as Latin lovers and aristocrats.

Another 1954 hit was "Three Coins in the Fountain."

Until his illness he had been working in a film where he played the role of an Italian prosecutor, ANSA reported.

Brazzi made headlines in 1984 when he was among 37 people indicted in an investigation of international arms and drug smuggling. The case against him was later dropped.

Japan's government okays reduced spending budget

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's government, struggling with a 3-year-old recession, approved a 1995 budget Sunday that would reduce spending for the first time in 40 years while expanding public works and foreign aid.

The budget, which needs parliament's approval, totals \$710 billion for the fiscal year starting April 1, down almost 3 percent from the fiscal 1994 budget.

It would be the first decline from previous-year spending since a 0.8 percent cut in 1955.

Parliament is expected to convene in mid-January to consider the budget.

The recession has cut into tax revenues, as has an income tax cut adopted in 1994 in hopes of speeding economic recovery by encouraging consumer spending. The United States also pressed for the income tax cut, figuring that some of that spending might go for American products.

In fiscal 1995, the income tax cut amounts to \$55 billion.

Holiday police activity slows after fast start

Local law enforcement agencies made 14 arrests over the holiday weekend, including six individuals in one disturbance incident.

A 34-year-old female was arrested from the 1800 block of 15th St. following a disturbance call at 12:38 a.m. Saturday. The only adult arrested, she was charged with public intoxication and resisting arrest. Also arrested and later released to the custody of their parents were a 13-year-old female, two 15-year-old males and two 14-year-old females.

The 13-year-old female was charged with evading arrest and probation violation while one 15-year-old male was arrested for probation violation. The other 15-year-old was charged with evading arrest.

One 14-year-old female was arrested for probation violation and the other was charged with disorderly conduct. Also arrested Saturday afternoon was a 14-year-old male who was charged with making alcohol available to minors. He was arrested at the sheriff's office at 1:20 p.m. and he was later released to his parents.

A 22-year-old male was arrested at 3:22 p.m. Saturday on outstanding DPS warrants from Plainview. DPS officers also arrested Mary Lou Chavez, 34, at 11:26 p.m. Saturday at Hwy. 208 and Brick Plant Rd. She was charged with felony driving while intoxicated plus no insurance and no drivers license.

A citation for shoplifting was issued at 10:19 a.m. Saturday in reference to an incident at Don's Value King. Officers filed a report for Class C theft. Officers investigated another shoplifting incident at 11:48 a.m. at the same address and issued another citation.

An offense report for dog bite was submitted in reference to an incident in Hermleigh at 6:13 p.m. Saturday.

Hospital Notes

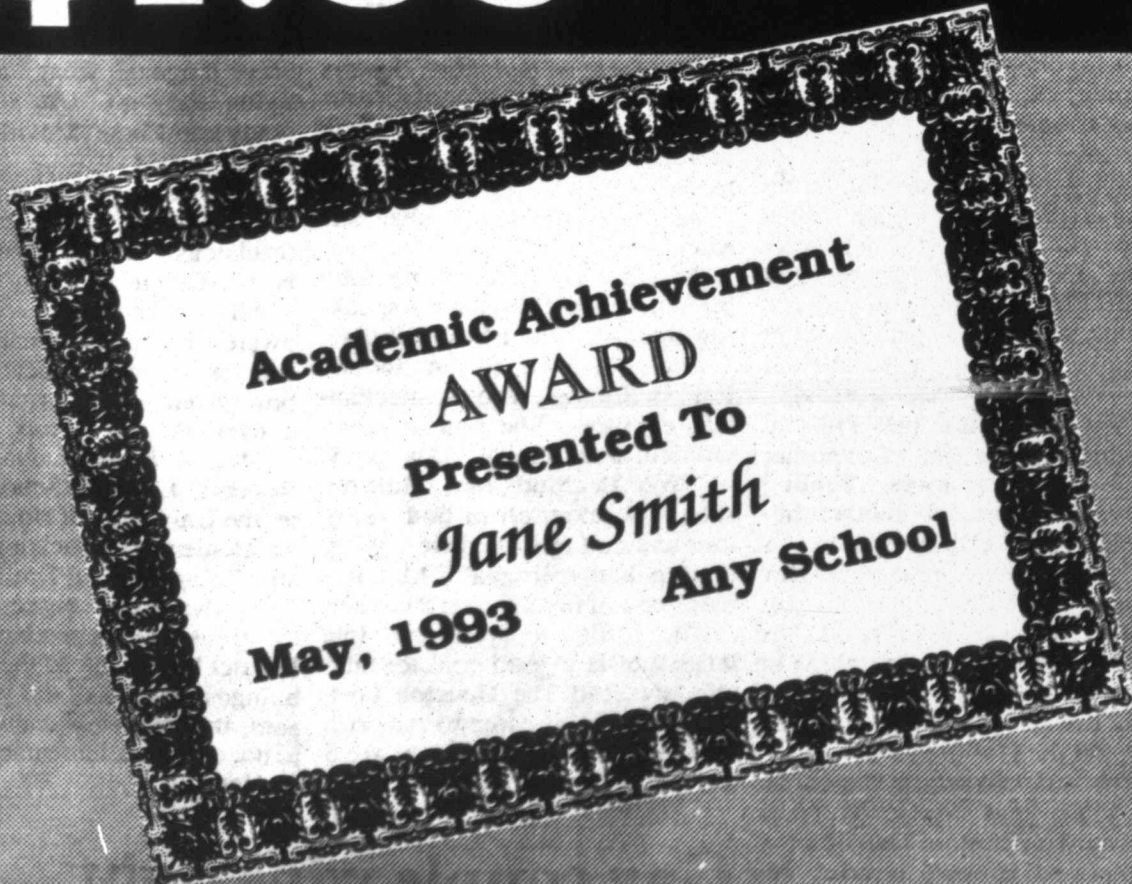
ADMISSIONS: Laura Campbell, 1110 N. Ave. L; Anne Overhulser, P.O. Box 1135; Hubert Aikin, 3810 Galveston; Detra Jackson, 3101 Ave. K; Jewel Roberts, Anson; Iva Woodson, 600 24th; Lella Botts, 1011 16th; Vera Jones, 112 Chestnut; Becky Lentz, P.O. Box 173; Amy Fowler, Fluvanna; Jerry McNew, 1309 Ave. O; Nikki Switzer, Battle Creek, Mich.

DISMISSALS: K.H. Brumbe-low, Milton Ham, Detra Jackson, Shirley McCartney, Jennifer Northcutt, Eloise Smith, Ty Springer, Ann Overhulser, Hubert Aikin, Laura Campbell and baby, Angela Sescil and baby.

Census: 43 (Med-12, Long-Term Care-28, CCU-1, OB-1, Nursery-1).

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Snyder Daily News

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FBI sting on Medicare fraud backfires

MIAMI (AP) — FBI agents thought they were setting a trap by buying copies of 35 Medicare cards and selling them to a suspected fraud operation.

But now the cards are being used to buy expensive leg braces and other medical equipment — and the FBI can't track them.

"The FBI lost control of the cards. Now they have a monster on

their hands," a government investigator familiar with the case told The Miami Herald for a story in Sunday's issues.

Medicare says it can't cancel the copied cards, which have been circulating for 16 months, because that would wipe out legitimate federal benefits to the people whose names are on those cards.

"Your Medicare number is the

same as your Social Security number," said Faye Baggiano, associate administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration in Washington. "And Social Security numbers are issued for life."

Medicare routinely provides phony numbers that can be canceled once an investigation is complete. It isn't known why the FBI insisted on using the real

names and authentic Medicare numbers.

"Investigative techniques are sometimes limited to opportunities that present themselves at the time," said George B. Clow III, chief agent in the FBI's South Florida office. "It is not a perfect world."

The Herald said it examined the Medicare records for 10 people whose numbers were sold.

Twenty-three clinics and companies billed Medicare a total of \$163,745 for services that the real card holders say they never got or tried to get.

One of the 10, Esther Machado, said Medicare paid a claim in her name for \$3,205 for leg braces. There's nothing wrong with her legs.

Maria and Rogelio Rodriguez have lungs that work fine, but someone using fake cards with their names and Medicare numbers was paid \$5,484 for his-and-her oxygen equipment.

"How can they let this happen

California rocked by earthquake

EUREKA, Calif. (AP) — A moderate earthquake broke windows, knocked out power and jolted people out of their sleep in Northern California today.

It was "an incredibly strong jolt," said Karen Olsen, a resident of Arcata in Humboldt County who was awakened by the 6:10 a.m. quake.

The quake had a magnitude of 5.0 and occurred in the Pacific Ocean 19 miles west of Eureka at the junction of three plates, a frequent site of seismic activity, U.S. Geological Survey spokeswoman Lu Page said.

Eureka is about 230 miles northwest of San Francisco.

The quake brought "pretty violent shaking" for several seconds, Humboldt County dispatcher Elisa Tyson said.

Residents reported broken glass and power outages, Tyson said.

Group says not just women victims of family violence

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — While growing attention has been given to the battered women's movement, less has been said about male victims of abuse.

Some men's groups say until the issue of women beating men is addressed, the problem of family violence will remain unsolved.

"It is not gender-specific," Hugh Nations, vice president of the National Coalition of Free Men, said of battering in today's editions of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

"It is something people do to people. Our desire to hold women pure and innocent and to demonize men is so great that we simply ignore all kinds of evidence to the contrary."

Christina Walsh, a spokeswoman for the Austin-based Texas Council on Family Violence, said the domestic violence movement has focused on women because women have tackled the problem.

"For 20 years, it's been women, by and large, who have tried

to attend to this issue. It's been women who have taken that responsibility and addressed the issue. It's been women who stepped to the plate first, recognized the problem and did something about it," Ms. Walsh said.

"If men feel there is a huge unmet need, why don't they step to the plate and try to provide some services for men?"

The extent of husband-battering is in question. Nations points to studies by Murray A. Straus, a University of New Hampshire professor and director of the Family Research Laboratory, that suggest women are as likely as men to abuse their spouses.

"However, men's violence is more injurious or lethal," he said.

"What happens is, wife slaps husband and husband slaps back. It's not until husband slaps back that it's considered family violence."

But other experts say Straus' study doesn't accurately reflect what is going on in U.S. homes.

"It's been estimated, in terms of physical abuse, that females may be as likely to abuse their spouses as males," said Andrew Sappington, a psychologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"But males are most likely to use deadly force. They're more skilled in weapons use and are stronger. And in a certain number of cases, females are using physical force in response to physical force."

Dan Saunders, an associate professor of social work at the University of Michigan, said more research is needed to determine the extent of male battering.

"We still don't have a study that asks all the right questions ... such as who initiated the violence and what were the consequences," he said. "If you just count acts of violence, it's going to be about 50-50. But if you look at more select samples, you get the impression it's more like 95 percent women (victims) and 5 percent men."

In Texas last year, marital relationships accounted for 65.5 percent of family violence episodes, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Researchers have found that male victims face many of the same hurdles as battered women: a fear of reporting the crime, reluctance to leave the relationship and unwillingness to seek help.

"Men typically who are really being abused do not seek help," said Rene Bourassa, a Corpus Christi facilitator of anger groups for men and women. "They're afraid of how they'll be seen. I have had some and worked with them individually. I tell them the same thing I tell a woman: If you're being abused in a relationship — get out."

Nations said male victims have almost nowhere to turn if they want to leave an abusive relationship.

In Oklahoma...

Kicking cat gets longer jail term

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Beating up a woman in Oklahoma could bring 90 days in jail. Kicking a cat is an entirely different matter; that's a felony that could mean years behind bars.

"It's absurd," said Georgie Rasco of the Oklahoma Coalition on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Kicking a cat "is horrendous and I'm disgusted by that," Rasco said, "but as a women's advocate on domestic violence, it angers me we don't get the same response judicially when he goes out and kicks his girlfriend."

The disparity emerged recently in two cases involving Oklahoma City police officers.

Sgt. Aaron G. Watson is accused of slamming his girlfriend's head into a wall, dragging her by the hair, handcuffing her and kicking her. He was charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, punishable by up to 90 days in jail.

Sgt. Wayne M. Hlinicky is accused of maliciously kicking a cat at the airport. He's charged with animal cruelty — a felony. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to five years in prison and fined up to \$5,000.

Prosecutors say there's little they can do. There are no misdemeanor statutes in Oklahoma for animal cruelty, so any such charge has to be filed as a felony, Assistant District Attorney Richard Wintory said.

Assault and battery, on the other hand, is generally a misdemeanor unless a dangerous weapon was used or the victim's injuries were severe enough. The wo-

man allegedly assaulted by Watson suffered a ruptured ear drum.

"We don't get to a felony until we get to maiming," prosecutor Gary Ackley said.

There's another disparity involved in the cases: Hlinicky would be automatically discharged from the department on a felony conviction. A misdemeanor conviction would not be automatic grounds to dismiss Watson.

Houston ticket is Lotto winner

One ticket bought in Houston correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot is worth \$10 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 16, 32, 15, 7, 49, and 31.

In addition to the jackpot winner, there were 155 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth \$1,753. There were 8,436 tickets with four of six numbers, with each winning \$116. And there were 165,328 tickets sold with three of six numbers, with each worth an automatic \$3.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Wednesday night's game will be \$3 million.

and complaining to Medicare," she said. "I'm sure the FBI has very caring people, but in this situation they acted incompetently."

The FBI and Medicare are still investigating, The Herald said, but there have been no arrests.

Ira Church of God slates Bible course in January

A college course in the Old Testament will be taught at Ira Church of God during the spring semester.

Offered through Mid America Bible College in Moore, Okla., the course begins in January and will be held one Saturday a month from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May.

Cleo Carille of Big Spring will be the instructor. The cost will be \$25 plus book. Those completing the course will receive three hours of college credit.

Anyone wishing to enroll is asked to confirm by Dec. 31 by calling either Shari Cotton at 573-7409 or Jack Darnell, pastor, 573-5965.

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Astrograph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your
Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1994

If you want to test your entrepreneurial aptitude, the year ahead could be very much to your liking. Don't be afraid to take a calculated risk to better your lot in life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will have the diplomatic wherewithal today to settle an important matter between dissenting parties. If you're not asked to help, volunteer your services. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, NY 10163.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) This could be a red letter day for you. Something you've worked long and hard on can be brought to a profitable conclusion today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Getting others to rally to your banner today will be easy if you lead by example. Show them firsthand that your way of doing things works well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Two important projects of yours can now be finalized satisfactorily. The conclusions of both projects will be slightly related.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Companions will listen attentively and heed what you say today. They'll instinctively know that your judgments are fair.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Rewards for your efforts will motivate you to fulfill your ambitious objectives today. Profit is not a dirty word.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Treat today's developments philosophically instead of fighting City Hall. An open mind could turn you into a winner without putting forth too much effort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A relative might have a piece of advice for you today that could turn a problematical family issue into something resolvable. Hear him/her through.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Something tough might need to be said today, but you'll find a diplomatic way of phrasing it. Others will be glad the burden of presentation fell on you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not hesitate to give vent to your financial ambitions today. Conditions are in your favor and you should be able to accomplish what you desire.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Challenge will bring out the best in you today. You need some type of involvement that offers a bit of friendly competition. Tennis, golf or bowling, anyone?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do not worry about making changes at this time if it will benefit your family ultimately. Your perceptions are accurate in this area.

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Boris Yeltsin offers to withdraw troops

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin today offered to withdraw his troops from the outskirts of the Chechen capital and said it was time to end Moscow's military campaign in the breakaway Russian republic.

Yeltsin appeared to be indicating that he was prepared to resume peace talks with Chechen leaders who have so far rejected his demands that they disarm their supporters and abandon their drive for independence.

Yeltsin's comments to his hawkish Security Council were reported by the Interfax news agency. The council has been a major force behind the military operation.

His offer, made two weeks after he sent up to 40,000 soldiers into Chechnya, came amid sharp disagreements within the military, the parliament and the Kremlin itself over his decision to use military force.

"We've reached the moment when it's possible to wind up the

participation of the military and begin the second stage, to form administrative bodies in the Chechen republic," Interfax quoted him as saying.

"We have reached the stage of restoration of constitutional, legal order," he said.

Yeltsin said that the army could be withdrawn to temporary points on the borders of the Chechen republic.

He also said he would go on national television on Tuesday to address the Russian people. Yeltsin has been largely out of public view since the troops were sent on Dec. 11. His aides have said he was recovering from a minor nose operation.

The remaining residents of Grozny live through night after night of Russian bombings and spend their days foraging for food on the rebellious Chechen capital's nearly deserted streets.

Those who can have fled, leaving behind the city's volunteer defenders.

Two weeks after Moscow sent as many as 40,000 soldiers into the breakaway republic, there is no sign Chechen leaders or their supporters will surrender their weapons or their dream of an independent state.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin's strategy is under attack by Russian generals, members of Parliament and even Yeltsin's aides in the Kremlin.

Yeltsin met today with his hawkish Security Council, to discuss events in Chechnya. Advisers had predicted there would be a struggle between the hawks and doves.

"Some think they should seize Grozny as soon as possible," Emil Pahin, a member of Yeltsin's Presidential Council, said Sunday on the Independent Television program Itogi.

"(But) it will be impossible to seize it without a lot of blood. And if there is a lot of blood, there will be a sharp change in the attitude of the public, and a sharp change in

the attitude of the international community."

Public opinion surveys indicate Russians largely oppose the decision to use force in Chechnya, but so far there has been no response to the call by reformers for mass anti-war demonstrations. Only a few hundred people attended a rally Sunday in Moscow's Gorky Park to protest the military action.

Since the military campaign began on Dec. 11, Yeltsin has remained largely out of view. The official explanation has been that he was recovering from a minor nose operation, but some have expressed concern about his absence during the crisis.

The Russian parliament reportedly planned to send its own representative to southern Russian for

talks with Chechen representatives.

Moscow has accused Chechen leaders of turning their republic into a haven for criminals since declaring independence in 1991 and has demanded that they disarm and return to their place in the Russian Federation. Chechens see the Russian soldiers as invaders intent on dominating their tiny homeland.

Russian warplanes bombed Grozny again on Sunday, making their nearly daily sorties over the Chechen capital. Heavy fighting was reported in villages outside the besieged city.

The press service of the Russian government reported heavy fighting near the town of Argun, nine miles east of Grozny. More than

1,000 Chechen fighters were killed, the government said.

Early Sunday in Grozny, few people were on the streets of the ruined city.

Some struggled to salvage their belongings from the rubble, others searched for food and still others whose homes were in ruins looked for shelter.

Much of Grozny was without electricity or heat. Telephones worked sporadically. Already short of power, hospitals were running out of medicine and bandages.

Most Chechen women and children have fled the city to take refuge with relatives in villages outside Grozny.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has remained in the city.

Minister who helped man is found stabbed to death

ESSEX, Md. (AP) — His congregants say the Rev. Samuel Nathaniel Booth would give the last dollar in his wallet to a person in need, and was always feeding people who couldn't get a meal elsewhere.

On Sunday, one of the people that Booth had helped was charged with murdering him.

Police said James Thomas Wood confessed to robbing Booth and stabbing him to death Christmas Eve in the pastor's trailer residence behind the clapboard church.

Wood, 24, told police he stole \$77 in cash and \$40 worth of crack cocaine. He was held with out bail.

About 50 people inside Christian Faith Tabernacle Church bypassed their traditional Christmas service Sunday morning and held a tearful service in Booth's

memory instead. "I just need to know that Jesus is celebrating his birthday today and because of Jesus, Reverend Booth is in heaven," said church member Michele Perrera. "I just need to know that he didn't suffer."

Distraught worshippers hugged and cried throughout the 2 1/2-hour ceremony. They sang Booth's favorite hymns "Jesus is My Savior" and "O I Want to See Him."

Church members described Booth, 55, as a warm, loving man who dedicated his life to his Pentecostal church and the congregation he founded 14 years ago in the blue-collar community about five miles northeast of downtown Baltimore.

"His only interest was doing what God wanted him to do," said

Dan Woodard. "The church was his life."

Cpl. Kevin Novak, a Baltimore County police spokesman, said Booth and Wood were acquaintances. A church member said Booth had fed Wood several times in his trailer and once had let him stay there.

"He has always taken people in and fed them," said Kitty Garcia, who publishes the church newsletter. "He was always helping people."

Booth had recently moved to the small trailer after living with his mother. About a month ago, he came home to find a burglar, who ran away into nearby woods, said Mrs. Garcia.

"He was frightened out here," she said. "It's a good way off the road here."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter "No Toys" printed in the Saturday, Dec. 24th edition of Snyder Daily News, Toys for Tots volunteers have this answer:

An application was received from Debra Forbes for toys for her two-year old little girl. The application was approved. On Saturday, Dec. 17th during the distribution of toys, a handicapped man entered the building requesting to pick up toys for Debra Forbes. He told James Fields that he was Debra Forbes' husband and was supposed to pick up toys for their two-year old little girl. Angela Fields had filled the sack with a doll high

chair, a baby doll, a musical push toy, and a stuffed animal. At that time James Fields had his 10 year old son carry the toys to the man's pickup, which had a wheel-chair in the back. This was witnessed by all of the volunteers of Toys for Tots.

If there was a type of mistake and this man was not Debra Forbes' husband, why wait a week after toy distribution before questioning why this little girl didn't get any toys? Not one of the volunteers ever received a phone call from Ms. Forbes concerning her application.

According to the Toys for Tots records, the order was approved,

filled, and picked up by an individual claiming to be Mrs. Forbes' husband.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support and concern for the children of Scurry County. Because of all the donations, we had a successful year by providing toys for 149 families which consisted of over 500 children. Thank you Scurry County.

Debbie Word
Angela Fields
James Fields
Rhonda Odum
Mike Neeley
Vickie Neeley

Business and Industrial News

Hillside Memorial Gardens has been serving Snyder area for many years

Hillside Memorial Gardens, located on the Colorado City Highway, has been serving Snyder and the Scurry County area for many years.

Hillside Memorial Gardens is a perpetual care cemetery governed by the State Banking Department. The one price you pay for perpetual care is the only one you ever have to pay. There are no yearly dues necessary for the upkeep of the property.

The staff at Hillside Memorial Gardens is committed to serving your best interests. W.C. and Greg Graves will be glad to help you with any of your pre-need planning. Everyone plans for the future in one way or another whether with savings or insurance to take care of something that might happen. Why not prepare for the inevitable? Making the decision to purchase a Family Memorial Estate plan now insures that the decision is made together and one is not left to make it alone. Statistics show that these decisions are made 67 percent of the time by widows and children and 33 percent of the time by husbands. The purchase of a Family Memorial Estate plan can also be a savings plan because the deed is the equivalent of a paid up insurance policy.

Lots at Hillside Memorial Gardens are reasonably priced and they offer a Pre-Need Financial Plan of only 20 percent down and small monthly payments without interest or carrying charges. If the only time you have is on the



THE BEAUTIFUL HILLSIDE MEMORIAL GARDENS, Snyder's perpetual care cemetery, is located on the Colorado City Highway. (SDN Staff Photo)

weekends, Greg can be contacted at 573-5864 and will be glad to help you any time.

Granite and bronze memorials are available at Hillside Monument Works and Greg goes to great lengths to see that the finished product is one that pleases the family members and reflects the individualism of the loved one for whom the monument has been created.

The staff at Hillside realizes that they provide an important ser-

vice to the community and work hard to maintain the trust and confidence of the people. They will be happy to counsel with anyone at anytime concerning their present

or future needs. Give them a call at 573-5251 or go by and visit with them at Hillside Memorial Gardens and Monument Works on the Colorado City Highway.

Three killed in Christmas shooting

DERICK, Mo. (AP) — A bar manager trying to break up a fight early Christmas morning fatally shot two brothers and was himself mortally wounded, police said.

Arthur S. Bartlett, 44, manager

of the Mule Bar & Grill, stepped outside early Sunday to try to calm Kevin W. Ford, 21, Larry F. Ford, 17, and possibly others involved in a fight in the parking lot.

When one of the brothers started assaulting Bartlett's girlfriend, Bartlett shot him, police said. Bartlett then shot the second brother, who shot back, hitting Bartlett.

Police found Larry Ford dead at the scene. Kevin Ford and Bartlett died at hospitals.

Bartlett's girlfriend, whose identity was withheld, was not injured, police said.

Police were called to the scene about 2 a.m. Sunday. Because of conflicting witness reports.

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