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WT-Int. Crude - $26.68
WTIC Posted - $24.00

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

Jan. 14, 2000
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Home Of Riley Ann Tatum

SISD retirement incentive considered

By Wade Warren
Managing Editor

Thirty employees of the Snyder Independent School District may have an opportunity to participate in a retirement incentive program, pending action on a plan that was presented to the district's trustees Thursday night.

Supt. Gayle Lomax said the item was being presented for information only, but it will be an action item when the board meets in February.

In the proposal, the maximum amount each person could receive is $20,000, and the actual amount would be based on 50 percent of the employee's 1999-2000 contracted salary, plus payment for unused sick leave.

It is estimated that if all 30 qualified employees decided to take advantage of the early-retirement incentive, it would cost the district approximately $600,000.

While 30 employees will be allowed to take advantage of the proposal, there are actually 51 employees who meet the criteria of being a full-time teacher, administrator, counselor, nurse, librarian, speech pathologist or diagnostician, and has completed five years of continuous service in the district before June 2000.

In presenting the proposal, Lomax expressed doubt that 30 teachers would participate.

"The obvious question is why would you want to replace experienced teachers," said Lomax. "This is a difficult decision based on the hard economic times we're living in right now."

"With our declining enrollment, we have to look at reducing the teacher staff. As I said, I don't think we will actually lose 30 experienced teachers. But if we do, our goal is to not replace all 30. For this to do the maximum good, many slots will have to be absorbed."

Lomax said SISD enrollment continues to decline, and noted that the district had lost 21 students since the Christmas holidays.

Currently, the district has 2,850 students, as compared to 3,116 the same time last year – a difference of 266.

Board president Mark McCormick told trustees that the district is not tied to this particular version of a retirement incentive.

Lomax agreed, noting that Sweetwater ISD had presented a proposal to their staff that included a maximum pay out of $10,000.

Board member Bill Moss said he did not like the fact that under the present proposal, some teachers would not get paid for accumulated sick leave if they're currently making $40,000 per year, or more.

"Any educator that spends that much time in our district needs to recoup their sick days," Moss said.

The proposal also states that the cost of the program will be paid out of the district's reserve fund, and that any employee that accepts the benefits will not be eligible for re-employment in the district as a teacher.

However, they could teach elsewhere, and would be eligible to serve in the local district as a substitute teacher, aide, or in another position on the support staff.

In another informational item expected to be on the February agenda, trustees heard a presentation from Energy Education Inc. related to reducing energy costs within the district.

A representative of the company, Dr. Fred Zachary, told trustees that his company's program did not require adding or replacing mechanical equipment, but involved changing employee's attitude toward conserving energy.

"We are about stewardship," said Zachary.

Zachary said the program is designed to be paid for out of what utility savings the district realizes.

"If we don't save you money, we write you the check," said Zachary.

The board met for 45 minutes in executive session for Supt. Lomax's annual evaluation.

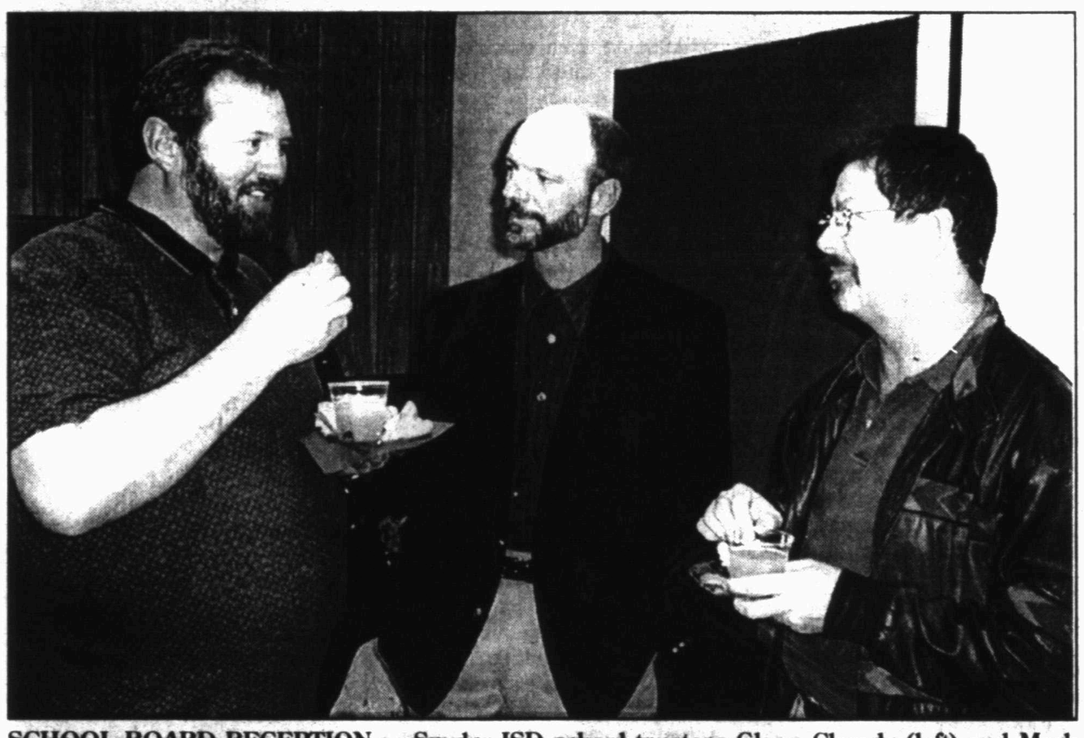
McCormick said the board will meet again Tuesday to conclude the evaluation.

In action items, the board approved a resolution seeking the renewal of a grant for $18,300 for the school resource officer, and a request seeking a grant for a reading improvement program.

Dr. Missy Jones, assistant superintendent, said the district could apply for as much as $275,000 to be spread among the five elementary campuses.

The board also heard from Dr. Jones on the district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report.

McCormick presided at the meeting and board members in attendance were Moss, Richard Chambers, Glenn Clarady and Janet Stribling. Luann Burleson and Mike Levens were absent.



SCHOOL BOARD RECEPTION — Snyder ISD school trustees Glenn Clarady (left) and Mark McCormick (center), visit with SHS teacher Richard Hester during Thursday evening's reception honoring the local school board. (SDN Staff Photo)

Ira, Hermleigh trustees meet

Ira ISD trustees formally approved the resignation of principal Rodney Schneider when the board met Thursday morning.

Schneider has been named the new superintendent at Whitharral ISD in Hockley County.

Supt. Rick Howard said the vacancy will remain posted until it is filled.

Trustees also extended Howard's contract for one year. It will now expire in 2003.

In other matters, the board approved monthly reports as presented by Howard, including financial statements, and approved budget amendments for the current school year.

Hermleigh's school board met Thursday evening for an abbreviated agenda.

Trustees were to hold an executive session for the yearly evaluation of Supt. Jerry Church and consider a contract extension, but the items were tabled until the February meeting.

The board did name Church as the integrated pest management coordinator for the district, and adopted local policy updates.

Garland explosion kills three in house

GARLAND, (AP) — Two women and one man were killed today when an explosion flattened their house and sent debris flying for several blocks along a normally quiet residential street in this northeast Dallas suburb.

The blast obliterated the single-story brick house just north of the center of Garland and hurled insulation as far as three blocks away. Wires from the home were strung onto nearby trees like spider webs.

Albert and Lillian Holbert, both 80, and Mrs. Holbert's 83-year-old sister, Callie Hickerson, were killed in the 3:15 a.m. blast, said Stewart Smith, spokesman for the Garland Fire Department.

Bush says opponents wrong in tax criticism

HOOKSETT, N.H. (AP) — The leading Republican presidential contenders are stressing their differences over taxes, with George W. Bush urging a larger cut to keep money away from spenders in Congress and John McCain arguing that smaller tax reductions mean more set aside for Social Security.

In a new Bush ad to begin running today or Saturday in Iowa, the Texas governor, without naming names, says his opponents "are both wrong" in their criticism of him on taxes.

McCain has called Bush's five-year $483 billion tax-cut plan too big, and publisher Steve Forbes has charged that Bush broke a no-new-taxes pledge as governor by proposing some tax hikes to help pay for a $3 billion property tax rollback.

"In Texas, you're only as good as your word," Bush says in the new ad.

The Bush camp had been preparing a tougher response to Forbes. The draft of an ad that aides considered producing early in the week called for Bush to promise to run a positive campaign and to complain, "My opponent has chosen to run a negative campaign."

McCain, too, was running a new ad today in New Hampshire.

In an office setting, he addresses the viewers and says, "There's one big difference between me and the others — I won't take every last dime of the surplus and spend it on tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy. I'll use the bulk of the surplus to secure Social Security far into the future to keep our promise to the greatest generation."

"The voters will have a clear choice on Election Day," McCain promised on Thursday.

Bush sought farm votes in Iowa today, telling a jeans-clad audience that the next president must open agricultural markets overseas and also use antitrust laws at home to prevent conglomerates from squeezing small farmers out of business.

Bush

"There's no question that there can be predatory pricing as a result of conglomeration," Bush said in Red Oak.

He argued that the United States must continue to trade with China, a market of over one billion people. "If you're able to sell your products overseas, to me it almost makes the conglomeration you're talking about moot," Bush said.

Fresh polls pointed to a tight race in the Feb. 1 leadoff presidential primary in New Hampshire. In a long day of campaigning Thursday, Bush and McCain never crossed paths but repeatedly referred to each other's approach to cutting taxes.

Bush lumped McCain in with Vice President Al Gore as the only "two voices" in the campaign to criticize his tax cut as too large.

In remarks before a lunchtime audience in Portsmouth, the Texas governor said that unless the tax cut is big enough, there would be too much money left for Congress to use as it saw fit. "I worry they may spend it on bigger government," he said, without mentioning that his own political party commands a majority in both the House and Senate.

Bush stressed that his plan, a $483 billion package of cuts over five years, would leave the Social Security surplus untapped, and keep the money in a "lockbox" to be available for shoring up the system in the future. A spokesman said he would use about 80 percent of the projected non-Social Security surplus for tax cuts, with the balance set aside for education, defense and other priorities.

But McCain said in a written statement that wasn't good enough.

Banks closed for MLK day

Local financial institutions will be closed Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Students in Snyder schools will have the day off, but Hermleigh and Ira students will attend classes as usual.

The Texas Workforce Commission, located on the Western Texas College campus, will not be open.

Snyder Post Office will also be closed on Monday. Mail will be placed in boxes, but there will be no home deliveries.

County and city offices will be open.

Former local administrator rejoins ECISD

Former Snyder ISD assistant superintendent for personnel, Wendell Sollis, has been named to a similar post in the Ector County Independent School District in Odessa.

Sollis began his current duties on Jan. 3 as the assistant superintendent for human resources.

Sollis left Snyder in November, 1998 to work with ECISD, but left after less than a year.

He was working in investments in Snyder, before being offered his current post.

Sollis' duties in Odessa include planning and supervising the operations of the human resource office.

His wife, Dustee, who formerly taught at Snyder High School, is currently a reading teacher at Odessa High School.

Their daughter, Jessica, is in the eighth grade at Bowie Junior High.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "There is always one more obstacle than you counted on."

Keeping tabs on our neighbors: Jimmy Carr, in the Vernon Daily Record, says a lot of predictions didn't happen in 1999.

The doom and gloom over the Y2K crash is the most obvious, but the psychics didn't score well, either, according to the Vernon writer.

Experience has shown that each new year is greeted with predictions from "experts" about strange events on the horizon.

Carr says folks at the Skeptical Inquirer have made it a tradition to track some of the more outlandish predictions made at the start of each year. As the name of the publication suggests, the magazine takes a less-than-serious view of such forecasts – and for good reason.

For instance, here are some of the prognostications made for 1999:

—A pollution cloud would force New York City to be quarantined.

—Wynona Judd would quit country music to become a female wrestler.

—Marijuana was to replace petroleum as the nation's chief source of energy. (How about coat hangers?)

—The crew of "60 Minutes" replaced by Candice Bergen, Mary Tyler Moore and Margot Kidder.

—The Statue of Liberty would lose both arms in a terrorist blast.

—Monica Lewinsky would become a millionaire after opening a New York boutique for the full-figured woman and she would name it Monica's Closet.

—O.J. Simpson would confess to Howard Stern on the air that he was responsible for his ex-wife's death.

—Roseanne would shed her threads to do a week's worth of talk shows from a nudist colony.

One editor of the magazine says he was amazed that psychics didn't foresee some of the real occurrences of 1999 – such as massive earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan, the nuclear accident in Japan and the death of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and her sister in a plane crash.

One well-known psychic did predict that Carolyn Bessett Kennedy would give birth to healthy twins and another proclaimed that JFK Jr. would fly on a space shuttle mission with John Glenn as his co-pilot.

During the 1990s, the discovery of an anti-aging drug was predicted that would stretch the normal lifespan to 150 years.

Perhaps they still will – and we'd all have a chance for Y2K+100.

ASK US

Q—Why do businesses here in town ask for your birthdate when you write a check?

A—It serves as an additional form of identification.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 64 degrees; low, 29; 7 a.m. Friday, 29; no precipitation; total for 2000, .73 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy; low, mid 30s; S wind 5-10 mph; Saturday, partly cloudy, high around 70; S-SW wind 10-20 mph.

Abraham Arizmendi
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 6:03 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:43 a.m.
Of 13 days in 2000, the sun has shone 13 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

You know the rule: If you are falling, dive.
—Joseph Campbell

JAN 14 2000

JEREMIAH PEOPLE — The *Jeremiah People* will perform at 7 p.m. Monday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church, presenting a new program *Love...It's Greek To Me,* filled with music and drama which will appeal to all ages. For over 25 years, the Jeremiah People has used drama, music and testimony to inspire. Comprised of eight actors-singers, *Jeremiah People* provides biblical solutions to contemporary issues. (Contributed Photo)

New CEO will lead Microsoft

REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Steve Ballmer has been crowned Microsoft's new king, while Bill Gates may be aiming even higher.

Gates announced Thursday that he is giving up day-to-day leadership of the company he co-founded in 1975 to return "to what I love most — focusing on technologies for the future."

"I might be threatening to write code," Gates joked. "That's something that I haven't been able to do in three or four years."

Ballmer was named chief executive of the software giant, formalizing more than a year and a half of change at the software company in both management and vision. He inherited the job from Gates, who will remain Microsoft's chairman and become a full-time "software architect."

Microsoft has made Gates the world's wealthiest person, with a fortune estimated at more than $80 billion. His company has become the dominant force in the software industry, with its Windows operating systems on more than 90 percent of all personal computers.

Gates said he planned to dedicate his time to fashioning and promoting Microsoft's flagship operating system. The latest version, Windows 2000 for business computers, is scheduled for release on Feb. 17.

"Clearly, Gates is bored," said Michael Gartenberg, vice president of the Gartner Group, a technology research firm. "He loves innovation, and he loves to play with the technology. This will let him do that."

Ballmer, 43, was appointed Microsoft president in July 1998 after being brought into the company eight years before by Gates. The two met while attending Harvard University. Ballmer was Gates' best man when he married Melinda French in 1994.

After Gates hired Ballmer, the two reportedly had some rocky times. One anecdote says that in the spring of 1985, as Microsoft's deadline to produce Windows slipped further and further behind, Gates called Ballmer into his office and threatened to fire him if Windows wasn't on the shelves by the end of the year (though few people believe Gates, with a notoriously bad temper, was ever serious about firing Ballmer).

Windows was ready by that November.

With Ballmer at the helm, Microsoft will likely become more aggressive as it enters new technology markets with its new Internet strategy. As Ballmer announced Thursday, the company will market new software that can be accessed through any device — from personal computers and handhelds to cell phones and toasters — via the Internet.

Ballmer is seen as rather loud and blustery — he didn't bother with a microphone at Thursday's news conference announcing his new role — but his business credentials are impressive. As Microsoft's longtime vice president of sales, Ballmer helped make Windows a household name through the 1990s.

Pentagon says it erred in Y2K fix of computer system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has acknowledged mistakes in its pre-New Year's Eve testing of a Y2K correction for a computer system that processes imagery from intelligence satellites. The computer system broke down that night, interrupting the flow of spy satellite information for several hours.

It insists, however, the trouble did not jeopardize U.S. national security.

Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon on Thursday said the Pentagon would have had to shut down temporarily the intelligence computer system in order to make an "end-to-end" test of its Y2K fix. Instead, officials decided to test the fix piecemeal, allowing the system to keep running, he said.

"They tested each section of the fix, but they never tested them all together, and it turned out that was the mistake," Bacon said. "It was a mistake because the sections didn't fit together — the sections of the fix."

Bacon said this was the only significant Y2K breakdown among the several thousand Pentagon computer systems that were fixed at a cost of $3.6 billion.

The computer system with the glitch is operated by the Pentagon's highly secretive National Reconnaissance Office.

Bacon said some aspects of the problem could not be discussed publicly because of the sensitivity of U.S. spy satellite operations.

But the Chicago Tribune reported Thursday that the computer system that broke down was at a satellite ground station at Fort Belvoir, Va., south of Washington. The Tribune reported that the satellite signals were redirected to a receiving station in New Mexico.

The Tribune also reported that U.S. photo reconnaissance satellites were all but blinded by the Y2K breakdown for nearly three days. Bacon denied this. He said the outage lasted only a few hours before a backup system was in place. The backup gave the Pentagon only 50 percent of its normal capacity initially, but that rose to about 90 percent by the time the regular system was fully fixed Sunday night, Jan. 2, he said.

"We lost a little corner of part of our total intelligence take for several hours. That's what happened," Bacon said.

Bacon said Vice Adm. Thomas Wilson, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told him the New Year's Eve computer problem had only a "very, very, very marginal" impact on the nation's defense readiness.

The Tribune's Washington bureau chief, James Warren, said in response to Bacon's comments: "We understand that ultimately there can be honest debate about how serious this problem was, but we unequivocally stand behind what multiple sources told us."

Other Pentagon officials previously acknowledged that a portion of the satellite imagery was lost due to the computer breakdown, and they have insisted that this did not jeopardize national security.

"At no time were we blinded," Bacon said. "This has been a canard that's been thrown around in the press from day one. At no time were our intelligence collection systems blinded. That is because we have redundant systems designed precisely to deal with a variety of situations."

Bacon said the several-hour outage on New Year's Eve was not more troublesome than interruptions that sometimes occur due to weather or other problems.

"This was well within the type of temporary interruption that we experience on a fairly regular basis," he said.

Company to build $10 million rice facility in Helena, Ark.

HELENA, Ark. (AP) — A Houston-based rice firm owned by a company from Saudi Arabia announced it will build a $10 million facility here, creating 100 jobs and a new market for farmers.

Gulf Rice Arkansas LLC said it will start construction this month, with the goal of finishing work before the end of the year. The plant will mill and parboil rice and will be constructed at the city's river port.

Chief executive John Poole said Thursday company will buy rice from farmers in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana to supply the plant.

Poole said the Arkansas Department of Economic Development has agreed to give the company a $1 million grant to help the project. The money will go toward infrastructure work at the port. He said the company may ask for further incentives.

Phillips County Judge Don Gentry said the new plant will be the largest development in the Helena/West Helena Phillips County Port Authority's 4,000-acre slackwater port along the Mississippi River.

"Everybody has been pulling for something like this," he said.

Port authority executive director Martin Chaffin said construction will have to be fast.

"It's all going at a hectic pace," Chaffin said. "They want to be in production by October."

The port authority agreed Thursday to lease to the company 20 acres and 600 feet of frontage along the Mississippi River, Chaffin said.

Gulf Rice Arkansas was acquired in December by AJWA, a privately-held company based in Saudi Arabia. AJWA bought a rice milling, processing and packaging plant in Crawfordsville and a rice drying and storage facility in Harrisburg. The two plants employ about 45 people.

Date Book

Friday, Jan. 14, 2000
Today is the 14th day of 2000 and the 24th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1922, the Irish Free State was established.

On this day in 1952, the 'Today' show premiered on NBC television.

On this day in 1984, Madonna sang "Holiday" on "American Bandstand."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Benedict Arnold (1741-1801), American Revolutionary general-turncoat; Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), missionary; Andy Rooney (1919-), writer-commentator, is 81; Yukio Mishima (1925-1970), writer; Julian Bond (1940-), U.S. politician, is 60; Faye Dunaway (1941-), actress, is 59; Lawrence Kasdan (1949-), director-screenwriter, is 51.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1954, Joe DiMaggio married Marilyn Monroe.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment." — Jane Austen, "Pride and Prejudice"

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Al Roker will stay on NBC's 'Today'

NEW YORK (AP) — The forecast: Al Roker staying on "Today." The popular weathercaster has signed a new contract, NBC announced.

According to sources, the deal spans seven years to the tune of $14 million.

In addition to working on "Today," Roker may contribute segments to "Later Today," which on weekdays airs immediately after "Today."

Roker currently supplements his "Today" weather duties with feature interviews, most recently with retiring "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schulz.

Roker has been the regular weathercaster on the No. 1-ranked morning show since 1996, when he took over for Willard Scott. Before that, he was Scott's fill-in.

He joined the network in 1983 as a weekend weather forecaster for New York City's WNBC.

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SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Novice gun owner receives eye-opening safety lesson

DEAR ABBY: I would like to pass on some information that came to me via a 14-year-old.

I bought a gun because I travel long distances alone. I called the police to ask them the best way to travel with a gun without getting in trouble with the police. They instructed me to put the clip in the trunk of my car and the gun itself on the seat beside me.

I was telling a friend about this and remarked that if I got into trouble, the gun would be useless. Her 14-year-old son spoke up and said, "No, there's a bullet still in the chamber even after the clip is removed." I asked my father if this was true, and he confirmed it. He removed the clip from my gun and instructed me to go outside and pull the trigger. I did, and it did, indeed, have a bullet in the chamber!

I have often wondered how people could shoot themselves while cleaning a gun. I had no idea that when the clip was removed, a gun could still be loaded. I wonder how many hunters are aware of this. I thought I'd pass this along. Perhaps it could save someone's life. — DEBRA IN OKLAHOMA CITY

DEAR DEBRA: I am not particularly knowledgeable about guns, so I called the Los Angeles Police Department to inquire. Officer Rodriguez, with whom I spoke, informed me that one should always assume the gun is loaded, and a shell does remain in the chamber when the magazine is removed — unless it, too, is removed. That's an important warning for inexperienced gun owners.

**

DEAR ABBY: You recently printed a letter encouraging letters of honest praise to often-overlooked workers. Sometimes, but not often enough, I try to do that.

A few years back, I tried to think of the most underpraised group of workers that I could sincerely compliment. So, I took a picture of our minimally dented 20-year-old metal garbage can sitting at its usual clean spot at the curb. I sent an 8-by-10 color print along with a complimentary letter to the head of sanitation for the city of Dallas. They have obviously been in operation for decades, and they have hundreds of employees who are often maligned for spilled trash, noise, etc.

A few days later, I received a letter in response. It said something like this: "Thanks very much for your complimentary letter. It causes a bit of a problem. We don't know where to file it. It's the first that we have ever received." — KARL SOUTHWARD, NEMO, TEXAS

DEAR KARL: Your letter proves there's a first time for everything. Now clip this column and send it to the head of sanitation for the city of Dallas with a note: "How about filing it under 'C' for compliments? A letter like the one you received from me is a keeper!" (I'll bet they receive a dozen clippings of this column!)

**

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter in which Ernest A. Schichler Sr. described how hospital visitors subject patients to stress. I, too, have seen this.

My father had a stroke that partially paralyzed him. While he was in the hospital recovering, his many friends came to wish him well. He could barely talk because of the paralysis, so they talked among themselves. At one point, he called me to the bedside and, speaking with great difficulty, said, "Tell them to leave. They're talking about the high price of funerals." — KELLY MC DONOUGH, HURST, TEXAS

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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U.S. sues NASA contractors

HOUSTON (AP) — The Justice Department has filed a lawsuit this week against current and former NASA contractors in an attempt to recover millions of dollars lost to a subcontractor in a fraud scheme dating back to 1981.

Named in the suit are Boeing, Rockwell International and United Space Alliance, which currently serves as NASA's Houston-based prime contractor for shuttle operations.

The government action seeks at least $5 million from the companies.

Officials with Boeing, which acquired Rockwell in 1996, and the United Space Alliance, a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin, deny any wrongdoing.

Back in 1993, Rockwell was NASA's shuttle prime contractor and Omniplan Corp. of Houston was one of Rockwell's subcontractors.

In 1995, Omniplan's chief executive officer, Ralph Elias Montijo Jr., pleaded guilty to more than 150 counts of fraud. He defrauded NASA of more than $4.5 million between 1981 and 1993, using the money to buy a variety of things, including jewelry, vacations, a ski lodge and several pizza franchises.

An investigation revealed Omniplan created shell companies to acquire much of its fraudulent gains. Montijo then leased from those companies buildings and office equipment already owned by Omniplan, according to investigators.

In all, five companies and seven people, including Montijo and his wife, Guillermina, were indicted. Montijo was the only one sent to prison, while several others received probation.

The current lawsuit alleges Rockwell officials knew of the fraudulent costs well before NASA officials began investigating Montijo but submitted the false charges to NASA anyway, resulting in overbilling and unallowable expenses.

The government contends it is allowed to seek compensation from Rockwell's successors under false claim laws.

Before filing the lawsuit, the Justice Department had tried to reach a settlement with the three companies but talks failed, said an official with the Southwest field office of NASA's Office of Inspector General.

In a statement released Thursday, Boeing denied any knowledge of the fraud and said it isn't liable under the False Claims Act. Boeing also noted its predecessors at Rockwell cooperated with the previous government investigation.

A spokesman for United Space Alliance said his company never billed NASA for charges from Omniplan after United took over the shuttle contract four years ago.

Clinton wants $10 tax credit for filing taxes electronically

WASHINGTON (AP) — To entice more Americans to abandon postage stamps for computers, President Clinton is proposing a tax credit up to $10 for people who file their income tax returns electronically.

"It's good for them. It's good for the IRS. It's good for the system," Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said Thursday in announcing the proposed credit at a conference on modernizing the nation's tax collector.

The president will ask Congress in his fiscal 2001 budget to approve a $10 credit for people who file returns electronically, either on their home computers or through a tax professional. For people who use the IRS telephone filing system called Telefile, the credit would be $5.

If the credit had been in place in 1999, it would have cost the government about $264.5 million, according to congressional estimates.

Using money as an incentive marks a departure from the Internal Revenue Service campaign that is selling e-filing as more accurate, as a quicker route to a refund — an average of 20 days instead of 40 — and as the only way to get a specific confirmation that the return was received by the government.

"With anything that involves changing people's habits, you need a little push," said IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti. "It's really designed to accelerate what was happening anyway."

Indeed, electronic tax filing has grown dramatically over the past few years, including a 19 percent increase last year. About 34 million returns — a little over one in four — will be filed by computer or telephone this year, up from 29.3 million in 1999.

But the pace is not swift enough to meet a goal set by Congress in the 1998 IRS reform law for 80 percent e-filing by 2007. Indeed, the most recent IRS projection is for about half of all returns to be e-filed by that date.

"There is, to be sure, more that needs to be done," Summers said.

Some people remain reluctant to put their sensitive tax data on line, while others fear they could be more easily targeted for an audit if they file electronically — a fear the IRS says is unfounded. Many people, however, won't file electronically because the fees are usually many times the cost of a 33-cent postage stamp.

The proposed tax credit would eliminate the cost factor, said Bob Weinberger, government relations vice president at H&R Block Inc., the nation's largest tax preparer.

"People are comfortable doing it a certain way," he said. "This is likely to push a lot of people across the line who might have been saying, 'What's in it for me?'"

But Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, poked fun at the proposal and added that it leaves out millions of people who still file paper returns.

"What's next — a tax credit for good penmanship?" said the Texas Republican.

Rossotti also told the conference Thursday that improved technology — including more electronic filing — is critical to improving the IRS's ability to respond to taxpayer problems and questions.

"Our purpose is not to move some imaginary pendulum back or forth a few degrees," Rossotti said. "Our purpose is to improve the entire way the IRS works."

As part of its modernization effort, the IRS is remaking its structure into four operating divisions: one each for individual taxpayers, large businesses, small businesses and tax-exempt organizations. The new structure is expected to be in place by October.

John Dalrymple, who will head the new Wage and Investment Division that includes the vast majority of taxpayers, said the IRS hopes within five years to be able to communicate directly with taxpayers via secure e-mail. That would allow completely paperless filing with PIN numbers in place of physical signatures and provide tax refunds within two days, he said.

Summers said the president would ask Congress for a substantial increase in the IRS budget for fiscal 2001 to continue an ongoing replacement of the agency's antiquated, tape-driven taxpayer computer records and to prevent any further reduction in employees.

Miniature skateboards may have choking risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 15,500 miniature-skateboard key chains have been recalled because their wheels may detach and pose a choking risk to young children.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday two reports of the wheels coming off were received, but no injuries have been reported.

The key chains came attached to Z.Z. Jamboarder teddy bears, which were produced by the Vermont Teddy Bear Co. of Shelburne, Vt. The toy bears were sold nationwide by Zany Brainy of King of Prussia, Pa., through their stores, catalog and Web site.

The Z.Z. Jamboarder teddy bear is light brown, about 15 inches long and wears a white shirt, jeans, a purple hat and sunglasses. A sewn-in tag under the bear's left arm reads "Z.Z. Jamboarder" on one side and "Limited Edition 1999" on the other.

The skateboard key chain is about 4 inches long with red wheels and is attached to a loop on the right side of the bear's jeans. It bears an emblem of a bear head in a red circle.

Two indicted for smuggling

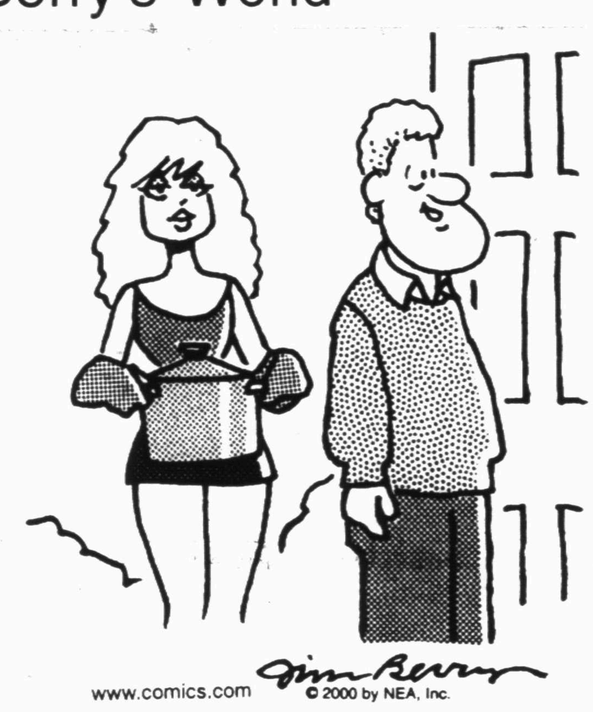
SEATTLE (AP) — Two men have been indicted for allegedly attempting to smuggle 12 Chinese nationals into the United States aboard a cargo ship traveling from Hong Kong.

A federal grand jury returned a four-count indictment against Yu Zheng and Sheng Ding, both illegal aliens from China, U.S. Attorney Kate Pflaumer said Thursday. Each faces up to 40 years in prison.

Zheng and Ding were arrested Jan. 2 as they waited in a van parked at the Port of Seattle. The stowaways were found inside a filthy cargo container when it was unloaded from the ship OOCL Faith.

Prosecutors said Zheng and Ding charged up to $60,000 for each person smuggled were responsible for placing the 12 in the 40-foot container and were responsible for placing the container aboard the ship.

Berry's World



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"Guess what, Hon'! One of our new neighbors has brought us A POT OF STEW."

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-14-00
♠ Q 9 2
♥ 6 5 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ K 8 4 3

West
♠ 10 6
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 5 4
♣ 10 9 7 5 2

East
♠ K J 7
♥ A K Q J
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ Q J

South
♠ A 8 5 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K J 8 2
♣ A 6

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

South	West	North	East
			1 NT
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 10

The Brazilian bridge bustler

One of the most colorful, friendly, talented and excitable bridge players is Gabriel Chagas, who lives in Rio de Janeiro. He is hyperactive, and despite being some 5 feet 5 inches tall, he has an enormous appetite. After a hard day of bridge, he will go to a restaurant and eat enough food for two people. He is a polyglot who really enjoys life and loves to laugh.

He is one of the few to have won bridge's triple crown: the World Team Olympiad (1976), Bermuda Bowl (1989) and World Open Pairs (1990).

His particular penchant at the table is deception. Yet he also invented the term intra-finesse, an example of which is the feature of this deal.

When an opponent opens with a strong no-trump, the general principle is to get into the auction, hopefully find a fit, and get back out. However, for the purpose of Chagas' article, game had to be reached.

After ruffing the third heart, how should South proceed?

Well, East is marked with the spade king. So, perhaps you would continue with the ace and another spade, ducking in the dummy. Here, that doesn't work. Much better is to start with a spade to dummy's nine — the intra-finesse.

Let's suppose East switches to a club. Did East start with two spades or three? You win with the club ace, play a club to dummy's king, and ruff a club in hand. When East discards, you decide that he has three spades (3-4-4-2 is much more likely than 2-4-5-2). So, you play a diamond to dummy, then call for the spade queen, which pins West's 10. Have another asparagus spear!

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2000

Once you start to truly use your talents in the year ahead, greater self-confidence in your own abilities and ideas will occur. This, in turn, attracts competent partners when needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Learning of the loyalty of a friend today whose affection you thought had been wavering a bit should help restore your faith in yourself and human nature. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Not that you won't do your bit, but you could also profit in some manner from the labors of others today. Be sure to acknowledge their input.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Try to associate today with people who are positive and have high expectations, because you tend to be influenced and emulate the attitude and demeanor of others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll be able to step in and offer suggestions to colleagues today that could prove to be an enormous asset to them. Making them look good, makes you look great.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The influence you'll have on those with who you socialize today is much stronger than you may realize. Even if you're unaware of your impact, they won't be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There's a good chance you could reap a commission or bonus today from something you commercially did for another. It was your input that reaped rewards for this person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In order to advance a collective interest today, you may need to be the one who speaks up and tells your cohorts how it can become possible. Don't hesitate to take this initiative.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The most effective tool you'll have at your disposal today is your ability to use your reasoning powers in conjunction with your work producing techniques. Use it in abundance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Because you'll instinctively know how to do what's best for the largest number today, any involvement you have with groups or organizations should work out quite beneficially.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) When it comes to making order out of chaos within the home today, you're the one who can get everything under control in a manner where all will be pleased.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Speak your mind at this time, but also remain open to the thoughts of others. When you get in any conversations, make certain everyone has his or her say.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Ingenuity and resourcefulness will get you over any rough spots in your financial affairs today. However, tenacity and resolve can help better things as well.

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Cinema I & II
1907 Snyder Shopping Center
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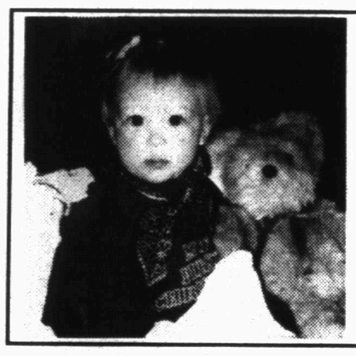
Galaxy Quest
(PG)

THE GREEN MILE
(R)

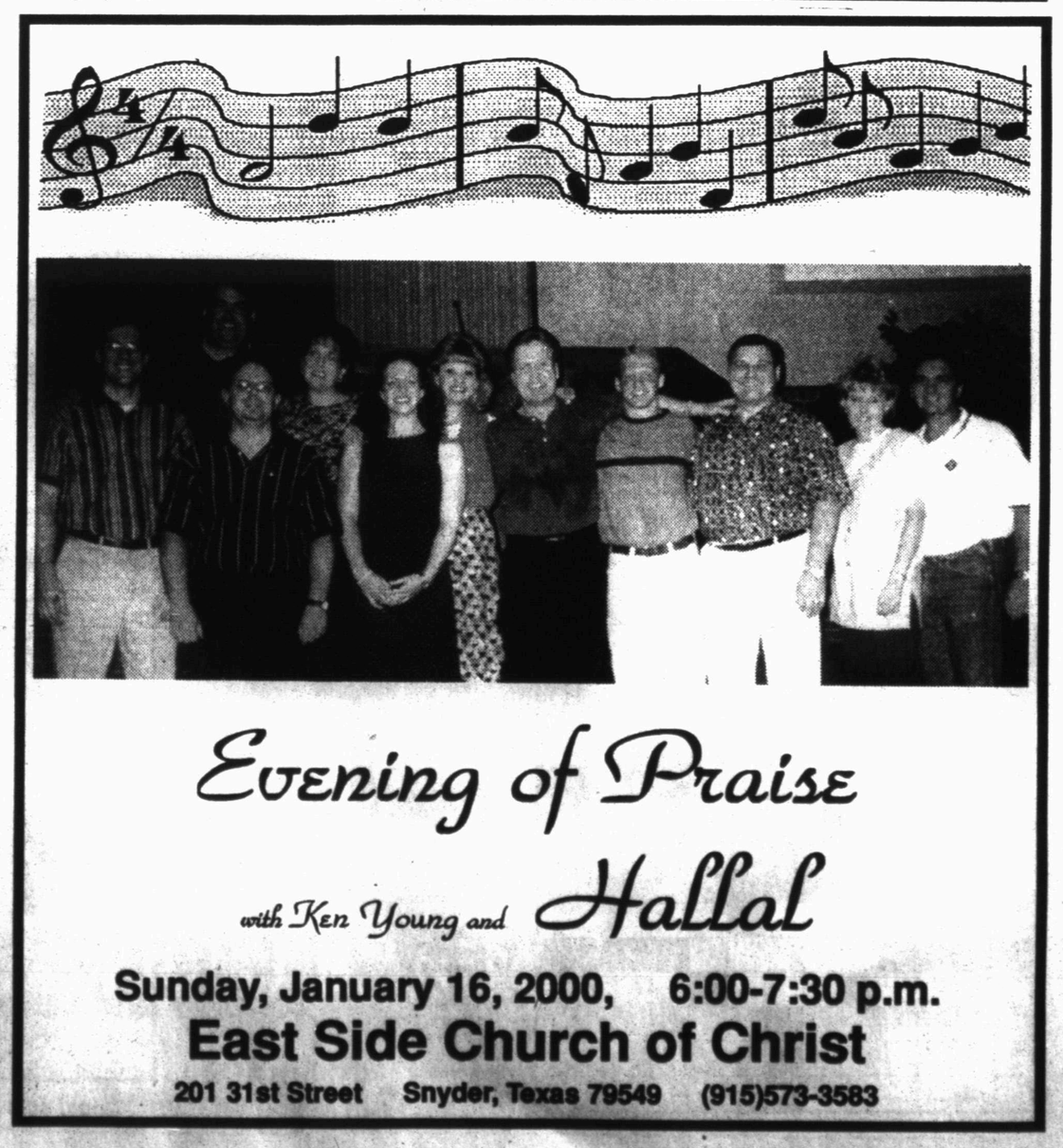
Matinees Sat. & Sun. $3.00

Galaxy Quest
★★ - PG
Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman
Aging television actors from a long-cancelled science-fiction show reunite to help save some friendly aliens.

The Green Mile
★★★★ - R
Tom Hanks, Michael Clarke Duncan, David Morse, James Cromwell
Drama, set in the Depression-era American South, about an enormous, mentally-challenged double murderer who may possess strange healing powers, and the relationships he forges on Death Row.



You're still a precious babe.
HAPPY 17th BIRTHDAY PRINCESS
Love, Mom, Dad & Chance

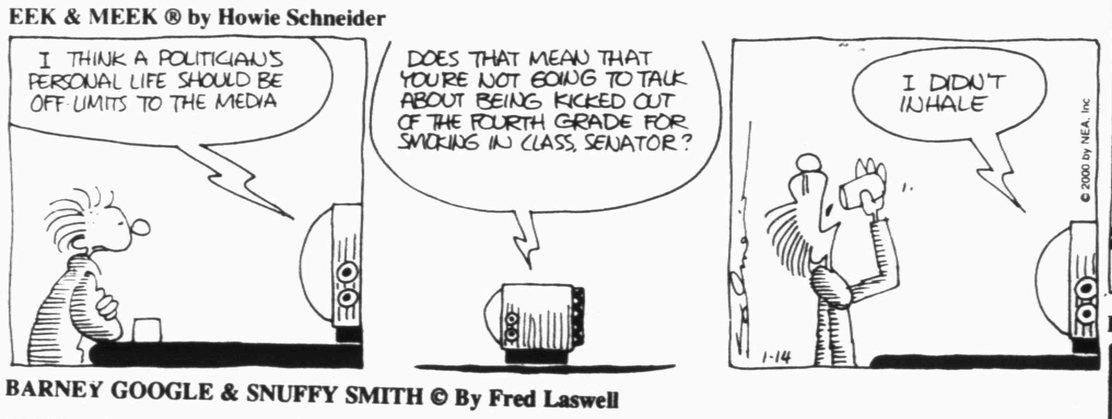


Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell

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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

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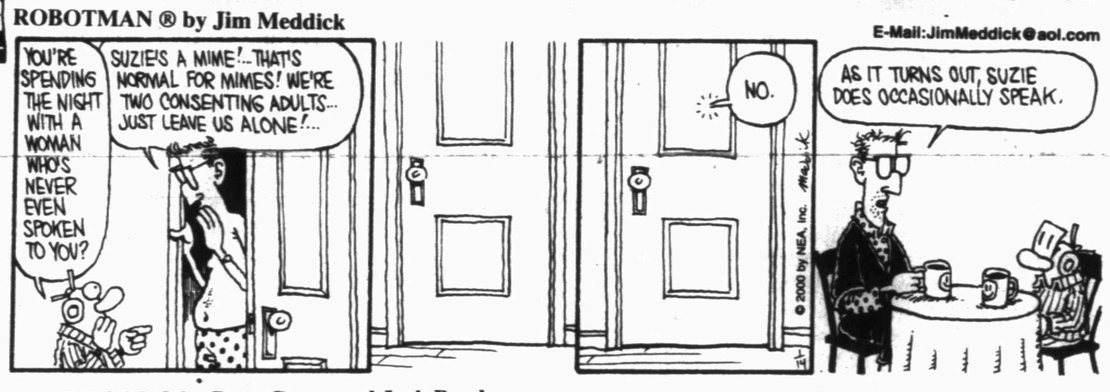
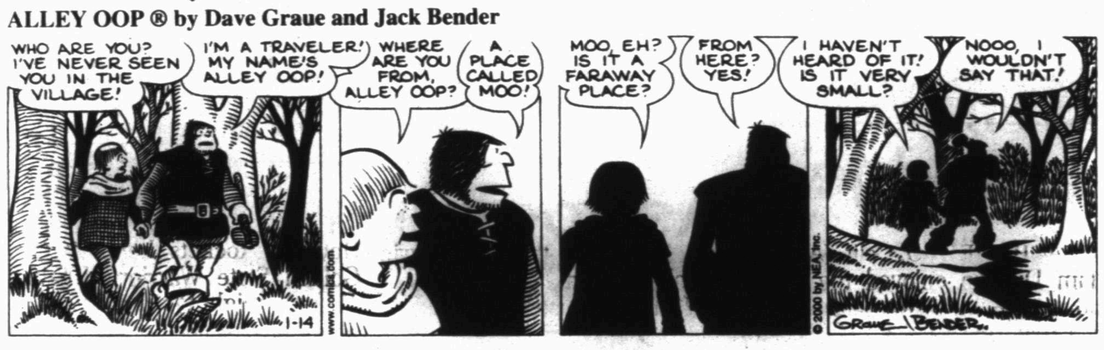
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Lemon-lime soft drink
7 Ankle problem
13 Public speaker
14 Florida export
15 Serious
16 Chowder seafood
17 River in Germany
18 Chemical particle
20 Type of fish
21 "People" person, e.g.
23 Indian instrument
27 Obliteration
32 Tolerate
33 Trig terms
34 Destined
35 Be silent (music)
36 Tending to wear away
39 Novelist Zola
40 Gasoline holders
42 "— — the Mood for Love"
46 Neighbor of Fr.
47 How sweet — —
51 Piano piece
53 Bearlike
55 Plastering material
56 Narrow banner
57 Like metal
58 Be present

DOWN

1 Average
2 Poke
3 Unpleasant sound
4 Roman road
5 Cruise or Brokaw
6 "Sesame Street" regular
7 Earlier
8 Be nosy
9 Grate
10 Poker stake
11 "By the time — — to Phoenix"
12 Roman emperor
19 Spanish cheer
21 Type of card
22 Sews loosely
23 Out of danger
24 Construction beam (2 wds.)
25 Josip Broz —
26 Fruit drinks
28 Thailand, once
29 Hooklike parts
30 Stagger
31 This (Sp.)
37 Wild fancy
38 Compass pt.
41 Drummer Gene —
42 Beliefs
43 Open for discussion
44 Concerning (2 wds.)
45 Basketball's Archibald
47 Doesn't exist
48 Fork prong
49 — — the ground floor
50 Dispatch
52 Hindu cymbals
54 Soak, as flax

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	U	B	L	E	T		S	U	G	A	R	Y
T	R	O	U	P	E		T	R	I	B	E	S
I	S	O	B	A	R		P	I	L	A	T	E
R	A	R	E		S	P	A		A	S	E	R
				C	E	T	U	S				
S	E	G	A	L		A	L	C	H	E	M	Y
C	I	R	C	A				A	E	R	I	E
U	R	A	R	I				R	E	S	E	T
D	E	S	E	R	V	E		E	L	E	N	I
				E	A	R	E	D				
A	G	O	N		P	E	A		A	G	M	A
S	O	L	A	N	O		S	T	O	L	E	N
S	N	I	P	E	R		E	N	N	E	A	D
T	E	N	S	E	S		S	T	E	E	L	S

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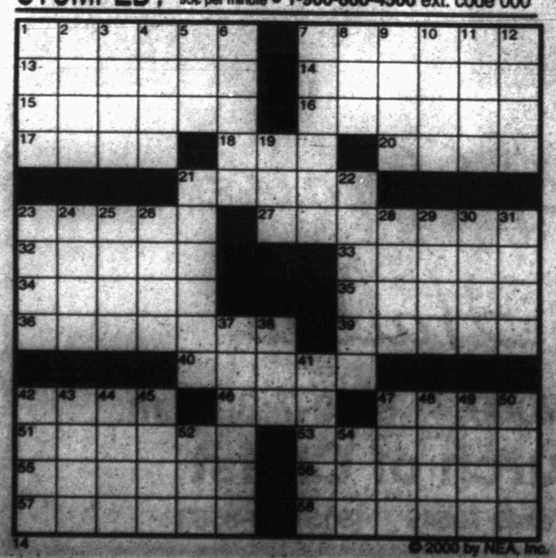

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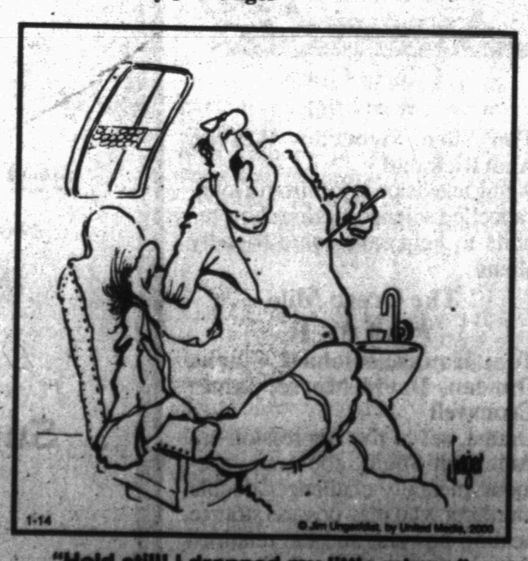
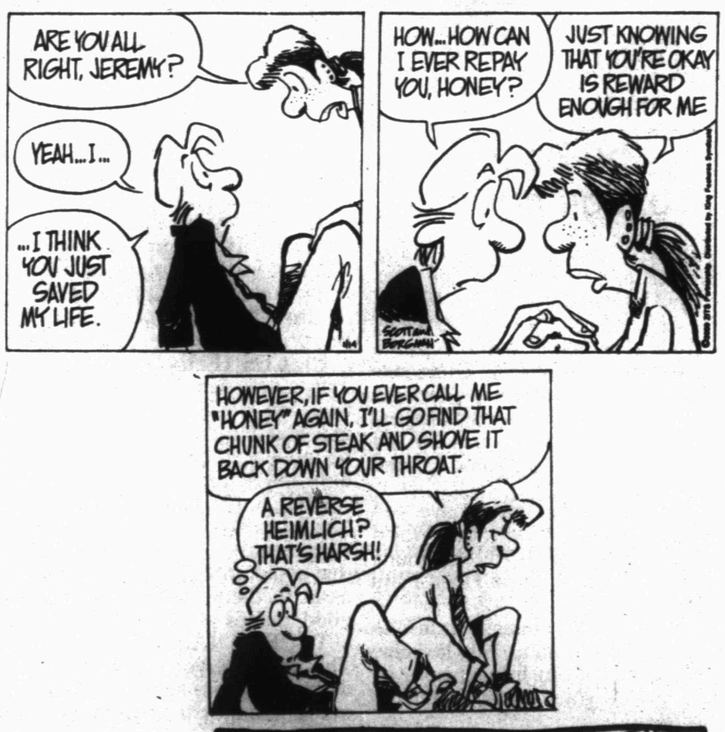
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"Hold still! I dropped my little mirror."



"WHEW! MARGARET JUST SPENT AN HOUR TELLING ME WHY SHE'S NOT SPEAKING TO ME."

SPORTS

Odessa fights off WTC with second half rally

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

For the first 35 minutes of the game, the Western Texas Lady Dusters played some of their best basketball of the season.

But in the final five minutes, Odessa erased all of WTC's hard work with one fatal run.

Odessa closed out Thursday night's WJCAC contest with a 16-4 run to hand Western Texas its second setback to start the conference season.

The Lady Dusters, who led for much of the contest, fall to 2-16 on the year, while the Lady Wranglers improve to 12-6 and 2-0 in conference play.

The contest was close throughout, with neither squad opening up more than a five-point lead until Odessa's run late in the second half.

"This was one of our tightest ballgames," said WTC coach Valery Jackson. "I don't know if the girls were so close to a win that they tightened up late in the game, or what, but we made some mistakes and Odessa made the plays."

WTC trailed, 5-0, before they even touched the ball in the first half. Odessa's Teffany Sample drained a three-pointer to start the game, and was fouled after the shot. The Lady Wranglers got the bucket and possession of the ball, which they laid in for another two points.

The Lady Dusters quickly recovered, as the two teams settled into a rhythm of trading baskets.

Western Texas led by four points at one time in the first half, thanks to the play of Cassie Wilson and Veronica Hubbard. Wilson controlled the paint in the first half, dropping in nine points and grabbing three rebounds. Hubbard added eight points in the first 20 minutes.

Odessa regained the lead late in the first half, before Crystal Jackson's slashing layup with four seconds on the clock knotted the tally at 35-35 at halftime.

"We played extremely well in the first half," Jackson said. "We didn't dig ourselves a hole early. Cassie is really improving, she has come a long way since the season began. But Odessa just kept making their free throws to keep it close."

The Lady Wranglers were 16 of 20 from the line in the first half, and would finish the night 32 of 41.

The pace of the game didn't change in the second half, with both teams still looking to run at every opportunity.

The Lady Dusters jumped back on top on the strength of three-pointers from Carrie Fincher and Akisha Waters. WTC's biggest lead of the night came at the 13-minute mark when Waters hit a baseline jumper for a five-point advantage.

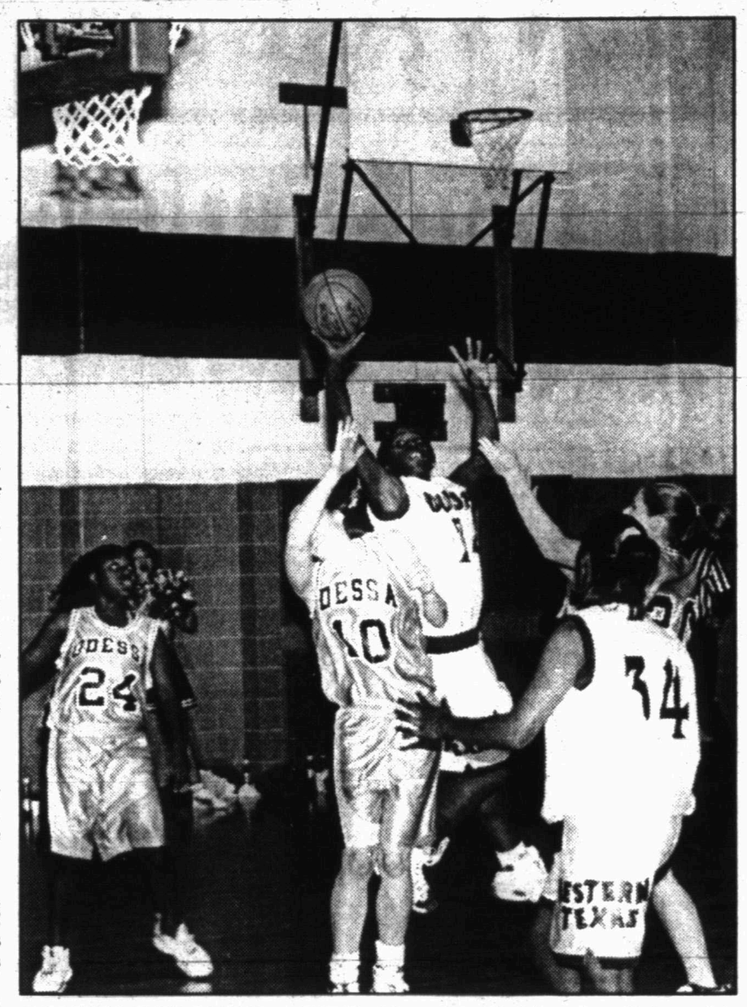
Odessa whittled away at the margin, and took the lead for good with 5:41 remaining. Five of WTC's 10 second-half turnovers came in the final five minutes, helping spur Odessa's 16-4 run.

"We'll see how we respond when we play at Clarendon on Monday," said Jackson. "This was a tough loss, but I'm sure the girls will be ready to work the next time we practice."

Odessa (71)
Evans 4 10-11 18, Sample 2 6-8 11, Taylor 4 3-4 11, Sparnon 2 5-6 9, Cole 1 5-6 7, Shal. Hodge 3 2-4 8, Jones 2 0-0 4, Sham. Hodge 1 1-2 3. **Totals 19 32-41 71.**

Western Texas (62)
Wilson 5 3-4 13, Hubbard 3 5-6 11, Williams 3 0-0 7, Brown 2 3-3 7, Cavazos 2 0-0 5, Waters 2 1-3 6, Fincher 1 1-2 4, Ross 1 1-2 3, Jackson 1 1-2 3, Ellis 1 1-2 3. **Totals 21 16-24 62.**

Halftime score: Odessa 35, Western Texas 35. Three-point goals: Odessa 1 (Sample), Western Texas 4 (Williams, Waters, Cavazos, Fincher). Rebounds: Odessa 43 (Evans 9), Western Texas 37 (Hubbard 7). Total fouls: Odessa 21, Western Texas 27. Fouled out — Brown.



COMING THROUGH — WTC's Veronica Hubbard collides with Odessa's Summer Sparnon on her way to the basket, while LaKeish Ross (34) and Tiffany Taylor (24) look on Thursday night. Odessa used a 16-4 run over the final five minutes to notch a 71-62 win at the WTC gym.

Tigers open district race at 7 tonight

When these two teams met in last year's district opener, it took all 32 minutes on the clock to decide a winner. That could be the case again tonight.

Snyder and Fort Stockton, the top two favorites to take the 5-4A title, tip off the district season tonight at 7:30 at the SHS gym. With both squads picked to finish near the top, this game looms as a large one early in the race.

"The district opener is always a big game, because you want to get off to a good start," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "Our first two district games happen to be at home this year, so we've got to win those. Once district starts, you have to take care of business at home, and try to steal them on the road."

Snyder enters the contest with a record of 13-9, while the Panthers carry in a 10-11 mark. The Tigers will have to contend with Fort Stockton's 6-6 post Luke Groth, who was the runner-up for District MVP a year ago.

The duty of defending Groth will likely rest with senior Sonny Cumbie. Cumbie, who usually guards the opponent's best post player, gives away three inches in height. The size difference wasn't a factor last year, as the Tigers held Groth to his lowest point-totals of the district season.

"You usually have a feel for how you're going to play, and how you're opponent is going to play," said Birks. "But it's hard for me to get a feel for Fort Stockton, because I don't get to see very many of their non-district games. I do know this much, it will be a battle."

While the Tigers will be looking to open the 5-4A campaign on the right foot, the Lady Tigers will be trying to up their league mark to 3-0.

The Snyder girls are in a three-way tie for first place in the district standings, sharing the spot with Sweetwater and Lake View.

Girls' action tips off tonight at 6 o'clock, followed by the boys' game at 7:30.

In other meetings around the district, Lake View visits Sweetwater, and Big Spring travels to Andrews.

In 1A district competition, Ira's boys and girls go to Ackerly to face Sands, while Hermleigh visits Highland. Girls' action gets underway at 6:30, with the boys getting started at 8 o'clock.

Webber's performance in fourth dooms Spurs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Tim Duncan enjoyed the early advantage, but it was Chris Webber making all the plays when it counted most.

Webber had 34 points and 19 rebounds Thursday night as the Sacramento Kings rallied in the fourth quarter for a 107-103 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

In a matchup of two of the game's top forwards, Webber had the edge and the victory. He ignited the decisive rally, scoring 10 straight points in one stretch as Sacramento won its third straight game and became only the second team this year to score over 100 points on the Spurs.

Duncan finished with 33 points and 20 rebounds for the Spurs, who squandered a 14-point lead and had their three-game win streak snapped.

"It might have been fun to watch, but it wasn't fun to play against them (Duncan and David Robinson)," Kings center Vlade Divac said. "Chris has been unbelievable lately. He amazed me early in the season, now I expect it."

Duncan had 16 points in the first quarter and 20 points and 12 rebounds by halftime, helping San Antionio take a 61-54 lead. He was limited to only two field goals and nine points in the second half.

"Tim Duncan is such a great player," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "He has so many facets to his game, similar to what Chris is doing now. He's just a very tough player to guard."

Houston wins on the road...

Mobley, Rockets top Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Cuttino Mobley outdid himself in the fourth quarter.

Mobley scored 14 of his 23 points in the final period and the Houston Rockets held off the Golden State Warriors 108-100 Thursday night for their first road win in more than a month.

"I don't remember having a quarter like that ever," Mobley said. "Me personally, I have been a little slow in the fourth quarter. I just tried to come back and go hard and the shots went in."

Steve Francis added 19 points, Shandon Anderson had 17 and Walt Williams and Kenny Thomas 13 apiece for the Rockets, who snapped a seven-game road losing streak that began in Philadelphia on Dec. 8 in what turned out to be Charles Barkley's last game.

"He's a very good one-on-one player," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "He made a big play in the paint when Shandon got an offensive rebound and threw it to him" for a fourth-quarter layup.

"We've been beat up. We've been double beat up," added Tomjanovich. "But we just hung in there. We made some big plays at the end. A lot of different guys helped. It's really a big, emotional win for us."

Golden State is still thirsting for that feeling after losing its 11th straight, matching a season high. The Warriors also lost 11 in a row from Nov. 17 to Dec. 7.

Garry St. Jean remained winless in eight games since taking over Dec. 27 for the fired P.J. Carlesimo.

"We were not cohesive on either end of the floor, especially on the defensive end in terms of rotation," St. Jean said. "This allowed (the Rockets) to get the shots they needed, whether it was off the drive or a penetration and kick out to the open man.

"They had it their way tonight. We didn't set the tone. Mobley and Francis played well for them and (Anthony) Miller and Kenny Thomas played strong on the boards."

Houston outrebounded the Warriors 51-47, including 13 by Miller, who made just his second career start at center. Thomas had 12 rebounds.

"I just think our big men won the game for us, with their rebounding and their defense on the block," Francis said.

Mookie Blayloock scored 25 points to lead the Warriors. Jason Caffey added 24 points and Antawn Jamison had 21.

After being down by five heading into the fourth quarter, the Warriors pulled to 94-92 on Caffey's spinning layup with 3:45 remaining.

But the Rockets made the key plays down the stretch, outscoring the Warriors 14-8 over the last 3:26.

Francis and Thomas each converted three-point plays to ignite the finishing flurry and Mobley twice blew past defenders for layups.

Williams finished a fast break with a layup and Bill Curley, signed by Houston earlier in the day, rebounded a missed free throw and put it in for another basket as part of Houston's 8-2 burst over the last two minutes of the third period to move in front 80-75.

Moments after Blaylock converted a three-point play, Bryce Drew hit a 3-pointer as time expired in the first half, tying it at 53-all.

Golden State broke away from a 13-all tie with 9-0 run capped by Jamison's offensive rebound and dunk, but the Rockets scored 10 of the next 12 points, pulling to 24-23 at the end of the first quarter on successive 3-pointers by Williams and Mobley.

Sports Briefs

Montana leads Hall of Fame finalists

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott, teammates on four San Francisco 49ers' Super Bowl championship teams, lead the list of finalists for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Also included are Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders defensive end Howie Long and Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann, who finished in the top six in last year's balloting.

The other finalists are linebacker Harry Carson (New York Giants 1976-88), tight end Dave Casper (1974-84 with the Raiders, Houston Oilers and Minnesota), defensive end Carl Eller (1964-78 Vikings and 1979 Seattle), coach Marv Levy (1978-82 Chiefs and Buffalo 1986-97), wide receiver James Lofton (1978-93 with Green Bay, Raiders, Bills, Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia), offensive guard Mike Munchak (1982-93 Oilers), current Steelers owner and administrator Dan Rooney, wide receiver John Stallworth (1974-87 Steelers), offensive tackle Ron Yary (Vikings 1968-81, '82 Rams) and defensive end Jack Youngblood (Rams 1971-84).

Ex-Dolphin RB sentenced

BILOXI, Miss. (AP) — Former Miami Dolphins running back Irving Spikes received the minimum sentence of five years in federal prison for his role in a drug deal.

Spikes, 29, pleaded guilty in October to using a gun during a drug-related crime. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors dropped two other drug charges.

Spikes still faces charges of possessing cocaine in Florida. If convicted there, he faces a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Bourque heads up NHL all-stars

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston defenseman Ray Bourque was chosen for his 18th consecutive NHL All-Star Game, tying Wayne Gretzky for the longest streak in history.

Only Gordie Howe, with 23, has made more All-Star appearances.

Four Philadelphia Flyers were added to the North American team, center Eric Lindros, forwards John LeClair and Mark Recchi, and defenseman Eric Desjardins.

St. Louis added defenseman Al MacInnis and forward Pierre Turgeon, New Jersey sent rookie forward Scott Gomez, defenseman Scott Stevens and goalie Martin Brodeur, while Detroit added defenseman Chris Chelios.

Also added were Rangers goalie Mike Richter, Calgary defenseman Phil Housley, and forwards Tony Amonte of Chicago, Mark Messier of Vancouver, Mike Modano of Dallas, Owen Nolan of San Jose, Jeremy Roenick of Phoenix and Joe Sakic of Colorado.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	22	12	.647	—
New York	21	14	.600	1½
Philadelphia	19	16	.543	3½
Orlando	16	20	.444	7
Boston	15	20	.429	7½
New Jersey	15	20	.429	7½
Washington	12	24	.333	11
Central Division				
Indiana	23	11	.676	—
Detroit	19	15	.559	4
Milwaukee	20	16	.556	4
Toronto	19	16	.543	4½
Charlotte	18	16	.529	5
Cleveland	15	20	.429	8½
Atlanta	12	21	.364	10½
Chicago	5	27	.156	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	23	11	.676	—
San Antonio	24	13	.649	½
Minnesota	18	15	.545	4½
Denver	17	17	.500	6
Dallas	11	24	.314	12½
Houston	11	24	.314	12½
Vancouver	10	25	.286	13½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	31	5	.861	—
Portland	27	8	.771	3½
Seattle	23	13	.639	8
Sacramento	21	12	.636	8½
Phoenix	20	14	.588	10
L.A. Clippers	10	25	.286	20½
Golden State	6	29	.171	24½

Thursday's Games
New Jersey 110, L.A. Clippers 105
Minnesota 103, Boston 85
Utah 93, Miami 83
Sacramento 107, San Antonio 103
Houston 108, Golden State 100

Friday's Games
New York at Charlotte, ppd., death
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Cleveland at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 8 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Miami at Vancouver, 3 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Saturday Night Dance
TEEN DANCE
8:30-1:00
AMERICAN LEGION
1500 25th St.
Matador Hall, Guests

NFL PLayoffs

All Times EST

Divisional Games
Saturday, Jan. 15
Miami at Jacksonville, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 16
Minnesota at St. Louis, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at indianapolis, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 23
AFC championship, TBA (CBS)
NFC championship, TBA (FOX)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 30
at Atlanta, 6:18 p.m. (ABC)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 6
at Honolulu (ABC)

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Legal Notice

BID NOTICE

The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids on chlorine, caustic soda, anhydrous ammonia, sodium chlorite and polymer that will be used by the water treatment plant. These items will be considered as separate bids. The bids will be received until January 28, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Announcements

Eat All Day & Melt Away. Try New Thermo Gold By Herbalife. 915-574-1216/573-8722

Lost & Found

Lost: Hael Great Dane, female, white/black spots, 1 year. Vicinity 1 mile past Union. Answers to "Baily". Child's pet, reward! 573-0936.

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Scurry County S.T.A.R Boot Camp is accepting applications for a full time Drill Instructor. Military experience required. Send resume to Scurry County Juvenile Probation Office at 1806 25th #302, Snyder, Texas 79549. Deadline for applications is February 18, 2000.

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1/2" Commercial drill, Tools, Round table, dishes, Lots of clothes & misc.

GARAGE SALE
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Table & chairs, Color TV, Generator, 20 pair new Western boots, and lots of misc. junk.

GARAGE SALE
700 24th St. & Ave. G #5
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Cleaned house!!! Fabric, Large sized women's clothes, Bedspreads & lots of stuff **CHEAP!**

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Reduced 3750 Highland 3-1 CH/A....$23.5T
2210 32nd Street 3-1.....$39.9T
Reduced 2266 Sunset 3-2-2cp .....$35 T
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4004 Irving 3-2-2 Patio .. $58.5T
3503 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ... $49.5T
2101 43rd 3-13/4-1 ... Recently Painted & Carpeted $36.5T
2200 21st 2-1-1 & 1+Acre. . $35T
3608 Irving 3-1-1 Corner Lot $39
2711 Ave. U 3-2-2 Story . $59.5T
3303 Irving 4-2-2. ..... $112T

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3-1¾ 2107 43rd Covered Patio $54.9T
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Picture Perfect 3-2-1-1det. 2219 41st $45T
Good Location! 3-2-2+deck & shop $72T
Large 2 Bd 2 Stor. Bldg. Covered Patio $54T
301 Acres Good Grass 3-2.... F isher County
Attractive! 4-2-2 2211 27th St. $42T
3-2-2 4005 Eastridge $30T
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Gore looks good to Demos in primary; others favor Bush

By The Associated Press

While Texas looks like welcome territory to Democratic primary hopeful Al Gore, more residents will be pulling for George W. Bush in November if the governor wins the GOP's presidential nomination, according to a new poll.

The statewide survey was conducted this week by The Dallas Morning News and the Houston Chronicle, with the Texas presidential primary two months away.

The poll found the vice president held a comfortable lead over Democratic challenger Bill Bradley.

But it was Gov. Bush who would handily would knock off either Democrat in the state's November general election in Texas.

"It's George, George and more George. Texans are clamoring to vote for him," said pollster Julie Weprin. She said the survey suggests Democrats should "go somewhere else" for votes in the fall election.

The telephone survey of 1,000 registered Texas voters was conducted Sunday through Wednesday by Weprin's firm, Blum & Weprin Associates Inc., for both newspapers. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points; the margin of error widens to plus or minus 6 percentage points for the likely Democratic primary voters.

The March 14 Texas Democratic presidential primary remains up for grabs, although Gore has a big advantage over Bradley, the former New Jersey senator.

Among Texans who say they plan to vote in the Democratic primary, Gore was favored by 54 percent. Mr. Bradley had 25 percent and the rest were undecided.

"There's possibly a chance for Bradley to do better against Gore in Texas, but now it's pretty solidly in Gore's camp," Ms. Weprin said.

The state has long been targeted by national candidates because of its sizable number of electoral votes.

Despite the results' pro-Bush findings, there were exceptions: Forty-two percent of the state's voters said a presidential candidate is best prepared by having been a senator or congressman, compared with 35 percent who said serving as a governor and heading an administration were better training grounds.

And half of those surveyed said they don't believe Bush will be able to cut income taxes, as he has vowed to do in the campaign, and keep the federal budget balanced.

The poll found that Bush would defeat either Gore or Bradley by 2-to-1 among registered voters.

A Bush campaign spokeswoman told the Morning News the governor is "honored to have such strong support among his fellow Texans."

Meanwhile, state campaign officials for both Democratic hopefuls said it will be nearly impossible to carry Texas if Bush is the GOP nominee.

The survey did not include a GOP primary ballot matchup but asked Texans for their personal views of Bush challenger Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Thirty-five percent said they had a favorable opinion, and 14 percent unfavorable. The rest weren't sure.

Report: Sheriff's office info shows no illegal work done

TYLER (AP) — Police officials in East Texas have released evidence that vindicates a former officer accused of hiding an arrest warrant for an accused drug offender, according to a copyright story in the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Smith County Sheriff's Department say the information proves former Lt. David Beddingfield did not hide a warrant issued on an unnamed woman — the same suspect who later cooperated with state law officers investigating Beddingfield for illicit drug activity.

Beddingfield resigned Dec. 29 amid allegations of drug use and misuse of office, the newspaper reported.

According to documents from state District Judge Louis Gohmert's court, the case, which involves a forged pain pill prescription, was filed July 6, 1995 and the woman was indicted June 27, 1996. The case is set for trial this month.

"There is no evidence of a warrant being tampered with," Sheriff J.B. Smith said.

Beddingfield declined to comment when contacted by the Morning Telegraph on Thursday.

In statements made to the Texas Department of Public Safety after her October arrest on new forgery charges, the woman claimed Beddingfield agreed to erase her 1995 case but she recently learned that it still existed.

Also, DPS Sgt. Andy Dunklin, in a written statement to his supervisors, said he "was able to substantiate" that an indictment was returned by the Smith County Grand Jury for the 1995 forgery case, and that the woman's warrant papers had been removed from the Sheriff's office files by "unknown persons."

But on Thursday, Sheriff's Capt. Bobby Garmon told the Morning Telegraph the warrant was deleted from the files only because it was served. He said it is standard procedure for warrants to be removed from the county's computer after they are executed to ensure offenders are not re-arrested on already-served warrants.

County records show the woman turned herself in at the jail on June 28, 1995, and was released the same day after her father posted her bond.

Through the state's Public Information Act, the newspaper also obtained a tape made by the DPS of a Dec. 3 telephone conversation between Beddingfield and the woman which reveals the two conspired to purchase crack cocaine, or methamphetamine.

C-City auction

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 1,311 head of cattle for the Saturday, Jan. 8, sale. There were no sales the last two weeks due to holiday.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 116-126
300-400: 106-116
400-500: 98-107
500-600: 86-92.50
600-700: 81-86.50
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 110-111
300-400: 90-96
400-500: 85-92
500-600: 82-86
600-700: 71-82.50
700-800: 74-78
Replacement cows
Bred cows: 530-650
Older cows: 410-510
Pairs: 690-810
Cow and calf pairs: 675-800
Slaughter cows: High yielding: 40-44
Slaughter bulls: High dressing: 530-660

Lubbock auction

The Lubbock Stockyards Inc. had a run of 706 head of cattle for the Thursday, Jan. 6, sale. Cows were $1 to $3 better. Yearlings and calves were $2 to $3 better. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 35-42
Canner and low cutters: 28-34.50
Slaughter bulls: 43-51
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-120
400-500: 90-105
500-600: 85-95
600-700: 80-87.50
700-800: 77-84
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-110
400-500: 80-92.50
500-600: 77-84
600-700: 75-84
700-800: 70-76.50
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 77-87.50
700-800: 65-77
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-780
Grade: 550-650
Springers: 375-625
Baby calves: None
Doodlers: 175-250

Markets

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	61¾	61	61⅝	+ 1⅜
AT&T Corp s	54⅜	53⅝	54	+ ⅝
Albertsons	32¼	31¾	32	—11-16
Alltel	79¾	78⅞	79½	+ ⅞
AmerOnline s	70	62⅞	63⅝	— ⅞
AndarkPtr	34 1-16	33⅝	33⅝	— 3-16
AtlRichfld	78½	76⅛	76 5-16	—2 11-16
ATMOS Egy	19⅜	19 1-16	19 1-16	— 1-16
Aviall	8⅝	8½	8½	— 1-16
BP Amoco s	56 5-16	55	55 5-16	—2 1-16
BakerHughes	22 11-16	22 5-16	22½	
Bank of Amer	49 15-16	48 9-16	49 1-16	+ 1 9-16
BellAtl	56½	55 9-16	56⅜	+ 13-16
BellSouth	44¼	43½	43 13-16	— 9-16
Beth Steel	8 1-16	7 13-16	7 15-16	+ ⅛
BurlNoSFe	27	26¼	26⅞	
CBS Corp	61¾	60 13-16	60⅞	—15-16
Caterpillar	52⅞	52 1-16	52 11-16	+ ½
CenSoWst	20 9-16	20 5-16	20 9-16	
Chevron	87 7-16	85 9-16	87⅛	— 7-16
Citigroup s	58½	56 7-16	58 5-16	+ 2¾
Coastal	35 7-16	34 7-16	35 3-16	+ ⅞
CocaCola	61 15-16	61 3-16	61¼	+ 11-16
ColgatePal s	66¾	63⅞	63⅞	—15-16
ComclMetals	33½	33 5-16	33 7-16	+ 1-16
Cooperin	43 11-16	43	43 7-16	+ ¼
DaimlrChry	77 3-16	76⅜	76¾	—1 9-16
DallSemicn	66⅜	65 1-16	65⅜	+ 1 7-16
DeltaAirl	51	50⅞	50⅝	+ 13-16
Dillards Inc	20¼	19 13-16	20⅛	+ 1-16
DowChem	138 9-16	137 1-16	137 15-16	— 1-16
DuPont	68⅞	67¾	68⅜	
EastmanChem	49 3-16	48 9-16	48¾	— 9-16
EstKodak	61⅞	60⅝	61	+ ¼
EDS Corp	67¾	67¼	67 5-16	
Entergy	25⅝	25¼	25⅜	+ 1-16
ExxonMobil	85½	84	84 1-16	—1 3-16
Flowers	14 3-16	13⅞	13 15-16	— ⅛
FordMotor	52 15-16	52⅛	52 7-16	— ⅝
GTE Cp	66⅞	64 15-16	65 13-16	+ 11-16
GenDynam	54	52 1-16	53⅞	+ ⅞
GenElec	154⅝	153⅛	153⅝	— 5-16
GenMills s	33⅜	32 7-16	32 15-16	— ½
GenMotors	78¾	76 11-16	78 9-16	+ 2 3-16
GaPacGP s	46⅞	46 5-16	46½	—1-16
GlobalMar	18	17⅝	17⅞	+ ⅜
Goodrich	28	27 11-16	28	+ 5-16
Goodyear s	28⅜	27 9-16	27 13-16	— 5-16
GtAtlPac	28 13-16	28 5-16	28⅜	— 7-16
Halliburtn	38⅝	37½	38	— ¼
Hanson ADS	40	39¾	39⅞	+ ¼
HarteHanks	24 5-16	23⅜	24 5-16	+ 1
HomeDepot s	62 7-16	61¼	61⅜	— ¾
HoneywellIntl	60⅛	59¼	59 11-16	— 3-16
IBM s	123 5-16	120 13-16	121⅝	+ 3⅜
IntlPaper	55⅞	55	55½	+ ⅝
JohnsonJn	94⅜	93⅜	93 15-16	+ 9-16
K mart	9 11-16	9 9-16	9⅝	
Kroger Co s	19⅛	18 9-16	18 11-16	— 5-16
Litton	49¾	49 5-16	49 11-16	+ ⅝
LockheedM	20⅞	20 9-16	20⅝	— ⅛
Lowes Cos	53¾	52⅞	53½	+ 1⅛
Lubys	10⅝	10¼	10 7-16	+ ¼
LucentTech s	57½	56 1-16	56¼	+ ¼
MayDeptStr s	33¼	33 1-16	33⅛	— 3-16
MediaOne	79⅜	78⅝	79	+ 5-16
Medtronic s	45	44¼	44⅝	+ 1⅛
Monsanto	37 5-16	36 3-16	37	+ 9-16
MorganJP	126⅛	123⅞	124⅞	+ 2 1-16
Motorola	150	139 9-16	149 11-16	+ 9 15-16
NCR Corp	35 15-16	35 7-16	35⅝	+ 11-16
Navistar	47	45⅛	46⅜	+ 1 1-16
Penney JC	21¾	21 3-16	21 5-16	+ 1-16
PepBoys	8½	8⅜	8 7-16	— 1-16
PepsiCo	36 5-16	35 15-16	36⅛	+ 3-16
PhelpDodge	66 3-16	64 11-16	64⅞	—13-16
PhilipPet	44⅛	43 5-16	43 11-16	— 7-16
PilgrimPrd B	8½	8 3-16	8½	+ 3-16
Polaroid	20½	19 9-16	19⅝	—11-16
Praxair	54	53⅜	53 11-16	+ ⅞
ProctGamb	116¾	115½	116¼	+ 1¼
PubS NwMx	16½	16 5-16	16 7-16	+ ⅛
ReliantEngy	23 7-16	23⅛	23¼	— ½
RoyalDut	62 5-16	61 5-16	61 7-16	—13-16
SBC Comm	41⅝	40	40½	— 5-16
SaraLee	21 1-16	20½	20 11-16	+ 11-16
Scripps EW	48 11-16	48 5-16	48 5-16	+ ⅛
SearsRoeb	32 13-16	32 1-16	32¼	
SherwinW	19⅜	19⅛	19 3-16	+ 1-16
SmithklBchm	71 3-16	69⅞	69⅞	+ 3 3-16
SouthernCo	24½	24 1-16	24 3-16	— ¼
SwstAirl s	16⅜	16 1-16	16 5-16	+ ¼
SprintFON s	67 1-16	66⅛	66 11-16	+ 1¼
SprintPCS	98	95 7-16	98	+ 2 5-16
Sunoco Inc	22 15-16	22⅝	22⅞	+ ¼
TNP Ent	41⅞	41⅞	41⅞	+ 1-16
Tandy s	48 1-16	47¼	47½	+ ¼
TempleInland	66⅜	65½	65⅞	— 1-16
Texaco	58⅞	58 5-16	58⅜	— ¼
TexInd	41 7-16	41 3-16	41 5-16	+ 1-16
TexasInst s	106 11-16	104¾	105⅜	+ 3⅜
Tex Util	36 5-16	36	36 1-16	— ⅜
Textron	70	68⅜	68 11-16	— 3-16
TriconGlbR	37 1-16	36½	36½	— ½
TrnrityInds	26½	26⅛	26⅛	— ¼
TritonEngy	25¼	24⅞	25 1-16	— 3-16
TylerTech	5 15-16	5 11-16	5¾	+ 1-16
US West Inc	69¼	67⅝	69⅛	+ 1⅝
USX-Marathn	26 3-16	25 11-16	25 11-16	— 5-16
USX-USS	32¼	31½	31⅝	+ ⅛
UnCarbde	66⅝	66 1-16	66 7-16	— 1-16
UnionPacif	46 15-16	46 1-16	46⅛	— ½
UnitedTech s	65¼	63⅜	64 5-16	—15-16
Unocal	31	30⅝	30 11-16	— 5-16
Venator Grp	6¾	6½	6½	— 3-16
WalMart s	65 15-16	64	65 7-16	— ⅛
WellsFargo	43¾	41⅜	42 3-16	+ 1¾
WstnGasRs	11½	11	11⅜	+ ½
WinnDixie	23⅛	22⅞	23	— ¾
Xerox Cp s	24 5-16	23 15-16	24	— 1-16

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Dell	45 5/16	+2 3/16
Wal Mart	65	-1/8
Compac	30 15/16	+9/16
Del. Gen.	22 5/16	-3/16
GTE	65 9/16	+7/16
SBC Comm.	41 1/16	+1/4
Tx Instr.	105 9/16	+3 3/16
LU	56 13/16	+9/16
Cisco Sys.	108 3/16	+2

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Proverbs 14:29

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BY JOHN LEHTI

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of 1 Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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Matthew 6:33

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Proverbs 12:7

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Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.
Psalm 31:24

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Greenspan studying stock market

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is expressing new worries that the soaring stock market could lead to an overheated U.S. economy.

Private economists said Greenspan's new concerns make them more convinced that the central bank will boost interest rates for a fourth time since June when they meet Feb. 1-2.

The stock market continued to soar today after the government issued a Consumer Price Index report indicating inflation is under control. In the first 90 minutes of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average gained 140 points while the Nasdaq index added 130. Bond prices rose and yields on the 30-year Treasury bond fell to 6.63 percent from Thursday's 6.65 percent level.

In able to grow at a strong rate without pushing prices higher.

"Not only is the expansion reaching record length, but it is doing so with far stronger-than-expected economic growth," Greenspan said.

Still, private economists said Greenspan's worries about inflation problems down the road left little doubt in their minds that the central bank will raise rates again in February.

"Greenspan continues to be worried that consumer spending and demand are greater than potential supply," said David Jones, economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co., who was in the audience for Greenspan's speech.

Jones said he expected t$ E- Y 3 1 ghll follow up its February rate increase with at least one more quarter-point boost in the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge on overnight loans, probably at the March meeting.

Jones said Wall Street investors who came to the speech fearing that Greenspan would sound an even more hawkish note on inflation were likely to be relieved that he balanced his inflation worries with extensive praise for how well the economy is doing at present.

Judge: No bond for former husband of murder victim

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge has denied bond to San Antonio businessman Allen Blackthorne, who is charged with conspiracy in the alleged murder-for-hire of his ex-wife, the mother of quadruplets.

After a two-day detention hearing, U.S. Magistrate Pam Mathy said Blackthorne should remain jailed because he is a flight risk and a potential threat to witnesses.

Defense attorneys vowed to appeal the judge's ruling, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

The hearing came after Blackthorne's Jan. 4 arrest at a San Antonio country club on a charge of conspiracy to use interstate commerce to commit murder, which can be punishable by death.

He also is charged in state court with murder in the Nov. 7, 1997, death of Sheila Bellush, whose body was found shot once in the face in the kitchen of her Sarasota, Fla., home.

She also was stabbed twice in the neck and bore numerous defensive wounds. Her 2-year-old quadruplets were not harmed physically, but were found crawling in blood near her body.

Obituaries

Van Meador

1921-2000

Van Meador, a longtime Scurry County resident, died Thursday, Jan. 13, in Abilene Regional Medical Center in Abilene.

Van Meador

Funeral service for Mr. Meador, 78, is set for 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the East Side Church of Christ. Roy Rosson, minister of the Dunn Church of Christ, will officiate, assisted by Mike Bailey, minister of the Hawley Church of Christ.

Burial will follow in the Dunn Cemetery under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 2, 1921 in Erath County, he moved to Snyder in a covered wagon with his grandparents. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he worked as a hospital administrator while in the military.

He married Evelyn Wood on July 3, 1946 in Snyder, and she died in 1987.

Mr. Meador served as a deacon at the former 25th Street Church of Christ in Snyder, and he also served as an elder at the East Side Church of Christ and at the Dunn Church of Christ.

Mr. Meador was a farmer and rancher and had retired from Scurry County where he was in charge of courthouse maintenance. He had lived in Hawley the past few years.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law, Terry and Gaylon Dabbs of Dallas, Karen and Lonnie Terry of Temple and Michel Meador of Roswell, N.M.; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Michael Van and Jeanette Meador of Roswell, Daryl and Sharon Meador of Snyder and Jonathan Van Burton of Abilene; a sister, Viah Goodlett of Decatur, Ark.; a brother, J.L. Bunch of Odessa; a special friend, Pheobe Lewis of Hawley; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

The family lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Saturday at East Side Church of Christ.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Johnie Herrley

1929-2000

Funeral service for Johnie Lou Herrley, a longtime Snyder resident, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Johnie Herrley

The Rev. Larry McAden, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Herrley, 70, died Thursday, Jan. 13, at her home in Snyder after a brief illness.

Born May 22, 1929 in Snyder, she married Dillard Herrley on Sept. 21, 1946 in Odessa.

Survivors include her husband, Dillard Herrley of Snyder; two sons and daughters-in-law, Keith and Karen Herrley and Kirk and Kathy Herrley, all of Snyder; a daughter, Sheila Kemp of Snyder; two brothers, Claude Buttrell of Big Timber, Mont., and Afton Buttrell of Odessa; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Anastacia Bonilla

1909-2000

Funeral service for Anastacia J. Bonilla, longtime Snyder resident, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Max Zamorano of New Braunfels will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Anastacia Bonilla

A wake service will be held at 7 this evening in the funeral home chapel. Lunch will be served at noon Saturday at the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Mrs. Bonilla, 90, died Wednesday, Jan. 12, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Born on Jan. 22, 1909 in Presidio, she married Augustine Bonilla in 1952 in Snyder. He died in 1994.

Mrs. Bonilla, a homemaker, was a member of Iglesia De Cristo in Snyder.

She also was preceded in death by one son, Ruben J. Tavarez in 1990; two sons-in-law, Ben Orosco and Felix Orosco; and one grandson, Leo Orosco.

Survivors include two sons, Ramon J. Tavarez and Roy J. Tavarez, both of Snyder; two daughters, Josephine T. Orosco and Catalina T. Orosco, both of Snyder; a sister, Pilar Ochoa of Houston; 28 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

James Robinson

1942-2000

ABILENE — James Donald Robinson of Hobbs, N.M., former Snyder resident, died Monday, Jan. 10, in Abilene.

A private family memorial service for Mr. Robinson, 57, will be held at a later date.

Born on Dec. 1, 1942 in Abilene to the late Don G. and Orlene Robinson, he was reared in Snyder and was a Snyder High School graduate and he attended Abilene Christian University. He married Constance Marion Payton of Hobbs, N.M., in 1964.

Following college, Mr. Robinson was a minister for the Church of Christ in Ketchikan, Alaska, and Saskatoon, Sask, Canada. In 1972, the family moved to Hobbs where he taught school at Sanger Elementary, farmed alfalfa and owned Atlas Building Maintenance. Mr. Robinson attended Jefferson Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include two sons, Thomas Harris and Rhett Lowell Robinson, both of Anchorage, Alaska; one daughter, Stephanie Robyn Hamilton of Abilene; two sisters, Gealene Robinson Anstead Bacon of Lansing, Mich., and Doris Gene (Dee) Robinson of Odessa; numerous grandchildren and close friends, Harriet Welch and Ulric Anstead of Abilene.

John Weaver

1942-1999

DULUTH, Ga. — Memorial service has been set for 1 p.m. Saturday at Bill Head Funeral Home Chapel for John Amon Lee Weaver who died Nov. 3, 1999 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident near Jacksonville, Fla. He was 57.

Mr. Weaver was born on Nov. 5, 1942 in Houston and attended school in Snyder. He attended the University of Texas where he was a member of the Alpha Tou Omega Fraternity. Mr. Weaver was a U.S. Marine veteran and a member of the Stone Mountain Hog Chapter and the North Georgia Hog Chapter.

Survivors include his wife, Bianca Mullins Weaver of Duluth; a daughter, Denise W. Jones of Suwanee, Ga.; a son, Dr. John Kevin Weaver of St. Simons Island, Ga; his mother, Opallee Weaver of Lilburn, Ga., and formerly of Snyder; and two granddaughters.

The family suggests memorials to the Georgia Transplant Foundation, 57 Executive Park South NE, Suite 200, Atlanta, Ga. 30329-2224.

Warrants result in three arrests

A warrant for felony motion to revoke probation sent an 18-year-old Snyder man to jail Thursday.

Juan Luis Aguilar of 2829 Alvin Avenue was arrested at the district clerk's office at 1:50 p.m. He was on probation on an original charge of bribery.

Two others were arrested Thursday on warrants.

Officers took a 22-year-old female into custody at 5:22 p.m. in the 2800 block of Avenue X on a Tarrant County warrant for Class B theft by check.

At 8:36 p.m., officers picked up a 19-year-old male in the 1400 block of 30th Street on a capias pro fine warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

An offense report for runaway was filed at 9:16 a.m. A woman had originally requested an attempt to locate on her 17-year-old daughter Wednesday afternoon. The woman notified officers at 5:46 p.m. that she had located her daughter.

Deputies filed an offense report for cat bite at 5:48 p.m.

An accident occurred at 11:14 a.m. Thursday in the 3600 block of Avenue R. Involved were a 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis driven by Jack Richard Denman, 70, of 4507 Fredonia and a parked 1987 homemade flatbed trailer loaded with a 45-foot utility pole. The trailer was attached to a 1991 Ford pickup. The pickup, trailer and pole are owned by TXU Electric.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan. 13-Forrest Beavers, Albento Conde of Hermleigh, Kirstie Leuck, Isabel Luera of Hermleigh, Robert Prichard, Anna Davis, Leticia Gallegos, Gina Henderson of Ira, C.J. Thornton of Rotan and Rose Villa.

DISMISSALS: Valerie Lopez, Travis Hatfield, Todd Dobson, Guadalupe Garcia, Heather Gutierrez, Kirstie Leuck, Thomas Martin and Bobbie McShan.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

WTSB anniversary

An open house to commemorate the 50th anniversary of West Texas State Bank is being held until 3 p.m. today at the bank, 1901 26th Street.

Evening of praise

East Side Church of Christ, 201 31st Street, will present an Evening of Praise with Ken Young and Hallal Music at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Assembly of God revival

First Assembly of God Church, 1809 College Avenue, will host a revival starting Sunday. The Rev. Jerry Wilkerson is the evangelist. Sunday services are at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Weekday services through Thursday are at 7 p.m. For more information call 573-3316.

Jeremiah People

Colonial Hill Baptist Church will present Jeremiah People, America's premier Christian musical theatre group, at 7 p.m. Monday. The public is invited.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Second Coming," followed by "Getting to Know God's People and Praise."

AARP meeting cancelled

Monday's AARP meeting has been cancelled due to the closing of the Senior Center for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Parkinson's Disease support group

The regular monthly meeting of the Parkinson's Disease community support group will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room.

Amateur radio operators

Snyder area radio operators will conduct its weekly check in/ragchew net at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. This net will operate on frequency 146.920 with PL tone 67. All licensed amateurs are welcome to check in. For more information call Mike @ KM5TC (573-2222), or David @ KC5GFM (573-8182).

Liberated Wailing Wall

The "Liberated Wailing Wall" will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church. This traveling group of musicians is a branch of Jews for Jesus and uses a variety of instruments to achieve its characteristic sounds - including piano, guitar, violin and dunbek (Middle Eastern drum).

WTC dance

The Western Texas College Intramural Department will host a fundraiser dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. next Friday, in the National Guard Armory. The dance will feature DJ Danny Gonzales of Post. Admission is $8 a couple and $5 for singles. WTC students with a valid college ID will be admitted free.

Ira yearbooks

Ira 2000 Bulldog annuals are on sale through Wednesday, Jan. 26. Cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without name.

Ira school pictures

Spring portraits and friendship pictures will be taken at Ira on Wednesday, Jan. 26. Each student will be photographed. Class group pictures also will be taken for grades K-12.

Calvary Baptist 50th anniversary

Calvary Baptist Church will observe its 50th anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 30. Former pastors and staff will speak at the 9:45 a.m. service. Former pastor Glenn Border will speak at 10:50 a.m. A reunion from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. will be held in the fellowship hall.

Windbreak trees

Windbreak trees are available from the Soil and Water Conservation District, 5308 Big Spring Hwy. Deadline for orders is Jan. 31.

WTC driver education

Registration for driver education at Western Texas College continues for the Jan. 24 class. The class will end on Feb. 22 and the cost is $300. Call 573-8511, ext. 229 to reserve a spot in the class.

WTC basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at Western Texas College are taught Tuesday and Thursday from 8-11 a.m., and from 6-9 p.m. Classes include G.E.D. and E.S.L. refresher courses. For additional information, call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ASC Road to Recovery volunteer coordinator Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 and leave a message, or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery:

1-6-7-13-30

(one, six, seven, thirteen, thirty)

Pick 3

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

5-7-4

(five, seven, four)

Taxi owner expected to testify

AMARILLO (AP) — A Dallas taxi-cab company owner was expected to testify today that he paid Dallas City Councilman Al Lipscomb thousands of dollars in exchange for favorable votes on taxi-cab related issues.

Testimony resumed this morning in Amarillo, where Lipscomb is being tried in federal court on 65 counts of bribery and corruption. Judge Joe Kendall moved the trial to the Panhandle, citing the councilman's prominence in the Dallas black community.

Floyd Richards, owner of Yellow Checker Cab and Checker Cab, accepted a plea agreement from prosecutors last month, agreeing to testify against his former codefendant.

Judge spares life sentence for young killer

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — At 13, Nathaniel Abraham could have been sent away to prison for life as one of the youngest convicted killers in U.S. history.

But a judge, disturbed by what he said was Michigan's "fundamentally flawed" approach to juvenile justice, sentenced Nathaniel to a youth detention center until age 21 for a murder the boy committed two years ago.

"We as a community have failed you, but you have also failed us and yourself," Judge Eugene Moore told Nathaniel during Thursday's hearing. He told the boy to "help us help you and, in turn, help many other children in this community."

Nathaniel, who turns 14 next week, said nothing. He turned around and looked at his mother and other relatives when he entered the courtroom but showed no emotion when the judge passed sentence.

"The first two words that Nate said to me were, 'What happened?'" said defense attorney Daniel Bagdade. After the sentence was explained, the boy "just sort of looked down and shrugged his shoulders."

Nathaniel was convicted in November of second-degree murder for shooting Ronnie Greene Jr., 18, outside a Pontiac convenience store in 1997 with a stolen rifle from about 70 yards away.

The sixth-grader was arrested two days later, his face painted for Halloween, and has been held in a juvenile facility ever since.

Nathaniel was the first youth charged with first-degree murder under a 1997 state law which allows children of any age to be prosecuted as adults for serious offenses.

His case stirred debate across the country over efforts to crack down on juvenile crime. Amnesty International chose his frightened face to illustrate the cover of a 1998 report condemning America's justice system as too harsh on juveniles.

Prosecutors said Nathaniel had told a friend that he was going to shoot somebody, practiced his aim on stationary targets, shot Greene in the head and bragged about it the next day.

The defense said Nathaniel was shooting at trees and that Greene was struck by a bullet that ricocheted off a tree. The defense also said 11-year-old Nathaniel had the mind of a 6- to 8-year-old and could not form the intent to commit murder or understand the charges against him.

Prosecutors had sought a combination sentence of juvenile detention until age 21, followed by a decision on whether to send him to an adult prison.

The judge had several options, ranging from life in prison with a chance of parole to a sentence of time already served.

As he sentenced the boy, Moore urged the Legislature to lean toward "improving the resources and programs within the juvenile justice system rather than diverting more youth into an already failed adult system."

Moore said he hoped Greene's family would someday see his death as having served as "a wake-up call for our community and to the nation that our youth are in trouble, and we need to pay attention."

Haitian children, mom to be reunited

MIAMI (AP) — Following protests by thousands of Haitian-Americans over U.S. immigration policy, the government has decided to allow two Haitian children to reunite with their mother in Florida while her political asylum claim is weighed.

Yvena Rhinvil was separated from her children after a smuggling boat from Haiti carrying 411 passengers ran aground about two miles off Florida on New Year's Day.

Rhinvil, 33, who is four months pregnant, was one of four migrants brought ashore for medical treatment. Her children were returned to Haiti along with the rest of the passengers.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said Thursday the children will be allowed to live in the United States for 90 days while the asylum application is considered.

"This is great news," said Cheryl Little, director of the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, which represents Rhinvil. "These children should have been with their mother all along."

U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek said Rhinvil's children — 10-year-old Marc Dieubon and 8-year-old Germanie Dieubon — will travel to Miami as soon as passports are issued by the Haitian government. They have been staying with an aunt in Port-au-Prince.

"This decision ends a frightening episode and addresses a major wrong that was done to this mother and her young children," said Meek, a Democrat.

INS officials said Coast Guard crew members didn't realize Rhinvil had children with her when they took her from the boat. Had they known, the separation would not have occurred, both agencies have maintained.

Pressure on the U.S. government to reunite the family had been building since Rhinvil's case became public.

Thousands protested Wednesday, carrying black-draped coffins to symbolize those who had died trying to reach the United States.

The activists say they are troubled by the contrast between the huge outcry over 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban migrant who was found adrift on Thanksgiving Day, and the routine return of young Haitian migrants.

Under U.S. policy, Haitians and others who arrive illegally are sent back, while the Cuban Readjustment Act of 1966 grants any Cuban who reaches American soil the right to stay.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Seek second opinion about enzymes

DEAR DR. GOTT: For almost a year, my liver enzymes have been modestly elevated. I am 47 and my doctor believes that these abnormalities are caused by an autoimmune phenomenon, because I have psoriasis and arthritis. She is convinced that I have lupus, too. I take Premarin and Synthroid.

Her approach is to monitor the situation with blood tests every six months. Do I need a second opinion?

DEAR READER: Elevated liver enzymes ordinarily reflect liver inflammation, a common condition with many causes, ranging from hepatitis and autoimmune diseases to the predictable effects of many prescription drugs.

I suspect that you have a type of arthritis that frequently is associated with psoriasis. Ordinarily, this condition does not affect the liver. Nor do the medicines you have been prescribed. However, if you do indeed have lupus, this affliction can cause liver inflammation. More important, I am concerned that you might have chronic hepatitis.

If this were the case, you and your doctor need to know about it, because you should have treatment. For example, hepatitis C, which is a dangerous and common viral infection, may lead to permanent liver damage if it is not treated aggressively with anti-viral medicine.

To answer your specific question: yes, you do need a second opinion — or, at least, further testing to define the cause of your liver malfunction. You may even require a biopsy of your liver.

I recommend that you seek a second opinion from a gastroenterologist who specializes in liver diseases. Your physician should be able to make the appropriate referral. While the present plan — to monitor your situation with periodic blood tests — may be entirely appropriate, I'd feel better if all the T's were crossed and the I's dotted. See a gastroenterologist without delay. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Eczema & Psoriasis." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I think that you were perpetuating an old wives' tale when you suggested in a recent column that pre-adolescent females who shaved their underarm hair would note that the new hair would grow in as a coarse stubble. I am a single 50-year-old woman who frequently goes all winter without shaving my legs and underarms. There is no difference in the quality of my new hair growth. Sign me: been there, done that.

DEAR BEEN THERE, DONE THAT: It would have been more accurate for me to have stated that young women who begin shaving early often experience new-hair growth that SEEMS to be coarser than normal hair, because silky long hair APPEARS to have different characteristics than does the stubble that grows in after shaving. For most women, this is merely a perception — but it is real. Thanks for writing.

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Are You:
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Number of People living in this Household:_____
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Income:
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Gross Weekly Income: $_____
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2 PC. CORNER SECTIONAL In rich black velvet cover, 1 only. Reg. $499.95 SALE $299

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Full Size Set	$499.95	$238
Queen Size Set	$549.95	$298
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