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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY
Dec. 8, 1998
Vol. 50 No. 187
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Tina Louise White

BUILDING THE SET — Howard Boyd, front, and Don Atwood are building the set for Colonial Hill Baptist Church's drive-through nativity, "The Gift." The program will be presented Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 each evening and is free to the public. (SDN Staff Photo)

Church hospitality house to proceed as city finds error in property zoning

Several members of the First Baptist Church were present at Monday night's city council meeting to show their support of a planned hospitality house at 301 Ave. E.

The church was seeking a special use permit for the former Bethel Baptist Church building to be used for visitors to the Price Daniel Unit and to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice units in Colorado City.

A zoning change had already been denied by the city's planning and zoning commission, but the city council has the final say on all zoning changes.

As it turned out, however, the church's request was moot as the property was already zoned for the type of operation the church has planned.

Vic Chambers, of the city's planning and zoning department, told the council that the department had just made a mistake.

"Unfortunately, it generated opposition among some of the residents in that area, but the church is fully within its rights to operate their hospitality house at the location," said Chambers.

Mayor David Holt added that since the property was zoned correctly, the council had no action to take on the matter.

"It was just an error," said Holt.

The council did deny a request for a zoning change of property located in the 2600 block of Avenue F.

Lubbock resident Thomas Stern had requested the change in order to convert the old hospital building to storage units.

The city has started condemnation proceedings on the property, and in the meantime, Stern donated the property to a Lubbock non-profit agency known as Yellow House Canyon Ranch.

It is expected the city will give the new owners 30 days to bring the buildings up to standards, or it will continue with the condemnation process.

The council tabled action on engineering costs for the city's water line replacement program for the next three years.

Councilmen Dayton Robertson and Terry Martin questioned figures submitted by the firm of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper on the project, and asked city engineer Beverly Coots to get a detailed list of costs from the firm.

The Lubbock firm is in negotiations with the city to provide engineering services for the water line projects.

In other action, the council accepted bids for chemicals at the water treatment plant, and for a vehicle for the city's fire chief.

The council accepted the bid of $29,456 for a Ford Expedition from Wilson Motors, despite it being higher than another bid of $29,000.

Wilson can deliver its vehicle in 80 days, while Price Ford in Sulphur Springs had a 120 day delivery time.

"Considering the closeness of the bid and the delivery time, plus local service, I suggest we go with the local bid," said councilman Jerry Webb.

In other action, the council approved a resolution transferring two small tracts of land in the industrial park to the Development Corporation of Snyder, and approved the second reading of budget amendments for the 1997-98 budget.

The council also met in executive session for 1 1/2 hours to continue the evaluation of City Manager John Gayle.

Following the closed session, the council voted to give Gayle a 2.5 percent pay raise — from $68,424 to $69,960 annually.

Holt presided at the meeting, and council members in attendance were Robertson, Webb, Martin and Vernest Tippens.

I.E. Martin was absent.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Winning is an unpardonable sin — if you're on the losing team."

The only defense for a team that's running up the score — run out the clock.

For years the Bloomfield High School Warhawks in Connecticut were the doormats of the Central Conference.

It was the school that lost 34 consecutive games in the early 1990s. Just north of Hartford, the school was beset by declining test scores and white flight to private schools.

Then it hired a 29-year-old head coach who instituted a weight-training program and who personally supervises his players in study hall.

The Warhawks finished the season with a perfect 9-0 record and outscored its opponents, 537-87.

Bloomfield, ranked 8th in the nation, is taking abuse for being too good.

The unblemished season was made possible in large part by a 250-pound running back who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. In other words, if somebody could catch him — they couldn't haul him down.

The star runner, bigger than most pro backs, is being wooed by major colleges — including, Tennessee, Syracuse and Nebraska.

The past season, Andrew Pinnock rushed for 1,534 yards and 81 touchdowns.

The coach rejects the suggestion that he runs up the score and counters that he pulled his star back for the second half in all but two games. The coach remembers it wasn't that long ago that Bloomfield was being hammered by those teams, and no one was concerned then.

Still, some officials have even tried to help ease their opponents' pain. One timekeeper kept the clock running during injury breaks.

In a game that Bloomfield won by 50 points, the margin was held down when a referee graciously ended the game early because of darkness.

In the second half of another, the opposing coach got the Bloomfield coach to agree to run the clock without stopping for the entire second half.

After all the state-wide criticism, the team showed some final mercy in the season finale. In a 54-26 win, Bloomfield, about to score, instead let time run out.

Trying to hold down the score is not always easy.

We recall some 30 years ago when Denver City was whipping up on everybody it played. Trying to hold down the score against a hapless Slaton team, Denver City punted on first down.

It insulted Slaton, who punted it back on the next play.

During Monday session...

Eleven indicted by grand jury

The Scurry County grand jury returned 11 indictments Monday, including two for possession of cocaine with intent to deliver.

Robin Christina Thurmond, 21, of 2711 Ave. O, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, with intent to deliver. The charge is a first degree felony.

Thurmond remains in Scurry County jail under a $20,000 bond.

Rigoberto Torres Herrera, aka Ismael Torres Herrera, 42, of 1107 24th St., was also indicted for possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, with intent to deliver. This charge is also a first degree felony.

Herrera is also in jail under a $20,000 bond.

Both of the above offenses occurred on Nov. 5.

James Benjamin Northcutt, 20, of 3106 Ave. S, was indicted for the Oct. 8 offense of bail jumping and failure to appear on an original felony charge of credit card abuse.

His bond is set at $10,000.

Jose Alfredo Benitez Jr, 30, of 100 E. 37th St., Apt. 24, was indicted for the Nov. 22 offense of driving while intoxicated.

He has previous DWI convictions in Taylor County and Scurry County, both in 1994.

Stevie Van Leatherwood, 26, of 947 N. Ave. N, was indicted for the Nov. 30 offense of driving while intoxicated.

He has previous DWI convictions in Scurry County in 1993 and 1996.

Jose Rodriguez Guerrero Jr, 32, of 1312 N. Ave. R, was indicted for the Dec. 5 offense of driving while intoxicated.

He has previous DWI convictions in Scurry County in 1994 and 1995, and a felony charge of delivery of a controlled substance in Sept. 1996 in Scurry County.

David Bryan Robertson, 21, of 699 S. CR 221, was indicted for the state jail felony of burglary of a building. He is charged with the Nov. 28 offense of buglarizing a building owned by Steve Bailey.

He remains in jail on a $5,000 bond.

Mustafa Burks, 17, of 401 N. 9th St., Abilene, was indicted for the state jail felony of possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, on Nov. 6.

She remains in jail on a $5,000 bond.

One indictment was sealed, and the names of two persons who were indicted are being withheld pending their arrest.

Jurors hear charge today in civil suit

Jurors heard the charge from the attorneys in the civil suit being heard in 132nd District Court.

Following this procedure, the case will go to the jury.

The seven-woman, five-man jury heard testimony last week in the suit involving a contract dispute over mineral interests in the northern part of Scurry County.

Hrubetz Operating Company is the plaintiff and is represented by Thomas Taylor of Dallas.

Defendants are C.K. Oil Properties of Post, Rocker A Operating Company of Post, Kerr-McGee Corporation and Curtis Phillips.

The suit was filed on Dec. 1, 1997 and involves petroleum production near the Scurry-Garza county line. Lead attorney for the defendants is Charles King of Houston. Numerous other attorneys are involved.

BCD set to meet noon Wednesday

The Board of County Development will have two items of new business to consider when it meets noon Wednesday at the Western Texas College Workforce Training Center.

In the first item of business, the board will consider a request from Western Texas College to buy equipment that will allow the college to use its cable TV channel.

"It won't happen immediately. They need to go to fiber optics, but the college wants to be prepared," John DeLille, executive director of the Development Corporation of Snyder said.

WTC has also requested additional funding in regards to the workforce education department.

Also for the board's consideration is a request from the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District for matching funds for its program.

Following the meeting, the board will tour the new continuing education building on the WTC campus.

Other items of business include review and approval of the minutes from the September meeting, review of the financial statements and paying the bills.

Firm not endorsed by chamber office

A firm calling on local businesses selling calendars, is not endorsed by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, said executive director Donna Fowler.

Fowler said if anyone is selling any items associated with the chamber of commerce, a notice will be sent to members first, added Fowler.

"If someone approaches you about buying something and says the chamber is sponsoring it, please call us," said Fowler.

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED MOTOR GRADER — Scurry County's entry in Saturday's lighted Christmas parade took the honor of most unique. County employees decorated a motor grader with antlers and lights complete with a flashing red nose. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—Is the performance of Handel's Messiah still scheduled for Saturday?

A—No. The traditional Christmas program has been cancelled. Copies of the music need to be returned to the high school as soon as possible.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 50 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 27; no precipitation; total for 1998, 10.29 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear, cold. Low around 30. Light wind. Wednesday, increasing cloudiness. High, lower to mid 50s. SE wind 5-10 mph.

Jay Olivas
Warmer

Sunset:
5:41 p.m.
Sunrise
7:31 a.m.
Of 341 days in 1998, the sun has shone 338 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"People are always neglecting something they can do in trying to do something they can't."

Edgar Watson Howe

DEC 08 1998

Eli Lilly Co. buys rights to new prozac

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Here's a downer for companies that turn out generic drugs: Eli Lilly and Co. has bought the rights to a new Prozac that is supposed to be more effective and without some troubling side effects.

Lilly and Co. on Monday said it will pay a small drug company $90 million plus sales royalties for the rights to a modified version of the widely used anti-depression drug.

The deal might allow Lilly to retain its lucrative franchise on Prozac even if generic versions hit the market when the drug's main patent expires in 2003. Lilly could move doctors from prescribing the old Prozac to the new Prozac, and keep its price stable, analysts said.

That's bad news for generic drugmakers who make copies of drugs with expired patents and sell them for a fraction of the cost. In this case, the copies would be of an inferior version of the drug.

"It spells gloom, with a capital G," said Neil Sweig, an analyst with Southeast Research Partners. "What is the generic industry all about but waiting in eager anticipation, with bated breath, for the major drugs of the world to come off patent?"

Prozac is one of the most successful drugs ever. Even though it has several competitors, the drug still generates nearly $3 billion a year in sales, almost one-third of Lilly's total sales.

Lilly's partner in the deal, Sepracor Inc. of Marlborough, Mass., is carving out an industry niche for taking the existing active ingredients in best-selling drugs and improving them by making them more effective or eliminating side effects, such as sexual dysfunction. It holds patents for about 40 purified versions of drugs.

The new Prozac patent is valid until 2015. Lilly said it is on target to submit the new drug for approval by the Food and Drug Administration in 2001.

One obstacle may come from a generic drugmaker, Barr Laboratories of Pomona, N.Y. Barr claims that Prozac's patents are invalid and is fighting in court to start selling generic Prozac now.

Berry's World

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"They say that more and more people have offices in their nests, too."

Happy 12th Birthday Kirsten Salazar

Love
Your Grandparents

Diarrhea...

Pediatricians' group backs immunization

CHICAGO (AP) — All U.S. infants should be vaccinated against the leading cause of diarrhea, an illness which annually sends 55,000 people to hospitals, kills 40 children and costs $400 million to treat, a top pediatricians' group says.

The three-dose vaccine against rotavirus, an intestinal infection, should prevent thousands of American preschoolers from suffering severe diarrhea, health officials said.

"In order to protect against the large number of children who need to be hospitalized, we need to give the vaccine to everybody," Dr. Neal Halsey of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday.

The vaccine costs $38 per dose wholesale. Doses of the vaccine, which are squirted from a dropper into a baby's mouth, are recommended at ages 2 months, 4 months and 6 months.

The vaccine promises to reduce by up to 80 percent the worst cases of diarrhea caused by rotaviruses. In the most severe cases, a child can experience 10 to 20 episodes of diarrhea in a day, quickly getting dangerously dehydrated.

Circuit judge: 'exemplary' fugitive should be extradited

DETROIT (AP) — A judge ruled that a businessman who has led "an exemplary life" since being convicted of selling $10 worth of marijuana 25 years ago should be extradited to Virginia, where he once walked off a prison farm.

As family and friends of Alfred Martin sobbed and wiped away tears, Circuit Judge William Cahalan said Monday he had no choice but to honor Virginia's request.

Martin was convicted in Virginia of selling marijuana and sentenced to 10 years in prison. After serving two days of his sentence, he walked away from a prison farm in Martinsville, Va.

He faces charges of escape and conversion by larceny, which stems from allegations he never paid off a television and stereo system he bought on an installment plan from a Martinsville store.

The Virginia charges surfaced when Martin was stopped last month for allegedly driving with expired plates.

Cahalan said his decision was tough because Martin, who owns Common Wealth Mortgage in Livonia, has lived "an exemplary life since his conviction 25 years ago."

"It's all the more difficult when you see the family here and understand that the family is a credit to the state and Mr. Martin has been a credit to the state for the past 25 years," Cahalan said.

In a statement, Martin pleaded for an opportunity to "exhaust all of my legal options and continue to support my family. I'd like to be free."

The judge granted Martin a 24-hour stay of the extradition so his attorneys can appeal.

Virginia had tried to extradite Martin before. That attempt led then-Gov. William Milliken in 1976 to grant Martin legal asylum in Michigan.

Two Princesses make stage debut

LONDON (AP) — Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie made their stage debut in a surprise ballet performance to raise money for a children's charity.

The daughters of Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, and his ex-wife Sarah, Duchess of York, danced in a group at London's Theatre Royal on Sunday night to support the charity, Children in Crisis.

Fed agents seize moon rock

MIAMI (AP) — A 3.9-million-year-old chunk of the moon that President Nixon gave to Honduras has been seized by federal agents who said they uncovered a plan to sell the rock for $5 million.

"Operation Lunar Eclipse," an undercover investigation involving U.S. Customs, NASA and the Postal Service, was aimed at stopping the sale of bogus lunar samples. In this case, however, agents found a real one.

It was brought back by astronauts on the Apollo 17 mission that lifted off Dec. 7, 1972, federal officials said. The rock was part of a larger sample the astronauts dedicated to the people of the world before they returned to Earth, said Capt. Eugene Cernan, the mission's commander.

"We wanted to give a piece of this rock to each country," Cernan said Monday. "It was to be part of the archives of that nation and country."

Authorities said a 60-year-old Florida man bought the tiny rock from a retired Honduran military officer. They said the Florida man called Cernan to verify the authenticity of the rock.

Agents lured the man by placing a newspaper advertisement seeking moon rocks, and they seized the rock once he led them to it — encased in acrylic, stored in a safety deposit box.

Religious Briefs

Candlelight service of rememberance

The Support Group Ministry recognizes the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season. Therefore a candlelight service of rememberance will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. for First Baptist Church family and the community to remember and celebrate the lives of those who will not be present this holiday season. It will be a special time of music, lighting of candles, worship and prayer. For more information call the church office at 573-2631. The Support Group Ministry will not resume monthly meetings until January, 1999.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV Channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Crazy Like Jesus," followed by "Betrayal and Abandonment."

FUMC Christmas celebrations

First United Methodist Church invites the Snyder area community to its two Christmas celebrations. The first, the Chancel Choir's presentation of "A Time of Joy," is set for 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. A nursery will be provided for each service.

Drive through nativity

Colonial Hill Baptist Church will have its drive-through nativity, "The Gift," on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 each evening. The program is free to the public and will take approximately 20 minutes to view. Colonial Hill's Puppet Ministry will be greeting those attending with Christmas cards and good wishes. Hot chocolate will also be served from the puppet area. The best route to the performance will be turning south on Denison off of 35th St. The drive through begins on the east side of the church property on Denison.

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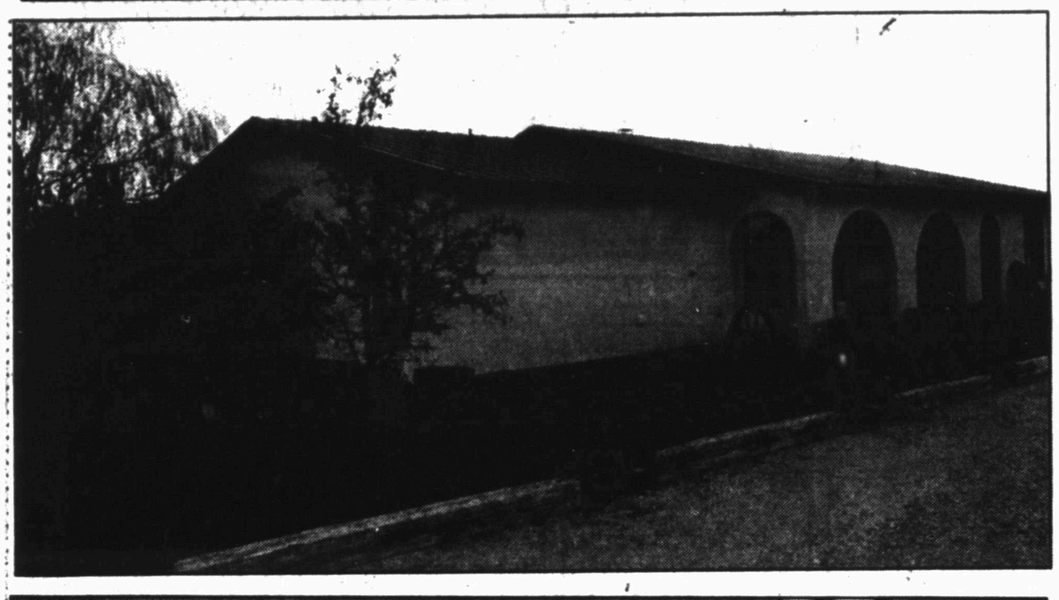

HOME ON TOUR — Marge Mathis' home at 5231 CR 2128 will be included in the Lighted Tour of Homes by Historic Scurry County and the Historial Commission. The tour will begin at 4:45 at the Dodson House and the Dermott School on the coliseum grounds where some transportation will be provided. Other country homes are Mr. and Mrs. Millard Grantham, across the road from the Mathis home, and Jack Greene's underground home at 1496 CR 466; in town is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Nolan, 2308 32nd. Marge, right, and her daughter, Marty Edmiston of Mertzon put the finishing touches to a decorated mesquite tree in the den. Tickets are $10 and may be purchased at Countryplace, Eddie Peterson's Pharmacy and the American State Bank. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

BRIDAL SHOWER — Carolyn Atkinson of San Angelo, bride-elect of Chad Grimmett, was honored at a bridal shower on Nov. 19 at the Snyder Country Club. Vows will be exchanged at 2 p.m. on Jan. 2 in the Roby First Baptist Church. From left are Kailey Howell, cousin of the future bride; Betty Atkinson, her paternal grandmother; Carol Atkinson, her mother from Roby; the honoree; Judy Grimmett, mother of the future groom; Libby Ruth Grimmett, his paternal grandmother; and Hope Adcock, his maternal grandmother from Bronte. (Contributed Photo)

Parents: the best role model

If you're a parent, you already know that the best role model for your child is yourself. Happily, there are other positive role models and these people are nearer than you think.

To help children find positive role models outside the home, CIGNA Corporation is sponsoring a campaign, "The Power of Caring," that highlights worthy contributions of well-known people who are making an impact on other lives. Three of these celebrities have been featured in the campaign, with a full page on each in People, Time, Sports Illustrated and Fortune.

Few Americans are aware of Mark McGwire's help to physically and sexually abused children and his contribution of $3 million of his salary to the Mark McGwire Foundation for Children. Through "The Power of Caring" campaign, fans get to look at him differently and meet the man behind the numbers.

Nor are all fans of Gloria Estafan aware of her support of people with spinal cord injuries and her donation of $250,000 in royalties to the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis to help seek a cure.

When General Colin Powell left his post as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he wanted to focus his energy on helping young people. His way was to chair America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth, which forges alliances among the private and government sectors to help give youngsters a relationship with a caring adult.

Bringing attention to the efforts of caring celebrities is CIGNA's way of focusing on the difference positive role models can make.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just for Today NA, closed meeting; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Snyder Shrine Club; call 863-2702 for meeting placed; 6 p.m.

Atheneum Study Club Christmas dinner; MAWC; "Travels With J," by Jerrald Bowen; social committee, hostesses; 6:30 p.m.

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA; closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

Bridge By Phillip Alder

North 12-08-98
♠ K Q J 7 4 3
♥ 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ K 6 5

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

East
♠ 8
♥ A 10 8 5
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ 9 7 4 2

South
♠ A 10 9 6 2
♥ K Q 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ A 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Keep following the rule

By Phillip Alder

Here is one of those tricky bridge questions. It is a suit contract. Dummy has a side-suit singleton. You're next, with, say, ace-empty-fourth in this suit. When declarer calls for dummy's singleton, should you win with the ace or play low?

Normally, it will be right to duck — unless the ace is the setting trick. First, you hope declarer has the king-jack. If you win with the ace, he gets one trick for sure. If you duck smoothly, he might finesse the jack and win no trick. Even when declarer has the king-queen, it can be fatal to win with the ace — as in this deal.

North was aggressive, lurching straight into Blackwood. (True, if South's red suits were reversed, six spades would be laydown. Yet partners never seem to have the ideal hand.) The ideal response is a four-heart splinter bid, showing game values with at most one heart. Here, South, with duplicated heart values, would beat a quick retreat to four spades. However, this pair treats a four-heart response as natural.

A diamond lead defeats the contract by two tricks. Yet understandably West selected the club queen. Declarer won with dummy's king and immediately called for the heart three, hoping to persuade East to win with the ace. And note that if he does rise, South has 12 tricks: six spades, two hearts, one diamond, two clubs and one club ruff in hand.

Yet East had been there before: He played low smoothly. That cost one heart trick, but two diamond tricks came back in return. The declarer had no chance.

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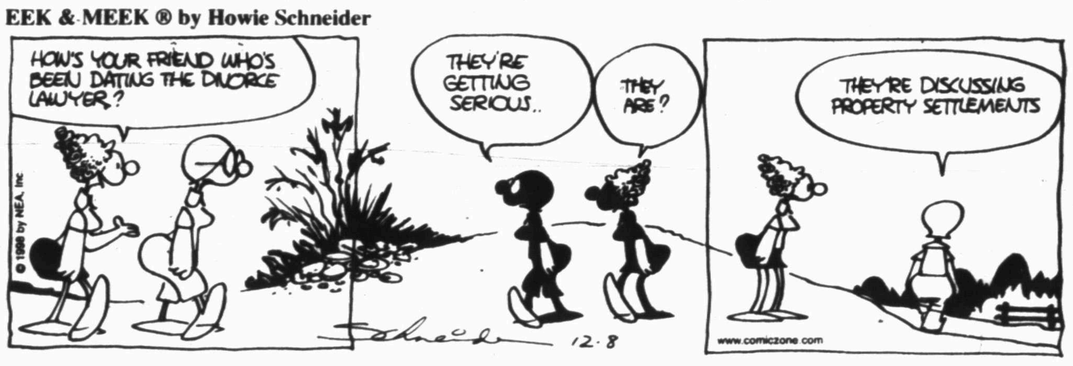

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ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Crystalline gem
7 Antiseptic liquid
13 Looked angrily
14 Covered with metal
15 Zodiac twins
16 Tennis pro Stefan —
17 Barks
18 Between tic and toe
20 Marquis de —
21 Bundle of grain
23 Uttered
27 Shoulder blade
32 Courteous
33 Wolf constellation
34 Winged
35 Large outpouring
36 Becomes more lenient
39 Loom bar
40 Cafe patron
42 Being
46 Caustic substance
47 Antlered animals
51 Like geese and mice
53 Leave the work force
55 Become electrically charged
56 Like O. Henry stories
57 Morals supervisor
58 Mr. Hemingway

DOWN

1 — Pop (musician)
2 Genus of olive trees
3 Light source
4 Flower
5 Perfect score
6 Singer Piaf
7 Medicinal root
8 Aged
9 Spreads sparingly
10 Virginia willow
11 Social misfit
12 Brim
19 Roman bronze
21 Goddess of the moon
22 Phonier
23 Battle memento
24 Heap
25 Track shape
26 Toy with a tail
28 Insect stage
29 Arrow poison
30 Stringed instrument
31 Jacob's son
37 Having more height
38 Pigpen
41 Macabre
42 Heroic
43 Wild plum
44 Fiber plant
45 Goddess of discord
47 Harrow's rival
48 Rope
49 Actor Kristofferson
50 Denomination
52 Containing nitrogen
54 Blunder

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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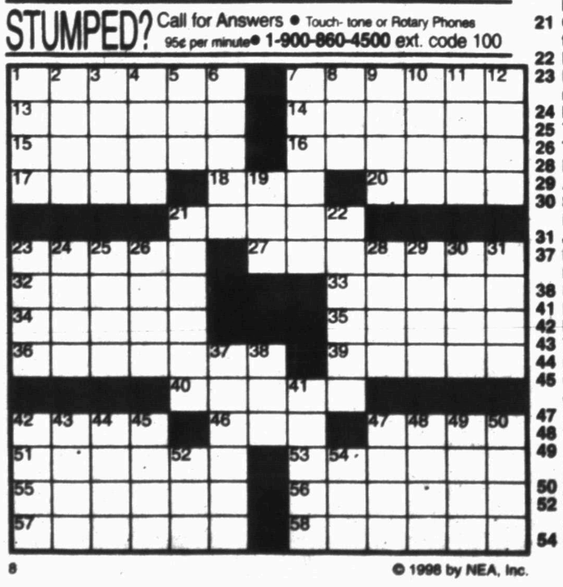

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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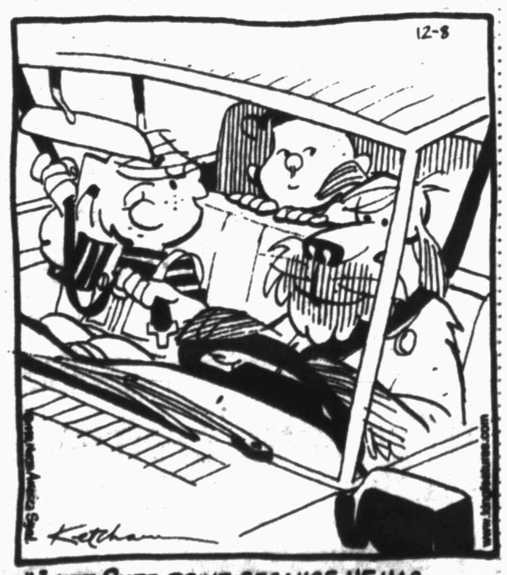
12-8

"Sorry, there was a lot of traffic."

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Debbie looks-exactly like me when I was 18."



"I LET RUFF DRIVE BECAUSE HE HAS A LICENSE, AND I DON'T."

SPORTS

Pressure defense fuels SHS cagers

Hang around Tiger basketball coach Bud Birks long enough and sooner or later the topic of discussion turns to defense.

"It's an overall team concept," explains Birks. "It's a hard man-to-man. We try to put a lot of pressure on the ball and then play post defense that doesn't allow the easy entry pass. That's it."

Birks' squad will put its scheme into action tonight when Snyder hosts Lubbock High at 7:30 in the SHS gym.

The Tigers, who will be looking for their fourth win this evening, feed off their defensive play.

It all starts up top with the play of senior guards Tyler Warren and Brady Cobb, along with junior Jared Hester. The trio of guards harrass opposing ball-handlers from the opening tip until the final buzzer.

Down low is where Sonny Cumbie, Cory Mandrell and Brock Durham go to work. The low-post threesome employs smart positioning and ball recognition to out battle taller opponents.

"We've been playing pretty solid defense all year long," Birks stated. "Our rebounding has also been good and our turnovers haven't been real bad. We just need to shoot the ball better.

"We have some really good shooters on this team. We just need to make sure we're taking good shots. We need to be shooting the shots we know we can make."

Following tonight's match-up with the Westerners, Snyder opens the Seminole tournament on Thursday with a 4:30 contest against Pampa.

Freshmen grab second place at Colorado City

COLORADO CITY — Snyder's freshman basketball team earned the runner-up spot in the Colorado City tournament.

After capturing their first two contests of the tourney, the Tigers fell to San Angelo Glenn, 85-53, in the title tilt.

Jamaal Pruitt's 18 points led Snyder in the championship contest, with Nick Landes dropping in nine points.

Wade Pinson finished with seven points, while Lee Scott, Ricki Dorsett and Brandon McGuire posted four points apiece.

Brooks Nunley accounted for three points, with Shay Franks and Craig Bowen chipping in two each.

Snyder will be back on the court Thursday at Big Spring, beginning at 6 p.m.

Ira JH splits with Coyotes on hardwood

GAIL — Jess Wall fueled Ira Jr. High's boys squad, while the IJHS girls never got on track.

Wall poured in 13 points Monday night, leading the Bulldogs to a 41-31 victory over Borden County.

In girls action, the Lady Coyotes took control from the opening tip, running to a 48-9 win over Ira.

Celeigh Sterling paced the Lady Bulldogs with six points, while Bobbie Kempf dropped in 20 for Borden County.

Wall's 13 points led the Bulldogs in their 10-point victory, with Michael Allen adding nine more. Jake Barnes added five points, with Eric Dickerhoff posting four. John Gainer rattled home three points. Jeff Fine and Tyler Frey chipped in two apiece.

Borden County's T.J. Sharp was high scorer with 24 points.

PULL-UP JUMPER — Western Texas sophomore Christy Wells puts up a shot Monday night against Wayland Baptist JV at Scurry County Coliseum. The Lady Dusters trounced the Queens, 102-26.

Lady Dusters de-throne Queens

There are blowouts and there are routs, romps and drubbings.

And then there is what took place Monday night at Scurry County Coliseum.

Western Texas embarrassed an overmatched Wayland Baptist JV squad, hanging over 100 points on the Queens in a 102-26 shellacking.

It was over early at the coliseum as the Lady Dusters raced to a 54-13 lead by halftime.

Sophomore guard Christy Wells dropped in 10 points in the opening half to fuel WTC's charge.

The Lady Dusters, now 7-3 on the season, didn't let up in the final 20 minutes.

WTC's defensive pressure picked up in the second half, not allowing a Wayland Baptist until the 10-minute mark. By then, the Lady Dusters had staked a 76-15 advantage.

Carrie Fincher poured in nine points in the second half to pace WTC, which committed only three fouls on the night.

Crystal Williams led all scorers with 15 points, while Mary Cavazos drained the Lady Dusters' only long-range buckets tyo finish with 14 points.

WTC limited the Queens to only 12 baskets on the night, while the Lady Dusters sank 41 buckets in the contest.

WTC puts its 7-3 mark to the test this weekend at the San Jacinto Classic in Houston.

Wayland Baptist (26)
Byrd 4 0-0 8, Cerda 3 0-0 7, Dixon 3 0-2 6, Rodela 1 1-2 3, Garcia 1 0-0 2. **Totals 12 1-4 26.**

WTC (102)
Williams 7 1-1 15, Cavazos 5 2-2 14, Tran 3 6-6 12, Fincher 5 2-2 12, Wells 5 2-3 12, Vizcorrondo 4 2-2 10, Odhuong'o 5 0-0 10, Walker 3 3-5 9, Moon 2 0-0 4, Lawrence 2 0-0 4. **Totals 41 18-21 102.**

Halftime score: WTC 54, Wayland Baptist 26. Three-point goals: Wayland Baptist 1 (Cerda), WTC 2 (Cavazos 2). Total fouls: Wayland Baptist 14, WTC 3.

Clements sets mark, paces Lady Bulldogs

COAHOMA — Scoring 64 points in one day makes all-tournament voting easy.

After dropping in 28 points in a second round contest Saturday morning, Morgan Clements poured in another 36 Saturday evening to lead the Ira girls to a 70-36 consolation victory over Crosbyton.

Clements set a tournament scoring record with 92 points, en route to nabbing a spot on the all tourney team.

The Ira senior had posted 28 points in a first-round loss to Brownfield.

In the consolation final, Clements and her Lady Bulldog teammates grabbed control early on.

Ira held Crosbyton to only seven first-quarter points on its way to a 32-19 halftime advantage.

The Lady Bulldogs kept the pressure on in the second half, throwing in another 38 points over the feinal two quarters while surrendering only six fourth-period points.

Clements' 36 points led all scorers, with Terri Robinson ringing up 15 more. E'Lissa Goolsby added six points, while Tara Allen chipped in two.

The Lady Bulldogs return to the hardwood tonight when they host Blackwell at 6:30.

Bulldogs fall, 76-66

COAHOMA — Not having your leading scorer usually hurts a team.

But the Bulldogs almost overcame it.

With 6-6 Logan Daves hampered by an ankle injury, Ira battled Seminole JV for all four quarters Saturday night, before falling, 76-66, in the championship of the Coahoma tournament.

The Bulldogs, who trailed by 11 points midway through the third period, strung together an 8-3 run to enter the fourth quarter down by only six points, 53-47.

But the final eight minutes didn't begin well for Ira as head coach Bubba Edwards and asst. coach Toby Goodwin drew back-to-back technical fouls.

Seminole drained all four free throws to push the deficit back to 10 points.

Jerek Brown led all scorers with 20 points, while Jose Juarez dropped in 13. Both Bulldogs were named to the all-tournament squad.

Drew Wall posted 12 points for Ira, with Nathan Smith notching 10. Richard Wilkins added six points, with Logan Daves chipping in two.

Ira will be back on the court tonight when it hosts Blackwell at 6:30.

Instant replay could make a comeback

NEW YORK (AP) — Three botched calls by officials have done what seven years of NFL politics couldn't do — bring back instant replay.

League spokesman Joe Browne said Monday that if the owners approve, "a limited form of replay for use in the upcoming postseason is a possibility."

The new replay system would take the form used in preseason experiments — with coaches given two challenges a game and referees making the final decision from monitors on the sideline.

It also would allow a coach who is out of challenges in the final two minutes to make one with the referee's consent.

The prospect of a replay return comes after the latest questionable officiating decision — a touchdown call in the closing seconds of the New York Jets' 32-31 victory over Seattle on Sunday.

Seahawks coach Dennis Erickson was contacted by Jerry Seeman, the NFL's supervisor of officials, about the touchdown. Replays showed a 5-yard run by Jets quarterback Vinny Testaverde ended short of the goal line.

Seeman said the call was wrong, but the loss stands.

"(Seeman) said, 'The guy who called it saw the helmet go across the line and thought it was the ball,'" Erickson said.

That play may have been the last straw. League officials say they might have the 24 votes of 31 teams, including Cleveland, needed to implement instant replay for the playoffs. Last March, it fell two votes short, getting 21 of 30.

Sunday's call, plus one that allowed New England to beat Buffalo a week ago and the botched coin flip in the Pittsburgh-Detroit game on Thanksgiving Day, have had a ripple effect around the league.

The "no" votes last March came from seven teams that have voted regularly against replay — the New York Giants, Arizona, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Chicago and Tampa Bay. They were joined by San Diego and Oakland.

Rich McKay, Tampa Bay's general manager, said Monday the Bucs could change their vote to "yes."

And so will Buffalo owner Ralph Wilson, who complained about the officiating in Buffalo's last-minute loss to New England and was warned he could be fined $50,000 for his remarks. He shot back at commissioner Paul Tagliabue, saying he didn't need "pompous lectures."

Tagliabue spent most of Monday discussing the problem with owners and league officials.

He couldn't have missed Monday's New York newspapers, all three of which had a front-page picture of Testaverde lying on the ground a foot short of the end zone.

The call in the game's closing seconds kept the Jets tied with Miami in the AFC East and knocked the Seahawks from playoff contention. It also had an impact on Wilson's Bills, Miami and New England, which are in a four-way scramble with the Jets in the AFC East.

DiMaggio's status upgraded after vast improvement

By HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

Joe DiMaggio improved dramatically overnight, with his fever gone and his lungs clearing, his doctor said today.

"He's remarkably better," Dr. Earl Barron told The Associated Press. "Don't ask me how or why."

On Monday, Barron said DiMaggio had suffered "a significant and serious turn for the worse" during the weekend in his battle back from lung cancer surgery and that the 84-year-old Hall of Famer was "not in good shape."

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY

Basketball: Lubbock High at Snyder JV & varsity boys, 6 p.m., 7:30.
Basketball: Snyder JV & varsity girls at Abilene Cooper, 5 p.m., 6:30.
Basketball: Hermleigh at Westbrook, 6:30.
Basketball: Blackwell at Ira, 6:30.

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Sports Briefs

Little dribblers sign-ups

Sign-ups for boys' 9, 10, 11 and 12-year-old little dribblers will run through Thursday at the Boys & Girls Club.

Boys who will be 9-years-old before Sept. 1, 1999 are eligible to register. Players must be accompanied by a parent and bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Registration fee is $20. For more information contact the Boys & Girls Club at 573-3344.

NCAA Basketball Scores

EAST
Army 57, Yale 54
Columbia 67, Stony Brook 61, OT
Fairleigh Dickinson 63, Cent. Connecticut St. 62
Lehigh 91, Drew 67
Long Island U. 71, Robert Morris 59
Loyola, Md. 82, Denver 66
Mount St. Mary's, Md. 65, St. Francis, Pa. 62
Navy 90, Coast Guard 62
Quinnipiac 65, Monmouth, N.J. 59
Rider 88, Fairfield 68
St. Francis, N.Y. 85, Wagner 81

SOUTH
Belmont 65, Georgia Southern 47
E. Tennessee St. 78, N.C.-Asheville 71
Hampton 83, Delaware St. 76
James Madison 74, Duquesne 59
Louisville 106, Towson 73
Mississippi 101, West Alabama 68
Morgan St. 61, Howard 57
N.C.-Wilmington 60, American U. 44
VMI 86, UNC-Greensboro 84

MIDWEST
Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 80, Missouri-Kansas City 76
Valparaiso 71, Oral Roberts 62

SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Pine Bluff 75, Miss. Valley St. 62
Arkansas 90, W. Carolina 54

FAR WEST
California 58, Coppin St. 56
Fresno St. 91, Pacific 74
S. Utah 78, Idaho St. 68

TOURNAMENTS
BB&T Classic Championship
Maryland 92, DePaul 75
Third Place
Stanford 70, George Washington 56

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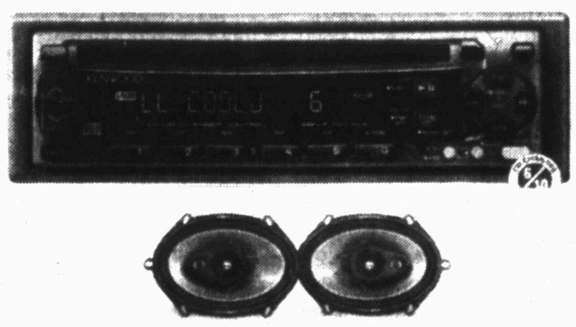

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, P.O. Box 1330, Houston, Texas 77251-1330 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Clearfork Formation, R.O. McClure A Lease, Well No. 6. The proposed injection well is located 4 miles northwest of Ira, Texas in Sharon Ridge (Clearfork) Field in Scurry County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2,192 to 3,500 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or request for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone) 512-463-6792).

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LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or request for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone) 512-463-6792).

020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LOCAL NON-PROFIT seeking Administrative Assistant. Applicant must have strong computer and organizational skills. Applications may be obtained at 2707 25th Street. Deadline for applications is December 14, 1998 at 5:00 p.m.

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33 Acres & 40 Acres Close In.
Lot 200 block 33rd $2T
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#3 Mobile Home - 3 Acres
#4 For Rent - 2 Bdr. $225 Mo.
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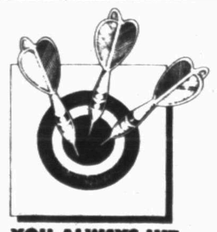

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TexSCAN Week of Dec. 06, 1998

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Lt. Gov's bodyguard quits

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma Highway Patrol bodyguard for Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin has resigned after admitting "unprofessional conduct" amid allegations by her estranged husband that she had an affair with a bodyguard.

Mrs. Fallin, a Republican who was elected to a second term last month, filed for divorce last week, accusing her husband, dentist Joe Fallin, of using drugs and physically abusing her.

Markets

NEWYORK(AP)
High Low Last

AMR Corp s 67¾ 66 9-16 67 9-16+ 9-16
AT&T Corp 67⅛ 65¾ 67 7-16+2 11-16
AirTouch 60⅝ 59 7-16 60¼+13-16
Albertsons 59 11-16 59 3-16 59 3-16— 9-16
AlldSignal 44½ 43¾ 44¼— ⅜
Alltel 53 7-16 53 1-16 53 7-16— ½
AmOnline s 91¼ 89 91 +1 5-16
AmStores 34¾ 34 7-16 34¾+ 1-16
Ameritech s 57¾ 57 57 5-16—15-16
Amoco s 56 3-16 55¾ 56¼+ 5-16
AndarkPtr s 28¼ 28¼ 28 5-16+ 5-16
ArmcoInc 3 15-16 3¾ 3 13-16
AuRichfld 66¾ 65 15-16 66¼— ⅜
ATMOS Egy 29½ 29¼ 29 5-16
Aviall 11¾ 11 11-16 11⅜+ ⅛
BakerHughes 18¾ 18 18 1-16— ½

Midday Stocks

BankAmerica 63¼ 62 5-16 62 5-16— 1¾
BellAtl s 57¼ 55¼ 57 3-16— 1-16
BellSouth 90 3-16 8989¼— 9-16
BellSouth wi 45¼ 44¼ 45 + 1-16
BethSteel 7 15-16 7¾ 7¾— 3-16
BritPet 86¼ 86 3-16 86¼+ ⅜
BurlNoSFe s 33¾ 33 7-16 33¾+ ¼
CBS Corp 31¾ 31 1-16 31 3-16— ⅛
Caterpillar 49 3-16 48 5-16 48½—11-16
CenSoWst 28 5-16 28 1-16 28¼
Chevron 83 9-16 81¾ 83¼+1 1-16
Citigroup 49¾ 48¾ 49½+ 7-16
Coastal s 34¼ 33 15-16 33 15-16— 3-16
CocaCola 67 11-16 67 3-16 67 5-16—1 5-16
ColgatePalm 85¾ 84¼ 84¾—11-16
ComclMetals 27 26¾ 27 + ⅛
CooperIn 50 3-16 49 15-16 50 1-16+ 1-16
CyprusAmax 10 7-16 9¾ 10 — 7-16
DaimlrChry n 90 7-16 88¾ 90 7-16+1 15-16
DallSemicn 41 7-16 40 9-16 41½+11-16
DeltaAirl s 55¾ 55 1-16 55 11-16+ ⅜
Dillards Inc 30 13-16 30¾ 30 9-16— ⅛
DowChem 94 13-16 93¾ 94 13-16
DuPont 55 11-16 54¾ 55⅜— ⅜
EastmanChem 57¾ 57¾ 57 11-16— ⅛
EstKodak 73¼ 72¾ 73 1-16—15-16
EDS Corp 41 13-16 40¾ 41¾— 3-16
Entergy 31 3-16 30¾ 31⅛+ 5-16
Exxon 73¾ 72⅝ 73¾+ ⅛
Flowers 23 5-16 23 23 1-16— 7-16
FordMotor s 55 9-16 55 55 5-16—1 3-16
GTE Cp 66 3-16 64¾ 66⅛+ 1⅛
GenDynam s 59 11-16 57 13-16 58 5-16— 1⅜
GenElec 90 3-16 89¾ 90 —13-16
GenMills 77⅛ 76⅛ 77 1-16— ⅛
GenMotors 69¼ 68 9-16 69¾— ⅜
GaPacGP s 56¾ 56 3-16 56 9-16— 5-16
GlobalMar 10⅝ 9¾ 10 — ⅛
Goodrich 34 3-16 33 9-16 34⅛+13-16
Goodyear s 56 15-16 56⅛ 56¾— 3-16
GtAtlPac 27¼ 26 13-16 27 — 1-16
Halliburtn 32 3-16 31¼ 31 9-16— 1-16
Hanson ADS 36 11-16 36 5-16 36 11-16+ 1-16
HarteHanks s 25 7-16 25 3-16 25⅜+ 1-16
HomeDepot 54¼ 52 9-16 53⅜+1 3-16
HoustonInds 32¾ 32½ 32¾— 5-16
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IntlPaper 43¾ 42¼ 42 15-16— ¾
JohnsonJn 80 13-16 79 13-16 80¾— 1⅛
K mart 14 15-16 14 11-16 14¾— 5-16
Kroger Co 56 3-16 55 13-16 55 13-16— ⅜
Litton 61⅛ 6161⅜— ⅛
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Lubys 14¾ 14 5-16 14¾+ 9-16
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Medtronic 70⅜ 69¾ 70¼+ ¾
Mobil 88 15-16 86¾ 87 15-16+ 9-16
Monsanto 43¾ 43 43 9-16+ 5-16
MorganJP 110 7-16 109¾ 109 3-16— ⅜
Motorola 62¾ 61 7-16 62 13-16+15-16
NCR Corp 40¾ 39¾ 39¾+ 1-16
Navistar 27¾ 27¼ 27¼— ⅛
OryxEngy 13 11-16 13 7-16 13⅜— 3-16
Penney JC 54¾ 54¼ 54 13-16+ 1-16
Pennzoil 35¼ 35⅛ 35 11-16— 5-16
PepBoys 13 7-16 12 15-16 13 5-16+ 5-16
PepsiCo 39 15-16 39 9-16 39 11-16+ ¼
PhelpDodge 54¼ 53⅜ 53 15-16— 5-16
PhilipPet 41¾ 40⅜ 40⅜— 5-16
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Polaroid 21 7-16 21¼ 21¼— 3-16
Praxair 36 7-16 3636¼— 3-16
ProctGamb 89 3-16 87 9-16 87⅛— 2⅛
PubSNwMx 18 11-16 18¾ 18¾— 1-16
RoyalDut 45 11-16 45¾ 45¾+13-16
SBC Comm s 50⅜ 49¾ 50¾— ⅛
SaraLee 57⅜ 57¼ 57⅜+ ⅛
Scripps EW 51 7-16 51 3-16 51 7-16— ¼
SearsRoeb 42¾ 41 15-16 42 1-16— 3-16
SherwinW 28 5-16 28 1-16 28¼— 3-16
SmithklBchm 63 3-16 62¾ 62¾— ⅛
SouthernCo 29¾ 28¾ 29¾
SwstAirl s 22¾ 22 5-16 22⅝+ 7-16
Sunoco Inc 33 3-16 32 11-16 32¾— ⅜
TNP Ent 38¼ 38 1-16 38¼+ ⅛
Tandy 40 1-16 39¾ 39 15-16+ 1-16
TempleInland 53¾ 5353¾— 5-16
Tenneco 35⅛ 34 5-16 34⅜—1 7-16
Texaco 55 11-16 55 5-16 55⅜— ⅜
TexInd 27¼ 26¾ 26¾— 7-16
TexasInst 87⅞ 85¾ 87 3-16+ 1⅛
TexUtil 46 15-16 46¾ 46 15-16+ 1-16
Textron 78 1-16 77 5-16 77 5-16— ¼
TriconGlbR 49¾ 48¾ 48 13-16— 9-16
TrinityInds 39¾ 39 3-16 39⅜+ 1-16
TritonEngy 9 3-16 8 13-16 8⅜— ⅛
Tyler 7 1-16 6 13-16 7 + 1-16
US West Inc 63 3-16 62¾ 62 15-16— ¼
USX-Marathn 28 9-16 28 5-16 28⅛+ 1-16
USX-USS 23 7-16 22 15-16 23 — 1-16
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UnionPacif 48¾ 48 5-16 48 9-16— ⅛
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Unocal 32¾ 31⅞ 31 15-16— ⅜
Venstor Grp 7⅛ 6⅝ 6¾+ ⅛
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WellsFargo 36¼ 35¾ 35¾— 1⅛
WstnGasRs 8¼ 8⅛ 8⅛— 1-16
WinnDixie 41⅛ 40¾ 40 13-16— ⅜
Xerox Corp 113 7-16 110 5-16 112⅜+ 2⅛

Search warrant leads to two arrests Monday

A search warrant executed by deputies at 7:11 p.m. Monday at 816 CR 444 resulted in two subjects being taken into custody on drug possession charges.

Deputies arrested 39-year-old Michael Todd Jones and 41-year-old Lisa Elayne Jones, both of 816 CR 444, and charged them with state jail felony possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance, psilocybin, a second degree felony.

Psilocybin is a chemical hallucegen found in the psilocybe mushroom.

In other activity Monday, Department of Public Safety troopers took a 41-year-old male into custody at 12:12 p.m. on U.S. Hwy. 84 for misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Officers also filed several offense reports Monday.

At 8:49 a.m., Melvin Davenport requested an officer in the 400 block of 36th Street in reference to someone spraying graffitti on the back of his building. An offense report was filed.

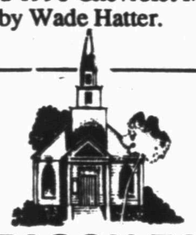
An officer was requested at Pizza Hut at 8:22 p.m. in reference to the theft of a customers wallet. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was filed.

A woman requested to speak to an officer at 9:43 p.m. in the 2100 block of 27th Street in reference to her 15-year-old daughter leaving the residence and not returning home. An offense report for runaway was filed.

Kim Sanderson requested to speak to an officer at 10:22 p.m. in reference to a theft from the American Legion. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

At 9:50 a.m., officers worked a two-vehicle minor accident in the 2400 block of Avenue Z. Involved were a 1974 Ford pickup driven by Leo Don Schattel and a 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Mary Courtney.

A two-vehicle mishap was also worked by officers at 6:32 p.m. in the 1800 block of 26th Street. Involved were a driverless 1979 Chevrolet El Camino owned by Wesley Barron and a parked, unoccupied 1998 Chevrolet Malibu owned by Wade Hatter.



GOOD NEWS
By Wayne Horton

REASON FOR THE SEASON?

Yes, I know that December 25th is not the birthday of Jesus. And, yes, I know that God didn't establish the holiday we call Christmas. And, yes, I know that "the Catholics" began it. And, yes, I know that it was a pagan holiday that was "Christianized." And I know that materialism runs rampant in this season. And I know that seemingly more people get drunk on booze than on the Spirit of God.

But I also know that I hear the name of Jesus more at this season than any other. I see reminders of His birth everywhere. I hear a cheerfulness in the "Merry Christmases" that I do not hear at other times of the year. I see a spirit of giving to the needy that is not evident in other seasons. I wish we'd Christianize every pagan thing, celebration and person! Isn't that what we should be about? And have you ever really thought about all the things we do that the Catholics did first?

"Jesus is the reason for the season." We've heard that a million times and there is abundant truth in the statement. But, Friends, Jesus came to that manger for one reason. Not so we'd have a Holiday but in order to die and pay the price for our sins. We were lost and hopeless and undone and broken and in despair. He came for one reason. That reason is people. Us!

So, in a very real sense, YOU...are the reason for the season! Hold any opinion you want about Christmas and how to celebrate it but don't forget that the Baby of Bethlehem became the Propitiation for all People.

May His peace rest upon your home this season and always.

Good News is a Ministry of the Hermleigh Church of Christ

U.S. infant deaths down, life expectancy up

WASHINGTON (AP) — More American babies are surviving, even after difficult births, and they probably will live longer, with Americans' average life expectancy now standing at an all-time high of 76½ years, according to new government statistics.

In a study published today in the journal Pediatrics, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that U.S. infant mortality rates have reached their lowest level in history.

In addition, teen pregnancies, as measured by the number of live births, fell 3 percent, continuing a downward trend that started six years ago.

"All of the trends are positive," said Dr. Bernard Guyer of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, who analyzed the government data for Pediatrics. "They are all going in the right direction."

The 1997 infant mortality rate, which measures the number of deaths between birth and the age of 1, was 7.1 per 1,000 births. That was about 3 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 7.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The drop in infant deaths came despite a 7.5 percent increase in the number of low birthweight babies and an increase of about 2 percent in the number of births by women late in their childbearing years. Pregnancy and birth complications are more common among older women.

There also was a sharp rise in multiple births, another medical complication that affects infant mortality. Guyer said the number of twins rose by 5 percent, while the number of "higher order multiple births" — triplets or more — increased by 20 percent.

That increase has come about because more women are using fertility drugs.

Medical science is combating potential complications by developing improved ways to treat and care for underweight and premature babies, Guyer said.

"We have become very good at treating them regardless of their birthweight," he said.

Yet despite the improvement in infant death rates, "we still rank pretty poorly" compared to other industrial countries, said Guyer.

Singapore, for instance, had an infant mortality rate of 3.8 per 1,000 live births in 1996, a little over half the infant death rate in the United States.

The number of years a person born in the United States can expect to live increased, in part because of falling death rates from major diseases and from accidents, homicides and suicides. Deaths from HIV, or AIDS, for instance, dropped by 47 percent in 1997.

A longer life expectancy, said Guyer, "reflects improvement at both ends of the life spectrum. The fact that infant mortality is down means that babies born this year are going to have a longer life expectancy. At the other end, we are able to prolong life longer and the aged are healthier."

The most dramatic improvement was among black males, whose life expectancy increased by 1.2 years to 67.3 years.

Next big winner at Billboard Awards

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Next was honored for being the next big thing in R&B, as the trio came away with eight of the Billboard Music Awards, including best new artist of the year.

Garth Brooks and Celine Dion each picked up six awards Monday night during the ceremony at the MGM Grand Hotel.

Next also won the hot 100 single of the year for "Too Close," R&B single of the year, R&B singles artist of the year and hot 100 singles duo or group of the year. The group picked up more awards for new R&B artist of the year, R&B group of the year and R&B singles airplay track of the year.

Brooks won country artist of the year and Dion won album artist of the year.

Performers included Bette Midler, Whitney Houston, Natalie Imbruglia, Shania Twain and Usher. Just the mention of the pop group Backstreet Boys had the teen girls in the audience screaming and yelling "I love you!" The reaction was so intense it drowned out the group's performance.

The Billboard Awards are determined by the magazine's year-end charts, which are based on a combination of record sales and radio airplay.

The winners were:

—Garth Brooks: country artist; country album and male album for "Sevens"; male albums artist; country singles artist; country albums artist

—Celine Dion: album for "Titanic"; female album for "Let's Talk About Love"; soundtrack album for "Titanic"; soundtrack single for "My Heart Will Go On"; album artist and adult contemporary artist

—LeAnn Rimes: female country artist; contemporary Christian artist; contemporary Christian album; country singles sales artist

—Usher: artist of the year; hot 100 singles artist; R&B artist

—Shania Twain: female artist; hot 100 singles female artist; best-selling country single for "You're Still The One"

—Everclear, modern rock artist

—Jay-Z, R&B albums artist

—James Taylor, century award

—Marcy Playground, modern rock track for "Sex and Candy"

—Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, rock track for "Blue on Black"

—Mase, rap artist

—Lord Tariq and Peter Gunz, rap single for "Deja Vu (Uptown Baby)"

—Natalie Imbruglia, adult top 40 track for "Torn"

—Lauryn Hill, R&B album for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill"

—Backstreet Boys, group album for "Backstreet Boys"

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Hunt considers adding to name

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Helen Hunt is considering adding a little punctuation to her name, in honor of her latest award.

The star of "Mad About You" and "As Good As It Gets" won E! Entertainment Television's Celebrity of the Year honor and will be seen accepting the prize during a one-hour special Thursday on the network, said E! spokesman Mark Rosch.

"My middle name actually is Elizabeth, so I'm Helen E. Hunt. And in honor of this I'm going to add the exclamation point to my name," Miss Hunt said in her acceptance speech, videotaped Sunday in Los Angeles.

Other contenders were Tom Hanks, Jerry Seinfeld, Brandy and Jim Carrey.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Diaries Give Extraordinary Voice to Ordinary Events

DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Tempted in Tennessee" *not* to destroy her diary of 50 years. She should leave it to a women's history archive, such as the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women in New Orleans.

Women's lives are reported far too often through the eyes of the men around them. Their writings and papers are either considered inconsequential or, if they're saved, they are archived with those of their spouse.

Diaries give historians and other scholars insights into the daily lives of ordinary women (and men) and are a valuable resource. Public television recently had a program about the diary of a midwife in early 18th-century Maine. This diary is the focal point of a marvelous book by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "A Midwife's Tale." Reading the diary excerpts in this book gives one a picture of the daily experiences of women in that time and place. Ulrich went beyond just the daily activities and wove them into a historical background.

The place for longtime diaries is, ultimately, a research library. According to the archivist at Newcomb, if you do not want to give up the papers themselves, they can be copied onto acid-free paper and the papers preserved for historians. The archivist will also tell you how to maintain any privacy you feel is needed. (I am currently doing this with a collection of letters my uncle wrote during World War II.)

Please don't destroy records of lives — let them become part of our history.

SUE ROWLAND, SLIDELL, LA.

DEAR SUE: Thank you for pointing this out. "Tempted in Tennessee" did not include her name and address with her letter, so I'm printing yours in the hope that she (and others who keep diaries and journals) will see it. I was unaware that research libraries might find them valuable.

Since that letter appeared, I have been inundated with letters telling me that such memorabilia could also be of interest to libraries and historical societies. If the contents are very personal, they can be donated under the condition that the contents not be revealed before a specific period of time has elapsed — say, 25 to 50 years.

***

DEAR ABBY: May I share with you what my 17-year-old stepson, Brandon McCoy, has done on his birthday since he was 11 years old? He has a party and invites many friends. He asks them to design a card or write a funny poem for him instead of buying a commercial card. He also asks them to bring cans of food instead of gifts. Friends deposit a sack of food as they enter the party, and no one sees who brought how much or what — they just see a sack.

After the party, Brandon calls the food bank to come and pick up the "loot."

What inspired Brandon was seeing a man begging for food outside a fast-food place. He took the man inside and bought him a meal, and thus was born the tradition of celebrating his birthday by gathering food for hungry people in our neighborhood.

Abby, he has fed many families this way, and we are so proud of him.

MAX AMOS, ANDERSON, IND.

DEAR MAX: I can see why you are proud of this generous-spirited young man. Brandon's idea could be implemented at holiday parties as well. Sharing the "wealth" with those less fortunate should be part and parcel of the holiday season.

***

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, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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A Remembrance Tree For Our Loved Ones

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it is important for us to pause for a moment to think of those who are or have been the shining lights in our lives. Some, sadly, are gone now, but the warm memories of moments shared with them, will remain with us always.

In our front yard, we have placed a special outdoor remembrance tree. Each one of the hundreds of lights is shining brightly to honor those special people in our lives. We hope you will drive by to see the lights and be reminded of the ones who have been the guiding lights in our lives.

Most of all, we trust that this Christmas season will reflect upon the One who said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

John 8:12

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Kids' cholesterol a bit lower, but many are still overweight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Today's teen-agers eat a little less fat and cholesterol than teens did in the late 1960s, concludes a government study that says the trend may give young people a better start at healthy adulthood.

Still, the cholesterol drop was just 4 percent, and only one in six children eats a heart-healthy diet, the National Institutes of Health reported Monday.

"The drop ... doesn't necessarily knock your socks off," acknowledged NIH cholesterol coordinator Dr. James Cleeman. "But if (teens) maintain a seven-point lower cholesterol for a lifetime, that can make a big difference."

Unfortunately, cholesterol matters even to children. Heart disease is the nation's leading killer, and autopsies of children killed in accidents showed that some of them had arteries that already were clogging with the fat.

Moreover, other heart risks are on the rise among children: Studies show more and more are overweight, and only about half of teens get enough exercise.

The new study, in this month's issue of the journal Preventive Medicine, used a massive federal health database to estimate the cholesterol levels and eating habits of children and teens.

The average total cholesterol level of today's teens is 160, Cleeman reported. That's down from a level of 167 in the late 1960s.

The new study also measured teens' levels of so-called good and bad cholesterol. But because earlier studies only measured total cholesterol, Cleeman could not compare those numbers.

Still, every 1 percent drop in people's total cholesterol levels translates into a 2 percent to 3 percent drop in the chances a person will have heart disease in the future, he said. So the 4 percent drop in teen cholesterol levels could prove significant if this generation of Americans can maintain the lower levels as they age.

During the same time period, adults' cholesterol levels dropped by 10 points. Heart specialists said the children's levels may have dropped merely as a side benefit of parents changing a family menu.

Cleeman also reported that:

—Teens' daily consumption of fat dropped from 37 percent of their calories in the late 1960s to 34 percent today, and their daily cholesterol intake fell from 350 milligrams to 265 milligrams.

—Black teens had cholesterol levels about 6 points higher than whites, and black girls had the highest average level of any demographic group studied, 168. The disparity was puzzling, because black adults generally have lower cholesterol levels than white adults, but Cleeman said black teens also were more likely to be overweight.

—The worst 5 percent of teens had much higher cholesterol levels, reaching 216.

Doctors do not recommend giving cholesterol tests to typical kids unless their parents have super-high cholesterol or early heart disease, Cleeman stressed.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998

There's a possibility that some of your business alliances won't live up to your expectations in the year ahead, so tread carefully when entering into a new partnership. Just the opposite will be true when it comes your social affiliations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Once you've committed yourself to a specific course of action today, don't vacillate. Success could be denied you if you get off track and do things in half measure. 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.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Unfortunately, you might have to contend with a strong-willed individual today who'll want to tell you how things should be done. Stand your ground and don't give an inch.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb. 19) Carelessness could be your worst enemy today, causing errors and hard feelings if you're not careful. Be cognizant of your actions, especially where money is involved.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If your objectives are not well defined today, your chances for achievement will be substantially reduced. Prioritize your goals and don't break from your plan of action.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're bound to find something that will give you justification for being suspicious of a companion if you keep looking for ulterior motives in everything that person does.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There could be an unexpected shift in a development today that might not go in your favor. Don't take anything for granted where an important matter is concerned.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Count to ten before you express what's on your mind, even if what you have to say is correct. It's your blunt words and behavior that could put you in the doghouse today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Everyone might be a bit grumpy and not in the mood to excuse other's temperaments today. Try to take it in stride and don't contribute to the mayhem.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If your "I gotta have it now" attitude takes over today, all of your good resolutions about not spending frivolously could go down the drain. Stay disciplined.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't place heavier demands on yourself than usual by trying to accomplish more things than you can manage today. Square pegs won't fit into round holes no matter how hard you try.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Mental tasks could prove frustrating for you today, so be extra careful if you have to work with facts or figures. If you make any mistakes, they'll have to be corrected later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be sure your financial projections are in line with current developments today, or an endeavor you're presently involved with could end up costing more money than you have.

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Date Book

Dec. 8, 1998

Today is the 342nd day of 1998 and the 77th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1776, George Washington and his army crossed the Delaware River near Trenton, N.J.

On this day in 1886, Samuel Gompers founded the American Federation of Labor, in Columbus, Ohio.

On this day in 1941, the United States declared war on Japan, following Japan's raid on Pearl Harbor the previous day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Eli Whitney (1765-1825), inventor; Diego Rivera (1886-1957), artist; James Thurber (1894-1961), humorist; Sammy Davis Jr. (1925-1990), entertainer; Jim Morrison (1943-1971), singer; Kim Basinger (1953-), actress, is 45; Sinead O'Connor (1966-), singer, is 32.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1992, Barry Bonds signed a $43.7-million, 6-year contract with the San Francisco Giants. At that time, it was the largest baseball contract ever.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A true critic ought to dwell rather upon excellencies than imperfections." — Joseph Addison

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 3) and last quarter (Dec. 10).

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A Very Drabble Christmas by Kevin Fagan

Titanic-type steel is examined in the sinking of British battleship

WASHINGTON (AP) — The same type of steel that cracked open when the Titanic struck an iceberg also may have doomed the pride of the Royal Navy — the battlecruiser HMS Hood — the largest and most powerful warship of the era, U.S. researchers say.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the ship was considered the preeminent symbol of British imperial power. Nicknamed "The Mighty Hood," it was frequently used for glamorous "show-the-flag" cruises around the world. And like the Titanic, Hood was perceived as unsinkable.

But on a cold May morning in 1941, the aging ship was virtually pulverized in an engagement with the new German battleship Bismarck off the coast of Greenland. Of Hood's crew of 1,418, only three survived one of the worst disasters in British naval history.

Naval enthusiasts are seeking to exploit the current global interest in underwater exploration generated by the film "Titanic" to mount an expedition to locate and film the wreck of the Hood. It lies 1½ miles below the Denmark Straits, some of the most inhospitable waters on earth.

The Titanic sank off Newfoundland on April 15, 1912, soon after it struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage from England to New York. More than 1,500 people perished.

Researchers have found evidence that the liner sank because the impact popped apart the luxury liner's dangerously fragile hull plates and rivets.

In contrast, the cause of the Hood's disintegration remains unclear, but the speed with which the 46,000-ton, 860-foot battlecruiser broke apart has led experts to theorize that a fire spreading from the deck to her magazines may have sparked an explosion, which in turn overstressed the hull.

Timothy Foecke, a metallurgist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md., said the ships' steel — although state-of-the-art at the time — was "very strain-rate sensitive." In other words, he said, like Silly Putty, it will stretch if pulled apart slowly but it will snap if it is pulled quickly.

"If the Hood's hull was disassembled very quickly by an explosion, then the steel may have indeed behaved very brittlely," said Foecke, who conducted extensive tests on metal fragments from Titanic.

The two ships were built at different shipyards and several years apart, but records show they were constructed from the same kind of steel, supplied to both ships by the manufacturer D. Colville & Co. of Motherwell, Scotland. The company no longer exists.

William Garzke of the U.S. Society of Naval Architects in Arlington, Va., said tests on recovered segments of the Titanic showed the rivets and plates were liable to crack easily under pressure, in contrast to the much more flexible steel used today.

"It is possible this was a factor in the sinking of the Hood," Garzke said.

Because the technology of deep-sea exploration has advanced so rapidly, even the most inaccessible shipwrecks now are reachable by deep-diving submersibles. Equally important, the once-prohibitive cost has fallen sharply.

"All the research and planning for the project has been done and it could be undertaken very quickly," said David Mearns, an American undersea search expert trying to raise money for the venture. It would involve mapping and filming the wreck. Under British law, the ship cannot otherwise be disturbed since it is listed as a war grave.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Where did my blood go?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I recently had lab work done that showed half of my blood was missing. After being admitted to hospital, I had a GI series, a barium enema, a sigmoidoscopy, a gastroscopy, a bone marrow examination - and I was given three units of blood.

At the end of all this, my doctor said everything was normal, and my problem was probably caused by taking aspirin. Can you give me a simple explanation of this scary and frustrating experience?

DEAR READER: I'll try.

You were anemic. This could have resulted from improper blood-cell formation, destruction of blood corpuscles within your body, or loss of blood. But if you weren't producing enough blood, the bone marrow test would have been abnormal, and the blood tests would have revealed if your blood cells were deformed or being destroyed.

By the process of elimination, then, your doctor was left with the probability that you were losing blood intermittently. Painless bleeding often occurs in the intestinal tract; such blood may not always be evident in the stool. The doctors investigated your intestine with several tests. Evidently, you did not have a tumor, ulcer or diverticulitis, the three most common causes of intestinal bleeding.

Aspirin may be the culprit. Along with other medicines used to treat inflammation and pain, aspirin can lead to bleeding from the stomach; the drug can cause gastritis, a raw inflammation of the stomach lining, which can ooze blood and may be difficult to diagnose.

If I were you, I'd lay off the aspirin and have your stool periodically checked for blood, perhaps as often as once a week for awhile. If the bleeding doesn't return, you can blame the aspirin and rest easy. However, if it starts again, you'll have to undergo more testing, which may include mesenteric arteriography, a fancy X-ray study to identify a source of bleeding within the large bowel.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Blood — Donations & Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2.00 plus a long, self-addressed stamped envelope to PO Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 21, uninsured, and I have very badly decayed upper teeth. What's the best and least expensive way to have them fixed?

DEAR READER: Check with a dentist. Ordinarily the cheapest way to treat badly decayed teeth is to have them removed and replaced with china choppers. If you want to save your teeth, the dentist may be able to repair and cap them, however that's a more expensive procedure. As an alternative, you might look into the possibility of being treated at a dental school. Dentists-in-training often do superb (and supervised) work at a fraction of the usual cost. It's part of their training and they welcome challenges.

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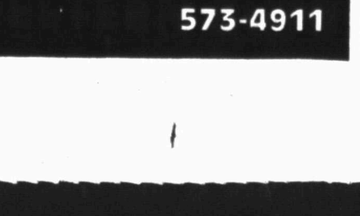
DR. GOTT



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ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY EMPTY?

Jesus "would often slip away to the wilderness and pray" **(Luke 5:16).** When His enemies were discussing what they might do to Him, "He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God" **(Like 6:12).** The next day He chose His twelve apostles. If you feel spiritually empty, it may be an indication that you may need to spend more time with God both in public worship and alone in prayer.

Christians may give, give, give of themselves, when they have just about run out of anything left to give. We need to remember that Jesus needed replenishment and so do we. When I was a young boy on the farm, the men would stop work at noon to eat and rest. They were not wasting time but gaining strength to work the rest of the day. A Christian who "takes time to be holy" is not wasting time.

DEC 8 1998

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Clinton's lawyers: No reason to impeach

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening a final, impassioned defense against impeachment, President Clinton's legal team told the House Judiciary Committee today that Clinton's conduct was "misleading, even maddening" but did not warrant removing him from office.

"Nothing in this case justifies this Congress overturning a national election," White House special counsel Greg Craig told the committee. "There are no grounds for impeachment."

He also questioned the truthfulness of Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose account of an affair and cover-up put the Clinton presidency in jeopardy. "We think in some areas she provided erroneous testimony that is in disagreement with the president's testimony," Craig said under questioning.

Craig said he did not believe Oval Office secretary Betty Currie or presidential friend Vernon Jordan, who also gave testimony that conflicted with Clinton's, lied.

After months of relentless attacks on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, the White House took a more gingerly approach toward the evidence he turned over to the impeachment committee.

On the issue of whether Clinton was truthful, Craig told legislators that, "you may judge he crossed the line, but in fact there is no testimony, no proof, that President Clinton knew he was wrong ... and intentionally lied."

Pressed by Republicans on whether the president plans to clear up discrepancies in his testimony, Craig said Clinton "has in fact corrected the most central element of what he testified evasively about. That had to do with the relationship that he denied and that he has now acknowledged." But he said he did not believe Clinton had lied under oath.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., attacked the White House for using legal experts, rather than witnesses with direct knowledge of the facts, to make its case.

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South Carolina pulls out of case against Microsoft

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Microsoft antitrust trial resumes, the roster of governments aligned against the software company is a little shorter.

In a high-profile defection, South Carolina announced it's pulling out of the case, expected to enter its eighth week today. That leaves 19 states and the Justice Department to wage the legal fight against Microsoft.

South Carolina Attorney General Charlie Condon, a Republican, cited last month's $4.2 billion purchase of Netscape Communications Corp. by America Online Inc. as evidence that in the nation's high-tech industry, "further government intervention or regulation is unnecessary and, in my judgment, unwise."

Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, contended Monday that the AOL-Netscape deal makes it "hard to believe the government can continue to make its case with a straight face." The deal "shows the marketplace is working just fine."

In a satellite interview with reporters, Gates portrayed himself as the victim of overzealous government lawyers who don't understand the industry's "incredibly fierce" competition.

Gates had particularly harsh words for Justice lawyer David Boies, who interviewed Gates for most of his 20 hours of questioning over three days last summer. The government has shown hours of videotape at trial from those interviews, in which Gates appears evasive and forgetful trying to dodge questions by Boies. Gates accused Boies of intentionally asking vague questions.

"Mr. Boies has made it clear in the negotiations leading up to this that he is really out to destroy Microsoft," said Gates.

The Justice Department, in a statement, dismissed the comments as "another public relations effort to distract attention from the overwhelming evidence introduced in court."

It said South Carolina's withdrawal will have "zero impact" on the antitrust trial.

Condon, the state's attorney general, said in a statement also distributed by Microsoft: "I can no longer justify our continued involvement or the expenditure of state resources on a trial that has been made moot by the actions of the competitive marketplace."

Obituaries

Barbara Chamness

1938-1998

Barbara Celeste Chamness, 60, of Snyder died Monday, Dec. 7, at her home after a lengthy illness.

Services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

She was born on Oct. 5, 1938 in Loraine.

Survivors include her parents, John W. "Wes" and Opal Chamness of Snyder; two brothers, Mickey Dale Chamness of Mephis, Tenn., and a sister, Bonnie Gail Tigrett of Las Cruces, N.M.

Ordon Benbenek

1920-1998

Ordon P. Benbenek died Monday, Dec. 7, in the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Big Spring after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church Chapel with Dr. Marty Akins, pastor of the church, and Surry Gillum officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born on April 27, 1920 in Snyder, he married Juanita Dixon on Nov. 30, 1946 in Snyder. Mr. Benbenek was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in Europe. He had worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 26 years, retiring in 1990. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Mr. Benbenek was preceded in death by one brother, Daren Benbenek, and one sister, Wanda Benbenek.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Benbenek of Snyder; one son, Daren Benbenek of San Angelo; two sisters, Thaba McMillan of Hermleigh and Thana Weller of California; and a number of nieces and nephews including Jimmy McMillan of Snyder, Leonard Groves of Ira and Billisue Stuard of Hermleigh.

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Summit opens on SS reform

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening a summit on Social Security reform, President Clinton prescribed no blueprint but told lawmakers and policy advocates today: "Our ears and our minds must remain open to any good idea and to any person of good will."

After a year of promises during congressional debates, at town-hall meetings and on the campaign trail, the president's address to the year-end White House Conference on Social Security centered around a plea for bipartisan cooperation on action next year.

Both Democrats and Republicans have pledged to try to find common ground on how to gird Social Security for the retirement of the nation's huge baby boom generation.

"We should begin this process on common ground — agreeing above all on the importance of acting and acting now, while we can, during prosperous and productive times," the president said.

The closest he came to revealing a specific idea on change was the sweeping and generic assertion that "Social Security is and must remain a rock-solid guarantee." On the politically charged question of whether some trust funds should be invested in the stock market, Clinton said only: "I believe we must construct a system where Social Security can be counted on regardless of the ups and downs of the economy or the market."

With Republican leaders saying they won't move forward until Clinton advances specifics, no decisions about the retirement program's future are likely to come out of the two days of talks.

"We're at a transition point where the question is how do we proceed with a bipartisan process and that's a very big question," said White House budget chief Jack Lew.

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Shurfine Chili Beans - 15 Oz.. ..... 3/$1

Baking Hens

89¢ Lb.

Van Camp Pork N Beans ..... 2/$1
Campbell's Cream Of Chicken Soup - 10 3/4 Oz.. 89¢
Shurfine Fruit Ring Cereal- 15 Oz.. ..... 2/$4
Shurfine Vegetable Oil - 48Oz.. ..... $1.79

Cube Steak

$2.99 Lb.

Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce - 16 Oz.. ..... 99¢
Price Saver Towels ..... 2/$1
Crystal Shine Dish Detergent - 33 Oz.. ..... $1.19
Kraft Marshmallow Creme - 7 Oz.. ..... $1.09
Mrs. Smith Pies $3.99

10 Lb. Bag Russet Potatoes

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Snyder ISD band Christmas concert

The concert will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Worsham Auditorium with free admission. The beginner band (sixth grade), junior high anbd high school bands will perform.

WTC Planetarium hours

The refurbished planetarium at Western Texas College is now available for star shows. Three different programs are available — one for pre-kindergarten children, one for children in grades K through 4, and one for general audiences (grade 5 through adult). Any of these programs can be shown Friday mornings and afternoons, by appointment. Evening and weekend shows can also be arranged. Appointments can be made by calling Sharon Gill at WTC, 573-8511, ext. 312. There is no admission charge.

Ira junior class selling spice

Ira's junior class is selling "Watkins 130th Anniversary" spice packages containing black pepper, cinnamon and double strength vanilla in a glass collector's bottle. These gift packages cost $22.99. To purchase contact any junior class member or call the school at 573-2628.

SHS choir sells poinsettias

SHS Choir members still have about 20 Jingle Bell Poinsettias available for sale. Poinsettias are $10 and can be purchased by calling the high school. If you prefer, you may come by the choir room and select your own or delivery is available. The choir is raising money to help support the choir trip to Disney World next spring.

Spanish Club fundraiser

SHS Spanish Club members are selling $2 chances to win a $100 gift certificate from Bealls or a Brighton watch from Bar-H-Bar Family Outfitters. Proceeds will be used to send club members to the state convention in April.

Tour of homes

The annual lighted Christmas tour of homes, sponsored by Historic Scurry County and the Historical Commission, will be held from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 12. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at Countryplace, American State Bank and Eddie Peterson's Pharmacy.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group

The Parkinson's disease community support group meeting is set for next Tuesday from 10 until 11:30 a.m. at the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Board Room.

Christmas lighting contest

Noon Friday, Dec. 18, is the deadline to enter the residential outdoor Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. Call 573-3558 to enter. Judging will begin at 6 p.m. Dec. 18.

Medical fund

A medical fund for heart patient Sherylyn Timora has been established at West Texas State Bank. Make contributions to the Sheryln Timora Medical Fund.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is selling windbreak trees. Both evergreens and hardwoods are available. Call 573-6317, or come by the office at 5309 Big Spring Highway.

Adult education classes

Adult basic education classes that can lead to a GED are underway at Western Texas College. Students may enroll at any time in Room 209 of the WTC library. Both day and evening sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday. Call 573-8511, Ext. 322, for more information.

Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval by the American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ACS 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 Monday night by the Texas Lottery:
12-34-20-16-32.
(twelve, thirty-four, twenty, sixteen, thirty-two.)

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
8-6-7.
(eight, six, seven)

FBI opens its Sinatra files

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI opened its Frank Sinatra files today, releasing more than 1,200 pages of documents touching on the Chairman of the Board's mob ties, unproved allegations of ties to the Communist Party, and a mug shot from his 1938 arrest on seduction charges.

The documents offered a hodgepodge of facts, allegations and rumors about Sinatra — from an unfounded report that he dodged the draft to any number of threatening letters to the singer.

According to the FBI, Sinatra had already seen the material after filing his own request in 1979 and 1980. The FBI came up with 1,300 pages of information on Sinatra, and released all but 25 of the pages.

The papers also indicate that the FBI received information on Sinatra from the late columnist Walter Winchell. A 1944 Winchell item about alleged threats to kidnap Sinatra's baby was duly noted. And Winchell tipped the FBI that same year that Sinatra had paid $40,000 for a 4-F draft classification during World War II.

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