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WT-Int. Crude - $26.83
WTIC Posted - $24.00

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 29, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 206
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Leroy Ochoa

Time getting short to file for March election

Monday is the deadline for filing for political offices for the March 14 Republican and Democratic primaries.

The resignation of Justice of the Peace Charlie Reynolds has prompted three persons to file for the office on the Republican ballot.

Deborah Boyd, a clerk in the JP office; Ben Smith, Snyder municipal court judge; and Dwaine Merritt, a former DPS officer and Chevron retiree, have filed the necessary papers with Republican chairman Drew Bullard.

The trio of candidates filed after Reynolds' resignation, effective Jan. 31, was formally accepted by the Scurry County commissioners court last week.

The election will be for the remaining two years on Reynolds' four-year term.

Reynolds is resigning to enter full-time missionary work in South America.

Resumes for an interim JP are now being accepted at the county judge's office. County Judge Ricky Fritz has said resumes will be accepted until Jan. 17 when the court is expected to appoint a replacement to serve until the general election.

So far, voters are looking at four other contested races in the primaries.

Precinct 1 commissioner Ralph Trevey is being challenged by Bill Baldwin and Cloyce Scarberry in the Democratic primary, while Precinct 3 commissioner Howard Limmer has drawn Joe Bass as an opponent in the Republican Primary.

Pat Alexander and Kirk Taylor are running on the Republican ticket for Precinct 1 constable.

Others who have filed, and who are currently unopposed, are District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, County Attorney Mike Hartman and Jeff Duck for Precinct 2 constable – all on the Republican ticket.

Sheriff Darren Jackson is unopposed on the Demo ballot as is Diana Williamson who is running for the tax assessor-collector post.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm is currently unopposed on the Demo ticket, but he has two Republican challengers.

Darrell Clements of Dallas has filed for the GOP ticket, and Shane Hunt of Granbury is seeking signatures in lieu of a filing fee to be placed on the ballot.

Local doctor reprimanded

Snyder physician Dr. Nelson Brice has been reprimanded by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners for a two-year period.

The action is based on Dr. Brice's failure to keep proper records of controlled substances, administering a drug or treatment that is non-therapeutic in nature and prescribing, administering or dispensing drugs in a manner not consistent with the public's health and welfare.

Jill Wiggins, public information director with the board of medical examiners, said Dr. Brice may continue his practice, but must comply with the terms of the reprimand or face additional sanctions.

"I fully intend to comply with the order of the board and continue my practice in Snyder," Dr. Brice said Wednesday morning.

Under the order signed on Dec. 11, Dr. Brice must obtain at least 50 hours per year of continuing medical education approved by the American Medical Association.

He must also submit a corrective action plan to the board detailing how he plans to improve documentation of medical records, including, but not limited to history and physicals, diagnosis, progress notations, laboratory findings and the prescribing of controlled substances, narcotics and dangerous drugs.

In addition, Dr. Brice's plan must address his treatment of patients with chronic pain,

See Reprimand, Page 9



DOWN FOR THE COUNT — Even with an assortment of Christmas gifts, these boys picked 20 oz. plastic cola bottles to play with this morning as temperatures were just right for being outside. Jared Cotton (right) seems to be taking the advantage over brother Seth. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)



THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "If you lend someone $20 and never see that person again, it was probably a good investment."

We've never been to the Holy Lands, but those who have often report with dismay concerning the commercialism that abounds.

Although the Good Book talks about the feat of walking on water as reserved only for Christ, there is a plan that would soon have the multitudes walking on the Sea of Galilee.

A millennium-year project of the Holy Apostles church, and overseen by the Israeli government, is construction of a pathway on the water's surface.

Visitors would pay a few dollars, and get their feet wet, by walking to a prayer platform in the sea.

The walkway is planned to take advantage of the millions of Christian visitors expected during the millennium year. Up to four million are anticipated – twice the number in a normal year.

The walkway is part of a $6.6 million pier complex intended to allow pilgrims to ferry from Tiberias on the western shore for day trips to Capernaum on the north.

The walkway is the most controversial element of the plan. One critic bemoaned, "This is trying to make a profit on the account of Christianity. We don't want another Disneyland."

Another called it a "grotesque parody," but walkway planners say they are being extra careful to make it a "tasteful attraction."

Planners counter that a marketing survey of potential visitors say 85 percent would be interested in walking in the same footsteps of Christ.

A fee of $5 or more will be needed to pay for the project.

Rather than a simple boardwalk or bridge, the project uses fancy technology to make sure pilgrims are at water level.

Floating supports will take in water and air in the same manner as submarines, thus allowing the walkway to remain on the surface.

Visitors can get their feet wet, or they can wear primitive shoes - also available for a fee.

The walkway wouldn't meet government standards in the U.S., since no handrails are planned.

Alert! Alert!

Just read about the newest year-end computer fear,

It's Y2KOK.

That's when a computer can't recognize that its Y2K problem has been fixed.

First quarter review...

Local economy on minds of citizens

Most of the folks in Scurry County had their traditional serving of black-eye peas on the first day of 1999 with hopes of seeing improvements in several areas - including oil prices.

The price of a barrel of oil on Jan. 1 was $12.05 – about half of the price today.

The low prices plagued the oil industry and had an impact on the economy in Scurry County.

Layoffs became the talk of the town as such stalwarts as Patterson Drilling, B.J. Services, Pennzoil and others laid off workers due to declining oil prices.

The downward trend in oil prices continued to skid for the first half of '99 until mid-summer when oil future prices reached $20 a barrel for the first time in two years.

Besides the price of oil, talk also centered on oilfield mergers and buyouts.

The purchase of Pennzoil by Devon Energy of Oklahoma City resulted in some layoffs at SACROC, and the fallout of the Exxon-Mobil merger is still playing out at Salt Creek.

Taxing entities tightened their budgets, and it seemed that every meeting involving budgets started off with a statement, "With the economy the way it is."

Scurry County got its first female county commissioner as Chloanne Lindsey was elected to the post in Precinct 4. And while there was no talk of leasing Cogdell Memorial Hospital in 1999, the rift between the hospital board and the county commissioners continued over finances.

Dayton Robertson took over as Snyder's mayor as David Holt decided not to seek another term. Two first-time office seekers were elected to the city council as James Ashley and James Jenkins were elected.

Western Texas College continued to adapt to the changing needs of the community with the addition of distance learning and its job training center.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice completed its warehouse expansion and the Price Daniel Unit got its first woman warden – Wilhelmenia Howard.

United Supermarkets opened its doors on College Avenue and Snyder National Bank opened a new drive-in banking facility.

The sounds of the summer hail storm are continuing to be heard today over town as roofs are still being repaired. Over $4 million in damage was reported in Scurry County.

Here are the highlights of the first three months of 1999:

January

People in Snyder began marking the days of the first month of the last year of the century on a calendar featuring a local landmark – the Sinclair service station in the 700 block of 25th Street.

Tony Hayley's refurbished station was one of 12 service stations featured on a calendar distributed by Roadway Express.

The calendar featured two stations in Texas. Besides Hayley's, a station that dishes out more barbecue than gasoline, a station in Adkins, was pictured.

Dr. James Burleson delivered the first baby of 1999 on New Year's Day as Summer Flores had a son born at 7:10 a.m.

Noah Flores was the first baby in a race with his twin brother who was delivered 31 minutes later.

Chloeanne Lindsey was sworn in as Scurry County Precinct 4 commissioner along with several other office holders who had won their spots in November.

Lindsey's swearing-in was noteworthy, as she is the first female commissioner to serve in the county.

In the first meeting of the year for the Snyder City Council, members tabled action on a proposed 4.63 percent rate increase by Lone Star Gas.



Chloanne Lindsey

TU Electric/Lone Star Gas manager Daryl Thomas presented the proposal and stated the company's last rate increase for Snyder was in 1984.

Thomas told the council that the company had 513 fewer customers in 1998 than it did in 1985.

Although the council tabled the rate increase in January, it later approved a 1.6 percent increase in March.

A proposal to build a S.T.A.R. boot camp-type area on city-owned property between 30th and 37th Streets was also tabled, because of liability concerns.

Low oil prices contributed to 1998 year-end bank deposits being reported in January which were some $22.3 million less than the same period in 1997.

The four reporting banks had deposits of $223.3 million as compared to the previous year's total of $245.6 million.

A Snyder historian and civic leader, Hugh "Brud" Boren, died on Jan. 8.

Boren was a partner in Boren and Son insurance agency and had served on the board of Snyder National Bank since 1951.

Scurry County residents joined the rest of the nation in paying a penny more for postage as the price of a first class stamp increased to 33-cents on Jan. 10.

Workers at the courthouse got an early taste of Y2K as office computers quit working on and off for a week.

"It's back to the Big Chief tablets and No. 2 pencils," quipped County Treasurer Charlie Bell.

Jack Taylor, construction superintendent for Lee Lewis of Lubbock, was being seen around town quite a bit as he was rounding up necessary supplies for the construction of the United Supermarket building.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital announced the hiring of Judy Border as a financial counselor.

Snyder's city council met in a special session and approved a $100,000-plus contract with a Lubbock engineering firm to assist in the city's water line replacement program. The contract was for two year's worth of engineering to replace some 7,000 feet of line, some of which had been in the ground for more than 45 years.

Snyder High School

See year-end review, Page 7



Landmark service station in Snyder featured on 1999 calendar

ASK US

Q-How much more trash was hauled to the city's landfill Monday than is normal?

A-The average tonnage on a Monday is 100 tons. On Monday after Christmas, 157 tons of trash was received.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 77 degrees; low, 29; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 33; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, fair skies. Low, 35-40. W wind 5-10 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny. High near 70. NW wind 5-15 mph.



Jayme Tomlinson
Sunny

Sunset:
5:50 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:42 a.m.

Of 362 days in 1999, the sun has shone 355 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Growth is the only evidence of life.
—Cardinal Newman

Y2K: Most stores report business as usual

NEW YORK (AP) — Store shelves are far from bare and many merchants say it's business as usual as Y2K draws near.

While some Y2K-fearing consumers are snapping up baby formula, electric generators and sleeping bags, most aren't purchasing a thing or just stocking up on basics, such as water and batteries.

"We have not seen our customers hit the panic button," said Don Harrison, spokesman for Home Depot, the Atlanta-based home improvement chain.

As the calendar changes, there have been concerns that computers will misread 2000 as 1900 and disruptions will occur — from electricity failures to disabled ATM machines.

But businesses and government agencies have worked to ensure their computer systems are Y2K ready. Most experts now say outages will be scattered and less severe than initially feared.

As a result, most Americans are making minimal preparations.

"I think more people are worried about the inconveniences that Y2K problems may bring, rather than if they will survive it," said Clay Parnell a partner at the Atlanta-based retail consulting firm Kurt Salmon Associates.

Many of the big retail chains — including Wal-Mart and Target where people would likely buy many of their Y2K supplies — have not seen any unusual uptick in business this week.

"The only thing that's going to happen is that people are going to be depressed when they find out nothing happened," said Charlie Bogle, as he shopped for a New Year's party at an Oakland, Calif., supermarket.

For those who are preparing for Y2K, the focus seems to be on the necessities that experts have suggested people buy, namely water, batteries and flashlights.

"Water is probably the biggest thing," said Randy Sharp, a manager at a Wal-Mart in South Charleston, W.Va. Stockers were filling the shelves Tuesday to keep up with the rush.

"We have cash on hand, a little bit of extra food and that's it," said Marguerite Harrington of Salt Lake City, who doesn't think disaster will strike.

While most people aren't going overboard for Y2K, there are those who are making sure they're somewhat prepared for the worst.

Rylee's Ace Hardware in Grand Rapids, Mich., has sold out of kerosene heaters and the staff is continually refilling kerosene tanks. In Jackson, Miss., people are buying cases of canned food at the Jitney Jungle grocery store.

Sales of baby formula at the Northeastern supermarket chain Pathmark are 40 percent higher than usual. And John Brogan, assistant manager of a Home Depot in Denver, said there's been an increase in demand for generators.

At Stroh's Surplus in Okarche, Okla., ski suits and sleeping bags have been selling well. An Exxon gas station in Brentwood, Tenn., sold 10 gas containers this week, much more than usual.

"I'm going to top off my tank just as a precaution," said Jill Madden while loading groceries into the back of her SUV outside a Publix Supermarket in Jacksonville, Fla.

Sears is protecting itself from would-be hoarders by imposing a 20 percent restocking fee to anyone who buys a generator and then tries to return it in January.

"I'm not scared of Y2K," said Judy Norton, who has nearly 15 gallons of gasoline and lots of supplies stored at her Traverse City, Mich., home. "Just being wise and prudent."

Couple charged with abandoning child

ROCKLAND, Del. (AP) — It seemed to speak of total desperation: A husband and wife allegedly abandon their 10-year-old son in his wheelchair at a hospital, with a note saying they can't care for him anymore.

But prosecutors say one the father is the head of a $500 million-a-year chemical company.

Richard Kelso, 62, and his wife, Dawn, 45, offered no explanation as they were arraigned on one count each of child abandonment and conspiracy. The couple was freed on bail Tuesday after a night in jail.

"It's clearly not a matter of money," said New Castle County police Lt. Vincent Kowal, adding the Kelsos left matching BMWs parked outside the station following their arrest.

Calls to the couple's home went unanswered.

Police said the Kelsos left their son, Steven, in his wheelchair Sunday at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, which has been treating him for many years.

The boy's mother "turned to the desk clerk to say she wanted her son admitted and left his clothes, toys, medical supplies and equipment before she left," said hospital spokeswoman Terri Volker Greenley.

Court documents filed Monday say the couple left a note saying they could not care for the boy.

Glover Crouch, an uncle of Mrs. Kelso, said the couple had been left without nursing help over Christmas, sleeping in shifts to handle his round-the-clock needs. He described them as loving, not neglectful, parents.

"They'd take him out to the movies, and out to dinner," he said, adding they even took the child horseback riding weekly.

"He is as happy a child as I have ever seen," Crouch said.

Crouch said Steven is the Kelso's only child, and suffers from cerebral palsy. He has spent most of his life on a respirator, he said.

Neither the hospital nor Delaware state officials would discuss details of the boy's condition.

The Kelsos live in Exton, Pa., an upper-middle-class community outside Philadelphia. At PQ Corp., a chemical company in Valley Forge, Pa., Kelso oversees 69 plants in 18 countries, with 1,600 workers worldwide.

"It's tragic," said Betty McAdams, administrator for the Greater Philadelphia First board of directors, of which Kelso is a member. Greater Philadelphia First is a civic association of chief executives from 33 of the region's larger corporations.

"The only thing I can think of is that it is very difficult to care for a severely disabled child and be the president and CEO of a major company," Ms. McAdams said. "Maybe someone snapped."

Neighbors also described the couple as devoted to their son.

"It was pretty all-consuming — they didn't seem to do anything besides taking care of him," said Pat Mastricola.

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1999
Today is the 363rd day of 1999 and the eighth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1890, soldiers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry massacred more than 200 Native American men, women and children at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

On this day in 1930, Fred Newton became the first person to swim the entire length of the Mississippi.

On this day in 1972, the last issue of the weekly version of Life magazine was published. The magazine had been published for 36 years.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Goodyear (1800-1860), inventor; Andrew Johnson (1808-1875), U.S. president; William Gladstone (1809-1898), British statesman; Pablo Casals (1876-1973), musician; Mary Tyler Moore (1937-), actress, is 63; Jon Voight (1938-), actor, is 61; Ted Danson (1947-), actor, is 52.

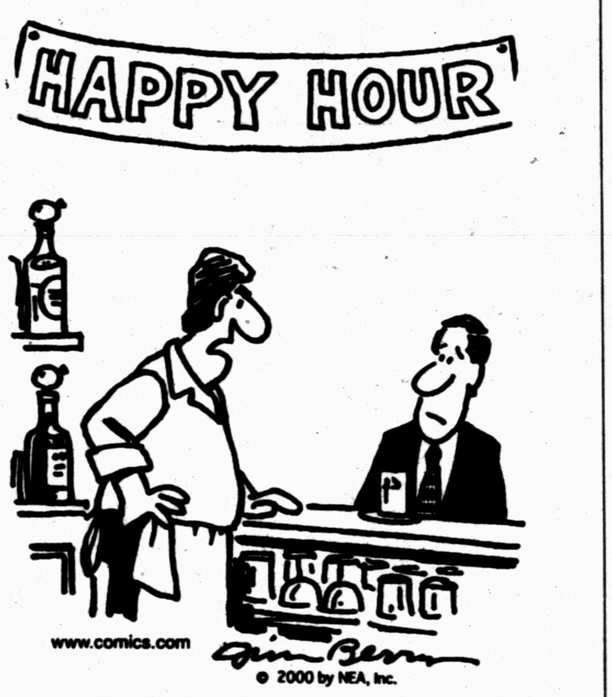
TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1957, the Detroit Lions defeated the Cleveland Browns 59-14, winning the NFL championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All the world over, I will back the masses against the classes." — William Gladstone

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter.

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Berry's World



"Look, fella, either cheer up, OR YOU'RE OUTTA HERE."

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Faces From The Past...

Do You Know These Faces? If You Do... ENTER!! You Don't Have To Know Them All..

The Prize For The Winner This Week Will Be
3 Month Subscription to the Snyder Daily News
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3.

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SNYDER DAILY NEWS
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LAST WEEK'S WINNER IS ELLIS FOX

Faces From The Past Entry Week 100
1. Texas Savings Bank _____
2. Fast Oil Change _____
3. Plaza Cafe _____
4. Cutting Edge _____
5. West Texas State Bank _____
6. American State Bank _____
7. Rudy's Restaurant _____
8. Bell-Cypert-Seale _____
9. Snyder Daily News _____
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Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

In each advertisement you will find a face from the past. Identify the faces on the entry blank opposite the name of the sponsoring business. **Bring or mail the entry blank to the Snyder Daily News, 3600 College, PO Box 949.** The deadline for entering is 5 p.m. Monday before the next contest appears on Wednesday. The weekly prize winner will be drawn from all the correct entries. The winner will be notified. This week's faces will be identified in next week's contest. Only one entry per person, and please do not make copies of the entry blank. Employees of the SDN are not eligible to enter.

Last Week's Photos: 1. Tammy O'Day 2. Tommy Peek 3. Roger Patterson 4.Barry Mayo 5. Toby Neves 6. Ricky Johnson 7. Christy Jinkins 8. Vickie Kornegay 9. Andrea Killian 10. Becky Martin

TV's 'Lone Ranger' dead at 85

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Though he appeared in about 70 films, actor Clayton Moore lived and breathed one role in particular: a masked hero who taught millions of children that the good guys were brave, honest and always wore a white hat.

Starring on TV as the "Lone Ranger" during the 1950s, Moore grew to transcend the role, making public appearances for decades in costume to espouse the character's moral code of justice and democracy.

"The Lone Ranger is a great character, a great American. Playing him made me a better person," Moore said in a 1986 interview with The Associated Press.

"When I go, I want them to say, 'Who was that masked man?'"

The actor whose battle cry was "Hi-yo, Silver," and whose theme music was the driving "William Tell Overture," died of a heart attack Tuesday. He was 85.

"My father was an incredibly humble man who was honored to have portrayed this amazing character," Moore's daughter, Dawn Moore Gerrity, said Tuesday.

"He constantly strove to live up to the finest tenets of the Lone Ranger, knowing he influenced children worldwide. He held his fans' love and loyalty very close to his heart."

A pioneer of the early TV western, Moore starred in "The Lone Ranger" from 1949-52 and 1954-57, crusading against villains on his horse Silver, his Indian companion Tonto at his side.

The character was born as a radio hero in the 1930s. Moore was cast as the masked man when the show moved to television, with Jay Silverheels co-starring as Tonto. Silverheels died in 1979.

Moore starred in most of "The Lone Ranger" episodes, though John Hart played the part for two seasons when Moore left the show over a contract dispute.

Into the 1980s, Moore would speak to children in his white hat, powder blue shirt and pants, gun belt with silver bullets and twin holsters, red bandana and boots.

He even waged a five-year court battle to continue wearing the Ranger's trademark black mask when the company that owned the rights to the character wanted to hand the role to a new actor.

Why a good guy would wear a mask was explained in the show's first episode: The Lone Ranger disguised himself because he was the only survivor of a group of Texas Rangers ambushed by a gang of desperadoes.

After Tonto found him and nursed him back to health, he donned the mask to protect himself from his enemies and the two roamed the West in search of bad guys.

As he'd ride into the sunset each week after rescuing the innocent from the evil, one of those he'd saved would invariably ask: "Who was that masked man?"

Fans loved the series' trademarks, from the rousing opening theme music to that closing line to the silver bullet calling cards to Tonto's nickname for the Ranger, "kemo sabe."

At public appearances, Moore lectured to children against guns, drugs, alcohol, smoking and foul language. Moore liked to say that the character embodied the creed that "everyone has within himself the power to make this a better world."

"He embodied the idealized vision of what people thought the West was about," said James Nottage, chief curator of the Autry Museum of Western Heritage.

"For people who grew up with his television version, he was the Lone Ranger. He conveyed certain values and behavior, how kids were expected to act," he said.

Even into the '80s, people would drive past his Calabasas home in the oak-studded foothills 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, and yell, "Hi-yo, Silver."

Moore was born Sept. 14, 1914 — some sources give an earlier year — in Chicago, son of a real estate developer. He worked in a circus trapeze act and as a model before heading to Hollywood in 1938.

He first appeared in movie serials such as "Dick Tracy Returns" and would also star in the feature films "The Lone Ranger" and "The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold" in the late 1950s.

Moore is survived by his wife, Clarita, and his daughter, Dawn Moore Gerrity. He had been married previously to actress Sally Allen, who died in 1986.

Dusty Rogers, 52, son of Dale Evans and the late Roy Rogers, said Moore used to bounce him on his knee when he was a boy. He noted that Rex Allen, a singing cowboy of "B" movie westerns, also died this month.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-29-99
♠ A 9 5 4
♥ A Q 10
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ 4 3

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

East
♠ 2
♥ K J 9 7 5
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 8 7 6 2

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

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ J

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1999

Or, the greatest player of all time?

Giorgio Belladonna, who died in 1995, was a colorful character. He loved life and was always the first onto the dance floor after a major bridge championship. He enjoyed talking with anyone and had a great sense of humor.

In the Blue Team, he partnered Walter Avarelli, using their homegrown Roman Club system. After the retirement of the Blue Team, Belladonna formed a powerful partnership with Benito Garozzo. (When asked if he read much, Belladonna replied, "Benito's systems and conventions!") And when Garozzo moved to America, he enjoyed considerable success with Pietro Forquet.

At the bridge table, Belladonna produced many wonderful coups. This deal, though, just required good technique tied to pessimism. How would you plan the play in four spades after West leads a club?

North's bid of three spades was a limit raise, inviting game.

Most players would take one heart and two diamond finesses, then complain about their bad luck when all lost and there was a trump loser to boot.

Belladonna worked out how to make the contract regardless. After winning with the club queen, he cashed the spade king and led a spade to dummy's ace. Resisting the temptation to take a diamond finesse, Belladonna played off his other two club tricks, discarding the heart 10 from the dummy. Then he led a heart to the ace, and followed with the heart queen.

East won with the king and switched to a diamond, but Belladonna finessed the 10, endplaying West, who had either to return a diamond away from his king or to concede a ruff-and-discard.

Belladonna was the only player on all 16 Italian world championship winning teams.

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REMEMBER!
Kids Eat Free Tonight
Pizza Inn 573-3542
3907 College

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Complaint about women who don't drive touches raw nerve

DEAR ABBY: In my 66 years of life, I have never written to you, but I have to respond to the letter from "Widow Driver," who complained about chauffeuring older women who don't drive.

She seems to think that a driver's license is obtainable by anyone who can guide an automobile without hitting too many obstacles.

My wife can drive a car to some extent. I taught her the basics in case of emergency. But when we went to the DMV to see about making it legal, she passed only the written test. When the eye test was administered, the examiner said, "Lady, you should not even WALK on the road — much less drive on it!"

So, while she can "paddle her own canoe" — to use your phrase — she cannot see where it is going. Does "Widow Driver" want my wife approaching her grandkids' school crosswalk? I doubt it. — LONE DRIVER, HILLSBOROUGH, N.C.

DEAR LONE DRIVER: I doubt it, too. That letter certainly touched a nerve with my readers. Mail about it poured in for days. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Widow Driver" prompts my own. What a smug, selfish person! There are many reasons why older people cannot drive — and the LEAST of them is that they don't know how. The aging process may cause blindness and other serious health problems. Most of my friends who need transportation mourn the loss of their independence. No doubt, there are those who could learn to drive, but please don't lump all senior citizens into one group. — FLORIDA READER

DEAR FLORIDA READER: You're right. Just because older people don't drive doesn't mean they don't know how. Some suffer from medical conditions that do not permit them to drive, and others are exercising good judgment because they could be a danger to themselves or others. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for your reasoned response to the mean-spirited woman who complained about non-driving widows. I'm sure there are many reasons for a woman to fall into this category. I once read that high-grade morons make the best drivers, and I hate the assumption that a woman who doesn't drive is an inferior being.

Although I have never driven, I served in the Air Force, raised two children, and have led a useful life using public transportation (taxis, buses — and yes, occasionally good friends). I have "paddled my own canoe" and have never been a "mooch," always offering to buy gas or treat the driver to lunch. And yes, I have saved a bundle by not owning a car. What's wrong with that? — DONNA IN MESA, ARIZ.

DEAR DONNA: Not a darn thing, from my perspective. I think ride-sharing is an admirable and environmentally friendly way to go. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was furious when I read the letter from "Widow Driver." Has the milk of human kindness curdled in that woman's breast? To write such an ugly letter has probably caused a lot of women pain and anguish, thinking they are the widows in the letter.

If the woman needs help to pay for the gasoline, she should TELL the widows. I'm sure they'd help.

I'm signing my name as I do on letters to friends, so that people know who wrote this letter and can call me for rides if they need them. — KATHY T., LAYTON, UTAH

DEAR KATHY T.: Spoken like a good neighbor. I salute you.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, 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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Tipper Gore has operation

WASHINGTON (AP) — An operation to remove a growth on Tipper Gore's thyroid gland was performed after an earlier test could not rule out cancer, her spokeswoman said.

The two-hour operation went as planned Tuesday, and the vice president's wife was alert and comfortable at Johns Hopkins Medical Center afterward, spokeswoman Camille Johnston said.

Vice President Al Gore accompanied his wife to the Baltimore hospital, and remained with her after the operation. She was expected to be released today.

Results of pathological tests on the nodule, or small growth, will be available next week, said surgeon Dr. Robert Udelsman in a statement issued through the vice president's press office.

"Earlier diagnostic studies ... were performed and were inconclusive," Udelsman's statement said.

The earlier tests included a procedure in which a needle is inserted into the nodule and a small bit of tissue extracted. Tuesday's surgery, called a "right thyroid lobectomy" was much more extensive, and required putting Mrs. Gore under general anesthesia.

The procedure should not affect the functioning of Mrs. Gore's thyroid, Ms. Johnston said.

The thyroid gland, located in the neck, produces hormones that regulate the body's metabolism.

Mrs. Gore, 51, has no symptoms of thyroid disease, Ms. Johnston said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The story on SAMe

DEAR DR. GOTT: My friends swear by a new product, called SAMe, which is supposed to promote emotional well-being. Is the drug all it's cracked up to be?

DEAR READER: Yes and no.

S-adenosyl-methionine (SAMe) is a product that has been synthesized from two metabolic compounds (methionine and adenosine-triphosphate). Some studies have shown that SAMe is an effective treatment for major depression. However, these studies were not completely conclusive because they were not continued long enough. Moreover, the drug did cause some side effects, including gas, nausea, diarrhea, headache and anxiety.

According to the Medical Letter (Nov. 5, 1999), which is the gold standard of drug bulletins, SAMe is not consistently effective and its manufacture is poorly controlled; therefore, the consumer may not be getting what he or she expects. In fact, some oral preparations have been found to contain no SAMe at all. Like most dietary supplements, SAMe is not a Food and Drug Administration approved product; hence, care should be used by people who choose to try it. Finally, the product is not cheap; a month's supply costs about $225.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have recurring attacks of pain under the ribs on the right side of my abdomen. When I went to the ER one night, the doctor examined me and prescribed an enema. My regular doctor seems to ignore my symptom. I'm a 50-year-old woman who is about 20 pounds overweight. Could I have gallstones?

DEAR READER: By all means. And I recommend that you have testing to see if you do. This can quickly and painlessly by accomplished by a liver and gallbladder ultrasound examination. Ask your doctor to order the test.

As you know, gallstones are common in middle-aged, stout women. Thus, I would assume that this is your problem. Get the ultrasound exam as a first step.

If my gut feeling is wrong and the test is normal, you should undergo further, extensive, X-ray testing. Should your doctor be disinclined to help you, insist on a referral to a gastroenterologist. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Gallbladder Disease." 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.

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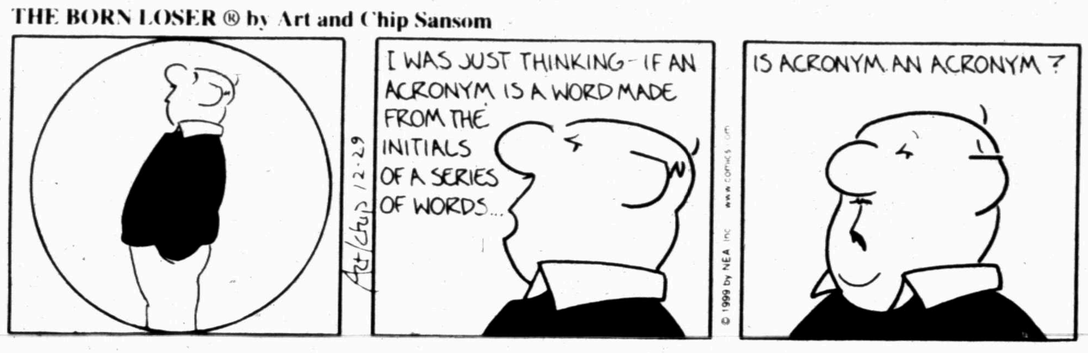
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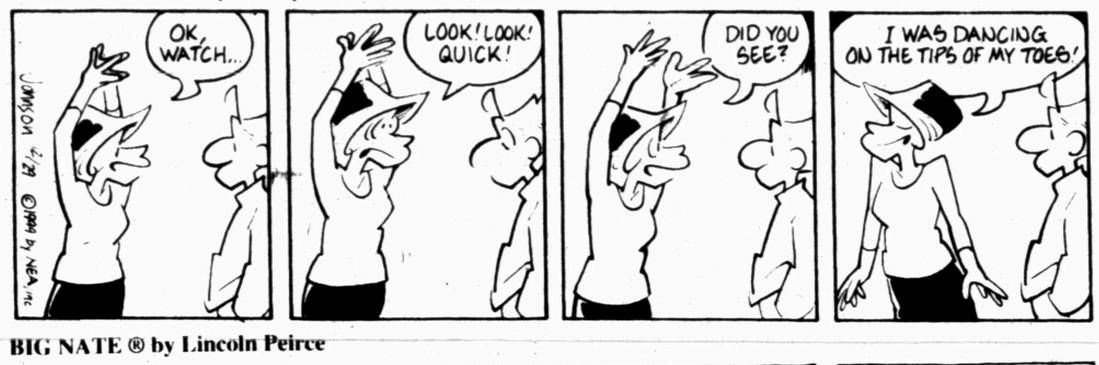
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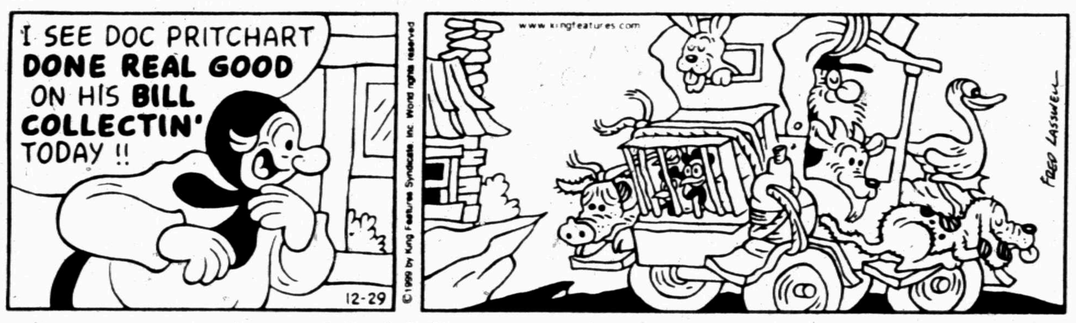
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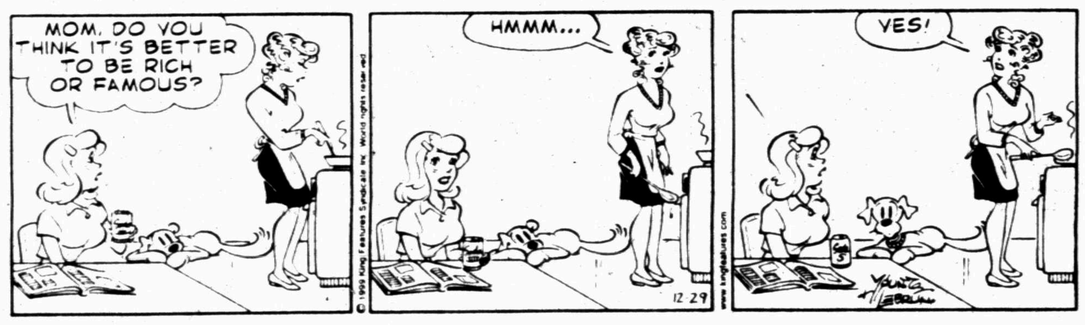


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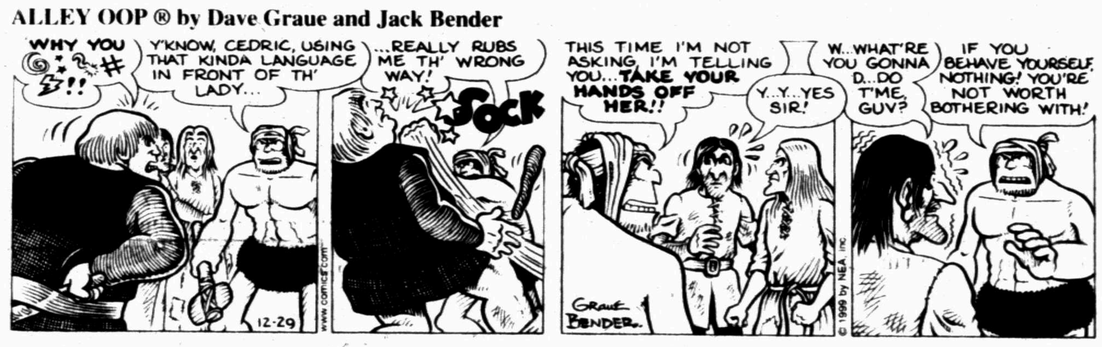
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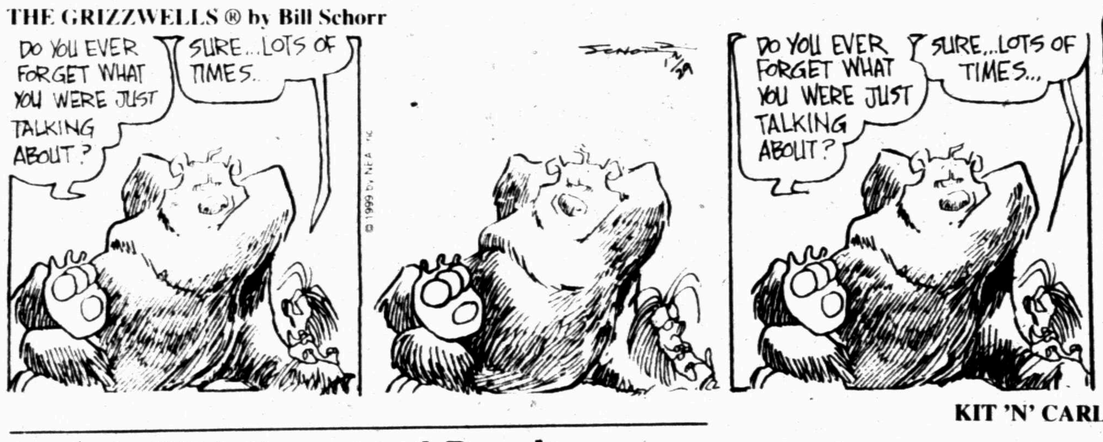
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Cows and bulls
7 Like beer in bars (2 wds.)
12 Loan shark
13 Blessed event?
14 Type of split
15 Muscle part
16 Greek letters
17 One (Scot.)
18 Nautical rope
21 Boldness
23 Brown kiwi
26 Scottish island
28 Looks at
29 Letters of the alphabet
30 Act like George Gallup
31 Guarantees
33 Magic potion
36 Type of lily
37 Dawn goddess
38 St. crossers
40 Hebrew lyre
41 Finish an "i"
42 Darken
44 Explosive inits.
45 Animal's coat
46 For (Sp.)
48 Volcanic rock
51 Prepares walls for painting
55 Quarterback Johnny —
56 Glimpses
57 Part of a stair
58 Fond wish

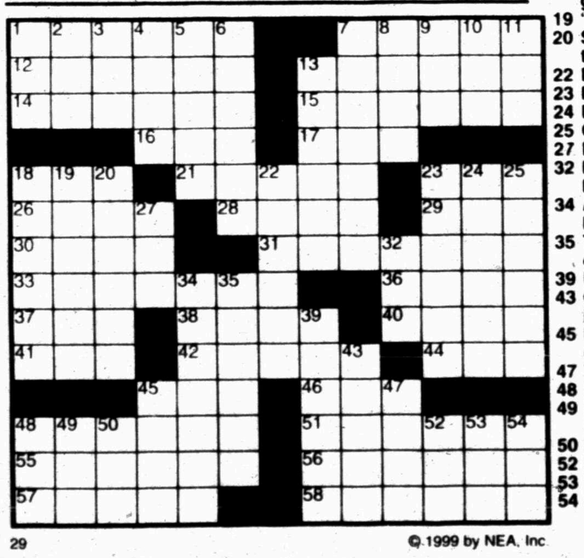
DOWN

1 Baby bear
2 — — rule (usually)
3 Cask
4 Pitfall
5 Former Soviet leader
6 Uses a pencil end
7 Wholeness
8 Hawaiian bird
9 Koppel or Turner
10 Containing nitrogen (pref.)
11 Sty
13 Barrel parts
18 Gave a gratuity
19 "Hey!"
20 Sign up for the army
22 Brought up
23 Most unusual
24 Beaver State
25 Classify
27 Everything
32 Neighbor of Mex.
34 Arranged in a list
35 Turns outward
39 Used a straw
43 Code inventor
45 Inevitable outcome
47 Tears
48 Prickly seed
49 Southern blackbird
50 Bro's sib
52 Roman 1,002
53 "Ballad" end
54 Opp. of NNW

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	I	N	E	S				Z	E	S	T	
A	B	A	S	E	D		D	O	M	A	I	N
S	A	P	P	E	D		W	O	O	L	E	N
E	R	S			A	D	E		R	E	D	E
			R	O	Y	A	L	L	Y			
W	I	N	E	S		D	L	O		A	D	O
A	G	A	S	S	I		E	V	A	D	E	D
S	E	P	T	I	C		R	E	L	I	E	D
P	T	A		F	I	N		L	U	M	P	S
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P	U	L	S	E	S		P	L	A	S	M	A
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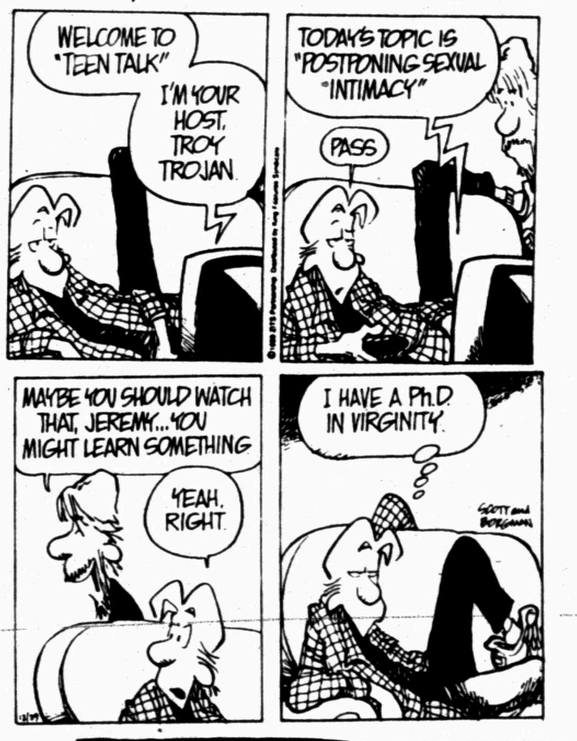
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"I can get a court order to stop you from teaching her to cook."





"...BUT, YOU TOLD ME TO GO SIT IN THE CORNER."

SPORTS

Snyder 58, Canyon 45...

Tigers top Canyon, secure tourney title

BROWNWOOD — After falling to Wichita Falls in last year's title game, Snyder got its revenge against the Coyotes in Tuesday's semifinals. And the Tigers used the momentum to capture the Brownwood Tournament crown.

Snyder knocked off Wichita Falls, 58-54, before downing Canyon in the championship round, 58-45, to win the two-day event.

The three wins, which include a first-round victory over O'Donnell, improve the Tigers' mark to 11-8 heading into Tuesday's home date with Levelland.

"Coming into the tournament, we're weren't playing that bad. It was just a few little things that were getting us beat," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "But we went over those things before we left, and the kids worked hard to correct them. We still have a lot of improving to do, but this is a big step forward."

In the semifinal match-up, the keys for Snyder were handling the Wichita Falls press and stopping the Coyotes penetration. The Tigers did both.

Senior point guard Jared Hester maneuvered the Tigers through the full-court pressure, and a team-effort on the defensive end limited the Coyotes to only 20 points in the second and third quarters.

"Wichita Falls is extremely quick and very talented. But our guys competed with them," Birks said. "We held our own on the boards and did a good job of stopping their penetration. Hester was exceptional the whole tournament. He ran our offense the way it needed to be run, and he was tough on the defensive end."

Hester and fellow senior Greg McAnaw received all-tournament honors, while senior post Sonny Cumbie was named tournament MVP.

It was Cumbie and McAnaw who helped shoulder the load in the title game. Cumbie poured in 15 points underneath, with McAnaw draining 6 of 10 three-point attempts for 18 points.

Snyder, which has struggled against zone defenses in the past, executed its offensive game plan against Canyon.

"Canyon plays a totally different style than Wichita Falls," Birks stated. "They played zone about three-quarters of the game, but we did a good job against it. Greg hit some three-pointers, and Sonny made some great passes.

"Overall, it was a good three games for us, because everybody contributed. Our guys coming off the bench kept up the level of play when they were in there, and it allowed us to get other guys some rest. Some players had great offensive outings, and others contributed on the defensive end. But everybody contributed somewhere."

Snyder opened up a nine-point halftime lead against Canyon, before extending it to 13 points in the third quarter, thanks to a trio of long-range buckets from McAnaw.

With Canyon forced to foul down the stretch, Snyder went 8-of-11 from the line in the fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Snyder	19	15	12	12	— 58
Wichita Falls	16	11	09	18	— 54

Snyder
Cumbie 3 1-3 7, Wofford 1 0-0 2, Pinkerton 5 2-2 12, Hester 4 7-8 15, McAnaw 5 0-0 12, Thornhill 3 2-4 8, Loper 1 0-0 2. **Totals 22 13-17 58.**

Wichita Falls
Stokes 0 0-2 0, Chenault 1 6-7 9, Kindles 3 4-4 10, Bell 1 0-0 2, Powdrell 6 8-8 20, Shrubs 1 2-2 4, Kelly 2 1-2 5, Easter 1 1-3 3, Daniel 1 0-0 2. **Totals 16 22-28 54.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 2 (McAnaw 2), Wichita Falls 0. Total fouls: Snyder 25, Wichita Falls 19. Fouled out — Pinkerton, McAnaw.

Snyder	15	15	14	14	— 58
Canyon	11	10	10	14	— 45

Snyder
Cumbie 4 7-10 15, Wofford 2 01-2 5, Pinkerton 4 5-6 13, Hester 0 7-10 7, McAnaw 6 0-0 18. **Totals 16 20-28 58.**

Canyon
Allen 2 1-4 5, Turner 3 0-0 7, Lombard 1 0-0 2, Shepard 2 3-4 9, Roberts 5 0-2 10, Scott 1 0-0 3, Waters 1 1-2 3, Thiel 3 0-1 6. **Totals 18 5-13 45.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 6 (McAnaw 6), Canyon 4 (Shepard 2, Turner, Scott). Total fouls: Snyder 17, Canyon 23. Fouled out — Cumbie; Thiel.



LAYUP — Snyder junior Jared Thornhill puts in two points during action against Midland Lee earlier this month. The Tigers captured the crown of the Brownwood tournament Tuesday.

Ira downs 2A Keene in first round, 69-58

HALTOM — Jenson Gainer didn't score a single point for the Ira Bulldogs. But his defensive effort, along with that of teammate Jose Juarez, spurred the Bulldogs' victory.

Gainer and Juarez limited the second-half production of Keene star Noah Brown, to help rally eighth-ranked Ira to a 69-58 opening round win Tuesday at the Fort Worth Holiday High School Classic.

Brown, who has led Keene to its No. 20 ranking in Class 2A, exploded for 21 of his 32 points in the first half, before Gainer and Juarez put the clamps on him for the final 16 minutes.

Trailing by a 34-30 tally at the midway point, the Bulldogs switched to a diamond-and-one defensive set in the second half. Juarez used his speed to shadow Brown all over the court, before Gainer took over in the fourth quarter.

"Brown is an extremely good player, and he was eating us up in the first half," said Ira coach Bubba Edwards. "So we switched defenses at halftime, and Jose and Jenson got after him. Jose started wearing him down, and then Jenson got in his head. He got him frustrated and it took him out of his game. The play of Jose and Jenson was a huge part of this win."

The Bulldogs took advantage of Keene's limited offensive production in the third quarter with a 19-14 scoring edge to grab a one-point lead heading into the final period.

Trailing for the first time, Keene employed a full-court press. The Bulldogs made the most of it, out running their defenders down the floor for layups. Ira registered 20 points in the fourth quarter, most of them coming in transition, to pull away for the 11-point victory.

"We didn't do a whole lot of things differently in the second half on the offensive end," Edwards remarked. "Keene played really good man-to-man defense and it took us out of our offense at times. We were able to score more in the second half because we beat them down the court when they were trying to press. We stayed patient when we had to throughout the whole game, and the kids got the job done."

Ira (16-0) was to have faced No. 2 Brookeland in a second-round match-up this morning. The undefeated Wildcats advanced to the state title game a year ago.

The tournament continues on Thursday, with the championship game scheduled for 7:30.

Keene	18	16	14	10	— 58
Ira	14	16	19	20	— 69

Keene
Leal 4 0-0 10, Brown 13 4-5 32, Reyes 1 0-0 2, Castillo 2 0-0 4, Esquivel 2 2-2 6, Murff 2 0-0 4. **Totals 24 6-7 58.**

Ira
Smith 2 0-0 5, Brown 7 4-6 18, R. Wilkins 1 2-5 4, Juarez 5 2-3 12, Wall 0 2-2 2, Olvera 2 0-0 4, Daves 8 8-10 24. **Totals 25 18-26 69.**

Three-point goals: Keene 4 (Leal 2, Brown 2), Ira 1 (Smith).

In the Alamo Bowl...

Penn State wrecks Aggies, 24-0

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Penn State shook off that losing feeling.

Rashard Casey passed for a touchdown and ran for one as No. 13 Penn State, ending a three-game losing streak that cost it a possible shot at the national title, defeated No. 18 Texas A&M 24-0 Tuesday night in the Alamo Bowl.

Penn State (10-3) sent longtime defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky into retirement with a strong performance, shutting down Texas A&M's rushing and passing offense.

Penn State avoided what could have been the first four-game losing streak in Joe Paterno's 34-year career as coach. The Lions started the season 9-0 then saw their national championship hopes dashed with three straight losses to end the season.

It had been 85 years since a Penn State team lost its last three games.

Penn State jumped to a 14-0 lead by halftime, then added another touchdown early in the fourth period when Casey ran in for the score on the first play of the fourth quarter.

A field goal later by Travis Forney pushed the Lions' lead to 24-0.

Casey had his first start of the season and played the whole game for Penn State.

The Aggies had only one promising drive in the first half, and it failed when Shane Lechler — also the team's punter — saw his 44-yard field-goal attempt fall short.

Texas A&M looked as though it might get its running game together to start the second half, as Ja'Mar Toombs and D'Andre Hardeman combined for an impressive drive to begin the third.

But when the Aggies got near the end zone, Ron Graham intercepted Randy McCown's pass at the 7. McCown threw four interceptions in the game.

Other Aggies mistakes followed, including Bethel Johnson's fumble of a kickoff return in the fourth quarter.

The defeat ended a season of tragedy for Texas A&M (8-4), whose players wore a helmet decal honoring the students killed in the Nov. 18 bonfire log collapse on campus.

Penn State is 5-0 under Paterno in games after a three-game losing streak.

The Lions got on the scoreboard early when Derek Fox ran 34 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter after intercepting a pass by McCown.

Penn State drove 73 yards and scored on a 45-yard pass from Casey to Eddie Drummond and moved ahead 14-0 with 8:54 left before halftime.

The Aggies had only 77 net yards in passing and rushing combined in the first half, compared with 158 for Penn State.

This was Paterno's 30th bowl appearance, breaking the record of 29 he shared with Bear Bryant of Alabama.

Hogs, Horns preparing for test

DALLAS (AP) — The hooting and hollering started early at Arkansas' practice on Tuesday at Texas Stadium.

After a brief period of calisthenics, the players gathered in a circle at midfield where an offensive lineman was matched against a defensive linemen. Quickly, the hitting attracted media and some curious fans.

The offensive players hooted loudest when one of their own — freshman guard Jim Peters — planted a defensive lineman.

Two hours later, when the walkons and some freshmen squared off for a brief scrimmage, there was more. Wide receiver coach Fitz Hill went wild with a water bottle when one of his players caught a tipped pass in the end zone. A couple of plays earlier, defensive coach Clifton Ealy laughed and celebrated when some of his guys wrecked a play.

In between the fun, the Razorbacks (7-4) worked to get ready for Saturday's Cotton Bowl matchup with Texas (9-4).

The Longhorns worked out Tuesday morning at the practice field of its former Southwest Conference rival, SMU.

"I felt like practice was good again today," coach Mack Brown said. "I think we're starting to get out of the flu bug that has bothered us this week."

Arkansas coach Houston Nutt called his team's practice good, as well.

"It was the second straight day that they came out with a lot of energy, a lot of enthusiasm, good intensity and that's what you want," he said. "Especially when they're having such a great time.

"The Cotton Bowl people, you can't say enough great things about this bowl, how well organized it is, how much fun they try to give to the players and they're the reason we're here," he said.

Defensive end Carlos Hall did not practice because of a slight groin pull suffered Monday when the artificial turf was a little wet. The pull is not serious, but trainer Dean Weber thought it best that Hall be held out of practice, Nutt said.

"It's still very tight," he said.

Wide receiver Anthony Lucas, who suffered a knee injury in the LSU game Nov. 26 and underwent minor surgery two weeks later, is close to full speed, Nutt said.

"It's unbelievable how quick he is right now, how he's coming out of his breaks," Nutt said. "We're just real excited that he's going to be able to play."

Nutt said the defense had an exceptionally good practice. "We've been really trying to work hard on their passing game which is very good and really been trying to give them all the different looks that coach Greg Davis does," Nutt said. "We're just trying to mix up some third-and-long situations and some of their screens mixed in with that."

Sports Briefs

Turner stays in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder made it official Tuesday: Coach Norv Turner will be back for the 2000 season.

"Norv is staying as coach," said Karl Swanson, a spokesman for Snyder.

Snyder and Turner discussed the coach's future over lunch, their first chance to talk privately in person since the Redskins (9-6) clinched the NFC East title with a 26-20 overtime road victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night.

"They reaffirmed that both of them want Norv Turner staying as coach," Swanson said.

Turner denied reports that he had been ready to quit.

'Bama coach given extension

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama coach Mike DuBose was given a contract extension, five months after he was nearly fired in a sexual harassment scandal.

The contract extension, reportedly for two years through 2002, will restore time stripped away as punishment following last summer's scandal.

The No. 5 Crimson Tide went 10-2, won the Southeastern Conference title and earned an Orange Bowl berth against Michigan.

College Bowl Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Alamo Bowl
Penn State 24, Texas A&M 0

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
Kentucky (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
Kansas State (10-1) vs. Washington (7-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 30
Humanitarian Bowl
Boise State (9-3) vs. Louisville (7-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN2)
Micronpc.com Bowl
Virginia (7-4) vs. Illinois (7-4), 7 p.m. (TBS)
Peach Bowl
Mississippi State (9-2) vs. Clemson (6-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 31
Insight.com Bowl
Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
Oregon (8-3) vs. Minnesota (8-3), 2:15 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
Colorado State (8-3) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Independence Bowl
Mississippi (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Georgia (7-4) vs. Purdue (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
Texas (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-4), 11 a.m. (FOX)
Gator Bowl
Georgia Tech (8-3) vs. Miami (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
Stanford (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-2), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Orange Bowl
Michigan (9-2) vs. Alabama (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 2
Fiesta Bowl
Nebraska (11-1) vs. Tennessee (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
Florida State (11-0) vs. Virginia Tech (11-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Miami	18	9	.667	—
New York	17	12	.586	2
Orlando	15	12	.556	3
Philadelphia	16	14	.533	3½
Boston	11	16	.407	7
New Jersey	11	18	.379	8
Washington	10	18	.357	8½
Central Division				
Indiana	18	9	.667	—
Charlotte	17	10	.630	1
Milwaukee	16	12	.571	2½
Toronto	16	12	.571	2½
Detroit	13	14	.481	5
Atlanta	11	16	.407	7
Cleveland	11	16	.407	7
Chicago	2	23	.080	15
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	20	10	.667	—
Utah	17	10	.630	1½
Denver	15	12	.556	3½
Minnesota	12	14	.462	6
Dallas	9	20	.310	10½
Houston	9	20	.310	10½
Vancouver	6	21	.222	12½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	24	5	.828	—
Portland	21	7	.750	2½
Phoenix	18	10	.643	5½
Seattle	18	11	.621	6
Sacramento	16	10	.615	6½
L.A. Clippers	9	19	.321	14½
Golden State	6	22	.214	17½

Tuesday's Games
Miami 89, Minnesota 78
New Jersey 89, New York 83
Sacramento 114, Boston 101
Toronto 100, Houston 99
Denver 128, L.A. Clippers 105
Portland 94, Seattle 89

Wednesday's Games
Indiana at Atlanta, 2 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Local Basketball Schedule

TODAY
Snyder varsity girls vs. Lake Travis, at Abilene High tourney, 3 p.m.
Ira varsity boys vs. Brookeland, at Fort Worth Classic, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY
Snyder varsity girls vs. Eastland or Abilene High, 9 a.m. or noon
Ira varsity boys at Fort Worth Classic

FRIDAY
Hermleigh boys and girls at Klondike, 2 and 3:30

MONDAY
Western Texas at Southwest Shootout in Waco

TUESDAY
Levelland at Snyder varsity girls and boys, 6 and 7:30
Levelland at Snyder JV boys and girls, 6 and 7:30
Ira girls and boys at Klondike, 6:30 and 8 p.m.
Hermleigh girls and boys at Loraine, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

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3 energy companies drilling wells

HOUSTON (AP) — Three energy companies are quickly drilling wells in one of the richest natural gas formations in Texas — near Fairfield, about midway between Dallas and Houston.

Gas wells are being drilled and completed so rapidly that gravel companies have run low on supplies to make roads into drilling sites over a formation known as the Bossier Sands.

Anadarko Petroleum Corp., Marathon Oil Co. and El Paso Energy are drilling wells between 12,000 and 14,000 feet down. The wells are relatively cheap to drill — about $1 million each — and are speedily completed, usually in about 40 days.

Typically, the wells come in at a very high flow rate and then production declines to about 3 million cubic feet of gas per day. Two weeks ago, Anadarko completed a well that tested at 26 million cubic feet of gas per day, the highest flow rate of any well it has drilled into the Bossier Sands.

All three of the companies drilling on the Bossier Sands are based in Houston.

Anadarko is the most active company in the area with 18 rigs running full time, triple the number it had working the area just a year ago. So far, the company has drilled 120 wells and hit only one dry hole. The Houston independent oil company is spending about $500,000 per day on Bossier Sands wells.

"We don't know the limits of this play," Anadarko chief executive Bob Allison told the Houston Chronicle. "We've grown our production there from nothing to 150 million cubic feet of gas per day."

He added:

"The more we drill, the better it gets. We think that this is at least a trillion-cubic-feet gas field."

The company has 60,000 acres leased in Freestone County and expects to spend about $300 million on wells plus infrastructure such as pipelines in the area over the next two years. Estimates now are that Anadarko will drill another 200 to 220 wells into the Bossier Sands over the next 24 months.

The 18 rigs Anadarko has drilling into the Bossier Sands are more than half of the 27 rigs it has working onshore in North America. Anadarko is the second-most-active oil and gas company onshore in North America; Coastal is first, with 30 rigs working full time in the United States and Canada.

Anadarko estimates its production from the Bossier Sands in 2000 will exceed expected gas production from its Hugoton Field in southwest Kansas, historically Anadarko's most prolific gas-producing property in the United States.

Wells are being drilled into the Bossier Sands so rapidly that supplies of gravel to make roads to rigs have at times run low. The frenetic drilling and related construction have put about 700 people to work in Freestone County, Allison said.

Before Anadarko and others started drilling in the area, most of the acreage was leased for drilling into another well-known formation, the Cotton Valley Pinnacle Reef. That formation is deeper than the Bossier Sands and successful wells typically are more prolific. They also are more difficult to complete successfully.

El Paso Production Co., formerly the oil and gas exploration arm of Sonat, had acreage in the area leased to drill into the Cotton Valley Pinnacle Reef, but has since shifted to drilling into the Bossier Sands, said Jack Holmes, president of the company.

Marathon Oil also is an example of a company that was drilling into the Cotton Valley Pinnacle Reef and is now targeting the Bossier Sands.

The company drilled a successful well in partnership with Tom Brown Inc. of Midland in the area that recently tested at 4.9 million cubic feet of gas per day, said Susan Landreneau, spokeswoman for Marathon Oil in Houston.

Year-end review continues for first quarter

Continued from Page 1

sophomore Crissida Tyler was named to the all-state choir following tryouts in Midland. By being named to the elite group, she performed with the Texas All-State Choir in San Antonio in February.

Western Texas College put the final plans together to provide distant learning for the two prison units in Colorado City.

Scurry County got its first share of the tobacco settlement money as it received $329,094. The money was placed in the county's general fund.

A petition presented to the Snyder Independent School District administration requested a study of the environment at Stanfield Elementary due to an unusually large number of teachers contracting cancer. A report issued later in the month said there were no cancer-causing agents in the building.

St. Mary Healthcare Center received a new name, although the present sign does not reflect the change. The center officially became known as Covenant Healthcare Center as a result of the merger of Lubbock's Methodist Hospital and St. Mary's.

The annual Scurry County Livestock Show got underway with Austin Rinehart winning top honors in the hog show, while the grand champion steer was shown by T'Leah Eicke and the top lamb by Katie Voss.

The United Way announced it had exceeded its $64,000 goal by just over $1,000. The announcement was made by drive leader Dr. Ed Barkowsky.

The county got its first moisture of the year as .21 of an inch was recorded along with some snow.

A scheduled lawsuit brought by Freddie Alaniz and family was settled prior to the start of the trial. Alaniz had sued Arrow Construction over injuries he had received in 1995 when the motorcycle he was driving was in collision with an Arrow pickup. The results of the settlement were sealed.

Dink Foree, owner and manager of KSNY radio station, was sworn in as the newest member of the Cogdell Hospital board.

State Ag Commissioner Susan Combs toured Lorber Industries along with Arnold Lorber, chairman of Lorber Industries; Michael Gruener, vice president and chief executive officer; and Jack Whitworth, Lorber of Texas plant manager.

Combs was in town along with Rick Thrasher, director of the state's Economic Development Commission, and Rep. David Counts.

They also met with the Development Corporation of Snyder.

YZ Industries announced at the end of the month that it was moving all production to its Snyder location.

Plant engineer Dayton Robertson said the production would also include LINC products, including chemical injection pumps.

February

Work began in February on renovations in the 132nd District Courtroom which were designed to make the courtroom more "jury friendly."

Taco Bell opened its doors next to Wal-Mart the first week of the month. The local franchise is owned by David Ohre of Abilene.

The Price Daniel Unit got its fourth warden as T.J. Medart was transferred to Sugar Land.

Wilhelmenia Howard, who was serving as the senior warden at the Neal Unit in Amarillo, was named to take Medart's post. Howard had been with TDCJ since 1985.

Western Texas College and Pennzoil (now Devon Energy) continued their working relationship as the college conducted a safety program centered on the company's CO2 pipeline.

Some workers at the SACROC Unit doing contract work for Pennzoil were the victims of low oil prices as Snyder Area Contractors laid off 14 workers at the unit.

Western Texas College and Midwestern University of Wichita Falls demonstrated the latest way to get a college degree – through distance learning with video equipment.

Jury selection was being conducted in 132nd District Court in a wrongful death suit resulting from an oilfield accident in 1996 in which three died. The jury later ruled for the defendant, Bill Stephens Welding of Pampa. The suit was brought by the families of two of the victims.

Parts of Snyder saw the lights go out as a TU Electric transformer failed on Feb. 9. Most of Colonial Hill went without electricity for 53 minutes. The lights went out at 8:27 p.m. catching some people in stores that went dark.

Snyder senior Brady Cobb and Sharika Wofford were named Mr. and Miss Snyder High School during ceremonies at Worsham Auditorium.

Lorber Industries received its first load of Scurry County cotton to process. The cotton was produced by Jim Spence and processed and marketed by Paymaster Gin.

Lannie Lee, who had been chief of police in Snyder since 1991, submitted his resignation. Lee said he had been in law enforcement for 26 years and decided he had been carrying a gun long enough.

City Manager John Gayle named Lt. Steve Warren as Lee's replacement on an interim basis. Later in the year, Gayle would name Warren as the police chief.

Snyder Mayor David Holt announced that he would not be a candidate for the post in the upcoming May election. Councilman Dayton Robertson announced his intentions to run for mayor, and Terry Martin said he would seek another term on the council.

Work at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice warehouse was delayed as four columns fell at the work site.

Two long-time businesses in Snyder locked their doors during the month as Cotton's Minute Market and Lota' Burger closed. Lota' Burger eventually reopened with a new owner, but the Minute Market remains closed.

Citizens began to file for the May 1 election as former councilman Ron Shaw and current Snyder ISD school board member Janet Stribling filed for their respective boards.

Perennial spelling champion Wendy Proffitt captured her fifth campus spelling bee crown.

Sid Wall announced his intention to run for the Ira school board and Kirk Taylor filed for an at-large position on the Snyder city council joining Ron Shaw and Terry Martin as candidates.

A group of Snyder residents traveled to Austin for "Snyder Day" at the Texas Capitol. The group met with Rep. David Counts, House Speaker Pete Laney and Gov. George Bush.

Glenn Clarady filed the necessary papers seeking his fourth term on the Snyder school board, while board president Mark McCormick filed for his third term.

Cindy Nix was named to head the Scurry County Health Unit on a split vote by the Scurry County Commissioners Court.

The political calendar increased during the month as James Jenkins Jr. filed for the vacant Place 3 spot for the Snyder City Council.

Dale Stuard retired from West Texas State Bank after 36 years. The retired loan officer remained as a member of the board of directors.

Pete Barrera, the original S.T.A.R. boot camp commander, announced he was leaving the program to return to ranching in the Sonora-Ozona area.

Incumbents Lance Autry and Kirby Sterling joined Sid Wall as candidates for the Ira ISD school board, and Burton Sandefur and Tony Lambaren chose to run again for the Hermleigh ISD board.

James Ashley threw his name into the ring for an at-large position on the Snyder City Council.

The annual Snyder Wheels car show and swap meet was held in the Scurry County Coliseum.

Margaret Anderson Daly, a 1983 graduate of Snyder High School, joined the staff of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Medical Specialty Clinic.

Snyder ISD trustees extended the contracts of 249 teachers during their March meeting.

SHS choir members left on their semi-annual trip - this time to Disneyworld. Each student had to raise $580 in various fundraising events.

Tim Riggan's Edward Jones office was the focus of a live satellite broadcast which sent across the nation and featured shots of the community.

Snyder was isolated from any long distance telephone calls for a short time on March 9 as a fiberoptic line was cut near Sweetwater.

Scurry County Library announced it had received a $20,000 grant from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund board to be used to expand its Internet service.

Scurry County Commissioners Court voted to join a regional economic development alliance known as the Texas, Mexico and Asian Corridor, Inc. Scurry County joined the neighboring counties Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell, Howard and Jones.

Tollie Faver celebrated his 104th birthday with punch and cake at his residence. Faver passed away later in the year, but had always contributed "hard work" as the reason for his longevity.

Ronnie Anderson, an employee of TDCJ at the Price Daniel Unit, filed for the Snyder ISD board of trustees.

Copies of the U.S. Air Force's Draft Environmental Impact Statement were released to the general public to begin the 45-day public hearing comment on the proposed low-level training in Scurry and adjoining counties.

Texas Department of Transportation conducted a public hearing on the planned expansion of 37th Street.

The city landfill was searched by local law enforcement personnel and area lawmen as well, in hopes of finding the body of a Sweetwater baby that had been placed in a dumpster in that city. The baby's mother later confessed to the crime and was sentenced in Sweetwater on a misdemeanor charge.

Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Chairman Robert Huston visited in Snyder and toured various locations.

Elections in Ira and Hermleigh for their respective school boards were cancelled due to no contested races.

—

The president of the United States receives an annual salary of $2000,000, plus a $50,000 expense allowance. Congress also provides all former presidents with lifetime pensions of $69,6000 a year, free mailing privileges, free office space and up to $96,000 a year for office help.

Reform Party is splintering

WASHINGTON (AP) — The battle for control over the Reform Party is becoming increasingly public, with Dallas billionaire Ross Perot's backers creating a new corporation and supporters of Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura taking their case to court.

Party members caught in between tried to put an optimistic spin on the battle, saying it represented growing pains that would fade.

"This is us learning the hard way about the democratic process and what it means to build a party," said Reform Party Secretary Jim Mangia of Los Angeles. "There are power plays on both sides. If there's a presidential candidate who could unite both parties, that could go a long way."

But the two most prominent presidential candidates are already picking sides. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan has left the Republican Party and drifted toward Perot's faction, his eye on the Reform Party's $12.6 million in federal campaign funding..

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks:

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	66 3-16	65 3-16	65⅞	+ 3-16
AT&T Corp s	51 15-16	51	51⅞	+ 1⅛
Albertsons	32¾	32 5-16	32 7-16	—11-16
Alltel	79 7-16	78	79⅜	+ 3-16
AmerOnline s	78¼	75	77 5-16	+ 13-16
AndarkPtr	33 13-16	33 1-16	33 13-16	+ 7-16
AtlRichfld	87	85⅜	87	+ 13-16
ATMOS Egy	20 7-16	20¼	20 7-16	+ 3-16
Aviall	8	7¾	8	+ 1-16
BP Amoco s	59 13-16	59 5-16	59 11-16	+ 7-16
BakerHughes	21 13-16	21⅛	21 13-16	+ 5-16
Bank of Amer	49 11-16	49 3-16	49 9-16	+ ¼
BellAtl	62¾	61¾	61⅞	— 9-16
BellSouth s	47½	46¾	47 3-16	— ¼
Beth Steel	8⅜	8 5-16	8 5-16	— 1-16
BurlNoSFe	24⅜	24 1-16	24 3-16	+ 3-16
CBS Corp	61 3-16	59¾	59 15-16	— ⅞
Caterpillar	47 13-16	46 15-16	47¾	+ 1
CenSoWst	20⅜	20⅛	20⅛	— 3-16
Chevron	87 13-16	87⅛	87¾	+ 1¼
Citigroup s	55 13-16	55 3-16	55 7-16	+ 1-16
Coastal	35⅛	34 7-16	35⅛	+ ⅜
CocaCola	59⅞	59 1-16	59¼	— 5-16
ColgatePal s	62⅜	61½	61 13-16	— ½
ComclMetals	33⅜	33 5-16	33 5-16	
Cooperin	41	40¾	40 15-16	— 3-16
DaimlrChry	77½	76 15-16	77 5-16	+ 2⅜
DallSemicn	64 15-16	64 1-16	64⅝	+ ⅛
DeltaAirl	50⅜	49⅛	49 9-16	— 7-16
Dillards Inc	19 7-16	19 5-16	19⅜	— 5-16
DowChem	135 11-16	131¾	135 3-16	+ 1 9-16
DuPont	66¾	64 13-16	66⅝	+ 2⅜
EastmanChem	47⅝	47	47 9-16	+ 11-16
EstKodak	65⅛	64¼	64⅞	+ ⅝
EDS Corp	66 15-16	65⅞	66⅝	+ 15-16
Entergy	25 11-16	25½	25½	— 3-16
ExxonMobil	81 11-16	80⅞	81½	+ 13-16
FstBksAm	18¼	18¼	18¼	
Flowers	16¼	15 13-16	15⅞	— 3-16
FordMotor	53¾	53¼	53 7-16	+ ¾
GTE Cp	72½	71 5-16	71 7-16	— ½
GenDynam	51⅝	50⅝	50 11-16	
GenElec	158	156¼	157 5-16	—15-16
GenMills s	35 1-16	34¾	34¾	+ 9-16
GenMotors	73⅞	73⅛	73⅝	+ 1 1-16
GaPacGP s	50 5-16	49	49 15-16	+ 5-16
GlobalMar	16 13-16	16⅜	16 13-16	+ 9-16
Goodrich	25 13-16	25 7-16	25 11-16	+ ⅜
Goodyear s	27⅞	26¼	27 13-16	+ 1 13-16
GtAtlPac	27¾	27 9-16	27 11-16	— 3-16
Halliburtn	41 3-16	40	40¾	+ ⅜
Hanson ADS	41⅛	41 7-16	41 7-16	+ ½
HartleHanks	21 9-16	21 1-16	21 7-16	+ ⅜
HomeDepot	101⅞	100 9-16	101¾	+ 1⅛
HomeDepot wi	88⅛	87¼	88 1-16	+ ¼
Honeywellntl	56 15-16	56⅜	56 9-16	+ ¾
IBM s	110½	109 5-16	109 15-16	+ 11-16
IntlPaper	56⅞	54 13-16	56 13-16	+ 1½
JohnsonJn	96 3-16	94¼	94⅜	—1 9-16
K mart	10¼	10 1-16	10 1-16	— 3-16
Kroger Co s	19 5-16	19	19	— ¼
Litton	49⅝	48 13-16	49¼	+ 5-16
LockheedM	19 15-16	19 9-16	19⅞	+ 5-16
Lowes Cos	60	58 3-16	58 13-16	—1 3-16
Lubys	10 1-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	
LucentTech s	77 13-16	76⅛	77	+ ¼
MayDeptStr s	31⅛	30 11-16	31 1-16	+ 1-16
MediaOne	77½	76⅛	77 5-16	+ 7-16
Medtronic s	37½	36⅜	37⅛	+ 1
Monsanto	35⅜	35	35 9-16	— 1-16
MorganJP	127	125½	126	— ⅜
Motorola	243⅛	142 9-16	145⅜	+ 2 11-16
NCR Corp	36½	36⅛	36¼	— ¼
Navistar	47¼	46⅞	47⅛	
Penney JC	19⅛	18½	19	+ 9-16
PepBoys	8 15-16	8¾	8¾	+ 1-16
PepsiCo	36¾	36½	36¼	— ⅜
PhelpDodge	67	64⅝	67	+ 3 9-16
PhilipPet	46 15-16	46⅜	46¾	+ 7-16
PilgrmPrd B	8 3-16	8 1-16	8⅛	+ 1-16
Polaroid	18⅜	18⅛	18⅜	+ 3-16
Praxair	51¼	49 7-16	51⅛	+ 1 5-16
ProctGamb	111⅛	109 5-16	109¾	— 1⅞
PubS NwMx	16 9-16	16½	16½	
ReliantEngy	23¼	22⅞	22 15-16	— 3-16
RoyalDut	60⅝	60⅜	60 7-16	+ 11-16
SBC Comm	49⅝	48⅜	48 13-16	—11-16
SaraLee	22 1-16	21 9-16	21⅜	— ½
Scripps EW	44 15-16	44½	44⅜	+ 5-16
SearsRoeb	29⅞	29¼	29¾	+ ¼
SherwinW	20¾	20 3-16	20⅝	+ 7-16
SmithklBchm	63⅜	63	63¼	+ 1 13-16
SouthernCo	23 15-16	23¾	23 13-16	+ 1-16
SwstAirl s	16 5-16	15 15-16	16 3-16	
SprintFON s	69⅝	68 13-16	69 5-16	+ 5-16
SprintPCS	104⅜	103⅞	104⅛	— ¼
Sunoco Inc	24¼	23 9-16	24 3-16	+ 11-16
TNP Ent	41¼	41¼	41¼	
Tandy s	49¾	48⅝	49 5-16	+ 1 1-16
TempleInland	64⅞	62¼	64 11-16	+ 1¼
Texaco	55⅝	55⅛	55 5-16	+ ½
TexInd	40⅜	39 13-16	40⅜	+ 7-16
TexasInst s	107⅝	106½	107 3-16	— 3-16
Tex Util	35 1-16	34 13-16	34⅜	+ ⅛
Textron	74⅞	74½	74¾	— ⅛
TriconGlbR	38¼	37 13-16	37 13-16	— 7-16
TrinityInds	28⅛	28	28 1-16	
TritonEngy	20 3-16	20	20 3-16	+ 3-16
TylerTech	6⅜	5⅜	6	+ 1¼
US West Inc	71 13-16	71 3-16	71 5-16	— ⅜
USX-Marathn	26 5-16	26 1-16	26 3-16	+ 7-16
USX-USS	32 5-16	31⅝	32 5-16	+ ½
UnCarbde	67⅝	65 1-16	66 15-16	+ 1¾
UnionPacif	43⅜	43 3-16	43 7-16	+ ¼
UnitedTech s	63 15-16	63⅜	63¾	— 7-16
Unocal	34 5-16	33 11-16	34¼	+ 5-16
Venator Grp	6 15-16	6 13-16	6⅞	
WalMart s	70	68 11-16	68 13-16	— ⅛
WellsFargo	41 7-16	40⅞	41⅛	— 1-16
WstnGasRs	12 5-16	12	12 5-16	
WinnDixie	24 13-16	23⅞	24¼	— 9-16
Xerox Cp s	22 7-16	22⅛	22¼	

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	13 1/2	+3/16
Dell	51 7/8	+5/16
Wal Mart	68 5/8	-11/16
Compac	27	+1/16
Dol. Gen.	22 3/16	0
GTE	70 7/8	+5/8
SBC Comm.	48 5/16	-15/16
Tx Instr.	105 3/4	-1 5/8
LU	77	0
Cisco Sys.	105 11/16	+1/2

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Scurry County Country

Nursery industry strong part of ag economy

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The West Coast nursery industry can look at the 1990s as a boom time fed by population growth, while the rest of agriculture suffered from low commodity prices, oversupply and other perennial problems.

Nursery sales increased every year this decade in Oregon. The trend might date back even further, but 1990 was the first year the state's agricultural statistics service surveyed the industry.

"When you think about everything that's happening in agriculture, that's a phenomenal growth record," said Clayton Hannon, executive director of the Oregon Association of Nurserymen.

Sales totaled a record $532 million in 1998, making nursery and greenhouse products the state's top-selling commodity for the fifth consecutive year. Ornamentals make up the bulk of the state's nursery crop, and roughly 70 percent of the stock is exported to other states.

"The early indication is that sales in 2000 will be even better," Hannon said.

California, which features a broader range of products than Northwest states, reached $2.4 billion in sales for 1998, which includes cut flowers, flower seeds, Christmas trees, roses, bedding plants and ornamentals.

In the last 10 years, nursery products have moved from sixth to third in agricultural sales in California behind milk and cream, and grapes, respectively.

"The industry is doing well and will continue to do well for at least the next five years," said Jack Wick, regulatory consultant with the California Association of Nurserymen.

Town & Country Topics

By Kathryn Roberts, County Extension Agent

Don't forget water in winter

On a hot summer day, thoughts easily turn to cooling down with a tall glass of water or iced tea. But if you're like me, it's easy to forget about drinking plenty of fluid when it's frigid outside and a bit drafty inside.

The fact is, dehydration can pose just as much risk in the dead of winter as it can during the warm summer months. This is particularly true in high, dry climates such as Colorado. While people of all age groups are at risk for dehydration, infants, young children and the elderly are at greatest risk.

Dehydration is so common among the elderly that it has been identified as one of the most frequent causes of hospitalization among people over 65. And it is life threatening. In one study, half of those hospitalized for dehydration died within a year of admission.

One reason older people are at high risk for dehydration is because the mechanism that normally triggers thirst becomes less sensitive with age. Also, as we age a lower percentage of our body weight is fluid, so dehydration can occur more rapidly.

Elderly people who live at home are most vulnerable to dehydration, especially when they are ill. In addition to fluid loss from fever or diarrhea, sickness often interferes with normal eating and drinking patterns.

Alcohol can also contribute to dehydration. It takes eight ounces of water to metabolize just one ounce of alcohol. The person who downs a stiff drink on the rocks as a nightcap needs to chase that drink with a large glass of water.

Common symptoms of dehydration include fatigue, headache, dry nasal passages, dry or cracked lips and overall discomfort. However, by the time you become aware of these symptoms, dehydration has long since set in.

What's your best defense? Do a fluid audit on yourself, your family and your elderly friends. Make sure that fluids are readily available, and that drinking fluids is a part of the usual routine.

How much fluid is needed? At least six to eight cups daily, part of which can be from juices, coffee and tea.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Report

By Jim Lionberger, Wildlife Biologist

In past years, the idea of intentionally setting a fire on rangeland may have been viewed with skepticism. However, in recent years, we have become more aware of the important role of fire in ecosystems.

Historically, factors such as normal grazing by bison and periodic naturally occurring wildfire were critical in sustaining prairie ecosystems.

With the influx of European settlers, came an era of fire suppressions that combined with continuous grazing contributed to a change in the face of the landscape. Although these practices resulted in an increase of brush that favored species such as white-tailed deer, it had many negative side effects such as a decrease in diversity of vegetation.

Today, we realize that fire under controlled circumstances can result in increased diversity of vegetation, an increase in palatability of vegetation and enhance nutrient content of soils. In recent years, landowners have been utilizing prescribed fire to enhance pastures for grazing and to enhance wildlife habitat.

Prescribed burns can be conducted at different times during the dormant season depending upon objectives. Burning later in the dormant season can be used to increase the palatability of grasses for grazing. These burns should be conducted by mid-March, prior to the start of the growing season. Early winter burns conducted after the first hard freeze can be used to enhance wildlife habitat.

This type of burn can increase the diversity of vegetation by setting back plan succession, thereby promoting the growth of weeds or forbs. These "pioneer plants" are important food items for many wildlife species such as white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail and Rio Grande turkey.

Planning for a prescribed burn should begin well in advance. Management goals should be defined and the area or areas to be burned selected. Select four or five areas or groups of areas to be burned and burn one per year on a rotational basis, weather conditions permitting.

It is highly probable that the area or areas selected for burning will need to be rested from grazing for at least part of a growing season, in order to build up sufficient fuel load. Burning should not be conducted during periods of drought, when soil moisture is low.

Safety is a primary consideration when planning and conducting a prescribed burn. Fireguards must be in place around the area to be burned. Fireguards can consist of existing roads or adjacent plowed fields. However, if these guards do not exist around the area to be burned, they must be constructed.

Factors such as wind direction, wind speed, relative humidity, and temperature must be considered when planning a burn. To conduct a safe burn, relative humidity should not be less than 25 percent, wind speed should not exceed 15 mph and temperature should not exceed 80 degrees. Burning should be conducted on a day when no drastic changes in wind direction are forecasted.

Prepare a blackline at least 100 feet wide using backfire. If juniper is present within the burn area, blacklines will need to be considerably wider. In these cases, blacklines should be 400 to 500 feet wide. Prepare blacklines early in the morning when humidity is higher and temperatures are lower. Maintain all fire fighting equipment in good working order. There are obvious hazards connected with a prescribed burn. Consult your local Natural Resources Conservation Service and have a burn plan prepared prior to conducting a prescribed burn.

After a prescribed burn has been completed, delay grazing the area until vegetation has sufficiently recovered. Grazing too soon after the burn will result in a decreased yield of vegetation, drastically effecting the benefits of the burn.

Free technical assistance concerning wildlife management is available through Texas Parks and Wildlife Private Lands Enhancement Program.

In the Snyder area contact Jim Lionberger, wildlife biologist at 915-863-2755. In the Panhandle, contact Danny Swepston, district wildlife biologist at 806-655-3782 for the wildlife biologist in your area.

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Garden Check List

*Place orders for seeds now so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. By ordering early, you will be more certain of getting the varieties you want.

*Don't get in a hurry to prune woody plants. Late December through February is usually the best time to prune them.

*Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants in an atrium or a well-lighted window.

*Drain gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used up.

*Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. The lawn and plants may need water during a prolonged dry spell.

*November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. In the Panhandle, planting is often delayed until February or early March.

*In all but North Texas and the Panhandle, continue to set out cool-season bedding plants, such as pansies, violets, stock, snapdragons, and Dianthus.

*Prepare beds and individual holes for rose planting in January and February. Use composted manure, pine bark and similar materials mixed with existing soil.

*Protect your lawn from excessive winter damage by providing irrigation during dry periods.

*Plant spring-flowering bulbs if you haven't already done so.

*Prolong the life of holiday-season gift plants by providing proper care. Check to see if the pot wrap has plugged up the bottom drainage. Don't over water. Keep out of drafts from heating vents and opening doorways. Fertilizer is seldom needed the first few months.

*Take advantage of bad weather and holiday time to study seed and nursery catalogues as well as good gardening books.

*Berry plants, such as holly and yaupon, may be pruned now while they can be enjoyed as cut material inside the house.

2-hour standoff ends with death of guard, inmate

ANGOLA, La. (AP) — A guard and an inmate were killed at the state's maximum security prison during an escape attempt that led to a two-hour standoff, officials said.

The guard was beaten to death with a hammer when he refused to give up his keys to about six or seven inmates in a prison classroom around 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, said Warden Burl Cain.

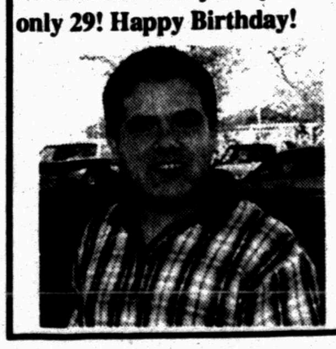
Cain said two other guards were also overpowered and were being held at knifepoint in the room as he arrived to speak with the prisoners.

An assault team used concussion grenades in storming the room after officials spotted Knapp's body. At that time, an inmate was shot dead as he charged out with a knife, Cain said.

Another inmate was also wounded. The two guards were unhurt.

Earlier this month, a days-long hostage standoff at another Louisiana jail ended peacefully when six Cuban detainees released a warden, a female guard and five female inmates. They had been demanding their release and passage out of the country, and were held in Cuba following deportation.

He's pushing 30, it's close in sight...it's enough to keep a guy up all night.
The BIG 3-0, it's knocking on his door...merely the thought shakes him to the core.
The wrinkles are coming, so is the gray...oh, the time it'll take to get ready each day!
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( ) Renting $_____ Monthly Amount
Are You:
( ) Widowed ( ) Divorced
( ) Handicapped How:_____
_____
Number of People living in this Household:_____
( ) Adults ( ) Children Ages:_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Income:
( ) Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) Spouse Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) No One Employed
Other Income:
( ) Social Security: Amount $_____
( ) Public Welfare: Amount $_____
( ) Supplemental Income: Amount $_____
( ) Other: _____
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Hijackers drop some demands

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — The hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane dropped their demands today for $200 million and the return of a Kashmiri militant's body, a possible breakthrough in negotiations aimed at ending a six-day hijacking, the Taliban's foreign minister said.

Officials of Afghanistan's Taliban militia interceded at the request of the Indian negotiators, Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil told reporters at the Kandahar airport. They convinced the negotiators to drop the demand for money saying it violated the tenets of Islam, as did removing a body from its burial ground, he said.

On Tuesday, the hijackers demanded the money, the release of 35 Kashmiri militants and a Pakistani cleric from Indian jails, and the body of a militant Kashmiri killed earlier this year.

Indian Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan told reporters that the dropping of the two demands would not have much of an impact on negotiations.

Muttawakil said the hijackers have refused to lower the number of Kashmiri fighters they want released from jail. They also are insisting on freedom for Masood Azhar, the ideologue of the Harkat ul-Ansar, an Islamic militant group active in Kashmir and on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Azhar's group has tried several times to use kidnappings as a way of freeing him, but have failed. The most famous of the attempts was the kidnapping in 1995 of six Western tourists. One was killed, one escaped and four are still missing and now feared dead.

Muslim militants have been waging an insurgency in Indian-held Kashmir, demanding either independence for the Himalayan state or union with Islamic Pakistan.

Muttawakil repeated today the position the Taliban took early in the hostage crisis that it will not allow the aircraft to remain here indefinitely.

"If the two sides are unable to solve their problems soon, the Taliban will force the hijackers to leave Afghanistan," he said.

Bus hit mile marker before crashing

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A bus carrying youths from Texas on church skiing trip plowed into a highway mile-marker and fishtailed at least once before it crashed, investigators say.

The State Patrol confirmed that the bus driven by 72-year-old Robert Gene Hawthorn of Houston had torn out a mile-marker when it fishtailed at least one-tenth of a mile west of the site where investigators believe the bus slid off the road. The markers are three to four feet off the pavement edge.

"That would have been another 528 feet farther back that he was having problems," Trooper Richard Breece said Tuesday.

Hawthorn was killed along with two passengers: Christopher M. Scarberry, 17, and Matthew Donat, 16. Nearly 50 others were injured.

The chartered bus was returning to Houston on Dec. 21 from a church skiing vacation in Crested Butte when it slid off icy U.S. 50 west of Canon City and down an embankment.

Breece said investigators are looking into reports that Hawthorn was driving too fast before the crash. Investigators have asked authorities in Texas to re-interview passengers about Hawthorn's driving.

"We're getting comments from some of the kids that he was driving way too fast from the time they left Crested Butte. They said he slid through an intersection," Breece said.

But he said investigators were getting conflicting accounts from the passengers about what happened.

"We're trying to determine whether what they're telling us is what they actually remember or what they hear talking among themselves," Breece said.

Investigators are also examining engine and transmission computers aboard the bus that might confirm its speed, Breece said. They estimated that the bus was traveling 50 mph.

Only six passengers remained hospitalized in Colorado on Tuesday. Four were at Memorial Hospital and two at Penrose Hospital, both in Colorado Springs.

Final steps taken before year changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — While confident that the rollover will cause no severe problems, federal officials are taking final precautions nonetheless and offering last-minute advice to help Americans sail smoothly into 2000.

Hoping to ease the transition, officials are getting benefit checks for veterans and Social Security beneficiaries to the Postal Service early in order to ensure on-time delivery. They are also advising citizens to keep emergency numbers and battery-operated radios handy. And they are shutting down some public Internet sites to safeguard against hackers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday it always processes its paperwork a few days before the end of the month each month and that an estimated 4.5 million veterans and survivors should receive their benefits by the 30th of the month as usual.

A spokesman said today the department did process a relatively small number of educational benefit payments a few days earlier than usual this month to avoid potential delays related to the Y2K computer bug.

The early mailings "will mitigate unexpected year 2000 interruptions of benefit payments arising from anything outside our control," VA spokesman Terry Jemison said Tuesday.

Social Security's 44 million beneficiaries learned last week of the Social Security Administration's plans to get paper checks and electronic payments on their way to post offices and banks a day early. Beneficiaries should expect their checks or direct deposits to show up on the normal day, Jan. 3 for most people.

While generally optimistic about communications, including 911 calls going through and emergency broadcast alerts reaching people, federal officials urged people not to forget the basics.

"There was a way to call the police, to call ambulance services, long before 911," said Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Powell. He advised people to keep on hand direct numbers for emergency services, like the police.

Powell also recommended that people have radios with batteries handy. Officials foresee no difficulty in getting out emergency news to the populace, he said, because so many broadcast stations are available.

In other Y2K news:

—The Pentagon is shutting down some of its public Internet sites this weekend to keep them safe from computer hackers. While it intends to keep its central Web site — www.DefenseLink.mil — in operation, one site being temporarily blocked is that of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, which oversees military pay.

—Also being taken off line this weekend is the site maintained by the Office of Personnel Management, which services the rest of the government payroll.

—Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said people are not hoarding pharmaceuticals, so there won't be any shortages of medicine over New Year's. She cited a 60-to-90 day supply in almost every category of medicine.

Obituaries

Raymond Smith

1942-1999

ABILENE – Funeral service for Raymond Wayne Smith of Abilene is set for 1 p.m. Thursday in the Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mr. Smith, 57, died Monday, Dec. 27, at his sister's home in Merkel.

Born on Aug. 2, 1942, Mr. Smith attended Snyder schools and later worked for Bailey Construction. He married Kay Pylant on Dec. 1, 1961. She died in January, 1975.

He also was preceded in death by a daughter, Stephnie, and his father, Weldon Smith.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Pat Fenner of Hawley; his mother, Flora Dell Smith of Abilene; three brothers, Billy Smith and Noah Smith of Abilene, and Charlie Smith of Merkel; a sister, Nancy Bilbrey of Merkel; two grandsons, Matthew and Astin Fenner, and a granddaughter, Stephnie Fenner, all of Hawley; and his mother-in-law, Stella Pylant of Snyder.

Family visitation will be at the funeral home from 6-8 this evening. Friends will gather following the graveside service at the home of Darlene Amox, 2211 33rd in Snyder.

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Reprimand

Continued from Page 1

obesity and panic disorder. He must also keep a log of all prescriptions written for dangerous drugs with addictive potential or potential for abuse.

The medical board is requiring that Dr. Brice furnish a copy of the medical examiner's order to all hospital, nursing homes, treatment facilities and other health care entities where he has privileges.

While the reprimand is for two years, Dr. Brice may petition the board after one year to terminate the order. However, failure to abide by the order will constitute a basis for additional disciplinary action by the board.

Criminal mischief reports investigated in past 24 hours

Two separate incidents of criminal mischief were reported in the past 24 hours.

Andrew Sosa Jr. notified officers at 2:37 p.m. Tuesday that someone had keyed his vehicle. An offense report for Class A criminal mischief was filed.

Roy Morin spoke to officers at 12:56 a.m. today in reference to someone throwing batteries through the windows of his home on Beaumont Street. An offense report was filed for Class B criminal mischief.

One arrest was made Tuesday.

Jeremy Williams, 19, of 4400 Avenue U, Apt. 1A15, was taken into custody on a Lubbock County warrant for indecency with a child. Officers picked him up at 6:30 p.m. at his residence.

In other activity Tuesday, a close patrol was requested in the 3700 block of Highland Drive in reference to a report of a man trying to gain entrance to a residence in the neighborhood.

Officers took a hit and run accident report at 9:25 a.m. The accident reportedly occurred around 6:15 p.m. Monday in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Involved were an unknown vehicle that left the scene and a parked, unoccupied 1981 Silverado pickup owned by Cliff Smith of 4401 Houston.

A minor two-vehicle mishap occurred at 12:54 p.m. Tuesday in the 3600 block of College. Involved were a 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis driven by 82-year-old Lucille Stone Kimbrell of 3781 Avondale and a 1997 Mercury Sable driven by 61-year-old Donald Morris Logue of Guymon, Okla.

At 2:25 p.m., officers were called to the 5000 block of College in reference to an accident. Involved were a parked, unoccupied 2000 Dodge Durango owned by Jerry Martin of 4504 Galveston and a 1995 Mercury Sable driven by Triva Boyd, 48, of 9599 Hwy. 350 in Snyder.

Department of Public Safety trooper James Arnwine worked a one-vehicle rollover at 5:38 p.m. Monday in the 2900 block of Brick Plant Road that sent two people to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Loyd Webb was admitted and is listed in good condition while Ida Webb was admitted for observation and later released. Their address is 3014 El Paso.

Snyder Fire Department responded to a house fire at 1511 Lear at 4:18 p.m. Tuesday. Max Vincent owns the property and Ruben Delao rents the residence.

Extensive damage was done to one bedroom while the rest of the home received smoke damage.

Cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Burl Belew of Fluvanna, David Gist, Lois Davidson, Rebecca Nichols, Kenneth Rinehart, A.P. Smith and Charles Taylor.

DISMISSALS: Essie Dawson, Jannette Green, Otis Martin, Ida Webb, Jordon Hildreth and Juan Silvas.

CENSUS: 46 (Med./Surg.19, Long-term Care, ICU-1, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Fund established

Employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Price Daniel unit have established an account at West Texas State Bank to benefit the wife and three young children of correctional officer Daniel Nagle, killed while on duty at the McConnell unit at Beeville. Donations may be made in his name at West Texas State Bank.

TSA selling pecans

The Technology Student Association of Snyder High School is selling an assortment of pecans and peanuts as a fundraiser to help finance a trip to the state contest. Call 573-8961 for further information.

Softball booster club

A meeting of the Lady Tigers softball booster club will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the West Elementary cafeteria.

Library holiday closings

The Scurry County Library will be closed Friday through Monday for the New Year's holiday. Regular hours will resume Tuesday.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Scheme of Redemption," followed by "Getting to Know God's Presence."

American Cancer Society meeting

The Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room to make plans for the Relay for Life.

Children's Day Out

Children's Day Out at First United Methodist Church resumes Tuesday. The program has been expanded to include infants and now receives children 6 months through 4 years of age. A limited number of partial scholarships are also available. To reserve a space for the spring semester, call Barbara ... 4770.

Lions Club

The Snyder Lions Club will resume meeting Tuesday in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Amateur radio operators

Snyder area radio operators will conduct its weekly check in/ragchew net at 7:30 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).

Private applicator certification meeting

There will be a private applicator certification meeting on Jan. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the agriculture room at Western Texas College. Those planning to attend must contact the county extension office by Jan. 7.

Social security reps

Representatives of the Social Security Administration will be at the Senior Citizens Center in Snyder on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of Dan Cotton and Vesta Orr will be hosted by Big Country Electric Cooperative from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Snyder Country Club. Cotton has been the cooperative's attorney for 32 years, and Orr is former general manager of the coop.

Library extends hours

Scurry County Library has extended its Saturday hours and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-W-F and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

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 Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

1-14-15-24-36

(one, fourteen, fifteen, twenty-four, thirty-six)

Pick 3

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

6-7-0

(six, seven, zero)

Troops, retirees join cleanup effort in France, after storms

PARIS (AP) — Six thousand troops were deployed nationwide today and the national electricity company brought workers out of retirement as France tapped all its resources in a bid to clean up and restore power to millions of homes after this week's deadly storms.

At least 70 people were killed in France after two fierce storms on Sunday and Tuesday. The storms claimed a total of 122 lives in Western Europe.

In France, electricity pylons were torn down, millions of trees uprooted, cars smashed and houses left in ruins in the worst storm wreckage seen in at least 50 years.

After three days of turmoil, calm, clear skies returned today in most of the country, aiding the frantic cleanup.

At least 2 million homes — or an estimated 5 million people — remained without electricity today. The national power company, EDF, has admitted it cannot cope, appealing for aid from counterparts in Britain, Italy, Germany, Belgium and Spain.

EDF, which mobilized 12,000 workers and others who recently retired, has said it is unlikely that all affected households will have power — and, therefore, heating — restored before the new year.

Without party is Emerald City being a wet blanket?

SEATTLE (AP) — Their party over even before it began, disappointed would-be revelers are scrambling for other options now that the city has canceled its New Year's Eve bash beneath the Space Needle.

"I think it's sad they're just going to give in" to fears of terrorism, said 15-year-old Terra Finnell, who had planned to attend the celebration with family and friends.

Mayor Paul Schell defended his decision to end the city's evening celebrations, and insisted that Seattle hasn't caved in to threats of terrorism.

"This is already an unprecedented, unpredictable New Year's, and we did not want to take chances with public safety, no matter how remote the threat might seem," Schell said Tuesday.

There has been no specific terrorist threat against Seattle or anywhere else in the nation for the New Year's weekend, according to the Justice Department.

Afternoon concerts in Seattle will proceed as planned, but the 75-acre Seattle Center grounds will be cleared and the gates locked at 6 p.m., canceling rock performances, dancing, art exhibits and other festivities.

A long-scheduled private party in the Needle was to be allowed, but fears prompted many of the 750 family and friends to cancel, organizer Wendy Warren said.

Seattle was shaken by street violence during the recent World Trade Organization meeting, and then by news that an Algerian man charged with smuggling bomb-making materials had a motel reservation near the Space Needle.

"The city is just recovering from the WTO and the heightened anxieties," the mayor said. "Adding another layer of uncertainty at this time was not the prudent thing to do."

Schell was harshly criticized for the city's handling of the WTO demonstrations, which swamped downtown streets and caused $20 million in damage and lost sales.

Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, while peaceful protesters and bystanders were caught in the middle. Seattle's police chief announced his resignation soon afterward.

Asked whether the Seattle Center party would have been canceled if Seattle had not just experienced the WTO turmoil, Schell responded: "I don't know."

Others were more expansive.

"The WTO has got them gunshy," said construction worker Mitchell Adams, 35.

But he said he understands Schell's position.

"If they kept it open, and something happened," he said, "it would be like, in retrospect they should have shut it down."

Schell made his decision after consulting with police, fire and FBI officials and members of the City Council. Many council members voiced support for the cancellations Tuesday.

"Nobody will give the city credit if 12 people don't die at the Seattle Center," said Councilman Jim Compton. "This was too risky. I think the city has made a very wise decision."

Dick Rogers, 60, of nearby Monroe, agreed.

"It's another target that's not going to be there," he said. "It's a tough decision. ... It was a smart decision."

But others said the city was giving in to fear.

"I think they overreacted," said Teddy Brown, 35. The celebration, he said, "is supposed to be for the public, for the town of Seattle. Everyone's kind of counting on it."

More than 160 people — an overwhelming majority opposing the move — called Schell's office Tuesday about the cancellation, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported today.

Meanwhile, the paper hit the streets today with an editorial backing Schell, saying he made "the right choice."

In New York City, home of what promises to be one of the biggest New Year's bashes in Times Square, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani disapproved of Seattle's move.

"I would urge people not to let the psychology of fear infect the way they act, otherwise we have let the terrorist win without anybody striking a blow," Giuliani told The New York Times for today's editions. "No mayor, no governor, can offer anyone perfect security. Life involves a level of risk."

This year's Seattle celebration was expected to attract about 50,000 people to the city-owned Seattle Center, where the 605-foot Space Needle is located.

The city began scaling back its New Year's plans after an Algerian man, Ahmed Ressam, was arrested and charged with bringing bomb-making materials into Port Angeles, Wash., from Canada. Ressam had a one-night reservation at a motel near the Space Needle.

Web pharmacies receptive to plan

NEW YORK (AP) — Online drug companies are withholding a formal endorsement of President Clinton's plan to regulate their high-flying industry, but concede they could gain from the strategy.

Clinton on Tuesday proposed giving the Food and Drug Administration new powers to review and certify drug-dispensing Web sites. Violators would face half-million dollar fines for each infraction.

The proposal would mark the first federal foray to regulate businesses on the Internet, said Washington, D.C., health care attorney Keith Korenchuck.

"This is extremely significant" he said, because it is a tacit acknowledgment by the White House that current state-by-state rules can't keep up with the rapidly growing cyberspace health industry.

While executives said they are worried that Clinton's proposal might duplicate state regulations, they said it could curb rogue Web sites which illegally sell drugs without a prescription. Such sites, in addition to posing a health risk to consumers, take away business from established Internet drugstores.

"Clearly anything that gives greater credence and trust to legitimate online pharmacies is for the good," said Dr. Matthew Naythons, a vice president for South San Francisco, Calif.-based PlanetRx.com.

PlanetRx.com is one of four major online drugstores that have started selling over the Internet in the last two years. The others are Merck-Medco Managed Care, Drugstore.com and CVS.com. These companies all require patients to have a prescription before they fill any orders.

Though the industry is projected to have about $44 million in sales this year, revenues are expected to reach nearly $1 billion by 2003, according to Jupiter Communications. That still would be less than 1 percent of the total retail prescription drug market.

The established players, which are affiliated with major brick-and-mortar drug stores, pharmaceutical chains or pharmacy-benefits managers, have had to compete with hundreds of small operators that often fill prescriptions without requiring a patient to see a doctor.

Men too embarrassed to ask a doctor to prescribe Viagra to treat their impotence or Propecia to treat their hair loss have flocked to these rogue sites.

Critics worry no one is making sure consumers are protected.

The regulation of drug sales is largely the province of state government, which license doctors and pharmacists. But critics say state efforts have lagged, in part because Internet companies operate in multiple states.

The federal plan would require online pharmacies to get FDA certification that they are legally operating or face sanctions; impose fines of $500,000 for each time a site sold a prescription drug to someone without a valid prescription and give the FDA new power to subpoena the records of online sites while investigating these operators.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 30, 1999

There's much to be gained in the year ahead, especially when working in the financial realms. Concentrate on that which is important to you and the rewards will automatically follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may have to fight for each of your victories today, but major achievements are possible if you do not take matters for granted and are willing to expend the necessary effort. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It's okay to look ahead as your sign likes to do, but don't think you can see around all the corners. Try to abide in the realm of the present today and let the future take care of itself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not be impelled nor pressured into giving up something if the other persons involved aren't prepared to make concessions as well. Don't be a pushover today.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) No matter how badly you want something to be true, try not to let your emotions distort reality. Predicate your judgments today on facts relevant to any given situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you see only the negative side of things today, you could end up being a clock watcher instead of utilizing your energetic and productive tendencies. Focus on the job, not contingencies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you push your luck too far or try to venture out beyond reasonable bounds today, you may end up gripping zeros instead of winnings. Don't play the long shots.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Restrict your group involvements to a few people today whether you're negotiating or entertaining, or be it at work or in the home environment. Too many people will confuse the issues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Avoid one-upsmanship games in the tall tale department today, because only the facts will hold up. Exaggerations will be readily perceived and cost you credibility.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) When it comes to a joint venture today that requires a cash outlay, the entire endeavor will collapse if all parties don't share contributions equally. Be the first to ante up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Persons who have no direct involvement in your affairs can unwittingly foul up an arrangement you're making today if they are allowed to interject unsolicited advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You may have to be more cognizant of on whom you display your generosity today. By granting favors to just anyone while a truly deserving person looks on could cause hurt feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Balance is the key to getting along with others today. You mustn't recoil from a challenging development nor be too light and breezy about things either.

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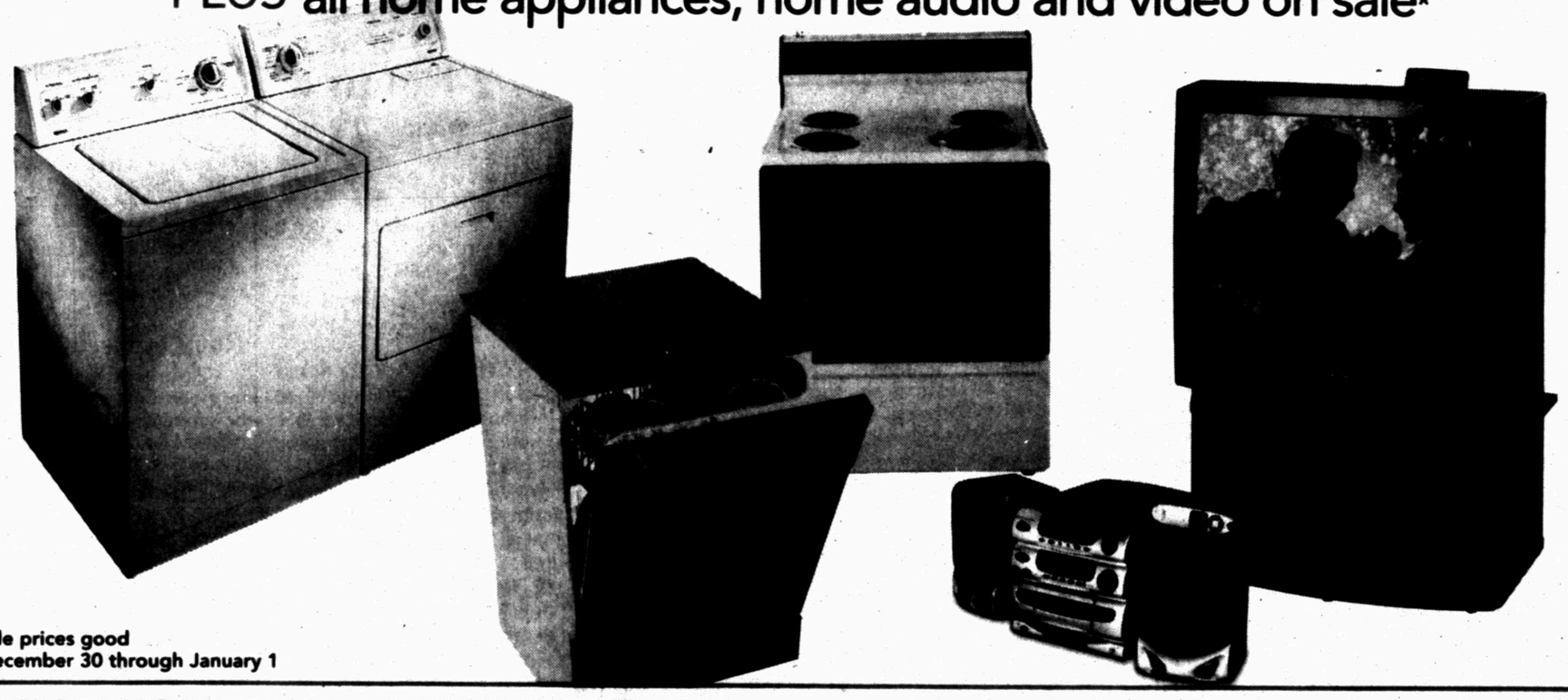
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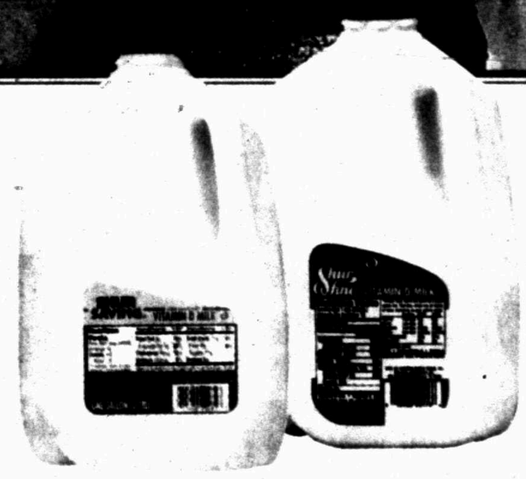
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