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WT-Int. Crude - $26.38
WTIC Posted - $23.50

# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

**THURSDAY**

Dec. 16, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 195
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Katherine Redwine


# Modified management contract okayed

## *Between Cogdell Hospital and Covenant Health Systems*

By Wade Warren
*Managing Editor*

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers voted unanimously this morning to extend the management contract with Covenant Health Systems on a month-to-month basis.

The extension will continue until a new management agreement is executed between the Cogdell board and Covenant.

Deleted from the extension, however, is any financial support from Covenant.

The contract that expires on Jan. 1 calls for Covenant to fund 50 percent of the hospital's annual operating losses up to $400,000. The maximum liability for Covenant currently is $200,000.

The current contract also calls for Cogdell to pay Covenant a management fee of 50 percent of the operating income if that total reaches $400,000 – up to a maximum of $200,000.

Since the contract was written, however, Covenant has had to pay the hospital $356,306.

The first year of the contract, Cogdell received $156,306 and the next year the maximum of $200,000.

Following the audit of 1999 operations at the hospital, it is expected Covenant will again pay $200,000.

Board president Jim Bob Cave said he would like the negotiations between Covenant and the board also to include input from county officials.

"I would like this to be a true partnership between the county and the board in negotiating the new contract," the chairman said.

Cave said he felt that in the past it appeared that county officials felt they should have been included in the negotiations, and not just presented the final contract.

"We need a partnership," Cave emphasized.

Cave also added that he had hoped the new contract could have been drawn up before the present one expires at the first of the year. "I'll take the blame that it wasn't," he said.

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Reecer said he expects a new contract to be finalized in two or three months.

Early in the discussion, board member Dink Foree asked if anyone on the board had considered any other options besides an agreement with Covenant.

"I know some of us have talked about hiring our own administrator privately, but never as a board," said Foree.

Reecer is actually an employee of Covenant, and the county is billed for his salary by Covenant.

Board member Dr. Mark Weaver said the board in the past had considered looking at hiring its own administrator, but felt it was getting its money's worth with the present agreement.

In other action items, the board agreed to purchase new General Electric radiology equipment.

Reecer told the board that the new equipment will replace X-ray equipment that is 30 years old.

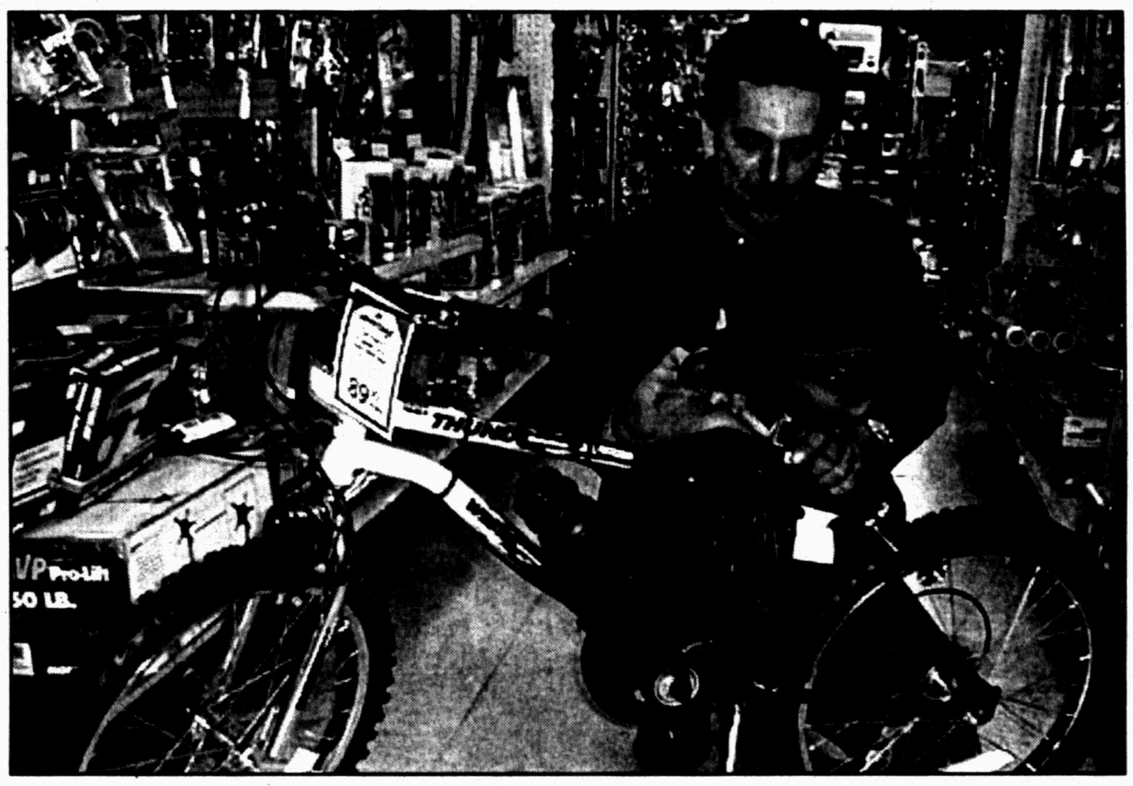
"The equipment I am proposing is much more user-friendly," said Reecer. "And it is more advanced than other equipment I had previously seen."General Electric submitted a bid of $521,334. Other bids were for $579,457 and $549,971.

Also, the board approved medical staff applications for Dr. Girish Vallabahn for urology in the specialty clinic, and for Dr. Stanton Kremsky for radiology.

Also approved were plans and policies related to advanced directive and environmental care.

Cave presided at the meeting and board members in attendance were Weaver, Foree and E. D. Walton.

Stanley Martin was absent.



ASSEMBLY — Western Auto employee Ralph A. Hernandez assembles a bicycle. Chances are Santa will be delivering a number of bicycles for Christmas this year. (SDN Staff Photo)

## THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

**The feller on Deep Creek says, "Two holiday parties on the same night? Always pick the one that gets you home the earliest."**

There often is a misconception about museums. You don't have to be an antique to enjoy one.

People of all ages can enjoy a tour of a museum, and they aren't all located in the urban areas. The Scurry County Museum on the Western Texas College campus is a good collection of the area's rich history.

For museum junkies, a recent article in the monthly magazine for Rotarians might be of interest. The article describes some of the more unique collections found throughout the world.

For instance, there's the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices, located in Minneapolis. The 2,200-square foot exhibit features an array of bogus diagnostic and therapeutic gadgets that have been foisted on the public over the past 200 years.

Some of the gizmos include phrenology machines, helmet-like devices that 'analyze' the wearer's personality.

There's also a MacGregor Rejuvenator, which promised to reverse the aging process by bathing the patient in ultraviolet and infrared lights. There is also the ominous plug-in tool called the Prostate Gland Warmer. The latter never showed up on anybody's Christmas wish list.

For more serious medical oddities, there's the Mutter Museum operated for more than 130 years by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

The vast medical collection includes the preserved thorax of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abe Lincoln; a tumor removed from the jaw of President Grover Cleveland during a secret operation in 1893; and a plaster cast of the torsos of Chang and Eng Bunker, the conjoined twins whose Thai heritage inspired the term Siamese twins.

In Chico, Calif., is the National YoYo Museum. Don't expect to find a picture of your brother-in-law. Instead it is the world's largest specimen of a yo-yo which weighs 256 pounds.

Then there's the National Museum of Toilets in New Delhi, India. No joke, the museum chronicles the history of the toilet from ancient times and seeks to educate the public on the importance of an adequate sanitation system.

Jamestown, N.M., the birthplace of Lucille Ball, is also home to the Lucy-Desi Museum where visitors can view artifacts related to the comedienne's life. It includes a Mason jar in which she stored her supply of henna, the dye that kept her America's favorite redhead.

Maybe the Scurry County Museum can have a special showing of Milton Ham's awesome collection of car cigarette lighters – categorized by model and known as the world's largest.




# BCD approves funds for new road, corridor

The Board of County Development approved a request Wednesday to earmark almost $34,000 for the county to build a road connecting Brick Plant Road and Hwy. 208.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey requested the BCD to set aside its remaining funds, which total $33,882.28, for the county to use to purchase the right of way and material for building the road.

Lindsey said the county would furnish the labor and the equipment.

The need for a new road stems from the opening of Snyder Brick and Tile, which is slated for early next year if loans go through as expected.

The narrowness of Brick Plant Road, combined with the Y intersection of the road and Hwy. 208 and the busy 37th Street intersection, create a number of traffic hazards.

A high volume of trucks will be traveling the road monthly. The commissioner said she has traveled the narrow Brick Plant Road on numerous occasions and she believes the most cost-effective resolution would be to build the connecting road, instead of refurbishing the entire Brick Plant Road.

The BCD also approved a request from The Texas, Mexico & Asian Corridor Corporation for $3,600.

The funds are Scurry County's portion to participate in the corridor group.

The group passed a motion in November requiring each of the six participating counties to put in 20 cents per capita.

Scurry County's portion is based on 18,000 people.

Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz, who is also the president of the TM&ACC, requested the funds. He said the money will be used for approved expenses, such as travel and promotion.

Fritz said as far as he knew each of the six counties had sent their money or had plans to send it shortly.

The board also approved a request from the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District for $1,250.

The funds are matched by the state and go to pay the salary of office staff.

The district actively seeks grants for projects to aid Scurry County entities and organizations. The request is an annual one.

In other business, the board approved the minutes from its September meeting, the financial statements and bills for payment.

# DPS veteran Pat Alexander GOP hopeful for constable

A 27-year veteran of the Texas Department of Public Safety has filed to run in the Republican primary for constable of Precinct 1.

Pat Alexander, who retired in 1997, will be on the GOP ballot along with Kirk Taylor, who earlier filed for the post.

Alexander is a native of Snyder and graduated from SHS in 1966. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68, which included a tour of Vietnam with the 17th Calvary (Airmobile) Division.

Alexander graduated from the DPS academy in 1970 and served in Waco, Fairfield, Ennis and Colorado City before transferring to Snyder in 1974.

He was stationed in Snyder for 23 years.

During this time, he attended Western Texas College and graduated with an associate degree in 1977.

Although retired from the DPS, Alexander retains his commissioned status with the department.

Alexander and his wife, Nancy, have two children.

Their son, Shane, is stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, and their daughter, Ginger Sutherland, and her husband and son, live in Liberal, Kan.

"I feel that my career in law enforcement for many years will help me serve the citizens of Scurry County as constable of Precinct 1," Alexander said.

"I will serve the citizens of this county in a professional and courteous manner if elected," added Alexander.

With Alexander filing to run against Taylor, this brings to three the total number of contested races for the March 14 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.

Others who have filed, and who are currently unopposed, are District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, Sheriff Darren Jackson and County Attorney Mike Hartman – all buy Jackson are on the Republican ticket.

Diana Williamson so far is running unopposed on the Democratic ballot for the tax assessor-collector.

The filing deadline is Jan. 3.



Pat Alexander




days until Christmas

## Classes to dismiss for holiday break

Students in the Snyder Independent School District will release at 2 p.m. Friday for the Christmas holidays.

Classes will not resume until Jan. 4.

School in Hermleigh will let out at 1:30 p.m. Friday and students will return Jan. 3.

Ira students will not get out of school until Wednesday. Classes will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. and will resume Jan. 3.

Offices at Western Texas College close at 2 p.m. Friday for the holiday and administrative offices will re-open Jan. 4.

**ASK US**

**Q—What is the punishment for bigamy?**

**A—Bigamy is punishable by jail, not to exceed one year, and a fine of up to $4,000.**

**FORECAST - ALMANAC**

**Snyder Temps:** High Wednesday, 52 degrees; low, 17; 7 a.m. Thursday, 26; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

**Area Forecast:** Tonight, fair. Low around 30. SW wind 5-10 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, high around 60. NE wind 10-15 mph.

XXXX XXXX
YYYY

**Sunset:**
**5:43 p.m.**
**Sunrise:**
**7:36 a.m.**
**Of 349 days in 1999, the sun has shone 342 days in Snyder.**

**TODAY'S THOUGHT**

**I couldn't wait for success...so I went ahead without it.**
**—Jonathan Winters**

# Some wooden toys recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) — A New York toy maker is recalling about 2,400 wooden toys because they include small parts that young children might choke on.

The "Selecta" brand toys, which are produced by Kathe Kruse Doll Co. of Troy, N.Y., have been banned because of the choking risk they present, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Wednesday.

Toys in the "Selecta" brand line include three sorter toys that have shapes cut out of the top for inserting various wooden pieces, including two small balls, and toy that has a chute in which small balls are placed.

The "Quatrino" sorter toy has eight sides and a sticker on one side with the picture of a bee and the words "with beeswax" written in various languages.

The "Favola" sorter toy resembles a medieval castle — it has four sides and cylindrical turrets, and it has the bee sticker on the bottom.

The "Sorting Box" sorter toy has four sides and a sticker that reads "Selecta Spieizeug" and "Made in Germany."

The "Kugelbaun" ball chute has four chutes attached at angles so the two small balls can descend and sound bells. A wooden painted clown is attached to the center of the top chute and the "Selecta" brand logo appears on the front of the toy's base.

Toy stores and web sites sold these toys from January 1997 through November 1999 for $30 to $80.

The safety commission advises consumers to take the toys away from young children immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. Consumers who purchased the toys from a Web site should contact the site to arrange for a refund.

For more information, consumers should call Kathe Kruse Doll Co. at 1-800-932-7141 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

# Some experimental cancer treatment will be covered

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Health insurers in New Jersey have agreed to cover medical costs for cancer patients who undergo experimental treatments in a bid to boost participation in research for a cure.

The agreement by members of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans would provide an estimated 25,000 cancer patients access to clinical tests. The tests must have federal approval.

"Clinical trials are the best way to find cures and identify effective treatments for cancer," said Gov. Christie Whitman, who was expected to detail the plan today. "The more people you have in trials, the better results you get, the better understanding you have of the drug."

Clinical trials test the effectiveness of a new drug or a combination of drugs in treating diseases. Only 3 percent of the 275,000 New Jersey residents who live with or have survived cancer participate in clinical trials because insurance companies often don't cover unproved treatments.

The goal of the new program is to increase the participation rate to 15 percent. Researchers would benefit, with more subjects on which to base findings.

Coventry Health Care, with 1.4 million members in the eastern half of the nation, recently began a pilot program to cover costs for patients who enroll in certain cancer studies, The New York Times reported today.

As early as next spring, the New Jersey insurers will begin paying for routine costs such as hospitalization, outpatient visits, doctor fees, lab tests, X-rays and CT-scans that previously have not been covered.

Drug companies usually fund the experimental medicines and any exceptional treatment.

The plan would cover policyholders directly insured by the companies, though employer plans under insurer administration would be offered the benefit at no charge.

Only trials approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs are eligible for the new coverage, said Ann Marie Hill, executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research.

"This provides access for people to be in clinical trials that are real trials and not just someone deciding to take advantage of an economic opportunity," said Dr. Joseph Carver, senior medical director at Aetna U.S. Healthcare, one of 10 insurers involved.

# Woman who turned over lottery winnings files for bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A woman ordered to give her entire $1.3 million lottery jackpot to her ex-husband because she kept it secret during their divorce has filed for bankruptcy.

Denise Rossi of Long Beach has until Friday to disclose her assets, according to court documents filed Dec. 3.

A judge ruled last month that Ms. Rossi violated state disclosure laws and acted out of fraud or malice by concealing her winnings.

She had said she didn't want ex-husband Thomas Rossi to get any of the money. Under California law, Rossi would have been entitled to half if the winnings had been disclosed.

Ms. Rossi won the money in the California Lottery drawing on Dec. 28, 1996 — 11 days before she filed for divorce after 25 years of marriage.

Her ex-husband learned of her winnings two years after the divorce, when he received mail from a company that pays lump sums for lottery winnings.

Rossi, 65, had said he and his ex-wife had a good relationship before the sudden divorce. Ms. Rossi maintained she was unhappy for years and was looking for a way out.

# Astro-graph

**By Bernice Bede Osol**



## Your Birthday

**Friday, Dec. 17, 1999**

There's a good chance you could have an unusual amount of dealings in the year ahead with people who reside at a distance from you. This could broaden your horizons considerably.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you're too extravagant or simply unconcerned about what you spend, you'll not get adequate mileage from your dollars and could run out of fuel before you purchase everything you need. Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Being demanding is not a good policy to attempt to win friends and influence people. Tone down your request, speak to others with consideration and you'll get a favorable response today.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Of course it's always more pleasant to see things as you would like them to be instead of as they actually are. However, without objectivity today, realistic results aren't probable.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) Your warm, generous instincts can cause you to be unduly generous to those who simply don't merit it. Today could be one of those days and you'll waste what you have on the wrong people.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Don't make any snap judgments today where unusual developments are concerned, because you could let something opportune slip past you if you can't appreciate it for what it is.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) When going after something important today, it's best not to embellish your case. Any fabrications will be quickly perceived and you could lose out.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) If you don't own something, don't loan it out today, even to a close friend. If it's not returned or is damaged, you're the one who will be held accountable.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) By underestimating your opposition today, whether it be in business or social affairs, you will put yourself at a disadvantage. Face up to realities.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) By attempting to pass the blame on to someone else for mistakes you made, you put yourself in a very precarious position which can be detected by others. Own up to errors or say nothing at all.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Especially when it comes to work related projects, manage your resources wisely without drawing upon reserves to gratify a momentary whim. You'll have a lot of explaining to do if you do.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A matter you're anxious to negotiate might not be able to be resolved as quickly you think today. Be patient and first find out if things are more involved than they initially appear.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you get involved with inept co-workers, they could hamper your progress and instead of getting a job completed today, they could add complications to the task.

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WALL INSURANCE AGENCY
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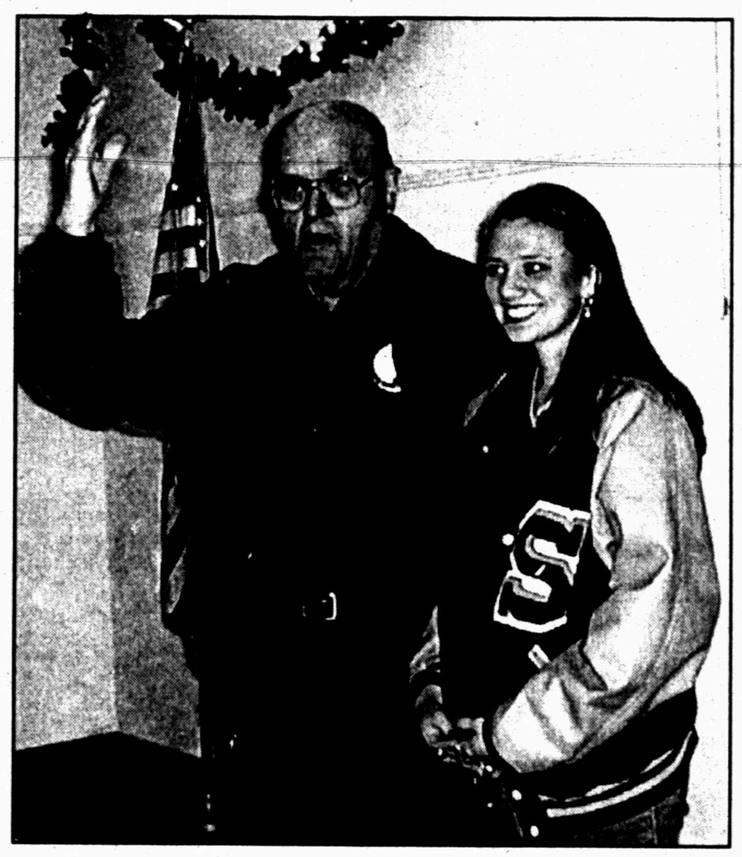
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Pants
Shirts
KIDS
Boys & Girls
Tops & Jeans
LADIES
Jeans
Blouses
1/2 PRICE AND MORE

Cruel Girl
Rockies & Lawman
Jeans
$29.98 $39.98 $49.98
Lady Wrangler
5 Pockets
$28.98
Girls Rocky And Lawman Jeans
$19.98 — $34.98
*Blue Denim *Rainbow Of Colors
sizes 4-16

Sport Jackets & Suits
$89.98 — $189.98
Extra sizes 50-56 slightly more

Wrangler Riatas Sale
$29.98
Reg. $33.98
Waist 28-44
38 lengths $2.00 More
*New Taupe *Navy, Khaki, Wheat, Black, Brown & Olive





LIONS RECOGNIZED — Mac McCown, longtime Lions Club member, received a pin at Tuesday's meeting for sponsoring the most new members to the club. President Bill Overhulser, left, made the presentation. In the bottom photo, Jack Denman led the group in singing "Happy 18th Birthday" to the Lions Club sweetheart, Tessa Hildebrand, Snyder High School senior. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunely)

# Reporter who kept a diary of her breast cancer dies at 38

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Cathy Hainer, a USA Today reporter who wrote poignantly about her fight with breast cancer, has died at the age of 38.

She died of the disease in a hospice Tuesday night.

She began keeping a diary, much of which was published in the newspaper, after her cancer was diagnosed in January 1998. The first entry: "Once Dr. Petrucci had left, I turned to my boyfriend, David, and said, 'This guy is crazy. I'm 36 and in love. How could I possibly have cancer?'"

The final entry, Dec. 6, recounted a note found on the body of a soldier, comparing death to the sailing of a ship into the distance.

"Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, 'There! She's gone!' there are other voices ready to take up the glad shout, 'There! She comes!' And that is dying."

In between the first and last entries were the ups and downs — the treatments, the loss of hair, the prayers.

"Jan. 11, 1999: Great news! The scans were clear. One year after diagnoses, I was officially declared NED: no evidence of disease."

And then — "April 20, 1999: Hearing that you have multiple lesions in your brain is not an easy thing. ... One insight I've had is that it's not death itself that's hard; it's giving up life that's the tough part."

Tom Curley, president and publisher of USA Today, said of Hainer: "Cathy's story moved a nation. Those who worked with her realize how fortunate we were to have had this unique joy in our midst."

A native of Virginia Beach, Va., Hainer graduated from the College of William & Mary and worked at New York magazine before joining USA Today.

Survivors include her father and stepmother, Stan and Shirley Hainer of Virginia Beach, and three brothers. Her mother died of breast cancer four years ago.

# Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-16-99
♠ K Q J 9 8 6
♥ K
♦ J 8 4
♣ K 10 6

West
♠ A 10 5 3 2
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 6
♣ Q J 9 8

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

South
♠ 7
♥ A J 10 5 4 2
♦ A K 10 9 7 5
♣ ---

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: East

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Pass |
| 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass! | 3 ♣ | Dbl. | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 NT | Dbl. |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Dbl. |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening lead: ♠ A

## *To balance the chips*

Yesterday's deal from the match of man vs. machines didn't show Matt Ginsberg's GIB program in a good light. GIB failed to cash its ace-king of spades when on lead against six diamonds. Well, here is a deal where GIB did much better.

GIB made an amazing pass over Zia's two clubs. Then, over three clubs, North, Q-Plus from Germany, made an "expert" double, showing that he wanted to double one spade for penalties, but couldn't, because it would have been a negative double promising length in both minors. Now, GIB underbid again, but its tactics worked perfectly. When Q-Plus went three no-trump, Zia doubled, saying something like, "Welcome to the real bridge world." (Zia could make comments because his opponents couldn't hear or be distracted.)

GIB made an overtrick, losing tricks to the spade ace and heart queen, for plus 690.

Not bad, but it might not have won the board. In the other room, Saitek, from Hong Kong, was in six diamonds. West cashed the spade ace, then switched to the club queen: king, ace, ruff. Now cashing two top trumps yields plus 920 and a win. However, Saitek judged that East was likely to have queen-third of diamonds. Declarer played a heart to dummy's king, then called for the spade king, ruffed and overruffed. Now declarer had to lose the setting trick to either West's diamond queen or East's heart queen.

Still mystified? GIB thought two clubs was forcing, "forgetting" that Zia had passed as dealer.

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# ABWA met to exchange Xmas gifts

Scurry Charter Chapter of American Business Women met Dec. 7 at the Martha Ann Woman's Club for an exchange of Christmas gifts. Also, each member brought a man's and a woman's gift for residents in the Snyder Healthcare and Snyder Oaks nursing homes.

Special guests were Amanda Compton, ABWA scholarship recipient, and her mother, Linda Compton, and Anita Brown.

Vera Pruitt presented the invocation and the benediction was by Anita Felan, who also presided.

Recognition of December birthdays included Vivian Cochran and Ruby Deavers. Inez Teaff was hostess.

# Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 15-Mabel Cottle, M.P. Herring Jr. and Patricia Porter.

DISMISSALS: Wilma Gleghorn, Brian Jackson, Terri Racher and baby boy, Kenneth Rinehart, Petra Vasquez, Anice Wallace, Margaret Weaver, Earline Brooks, Felipe Gutierrez and JoAnne Ritchie.

CENSUS: 30 (Med./Surg.-6, Long-term Care-23, ICU-1)

# Births

Tony and Amanda Steelman of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Bayley Glen Steelman, at 7:42 a.m. on Dec. 14. He was born, weighing seven pounds, 6.4 ounces, in Mitchell County Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Grady and Laura Steelman of Daingerfield, formerly of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Tommy and Tammy Berry of Hermleigh and Kim Berry of Fort Worth. Great-grandparents are Charles and Nell Berry of Wichita Falls, Bill and Betty Shankles of Big Spring, and Don and Beverly Glaser of Granbury formerly of Snyder. Great-great-grandmothers are Vivian Steelman of De Kalb of Maxine Harris of Granbury.

***

**When you put down the good things you ought to have done, and leave out the bad ones you did do, well, that's Memoirs.**

**—Will Rogers**

***

# Community Calendar

**THURSDAY**

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

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

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

Free blood pressure clinics; senior Citizens Center; 9;30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1;30 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-9742.

NIX'S CAFE
1510 College Ave. - Open 6 a.m.
Some People Say We Make A Great
CHICKEN FRIED STEAK
You Can Be The Judge For Only $5.50
Served With Tossed Salad, French Fries, Cream Gravy & Texas Toast
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*To show to you our thanks.*

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*We're serving them just for you.*

*So finish up the shopping,*
*And tying up those loose ends.*
*And be sure to drop by the Bank on Friday,*
*As we say Merry Christmas to all our friends.*

Noel

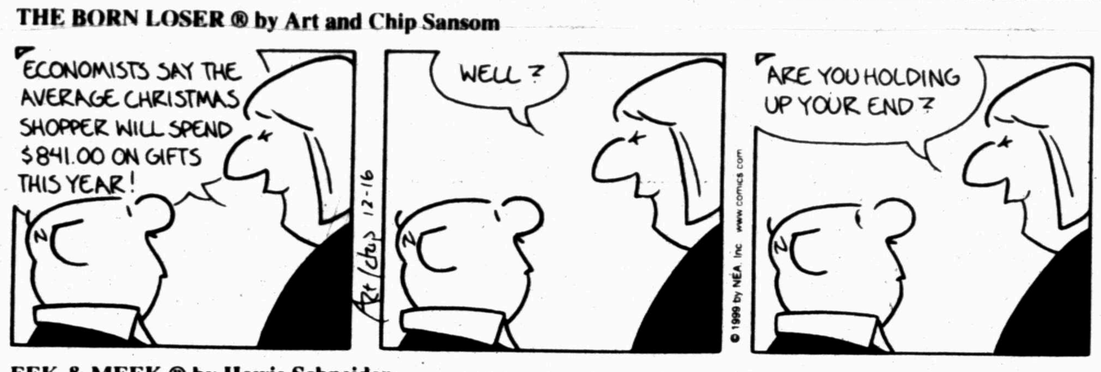
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December 17
Wassail And Cookies 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
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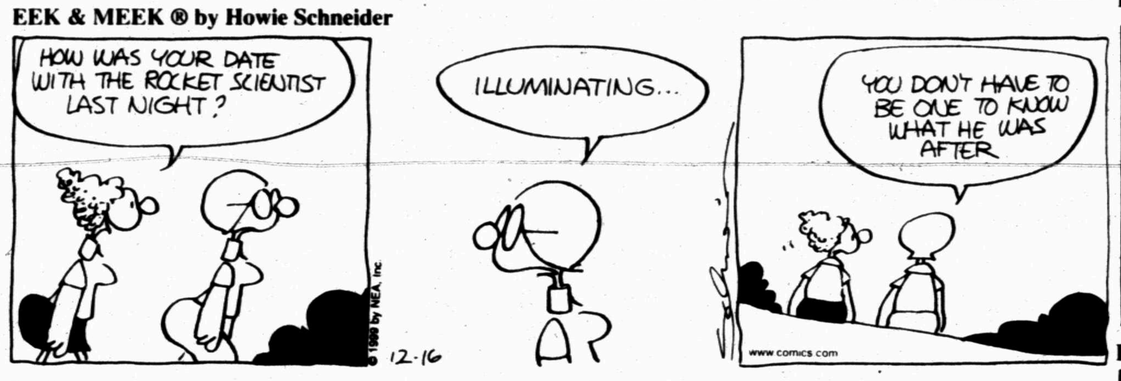
# Comic Page

# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

**THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom**




**EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider**



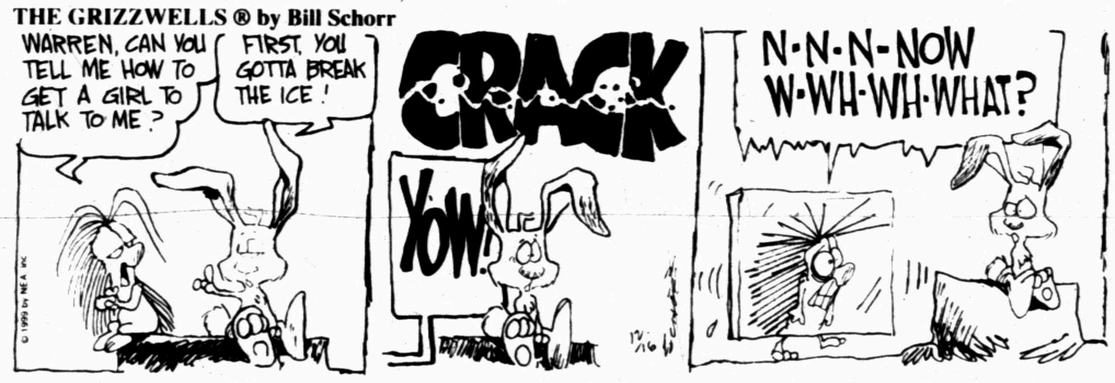

**BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell**



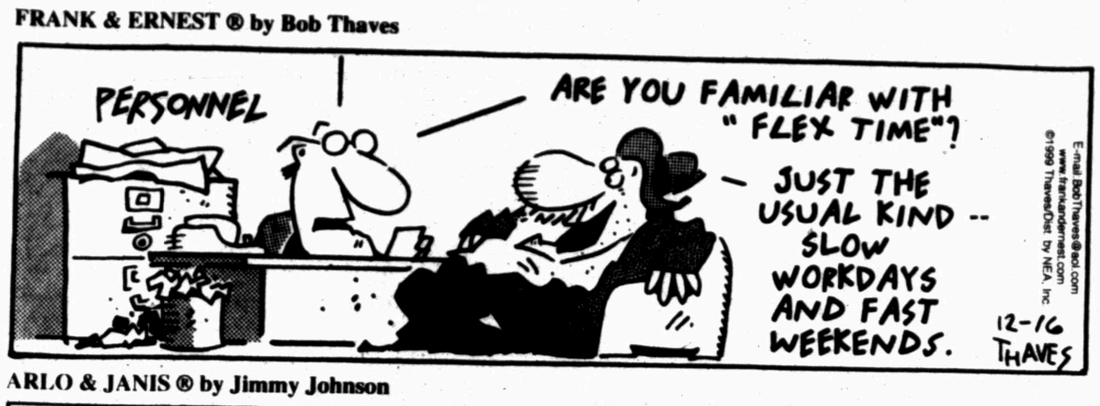

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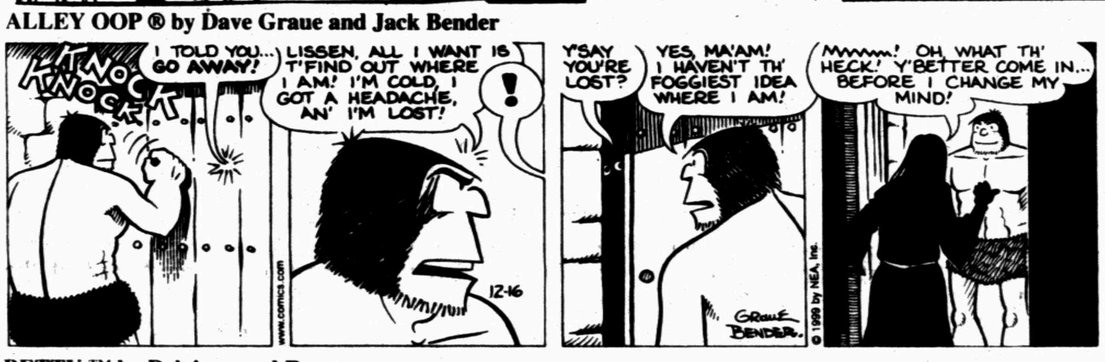

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"MY MOM SAYS SHE'D RATHER SHOP ONLINE, THAN STAND IN LINE."

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Equipped
7 Sign of the twins
13 Texas city (2 wds.)
14 Hawk
15 Slurred over speech sounds
16 Brief outline
17 Once-named
18 Obtained
20 Ear (comb. form)
21 Bridge structure
23 Ostrich's kin
24 Small fly
25 Nope's opposite
27 Showier
29 Brood of pheasants
31 Attention
32 UK time
33 Comedian Caesar
34 Picturesque
37 Departed
40 Mohammedan noble
41 French yes
43 Coral —
45 Actor Silver
46 Guided
47 Pasture
48 Chocolate maker
51 Planets' paths
54 Spotted wildcat
55 Leo's son
56 Royal chair
57 Makes serious

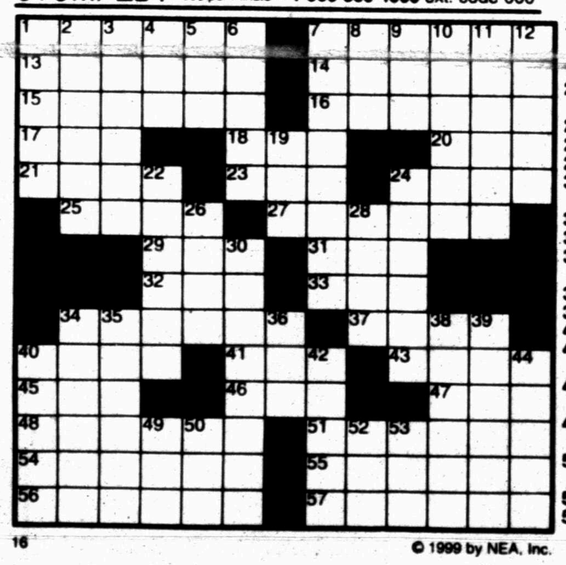
**DOWN**

1 Actress Davis
2 Detective Queen
3 For each
4 "Way out!"
5 Language suffix
6 Caravan maker
7 Hand motions
8 BPOE member
9 Actress West
10 Chant
11 Delicious beverage
12 "Some Like — —"
19 Medical suffix
22 Clothes holder
24 Steel beam
26 Sacred music
28 Dog's wagger
30 Become blanched
34 Kiss (sl.)
35 "Ella" start
36 Actor's signal
38 Cat
39 Seesaw
40 Rye fungus
42 Objects of worship
44 Observes Yom Kippur
49 Workers' assn.
50 Erich — Stroheim
52 — Grande
53 Dole or Dylan

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | B | S | E | N | | | L | A | G | S | | |
| B | L | A | R | E | D | | B | L | E | A | T | S |
| A | U | D | R | E | Y | | E | D | D | I | E | S |
| R | E | E | | N | E | D | | E | N | T | E | |
| | | A | G | E | L | E | S | S | | | | |
| I | M | P | E | L | | A | V | E | | M | I | D |
| B | A | R | R | I | G | | I | D | E | A | T | E |
| I | D | I | O | T | S | | L | U | G | G | E | R |
| D | E | G | | C | M | V | | C | A | I | R | N |
| | | W | H | O | O | P | E | D | | | | |
| L | A | S | H | | S | L | A | | | A | V | A |
| B | I | K | I | N | I | | S | N | A | R | E | S |
| S | L | A | T | E | S | | O | A | F | I | S | H |
| | S | T | E | P | | | | P | L | A | T | E |

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16

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# SPORTS

*In Ira tourney...*

## Bulldogs, Cardinals square off tonight

IRA — Ira High School's basketball tournament gets right to the action tonight, with an old fashioned rivalry.

Ira and Hermleigh square off tonight in opening round boys' and girls' action of the Bulldog Classic.

The two schools, district foes in football, compete in separate hoops league, but will this evening for the right to advance to the second round.

The girls' contest tips off at 6 o'clock, followed by the boys at 7:30.

In other first round girls' action, Loraine received a bye, while the Andrews freshmen faced Post this afternoon. Midland Trinity squares off with Highland at 3, with the winner moving on to face the Hermleigh-Ira winner.

In this morning's boys' action, Post took on Ira JV, and Andrews JV battled Loraine.

In the bottom half of the bracket, Midland Trinity meets Highland at 4:30, followed by Ira and Hermleigh at 7:30.

Tournament play continues Friday with the finals slated for Saturday. The girls' championship game tips off at 6 p.m. Saturday, with the boys' contest getting underway at 7:30.



FIRST BUCK — Cody Smith, 13, shot his first buck last month. He tagged the 10-point buck while on a hunting trip with his father Jim (left) in New Mexico. (Contributed Photo)

## Injury-riddled Dallas team prepares for Jets

IRVING (AP) — Deion Sanders was excused from Dallas Cowboys' practice Wednesday because he was feeling ill. Emmitt Smith was absent, too, but not because of his injured groin.

Smith visited the eye doctor while teammates began preparing for Sunday's game against the New York Jets. He either bruised or strained a groin muscle on his first carry this past Sunday against Philadelphia and did not return.

Although there was no official diagnosis on Sanders, a flu bug hit several players, including Troy Aikman, late last week. He went home after sleeping in the trainer's room during lunch.

Coach Chan Gailey said he was unsure whether Smith or Sanders would practice Thursday.

Offensive lineman Larry Allen, center Mark Stepnoski and receiver Ernie Mills participated in individual drills, but were held out of team sessions. Gailey said he hopes to have them back Thursday, "but that's not a given."

Allen has missed four games with a strained knee, Stepnoski 11/2 games with a strained calf and Mills two with a strained quadriceps.

The good news was that cornerback Kevin Smith, who has been out with a strained hamstring, practiced for the first time in three weeks and could play Sunday.

"We'll see how he feels after this," Gailey said. "If he has no ill effects from today's practice, then that's encouraging."

Coaches also decided that on Sunday they'll use tackle Leon Lett at end in place of Greg Ellis, who suffered a season-ending leg injury in the 20-10 victory over the Eagles.

Alonzo Spellman, who moved from end to tackle while Lett was suspended for eight games, will remain at tackle in Dallas' standard defensive package.

"We feel like that's our best matchup for this ballgame," Gailey said. "It may change next week. We'll see how it goes. We're still going to use our rotation system, so all our guys will play."

## FBI finds Carruth in car trunk

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Rae Carruth's flight from justice ended in the trunk of a car at a motel in western Tennessee.

The Carolina Panthers wide receiver, who is charged with murdering his girlfriend, surrendered to the FBI on Wednesday evening, his hands raised in the air when the trunk of the gray Toyota Camry was opened in the parking lot of a Best Western motel in Wildersville, Tenn.

"He was cooperative during the course of the arrest and processing," said Victor O'Korn, FBI assistant special agent in charge in Charlotte.

Carruth vanished Tuesday, when a warrant was issued charging him with first-degree murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Cherica Adams. She died earlier that day from wounds suffered in a Nov. 16 attack as she drove her car in a Charlotte suburb.

Despite repeated vows from his mother that he was ready to surrender, Carruth disappeared for more than a day. Carruth's name was entered into the National Crime Information Center computer, which is linked to police across the United States.

Acting on a tip given to Charlotte-Mecklenburg homicide investigators, Carruth was arrested at the motel about 100 miles northeast of Memphis, Tenn. He was accompanied by an unidentified female friend who has not been charged, said FBI spokeswoman Joanne Morley.

Agents checked the room, then found the 5-foot-11, 194-pound player in the car trunk, the FBI said.

Carruth, 25, was being held in the Madison County, Tenn., jail on a federal charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. An extradition hearing before a federal magistrate was planned for this morning.

Adams, 24, was 61/2 months' pregnant when she was shot four times in the neck and chest.

## Seventh-ranked Lady Raiders trounce Lamar

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech's defensive heat proved to be the perfect cure for a chilly December night.

Lamar found itself on the receiving end of the No. 7 Lady Raiders' relentless defensive pressure Wednesday night as Tech limited the Lady Cardinals to 16-of-51 shooting en route to an 85-41 victory.

"I thought we looked a little bit ragged at the first of the game, but after we settled in, I felt we played pretty well and made some good choices," said coach Marsha Sharp of Texas Tech (7-0).

"We wanted to continue to improve our offense and make some good decisions in it and find easy shots. As the game went on, we did a little better job at that."

Plenette Pierson led the Lady Raiders with 21 points. Many of her points came on easy shots inside as Tech continually worked the ball around the perimeter before moving it inside to Pierson.

"I need to improve on my free throws," said Pierson, who was 5-of-9 from the foul line. "But that all comes in time with experience in the game. I think my defense is getting a little better as I play more and more. My game is coming all together now."

Texas Tech is 7-0 for the first time since winning its first nine in the 1992-93 season on the way to the national championship.

The Lady Raiders scored 16 of the game's first 19 points and limited Lamar to just 12 points in the first half on 5-of-25 shooting. Tech built a 38-12 advantage by halftime. Lamar (4-4) also had 12 turnovers.

Lamar, scoreless for a 10-minute stretch during the first half, got no closer than 25 in the second half.

## Spurs ground Rockets, extend streak

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan scored 20 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to an 83-77 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

David Robinson added 14 points for San Antonio, which has won three of its last four games.

Steve Francis had 24 points for Houston, which dropped its fifth straight game since losing Charles Barkley to a ruptured quadriceps tendon in his left leg on Dec. 8.

The Spurs were trailing by seven with 7:08 left in the game before going on a 12-0 run to take a 76-71 lead. Robinson scored six points in the run.

A free throw by Cuttino Mobley with 1:54 to play brought Houston within 76-73. San Antonio answered with two free throws apiece by Duncan and Porter sandwiched around a jump hook by Kenny Thomas that gave the Spurs a 80-75 lead with 23.7 seconds left.

Mario Elie connected on three free throws for San Antonio over the final 15 seconds that gave the Spurs their largest lead of the game at the final buzzer.

Trailing 45-42 early in the third quarter, Francis keyed a Rocket run with eight straight points to push Houston to a 50-45 advantage.

The Rockets led by as many as 11 in the third quarter.

## Local Basketball Schedule

**TODAY**

Ira girls vs. Hermleigh girls, at Ira tourney, 6 p.m.

Ira boys vs. Hermleigh boys, at Ira tourney, 7:30

**FRIDAY**

Abilene Wylie at Snyder 9th and varsity boys, 6 and 7 p.m.

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

Snyder 9th, JV and varsity girls at Abilene Wylie, 5 and 6:30

Ira girls and boys at Ira tourney

Hermleigh girls and boys at Ira tourney

## Sports Briefs

### MGA tourney scheduled

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College will hold its monthly tournament Saturday at 1:30. Format will be a two-man scramble and entry fee is $5.

### Ryder Cup players get money

(AP) — In a plan that should stop any controversy over Ryder Cup revenue, the PGA has agreed to give team members $200,000 each to split between golf development programs at their colleges and the charities of their choice, several sources said.

Jim Awtrey, chief executive officer of the PGA, had pledged to work with players and come up with a plan by year's end.

"We're pleased we have reached an agreement in concept with the players, and we will release details after the holidays," a PGA spokesman said Wednesday.

According to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, the players and captain Ben Crenshaw will receive $100,000 each to designate to their charities. The other $100,000 will be given to their college — or several colleges — for a golf development program designed by the PGA.

### UTEP promotes assistant coach

EL PASO (AP) — With many players and recently retired coach Charlie Bailey pushing for him, Texas-El Paso offensive coordinator Gary Nord was promoted to head coach.

Nord credited with developing an offense that ranked 21st in the nation in passing this year, will take over for the 59-year-old Bailey, who retired this month after seven years as head coach.

### Woods signs with Buick

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods and Buick on Wednesday announced a five-year sponsorship deal in which he'll carry the company logo on his bag and play in a certain number of Buick-sponsored tournaments every year.

In exchange, the carmaker will pay a reported $20 million to $25 million to golf's hottest property.

In what amounted to a corporate dog-and-pony show, Woods and a Buick executive stood on a dais in a hotel ballroom and removed a silver cloth that had been covering a leather golf bag. It was much like civic leaders unveiling a monument.

## National Basketball Association

All Times EST

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 17 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 39 | 93 | 74 |
| New Jersey | 16 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 84 | 67 |
| Pittsburgh | 12 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 93 | 83 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 11 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 27 | 73 | 81 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 6 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 55 | 89 |

**Northeast Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toronto | 18 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 42 | 97 | 73 |
| Ottawa | 15 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 35 | 78 | 70 |
| Boston | 12 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 32 | 80 | 80 |
| Buffalo | 13 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 77 | 79 |
| Montreal | 11 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 66 | 80 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 17 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 38 | 82 | 66 |
| Carolina | 12 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 31 | 74 | 80 |
| Washington | 11 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 28 | 70 | 77 |
| Tampa Bay | 10 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 27 | 82 | 92 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 62 | 108 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 20 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 44 | 109 | 73 |
| St. Louis | 19 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 41 | 95 | 68 |
| Nashville | 9 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 78 | 102 |
| Chicago | 8 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 82 | 98 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colorado | 15 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 34 | 88 | 88 |
| Edmonton | 10 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 77 | 86 |
| Vancouver | 11 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 31 | 82 | 94 |
| Calgary | 12 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 29 | 77 | 99 |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Jose | 17 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 40 | 103 | 91 |
| Phoenix | 18 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 95 | 77 |
| Los Angeles | 16 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 39 | 99 | 88 |
| Dallas | 16 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 36 | 75 | 72 |
| Anaheim | 15 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 35 | 82 | 73 |

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

**Wednesday's Games**

N.Y. Rangers 8, Los Angeles 3
Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 6, Carolina 3
Washington 4, Atlanta 0
Florida 3, Nashville 2
Detroit 5, Edmonton 1
Dallas 5, Calgary 1
Anaheim 4, Colorado 2

**Thursday's Games**

New Jersey at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

**Friday's Games**

Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

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Western Texas College will be accepting bids on Computers, Monitors and Keyboards until 4:00pm, January 5, 2000. Further information concerning the bid may be obtained by contacting the Business Office at Western Texas College, telephone (915)573-8511, Ext. 203. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
**THE STATE OF TEXAS §**
**COUNTY OF SCURRY §**

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of **DESSIE McMILLAN**, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,548:
The undersigned, having been duly appointed Co-Independent Executrices of the Estate of DESSIE McMILLAN, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by Ricky Fritz, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 14th day of December, 1999, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to Jean Moore at 1963 S. Highland, Amarillo, TX 79103 or Peggy Roach at 3407 Teckla, Amarillo, TX 79109, within the time prescribed by law.
Executed this 14th day of December, 1999.
**(s) JEAN MOORE,**
**(s) PEGGY ROACH**
Co-Independent Executrices
of the Estate of
Dessie McMillan,
deceased

## Announcements

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**Immediate Career Employment** Opportunity: Counselor Supervisor, Sweetwater Transitional Treatment Center, Sweetwater, Texas. Must be either a LCDC, LPC, or MSW. Salary is $28,500 yearly (negotiable). Interested applicants should immediately forward a resume to:
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(512) 450-1161 Fax (512) 450-1232

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**Pizza Inn now** hiring delivery drivers. Must be 18. Apply in person.

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads. Call today!

## Employment

**Snyder Health Care** is currently accepting applications for a maintenance supervisor. Apply in person at 5311 Big Spring Hwy. Mon. - Fri. 9am - 3pm.

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**Need Money for** Christmas? Good or bad credit, we can help. 1-877-939-9091 (Toll free) No fees.

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**Hay For Sale:** Rox candy square bales. Call Ross Preston (915) 573-1217.

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**(2)-12" JL Audio** Sub-woofers w/box. (2)-51/4" MB Quart Component speakers. 4300XS Phoenix gold amp. Sold together or separate. 573-4796 after 5:30p.m.

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3706 College 573-7582

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**GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES:** Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers. WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R.

**Queen-size Sofa Bed.** Used very little. Reasonable price. 3605 Jacksboro. Call 573-7615.

## Merchandise

**Just in time for Christmas!!** 386 Computer, Windows 95, 210MB hard drive, several games loaded, color monitor, keyboard, mouse, printer, all for $150. Call 573-5683 after 5pm.

**SANTA SPECIAL:** Metal detectors by White's Electronics. (915)728-2494, Colorado City.

**Tom Clark Gnomes** 1/2 price through Dec. @ Purple Sage Motel Gift Shop. 573-5491.

**USED COLOR TVs.**
Snyder Electronics
411 Coliseum Dr. 573-6421

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**MULLIGANS MALL**
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| Steel Handle Hammer | $4.00 |
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| 5X7 Blue Tarp | $3.00 |
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**FREE 6 week** old puppies. 4 males, 1 female. 1/2 Lab, 1/2 Keltie. Come by 3103 Cherry between 12 pm and 6 pm.

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**Ready in time** for Christmas! Full-blood Border Collie puppies. Working mom & dad on premises. $75 each. 573-6763/573-2873.

**SANTA: Please bring** us some kids for Christmas! AKC Dachshunds, males, black/tan. $125. 573-7369.

## Garage Sales

**HUGE GARAGE SALE**
2313 40th
Saturday Only! 8 - 3
Lots of great stuff! Good Christmas gift items. Have a wide variety.

**INSIDE SALE**
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Girls/Ladies clothes, Recliner, Shelves, Sunflower decorations, stove & lots of misc.


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Friday
Only
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All Proceeds Benefit Noah Project West, a shelter for victims of family violence
1503 26th St. Snyder, TX 573-8870

## Want To Buy

**Want to Buy:** Fixer Upper, House that needs work. Call 573-2333.

## Apartments For Rent

**2 bedroom apartment** for rent. Good location, reasonable. Call 573-0996.

**Super Clean 2** bedroom, brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012 Leave message.

"The Search for Santa" by Greg Evans




# McCain, Bradley pledge not to let parties use soft money

LEBANON, N.H. (AP) — In a summit of presidential underdogs, Republican John McCain and Democrat Bill Bradley courted independent voters and jabbed their front-running rivals with a joint pledge to pursue "genuine campaign finance reform."

The Arizona senator and former New Jersey senator signed a statement today before their joint appearance stating, "We pledge that as the nominees for the office of president of the United States we will not allow our political parties to spend soft money for our presidential campaigns, and we commit to working together toward genuine campaign finance reform."

So-called "soft money" are unlimited, unregulated donations to be used for party-building activities. Increasingly, the money has become a huge loophole in campaign finance laws, used to indirectly aid presidential and congressional campaigns.

Their high-profile town hall and joint news conference drew dozens of journalists to the town of Claremont, N.H. The pair is expected to re-create the 1995 handshake by which President Clinton and Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich promised a commission to study campaign finance changes.

The commission never materialized.

Though both served long stints in Congress and have raised tens of millions of dollars in political donations, McCain and Bradley are running as Washington outsiders committed to scrubbing the system clean.

They have mounted surprisingly strong challenges to their party favorites — Vice President Al Gore for the Democrats and Texas Gov. George W. Bush for Republicans. Their high-profile session gives McCain and Bradley attention outside the front-runners' shadows.

Gore supports a soft money ban; Bush does not.

"I think it's a win-win for both of them," said Democratic consultant Bill Carrick of California, who is not tied to a presidential campaign. "They are using campaign finance reform to differentiate themselves from their opponents."

"It might be a gimmick, but it's a good one," said GOP consultant David Carney of New Hampshire.

Clark Hubbard, political science professor at the University of New Hampshrie, said the joint appearance helps the Republican the most because it helps cast the race as a McCain-Bush contest — even though four other candidates are competing. Bradley, a former New Jersey senator, is already Gore's only rival.

"All future (news) reports will refer to them both as the anti-establishment candidate taking on the anointed ones," Hubbard said. "That plays especially well up here."

Both need strong support from independents, particularly in a state such as New Hampshire that opens its party primary to all voters. Campaign finance reform is a compelling issue to many independents.

The strategy carries a risk for McCain, because Republican leaders and special interest allies object to changes in campaign finance laws that could upset their fund-raising advantage over Democrats. The Arizona senator is urging rank-and-file Republicans to see the issue as a conservative cause, arguing Wednesday that special interests fight against cuts in government, tax reform and sensible military spending.

Bradley's problem isn't his party as much as it is Gore, who won't let the former lawmaker seize the campaign finance reform mantle without a fight.

In a full-page ad in today's editions of the Claremont, N.H., Eagle Times, the vice president praises McCain for showing "real courage" in fighting for campaign finance reform. He also urges voters to "look beyond the rhetoric of the candidates to the actual record."

There was no mention of Bradley, but none was needed: Gore clearly implied that he, not Bradley, is the true champion of political reform.

# Tarrant sheriff called deserter 20 years ago

DALLAS (AP) — The outspoken Tarrant County sheriff who gained office in a crime-fighting campaign that showcased his military police experience was labeled an Army deserter more than 20 years ago, according to The Dallas Morning News.

Records obtained by the newspaper in a copyright story for today's editions show that the Fort Worth law officer's Army career ended shortly after he was absent without leave in 1976 as a military policeman.

David Williams, in his seventh year as the county's top law enforcement officer, has said his department has locked up nearly 300,000 prisoners while his reengineered fugitive squad, which once arrested 4,000 people a year, now apprehends about 20,000. He announced his bid for a third term earlier this year. Three fellow Republicans and one Democrat have filed to run against him.

The sheriff's father, also a military veteran, maintained his son received an honorable discharge from the Army.

"You can't get an honorable discharge and go AWOL that I know of," Gene Williams told the newspaper from his home in Norman, Okla. "It doesn't make good sense to me."

The younger Williams' military record, obtained by the newspaper from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis under the federal Freedom of Information Act, shows he was listed as AWOL on April 2, 1976, and was "dropped from rolls (desertion)" on May 6, 1976.

Williams left the service on July 13, about six weeks shy of his fourth anniversary. Records did not reveal why the 22-year-old senior MP went AWOL, where he went or what he was doing. Nor do they show what type of discharge Williams received, information that cannot be released to the public, officials said.

He entered the military Aug. 30, 1972, and was stationed with the 545th Military Police Company at Fort Hood, Texas. He was reassigned in November 1974 to the 546th Military Police Company at Fort Sill, Okla.

Honorable discharges are sometimes given to service members who have gone AWOL, said Fort Sill spokesman Daran Neal. Law officers say some desertion reports can even stem from inaccurate or incomplete military records.

## Markets

**Midday Stocks**

NEW YORK (AP)

| | High | Low | Last | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMR Corp | 67⅞ | 67⅛ | 67¾ | —11-16 |
| AT&T Corp s | 54⅝ | 53¼ | 53½ | — ½ |
| Albertsons | 30 | 29 9-16 | 29 13-16 | — ⅛ |
| Alltel | 87⅛ | 86¼ | 87 1-16 | — 1-16 |
| AmerOnline s | 92⅝ | 88⅜ | 88 9-16 | + 1 1-16 |
| AndarkPtr | 31 3-16 | 30 15-16 | 31 1-16 | |
| AtlRichfld | 90¾ | 90 | 90¾ | + 1 5-16 |
| ATMOS Egy | 21½ | 21 5-16 | 21 7-16 | — 1-16 |
| Aviall | 7⅜ | 7 11-16 | 7 13-16 | + 1-16 |
| BP Amoco s | 62⅛ | 61 11-16 | 61 15-16 | + 1¼ |
| BakerHughes | 19¼ | 18½ | 18⅞ | — ¾ |
| Bank of Amer | 49 15-16 | 49 5-16 | 49⅜ | — 9-16 |
| BellAtl | 64½ | 64 | 64 1-16 | — ⅝ |
| BellSouth s | 47⅛ | 46 7-16 | 46⅞ | — ⅜ |
| Beth Steel | 7⅝ | 7 9-16 | 7 9-16 | — 1-16 |
| BurlNoSFe | 27 15-16 | 27 9-16 | 27 15-16 | — 7-16 |
| CBS Corp | 57½ | 56 11-16 | 56 11-16 | —11-16 |
| Caterpillar | 47 | 46 | 46 13-16 | + 1 |
| CenSoWst | 20 | 19¾ | 19⅞ | — ¼ |
| Chevron | 89 15-16 | 89 3-16 | 89 13-16 | — ⅛ |
| Citigroup s | 55⅛ | 53 11-16 | 54 5-16 | — 3-16 |
| Coastal | 33¼ | 32⅝ | 33 | — 7-16 |
| CocaCola | 60⅜ | 58¼ | 58 11-16 | — 1⅛ |
| ColgatePal s | 60¼ | 58½ | 59⅜ | + 1-16 |
| ComclMetals | 31 9-16 | 31 7-16 | 31 9-16 | + 3-16 |
| Cooperin | 42¼ | 41 15-16 | 42⅛ | + ⅛ |
| DaimlrChry | 78 13-16 | 75⅜ | 75⅜ | + 4⅜ |
| DallSemicn | 58 15-16 | 57⅜ | 58½ | + ¾ |
| DeltaAirl | 49½ | 48⅜ | 49⅛ | — 9-16 |
| Dillards Inc | 18 13-16 | 18 3-16 | 18⅜ | + 5-16 |
| DowChem | 126 | 121 13-16 | 123 | —4 15-16 |
| DuPont | 64 13-16 | 63⅞ | 64 | —15-16 |
| EastmanChem | 46½ | 46 | 46 | — ¼ |
| EstKodak | 60 15-16 | 59 11-16 | 59⅞ | — 7-16 |
| EDS Corp | 65 | 63⅞ | 64 7-16 | —13-16 |
| Entergy | 25 13-16 | 24¾ | 25 7-16 | + 7-16 |
| ExxonMobil | 83 | 81⅜ | 82 3-16 | — ⅜ |
| FstBksAm | 18 1-16 | 18 1-16 | 18 1-16 | |
| Flowers | 15¾ | 15⅜ | 15 9-16 | + 1-16 |
| FordMotor | 50 7-16 | 49 9-16 | 50 1-16 | + ⅝ |
| GTE Cp | 74 1-16 | 73 5-16 | 73½ | — ⅜ |
| GenDynam | 50 5-16 | 49 3-16 | 50 5-16 | + ½ |
| GenlElec | 146¼ | 144 5-16 | 146⅛ | + ⅝ |
| GenMills s | 33 9-16 | 32 15-16 | 33 9-16 | — 1⅛ |
| GenMotors | 73 7-16 | 71 15-16 | 72 15-16 | + 1 11-16 |
| GaPacGP s | 46 | 45⅜ | 45¾ | — 3-16 |
| GlobalMar | 15⅛ | 14 9-16 | 14¾ | — 1-16 |
| Goodrich | 24⅛ | 22⅜ | 23 15-16 | + 1 9-16 |
| Goodyear s | 28⅜ | 27 15-16 | 28 9-16 | + 7-16 |
| GtAtlPac | 25 5-16 | 24⅜ | 25 5-16 | + 5-16 |
| Halliburtn | 38¼ | 37 | 37 | — 3-16 |
| Hanson ADS | 40⅞ | 40⅛ | 40 5-16 | —1 3-16 |
| HarteHanks | 20⅛ | 19⅞ | 20⅛ | |
| HomeDepot | 95¼ | 93⅛ | 95⅛ | + 1⅝ |
| HomeDepot wi | 63¼ | 61½ | 63¼ | + 1¾ |
| HoneywellIntl | 60 5-16 | 59 9-16 | 60 3-16 | — ⅛ |
| IBM s | 108 9-16 | 105¾ | 107⅛ | + ½ |
| IntlPaper | 56 1-16 | 53¾ | 54⅜ | — 1½ |
| JohnsonJn | 95¾ | 94 11-16 | 94⅞ | — ⅛ |
| K mart | 12 | 11 7-16 | 11 9-16 | + ⅜ |
| Kroger Co s | 15 7-16 | 14 15-16 | 15¼ | + 5-16 |
| Litton | 45½ | 44 5-16 | 44 5-16 | — ¼ |
| LockheedM | 20 1-16 | 19 11-16 | 19 15-16 | — 1-16 |
| Lowes Cos | 55⅞ | 54 5-16 | 55 13-16 | + 1 11-16 |
| Lubys | 10¼ | 10⅛ | 10 3-16 | — ¼ |
| LucentTech s | 79 | 77 5-16 | 78½ | + 1⅛ |
| MayDeptStr s | 31 | 30 9-16 | 30¾ | + ⅛ |
| MediaOne | 77 13-16 | 76½ | 77 | — 9-16 |
| Medtronic s | 36¼ | 34½ | 34⅞ | — 1⅛ |
| Monsanto | 40 5-16 | 39¾ | 40¼ | — 3-16 |
| MorganJP | 129⅛ | 127 13-16 | 128⅛ | — 2¼ |
| Motorola | 130⅜ | 128 1-16 | 128 15-16 | — 1¼ |
| NCR Corp | 32 3-16 | 31⅞ | 31 15-16 | — 1-16 |
| Navistar | 43 5-16 | 41¾ | 42 9-16 | + ⅜ |
| Penney JC | 19 1-16 | 18⅞ | 18 15-16 | — 1-16 |
| PepBoys | 8¾ | 8⅝ | 8⅝ | — 1-16 |
| PepsiCo | 34 9-16 | 33 15-16 | 33 15-16 | — ¾ |
| PhelpDodge | 59¾ | 57 15-16 | 58⅜ | + ½ |
| PhilipPet | 47 11-16 | 46⅝ | 47⅛ | —13-16 |
| PilgrmPrd B | 7 11-32 | 7⅛ | 7⅛ | — 3-16 |
| Polaroid | 18 | 17½ | 18 | + 7-16 |
| Praxair | 46⅜ | 45 15-16 | 46 | — ⅛ |
| ProctGamb | 111 7-16 | 109¼ | 109¾ | — 2⅞ |
| PubS NwMx | 16 7-16 | 16 5-16 | 16⅜ | — 1-16 |
| ReliantEngy | 23⅝ | 23⅜ | 23⅜ | — 3-16 |
| RoyalDut | 63⅜ | 62¾ | 63 3-16 | + 2 15-16 |
| SBC Comm | 51 13-16 | 50⅞ | 51 5-16 | — ¾ |
| SaraLee | 22 9-16 | 22⅛ | 22 5-16 | + ⅛ |
| Scripps EW | 43¾ | 42 11-16 | 42 13-16 | — 5-16 |
| SearsRoeb | 31 7-16 | 31⅛ | 31 5-16 | + 1-16 |
| SherwinW | 19 13-16 | 19⅛ | 19½ | — 5-16 |
| SmithklBchm | 63 15-16 | 62 | 63⅝ | — ⅜ |
| SouthernCo | 23⅜ | 23⅛ | 23⅜ | — 1-16 |
| SwstAirl s | 16 | 15 11-16 | 15 11-16 | — 5-16 |
| SprintFON s | 65 11-16 | 64⅛ | 65⅝ | + 2 1-16 |
| SprintPCS | 107¼ | 105 9-16 | 105⅝ | — 6⅜ |
| Sunoco Inc | 24⅛ | 23½ | 24 | — 5-16 |
| TNP Ent | 41 3-16 | 41 1-16 | 41 1-16 | — 1-16 |
| Tandy s | 68 | 64¾ | 65½ | —2 13-16 |
| TempleInland | 65 | 62⅞ | 63⅛ | —1 15-16 |
| Texaco | 54 15-16 | 54¼ | 54 15-16 | + ⅜ |
| TexInd | 39 15-16 | 38⅜ | 39 1-16 | — ⅝ |
| TexasInst s | 100⅞ | 98¾ | 100 7-16 | + 5 7-16 |
| Tex Util | 34½ | 33¾ | 33 15-16 | — ¼ |
| Textron | 73 5-16 | 72 5-16 | 73 5-16 | + 13-16 |
| TriconGlbR | 39 9-16 | 39 1-16 | 39⅛ | — ⅜ |
| Trinityinds | 27¼ | 27 | 27¼ | — 1-16 |
| TritonEngy | 20¼ | 19 9-16 | 19 9-16 | —11-16 |
| TylerTech | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| US West Inc | 69 9-16 | 68 9-16 | 69⅜ | + ⅜ |
| USX-Marathn | 27⅛ | 26 9-16 | 26 13-16 | + 1-16 |
| USX-USS | 30½ | 29 15-16 | 30 | — ⅜ |
| UnCarbde | 65 | 61¾ | 62 9-16 | —2 7-16 |
| UnionPacif | 43 15-16 | 43 9-16 | 43 13-16 | + 3-16 |
| UnitedTech s | 58⅜ | 57⅜ | 57 13-16 | — 5-16 |
| Unocal | 34¾ | 34¼ | 34 5-16 | — 7-16 |
| Venator Grp | 7 | 6⅞ | 6⅞ | + 1-16 |
| WalMart s | 67¼ | 66 1-16 | 66 15-16 | + 11-16 |
| WellsFargo | 39¾ | 38 9-16 | 39½ | —2 5-16 |
| WstnGasRs | 12⅝ | 12¼ | 12⅝ | + ½ |
| WinnDixie | 24 1-16 | 23⅝ | 24 1-16 | — ⅛ |
| Xerox Cp s | 22 11-16 | 22¼ | 22 7-16 | + 1-16 |

## Local Interest STOCKS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Patterson | 11 3/8 | -1/16 |
| Dell | 42 11/16 | -1/2 |
| Wal Mart | 66 3/4 | +189/256 |
| Compac | 25 3/8 | +3/8 |
| Dol. Gen. | 26 7/16 | +1 |
| GTE | 73 9/16 | -5/16 |
| SBC Comm. | 51 3/16 | -7/8 |
| Tx Instr. | 98 1/8 | +2 1/2 |
| LU | 77 13/16 | +3/16 |
| Cisco Sys. | 98 1/4 | +2 3/8 |

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●Sparkling Pool ● Clothes Care Facility
●Great Location ● Satellite TV Available
Office located at 3901 Ave. 0
573-1488

## Houses For Rent

**1208 25th, New** Carpet, 2-1, Water & Cable paid, Appliances. $300/month $150/deposit, References. Dupree Rentals, 573-9001.

**3 bedroom, 2** bath, fireplace, 2-car garage. 4111 Eastridge. $570/month plus $250/deposit. HeritageHomes Realtor. 573-5056.

**3 Bedroom House**, carport. $325 per month plus deposit. References required. No Pets. 573-9812.

**Exceptionally nice house**, 2-1-1, CH/A, W/D hookups, ceiling fans. $375/mo, $175/dep. 573-6487 after 5 p.m.

**HOUSES FOR RENT**
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3010 39th.....3-1.....$375
2307 40th.....3-1-cp.....$375
Sarah Jamison.....573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors.....573-8505

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# Agent arrested in suspected murder-for-hire investigation

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Mexico is suspected of trying to arrange a hit on the teen who had been accused of killing his cousin.

It's the latest twist in a case that involved three murder trials for a boy accused of pulling the trigger at age 13, and suspicion from the victim's family that the murder was a message from a powerful drug cartel to the victim's brother, a veteran DEA official.

Salvador Michael Martinez, 37, is scheduled to appear in federal court this afternoon for a detention hearing.

Marfinez was arrested in Brownsville Tuesday after the FBI's McAllen office discovered the alleged murder-for-hire plot. Investigators would not say whether other arrests were expected.

"The investigation is continuing," FBI spokeswoman Brenda Burton said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John William Black ordered Martinez held without bond at a hearing Tuesday.

The news was a shock to Martinez's cousin, retired DEA agent Phil Jordan, whose brother, Lionel "Bruno" Jordan, was killed during a carjacking on Jan. 20, 1995 in El Paso.

"It's another tragedy for the family since it's related to the cold-blooded murder of my brother," Jordan said. "I cannot believe that Sal would solicit anybody to kill the individual that killed my brother."

Bruno Jordan died just days before Phil Jordan, former head of the DEA's Dallas office, took over as director of the El Paso Intelligence Center. The DEA and other federal agencies run the center together.

Thirteen-year-old Miguel Angel Flores of Mexico was arrested and charged with the murder. An El Paso jury convicted him but the decision later was overturned. Two successive juries failed to reach a unanimous decision to convict him again and the boy was freed earlier this year.

The Jordan family has maintained that the slaying was not a simple carjacking but rather was intended to send a message to the DEA and to Phil Jordan's family to stay away from the Juarez drug cartel.

Phil Jordan described Martinez as a "dedicated, hardworking DEA agent" and said he learned that the FBI arrested his cousin based on the word of an informant, a corrupt Mexican state police officer. Jordan said it's well-known that corrupt federal and state Mexican officers work for drug cartels.

"I cannot believe that Sal would, first of all, deal with a corrupt Mexican state police officer and it's mind-boggling to me because the family as a whole accepted the fact that the El Paso prosecutors were not going to pursue the triggerman," he said.

The Jordan family has concentrated its efforts on bringing to justice at least two people suspected in the killing, he said. Flores was deported to Mexico and Jordan said no one knows where he is.

"As far as Miguel Angel, the family as a whole had let the matter rest in God's hands," he said. "I just talked to family members that assure me that no one in the family would condone this type of action."

Martinez, who has been with the DEA since 1991, was in the Cameron County Jail Wednesday evening and unavailable for comment. He has been suspended without pay pending criminal and administrative proceedings.



CAMERA DONATED — Big Country Autoland, in conjunction with the Snyder Tigers Quarterback Club, purchased an end zone camera for the coaching staff and the Snyder Tigers. Pictured from left are Snyder High School Principal Larry Scott, Big Country Autoland owner Bill Wilson, Quarterback Club member Chris Thornhill and Snyder ISD Supt. Gayle Lomax. (SDN Staff Photo)

# Final 'Peanuts' set next year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Before he officially retires, Charles Schulz plans to draw one more "Peanuts" strip, his editor says.

But whether Charlie Brown wins the love of the little red-haired girl, defeats the kite-eating tree or finally connects with Lucy's football remains to be seen.

"I haven't seen it yet; I can't tell you," his editor, Amy Lago said Wednesday. Then she thought a minute. "Knowing Schulz, probably not."

Lago said she was unsure whether Schulz will draw the strip or put together a collage of characters Schulz has already drawn, but added she would not disclose the final strip or its story line before it is published Jan. 3.

On Tuesday, Schulz announced that he planned to retire his 49-year-old strip.

He had drawn daily strips for use through Jan. 1 and Sunday strips for use through Feb. 13 before undergoing emergency surgery last month.

Doctors diagnosed him with colon cancer at that time, and the 77-year-old cartoonist, who took pride in meeting deadlines, decided to retire when he realized that he did not know when he would be well enough to withstand the pressure of daily deadlines.

He also suffered a series of small strokes during his surgery and now has trouble with his vision while drawing, Lago said.

## Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 16, 1999
Today is the 350th day of 1999 and the 85th day of fall.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1905, Variety magazine was first published.

On this day in 1944, the Battle of the Bulge began, in Ardennes, a wooded plateau in northeast France, southern Belgium and Luxembourg.

On this day in 1990, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president of Haiti.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), composer; Jane Austen (1775-1817), writer; George Santayana (1863-1952), philosopher; Noel Coward (1899-1973), playwright-actor; Margaret Mead (1901-1978), anthropologist; Arthur C. Clarke (1917-), writer, is 82; Liv Ullmann (1939-), actress, is 60; Lesley Stahl (1941-), broadcast journalist, is 58.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1979, quarterback Roger Staubach played his last regular-season game with the Dallas Cowboys.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." — Jane Austen, "Pride and Prejudice"

**TODAY'S MOON:** Day after first quarter (Dec. 15).

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# Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



## *Wisdom teeth can be a big headache*

DEAR DR. GOTT: At the age of 26, I am struggling with three wisdom teeth. Could this be the cause of my headaches?

DEAR READER: Wisdom teeth can cause headaches, especially if the teeth are impacted or growing in crooked. Ask your dentist about this.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 20-year-old virgin. I know that one day this will end. Is there any way that I can make my first experience of sexual intercourse less painful? What is the best form of birth control for virgins?

DEAR READER: Virgins don't need birth control, so I'll skip to the more important question, which raises several issues that are tricky, some ethical, others medical.

To begin with, I applaud your decision to remain a virgin. Don't feel that you have to rush into a commitment before you are ready. There are many forms of sexual expression, such as mutual masturbation, that you can engage in prior to intercourse. Many young women are manipulated or intimidated into having sexual intercourse before they are comfortable with this option. This may not be in their best interests. You needn't be embarrassed to say "no," nor should you believe that you are "missing something" until the time is right.

However, once you are ready, you can obtain the necessary practical information from a host of reputable sex manuals. Such books are readily available in libraries and bookstores.

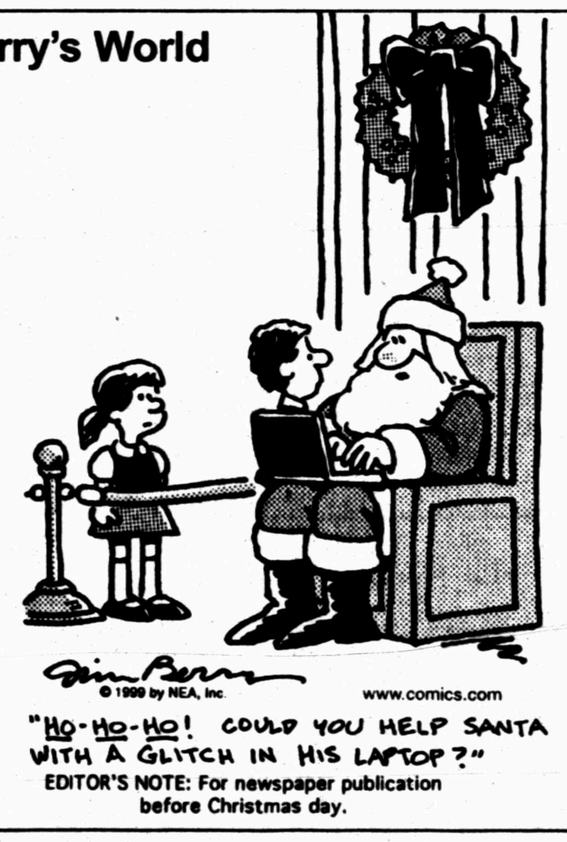
When you feel comfortable accepting the responsibilities of sexual intercourse, you may wish to be examined by a gynecologist. Find one who is gentle, sensitive and understanding. Your family doctor can probably recommend such a resource. The gynecologist will examine you to determine if your reproductive tract is healthy and normal. Such an examination should include a Pap test. During the exam, the doctor will discover whether or not your hymen is intact. This structure is a web of tissue of varying degrees of thickness, at the vaginal opening. Many women don't have hymens. However, if intact, this tissue can make first intercourse painful. If a hymen is present, the gynecologist can advise you what to do.

Such a specialist can also advise you about contraception. As a general rule, birth control pills are the easiest way to avoid unwanted pregnancy, although they do not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. Some women prefer barrier methods, such as condoms or diaphragms.

Perhaps the most important thing is to find a caring partner who is considerate and will follow your lead with respect to how far you wish to proceed. When you are ready for sexual intercourse, make sure that you are protected against pregnancy and diseases, and let the situation unfold. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Where to Find Sex Information." 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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## Berry's World




EDITOR'S NOTE: For newspaper publication before Christmas day.


**$5,000 REWARD**

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of parties responsible for damage to certain oil properties located in southern Scurry County and northern Mitchell County.

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The informant will remain anonymous.

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Directed by Steve Pierson

# Humane treatment of juvenile criminals urged

WASHINGTON (AP) — Juvenile offenders are less likely to commit future crimes if they are put in rehabilitation programs and held accountable for their behavior than if they are punished severely, a congressional advisory group said today.

In an annual report, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice said it is a mistake to lock up juveniles at earlier ages for a wider variety of offenses with inadequate therapy, drug treatment and other rehabilitation.

"When centers that confine juveniles are safe, humane and rehabilitative, it's a win-win — both the public and children benefit," said David Doi, executive director of the coalition. "Youthful offenders are not super-predators to be locked away and forgotten."

Policy-makers who are pushing to increase punishment of youthful offenders ignore evidence that juvenile crime is steadily decreasing, the report said. Violent juvenile crime hit its lowest level in a decade in 1998, and had dropped 30 percent since 1994, according to the Justice Department.

However, though there is disagreement over why juvenile arrests are falling, some say the trend is due in part to stiffer sentences for repeat violent offenders.

The group is a coalition of state juvenile justice advisory groups that were created by Congress to help states reduce youth violence and comply with federal requirements. The coalition has issued yearly reports to Congress since 1986.

The new report, called "Ain't No Place Anybody Would Want to Be," looked at youth confinement in America by highlighting the conditions at four facilities:

—The nation's first, and one of its largest, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago. The facility has made progress recently in screening out juveniles who don't need to be there, the report said.

—The District of Columbia jail, an adult facility with few services for the youth housed there.

—The Ferris School in Wilmington, Del., for which the state built a new facility and improved educational opportunities as resolution for a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union.

—The Giddings State Home and School in Texas, a well-equipped facility that has seen low recidivism as a result of rigorous rehabilitation programs, the report said.

Overall, about 120,000 juveniles are being held in custody each day, nearly 10 percent in adult facilities, the report said. That number has soared 73 percent over the past decade.




**READ 2000 — Students at Stanfield Elementary are celebrating the new millennium. The whole school was involved in a special day of reading last Friday, sponsored by Scholastic Book Clubs. The program's name is Read 2000. All classes read for 2,000 seconds (or 331/2 minutes ). Clifford the Big Red Dog visited all of the classrooms to promote reading. The special day was celebrated in classrooms all around the U.S. Each student wore a badge that said "I read for 2000. Margie Martinez' students pictured with Clifford include from left, Jessica Floyd, Kelsi Fulford, Alex Hernandez and Zackery Ball. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)**

## Dear Abby

**By Abigail Van Buren**



### *Pets are the wrong cargo for back of pickup truck*

DEAR ABBY: On my way to work today, I followed a pickup truck with a beautiful husky dog in the back. As we sped along, he moved anxiously from one side of the truck to the other. Suddenly, the dog jumped out, hit the pavement and began tumbling out of control. I was driving a full-size van at 60 mph. I slammed on the brakes and was able to keep from running over the poor animal.

I pulled off the road and saw the dog had gotten up and was hobbling across the grassy median toward oncoming traffic. Fortunately, I was able to coax the animal into my arms and I held him until the driver of the pickup returned. I will never forget his stupid explanation: "Why, he has never done this before!" It took all my willpower to keep from smacking the driver up against the side of his head.

Please, Abby, pass this story on to everyone. If just one person reads it and decides to keep his or her pet inside the cab with them, it will have been worth it. — JOHN C., DAYTON, OHIO

**DEAR JOHN: Thank you for an important letter. Not only should pets not be allowed to ride in the back of a pickup truck, neither should human beings. As your story illustrates, animals can be unpredictable. And should the driver get into an accident, there is absolutely no protection for the passengers in the back.**

**

DEAR ABBY: I go to garage sales every Saturday and generally come across some interesting items. I found the enclosed "Death Cookbook Recipe" in a set of cards from 1966, put together by the Missouri Avenue Baptist Church, Clearwater, Fla. It is amazing that 30 years later, the problem still exists.

If you feel it is worth sharing with your readers, please print it. I found it very interesting. — BARBARA CONDON, MATTITUCK, N.Y.

**DEAR BARBARA: It's definitely worth printing, particularly during the holiday season when people are "partying." Read on:**

**DEATH'S COOKBOOK**
**Take: 1 reckless, natural-born fool**
**3 drinks of whiskey**
**1 fast automobile**
**Soak the fool in the whiskey, place in the automobile, then let go.**
**After due time, remove from the wreckage. Place in a satin box and garnish with flowers.**

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I just moved to Michigan from a Southern state because of his job. I had to leave mine, and I want to find new employment here. However, I am 17 weeks pregnant.

If I interview for a job, should I tell my prospective employer of my pregnancy then, or wait until I receive an offer? I am not showing yet. — NEEDS TO KNOW ASAP

**DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: You are not required by law to inform prospective employers that you are pregnant. If they withdraw an offer because they learn that you are pregnant, they are in violation of fair employment practices.**

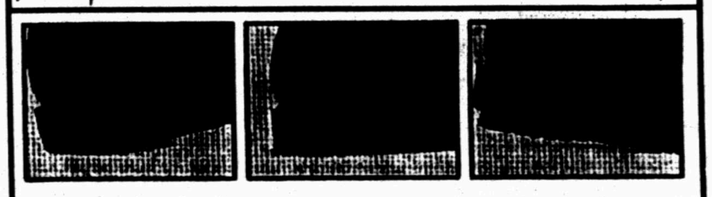
**If you're 17 weeks pregnant, they are going to see soon enough. Enjoy your "New Millennium" baby!**

**

**Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 per booklet ($4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklets I and II, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)**

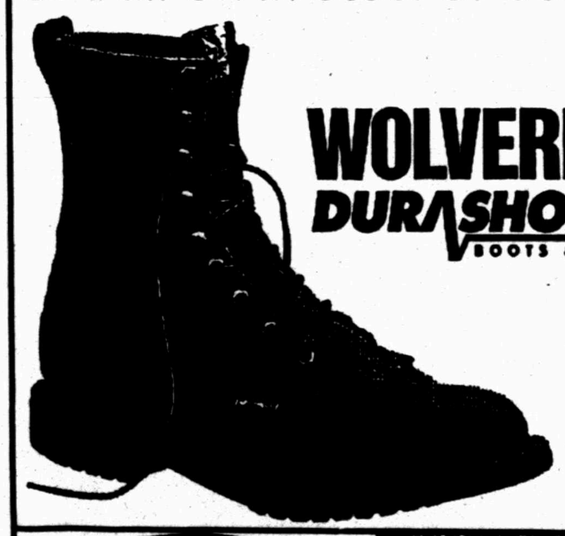
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Bonfire was four feet higher

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — When it collapsed, the Texas A&M bonfire stack was already four feet higher than the 55-foot limit set by university officials and, if completed, might have reached 75 feet, a university instructor said.

John A. Weese, a mechanical engineering instructor, estimated in his Dec. 9 memo that the first four tiers of the log stack were 59 feet tall when they fell, killing 12 people and injuring 27.

The memo by Weese, released Wednesday this month. Drinking while building the bonfire stack is prohibited.

Weese said in his memo that a fifth tier, which had not been started, would have added nine feet, while the outhouse that crowns the annual bonfire would have brought the tower to a height of about 75 feet, Weese said.

The estimates were based on discussions with students involved in building the stack and examination of the center pole, which had been marked at various heights with athletic tape, according to Weese's memo.

Weese did not return calls from the Associated Press on Wednesday and this morning.

A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson said there was confusion about the intent of Weese's memo and exactly how the bonfire stack was measured.

Later Wednesday, he said, "Now that the special commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire has begun its work, the university is taking the position that its personnel will refrain from commenting on any aspect of the inquiry or on any of the multitude of documents it has placed for public review."

More than 2,100 documents relating to the bonfire have been compiled for the investigating commission and for public inspection at A&M's Cushing Library.

Before the 55-foot limit was set, the stack often reached dizzying heights, peaking at 109 feet in 1969.

In 1986, officials citing safety and fire concerns considered reducing the stack to 45 feet. They discarded the idea, fearing a backlash by students and believing a 10-foot reduction wouldn't make much difference.

"Since the 55-feet limit was imposed, there has not been a problem with bonfire height," Bill Kibler, associate director of student affairs and then-bonfire adviser, wrote in a Sept. 29, 1986, letter.

Neither Kibler nor 1999 bonfire adviser Rusty Thompson returned telephone messages by The Associated Press for comment this morning.

Kibler told The Dallas Morning News on Wednesday that the limit was designed to curb "a natural tendency of college students to engage in one-upsmanship."

Kibler also described the limit as "an expectation" rather than a regulation.

Of the alcohol consumption, Kibler said, "There shouldn't be alcohol at the field at any time"

# Exxon, Mobil expect bigger job cuts and cost savings

NEW YORK (AP) — The merger of Exxon and Mobil will bring bigger cost savings than expected for shareholders, though thousands more employees will lose their jobs, company executives said Wednesday.

Exxon Mobil Corp. will cut almost 16,000 jobs — about 15 percent of its work force — by the end of 2002, an increase from the 9,000 cuts estimated when the companies announced their plans to merge a year ago.

Officials declined to say precisely where the cuts will be made.

Chairman Lee Raymond and vice chairman Lucio Noto met with securities analysts at the New York Stock Exchange, Exxon Mobil's first meeting with analysts since regulators approved the $81 billion merger on Nov. 30.

Raymond said the company's outlook for cost savings and improved earnings was even better than executives had expected, at $3.8 billion per year instead of the $2.8 billion estimated a year ago.

As a result, the combined company will earn about $1 billion more next year and $2.5 billion annually by 2003, Raymond said.

Raymond said the sale of assets required by regulators — including a refinery and more than 2,400 service stations — will raise up to $5 billion and create a net gain of about $1 billion.

Analysts expect the company to put additional money from the asset sales into oil exploration and production, especially in the Middle East and Africa.

"Their focus is Africa because Mobil has a huge amount of acreage there and they just bought some new leases this year off the west coast of Africa," said George Gaspar, an analyst with Robert W. Baird and Co. in Milwaukee. He predicted that within 10 years the company will triple or quadruple its production in the region.

In the company's most detailed statement yet on job cuts from the merger, Noto said 6,000 of the 16,000 cuts will come from retirements, including early ones, and 10,000 from layoffs.

More than half of the cuts will be made in the next year — 4,000 in the United States and 6,000 abroad, Noto said, with Exxon employees accounting for 60 percent of the cuts.

One thousand job cuts will come at the management level, but the company would not specify from where the other cuts would come. About 2,000 people had already lost their jobs before the merger was completed, officials said.

Analysts had widely expected the higher estimates of job cuts and savings.

"They didn't really make any surprises. The meeting met expectations," said Arjun Murti of Goldman Sachs.

Noto, the former chairman and CEO of Mobil, said the combination will draw on separate strengths of the two companies. He said Exxon did a better job of efficiently running its production facilities but that "some of the Mobil efforts with respect to ... being able to work with customers is something maybe Exxon didn't do as well."

Raymond added that if Exxon Mobil, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, performs well, it will prevent other companies from joining Exxon Mobil, BP-Amoco and Royal Dutch Shell as the major players in the oil industry.

"If we do our business right, there's going to be tremendous pressure on people who are trying to ... broad players but don't have the scale," he said.

In late afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange, shares of Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil were up 75 cents at $83.121/2.

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# Ira hires new teacher

Ira School Board hired a teacher Wednesday morning and renewed a contract with its financial auditing firm.

Brenda Madigan of Abilene will replace Tammy Shirley as home economics and health teacher. Shirley has been hired as the director of allied health at Western Texas College.

Madigan has been substitute teaching in Abilene and has 11 years experience teaching at Vernon, Harrold and Woodson.

Trustees also nominated Joe Bob Flowers as the board's nominee for the Scurry County Appraisal District Board.

They also renewed the contact with financial auditor, Story and Stovall of Fort Worth.

The board also reviewed policy update 62 from the Texas State School Board Association which pertains to policy changes required by law.

They also reviewed Ira's TAAS test scores as well as regular grades. For last school year, Ira received an exemplary rating.

In closed session, the board also conducted an appraisal of Superintendent Rick Howard.

Attending the session were Howard and board members, Kirby Sterling, Doug White, Bo Robinson, Keith Clements, Lance Autry and Sid Wall.

Doug Dunn was absent.

## Obituaries

### Felix Gomez

**1932-1999**

LEVELLAND — Felix P. Gomez, the father of Angel Gomez of Snyder, died Monday, Dec. 13, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Rosary for Mr. Gomez, 67, is set for 7 this evening in the Head Family Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the St. Michael's Catholic Church with Fr. Glenn Rosendale officiating. Burial will follow in the City of Levelland Cemetery.

Born Nov. 20, 1932 in Buena Vista, Tex., he had lived in Levelland most of his life, working as a farmer and in the cotton oil mill.

A Catholic, Mr. Gomez served as an usher at St. Michael's Catholic Church. He was a Cursillista, a member of Sagrado Corazon and worked as a Senior Companion.

Survivors include his wife, Lorene Gomez of Levelland; another son, Felix Gomez Jr. of Levelland; three daughters, Gloria Murillo of Levelland, Sylvia Torres of Mesquite and Yolanda Gomez of Albuquerque; a brother, Genaro Gomez of San Angelo; a sister, Lenora De La Cruz; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Patrick Gomez, Micky Gomez, Eric Gomez, Fabian Murillo, Michael Hinojosa, Aztlan Torres and Joe Ortiz.

### Julio E. Guerro

**1916-1999**

Julio E. Guerro, a former resident of Snyder, died Wednesday, Dec. 15, in Lamb Care Center in Littlefield.

Funeral services for Mr. Guerro, 83, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 12, 1916 in Bastrop, he was a farmer.

Survivors include two daughters, Rosemary Rendon of Anton and Lupe Ramirez and her husband, Manuel, of Littlefield; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

### Theo McKinney

**1909-1999**

SWEETWATER - Theo J. McKinney, the grandmother of David Brown of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 14, in Sears Methodist Center in Abilene.

Funeral service for Mrs. McKinney, 90, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Sweetwater First Baptist Church. Dr. Joel McCoy and the Rev. Malcolm Brown will officiate.

Graveside service is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Como, Tex., Cemetery under the direction of Cate-Spencer and Trent Funeral Home.

Born June 18, 1909 in Como, she was married the Rev. Lester A. McKinney who died in 1972.

Mrs. McKinney was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Jo Ann and Malcolm Brown of Sweetwater; a son, Michael Allen McKinney of Louisville, Ky.; another grandchild, Dr. Tony Brown of Stillwater, Okla.; and five great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the First Baptist Church, Box 1258 in Sweetwater; or to the Sears Methodist Center, 3202 South Willis in Abilene.

# Holiday decor reported stolen

Officers investigated a report of stolen Christmas decorations Wednesday.

Kinnith May notified officers of the theft at 8:30 p.m. He also advised of damage to windows at his 415 29th Street residence. Offense reports were submitted for Class C theft and Class A criminal mischief.

Officers served a criminal trespass warning to a subject at 5:25 p.m., advising him to stay away from a residence on F.M. 1607.

Three subjects were jailed Wednesday.

A 19-year-old female was booked into custody at 7:09 p.m. on warrants for speeding and failure to appear. A 28-year-old male was also booked into jail at that time on a warrant for no liability insurance.

At 11:25 p.m., officers took a 20-year-old male into custody on outstanding city warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

Officers investigated an accident at 8:28 a.m. in the 3000 block of Avenue E. According to police reports, a 1984 Chevrolet C-10 pickup driven by James Daniel Bass, 35, of 307 36th Street slid off the road and struck a guy wire owned by Southwestern Bell.

A minor two-vehicle accident occurred at 2:45 p.m. at Scifres Tire, 1701 25th Street. Involved were a 1997 Chevrolet F-250 pickup driven by Joyce Moses Box, 41, of 8358 CR 1105 and a 1993 Ford Thunderbird driven by Michelle Garcia, 29, of 6533 CR 264.

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### Christmas wish list

Scurry County Child Welfare Board, in conjunction with local financial institutions, is working to make Christmas special for county foster children. Trees are set up in the lobby of each bank and citizens can help share Christmas with a child by choosing a star from one of the trees. Purchase and wrap the gift and return it to the CPS office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center by Friday. Monetary donations are also accepted.

### Snyder Healthcare party

Snyder Healthcare Center will host a Christmas party for residents at 6:30 p.m. Friday. Families should bring a gift for their resident. Refreshments will be served and Santa Claus will attend.

### Faith Baptist Cantata

The adult choir will present a Christmas Cantata and drama, "His Name is Jesus," at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Faith Baptist Church, 208 37th. Steve Pierson is the director.

### "A Christmas to Remember"

The public is invited to attend, "A Christmas to Remember," presented by the music ministry of the First Baptist Church, at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

### Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday. The service is sponsored by the Support Group Ministry in recognition of the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season.

### Gospel singer

Johnny Ray Watson, gospel singer, will present special music during the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday at Church of the Hills. He will present a Christmas concert at the 6:30 p.m. service, and a fellowship will follow. Call 573-7794 for more information.

### Christmas cantata

First Assembly of God, 1809 College, will present its Christmas Cantata, "Color It Christmas," at 6 p.m. Sunday. Pastor Mike Matheny said the public is invited.

### Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Faith That Will Not Shrink," followed by "Getting to Know God's Person and Problem."

### Christmas eve service

The community is invited to a Christmas eve service of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion at the First United Methodist Church. The service begins at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and will feature a variety of narrations and musical selections.

### East Elementary T-shirts

East Elementary's physical education department is selling millennium T-shirts in order to buy new equipment. Limited sizes are available. Youth are $6 and adult sizes are $7. Call 573-1769 or go by the school office.

### 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.

### Pick 3

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

5-3-7

(five, three, seven)

### Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 11-13-22-24-25-44.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $7 million.

# Pentagon confident military is ready for Y2K problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has "100 percent confidence" that the computers that operate critical military systems such as nuclear forces and missile warning radars will not fail at year-end, senior defense officials said today.

While Russia and other countries have assured the Pentagon that they also are ready for Y2K, U.S. officials say they cannot be certain that American forces stationed abroad will not encounter some difficulties.

"I think you can anticipate there are going to be some problems" with computer systems abroad, John Hamre, the deputy defense secretary, told reporters in a briefing on the Pentagon's Y2K preparations. He added, however, that there is little likelihood these problems will lead to any military hostilities.

"I think we're going to be fine," Hamre said.

As a precaution, U.S. troops stationed abroad will operate at a slightly higher alert level at the millennium rollover than those in the United States, Adm. Bob Willard, a Pentagon Y2K planner, said today.

The Pentagon has spent $3.6 billion fixing Defense Department computers to deal with the start of the year 2000, and of the 2,101 computer systems deemed critical to the department's warfighting mission, only two are not ready, Hamre said. Those two, which operate intelligence systems, will not be used until May.

"We anticipate absolutely no problems in the Department of Defense," Hamre said. He noted later, however, that there could be an increase in cyber-attacks on Pentagon computers, and that extra people will be on duty to monitor Pentagon computer systems for unauthorized intrusions"