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WT-Int. Crude - $28.68
WTIC Posted - $25.75
Natural Gas - $5.707

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Feb. 1, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 236
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Valerie Hernandez

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Two can live as cheaply as one, if they alternate eating and both have full-time jobs."

If you ask about big holidays in February, everybody knows about President's Day, Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, as well as Valentine's Day.

We apologize for failing to remind readers of some big ones that have already passed in 2001. For example, Sunday, Jan. 14, was National Dress Up Your Pet Day and Jan. 25 was National Opposite Day.

We'd never heard of the latter, but Jeffrey Patterson in the Lamesa Press-Reporter said it was prompted by a game played when he was a youngster. If you were asked to give your brother a hug after an argument, you did the opposite and popped him again.

With 11 months to go, Americans can get ready to celebrate.

Feb. 20 is Hoodie Hoo Day. Don't know what that is, but surely some public office will close on Monday. That, of course, will be in preparation for March 22, National Goof Off Day.

Go For Broke Day is April 5, followed on the 6th for Sorry Charlie Day. The 6th is in honor of those who actually rolled the dice – and lost – the previous day.

Of course everybody knows about Income Tax Deadline Day on April 15. This year, however, there's an extra day. So on the 16th is another Sorry Charlie Day for licking wounds.

National Fire Day is May 2, but we're not sure if it's worth getting heated up for.

And May 9 is set to observe one of life's great mysteries. It's National Lost Sock Memorial Day.

And for all those folks who wouldn't dare toss out even a single sock, May 17 is in your honor. It's National Pack Rat Day.

National Columnists Day is June 27. It was started by a group of guys who didn't have anything to write about, so they tried to get more national holidays.

Mark July 27 as the day to get off the couch and take a stroll. It's National Take Your Pants for a Walk Day. Be sure to put on pants when you do get up off the couch.

National Twins Day is Aug. 4. The observance could take on renewed importance this year, in honor of the First Twins, daughters of President George and First Lady Laura Bush.

Be Late for Something Day is Sept. 5. In case you never got around to being late yesterday, you can celebrate Fight Procrastination Day on Sept. 6

Oct. 24 is National Bologna Day. All that "round steak" must be consumed before Nov. 15 which is National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day. In case you again procrastinate, relatives will do it for you on Thanksgiving.

Dec. 12 is Ding-A-Ling Day, likely a result of March 26, which was Make Up Your own Holiday Day.

American's favorite observance, of course, remains a day of utmost necessity – payday.

Update given on area flight training plans

Need for RBTI explained

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Some three dozen Snyder and Scurry County citizens were told Wednesday afternoon that flight-training sites are needed to produce top quality pilots.

Lt. Col. Dale Garrett also told those in attendance that Scurry and eight other counties were picked for the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative site partly as a result of a computer model.

"We need to provide realistic training as close to the air bases as possible in order to save training time and taxpayers' money," said Lt. Col. Garrett.

He said the computer model generated four possibilities, including no action whatsoever, using a Military Operations Area (MOA) in New Mexico, or a different one in Texas, or using the Lancer MOA in this area that was eventually selected.

Lt. Col. Garrett said the selection of Lancer was based partly on the fact it affected the fewest number of people as compared to the two other MOAs.

The contract to construct a 7,000-sq. ft. building at Winston Field and the electronic emitter sites have been let, but according to federal law, there is a 45-day waiting period between the time contracts are awarded and the release of the contractor's name.

However, work at the local airport is expected to start sometime in March, according to earlier reports from Dyess Air Force Base.

In response to questions from the audience, Lt. Col. Garrett said he expects the maximum number of flights daily to be 10, and that the minimum altitude will be 3,000 feet above ground level.

He also stated that while flights above the city of Snyder are possible, they would be at an altitude of 5,000 feet above the ground.

He also said there would be no B-1s or B-52s landing at the local airport.

Snyder Fire Chief and Snyder EMS owner Perry Westmoreland questioned how the flights might affect patients being transferred to area hospitals by helicopter.

Lt. Col. Garrett responded by saying that the air ambulance would take precedence.

"Whatever we're doing, your flight would take precedence," said Lt. Col. Garrett.

Snyder pilot Bob Stanfield said he would like to see a system put in place that would quickly notify local pilots when the MOA was lifted in an area and open to civilian pilots.

Lt. Col. Garrett said a radio frequency is expected to be added whereby civilian pilots could find out immediately if the local MOA was being used by military aircraft.

He also said that it was a good possibility that the Federal Aviation Agency would enhance radar coverage in this area.

Noise has been a concern of some local citizens, and certainly a concern of those who have filed a federal lawsuit to stop the flight training over this area.

Lt. Garrett said that in his opinion, when the flights get started, "People are going to ask what was the big deal about the noise?"

There was no mention about the lawsuit other than a comment by Lt. Wes Ticer, information specialist at Dyess, in response to a question following the meeting.

"I just know the Air Force has responded to the suit and it will follow regular channels," said Lt. Ticer.

AIR FORCE IN TOWN — Lt. Col. Dale Garrett makes a presentation about the planned flight training program in a meeting Wednesday afternoon. Some three dozen citizens attended the meeting. Shown at left is Lt. Wes Ticer. Lt. Col. Garrett is currently based at Langley AFB in Virginia, while Ticer is based at Dyess AFB in Abilene. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lujan found guilty Wednesday

A six-man, six-woman jury returned a guilty verdict Wednesday afternoon in the trial of a 36-year-old woman who had been accused of assaulting two Snyder police officers in August.

The jury was hearing punishment evidence this morning.

Josephine Olivarez Lujan, who has a Dallas address but who also has lived in Snyder, was convicted of assaulting Cpl. Mike Duddleston with a leg brace. She also assaulted Sgt. Brian Peterson when the two tried to arrest her during a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of Ave. K.

The guilty verdict was returned after the jury deliberated for about 90 minutes.

When the assault occurred in August, a second person was also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong presided.

District Attorney Dana Cooley presented the state's case and Big Spring attorney Novert Morales represented Lujan.

At 5:30...

Relay for Life meeting today

A kick-off rally for this year's Relay for Life will be held at 5:30 this afternoon in the Snyder High School Student Center.

The Relay for Life is the annual fund-raising event of the American Cancer Society.

Team captains and corporate sponsors from last year's event are urged to attend the meeting, along with others who would like to participate in the fundraiser.

Organizational packets for team captains will be distributed at this rally.

Former and current cancer patients and their families, businesses, civic clubs and the general public are invited to make plans to participate in this year's Relay for Life at Tiger Stadium.

The event will start at 6 p.m. Friday, April 20, and will conclude at 10 a.m. the next day.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's version of an athletic relay, but with a new twist.

Businesses that are interested in sponsoring the relay and have not yet been contacted are urged to contact Bonnie Hodge at 573-8285.

Information about how to form a team or become involved in the Relay for Life is available from Carol Haynes at 573-7874.

Five Alabama escapees arrested this morning

DICKSON, Tenn. (AP) — Five escaped convicts from an Alabama prison were arrested early today in Tennessee where they had set up camp after stocking up on shampoo and bologna sandwiches. A sixth remained at large.

The five were caught near an Interstate 40 exit about 50 miles west of Nashville and about 165 miles from the prison.

Captured were Billy Gamble, 24; Steve Murphy, 45; O.C. Borden, 33; Jack Allred, 43; and James McClain, 35, spokeswoman Dana Keeton said.

Authorities searched for the sixth inmate, Gary Scott, 31. Scott, Murphy and Borden were serving life sentences for murder.

The inmates escaped Tuesday by slipping beneath an electric fence and two razor wire fences at Alabama's St. Clair Correctional Facility before guards noticed they were gone.

Authorities said they were found as a result of a stroke of luck.

Just after midnight, two sheriff's deputies, looking for someone who had stolen a street sign, came upon a car parked off a country road near a creek. The inmates had built a small fire to keep warm in the freezing temperature and apparently used the creek to wash up.

The inmates "scattered like a bunch of deer" into the woods, one not even wearing a shirt, said Darrell Groves, one of the deputies. When the deputies checked the license plate, they learned the green 1997 Chrysler was stolen from Alabama and was possibly being used by the fugitives.

The deputies called for additional help and caught the first three inmates around 3 a.m. with the help of a tracking dog named Chaos.

"We ordered them to give up and they came out unarmed," Dickson police officer Bryan Johnson said. "We said, 'Who are you?' And, they said, 'You know who we are.'" Allred and McClain were found within another hour.

Hours earlier Wednesday evening, the six had stopped at a gas station near where they were found. Three went inside and bought six bologna sandwiches, toothpaste, toothbrushes and shampoo, authorities said.

"I heard somebody say six bologna sandwiches," clerk Betty Wallace said. "I thought it was Joe Stampley's (country music) band. They come here regularly."

She said the inmates were polite and "looked like construction workers." The inmates were recorded by a surveillance camera.

The escaped convicts were taken to federal court in Nashville, where an extradition hearing was expected this afternoon.

Shotguns, an empty pistol holder and several makeshift knives were found in the car, FBI agent Phil Thomas said. Authorities believe Scott may have the pistol since weapons were not found on the other escaped convicts when arrested.

Two killed in shooting

HEFLIN, Ala. (AP) — A gunman shot two people to death in a mobile home and critically wounded another at a nearby manufacturing plant today. The suspect was arrested.

Shots were fired around 9 a.m. inside the Crowntuft Manufacturing Co., where one person was wounded. The gunman then shot two people in the head in the mobile home, the Cleburne County sheriff's office said.

The names of the victims and the gunman were not released, and a motive for the shootings was not immediately known.

A company official declined to comment when reached by telephone.

Heflin is near Anniston, about 10 miles west of the Georgia line.

ASK US

Q—When will Six Flags Over Texas open for the spring season?
A—March 3.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 50 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Thursday, 26; no precipitation; total for 2001, 1.36 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low lower 20s, NE wind 10-20 mph, diminishing late. Friday, mostly sunny, high upper 40s, light, variable wind, becoming SW 5-10 mph by afternoon.

Anna Vasquez
Sunny & Cool

Sunset:
6:20 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:36 a.m.
Of 31 days in 2001, the sun has shone 25 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.

—Doug Larson

FEB 01 2001

No federal prosecution set for cops who killed Diallo

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly two years after fatally shooting an unarmed African immigrant, four white police officers have learned they will not face federal prosecution.

The Justice Department announced Wednesday it would not pursue civil rights charges against the New York City officers in the slaying of Amadou Diallo, 22, who was gunned down outside his Bronx apartment. The officers were acquitted of murder in a state criminal trial last year.

The four officers, who say the shooting was a tragic error, have one last legal hurdle: the possibility of departmental charges.

The Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau is looking into possible violations of department guidelines, and the department's Firearms Discharge Review Board plans to review the case.

"Upon completion of these investigations, the police commissioner will make a final determination," police spokesman Tom Antenen said.

Union officials says there's no reason for the officers to be put through a departmental trial, which could result in the officers' dismissal.

"They've been exonerated in a criminal court," said Patrick Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

Diallo was black, and his Feb. 4, 1999, slaying by the plainclothes officers — members of an elite street-crime unit — heightened racial tensions in the city.

The officers were searching for a rape suspect when they stopped Diallo outside his home. They fired 41 bullets at Diallo when he reached for his wallet; the officers said they believed he was going for a gun.

Officers Kenneth Boss, Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon and Richard Murphy have remained on the force, but have been assigned to desk duty since the shooting.

None of the officers was available for comment, Lynch said.

"At this point, they are staying with their families and they are thankful this is over," Lynch said.

While the officers ponder their futures, Diallo's parents were left to grapple with the Justice Department's decision. They learned of the decision in a meeting with U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White.

Kadiatou Diallo described her son's death as a "legal execution." She said the Justice Department's decision left her "morally disappointed."

"There is no doubt in my mind that what happened to Amadou was a crime," said Diallo's father, Saikou Diallo.

In a statement, the Justice Department said an investigation by its Civil Rights Division and by White's office had determined that federal charges against the officers were not warranted.

"The evidence ... does not provide a basis for bringing federal criminal charges," White said. "Mr. Diallo's death was a terrible tragedy, and our hearts will always be with the members of his family for their unbearable loss."

Federal civil rights prosecutions following state acquittals are rare.

In California, the four white Los Angeles police officers charged in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King were acquitted of most charges in state court in 1992, touching off riots. The officers were eventually convicted of federal civil rights charges.

The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan has a separate investigation under way into police training and practices, especially by the street-crime unit.

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

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 ticket was worth an estimated $4 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 7-21-25-44-46-54

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.

Pick 3

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

9-7-1

INTRODUCING
an Old Friend

FIRST AG CREDIT
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

On January 1, 2001, four of Texas' most respected agricultural lenders, First Ag Credit FLBA, Ag Credit of Texas PCA, Wichita Falls PCA and El Campo PCA joined forces to create First Ag Credit, Farm Credit Services.

For years, the Land Bank has served the real estate borrowing needs of rural Texans, while PCA has provided production and equipment financing. At First Ag Credit, we believe you deserve a convenient full-service Farm Credit lender. Secure, strong and able to meet the changing financial needs of rural America. That's why we are combining our resources to provide you with the most competitive short- and long-term lending products available.

First Ag Credit. Our name is changing, and our financial services are expanding. But you can count on the same friendly, knowledgeable staff in the same convenient Land Bank and PCA locations that rural Texans have depended on for generations.

First Ag Credit. *First in the Field.*
1-800-687-5261
www.agmoney.com

Capital Briefs

Union seeks across the board pay hike

AUSTIN (AP) — A state employee union on Wednesday called for an 8.25 percent pay raise for all state workers, which would cost the state about $1 billion. Lawmakers immediately said they did not have that much money.

"I think that it certainly would be an appropriate goal, but the dollar figure on it might be more than the budget can bear this session," said Senate Finance Chairman Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.

The call for the pay raises by the Texas Public Employees Association came a few hours before about 200 state workers filed into the Capitol to discuss pay raises during a special Senate finance hearing.

Melodye Nelson, a lieutenant at the prison in Huntsville, said the low salary is driving correctional officers away.

Nelson said that if correctional officers do not get a significant pay raise, "people are going to quit. People are saying 'look, if we don't get a pay raise, we're gone.'"

Leslie Harper, who has two masters degrees and works in the tuberculosis lab for the Texas Department of Health says she chooses to work in the public sector but is disenchanted by her $23,000 a year pay.

State agency heads repeatedly have told state budget writers this legislative session that their employee turnover rates are too high and that they are losing skilled workers to businesses that can pay better wages.

A state audit released in December showed the turnover rate for state employees was nearly 19 percent, up from 17.6 percent in 1999.

Auditor's report blasts education board

AUSTIN (AP) — The Legislature should consider appointing a separate board to oversee the management of the state's $22 billion Permanent School Fund, taking the oversight away from the State Board of Education, according to a State Auditor's report released Wednesday.

The report was the latest criticism of the elected education board. It offered several recommendations to lawmakers, including abolishing the board in favor of an appointed body.

The board's management of the fund that provides $700 million a year for schools has "weakened significantly since our prior audit. A number of factors contributed to major weaknesses in SBOE's ability to make sound contracting and policy decisions for PSF," the report said.

The report said some of those factors include a misguided distrust of staff members and consultants working on the fund. The auditor's report also said the reliance of an outside informal adviser in private was a conflict of interest.

While the board is the fund's steward, Texas Education Agency staff is responsible for managing two-thirds of the fund comprised of stocks, bonds and oil and gas royalties from state-owned lands. Private money managers hired by the board handle the rest.

Lawmakers push for Medicaid waiver

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers urged the Texas Department of Health on Wednesday to expedite a federal Medicaid waiver application that could bring hundreds of millions of federal dollars to the state for women's health programs.

A waiver would allow Texas to provide health services, including birth control, to more women than are currently eligible. Routine exams and screening for early detection of diseases such as diabetes, cervical and breast cancer and anemia also would be included.

An estimated 1 million of the state's 1.5 million uninsured women would be eligible.

The waiver came up for discussion while Texas Health Commissioner Charles Bell was testifying before the House Appropriations subcommittee on public health.

How can Texas avoid Florida pitfalls?

AUSTIN (AP) — Banning punch-card ballots in the 14 counties using them would cost at least $25 million and could financially strain local governments, Secretary of State Henry Cuellar said Wednesday.

"Personally, I believe in eliminating the punch card," Cuellar said, outlining ways Texas might avoid some pitfalls Florida faced after the November presidential election.

But Cuellar warned that doing away with punch-card ballots in favor of a more up-to-date voting technology still may not make for the most accurate vote count.

And, he said, unless the state or federal government provides the money, counties could find switching to a new system unaffordable.

Cuellar, addressing the Legislature's House Elections Committee, said overall the state has a solid elections system, although it can be improved.

State Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, who chairs the committee, has said she is watching to see if Congress passes a law that would pay for new voting machines or establish a uniform election system.

Fourteen of Texas' 254 counties use punch-card ballots:

On the Net:
Secretary of State's Office at www.sos.state.tx.us

Committee meeting is held in Spanish

AUSTIN (AP) — It was not so much what the Senate Business and Commerce Committee said Tuesday. It was more about how the members said it.

The committee conducted its first meeting of the session completely in Spanish to highlight the growing importance of being bilingual as Texas-Mexico business relations increase.

Business and Commerce Committee Chairman David Sibley, R-Waco, led the meeting as he read in choppy but understandable Spanish from a prepared script. When he was finished reviewing the committee's schedule, he asked if anyone had any questions.

"Por favor, no." Please no, Sibley said to laughter when Sen. Eddie Lucio, a fluent Spanish speaker, started to raise his hand.

Sibley said later he has been studying Spanish for about 11/2 years, after a trip to Mexico after the 1999 legislative session.

"It's kind of arrogant not to speak Spanish and try and conduct business down there," Sibley said.

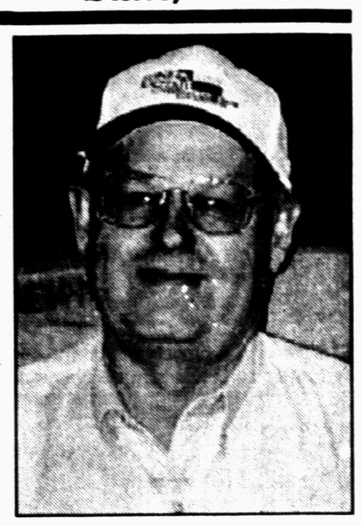
Lucio, D-Brownsville, and the other fluent Spanish speakers, Sens. Leticia Van De Putte, D-San Antonio, and Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, applauded Sibley for holding the Spanish-speaking meeting, the first they are aware of being held in the Capitol.

"It sends an important message to the state and especially to the people from Mexico that the economic development of the state is so important," said Van De Putte, who told the members that she used to get punished for speaking Spanish when she was in grade school.

As the Spanish-speaking committee members spoke, their words were translated into English and rolled on a television screen for non-Spanish-speaking committee members and the audience.

Hispanics, who make up about 30 percent of the state's population, have made a great impact in the Texas economy and will continue to do so, Lucio said.

"This meeting was symbolic," Lucio said afterward. "It is the start of a new millennium and with that comes the responsibilities of Texas leaders to look at the diversities of the state."



Bill Hallman

Land bank has new president

Lone Star Land Bank in Sweetwater has a new credit office president.

Bill Hallman takes over the office that evolved in January of 1998 after a series of mergers. The Nolan County office also services the Scurry County area.

Hallman has been employed with the Farm Credit System for 24 years and replaces Shirley Moore, who has retired.

Hallman began his career with Sweetwater Production Credit Association, which specialized in short-term lending, in 1972. Beginning his career with the Federal Land Bank of Roby in 1996, this association merged with North Central Texas Federal Land Bank Association in Stephenville. Mergers with North Texas FLBA and Cleburne FLBA continued to form the Lone Star Federal Land Bank.

For 83 years, the farm credit association has been helping farmers and ranchers purchase land on which to earn their living and raise their families.

The entity now offering long-term and short-term lending is known as Lone Star Land Bank, ACA.

Date Book

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2001

Today is the 32nd day of 2001 and the 43rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1898, the first car insurance policy in the United States was issued by Travelers Insurance Co. of Hartford, Conn.

On this day in 1930, the SS City of New York departed from Brooklyn, N.Y., bound for Capetown, South Africa. The 470-foot vessel was the first diesel-powered passenger ship.

On this day in 1986, in Geneva, Switzerland, Diana Ross and Arne Naess were wed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Victor Herbert (1859-1924), cellist-conductor; John Ford (1895-1973), director; Clark Gable (1901-1960), actor; Langston Hughes (1902-1967), poet; S.J. Perelman (1904-1979), humorist; Renata Tibaldi (1922-), singer, is 78; Don Everly (1937-), singer, is 64; Sherman Hemsley (1938-), actor, is 63; Brandon Lee (1965-1993), actor; Laura Dern (1967-), actress, is 34.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1979, jockey Steve Cauthen rode Father Duffy to victory at Santa Anita.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century." — S.J. Perelman

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Loves billboards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Chambers loves the billboards he's appeared on as a Calvin Klein model. But he had a different reaction when he saw himself on film.

"I'm not that comfortable watching myself on the big screen," says Chambers, who appears in "The Wedding Planner" with Jennifer Lopez.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

LIONS DONATE TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS — Lions Club president Mike Hartman, left, presented a $300 check to the Snyder Special Olympics, accepted by Tommy Cotton, director. Cotton expects 15-20 people to enter the summer track and field competition April 20-21 in Abilene. Those who qualify will attend the state meet at the University of Texas at Arlington May 24-17. Cotton is also a new member of the Lions Club. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

College student fascinated with Columbine High killers arrested

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A college student who allegedly assembled an arsenal of guns and explosives in his bedroom and plotted a mass killing at his school was fascinated with the 1999 rampage at Columbine High School and "hated everyone," police said Wednesday.

Amid the 30 pipe bombs and 20 Molotov cocktails stashed under clothes and in duffel bags in Al DeGuzman's messy bedroom, investigators found magazine articles about the Columbine killers, writings worshipping them and pictures of them on the wall, Sgt. Steve Dixon said.

DeGuzman, 19, allegedly planned for two years to kill fellow students at De Anza College and follow the example of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who killed 13 people and wounded 23 others in Littleton, Colo., before committing suicide.

"He was going to kill as many people as possible before he died," Dixon said. "He seemed to think the more people he killed, the better it'd be, the more media attention."

Deputy Police Chief Mike Miceli said DeGuzman talked a lot about Columbine, according to his friends. "He was fixed on Columbine," Miceli said.

"Eric Harris is God," DeGuzman allegedly proclaimed on one Web site. "He's my savior." The site has been taken down by its administrator.

While a specific motive remained unclear, investigators found angry writings on DeGuzman's computer. DeGuzman, who is of Filipino descent, lashed out against politicians, social classes and people of all ethnic groups — including his own, police said.

"He hated everyone," Miceli said.

DeGuzman's attorney, Craig Wormley, said he had yet to see the police reports and would not comment on the case or his client's alleged fascination with Columbine. Wormley disputed authorities' assessment of DeGuzman's hatred of others.

"That's an absolute falsehood. There are many people he cared about and loved," Wormley said. "Both his parents are in an extreme state of shock."

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 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.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Utah state adopts Jell-O as its snack

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — It's official. Utah's snack of choice is, to the surprise of no one who lives here, Jell-O.

The Utah Legislature screeched to a halt Wednesday to recognize Jell-O and pay tribute to Jell-O huckster and comedian Bill Cosby.

Lawmakers approved a resolution designating Jell-O the state snack.

Salt Lake City has the highest per capita consumption of the dessert in the world — a distinction lost last year to Des Moines, Iowa, but regained this year.

With the state back on top, lawmakers seized the opportunity to declare Jell-O the favorite snack of Utah and set aside an official Jell-O week.

"This is not just a matter of selling more Jell-O, although we came on private planes," Cosby joked. He said the reason for Jell-O's popularity is that Utah is a family state.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-01-01
♠ K Q 5 4
♥ 7 5
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ J 9 8

West
♠ 10 8 2
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ 10 6
♣ A K Q 10

East
♠ J 9 7 6
♥ Q J 10
♦ J 9 8 4
♣ 4 3

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

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2001

Turning back toward Brisbane

By Phillip Alder

The sessions in Goondiwindi were entertaining. In particular, I was impressed by Nell Bagshaw, an 84-year-old woman who took up bridge only four years ago, once she could no longer play golf and tennis.

Immediately after the second class, Jennifer Allfrey, Margot Girle and I headed east-northeast to Toowoomba. After a night chez Allfrey, I taught — as expected — two classes at the Toowoomba Bridge Club, on playing the right card, and on the 10 commandments of discarding.

The second session featured a teaching first for me. During the opening few minutes, a newspaper reporter took photographs of me. He had an impossible job to get a good shot!

This deal from the afternoon contains an important lesson. You are sitting East. Defending against three no-trump, your partner cashes four club tricks. Declarer follows throughout and dummy parts with a low heart. What two discards would you make?

The key rule is: Keep equal length — or parity — with the dummy and declarer.

Now, doing the former isn't too tough, because the dummy is on view. It is harder keeping parity with declarer because — unless he holds his cards carelessly — sometimes you won't know the lengths of his suits. Still, here it shouldn't have been so hard. Needing to keep equal length with the dummy, East must discard two hearts and hope that his partner can hold the suit. One hates to do that, but one must do what one must do.

Note that if East discards either a spade or a diamond, declarer gets four tricks in that suit and nine in all.

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Police probe two dogs' histories

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Police are investigating whether two dogs that mauled a woman to death outside her apartment had any attack training or history of viciousness.

The owners of the Mastiff-Canary Island dogs are also under investigation to determine if they knew of any dangerous tendencies the animals might have had, said District Attorney Terence Hallinan. He said they could face manslaughter charges in Diane Whipple's death under a state law regarding dogs trained to fight, attack or kill.

The two dogs, each weighing more than 110 pounds, were part of a group raised for fighting contests and guarding methamphetamine labs, according to state prison officials.

Robert Noel, 59, and his wife Marjorie Knoller, 45, both lawyers, were raising the dogs for two white supremacist inmates they had previously represented, officials said. Prison officials said the two inmates had run a dog-training business from behind bars.

FEB 01 2001

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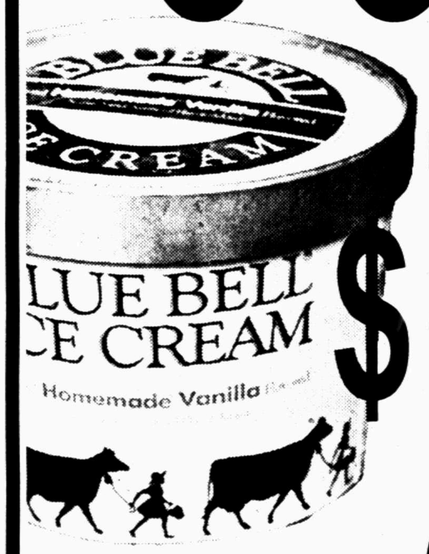

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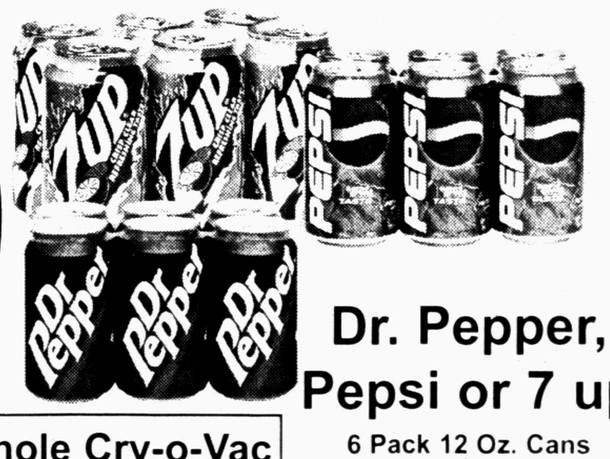

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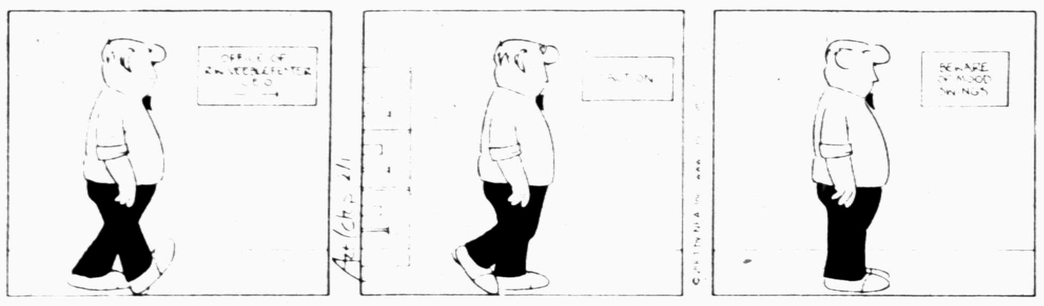
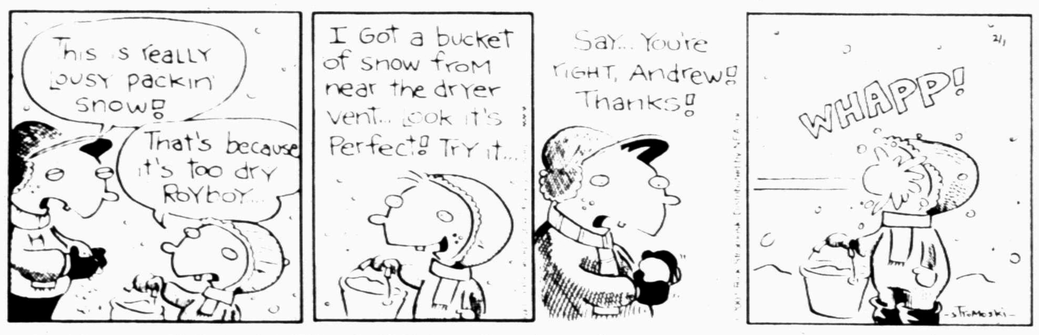


SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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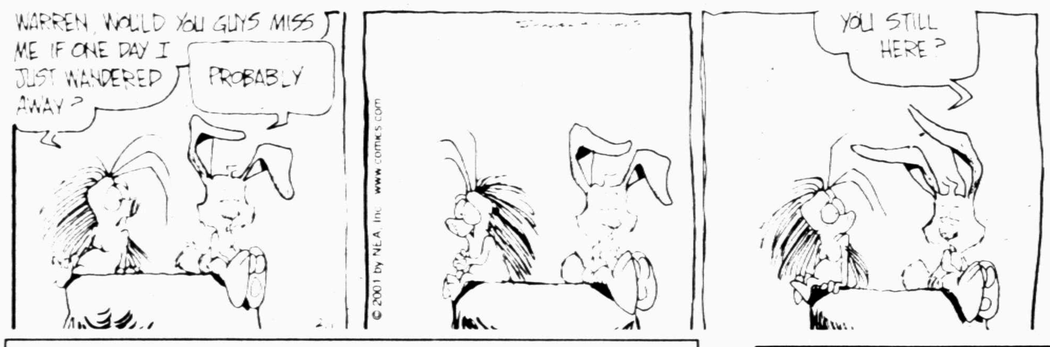

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 – out (stretching)
6 Nip and –
10 More agile
12 "Citizen Kane" star
14 Fit for ingesting
15 Length
16 Draft org.
17 Speck
19 Learn by – (memorize)
20 Inner core of some organs
23 Outer
26 Chinese pagoda
27 Bullfight cheer
30 Howled
32 Fur-bearing animal
34 Salad green
35 Visions
36 "Norma –"
37 Med. specialist
39 Fjord
40 Star in Scorpio
42 German valley
45 Apr. 15 agcy.
46 Zsa Zsa's sister
49 "The – Cometh"
51 Knowledgeable
54 Assert without proof
55 Sulked
56 Sand lizard
57 Prophets

DOWN

1 Rams' mates
2 Teases
3 Goddess of the rainbow
4 Calligrapher's item
5 Thicken
6 Singer Ritter
7 Extremist
8 Nile queen
9 Midwestern college, – State
11 Comic Foxx
12 Swampy area
13 Sault – Marie
18 Umpire's call
20 Bamako's land
21 Football team
22 Actress Piper –
23 Vase-shaped jug
24 Scene of a miracle
25 Ocean movement
27 Spoken
28 Bar fruit
29 Sunrise direction
31 Tooth part beneath the enamel
33 Perfect scores
38 Paving material
40 Having weapons
41 Invitation inits.
42 Inlet
43 W. Coast coll.
44 Clutched
46 Princely Italian family
47 Swerve
48 Totals
50 Moslem title
52 Dawn goddess
53 Wish undone

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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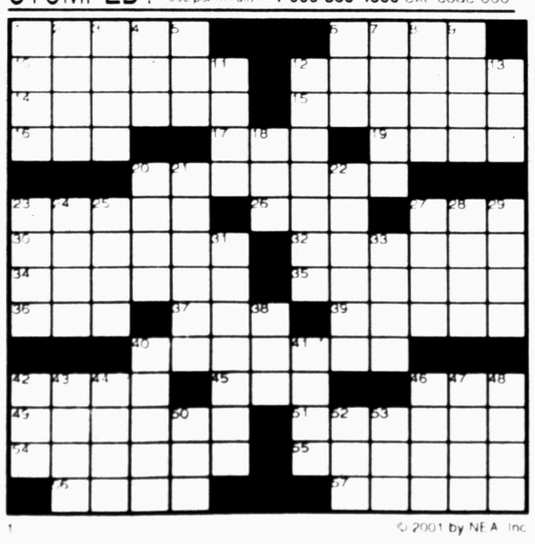

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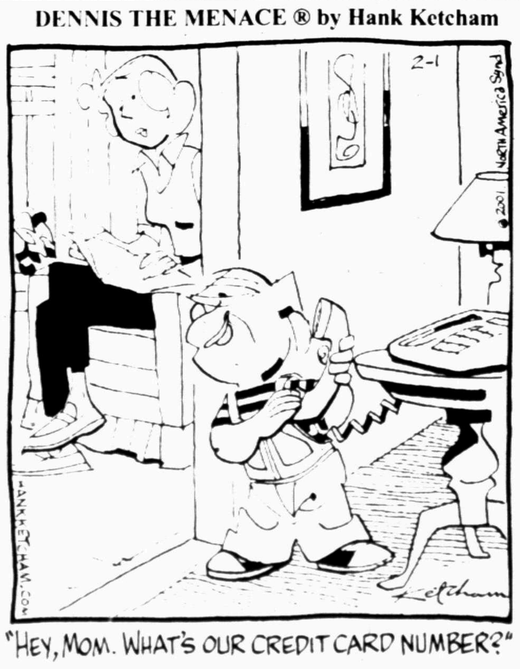
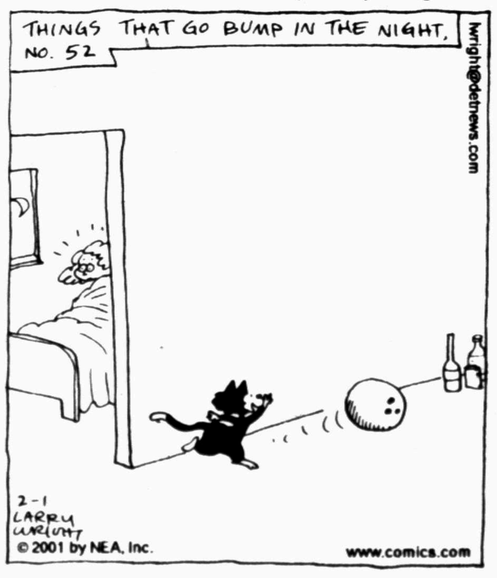


"HEY, MOM. WHAT'S OUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER?"

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Don't tell me what it is until I've eaten it."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Tigers ready for links challenge

The District 4-4A boys golf season doesn't begin until late March, but by the end of this weekend's Snyder Invitational, the Tigers will have an idea where they stand in the district race.

Snyder will be joined by all six of its district competitors and 14 other schools when the tournament tees off Friday morning, and Tiger coach Matt Glenn hopes his team can set the tone for the district season.

"It will be a big test for us," said Glenn. "We have the chance to get it in our opponents' minds that we can beat them.

"There are only three district tournaments and some really good teams, so you had better be ready to tee it up and get after it, when the time comes. The more times we can prove that we can beat these guys, then the more the pressure will be on them when district rolls around."

Joining Snyder from District 4-4A this weekend will be Frenship, Andrews, Levelland, Plainview, Big Spring and Lake View. Estacado does not compete in golf.

Twenty-four teams, including two from Snyder, will compete in the two-day event. Squads will be divided into two divisions.

All of the district's varsity squads, with the exception of Lake View will compete in Division I, which tees off at Snyder Country Club at 9 a.m. Friday. The Tigers will be paired with Frenship, Andrews and Sweetwater.

Snyder junior varsity will be in Division II, which begins play at 9 a.m. at Western Texas College. The two divisions will swap courses for Saturday's final round.

"I think it's going to take two rounds around 300 to win it, and I think we're capable of doing that," Glenn said. "We can shoot a little lower than that at the country club, and probably a little higher at the college.

"So 600 could win it, but there's quite a few teams that are capable of that score. Us, Frenship, Andrews, Sweetwater, Midland High and Odessa Permian are all capable of winning it, so it should be a good tournament."

Joining those six teams in Division I will be Big Spring, Levelland, Plainview, Monahans, Abilene Cooper I and Abilene Wylie.

Division II will be comprised of Snyder II, Lake View, Abilene High I and II, Lamesa, Brownfield, Abilene Cooper II, Colorado City, Lubbock High, Midland Greenwood, Seminole and Midland Lee.

"Our guys have been pretty solid since coming back from Christmas," Glenn remarked. "They were getting pretty worn down before the break, but they've come back refreshed and ready to work."

Teeing it up for the varsity Tigers will be seniors Landon Day and Levi Mandrell, junior Clinton Calmes, and sophomores Zach Starnes and Stafford Gray.

Lining up for Snyder II will be Brady Reed, Jason Williams, Tanner Beard, Vaughn Wiggins and Matt McCormick. James Mills, Hunter Shipp and Cameron Harrison will compete as medalists.

In other golf action this weekend, Snyder's junior varsity girls will take part Friday and Saturday in the San Angelo Invitational. Lauren Day, Catherine Whitworth, Paige Smith, Candace Gonzales and Cami Trout will tee it up for SHS.

The varsity Lady Tigers begin tournament play Feb. 9-10 at the Big Spring Invitational.

Track coach of the year...

Snyder grad gains Panhandle honor

AMARILLO — After leading the Spearman girls to the state title in his first year as track coach last season, Snyder native Kyle Short will be rewarded for his work.

Short, a 1980 graduate of Snyder High School, was named track coach of the year by the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, and will be honored at the Hall's induction ceremony on Sunday.

Short had never coached track until last year, but his inexperience didn't stand in the way of success, as the Spearman Lynxettes won the Class 2A girls team championship.

"It was one of those days when everything came together, and we had a lot of things go right," said Short. "That's how championships are won, I guess. All the details had to go right for us that day at state. It happens for some teams, and we happened to be the team that day.

"The girls had been in some big meets before. They had a plan and an idea before I got here. I just facilitated it and let them see what they could do."

Short lives in Spearman with his wife and two daughters. He is the son of John and Wanda Short of Snyder.

Texans name offensive coach

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Cleveland Browns coach Chris Palmer has agreed to sign on as offensive coordinator for the Houston Texans, the Houston Chronicle reported on its Web site Wednesday.

Palmer is scheduled to visit Houston on Friday to sign the contract and start working immediately with general manager Charley Casserly and coach Dom Capers.

"I've committed to the Texans, and I'm looking forward to this opportunity," Palmer told the Chronicle from his home in Cleveland.

Palmer, who began his NFL career as the Oilers' receivers coach for three years (1990-92) under Jack Pardee, turned down offers from Chicago and Cincinnati since being fired after two seasons as the Browns' first coach.

He also interviewed with Tampa Bay but said, "I haven't spoken with anyone since Tampa Bay, and it wouldn't have mattered, anyway, because I gave my word to Charley and Dom."

In his three seasons with the Oilers, Palmer coached four Pro Bowl receivers: Drew Hill, Haywood Jeffires, Ernest Givins and Curtis Duncan.

Palmer left after the 1992 season to accept an offer to become New England's receivers coach.

Palmer was Jacksonville's offensive coordinator prior to going to the Browns.

Woods fights injury at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The limp that had threatened to sideline him was barely noticeable Thursday when Tiger Woods arrived for the first round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Woods, bidding for his third straight tournament victory at Pebble, hyperextended his left knee and sprained a ligament Wednesday when an overzealous autograph seeker tripped him at the end of a practice round.

"Just snapped my leg back," Woods said.

When he arrived an hour before his tee time at Spyglass Hill on Thursday, Woods was hardly limping at all. He worked on the putting green, flexing his knee once, then went to the driving range, and all seemed OK.

"I should be able to break 90 today," he said.

It was a big change from the previous evening, when Woods said the odds were "up there" that he would not be able to play, although he said he would give it a try.

It was a bizarre return to the course that Woods can claim as a second home, especially after his two thrilling victories at Pebble Beach.

In the AT&T National Pro-Am, Woods was seven strokes behind with seven holes to play when he finished eagle-birdie-par-birdie and won by two, giving him his sixth straight PGA Tour victory and the most stunning comeback in his spectacular career.

Four months later under vastly different conditions, he was even better. Woods demolished par that the U.S. Golf Association tries so vainly to protect at the U.S. Open, and he did the same thing to the field.

He finished at 12-under 272, unheard of for a U.S. Open, and won by 15 strokes, the largest margin in the 140-year history of the majors.

A victory this week would make him the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972-73 to win three straight events on the same course over a 12-month span. Nicklaus also sandwiched a pair of Crosbys around a U.S. Open.

"I've always enjoyed playing here, seeing the beauty of it," Woods said. "This golf course is right there in front of you."

Woods was swarmed by autograph seekers as he left the 18th green Wednesday, walking briskly and trying to sign whatever programs and hats where thrust in front of him.

One man, hounding him for autographs during his practice round, tried to position himself in front of the pack, and Woods' inadvertently stepped on his ankle, hyperextending his knee.

"A lot of fans just kind of came down on top of me," Woods said. "One guy ran in front. I stepped on his ankle, and my weight going forward and his weight coming back ... I hyperextended my knee."

Woods winced immediately, glowered at the man and grabbed the back of his leg as he hobbled up a hill. He tried to hit balls after lunch, but couldn't.

"No way," Woods said. "That's not going to happen."

This is the second time Woods has been injured since turning pro. He had what turned out to be a stinger in his left hand at the Tour Championship in Houston in 1999 when he tried to hit through a baseball-sized rock to get to his ball.

As an amateur, Woods had to withdraw from the '95 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills when he injured his wrist trying to hack out of the deep rough. He also had a cyst removed from behind his left knee while at Stanford.

Woods, the No. 1 player in the world coming off a record-breaking season that included three straight major championships among his nine PGA Tour victories, is often swamped by fans after rounds.

A security detail was with him, but some fans went under the ropes and tried to get close.

"People get aggressive. That's the way it is," Woods said. "That's one reason we have security. Some of you say, 'Why do you have so much security?' It's for instances like this, so they don't happen. Unfortunately, it happened today."

The rest of his day was a time for good vibes, which are not hard to find when Woods sets foot on the famous course where land meets sea.

The U.S. Open was far from his mind, especially when he got to the 446-yard 10th hole. In the dry summer of a U.S. Open, Woods reached that green with a 3-wood and a wedge. In the cool, soft conditions of February, he hit driver and a 3-iron.

"I had a great time," he said. "It was weird, because looking at the golf course, it looks different than it did in the Open."

Sooners knock off A&M

WACO (AP) — J.R. Raymond's turnaround started when Oklahoma's did, thanks to the support of his teammates.

Raymond, who scored seven points in a five-game stretch earlier this season, has averaged 21.5 points during the Sooners' four-game winning streak, including 15 Wednesday night in a 65-51 victory over Baylor.

"During those games and practices, when things weren't going well, I was getting complimented for doing little things to help the team," said Raymond, the Big 12's player of the week. "My teammates and coaches were saying 'Don't worry about the shots, they'll come.'

"When our team is playing as good as it can, it's hard to stop us."

Nolan Johnson scored 17 points to lead the Sooners, while Kelly Newton scored 15 on five 3-pointers.

Newton, who had not made a 3-pointer in his previous three games, also had eight rebounds and six assists for Oklahoma (16-5, 5-3 Big 12).

"We're starting to feel pretty good about ourselves," Sooners coach Kelvin Sampson said. "We're finding ways to win. We've never said we're a great team, but we're improving, which is what you look for at this stage of the season."

The Bears missed 15 of 16 3-point attempts, shooting 31 percent from the field. Greg Davis had 18 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots to lead Baylor (13-5, 2-5). Terry Black added 14 points.

The Bears, losers of four straight, have not scored more than 66 points in that span.

Spurs pound Clippers, 92-70

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — As the NBA season heads into February, the San Antonio Spurs are playing their best basketball of the season.

They routed the Los Angeles Clippers 92-70 Wednesday night as Tim Duncan, David Robinson and Malik Rose each had double-doubles in the Spurs' fifth straight victory.

Duncan had 22 points and 16 rebounds, Robinson added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Rose finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds. The Spurs, who also beat Los Angeles 96-67 on Monday, won their 12th consecutive meeting against the Clippers.

"You hope your players are self-motivated, but there are going to be those nights. I thought we were pretty lethargic in the first half, and we had to talk about it at halftime," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

"I think being aware of it, pointing it out and not letting anybody hide from it is one of the main things we can do as coaches. But the best thing is to have players who really have a goal in mind and are committed to that."

San Antonio placed five players in double figures and outscored Los Angeles 55-36 in the second half.

"Malik Rose gave us energy," Robinson said. "He was great on the offensive boards and with his hustle. We needed someone who rebounds, and he does. I think we are reaching a good level of consistency with our lineup."

Sports Briefs

TaeKwonDo tournament

The West Texas TaeKwonDo Championships will be held Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum. Between 400 and 500 competitors are expected.

Competition begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission is $5 for adults, and $3 for children ages 6-12. Children under the age of 6 get in free.

American buys Canadiens

MONTREAL (AP) — The Montreal Canadiens, a national treasure of Canadian sports, are now American property.

Molson Inc., the team owner, sold 80 percent of the NHL club and all of the Molson Centre to Colorado businessman George Gillett for $183 million.

The brewery will keep the remaining 20 percent of the storied team, which will stay in Montreal.

Georgia changes flag, keeps tourney

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia has a new flag to fly over the Final Four and other big-time sporting events, which should scuttle a proposed boycott over the Confederate battle symbol.

Gov. Roy Barnes signed a bill adopting the flag that reduces the Confederate fighting emblem to a tiny icon at the bottom of the banner. The flag was raised quietly and quickly over the statehouse.

Without a change in the flag, the NCAA executive committee was expected to decide in April whether to move the 2002 and 2007 men's Final Four tournaments out of Atlanta, along with the 2003 women's tournament.

Sprewell, Mutombo added to rosters

NEW YORK (AP) — Latrell Sprewell is an All-Star again only because his former adversary, commissioner David Stern, says so.

Stern chose Sprewell and Dikembe Mutombo as replacements for injured Eastern Conference All-Stars Grant Hill and Alonzo Mourning.

Chiefs hire White as football director

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs hired Mike White as director of football administration.

White was an assistant head coach with the St. Louis Rams from 1997 to 1999 under Dick Vermeil, the Chiefs' new head coach. White also worked with Vermeil at UCLA and at Stanford.

Before the Rams, White spent seven years as a coach with the Oakland Raiders from 1990 to 1996. He was head coach of the Raiders during his last two seasons there and compiled a 15-17 record.

XFL Glance

All Times EST

EAST CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Birmingham	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	.000	0	0
NY/NJ	0	0	.000	0	0
Orlando	0	0	.000	0	0
WEST CONFERENCE	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Las Vegas	0	0	.000	0	0
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	0	0
Memphis	0	0	.000	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	.000	0	0

Saturday's Games

New York-New Jersey at Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Memphis at Birmingham, 4 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Francisco, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Chicago at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.
San Francisco at Orlando, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Birmingham at New York-New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Las Vegas at Memphis, 7 p.m.

Local Sports Schedule

FRIDAY

Basketball

Estacado at Snyder girls, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30

Estacado at Snyder boys, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30

Grady at Ira, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Trent at Hermleigh, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Golf

Snyder JV and varsity boys host Snyder Invitational at Western Texas College and Snyder CC

SATURDAY

Golf

Snyder JV and varsity boys host Snyder Invitational at Western Texas College and Snyder CC

TaeKwonDo

West Texas TaeKwonDo Championships at Scurry County Coliseum, 10:30 a.m.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	34	11	.756	—
New York	26	16	.619	6½
Miami	28	18	.609	6½
Orlando	21	23	.477	12½
Boston	19	26	.422	15
New Jersey	14	33	.298	21
Washington	12	35	.255	23
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Milwaukee	27	17	.614	—
Charlotte	25	21	.543	3
Toronto	24	22	.522	4
Cleveland	20	23	.465	6½
Indiana	20	25	.444	7½
Detroit	17	29	.370	11
Atlanta	16	28	.364	11
Chicago	6	38	.136	21
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Utah	29	15	.659	—
San Antonio	28	15	.651	½
Minnesota	29	18	.617	1½
Dallas	28	18	.609	2
Denver	26	20	.565	4
Houston	22	23	.489	7½
Vancouver	12	33	.267	17½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Sacramento	30	12	.714	½
Portland	33	14	.702	—
L.A. Lakers	28	16	.636	3½
Phoenix	26	18	.591	5½
Seattle	26	22	.542	7½
Golden State	14	31	.311	18
L.A. Clippers	13	33	.283	19½

Wednesday's Games

Boston 102, Indiana 96, OT
Orlando 100, Washington 96
Atlanta 102, Toronto 97
Detroit 112, New Jersey 103
Milwaukee 116, Denver 111
Minnesota 96, L.A. Lakers 83
San Antonio 92, L.A. Clippers 70
Phoenix 101, Vancouver 92

Thursday's Games

Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Miami at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New York at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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Midessa Boat, RV & Gun Show
Fishing • Camping • Fishing Guides
ATV's • Guns • Knives

Free Parking • Best Buys of the Season • Special Financing
Boats & RV's Only
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New This Year Drag Cars
Gun Show • Boats • RV's
Friday, February 2 • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday, February 3 • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday, February 4 • 12 Noon-6 p.m.
Ector County Coliseum
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Sponsored by Midessa Marine Dealers & Odessa Chamber of Commerce

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COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the estate of MARY CLARK DOAK, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,643:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executrix of the estate of Mary Clark Doak, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 30th day of January, 2001, 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 Mary Ann Hooks, 9113 Bonny Brook, San Antonio, Texas 78239, within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 30th day of January, 2001.

(s)MARY ANN HOOKS
Independent Executrix
of the estate of
Mary Clark Doak,
deceased

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

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THIS IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS! The Snyder Daily News 573-5486

Amateur historian seeking DNA tests

DALLAS (AP) — An amateur historian has started another legal effort to conduct DNA tests to solve the mystery over the resting place of 19th century outlaw Jesse James.

Undeterred by a mistake that caused the wrong man to be unearthed from his decades-old grave last year, Bud Hardcastle is trying to prove James died and was buried in Texas — not Missouri as the history books say.

Historians say James was shot and killed by a member of his own gang on April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph, Mo. Hardcastle is among those who believe the outlaw survived, assumed the name J. Frank Dalton and moved to Granbury, Texas, before dying in 1951 at age 104.

"I know what I'm talking about, and I'm not going to quit," Hardcastle, a used car dealer from Purcell, Okla., said Tuesday. "I set out to do this, and I'm going to do it."

Hardcastle filed a request Jan. 19 in Hood County court to remove and conduct DNA testing on Dalton's remains. The court is in Granbury, 25 miles southeast of Fort Worth, where a gravestone stands above Dalton's final resting place with the words "Jesse Woodson James," and the inscription, "Supposedly killed in 1882."

The first court-approved exhumation resulted in embarrassment when a misplaced headstone caused researchers to mistakenly remove the body of a one-armed man, William Henry Holland, who died in 1927.

"We want to do the same thing we did before. Of course, we're going to move over one spot," said Hardcastle, who has spent thousands of dollars in his quest. "It wasn't our fault the tombstone was put in the wrong place."

County Judge Linda Steen said it may take her at least a week to decide whether to call a hearing on the matter.

James was among the most famous outlaws of the Old West, his exploits sensationalized in dime novels. Along with his brother Frank, James was a member of the feared Quantrill's Raiders during the Civil War.

On the Net:
Jesse James Missouri Home:
http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us//jesjames.html

Posthumous pardon sought for outlaw

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Billy the Kid was among the most notorious figures of the early frontier, a legendary outlaw who killed several lawmen at a time when blazing, six-gun showdowns were part of the Wild West.

Nearly 120 years after his death, a New Mexico lawmaker has offered a proposal that could set up a different kind of showdown: whether the outlaw should be given a posthumous pardon.

Rep. Ben Rios introduced the proposal asking Gov. Gary Johnson to pardon Henry McCarty — aka William H. Bonney, aka Billy the Kid.

But relatives of Sheriff William Brady, who was ambushed by Billy and others in Lincoln on April 1, 1878, aren't ready to forgive or forget.

"Whoever said something like that has got to be crazy," said Bennett Brady, 70, the sheriff's great-grandson. "No, he doesn't deserve pardoning. As far as I'm concerned, that's wrong."

The outlaw's descendants "just want to see if Billy could be pardoned, for the peace of mind of whoever is left who knew Billy or their family knew Billy," Rios said Wednesday. Although Rios would not say who the descendants are, he said a "spokesman for the family" asked him to seek the pardon.

Neither Bennett Brady nor Assistant New Mexico Attorney General Joel Jacobsen, who wrote a book about Billy the Kid, knew of any surviving descendants of the outlaw.

Billy the Kid was sentenced to hang in April 1881 for shooting Brady in the back as the sheriff was walking down the dusty main street of Lincoln, a little cattle town in southern New Mexico. He escaped jail weeks later by killing two deputies, and was shot to death by Sheriff Pat Garrett in July 1881.

Some consider Billy the Kid a cold-blooded killer, while others say he's a Robin Hood of the Old West who helped the oppressed during a corrupt time.

Jacobsen's book, "Such Men as Billy the Kid," tells how the Lincoln County War began after Lawrence G. Murphy, James J. Dolan and Emil Fritz went into partnership in Lincoln. U.S. Attorney Thomas B. Catron, head of the powerful "Santa Fe Ring" that ran the New Mexico territory, was an investor in their store.

Billy worked for an Englishman named John Tunstall, who sought to challenge their monopoly.

The sheriff, acting on behalf of Murphy and Dolan, ordered Tunstall's assets seized in February 1878, and Tunstall was killed as he sought to comply with Brady's order. Billy and his trailmates staged counterattacks, killing several Murphy-Dolan partisans, including Brady.

But Rios suggests many of Billy's crimes are exaggerated. Although Jacobsen believes Billy the Kid shouldn't be pardoned, he said then-Territorial Gov. Lew Wallace led the outlaw to expect a pardon.

"At that time, the gun was the law," Rios said. "My main thing is just to satisfy my constituents. Whatever happens after that is up to the governor."

Rita Nunez, who filters the pardon requests for the governor's office, said Johnson has turned down a dozen such requests. This may be the first time a state legislator has asked, she said. The proposal has yet to be assigned to a legislative committee for a hearing.

The purpose of a pardon is to restore somebody's civil rights, Nunez said.

"As Billy the Kid is deceased, he is not in need of restoration of his civil rights," she said.

On The Net:
Arizona State University chronology of Lincoln County War:
http://www.public.asu.edu/(tilde)apugsley/chronology.html

Fugitive suspected of faking his death charged with slaying

NEW YORK (AP) — After nearly 30 years on the run, a man suspected of faking his own death returned to court Wednesday to face a murder charge in the death of a retired police officer's son.

Joseph Scudiero, 65, said he was innocent of the murder of George Kelly, 28, an insurance salesman who was shot to death in 1971 after a dispute in a Greenwich Village bar.

Scudiero's relatives have said that on July 4, 1972, the day before Scudiero was to go to trial in the slaying, two men in a white sedan seized him and drove him away. The car was later found riddled with bullets and scattered with Scudiero's blood.

The New York Daily News reported Wednesday, citing unidentified sources, that investigators believe Scudiero may have faked his own death — and even splashed vials of his own blood in the sedan to convince them he had been killed.

Authorities suspected at the time that the disappearance may have been a ploy, but could not find Scudiero.

Scudiero's lawyer, Mathew Mari, said Wednesday he did not know whether his client had faked his own death. He said Scudiero fled the city, "not from fear of facing murder charges, but because he received reliable information that he would be killed," in retaliation for Kelly's death.

Police arrested Scudiero Friday at a relative's home in the city.

He had evaded police until last year, when he was charged in West Falls, Pa., under the name Joseph Monaco, with raping and sodomizing a 12-year-old boy.

Investigators learned during a fingerprint check that he was wanted in New York under the name Joseph Scudiero, and Scudiero fled again, avoiding capture until Friday.

Mari said the 12-year-old had falsely accused his client.

Fatal collision sends skier to Colorado jail

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — After receiving a 90-day jail sentence for the death of a fellow skier, Nathan Hall offered a tearful apology to the victim's family.

"I stand before you guys knowing I've taken a human life, a life obviously very special and valued by a lot of people," said Hall, who stopped several times to compose himself. "I in no way feel I've suffered even a small fraction of what I've put you guys through.

Hall was convicted of negligent homicide in November in the death of Denver carpenter Alan Cobb, 33. He was sentenced Wednesday by District Judge David Lass, who said "what happened in this case is not an inherent risk of skiing."

Hall was ending his shift as a Vail lift operator when, heading down the hill on April 10, 1997, he hit Cobb and another skier. The other skier was not hurt.

Two courts threw out the case, but the Colorado Supreme Court ordered it to trial. Hall was charged with reckless manslaughter, but jurors instead found him guilty of the lesser negligent-homicide charge.

Eagle County District Attorney Mike Goodbee said he was satisfied with the sentence.

"We won the case when it we got it to a jury," he said.

Hall's lawyer promised to appeal, saying the judge should have given jurors the option of convicting his client of a misdemeanor. He said Hall would gladly serve the 90-day jail sentence but doesn't want a felony conviction on his record.

"I was absolutely appalled and shocked at their decision to appeal," said Christi Neville, Cobb's fiancee.

The case has been closely watched by the ski industry. Ski safety experts said Hall was the first person to be convicted at trial of killing another skier. In 1989, Texas skier Howard Hidle hit and killed an 11-year-old girl at Colorado's Winter Park resort. Hidle, who pleaded no contest to criminally negligent homicide, later committed suicide.

On the Net:
National Ski Areas Association:
http://www.nsaa.org

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Sherrie Bidwell, Jason Mendoza, Geraldine Orray, Comeralda Rivera, Jacquline Self, Laura Williams, Horace Williamson, Alisa Cain, Holden boy, Omer Pointer.

DISMISSALS: Skylar Dollins, Juanita Ford, Shirley Hagins, Colton Hand, Joe Hernandez, Reaghan Ruiz, Hazel Sneed, Miranda Vasquez, Floy Kimzey, Tonya Nobles.

CENSUS: LTC, 24; Med 3, 23; OB, 2; NS, 2; ICU, 3. TOTAL: 54.

Births

Sherrie Bidwell announces the birth of her son. He weighed 6 pounds and 4½ ounces and was born at 2:13 p.m. Wednesday in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Tommy and Misty Lane of Midland announce the birth of their daughter, Alexxus Mae. She was born at 12:03 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, in Westwood Medical Center in Midland. Alexxus weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces. She is welcomed home by three brothers, Seth, O.T. and Matt.

Maternal grandparents are Delbert and Jackie Jenkins of Snyder. Paternal grandparents are Sandra and O.L. Lane of Snyder and Shelly White of Amarillo. Great-grandparents are Billy Bob and Jo Alyce McMullan of Snyder.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	Chg
AMR Corp s	39.35	38.65	38.65	— .44
AOL TimeWrn	53.25	50.12	50.93	—1.63
AT&T Corp	24.19	23.80	24.00	+ .01
Albertsons	28.88	28.20	28.78	+ .43
Alltel	59.80	58.43	59.50	+ .32
AmEl Pw	43.44	43.00	43.10	— .15
AndarkPtr	58.00	55.00	55.36	—1.54
ATMOS Egy	24.55	23.21	23.69	— .78
Aviall	7.90	7.45	7.60	+ .35
BP Amoco	51.89	51.53	51.71	+ .21
BakerHughes	40.25	39.20	39.55	—1.68
Bank of Amer	54.75	53.31	54.49	+ .67
BellSouth	42.10	41.50	41.77	— .37
Beth Steel	2.40	2.10	2.21	— .19
BurlNoSFe	31.18	30.61	30.98	+ .37
Caterpillar	44.60	43.95	44.15	— .07
Chevron	83.28	81.56	81.85	—1.43
Citigroup s	56.51	55.53	56.30	+ .47
CocaCola	57.50	56.61	56.76	—1.24
ColgatePal	61.44	60.08	61.20	+ 1.12
ComclMetals	23.09	23.01	23.09	+ .09
Cooperin	45.50	44.90	45.00	+ .11
DaimlrChry	48.79	47.53	48.00	+ .47
DallSemicn s	37.43	36.41	36.70	— .48
DeltaAirl	47.19	46.60	46.67	— .55
Dillards Inc	15.30	15.05	15.17	— .07
DowChem s	34.90	33.96	34.49	+ .19
DuPont	44.25	43.38	43.65	— .06
EastmanChem	47.60	46.72	47.45	+ .74
EstKodak	43.97	43.30	43.92	+ .30
EDS Corp	57.51	56.25	57.51	+ 1.86
Entergy	35.47	34.60	34.72	— .70
ExxonMobil	84.15	82.80	83.15	—1.00
Flowers	16.50	15.90	16.14	— .51
GenDynam	71.00	70.10	70.68	— .32
GenElec s	46.73	45.90	45.96	+ .11
GenMills	42.15	41.60	41.50	— .30
GenMotors	53.80	52.96	53.60	— .12
GaPacGP	31.85	30.91	31.17	+ .26
GlobalMar	28.50	27.74	27.92	— .83
Goodrich	36.60	36.25	36.25	+ .25
Goodyear s	26.59	26.30	26.45	+ .06
GtAtlPac	10.00	9.75	9.88	— .13
Halliburtn	40.53	39.70	40.00	—1.19
Hanson ADS	32.80	32.18	32.80	+ .75
HarteHanks	22.20	21.28	22.15	+ .14
HomeDepot	48.20	47.06	47.56	— .73
HoneywellIntl	48.20	47.32	47.32	— .07
IBM	113.70	111.20	113.36	+1.36
IntlPaper	39.61	38.55	38.81	+ .16
JohnsonJn	93.90	93.13	93.94	+ .56
K mart	9.40	8.50	9.31	+ .56
Kroger Co	24.99	24.52	24.83	+ .34
Lifton	79.18	79.01	79.12	+ .04
LockheedM	35.60	34.59	35.56	+ .86
Lowes Cos	53.45	52.05	52.70	— .75
Lubys	6.25	6.11	6.22	+ .17
LucentTech	18.95	18.50	18.69	+ .11
MayDeptStr	39.50	38.55	38.83	— .12
Medtronic	54.00	52.85	53.06	— .94
Motorola s	23.24	21.95	22.03	— .78
NCR Corp	48.29	47.77	48.15	+ .39
Navistar	27.80	27.50	27.74	— .03
Penney JC	14.96	14.25	14.90	+ .33
PepBoys	4.80	4.75	4.75	— .05
PepsiCo	44.07	42.75	42.95	—1.12
Pharmacia	57.00	56.02	56.64	+ .62
PhelpDodge	47.45	46.55	46.59	+ .19
PhilipPet	58.50	57.32	57.83	— .80
PilgrmPrd B	11.00	10.74	10.90	+ .16
Polaroid	7.00	6.86	6.90	— .05
Praxair	45.12	44.28	44.55	+ .22
ProctGamb	73.89	71.84	73.50	+ 1.66
PubS NwMx	24.85	24.16	24.40	— .30
RadioShack	56.50	54.63	55.02	— .02
ReliantEngy	37.89	37.15	37.25	— .45
RoyalDut	60.44	59.85	59.85	— .56
SBC Comm	50.00	48.65	49.47	+ 1.12
SaraLee	21.15	20.75	21.10	— .14
Scripps EW	64.08	63.55	64.05	— .25
SearsRoeb	39.30	38.13	38.80	+ .05
Sherwin W	26.99	26.76	26.86	+ .01
SouthernCo	28.84	28.15	28.27	— .57
SwstAirl	32.10	31.80	[illegible]	[illegible]
SwstAirl w	22.50	22.50	22.50	
SprintFON	24.81	24.13	24.27	— .51
SprintPCS	31.80	31.25	31.38	[illegible]
Sunoco Inc	32.90	31.25	31.25	— .75
TXU Corp	37.70	37.24	37.55	— .23
TempleInland	52.15	50.66	51.45	+ .49
Texaco	61.75	60.63	60.96	— .35
Textron	28.00	27.45	27.83	— .17
TexasInst s	44.25	42.63	43.12	— .92
Textron	51.95	50.00	50.36	— .64
TriconGlbR	36.25	34.75	35.25	— .75
TrinityInds	23.70	23.50	23.50	— .34
TritonEngy	24.70	23.80	24.22	— .38
USX Marathn	27.25	26.65	27.08	— .25
USX USS	16.45	15.90	16.30	+ .06
UnCarbide	54.40	52.40	53.45	+ .15
UnionPacif	53.95	52.88	53.51	+ .52
UnitedTech	74.48	73.45	73.75	— .72
Unocal	34.70	33.81	33.97	— .13
VerizonCommn	53.24	52.51	52.84	— .15
VeriznCommn	55.10	53.80	54.15	— .44
WalMart	56.80	55.21	55.43	— .14
WellsFargo	51.88	51.04	51.36	— .3
WstnGasRs	27.00	26.75	26.90	+ .20
WstnDigit	21.15	20.13	21.15	+ .22
Xerox Corp	8.30	8.03	8.22	+ .05

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Families sue Tech to preserve DNA samples

LUBBOCK (AP) — Six Texas families and another 168 individuals have sued Texas Tech's medical school and two of its administrators in an attempt to protect DNA samples which the university plans to destroy.

More than 10,000 blood samples from 2,200 families, 150 brains and complete medical records of 600 patients with confirmed or probable Alzheimer's disease are part of the Alzheimer's DNA Bank at Texas Tech University's Health Science Center.

According to the lawsuit, filed last month, the university plans to destroy samples for which it does not possess consent forms. The lawsuit asks a state judge to prevent the samples destruction.

A hearing to determine whether the destruction of the samples should be halted was scheduled for 11 a.m. CST today.

"These samples are ... irreplaceable," the lawsuit states. "Medical records without DNA samples are worthless for genetic research. The destruction of a single DNA sample could render all other samples from that family useless for research."

But Texas Tech attorney Rebecca Hellbaum says without informed consent documented on an approved written consent form, use of the samples violates federal law.

"Research conducted under the auspices of Texas Tech University Health Science Center must meet all ethical and legal requirements for the protection of human subjects," she said in a written statement. "An essential element of ethical and legal research is to obtain informed consent from potential subjects respecting their right, to the degree that they are capable, to be given the opportunity to choose what shall or shall not happen to them."

Oleta Toliver, who is one of the lawsuit's plaintiffs and helped with the formation of the DNA bank following her mother's diagnosis and death from Alzheimer's disease, said consent forms were signed by every person who agreed to be a part of the bank. She blames inefficient bookkeeping for the missing consent forms.

And more importantly, Toliver says, a missing consent form can be replaced unlike the years of collection and research that has taken place since the bank was began in 1994.

"It's a national emergency as far as I'm concerned," the 72-year-old said of Alzheimer's disease and the research that still is necessary to find a cure. "There is not anything you can do for an Alzheimer's patient. You see someone go from an intelligent, humorous, delightful individual to someone who can't even recognize their own daughter. It's a heartbreak I promise you."

Toliver says she and other family members involved in the lawsuit will be present in court.

"We want something to stop all of this sadness and sorrow and to prevent Alzheimer's for the future of our children," she said. "If you could see how many fewer dollars are spent on Alzheimer's research than Cancer, it is just frightening."

A program similar to Tech's has been ongoing at the University of Kentucky for 11 years.

Healthy people 60 and older throughout Kentucky have been asked to volunteer for annual neurological and physical tests and then donate their brains for study when they die. Researchers currently are following more than 400 people.

More than 4 million Americans and more than 12 million people worldwide suffer from Alzheimer's, a progressive neurological disease which to date has no known cause or cure. Victims, moech's Alzheimer's DNA Bank: http://www.ttuhsc.edu/pages/neuro/alzres/dnaweb/dna—bank—home.htm

Alzheimer's Disease Review: http://www.coa.uky.edu/ADReview

Alzheimer's Disease Education & Referral Center: http://www.alzheimers.org

Kennedy nephew to be tried as adult for 1975 murder

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — John Moxley was 17 when his little sister Martha was found bludgeoned to death outside their exclusive Greenwich home.

Twenty-five years later, Moxley learned that Michael Skakel, a Kennedy nephew accused of the crime, will be tried in an adult court — meaning Skakel could get 10 years to life in prison if convicted.

"It's great news," Moxley said. "We're excited. We're where we want to be."

The ruling Wednesday was a setback for the defense, which wanted Skakel, who was 15 at the time of the killing, tried in juvenile court. Prosecutors had feared Skakel could walk free in such a case, saying there is no place to send a 40-year-old man convicted of a juvenile crime.

In juvenile court, the maximum penalty Skakel could have received was four years in prison.

Prosecutors had warned that they might drop the case unless it was transferred to adult court, saying Skakel would face such a small penalty in juvenile court that it may not be worth the trauma to Moxley's family.

Judge Maureen Dennis ruled that the case belongs in adult court, in part because Connecticut has no juvenile facility where it could send Skakel if he is convicted.

Skakel's lawyer, Michael Sherman, initially said he may appeal.

"Connecticut sends prisoners out of state every day," he said. "We also send juvenile offenders out of state when they have special needs."

Later, speaking on CNN's "Larry King Live," Sherman said he was looking forward to the trial.

"It's going to be a good thing that there will be a full trial — that the facts will be known, that the stories will be told," he said. "When that comes out, I think people will come to the belief that Michael Skakel is innocent."

Martha Moxley was beaten to death in 1975 after an evening of pre-Halloween fun with a group of friends, including Skakel. Her body was found the next day on her family's estate.

The 6-iron golf club used in the killing matched a set of clubs owned by the Skakel family, who lived across the street. Skakel's father, Rushton Skakel, is the brother of Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel.

No arrests were made in the case for more than 24 years. Skakel was charged last January following an investigation by a one-judge grand jury.

Under state law, a juvenile found delinquent can be committed to a youth facility, hospital or other institution. State facilities cannot accept anyone over the age of 18, and the judge said commitment to a mental institution would not be appropriate in the Skakel case.

Although juvenile cases are usually sealed to the public, Skakel's case was opened at the request of both the prosecution and the defendant.

Prosecutor Jonathan Benedict said he expects Skakel to be arraigned on a murder charge within the next two weeks.

"A murder is forever," he said.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Good attitude goes long way when grandkids come to visit

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to the letter from "Disappointed Daughter," who complained that her parents found their grandchildren "bothersome."

It's sad when grandparents are more concerned about peace and quiet than in creating happy memories for their grandchildren to treasure all their lives.

My parents never enjoyed any of their grandchildren. They were interested only in making them toe the line. They provided one disposable cup a day per child — "If you throw yours away, you go thirsty." If they failed to completely shut the sliding glass door, it was "Shut that damn door!" God forbid they giggled and acted like children, because that meant they were "hyper-brats."

Fortunately, my children were blessed with another set of grandparents. Although they are gone now, we have many warm memories of them to share.

My mother is still alive and now complains she doesn't know her grandchildren. She insinuates they are the ones responsible.

Being a grandmother is the most wonderful thing I have ever experienced. Recently, when playing "I Spy" with one of my granddaughters, I told her I spied something very precious to me. Her face lighted up immediately. She exclaimed "Me!" and she was right. — **GRANDMA SHARON, FORKS, WASH.**

DEAR GRANDMA SHARON: What a heartwarming story. However, not all grandparents share your view. Read on for the reason why:

DEAR ABBY: I am 64, widowed and live alone. My daughter, son-in-law and three beautiful grandchildren left last week after a short visit. Somehow, I survived.

Within five minutes of their arrival, chaos reigned. The children, ages 2 to 6, were everywhere. Beds were torn apart, toys strewn all over the house. Snacks were ground into my new living room carpet, meals were a nightmare. Two out of three wouldn't eat what was served, but they still got dessert. Soap and wet towels were left in the tub, on the bathroom floor or on a bed. Dirty diapers were left on the sink. You get the picture.

My dear children were not raised without proper training. If only they would pass it on! — **BITING MY TONGUE IN HOT SPRINGS**

DEAR BITING: Your point is well taken. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am the grandmother of three young boys and a girl. I was a single mother, worked hard, and spent many hours after my children went to bed, cleaning and ironing.

After 40 years, I feel I've earned a retirement I can enjoy. I'm sure "Disappointed's" parents feel the same way.

Some questions she should consider:

(1) How often do your children interrupt when adults are speaking?

(2) How much of the conversation revolves around the children?

(3) Do you set aside time for a one-on-one conversation with your mother? There are things some older women will not discuss in front of children.

(4) Do you allow your children to "run loose" in the house?

(5) Do your children have any "quiet" toys? The noise some toys make can be nerve-racking to older people.

(6) Finally, when you telephone your mother, how often are you distracted from the conversation to answer or yell at your kids?

Our children know only what we teach them. — **VIRGINIA GRANNY**

DEAR GRANNY: If parents of small children will give your letter the consideration it deserves, perhaps it would help to bridge the generation gap.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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2 girls contract meningitis

HOUSTON (AP) — A 9-year-old Conroe girl and a 2-year-old Crosby girl are the latest to be stricken with an outbreak of meningoccal bacteria, raising the number of state-confirmed cases to 40 in nine Houston-area counties.

In Montgomery County, two of 13 cases have resulted in deaths. Only one case was reported in the county in all of 1999.

The Crosby case raises the number of confirmed cases in Harris County to 18.

The Conroe girl, a student at San Jacinto Elementary School, was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis, a spokeswoman at Texas Children's Hospital said Wednesday.

She was in good condition Wednesday, she said.

The 2-year-old Crosby girl was admitted to Texas Children's Hospital on Monday. She was in fair condition Wednesday.

The infection level has only reached the threshold of 10 cases per 100,000 population at which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends mass vaccinations in Conroe and New Caney-Porter.

In Harris County, health officials say there is no more need for meningitis vaccinations than in any other year, with the exception of Humble.

Officials in Conroe had immunized about 35,000 people Wednesday, and the number was growing.

Health officials said the risk of contracting the bacterial infection is very low and is commonly associated with close living, such as a military barracks or a school dormitory.

Symptoms include fever, intense headache, stiff neck and nausea often accompanied by vomiting.

Berry's World

www.comics.com Jim Berry © 2001 by NEA, Inc.

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FDA urged to restrict vaccine

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — About a dozen people who believe they were severely sickened by the Lyme disease vaccine pleaded with government scientists Wednesday to restrict vaccine sales or at least to insist that doctors disclose all possible side effects.

Vaccine safety experts found no proof that the Lymerix vaccine is dangerous — the rare cases of arthritis and other symptoms could be coincidence. But they called the accusations troubling and demanded that Americans be better informed before being inoculated.

The Food and Drug Administration has opened an unusually intense investigation of the Lymerix complaints. Wednesday, the agency's scientific advisers expressed frustration that vaccine manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline has had two years to answer lingering safety questions, but still hasn't.

There must be "some way to at least inform people of these concerns, albeit not proven," FDA adviser Dr. Pamela Diaz of the Chicago Department of Public Health said.

Patients and their relatives said doctors hid possible side effects before administering the vaccine, then often dismissed symptoms when they appeared. One woman in the vaccine's original study charged that researchers refused to record her symptoms, which would be a violation of federal research rules if it occurred.

"Everything that's part of your day-to-day functioning is taken away from you," said Emily Biegel of Blue Point, N.Y., describing her husband's intense pain after vaccination.

"How many of you have had it? How many of you people would give it to your loved ones?" Karen Burk of Bethlehem, Pa., asked panelists. She said her husband "couldn't get out of bed, ... couldn't walk, couldn't peel a banana" after being vaccinated.

Lyme disease, spread by deer ticks in the Northeast and certain other parts of the country, causes fatigue, fevers and joint pain that can persist for weeks. Some patients develop severe arthritis. If untreated with antibiotics, it also can severely damage the heart and nervous systems.

Lyme sufferers begged the FDA to approve Lymerix, the world's first Lyme vaccine, in 1998. It requires two shots given about a month apart and a third a year later to get about 80 percent protection from Lyme disease.

The FDA has received 1,048 reports of Lymerix recipients suffering possible side effects. GlaxoSmithKline, which insists the vaccine is safe, has distributed 1.4 million doses to doctors but can't say how many people have been inoculated.

Many reports are of minor complaints or are not believed to have been caused by the vaccine, but the FDA is studying 133 reports of severe arthritis-like symptoms. That's because of a theory that the vaccine might set off an autoimmune reaction where the body attacks its own tissues, particularly in people who carry a certain gene called HLA-4.

In one safety study, 5,000 people got Lymerix and another 5,000 got dummy shots. Two percent of people developed arthritis-like symptoms in each group, regardless of gene status, said FDA's Dr. Susan Ellenberg.

The FDA is investigating whether the vaccine might cause rare but serious side effects. Ellenberg cautioned, however, that because it's 80 percent protective, "a lot of people are out there walking around healthy because of this vaccine."

To ensure the first study didn't miss a small but real risk, GlaxoSmithKline promised to study 25,000 more people after sales began. Also, because some possible side effects mimic Lyme disease itself, questions arose about whether it's safe to vaccinate someone with active Lyme disease.

Yet so far, the company's study contains just 3,600 people, far too few to answer the lingering questions, FDA's advisers complained.

Job cuts threaten optimism behind long economic boom

By ADAM GELLER
AP Business Writer

Employees of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products received an unwanted Christmas surprise inside their pay envelopes just before clocking out for the holidays.

It was a letter from the Racine, Wis.-based company written to 275 workers telling them not to count on many more checks.

"That's when they told us we were closing," recalled Diana Bendix, 50, an assembly line worker at Textron for 23 years.

Similar letters have arrived in households across the nation in recent days as a parade of companies marched out plans for tens of thousands of job cuts.

The worry now is about a domino effect — how much growing uncertainty among workers like Bendix will cut into consumer spending, which in turn could threaten the nation's fragile economic health.

"The risk here is self-fulfilling prophecies, and that's a very real problem," said Louis Crandall, chief economist with Wrightson Associates LLC in New York. "

Consumer confidence "really is the weak link," said Louis Crandall, chief economist with Wrightson Associates LLC in New York. "This is where problems that really could be transitory could turn into a more persistent downturn."

That potential was demonstrated this week in a report showing a steep drop in the Consumer Confidence Index — to its lowest level in four years — largely because of increasing worries about job prospects.

Economists are divided over how much the layoffs will temper consumer confidence. Some say job cuts are a bitter medicine the economy must swallow to get back into robust condition.

"In a personal sense it hurts, but in a macro sense, it is the action we've got to take to remain competitive," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa. "Ultimately, the adjustments that the economy is making is going to set us up for the next strong period of growth."

Others contend companies could harm themselves by firing the people who buy their products, potentially damaging the economy in ways not easily rectified with an interest-rate reduction or a tax cut.

"If you think that your job is going down the tubes, how much more likely are you going to be to take out a big loan, even if you're able to do so at very favorable terms?" asked Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute, a think tank funded partly by labor. "If the rate of layoffs continues to increase, I expect the damage to consumer confidence will be considerable."

In just a few hours last week, some of the nation's largest employers — Black & Decker, Brunswick, J.C. Penney, Sara Lee and Standard Register — announced they would collectively eliminate nearly 16,000 jobs. That came just days after Lucent Technologies announced 16,000 job cuts. This week, it was DaimlerChrysler saying it will ax 26,000 jobs.

Cutbacks make sense to some workers. At Brunswick's Baylinner Marine boat factory outside Spokane, Wash., employees have glumly noted the unsold boats stacking up in the yard.

"It felt like it was coming," office manager Darlene Scarpelli said of last week's announcement by Brunswick that it will close the factory, which employs 130. She said she would like to remain with the company where she has worked for eight years, but isn't sure if she wants to move.

"What's making it easier is they are giving a good severance package to employees," she said.

Workers with fewer options may be less understanding. The last time the economy slid from growth to recession, in 1990, the Consumer Confidence Index plummeted as the nation's unemployment rate climbed.

But 1990 was a very different time economically. The government reported a loss of more than 200,000 jobs in July 1990, a hemorrhage that continued for the next 10 months.

There are no problems of that magnitude this time around, and the economy is still creating more jobs than are being eliminated.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Cataract surgery risks

DEAR DR. GOTT: Why do some eye doctors make senior citizens wait for months before having cataract surgery, while other patients can go to an eye-care clinic and have immediate surgery?

DEAR READER: To achieve the most satisfactory result from cataract extractions, eye surgeons formerly had to wait until the cataracts "matured" — until they were fully developed. Today, with modern techniques such as lens implants, patients no longer need to postpone cataract extraction: When vision is compromised, the cataracts can be removed.

Nevertheless, many ophthalmologists remain conservative; they recommend operations only when patients develop significant visual handicaps. The reason for this is that no surgery carries a guaranteed good result. Even in reputable medical centers, cataract extraction is associated with a very small but definite risk: Sight in the operated eye may be diminished as a result of surgery.

By waiting until vision markedly deteriorates, the prudent ophthalmologist knows that, should the operation be less than successful, the patient will be no worse off. This is infinitely preferable to a bad result in an eye in which the pre-operative vision was largely spared.

Many ambulatory eye-surgery centers depend on volume for profit. Therefore, the doctors in such centers may choose to operate sooner. By performing more surgery, they maintain their substantial incomes. This is, for obvious reasons, not in the patients' best interests. Fortunately, this is by no means the rule, but the practice is sufficiently common to cause concern.

In general, when a patient's cataract is dense enough to prevent reading print with glasses under good light, it is ready for removal. Patients with borderline vision should, in my opinion, obtain a second opinion (from an ophthalmologist unaffiliated with the eye-care center) before consenting to surgery.

DEAR DR. GOTT: After having decades of diarrhea caused by a spastic colon, I now notice, at age 60, that my stools are formed but smaller in caliber. Is this a result of the aging process or is something wrong?

DEAR READER: A change in bowel habits is something that should be brought to your doctor's attention. People who have spastic colon (irritable bowel syndrome) or other causes of loose stools when they're young, may notice a gradual change toward firmness as they age. Thus, the "constipation of the elderly" may actually result in more normal evacuation.

Nonetheless, a change in bowel habits may also reflect disease, such as tumors or scar tissue causing partial blockage. After examining your colon with X-rays, sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, a physician can advise you whether your bowel changes can be ignored or should be treated.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Constipation and Diarrhea." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is drinking distilled water harmful? Are there any benefits?

DEAR READER: To a large degree, the flavor of drinking water is directly related to the minerals it contains. Most potable water contains a few; spring or bottled water boasts more; distilled water has none. Therefore, except for the perception that distilled water tastes flat, it has no health benefits or disadvantages. It is not preferable to tap water, which is cheaper and more widely available.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 2, 2001

Making money isn't likely to be one of your problems in the year ahead. You'll do quite well at that, but how you handle your resources will be another story. Don't waste what you've gained.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) There is definite justification for you to believe you're lucky today. You are, so long as you don't stray off into unknown, speculative pastures. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 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.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This is an excellent day for entertaining at your place, but double check your guest list to make sure you didn't inadvertently forget anyone. Hard feelings could result.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It'll be your own logic and reasoning that'll prove lucky for you today, so under no circumstances should you let someone who is emotional dissuade you from doing what you know is best.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Unfortunately, the financial picture is a mixed bag today. You could lose just as easily as you could gain. Don't engage in anything extravagant, and keep what you make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You should be exceptionally lucky today in all your personal undertakings, but if you knowingly let someone take you away from your affairs, things won't go too well for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Provided you don't dwell on negative thinking today, your intuitive perceptions will be right on the money and serve you well. Stay optimistic to stay on course.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't be embarrassed today about not being able to afford to keep pace with your high-rolling friends. Find other things to do and you'll guarantee yourself a good time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Woven into the interests of others today will be objectives that can be important to you, as well. Thus, it behooves you to find harmony of purpose so that everybody can succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It won't be your experience and logic that could lead you astray today. It will be wishful thinking that causes you to draw unrealistic conclusions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Stick to tried and true associates today and you'll realize a nice degree of success. Straying from that formula would be a mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You've heard that old saying, "With friends like these, who needs enemies?" Unfortunately, today a couple of pals, albeit well intended, could do you in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Good intentions will count for nil if all you do about them is talk. The harder you work, the more progress you'll make and the luckier you'll get.

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- Sponges, Chamois, Squeegees
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- Swimming Pool, Spa Chemicals
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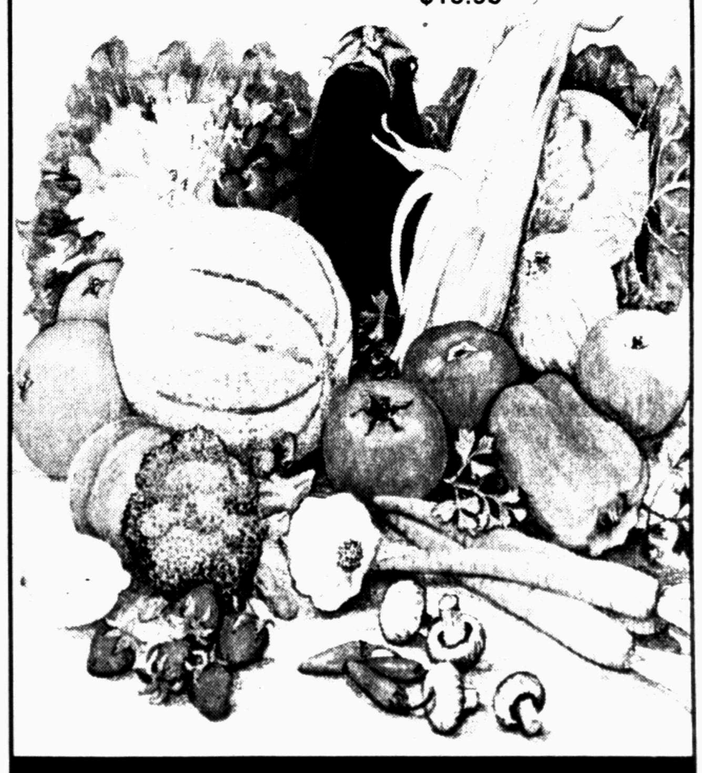

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2nd Front Page

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events

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7th grade special needs parents

There will be a meeting at 6:30 this evening for parents of special needs 7th graders. For more information, call Jean Burns at 573-6301 or Sylvia Sapsky at 573-6356.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Child care and refreshments are provided.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of Bobby Goodwin will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday on the third floor of the Scurry County Courthouse.

Scout food drive

The annual food drive for Boy and Girl Scouts will be from 8:30 until noon Saturday. The bags are being distributed again today. Please, no glass or perishable items and place your items on your porch in a visible place. Call Rhonda Fletcher at 338-1865 if your bags are not picked up by Saturday night. Also, scouts will be at local grocery stores Saturday accepting donations.

Faith Revival fundraiser

Faith Revival Church, 3212 Ave. J, will have enchilada plates available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Cost is $5. For more information, call 574-8013.

SHS class of 1991 reunion

Members SHS class of 1991 of SHS will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday to plan the 10-year reunion. The meeting will be at Les Rinehart's home. Call Robbie Braziel at 573-6632 or Les Rinehart at 573-0544 for more information and directions.

8th grade special needs parents

A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder High School's CVAE building, room C-5 for parents of special needs 8th graders. Call Jean Burns or Charles Haggard at 573-6301.

Masonic meeting

Scurry Lodge 706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday followed by a film on Shrine Hospitals. This will be open to the wives and refreshments will be served.

Vocational nurse program testing

The next testing date for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

Gospel, country music

The monthly gospel and country music night will be held starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center. For more information, call 573-3996.

Enchilada dinner

The Knights of Columbus #8875 is hosting the second annual enchilada dinner from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25. The event will be at West Elementary. For tickets, call 573-9855, or 573-8164. Adult tickets are $5 and children's tickets are $2.50.

Shattered Dreams 2000 tapes

Videotapes of Shattered Dreams 2000 are available by calling Lori or Penny at Snyder EMS at 573-1912. Proceeds will go to scholarships for students who participated in the program last April.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank for four-month premature Christa Lane Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035. The swimming will begin for this semester on Monday.

WTC swimming pool opens

The WTC swimming pool is now open for public use. Lap swimming: M-F 6:30-8 a.m., and 12-1 p.m. Open swimming: M-TH 7-9 p.m. Cost is $2 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen at 573-8511, ext. 290.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakely Fargeson at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.

2nd Front Page

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Scurry County Head Start is hosting a Scholastic book fair from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily through Friday at the head start program, 2800 2nd St. Everyone is invited.

7th grade special needs parents

There will be a meeting at 6:30 this evening for parents of special needs 7th graders. For more information, call Jean Burns at 573-6301 or Sylvia Sapsky at 573-6356.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Child care and refreshments are provided.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of Bobby Goodwin will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday on the third floor of the Scurry County Courthouse.

Scout food drive

The annual food drive for Boy and Girl Scouts will be from 8:30 until noon Saturday. The bags are being distributed again today. Please, no glass or perishable items and place your items on your porch in a visible place. Call Rhonda Fletcher at 338-1865 if your bags are not picked up by Saturday night. Also, scouts will be at local grocery stores Saturday accepting donations.

Faith Revival fundraiser

Faith Revival Church, 3212 Ave. J, will have enchilada plates available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Cost is $5. For more information, call 574-8013.

SHS class of 1991 reunion

Members SHS class of 1991 of SHS will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday to plan the 10-year reunion. The meeting will be at Les Rinehart's home. Call Robbie Braziel at 573-6632 or Les Rinehart at 573-0544 for more information and directions.

8th grade special needs parents

A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder High School's CVAE building, room C-5 for parents of special needs 8th graders. Call Jean Burns or Charles Haggard at 573-6301.

Masonic meeting

Scurry Lodge 706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday followed by a film on Shrine Hospitals. This will be open to the wives and refreshments will be served.

Vocational nurse program testing

The next testing date for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

Gospel, country music

The monthly gospel and country music night will be held starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center. For more information, call 573-3996.

Enchilada dinner

The Knights of Columbus #8875 is hosting the second annual enchilada dinner from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25. The event will be at West Elementary. For tickets, call 573-9855, or 573-8164. Adult tickets are $5 and children's tickets are $2.50.

Shattered Dreams 2000 tapes

Videotapes of Shattered Dreams 2000 are available by calling Lori or Penny at Snyder EMS at 573-1912. Proceeds will go to scholarships for students who participated in the program last April.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank for four-month premature Christa Lane Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035. The swimming will begin for this semester on Monday.

WTC swimming pool opens

The WTC swimming pool is now open for public use. Lap swimming: M-F 6:30-8 a.m., and 12-1 p.m. Open swimming: M-TH 7-9 p.m. Cost is $2 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen at 573-8511, ext. 290.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakely Fargeson at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.