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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Dec. 16, 1998
Vol. 50 No. 194
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Madison Taylor Dennis

Impeachment vote may be delayed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Al Gore appealed to Congress today to "turn away from the bitter partisanship" and spare President Clinton from impeachment. The president continued to lose support as lawmakers returned to town to review the House Judiciary Committee's final evidence.

With Clinton weighing possible military action in Iraq, Republican House leaders discussed delaying or recessing impeachment proceedings if airstrikes were to occur but the debate was cut off before a consensus was reached.

"I think it would be awkward to have an impeachment vote during a bombing in Iraq," committee chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said as he emerged from a GOP leaders' meeting where the issue was discussed.

"This is not my call. It's the speaker's call. There are those who think impeachment ought to proceed," Hyde said.

Rep. Bob Livingston, the incoming House speaker, declined to discuss how airstrikes would affect impeachment proceedings. "I don't want to speculate on that," he said.

The talk of military action against Iraq came as lawmakers prepared to begin debating articles of impeachment on the House floor Thursday, and as Clinton's prospects for avoiding impeachment dimmed.

Republican Reps. Bob Ney of Ohio and Brian Bilbray of California, two moderates whom the White House had hoped would break party ranks, announced this morning they would vote to approve articles of impeachment against Clinton.

"He has shattered the trust of the American people by committing perjury, obstructing justice and corroding the rule of law," Ney said.

Bilbray said he made his decision after talking to the White House on Tuesday night. He said he had concluded Clinton committed perjury "willfully and calculatedly" and "I cannot walk away and do nothing about what I know in my heart and in my mind has happened."

Departing Republican Rep. Jay Kim of California, who pleaded guilty to accepting illegal donations in 1997, said he is leaning toward opposing impeachment. A Senate trial "is going to be an international embarrassment," Kim told the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin in Ontario, Calif.

The GOP-led Judiciary Committee said in its final report that Clinton had disgraced his office and should be ousted and barred from holding federal office again. Dissenting Democrats on the committee said Clinton's transgressions were not impeachable.

"BYE-BYE DAD" — Elizabeth Brunson waves to her dad as the horse and buggy ride began following the annual Cogdell Memorial Hospital Recognition Dinner at the Wagon Wheel Ranch Tuesday evening. Also pictured are Lacresha Schulze, left, and Elizabeth's mother, Nancy Brunson. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bids on airport renovations set to be opened Thursday

Bids on the $800,000-plus repair and improvement project to Winston Field are scheduled to be open at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Scurry County Courthouse.

The project was expected to begin this fall by the Texas Department of Transportation, but is now scheduled for spring.

TxDOT first started talking about making improvements to the county airport in 1995.

At that time, work was expected to have started at the airport in August.

However, the bid process was delayed and neither TxDOT nor consulting engineers from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper are anxious to start work during the winter months.

"I don't think there is a big hurry for them to do much right now," said airport manager Rodger Sullenger. "I don't think they want to start tearing things up and then some wet winter weather sets in on the project."

A letter from the consulting engineer firm to TxDOT states that the project is not expected to start any sooner than March.

The county wrote a check on Jan. 31 of last year for its share of the funds, $81,000, and the delays are costing the county some money in interest it would have earned.

Based on current interest rates, the county has lost about $9,000 in earned interest.

Even with lost interest, the county is only having to fund a little over 10 percent of the project.

And that is a small price to pay for a modern, up-to-date airport, said Sullenger.

"This project will move our airport up several notches as far as modernization is concerned," said Sullenger.

Besides refurbishing the runways, TxDOT also plans to install precision approach light indicators to aid pilots in their approach.

"We really need these lights, especially on the south end of the runway," said Sullenger. "Some pilots seem to lose their depth perception there."

Sullenger said the lights are not unlike those found on aircraft carriers.

"It is a system of lights that indicate whether a pilot is on the correct glide path to land," said Sullenger.

All the paved areas at the airport are scheduled to be upgraded, including the area used by crop dusters.

The airport is also scheduled to receive an automated weather observation system.

"This will allow pilots in the air and those planning trips to know exactly what the weather is here," said Sullenger.

Construction on Taco Bell moving along

Citizens who are thinking "Yo Quiero Taco Bell" (I want some Taco Bell) will be happy to know construction on Snyder's 2200 square foot restaurant is moving along as scheduled.

Lonnie Burrow, site superindent for Jerry Kachel Construction, said the facility should be ready to turn over to owner David Ohre by the end of January.

The Houston-based contractors have built several Taco Bell facilities and Burrow has overseen the construction of two of those.

Ohre said opening is scheduled in February and the store will employ about 25 people.

Construction began Nov. 16 and some of workers have even been putting in hours over the weekend.

"Whoever can, will," Burrow said.

"Everybody wants it open."

Ohre owns nine other Taco Bells located in Abilene, Eastland, Breckenridge, Brownwood and Sweetwater.

Lighting contest deadline Friday

Friday is the deadline to enter the annual Christmas lighting contest, sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

Judging will be held that evening beginning at 6 p.m.

To enter, call the chamber office at 573-3558.

DCOS to view gas line options

Development Corporation of Snyder board members will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday for their last scheduled meeting for 1998.

The main order of business will be the consideration of a proposal from Lone Star Gas for installing a gas line to the industrial park.

Also on the agenda is the annual evaluation of DCOS executive director John DeLille, which will be conducted in executive session.

The board will also hear the monthly report from DeLille, and consider the monthly financial statements.

Trustees set noon meeting

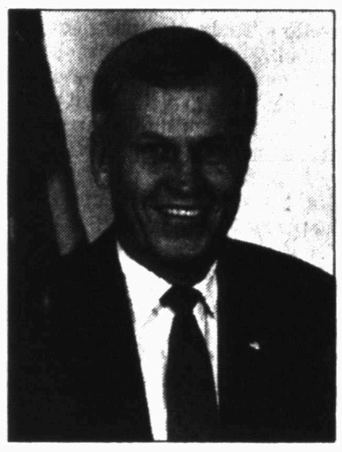
Snyder ISD board of trustees will meet at noon Thursday to conclude the evaluation of Supt. Gayle Lomax.

At last week's regular board meeting, the trustees met in executive session, and following the closed meeting, voted to increase Lomax's salary by $2,000.

Lomax's salary is now $78,000 per year, and has a three-year contract that expires June 30, 2001.

The vote for the raise was six to one, with trustee Janet Stribling voting against it.

Stribling later said she was pleased with the job Lomax is doing, but felt tough economic times ruled out any increase in pay.



Charles Stenholm

Stenholm still undecided about impeachment vote

A press aide in Rep. Charles Stenholm's office said today that the earliest the congressman would issue a statement on how he is voting on the Clinton impeachment is Thursday morning.

So far, the only word from his office is that he is undecided.

Julie Turner, Stenholm's assistant communications director in Washington D.C., said the congressman has been getting around 2,000 telephone calls and e-mails daily, with sentiments about even.

"Calls to the hill have about shut the telephone system down," said Turner.

Students release for Christmas holidays Friday

Students in schools countywide will release for the Christmas holidays Friday afternoon.

Classes at Ira and Hermleigh will dismiss at 1:30 p.m., while Snyder classes will release at 2 p.m.

Ira and Hermleigh students return Jan. 4 while Snyder students return Jan. 5.

Western Texas College has already closed for the holidays.

The Texas Workforce Commission, located on the college campus, however, will remain open.

WTC offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Jan. 4. Faculty will return Jan. 13.

Spring registration begins Jan. 18 with sophomores scheduled to register from 1-4 p.m. and evening students from 6:30-8 p.m.

Freshman students will register on Jan. 19 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

To obtain a schedule, call toll-free at 1-888-468-6982 (GO TO WTC) or 573-8511.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Concerning gifts — if it's the thought that counts, sometimes you have to wonder what they were thinking."

Gift suggestions for that hard-to-please man in your life:

--Scientific surveys prove that among the 10 things that men hold dearest are their golf clubs and their remote control devices. For only $40, you can give him a remote control disquised as a golf course. And as a bonus, a roar goes up from the gallery as you surf channels.

And for the golf nut in the family, try a potty putting green.

--Or for just under 500 bucks, you can get the Tiger Woods in your family a golf laserscope to measure the distance of a drive.

--Men love their barbecue grills. Give him a barbecue fork that can do two things at once — turn over the steak while a small screen in the handle indicates whether the steak is rare, medium or well done.

--For the macho man, consider the Harley-Davidson leather Christmas stocking. Appropriate for someone who dreams of a Fat Boy or Low Rider under the tree.

--For the handy-man, there is the tool belt boxer shorts. Repair any tears with duct tape.

--Cashmere socks for $19.50. But there's no guarantee that you won't get holes in 'em.

--Meat is the new fruitcake. An assortment for less than $100 bucks. Burn one and still use it for a doorstop instead of the fruit cake.

--For someone trying to break the red meat habit, say it with seafood. Clambake Celebrations offers a one-pot Lobster-Clambakes to go for $146.

--Already have a cell phone? Instead of tossing that phone in the front seat of the pickup truck, try a velvet cell phone pouch. Warning: the pouch costs more than most phones.

Thanks to the internet, we've found the perfect item for ole what's-her-name.

It's a stylish container for the indispensible toothpick found on any restaurant checkout counter in West Texas. The stainless steel Toothpick Dispenser sells for $20 and holds 29 standard picks. It would be nice with a velvet interior.

days until Christmas

ASK US

Q—Does the Snyder Police Department have a professional code of ethics? If so, does the policy address an employee's marital affairs?

A—Yes, the department has a code of ethics, but it does not directly address marital affairs.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 62 degrees; low, 29; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 31; no precipitation; total for 1998, 10.40 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear. Low, lower 30s. N wind 5-10 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny. High, lower 60s. SW wind 5-15 mph.

Cody Burney
Warm

Sunset: 5:43 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:36 a.m.
Of 349 days in 1998, the sun has shone 345 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"He who considers his work beneath him will be above doing it well."

Alexander Chase

DEC 16 1998

About 48 million Americans pay no income taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — More Americans than ever are paying no income taxes in 1998, but the tax burden on people earning more than $40,000 a year continues to grow, a new congressional study shows.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated Tuesday that nearly 48 million Americans will owe no federal income tax for this year, in part because of the new $400-a-child tax credit. That compares with 46 million in 1997.

But taxpayers with incomes above $40,000 will pay 96 percent of income tax for 1998, up from 94 percent the year before, according to the estimates. And people at the higher end of the income spectrum — above $100,000 a year — will shoulder 62 percent of the 1998 income tax burden, compared with 56 percent the year before.

"More taxes are being collected from fewer people," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

The jump in the number of Americans who won't owe taxes is traceable mainly to the child tax credit, which is new for 1998 tax returns due April 15. Parents can claim the $400 credit for each child under age 17 — that includes stepchildren and foster children — subject to certain total income limits.

For many, this credit, combined with others, will erase any tax liability for the first time.

"This is designed to help families, to give them a little extra break," said J. Randy Penn, a tax planner at H&R Block. "These credits are designed to pay as much of your taxes for you as possible."

For families with one or two children, the credit can reduce income taxes to zero but not trigger a refund. But for families with three or more children, a portion of the total credit can result in a refund, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

One other thing to keep in mind: The total credit for all children in the family drops by $50 for each $1,000 a taxpayer's adjusted gross income exceeds $110,000 for married people filing jointly, $55,000 for married people filing separately and $75,000 for single filers.

Next year, the child tax credit increases to $500.

The millions of people who pay no income tax aren't completely off the hook. They are still subject to the taxes that pay for Social Security and Medicare, which amount to 7.65 percent combined.

But the Joint Committee on Taxation study demonstrates a continuing shift in how U.S. government operations ranging from the Army to welfare are paid for. The 52.4 million taxpayers earning more than $40,000 will pay 95.5 percent of the nation's income taxes in 1998, up from 93.6 percent a year earlier.

Most of those owing no income taxes earn less than $20,000 a year. By contrast, less than 1 percent of people earning more than $75,000 a year pay no taxes — and the average tax liability for those between $100,000 and $200,000 is $19,688 for 1998.

"Almost 50 million Americans have been excused from paying any income taxes," Archer said. "Now, it's time to concentrate tax relief on the middle-income people who pay the bills."

Archer is among the congressional proponents of a cut in income taxes, possibly an across-the-board reduction in rates or more targeted proposals such as eliminating the "marriage penalty" paid by millions of two-income couples.

Enacting a tax cut in the next two years depends in part on whether lawmakers and the president can agree on a plan to guarantee Social Security remains solvent in the future.

Not all scanners ring up right price

WASHINGTON (AP) — Holiday bargain shoppers beware: Before you tote home that super-sale item, make sure the price at the checkout counter matches the number on the clearance sign.

One of every 28 sale items scanned the wrong price at checkouts, overcharging customers two-thirds of the time, according to a study being released today by the Federal Trade Commission. The rest of the time, the inaccurate price was too low, undercharging the consumer.

Overall, this year's survey of scanner pricing found an improvement in accuracy from a smaller study done in 1996. Of the 107,096 items checked in food, department, drug, hardware and other stores, one of every 30 was mispriced. Two years ago, scanners showed an incorrect price for one of every 21 items.

"That's an incredibly low error rate given the amount of price changes that take place in a single department store," said Pamela Rucker, spokeswoman for the Washington-based National Retail Federation. "It's nothing for retailers to be ashamed of."

Retailers have made concerted efforts to improve their pricing accuracy, she said, for example by making in-house auditors responsible for overseeing price changes or by offering managers financial incentives for maintaining accuracy.

In addition, some new inventions help ensure accuracy, said Mona Doyle of the Philadelphia-based Consumer Network, such as electronic shelf labels at supermarkets. The digital screen automatically shows an item's new price when it is changed in the store's computer.

Consumer complaints about price scanning have decreased this year, Doyle said.

"I think you have more attention to it in the industry," she said. "It has definitely gotten better — not that it still doesn't drive consumers up the wall."

Consumers headed to the grocery stores can relax their guard slightly, but those doing home repairs should be more careful: Food stores were the most likely to meet standards for acceptable accuracy; hardware stores were the least likely to do so.

More stores today have acceptable accuracy in pricing — defined as having at least 98 percent of the items scan correctly — than they did two years ago, according to the survey conducted by weights and measures officials in 36 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 17, 1998

In the year ahead, you could become involved in a very unique endeavor or enterprise. Although this probably will involve the participation of others, it will be something you'll play a big role in developing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you come up with a better procedure for doing something today, don't be reluctant to discard old, outdated methods. Sometimes it makes sense to switch horses in midstream. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Someone you treated with great consideration in the past has been eager to find a way to reciprocate. That person may get that opportunity today, balancing the accounts to his or her satisfaction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It behooves you to communicate or socialize with progressive thinkers today. You're more alert and tuned in than normal as to what could be a good idea when you hear one.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) There's a strong possibility that you will have a slight edge over your competition today, especially in matters that pertain to your career. Be swift, because time may not be your ally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A surprise phone call from someone you know who resides far away from you could play a constructive role in your affairs today. The message could have something to do with your work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An exciting joint venture could be in the making today, brought on by something extraordinary that comes out of the blue. It'll please all the parties involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today it could be the snap judgments you make that will prove to be the most effective, even though under most circumstances, you usually fare better when you have time to ponder a decision.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be alert and ready to move quickly today if something unexpectedly develops for you that could yield a profit. The opportunity could be fleeting, so don't sit on it too long.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your mind could be more on the upcoming holiday season than on your work today. Fortunately, you should be able to deal in this realm a little longer without detracting too much from your serious affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This could be a day of sweeping the decks clean. Take care of a number of little things you have failed to finish up until this point in time. The organization will make you feel good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A chance encounter with a friend could yield something fortuitous for the two of you. It's the good communicative skills you've fostered with one another that will develop the idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Keep your mind on making money today, because you could be extremely lucky where your material affairs are concerned. Other areas might just be status quo, so don't waste this cycle on them.

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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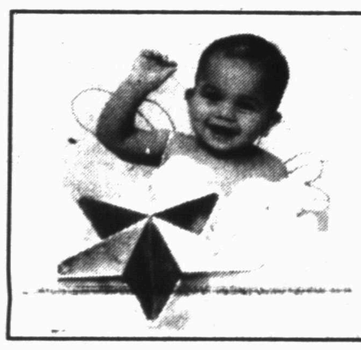


Happy 1st Birthday to our Lil' Angel Evan!
Love, Daddy & Mama

FACES FROM THE PAST!

$25 Gift Certificate From Betty's Bernina

1.

SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave
573-5486

2.

Computer Solutions
(915) 573-4801
Drew Bullard
3405 College Avenue

3.

American State Bank
"Right Size To Be Friendly"
573-4041
3810 College Ave.
FDIC

4.

Betty's Sales & Service
BERNINA The Art and Science of Sewing
2522 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 573-0303
STORE HOURS:
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M - F; Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
"She Deserves The Very Best."
Bernina

5.

Landes
Home Furnishings
2112 25th Street
573-2141

6.

WAGON WHEEL GUEST RANCH
The gate is always open
RUSTY SPUR CAFE
Located On CR 2128, Just Off The Polar Road
573-2345, 573-5277 FAX
Snyder, Texas

7.

TIGER FANATICS
Rudy's
4604 College
573-7455

8.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
Member FDIC

9.

Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home
3101 College Ave.
573-5454

10

SNYDER SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
2619 College Avenue
Snyder, Texas
(915) 573-9305
1-800-725-9305
Member FDIC
Time & Temperature
573-0270

Marsha Kubena was last week's winner.

Faces From The Past Entry Week 46

1. Snyder Daily New _____
2. Computer Solutions _____
3. American State Bank _____
4. Betty's Bernina _____
5. Landes Home Furn. _____
6. Wagon Wheel/Rusty Spur _____
7. Rudy's Restaurant _____
8. West Texas State Bank _____
9. Bell-Cypert-Seale _____
10. Snyder Savings & Loan _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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

Last Week's Photos: 1. Mike Goebel 2. Kay Goebel 3. Kerry Clay 4. Danita Covey 5. Jerry Martin 6. Sue Stroud 7. Frances Brown 8. Ivan Chaney 9. Lyn Chaney 10. Wanda Bennett

Religious Briefs

Lifting of the cross

A lifting of the cross service is set for 5 p.m. Saturday. The cross is located 7½ miles from Fluvanna. Take FM 2224 from Fluvanna, turn on CR 432 and follow signs to site. (See map below) Everyone is invited to the service which will include singing and remarks by spiritual leaders. For more information, call 573-7469.

FUMC Christmas celebrations

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

Calvary Baptist Church musical

The Calvary Baptist Church choir will present the musical, "The Best Gift of All," during the 10:50 a.m. worship service Sunday. The youth will choreograph a drama along with the musical. The 6 p.m. service will feature the children in a special Christmas program. Calvary Baptist is located at 2405 35th St. Call 573-2191 for more information.

Johnny Ray Watson concert

Johnny Ray Watson will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Church on the Hill. (Turn west at the first Fluvanna sign on U. S. 84). For further directions call 573-9879 or 573-7794. Refreshments will follow the service.

Candlelight Service

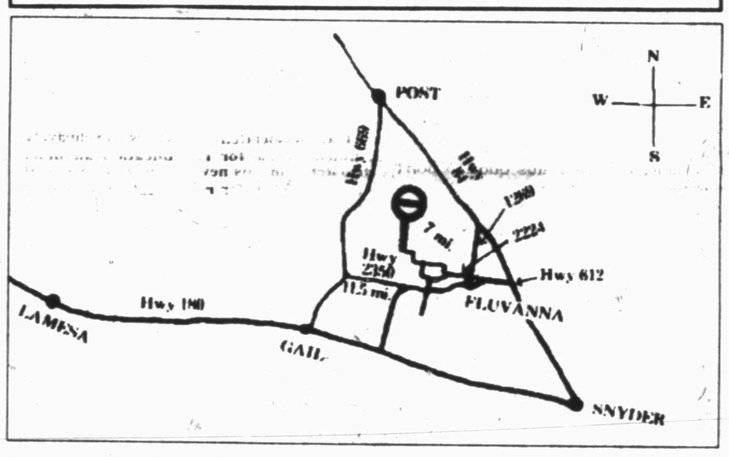
Ira First Baptist Church will have a candlelight service at 6 p.m. next Wednesday.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

The First United Methodist Church's 1998 cookbook, compiled by the Angel Seekers Sunday School Class and dedicated to the memory of Ruby Anderson, can be purchased at the church or Classic Interiors. The cost is $10 and all proceeds benefit the Lord's Acre projects.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "God Hates Divorce," followed by "Hope for the Single Parent."



Nov. 11 jackpot claimed

AUSTIN (AP) — Houston resident Thelma Taylor has claimed $1.14 million in winnings from the Texas Lottery, one of two winners of a Nov. 11 lotto drawing.

The second winning ticket went to Luna Partners Ltd. of Spring Branch, which will receive $2 million over 25 years.

The winning numbers in that drawing were 5, 13, 23, 35, 43 and 50.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

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

Just for Today NA; open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742.

Just for Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

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

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

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Just for Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

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

Just For Today closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, or 573-8018; 5 p.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-16-98
♠ J 7 5 4 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A 8 3
♣ A 9 4

West
♠ K
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 8 6 5 3

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

South
♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ A 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Continuing the covering rule

By Phillip Alder

Yesterday, I pointed out that if declarer is leading the top of touching honors for a finesse, second hand should *not* cover the first honor. The correct rule is to cover the *last* of touching honors. Yet there is one key addition that applies to covering either the last of touching honors or a single honor you might cover: *Only cover when it might gain your side a trick.* Why don't you cover? Well, you never know, declarer might not be planning to finesse. Or you might be about to blow a trick, as in this deal.

North started with a limit raise, showing about 11 support points and at least four trumps. South used a dose of Blackwood before settling in six spades.

As is usually the case, when both hands have identical suit lengths — mirror distribution — there is a loser or two more than anticipated. If only North had four cards in either minor, the slam would be much better. Here, apparently, South must lose one trick in each major. However, he spotted a possibility. After winning the first trick with the heart ace, declarer played a club to dummy's ace. Then he called for the spade jack, tempting East to cover an honor with an honor.

However, East was ready. There were five trumps in the dummy. Declarer had to have five too. (With six trumps, surely South would have cashed the ace-king.) So, West had a trump. And if it was the ace or king, covering wouldn't bring a smile to West's lips. So, East played low, and the contract was dead.

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Date Book

Dec. 16, 1998

Today is the 350th day of 1998 and the 85th day of fall.

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On this day in 1905, Variety magazine began to be published.

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Snyder Multi-Specialty Clinic
1805 27th Street
574-1300

Hosted by....

Mara DeLaVega, MD	Family Practice
Cezary Kuprianowicz, MD (Dr. "Koop")	Pulmonology
Rory Minck, MD	OB/GYN
Anna Rosinska, MD	Internal Medicine
Micheal Stephens, MD	Family Practice
Guido Toscano, MD	Internal Medicine

Wednesday, December 16th
5:00-7:00 p.m.
❄Free Photo with Santa for the Kids❄
❄Refreshments ❄Door Prizes

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Parents & Grandparents show off your New Baby in our Christmas Edition of the Snyder Daily News!

Bring Us A Cute Picture Of
Your Child or Grandchild Right Away
Deadline For Us To Receive Picture Is 5:00 p.m. December 21.
The Cost is Only $15 per ad!
SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

About 48 million Americans pay no income taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — More Americans than ever are paying no income taxes in 1998, but the tax burden on people earning more than $40,000 a year continues to grow, a new congressional study shows.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated Tuesday that nearly 48 million Americans will owe no federal income tax for this year, in part because of the new $400-a-child tax credit. That compares with 46 million in 1997.

But taxpayers with incomes above $40,000 will pay 96 percent of income tax for 1998, up from 94 percent the year before, according to the estimates. And people at the higher end of the income spectrum — above $100,000 a year — will shoulder 62 percent of the 1998 income tax burden, compared with 56 percent the year before.

"More taxes are being collected from fewer people," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

The jump in the number of Americans who won't owe taxes is traceable mainly to the child tax credit, which is new for 1998 tax returns due April 15. Parents can claim the $400 credit for each child under age 17 — that includes stepchildren and foster children — subject to certain total income limits.

For many, this credit, combined with others, will erase any tax liability for the first time.

"This is designed to help families, to give them a little extra break," said J. Randy Penn, a tax planner at H&R Block. "These credits are designed to pay as much of your taxes for you as possible."

For families with one or two children, the credit can reduce income taxes to zero but not trigger a refund. But for families with three or more children, a portion of the total credit can result in a refund, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

One other thing to keep in mind: The total credit for all children in the family drops by $50 for each $1,000 a taxpayer's adjusted gross income exceeds $110,000 for married people filing jointly, $55,000 for married people filing separately and $75,000 for single filers.

Next year, the child tax credit increases to $500.

The millions of people who pay no income tax aren't completely off the hook. They are still subject to the taxes that pay for Social Security and Medicare, which amount to 7.65 percent combined.

But the Joint Committee on Taxation study demonstrates a continuing shift in how U.S. government operations ranging from the Army to welfare are paid for. The 52.4 million taxpayers earning more than $40,000 will pay 95.5 percent of the nation's income taxes in 1998, up from 93.6 percent a year earlier.

Most of those owing no income taxes earn less than $20,000 a year. By contrast, less than 1 percent of people earning more than $75,000 a year pay no taxes — and the average tax liability for those between $100,000 and $200,000 is $19,688 for 1998.

"Almost 50 million Americans have been excused from paying any income taxes," Archer said. "Now, it's time to concentrate tax relief on the middle-income people who pay the bills."

Archer is among the congressional proponents of a cut in income taxes, possibly an across-the-board reduction in rates or more targeted proposals such as eliminating the "marriage penalty" paid by millions of two-income couples.

Enacting a tax cut in the next two years depends in part on whether lawmakers and the president can agree on a plan to guarantee Social Security remains solvent in the future.

Not all scanners ring up right price

WASHINGTON (AP) — Holiday bargain shoppers beware: Before you tote home that super-sale item, make sure the price at the checkout counter matches the number on the clearance sign.

One of every 28 sale items scanned the wrong price at checkouts, overcharging customers two-thirds of the time, according to a study being released today by the Federal Trade Commission. The rest of the time, the inaccurate price was too low, undercharging the consumer.

Overall, this year's survey of scanner pricing found an improvement in accuracy from a smaller study done in 1996. Of the 107,096 items checked in food, department, drug, hardware and other stores, one of every 30 was mispriced. Two years ago, scanners showed an incorrect price for one of every 21 items.

"That's an incredibly low error rate given the amount of price changes that take place in a single department store," said Pamela Rucker, spokeswoman for the Washington-based National Retail Federation. "It's nothing for retailers to be ashamed of."

Retailers have made concerted efforts to improve their pricing accuracy, she said, for example by making in-house auditors responsible for overseeing price changes or by offering managers financial incentives for maintaining accuracy.

In addition, some new inventions help ensure accuracy, said Mona Doyle of the Philadelphia-based Consumer Network, such as electronic shelf labels at supermarkets. The digital screen automatically shows an item's new price when it is changed in the store's computer.

Consumer complaints about price scanning have decreased this year, Doyle said.

"I think you have more attention to it in the industry," she said. "It has definitely gotten better — not that it still doesn't drive consumers up the wall."

Consumers headed to the grocery stores can relax their guard slightly, but those doing home repairs should be more careful: Food stores were the most likely to meet standards for acceptable accuracy; hardware stores were the least likely to do so.

More stores today have acceptable accuracy in pricing — defined as having at least 98 percent of the items scan correctly — than they did two years ago, according to the survey conducted by weights and measures officials in 36 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 17, 1998

In the year ahead, you could become involved in a very unique endeavor or enterprise. Although this probably will involve the participation of others, it will be something you'll play a big role in developing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you come up with a better procedure for doing something today, don't be reluctant to discard old, outdated methods. Sometimes it makes sense to switch horses in midstream. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Someone you treated with great consideration in the past has been eager to find a way to reciprocate. That person may get that opportunity today, balancing the accounts to his or her satisfaction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It behooves you to communicate or socialize with progressive thinkers today. You're more alert and tuned in than normal as to what could be a good idea when you hear one.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) There's a strong possibility that you will have a slight edge over your competition today, especially in matters that pertain to your career. Be swift, because time may not be your ally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A surprise phone call from someone you know who resides far away from you could play a constructive role in your affairs today. The message could have something to do with your work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An exciting joint venture could be in the making today, brought on by something extraordinary that comes out of the blue. It'll please all the parties involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today it could be the snap judgments you make that will prove to be the most effective, even though under most circumstances you usually fare better when you have time to ponder a decision.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be alert and ready to move quickly today if something unexpectedly develops for you that could yield a profit. The opportunity could be fleeting, so don't sit on it too long.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your mind could be more on the upcoming holiday season than on your work today. Fortunately, you should be able to deal in this realm a little longer without detracting too much from your serious affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This could be a day of sweeping the decks clean. Take care of a number of little things you have failed to finish up until this point in time. The organization will make you feel good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A chance encounter with a friend could yield something fortuitous for the two of you. It's the good communicative skills you've fostered with one another that will develop the idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Keep your mind on making money today, because you could be extremely lucky where your material affairs are concerned. Other areas might just be status quo, so don't waste this cycle on them.

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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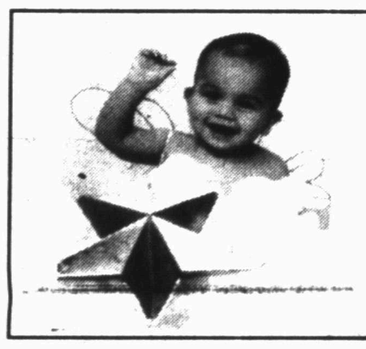


Happy 1st Birthday to our Lil' Angel Evan!

Love, Daddy & Mama

FACES FROM THE PAST!

$25 Gift Certificate From Betty's Bernina

1.

SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave
573-5486

5.

Landes
Home Furnishings
2112 25th Street
573-2141

9.

Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home
3101 College Ave.
573-5454

10

SNYDER SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
2619 College Avenue
Snyder, Texas
(915) 573-9305
1-800-725-9305
Member FDIC
Time & Temperature 573-0270

2.

Computer Solutions
(915) 573-4801
Drew Bullard
3405 College Avenue

6.

WAGON WHEEL GUEST RANCH
The gate is always open
RUSTY SPUR CAFE
Located On CR 2128, Just Off The Polar Road
573-2345. 573-5277 FAX
Snyder, Texas

3.

American State Bank
"Right Size To Be Friendly"
573-4041
3810 College Ave.
FDIC

7.

TIGER FANATICS
Rudy's
4604 College
573-7455

4.

Betty's Sales & Service
BERNINA The Art and Science of Sewing
2522 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 573-0303
STORE HOURS:
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M - F; Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
"She Deserves The Very Best."
Bernina

8.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
Member FDIC

Marsha Kubena was last week's winner.

Faces From The Past Entry Week 46

1. Snyder Daily New _____
2. Computer Solutions _____
3. American State Bank _____
4. Betty's Bernina _____
5. Landes Home Furn. _____
6. Wagon Wheel/Rusty Spur _____
7. Rudy's Restaurant _____
8. West Texas State Bank _____
9. Bell-Cypert-Seale _____
10. Snyder Savings & Loan _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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

Last Week's Photos: 1. Mike Goebel 2. Kay Goebel 3. Kerry Clay 4. Danita Covey 5. Jerry Martin 6. Sue Stroud 7. Frances Brown 8. Ivan Chaney 9. Lyn Chaney 10. Wanda Bennett

Religious Briefs

Lifting of the cross

A lifting of the cross service is set for 5 p.m. Saturday. The cross is located 7½ miles from Fluvanna. Take FM 2224 from Fluvanna, turn on CR 432 and follow signs to site. (See map below) Everyone is invited to the service which will include singing and remarks by spiritual leaders. For more information, call 573-7469.

FUMC Christmas celebrations

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

Calvary Baptist Church musical

The Calvary Baptist Church choir will present the musical, "The Best Gift of All," during the 10:50 a.m. worship service Sunday. The youth will choreograph a drama along with the musical. The 6 p.m. service will feature the children in a special Christmas program. Calvary Baptist is located at 2405 35th St. Call 573-2191 for more information.

Johnny Ray Watson concert

Johnny Ray Watson will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Church on the Hill. (Turn west at the first Fluvanna sign on U. S. 84). For further directions call 573-9879 or 573-7794. Refreshments will follow the service.

Candlelight Service

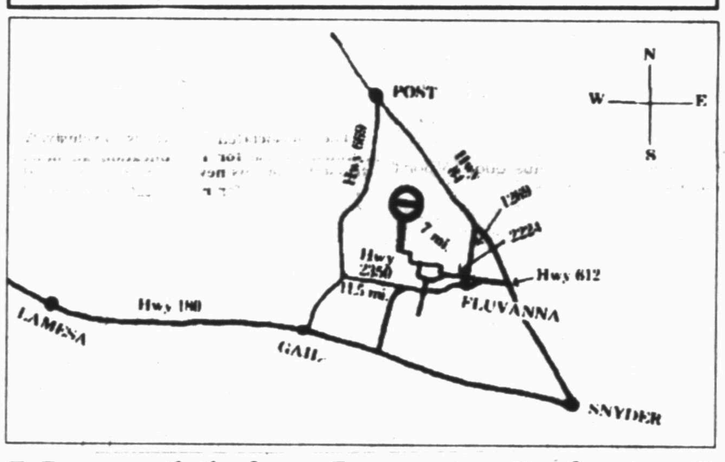
Ira First Baptist Church will have a candlelight service at 6 p.m. next Wednesday.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

The First United Methodist Church's 1998 cookbook, compiled by the Angel Seekers Sunday School Class and dedicated to the memory of Ruby Anderson, can be purchased at the church or Classic Interiors. The cost is $10 and all proceeds benefit the Lord's Acre projects.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "God Hates Divorce," followed by "Hope for the Single Parent."



Nov. 11 jackpot claimed

AUSTIN (AP) — Houston resident Thelma Taylor has claimed $1.14 million in winnings from the Texas Lottery, one of two winners of a Nov. 11 lotto drawing.

The second winning ticket went to Luna Partners Ltd. of Spring Branch, which will receive $2 million over 25 years.

The winning numbers in that drawing were 5, 13, 23, 35, 43 and 50.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

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

Just for Today NA; open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742.

Just for Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

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

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

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Just for Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

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

Just For Today closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238, or 573-8018; 5 p.m.

Date Book

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-16-98
♠ J 7 5 4 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A 8 3
♣ A 9 4

West
♠ K
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 8 6 5 3

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

South
♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ A 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Continuing the covering rule

By Phillip Alder

Yesterday, I pointed out that if declarer is leading the top of touching honors for a finesse, second hand should *not* cover the first honor. The correct rule is to cover the *last* of touching honors. Yet there is one key addition that applies to covering either the last of touching honors or a single honor you might cover: *Only cover when it might gain your side a trick.* Why don't you cover? Well, you never know, declarer might not be planning to finesse. Or you might be about to blow a trick, as in this deal.

North started with a limit raise, showing about 11 support points and at least four trumps. South used a dose of Blackwood before settling in six spades.

As is usually the case, when both hands have identical suit lengths — mirror distribution — there is a loser or two more than anticipated. If only North had four cards in either minor, the slam would be much better. Here, apparently, South must lose one trick in each major. However, he spotted a possibility. After winning the first trick with the heart ace, declarer played a club to dummy's ace. Then he called for the spade jack, tempting East to cover an honor with an honor.

However, East was ready. There were five trumps in the dummy. Declarer had to have five too. (With six trumps, surely South would have cashed the ace-king.) So, West had a trump. And if it was the ace or king, covering wouldn't bring a smile to West's lips. So, East played low, and the contract was dead.

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Bring Us A Cute Picture Of
Your Child or Grandchild Right Away
Deadline For Us To Receive Picture Is 5:00 p.m. December 21.
The Cost is Only $15 per ad!
SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

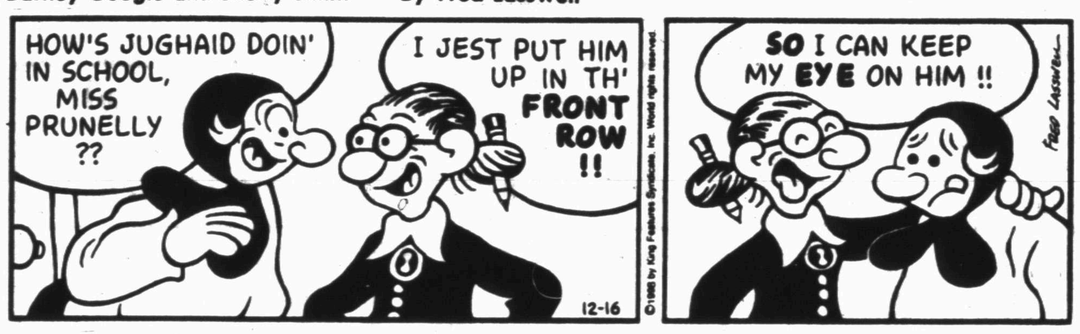
Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

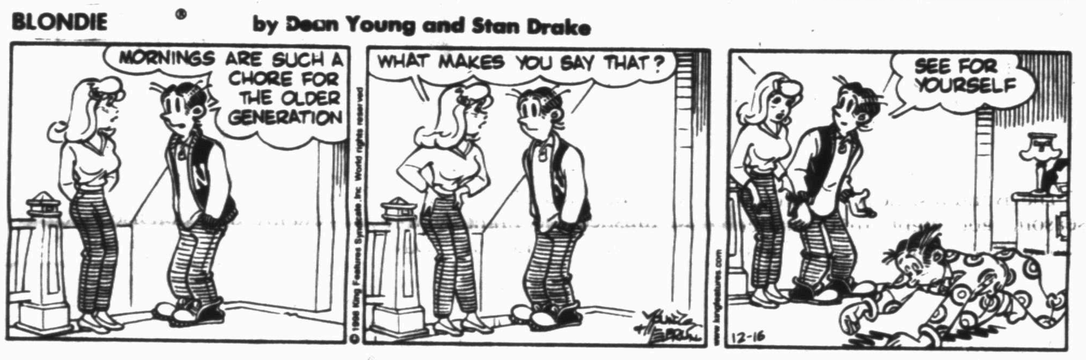
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

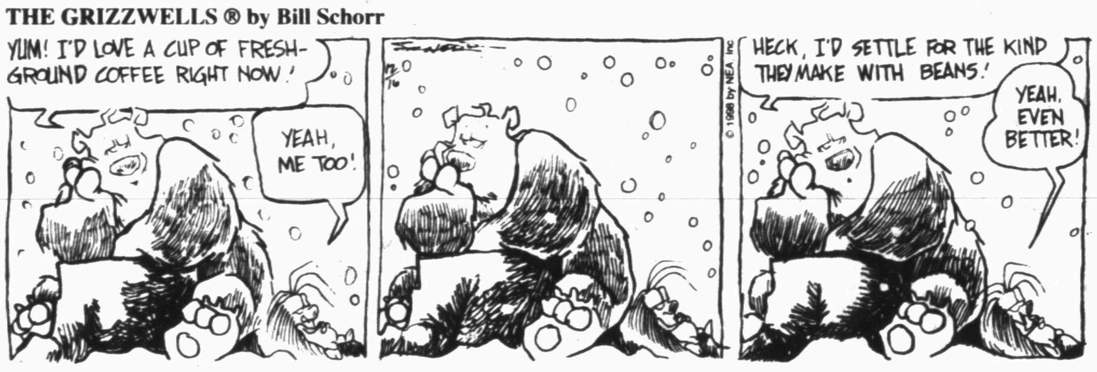
Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® By Fred Lasswell



BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Elvis the —
7 Jai alai
13 Night of the —
14 Befuddled (3 wds.)
15 — to (cater to another's vices)
16 Melon pear
17 Fringe
18 Dada painter
20 British machine gun
21 Symbol of slowness
23 Tropical basket fiber
27 Make bigger
32 Heavy drinker
33 Mountain nymph
34 — — ease
35 Highway sign
36 Grows molars
39 Linger
40 Inventor Howe
42 Actress Sommer
46 Alphabet start
47 River in Germany
51 Type of butter
53 Pronounces
55 Chant
56 Alarm bell
57 Roman leader
58 Fruit ripener

DOWN

1 Smoker's smoke
2 Mild expletive
3 Breathing organ
4 — mecum (handbook)
5 Like (suff.)
6 Plastic wrap
7 Type of apple
8 Compass pt.
9 Circuits
10 Think nothing — —
11 Shade
12 Dramatic conflict
19 Norma —
21 Be agitated
22 — of London
23 What time — —?
24 Part of a foot
25 Western marsh plant
26 Future LL.Bs.' exam
28 Diva's song
29 Film holder
30 Audacity
31 Whirlpool
37 Click beetle
38 Bro or sis
41 Crucial
42 Heroic
43 Singer Horne
44 Hepburn, for short
45 Son of Seth
47 Engrave with acid
48 — majesty
49 Part of a fan
50 Anglo-Saxon serf
52 Actress Merkel
54 Small child

Answer to Previous Puzzle

X	E	B	E	C				R	O	D	S	
M	O	I	N	E	S		G	E	R	A	L	D
A	N	A	D	E	M		L	E	A	D	I	N
S	S	S			U	K	E		T	A	M	A
			S	A	T	I	A	T	E			
U	S	H	E	R		N	N	E		I	T	O
G	E	A	R	E	D		E	R	O	D	E	D
L	E	G	A	T	O		R	E	S	O	L	E
I	R	S		H	E	R		T	A	L	E	S
			T	A	S	T	I	E	R			
R	O	S	E		K	E	N			I	W	O
H	A	W	A	I	I		G	E	I	G	E	R
O	R	I	S	O	N		E	N	R	O	L	L
	S	T	E	N				T	A	R	D	Y

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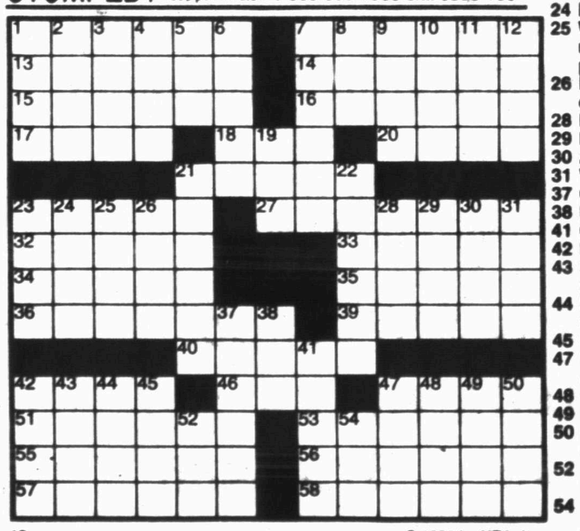

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

"I'd gladly be impeached!"

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Did it ever cross your mind that maybe you're being outsmarted by a mouse?"

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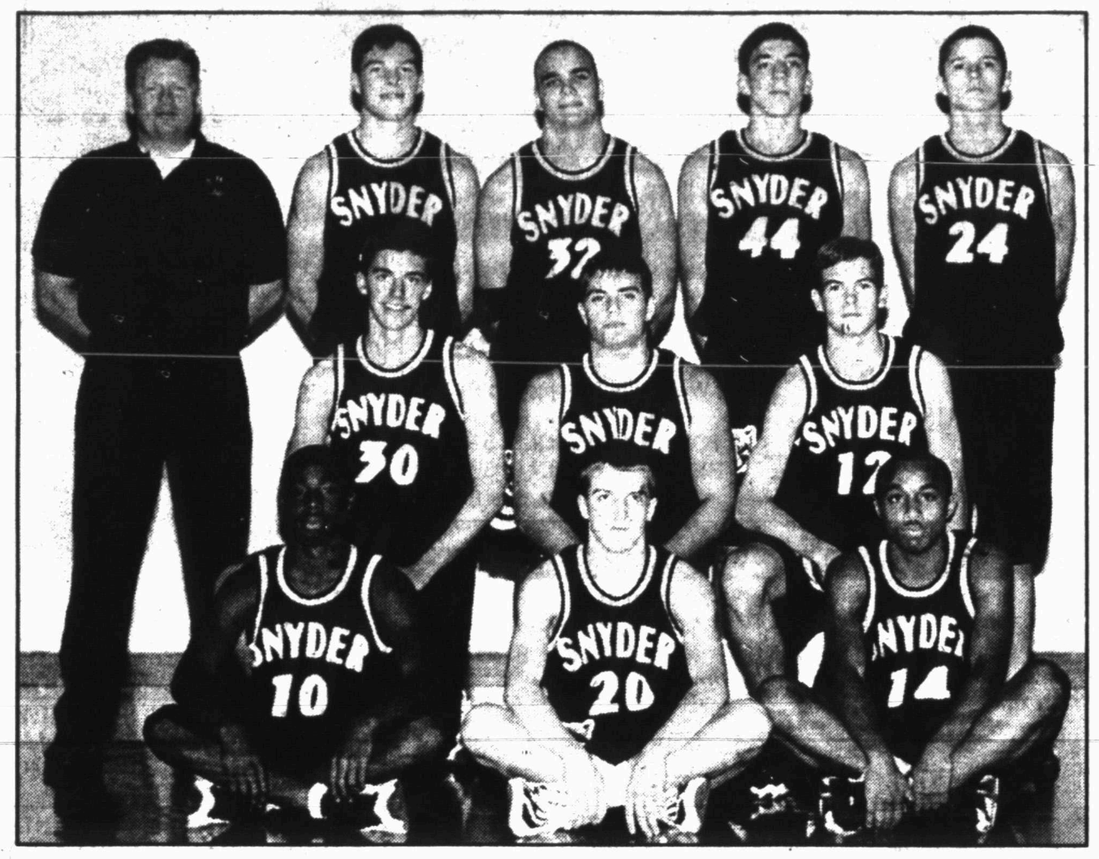
SPORTS



JUNIOR VARSITY CAGERS — Members of Snyder's JV basketball squad are, front row from left, Tavares Brandon, Jesse Haines and Jamaal Wofford. On the second row are Trevor Kerr, Phillip Broadwater and Layne Scott. On the back row are coach Ben Reed, Brandon McCraw, Michael Loper, Jared Thornhill and Heath Pinkerton. The JV Tigers will be in action next at the Sweetwater tournament, beginning Saturday. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Tigers learning to adapt following early season injuries

After suffering through a pair of rough campaigns in highly-competitive District 2-4A, the Lady Tigers entered this season in a new district with hopes of making a trip to the postseason.

With a combination of speed and youth, Snyder could be poised to make that journey come February, if they can cut down their number of trips to the doctor, according to coach Rick Archer.

"We've had so many injuries to key players so far, we're having to adjust and gain experience as we go," Archer said. "But, I guess if there's a silver lining, at least our younger kids are getting some experience."

The list of walking wounded for the Lady Tigers (5-7) this year has included some returning players who were supposed to add stability to an inexperienced line-up.

Sophomore Ashley Delce, an all-district selection last season, has appeared in only three contests for Snyder this season.

Another pair of returning sophomores, Callie Bane and Kameron Kallemeyn, have also missed ballgames, with Bane expected to be sidelined for the remainder of the season.

Delce returned from an elbow injury for three games last week, before dislocating her kneecap. Bane suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the Lady Tigers' home opener, while Tessa Hildebrand hasn't suited up yet, after tearing her medial colateral ligament before the season began.

Delce is expected to return following the Christmas break, but until then other players are stepping up and filling in.

"Ashley and Callie are key losses for us," Archer remarked. "Callie is a good ballhandler and Ashley brings a high level of athleticism to the floor that brings up everybody's level of play.

"Right now we're putting less experienced girls out there, telling them what to do and they're getting the job done."

With new varsity players such as T'Leah Eicke, Rina Geiger and freshman Katie Voss picking up the slack, the Lady Tigers have kept a competitive squad on the floor.

Another boost for Snyder has been the production of leading scorer Shannon Hall.

"Shannon has really worked on her shooting and is doing a great job for us," said Archer. "The play of her and Mandy Hess on the outside has taken some of the load off of our post players. We're a better shooting team than we expected and our post play has improved also."

Despite the rash of injuries, the Lady Tigers still have their sights firmly focused on the playoffs. It just might be some different players that carry them there.

"Against as tough of a schedule as we're playing, we've been able to have some success because we have kids who come to play every night out," Archer said. "I truly believe that despite the injuries, we still have a great shot at not only making the playoffs, but making a run at the district title. I think we have the kind of players who can get it done."

Clements, Ira pound Southland

IRA — Sophomore Morgan Clements is getting to be known as a sharp-shooter for Ira and Tuesday night she preyed on the Lady Eagles.

Clements poured in 31 points, leading the Lady Bulldogs to a 66-36 romp over Southland.

Clements, who set a tournament scoring mark at Ozona, is rounding into a team leader despite her youth, according to Ira coach Jason Weese.

"She's really stepping up and playing well," Weese said. "She's going to have to be the leader on this team next year and she's proving that she'll be able to handle it."

The role of this season's court general falls on the shoulders of Terri Robinson, Ira's leading scorer the past three seasons. Robinson, a senior, dropped in 14 points against the Lady Eagles.

"Terri and Morgan complement each other very well," stated Weese. "Terri and all of our guards are doing a good job of getting Morgan the ball where she can get more open looks at the basket."

Clements' biggest output Tuesday night came in the second quarter when she drained 13 points as the Lady Bulldogs opened a 39-15 halftime lead.

Ira lengthened the margin to 55-24 in the third quarter, before posting their final 11 points in the fourth period.

Tara Allen notched six points for the Lady Bulldogs, with E'Lissa Goolsby chipping in five and Korby Calley adding four more. Brook Wilkes, Audra Oliver and Davi Barnes registered two points apiece.

Ira will carry a 9-4 mark into its next contest when it hosts Roby on Friday. Tip-off for the game has been to 5:30.

Stamford tops Lady Cards

HERMLEIGH — Things were looking pretty good for the Lady Cardinals, then came the third quarter.

Hermleigh led early on, before Stamford went on a 24-9 run in the third quarter to take control, topping the Lady Cardinals, 80-56, in non-district girls basketball action.

Hermleigh staked a 22-18 first quarter lead, powered by a trio of three-pointers from Kendra Dacus.

Stamford managed to steal a 40-35 lead by halftime, then put the game away in the third period.

Jennifer Roemisch, who finished with a game-high 28 points, posted six of Hermleigh's nine points in the third.

Dacus dropped in two more long-range buckets in the fourth, totaling 18 points on the night.

Randi Kay Herrington notched five points for the Lady Cardinals, with Sheena Callaway adding four more. Cynthia Jackson rattled home a basket from behind the arc to finish with three points.

Hermleigh takes its 7-4 mark on the road Friday when it visits Southland at 6:30.

Bulldogs ground Eagles

IRA — If things weren't bad enough for Southland in the first quarter, they got considerably worse in the second.

Ira rumbled to a 48-9 halftime lead Tuesday night, then strolled to their 10th victory of the season with a 76-32 whipping of Southland at Bulldog Gym.

The Bulldogs, now 8-3 on the season, got eight first quarter points from Jerek Brown to jump on top, 17-2, as the second period opened.

Ira went to work from long-range in the second quarter, as Drew Wall knocked down a pair of three-pointers and Nathan Smith drained another to fuel a 31-7 Bulldog run.

The Eagles fared somewhat better in the second half, posting 23 points over the final 16 minutes.

But the Bulldogs' buckets kept falling as well. Ira stretched the margin to 63-20 in the third quarter, thanks in part to six points from Jose Juarez.

The final period was Southland's most productive as the Eagles dropped in 12 points.

Five Bulldogs finished in double digits led by Brown's 17. Wall finished the night with 13 points, while Logan Daves accounted for 11. Juarez and Richard Wilkins notched 10 points apiece.

Seth Sterling chipped in five for Ira, with Bryce Wilkins adding four more. Smith and Terry Jamison finished with three points each.

Next up for the Bulldogs is another home date Friday, this time with the Roby Lions. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

Cardinals still looking for first win

HERMLEIGH — Andy Luna and the Hermleigh Cardinals found the range from behind the arc, but are still searcing for that elusive first win.

Luna nailed four three-pointers and Hermleigh led early on, before Stamford caught fire in the second half to grab a 65-41 victory.

Luna, who accounted for 22 of the Cardinals' 41 points, fueled a first quarter run that gave Hermleigh a 20-17 advantage entering the second period.

Stamford's defense clamped down on the Cardinals in the second quarter, holding them to only seven points as the Bulldogs jumped on top, 30-27, at halftime.

Hermleigh was still in the contest as the fourth quarter opened, trailing by just eight points.

But a shooting slump in the final eight minutes which saw the Cardinals post just three points allowed Stamford to pull away down the stretch.

Caleb Callaway drained 14 points for Hermleigh, while Joey Garza and Billy Lambaren added four apiece. Rocky Gill finished with one point.

The Cardinals (0-8) will be looking to break into the win column Friday when they visit Southland for an 8 p.m. contest.

Committee votes down instant replay

NEW YORK (AP) — Controversial calls by officials have made it a good bet that instant replay will be back next year. It won't happen, however, for this season's playoffs.

The league's rule-making competition committee, in a conference call Tuesday, voted 7-1 against bringing replay back this year. Six of the eight members said they would favor bringing it back next season, and a seventh said he would consider it.

"Different people gave different reasons," said commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who added that he agreed with the committee's decision. "The disadvantages outweighed the advantages."

The vote was taken in response to a series of bad calls over a two-week period that included the Thanksgiving weekend.

One gave New England a victory over Buffalo; another came on the winning touchdown in the Seahawks-Jets game on Dec. 6 in which replay showed that the Jets' Vinny Testaverde clearly came up short of the goal line. The controversy even extended to the coin toss at the start of overtime in the Pittsburgh-Detroit game in which the Steelers' Jerome Bettis said he called "tails," and referee Phil Luckett said he heard "heads."

But while Tagliabue said he wanted to give the teams a chance to discuss bringing replay back this year, he defended the officiating.

"Most of the criticism that gets aimed at officiating is off base," Tagliabue said. "It's wrong."

"Some of the game's greatest players have made mistakes," he added. "John Elway threw three interceptions a few weeks ago."

Tagliabue also cited the touchdown by the New York Giants that handed Denver its first loss or season last Sunday. Two officials first disagreed on whether New York's Amani Toomer came down with the ball in the end zone, then decided after a quick conference that it was a touchdown, a call verified by replay.

Nonetheless, he is in favor of replay.

And so, apparently, are the needed 75 percent of the 31 teams, including Cleveland, which will join the league next season. That means replay, which got just 21 of 30 votes next season, will get at least 24 votes.

Rangers acquire Williams in deal with Monteal Expos

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers have acquired the best tailback in baseball.

Texas picked up Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams' contract from the Montreal Expos on Tuesday, a day after they took him from the Philadelphia Phillies with the fourth pick of the major league draft for players left off 40-man rosters.

Even though it's likely Williams' future is in football, Rangers owner Tom Hicks, a University of Texas regent, would love to see the Longhorns star playing in his organization.

"I still want to play baseball, but I'll have to wait and see what happens," Williams said Monday in New York. "But I'm a football player first. Bo Jackson was definitely a much better baseball player than I am, but I'd still like to give it a shot."

Williams, an outfielder, must be on Texas' 25-man opening day roster or be offered back to Philadelphia for $25,000. The Phillies picked Williams in the eighth round of the 1995 amateur draft and paid for his tuition at Texas. Technically, he was a walk-on in football.

Texas paid Montreal about $100,000, allowing the cash-strapped Expos to more than make up for the $50,000 draft price.

In four minor-league seasons, Williams hit .211 with four home runs and 40 RBIs in 170 games.

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

APPLICATION NOTICE
Ira Water Supply Corporation intends to file an application for Federal assistance with the Rural Utilities Service, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development Agency. The grant request is for improvements to the water distribution system near Roundtop. For more information or to make comment, please contact Susanna Wilson with the Ira Water Supply Corporation at 573-8043, P.O. Box 186, Ira, TX 79527.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Vista Resources, Inc. (A) 550 W. Texas Ave, Suite 700, Midland, Tx. 79701, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.
The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres Formation, Hardee "B" Lease, Well Number, 14. The proposed injection well is located 4 miles Southeast of Ira, Texas in the Sharon Ridge (1700) Field, in Scurry, County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 1640' to 1692' feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6815).

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Altura Energy LTD. * ATTN: D.M. Upson * P.O. Box 4294, Houston, TX 77079-2696 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.
The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon Reef Formation, Cogdell Canyon Reef Unit Lease, Well Number 6367. The proposed injection well is located 14 miles Northeast of Snyder, Texas in the Cogdell (area) Field, in Scurry County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 6550' to 7000' feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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You are hereby notified that there will be a hearing December 29, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. to request the appointment of Jerel Leen Bedard as Administrator of the Estate of Gene Lloyd Cox, deceased, in Cause No. 5,485, in Scurry County Courtroom, Judge Ricky Fritz presiding.
You are commanded to appear and file a written answer to such application at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. December 29, 1998., by contacting Jerel Leen Bedard @ 573-3934 or Judge Ricky Fritz's office @ 573-8576.
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Prosecution seeks to reinstate sentence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, a former Black Panther whose murder conviction was overturned after he spent 27 years behind bars, was back in court fighting prosecutors' efforts to return him to prison.

Pratt maintains he was a political prisoner railroaded by Julius Butler, an ex-felon and professional informer whose alliance with law enforcement wasn't revealed until years after Pratt's conviction. Butler was the key witness at Pratt's 1972 trial.

Prosecutors told the 2nd District Court of Appeals on Tuesday, however, that belated revelations in Pratt's case were insignificant and would not have changed the trial's outcome.

"New facts have come to light but they cannot change the jury's verdict that Elmer Pratt killed Caroline Olsen," prosecutor Harry Sondheim told the court.

Pratt, now known as Geronimo ji jaga, was convicted of murdering the schoolteacher in 1968 and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. He claimed he was in Oakland for Black Panther meetings when she was killed, and that FBI agents and police hid and possibly destroyed wiretap evidence that would prove it.

Pratt, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, was released from prison in June 1997 after an Orange County judge reversed his murder conviction, finding that prosecutors during the trial deliberately withheld the fact that Butler was a felon and an FBI informant.

The case has become a cause celebre — dozens of supporters, including actors Marlon Brando and Sean Penn, attended Tuesday's proceeding.

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NEWYORK(AP)

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AndarkPtr s	30	29 3-16	30	+1 1-16
ArmcoInc	4⅛	44		— 1-16
AtlRichfld	65⅝	64⅝	64⅝	+ ⅜
ATMOS Egy	29	15-16	29⅝	29 15-16
Aviall	11⅛	11 1/16	11⅛	+ 1-16
BakerHughes	17 3-16	16⅞	16 15-16	+ 9-16
BankAmerica	57	1-16	56⅝	— ⅜
BellAtl s	54⅛	53⅝	53⅞	— ⅛
BellSouth	90 1-16	89⅛	89 9-16	— 5-16
BellSouth wi	45	5-16	45	45 — ⅛
BethSteel	8⅛	7 13-16	7⅞	+ ⅛
BritPet	88⅞	87 5-16	88 5-16	+ 1
BurlNoSFe s	33¼	32 5-16	32½	+ ⅛
CBS Corp	28⅛	27⅞	28 1-16	— 3-16
Caterpillar	44⅞	42¼	43 3-16	— 1¼
CenSoWst	27	11-16	27⅛	27 11-16
Chevron	84⅛	83⅛	83⅜	+ ⅜
Citigroup	49⅝	47 9-16	48 7-16	— 5-16
Coastal s	33⅜	32½	33⅛	+15-16
CocaCola s	66 13-16	65 3-16	65 3-16	— ⅛
ColgatePalm	85	84⅝	84⅞	— 1-16
ComclMetals	25⅛	25 9-16	25⅝	+ 1-16
CooperIn	50	49⅞	49 15-16	— 1-16
CyprusAmax	10⅛	9⅞	10	
DaimlrChry n	92 7-16	90⅝	90 15-16	— 5-16
DallSemicn	36⅜	35 7-16	35½	+ ⅛
DeltaAirl s	47 11-16	46 1-16	46 11-16	
Dillards Inc	29⅛	28⅞	29	— ⅛
DowChem	91	88⅜	88⅞	— 4
DuPont	53⅞	52 3-16	52⅛	— 1⅜
EastmanChem	46 9-16	45⅝	45⅞	— 5-16
EstKodak	73⅜	72⅞	73½	+1 13-16
EDS Corp	45⅝	44 1-16	44⅝	— ⅜
Entergy	31	15-16	31⅛	31⅛
Exxon	74 13-16	74⅛	74⅜	+ ⅜
FstBksAm	16⅞	16 13-16	16⅞	
Flowers	22⅜	22	22 5-16	+ 1-16
FordMotor s	54⅞	54⅛	54 9-16	+ 3-16
GTE Cp	65 3-16	64 9-16	65⅛	+ ⅛
GenDynam s	54¼	53 3-16	53 13-16	+ 5-16
GenElec	93 3-16	92	92 3-16	—15-16
GenMills	76⅛	76⅛	76 3-16	+ ⅛
GenMotors	68 11-16	67⅞	67½	+ 5-16
GaPacGP	56½	56⅛	56½	+ ⅛
GlobalMar	9 15-16	9⅛	9⅛	+ ⅜
Goodrich	33 7-16	33 3-16	33 3-16	— ⅜
Goodyear s	55	54 5-16	54 13-16	+ ⅜
GtAtlPac	29 11-16	29 5-16	29 9-16	— ⅜
Halliburtn	33⅜	32⅛	33	+ 1⅛
Hanson ADS	38⅜	38⅜	38⅜	— ⅜
HarteHanks s	24 15-16	24 13-16	24⅞	+ 1-16
HomeDepot	54⅞	53⅞	54⅛	— ⅛
HoustonInds	32⅜	32⅛	32 3-16	— 1-16
IBM	166⅞	164	5-16	165
IntlPaper	42 1-16	40 13-16	40⅝	—1 5-16
JohnsonJnl	81 13-16	80⅞	81 1-16	+ 5-16
K mart	14 9-16	14 5-16	14 9-16	+ 3-16
Kroger Co	53 13-16	53 5-16	53½	+ 7-16
Litton	56⅜	55⅜	56⅛	— 5-16
LockhdMart	93¼	90	91 7-16	—2 3-16
Lowes Cos s	44⅜	43⅜	44⅛	+13-16
Lubys	14 5-16	14 1-16	14⅛	+ ⅛
LucentTech s	97 3-16	94⅛	95 3-16	— ⅛
MayDptStrs	60 7-16	58 15-16	60½	+15-16
MediaOne	40 3-16	39⅜	39 15-16	
Medtronic	70¼	68⅜	69 15-16	+1 13-16
Mobil	89⅜	88	89⅛	+11-16
Monsanto	41 1-16	40 7-16	40⅝	— ⅜
MorganJP	98⅜	97 11-16	98 11-16	— ⅜
Motorola	56⅜	55⅜	56⅛	+ 5-16
NCR Corp	38⅛	37	37⅛	— ⅜
Navistar	25 7-16	24⅛	24⅛	— ⅜
OryxEngy	13⅜	13	13 3-16	+ ⅛
Penney JC	55 3-16	54⅛	55	— ⅛
Pennzoil	34⅛	34	34⅛	+13-16
PepBoys	13⅜	13 11-16	13⅜	+ ⅛
PepsiCo	38 1-16	37⅞	38	— 3-16
PhelpDodge	52 3-16	50⅝	51 1-16	—1 3-16
PhilipPet	42	7-16	42	42 +15-16
PilgrmPrd B	21⅜	21⅛	21⅛	— 3-16
Polaroid	18 15-16	17 7-16	17⅝	— 1
Praxair	34 11-16	34 3-16	34 3-16	— ⅛
ProctGamb	89 3-16	87 11-16	88⅛	— 1⅜
PubSNwMx	18⅛	18⅛	18⅛	— ⅛
RoyalDut	47 5-16	46 13-16	47	+ ⅛
SBC Comm s	49⅛	48⅞	49	— ⅛
SaraLee	55 7-16	54⅛	55 7-16	+ 3-16
SaraLee wi	27⅞	27⅞	27⅞	
Scripps EW	48 11-16	48⅛	48⅛	— 1-16
SearsRoeb	42 1-32	40 15-16	41½	— ⅜
SherwinW	27⅜	26⅞	26 15-16	— ⅜
SmithklBchm	66 11-16	66 3-16	66 11-16	+ 5-16
SouthernCo	29	28⅛	28 15-16	
SwstAirl s	21⅛	20 11-16	20⅝	— ⅛
Sunoco Inc	32¼	31⅛	32	+ ⅛
TNP Ent	37⅛	36⅜	36⅜	— 7-16
Tandy	40⅞	38 9-16	40 3-16	+1 13-16
TempleInland	52⅜	51⅞	51 15-16	—13-16
Tenneco	33⅜	33 5-16	33 5-16	—13-16
Texaco	56	3-16	55⅞	55⅞ + 1
TexInd	27	25⅛	25⅛	+1 7-16
TexasInst	80⅛	79 1-16	79⅜	+ 1⅛
TexUtil	47	46⅝	46⅝	— 9-16
Textron	71⅜	70 11-16	71	+ ⅛
TriconGlbR	47 5-16	46 9-16	47⅛	+ ⅛
TrinityInds	36⅛	35⅛	35⅛	— 1⅛
TritonEngy	8⅜	8⅛	8 5-16	+ 3-16
Tyler	6⅛	66		— ⅛
US West Inc	60⅜	60 3-16	60⅜	+ ⅜
USX-Marathn	28	27⅜	27 11-16	+ 1-16
USX-USS	23⅜	23 1-16	23 1-16	+ 5-16
UnCarbde	40 15-16	40 1-16	40⅛	— ⅛
UnionPacif	45⅜	44 9-16	44⅞	— ⅛
UnitedTech	101⅛	99⅝	99 13-16	—1 9-16
Unocal	31 3-16	30⅛	31 3-16	+ 1⅛
Venator Grp	7⅛	7⅞	7⅞	+ 3-16
WalMart	77⅛	75 15-16	76 11-16	— ⅛
WellsFargo	34 15-16	34 3-16	34 9-16	
WstnGasRs	5⅞	5⅜	5 13-16	+ ⅛
WinnDixie	42 1-16	41⅞	41 7-16	— ⅜
Xerox Corp	106	104⅛	104⅛	— ⅛

Midday Stocks

Births

Tracy and Patricia Dennis of Snyder announce the birth of their seven-pound, 13-ounce daughter. She was born at 1:50 p.m. on Dec. 15 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Juan Manuel and Sheila Benitez of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Shanandoah-Cheyenne Benitez. She was born at 8:42 a.m. on Dec. 11 in Abilene Regional Medical Center.

Paternal grandparents are Gracie Benitez and Juan and Sally Avila, all of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lynn of Wichita Falls and Jon and Sharon Knoke of Van Wert, Ohio.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Opal Chamness, Patricia Dennis, Margaret King, Deanna Wagner, Joe Lee, Margaret Maclone of Pittsburgh, Milton Winter of Hermleigh.

DISCHARGES: Treva Abercrombie, Francisca Benitez, Margaret Cole, Jaybob Mann, Alton Davis.

CENSUS: 40 (Med., Surg.-8, Long-term Care-25, CCU-2, OB-3, Nursery-3).

ISD trustees OK resignation of ag teacher

Ira ISD trustees accepted the resignation of long-time agriculture teacher Richard Long when it met Monday evening.

Supt. Rick Howard said Long had accepted a similar position in the Sterling City school system beginning June 1.

Ira's trustees also approved the audit report from Abilene accountant Carol McDonald.

Howard said the district received a "clean" audit report.

The trustees also approved the district's improvement plan, textbook committee and local policy updates.

Howard said the board took no action on the purchase of property near the school.

The board also conducted the yearly evaluation of Howard in closed session.

Hermleigh ISD board members also met Monday evening.

Supt. Jerry Church said the meeting was brief, as the board approved monthly financial statements, and began the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

Subject jailed on DWI charges

Felony driving while intoxicated sent a Ruidoso man to jail Tuesday.

Department of Public Safety troopers arrested 66-year-old Hugh Lackey of 144 Chuckwagon Road in Ruidoso, N.M., at 1:27 p.m. on FM 1611 for felony driving while intoxicated.

One other subject was arrested Tuesday.

At 8:58 a.m., officers took a 22-year-old female into custody in the 1300 block of Coliseum Drive on warrants for speeding and violating promise to appear.

In other activity, a gas drive-off was reported at 6:04 p.m. from Rip Griffin's in reference to a subject leaving without paying for $9.22 worth of gasoline.

Officers also worked a two-vehicle accident at 10:45 a.m. in the 900 block of 25th Street. Involved were a 1978 Mercury Monarch driven by Mary Garcia and a 1981 Ford F150 pickup driven by Mary Sue Cate.

Buffett debuts

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett's debut as Daddy Warbucks in the musical "Annie" brought some laughs and a few winces.

The billionaire chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., donned a bald cap and makeup for a rousing, slightly off-key rendition of "Tomorrow" during a fund-raising performance for the Omaha Theater Company for Young People.

Buffett drew generous applause and a few hearty chuckles as he sang in Monday's show.

The biggest laughs, though, came as Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., stepped in as Franklin Delano Roosevelt. When he was addressed as "Mr. President," Kerrey — who announced Sunday that he wouldn't run for president in 2000 — said: "Boy, that sounds good. Maybe I made the wrong decision."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

What to expect in a prostate exam

DEAR DR. GOTT: How does a doctor examine a man for prostate problems?

DEAR READER: The prostate gland is the organ that produces most of the seminal fluid. It wraps around the urethra (the tube leading from the bladder) and lies close to the rectum. Therefore, doctors can examine the gland either externally or internally.

By performing a rectal examination, a physician can feel most of the prostate and can tell if it is small or large, symmetrical or not, bumpy or smooth, hard or firm. This procedure is simple, safe, slightly uncomfortable, and provides an enormous amount of useful inflammation. It should be a required part of the examination of any man over 40.

The internal prostatic examination is more complicated, expensive and uncomfortable. It should be performed only by a qualified urologist and is customarily done under anesthesia. A lighted tube is passed up the urethra. The surgeon then looks to see if the prostate is partially blocking the urethra. The technique is called cystoscopy ("cysto" means bladder, which is also examined). During cystoscopy, the urologist can, if necessary, remove part of the prostate that may be interfering with urination, or the surgeon can biopsy the gland.

Ordinarily, a patient's report of symptoms and the findings on the rectal exam are sufficient to enable a physician to decide whether a urological consultation is warranted. Also, the PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test is helpful in determining whether prostate cancer is present. Thus, the presence of symptoms plus the findings on the rectal exam in conjunction with the PSA value may provide the rationale for a specialist to investigate further.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my updated and revised Health Report "The Prostate Gland." 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: What is high-colonic irrigation? Several of my friends swear by it. Are there any benefits or hazards associated with it?

DEAR READER: High-colonic irrigation is a whale of an enema. It is an old-fashioned practice that does no good, is uncomfortable and can cause bowel injury. In some cases, such a forceful enema can actually rupture the intestine.

For the past few years, high colonics have achieved cult status, because some misguided people believe that "toxins" are removed from the body by this method. There is no scientific evidence showing that colonic irrigation is superior to an ordinary enema in relieving constipation. In fact, enemas are best avoided. Bran, vegetable fiber and mild laxatives are preferable.

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3-2-2 Great Area $60T
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3-1¾-2 Range & Refrigerator
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107 Elm St. 4 Bdrm $23,320
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1929 Santa Fe 4-3-3 Office.
Parkview Area 4-2-2 $97T Call.
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Beautiful 5-3½+2 Living areas.
New Exclusive 3-1 $34T.
Country Home w/3 Acres.
Ira 3-2-2 w/2.26 A. $105T.
Close to Park 3-2½-2 Nice.
Reduced 3-1 Assume..... Call.
New List. 3AC-4-3-Shop $60's.
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Scurry County Country

Poultry industry agrees to manage chicken litter

WASHINGTON (AP) — Poultry processors have agreed to push farmers into keeping better track of how they use animal waste.

The plan comes as the government moves closer to implementing its own waste proposals for the livestock industry.

Under the poultry proposal, chicken companies would work with their farmers to develop litter management plans. The farmers would keep records of how they are storing and using the litter and then submit an annual report to the appropriate state agency.

"This is going to accomplish the national goals of managing the impact of these operations on the environment, especially in regard to the use of poultry litter," Richard Lobb, spokesman for the National Broiler Council, said Tuesday.

Animal waste runoff has become a controversial issue in recent years and has been blamed for some of the pollution in the nation's rivers and streams.

The Agriculture Department and Environmental Protection Agency in September released a draft waste management plan, which would be voluntary for the majority of farmers. The two agencies have been holding hearings for several months to elicit public comment.

The last of the 11 hearings was Tuesday in Annapolis, Md., where state lawmakers earlier this year passed one of the nation's toughest pollution runoff laws after an outbreak of pfiesteria, a toxic microbe blamed for killing thousands of fish off Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Agriculture officials praised the poultry industry for coming forward with a plan. "What we'll do is work with industry to make these things line up," said Carole Jett of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Lobb said the various poultry companies will work with their individual producers on participation. The industry hopes to see all farms participating by 2008.

Colorado City cattle auction

COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 302 head of cattle for the Saturday, Dec. 12 sale. Feeder steers and heifers were steady. Slaughter cows were steady to $3 higher, bulls were steady. Bred cows and pairs were steady. Trade was active and demand good.

Feeder Steers:
200 to 300: 94 to 105
300 to 400: 92 to 99.50
400 to 500: 72 to 82
500 to 600: 61.50 to 70
600 to 700: 58.50 to 63.50
Feeder Heifers:
200 to 300: 77 to 87
300 to 400: 72.50 to 82
400 to 500: 60 to 61.50
500 to 600: 57.50 to 61.50
600 to 700: 55 to 59.
Young bred cows: 425 to 520
Medium age to older cows and calves: 480 to 580
Slaughter cows: high yielding 35 to 38.50.
Slaughter bulls: high dressing 42 to 44.
Cow and calf pairs: 430 to 440.

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Town & Country Topics

By Kathryn Roberts
County Extension Agent

TURKEY BASICS FROM USDA

BUYING A TURKEY

FROZEN	FROZEN PRE-STUFFED	FRESH	PRE-COOKED
Buy any time but keep frozen until 1-5 days before cooking.(See THAWING)	Buy any time. Keep frozen until ready to cook. DO NOT THAW.	Buy 1-2 days before cooking. DO NOT BUY PRE-STUFFED.	Bring the turkey home and serve within 1-2 hours.
1 lb. per person	1-1/4 lbs. per person	1 lb. per person	1 lb. per person

THAWING A TURKEY

THAWING TIME IN THE REFRIGERATOR (40° F)		THAWING TIME IN COLD WATER		THAWING IN THE MICROWAVE
Roughly 24 hours per 5 pounds (Whole Turkey)		Roughly 30 minutes per pound (Whole Turkey)		Check manufacturer's instructions for the size turkey that will fit into your oven, the minutes per pound and the power level to use for thawing. Cook immediately after thawing.
8 to 12 pounds	1 to 2 days	8 to 12 pounds	4 to 6 hours	
12 to 16 pounds	2 to 3 days	12 to 16 pounds	6 to 8 hours	
16 to 20 pounds	3 to 4 days	16 to 20 pounds	8 to 10 hours	
20 to 24 pounds	4 to 5 days	20 to 24 pounds	10 to 12 hours	
		(Change water every 1/2 hour)		

After thawing, remove neck and giblets, wash turkey inside and out with cold water, drain well. Defrosted turkey may remain in refrigerator 1-2 days.

WASH HANDS, UTENSILS, SINK AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAS CONTACTED RAW TURKEY.

STUFFING A TURKEY

STUFFING IN THE TURKEY

Mix and stuff ingredients immediately before putting in oven. Stuff lightly. Cooking time takes longer. Allow 3/4 cup stuffing per lb./turkey.

STUFFING SEPARATE

If you are in a hurry, bake stuffing in a greased, covered baking dish at 325° F for 45-60 minutes or until heated to 165° F.

ROASTING A TURKEY

Timetable for Fresh or Thawed Turkey at 325° F

WEIGHT (pounds)	UNSTUFFED (hours)	STUFFED (hours)
4 to 6 (breast)	1-1/2 to 2-1/4	Not Applicable
6 to 8	2-1/4 to 3-1/4	3 to 3-1/2
8 to 12	3-1/4 to 4	3-1/2 to 4-1/2
12 to 16	4 to 4-1/2	4-1/2 to 5-1/2
16 to 20	4-1/2 to 5	5-1/2 to 6-1/2
20 to 24	5 to 5-1/2	6-1/2 to 7
24 to 28	5-1/2 to 6-1/2	7 to 8-1/2

Place turkey breast-side up on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Insert meat thermometer in thigh. Do not add water. Cover turkey with loose tent of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Remove foil 20-30 minutes before roasting is done. Final temperature for safety and doneness—180° F in thigh; 165° F in stuffing. Juices should be clear not pink.

WHEN TURKEY IS DONE REMOVE STUFFING. LET BIRD STAND 20 MINUTES FOR BETTER CARVING. THEN SERVE SLICED TURKEY AND STUFFING.

STORING YOUR LEFTOVERS

Debone turkey and refrigerate all leftovers in small, shallow containers. Use leftover turkey and stuffing within 3-4 days; gravy within 1-2 days, or freeze these foods.

Alamo Diary donated to UT

AUSTIN (AP) — There are just some things that should remain in Texas. And nothing says Lone Star State more than the Alamo, according to two Texans who donated a $350,000 diary to the state's flagship university.

Charles Tate of Houston and Thomas Hicks of Dallas said the memoir of a Mexican army officer, including its controversial account of the death of Alamo hero Davy Crockett, belongs at the University of Texas.

"It was inconceivable to me that it might end up outside of Texas. (That) would have been a tragedy for Texans," Tate said Tuesday.

Tate and Hicks beat out several other bidders, including the University of Texas, for the 200-page manuscript and associated documents, which come to about 700 pages in all, last month.

"Thanks to the splendid generosity of these two dedicated friends of the university, one of the most important eyewitness accounts of the Texas Revolution has been brought back to Texas," said Don Carleton, director of UT's Center for American History, where the diary will be housed.

Tate is president of Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst, Inc., and Hicks, a member of the UT System Board of Regents, is chairman and chief executive officer of the private investment firm. They are both UT graduates.

Rows made narrower considered

MERCED, Calif. (AP) — With the profit margin shrinking in the world cotton market, University of California, Davis, researcher Bill Weir may have an answer to help growers in the United States stay competitive.

By making planting rows ultra-narrow, farmers may be able to decrease production costs, harvest earlier and boost yields, said Weir.

For more than 50 years, cotton farmers in California used to plant in rows 40 inches apart. In the 1980s, Weir's research showed farmers could increase yields by about 10 percent by making the rows 30 inches apart.

This year, Weir took another step by doubling the rows within the 30-inch model, calling it the California Ultra Narrow Row.

The new method also means the field is planted flat and there are no fallow beds to keep clean with herbicides and cultivation. Also, since crop cultivation is eliminated, irrigation ditches don't need to be opened and closed during the season to move machinery in and out of the fields.

Finally, farmers need to treat the soil with herbicide only once before planting since dense shade of closely spaced cotton plants helps prevent weeds.

There are extra costs such as using twice the amount of seeds, increased use of growth regulating chemicals and using two sets of planters, but the benefits easily outweigh the costs, Weir said.

Preliminary results show the new method saves 40 percent, or about $60 an acre. But there's more. The new method allows increased yields more quickly.

In California, each plant produces about nine cotton bolls. With each boll taking about three days to bloom into a cotton ball, farmers have to wait 27 days. With ultra-narrow rows, you can harvest when each plant has four or five bolls, allowing growers to harvest two weeks early.

Also, with the ultra-narrow row, yields increased by about 8.4 percent, translating to $100 more per acre.

With $60 per acre savings on growing the crop and $100 per acre increase on yields, California's nearly 1 million acres of cotton fields could potentially mean $160 million in savings.

"I'm pretty much excited about this," said Dan Burn, farm manager at Nickel Family LLC in Dos Palos.

Weir's research was done at the Nickel farm this year.

"We're hoping to cut our cost. The price of cotton, the way it is today, we're not going to be able to compete with the costs overseas," Burns said.

Lubbock cattle auction

LUBBOCK — The market at Lubbock had a run of 981 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 10 sale. Cows were $3 better. Calves and yearlings were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows: (high dressing - cutters - utility) 30.50 to 36.50.
Canners and low cutters: 26 to 30.
Slaughter bulls: 38 to 43.50.
Feeder steers choice:
300-400: 85-105
400-500: 72-85.50
500-600: 68-75
600-700: 65-68
700-800: 63-68
Feeder Heifers choice:
300-400: 70-77.50
400-500: 65-75
500-600: 62-68
600-700: 60-64
700-800: 55-61
Feeder bulls good and choice: 500-600, 62 to 72.50; 700-800, 55 to 63.
Cow and calf pairs: Good 475 to 610; Grade 425 to 500.
Springers: 300 to 500.
Baby calves: 60 to 125.
Doodlers 125 to 200.

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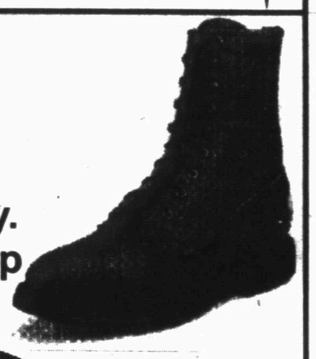
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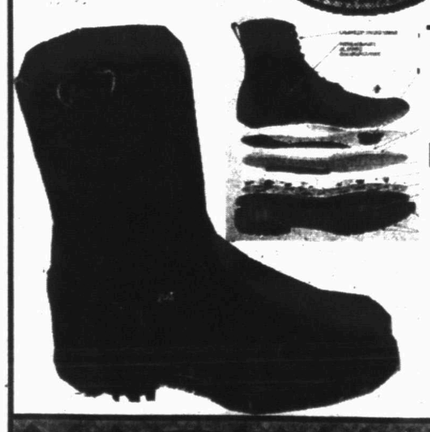
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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Chief inspector orders monitors to leave

Richard Butler's report says Iraq not cooperating with inspections

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The chief U.N. weapons inspector ordered his monitors to leave Baghdad today after saying that Iraq had once again reneged on its promise to cooperate.

The U.N. Security Council called an emergency meeting in New York today to discuss chief inspector Richard Butler's report, and President Clinton met with his top national security advisers this morning in Washington.

Iraq said it was ready to face any "American-British aggression."

After talking with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday night, Clinton and his security advisers today discussed how to respond to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's latest defiance of weapons inspections.

"This is obviously a very serious situation. All options are on the table," one White House national security aide said today, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Three busloads of weapons monitors left the U.N. compound in Baghdad today, followed by four white U.N. cars carrying spare tires. Earlier, three trucks loaded with luggage left the U.N. headquarters for the Habbaniya air base.

"The staff of UNSCOM (U.N. Special Commission) has been ordered to leave Baghdad," said George Somerwill, a U.N. spokesman in Baghdad. The order involves about 140 monitors.

Somerwill said no decision had been made on withdrawing the 400 U.N. humanitarian monitors from Iraq, but added that they were prepared to leave if necessary.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said today he had been told by Deputy U.S. Ambassador Peter Burleigh that the United States was also asking U.S. personnel in the region to leave.

Some other U.N. personnel have left and those remaining have assembled in one location in Baghdad "for their own safety," Annan said.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook warned today that airstrikes could come quickly. "We said last time we would not be giving formal warnings to Saddam Hussein," Cook told the British Broadcasting Corp. today.

A spokesman for Blair said this weekend's start of the Muslim holy festival of Ramadan was a "factor" that would be taken into any discussions of how to respond.

In Baghdad, Saddam chaired a special joint meeting of the decision-making Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party today.

Limits on makers of computers examined

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the days before the Microsoft antitrust trial recesses for the holidays, the government wants to turn attention to restrictions the company places on computer makers that sell machines with its dominant Windows operating system.

Government lawyers this week plan to show videotape testimony from John Kies of Packard Bell NEC Inc. and James Von Holle of Gateway Inc., two of the nation's leading computer companies.

Both were expected to be seen testifying about limits Microsoft imposed as a condition of selling Windows, such as refusing to let them delete Microsoft's Internet software or remove easy access to it.

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal reported today that William Harris, chief executive of Intuit Corp., will testify on Jan. 4 that Microsoft forced his company to dump a competitor's software from its best-selling personal-finance programs in exchange for a valuable link in Windows.

Quoting a source identified only as an Intuit insider, the paper said Intuit was so fearful Microsoft could use Windows against it that the company agreed to a $1.5 billion buyout by Microsoft in 1994. Microsoft abandoned the deal after the Justice Department raised questions about it.

The Journal said Intuit struck another deal with Microsoft two years later, this time to use Microsoft's Internet software instead of Netscape in its online product.

Mid East trip overshadowed by process of impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over there, people smile, wave American flags and cheer you.

That's one reason U.S. presidents get recharged — and sometimes seek solace — in trips abroad. It's a chance to bask in being presidential without having to deal with a contentious Congress.

But there are times when even foreign trips won't let them escape the controversy back home. For President Clinton, an otherwise historic trip to the Middle East this week is being obscured in an impeachment sand storm.

Clinton came home late Tuesday from the three-day visit, returning to a situation more perilous for him than it was before he left. Even flying back, he was losing crucial ground among Republican moderates who previously had been undecided.

And while polls still show a majority of Americans don't want him impeached, some surveys suggest an increasing number would rather see him resign than stand trial in the Senate.

So could he separate personal predicament from official duties while on the trip?

"Absolutely," he said. "You need to show up for work every day. It's not a complicated thing."

But it's not that simple a thing, either.

An example: The first two questions at a picture-taking session in Gaza with Yasser Arafat dealt with whether Clinton had committed perjury and his view of GOP calls for his resignation.

"Bill Clinton has played the 'traveling presidency' with a vengeance since Monica Lewinsky hit the news: Russia, Chile, China, Africa, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Japan and now the Middle East. Too bad he doesn't get frequent flyer miles," joked Stephen Wayne, a Georgetown University political scientist and author of a book on presidential leadership.

Even so, Wayne thinks Clinton is probably better off for taking the trips — including this week's — if only for the "pictures shown back home .... It reinforces the notion that he's working on the public's business."

Even when peppered by questions on impeachment while standing alongside a foreign leader, "I think he looks presidential in the way he patiently answers them," Wayne said.

Not all analysts agree.

"I don't see that it did him much good to be abroad, regardless of the substance of the trip," said Stephen Hess, a senior scholar at the Brookings Institution who worked in the Eisenhower and Nixon White Houses. "It's like the children's game of rock and paper and scissors. The paper of impeachment will cover the rock of anything else."

Was Clinton's mission hampered by the pending impeachment vote?

There's no doubt he received a hero's welcome in Gaza, but the jury's still out on whether Clinton's overall visit put the peace process back on track, as he claimed.

"It's a bumpy track," said Sandy Berger, the president's national security adviser, after Clinton failed to persuade Israel to resume West Bank troop withdrawals called for under the Wye River peace accord.

But that did not negate the fact that Clinton, the first American president to visit Palestinian-ruled territory, witnessed Palestinian leaders voting to annul a longtime stumbling block to peace, their charter's call for the destruction of Israel.

Obituaries

Patsy Hazelwood

1936-1998

LONGVIEW — Bonnie "Patsy" Hazelwood, former resident of Snyder, died at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15, in Longview after a lengthy illness.

Ms. Hazelwood, 62, will be cremated and a memorial service will be held later.

Born on June 27, 1936 in Beeville, Ms. Hazelwood moved to Snyder with her family in 1942. Living in Snyder most of her life, she moved to Longview in 1997.

Survivors include her mother, Newell Hazelwood of Snyder; two sons, David Rayvon of Apple Valley, Calif., and Tommy Gene Rayvon, formerly of Snyder; two sisters, Mary Clay of Snyder and Roma Lenderman of Las Cruces, N.M.; two brothers, Dean Hazelwood of Tyler and Johnny Hazelwood of Big Spring; a special friend, E.G. "Buck" Buchanan of Snyder; and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the American Lung Association at P.O. Box 26460, Austin, 78755-0460, or to a favorite charity.

Clemey Andress

1900-1998

RUIDOSO, N.M. — Clemey S. Andress, a former resident of Snyder, died Sunday, Dec. 13, in Ruidoso. She was 98.

Graveside service is set for 11 a.m. Thursday in the Snyder Cemetery with the Rev. Ted Spear officiating. LaGrone Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial service for Mrs. Andress was held today in the First Baptist Church in Ruidoso. The Rev. Tim Gilliland officiated.

Born on June 26, 1900 in Comanche County, she married M.L. "Mel" Andress on Sept. 7, 1918 in Roby, and he preceded her in death on May 18, 1972.

As a young child, she moved with her family to New Mexico and attended the Lone Star School. They later moved to Fisher County and then to Scurry County to farm. Mrs. Andress was active in Snyder's First Baptist Church and Order of the Eastern Star where she was secretary for 22 years. She was also a member of the Daughters of the Nile, B&PW and ABWA. She moved from Snyder to Ruidoso in 1988.

Survivors include one daughter, Helen Chambers of Ruidoso; seven grandchildren, including Randy Chambers and Richard Chambers of Colorado City; 25 great-grandchildren; and 29 great-great-grandchildren.

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GM to offer escape handles for children trapped in car trunks

WASHINGTON (AP) — It does not happen often, but it can be a parent's nightmare: An adventurous child sees the car keys, takes them to play inside a car trunk, shutting it tight only to have the trunk become a death trap.

Now General Motors Corp. has become the first automaker to offer an escape for children trapped in the extreme heat of automobile trunks in summer months. Starting in February or March, GM dealerships will have handles available for installation inside the trunk so children can get out, company officials say.

The yellow handle is illuminated in the dark cargo area, below the trunk lid, so a child can see it and figure out how to escape. A mechanism also would be installed on the trunk latch to prevent the trunk from shutting unless an adult manually resets it.

Last summer, 11 children died inside trunks ranging in age from 2 to 6 — five in Utah, two in Greensboro, Pa., and four in Gallup, N.M. In all cases, the children died from the heat.

"We had to do something to prevent this from happening again," said Roy Roberts, GM's vice president in charge of dealer relations.

"No system is foolproof. But our hope is that the (trunk) kits combined with a strong educational program ... will go a long way towards reducing cases of trunk entrapment," Roberts said on a videotape being distributed to GM's 8,500 dealerships across the country.

The $50 price for the trunk kit includes installation, GM officials said. The company is subsidizing part of the cost.

Most GM cars built after 1990 could be retrofitted with the kit, said spokesman Kyle Johnson. The company was looking into making it available to other automakers. It had no plans to make the kit's components as a standard on its future models.

GM was holding a news conference today to announce the trunk kit.

GM engineers worked with a child psychologist to design a handle that children could figure out easily on their own. The handle is big enough so that small children can use an entire hand to operate it, and it is not so brightly illuminated that children would fear it because many are taught not to touch something that appears hot.

After testing nine different types of escape mechanisms on more than 100 children, the team found most children could figure out how to escape the trunk with a simple lever-type door handle.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Open house

The holiday open house at Expert Hair and Nail Design concludes at 6 this evening.

Holiday open house

Tim Riggan will host a holiday open house until 4 p.m. today at the Edward Jones office at 4204 College Ave.

Christmas open house

Snyder Multi-Speciality Clinic will host a Christmas Open House from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the clinic, located at 1805 27th Street.

Ira booster club

The Ira booster club will meet at 8:15 this evening in the school cafeteria. Everyone is invited.

Open house

Dr. Gloria Gerstner and staff will host an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at 5303 Trinity Blvd., Suite A. The community is invited.

Beanie Babies chances

Snyder High varsity cheerleaders are selling $1 chances to win Beanie Babies. Drawing for a set of the 10 newest beanies or a set of seven different bear beanies will be held Friday at the girls basketball game. To purchase tickets, see a varsity cheerleader, Kaye Carter at the high school or Neika Porter at Star-R-Us. Proceeds are for National Competition expenses.

Blood pressure checks

Cogdell Home Health blood pressure checks will be held the next two Wednesdays. These times replace the regular Friday clinics.

Ira junior class selling spice

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

SHS choir sells poinsettias

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

Spanish Club fundraiser

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

Christmas open house

American State Bank invites citizens to a Holiday Open House all day Tuesday.

Christmas open house

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas open house will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. next Wednesday.

Windbreak trees

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

Road to Recovery program

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

Cash Five

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

3-15-33-35-39

(three, fifteen, thirty-three, thirty-five, thirty-nine)

Pick 3

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

3-3-3

(three, three, three)

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Miracle of Life Can Be Shared Through Umbilical Cord Blood

DEAR ABBY: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Because of your column, lives have been saved, and many parents can hear the happy laughter of a child with a future. Because of a letter you printed more than a year ago, many families have stored their newborn's umbilical cord blood for potential use in the treatment of more than 30 different diseases. Cord-blood banking is biological life insurance.

Many expecting parents learned about the use of umbilical cord-blood stem cells only through your column, and took the article to their OB or oncologists and asked for more information. Many umbilical cord-blood transplants have been performed for victims of cancer, and many of these children are alive today.

For the thousands of families who may have missed your original column or didn't need it at the time, would you please rerun it?

KAY AND JACK MULLINS,
APPLETON, WIS.

DEAR KAY AND JACK: Here it is, with pleasure:

DEAR ABBY: I am an educator with the Cord Blood Registry, responding to the letter in your column about donors needed for the bone marrow registry. I would like to tell you and your readers about an amazing opportunity to assist tens of thousands of people in need of stem cells that used to be available only through bone marrow transplants.

Diseases like Hodgkin's lymphoma, sickle cell anemia and leukemia can now be treated with stem cells from umbilical cord blood.

The process of collecting it is painless; however, it must be collected immediately after birth. Umbilical cords are often just discarded. It's a tragedy that expectant parents are rarely made aware of the importance of their child's umbilical cord blood. It can be banked privately for their families or donated to the International Cord Blood Foundation.

Abby, please urge families to contact the Cord Blood Registry at (888) 267-3256 (toll-free) or www.cordblood.com to learn more about banking their cord blood.

KATIE HEFFELFINGER,
CORD BLOOD EDUCATOR,
BETHLEHEM, PA.

DEAR MS. HEFFELFINGER: I'm pleased to alert readers to this relatively new therapy, which became available in the late 1980s.

I was fascinated to learn that "cord blood" is the blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta after a baby is born. Like bone marrow, it has been found to be a rich source of stem cells, the building blocks of the blood and immune system. Cord blood may provide treatment advantages over bone marrow, especially when it comes from an immediate family member.

If the umbilical cord blood of all deliveries were stored, successful matches could be found without the time-consuming search for a bone marrow donor.

There is no cost for public donation of umbilical cord blood, but the application and testing process must be started at least two months before the delivery. Parents wishing to store their newborn's cord blood for their own potential use can do so for a fee. However, anyone with a family member who already has a condition for which stem cells may be a treatment option can store cord blood at no cost through the Cord Blood Registry's Designated Transplant Program.

***

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Asbestos settlement announced

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Owens Corning, which has been saddled for years with lawsuits over medical problems caused by asbestos it stopped making a quarter-century ago, has now settled all but a fraction of the cases.

The company on Tuesday announced a $1.2 billion settlement with people who said the company's asbestos-based products made them ill.

The company already had settled more than 208,000 asbestos lawsuits. The latest, biggest deal wipes away 176,000 cases — nearly all of the existing asbestos lawsuits facing the company — and brings the company's bill to $3 billion.

About 20,000 cases remain, and about 35,000 new ones are filed each year.

"It's very important to get most of these suits off the books," said James Kelleher, an analyst with New York-based Argus Research. "It becomes less of a nuisance for them, but there still will be some nibbling at the edges."

Glen Hiner, the company's chairman and chief executive officer, said the agreement reduces the risk of excessive verdicts, making the company's liability more predictable.

A Very Drabble Christmas by Kevin Fagan

Mid-Atlantic region has drought

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — With reservoirs dried out in Pennsylvania, people have resorted to taking sponge baths and washing their clothes in neighboring towns.

In Maryland, officials struggle to keep drinking water flowing to people along a nearly dry tributary of the Potomac River.

And this week, the Delaware River Basin Commission asked 7.3 million people in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware to voluntarily curtail their water use.

From south-central New York down to northern Virginia, a drought that began during the summer is changing the way of life for millions.

Pat Palovich, who lives with her husband and mother in Vintondale, Pa., said she travels five to six miles to a laundromat in a neighboring town. For two weeks, the water supply in Vintondale has been shut off every other day, leaving its 800 residents without water for 24-hour intervals because the town's reservoir is dangerously low.

"When the water's on, you can bathe," Ms. Palovich said. "When it's not, you have to heat it up in a pan on the stove and take a sponge bath."

In western Pennsylvania, the onetime town of Corydon normally lies under 20 feet of water in the Allegheny Reservoir. The town was swallowed up in 1965 when a dam was built 11 miles to the south.

Because of the drought, however, the town is re-emerging, drawing former residents and the curious who are finding Corydon's broken gravestones, roads, tree stumps and the rubble of houses.

Lake Erie's water level is down about a foot from last year, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts that water levels will continue to decline for the next few months. Members of the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council plan to recommend Gov. Tom Ridge declare a drought emergency in several counties.

Paul Knight, a climatologist at Penn State University, pointed out that the region has just missed several coastal storms.

Rain over the past week eased drought conditions in Virginia, allowing Gov. Jim Gilmore to lift a ban on open burning that had been in effect since Oct. 30.

But about 50 miles south of Washington, where growth in Spotsylvania County means higher demands for water from new housing developments, officials are considering rationing water because the reservoir is at its lowest level ever.

The combination of dry weather and depressed prices for crops and livestock has made this the worst year for Virginia farmers in at least two decades. Forty localities have applied for federal drought assistance.

Missouri is also know as the Show Me State.

Coats trimmed with dog fur spark furor

DALLAS (AP) — The vendor who sold parkas lined with dog fur to Burlington Coat Factory says he asked for coyote fur coats when he ordered a shipment from Asia.

"I don't know where the fur comes from," Stanley Nankin, an El Paso coat supplier, told today's Dallas Morning News. "We asked for coyote."

Although the labels on the coats said "Mongolia dog fur," Nankin said he thought it was a Chinese translation of coyote.

Burlington Coat Factory, the nation's largest coat retailer, announced this week it was recalling 480 men's parkas after learning from the Humane Society of the United States that they were lined with dog fur.

The group had conducted an 18-month global investigation into the trade of dog and cat fur.

Even though there is no law outlawing the use of dog and cat fur, Burlington Coat Factory is sending 340 of the coats back to Nankin's company, Acme International. The remaining coats were sold, but Burlington officials said customers may return them for store credit or a check.

The 250-store outlet chain, based in Burlington, N.J., said it was duped by its vendor. But Nankin, who owns a blind 16-year-old Yorkshire terrier, said he did nothing wrong. "Anybody can make a mistake," he said.

In a report released Tuesday, the Humane Society said the fur is making its way into the United States in products ranging from gloves and scarves to parkas and trinkets.

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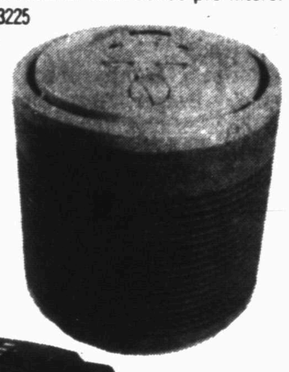

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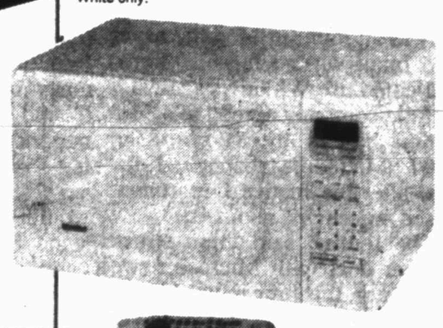

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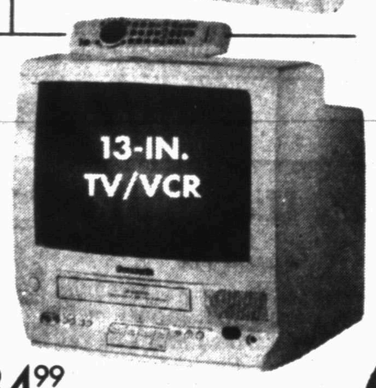

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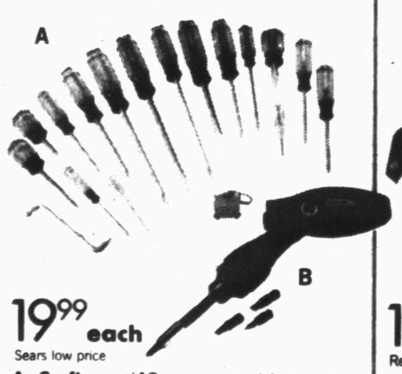

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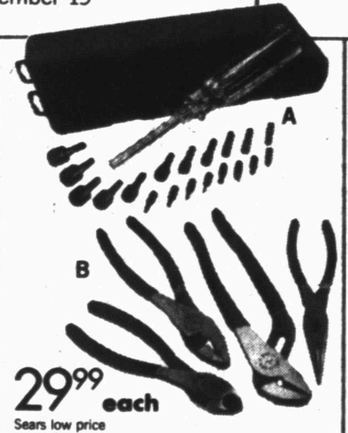

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