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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Jan. 8, 1997
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Home of Bryan Burton

Court considers right to doctor-assisted suicide

Confronts profound issues of life & death

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is confronting profound issues of life and death in deciding whether terminally ill people have the constitutional right to doctor-assisted suicide.

In today's oral argument, the justices were being asked to weigh states' efforts to prevent intentional killing against patients' right to avoid intolerable pain.

"The state has an interest of the highest order in prohibiting its physicians from assisting in the purposeful taking of another person's life," the Clinton administration said in court papers supporting state laws in New York and Washington that banned assisted suicide.

But doctors who persuaded lower courts to invalidate those laws insist that mentally competent, terminally ill patients must be allowed to decide for themselves when to die.

"The person who is dying in intolerable pain or torment faces suffering that is too intimate and personal for the state to insist that she must bear it," Harvard law Professor Laurence Tribe wrote in court papers in the New York case.

Most states have bans on assisted suicide similar to those in New York and Washington. By July, the justices will decide whether to uphold such laws or declare doctor-assisted suicide a constitutional right.

The two appeals are perhaps the most closely watched Supreme Court cases since 1992, when the high court reaffirmed the constitutional right to abortion. They raise similar questions about an individual's liberty interest in controlling his or her own body.

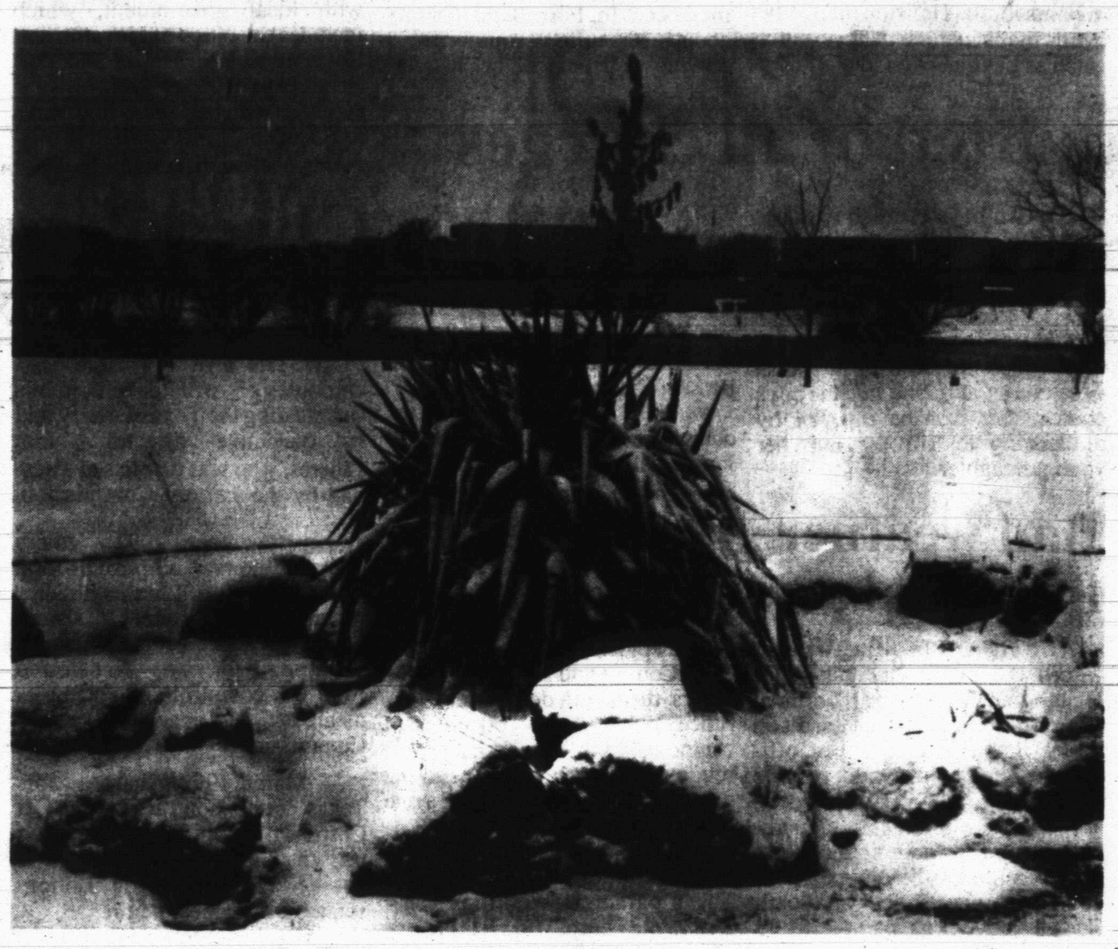
Terminal illness is an issue that potentially affects everyone. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist confronted it himself when his wife, Natalie, died in 1991 after a long battle with ovarian cancer.

Justice Antonin Scalia has repeatedly said he finds no "right to die" in the Constitution. Last year — in a speech given months before the court granted review in today's cases — he said giving people the right to commit suicide was not a question the Supreme Court should decide.

The court first recognized a constitutional right to die in 1990 when it ruled that terminally ill people can refuse life-sustaining medical treatment.

But in 1995, the justices rejected a challenge by Dr. Jack Kevorkian to Michigan's ban on assisted suicide. Kevorkian, who has helped more than 40 people kill themselves, is not involved in the cases being argued today.

In the New York case, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was discriminatory to refuse to let terminally ill patients end their lives with medication while allowing other dying patients to refuse medical treatment.



A LITTLE MORE SNOW — Snyder and the immediate area received a covering of snow Tuesday night and early this morning but not the forecasted amount of up to six inches. What snow and ice did that fall delayed the start of school in Snyder and Ira until 10 o'clock. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future."

Believe it or not!

Information for such a feature appeared in last weekend's newspaper — in an advertisement published at the end of each quarter by Midwest Electric Cooperative.

Midwest runs the updated Scurry County rainfall report, a listing dating back to 1911.

While everyone is painfully aware that we are in the middle of a drought, the 11th month of 1996 — believe it or not — was the wettest November in Scurry County history.

Moisture total in November was 4.80 inches, representing the first time in history that precipitation had exceeded the four-inch mark during that month.

November rainfall has exceeded three inches only three times. In 1913 it was 3.79 inches, it was 3.36 in 1961 and 3.30 in 1968. The average monthly rainfall total for November is .97 of an inch.

While Scurry County got what some ag observers called "million dollar rains" in November, there was zero precipitation in December.

We ran into Max von Roeder at the bank last week and he optimistically predicted a bumper cotton crop for Scurry County in 1997.

The bale count for 1996 is pegged at 6,000 bales, but producers now have sub-surface moisture that wasn't here at the start of 1996.

Som timely rains on top of deep moisture, as von Roeder says, suggests a good foundation for a county that needs and deserves a good crop.

And the right kinds of rains wouldn't hurt Lake Thomas, either.

How dry is it around the lake?

According to officials, a woman fainted when she saw it. To revive her, they had to throw a pail of sand in her face.

Linares 'scratched' as director of lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Nora Linares is out as executive director of the Texas Lottery, but she says it's not because of her job performance.

The three-member Texas Lottery Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to fire the only executive director to serve at the 4½-year-old, $3 billion agency. Ms. Linares was an at-will employee, meaning she could be fired without a reason.

Commission members said it was time for the agency to move forward, adding that the commission could best do that with a new director.

They named deputy executive director Zoann Attwood acting executive director. Ms. Attwood, 52, formerly worked as director for the Montana Lottery.

Ms. Linares had been at the center of controversies starting with reports last November that close friend Mike Moeller was given a $30,000 job with the lottery's main contractor just after the company, GTECH Holding Corp., won the 1992 contract to run the state's numbers game.

Moeller, in prison on an unrelated charge, worked for GTECH for five months between 1992 and 1993. The company has said he was hired by former national salesman J. David Smith. He's been convicted of defrauding the company.

GTECH said Moeller did little, if any, work for the company.

Ms. Linares has said she was unaware of Moeller's contract with GTECH until just before it was made public.

Buck Wood, one of Ms. Linares' attorneys, said his client was fired over politics.

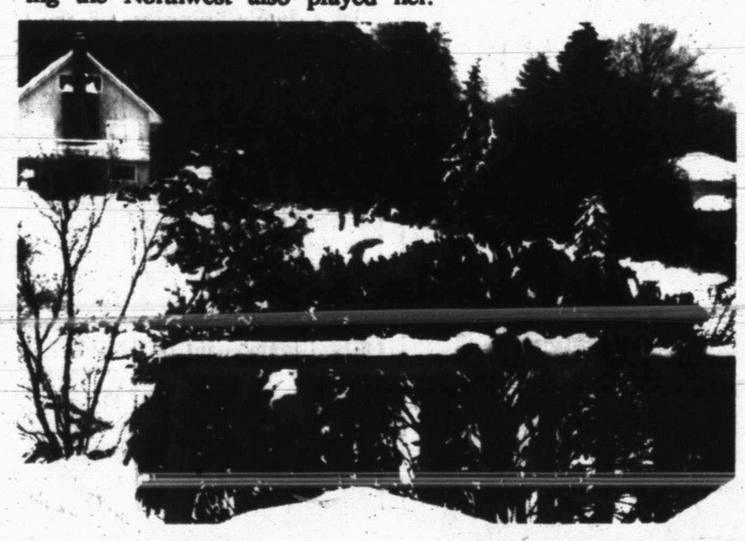
Ms. Linares is a Democrat first hired by Democratic Comptroller John Sharp to run the lottery division in his office.

Local resident gets a taste of Northwest storms

By Shirley A. Gorman
News Editor

A variety of bad weather plaguing the Northwest also played havoc with a local woman's visit with relatives in Washington State.

When Martha Schiebel booked a Southwest flight to Seattle, she had no idea what was in store for her.



WEATHER WOES — A combination of heavy snow and a deluge of rain swept the Seattle, Wash., area during Martha Schiebel's recent visit with family members who live on Bainbridge Island. This photo shows the back porch of her daughter's split-level home. (Contributed Photo)

Two days after Christmas, Martha's destination was Bainbridge Island, where her daughter — Margaret Edwards — lives. Just getting there proved a bit of a problem in itself as she spent two hours in a crowded airport in Reno, Nev. waiting for a plane.

The delay was caused because Southwest had run out of de-icer, she said. When Boeing later provided some de-icer, Martha finally arrived at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, where her daughter and son-in-law, Bill, picked her up.

The Edwards had had so much snow that they had to dig their car out of the driveway, and then had to be towed to the top of the hill before they could drive to the ferry which transported them to Seattle.

Some two hours after they arrived home, Martha said her son-in-law, who is a pilot for Northwest Airlines, left for a flight to Japan.

A day later, the electricity went out and remained off for two days. Within a few days, warmer temperatures and a deluge of rain also caused flooding, filling the lower level of the Edwards' split-level home with four inches of water.

Margaret's husband had wanted them to stay in a motel, but Martha said they preferred to stay at home.

The two women "roughed it" in the powerless, all-electric home.

With the temperature inside a very cold 52 degrees, Martha said they stayed as warm as they could by bundling up in afghans and burning wood in a fireplace.

Wood was in short supply, though. After they burned the two pieces they had, they started breaking up Bill's work benches in the basement to keep the fire going.

At one point, Martha said they wondered if they were going to have to start burning her daughter's antique furniture, but "It never came to that," she said.

The German shepherds that Margaret breeds also provided much needed warmth for their cold feet.

The two women cooked on a single-burner propane stove, ate peanut butter, drank hot tea and burned candles for light.

While they waited for the electricity to return, Martha said they listened to a shortwave radio. They also listened to mudslides "all around us," but were never in any danger themselves.

Martha called the two days without electricity and the rest of the visit "fun." She said her daughter has had to get by without electricity for as long as three days.

She added she was grateful that,

See Northwest, Page 9

Snow sweeps county; more could be on way

From local, wire reports

Scurry County residents woke to find snow on the ground this morning, prompting some schedule changes.

Snyder and Ira ISD held up the start of classes until 10 o'clock this morning and didn't run buses. Hermleigh teachers and students reported at the regular time.

Administrators at all three school districts were waiting for early afternoon weather reports before deciding whether to dismiss early or at the regular time, and whether to run buses.

Locally, the forecast calls for a 30 percent chance of more snow through midnight.

Lows tonight will be in the upper teens, with Thursday's forecast calling for a high between 35 and 40 and winds of up to 20 miles per hour.

North Texas had snow, sleet and rain Tuesday as an upper-level disturbance moved through the area. A few snow showers began to develop and move southwesterly during the late afternoon.

Temperatures Tuesday barely got above 30 in some areas. Late-afternoon highs ranged from 30 at Killeen to 39 at Wichita Falls and Mineral Wells.

Snow accumulations of 1 to 4 inches along with a mixture of freezing rain and sleet were expected today. Temperatures were forecast in the 20s with highs from 30 to 35.

Temperatures remained in the 20s and 30s, with a warming trend out of sight until Thursday when highs will be in the 30s and 40s. Until Thursday, more snow is expected with temperatures in the teens and 20s.

ASK US

Q—Has an opening date for Grandy's been set?

A—Grandy's has targeted the weekend of Jan. 18 as its grand opening.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 36 degrees; low, 24; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 25; trace precipitation; total for 1997, .40 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, chance of light snow until midnight. Low, upper teens. N wind 5-10 mph. Snow chance: 30%. Thursday, partly cloudy. High 35-40. NW-W wind 10-20 mph.



Bryan Clifton
Snowman Weather!

Sunset: 5:58 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:44 a.m.
Of 7 days in 1997, the sun has shone 6 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you want to feel rich, just count all of the things you have that money can't buy.

- Anonymous

JAN 08 1997

Plans being readied for Texas' largest mall

DALLAS (AP) — More than 500 acres southwest of Houston could become home to Texas' largest mall — a 2-million-square-foot shopping and entertainment megacenter — as soon as next year, according to a published report.

Mills Corp., an Arlington, Va.-based real-estate developer specializing in so-called mega malls, has paid an undisclosed price to buy the land from American Realty Trust Inc., a Dallas-based real-estate investment company.

Mills plans to turn the plot into a mall that would draw between 16 million and 18 million visitors per year, the Texas Journal of The Wall Street Journal reported in today's editions.

Mills, which already is building a mall just north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport that is scheduled to open Oct. 30, says it will decide whether to move forward with plans by the end of the year.

If it opts for the deal, the complex could be ready by 1998. The company estimates a completed mall would create 4,000 jobs.

Although the company has yet to begin lining up prospective tenants for the Houston mall, other Mills malls include factory outlets such as Levi's Outlet; department-store outlets such as Last Call!, the Neiman Marcus clearance center; catalog outlets such as Spiegel Outlet Store and JCPenney Outlet; and specialty retailers such as Burlington Coat Factory and Sports Authority.

Mills malls also include a 30-screen movie theater and GameWorks, an interactive entertainment center being developed by a joint venture between DreamWorks SKG, Sega Enterprises Ltd. and Seagram Co.'s MCA Inc. unit.

Mills officials said they're interested in Fort Bend County, about 30 miles southwest of downtown Houston, because it's in one of the fastest-growing, most-affluent communities in the country.

The population of Fort Bend County has increased more than 30 percent since 1991, and average household income in the county is $67,000 — about $21,500 more than the national average.

Dausch says the lack of major retailers along the Interstate 10 corridor in Fort Bend County also drew the company to the area.

Mills executives say their decision on whether to build the mall will hinge largely on cooperation with local government, which includes the cities of Houston and Katy, as well as Harris and Fort Bend counties.

Those officials must find ways to finance infrastructure improvements needed to support the giant mall. So far, they appear willing to do whatever they can to ensure the mall is built.

"It's bigger than anything we've seen so far this decade," says Fort Bend County Judge Mike Rozell. "We can't wait. We would start working on it tonight if we could."

The company says it may also have to negotiate with federal environmental and transportation agencies.

Herbert W. Appel Jr., president of the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council in Sugar Land, says any improvements to area roads, power, sewers and water supplies could be financed with bonds secured by future sales-tax receipts from the mall.

"It would be low-pain, and it leaves property taxes untouched," he said.

Mills — which was created in 1967 as Western Development Co. and went public in 1994 — built its first mega mall, Potomac Mills, in suburban Washington in 1985.

It has since added three more giant malls: Franklin Mills in suburban Philadelphia; Gurnee Mills in Chicago; and Sawgrass Mills in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Five more are in the planning stages: in northern New Jersey, Los Angeles, Chicago and Phoenix, as well as the one in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Despite generally poor results for large shopping malls last year, Mills recently reported that its third-quarter profit for 1996 was 119 percent above the year-before figure.

Teacher acquitted of all charges

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has acquitted a woman who was accused of having sex on numerous occasions with two teen-age boys who were her students in the Aldine school district.

Visiting state District Judge Jimmy James decided Tuesday the state failed to prove its case against Dorothea Eichman, 40, beyond a reasonable doubt.

The two boys claimed they had sex with Ms. Eichman over a period of two years, ending in the summer of 1995. One of the boys, now 15, said he and Ms. Eichman had sex at least 50 or 60 times.

She was charged with 14 counts of sexual assault. She said the boys coerced her into having sex by threatening to kill her and her young daughter.

Ms. Eichman had called the police on several occasions to complain that the two boys were harassing her at home.

James said one of the boys admitted on the stand that he had lied about some of his testimony.

"I didn't find either one of the complaining witnesses credible," James said.

Merrit completes Marine 'basics'

Marine Pvt. Hugh J. Merritt, son of Dwaine J. Merritt of Snyder, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Merritt successfully completed 11 weeks of training.

Merritt and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m., by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition, Merritt spent time in classroom and field assignments, including first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

He is a 1994 graduate of Columbus High School of Columbus.

Bad weather grounds plans for aerial assault on rabies

AUSTIN (AP) — Bad weather forced the Texas Department of Health to delay Tuesday's official launch of its latest aerial assault on rabies in South Texas. But officials said flights would resume Wednesday if the weather allows.

Some 1.5 million baits containing vaccine to immunize coyotes are scheduled to be dropped over 21,000 square miles of South Texas, covering parts of 29 counties.

The airdrop follows similar efforts in 1995 and 1996. It is part of a five- to seven-year plan designed to contain, then eliminate the canine rabies strain, officials said.

The epidemic began in 1988 in Starr County and has spread to 20 others, the health department said. Since 1988, nearly 700 cases of canine rabies in animals have been reported in South Texas, with the disease moving northward at a rate of about 45 miles per year.

"The battle isn't over, but we're definitely on the offensive. The program is working," said Dr. Gayne Fearneyhough, director of the health department's oral rabies vaccination program.

"For now, at least, the northward spread has been halted, and the number of cases of animal rabies within the zone has dropped significantly."

Chronology of events, from start of Lotto Texas to Linares's firing

AUSTIN (AP) — Here is a chronology of developments surrounding the Texas Lottery and its executive director, Nora Linares, who was dismissed Tuesday by the Lottery Commission.

— November 1991: Voters approve lottery. Comptroller John Sharp names Ms. Linares director of his agency's lottery division, which regulates the games. (Control later was transferred from the comptroller to a three-member Texas Lottery Commission.)

— March 1992: Sharp awards Texas' lottery contract to GTECH Corp., whose bid was $90 million less than its only competitor.

— May 1992: Texas Lottery scratch-off games begin.

— October 1992: GTECH hires Mike Moeller for consulting work in New Mexico. On the contract, Moeller lists an Alamogordo, N.M., address belonging to a cousin of Ms. Linares.

— June 1995: Ms. Linares takes nonbusiness-related trip to Santa Fe, N.M., with a group of people that included Moeller, deputy lottery director Zoann Atwood and Lena Guerrero, a lobbyist for Dittler Bros., the Texas Lottery's instant ticket manufacturer.

— May 1996: Following Ms. Linares' recommendation, Lottery Commission votes to approve a five-year contract extension with GTECH without other bids.

— Nov. 15, 1996: Ms. Linares says she learns of Moeller's contract with GTECH for the first time after being questioned by a news reporter.

— Nov. 16, 1996: Ms. Linares visits Moeller in federal prison in South Texas to discuss the contract.

— Nov. 20, 1996: Ms. Linares informs Lottery Commission chairwoman Harriet Miers of the contract.

— Nov. 26, 1996: Lottery Commission questions Ms. Linares about the contract at its monthly meeting. Ms. Miers criticizes Ms. Linares for not informing the commission about the contract as soon as she learned of it.

— Dec. 11, 1996: It is revealed that Ms. Guerrero has resigned her job as a Dittler Bros. lobbyist.

— Dec. 12, 1996: Texas Rangers are called in to help safeguard state lottery records after questions are raised about documents subpoenaed by a federal grand jury.

— Dec. 13, 1996: Lottery Commissioner Joe Morin resigns, saying he wants to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest over an office building where his association leases space. The building is owned in part by some GTECH officials.

— Dec. 18, 1996: Ms. Linares files a lawsuit against the three-member commission, claiming she has been denied the ability to defend herself and to carry out her job during several weeks of controversy surrounding the lottery.

— Dec. 20, 1996: The Texas Rangers are taken off lottery duty when Ms. Miers says she is convinced the lottery has sufficient security measures in place.

— Jan. 2, 1997: Gov. George W. Bush names former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hill to the Lottery Commission.

— Jan. 7, 1997: The commission votes 3-0 to dismiss Ms. Linares.

Navy to close hospital on May 1

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The 192-bed hospital at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will be shut down on May 1, forcing area military retirees and active-duty personnel to go elsewhere for health care, Navy officials have announced.

As many as 116 civilian jobs will be lost, officials said Tuesday.

"It will mean the loss of a lot of jobs," Capt. Fred Barina, commanding officer of the hospital, said Tuesday.

"Those civilians willing to relocate will be provided with jobs. Most military personnel associated with the hospital will be transferred."

There are 438 Navy staff at the hospital. Most of the civilian jobs are administrative.

A small clinic administered by Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla., will remain at the base, officials said.

The hospital received word Monday from the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Barina said.

A steering committee will meet Friday to determine which civilian positions will be eliminated or transferred to Pensacola and which positions will still be needed in Corpus Christi, Barina said.

Linares profile

By The Associated Press

NAME — Nora A. Linares

AGE — 41

BACKGROUND — Born and raised in San Antonio, Ms. Linares is a 1976 graduate of Southwest Texas State University.

EXPERIENCE — The only director the Texas Lottery has had since it was approved by voters in 1991. She was chair of the Lottery Implementation Task Force, director of the lottery division of the comptroller's office, and in 1993 was named executive director of the Lottery Commission.

QUOTE — "Whether GTECH expected any special treatment for awarding a contract to a friend of mine is not mine to say. I can unequivocally say that they received no special treatment from me," Ms. Linares said on Nov. 22. "Every decision that I have made regarding GTECH over the past four years has been based on their performance according to the terms of their contract with the Texas Lottery."

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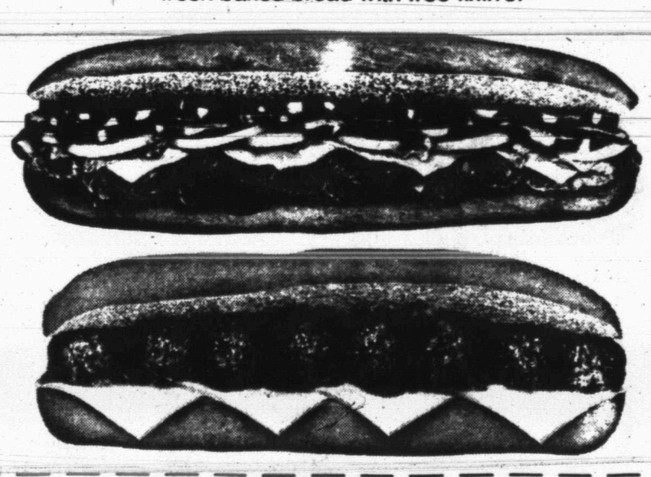
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Texans not immune to flu season

DALLAS (AP) — Texas has not been immune to the flu outbreak sweeping the country. Still, there's some good news — experts say you don't have to suffer in silence.

A steady stream of flu patients has made its way to the Dallas office of Dr. Jeffrey Adelglass.

"Every day we see more and more people with flu-like symptoms," he said.

Since December, Adelglass has seen about 70 to 100 people suffering from flu symptoms. But those numbers don't really indicate how many people actually have the virus regionally, he said, because most people with the flu are staying home, sneezing and coughing under the covers, and treating themselves with over-the-counter medicines.

Patients usually show up at the doctor's office when the disease won't go away or they develop secondary infections. "The people we see in a doctor's office only represent a small percentage of what is out in the community," Adelglass said.

Conditions are usually ripe this time of year for the spread of the disease. Despite popular belief, however, it's not the change in weather that cultivates the flu — it's the huddling.

During the winter, people tend to stay indoors, which increases contact and the chances of catching the virus, said Dr. Paul Glezen of the influenza research center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Other factors promoting the virus' spread are the lower humidity and the children's return to school.

Jim Schuermann, a public health technician in the infectious disease epidemiology department of the Texas Department of Health, calls the flu outbreak this year "fairly routine."

He said most of the outbreaks have been reported in heavy metropolitan areas, like Harris and Dallas counties.

"Just about where we expect to see it," he said.

In a typical year, he said, if no one were immunized, about 1.6 million Texans would be expected to develop the flu.

Most of the reported cases of flu have been of the not particularly severe H3N2 strain, which Schuermann said can be treated with medicine.

"It's an average year so far," he said.

State officials stressed the importance of getting a flu shot before the season opens, especially for people who are at a higher risk of dying from the disease, like the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.

Mike Keenan, adult immunization coordinator for the state Department of Health, said it's hard to gauge how many people get flu shots because private doctors give the majority of them.

Usually, about 30 percent of the population — and 60 percent of people over 65 — get flu shots. That number is much lower among non-white people over 65, Keenan said.

Amantidine and Rimantadine are drugs to treat the flu. They shorten the duration and severity and cut down on secondary infections.

"Although the flu seems very calm and very easy, it can be (in high risk cases) a deadly disease," Adelglass said.

Classified Ads 573-5486

Fans gathering to celebrate Elvis Presley's 62nd birthday

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Fan club leaders gathered for Elvis Presley's 62nd birthday today still love him tender. They want their hero remembered for his generosity, not his excesses.

"He liked to share. He was known for that," said Gigi Ballester of Flushing, N.Y.

She and leaders of more than 80 other Elvis fan clubs are in Memphis to celebrate the birthday of the man who changed pop music and gave a legion of American youngsters their first taste of rebelliousness.

More than 400 fans were expected for a birthday banquet tonight. And though it seems unlikely the world is about to forget Presley any time soon, the fan clubs say they're working hard to keep his memory alive.

"There are some days I might spend eight to 10 hours typing and answering mail, especially when I'm working on a newsletter," said Priscilla Parker, president of the "We Remember Elvis" club of Pittsburgh. "It's just heart warming to keep all this going."

While in Memphis, the fan club officers meet with Graceland's staff to discuss the latest doings in the world of Elvis and plan club events for the coming year, particularly fund raisers for charity.

Presley's reputation for supporting Memphis charities is a favorite topic for the clubs.

Ballester helped organize the "Teddy Bear Project," which collects money from Presley fan clubs to buy teddy bears, clothes and other items for a Memphis shelter for women and children.

Parker's club, with 1,000 members in 47 states and abroad, collects several thousand dollars a year for a hospital burn unit in Pennsylvania and a trauma center in Memphis.

"If we didn't do it for Elvis, we'd probably be doing it for something else, but Elvis' generosity shows us the way," said Parker, whose first name, by coincidence, is the same as Presley's ex-wife's.

Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss., on Jan. 8, 1935, and lived most of his life in Memphis. He died of heart disease at age 42 in 1977. His health was weakened by years of drug abuse and other excesses.

Despite his nickname, The King of rock 'n' roll didn't invent the genre. Still, he was focal point for the emergence of rock 'n' roll culture.

Many of his recordings, including "Love Me Tender" in 1956 and "Jailhouse Rock" the following year, are seminal. And hundreds of professional imitators still pay tribute to the King by curling their lips and slurring their words, even donning a pompadour.

Snyder School Menu

BREAKFAST

All breakfasts are served with assorted cereal w/toast, juice and milk.

THURSDAY

French Toast Sticks, w/Syrup

FRIDAY

Pancakes w/Syrup

LUNCH

All lunches are served with milk.

THURSDAY

Beef Taco
Frito Pie
Pinto Beans
Corn Bread
Cowboy Cookies

FRIDAY

Baked Chicken
Chicken Fried Steak
Yeast Rolls
Cream Gravy
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes

Date Book

Jan. 8, 1997

Today is the eighth day of 1997 and the 19th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1815, American forces defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

On this day in 1959, Charles De Gaulle was inaugurated the first president of France's Fifth Republic.

On this day in 1992, President George Bush became ill during a state dinner with the Japanese prime minister.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Carroll (1735-1815), clergyman; Jose Ferrer (1912-1992), actor; Soupy Sales (1926-), comedian, is 71; Bill Graham (1931-1991), rock music entrepreneur; Elvis Presley (1935-1977), singer; Shirley Bassey (1937-), singer, is 60; David Bowie (1947-), musician, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1962, Jack Nicklaus completed play in his first professional golf tournament.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Love me tender, love me sweet / Never let me go." — Elvis Presley

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1979, the temperature in Moscow, Russia, reached an extraordinarily nippy 49 below zero.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day before new moon.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-08-97
♠ J 10 8 7
♥ 4 3
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ K Q 2

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

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

South
♠ A K Q 9 4 3
♥ K 5
♦ A K 4 3
♣ 4

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ J

It needed a careful start

By Phillip Alder

In his inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1949, Harry S. Truman said, "We must embark on a bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas." Have we succeeded, do you think?

In bridge, if everyone thought a little harder, concentrated better, the standard of play would go even higher than it has in recent years.

How would you try to bring home four spades on this deal after West has led the club jack?

South's opening bid was strong, artificial and forcing.

Declarer covered West's club jack with dummy's queen. East made no mistake, winning with the ace and switching to the heart 10. The defenders took two heart tricks before exiting with a club. South ran his trumps, but he was only delaying the evil moment. He had to lose the last trick to East's diamond queen: one down.

"That was unlucky," commented South. "Both aces were offside."

"Did you think West might underlead the club ace?" asked North.

"Of course not, but so what?"

"Embark by playing low from the dummy at trick one. If East overtakes with the ace to switch to hearts, both your diamond losers disappear on the king-queen of clubs. And if he plays low, you can ruff out his ace, discard one heart on the other club honor, and restrict your losses to one trick in each side suit."

"Gulp."

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal building; guest artist, Tony Brown from Abilene; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Noah Project Advisory Committee; MAWC; noon.

LLL Club; fellowship First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

Ministerial Alliance; community room of Snyder Savings and Loan; 7 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

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

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving, community room of Snyder Savings and Loan, 27th and College; for information, call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

JANUARY CLEARANCE



Cottage Lane Loveseat
$229
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SAVE $700 Reg. $1389
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Cash & Carry

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Reg. $59. In Box



Oak & Brass Blanket Rack
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Reg. $149, In Box

Men's Oak Valet Reg. $199 In Box $99
4 Pc. Lamp Set 2 Table Lamps, 1 Floor Lamp, 1 Desk Lamp
Reg. $159, In Box $99

Dining Room Specials!



Universal Table & 6 Chairs
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Oak 1/2 China Cabinet With Cup Holders
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Tell City Oak 52" Dining Table
Reg. $2549 ..... Sale $1799
Broyhill Kitchen Table Oak & White
w/2 Benches, Reg. $837,
Cash & Carry ..... Sale $399
Douglas Table & 4 Chairs
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Sleeper Special!

Riverside Green Floral Sleeper
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Reg. $829

Chair Specials!

Best Swivel Rockers
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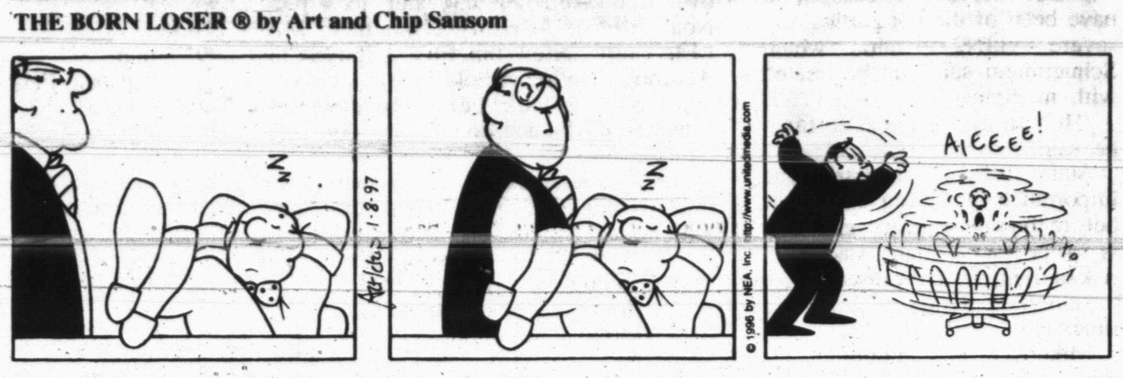
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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



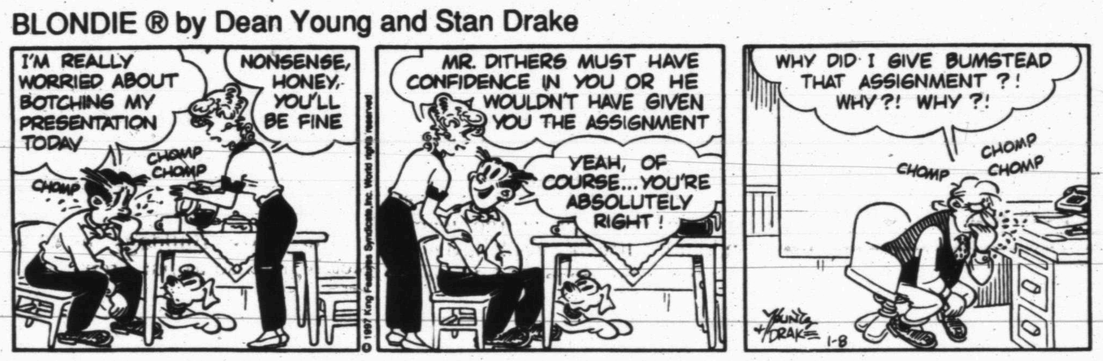
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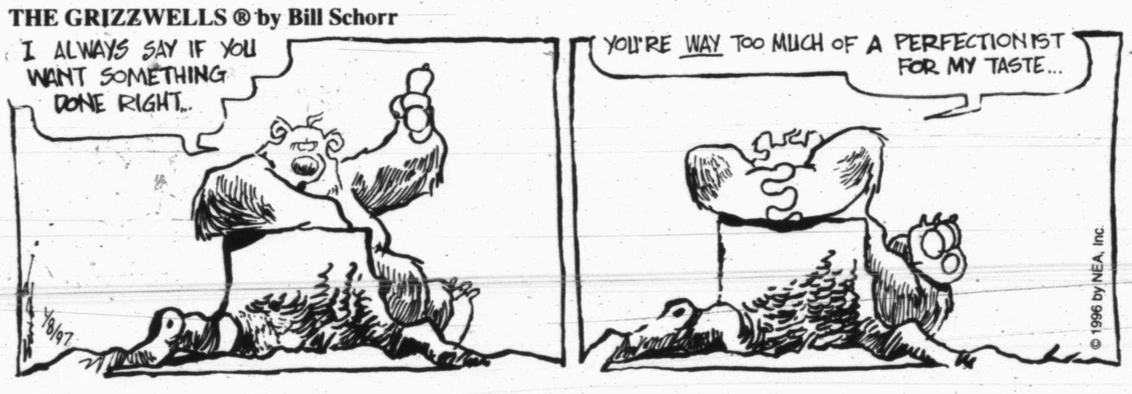
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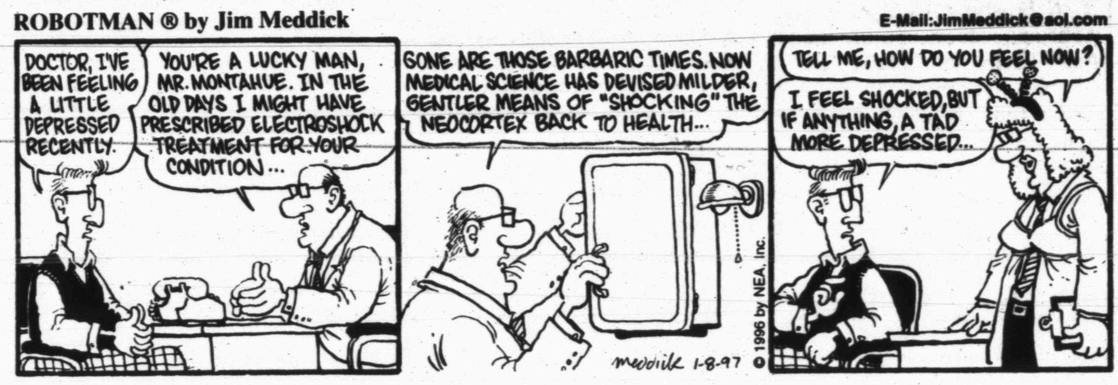


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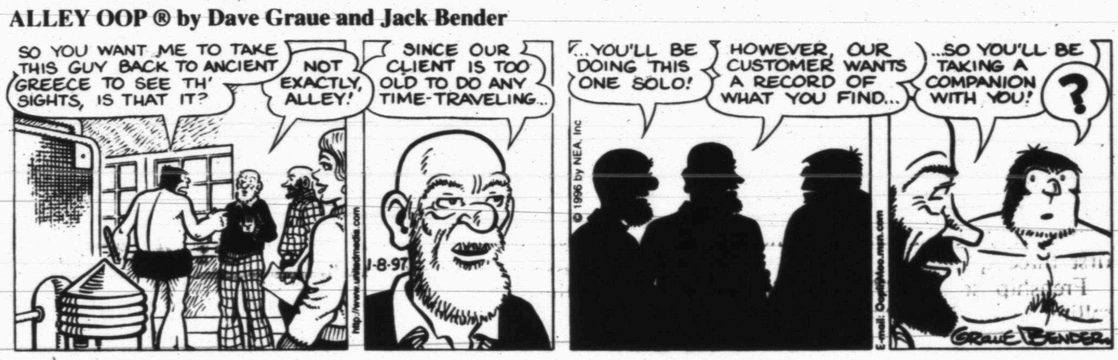


ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



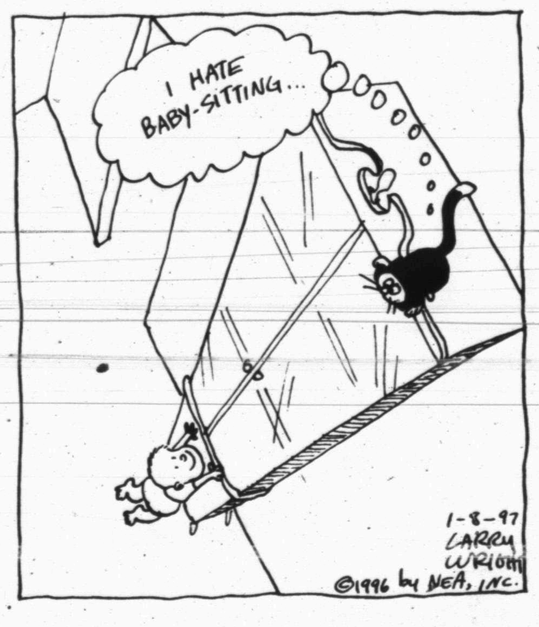
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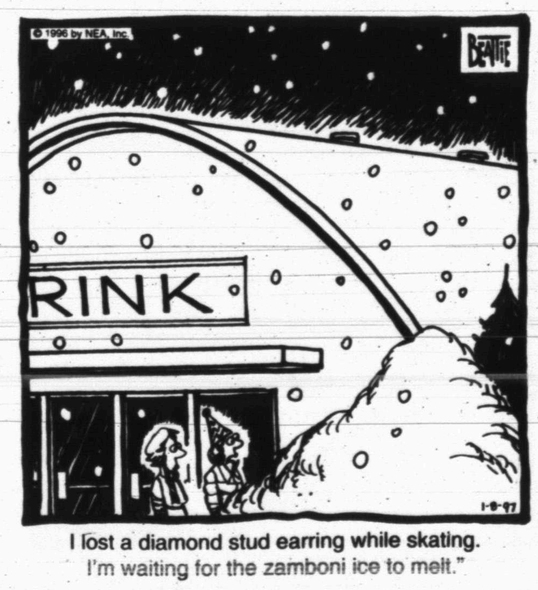
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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie



I lost a diamond stud earring while skating.
I'm waiting for the zamboni ice to melt."



"HOW COME YOU'RE MAD AT *ME*? I'M NOT THE ONE WHO LOST YOUR TEMPER!"



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Inheritors
6 Hair dye
11 Bearlike
13 Ceremonial act
14 File —
15 Saudi —
16 Drug agcy.
17 Cairo's country
19 Sandwich type (abbr.)
20 Cravings
22 Alley —
23 To the sheltered side
24 June 6, 1944
26 Made a head movement
28 Police officer
30 Sleep stage
31 Can. prov.
32 Mai — (cocktail)
33 Not singular
36 Let fall
39 Tennis pro Nastase
40 Capture
42 Canyon sound
44 Doily
45 East wind deity
47 Type of cross
48 Shocked
50 Sumptuous meal
52 Visitors
53 Actress Luise —
54 Weird
55 Singer Della —

DOWN

1 Touchy
2 Wore away
3 Nantucket, e.g.
4 Disencumber
5 Large knife
6 Musician Al —
7 Airline info
8 Small knob
9 Tacked
10 Having wings
12 Therefore
13 Harmonious relation
18 Over there
21 Infant's garment
23 Esteem
25 Possessive pronoun
27 Not working, like a battery
29 Southern crop
33 Contagious disease
34 More supple
35 Guardian spirit
37 — rating (of gasoline)
38 Stages
39 Likeness
41 Actor Raymond —
43 Bizarre
45 Ancient Italian family
46 Scorch
49 As far — — know
51 Apple —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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E	R	E		K	E	A	T	S		Y	E	N

STUMPED? Call for Answers ● Touch- tone or Rotary Phones 95¢ per minute● 1-900-454-3535 ext. code 100



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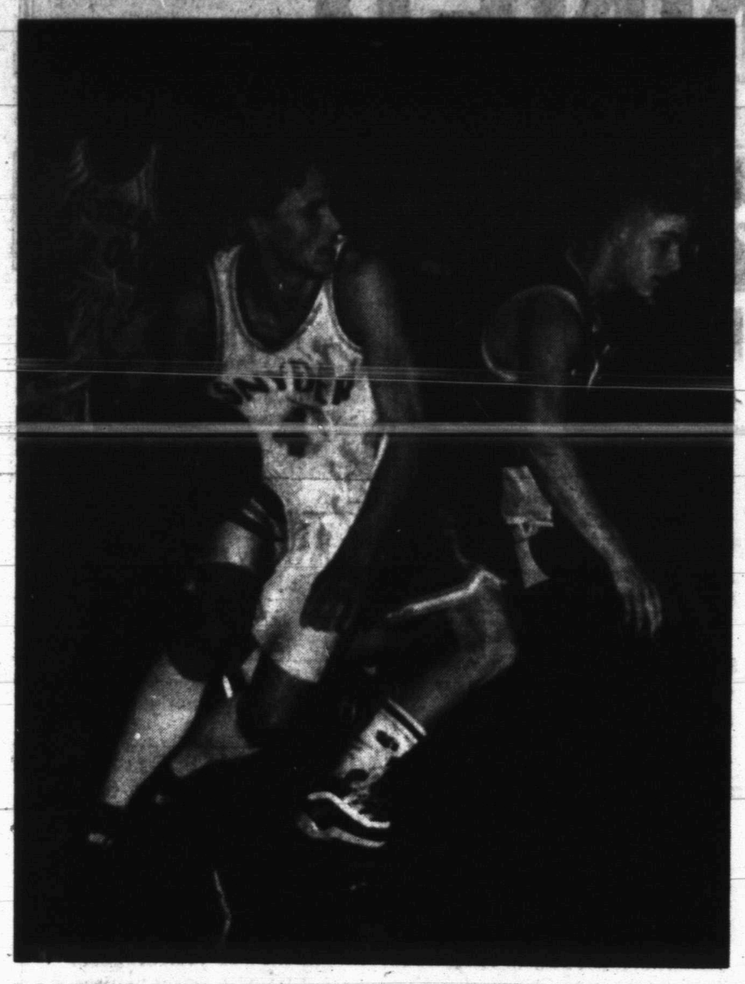
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Team
Levelland
Frenship
Plainview
Snyder
Lamesa
Estacado

Tuesday's
29; Levelland
Estacado 46.
Friday's
Lamesa at Pla

SPORTS



LOOKING FOR OPENING — Snyder senior Rick Henderson looks for an opening during the Tigers' District 2-4A opener with Frenship Tuesday night. Henderson bagged 18 points in the Tigers' 54-28 victory. Shown in background is Matthew Fambro (20). The Tigers face Estacado in Lubbock Friday night. (SDN Staff Photo)

Tigers win 54-28...

Stout defense buries Frenship

Strong defense can't always win games, but superior defensive play combined with unselfish offense can produce a winner.

It did Tuesday night in the SHS Gym as the Snyder Tigers rolled to an impressive 54-28 victory over Frenship.

Snyder not only controlled the boards, but impressive blocks by Jimmy Taylor, Matthew Fambro and Rick Henderson brought Snyder fans to their feet.

"We got after them," beamed Coach Bud Birks. "The key was the defense. We played our kind of game, keeping the pressure on."

A week's worth of practice also showed up Tuesday night, as good passes and assists for inside shots propelled the Snyder offense. "We worked hard on that aspect of the game," Birks added. "We worked on getting the ball inside and then kicking it out to wait for the right shot. I was really pleased with our shot selection, we didn't take many bad shots."

The Tigers, now 1-0 in district play and 15-8 for the season, hit 43 percent from the floor

Senior Rick Henderson canned 18 points, including three from the three-point range. Good inside shooting by Fambro and Chris Riggins also played a major role with Fambro hitting for 12 points while Riggins canned 11. Taylor was held to five points, but his defensive effort was major.

The game started slowly with Fambro tying the score at 2-2 with 5:11 remaining in the first quarter. Back-to-back treys by Ramsey Castillo and Henderson ignited the Snyder offense, giving the Tigers an 8-2 lead with 3:28 left. Henderson, fouled while shooting, hit his second free shot. Taylor made a steal and fed to Riggins for two and Snyder led 11-4 after eight minutes.

Snyder produced 18 points in the second period. Back-to-back steals and a Taylor block set up scores by Riggins and Henderson. Riggins picked up another inside bucket just before Taylor performed a coast-to-coast dunk to give the hosts a 20-8 lead with 4:11 remaining.

Henderson followed with a pair of treys, and Snyder enjoyed a 29-10 advantage at intermission.

Each team scored 12 points in the third stanza, but with 4:55 remaining in the game, Snyder had upped its lead to 25 points on buckets by Henderson, Chad Carter and Riggins. A basket by Riggins and a pair by Fambro, followed by a Geff Loper free shot put Snyder up by 30 with 1:34 remaining.

Castillo and Taylor finished the night with five points each while Carter put in two and Loper added one. For Frenship, Juan Walker led the scoring with nine and Duite Welch was held to eight.

Snyder travels to Lubbock Friday for a District 2-4A battle with Estacado set for 8 p.m.

In other district games Tuesday night, Estacado downed Plainview 66-49 while Levelland upended Lamesa, 51-45.

In the junior varsity game, Snyder popped Frenship 42-31.

Leading by two at the half, Snyder scored 14 points in the final two periods while holding the visitors to seven and 10.

Jake Hodges paced the Snyder scoring with 11 points. Jeff Knowles put in eight while Ian Hobbs had seven and Cory Mandrell six. Brock Durham contributed five while Sam Bedell had three and Tyler Warren added two.

For Frenship, Dustin Peters hit for 10 points and Joel Swan put in eight.

Boys basketball 2-4A Glance

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Snyder	1	0	15	8
Estacado	1	0	10	12
Levelland	1	0	9	15
Lamesa	0	1	16	5
Frenship	0	1	11	11
Plainview	0	1	10	11

Tuesday's Results: Snyder 54, Frenship 28; Estacado 66, Plainview 49; Levelland 51, Lamesa 45.

Friday's Games: Snyder at Estacado; Lamesa at Plainview; Levelland at Frenship.

Green Bay enjoys cold weather edge

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — After watching Carolina beat Dallas on a 65-degree night, Gilbert Brown, Green Bay's 325-pound nose tackle, was glad he doesn't have to leave frigid Lambeau Field for Sunday's NFC title game.

Brown is one of the few Packers on record as actually liking cold weather. He figures the fatigue factor is less.

But what about things like frostbite?

"You can deal with that," Brown insisted. "But you can't turn the heat down."

More important, tight end Mark Chmura said, it's hard for opponents to simulate Wisconsin's icy weather.

"You can prepare for warm weather, you go inside and crank up the heat," he said. "When it's cold, you can't find a meat locker big enough to prepare."

Coach Mike Holmgren, who is holding practices at the team's indoor facility this week, just as he has every day since Nov. 1, agreed there's really no way for opponents to prepare for the chill that greets them in Green Bay.

"There is no way to simulate that sensation," he said.

And there's not many ways to deal with it, either, defensive end Sean Jones said. Sit by the heaters, gulp hot liquids, wear special clothing, it doesn't matter.

"Cold is cold," Jones said. "You can't escape it, no matter what anyone tells you. People do all this stuff, come out there with no sleeves on and all this other macho stuff.

"But I think mentally, people handle it differently," Jones added. "And I just believe it's just three hours out of your life and if wearing that gold on your finger is real important to you, then I can handle it for three hours."

Center Frank Winters couldn't believe it when he watched the Panthers (13-4) beat Dallas in short sleeves and sunshine on Sunday.

"It was 65 degrees," Winters said. "And they were sitting on heated benches!"

Which explains some of the wicked chortles in the Packers' locker room.

"I want cold Sunday," split end Antonio Freeman said. "I want chest-burning type of cold Sunday."

Coming right up.

The long-range forecast for Sunday's NFC championship at Lambeau Field calls for a temperature of 10 degrees at kickoff, with a wind-chill below zero and a 30-percent chance of snow.

The Packers (14-3) have won all 10 of their home playoff games in franchise history, including the fabled "Ice Bowl," against the Dallas Cowboys on Dec. 31, 1967, considered the coldest game ever played in the NFL.

Ira splits with Trent

The Lady Bulldogs used a steady defense to put Trent away while the men came up short after a late fourth-quarter run.

Defense wins games, and the Lady Bulldogs proved this with a 31-23 victory over Trent. Using a stifling half-court press and an unrelenting defense, the Lady Bulldogs were able to keep Trent out of the game.

Ira's Terri Robinson led all scorers with 16 followed, by Lisha Leatherwood who knocked down 3 from beyond the arc to end with 9. Rikki Wilkes, Brook Wilkes, and Jamee Goolsby all pitched in with 2 points each.

The men did not fare as well. Down 31-38 in the fourth, the Bulldogs scored 8 unanswered points to go ahead 41-38. But late in the fourth quarter, Trent's Christenson drove the lane and scored with only 19 seconds left to put Trent up 44-43 to stay.

Ira's leading scorer was Richard Wilkins with 13, followed by Logan Daves with 12. Drew Wall pitched in 8 while Jose Juarez added 6 and Jerek Brown 4.

The Ira men and women will continue their season Friday when they travel to Rule.

Frenship destroys Lady Tigers, 77-29

Seven was Snyder's unlucky number.

Played on the 7th day of the new year, the Lady Tigers committed seven first-quarter turnovers and scored only seven points in the first three quarters.

Frenship scored 77 points in rolling to a 77-29 District 2-4A victory over Snyder here Tuesday night.

Frenship, now 2-1 in conference play and 17-9 for the season, showed Tiger Gym fans why it had been ranked as high as No.5 in the state this year.

Snyder falls to 1-2 in league action and has a 13-9 season ledger. The Snyder Tigers travel to Estacado Friday for a 6 p.m. contest. The Lady Mats fell to Plainview 67-46 Tuesday night. In another district game, Levelland remained undefeated with a 46-18 victory over Lamesa.

The game was out of reach by the end of the first stanza as Frenship's press produced turnovers by Snyder which combined with strong inside play, putting the visitors out front 25-7 after one quarter.

Snyder's offense could muster only two points, a bucket by Shannon Hall, in the first six minutes. Tiffany Garza sank a free throw at the 1:48 mark which was followed by field goals by Darla Blackwell and Jamie Burleson.

Frenship's effective full-court press continued to rattle the Lady Tigers in the second period, allowing Frenship to up its advantage to 47-14 by intermission.

Senior Erica Garvin, normally the top point producer for the Lady Tigers, was held scoreless in the first half and managed only a free shot each in the third and fourth periods.

The Lady Tigers picked up seven more tallies in the third quarter, but Frenship kept the pressure on and added 17 to increase its lead to 64-21 with eight minutes left to play.

In the fourth-quarter, Frenship pulled its starters, but only temporarily. The senior-dominated visitors still put in 13 points while Snyder could post only eight.

Blackwell, Garza and Brooke McGuire each tossed in five points for the Lady Tigers. Blackwell's total included a three-pointer with six seconds remaining in the game.

Mandy Hess picked up four points while Alicia Peoples, Garvin, Leslie Daniell and Burleson each contributed two.

For Frenship, Natalee Wilson led the scoring with 19 points — seven field goals and five from the charity line. Connie Beyer put in 14 points while Jennifer Hardy scored 11.

The JV Lady Tigers fell to Frenship with a final score of 68-20. Lexi Beard led the Lady Tigers with 9 points while Felsha Biggers contributed 5.

NBA at glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
NewYork	24	9	.727	-
Miami	24	9	.727	-
Washington	16	15	.516	7
Orlando	12	17	.414	10
NewJersey	9	21	.300	13½
Philadelphia	8	24	.250	15½
Boston	7	23	.233	15¼
Central Division				
Chicago	29	4	.879	-
Detroit	24	8	.750	4½
Cleveland	21	11	.656	7½
Atlanta	19	11	.633	8¼
Charlotte	18	14	.563	10¼
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	12½
Indiana	15	16	.484	13
Toronto	10	22	.313	18¼
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Houston	25	8	.758	-
Utah	23	9	.719	1½
Minnesota	14	19	.424	11
Dallas	10	20	.333	13½
SanAntonio	9	22	.290	15
Denver	9	23	.281	15½
Vancouver	6	27	.182	19
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	25	10	.714	-
Seattle	24	11	.686	1
Portland	19	15	.559	5½
L.A.Clippers	14	19	.424	10
Sacramento	14	21	.400	11
GoldenState	12	19	.387	11
Phoenix	10	23	.303	14

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Clippers 87, Toronto 80
New York 102, Dallas 72
New Jersey 90, San Antonio 74
Orlando 109, Philadelphia 88
Atlanta 105, Phoenix 103, OT
Milwaukee 86, Detroit 76
Indiana 95, Cleveland 90
Houston 104, Minnesota 95
Seattle 94, Miami 85
Denver 109, Sacramento 96

Wednesday's Games
San Antonio at Boston, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 8 p.m.
Utah at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Utah at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Girls basketball 2-4A Glance

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Levelland	3	0	19	12
Frenship	2	1	16	9
Plainview	2	1	17	6
Snyder	1	2	13	9
Lamesa	1	2	8	10
Estacado	0	3	2	18

Tuesday's Results: Frenship 77, Snyder 29; Levelland 46, Lamesa 18; Plainview 67, Estacado 46.

Friday's Games: Snyder at Estacado; Lamesa at Plainview; Levelland at Frenship.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rockets: just a win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It wasn't a pretty game for the Houston Rockets, not even a pretty fourth-quarter rally. It was just a win, and that's all they really needed, anyway.

After losing two straight at home against teams they should have beaten, the Rockets started a four-game road trip with three sloppy quarters Tuesday night before sealing their 104-95 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves at the foul line.

Houston hit 17 of 19 at the line in the final period, while the Wolves got only two attempts as they saw their four-game Target Center winning streak end.

"We've been on a slide lately, so this was a big win for us," Charles Barkley said. "We made some good plays down the stretch. We don't care about playing bad at certain times. They only thing that matters is how you finish up."

Houston finished efficiently, with Clyde Drexler scoring 11 of his season-high 37 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets erased a 75-67 deficit. Hakeem Olajuwon also overcame a poor shooting performance to score 14 of his 22 points in the final period.

Knicks stomp Mavericks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks were flirting with 57 points — the lowest point total in the NBA record book. Only a 30-point fourth quarter saved them from basketball infamy.

The Mavericks, who have a franchise history filled with low moments, played one of their worst games in a 102-72 loss to the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

"At the end of the third quarter I told the guys we needed points," backup center Greg Dreiling said. "I said we better get enough to avoid the dang record. I wanted the guys to know you don't want to be in the record books for that."

Dreiling also saved the Mavs from breaking the franchise record-low of 68 points when, in the final 32 seconds, he made a putback and the third 3-pointer of his 10-year career.

"I didn't know about the team record, but I didn't want any part of that other record," Dreiling said. "I was already part of a 13-win season in Dallas. That was enough for me."

John Starks led the Knicks with 21 points, Patrick Ewing had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks in 29 minutes, and Allan Houston had 14 points.

It was the 11th straight home win for the Knicks, who had their largest victory margin of the season despite being without starters Chris Childs (back spasms) and Larry Johnson (hamstring).

Injured Spurs fall, 90-74

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — With everything around him crumbling, San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich is trying to rally the few remaining players he has left.

With David Robinson, Chuck Person, Charles Smith, Dominique Wilkins, Vinny Del Negro and Sean Elliott all sidelined with injuries, the Spurs are missing players who have scored 75,302 points in 3,979 NBA games.

The eight players the Spurs dressed for their 90-74 loss to the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night had scored just 23,467 in 2,862 NBA games.

After the Nets snapped a three-game losing streak behind Jayson Williams' 19 points and 16 rebounds, Popovich heard more bad news.

Forward Monty Williams, who scored 16 points against the Nets despite being slowed by a strained stomach muscle, might have a separated shoulder after being fouled by the Nets' Shawn Bradley.

NFL playoffs

By The Associated Press

Wild Cards
Saturday, Dec. 28
Jacksonville 30, Buffalo 27
Dallas 40, Minnesota 15
Sunday, Dec. 29
Pittsburgh 42, Indianapolis 14
San Francisco 14, Philadelphia 0
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday's Games
Green Bay 35, San Francisco 14
Jacksonville 30, Denver 27
Sunday's Games
New England 28, Pittsburgh 3
Carolina 26, Dallas 17
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 12
Carolina at Green Bay, 11:30 a.m. (FOX)
Jacksonville at New England, 3 p.m. (NBC)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At New Orleans
Carolina-Green Bay winner vs. Jacksonville-New England winner, 5:18 p.m. (FOX)
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ABC)

College scores

By The Associated Press

EAST
Boston College 94, Syracuse 83
Drexel 102, Towson St. 72
Georgetown 70, Notre Dame 57
Hartford 76, Maine 53
Hofstra 81, Delaware 70
Rhode Island 79, Temple 72, OT
Vermont 77, New Hampshire 65
SOUTH
Clemson 86, Duke 82, OT
Delaware St. 67, Md.-E. Shore 60
Hampton U. 78, S. Carolina St. 58
Kentucky 90, Mississippi St. 61
Liberty 80, Montreat-Anderson 52
Memphis 60, South Florida 59
N. Carolina St. 75, Texas-Pan American 25
MIDWEST
Colorado 87, Missouri 78
Dayton 98, Xavier, Ohio 91
Evansville 80, S. Illinois 75
Iowa 59, Purdue 56
Marquette 67, Iowa St. 64
Wichita St. 64, Bradley 59, OT
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 69, Portland St. 61

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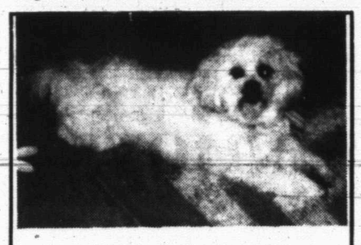
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Study: no shortage of drunken drivers

CHICAGO (AP) — Americans drove after drinking too much nearly 123 million times in 1993, according to a phone survey conducted by researchers who say they may still be underestimating the extent of drunken driving.

And nearly one of every 12 instances involved a driver under age 21 — too young to drink legally in any state, the researchers reported in today's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

The findings come from a telephone survey of 102,000 adults age 18 and older, 2.5 percent of whom admitted they had driven "after having had perhaps too much to drink" on one or more occasions within the previous month. The study is the first estimate of the extent of drunken driving, the researchers believe.

The researchers multiplied the number of occasions reported each month by 12 to get an estimate of approximately 123 million for the year. They then divided that number by 8,760 to determine that Americans got behind the wheel after drinking too much an average of 14,000 times an hour.

The prevalence of alcohol-impaired driving was 82 times higher than the 1993 arrest rate for driving under the influence, according to FBI arrest data.

And it probably underestimates the true extent of alcohol-impaired driving, researchers said. Though respondents remained anonymous, the social stigma associated with driving drunk probably prompted them to underreport the number of episodes, researchers said.

Also, since the survey required subjective judgments about their own impairment, many respondents — especially heavy drinkers — may have denied that alcohol hurt their driving, researchers said.

And the study excluded teens under 18, among whom alcohol-impaired driving has been shown to be "quite prevalent," the researchers said.

Still, 123 million episodes is a huge number, said Dr. Robert D. Brewer, a co-author of the report and a medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There's always a danger that people are going to just sort of throw up their hands and think, 'Well, what can we do about this? We've been working on this for a long time. Haven't we done anything?'" Brewer said. "In fact ... we really have made some progress."

Alcohol-related crash deaths have declined more than 30 percent since 1982, he said. But they still totaled some 17,000 in 1995.

Brewer and his team, led by Dr. Simin Liu, formerly of the CDC and now with Harvard School of Public Health, suggest more progress would result from stricter laws, better enforcement and increased effort by physicians to identify and treat alcoholics.

'Practice copy' of ransom note found in slain girl's home

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Part of a "practice" ransom note was discovered by police in the home of the 6-year-old beauty queen found strangled in her basement, according to newspaper reports.

The Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post, citing unnamed sources, also reported today that the author of the actual three-page handwritten ransom note — which demanded $118,000 in exchange for JonBenet Ramsey — appeared to try to disguise the handwriting at first.

But as the note goes on, the author appears to abandon any attempts to disguise his or her penmanship, the sources said.

The practice and actual notes were both written on paper taken from a legal pad found within the home, according to the reports. The sources did not provide more information about the practice note, part of which police discovered somewhere in the home.

JonBenet's body was found Dec. 26 in the basement of her family's expensive home about eight hours after her mother, Patricia Ramsey, says she discovered the ransom note in the house and summoned police.

The blond former Little Miss [illegible] was strangled and her skull fractured. JonBenet's killer placed duct tape over her mouth, a white cord around her neck and sexually assaulted her, Denver newspapers have reported.

Meanwhile, Boulder police searching the Charlevoix, Mich., vacation home of Mrs. Ramsey and her husband, John Ramsey, looked for evidence of threats against the family, Denver television station KUSA reported.

The search warrant allowed police to look for "any and all tapes from answering machines, any and all caller I.D. devices, evidence of threats to any member of the Ramsey family," and examine "mail, correspondence or other documentation from any person, group or faction."

Investigators have also interviewed relatives and friends in suburban Atlanta, where the Ramseys lived before moving to Boulder in 1991.

Boulder police on Tuesday also said they had removed a homicide detective from the team investigating the slaying of JonBenet.

City spokesman Kelvin McNeill would not say why the detective, Sgt. Larry Mason, was taken off the high-profile murder case. But authorities suggested he had strayed from the investigation's tight focus.

Meanwhile, a judge said the police's court-approved search warrant and affidavit to search the Ramsey home in Boulder would remain sealed for 30 more days.

The Ramseys have hired lawyers, a media consultant and their own detectives to investigate their daughter's death. They are offering a $50,000 reward.

The Ramseys were cooperating with investigators, who still were trying to set up face-to-face interviews with them, police spokeswoman Leslie Aaholm said Tuesday. The parents were allowed to answer some questions in writing.

Police have taken handwriting, blood and hair samples from family members and others.

"We have never contended that anyone is or is not a suspect," Aaholm said. "We are not ruling anyone out."

Heidi Fleiss given 37-month sentence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Before she was sentenced to 37 months in prison, Heidi Fleiss tearfully told a federal judge she was remorseful for cheating on her taxes, laundering call-girl profits and conspiring to hide her crimes.

"I wish I had the words to tell you how very sorry I am," Ms. Fleiss said Tuesday, sobbing. "I'm so sorry. I'm a different person now. I was young. I made terrible choices and mistakes."

U.S. District Judge Consuelo Marshall also ordered Ms. Fleiss to pay a $400 fine and an undisclosed amount on taxes, forfeit more than $550,000 from the sale of her Beverly Hills home, serve three years probation and 300 hours of community service, and attend a substance abuse program.

The defense had asked for a 2½-year sentence. Ms. Fleiss will be given credit for about four to five months she has already served at a drug rehabilitation center, her attorneys said.

"When you are released from custody, hopefully you'll do many of the things you've dreamed about," Marshall told Ms. Fleiss. "I believe you'll be a positive role model for other young women just by the experiences you've had."

Ms. Fleiss wept again as the sentence was read. Her father, who served one day in prison and paid a $50,000 fine for helping hide the call-girl profits, put his arm around a family member.

Ms. Fleiss was convicted in federal court in August 1995 on eight counts of conspiracy, income-tax evasion and money laundering.

In December 1994, Ms. Fleiss was convicted on state pandering charges and sentenced to three years in prison. But last May, the conviction was overturned by a state appeals court on grounds of juror misconduct.

Ms. Fleiss' attorney Anthony Brooklier told the Los Angeles Times that there is a "high likelihood" that his client will agree next week to a plea bargain in the state case. The deal would allow Ms. Fleiss to serve her state and federal sentences concurrently.

Prosecutors had claimed Ms. Fleiss laundered at least $300,000 in income from her sex business through her family's bank accounts and a $1.6 million Beverly Hills estate once owned by actor Michael Douglas.

Models-turned-prostitutes had recounted being sent around the globe to service Ms. Fleiss clients, sometimes earning $10,000 for a single assignment.

Several clients described how they would call Ms. Fleiss to arrange for sex, sometimes specifying what type of woman they wanted. Among those men was actor Charlie Sheen, who spent $53,000 in 1992.

Ms. Fleiss had been free on bail while awaiting sentencing on the federal charges. But she was ordered to undergo 90 days of drug treatment Oct. 1, 1996, after she admitted violating her bail by taking methamphetamines.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Ora Heath, 2409 28th; Karlvin Helms, Roscoe; Minnie Love, 1407 Scurry Ave.; Maria Martinez, 2005 Ave. N.

DISMISSALS: Rue Brem and baby boy, Anna Davis, Lee Massingill.

CENSUS: 55 (Med., Surg.-11, Long-term Care-39, CCU-3, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Births

Polo and Maria Martinez of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, weighing seven pounds, four ounces. She was born at 5:47 p.m. on Jan. 7 at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Shelby and Debbie Smith of Graham announce the birth of their daughter, Taylor Renea. She was born, weighing seven pounds, seven ounces, at 3:42 p.m. on Jan. 2 in Graham General Hospital.

Grandparents are Tom and Sharon Smith of Graham, formerly of Snyder, and Joe and Geneva Harris of Coleman. Paternal great-grandparents are C.J. Smith of Snyder and Betty Taylor of Des Moines, Iowa.

Markets

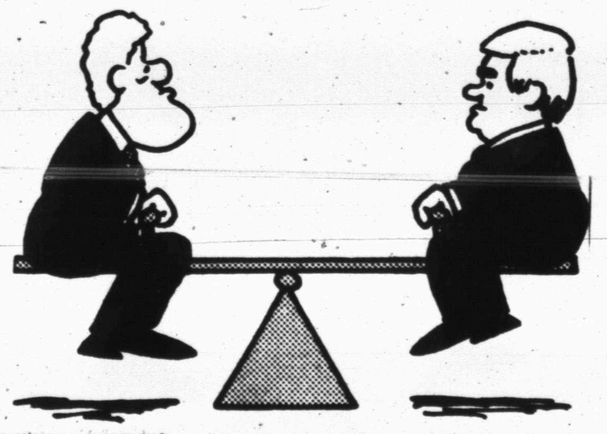
Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	87⅞	87	87⅛+	⅛
AT&T Corps	39	38½	38⅝—	¼
AirTouch	24⅛	24¼	24⅛+	⅛
Albertsons	36½	36⅛	36⅜—	½
AlldSignal	69⅛	68½	68⅞+	⅛
Alltel	31½	31⅛	31¼—	⅛
AmerOnline	35⅝	34⅛	35 —	⅛
AmStores	42⅛	41½	42 +	½
Ameritech	60	59¾	59⅝—	¼
Amoco		84	83⅝	83½
AndarkPtr		67	66½	66⅝
Armcolnc		4⅛	4¼	4⅛
AtlRichfld	134¼	132⅛	133	—1⅝
ATMOS Egy		23½	23⅜	23⅜
Aviall		9⅛	9½	9⅜+ ⅛
BakerHughes		36¼	35⅞	36⅛— ⅛
BellAtl			65⅛	64½ 64⅝
BellSouth		40⅛	39⅝	39⅝— ⅛
BethSteel			9⅛	8⅞ 9
BritPet		141⅛	140⅞	140⅝— ⅛
BurlNoSFe		87⅞	86⅛	86⅝— ½
Caterpillar		76¼	75⅞	76½+ ⅛
CenSoWst		25¼	25⅛	25⅛+ ⅛
Chevron		68⅛	67	67⅛— ⅛
Chrysler s		35¾	35⅛	35½— ⅛
Coastal		50	49⅝	50 +1
CocaColas		54⅛	53⅝	53⅝— ⅛
ColgatePalm		91⅛	90⅝	91 — ⅛
ConclMetals			28⅛	28⅛ 28⅛
CooperIn		42	41¾	41⅞+ ⅜
CyprusAmax		23⅜	23⅛	23⅜+ ⅛
DallSemicn		23⅛	23	23⅛+ ⅛
DeltaAirl		72⅜	71⅞	72⅛+ ⅛
DigitalEq		38	37⅛	37⅜+ ⅛
Dillard		30⅞	30¼	30½+ ⅛
DowChem			81⅛	81⅝ 81⅝
DresserInd		33¼	32⅝	33 — ⅛
DuPont		102⅜	101¼	101¾+1¼
EastmanChem		56⅛	55⅝	55⅞+ ⅛
EstKodak		82⅛	81⅛	81⅛+ ⅛
EDS Corp		46⅝	46⅜	46½+ ⅛
EljerInd			23⅛	23¼ 23¼
Enserch		22⅜	22¼	22⅛+ ⅛
Entergy		28⅜	28	28⅛+ ⅛
Exxon		100⅞	100	100⅛+ ⅛
Flowers		22⅜	22	22⅛+ ⅛
FordMotor		34⅛	33⅜	34 + ⅛
GTE Cp		44⅛	43⅜	43⅞— ⅛
GenDynam		70	69⅝	69⅞— ⅛
GenElec		101⅞	100⅛	100⅞— ⅛
GenMills		64⅛	64	64 — ⅛
GenMotors			59⅛	59⅛ 59⅛
GaPacif			75⅞	75⅝ 75⅝
GlobalMar		21⅛	21⅛	21¼— ⅛
Goodrichs		40	39¾	39¾— ⅛
[illegible]		52	51⅛	51⅜— ⅛
[illegible]		32¼	31⅜	32 + ⅜
Haliburtn		65⅞	64⅛	64½— ½
Hanson ADSs			7⅛	7⅛ 7⅛
HarteHanks		27	26⅛	27 +1
HoustonInds			22⅛	22⅜ 22⅜
IBM		164¼	161⅛	162⅜— ⅜
IntlPaper		42⅛	41½	41⅜— ⅛
JohnsnJn s		51⅛	51	51⅛+ ⅛
[illegible]				10⅜ 10⅜ ⅛
[illegible]		47¼	46⅝	46⅞— ¼

Litton	46¼	46	46⅛—	⅛
LockhdMart	92⅛	91⅛	91⅜—	⅛
Lowes Cos	33⅜	32¾	33⅛+	⅛
Lubys		20⅛	20	20
LucentTech n	47⅞	47¼	47⅜+	⅛
MayDeptStrs		45⅝	45⅛	45⅝
Medtronic	69⅝	68⅜	69½+	⅛
Mobil	127⅛	126⅛	126⅞+	⅛
Monsanto s	41	40⅝	40⅝+	⅛
Motorola	64	62⅞	63⅛+1⅛	
Nationsbk	102⅜	102	102⅛+3⅛	
Navistar		9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
NoramEngy		15⅛	15⅛	15½+ ⅛
Norwest		44⅜	44	44⅛+ ⅛
Nynex		48⅝	48⅛	48⅛— ⅛
QryxEngy		25⅛	24⅜	25⅛+ ⅛
PacTelesis			36⅜	36⅛ 36⅜
PanEnergy		44⅛	44⅛	44⅛— ⅛
Penney JC		49⅛	48⅛	48⅛+ ⅛
Pennzoil		59⅛	58⅝	58⅝— ⅛
PepBoys		29⅛	28⅝	29⅛+ ⅛
PepsiCo s		29⅜	29⅛	29⅛+ ⅛
PhelpDodge		72	71⅛	71⅛— ⅛
PhilipPet		44⅛	44⅛	44⅛— ⅛
PilgrmPrd			9⅜	9¼ 9¼
Polaroid		44⅛	44	44⅛+ ⅛
Praxair		45⅛	45	45⅛+ ⅛
ProctGamble		111⅞	110⅛	111 — ⅛
PubSNwMx		19⅛	18⅝	19 + ⅛
RoyalDutch		173¼	172¼	172⅝—1⅛
SBC Comm		51⅛	51⅛	51½+ ⅛
SaraLee		38	37⅝	37⅝— ⅛
SearsRoeb		46⅝	46⅛	46⅛— ⅛
SherwinW		55	54⅛	54⅛— ⅛
SmthBchADS		66⅜	66⅛	66⅛— ⅛
SouthernCo			23	22⅞ 22⅞
SwstAirlines		23	22⅝	22⅝+ ⅛
Sprint			39	38⅝ 38⅝
SunCo		24⅜	24⅛	24⅜— ⅛
TNP Ent		27⅜	27⅛	27⅛+ ⅛
Tandy		41⅞	41⅛	41⅛+ ⅛
TemplInl		55⅛	54⅝	54⅞— ⅛
Tenneco		44	43⅜	43⅝— ⅛
Texaco		102⅜	101	101⅛— ⅛
TexasInd		49	48⅝	49 + ⅛
TexasInst		68⅛	67⅜	68 — ⅛
TexUtil		41⅞	41⅛	41⅛+ ⅛
Textron		92⅛	92⅛	92⅝— ⅛
Travelers s		45⅛	44⅝	45⅛+ ⅛
TrinityInds		35⅛	35⅛	35⅛— ⅛
TritonEngy			48⅝	48⅝ 48⅝
US WestCm		33	32⅜	32⅛+ ⅛
USWstMda		18⅛	18⅛	18⅛— ⅛
USX Delhi		16⅛	16⅛	16¼— ⅛
USX-Marathn		25⅛	25⅛	25⅛+ ⅛
USX-USS		32	31⅛	31⅜— ⅛
UnCarbide				[illegible]
UnPac s				[illegible]
UnitedTech s		67	66⅛	66⅛— ⅛
Unocal		42⅛	41⅛	41⅜— ⅛
WalMart			24⅛	23⅞ 23⅞
WstnGasRs		20	19⅞	20 + ⅛
WestghEl		19⅛	18⅛	19⅛— ⅛
WinnDixie		32⅛	31⅛	32 + ⅛
Woolworth		20⅜	20⅛	20⅜— ⅛
[illegible]				[illegible]
Zenith		12⅛	11⅞	12 + ⅛

Berry's World



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ETHICAL PROBLEMS BALANCE

JAN 08 1997

Scurry County Country



Town & Country Topics

By Kathryn Roberts
County Extension Agent

We all face stress, whether it's from the death of a loved one, finances, a new marriage or just trying to cope with the day-to-day rigors of living. That stress is multiplied when you are a caregiver — to a child, elderly parent or ailing spouse.

We must be honest with ourselves and pay attention to our own needs.

When we meet our own needs, we are better able to give care to others and we become better persons all around.

Support from others is very helpful during times of crises. We also need support in our everyday lives — from co-workers, from friends and family — in helping us to be the best person we can be.

Stress comes from emotional and biological responses to events and experiences. These may include both those events that are good and those that are bad.

Stress is something we need to function well. It's only when stress becomes excessive that it's a hazard to our health.

In his book, "Mind as Healer, Mind as Slyer, Dr. Kenneth Pelletier said that stress affects everyone the same way, whether they're old or young or male or female. As teenagers, Pelletier said that people begin to accumulate the effects of psychological stress. By mid-life, they feel the toll it's taking and stress disorders result from this buildup.

It also is important to know the difference between injurious and non-injurious stress.

"Non-injurious stress occurs when someone knows what's causing the stress, can deal directly with the problem and feel a sigh of relief as things get back to normal.

Injurious stress is stress that is not under a person's control or that occurs when several stressful things happen at the same time.

Although we cannot control injurious stress, we must balance it with things which give us pleasure.

Keeping an eye on Texas



Upper Colorado SWCD Report

Women in Ag program set

The Women in Agriculture: Business Management Program was developed for farm and ranch wives working on or off the farm, as well as women who run their own farm and ranch business.

Its focus is on helping participants gain insights into and a broader understanding of the business management issues involved in running a farm or ranch operation.

A few of the topics to be covered include income tax management, personnel management, estate planning, business transfer issues, commodity marketing and agricultural policy.

The program is divided into three units, each involving two days of instruction. The units are designed to be taken in successive years.

The programs will be offered in two locations: College Station on Jan. 29-31, 1997 and in Lubbock on Feb. 19-21, 1997.

For information and a registration form, contact Danny Klinefelter or Tami Tesauro at 409-845-7171 or write to them at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, Blocker Building Room 458, College Station, Tex., 77843-2124.

The deadline for tree orders is Jan. 31. There is still time to get your orders in, however supplies are limited and some species are selling fast. Don't forget that we also offer wildlife packets. Each packet contains 25 each of four tree/shrub species for a total of 100 seedlings. Packets are available for quail and pheasant, deer, wild turkey and squirrel. Cost for each packet is $65.

Afghanistan pine

The Afghanistan pine is a fast growing evergreen that can grow 3-4 feet per year. It should average 30 to 35 feet in height at maturity. Despite its height, it has a high degree of wind firmness.

The Afghanistan Pine is drought tolerant, and well adapted to alkali soils found in this area. It retains its ground-level branches, and has medium to dark green needles 4-6" long. The Afghanistan pine is susceptible to the pine-tip moth, but a good scouting and pest management program can prevent damage to your trees.

Remember, protection from both wildlife and livestock is just as important as watering and removal of weed competition for survival of your young trees and seedlings.

Prices for evergreen seedlings are $1.95 each, and 95 cents each for hardwood seedlings.

For more information about the Afghanistan pine or any of the other varieties, call or come by the Upper Colorado Soil & Water Conservation District Office. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA Office Complex atg 5309 Big Spring Hwy., and the phone number is 195-573-6317 or 6318.

Farm loans for drought now accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Rotan, said Donald W. Cradduck.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until June 30, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Cradduck said.

The FSA office in Rotan is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cotton conferences set for South Plains

LUBBOCK — Area cotton producers and those in allied industries will have several opportunities in January to get the lastest information on cotton production and marketing as well as state and federal farm legislation at a series of regional conferences to be conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Information from the Beltwide Cotton Conferences in New Orleans Jan. 6-10 and information tailored to the specific growing areas of the South Plains will be featured at each of the regional conferences, said Dr. Bob Robinson, district Extension director for agriculture.

Conference dates and locations are:

Jan. 14 — Llano Estacado Cotton Conference, ag pavilion, Olton;

Jan. 14-15 — Caprock Cotton Conference, Plains Baptist Assemnbly, just south of Floydada on U.S. Hwy. 62;

Jan. 16 — West Plains Cotton Conference, Women's Building, fair grounds, Levelland;

Jan. 20 — Southern Mesa Cotton Conference, Dawson County Annex Building, Lamesa;

Jan. 22-23 — Ag Issues Conference, Coliseum, South Plains Fair Grounds; Lubbock.

A sixth conference for producers in Gaines and Yoakum counties is planned for Feb. 18 in Seminole.

Detailed information about the conferences is available from local county offices of the Extension Service.

Nonpoint Source seminar scheduled

LUBBOCK — Concerned farmers, ranchers and landowners trying to determine the conservation practices which best protect the state's water supply while benefitting their agricultural operations can get help at a nonpoint source (NPS) pollution conference here Jan. 16.

The South Plains Agricultural Nonpoint Source Conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Koko Palace, Avenue Q at 50th Street. It will examine the roles of producers and landowners in protecting their natural resources and meeting state water quality regulations without jeopardizing management objectives.

The conference has been approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for 4.5 continuing education units to maintain certification for applicators of restricted use pesticides.

The cost of the conference, $15 for those who register before Jan. 8 and $25 after that, includes lunch. Registration forms are available from Charley Rodgers, regional manager of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Hale Center, telephone 806-839-1030; and from local offices of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Keynote speaker will be John Baker of Austin, a member of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). Mark Smith, Texas House Speaker Pete Laney's special assistant for natural resources of agriculture, will discuss statewide water quality issues.

Water quality management plans will be explained by Beade Northcut, TSSWCB, Temple. The state's plan to to prevent pesticide contamination of ground water will be presented by Steve Musick, TNRCC, Austin. Water quality monitoring will be discussed by Wayne Wyatt, manager of High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1.

Playa basin management and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319(h) Program will be explained by Dr. Brent Auvermann, assistant professor and environmental systems specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Amarillo. Proper handling of agricultural waste will be discussed by Dr. John Sweeten, resident director of research, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Amarillo.

Use of low energy precision application (LEPA) irrigation systems will be explained by Dr. William Lyle, retired professor of agricultural engineering with the Experiment Station, Lubbock. Dr. Wayne Keeling, Experiment Station associate professor of weed science and systems agronomist at Lubbock, will discuss use of conservation tillage.

Range operation and the federal Conservation Reserve Program will be covered by John Hunter, associate professor of range and wildlife management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock. Kathy Christensen, farm and wastewater manager for Excell Corporation, Plainview, will join several area agricultural producers in a panel discussion of natural resource issues.

The conference is sponsored by TSWCCB, NRCS-USDA, the Extension Service, Experiment Station, Texas Tech, TDA, Lubbock County Extension Service, Lubbock County Soil and Water Conservation District, High Plains Underground Water District, Plains Cotton Growers, West Texas Ag Chemicals Institute, U.S. EPA Section 319(h) Program and Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

Colorado City Livestock Auction

COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 648 head of cattle at the Saturday, Jan. 4 sale. Plainer cattle were $1 higher. All choice quality steers and heifers were mostly $2 higher. Yearling steers and heifers were $2 higher, spots were $3 higher on the choice kind. Packer cows were steady to $1 higher. Cows and calves were steady. Bred cows were steady — spots $20 higher and in good demand.

Heifers: 200 to 400, 50 to 68; 400 to 600, 50 to 61.50; 600 to 800, 47 to 59.
Steers: 200 to 400, 65 to 83.50; 400 to 500, 65 to 76; 500 to 600, 60 to 68; 600 to 800, 60 to 67.
Fleshy bull calves: 400 to 500 55 to 65; 500 to 600 54 to 64; 600 to 800 50 to 58.
Young bred cows 410 to 510.
Medium age to older bred cows: 325 to 450
Young cows and calves: 450 to 620.
Medium age to older cows & calves: 325 to 440.
Packer cows: 24 to 34.75.
Packer bulls: 32 to 44.50.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Ethics panel eyes Gingrich punishment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House ethics committee today began the process of deciding whether to punish Speaker Newt Gingrich, meeting for the first time since he confessed to ethical wrongdoing that he said had discredited the House.

The committee met behind closed doors to hear from its outside counsel and prepare for a public hearing a day after Gingrich was re-elected speaker despite the panel's unfinished business.

Until now, Gingrich was investigated by a four-member subcommittee and counsel James Cole. Today's meeting was the first opportunity for the other six ethics committee members to question the investigators.

Gingrich had little time to rejoice over his re-election. His victory was tempered by the upcoming public airing of his misdeeds and a likely House vote to rebuke him.

There was high drama at Tuesday's opening of the 105th Congress. It included a climactic, hour-long roll call vote, an acceptance speech punctuated with apologies and a nasty partisan spat over when the ethics case against Gingrich would end.

Hours after his victory, Gingrich was asked whether he could be sure that no more damaging information would be revealed in his ethics case.

"Of course not," he told a reporter, adding "I can't predict" what the committee's outside counsel would do.

The partisan fight came over a request by Cole for more time to complete his work. That would have necessitated an extension beyond the Jan. 21 date the ethics committee has set for wrapping up the case.

Democrats on the ethics committee moved to change Republican-proposed rules to accommodate Cole, but Republicans refused.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a member of the ethics investigative subcommittee, said, "I thought I would never see the day when the chairman of the ethics committee would come down to the floor and turn down the request of the special counsel ... for a couple of extra weeks to complete the case."

The subcommittee, two Republicans and two Democrats, unanimously backed the extension. But ethics Chairwoman Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., said the Republican leadership wanted no more changes in the schedule. She did say a vote on penalties, the final action in the case, likely would be held Jan. 21.

Committee Democrats accused Republicans of seeking a vote on Jan. 20, when President Clinton will be inaugurated on the West steps of the Capitol.

Obituaries

Inez E. Massey

1910-1997

MIDLAND — Service is set for 9:30 a.m. Thursday in the chapel of Ellis Funeral Home for Inez E. Massey. Dr. Larry Ashlock, pastor of Crestview Baptist Church, will officiate.

Graveside service will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Eastland Cemetery in Eastland with the Rev. Elvis Whaley officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Massey died Sunday, Jan. 5, in the Comanche Trail Nursing Center in Big Spring.

She was born on July 13, 1910 in Eastland County where she was reared and educated. She married C.E. "Bill" Massey on Dec. 24, 1929 in Carbon. They moved to Midland in 1956 from Monahans. She worked at Grammar-Murphy for 27 years. She later worked at Career Girl until she retired in 1988. Mr. Massey died in 1972.

Mrs. Massey, a member of Crestview Baptist Church, was also preceded in death by three brothers, Dewey Otto Clark, Owen Ferrell Clark and Tommie Miles Clark; and by two sisters, Ruby Clark and Naomi Bernice Hill.

She is survived by a daughter, Billie LaVerne Stanley of Snyder; two grandsons, Michael Stanley of Hermleigh and John Stanley of Yukon, Okla.; four great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Marie Plasburg

1908-1997

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Graveside service is set for 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Santa Rosa Memorial Park for Alta Marie Plasburg, sister of Raymond Grimmett of Snyder. Eggan and Lance Mortuary in Santa Rosa, Calif., is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Plasburg, 88, died Wednesday, Jan. 1, at her home after a lengthy illness.

She was born on Nov. 3, 1908 in Jacksboro. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Her husband, Emil Plasburg, preceded her in death, along with two brothers and a sister.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Lucille Cantrell of Santa Rosa; a niece, Linda Cantrell of Santa Rosa; five nieces; and seven nephews.

Esther Swanson

1905-1997

GREENBUSH, Minn. — Esther Mehus Swanson, 92, mother of Rollin Swanson of Snyder, died on Dec. 19 in the Kenney Home and was buried on Dec. 21 in Greenbush, Minn.

She was born on July 29, 1905 in Greenbush and married Ben Swanson in 1930. He died in 1969. She was the oldest member of the Tibbits Methodist Church. A master knitter, Mrs. Swanson was a housewife.

Other survivors include her daughter-in-law, the Rev. Nan Swanson of Snyder; another son, Charles Swanson of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; a brother, Alfred Mehus of Minneapolis; and five grandchildren.

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Cogdell Memorial Hospital

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- *Hands-on clinical experience
- *Professionalism & ethics
- *Medical terminology
- *Related anatomy & physiology

Course Cost: $92



Text: The Phlebotomy Handbook $39.66

PRE-REGISTRATION is required. To pre-register or for further information, please call 915/573-8511 ext. 390.

Class Space is limited! Please plan to pre-register early.

Western Texas College is an equal opportunity institution and is in compliance with the ADA. Applications are accepted and considered without regard to race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, veteran's status or disability.

Fire in apartment of jazz singer injures 27

NEW YORK (AP) — Fire swept through Lionel Hampton's 28th-floor Manhattan apartment after a lamp tipped over, injuring 27 people and destroying priceless personal mementos of the jazz great's seven-decade career.

"It burned up my piano and a set of drums," Hampton said today from a hotel room. "And my vibraphone is gone, too."

The 83-year-old musician, who uses a wheelchair, was rescued by two attendants working in his apartment. Hampton was not injured and still plans to visit the White House on Thursday to accept a National Medal of Arts award.

Fifteen civilians, 11 firefighters and a medical worker were injured in the Tuesday afternoon blaze, which sent smoke billowing through the 42-story skyscraper across from Lincoln Center. None of the injuries was life threatening.

Two women trapped in a neighboring apartment were saved when a firefighter lowered from the 29th floor slipped each of them an oxygen mask. The women were taken down after the flames were extinguished. Traffic was tied up during the two hours it took to put out the flames.

Police make four arrests

One person was arrested early this morning on assault charges and three people were taken into custody Tuesday on various charges.

Officers responded to a call this morning from a woman who said her husband was pushing and hitting her. Officers took at 36-year-old male into custody at 12:31 a.m. for Class C assault/family violence.

Officers arrested a 27-year-old male at 8:38 a.m. Tuesday in the 1200 block of 25th Street for no driver's license and failure to identify.

A 55-year-old male was arrested at 10:15 a.m. in the 2100 block of Avenue O on several warrants for the issuance of bad checks in Scurry, Mitchell, Howard and Randall Counties.

A 27-year-old male was arrested at the jail at 10:57 a.m. on a Class A misdemeanor charge, failure to appear and return to custody on a weekend sentence.

In other activity Tuesday, Mary Martinez requested an officer at 11:58 a.m. in reference to someone breaking into her residence in the 500 block of 31st Street. An offense report for burglary was submitted.

An offense report for criminal mischief was submitted at 3:46 p.m. in reference to damage to the Cub Scout hut behind Stanfield Elementary.

Delores Ayala requested to speak to a deputy at 4:15 p.m. in reference to a bicycle being stolen from 931 N. Ave. O. An offense report for a stolen bicycle was submitted.

Northwest

Continued From Page 1

Bill, her husband, had insisted she bring her bulky snowboots, which proved to be "lifesavers" as either water or snow covered her shoes.

During her visit, Martha said they also traveled by ferry on New Year's Eve to nearby Everett to visit one of Margaret's daughters. Since the lights were out in Edmond, a small town near Everett, Martha said the ramp of the ferry had to be lowered manually.

The wind-whipped waves climbed higher than the cars on the ferry, Martha said.

She also visited another granddaughter who lives in Seattle and a grandson who lives on Bainbridge Island.

En route home, Martha's flight from El Paso was the last plane out before bad weather closed the airport. She returned home Monday night. Bill met her at the airport in Lubbock. Since snow was forecast, they decided to return home rather than spend the night.

It's one visit she won't soon forget.

Taco John's announcement expected soon

An announcement is expected Thursday morning on the sale of the Taco John's property at 4212 College Avenue.

Several interested persons met on the second floor of Scurry Courthouse Tuesday afternoon as a representative of Independence Funding Co. of Dallas sought bids on the property. No bids were submitted at the courthouse, so the company submitted its own bid of $250,000 as a protective bid.

Negotiations then began at the site of the business to sell the property on terms to interested investors.

At least four different people were submitting bids, including two local businessmen.

Cause of fire is undetermined

The cause of a fire which destroyed part of the Allen Hodges home on Jan. 3 is yet to be determined.

"We know the fire started in the utility room, but we're not for sure exactly what started it," Snyder fire chief Terry Don McDowell said this morning.

McDowell said there were no electrical appliances in the immediate area where he believes the fire started, but did say the family had told him there were normal household chemicals there. McDowell and fire department captain Perry Westmoreland inspected the home in the 4500 block of Galveston Tuesday afternoon.

"About the only thing we can say for sure about the fire right now," said McDowell, "is that there is nothing suspicious about it."

What's Up?

Report cards going out

Snyder High School report cards for the past six weeks will be mailed out today.

Center needing pictures

Snyder Healthcare Center on the Big Spring Highway is in need of pictures to be hung in the living room, halls and rooms. Anyone having pictures they would like to donate is asked to contact Dorothy Treat.

TAAS, TEAMS testing

The TAAS and TEAMS tests will be given in February. Enrolled 11th and 12th graders and individuals who are out of school may take any section which they have not passed. TAAS writing will be given Feb. 25 to grades 4, 8 and exit-level; exit-level TAAS math will be Feb. 26; and exit-level TAAS reading will be Feb. 27.

OUt of school examinees must register by Monday in order to test. Packets are available at the high school counselor's office. Call 574-6049 or 573-5401 for more information.

Scurry Youth Center

Scurry Youth Center, located at the Boys & Girls Club, will be open on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 until 11. To participate, you must have a current Boys & Girls Club membership or pay $1 admission.

SNS accepting applications

Snyder Neighbors Sharing is accepting applications for its 1997 workday. Applications may be picked up at Sam Robertson's Insurance Agency, the chamber of commerce or West Elementary and returned to Snyder Neighbors Sharing, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, Texas, 79550. Applications will also appear randomly in the Snyder Daily News.

Applications are due by Jan. 15. To be considered, applicants must own and be living in the house, be current on taxes and be age 65 or older or disabled.

Donkey basketball coming

Snyder High School girl's basketball program will bring donkey basketball to Tiger Gym at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30. Ticket information will be announced soon.

Key to Kingdom series

The Key to the Kingdom series continues on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. The next tape, "God's Glorious Church" (Part 2), will air at 7 p.m. Monday.

Grief support group

The grief support group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the First Presbyterian Church.

In-service begins at college

Western Texas College faculty and staff returned for in-service today. Registration for the spring semester is set next Monday and Tuesday and classes will begin next Wednesday.

Cash 5

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-9-22-26-35.

Estimated jackpot: $29,230.

Number matching five of five: six.

Winning ticket(s) sold in: Edinburg, Big Spring, Fort Worth, Riverside, New Braunfels, San Marcos.

Matching four of five: 608. Prize: $433.

Matching three of five: 18,436. Prize: $24.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3

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

9-1-7

(nine, one, seven)

Testimony continues during Routier's trial

KERRVILLE (AP) — Darlie Routier's frantic 911 call reveals the Rowlett homemaker was filled with worry over her two young sons as they lay dying from stab wounds, her lawyers maintain.

"Hold on baby, hold on baby, hold on!" defense attorney Doug Mulder quoted Mrs. Routier as saying to one of the boys during the 911 call.

When the emergency operator told her to talk into the phone, Mrs. Routier replied: "I'm talking to my babies. They're dying."

Mulder played a recording of the call Tuesday during Mrs. Routier's capital murder trial. As jurors listened to the tape, Mrs. Routier cried and wiped her eyes with a tissue.

Mrs. Routier contends an intruder entered the family's suburban home in Rowlett the morning of June 6, 1996, and fatally stabbed 5-year-old Damon Routier and 6-year-old Devon Routier.

Prosecutors allege Mrs. Routier, now 27, committed the killings because she was angry over financial problems and the burdens of motherhood. They claim she cut herself and staged a crime scene to try to fool police.

The trial was moved to Kerrville because of pretrial publicity.

If convicted, Mrs. Routier could face death by lethal injection.

The defense emphasized Mrs. Routier's apparent distress during the 911 call to rebut prosecution testimony from a police officer who said she didn't help her wounded sons and seemed more concerned with fingerprints at the crime scene.

"I thought if she was worried about fingerprints on a knife she could certainly take care of her kids," said former Rowlett police officer David Waddell, the first officer at the Routiers' home.

During questioning by prosecutor Greg Davis, Waddell testified Mrs. Routier kept telling him she had picked up the intruder's knife after he dropped it. Mrs. Routier mentioned that her handling of the knife might hinder efforts to detect fingerprints, the officer said.

Mulder suggested Mrs. Routier was being asked by the 911 operator not to disturb any evidence.

Mrs. Routier was on the phone to the 911 operator and holding a towel on her wounds when he arrived shortly after 2:30 a.m., Waddell said.

"She appeared to be upset and hysterical. She was screaming and yelling," said Waddell, now a Plano police officer.

Although the officer asked Mrs. Routier to apply towels to the bleeding wound of one of her sons, she never did, Waddell said. Later, when paramedics arrived, she didn't ask about the boys' condition or where they were being taken, he added.

Darin Routier, Mrs. Routier's husband, assisted one of the children, the officer testified.

JAN 08 1997

3 British balloonists land safely in Algeria

LONDON (AP) — Three British balloonists landed safely in the Algerian wilderness this morning after a brief and frightening attempt to circle the globe — and some heroics by a last-minute addition to the crew.

Richard Branson, the tycoon who financed and piloted the $3 million Global Challenger balloon, credited fellow crewman Alex Ritchie with halting a dangerously rapid descent by climbing outside the capsule to jettison a one-ton fuel tank.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Alex. He saved our lives," said Branson, whose business ventures include Virgin Atlantic Airways. Ritchie, 52, had joined the crew just before the balloon's launch Tuesday, replacing a sick balloonist.

The 174-foot helium hot-air balloon, stocked with caviar and a microwave, had lifted off from a military air base near Marrakech, Morocco, on what was to be an 18-day mission to circle the globe for the first time in a balloon.

But during the first night, the craft at one point began dropping at a rate of 2,000 feet a minute, Branson told his support crew in London.

"At one stage I was standing by the door chucking out everything movable — oil canisters, food, anything — to halt the descent," Branson said. "I thought, 'What am I doing up here? It's terrifying.'"

Ritchie, who helped design the capsule, realized that there was a problem with the mechanism designed to release the tank. He donned a parachute and was strapped to the capsule as he worked.

"We were rather keen to do it as we were making a rapid descent at the time. We were able to arrest that descent," he told journalists in London via satellite telephone.

It wasn't clear what went wrong with the balloon, which completed only 19 hours of its mission. The Global Challenger office in London, which announced early today that the record-seeking effort was being aborted, spoke only of a "ballast-versus-helium problem."

Touching down in the Algerian desert, the team detonated explosive bolts to separate the capsule from the huge balloon, which could have dragged the capsule along.

"The Eagle has landed," Branson told his London team shortly after touching down. He said there was no damage to the capsule, but that the crew was shaken up.

"It feels like we have landed on the moon," he said. "Everyone is tired."

Britain's ambassador to Algeria, Jean-Francois Gordon, said a helicopter flew to the site to pick up the crew. The trio was to be taken to Bechar, 45 miles from the Moroccan border, and then on to Algiers.

"Everybody who was involved can hold their head up high. We will go again," said Rory McCarthy, who lost his place on the flight at the last minute because of a chest infection. Ritchie took his place.

Branson, however, was unsure about when — or if — he would contemplate another attempt at the trip. "We are obviously going to have to go back to the families," he said.

It was the second thwarted round-the-world attempt in two years for Branson, who was trying to set "the last great aviation record left on earth."

Branson's balloon was one of three likely to try circling the world this year. A two-man Swiss team and American millionaire Steve Fossett — on a solo mission — are expected to set out within the week.

Branson, Ritchie and co-pilot Per Lindstrand planned an 18-day flight over the Middle East, Iran, India, the Indian and Pacific oceans, the United States and finally the Atlantic before landing in Britain.

The craft was equipped with radio equipment, first aid, parachutes and oxygen tanks for the voyage, which was to be at altitudes of up to 32,000 feet.

Branson and Lindstrand, chairman of the British firm Lindstrand Balloons Ltd., already are record-holders. They were the first to cross the Atlantic in a hot-air balloon in 1987, and the Pacific in 1991.

In February, the 46-year-old Branson postponed the round-the-world attempt because of thunderstorms and the unfavorable position of jet streams. In early December, Branson and his crew practiced with a smaller balloon over Nevada.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Charming Single Aunt Is Regularly Uncoupled

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: I have always been close to my aunt. She's my father's sister and is in her early 40s. She's perky, gregarious, charming and very pretty. She's single and insists that she is happy that way. I'm not convinced.

In the last two years, she has dated three men — one was married, one engaged and one was recently divorced. Initially, all three seemed to genuinely care for her, but after a few weeks, they reunited with their former mates.

It would be one thing if Aunty could say, "Good riddance," and get on with her life, but this is not the case.

She visits the workplaces of their former mates, hoping for an opportunity to drop the bomb that the guys are philandering. She also calls and pages these men at work, then makes excuses to us why they never call her back. Abby, she even drives by their homes and businesses repeatedly.

I'm beginning to dread her visits, and the tales of her activities embarrass me. There is no reason for a woman with her looks and personality to get mixed up with attached men, and carry on like this when they no longer want to see her. When family members comment on her behavior, she gets defensive and angry, but nothing changes.

Abby, is there any way to get her out of this vicious cycle? I would like to see her settled and happy with one man instead of wasting her time on men who are not available.

EMBARRASSED NIECE

DEAR NIECE: Aunty, with all her charm and beauty, may unconsciously not really want a permanent commitment. She needs to find out why she chooses only men who are not available. I recommend counseling for Aunty.

***

DEAR ABBY: Help! I have just returned from the walk from hell — one of many. All because my neighbor talks nonstop about herself. She goes on and on about her past: how wonderful she is, how wonderful her son is. (She's certain he will be the mayor of this little town one day.)

She never asks anything about me or members of my family.

Abby, I try my best to be courteous and appear interested, but inside, I am ready to scream. If you have any suggestions short of running in the other direction when I see her, I will be very grateful.

I am signing my real name, but please don't use it because this is a small town, and I don't want to publicly embarrass her.

BORED TO TEARS

DEAR BORED: Look at it this way. This pathetic woman desperately needs someone to listen to her. She has probably worn out her welcome with her other neighbors. It would be an act of charity to give her an audience, but in order to preserve your own sanity, let her talk for as long as you can tolerate it; then tell her you have things to do, give her a hug and say, "We'll talk again when I have more time."

***

DEAR ABBY: A relative of mine got a divorce after being married for 20 years. She has not remarried, but her ex-husband did.

He died a few months ago, and now my cousin is going around wearing black and calling herself a widow.

Abby, isn't she still a divorcee?

CURIOUS IN CHICAGO

DEAR CURIOUS: Yes. Your cousin is a divorcee whose former husband is deceased. A man leaves only one widow — the woman to whom he was married at the time of his death.

***

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, Jan. 9, 1997

In the year ahead, you could have good fortune in situations that are personally important to you. Several objectives you've been unable to achieve will be attainable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today, people you deal with on a one-to-one basis will be inclined to treat you in a more generous fashion than they usually do. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) An endeavor from which you hope to generate additional income is starting to look better and better. Give this enterprise as much attention as possible today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Favorable results can be achieved today over a friendly lunch or dinner. Conduct personal and important business discussions in a casual environment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your financial prospects appear to be promising at this time. Always make sure you're not overlooking opportunities of real substance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today, competitive situations will stimulate your mind. Consider challenging developments to be as manageable as paper tigers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Try to think big today, especially when doing business deals. Even if you don't reach your goal, you'll still be ahead of the game.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Something you've hoped to achieve looks as if it will happen the way you've envisioned. However, avoid discussing this with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This could be a red-letter day for you where your career is concerned. If there is something you've wanted to try, the time is now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even though you might be too lavish with your praise of others today, you will be making a sound investment because of the good will you'll generate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Try to get directly involved today with people who have clout and can help your career. These associations could be dynamic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In-depth discussions with friends who are positive thinkers will not be a waste of time today. You can sort out their best ideas and use them constructively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You might receive benefits in a number of different forms today. You could gain financially and learn something valuable at the same time.

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TV industry to submit ratings system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government soon will be asked by the TV industry to review its system for rating shows' sexual and violent content.

TV industry executives, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were prepared to file the plan — as required by a telecommunications law enacted last February — with the Federal Communications Commission this week, and were aiming for today.

ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and some cable networks are already carrying on-screen tags suggesting appropriate age groups for shows.

Unveiled last month, the six-tier aged-based system, similar to the one used for movies, was immediately attacked by child advocacy groups and other critics as too vague to help parents shield their kids from excessive sex and violence.

If the FCC finds the TV industry's ratings unsuitable, it can move to appoint an independent advisory board that would create a new system. However, the government cannot require its use.

Critics and other interested parties will have an opportunity to weigh in on the industry's system once it is submitted to the FCC.

Critics hope they can use the FCC review as a way to pressure the industry to make changes in its system. They want the ratings system to include more detailed information about the type and intensity of sex, violence and language in a given show.

But Motion Picture Association of America President Jack Valenti, who oversaw the creation of the TV industry's ratings system, has said it will fight in court any effort to impose another system.

Separately, the broadcasting and cable TV industries Tuesday appointed executives to a 19-member industry-only board to handle appeals of individual ratings. The motion picture industry has not made its appointments yet. Valenti will be the board's chairman.

Can design changed

ATLANTA (AP) — The Coca-Cola Co., without announcement, has changed the design of the cans that carry its major brand.

The Atlanta-based soft drink giant has eliminated the vertical white ribbon on its cans of Coca-Cola Classic and changed the wording design. The Coca-Cola logo, formerly vertical, is now almost horizontal, and wording has been added so that the can reads, "Always Coca-Cola Classic."

The new design has been quietly introduced in Atlanta, New York, Chicago and other cities. Coca-Cola will replace the current cans and bottles in the United States and in other countries in the next two months.

Not dating yet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Don't expect to see "Moesha" out on the town with a hot date during her first month as a freshman at Pepperdine University.

Brandy Norwood, who stars in the UPN sitcom and is also a popular singer, starts college next week.

She lives with her parents and says she won't start to formally date until her 18th birthday on Feb. 11.

Last year, she went with 18-year-old Los Angeles Lakers rookie Kobe Bryant to his high school prom in suburban Philadelphia, but Brandy says she doesn't consider that an official date.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Kidney cyst is common finding

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I recently had my gallbladder removed. During the pre-operative testing, I had an ultrasound exam that showed a cyst in one kidney. Although my doctor said to ignore it, I am worried.

DEAR READER: One of the unfortunate consequences of modern medical testing is that it sometimes tells doctors more than they need to know. Case in point: your renal cyst.

Kidney cysts are common and harmless, for the most part. Millions of ordinary, healthy citizens have them. The ubiquity of such cysts was unknown in the past, but they have become a regular incidental finding in CT scans and ultrasound examinations.

I urge you to stop worrying. If your doctor advises you to ignore the cyst, you can safely do so.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Kidney Disorders." 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 Wegener's granulomatosis? My 33-year-old husband died of this, and I am curious about how the disease is contracted. Is it genetic? Are my children in danger?

DEAR READER: The cause of this unusual disorder is unknown, but it is neither genetic nor spread like an infectious disease.

Initial symptoms include bloody nose, sinus infection, cough, blood spitting, fever, malaise, weight loss, and diminished hearing. Later symptoms are more serious: arthritis, eye inflammation, heart attack, meningitis, and others. In the final stages, untreated Wegener's granulomatosis leads to severe lung infection, arterial inflammation and kidney failure.

The diagnosis is made by biopsy.

Early treatment with immunosuppressive drugs (cyclophosphamide and others) and cortisone is crucial, before the disease has had a chance to attack vital organs. With appropriate, prompt therapy, there is a high rate of remission.

The main problem with Wegener's granulomatosis is that, although rare, it mimics many common disorders. Consequently, definitive therapy is often delayed. Intractable, fatal kidney malfunction may appear before curative treatment is instituted.

Despite your husband's untimely death, I don't believe that you or your children are at risk.

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CD7648B	91 Cad. Seville	Must Move	$8995
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C7480B	94 Ford XLT	4X4	$11,595
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A55939	95 Ford XL	5 Spd.	$11,995
A08080	95 Ford XL	5 Spd.	$11,995
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C7506A	94 Chev. Silverado	Chrome!	$15,995
C7337A	95 Chev. 5 Spd.	Save Today	$15,995
C7387A	94 Chev. Silverado	Nice Conv.	$16,995
G7776A	94 Chev. Silverado	Your Price	$16,995
C7572A	95 Chev. Silverado	19,000 mi.	$18,995
C7599A	95 Chev. Work Truck	3/4 Ton	$18,995
C7405A	95 Chev. Silverado	Like New	$19,595
C7556B	95 Chev. 3/4 Ton	Low Miles	$19,995
C7685A	96 Chev. Silverado	Lea. Seats	$20,595
C7236A	95 Chev. Silverado	Ext. Nice	$20,595

Vans & Conversion Vans

CP7188A	87 Ford Conv. Van		$5995
C709A	90 Chev. Mark III	40,000 mi.	$9995
C7150A	93 Ford Aerostar	Nice	$10,995
C7224A	93 Ford Mark III	31,000 mi.	$16,995

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	95 Merc. Cougar 2 Dr.	Auto.	$13,995
B7191A	96 Merc. Cougar	8,000 mi.	$14,995
4846A	96 Chev. Monte Carlo	Like New	$16,995
B6836A	95 Z28 Camaro	7,500 mi.	$16,995
	94 Chev. Camaro	Nice Car	SOLD

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4437A	95 Olds 88 Royale	Clean Car	$15,995
C7613B	95 Buick LeSabre	Loaded	$15,995
7241A	95 Buick LeSabre	Ext. Nice	$16,995
3228A	95 Buick LeSabre	Your Price	$16,995
PT7474A	95 Cad. Deville	Save Big	$21,995
9568A	96 Cad. Deville	18,000 mi.	$29,595

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