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WT-Int. Crude - $26.38
WTIC Posted - $23.75

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Dec. 9, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 189
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Sheila Collier



SANTA LETTERS — Carrie and Kimberly Harlan (back, from left) watch as little sister Tara places a letter in Santa's mailbox. Snyder Daily News will be accepting letters to Santa until 5 p.m. Tuesday. Letters may be brought to the newspaper at 3600 College Avenue or mailed to P.O. Box 949. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)

Winter weather stays north of county today

A winter weather advisory is in effect today for portions of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains with early forecasts calling for snow accumulations up to three inches.

However, ole Man Winter was calling the shots as Hereford recorded nine inches of snow and Lubbock had seven inches on the ground at mid-morning.

Scurry County windshields only had a trace of moisture on them as the sun was shining at mid-morning.

Michael Young, a forecaster with the Midland National Weather Service, said the next chance of moisture locally will be Sunday.

"You have a chance for rain or snow, or both, on Sunday," Young said.

"We feel the front will actually blow in on Saturday night and some moisture might fall then."

Young said the high temperature Sunday should be in the upper 40s, with the low in the lower 30s.

Other snowfall amounts this morning included six inches at Friona, five inches at Dimmitt, and four inches in Levelland.

Plainview recorded 2.5 inches of snow as did Tahoka and Brownfield.

An upper level low moving across West Texas combined with low level moisture and cold air to produce the snowfall.

Forecasts called for clear to partly cloudy skies tonight across West Texas. It will be partly cloudy on Friday. Lows tonight will be in the middle teens in northern sections of the Panhandle and the 20s and 30s elsewhere. Highs Friday will be mostly in the 50s and 60s, ranging from the 40s in the Panhandle to the mid 70s in the Big Bend area.

Strong thunderstorms moved across a vast area of North and North Central Texas early today. Strong winds and marble-sized hail accompanied some of the thunderstorms.

It will be partly cloudy through Friday across North Texas.

Lows tonight will be in the 30s and 40s. Highs Friday will be in the 50s and 60s.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has it limits."

We liked the story about the wanna-be bank robber in San Antonio who got arrested after failing to show a high level of either intelligence or planning.

He walked into a bank and presented a note to a teller, demanding money. The teller confused the bandit by telling him she didn't handle money.

The robber left and made the mistake of going to a nearby bank where he presented another note. He was quickly arrested by officers who were investigating the earlier, but foiled holdup.

Thank goodness, being dull is not a crime. If so, some say cells would be filled with newspaper types.

However, those that fall off the great-thinkers wagon fit into almost all categories.

In answer to a question about living forever, Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest replied:

"I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

This came on the NBC Today Show:

"Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but I can't remember what they are."

A candidate for mayor of New York City once said. "I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law.

And from the pretty lips of actress Brooke Shields: "Smoking kills. If you're killed you've lost a very important part of your life."

And from the mayor of the nation's capital: " Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

"That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it," said a congressional candidate from Texas.

The reason we miss Dan Quayle as a presidential candidate: "It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water."

And some goodies from sports types:

When joining the Dallas Mavericks, Jason Kidd accurately predicted, "We're going to turn this team around 360 degrees."

And from a college basketball player in Kentucky: "I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

This kind of stuff should make one feel smarter, already.

Pace of candidate filings slows down

No new candidates filed Wednesday for the March 14 primary.

Candidates have until 6 p.m. Jan. 3 to file.

The last two persons filing were for offices that are now vacant.

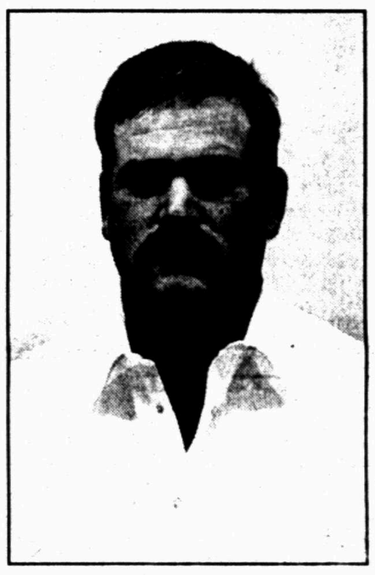
Kirk Taylor filed on the Republican ticket for the constable position in Precinct 1, while Jeff Duck filed for the constable position in Precinct 2.

Precinct 1 covers the immediate Snyder area, while Precinct 2 is the Hermleigh area.

These newest candidates join Sheriff Darren Jackson, County Attorney Mike Hartman, District Judge Ernie Armstrong and Diana Williamson – who has filed for tax assessor/collector – with no opponents.

Precinct 1 commissioner Ralph Trevey has drawn two opponents for the March Democratic primary. Bill Baldwin and Cloyce Scarberry have both filed for Trevey's spot.

Precinct 3 commissioner Howard Limmer will have an opponent in the Republican primary as Joe Bass has also filed for the post.



Jeff Duck
Constable candidate

Trustees due report from campus plans

Several year-end tasks and the start of the annual evaluation process for Supt. Gayle Lomax will dominate the Snyder ISD trustee agenda for today's 6 p.m. meeting.

Trustees will hear the annual campus improvement plans from principals, while the district's overall plan will be presented by the central-office administration.

These reports are mandated by state law.

The trustees will also hear a report unique to this board as they will receive a Y2K update from Dale Byrd, the district's technology director.



Gayle Lomax
Superintendent

A director will also be elected to serve on the Scurry County Appraisal District Board. Last month, the trustees re-nominated Harold Lacik as their candidate.

The board will also hear local policy updates.

The evaluation process of Lomax will be the last item on the agenda, and it will be held in closed session.

Livestock producers are facing deadline in assistance program

Livestock producers in Scurry County are now eligible for benefits through the Livestock Assistance Program. Producers interested in receiving benefits must make application at their local Farm Service Agency Office by Jan. 21.

This program is part of the emergency disaster legislation recently passed by Congress. Nationwide, Congress has approved $200 million to assist livestock producers who suffered losses resulting from natural disaster during 1999. Scurry County's approval was based on an average of 40 percent below normal rainfall during a minimum of four consecutive months. The payment period approved for Scurry County is Aug. 1, 1999 through Nov. 30 1999.

To be eligible for the program, a producer must possess a beneficial interest in eligible livestock or have financial risk in the eligible livestock. Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine and equine animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm.

Producers will be required to report their livestock inventory to the local Farm Service Agency Office. Any changes during the payment period due to sales, purchases, and type of grass or death must also be reported. Additionally, a producer must report the location, acres, non-irrigated and types of grass or forage in their operation where a loss occurred during 1999. Only non-irrigated native and improved pasture and forage sorghum will be eligible. Small grains for grazing will not qualify.

In order to be eligible for benefits, a producer must be in compliance with highly erodible and wet land conservation requirements. The maximum benefit a "person" is entitled to under this program is $40,000. Because of the $200 million appropriation, it is possible that a national factor will be applied. The payment factor, if applicable, will be applied after initial benefits are computed. Additionally, any person whose gross animal receipts for the immediate preceding year were greater than $2.5 million, is ineligible.

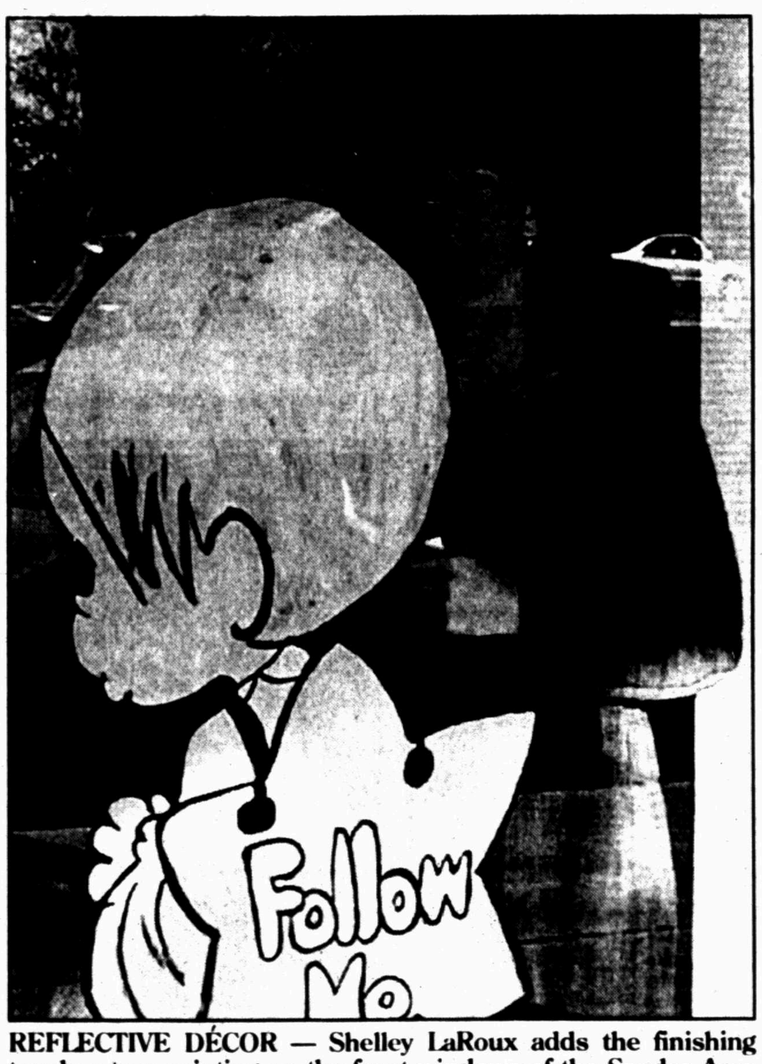
According to Joe Hefner, county executive director of the local FSA, it will be necessary for you to call for an appointment. Hefner said, "Due to the numerous programs with overlapping deadlines, sign-up for the Livestock Assistance Program will be by appointment only. Immediate service for walk-ins will not be possible. I apologize for any inconvenience, but appointments are necessary to allow the office the opportunity to better serve the producers of Scurry County."

Holiday band concert tonight

There will be Christmas music in the air this evening as the Snyder ISD band department presents its annual Christmas Concert.

The high school band will play Christmas selections, as will the sixth grade and the junior high band.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. in Worsham Auditorium. Admission is free.



REFLECTIVE DÉCOR — Shelley LaRoux adds the finishing touches to a painting on the front windows of the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The holiday spirit can be seen everywhere around town. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—Does Snyder ISD pay golf club fees, or health club memberships for employees?

A—It does not pay any golf fees for employees. Out of the district's Wellness Program, it does pay for four visits to the health studio per month for employees.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 71 degrees; low, 37; 7 a.m. Thursday, 37; trace precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Clear, low, mid 20s. Light, variable wind. Friday, mostly sunny. High near 60. SE wind 10-15 mph.

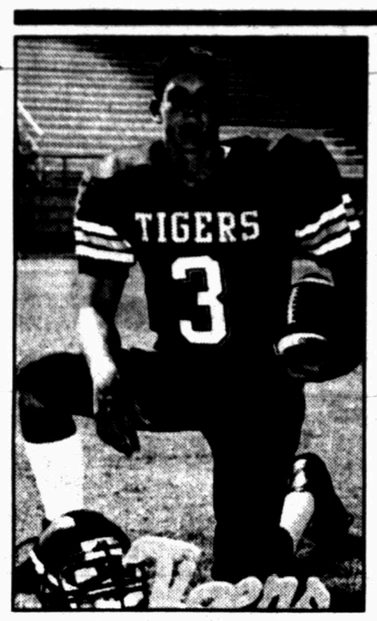


Ashly Aanderson
Mostly Sunny

Sunset:
5:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:32 a.m.
Of 342 days in 1999, the sun has shone 335 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Beware what you set your heart upon. For it surely shall be yours.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Jarod Thornhill

Jared Thornhill is in Who's Who

Jared W. Thornhill, Snyder High School junior, will appear in the 33rd annual edition of Who's Who among American High School Students, 1998-99.

Traditionally, 99 percent of Who's Who students have a grade point average of "B" or better and 97 percent are college-bound.

Jared's parents are Chris and Sally Thornhill of Snyder. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thornhill and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Motl of Seymour.

News about son surprises W. Allen

NEW YORK (AP) — News that his 11-year-old son already is in college caught Woody Allen by surprise, the Daily News reported today.

"This is the first I'm hearing of it," Allen told the newspaper. "It's news to me."

Allen said it has been four years since he has seen or spoken to Seamus Farrow, his biological son with former girlfriend Mia Farrow.

In addition to Seamus, born Satchel, the couple have two mutually adopted children. Ms. Farrow has custody of all three, and has 11 other children.

Seamus, who turns 12 on Dec. 19, "is positively phobic" of his father and refuses to see him, said William Beslow, Ms. Farrow's attorney. "He sees Woody less as his father and more as the man who was having an affair with his sister, Soon-Yi (Previn)."

Officials don't think meat poses a danger

By The Associated Press

While the state still doesn't know who received at least 588,000 pounds of ground beef produced for Ohio schools by a Texas meatpacker that failed tests for salmonella contamination, officials do not believe there is any danger.

The Ohio Department of Education conferred with inspectors from the Ohio Department of Agriculture on the matter Wednesday.

"Their response is the beef is safe," education department spokeswoman Lee-Anne Rogers said of the inspectors. "They expressed confidence in the USDA inspection program as a whole."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture bought the meat from Supreme Beef Processors Inc. for the national school lunch program.

USDA records show that Ohio received at least 14 truckloads, each containing 42,000 pounds, of the ground beef from the company's Dallas plant, said Rogers.

She said the shipments to Ohio began Sept. 21. She said she does not know where the beef is now or which schools may have received it.

However, Rogers said all of the meat was precooked at other processors that operate under USDA inspection before it arrived in Ohio. The precooking requires temperatures that [illegible] bacteria, she [illegible] notified all Ohio public school districts by e-mail Wednesday, advising them of the situation and reminding them of proper procedures in handling meat.

Salmonella kills an estimated 550 people and causes 1.4 million illnesses a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain and vomiting. Healthy people typically recover in a few days, but salmonella can cause serious, even life-threatening, infections in young children.

The Ohio Department of Health has received no reports of illness connected to the meet shipments, spokeswoman Jane Beathard said.

Supreme Beef failed the testing three times beginning this summer. The company disputes the USDA's results and says its meat is safe.

Supreme Beef President Steve Spiritas said he had not heard of Ohio's action and declined to comment immediately on it. He said raw beef products from all processors contain some level of salmonella and must be cooked adequately to be safe.

The plant supplies about 15 percent of the ground beef the USDA buys annually for schools around the country. The department stopped buying beef from the plant Tuesday.

Clinton lights tree

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is calling on Americans to bridge the racial divide and extend a helping hand to the less fortunate in "the true spirit of Christmas."

"In this sacred season, it is time for all of us to renew our commitments to give of ourselves, to reach out to those who are less fortunate, to reach out to those who are different from us to build the One America of our dreams," the president said Wednesday after lighting the national Christmas tree.

Several thousand people crowded around the Ellipse just south of the White House to witness the 76th consecutive lighting of the national tree — this year's a Colorado blue spruce transplanted from York, Pa., in 1973.

The president's guest was Fred Sanger, a boy who met Clinton in the White House courtesy of the Make a Wish Foundation.

Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 9, 1999

Today is the 343rd day of 1999 and the 78th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1843, Henry Cole created the first printed Christmas cards.

On this day in 1978, Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi recorded the song "Soul Man."

On this day in 1992, American troops landed in Somalia to protect international famine-relief efforts.

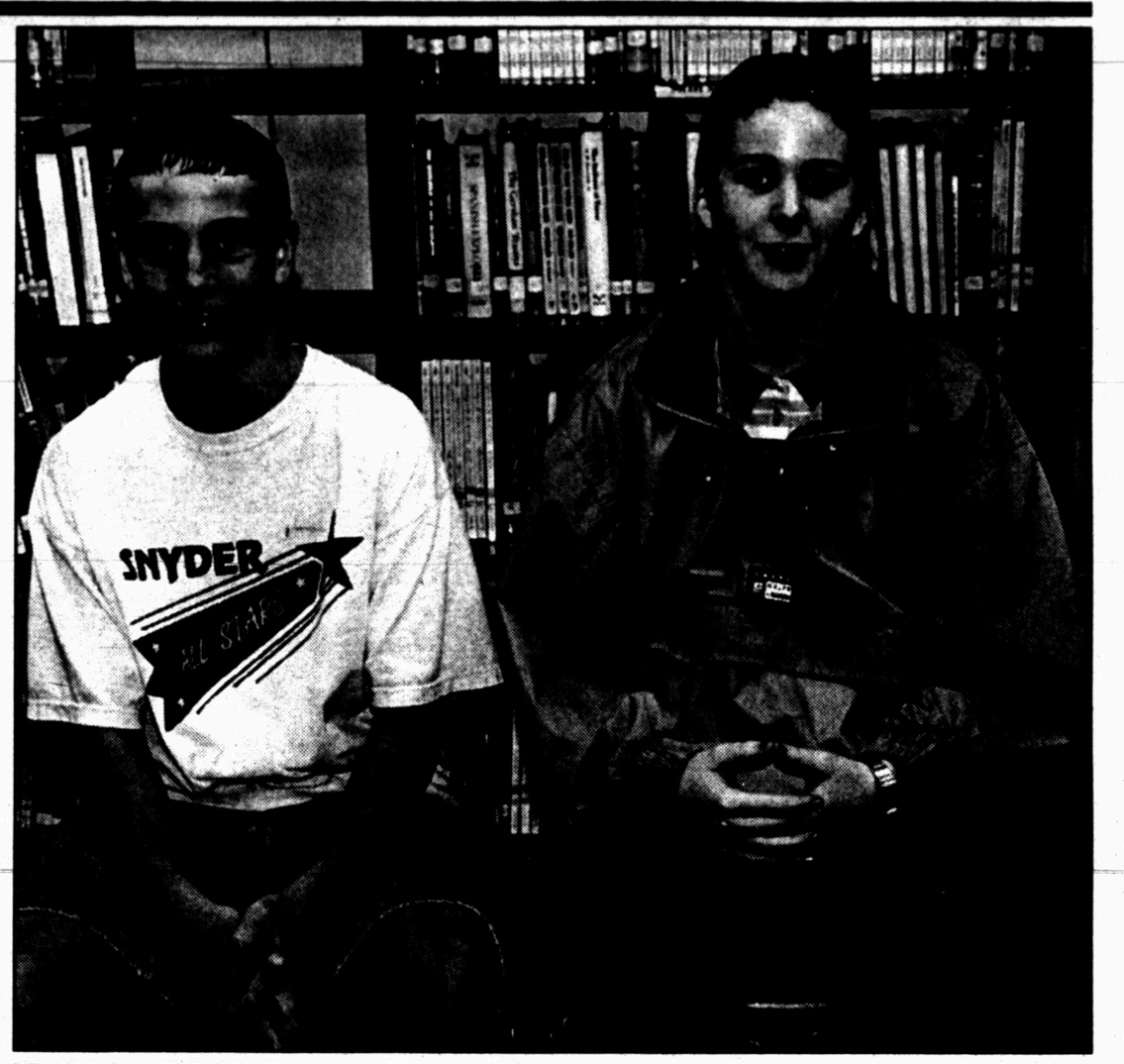
TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Milton (1608-1674), poet; Douglas Fairbanks Jr. (1909-), actor-producer, is 90; Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (1912-1994), speaker of the House; Kirk Douglas (1918-), actor, is 81; Redd Foxx (1922-1991), comedian; Beau Bridges (1941-), actor, is 58; Dick Butkus (1942-), football great, is 57; Tom Kite (1949-), golfer, is 50; John Malkovich (1953-), actor, is 46; Donny Osmond (1957-), singer, is 42.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, Bob Waterfield, playing for the Los Angeles Rams in a game against the Detroit Lions, became the first player in professional football to kick five field goals in a single game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Food is to eat, not to frame and hang on the wall." — William Denton, on nouvelle cuisine

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 7) and first quarter (Dec. 16).

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FRESHMAN FAVORITES — Ira High School's freshman class favorites for 1999-2000 are Eric Dickerhoff and Celeigh Sterling. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Experimental retinal implant might help to restore vision

BALTIMORE (AP) — Scientists say wireless video goggles and a laser-powered microchip stapled to the retina could someday give blind patients a small measure of sight.

The intraocular retinal prosthesis, or "eye chip," uses a small video camera in a set of goggles to send images to the microchip fastened to the back of the retina. Electrodes on the chip form an image that can stimulate the retina and be "seen" by blind people.

"The beauty of it is that you're hooked up to the most powerful computer in the world, which is the human brain," said Dr. Mark Humayun, an ophthalmologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital's Wilmer Eye Institute.

Last week, Stevie Wonder said he was considering surgery to implant the chip. Wonder, who has been blind since birth, spoke with Humayun, who offered to examine the 49-year-old singer. Humayun said the surgery is unlikely to help Wonder, but wouldn't rule it out.

If planned animal and human trials are successful, the eye chip could be available in two to five years.

Humayun said the prosthetic eyes would probably be most useful for people who saw at one time or whose eyesight is worsening due to a condition such as macular degeneration, the major cause of blindness in the elderly.

Wilmer scientists are developing the prosthetic eyes along with electrical engineers at North Carolina State University.

The system hasn't been tested on humans, but researchers have been conducting tests on its components for a decade. Seventeen patients have had tiny electrodes inserted directly into the retina for a few minutes in the operating room. Most have been able to recognize light and a few have identified lighted forms and colors, Humayun said.

One patient, 72-year-old Harold Churchey of Sharpsburg, Md., was able to recognize that a series of lighted dots formed the letter H.

"From the very first time they put that first probe in my eye, I knew they were on the right track," he said.

One major obstacle to the device's success is the capacity of the chip.

Ag info forum set next week

An agricultural information forum with Congressman Stenholm is being sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service agencies and the Lower Rolling Plains IPM Unit in the following five counties Scurry, Mitchell, Nolan, Fisher and Jones. The forum will be held at the Nolan County Coliseum Annex in Sweetwater on next Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Congressman Stenholm will be present to address questions that are of vital concern to farmers, ranchers and businesses in this area. Congressman Stenholm will provide information on activities of the USDA during the past year, and will be voicing concern over agriculture legislative activities during the coming congressional year.

This meeting is scheduled to attract the attendance of the general farm organization membership, the agricultural financial institutions, the cotton gin patrons, county FSA personnel, small business owners and the general public.

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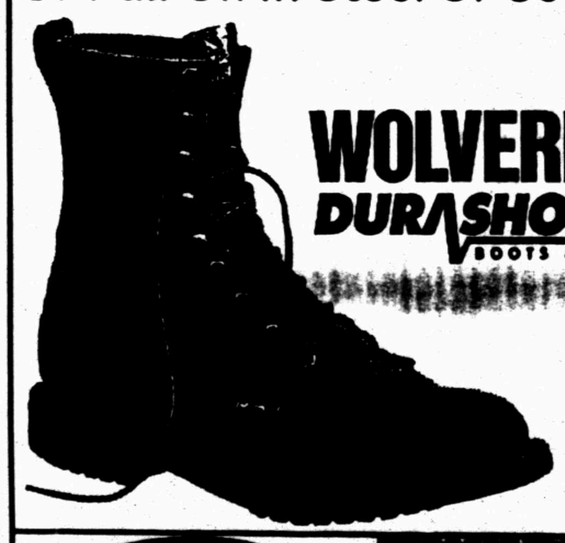
Tonight is 50's Night at Pizza Inn 573-3542 3907 College

MERRY CHRISTMAS

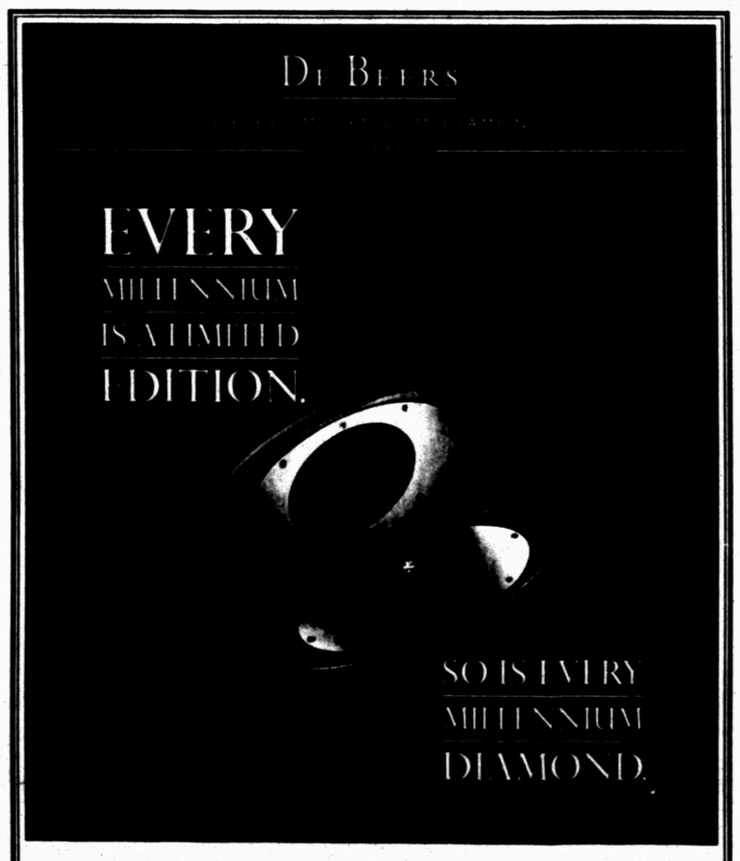


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WOODS WB BOOTS



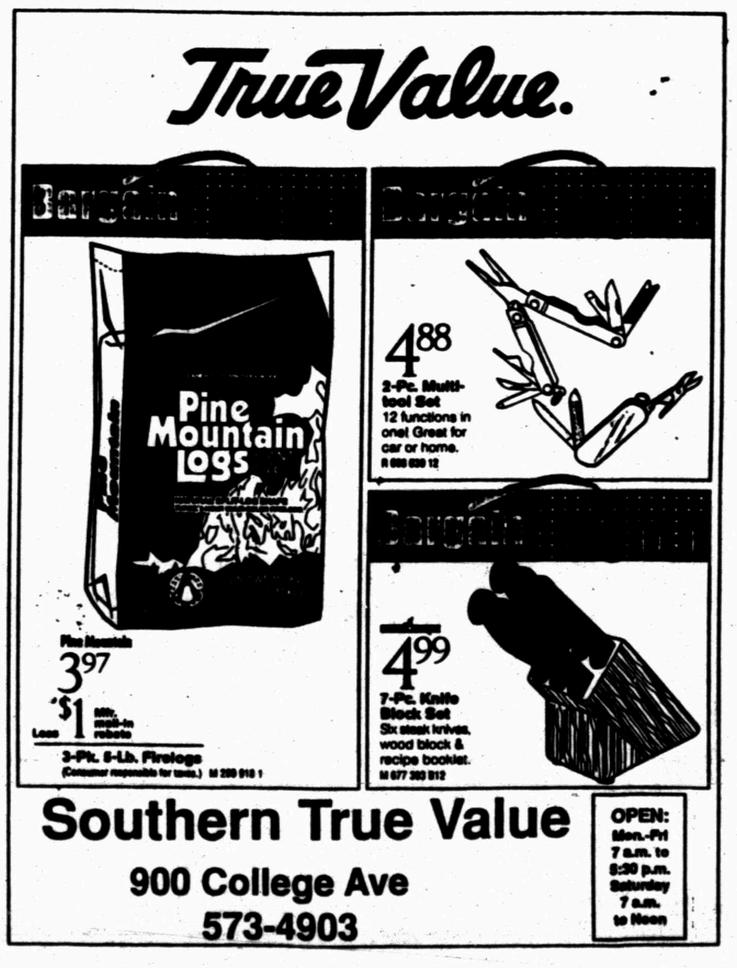
This jewel of over one carat bears the name of a star inscribed on a single facet.
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as rare as the year it marks. The De Beers Millennium Diamond. A moment captured forever.

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AARP OFFICERS — Max von Roeder installed AARP officers Monday at a Martha Ann Woman's Club dinner meeting. Dorothy Duncan and her ventriloquist friend, "Dotsy," presented the program. Officers include, from left, Marie Armstrong, president; Mildred Pevehouse, vice president; Carolyn Cox, secretary; and Leda Beck, treasurer. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



YOUTH ACTIVITY — Saint Elizabeth 10th grade Sunday school class sponsored a scavenger hunt for non-perishable items. The class collected over 200 individual items they donated to the ministerial alliance's Food Cupboard. Students shown from left are Ronnie Martinez, Ricky Ford, Tyson Kubena, Jase Olvera, Erin Dunham, Daniel Arellano, Jaquiline Madrid and Chasity Perales. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-09-99
♠ K J 5
♥ J 10 8 7 3
♦ 6 4 3
♣ 8 3

West
♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ Q 7 5

East
♠ 6 4 3
♥ A K 6 2
♦ 10 2
♣ J 10 9 6

South
♠ A 9 2
♥ Q 9
♦ A K J 5
♣ A K 4 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 7

More of the same

By Phillip Alder

Three years ago, Marty Bergen published "Points, Schmoints!" It was so popular that he has now put out a sequel, "More Points Schmoints!" If you read the first book, you will know exactly what to expect — lots of sound advice on improving every aspect of your game. Mixed in with the recommendations are tales from tournaments and anecdotes.

Here is a deal that many players would get wrong. You are in three no-trump. West leads a fourth-highest spade seven. How would you proceed?

Three diamonds is a transfer bid, showing at least five hearts. When North follows up with three no-trump, he offers a choice of games. South, with only two hearts, passes.

You have six top tricks: two spades, two diamonds and two clubs. Three more tricks are available from the heart suit, but good defenders will duck the first round of hearts. Then you will need two dummy entries, one to set up the hearts and another to cash the established winners.

Next, apply the Rule of Eleven. Subtracting the value of the lead (seven) from 11 gives four. There are four spades higher than the seven in the North, East and South hands combined. And you, the declarer, can see all four. So, East has no high spade.

This gives the answer: Win trick one with the spade *ace*. Then, lead the heart queen. If you win the trick, continue with the heart nine, overtaking with dummy's 10. You win East's minor-suit switch, play a spade to dummy's jack, and continue hearts to end with an overtrick.

The hardcover book is available for $19.95 postpaid. Call (800) 386-7432 to order.

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When good moms or good dads have bad days, children can suffer. Take time out. Don't take it out on your child. Report child abuse at 1-800-252-5400.



BLANKET DRIVE — Snyder Healthcare C.N.A.s are sponsoring a blanket drive for the residents. Tim Atwood asked that anyone wanting to participate bring a blanket to Snyder Healthcare Nursing Home by Dec. 15 and help residents have a happy and warm Christmas. Pictured with several blankets already donated are Shanna Block, Atwood, and Cindy Garcia. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

Canyon Gun Club; 1910 25th; 7:30 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving Course; no reservations necessary, cost $30; for more information call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rolling Plains Ratite Association; The Shack; 7 p.m.

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

SUNDAY

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

Poinsettias come in more than 15 shades

In its native Mexico, the poinsettia is called "flor de la nochebuena," flower of the holy night.

Its name comes from the legend of a small Mexican girl who is unable to finish her gift for the Christ child in time for the village's Christmas procession. A miracle allows her to offer a beautiful red flower.

Today poinsettias with names like "Monet" and "Winter Rose" come in more than 15 shades of red and a rainbow of other hues including pink, cranberry, white, creamy yellow and many multicolors.



Mascot is oil drop

BRADFORD, Pa. (AP) — Exxon has a tiger for your tank, but Bradford has Slick, a smiling oil droplet that's become the mascot for this petroleum-producing city.

Slick was named the mascot for the city's business district after a design contest won by city resident Jim Sage. He called Slick "the oil drop that won't stop until Bradford's on top."

Slick will appear in parades and in ads for the northwestern Pennsylvania city that is home to the American Refining Group refinery.

American Heart Association.
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Help Your Heart Recipes

This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day — not for each food or recipe.

Sesame Chicken

Vegetable oil spray
½ cup all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon pepper
2½ to 3-pound chicken, cut into serving pieces, skinned, all visible fat removed
Vegetable oil spray
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
¼ cup sesame seeds, divided use
3 tablespoons minced green onions (1 to 2 medium)
½ cup dry white wine (regular or nonalcoholic) (plus more as needed)

Preheat oven to 375° F. Spray a 13 × 9 × 2-inch baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Set aside.

Put flour in a shallow bowl and stir in pepper.

Rinse chicken and pat dry with paper towels. Dredge chicken pieces in flour, shaking off excess. Lightly spray meatier side of each chicken piece with vegetable oil spray.

Arrange meatier side down in baking pan so pieces don't touch.

Lightly spray top side of chicken pieces. Sprinkle with lemon juice and half the sesame seeds.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until lightly browned. Turn chicken over and sprinkle with remaining sesame seeds and green onions. Pour wine around chicken. Bake for 30 to 45 minutes, basting occasionally, until done.

Serves 4.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving

336 kcal	Calories	99 mg	Cholesterol	3 g	Saturated Fat
37 g	Protein	105 mg	Sodium	4 g	Polyunsaturated Fat
10 g	Carbohydrates	14 g	Total Fat	5 g	Monounsaturated Fat
1 g	Fiber				

American Heart Association Cookbook, 6th Edition, ©1998. Reprinted with permission from Times Book, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.
Visit our Web site at: http//www.americanheart.org/.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 8-Lillian Clarkson, Mark Garcia, Elbert Hill, Kenneth Rinehart, Joe Walker of Lamar, Angela Schulze, Esteban Cabrera, Margaret King and Martin King of Colorado City.

DISMISSALS: Akasha Barber, McKinley Smith, George Camp, Jana Collum, Mozelle James, Sue Kelley and Leoda Wright.

CENSUS: 41 (Med./Surg.-13, Long-term Care-23, ICU-3, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

Birth

Robin and Angela Shulze of Snyder announce the birth of their son at 11:47 p.m. on Dec. 8 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, 15 ½ ounces.

Snyder High School Drama Department presents

Yuletide Follies

Friday & Saturday, December 10th & 11th
7:30 p.m., Tickets $4
Snyder High School Worsham Auditorium

The show will be family oriented and will have something to appeal to all ages. The show will feature a lot of the talent at Snyder High School, including humor, dance, music and acting. A dazzling Christmas Light Show has been put into Worsham Auditorium for the performance. A cast of approximately 50 actors, singers, dancers and technical staff will be included in the production.

Fridays just 'fore Christmas

All through West Texas State Bank,
We'll be serving up some special treats,
To show to you our thanks.

It's the Wassail time of year
And time for Cookies too.
We've cooked up some special recipes.
We're serving them just for you.

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

Noel

OPEN HOUSE - 2 Fridays
December 10, & 17
Wassail And Cookies 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
MEMBER FDIC

Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

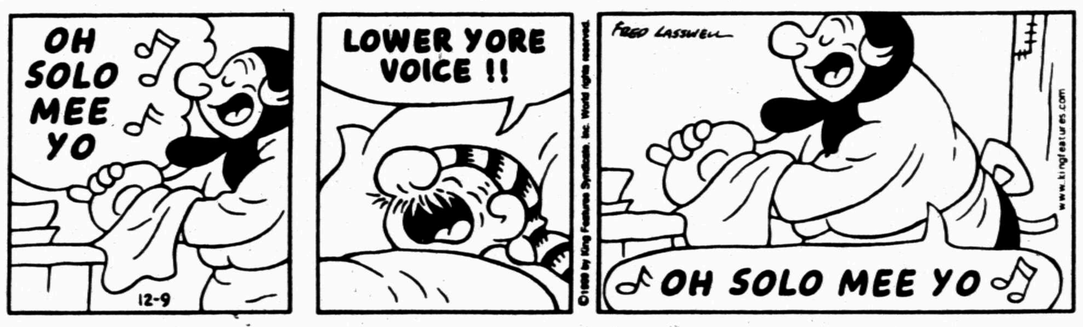
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



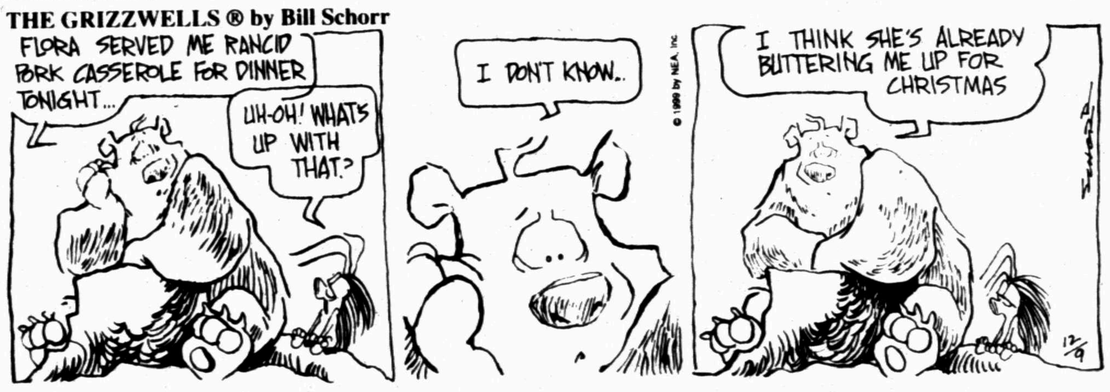
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © By Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Small horses
7 Nail — (manicurist's item)
13 Tennis player Goolagong
14 Show plainly
15 Kind of couch
16 Nearer to the end
17 "Pod" start
18 Md.'s neighbor
20 First French number
21 Aroma
23 Thou
24 Washington bills
25 — — even keel
27 Weighing devices
29 Purse
31 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
32 Lge. container
33 Agnus —
34 At ease
37 Russian ruler
40 Domino spots
41 Excitement
43 Back of the foot
45 Allow to
46 Comedian Sparks
47 Actress Charlotte —
48 Baltimore bird
51 Fire — (emergency exit)
54 Correct
55 Waver
56 Feels
57 Guides

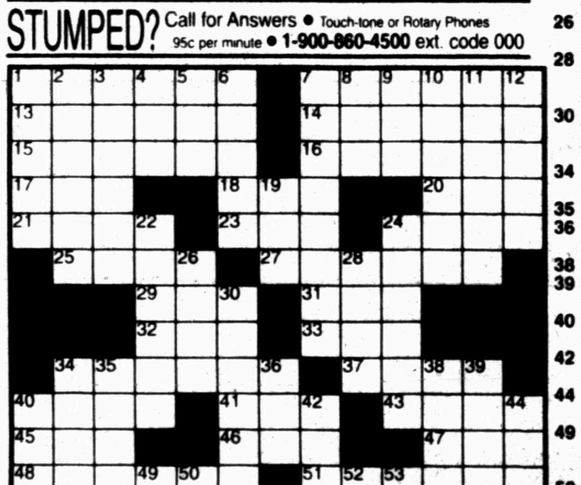
DOWN

1 Basil-and-garlic sauce
2 Perform excessively
3 Thought
4 Profit on bank acct.
5 Compass pt.
6 Run-down
7 Transparent
8 Eggs
9 Illuminated
10 Not off-key
11 Parts of an act
12 "— Johnny!"
19 Dawn goddess
22 Synagogue leaders
24 Somewhat elderly
26 Catches (a con)
28 Work without — — (be daring)
30 Those who collect bit by bit
34 South Dakota capital
35 Alternative
36 White House inits.
38 Make fizzy
39 Farmer, at times
40 Falls into a chair
42 Playwright Clifford —
44 Sidelong glances
49 Photo- — (picture-taking times)
50 Lawyer F. — Bailey
52 Collector's goal
53 So-so grade

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones 95c per minute • 1-900-860-4500 ext. code 000



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HERMAN® by Jim Unger

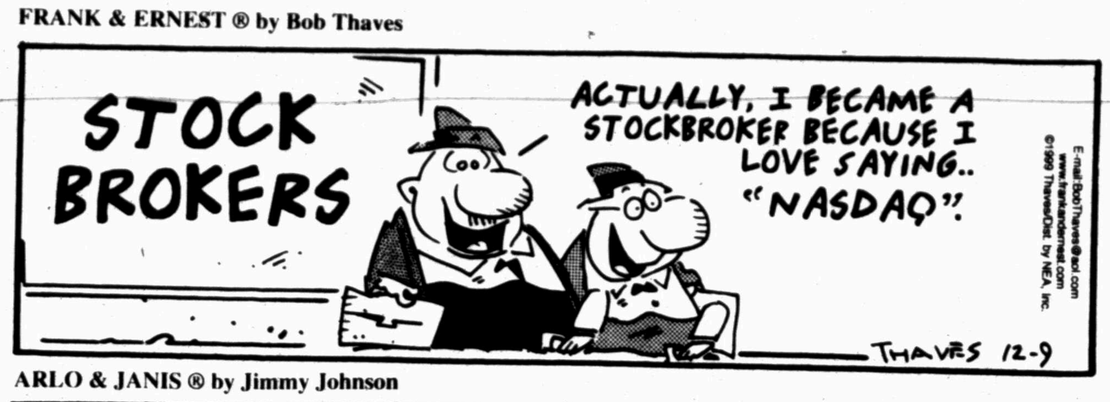


"Get back here as soon as it's delivered."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



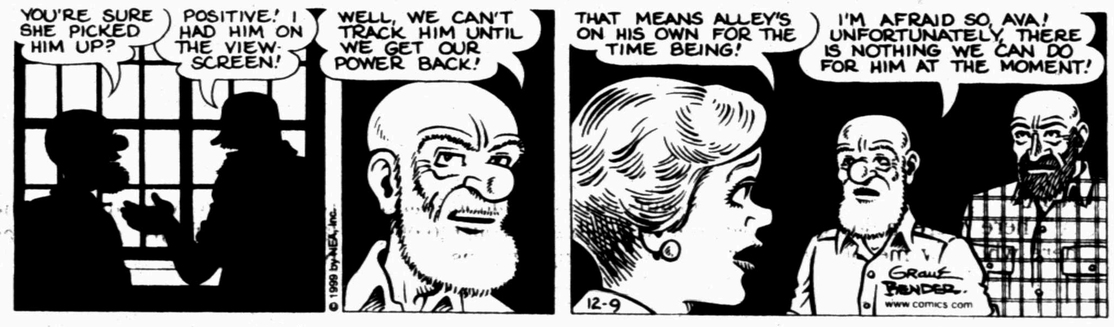
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com

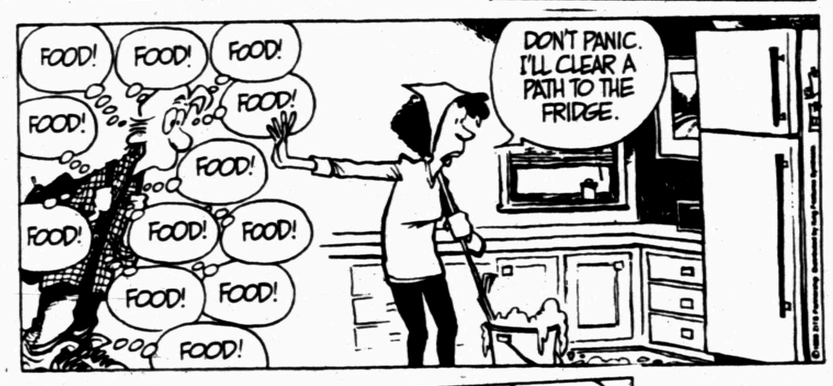


ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

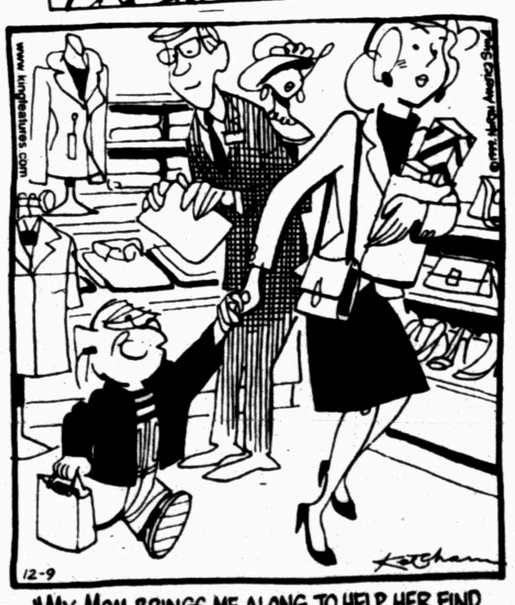


BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

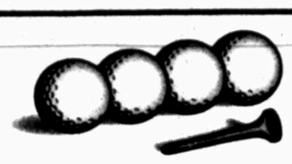








"MY MOM BRINGS ME ALONG TO HELP HER FIND OUR CAR WHEN WE'RE THROUGH SHOPPING."



SPORTS





Oklahoma assistant takes reins of Texas Tech football program

LUBBOCK (AP) — Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach has accepted Texas Tech's offer to become the school's next head football coach, athletic director Gerald Myers said today.

"We're really excited about having Mike as the next football coach," Myers said. "I think Mike, with his exciting, wide-open style of offense, will excite the fans, gain national recognition for the university and attract top recruits. It will bring a whole new level of excitement to Texas Tech football."

Meyers said Leach agreed to a 5-year contract in which he will earn $550,000 each year. Leach suceeds 13-year veteran Tech coach Spike Dykes, who announced his retirement Nov. 20.

"He is an outstanding coach — one of the finest young coaches in the country," Myers said. "We feel good about Mike coming in to lead our progam."

The school had scheduled a 10 a.m. news conference to announce Leach's decision, but an overnight snowstorm in Lubbock delayed Leach, Myers said. The news conference was pushed back to noon.

"He's excited and on his way to Texas Tech," Myers said.

Leach could not be reached for comment after he made his final decision. He called Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers from his cell phone about 9 p.m. Wednesday.

During football practice Wednesday, a teary-eyed Leach told his team he had been offered the top coaching job at Texas Tech when he visited the school Tuesday.

Mike Prusinki, Oklahoma's director of athletic media relations, said Leach met with Sooners' quarterback Josh Heupel before announcing he'd received the offer. Both emerged with tears in their eyes.

"I would be lying if I didn't say it wasn't emotional," Prusinski said. "He said the toughest thing about leaving Oklahoma is the people. He said it is not going to be an easy decision."

Leach said he liked the vision Tech has for its team and "how enthusiastic they are down there and how important it is to them."

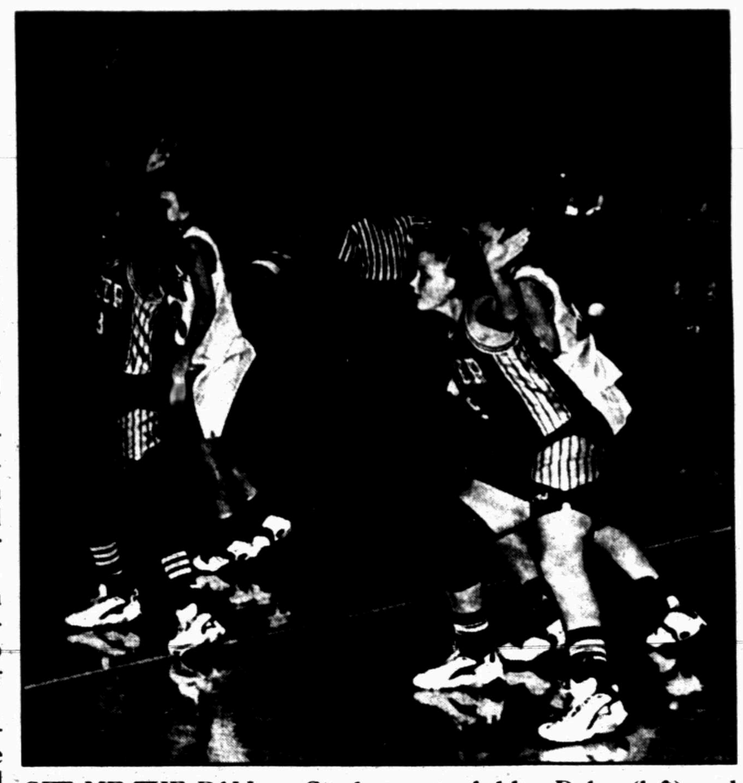
"It's hard to leave," he said. "I really feel like Oklahoma is really going to be a good team next year, no matter what happens."

Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops said the Sooners will continue to support Leach.

"If that's the best situation for Mike and that's what he chooses to do, then we're all for him and proud of him and happy and appreciative of what he did for us here," Stoops said.

After meeting Tuesday with Tech Chancellor John T. Montford in Dallas, Leach flew to Lubbock for meetings, dinner and a campus tour.

He became the leading candidate after Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez said he no longer would pursue the job. Montford said there are many "applicants" when asked whether Leach is the only remaining candidate.



GET ME THE BALL — Snyder posts Ashley Delce (left) and Katie Voss call for the ball during tournament action last week in San Angelo. The Lady Tigers tip off another event today when they take on Coahoma at 3:30 in the Wylie Catclaw Tournament. The Snyder boys meet Andrews at 4:30 in the Seminole Christmas Classic. (SDN Staff Photo)

Barkley's career ends in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — On a giant screen above the court, Charles Barkley was dunking and jawing, tossing the ball at his opponents in a highlight film from his glory days in Philadelphia.

The real Barkley, the one who is 36 years old, was only moments away from the injury that would end his remarkable basketball career.

In a finale so outrageous it could only happen to him, Barkley ruptured a tendon in his knee Wednesday night during the first quarter of his farewell game in Philly. A celebration in the city where his career began turned into Barkley's last game in the NBA.

"There were a lot of people here who saw me play my first game and saw me play my last game," said Barkley, who went down with 4:09 left in the first quarter of the Sixers' 83-73 victory over Barkley's Houston Rockets.

"I am a little sad. I cried a little bit. But I've got too many memories to let tonight end on a bad note."

Barkley, who already announced that he would retire after this season, was going up to block a shot by Tyrone Hill when his leg buckled and he hit the floor hard. His left kneecap bulging badly, Barkley simply grabbed the knee, put his mouthpiece in his sock and called for the trainer.

The tendon that attaches his thigh to his kneecap ruptured. The injury, rare in basketball, requires surgery and at least six months of rehabilitation. Barkley was helped off the court to one of his six standing ovations.

Sixers team doctor Jack McPhilemy said the injury would be career-threatening even for a young player. Barkley will be 37 in February.

"I knew it was over as soon as I saw it," Barkley said. "I knew it was over when it first happened. I saw the way the kneecap was bulging through my leg and I said, 'Well, it's been fun.'"

The Sixers honored Barkley before the game and flew his mother, Charcey Glenn, and grandmother, Johnnie Mickens, from his hometown of Leeds, Ala., for the celebration.

Barkley's final sequence was like many in his brilliant career. He made a steal and a behind-the-back pass to start a break with the Rockets leading 13-10.

After two misses, Barkley gathered one of the 4,259 offensive rebounds in his career, got the ball back and backed in on 7-foot rookie Todd MacCulloch. The last shot of his career was blocked.

At the other end, he went up to defend against Hill. When he came down, he knew his career was over.

"The way my knee was, I knew there was definitely something wrong," Barkley said.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Miami	14	4	.778	—
New York	11	9	.550	4
Boston	9	8	.529	4½
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	4½
Orlando	9	10	.474	5½
Washington	5	15	.250	10
New Jersey	4	15	.211	10½
Central Division				
Toronto	12	6	.667	—
Charlotte	11	7	.611	1
Indiana	11	7	.611	1
Cleveland	9	8	.529	2½
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	2½
Atlanta	9	9	.500	3
Detroit	9	10	.474	3½
Chicago	1	15	.063	10
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	14	6	.700	—
Utah	11	7	.611	2
Denver	9	9	.500	4
Minnesota	7	8	.467	4½
Houston	7	13	.350	7
Dallas	7	14	.333	7½
Vancouver	4	14	.222	9
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	15	5	.750	—
Portland	15	5	.750	—
Sacramento	12	4	.750	1
Seattle	14	5	.737	½
Phoenix	12	6	.667	2
L.A. Clippers	4	14	.222	10
Golden State	2	16	.111	12

Wednesday's Games

Boston 115, Denver 90
Philadelphia 83, Houston 73
Atlanta 99, L.A. Clippers 81
New Jersey 107, Milwaukee 90
Cleveland 107, Chicago 93
Charlotte 113, Golden State 106
Sacramento 103, L.A. Lakers 91
Utah 85, Dallas 79
Seattle 110, Minnesota 94

Thursday's Games

Vancouver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Detroit, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Utah, 9 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

Slingers name officers

The Snyder Slingers Horseshoe Club has elected officers and set its schedule for the upcoming year.

New officers are Raymond Holdridge, president; Bernard Bartels, vice president; T.C. Nunn, tournament director; Rhonda Anderson, secretary-treasurer; and Dorothy Duncan, publicity director.

On the Slingers' schedule are the Duncan Classic in April, the Fall Classic in September, and the White Buffalo Open in October.

The club will assist with the July Fourth Open and the Fair Open, if needed.

Only sanctioned pitchers may compete in the classics, while anyone interested can take part in the open events.

Men's College Basketball Scores

EAST

Brown 89, Denver 74
Georgetown 83, Bethune-Cookman 76
Lehigh 93, Swarthmore 41
Manhattan 69, Fordham 68
Niagara 73, St. Francis, Pa. 71
Penn St. 67, George Mason 54
Pittsburgh 92, Robert Morris 59
Quinnipiac 83, Sacred Heart 70
Rutgers 73, St. Joseph's 70
Siena 82, Colgate 71
St. John's 88, St. Francis, NY 66
St. Peter's 67, Northeastern 65
Stony Brook 63, Columbia 50
Temple 64, Gonzaga 48
UMBC 95, Washington, Md. 50

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 82, East Carolina 73
Charleston Southern 59, Furman 58, OT
Cincinnati 77, North Carolina 68
Elon 75, Davidson 70
Georgia 70, Georgia Tech 68
Georgia Southern 73, Mercer 68
Jackson St. 72, Louisiana Tech 69
N.C. Central 79, N. Carolina A&T 74
Norfolk St. 70, Hampton 69
Old Dominion 71, VMI 62
Stetson 70, The Citadel 60
Tennessee 94, West Virginia 54
Tulane 64, Texas A&M 60, OT
UMKC 53, Delaware St. 50
Virginia 98, Loyola, Md. 67
Wiley 97, Grambling St. 77

MIDWEST

Bradley 75, George Washington 65
Detroit 83, Cent. Michigan 80
E. Michigan 65, Ohio 55
Illinois 98, Texas-Pan American 61
Iowa St. 78, Wis.-Milwaukee 64
Kansas St. 62, Memphis 61
Miami, Ohio 67, Xavier 58
Michigan 75, Kent 73
Notre Dame 65, Valparaiso 42
S. Illinois 82, Evansville 51
Wisconsin 55, Wis.-Green Bay 34

SOUTHWEST

Centenary 63, Ark.-Little Rock 49
Texas Tech 80, Stephen F.Austin 56

FAR WEST

Colorado St. 79, Colorado 57
Long Beach St. 77, Air Force 76
New Mexico St. 66, New Mexico 57
Pacific 67, CS Stanislaus 63
Sacramento St. 59, Nevada 56
San Francisco 69, Fresno St. 59
Southern Cal 85, Hawaii 56

Women's College Basketball Scores

EAST

Boston College 65, Villanova 55
Connecticut 88, Seton Hall 45
Fairfield 88, Monmouth, N.J. 68
Harvard 83, Rhode Island 59
Hofstra 57, Yale 42
Holy Cross 73, Cent. Connecticut St. 47
Lafayette 64, Fairleigh Dickinson 54
Long Island U. 77, Army 74
Manhattan 80, Brown 39
Navy 50, UMBC 46
Northeastern 55, Maine 45
Penn St. 78, La Salle 64
Providence 74, West Virginia 64
Rutgers 58, Pittsburgh 52
St. Francis, Pa. 71, Duquesne 59
St. Joseph's 76, Penn 47
St. Peter's 58, Rider 56
Stony Brook 60, Iona 53
Temple 59, Lehigh 51

SOUTH

Duke 70, Virginia Tech 61
East Carolina 77, Appalachian St. 60
Maryland 65, Howard 58
Samford 82, Nicholls St. 55

MIDWEST

Ball St. 84, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 63
Detroit 78, Toledo 74
Drake 90, Iowa St. 86
Kansas St. 66, Wis.-Green Bay 57
Marquette 69, Wisconsin 65
Michigan St. 87, Cent. Michigan 62
N. Iowa 60, Tulsa 54
Ohio 67, Minnesota 51
Purdue 71, Notre Dame 61
Xavier 94, N.C. Charlotte 67

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 64, SW Missouri St. 58
Lamar 81, Centenary 44
Tulane 91, Texas A&M 74

FAR WEST

Arizona St. 76, N. Arizona 52
Colorado 78, Wyoming 59
Gonzaga 82, Washington St. 66
Long Beach St. 62, Southern Cal 49
San Diego 71, Fresno St. 54
San Francisco 77, San Francisco St. 40
Texas Tech 66, New Mexico 59

Lady Raiders hold off Lobos

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Plenette Pierson scored 15 points and Aleah Johnson added 14 and 14 rebounds to lead No. 12 Texas Tech to a 66-59 win over New Mexico on Wednesday night.

After sitting out most of the first half with foul trouble, Pierson returned in the second half to give the Lady Raiders (6-0) a much-needed boost.

She scored 13 of her points in the second half and helped Texas Tech hold the Lady Lobos (4-4) to 29 percent shooting from the field. New Mexico had shot 48 percent in the first half to take a 33-32 lead at halftime.

New Mexico stayed close for most of the contest, taking its final lead on a Jordan Adams jumper to make it 45-40. But the Lady Raiders ran off seven straight points — five by Pierson — to make it 47-45. They never trailed again.

Keitha Dickerson finished with 14 points for Texas Tech and nine rebounds.

Local Basketball Schedule

TODAY

Snyder varsity boys vs. Andrews, at Seminole tourney, 4:30
Snyder varsity girls vs. Coahoma, at Wylie tourney, 3:30
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys vs. Westbrook, at Westbrook tourney, 6 and 7:30
Ira varsity girls vs. Midland Trinity, at Stanton tourney, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Western Texas vs. Angelina, at Lufkin Classic, 8 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Lamesa, at Seminole tourney, 1:30
Snyder varsity girls vs. Springtown or Haskell, at Wylie tourney, 12:30 or 3:30
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys vs. Grady, at Westbrook tourney, 6 and 7:30
Ira varsity girls at Stanton tourney
Ira varsity boys at Stamford, 7:30

SATURDAY

Western Texas vs. San Jacinto, at Lufkin Classic, 2 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Denver City, at Seminole tourney, 2 p.m., SHS vs. Seminole, 8 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls at Wylie tourney
Hermleigh varsity girls vs. Rotan JV, at Westbrook tourney, 3 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity boys vs. Big Spring freshmen, at Westbrook tourney, 4:30
Ira varsity girls at Stanton tourney

Sports Whirl

By Eric Drennan SDN Sports Editor

Here are a few notes about Florida's financial loss, Peter Warrick's financial gain, and the Cowboy's offense, which isn't worth the price of a ticket.

There are costly losses, and then there is Florida's setback to Alabama in the SEC championship game.

Heading into the contest, both teams were virtually guaranteed of a New Year's Day bowl berth. But the winner was going to garner a spot in one of the four bowls involved in the prestigious Bowl Championship Series.

The losing Gators were invited to the Citrus Bowl, which pays each school $1.9 million.

Meanwhile, the victorious Crimson Tide are headed to the Orange Bowl where they'll rake up a cool $6 million.

OUCH! That's a difference of over $4 million. The Gators could have purchased a lot of stuff with that kind of money — especially if Peter Warrick was doing the shopping.

Warrick, you might recall, was a Heisman Trophy front runner when the season began. But the Florida State receiver sat out two games for his involvement in a department store clothing scam.

Warrick and a teammate purchased over $400 worth of designer clothing for a whopping $21.40. Warrick saved almost $380 on his new threads, but the ramifications of his actions were much more costly.

When the five Heisman finalists were named this week, Warrick wasn't among them, meaning the frugal flanker isn't even invited to the ceremony.

After finding out he wouldn't be at the event, Warrick said, "I feel that's very unfair. I should have been at least invited. That hurt my feelings, bad."

His feelings of betrayal must be similar to those of his teammates during his two-game absence.

After hearing Warrick's comment, it seems the only thing bigger than his clothing discount is his ego.

Riddle: What has 22 legs, but can't go anywhere?

Answer: the Dallas Cowboys' offense.

Lately, the Cowboys' offense has been more stagnant than a holiday checkout line, and as lackluster as Texas Tech's search for a new coach.

There's no reason to believe things should improve over the final four weeks. The Cowboys have had 12 games to work out their offensive problems, but week after week they're inconsistent at best. So the same players trying to execute the same conservative game plan should produce the same results for the final four games.

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Full-time positions for CNAs. Sick time, vacation, holidays & insurance. Must have good references. Contact: Elia Gonzalez D.O.N. Valley Fair Lodge, 1541 Chestnut, Colorado City.

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2-1, carport, w/refrigerator, 207 Elm. $200/mo, $200 dep. References required. 573-0993, Kathy.

2709 38th, 2-1-1, fenced yard. $275/mo., $150/dep. References. Dupree Rentals 573-9001.

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

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Elizabeth Potts Realtor
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Convicted private apologizes to family

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — An Army private convicted of beating a fellow soldier to death — a crime prosecutors blamed on his hatred of homosexuals — apologized today to his victim's family at his sentencing hearing.

His voice cracking, Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, read his statement a day after he was convicted of premeditated murder for using a baseball bat to crush the skull of Pfc. Barry Winchell.

"If I had acted as half the man, even half the soldier as Barry was, he'd be with us right now," Glover said.

"I have to apologize to Barry's parents," he said. "I'm deeply sorry for the pain I've brought your family. This is something that I'll have to remember for the rest of my life."

Glover, who had been drinking before the attack, said he's a recovering alcoholic. He said he had found God during his five months in jail.

The guilty verdict carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison, but military jurors must decide whether Glover will ever be eligible for parole.

Glover, from Sulphur, Okla., was convicted of beating Winchell as he slept on a cot at their Fort Campbell barracks on July 5.

Before the court-martial, Glover admitted to a lesser charge of unpremeditated murder in hopes of receiving a lighter sentence. But prosecutor Capt. Gregg Engler went ahead with the court-martial on the more serious charge of premeditated murder.

When he offered his plea on Tuesday, Glover sobbed and said he did not know why he hit Winchell "at least two or three times" with a bat.

"I wasn't really mad at him, sir. It was just a mistake, sir. I was really drunk," Glover told the judge, Col. Gary J. Holland.

Glover never addressed the allegation that he hated homosexuals.

The court also heard from Winchell's mother and stepfather, Pat and Wally Kutteles. They described their son as a loving, compassionate man who enjoyed the Army and looked forward to becoming a helicopter pilot.

A high school dropout, Glover earned his graduate equivalency diploma, then asked his mother to declare him an adult at age 17 so he could enlist on Oct. 25, 1998.

Defense attorneys argued that another soldier, Spc. Justin R. Fisher, 25, of Lincoln, Neb., who is charged as an accessory, goaded Glover into the attack.

Staff Sgt. Michael Kleifgen testified that Fisher started spreading rumors in March among members of their unit that Winchell, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was gay. Fisher often harassed Winchell and once, during a scuffle, struck him in the head with a dustpan, Kleifgen said, Winchell needed stitches.

Kleifgen, their section leader at the time, said he regularly spoke with Fisher and Winchell about their differences. The problems continued, however, so the matter was presented to a first sergeant, he said.

"He said, basically, there was nothing we could do because of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," Kleifgen said, referring to the military's policy on homosexuals.

Kleifgen said he also got nowhere pursuing the issue with the company commander and filed a complaint with the post's inspector general. It was not immediately known what happened to that complaint.

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, gay members of the military can continue to serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday the Defense Department is designing training programs to ensure understanding of the policy.

Fisher is to be court-martialed on Monday.

Memorial parade held for firefighters

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Thousands of firefighters in dress blues marched through city streets today as bagpipes wailed to honor six firefighters who gave their lives to save others.

Firefighters from as far away as Hawaii, Australia and Ireland came to show their respects for their Worcester comrades. A special Amtrak train carried more than a thousand firefighters here this morning from neighboring Connecticut to say good-bye to fallen brothers.

Along the route, sometimes two and three people deep, children and adults waved miniature American flags. One child held a homemade drawing that said, "Good-bye fallen hero's. I'm so sorry."

"Firefighting is a brotherhood and these guys live together every single day," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. "It's a loss I think everybody really relates to."

The six firefighters were killed Friday after two became lost in a burning warehouse looking for homeless people. Four others died trying to save them. A homeless couple has been charged with causing the blaze by knocking over a candle during an argument.

Roads leading to Worcester today were lined with signs.

"Say a prayer for the families of the Worcester six," read a sign outside Harry's Restaurant in Westboro.

The procession wove past the Grove Street and Central Street stations where the six were assigned preceding the 11 a.m. memorial service at the Worcester Centrum. At one point, the parade passed beneath a giant American flag draped between two fire ladder trucks.

President Clinton was to address mourners at the service. Others who planned to attend included Vice President Al Gore, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Gov. Paul Cellucci and Alfred Whitehead, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Shortly before the procession began, three buses filled with 115 relatives of Joseph T. McGuirk, one of the fallen firefighters, arrived at the Centrum. All wore small plastic badges with pictures of the firefighters, made by Worcester schoolchildren.

The others who perished were James F. Lyons, 34; Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, 42; Timothy P. Jackson, 51; Paul A. Brotherton, 41; and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38.

Schools, municipal offices and many businesses were closed today in this blue-collar city of 170,000 people 30 miles west of Boston. The Boston Stock Exchange planned to suspend business for a minute of silence.

The blaze is believed to be the deadliest for U.S. firefighters since 1994, when 14 perished on Storm King mountain near Glenwood Springs, Colo. The two homeless suspects have pleaded innocent to involuntary manslaughter and were ordered held on $1 million bail.

Two of the firefighters died when they entered the building to rescue any homeless people who might have been inside. After they became engulfed in smoke, they radioed for help. The others died coming to their aid.

Lyons' and Jackson's bodies have been recovered. The search continued for the remains of the other four.

"We still have four of our brothers in there," fire Lt. Don Courtney said. "We want them back."

The firefighters left 17 children between them. A bill to raise the cap on death benefits for firefighters from $5,000 to $10,000 was signed Wednesday by Gov. Paul Cellucci. Their families are also eligible for $100,000 in benefits from the state retirement board.

The area around the charred warehouse has sprung to life, with a tent city in a parking lot to support the search by hundreds of firefighters.

The workers wear black ribbons. A sign posted on one tent reads "Search Dogs." And a red Fire Department bus parked nearby has a handwritten placard in the window, "Families."

Volunteers from the Salvation Army and the Red Cross provide hot meals and snacks.

Boy lived with dead mom for one month

CARTHAGE, Miss. (AP) — A 9-year-old boy who lived with his mother's corpse for a month is now finding comfort in the arms of his maternal grandmother.

Shirley Wilder says Travis Butler appears to be normal and stable despite his ordeal.

Travis told authorities he lived in a Memphis, Tenn., apartment with his dead mother's body because he was afraid to tell anyone she was dead. He feared being placed in foster care.

The youngster cut his hair, fixed frozen pizzas, cereal and other simple meals and went to school every day from the time he said his mother died Nov. 3 until her body was discovered Monday.

At Wilder's trailer home in Carthage, Travis is being shielded from the media and others.

"He said, 'Grandmother, it feels so good being in your arms,'" Wilder told The Commercial Appeal of Memphis.

She said details of the boy's ordeal will have to remain with Travis for now.

"We've got to make sure he's strong enough to be asked questions," she said. "We want to cover little Travis up for the time being."

Police have not released a cause of death for Crystal Wells, 30, but said foul play is not suspected. Family friend Dorothy Jeffries said Wells suffered various health problems, including high blood pressure.

Mrs. Jeffries and her husband Nathaniel found the body when they went to the apartment after becoming concerned when they were unable to contact her. When they arrived, Travis answered the door.

Wells' body was on the living room floor. Travis had covered it with his mother's coat and placed sheets of notebook paper over her face, Mrs. Jeffries said.

Mrs. Jeffries said Wells moved to Memphis about three years ago. Mrs. Jeffries and her husband met Wells two years ago when Wells' car broke down in Olive Branch and they picked her up as she walked along the road.

"Crystal was a loner and didn't trust anyone," Mrs. Jeffries said.

Judge sentences 3 heroin dealers to life in prison

SHERMAN (AP) — A federal judge sentenced three convicted heroin dealers to life in prison Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Schell ruled heroin was to blame for the deaths of four young people in Plano and it caused serious bodily injury to another, WFAA-TV reported.

A rarely-used federal sentencing guideline allows courts to issue stiffer punishment when a lethal dose of drugs can be traced to the dealer.

Ten Mexican nationals in February were convicted of conspiracy to distribute heroin.

The wife of one of the men received a six-year prison term, while another man was sentenced to 11 years in prison for his role in the Mexican black tar heroin ring. Five still await sentencing.

Several heroin-related deaths over an 18-month period starting in 1997 made Plano a symbol of how heroin had moved from urban street corners to the manicured lawns and look-alike tract homes of suburbia.

In all, 29 people were named in a 36-count indictment issued last summer. Eighteen, including several Plano youths who admitted they distributed drugs to their friends, pleaded guilty before trial.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	62 9-16	60⅝	60⅞	— ⅝
AT&T Corp s	58⅛	57⅝	58	+ 3-16
Albertsons	30 1-16	29½	29 15-16	+ 9-16
Alltel	91½	90 11-16	90⅞	+ ⅝
AmerOnline s	82¼	80½	80⅞	+ ⅞
AndarkPtr	30 7-16	29 9-16	29 13-16	— 3-16
AtlRichfld	90⅝	88⅞	90⅜	+ 1 15-16
ATMOS Egy	21¾	21¼	21¼	— ⅝
Aviall	7⅜	7 3-16	7 5-16	
BP Amoco s	61⅜	60 9-16	61⅜	+ 1⅛
BakerHughes	20¾	16¾	16 15-16	—5 9-16
Bank of Amer	51 5-16	50 3-16	50 7-16	— 1-16
BellAtl	64 5-16	63 13-16	64 3-16	+ 7-16
BellSouth s	47	46½	47	+ 123-128
Beth Steel	6 13-16	6⅝	6 11-16	+ 3-16
BurlNoSFe	28 9-16	28 1-16	28⅛	— ½
CBS Corp	58 13-16	57⅜	57 11-16	— ⅛
Caterpillar	46 1-16	45 7-16	46	+ ⅜
CenSoWst	19 15-16	19 9-16	19⅝	— ¼
Chevron	92	91	91⅞	+ 1⅜
Citigroup s	56⅛	55¼	55⅝	+ ⅜
Coastal	35	34 7-16	34½	+ 5-16
CocaCola	61⅛	60 1-16	60 11-16	+ 3-16
ColgatePal s	59⅞	58⅜	59	+ 9-16
ComclMetals	31⅛	30 11-16	30¾	— ⅝
Cooperin	41 7-16	40 15-16	41 3-16	
DaimlrChry	67	66⅝	66 11-16	— 1⅜
DallSemicn	64¼	63 7-16	63 7-16	— 1-16
DeltaAirl	50¼	48⅝	48 13-16	— ⅞
Dillards Inc	18 7-16	18 1-16	18¼	
DowChem	121⅛	118 13-16	121	+ 1 9-16
DuPont	59⅛	58 1-16	58 9-16	—15-16
EastmanChem	42⅜	42 1-16	42⅛	+ ⅛
EstKodak	62¼	61¼	61½	+ 1
EDS Corp	68 11-16	67⅞	68	+ ⅜
Entergy	25⅝	25 5-16	25⅝	
ExxonMobil	85⅛	83⅞	85 1-16	+ 1
Flowers	16 13-16	16½	16½	— 7-16
FordMotor	50¾	50 1-16	50 5-16	— 1-16
GTE Cp	73 15-16	73 5-16	73 11-16	— ¼
GenDynam	51 1-16	50	50 5-16	—11-16
GenElec	144 15-16	143 13-16	144⅝	+ 1¾
GenMills s	36⅛	35⅛	35 3-16	—11-16
GenMotors	73 3-16	72¼	72⅝	— ⅜
GaPacGP s	41¼	40 9-16	41⅛	+ ⅞
GlobalMar	15 13-16	15	15½	+ 1-16
Goodrich	22⅛	21⅜	22	+ 11-16
Goodyear s	28 11-16	28⅛	28 7-16	— 3-16
GtAtlPac	24⅞	24 11-16	24 13-16	+ 3-16
Halliburtn	37¼	35⅝	35⅞	— 1⅛
Hanson ADS	42 7-16	42¼	42¼	+ 1 1-16
HarteHanks	20 11-16	20 5-16	20 5-16	— ½
HomeDepot	86 13-16	83¼	86 11-16	+ 3 3-16
HoneywellIntl	60¼	59 1-16	59⅛	—15-16
IBM s	122⅛	119⅜	120⅛	+ 1¾
IntlPaper	54 11-16	52 11-16	54 11-16	+ 1⅝
JohnsonJn	92 15-16	91¾	92 11-16	+ 2⅛
K mart	10⅛	9 13-16	10⅛	+ ½
Kroger Co s	16⅛	15 13-16	15 15-16	— 1-16
Lifton	45 11-16	45¼	45 7-16	— 5-16
LockheedM	20	19 11-16	19 15-16	— 1-16
Lowes Cos	53⅜	52⅜	52 15-16	+ 11-16
Lubys	11¼	11⅛	11⅛	
LucentTech s	84 3-16	82	82½	+ ⅝
MayDeptStr s	30⅞	30 1-16	30 9-16	+ ½
MediaOne	80⅝	80 1-16	80⅝	+ 11-16
Medtronic s	37	36¼	36¼	— ¼
Monsanto	44½	43¼	43 9-16	+ 1-16
MorganJP	133⅛	132	132⅛	+ 1⅛
Motorola	131⅜	129 3-16	130 9-16	+ 1 1-16
NCR Corp	32½	32⅜	32 7-16	— 1-16
Navistar	37 15-16	37¼	37 7-16	— ½
Penney JC	19½	18 15-16	19⅜	+ ¼
PepBoys	9¼	8 11-16	8 15-16	— 3-16
PepsiCo	37¼	36½	36 11-16	— ⅜
PhelpDodge	55½	54⅝	55	+ 1-16
PhilipPet	49 5-16	48⅝	48 15-16	— 3-16
PilgrmPrd B	7 9-16	7 9-16	7 9-16	— 1-16
Polaroid	18¾	17 9-16	18 3-16	+ 1-16
Praxair	45⅞	45⅛	45½	+ ½
ProctGamb	110 15-16	108 7-16	108⅞	—1 13-16
PubS NwMx	16 11-16	16 3-16	16 3-16	— ⅜
ReliantEngy	23⅜	23⅛	23¼	— 1-16
RoyalDut	58 1-16	57 9-16	57¾	+ 1½
SBC Comm	54 15-16	54	54 13-16	+ 177-256
SaraLee s	23⅛	22¾	23 1-16	+ 1-16
Scripps EW	46⅞	46	46 7-16	— 7-16
SearsRoeb	31 9-16	31	31 7-16	+ ⅜
SherwinW	21 3-16	20 9-16	20 11-16	— ⅜
SmithklBchm	64⅝	63¾	64 3-16	— ⅜
SouthernCo	23	22 11-16	22⅞	— ⅛
SwstAirl s	16 7-16		16⅛	— ⅛
SprintFON s	69 3-16		68¼	68⅜ + 15-16
SprintPCS	102⅞	99 1-16	101 11-16	+ 2 3-16
Sunoco Inc	24 13-16	24 1-16	24⅜	+ ⅜
TNP Ent	41	40⅞	40 15-16	— 1-16
Tandy s	72¾	70¼	70¼	— 1¾
TempleInland	62⅞	61⅜	62 11-16	+ 1
Texaco	58⅜	57⅛	57 11-16	— 9-16
TexInd	38 5-16	37⅝	37 11-16	— ⅝
TexasInst s	111½	109 13-16	110⅜	+ ⅞
Tex Util	35 9-32	34⅞	34⅞	+ ⅛
Textron	74½	73 9-16	73 13-16	+ 5-16
TriconGlbR	40 15-16	40¼	40 13-16	+ 5-16
TrinityInds	28¼	28	28	+ ⅛
TritonEngy	20 5-16	19 9-16	19 9-16	— ¾
TylerTech	4	3 15-16	3 15-16	— 1-16
US West Inc	67	66 1-16	66¼	+ ⅛
USX-Marathn	25 7-16	24¾	25⅜	+ 15-16
USX-USS	28⅞	28⅛	28 13-16	+ 11-16
UnCarbde	61 3-16	60⅞	61 3-16	+ 7-16
UnionPacif	46 1-16	44 15-16	45⅝	— 7-16
UnitedTech s	58⅝	57 5-16	58⅛	— ⅜
Unocal	35½	33⅞	35 5-16	+ 1⅛
Venator Grp	7⅛	7 1-16	7 1-16	— ⅛
WalMart s	58⅝	57¾	58 3-16	+ 3-16
WellsFargo	44⅜	43 9-16	44 5-16	+ 13-16
WstnGasRs	13⅜	13	13⅜	+ 5-16
WinnDixie	23 5-16	22 13-16	23 1-16	— 1-16
Xerox Cp s	24⅞	23 11-16	24 1-16	— ⅜

Local Interest STOCKS

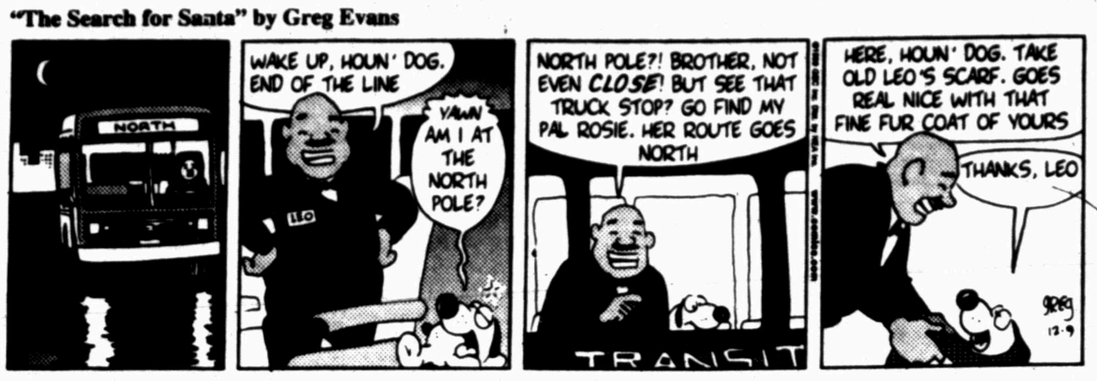
Patterson	10 9/16	-7/8
Dell	42 11/16	-13/16
Wal Mart	57 3/4	-115/128
Compac	25 7/8	+3/4
Dol. Gen.	24 1/16	+3/8
GTE	73 1/16	-147/256
SBC Comm.	54 1/2	+111/256
Tx Instr.	107 3/8	-1 13/128
LU	81 3/8	-1/2
Cisco Sys.	96 5/8	-3 5/16

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"The Search for Santa" by Greg Evans



Poll gives McCain first edge over Bush in New Hampshire

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Arizona Sen. John McCain has moved into a narrow lead over George W. Bush in New Hampshire in the first poll to find the Texas governor slipping behind.

With less than two months before the nation's first presidential primary, McCain drew the support of 37 percent of likely Republican voters compared with 30 percent for Bush in the survey put out Wednesday by the American Research Group.

Previous polls found Bush — consistently and by wide margins the front-runner nationally — facing an ever tighter race against McCain in New Hampshire. A few surveys before and after last week's GOP debate in the state put them in a statistical tie.

The new poll of 600 likely Republican voters and 600 likely Democratic voters had a margin of error of 4 percentage points, leaving McCain with a small but statistically significant lead. It was taken Friday to Tuesday, spanning a period from the day after the New Hampshire debate to the day after a debate in Arizona.

The poll confirms that "we continue to gain strength on the appeal of Senator McCain's independent conservative message," said Peter Spaulding, his New Hampshire chairman.

On the Democratic side, the poll found former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley continued in a statistical tie with Al Gore, getting 44 percent to the vice president's 40 percent.

In the GOP field, Steve Forbes was third, with 10 percent. Alan Keyes had 5 percent; Gary Bauer and Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch each scored 1 percent.

Pollster Dick Bennett said that as the Feb. 1 primary approaches, Bush continues to slide in the polls, while McCain continues to improve his standing.

Last month's poll by American Research Group put Bush and McCain in a statistical dead heat, with 38 percent backing Bush and 35 percent for McCain. The latest poll represented a 12-point drop for Bush since October.

Bennett said Bush's standing was not helped by his performance in last Thursday's nationally televised debate.

High technology theme for Bush's visit

BEDFORD, N.H. (AP) — Undecided voter Marion Hauck is in a bind.

The 41-year-old Bedford resident says she likes Arizona Sen. John McCain's politics and his story as a war hero who spent more than five years in a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. But she also likes Texas Gov. George W. Bush, and Wednesday, she asked Bush to help her decide between the two.

The trouble is that Bush — at least explicitly — wasn't much help.

"Well, I'm glad I'm in the finals," Bush told her while speaking with 200 voters at Bedford Town Hall. "He's a good man. I'm not going to tear John McCain down. I think I'd be a better leader than him, but you've got to decide."

Bush even went as far as to say that politically, differences between him and his rival often amount to "shades of gray."

Even as McCain has pulled even or slightly ahead of Bush in many New Hampshire polls, Bush is refraining from attacking him.

An American Research Group poll released Wednesday gave McCain, for the first time, a narrow lead in New Hampshire. It said 37 percent of people who plan to vote in the primary supported McCain, compared to 30 percent for Bush. The margin of error was plus or minus 4 percent.

The Bedford stop came between two technology-oriented campaign visits: one earlier at White Pine Software in Nashua and one on Wednesday night with members of the Software Association of New Hampshire.

Bush was joined during the day by former Netscape chairman Jim Barksdale as Bush called for better education, lower taxes and more free trade to keep the economy strong.

Bush said free trade is the best way to create high-paying jobs in the country, and that Americans who lose their jobs to other countries can be retrained for those positions.

Tearing down trade barriers not only opens foreign markets to American goods, but also encourages freedom in the countries the United States trades with, Bush said. With more democratic governments and better economies, those countries will treat their workers better and take better care of the environment, he said.

"By trading with the entrepreneur class in China, we will be able to spread freedom," Bush said. "When the Internet takes hold in China, freedom's genie is out of the bottle."

He also stressed legal reforms passed in Texas to cut down on frivolous lawsuits. He said such reforms allow entrepreneurs to invest their money without worrying about being sued.

While at White Pine Software, Bush spoke simultaneously with children at three elementary schools by videoconference. He told them if they don't work hard in school they won't be able to take advantage of the high-paying jobs the technology industry offers.

One pupil asked Bush about a statistic that said only 42 percent of American homes have computers.

"We've worked hard to make sure technology is available to all our children," Bush said. "But the chart that's most disturbing to me is the chart that says too many children can't read. If you can't read, it won't matter if you have a computer."

Barksdale said he is supporting Bush because of his attitude about education and because Texas has done well improving pupils' test scores. He said America's technology industries are short 350,000 to 400,000 trained workers, and the only way to boost that workforce is to get children interested in math and science.

"The average fourth-grader can't read at a fourth-grade level," Barksdale said.

Nielsen planning People Meter service

NEW YORK (AP) — Nielsen Media Research plans to electronically collect information on who is watching TV in local markets in a step that may presage the end of television's ratings "sweeps" months.

The company's announcement will, at first, affect only 500 families in Boston who will have "people meters" installed on their sets. But a successful experiment there could eventually cause big changes in how television networks operate.

Nielsen, the New York-based company with a monopoly on measuring the television audience, currently has 5,000 homes with people meters across the country. The electronic devices measure who in a household is watching TV and what they are viewing.

An additional 20,000 homes in 47 markets have set tuners, which tell Nielsen what network a set is tuned to but not who is watching.

Four times a year, Nielsen sends more than one million diaries to participating families who record their viewing habits. It is the only way networks can see detailed demographic information about who sees their programs in different parts of the country, and the data is used to set local advertising rates.

As a result, networks tend to clog those four "sweeps" months — February, May, July and November — with their high-profile programming.

Nielsen's announcement on Wednesday means that, for the first time, it will collect detailed demographic information on viewership in a local market year-round.

If the experiment in Boston is successful, Nielsen is prepared to install people meters in nine other cities within three years, said John Dimling, company president.

Nielsen depends on its customers to fund significant upgrades in service. Cable networks have been particularly anxious for better information because the television audience has become so splintered. The Boston experiment is being chiefly underwritten by MediaOne Group, the largest cable company in that city.

Broadcasters have long grumbled about sweeps because networks essentially air their best programming at the same time. Results can also be swayed by gimmicks and special events: ABC won November's sweep largely because of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

"From a network standpoint, sweeps are highly inefficient and basically make no sense," said Alan Wurtzel, NBC's president of research and media development.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Widow's Charming Escort Appears to Be a Cheat

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: I'm a widow in my 60s, and I'm beginning to think I'm the biggest fool in the world.

After my dear husband died two years ago, I convinced myself I would never get involved with another man. I needed peace after nursing my mate through five traumatic years of cancer and a painful death.

A year ago, I met a charming man my age at church with whom I had many interests in common. He asked me out right after we met, and we have been a happy twosome ever since. He owns his own home a short distance from mine, and we've had a marvelous relationship in all ways. He told me he was divorced and that his ex-wife lived 3,000 miles away in another state.

However, after he told me that he had four unmarried, grown children but didn't feel comfortable telling them about me, I became suspicious. When he visits them in another state, he asks me not to write or call him because they "wouldn't understand." My children and grandchildren like him very much, as do all my friends.

Finally, I asked him outright if he were, indeed, divorced. After a long pause he replied, "Not yet." (After a eight-year separation!)

Noticing our friendship, church members began to approach me and advise me to back off and not get hurt. I was told he had been involved with another woman at the church for a long time before he met me, and that they had broken up for unknown reasons. The reason for this occurred to me — that she didn't want to be caught in a dead-end relationship, either.

Abby, this man won't tell me straight, but I have this strong feeling that he cheated on his wife during their marriage, and she simply moved far away. He keeps my calendar full of dates and commitments extending far into the future, and I've always had a wonderful time with him. This is apparently the kind of life he wants, but it's not for me.

I am embarrassed and hurt. Do I just say to him, "I want marriage or nothing"? I am so emotionally entangled that an abrupt severing seems beyond my ability. Fragile as it is, I feel that we have something of great value together, but I only visualize an empty future together. Your thoughts, please.

IN LIMBO IN WASHINGTON

DEAR IN LIMBO: Politely put, your charming escort is a cad and a liar, and I'm sorry your heart is hurting because of his dishonesty. You deserve better.

Ask him to come clean and tell you if he and his wife are really washed up or not. You seem like a lovely woman with terrific instincts, and you already know what you have to do.

***

DEAR ABBY: Here's another solution for the woman whose neighbor uses her hose and water to water his own lawn and shrubs. Most faucet handles have a screw in the middle. Even without the screw, you can use the faucet. And when you're done, the handle can be removed and taken into the house. It worked for us.

SHARON L., PUYALLUP, WASH.

DEAR SHARON: Thank you for a helpful suggestion. I hope it will help the woman who wrote to stop the drip next door!

***

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Allergy to paint fumes is dangerous

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Whenever I am exposed to paint fumes, my tongue and throat swell. What harmful effects could result from over-exposure to these fumes?

DEAR READER: The swelling of your tongue and throat indicate an unusual degree of sensitivity to paint fumes. If you continue to be exposed to these vapors, you run the risk of experiencing a more profound reaction: swelling of the throat to the point when you cannot breathe. I urge you to avoid paint fumes to which you are allergic. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Allergies." 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: I began menstruating at 13. Now, three years later, my periods are still unpredictable and irregular. What is happening to my body?

DEAR READER: When girls begin menstruating, they often experience striking irregularity and marked variations in flow. Moreover, after menarche (first menstruation), many young women may not bleed again for a year or more. Your body is probably still adjusting to the new and profound effects of increasing hormone levels.

However, because you are concerned and took the time to write me, I advise you to double-check with a gynecologist. Occasionally, young women may experience correctable hormone imbalances. A specialist should be able to put your mind at ease or, if necessary, suggest a temporary treatment.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Why do heating pads often come with a warning not to use them if a person has poor circulation?

DEAR READER: When heat is applied to part of the normal body, it causes vasodilation, an opening-up of the blood vessels that carry heat away and prevent tissue damage. If a person has vascular disease, this vasodilation may not occur (because the blood vessels are too rigid). Consequently, heat from the pad will be focused on a specific area, causing potential burns and tissue damage.

In addition, patients with circulatory disturbances may have lost the ability to sense heat in a particular portion of the skin. The result is that they may fail to recognize that the heating pad is too hot.

While the use of heating pads on low settings rarely produces damage under these circumstances, the potential is there. Therefore, heating pads must be used with caution (or not at all) by people with vascular disease.

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DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Jury says murder conspiracy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. finally has what it has sought for years — a jury verdict saying the civil rights leader was the victim of a murder conspiracy, not the lone gunman.

"I'm just so happy to see that the people have spoken. This is what we've always asked for," King's son, Dexter, said Wednesday after a jury ruled in his family's favor on a wrongful death lawsuit.

The Kings had sued Loyd Jowers, a retired Memphis businessman who claimed six years ago that he paid someone other than confessed killer James Earl Ray to kill King.

The trial, which began Nov. 15, for the first time gave a jury the opportunity to hear theories of a murder conspiracy in the 1968 assassination at a Memphis motel.

Ray pleaded guilty to the murder in 1969, so he did not go to trial. He tried for 30 years to take back the guilty plea and died in prison of liver disease last year. His plea was upheld eight times by state and federal courts.

The six blacks and six whites on the Chancery Court jury deliberated only about three hours before returning Wednesday's verdict.

U.S.: Cockpit voice tape does not contain multiple voices

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the cockpit voice tape from EgyptAir Flight 990 does not contain the sounds of multiple people in the cockpit as the plane began its fatal plunge to the sea.

Such a contention, made in recent Egyptian media reports, would undercut the theory of suicide by a lone pilot.

One official, speaking Wednesday on the condition of anonymity, said there are a couple of points in the tape when it is not absolutely clear who is speaking. An Egyptian translator said he thought the speaker might be a second person, but a U.S. translator disagreed.

The official said there is nothing else that would steer investigators at the National Transportation Safety Board away from their theory that a lone person in the cockpit turned off the autopilot, pointed the plane's nose toward the Atlantic Ocean and then turned off the engines.

The safety board has already said there is no evidence that a mechanical or weather-related problem caused the Boeing 767 to crash Oct. 31 off the Massachusetts coast. All 217 aboard the New York-to-Cairo flight were killed.

NTSB Chairman Jim Hall today refused to discuss the reports during a news conference called to review the operational efficiency of the safety board.

City receives special award

The City of Snyder has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

In addition, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to Jeanne B. Johnson, Director of Finance. She is the individual designated as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada makes the award.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving 12,625 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Obituaries

Geraldine Sanders

1913-1999

Funeral service for Geraldine Sanders, a longtime resident of Snyder, is set for 11 a.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. Tony Wofford, pastor of Word Is Life Deliverance Church, will officiate, assisted by Yvonne Grant, Mrs. Sanders' daughter from Fort Worth. Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Sanders, 86, died Saturday, Dec. 4, in Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital in Fort Worth.

Born Oct. 6, 1913 in Newton, Kan., she married C.B. Sanders on Jan. 18, 1946 in Snyder. He died June 29, 1992. She was also preceded in death by a brother, Gervis Muse.

Mrs. Sanders was a domestic worker and was a member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Snyder. She had lived in Fort Worth the past five years.

Survivors include five daughters, Marcia Sanders of Snyder, Yvonne Grant and Diane Riley, both of Fort Worth, Esther Gift of San Diego and Karen Shelley of Vallejo, Calif.; two sons, C.B. Sanders Jr. of Fort Worth and Hubert Gift of San Diego; 33 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Martha Snow

1934-1999

Martha L. Snow, co-owner of Trailertopia, died Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a sudden illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Snow, 65, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church. Dr. Marty Akins, pastor, will officiate and arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Burial will follow at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the Lawnhaven Cemetery in San Angelo.

Born Aug. 31, 1934 in Sweetwater, she married Hayden "Hank" Snow on April 6, 1973 in Lovington, N.M.

Mrs. Snow had moved to Snyder from Midland in 1993. She and her husband owned and operated Trailertopia.

Mrs. Snow was a longtime resident of San Angelo and had worked as a nurse for Shannon Hospital. She was a member of Snyder's First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Hank Snow of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diana and Eric DeLaCruz and Vicki and Ken Gard, all of Snyder; three sons and daughters-in-law, Cliff and Judy Holmes of Snyder; Bruce and Susan Snow of Brandon, Miss., and Scott and Jeannie Snow of College Station; one sister, Mildred Motl of Snyder; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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Bobby Atkins

1943-1999

SWEETWATER - Bobby Ray Atkins, the brother of Dana Riggins of Snyder, died Tuesday, Nov. 30, in a San Bernardino, Calif., hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Atkins, 56, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Sweetwater Cemetery.

Born Jan. 8, 1943 in Sweetwater, he married Charlene Stern on Sept. 19, 1979 in Victorville, Calif., Mr. Atkins was a cook and a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene Atkins of Rialto; two sons, Bobby Ray Atkins of Spain and Antonio Atkins of Arlington; a daughter, Wanda Saddler of Sweetwater; five other sisters, Ardell Willis of Lubbock, Karla Taylor of Dallas, Peggy Reed and Gwendolyn Atkins, both of Sweetwater, and Donna Jordan of Haskell; two brothers, Pleza Atkins and Ronald Atkins, both of Sweetwater; his mother, Mae Dee Atkins of Sweetwater; and 10 grandchildren.

Madge Compton

1914-1999

Madge Frazier Compton, the stepmother of Dalton and Donald Compton of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 7, in Wichita Falls.

Funeral service for Mrs. Compton, 85, is set for 3 p.m. Friday in the Hampton Vaughan Crestview Chapel. The Rev. Terry Bowman, pastor of Lamar Baptist Church, will officiate.

Born Sept. 12, 1914 in Tye, she was married to Milton Frazier who died in 1990. She married Andy Compton on March 21, 1993 in Wichita Falls. He died in 1994.

Mrs. Compton worked for Bethania Hospital, Star Oil Company in Graham and for Shanor Oil and FT Johnson Oil Company in Wichita Falls.

A homemaker and a Baptist, Mrs. Compton was a member of the Rebecca Lodge.

Survivors include a son, Milton Turner of Wichita Falls; four other stepsons, Bill Frazier of Helena, Mont., Jack Frazier of Ferris, Robert Compton of Corsicana and James Compton of Amarillo; a sister, Margaret Stone of Marble Falls; and numerous grandchildren.

Henry Lee

1928-1999

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Henry "Son" Lee Jr., the father of Debra Jenkins of Snyder, died Monday, Dec. 6, in Albuquerque.

Funeral service for Mr. Lee, 71, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Oak Grove Baptist Church in Hamlin.

Survivors include five other daughters, Peggy Willis and Tracy Dowd of Amarillo, Evelyn Lee of Milwaukee, Pamela Lee of Abilene and Kimberly Fuller of Albuquerque; four sons, Henry Lee, Gerald Lee and Ronald Lee, all of Odessa, and Bobby McGee of Abilene; two brothers, L.J. Lee of Hamlin and Alfred Lee of Espanola, N.M.; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Felony theft of firearms investigated

Deputies are investigating an incident involving the felony theft of firearms.

Phil Pownell spoke to Deputy Mike Ward at 3:08 p.m. Wednesday in reference to someone taking three guns from him and pawning them. An offense report for felony theft of firearms was submitted.

Officers filed offense report for found property and Class C theft Wednesday.

At 2:10 p.m., an employee of Taco Bell requested an officer in reference to finding a gun when they were outside cleaning the property. The gun was transported to the Law Enforcement Center.

An offense report for Class C theft was filed at 8:47 p.m. at Town & Country on East Coliseum in reference to a gas drive-off in the amount of $20.50.

Three arrests were also made Wednesday.

Department of Public Safety troopers took a 23-year-old male into custody at 9:08 a.m. at the intersection of Old Lubbock Hwy. and Huffman Avenue for no driver's license.

Municipal Court warrants for no liability insurance and failure to appear landed a 31-year-old man in jail at 1:44 p.m. Officers arrested him at the Adult Probation Office.

A misdemeanor warrant for motion to revoke probation resulted in the arrest of an 18-year-old male. Deputies arrested him at 9:34 p.m. in the 2000 block of Avenue Z.

Injured man 'satisfactory'

A 39-year-old Fort Worth man was listed in satisfactory condition this morning in Lubbock's University Medical Center following a major accident that occurred on U.S. 84 Wednesday morning.

Carl Robinson was flown by Aerocare to UMC Wednesday afternoon. Hospital officials said they expected him to be moved to a private room later today.

Joe Walker, 69, of Lamar, Colo., was listed in good condition at Cogdell Memorial Hospital this morning.

According to Department of Public Safety reports, Robinson was the driver of a 1995 International truck-tractor which ran into the back of a Gooseneck trailer being towed by a 1997 F-350 Ford pickup.

Walker, who was attempting to turn into Bill Eiland's ranch, was driving the pickup. All vehicles were travelling westbound.

The vehicles then left the roadway, smashing through a pipe fence and landing adjacent to a barn on the ranch.

The Jaws of Life was used to free Robinson from the cab of the truck.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Band concert

Snyder bands – 6th grade, junior high and high school – will present a Christmas concert at 7 tonight in the Worsham Auditorium. Admission is free.

Long-term care support

A long-term care family support meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital. Norma Adams, nurse executive, will provide information on recent changes in advance directives.

Yuletide Follies

Snyder High School's drama department presents Yuletide Follies at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Worsham Auditorium. Tickets are $4.

St. Elizabeth spaghetti dinner

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church is having a spaghetti dinner on Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The meal will be in the Parish Hall and tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children. Proceeds go to youth activities.

Christmas bazaar

A Christmas bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at North College Avenue Baptist Church, 208 N. College Ave.

Retired teacher party

The Scurry County Retired Teachers will have a Christmas informal come and go coffee at Mrs. Marge Mathis' ranch home (Polar Route, 5231 CR 2128) on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Burrito sale

Mt. Sinai Assembly of God will have a burrito sale from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at 2613 Ave. A. Prices range from $1 to $1.50, depending on ingredients. For call-in orders or delivery call 721-1467 (mobile), or 573-[illegible] 8162.

Christmas dance

First Presbyterian youth will sponsor a Christmas dance for all area youth from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Friday in the basement of the church. Proceeds will be used to finance church youth activities. Admission is $5 per couple or $3 per person. For more information, call 573-6915.

Calvary musical programs

The adult choir of Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th, will perform the Christmas musical, "Once Upon a Child at 10:50 a.m. Sunday. Featured narrator is Sy Taybor. The musical is under the direction of Steve Highfield, minister of music. At 6 p.m., children and teens will present "The Christmas Story," under the direction of Janelle McAden, Peggy Highfield, Angie Burton and Becky Craig.

First Christian musical

First Christian Church will present its annual Christmas musical Sunday during the morning worship. "The Spirit of Christmas" features solos by several choir members. Narration will be by the Rev. Tim Griffin and Donna Griffin. Robert Bailey is minister of music and Reba Bailey is the organist/pianist.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The New Heaven and Earth," followed by "Getting to Know God's Power."

Snyder Lions meeting

Lions Club members are to bring a toy to Tuesday's meeting for Toys for Tots, or pay a $10 fine to be used as a cash donation. The meeting will be at noon in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

East Elementary T-shirts

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

Christmas wish list

Scurry County Child Welfare Board, in conjunction with local financial institutions, is working to make Christmas special for county foster children. Trees are set up in the lobby of each bank and citizens can help share Christmas with a child by choosing a star from one of the trees. Purchase and wrap the gift and return it to the CPS office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center by Dec. 17. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. The service is sponsored by the Support Group Ministry in recognition of the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season.

Library extends hours

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

Road to Recovery program

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

Pick 3

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

3-9-6

(three, nine, six)

Lotto Texas

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

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 2-5-28-32-42-45.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $29 million.

Thirty-three rulings made in county court

Thirty-three rulings were made in three separate county court dates in November.

On Nov. 3, 14 people were sentenced to jail, including a 23-year-old male receiving a sentence of 100 days in jail for making alcohol available to a minor, plus $200 in court costs.

Other cases on that date include a 41-year-old male sentenced to 60 days in jail for driving while intoxicated. The sentence was probated for one year, plus the defendant must pay court costs of $235.25, a fine of $500 and attend DWI school.

A 48-year-old male received a 90 day sentence for Class B possession of marijuana. His sentence was probated for one year, and he was fined $1,000 and assessed court costs of $235.25.

A 23-year-old male had a 60-day jail sentence probated one year for Class B possession of marijuana. He was also fined $500 and assessed court costs of $235.25.

A 19-year-old male received a 60-day sentence – probated one year – for DWI. He was fined $250 and assessed court costs of $235.25. He must also attend DWI school.

A 53-year-old male received a 60-day jail sentence – probated six months – for DWI. He was also assessed court costs of $224.25, and fined $250. His drivers license was also suspended for 90 days.

A 17-year-old male was jailed for 60 days for Class B possession of marijuana, and assessed court costs of $210.25.

On a motion to adjudicate guilt for Class C possession of marijuana, a 17-year-old male was sentenced to 60 days in jail, fined $250 and assessed fines of $209.25.

Also on a motion to adjudicate guilt for criminal mischief, an 18-year-old female was sentenced to 30 days in jail, assessed $209.25 in court costs, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $300.

A 31-year-old male was sentenced to five days in jail for driving while license suspended. He was also assessed court costs of $210.25.

Failure to identify as a fugitive from justice resulted in a 55-year-old male spending three days in jail. He was also assessed court costs of $210.25.

Driving with license suspended resulted in a 26-year-old male being sent to jail for five days, plus a $100 fine and court costs of $200.25.

A 28-year-old male was sentenced to three days in jail for driving while license suspended. He was also fined $250 and assessed court costs of $210.25.

A 17-year-old male was sentenced to 90 days in jail, plus court costs of $210.25 for driving while intoxicated. He also had his drivers license suspended for one year.

On Nov. 10, 12 people were sentenced in country court.

On a motion to revoke probation for DWI, a 67-year-old male was sentenced to 60 days in jail, assessed court costs of $209.25, and had his drivers license suspended for 90 days.

A 25-year-old male was sentenced to six months in jail on a motion to adjudicate guilt for assault/family violence. He was also assessed court costs of $224.25.

A 29-year-old female was sentenced to 90 days in jail for DWI – probated for one year – plus assessed court costs of $235.25. She must also attend DWI school.

Class B possession of marijuana resulted in a 29-year-old female receiving a 90-day sentence – probated one year – plus court costs of $235.25.

A 21-year-old male was sentenced to 90 days in jail – probated for 18 months – for DWI. He must also attend DWI school and pay court costs of $235.25.

Driving while license suspended resulted in a 32-year-old male receiving six months deferred probation and a $300 fine. He must also pay court costs of $235.25.

A 37-year-old male was fined $250 for driving while license suspended. His 60-day sentence was probated for one year, plus he was assessed court costs of $224.25.

A 67-year-old male was sentenced to 90 days in jail for DWI and had his drivers license suspended for 180 days. He must also pay court costs of $210.25.

A 19-year-old male was sentenced to 20 days in jail for DWI. He was also fined $250, assessed court costs of $210.25, and had his drivers license suspended for one year.

A charge of criminal trespass resulted in a 21-year-old male being sentenced to three days in jail, plus being assessed court costs of $234.25.

A 32-year-old male received a 60-day sentence – probated for one year – for DWI. His drivers license was also suspended for 180 days, and fined $500. His court costs were set at $235.25.

A 70-year-old male received a 30-day sentence for DWI. The sentence was probated for six months, plus he was fined $250, assessed court costs of $235.25 and ordered to attend DWI school.

On Nov. 17, seven persons received sentences.

A 17-year-old male, who was charged with Class B possession of marijuana, was sentenced to one-year deferred probation. He was also fined $1,000 and ordered to pay court costs of $210.25.

Unlawfully carrying a weapon resulted in a 17-year-old male being sentenced to three days in jail. He was also assessed court costs of $210.25.

A 38-year-old male was sentenced to 30 days in jail for DWI. H was also fined $750, assessed court costs of $210.25 and had his drivers license suspended for 180 days.

A 20-year-old female received a 180-day jail sentence for Class B possession of marijuana. Her sentence was probated for two years, plus she was fined $750 and assessed court cots of $235.25.

A 20-year-old male was sentenced to jail for 120 days – probated 18 months – for Class B possession of marijuana. He was also fined $500 and assessed court costs of $235.25.

Failure to leave the necessary information after striking a vehicle and leaving resulted in a 25-year-old male being sentenced to 60 days in jail, ordered to pay $1,605.49 in restitution and assessed court costs of $184.25.

A 19-yeare-old male received six months deferred probation for public intoxication. He was also fined $250 and ordered to pay court costs of $235.25.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 10, 1999

In the year ahead, you might spend more time than usual conceptualizing or planning endeavors relating to your career. Careful programing could help you rise to new heights.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be careful not to lose patience with those who cannot grasp things as quickly as you do. Losing your cool will only drive them further in the dark and nothing will be gained. Astro-Graph year ahead predictions make great Xmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the Zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the Zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A smooth talking pitch-man might single you out today to partake in a something-for-nothing scheme. She or he will get the something, but you're likely to get the nothing. Be careful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A big browbeater, who in reality is ill equipped to do much of anything, could aggressively attempt to usurp your authority today. Do what it takes to maintain control of matters.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Having a vivid imagination is wonderful when it is used for positive visions. Unfortunately, today you could cause problems for yourself through the negative use of this splendid quality.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be extremely careful you do not give any reason for friends to think you are trying to use them in some manner today. A loss of friendship could result if you become suspect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Getting too coy in your business dealings today could encourage others to attempt to outsmart you in return. No one will benefit in the process.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't allow exaggerated feelings of apprehension regarding your abilities to cope with matters today overcome you. Even if something isn't a snap, you can manage it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's best not to antagonize friends today by an in-your-face support of an unpopular issue. You won't win any converts, but you could lose a bunch of pals

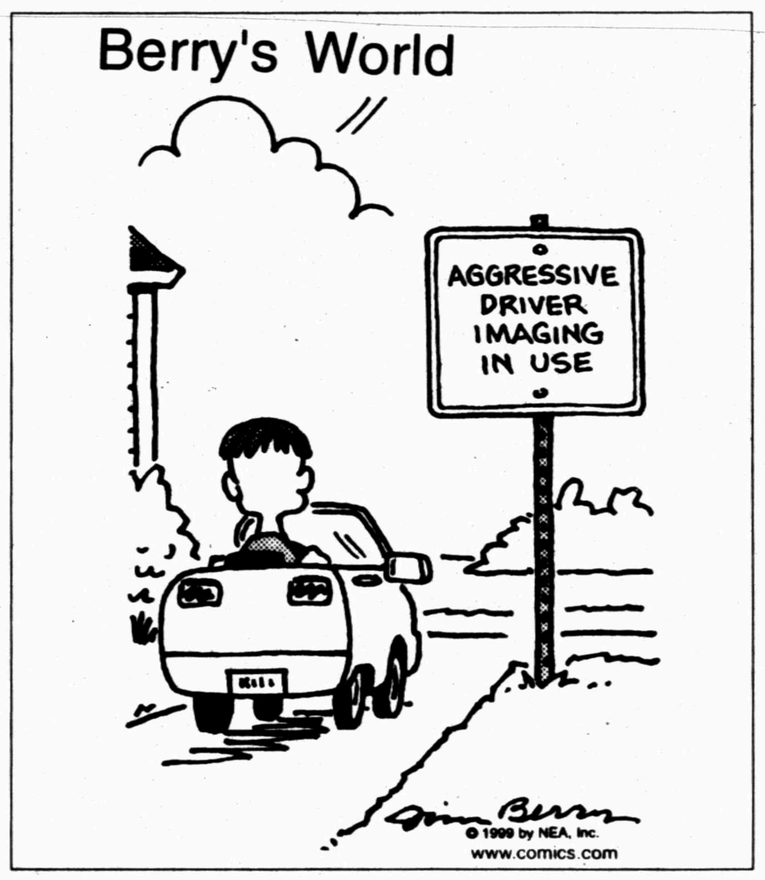
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your judgment might not be up to par today, so don't allow yourself to be placed under pressure to make any important decisions, especially those affecting your reputation or status.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Getting angry with others for not taking care of things that you should be taking care of yourself is an exercise in futility. They'll not be intimidated into doing your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Yes, you love the good things in life, but that's no reason to be either overindulgent or unduly extravagant in your behavior pattern today. Be disciplined in all you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Something you could pledge today for expeditious purposes will be taken seriously by your mate or partner. If you make a promise you don't intend to keep, it'll hurt the relationship.

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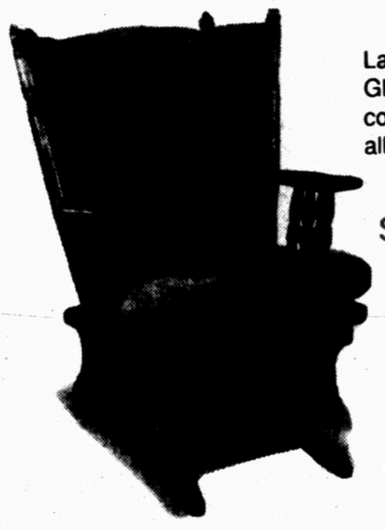
WAREHOUSE FURNITURE
Varsity Square, Snyder, TX.
Next To Eckerd Drug

PRE-CHRISTMAS STOREWIDE SALE

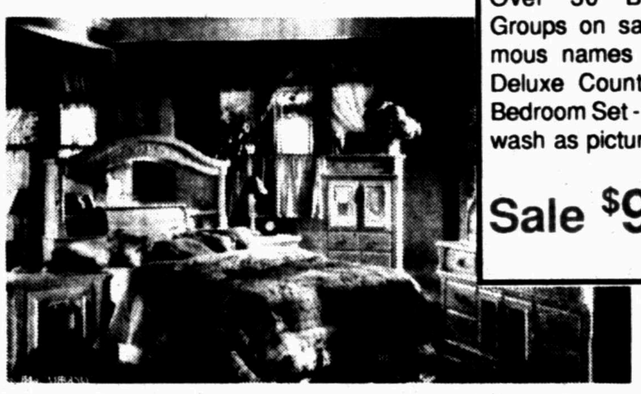
Special Terms:
•No Money Down W.A.C.
•No Payment Til June 2000 W.A.C.
•No Interest Til June 2000 W.A.C.



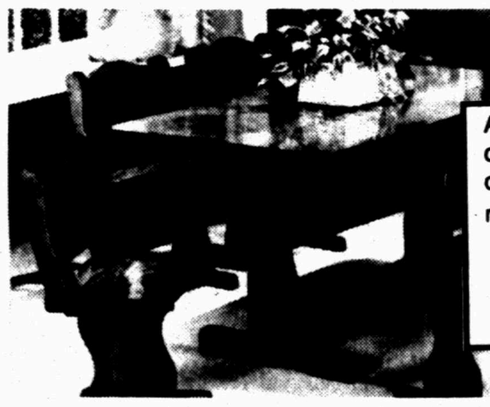
Super Sectional Sale - several styles, colors and manufacturers - 14 sectionals on sale.
Sale $988 Up



Large Selection of Glider Rockers - all colors and styles - all on sale
Sale $168 Up



Over 30 Bedroom Groups on sale - Famous names - 5 Pc. Deluxe Country Style Bedroom Set - in white, wash as pictured
Sale $988



All Wood Dining Room Set - includes large table, bench and 4 chairs in choice of cherry-pecan-natural or honey pine
Reg. $499.95
Sale $348



Large Group Decorator Curio Cabinets - several styles, sizes, finishes - all on sale
Sale $138 Up

Large selection of Sofas and Love Seats in rich covers and sturdy construction. Great values starting at
$438-$448 Up

Over 40 Living Room Sets in stock



Rocker/Recliner in choice of nice velvet covers - has control handle
Reg. $349.95
Sale
$199 Up
Simular to illustration

