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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND
Dec. 19-20, 1998
Vol. 50 No. 197
40 Pages 75¢
Home Of Kallie Billingsley

Republicans block censure vote...

Lawmakers poised for impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton stood on the brink of impeachment Saturday in a House torn by partisanship and rocked by the sudden resignation of its next speaker. Republicans blocked an effort to consider the lesser punishment of censure before proceeding with the first vote in 130 years on removing a chief executive from office.

The Republican-led House voted 230-204 to deny Democrats the vote they sought on censure as an alternative to impeachment.

Democrats immediately walked out of the chamber.

Minority Leader Richard Gephardt had called on the Congress "to save itself" by avoiding an impeachment opposed by nearly two-thirds of Americans.

"We need to start healing, we need to start binding up our wounds we need to end this downward spiral that will end with the death of our representative democracy," Gephardt exhorted.

Republicans countered that the Constitution allowed them only to impeach a president, not reprimand him. They said Clinton's actions warranted the severest penalty.

"His criminal misconduct and dereliction of his executive duties did meet the threshold of high crimes and misdemeanors," said Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind.

The somber final debate unfolded after incoming Speaker Bob Livingston stepped forward and asked Clinton to resign, then told lawmakers he himself was resigning from Congress next year because of revelations that he had extramarital affairs.

Lawmakers pressed on with debate, their final arguments unexpectedly colored by Livingston's abrupt resignation.

Republican Rep. Henry Hyde, the Judiciary Committee chairman who led the impeachment inquiry, called on lawmakers to recognize differences between Livingston's private infidelity and the president's alleged perjury under oath about an affair. He called Clinton a "serial violator" of the oath to tell the truth.

"Where as a government official you raise your right hand and ask God to witness to the truth of what you're saying, that is a public act," Hyde said. "Infidelity, adultery is not a public act. ... The rule of law is in real danger Saturday if we cheapen the oath."

Democrats, buoyed by a last-minute visit to Capitol Hill by Hillary Rodham Clinton, made one last move to force a vote on censure as an alternative to impeachment.

They argued that neither Livingston nor Clinton should succumb to the "politics of cynicism and smear."

House Minority Whip David Bonior charged that "angry partisans" were seeking to undo the elections with a presidential impeachment opposed by two-thirds of Americans.

"We must not let them accomplish through impeachment what they could not do at the ballot box," he said.

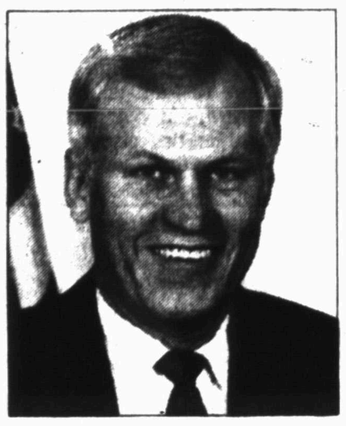
Bonior's Republican counterpart took aim at the defenses that Clinton and his supporters have offered for months.

"The president's defenders have said that the president is morally reprehensible, that he is reckless, that he has violated the trust of the American people, lessened their esteem for the office of the president and dishonored the office which they have entrusted in him but that doesn't rise to the level of impeachment," said House Republican Whip Tom DeLay of Texas.

"What the defenders want to do is lower the standards by which we hold this president and lower the standards for our society," he said.

An Associated Press telephone survey showed a majority of lawmakers supported at least one article of impeachment. The final debate displayed the partisan bitterness that has divided the Congress and the country as a whole on the issue of removing Clinton from office.

Mrs. Clinton, in her early-morning visit to Capitol Hill, was greeted by wild applause from Democrats. The first lady told them that the impeachment process against her husband "should be done right and that up to now it has not been," according to House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt.



Charlie Stenholm

Stenholm to vote for impeachment

Cong. Charlie Stenholm described Friday as one of the most somber days he had known since coming to Congress twenty years ago, as he issued a statement on the pending impeachment vote against the President of the United States.

Stenholm, who was one of only a few Representatives who had remained undecided on the issue, said late Friday that he would vote for the articles of impeachment.

"I have listened to the arguments that have been made about why the President's actions do not rise to the level of 'impeachable offenses' under the Constitution. Despite these arguments, I am not persuaded. It is clear that the President's actions are sufficient to charge him with high crimes and misdemeanors," said the Stamford Democrat.

Livingston won't serve as speaker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stunning the House on the day it would impeach President Clinton, Rep. Bob Livingston announced Saturday he would not serve as the chamber's next speaker because of his past extramarital affairs. He urged Clinton to follow suit and quit.

"I must set the example that I hope President Clinton will follow," Livingston said. "I will not stand for speaker."

Republicans immediately began discussing replacements for the Louisiana lawmaker.

Randy Lewis is named captain at Daniel Unit

Snyder native Randy Lewis has been promoted to the rank of captain at the Price Daniel Unit.

Lewis began his career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice when the local prison unit opened its doors in 1989.

He attended one of the first three correctional officers classes held at Western Texas College prior to the opening of the local unit.

He began his career as a correctional officer, and was promoted to sergeant in 1992, and to lieutenant in 1994.

Prior to his TDCJ career, Lewis was a pressman for the Snyder Daily News.

Lewis said he entered the criminal justice field because he saw it as an career opportunity.

As captain, Lewis' responsibilities will include imposing disciplinary measures to inmates when they violate the rules.

"When inmates do something wrong, they go before a disciplinary hearing in which they can receive punishment ranging from extra work to being placed in solitary confinement," Lewis explained.

His other duties include supervising the correctional officer staff at the unit.

"It will be a challenging experience that I am looking forward to," Lewis said of his new position.

Lewis' wife, Tracy, works as a mailroom supervisor at the Wallace Unit in Colorado City. She previously worked at the local unit.

They have two daughters, Jana and Baylee.

Lewis is a 1977 graduate of Snyder High School.

PROMOTION — Randy Lewis (right) has recently been promoted to the rank of captain at the Price Daniel Unit. He is pictured looking over paperwork with Brian Bohannon, correctional officer III. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The year's most popular gift is the one under the tree, with your name on it."

Each year there are reports of those who try to ruin the holiday spirit by vandalizing or stealing outdoor Christmas decorations.

But here's a positive story from nearby Clyde.

A letter to the editor from an elderly man bemoaned the fact that someone had taken six small windmills from his front porch. He made a plea for their return.

The newspaper soon received a second letter:

"On Friday, about 8:30 a.m., there on our front porch was a clear plastic bag containing six little windmills. Printed on the bag was this: 'We are sorry we took your windmills. It was very childish and we are very ashamed. Once again, we are sorry.'

"I read this note through tears, and to someone out there, we are rolling again. I sat back and waited, thinking you might do this, and I do accept your apology. Merry Christmas to all."

Good things do happen, expecially in small towns.

Speaking of outdoor Christmas scenes, this came in after Santa's arrival last year, so we saved it — and luckily was able to find it.

In another small Texas town, there was a Nativity scene that showed great skill and talent had been put into its creation. One small feature bothered a visitor from the northeast. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets.

Unable to come up with a reason or explanation, the visitor left and stopped at a convenience store. She asked the woman behind the counter about the helmets. The clerk exploded, "Don't you ever read the Bible?

The visitor assured the clerk that she did, but could not recall anything in the Bible about firefighters.

The clerk pulled her New Testament from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages. Finally, she jabbed her finger at the passage.

"See, it says right here," admonished the clerk. "The three wise men came from afar."

Nurses, supervisors receive training...

WTC, Cogdell Hospital are training partners

Two local taxing entities, Western Texas College and Cogdell Memorial Hospital, have become partners in medical training programs which not only save money, but provide training to a large number of hospital employees.

"Cogdell Memorial Hospital is just one of Snyder's latest businesses to benefit from training dollars through the Texas Workforce Commission's Skills Development Fund," said John Gibson, WTC's director of workforce education.

Just this week, 30 Cogdell Hospital nurses received training in fetal monitoring in the college's Workforce Training Center.

The two-day course was a joint venture of WTC, Cogdell Hospital and Parkland Hospital of Dallas.

Karlene Justice, Parkland's nurse educator for labor and delivery, served as the instructor for the course.

The course provided extensive training for the nurses in electronic fetal monitoring.

By having the course in Snyder, several more nurses were able to benefit from the program, as opposed to employees having to travel to Dallas.

Cogdell Hospital Supervisor of Nurses, Norma Adams, said she is very excited about the program.

"It's very, very good for the hospital," said Adams. "It would have been cost prohibitive to send that many nurses to Dallas for the training."

Adams said the cooperation between the college and the hospital is very positive for everyone concerned.

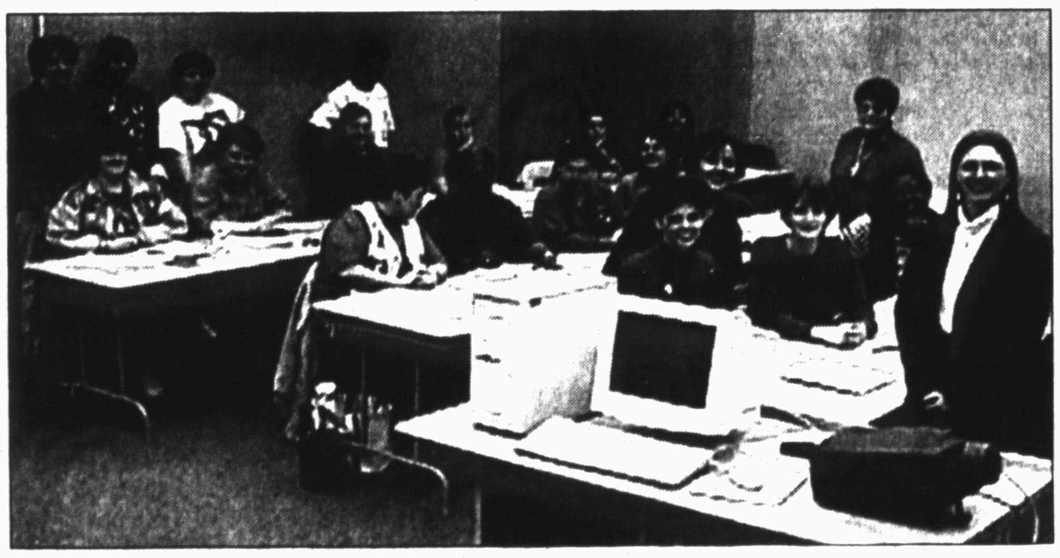
"This shows real teamwork in the community," said Adams.

Last month, 16 Cogdell Hospital supervisors participated in a database course at the college.

Tammy Wesson, course instructor, designed the class to specifically address the skills necessary to operate the hospital's database system.

Several other courses are planned this spring at the college for the hospital, including advance cardiac life support, pediatric advance life support, trauma nursing core course and medical conversational Spanish.

Others include guest relations, basic supervision and electronic spreadsheets.



WORKFORCE EDUCATION IN ACTION — Karlene Justice, right, taught a class for 30 Cogdell Memorial Hospital nurses this week on electronic fetal monitoring. The class was taught at Western Texas College's workforce training center. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—How much government money per mile, per student, does SISD receive for busing our children from school to school?

A—The school district receives $1.11 per mile from the Texas Education Agency. Last school year, the district travelled 36,792 miles and was reimbursed $40,839.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Area Forecast: Saturday night, cloudy, areas of light drizzle. Low, lower-mid 30s. SE wind 10-20 mph. Rain chance less than 20%. Sunday, cloudy, areas of light drizzle. High around 45. SE wind 10-20 mph.

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 62 degrees; low, 39; 7 a.m. Saturday, 44; no precipitation; total for 1998, 10.45 inches.

Mark Aguilar
Cloudy

Sunset: 5:44 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.
Of 352 days in 1998, the sun has shone 348 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"It's nothing against you to fall down flat, but to lie there — that's disgrace."

Edmund Vance Cooke

DEC 20 1998

Ira superintendent picked for Lamar scholarship

Rick Howard, who is in his eighth year at Ira School, is one of only 36 superintendents to receive a scholarship to Lamar University Superintendent Academy, an advanced leadership training program on Lamar's Beaumont campus.

He said he has attended several sessions which have been "extremely thought provoking and inspiring." They have also "renewed my enthusiam and have helped me to look at challenges from a different perspective.

So far, he has attended three sessions. The first one in October was held in Beaumont. In November, he went to New York City and the December session was held in Beaumont. The January, March, April and June sessions will also be held in Beaumont.

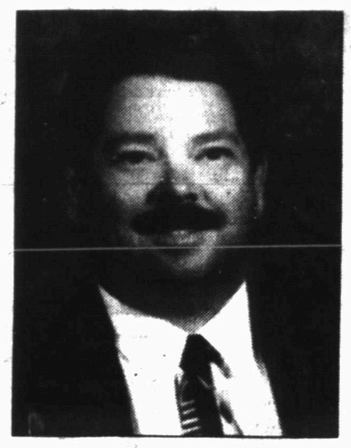
In June, a joint meeting of the school boards of the 36 selected superintendents will be held in San Antonio.

"It is very prestigious to be selected," Howard said, adding, "I appreciate the school board allowing me the opportunity to participate."

He was nominated by Terry Harlow, Region 16 Service Center director.

Funded by a grant from the Texas Education Agency and supported by IBM, the academy provides advanced executive level training for superintendents recognized as leaders among their peers. The academy pays all tuition, fees, training costs and materials associated with the academy.

According to Dr. Bob Thompson, executive director of the academy, participation is by invitation only. The 36 superintendents were chosen from a list of over 100 nominees. To be selected is an honor not only to the superintendent, Thompson said, but also to his or her board and district. Without the support of forward-looking boards and a quality district, no superintendent could have achieved the level of success and recognition necessary to be nominated and selected to the academy.



Rick Howard

As a member of the academy, Howard is reviewing the latest technology for enhancing student learning and is participating in advanced leadership training from some of the nation's foremost trainers of executives from business and industry.

Academy members will also spend several sessions working in the Decision Support Center at Lamar, a high-tech laboratory for improving the speed and quality of management decision making.

Also as a part of the academy IBM hosted the superintendents for a week of training at its Advanced Business Institute at Palisades, N.Y. At these sessions, academy members participated in training sessions with business and industry executives from around the country to hone their leadership and decision-making skills.

The superintendents were also taken on a field trip to an exemplary school district to study practices that have helped make that district successful.

Thompson says the knowledge superintendents glean from working in the academy is immediately applicable to any district, regardless of size or location. To assist participating districts in incorporating these management concepts the academy will host a three-day summer conference for academy superintendents and their boards where they will be led through joint leadership training and planning activities. Participants will also meet with boards and superintendents of similar sized districts to share ideas for increasing student achievement.

The year-long academy is designed to provide the most professional opportunities with the least amount of time away from the district. During the year superintendents meet on six different weekends at Lamar University. The schedule is planned so that half of the training will be on Saturdays or during the summer when school is not in session. In addition, academy members will form cohort groups to work on joint projects and to visit and study other districts in the cohort group.

Executives from IBM along with Lamar faculty jointly plan the curriculum and manage academy operations. According to Thompson, this type of cooperation between university and business insures the academy incorporates the best of both theory and practice.

God Hates Divorce
HOPE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY
"Hope For The Single Parent"
TCA Cable TV - Channel #2
Mon., Dec. 21, 1998, 7:00 p.m.

Marine's farewell filled with laughter and love

PERRIS, Calif. (AP) — In a laughter-filled living room, Marine Sgt. Ramzan Monroe rips off wrapping paper to reveal cologne, corduroy pants and a shiny silver-and-gold watch.

It's a whole week before Christmas, but it's Monroe's last chance to open gifts before beginning a 20-hour journey to Kuwait.

The 23-year-old radio operator is among about 1,500 Marines stationed in Southern California who prepared Friday to depart for the Middle East. He was due at Camp Pendleton before dawn, and scheduled to leave from Los Angeles later Saturday.

Although the start of his trip was just an abbreviated night's sleep away, Monroe, his wife, their 2-year-old daughter and relatives giggled through the evening, as always.

Only for a few moments was the room quiet — when the big-screen TV aired a report about the impending deployments from Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

But Monroe, who lives off-base in Perris, a town about 80 miles northeast of San Diego, insisted he was ready to go. Even with the holidays approaching, and even while U.S. representatives debated whether to impeach President Clinton.

"You've got a job to do," said Monroe, his 6-foot-4 frame outfitted in green fatigues, his arm around his wife, Eboni. "You've got to stay focused."

Business matters were the pre-departure order for Air Force Capt. Tim Butcher, who was leaving his pregnant wife, Tracy, and their 2-year-old daughter for the fifth time in 16 months. Each time, he prepares for the worst.

"I try to get the house in order, arrange power of attorney and make sure my will is up to date," Butcher said as the 421st Fighter Squadron left Hill Air Force Base north of Salt Lake City. "I want to be over there with a clear conscience in case something happens."

At Fort Bliss, Texas, identical twins Sonya and Tanya Hardman shared a tearful embrace as about 500 soldiers said goodbye to family in an auditorium. Sonya is a private and Tanya is a receptionist at the base.

"I'm sad because we've been together all of our lives," said Sonya, 24. "I was really looking forward to spending Christmas with my family, especially this girl who looks just like me. But when they call, we have to haul."

In Perris, Sgt. Monroe called to Mia, his only child, and asked for a kiss. She promptly gave him a peck on the cheek.

"It's tough," Monroe said. "I want to be there to watch her eyes on Christmas."

Monroe, a Queens, N.Y., native in the Marines for five years, also missed Mia's first Christmas and her first birthday. When she was only 5 days old, he left for a 14-month deployment to Japan.

This time, he tried to explain what was happening.

"I said Daddy's going bye-bye. She said 'OK, be careful,'" Monroe said with a smile. "She's not going to grasp it at this age."

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Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
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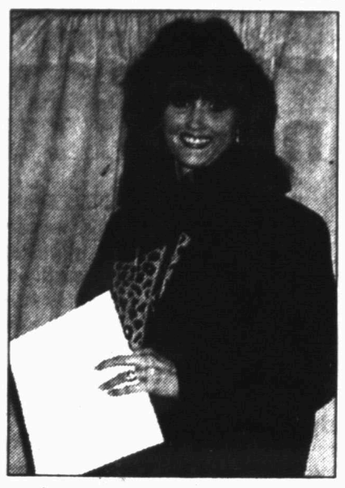
Don't forget to bring the kids because Santa will be in our services.

FIVE YEAR AWARDS — Cogdell Memorial Hospital employees receiving five-year awards at the annual awards Christmas dinner at the Wagon Wheel included (from left, bottom row) Lucille Sealy, Price Daniel Unit Clinic; Starla Kubena, medical records; Adelia Alarcon, long term care; D'Ann Beck, Price Daniel Clinic; Leticia Rios, long term care; Lana Hataway, Price Daniel Clinic; Katy Doty, medical records; Irene Canales, Price Daniel Clinic; and not pictured Sam Dennis, ICU; Dawn Fish, Home Health; Pam Huddleston, Price Daniel Clinic; Maria Ortega, long term care; Kerry Smith, ER; Carmen Timora, OR; and Juanita Underhill, Price Daniel Clinic. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

TEN YEAR AWARDS — Wilma Dillard, Patient Relations at Cogdell Memorial Hospital; Annette Grady, Price Daniel Clinic; and Barbara Parker, Human Resources; were present at the annual awards Christmas dinner at the Wagon Wheel Ranch to receive their 10 year service awards. Those not present include Liz DeLoera, pharmacy; Teresa Galindo, Med./Surg.; Pat Scott, long term care; and Velma Ward, Price Daniel Clinic. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



FIFTEEN YEAR AWARDS — JoBeth Hardegree, RN, risk manager/quality coordinator for Cogdell Memorial Hospital, received her 15 year service award at the recognition dinner for hospital employees at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. The awards are based upon continuous full-time employment. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

COGDELL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR — Sherry Early, LVN in ICU/CCU, was named Cogdell Memorial Hospital's employee of the year at Tuesday's holiday banquet and awards dinner at the Wagon Wheel. She was employee of the month for October. Early received her award from Wilma Dillard (right), CMH community/patient relations. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Ex-NSA intelligence analyst enters guilty plea for spying

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A former Army and National Security Agency code analyst faces up to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to selling top-secret documents to the KGB, including a description of U.S. nuclear targets in Russia.

David Sheldon Boone pleaded guilty Friday to conspiracy to commit espionage in U.S. District Court. He agreed to forfeit $52,000, including his retirement fund and a hand-held scanner he used to copy documents.

Boone, 46, was indicted last month on charges he spied for the Soviet's security and espionage agency in the late 1980s. He was arrested in September in a sting operation in which a former FBI agent posing as a member of the Russian spy service asked him to resume spying.

According to a statement of facts filed with his written plea agreement, Boone admitted to FBI agents who arrested him in October to giving Moscow a 400-page manual listing reconnaissance and intelligence-collection systems used by the U.S. military.

Workers' injuries lowest in 7 years

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas employers in 1997 reported the lowest rate of worker injuries and illnesses in seven years, the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission said Friday.

The rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses fell to 5.6 incidents per 100 full-time workers in 1997, down from a rate of 6.3 in 1996. The 1997 rate is the lowest since the agency started reporting statewide results in 1990.

"We'd like to see a world where there was no need for a workers' compensation commission, because that would be a world without illness or injury," said Leonard Riley, executive director of the TWCC.

"But we applaud the commitment that Texas employers and employees have made to safety in the workplace," he said.

Dr. Casey Cochran, director of occupational medicine for Austin's ProMed Medical Care Center, said the work environment has changed since the day he tended to a man who fell from a grain elevator some 20 years ago — and didn't make it.

"Now whether that is because companies are aware that their premiums will go down if there are less injuries, or what ... there certainly has been an emphasis on safety and prevention," he said.

Cochran said many companies now invest money in securing their work environments and teaching employees exercises that may prevent straining.

While 1997 figures have not yet been released, back injury was the most common occupational affliction cited in 1996 by TWCC at 27 percent. Overexertion was listed as a major cause of all injuries and illnesses.

"Any time workers try to do more than they are physically capable of, there is going to be trouble," said Rick Glasebrook, president of Teamsters Local 657, which includes much of South Texas. "I've seen people go back to work with broken bones and torn muscles."

Commerce rules in favor of stainless steel producers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Commerce Department said Friday it had found evidence that stainless steel producers from eight countries have been illegally dumping their products in the U.S. market.

The ruling represented the latest win for a steel industry that says it cannot compete against foreign producers flooding the U.S. market with steel at prices dramatically below production costs.

While Commerce continues its investigation, importers of the stainless steel will be required to post a bond or cash deposit on future shipments.

The department's finding covers stainless steel sold in flat sheets rolled up like carpet — a product used to make kitchen sinks, dishwashers and other appliances — from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and Britain.

Commerce issued a preliminary finding that the product has been sold here at up to 59 percent below cost.

Sales banned

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City has banned the sale of laser pointers to minors, cracking down on a fad before it leads to tragedy.

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DEC 20 1998

Being shopping-mall Santa not all fun, reindeer games

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Santa Claus is stressed out. All those little monsters tugging on his white beard. All those toddlers screaming as their parents push them toward the big guy.

Ho, ho, ho! At least no one has wet on Santa's red suit so far this holiday season.

"It's a stressful job, but I enjoy it," says Bruce Lowden, sweating in his red suit as children line up at the Maine Mall. "This is my thing in life to do. Everyone has a purpose."

There's more to being a shopping mall Santa than giving a few hearty "ho-ho-hos" and a smile for the camera before sending the little darling back to Mommy and Daddy. There are the crowds, the pressure, the physical toll. And the kids can be naughty, not nice.

"I've been kicked and bruised by kids who don't want to sit on my knee. I usually try to grab their legs if they're kickers," says Lowden, who guesses 500 to 800 kids sit on his lap each day on weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Kids also tug constantly on his beard, which is real. Once, Lowden says, a child urinated on him, forcing a quick change of costume. Lowden has six outfits, just in case.

During the holiday season, an average of 11,000 children will visit Santa at each of the 1,800 enclosed malls in the United States, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers in New York. Not everyone can do the job without cracking.

"It's stressful because you have to meet a new family every few minutes, not just a kid, but a whole family, and you have to be enthusiastic and upbeat," says Dr. David Yamins, a psychiatrist at Maimonides Medical Center in New York City. "You have to be 'on' 10 hours straight."

Howard Adelman, a clinical psychologist and family therapist in Cherry Hill, N.J., says: "A lot of these kids are nasty and wild. They're miserable and mean and this guy has to be pleasant."

Bob Sincerbeaux, 68, a former Santa from Ossining, N.Y., has watched Santas walk off the job because they couldn't handle the stress. Sincerbeaux had no problem with the stress but couldn't handle the bugs he caught from the little buggers who sat on his lap during two years as Santa. He quit after catching bronchitis the first year and coming down with pneumonia the next year.

"You're holding on to these kids, germs blowing all over the place," Sincerbeaux says.

Lowden, like most Santas, usually gets a flu shot.

SUNDAY SERVICE!
Any 2 Regular Foot Long Sandwiches $6
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3903 College Ave.
573-9782

DONATED FOOD — Mobil's Salt Creek Field Unit donated 103 cans of food to the Food Cupboard last week. Emmerson Armstrong, far right, helped Mobil employees Mike Robbins, Eddie Davidson and Gary Poe, from left, unload the canned goods. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Bailout for tobacco growers considered

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (AP) — A $5.15 billion trust fund has been proposed to help farmers hurt by rising prices caused by the multi-state tobacco settlement.

Representatives of nine states and four tobacco companies met here Friday to lay out their positions during a closed, three-hour meeting.

On Nov. 23, tobacco companies agreed to pay 46 states $206 billion over 25 years for smoking-related health-care costs in exchange for the states dropping their lawsuits against the industry. Now states also want them to pay for the trust fund for the farmers.

The National Tobacco Growers Association had said growers would need $12 billion in compensation.

"You can't just pour money at everything," said tobacco industry lawyer Phil Carlton. "Five billion dollars is an awful lot of money. It would allow an orderly transition ... for a 10-year period for farmers essentially to be made whole."

Cigarette-makers earlier this month discussed creating the trust fund for tobacco growers and those who own government licenses to grow tobacco. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. came to the meeting even though earlier this month it said it would not support a trust fund, instead preferring to buy more tobacco.

Details haven't been agreed on, but several officials said the money could be paid over as many as 10 years to states to help farmers and communities hurt by declining cigarette consumption.

"We have said very clearly that we want to continue to grow tobacco," said North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt. "But we also feel very strongly that our farmers in a sense have borne the brunt of this big settlement, which has resulted in cigarette prices going up so much."

North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley said farmers who decide to leave the tobacco business might be offered buyouts of their government quota for growing tobacco as part of the deal.

He said the trust fund money would be divided among the states based on their percentage of the crop. North Carolina, for example, has 40 percent of the nation's tobacco allotment.

Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton said the trust fund also should earmark money for community development to replace tobacco revenue expected to ebb with rising cigarette prices and curbs on advertising.

"We recognize with this settlement the production of tobacco is going to be substantially cut back," Patton said.

Represented at the meeting were the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia. Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Indiana and Ohio, and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Philip Morris Inc., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. and Lorillard Tobacco Co.

New exhibit set

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Love letters, White House china decorated with her beloved wildflowers and a replica of the 1964 campaign's "Lady Bird Special" caboose platform are on display at a new exhibit on Lady Bird Johnson's life at the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum.

"Frankly, you can't tell the story of Lyndon Johnson without telling the story of his best friend and helpmate — my mother, Lady Bird Johnson," Luci Baines Johnson said Thursday in previewing The First Lady's Gallery.

The permanent exhibit will open Tuesday, the former first lady's 86th birthday.

It highlights the couple's whirlwind 1934 courtship, when Johnson's letters included one beginning, "This morning I'm ambitious, proud, energetic and very madly in love with you."

Datebook

Dec. 19, 1998

Today is the 353rd day of 1998 and the 88th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1732, Benjamin Franklin began to publish Poor Richard's Almanac in Philadelphia, Pa.

On this day in 1955, Carl Perkins recorded "Blue Suede Shoes."

On this day in 1980, the movie "Nine to Five," starring Dolly Parton, premiered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ralph Richardson (1902-1983), actor; Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982), Soviet leader; Jean Genet (1910-1986), writer; Edith Piaf (1915-1963), singer; Cicely Tyson (1933-), actress, is 65; Phil Ochs (1940-1976), singer; Richard E. Leakey (1944-), anthropologist, is 54; Kevin McHale (1957-), basketball player, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1982, Garo Yepremian of the Miami Dolphins kicked a 42-yard field goal with four seconds remaining, helping Miami beat the New York Giants 15-14.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do." — Willa Cather

TODAY'S MOON: Day after new moon (Dec. 18).

Dec. 20, 1998

Today is the 354th day of 1998 and the 89th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1879, inventor Thomas A. Edison demonstrated his incandescent light bulb.

On this day in 1981, the musical "Dreamgirls," based on the story of Diana Ross and the Supremes, opened on Broadway.

On this day in 1985, Howard Cosell retired after 20 years as a sports commentator for ABC television.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harvey S. Firestone (1868-1938), industrialist; George Roy Hill (1922-), director, is 76; Bo Diddley (1928-), singer-guitarist, is 70; Billy Bragg (1957-), singer, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1982, the San Diego Chargers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 50-34.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The first duty of love is to listen." — Paul Tillich

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 18) and first quarter (Dec. 26).

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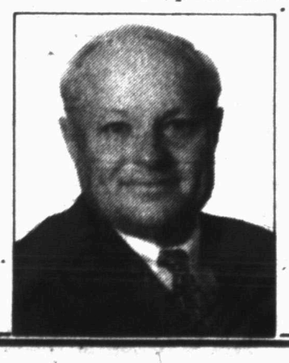

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SJHS DRIVE — Snyder Junior High School students collected 1,100 cans of food last week for the Goodfellows' annual food drive. The homerooms collecting the most cans were Marci Dennis and Margaret Corkran. Students pictured are from left, Patrick Kincaid, Lina Olvera, Clarissa Sauceda, April Garcia. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

A Very Drabble Christmas by Kevin Fagan

Boat capsizes, 8 refugees die

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The search continued overnight for as many as nine people missing in what the Coast Guard called the deadliest known immigrant-smuggling attempt off the Florida coast.

Eight bodies had been recovered and nine people rescued, including two children, as of late Friday.

Two 110-foot Coast Guard cutters searched through the night after a boat apparently trying to smuggle Cubans into this country capsized Thursday night in choppy Atlantic waters more than 22 miles south of Miami.

"Right now, conditions cannot warrant an effective search," Petty Officer Tony Wells said late Friday night. "Seas are about 4 foot, with swells at 8 feet. It's difficult for anyone to carry out an effective search with these seas."

Nevertheless, he said, the two cutters were making sweeps in Atlantic waters offshore from Miami north 30 miles to Fort Lauderdale.

"Keep in mind, this is the Gulf Stream, everything will float north," Wells explained. "Tomorrow, look for that search area to be based even farther north, between Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale."

The 29-foot Wellcraft boat went down late Thursday off Elliott Key, in 6-foot seas.

Friday night, Cuban-Americans who thought they might have relatives on the boat were awaiting word from the Coast Guard.

"There's no way to describe the feeling because, right now, you don't know if he's dead or alive," said Manny Rodriguez.

A freighter rescued seven adults and two children from the half-submerged boat Friday morning. The survivors managed to hang on for about 10 hours, according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Carr.

AOL sues entity toting cancer cure

NEW YORK (AP) — A group that allegedly hawked apricot seeds as a cancer cure in mass e-mails to America Online members has been sued by the online service.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S District Court in Manhattan on Friday, America Online Inc. accused The Christian Brothers and its principal, Jason Vale, of sending millions of e-mail messages to its members.

"Wow. I did not know. That is all news to me," said Vale, who did not want to comment further because he had not seen the lawsuit.

One source involved in the litigation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said lawsuits were also to be filed in California, Florida and Ohio as part of a fresh assault on those who send unsolicited e-mails. An announcement was expected to be made Monday.

Rich D'Amato, an AOL spokesman, said he could only confirm the filing of the New York lawsuit. But, the Dulles, Va.-based company has consistently used the courts to pursue those who have abused its e-mail system, D'Amato said.

"It is all part of a concerted effort to establish the legal precedent, give AOL some power to deal with spammers and let spammers know this won't be tolerated on AOL," he said.

Unsolicited commercial e-mail, known as spam, has led to discussion among legislators across the country of ways to better control the practice.

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Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. is offering a Christmas special: Six months of free Internet with the purchase of a new computer.

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SPORTS

Peoples, Lady Tigers rescue OT victory over Wylie, 45-44

Snyder senior Alicia Peoples was on her game in the beginning, in the end and most of the moments in between Friday night.

Peoples, who posted her squad's first six points of the ballgame, poured in all six of Snyder's points in overtime, leading the Lady Tigers to a 45-44 victory over Abilene Wylie at the SHS gym.

The senior post player finished with 19 points and seven rebounds, five of which came on the offensive glass.

"Tonight I just tried to relax and play my game," Peoples said. "That's when I play my best. I think it's really important for us to play well before the Christmas break. This win will help with team spirit. We know if we can win with just nine or so players, then we can do even better when we have a full team."

With four players out due to injury, the Lady Tigers were forced to play short-handed.

Turnovers by both teams dominated much of the action, as the two squads committed 28 apiece.

After a scoreless drought by Snyder, which lasted from the 4:40 mark of the third quarter until the 6:41 mark of the fourth, Wylie climbed back in the game.

The Lady Tigers converted on only one of six free throw attempts down the stretch, before Wylie's Brandi Barton put back on offensive rebound as the horn sounded to send the game into overtime.

Wylie nailed a three-pointer early in the extra session, but then Peoples went to work.

Peoples connected on two short-range jumpers and put back a missed shot, pushing the Lady Tigers to a 45-44 lead with 17 seconds left on the clock.

Two turnovers by each team gave Wylie one last chance with 1.9 seconds remaining, but the Lady Bulldogs gave the ball away on an inbounds pass to kill the opportunity.

"This win is big for us," Snyder coach Rick Archer said. "Neither team took care of the ball and it wasn't pretty, but an ugly win is better than no win at all."

The Lady Tigers connected on 57 percent of their shots in the first two quarters to stake a 26-18 halftime lead, before the scoreless span in the third period.

Mandy Hess broke the drought with a bucket which gave Snyder a 33-30 lead.

Wylie knotted the tally with just under three minutes left, before Shannon Hall nailed a three-pointer to break the tie with 2:08 remaining.

Following a Lady Bulldog basket, T'Leah Eicke made the Lady Tigers' only free throw of the fourth quarter with 14 seconds left on the clock, giving Snyder the two-point cushion it needed.

The Lady Tigers improve to 6-7 on the season, while Wylie falls to 8-5.

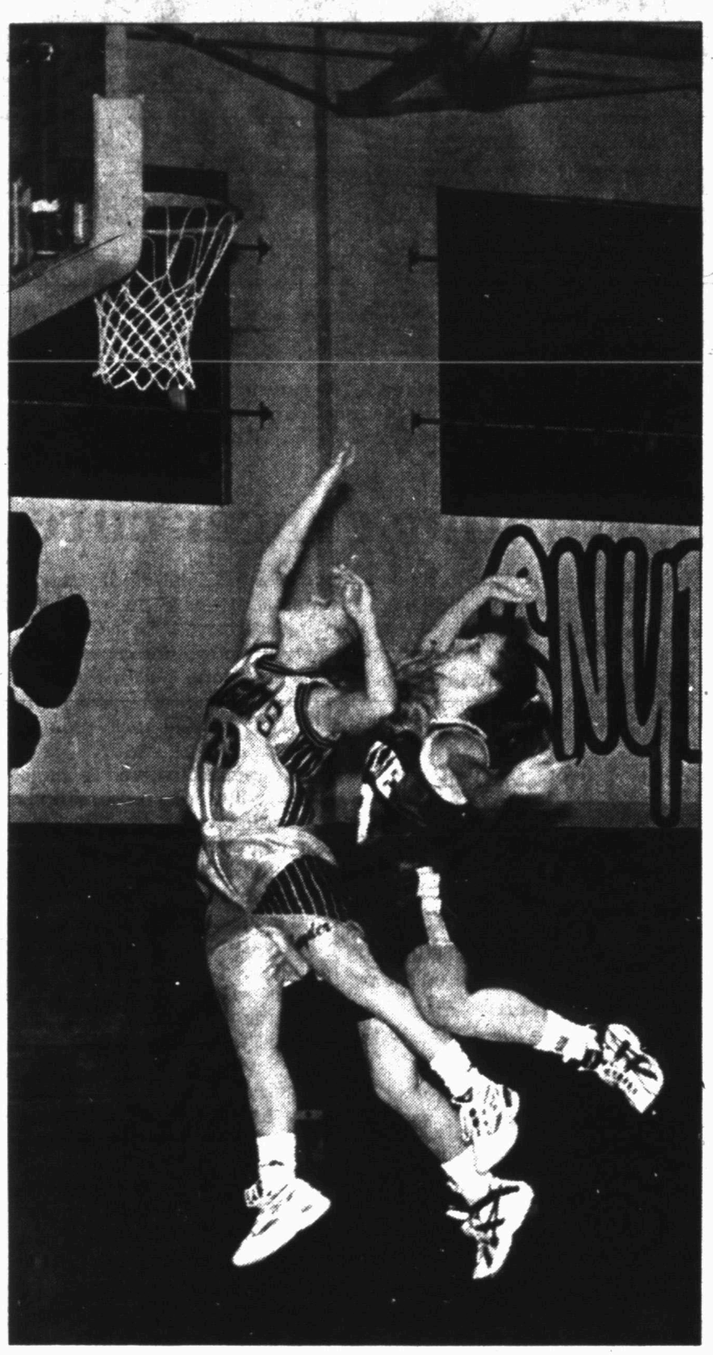
Snyder will be back in action Monday afternoon, when it hosts Lamesa at 2:30.

Wylie	10	8	9	12	5	— 44
Snyder	13	13	5	8	6	— 45

Wylie
Deberry 5 2-2 12, Jones 3 6-7 12, Varner 3 0-0 7, Wilson 1 0-2 3, Doby 1 2-4 4, Been 1 2-2 4, Barton 1 0-0 2. **Totals 15 12-17 44.**

Snyder
Peoples 9 1-3 19, Hess 4 0-0 9, Hall 2 1-3 6, Murray 2 0-0 4, Eicke 0 1-2 1, Voss 2 0-3 4, Mackey 1 0-0 2. **Totals 20 3-11 45.**

Three-point goals: Wylie 2 (Varner, Wilson), Snyder 2 (Hall, Hess). Rebounds: Wylie 31 (Jones 10), Snyder 33 (Hess 8). Total fouls: Wylie 16, Snyder 16. Fouled out — none.



TWO LADIES LEAPING — Snyder's Shannon Hall attempts a layup in front of a Wylie defender Friday night at the SHS gym. Hall was fouled on the play, but the Lady Tigers went on to win the contest in overtime, 45-44. (SDN Staff Photo)

JV girls fall to Lady 'Dogs

Wylie's junior varsity girls showed up to play defense Friday night.

Wylie held Snyder to single digits in each of the final three quarters to take a 54-30 victory at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers, who got seven points from Taylor Daniell and Whitney Webb, trailed by only three after the first period and only two at halftime.

But a 10-4 Wylie run in the third quarter, followed by a 23-7 stretch in the fourth, allowed the Lady Bulldogs to pull away.

Andra Lancaster dropped in six points for Snyder, with Amber Haarmeyer and Meagan Hatley adding five apiece.

Snyder will be in action at home again Monday afternoon when it hosts Lamesa at 1 o'clock.

Frosh topple Bulldogs, 58-54

ABILENE — Snyder's freshman boys won the initial first quarter battle Friday night and that allowed them to win the war.

Snyder ran to a 13-8 first quarter lead, then maintained their cushion for the rest of the contest to slip past Abilene Wylie, 58-54.

Chris McLeod and Jamaal Pruitt led all scorers with 14 points to pace the Tigers' effort.

Wade Pinson dropped in seven points, with Ricki Dorsett, Brandon McGuire and Nick Landes posting six apiece.

Tate Thompson notched three points for Snyder, while Craig Bowen added two more.

The Tigers return to action Jan. 7 when they host Sweetwater at 6 p.m.

NBA players set for exhibition game

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Gathered in another gambling town and needy for publicity, locked-out NBA players tried to boost prospects for their exhibition game by billing it as a "gift to the fans."

But this gift, in person or on TV, comes with a price.

"The Game on Showtime," featuring 16 current or former All-Stars, will tip off at 9 p.m. EST Saturday night at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The telecast is available only to cable customers who pay a premium to receive Showtime.

"This weekend is for giving back to the fans," said Shawn Kemp of the Cleveland Cavaliers, "and hopefully people will tune in around the country because people miss professional basketball."

About 8,000 tickets have been sold or given away for the 12,500-seat arena, according to game director Curtis Polk, although a ticket agent was quoted in Friday's edition of The Press of Atlantic City as saying only 574 tickets, priced at $25, $50, $100, $200, $300 and $500, had been sold through his agency as of Thursday morning.

Promoters historically have been wary of scheduling events in this city between Thanksgiving and Christmas — traditionally the slowest time of the year.

Interest also has been kept down because of the non-participation of Michael Jordan.

"We have no expectations that Michael will attend," Polk said.

The 16 players will be divided into two teams. The "Red" team, coached by Charles Barkley, will include Patrick Ewing, Tim Hardaway, Kemp, Dan Majerle, Karl Malone, Reggie Miller, Mitch Richmond and Dominique Wilkins.

The "White" team will include Alonzo Mourning, Vin Baker, Tom Gugliotta, Allan Houston, Chris Webber, Glen Rice, Penny Hardaway and Gary Payton.

"We're going to have a little surprise on the 'White' team coach," Polk said.

For some of the players, this weekend will be the first time they've seen each other since more than 200 of them gathered in Las Vegas in late October for a union meeting.

Some have criticized the players for using two gambling towns for their meetings.

Polk explained that Atlantic City was chosen because it is close to Philadelphia, site of the now-canceled NBA All-Star game, and because it is within 200 miles of several major cities.

Since their caucus in Las Vegas, when an 82-game season remained a possibility, the first 2½ months of the season have been wiped out by the owner-imposed lockout that threatens to cancel the entire season. Players have lost more than $400 million in salaries.

Commissioner David Stern said he spoke with union director Billy Hunter by telephone Thursday but that no new negotiations are scheduled.

"This weekend, we're trying to get off the lockout topic and focus on this game," said Mourning, who refused to answer questions concerning the details of the work stoppage. "At this time of year our body clocks tell us we should be playing basketball. There should be some intensity out there because we're anxious to get going."

Proceeds from the game will be donated to charities in the Atlantic City and Philadelphia areas. Organizers backed off an earlier plan to share some of the proceeds with "needy' basketball players.

Tim Hardaway said he expects a positive reaction from fans who have gone almost six months without seeing professional basketball.

Rebels get a new title opponent

MIDLAND (AP) — If it was up to Midland Lee coach John Parchman, his team already would be Class 5A Division II champions and this afternoon's game wouldn't even be played.

Parchman said Friday the game should've been called off because opponent Katy was forced to withdraw for using an ineligible player used in the playoffs. San Antonio MacArthur, a semifinal loser to Katy last weekend, was told just before lunch that it would be playing Midland Lee for the title.

Parchman, who spent all week preparing to play Katy, wasn't happy about the change.

"It's ludicrous," Parchman told The Midland Reporter-Telegram. "They call us at 10 in the morning the day before the state championship and tell us we are playing another opponent.

"That's not right because it penalizes us as much as it does Katy and we didn't do anything wrong. We should have received a forfeit and the state championship."

Meanwhile, folks at Katy were having to deal with the school's decision to back out of the championship.

"Due to a UIL violation regarding an academically ineligible player, Katy High School has been disqualified and will not advance to the state playoff game in Dallas this weekend," an answering machine message at the school said.

"As soon as the Katy High School administration became aware of the ineligible player, an investigation was conducted and the UIL was notified immediately. The disqualification ruling was issued by the UIL. Ticket refunds will be available at Katy High School beginning Jan. 4, 1999. Please bring your ticket for reimbursement."

MacArthur was 10-5 following the loss to Katy. Midland Lee is 14-1. The game kicks off at 12:06 p.m. at Texas Stadium.

"There are no options," UIL athletic director Charles Breithaupt said. "Katy self-reported and took themselves out of the playoffs. They did the thing that they had to do. It's unfair to Midland Lee on one side, but MacArthur is not prepared at all. It's going to be difficult to get their folks together and get there."

Breithaupt said there was no discussion about delaying the game to give the teams a chance to prepare.

Also scheduled at Texas Stadium are the 4A Division II championship between La Marque (13-0) and Stephenville (14-1) at 4 p.m., and the Class 2A Division II match between Celina (13-2) and Elysian Fields (12-3) at 8 p.m.

"Sometimes I think money drives things when they shouldn't," said Midland Lee coach John Parchman.

The 3A Division II championship game between Newton (13-1) and Daingerfield (14-0) is set for 3 p.m. in Nacogdoches. Wheeler (12-2) and Tenaha (15-0) will meet for the 1A championship at 7:30 p.m. in Bedford.

Katy principal Robert Blankenship said the school learned late Thursday that a player falsified grades and forged a signature on a three-week grade report the week after Thanksgiving, violating the state's no-pass, no-play rules. School officials declined to identify the player, saying only that he was a 17-year-old senior.

Earlier this season, Katy forfeited a game after using an ineligible player.

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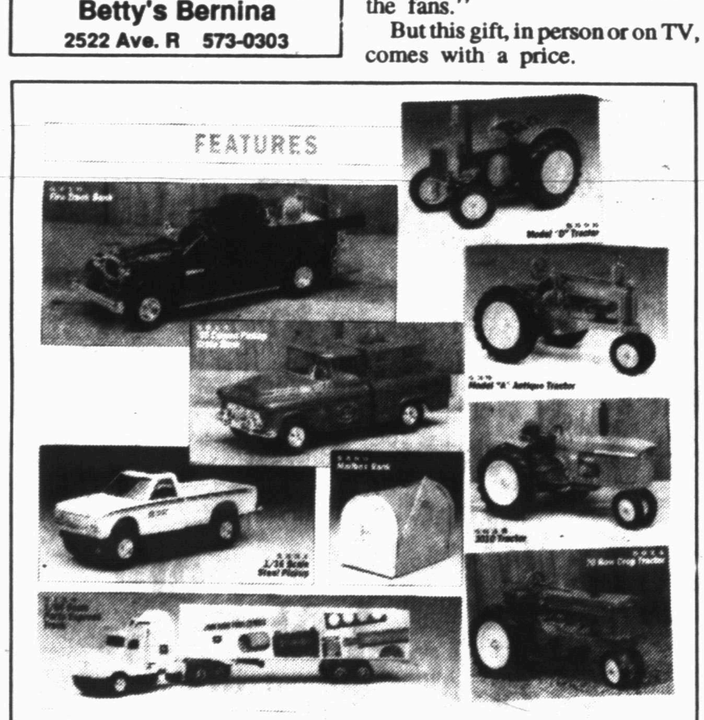

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SPORTS

Third quarter dooms Tigers against Wylie

ABILENE — If basketball is a game of runs, then the Wylie Bulldogs beat the Snyder Tigers to the finish line.

Wylie made up a 25-18 halftime deficit in a hurry Friday night with an 18-6 run in the third quarter which the Tigers never recovered from. Despite a last-minute rally by Snyder, the Bulldogs escaped with a 45-44 victory in Abilene.

Snyder had things going their way early on, controlling Wylie with defensive pressure.

The Tigers surrendered only six points in the second period to build the halftime advantage.

But the third quarter was all Bulldogs, connecting on eight of 12 attempts from the floor to seize a 36-31 lead.

After Snyder trimmed the margin in the early part of the final period, both squads embarked on a scoring drought which lasted over four minutes.

Wylie stretched the deficit back to five points on a pair of John Hooge free throws with 28 seconds left on the clock.

Eight seconds later, Cory Mandrell nailed a three-pointer to bring the Tigers within two, at 43-41.

A pair of Bulldog free throws from Scott Bull extended the tally to 45-41, before Justin McNair dropped in a long-range bucket as the buzzer sounded for the 45-44 final score.

Snyder, now 5-8 on the season, was led by Mandrell's 18 points and McNair's 11.

The Tigers now get nine days off before returning to action Dec. 28 at the Brownwood tournament.

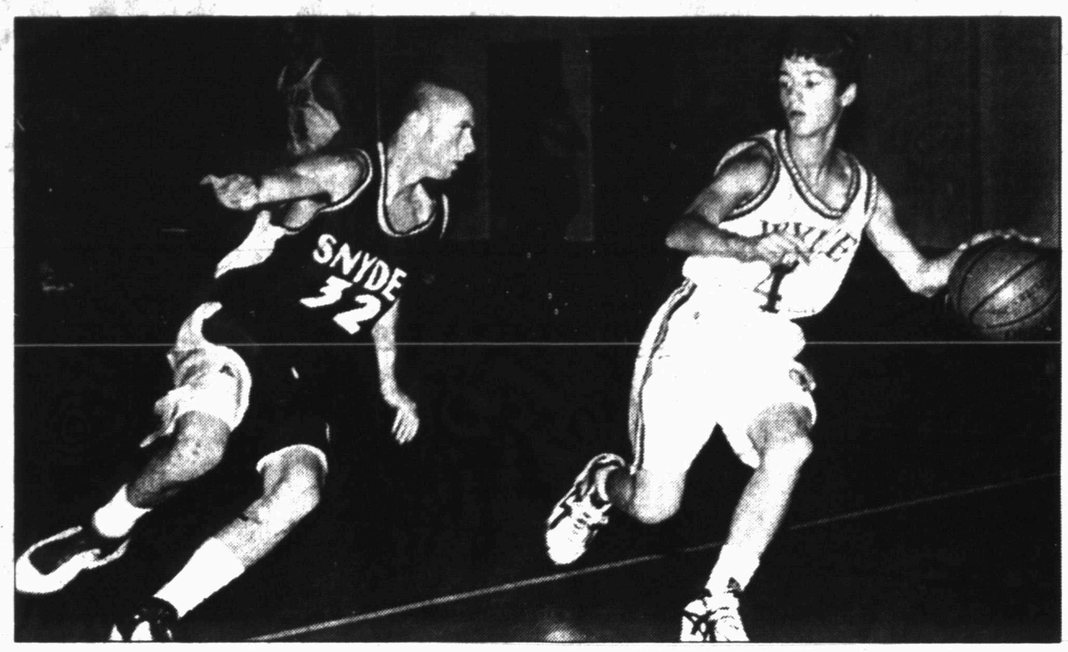
Snyder will square off with Bangs in an opening round matchup at 11 a.m., with the winner advancing to an 8 o'clock contest later that night.

Snyder	13	12	6	13 — 44
Wylie	12	6	18	9 — 45

Snyder
Cumbie 2 0-0 4, Cobb 2 0-0 4, McNair 4 1-3 11, Mandrell 7 3-4 18, Warren 0 1-2 1, Hester 1 0-0 2, McAnaw 1 0-0 2, Pinkerton 0 2-2 2. **Totals 17 7-11 44.**

Wylie
White 1 0-0 2, Bull 3 2-2 8, Anders 3 0-0 6, Self 1 1-3 3, Austin 0 2-3 2, Barbee 3 3-3 9, Beasley 3 0-0 6, Kelly 2 2-2 6, Martin 1 0-3 2, Hooge 0 1-2 1. **Totals 18 11-18 45.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 3 (McNair 1, Mandrell 2), Wylie 0. Total fouls: Snyder 20, Wylie 17. Fouled out — Mandrell.



CUTTING HIM OFF — Snyder point guard Jared Hester defends a Wylie ballhandler Friday night during action in Abilene. A late Tiger rally couldn't overcome a cold third quarter as Snyder fell to the Bulldogs, 45-44. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady 'Dogs stymie Roby with defense

IRA — Thanks to a pair of stellar defensive quarters, the Lady Bulldogs got the win they wanted, heading into the holidays.

Ira held Roby to single digits in the second and third quarters Friday night, propeling the Lady Bulldogs to a 48-43 victory in non-district action.

Roby had staked an early 16-15 advantage, before Ira clamped down on the Lady Lions over the next two periods.

Runs of 12-6 in the second quarter and 11-6 in the third powered the Lady Bulldogs to a 10-point lead with only eight minutes to play.

Roby cut the deficit in the final period.

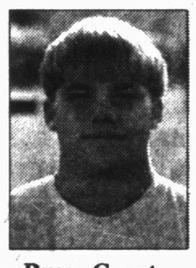
Sophomore Morgan Clements continued her offensive domination for Ira, pouring in 25 points on the night.

E'Lissa Goolsby, Brook Wilkes and Korby Calley dropped in six points apiece, while Kristen Harless posted five.

The victory ups the the Lady Bulldogs' mark to 9-4 on the season.

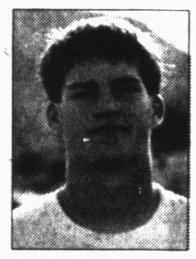
Ira returns to action Dec. 28 at the Klondike tournament.

Area players top six-man gridiron honors

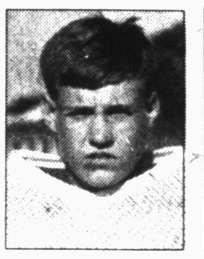

Ryan Grant

Fernando Baeza

Colt Miller


Colt McCook

Logan Daves


Jerek Brown

Caleb Callaway

After advancing to its second consecutive state title game, Borden County led the way in area six-man football honors.

Four Coyotes and an Ira Bulldog nabbed first-team all-district and first-team all-region honors.

Ryan Grant, Fernando Baeza, Colt Miller and Colt McCook were first-team District 6 selection for Borden County.

The Coyotes were joined by Ira's Logan Daves and Jerek Brown, and Hermleigh's Caleb Callaway.

Receiving second-team all-district honors were Daves and Brown, along with David Digby of Hermleigh and Kevin Pinkerton and Ed Rodriguez of Borden County.

McCook, Miller, Baeza, Grant and Daves were tabbed as first-team all-region picks, with Brown grabbing second-team honors.

DISTRICT 6 ALL-DISTRICT TEAM
First Team Offense

Center: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.
End: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; Logan Daves, jr., Ira.
Running back: Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Jonathan Ribble, sr., Grady; Marcus Deleon, jr., Sands.
Tight quarterback: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Spread quarterback: Sam Harless, sr., Westbrook.
Kicker: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.

First Team Defense

End: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; Cob Floyd, jr., Sands; Ryan Grant, sr., Borden County.
Linebacker: Marcus deleon, jr., Sands; Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Frankie Garza, jr., Grady; Colt Miller, sr., Borden County; Jerek Brown, jr., Ira.
Safety: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Punter: Caleb Callaway, jr., Hermleigh.

Second Team Offense

Center: Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook.
End: Chris Chambers, sr., Westbrook; Cal Zant, jr., Sands.
Running back: Jerek Brown, jr., Ira; Frankie Garza, jr., Grady; Cesar Martinez, soph., Sands.
Tight quarterback: Coby Floyd, jr., Sands.
Kicker: Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook.

Second Team Defense

End: Logan Daves, jr., Ira; Ed Rodriguez, jr., Borden County; Cesar Martinez, soph., Sands.
Linebacker: Junior Martinez, soph., Sands; David Digby, soph., Hermleigh; Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook; kevin Pinkerton, jr., Borden County.
Safety: P.J. Pruitt, sr., Grady.
Punter: Coby Floyd, jr., Sands.

REGION II ALL-REGION TEAM
First Team Offense

Quarterback: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Deep back: Sam Harliss, sr., Westbrook.
Running back: Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Jeremy Webb, sr., Wellman-Union; Danny Santiago, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Center: Jason Carter, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Tight end: Ty Hamm, sr., Wellman-Union; Eric Garcia, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Split end: Logan Daves, jr., Ira.
Kicker: Justin Romine, jr., Wellman-Union.

First Team Defense

Lineman: Jeremy Harlan, sr., Wellman-Union; Juan Ponce, sr., Sanderson; Ryan Grant, sr., Borden County; Greg Gibson, sr., Grady.
Linebacker: Jarod Andrews, sr., Meadow; Colt Miller, sr., Borden County; Andy Leyva, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty; Josh Pough, jr., Balmorhea.
Safety: John Kennedy, sr., Sanderson.
Punter: Jonathan Barker, jr., Dell City.

Second Team Offense

Quarterback: Roland Rodriguez, jr., Sanderson.
Deep back: T.J. Bustamante, soph., Sierra Blanca.
Running back: Roger Lopez, sr., Balmorhea; John Kennedy, sr., Sanderson; Jonathan Ribble, sr., Grady.
Center: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.
Tight end: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; C.J. Campos, sr., Meadow.
Split End: Alex Escamillo, jr., Sanderson.

Second Team Defense

Lineman: Marino Mascerenas, sr., Sierra Blanca; Brant Taylor, sr., Meadow; Coby Floyd, jr., Sands; Clint Crow, sr., Loop.
Linebacker: Brian Crestman, sr., Wellman-Union; Marcus Deleon, jr., Sands; Danny Santiago, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty; Jerek Brown, jr., Ira.
Safety: Ty Barton, sr., Klondike.

Lions roar past Ira in second half

IRA — Roby employed a stingy second half defense Friday night to steal one from Bulldog Gym, slipping past Ira, 57-50, in non-district boys basketball action.

The Lions took an early 16-11 lead, before Ira rallied in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs posted 18 points in the second period to pull even, 29-29, at halftime.

Roby grabbed a three-point lead heading into the final eight minutes at 43-40.

The Lions extended the margin in the fourth period, holding the Bulldogs to just 10 points.

Logan Daves paced Ira's effort with 14 points, while Jerek Brown dropped in 11.

Nathan Smith, Richard Wilkins and Bryce Wilkins chipped in five points apiece, with Jose Juarez and Seth Sterling notching four. Drew Wall finished with two points.

The setback drops Ira to 9-4 on the season, entering the holiday break.

The Bulldogs return to action Dec. 28 at the Klondike tournament.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
x-N.Y.Jets	10	4	0	.714	368	246
Buffalo	9	5	0	.643	345	283
Miami	9	5	0	.643	274	206
NewEngland	8	6	0	.571	303	277
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	268	390
Central						
Jacksonville	10	4	0	.714	361	285
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	292	264
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	236	257
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	247	301
Cincinnati	2	12	0	.143	243	393
West						
y-Denver	13	1	0	.929	452	257
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	247	315
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	324	259
KansasCity	6	8	0	.429	289	311
SanDiego	5	9	0	.357	218	309

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	345	259
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	290	348
N.Y.Giants	6	8	0	.429	239	292
Washington	5	9	0	.357	292	382
Philadelphia	3	11	0	.214	142	311
Central						
y-Minnesota	13	1	0	.929	480	270
GreenBay	9	5	0	.643	362	284
TampaBay	7	7	0	.500	263	275
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	279	335
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	239	349
West						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	380	256
x-SanFran	11	3	0	.786	420	285
NewOrleans	6	8	0	.429	255	295
St.Louis	4	10	0	.286	253	320
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	289	381

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division title

Saturday's Games
New York Jets at Buffalo, 12:35 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 4:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Baltimore at Chicago, 1:01 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1:01 p.m.
Kansas City at New York Giants, 1:01 p.m.
St. Louis at Carolina, 1:01 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 1:01 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 1:01 p.m.
Indianapolis at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Denver at Miami, 8:20 p.m.

A glance around the NFL...

Bills, Jets meet in AFC East battle

By The Associated Press

Apparently the only flakes in Buffalo, where it's been known to snow this time of year, will be Flutie Flakes. That cereal will taste a lot better to Bills fans Sunday if their team beats the New York Jets Saturday.

While it might not be white, it could be wet when quarterback Doug Flutie tries to lead the Bills (9-5) to a victory that would clinch a playoff spot and also put them into a first-place tie with the Jets in the AFC East.

A win would clinch the first division title since 1969 for the Jets (10-4), who already have made the playoffs. Jets quarterback Vinny Testaverde, like Flutie a backup at the start of the season, is 10-1 as a starter. He passed for 258 yards and three touchdowns when the Jets beat the Bills 34-12 Nov. 8.

Eagles at Cowboys

The Cowboys (8-6) can clinch their sixth NFC East title of the 1990s with a sweep of the Eagles (3-11). Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith needs one rushing touchdown to reach 124 and break a tie with Marcus Allen for the most ever. Eagles wide receiver Irvin Fryar needs 20 receptions for a ninth straight 50-reception season.

Oilers at Packers

The Packers (9-5), who have struggled since going 4-0, can clinch a playoff berth with a victory over the Oilers (8-6), who still have playoff hopes. The Packers' Brett Favre has passed for an NFL-leading 3,806 yards, but he has 21 interceptions to go with 27 touchdown passes. Eddie George of the Oilers is third in the AFC with 1,210 yards rushing.

Saints at Cardinals

The Cardinals (7-7) still have hopes for their first playoff berth since 1982. Cardinals wide receiver Frank Sanders is second in the NFC with 71 catches. Wide receiver Sean Dawkins of the Saints (6-8) needs four catches to reach 300 for his career.

Jaguars at Vikings

With quarterback Mark Brunell doubtful because of an ankle injury, rookie Jonathan Quinn is expected to make his first NFL starts for the Jaguars (10-4), who need a win to clinch the AFC Central. The NFC Central champion Vikings, rolling behind the league's second-best offense (393.5 yards per game), already have a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Falcons at Lions

The Falcons (12-2) can clinch their first NFC West title since 1980 and also a first-round bye by sending the Lions (5-9) to their third straight loss. Jamal Anderson of the Falcons leads the NFC with 12 rushing touchdowns. The Lions' Barry Sanders needs 145 yards rushing for a fifth straight 1,500-yard season. The Falcons will be without coach Dan Reeves, who underwent heart bypass surgery this week.

49ers at Patriots

The Patriots (8-6) hope to keep their playoff chances alive by stopping the NFL's top offense (428.1). Garrison Hearst has run for 1,442 yards, second in the NFC, for the 49ers, while Steve Young has passed for a league-leading 32 touchdowns and Jerry

Ravens at Bears

Cornerback Duane Starks of the Ravens (5-9) leads all NFL rookies with five interceptions. Bobby Engram of the Bears (3-11) needs 115 yards to become the seventh Chicago player to have 1,000 yards receiving in a season.

Bengals at Steelers

The Bengals (2-10) have won seven of their past 10 December games. Jerome Bettis needs 58 rushing yards for a third straight 1,000-yard season for the Steelers (7-7), who have lost three straight games.

Rams at Panthers

Steve Bono replaces Tony Banks, out for the season with a knee injury, at quarterback for the Rams (4-10). Steve Beuerlein has completed 63.6 percent of his passes for the Panthers (2-12), best in the league.

Raiders at Chargers

The Chargers (5-9) have the league's top-ranked defense (260.8), and the Raiders (7-7) are ranked second (275.9).

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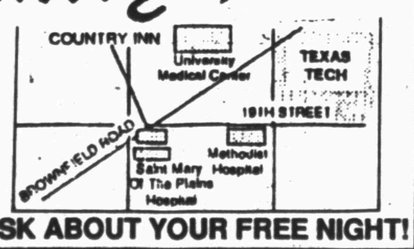

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DEC 20 1998

SPORTS

Peoples, Lady Tigers rescue OT victory over Wylie, 45-44

Snyder senior Alicia Peoples was on her game in the beginning, in the end and most of the moments in between Friday night.

Peoples, who posted her squad's first six points of the ballgame, poured in all six of Snyder's points in overtime, leading the Lady Tigers to a 45-44 victory over Abilene Wylie at the SHS gym.

The senior post player finished with 19 points and seven rebounds, five of which came on the offensive glass.

"Tonight I just tried to relax and play my game," Peoples said. "That's when I play my best. I think it's really important for us to play well before the Christmas break. This win will help with team spirit. We know if we can win with just nine or so players, then we can do even better when we have a full team."

With four players out due to injury, the Lady Tigers were forced to play short-handed.

Turnovers by both teams dominated much of the action, as the two squads committed 28 apiece.

After a scoreless drought by Snyder, which lasted from the 4:40 mark of the third quarter until the 6:41 mark of the fourth, Wylie climbed back in the game.

The Lady Tigers converted on only one of six free throw attempts down the stretch, before Wylie's Brandi Barton put back on offensive rebound as the horn sounded to send the game into overtime.

Wylie nailed a three-pointer early in the extra session, but then Peoples went to work.

Peoples connected on two short-range jumpers and put back a missed shot, pushing the Lady Tigers to a 45-44 lead with 17 seconds left on the clock.

Two turnovers by each team gave Wylie one last chance with 1.9 seconds remaining, but the Lady Bulldogs gave the ball away on an inbounds pass to kill the opportunity.

"This win is big for us," Snyder coach Rick Archer said. "Neither team took care of the ball and it wasn't pretty, but an ugly win is better than no win at all."

The Lady Tigers connected on 57 percent of their shots in the first two quarters to stake a 26-18 halftime lead, before the scoreless span in the third period.

Mandy Hess broke the drought with a bucket which gave Snyder a 33-30 lead.

Wylie knotted the tally with just under three minutes left, before Shannon Hall nailed a three-pointer to break the tie with 2:08 remaining.

Following a Lady Bulldog basket, T'Leah Eicke made the Lady Tigers' only free throw of the fourth quarter with 14 seconds left on the clock, giving Snyder the two-point cushion it needed.

The Lady Tigers improve to 6-7 on the season, while Wylie falls to 8-5.

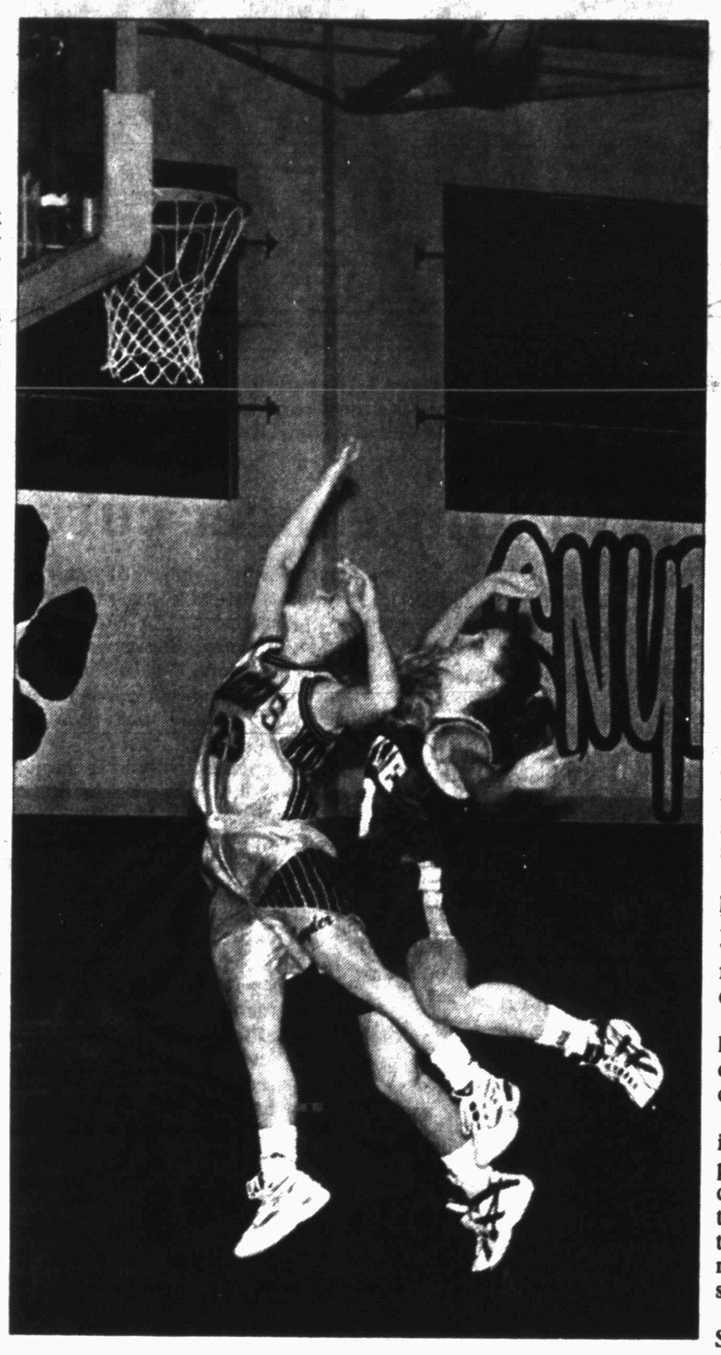
Snyder will be back in action Monday afternoon, when it hosts Lamesa at 2:30.

Wylie	10	8	9	12	5	— 44
Snyder	13	13	5	8	6	— 45

Wylie
Deberry 5 2-2 12, Jones 3 6-7 12, Varner 3 0-0 7, Wilson 1 0-2 3, Doby 1 2-4 4, Been 1 2-2 4, Barton 1 0-0 2. **Totals 15 12-17 44.**

Snyder
Peoples 9 1-3 19, Hess [illegible]-0 9, Hall 2 1-3 6, Murray 2 0-0 4, Eicke 0 1-2 1, Voss 2 0-3 4, Mackey 1 0-0 2. **Totals 20 3-11 45.**

Three-point goals: Wylie 2 (Varner, Wilson), Snyder 2 (Hall, Hess). Rebounds: Wylie 31 (Jones 10), Snyder 33 (Hess 8). Total fouls: Wylie 16, Snyder 16. Fouled out — none.



TWO LADIES LEAPING — Snyder's Shannon Hall attempts a layup in front of a Wylie defender Friday night at the SHS gym. Hall was fouled on the play, but the Lady Tigers went on to win the contest in overtime, 45-44. (SDN Staff Photo)

JV girls fall to Lady 'Dogs

Wylie's junior varsity girls showed up to play defense Friday night.

Wylie held Snyder to single digits in each of the final three quarters to take a 54-30 victory at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers, who got seven points from Taylor Daniell and Whitney Webb, trailed by only three after the first period and only two at halftime.

But a 10-4 Wylie run in the third quarter, followed by a 23-7 stretch in the fourth, allowed the Lady Bulldogs to pull away.

Andra Lancaster dropped in six points for Snyder, with Amber Haarmeyer and Meagan Hatley adding five apiece.

Snyder will be in action at home again Monday afternoon when it hosts Lamesa at 1 o'clock.

Frosh topple Bulldogs, 58-54

ABILENE — Snyder's freshman boys won the initial first quarter battle Friday night and that allowed them to win the war.

Snyder ran to a 13-8 first quarter lead, then maintained their cushion for the rest of the contest to slip past Abilene Wylie, 58-54.

Chris McLeod and Jamaal Pruitt led all scorers with 14 points to pace the Tigers' effort.

Wade Pinson dropped in seven points, with Ricki Dorsett, Brandon McGuire and Nick Landes posting six apiece.

Tate Thompson notched three points for Snyder, while Craig Bowen added two more.

The Tigers return to action Jan. 7 when they host Sweetwater at 6 p.m.

Rebels get a new title opponent

MIDLAND (AP) — If it was up to Midland Lee coach John Parchman, his team already would be Class 5A Division II champions and this afternoon's game wouldn't even be played.

Parchman said Friday the game should've been called off because opponent Katy was forced to withdraw for using an ineligible player used in the playoffs. San Antonio MacArthur, a semifinal loser to Katy last weekend, was told just before lunch that it would be playing Midland Lee for the title.

Parchman, who spent all week preparing to play Katy, wasn't happy about the change.

"It's ludicrous," Parchman told The Midland Reporter-Telegram. "They call us at 10 in the morning the day before the state championship and tell us we are playing another opponent.

"That's not right because it penalizes us as much as it does Katy and we didn't do anything wrong. We should have received a forfeit and the state championship."

Meanwhile, folks at Katy were having to deal with the school's decision to back out of the championship.

"Due to a UIL violation regarding an academically ineligible player, Katy High School has been disqualified and will not advance to the state playoff game in Dallas this weekend," an answering machine message at the school said.

"As soon as the Katy High School administration became aware of the ineligible player, an investigation was conducted and the UIL was notified immediately. The disqualification ruling was issued by the UIL. Ticket refunds will be available at Katy High School beginning Jan. 4, 1999. Please bring your ticket for reimbursement."

MacArthur was 10-5 following the loss to Katy. Midland Lee is 14-1. The game kicks off at 12:06 p.m. at Texas Stadium.

"There are no options," UIL athletic director Charles Breithaupt said. "Katy self-reported and took themselves out of the playoffs. They did the thing that they had to do. It's unfair to Midland Lee on one side, but MacArthur is not prepared at all. It's going to be difficult to get their folks together and get there."

Breithaupt said there was no discussion about delaying the game to give the teams a chance to prepare.

Also scheduled at Texas Stadium are the 4A Division II championship between La Marque (13-0) and Stephenville (14-1) at 4 p.m., and the Class 2A Division II match between Celina (13-2) and Elysian Fields (12-3) at 8 p.m.

"Sometimes I think money drives things when they shouldn't," said Midland Lee coach John Parchman.

The 3A Division II championship game between Newton (13-1) and Daingerfield (14-0) is set for 3 p.m. in Nacogdoches. Wheeler (12-2) and Tenaha (15-0) will meet for the 1A championship at 7:30 p.m. in Bedford.

Katy principal Robert Blankenship said the school learned late Thursday that a player falsified grades and forged a signature on a three-week grade report the week after Thanksgiving, violating the state's no-pass, no-play rules. School officials declined to identify the player, saying only that he was a 17-year-old senior.

Earlier this season, Katy forfeited a game after using an ineligible player.

NBA players set for exhibition game

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Gathered in another gambling town and needy for publicity, locked-out NBA players tried to boost prospects for their exhibition game by billing it as a "gift to the fans."

But this gift, in person or on TV, comes with a price.

"The Game on Showtime," featuring 16 current or former All-Stars, will tip off at 9 p.m. EST Saturday night at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The telecast is available only to cable customers who pay a premium to receive Showtime.

"This weekend is for giving back to the fans," said Shawn Kemp of the Cleveland Cavaliers, "and hopefully people will tune in around the country because people miss professional basketball."

About 8,000 tickets have been sold or given away for the 12,500-seat arena, according to game director Curtis Polk, although a ticket agent was quoted in Friday's edition of The Press of Atlantic City as saying only 574 tickets, priced at $25, $50, $100, $200, $300 and $500, had been sold through his agency as of Thursday morning.

Promoters historically have been wary of scheduling events in this city between Thanksgiving and Christmas — traditionally the slowest time of the year.

Interest also has been kept down because of the non-participation of Michael Jordan.

"We have no expectations that Michael will attend," Polk said.

The 16 players will be divided into two teams. The "Red" team, coached by Charles Barkley, will include Patrick Ewing, Tim Hardaway, Kemp, Dan Majerle, Karl Malone, Reggie Miller, Mitch Richmond and Dominique Wilkins.

The "White" team will include Alonzo Mourning, Vin Baker, Tom Gugliotta, Allan Houston, Chris Webber, Glen Rice, Penny Hardaway and Gary Payton.

"We're going to have a little surprise on the 'White' team coach," Polk said.

For some of the players, this weekend will be the first time they've seen each other since more than 200 of them gathered in Las Vegas in late October for a union meeting.

Some have criticized the players for using two gambling towns for their meetings.

Polk explained that Atlantic City was chosen because it is close to Philadelphia, site of the now-canceled NBA All-Star game, and because it is within 200 miles of several major cities.

Since their caucus in Las Vegas, when an 82-game season remained a possibility, the first 2½ months of the season have been wiped out by the owner-imposed lockout that threatens to cancel the entire season. Players have lost more than $400 million in salaries.

Commissioner David Stern said he spoke with union director Billy Hunter by telephone Thursday but that no new negotiations are scheduled.

"This weekend, we're trying to get off the lockout topic and focus on this game," said Mourning, who refused to answer questions concerning the details of the work stoppage. "At this time of year our body clocks tell us we should be playing basketball. There should be some intensity out there because we're anxious to get going."

Proceeds from the game will be donated to charities in the Atlantic City and Philadelphia areas. Organizers backed off an earlier plan to share some of the proceeds with "needy' basketball players.

Tim Hardaway said he expects a positive reaction from fans who have gone almost six months without seeing professional basketball.

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SPORTS

Third quarter dooms Tigers against Wylie

ABILENE — If basketball is a game of runs, then the Wylie Bulldogs beat the Snyder Tigers to the finish line.

Wylie made up a 25-18 halftime deficit in a hurry Friday night with an 18-6 run in the third quarter which the Tigers never recovered from. Despite a last-minute rally by Snyder, the Bulldogs escaped with a 45-44 victory in Abilene.

Snyder had things going their way early on, controlling Wylie with defensive pressure.

The Tigers surrendered only six points in the second period to build the halftime advantage.

But the third quarter was all Bulldogs, connecting on eight of 12 attempts from the floor to seize a 36-31 lead.

After Snyder trimmed the margin in the early part of the final period, both squads embarked on a scoring drought which lasted over four minutes.

Wylie stretched the deficit back to five points on a pair of John Hooge free throws with 28 seconds left on the clock.

Eight seconds later, Cory Mandrell nailed a three-pointer to bring the Tigers within two, at 43-41.

A pair of Bulldog free throws from Scott Bull extended the tally to 45-41, before Justin McNair dropped in a long-range bucket as the buzzer sounded for the 45-44 final score.

Snyder, now 5-8 on the season, was led by Mandrell's 18 points and McNair's 11.

The Tigers now get nine days off before returning to action Dec. 28 at the Brownwood tournament.

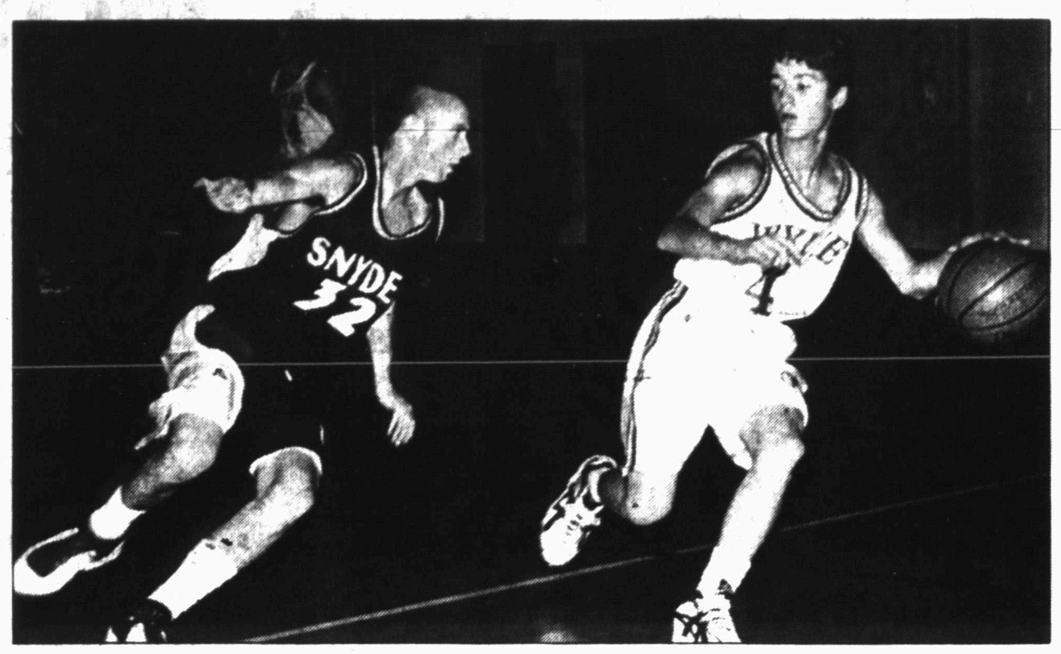
Snyder will square off with Bangs in an opening round matchup at 11 a.m., with the winner advancing to an 8 o'clock contest later that night.

Snyder	13	12	6	13	— 44
Wylie	12	6	18	9	— 45

Snyder
Cumbie 2 0-0 4, Cobb 2 0-0 4, McNair 4 1-3 11, Mandrell 7 3-4 18, Warren 0 1-2 1, Hester 1 0-0 2, McAnaw 1 0-0 2, Pinkerton 0 2-2 2. **Totals 17 7-11 44.**

Wylie
White 1 0-0 2, Bull 3 2-2 8, Anders 3 0-0 6, Self 1 1-3 3, Austin 0 2-3 2, Barbee 3 3-3 9, Beasley 3 0-0 6, Kelly 2 2-2 6, Martin 1 0-3 2, Hooge 0 1-2 1. **Totals 18 11-18 45.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 3 (McNair 1, Mandrell 2), Wylie 0. Total fouls: Snyder 20, Wylie 17. Fouled out — Mandrell.



CUTTING HIM OFF — Snyder point guard Jared Hester defends a Wylie ballhandler Friday night during action in Abilene. A late Tiger rally couldn't overcome a cold third quarter as Snyder fell to the Bulldogs, 45-44. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady 'Dogs stymie Roby with defense

IRA — Thanks to a pair of stellar defensive quarters, the Lady Bulldogs got the win they wanted, heading into the holidays.

Ira held Roby to single digits in the second and third quarters Friday night, propeling the Lady Bulldogs to a 48-43 victory in non-district action.

Roby had staked an early 16-15 advantage, before Ira clamped down on the Lady Lions over the next two periods.

Runs of 12-6 in the second quarter and 11-6 in the third powered the Lady Bulldogs to a 10-point lead with only eight minutes to play.

Roby cut the deficit in the final period.

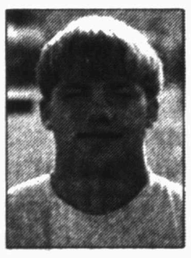
Sophomore Morgan Clements continued her offensive domination for Ira, pouring in 25 points on the night.

E'Lissa Goolsby, Brook Wilkes and Korby Calley dropped in six points apiece, while Kristen Harless posted five.

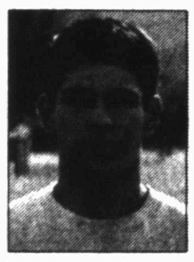
The victory ups the the Lady Bulldogs' mark to 9-4 on the season.

Ira returns to action Dec. 28 at the Klondike tournament.

Area players top six-man gridiron honors



Ryan Grant



Fernando Baeza

Colt Miller

Colt McCook

Logan Daves

Jerek Brown

Caleb Callaway

After advancing to its second consecutive state title game, Borden County led the way in area six-man football honors.

Four Coyotes and an Ira Bulldog nabbed first-team all-district and first-team all-region honors.

Ryan Grant, Fernando Baeza, Colt Miller and Colt McCook were first-team District 6 selection for Borden County.

The Coyotes were joined by Ira's Logan Daves and Jerek Brown, and Hermleigh's Caleb Callaway.

Receiving second-team all-district honors were Daves and Brown, along with David Digby of Hermleigh and Kevin Pinkerton and Ed Rodriguez of Borden County.

McCook, Miller, Baeza, Grant and Daves were tabbed as first-team all-region picks, with Brown grabbing second-team honors.

DISTRICT 6 ALL-DISTRICT TEAM
First Team Offense
Center: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.
End: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; Logan Daves, jr., Ira.
Running back: Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Jonathan Ribble, sr., Grady; Marcus Deleon, jr., Sands.
Tight quarterback: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Spread quarterback: Sam Harless, sr., Westbrook.
Kicker: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.
First Team Defense
End: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; Coby Floyd, jr., Sands; Ryan Grant, sr., Borden County.
Linebacker: Marcus deleon, jr., Sands; Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Frankie Garza, jr., Grady; Colt Miller, sr., Borden County; Jerek Brown, jr., Ira.
Safety: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Punter: Caleb Callaway, jr., Hermleigh.
Second Team Offense
Center: Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook.
End: Chris Chambers, sr., Westbrook; Cal Zant, jr., Sands.
Running back: Jerek Brown, jr., Ira; Frankie Garza, jr., Grady; Cesar Martinez, soph., Sands.
Tight quarterback: Coby Floyd, jr., Sands.
Kicker: Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook.
Second Team Defense
End: Logan Daves, jr., Ira; Ed Rodriguez, jr., Borden County; Cesar Martinez, soph., Sands.
Linebacker: Junior Martinez, soph., Sands; David Digby, soph., Hermleigh; Thadd Rich, sr., Westbrook; kevin Pinkerton, jr., Borden County.
Safety: P.J. Pruitt, sr., Grady.
Punter: Coby Floyd, jr., Sands.

REGION II ALL-REGION TEAM
First Team Offense
Quarterback: Colt McCook, sr., Borden County.
Deep back: Sam Harliss, sr., Westbrook.
Running back: Fernando Baeza, sr., Borden County; Jeremy Webb, sr., Wellman-Union; Danny Santiago, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Center: Jason Carter, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Tight end: Ty Hamm, sr., Wellman-Union; Eric Garcia, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty.
Split end: Logan Daves, jr., Ira.
Kicker: Justin Romine, jr., Wellman-Union.
First Team Defense
Lineman: Jeremy Harlan, sr., Wellman-Union; Juan Ponce, sr., Sanderson; Ryan Grant, sr., Borden County; Greg Gibson, sr., Grady.
Linebacker: Jarod Andrews, sr., Meadow; Colt Miller, sr., Borden County; Andy Leyva, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty; Josh Pough, jr., Balmorhea.
Safety: John Kennedy, sr., Sanderson.
Punter: Jonathan Barker, jr., Dell City.
Second Team Offense
Quarterback: Roland Rodriguez, jr., Sanderson.
Deep back: T.J. Bustamante, soph., Sierra Blanca.
Running back: Roger Lopez, sr., Balmorhea; John Kennedy, sr., Sanderson; Jonathan Ribble, sr., Grady.
Center: Jed Hinojosa, jr., Grady.
Tight end: Greg Gibson, sr., Grady; C.J. Campos, sr., Meadow.
Split End: Alex Escamillo, jr., Sanderson.
Second Team Defense
Lineman: Marino Mascerenas, sr., Sierra Blanca; Brant Taylor, sr., Meadow; Coby Floyd, jr., Sands; Clint Crow, sr., Loop.
Linebacker: Brian Crestman, sr., Wellman-Union; Marcus Deleon, jr., Sands; Danny Santiago, sr., Grandfalls-Royalty; Jerek Brown, jr., Ira.
Safety: Ty Barton, sr., Klondike.

Lions roar past Ira in second half

IRA — Roby employed a stingy second half defense Friday night to steal one from Bulldog Gym, slipping past Ira, 57-50, in non-district boys basketball action.

The Lions took an early 16-11 lead, before Ira rallied in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs posted 18 points in the second period to pull even, 29-29, at halftime.

Roby grabbed a three-point lead heading into the final eight minutes at 43-40.

The Lions extended the margin in the fourth period, holding the Bulldogs to just 10 points.

Logan Daves paced Ira's effort with 14 points, while Jerek Brown dropped in 11.

Nathan Smith, Richard Wilkins and Bryce Wilkins chipped in five points apiece, with Jose Juarez and Seth Sterling notching four. Drew Wall finished with two points.

The setback drops Ira to 9-4 on the season, entering the holiday break.

The Bulldogs return to action Dec. 28 at the Klondike tournament.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-N.Y.Jets	10	4	0	.714	368	246
Buffalo	9	5	0	.643	345	283
Miami	9	5	0	.643	274	206
NewEngland	8	6	0	.571	303	277
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	268	390
Central						
Jacksonville	10	4	0	.714	361	285
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	292	264
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	236	257
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	247	301
Cincinnati	2	12	0	.143	243	393
West						
y-Denver	13	1	0	.929	452	257
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	247	315
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	324	259
KansasCity	6	8	0	.429	289	311
SanDiego	5	9	0	.357	218	309

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	345	259
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	290	348
N.Y.Giants	6	8	0	.429	239	292
Washington	5	9	0	.357	292	382
Philadelphia	3	11	0	.214	142	311
Central						
y-Minnesota	13	1	0	.929	480	270
GreenBay	9	5	0	.643	362	284
TampaBay	7	7	0	.500	263	275
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	279	335
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	239	349
West						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	380	256
x-SanFran	11	3	0	.786	420	285
NewOrleans	6	8	0	.429	255	295
St.Louis	4	10	0	.286	253	320
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	289	381

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division title

Saturday's Games
New York Jets at Buffalo, 12:35 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 4:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Baltimore at Chicago, 1:01 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1:01 p.m.
Kansas City at New York Giants, 1:01 p.m.
St. Louis at Carolina, 1:01 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 1:01 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 1:01 p.m.
Indianapolis at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Denver at Miami, 8:20 p.m.

A glance around the NFL...

Bills, Jets meet in AFC East battle

By The Associated Press

Apparently the only flakes in Buffalo, where it's been known to snow this time of year, will be Flutie Flakes. That cereal will taste a lot better to Bills fans Sunday if their team beats the New York Jets Saturday.

While it might not be white, it could be wet when quarterback Doug Flutie tries to lead the Bills (9-5) to a victory that would clinch a playoff spot and also put them into a first-place tie with the Jets in the AFC East.

A win would clinch the first division title since 1969 for the Jets (10-4), who already have made the playoffs. Jets quarterback Vinny Testaverde, like Flutie a backup at the start of the season, is 10-1 as a starter. He passed for 258 yards and three touchdowns when the Jets beat the Bills 34-12 Nov. 8.

Eagles at Cowboys

The Cowboys (8-6) can clinch their sixth NFC East title of the 1990s with a sweep of the Eagles (3-11). Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith needs one rushing touchdown to reach 124 and break a tie with Marcus Allen for the most ever. Eagles wide receiver Irvin Fryar needs 20 receptions for a ninth straight 50-reception season.

Oilers at Packers

The Packers (9-5), who have struggled since going 4-0, can clinch a playoff berth with a victory over the Oilers (8-6), who still have playoff hopes. The Packers' Brett Favre has passed for an NFL-leading 3,806 yards, but he has 21 interceptions to go with 27 touchdown passes. Eddie George of the Oilers is third in the AFC with 1,210 yards rushing.

Saints at Cardinals

The Cardinals (7-7) still have hopes for their first playoff berth since 1982. Cardinals wide receiver Frank Sanders is second in the NFC with 71 catches. Wide receiver Sean Dawkins of the Saints (6-8) needs four catches to reach 300 for his career.

Jaguars at Vikings

With quarterback Mark Brunell doubtful because of an ankle injury, rookie Jonathan Quinn is expected to make his first NFL starts for the Jaguars (10-4), who need a win to clinch the AFC Central. The NFC Central champion Vikings, rolling behind the league's second-best offense (393.5 yards per game), already have a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Falcons at Lions

The Falcons (12-2) can clinch their first NFC West title since 1980 and also a first-round bye by sending the Lions (5-9) to their third straight loss. Jamal Anderson of the Falcons leads the NFC with 12 rushing touchdowns. The Lions' Barry Sanders needs 145 yards rushing for a fifth straight 1,500-yard season. The Falcons will be without coach Dan Reeves, who underwent heart bypass surgery this week.

49ers at Patriots

The Patriots (8-6) hope to keep their playoff chances alive by stopping the NFL's top offense (428.1). Garrison Hearst has run for 1,442 yards, second in the NFC, for the 49ers, while Steve Young has passed for a league-leading 32 touchdowns and Jerry

Ravens at Bears

Cornerback Duane Starks of the Ravens (5-9) leads all NFL rookies with five interceptions. Bobby Engram of the Bears (3-11) needs 115 yards to become the seventh Chicago player to have 1,000 yards receiving in a season.

Bengals at Steelers

The Bengals (2-10) have won seven of their past 10 December games. Jerome Bettis needs 58 rushing yards for a third straight 1,000-yard season for the Steelers (7-7), who have lost three straight games.

Rams at Panthers

Steve Bono replaces Tony Banks, out for the season with a knee injury, at quarterback for the Rams (4-10). Steve Beuerlein has completed 63.6 percent of his passes for the Panthers (2-12), best in the league.

Raiders at Chargers

The Chargers (5-9) have the league's top-ranked defense (260.8), and the Raiders (7-7) are ranked second (275.9).

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF AN ABANDONED VEHICLE(S).
Notice is hereby given that a 1985 Olds. CP and a 1982 Subaru will be sold at Public Auction on December 29, 1998 at Bill's Auto Salvage, E. Hwy 180, Snyder, Texas 79549 in Snyder, Scurry County, Texas.
These vehicles are considered Abandoned Motor Vehicles under the terms of the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Article 1436-3, VPC, and will be sold under the provisions of this Act.
Darren Jackson, Sheriff
Scurry County
(s) Bobby Goodwin, Deputy

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Scurry County Commissioners' Court will open bids for **Sealcoating Gravel (#3 & #4)** on Monday, December 21, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., during Regular Session of the Commissioners' Court. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas 79549.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Scurry County Commissioners' Court will open bids for **Pre-Coated Gravel (Grade 4 Type PB)** on Monday, December 21, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., during Regular Session of the Commissioners' Court. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas 79549.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Scurry County Commissioners' Court will open bids for the **Purchase of Fuel and Bulk Oil** on Monday, December 21, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., during Regular Session of the Commissioners' Court. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas 79549.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Scurry County Commissioners' Court will open bids for **Sealcoating Asphalt (AC5 & MC3000)** on Monday, December 21, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., during Regular Session of the Commissioners' Court. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas 79549.

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UTILIZATION Review/Trauma Nurse Coordinator needed. Mitchell County Hospital has an opening for an R.N. with strong clinical background. A.C.L.S. required for Trauma Nurse Coordinator position. Participation in R.A.C. meetings required. Computer literacy a must. Utilization Review component requires tact in dealing with members of the medical team and frequent contact with Third Party payers. Good telephone skills helpful. Applications will be accepted at Mitchell County Hospital (915) 728-3431 ext 288. Contact Linda Mize, R.N. for interview.

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Due to tremendous growth Timely Finance Company is seeking individuals interested in a career in the finance and pawn industry. We offer competitive salary, insurance, employee discounts and advancement opportunities. Come grow with us. Apply in person. 1926 25th Street, Snyder, Texas.

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MANAGER POSITION now open at American Legion. Applications may be picked up at 1800 Ave. R after 3 p.m. daily.

Mitchell County Hospital is accepting applications for a Correctional LVN, for the "Wallace" Prison Medical Unit, 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift. Contact Ms. LeMaster at (915)728-2162, ext. 4265.

ENTRY LEVEL Staff Accountant or Full Charge Bookkeeper for local governmental entity. Must have basic understanding of budgeting & fund accounting. Minimum of 1 year's experience with a government or CPA firm. A non-smoking office. Teamwork & ability to meet deadlines are essential. Apply through Texas Workforce Commission at Western Texas College, Learning Resource Center #101. EOE Employer Paid Ad.

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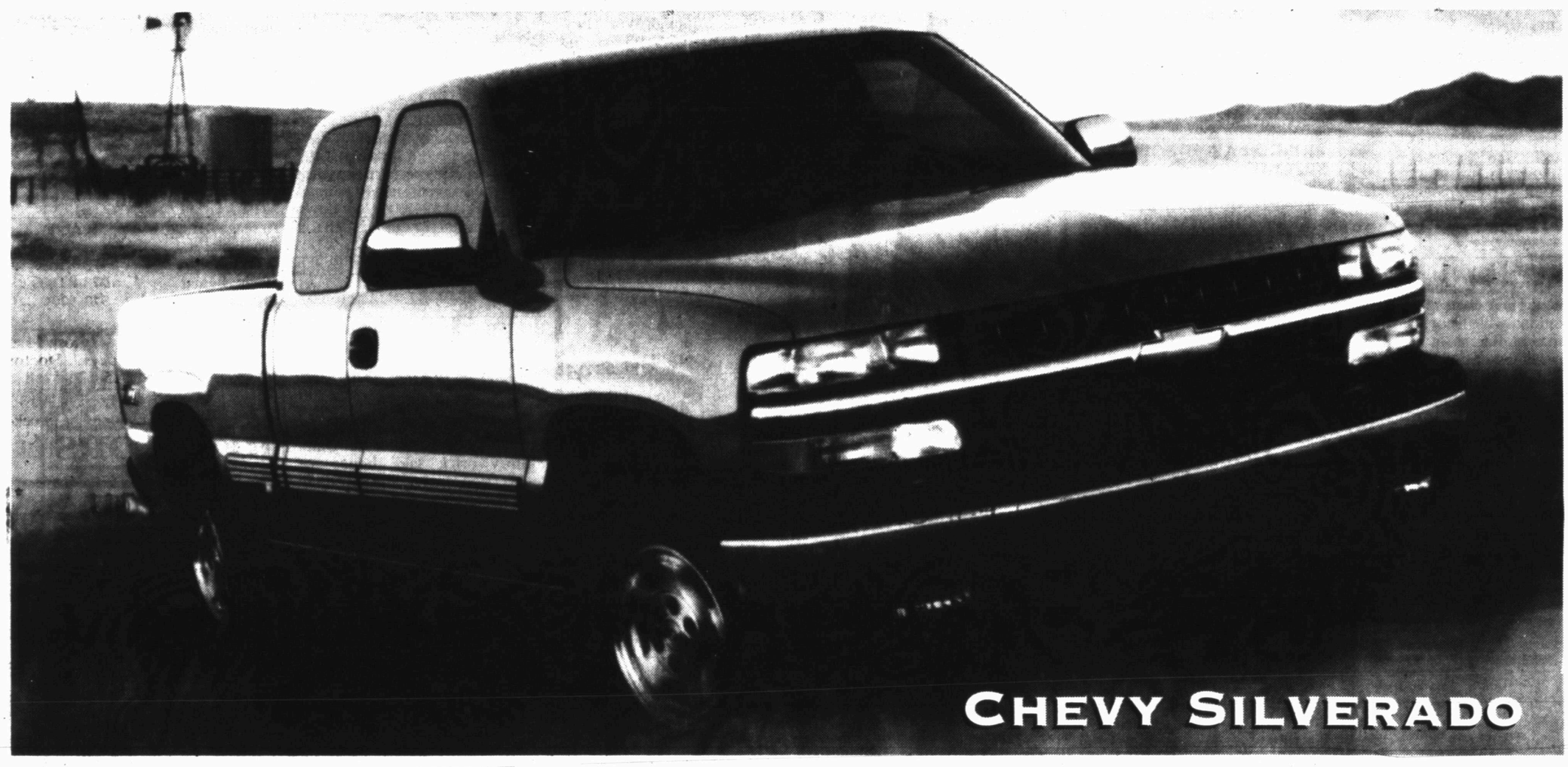

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Ex-military officials pressed on 'dirty war' allegations

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A motorcade rolls past an angry crowd of shouting demonstrators. Officers in riot gear press back the throng as the cars pull up to a federal courthouse.

An aging man is ushered past the horde, who curse the former military officer they consider responsible for thousands of deaths during the 1970s and early 80s.

The heavyset man with slicked-back gray hair is Emilio Massera, a former Argentine admiral who helped lead the 1976-83 dictatorship here. He's again been hauled before a judge to answer charges stemming from the military's so-called "dirty war" against alleged subversion.

Massera isn't alone. Four former commanders from the military junta have landed in court in recent months as part of investigations into allegations that officers stole children born to women jailed during the campaign.

More detentions of military officers are expected this month.

With Spain's effort to extradite Gen. Augusto Pinochet from Britain, the question of how Latin American countries should address misdeeds of the past has been reopened.

Argentina, unlike other South American countries, put its former leaders on trial and sentenced them to life in prison in 1985.

Moving to calm a restless military, President Carlos Menem pardoned the leaders five years later — a move he said was necessary for the sake of "national reconciliation."

Now groups eager to bring the officers to justice are moving again, seeking to exploit a loophole in Menem's amnesty that doesn't cover abuses against minors.

More than 200 "baby disappearances" have been identified by the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, the Argentine group that has worked for decades to locate children of those killed or missing from the "dirty war." Many of the disappeared babies would now be in their early 20s.

"It's incredible what these grandmothers have been able to accomplish through Argentina's judiciary system, fighting for the childrens' custody and opening the country's eyes to what went on," said Jose Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch.

Massera, who still defends his actions during the "dirty war" as a legitimate wartime necessity, has declared he's innocent of the new charges. He claims he's already paid for his past crimes.

In rare comments to a local radio station Saturday, Massera said, "When I see Carlotta (the Grandmothers' president) I understand her pain, but I was already jailed. I have passed my time being Argentina's most despised person."

Many of the junta leaders are also wanted by the same Spanish investigators seeking to extradite Pinochet on charges of murder and torture arising from his 1973-1990 Chilean dictatorship.

But Argentina has refused to go along with those efforts. Menem has described the investigation of Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon as "interfering with our people" and encouraging an "unbearable situation."

But rights groups say Garzon's efforts to seek the 83-year-old Pinochet for trial has aided their long struggle. Arrested n London on Oct. 16, Pinochet is battling in the British courts to avoid extradition.

"There is no doubt what happened with Pinochet has set a precedent," said Hebe Bonafini, president of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who still march in protest for missing sons and daughters.

Vivanco agrees.

Pinochet's detention "contributes to the encouragement of judges in other parts of the world ... to provide some redress against human rights violations," said Vivanco.

Massera and former junta head, Gen. Jorge Videla, are under house arrest on accusations of kidnapping children born to jailed political prisoners. If convicted, they face sentences of up to 20 years in jail.

Lawyers for Videla and Massera contend the former officers have been judged for their past crimes in trials held after the military's 1982 fall. But that pardon does not include those against minors.

Massera presided over the Navy Mechanics School, a training facility prosecutors say was converted into a clandestine killing center.

Voluntary air time for candidates urged

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential commission has recommended that broadcasters voluntarily provide some free air time to political candidates despite calls by President Clinton that free time be mandatory.

Specifically, the commission recommended that broadcasters, along with cable networks and satellite companies, provide five minutes of free air time a day in the 30 days leading up to an election.

Stations would choose the candidates, elections — federal, state and local — and the formats. They also would have the option of making the time available in their newscasts.

Those recommendations, in a report sent Friday to the White House, suggest ways broadcasters can pay back the public for getting valuable digital channels from the government for free.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore welcomed the recommendation, even though they both continue to believe that free time should be mandatory, Gore said. He urged broadcasters to follow through on the commission's proposal.

But he added: "If broadcasters choose to reject the call for free time on a voluntary basis, we believe the Federal Communications Commission will have a duty to take appropriate action."

Paul Taylor, executive director of the Alliance for Better Campaigns, a supporter of free time, said, "This is a smart, practical, achievable idea with great potential to improve campaigns."

The 22-member panel also recommended that Congress overhaul campaign finance laws — something it has not been able to do.

Viewers, however, are unlikely to see changes for a long time — if at all — because most of the suggestions would require action by the FCC or Congress.

FCC Chairman Bill Kennard said he will study the recommendations and work closely with Congress and the industry to come up with "new ideas that serve the public and strengthen broadcasting."

The panel of broadcasters, scholars and advocates for children made the recommendations after a year of work.

Many panel members, in separate statements, said they supported mandatory free air time and a requirement that digital broadcasters air at least three hours of local news a week and three hours of local public affairs and educational programming a week.

But they went with the voluntary recommendation as part of a larger effort to arrive at a consensus on the report.

Some broadcasters on the panel would have preferred weaker recommendations. The National Association of Broadcasters had no comment.

Recommendations include:

— Urging the FCC to create a minimum set of mandatory public interest obligations for digital broadcasters, cable systems and satellite providers. The recommendation does not include specific amounts of programs or ads, as some panel members wanted.

— Letting broadcasters who offer more digital channels select among certain public interest obligations, including paying a fee to the government.

— Retaining one extra channel in each local market, instead of returning it to the government, and devoting it to educational programs.

— Having a voluntary "good programming" code for broadcasters and having stations provide more information to viewers about their public interest programs and activities.

— Requiring cable systems to carry broadcasters' digital signals.

Mrs. Clinton exhorts nation to 'practice reconciliation'

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton exhorted the nation Friday to let the impeachment spirit give way to the holiday spirit. "We in our country ought to practice reconciliation," she said.

With the Capitol Dome in the distance, Mrs. Clinton spoke to reporters on the White House driveway just as the House debate on impeaching President Clinton was gaveled open at the opposite end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

"We ought to bring our country together. We ought to end divisiveness because we can do so much more together," said Mrs. Clinton, who has telephoned House members this week to lobby on her husband's behalf.

On Friday, she invited the news media to the South Portico in order to promote the Mothers Against Drunk Driving "red ribbon" campaign. She stood with her arm around Julian Hill, 11, whose 4-year-old brother was killed by a drunk driver, and looped trails of red ribbon around the antenna of a Ford Explorer.

Finished, the first lady appeared to wait for a reporter's inevitable question about the impeachment debate.

When it came, she began, "Well, I think the vast majority of Americans share my approval and pride in the job that the president's been doing for our country."

With a small, jeweled Christmas tree pinned to her jacket, she noted the confluence of Hanukkah, Christmas and Ramadan. "At the time for reflection and reconciliation among people, we in our country ought to practice reconciliation," she said. "I would hope that we as a nation would turn our attention to what we can do together, what we can do positively, how we can build each other up."

Before turning to leave with the Clinton family cat, Socks, for a Christmas storytime program at Children's National Medical Center, Mrs. Clinton concluded: "So I hope that this holiday season is a very happy and blessed one for everyone. Thank you all very much."

Feds investigating safety of thousands of infant car seats

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal agency is investigating the safety of nearly 900,000 combination infant carrier-car seats because of complaints the seat's handle can unlatch suddenly, dumping babies on the ground.

The seats are the Arriva and Turn-About manufactured by Cosco Inc. from 1995 through 1998 and the Infant Rider made by Kolcraft Enterprises from 1996 through 1998.

Approximately 460,000 of the Cosco seats and 415,000 of the Kolcraft seats were made during the years under investigation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said.

The agency received 82 complaints from parents that the Infant Rider carry handle unlatched suddenly while they carried infants in the Kolcraft seats, an agency document said. The parents said 11 babies were ejected, resulting in injuries.

The Kolcraft seat has two types of handles, a standard handle and a curved handle called a smart handle. Two-thirds of the complaints involved the smart handles.

There were 37 complaints from parents about the Cosco seats, and reports of nine injuries including eight ejections of babies.

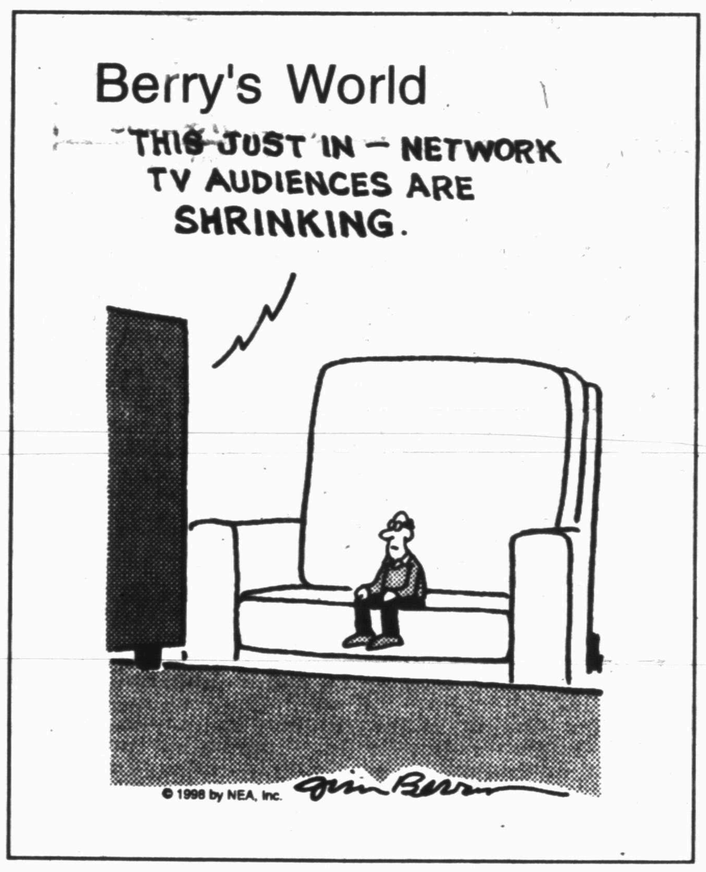
Calls seeking comment Friday from Cosco were referred to John Reynolds, an executive vice president, who was unavailable. Kolcraft was cooperating with the government on the investigation, the company said in a statement. Company executives declined further comment.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Amilia Anguiano, Helen Wortham.

DISMISSALS: Bobby Franks, Ronald Morris, Doris Rivers, Katheryn Taylor, Shari Cotton and baby boy, Mamie Eubank, Margaret King, Lea Milburn, Lillian Sellers, Deanna Wagner.

CENSUS: 31 (Med., Surg.-5, OB-1, Nursery-1).



Card Of Thanks

Thank You

We would like to take this time to express our thanks to all our friends that had kind words and prayers in our darkest time of sorrow, during the loss of Barbara Howell.

Sincerely
Lori, Larry & Valerie West
Neva & Nikki Howell

Thank You

In this troubled world it's refreshing to find
Someone who still has the time to be kind,
Someone who still has the faith to believe
That the more you give the more you receive,
Someone who's ready by thought, word or deed
To reach out a hand in the hour of need.

The family of Inez Wilson would like to thank all who reached out to us in any way during mother's illness and death.

Linda & Donnie Dunn & Family
Jimmie & Suzanna Wilson & Family

Alcohol-related charges send 2 to jail Saturday

Two subjects were taken into custody early Saturday morning on alcohol-related charges.

At 1:15 a.m. Saturday, a Department of Public Safety trooper was requested on Polar Road in reference to a one-vehicle rollover, no injuries.

Troopers responded and a 22-year-old male was taken into custody for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 4:26 a.m. Saturday, a subject came into the police department requesting to speak to an officer in reference to a fight that had occurred earlier.

The subject, a 21-year-old male, was arrested for public intoxication.

Births

Amber Brady and Billy Joe Digby are parents of a seven-pound, one-ounce daughter, Kelsey Nicole, born at 4:36 a.m. on Dec. 5 in Sweetwater's Rolling Plains Regional Hospital.

Maternal grandparents are Leon and Dianne Brady of Ira and great-grandparents are J.B. Davidson of Andrews and the late Sharon Davidson. Great-great-grandmother is Dena Rankin of Levelland.

Paternal grandparents are Jimmy and Sharene Digby of Hermleigh and great-grandmother is Diane Rampy of Lubbock.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, PH.D.

How much protein, fat and sugar?

By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Can you tell me what an ideal or healthy amount per day of the following would be for an average male of 150 pounds? I am interested in knowing the correct number of grams of protein, fat and sugar. What other factors comprise a healthy diet? Thank you. — J.G., Houston

DEAR J.G.: Before I give you an answer, let me start out with an important appetizer: Eating should be one of life's great pleasures, and unless there are specific health conditions to contend with, I discourage people from living by the numbers when it comes to food. Healthful eating is the selection of a diet that is rich in fruits, has plenty of greens and other vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts, seeds, low-fat dairy products and, with the exception of fish, should contain a minimum of animal (meat) products. There should be at least 25 to 30 grams of dietary fiber per day (about twice what today's typical fare contains), and there should be enough calories to maintain a healthy weight. The fats in such a diet should be predominantly monounsaturated oils, such as olive oil, and if possible, there should be no partially-hydrogenated vegetable oils.

Now, on to the numbers: An average man over the age of 25 should have about 60 grams of protein per day. There is no ideal or healthy amount for sugar. It's not so much that sugar is unhealthy, it's just that more healthful foods should come first. If your diet adheres to the guidelines outlined above, there is nothing wrong with sugar — but I would keep my use of sweeteners to less that 10 percent of the day's caloric intake. If we accept that an average man who engages in light physical activity would need about 2,500 calories per day, then 10 percent of calories would be 63 grams of sugar (at four calories per gram), which is a bit under four teaspoons. Remember, this is not a requirement — it is an upper-limit advisory. Read labels if you eat processed foods, as sugar is the second most prevalent additive used in them.

The question of how much fat continues to plague people because of the popular sentiment that dietary fat poses a significant health risk. Some might say that as little as possible would be an appropriate answer. Let's take that same 2,500 calorie diet, and figure on between 20 to 30 percent of calories from fat. This would translate to between 55 and 83 grams of fat per day. Keep in mind that an important point lost in all the anti-fat furor is that if you eat the type of diet mentioned above, don't smoke and have an active and relatively stress-free lifestyle, any "risk" posed by your fat intake shrinks dramatically.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I refuse to use a microwave because I am under the assumption that excessive heat can destroy much of the nutritional value of our food. The actual potato survives, but what about its nutrients — and what about the rest of the veggies I might prepare? My wife and I drink fresh juices just about every day to make up for the nutrition lost in the cooked food we eat. We are both 65 years old. — P.D., Tracy, Calif.

DEAR P.D.: The factors determining the amount of nutrients lost during cooking include temperature, cooking time and the amount of water used. Microwave cooking might not be an ideal method of preparation for all foods, but it has definite advantages.

A microwave oven exposes foods to electromagnetic waves that cause certain substances, such as water, to vibrate and thereby create heat. Most forms of cookery rely on heat being applied to the outside surface of a food, and the heat is then conducted into the center. Microwaves, by contrast, penetrate the surface. And because microwaves heat the food and not the surroundings, less energy is wasted. The end result is that microwave cookery typically takes less time, and that can translate to less nutrient loss. I wouldn't give up those fresh juices, though. They are excellent beverages, regardless of which cooking method you use.

Send questions to "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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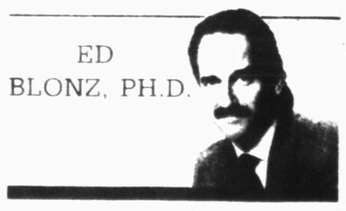
NUTRITION

ED BLONZ, PH.D.



DEC 20 1998

Something for stocking: could be shares of stock

ATLANTA (AP) — Talk about the gift that keeps on giving.

Suppose, instead of answering that classified ad and shelling out $100 for Tickle Me Elmo last holiday season, you had presented your child with $100 worth of stock in BellSouth Corp., a fast-growing Baby Bell that offers direct-from-the-company purchase of its shares.

The value of that stock a year later would be $169, with the increase in the stock's price plus dividends between Dec. 7, 1997, and Dec. 7, 1998.

Tickle Me Elmo is available this year in most stores. Price: under $30.

The practical-minded have been giving savings bonds and passbook accounts to children for years. Another alternative is stuffing some stock into that stocking.

"It's a great investment for their future and it's a great learning tool," said Dennis Fish of Atlanta, who has been giving stock — usually Coca-Cola — to children of family and friends for years. "And it doesn't break like a toy gift might."

Owning stock might get children to track their company's performance and learn about the ups and downs of the stock market.

Individual investors can buy stock via the Internet and discount brokerages or directly from some 500 companies that offer that option. However, many companies and brokerages require a minimum investment, usually $250 to $1,000, or charge commissions.

At least one company specializes in single-share gifts: One Share of Stock Inc., which was started four years in San Francisco ago by Lance Lee, a broker struck by the number of people asking for small amounts of stock. He offers single shares with pristine, frameable stock certificates, and even sells the frames for $30 to $50 extra.

For gifts large and small, advisers such as Charles Carlson, author of "The Individual Investor Revolution," suggest giving children stock in companies they are familiar with.

One favorite gift is Disney Co. stock, whose colorful certificate depicts Walt Disney surrounded by characters such as Mickey Mouse and Dumbo. One Share — which locks in stock prices twice a month — currently offers Disney for $81, $49 of which is a commission. (The minimum to make an initial purchase directly from Disney is $1,000.)

Other stocks younger players might relate to include Toys R Us, Hasbro, Mattel, McDonald's, Hershey and teams such as the Boston Celtics, Cleveland Indians and Florida Panthers.

Along with the stock certificate, shareholders receive the company's annual reports. Marvel Enterprises, the comic book home of Spider-man and the X-Men, produces colorful reports that are especially popular.

Drunken driver guilty of manslaughter

POMONA, Calif. (AP) — In a trial that sounded like something thought up for a law school class, a drunken driver was convicted of manslaughter and not murder Friday in the case of a Jehovah's Witness who died after refusing blood transfusions.

The jury deliberated 3½ days before reaching the verdict against Keith Cook, a 32-year-old auto mechanic.

Cook plowed his truck into a car March 7, pushing the vehicle into Jadine Russell, who was standing by the side of the road.

Mrs. Russell, 55, suffered broken bones and severe bleeding. But she told emergency workers and doctors "No blood!" at least 10 times, and even tried to pull out an intravenous line, relatives said.

Defense attorneys argued that Mrs. Russell's refusal of blood transfusions actually killed her, while prosecutors said Cook was guilty of murder.

"He set in motion a chain of events that eventually led to the death of Jadine Russell," prosecutor Larry Larson said. "You can conclude the lack of a transfusion was a contributing factor in her death. But he can't rely on someone saving him from these actions that he has caused."

Larson said the manslaughter conviction carries essentially the same penalty as murder — 15 years to life — because Cook has a prior conviction for drunken driving. Defense attorney Charles Unger disputed that, saying Cook faces only four to 10 years. Sentencing was set for Feb. 11.

Jurors left the courtroom without commenting.

Trials such as Cook's are rare. But in October, a Louisiana appeals court reviewed a similar case and upheld three vehicular homicide convictions against a drunken driver. One of the victims was a Jehovah's Witness who refused blood transfusions and died.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe there is a biblical basis to refusing other people's blood.

Cook was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence and causing injury to Mrs. Russell's daughter, Jennifer. The jury found that he injured two police officers while driving with a blood-alcohol level of at least 0.08 percent, the legal limit.

Mrs. Russell's husband, James, said his greatest satisfaction was that the verdict ensures Cook will not be back on the road driving drunk.

Witnesses said that on the day of the accident, Cook began drinking on his own before buying a keg of beer for a birthday party. An expert estimated that to reach his eventual 0.17 percent blood-alcohol level, Cook must have had more than 13 beers over more than five hours.

Cook then got into his truck, drove down a hill and plowed into the car that hit Mrs. Russell, who was standing with law enforcement officers discussing a fender-bender involving Mrs. Russell and another driver.

The prosecutor said Mrs. Russell may not have lived even if she had received a transfusion.

Superior Court Judge Reginald Yates instructed the jury that "if you find the defendant's conduct was a cause of death, then it is no defense that the conduct of some other person, even the injured or deceased person, contributed to the death."

JUMPS ROPE — Ashley Rodriguez recently jumped rope in East Elementary School's annual fund-raiser for the American Heart Association. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Ted Nugent has 50th birthday

DETROIT (AP) — Wild-man rocker Ted Nugent celebrated his 50th birthday with a bash that drew bankers, bikers and an unlikely guest — Republican Gov. John Engler.

Engler and Nugent mixed it up with the rest of Nugent's fans and guests Thursday night at the State Theatre.

Karen Newman, known for singing the national anthem at Detroit hockey games, offered up a Marilyn Monroelike rendition of "Happy Birthday" with a twist: She substituted "Mr. Motor City Madman" for "Mr. President."

Nugent was given a gold badge from former Detroit Police Chief Ike McKinnon, making the guitarist an honorary chief.

"You're all under arrest," Nugent told the crowd.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998

An abundance of activities and interests geared to satisfy your restless inclinations are in the offing for you in the year ahead. So hang onto your hat — exciting, fun times are abound!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If there is something good you already have going for you, it could get even better today. There are strong indications you might be especially lucky in financial matters. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Lady Luck wants you to link up today by getting in touch with a person who has been on your mind lately. She has some special plans for you that will bring you much happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be especially nice to everyone you encounter today. You could be rather fortunate in ways you'd least expect, and through people who have never been helpful to you in the past.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You might be capable of achievements today that will even surprise you. Simply think big and be positive, hopeful and optimistic. Don't put limitations on your outlook.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you have a feeling that your chances of winning in a competitive situation are good today, you'd be right. Lady Luck is in your corner at this time, and is doing all the handicapping.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Where your hopes, wishes and expectations are concerned, conditions in general are very favorable for you today. Strive hard to make what you envision a reality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There's an excellent chance today that you could turn a profit from a source you've invested some money in advance. This may not be through your customary channels, but may relate to a side venture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Through individuals you'll be dealing with on a one-on-one basis today, either socially or commercially, there are some strong advantages to be generated by your efforts. Try your hand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep your personal requirements secondary to those you perform for loved ones today. Doing good for them is what will bring you the greatest source of happiness at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The ability to make people you're involved with feel that they are very important in your life is your greatest asset today. This attribute makes you the big winner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It's the finish line that counts in the long run, so don't get rattled if things don't start off the way you hope today. You'll be extremely strong in this area.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Your day could be filled with spending some quality time with the people you'll be involved with on a purely social basis. Good conversation and fellowship will enhance those relationships.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Dec. 21, 1998

More success in your financial realms could be in store for you in the year ahead. Although you might do so with little fanfare, the amounts you accumulate could be worthy of much celebration.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You're endowed with a healthy, curiosity and receptive mind to begin with, but you may be doubly astute today in evaluating new information to be put into use for the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Leave it to a Capricorn to find new ways to save or make money on something the rest of us overlook. Today might be that day when you'll initiate your plan of action. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Give credit where credit is due for things friends have said in the past that are applicable to today's events. Not only will this impress your pals, but it'll flatter them as well.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) The effective but quiet manner you utilize taking on an important assignment today will be the reason why you achieve your purposes and accomplish an impressive goal.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) In convivial environments today, information could be relayed to you that could turn out to be important. So try to associate with persons whose ideas you respect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There are indications that you'll be able to utilize the ideas or methods of others better than them. Because of some special skills you possess, success will be kinder to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your mate might be looking at matters today from a different perspective, and sees something you can't seem to place. Don't be too quick to discount any of his or her suggestions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Work that requires brainpower and good concentration should be your cup of tea today. If you're fortunate enough to work with someone as bright as you, your productivity will be exceptional.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It'll be your ability to turn all involvements into fun activities today that will draw other people to you, even those who are usually serious-minded.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't be reluctant to make some decorating changes in your habitat. Your mind is clever enough today to come up with some great ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Partaking in sports, shopping or visiting friends could be a good prescription for you to follow today. You might get a trifle restless if you don't mingle with the world around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you haven't completed your Christmas shopping yet, this might be the day to do so. You're an especially shrewd shopper today, and spotting a good bargain is more than likely.

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HONORED AT WALLS INDUSTRIES - Service certificates and pins were awarded to 12 employees at the Snyder facility this week by David Witte, plant manager. Shown at the event are, left to right, front row, Mary Carrillo, Debbie Martinez, Sara Arizmendi, Evelia Depaz, Ruby Newton, Sylvia Trevino and Alicia Gutierrez. Shown on the second row, left to right, are Lucy Mendoza, Rita Hagins, Manuel Medrano and Lupe Garza. Not pictured is Herlinda Arizmendi. All received five year pins with the exception of Mendoza and Newton. They received 10-year pins. (SDN Staff Photo)

Alleged gunman shot...

2 die during office shooting

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — When city worker Jim McGuigan heard the commotion outside his office, he thought there was a fight. Then he saw the bodies.

Peeking into a conference room, McGuigan saw one man in a pool of blood near the head of a conference table, and another lying not too far away. He heard a man cry out for help.

"At that point, I couldn't feel that I could go further into the room," said McGuigan, a building maintenance mechanic. "I didn't know who was there."

Police say David Cunningham, a 48-year-old semiskilled laborer, burst into the room Friday morning and opened fire during a meeting of about a dozen superiors at the city Streets Department's Traffic Signal & Sign Shop. Two people were killed and another three, including Cunningham, were injured during a struggle to subdue the gunman.

Cunningham was released from a hospital into police custody Friday night. Charges were pending, police commissioner John Timoney said.

Police said Cunningham, a union shop steward, shot and killed Gerald Ebbecke, 53, chief traffic engineer, and signal operator Irvin Oliver, 44.

Herbert Oliver, 52, a crew chief, and Lester Johnson, a storeroom supervisor, struggled with Cunningham for the guns, Timoney said. More shots were fired, and Oliver and Cunningham were each hit in the leg.

Herbert Oliver, who is not related to Irvin Oliver, was hospitalized in good condition. Johnson was treated for abrasions and released.

"Mr. (Herbert) Oliver and Mr. Lester Johnson are two real-life heroes," Timoney said. "There were at least eight other innocent civilians in that room who could have been maybe killed or seriously wounded."

Cunningham, who had worked for the city for six years, had been suspended from his job three times since 1995, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported Saturday. He also had a criminal record dating from before 1984 that included narcotics and firearms violations.

Cunningham lived with his mother, who had Alzheimer's disease, and an older brother.

Dickie Cunningham, 53, said he did not talk with his brother a great deal, but both had been burdened recently by caring for their sick mother and the death of niece after a long illness.

Jones' ex-lawyers file for costs, fees

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Paula Jones' original legal team told a federal judge Friday that their former client owes them nearly $875,000, $25,000 more than the settlement she is due from President Clinton.

Joseph Cammarata and Gilbert Davis said U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright promised them reasonable attorney's fees "for their zealous and effective representation" in Mrs. Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against the president.

Their bill totals $874,571.36 and includes time charged for calls to "K. Starr." Cammarata acknowledged this year that he and Davis consulted Kenneth W. Starr about presidential immunity in the months before Starr was named Whitewater special prosecutor. The lawyers also charged for talking with reporters.

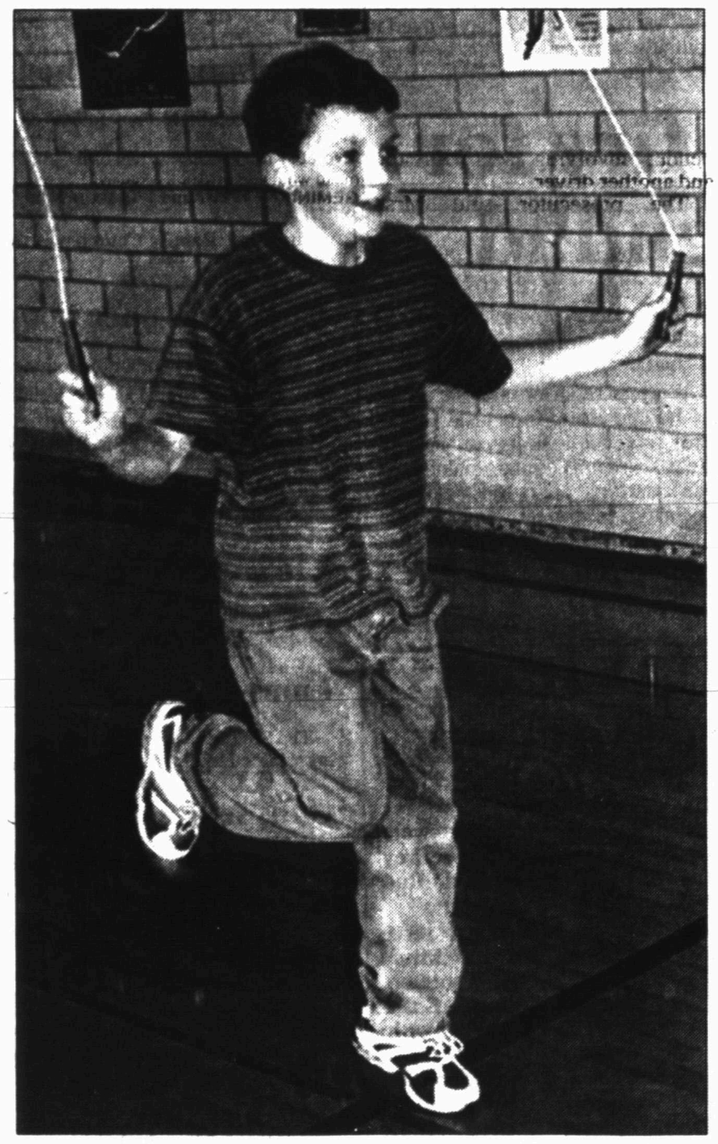
Cammarata and Davis took Mrs. Jones' case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 1997 that Clinton was not immune from civil lawsuits while holding office.

The pair bowed out last summer after Mrs. Jones rejected a settlement that included $700,000 and a vague apology from the president. Shortly after leaving the case, they filed an $800,000 lien against Mrs. Jones for the work they had done before July 31, 1997.

Last month, Mrs. Jones, with new lawyers, accepted an $850,000 settlement with no apology and no admission of wrongdoing — though she said that was her major goal when she filed her lawsuit in 1994.

Cammarata and Davis said on Friday that their bill eventually ran to more than the amount of the settlement.

"The amount of the attorney's fee awarded to counsel is not limited to the amount of the compromise or settlement" under Arkansas law, the lawyers said.



FUND-RAISER — T.J. Atwell recently helped East Elementary School raise money for the American Heart Association during the annual jump rope fopr heart event. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

NO CHARGE

DATE: December 26th thru January 5th

Location: 30th Street and Avenue Q
(South Side of 30th)

Please be sure all spikes, nails, etc have been removed. **No flocked or artificial trees.**

After January 5th, *all trees must be carried to landfill.*

Mulch may be picked up anytime it is available at ***no charge.*** *Please bring your own container, shovel, etc.*

CITY OF SNYDER
573-4960

Recent summit fails to achieve breakthrough on trade dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) — Talks between President Clinton and the 15-nation European Union failed to achieve a breakthrough Friday in a nasty trade fight involving bananas. The United States indicated it will press ahead with punitive tariffs on millions of dollars worth of European imports.

Both sides held out the hope that the dispute, which has dragged on for six years, will be resolved short of a trade war between America and its largest trading partner. But U.S. officials stressed that they would go ahead with plans to select next week a list of European imports that would be subject to 100 percent tariffs, in effect doubling their costs, to American consumers.

The products will be chosen from a preliminary list of $1.3 billion to $1.5 billion in imports published last month ranging from wine, cheese and other food products, clothes and toys.

Negotiations will continue after the target list of products is published but if the dispute is not resolved, the United States said the punitive tariffs will go into effect, probably on March 3. The EU has vowed to impose retaliatory tariffs on a matching amount of American goods if the United States makes good on its threat.

The fight involves European import rules that the United States contends favor bananas from the Caribbean and Africa at the expense of Latin American bananas marketed by U.S. companies.

The United States has won a favorable ruling from the World Trade Organization and argues that it is justified in imposing trade sanctions because the EU has failed to remove the objectionable trade barriers in a way that is consistent with the WTO ruling.

After meeting with the president and other officials in the administration, Sir Leon Brittan, the EU minister in charge of trade matters, said the Europeans had appealed for a few more weeks in which to try to find a suitable compromise.

"It should not be the case that we get into a bitter and disagreeable conflict when it can be resolved in just a few weeks more," Brittan told reporters outside the White House.

Stuart Eizenstat, undersecretary of state for economic affairs, told reporters at a separate briefing that U.S. officials were willing to listen to suggestions the EU has put forward but would at the same time push forward with the process to impose the sanctions.

"We have to have confidence that when we win WTO cases, that the results will be implemented," Eizenstat said.

In addition to the fight over bananas, the two sides talked about a number of other economic issues and various foreign policy problems from Kosovo and the Middle East peace process to the bombing of Iraq.

Clinton's meeting with the European leaders, led by Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima, are part of twice yearly summits the two sides have.

Coming on a day when the House was debating sending four impeachment articles to the Senate for trial, administration officials said that the president spent two hours engaged in the discussions, including lunch.

Clinton pointed to a rising U.S. trade deficit and stressed the need for Europe to make a greater effort to buy imports from countries suffering from economic troubles because of the current global financial crisis, U.S. officials said.

Brittan told reporters that Europe made the point that it was doing more than the United States in terms of buying steel from Russia and the Ukraine.

The two sides also discussed another long-running trade dispute involving a European ban on importing American beef containing growth hormones.

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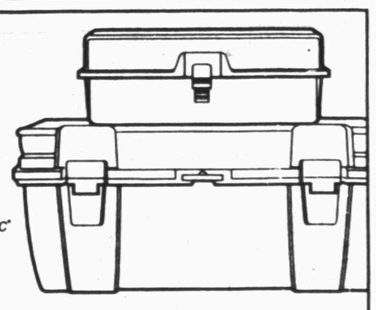

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

In Syrian capital...

U.S., British embassies stoned

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Hundreds of protesters attacked the U.S. and British embassies Saturday in Syria's capital while tens of thousands took to downtown streets to denounce the airstrikes on Iraq.

Before small, violent groups were brought under control, they had trashed the American ambassador's residence and gotten into American and British cultural centers, where they scattered library books and damaged furniture.

The rioting persisted on and off for more than six hours around the buildings, which were largely unoccupied because they do not open for business Saturday.

Syrian security forces struggled to stop the rioting, which appeared to involve mainly university students and youth groups.

At one point, Syrian forces tried to bring in a water truck to break up the crowd outside the ambassador's house with hoses. But the truck's way was blocked by protesters who laid down in the street in its path.

The attack on the embassy buildings came amid a massive protest against the continued bombardment of neighboring Iraq by American and British missiles.

Tens of thousands of marchers carried banners with anti-American slogans and chanted demands for an end to the attacks on Iraq, which have gone on for three nights.

"The Syrian people are with you, our Iraqi brothers," read one banner carried by protesters.

Large demonstrations are rare in the Syrian capital, which is under tight security control, and Saturday's marches throughout the downtown could not have occurred without government approval.

The U.S. Embassy was the first site to come under attack.

Chanting "Down with America," a crowd estimated at a thousand surrounded the embassy in the upscale al-Rawdha neighborhood. Many pelted the building with stones, shattering windows.

Three demonstrators climbed the U.S. building's walls, hauled down the American flag and burned it, witnesses said.

The embassy's Marine guards fired tear gas to disperse the crowd, witnesses said.

The mobs later attacked two other American installations and two British government buildings, but there were no reports of injuries to any Westerners.

Witnesses said about a dozen protesters were taken away to a hospital after being overcome by tear gas.

The crowd also marched on the nearby residence of U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, throwing stones and breaking windows. The ambassador's wife, Christine, was in the building but was not hurt, said a Syrian guard outside who would not give his name.

About 100 protesters climbed the wall surrounding the house, broke down the front door and stormed inside. Before they left they destroyed everything in their path — the ambassador's office, kitchen cabinets, tables and bookcases.

They also shattered the windows and lights of Crocker's car parked in the compound.

Some grabbed a bra from the house and wrote the name "Monica" on it in Arabic. They waved it outside, shouting: "This is Monica's bra."

Commissioners to make board appointments during Monday's meet

Scurry County commissioners will have several year-end items to consider when they meet at 10 a.m. Monday, including making board appointments for 1999.

Several members of Scurry County boards are up for reappointment, while others have terms that have expired.

Jimmy McMillan will be finishing three terms on the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board, while Dr. Mark Weaver and E.D. Walton are completing their first terms. Weaver and Walton are eligible for appointment to two more terms.

Steve Moore will be completing his first term on the Airport Board and will have the option of serving one more term.

Terry Hefner will finish her second term on the Board of County Development and will be eligible to serve one additional term, while Tony Scott completes his first term on the board. Scott may serve two more terms.

Three members of the Child Welfare Board will see their terms expire this year, including James Aaron, III, Donna Zalman, and the Rev. Raymond Dunkins.

Chloanne Lindsey submitted her letter of resignation to the County Welfare Board effective Dec. 31, as she was elected Precinct 4 Commissioner in November.

Both Laurie Grinslade and Sandra Barboza will be completing their second terms on that board, and both will be eligible for another term.

On the Scurry County Library Board, Jean Smith completes her second term while Britt Cananda and Deanie Mills both complete their first term. Both Canada and Mills are eligible for another term.

Members of the county grievance committee will also be drawn.

In addition, John Fair will be eligible for reappointment to the Veteran's Land Board.

In other business, the court will open bids for seal coating gravel, seal coating asphalt, plus fuel and bulk oil.

Also, county treasurer Charlie Bell will review the county investment policies, and the court is scheduled to set the official meeting times for 1999.

Anti-aircraft guns fire for fourth night in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Anti-aircraft guns started firing in Baghdad for the fourth straight night, the start of a new wave of punishing U.S. and British airstrikes.

Gun batteries on rooftops sent tracer shells streaking across the sky after dusk. The guns began firing minutes after sirens wailed across the capital.

In Washington, a senior White House official said Saturday that a fourth round of airstrikes had begun.

There were unconfirmed reports of muffled explosions on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The United States and Britain launched a series of airstrikes overnight Wednesday to punish Iraq for its alleged obstruction of U.N. weapons inspectors seeking evidence of the country's weapons of mass destruction.

In the latest attacks at dusk Saturday, the gun batteries, positioned in the city's eastern outskirts, fell silent in Baghdad after four minutes. But about 15 minutes later they started firing again.

Reporters on the roof of the Information Ministry building in the city center saw no sign of incoming missiles nor did they hear the explosions.

Shortly before the anti-aircraft guns began to fire again in Baghdad, President Clinton warned Saturday that the United States was to strike again.

"We stand ready to use force again if Saddam takes threatening action, such as seeking to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction, menacing his neighbors or his own Kurdish citizens or challenging allied aircraft," he said.

During another attack before dawn Saturday, reporters in the Iraqi capital saw fiery streaks from what appeared to be Tomahawk cruise missiles arcing across the sky and landing in giant fireballs. Warheads exploded a few seconds later, lighting the pre-dawn horizon in a red glow that silhouetted palm trees against the dark sky.

Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners on rooftops opened fire, filling the sky with booms and bright red flashes. Orange tracer bullets streaked high above.

When the attack ended, ambulances or fire trucks with sirens blaring were heard speeding away. Officials, who must escort journalists wishing to tour the city, refused to take them to the targeted areas.

Baghdad residents said damage from the earlier attacks Saturday and Friday was heavy and that a number of buildings in the center of the capital — including palaces, security headquarters and offices of the ruling Baath Party — had been hit.

Western reporters staying at the Al-Rashid Hotel in central Baghdad saw explosions in nearby areas known to contain palaces, a headquarters of the Special Security service and the command center for the Popular Army, which is a paramilitary force.

Hotel/motel tax funds approved for 2 events

Chamber of commerce board members approved $9,760 in hotel/motel tax funds for two events at the Scurry County Museum, two chamber of commerce events, and the upcoming Taekwondo International Tournament during a Friday meeting.

The Scurry County Museum was granted $1,760 for two displays, while the Snyder Chamber of Commerce was granted $8,000 for two events, including $3,500 for expenses for "Snyder Day" at the state capitol in February, and $4,500 for the new chamber directory.

The Taekwondo tournament will receive $1,500 for promotional expenses.

The tournament annually attracts more than 2,000 people to the community.

In other activity, Linda Sellars was introduced as secretary of the Scurry County Coliseum, replacing the retiring Mary Westmoreland.

Lone Star Federal Land Bank of Sweetwater was recognized as a new member.

Retiring board members were also recognized, including Jeffrey Martin, C.R. Perez and Rod Waller.

New board members to serve two-year terms are Dr. Missy Jones, SISD; Mike Thornton, WTC; Michael Rodriguez, Spanish Inn; and Jack Whitworth, Lorber Industries.

Officers for the coming year are Trent Driggers, president; Mark Cypert, president elect; Elois Pruitt, vice president; Paula McWilliams, treasurer.

Obituaries

Lupe Anguiano

1932-1998

Services for Lupe Anguiano of Snyder are pending at Spicer Funeral Home in Memphis, Tex.

Mr. Anguiano, 66, died Thursday, Dec. 17, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a sudden illness.

Born Aug. 1, 1932, he married Amelia Ocanas. She survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Margareta Fuentes of Snyder and Diane Martinez of Lake View; two sons, Lupe Anguiano Jr. and Santos Anguiano, both of Lake View; two sisters, Mary Villa of Snyder and Juanita Gutierrez of San Antonio; and three brothers, Greg Anguiano of Robstown, Manuel Anguiano of Wimberly and Paul Anguiano of Michigan.

Toots Mansfield

AUSTIN (AP) — Toots Mansfield, a seven-time world champion calf roper and a charter member of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, has died of pneumonia. He was 84.

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SHS club gives two prizes away

The Spanish Club at Snyder High School gave away two prizes Friday, including a $100 gift certificate from Beall's.

The winner was Andres Candanoza of Snyder.

The club also gave away a Brighton watch from -H-. The winner of the watch was Emily Luera, also of Snyder.

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Lighting of the cross

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

FUMC Christmas celebrations

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

Calvary Baptist Church musical

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

FBC musical Sunday

"Come! Celebrate Christmas" will be presented by the music ministry of First Baptist Church at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday. The public is invited.

Johnny Ray Watson concert

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

Bible study tapes

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

Christmas open house

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

Candlelight Service

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

Christmas open house

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

Blood pressure checks

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

Christmas eve candlelight service

A candlelight Christmas eve service, "A service of lessons and carols," will be held at 11 p.m. Dec. 24 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Lions Club meeting set

The Snyder Lions Club will not meet on Dec. 22 or 29. The next meeting will be Jan. 5, 1999 at the regular time.

Cubs selling popcorn

Snyder Cub Scouts are selling canned popcorn. Caramel, chocolate covered and regular popcorn come in decorative tins. Contact Trina or James Garvin at 573-3310.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

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

Windbreak trees

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

Social Security visits

Representatives of the Big Spring Social Security office will be at the Snyder Senior Center on Tuesday, Jan. 12. For additional information, call 1-800-772-1213.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
2-5-3
(two, five, three)

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
20-35-21-2-32
(twenty, thirty-five, twenty-one, two, thirty-two)

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
15-76-28-25
(fifteen, seventy-six, twenty-eight, twenty-five)

Feature

SHS drama instructor...

Worsham back teaching after illness sidelines him 12 weeks

Jerry Worsham, longtime drama instructor at Snyder High School, has always adhered to a long-prescribed "regimen for a healthy life." He doesn't drink or smoke, takes vitamins and follows a healthy diet such as consuming only small amounts of red meat.

That's why he was shocked to learn in July that he was seriously ill, so ill that he would miss the first 12 weeks of the 1998-1999 school year.

Worsham said his first symptom was back pain. Dr. Kathleen Weaver did the original blood

Scurry County Folks

by Shirley A. Gorman

work. She consulted with Dr. Tom Kerr and they diagnosed multiple myeloma which is a form of leukemia. He was hospitalized in St. Mary Hospital's cancer treatment center in Lubbock. Doctors their confirmed the diagnosis. They also looked for other signs of cancer but did not find any, Worsham said.

"The local doctors were very sharp to be on to it (his illness)," he said.

Multiple myeloma usually strikes men in their 70s, he was told. Basically, it causes calcium to form in the blood stream which leads to joint pain and other symptoms. Besides his back, he also experienced pain in his knees. And the illness sapped his strength, forcing him to use a walker and a hospital bed in the early stages.

Since he doesn't have a tumor, surgery was not required, Worsham said. Treatment consisted of chemotherapy and steroids. And his blood was tested once a week. He concluded his eighth cycle of treatment this month. No other treatment is currently planned, but blood work slated in January will determine whether chemotherapy will have to continue, Worsham explained.

During the cancer therapy, he received medication for about a week, then none for two weeks. Then the cycle would be repeated. Worsham was fitted with a special pump and port which allows medicine to be administered more easily. The pump eliminated the need for him to drive back and forth from Lubbock every day.

The chemotherapy causes Worsham to feel very tired and exhausted but though his hair has thinned, it has not fallen out. Since chemotherapy "sure does mess with your memory," Worsham jokes that it "gives you Alzheimer's and senility all at once."

Since becoming ill, Worsham said he has read as many books as he could find on alternative therapies, such as protecting the body from the side affects of chemotherapy, especially the heart and liver.

He noted, "From everything I have read, the cure is almost worse than the disease." Therefore, he continues to eat healthy foods and he takes vitamins and minerals.

So far, Worsham's myeloma cells have been reduced 53 percent. However, he said the doctors want a 75 percent reduction because then the disease is considered in remission.

While there is no cure for multiple myeloma, patients often achieve remission and many remain in remission, Worsham said. During remission, multiple myeloma remains dormant in the body, and may become active again.

He said the multiple myeloma "forced me to slow down which hasn't been all bad in that respect." It has also made him aware that he must consider his health.

He feels so much better now than he did when he first became ill. He has regained the weight he lost and his strength is returning.

As the Christmas weekend and new year loom, Worsham's thoughts center on getting his illness under control so that "I can resume as much normalcy in my life as I can. It's been a hard year because I haven't been able to do much with the drama department."

He returned to his teaching duties at the end of the second six weeks period, but usually leaves by midafternoon because staying the full day is too exhausting.

When he was first diagnosed, he said he decided that "Whatever comes, I'll deal with it." His mother had taught him not to worry about the things you cannot control.

From the beginning of his medical ordeal, Worsham said he has received tremendous and overwhelming support from the community. Dave and Mary Strelecki coordinated the effort, but Worsham said, "Food came from everywhere including the high school faculty, churches and friends. It was all wonderful and delightful."

"All I had to do was to suggest that a chore needed doing, like mowing the lawn, and someone was here to do it," he said.

He noted that his "kids (students) were very gracious as well."

In his absence, three people filled in for him, including two former students. The first was Sam Grimes, a recent graduate of the University of Texas. He had been active in high school drama and had studied drama at UT, but did not have a drama degree.

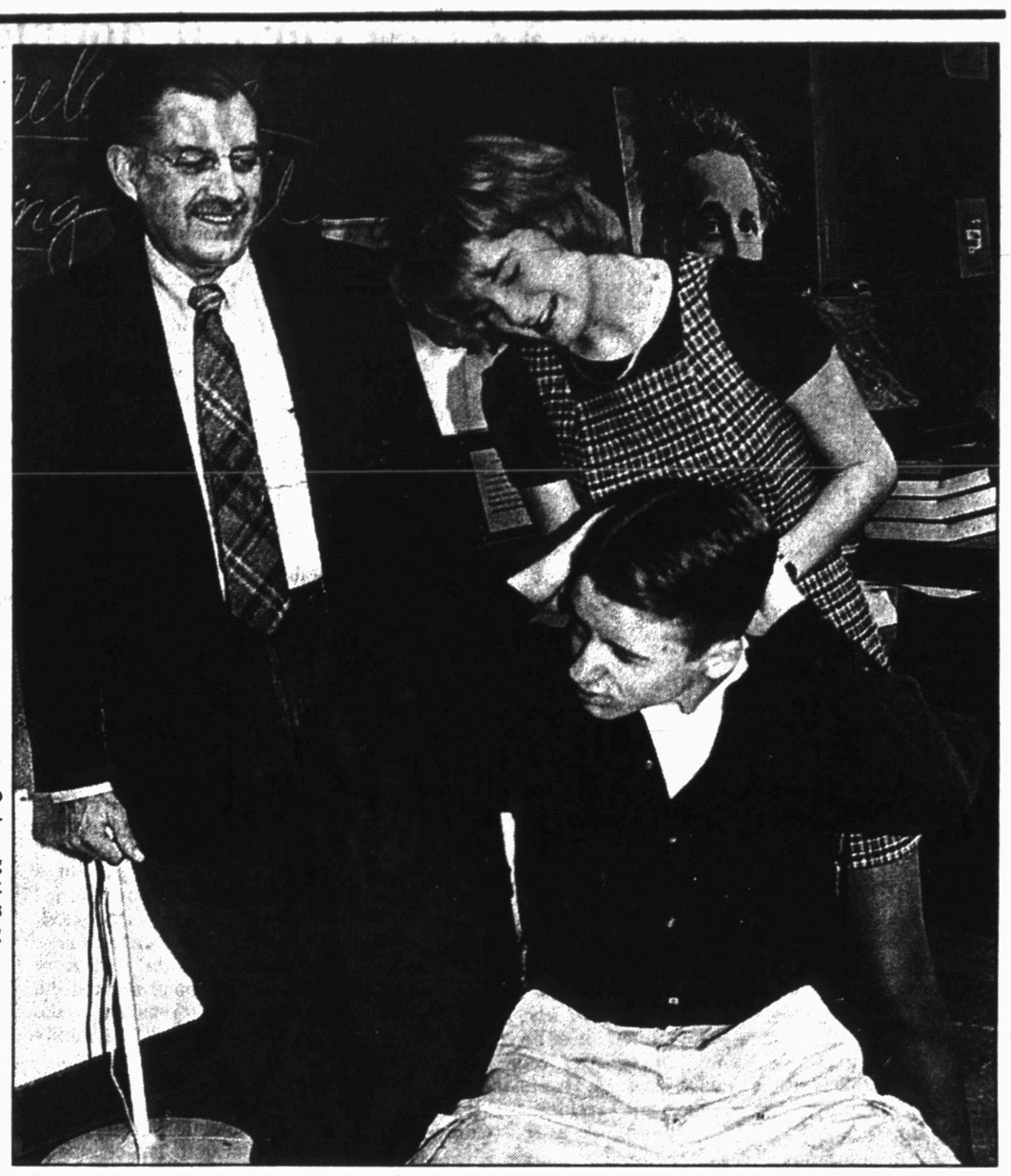
"He got the year off to a great start," Worsham said.

The next was Jeff Franklin who was changing careers, from accounting to the ministry. During the transition period, he was able to substitute for Worsham.

Then Judy Haynes, local dance instructor, filled in for a couple of weeks before Worsham returned to the classroom.

Multiple myeloma isn't herditary. Worsham noted that his twin

See Worsham, Page 5B



TEACHING AGAIN — After missing the first 12 weeks of school, Jerry Worsham is back teaching drama at Snyder High School. He is shown working through a scene with junior Zach Allred and sophomore Kim Nelson. Worsham was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in July. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

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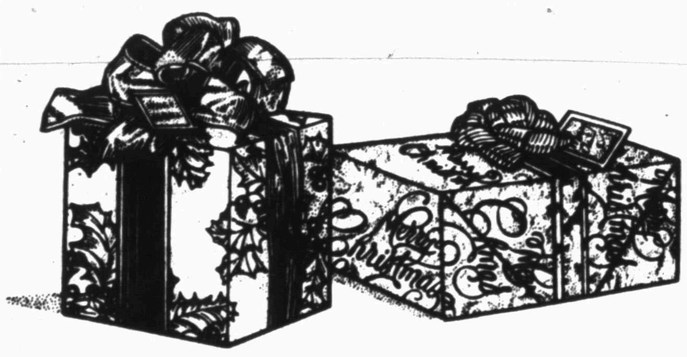

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DEC 20 1998

MARRIED DECEMBER 1 — Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hamlett III of Houston, formerly of Snyder, announce the marriage of their daughter, Susan Hamlett, to Jeffrey William Seglar on Dec. 1. They were married in Maui, Hawaii. Susan is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hamlett Jr. of Snyder. Jeff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Segler of Huntsville, Ala. The couple resides on Bainbridge Island, Wash. (Contributed Photo)

Formal, double-ring ceremony...

Derouen, Mauldin marry

Michelle Lyn Derouen and Cody Allen Mauldin were united in marriage Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Snyder.

The Rev. David Robertson of Lubbock, and the Rev. Daphne Grimes of Cody, Wyo., great-aunt of the bride, officiated the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon L. Derouen of Snyder, and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Murphy of Dunn and Mrs. Lois Derouen of Galena Park.

The groom is the son of the late Linda Mauldin and the late Jim Mauldin, and the grandson of Mrs. Ethel Lee Davidson of Cedar Park and Mrs. Dorothy Mauldin of Dubach, La.

A single arch candelabrum, flanked by wedding tapers, served as a candlelight background for the altar which contained a large all-white arrangement of gladiolus, snapdragons and stock. The unity candle, family tapers and memory candle were on either side of the altar that was adorned with green ivy, swags of cascading white tulle and candles. Large white sheer organza and navy bows with streamers marked the church pews denoting the ribboned area reserved for family members and special guests.

Harpist Kim Gorman and flutist Mary Williams provided the musical prelude selections while guests were being seated. The ceremony began with the chiming of the hour by Dayton Robertson. The candles were lit by Erin and Megan Murphy, cousins of the bride from Austin.

Organist Pam Gibson played "Ave Maria," by Bach-Gounod, as the grandparents were seated. "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," by Bach, was played during the seating of the groom's honorary guests, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bearden of Abilene. The groom's family taper was lit by his sister, Mrs. Mendy Wallace, and his brother, J.B. Mauldin. The groom then lit a candle in memory of his parents. The bride's parents lit her family taper and they were escorted to the altar by the bride's brother, Jon Derouen Jr.

Trumpeter Dayton Robertson and the organist performed "Trumpet Voluntary," by Clarke, as the bride was escorted to the altar by her father.

The bride wore a custom-made couture gown of sleek white silk duchess satin in a contemporary design. The fitted A-line bodice featured a sheer yoke in front and the back was sheer to the waist, with satin covered buttons down the back. Narrow matching satin banding trimmed the jewel neckline and sleeveless bodice. The gown's full skirt flared from the hips in a bell shape, ending in a cathedral-length train. The bride's double-tier illusion cathedral veil was attached to a pearl headband.

In keeping with tradition, the pearl earrings and a diamond bracelet worn by the bride were borrowed from her mother. She also wore a blue garter worn by her mother on her wedding day. In her pearl encrusted shoes she placed pennies minted in the year that she and the groom were born. Her new lace garter was a gift from Anna Mae Perry. A ring belonging to the groom's mother, a gift from the groom's family, was tucked in her bridal bouquet.

The bride carried a cascade bouquet of vibrant colors consisting of Casa Blanco lilies, cardinal red roses, confetti yellow roses, blue delphenium, blue iris, baby's breath and was accented with Italian ruscus greenery.

The bride's cousin, Amy Hargrove of Snyder, served as matron of honor and Jennifer Purcell of Austin, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Linnea Oxley of Arlington, Emily Jones of Dallas, and Holly Vinson of Lubbock, all college friends of the bride; Shaun Derouen of Oklahoma City, the bride's sister-in-law; Mendy Wallace of Abilene, sister of the groom; and Jenny Ferguson of Trinity, cousin of the bride.

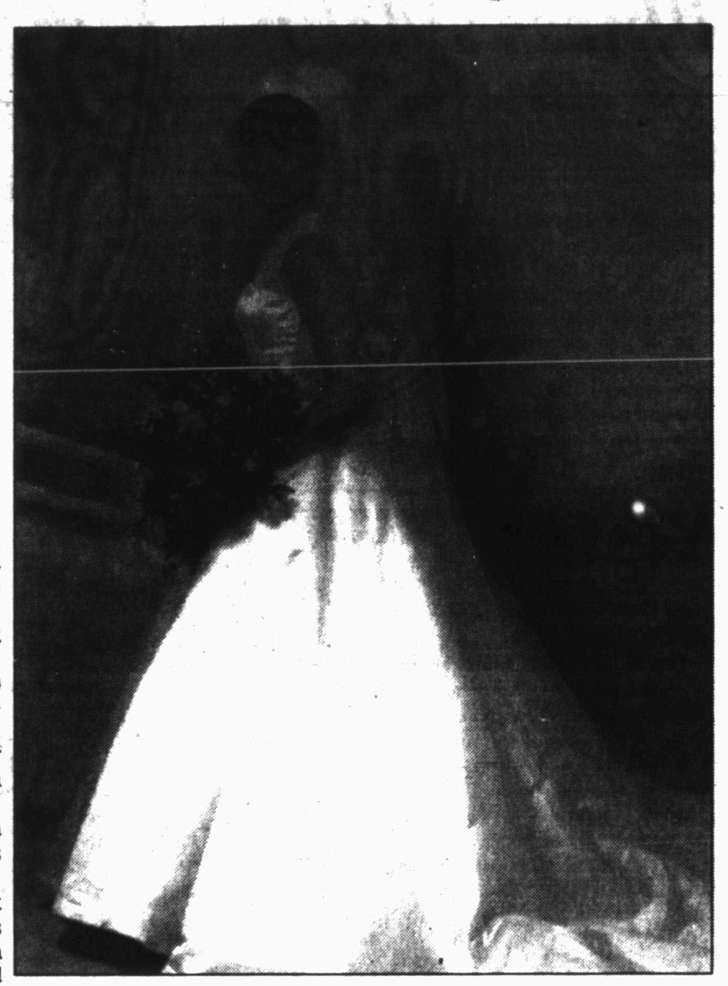
Attendants wore floor-length navy crepe two-piece sleeveless dresses with a batteau neckline. They wore pearl earrings, a gift from the bride. The bridesmaids carried garden style bouquets with flowers similiar to the bride's and tied with sheer ivory ribbons.

Flower girl Katy Wallace, niece of the groom, wore an ivory organza tea-length sleeveless dress featuring a sheer yoke in the front and back of the bodice. She carried rose petals in a lace covered basket. A wreath of baby's breath worn in her hair completed her ensemble.

The groom wore a classic black tuxedo. The single breasted jacket, with an ascot shawl collar, was worn with a seven button black vest over an ivory shirt with a winged tip collar accented with a black bow tie. The groom's boutonniere was three red rose buds with baby's breath and greenery. He wore his late father's wedding ring presented to him for the wedding by his family.

Best men were childhood friends, Stoney Bearden of Abilene and Ryan Greaves of Lubbock. Groomsmen were Steve Wallace of Abilene, brother-in-law of the groom; J.B. Mauldin of Abilene, brother of the groom; Ty Wallace, nephew of the groom; Jon Derouen of Oklahoma City, brother of the bride; Tim Melton of Dallas; and Trent Swearingen of Abilene, lifelong friends of the groom.

Ring bearers were Gus and John Paul Mauldin, nephews of the groom. Ushers were the bride's cousins, Michael Gunnin and Chris Gunnin, both of Dallas, and Tommy Ferguson of Trinity; Jason Klotz, lifelong friend of the groom from Dallas; and Mike Roberts of Trinity, a friend from Camp Olympia. All of the men wore classic black tuxedos with five button black vest over an ivory shirt with winged tip collars and black bow ties. They each wore a single red rose bud boutonniere.



Mrs. Cody Allen Mauldin
(Photo by Wadleigh Studio)

Soloist Karne Vining of Trinity, a friend from camp, sang "Surely the Presence of the Lord," by Wolfe, and "The Wedding Song" during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the newly-weds were taken from the church to the reception in a 1924 Model T touring car owned and driven by Ned Underwood as he wore his antique chauffeur uniform.

A reception was held at Martha Ann Woman's Club where guests were greeted by the bridal couple and their families.

Dawn Oldham of Trinity registered guests at a table that featured a Lladro porcelain bride and groom, a gift from the bride's parents.

The bride's table was covered with a white Battenburgh cloth purchased by the bride's parents in Venice, Italy, especially for this occasion. Two silver candelabras enhanced with roses, iris and white larkspur flanked the five satellite cakes. The bride's cakes were covered with rolled fondant icing with fresh strawberries between the layers of white cake. Fresh flowers topped each cake.

Punch was served in a floral ice sculptured punch bowl. The bride and groom toasted each other with Waterford toasting flutes. Presiding at the bride's table were Nancy Gunnin, cousin of the gride; Jenni Jackson and Anita Brothwick, both sorority sisters of the bride, all from Dallas.

The groom's black Russian chocolate cake with chocolate icing was topped with a red velvet cake featuring the groom's initials. Presiding at the groom's table were Jini Fernandez of Dallas, cousin of the groom, Emily Overbay of Abilene, childhood friend of the groom, and Chandler Clark of Austin, a friend from Camp Olympia.

Guests were treated to a buffet and were seated at tables draped with white Battenburg cloths. Silver teapots containing bouquets of mixed flowers, candles, crystal votives and pewter Jefferson cups containing candles were centered on each table amid rose petals. Ficus trees with crystal lights enhanced the setting.

The atrium contained tables for the children. They were draped with white Battenburg cloths and the children were served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with cookies deocrated like wedding cakes.

A large white basket, decorated with dried flowers, held bottles of bubbles wrapped in white tulle that were fastened with sheer navy ribbons. Katy Wallace distributed the bubbles.

The bride and groom departed amid a shower of bubbles. Following a honeymoon to Cancun, Mexico, the couple made their home in Trinity where they are both employed by Camp Olympia.

The bride is a 1992 graduate of Snyder High School. She earned a merchandising degree from Texas Tech University in 1996 where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. The groom, a 1992 graduate of Wylie High School, is a senior at Sam Houston State University.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom, his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bearden at the Wagon Wheel Party Barn, followed by a dance.

A bridal brunch was held at the Mulberry Manor hosted by Betty Richardson, Anne von Roeder, Mary Alice Dunn, and Judy Gebben. A groom's luncheon, following a round of golf, was held at Mrs. Allen's and hosted by J.B. Murphy.

Bridal Registry

Michelle Derouen and Cody Mauldin
Amy Hodges and J.J. Vollet
Pepper Hinkle and Jeff Franklin
Alise Lloyd and Joel Kern
Carolyn Atkinson and Chad Grimmett
Leslie Daniell and Curt Rinehart
Margot (Deere) McNeil and Brandon McNeil
Krystyl Valentine and Michael Carroll
Deborah Sisgo and Jeremy Bailey

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Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

FRIDAY
Dec. 11

Jane Hinton directed all games at the Snyder Country Club.

1. Anita Talbott, Louise Thompson.
2. Nona Morrison, J.O. Morrison.
3. Margaret Birdwell, Tizzy Hall.

SUNDAY
Dec. 13

1. Shirley Stewart, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Margaret Birdwell, Jane Hinton.
3. Martha Fagin, Pat Floyd.

TUESDAY
Dec. 15

1. Martha Fagin, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Dot Casey, Tizzy Hall.
3. Margaret Birdwell, LaVerne Hood.

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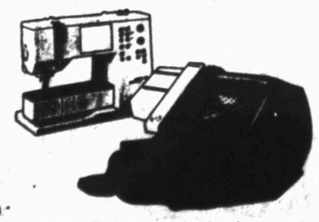

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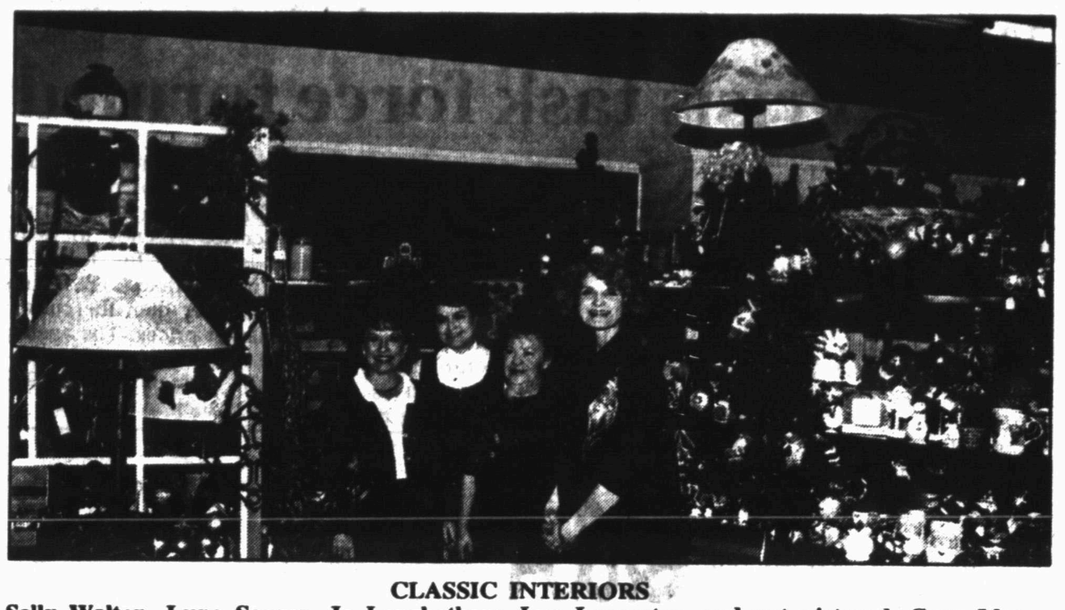

CLASSIC INTERIORS
Sally Walton, Lupe Saurez, Jo Longbotham, Lyn Lancaster, and not pictured, Gaye Idom

Business of the month on the square named

Classic Interiors was named the business of the month on the square by the Snyder Beautification Committee and the Snyder Garden Club. Classic Interiors is celebrating its 10th year in operation at 2520 Ave. R in Snyder.

The firm orginated from the merger of two local design firms, Classic Designers, owned by former partner Jeanna Riley, and Interiors, owned by Sally Walton and Gay Idom. The two firms merged to Classic Interiors, which opened for business on the east side of the square in 1988. Lyn Lancaster joined Jeanna, Gay and Sally as a partner that same year, and Vicki Bell joined in 1990.

Classic Interiors offers its customers a complete line of designer fabrics, wall coverings, flooring products, as well as window treatments. Three registered interior designers are on staff to provide customers professional design services in residential or commercial design.

A bridal registry is offered at Classic Interiors where the bride and groom have numerous choices of fine china, stoneware, crystal and stainless for their selections. In addition, many fine gift lines including linens, lamps, cookware and decorative accessories are available.

With Christmas nearing, Classic Interiors offers unique gifts, including gourmet foods and food baskets, coffee and teas, various potpourri and candles, Fitz & Floyd dinnerware and Dept. 56 tree ornaments and decorative accessories, Jon Hart luggage and Jeep Collins jewelry.

Lyn, Vicki, Gay, Sally, Jo or Lupe will help you with your gift buying needs or items for decorating your home. Appointments may be made for "Designing Women of Snyder" to help with decorating homes or work places.

ABWA GIFT EXCHANGE — Scurry Charter Chapter of American Business Women's Association exchanged gifts at its Dec. 10 meeting at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Leona Wiggins, president, conducted the meeting. Members also brought gifts for a man and a woman to be given to Snyder Oaks Care Center and Snyder Healthcare Center. December birthdays noted were Vivian Cochran and Ruby Deavers. Inez Teaff was hostess. Pictured behind the table ladened with gifts are, from left, Grace Bryant, Genetha Payne and Jo Ann Prince. (Contributed Photo)

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Storytime for 4- and 5-year-olds; Scurry County Library; 10 a.m.

Al-Anon, Snyder Park Club; noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Stargazers Family Community Education Club; 7 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

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

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

American Cancer Society; board room of Cogdell Memorial Hospital; 5 p.m.

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

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

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

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

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

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

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

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

CELEBRATED 80th BIRTHDAY — Lois Leech was honored with a surprise 80th birthday party in the garden room of First Baptist Church on Dec. 5 by her children, Vernon and Sandra Browning of Snyder, Carroll and Ima Leech of Houston, Bruce and Linda Shatney of Dover, N.H., and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Leech was born on Dec. 2, 1918 at Dexter, Cooke County, to Reuben Samuel Burrow and Myrtle Ollie Denson Burrow. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge By Phillip Alder

North 12-19-98
♠ A K Q
♥ 8 5 4
♦ A K J
♣ Q 9 8 4

West
♠ 9 8 6 3 2
♥ 9 2
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ A 5

East
♠ 10 7
♥ K Q 10 7 6
♦ Q 10 8
♣ K 3 2

South
♠ J 5 4
♥ A J 3
♦ 6 5 3
♣ J 10 7 6

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: North

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

Opening lead: ♥ 9

The ball is on the other foot

Yesterday, we looked at the first reason for covering an honor with an honor even though it was the first of touching honors: You were trying to win the trick with the club king, hoping partner had the ace and declarer wasn't finessing at all. Now let's look at the other side of this story.

First, though, a quick word about how to bid a balanced hand. I think you should open two no-trump with 21-22 points. With 23 or more, open two clubs, strong, artificial and forcing, rebidding two no-trump (23-24) or three no-trump (25-27). I never see 28 points! What about weaker hands? With 15-17, open one no-trump. With 18-19, open one of a suit and jump-rebid in no-trump. With 20, call it either 19 or — much more often — 21.

Back to this deal. East has two key plays to make. The first comes at trick one. Whenever you are trying to establish a suit in which declarer has two stoppers, you should drive out one of them as quickly as possible. Trick one isn't too early! As the opening lead marks South with the ace and jack of hearts, East should play the 10 (or seven).

South wins with the heart jack, plays a spade to the dummy, and calls for the club queen.

East must *not* cover. His heart suit isn't established yet, and he needs the club king as a late entry. East must hope West has the club ace.

When West wins trick three with the club ace, he returns his second heart, establishing East's suit while he, East, still has the club king as an entry.

Note finally that if East plays the heart queen at trick one, South gets home by ducking.

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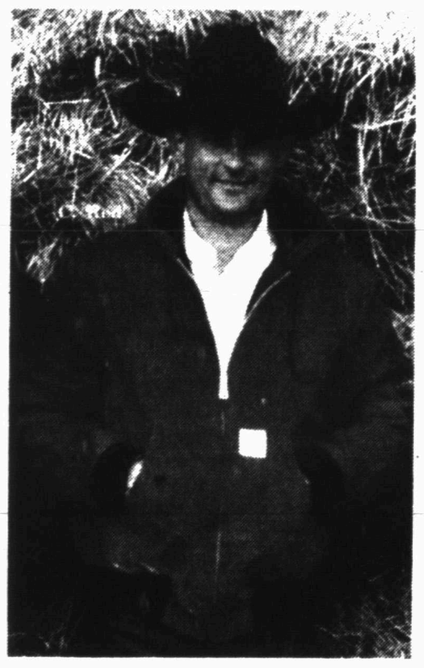

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Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Marshall Wayne Wilkins, 1999 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

George Martinez, 1999 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

James P. and Frances Pitner, 1999 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Jesse W. Turner, 1999 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Donald Gillit, 1999 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Monty Beaver, 1999 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Nancy Eiland, 1999 Cadillac from Big Country Autoland.

Cousins Leasing Trust, 1999 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Joseph C. Cox, 1998 Dodge from Snyder Chrysler.

Bobby Whitsell, 1998 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Kathy Fowler, 1999 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

John Christopher Hernandez and Monica Marie Barboza, both of Snyder.

Pablo Gonzalez Medina and Veronica Guerrero, both of Snyder.

Action in District Court

Scurry County vs. Laoma Woolever Floyd, et al, order of non-suit.

Scurry County vs. J.H. Cotton, et al, order of dismissal.

In the marriage of William Timothy Atwood and Jeanne Rebecca Atwood, divorce granted.

Deed Records

H. Herbert and Ramona J. Reed to Steven Palmer and LeAwna Ruth Fitzgerald, 0.64-acre tract out of the southeast one-quarter of Section 181, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Ralph Eades to Peggy and Abel Arellano, all of Lot 5 in Block 1 of the Scott and Browning Addition.

Freddie D. Jenkins to Freddie D. and Sherry A. Jenkins, all of Lot 3 in Block 3 of the Highlands Addition.

Roberta Taylor, independent executrix of the estate of Orville Taylor, to Roberta Taylor, the northwest one-quarter and the east 100 acres of the west 220 acres of the south one-half of Section 154, Block 97, H&TC survey, containing 260.30 acres.

Roberta Taylor, independent executrix of the estate of Orville Taylor, to Roberta Taylor, 453 acres acres in the south one-half of Section 154, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Roberta Taylor, independent executrix of the estate of Orville Taylor, to Roberta Taylor, Lot 1 and the north 10 feet of Lot 2 in Block 3 of the Scott and Browning Addition.

Aline Whitby Parks, independent executrix of the estate of Gray Allen Parks Jr., to Aline Whitby Parks, Lot 6 in Block 6 of the Westridge Addition.

Aline Whitby Parks, independent executrix of the estate of Gray Allen Parks Jr., to Aline Whitby Parks, tract one being all of Section 447, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being all of Section 451, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Aline Whitby Parks, independent executrix of the estate of Gray Allen Parks Jr., to Aline Whitby Parks, trustee of the Gray Allen Parks Jr. Residuary Trust, tract one being 644 acres in Section 451, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being the southwest one-quarter and the south one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 567, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract three being all of Lot 3 of the Hilltop Subdivision.

Lubbock Christian University to Joe and Esther Odstrcil, the south one-half of Section 140, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Cecil Fulks to Frank and Ezell Brown, 7.49 acres out of the southeast one-quarter of Section 194, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Billie R. Smith to Edolina Foster, a 0.68-acre tract out of the northeast one-quarter of Section 107, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Joseph D. and Jane B. Hinton to Edolina Foster, all of Lot 4 in Block 2 of the Kittrell Heights No. 2, a replat of the north 140 feet of Blocks 27 and 28 of the Adams Addition.

Edolina Foster to Asmael Avila, all of Lot 4 in Block 2 of the Kittrell Heights No. 2, a replat of the north 140 feet of Blocks 27 and 28 of the Adams Addition.

Joseph P. and Delila C. Fogle to Jackie W. and Terri Lynne Kincaid, all of Blocks 52 and 61 of the Grayum and Nelson Heights Addition.

J.B. and Wanda L. Autry to Lance H. and Sherry Autry, 200 acres in the east part of the south 240 acres of Section 96, Block 97, H&TC survey.

J.B. Bavousett to Sandra S. Jakubik, the west 266.2 acres out of the south one-half of Section 12, Block 3, H&TC survey.

James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blakenship Revocable Living Trust, all of the south one-half of Section 666, Block 97, H&TC survey.

James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blakenship Revocable Living Trust, Lot 7 in Block 2 of the Cedar Creek Addition, Section 1.

James D. and Norma Dean Blakenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, 548.5881 acres out of Section 600, Block 97, H&TC survey.

James D. and Norma Dena Blakenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, 52.984 acres in the south part of the north one-half of Section 666, Block 97, H&TC survey.

James D. and Norma Dean Blakenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, Lots 7-12 in Block 176, Lots 7-12 in Block 177 and all of Blocks 192-193 and 202-203 in the Town of Fluvanna.

James D. and Norma Dean Blakenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, one acre out of the southwest one-quarter of Section 180, Block 3, H&GN survey.

James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, tract one being Lot 16 north of the old RS&P right-of-way in Block 168, Original Town of Fluvanna; tract two being 157.36 acres out of an original 196.75-acre tract out of Section 483, Block 97, H&TC survey.

James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship to the James D. and Norma Dean Blankenship Revocable Living Trust, all of Section 328, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Billy G. Rylander to the Jearld and Ione C. Smith Family Trust, all of Lot 8 in Block 34 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Robert Scott and Lula Mae Greene to David Ray and Nila L. Harrell, 16.390 acres in the northwest corner of Section 65, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Meryl K. Evans to Michael P. Kaplan, 645.04 acres in Section 120, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Al Kaplan, Trustee of the Sidney N. Raimey Family Trust, to Michael P. Kaplan, 645.04 acres in Section 120, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Elisa K. Miller to Michael P. Kaplan, 645.04 acres in Section 120, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Addis Wayne Hargrove, individually and as Trustee for Robert Dale Hargrove, Marianne Hargrove Roemer and James Lynn Hargrove, to Toby H. Roemer, the north 60 feet of Lots 10-12 in Block 36 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Ag secretary Dan Glickman...

Pork crisis task force formed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A crisis task force is being formed within the Agriculture Department to come up with ways to assist pork producers, struggling with their lowest prices in four decades.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the formation of the task force Thursday as one way the government is working to help hog farmers. Steps are also under way to speed millions of dollars of planned pork purchases.

"We've seen weaknesses in other markets but rarely have we seen weaknesses where the price fluctuations have been so rapid," Glickman said. "This is a catastrophic problem."

The Pork Crisis Task Force, made up of USDA officials, will recommend other actions that could help support hog prices.

The secretary also plans to meet with pork industry leaders on Monday to discuss the problem. He said he is especially anxious to question retailers at the meeting about why low farm prices have not been passed on to consumers.

Last month, the government said it would purchase $50 million worth of pork for the federal food assistance programs in an effort to boost prices.

But prices have still continued to slip because of an oversupply of hogs. In some parts of the country, prices have dropped to less than $10 per hundredweight.

On Monday, the head of the National Pork Producers Council and the 50 state leaders of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest farming organization, each sent letters to Glickman asking for help.

"Never before have U.S. pork producers experienced such a devastating economic state," said NPPC president Donna Reifschneider.

The Farm Bureau presidents wrote to Glickman that without immediate action, "the entire structure of the industry will be irreparably damaged."

Glickman said the $50 million government pork purchase would be expedited to provide immediate relief, including a $3.1 million purchase of 4 million pounds this week. Pork purchases also probably will be included in an export package to Korea and other government agencies are being encouraged to increase their purchases of pork, he said.

The department also will soon conduct an internal review of concentration and consolidation within the entire livestock industry to see how it is affecting the pricing problem, Glickman said.

To help ease the pressure of loans, Glickman has ordered the Farm Service Agency to assist farmers applying for loans by basing pork prices on futures contracts rather than the current lower market prices. The agency also will soon allow some producers to shift payments due in 1999 to the end of their loan period.

Q&A

What is wassail?

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse. The current series is dedicated to supplying general information to our readers. Getting back to the basics, we are using the ABC's as a structured guideline. Each week, the column will concentrate on such topics as Snyder Park Club, Understanding: An Emotional Food, Valium, etc. Readers may want to cut out the articles and save them as a resource for future reference.)

ABC's of Substance Abuse
(Article 23 of 26)

W ~ WASSAIL WARNING!

According to Webster, one definition for *wassail* is "a festivity with much drinking and merriment." The holiday season has arrived and the staff at the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to celebrate safely!

A successful and safe party requires advance planning. *If* you plan to serve alcohol, below are a few tips to consider beforehand:

- *Create the right party atmosphere.* Arrange the party area for fun. Keep the lights on and arrange the party area in a way that encourages mixing and good conversation. Have food and drink tables in several locations and easy reach. Make sure there's enough seating and table spaces for guests to set drinks down.
- *Serve food.* Always serve food with alcohol. Food won't keep your guests sober, but it will slow down the rate at which alcohol is absorbed into their blood stream. Serve attractively presented food before, during and after alcohol consumption.
- *Have non-alcoholic drinks available.* Offer your guests a choice of drinks, not just alcohol. Serve various types of juices, non-alcoholic punches and cocktails, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Some of your guests may have to refrain from alcohol consumption for dietary or health reasons.
- *Keep salty snacks at a minimum.* Salt encourages people to drink more. Serve dips and spreads with unsalted crackers or raw vegetables.
- *Serve plenty of high-protein foods.* Cheeses, unsalted nuts, meatballs, fish, chicken and other meats slow alcohol absorption in the blood stream.
- *Have one person tend bar.* Select a bartender who will measure single drinks for guests and serve refills at regular intervals. A drink-an-hour means good company prevails. Your guests will pace their drinking when they know the bartender is aware of how often they ask for a refill.
- *Never let guests mix their own drinks.* If you let guests mix their own drinks, it will be difficult to regulate the amount and quantity of their alcohol consumption.
- *Never push drinks.* Let your guests' drink glasses be empty before you offer refills and then don't rush. If a guest says "no thanks," respect the decision. Don't insist, just offer a non-alcoholic beverage.
- *Close the bar at least one hour before your party ends.* Decide the time you want your party to end. Close the bar an hour before the party ends and begin to serve a non-alcoholic drink and a hearty snack. The hour will provide some non-drinking time before your guests depart for home.
- *Never serve alcohol to minors.* It is illegal in Texas to serve alcohol to anyone under age 21. Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks available if minors are going to attend your party.

We are including the recipe for one favorite non-alcoholic holiday drink that is both festive and satisfying:

Wassail

3 tart apples
2 qts. Cider
2 cups orange juice
2/3 cup lemon juice
2 sticks cinnamon
½ tsp each: whole clove, grated nutmeg, ground allspice

Core apples, cut into rounds and bake. When they are fork-tender and browning, place them in a punch bowl. Bring other ingredients to a boil and pour over the apples. Serve hot.

Enjoy the holiday season and remember ~ if you have, or someone you know has, a drug or alcohol problem, be a part of the solution. Seek, or urge your friend to get, help!

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-568-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

SNYDER NEIGHBORS SHARING, INC.
APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant:_____ Birthdate:_____
Address:_____ Phone Number:_____
Spouse:_____ Birthdate:_____
How Long at this Address:_____
( ) Own Home ( ) Buying
( ) Renting $_____ Monthly Amount
Are You:
( ) Widowed ( ) Divorced
( ) Handicapped How:_____
Number of People living in this Household:_____
( ) Adults ( ) Children Ages:_____
Income:
( ) Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) Spouse Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) No One Employed
Other Income:
( ) Social Security: Amount $_____
( ) Public Welfare: Amount $_____
( ) Supplemental Income: Amount $_____
( ) Other:_____
Additional Comments - Repairs Needed:

Mail to: P.O. Box 541, Snyder, Tx. 79550
Applications Need To Be Returned
By January 15, 1999

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Bedroom - Living Room
Only $15.95 tax included
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915-573-4217 OR 915-573-0780

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Will Be Open Monday, Dec. 21st,
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd
and Wednesday, Dec. 23rd
So, Come Get A Haircut Before
Christmas And Look Good For Santa!
2417 College Ave. Snyder, Texas
573-0189 573-4782

Stanfield

Students of the 6 Weeks

The following Stanfield students were named Students of the Six Weeks for the second six weeks. They include: Tilatha Akins, Robert Albarez, Ryanna Alexander, Erik Arias, Veronica Arriega, Christopher Bass, Zane Berryhill, Larissa Blackard, Krysha Burleson, Brodie Calley, Jared Cave, Taylor Davidson, Meagan Downing, Brenna Fletcher, Sierra Foreman, Dayton Grice, Todd Hagist, Carrie Harlan.

STANFIELD ELEMENTARY STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Others are Gina Hermosillo, Clay Hirt, Tara Humphreys, Timothy Iglehart, Jasmine Jackson, Ashley Jones, Nicholas Lentza, Stephen Maldonado, Felipe Martinez, MaTeresa Murillo, Gerardo Padron, Nakita Pickerel, Brittney Rivera, Stacey Singletary, Jake Strickland, Allison Swigert, Blaire Toombs, Keenon Ward, Nick Zajicek.

Perfect Attendance

The following second graders achieved perfect attendance for 12 weeks. They are: Tanya Adams, Leticia Aguilar, Ryanna Alexander, Bianca Alvardo, Ashly Anderson, Sarah Atwell, Esperanza Benitez, Frankie Benitez, Jessica Bilderback, Lareshia Carey, Robert Castaneda, Daniel Chacon, Daniela Chavez, Forest Clayton, Jesse Conner, Lindsey Cox, Jaclyn DeLeon, Julian Dominguez.

Others are, Jacie Eveland, Brenna Fletcher, Amy Fogleman, Sierra Foreman, Jessica Garza, Taylor Gibbs, Dayton Grice, Bryan Guerra, Benjamin Gutierrez, David Guzman, Ashley Hagins, Carrie Harlan, Dwight Henkell, Gina Hermosillo, Jon Ryan Hernandez, Kalyn Hildreth, Jordan Irwin.

Others include Rubi Jaimes, Sebastian Jaquez, Marine Jaramillo, John Johnson, Leslie Johnston, Lesa Jones, Kaylie Kahlich, A'Lex Koonce, Samuel Lee, Tanner Lenderman, Kayla Liccardi, Eric Lindsey, Jeramy Lindsey, Kari Lord, Kaylee Lord, Elizabeth Martinez, Jaime Martinez, Carson Matthies, Clint McFatridge, Kendra McGuire.

Also, Cami Mitchell, Ruben Molinar, MaTeresa Murillo, Maria Ornelas, Gerardo Padron, Hunter Perez, Daniel Peterson, Nakita Pickerel, Tyler Porter, Cody Presley, Lolita Ramos, Riley Raschke, Roxanne Renteria, Ava Reyes, Alix Rieser, Brittney Rivera, Joe Rivera, Zachary Rivera, Adrian Rocha, Nancy Rubio, Manuel Sandoval, Kailea Shaw, Jerry Silva.

Others include Stacey Singletary, Shaquita Sneed, Katy Spradlin, Will Stewart, Teryn Sullenger, Jessica Timora, Ashley Trotter, Heather Vasquez, Megan Villagas, Wes Von Roeder, Jonathan Wallace, Dillon West, Gage West, Christopher Witte, Chance Young, Chelsea Young, David Zalman.

These first grade students have had perfect attendance for 12 weeks. They include Eduardo Arellano, Brodi Calley, Jerard Delce, Meagan Downing, Kenyon Gafford, Jessie Hibbitt, Tye Holley, Marissa Jackson, Stephen Kelley, Jack Lewis, Mitchell Marcon, Lee McGinty, Colton Newman, Heather Newton, Chloe Reecer, Jake Riley, Tanner Robertson, Shawn Selders, Jake Strickland, Matthew Velasquez.

These kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students also had perfect attendance for 12 weeks: Michael Brasher, Darian Clayton, Cody Duncan, Michelle Flores, Taylor Freeman, Christopher Johnston, Kaden McCarter, Jacob Mitchell, Skylar Morris, Xalee Northcutt, Georgia Norwood, Brianne Perry, Jordee Wilson.

Others are Manuel Benitez, Sadee Bernall, James Eagan, Sabrina Edwards, Samantha Edwards, Timothy Iglehart, Ashley Jones, Robby Luna, Jared Pierce, Tyler Redman, Alex Rivera.

Research teams find key molecule in asthma cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a discovery that may lead to new drugs, researchers have identified a molecule that has a crucial role in causing asthma, a breathing disorder that affects 15 million Americans.

Two teams of scientists experimenting independently with laboratory mice have found that a reaction triggered by a molecule called interleukin-13, or IL13, is a primary element in causing the inflammation, restricted air flow and breathing problems of asthma.

The studies appeared Friday in the journal Science.

At Johns Hopkins University, researchers treated asthma-prone mice with a drug that blocks the action of IL13.

When the mice were exposed to an allergen, a substance that normally caused asthma attacks, the animals developed no breathing problems. Mice not treated with the IL13 blocker, however, had the inflammation and restricted airways typical of asthma.

In another study, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, applied IL13 blocker to the nasal passages of mice and then exposed the animals to an asthma-causing protein.

Animals treated with the IL13 blocker had few asthma symptoms, the scientists report.

The University of California team also found that another molecule, interleukin-4, or IL4, also played a role in asthma. But, said David Corry of the university, "IL13 may be more potent."

If the mouse experiments can be duplicated in humans, they could give new targets for drugs that treat asthma at the cellular level. Such drugs, in effect, would stop an asthma reaction at its source instead of treating just the symptoms of the disorder.

The basic monetary unit of Sao Tome and Principe is the dobra, and its chief fractional unit is the centavo.

Russia is so wide that it encompasses 11 time zones.

New fossils show Arctic once was balmy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The discovery 600 miles from the North Pole of fossils of a crocodile-like animal suggests that the frozen Arctic was once as balmy as present-day Florida, a researcher says.

In a study published Friday in the journal Science, scientists say that above the Arctic Circle in far northern Canada they found the fossilized remains of a number of champosaurs, extinct, toothy animals that resemble a modern-day crocodile.

"We found a whole assemblage of fossils, from both young and adults," said University of Rochester geophysicist John H. Tarduno, the lead author of the study. "There were also turtles and fish."

The champosaur and the turtles were cold-blooded animals that could not have survived in the current climate of the Canadian Arctic, Tarduno said.

"These fossils tell us that there had to have been a substantial growing season there then, and that the climate was very unlike the Arctic now," he said.

Temperatures at the fossil site now routinely drop to 60 degrees below zero Fahrenheit in the winter. But when the champosaur lived there 86 million to 92 million years ago, temperatures rarely reached freezing and summertime readings of 80 degrees were common.

"We think it was typical of what Florida is now," Tarduno said.

No one had found a champosaur so close to the Arctic before, said David B. Weishampel, a Johns Hopkins University dinosaur expert.

"The new find suggests that the poles were a lot warmer and more stable then than they are now," Weishampel said.

The closest previous find of champosaur fossils was about 1,000 miles south of the Canadian location, Tarduno said.

The champosaur had a long snout, powerful jaws filled with teeth and a long tail.

Weishampel, the dinosaur expert, said the champosaur was probably cold-blooded, which means it had little tolerance for cold weather. It also was too small to have migrated seasonally.

Cold-blooded animals depend on the environment for warmth and become immobile if the temperature is too cold. Warm-blooded animals can regulate their body temperature even in cold weather.

A field team from the University of Rochester found the fossils in a layer of sediment sitting on top of a 1,000 foot-deep bed of lava rock.

Tarduno said the Canadian lava flowed during a period of global volcanism that saw immense basalt lava formations created near Australia, in the Indian Ocean, near Madagascar, in Brazil, in South Africa and in the American Southwest.

The lava was different from the formations created by explosive volcanoes. Instead, the melted rock flowed in great surges that covered wide areas hundreds of feet deep and continued for hundreds of years.

Such a worldwide volcanic activity would have released huge amounts of carbon dioxide, setting off a greenhouse effect that would explain why the Arctic was warm enough for the champosaur, Tarduno said.

"It is very reasonable to suggest that so much CO2 was dumped into the atmosphere that it overwhelmed the system, causing global warming," he said.

Two Snyder students nominated for slots in U.S. service academies

Congressman Charlie Stenholm has announced that 19 young men and women from the 17th District of Texas have been selected as nominees to the United States Service Academies.

Their names have been submitted for consideration as members of the academy classes entering in July 1999.

"I am always so impressed by the high caliber of candidates that apply to my office each year," Stenholm said. "But it certainly makes a selection decision all the more difficult."

Six individuals were nominated to compete for one appointment slot at the Military Academy at West Point, NY. Thirteen young men and women were nominated for two appointment slots at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and two slots at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

The individuals, and the academies to which they have been nominated are: Jacob Bailey of Clyde, Air Force and Military; Scott Chapman of Glen Rose, Naval and Military; Beau Cobb of Rainbow, Air Force and Naval; Geof Cox of Abilene, Air Force; Rad Eicke of Snyder, Air Force and Naval; and Brian Eitelman of Abilene, Naval.

Others include Logan Gage of Abilene, Air Force and Naval; Josh Hawkins of San Angelo, Air Force; Matt Hefton of Stephenville, Naval; Jason Hobgood of Haskell, Military and Naval; Amber Hodges of Glen Rose, Air Force and Naval; Drew Joiner of Colorado City, Air Force and Naval; Jeremy Miller of Newark, Air Force and Naval; and Shawn Neal of Snyder, Military and Air Force.

Others are Jay Neese of Abilene, Air Force; Brandon Phillips of Sweetwater, Air Force and Military; Jason Ringo of Mineral Wells, Naval and Military; Angela Stephens of Clyde, Naval; and Jacob Taylor of Abilene, Air Force and Naval.

The nominees will now be contacted by the academies with additional informatin and instructions and will be scheduled for medical and physical examinations. The academies will make appointment announcements by late spring.

HSU students take top honors

ABILENE — The Hardin-Simmons University Model United Nations Team won top honors at the 13th Annual West Texas Model United Nations Conference held at McMurry University Dec. 3-4.

Several Big County local schools and colleges participated in the conference. The teams represented over 21 nation states of the world.

The HSU team won the "best collegiate delegation" award for their representation of the U.S. at the conference. Winning a "most outstanding delegate" award on the team was Anthony Martinez, junior political science major from Snyder, who was on the security council.

The consul general from the Houston, Texas Republic of Korea (South Korea) consulate was the keynote speaker at the opening session of the conference addressing the area of international trade.

Dr. Charles Garraway, professor of political science and chair, is the faculty advisor for the team.

Central Awards

Central students have received the following awards.

SUPER KIDS

Third graders: R.J. Keener, Mariah Stowe, Angie Amarillas, Laura Landa, Virginia Rivera, Audrey Jones, Allen Jones, Quentin Shafer, Nathan Wittie, Corey Jaramillo, Tonya Breedlove.

UNIT RECOGNITION

Third graders: Kristen Miller, Gerek Preston, Christian Tippens, Michelle Arteaga, Mayra Estrada, Josh Ornelas, Raquel Ruiz, Tatum Norwood, Kirstie Davis, D.J. Muniz, Michael Turner.

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY

Vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwich, potato rounds, dill pickle spears, peanut butter cookie

TUESDAY

Ham/macaroni & cheese, spinach, carrots, tossed salad, bread pudding

WEDNESDAY

Oven fried chicken, cream gravy, baked potato, green beans, pickled beets, cherry dessert bar

THURSDAY

Closed For Christmas

FRIDAY

Closed for Christmas

Senior Center News

MONDAY

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

88 play begins at 10 a.m., and the Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon. Seniors are encouraged to join for dance and game night. The building will open at 6:30 p.m. and the dance begins at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Line dancing and clogging will be cancelled Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. The classes will resume Jan. 6.

The Senior Center will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holiday.

Seniors are reminded that they have access to the Travis Gym. With winter weather approaching, it is a wonderful facility for walking. The center also has exercise bikes in the center and a daily exercise program.

Don't forget line dancing and clogging for great exercise. The swimnastics at WTC is great for arthritis and respiratory problems, and all seniors are encouraged to try this class. The class will resume after the beginning of the spring session and the scheduling of lifeguards. For more information call 573-4035.

The Senior Center offers home-delivered meals to those that qualify and congregate meals to all seniors. Transportation is also offered to and from the center to visit doctors and for some errands.

The center also has acces to an emergency phone system for seniors living alone. We have an extensive volunteer program for seniors who have spare time and enjoy serving others.

If you are a senior citizen and have never visited the Senior Center, you are invited to join. If you are under 60, the center would love to have you join the volunteer force in serving the seniors of the county.

Holiday Sale
3 Days Only
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

30% Off Storewide
Excluding Lamps, Aromatique Bath and Snow Village

50% Off Christmas
Excluding Possible Dream Santas and Fritz and Floyd

No Gift Wrap or Exchanges on Sale Items

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2520 Ave. R. East Side of Square
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ARE THERE HUNGRY PEOPLE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

It's an unfortunate fact.

Children and the elderly are those who suffer from hunger most in our country . . . perhaps even some in your neighborhood.

YOU CAN HELP.
This year, you can be a part of the hunger solution for our area! TCA Cable TV, working with Goodfellows, is collecting food for the hungry in our area. We need your help and your donation of canned or packaged non-perishable food items.

AND YOU CAN BENEFIT.
Your donation of 10 cans or more from November 30 - December 30 will allow for a FREE upgrade of your present service, or if you are a new subscriber, FREE installation.*

CALL TODAY
Call our office for more information! Together we can help the hungry in our area. Together we can make a difference!

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*Some restrictions may apply.

DEC 20 1998

Deanie Francis Mills

Stars in the sky

My daughter is homesick for the country in general, and West Texas country in particular.

Both kids attend college in East Texas, and Jessica's university, Stephen F. Austin, is located smack in the middle of the Davy Crockett National Forest. You would think she would be dazzled by the spectacular autumn scenery down there, and I asked her about that.

"The trees are beautiful, yes," she said, "Individually. But I must confess that I'm beginning to get a bit claustrophobic. They're all crowded together. You can't see the sunset".

She's not the only one who misses this place.

My son, who goes to Texas A&M and just got home for the holidays, said, "The other night, this guy said, 'It's great to see stars again,'" He shook his head. "And there were, like SIX." With a laugh, he added, "I tell people that I grew up in the country, but they just don't really understand. They're from places like Houston. Two acres is country to them."

It reminds me of something conservative columnist George Will said once about baseball, that anyone who found the game boring was just plain ignorant. That's the way I feel about people who think West Texas is empty or monotonous. They just don't know how to really look.

"I miss the blue night," my daughter said. "Night is supposed to have this special sort of blue light, but under the trees, it's black. You can't see stars. You can't see the moon. I miss lying in my bed at night and pulling back the curtains and looking out at the blue night while the coyotes sing."

They miss the stars. They miss the sunsets. They miss the animals. They miss the space.

"I want to be able to look out over the valley and not see anyone for five miles," said my daughter.

"You talk about stars," said my son. "I wish I could just tell those guys. Come home with me and I'll show you STARS."

Both my children love going to college and they love where they are right now, but I've noticed that after a few months. It's as if their life energies begin to be depleted. Their soul runs dry. They begin to yearn for home, for the country, for their Source.

They don't want to move back home, and that's a good thing. But they seem to need a couple of weeks to sit out under the stars, to soak up a sunset, to feel the wind on their cheeks, to look out over the horizon, to listen to the coyotes — to replenish, to recharge the batteries, to go back out energized.

"I'm glad the kids get homesick," I told my husband last night. "Me, too," he said.

We both grew up in the sterile suburbs of a major metropolitan area, and though we both loved our families, neither of us ever felt particularly homesick once we left. In fact, visits back there were good only because they enabled us to see family again, but frankly, all the rest of it was nothing but a source of stress for us, and remains so to this day.

I mean, geez, how many acres of rich farm and ranchland do you need to concrete over to create yet another tiresome strip mall or egg-carton apartment complex? How many acres of trees do you have to plow under in order to build more treeless housing developments? You can drive through six suburban cities in a row without breaking stride, and every single one looks like the other — you can't even tell when you've left one city limit and entered the next.

It's soulless.

Because my kids attend school so far from home — 400 and 450 miles — they can't hop in on an occasional weekend. We even met in Dallas for Thanksgiving, so they haven't been home since they left for school last August. We are all looking forward to having them home again for the holidays.

There's nothing like a blue night, the stars, the song of the coyote, and the love of family, to fill the soul to bursting.

Deanie Mills' column appears each weekend in the Snyder Daily News

Letters to the Editor

Great group of boys

Dear Editor:

Two friends and I went to Grandy's in Snyder to eat the evening the Borden County Coyote's football team went to play Westbrook.

The team was there. They had received their food and were eating when we arrived. I have never seen a nicer, more well-behaved group of young men.

They quietly ate their food. There was no loud talking, no horse play, nothing. As each one finished eating, they cleaned their part of the table, put the trash in the recepticle, returned to their table, and remained quietly seated until the coach said they were ready to leave.

We were so impressed.

I have been told that if anyone of those boys uses foul language, they are immediately sent from the playing field.

The Borden school superintendent, the football coach and those young men's parents can all be proud of that group of boys.

As long as there are young men like those, I will believe in the future of our country.

Although Trinidad won the final game for the state championship, those Borden County Coyotes are true champions.

Izora Milliken
Snyder

SDN letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed and must give the address of the writer. Letters should be of reasonable length. The newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters if they contain libelous material or information deemed in poor taste.

Following a long-standing policy and practice, Snyder Daily News does not publish letters pertaining to a candidate or issue once an election has been called.

Opinions in favor of or in opposition to an issue or candidate may be published in paid political advertisements.

Letters to be published in the weekend edition must be submitted no later than noon Friday.

Thank you, Snyder

Dear Editor:

My wife, daughter, 7-week-old grandson and I spent nine days in Snyder the past two weeks.

We were in your city because our family oil company was involved in a law suit that culminated in a jury trial at the Scurry County District courthouse. Although these were very stressful days for us, we feel compelled to comment on our impressions of your city during our brief stay.

We were struck by the friendliness shown to us by the people of Snyder from the first day we arrived and checked in at the motel. Wherever we went, we were greeted with warmth: from the courhouse employees, to cafe and restaurant owners and patrons, and the people in the street.

As an example, we were introduced to a gentleman in a cafe whose company had done contract work for us many years ago. After a pleasant conversation, he left. Only when we were ready to pay the bill, did we learn that he had bought our lunch without even saying anything. I hope I can thank him for that act of generosity some day.

We constantly commented on how much we felt at home in Snyder. You can be proud of your city. To us, the folks in Snyder represent all that is good in America. Thank you for buoying our spirits and making us feel so much at home during a difficult time. We will not soon forget your hospitality.

Sincerely yours,
Albert and Rose Hrubetz
Barbara Hrubetz Callaway
Baby William Callaway
Dallas, Texas

School budget

Dear Editor:

I would like to know if there isn't enough money in the school budget for repairs, where is the money coming from for Mr. Lomax's $2,000 raise?

Wouldn't that money be better applied towards our school repairs?

LuCindy Johnson
Snyder

Time to Remember

Dear Editor:

As we decorate the Christmas tree this year, let us think on some things that may help each of us to have a brighter and happier Christmas.

Had it not been for the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, as it is recorded in Matt. 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted, God with us," we could not have the joy we find in Christmas today. The joy comes because of his glorious birth, life, death, resurrection and ascending back to the Almighty Father in Heaven.

I can't think of Christmas without a tree. The tree reminds me of Jesus Christ, who is the tree of life. Rev. 2:7, "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life."

As I begin to put the Christmas balls on the tree, I find that the balls are of many shapes, sizes and colors. To me, this represents the people of all nations on earth. No matter the color, size or shape, Christ died on the cross to become the tree of life to all men. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

As I think of the lights on the tree, I am reminded that Christ is the light of the world. John 8:12, "I am the light of the world..." John 1:4, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." The lights as they burn on the tree causes the balls to have a reflection of that light. So we, as Christians, reflect the light of Christ in our lives if we are willing to let Him have his way.

The snow that we use on our tree represents the cleansing power of Jesus Christ. He will clean your life of sin that robs man of so much joy and happiness, if you will only trust Him with your life John 1:29, "...Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" Isaiah 1:18, "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."

The tinsel garland that we use to decorate the tree from the bottom to the top reminds me of man being reunited with God through Jesus Christ. I Tim. 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ," Sin separated man from God in the garden of Eden, and because of sin, Christ came to become the supreme sacrifice. He hung between, Heaven and earth in order the He might be the Savior and mediator between God and men.

When I think of the silver icicles, I'm reminded of the rewards that we will receive when we get to Heaven. Some will have more rewards than others, but we will have rewards to lay at Jesus Christ's feet; the Wise Men did on Christmas Day more than nineteen hundred years ago. Every soul that is won to Christ is a reward to lay at Jesus' feet. Those who come to Him will have a reward too. And that is joy unspeakable and life everlasting.

The star at the top of the tree represents Jesus Christ as the bright and morning star. It is the crown of "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords." Rev. 22:16, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

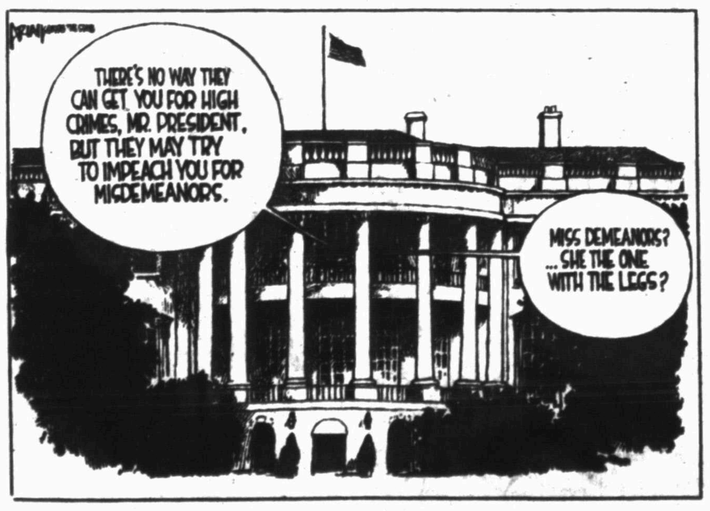
The gifts that are under the tree represents the love that Christ had for each of us that day on the cross, shedding his blood for us. Heb. 9:22, "...and without shedding of blood is no remission." He gave his life's blood for us so that we could have a happier life in Him. He is man's gift from God, the Almighty Father. All you have to do is trust and believe in Him by faith.

Let us remember these things and I know that you and I will have a very joyous Christmas.

May God bless you this Chistmas season.

David Stinson
Abilene

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was forwarded to the Snyder Daily News by Natalie Clark of Snyder.)



EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Olympisc, shades of scandal

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

It's been a long time since the Olympic flame burned with the purity of the Games of antiquity, in which the flower of Grecian youth vied in a competition that pitted the best against the best, putting strength, spirit and skill to the ultimate test.

Remember the Cold War years in which "amateurs" from behind the Iron Curtain were pumped up with illegal drugs in order to enhance their stamina? Remember the blatant politics involved in the judging of such events as gymnastics and high diving? Remember the big-bucks deals cut by the Olympic medalists lucky enough to capture the public's fantasies?

Even by our tarnished latter-day standards, however, the latest Olympics-related scandal is something of a stunner. To put it gently, it appears the enthusiasts who lobbied -- successfully -- to snag the 2002 Winter Olympics for Salt Lake City got a bit carried away. Or you could conclude that these folks tiptoed right up to -- possibly into -- the gray area in which boosterism verges into bribery.

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee apologized Sunday for its "scholarship" program, under the auspices of which youths from developing countries received academic and athletic assistance. And there were even gaudier allegations of International Olympic Committee being involved in vote-buying in the site selection process over the last 10 years.

The president of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, bore up bravely, saying, "After the black day, the sun will come again." However, given the big bucks and the high stakes, will Samaranch or anyone else ever succeed in fully dispelling the clouds that hang over the Games?

Impeachment and Partisanship

Galveston County Daily News

The House Judiciary Committee hearings on impeachment go a long way toward explaining why a wrestler will be in the governor's mansion in Minnesota.

Almost anything would be preferable to the mindless gridlock of partisan politics.

At a time when we should be able to expect our congressional leaders to put aside party differences, the hearings explored new depths of partisanship.

Regardless of who was speaking - Democrat or Republican - almost every comment was predictable, every question expected.

With the nation skidding toward a constitutional crisis, there was absolutely no evidence of free, independent thought.

One can only suppose that, inside the Beltway, the committee members' adherence to party line was seen as evidence of zeal and resolve.

From a distance, it just looked like two groups of people putting the interests of their parties before the interests of their country.

It was sad.

Even more sad was that so many people - mainstream, middle-of-the-road Americans - predicted it would be just that way.

They expected little from these proceedings, and when it became obvious their hunch was right, they tuned the whole business out.

It's a sad thing, a dangerous thing, when our leaders reinforce the cynical view that the people shouldn't expect much from their elected leaders.

Declining crime rate

San Antonio Express-News

You can't believe the hype. It's best not to when it comes to reducing anxiety regarding crime.

Too often, sensational media reports of murders heighten the fears of the public and make people believe they're less safe than they are that an uncontrollable crime wave will claim them or their loved ones.

However, a little good news, such as the latest FBI crime reports, can go a long way to dispel some of these fears.

Serious crimes in the United States dropped 5 percent in the first half of this year, the sixth consecutive year that has happened, the FBI reports.

All seven major crime categories homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, auto theft, larceny theft and burglary saw declines. The largest drops were in robbery, which fell 11 percent, and homicide, which dropped 8 percent.

This follows a report last month that found arrests of young people on murder charges dropped 16 percent in 1997 and that juvenile arrests for all violent crimes declined for the third year in a row.

These reductions result from a multipronged strategy by communities and law enforcement, including prevention programs for young people, better police-community cooperation and harsher sentences for violent criminals.

Also sharing some perverse "credit" is that warring gang members have grown older and forged truces, reducing both violence and the use of crack cocaine.

None of this is to say citizens never have reason to fear for the safety of their lives and property. Being careful and vigilant is wise.

But the knowledge that crime is on the wane and that most of us won't fall victim to it provides some peace of mind.

Bribery and public ethics

Houston Chronicle

The conviction of former City Councilman Ben Reyes and former Port Commissioner Betti Maldonado on charges of bribery and conspiracy should impress upon members of City Council this indisputable principle: Call them what you will, offered envelopes of cash are improper, unacceptable and tantamount to bribery on their face.

The FBI sting operation was unfortunate in at least two respects apart from the discomfort or ruination it visited on those it ensnared. Through no fault of the developers, the sting stained and delayed a deal to build a needed convention center hotel in downtown Houston. An FBI agent and an informant posed as South American investors trying to get a lucrative piece of the hotel deal by handing out illegal "campaign gifts" to members of City Council; they found several willing takers.

The sting also threw the basic integrity of City Council in doubt. Could envelopes of relatively petty cash really buy the honor and influence the votes of members of Houston's City Council?

As Reyes suggested to an unseen FBI microphone, favors from City Council have to be purchased. "I never did it for nothing," he said.

Houstonians can only hope that the guilty verdicts close at least one chapter in this sad saga. But as Maldonado's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, noted, "This is not the end of this story by any means."

He was referring to his plans to appeal, but his observation also applies to the never-ending struggle between honesty and dishonesty.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Old animosity may be behind mom's request for new name

DEAR ABBY: This concerns the letter from "No New Name in Oregon," the teen-ager whose mother suddenly decided to have the child's last name changed to her maiden name. You missed the boat on that one, Abby.

I'm a former lawyer who has dealt with many parents in divorce situations. When the desire to change a child's last name comes from the divorced parent rather than the child, the desire is usually a disguised policy or emotional statement from the parent.

The teen-ager told you she had recently gotten to know her dad's side of the family. Shortly afterward, the mother announced that the child should have her (the mother's) name for "convenience, clarity, a sense of unity." Since the teen didn't mention any instances of recent inconvenience or confusion because of the different names, my reaction was that the mother very likely felt threatened, and wanted to send a message to the world that "she's mine" — and to the ex, "You can't have her!"

Parents should work out their emotions related to divorce in counseling, not in the divorce courts or by using their children.

"No New Name in Oregon" should know that her name is *hers*. She should be allowed to lovingly tell her mother, "I love you very much, and will always be yours regardless of my name. However, I am used to my name and don't want to change it at this late date."

Abby, I felt that the girl was asking you for help in standing firm against her mother, and reassurance that it was OK to be herself, to keep a name that was meaningful to her, regardless of her mother's needs. I wish you had affirmed that her name, now and always, is a matter of *her* choice and desires, and *not* a matter on which she should be pressured by others. In fact, the "others" — including her mother — should respect her daughter's needs, feelings and decisions.

Although it's not proper or desirable for a minor to urge her mother into counseling, you, Abby, are in a position to urge adults everywhere to examine their motives, and suggest that, if their behavior is influenced by the fallout from a divorce, counseling can be helpful no matter how long ago the divorce was finalized.

SHELLEY BRENNEMAN CARTER, STANFORD, ILL.

DEAR SHELLEY: You analyzed the mother's motives more shrewdly than I did — and if you're correct, they are deplorable. Of course, the girl has the right to retain her father's name if she wishes, since one's name goes to the core of one's identity.

I agree there appear to be some unresolved issues about the divorce that the mother hasn't dealt with, and that need resolution. That's more important than any name change.

***

DEAR ABBY: Would you please pass on this suggestion to help make losing one's wallet a bit more endurable:

The next time you are near a photocopy machine, lay the contents of your wallet (other than cash and photographs) on it, and make a copy of them.

Then, should your wallet be lost or stolen, you will have all the numbers handy to report the loss.

CREDIT COUNSELOR IN NEW YORK

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

DEAR ABBY: I am a 51-year-old man, married to a woman who has been down the aisle three times. I love her very much, and I know she loves me. However, she has a habit that's beginning to bother me a great deal. She never misses an opportunity to bash men!

Whenever she hears — or reads about — a man who has gotten himself in trouble with alcohol, gambling or womanizing, she remarks, "Typical male," then does 10 minutes about how all men are pigs. The other day, a neighbor came over to show us her new puppy. I went to pet the puppy and this neighbor said, "Be careful, I don't think she likes men!" Then my wife said, "Smart dog!"

She hates her daughters' husbands and boyfriends, and she cannot stand any of my male friends. She seems happiest when she's commiserating with other women about how they've been wronged or hurt by the men in their lives.

Unlike her two previous husbands, I am a faithful and loving life-partner who is not a wife beater, philanderer or liar. I've asked her to please stop spewing her venom while I'm in the room, but now she thinks it's funny when I react. It's obvious that if she thinks all men are pigs, she shouldn't have married another one. How can I make her understand that her constant male-bashing is harming our relationship?

TIRED OF HEARING IT IN TEMPE, ARIZ.

DEAR TIRED: I'm surprised you didn't notice this about her before you were married, because her anger at men appears to be long-standing and deep-seated. Many a hurtful remark is said in "jest." The next time she does it, tell her plainly how much it hurts when she talks that way.

Counseling may help her understand her negative perspective. Suggest it, and offer to go with her. If she refuses, go alone. At least it will give you some insight into her behavior and some techniques that may help you deal with her negativity.

***

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter in your column from Mr. Beard of Sacramento, I'm compelled to write in support of his assertion that we *can* all get along. While far from home, Mr. Beard, a black man, was loaned a hearing aid by a white audiologist named Mr. Potter.

When I was a child growing up in the South, my father ran a medical clinic. He worked long hours serving the health needs of a small community. He performed and assisted with many surgeries on black and white people, Jews and Gentiles. He used to tell me, "All people are pretty much the same color on the inside, and *that's* where you need to look." It was excellent advice.

Mr. Potter, the audiologist, must be one of those who "sees" what is important in all of us, and trusts that which he cannot see.

I agree with Mr. Beard. We can all get along if we look for those things we have in common, and respect what makes us different.

KAREN LAWRENCE, NAPA, CALIF.

DEAR KAREN: I think you put it very well. It is important to the future of our country that when we look our neighbors in the face, we dwell not on their color, but their humanity, and judge them not by their appearance, but by their character.

***

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

Chief ME says angry workers 'staged' body stacking photos

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County's chief medical examiner claims one or more disgruntled employees are responsible for recent body stacking at the county morgue.

Dr. Joye Carter acknowledged on Thursday that body stacking has occurred, after issuing a denial earlier in the week and contending that photos published in the Houston Chronicle were staged.

She said body stacking is in direct and sometimes intentional violation of office policy.

The Chronicle reported on Sunday that bodies were stacked at the morgue before and after autopsies.

The medical examiner acknowledged Thursday that she had heard of such reports, but said she and other officials believe it was done by a disgruntled employee.

Body stacking occurs when workers run out of the metal trays used to store bodies before and after autopsies and place the bodies atop or alongside one other.

It is a concern not only because of the lack of respect for the body, but because it can lead to contamination of evidence if the bodies are stacked prior to autopsy.

The photographer, who has been identified by the Chronicle, steadfastly denied staging the photos. Sheets were moved aside for some of the pictures so that toe tags could be revealed to document when the stacking occurred, the photographer said.

In one instance, the photographer said, a body was removed from a stack in order to reveal the presence of an infant's body between two adult bodies.

An office employee not connected with the photographer has verified seeing at least some of the stacking shown in the photos, the newspaper reported today.

Morgue supervisor Victor Forney said he had seen stacking in both the "outgoing" and "incoming" office coolers. But he said he agreed with Dr. Carter that the stacking was done by disgruntled employees in an effort to demean the office.

Forney said bodies are sometimes placed side-by-side when the office runs out of trays.

In those instances, he said, there would be no danger of evidence contamination because the autopsies would have been completed and the bodies would have been wholly contained within body bags.

Dr. Carter said the stacking photographs and at least five anonymous letters sent to county officials, office employees and the media are hurting morale.

"We've had enough, and it needs to be known that the office is being harassed," she said.

The medical examiner said she is considering increasing security around the morgue to prevent further stacking — intentional or unintentional.

"It's a shame to have to protect the bodies from within this facility," she said.

Dr. Carter's office has come under frequent criticism in the past year for a series of controversies such as criminal investigations, lawsuits by two employees who contend they were fired for reporting illegal practices, the accidental cremation of a wrong body, the employment of an unlicensed physician and questions about the reliability of autopsies in several high-profile homicide cases.

County Judge Robert Eckels said earlier this week that he and his staff would conduct unscheduled visits to the office, which Carter said she would not oppose.

"We're open any time," she said.

Doctor given 90 months for worker's comp fraud

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas physician who defrauded worker's compensation insurance companies out of more that $2.6 million by billing over 25 hours of work for a single day has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison.

Dr. Bernard Joseph Dolenz, 65, had been convicted of 12 counts of mail fraud on Aug. 3. A licensed attorney as well, Dolenz billed nearly $3.2 million in medical services while working only one day a week from 1990 to 1994. Prosecutors argued that $2.6 million of that was billed illegally.

Dolenz operated a clinic in Dallas where he saw patients approximately one day a week for seven hours, prosecutors said.

For virtually all his patients, authorities alleged, Dolenz would bill for at least two medical procedures. The two procedures were usually a 40-minute physical and a 5-minute psychotherapy session, prosecutors argued.

In his seven-hour workday, Dolenz, a member of Mensa, often billed an hour and 25 minutes of time for as many as 25 patients.

"Doctors cannot avoid responsibility for their billings." U.S Attorney Paul Coggins said. "If those billings total more hours than there are in a day, they must be prepared to face the consequences."

Worsham

Continued From Page 1B

brother, James, died several years ago of osteosarcoma. In an effort to save his brother's life, Worsham had participated in a bone marrow transplant about 10 years ago, but said the process has since become more refined.

James' case was rare because osteosarcoma usually does not not strike adults.

Amid growing competition, cable TV remains dominant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cable industry has lost a small share of its market to competitors but retains the lion's share — 85 percent — of the audience receiving multiple television channels in American homes.

That's the bottom line from the Federal Communications Commission's annual report to Congress on video competition. The commission now hopes to release the report, adopted Thursday, before Christmas, said FCC spokesman Morgan Broman.

It will be closely studied by lawmakers who are being pressed by consumer groups to delay the March 31, 1999, deregulation of cable TV rates.

Congress decided in a 1996 telecommunications law to lift cable-rate regulations on that date, believing that widespread competition to cable would have materialized by then. Consumer groups and even some regulators are saying it won't.

Cable's 2 percentage-point drop in market share to 85 percent from 87 percent occurred between June 1997 and June 1998.

During the same period, the share held by the direct-broadcast satellite, or DBS, industry, which includes DirecTV, Primestar and EchoStar, rose to 9.4 percent from roughly 7 percent, said Deborah Lathen, chief of the FCC's Cable Services Bureau. Primestar is owned by big cable companies.

These direct-broadcast companies made the biggest inroads. Other "multichannel" TV providers such as companies that provide programming to big satellite dishes or use wireless technology to deliver multiple channels into homes accounted for a 5 percent market share, Lathen said.

FCC Chairman Bill Kennard said both the commission and Congress need to do more to encourage competition to cable.

But Decker Anstrom, president of the National Cable Television Association, said the report shows that "cable faces vigorous competition from DBS and other video providers." One of the industry's priorities is to make sure rate deregulation goes into effect as scheduled.

Gene Kimmelman, co-director of the Consumers Union's Washington office, said the report "demonstrates a failure in policy. Cable rates continue to soar and competition is growing at less than a snail's pace."

Cable TV rates between June 1997 and June 1998 rose 7.3 percent, compared to a 1.7 increase in inflation. But that was accompanied by increases in channels and services, the FCC said.

A separate survey of the nation's top six cable companies — also adopted Thursday — concluded that other than adjustments for inflation, programming cost increases "were the most significant factor" in cable rate increases, appearing to bear out the industry's claims, the FCC said.

Those results, however, are for a different time period than the competition report. The programming cost survey is for the year ending July 1997.

Consumers Union's Kimmelman contends cable rates would have been 10 percent lower, down by $2.2 billion, if the FCC had required companies to offset programming cost increases with ad revenues.

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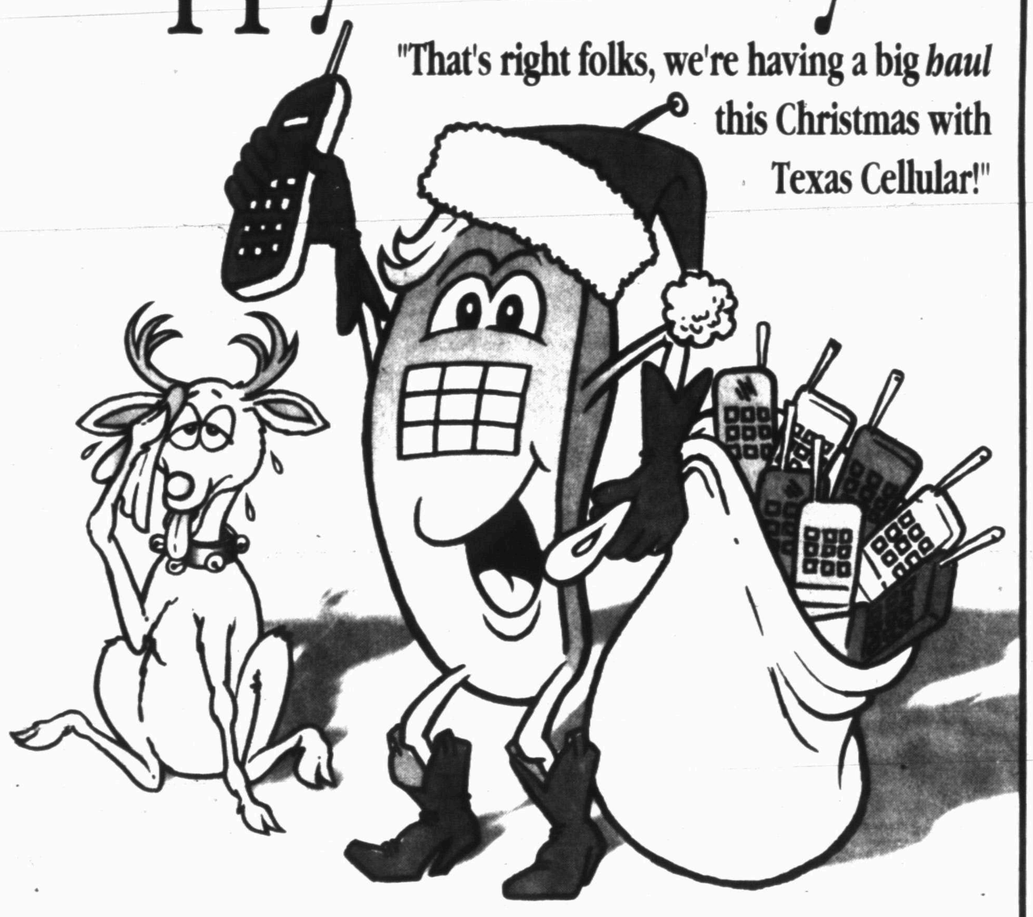

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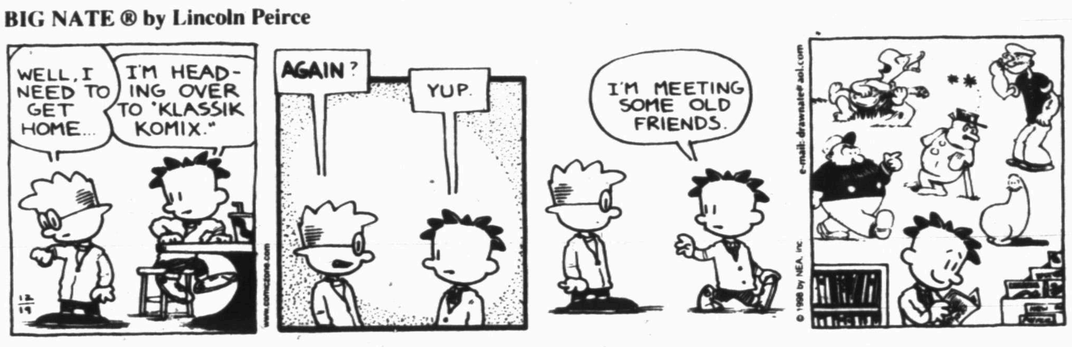

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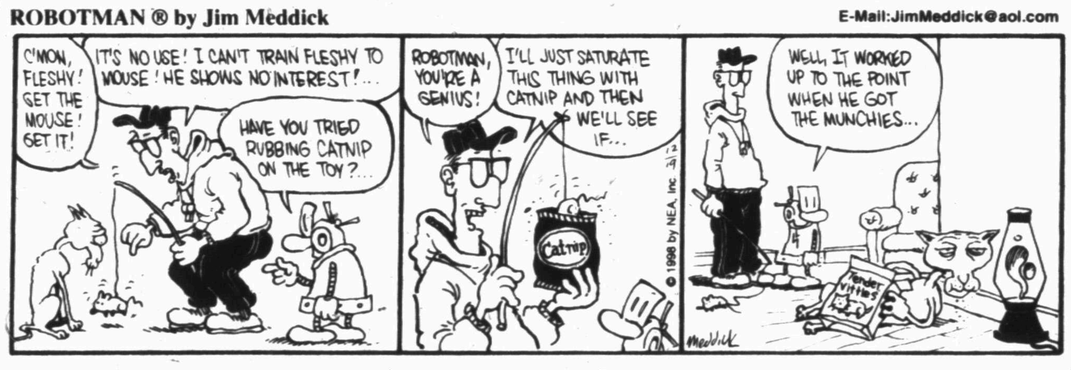

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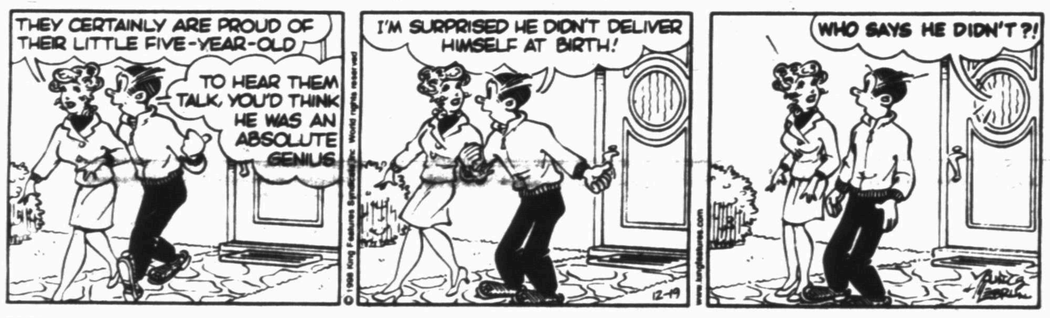

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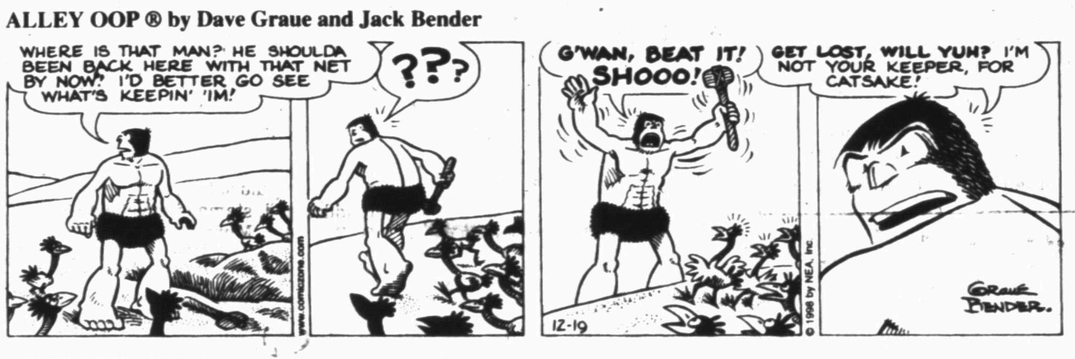

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Group of eight
6 City in Nevada
10 Free
12 Playwright O'Neill
14 Italy's place
15 Jitters
16 Wide shoe size
17 Angry
19 Emerald Isle
20 Parachute from a plane (2 wds.)
23 Happen
26 Prince Valiant's son
27 Cigar residue
30 Huge people
32 Slim
34 Movie collie
35 More uncanny
36 Dawn goddess
37 12/24 or 12/31
39 — — out
40 Cloying sentiment
42 Stretch — (long car)
45 — degree
46 I think, therefore — —
49 Self-centered person
51 Perform excessively
54 With 2-Down, singing group
55 More like a certain terrier
56 Fragrant flower
57 Obsolete

DOWN

1 Curved molding
2 See 54-Across
3 Weight allowance
4 WWII area
5 Waiter's reward
6 Regret
7 White-plumed heron
8 Birthmarks
9 Remarkable person
11 Half (pref.)
12 Sign a check
13 Ending for Japan
18 Ga.'s neighbor
20 Baker's products
21 Showier
22 Reveal
23 Amorous look
24 Hi or bye
25 Actress Peggy —
27 Inter — (among others)
28 Carbine
29 Cattle group
31 Three score and ten
33 Sea eagle
38 Have a meal
40 Works hard
41 — mein (Chinese food)
42 Moon vehicle
43 Composer Stravinsky
44 Peter Lorre role, Mr. —
46 Part of the eye
47 Citrus drinks
48 Oliver's request
50 Regard
52 CEO, e.g.
53 Time period

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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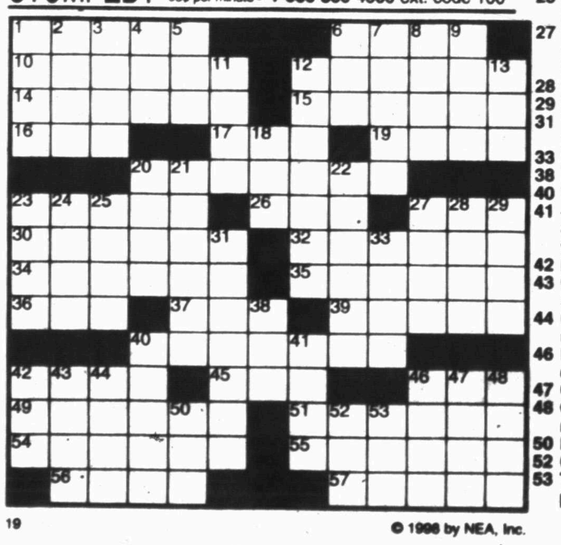

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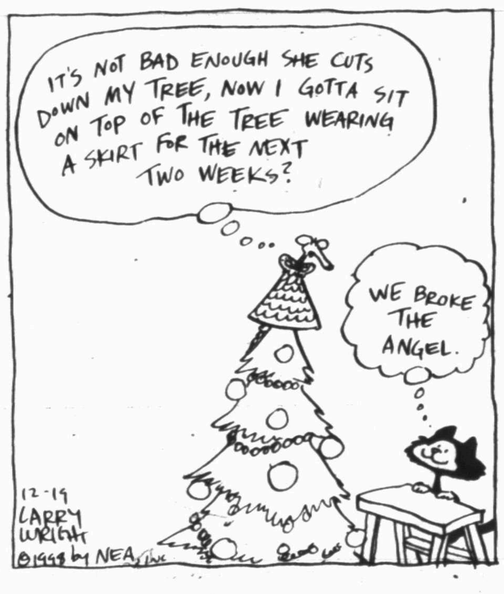
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



"How are you going to spend my dad's quarter?"

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Sorry, animal-kissers: It's not OK!

DEAR DR. GOTT: I couldn't believe the letter you published from a reader who objected to animals kissing people on the mouth. This is an animal hater!

My vet says she's never seen disease spread this way. Both my dogs have their teeth brushed regularly and have been taught not to lick themselves. I wouldn't know what to do if couldn't kiss them! As a kid, I kissed every dog I ever touched. I'd rather kiss a strange dog than a person. Stop being so anal!

DEAR READER: I respect the special affection and closeness that pet owners have for their animals, particularly the bond between dogs and their owners. I grew up with dogs and I, too, have experienced love for each unique animal. However, bacteria do not care a whit about these close relations.

The mouth is the second dirtiest bodily orifice. I don't believe that any animal, especially a cat or dog, can be "taught" not to lick itself on occasion. Such grooming is part of an animal's nature. Also, animals are not generally fastidious about what they eat and where. Therefore, I must reluctantly assume that their mouths are amply contaminated by assorted bacteria, most of which — as you pointed out — are harmless, as are the bacteria in our own mouths. Nonetheless, serious infections are recognized to be a common and dreaded consequence of dog and cat bites.

Awhile back, I took a lot of unjustified heat by insisting that normal men and women do not have to wash their hands after urinating. I was called a Communist and accused of setting human hygiene back 100 years. Now I get letters from readers who object to being told that they shouldn't kiss their pets on the mouth. There is an inconsistency here that borders on absurd irony.

I suspect that the animal-kissers are the very people who assiduously (and unnecessarily) wash their hands after relieving themselves or upon exiting a public restroom. Like it or not, you're far more likely to contract a disease by kissing animals on the mouth than by failing to wash your hands after an uncomplicated elimination.

I'm afraid that such rational thinking will not alter some pet-lovers from continuing their practice of mouth-to-mouth contact. People do not always exhibit sensible judgment. After all, we are in the grip of a cultural preoccupation with angels. Can you beat it? But that is a topic best reserved for another day.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 55-year-old friend is gradually losing her eyebrows. Her doctor tells her to eat better. What do you think?

DEAR READER: As people age, they tend to lose hair — eyebrows included. However, nutritional deficiencies, thyroid disorders and skin diseases can accelerate the process. Perhaps your friend would be relieved if the doctor were to perform some tests and give more concrete advice about diet.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Eating Right For A Healthy Heart." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: My friends and I are confused about the difference between a normal menstrual cycle and an abnormal one. What information would help our gynecologist? What should we keep track of?

DEAR READER: There is tremendous variation in the normal menstrual cycle, not only from woman to woman but for the same woman from year to year. I think that the following information would be useful to your gynecologist: The interval between your periods; the presence or absence of pain when you're not bleeding; premenstrual symptoms (such as moodiness and weight gain); the quantity and duration of menstrual bleeding; the presence and severity of cramps; and the effect of diet (particularly salt) on your cycle.

Your gynecologist may request other specific information, so be sure to ask what sort of things he or she needs to know.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I had all the signs and symptoms of appendicitis, except for an elevated white blood cell count. Although a CT scan showed an infected appendix, the doctors refused to operate. I was given antibiotics instead.

When I finally had surgery six months later, the doctor discovered that the inflammation had spread to involve the omentum and the Fallopian tube, which he also removed. Please explain this version of appendicitis.

DEAR READER: The appendix is a little sac that juts off the cecum, the first part of the large intestine. There is enormous variation in the size of appendices; some can be as small as a pencil eraser, others are as large as a forefinger.

When the appendiceal sac becomes blocked, infection may set in. This causes fever and right-lower abdominal pain. There may be an increase in white blood cells (infection fighters). However, the typical symptoms may not always be present. In particular, the white blood cell count can be normal. A CT scan is ordinarily an excellent method of diagnosing appendicitis in such instances.

The appendix lies close to other structures, such as the omentum (bowel covering) and the right Fallopian tube. Therefore, if appendectomy is delayed, other abdominal organs can become infected. Or, as a more serious consequence, the appendix may burst.

In your case, the infection was inadequately treated, and it spread. Unfortunately, surgery was delayed, causing avoidable problems. In my opinion, you should have had the operation at the time of your initial attack. In all fairness, I should point out that British physicians commonly treat acute appendicitis with just antibiotics, and their success rates equal our surgical ones.

Nevertheless, I believe that your original doctors dropped the ball; why, I don't know. Perhaps they put too much emphasis on the blood count and paid too little attention to the CT scan.

In any case, your experience did not reflect an unusual "version" of appendicitis. Rather, the treatment was ineffective and inappropriate.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "An Informed Approach to Surgery." 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've read that all embryos start out as girls and that only later in development do boys become boys. Whoa! I always thought that an embryo was either male or female at the moment of conception. Please explain.

DEAR READER: Gender is determined at the moment of conception, depending on genetic inheritance. Nevertheless, the early embryo develops the secondary sex characteristics of a girl. Later in growth, features differentiate.

If this were not the case, boys would not have nipples. OK?

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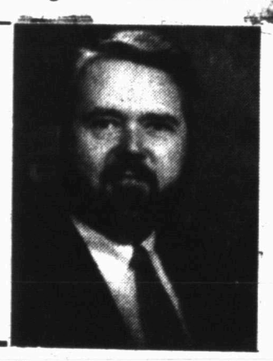
Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



A Christmas Story

The very best stories are those worth retelling. The story of Unlucky Jimmy is a Christmas classic worth sharing again.

Unlucky Jimmy is a story my mother read to me when I was a child. It's about a little boy named Jimmy whose family was very poor. His little sister was an invalid and spent most of her days in bed. Christmas held no special hope or joy for either of the children.

As he trudged home from school each day, Jimmy would stop to look at the toys in the bright store windows. More than anything he wanted a little red fire engine. Jimmy knew he would never be lucky enough to get one. In fact, his only marble had rolled down a storm drain the previous week. He felt that he was the unluckiest boy alive. He even called himself Unlucky Jimmy.

Then, one night just before Christmas, Jimmy received an invitation to a Christmas party for the poor children in the neighborhood. A nice lady from a nearby church mission promised Jimmy a special gift. Jimmy grew excited as he drew near the mission. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Christmas tree. It was covered with lights and surrounded by toys. Jimmy saw a bright red fire engine just like the one in the store window.

When it came time for each child to pick out a gift, Jimmy's heart nearly stopped. He was afraid that someone else would pick the fire engine. Fortunately, when his turn came, the little red truck was still under the tree. As Jimmy reached for the engine, he thought of his frail little sister at home in bed. He stopped and turned to the mission lady. He asked softly if he might pick two gifts, one for himself and one for his sister at home. The lady shook her head sadly and told Jimmy there were only enough presents for one for each child.

Jimmy looked longingly at the little fire engine. Then he picked out the prettiest doll under the tree. It had the blue eyes and curly blond hair just like his little sister. As he returned to his seat with the doll, the other children began to laugh and make fun of him. Unlucky Jimmy clutched the little doll and ran from the mission. He stopped crying by the time he reached home.

Jimmy began to feel better when he saw the look of surprise and delight on his sister's face. As she hugged the doll and cried with joy, Jimmy didn't feel so unlucky after all.

Later, as Jimmy sat by his little sister's bed watching her play with the doll, someone knocked on the door. When he opened it, the mission lady was there. She gave Jimmy a neatly wrapped package and explained to him that the children were sorry they had laughed at him. They had not known about his sick little sister. After she told them why Jimmy had chosen the doll, the children asked her to bring him a present. To Jimmy's delight, the package contained the most beautiful red fire engine in the whole city.

The True Meaning

I often think of Jimmy at Christmas time and usually feel a little selfish. Wouldn't this Christmas be a great time to start a "Jimmy" tradition. We can make the coming year a joyous occasion for all people by giving more of ourselves.

Share some of your blessings with someone less fortunate. Let's make this year a year of loving and giving.

Remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas is Christ's birth. Whether or not you are a Christian by faith, Christ's life of giving, sharing and caring is a good example for all.

Don Taylor is the co-author of "Up Against the Wal-Marts." You may write to him in care of Minding Your Owa Business, P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

Officials search for clues into American reporter's murder

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Investigators were combing the mountains of western Mexico for clues in the killing of an American journalist who was strangled while hiking to visit an isolated Indian tribe.

"The Mexican government condemns violence and deplores the death of Philip True, correspondent of the San Antonio Express-News," President Ernesto Zedillo said in a statement Thursday.

An autopsy showed that True, 50, was killed several days before Mexican soldiers recovered his body from a 330-foot ravine on Wednesday, said Dr. Mario Rivas Souza, chief medical examiner for Jalisco state.

Rivas Souza said True was strangled to death with a neckerchief. The body had no broken bones, indicating that it probably was dumped after death.

"It is a homicide. It is not an accident," Rivas Souza said in an interview broadcast by the Televisa television network. Before the autopsy, authorities had suspected True may have slipped and fallen into the ravine.

President Ernesto Zedillo ordered federal and state authorities "to spare no efforts" in investigating the death.

True, based in Mexico City, had hiked into the area on Nov. 29, to write an article on the Huichol Indians.

Investigators said he had been killed between five and 10 days ago, but they have no leads yet on a motive in the crime, Jalisco state Attorney General Felix Javier Ledesma Martinez said. Two special teams of investigators were sweeping the area 155 miles northwest of the state capital, Guadalajara, in the mountains of the rugged Sierra Madre Occidental.

The federal Attorney General's Office announced it was assisting in the case. Federal forensic experts took True's body to Mexico City for a second autopsy.

Authorities had been searching for True since Dec. 10, when he was due back in Mexico City.

A watch and two rings were found on the body, making robbery less likely as a motive.

His body was found half-buried on the banks of the Chapulaguna River at the bottom of the ravine known as Chapangana Canyon or Canyon de la Rana, according to a report by the Jalisco Sate Attorney General's Office.

A Huichol Indian told Frederick Chase, a friend of True who joined in the search effort, that blood stains had been found a half-hour's walk from where the body was found. Abrasions on the body indicated that it may have been dragged from another location.

The PEN International writers' group called on Zedillo to carry out "an exhaustive investigation to discover the circumstances of True's death."

In an earlier written proposal to his editors, True had told of his desire to report on the Huichol Indians.

"The Huicholes have retained a certain joy in their life. A day near a Huichol community is marked by the nearly constant sound of children laughing and playing," True wrote. "The countryside, the people and their ceremonies are breathtaking and accessible."

Born June 18, 1948, in San Fernando, Calif., True graduated from the University of California at Irvine.

"He wanted to be a teacher, but the school district wouldn't hire him unless he cut his long hair," his sister, Bonnie Biggs, of Reno, Nev., told the Express-News.

"Philip said his hair had nothing to do with his teaching ability so he didn't cut it."

Burlington Coat Factory pledges to lobby against use of cat, dog fur

BURLINGTON, N.J. (AP) — Burlington Coat Factory said Thursday it will donate $100,000 to the Humane Society of the United States and will work to stop the trade of dog and cat fur.

The nation's largest coat retailer pulled hundreds of men's parkas from its racks after the Humane Society informed it that the coats were trimmed with fur from dogs in China.

Burlington Coat said it will join the Humane Society in lobbying for legislation banning the import of dog and cat fur and requiring labeling of all fur products.

"It's time something is done," said Burlington Coat spokesman Ric Bramble. "This is our way of saying let's make something happen here."

The Humane Society said it will use the donation to continue investigating what it says is an extensive international trade in pelts of domesticated dogs and cats.

"It's a strong step in a humane direction and we applaud them for taking that step," said Wayne Pacelle, senior vice president for the Washington-based Humane Society.

The Humane Society, which opposes the use of all animal fur, is asking Burlington Coat and other retailers to pull all fur-trimmed items. Bramble said the company, with 250 stores nationwide, has no immediate plans to do so.

In a report released Tuesday, the Humane Society said millions of dogs and cats in China and other countries are being killed and the fur is making its way into the United States in products ranging from gloves and scarves to parkas and trinkets.

Pacelle said Humane Society investigators next will focus on trying to determine how much dog and cat fur is coming into the country. There is no law forbidding the use of the fur.

"We have no doubt that other major retailers are unwittingly selling this product also," Pacelle said. "The best way to solve the problem is to stop selling fur trim."

Garment manufacturers are required to disclose the type of animal used for furs valued at more than $150. The Burlington Coat parkas retailed for $89.

Labels in the Burlington Coat parkas trimmed in dog hair read "Mongolia dog fur," but the company said it was unaware of that until contacted by the Humane Society.

Restaurant chain slated in 1999

LAS VEGAS (AP) — "Baywatch" is diving into the restaurant business.

David Hasselhoff, star and producer of the syndicated beach show, is working with a group of Las Vegas investors to develop Baywatch Restaurant Cafes and Nightclubs.

The first is expected to open in Miami Beach in late 1999. Other sites under review include Las Vegas, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.

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Vote of support for troops, not Clinton

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Congress rallies in support of American forces sent into action abroad, the salute sometimes shields dissent about the policy that put them there.

Not this time: The policy wasn't the issue. The president was.

So the House vote of support for U.S. forces striking Iraq on President Clinton's orders backed the mission, but not the man. It also urged a policy designed to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

There was only a murmur of dissent during two hours of debate, and the vote was 417 for to 5 against, as the House dealt with a resolution on the Iraqi operation Thursday, the day it was to have begun action on impeachment against Clinton.

"The coincidence of that legislation and the actions of our government is unique," Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., the incoming House speaker, said in temporarily putting off impeachment action after Clinton ordered the air strikes against Iraq.

Unique circumstances, but a standard congressional answer, the vote for the troops. Indeed the debates that prefaced it all eight years ago were framed that way after President Bush sent troops to the Persian Gulf to counter the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In 1990, it was the Democrats who said they supported the troops, not necessarily the Bush policies that could send them into war. Bush got congressional approval for the use of force, but over Democratic opposition and by only five votes in the Senate.

Defeated, Iraq had to accept U.N. inspections against weapons of mass destruction, a point of recurring crisis since — and also a point of periodic Republican pressure on the White House to strike back.

Clinton ordered air strikes on Nov. 14, but called them back after takeoff when Saddam Hussein agreed to stop interfering with weapons inspectors. When it happened again, he ordered the air raids that began Wednesday night.

That put GOP critics of his timing in a somewhat strained position.

Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, the majority leader, said he had been assured by the administration that there was no connection with the impending impeachment debate, but "I cannot support this military action in the Persian Gulf at this time."

But Lott also said all Americans "fully support our troops in battle."

Rep. Gerald Solomon of New York called Clinton desperate,

AP analysis

flatly accusing him of using Iraq to delay impeachment. But later, in House debate on the resolution, he said that anyone can "perhaps be critical of the timing of the attack" but not of the need for it.

"It had to be now," said Sen. John Warner, R-Va., soon to be chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"That was the right night," said Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind. "That was the right strike."

Retiring House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia said that to have refrained would have emboldened dictators who should know that even in "chaos and conflict and turmoil," over an issue as divisive as impeachment, Americans will unite when threatened from abroad.

So the ritual of supporting the troops ratified a consensus about dealing with Iraq. The mixed message is about Clinton, not what he did against Iraq.

Votes of support for U.S. forces often have been a way around endorsing the administration course — in sending troops to Bosnia, for example, and in threatening intervention in Haiti.

Even when the Senate was voting to restrict spending on the Vietnam war 25 years ago, the action was coupled with votes expressing support for the troops there.

The congressional role in the era of undeclared wars — all of them since World War II — has become ill-defined. That issue was raised in the House debate on the Iraq raids, with complaints that Congress has long since ceded its war powers to the White House.

It has. Presidents decide on swift deployments and air strikes. And that won't matter as this Congress decides on this president.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Walter R. Mears, vice president and columnist for The Associated Press, has reported on Washington and national politics for more than 30 years.

Nuke waste burial site plans should continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department concluded Friday work should proceed in the development of an underground disposal site in Nevada for highly radioactive nuclear waste, though acknowledging some uncertainties remain.

"No show stoppers have been identified to date," said the interim report on the proposed Yucca Mountain waste facility in the Nevada desert, which has been under study for nearly a dozen years.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson cautioned that the report was not a final decision, but an attempt to outline progress to date and to determine what issues remain to be resolved before final action is made in 2001 on the site's suitability.

"Uncertainties still remain," said Richardson. "...We need to continue to study Yucca Mountain" to determine whether it can be designed to "protect the health and safety of the public and the environment for thousands of years."

The Nevada site, on a desert ridge 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, has been studied for 11 years at the cost of $2.2 billion to determine whether its geology can isolate more than 80,000 tons of used reactor fuel for 250,000 years or more.

Critics, including a number of environmental organizations, recently urged the department to scuttle the project. They cited studies by outside scientists that raise the possibility that radioactive material might seep into groundwater during the many centuries the waste will remain dangerous. Other scientists have raised potential problems with earthquakes and volcanic activity.

The interim report said, while "uncertainties remain about key natural processes, the preliminary design, and how the site and the design would work together" these issues can be resolved, and work on the project should proceed.

Noting that the facility would hold radioactive waste for centuries, the interim report said, "The performance ... over such long time periods cannot be proven beyond all doubt."

It continued, "While considerable uncertainties remain Friday, DOE believes that reasonable assurance should be achievable in the licensing process after the planned work is completed."

Even if it passes scientific muster, the facility — which would entomb the nuclear material in a system of tunnels 800 feet underground — will not be completed until 2010 at the earliest.

Richardson said that while the interim study — known as a "viability assessment" — "reveals no show stoppers" to date, more technical work will be conducted to try to improve its design and resolve some of the issues about water flow and waste packaging that have been raised.

"Friday's document indicates we need to continue to study Yucca Mountain so that the secretary of energy can decide in 2001 whether to recommend the site to the president," said Richardson. "These decisions will be based on science and the merits and not on politics."

Over three decades, the government has spent almost $6 billion in its search for a permanent site for keeping radioactive waste. In 1987, Congress limited the search to Yucca Mountain. Since then, about $2.2 billion has been spent in research, including construction of a five-mile tunnel into the mountain.

Nixon first wanted Baker for Rehnquist's seat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Then-Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., was President Nixon's first choice for the Supreme Court vacancy that eventually went to the current chief justice, William H. Rehnquist, according to evidence presented in court.

The revelation is contained in Nixon White House tapes, disclosed for the first time as part of lawsuit by the former president's estate seeking $210 million from the government in compensation for his papers, tapes and photos.

Appraiser Steve Johnson, testifying Thursday on behalf of the estate in U.S. District Court, said he spent 150 hours listening to selected tapes at the National Archives and preparing notes for the trial.

Among them was an Oct. 21, 1971, conversation between Nixon and Attorney General John Mitchell.

"The president talks with Mitchell about Baker as the president's first choice for Supreme Court nominee, but the president then changes his preference to Rehnquist while Mitchell is trying to contact Baker about his response to the offer," Johnson said in his notes. "Baker calls back later than scheduled with a positive response. Too late for the president."

Nixon announced his selection of Rehnquist for the post that same day. Rehnquist was sworn in as an associate judge in 1972, and 15 years later became chief justice.

The case is the latest in a series of lawsuits over Nixon's collection of 42 million pages, 3,700 hours of secretly recorded tapes and thousands of photographs.

After Nixon resigned in 1974 to avoid impeachment over Watergate, Congress passed a law seizing what he left behind and putting it in the National Archives. That legislation also determined that future presidents' documents would belong to the government after they left office.

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