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WT-Int. Crude - $26.60
WTIC Posted - $23.00
Natural Gas - $9.830

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 27, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 205
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Tracy Hunter

Winter weather still has its grip on area

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Highways throughout Scurry County were open this morning, although extreme care is urged for anyone traveling.

U.S. 84, which had been closed Monday, was open Tuesday, but travel is discouraged.

One Snyder resident said it took him 4½ hours to make the trip from Lubbock on Tuesday.

Three accidents were investigated on Highway 84 Tuesday, as compared to 13 Monday. Four minor accidents were also reported in Snyder on Tuesday.

Travel on I-20 around Sweetwater remained treacherous this morning as traffic was moving, but very slowly.

"It's not good at all around here," said a Nolan County sheriff's dispatcher.

Around Big Spring, traffic on I-20 seemed to be about the same.

"Traffic is moving better than what it was Tuesday, but not very fast. Everything is sanded down, but there is still some ice," a Howard County dispatcher reported.

But Scurry County is certainly not alone with its weather woes.

The storm that dumped more than a foot of snow on parts of the Panhandle, glazed parts of North Texas with a tree-toppling coat of ice and brought flooding rains to parts of East Texas could linger until Thursday afternoon, weather officials said.

The culprit is a storm system centered over New Mexico that has been slow to move out of the region.

"It's been some time since we've seen a prolonged weather event," said Chris Buonanno, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

On Tuesday, the storm knocked out power to about 108,000 residents and caused numerous traffic accidents and flight delays in the Metroplex. Authorities said rain-slickened roads may have led to a four-car accident in East Texas that killed five people and a wreck in San Jacinto County that killed four.

National Weather Service officials said as much as a quarter inch of ice could create ice-rink conditions across North Texas, while snow 20 inches deep could bury the Panhandle before the storm pulls away.

Matt Ham, a security officer patrolling a truck stop along Interstate 40 in Amarillo Tuesday night, said snowdrifts already were up to his knees.

"It's real deep, messy. I wouldn't advise coming out here," he said. "I'm finding a lot of stuck vehicles."

State troopers and members of the National Guard were deployed to rescue motorists stranded on the snow-packed roads in the Panhandle.

Meanwhile, residents in northern areas of North and East Texas were without electricity after freezing rain and sleet snapped power lines and tree limbs. The outages stretched about 300 miles from Montague County to the Arkansas-Texas border.

There have been no reported utility outages in Snyder due to the weather.

Scott McCloud, a spokesman for AEP/Southwestern Electric Power, said crews were working repair transmission lines. He said the lines must be fixed before work can start on restoring service to homes and businesses to its customers in northeastern Texas.

McCloud said about 60,000 customers did not have electricity, and it could be as long as 10 days after the transmission lines are back up and the weather clears before customers can again turn on their lights.

TXU Electric and Gas spokesman Phillip Roth said 35,000 customers in North Texas counties along the Red River were without electricity. About 8,000 Grayson Collin Electric Co-op customers north of Dallas were in the dark.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Tuesday, 738 American Airlines and American Eagle flights were canceled Tuesday.



BUSY PLACE — The Scurry County sheriff dispatcher's office has been busy over the holidays dispatching DPS troopers and EMS personnel to accidents caused by icy road conditions. Kristin Gunset, left, and Sudie Duck look over the latest weather information this morning. Other dispatchers are Linda Overhulser and Norma Martinez. (SDN Staff Photo)

Sikes leaves taxing job

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

After four terms as Scurry County's tax collector and several years of service prior, Rona Sikes is retiring.

She was elected to the position in 1984 and began her duties Jan. 1, 1985.

Sikes went to work for the county in 1953, working as a deputy tax collector for five years.

During that time, she worked under tax collectors Jim Inkard and Geral Greene.

In 1958, she left the position to become a full-time mother.

Sikes substituted in local schools from 1966 through 1973, and then served as a teacher's aide from 1973 until 1978.

"In 1978, I came back to the courthouse and worked as deputy tax collector until 1985."

During her second stint as a deputy tax collector, Sikes worked under Clarence Minton and Eloise Morgan, the first lady tax collector.

Sikes was born and reared in Fluvanna, graduating from Fluvanna High School in 1951.

She attended McMurry College, now a university, in Abilene for two years before going to work for the tax office in 1953.

She and husband, Bill, have two sons and daughters-in-law. Kyle and Melony live in San Angelo while Dray and Melissa and their two daughters, Cortni and Christina, live in Tyler.

Over the years, Sikes has seen a great deal of changes — and most for the better.

Technological advances have made the duties in the tax office a little more bearable.

"Everything was manual," she said of the early days. "We typed the tax rolls, and there was no appraisal district in the 1950s when I came to work. People rendered their property."

In other words, it was left to the citizens to come in and tell you what they had, she explained.

"We hand wrote all the receipts in big bound books. We had carbon copies, and we kept one and gave you one."

The tax collection part of her office went to complete automation in 1985.

"That saved time and improved accuracy," Sikes said. "To me, that is the best thing about computers — the accuracy. You're still going to have errors, but it's not like typing it up or writing it out."

The vehicle registration section of the office was not networked until 1995.

"In 1995, the vehicle registration was totally automated from Austin to all 254 counties in Texas. That was a big change, a good change. It's wonderful."

She said prior to that, the office had a small in-house system that allowed the staff to give receipts, but it was not tied into state records.

"But it was better than a typewriter," she said.

After retirement, Sikes said she plans to do volunteer work as well as a little fishing with her husband.

"I appreciate the privilege of serving the people of Scurry County," she said. "I am very sincere about that. It has been a privilege. I think it is an honor to be an elected official."

"I've had a very great staff all the years I have been here. I also thank the people. I think the people of Scurry County are the best there are."

Hospital board to meet

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's board of managers will meet Thursday morning at 8 o'clock.

The board will consider the approval of a compensation plan for hospital employees – an item the administration has been working on since July.

George Parsley, CEO, said this morning that he felt the plan would be fair to all employees.

"No one will be losing any money," said Parsley. "And the total amount of money involved is within our 2001 budget."

Presently, the hospital is operating under several pay plans, or pay scales, and this is an attempt by the board to "level things out."

"Most other hospitals are having to do the same thing," said Parsley.

Other agenda items include approval of appointments and reappointments to the hospital staff. This is an annual item on the board's agenda.

The board will also consider adopting resolutions seeking grants for hospital equipment. The grants total $160,823 and will be used to purchase two mobile x-ray units, and an electrical distribution panel for the newly-renovated radiological department.

The meeting will be in the hospital's boardroom.



RETIREMENT RECEPTION — Rona Sikes, Scurry County tax collector is retiring after four terms in office. Diana Williamson is her successor. She was elected to the position in November and will take office Jan. 1. Sikes, right, is pictured with Coke County tax collector-assessor Kristeen Roe. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Somebody was right when they said, 'Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.'"

Christmas served an additional good reason this year. It temporarily got everybody's mind off of politics and the presidential election.

The best Christmas present for comics was a gift from the sunshine state of Florida.

Florida jokes have replaced Aggie jokes in popularity. Here is a sample of the best:

—"Don't blame me," declares a bumper sticker seen on a Florida car. "I voted for both of them."

—"Last night Vice President Al Gore addressed the nation. A lot of folks in Palm Beach missed it because they couldn't find the right channel on their remotes.

—"All week long, because of the election screw-up down there in Palm Beach, the citizens have been asking themselves the same question over and over again: 'What would Matlock do?'"

—"The voters in Palm Beach County are complaining of irregularities. They also are saying the vote was not fair."

—"I haven't seen people in Florida this mad since Metamucil switched to the child-proof cap."

—"To the tune of Hokey-Pokey. 'You put your stylus in/You put your stylus out/You put your stylus in/And you punch Buchanan out?/You do the Palm Beach Pokey/And you turn the count around/And that's what it's all about!'"

From the top 15 excuses for Holding Up the election:

"Ballot inspectors are stuck behind blue-haired drivers going 20 mph in the wrong lane with a turn signal constantly on."

—Headline in Miami-Dade County "Holiday shopping season abruptly halted; no chance of meeting Dec. 25 deadline."

—"In Orlando, the Seven Dwarfs are claiming they couldn't reach the ballot box."

—"The next election in Florida will be better. People will be able to use the clapper to vote."

—"They're still counting absentee ballots in some places. Well, just today, seven votes came in for Michael Dukakis."

—A photo cartoon displays other confusing things about Florida, including traffic lights that turn blue, One Way signs pointing in both directions, and stores proclaiming they're Clopen.

ASK US

Q—Will Texas Tech's bowl game tonight be televised?

A—Yes, but only on ESPN2. And that channel is not presently available from our local cable company.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 25 degrees; low, 21; reading at 7 a.m. Wednesday, 25. Precipitation, .02 of an inch. Total for 2000 to date: 21.43 inches.

Area Forecast: 20% chance of snow with decreasing cloudiness by late afternoon. Tonight, clear and cold with lows near 20. Thursday, sunny and warmer. High, mid 40s.



Sunset:
5:50 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:42 a.m.
Of 361 days in 2000, the sun has shone 351 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I have my faults. But being wrong ain't one of them.
—Jimmy Hoffa

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Good laugh goes a long way in healthy, lovingy relationship

DEAR ABBY: In the continuing saga of how men are different from women, let me share this with you.

Peter, my significant other, was involved in a men's counseling group. One of the topics about which they were to report back during their next meeting was "What Women Want From Men in Their Relationships." Members of the group discussed reading the "Women Seeking Men" personal ads to get a better understanding of what women want. (Pretty ingenious if you think about it!)

I told Peter he should do some home study and ask me. I explained that women need to feel loved, wanted, beautiful and needed by their partner. I was in the only bathroom of our home putting the finishing touches on my face, and I asked Peter if he thought he had recently met these qualities in our relationship.

His clever reply was: "I LOVED you last night. I WANTED you to make coffee this morning. You look BEAUTIFUL today — and I NEED you to get out of the bathroom RIGHT NOW!"

May I add that one important quality women need from men in a relationship is HUMOR. Humor makes anything possible — and I thank the Lord that my darling has it in abundance. — **SUSAN IN SANTA FE, N.M.**

DEAR SUSAN: Peter got his message across, so he is a skilled communicator. And because he's in a counseling group, it's apparent he's interested in personal growth. I think you've found a "keeper."

**

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old daughter, "Amber," stays home one or two hours by herself after school until I return home from work. She has rules to go by; however, she has been known to break them.

Amber answers the door when she shouldn't and leaves the door unlocked. She doesn't take seriously the bad things that can happen to her.

I have an idea that may put her in touch with reality. I'm thinking of asking a male friend to go to my house and knock on the door — which I know Amber will answer. At that time, my friend would pretend to be a pushy salesman. He would insist on coming into the house and waiting for her mother. That's as far as I've gotten.

Is this a bad idea? I don't want to scare her into having nightmares, but I want her to know how important it is to be wary of strangers and to follow the rules. — **CONCERNED KNOXVILLE MOM**

DEAR CONCERNED: Yes, it's a bad idea. I know it's tempting, but such a ruse would be dishonest and potentially traumatizing. When your daughter discovers you play "tricks," it might give her a false sense of security. Also, your credibility would be damaged for years to come, and your daughter would always wonder what kind of trick you would pull next — and I wouldn't blame her.

**

DEAR ABBY: If you think your husband is cheating with another woman, do you think it's all right for the wife to ask the woman if she's having an affair with her husband? — **WIFE OF A WANDERING HUSBAND**

DEAR WIFE: Absolutely. And who knows? She may be delighted to give you chapter and verse.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY MUSLIM READERS: Happy Eid Al-Addah.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, 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, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Pay cut involved in shooting

WAKEFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A soft are engineer who allegedly gunned down seven co-workers at their Internet consulting company may have been upset by a request to trim his wages to repay back taxes after the holidays, authorities said.

Michael McDermott, 42, wielded a semiautomatic rifle, a shotgun and a pistol as he made his way through the offices of Edgewater Technology on Tuesday, leaving in his wake shell casings, bodies and bullets, prosecutors said.

Some of the four women and three men killed worked in the accounting department, which was recently served with an order from the Internal Revenue Service to begin to garnishee McDermott's wages. Last week, he had an angry outburst over the dispute, said one employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"Everything appears to be targeted at the individuals, rather than indiscriminate spraying of gunfire," said Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley.

McDermott was scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in Malden District Court on seven counts of murder.

The company had recently agreed to the IRS order but had agreed to wait until after the holidays to start taking out what McDermott owed in back taxes, plus interest, Coakley said. A person familiar with the IRS order who did not want to be identified said the amount owed was "a couple thousand" dollars.

In a statement, the company said McDermott's actions "apparently stem from occurrences in his personal life."

"There was no way to anticipate his actions or any apparent reasons to restrict his access to the building," the company said.

Coakley said McDermott did not have a permit for any of the weapons he was carrying. She said he had no prior criminal record.

Police found McDermott sitting silently in the reception area, a body nearby, his weapons within reach. He was arrested without gunfire. Coworkers and neighbors described the former U.S. Navy submarine electrician as quiet, surly and quirky.

Defense attorney Kevin Reddington, who met with McDermott, was hired by McDermott's family.

"They are a very nice family. Obviously they are very distraught," he told the Boston Herald. "But they are standing by and supporting their son and brother. ... Everybody is stricken over the enormity of these circumstances."

McDermott was a software tester who had worked at the company since March, said Mike Stanley, a team projects leader. He said McDermott recently had been coming in late and his performance wasn't as good as it could have been, but declined to elaborate.

"He had nothing to do with any of them," Stanley said.

Death toll reaches 309 from fire in China shopping mall

LUOYANG, China (AP) — Crying relatives today scanned lists of victims from a Christmas night shopping mall fire that killed 309 people, as authorities questioned the building's operators and put them under surveillance.

With investigators uncovering a three-year history of safety violations in the building, Premier Zhu Rongji and Vice President Hu Jintao in Beijing "ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the fire and severe punishment of those responsible," China Central Television reported.

Most of the fire's victims came from an unlicensed disco on the top floor of the building, where hundreds of revelers at a Christmas party became trapped when smoke from the fire in shops on lower floors engulfed the club.

Police questioned 20 people connected to the fire and put them under close watch — a status that could include restrictions on their movement — state television reported, without identifying them. A spokesman for Luoyoung city said persons "responsible for the building" were among those questioned.

The government's response to the blaze in this central China city underscored its concern about popular dissatisfaction over rampant disregard for public safety.

The shopping center, called the Dongdu Commercial Building, was declared unsafe three years ago but never made fire safety improvements, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The fourth-floor disco lacked fire prevention equipment and emergency exits, the report said. Though flames only reached the first-floor lobby, smoke rushed quickly up stairwells, suffocating trapped partygoers, Xinhua said. The floors below house businesses, including a new supermarket.

Of the two disco exits, one was filled with smoke and the other was hidden from view behind the bar, according to survivors cited by local newspaper Web sites. Smoke also prevented firefighters from getting inside, and panicked patrons hung out windows and balconies hoping for rescue.

Wang Weihong, an eyewitness quoted by the Southern Daily newspaper's Web site, said she and her boyfriend survived the fire by smashing the window in a private back room of the disco and were rescued by firefighters at 1 a.m., a half-hour after the fire was put out. Three others in the room succumbed to the smoke and died, the Web site reported.

The other victims came from a group of construction workers working on renovations elsewhere in the building. Construction workers in China often work around the clock, and at least 100 were at work when the fire occurred, the Southern Daily reported.

Scores of people filed into a makeshift government office in the downtown Luoyang Hotel for word on family members.

Four teens suspected in fire that burned over 600 acres

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Four teen-agers were cited for allegedly starting a blaze that spread over 600 acres and surged within 100 feet of luxury homes.

The fire erupted early Tuesday and spread quickly in the powerful Santa Ana wind before it was fully contained 16 hours later with no homes lost, Ventura County Fire Department spokeswoman Sandi Wells said.

Two 16-year-old boys, a 17-year-old and Chad Montagnino, 18, were arrested on suspicion of carelessly causing a fire, sheriff's Sgt. Ron Nelson said. They also were booked on suspicion of taking a vehicle without the owner's permission, said Detective J.T. Manwell.

The vehicle, a van that belonged to the mother of one of the boys and had been reported stolen, became stuck in rugged terrain and ignited dry brush, Nelson said.

More than 600 firefighters aided by water-dropping helicopters and retardant-dropping air tankers battled the flames in the city of 120,000 about 40 miles west of Los Angeles.

Bush fishes, works in Florida vacation

BOCA GRANDE, Fla. (AP) — Surrounded by family, President-elect Bush is unwinding at an island resort renowned for its fishing. But with his transition cut short by the election recount in this state, Bush is also working on building a new administration.

"I'm obviously mindful of the fact that time is running short," he said as he boarded his airplane in Austin on Tuesday morning. "We've done a very good job, I think, given the fact that over 30 days were taken out of the process."

Bush conferred by telephone Tuesday with Vice President-elect Dick Cheney and Andrew Card, who will be his White House chief of staff. He wedged in a 21/2-hour game of golf as well.

Bush returns to Washington, D.C., on Thursday morning for two days of meetings, and possibly announcements, on his new Cabinet, which is about half completed.

Asked about his Florida agenda, Bush said he planned "a little relaxation, a lot of phone calls."

Wednesday morning, the focus was on fishing, the sport that has drawn the Bush family here for years. Boca Grande, on a tiny Gulf Coast spit of land called Gasparilla Island, is known as the nation's capital of tarpon, a prized sport fish that can weigh more than 300 pounds.

Much of the Bush clan is on the island, staying at the Gasparilla Inn, a stately Victorian manor with a colony of guest houses and an adjacent golf course.

Bush played golf Tuesday with brother Jeb, the governor of Florida; brother-in-law Bobby Cook; and Jeb's son, George P. Bush. Other family members walked the course with them, including brothers Marvin and Neil; their father, former President Bush, who used a cane following recent hip-replacement surgery; and former first lady Barbara Bush.

One of Bush's twin daughters, Barbara, was here. The other, Jenna, stayed in Texas, with her mother, to recover from an appendectomy performed Christmas night. She was released from an Austin hospital Tuesday afternoon, and Bush said it was possible she would join the family in Florida on Wednesday.

"She's feeling great," Bush said.

It was his first trip to the state since the election recount here stalled his claim on the presidency for five weeks.

It was also one of the last breaks he will get before moving into the White House.

Arriving at the Charlotte County, Fla., airport Tuesday, Bush gave a hearty wave goodbye to reporters and photographers recording the event.

Journalists traveling with Bush were housed an hour and a half away from the president-elect.

Nor did area residents and tourists pester the family.

"The reason the Bushes come here year after year is because no one bothers them," said Viola Dyer, owner of the Boca Rico Mexican restaurant on the island's main drag.

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000

Today is the 362nd day of 2000 and the seventh day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1845, ether was used for the first time to relieve the pain of childbirth.

On this day in 1947, "Howdy Doody Time" premiered on television.

On this day in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), astronomer; Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), scientist; Sydney Greenstreet (1879-1954), actor; Marlene Dietrich (1901-1992), actress; Oscar Levant (1906-1972), musician-actor; William H. Masters (1915-), physician, is 85; Lee Salk (1926-), psychologist, is 74; Gerard Depardieu (1948-), actor, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, the Cleveland Browns won the NFL title by defeating the Baltimore Colts 27-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Strip away the phony tinsel of Hollywood and you'll find the real tinsel underneath." — Oscar Levant

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 25) and first quarter (Jan. 2)

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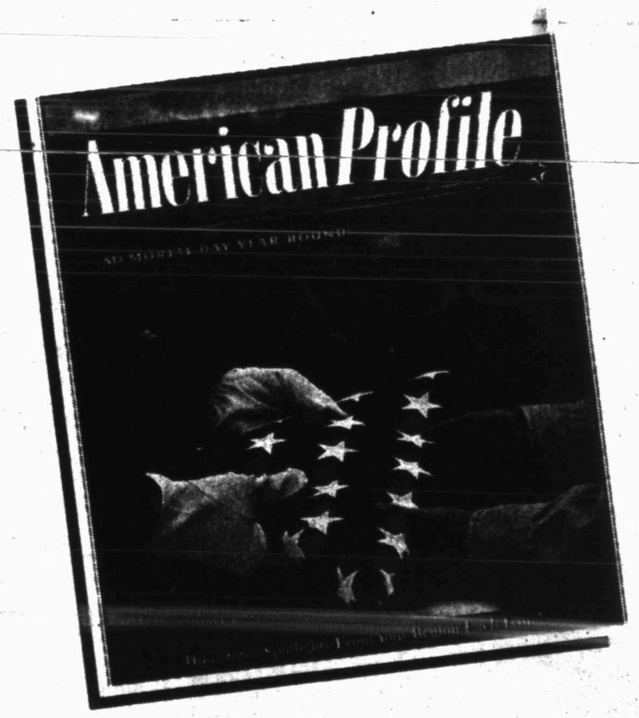

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Staying together not typical for escapees

DALLAS (AP) — A gang of seven Texas inmates who escaped two weeks ago and now are wanted in the murder of an Irving police officer in a Christmas Eve holdup took an unusual approach after their prison escape — stay together.

The tactic has surprised many in the law enforcement community, who say prisoners usually part ways after breaking out.

"It's not typical at all. A lot of the previous history that we've had with escapes, even if it is well-planned, their activities once outside the fences are not as well planned," John McAuliffe, inspector general for Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said Tuesday.

The convicts used a meticulous plan Dec. 13 to break out of the Connally Unit in Kenedy, a maximum-security state prison ringed with razor wire about 60 miles southeast of San Antonio.

Posing as prison workers, they tied up prison employees, stole their clothes and escaped with an arsenal of 14 pistols, a loaded shotgun, a loaded rifle and 238 rounds of ammunition. They also left a note warning: "You haven't heard the last of us yet."

On Christmas Eve, Irving police Officer Aubry Hawkins, 29 was shot and killed investigating a robbery at a sporting goods store in Irving. The next day, capital murder warrants were issued for the seven escapees.

"The fact that they're still together and still disciplined and capable of carrying out such a violent crime was a surprise, but the fact that they surfaced again was not totally unexpected," McAuliffe said.

The escaped convicts were behind bars for murders, rapes and robberies across Texas and were serving sentences ranging from 30 years to life. They were seen as well-armed and desperate.

"This one coupled with the violence and the numbers of them and the weapons they have is pretty much unprecedented in our experience in dealing with escapes," McAuliffe said. "They've generated a discipline among themselves and a loyalty that has held up since Dec. 13."

Criminal Justice officials confirmed Tuesday that blood was found in the sport utility vehicle stolen from an Oshman's employee after Sunday's robbery, Dallas television station WFAA reported. The blood could mean that Hawkins wounded one of the suspects or they were injured in the robbery.

The FBI and state and local police departments continue hunting for the men.

Officers surrounded an Arlington hotel Tuesday acting on a tip that some of the escapees might be inside. Irving police spokesman David Tull said officers talked to the men and determined it was a case of mistaken identity.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Heed signs and ask for more testing

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a factory worker and smoker, age 45, who coughed up flecks of blood on two occasions last month. My doctor initially stated that I probably had a sinus infection and prescribed antibiotics. A week later, I coughed up more blood and she ordered a chest X-ray that was normal. Because I live in a city known for its industrial air pollution, I'm frightened. Should I undergo further testing?

DEAR READER: In my opinion, yes. Coughing up blood (hemoptysis) should be for doctors what the check engine light is for auto mechanics. The abnormality may indicate a serious lung disease, such as infection or cancer — especially in a smoker who is also exposed to air pollution. The prudent physician would not be satisfied with a normal chest X-ray, especially since you had two episodes of hemoptysis. Of course, this symptom could reflect sinus disease or bronchial problems as well. But I would first direct my attention to the lungs.

To that end, I advise at least two further tests: CT scanning and bronchoscopy.

The CT scan, a type of X-ray examination, will often reveal subtle pulmonary abnormalities that are virtually invisible on standard X-ray films. Such scanning is a good way to identify small tumors or other causes of hemoptysis. Bronchoscopy, during which a specialist passes a thin fiber-optic tube down the trachea and into the bronchial passages, enables a specialist to see the bronchial linings and check them for bleeding points. In addition, biopsies can be obtained, if necessary, during the procedure.

I share your concern. Ask your physician to order the appropriate testing and to refer you to the proper specialist.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Living with Chronic Lung Disease." 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: Because of severe ulcerative colitis, my husband had his rectum and part of his colon removed in 1983. Now he successfully uses a colostomy bag but we are worried about prostate cancer. Since he cannot undergo the standard digital rectal exam, how can we determine if his prostate is healthy?

DEAR READER: This is an interesting question and I'm not sure I have a satisfactory answer. Doctors rely heavily on the rectal examination to identify prostate swelling or nodules that could be cancerous. In your husband's case, this is impossible because of his bowel surgery. Therefore, I believe that he will have to be content with a periodic blood test called the Prostatic Specific Antigen. This test is now in universal use and enables doctors to monitor men for prostate cancer and to act as a guide in following men who have had this disease. The PSA test should routinely be obtained in all men over 50 years of age. Your husband should ask his primary care physician about this.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-27-00
♠ A 10 9 2
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 2

West
♠ 8 5 4
♥ 4 2
♦ Q J 9 5 4
♣ J 9 4

East
♠ 7
♥ K J 10 9 6 5
♦ A 8
♣ 8 6 5 3

South
♠ K Q J 6 3
♥ 3
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ A Q 7

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000

The charitable play did not cost

By Phillip Alder

Worldwide during the year, there are many charity bridge events. This deal occurred in London in 1987, in an event that raised over 10,000 pounds for the Prince's Trust, which helps those aged 14-30 to develop confidence, learn new skills, and get into work. How should the play go in six spades after West leads a trump?

Responder's second-round jump to game in partner's major showed 13-15 points with at least four trumps. The British call this a delayed game raise. With an apparent double black-suit fit, South launched into Blackwood. East did well not to make a lead-directing double of five hearts; a trump attack is easily best.

If West holds the diamond ace, the contract cannot be made. So, South should assume East holds this key card. At the table, South won trick one in hand, crossed to dummy with a trump, and called for a diamond. East ducked, but declarer put up his king, then exited with a diamond. As East was forced to win the trick, South could win the club switch and ruff both his diamond losers in the dummy to land the slam.

East missed a chance to defeat the contract. When declarer crossed to dummy at trick two, he should have discarded the diamond ace. It is hard to believe that he missed such an obvious play! (Yes, that's a joke.) That discard allows West to get on lead to play a lethal third trump.

South shouldn't have given East an opportunity to get into the newspaper. He should have won trick one in the dummy and immediately led a diamond.

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Houston's cruise ship business faces storm

HOUSTON (AP) — The cruise business in the Port of Houston has hit rough waters.

A combination of businesses jumping ship for other ports and others sunk in red ink could scuttle the city's fledgling cruise business three years after it started.

The last cruise out of the port appears to be Sunday when Norwegian Cruise Line makes it last departure out of Houston before heading to Miami in January.

Norwegian is the last operator at the port's cruise ship terminal at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal, which was built in 1997 for $3 million.

In September, the port lost the Big Red Boats of Florida-based Premier Cruise Lines. The company had five ships seized by creditors after a four-month foray into Gulf cruises.

And rather than holding cruise ships, the terminal ocean liners called on will be filled with cars. The Port of Houston plans turn it into parking lot and distribution point for imported cars.

Despite the port's problems keeping a cruise line afloat, officials remain hopeful plans the nation's second largest port is fit for passenger business.

"I think we'll get some cruise ships back in Houston," Port Chairman James Edmonds was quoted by the Houston Chronicle Wednesday."I really think that we've proven to that industry that there is a good market here."

Edmonds said the short-lived cruises were a treasure trove that more than made up for the port's $3 million investment three years ago. Cruise ship associations estimate that one ship pumped more than $40 million a year into the local economy over the past three years.

When Norwegian's ocean liner, the Norwegian Sea, and Premier's Big Red Boats left port, they were always booked, Edmonds said.

"There's nothing that was done there that was a waste," said John Scardasis, the Port's operations director.

Although the port has yet to find another cruise line willing to sail out of Houston, the port authority plans to build five berths for cruise ships at its proposed Bayport Terminal.

But Houston's plans could be broadsided by the neighboring port in Galveston.

As Houston was losing its two cruise line partners, Galveston was gaining two.

Royal Caribbean International plans to bring the Rhapsody of the Seas to Galveston in October for nine voyages. Carnival Cruise Lines began sailing its Celebration out of the island port in September.

The best solution may come if the ports complete a proposed merger next spring, Edmonds said.

Cruise ship companies would be able to chose which port they want to operate out of and more importantly, ocean liners would be back in Houston.

"If they want to be in Houston, fine," said Edmonds. "If they want to be in Galveston, fine. We just want to be in the business."

Mission Control regains hold

MOSCOW (AP) — Mission Control has regained a firm hold on the Mir space station after a sudden loss of radio contact, Russian officials said today, allaying fears of an uncontrolled plunge by the aging orbiter.

"We are maintaining full control of the station," Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin said in a telephone interview.

Space officials blamed their 20-hour loss of contact with the unmanned station on an abrupt and unexplained power loss. But after the link with the station was restored Tuesday, they said there was no immediate need to send a rescue crew or speed up Mir's descent, scheduled for early next year.

According to current plans, the Mir is to crash into the Pacific 900 to 1,200 miles east of Australia on Feb. 27-28. Space officials said an emergency crew would be on hand to blast off for the Mir and direct it if it descends out of control.

If Mir's plunge were not controlled from the Earth, large fragments of the 140-ton station could survive a fiery re-entry through the Earth's atmosphere and inflict significant damage on the ground. Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said Tuesday that some fragments would weigh up to 1,540 pounds.

However, even an uncontrolled drop would take at least three months because Mir is now in an orbit 195 miles above the Earth's surface.

Mission Control lost contact with Mir on Monday morning, and the frantic effort to regain control took until Tuesday afternoon. After receiving a weak signal from Mir, flight controllers quickly switched off most of its equipment to free up scarce energy for communications and replenish power.

By midnight Tuesday, Mir's batteries were fully charged, Lyndin said.

Ground controllers still don't know what caused the batteries to quickly run flat — a breakdown they described as unprecedented in Mir's 15-year history. Lyndin dismissed media allegations the glitch might have been caused by an erroneous command from Mission Control.

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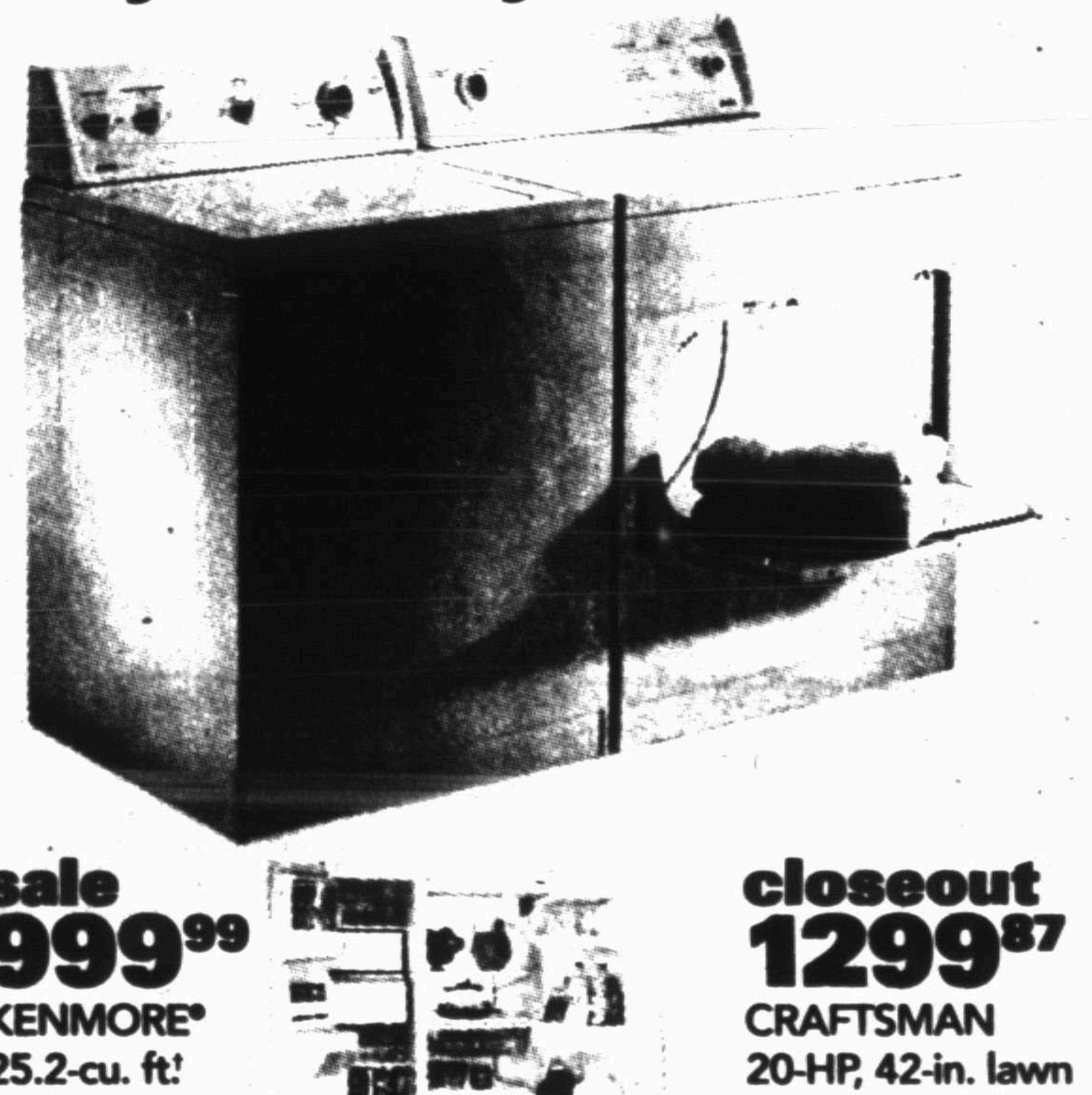

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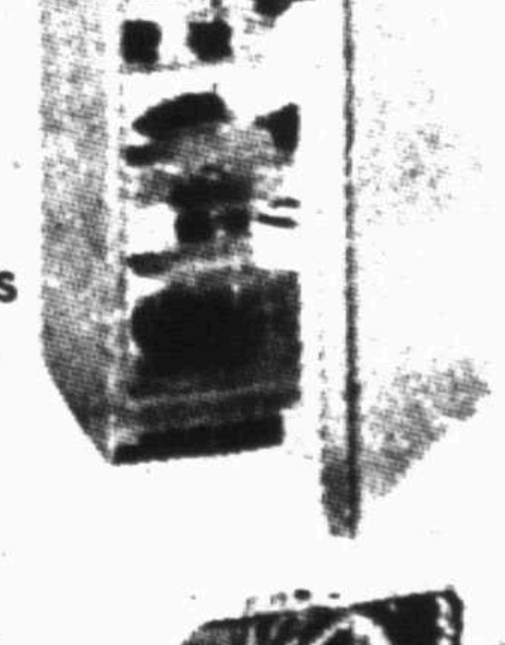

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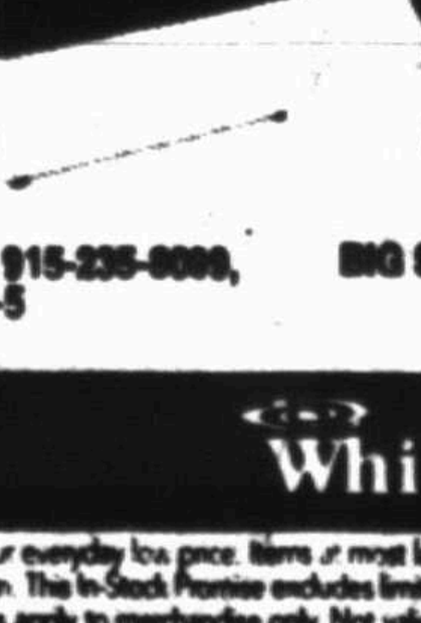

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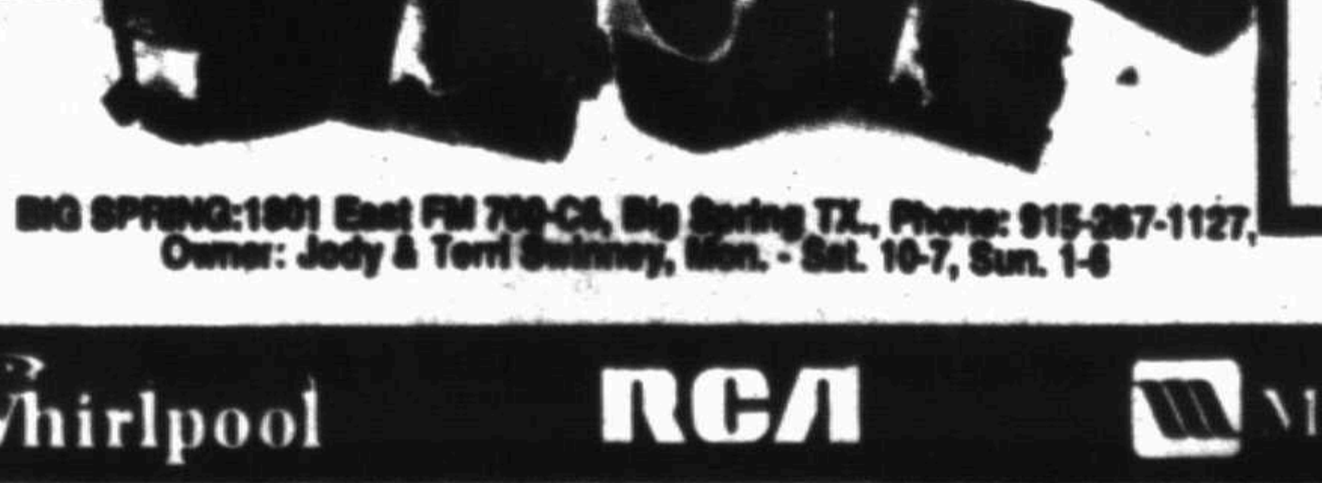

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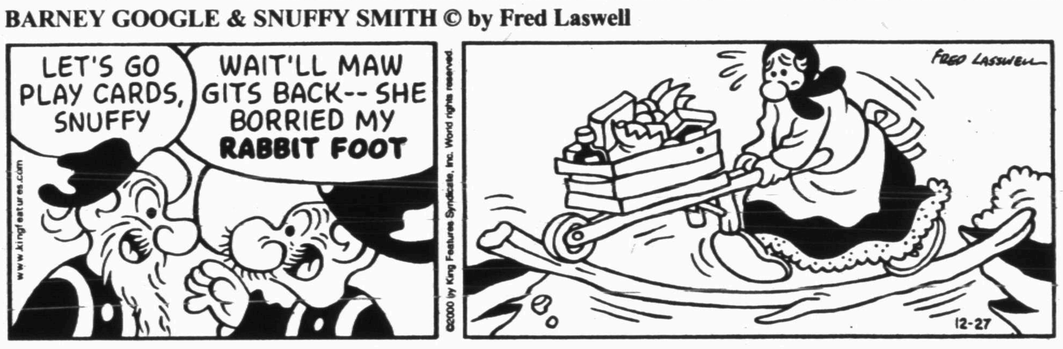
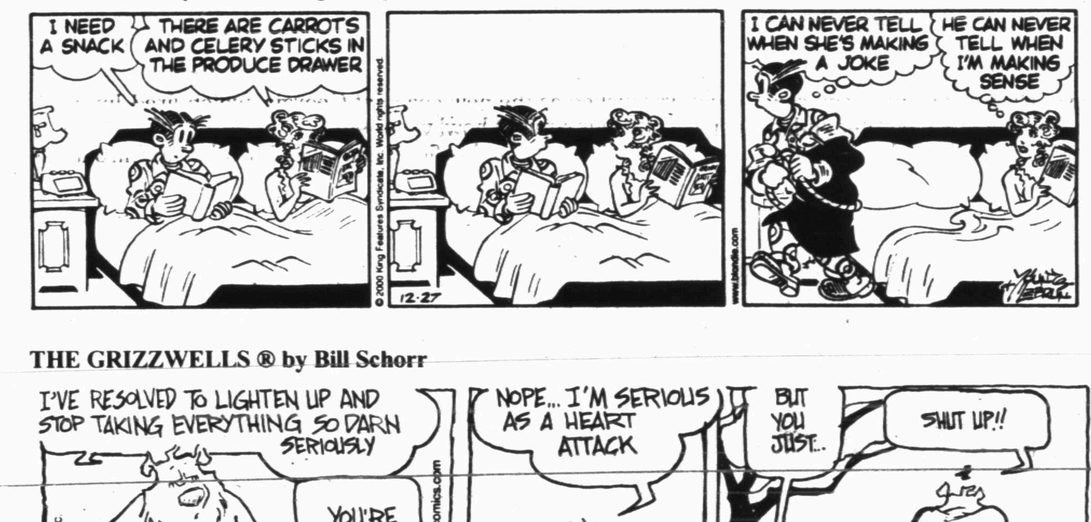


BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



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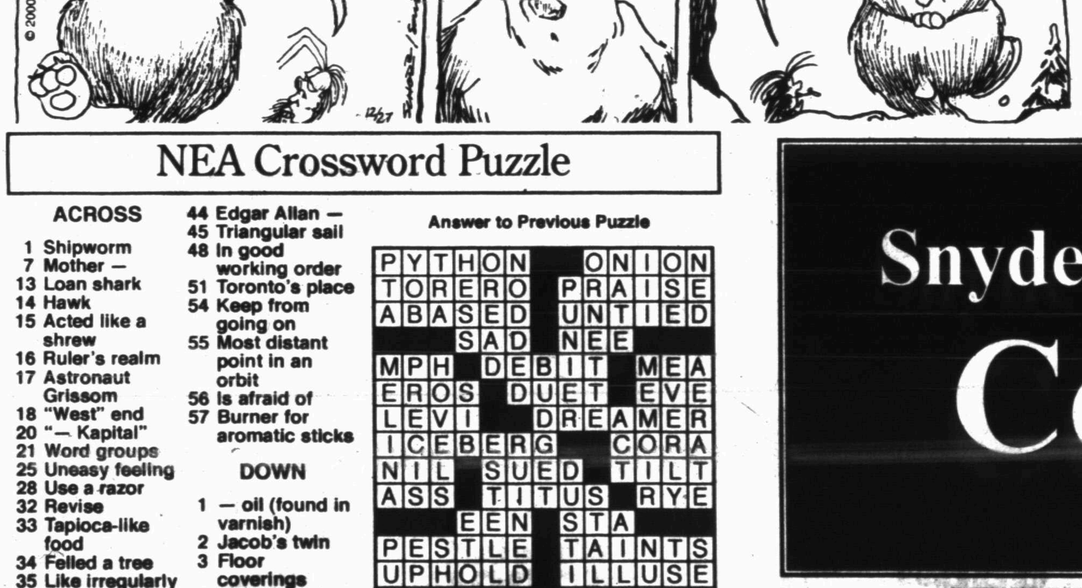

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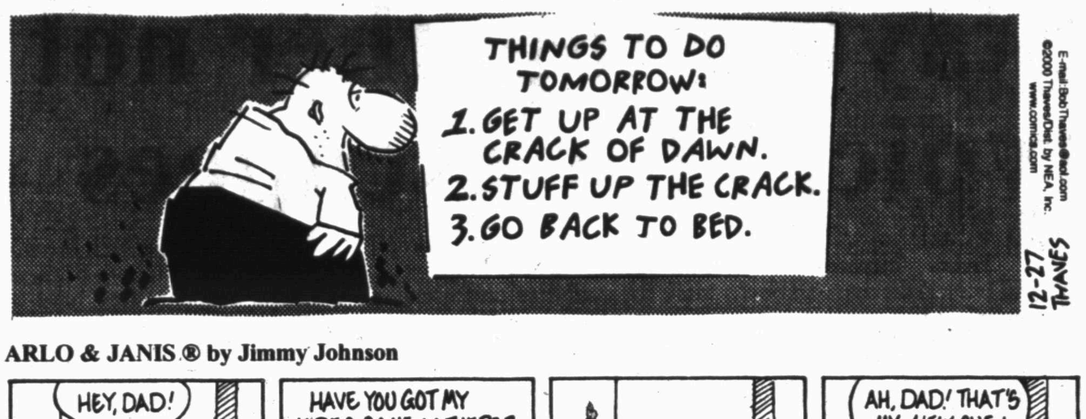

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Shipworm
7 Mother —
13 Loan shark
14 Hawk
15 Acted like a shrew
16 Ruler's realm
17 Astronaut Grissom
18 "West" end
20 "— Kapital"
21 Word groups
25 Uneasy feeling
28 Use a razor
32 Revise
33 Tapioca-like food
34 Felled a tree
35 Like irregularly notched leaves
36 Confuse
37 Eating area
39 Pried
41 Roast beef au —
44 Edgar Allan —
45 Triangular sail
48 In good working order
51 Toronto's place
54 Keep from going on
55 Most distant point in an orbit
56 Is afraid of
57 Burner for aromatic sticks

DOWN

1 — oil (found in varnish)
2 Jacob's twin
3 Floor coverings
4 Unit of work
5 Scottish river
6 Commands
7 Adolescents
8 Shade tree
9 Ice-T's music
10 City in Oklahoma
11 Antitoxins
12 Tropical fruit
19 "Norma —"
21 Discussion groups
22 Concealed
23 Ancient Jewish ascetic
24 Apportioned
25 Arizona sight
26 "Diary of — — Housewife"
27 Lascivious
29 "Thanks — —"
30 Suit part
31 Fencing sword
37 "Scooby —"
38 Medicinal root
40 Unseals
41 Actor Hirsch
42 Customer
43 Satisfy completely
45 Sharp projections
46 — fixe (obsession)
47 Boxer Max —
49 Sheep's bleat
50 Pot cover
52 Mimic
53 Opposite of "Oui"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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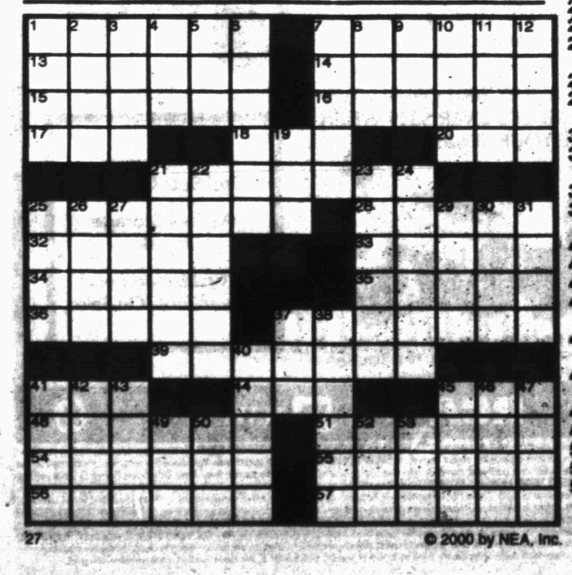

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Snyder Daily News

Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Area teams change tourney travel plans

Basketball is an indoor sport, but that hasn't kept the weather from causing havoc on this week's high school tournament schedule.

Snyder and Ira boys' and girls' teams were scheduled to compete in various tournaments around the state, beginning Thursday. But due to icy weather, the schedules have changed.

Snyder's boys will compete in the Brownwood event, which has been moved to Friday and Saturday. The Tigers, who worked out this morning, will leave Thursday. Snyder faces Coleman at 2:30 p.m. Friday in the opening round.

"There are teams like Canyon and Wichita Falls who simply weren't going to be able to make it on Thursday," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "So they moved everything back a day. They still expect to have a full bracket, so the game times should be the same."

Snyder's girls are in the same situation. The Lady Tigers will take part in the Abilene High tourney where they'll face Abilene High's JV at 2:30 Friday.

Unlike the boys, the SHS girls will drive back and forth each day, rather than staying in a hotel.

"I'm going to call off tonight's practice, and then we'll work out tomorrow and leave Friday for our first-round game," said Lady Tigers coach Sam Tipton. "We have 11 more district games coming up after this tournament, and we don't want to take any chances that we don't have to."

Ira's weekend schedule is still up in the air, pending word from Jayton High School. The Ira boys and girls are slated to face Rotan at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Thursday.

"Nobody really knows for sure what the situation is right now," said Ira coach Bubba Edwards. "Jayton is still trying to decide how many teams are going to be able to make it. All I know is that if they go ahead with the tournament, then we plan on being there."

All four teams, plus Hermleigh's boys and girls, will be in action again Tuesday.

Snyder squads travel to Plainview for district match-ups beginning at 6 p.m., while Ira travels to Smyer, and Hermleigh visits Loraine.

'Furniture' bowl off to rocky start

HOUSTON (AP) — Promoters of the galleryfurniture.com Bowl have done their best to make a success of the first bowl game played in the Astrodome since 1987.

Now it's up to Texas Tech and East Carolina to put on a good show and the fans to show up to see Wednesday night's game.

"If we do a good job marketing this, we should have between 30,000 and 40,000 people at the game," sponsor Jim McIngvale said. "I think 40,000 would exceed my wildest expectations."

That might be a stretch since icy weather threatened to sock in Tech fans from West Texas and East Carolina fans purchased only about 3,000 tickets, well below expectations.

Early on, there were misunderstandings over the progress of ticket sales. Promoter Jerry Ippolito said in early December that 28,000 tickets had been sold. In reality, only 4,200 tickets had been sold at that point.

Despite the early overstating, McIngvale expects a good first year after giving away 250,000 memorabilia items and heavy advertising to promote the game.

"Houston is a football town," McIngvale said. "We have been without the NFL for several years now, and it's coming back. The college bowl game is coming back."

Texas Tech (7-5), the No. 7 from the Big 12, and East Carolina (7-4), Conference-USA's No. 3 team, have their energies focused on the field.

Both teams offer potentially high-scoring offenses with Tech led by quarterback Kliff Kingsbury and East Carolina's more balanced offense, led by junior quarterback David Garrard.

"We have to step up and play like it's our last game," Garrard said. "It is the last game of the season but we've got to play like it's the last game you'll play in your life.

"We are kind of known as a slow-starting offense but we can't do that in this game. Once you put yourself in a hole it's hard to come out of it. We've had that happen to us this year."

Garrard completed 164 of 312 passes for 2,332 yards and 19 touchdowns this season and ranked 32nd nationally in passing efficiency. He was East Carolina's second leading rusher with 358 yards.

"The main thing we have to do is swarm to the ball and gang tackle him, don't let him get loose," Tech defensive tackler Kris Kocurek said. "We can't give him time in the pocket to set up and throw the ball. We have to get heat on him and make him throw the ball quick."

East Carolina's defense will also have a big problems with Tech's pass-oriented offense and Kingsbury was quick to grasp the offense Leach brought from Oklahoma that helped propel the Sooners into the national spotlight.

"We may come in with a different notion but the ball always ends up in the air about 50 times," Kingsbury said. "My arm's been tired since about the eighth game but you can't complain. Growing up, you dream of throwing that much."

Kingsbury, a sophomore, ranked eighth nationally in total offense at 286 yards per game and he led the Big 12 with 21 touchdown passes.

"We've seen Louisville and Tulane already, so we are ready for that type of game," Pirate safety Anthony Adams said. "We've gone against a bunch of good quarterbacks and we have seen (Kingsbury) on tape. But you cannot tell what is going to happen in a game off of tape. You have to just get out there and see."

Tech has a 5-17-1 record in bowl games and has lost four of its last five post-season games. East Carolina is 6-2.

Mavs knock off Sonics

DALLAS (AP) — Michael Finley scored 38 points, 27 in the first half when Dallas went ahead to stay, as the Mavericks beat the Seattle SuperSonics 114-93 Tuesday night to make coach Don Nelson the third winningest coach in NBA history.

With his 945th victory, Nelson moved into third place for coaching wins behind Toronto's Lenny Wilkens (1,192) and Miami's Pat Riley (1,012). Nelson, 945-763 in 23 NBA seasons, had been tied with Bill Fitch, who also lost 1,106 games.

After Finley started and ended an 11-0 run to wrap up the first quarter, the Mavericks trailed just one possession the rest of the game.

Finley's layup with 1:44 left in the first quarter started the pivotal run. Hubert Davis steal led to Steve Nash's 3-pointer six seconds later, and Finley later ended the quarter with a rebound and a pass to Dirk Nowitzki for a breakaway dunk that made it 26-19.

Finley then made all seven of his shots in the second quarter, including 10 points in the last five minutes of the first half. He finished 16-of-22 shooting.

The 38 points by Finley, who also had nine rebounds and eight assists, were the most by a Dallas player this season. The 27 first-half points were also the most scored by a Maverick in a half.

Seattle took its last lead on Gary Payton's driving layup with 5:53 left in the first half made it 38-37 and ended an 11-0 run by the Sonics.

Sports Briefs

Former NFL QB dies of heart attack

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Joe Gilliam Jr., who was one of the first black quarterbacks to start an NFL game but fell into drug addiction and spent two years living under a bridge in a cardboard box, has died at 49.

Gilliam, who was in such desperate straits at one point that he pawned his two Super Bowl rings, had finally seemed to be getting his life back together when he died of an apparent heart attack on Christmas Day.

Gilliam's career was marked by a series of highs and lows, including a starting role for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1974, six years after Marlin Briscoe of the Denver Broncos became the NFL's first black starting quarterback.

Drug problems were partly to blame for Gilliam's benching and the end of his NFL career.

Georgia hires FSU assistant

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Florida State offensive coordinator Mark Richt was picked as the new coach at Georgia, which fired Jim Donnan despite four straight bowl victories.

Richt, who is accepting his first head coaching job, was introduced at a news conference accompanied by his wife and four children — all wearing recently purchased outfits in the Bulldogs' red and black.

A 1982 graduate of Miami, Richt has been on Bobby Bowden's staff at Florida State for 15 seasons, with a one-year break in 1989 when he served as East Carolina's offensive coordinator.

Woods receives AP honor

Tiger Woods was a repeat winner as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year. Like so many of his amazing victories, it was no contest.

Fresh off his incredible season of nine victories, three straight majors, the career Grand Slam and shots that had to be seen to be believed, Woods joined Michael Jordan as the only three-time winner of the AP award since it began in 1931.

He received 47 first-place votes and 160 points from sportswriters and broadcasters to easily defeat back-to-back Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

Woods became the sixth player to win the award in consecutive years. The others were tennis great Don Budge, golfer Byron Nelson, track star Carl Lewis, quarterback Joe Montana and Jordan, who won it three years in a row.

Nelson's son will be interim coach

DALLAS (AP) — When Don Nelson leaves the Dallas Mavericks next week for treatment of his prostate cancer, son Donnie will be the team's coach, not Del Harris.

Harris, who won 556 games in 13-plus season as an NBA head coach for three different teams, decided that he was better suited to continue in the role for which he was hired: an assistant coach in charge of the Mavericks' defense.

While Donnie Nelson has never been an NBA head coach, other than replacing his father following ejections and illnesses, he knows the system. He has been an assistant coach for his father nine years, the last two in Dallas, and also serves as director of player personnel.

Daniels leads Spurs to victory

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Point guard Antonio Daniels is looking more like the future floor leader of the San Antonio Spurs.

Making the most of his eighth start in place of the injured Avery Johnson, Daniels scored a career-high 26 points and had 10 assists as the Spurs defeated the Rockets for the ninth straight time, 103-95 Tuesday night.

"This is definitely the best I've felt offensively all season," said Daniels, who was 8-of-13 from the field. "We got in a groove offensively and didn't let up. When we get into the open court, we're tough to stop."

Daniels, in his third season in San Antonio, has led the Spurs to a 5-3 record in Johnson's absence. Johnson, a 12-year NBA veteran, is on the injured list with a sore left thigh and hamstring.

San Antonio's win was its fifth in six games. Houston has lost five straight.

"Our game plan was to let Antonio shoot," Houston guard Steve Francis said. "We left him wide open, and he was making everything. Every time we would make a run, Daniels would be right there to hit a big shot."

San Antonio placed four players in double figures as Tim Duncan added 20 points and 13 rebounds, David Robinson had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Derek Anderson scored 11 points.

Houston was led by Francis with 21 points, while Cuttino Mobley added 17.

"Antonio Daniels had a phenomenal shooting game," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "The other guys played well, but he was the difference. We had only 12 turnovers, but they scored 20 points off of them, and he was a big part of that."

Leading 63-59, San Antonio went on a 23-13 run for an 86-72 lead after three periods. Anderson, held in check in the first half, scored nine points during the decisive run.

San Antonio took its largest lead of the game, 90-72, with 10:58 left on a basket by Malik Rose. Houston closed to 97-89 on a 3-pointer by Walt Williams.

Local Schedule

THURSDAY
Basketball
Ira vs. Rotan, at Jayton tourney, girls at 9:30 a.m., boys at 11 a.m.

FRIDAY
Basketball
Snyder varsity boys vs. Coleman, at Brownwood tourney, 2:30
Snyder varsity girls vs. Abilene High JV, at Abilene tourney, 2:30
Ira girls and boys at Jayton tourney

SATURDAY
Basketball
Snyder varsity boys at Brownwood tourney
Snyder varsity girls at Abilene tourney

TUESDAY
Basketball
Snyder girls at Plainview, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30
Snyder boys at Plainview, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30
Ira girls and boys at Smyer, 6:30 and 8 p.m.
Hermleigh girls and boys at Loraine, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

NFL Playoffs

All Times EST
Saturday, Dec. 30
Wild-card Playoffs
Indianapolis at Miami, 12:30 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 31
Denver at Baltimore, 12:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs
Sunday, Jan. 7
AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 14
AFC-NFC Championship Games

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
6 p.m, at Tampa, Fla.

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
NFC vs. AFC, 5:30 p.m. at Honolulu

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	19	8	.704	—
New York	16	12	.571	3½
Miami	15	14	.517	5
Orlando	12	16	.429	7½
Boston	11	17	.393	8½
New Jersey	9	19	.321	10½
Washington	5	23	.179	14½
Central Division				
Charlotte	20	9	.690	—
Cleveland	15	11	.577	3½
Milwaukee	15	12	.556	4
Toronto	14	14	.500	5½
Detroit	13	15	.464	6½
Indiana	13	16	.448	7
Atlanta	10	18	.357	9½
Chicago	3	24	.111	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Utah	20	9	.690	—
San Antonio	18	10	.643	1½
Dallas	19	11	.633	1½
Minnesota	16	13	.552	4
Denver	15	14	.517	5
Houston	13	14	.481	6
Vancouver	8	20	.286	11½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	19	7	.731	—
L.A. Lakers	20	10	.667	1
Portland	19	10	.655	1½
Phoenix	17	9	.654	2
Seattle	15	14	.517	5½
L.A. Clippers	10	19	.345	10½
Golden State	8	19	.296	11½

Tuesday's Games
Charlotte 115, Cleveland 110, OT
Detroit 101, Boston 96
Atlanta 81, New Jersey 76
San Antonio 103, Houston 95
Milwaukee 89, Orlando 77
Dallas 114, Seattle 93
Minnesota 100, Toronto 97
Philadelphia 97, Utah 91
Denver 109, L.A. Clippers 108
Phoenix 97, Vancouver 95
Wednesday's Games
New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

College Football Bowl Glance

All Times EST
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payout: $750,000
Southern Mississippi 28, TCU 21
Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: $800,000
UNLV 31, Arkansas 14
Sunday, Dec. 24
Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Virginia (6-5) vs. Georgia (7-4), 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Boston College (6-5) vs. Arizona State (6-5), 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: $750,000
Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m.
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
Payout: $750,000
Texas Tech (7-5) vs. East Carolina (7-4), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m.
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $750,000
West Virginia (6-5) vs. Mississippi (7-4), 4 p.m.
Micronpc.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $750,000
Minnesota (6-5) vs. North Carolina State (7-4), 7 p.m.
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
Payout: $750,000
Iowa State (8-3) vs. Pittsburgh (7-4), 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: $1.25 million
Colorado State (9-2) vs. Louisville (9-2), 1:30 p.m.
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1 million
UCLA (6-5) vs. Wisconsin (8-4), 2 p.m.
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $1.8 million
Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4), 5 p.m.
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: $1.9 million
Texas (9-2) vs. Oregon (9-2), 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: $1.2 million
Nebraska (9-2) vs. Northwestern (8-3), 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: $1.2 million
Fresno State (7-4) vs. Air Force (8-3), 7 p.m.
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: $1.1 million
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. Mississippi State (7-4), 8 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $2 million
Ohio State (8-3) vs. South Carolina (7-4), 11 a.m.
Cotton Bowl
Payout: $2.5 million
At Dallas
Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11 a.m.
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $1.4 million
Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30 p.m.
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Auburn (9-3), 1 p.m.
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $13.5 million
Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m.
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe Ariz.
Payout: $13.5 million
Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $13.5 million
Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $11-13 million
Oklahoma (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m.

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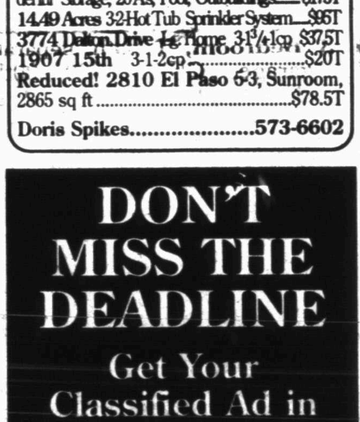

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Census figures due later this week

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first fruits of the Census Bureau's 2000 headcount will be visible later this week when officials release numbers that will document changing population trends.

In fact, the statistics due for release Thursday spell out which states are winners and which are losers in terms of the number of seats they have in the House.

This comes after a year in which the bureau, part of the Commerce Department, spent $168 million on advertising, sent out questionnaires to more than 120 million homes and hired 440,000 part-time workers to do the door-to-door questioning.

Although the process was fraught with controversy, the Census Bureau director, Kenneth Prewitt, talked in optimistic terms about the results.

"We are convinced that when the data are out, it will underscore what we've been seeing, which is that Census 2000 has been operationally a successful census," he said.

The first results are raw, state population totals. They are expected to confirm trends that estimates have hinted at since the last census a decade ago — booming populations in the South and West, slower growth in the North and Midwest.

That report will be followed by more detailed statistics in March, which will reveal America's new racial makeup. The 2000 questionnaires allowed people for the first time to check off if they were of more than one race, providing a rich portrait of racial identification never before available.

These numbers will have complex political implications. The Supreme Court ruled last year that the raw, state data will be used to reapportion the 435 seats in the House among the 50 states.

The March report may include two sets of numbers: the raw figures, and a second set adjusted by way of a statistical method known as sampling. The same court decision left it to states to decide which numbers to use when they redraw congressional and state legislative lines beginning next year.

But first, the incoming Bush administration will have to decide whether to even release the adjusted numbers, which many believe will help Democrats. President-elect Bush hasn't said what he will do.

Prewitt believes the results will yield a demographic portrait of America as complex and diverse as ever. More detailed statistics will be released incrementally over the next two years, ranging in topics from poverty and income to immigration and same-sex-couple households.

The Census 2000 operation did have problems, however.

Earlier this year, some of the mailings sent to Americans to remind them of the count were misaddressed because of a printing error. And in March, just after most of the forms were mailed, some congressional Republicans questioned the intrusiveness of some questions on the 53-item long form: "How much money do you make?" or "Do you have plumbing at home?"

The public weighed in on editorial pages and radio talk shows, causing some problems for part-time census workers hired to go door-to-door to ask the questions.

"You would think it would be the income questions but the one I heard the most flak about was about how many toilets you had in your house," said Michael Zdan, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who worked for the Census Bureau over the spring and summer.

But Prewitt said he remains optimistic about the overall prospects of success because more than 80 million, or about 67 percent of the 120 million forms sent out, were returned. That reversed a decades-long decline in participation. Also, it left just 40 million households to track down with door-to-door visits, a far smaller workload than the Census Bureau expected.

Throughout the year, both political parties bickered over sampling, implemented after the Census Bureau estimated it undercounted about 1.4 percent of the population in 1990, mostly children, the poor, minorities and inner-city residents.

Some Democrats and civil rights groups contend sampling offers better representation of minorities and inner-city residents — segments of the population that tend to vote Democratic — in the redistricting process. Opponents, including GOP leaders in Congress, contend that only an "actual head count" can be accurate.

Some Census officials and Republicans stress that rural areas, especially areas where many poor live, also were undercounted.

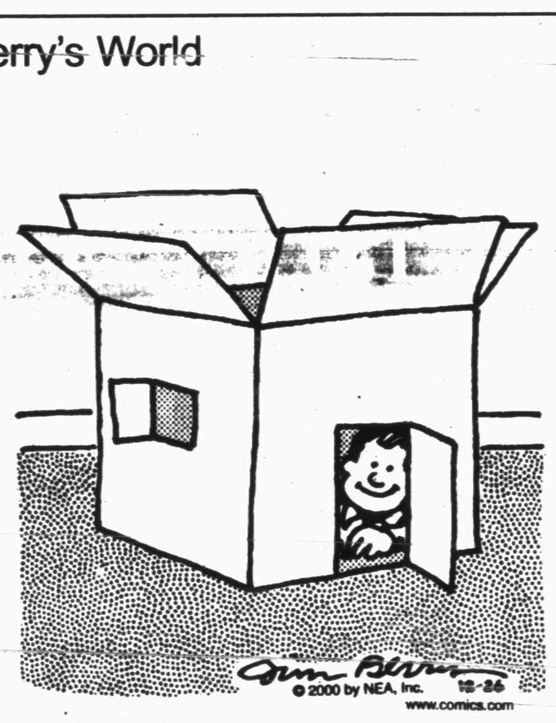
Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush supports "an actual head count because he believes it is the best and most accurate way to conduct the census," but has not said whether he will block the public release of figures derived from sampling methods.

Inez Manion, of Rhododendron, Ore., a retired translator who worked part-time for the Census Bureau this year, ignores the political talk. She just wants to see some of the final answers to the questions she asked at the front doors of strangers.

"I certainly hope it pays off," she said. ———

On the Net: http://www.census.gov

Berry's World



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Law aimed at cutting cost of prescription drugs is shelved

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new law aimed at cutting prescription drug prices by allowing them to be reimported from Canada won't be implemented by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

In a letter Tuesday to President Clinton, Shalala said the law had "serious flaws and loopholes."

Those concerns "make it impossible for me to demonstrate that it is safe and cost effective," she wrote. "As such, I cannot sanction the allocation of taxpayer dollars to implement such a system."

Signed by President Clinton before Election Day, the law was an attempt to address the clamor for cheaper prescription drugs — particularly among the elderly. Lawmakers were unable to agree on a more sweeping plan to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare.

Drugs manufactured in the United States can be purchased for much less in Canada, principally because the government regulates prices, a solution fiercely resisted here.

For example, the allergy-sinus medication Flonase Nasal costs $46 in the United States, but just $23 in Canada. Likewise, 45 pills of the anti-depressant Prozac can cost about $106 in the United States and $43 in Canada.

The law was vigorously opposed by the pharmaceutical industry and Democratic critics called it a Band-Aid fix for the country's troubles with prescription drug prices, manufactured to give political cover to those who opposed broader solutions.

Shalala was directed by the legislation to review the law and determine whether it was cost effective and safe. Shalala said she would not request $23 million available to establish a system for overseeing the importation of drugs from Canada.

She argued that the law raises safety issues because there's no guarantee that imported drugs will carry labels approved by the Food and Drug Administration. And she complained that the law did nothing to keep drug manufacturers from strong-arming distributors into raising prices on imported drugs.

But Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., a co-author of the legislation, said the administration simply "chickened out."

"The best approach would have been to say, we'll pass a law that does something and then we will wait and see how the drug companies react," Dorgan said. "If they start playing games then at least we'll all know who the villain is. But this makes no sense at all. Now we know the drug companies will do nothing because we're doing nothing."

Chris Jennings, Clinton's top health policy aide, said Shalala's stinging assessment was on target.

"We have an obligation not to raise hopes with false promises," he said. "There are loopholes that allow the intent of the legislation to be completely thwarted."

Prosecutor's brother gets prison sentence

LAREDO (AP) — The brother of a Webb County prosecutor was sentenced Tuesday to more than two years in prison for fixing dozes of drug and drunken driving cases.

Carlos Manuel Rubio, 41, is the second of six men, including two of his relatives, to be sentenced after pleading guilty over a year ago to federal conspiracy charges for his role in a six-year scheme that tapped five other men convicted for fixing dozens of criminal cases for bribes.

U.S. District Judge George Kazen in Lubbock gave Carlos Rubio, brother of Webb and Zapata counties' district attorney Joe Rubio, a two-year, eight-month sentence and a $2,000 fine. Carlos Rubio will also concurrently serve a separate, 18-month sentence on an unrelated marijuana smuggling charge.

"I'm pleased," Carlos Rubio was quoted by the San Antonio Express-News Wednesday. "I appreciate the consideration the judge gave me. I'm glad it's all over."

In September, Jose Juan Rubio, 34, cousin of Carlos and Joe Rubio, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for his role in the scheme.

Still awaiting sentencing in the case are chief assistant criminal investigator Alfonso Rodriguez, investigator Agustin Mendoza and bail bondsman Jesse Castaneda. Jose Rubio Sr., father of Carlos and Joe and Jose Juan Rubio's uncle, has not been charged, nor has the district attorney.

The five men were charged with soliciting $200,000 in bribes for pledges to drop or reduce charges.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.



What happens to carbohydrates?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Please settle this argument. Do carbohydrates convert to sugar or fat? — J.S., Spring Valley, Calif.

DEAR J.S.: I understand what you are asking, but the answer is really "both." Some explanation might help put this in perspective and, perhaps, get at the information you are seeking. What tends to be confusing is the fact that the terms "sugar" and "carbohydrate" can be used interchangeably.

The most important sugar in nature is glucose. We sometimes refer to glucose as blood sugar because it travels in our blood stream and is the body's most basic fuel. It's classified as a single sugar because it exists as an individual, unattached unit.

Glucose is also a carbohydrate, and it is the building block for large complex carbohydrates that can contain thousands of individual units. Complex carbohydrates exist as large branched chains, where each glucose unit is joined to its neighbor by a chemical bond.

Starch and other complex carbohydrates are too large to be absorbed through the wall of the digestive tract, so the body has a set of enzymes designed to break them apart, piece by glucose piece.

Not germane to your question but certainly of interest here is the fact that cellulose, such as that found in hay and wood pulp, is also a complex carbohydrate made from glucose. The big difference between digesting a meal of mashed potatoes and one of mashed wood is that the body lacks the enzymes needed to separate cellulose's glucose units. As a result, starch gets digested and absorbed, and the cellulose passes through the system. Because the body cannot digest cellulose, this complex carbohydrate is classified as a dietary fiber.

What the body does with carbohydrates once they are consumed depends on the body's energy status at the time. Assuming, of course, we are dealing with a digestible carbohydrate, the individual glucose units will eventually end up in the blood stream. Some of this glucose will be metabolized for energy. This percentage depends on whether you are at rest or active. Glucose that is not needed for energy will be converted into a glycogen, a form of stored glucose found in the liver and muscles. We have a limited ability to store glycogen. An average adult has just over 100 grams of it in the liver and about 250 grams in all the muscles combined. If the energy needs are met and the glycogen stores are full, all remaining glucose gets converted to lipid form (fat) and sent to the body's storage areas. Once a carbohydrate is converted to fat, it can never become a carbohydrate again.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Would you say that overall a vegetarian diet (a well-balanced one with a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, soy products, and vitamin B12 supplements, among possible others) is healthier than a diet with meat in it? — A.S., Portland, Ore.

DEAR A.S.: If there is a balanced variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes and soy products in your diet, the occasional presence of meat is not a problem. Meat is a good source of many nutrients. Personally, I tend to mix vegetarian days with omnivore days. I go for the variety of flavors, tastes and textures.

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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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	36.69	35.00	36.69	+ .81
AT&T Corp	17.56	17.06	17.13	—.44
Albertsons	25.00	24.50	24.88	—.13
Alltel	59.94	58.63	59.81	+ .50
AmerOnline	37.90	36.58	36.60	—1.90
AmEl Pw	48.75	48.00	48.31	+ .31
AndarkPtr	72.40	69.50	70.05	—1.90
ATMOS Egy	25.25	24.75	25.19	+ .50
Aviall	4.94	4.81	4.88	—.06
BP Amoco	48.88	48.19	48.44	+ .06
BakerHughes	43.00	41.19	41.38	—1.13
Bank of Amer	46.69	46.19	46.19	—.13
BellSouth	41.25	40.63	40.75	—.56
Bethl Steel	1.81	1.69	1.75	
BurlNoSFe	28.94	28.06	28.88	+ .88
Caterpillar	47.44	46.44	47.13	—.63
Chevron	83.56	82.19	82.69	—.13
Citigroup s	50.94	49.81	50.44	—.50
Coastal	88.81	87.19	87.44	—.81
CocaCola	61.13	60.00	61.00	+ 1.00
ColgatePal	64.70	63.44	64.05	+ 1.70
ComclMetals	23.00	22.44	23.00	—.25
Coopern	43.63	43.38	43.44	+ .06
DaimlrChry	40.06	39.80	39.94	—.80
DellSemicn s	23.69	22.56	23.38	+ .13
DeltaAirl	47.50	46.75	47.06	+ .06
Dillards Inc	11.25	10.75	11.19	+ .44
DowChem s	36.63	35.81	36.63	—.13
DuPont	48.38	47.63	48.38	+ .06
EastmanChem	49.94	48.63	49.25	+ .13
EstKodak	39.75	39.13	39.69	+ .75
EDS Corp	56.88	54.88	56.69	+ 1.56
Entergy	43.56	42.88	43.19	—.06
ExxonMobil	89.31	87.75	87.94	—.63
Flowerz	16.00	15.75	15.88	—.06
GenDynam	75.13	74.63	75.06	+ .13
GenElec s	49.75	49.00	49.25	+ .13
GenMills	44.50	44.00	44.44	+ .69
GenMotors	50.81	49.88	50.19	—.69
GePacGP	30.50	29.94	30.25	—.38
GlobalMar	28.88	27.25	27.38	—1.19
Goodrich	34.13	33.94	34.06	
Goodyear s	23.15	22.26	23.04	+ .78
GtAtlPac	6.31	6.19	6.31	+ .06
Halliburtn	36.50	36.50	36.63	—1.00
Hanson ADS	34.75	34.50	34.63	+ .13
HarteHanks	23.19	22.81	23.13	+ .31
HomeDepot	42.25	40.63	41.94	+ 1.25
Honeywellintl	48.63	47.63	48.31	+ .31
IBM	85.63	83.56	84.94	+ .13
IntlPaper	42.63	41.19	41.38	—1.38
JohnsonJn	104.13	101.50	104.06	+ 1.69
K mart	5.06	4.88	4.94	—.19
Kroger Co	26.50	26.19	26.50	+ .25
Lilton	79.69	78.81	79.63	+ .81
LockheedM	32.85	31.75	32.75	—.17
Lowes Cos	41.50	40.31	41.31	+ .50
Lubys	4.13	3.75	4.13	+ .38
LucentTech	14.13	13.25	13.44	—.06
MayDeptStr	31.31	29.81	31.25	+ 1.06
Medtronic	61.06	59.13	61.06	+ 2.06
MorganJP	167.50	165.63	166.19	—2.81
Motorola s	21.19	19.63	21.06	+ 1.06
NCR Corp	48.13	47.06	47.25	—.88
Navistar	24.56	24.25	24.31	—.25
Penney JC	9.56	9.13	9.38	—.13
PepBoys	3.75	3.56	3.56	—.25
PepsiCo	49.50	48.69	49.31	+ .44
Pharmacia	59.31	58.69	59.00	+ .38
PhelpDodge	56.44	55.56	56.25	—.69
PhillipPet	57.31	56.19	56.56	+ .19
PilgrimPrd B	7.88	7.88	7.88	—.06
Polaroid	5.56	5.13	5.38	—.25
Praxair	43.00	42.06	42.88	—.56
ProctGamb	75.88	74.00	75.75	+ 1.31
PubS NwMx	26.44	26.19	26.38	—.06
RadioShack	43.94	40.75	43.75	+ 2.00
ReliantEngy	44.88	44.31	44.38	+ .25
RoyalDut	61.63	60.81	61.06	+ .69
SBC Comm	47.44	46.81	47.25	+ .44
SaraLee	24.81	24.56	24.81	+ .13
Scripps EW	61.81	61.00	61.75	+ .88
SearsRoeb	33.85	31.69	33.75	+ 1.11
SherwinW	25.00	24.31	24.94	+ .19
SouthernCo	33.88	33.44	33.56	—.13
SwstAirl	33.19	32.55	33.19	+ 1.25
SprintFON	20.88	19.81	20.75	+ .38
SprintPCS s	21.88	21.00	21.63	+ .38
Sunoco Inc	33.00	32.50	32.88	—.63
TXU Corp	45.19	44.63	45.00	+ .25
TempleInland	53.19	51.44	52.06	—1.38
Texaco	60.94	60.00	60.44	+ .25
Textnd	27.63	27.31	27.38	—.31
TexasInst s	48.50	46.00	48.31	+ 1.56
Textron	45.00	44.19	44.75	+ .31
TriconGlbR	32.06	31.63	31.81	+ .13
TrinityInds	25.06	24.81	24.81	—.13
TritonEngy	29.63	28.56	29.00	+ .31
TylerTech	1.13	1.06	1.13	
USX-Marathn	28.06	27.81	27.94	
USX-USS	16.94	16.56	16.94	—.13
UnCarbde	52.88	52.00	52.63	—.19
UnionPacif	52.44	51.06	52.31	+ 1.13
UnitedTech	77.50	76.00	77.00	—.69
Unocal	38.38	37.44	37.75	—.31
Venator Grp	15.31	14.88	15.31	+ .19
VerizonComm	50.63	49.50	49.81	+ .06
WalMart	52.38	50.19	52.31	+ 1.69
WellsFargo	55.13	54.69	54.75	—.19
WstnGasRs	30.81	29.69	30.00	—.81
WinnDixie	18.44	18.19	18.38	—.06
Xerox Cp	5.00	4.81	4.94	+ .06

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Now is the time to plan for next year's butterfly visitors. There is no more delightful decoration for a garden that nature's own — butterflies. On a warm sunny day these visitors provide color and motion that doubles the pleasure of gardening. All-time butterfly flower favorites are: aster, Joe Pye weed, black-eyed Susan, lantana, butterfly bush, liatris, butterfly weed, pentas, coreopsis and purple cornflower.

Butterflies will visit, and possibly stay to lay eggs, wherever there is a variety of plants for food and shelter, some moisture, and an absence of pesticides. While there are typically more species in warm climates than in cooler ones, there are butterflies almost everywhere in the country. Their appearance in your backyard ultimately depends on whether their favorite plants are growing thee — certain ones to support their larvae, many others to support adult butterflies.

The typical garden is not likely to incidentally have plans that host the larvae of most butterflies. The caterpillars of each species usually favor the foliage of specific plants or plant groups at this stage of their lives. Larvae host plants are often unattractive weedy and wild, generally unpopular in cultivated gardens. Yet, adult female butterflies choose these particular plants (Monarchs must have milkweed) to lay their eggs on. This assures that newly hatched caterpillars have appropriate food immediately at hand, or the noxious compounds from plants that repel predators.

Typically young caterpillars begin voracious feeding immediately after hatching, virtually skeletonizing host plant foliage. Watch a parsley worm (Swallowtail) devour the foliage of Queen Anne's Lace, carrots or parsley. Butterfly larvae grow as they eat, shedding their skins 4 to 6 hours before achieving maximum size for pupating. Only then do they desist, becoming immobile in a hard chrysalis suspended from a leaf or stem of the larvae host plant until emerging as an adult butterfly.

Fortunately, adult butterflies have more cosmopolitan palates. The flower nectar they need for energy is available in many different flowering plants. They will visit your yard in search of those most easily accessed by their long, coiled tongue, or proboscis, which enables them to reach deeply into the center of flowers where the glands that produce the sweet nectar are located. They are particularly attracted to hot-colored, fragrant flowers. They get further nutrition from moisture from puddles and raindrops, rotting carrion and other liquids that provide traces of minerals and nutrients not in nectar.

The butterfly gardener's challenge is to provide diversity of plants in communities throughout the property support both larvae and adults. Variety is the key. Choose many kinds of herbs, annuals and perennials, vines, groundcover, shrubs and trees. Assure that looms are available to visiting butterflies for the entire season. The greater the variety of suitable plants, the greater the potential number and variety of types of butterfly visitor.

It is not necessary to integrate larval and adult plants throughout the landscape. Just allow some part of your yard or nearby property to remain weedy and undeveloped to lure female butterflies to lay eggs. Somewhere in the yard, let fresh water accumulate to support communal "mudpuddling," so butterflies get soil salts and minerals as well as moisture. Overripe fruit that has dropped from trees also provides nutritious moisture. Finally, butterflies like some flat stones for basking, or sunbathing, to gather warmth to power their wings.

Butterflies visit flowering plants that are in full sun and in sites sheltered from wind in beds or containers. Protect garden beds exposed to the wind with a hedge of glossy abelia or butterfly bushes (Buddleia) or a wall or trellis covered with honeysuckle or passion flower. Flowering shrubs provide shelter for roosting, too. The more fragrant the better. Plant at various heights, because like birds, certain butterfly species prefer to feed at certain heights. Some species are quite territorial and try to chase others from favorite plants.

Finally, unlike the famous Monarch which migrate to Mexico and other points south, most butterfly species overwinter nearby. This means that their eggs, chrysalises, or larvae are likely to be in or near your yard during the non-gardening months. Some will even hibernate as adults. Do not mow weedy sites and dismantle weed piles which provide them safe shelter in the off-season.

Favorite larval host plants include asters, Bermuda grass, clove, hollyhock, luptine, mallow, marigold, milkweed, nettle-thistles, parsley, passionflower, plantain, snapdragons, sorrel, St. Augustine grass, turtlehead and violet.

Butterfly larvae tend to be solitary, or sparsely distributed, whereas pest caterpillars such as fall webworm make tents and hatch in the hundreds. The later are best handled by pruning the tent out of the tree or breaking it open so that the birds can eat the immature larvae.

However, even in sparse numbers butterfly caterpillars can damage ornamental or food plants. For example, the ubiquitous white cabbage butterfly lays eggs that turn into destructive green worms which devour cabbage and broccoli and their relatives. An insecticide product containment Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) sprayed onto plant foliage will handle feeding works that threaten to destroy cop yields. In the case of parsley worms on parsley, simply moving them to a non-essential plants such as wild carrot will both save the crop and preserve the eventual butterfly.

North Dakota man drives program to help farmers

MAYVILLE, N.D. (AP) — Levon Nelson has crafted a unique way to help save family farms.

It's a tiny program, compared to the federal farm program or state-run agriculture mediation programs. But he said it is reasonably successful.

Nelson formed Partners in Progress in the basement of Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren Church here at a regular prayer breakfast with nine other Lutheran men from several congregations.

That was in 1991. By 1995, the group was formally chartered as a nonprofit. So far, it has channeled more than $2 million in revolving, interest-free short-term loans or other financial help from nearly 50 participants to dozens of farmers.

The members began as people Nelson knew. Now people stop him in the street to donate money. Former clients now are on board, helping other farmers.

Nelson said 270 farmers have contacted Partners in Progress.

Most of them needed a little help, much of it advice given over the telephone. But 69 farmers in financial need have been aided by loans raised by Partners in Progress and the financial advice Nelson provides.

"Those 69 averaged three-quarters of a million dollars in debt," Nelson said.

Most of the farming operations would be out of business if not for Partners in Progress, Nelson said, and nearly all the loans have been repaid.

Here's how it works: Nelson hears of a farmer in financial trouble. He talks to him, and studies the farm operation, trying to develop a plan for profitability.

Often, the situation is dire enough to require some quick and relatively large amounts of cash for the farm to stave off foreclosure and feed the family.

Nelson calls around. He said he often can raise thousands of dollars in hours, based simply on his reputation. Then, that money is repaid within months, usually after the farmer gets loans restructured through negotiations with a lender, brokered by Nelson.

The key to it all, say members of Partners in Progress, is Nelson's rare combination of practical farming skills, financial acumen and strong faith.

It's Nelson's "wizardry" at farm financial consulting that makes it work, said the Rev. Don Swenson, Lutheran pastor in Sharon, S.D., a member of Partners in Progress.

"He's been a real blessing," he said.

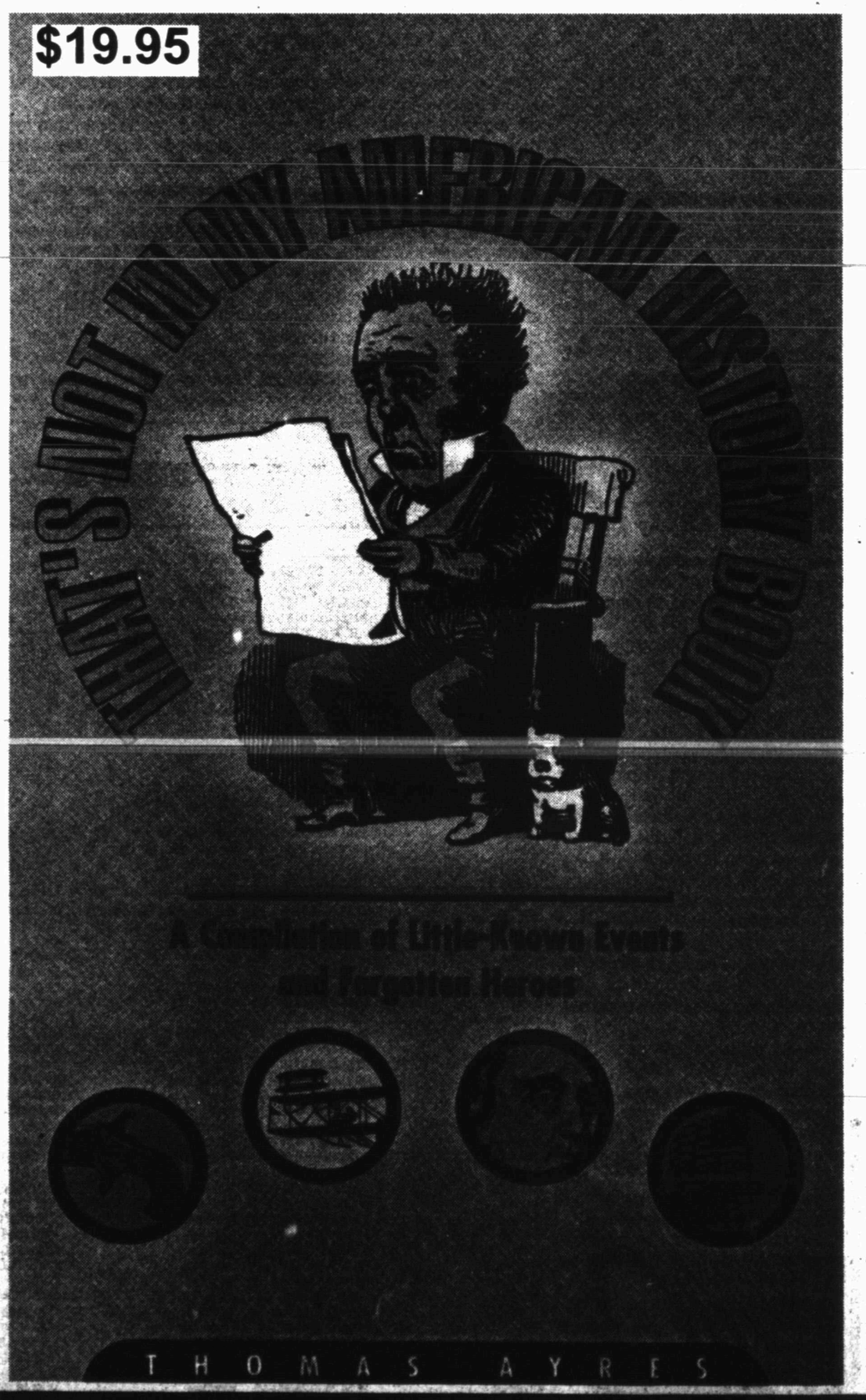
Ken Hove, a Fosston, Minn., farmer, was a client of Partners four years ago. Now he helps other farmers as a member.

Markets

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards Inc. had a run of 655 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 21, sale. Cows were steady. Yearlings and calves were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 37-42.50
Canner and low cutters: 28-36
Slaughter bulls: 46-53
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-127
400-500: 100-120
500-600: 90-100
600-700: 85-92
700-800: 81.50-88
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-110
400-500: 85-100
500-600: 80-91
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 77-84
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-93
700-800: 75-82
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-750
Grade: 500-625
Springers: 350-650
Baby calves: 125-175
Doodlers: 175-275



Books Make Great Gifts

Snyder Daily News
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Come See Our Selection

Man rescued after 16 days buried in snow

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Chuck Bloom noticed it first — a patch of black fabric buried in the snow, uncovered by the blades of a snowmobile as he and others rode along a desolate trail.

Bloom tossed the frozen bag aside. The backpack hit a drift, knocking some snow away and revealing the glint of a car window. What happened next was a miracle, his wife said.

"All of a sudden this little claw hand comes up and taps twice," June Bloom recalled. "It just scared us to death. We thought, 'Oh my God, there's somebody in there.'"

Thomas Wade Truett, 29, was buried in the snow for 16 days in his sports car, in blustery winter weather in central Oregon's Deschutes National Forest. He had uttered his last goodbyes — scrawling a note to his parents in Florida — after deserting his job as a fuel manager in the Air Force, police said.

He had lost 20 pounds and exhausted his supply of orange juice, a quart of water and a package of almond M&M candies, police said.

"We gave some guy his life and we didn't even set out to do anything remarkable that day," June Bloom said. "I'm not real religious, but somebody was directing all of us up there."

Truett was in fair condition late Tuesday at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend and recovering from advanced hypothermia, according to hospital administrators.

However, Truett's odyssey hasn't ended.

When the hospital discharges him — expected within a week — military police from Fort Lewis, Wash., will return the lost airman more than 800 miles to Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, S.D., on federal desertion charges, said Cpl. Neil Mackey of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office and medical center denied The Associated Press access to Truett. It is not known if he has obtained a lawyer.

Truett allegedly fled the base on Dec. 3, driving to northern California and then to Oregon, the sheriff's office said. He enlisted in the Air Force in early summer and recently succumbed to personal problems, Mackey said.

Four days after he abandoned the base, Truett's car became stuck on a snowy, rural Oregon road, Mackey said. He survived four days in the woods, using a cigarette lighter to build small fires.

Veteran actor Jason Robard becomes victim to cancer

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Jason Robards' stellar 40 years on the silver screen didn't extinguish his first love for the stage, say friends who remember the actor's flair before a live audience.

Robards, who won consecutive Oscars for "All the President's Men" and "Julia," died at Bridgeport Hospital after a long battle with cancer, said nursing supervisor Sally Dalton. He was 78.

Actress Debbie Reynolds said Robards, who usually played solemn roles, had a secret ambition to be a song-and-dance man.

"He always wanted to do musicals," Reynolds told KCBS-TV in Los Angeles. "This great actor wanted to just kick it up."

Robards was born on July 26, 1922, in Chicago, to Jason Nelson Robards Sr., a prominent actor.

Despite his father's prolific career in more than 170 movies, the young Robards had no interest in acting while he was growing up.

At Hollywood High School in Los Angeles, Robards was on the baseball, football, basketball and track teams. After graduating in 1939, he enlisted in the Navy.

After six years as a sailor during World War II, he used the GI Bill in 1946 to enroll in the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. He got some parts and drove a cab to support his family.

He earned his first critical acclaim in May 1956, when he appeared in Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." He followed that with a gripping role in O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night." He won a Tony for his role in "The Disenchanted."

After his film debut in 1959, as a Hungarian freedom fighter in "The Journey," Robards said he preferred theater to the movies.

"Once you're on, nobody can say 'cut it.' You're out there on your own, and there's always that thrill of a real live audience," he told Newsweek in 1958.

Yet he went on to make more than 50 feature films, winning best supporting actor Academy Awards for his portrayal of Washington Post Executive Editor Ben Bradlee in "All the President's Men" in 1976 and novelist Dashiell Hammett in "Julia" the following year.

He was nominated for another Oscar in 1980 for his portrayal of Howard Hughes in "Melvin and Howard."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2000

You could be extremely fortunate in the year ahead in securing inside help from those in the know. These lucky breaks may contribute substantially to your material success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) See if you can't do yourself some good today concerning your financial affairs. You have a unique ability at this time for spotting different ways to turn a profit. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Peers will find that air of strength and mystery you radiate today extremely appealing. You won't have to do anything special; it's just there, so be yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Especially when it comes to career matters, you could be exceptionally perceptive today by being able to detect things that aren't necessarily discernible to others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The opportunity for which you've been hoping to discuss an issue you feel needs transforming might present itself today. It'll involve those whose cooperation you need to make the change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An advantageous adjustment might be forthcoming today pertaining to a floundering financial matter. This beneficial turn of event might come about through the support of an ally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Follow your intuitive perceptions today when dealing with others on a head-to-head basis regarding securing their cooperation. It'll serve as a reliable guide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't be afraid to experiment today with procedures that were successful for an associate. There's a good chance they'll work for you as well and will improve your productivity at work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You and an ally may start to become more involved with one another starting today. This social alliance is destined to take on greater significance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Get involved in any situation today that you believe could enhance your material security. Chances are what transpires today will work out rather well for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It's up to you to be assertive today if you believe you can do a better job in handling a situation important to you and several friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Seek assistance first from family members before looking elsewhere today if you are in need of some kind of financial help. Chances are you won't have to pursue any further.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Restate your case again today to people who haven't been too receptive to your ideas in the past. They could do a complete about face and see things your way.

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Nine traffic deaths blamed on weather

By The Associated Press

Nine people died in a pair accidents on rain-slickened Texas highways on Tuesday.

Five people were killed and two others were hospitalized Tuesday after a four-vehicle accident on rain-slickened U.S. 175 near Athens in East Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

Four people, including a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old, were killed in a two-vehicle collision near Coldsprings in San Jacinto County.

Carolyn Bishop, 51, and her 18-year-old daughter, Patricia Bishop, both of Bullard, died when their eastbound car crossed the center lane of U.S. 175 near Athens about 2 p.m, said DPS spokesman Tom Vinger.

Their car hit a sport utility vehicle, careened into oncoming traffic and collided with a third car, he said.

Fairis Williams, 79, of Nacogdoches died at the scene. Patrick Flanigan and Lederick Williams, both of Nacogdoches, died at East Texas Medical Center in Athens. Jennifer Spencer, 19, and Flora Spencer, both of Nacogdoches, were listed in serious condition at the hospital Tuesday.

The cause of the accident remained under investigation, but Vinger said heavy rainfall across the area may have been a factor.

"It does appear that the weather was a factor in this wreck, it was raining at the time," Vinger said.

Athens, in Henderson County, is about 70 miles east of Dallas.

The driver of the SUV was not injured, Vinger said. A fourth car was struck by a spare tire that flew off during the accident but the driver was not injured, he said.

The DPS also reported that Miguel Avila, 24, of Shepherd and passengers Louisa Guzman, 23; Joe Avila, 4, and Angelica Avila, 2, were killed in an accident in near Coldsprings.

A car hyrdoplaned on Farm to Market road 2025 and struck a pickup driven by Avila. Both vehicles caught fire after the wreck.

Tot's death is blamed on space heater

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A one-year-old child whose family was visiting relatives in Montgomery for Christmas died early Tuesday in a fire authorities believe may have been caused by a space heater.

Demetrius Davis of Fort Hood died of smoke inhalation in the blaze at a Montgomery home. Demetrius's 9-year-old cousin, Rodrico Davis, and a 52-year-old neighbor, Joe Pickett, were injured.

Six children and two adults were in the house when the fire started about 3:30 a.m., fire officials said. Everybody in the house made it out, but Demetrius and Rodrico.

Sarah Davis, an aunt who lives next door, said Pickett tried to get the boys out of the burning house.

"When he went in there, he kept calling their names but they never answered, and he couldn't find them," Davis said.

Pickett then tried to remove burglar bars from a back window.

Firefighters found both boys inside a bedroom shortly after arriving on the scene, District Chief Keith Raybon said.

Demetrius died after being taken to a Montgomery hospital. Pickett was in serious condition and Rodrico in guarded condition at the hospital Tuesday night.

Highway contruction to ease congestion to be top priority

AUSTIN (AP) — Touting transportation as a priority for Texans, officials are scouring state coffers for funds that can be directed to highway budgets to pay for new construction.

"We desperately need more money for transportation projects," said Clyde Alexander, House Transportation Committee chairman. "It should be right at the top of our agenda."

New Gov. Rick Perry has encouraged the Texas Transportation Commission to produce innovative plans to help lawmakers attack the problem. The commission, appointed by the governor, oversees the Department of Transportation and recommends legislation.

Texas highways are trying to swallow growing volumes of traffic fed by the state's economic growth and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Nearly 80 percent of all U.S.-Mexico truck traffic crosses through Texas, Perry said.

Troubled corridors such as Interstates 35 and 10 have attracted particular attention because of their size and traffic volume.

Building more roads would seem the likely solution. But there simply isn't enough money, says Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Randall Dillard.

Most of the $5.2 billion highway fund comes from motor fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees and federal funding. The rest comes from state taxes on lubricants, title fees, interest and other reimbursements. But about 17 percent of the budget covers items other than highway projects, including $354 million to the Department of Public Safety.

Currently, the state can afford to fund only about 36 percent of needed transportation projects, Dillard said.

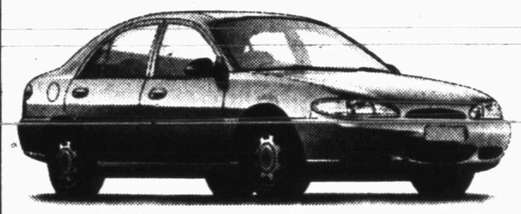
"Just adding money doesn't mean we're going to solve everything," Dillard said.

But increasing funding for highway projects and allowing the commission more flexibility in using existing funds would help streamline the process to build roads and tackle traffic, he said.

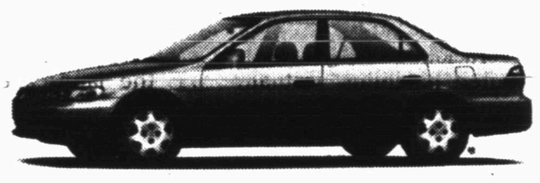
New funding methods such as Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bonds used by cities and counties failed last session but will be considered again by lawmakers this spring. GARVEE bonds leverage future federal highway dollars to build roads and highways sooner rather than later.

"The pay-as-you-go system has worked well up until now," Dillard said. "But it might be worth it to issue bonds to accelerate some of the projects we need to get done."

PRICE MELTDOWN



1997 Ford Escort
4 Cyl., 5 Spd., only 67,000 mi., good school car
$135.00 mo.
Cash price $5986.50, cash down $1265.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1997 Honda Accord SE
4 Dr., Auto, Sunroof, Keyless, CD, One Owner
$277.00 mo.
Cash price $12,960.25, cash down $3248.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1997 Lincoln Mark VIII
2 Dr., V8, Leather, Keyless, All Power, Exc. Cond
$292.00 mo.
Cash price $13,963.38, cash down $3741.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1998 Mazda 626LX
4 Cyl., Auto., CD, One Owner, Good Gas Mileage
$190.00 mo.
Cash price $10,766.43, cash down $2890.00, financed 60 mos. @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1996 Ford Explorer XLT
4 Dr., V6, Auto., Pw, Pl, Cruise, Cassette
$256.00 mo.
Cash price $11,912.53, cash down $2983.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.75% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1996 Ford Windstar GL
Pow. Win/Locks, Keyless, Ex. Clean, One Owner
$180.00 mo.
Cash price $8540.57, cash down $2292.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.75% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



1998 Ford Windstar GL
Pow. Win/Locks, Keyless, Exc. Cond., One Owner
$186.00 mo.
Cash price $10,521.44, cash down $2811.00, financed 60 mos. @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.

2000 F250 Crewcab Lariat 4X4 ..... $32,995
Powerstroke, Auto, Leather, Keyless, Factory Warranty
1999 Dodge Ram 150 ..... $19,995
SLE, 318, Auto, PW, PL, Extra Clean, Factory Warranty
2000 F150 Supercab Lariat $21,995
5.4, Auto, Leather, CD, Factory Warranty
1999 F250 Supercab XLT $22,995
Powerstroke, Auto, PW, PL, Long Bed, 2 to choose from

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Senate's secret vote opposed

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some of the largest newspapers in Texas plan to head to court today to block the state senate from choosing the next presiding officer of the body with non-record votes.

Attorney Jennifer Riggs said she plans to file a petition asking a state district judge in Austin for an injunction to prevent the the Texas Senate from selecting former Lt. Gov. Rick Perry's replacement without a a voice vote.

Perry left his post as lieutenant governor to become governor last week, replacing President-elect Bush. The Senate plans to convene Thursday and choose a new presiding officer from within its ranks. That person will have the duties but not the title of lieutenant governor, and will continue to be a senator.

In a private caucus Dec. 23, the senators agreed informally that a non-record, or secret, vote would be used to elect Perry's replacement. When the senators meet Thursday, they must approve the rule formally before casting ballots.

"The public has a substantial interest in knowing how its elected representatives vote on who shall perform the duties of lieutenant governor until the next general election. The secret ballot violates the fundamental tenet of an elected official's accountability to the electorate," the petition states, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The petition will be filed on behalf of the Express-News as well as the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Houston Chronicle, Waco Tribune-Herald and Austin-American Statesman and Texas Monthly magazine.

The publications Friday wrote letters to the 31 state senators warning them that a non-record vote, behind closed doors could violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, which requires government bodies to act in public.

"Those who make laws should be the first ones to comply with the law. I cannot imagine why the Senate would flout both the court and people who buy ink by the barrel and their constituents," Riggs said.

Senators who favor a secret ballot say that if their own members do not know who voted for whom, it lessens the ill will and wards off possible retaliation.

Bill Ratliff, an 11-year veteran state senator who has expressed interest in the job, said state senators should continue with plans to vote privately, even if a judge orders them otherwise.

"I think we'd have a real standoff," the Mount Pleasant Republican said. who has held his office since 1989. "I don't think the Senate will stand for it. The right response is for us to go ahead and hold our meeting just like we planned to."

Senators have been assured by two legislative staff advisers and Attorney General John Cornyn who have assured them such a vote would be legal, Ratliff said.

Steve Collins, executive director of the Texas Legislative Council and parliamentarian for the Texas House, said last week the Senate may choose the new lieutenant governor by secret ballot without violating open meetings laws.

A section of the law prohibits legislators from secretly meeting except as permitted by the state constitution.

Most senators, save two agree.

Sens. Steve Ogden, R-College Station, and Tom Haywood, R-Wichita Falls, have opposed moves to keep the vote secret and said the state's constitution requires an open voice vote.

Among the leading candidates to succeed Perry are Republicans J.E. "Buster" Brown of Lake Jackson, Teel Bivins of Amarillo, Bill Ratliff of Mount Pleasant, David Sibley of Waco and Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio.

Social security sytems at risk of paying to convicted felons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The long arm of the law finally grabbed Anthony Cummings in New York City last year, but only after he had collected thousands of dollars from a Social Security program while on the run from a child rape indictment in Georgia.

Cummings, now serving a 10-year prison sentence, is one of about 25,000 fugitives from state and federal felony charges who have improperly collected Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, checks from the Social Security Administration since 1996.

The agency has paid out at least $76 million in SSI benefits designed for poor Americans with disabilities since 1996 — and perhaps as much as $283 million, an internal review has found.

And the Social Security Administration is at risk of paying millions more to accused felons because it doesn't have complete lists of fugitives from the states, its inspector general warns.

"We estimate that SSA will continue to pay fugitives at least $30 million annually in SSI payments if state fugitive files are not used to prevent such payments," the agency's internal watchdog wrote in a recent report obtained by The Associated Press.

The agency hopes to negotiate agreements by July to get such records from all 50 states, officials said. So far, it had reached agreements with just six states and New York City, SSA spokeswoman Carolyn Cheezum said.

"We believe the negotiations are going on at a very good pace," Cheezum said. "These are legally binding agreements and require a lot of detailed review before they can be put in place. It can't be done up quickly."

Congress in 1996 barred felony fugitives from receiving SSI benefits, which are provided to more than 6 million elderly, blind or disabled Americans with low incomes.

Since then, only 2,000 of the estimated 25,000 fugitives who received SSI payments — fewer than 10 percent — have been caught, auditors said.

Social Security officials said privacy laws prohibit them from saying how much the agency paid Cummings during the 41 months he was a fugitive from charges he raped and molested a 3-year-old girl.

But based on the maximum benefit levels in effect during those months, the 27-year-old Savannah, Ga., man could have received as much as $19,556.

"That's outrageous," said Greg McConnell, the Georgia prosecutor who negotiated Cummings' guilty plea last May.

The checks, however, eventually led authorities to the address in New York City where Cummings was hiding.

"Federal marshals and our guys just knocked on his door and asked if he was Anthony Cummings," said Rich Rodhe, spokesman for the Social Security inspector general. "He said, 'Yeah, that's who I am,' and they arrested him."

Social Security officials contend that a new computer program should end such payments while helping law enforcement officers track down fugitives. It uses computers to match law enforcement records of fugitive felons against the data files of beneficiaries of SSI and other Social Security programs.

When a match is found, SSI benefits can be terminated, and Social Security investigators can provide law enforcement officials with the fugitive's most recent address — the one where he or she has been receiving checks.

The program, however, has been slow to start. The agency took almost four years to obtain fugitive records to match against Social Security files.

And those federal records, auditors discovered this summer, include only an estimated 28 percent of the felony fugitives receiving SSI benefits.

Using estimates, auditors projected that $76 million to $283 million in SSI payments have been made to felony fugitives since such payments were outlawed in 1996.

Obituaries

Mattie Crook

1913-2000

Mattie Una Crook, a retired employee of the Monsanto Gasoline Plant, died Sunday, Dec. 24, in Baylor Hospital in Dallas following a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Crook, 87, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Colonial Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired pastor, and Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, will officiate.



Mattie Crook

Graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. in Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with arrangements under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born June 24, 1913 in Big Spring, she was married to James P. Crook who died in 1953. She also was preceded in death by a daughter, Wanda Sue Bowen, in 1993.

Mrs. Crook worked for Monsanto for 27 years, retiring in 1977. She was a member of the Colonial Hill Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for many years.

Survivors include a son, Kenneth Crook of Tyler; a daughter, Louise Davenport of Greenville; a sister, Frances Reeves of Corpus Christi; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

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Allen Bruton

1923-2000

Weston Allen Bruton of Fluvanna died Sunday, Dec. 24, while visiting his son in Bangkok, Thailand.

Services for Mr. Bruton, 77, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 19, 1923 in Temple, he married Ila Mae "Chigger" Jordan on June 24, 1952 in Lovington, N.M. She died June 20, 2000.

Mr. Bruton was a retired engineer for Baroid Services.

Survivors include a son, Greg Bruton of Bangkok; a daughter, Lana Renee Harden of Amarillo; a grandson, Cody Bruton of Bangkok; four sisters; and five brothers.

James Burleson

1926-2000

James E. Burleson, a resident of Snyder for the past 10 years, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Burleson, 74, is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in Resthaven Funeral Home Chapel in Lubbock. Bill Looney, associate minister of the 37th Street Church of Christ, will officiate.

Born July 28, 1916 in El Segundo, Calif., he married Elizabeth Titus in June, 1950.

A graduate of Texas A&M University, Mr. Burleson was a retired sales manager for Worthington Pump Company and had been involved in ranching. A resident of Snyder since 1990, Mr. Burleson was a member of the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Burleson of Lubbock; two daughters, Janie Bashour of Cleveland, Ohio, and Ann Utterback of Lubbock; two sons, Dr. James R. Burleson of Snyder and Bryan Burleson of Hattiesburg, Miss.; a sister, Jodie Crawford of Granbury; and eight grandchildren.

One arrest is seen Tuesday

Other than weather-related calls, local law enforcement personnel had a relatively quiet Tuesday.

At 6:45 a.m., a worker with the Texas Department of Transportation notified dispatchers that someone had knocked down the barriers and traffic cones on Highway 84 and FM 1611.

The Snyder Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a trash container at 2:49 p.m. in the 200 block of 36th Place. The fire apparently started when ashes were dumped in the container.

At 6:30 p.m., deputies were notified that a pickup was pulling an old car hood with kids on it on FM 1609 and it was creating a traffic hazard. The pickup was gone when the deputy arrived.

One person was arrested this morning after a person called dispatchers at 2:20 a.m. stating a police officer was needed.

Taken into custody in the 1200 block of 26th Street was a 34-year-old male charged with Class C assault, family violence.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 26 – Frank Nash, Lucille Shaw, Jeannie Smith, Albert Thompson and Lester Bryce.

DISMISSALS: Jackie Doucette, Nancy Guerra and Jerry Vaughn.

CENSUS: 39 (Med./Surg.-15, Long-term Care-21 and ICU-3)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Word Is Life Church

The Word is Life Church will present Keith Longbotham and his niece, Macy Hill, in ministry at 7 this evening. Longbotham travels the nation sharing the messsage of the power of God's love. Hill is a young recording artist. Everyone is invited.

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

Auditor reception

A retirement reception to honor County Auditor Eddie McHaney will be held from 2-4 p.m. Thursday in the county courtroom on the third floor.

Retirement honor

A retirement reception will be held from 10 until 11:30 a.m. Friday in the District Courtroom for John Cline who is retiring after 36 years as the court reporter.

Turkey shoot

The Snyder FFA Booster Club members will have a Turkey Shoot Sunday from noon until dark at the Canyon Gun Club Range. R.S.V.P. by calling Skip Craig at 573-7750 or 725-7027; or Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

New Year's service

Apostolic Faith Church, 25th Street and Ave. Z, will have a New Year's Service starting at 8 p.m. Sunday. The service will include various speakers and music. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Scurry Lodge stated meeting

Scurry Lodge #706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Lodge Hall. All Master Masons are invited. The February meeting will feature a film about Masonic hospitals and the film is open to the public.

Retirement reception

A come-and-go retirement reception in honor of Bob Martin, Windham School District deputy superintendent for Region 5, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday at the region office located on the south side of the Price Daniel unit,

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 5. Testing in the extended application process is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 11, 9 a.m. Jan. 17 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

Lions Club meeting

Snyder Lions Club will resume its regular noon Tuesday weekly meetings Jan. 9 at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

1981 class reunion

The SHS class of 1981 reunion committee is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion scheduled June 29-30. Submit names, addresses and e-mail addresses at shsclassof81@hotmail.com, or by calling Beth Bowen (573-2670), or Charlotte Clifton (573-2430).

Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

Country and gospel music program

The next country and gospel music program at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. For additional information, call 573-3996.

Glory Room open

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Adult basic education classes

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

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado SWCD will take orders for windbreak trees until Jan. 31. Evergreens are $2 and hardwoods are $1 for 12 to 18 inches tall. Come by 5309 Big Spring Hwy or call 573-6317.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
3-5-1

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
5-12-19-20-28