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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Dec. 6 & 7, 1997
Vol. 49 No. 187
40 Pages 50¢

Home Of Marilyn Lancaster

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Some people are carried away with their own importance — but not far enough."

Everybody had good intentions.

Helen Nixon, retired Baptist missionary who now makes her home in Snyder, gave us "the rest of the story" concerning last month's Food Drive for the local Food Cupboard.

Boys and Girls Scouts distributed sacks, asking for donations of non-perishable food items. Once the sacks were filled, the scouts were to return on Saturday and pick up the items left on front porches.

Miss Nixon says she had forgotten about the food drive. She was, however, busy preparing food for a funeral meal to be served at her church.

She placed some slices of pineapple in a ziplock bag, plus a container of cottage cheese, inside a grocery sack.

Afraid it would soil the carpet, she sat the sack on the porch and stepped back inside to fetch a jacket.

When Miss Nixon returned, the sack was missing. She looked up and down the street and couldn't spot a culprit.

She decided to start over, but first ran by the church to say that her dish would be a few minutes late. While explaining why, she was reminded of the food drive.

Miss Nixon was able to get the second set of ingredients there in time for the family meal, but she just hoped that someone looked inside her first sack quickly enough for it to be useful to someone.

Speaking of food, we've been trying to hire Bunk Casey as a food critic.

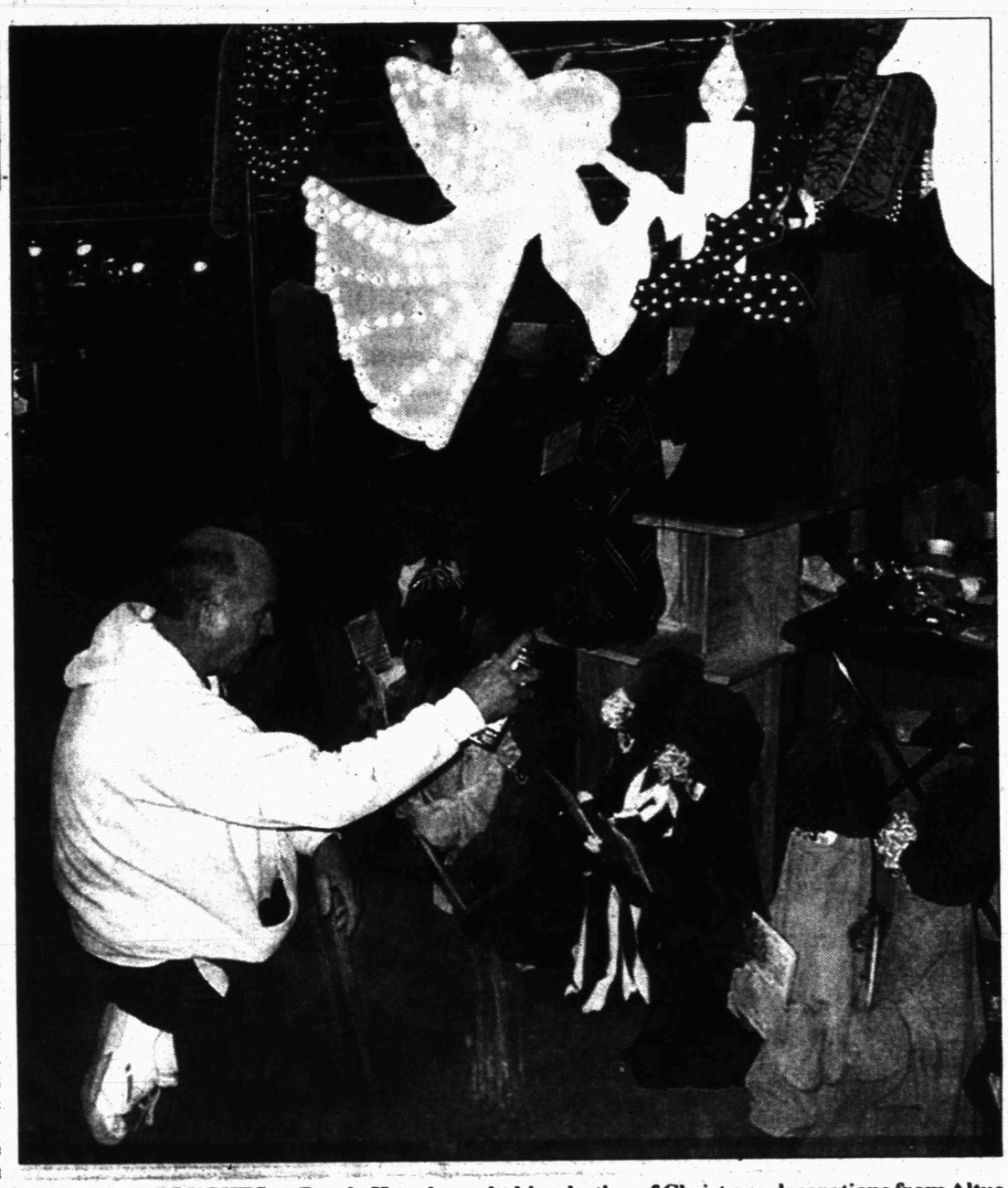
Casey, a retired ginner (he says you can tell by looking), admits to not having missed a church-sponsored benefit meal in years.

Bunk says church dinners are usually the best eating to be found anywhere. Anybody wanting advanced information on what to expect, can give Bunk a jingle. He'll answer the telephone if he's not watching a ball game.

Bunk says his refusual to be our official food critic is an easy one. "I won't work for what I'm worth."

Speaking of food, didja' hear about the condemned man who asked for a steak, prepared rare.

He explained, "Up 'til now, I've been afraid to eat anything rare."



FINISHING TOUCHES — Randy Hunt brought his selection of Christmas decorations from Altus, Okla, to the Scurry County Coliseum this weekend for the annual arts and crafts show. The show will be open until 6 p.m. Saturday and from noon until 5 p.m. Sunday. (SDN Staff Photo)

Community ready for annual parade

More than 20 groups and individuals will be participating in the city's annual Lighted Christmas Parade, which gets underway at 6:30 p.m. Saturday along College Avenue.

The parade will circle the courthouse square.

Grand Marshals are Brent and Deshonna Taylor.

Among the participants will be the Crossroads Cafe from Ira, Ned and Polly Underwood, the Girl Scouts, Big Country Autoland, Snyder High School Spanish Club and Snyder Wheels car club members.

Others are Colonial Hill Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints, Rodeo Queen Shelly York and Barbee Medical Supply.

Still others are Lila Cantrell, David and Alisha Cain, Scurry County, Snyder Cheer Stars, the Scurry County Rodeo Association, Snyder Police Department and Snyder Fire Department.

Members of the Snyder High School band are also expected to perform.

Parade goers are invited to have a cup of coffee or hot chocolate from the fountain at the Ritz Theatre.

Those attending will also find two boxes near the courthouse gazebo where they can leave a toy or non-perishable food item if they wish.

Parade formation will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the old Kmart parking lot on College Avenue.

Gannaway won't seek a third term

A second Democrat has announced he will not seek re-election in the March 10 Primary, possibly leaving the door open for the growing Republican Party in Scurry County.

Jerry Gannaway, who has served as Precinct 4 county commissioner for two terms, announced this morning that he will not seek a third.

"I've thought long and hard about the decision," said Gannaway. "I just feel its time to retire at the end of this term."

Gannaway, who also farms in the Hermleigh community, will return to farming full-time.

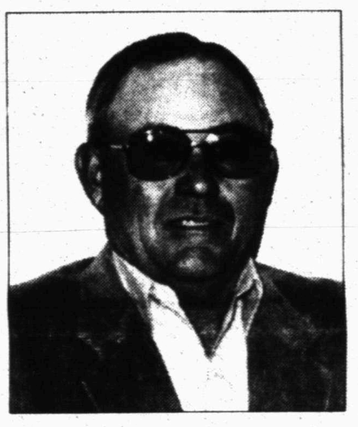
Last week, District Clerk Elois Pruitt, another Democrat, said she would not seek re-election. A longtime clerk in that office, Trina Rodgers, filed to seek the Republican Party nomination following Mrs. Pruitt's announcement.

Republican incumbents have filed for four other offices. They are County Judge Ricky Fritz, Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom, County Clerk Joan Bunch and Precinct 1 Peace Justice Charlie Reynolds, although Reynolds ran on the Democratic ticket in the last election.

The Scurry County Democratic Party currently has only one candidate — incumbent County Treasurer Charlie Bell. Democratic Party Chairman Billy Haynes said he has been approached by someone considering the Precinct 4 commissioner's post but no one has officially filed.

None of the candidates who have filed for office in Scurry County are opposed as yet.

There is one office up for election for which no one has filed — Peace Justice of Pct. 2, held by John Williamson.



Jerry Gannaway

While serving as commissioner, Gannaway said he felt his main accomplishment was working to improve the Hermleigh Water Works.

"We finally got a grant to make the needed improvements," said Gannaway. "We will finally have a loop in the system which will provide a better quality of water and better water pressure, as well."

Gannaway summed up his years as a commissioner by staying that while he was elected by the people of Precinct 4, he always tried to do what was best for the entire county.

"I have always tried to be available for everyone.

"Ive spent 19 years with Scurry County in Precinct 4," said Gannaway. "And I've enjoyed it all."

Filing runs through Jan. 2. Anyone interested in filing should contact the county chairman: Haynes or Republican Party Chairman Drew Bullard.

Early voting will be held from Feb. 23 through March 6.

At Pearl Harbor...

Vets' ashes to be scattered

HONOLULU (AP) — Joe Langdell comes from a seafaring family.

It was natural for him to join the Navy — an ancestor was lost at sea while raiding British ships in the late 1790s, and several other family members later served in the Navy.

He became an ensign, assigned to the USS Arizona stationed at Pearl Harbor. As luck would have it, Langdell was ashore the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked.

Langdell watched from nearby Ford Island as 1,177 of his crew members were killed. An estimated 950 of them were entombed in the sunken ship.

When Langdell dies, his ashes will join his fallen shipmates in the rusting hull of the ship.

"I felt absolutely helpless as I watched the attack," said Langdell, an 83-year-old retired lieutenant commander from Yuba City, Calif. "If I had been aboard, I would have been killed in that No. 2 (gun) turret. That was the one that blew up. It was my luck to be assigned off the ship that day."

On Sunday, the 56th anniversary of the attack that drew the United States into World War II, two Navy men who survived the battle are scheduled to have their ashes scattered on the waters above the battleship. It is an honor extended to those who survived the attack while serving on another ship, or those who served on the Arizona before the attack.

Jack Carson of Sherwood, Ore., died in June and Jack Beardsley of Carson City, Nev., died in August. The friends served aboard the destroyer USS Henley, which returned fire against the Japanese bomber squadrons, Petty Officer David Nagle, a spokesman for the Pearl Harbor Naval Base, said Thursday.

Carson's widow, Frances, arranged for the Navy to scatter her husband's ashes.

In all, 13 Arizona survivors have had their ashes placed with their long-dead comrades in arms.

Divers place urns containing the ashes in the Arizona's now submerged No. 4 barbette, a 25-foot-deep armored cylinder on which one of the battleship's 14-inch gun turrets was once positioned, said Kathy Billings, superintendent of the USS Arizona Memorial.

TEC fines local woman $100 for election violation

A Scurry County woman has agreed to a $100 fine assessed by the Texas Ethics Commission for violating sections of the election code.

The commission fined Ruth Shaw $100 for failure to file timely campaign finance reports during the hospital lease election held last August.

Leland McCarty, chairman of a group called Friends of Cogdell, which opposed a proposal to lease Cogdell Memorial Hospital to Community Health Systems, filed the complaints on Aug. 1. He charged that Ms. Shaw — an advocate of the lease — and Community Health Systems failed to file reports.

The Texas Ethics Commission has released no report concerning the allegations against Community Health Systems.

In agreeing to the resolution, Mrs. Shaw did not admit to or deny the commission's findings, but consented to the entry only for the purpose of resolving the complaint, according to the TEC.

Mrs. Shaw did file campaign financial reports, but not in a timely manner, according to the TEC.

The lease proposal failed at the polls on Aug. 9, with 57 percent of the voters saying they wanted to retain local control of the county-owned hospital. The vote was 1,977 against, and 1,496 for.

Home tour set Sunday

The annual Christmas Tour of Homes will be Sunday at 2 p.m., sponsored by Historic Scurry County and the Scurry County Historical Commission.

Homes on the tour include those of Keith and Jackie Hackfeld, 6752 South Highway 208; Joe and Millie Sentell, 2612 32nd; Travis and Joan Bunch, 2711 Ave. W; Betsy Griffin and her mother, Betty Bruner, 2801 Ave. W; Don and Laurie Chandler, 2807 Ave. W; and the Cornelius-Dodson House and Dermott Schoolhouse, on the coliseum grounds.

At the festively decorated historical park, Richard Hester's collection of cookie jars will be included along with Lois Bartels' nativity scenes. Also, refreshments will be served.

Advance tickets may be purchased at Eddie Peterson's Pharmacy, Bar H Bar Family Outfitters, Countryplace, from any member of the historical organizations or by calling Jean Everett at 573-2763.

They may also be purchased at the door of any tour home. All tickets are $10.

Window contest winnners named

Preferred Risk Insurance at 1800 26th Street took the grand prize in the chamber of commerce merchants' window decorating contest.

The display also was selected as most original.

Other winning entries were:

—Best Christmas Theme — Ben Murphy, CPA, 1813 25th St.

—Most Unique — Vision Makers, 2509 College.

—Best Religious Theme — Bennett's Chiropractic, 1813 26th St.

—Most Beautiful — The Gift Shop, 1804½ 26th St.

Receiving honorable mention was the Pink Flamingo, 2608½ College Ave.

Members of the chamber's Gold Coat organization served as judges.

ASK US

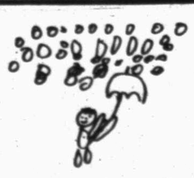
Q—How many sheriffs has Scurry County had, and who was the first one?

A—According to the information we have, there have been 16, the first of whom was W.W. Nelson in 1884.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 42 degrees, low, 27; reading at 7 a.m. Saturday, 32 degrees; no precipitation; total precipitation for 1997 to date, 23.96 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, cloudy with 30% chance of light rain. Low near 40 and SE win 5-15 mph. Sunday, 40% chance of rain. High in mid 50s and south win 5-15 mph.



Candy Chandler
Rain chance

Sunset:
5:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:30 a.m.
Of 339 days in 1997, the sun has shone 324 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.

Helen Keller

DEC 06 1997

Sexual harassment...

Court to review third case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, already studying two sex-harassment cases, agreed Friday to tackle a third and clarify just when school districts are legally responsible for teachers' misconduct.

The court's decision, expected by July, could pack enormous importance for school officials nationwide.

The justices said they will study a sex-bias lawsuit against a Texas public school district over a teacher's sexual relationship with a girl in his ninth-grade class.

In other action Friday, the court agreed to decide how death row inmates may challenge their state's use of a new federal law aimed at streamlining federal courts' handling of their appeals.

The court will use a California case to say whether inmates can file federal lawsuits attacking the applicability to their states of key provisions in the law, the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996.

In the Texas sex-bias case, lower courts ruled that the Lago Vista Independent School District cannot be held responsible for the conduct of Frank Waldrop, a onetime teacher at Lago Vista High School.

The school district was sued by a former student who said she and Waldrop had sex on a regular basis in 1992, when she was 15.

The former student, identified in court papers only as Jane Doe, contended that Waldrop's conduct amounted to illegal sexual harassment and that the school district should be financially liable because officials did nothing to stop him.

The lawsuit said the sexual relationship lasted for about six months, until a Lago Vista police officer in January 1993 discovered the two having sex.

A federal trial judge threw out the lawsuit after noting a lack of evidence that any school official knew about the sexual relationship.

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

The Road Back Ministries Prayer Line

Love Lifted Me.
Love Lifted Me.
Read John 3:16
And He'll Lift You Too.

Marcia Sanders 573-6369
PO Box 973, Snyder, TX 79550

God's Deliverance plus Lesson 1: The Beginning
TCA Cable TV - Channel #2
Mon., Dec. 8, 1997, 7:00 p.m.

Museum fund-raiser...

Raffle tickets for computer available

The Scurry County Museum is selling raffle tickets for a computer. Proceeds will go toward helping the museum improve its financial position.

The computer being raffled is a KG6MMX 200 one with a 15 inch monitor, a 2.1 Gig Hard Drive. 32 MB RAM, 10X CD-Rom, sound blaster, MS mouse, Windows 95.

The drawing for the computer will be held Dec. 21 at a location to be announced.

The computer system will be available for viewing at the craft show at the coliseum this weekend; at the museum on Wednesday; and Bar H Bar, Dec. 20. Other locations and times are to be announced.

Tickets are now available at Snyder Health Mart Drug, Nathalie's and the museum.

According to James R. Cave, Scurry County Museum Board president, "The museum is striving to end 1997 in a zero or positive cash position. It is essential that the museum do this, since it is applying for operating funds from foundations and governmental agencies."

The museum is located on the southwest corner of the WTC campus. Its winter hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday. Other times by appointment. Call 573-6107 for additional information.

We've got that hometown spirit and we're passing it around!

A Bright Spot In Our Hometown!

Beverly Johnson

Loyal, dependable, cheerful.

If you looked these words up in a dictionary, co-workers at Western Texas College would not be surprised to find a picture of Beverly Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson, one of the original staffers at WTC, is recipient of December's Hometown Spirit Award.

Mrs. Johnson, who started to work for the community college in August, 1971, retires at the end of the semester.

She has held the same job in the business office for 25 years — holding down the responsibility to pay the college's monthly bills. As accounts payable clerk, Mrs. Johnson has spent — or at least written — checks for millions.

When she went to work for WTC, temporary administrative offices were located in the old Chevron Oil Co. building, now the location of American State Bank.

There were no computers. All checks were executed on a typewriter and all receipts were handwritten. The office was outfitted with a desk, calculator and typewriter.

That first semester, students were registered at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Co-workers not only admire Beverly's attention to detail, but the cheerful attitude in which she has approached her daily duties.

"She never complains and always smiles," said one colleague. An illness has not deterred her dependability. "There have been times when we know she's not felt well, but she's always there, doing her job with a positive outlook."

Beverly Johnson is an avid sports fan. Not only has she rooted for WTC and local teams, she's a loyal supporter of the Dallas Cowboys.

She attended Sam Houston State University for three years. Prior to going to work for WTC, she worked for Buster Anderson in his CPA office. Before that, she worked for a brief time at American Magnesium.

Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Gerald, are longtime members of the 37th Street Church of Christ. A son, Kirk, is an architect and resides in Hartford, Conn. A daughter, Sherry, is a teacher in Austin.

Retirement plans include reading and short day trips with her family.

Snyder National Bank is proud to salute Beverly Johnson — a bright spot in our hometown!

SNYDER NATIONAL BANK
SERVING SCURRY COUNTY SINCE 1905
FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Lobby Hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMBER FDIC
Motor Bank Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sharing the HOMETOWN SPIRIT Since 1905

Ballot tampering charge is filed

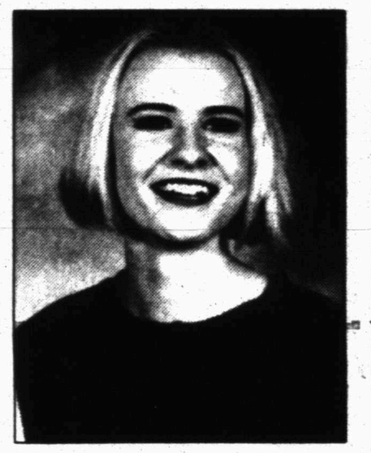
HOUSTON (AP) — On the eve of Houston's mayoral runoff, an election worker was arrested Friday for tampering with early voting ballots, the Harris County district attorney said.

Houston residents go to the polls Saturday to elect a mayor and five City Council members: two district and three at-large seats.

While counting mailed ballots for the Harris County elections office, Ronald Hinge, 66, was seen punching in a choice for mayor on ballots where voters had left the section blank, said Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr.

Hinge was charged with casting an illegal ballot, a third-degree felony. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison and a $10,000 fine. The Harris County Jail refused to disclose whether Hinge was still detained late Friday.

Holmes said his office was contacted three days ago when another election worker observed Hinge punching in choices for mayor on mailed ballots.



Elizabeth Beckham

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

Beckham picked for Who's Who

Elizabeth Beckham has been selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1996-1997." She attends Hermleigh High School where she is the secretary of the junior class and a member of the yearbook staff.

Beckham is the daughter of John and Mary Hardin and the granddaughter of Jacquelyn Chom.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.
Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.
POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $8.00 per month.
By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $78.00 balance of Texas and out of state $99.00.
Roy McQueen, Publisher
Bill McClellan, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Holiday Open House
Wednesday, Dec. 10th
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Special Guests and Refreshments
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FREE Motorola Star-Tac*
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"Simply the Smallest, Lightest Cellular Phone in the World"
A $599 Value

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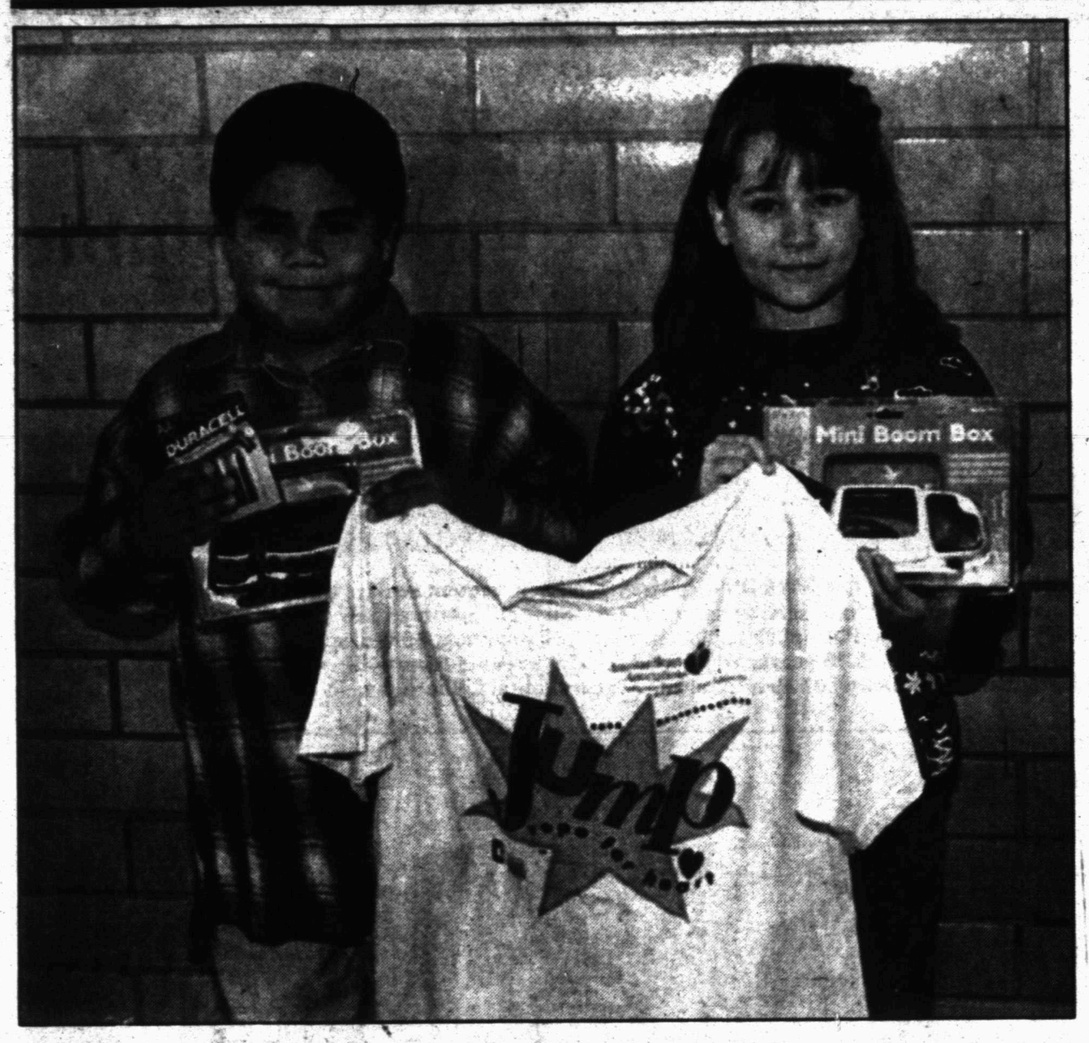

TOP TWO — East's top two money raisers are Santino Hermosillo and Laura Boyd. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

TOP SIX — The top six money raisers at Northeast are from left, front row, Blake Robertson and Shahala Leatherwood; back row, Whitney Warner, Carol Ann Tavarez, Courtney Cox and Jessica Davis. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

In managed care...

Patients to get all options

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - Aetna U.S. Healthcare said Friday it no longer is enforcing a clause in managed care contracts that doctors say prevented them from telling patients all their treatment options.

The provision, decribed by physicians as a "gag clause," will be removed from future contracts, said Aetna U.S. Healthcare spokeswoman Jill Griffiths in a telephone interview from her office in Blue Bell, Pa. Company officials it is not intended as a "gag" clause.

The clause has drawn sharp criticism from the Florida Medical Association and American Medical Association, which contend it prevents doctors from fully informing their patients of options.

The two medical groups contended in a news release this week that the Aetna U.S. Healthcare contracts may violate laws against gag clauses in Florida and 34 other states.

The company, a subsidiary of Hartford Conn.-based Aetna Inc., disagrees but is dropping the clause from its contracts anyway.

"This is something that is obviously an issue with doctors, so we changed it," Griffiths said.

She said the change will be explained to doctors in an upcoming provider newsletter. The controversial clause states: "Provider shall not provide or threaten to provide inferior care or imply to members that their care or access to care will be inferior due to the source of payment."

It was intended to protect managed-care patients by requiring doctors to treat them the same as they do other patients, Griffiths said.

But the medical associations interpreted such clauses in contracts with Aetna and other companies to mean that doctors cannot tell patients about alternative treatments not covered by their plans.

Classified Ads 573-5486

Policeman could lose his badge

DALLAS (AP) — An area law officer accused of mistreating suspects and misusing his police dog has quit and could also lose his license if proven to have falsely claimed he graduated from a high school.

Marcus Cook has testified at least twice in separate civil lawsuits that he is a North Mesquite High School graduate.

On Cook's sworn application to become a reserve law enforcement officer, he stated he was a high school graduate and submitted a 1984 North Mesquite diploma as evidence.

However, North Mesquite educators say Cook did not graduate from that school, withdrawing instead in December 1983 after repeating the ninth grade and completing one semester of 10th grade.

Lake Dallas Nick Ristagno says Cook, accused of mistreating suspects and misusing his police dog, resigned from the department on Monday.

East and Northeast jump rope for heart

Northeast and East Elementary Schools have held jump rope-a-thons for the American Heart Association. East has raised a total of $3,146.95 and Northeast, $2,022.44.

Top fund raisers at Northeast are first place, Blake Robertson, $230; second place, Shahala Leatherwood, $206; third, Courtney Cox, $135; fourth, Whitney Warner, $125.40; fifth, Jessica Davis, $83; and Carol Ann Tavarez, $75.

East's top two money makers are Santino Hermosillo, $175, and Laura Boyd, $125.

Prizes included T-shirts, jump ropes, flashlights, arm bands, space radios and mini boomboxes.

Wal-Mart donated the mini boomboxes. East parents provided cookies and drinks for the school's jump-rope-a-thon.

Making misteaks in spelling comes naturally to us.

With elections looming on the horizon, politicians now in office hope fervently that voters agree with the saying "One good term deserves another."

Snyder First Church of the Nazarene presenting

"Does Santa Really Care?"

Sunday, December 21, 10:45 a.m.

Come Worship With Us And Bring The Kids - SANTA WILL BE THERE

2462 S. 208 573-5601

GOODFELLOWS

Scurry County families may apply for Goodfellows food donations by filling out this form. The deadline to apply is Dec. 12th. Applications should be mailed to: Goodfellows, P.O. Drawer 41, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

Home's Monthly Income $ _____

Do You Receive: Food Stamps ___ **AFDC** __ **SS/SSI** __

Father of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Mother of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Another Telephone Where You Can Be Reached _____

List Ages of Children at Home

Boys: _____

_____

Girls: _____

_____

Total Number of People at Home _____

Acceptance Cards will be mailed to only Qualified applicants at their address.

Happy 27th
Shannon Warren

NEW TBE5828
New 7410 Die-Cast Riding Tractor Summer '97

PM5944
'50 Chevy Prestige With John Deere Graphics

PM5786
8300 Hi-Horsepower Tractor

PM5918
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PM5520
310D Tractor/Loader/Backhoe

PM5795
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FARM SETS

NEW
TBE5761
New Model BR Tractor With Wagon Set

It's Christmas in John Deere Toy Town

This Christmas, give the little ones on your list the gift of quality John Deere toys. These durable, die-cast-metal replicas are built tough to last through season after season of fun. Your kids will love playing with the various models and sizes available. Stop in today and see our selection.

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DEC 06 1997

Feds make drug bust

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal drug agents have seized three methamphetamine labs and arrested 100 people on charges of helping the leading Mexican-based meth gang produce and distribute the drug in this country.

Among those charged were 46 people named in two indictments returned by a federal grand jury in Dallas, an alleged distribution center for the operation.

"This is a major organization that had the ability to supply the whole United States," James Milford, deputy administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, told a news conference Friday. He added that those charged were strongly connected to and got precursor chemicals from the Amezcua-Contreras gang, which U.S. officials believe is the largest Mexican meth gang.

One lab, which contained combustible and toxic chemicals abandoned while still cooking, was raided Wednesday across the street from a day-care center and close to two schools in Los Angeles. Another lab was located on the grounds of a public horse-riding stable in the Los Angeles area.

"The operation was dangerous; it was difficult, and it took meticulous planning and coordination" between seven federal and 35 state and local law enforcement agencies, Attorney General Janet Reno said.

"We are disrupting the meth trade," she added. "We are not going to let meth spread across America the way crack did in the 1980s."

Reno said a total of 100 people had been arrested in California, Texas and North Carolina through Friday in the 9-month-long Operation Meta. DEA officials said the operation had produced arrest warrants for 125 people and they conducted 32 searches.

During the operation, agents seized 133 pounds of methamphetamine, 90 gallons of solution that would produce 260 to 290 pounds of the drug, 220 pounds of cocaine, 1,300 pounds of marijuana and $2 million in profits that were being returned to Mexico, the Justice Department said.

Wholesale prices of illegal methamphetamine vary widely in this country based on availability. One pound can cost $3,500 to $5,000 on the West Coast, where meth is most plentiful, or $23,000 to $25,000 on the East Coast.

Among those arrested were Rafael Anguiano-Chavez, alleged head of the gang's Los Angeles cell, and Daniel Virgen, alleged chief of its Dallas operation, DEA officials said.

They said the gang has headquarters in Colima, Mexico, and shipped chemicals used to produce meth to three laboratories in the Los Angeles area.

FIREMAN SERVICE AWARDS — Snyder Fire Department service awards were presented at the recent 68th annual Thanksgiving banquet at the Snyder Country Club. Recipients, from left, include Cary Clark, 5 years; Phillip Kincheloe, five years; Clint Doty, 10 years; Kyle Cox, Darrell Craig and Perry Westmoreland, 15 years; Terry McDowell, 25 years; Tommy Guynes, 35 years; Odell Cox, 40 years; and not pictured, Rene Garza, 5 years. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

100 PERCENT ATTENDANCE — Members of the Snyder Fire Department with 100 percent attendance were recognized at the recent 68th annual Thanksgiving banquet at the Snyder Country Club. Recipients include, from left, Doug Scott, Tommy Guynes, Matt Cave, Albert Canon, Jack Callaway and Kenneth Wood. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Financial chief seeks $10 million

DALLAS (AP) — The chief financial officer for the Dallas Independent School District filed a $10 million federal lawsuit Friday against the district and its board, alleging that his civil rights were violated.

Mathew Harden alleges he and six other school district employees were targeted for demotions and reassignments because they are black, in an effort to increase Hispanic leadership within the district.

"They had a hit list of seven people who were to be terminated or demoted or reassigned," Harden's attorney Scott Hershman said. "The DISD then carried out those six and then subsequently went to the top with evidence against those folks."

Harden alleges in the lawsuit that he was demoted, electronically tracked, harassed and professionally and privately ruined by district officials.

School district spokesman Jon Dahlander could not be reached for comment Friday evening. His home telephone number was not listed.

Separatist trial next year

EL PASO(AP) — A husband and wife who participated in the Republic of Texas' armed standoff against authorities will be tried next year — in a different city from where their leader was convicted.

State District Judge Kenneth DeHart decided Friday to move Gregg and Karen Paulson's organized crime trial to Fort Stockton from Alpine, where self-styled Republic ambassador Richard McLaren was tried in October.

DeHart also granted a defense motion to postpone the case until late January. The couple had been scheduled to go on trial Monday on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity.

The Paulsons are accused of taking two people hostage during a military-style raid April 27 near Fort Davis in the Davis Mountains Resort, a remote community 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

The abduction, conducted in retaliation for the arrest of another Republic member, sparked a standoff with 300 officers that ended May 3 after the group agreed to leave its mountain "embassy."

Republic members contend the U.S. annexation of Texas in 1845 was illegal and that Texas remains an independent nation whose citizens are not subject to state laws.

McLaren was sentenced on Nov. 4 to 99 years in prison, and Robert Otto, his top lieutenant, was sentenced to 50 years after both were convicted on the same organized crime charges.

Gregg Paulson's attorney, Anthony Foster, said he wanted his client's trial moved because of the attention McLaren's case attracted in Alpine. Fort Stockton is 70 miles northeast of Alpine and 240 miles east of El Paso.

"I couldn't walk down the street (during McLaren's trial) without people asking me, 'How's the trial? I hope they hang those guys,'" Foster said.

A fifth person accused in the kidnapping, Richard F. Keyes III, will be tried later next year on the same charges. DeHart granted a change of venue Friday for Keyes' case as well, but did not select a location.

Mom, two daughters found inside pickup left running

DALLAS (AP) — A woman and her two young daughters, ages 7 and 8, are victims of carbon monoxide poisoning, say authorities who recovered their bodies from the front seat of their pickup truck idling in their garage.

Police say Rhonda Mitchell's mother found her 31-year-old daughter dead behind the wheel of the truck early Friday. The bodies of Ms. Mitchell's daughters, 7-year-old Shakoyia Mitchell and 8-year-old D'Ambra Cooper, were seated next to their mother, police said.

The three had been dead for as long as six hours when they were found, police said. The truck's engine was still running, law officers said.

"The children probably didn't even know what was going to happen to them," homicide Sgt. Ross Salverino told The Dallas Morning News. "It's an extremely horrendous crime."

Detectives declined to say whether the legal filing clerk left a suicide note, but they said she had been despondent about personal problems recently. They declined to elaborate.

Ms. Mitchell had separated from her husband, but they remained friends, family friends told the newspaper.

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"If you buy a system from us between Thanksgiving and Christmas we will give you the first month of Internet service free," Bullard added.

Bullard's is a local Internet provider as well as a full service computer store. They have over 300 Internet users and continue to grow at a steady pace.

"What people often don't realize," said Bullard, "is that we are very competitive on our prices and are here locally to keep your computer running and solve your problems. This is very important in the world of computers."

BCSI sells new computers, upgrades and repairs old ones, sets up networks, and answers computer related questions. If you have any computer needs, Computer Solutions can be reached at 573-4801 or you can come by their store located at 3405 College Avenue across from the Kwik Kar Lube & Tune. Paid Advertisement

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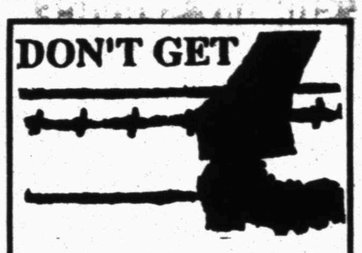

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OFFICERS AWARD — Kenneth Wayne Wood was presented the officers award at the recent 68th annual Thanksgiving banquet held at the Snyder Country Club. Albert Canon, left, made the presentation. Wood was on the volunteer department for 10 years before he moved to Hobbs, N.M. He remains on the honorary department. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

WORKHORSE AWARD —Doug Scott, fireman for six years, received the workhorse award during the 68th annual Thanksgiving banquet at the Snyder Country Club on Nov. 25. Fire chief Terry McDowell made the presentation. Scott is treasurer for the volunteer department. (Contributed Photo)

Theft filed in TWA crash

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities expect a TWA pilot, another airline employee and a former police officer to surrender now that they were charged with stealing wreckage from the TWA Flight 800 to bolster a theory that a missile downed the jet.

Terrell Stacey, a TWA pilot who worked in the hangar where the plane was being reassembled, and Elizabeth Sanders, another TWA employee, were accused on Friday of joining a conspiracy to help Mrs. Sanders' husband, James, develop a theory that a missile hit the plane on July 17, 1996.

The material stolen from the Long Island hangar included a scrap of seat fabric, according to court papers.

Stacey was charged with theft of government property, a misdemeanor; James and Elizabeth Sanders were each charged with aiding and abetting. The aiding and abetting charge carries a maximum of 10 years in prison while the misdemeanor charge carries up to one year.

TWA said Stacey informed management Thursday night that "he had been involved in unauthorized activities involving evidence from Flight 800." He was removed from the investigative team and suspended from flying.

TWA said Mrs. Sanders is on leave and has not worked at TWA since March, so no immediate disciplinary action was taken against her.

FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom said Friday that the theft caused "an awful lot of problems and sent investigators off on a wild goose chase."

The 747 exploded minutes after takeoff from Kennedy Airport, killing all 230 people on board.

The possibility that a missile was to blame and even that the Navy accidentally shot down the plane became a favorite discussion topic on the Internet and elsewhere during the 16 months that the FBI investigated.

Last week, the FBI suspended the criminal investigation into the crash, saying no evidence of a bomb or missile had been found.

A former California police officer who now lives in Virginia Beach, Va., Sanders had been under investigation by the FBI since last May after he revealed that he had fabric from a seat cushion belonging to TWA Flight 800.

Sanders used the piece of fabric to support his claims and published a book promoting the missile theory. He said he found the piece of fabric in his mailbox one day and has no idea how it got there.

Sanders claimed a California laboratory that tested red residue from a seat cushion had concluded that it contained missile fuel.

Kallstrom has called Sanders' assertions outrageous, saying that FBI analysis confirmed by an independent lab found the substance was glue used to hold the fabric to the seats.

Sanders did not return two telephone messages. Stacey could not be reached; TWA did not provide his hometown.

Datebook

Dec. 6, 1997

Today is the 340th day of 1997 and the 77th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in A.D. 342, the real jolly old St. Nicholas died.

On this day in 1941, President Roosevelt made a personal appeal for peace to Japanese Emperor Hirohito — the day before Pearl Harbor was bombed.

On this day in 1973, Gerald Ford was sworn in as U.S. vice president to replace Spiro Agnew, who had resigned.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William S. Hart (1870-1946), actor; Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918), poet; Ira Gershwin (1896-1983), lyricist; Agnes Moorehead (1900-1974), actress; Dave Brubeck (1920-), jazz musician, is 77; Wally Cox (1924-1973), actor; Peter Buck (1956-), guitarist, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1960, Rafer Johnson of the United States won the decathlon in the Rome Olympics.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The perfect joys of heaven do not satisfy the cravings of nature." — William Hazlitt

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1970, strong northwest winds in the District of Columbia knocked over the White House Christmas tree.

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

TODAY'S MOON: Day before first quarter.

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Dec. 7, 1997

Today is the 341st day of 1997 and the 78th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1784, David Wilkinson of Rhode Island patented the first screw.

On this day in 1941, 2,400 people died in the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

On this day in 1972, America's last moon mission was launched when Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Stuart (1542-1587), Queen of Scots; Willa Cather (1873-1947), writer; Joyce Cary (1888-1957), writer; Eli Wallach (1915-), actor, is 82; Noam Chomsky (1928-), linguist-political activist, is 69; Johnny Bench (1947-), baseball great, is 50; Tom Waits (1949-), singer-songwriter, is 48; Larry Bird (1956-), basketball great, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1977, in a game against the Birmingham Bulls, Gordie Howe of the New England Whalers scored his 1,000th goal.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "That is happiness; to be dissolved into something complete and great." — Willa Cather

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1991, Tropical Cyclone Val caused 17 deaths and $700 million in damage in Samoa.

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

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Texas gets grant to fight DWI

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' efforts to fight drunken driving will be enhanced by a $1.7 million grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The grant will be administered by the Texas Department of Transportation, which said Friday it will fund programs to:

— Train law enforcement personnel on proper performance of field sobriety testing and testing for drugs other than alcohol that can impair people.

— Increase traffic enforcement.

— Conduct a statewide public information campaign.

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DEC 06 1997

A TIME-TRAVELING CHRISTMAS by Jack & Carole Bender

Nichols' lawyer trying to focus on other "suspects"

DENVER (AP) — Hoping to bolster their claim Timothy McVeigh was growing increasingly paranoid and tried to recruit others to his cause, attorneys for Terry Nichols introduced a note they say McVeigh left on a utility tower in rural Arizona that warned "a man with nothing left to lose is a dangerous man."

Donald Pipins, a utility worker, told jurors he found the note inside two sealed envelopes more than 10 feet up the side of the tower in the desert near Kingman, Ariz., on Nov. 30, 1994 — less than five months before the Oklahoma City bombing.

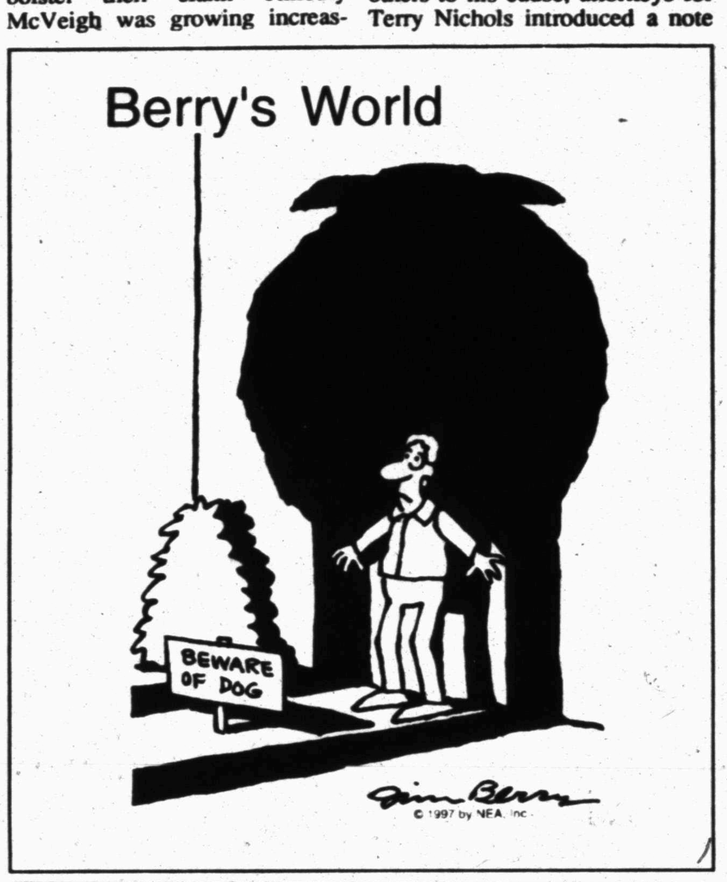
"A man with nothing left to lose is a very dangerous man and his energy/anger can be focused on a common/righteous goal," McVeigh wrote in the note introduced at Nichols' trial Friday.

Defense attorneys have said the note Pipins found was addressed to "SC," who has been identified as Steven Colbern, an Arizona man never publicly linked to the bombing. Lead defense attorney Michael Tigar has said McVeigh was trying to recruit Colbern.

In the note, McVeigh said he couldn't be certain of Colbern's motives, saying, "In short, I'm not looking for talkers. I'm looking for fighters." In a postscript, he added, "If you are a fed, think twice about the Constitution you are supposedly enforcing."

Nichols, 42, faces the death penalty if convicted of murder and conspiracy. McVeigh is appealing his conviction and death sentence on similar charges for the April 19, 1995 bombing that killed 168 and injured hundreds more.

Defense attorneys also pounded their theme that others were involved, calling a bombing survivor who testified she encountered two men next to a car resembling McVeigh's getaway vehicle near the federal building after the blast.



Sweatshop allegations surface again

NEW YORK (AP) — Kathie Lee Gifford faces new allegations her clothing line was made in sweatshops, except this time the factories are not far off in Honduras but close to home.

The owner of three lower Manhattan factories that made the clothing has agreed to surrender to authorities Monday on charges she violated various labor laws, said David Corvette, a spokesman for State Attorney General Dennis Vacco.

Through a spokesman Friday, Mrs. Gifford acknowledged some of the clothing in her line was made in the factories. Representatives of the Kathie Lee line stopped doing business with the factories Oct. 1.

Vacco said Chinese immigrants there allegedly toiled 60 to 80 hours a week for low wages and sometimes no pay at all. The conditions faced by workers making Kathie Lee clothing and other labels at the Manhattan factories "resembled something out of a Charles Dickens novel," he said.

Mrs. Gifford's own monitors looked into the factories months ago, but failed to turn up the worst abuses because they couldn't speak Chinese, said her spokesman, Gary Lewi.

Mrs. Gifford "is making every effort possible to fight sweatshops," said Howard Rubenstein, another Gifford spokesman. "She will cooperate ... to help stamp out these abuses."

Last year, the television personality was criticized when labor activists revealed that some of her line sold at Wal-Mart was produced in a Honduran sweatshop. Her husband, Frank Gifford, later visited a grimy New York factory with checks for workers who said they weren't paid.

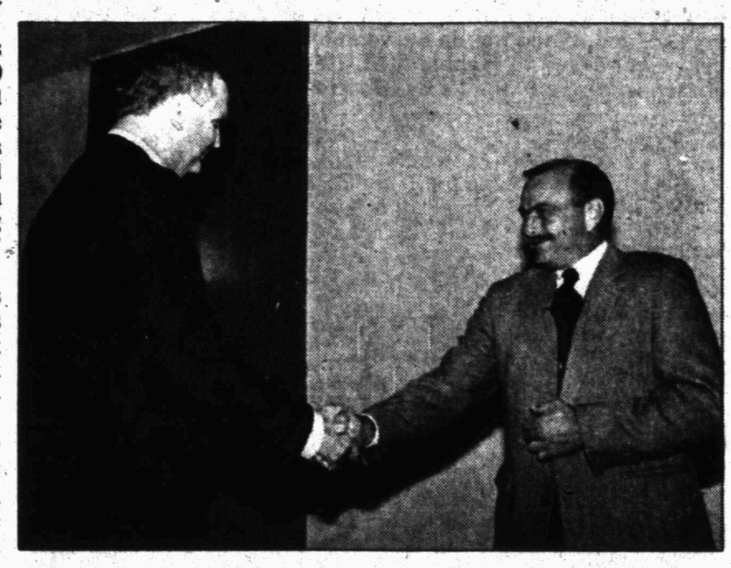
Mrs. Gifford testified before Congress, attacking sweatshop owners as "cockroaches."

Vacco said state labor authorities began investigating the factories after a complaint by the Chinese Staff and Workers Association, a Chinatown group that fights for worker's rights.

He said employees worked at times 24 hours straight and weren't paid for one 10-week period.

Rubenstein said the monitoring service Mrs. Gifford had hired after last year's scandal was notified in August of possible "irregularities" at the factories. In August, her monitors found documentation problems, but in September found the record-keeping in order, Lewi said. They demanded that workers be paid fair wages.

TRAINING AWARD — Kyle Cox, field equipment operator for the Snyder Fire Department and secretary for the volunteer department, received the training award from John Pilgrim, training officer. Cox has been with the department for 15 years. The annual Thanksgiving banquet was held Nov. 25 at the Snyder Country Club. (Contributed Photo)



CHIEF RECOGNIZED — Fire Chief Terry Don McDowell was given a plaque from the Snyder Fire Department, represented by John Pilgrim, right, expressing members' thanks and appreciation for his leadership. The award was received at the recent 68th annual Thanksgiving banquet held at the Snyder Country Club. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Unabomber cabin is hauled to court

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The cave-like cabin that defense lawyers hope will save Theodore Kaczynski's life has finished its 1,100 mile-journey from Montana.

It sits in a Sacramento warehouse, awaiting its owner — and a federal jury.

Pointing to the dark, wooden shack with only two foot-square windows and no front door handle, attorney Dennis Waks said Friday it should make a powerful statement to jurors about the Unabomber suspect's mental state.

"You've heard the word cabin fever — this guy had cabin fever for 20-some years," said Waks, a defense attorney for Kaczynski.

The defense plans to argue that Kaczynski suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, perhaps since adolescence. They say the cabin is the most tangible proof that Kaczynski is mentally ill.

Earlier Friday, a work crew at Mather Field outside Sacramento tore the black tarp that had covered the cabin while loaded on the truck. Under the watchful eyes of U.S. Marshals, they then gingerly righted the structure and squeezed it through a warehouse door on two forklifts.

Bill Sprout, who drove the cabin from Montana on his oversized flatbed truck, said the cabin's exterior measures 13-by-13 feet. The FBI had originally given the dimensions as 10-by-12.

The Unabomber suspect, who has asked about the cabin, should see it for the first time since his arrest when the jury tours the structure, Waks said. That tour could come as late as the penalty phase of the trial, if Kaczynski is convicted of the four bombings in which he is charged.

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Midwest Premium Service, a subsidiary of Midwest Electric Cooperative, announces it's December "Texas Cellular" promotion. During December we will feature reduced cost phones, even "Free" hand held cellular phones, with activation, and your first month programming "Free". Come by either of your Midwest Electric Cooperative offices, in Roby on West Hwy. 180, or in Snyder at 2100 College Ave. All service requests require an application/credit check.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Path Across the Dance Floor Leads Right to Woman's Heart

DEAR ABBY: All my life I have loved dancing, as do most of the other women I know. I think it is exciting, fun and great exercise. Couples dancing together are so romantic. When I see a man who can dance with a woman, I am instantly fascinated by him and so are all my friends.

Why, then, are men who dance so hard to come by? Men are "supposed" to be athletic, charming, romantic and masterful; dancing is all of that. Yet, most men I meet are "fish" who say, "I don't dance."

I thought men liked attracting women. I know some people say men are dense, but this fact simply cannot escape anyone's attention: A man can attract women by learning to dance.

Will you please put out the word for us and tell men how sexy they are when they learn to dance?

WILTING WALLFLOWER IN ARIZONA

DEAR WILTING WALLFLOWER: I receive letters every day from men who complain about how difficult it is to meet and attract women.

Men, now you have heard it from the source! Get out of the house and onto the dance floor. (Take lessons if you need them.) Women will be unable to resist you. Trust me.

***

DEAR ABBY: Whatever happened to people visiting sick friends while they are recuperating at home?

I was raised in an area where people often visited sick friends. They brought food, ran errands, etc. I believe this is the right thing to do.

A dear friend of mine twisted her knee last week and absolutely refuses to allow anyone to visit her. Ordinarily she is so sweet and lovable that I consider her a sister, but now she is making me feel shut out and unwanted. She is treating her elderly mother the same way. She says she wants to recuperate alone with the help of her physical therapist. She claims she has all she can handle without visitors, and doesn't want to see anyone when she is feeling ill.

Why is she behaving this way? How do I get her to understand my feelings, and how can we compromise? Whenever I'm recuperating, I love having guests drop by to help distract me from my sickness. Why won't she let me treat her like I'd want her to treat me?

WANTS TO HELP, BOYNTON BEACH, FLA.

DEAR WANTS TO HELP: True friends respect each other's wishes. Recuperating from an injury or illness is a personal process. Your friend has been completely honest about what she wants from you during this time. This is not about what you want, but what she needs. Please respect her request for privacy.

***

DEAR ABBY: Will you please settle a dispute? My daughter recently married her boyfriend with whom she had been living for three years. They had a private wedding out of town, and no one was invited, not even family. Given these circumstances I sent her a nice card, but not a gift.

My daughter has since asked me to lend her $400 to pay her state income taxes from last year. I agreed to loan her the money, but told her to pay me back only $200, and consider the remaining $200 a wedding gift. She seemed very happy with this arrangement.

My partner says this gift is tacky. I disagree. What do you think?

T.C. IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

DEAR T.C.: Since both you and your daughter are satisfied with the arrangement, I see no problem.

***

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: Until two years ago, I thought I had a marriage as good as it gets after the honeymoon. We had some problems, but a marriage without some problems doesn't exist.

The real problems began when my wife's son (I'll call him Paul) came to dinner — and stayed. He is 40. I am 75, and getting older by the minute.

This "boy" was coming off a failed relationship and needed a place to crash. His mother invited him to stay with us without consulting me. That was her first mistake. I didn't object. That was *my* first mistake.

Abby, I am not heartless. I figured Paul would stay maybe a month or two. A year went by while he "looked for work." (He rarely left the house.)

Our home is small, with only one bathroom. The two bedrooms are only 10 feet apart. You can bet I was annoyed, but I thought the arrangement was temporary. I naively believed he would leave when he found a job.

Paul has had a job that pays well for more than a year now, but he can't seem to find a house or apartment he likes better than our home. My wife has said nothing to him to indicate she is unhappy with this state of affairs, but I told him he has to get on with his life, and let us get on with ours. He agrees, but doesn't move.

Short of forcibly ejecting Paul, I'm at a loss what to do except leave. I have roots here and a ton of emotional and material baggage, and hate the idea of pulling up stakes at this time in my life. But the possibility becomes more probable every day.

Needless to say, my wife and I are not on good terms now, and "Frankly, I don't give a damn, Scarlett."

Abby, what's a guy to do about a stepson who has long overstayed his welcome?

AT MY WIT'S END IN DENVER

DEAR AT WIT'S END: Enough is enough. You and your wife are doing Paul no favor by allowing him to be dependent on you. Explain that to your wife, and ask her to help you find an adequate, furnished apartment her son can live in while he's looking for one he likes. Put a deposit on it, and tell Paul the time has come.

If he can't swing the first month's rent, offer to loan it to him, and give him a deadline to be in his new place. Help him to pack his belongings, and offer to assist on moving day.

***

DEAR ABBY: "Looking for Love in Dallas," whose wife refused his touches and kisses and also nixed sex, has my sympathy. His wife must not realize how lucky she is to be married to a man who still enjoys affection and sex. I hope she wakes up before he's gone.

After three years of dating, "Al" and I are still at square one. He refuses to hold hands, hug, kiss or show affection in any way. Sex is not a memory for us — you can't remember what you haven't had.

When I touch Al, he freezes up. If I try to tell him how I feel, he leaves.

I would enjoy all of the above, but he won't ante up. I'm so needy, I could live for months on a single compliment.

Abby, please don't use my name. I'm embarrassed to be in my 60s and still ...

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN NORTHEAST TEXAS

DEAR LOOKING FOR LOVE IN NORTHEAST TEXAS: Don't be embarrassed; people of all ages need love. However, you won't find it with Al. Throw this cold fish back in the sea, and go fishing in warmer waters.

***

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Microsoft makes court agrument

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's now up to a federal judge to decide if Microsoft Corp. violated a consent decree by requiring computer makers that want to use its Windows operating system to accept its Internet browser as part of the package.

The Justice Department is seeking an unprecedented $1 million-a-day fine for continued violations.

Microsoft and the department argued their cases Friday before U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who adjourned the hearing in his crowded courtroom without ruling in the dispute.

In a separate lawsuit, the Texas attorney general last month sued Microsoft in Austin, contending the company has interfered with a state antitrust investigation. A company spokesman has denied the accusation.

In the latest suit, the federal government has asked Jackson to rule quickly on whether Microsoft is in contempt of court for violating the 1995 agreement aimed at preventing anti-competitive practices.

At the same time, Justice Department attorney Phillip R. Malone said he believed an agreement on the dispute could be reached "if the court would send us and Microsoft off to negotiate."

Microsoft attorney Richard Urowsky denied that the Redmond, Wash.-based company is forcing computer makers to accept its Internet Explorer browser as part of its Windows 95 operating system. Instead, he said, the two systems are integrated and not separate programs.

Kentucky citizens stop for memorial

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — In a message to a daughter she'll never again embrace, the mother of one of three girls killed during a high school shooting took comfort that "the memories will help us suryive until we are reunited in heaven."

"I thank God he allowed me to have you during your short time on Earth," Sabrina Steger wrote in a letter to her daughter, Kayce. "He allowed me to watch you grow, share your joys and your hurts."

Thousands gathered Friday at a funeral for the three young victims of Monday's shooting at Heath High School, where a 14-year-old boy is accused of opening fire moments after a school prayer meeting. Five other students were hurt, including one paralyzed from the waist down.

Quiet sobs joined the strains of "Amazing Grace" inside the cavernous sanctuary of the Bible Baptist Heartland Worship Center. Classmates, family and neighbors wept as photographs of 15-year-old Kayce, 14-year-old Nicole Hadley, and 17-year-old Jessica James flashed on huge television screens.

Gov. Paul Patton, sitting in the pews, softly wiped his eyes beneath his glasses.

The Rev. Jim Gearhart read the letter from Mrs. Steger to her daughter, who wanted desperately to be a police officer when she was older.

"There are too many memories we won't have — driver's license, graduation, college, marriage and a badge," she wrote. "But perhaps God needs you to give your life to bring more to him. And that we must comfort ourselves is more important than any piece of paper.

"Kayce, you were my firstborn," she continued. "A part of me was born the day you were, and a part of me died the day you died. What remains is a heart full of love for you.

"Love mom."

Ben Strong, a pastor's son described as a hero for persuading the gunman to stop firing and put down his pistol, began the service. Strong, a senior, had been leading the prayer group moments before the shootings. He praised the girls' religious devotion.

"In a sense, they died for what they believed in," he said in a halting voice. "It hurts to see them go, but to them, there was no better way. They were praying. As soon as they said, 'amen,' they saw the face of God."

Friends and classmates scrawled messages on the caskets with markers: "We love you." "We miss you."

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DEC 06 1997

SPORTS

Coyotes corral 'Horns for chance at state title

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

WOLFFORTH — In August, Borden County coach Boby Avery said his team had high expectations for 1997.

Friday night in Wolfforth, Avery saw those expectations turn into reality.

The Borden County Coyotes manhandled the Lazbuddie Longhorns in a six-man semifinal, for a 68-22 victory and a berth in next week's state championship.

"You never know what to expect when you step onto the field," Avery said. "Certainly, we didn't expect to win like this, but our kids played hard.

"And Lazbuddie was a little beat up coming in. I know for sure the healthiest team won tonight.

"And probably the best team, too," Avery added.

The Coyotes proved they were the better team right from the start, as Ed Rodriguez returned the opening kickoff 82 yards for a touchdown.

It was the first of two TD returns for Rodriguez, during a contest in which Borden County would dominate offensively, defensively and on special teams.

Rodriguez' other score came in the second quarter, as he cut back against the grain for a 77-yard sprint.

The Coyote defense was opportunistic, as well.

On the Longhorn's next possession, Borden County's Ryan Grant scooped up a Lazbuddie fumble, racing 38 yards to the endzone.

"The two kickoff returns and the fumble recovery were great plays," said Coyote defensive coordinator Trey Richey, whose game plan stymied the Longhorn offense the entire game.

"That's just characteristic of the kind of kids we have. They play hard all game and make the plays that have to be made."

When the Borden County kick returners or defense wasn't scoring, its offense was.

Junior QB Colt McCook threw for 151 yards, including TD passes of 20 and 27 yards.

Oscar Baeza found the endzone three times, once on a slashing run which covered 61 yards.

Fernando Baeza, who posted all five Coyote touchdowns last week, scored two more on rushes of six and nine yards.

Lazbuddie's best chance to seize the momentum came in the second quarter.

The Longhorns took possession on the Borden County 39 and began putting together their only sustained drive of the night.

Three plays later, Lazbuddie had a first-and-goal situation at the Coyote 7.

Three straight rushes moved the ball to within one foot of the Borden County goal line.

But on fourth down the Coyotes grabbed the momentum back, dropping Longhorn runner Adam St. Clair for a 3-yard loss.

"The goal-line stand was big for us," Richey said. "It was a great effort by our kids. Stopping someone on fourth and a foot in six-man is almost unheard of."

The game came to an end, due to the 45-point rule, at the 8:33 mark of the fourth quarter.

Fernando Baeza scampered 42 yards to the Longhorn 3, where older brother Oscar would carry it in from on the next play.

The Coyotes, still undefeated on the season at 14-0, will face Panther Creek for the state championship.

The Panthers knocked off Trinidad, 36-32, Friday night.

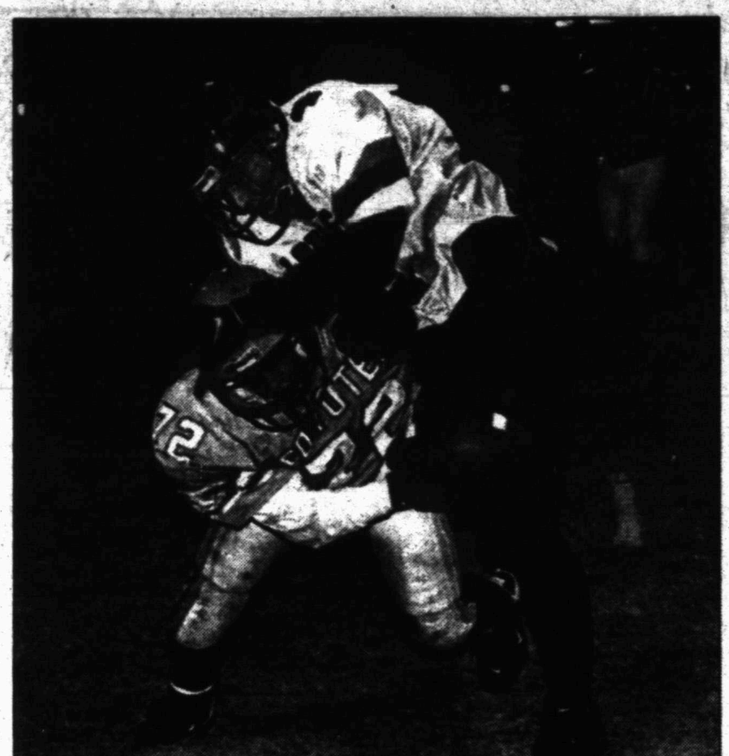
The tentative site for next week's title game is Shotwell Stadium in Abilene.

Game Summary

Lazbuddie	06	16	00	00	— 22
Borden County	14	28	20	06	— 68

First Quarter
BC — Ed Rodriguez 82-yard kickoff return (Oscar Baeza kick), 9:42
LAZ — Brice Foster 45-yard run (kick blocked), 8:29.
BC — Clint Scott 20-yard pass from Colt McCook (kick failed), 4:28.
Second Quarter
BC — O. Baeza 61-yard run (kick failed), 5:27.
LAZ — Deon Gallman 4-yard pass from Josh Morris (Jason Thomas kick), 4:57.
BC — Rodriguez 77-yard kickoff return (kick failed), 4:45.
BC — Ryan Grant 38-yard fumble return (O. Baeza kick), 3:03.
LAZ — Chris Smith 14-yard pass from Morris (Thomas kick), 1:14.
BC — Fernando Baeza 9-yard run (O. Baeza kick), :46.
Third Quarter
BC — F. Baeza 6-yard run (kick failed), 4:59.
BC — Scott 4-yard run (kick failed), 4:41.
BC — O. Baeza 27-yard pass from McCook (John Brummett kick), :05.
Fourth Quarter
BC — O. Baeza 3-yard run (no attempt), 8:33.

	Laz	BC
First downs	7	12
Rushes-yards	26-162	22-170
Passing yards	100	151
Comp-Att-Int	9-18-0	6-13-0
Punts	2-16	1-3
Fumbles-Lost	8-3	2-0
Penalties-Yards	3-25	3-34



WHEN HELMET HITS PIGSKIN — Borden County's Bryce Dye (72) jars the ball loose from Lazbuddie runner Adam St. Clair during six-man semifinal action Friday night in Wolfforth. The Coyotes went on to rout the Longhorns, 68-22, earning a berth in next week's state championship where they will face the Panther Creek Panthers. (SDN Staff Photo By Eric Drennan)

Tigers cuff Burgess for tourney win

WOLFFORTH — The Snyder Tigers proved that the opponent can't win if it doesn't score.

The Tigers used a solid defensive effort to trounce El Paso Burgess, 49-25, Friday in second round action of the Frenship Tournament.

"We left Snyder at 6:15 Friday morning to make the 8:45 a.m. game, so our offense was a little sluggish," Snyder coach Bud Birks said. "But on defense, we got after them."

The Tigers held Burgess to only four points in each of the first two quarters, grabbing a 21-8 lead at halftime.

Snyder's Jimmy Taylor posted all 10 of the Tiger's second period points, before finishing with a game-high 23.

The defensive effort remained strong for Snyder in the second half. The Tigers surrendered only 17 points, while putting up 28 of their own over the final 16 minutes of play.

Tyler Warren connected twice from three-point range, with Justin McNair draining one from long range, also.

Snyder was to have played Canyon Randall Saturday afternoon in the consolation semifinals.

SNYDER — Delce 2 1-2 5, Warren 2 0-0 6, Riggins 1 2-2 4, Taylor 11 1-2 23, McNair 2 0-0 5, Durham 0 2-2 2, Hodges 1 0-0 2, Carter 1 0-0 2. Totals 20 6-8 49.
BURGESS — Ybarra 0 2-2 2, Fontenberry 1 2-2 5, Andrzejewski 2 0-0 4, Villareal 1 0-0 2, Yapar 1 0-0 2, Devance 4 1-2 9. Totals 9 5-6 25.

Snyder	11	10	11	17	— 49
Burgess	4	4	6	11	— 25

Three-point goals: Snyder 3 (Warren 2, McNair); Burgess 1 (Fontenberry). Total fouls: Snyder 14, Burgess 11. Fouled out: none.

Sprewell files grievance after getting year-long suspension

NEW YORK (AP) — The agent for suspended All-Star guard Latrell Sprewell accused the NBA of influencing the Golden State Warriors' decision to terminate his client's contract.

Asked if he thought the league had been behind the turn of events, agent Arn Tellem said: "My guess is yes, they did, because the Warriors changed their position so abruptly."

"It was strictly an internal matter and it wasn't a league issue," Tellem said in a telephone interview Friday. "When the Warriors made their initial reaction of a 10-game suspension and $1 million in lost salary, we were prepared to live with it and accept it. Then, all of a sudden, everything changed abruptly."

Sprewell received the longest suspension in NBA history Thursday when the league banned him for one calendar year for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo during practice Monday. The NBA's action came just a few hours after the Warriors took the unprecedented step of terminating the final three years of Sprewell's four-year, $32 million contract.

The players' association filed formal grievances against the NBA and the Warriors on Friday night and requested that Sprewell's paychecks be put into a escrow account. The grievances will be heard by arbitrator John Feerick, dean of Fordham University Law School on Jan. 4 at the earliest.

Warriors general manager Garry St. Jean, informed of Tellem's comments, had no comment.

"We can't make any type of statement because it all relates to a situation that's in litigation. That's the way the whole team is treating this issue," St. Jean said.

The NBA also declined comment on Tellem's accusation, league spokesman Seth Sylvan said.

Billy Hunter, executive director of the players' union, said: "I don't have any evidence that the league orchestrated it except for my gut feeling. We're still investigating it."

Tellem said he was suspicious of the league's involvement because St. Jean admitted publicly Monday night and Tuesday that he was trying to speed up the trade process — and possibly even reduce the original 10-game suspension — in the wake of Sprewell's two attacks at practice Monday.

A league source with intimate knowledge of St. Jean's dealings early in the week said as many as 10 teams came to the Warriors with offers.

One deal was a trade that would have sent Sprewell to San Antonio in a three-way trade also involving Detroit, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Pistons would have received Will Perdue, a No. 1 draft pick and another player, possibly Monty Williams, and the Warriors would have received Sean Elliott from the Spurs and another low-level player from Detroit to make the deal work under salary cap guidelines.

But all trade talk came to an abrupt end Wednesday when the Warriors, after lengthy conversations with the league office, decided to terminate Sprewell's contract.

Tellem said he suspected the league told the Warriors it would grant their petition to remove Sprewell's contract from the salary cap if his contract was terminated. That would leave the team with the most available salary cap space in the league, giving the Warriors many more options for future trades.

Sprewell remained in the Oakland area Friday and did not comment. Tellem said the player plans to stay in the United States and fight the suspension and termination rather than go overseas to play professionally.

"Obviously we have to fight this. It's unreasonable. The NBA is a monopoly that's denying him his ability to work for a year. That's outrageous. In other industries, he'd at least have a chance to get a job in a similar field. He can't, and that's what's so outrageous."

Sprewell won't be eligible to play in the NBA again until Dec. 3, 1998.

Van Exel lifts Lakers past Spurs, 98-88

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Nick Van Exel scored 25 points, including consecutive 3-pointers that restored a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter, as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the San Antonio Spurs 98-88 Friday night.

The Lakers, whose 15-2 record is the league's best, are 8-0 at the Forum and remain the only NBA team with a perfect home record.

Elden Campbell added 21 points and Kobe Bryant had 17 for Los Angeles, which had five players in double figures.

David Robinson, saddled with four fouls midway through the final period, led San Antonio with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Rookie Tim Duncan added 18 points and nine rebounds.

Van Exel and Bryant dominated the fourth quarter when the Spurs cut their deficit to single digits six times.

Bryant scored six of the Lakers' first eight points to give them their biggest lead, 82-67, three minutes into the fourth.

But the Spurs didn't go away easily. Cory Alexander hit a 3-pointer that got the Spurs within nine, then Sean Elliott did the same to make it 85-78 with 6:21 remaining. Alexander had San Antonio's first eight points of the fourth.

But Van Exel answered with his second straight 3-pointer after Alexander stole the ball and missed a 3-point attempt at San Antonio's end.

Van Exel, harshly fouled by Vinny Del Negro, hit both free throws to increase the Lakers' lead to 90-80 with 3:01 remaining.

San Antonio got no closer than six points the rest of the way.

BOWLING NEWS

Roll & Hope

12-1-97

Teams	W	L
Redman Pipe Supply	32	20
Baze Gun Repair	30½	21½
IGA 100	27	25
TCA Cable	26	26
IGA 400	25	27
Martin Herefords	24	28
Rose Barber Shop	22	30
City National Bank	21½	30½

High series scratch: Rosemary Hernandez, 503
High series handicap: Terri Blocker, 632.
High game scratch: Alma Posey, 196.
High game handicap: Michelle Ewing, 235.
Splits and special mentions: Cara Lindsey and Bonnie McDorman, 2-7; Geneva Findley, 5-10; Wanda Johnson, 3-10; Rosemary Hernandez, 503.

Mens' Commercial

12-2-97

Teams	W	L
Whit's Auto	130	66
Bar-H-Bar	108	88
Stephens Office Supply	105½	90½
Eddins-Walcher	103	93
The Shack	90	106
Stooges	90	106
P&P Longhorns	85	111
Reef Chemical	72½	123½

High series scratch: Jeff Smith, 591.
High series handicap: David Hoops, 682.
High game scratch: David Lyle, 214.
High game handicap: Charles Bennett, 229.
Splits and special mentions: Tom Seaboum, 4-5-7; Don Pavlovsky, 2-7; Whit Parks, 4-5; Harold Kornegay, 3-10.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NewJersey	18	9	0	36	78	49
Philadelphia	15	9	6	36	84	70
Washington	15	10	4	34	86	75
N.Y.Islanders	11	13	4	26	75	79
N.Y.Rangers	8	12	10	26	77	83
Florida	8	15	5	21	65	83
TampaBay	5	18	4	14	52	91

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	16	10	3	35	87	68
Pittsburgh	15	10	5	35	83	75
Boston	12	12	5	29	70	78
Carolina	12	13	5	29	82	82
Ottawa	12	13	4	28	75	72
Buffalo	9	12	6	24	72	74

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	20	7	4	44	103	67
Detroit	18	7	5	41	98	69
St.Louis	17	9	3	37	85	65
Phoenix	13	12	3	29	79	77
Chicago	10	14	4	24	60	71
Toronto	8	14	4	20	53	74

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	15	6	8	38	86	71
LosAngeles	12	11	5	29	87	76
Anaheim	11	13	6	28	68	83
Edmonton	9	15	6	24	70	91
SanJose	10	18	2	22	76	93
Vancouver	9	15	4	22	79	93
Calgary	6	17	7	19	74	95

Thursday's Games
New Jersey 4, Pittsburgh 0
Ottawa 3, Los Angeles 2
Colorado 2, Chicago 1
St. Louis 4, Toronto 3
San Jose 3, Vancouver 2
Friday's Games
Washington 3, Florida 2, OT
Phoenix 2, Carolina 2, tie
Buffalo 4, Tampa Bay 0
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 4, tie
Dallas 4, Calgary 1
Edmonton 3, Detroit 1
Saturday's Games
Carolina at Boston, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Washington at Florida, 12:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 7 p.m.

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SPORTS

NFL roundup...

Jacksonville, KC eye playoff berths

By The Associated Press

Jacksonville, Kansas City and Tampa Bay can clinch NFL playoff berths with victories Sunday, while Pittsburgh and Minnesota can clinch depending on the results of other games.

With three weeks left in the regular season, Denver (11-2), Green Bay (10-3) and San Francisco (11-2) already have clinched postseason spots. The 49ers have clinched the NFC West and a first-round bye, and the Packers can clinch an NFC Central title and a first-round bye with a win at Tampoa Bay Sunday,

Tampa Bay (9-4) would clinch with either a victory or with losses by Philadelphia and Washington and a tie between Carolina and Dallas.

"With nine wins and what we're looking for at the end of the season, we don't care if the TCU Horned Frogs are coming in," Bucs defensive end Warren Sapp said. "We've got to go out and play our game."

Jacksonville (9-4) can assure a playoff spot with a win at home against New England (8-5), which is in a three-way tie for the AFC East lead with Miami and the New York Jets.

"The big picture is making the playoffs, and we've got a chance to do that at home," Jaguars receiver Keenan McCardell said. "They're trying to run the tables themselves so they can win their division. It's going to be a playoff-caliber game."

Kansas City (10-3) can clinch with either a win at home against Oakland, a loss by the Jets at home against Indianapolis (1-12) or losses by New England and Miami, which plays Detroit (7-6) at home Sunday night. The Chiefs have won 14 of their last 16 games against the Raiders (4-9), including a 28-27 victory in September.

"They're going to come here and be ready to get redemption in our house," Chiefs center Tim Grunhard said. "They're probably the most talented team in the league. Everybody talks about our great win out there, but there was a little luck involved, too."

Pittsburgh (9-4), coming off a 26-20 overtime victory over Arizona (3-10), can clinch with a victory over visiting Denver and either a loss by the Jets or losses by both the Patriots and Dolphins.

"We know we've got to keep winning," Steelers linebacker Levon Kirkland said. "It doesn't matter how we do it. We've just got to keep doing it."

Minnesota (8-5) can clinch with a win at San Francisco plus losses by Philadelphia and Washington, and either either a loss or tie by Carolina.

Vikings fullback Chuck Evans believes San Francisco's 44-9 loss to Kansas City last week showed the 49ers are vulnerable.

"A lot of people have been saying all year that they haven't played a team with a winning record, and when they finally do they get clobbered," Evans said. "So it's going to be a good game. We've got a couple backup guys playing, but I think we (can) handle those guys."

The rest of Sunday's schedule has Buffalo (6-7) at Chicago (2-11), the New York Giants (7-5-1) at Philadelphia (6-6-1), St. Louis (3-10) at New Orleans (5-8), Seattle (6-7) at Baltimore (4-8-1), Atlanta (5-8) at San Diego (4-9) and Washington (6-6-1) at Arizona (3-1)

Carolina (6-7) is at Dallas (6-7) Monday night. On Thursday, Cincinnati beat Tennessee 41-14.

San Francisco is coming off a turbulent week in which Eddie DeBartolo resigned as CEO after learning he faced possible indictment in a Louisiana gambling fraud case.

"We've seen distractions before game to game, week to week and we've bounced back and played great football," said 49ers quarterback Steve Young, who didn't throw a touchdown pass in three of his last six games. "I think that's what Mr. D wanted to say.

"Right now, this is the biggest game of the year, because of the ramifications and because of the way we played last week. We've got to re-establish ourselves. I think the guys are concentrating on that."

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
NewEngland	8	5	0	.615	308	233
Miami	8	5	0	.615	294	242
N.Y.Jets	8	5	0	.615	293	252
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	217	296
Indianapolis	1	12	0	.077	222	348
Central						
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	307	246
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	334	269
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	298	283
Cincinnati	5	9	0	.357	308	367
Baltimore	4	8	1	.346	260	286
West						
Denver	11	2	0	.846	393	215
KansasCity	10	3	0	.769	291	212
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	281	301
SanDiego	4	9	0	.308	253	344
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	294	347

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
N.Y.Giants	7	5	1	.577	226	227
Philadelphia	6	6	1	.500	247	286
Washington	6	6	1	.500	244	199
Dallas	6	7	0	.462	260	240
Arizona	3	10	0	.231	216	288
Central						
GreenBay	10	3	0	.769	343	245
TampaBay	9	4	0	.692	262	200
Minnesota	8	5	0	.615	285	289
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	322	250
Chicago	2	11	0	.154	215	377
West						
SanFrancisco	11	2	0	.846	304	193
Carolina	6	7	0	.462	214	240
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	260	312
NewOrleans	5	8	0	.385	170	258
St.Louis	3	10	0	.231	225	301

Thursday's Game
Cincinnati 41, Tennessee 14

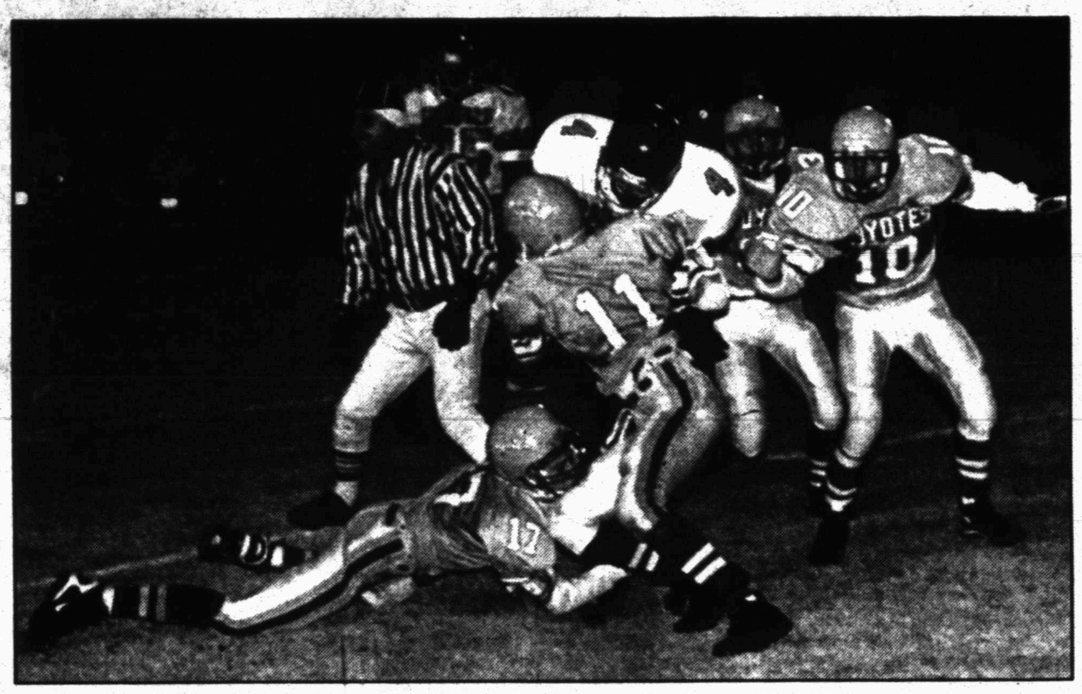
Sunday's Games
Buffalo at Chicago, noon.
Denver at Pittsburgh, noon.
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, noon.
New England at Jacksonville, noon.
New York Giants at Philadelphia, noon.
Oakland at Kansas City, noon.
St. Louis at New Orleans, noon.
Seattle at Baltimore, noon.
Atlanta at San Diego, 3 p.m.
Indianapolis at New York Jets, 3 p.m.
Minnesota at San Francisco, 3 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 3 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7 p.m.

Monday's Game
Carolina at Dallas, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13
Washington at New York Giants, 11:30 a.m.
Pittsburgh at New England, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14
Dallas at Cincinnati, noon.
Detroit at Minnesota, noon.
Tennessee at Baltimore, noon.
Jacksonville at Buffalo, noon.
Miami at Indianapolis, noon.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, noon.
Tampa Bay at New York Jets, noon.
Arizona at New Orleans, 3 p.m.
Green Bay at Carolina, 3 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 3 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 3 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15
Denver at San Francisco, 8 p.m.



PILED UP — Borden County's Fernando Baeza (11), Colt Miller (17) and Clint Scott (10) converge on Lazbuddie's Adam St. Clair during their six-man semifinal Friday night in Wolfforth. (SDN Staff Photo By Eric Drennan)

Probe leads to indictments

NCAA won't penalize ASU but repayment may apply

PHOENIX (AP) — The NCAA, knowing illegal sports wagering exists on virtually every college campus, won't penalize Arizona State for what the FBI called one of the nation's worst sports gambling scandals.

But the Sun Devils still may wind up paying part of the scandal's costs.

In a deal with federal prosecutors, the school's second-leading career scorer, Stevin "Hedake" Smith, 29, and teammate Isaac Burton Jr., 26, admitted conspiring with bookmakers to fix four games in 1994. They pleaded guilty in late November to conspiracy charges and could face five years in prison and $250,000 fines.

On Friday, The FBI also announced a 72-count indictment against four men accused of conspiring to fix games and said more indictments are expected.

"This is one of the most significant sports bribery conspiracies involving college athletes in the country, and I must stress the investigation is not over," said Bruce Gephardt, head of the FBI's Phoenix office.

Indicted in the scandal were sometime bookmaker Benny Silman, 26, of San Diego, a former partner in a cappuccino stand at America West Arena and a schoolmate of Smith; Joseph Gagliano Jr., 29, a Phoenix investment adviser; and alleged bookmakers Dominic Mangiamele, 61, of Mount Prospect, Ill., and his son, Joseph Mangiamele, 36, of Arlington Heights, Ill.

The charges against them include sports bribery, conspiracy to commit sports bribery, interstate transportation and aid of racketeering. The Mangiameles were arrested Thursday night. Authorities said arrangements were made for Silman and Gagliano to surrender through their attorneys. Arraignment was set for Dec. 17.

Smith agreed to fix the four games for $20,000 a game, promising the bookie he owed $10,000 that he would keep the Sun Devils' victory margin to less than the point spread by oddsmakers, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph J. Lodge. In return, his debt would be erased.

However, the FBI has no evidence that other players or coaches were involved in the scheme, Gephardt said, and the NCAA said it was satisfied the school was an unwitting victim of Smith and Burton's actions.

"To date, there is no information ... indicating that the institution knew or should have known" about the fixed games, Bill Saum, the NCAA's agent and gambling issues representative, said at a news conference on the Arizona State campus. "What occurred here today is the result of a societal problem, not just an Arizona State problem."

However, the Sun Devils might have to forfeit their two victories from the 1995 NCAA tournament and refund $196,400 in postseason winnings since Burton played, Saum said.

"Any game during the regular season is an issue between ASU and the Pac-10. If an ineligible athlete participated in the NCAA championships, there is a high possibility those games would be deleted and those monies returned," Saum said.

"This is a difficult day for Arizona State University, but we will move forward," said athletic director Kevin White, pledging an effort to teach athletes about the dangers of sports gambling.

Former ASU basketball coach Bill Frieder, who said the scandal forced him to resign Sept. 10, decried the amount of gambling on American campuses.

"The NCAA statistics are startling: 25 percent of the college football and basketball student-athletes who have been interviewed are betting on games," he said. "Gambling is an addiction of the '90s. It's everywhere, and I think we've got a huge problem out there that needs to be dealt with."

After the pleas were announced, Burton was suspended indefinitely from the Continental Basketball Association, where he'd been playing for the Quad City Thunder. A final decision on his status will be made after league officials review the case.

No court date was set for the players.

Burton was most recently in Boise. Smith has been playing pro basketball in France. Neither his agent nor his attorney returned calls Friday.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	12	5	.706	-
Orlando	12	7	.632	1
NewJersey	11	7	.611	1½
NewYork	10	7	.588	2
Boston	7	11	.389	5½
Washington	7	11	.389	5½
Philadelphia	4	11	.267	7
Central Division				
Atlanta	15	3	.833	-
Cleveland	11	6	.647	3½
Charlotte	10	6	.625	4
Indiana	10	6	.625	4
Chicago	11	7	.611	4
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	5
Detroit	7	12	.368	8½
Toronto	1	17	.056	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE **Midwest Division**				
Houston	10	5	.667	-
Utah	11	7	.611	½
SanAntonio	10	9	.526	2
Minnesota	8	9	.471	3
Vancouver	7	13	.350	5½
Dallas	5	12	.294	6
Denver	1	15	.063	9½
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	15	2	.882	-
Seattle	15	4	.789	1
Phoenix	11	4	.733	3
Portland	11	6	.647	4
Sacramento	5	14	.263	11
L.A.Clippers	3	14	.176	12
GoldenState	2	14	.125	12½

Thursday's Games
Washington 118, Sacramento 96
Milwaukee 102, Charlotte 92
Dallas 105, New York 91
Houston 94, Atlanta 87
L.A. Clippers 100, San Antonio 96, OT

Friday's Games
New Jersey 107, Philadelphia 88
Miami 117, Boston 97
Seattle 94, Detroit 89
Minnesota 101, Sacramento 90
Portland 94, Utah 77
Chicago 84, Milwaukee 62
Indiana 96, Denver 85
Phoenix 110, Toronto 91
Cleveland 107, Vancouver 98
Golden State 104, Orlando 89
L.A. Lakers 98, San Antonio 88

Saturday's Games
Charlotte at New York, noon.
Minnesota at Washington, 6 p.m.
Houston vs. Dallas at Mexico City, 8 p.m.
Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Detroit at Toronto, 2 p.m.
New York at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
Seattle at Milwaukee, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Phoenix, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

74-54...

WTC falls to Blinn JC

BRENHAM — The Lady Westerners had won three of last four contests. Then came 11 days without a game, three days without practice for Thanksgiving, and the Blinn Lady Buccaneers.

Western Texas College, back in action for the first time since Nov. 24, dropped a 74-54 affair to Blinn on Friday.

"The layoff really hurt us," WTC coach Valery Jackson said. "We weren't in rythym. We committed 39 turnovers and gave up 21 offensive rebounds."

Of those 21 boards grabbed by Blinn, 15 of them were put back for a total of 30 points.

The Lady Westerners fell behind early, 36-24 at halftime, despite three long-range three pointers from Whitney Kimbley.

Kimbley led WTC with 15 points.

Next on the Lady Westerners' schedule is the Pizza Hut Classic, beginning Friday in Liberal, Kansas.

WTC will face Seward County in opening round action at 6 p.m., followed by a match-up with Dodge City at 2 o'clock the following afternoon.

WTC — Miller 2 1-2 6, Hanna 1 0-0 2, Wells 4 2-2 10, Shuttlesworth 1 2-2 5, Kimbley 6 0-0 15, O'dhuougo 2 3-5 7, Vizcorrondo 4 1-3 9. Totals 20 7-14 54.

BLINN — Benton 1 0-0 2, Rodriguez 1 0-0 2, Holland 3 2-2 8, Terrel 2 1-2 6, Widley 5 0-0 10, Harrison 6 3-4 15, Nealy 3 2-4 8, Ward 2 2-3 6, Denman 2 1-2 5, Randall 2 1-3 5, Meredith 2 3-4 7. Totals 29 15-24 74.

Halftime score: Blinn 36, WTC 24. Three-point goals: WTC 5 (Kimbley 3, Miller, Shuttlesworth); Blinn 1 (Terrel).

NCAA BASKETBALL SCORES

EAST
Army 57, Bethany,W.Va. 38
Manhattan 64, Iona 62, OT

SOUTH
North Carolina 68, Chattanooga 38
South Carolina 74, Virginia Tech 73

MIDWEST
Buffalo 70, NE Illinois 59
Minnesota 63, W. Carolina 46

SOUTHWEST
No major team scores reported from the SOUTHWEST.

FAR WEST
Montana 67, W. Illinois 65

TOURNAMENTS
Ameritas Classic
First Round
Grambling St. 53, Cornell 49
Nebraska 85, N.C.-Wilmington 68
Cyclone Challenge
First Round
Coppin St. 60, SW Texas St. 59
Iowa St. 83, Texas Southern 60
First Bank Classic
First Round
Marquette 84, Montana St. 60
St. Bonaventure 59, Ohio U. 46
First Merchants Bank/CVC Classic
First Round
Ball St. 99, Quinnipiac 46
Mississippi 102, Long Island U. 99
Phoenix Classic
Championship
Fairfield 52, Yale 41
Third Place
Hartford 85, Cent. Connecticut St. 72
Pizza Hut Classic
First Round
Bowling Green 89, Maine 83
SW Missouri St. 90, Texas-San Antonio 54
Super Chevy Shootout
First Round
Iowa 81, Rice 52
Weber St. 81, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 73
TCBY Holiday Tournament
First Round
Ark.-Little Rock 92, Miss. Valley St. 83
Southern Miss. 67, Elon 49
The JamFest
First Round
Colorado St. 71, Troy St. 47
E. Washington 68, Columbia 59
Tom Roberson Classic
First Round
Jacksonville St. 86, Bethel, Tenn. 70
USF Invitational
First Round
Richmond 70, Samford 38
San Francisco 85, Monmouth, N.J. 36

SDN Sports Week

Monday

Lamesa at Snyder 7th, 8th & 9th girls, 5 p.m., 6:15.

Snyder 7th, 8th & 9th boys at Lamesa, 5:30, 6:30, 7 p.m.

Loraine at Ira Jr. High, 6 p.m.

Hermleigh Jr. High at Westbrook, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Snyder JV & varsity boys at Lubbock High, 6 p.m., 7:30.

Abilene Cooper at Snyder JV & varsity girls, 5 p.m., 6:30.

Westbrook at Hermleigh varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.

Patton Springs at Ira varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.

Thursday

Snyder varsity boys vs. Seminole, Seminole tourney, 7:30.

Snyder varsity girls vs. Eldorado, Wylie tourney, 12:30.

Ira varsity girls & boys vs. Roby, Highland tourney, 4:30, 6 p.m.

Hermleigh varsity girls & boys at Roby tourney.

Snyder JV girls at Colorado City tourney.

Snyder 9th boys at Andrews tourney.

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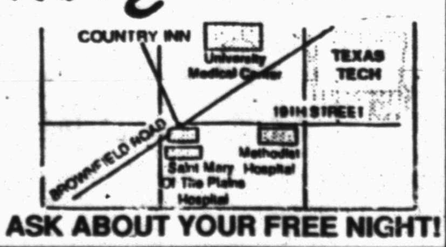

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Midwest Tax Service is accepting applications for Tax Preparer, for computerized tax refund office, to be opened in Snyder. Need to have experience in preparing income tax returns and data entry. Send resume to 102 W. Ave. B Street, Sweetwater, TX 79556 or call Johnny Castereno at 915-235-8511.

SALES REP/SERVICE: Auto Aftermarket. Local territory. Must like working with your hands. $50K base + bonus + benefits. EOE 800-342-2241.

WEST TEXAS CENTERS FOR MHMR
Job opening for CASE MANAGER in Snyder, Tx. Will provide care coordination services to individuals with mental retardation. Coordinate, monitor, and advocate for services and treatment plan development. Will also provide periodic crisis on-call services. Must have any combination of education and experience equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with a major in social, behavioral, or human services, plus 1 year of related experience. Starting salary $794.30 Bi-Weekly. Will office in Snyder, Tx. EOE
Apply: West Tx. Centers for MHMR
3100½ 37th Place
Snyder, TX 79549
(915)573-5610

OILFIELD PUMP MECHANIC: Must be experienced and have own tools. Excellent benefits. Apply at: TEC, 1902 37th. EOE.

TEXAS OIL COMPANY URGENTLY needs dependable person in SNYDER area. Write M.B. Hopkins, Texas Refinery Corp Dept. M-79549, Box 711, Ft. Worth, Tx. 76101-0711.

WANTED 32 PEOPLE! Are you ready, to lose those 20+unwanted pounds? Call (303) 480-8217.

WANTED: FUEL DESK/CASHIER. Benefits available, Experience helpful, but not required. Apply Rip Griffin's. EOE.

WANTED: Individuals with painting, dry wall & minor carpentry skills. Call 573-8015.

Work from home, P/T, $980.00, F/T $5,947.00. FREE BOOKLET 1-888-880-8502. www.BOSSBUSTERS.com

LVNs *CNAs - Check Us Out!
We have full & part time opportunities for:
LVNs - PRN
CNAs (days or evenings)
Good wages & benefits. Apply at:
Snyder Healthcare Center, 5311 Big Spring Hwy., 573-6332, Snyder, EOE.

Thinking about Christmas?
AVON
has some great gift ideas
Call Kim at 573-9534
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Independent Sales Representative

DRIVERS
$1,000 Sign-on Bonus
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OTR EXPRESS, INC.
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35¢ PER MILE
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38¢ PER MILE
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Conventional/Standup Sleepers
-'94-'97 Navistar
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-'95-'96 Freightliner

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-ESOP, 401k
-Safety, Fuel, Profit Center Bonus

OTRX Hauls general commodities in 48 states and Canada. Get home every 2 to 3 weeks.

1 1/2 years verifiable OTR experience
23 years of age or older
CDL with HazMat endorsement
Good driving record
Positive, professional attitude

Owner/Operators - 90¢ per mile loaded and empty running 48 and Canada

For more information On these positions call
1-800-423-6939
EOE M/F/D/V

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS ALWAYS A WINNER!

DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES We are seeking a dynamic individual able to provide effective and coordinated leadership in a progressive acute care setting. Must be graduate of an accredited school of nursing with Texas license, possess a Baccalaureate or advanced degree and provide evidence of appropriate experience and a successful employment track record. Planning, communication, team-building, organizing and directing skills a must, familiarity with JCAHO standards highly desirable We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and offer competitive salary, benefits and relocation package.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital

Managed by St. Mary of the Plains Hospital, Lubbock, TX for over 10 years. For further information and application, please contact Barbara Parker, 1700 Cogdell Boulevard, Snyder, TX 79549 915-574-7282 or fax 915-574-7433

JOB VACANCY
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE
SNYDER, TEXAS 79549

POSITIONS: Food Service Supervisor and Kitchen Aide for Senior Center SALARY: College Scale DUTIES: Supervisor-responsible for overall operations of the kitchen and dining room, maintain inventory records, deliveries from vendors, and purchasing foods; Aide-cleaning and sanitation of dishes, also aid in preparing and serving meals, collect and remove trash, unload groceries, and have the abilities to follow directions. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS: High School graduate or equivalent. Experience in food service preferred. Moderate strength required. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: December 8, 1997 SEND APPLICATIONS/RESUME TO: Terry Busby, Director of Human Resource, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549-9502. DATE OF EMPLOYMENT: December 29, 1997 PHONE: 915/573-8511, ext. 310. WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERANS STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

The Texas Department of Transportation has the following job open:

JOB TITLE: Office Tech II

SALARY: $1616.00 Per Month - $2061.00 Per Month

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Graduation from high school or equivalent plus two (2) years clerical, secretarial or administrative support related experience. College education or technical training in business administration, office management or secretarial science may be substituted for experience on a year per year basis.

LOCATION: Snyder

JOB VACANCY NUMBER: 7 08A030 963

JOB DESCRIPTIONS: Under supervision, performs skilled clerical and administrative office support related activities. Work involves confidential correspondence and communications. Work requires contact with the public.

ADDRESS: Applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 150, Abilene, Texas 79604-0150 or returned to any TxDOT Office. Applications and a copy of the Job Vacancy Notice may be picked up at the Scurry County Maintenance Office or any TXDOT Office. Applications must be received by the closing date and time noted on the job vacancy. A mailed application must be postmarked one day prior to the closing date.

RESUMES: Resumes will be accepted for whatever additional information they contain but not in place of a completed application.

CLOSING DATE: 12-18-97 by 5:00 p.m.

For additional information about the job qualification requirement and application instructions, please call 915-676-6843.

"An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply for this job may call the phone number of the Human Resources Office (915) 676-6817. You may also call the telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (512) 416-2977."

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

161 POSITION WANTED

EXPERIENCED CARE GIVER wants position. For Elderly, Home or Hospital. References Available. 573-2849.

HOUSECLEANING POSITION WANTED. Reasonable Prices. Trustworthy. 573-4799 or 573-3056.

180 INSTRUCTIONS

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of Defensive Driving Course. Saturday, December 13th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Snyder Savings & loan, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of Defensive Driving Course. Mon. & Tue., December 8th & 9th, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Snyder Savings Loan, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

190 FINANCIAL

FREE CASH GRANTS! College Scholarships, Business, Medical bills. Never Repay. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. G-2441.

PLAY IT SMART... GET INTO THE CLASSIFIEDS 573-5486

210 WOMAN'S COLUMN

MARY KAY COSMETICS. For a complimentary facial and reorders call Geraldine Thames, 915-573-9433, 1808 38th St. Snyder, Tx.

220 FARMER'S COLUMN

HAY FOR SALE: Square Rox Candy. Delivery Available. Ross Preston 573-1217

FOR SALE: Coastal hay. 1-915-728-5550 (Colorado City).

FOR SALE: Quality registered black Limousin bull, also 3 yearly Angus bulls/ 573-3641.

PURINA TUBS 200 lbs. 24% PROTEIN. $46. Snyder Farm & Ranch Supply. 573-0767.

SHUR-GROW 32% Protein Liquid Feed. Inquire at Snyder Farm & Ranch 573-0767

USED DOZERS, MOTOR GRADERS & LOADERS. 1-800-658-9878 RONNIE JONES.

260 MERCHANDISE

CASH or CONSIGNMENT BABY.....and Before: Now accepting baby furniture & accessories, 573-0502.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Metal Detectors by White's Electronics Colorado City 915-728-2494

CONSOLE/SPINET PIANO FOR SALE. Take on small payments. See locally. 1-800-343-6494.

CONVALESCENT NEEDS Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, Etc. Sales & Rentals 3706 College 573-7582

DIABETICS with Medicare or Insurance. Get your Diabetic supplies mailed to your home. (Insulin Dependent only) call 1-800-337-4144.

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES: Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers. WESTERN AUTO 2510 AVE. R.

OUTDOOR Christmas figurines. Silhouetted life-size deer w/lights. Formal dining table & chairs, 573-8341 leave message.

Regulation Pool Table, real nice. New top surface and new sticks. 915-728-3350.

UNCOMMON BASKETS 573-6505 7 AM-7 PM Candy Bouquets-All occasions Potpourri and Candle or Scented Pine Cone Baskets. Mini Basket and Pine Cone Christmas Ornaments. I DELIVER

290 DOGS, PETS, ETC.

BULLMASTIFFS FOR SALE: Champion blood line. Beautiful, excellent family pets. Large breed. 863-2269. $225 to $400.

"Night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a "MOUSE". And if you take these " FREE KITTENS", it will be the same at your "HOUSE". 573-5701.

Critter Corner
2107 25th Street
!FISH!
Small Animals
Birds, Birds, Birds
(Feeder Mice & Rats)
Cages, Feed, Supplies
M-T-W-TH-F-S 1-5 573-0502

315 WANT TO BUY

WILL BUY ANTIQUES * COLLECTIBLES * DISHES * GLASS * QUILTS * FURNITURE * KITCHEN ESTATE ITEMS. HARLIN 573-5973 after 4:00.

320 RENT OR LEASE

Lease 2-2-2, utility room, fenced yard, large and clean. 1803 38th. $395. 573-0712.

325 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 Bedroom Apartment for rent. Good Location. Reasonable. 573-0996.

AS LOW AS $250/mo. & up. 2 Bedroom apartments w/ bills paid. No Pets. For information call 573-5773.

(2) nicely furnished apartments. Water well furnished. Reasonable. 573-0382.

$100 Off 1st Month Rent
Call About Our Lowered Rates
Western Crest & Windridge Village Apartments
573-1488

KINGSWOOD & EASTRIDGE APARTMENTS
100 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
915- 573-5261

- One Bedroom From $240
- Two Bedroom From $286
- Cent. A/C & Heat
- Refrigerator & Ranges
- Carpet
- Playground
- Laundry Rooms
- Resident Manager

Equal Housing Opportunity

FOR RENT: 1 bdrm. furnished apt. All bills and cable paid. Deposit required. 573-5879 or 915-728-8482.

LARGE 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT W/Stove & Refrigerator. $175/month + deposit. 573-0502 or 573-5525.

330 HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom home for rent. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Deposit required. No Pets allowed. 573-9047.

FOR RENT OR SALE: Small 1 bedroom 1 bath, Newly remodeled home. CH/A w/fenced yard. $275/month $150/deposit. 2211 Ave. O. 573-6188 or 573-7635.

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fireplace, CH/A. 300 20th, 573-2219 or 573-5331 after 6:00.

Large Prestigeous House. 3 bedroom. $800/month. 2212 Towle Park Rd. Call 573-2649 before 6 pm.

335 MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Mobile Homes for rent. First month FREE! 573-1711.

340 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

14X80 3 bedroom 2 bath w/shingle roof. On (2) Corner lots. Owner Finance. $750/down $335/month. 2010 Merrill, 573-2251.

GREAT BUY Must sacrifice. Almost new! Lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath, 16X80 Mobile Home.(Located in Snyder). 806-293-4238.

345 MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: (2) CONNECTIING LOTS in Snyder. All utilities on both lots. 806-495-2095.

Stir Up Extra Christmas Cash!

Someone wants to buy your goods!
The sooner you call us, the sooner they sell! Phone
573-5486
Classifieds
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

360 REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT or sale: Small 3 room house. For more details call 573-5050.

FOR SALE: 3-2-2 CH/A, large fenced back yard, near schools, pretty neighborhood. Call 573-6652 after 5 pm.

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas. CH/CA, workshop, 573-4118 after 6 p.m.

GOV'T FORECLOSED homes from pennies on $1. Deliquent Tax. Repo's. REO's. Your Area. Toll Free (1) 800-218-9000 Ext. H-2441 for current listings.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Owner Finance. 3 bedroom, C/H, fenced backyard.. 573-8963.

HOUSE FOR SALE: 2115 35th Street. 2 bedroom 1 bath, dining room, large utility room & garage (1), $22,500. 573-0205/573-7288.

LAND FOR SALE

All persons interested in purchasing the lands described below shall submit written offers to purchase, to the Estate of L.A. Thurman, c/o Renner, Snell & Schildknecht, P.O. Drawer 1267, Lamesa, Texas 79331. Only cash bids will be considered.

TRACT 1: 143 acres out of the Northwest One-fourth (NW/4) of Section 24, Block 36, T-5-N.T & P Ry. Co. Survey, Dawson County, Texas.

TRACT 2: The Northwest One-fourth (NW/4) of Section 93, Block 97, H&TC Survey, Scurry County, Texas.

BY OWNER: Old West 3-2-2, 2 living areas, dining room & basement. 2674 square feet, $65,000 REDUCED to $55,000. 573-1625 573-7621.

NO BANK HASSLES, OWNER FINANCE! 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car, very clean, new CH/A, landscaping, big trees, nice neighborhood, fans, wall to wall carpet. 20X10 Super work shop. $45,000 at 7½%, 25 years, $525 total monthly payment, $3,750 down. 3900 Irving. Call 573-3304 ask for Carolyn.

Elizabeth Potts Realtors
573-8505
1707 30th Street
Broker, Temi Matthies

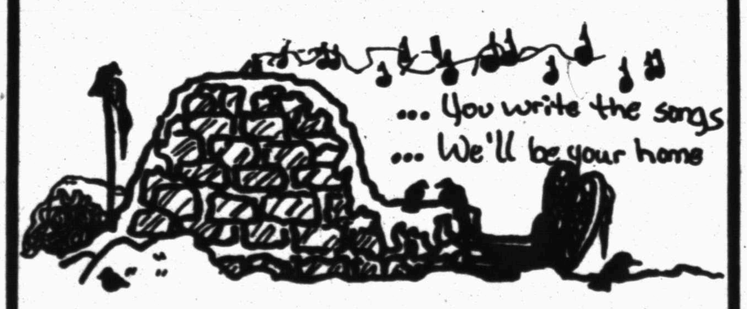
Red.	3718 Dalton 3-2-1	$29.9T
2-1 Brick Nice	Call	$12T
217 36th	3-1-cp	(2) Lots
3602 Jacksboro	3-2-2	$53T
3113 Ave T	3-2-2	$49.5T
3006 El Paso	3-3-2	$115T
3000 Crockett	4-3-2	$110T
2208 Towle	3-2-2-den	$117.5T
Close To Park	3-2 Low	$60's
Col. Hill	2-2-1	Call!
218 36th	3-2-1	$37T
3704 Muriel	2-1-1	$30T
3006 42nd	3-1 W/cp	$30T
Country	3-2 W/10A	CALL
3741 Sunset	3-1-Apt.	$45T
New List	3002 38th 3-2-1	$28T
Northside of Square!		Call!
FOR RENT	4 BED.	$600
FOR RENT	3-2-2	$450
Annette Waller		573-9467
Elizabeth Potts		573-4245
Sarah Jamison		573-4028
Jackie Buckland		573-8193

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, Dec. 7
1:30-3:30 p.m.
1609 Augusta Cedar Creek Addition

NEW ON MARKET. Open concept dream. Gourmet kitchen w/island, sunny breakfast area, and spacious living area combined for ideal entertaining, formal dining, 3 bdrm., 2 and 1/2 baths. Isolated master suite w/wonderful bath and huge walk-around closet. Nice features include 3 car garage, sprinkler, RO System, Energy efficient w/gas heat and water heater, great closets and storage. Covered patio, beautiful landscaped yard with golf course view. 1609 Augusta Cedar Creek Addition.

Offered exclusively by Stevenson Real Estate, Wenona Evans
573-5612 Office 573-8165 Home

Field Crest Apartments



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Baby...and Before
Is Now Open at 1817 25th St.
New and consignment maternity, infant /toddler / children's wear, baby beds/ bassinettes / bedroom consignment / resale
11:30-5:30 Mon.-Sat.

"Move" In Time For "Xmas"

A Charmer, 3-2-1cp, 206 34th, $35T
Reduced, 3-2-2, storage & shop too, $34.5T
Great for retiree or starter, 3303 Ave. U, $69.9T
3-2, 4 acres in Dunn
Santa has two chimneys, 3-study-3-2, corner lot, sunken den, a beauty, $225T
"Jingle Bells" & 4 bedroom-2-2cp, basement shop, fireplace & newly installed custom oak kitchen cabinets, oak computer.
A must on your list, $115T

Shirley Drum
Broker Associate
JACK & JACK REALTORS
611 Coliseum Dr. Office: (915) 573-8571
Snyder, TX 79549-5206 Home:(915) 573-1550

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

STEVENSON REAL ESTATE
4102 College
573-5612 or 573-1755

2307 41st 3-2 Str/Bldg $32.5T
3209 Irving 3-2-2 Patio
Cedar Creek 4-3-2 Pool
5 Acre Country Estate C. City
3773 Highland 2-1-CH/A $31.5T
105 36th Owner Finance $30T
House & Shop Make Offer
Country Large 1 bedroom $28T
2812 Ave. V 3-1½-2 $55T
3602 44th 3-3-3+Extra lot $72T
3711 Ave U 3-2-2cp $45T
2702 48th 3-2-2 Pool $89.5T
3307 Irving 4-2½-2-Dining
4503 Fredonia 3-2-2 $71.5T
5404 Ced. Crk. 3-2½-2 $108T
2333 Sunset 2-1-1 CH/A $28.5T
Out of City. 3-3-2 2 Story-3A
640 Acres Cult. & Past., Tanks, creek, N. of Camp Springs
4502 Galveston Nice $86.5T
2908 Ave.U 3-2-1 CH/A $56.5T
205 37th. 2-2-1 CH/A fp $42.9T
3111 El Paso 2-1 CH/A X-Lot
704 30th 3-1-1 $25T
707 26th 3-1-1cp+1-1 Apt.
404 35th 3-2 CH/A $30T
2903 36th 3-3-2 $82.5T
2905 Ave. V 2-1-1cp $19.9T
4108 Eastridge 3-2-2 $45.5T
Wenona Evans 573-8165
Doris Beard 573-8480
Bill Dryden 573-9739

#1 SEC. LAND: Good House, Deer, Some Cult. - Some Minerals
#2 145 ACRES: Creek, No House
#3 FOR SALE: 3111 38th Place
#4 FOR SALE: 111 Peach, 2 Bdr.
Roswell Rigsby Real Estate
573-7682

573-5486

JACK & JACK
Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr.
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

One of Kind! 4-2-2
Hermleigh: Two story with the charm of yesteryear 3 bedroom, 2 baths, shady yard with gazebo.
Owner will help! 3797 Highland
Stop Renting! 3-2-2 $30's
Location! Location! Large rooms, new carpet, paint, A/C
Fabulous View! Two Story 3-2-2 acreage
Custom Features-Reasonable Price! 3-2-2
Kids & Horses will love this 4-3-2 w/acreage
Beginner's Luck can be yours!3-2 acreage
"One of a Kind"! 3-2-2 $60's
297 Acre Farm West
We have several farms, also small ranches
Call us for a free market analysis on your properties
4 Commercial Bldgs. Available
Jack Nail 573-8420
Shirley Drum 573-1550
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Get Your CLASSIFIED AD In by 4 p.m. the Day BEFORE You want It In The Paper!
(4 p.m. Friday For Sun., & Mon.)

362 FARMS & RANCHES
326 Acres. 8 miles West of Snyder. Deer, Quail & Turkey. 143 Cultivation. 573-2433.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTOR
OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORK

Sealed Proposals For:

CSJ NO. 6023 27 001

Litter Pickup and Disposal at Various Locations in Scurry County

Will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation located at:

4250 N. CLACK, ABILENE, TEXAS

UNTIL RESPECTIVE BID OPENING TIME ON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1997

then publicly opened and read.

****

ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A PRE-BIDDERS CONFERENCE FOR THIS CONTRACT.

****

Bidding proposals and plan information will be available

ON AND AFTER TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1997 at the District Office located at:

4250 N. CLACK
ABILENE, TEXAS
TELEPHONE: (915)-676-6852
CONTACT: SAUNDRA J. COLLINS

Usual Rights Reserved.

Cards Of Thanks

Thank You

We take this means to express our thanks to so many who shared in the loss of our loved one with the food, flowers, the words of kindness, the cards of sympathy. Special thanks go to Snyder Healthcare Center, all members and staff and to Dr. Cooper and the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home. They always go out of their way to make our loss more bearable. May God's blessings go with each of you.

The Family of
Ivey Herrley

The family of Thomas Hernandez would like to extend our appreciation to all our church members, Dr. Kerr and our friends and relatives for their support in our time of sorrow.

Thank you for the flowers, food and the company. We would also like to thank everyone for the kindness and sympathy shown us in our time of sorrow. Thank you dearly.

Sincerely,
Dora Hernandez & Family
Brothers and Sisters

Clinton hedges on tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — Though the surging economy continues to shrink the nation's budget deficit, President Clinton isn't ready to call for a tax cut.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the October-November deficit was $55.6 billion, down from $77.7 billion last year. CBO, which based its estimate on figures from the Treasury Department, attributed most of the improvement to growing revenue collections.

The news is sure to fan hopes that in fiscal 1998, which began Oct. 1, there will be a federal surplus for the first time since 1969. But Clinton hastened to point out that there is no surplus now.

"Before we make any unduly rash decisions about the future, let's make sure that we're taking care of the economy," Clinton said Friday.

Urged by Republicans to overhaul the tax system, Clinton did not rule out the possibility of a cut next year. But he said any change would have to be fair, be good for the economy, make the system simpler and not raise the deficit.

White House officials said none of the Republican proposals for a flat tax or national sales tax meets the president's requirements.

The administration refused to tip its hand on what — if any — kind of cut Clinton might seek. "The president has made it very clear to you he has no specific tax proposal that he is putting forward, so I'm not going to put ... one forward for him now," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Clinton made his comments in a brief news conference on the South Lawn where he announced his appointees to a 17-member commission reviewing how to keep the Medicare program solvent as the baby-boom generation retires. He also credited his policies with driving the nation's unemployment rate to a 24-year low of 4.6 percent in November.

"No doubt this news today is good news," the president said. He said it suggests economic growth will remain strong and could foreshadow more good news about shrinking the deficit and "eliminating it altogether."

But in terms of tax cuts, Clinton said, "We don't want to spend money we don't yet have."

On foreign policy, the president criticized Saddam Hussein's hesitation to accept a U.N. plan allowing Iraq to keep selling limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine.

"He is in no position to point the finger at anyone else in the world for the suffering of his own people," the president said. "And once again today, he has proved that he is responsible for the suffering of his own people."

On other points at the news conference, Clinton:

—Directed the State Department to investigate whether the late ambassador to Switzerland, M. Larry Lawrence, was, as he claimed, a merchant marine injured during World War II.

—Sidestepped whether he will make an end run around Congress to appoint Bill Lann Lee as the administration's top civil rights law enforcer. McCurry said the administration was nearing a final calculation on whether Senate Republicans would allow a vote on the nomination or whether Clinton should exercise his power to make Lee assistant attorney general in charge of civil rights without Senate confirmation — a process known as a recess appointment.

—Said he was concerned about the impact of Asia's financial turmoil on the United States but that there is "enormous productive power" and potential in Asia.

Unemployment is lowest in 24 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — A surge of job growth pushed the nation's unemployment rate to a 24-year low of 4.6 percent and fattened employees' paychecks as the holiday shopping season began.

The stock market, often unnerved by such figures, extended its comeback rally into a sixth consecutive trading session.

November's seasonally adjusted rate of joblessness — down from 4.7 percent in October — matched the rate in October 1973, the Labor Department said Friday. It hasn't been lower since March 1970, when it was 4.4 percent.

"It's certainly a merry Christmas for American workers," said economist William Dunkelberg of the National Federation of Independent Business.

The rate fell to a near-record low for Hispanics. It also declined for adult men, whites and teenagers but it rose slightly for blacks.

Employers added a seasonally adjusted 404,000 workers to their payrolls, the most since February 1996. Retail establishments from department stores to catalog sales operations accounted for a quarter of the increase but manufacturing, construction and a range of services reported gains too.

Americans' average earnings jumped 7 cents an hour in November to a seasonally adjusted $12.47. That's 4.1 percent, or nearly 50 cents, higher than a year earlier.

"Today we see the latest evidence that our economy is growing, steady and strong, that the American dream is in fact alive and well," President Clinton told reporters at the White House.

But economists warned it could be too much of a good thing. Accelerating wage gains could lead to rising inflation, although they haven't yet. And that could draw a growth-dampening interest-rate increase from the Federal Reserve.

"Something has got to give. Either the economy will slow or inflation will accelerate significantly next year," said economist Mark Zandi of Regional Financial Associates in West Chester, Pa.

Reacting to the inflation threat, interest rates edged higher on the bond market. But the stock market thrived on the report. The Dow Jones average of industrial stocks rose 99 points to close at 8,149 — just 110 points short of the record high reached Aug. 6.

The strong employment report didn't raise the usual ruckus, analysts said, because Wall Street traders have concluded Asia's currency crises will prevent Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues from raising interest rates when they meet next on Dec. 16

"Greenspan's in a trap. The domestic economy needs some cooling off but the tempestuous Asian financial markets stop him from doing it," said economist Everett Ehrlich of ESC Company, a Washington consulting firm.

Two other reports Friday also depicted a vibrant economy. Orders to American factories rose 0.3 percent in October, the fifth consecutive increase, thanks to increased demand for aircraft, autos, paper and food products, the Commerce Department said.

And consumers picked up the pace of their borrowing in October. Their outstanding debt grew at a 10.5 percent annual rate, the fastest pace in 15 months, the Federal Reserve said.

"Consumers are ready to spend," said economist Oscar Gonzalez of John Hancock in Boston. "Santa may even need to hire some reindeer temps to get his sleigh off the ground."

Births

Hunter Ray Holcomb announces the birth of his brother, Bryson Thomas Holcomb, at 1:44 a.m. on Nov. 9 in Abilene Regional Medical Center. He weighed six pounds, one ounce. Parents are Brad and Heather Holcomb of Abilene.

Grandparents are Tom and June Holcomb and Marshall and Judy Finley, all of Snyder.

TOYS FOR TOTS APPLICATION
AND REFERRAL FORM

HOUSEHOLD NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
(necessary for delivery of toys)
PHONE # Home _____ Work _____
(Must have a # to verify information)
GROSS FAMILY INCOME $ _____

PLEASE LIST 3 TOYS FOR EACH CHILD THROUGH AGE 12:

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1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____
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PLEASE SEND FORMS TO: JUDI MARTIN, 3106 HILL AVE., SNYDER, TEXAS 79549.
FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1997. TOYS WILL BE DELIVERED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1997.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Is feverfew more harm than good?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a long history of migraine headaches that have not responded to traditional medical therapy. A friend suggested feverfew. What is your opinion?

DEAR READER: This is the fifth in my series on herbal remedies.

Feverfew contains an active ingredient, called parthenolide, which affects serotonin levels in the brain. By preventing the secretion of serotonin, a brain chemical, it is believed by herbalists to cure migraine.

Clinical trials have been inconclusive. Some people reported improvement, others did not.

Therefore, I advise against using it. Moreover, about 10 percent of users experience mouth ulcerations from taking feverfew. In view of the limited benefits, I believe that the risks outweigh the potential advantages. In addition, tests have shown wide variation in the potency of commercially available preparations; some brands contain little or no active compounds. This is one herbal remedy that I cannot endorse. (Next time: chamomile.)

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Headaches." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 60 years old and suffer from wicked leg cramps at night. My doctor prescribed a calcium-channel blocker, but it doesn't help. What causes leg cramps? What can I do to treat them?

DEAR READER: No one knows the cause of nocturnal leg cramps but the condition is common and, as many patients have discovered, difficult to treat. These cramps, which primarily affect the calf muscles, almost never appear during the day. However, at night, they can make sleeping difficult.

I have had success with quinine sulfate. This drug used to be available without a prescription. Subsequently, it was withdrawn from the market. Fortunately, it is now back — as a prescription drug (Quinamm). Ask your doctor about this. One capsule taken at bedtime may prevent leg cramps, or — at the very least — lessen their severity.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What do you think about the new Band-Aids that contain antibiotic cream?

DEAR READER: Largely unnecessary. The publication Consumer Reports on Health points out that most cuts and abrasions do not need antibiotic cream. Such lesions heal satisfactorily within a few days whether or not they're covered — although most people feel more comfortable using a dry dressing for the first day or two until the healing process is well underway.

Antibiotic-impregnated Band-Aids pander to Americans' current phobia about bacteria and infection. What's more, they are expensive: 13 cents per strip compared to 3 cents a strip for plain old ordinary Band-Aids.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: I have irritable bowel syndrome. Would I be helped by taking chamomile tea?

DEAR READER: This is the sixth in my series on herbal remedies. Made from the dried flower heads of a type of daisy, chamomile contains volatile oils that are believed to have anti-spasmodic and anti-inflammatory effects. Chamomile tea is a time-honored remedy that has been used for centuries in Europe, where it is still widely prescribed for infant colic, irritable bowel syndrome and a variety of related intestinal ailments. It also acts as a mild sedative.

The brew is made by pouring boiling water over a tablespoonful of the dried flowers and steeping for about 15 minutes. The usual dose is a cupful three or four times daily.

Side effects are rare. An occasional patient who is allergic to daisy- or ragweed-type plants may develop hives or asthma. (Next time: chaparral.)

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have bronchitis every winter. I read that antibiotics are not effective. What can I do?

DEAR READER: Bronchitis is infection in the lining of the bronchial tubes, through which air reaches the lungs.

Ordinarily, the body's immune system is able to prevent such infection. However, smoking and air pollution may hamper this ability. In such instances, common respiratory virus infections (such as colds and so forth) may set the stage for bacterial infection in the bronchial linings. In this sense, the bacteria are "opportunistic": They set up shop only when conditions are suitable.

Therefore, the usual sequence of events is as follows: A smoker gets a cold. Within about a week, the symptoms of congestion and cough lessen. The patient feels better. However, about 48 hours later, the cough increases in severity, the sputum becomes discolored and the patient feels sick all over again. Wheezing often follows, with or without fever and shortness-of-breath.

This is bronchitis, and it's a miserable affliction.

As you pointed out, antibiotic therapy in the initial stages of the illness (the first set of symptoms) is useless, even dangerous. No responsible physician prescribes antibiotic therapy for viral infections such as the common cold. On the other hand, the occurrence of a secondary infection almost always indicates the presence of bacteria, for which antibiotics are appropriate, even necessary, to prevent pneumonia.

Thus, in answer to your question, bronchitis certainly responds to antibiotic treatment — after the initial viral stage.

Whether to treat — and when — is your doctor's prerogative. My rule of thumb is: Treat if symptoms recur or persist for more than 10 days. I also urge my patients to stop (or significantly reduce) their smoking, because continued use of tobacco seriously adds fuel to the fire and prolongs healing.

I'd like to know why you have bronchitis every winter. Ask your doctor about this. By the way, consider receiving flu shots and pneumonia vaccine to strengthen your immunity. And do I need to state the obvious? If you smoke, stop.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1997

Social and commercial channels that have been blocked in the past will open up for you in the year ahead. You will be able to go after objectives that have eluded you too long.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The assistance you give to loved ones will not be taken for granted today, even though you might feel they are not as grateful as they should be. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that will govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Socializing with close friends should appease your restless nature today. Involvements with large groups at noisy venues could make you irritable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Financial prospects look strong today, because you'll have the Midas touch. Take care to keep riosy individuals out of your affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You are well-equipped to handle assignments today that are more mental than physical. You must be as cognizant of details as you are of the big picture.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Others will be eager to do nice things for you today, so be receptive and grateful, and do not impede their efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not let a friend with questionable judgment make critical decisions for you today. Your ability to solve your own problems will be superior.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today you might have the feeling that things are being said about you behind your back. This is accurate, but the talk will be complimentary.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your imagination will run at full speed today and your ideas are apt to be substantial and impressive. However, don't attempt to do everything at once.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) In career developments today, you'll need others and they'll need you. Everyone's luck will be enhanced when all collective forces work together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your optimism will be effective today in raising the enthusiasm levels in others. They will realize that your drive is based upon a realistic premise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) This should turn out to be a fortunate day for you, even if your mission fizzles out. You will succeed eventually, because you'll not stop trying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In serious discussions with your mate today, remember that it isn't important who authors the ideas, but whether or not they are the best options.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Dec. 8, 1997

There are indications you might make an important shift in the year ahead that will present you with social and commercial opportunities. Conditions will be very interesting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The organizational and managerial qualities you possess are very strong today, and you'll find many different ways to put them to good use. Astro-Graph year-ahead predictions make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A close associate might present you with an opportunity for personal gain. It will be up to you to furnish the follow-through, however.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If there is a new endeavor you've been wanting to start, this is a good day to launch it. You could be quite lucky where new projects are concerned.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Your intuition could be remarkably keen today, especially in material affairs. If you get strong signals to do something, follow your hunches.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Occasionally we need to have a bit of time for ourselves. Today, however, you'll function at your best when you're surrounded by others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Conditions are rather unusual today. Several secret desires you've been nurturing might be fulfilled simultaneously in a most unusual way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You should be able to define developments precisely today, owing to your logical, realistic outlook. Keep insignificant negatives in proper perspective.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If there are changes you've been wanting to make that could improve your financial condition, implement them now. Time is money, so begin today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today you should do rather well in matters that require negotiation. Listen to the advice of others, but pay greater heed to your own counsel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Assignments you failed to accomplish last week can be done today if you plot your course properly. Put the toughest task at the top of your list.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The warmth you'll encounter in your dealings with others today will help restore your faith in human nature. They will treat you like the winner you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Because your associates perceive you as being reliable and effective, they might dump their troublesome assignments on you. You won't mind.

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Dallas JP suspended

DALLAS (AP) — An Irving justice of the peace has been suspended without pay while facing allegations that he made racially abusive comments to a parking lot attendant.

The Supreme Court of Texas decided to suspend Judge Bill Lowery on Friday at the request of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Lowery said he disagrees with the Supreme Court's order and plans to wait for the ruling of the seven-member tribunal of appeals judges.

After disappointment, U.S. turns to Arafat for help

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Rebuffed by Israel, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is looking to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to give her drive for Mideast peacemaking a boost.

Albright flew to Geneva from Paris to meet with Arafat today. She seeks new security assurances to shield Israel from terrorism. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says such assurances are a prerequisite for him to undertake another Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank.

Israeli sources said Netanyahu would meet again with Albright Saturday night after her return to Paris. A senior U.S. official called the meeting "a pretty strong possibility."

The official, declining to be identified, said the issue of redeploying Israeli troops on the West Bank has presented the "most profound gap" in Albright's peacemaking efforts.

The official also said "more needs to be done on security" by Arafat.

Despite these hurdles, the officials claimed some progress in the last few weeks in that there is now "serious discussion" of another Israeli pullback.

Albright's drive to have Israel turn over a sizable chunk of the West Bank to Arafat met with resistance Friday.

"We've had our problems," Netanyahu said, after a three-hour meeting with Albright.

Asking for more time, Netanyahu spoke of the "gravity" of the decision and the potential impact on generations of Israelis. He said the disagreement was one between friends who share a common interest in peace in the Middle East.

"We are aware of the need to move the process forward," he said. "We are trying to work together."

The Israeli Cabinet on Sunday approved, in principle, to carry out another West Bank withdrawal under the 1993 and 1995 Oslo accords with Arafat. Albright had hoped the decision would give her an opening to prod Netanyahu into a substantial withdrawal.

She said "bold decisions" were required on both sides.

But the Cabinet conditioned a pullback of Israeli troops on Arafat's Palestinian Authority providing more security for Israel under the same Oslo agreements.

Netanyahu told reporters after a meeting with French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin that he was looking for assurances over the next five months that "any territory handed over will not be a base for additional terrorism."

Albright said she would urge the Palestinian leader to pay close attention to the Cabinet decision. "We take it seriously, and he should take it seriously. It's time to start swimming," she said.

Albright jumped on the Cabinet move and set up her back-to-back talks with Netanyahu and Arafat on her way to a week-long trip to Africa.

She said her three-hour meeting with Netanyahu involved "real substance."

But the prime minister, at a joint news conference, made it clear Albright had not induced him to yield territory.

"Did we discuss percentages? Did I pull out my secret maps? The answer is no," he said.

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SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

At least 146 killed...

Russian cargo jet crashes

MOSCOW (AP) — A military cargo jet crashed into a Siberian town seconds after takeoff Saturday, killing all 46 people aboard and up to 100 on the ground as flaming wreckage set at least five buildings on fire, a news agency reported.

As many as 100 others in the industrial town of Irkutsk-2 were injured when the plane barreled along the main street shortly before 10 a.m., the Interfax news agency said.

Thirteen children were hospitalized and 12 people were taken to the burn center in the nearby city of Irkutsk, the news agency said, quoting unidentified investigators. About 450 schoolchildren were evacuated from the crash area.

The An-124 aircraft, one of the world's largest planes, crashed about 20 seconds after taking off at 9:44 a.m. from Irkutsk, about 2,600 miles east of Moscow, Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Col Nikolai Baranov said.

The plane burst into flames after hitting a four-story apartment building, local officials said. Police and firemen were searching the debris for casualties.

Baranov said there were 16 crew members and 30 military personnel aboard the four-engine cargo jet when it went down.

The airplane, registered with the Russian air force's military transport service, was believed to be carrying a cargo of two Sukhoi jet fighters, the Itar-Tass news agency said.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known. Weather conditions were good. According to Interfax, the flight was scheduled to go to Vladivostok in the Russian Far East, then on to Vietnam.

The Russian defense minister has ordered an investigation, Baranov said. Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Toporov and Air Force Commander Pyotr Deinekin flew to the scene, Interfax said.

Santa must be watching; police activity is light

Less than two dozen calls were noted by dispatchers Friday as local law enforcement personnel enjoyed a quiet day.

"People must know Santa Claus is watching them," said a dispatcher early Saturday morning.

Two people were arrested, however, as an 18-year-old male was taken into custody at 11:30 a.m. in the 1500 block of College Avenue for misdemeanor possession of marijuana and several outstanding warrants. The warrants included Class C assault, two for public intoxication and four for failure to appear.

At 11:49 p.m., officers were called to the 1000 block of 30th Street in reference to a reported assault. Officers arrested a 39-year-old male for Class C assault/family violence and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Another assault was reported at 2:24 Saturday morning from the 1400 block of Avenue K. The person who was assaulted refused to file charges, according to the police report.

The fire department responded to a report of a possible fire in a bathroom of the ag building at the Ira Schools at 10:04 a.m. Firemen found a lighting ballast causing the smoke.

Snyder removed...

Judge keeps wreck information open

By The Associated Press

A Travis County District Judge on Friday affirmed his injunction against a state law limiting public access to motor vehicle and traffic wreck records and allowed the City of Snyder to withdraw from its role in the lawsuit.

Attorney Dana Cooley, representing Snyder, said the city doesn't have the money to be actively involved.

In October, Travis County District Judge Paul Davis said any city or law enforcement agency that wants to be active in defending the law could do so. Four cities — San Antonio, Beaumont, McAllen and Port Arthur — have said they might become actively involved.

By Davis' order, all local governments are part of the lawsuit. Only those named as representatives have to be active.

The law, passed during the 1997 Legislature, would require anyone seeking access to traffic wreck records to know the name of at least one person involved and either the date or location of the wreck. With the law on hold, people must know any two of the three pieces of information to obtain the records.

Lawmakers said they changed that in order to prevent ambulance chasing.

The Texas Daily Newspaper Association and the Texas Press Association sued the state and several law enforcement agencies to prevent the law from taking effect. They said the new law would prevent citizens and reporters from getting information about dangerous traffic intersections, wrecks in which elected officials are involved and wrecks citizens witness.

A trial is set for Sept. 8.

Davis on Friday rejected a request from the City of San Antonio to move up the trial date.

Beaumont, McAllen and Port Arthur did not have representatives at Friday's hearing.

"In the state of Texas, we've had a long tradition of reasonable access to public records and public meetings," said Dolph Tillotson, editor and publisher of The Galveston County Daily News and co-chairman of legislative committees for the TDNA and TPA. "I don't think there is a real ground swell of support to change that."

Donald Bayne, assistant San Antonio attorney, said the issue is not to prevent access to information. He said the concern is the amount of time and money spent providing records and information to private companies. He said that keeps San Antonio from efficiently serving the general public.

Tillotson said the private companies Bayne complained about pay taxes and are members of the public.

"These people are saying they are having a problem serving the public because they are serving the public," he said.

Obituaries

Delma Martin

1906-1997

ABILENE — Delma Martin, a former resident of Scurry County, died Thursday, Dec. 4, in an Abilene nursing home.

Graveside service for Mrs. Martin, 91, was held Saturday morning in Elwood Memorial Park with the Rev. David Cason officiating.

Born in Oklahoma, she attended school in Scurry County. She married Thomas A. Martin in 1924 in Snyder.

A homemaker and a Baptist, Mrs. Martin moved to Abilene from Snyder in 1945 and worked at North Park Nursery and Martin Nursery.

Survivors include two sons, Preston Martin of Blairsville, Ga., and Harold Martin of Aransas Pass; three daughters, Eva Beth McCarter of Snyder, Faye Rhodes of Abilene and Sylvia Saferight of El Paso; three sisters, Velma Lawhon of Victoria, Lois Blakenship of San Pablo, Calif., and Louise Glacious of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; one brother, Houston White of Snyder; 13 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

'Robin Hood'

Snyder High School drama department's "Robin Hood" concludes with an 8 p.m. performance Saturday at Worsham Auditorium. General admission is $3; orchestra seating $5.

Christmas lights for sale

Hermleigh Class of 2000 has Christmas lights for sale through Sunday at $8 a set, $10 installed. The class will also install your lights for $5 per 100 lights. Call 863-2720. If there is no answer, someone will call back.

Chili-Frito Pie supper

First United Methodist Church youth will sponsor a Chili-Frito Pie Supper Saturday from 5-7:30 p.m. at the church, 2700 College Ave. Cost is $4 per person. Cinnamon rolls will be served for dessert.

'The Hanging of the Green'

The music ministry of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, 3506 El Paso, presents "The Hanging of the Green," a Christmas celebration, at 11 a.m. Sunday. The program will include the adult choir and adult handbell choir and will be broadcast on cable channel 2.

FBC 'Hanging of the Green'

"Hanging of the Green," featuring the children's youth and senior adult choirs, will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church. The public is invited.

"A Christmas Story"

The Western Texas College planetarium will present "A Christmas Story" each Sunday prior to Christmas, starting at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Bible study video tapes

Mike Tackett of Merkel appears on the Key to the Kingdom series, airing weekly on Cable Channel 2. Robert Oglesby of Richardson narrates The Story of the Bible. The next video, "God's Deliverance," airs at 7 p.m. Monday, followed by Lesson 1 of The Story of the Bible.

Dunn Baptist holiday dinner

Dunn Baptist Church is planning a holiday dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Dunn Community Center. Turkey and dressing will be provided, but those attending are asked to bring covered dishes. Families new to Dunn are especially urged to attend.

Stanfield Parent Council

Stanfield Elementary Parent Council will meet at noon Tuesday in Room 21.

4-H Horse Club

4-H Horse Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at East Elementary. Each member is asked to bring $5 for the Christmas project. A special program is scheduled.

Support group ministry

Three support groups for divorce recovery, cancer/grief and caring for aging parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 18, in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. For more information, call the church office at 573-2631. Anyone is welcome to attend and child care will be provided.

'Does Santa Really Care?'

Snyder First Church of the Nazarene, 2462 S. 208, will present "Does Santa Really Care?" at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 21. Everyone is invited to the service. Santa will be there.

Historic Scurry County

Historic Scurry County is asking the public to share their ornaments, cookie cutters, cookie jars and nativity scenes for display at the Cornelius-Dodson House and Dermott School during the holidays. Call Jean Everett at 573-2763 or drop them by Countryplace anytime or the Dodson House.

Shelled pecan halves

Snyder High School Technology Student Association (TSA Club) is selling shelled pecan halves at $6 per pound. Contact a club member to purchase.

Tiger banners for sale

Snyder Girls Hoops Club is selling Tiger banners for $25. Call 573-1769 or 573-4283. They will deliver.

Driver's license office

The Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license office will be closed each Monday through Jan. 9.

Snyder High yearbooks

Snyder High School yearbook staff is still taking orders for the 1998 Tigers Lair. Books are $35 through Dec. 19 and may be ordered with a $15 deposit. Mail orders to Student Publications, Snyder High School, 2901 37th St. Call 573-6301 for more information.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
8-18-21-26-32

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
6-2-3

Eight achieving teaching degrees through ACU program

Classes are being taught on Western Texas College campus

With single-minded determination, a small, close-knit group of women is pursuing their common goal: graduating from college with a degree in elementary education with a reading specialization.

Some graduate this month, others next May. One graduated last summer.

Just a few years ago, their collective dream to finish their education seemed impossible. None could quit their job or jobs and commute to an area university for full-time classes. All have family responsibilities.

Then Abilene Christian University entered the picture, offering to bring the necessary classes to and elementary management and methods.

The group met from 6 to 9 p.m. at the WTC Christian Student Center on Mondays and Thursdays.

When ACU and WTC created the opportunity all of them said they couldn't turn it down.

Here are their individual stories.

Debra Jenkins graduated from Hamlin High School in 1971, then attended WTC, graduating in 1973 with an associate degree.

Snyder ISD employed her as a teacher's aide, a position she has held for the past 22 years.

Scurry County Folks

by Shirley A. Gorman

EARNING DEGREES — These women are earning their teaching degrees from Abilene Christian Univeristy by attending classes on Western Texas College's campus. From left, back row are, Christy James, Kathy Scott; middle row, Alison Beeks McCarter, Carolyn Torres, Wendy Hunter; front row, Rachel DeLorea, Debra Jenkins, Esther Clarady. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Snyder. That's what makes this particular group of students unique. Others before them have sacrificed much to get their degrees. But these women are completing their education without commuting.

Except for occasional trips to ACU, they are getting the classes they need in Snyder, on the Western Texas College campus.

The road has been anything but easy as they have learned to juggle a job or jobs, school work and family life.

The determined eight are Esther Clarady, Christy James, Wendy Hunter, Debra Jenkins, Kathy Scott, Rachel DeLoera, Carolyn Torres and Alison McCarter.

Another member, Mary Ann Juarez, graduated last summer.

During the fall semester, their instructor was Charles Anderson, former Snyder ISD principal, a school board member and local historian.

The courses were elementary curriculum, materials and media

Having always wanted to be a teacher, Debra took advantage of ACU's program. She graduates this month. Debra also works at Tiger Mart.

"This accomplishment would not be possible without the support of family, co-workers employers and friends," Debra said.

She has two daughters, Shauna, 24, and Zealia, 19, a junior at Texas A&M. Her grandchildren are Nathan and Briana Rose.

Debra and the others feel very close to each other. As each shared in the others' struggles such as balancing schedules, a death in the family, divorces, marriages or pregnancies and childbirth, the bond grew, she noted.

ACU provided the means for each to keep on working and still go to school. "None of us could afford to quit our jobs," Debra added.

"What we are doing is not unique," she said. But taking ACU classes through WTC rather than commuting is different. Through it all they have shared the same struggles and the same adjustments.

In many ways, the first semester was the hardest and most traumatic because some had been out of school for 20 or more years.

Also traumatic, she continued, was taking college algebra when some had only studied basic math. As her children have seen her struggle with college algebra, Debra said they have come to a greater understanding of what she is doing and of their own schoolwork. The experience has made them all grow closer.

Some of the group have had to take WTC courses simultaneously with ACU-offered classes in order to meet their requirements.

They had to take "the dreaded TASS Test" after completing six hours of college work.

Another plus for the ACU program is that the cost of tuition is half what ACU normally charges. Grants, scholarships and loans are also available to those who qualify.

Debra said they were all grateful to ACU for arranging classes so they could be taken during lunch breaks, after work and during the summer.

She noted that ACU has gone out of its way to help them meet their goals. She hopes the program will continue for others who want to become teachers.

She added that SISD Superintendent Gayle Lomax has also been supportive of those in the group who work for the school district.

To earn their coveted degrees, each has to sacrifice summer months in order to take classes.

Debra encourages everyone to "pursue your goals." Much can be accomplished with determination, cooperation and sacrifice.

Esther Clarady, a native of Scurry County, attended school in Hermleigh and graduated from Snyder High School in 1973. She attended WTC, graduating in 1975 with an associate of arts degree.

Her interest in education began more than 15 years ago. To date she has logged 16 years as a special education instructional aide. In addition, she has worked more than 20 years as an ESL instructor for the adult education classes taught at WTC.

Esther decided to return to college in 1994. The decision was not an easy one to reach because "I felt I had been out too long," she said. But after completing her first six hours in the summer of 1994, Esther felt "I was confident I could succeed." That fall she began taking ACU classes.

Esther is married to Glenn Clarady and they have three sons. The oldest, Robert, is a senior at the University of Notre Dame. David, a freshman at WTC, intends to transfer to Texas A&M. Nathaniel attends the first grade at Northeast Elementary.

"My family has played a very important part in making my dream come true. With their help I will graduate from ACU in December," said Esther.

Since she has worked as an aide for a number of years, Esther said she will not have to do any student teaching. However, she has completed an additional six hours of instruction in its place.

For Christy James, the ACU classes have allowed her to continue her education, something

See ACU, Page 4B

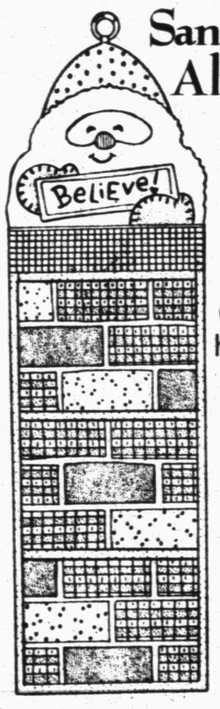
Our Snowman Angel Is Tops!

Top your holiday tree with our Snowman Angel Tree Topper. Your family will delight in its hand-made appearance and enjoy its nostalgia year after year.

Deck The Walls!

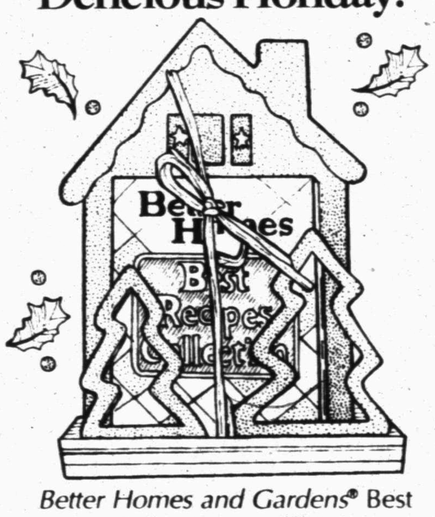
Trim your walls with our Wall Stocking Hanger. Its neighborhood die-cut shape supplies hooks for four stockings—and a sure bet not to be missed by Santa!

Santa Holds It All Together!



Keep all your holiday cards in place with our quilt-like fabric Santa Christmas card holder. It stores your holiday cards and displays them in several pockets.

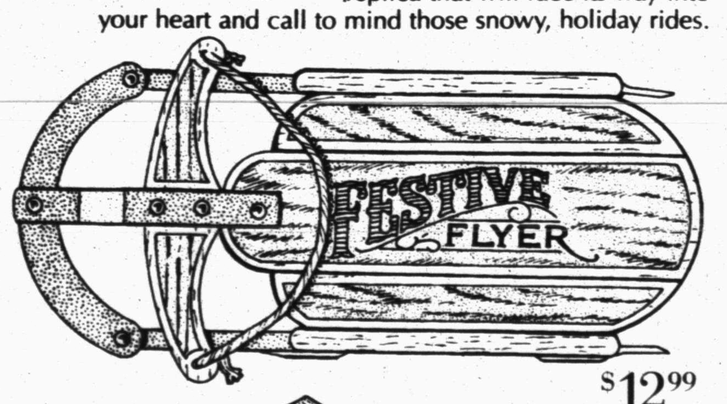
Cook Up A Delicious Holiday!



Better Homes and Gardens® Best Recipes Collection cookbook comes in a die-cut house caddy. It's perfect for gift-giving or for holding the book while cooking your holiday feast.

One Festive Flyer Comin' Up!

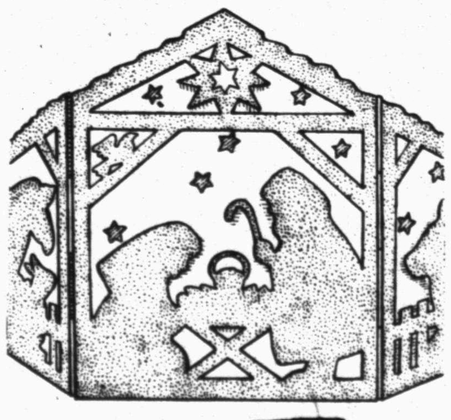
Remember waking up on Christmas morning and finding your very own sled? Well, Hallmark has a miniature replica that will race its way into your heart and call to mind those snowy, holiday rides.



$12.99

Rest Assured With Gifts From Hallmark!

Our Snowman Spoon Rest will make a delightful addition to your holiday table or a cherished gift for your favorite cook.



Share The Warmth Of The Nativity!

Enjoy the holiday glow that radiates from our Nativity Screen when a candle is lit behind it. A wonderful way to recall the very first Christmas.

Hallmark

Nikki The Dog Is Begging For Your Love!

Hallmark has captured the joy and festivity of the holiday season in Nikki the Dog. With his bright muffler and bendable ears, Nikki is ready for holiday fun. And at just $9.99, you just might get a smooch when you give our pooch!

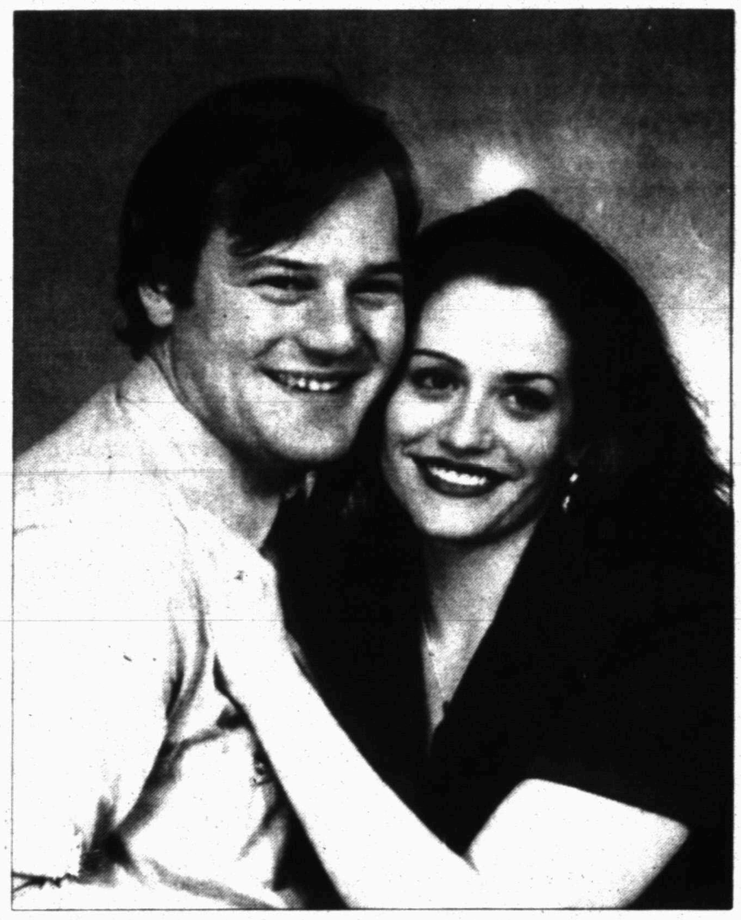
$9.99

Hallmark

The Pleasure's Mine

2502 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 915 / 573-6536 Layaways

Virginia Bloom
Owner



ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — April Christine Stroud of Burleson and Seth Monroe Johnston of Arlington are planning a 6 p.m., Dec. 27 wedding at Westminister Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. Miss Stroud, a graduate of Burleson High School and Texas Women's University in Denton, is the daughter of Robert and Colleen Stroud of Burleson. Johnston is a graduate of Central High School in San Angelo and Denton's North Texas University. He is the son of Fred and Linda Johnston of Arlington; and is the grandson of Dale and Virginia Johnston of Snyder, Rena Faye Heinz of San Angelo, and the late Otto W. Longlois. (Contributed Photo)

DECORATIONS GALORE! — Sue Travis assembled several holiday decorations as members of the Snyder Garden Club looked on following their annual Christmas luncheon Thursday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Her program "Christmas Traditions and Flowers" included instructions mixed with humor. Hostesses were Maribeth Vestal, Anna Sears and Sonya Vinson. The next meeting and program will be Jan. 8, 1998 with Jerry Sears as guest speaker. He will speak on community gardening in Lubbock. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Scurry Charter Chapter
ABWA
Concession Stand
Dec. 6-7
Art & Craft Show
Coliseum

Several studies show that adding peanuts to your diet may decrease your chance of death due to heart disease, according to the Texas Peanut Producers Board.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-06-97
♠ 10 6 5
♥ Q 7 4
♦ A K 7 6 4
♣ 5 3

West
♠ K 9 7 4 3
♥ 3 2
♦ 10 9 5
♣ Q 10 4

East
♠ A J 2
♥ 10 9 8 6 5
♦ 8
♣ A 9 8 7

South
♠ Q 8
♥ A K J
♦ Q J 3 2
♣ K J 6 2

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4

When is a door?

After stating he was too old to run a whole series of lessons, the Senior Life Master agreed to give one class every month.

"We all know the old riddle: When is a door not a door?" began the SLM. "When it's ajar. Well, in bridge we have something similar. When is a guess not a guess? The answer is in this deal."

The SLM referred everyone to the North-South hands on the first sheet he had distributed.

"Against three no-trump," he continued, "West leads the spade four. East wins with the ace and returns the two, West taking your queen with the king. Things look grim, but when West continues with a low spade, East wins with the jack and starts thinking. Eventually, he switches to the club seven. What do you do now?"

After a minute or two, the SLM asked his students to look at the full deal on the second sheet.

"East has defended well. If he had returned the spade jack at trick two, dummy's 10 would have become your ninth trick. Also, if spades were 4-4, presumably the defenders would have cashed four spades and the club ace. So, West must have started with five spades, and if he wins this club trick, you'll be down. You have no guess; you must put up the king. If it loses, presumably you will have turned two down into three down. But if you play the jack here, you turn contract made into three down."

Suddenly someone raised his hand. "Sir, I know when a Guess is not a Guess. When it's a Levi."

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Monday last day to view Windberg, angel collection

Monday is the last day to view two holiday season displays at the Scurry County Museum.

Angels of all shapes, sizes and styles covering many time periods are displayed in the show rooms. In addition, 20 of Dalhart Windberg prints and paintings line the walls, many of them are winter scenes. The museum will be open Monday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sometimes adults just don't understand kids. Try to consider your child's point of view, and respect it. This will help build self-esteem in the long run.
—Children's Trust Fund of Texas

Barry Tubb, actor-director speaks to local business women

Snyder native Barry Tubb, movie actor and director, spoke to members of the Deep Creek Chapter of American Business Women's Club about his career.

Born and reared in Snyder, he graduated from Snyder High School in 1981 where he played football, basketball and was active in drama under Jerry Worsham's instruction.

Later, he attended the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, beginning his professional acting career 15 years ago when he said he had one line in "Christine." Tubb has since appeared in 12 movies.

He starred on broadway with Mary Tyler Moore and has just directed his first movie — "Blood Trail" and plans to make a children's movie called "Grand Champion."

Tubb has written five movies that he plans to make in Texas over the next few years and is interested in a new computer patent involving on-line trading.

Eleven members and eight guests attended the November dinner meeting at The Shack. Brenda Meurer received a friendship pin award for sponsoring new members and the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

SNYDER EX GIVES PROGRAM — Barry Tubb, who has appeared in a dozen movies in his acting career, was guest speaker at Deep Creek Chapter American Business Women's Association. Brenda Meurer received a "friendship pin" award for sponsoring new members. (Contributed Photo)

Friend with a green thumb?...

Some holiday gifts for gardeners

POUND RIDGE, N.Y. (AP) — This is the season when blizzards of gift suggestions fall on garden writers. By e-mail, snail mail and the telephone, merchandisers try to enlist us as Santa Claus helpers.

Among all the come-ons, one postcard said, "Want to escape holiday shopping?" That sounded like a good idea and so I followed the card's suggestion and typed "www.garden.com" on my computer keyboard.

Sure enough, the screen filled up with an extensive selection of options, anything from trowels to orchids. You can fashion your own search, too, and order what you want. If you've got your credit card number handy, you won't ever have to leave your chair.

That looks like a comer, but if online shopping is not yet your thing, here are a few gift possibilities I gleaned from the catalogs. Skipping the scads of decorative stuff I searched instead for tools, wearables and books that a person can actually put to some gardening use. So, starting with the pricey end:

How about a precision "weather station" for someone with a yen for high-tech? Davis Instruments, 3465 Diablo Ave., Hayward, Calif. 94545, (800) 678-3669 offers one for $495. It gives readings for inside/outside temperature and humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, high/lows and rain collection. A cheaper model called "Perception II" ($150) shows temperature, humidity and barometric pressure simultaneously and can monitor conditions in your wine cellar as well as greenhouse.

A power tiller and cultivator makes a great gift. Two lightweight gasoline-powered models are available. Weighing 20 pounds, the Mantis tiller includes a free border edger attachment. You can buy it directly from the manufacturer (800) 366-6268 for $299 plus $24 shipping. The other tiller, weighing 25 pounds, is offered for $275 plus 10 percent shipping by Gardener's Supply Co., 128 Intervale Road, Burlington, Vt. 05401, (800) 863-1700. A border edger will cost you $29.95 more.

For the greenhouse, or a garden room of some kind, a potting bench makes a welcome accessory. A sturdy red cedar bench, 4 feet tall by 22 inches wide, is offered by Charley's Greenhouse Supply, 1599 Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Wash. 98273, (800) 322-4707. A grill in the tabletop allows spillout soil to be saved in a bin below. The price is $265, natural and $299, preservative stained, plus shipping charge.

Speaking of spillout, Gardener's Supply Co. (address above) offers (for $19.95) what it calls a "potting tidy," a 24-by-21-inch aluminum tray, with a 7½-inch backsplash, to help keep your tabletops neat.

Most useful for a gardener is an indoor fluorescent light stand. Here you can display your winter plants and start your seeds for spring and summer. Gardener's Supply Co. carries models ranging in price from $149 to $649.

Trowels, spades, shears and pruners, individually and in sets, make excellent gifts. So do watering cans, gloves and boots. Most catalogs carry these items, but they also can be found at hardware stores, nurseries and garden centers.

What I like in a good author is not what he says, but what he whispers.
—Logan Pearsall Smith

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All of those famous Watkins products you remember - Vanilla, Cinnamon and Pepper

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573-3663

7TH ANNUAL
Scurry County
Arts & Crafts Show
DECEMBER 6-7, 1997
SAT: 10 AM - 6 PM SUN: 12 - 5 PM
SCURRY COUNTY COLISEUM
IN SNYDER
FREE ADMISSION
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MEL PRATHER

Brighton Your Day
With a New Leather Handbag
Adorn Yourself

Timber & Threads
1801 25th Street
Snyder, Texas
(915) 573-4018
Monday-Saturday
10:00-5:30
Brighton
ACCESSORIES

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Storytime for 4- and 5-year-olds; Scurry County Library; 10 a.m.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke Free), brown bag lunch; Park Club in Winston Park. For more information, call 573-1579 or 573-5525; noon to 1 p.m.

Defensive Driving Course Monday, completed Tuesday; Snyder Savings and Loan Community Room, 27th and College Ave.; 6 to 9 p.m.; for more information call 573-2850.

White Buffalo Stamp Club; Snyder National Bank Community Room; visitors welcome; 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Layne Kite Post 181 and Auxiliary; 7:30 p.m.

Bilingual AA meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 8 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Plainview FCEC; 2 p.m.; for more information call 573-6807.

Snyder Shrine Club; call 863-2702 for meeting place; 6 p.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

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

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Ministerial Alliance; Rudy's; 10 a.m.

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

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 6:30 p.m.

Bilingual AA meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 8 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.

Snyder Healthcare Center sets December seminar on hospice care

Snyder Healthcare Center has scheduled Steve Caulley to speak on "Hospice Services: Caring for the Terminally Ill." Caulley says the hospice service is able to provide many more services than most are aware of and can help to meet the needs of loved ones.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the dining room.

The center expresses appreciation to Phi Theta Kappa at Western Texas College for sponsoring speakers.

Snyder School Menu High School & Junior High

All breakfasts are served with assorted cereal, toast and fruit juice; all meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY

Breakfast Pizza

TUESDAY

Donut

WEDNESDAY

Scrambled Eggs

THURSDAY

Cinnamon Roll

FRIDAY

Waffles w/Syrup

LUNCH

MONDAY

Barbecued Beef on a Roll
Chicken Salad Sandwich
French Fries
Baked Beans
Applesauce

TUESDAY

Frito Pie
Beef Nachos
Corn Bread
Pinto Beans
Peaches

WEDNESDAY

Chicken Pot Pie
Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Tossed Salad
Fresh Apples
Chocolate Cake

THURSDAY

Chicken Fried Steak
Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Cream Gravy
Peas & Carrots
Homemade Roll

FRIDAY

Beef Lasagna
French Bread
Chef Salad w/Crackers
Broccoli
Orange Halves

Snyder School Menu Elementary

All meals are served with a choice of milk; all breakfasts are served with assorted cereal, toast and fruit juice.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY

Breakfast Pizza

TUESDAY

Donut

WEDNESDAY

Scrambled Eggs

THURSDAY

Cinnamon Roll

FRIDAY

Waffes w/Syrup

LUNCH

MONDAY

Rib Sandwich
Pizza
Hamburger on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomato
Baked Beans
Fresh Apples

TUESDAY

Grilled Cheese
Soup
Pizza
Hamburger on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomato
Orange Halves
Cowboy Cookies

WEDNESDAY

Beef Lasagna
French Bread
Pizza
Hamburger on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomato
Broccoli
Peaches

THURSDAY

Chicken Fried Steak
Homemade Roll
Pizza
Hamburger on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomato
Mashed Potatoes
Cream Graavy
Mixed Vegetables

FRIDAY

Chili Dog
Pizza
Hamburger on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomato
Tater Tots
Applesauce

Hermleigh School Menu

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY

Juice
Pancakes/Syrup

TUESDAY

Fruit
Sausage/Biscuit

WEDNESDAY

Juice
Buttered Rice
Toast

THURSDAY

Fruit
Muffins

FRIDAY

Juice
Dry Cereal
Toast

LUNCH

MONDAY

Barbecued Hamburger Patties
Potato with Cheese
Relish Cup
Hot Rolls
Peach Crisp

TUESDAY

Beef Stroganoff
English Peas
Pickled Beets
Hot Rolls
Chocolate Pudding

WEDNESDAY

Chili Beans
Buttered Cabbage
Corn Bread
Pink Applesauce

THURSDAY

Tuna Casserole
Mashed Potatoes
Black-eyed Peas
Hot Rolls
Fruit Cup with Whipped Topping

FRIDAY

Hamburger
Burger Salad
Potato Chips
Fruit Jello

Ira School Menu

MONDAY

Beef Stew
Cheese Wedge
Peanut Butter Sandwiches
Peaches
Crackers

TUESDAY

Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Vegetable Salad
Green Beans
Sheath Cake

WEDNESDAY

Chimichangas
Refried Beans
Crackers
Brownies

THURSDAY

Pinto Beans
Fried Okra
Corn Bread
Cherry Cobbler

FRIDAY

Salisbury Steak
Creamed Potatoes
Sweet Peas
Biscuits
Cowboy Cookies

All meals are serve with choice of milk.

Fatima statue copy on tour

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Roman Catholic authorities expect thousands of the faithful to view a statue of the Virgin Mary during a three-month visit to more than 40 churches in northern New Jersey.

The wooden image, depicting Mary with a crown, is a copy of a statue erected in Fatima, Portugal, after three children in 1917 reported seeing an apparition of the woman revered as the mother of Jesus.

Some 30,000 people of Portuguese ancestry live in the Newark area.

COUNTRYPLACE
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Ronda Parker & Justin White
Kori Ince & Mark Williams
Kristi Wells & Troy Mentx
Kaasi Smith Lamb & Bucky Lamb
Rebecca (Becky) Gray & Anthony Porter
Amanda Davis & Cory Beltz
Rachel Haines & Travis Massingill
Alanna Stirling & Chris Stansell
Brittany Lee & Gilbert Orosco

'Baby Shower'
Belinda Benitez
Brian & Starcia Bohannan
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Holiday Decorating Sale
Friday thru Tuesday Only
Santas, Candy Canes & Snowmen 30% Off
(Includes Ornaments & Accessories)
20% Off Storewide
Excluding Bridal & Snow Village
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Classic Interiors
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Snyder, Texas 573-1701
Open Mon.-Fri., 9:30-5:30
Sat. 10:00-4:00

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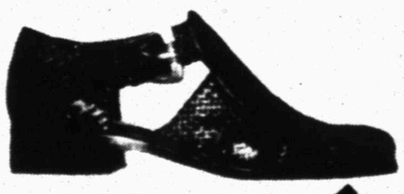
Adorn Yourself



New Brighton Shoes In Brown & Black

Gift Cert. & Free Gift Wrap
-H-
Family Outfitters

Store Hours:
M-F 9-6;
Sat. 9-5:30
3219 College Ave.
Snyder, Texas
Phone 573-6763

Public Records

New Vehicle Registration

Gregory E. Rodriquez, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Thomas H. Dixon, 1998 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Daniel Hancock, 1998 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

LAI Trust, two 1998 Chevrolet pickups from Big Country Autoland.

Lawton and Patsy J. Taylor, 1998 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Glesby-Marks Corporation, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

MEPUS, 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe from Big Country Autoland.

James W. and Janet C. Wesson, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Russell and Penny S. Merket, 1997 Dodge from Snyder Chrysler.

GELCO Corp., 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Patterson Petroleum, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

O'Banion Ranch, 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe from Mike Hellack Chevrolet.

G&G Glass, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

McWhirter Equipment Supply, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Lease Plan USA Inc., 1998 GMC pickup from Jim Lupient Olds.

Jimmmy Thomas, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Bank One Texas Leasing Corp., 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe from Big Country Autoland.

David and Patricia Wittie, 1998 Chevrolet Suburban from Big Country Autoland.

Roland Powell, 1998 GMC Yukon from Big Country Autoland.

COLCO Corp., 1997 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Edith G. Lankford, 1997 Ford from Wilson Motors.

Delton and Anne Young, 1998 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

Adam Olvera of Abilene and Priscilla Rodriquez Hernandez of Snyder.

Savino Lara and Susan Marie Freeman, both of Snyder.

Ronald Aaron Newstater and Dorothy Ann Gomez, both of Snyder.

Steven Andrew Hall and Jude Amanda Marcon, both of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Hrubetz Operating Co. vs. CK Oil Properties Inc. and Rocker A Operating Company Inc., suit on contract.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Shauna Jean Northcutt and James Benjamin Northcutt, divorce granted.

Deed Records

G.A. and Aline Parks to Sidney W. Johnson, all of the west one-half of Section 175, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Linda Jane Banks to Mackey Lee and Joni Marie Mandrell, tract one being all of Lot 2 in Block 8 and the west 30 feet of Lot 3, also in Block 8 of the Original Bassridge Addition; tract two being a part of Lot 3 in Block 8 of the Bassridge Addition.

Jackie Derrell Rice, Yvonne Louise Jones and Ricky Joe Rice to Karen C. Hodges, all of Lot 28 in Block E of the Highland Park Addition.

Charles Lee Cain, Dana Sue Murfee, Lisa Gaye Adelman, Lynda Leigh McCormick to Thomas Benton Cowen, 9.787 acres in the southwest one-quarter of Section 124, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Omer T. and Mona Iris Pointer to The Pointer Family Trust, the east 64 feet of the west 65 feet of Lot 13, Block 3, Highlands Addition.

Harley D. and Melissa A. Vineyard to J.B. Tate Jr., trustee for Snyder Savings and Loan Association, 2.519 acres in the east one-half of Section 240, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Allie Beth Beauchamp, trustee of the Allie Beth Beauchamp Living Trust, to Regina D. and Richard M. Ferguson, five acres in the east one-half of Section 89, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Wallace H. and Barbara E. Jones to Patrick Edward and Shawna Kay Coggins, all of Lot 8 of the Replat of Block 12 of the Highlands Addition.

James and Billie Lane to Lennon Everett and Robert Lennon Lane Jr., 118.79 acres out of Section 138, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Scurry County, Trustee, to Warren E. Graham and Josephine Stewart, 185.3 x 150-foot tract out of Block 2 of the Scarborough Addition.

Researchers find folic acid lowers risk of birth defects

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal plan to fortify bread and cereals with folic acid is supported by research showing that adding the nutrient to the diets of women of childbearing age can cut the risk of certain birth defects by nearly half.

In a study published Friday in the British medical journal Lancet, Dr. James L. Mills and his co-authors report that even a small amount of folic acid each day can reduce by about a fifth the number of babies born with neural tube defects such as spina bifida.

"There has been a lot of debate if a small amount of folic acid will do anything to prevent neural tube defects," said Mills, a scientist at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Now, he said, it is clear that daily dosages as small as 100 micrograms of folic acid can reduce the number of such birth defects by about 22 percent. Dosages of 400 micrograms cut the defects by about 47 percent, Mills said.

"We found that we couldn't eliminate all of the neural tube defects, but we could eliminate quite a few of them," Mills said.

One hundred micrograms of folic acid daily is what experts believe people will receive once all U.S. wheat, rice and corn are fortified at the rate of 140 micrograms per 100 grams of grain.

The Food and Drug Administration has ordered that folic acid be added to all food grains by the start of 1998. Many breads, cereals and pastas already are being sold with the nutrient added. A pound equals 454 grams, and a microgram is one-millionth of a gram.

Dr. Richard B. Johnston, medical director of the March of Dimes, which supports birth defect research, said the Lancet finding is reassuring, because it shows that fortifying food will have some effect. But he said women of childbearing age should not depend on food alone to get effective levels of folic acid.

Johnston said women who might bear children should follow the Public Health Service and National Academy of Sciences recommendations of taking daily vitamin pills providing at least 400 micrograms of folic acid.

"That's the only way to be really sure that there is enough folic acid in the diet," he said.

Experts recommended fortifying grains after studies showed that few women of childbearing age follow the folic acid recommendations.

There was concern, however, that putting too much folic acid in grain products would mask symptoms of pernicious anemia in elderly patients who might eat lots of bread and cereal. The FDA finally set the supplement level at 140 micrograms per gram of grain.

In addition to helping prevent some birth defects, folic acid also is essential in both men and women for cell growth and cell reproduction. One of the B-complex of vitamins, folic acid helps to metabolize proteins and to form hemoglobin, the iron-carrying element in red blood cells.

A deficiency of folic acid can cause a form of anemia.

Natural sources of folic acid include leafy vegetables, such as spinach, orange juice, yeast and liver, Mills said.

In the Lancet study, Irish and American researchers monitored the blood levels of folate, which comes from folic acid, in a group of 100 women of childbearing age in Dublin. The women were divided into four groups. One group received no folic acid supplements, while the other groups got doses of 100, 200 or 400 micrograms daily.

After six months, the researchers found that women on the 100-microgram dosage achieved a blood level of folate that would prevent 22 percent of neural tube birth defects. Those on 200-microgram doses achieved a 41 percent prevention level, while the 400-microgram dose gave a 47 percent prevention level. Folate declined in the blood of women not taking the vitamin.

Mills said the level of folate needed to prevent neural tube defects was determined in earlier studies.

About 4,000 U.S. women become pregnant annually with babies bearing neural tube defects. In some cases, the babies are identified before birth and the fetus aborted, Miles said.

The most common defect linked to blood folate is spina bifida, in which a segment of the spinal nerve cord grows outside the bony spinal column. Babies with this condition usually are paralyzed and often require up to $250,000 in medical care in the first five years of life. In anencephaly, another folate-linked defect, the brain never develops. Most infants with this condition die before or just after birth.

Only about 50 percent to 70 percent of neural tube birth defects are linked to folate deficiency, Mills said. He said inherited genes account for about 10 percent of the cases, and the cause of the others is unknown.

U.S. abortion rate fell once again in '95

ATLANTA (AP) — While the two sides in the abortion debate dispute the reason, the nation's abortion rate fell in 1995 for the second straight year, reaching the lowest level in two decades, the government said.

Twenty of every 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 had abortions in 1995, the lowest rate since 1975 and a slight drop from the rate of 21 per 1,000 in 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

Abortion opponents have said one reason for the drop is that more women are deciding to give birth. But supporters of abortion rights say the decline results from a lack of abortion clinics, particularly in rural areas.

The CDC includes both as possible reasons for the declining rate and adds that the number of unintended pregnancies also might be declining.

ACU

Continued From Page 1B

she has always wanted. A native of Snyder, she married Randy James in 1990. They are expecting their first child this month. She currently works at the family's business — Jack's Roadboring — which she began during the summer of 1989.

Christy graduated from SHS in 1989. She attended WTC from then until 1993 when she received an associate degree and began her ACU studies. She expects to graduate in May of 1998.

She is a member of the Teacher Education program and Kappa Delta Pi.

Wendy Hunter was born in Big Spring but has ties to Snyder. She has lived here all of her life and her dad, Kinney Hart, lives here. Her mother, Sandra Hart, lives in Midland. Her grandparents are Juanita Hart, the late W.C Hart, Melvin Howard, all of Snyder.

Wendy graduated from SHS in 1990. She later attended WTC and received an associate degree in 1993. She is married to Ricky Hunter and they have a 15-month-old daughter, Malory.

"I started my education in elementary education through Abilene Christian University at WTC in 1994. I am specializing in reading. Currently, I am a substitute teacher for SISD and work part-time for Open A Ranch," she said.

Kathy Scott is a 1984 graduate of SHS and a 1986 graduate of WTC. Becoming a teacher has been a long-time goal. Of her four-year commitment, she said the last two have been the hardest, but she will graduate in May.

She said the ACU group has become "as close as sisters" because "we have stuck it out together."

Over the years, she said they have become "more like family." They have grown to think alike as well and sometimes reach the same answers or choose the same projects and themes.

Kathy is married to Doug Scott. They have one daughter, Brittany, who is an East first grader."

Rachel DeLoera, originally from Sweetwater, graduates this month. In the past, she had attended ACU and then had to quit but this program is allowing her to reach her goal.

The group has been very good for her, she said, because "We all want the same thing so we motivate each other." She noted that attending classes at night cuts the tuition in half. "It's been a long, hard road, but we're getting there," she said.

Rachel has worked and an SISD aide for 22 years. Her husband, Frank, is employed by TxDOT. They have two daughters, Melissa, a nail technician, and Stephanie, a senior. Ciara is their granddaughter.

Carolyn Torres, a 1984 graduate of Snyder HIgh School, received a scholarship from AAUW to attend the local college. She studied business for two years and then transferred to Angelo State University.

It wasn't easy, but Carolyn worked full-time and was a full-time student as well.

"I decided to drop out of college and concentrate on my job at the end of my junior year," she said. She is married to Elias Torres, Carolyn has two sons, Marcus, 9, and Joel, 3.

She has always wanted to compete her education but did not want to travel and leave her family. "When ACU offered to bring classes to Snyder, it was the answer to my prayers," she said. "I enrolled immediately."

Joel was four months old when she returned to school in 1994 and changed her major to elementary education. From her days as a substitute teacher, Carolyn knew that she loved children and wanted to become a teacher.

She plans to graduate this spring. Carolyn currently works full time as the Safe Child Coordinator for SISD.

Allison Beeks-McCarter, who graduated from Hermleigh in 1992, is the youngest member of the ACU group. After graduation, she enrolled at WTC, choosing business as her major.

However, the fall of 1994 found her enrolled at McMurry University and majoring in elementry education.

"Plans sometimes change and after my brother died in 1994 I moved back to Snyder. When I found out the ACU program was for an elementary education degree with a reading specialization and happened to be based in Snyder, I jumped at the opportunity to join," Allison said.

That was in the spring of 1995. In the fall of the next year, she went to work for Snyder's Safe Child After School program which has enhanced her studies. She is currently teaching the third graders at Central.

She married Shane McCarter on Aug. 10, 1996. They have a son, Hunter Alan, who was born on Oct. 8, 1997. Allison will student teach in Snyder next semester and will graduate in May with a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies.

"The Abilene Christian program is truly special in that we were able to take classes here in Snyder and not spend so much time on the road to Abilene," she said.

Allison's husband is employed at Y-Z Industries.

"With the education I have received through ACU I hope to become a teacher in Snyder soon after graduation," she said.

ACU program began in 1994

Abilene Christian University began bringing classes and instructors to Western Texas College's campus in 1994.

The program idea originated at ACU, which had begun exploring ways to outreach into different communities. ACU and WTC officials met on the local campus. As word was filtered to the community, other meetings were held to determine if enough local interest warranted beginning the program.

The degree offered was elementary education with a reading specialization. Some nine women enrolled at the time.

Local instructors have included Charles Anderson and Margaret Presswood, both retired employees of SISD. Other instructors have come from ACU.

Bettie McQueen, WTC vice president, said ACU had contacted WTC earlier in the fall about bringing other programs here. Possibilities include junior, senior and graduate level classes.

She noted they were also interested in providing distance learning with actual ACU instructors on the campus.

Bridal Registry

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Voluntary cost savings for colleges urged

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fearing a renewed surge in tuition costs could lead to outside controls, a federal panel recommends colleges trim down and families pinch pennies to take the shock from the higher education sticker.

The National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education included two political hot potatoes in its recommendations to Congress: a return to mandatory faculty retirements and a review of faculty job guarantees through tenure.

"It is our concern that if prices take another big jump forward, will there not be an action on the part of government that looks somehow like cost controls," said William E. Troutt, chairman of the 11-member commission, which was chartered by Congress.

The panel, made up principally of college presidents and chancellors and officials of academic organizations, agreed Thursday on a list of recommendations to Congress. A final report is due early next year.

The recommendations include a call for more cost data from government and colleges.

The panel also said the government should streamline student aid while cutting regulations and paperwork. Families should carefully plan for college and begin a saving program early to pay the costs, the commission agreed.

Troutt, president of Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., was under pressure Thursday from Republican lawmakers. Earlier this week, they publicly criticized a draft report from the commission and earlier statements by some members that the problem with rising tuition had dwindled.

"There is literally a college for every pocketbook and purpose," a recent draft said. It equated the cost of tuition for most full-time undergraduates to that of a "decent used car."

The rate of increase has slowed recently to about 5 percent a year, still much higher than overall inflation but lower than the double-digit increases in the early 1990s, the College Board says.

Some data indicated that the total cost of attending a public, four-year institution has fallen 3 percent when grants and other aid are factored in.

But Troutt said the statements from Reps. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, and Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., a subcommittee chairman, caused no change in the overall recommendations.

Troutt said there are "lots of drafts around."

"We've been talking since day one about the need to redouble our efforts to contain costs," he added.

Another member, Robert V. Burns, political science professor at South Dakota State University, said the Republicans were disappointed with "some of the earlier headlines."

"Members of Congress had some preconceived idea of what the truth was," he said. One of those, he said, was that federal grants and loans lead to higher prices.

"We do understand that families have a problem affording higher education, and we have never gotten away from that basic truth," he said.

Panelists said there appeared to be no evidence that grants to needy students led to higher tuition. But they said the possible connection between tuition increases and a higher volume of student loans should be further studied.

Thursday's session opened with a report showing that tuition more than doubled between 1987 and 1996 at public colleges and universities — from nearly $1,700 to $3,900. At the same time, the cost of educating a student increased by one-half — from nearly $8,000 to more than $12,000.

Europe fight against mad cow disease may cause drug shortages

WASHINGTON (AP) — Europe's effort to stem the threat of mad cow disease risks not only the supply of medicines overseas but also perhaps the drug supplies of Americans, U.S. health officials are warning.

The problem: 80 percent of oral medicines contain animal byproducts that the European Union has ordered banned by Jan. 1 to avoid spread of the fatal cattle disease named because of symptoms afflicted cattle exhibit as they die.

If the EU does not amend the ban, the time needed to change drug ingredients "is such that there would be shortages everywhere," said Sharon Smith Holston, deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

An unusual coalition of FDA regulators and drug manufacturers is pressuring Europe to back off. The European Commission issued a statement this week suggesting a compromise that could give many drug makers another year to comply.

U.S. companies immediately said even another year is too little time to find new recipes for vital medicines. U.S. and European officials were set to discuss the problem Friday at a private meeting in Washington.

The Clinton administration has warned Europe the ban could cause a trade dispute, with $4 billion in U.S. pharmaceutical exports at stake.

But the FDA and the industry's Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association contend public health is a bigger worry. The association estimates the European ban could cause shortages in 85 percent of medicines sold on the continent.

Because companies use the same ingredients in U.S. and European versions of drugs, FDA officials fear domestic shortages also as companies struggle to change how they make drugs. Agency officials are making repeated flights across the Atlantic to argue for exemptions.

"The infinitesimal risk of transmission ... compared to the risks from not having your needed medications — there's just no comparison," Holston said.

Mad cow disease caused a panic last year after the British government announced that eating infected beef may cause a new version of a fatal human brain illness. It has been blamed for killing about 20 people, mostly in Britain.

Mad cow disease has not appeared in the United States. But the EU contends that nowhere is completely safe, particularly because mad cow disease is from a family of "transmissible spongiform encephalopathies" that attack different animals. Indeed, U.S. sheep can get one such illness, called scrapie.

So the EU in July decided to ban from medicines ingredients made with "risk materials" such as brains, spinal cords and other bones and tissues.

Yet almost every pill or capsule contains tallow, made from boiled cattle carcasses, and gelatin, made from animal bones. To use such ingredients, companies would have to find suppliers who made them from animals specially slaughtered to avoid the banned parts.

TSEs have never been found in tallow or gelatin, drug makers say.

Medicaid for HIV-infected to buy AIDS drugs rejected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has rejected as too expensive a proposal to extend Medicaid coverage to people with HIV to provide them with AIDS-fighting drugs before they become ill.

Officials had hoped the plan would pay for itself by keeping people healthy and saving money on future hospital care. But several proposals were tested and all were too expensive, Victor Zonana, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said Thursday.

Vice President Al Gore had promised AIDS activists last April that the government would give the plan serious consideration.

"If it works out, as I hope and expect it will, it can ease suffering, renew hope and help ensure that good people are not priced out of lifesaving medicine," Gore said at the time.

A new generation of AIDS drugs has proved incredibly successful for many people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, but the medicine costs $12,000 a year for each person treated.

People with AIDS now qualify for Medicaid coverage even if they are not poor enough to participate under the program's normal guidelines. But no such exception exists for people with HIV.

Zonana said Thursday that officials considered plans that would have provided Medicaid to people with HIV living at that poverty line and at 200, 250 and 300 percent above it.

"We kept running it with different assumptions but we weren't able to make it come out" revenue neutral, he said.

However, Zonana said the administration will continue its efforts to help people with HIV access the life-saving drugs. He noted that Medicaid is already the biggest payer for HIV drugs, helping 160,000 people with HIV and AIDS.

"We're still looking for innovative ways," he said. "Other doors are definitely opening."

He said that funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program was boosted 71 percent to about $280 million this year.

Wal-Mart remains non-union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Labor called off a union organizing vote at a Wal-Mart store, saying it couldn't get a fair election because the giant retailer was intimidating and harassing its U.S. work force of 700,000 people.

The store in the Birmingham suburb of Fairfield would have become the first unionized Wal-Mart operation if its 197 employees had joined the United Mine Workers in a vote that was scheduled for today.

The union canceled the request for a vote about 16 hours before balloting was to begin.

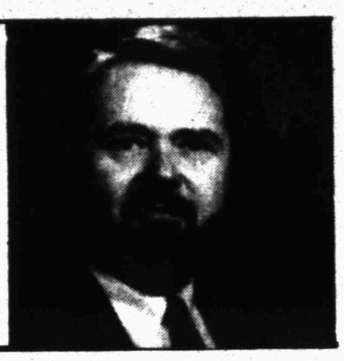
"At this time the union feels it cannot get a fair election," the UMW said in a statement. "In its anti-union campaign Wal-Mart has threatened, intimidated and harassed its employees to the point they are afraid to vote for fear of losing their jobs."

Wal-Mart denied any attempt to block unions through unfair practices.

"Our associates can now put the full focus of their efforts on serving our customers in the holiday season," said Betsy Reithemeyer, a spokeswoman at the retailer's headquarters in Bentonville, Ark.

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Thinking Small — A surefire way to stay small

In the past 10 years I've worked one-to-one with more than 2,000 small-business owners. Many of their companies are still small companies because the owners think small.

Sam Walton would have been a successful merchant with just one Ben Franklin store. However, Sam had a bigger dream. Today, millions of people shop in Wal-Mart stores every week.

Walt Disney was a successful cartoonist and film maker. But Walt had a larger thought: family entertainment. Today, millions enjoy the Disney theme parks.

Henry Ford knew how to build luxury automobiles. However, Henry had a bolder vision: affordable transportation for everyone. Today, Ford Motor Company is one of America's largest and most profitable companies.

There are hundreds of other names that we could add to this list. Folks who started small, but decided not to stay that way.

If you are a business owner, you have a decision to make: You can stay small, or you can dream the bigger dream. I'm aiming this column at those of you who are already dreaming.

The bigger picture

James Allen said, "You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you." Here are some tips for achieving a bigger tomorrow.

•**Take charge of your attitude.** When you are in control of your attitude no wall is too high, no river too wide and no dream too big. No business challenge can overwhelm you when you sincerely believe you can. A positive attitude is a little lever that lifts a big load.

•**Plan for success.** After you've taken charge of your attitude, develop a plan to turn your dream into reality. Begin with an assessment of where you are today and why you're there. Then write down your goals. Where do you want to be? What do you want to accomplish? Now you can begin to lay out the steps to get from where you are to where you want to be.

•**Set your sights on improvement.** The best way to achieve fast growth is to get better at what you're already doing well. Capitalize on your strengths, but don't ignore your weaknesses. You will have to improve those areas as well. However, you will accelerate into the big-dream mode by staying focused on those things you do better than anyone.

•**Be open to opportunities.** If you're looking for big opportunities, seek big problems. Opportunities hide in difficulties, problems and challenges. When you see problems, search for solutions. Therein lie potential opportunities.

•**Surround yourself with good people.** Walt Disney said, "You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality." You'll need good people with talent to take your business to the next level. If you can't afford to hire the best, don't hire anyone.

•**Watch your costs.** Benjamin Franklin said, "Beware of little expenses: a small leak will sink a great ship. Sometimes when you focus on a big dream it is hard to remember to manage the details. I've seen some promising enterprises fail because no one rode herd on expenses. Keep your costs low. You'll never be sorry you became the low-cost provider.

•**Don't let anyone else spoil your success.** The world is full of people who have never accomplished anything of importance. They will be quick to tell you why you can't possibly succeed. Don't listen to them. Stay focused on your goals.

"That thing will never fly," they said!
But the Wright Brothers went and flew it.
So, when someone says to you, "You can't,"
Just go ahead and do it.

Don Taylor is the co-author of "Up Against the Wal-Marts." You may write to him in care of "Minding Your Own Business," P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

Carl Perkins taking things easy now

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Carl Perkins is taking it easy at home after suffering two mild strokes.

The rock 'n' roll pioneer who wrote the 1956 smash "Blue Suede Shoes" suffered no paralysis and is expected to make a full recovery, his son Stan Perkins said Thursday. The singer is getting physical therapy to overcome some minor trouble keeping his balance.

Perkins, 65, suffered a mild stroke Nov. 20 and another on Tuesday.

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Cogdell Memorial Hospital

EDITORIAL COMMENT

'Made in America' will be

The Federal Trade Commission has decided not to fool around with its definition of what "Made in USA" means.

That's good news for consumers, who overwhelmingly objected to the FTA's consideration of expanding the label to permit more foreign content.

Currently, a "Made in USA" label means that product is "all or virtually all" made in the United States. But the FTA had undertaken a two-year study to see about changing the definition of the label. The FTA, it seems, was concerned that the old label might be outdated by global economics.

Certainly, more and more products are being made overseas and imported into the United States. That's a given. But instead of coming up with a label that said "Partially Made in USA" or "Contains Made In USA Products" — both of which don't sound very palatable to most Americans — the FTA had considered just changing the definition.

In short, the FTA proposed guidelines that would have allowed companies to use the "Made In USA" label if "substantially all" of the product was made from American parts or assembled by U.S. workers.

Sounds reasonable enough at first — that's until it was learned that "substantially all" under the FTA's new definition could include as much as 25 percent foreign products.

"... the overwhelming response to our request for public comment ... convinced us that when consumers see a 'Made in USA' label, they expect and want it to mean just that,'' said Jodie Bernstein, director of the FTC's consumer protection bureau.

In realizing the mistake, the commission voted to retain the standard.

We're glad they got the message.

Global warming conference

The (Portland) Oregonian

Will our descendants hate us 50 years from now for leaving them a climatic disaster?

That's the question that ought to draw prime attention from the delegates to the international conference on global warming...in Kyoto, Japan. ...

Developing nations worry that their economic growth will be restricted; many industrialized nations worry that they will be asked to bear the bulk of the burden of correcting a problem for which they are the bulk of the cause. ...

No matter how serious the threat, the Kyoto conference at best will only produce a minimalist response. What's critical, however, is not a total, global solution but movement in the responsible direction toward restraint on greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced support for essential scientific research on global warming. ...

Decency standards in art

The Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal

It's not good news that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether publicly funded art can be subjected to statutory decency standards. But it is justified.

The arbiters of art at the National Endowment for the Arts have gone too far in recent years in funding art palatable to too small an audience and offensive to the public at large.

The question now before the high court is whether a 1990 law requiring the NEA to consider general standards of decency and the diverse beliefs and values of the American public in its funding decisions is constitutional. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it was not. Should the high court overturn this decision, it will be a lesson to those who mistakenly assumed that public money was appropriately spent on experimental works unlikely to survive the test that is the final judge of artistic merit — time. ...

Baggage restrictions

The State, Columbia, S.C.

It's healthy to see airlines move toward restricting passengers to one piece of carry-on baggage per person. They can't do it soon enough.

At one time, allowing two or three pieces of hand-held luggage per person made sense. But these days, many of the nation's 590 million yearly airline passengers load up like pack animals. ...

The issue is not just about comfort. Excess carry-ons represent a threat. They can fall from their overhead bins. About 4,000 passengers are injured each year, some seriously, from articles tumbling out of storage bins. The unplanned weight may cause aircraft balance problems on takeoffs and landings, although no accident yet has been caused by their unexpected presence. Recently, in a nonfatal USAir accident in Charlotte, some passengers delayed their emergency exit because they didn't want to leave their carry-on luggage. That attitude could have fatal results. ...

Campaign finances

The Saint Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

Some in Congress have tried all year to make special-prosecutor determinations a full-time gig for the attorney general. The real issue — how to curtail the perceived corruption of public office by huge amounts of money — is all but lost in the show.

That, we are convinced, is by design. Congress can prove us wrong by doing what is promised after recess — working for real campaign finance reforms.

The problem is not whether Bill Clinton put his feet up in the Oval Office and dialed for soft money dollars that the Democratic National Committee could spend at will. The central problem is the soft money — unrestricted donations that both national parties have learned to abuse. ...

The campaign finance system is broken. It simply requires congressional will to fix it.

Patent Princess Diana's face

The Evening Standard, London

The attempt by the Diana trustees to patent the late Princess' face is an absurd conceit. The notion of slapping a ''copyright'' symbol on Diana's physiognomy suggests that those who have applied to the patents office lost their marbles on the way. No sane person could believe you can copyright a face — any face. The Silly Season is in August. Not December.

Meaning behind the traditions

Deanie Francis Mills

This year, showing remarkable restraint, I thought, I bought only one needlepoint Christmas throw pillow, and a small one at that. The words stitched on it were few and simple and summed up my entire attitude this year: BAH HUMBUG!

Usually, I drag out all the Christmas decorations for the house on the weekend following Thanksgiving, because the kids love this old country house so much at Christmas time and want it to last as long as possible.

Normally we put most everything out that is not naturally grown outdoors, then around the tenth of the month we cut our tree and extra cedar boughs which then drape over every ledge, shelf, or mantle imaginable with tiny white twinkling lights threaded throughout. Decorating the tree is a big holiday tradition around here, starting with the search for the perfect cedar and winding up with popcorn, hot chocolate, and millions of funky little ornaments hand-made in elementary school and carefully packed away.

But this time, nothing seemed right. There's been a lot of sadness in the Mills household this year, and it's hard to manufacture joy just because the season says you should be of good cheer. You think of loved ones you've lost and their families who are grieving as well, and some aspects of the holiday seem suddenly trite.

So I didn't really want to get out all the Christmas stuff. It's a lot of trouble. You've got to clamber around in dusty attics and closet-tops and rummage around in boxes. And in the Mills household, to really do it right, you've got to pack up a lot of stuff while you're unpacking decorations in order to make room. It's like moving in and out at the same time and takes several days. We're talking an accumulation of almost 25 years, here.

I didn't wanna do it. I was in a bad mood. Bah, humbug.

But the kids, at least, were counting on me. (Kent would just as soon skip over the entire holiday, I think.) So last weekend, we girded up our loins and tackled the task, I say "we." Actually, I'm being more than generous, here. Kent's big job is to get boxes down from high places. I do all the rest.

He buys me a present and brings it to me in the store sack. I do all the rest.

Oh! I forgot! He puts the boxes back when I'm done! I do ALL the rest.

But I digress.

I always start with the living room end table by the sofa. I put away the lamp and buffalo statues and stuff and make way for the big cholla cactus which normally sits in the corner. Then I wind little white lights around the cholla and surround it with my old-timey angel collection on celestial clouds.

In the corner where the cactus used to sit, the Victorian Santas gather round the poinsettias. Out comes the Morman Tabernacle Choir album, (yes, a real-true actual album), and the Christmas puzzles and the antique Christmas books and the Christmas cards I've saved through the years that feature Victorian artwork ... and all the needlepoint holiday sofa pillows and throw rugs ... the candles scented with cinnamon, spices, vanilla and evergreen.

And as I worked, reaching into boxes stuffed with tissue paper, pulling out treasures and unwrapping them and setting them out on display, a strange transformation took place in my spirit and soul.

There is something timeless about this ancient holiday. It anchors our year, no matter how tumultuous, and centers us and reminds us where our attention should be at home. Each little ritual becomes cherished and familiar. I wouldn't think of putting my sweet angels over there in the Santa's corner, for example, or setting up the tree anywhere but its traditional place. Anything but white lights on the cholla would look garish and wrong.

We must listen to the Morman Tabernacle Choir sing the Hallelujah Chorus on the old turntable and not the new CD player, and drink hot chocolate from the chipped Christmas mugs while we ornament the tree, because it's the tradition.

Such cherished traditions, coming as they do at the same time year after year, say to us, "We have survived." They teach us to look anew at the blessings we have left in our lives, and not the ones we have lost. They tell us that, no matter what, there will always be another Christmas ... and yes, even joy.

Because the meaning behind these traditions is to remind us that all true joy comes from love, and that is the greatest tradition of all.

Robbed... of intelligence

Bill McClellan

The criminal justice folks say our jail system is about to be overcrowded again and we need to build more pokeys to put prisoners in.

After reading two short articles this past week, It's easy to see why. Some of these people aren't just criminally-minded, they're stupid.

You probably heard about the guy who robbed the drive-through window at a Dallas bank. He used his own pickup to pull off the heist.

The teller jotted down his license plate number, and three hours later he was in custody.

Even law enforcement officials were shaking their heads over this one.

"It makes it a little easier when they use their own vehicle, doesn't it?" said Marjorie Poche, an FBI spokeswoman.

That's one you never saw on America's Most Wanted.

You might also have read about Michael Lloyd Jackson, a Georgia man who thought he had the perfect car theft scam going.

Seems he would report vehicles as missing, then collect the insurance.

Everything was going fine until he bought a used Mercedes and reported it stolen.

In their investigation of the crime, police checked the Mercedes' vehicle identification number. What that told them was that the Mercedes was equipped with a LoJack anti-theft tracking device.

That's a break. The LoJack system uses a little transmitter hidden in the vehicle. If the car is stolen, the transmitter sends off a signal, allowing police to track it.

So track it they did — straight to Mr. Jackson's basement.

Oops.

They also found three more cars that had been reported stolen, along with four other cars, a motorcycle and a firearm.

Seems Mr. Jackson wasn't told the Mercedes had a LoJack system when he bought it. Darn the luck!

Reckon Mr. Jackson has grounds for a lawsuit?

"I would never have gotten caught, and therefore my reputation would never have been ruined, your honor, if it were not for the misrepresentation of the used car establishment what sold me this here car. I am suing for $10 million, plus pain, suffering and emotional distress."

It seems he's going to have a lot of time on his hands to study the law, anyway.

Computers just aren't user-friendly

Ian Shoales

Besides the usual pleasures of megacorporation-baiting, writing about Microsoft and Bill Gates affords me the rare opportunity to use the word "hegemony."

In my opinion, though, the hegemonizing effect that Microsoft has on the marketplace is temporary. The market is much more volatile than it used to be. A broker can sneeze in Hong Kong and five minutes later Wall Street is down with the flu.

A few weeks back, Gates' net worth went from, I believe, 90 gazillion dollars to 70 gazillion in the space of a heartbeat. At that rate, he'll be broke by the year 3000.

Not only that, the Justice Department is trying to get Microsoft to cease and desist its fiendish practice of placing its Explorer web browser on the Windows 95 operating system. And an alliance of companies — IBM, Netscape, Novell, Oracle and Sun Microsystems — are working together to topple Microsoft and the, well, hegemony of the PC. They want to make the Internet itself the operating system, with applications residing out there in the ether, instead of sitting in your computer.

The beseiged Gates himself, in a self-deprecatory and spin-doctorish mode, appeared at Comdex 97 in Las Vegas to give his top 10 reasons why he loves the PC; Number 9 (according to the San Francisco Chronicle) was, "Every function in my new house is managed by the PC — and sometimes it works."

I won't pretend to understand the ins and outs of this CyberDarwinism, but I would venture to suggest that not only Microsoft, but computers themselves may soon reach saturation among ordinary consumers.

Why?

Well, I have many reasons.

Computers just aren't "user-friendly." In fact, most computer owners actually relish the difficulty of getting their machines to work. They can happily spend hours — even days! — reinstalling unnecessary upgrades. The average consumer prefers cable.

The computer industry attaches the prefix "micro" to way too many things.

As anybody with an e-mail account knows, web surfers are far too fond of funny top 10 lists.

When computer people get together, they call their conventions names like "Comdex 97." It's a word not found in nature.

The central problem, of course, is that computer folks have perhaps too much attachment to the concept of "the future."

Take William Gates' fabled house. I've read that he has an entire wall on which he can program to display any image he chooses — from a Hallmark card sunrise to Flemish peasants being devoured by demons. (And Gates is well on his way to legal ownership of all images.) I also understand that the house is capable of recognizing visitors, and remembering what they had to drink the last time they visited.

In the unlikely event that I'd be invited, twice, to Williams Gates' house, I'd find it more alarming that charming to see a malt liquor appear magically at my elbow, and have the couch call me "Ian." And I prefer walls that remain walls, thank you.

Recently on my local news, the anchorman signed off with a light story about a "smart" refrigerator. In the future, it seems, your icebox will be able to "read" your milk's expiration date. Then, the next time you go to the grocery store, your wallet will beep gently when you walk by the dairy section, alerting you that it's time to replace your soon-to-be-curdled 2 percent milkfat products.

As the credits rolled, the anchorman, sports announcer and weatherman sat staring at each other, and shaking their heads. Clearly, these arbiters of information were both disapproving of and baffled by this bland promise of the future.

Even Bill Gates himself must, in his heart of hearts, wonder about the value of a smart fridge. After all, I'll bet he has people to shop for him. And I'll bet he even has people who employ the analog method of checking for freshness — sniffing all half-empty cartons.

And the rest of us? I predict an alarming drop in our milk consumption. We'd rather go without than have our debit cards screaming at us every time we go to the grocery store. And thus will end the hideous hegemony of the dairy industry.

You heard it here first.

Senior Center News

Spiced tea will be served at 9 a.m. Monday and Christmas cards will be signed. They will be sent to the nursing homes, long-term care ward at the hospital, and the home-delivered meal recipients.

The Sunshine Choir will visit the hospital at 10 a.m. Monday.

On Tuesday, Social Security representatives will be here from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1-2 p.m.

Swimnastics participants will have a break until the spring session at Western Texas College begins. Wednesday the Kitchen Band entertains at Snyder Oaks at 10 a.m. and line dance begins at 1 p.m. here.

The Christmas dinner will be served Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Preregistration for this meal will be appreciated. Call 573-4035. Seniors who have centerpieces are encouraged to bring them for the dinner tables.

Mark your calendar for the 16th for the carrolling and pot luck night. Seniors are asked to bring a covered dish at 5 p.m., leave in groups to carol and return to the center for the meal.

Seniors willing to help with the bake sale at Wal-Mart are asked to phone the Senior Center. Baked goods should be brought to Wal-Mart by 9 a.m. on Dec. 20.

The penny drive to benefit the Noah Project West continues. A shower to benefit the organization is planned for January. Seniors can donate money or purchase a gift. A list of needed items will be available.

Senior Center staffers note that a few of our seniors have had the opportunity to visit other senior centers and are amazed at the comparison. They said, "We owe this to our wonderful community — county, city, college, business and individuals. Thank you for your support."

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY

Steak fritter, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad, oatmeal cookie

TUESDAY

Pinto beans & ham, Harvard beets, southern fried okra, green onion, bananas & strawberries

WEDNESDAY

Pepper steak, baked potato, corn niblets, jellied fruit & cottage cheese salad, apple cobbler

THURSDAY

Butterfly chicken breast, on a bed of wild rice, scalloped potatoes, orange glazed carrots, fresh spinach salad, cheesecake w/cherry sauce

FRIDAY

Fried fish, macaroni & cheese, tomatoes & croutons, corn relish, Jello w/topping

Death rate of children struck by drunken drivers decreases

ATLANTA (AP) — Tougher laws against driving under the influence helped lower the death rate among children under age 15 who were killed by drunk drivers since 1985, the government said.

The rate fell sharpest for children killed while bicycling, though it also fell for children walking and riding in cars.

Alcohol-related car crashes caused 0.70 deaths per 100,000 children last year, down 26 percent from a rate of 0.95 deaths for every 100,000 children in 1985, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

The rate of children killed by drunken drivers while they were walking fell 51 percent, from 0.39 in 1985 to 0.19 in 1996.

There was also a 63 percent decline in bicyclists ages 5 to 14 killed by drunken drivers, from 0.24 per 100,000 children in 1985 to 0.09 last year.

All told, drunken drivers killed 8,344 children over the 12-year period, the figures showed.

The CDC credits some of the decline to laws that crack down on drunken drivers.

Do Medicare HMOs promise too much?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Livia Nagy was happy with her Medicare coverage, but the shiny brochure from a local HMO got her attention. It promised free visits to the dentist and the chiropractor and, most importantly, topnotch doctors just a few minutes from her house. She signed up.

"They promised me many, many very good things," the 79-year-old Los Angeles woman said.

Three weeks later, she discovered the nearby doctors wouldn't take her case, and she was assigned to doctors an hour away. She dropped out.

Mrs. Nagy isn't alone, a new study suggests. And with an increasing number of older people getting Medicare through HMOs, the sponsoring health consumer group warns seniors to investigate if they see many people dropping out of ones they are considering.

"Some plans are doing a far better job of luring people into plans than they are in serving them," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, which released the report Thursday.

A trade group representing HMOs agreed that the elderly should look carefully at prospective HMOs if large numbers of people are leaving but said they should not jump to conclusions. "This is one isolated piece of information," said Rick Smith, vice president for policy at the American Association of Health Plans.

Unlike many people with private insurance, Medicare beneficiaries have their choice of health plans. Most choose traditional service, which allows them to see any doctor they choose. But more than 5 million are enrolled in HMOs, which restrict the choice of doctors but offer extra benefits like prescription drug coverage or eyeglasses.

Medicare beneficiaries may leave HMOs freely but beginning in 2002 will be allowed to change no more than once a year.

In its study, Families USA analyzed 1996 dropout rates for the 158 HMOs with at least 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

On average, 13 percent of a health plan's membership left each year. So if a typical plan served 1,000 people, 130 people left at some point during 1996, or about 11 a month.

The study found the rate varied widely, 2 percent to 81 percent. Sixteen plans had dropout rates higher than 20 percent.

About one in four people leaving an HMO left in the first three months, suggesting deceptive marketing, the study said.

Less nefarious explanations than deception are possible. Older people living in cities with a lot of competition among HMOs are more likely to change plans. HMOs new to the Medicare market may take time to adjust to its rules, and dropout rates for small plans may be high if even a few people leave.

HMOs with the lowest rates tend to be large; nonprofit plans in business for a long time, Families USA said. These plans have stable membership bases, happy with their care and unlikely to leave.

Of the 10 HMOs with the highest 1996 dropout rates, four were operated by PCA, a company bought this fall by Humana.

Humana spokesman Tom Noland blamed PCA's loss of members on the company's well-publicized financial difficulties, along with a change in networks that forced some members to switch doctors.

Noland said departure rates will improve now that Humana has taken over the plans and said the company already is working to improve patient retention by assigning staff to help new members navigate HMOs and learn their rules. Even before it bought PCA, Humana had several health plans with above-average dropout rates in 1996.

The agency that runs Medicare called the raw numbers "a blunt instrument" for measuring quality and said it is working to define the information.

A study its own researchers published this fall found a 14.2 percent average HMO departure rate for 1994. It did not compare HMOs.

William Scanlon, an auditor with the General Accounting Office, said studies done for Congress have shown that about two-thirds of senior citizens who leave HMOs go to other health maintenance plans.

"It's not dissatisfaction with managed care. It's dissatisfaction with the plan," said Scanlon.

Medicare HMO departure data is not readily available to consumers now.

Human rights laws should be same for all countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has been using "obstructionist behavior" to thwart global efforts aimed at banning land mines and the use of children as soldiers, a human rights group says.

The State Department rejected the assertions, calling the United States a "beacon for human rights, democracy and freedom."

The allegations were contained in the annual report of Human Rights Watch, a private, New York-based group.

The report, released Thursday, also accused the Clinton administration of trying to undermine attempts to create a permanent independent criminal court to prosecute crimes against humanity.

"It is time for the international community to stop indulging in this obstructionist behavior," said the study, which examined rights conditions in 65 countries. "If the U.S. government persists in its dismissive posture toward international human rights law, the international community should simply leave the United States behind."

Human rights standards should apply equally to all countries but this ideal came under "sustained attack" during 1997 from the United States and Europe, it said. They gave priority to economic or strategic interests at the expense of rights issues, according to the report.

On land mines, the report faulted the United States for refusing to join with other governments in accepting the "military inconvenience of abandoning land mines in the interest of a strong international norm that would curtail their humanitarian cost."

The United States has said it could sign a land mine treaty only if exemptions were made to protect American troops in Korea and allow continued use of its anti-tank munitions.

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said Thursday that the United States spends more money and effort than all other nations combined on finding and destroying mines.

The Human Rights Watch critique came as representatives of 125 nations, assembled in Ottawa, were signing a treaty to ban anti-personnel mines. The United States is attending the ceremony as an observer.

On child soldiers, the report said the United States stands "virtually alone" in opposing a ban on the use of children under 18 as soldiers.

Such a ban would end a practice that leaves children — as many as 250,000 worldwide — "physically at risk, emotionally traumatized and a danger to anyone they encounter." Pentagon officials were not available for comment on the subject.

On the proposal for an international criminal court, the report noted that the Clinton administration wants the U.N. Security Council to give prior approval before a prosecution against a suspected war criminal can move ahead.

This condition, the report said, would let the United States veto any "inconvenient prosecutions." It added that the U.S. goal "appears to be avoiding even the remotest possibility that an American might wind up on the dock."

You can find a cure for the cold right in your hall closet. Just donate a wearable coat or any gloves, scarves, blankets or earmuffs during the "St. Mary Cure for the Cold" coat drive. It's a perfect way to help those in need, and in return for your generosity, you'll get a special Cure for the Cold magnet. All donations will be distributed by the Scurry County Ministerial Alliance. So, please, give a coat to someone who needs it. You'll be left with a warm feeling all over.

Recipient Scurry County Ministerial Alliance

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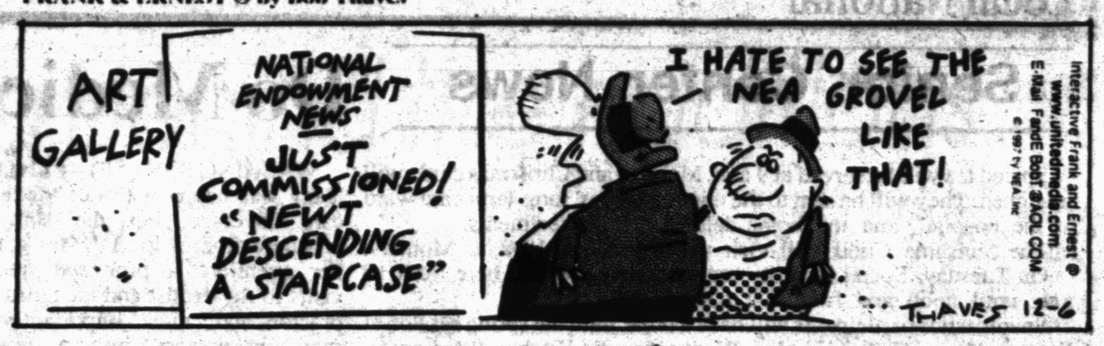

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Tiger Woods game
5 Hairless
9 TV network
12 Layer of the eye
13 Busy as — —
14 View
15 Chief
16 Lima —
17 It's in the bag!
18 One-sided
20 Hair ringlet
22 Dawn goddess
23 Roman 102
24 Dull sounds
27 Perfect test score
31 Long time
32 Spoke
34 Hindu garment
35 Short letter
37 Adventurous deed
39 AFL- —
40 Damaged
42 Aroused
44 Dakota Indian
45 Police officer
46 Aggressive personality category (2 wds.)
49 Paul Newman, in a 1961 film
53 Comedian Philips
54 Intention
56 Hawkeye State
57 Sgt., e.g.
58 Single part
59 — - — page
60 Short sleep
61 Skinny fishes
62 Loch — monster

DOWN

1 Mouth parts
2 Elliptical
3 Star Wars princess
4 Spread (out)
5 Infants
6 Not up
7 Meadow
8 Tooth material
9 Order of whales
10 Farewells
11 Bodies of water
19 Throw
21 Disencumbers
23 What cows chew
24 Numbers
25 Hula —
26 Do — others . . .
27 Sped
28 Display stand
29 Pennsylvania port
30 — and the Belmonts
33 To one side
36 Emerald Isle
38 Pairs
41 Part of NFL
43 Choice
45 Some religious groups
46 Between N.C. and Ark.
47 Nonprofit org.
48 Ship deck
49 Acclaim
50 Swinging stride
51 Rams' mates
52 Radiation measures
55 Single thing

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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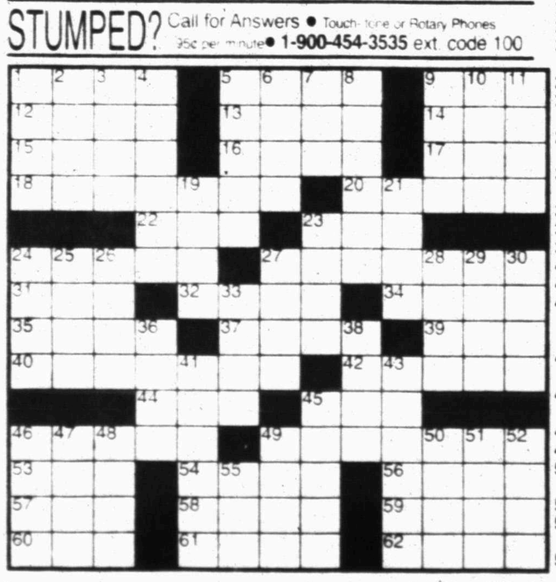

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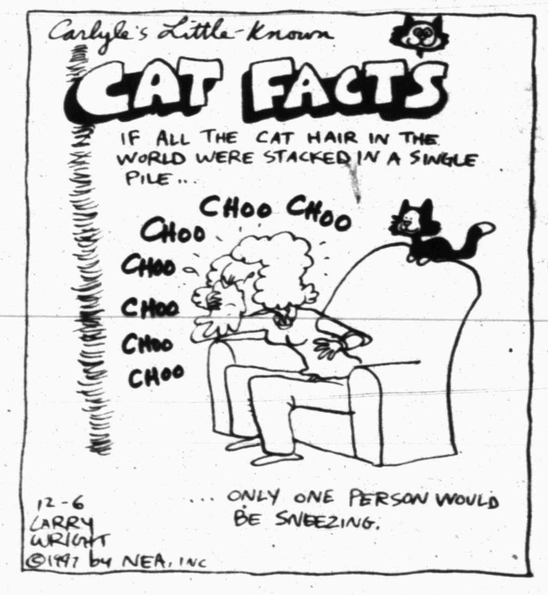
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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"Frankly, I think they made one sequel too many."

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Fourth of 12 chapters...

Hank the Cowdog: Goats don't eat ketchup bottles

(Editor's Note: "Hank the Cowdog" by John R. Erickson is being serialized in the Sunday editions of Snyder Daily News. "Hank the Cowdog" books and audio tapes are on sale at the SDN.)

I raced to the pickup. Slim hadn't gotten there yet to open the door but that was no big deal to me. Hey, if they don't open the door, I can always jump through the...

BONK!

usually wait for someone to open the, uh, door. Which is what I did this time. I was in no big rush.

Slim came along at his usual pace—cold molasses. At the pickup door, he leaned down and looked me in the eyes. "When the winder glass is rolled up, pooch, you can't jump through it."

Yes, I knew that.

"And what makes you think you deserve to ride up front with me anyways?"

Well, I...at the time it had seemed...

"You're just a dog, did you know that? Just a dog, and you're five bales short of a full load of brains."

I, uh, didn't know how to respond to that.

"You snap at ashes and you run rabbits and you try to leap through winder glass, and Hank, you're just dumb." He reached down and scratched me behind the ears. "But so am I, so I reckon we're pretty well matched." He opened the door. "Get up, Einstein, we've got work to do."

I leaped into the pickup and took my postion of honor in the seat. Then he called for Mister Stub Tail, who had come back down from the machine shed, the treacherous little...

He came in a slow walk and had to be lifted into the pickup because of...something. Short legs, tired blood, stunted growth, lack of ambition.

He took his place in the seat between us. Slim fired up the pickup and off we went on a new and exciting adventure.

"Where are we going?" Drover asked as we turned east on the county road.

"Before I answer that, Mister Weasel, I want some infor-mation out of you."

"Really? Gee, I hope I know the answer."

"You know the answer."

"Oh good. What's the question?"

"The question is, why did you suddenly vanish when Loper came down to the trash barrel?"

"Well, let me think here. I was worried about all that fire."

"That is a bald-headed lie, Drover."

"That bad, huh?"

"Yes sir, that bad. You know very well why you left."

"Yeah, but if I told you, you'd get mad and then I'd feel guilty about it, and I hate feeling guilty."

"You should feel guilty. What you did was shameful and chicken-hearted. I mean, snapping at ashes was your deal from the start. I was an innocent bystander who got involved by accident."

"Yeah, and accidents happen."

"But your leaving the scene of the accident was no accident, Drover. You knew how stupid the whole thing looked and so you left me there to become the scapegoat of their laughingstock."

"I met a goat once. He ate rose bushes."

I glared daggers at the little mutt. "Don't try to change the subject."

"Just think about swallowing all those thorns."

"Don't tell me what to think. I don't care what goats eat."

"I've heard they'll eat tin cans."

"Drover, answer the question immediately."

His gaze wandered out the window. "I guess I forgot the question."

"The question, you moron, is..." Hmmm, I seemed to have forgotten the question myself. "Something about goats."

"Oh yeah, you asked if I'd ever met a goat before."

"I asked about goats?"

"You sure did, I heard you myself, and his name was Billy."

"Wait a minute, back up. Who was this Billy character?"

"He was a goat."

"Ah yes. Billy goat. I'm beginning to see a pattern unfolding here."

"And he ate tin cans and ketchup bottles."

"That's very interesting. They're amazing creatures, aren't they? Well, Drover, there's an important lesson here. If a goat can find nourishment in a ketchup bottle, many things are possible in this old world."

"Yeah, and we can all learn a lesson from that."

"Exactly." I blinked my eyes and shook my head. "I think I've been working too hard lately."

"Yeah, and being late to work is hardly working at all."

"I've noticed a certain scrambled pattern in my brain waves."

"Boy, I love scrambled eggs."

I stared at him for a moment. "And Drover, I'm beginning to suspect that talking to you has something to do with it."

"Thanks, Hank."

"Because trying to carry on an intelligent conversation with you would scramble anyone's brain waves. You see, I really don't care about goats."

"Me neither."

"Or what they eat."

"Oh, they'll eat anything."

"And since neither one of us seems to care about goats or what they eat, why don't we just drop the subject and never talk about it again?"

"Fine with me. Where are we going?"

"Insane, Drover."

"I'll be derned. I've never been there before."

"Ha! You've been there so long, you can't find your way back home."

"Yeah, and I'm already missing the machine shed." "Drover?"

"Yes?"

"Shut. Up. Now."

At last he shut up and I was able to concentrate on what we were doing and where we were going.

We drove down the county road until we came to Slim's mailbox. He pulled over and checked the box. He leafed through the contents—two grocery store circulars, a pictureshow calendar, an appeal for contributions from the Polio Foundation, and a giveaway offer from somebody who promised to make him rich.

He didn't waste much time on the grocery store circulars and he got a good chuckle out of the appeal for funds.

"If they're writing me for money, they have definately come to the goat's house to get wook."

Goats? I shot a glance at Drover to see if he would pick up on it. He wasn't listening.

Good. I had heard and said everything about goats that I ever wanted to hear or say, and I didn't believe that baloney about goats eating ketchup bottles anyway.

Goats don't eat ketchup bottles.

Pathfinder evidence: Once life on Mars?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mars was once warm and moist, conditions that make it more likely that the Red Planet could have harbored life, according to researchers who published their findings Friday from the Pathfinder robot landing mission.

"The body of evidence returned by Pathfinder are suggestive that conditions had been conducive for the formation of life early in Mars' history," said Matt P. Golombek, a Pathfinder mission scientist and lead author of a research report in the journal Science.

Golombek said several lines of evidence have produced a strong consensus among scientists that Pathfinder landed July 4 on a Martian plain that was sculpted by liquid water sometime in the past and that such water proves the planet once was a warmer, more life-friendly place.

Pathfinder and its faithful wheeled rover, Sojourner, found no definite evidence of life. But the report in Science said the spacecraft studies "appear consistent with a water-rich planet that may be more Earth-like than previously recognized, with a warmer and wetter past in which liquid water was stable and the atmosphere was thicker."

Finding evidence of liquid water, said Golombek, "is a shot in the arm for the possibility of finding evidence of life. If there was no liquid water, then there would be no need to search for life on Mars."

"There's nothing we found that would preclude life on early Mars," said John T. Schofield of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., which controlled Pathfinder for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"Because there was liquid water billions of years ago, it is conceivable that there could have been life," said H. J. Moore of the U.S. Geological Survey, one of the principal researchers with Sojourner.

Liquid water would mean that Mars was much warmer than the minus-100-degree temperatures experienced by Pathfinder, the researchers say in Science. This, in turn, means that the atmosphere on Mars was then much thicker than now, the researchers say.

Moore said Sojourner, the small-wheeled vehicle that roamed for more than 170 feet around the landing site, found a number of rocks that bore a strong resemblance to rocks that on Earth were formed in the presence of water.

He said rocks named Shark, Prince Charming and Ender all appear to be conglomerates, or rocks formed of smaller pebbles bound together by a matrix, such as clay. Such rocks are formed by water forces on Earth, Moore said.

Some rocks also bore evidence that they may have formed on a lake shore or even underwater, suggesting that water at one time possibly pooled on Mars, Moore added.

He said a search for life will be a part of NASA's continuing exploration of Mars. But he warned that "it is very much a crap shoot. Mars is a big place and where would you go to look? It is a very tough question."

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Accreditation officials to visit MMA campus

HARLINGEN (AP) — Concerned about allegations of abuse at the Marine Military Academy, accreditation officials will visit the school next week to see if students are being adequately supervised.

The visit comes after the October throat-slashing of one cadet and a lawsuit filed last month alleging 11 former cadets were physically and sexually abused by classmates.

Mike Thomas, state director of the Texas Secondary and Middle School Committee, said Thursday that he had asked committee officials to meet with MMA administrators about the recent events.

"I'd like to have assurances that they will provide sufficient nighttime monitoring of students in the barracks so that this kind of hazing doesn't occur," said Thomas, whose committee evaluates 630 Texas secondary schools for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"Clearly, if they have students who are being hurt in the dormitories, they're in violation of safety standards," said Thomas, who also is associate dean of the College of Education at the University of Texas.

MMA spokesman Robert Beckley said the visit "doesn't indicate that there's anything wrong."

"They just want to check on us, see how we're doing," he said.

The private boarding school, which instructs 450 students in grades eight through 12, was thrust into the spotlight in October after two cadets were arrested for allegedly slashing the throat of a classmate as he slept. The victim required 28 stitches to close the wound.

Then last month, the parents of 11 former cadets sued the academy alleging inadequate supervision allowed their sons to be beaten and sexually abused.

Academy President Harold Glasgow said security has been tightened on campus in recent weeks. Additional duty officers patrol at night, and the school is installing alarms on dormitory exits and locks on individual dorm room doors, he said.

The academy also plans to add four cameras in each dormitory to allow duty officers to monitor the hallways at night.

But even without the extra measures, Glasgow said the academy is one of the best supervised schools in the country. He noted MMA is the only private boarding school that has drill instructors and their wives living inside dormitories with students.

"When we start talking about adult supervision, I have to say that it starts at the Marine Military Academy," he said.

Willard Scott, executive director of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools, of which MMA is a member, called the academy one of the top 10 military schools in the country.

"The school is just a magnificent institution," he said.

But Thomas, while acknowledging the academy is academically sound, questioned its military structure.

"The problem is more with the military aspects. At least with the dormitory life, clearly they're missing something," he said.

Thomas said he visited the school about 13 months ago to investigate a hazing claim. Afterward, he reviewed the academy's policies on such behavior.

"They had policies in place that should protect the students from hazing, but if they're not followed, the policies don't make a difference," he said.

The latest allegations come at a bad time for the academy, which has been on warned-accreditation status for the last year for lacking a counseling program.

Of the 630 schools Thomas' committee evaluates, MMA is one of fewer than 20 cited for violating accreditation standards.

The school has hired a certified counselor and says it has a counseling program, but because the committee has not yet seen the plan, Thomas said MMA would remain on warned-accreditation status next year.

And if the abuse allegations are proved, accreditation could be dropped altogether, Thomas said.

39 years of Supreme Court arguments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government attorney Lawrence Wallace will set a modern-day record when he stands before the Supreme Court to present a case Monday. It will be his 141st high court argument — more than any other lawyer this century.

Wallace's presentation, in a copyright dispute, will surpass the 20th century record of 140 arguments held for 43 years by the legendary John W. Davis.

"It's a great privilege to be doing it," says Wallace, a deputy solicitor general whose Supreme Court debut was before Chief Justice Earl Warren in 1968.

The solicitor general's office represents the federal government before the Supreme Court. Wallace has argued before 21 justices — nearly one-fifth of the 108 who have served on the court.

His link to the high court dates back even earlier. He served as a law clerk in 1960-61 to Justice Hugo Black.

"I feel a great sense of tradition from associating with the court over the years," Wallace said.

While he will claim the 20th century record, Wallace would have to stick around a very long time to catch the all-time Supreme Court argument champion, an obscure 19th century lawyer named Walter Jones.

Described as "durable though unspectacular" by Maurice G. Baxter in a 1966 book, Jones argued 317 cases between 1801 and 1850 as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

The great legal advocate Daniel Webster also is ahead of Wallace. Records are unclear, but the Supreme Court clerk's office says Webster argued between 168 and 249 cases during the first half of the 1800s.

Davis, a former solicitor general and 1924 Democratic presidential nominee, made his 140 arguments over 41 years.

Davis' final high court appearance came in 1954, when he lost to Thurgood Marshall, a future justice, in Brown vs. Board of Education. The court used that case to declare racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

How have things changed since Wallace first appeared before the court?

Last year, he got a chance to compare. While preparing to argue a patent case, he studied a transcript of his 1970 argument in a case involving the same issue that ended in a 4-4 tie vote.

"After a polite little opening question by Chief Justice (Warren) Burger, the transcript went seven or eight pages without another question being asked while I made a lengthy exposition of our position," Wallace said.

Today, lawyers who stand at the Supreme Court lectern are peppered with questions from the justices, and they had better be ready with good answers.

"It's much easier to stand there and make a prepared speech to the court, but it perhaps doesn't meet their concerns as effectively," Wallace said.

"If you can't answer the question, 'What are the strongest points to be made for the other side?' you're not really prepared to argue the case," he said. "Unless you see the case from the perspective of the court, you can't deal effectively with what they have to grapple with."

He advises other lawyers to stick closely to business when making an argument.

"It doesn't pay to get too flip or try to joke. Somebody will top you; you know, it's 9-1," he said. "I leave the wisecracks to the justices."

Wallace also uses his brain power in a second career, as a professional violinist and violist. He played in the orchestra conducted by Leonard Bernstein at the 1971 grand opening of the Kennedy Center.

"Music requires your total concentration while you're doing it," he said.

Active duty Army generals to lead new NG divisions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Carson, Colo., have been chosen as the headquarters for two new Army National Guard divisions led by active duty two-star Army generals.

The step is part of an effort to smooth long-simmering tensions between the full-time Army and the National Guard, which answers to state governors but can be put under federal command in national emergencies.

Each "integrated division" will have three Army National Guard brigades and be organized under a headquarters unit composed primarily of active duty soldiers, the Army said. Each division has about 17,000 soldiers.

Neither of the two-star generals has been named.

"The National Guard leadership is supportive and enthusiastic of this significant step that furthers the integration of the active and National Guard combat structure," Maj. Gen. William Navas Jr., the Army National Guard director, said in a statement.

The move provides for a full-time headquarters unit that can deal with ongoing issues affecting each division, an Army official said.

The brigades chosen as part of the Fort Riley division are the 30th Mechanized Infantry Brigade of North Carolina, the 218th Mechanized Infantry Brigade of South Carolina and the 48th Mechanized Infantry Brigade of Georgia. A liaison unit will be located at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The brigades to be part of the Fort Carson division are the 45th Infantry Brigade of Oklahoma, the 39th Infantry Brigade of Arkansas and the 76th Infantry Brigade of Indiana. A liaison unit will be located at Fort Polk, La.

Each headquarters unit will have about 200 soldiers, and each liaison unit will consist of about 15 to 20 people.

Pentagon leaders, such as Defense Secretary William Cohen, have urged the Army and the National Guard to work out their differences and work together as a "seamless force." In recent months, Gen. Dennis Reimer, the Army chief of staff, has tried to improve relations through meetings with Guard leaders and units.

Tensions have arisen over the belief by some Army personnel that some Guard units cannot deploy quickly enough and cannot, as part-time soldiers, meet the demands of high-tech warfare. Guard members have complained that they have been left out of high-level Army decision-making. They have urged Congress to help put a National Guard member on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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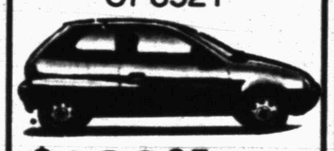
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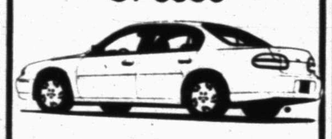
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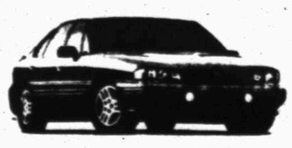
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