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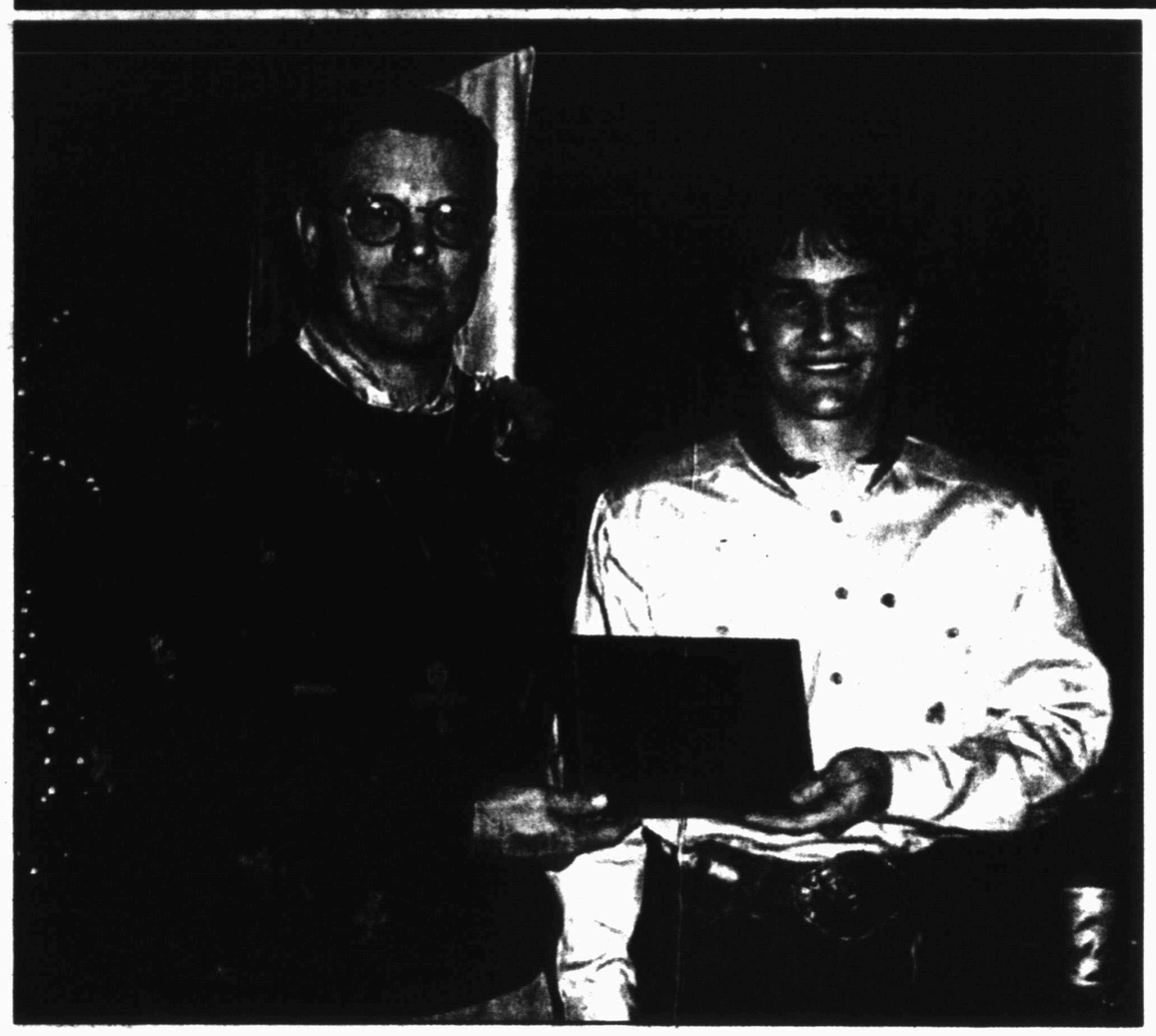
WT-Int. Crude - $27.98
WTIC Posted - $25.00
Natural Gas - $7.537

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

Dec. 15, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 196
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Kel Grimes



EMPLOYEE OF YEAR — George Parsley, left, Cogdell Hospital CEO, presented the employee of the year award to Brandon Rollins, LVN, at the hospital's Christmas awards dinner Thursday evening at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. Service awards were also given to employees. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

During Thursday meeting...

Trustees hear campus improvement reports

Campus improvement plans for each individual Snyder ISD campus dominated the Snyder board of trustees meeting Thursday evening.

The improvement plans are state-mandated and are formulated by the school's site-based management team.

The theme for most of the campus presentations centered on improving student TAAS scores, and especially in the elementary grades, the reading and math scores of economically-disadvantaged students.

Highlights from the respective campuses:

Snyder High School – Assistant principal Thomas Fogleman said the high school is striving to reach recognized and even exemplary status on TAAS testing, and has established before and after-school tutorials for this purpose. The high school also has plans to expand its concurrent class count with Western Texas College.

Snyder Junior High – Principal Kellye Starnes said the junior high is also working to increase the TAAS scores of students by maintaining its current teaching plans, and adding more for the student's benefit. The junior high has also implemented a marketing training program for students to use a hands-on approach to free enterprise.

West Elementary – Principal Ed McAnally said his campus is striving to raise its accountability level by implementing new programs with plans to move from recognized to exemplary status.

Northeast Elementary – Principal Lee Presswood said one of the school's goals is to have four-year-old pre-kindergarten students better prepared to enter kindergarten. Presswood said he is also proud of the consistency Northeast students have shown on past TAAS tests.

East Elementary – Jim Rosson said his campus has implemented periodic reading and math assessments throughout the year, and has implemented remedial programs for students who have fallen behind. Rosson also said he is emphasizing student and staff attendance at the school's family reading nights.

Central Elementary – Principal Pam Hart said the school has implemented daily remedial reading programs for students who currently do not read at grade level. Hart said her campus would continue to reach for higher reading goals.

Stanfield Elementary – Principal Jean McMillan said the campus is using as much technology as is available on the campus. McMillan said she believes technology makes for better learners. She also said that teaching students good manners is also being emphasized.

Following the presentations, the plans were approved by the school board.

In other action items, the board also okayed up-to-date budget amendments for the current year.

Lee McNair, assistant superintendent, said total budget amendments so far this year totaled $23,328 after additions and subtractions from the budget.

Of this figure, McNair said a total of $24, 278 had been added for a special education aide and a science teacher, but the biggest expense was for the replacement of the cooling tower at the high school at an increase of $30,400 over the budgeted amount.

The budget was also cut $50,000 as the administration decided against purchasing two Suburbans.

McNair said budget amendments would be on the agenda about every two months throughout the budget year instead of waiting until the end of the year as has been the practice.

Trustees also gave the go-ahead to seek bids for repairs on roofs throughout the district.

McNair said the damage to the district's roofs in a June 1999 hailstorm was set at $325,000 by the insurance company, but a roofing consultant said the damage is closer to $2 million.

McNair said the issue has now gone to an arbitrator and the bids are necessary to complete the arbitration process.

"We expect to have figures on repairing the roofs by the end of January," said McNair.

In other action items, the trustees declined to accept a lot in the Green Hill addition that had been deeded to the school.

"I'm sure the donation was well-meant," said Supt. Gayle Lomax. "But I don't think the school wants the liability and maintenance of the lot."

Trustees also approved the employment of Liesel Lehrer as a science teacher at the junior high, and accepted the resignation of Patricia Cunningham from the Stanfield faculty.

The board also met in executive session for 20 minutes to continue the annual evaluation of the superintendent. The board will conclude its evaluation at a noon meeting Monday.

Board president Mark McCormick presided at the meeting and board members present were Luann Burleson, Richard Chambers, Glenn Clarady and Mike Levens. Janet Stribling and Cathy Peoples were absent.

Through retraining...

WTC poised to help laid-off Walls' workers

During a half-hour meeting Thursday afternoon, the Development Corporation of Snyder board heard plans on how Western Texas College will assist laid-off Walls Industries employees.

John Gibson, dean of vocational education, said the employees would be eligible for the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Program since they lost their job due to the sewing operations moving to a foreign country.

"The college also has federal money available to help the displaced workers through Pell Grants," Gibson said.

"We want to let them know that the college campus has changed and we are urging them to go back to school and we will use our resources to help them anyway we can to get into a field with good employment opportunities," said Gibson.

The college is offering tours of the campus next week, and free short-term computer classes and welding courses also will be provided, said Gibson. "We hope to get the Walls employees used to being on a college campus."

Gibson said upwards of 70 current employees at Walls have indicated they would like to pursue educational opportunities at WTC.

"After they attend these short courses, they can decide what kind of certification they would like to pursue. With everything available, we don't believe it will cost them anything to improve their job skills," Gibson added.

DCOS executive director John DeLille reported to the board that Anita Lorber, chief executive officer of the Lober companies in Texas and California, would be in Snyder beginning Sunday.

"She plans to attend a company holiday dinner with employees Sunday, and then tour the plant on Monday," said DeLille.

In action items, the board approved the monthly financial statements.

Board president Gary Landes presided and all members were present to include David Cotton, Larry Anderson, Mark Cypert and Mike McWilliams. Also present was Roy Baze, chairman emeritus.

Christmas Ball set Saturday

The Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch will host the Tommy Allsup Christmas Ball on Saturday beginning at 8 p.m.

Grammy-winner Allsup plans to have several members of the Texas Playboys at the function that will be held in the ranch's party barn.

Tickets are $25 per person and reservations need to be made today by calling 573-2348.

"We promise everyone a good time," said Allsup, whose Grammy was won by playing with Asleep at the Wheel. "We would also like everyone to wear turn-of-the century dress, or Old West, if possible."

Allsup, who also played with Buddy Holly, said he would like to see the ball "be just like it was in the early days of West Texas."

The theme is "A Step Back in Time."

Following the conclusion of the ball at midnight, a breakfast will be served at the Rusty Spur Café. The cost of the breakfast is included in the dance ticket price.

Hermleigh ISD trustees hold monthly meet

Hermleigh ISD trustees met Thursday evening and began the yearly evaluation of Supt. Jerry Church.

Church said this morning that he expects the evaluation to be concluded during the January meeting.

The trustees also heard a report from Church on an application for a TIF grant for the school in the amount of around $50,000.

The application will not be made until this spring, but Church said he needed direction from the board on what type of technology update is desired.

The board also reviewed the campus report card from the Texas Education Agency that rated the school as recognized.

In one action item, the board adopted the integrated pest management program as required by the state.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Experience tells you what to do, confidence allows you to do it."

Regardless of political affiliation, most Americans agree on one thing – Indecision 2000 is over.

There's a lot of new material for history and government textbooks as a result of the prolonged political campaign. There were two terrific speeches Wednesday night – one by **Al Gore** and the second by Gov. **George W. Bush**.

What George Bush knows or doesn't know will not be important in the new administration. What will be imperative is that he surrounds himself with good people.

Reaching across the aisles into Democratic ranks will be important, and one Democratic repeatedly mentioned for a cabinet spot is U.S. Rep. **Charles Stenholm** as agriculture secretary.

The election fiasco also is a tribute to our system of government. Democracy, with all its warts and flaws, still holds up pretty well in the face of adversity.

The ice storm at mid-week again underscored a group of public servants whose jobs require them to put their own safety at risks.

Just as area roads were getting a thin coat of glaze, the calls of wrecks around the city and county started coming in.

Snyder police department, Scurry County sheriff's department, local units of the Department of Public Safety and Snyder EMS personnel all braved the elements at their own risk to take care of emergency situations.

These, and folks at Cogdell Hospital, are just a few of the public servants who work on weekends and holidays when most of us are enjoying leisure time.

Noticed where the late Roy **McCloskey** was honored with the George F. Hixon Fellowship by the Kiwanis Club. His wife, **Elizabeth McCloskey**, accepted the award on behalf of a Snyder Kiwanis Club member who had become Mr. Kiwanis in both Snyder and the district.

With Frenship eliminated from the state Class 4-A football playoffs, District 4-4A announced its all-district teams.

Five members of the Snyder Tigers squad were named to the elite team. Two Tigers were first-team selections on both offense.

Senior **Matthew Grimmett** was named as a receiver and as a defensive back. Senior **Tremaine Johnson** was first team tackle on defense and guard on offense.

A pair of Tigers were named to the defensive team. Senior **Mark Medley** was a first-team linebacker and junior **Jamaal Pruitt** was a first-team defensive end. Defensive back **Ralph Ramon** earned second team honors.

Have a good weekend!

ASK US

Q—Who do I need to speak with to get a street light placed on the corner of Highway 350 and Martha Ann Blvd.?

A—You must first write a letter of request to city manager John Gayle. If approved, the city will then submit a formal request to TXU Electric.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 57 degrees; low, 30; 7 a.m. Friday, 39; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.25 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low mid 30s, W wind 5-10 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy, high 60-65, NW wind 5-10 mph.

Colton Curry
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 5:44 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:36 a.m.
Of 349 days in 2000, the sun has shone 342 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines.
—Robert Schuller

Conservatives seek key appointments

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush's first priority may be healing wounds and reuniting the country, but that's not the aim of conservatives who backed him. Having finally wrested the Oval Office from the Democrats, some finally see an opening for their agenda.

They're more interested in the "conservative" aspect of Bush than the "compassionate."

"The conservative base is driven now to make certain that the Clinton-Gore team is forever washed away from the halls of power," said Mark Levin, who was chief of staff to Attorney General Ed Meese in the Reagan administration.

Conservatives signed up early to help Bush oust Sen. John McCain for the GOP nomination. They went on to provide the base of his support in both the campaign and the postelection fight. Now, they're making their voices heard as Bush assembles his administration.

The attorney general's post is a top priority. Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore and defeated Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft head conservatives' list of candidates.

They're also pushing for one of their own at the helm of the departments of Health and Human Services, Interior, Education and Labor, and for appointments to the dozens of White House and sub-cabinet level positions that influence social and economic policy.

And they are looking for Bush to reverse controversial policies such as the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the pill that allows women to abort early pregnancies without surgery.

Some key conservatives already are raising warning flags over the suggestion that Bush might appoint Democrats or moderate Republicans to key positions as a way of bringing the country together.

Gary Bauer, among the most conservative of Bush's opponents in the primaries, said he's troubled by suggestions that Bush may name Pennsylvania Gov. Thomas J. Ridge as secretary of defense.

"He was very much a peacenik-type of congressman during the Reagan years," Bauer said of Ridge. "He voted in favor of a nuclear freeze, against the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, against the strategic defense initiative."

Bauer also warned that conservatives will insist that Bush appoint judges who are anti-abortion, despite Bush's campaign promise that he would not impose such a standard on judicial nominees.

"If he sends a judge up for confirmation that did not have a record of pro life, there would be an unbelievable firestorm in the Republican Party," Bauer said.

But at least one prominent voice on the right is not making such demands. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Bush must reach out to the middle and work with conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans, even if it means angering his conservative base.

"If he spends a lot of his time trying to appease the right at the expense of reaching out to the middle, he will destroy his administration," Gingrich said in an interview.

Gingrich, who led the GOP takeover of the House after 40 years of Democratic rule, said the biggest mistake he made as speaker was trying to satisfy the most conservative members of his party in the House.

"I was the most conservative speaker in modern times, and I tried to appease the 10 people who were unappeasable," he said. "All it did was make them feel more important, more emboldened."

Gingrich said Bush's image as a leader, and his success as president, will be enhanced if he has "10 or 15 people on the right biting at his ankles while he reaches out to the country."

Some Republicans argue that Bush will be able to satisfy his conservative base and reach out to the middle at the same time by focusing early on legislation with bipartisan support that has been blocked by President Clinton.

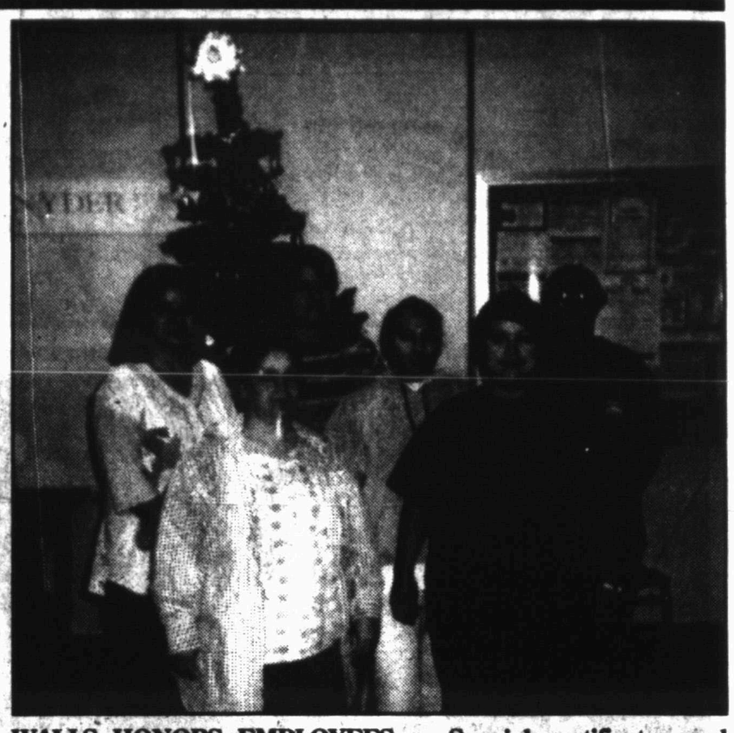
That includes repeal of the marriage tax and the estate tax, bankruptcy reform and a ban on so-called partial birth abortions, all of which have broad support among conservatives.

"People forget how much of the gridlock was Clinton and not Democrats in Congress — Clinton holding out and carrying the water for the hard left in the Democratic Party," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Norquist said Bush could spend the first two years of his presidency enacting bipartisan initiatives that conservatives want without having to touch the more controversial issues.

But others argue that such policy initiatives alone won't placate conservatives if Bush ignores their demands for key appointments or places Democrats and moderate Republicans in sensitive positions.

"My unsolicited advice is that George Bush should seriously consider following in the footsteps of Ronald Reagan," said Levin, president of the Landmark Legal Foundation.



WALLS HONORS EMPLOYEES — Special certificates and pins were awarded to six employees in Snyder's Walls facility on Monday. Bobby Lecroy, plant manager, presented the awards. Five-year pin recipients were Leonarda Lopez, Josefina Chavez, Anna Rodriguez and Patty Lopez. Veralyn Cain and Eva Leyva received 20-year pins. From left, back row, are Anna Rodriguez, Josefina Chavez, Patty Lopez, Veralyn Cain; front row, Eva Leyva and Leonarda Lopez. (Contributed Photo)

Shooting range changes rules following gun rental suicides

BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — A suburban Seattle shooting range has stopped renting guns to people who come alone after two customers committed suicide within five days.

Wade's Eastside Gun Shop in Bellevue, Wash., will allow customers to come alone to target shoot with their own guns, but anyone wanting to rent a gun must bring a companion.

The change in policy comes after the suicides of Georg Frey, of Issaquah, and Christina Rose, of Kirkland, who each rented a handgun at the range before killing themselves.

Frey, 49, took a rented gun into a restroom on Dec. 1 and shot himself in the chest. Days earlier, a group of unhappy investors had confronted him about real estate deals in which he was involved.

Rose rented a gun from the shop on Dec. 6 and answered "yes" when asked if she had shooting experience, though employees told police she seemed nervous and uncomfortable. A little while later an employee found her in a pool of blood on the floor of the range. A friend, Rafael Sanchez, said she had a history of depression, anxiety and suicide threats.

Owner Wade Gaughran declined comment to the Eastside Journal and did not return a telephone call to The Associated Press Thursday. But an employee who declined to be identified said Thursday the shop no longer rents to lone shooters. Renters must also be at least 21 years old with some stated shooting experience.

There have been at least 16 similar gun-rental suicides across western states in the last five years, the Eastside Journal reported.

But members of the commercial shooting range industry say suicides are rare and most gun ranges are safe.

"It's very difficult, if not impossible, to identify a potential suicide," said Rick Patterson, spokesman for the National Association of Shooting Ranges. But he said that most ranges are safe and successful at setting their own rules.

"We think the fact that virtually anyone can go to a range and rent a gun on the spot is a loophole in the law," said Washington Ceasefire Director Bruce Gryniewski. "We're looking into what can be done on a legislative level."

The suicides were the second and third at the range since 1997, when a Seattle man fatally shot himself. Police said Eric T. Kim was upset after finding out he wouldn't graduate from the University of Washington on time.

events

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RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery:

11-16-19-21-31

Pick 3

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

8-2-2

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Pancreatitis no always due to alcohol

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband suffered an attack of acute pancreatitis after which he had to have surgical drainage of a pseudocyst. What is acute pancreatitis and how did my husband, a non-drinker, get it?

DEAR READER: Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas, an abdominal organ that manufactures insulin and certain digestive enzymes.

Acute pancreatitis is often, but not always, the result of alcohol abuse. It can also be caused by gallstones (that migrate and block the pancreatic duct), high blood-fat levels, hyperthyroidism, pancreatic tumors, abdominal injury, infection and drug allergies. On occasion, the cause of acute pancreatitis cannot be diagnosed.

Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, dehydration, severe abdominal pain and delirium — that can progress to shock and death. Pancreatitis is especially serious because the inflammation may release digestive enzymes that cause further, widespread damage.

Acute pancreatitis is a true diagnostic challenge because it mimics other serious abdominal disease, such as perforated peptic ulcer and intestinal obstruction. The disorder is usually diagnosed using blood tests and CT scans.

Treatment depends on the underlying cause (for example, gallstones or infection). Intravenous fluid replacement is always required, and patients usually benefit from a nasogastric tube (inserted through the nose into the stomach) to put the bowel — and the pancreas — to rest.

During acute pancreatitis, a pseudocyst can form. This is a round, fluid-filled cavity in the pancreas, resulting from the effects of the errant enzymes, which can literally self-digest the organ. The pseudocyst can be seen on CT scanning or by ultrasound exam. If it causes pain or hemorrhage (or rapidly enlarges), it must be surgically drained.

Chronic pancreatitis often follows repeated attacks of acute inflammation. It can cause chronic abdominal pain, and usually leads to diabetes and poor digestion, because the organ malfunctions. Treatment of this disorder is complex, involving medicine, intravenous fluids and — sometimes — surgery to remove inflamed tissue. The long-term, post-operative prognosis is guarded, depending on the cause of the pancreatitis.

You should be able to convince the doctor about your husband's abstinence by reaffirming the facts honestly. Of course, if your husband were a heavy drinker in the past, he could still develop pancreatitis as a result of his previous alcohol abuse, even if he has been sober for years. Ask the doctor to investigate other causes of pancreatitis and to give you a full report of the findings, as well as a summary of the long-term effects of the illness. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report **"Diabetes Mellitus." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.**

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is transverse myelitis and how does it affect a person?

DEAR READER: Acute transverse myelitis is a severe and unusual neurological disorder of unknown cause, marked by sudden back pain, followed by weakness and numbness that ascend from the feet. The affliction often progresses to advanced handicap: paraplegia (loss of leg movement) and urine/bowel incontinence.

Transverse myelitis resembles viral infection of the spinal cord and may be associated with viral illnesses (such as influenza), the use of illicit intravenous drugs (notably, heroin) and blood-vessel inflammation (vasculitis).

The condition is diagnosed by a lumbar puncture (a spinal tap to examine the spinal fluid for infection — fighting white blood cells) and by CT scanning. Transverse myelitis is incurable; symptoms are treated as they appear. Patients are almost always left with significant disability; nonetheless, they can often be helped by intense physical therapy and occupational therapy that focus on maintaining independence.

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Berry's World

FLORIDA BALLOT COUNTER'S NIGHTMARE.

Florida teen-ager kills sleeping dad

COCOA, Fla. (AP) — A 15-year-old was charged with first-degree murder after he allegedly shot and killed his sleeping father.

The teen-ager was arrested by Brevard County deputies hours after his father, Anthony Adderley, 33, died Thursday at a hospital. The boy was taken to a juvenile detention center. Prosecutor's had not determined whether to try him as an adult.

According to police, the teen-ager and his father had argued Tuesday night, apparently because the father told his son he couldn't visit his teen-age girlfriend, the mother of their 6-month-old child.

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Cotton eyed as possible alternative crop

DUMAS (AP) — While most Texas cotton farmers are struggling with low crop yields and cotton prices, some Panhandle corn and grain producers think cotton might be the perfect crop to keep them from going broke in the middle of a drought.

High irrigation and gas costs have sent Panhandle producers searching, and they like what they see in cotton. On Thursday, they gathered in Dumas to discuss giving cotton a chance in an area that hasn't been considered a big cotton producer since before the Dust Bowl and Great Depression.

"The cotton industry in the last four or five years has been gradually moving north," said Brent Bean, an agronomist with the Texas extension service. "There are at least a couple farms in the northern Panhandle area where they are already producing cotton."

W.T. Brown is among those producers. He began producing his crop southwest of Dalhart three years ago.

"This year my cotton is not going to get me rich, but it's going to make me a little money," he said. "I've heard of a lot of corn farmers that aren't even going to break even."

Brown concedes it wasn't easy, but says each year he's learned a little bit more about how to deal with growing cotton in an area where corn and grain rule the roost.

"We really didn't know what we were doing at first," Brown said of him and his son, Tracy. "We didn't have a real good year last year, but this year was better. I am learning more and I think next year will be even better. That's a farmer — always optimistic."

About 150 farmers from throughout the Panhandle shared Brown's optimism for cotton as they listened intently to Texas A&M's James Supak, who discussed growing cotton in a short season environment. Other discussions during the afternoon meeting concerned weed control, pest control and heat units necessary to grow cotton.

"I can hardly believe we are seeing this big of a group of people interested in cotton," Supak said as he opened the program. "I'm about to retire and thought what a great way to end my career at a cotton meeting. I just never thought it would be in Dumas, Texas."

Bean admits no one knows how well cotton will do in an environment with less heat than is traditionally desired by the warm temperature-loving crop.

"I think the jury is still out on how successful cotton is going to be up here," he said. "A lot of the interest is based on the fact that we have less and less water that we can irrigate with. Over the last three or four years we have had a good growing season with warmer temperatures than normal, which has allowed those who have tried cotton to be quite successful."

In addition, the Panhandle region hasn't been invaded by boll weevils, and farmers in the area are accustomed to the irrigation costs of corn, which typically run twice as high as those of irrigated cotton.

"The Ogallala (Aquifer) doesn't recharge very fast and the more water you pump out of it, the shorter time it's going to last," Brown said. "As the water depletes, we'll revert back to limited irrigation, and corn just doesn't thrive very well in that type of situation. We are going to have to go to some crops that don't take as much water ... or we're going to be out of water."

During the 1950s drought, the only drought most West Texans consider worse than the one that now has a lockhold on the region, Brown said his father and others grew cotton in the Panhandle and were quite successful.

"We moved up here to the Panhandle from Ackerly (75 miles south of Lubbock) in 1948," he said.

"My dad was from the cotton country, and he just had to grow some cotton. He grew cotton during the 50s for about six or seven years. There was quite a bit of cotton growth in the Panhandle before the Dust Bowl days. When the depression hit, they all left and the people who came in their place were more corn and grain oriented."

Now that water shortages are again becoming an issue, Brown said he expects producers to turn back to cotton.

Hereford Farmers Co-Op Gin manager David Varner says Brown and other Panhandle farmers appear to be onto something.

"We picked cotton acreage up in about every county in the northern Panhandle and even some in the areas around here," Varner said. "When you put farmers against the wall, they are going to find the best way to survive. And cotton is the best way to survive for them."

Varner's gin, which sits 120 miles southwest of Dalhart and 85 miles south of Dumas, is the closest gin to northern Panhandle producers. Last year, Varner said his gin processed 300 bales from the northern Panhandle. This year he processed 3,000 bales.

Gins in other parts of West Texas are shutting down operation, but Varner says his Hereford operation has expanded twice in the past four years.

"It's just a phenomenal deal," Varner said. "It's just something that is not seen very often in the cotton industry. If the cotton acres stay up in the northern Panhandle, they will probably build their own gin eventually.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-15-00
♠ J 10 7
♥ Q J 8
♦ A K J
♣ A Q 9 6

West
♠ 9 3
♥ 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 7 4
♣ J 5 4 2

East
♠ 8 6 5 4 2
♥ 10 9 6 4 2
♦ 3 2
♣ 3

South
♠ A K Q
♥ A K 3
♦ Q 6 5
♣ K 10 8 7

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	7 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2000

In the end, tricks — not points — count

By Phillip Alder

We have been looking at hand evaluation in no-trump contracts. Yet the bottom line is: Do you have the tricks for your contract? With a long, solid suit, you won't need so many points — as long as the opponents cannot win the setting trick first, of course. In particular, if you have a long, solid minor, think no-trump.

An opponent opens one of a major. You have a long, solid minor and tricks on the side. You wish to be in three no-trump, but have no stopper in the opener's suit. How do you find out if partner has that critical guard? You jump to three of the opener's major.

Here is the most famous deal featuring this bid. It was board 72 of the 1981 Bermuda Bowl final between Pakistan and the United States, in Port Chester, N.Y.

The Pakistani North-South pair bid and made four diamonds after a trump lead, for plus 130.

In this room, Jeff Meckstroth's three-heart overcall asked his partner, Eric Rodwell, to bid three no-trump with a heart stopper. Meckstroth's subsequent redouble expressed doubt. Rodwell, although knowing one minor was wide open, decided to gut it out.

West wanted to find his partner's ace so that East could return a heart through declarer's king. If West had selected a club lead and East had switched to the heart jack at the right moment, the contract would have gone six down for minus 2,200 (old scoring). However, West led a spade, so Rodwell took his nine tricks for plus 750. The U.S. team gained 12 international match points, when it could have lost 20.

Do not try this at home. Leave it to trained professionals!

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Side air bags do well in tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crash tests of side impact air bags show they can help prevent serious head injuries, even in collisions between passenger cars and high-riding light trucks, insurance industry researchers report.

In its first such tests, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety rammed a pickup truck traveling at 32 mph into the side of a Volvo S80 going 16 mph and found the car's side air bags protected the crash dummy's head against what could have been a fatal head injury.

The Volvo S80 comes with, as standard equipment, an inflatable curtain air bag that unfurls from the roof along the door to protect the head.

In a crash test without the air bag, the heads of the driver and rear passenger dummies were hit by the hood of the pickup truck. The force was high enough to kill the passenger, while the driver dummy's head barely escaped severe impact, according to the institute.

In a test with the head protection air bag, the curtain acted as a cushion between the dummies' heads and the hood. Instruments on the dummy heads recorded a low impact.

Nearly 10,000 people were killed last year in side-impact crashes, federal accident data show, and about half involved head injuries.

Adrian Lund, the institute's vice president for research, said the test demonstrates that lives could be saved, especially in crashes involving light trucks. Pickups, vans and sport utility vehicles are more likely to kill passenger car occupants in crashes because of their height, Lund said.

"These tests reflect the way that people are getting injured in real-world crashes," he said. "It's very difficult to prevent these injuries without side impact air bags."

The institute also conducted a "car-into-pole" test, running the S80 and a BMW X5 sideways at 18 mph into a rigid pole. Again, the force measured on the dummies' heads was low.

The BMW X5 has a long tubular bag that inflates from the roof but does not extend so far down the window as the S80's bag. Other side air bags available in 2001 models deploy from the seat to inflate forward and upward.

The federal government requires front air bags on all vehicles and has standards for testing them. The government does do vehicle-to-vehicle crash testing for side air bags, which are standard or optional on more than 80 2001 vehicles, according to the institute.

As an option, side air bags can cost several hundred dollars.

At least 158 deaths since 1990 are blamed on front air bags, but at least 5,000 lives have been saved. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has investigated 50 crashes with side air bag deployments and found no fatalities attributed to the safety devices.

Federal authorities say their testing shows side air bags could kill or seriously injure young children, especially those sleeping or leaning against a door when the bag inflates.

The auto industry has committed to voluntary testing for all side air bags, starting with the 2004 model year. The tests will measure the impact on dummies representing 3- and 6-year-old children and small adults.

On the Net: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety: http://www.highwaysafety.org

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Old-fashioned table manners should still be in style today

DEAR ABBY: Oh, my gosh — the letter from Bob Buckles' mom listing the rules for good table manners was the best! What a great woman. She included everything you need to survive a social dinner anywhere.

I am a social phobic — there, I've said it out loud. And those rules will help me remember what to do. In case I missed a rule or two while raising my girls, I'll pass that list along. You can be sure it'll be posted on my fridge. Thank you, Bob — and thanks to you, Mom. And thank you too, Abby. — **CHERI IN GIG HARBOR, WASH.**

DEAR CHERI: Thank YOU. Mrs. Buckles' list of table manners generated still more of them. It's a subject people can sink their teeth into. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: People chomping on their food with open mouths is a pet peeve of mine. It is disgusting.

May I add a 21st suggestion to Mrs. Buckles' 20? "Keep your mouth closed when chewing your food, lest you resemble a cow chewing its cud." — **WESLEY WOOD, MELBOURNE, FLA.**

DEAR WESLEY: Your pet peeve is shared by many others. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: May I offer another rule for Mrs. Buckles? It is: Remove your hat before sitting down at the table. This includes BASEBALL CAPS! — **NANCY IN HAMMONDSVILLE, OHIO**

DEAR NANCY: You're right — in polite society the hat should come off, unless it's there for religious reasons. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The list of table manners was great! I'd like to add a few of my own bugaboos:

(1) Wash your hands before you're asked to sit down at the table.

(2) Be sure your hosts know about any dietary requirements well BEFORE the meal.

(3) Spoon up and out of a serving dish instead of shoveling the food over the edge to the plate.

(4) Don't feed the dog under the table. — **ANOTHER MOTHER, PHOENIX**

DEAR A.M.: Excellent suggestions. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Mrs. Buckles' rules were the same ones my parents raised me with in the 1960s and '70s. I would like to add one other: Eat whatever the host has prepared, NO MATTER WHAT. If you're not sure you'll like it, take only a small portion. That way no food will be wasted.

Because of that rule, I have tasted many foods I might have refused to try — and my opinions are based on experience, not ignorance. — **KERRY MERRILL, MIKANA, WIS.**

DEAR KERRY: Very sensible! Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Reading the letter from Bob Buckles, I thought how much I would enjoy spending Thanksgiving with my children and their families. I wouldn't care where or how we ate, as long as we could be together.

We were "transplanted" away from our home and family in 1981. We have spent Thanksgiving with them only once in nearly 20 years. Holidays away from home and family aren't easy. Ask anyone whose job has taken them to other places, and I'll bet they would trade all of Helen's "rules" for a loving family dinner.

It makes me appreciate all the more what our armed forces — who are away from home for our benefit — do for us. — **ALSO A MOTHER, BUT NOT PICKY, GRAYSON, GA.**

DEAR ALSO: I appreciate your sentiments, but I can't help but conclude that there isn't one "right" answer here. You and Mrs. Buckles both have a point.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Doctors study plan to build new hospital

ARLINGTON (AP) — Doctors are considering a plan to build a new hospital that would replace the Dallas-Fort Worth Medical Center, a former chief of the shuttered facility says in a published report.

Dr. Adolpho Gonzalez, former chief of surgery, made the announcement Thursday. A Tarrant County court injunction that keeps what was Grand Prairie's only hospital from closing was set to expire on Friday.

Leland Medical Centers of Plano's vice president of operations, Daniel D'Amico, told the Arlington Morning News in a copyright report today that Leland had been trying to get New York-based Ambac Financial Group Inc., to sell them the hospital. Ambac foreclosed on it Dec. 5.

But D'Amico said it would be easier to build a new, physician-controlled hospital rather than buy the existing facility.

"We can control costs because physicians are investors," he said. About 30 to 40 physicians would be needed to invest $15,000 each in escrow.

What is initially being called Grand Prairie Physicians' Hospital would be a 40,000-square-foot facility built on 5 to 8 acres of land, D'Amico said. Once the company secures enough investors, a $13 million loan would be taken out to build the hospital, he said.

Date Book

Friday, Dec. 15, 2000

Today is the 350th day of 2000 and the 85th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1874, in New York City, the first society in the United States for the prevention of cruelty to children was founded.

On this day in 1938, in Washington, D.C., President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended a groundbreaking ceremony on the future site of the Jefferson Memorial.

On this day in 1989, President Bush ordered U.S. troops to Panama.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Alexandre Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923), engineer; Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959), dramatist; John Paul Getty (1892-1976), oil developer; Alan Freed (1922-1965), entertainer; Tim Conway (1933-), comedian, is 67; Don Johnson (1949-), actor, is 51.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1946, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants 24-14, winning the NFL championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is easier to add to a great reputation than to get it." — Publilius Syrus

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 11) and last quarter (Dec. 17).

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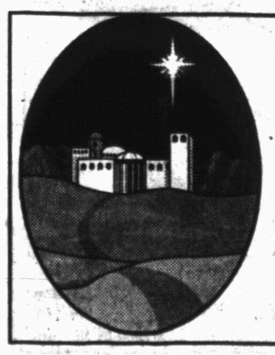
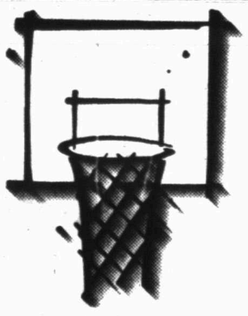


You're invited to
Faith Baptist Church
208 37th Street, Snyder, Tx
Our Adult Choir will perform
Christmas Music and Drama
"Bethlehem's Child"
Saturday, Dec. 16 and
Sunday, Dec. 17
at 7:00 p.m.

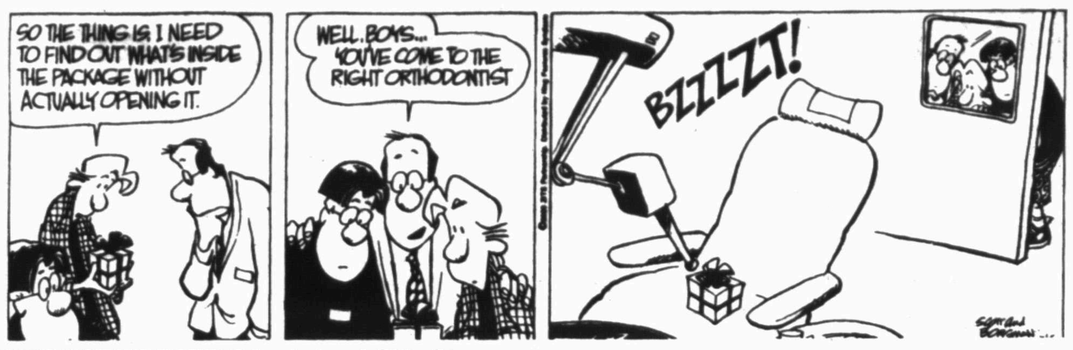


SNYDER LITTLE DRIBBLERS BOYS BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS

Boys, Ages 8-12 as of September 1, 2001.
Bring parent and your birth certificate
to the Boys and Girls Club.
Sign-ups will run from
Monday, December 11 -
Friday, December 15
from after school until 6:30 p.m.
Cost will be $35

2,000 Decembers Ago
Calvary Baptist Church
Adult Choir
presents
"2000 Decembers Ago"
Created by Joel Lindsey, Arranged and Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin
Sunday, December 17th, 10:50 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
"Wonderful Christmas"
presented by
The Children and Youth
Calvary Baptist Church
2405 35th Street - Snyder
573-2191

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

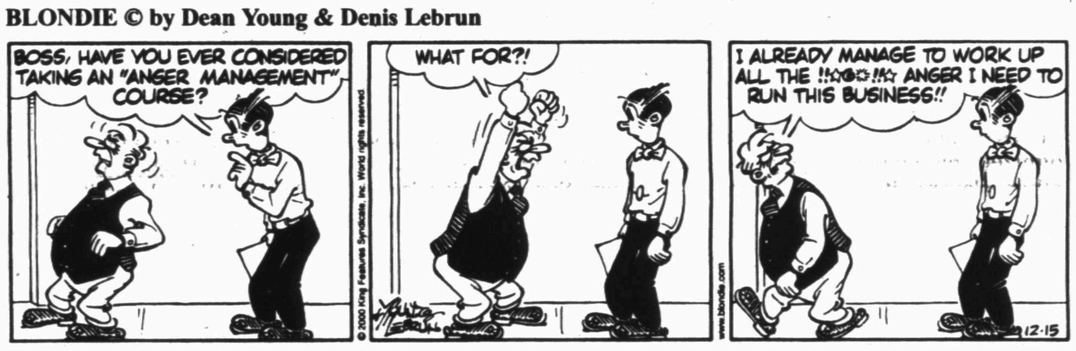


THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Baby watcher
7 Deceptive schemes
13 "Night of the —"
14 Of sacred images
15 Window in a gable
16 Liszt piece
17 Sea eagle
18 Salamander
20 Pacific island
21 Sobbed
23 Selected
27 "Death Wish" star, Charles —
32 Of the ear
33 Politician Mario —
34 Brainy
35 Is between gigs
36 Transmitting
39 Sierra —
40 Stop
42 A Simpson
46 Joan of —
47 Titled lady
51 Line on a map
53 Mythical filer
55 Mexican dish
56 Beat
57 Saved
58 Conceive

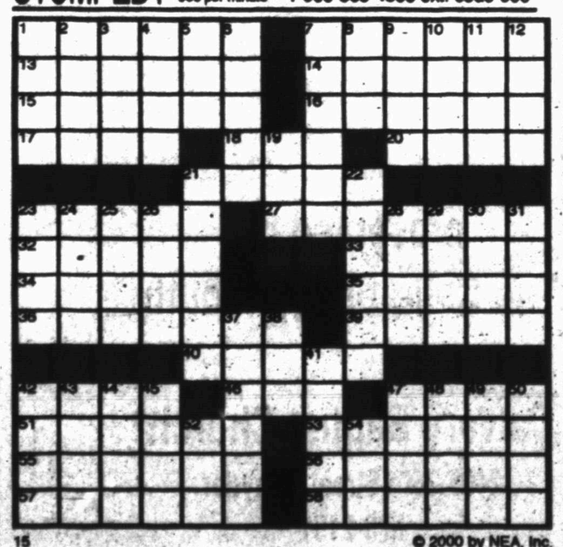
DOWN

1 Facet
2 Frankenstein's gofer
3 Spin
4 Not wild
5 Compass pt.
6 Harder to find
7 Female relative
8 Author Umberto —
9 Chinese faction
10 Sloth
11 Hummus holder
12 Confidence game
19 Lie
21 Irish, e.g.
22 Submissive
23 Mama — Elliott
24 Actor Cronyn
25 Algerian port
26 Orange-red stone
28 Naked
29 Piece for one
30 Foretoken
31 A — for news
37 Approached
38 Long slender fish
41 Asimov's genre
42 Scraps
43 Pronto (abbr.)
44 Actress Downey
45 Construction beam
47 Copenhagen native
48 Type of code
49 Is obliged to
50 This (Sp.)
52 Frothy brew
54 Spanish hero El —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



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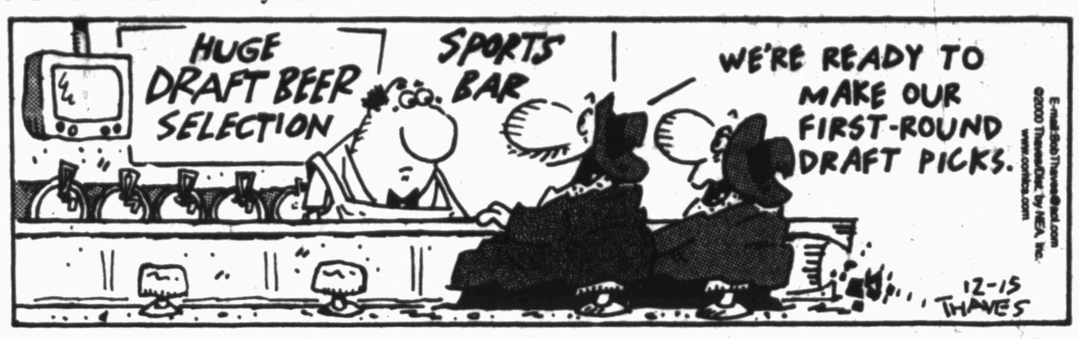
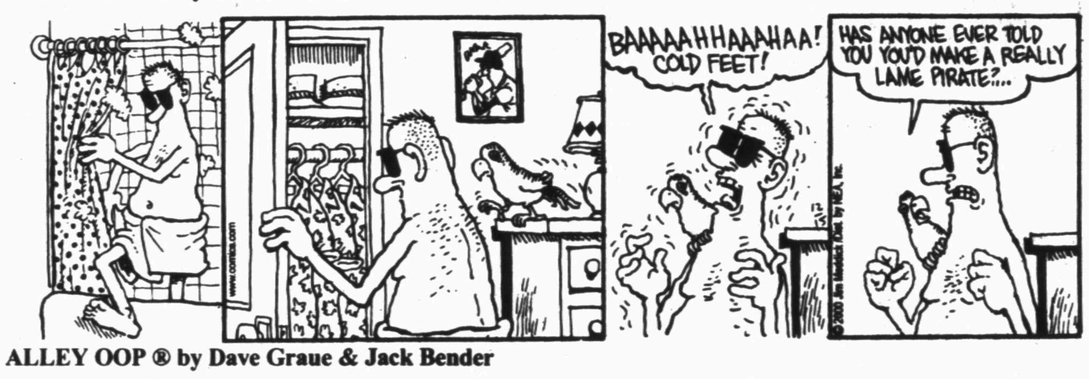
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



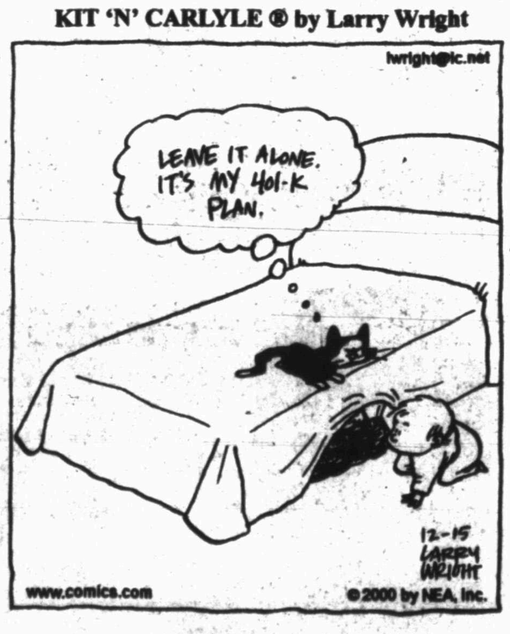
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"He wants to buy an exercise bicycle with a motor on it."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"REMEMBER, JOEY. TELL HIM HE'S LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT, AN' HE'S LOOKIN' GOOD, BEFORE YOU READ HIM YOUR LIST."

SPORTS

Lady Tigers primed for delayed district opener

After a three-day wait, the Snyder Lady Tigers finally get their shot at district action tonight when they visit the Levelland Loboettes.

Snyder and Levelland tip-off at 7:30 this evening in what is expected to be an old fashioned shootout.

"There are going to be two good basketball teams hitting the floor tonight, and I fully expect a knockdown, drag-out, down-to-the-wire game," said Snyder coach Sam Tipton. "And that's fine with us. Our girls understand that it's a 14-game district schedule, and every game is going to be big, so they're ready to get on with it."

The Lady Tigers carry a 9-2 mark into tonight's contest, while the Loboettes sport a 12-1 record, with their only loss coming at the hands of top-ranked Plainview in the finals of the Queens Classic.

Levelland already has one district victory under its belt, after it knocked off Andrews on Tuesday.

For the Lady Tigers, tonight's game stands as the district opener, after their game with Lake View on Tuesday was postponed due to bad weather. Snyder and Lake View will meet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the SHS gym.

For the first time in recent weeks, the Lady Tigers should have a healthy team on the floor. Senior sharp-shooter T'Leah Eicke, who missed the last three games due to an injured knee, will be back in the line-up. Seniors Kameron Kallemeyn and Ashley Delce have also been hobbled lately, but are back at full strength.

"We're as healthy as we've been in a long while," said Tipton. "Eicke has a new brace and she worked out the last two days. She'll play tonight, as long as she looks strong. We don't want to risk further injury, but she's a valuable asset when she's on the floor."

In tonight's other district action, Estacado travels to Lake View. Plainview hosts Andrews, and Frenship visits Big Spring.

Also on the floor tonight will be five other local teams. The Snyder boys visit Abilene Wylie at 7 o'clock. Ira's boys and girls host Highland at 6:30, while Hermleigh welcomes Roby.

For the Tigers, it will be their final district tune-up before Tuesday's league opener at Big Spring.

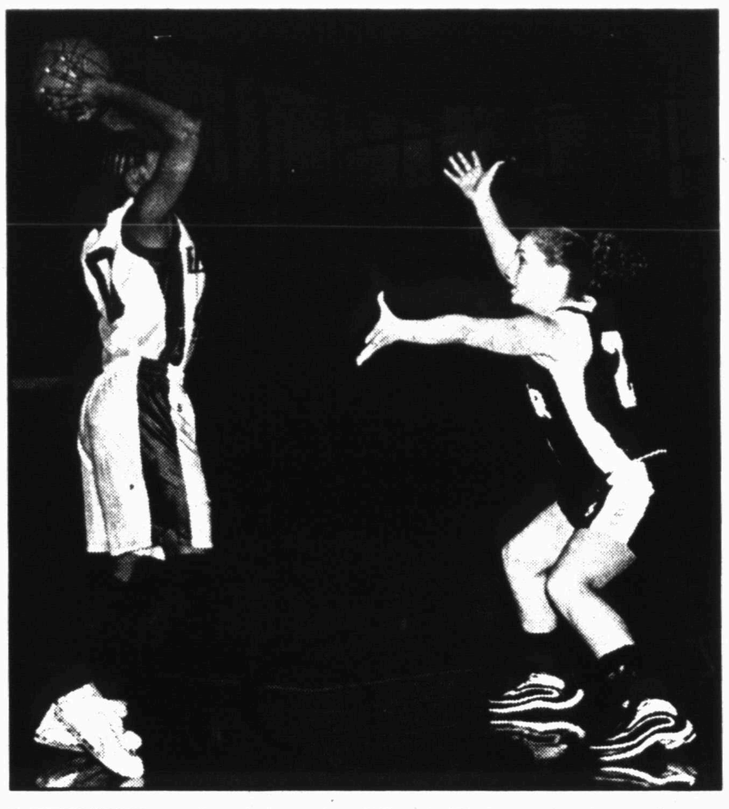
Snyder (6-6) rolled over Wylie durig tournament action last week.

District 4-4A Girls

	District		Season	
Team	W	L	W	L
Plainview	1	0	13	1
Levelland	1	0	12	1
Snyder	0	0	9	2
Big Spring	0	0	9	2
Estacado	0	0	9	3
Lake View	0	0	7	5
Andrews	0	1	10	4
Frenship	0	1	9	5

Tonight's games: Snyder at Levelland; Estacado at Lake View; Andrews at Plainview; Frenship at Big Spring

Saturday's games: Lake View at Snyder; Big Spring at Estacado



DEFENDED — Snyder senior T'Leah Eicke defends against a Killeen Ellison player during tournament action earlier this month. Eicke, the Lady Tigers' top outside shooter, has been out of action for more than a week with an injured knee, but is expected to return to the line-up tonight when Snyder opens district play at 7:30 at Levelland. (SDN Staff Photo)

In Mobile Bowl...

New TCU coach will guide team

FORT WORTH (AP) — Gary Patterson will take over as coach of No. 13 Texas Christian a little sooner than originally planned.

The school announced Thursday that defensive coordinator-turned-incoming head coach Patterson will guide the Horned Frogs in the Mobile Bowl instead of predecessor Dennis Franchione.

Franchione left TCU to become head coach at Alabama, but was going to lead the team into the Wednesday bowl game against Southern Mississippi.

Because Patterson already is familiar with the game plan, Franchione and athletic director Eric Hyman agreed that he should coach against Southern Miss. All the assistant coaches from this season will assist Patterson at the game.

"Having Gary coach the team is the right thing to do for TCU and for the student-athletes," Hyman said. "We were fortunate to hire a head coach in just seven days and we have been able to keep the stability and continuity in the program, making this an easier transition."

Franchione will be there as a Frogs fan.

"I care very deeply about the players and only desire what's best for them and for the university," he said. "I'll be a very interested observer at the game."

Spurs fall to lowly Nuggets

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Raef LaFrentz had 28 points and 13 rebounds as the Denver Nuggets beat the San Antonio Spurs 102-96 Thursday night to end a five-game losing streak.

LaFrentz, who had been struggling with his scoring, capped off his season-high performance by hitting a 3-pointer and three free throws in the final minute. He had been averaging 10 points this season and was 0-for-11 from the field and had 11 fouls in Denver's last two games.

The victory came on the heels of tumultuous week for the Nuggets.

Following an overtime loss in Boston on Sunday, Denver coach Dan Issel scheduled an early practice on Monday in Denver, which the players didn't like. Feeling that Issel mistreated struggling LaFrentz during a postgame tirade, the players skipped practice Monday without consulting the coach.

The Spurs squandered a 12-point first-half lead, despite 23 points from David Robinson.

With Denver trailing by one point with less than a minute to go, LaFrentz hit a 3-pointer to make it 98-96 with 47.9 seconds remaining.

The Spurs' failed to regain the lead as Antonio Daniels threw up an airball and two shots by Sean Elliott fell short.

Antonio McDyess had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Matthews voted to 13th Pro Bowl

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Instead of talking about tying Reggie White for the most Pro Bowl selections in NFL history, Tennessee Titans guard Bruce Matthews congratulated a teammate for making it the first time.

"We can get back to the business at hand of playing football, win the championship," Matthews said, peering over left tackle Brad Hopkins' shoulder. "The pressure's off my man here. We're all excited for him."

Talking about Pro Bowl honors is old hat for Matthews, a unanimous choice for the AFC squad. When Hopkins, an offensive tackle, and reporters asked the 39-year-old guard if he'll join his seven teammates in Hawaii in February, he started making excuses and joked that defensive linemen take the game too seriously.

"If I have to miss out on the Super Bowl parade because of that, no I'm not (going), so I'll make that statement right now," Matthews finally said before slipping away.

If Matthews plays in the Pro Bowl on Feb. 4 in Honolulu, he will have plenty of company. The Titans led the AFC with eight players, while the Tampa Bay Buccaneers led the NFC with eight.

The only teams without a player on the roster? Atlanta and Chicago in the NFC; Cleveland, Seattle and New England in the AFC.

The Titans hadn't sent eight players to the Pro Bowl since 1993 when they were still the Houston Oilers. The number reflects last season's run to the Super Bowl and the young talent on the team.

"Doing the Pro Bowl is a great accomplishment," said running back Eddie George, named a reserve with Cincinnati's Corey Dillon behind starter Edgerrin James of Indianapolis. "To be recognized by coaches fans and other players, it goes to show how much respect we're gaining as a team. The guys that are going definitely deserve it."

While Matthews was selected for the 13th time, kick returner Derrick Mason, cornerback Samari Rolle and Hopkins all earned their first Pro Bowl berths. Mason, 60 yards from an NFL record for all-purpose yardage in a season, is in his fourth season, while Rolle is in his third. Hopkins is the veteran of the bunch in his ninth season.

Defensive end Jevon Kearse, last season's NFL Defensive Player of the Year, wasn't sure if he would receive a spot, but he will go as a reserve. He has 91/2 sacks this season after a rookie record of 141/2 last year.

The Titans thought they had a chance at even more players on the Pro Bowl team, but fullback Lorenzo Neal, who led in the fan voting, was the third alternate behind starter Richie Anderson of the New York Jets.

Oakland's Rich Gannon will start as the AFC's quarterback ahead of Indianapolis' Peyton Manning and Brian Griese of Denver, who has been out since Nov. 13 with a shoulder separation. The Titans' Steve McNair is the first alternate.

Donovan McNabb, being promoted as a candidate for MVP, was the NFC's first alternate behind Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper, San Francisco's Jeff Garcia and St. Louis' Kurt Warner. Warner missed 51/2 games with an injury and threw four interceptions in his first game back.

Thanks to Rolle's selection, a cornerback who wore No. 2 at Florida State is a Pro Bowl player. But it isn't Deion Sanders, despite having made it seven times. Second-year cornerback Champ Bailey made the NFC at the position ahead of Sanders and Darrell Green.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY
Basketball

Snyder JV and varsity girls at Levelland, 6 and 7:30

Snyder varsity boys at Abilene Wylie, 7 p.m.

Highland at Ira girls and boys, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Roby at Hermleigh girls and boys, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY
Basketball

Lake View at Snyder freshman girls, 11 a.m.

Lake View at Snyder JV and varsity girls, 5 and 6:30

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney, 9 a.m. and 1:30

Ira JV at Sands tourney

JV boys top 'Stangs, Chiefs

Snyder chalked up a pair of victories Thursday on the opening day of the Sweetwater junior varsity boys' basketball tournament.

The Tigers toppled host Sweetwater, 44-29, before knocking off San Angelo Lake View, 48-36. Snyder resumes tournament action at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Snyder used a solid defensive effort in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Mustangs. The Tigers held a 36-27 lead after three quarters, before limiting Sweetwater to only two points over the final eight minutes.

Jay Scott poured in 10 points to pace the Tigers, while T.J. Jones, Colby Driggers and Josh Mendoza added eight apiece.

Josh McGaha, Brad Spells, Corey Clay and Clay Williams finished with two points each.

In the nightcap, a second-quarter outburst powered the Tigers past the Chiefs. Snyder scored 21 points in the second period to turn a three-point deficit into a 12-point halftime advantage.

Mendoza's 13 points led all scorers, while Scott posted another 10.

Driggers tallied eight points. Clay netted six, and Jones drained four. Spells registered three points. Brady Reed accounted for two, and Tyler Pollard and Clay Williams chipped in one each.

National Football League

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Miami	10	4	0	.714	283	182
N.Y. Jets	9	5	0	.643	294	277
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	378	303
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	263	314
New England	4	10	0	.286	239	301
Central						
x-Tennessee	11	3	0	.786	291	191
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	286	138
Jacksonville	7	7	0	.500	328	282
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	263	231
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	161	329
Cleveland	3	12	0	.200	161	395
West						
x-Oakland	11	3	0	.786	403	263
x-Denver	10	4	0	.714	440	340
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	322	318
Seattle	5	9	0	.357	270	339
San Diego	1	13	0	.071	226	376

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	.714	283	208
x-Philadelphia	10	5	0	.667	335	238
Washington	7	7	0	.500	258	242
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	281	313
Arizona	3	11	0	.214	200	410
Central						
x-Minnesota	11	3	0	.786	359	307
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	336	217
Detroit	8	6	0	.571	277	277
Green Bay	7	7	0	.500	303	281
Chicago	4	10	0	.286	193	318
West						
New Orleans	9	5	0	.643	310	272
St. Louis	9	5	0	.643	479	412
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	271	236
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	362	384
Atlanta	3	11	0	.214	216	377

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's Games
Washington at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Detroit at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Chicago at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at Miami, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:35 p.m.

Monday's Game
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23
Jacksonville at New York Giants, 12:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Buffalo at Seattle, 8:35 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
New York Jets at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Indianapolis, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25
Dallas at Tennessee, 9 p.m.
End Regular Season

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	17	5	.773	—
New York	14	9	.609	3½
Miami	12	11	.522	5½
Boston	9	12	.429	7½
Orlando	9	13	.409	8
New Jersey	8	14	.364	9
Washington	4	18	.182	13
Central Division				
Cleveland	13	7	.650	—
Charlotte	14	9	.609	½
Toronto	12	10	.545	2
Indiana	11	11	.500	3
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	3
Detroit	10	12	.455	4
Atlanta	5	17	.227	9
Chicago	3	19	.136	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Utah	16	6	.727	—
Houston	13	9	.591	3
Minnesota	13	9	.591	3
San Antonio	13	9	.591	3
Dallas	14	10	.583	3
Denver	11	13	.458	6
Vancouver	7	15	.318	9
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	15	6	.714	—
Sacramento	14	6	.700	½
Portland	16	8	.667	½
L.A. Lakers	15	9	.625	1½
Seattle	12	12	.500	4½
L.A. Clippers	7	17	.292	9½
Golden State	6	17	.261	10

Thursday's Games
Toronto 70, New York 68
Denver 102, San Antonio 96
Houston 98, Golden State 95

Friday's Games
Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Miami at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Orlando at Portland, 10 p.m.
Vancouver at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Boston at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 1 p.m.
Orlando at Vancouver, 3:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at New York, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

High School Football Playoffs

CLASS 5A
Division I Championship
Midland Lee (12-2) vs. Austin Westlake (14-0), 12:07 p.m. Saturday, Royal-Memorial Stadium, Austin
Division II Semifinals
Arlington Lamar (9-4) vs. Tyler John Tyler (11-3), 7 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
Katy (14-0) vs. SA Marshall, 2 p.m. Saturday, Kyle Field, College Station

CLASS 4A
Division I Championship
Denton Ryan (12-2) vs. Bay City (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
Division II Semifinals
Wichita Falls (14-0) vs. Ennis (12-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
West Orange-Stark (14-0) vs. CC Calallen (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome

CLASS 3A
Division I Championship
Abilene Wylie (14-0) vs. Gatesville (14-0), 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Birdville FAAC, Haltom City
Division II Semifinals
Muleshoe (14-0) vs. Forney (10-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium
Marlin (11-3) vs. La Grange (12-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISD, Waco

CLASS 2A
Division I Championship
Sonora (14-0) vs. Blanco (10-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISD, Waco
Division II Semifinals
Stanton (12-2) vs. Celina (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Shotwell Stadium, Abilene
Refugio (14-0) vs. Mart, 2 p.m. Saturday, Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos

CLASS 1A
Semifinals
Stratford (14-0) vs. Collinsville (11-2), 4 p.m. Saturday, Sweetwater
Beckville (12-1) vs. Burkeville (9-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bryce Stadium, Nacogdoches

SIX-MAN
Championship
Highland (14-0) vs. Panther Creek (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, San Angelo Stadium

TOOL SALE
Tap Enterprises Tool Sale
at the American Legion
1800 Ave. R
Wednesday, December 20, 2000
9:00 a.m. - ?

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FULL TIME TANKCLEANERS NEEDED: Midwestern Services, Inc. in Snyder is currently accepting applications for tank cleaners. Will train. Crews average 50–55 hours per week. 70% travel required, transportation provided to and from the job site. For information call (915)573-6385. **Hourly wage + bonuses.** 100% drug free. EOE

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LVN NEEDED: Good Benefits, Meals, Holidays, Vacation. Apply in person to Terri Owens, Director of Nurses at Kristi Lee Manor, 1941 Chestnut, Colorado City, TX.

Business Directory of Services

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Merchandise

2 pc. sectional w/reclining ends. Earth tones, excellent condition! Also, old office desk. Call 573-3653.

Computers for sale. Internet ready, with monitors. $150 to $300. Call 573-9046.

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Good neighborhood. No pets. **573-7484**

2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Apartment, CH/A, $350/month. 4500 Ave. U. Call **573-2219.**

Houses For Rent

2204 40th, brick, nice 3 or 4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, washer/dryer, stove/refrigerator, 2-car garage + storage. $500/mo. 573-9066 or contact 1809 38th.

2790 Dalton: 3-1-1, CH/A, $395/mo. **573-1550 or 725-8503**

2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012

2 bedroom country house. City water & cable, no pets. Call 573-2919.

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FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2400 Beaumont, $300/month w/references & deposit. **573-9812.**

HOUSES FOR RENT
3789 Highland.....3-2.....$400
2307 40th.....3-1.....$375
2204 43rd.....2-2.....$350
3734 Austin.....4-2-2.....$450
3212 42nd.....4-2.....$475
Sarah Jamison 573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505

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Classified
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Real Estate

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Elizabeth Potts
Realtor
573-8505
Temi Matthies, Owner/Broker

For Sale or Rent 3-1-cp CH/A Cute! $25.9T
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4-1¾ Brick-Country w/Rentals.....Call
2647 Pleasant Hill Rd. 3-2-2cp 1 Acre $108T
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W. Hwy 180 Country 5 bdr. 3 bth., 2 Shops 10 A's
1601 Ave. E 2-1-1 2cp CH/A.....$22T
2944 Gary Brewer Rd. 3-2¾....$76.5T
1804 38th St. 3-1½-1cp $52T
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Homes Are Pictured On Office Window

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Rita Knox.....573-7082
Dee Kemp.....573-1152

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1209 Coliseum Owner Finance 3-2-den $39.9T
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3717 Avondale 3-1-1.....$35T
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2608 47th 4-2-2 .....Reduced $124.9T
2705 35th 4-3-2 New Roof-Office $119.5T
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 Owner Says Sell! $62T
Reduced! 3500 Ave W 3-3-2 Courtyard ...$85.9T
2700 46th 3-2½-2 w/2 LA's $119T
2907 33rd 3-3-cp +Pool.....$117.5T
3503 Kerrville 3-2-2 .....$54.9T
2701 34th 3-2 Nice Tile $86T
FM 1607 3-2-cp w/5 Acres.....$69.5T
3402 Irving Neat 3-1-1 LA + Den ...$39T
Hermleigh 3-2-2cp Lg fam. rm 5 A's $77.5T
2212 43rd 3-1 CH/A.....$39.5T
2411 28th 1-1-dining.....Only $10T
2266 Sunset 3-2-2cp Liv & Den....$33T
304 34th St. 2-1½ CH/RA $24.9T
2706 28th 3-2½-2.....$95.5T
CR 243 - 10 A's, Shop 3-2-2cp $69.5T
221 29th 3-2cp, mobile home /RV cover $199T
409 20th 3-1 CH/A $15T
CR 3114 - SW - 3-2 w/116 A's .$84.9T
4110 Jacksboro 3-2-2 .....$75.5T
2810 El Paso 4 or 5bd-3 ..Red. $78.5T
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Hospital chain pleads guilty in fraud case

WASHINGTON (AP) — HCA-The Healthcare Company, the nation's largest for-profit hospital chain, agreed Thursday to plead guilty to defrauding government health care programs and will pay more than $840 million in criminal fines, civil penalties and damages.

The agreement reached after a seven-year federal investigation triggered by private whistleblowers is the largest government fraud settlement ever negotiated by the Justice Department.

The company agreed to cooperate with a continuing investigation that Attorney General Janet Reno said could still produce criminal charges against individuals in what Deputy Assistant FBI Director Thomas Kubic called "one of the FBI's highest priority white-collar crime investigations."

The agreement did not settle civil allegations that HCA unlawfully charged the government for the costs of running its hospitals and that it paid kickbacks to doctors so they would refer Medicare and Medicaid patients to its facilities.

The two HCA units that pleaded guilty — Columbia Homecare Group Inc. and Columbia Management Companies Inc. — agreed to pay more than $95 million in criminal fines and were barred from further participation in federal health care programs.

Separately, HCA agreed to pay $745 million in civil penalties for its alleged false billing practices — a figure negotiated last spring but not finalized until the criminal settlement was announced Thursday.

"Health care fraud impacts every American citizen," Reno told a news conference. "If you overbill the U.S. taxpayer, then we are going to make you pay it back and then some."

She said it was the largest health care fraud investigation in history, involving 30 U.S. attorney's offices, 22 FBI field offices, inspectors general from the Health and Human Service Department and the Office of Personnel Management, Defense Department investigators and state fraud units.

HCA co-founder and chief executive Thomas Frist Jr., the brother of U.S. Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said from the company's Nashville headquarters: "Today's action represents one of the last steps needed to put the Columbia investigation behind us and allows us to move forward, maintaining our focus on providing quality patient care."

Frist ousted Richard L. Scott as chief executive in July 1997 and began a restructuring of the company. HCA got out of the home health care business and sold or consolidated more than 100 hospitals. The chain currently has about 200 hospitals.

Reno said the civil settlement covers allegations the company overbilled government health care programs for services it performed, charged for services it did not perform and for costs that were not eligible for reimbursement.

In the criminal case, the two units agreed to plead guilty to filing false cost reports, fraudulently billing Medicare for home health care workers and management and wound care center workers, fraudulently billing Medicare and other health programs by inflating the seriousness of pneumonia diagnoses, paying kickbacks in the sale of home health agencies and kickbacks to doctors to refer patients, Reno said. The guilty pleas will be filed in Miami; Atlanta; Nashville; Tampa, Fla.; and El Paso, Texas.

Assistant Attorney General David Ogden said that $731.3 million of the civil settlement would to go the federal government, but that some portion of that, up to a maximum of 25 percent, would be allocated through negotiations to private whistleblowers, of which 29 have been identified publicly. "Whistleblowers brought valuable information to the attention of the U.S. government," Ogden said.

An additional $13.6 million of the civil settlement will be distributed to state governments for their share of losses under the state share of the Medicaid program.

Fort Benning will get pilot program

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP) — Fort Benning is one of three U.S. Army posts to pilot a new $453 million computer-aided, "distance-learning" college education program for soldiers.

The program, which began Thursday here and at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Campbell, Ky., will provide Internet-based courses for about 80,000 soldiers over the next five years. It will eventually expand to include all U.S. Army installations, Army Secretary Louis Caldera said.

"I think it will help us with recruiting and also to produce the better-educated and more technology-savvy soldiers that we're going to need in the 21st Century," Caldera told the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

"Seventy-five percent of high school graduates today are going to college, so we have to give (soldiers) a learn-while-you-serve option," he said.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	36.19	35.31	35.38	+ .06
AT&T Corp	21.75	21.13	21.31	—.69
Albertsons	24.31	23.88	24.19	—.31
Alltel	65.63	64.38	64.44	—.31
AmerOnline	49.20	45.60	46.75	—3.25
AmEl Pw	44.00	43.06	43.88	—.06
AndarkPtr	63.15	61.09	61.80	+ .80
ATMOS Egy	22.75	22.38	22.38	—.25
BP Amoco	48.25	47.50	47.50	—.44
BakerHughes	36.50	35.50	36.38	+ .38
Bank of Amer	42.44	41.38	42.00	—.31
BellSouth	43.88	43.00	43.69	—.44
Beth Steel	1.88	1.75	1.75	—.06
BurlNoSFe	25.69	24.94	25.00	—.19
Caterpillar	41.44	40.75	41.31	+ .63
Chevron	80.31	79.56	79.81	+ .75
Citigroup s	50.75	49.50	49.63	—1.13
Coastal	79.38	77.88	78.75	—.25
CocaCola	56.69	55.00	56.13	—.88
ColgatePal	57.10	55.50	57.00	—.76
ComclMetals	24.69	24.69	24.69	—.13
CooperIn	39.56	39.00	39.50	—.06
DaimlrChry	43.13	42.87	43.12	+ .12
DallSemicn s	25.31	24.63	24.81	—.19
DeltaAirl	48.56	47.63	47.75	+ .31
Dillards Inc	11.25	10.88	11.25	—.44
DowChem s	31.44	30.63	31.19	—1.06
DuPont	45.88	44.00	44.38	—.06
EastmanChem	47.38	46.31	46.38	
EstKodak	39.75	38.63	39.13	+ .19
EDS Corp	54.63	53.25	53.81	—1.25
Entergy	38.94	37.63	38.94	+ 1.50
ExxonMobil	86.50	84.50	85.19	—.31
FstBksAm	17.25	17.25	17.25	+ .13
Flowers	15.50	15.25	15.31	—.38
GenDynam	73.94	72.88	73.00	—1.00
GenElec s	51.25	50.13	50.44	—1.00
GenMills	40.44	39.31	40.25	+ .31
GenMotors	53.50	51.88	51.88	—2.06
GaPacGP	26.31	25.88	26.00	—.31
GlobalMar	25.56	24.00	25.50	+ .56
Goodrich	34.19	33.81	33.81	+ .19
Goodyear s	18.35	18.12	18.30	+ .04
GtAtlPac	6.63	6.44	6.63	
Halliburtn	37.44	36.75	37.38	+ .44
Hanson ADS	31.00	30.63	31.00	+ 1.00
HarteHanks	22.75	22.56	22.69	
HomeDepot	42.75	41.38	42.00	—1.88
Honeywellintl	50.00	49.25	49.44	—1.13
IBM	90.69	87.88	88.56	—3.88
IntlPaper	37.56	36.88	37.13	—.63
JohnsonJn	100.00	99.25	99.75	+ .50
K mart	5.25	4.94	5.13	—.13
Kroger Co	26.44	25.31	25.38	—1.06
Litton	60.00	59.25	59.31	—1.38
LockheedM	31.12	30.54	30.64	—.15
Lowes Cos	41.69	40.50	40.75	—1.13
Lubys	3.75	3.63	3.69	—.13
LucentTech	18.25	17.50	17.88	—.81
MayDeptStr	28.44	27.88	28.31	+ .31
Medtronic	59.44	57.75	58.13	—.38
MorganJP	158.00	154.38	154.75	—3.19
Motorola s	20.19	19.50	19.69	—.50
NCR Corp	49.13	46.94	47.25	—1.88
Navistar	21.06	20.63	20.81	—.31
Penney JC	9.19	9.00	9.00	—.06
PepBoys	4.00	3.88	3.88	—.06
PepsiCo	49.69	48.50	49.06	—.69
Pharmacia	59.69	59.31	59.56	+ .25
PhelpDodge	52.38	51.56	51.75	—.19
PhilipPet	53.44	52.81	53.00	+ .50
PilgrmPrd B	7.75	7.75	7.75	
Polaroid	6.88	6.38	6.50	—.69
Praxair	40.25	39.88	39.88	—.25
ProctGamb	73.38	71.38	73.19	—.31
PubS NwMx	24.50	23.88	24.50	+ .44
RadioShack	50.00	49.00	49.31	—.75
ReliantEngy	40.13	39.13	40.06	
RoyalDut	56.44	55.25	56.38	+ 1.25
SBC Comm	55.00	54.56	54.75	+ .13
SaraLee	23.94	23.44	23.81	—.25
Scripps EW	61.13	60.75	60.94	—.06
SearsRoeb	34.40	33.52	33.94	+ .17
SherwinW	23.25	23.00	23.19	+ .19
SmithklBchm	65.44	64.88	65.31	—.94
SouthernCo	30.13	29.63	29.94	—.06
SwstAirl	30.26	29.40	29.85	
SprintFON	25.00	24.50	24.69	—.31
SprintPCS s	28.06	26.88	27.00	—1.44
Sunoco Inc	30.19	29.13	30.06	+ .25
TXU Corp	40.25	39.75	40.13	+ .31
TempleInland	50.63	49.88	50.19	—.94
Texaco	58.44	57.75	58.00	+ .88
Texind	24.88	24.69	24.88	+ .13
TexasInst s	49.00	46.38	47.13	—2.13
Textron	42.44	41.75	42.19	—.69
TriconGlbR	33.69	33.00	33.50	—.19
TrinityInds	24.50	24.19	24.44	—.31
TritonEngy	24.13	23.38	23.75	+ .25
TylerTech	1.63	1.50	1.56	—.13
USX-Marathn	26.06	25.25	26.00	+ .56
USX-USS	16.44	16.06	16.13	—.25
UnCarbde	44.88	44.00	44.56	—1.06
UnionPacif	46.81	45.75	45.94	—.50
UnitedTech	72.94	70.75	72.25	+ 1.06
Unocal	36.06	35.50	35.88	+ .38
Venator Grp	13.56	13.31	13.44	—.19
VerizonComm	56.94	56.00	56.69	—.06
WalMart	50.88	49.50	50.19	—.88
WellsFargo	50.25	49.56	50.06	+ .19
WstnGasRs	23.31	22.94	23.31	+ .25
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Psalm 138:3

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BY JOHN LEHTI

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ACE HARDWARE
2109 25th Street Snyder 573-3579
Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 6 pm, Sat. 8 am - 4 pm

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Old Lubbock Highway
573-0165 Golf Shop 573-7101

GILL'S
GOLD 'N' CRISP FRIED CHICKEN
3700 College Ave. 573-6831

SNYDER OAKS CARE CENTER
210 E. 37th Snyder, Texas 573-8377
Gloria Mann, Administrator

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:8

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Grain Storage
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Snyder, Texas

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WINTER HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. 11-2 & 4:30-8, Fri 11-2 & 4:30-?, Sat 11 - ?
CLOSED SUNDAY

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.
Isaiah 12:2

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George Scifres
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Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.
Psalm 141:3

Hispanics mad over immigration plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Hispanics are angry that they are unlikely to get many of the immigration provisions they had hoped for in exchange for supporting an increase in visas for high-tech workers.

Although final details were still under negotiation Thursday, Hispanic lawmakers were certain the result would fall far short of what they sought. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus called a news conference today to criticize the deal.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill. who monitors immigration for the caucus, said he was "deeply troubled" and disappointed in the immigration compromise. While Republicans always resisted the provisions, Hispanics had hoped President Clinton would stay with them and uphold a veto threat to require the immigration provisions, he said.

"As a result, some of our allies are now resigned to accepting the premise that the trust that we placed in you regarding immigration issues was unwarranted and ill-advised," Gutierrez wrote Thursday to Clinton.

The immigration provisions were scaled back considerably from what Clinton and congressional Democrats had been demanding for months. Clinton threatened to veto a budget bill unless it included amnesty for illegal immigrants who arrived before 1986, restored a program for illegal immigrants to pay a fine rather than return to their homeland before obtaining a green card, and offer green cards to refugees from Central America and Haiti.

But in final budget negotiations, the amnesty and relief for Central Americans were dropped and resumption of the fine program was pared to four months.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-Texas, blamed Republican leaders rather than Clinton for the outcome.

"The Clinton administration has fought hard. This is the Republicans that have done this to us," said Rodriguez. "The only reason we got the little 20 percent we did is because of the Democrats."

Republicans, who strongly opposed the Clinton provisions as unacceptable amnesties, offered court hearings for immigrants who arrived before 1982 and have legal claims against the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, warned that advocates would continue urging for immigration reforms until they are approved.

"We are profoundly disappointed and angry that the Congress chose not to close an ugly chapter in our nation's history" by helping Central American refugees, he said.

The disappointment comes months after Congress nearly doubled the number of visas offered to high-tech foreigners, for a total of 195,000 per year.

Merger could help set Internet policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, the government has taken a hands-off approach to emerging technologies that promise a new world of Internet services for consumers.

But the approval of the America Online-Time Warner merger could lay the groundwork for new rules preventing cable companies from shutting out competitors as they increasingly deliver the Internet to Americans' homes.

The Federal Trade Commission, in blessing the $111 billion deal, required the companies to offer their high-speed Internet subscribers a choice of online providers, besides AOL.

The fear was that the new corporate giant would provide high-speed Internet access to its millions of Time Warner cable customers — and allow them to connect only through AOL.

AOL, though by far the largest, is just one of hundreds of Internet service providers across the country. That includes local networks and large national operations such as Microsoft's MSN service, Earthlink and Juno Online Services.

Now, public interest advocates and others argue that the FTC's decision offers a roadmap for policy makers to order that all other cable companies offering fast Web access give consumers the option to pick from a range of these Internet providers.

The Federal Communications Commission now is considering whether to craft such a national rule. So far, the FCC has preferred to wait and see how the market evolves.

"The handwriting is on the wall," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman of the Media Access Project. "I think it's going to happen sooner rather than later."

He has petitioned communications regulators for years to require that all cable companies who are in the Internet business offer their subscribers a choice in providers.

Consumers who connect to the Net through a telephone line already enjoy a host of options. That's because the law requires phone companies to carry all services on their lines.

But these laws don't apply to cable companies, which are leading the race to bring consumers high-speed Internet.

And so far, the FCC has declined to extend old phone rules to the evolving industry, arguing that government meddling could scare off Wall Street investors.

A handful of local governments have crafted their own laws that require cable companies — like Time Warner and No. 1 operator AT&T — to give competing Internet service providers access to their networks.

But courts have knocked down many of these local rules, so advocates are looking for a federal solution. They hope the FTC's action gives them ammunition.

Responding to the commission's demands, Time Warner negotiated a deal to carry EarthLink, AOL's chief rival, on its cable lines and agreed to quickly forge deals with other Internet providers.

While the FTC's actions only apply to AOL and Time Warner, the agency's chief anticipated that the agreement could carve a path for other cable companies to follow — if not by regulation, then voluntarily.

"I truly hope this will become a model," said FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky.

On the Net:
America Online corporate site: http://corp.aol.com
Time Warner: http://www.time-warner.com

New drug test rules to protect workers' rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department has announced new rules for drug testing required as a safety precaution of millions of transportation workers. The changes are intended in part to protect workers' rights, according to a department release.

The most significant changes, released Thursday, involve "validity testing," which is meant to detect specimens that have been adulterated or substituted. The rule extends to validity testing two safeguards already in place that protect a worker who tests positive for "drugs of abuse," such as cocaine, heroin or marijuana.

In the first protection, a physician, hired by the employer, will review test results when a lab indicates the specimen may have been tampered with or substituted. The physician would have the power to cancel the finding of tampering if that result comes from a legitimate medical reason.

In the second case, an employee also can have a different laboratory test a second sample of his or her specimen to make sure the original lab did not make an error.

The government requires drug testing of millions of transportation employees, such as railroad workers, airline mechanics and flight crews, and bus drivers.

The changes were announced the same day that the Department of Health and Human Services disclosed new evidence of lab mistakes that can brand innocent workers as cheaters or drug abusers, ending their careers without a chance for appeal, The New York Times reported in its Friday editions.

HHS reported that it inspected all 66 of the validity testing laboratories it supervises and, as a result, instructed them to cancel the results of tests failed by 250 to 300 workers, The Times reported.

The Transportation Department, acknowledging in its release that transportation workers face severe consequences if their specimens are thought to be adulterated or substituted, said most of the new rules will take effect in 30 days.

Juvenile murder rate down 68%

WASHINGTON (AP) — A six-year decline in murders by teen-agers brought the 1999 homicide arrest rate for juveniles down 68 percent from its 1993 peak to the lowest level since 1966, the Justice Department reported Thursday.

The arrest rate of juveniles for four major violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault — plunged 36 percent from its 1994 peak to 1999, reaching the lowest point since 1988, according to FBI statistics cited in a report by Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Experts say the decline of crack cocaine and the violent gangs that peddled it, combined with big city police crackdowns on illegal guns and expanded after-school crime prevention programs, have turned around the juvenile crime wave that pushed murder arrest rates for youths, age 10 to 17, up from 1987 to a peak in 1993.

That violent youth-crime wave of the late 1980s and early 1990s was overwhelmingly concentrated among black teen-agers in the nation's largest cities, and the murder declines have been greatest among them.

But there also were sharp declines in murders by white male teen-agers, said James Alan Fox. a Northeastern University criminal justice professor who has combined several data sets to produce more detailed reports than the Justice study.

Fox's data estimating actual offense rates rather than merely arrest rates showed that the rate of murders committed by blacks age 14-17 fell from 244.1 per 100,000 youths in 1993 to 67.3 in 1999. The white teen-age murder rate fell from 21.8 per 100,000 in 1993 to 10.2 in 1999, Fox said.

"The reduced level of violent crime shows how the power of prevention, when combined with constructive intervention and strengthened juvenile justice systems that hold every offender accountable, makes our communities safer," Attorney General Janet Reno said.

But polls have showed that word of the juvenile crime turnaround have been slow to sink in among the public. In 1998, 62 percent of adults polled by Beldon, Russonello and Stewart for the Building Blocks for Youth Initiative believed youth crime was on the increase, at a time when it had dropped for five years to a 25-year low in the government's largest crime survey.

"America's kid are committing fewer crimes than they have in three decades," said Vincent Schiraldi of the Justice Policy Institute, which advocates alternatives to incarceration. "But this does not seem to be making it into the public consciousness."

Highly publicized school killings, such as the Columbine High School killing in which 15 people died in 1999, overwhelmed news of a decline in school violence.

A 1999 NBC-Wall Street Journal poll found 71 percent thought it "likely" a school shooting could occur in their community during a year in which there was just a one in 2 million chance of being killed in an American school.

"We see lifeless bodies in school yards around country, and they are much more powerful in shaping public attitudes than the lifeless statistics we see in our newspapers," Fox said.

The Justice report also showed substantial drops from the peak years to 1999 in the juvenile arrest rates for the other crimes tracked by the FBI.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2000

Greater emphasis than usual might be placed on your excellent leadership qualities in the year ahead. You won't have to seek the mantle of authority — it could be foisted upon you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Confronting reality may be called for today concerning an objective for which you've been striving to achieve. If it's starting to sound like a hollow ring, give it up. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Should you find yourself today in a similar situation to one you mismanaged in the past, don't react impulsively again. Take a deep breath and figure out what you can do differently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Regardless of the intensity of your curiosity, do not attempt to poke your nose into places where it doesn't belong. Respect the privacy of others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Unless you have the key people needed behind you all the way today, don't try to pull off something impressive, especially where your career is concerned. You could fall flat.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you don't treat your fellow co-workers with respect today or deal with them in a diplomatic fashion, there's a good chance some serious ramifications could result. Watch your step.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Stay on familiar turf today, and don't try to get involved or manage things about which you know little, especially if a misstep could cost a pretty penny.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you're arrogant or overly assertive today with those with whom you'll be involved, be prepared to receive the same treatment in return. You'll get what you sow.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Although you might feel you have suggestions that would be constructive, unless they are presented in a most diplomatic manner, others could resent it and respond in anger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Financial affairs must be treated with extreme caution today, especially if the ramifications would have far-reaching effects. A wrong move could be hard to unravel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll get far better results today when working with those over whom you have authority if you explain and discuss what is needed instead of dictating ultimatums.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Be on guard today against taking comments made by others too seriously. You could be a trifle too touchy and make a big ado over nothing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you have fallen behind on any financial obligations, today may be the day when that marker could get called in. Try to get current with all of your bills.

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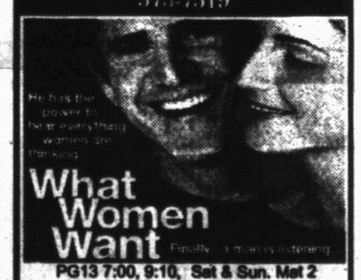
Friday Night 9-12
DJ
VFW

CINEMA I & II
1907 Snyder Shopping Center
573-7519



PG13 7:00, 9:10, Sat & Sun. Mat 2

Robert De Niro Ben Stiller
Meet the Parents
PG13 7:15, 9:00, Sat & Sun. Mat 2:00

MOVIES

WHAT WOMEN WANT PG13

★★★★ A womanizing Chicago advertising executive blessed with the ability to read women's minds after a fluke accident. His goal is to outwit his boss. This has hit written all over it. **Starring Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt, Delta Burke & Bette Midler**

Meet The Parents PG13

★★★ A movie that delivers plenty of smiles about a male nurse hoping to impress his girlfriend's dad. **Starring Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.**

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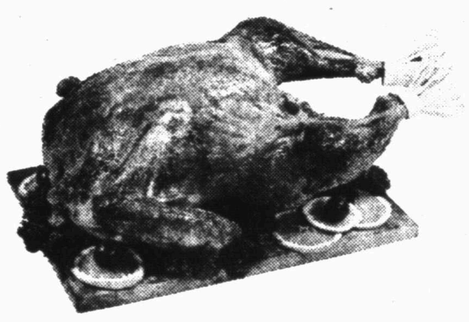

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Seven inmates escape from prison

KENEDY (AP) — Leads were scarce as the search widened today for seven inmates who broke out of a South Texas prison using an escape plan that officials believe had been in the works for months.

"It's a lot of theory and speculation that the inmates have left the area, but we don't know," said Larry Todd, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "But the search is continuing."

Ground searches were halted in the immediate area of the Connally Unit after an intensive two-day search using helicopters and tracking dogs was unsuccessful.

"These inmates are very cunning and knew exactly what they were doing," Todd said. "Some of the officers speculate they'd been practicing, planning and plotting this for several months."

Letters found in some of the inmates' cells at the Connally Unit indicated an escape plan but there were few details, Todd said.

The inmates, including two convicted murderers, broke out of the prison Wednesday afternoon, taking with them 14 .357 Magnum pistols with 238 rounds of ammunition, a loaded automatic rifle and a loaded shotgun that they stole from a guard tower. They also stole jeans and work shirts from some of the prison's civilian employees, Todd said.

Many of the workers said their wallets were in their pants, Todd said, meaning the escaped convicts might have gotten away with cash, credit cards and identification documents.

A stolen pickup truck was found abandoned at the Wal-Mart in Kenedy, five miles north of the prison. Kenedy, a town of 3,800 that relies on the prison and ranching, is 60 miles southeast of San Antonio.

Authorities are studying items left behind in the truck, possibly to figure out where they went next. Todd would not discuss what was found in the pickup.

The inmates took 10 civilian employees, three fellow prisoners and a guard hostage as the workers returned to the prison's maintenance shop from lunch Wednesday, Todd said.

Power outage should be restored today

By The Associated Press

The cold, dark wait for electricity, which tens of thousands of people have endured in this week's ice storm, is almost over — but some will have a longer delay than others.

Meanwhile, the state Health Department is urging people in areas without electricity to boil their water before drinking it as a precaution.

About 1,800 TXU Electric & Gas repair personnel — some from as far away as Midland — worked Thursday to restore electricity that about 100,000 customers lost after ice-laden trees downed power lines throughout Texas.

Electricity should be restored to all TXU customers by late today, said Pat Nichols, spokeswoman for the utility.

As of 6:30 a.m. central time today, about 15,000 customers were still without electricity. Most of those customers are in the Tyler and Jacksonville areas, which were hit especially hard.

"There's quite a bit of damage there, with lots of trees the main problem there," Nichols said. "We continued to work overnight and we were able to move crews around and send some from Dallas. We hope to have power restored to the majority of these customers by late tonight.

"Given the severity of it, it is difficult to estimate the restoration accurately," she said. "When you get into the area, you sometimes find more damage than you knew was there."

Nichols said about 9,600 Tyler area residents remained without power — about 5,200 in Jacksonville.

"The trees in the Tyler and Jacksonville areas caused not only a greater number of outages but a more time-consuming restoration because of the tangling of limbs around poles, light fixtures and other electric equipment," said Rob Trimble, senior vice president of distribution operations for TXU

Miscellaneous reports handled on Thursday

• ***Theft of service***

An offense report for theft of service was filed at J&K Rental at 8:35 a.m. Thursday in reference to a subject refusing to pay for rental property.

• ***Ornament taken***

Judy James came to the Law Enforcement Center at 9:57 a.m. Thursday to notify authorities of the theft of a bear decoration from her yard.

• ***Runaway***

A mother called police at 8:04 p.m. Thursday to report that her 14-year-old daughter had left the residence without permission. The girl was located in the 400 block of 36th Street and returned to her parents.

• ***Burglary***

A report for burglary of a residence was filed at 9:53 p.m. Thursday at 417 33rd in reference to a video game set being stolen from Carmen Romero's home.

• ***Shoplifters***

A representative with Wal-Mart requested an officer at the store at 9:53 p.m. in reference to two people shoplifting. A report for Class C theft was filed, and the two subjects were issued criminal trespass warnings to stay away from the business.

In addition, one of the subjects, a 26-year-old female, was arrested on a warrant for misdemeanor theft.

• ***Other arrests***

An 18-year-old man was taken into custody at 7:59 a.m. Thursday at Town & Country on East Coliseum Dr. for misdemeanor possession of marijuana, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and no Texas driver's license.

Officers arrested a 46-year-old woman at 11:19 a.m. Thursday for driving while license suspended.

Three subjects were taken into custody at 12:39 a.m. today in the 1700 block of 20th Street. A 29-year-old man was jailed for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and an outstanding warrant for public intoxication.

A 37-year-old woman was arrested for public intoxication while a 39-year-old woman was jailed for public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

The 39-year-old was released to Cogdell Memorial Hospital for medical treatment after suffering a seizure.

• ***Accident***

At 12:14 p.m. Thursday, a two-vehicle accident occurred at 24th Street and Avenue Q. Involved were a 1991 Chevrolet Silverado pickup driven by Gary Scott Stipe, 53, of Gail and a 1993 Ford Taurus driven by Leticia J. Martinez, 16, of 2200 Avenue I.

Obituaries

Mozelle Hall

1923-2000

Funeral services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home for Mozelle Mitchell Hall, 77, native of Scurry County.

Mozele Hall

Mrs. Hall died at 8:45 a.m. today in Snyder Healthcare Center after a brief illness.

She was born on July 3, 1923 in Scurry County to pioneer settlers Richard H. and Maude Harless Mitchell. She married Orville Hall in 1942 in St. Augustine, Fla. He preceded her in death in February, 1998. Mrs. Hall was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include a son, Keith Mitchell of Snyder; a sister, Loree Mitchell Klutts of Snyder; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Doak

1913-2000

Mary Clark Doak, a longtime resident of Snyder, died Friday, Dec. 1 in San Antonio where she had resided the past five years.

Mary Doak

Mrs. Doak was the widow of Herman E. Doak, longtime Gulf oil distributor and director of West Texas State Bank.

A memorial service for Mrs. Doak, 87, is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Craig Curry, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, and Dr. Rex Reynolds, pastor of Hermleigh's First Baptist Church, will officiate. Interment will be in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mrs. Doak was born May 31, 1913 in Hayden, Ariz. She moved to Snyder in 1930 and married Herman Doak in 1932. Mrs. Doak had been a member of the First United Methodist Church since that time. She was active in many phases of church and community life through the years. As an avid and talented artist in all needlework, she enjoyed sharing her craft with others. She was a member of the Nancy Caton Sunday School Class, the Altrurian Daughters Club, Martha Ann Woman's Club and she was a docent at museums in Snyder.

Mrs. Doak also was preceded in death by her sister, Mercie Skiles, and her parents.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ann and Harold Hooks of San Antonio; her son, William H. Doak of Milwaukie, Ore.; four grandchildren, Lindsey Roberts, James Doak, Lena Doak and Katie Abney; two great-granddaughters, Stephanie Marie and Catherine Grace; her sister, Mildred Gamble of Abilene; and numerous other family members and friends.

Family members will receive friends from 6 to 7 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church or to a favorite charity.

Personal, Professional Service

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3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Rufina Martinez

1937-2000

MIDLAND – Rufina Martinez, the stepmother of Frankie Martinez of Snyder, died Thursday, Dec. 14, at her home in Midland.

Funeral service for Mrs. Martinez, 63, is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in the Holy Redeemer Church with the Rev. Frank Chavez officiating. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Born June 3, 1937 in Poth, Tex., she was a homemaker and a Catholic.

Survivors include two sons, Richard Sparks and Frank Martinez, both of Midland; eight daughters, Joann Burk of Odessa, Evonne Martinez, Linda Chavez, Lydia Smart, Virginia Holmes, Lorre Whitley, Diane Harrison and Susie Martinez, all of Midland; four sisters, Maria Serna of San Antonio, Teresa Martinez of San Angelo, Fernanda Losoya and Elizabeth Martinez, both of Odessa; a brother, Otimio Garza of Odessa; three other stepsons, Carlos Martinez of Midland Lupe Martinez of Chicago and Sammy Martinez of Odessa; 24 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Dixie Hinds

1915-2000

STAMFORD – Dixie Lee Hinds, a native of Scurry County, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, in United Regional Heath Care Center in Wichita Falls.

Funeral service for Mrs. Hinds, 85, is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in the Kinney Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jesse Morton officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memorial Cemetery.

Born in Snyder to the late H.L. and Ada Huffman Davis, she married Marvin Ward Hines who preceded her in death. After living in Kermit and Abilene, they moved to Stamford where the couple owned and operated Hinds Department Store. They retired in 1990 and moved to Wichita Falls.

Survivors include a daughter, Sara Easter of Jacksboro; a son, Marvin Hinds of Mukeltoe, Wash.; a sister, Elaine Day of Rotan; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 14 – Arnold girl, Elnora Clark, Rosa Fisk, Susan Sturdivant, Evelyn Fields, Mary Garcia, Raymond House, Denise Thomas and Horace Williamson.

DISMISSALS: Nellie Davis, Elbert Hill, Gary Kasparek, Rosa Maldonado, Anice Wallace, Elnora Clark and William Hibbs.

CENSUS: 42 (Med./Surg-17, Long-term Care-23, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

Births

Brad and Dava Robbins of Snyder announce the birth of their nine-pound, three-ounce daughter. She was born at 5:36 p.m. on Dec. 14 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Seniors helping seniors

Snyder High School seniors are assisting senior citizens this holiday season by helping put up outside Christmas lights and other decorations. For assistance, call 573-6301 and ask for Beth Bowen.

Cub Pack 61

Cub Scout Pack 61 will meet at 7 tonight at the Scout Hut. Dress warmly as the scouts will go caroling after the meeting.

Johnny Ray Watson concert

Johnny Ray Watson will be in concert at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Church of the Hills. Everyone is invited to attend and additional information can be obtained by calling 573-7794.

Christmas musical

Faith Baptist Church's adult choir will present "Bethlehem's Child," a musical drama, at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the church, 208 37th Street.

Ham dinner

Hermleigh High School Beta Club will host a ham dinner from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sunday in the Hermleigh cafeteria. Cost is $6 for adults and $3 for children under 10.

Christmas cantata

Trinity United Methodist Church will present "Lord, I Left Your Name On High," a Christmas cantata by Steven Taylor at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, and at 7 p.m. Monday. Everyone is invited to the performances that lasts about 30 minutes.

Christmas programs

Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th, will have a day of Christmas celebration Sunday. The adult choir will present "2000 Decembers Ago" at 10:50 a.m. The children and youth will present "Wonderful Christmas' at 6 p.m.

Christmas concert

First Church of the Nazarene will present a Christmas Concert featuring Kimberley and Tom Wagner with Compassionate Heart Music at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. A nursery is provided and there is no charge.

East Christmas carolers

The fourth grade classes of East Elementary will perform Christmas carols Monday. Students will be at Snyder Healthcare Center at 10:45 a.m. and at the Senior Citizens Center at 11:40 a.m.

East reading night

East Elementary will hold Family Reading Night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Refreshments will be served and childcare is provided.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "What the Devil Wants You to Believe," followed by "Lifting up Christ."

4-H horse club meeting

The 4-H horse club meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Retirement reception

A reception in honor of Rona Sikes will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday in the county courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse. Mrs. Sikes has served as county tax assessor-collector since Jan. 1, 1985. The tax office will be closed during the reception.

Raw peanuts for sale

The women of The Church of God in Ira are selling raw peanuts for holiday cooking. The cost is $10 for a five-pound bag. To order, call Sheila Alexander at 573-8148, or Juanita Hester at 728-3312.

Windbreak trees

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

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3088

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information call Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Vocational nurse program testing

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

Adult basic education classes

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

Ramp workers nix tentative agreement

FORT WORTH (AP) — Members of the union representing ramp operations and other employees at Southwest Airlines Co. have rejected a tentative agreement after the Texas carrier improved wages.

Leaders of Transport Workers Union Local 555 — which represents about 5,300 employees of the Dallas-based airline — want to resume contract talks after polling members on reasons for their rejection.

Southwest ramp, operations and provisioning agents have joined an already large number of airline industry employees who have rejected the latest tentative contract agreements negotiated by their union leaders.