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WT-Int. Crude - $29.88
WTIC Posted - $27.00
Natural Gas - $8.485

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Dec. 7, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 189
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Francene Noah

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY — Norma Laywell leads the Sunshine Choir at the Senior Citizens Center in a Pearl Harbor Day program. Local veterans from all branches of the military were recognized during the event that recognized the 59th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (SDN Staff Photo)

Pearl Harbor attack occurred 59 years ago today killing a total of 2,388 and injuring 1,178

HONOLULU (AP) — On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Lewis P. Robinson stood on a dock at Pearl Harbor waiting for a boat to return him to the USS Arizona after an overnight shore leave.

The clear blue skies suddenly darkened as a wave of Japanese planes descended, raining bombs on the harbor.

Within minutes, bombs ripped open the 608-foot Arizona, killing 1,177 crew members and sinking the ship.

Today — the 59th anniversary of the attack — Robinson will be reunited with his shipmates when his ashes are interred by divers in the sunken hull of the Arizona.

"He always said that he wanted to go back," said Robinson's niece Susan Anderson. "He said make sure when he died, he would be placed on the Arizona."

Robinson, who died in 1997 at 78, will be the 16th Arizona survivor to be laid to rest in the battleship with the 945 servicemen entombed there.

Of the 337 Arizona servicemen who survived, only 50 are believed to be still living, said Daniel Martinez, a historian for the National Park Service at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Dozens of other Pearl Harbor veterans have also had their ashes scattered in the harbor's waters, fulfilling a wish that survivors say expresses a mix of camaraderie, honor, gratitude and guilt.

"It's a sense of wanting to belong with their shipmates," said Robert Kinzler, president of the local Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. "It could be a feeling of guilt that they survived while their shipmates passed away."

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and other Oahu military bases sank or heavily damaged 21 ships, destroyed or damaged 323 aircraft, killed 2,388 military personnel and civilians and wounded 1,178.

Only those assigned to the Arizona at the time of the attack are eligible for interment in the hull of the ship.

Gore's lawyers seeking selective vote recounts

By The Associated Press

Al Gore's lawyer pleaded with a seemingly skeptical Florida Supreme Court today to order selective manual recounts that could revive the vice president's fading quest for the White House. George W. Bush looked to the state's justices to finally count his rival out.

"We believe the ballots can be counted in the time available," Gore's lawyer, David Boies said when Chief Justice Charles T. Wells noted the state's presidential electors must be picked by Dec. 12. "Obviously time is getting very short."

But lawyers for Bush and Secretary of State Katherine Harris both said Gore was asking the state's highest court to exceed its legal powers.

"There is not a single shred of evidence to show that any voter was denied the right to vote," argued Bush's lawyer, Barry Richard, adding that state's highest court has no business stepping in and overseeing recounts.

And Joseph Klock, representing Harris, said the court would have to "create a pile of law" to grant Gore's request.

The vice president is hoping to overturn a trial judge's ruling earlier in the week that refused to order manual recounts, and left unmolested Bush's certified 537-vote margin of victory in the state that stands to pick the next president.

Gore invited running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman to the vice presidential residence in Washington where they watched the oral arguments on TV, aides said. Campaign chairman Bill Daley flew to Florida to thank the lawyers on Gore's behalf.

In Austin, Bush arrived for work at the state capitol just as the arguments were beginning in Florida. The governor did not watch earlier court proceedings in the election contest, though aides couldn't immediately say if he was watching Thursday.

There were other subplots in America's riveting election drama, including an announcement that the GOP-controlled Florida Legislature would meet in special session to appoint its own slate of electors.

But nothing captured the national uncertainty better than a ceremony marking the beginning of work on the stands outside the Capitol in Washington where the next president will deliver his inaugural address.

"Hopefully, we will have the answer of 'who' sometime soon," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican who chairs the committee in charge of inauguration arrangements.

One tumultuous month after Election Day, several of the court's seven justices pressed Boies, to explain why it would be proper to have manual recounts in some counties, but not statewide.

"I don't think there has ever been a suggestion under state law that you should have a recount where it was not requested," Boies replied.

Wells also observed that the courts could become involved "only if there was substantial noncompliance with election laws," not merely when — as Gore alleges — some legitimate votes were left uncounted.

"I don't think that's what we're arguing," Boies said. He added it was "undisputed that there are voter errors and machine errors" that have affected the statewide count.

The statewide winner of Florida — and its 25 electoral votes — stands to gain the White House.

"I represent the vice president and Senator Lieberman," Boies said in the opening moments of a hearing than ran eight minutes over its allotted hour. But that was all he could say before Wells cut him off and pressed him to explain why the court — and not the Florida Legislature — should be settling the issue.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "There must be intelligent life out there. You don't hear about little green men spending zillions to find out if there is life on Earth."

A former West Texan, likely home-sick, sent us the following.

It's a list of ways to know you're from our part of the world, better known as God's country.

—You have used the phrase "fixin' to during the last 12 minutes.

—Someone you know has used a football schedule to plan a wedding date.

—You've been excused from school because the cows got out

—You know exactly what calf fries are, and you eat them anyhow.

—You can recall hot summers by the year they happened easier than you can remember your wife's birthday.

—You think that people who complain about the wind in their states are sissies.

—You know that the true value of a parking space is not determined by the distance to the door, but by the availability of shade.

—You have owned at least one belt buckle bigger than your fist.

—You know in which state Miami-uh is and which state Miam-ee is.

—Your place at the lake has wheels under it.

—You aren't surprised to find movie rental, ammunition and bait all at the same store.

—A Mercedes Benz is not a status symbol, but a 4x4 pickup is.

—You've moved your household goods in a cattle trailer.

—You know everything goes better with Ranch.

—You learned how to shoot a gun before you leaned how to multiply.

—A tornado warning siren is your signal to go out in the yard and look for a funnel cloud.

—The preacher makes sure his sermon doesn't last past kickoff for the Dallas Cowboys.

—You can properly pronounce Chillicothe, Quitaque and Quanah.

—You pull over and let funeral processions pass by.

—Barbecue is acceptable for Thanksgiving Day dinner.

—Taking the day off for the start of quail season is okay with your boss – if he can come along too.

—In a café, you don't ask for a menu, 'cause you're certain a chicken fry is served there.

—You never eat anything that looks like fishing bait.

—And finally, you are from these parts if you have ever had this conversation:

"You wanna Coke?"
"Yeah."
"What kind?"
"Dr. Pepper."

Will Rogers show at The Ritz

The Ritz Community Theatre will present *Witty World of Will Rogers*, starring Gene McFall, beginning Friday night.

The production will be presented at 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 2:30 Sunday afternoon.

McFall, an Okie himself, recreates the Cowboy Humorist-Philosopher and Oklahoma's favorite son in this original production.

McFall has performed his prize-winning role of Will Rogers since 1982 in 44 states. Other than James Whitmore, McFall was the first person to perform "*Will Rogers' USA*." Drawing from the archives of the Will Rogers Memorial at Claremore, Okla., McFall wrote his own *Witty World of Will Rogers*.

A native Kentuckian, former basketball coach and professional actor since 1966, McFall has performed largely on stage but appeared in motion pictures and was guest artist in such television shows as "All in the Family," "Benson," and "Archie Bunker's Place." He was a guest artist on the Family Channel's "Home and Family Show." Cast as Will Rogers, he was a major player in the public television production, "Oklahoma Passage."

McFall extols the life, career and historic impact of Will Rogers, 1879-1935. Drawn from the archives, McFall's dissertation is a precise, accurate but entertaining composition of an incredible man.

Tickets are $7 with group rates of $6 per ticket for 10 or more. Tickets for students and seniors for the Sunday matinee will be $6.

The program will include a prologue, two acts and the epilogue.

Amtrak train derails today

WEED, Calif. (AP) — An Amtrak train carrying 153 people derailed early today after it clipped a tank car that had fallen off a parallel track, injuring about 10 passengers and crew members.

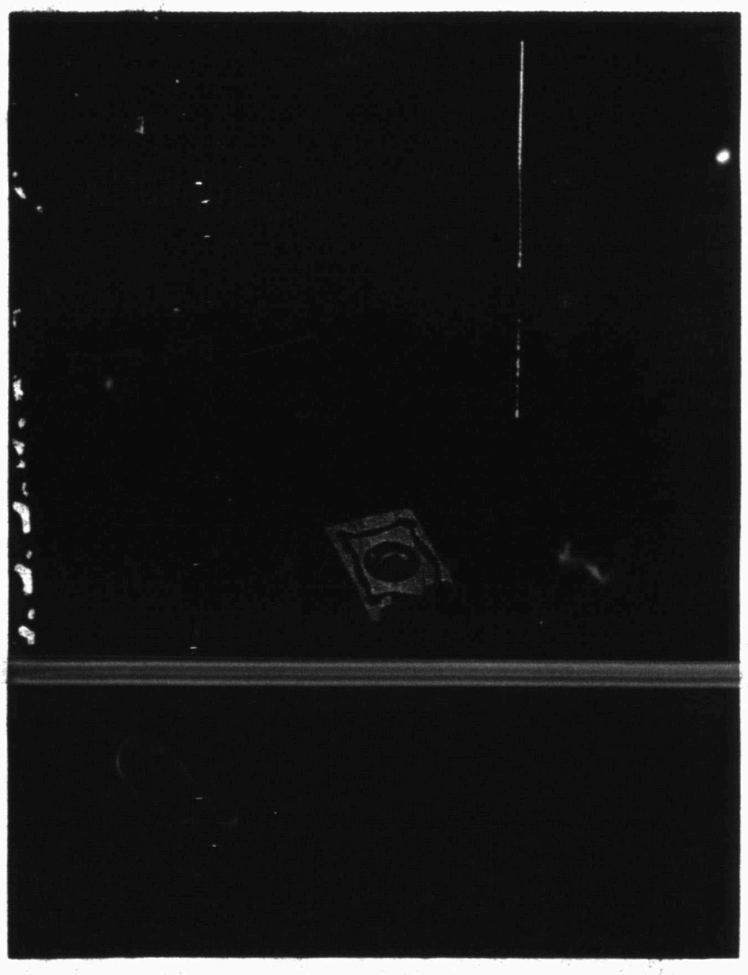
None of the injuries was serious, said Amtrak spokeswoman Brenda Follmer.

The 16-car Coast Starlight was traveling from Seattle to Los Angeles when it derailed just before 2 a.m. north of Dunsmuir, near Mount Shasta.

Five cars left the tracks, Follmer said. Both engines landed on their sides, while a baggage car, a crew dorm car and a passenger car derailed but did not fall over.

There were 134 passengers and 19 crew members on board. Early reports indicated that the most serious injury was to the train's engineer, who may have cracked ribs, she said.

"It was a hell of a jolt," said passenger John Pierre of Edmonds, Wash., who was en route to Oakland.



WHOLIDAY DISPLAY — Ron Shaw with the Snyder post office straightens a "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" display. The U.S. Postal Service has enlisted the help of the Grinch and the residents of Whoville from the Universal Pictures film to urge customers to send Christmas mail early. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—Is WTC's state funding based on a full-time student count?

A—No, it is based on a full-time equivalency formula. The FTE is determined by taking the total number of semester hours being taken by academic and vocational students and dividing it by 12. The fall 2000 FTE is 809 students.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 50 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Thursday, 26; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.13 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, becoming mostly cloudy, low mid 30s, light W wind, becoming NE 10-20 mph. Friday, cloudy, cooler, high 45-50, NE wind 10-20 mph.

Deanna Mills
Cooler

Sunset: 5:42 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:31 a.m.
Of 341 days in 2000, the sun has shone 334 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Forgiveness is the oil of relationships.
—Josh McDowell

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD — "The Gals" basketball team received the sportsmanship award in Western Texas College's five-on-five intramural basketball tournament. Pictured front, from left are Barbara Rivera and Selina Salinas. Pictured back, from left are Lisa Campbell, Jessica Hernandez and Kim Alexander. Not pictured are team members Stacy Barrera, Jamie Greer, Jamee Goolsby and Kristen Poggett. (Contributed Photo)

Madonna, director to wed this month

LONDON (AP) — Madonna and British film director Guy Ritchie plan to marry in the Scottish highlands three days before Christmas.

The Registrar's Office in Dornoch, northern Scotland, published an official proclamation Thursday of the intended marriage, as required for all Scottish weddings.

Senate's women pledge bipartisanship

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now a record 13 in number, the Senate's women got together for coffee Wednesday, the first of many regular gatherings they say will boost civility in Congress and open an avenue for bipartisanship in tackling the nation's problems.

"We're now 13 and exuberant," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., host of the afternoon event in her Capitol Hill office. "We're going to be a voice."

Dozens of reporters and photographers showed up mainly for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic senator-elect from New York, but she is just one of four Democratic women who will join the Senate in January. The others are Maria Cantwell of Washington, Jean Carnahan of Missouri and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Mikulski said the "Women's Power Coffee" continues a tradition she started in 1992 in which Senate women meet informally for dinner every few weeks at a local restaurant or senator's home.

"We do that so we can check our party hats at the door," Mikulski said, adding that the women can be a "civility corps" that would take some of the personal edge off partisan debates. "I wanted to be sure that one day we'd be a league of our own. We're ready to play major league ball."

There are now 10 Democratic and three Republican women in the Senate; both senators from California, Washington and Maine are women. Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., noted that one-fifth of the Democratic caucus for the incoming 107th Congress will be female.

"That's good news for the Senate, and for women and families all across America," Daschle said.

Two women will have party leadership jobs in the new Senate: Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, will be secretary of the GOP conference, and Mikulski has a similar post on the Democratic side. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is a candidate to run the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, a political fund-raising arm.

No women are in line to chair a Senate legislative committee, a job with primary influence in writing and promoting bills. Still, Stabenow said the increasing number of women will bring the Senate a broader perspective about the issues important to the nation as whole.

The other women senators are: Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, both California Democrats;

Chunk of Oklahoma's Route 66 hits road to Washington

GEARY, Okla. (AP) — Visitors to the nation's capital may soon get a chance to do something geography always prevented — getting their kicks on Route 66.

Workers on Wednesday pried up a dozen 9,000-pound slabs of the fabled roadway known as "The Main Street of America" for what will become an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

"We're just glad to be a part of history," said George Tomek, director of the Oklahoma Trucking Association, which volunteered to carry the slabs some 1,400 miles to a Smithsonian warehouse in Maryland.

U.S. Route 66 spanned 2,400 miles between Chicago and Santa Monica, Calif., connecting eight states. Oklahoma has more miles of Route 66 than any other state.

William Withuhn, curator of transportation for the Smithsonian, said the museum will reassemble the 20-foot wide section of roadway for an exhibit called "America on the Move."

The display, scheduled to open in the fall of 2003, likely will feature photographs of roadside stops, clips from the 1960s TV show "Route 66" and Bobby Troup's song, "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66."

The Smithsonian requested a piece of the highway two months ago when officials learned the Oklahoma Department of Transportation was removing it for a five-mile safety improvement project.

"This slab has borne the wheels of commerce for over 65 years and is still functional, as are the 400 miles of Route 66 that remain a part of the fabric of our state highway system," said Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Neal McCaleb.

The section running through central Oklahoma was built in 1931-32, specifically for early Ford cars, said Bo Hodges, the transportation department's project manager. The slab that left Oklahoma is four feet narrower than today's highways, he said.

Michael Wallis, author of "Route 66: The Mother Road," said that while he hated to see the road disturbed at all, its pieces are better in the Smithsonian than in a rubble pile.

"I'm delighted that if anything happens to that road, that at least we'll have actual, tangible pieces of the road that carried people through a time of war and depression and it will be on display for the world to see," he said.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Two tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The tickets were worth an estimated $38 million.

The tickets were sold in: Fairfield and League City, Texas.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 1-3-9-16-35-39.

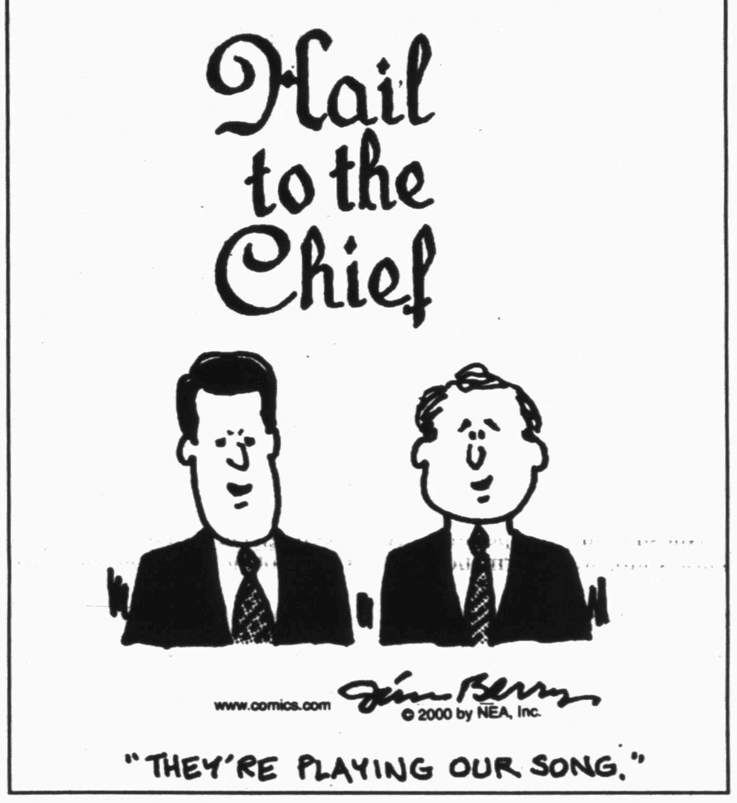
Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3

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

1-8-4

Berry's World



Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2000

Today is the 342nd day of 2000 and the 77th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1881, the American Surety Company was incorporated in New York City. It was the first bonding company in the United States.

On this day in 1941, Japanese flyers attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

On this day in 1954, Fort Eustis Heliport was dedicated at Felker Field, in Fort Eustis, Va. It was the first military heliport in the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Stuart (1542-1587), Queen of Scots; Willa Cather (1873-1947), writer; Joyce Cary (1888-1957), writer; Eli Wallach (1915-), actor, is 85; Noam Chomsky (1928-), linguist-political activist, is 72; Johnny Bench (1947-), baseball great, is 53; Tom Waits (1949-), singer-songwriter, is 51; Larry Bird (1956-), basketball great, is 44.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1963, during its broadcast of an Army-Navy game, CBS used instant replay for the first time.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "For good and evil, man is a free creative spirit. This produces the very queer world we live in, a world in continuous creation and therefore continuous change and insecurity." — Joyce Cary

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 3) and full moon (Dec. 11).

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

You may be 50, but you're looking nifty.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ROSEMARY BURTON
Your good friends
Helen & Terrell
from Carlsbad, N.M.

Christmas Lighting Contest
Sponsored by
Chamber of Commerce Goldcoats
Deadline To Enter December 11
Judging will be the evening of December 13
To allow for judging time please leave lights on till 10 p.m.
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Mail entries to P.O. Box 840, 79550
or bring by the
Snyder Chamber of Commerce
2304 Ave. R
Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.

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THE SUBWAY A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
3903 College Ave.
573-9782

DEC. 16 TOY DEADLINE — Toys For Christmas, formerly Toys for Tots, were donated Tuesday by Lions Club members. Lions have will meet Tuesday to bring a toy or be fined $10 that will go to the organization. From left are Elaine Steakley, Peggy Vernon and Jene Steakley. Anyone wishing to donate toys can take them by Dec. 16 to the Girl Scout Hut, chamber of commerce, Snyder Daily News, Wal-Mart and several other businesses. GS Troop 100 is in charge of Toys for Christmas. Kiwanis Club heads up the Goodfellows that will provide food to those in need during Christmas (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving course; Texas Savings Bank Community Room, 27th & College; no reservations needed, for more information call 573-2850.

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

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

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

12-07-00

North
♠ 3
♥ Q 8 4 3
♦ A Q 8 4 3
♣ A 7 4

West
♠ 10 8 2
♥ K J 6
♦ J 7 6 2
♣ K Q J

East
♠ 9 7 5
♥ A 10 9 5 2
♦ 10
♣ 10 9 5 2

South
♠ A K Q J 6 4
♥ 7
♦ K 9 5
♣ 8 6 3

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♣ K

From America to Israel

By Phillip Alder

Pamela and Matthew Granovetter put out six issues of Bridge Today annually from their house in Netanya, Israel. Yet the content, because they started the magazine in Jamaica, N.Y., has a distinctly American feel.

Peter Kichline described this deal from a club duplicate. How should South plan the play in six spades after West has led the club king?

Most Norths rebid three notrump. When East led the heart 10, they survived, their eight becoming a stopper. But when East led the heart five, the contract failed. However, who wants to end there? Following a two-over-one response, a two-spade rebid should be played as forcing. So, South's three-spade jump guarantees an (almost) solid suit and sets it as trumps. North's four clubs is a control-bid (cue-bid), showing the club ace and slam interest. With the invaluable diamond king, South Blackwoods into slam.

South sees 12 tricks via six spades, five diamonds and one club. Yet after winning with dummy's club ace and drawing trumps, he must be careful with the diamonds. As dummy has no side entry left, he must start with the diamond nine. If the suit is splitting 3-2, it doesn't matter. But here it's a vital unblocking play. (It might also work well when West has jack-10-fourth and stupidly covers.) The nine to the ace and the three back to the king reveal the need for a finesse of dummy's eight on the third round. Plus 980 was a cold top.

The magazine costs $29 per annum. The Granovetters also run e-mail courses and an online newsletter. Full details are at www.bridgetoday.com.

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SERVICE AWARDS — City of Snyder employees received service awards at a dinner held last Monday at the Snyder Country Club. Retirees Odell Cox, Tommy Guynes and Paul Gutierrez, from left, received gold watches. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

City held banquet at SCC

City of Snyder employee awards banquet was held last Monday at the Snyder Country Club highlighted by music by Cindy Nix and naming Bobby Kenner employee of the year.

Mayor pro tem Vernest Tippens gave the welcome and former Mayor Milton Ham gave the invocation. City manager John Gayle presented five-year service awards to Mike Duddleston, Cy Posey, Rita Soliz and Dennis Young. Brian Haggard received a 10-year award.

Patricia Warren and Howard Bigham received 15-year awards; Janice Scrivner and Ronnie Clawson received 20-year awards and Carolyn House received a 25-year award.

Other candidates for employee of the year award included Patrick Coggins, Lisa Tate, Gloria Myers, Alvin Dodson, Jeannne Johnson, Hope Renteria, Brian Peterson and Ronnie Clawson.

Tommy Guynes, fireman for 36 years; Odell Cox, fireman for 26 years; and Paul Gutierrez, street department for 28 years; all retired this year and received gold watches.

Bingo was played following the dinner and awards.

BEALLS

Holiday Sale

Friday thru Sunday • Save on Great Gifts!

SALE 29.99
YOUNG MEN'S LEVI'S® JEANS
505® & 550™ Red Tab™ stonewash jeans.
Reg. 35.00. 560™ & 569™ stonewash jeans.
Reg. 38.00, SALE 31.99.

25% OFF
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30% OFF
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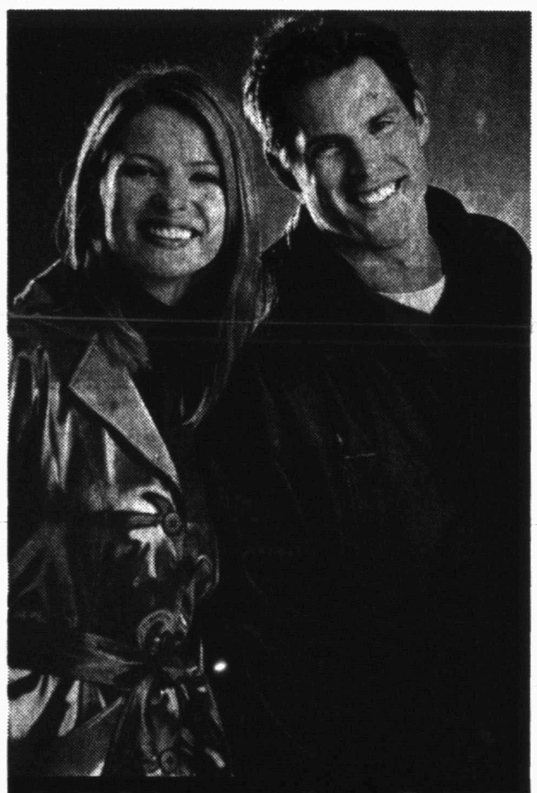
For infants, toddlers, girls' 4-6X & boys' 4-7. Collection includes tops, pants & dresses.
Reg. 14.00-24.00, SALE 8.99-15.99.



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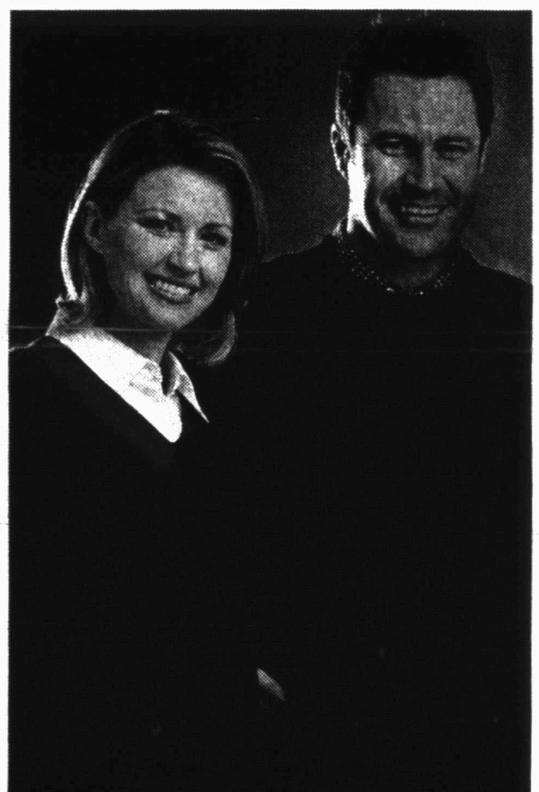

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SALE 19.99
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30% OFF
ENTIRE STOCK LADIES' HANDBAGS
Selection includes an array of styles, fabrics and colors. Reg. 15.00-69.00,
SALE 10.50-48.30.

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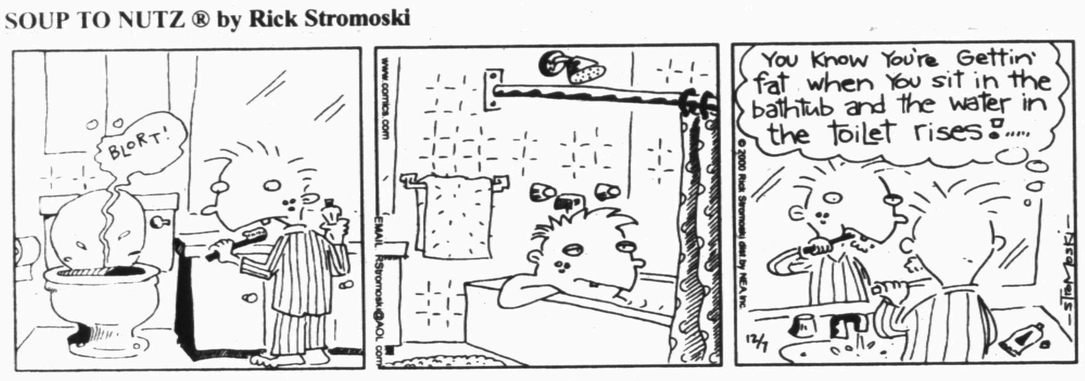

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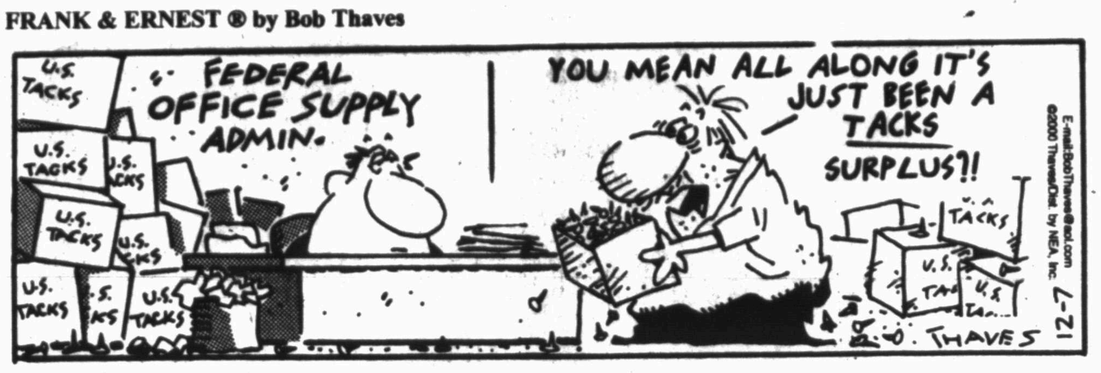

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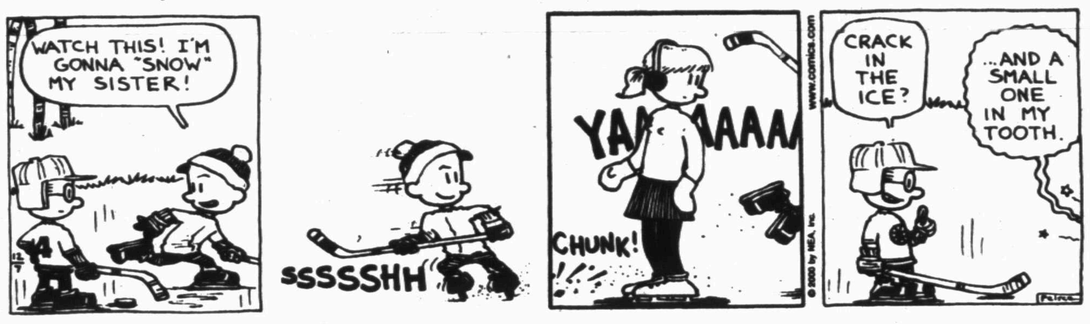

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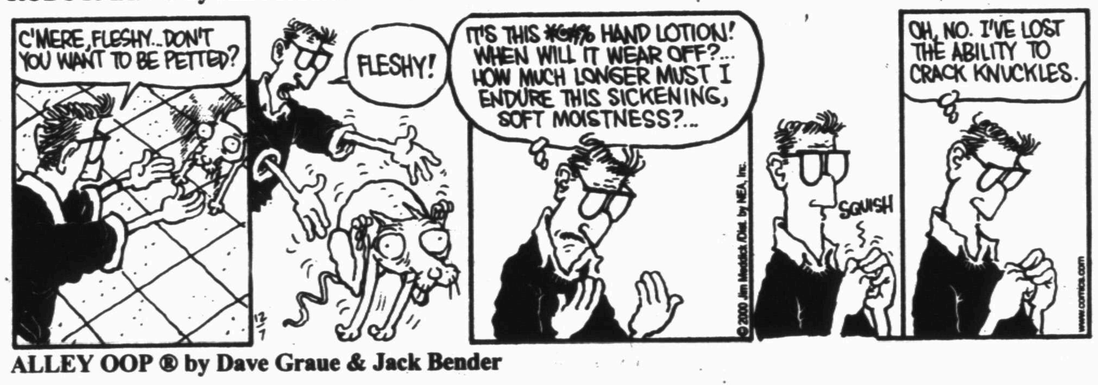

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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Russian kings
6 Shade of blue
10 Poetic foot
12 Tricked
14 Consecrate
15 "Night of the —"
16 Above (poet.)
17 Ventilate
19 Critic Rex —
20 Sword fighters
23 Equatorial constellation
26 Comedian Phillips
27 Clean (a floor)
30 Bakes
32 Fruit ripener
34 Fake
35 Queasy feeling
36 The sixth sense (abbr.)
37 Scottish cap
39 Rips
40 Leaves the work force
42 Apple center
45 Water for Henri
46 Spring month, in Paris
49 Restaurant worker
51 Stir up (riots)
54 Railroad units
55 Finishes a cake
56 Smelting residue
57 Dominating

DOWN

1 Hi or bye
2 Author Grey
3 Cupid
4 Baseball stat
5 Heavenly body
6 Gear tooth
7 — truly
8 Wings
9 Hawaiian goose
11 Musial or Getz
12 Flame-fighters
13 June honoree
18 Cube type
20 Circuit breaker
21 Landed property
22 Spin
23 Motley — (music group)
24 Vast ages
25 Waterproof covering
27 Tableland
28 Something unique
29 Edible seeds
31 Roof workers
33 Shades
38 Actress Farrow
40 Nerve networks
41 Sandpiper
42 Hundred-weight (abbr.)
43 Rowers' needs
44 Unit of Iranian currency
46 Cluttered condition
47 Hill builders
48 — -bitsy
50 Pt. of ESL
52 Sphere
53 Elsie's sound

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	E	R	M	E	D		T	E	R	E	S	A
E	M	I	L	I	O		E	V	A	D	E	R
P	E	P	I	N	O		R	A	N	G	E	S
E	R	S			R	A	T			I	D	O
E	G	A	D		S	A	I		S	E	E	N
	E	W	E	R		H	A	Z	A	R	D	
			O	U	D		R	I	M			
			D	I	E		Y	O	U			
	P	L	A	N	T	S		N	E	V	E	
K	E	I	R		E	L	M		L	O	S	S
O	T	O			R	Y	E			I	S	O
R	I	N	G	E	R		T	R	A	D	E	R
A	T	E	A	S	E		E	T	H	E	N	E
N	E	T	T	E	D		R	E	A	D	E	R

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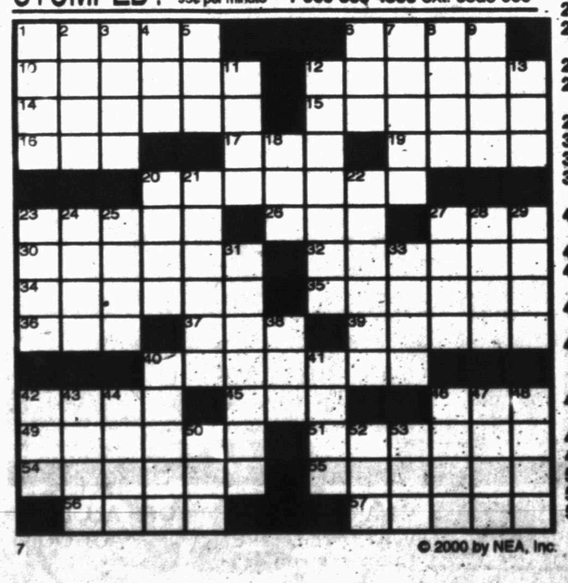

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"Take a look in here! Five bags of mail, two sets of encyclopedias and a brand-new vacuum cleaner."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

TCU to promote defensive coach

FORT WORTH (AP) — Defensive coordinator Gary Patterson appears to be Texas Christian's choice to replace Dennis Franchione, who is leaving the Horned Frogs to be the coach at Alabama.

TCU athletic director Eric Hyman wasn't in his office Thursday morning and didn't immediately return phone calls.

Athletic department officials denied reports that there would be a news conference on campus later in the day to name Patterson as the 30th coach TCU's 105-year football history.

Patterson, 40, has been a college assistant coach 18 years but never a head coach. He has been Franchione's defensive coordinator the past five years, two at New Mexico and the last three at TCU, which has the nation's top-ranked defense this season.

Patterson told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he met for about 21/2 hours Wednesday night with a search committee led by Hyman. The coach said talks centered on how he would hire a staff, what changes if any would be made and his lack of head coaching experience.

"I don't think of it as a weakness because I've been at so many places . . . and have been put in charge of so many different situations," Patterson told the Fort Worth newspaper. "The only difference is I just haven't been the guy that's where the buck stops."

TCU's defense is ranked first nationally in total defense and scoring defense. The 13th-ranked Frogs (10-1) play Southern Mississippi in the Mobile Alabama Bowl on Dec. 20.

Patterson's name surfaced among players and fans as the early favorite to succeed Franchione, who last week accepted an offer from Alabama. Franchione has agreed to a seven-year deal worth $1.2 million to $1.4 million a year with Alabama.

While TCU had offered Franchione a new seven-year deal worth $1 million annually, it's unknown what kind of deal Patterson would be offered.

The Star-Telegram reported that TCU interviewed six other candidates over the past three days.

Offensive coordinator Mike Schultz interviewed for the TCU job on Wednesday, but later informed Franchione he would be joining him at Alabama.

Others interviewed were Auburn offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, Iowa State coach Dan McCarney, Southern Miss coach Jeff Bower, Kansas Sate defensive coordinator Phil Bennett and Colorado State coach Sonny Lubick.

Patterson came to Franchione's staff in 1996 after a one-year stint as secondary coach at the Naval Academy. He had perviously coached at Utah State, Sonoma State, Pittsburg State, Cal-Lutheran, Cal-Davis, Tennessee Tech and Kansas State.

Spartans win rematch with Florida, 99-83

By The Associated Press

Newcomers Marcus Taylor and Zach Randolph made sure the Michigan State-Florida sequel matched the original.

Taylor and Randolph were not a part of the NCAA final between the Spartans and the Gators, but the Michigan State freshmen flourished in Wednesday night's rematch, combining for 42 points as No. 2 Michigan State beat No. 8 Florida 99-83.

Randolph scored 27 points on 10-of-13 shooting and grabbed seven rebounds, and Taylor had 15 points and seven assists as the Spartans extended the nation's longest winning streak to 17 games. It was their 34th consecutive victory at the Breslin Center, which trails only Utah's run of 54 wins in a row at home.

"They were phenomenal," said Michigan State's Charlie Bell, who scored 20 points. "They really came out and showed why they were McDonald All-Americans and why they were two of the top recruits in the country. We're glad to have them."

The Michigan State-Florida rematch marked the 16th time that NCAA Tournament finalists met the following season.

Freshman girls whip Cavazos

Snyder's freshman girls captured their third consecutive victory with a 57-18 rout of Lubbock Cavazos.

The win, which improves the Lady Tigers' record to 5-2, comes on the heels of a consolation title at the Sweetwater tourney.

Against Cavazos, Sharday McKinney, Misha Wofford, Whitney Criswell and Erin Burleson poured in eight points apiece. Laura Arellano posted seven, and Katie Chandler netted six.

Snyder opened the Sweetwater even with a 27-22 setback to Abilene Wylie, despite a 10-point effort from Burleson.

The Lady Tigers answered with a 50-29 win over Abilene High. McKinney drained 23 points in the contest, and Burleson added 10 more.

Snyder claimed the secured the consolation title with a 43-32 victory over Abilene Cooper.

McKinney's 11 points paced the Lady Tigers.

Kelby Drum registered eight points, while Burleson rattled home seven, and Arellano and Sarah Crawford chipped in six apiece.

7th grade boys off to 3-0 start

Snyder Black recorded its third win of the season earlier this week with a 35-22 victory over Lubbock Cavazos in seventh grade boys' basketball action.

Joel Tarin netted 11 points to pace the Tigers, while Keenan Garcia added eight.

Tyler Hogan and Stephen Martinez tallied four points apiece, and Chase Ashworth, Bryan Clifton, Chris Lopez and Chris Thompson chipped in two each.

The victory comes on the heels of wins over Wilson and Lubbock Slaton.

Snyder will be in action again Friday and Saturday at the Sweetwater tournament.

Snyder 37, Wilson 12

Snyder: Joel Tarin, 12; Chris Lopez, 7; Bryan Clifton, 6; Keenan Garcia and Chase Ashworth, 4; Stephen Martinez and Tyler Hogan, 2.

Snyder 42, Slaton 16

Snyder: Chase Ashworth, 10; Keenan Garcia, 8; Joel Tarin, Bryan Clifton and Marcus Williams, 6; Chris Lopez, 4; Marcus Torin, 2.

Campo sends message with dismissal of Warren

IRVING (AP) — Without the venom of Jimmy Johnson, Dave Campo has sent the Dallas Cowboys the kind of message that would've made his old boss proud.

By releasing running back Chris Warren on Wednesday, Campo was telling the team he won't tolerate any more lackadaisical behavior on or off the field.

Warren's farewell performance was dropping two passes in the first quarter of a 27-7 loss Sunday to Tampa Bay. The second one landed in the arms of cornerback Brian Kelly and was returned for a touchdown.

Add in a history of missed meetings and practices and the fact he had only three games left on his contract and Warren made for the perfect candidate for Campo to use as an example.

"From here on out, the guys that make this football team are going to be guys that perform," Campo said. "If they don't perform, they won't be here."

In 1992, running back Curvin Richards made some costly fumbles in a late-season game and Johnson released him soon after. The coach's point was more to send a message as Richards wouldn't have been used much in the playoffs. Whether it got through or not, Dallas won the Super Bowl that season and the next. Campo was an assistant on those staffs.

The Cowboys are 4-9 in Campo's first season in charge. They had little to gain by continuing to play an 11-year veteran when they could give his playing time to rookie Michael Wiley.

"We just felt at this particular time that we need to move forward," Campo said. "We felt that in the best interest of our football team this was the time to do it."

Warren was fined earlier this season for missing the first day of work after a bye week. He also was one of two players who missed the reporting deadline for training camp.

Last November, Warren told coaches hours before a key midweek practice that he would be absent for personal reasons. It was an especially bad move because Smith was hurt and Warren was supposed to work with the first team that day. A few months before, he stretched a two-day medical trip to Colorado to five days.

In 13 games this season, Warren ran 59 times for 254 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught 31 passes for 302 yards and a touchdown.

Warren came into this season sixth among active running backs with 7,400 career yards.

Wiley, a fifth-round pick, had 32 yards on six carries and 13 yards on three catches against the Bucs.

Sports Briefs

BYU hires Bears' assistant

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Chicago Bears offensive coordinator Gary Crowton was hired as Brigham Young's new coach, ending months of speculation about if he would succeed the retired LaVell Edwards.

Crowton, 43, has been offensive coordinator of the Bears for two seasons.

Crowton, who grew up just outside Provo, was 21-13 in three seasons at Louisiana Tech from 1996-98, his only head coaching job.

Five Louisville players arrested

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Five Louisville football players were arrested following a fraternity party fight at a night spot in the city.

The five players on the Conference USA champions are Justin Thomas, B.J. Steele, Jason Hilliard, Michael Brown and Antoine Sims, police said.

Federal jury convicts Williams

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — A federal jury convicted former NFL player Sherman Williams on charges of conspiracy and attempting to possess marijuana in a multistate operation.

Williams was convicted of three charges involving seizures in Texas and Alabama of up to 1,000 pounds of marijuana.

Mets sign Rick Reed

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets finally signed a starting pitcher, agreeing to a $21.75 million, three-year contract with Rick Reed.

Reed gets $6.75 million next season, $7 million in 2002 and $8 million in 2003. The Mets have an $8 million option for 2004 that would become guaranteed if he has either 585 innings pitched in the next three seasons or 400 in 2002 and 2003.

Reed, a 36-year-old right-hander, was 11-5 with a 4.11 ERA in 30 starts last season, when he earned $4,375,000, and is 51-30 in the last four seasons.

Dodgers ink Andy Ashby

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers signed Andy Ashby to a $22.5 million, three-year contract, a day after rescinding an offer to the free-agent right-hander.

Ashby gets a $1.5 million signing bonus and salaries of $5.5 million in 2001, $7.5 million in 2002 and $8 million in 2003. The Dodgers have an $8.5 million option for 2004 that would become guaranteed if he pitches 175 innings in 2003 of 350 innings combined in 2002 and 2003. The new deal includes a $375,000 buyout on a $3.75 million option for 2003.

Ashby, 33, was 12-13 with a 4.92 ERA and three complete games in 31 starts for the Philadelphia Phillies and Atlanta Braves last season. He is 84-87 for his career.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	14	4	.778	—
New York	12	8	.600	3
Miami	9	10	.474	5½
Boston	8	10	.444	6
Orlando	8	11	.421	6½
New Jersey	6	13	.316	8½
Washington	4	15	.211	10½
Central Division				
Cleveland	11	7	.611	—
Charlotte	12	8	.600	—
Toronto	9	9	.500	2
Detroit	9	10	.474	2½
Indiana	8	10	.444	3
Milwaukee	8	10	.444	3
Atlanta	4	14	.222	7
Chicago	2	16	.111	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Utah	14	4	.778	—
San Antonio	11	6	.647	2½
Dallas	12	8	.600	3
Houston	10	8	.556	4
Minnesota	10	8	.556	4
Denver	10	9	.526	4½
Vancouver	7	11	.389	7
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	12	4	.750	—
L.A. Lakers	14	6	.700	—
Phoenix	11	5	.688	1
Portland	13	7	.650	1
Seattle	9	11	.450	5
Golden State	6	13	.316	7½
L.A. Clippers	6	14	.300	8

Wednesday's Games

L.A. Clippers 93, Washington 88
Miami 95, Denver 78
Charlotte 91, Indiana 88
Milwaukee 109, New Jersey 87
Dallas 94, New York 85
Cleveland 92, Chicago 88
Detroit 112, Seattle 99
Portland 95, Toronto 88
Golden State 125, L.A. Lakers 122, OT

Thursday's Games

Denver at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Utah, 9 p.m.

Friday's Games

Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m.
Houston at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Toronto at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
New Jersey	13	8	5	0	31	89	64
Pittsburgh	13	10	3	1	30	79	73
N.Y. Rangers	14	14	0	0	28	93	98
Philadelphia	12	11	4	0	28	70	74
N.Y. Islanders	8	12	4	2	22	61	72
Northeast Division							
Toronto	15	7	4	2	36	91	63
Ottawa	15	8	4	0	34	86	65
Buffalo	14	8	2	1	31	70	63
Boston	9	14	3	2	23	68	97
Montreal	9	16	3	0	21	71	85
Southeast Division							
Carolina	11	11	3	1	26	63	72
Washington	9	11	6	1	25	64	72
Atlanta	8	11	6	1	23	71	85
Tampa Bay	9	13	2	2	22	77	96
Florida	5	12	5	4	19	54	74
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
St. Louis	18	4	3	0	39	83	46
Detroit	16	10	1	2	35	86	78
Nashville	10	12	5	1	26	65	73
Chicago	10	13	2	2	24	69	78
Columbus	8	18	1	1	18	55	90
Northwest Division							
Colorado	19	5	3	0	41	86	60
Vancouver	15	8	4	2	36	100	79
Edmonton	15	11	4	0	34	87	78
Calgary	6	13	6	4	22	58	87
Minnesota	7	15	4	1	19	54	71
Pacific Division							
San Jose	16	5	4	0	36	78	51
Dallas	14	7	4	1	33	72	54
Phoenix	13	8	7	0	33	73	64
Los Angeles	12	9	6	0	30	91	81
Anaheim	9	14	4	3	25	74	95

Two points for a win, one for a tie and OT loss.

Wednesday's Games

Columbus 5, Anaheim 2
Philadelphia 6, Tampa Bay 3
N.Y. Rangers 3, Washington 2
Boston 3, Pittsburgh 2
Toronto 3, Detroit 0
Carolina 5, Atlanta 3
N.Y. Islanders 4, Florida 1
Vancouver 1, Phoenix 1, tie
Edmonton 4, Nashville 0
Dallas 2, San Jose 2, tie
New Jersey at Buffalo, ppd., snow

Thursday's Games

New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Men's and Women's NCAA Basketball Scores

MEN

EAST

Army 62, Columbia 51
George Mason 64, American U. 54
Hofstra 69, Drexel 62
Holy Cross 76, Northeastern 68
Iona 89, Fairfield 83
Lafayette 80, Princeton 73
Penn St. 88, Pittsburgh 74

SOUTH

Bethune-Cookman 57, Coppin St. 55
Charlotte 88, Charleston Southern 46
Delaware St. 64, N. Carolina A&T 62
Florida A&M 67, Morgan St. 65
Gardner-Webb 68, Appalachian St. 65
Georgia 75, Georgia Tech 70
Georgia Southern 96, Reinhardt 53
Georgia St. 84, Morris Brown 70
Hampton 91, Md.-Eastern Shore 72
James Madison 79, East Carolina 72
Maryland 107, Stony Brook 59
Mercer 101, Savannah St. 66
Morehead St. 57, VMI 48
Norfolk St. 76, Howard 69
Richmond 76, Old Dominion 52
Virginia 90, Ohio 71
Virginia Tech 66, Elon 53
William & Mary 74, N.C.-Wilmington 54

MIDWEST

Akron 74, Rhode Island 60
Creighton 74, Colorado St. 51
Dayton 55, Miami (Ohio) 54
Drake 92, Ark.-Pine Bluff 56
E. Michigan 67, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 64
Illinois 85, Wis.-Milwaukee 44
Illinois St. 83, Bowling Green 73
Indiana St. 90, Butler 88, OT
Kent St. 76, Youngstown St. 55
Loyola, Ill. 75, Cent. Michigan 70
Michigan St. 99, Florida 83
Missouri 99, DePaul 84
Montana St. 79, W. Illinois 62
N. Illinois 121, Rockford 88
Wichita St. 61, Oklahoma St. 59
Wisconsin 61, Wis.-Green Bay 53

SOUTHWEST

TCU 101, Va. Commonwealth 82

FAR WEST

Boise St. 69, Idaho St. 60
Colorado 105, St. Mary's, Cal. 61
Gonzaga 77, Montana 69
Pepperdine 81, Long Beach St. 62
S. Utah 85, Sacramento St. 71
San Jose St. 80, Warner Pacific 41
UC Santa Barbara 80, San Diego St. 77, 3OT
Utah St. 58, Utah 57

WOMEN

EAST

Adelphi 74, Philadelphia 60
Allentown 78, Drew 43
Brown 73, Rhode Island 60
Bucknell 81, St. Francis, Pa. 73
CCNY 63, Brooklyn 50
Cabrini 82, Neumann 61
Cent. Connecticut St. 70, Harvard 67
College of N.J. 83, N.J. City 42
Drexel 94, Hofstra 65
Duquesne 70, Kent St. 62
Franklin Pierce 59, Mass.-Lowell 56
George Washington 70, Georgetown 59
Grove City 84, Pitt.-Bradford 47
Husson 64, Maine-Farmington 61
Kings, Pa. 83, Wilkes 48
Kutztown 61, Holy Family 57, OT
Lafayette 58, Princeton 48
Lebanon Valley 73, Juniata 70
Lehigh 58, UMBC 49
Millersville 80, Dist. of Columbia 74
Misericordia 74, Cedar Crest 57
Montclair St. 90, Kean 86
Muhlenberg 89, Bryn Mawr 17
Newbury 70, Becker 60
Nyack 67, N.J. Tech 49
Pitt.-Johnstown 86, Indiana, Pa. 78
Rowan 88, Ramapo 78
Rutgers 61, Virginia Tech 53
Rutgers-Camden 52, William Paterson 45
Scranton 74, Lycoming 55
Shippensburg 64, East Stroudsburg 56
Southampton 91, N.Y. Tech 77
Virginia 62, St. Joseph's 58
Wesley 73, Rosemont 60
West Virginia 65, Pittsburgh 58
Yale 57, Hartford 53
York, N.Y. 56, Old Westbury 33

SOUTH

Alabama 65, Memphis 55
Auburn 79, UAB 71, OT
Bethune-Cookman 63, Coppin St. 55
Clemson 80, Furman 59
Delaware St. 76, N. Carolina A&T 64
E. Kentucky 119, W. Virginia Tech 63
ETSU 80, Davidson 69
East Carolina 63, Campbell 54
Elizabeth City St. 73, Benedict 65
Emory 98, Agnes Scott 32
George Mason 89, Delaware 61
Hampton 51, Md.-Eastern Shore 32
Howard 85, Norfolk St. 72
Mississippi 72, Middle Tennessee 53
Morgan St. 84, Florida A&M 67
N.C. Charlotte 71, Appalachian St. 58
N.C. State 77, Georgia Tech 63
Sewanee 76, Centre 69, OT
Tennessee 72, Boston College 57
Thomas More 74, Hanover 59
W. Carolina 71, Elon 65

MIDWEST

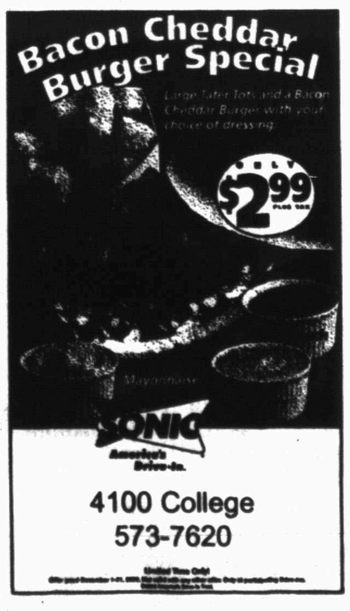
Allegheny 74, Hiram 55
Baldwin-Wallace 60, Otterbein 42
Ball St. 87, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 75
Bethel, Minn. 63, Macalester 57
Blackburn 63, Missouri Baptist 48
Buffalo 74, Youngstown St. 54
Capital 70, Mount Union 53
Carleton 66, Gustav Adolphus 57
Concordia, Mich. 72, Michigan-Dearborn 44
Concordia, Moor. 68, Augsburg 58
DePaul 74, S. Illinois 57
Detroit 99, Miami (Ohio) 76
Goshen 77, St. Mary's, Ind. 54
Hillsdale 84, St. Francis, Ind. 68
Huntington 63, Aquinas 49
Iowa St. 88, Drake 58
North Central 71, Rockford 67
Notre Dame 64, Villanova 33
Ohio Weslyn 78, Kenyon 56
Purdue 89, Valparaiso 59
SE Missouri 88, Oakland City 47
St. Thomas, Minn. 85, Hamline 63
Sterling 83, Kansas Wesleyan 42
Tennessee Tech 67, Evansville 66
Wis.-Stout 95, Wis.-LaCrosse 81
Wittenberg 65, Defiance 59
Xavier 80, Kentucky 62

SOUTHWEST

Cent. Oklahoma 72, St. Gregory's 63
Rice 85, Grambling St. 63
SW Oklahoma 69, Langston 36
Tulane 75, SMU 66

FAR WEST

Arizona 91, UNLV 74
Arizona St. 61, N. Arizona 56
Colo.-Colo. Springs 92, Colorado College 64
Colorado St. 72, Colorado 70
Montana St. 63, Idaho 46
Pepperdine 103, Cal St.-Fullerton 55
San Jose St. 59, San Diego St. 54
Washington 69, Nebraska 57
Wyoming 71, Weber St. 66



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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the estate of GROVER LEE WALL, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,627:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executrix of the estate of Grover Lee Wall, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 5th day of December, 2000, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to Maurine Wall, 9422 CR 4134, Hermleigh, TX 79526, within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 5th day of December, 2000.

(s)MAURINE WALL
Independent Executrix
of the estate of
Grover Lee Wall,
deceased

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LOST: 12 year family pet! Vicinity of 37th & U. Schnauzer w/tags & phone# 573-6049. REWARD!

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Scurry Community Services
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2800 2nd St.
573-7403

Scurry Community Services is proud to announce registration for the new Early Head Start program that will begin January 3rd. Registration is open to pregnant women and children from newborn to 3 years of age who meet income guidelines. Applications will be accepted from Monday, December 11 through Friday, December 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Snyder Day Care, 2800 2nd St. Please bring birth certificate, proof of income, social security card, and immunization records.
Feel free to call us at 573-7403 with any questions you may have.

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Instructions

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course.** Saturday Dec. 9th, 8a.m.–3p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course.** Mon. & Tue., Dec. 11th & 12th, 6p.m.–9p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

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1000 New Customers Needed No Credit! No Problems!! Loans $100 to $467. Apply by phone at **573-1761** or come by **SECURITY FINANCE, 511 Coliseum Drive, Snyder, TX**

Woman's Column

AVON FOR CHRISTMAS!
915-574-2899–I'll come at your convenience. Orders by Dec. 8th, delivery by Christmas.

Farm Equipment

1989 Peterbilt, extended hood, 425 CAT, 15spd, 370 rears. Must See! Exceptional!!
John Deere 4020 Propane–$5000
Shawn Justiss 915-573-4879
Leave Message

Merchandise

Apartment size refrigerator, $75. Call 573-1550 or 725-8503.

Bedroom suite: (2) nightstands, Queen bed set, Dresser, Chest, 10 months old. Call **573-4416**

BIG RED BARNS
Morgan portable storage barns. 10x12, 12x16, 14x32 & 14x40. Free delivery and no money down financing. One of each size only so hurry & call (806)794-6772.

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

Firewood By The Cord.
Mesquite – $145
Split Oak – $155
573-1535 Leave Message

Little ads get big results!

Merchandise

Firewood!! Oak & Mesquite! Local cutter. Part seasoned. 24"-22"-20"-18". Some split. Delivered. 573-1216

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1 only–display model. 5 person Morgan spa $2,999. Terms + delivery available. (806)794-6772

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10x20 skid-mounted office bldg. Insulated, wired, & paneled. Will deliver, must sell ASAP. **(806)794-6772.**

Pallets for sale, $1.00. Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News.

SANTA SPECIAL
Metal Detectors
By Whites Electronics
915-728-2494 Colorado City

Shelled Pecans For Sale.
573-2505
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SPAS
Unclaimed layaways. Need to make room in spa warehouse. Make offers!! **(806)794-6772**

Very nice Camper Shell w/sliding door & windows. 806-756-4485. Fiddler's Trading Post, Gail, TX.

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Friday & Saturday 8:30 – 5:00
Large & small TVs, Stereo, Speakers, 45 & LP records, VCR tapes & movies, CDs & cassette tapes, Cassette recorder & player, Stereo receiver AMP, Guitar amplifier, PA system, Fax machine, Microwave, Stoves, Computer desk, Recliner, End table, Wall mounted water fountain, Christmas decorations, Coats, Glassware.

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2 bedroom apartment for rent. Good location, reasonable. Call 573-0996.

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.

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573-1550 or 725-8503

2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. 1906 29th St. 573-9068

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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Houses For Rent

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3-2 Brick, lg. fenced back yard, CH/A, new refrigerator/stove, washer/dryer connection. 2210 30th. $350/mo., $200/dep. **915-837-0146**

3 bedroom, 1 bath, partly fenced. $300/mo., $100/dep. 573-2859 after 6p.m.

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, w/fireplace, patio, $450/mo. + deposit. 4113 Eastridge 573-1640

FOR RENT OR SALE: 2-1 with CH/A, fenced yard. 201 34th. **573-2101.**

For Rent: 2 bedroom house w/garage & fenced backyard. 2807 38th Street. No pets. **573-8739**

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

For Rent: 3-1-1, fully carpeted, CH/A, lots of closet space, washer/dryer connections, fenced backyard. **573-9736**

HOUSES FOR RENT
1913 30th.....2-1.....$350
3789 Highland.....3-2.....$400
2307 40th.....3-1.....$375
2204 43rd.....2-2.....$350
Sarah Jamison 573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505

Mobile Homes For Rent

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom mobile home. Stove & refrigerator furnished, CH/A, water paid. **573-2893.**

For Rent: 2-2, washer/dryer, & appliances. 2403 27th. $300/mo., $100/dep.
915-728-2374 or
Jack & Jack Realtors
573-8571

Mobile Homes

1982 Mobile Home, 14x80 w/fenced yard. Corner lot. Make offer. 514-0156 or 573-6689.

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Cute 2 bedroom, very nice, only $6,500 ask for Jerrod **1-800-755-9133.**

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Real Estate

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2-bedroom house, $325/mo. water paid. $100/dep. each.
725-2764/573-2720

3201 Irving, Immaculate 3-2-2, sequestered master suite, large open living room w/fireplace. Dining room w/wet bar, modern kitchen w/adjoining pantry/utility. Beautiful corner lot w/professional landscaping, sprinkler system. Assumable VA loan at 6.5% w/equity, or FHA/Conv. $94,500.
915-573-5597

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

2701 34th Updated Nice 3-2-2+sunroom $86T
Beautiful 3-2^3/$_4$-2 + Nice garage apt. 2018 37th..... $185T
Lovely 4-1 & (2) ^{3}/$_4$-2cp Pool 2907 33rd $117T
Red. Wonderful Location 3-2^3/$_4$-2 fpl $85.9T
Nice-New Listing 302 36th Pl 3-1 $32.5T
Lovely Country Setting 80 A's 4-2+Barns w/pens
3 Acres 3-2-2cp 1966 sq. ft $65T
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2 + 2 LAs.. $92.5T
Red.! Nice Home Close In 2.37 A 3-1^3/$_4$-2
Good Size Home 3-1^3/$_4$-2cp 308 23rd $27.5T
Ref. SFD 2 A's Stock Water Well 2-1^3/$_4$-1 $33T
Good Starter Home 211 34th 3-1-1 $27T
2.13 A's 3-2-2cp Approx. 4 miles.. $36T
3-1^3/$_4$-1 1901 29th Street..... $27T
Reduced-Lovely 4-2-2 3303 Irving $99.9T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th. $42T
Good Farm 3 Miles out 160 A's 3-1^3/$_4$-2
C. City 4.45 A's Lovely Hm 3-2-2 $60T
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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Before 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Future of area drug task force mulled

VICTORIA (AP) — Law enforcement officials said the shooting death of Gonzales County Deputy David Furrh could jeopardize the future of the narcotics task force where the slain officer worked.

Furrh was the first lawman in the county known to have died violently in at least 100 years when he was shot in neighboring Caldwell County while serving a search warrant at a drug suspect's home.

The 40-year-old veteran was shot by Miguel Salas Rodriguez, a 50-year-old murder parolee of Luling. Furrh was taken to Luling Hospital where he died about 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Gonzales County Sheriff Glenn Sachtleben said the future of the task force could hinge on a Texas Rangers' investigation of the shooting.

"We've been doing a lot of narcotics work ... We're going to probably have to take a good look at how we do that," Sachtleben said in Thursday's editions of the Victoria Advocate.

Furrh's death comes just as the task force was stepping up efforts against drug trafficking in the town about 40 miles east of San Antonio. The task force included one officer from the Gonzales Police Department and one from the sheriff's department.

Authorities declined to release details of the events leading to the fatal shooting, but investigators from the Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab searched the mobile home and yard looking for evidence on Wednesday.

The most immediate step will be to find a replacement for Furrh, who had been a Gonzales County deputy for four years.

"For someone to take that job, we'll have to look pretty far and pretty hard," Sachtleben said.

Other area law enforcement officers remembered Furrh as being dedicated to fighting drugs.

"He loved to do the drug interdiction and undercover cases," said Schulenberg Police Chief Randy Mican. "He was there when you needed him to back you up and he was willing to come to work at any time."

Rodriguez, who was convicted of murder in Caldwell County in 1979 and served part of a 70-year sentence before he was paroled in 1989, was arrested and charged with murder after the incident. He was being held in the Caldwell County Jail without bond.

Furrh, a 17-year law enforcement officer and Gonzales County's only task force member, was not wearing his bulletproof vest during the raid, said Sachtleben.

Superfund observes 20th anniversary

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — When federal officials began cleaning up an abandoned whiskey distillery in south Philadelphia 13 years ago, they found a noxious stew of hazardous waste: toxic chemicals, explosive gases, PCBs, asbestos.

Last month, the 40-acre site on the banks of the Delaware River was removed from the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list of most hazardous toxic waste sites. The cleanup complete, it is now used as a shipping terminal.

"EPA's efforts actually provided access to a facility that otherwise would be bound by the previous pollution on the site. It unchained potential within the port," said Leo Holt, whose marine transportation company uses the terminal.

EPA officials call it one of the successes of the Superfund program, which was created 20 years ago this month. EPA Administrator Carol Browner was to attend ceremonies Thursday in Philadelphia marking the milestone.

Congress passed the legislation in 1980 in the wake of the Love Canal toxic waste crisis. The Niagara Falls, N.Y., neighborhood had been built on and around a former chemical dump, and by the 1960s and '70s contaminated groundwater was leaching into back yards and school grounds.

President Carter declared a federal emergency in 1978; schools closed and 7,500 Love Canal residents were relocated.

Love Canal too has become a Superfund success. The cleanup has made habitable the outer rim of the contaminated area, and more than 200 homes there have been built or renovated.

Hundreds of sites have been cleaned, but criticism exists. The Superfund program requires polluters to clean contaminated property even if they no longer operate or own the site, and program critics say it is punitive, slow and wasteful.

Last month, General Electric Co. asked a federal court to declare the Superfund law unconstitutional, calling it a violation of due process. At least three GE sites are part of the Superfund list.

One of them is a stretch of the Hudson River contaminated by PCBs released by two GE capacitor plants. The EPA recommended Wednesday that the company dredge the river, which could cost $460 million.

A 1999 report from the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, found that Superfund spent $14 billion but had not completed work at 42 percent of the worst sites.

A recent study of 150 Superfund sites found the agency typically spent hundreds of millions of dollars per cancer case avoided.

"This is an extremely expensive program in terms of cost effectiveness," said Duke University scholar James T. Hamilton, the study's co-author.

Defenders of the program acknowledge some problems but count its successes in eliminating toxic waste.

"The program has gotten a lot better, a lot more efficient, a lot faster at cleaning up sites," said Ed Hopkins of the Sierra Club.

Former New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio, who authored the Superfund law while a congressman, said it has been a "very useful tool across the whole nation to clean up the leaking toxic dump sites."

The Superfund list has included 1,450 sites over the last 20 years. Of those, 229 have been cleaned and removed from the list and another 759 are in various stages of cleanup.

The Publicker Industries site in Philadelphia was operated as a distillery and later as a fuel oil storage facility from 1914 to 1985.

The EPA placed the site on a priority list in 1989 after studies revealed air, soil and groundwater contamination with volatile chemicals and heavy metals. The agency also said highly reactive lab wastes and abandoned gas cylinders posed a threat of fire and explosion. Money from the Superfund program was used to rehabilitate the property.

"When you're looking at a riverfront property in an urban area, to be able to use that for commerce, it's a very good story, rather than having a piece of land sit and lie sallow," EPA spokeswoman Lisa Brown said.

Republican Texan linked to Florida's vote problems

DALLAS (AP) — A flaw in thousands of disputed Florida absentee ballots, which Democrats are trying to get a judge to throw out, has reportedly been linked to a Texan.

James Foster of Frisco, Texas, a GOP consultant, produced a mass mailing designed to make it easier for Floridian Republicans to request absentee ballots. A glitch, however, either eliminated the voter identification numbers from the pre-printed forms or gave incorrect numbers.

Instead of rejecting the flawed requests — which is what's usually done — some Florida elections officials invited Republican workers to correct them.

Court records show that at least 2,100 forms were fixed in Seminole County, while another 200 absentee requests were corrected in Martin County.

Foster, reached at his home, declined to comment on Wednesday because a Tallahassee court is still considering the matter.

"I'll talk to you about it maybe after the trial's over," he told The Dallas Morning News in Thursday's editions.

With the implied approval Vice President Al Gore, Florida Democrats are asking a judge to throw out thousands of absentee ballots in heavily Republican Seminole and Martin counties. That would be enough to tip the razor-thin election.

Foster's associates defended his work despite the disputed ballot requests.

Ed Valentine, a Dallas political consultant who has worked with Foster on political races across the country, said he doubts Foster himself was responsible for the glitch. He said Foster's firm typically subcontracts out the work of turning voter databases into targeted lists.

"Lord knows I've made my share of mistakes," said Valentine, who had no involvement in the Florida mailing.

Foster's past work includes producing direct-mail pieces for the Bush-Quayle campaign in 1992. He's worked on both of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's campaigns.

Frisco is about 20 miles north of Dallas.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS TOY APPLICATION

Household Name _____
Phone # _____
Street Address _____
Total Monthly Family Income $ _____

Please list each child's name, age (16 and under), sex (M or F), and three toys each child would like to have. We do not give out shoes and clothing. We will try to give at least one new toy from each child's list.

Child #1 Name _____
Age _____ Sex _____
1
2
3

Child #2 Name _____
Age _____ Sex _____
1
2
3

Child #3 Name _____
Age _____ Sex _____
1
2
3

Child #4 Name _____
Age _____ Sex _____
1
2
3

Child #5 Name _____
Age _____ Sex _____
1
2
3

Toys will be picked up Monday, December 18th from 1-6 p.m. and on Tuesday, December 19th from 9-6. Each family will be notified (by phone) of their pick up time. Only adults will be allowed to pick up and sign for toys (ID will be needed). Mail applications to: Judi Martin, Christmas For Kids, 3106 Hill Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-3845. For more information, please call 573-3525 or 473-6725. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, December 13th.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	36.06	35.19	35.25	—.56
AT&T Corp	20.56	20.13	20.38	—.25
Albertsons	22.19	21.63	21.81	+ .13
Alltel	62.69	62.00	62.56	—.19
AmerOnline	44.22	43.05	43.20	—1.36
AmEl Pw	45.94	45.19	45.19	—.38
AndarkPtr	66.00	63.65	64.00	+ 1.20
ATMOS Egy	24.00	23.25	23.25	—.50
Aviall	5.06	5.00	5.06	
BP Amoco	47.19	46.50	47.00	+ 1.13
BakerHughes	33.38	32.81	33.19	—.19
Bank of Amer	39.00	38.06	38.50	+ .50
BellSouth	44.44	43.56	43.94	+ .50
Beth Steel	2.00	1.75	1.88	+ .25
BurlNoSFe	26.13	25.44	26.13	+ .19
Caterpillar	42.50	41.31	41.31	—.25
Chevron	81.81	80.88	81.44	+ .94
Citigroup s	50.56	48.38	50.06	—.44
Coastal	79.69	77.88	79.00	+ 1.13
CocaCola	62.19	60.56	62.19	+ 1.37
ColgatePal	57.81	55.55	57.58	+ 1.10
ComclMetals	25.13	25.06	25.06	
Cooperin	43.75	43.25	43.38	—.13
DaimlrChry	42.60	42.33	42.51	+ .25
DallSemicn s	30.94	29.88	30.63	—.56
DeltaAirl	48.44	47.38	47.69	—.63
Dillards Inc	12.44	12.19	12.19	—.19
DowChem s	34.94	33.50	34.38	—.63
DuPont	44.31	43.75	44.00	
EastmanChem	45.06	44.56	44.94	—.31
EstKodak	39.88	37.38	39.56	+ .94
EDS Corp	59.69	58.69	58.94	—.38
Entergy	40.88	40.06	40.25	
ExxonMobil	88.75	86.50	88.13	+ 1.93
Flowers	16.19	16.00	16.06	—.06
GenDynam	70.31	69.13	69.94	+ .75
GenElec s	54.13	53.13	53.38	—.62
GenMills	40.00	39.13	39.94	+ .49
GenMotors	52.00	51.25	51.63	—.44
GaPacGP	27.19	26.38	26.56	—.31
GlobalMar	23.00	22.38	22.88	+ .50
Goodrich	35.75	35.44	35.63	—.25
Goodyear s	18.22	17.95	18.22	+ .20
GtAtlPac	6.44	6.19	6.44	+ .06
Halliburtn	35.44	34.56	35.25	+ .50
Hanson ADS	29.31	29.25	29.31	+ .13
HarteHanks	23.50	23.25	23.25	
HomeDepot s	45.88	45.06	45.63	+ .88
Honeywellintl	53.13	52.44	52.63	—.26
IBM	95.88	94.00	95.06	—.56
IntlPaper	36.94	35.81	35.88	—.50
JohnsonJn	98.00	96.19	96.69	+ .56
K mart	5.75	5.50	5.63	—.13
Kroger Co	25.00	24.44	24.88	+ .94
Litton	59.50	59.06	59.06	—.13
LockheedM	32.30	31.30	32.20	+ .65
Lowes Cos	40.69	39.56	40.06	—.63
Lubys	4.31	4.25	4.25	—.06
LucentTech	15.56	15.00	15.25	+ .13
MayDeptStr	31.00	30.69	30.69	—.25
Medtronic	54.69	54.00	54.00	—.94
MorganJP	149.25	145.13	145.38	—3.45
Motorola s	17.63	15.81	17.13	—.75
NCR Corp	51.56	50.56	50.81	—2.19
Navistar	20.31	19.13	19.25	—.94
Penney JC	9.88	9.56	9.75	+ .06
PepBoys	3.94	3.88	3.88	
PepsiCo	46.63	44.38	46.63	+ 1.31
Pharmacia	59.00	57.81	58.38	+ .63
PhelpDodge	51.81	50.81	51.63	—.38
PhilipPet	55.69	54.38	54.38	+ .38
PilgrmPrd B	8.00	7.81	8.00	+ .19
Polaroid	7.06	6.50	6.81	+ .06
Praxair	38.44	37.38	37.75	
ProctGamb	74.50	71.75	74.19	+ 2.19
PubS NwMx	24.31	24.06	24.25	+ .13
RadioShack	49.75	44.31	45.63	—6.06
ReliantEngy	38.75	38.19	38.25	+ .19
RoyalDut	57.38	56.75	57.38	—.19
SBC Comm	54.75	53.94	54.06	—.19
SaraLee	24.94	24.44	24.75	+ .13
Scripps EW	58.25	56.13	57.00	—1.00
SearsRoeb	35.95	35.35	35.60	—.21
SherwinW	22.69	22.50	22.56	+ .19
SmithklBchm	63.13	62.56	63.13	+ .63
SouthernCo	28.63	28.13	28.38	—.88
SwstAirl	31.41	30.50	30.51	—.99
SprintFON	23.25	22.69	23.19	—.19
SprintPCS s	26.56	25.81	26.06	—.69
Sunoco Inc	29.38	28.38	29.19	+ .56
TXU Corp	39.94	39.13	39.75	+ .81
TempleInland	50.50	49.63	49.69	+ .06
Texaco	58.75	57.94	58.44	+ .62
TexInd	23.56	23.38	23.44	—.13
TexasInst s	44.81	39.81	43.25	—3.12
Textron	47.50	45.19	46.38	—.94
TriconGlbR	34.88	33.94	34.75	+ .75
TrinityInds	25.75	25.25	25.56	+ .19
TritonEngy	24.31	23.50	23.56	—.13
TylerTech	1.81	1.63	1.69	—.06
USX-Marathn	27.06	26.75	27.00	+ .31
USX-USS	16.19	15.56	15.81	—.31
UnCarbde	50.28	48.13	50.13	—.88
UnionPacif	46.31	45.94	46.25	+ .56
UnitedTech	75.44	74.44	75.00	—.38
Unocal	35.75	34.88	35.56	+ .94
Venator Grp	13.38	13.06	13.25	—.13
VerizonComm	59.31	58.56	58.75	
WalMart	55.94	54.56	54.81	+ .06
WellsFargo	49.88	48.50	49.69	+ 1.24
WstnGasRs	25.38	24.44	25.19	+ .75
WinnDixie	19.31	18.69	19.19	+ .50
Xerox Cp	4.75	4.38	4.44	—.19

SANTA INC. by Dave Whamond

Pandas arrive in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was time for a change in the nation's capital.

The old regime was fine — although whispers of "dysfunctional" and "cantankerous" dogged its final years — but sentiment can go just so far, and then you need new blood.

Welcome to Washington, Mei Xiang and Tian-Tian, but know this: It's a tough town, where dynasties come and go in the wink of one of your huge panda eyes.

The black and white creatures — Mei Xiang, a 2-year-old female, and Tian-Tian, a 3-year-old male — arrived at the National Zoo on Wednesday, and zoo officials lost no time in comparing them favorably with Hsing-Hsing, mourned a mere year ago as an irreplaceable Beltway fixture.

"They'll be playful, rambunctious, they'll be climbing around," enthused spokesman Bob Hoage. "People forget that Hsing-Hsing had a lot of geriatric ailments in his final years."

Indeed, the ghost of Hsing-Hsing's less than perfect 20-year courtship with Ling-Ling already haunted expectations of the new duo.

Ling-Ling spent her first decade in captivity rejecting Hsing-Hsing's advances, and the next decade neglecting their five offspring into premature deaths.

No wonder that on Wednesday zoo officials seemed to cling to every sign of possible romance.

"They greeted each other!" exulted Hoage. "They sniffed each other! They touched each other!"

"They're eating nose to nose," said Benjamin Beck, the zoo's associate director.

A smooth 17-hour flight on a specially equipped FedEx jet dubbed "Panda One" and an easy landing led to a decision to allow them to lodge together immediately, instead of spending their first two nights in separate quarters as originally planned.

"We've been examining their feces for stress hormones," Beck said, explaining perhaps a little too much as scientists often do. "From a professional point of view, it's been a piece of cake."

Mating was just one expectation of the young pandas, who were munching on bamboo in happy oblivion of the career awaiting them.

"Tian-Tian and Mei Xiang are symbols of the international commitment to conservation as well as friendship between two countries," Beck said.

Panda One touched down at 3 p.m., and a special "Panda Team" unloaded the pair. Hydraulic lifts lowered specially designed cages to a waiting truck.

Three different routes — all of which were kept secret — were mapped out to navigate the pandas safely through Washington's rush-hour traffic.

The pandas will be at the National Zoo, an arm of the Smithsonian Institution, for at least 10 years. The Chinese government lent the pandas in exchange for a $10 million donation to promote panda conservation in China.

Only about 1,000 pandas remain in the wild, mostly in western and central China. Five other pandas live in U.S. zoos — two in Atlanta and three in San Diego.

Mei Xiang (pronounced may-SHONG) and Tian-Tian (t-YEN t-YEN) will occupy the same house — with a $2 million renovation — that was home to Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing. They arrived in 1972 as gifts from the Chinese government after President Nixon's historic visit.

Hsing-Hsing was euthanized last year at the age of 28 after a lingering illness. Ling-Ling died of heart failure in 1993 at age 23. A panda's average life span is 18 to 20 years in the wild and up to 30 years in captivity, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

The zoo does not keep attendance figures, but zoo officials said attendance was down in the last year, and suspect the loss of the pandas played a role. They expect Mei Xiang and Tian-Tian will be natural draws.

"Big heads, big eyes, big foreheads — all of the stimuli given off by the human infant," Beck explained. "We're biologically programmed to be suckers for them."

The pandas will be in quarantine for about a month before being put on public display in January.

On the Net: The National Zoo: http://natzoo.si.edu/
FedEx: http://www.fedex.com/pandas

New technology would mean phones and devices do more

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computer owners take it for granted that they don't have to buy a new machine each time they want to add or upgrade a program.

Now regulators are clearing the path for a new breed of wireless phones, personal organizers and other gadgets that could add new capabilities just as easily.

It's made possible through an emerging technology called software-defined radio that is so versatile it could enable one product to switch seamlessly between serving as a cell phone and receiving FM radio broadcasts.

The innovation works by allowing wireless devices to download new software to add capabilities or perform different functions. For example, a wireless phone that is only used for voice calls can do just that. But with the new technology, the phone could download new features so it can receive Internet access — without requiring new hardware.

Down the road, that could save consumers the cost and hassle of buying new phone handsets, personal organizers or other devices. Instead, they could keep their existing gadgets and simply upgrade them by downloading new functions.

To bring these developments to the market, the Federal Communications Commission is eyeing some changes in its policies. Existing federal rules only permit authorization of devices with a fixed set of parameters.

Making room for the changes in technology, the agency was expected today to propose rules for approving new equipment that can be altered.

The commission has taken particular interest in software-defined radio as a way to better manage the nation's airwaves — a resource increasingly in demand because of the proliferation of cell phones, pagers and other devices. The technology makes it possible to switch the part of the airwaves on which the gadget can operate. That way it could seek out less crowded frequencies that are not being used.

The problem with most current wireless systems is that "they can only do one job," said Lee Hamilton, president and chief executive officer of AirNet Communications Corp. His company has created base stations that use software-defined radio at cellular antenna sites. That means companies can deliver new services without having to buy new equipment each time.

With companies saving on this cost, it "should mean consumers are going to get newer services faster and see more innovation in the types of services they are going to get it," Hamilton said.

Consumers also stand to benefit from phones and other gadgets that they can hold on to longer. Today, wireless devices are built to work in frequencies and using specific standards. Making them operate on multiple systems adds weight and size to the devices, making them unwieldy for consumers.

On the Net:
Federal Communications Commission site: http://www.fcc.gov

Ripley's buys 'Old Sparky'

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum plans to add an electric chair to its macabre crime and punishment gallery that already includes medieval torture devices.

The exhibitor of the weird and unusual bought Tennessee's purported original electric chair, nicknamed Old Sparky, for more than $25,000 Wednesday. It will be displayed at its museum in the Great Smoky Mountains tourist town of Gatlinburg, where about 500,000 visitors flock each year.

Gawkers could view the leather-strapped, electrode-equipped white oak chair — responsible for 125 executions in Tennessee from 1916 to 1960 — as early as next month.

"This chair will fit in very, very nicely," said Edward Meyer, Ripley's vice president for publishing, who negotiated the acquisition.

The purchase comes a day after an online auction of the chair was prematurely stopped because of questions about its authenticity.

The seller, who identified himself as Arthur Rosenblatt, had offered the chair on eBay and then negotiated directly with Orlando, Fla.-based Ripley's.

"I feel that any opportunity to expose the chair to the greatest possible audience is the only correct way to dispose of it," said Rosenblatt, a collector and seller of "murderabilia."

Meyer said Ripley's has been trying to get an electric chair for years.

"We have always felt that an electric chair is something that the general public wants to see and is interested in," he said.

Rosenblatt wouldn't say how he obtained the chair, but he said it has been in storage in Massachusetts for several years.

The Tennessee Department of Correction has questioned the chair's lineage and Rosenblatt's right to sell it, if it's genuine.

"At this point, all I can say is we are still looking into it," department spokesman Steve Hayes said.

On the Net:
Tennessee Department of Correction:
http://www.state.tn.us/correction

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Woman tire of fulfilling boyfriend's blond ambition

DEAR ABBY: I am a 45-year-old single woman. My significant other and I have been together for five years. He's eight years older than I am, and he brings me great joy.

A problem has arisen that has me at my wit's end. When we first began dating, "George" would drop hints about how he loved long blond hair. At the time I was a natural brunette, but thought a few highlights wouldn't hurt. I let it grow. Eventually my hair became lighter and lighter until I was all blond. However, I never really liked it. It didn't complement my skin tones. I have been blond for more than four years. Friends and family tell me I look better as a brunette.

During my last trip to the hairdresser, I asked to have my hair darkened one shade. It's now very light brown, and I like it. George hates it. He hates it so much that for the first week he wouldn't look at me or talk to me. I had no idea what was wrong, and I suspected he had met someone else.

The following week, we were talking again, but things still weren't "right." All signs of affection were gone. I tolerated it for a week and then confronted him. It turned out he really wanted me blond. I let him know how unattractive he was making me feel and how shallow I thought he was. He blamed me and my hair and said that if I hadn't gone blond, we probably never would have gotten together.

I tried to convince him I was still the same person. The fight escalated to the point where I packed my bags and was out the door. He finally admitted HE had the problem, and convinced me to stay while he worked it out. The following week he was back to being his old self.

Last night my family gathered at a nice restaurant for a birthday dinner. Midway through the evening, wouldn't you know, in walked a couple, and the blond-headed woman sat next to our table "flipping" her hair. George couldn't take his eyes off her. It was so embarrassing it made me depressed. I gave George "the look" to knock it off, but he didn't. My family also noticed. When we got home, he acted like nothing was wrong.

I don't know what to do. I can't go back to being blond because I'll never know if he loves me or the fantasy. It seems like such a trivial reason to break up, but I can't imagine putting up with this for the rest of my life. Any advice? — **TIRED OF THE ROOTS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR TIRED: George has a problem and he admits it. Your gentleman not only prefers blondes, it appears he has a fetish for long blond hair. People can change their behavior, but they can't change their feelings.

Joint counseling might be helpful for you both to help each other understand what you're both really saying. The relationship can't succeed unless you are comfortable and feel accepted for who you are. If it depends upon changing your appearance, then face it — George isn't someone to dye for.

**

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering if there is a proper place for an ex-wife to sit during a funeral, when the deceased has a significant other and intended for her to sit in front, as if she were his wife.

Does the ex sit in front also, or among the general congregation? — **CURIOUS IN PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO**

DEAR CURIOUS: Where the former spouse sits depends upon whether there were children from the marriage. At a time of grief, the children would probably want their mother close to them. If not in the front row, probably in the row directly behind them.

**

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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Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Astronauts attempt to fix solar wing

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Two astronauts floated outside space shuttle Endeavour today for a tricky repair job: tightening a slack solar wing on the international space station.

Space walkers Joe Tanner and Carlos Noriega were trying to get two loose tension cables back on their pulleys and reels.

Thursday's outing, the men's third this week, was supposed to be a short, simple affair, but became longer and more complicated with the critical wing repair. They went out early to get the job done.

Perched 90 feet above Endeavour, Noriega planned to use a hook to pull on the slack cable while Tanner turns the reel to guide it back in place. They will not handle the few feet of braided wire cable with their hands because it could snag or rip their gloves.

"It doesn't look very hard, but there's a little bit of a learning curve on where you need to hold the cable so that it will guide easily onto the reel," said Glenda Laws, lead spacewalk officer.

Prior to the spacewalk, the right wing was to be rotated so that Tanner and Noriega could reach the pulleys and reels. Nonetheless, it was expected to be a difficult reach with the components above their heads.

"I'm a real optimistic sort of guy, and, yeah, I think we're going to be able to do it," Tanner said. "I'll be overjoyed if we get it on the first try. But I don't anticipate that."

A fellow astronaut working on the problem at the California manufacturer needed 15 tries to get it right.

If the hook doesn't work, the spacewalkers have forceps, needle-nose pliers and a vise grip at their disposal. If those tools fail, they planned to wrap each cable around a wrench to take up the slack until better repairs can be made on a future mission.

The two cables came off when the right wing was extended Sunday night, leaving the blanket of solar cells slack. The problem was avoided with the left wing because of a slower procedure used to spread it Monday night.

Engineers fear the slackness in the right wing could cause it to tear, bend or even break during space station movements requiring thruster firings, or during shuttle dockings and undockings.

Congressional leaders to meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders arranged to meet with President Clinton at the White House today in a new bid to reach a truce in their year-long budget war and finally bring the fractious 106th Congress to a close.

"We're going down, we're going to talk through where we are headed," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., told a reporter after GOP leaders met in the Capitol for nearly an hour to shape their offer.

A day after Republicans dropped their demands for a tax-cut package, they still want less spending than Clinton prefers for education and other social programs. They are deadlocked over four overdue spending bills and disputes about immigration, workplace safety and other issues.

Top Republicans said even if a deal was struck quickly, it would take until next week to push it through Congress.

If Congress doesn't finish the work next week, "then the lame-duck session will really be lame," said Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, the No. 4 House GOP leader.

Despite internal GOP divisions, an Oval Office meeting this week left Lott and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., hopeful that an agreement between the two lame ducks — Clinton and Congress — might be near. A deal would complete the $1.8 trillion budget for fiscal 2001, which began Oct. 1.

"We're trying to see if we can't get it all wrapped up," Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., said Wednesday after GOP leaders ordered their bargainers to craft a counteroffer to present to Clinton. "I think we're getting pretty close."

Erasing one contentious issue, Republicans decided to scrap their 10-year plan designating $240 billion in tax cuts for long-term health costs, investments in poor communities and on many small businesses and pension plans. Coupled to it, and now likely to die as well, was a $1 boost in the $5.15 hourly minimum wage, which Democrats and their labor allies had sought.

GOP leaders decided they were better off trying for a larger tax package after Jan. 20, when it looks increasingly as if Republican George W. Bush will become president. Clinton had threatened to veto the tax measure because he said some of its provisions were focused too much on the wealthy.

Still alive is another piece of the tax measure: a $30 billion, 10-year plan to boost Medicare payments for many health care providers. Clinton seems likely also to win proposals to expand Medicaid coverage.

Best Buy will buy Musicland

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Best Buy Co. will buy Musicland Stores Corp. for about $425 million, giving the consumer electronics retailer entree into more than 1,300 retail outlets including Sam Goody, Suncoast, Media Play and On Cue.

The agreement, announced Thursday, also gives Eden Prairie-based Best Buy access to Musicland's four commercial Web sites.

The deal could result in job losses, Best Buy said.

Richard M Schulze, Best Buy's chairman and chief executive, said the acquisition will let his company reach new groups of consumers: those in rural areas and malls, and "early technology adopters" — people who like to try out new gadgets and technological innovations.

In the first half of next year, Best Buy will test "pilot concepts" for the remade Sam Goody and On Cue stores, introducing personal electronics, gaming, MP3 players and related accessories, Schulze said. The remade stores will be rolled out in 2002.

The Suncoast video and Media Play stores will keep their format, with some product and service additions.

Best Buy will continue its expansion, adding 240 to 250 new Best Buy stores in the next four years to its 413 existing stores. Their format will not change. The company plans to add 750 transformed On Cue stores in the next decade, Schulze said.

Best Buy also announced it will expand into Canada with about 65 stores over three years starting in 2002, and it will pay $87 million to acquire Seattle-based Magnolia Hi-Fi, a privately held chain.

Woman is arrested

A 31-year-old Snyder woman was released from jail on a $5,000 bond Wednesday following her arrest for an indictment for forgery returned by the Scurry County grand jury on Monday.

Gracie Lucio of 1108 34th St. was arrested at 11:08 a.m. in the 3800 block of College Avenue. She is accused of forging a check on Oct. 26 for $50.

Vandals slash vehicle tires

• ***Vandalism***

Doug Hanson with Remixer Contractors of Tyler notified police at 7:39 a.m. Wednesday that someone had slashed all four tires on his 1996 Ford pickup. The incident occurred while the vehicle was parked at the American Motor Inn.

At 7:43 a.m. Wednesday, Jesse Carrisalez contacted authorities in reference to similar criminal mischief at his home in the 900 block of Avenue Q.

He reported tires cut on his 1999 Chevrolet pickup and on a 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier owned by Wendy Loper.

• ***Forgery***

Detectives are investigating a forgery reported at United at 2:24 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Close patrol***

Carol Spencer requested a close patrol of her residence and the area in the 3100 block of 39th Street in reference to someone entering her home, eating her food and breaking a lamp. She told police that her neighbors had similar incidents occur.

• ***Dog bite***

Officers took an offense report for dog bite at 9:31 p.m. Wednesday at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in reference to a two-year-old having been bitten.

• ***Theft***

At 10:27 p.m. Wednesday, an officer was called to United in reference to a shoplifter. The manager declined to file charges, but did issue a criminal trespass warning for the female to stay away from the store.

• ***Indictments***

Debbie Faye Broom, 39, of 4400 Avenue U Apt. 1A7 remains in jail in lieu of a $5,000 bond. She was booked into custody at 11:15 a.m. She was indicted for theft of jewelry over $1,500.

• ***Other arrests***

A 19-year-old man was arrested at 8:40 p.m. Wednesday on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor. A Department of Public Safety trooper took the man into custody on Round Top Road.

Obituaries

Jimmie Brooks

1919-2000

Jimmie Marie Brooks, former Snyder resident, died at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, in the Lutheran Home of West Texas in Lubbock where she had resided for the last five years.

A memorial service for Mrs. Brooks, 81, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 607 N. College, with Michael O'Halloran, minister, officiating.

Born on April 11, 1919 in Batesville, Ark., she moved to Snyder in 1973 from New Mexico. She became one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1949.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherell O'Halloran of Snyder.

Personal, Professional Service

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Leon Bruns

1945-2000

Leon Claude Bruns, the brother of three Snyder residents, died Wednesday, Dec. 6, at his home in Sonora following a sudden illness.

Service for Mr. Bruns, 55, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Trinity United Methodist Church. The Rev. James Merrell will officiate. Burial will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 9, 1945 in Roscoe, Mr. Bruns was preceded in death by his parents, Erwin and Faye Bruns.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Lana and Jessie Loper of Las Vegas, Nev., and Christy and Eric Johnson of McKinney; a son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Angela Bruns of Las Vegas; a stepson and his mother, Brian Potter nad Theo Hold of Colorado City; the children's mother, Sandra Neely of Bonham; a sister, Blanche Lane of Snyder; and three brothers and a two sisters-in-law, Roland and Sharon Bruns, and Howard Bruns, all of Snyder, and Truett and Jeri Bruns of Roscoe; and one granddaughter, Erica Johnson of McKinney.

June Garrett

1926-2000

HIDE-A-WAY LAKE — June Garrett, former Snyder resident, died Monday, Dec. 4, at her home in Hide-A-Way Lake.

Service for Mrs. Garrett, 74, were held today at Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church. Interment was to follow in Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery in Tyler.

Born on Nov. 14, 1926 in Burkburnett, she moved from West Texas to Hide-A-Way Lake in 1991. She and her husband lived in Snyder during the 1950s and 1960s where he worked for Mobil Oil. Mrs. Garret was a member of the Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church and the garden club. She worked as a legal secretary.

She is survived by her husband, Homer C. Garrett of the home; a son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Debbie Garrett of Tyler; a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Bill Martin of Fort Worth; two granddaughters; and one great-grandson.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice of East Texas, 3800 Paluxy Dr., Suite 560, Tyler, 75703.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Nov. 6 – A.L. Byrom, Ross Carroll Jr., Jarvio Duncan, Warren Larken, Leonor Rocha, Carmen Sanchez, Vernest Tippens, Alyssa Flores and Becky Williams.

DISMISSALS: Billy Allen, Edgar Ashley, Carrie Hart, Valarie Johnson, Charlotte McDowell, Billie Stipe, Ora Ussery, Helen Wadleigh, Mary Woods, Madison Curry, Destiny Garcia and H.A. Smith Jr.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Hospice holiday celebration

Community Care Hospice will have a holiday celebration from 4-6 p.m. today in the First Baptist Church Garden Room. The public is invited.

Northeast reading night

Northeast Elementary's Family Reading Night will be at 6:30 this evening. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Childcare is available. All Northeast Elementary families are invited to attend.

West Family Reading Night

West Elementary's Family Reading Night is held every Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. Refreshments, prizes and childcare are provided.

ProACTive meeting

Mayor Dayton Robertson will answer questions at a meeting of ProACTive at 7 tonight in the Scurry County Library meeting room. All interested citizens are invited. Questions have been furnished to the mayor. A question and answer period will follow. ProACTive is an acronym for "People Retaking Ownership Achieving Community Trust Through Involvement Vision Education."

Country and gospel music

A country and gospel music program will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Scurry County Senior Cltizens Center. Everyone is invited and there is no charge. Call 573-3996 for more information.

Candlelight service of remembrance

The First Baptist Church will have its candlelight service of remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday.

VFW arts, crafts show

Vendors are needed for the VFW Arts and Crafts show set for Sunday at the Scurry County VFW Post. Contact Jim Bailey after 3 p.m. at 573-5338.

Open house

Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be held a 10th anniversary open house from 3-6 p.m. Monday at 2513 College Ave.

West PTO

West Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in Room 4. All parents and teachers are welcome.

Early head start registration

Scurry Community Services announces registration for the new Early Head Start program to begin Jan. 3. Applications will be taken from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. starting Monday until Friday, Dec. 15, Snyder Day Care at 2800 2nd St. Bring birth certificate, proof of income, social security card and immunizations records. Call 573-7403 for additional information.

Historical commission to meet

The Scurry County Historical Commission will meet at noon Tuesday at The Shack.

4-H horse club meeting

The 4-H horse club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Christmas band concert

The Christmas band concert is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Worsham Auditorium. Performers include the sixth grade, the junior high and the high school bands.

Social Security reps

Representatives of Social Security will be at the Senior Citizens Center Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1-2 p.m.

Central Stars go caroling

Central Elementary's choir, "The Central Stars," will carol Friday, Dec. 15. Under the direction of Sheila Sorrels, the choir will perform at Snyder Healthcare Center at 9 a.m., Snyder Oaks at 10 a.m., Burger King at 11 a.m., First Baptist Church Chapel at 2 p.m. and West Texas State Bank lobby at 2 p.m.

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 573-3988.

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.

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 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 5. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

Third execution this week, and record No. 40 for 2000

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — With nearly a dozen convictions and in and out of prisons for more than 40 years, convicted murderer Claude Howard Jones appeared likely to achieve the notoriety of being the last Texas inmate put to death in a record year for executions in the state.

Jones, 60, condemned for the 1989 shooting death of a liquor store owner near Point Blank in San Jacinto County, was set today to be the 40th Texas death row inmate to receive lethal injection this year and the third in as many nights.

The total for 2000 would top the previous 1997 Texas record by three and add to the state's distinction this year as the most active state for capital punishment in American history, according to figures kept by Michael Radelet, chairman of sociology at the University of Florida.

Jones, whose appeals were rejected in October by the U.S. Supreme Court, made no clemency request to Gov. George W. Bush, who had authority to grant him a one-time 30-day reprieve. Only once in his nearly six years in office has Bush used the power to stop an execution and that inmate eventually was put to death. Jones would be the 239th inmate executed since Texas resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982 and the 152nd during Bush's tenure as governor.

On Tuesday, Garry Dean Miller was executed for killing a 7-year-old West Texas girl. On Wednesday, Daniel Joe Hittle, using his final statement to invoke the name of a Sikh religious leader, Sant Ajaib Singh Ji Maharaj, then received lethal injection for killing a Garland police officer.

Jones was convicted of the Nov. 14, 1989 fatal shooting Allen Hilzendager, 37, at a rural liquor store about 70 miles north of Houston and not far from the prison that now houses death row inmates.

Witnesses and evidence showed Jones walked into the store, asked for a bottle of whiskey and shot Hilzendager while the store owner's back was turned, then shot the man two more times, including once while the victim's hands were raised. Then he grabbed $900 from a cash register, unknowingly missing some $7,000 in cash bags nearby, and jumped into a pickup truck to join two companions.

"He did not need to kill," Scott Rosekrans, the district attorney in San Jacinto County, said this week. "It was really kind of senseless."

Three days later, Jones held up a suburban Houston bank, getting more than $14,000 while his partners again waited outside. They used the loot for a weekend trip to Las Vegas. Nearly three weeks after that, Jones was arrested in Fort Myers, Fla., and charged with robbery and bank robbery there.

"Jones was a pretty cold individual," Bill Burnett, one of the prosecutors in the capital murder case, recalled this week. "He showed little or no remorse and showed little reaction to what happened in court."

A single strand of Jones' hair was found at the murder scene and one of Jones' partners made a plea agreement to testify against him. Another accomplice led authorities to the Trinity River where the murder weapon was recovered. One accomplice, Kerry Dixon Jr., received a 60-year prison term. The other, Timothy Jordan, got 10 years.

"It's my personal belief that if (Jones) ever was paroled, there's a likelihood he would kill again and try to fine tune his robberies so as not to leave any witnesses," Burnett, now a professor of criminal justice at Angelina College, said.

Jones, a Harris County native who refused to speak with reporters in the weeks leading up to his execution, first was convicted of robbery and imprisoned in 1959. Among his other multiple prison sentences was time in Kansas for robbery, murder and assault. While locked up there, he was convicted of killing a fellow inmate by throwing gasoline on him and setting him on fire. By 1984, however, he was out on parole despite a life term, records show. "One of our arguments was ... he had demonstrated his dangerousness even in the prison environment," Burnett said.

"You don't ever want to see anybody die," he added. "But for a prosecutor that's the burden. If you don't do your job really really well, there's a possibility somebody may die. And if you do your job really really well, as a prosecutor in a capital murder case, you're sure somebody will die."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Blood pressure rises in doc's office

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm scared to death to have a physical exam, because every time I'm in my doctor's office, my blood pressure is sky-high, even though I am on medication for it. When I take my blood pressure at home, it is consistently in the 140/80 range; in the doctor's office, it is 190/90 or higher. What can I do?

DEAR READER: It's more a question of what your physician can do. I would accept your home readings, ask you to continue to monitor them, and ignore the high office readings. Or, as another possibility, you could be attached to a small device that would record your pressure for 24 hours. If it remains low, problem solved: If it is consistently too high, you'll need a change in medication.

DEAR DR. GOTT: How fast a pulse is dangerous? Mine tends to run in the 90s. I am 42, female, 30 pounds overweight and concerned when my husband says that a person has only so many heartbeats until death. My doctor seems too busy to be helpful.

DEAR READER: The medical myth that each of us has a certain cumulative limit of heart contractions is incorrect. Yet, I can see how it arose. Fever, anemia, thyroid disorders and heart diseases are often associated with a fast pulse; inasmuch as those diseases were untreatable 100 or 200 years ago, doctors tended to blame high pulse rates for early demise, rather than the underlying diseases themselves. Today, fortunately, most such ailments are curable.

The normal heart rate in healthy adults ranges between 60 and 100 beats per minute. Active, athletic individuals often have resting slow pulses (below 60), as may some patients with heart disease. Similarly, most adults do not consistently exhibit pulse rates above 90. However, as you can see, there is enormous variation in the normal heartbeat, especially if you consider the external effects (such as anxiety and exercise) that can modify the pulse.

In my practice, I rarely have a patient with a pulse consistently in the 90s. When I do, he or she is usually extremely apprehensive about being examined.

Therefore, I recommend the following: In order to define your pattern, keep a diary of your pulse rate for one week. Check it every hour or two while you're awake and record the number. (Quick shortcut: Count your pulse beats for 15 seconds, then multiply by 4.)

At the end of the week, review the data. If, as I suspect, your pulse varies within the boundaries I previously described, you needn't worry or seek medical attention. Invite your husband out for dinner and a movie to celebrate your good health.

If, on the other hand, your pulse fails to drop below 90 during the week of measurement, you should involve your doctor in a medical evaluation that should, in my view, include (at the very least) a cardiogram, blood-pressure monitoring, blood tests, a cardiac ultrasound and (perhaps) a stress test.

I'm really interested in this problem, so please let me know how things turn out.

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

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 8, 2000

A couple of unique ideas could be presented to you in the year ahead, with one of them being a real winner if you're able to recognize it. Be realistic in your evaluations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be absolutely certain today that what you have to say is completely constructive before criticizing a co-worker. Purely caustic comments will prove extremely disruptive. Astro-Graph year ahead predictions make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the Zodiac. **Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the Zodiac signs you desire.**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If expenses related to a social activity aren't divided equally among all the participants, angry feelings will ensue and friendships could be broken.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) When with your friends today, it would be hard to find a more charming and considerate person than you, but, unfortunately, your family may not say the same thing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A lack of bright ideas isn't apt to be your plight today. Your problem could stem from thinking you're the only one with them, or not being able to implement what you do conceive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Being inclined to take everyone at face value today could be a big mistake. Unfortunately, it may prove costly if you run into a person who operates behind a mask.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Continue to strive to be one who shares today rather than one who takes. If you attempt to manipulate anyone in order to sever your own personal interests, it could backfire on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Should your intuition and common sense be in conflict today, you could wrongfully depend more upon the way you envision things instead of evaluating them as they actually are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Even if you're invited in, try to steer clear of a pal's complicated affairs today. Chances are you won't be able to do a thing to help, but you'll end up hurting yourself in the process.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Of course you'll want to come out ahead in your negotiations today, but if that calls for doing so at the detriment of someone who has always treated you fairly, you'll lose in the long run.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't ignore signals you get today that a plan you'd hope to implement is in need of further study. If you have overlooked a critical flaw, your cause will fail.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Ventures about which you are not well informed, or worse yet, totally uninformed should be rejected today. Jumping in blind could put you in a deep hole difficult to get out of.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You and your mate might find it difficult to operate on the same wavelength today. You could be zigging while she or he is zagging, and you'll bungle the other person's work.

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