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WT-Int. Crude - $27.63
WTIC Posted - $24.75
Natural Gas - $9.819

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Jan. 10, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 217
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Amy Hall



A FRIENDLY EAR — Eli Martinez (left), job service representative with the Texas Workforce Commission, listens to former Walls Industries employees discuss their current situations. Martinez has been hired as a temporary full-time employee to work with the Walls employees who lost their jobs when the plant closed in December. Pictured from back are Dianne Ratliff, Ruby Nevton, Jimmie Nan Tate and Wilma Covington. (SDN Staff Photo)

Back to work for legislators

AUSTIN (AP) — Putting pomp and circumstance behind them, Texas lawmakers today are moving on to business by proposing how the state will spend money over the next two years.

After celebrating with colleagues, friends and family, members of the state Senate and House adjourned early on the opening day of the 77th legislative session Tuesday.

The legislative scene takes a more serious tone today when "we'll be filing the big appropriations bill," said Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

"It's the big picture tomorrow: what the numbers are and how it's in with the comptroller's revenue estimate," he said after opening ceremonies in the Texas House.

The big picture isn't as rosy as it was two years ago, when lawmakers had a surplus nearly double the projected $2.9 billion surplus expected in the 2002-2003 budget cycle, according to Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander.

No major tax cuts or tax increases are anticipated.

Junell refused Tuesday to discuss details of the appropriations bill, but he has said part of the anticipated surplus will go to balancing overruns in the state's Medicaid and prison programs.

House Speaker Pete Laney asked lawmakers Tuesday to be mindful of the slowing economy during the 140-day session.

"We face an economic future that, according to the comptroller's estimates, is not as certain or as prosperous as it appeared two years ago," Laney said.

"We know a slowing economy places greater demands on government services and slows revenue growth. We must manage the coming budget with even greater caution because of this uncertainty," said Laney, D-Hale Center.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Love at first sight is not as hard to understand as the love of two people who have been looking at each other for 40 or 50 years."

We've been exchanging tidbits with Snyder's Florentz Joyce so long that neither of us can remember which is the new material.

But here goes. You know you're getting up in years when:

—You refer to your accountant as "that nice young man."

—You have shoes older than your new preacher.

—Your office nickname is now den mother.

—You can recite the lyrics to "Stop in the Name of Love," but can't remember your new area code.

—You try to call your oldest child, but you run through everyone else's name (including several of the Seven Dwarfs) before hitting on the right one.

—The drive-through attendants call you "ma'am" before they even look up.

—You now believe that Elvis died young.

—You hear yourself say, "This too, shall pass."

—You also regularly say, "I used to know that."

—You are in your third mid-life crisis.

—You get tired just looking at the pregnant woman with the screaming toddler in line at the supermarket.

—You lecture the neighborhood kids selling lemonade on ways to improve their process.

—You think working half-a-day means leaving at 5 o'clock.

We especially like the story about the elderly gentleman who was invited to an old friend's home for dinner. The visitor was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with an endearing term. He called her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.

After almost 70 years of marriage, it appeared obvious that the couple was still very much in love.

While the missus was in the kitchen, the visitor leaned over and said, "I think it's wonderful, after all these years, that you still call your wife those cute, loving names."

The old man hung his head.

"I have to tell you the truth," he confessed. "I forgot her name about 10 years ago."

Relay for Life meeting planned

A planning session for this spring's Relay for Life event will be at 5 p.m. Thursday in the boardroom of Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Volunteers are needed in several areas, including walkers, runners, team captains and cancer survivors.

The 24-hour-event is set for April 20-21 at Tiger Stadium.

The Thursday meeting will lay the groundwork for the event, designed to raise funds and increase the awareness of the fight against cancer in Scurry County.

The Relay for Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life — including patients, medical support staff, companies, civic organizations, churches and volunteers — to join together in the fight against cancer.

The volunteers join together in relay teams to walk or run in the event.

"Relay for Life is as much an awareness-raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser," said Wendy Barnett, communications chairperson of the local ACS unit.

"Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy in this exciting event, as volunteers or participants, have made a commitment to fight back against this disease and let the community know that we can beat cancer."

Anyone interested in volunteering in any way, or participating as a team member, is encouraged to call the Scurry County American Cancer Society president, Carole Haynes, at 573-7874, or attend the Thursday meeting.

WTC in-service underway

Western Texas College began its in-service for the spring semester this morning as classes are set to start a week from today.

The three days of meetings to prep faculty and staff for the second half of the school year got underway at 9 a.m.

New to this year's in-service is a mock registration, which has been planned to help work the bugs out of the college's new software programs.

Faculty members are posing as students while the office staff goes through the registration process.

Various meetings will be held throughout the day both Thursday and Friday, including divisional and faculty association meetings.

Admissions hearings will take place at 9 a.m. Friday in the college boardroom.

When seven escaped...

South Texas prison short 22 officers

By The Associated Press

The South Texas prison from which seven heavily armed inmates escaped had a history of prisoner attacks on guards and was short staffed by almost two dozen correctional officers the day of the breakout, according to published reports today.

Meanwhile, North Texas law officers interviewed 11 people who knew the escapees, and later arrested two of the interviewees on charges unrelated to the high-profile breakout during which fugitives went unchallenged for more than two hours in their elaborate escape plot.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Connally Unit was 22 officers short on Dec. 13, when the inmates took 13 hostages during their daring breakout, said Brian Olsen, deputy director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

State prison officials have identified lax security, including the failure of one guard to request identification of one escapee as he approached the guard tower, as a significant factor in the escapes. But Olsen, whose organization represents many of the prison guards, said part of the blame should also fall on state leaders who have failed to address chronic staffing shortages.

Olsen conceded guards have made mistakes.

"But be that as it may, I am still under the belief that lack of staffing is at the root of the problem," Olsen told The Dallas Morning News. "Someone has to take some responsibility, and I think it's at the Capitol."

The maximum security prison southeast of San Antonio also has had more attacks against guards and staff members in the past six years than any other Texas prison, according to prison system records obtained by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for today's editions.

Two guards at Connally were brutally assaulted within a week in earlier attacks, according to the newspaper.

Before last month's breakout, the fugitives had free reign of the prison for about 21/2 hours, during which they were able to plan and execute their escape, according to a chronology obtained by ABC News and confirmed by Texas prison system officials.

Confusion following the seven inmate's escape may have delayed local officer's notification of the prison breakout by some 10 minutes

In the chronology, the inmates pulled off the elaborate plan while unsupervised between 11:20 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. They knocked out one guard and took 11 civilian workers hostage before making their way to a guardhouse, where they overpowered another guard and stole 15 weapons and ammunition.

Confusion after the escape may have delayed local sheriff's officers' notification of the search by 10 minutes, several people familiar with the breakout told the San Antonio Express-News.

The inmates were reportedly still on state property and within view of a guard tower when it was discovered they had escaped.

As the fugitives turned onto U.S. 181 toward Kenedy, they passed two unsuspecting correctional officers returning to the prison with a group of inmates on a work assignment, said those familiar with the case, including a guard who was on duty at the time of the escape.

The fugitives might have been captured at a Wal-Mart in Kenedy where they ditched their vehicle, but reports received at the Karnes County Sheriff's Department had received reports that the stolen pickup was seen near Pawnee and patrol units were sent 15 miles to the southwest.

"We were missing (the inmates) within a matter of minutes," Sheriff Robert R. Mutz told the Express-News on Tuesday.

As the seven inmates accused in a police officer's slaying during a sporting goods store robbery continue to elude an international manhunt, searchers on Tuesday interviewed up to 11 people who knew the escapees or may have been in prison with them.

Irving police and federal authorities declined to comment on a raid at a Fort Worth mobile home. Authorities carried out a television, a computer and several filled brown grocery bags.

Television stations in Houston and Dallas were reporting that two people who police interviewed were in custody on charges unrelated to the escapees.

Houston television station KHOU reported that George Rivas, the alleged ringleader of the escapees, went to the apartment of a Fort Worth parolee a few days after the Oshman' Supersports USA shooting, possibly asking for medical supplies. Police believe two of the escapees were injured in the robbery.

Dallas and Houston TV stations said authorities recovered an undetonated smoke grenade at the Oshman's in Irving where Irving police Officer Aubrey Hawkins was killed Christmas Eve. A lot number on the grenade led authorities to question several people.

Glen Castlebury, a TDCJ spokesman, said he didn't know how many positions were vacant at the prison on the day of the escape but that he "would not doubt" there were vacancies.

Olsen said he believes that were those positions filled, there would have been two, not one, officer at the back gate.

The Connally facility houses more "close custody" inmates than any other Texas prison, prison officials told the Star-Telegram. The seven escapees, however, were classified as minimum security risks.

"Their behavior has proven they (close custodies) are going to be problem inmates," Castlebury said.

Third DWI nets man 15 years in prison system

A 43-year-old Snyder man will serve 15 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following a guilty plea entered Tuesday in 132nd District Court.

Bobby Lynn Allen pleaded guilty to a July 25 offense of felony driving while intoxicated. Allen has two prior DWI convictions in Scurry County and one aggravated robbery conviction in Lubbock County.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong sentenced Allen, whose address was listed as 600 19th Street.

In other court action Tuesday, Michael Edward Johnson, 40, of 2906 42nd Street, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance, cocaine.

The offense occurred Nov. 17 and Judge Armstrong sentenced Johnson to two years in a state jail facility, probated for five years.

Johnson also was fined $1,000, ordered to pay $140 in restitution and participate in a court-approved substance abuse program.

ASK US

Q—Will there be a "Snyder Day" during this legislative session?
A—No.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 56 degrees; low, 24; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 39; .31 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, .34 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, decreasing cloudiness, slight rain chance, low upper 20s. Thursday, mostly sunny, warmer, high upper 50s, W-NW wind near 10 mph.



Amanda Browning
Sunny

Sunset:
6 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:44 a.m.
Of 9 days in 2001, the sun has shone 7 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you find a path with few obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.
—Frank A. Clark

JAN 10 2001

Woman returns to school

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Charlayne Hunter-Gault returned to the University of Georgia on the 40th anniversary of its integration, running her hands over a sign giving her name to a building governors, administrators and angry mobs swore she would never enter.

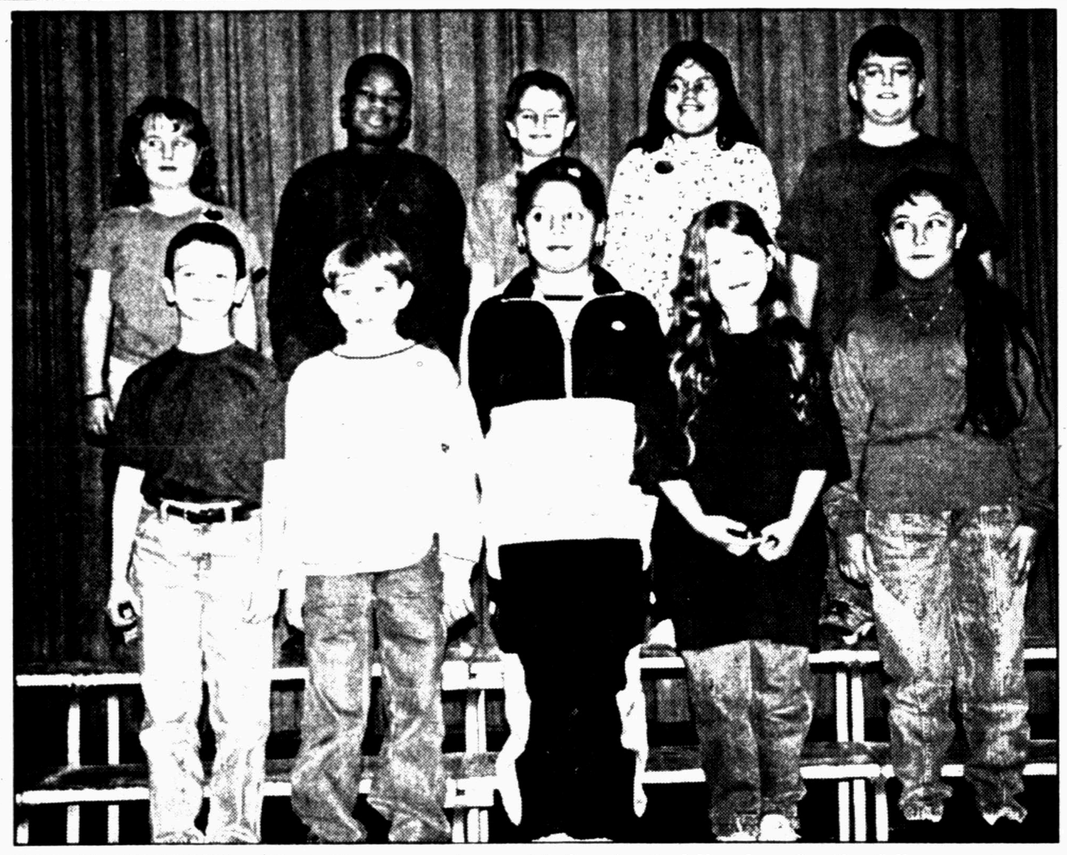
The school named its Academic Building for Hunter-Gault and the late Hamilton Holmes, the two black students who strode through the university's arch and registered for classes Jan. 9, 1961. Their enrollment ended 175 years of segregation and came years before other Southern state schools were integrated.

"Let it be a place of knowledge that embraces — rather than recoils from — change," Hunter-Gault said. "Let it give light and hope and heart to the leaders of this institution — give them the courage to do what is right, not what is politically expedient."

In a full day of ceremonies Tuesday to mark the anniversary, Hunter-Gault alluded frequently to the school's court battle to defend an admissions policy giving a boost to some minority applicants.

Blacks make up about one-quarter of the state's population but less than 6 percent of the student body of its flagship university. The dispute is before a federal appeals court.

Holmes, a prominent Atlanta surgeon, died in 1995. Hunter-Gault is the South Africa bureau chief for CNN.



TOP AR READERS — East Elementary's top 11 Accelerated Readers for the fall semester are from left, back row, Kari Lord, eleventh with 132.2 points; Danorris Smith, tenth, 132.9; Will Stewart, ninth, 141.9; Leslie Johnston (not pictured), eighth, 143.2; Ashley Hagins, seventh, 146; Brian Allred, sixth, 155.2; front row, David Strayhorn, fifth, 167.9; Tyler Porter, fourth, 172.4; Maria Murillo, third, 204.8; Alix Rieser, second, 216.3; Rubi Jaimes, first, 384.7. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

NYC settles strip search suit

NEW YORK (AP) — The city has agreed to pay as much as $50 million to settle a lawsuit on behalf of thousands of people who were illegally strip searched, attorneys for the plaintiffs said Wednesday.

The victims of the searches, conducted by jail guards in Queens and Manhattan over the course of 10 months in 1996 and 1997, were often first-time offenders arrested for minor infractions like loitering and disorderly conduct.

Strip searches of people charged with misdemeanors and other minor offenses are prohibited unless there is reasonable suspicion that weapons or other contraband are being concealed.

The settlement, the result of two years of negotiations, will disburse the money to as many as 50,000 people arrested for misdemeanors during the 10-month stretch. The minimum award will be $250, the maximum $22,500.

The deal includes a formula to determine awards based on the circumstances of the individual searches, taking into account their emotional impact on the victims.

Lead plaintiffs' lawyer Richard D. Emery called it a precedent-setting settlement "because it recognizes the degrading and dehumanizing aspects of a strip-search."

The city's corporation counsel, Michael D. Hess, said his office had tried to address the case "in a way that is fair to the class of plaintiffs as well as to the city."

The settlement is subject to approval by a federal judge.

Role is true to life

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The slightly maniacal mom that Jane Kaczmarek plays on the Fox sitcom "Malcolm in the Middle" bears a certain resemblance to the mom she is in real life. At least that's what her husband says.

Kaczmarek, 45, and her husband, actor Bradley Whitford of NBC's "The West Wing," have a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old.

Whitford was on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" recently and said Kaczmarek was exactly like the woman she plays on television. Later, she confronted her husband.

School meals are now more leaner and nutritious

WASHINGTON (AP) — School meals are getting leaner and more nutritious. Under pressure from federal officials, schools have trimmed fat, cholesterol and sodium from lunches and breakfasts and are offering children more fruits and vegetables, the government says.

A decade ago, barely a third of elementary schools offered students lowfat lunches. Now, four of every five schools do, according to an Agriculture Department report being released Wednesday.

Schools have lowered the overall fat content of meals from 38 percent of calories to 34 percent of calories, the report said. Under USDA rules, the maximum is supposed to be 30 percent. Levels of saturated fat also are down.

"School meals reach nearly 27 million children each day, sometimes providing the most nutritious meal a child receives," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "Fortunately, more than ever before, these meals are hitting the mark in providing good nutrition and healthy selections."

The report is based on a survey conducted during the 1998-99 school year and follows up a similar study done in 1991-92 that had alarmed federal officials. The Agriculture Department began requiring schools to meet minimum standards for nutrients and the 30 percent maximum for fat content.

USDA, which also provides menu recommendations to schools, heavily subsidizes school lunch and breakfast programs but has not penalized schools that don't meet the standards.

Schools have altered their menus and food preparation. Turkey and chicken are now mixed with beef to lower the fat content. Cafeteria workers skim fat from broth before making gravy. Schools offer a range of fresh fruit that are popular with kids, including strawberries, melons and even kiwis.

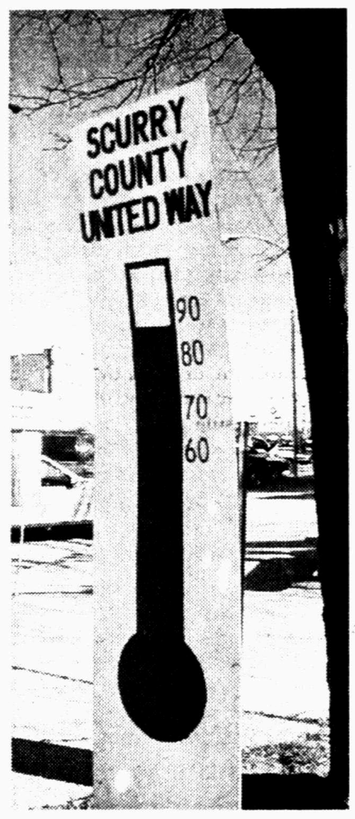
Over the objections of the beef industry, the government also has allowed schools to offer yogurt and soy products, such as veggie-burgers, as meat substitutes.

"What we've really been focusing on for the last six years is to enhance our school meals so that they do offer nutrient-dense foods that will benefit our children," said Marilyn Hurt, president of the American School Food Service Association.

But offering healthy meals is one thing; getting kids to eat them is another.

"Kids choose what foods they know. If they are eating a lot of pizza at home, they're going to choose pizza at school. It's pretty hard to overcome what they have been learning at home," said Hurt, supervisor of nutrition programs for the schools in LaCrosse, Wis.

Some schools are even offering students more candy and other snacks than they used to, the USDA report says. Such snack items have become a fund-raising tool for schools to pay for such things as band uniforms.



UW 86 PERCENT — Kent Wright, Scurry County United Way president, reports that contributions have reached $69,227.29, which is 86% of the $80,000 goal. The campaign will close on Feb. 9. Some packets in the commercial division are still out and anyone who has not been contacted and wishes to donate may send it to P.O. Box 1411, Snyder, 79550. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

City receives excellence recognition

The certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Snyder by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

An award of financial reporting achievement has been awarded by the GFOA to Jeanne B. Johnson, director of finance, as primarily responsible for preparing the award winning CAFR.

The Certification of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 14,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

events

Lotto Texas

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Cash Five

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

1-3-32-36-39

Pick 3

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

5-0-7

Berry's World



"WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO GET A BOOK DEAL LIKE HILLARY DID."

Date Book

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001

Today is the 10th day of 2001 and the 21st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1911, while flying over San Diego, Calif., Maj. H.A. Erickson took the first photograph taken from an airplane in the United States.

On this day in 1920, the League of Nations was founded.

On this day in 1946, in London, the General Assembly of the United Nations met for the first time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ethan Allen (1739-1789), patriot; George Washington Carver (1864-1943), inventor-educator; Robinson Jeffers (1887-1962), poet; Ray Bolger (1904-1987), dancer-singer; Sherrill Milnes (1935-), operatic baritone, is 66; Willie McCovey (1938-), baseball great, is 63; Rod Stewart (1945-), singer, is 56; George Foreman (1949-), boxer-actor, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1992, Dennis Green became head coach of the Minnesota Vikings.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is a test of true theories not only to account for but to predict phenomena." — William Whewell

TODAY'S MOON: Day after full moon (Jan. 9).

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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Blimp crashes into boat

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A wayward blimp crashed into a waterfront restaurant and a boat in Oakland after its two-man crew was forced to jump from the gondola. Only the pilot suffered minor injuries.

The blimp meandered for 20 minutes after the two men jumped to safety Tuesday, said Oakland Airport spokeswoman Cyndy Johnson.

The pilot attempted an emergency landing at the airport, but he and a student pilot — the only two onboard — were forced to flee the blimp because they could not control it, Johnson said.

A landing crew was unable to tie it down.

The blimp then floated five miles north over the Oakland Estuary, at one point reaching 1,600 feet, until its gondola caught on a sailboat mast in the Central Basin marina. It draped over the roof of the Oyster Reef restaurant — next to where the boat was moored — and a nearby power line.

The pilot suffered minor injuries and was hospitalized in stable condition. The student pilot was treated at the scene. Their names were not immediately released. No one on the ground was hurt.

It wasn't clear what caused the blimp to go astray. The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration are investigating.



RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP — Jose Juarez, center, a 2000 graduate of Ira High School, is the recipient of a scholarship presented by Ira's Masonic Lodge. Juarez, who is now a freshman at Texas Tech University, was in Ira last week to pick up the check for the spring semester. From left are, Superintendent Jim Rumage; lodge member, Stanley Martin, Juarez, and lodge members Corky Kruse and Lloyd Knipe. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Albright urges Powell to stay course in Balkans, N. Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is urging the incoming Bush administration to "pick up where we left off" in trying to end North Korea's missile program.

Albright also is advising the next administration and her designated successor, Colin Powell, to keep U.S. peacekeeping troops in the Balkans.

"The story in the Balkans is not finished," Albright said at a news conference Tuesday. "The next administration needs to keep in mind that our presence there is very important."

Powell and other Republicans have questioned President Clinton's policy of military intervention in Bosnia and the Serbian province Kosovo. The use of American peacekeepers is due for an early review by the new administration.

Albright urged Powell to stay the course there and on the Korean peninsula.

She said military intervention in Bosnia and Kosovo had been vindicated by the emergence of democratic trends.

Powell, who spent 35 years in the military, has counseled restraint in the use of American force.

On a book tour in 1995, he said he supported deployment of 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia as part of a NATO peacekeeping force but doubted long-term prospects for peace there.

"Is the national interest at stake?" is the way he has summarized his cautious doctrine. "If the answer is yes, go in, and go in to win. Otherwise, stay out."

Powell said in October that the Bush administration would undertake an immediate review of U.S. deployments in Kosovo, Bosnia and other places once it takes over Jan. 20.

"Our forces are stretched rather thin," he said, "and there is a limit to how many of these deployments we can sustain."

Albright has had several meetings with Powell in the transition period. He would not respond to Albright's remarks Tuesday and told reporters he would deal with the issue at his Senate confirmation hearing next Tuesday.

At the beginning of the Clinton presidency, Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, argued against U.S. military involvement in the Bosnia's ethnic conflict.

Albright, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and a strong advocate of using force to end ethnic slaughter, is said to have stared at Powell and asked: "What's the point in having this superb military you are always talking about if we can't use it?"

In his book, Powell said of the incident: "I thought I would have an aneurysm. American GIs were not toy soldiers to be moved around on some sort of global game board."

More than 9,000 American troops are stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Man executed for woman's death

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A man convicted of kidnapping, raping and fatally stabbing a 23-year-old woman 11 years ago was executed by injection Tuesday.

In Oklahoma, a 48-year-old man was executed by injection for the beating death and rape of an 84-year-old woman during a $500 robbery. It was the first of eight executions planned in the state over the next four weeks.

The Texas execution put to death Jack Wade Clark, 37, who was the first inmate put to die under the watch of Gov. Rick Perry, who succeeded President-elect Bush. Perry rejected a clemency request, clearing the way for the state's first execution of 2001 after carrying out a record 40 last year.

"I would like to say to the family that I am sorry and I do ask their forgiveness," Clark said as five members of his victim's family stood a few feet away watching through a window. He recited a short prayer, closing with the words "peace and goodness" before he died.

"He did say he was sorry," Mary Jane Garcia, whose daughter was killed, said after watching the execution. "I don't think he meant it. To see him take his last breath made me feel better."

Clark confessed to killing Melisa Ann Garcia of Slaton and DNA tests linked him to the crime scene. He later insisted he was innocent, saying he signed his confession out of frustration and that evidence was planted.

Garcia was making a telephone call outside a convenience store the early hours of Oct. 15, 1989, when Clark approached her and asked if she had a light for a cigarette. When she finished her call, testimony showed he stabbed her in the shoulder, forced her into her own car, drove away and repeatedly raped her before fatally stabbing her in the heart.

Clark was arrested following a brief highway police chase a few weeks after he told officers he spotted the body.

China launches second test flight of its spacecraft

BEIJING (AP) — An unmanned Chinese spacecraft rocketed into orbit early Wednesday in the second test flight of a vessel intended to one day carry astronauts and make China the third nation capable of manned space travel.

A Long March rocket blasted off from the Gobi desert launch center at 1:00 a.m. and put the Shenzhou II spacecraft into orbit 10 minutes later, state media reported.

The spacecraft would return "in a few days" after conducting experiments in physics and astronomy and on space's effects on life forms, the Xinhua News Agency said. Among the test subjects, newspapers said, were cell and tissue samples from 87 animals, plants and micro-organisms.

China has placed great prestige on its secretive 31-year-old space program and poured an undisclosed amount of resources into it. If successful, the program will lift China alongside the United States and Russia into the exclusive club of space travel.

"An important step in realizing manned spaceflight," the People's Daily said in a headline below a picture of the Long March 2-F rocket blasting off from the Jiuquan launch center.

Newspapers praised the rocket and capsule as triumphs of domestic engineering and President Jiang Zemin sent a congratulatory telegram.

"I hope you will work persistently and unremittingly to achieve even greater victory," Jiang said in his message to the program's civilian and military personnel.

A smooth flight and safe return would mean China could be ready to put astronauts aloft in 18 to 24 months, said Joan Johnson-Freese, a Hawaii-based analyst and one of the few foreign experts on the Chinese space program.

The government, however, has been circumspect about when it will send up astronauts — or what some Chinese have dubbed "taikonauts," from the Chinese word for space. Program scientists and officials quoted by state media in recent months have suggested it could come within the next five years.

"China will test several unmanned spacecraft, and when its manned spaceflight technology is mature, it will launch people into space," the English-language China Daily quoted a spokesman it did not identify from the China Manned Space Program Office as saying.

Wednesday's flight was the second unmanned test of the Shenzhou family of space capsules in less than 14 months. In the first test, in November 1999, the Shenzhou, or "sacred vessel," orbited the earth for 21 hours before landing on the grasslands of China's Inner Mongolia region.

Unlike the first flight, which was disclosed only after the craft safely touched down, China announced the second launching shortly after it occurred and provided more information about the craft and rocket.

"It's a sign of confidence and a sign of pride," said James Oberg, a veteran analyst of the U.S. and foreign space programs. He watched the Shenzhou arc across the clear eastern sky at sunset near his home in Houston.

"This is pretty much a textbook program. It's so prestige-based that they want to do it with a 100 percent success rate," said Johnson-Freese, of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North ♠ 9 7 ♥ A K ♦ A K 10 9 7 6 4 ♣ 6 3	01-10-01
West ♠ A J 8 3 ♥ 10 9 6 3 ♦ — ♣ Q J 10 8 5		East ♠ Q 10 5 4 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 8 5 3 2 ♣ A 9
	South ♠ K 6 2 ♥ Q J 8 5 ♦ Q J ♣ K 7 4 2	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Wednesday, Jan 10, 2001

Aiming for the bull's-eye

By Phillip Alder

After a delicious dinner washed down with some yummy New Zealand red wine at the van der Poel's house, where I was staying in Rotorua, we headed back to the club for an advanced class on the defensive target.

When you are defending and the dummy has appeared, ask yourself where you hope to find the tricks you need to defeat the contract: your target. Often the answer to that one question will point you in the right direction.

Take this deal as an example. Cover the West and South hands. Against three no-trump, your partner (West) leads the club queen. How would you hope to defeat the contract?

Americans have high standards for that three-diamond rebid. Yet as the hand has eight playing-tricks (two hearts and six diamonds), it is well worth the bid.

If you, sitting East, win with the club ace and return a club, how many tricks can declarer cash? Obviously, at least 10: two hearts, seven diamonds (even if South is void) and one club (the king).

The defense must cash four spade tricks now. The best chance to do that is to lead the spade 10 (or queen). With this layout, you net four spade tricks and defeat the contract. Here, switching to a low spade at trick two is no good: declarer just plays low from hand. The only time it is better to lead the spade four is when West has specifically the tripleton ace-king-jack of spades and thinks of winning the first spade with the king. He should, but would he?

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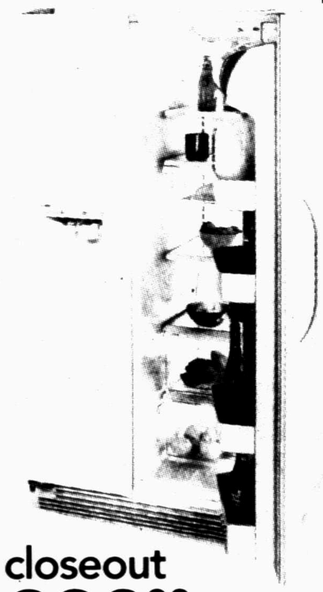
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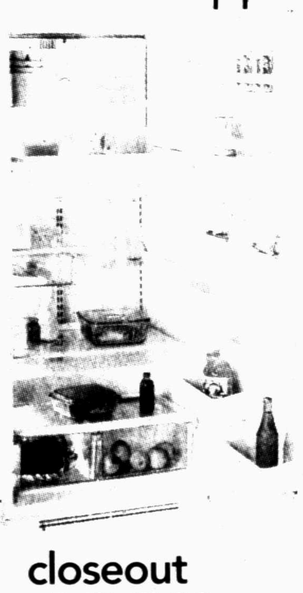
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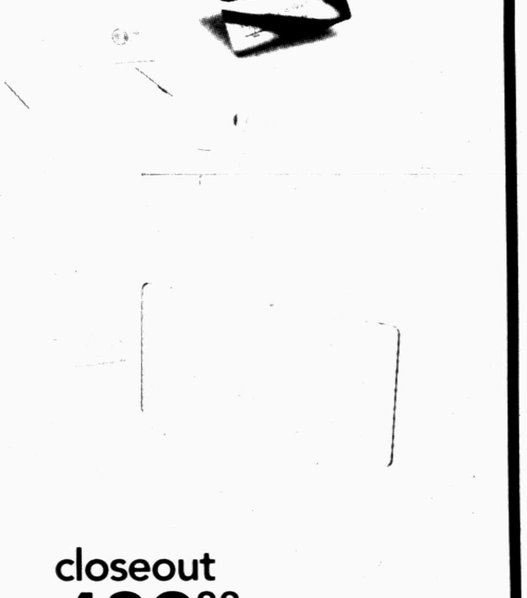
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plus all home appliances on sale**



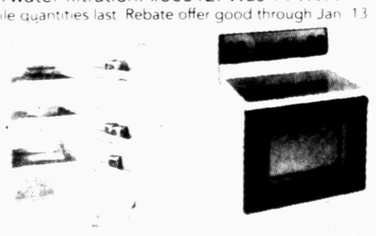
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KENMORE® 25.2-cu. ft.† refrigerator, After $161 savings & $50 mail-in rebate
Ice/water filtration. #50512. Was 1149.99
While quantities last. Rebate offer good through Jan. 13



closeout 499.88
KENMORE 20.9-cu. ft.† refrigerator, Save $100 With adjustable glass shelves, gallon door storage, adjustable humidity crisper. #60152. Was 599.99 While quantities last



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KENMORE Super Capacity Plus washer, Save $120 #20832 Was 519.99 While quantities last
Kenmore dryer #60712 Was 379.99 closeout 329.88.
While quantities last



closeout 399.88
KENMORE 13.7-cu. ft. freezer, Save $130
Tilt-out door storage. Frostless. #28421. Was 529.99 While quantities last

closeout 499.88
KENMORE radiant range, Save $150 Self-cleaning oven. #95781. Was 649.99
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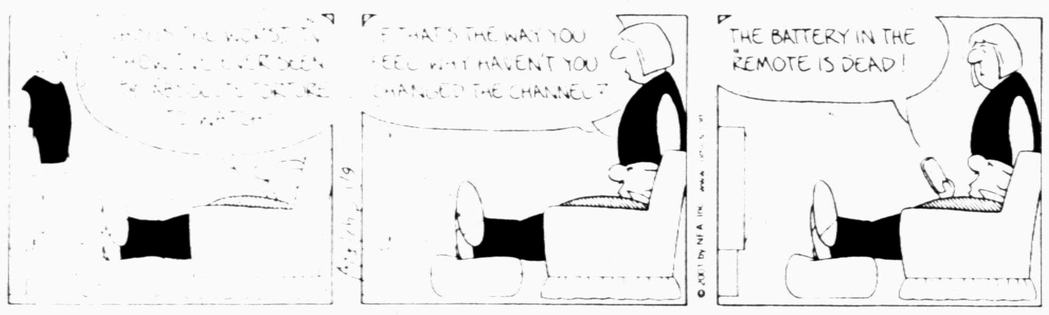
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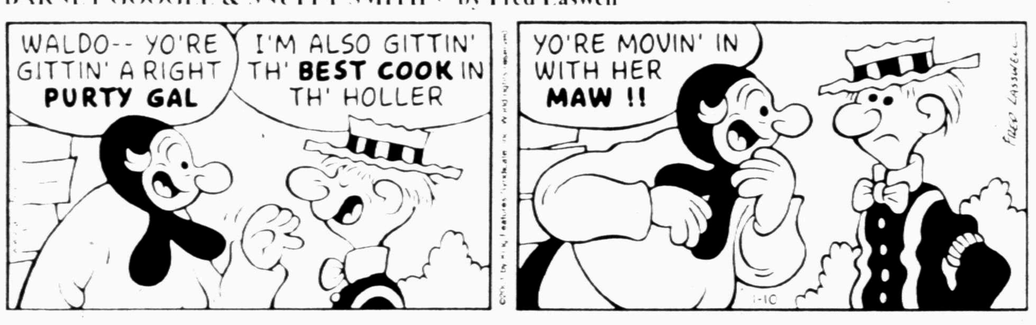
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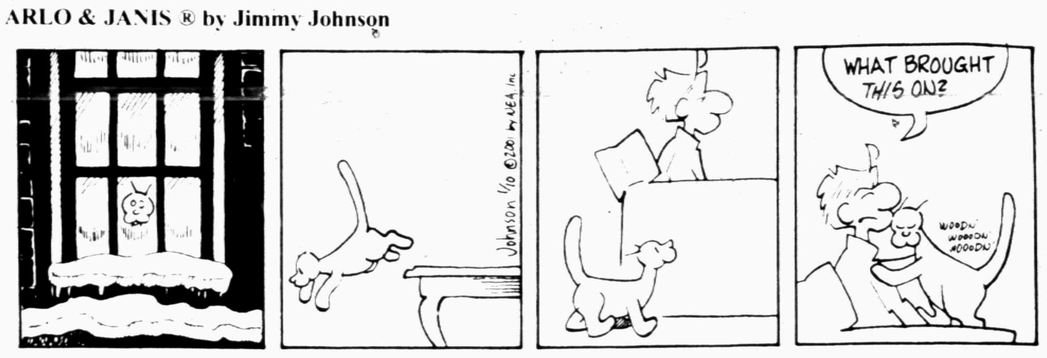
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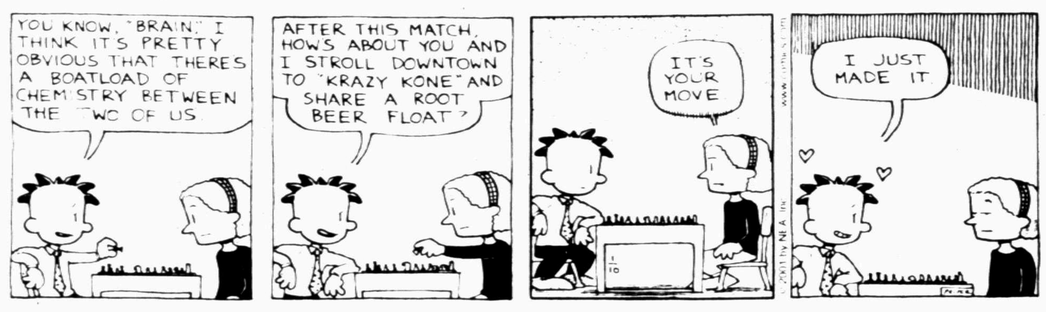
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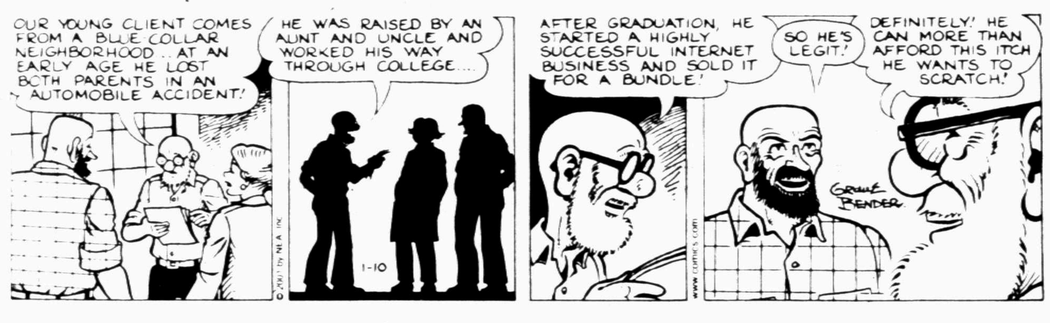
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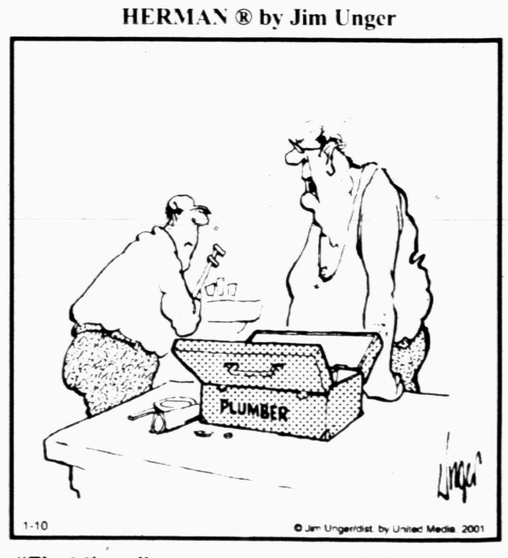
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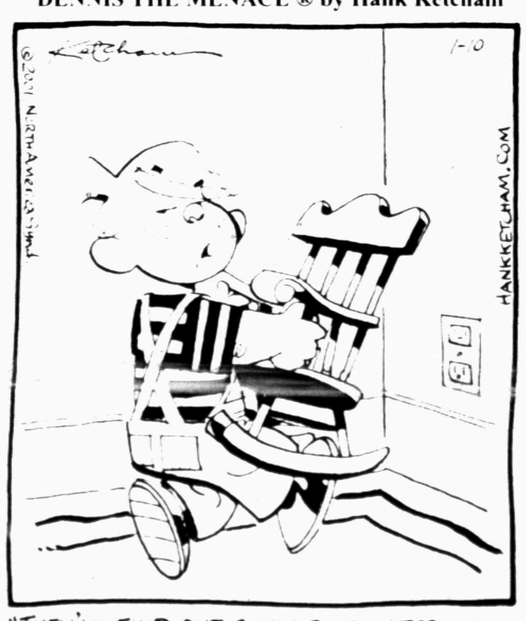


"First time I've ever seen gold-plated tools."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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"THEY'LL FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER, SO I MIGHT AS WELL GET A HEAD START."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Harry's successor
7 Overshadows
13 Turned-down corner
14 Eskimo boat
15 Disinclined
16 Tidily
17 So far
18 Fur piece
20 Malt beverage
21 Artist's paint holder
25 More sugary
28 Live
32 Ici on — Francais
33 Bewildered (2 wds.)
34 Japanese dog
35 Financially sound
36 Clair and Magritte
37 Female prophet
39 Most beloved
41 Wane
44 Hearing organ
45 Turn the page (abbr.)
48 Muddied the waters
51 Published
54 Signify
55 Cast a side-long glance
56 Debates
57 Longs (for)

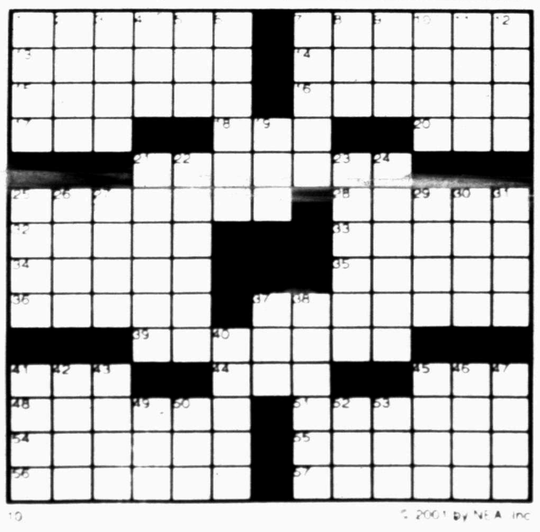
DOWN

1 WWII event
2 Used a loom
3 By the time — — to Phoenix
4 Neighbor of Fr.
5 Possesses
6 High-pitched
7 Actor Robert —
8 Misfortune
9 MDs' group
10 Ms. Hayworth
11 Autumn
12 Type of terrier
19 Above (poet.)
21 Threw stones at
22 Army order (2 wds.)
23 Tantalizes
24 Obtain by coercion
25 Practice boxing
26 Respond to the alarm
27 "— Brockovich"
29 — of Wight
30 Six (Span.)
31 Small amounts
37 Madrid Mrs.
38 Creepily
40 Yellow-fever mosquito
41 Operatic role
42 South African Dutch
43 Type of cherry
45 Contented sound
46 Adolescent
47 Racetrack term
49 Comic Costello
50 Parisian season
52 View
53 Sargasso, e.g.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

SPORTS

Lady Coyotes edge Lady 'Dogs, 44-42

GAIL — In a battle for the district lead, the Ira Lady Bulldogs fell short of the top spot, but just barely.

Morgan Clements' shot at the buzzer rolled off the rim Tuesday night, allowing Borden County to escape with a 44-42 victory in girls' basketball action at Coyote gym.

While the Lady Bulldogs were edged out of the district lead, the Ira boys pushed their league mark to 2-0 with a 47-32 win over the Coyotes.

In the girls' match-up, Ira and Borden County traded leads for most of the night. The Lady Coyotes opened up a slim two-point margin in the first quarter, before the Lady Bulldogs knotted the tally at 19-19 by halftime.

The game remained tied heading into the fourth quarter, until Borden County took the final lead of the night with under a minute to play.

Ira had one last chance to force overtime, when Clements hauled in an offensive rebound in the closing seconds. The senior's shot rolled off the rim as time expired, resulting in the 44-42 final outcome.

Clements led all scorers with 23 points, while teammate Celeigh Sterling added 11.

In the boys' meeting, Ira averted any last-second heroics by taking control early. The Bulldogs raced to a 12-5 lead in the opening minutes, then stretched the margin to 23-13 by halftime.

Sophomore Eric Dickerhoff poured in 14 points to pace the Bulldogs, with teammate Bryce Wilkins posting eight.

Both Ira squads will be in action again Friday when they host Westbrook.

Tigers maul Mustangs, 63-61

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

Despite Friday's showdown with Estacado looming in the distance, the Snyder Tigers weren't about to look past Andrews on Tuesday night.

In fact, the Tigers used the Mustangs to get primed and ready for Friday's clash.

Snyder used smothering defensive pressure and a precision offensive scheme to dismantle Andrews, 63-31, in a District 4-4A match-up Tuesday night at the SHS gym.

The victory, Snyder's eighth in a row, pushes the Tigers to 14-6 on the year, and keeps them in a first-place tie with Estacado at 4-0. Snyder travels to Lubbock on Friday for a 7:30 meeting with the Matadors, with the winner gaining a leg up in the district race.

"You can't ask for anything better than a 4-0 start, but it's still a long district season," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "Certainly Friday's game is a big one for us. It won't make or break our season, but with both teams 4-0, its definitely a big game."



Pinkerton

The Tigers are seeking their third consecutive district title, and looked like a team on a mission Tuesday night.

Snyder set the tone early on, pressuring Andrews into six first-quarter turnovers that fueled a 12-4 run.

The Tigers continued to shut down the Mustangs in the second quarter. Snyder never gave Andrews' sharp-shooters an open look at the basket, and held the Mustangs to a 6-of-23 shooting performance in the first half.

"I told the kids going in that our defense would be the key to the game," Birks stated. "Andrews has quite a few players who can consistently hit from the outside, if they get a good look. Our guys did an excellent job of forcing them to take difficult shots. And when their shots didn't fall, we did a good job in transition."

The Tigers repeatedly beat the Mustangs down the floor. On several occasions in the second quarter, senior Shante Taylor grabbed rebounds and fed streaking teammates for easy layups. Snyder's fast break produced a 10-2 run that pushed the halftime margin to 31-15.

After controlling the action through the first 16 minutes, Snyder put the game away in the third quarter.

Andrews continued to misfire in the second half, and the Tigers continued to capitalize. Snyder turned each missed shot and turnover into points during a 21-3 run that spanned the first six minutes of the third quarter.

A bucket by Heath Pinkerton at the 2:27 mark of the third gave Snyder its largest lead of the night at 52-18, and marked the end of the night for Snyder's starters.

"This year's team is better in transition after missed shots and turnovers, than some of our teams in the past," Birks remarked. "It all starts on the defensive end. When we start forcing turnovers and forcing teams into bad shots, our guys feed off of it. Right now, we're making good decisions for the most part in the open floor. As long as we keep doing that, then we'll continue to do well in transition."

The Mustangs mustered 12 points in the final frame, with eight of them coming from the free-throw line. On the night, Andrews connected on only nine of 42 attempts from the floor, compared to a 25-of-43 shooting performance from the Tigers.

Pinkerton led all scorers with 20 points, while teammate Josh Mendoza added 12. Jayme Jackson's 11 points paced the Mustangs.

On Friday, the Tigers will face an Estacado team that also flourishes in transition. The Matadors field an athletic line-up that relies on speed and quickness to produce points.

"Estacado is extremely athletic," said Birks. "They are scary, because once they get going, they're hard to stop. You can't let them get on a run, and get caught up trying to play their style of game. It's going to take a great effort by either team to win the game."

In Tuesday's other district action, Estacado knocked off Levelland, 72-66. Plainview downed Big Spring, 55-34, and Frenship toppled Lake View, 69-40.

Andrews	06	09	04	12	— 31
Snyder	14	17	21	11	— 63

Andrews
Jackson 3-6 5-8 11, Hooper 1-1 3-5 6-7, Glasson 2-5 0-0 4, Tharp 1-2 0-0 2, Leach 0-4 0-0 0, Valles 1-2 1-2 3, Brazeal 0-1 2-5 2, Haygood 1-4 0-4 2, Willis 0-3 0-0 0, Griffin 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 9-42 13-25 31.**

Snyder
Pinkerton 9-12 1-2 20, McLeod 3-5 1-2 8, Wofford 2-5 2-4 7, Thornhill 2-8 1-1 7, Taylor 0-1 0-0 0, Mendoza 5-8 2-2 12, Pruitt 2-2 0-0 4, Landes 0-1 2-2 2, McGuire 1-1 0-0 2, Dorsett 0-0 1-2 1. **Totals 25-43 10-15 63.**

Three-point goals: Andrews 0, Snyder 3 (Pinkerton, McLeod, Wofford). Rebounds: Andrews 28 (Jackson 9), Snyder 24 (Taylor 6, Mendoza 6). Total fouls: Andrews 21, Snyder 21. Fouled out — Tharp, Griffin. Technicals: Andrews coach.

BOYS

	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Team				
Snyder	4	0	14	6
Estacado	4	0	13	9
Lake View	2	2	10	12
Plainview	2	2	11	11
Frenship	2	2	12	11
Andrews	1	3	14	8
Levelland	1	3	15	8
Big Spring	0	4	5	16

Tuesday's results: Snyder 63, Andrews 31; Estacado 72, Levelland 66; Frenship 69, Lake View 40; Plainview 55, Big Spring 34.
Friday's games: Snyder at Estacado; Levelland at Big Spring; Andrews at Frenship.
Saturday's game: Plainview at Lake View.

GIRLS

	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Team				
Plainview	6	0	21	1
Snyder	4	2	15	5
Big Spring	4	2	14	5
Frenship	3	3	16	8
Andrews	3	3	14	8
Levelland	3	3	17	4
Estacado	1	5	11	9
Lake View	0	6	8	14

Tuesday's results: Andrews 41, Snyder 29; Levelland 52, Estacado 43; Frenship 51, Lake View 42; Plainview 98, Big Spring 47.
Friday's games: Snyder at Estacado; Levelland at Big Spring; Andrews at Frenship.
Saturday's game: Plainview at Lake View.

Shooting woes plague SHS girls in 41-29 loss

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

Perhaps the Snyder Lady Tigers will become accustomed to their new line-up, but on Tuesday night, they sure missed their old one.

Playing for the first time without senior post Kameron Kallemeyn, Snyder struggled on both ends of the floor Tuesday night in a 41-29 district setback to Andrews at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers remain in second place in the district standings, but must learn to play without Kallemeyn for the rest of the season. An MRI on Tuesday revealed a torn anterior cruciate ligament in Kallemeyn's left knee, ending the senior's season with eight district games to go.

"We really missed her tonight," said Snyder coach Sam Tipton. "We missed not only what she did for us offensively and defensively, but also as a leader. Everybody's used to Kameron taking charge on the floor. But now, somebody else is going to have to."

Without Kallemeyn to draw the defense, Andrews double-teamed



Kallemeyn

Snyder's other standout post Ashley Delce, and forced the Lady Tigers to settle for outside shots.

Unfortunately for Snyder, the Lady Tigers never did find the mark. Snyder shot just 25 percent on the night, connecting on only three of 26 attempts from outside the paint.

"Give credit to Andrews. They did a good job of scouting us," Tipton remarked. "They had Delce covered up, and we couldn't sink a thing. But what really upset me was we didn't play a lick of defense. We pride ourselves on good defense, but we didn't play it tonight."

Andrews steadily built its lead over the course of the contest. A 7-0 run in the opening quarter helped the Lady Mustangs open up a 9-2 lead, which they stretched to 21-11 by halftime.

Snyder threatened to climb back in the game in the third quarter. The Lady Tigers cut the deficit to seven points, before an inside bucket from Andrews' Karli Bane and three-pointer from Katie Fariss stretched the margin back to 12 points.

Fariss paced the Lady Mustangs with 11 points. Delce, despite the pressure underneath, finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

"I thought we gave a good effort, physically," stated Tipton. "But we made way too many mental mistakes and bad decisions. We're sitting around feeling sorry for ourselves, but we need to look up and see that we're still in second place.

"We have a better basketball team than we showed tonight. If we keep showing up not ready to play mentally and physically, then we're going to get run off the floor. But if we'll get back to work, and get focused on the task at hand, then we can compete for a playoff spot."

The loss drops the Lady Tigers to 15-5 on the year, while Andrews improves to 14-8, 3-3. Snyder remains tied with Big Spring for second place at 4-2.

In Tuesday night's other district action, top-ranked Plainview blasted Big Spring, 98-47. Levelland knocked off Estacado, 52-43, and Frenship topples Lake View, 51-42.

Andrews	09	12	11	09	— 41
Snyder	05	06	08	10	— 29

Andrews
Fariss 3-9 4-4 11, Roberts 3-10 1-3 7, Bane 3-8 0-0 6, Del Hierro 2-3 0-0 4, Courtney 0-2 4-4 4, Richards 2-4 1-2 7, Woods 0-1 2-2 2. **Totals 13-37 12-15 41.**

Snyder
Delce 6-10 2-4 14, Murray 4-12 1-2 9, Eicke 1-7 0-0 3, Geiger 0-4 1-2 1, Mackey 0-9 0-0 0, Robinson 1-4 0-0 2, Schwertner 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 12-47 4-8 29.**

Three-point goals: Andrews 3 (Richards 2, Fariss), Snyder 1 (Eicke). Rebounds: Andrews 24 (Fariss 6, Roberts 6), Snyder 28 (Delce 15). Total fouls: Andrews 11, Snyder 15. Fouled out — None.

Second-half rally fuels Lady Cards

HERMLEIGH — It took the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals two quarters to get rolling. But once they did, Highland couldn't stop them.

Hermleigh followed up a nine-point first-half effort with 37 points over the final 16 minutes to slip past Highland for its first district victory, 46-43, Tuesday night at Cardinal gym.

While the Lady Cardinals improved to 1-2 in district play, the Hermleigh boys fell to 1-2 with a 62-43 setback to the Hornets.

The Lady Cardinals played solid defense throughout the game, but struggled on the offensive end in the early going. Hermleigh managed only two points in the second quarter to trail, 21-9, at the break.

The Lady Cards' comeback began in the third period and carried over to the final frame. Hermleigh posted 19 points in the third to trim the deficit to 31-28, then outscored the Lady Hornets, 18-12, down the stretch to pull out the win.

Hermleigh's Sheena Callaway poured in 28 points to lead all scorers.

Sabrina Terry added nine more for the Lady Cards, and Samantha Smith netted four. Cheyenne Walker and Lisa Sanchez tallied two points apiece, and Brittainy Milota chipped in one.

Both Hermleigh squads will be in action again Tuesday when they visit Trent.

Sports Briefs

Jets' Parcells resigns

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Bill Parcells resigned as director of football operations of the New York Jets, saying he's not ready for the long-term commitment needed to turn the team around.

The 59-year-old Parcells coached the Jets from 1997-99, and turned a loser into a playoff contender. In his three seasons as coach, the Jets were 29-19 and in 1998 made the AFC title game.

Turner now Chargers' offensive coordinator

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Norv Turner, fired last month as coach of the Washington Redskins, was hired as offensive coordinator of the punchless San Diego Chargers.

Turner replaces Geep Chryst, who was fired after two years on the job under coach Mike Riley.

Lions hire Millen as CEO

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Former NFL linebacker and TV commentator Matt Millen was hired as president and chief executive officer of the Detroit Lions.

The 42-year-old Millen has been an NFL analyst for Fox Sports since 1994 and worked for CBS the two previous years.

Gonzalez signs with Indians

CLEVELAND (AP) — Juan Gonzalez agreed to a $10 million, one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians, giving the club a right fielder and power hitter to replace Manny Ramirez.

Gonzalez last year rejected an eight-year extension from the Tigers worth about $143 million. Distracted by persistent trade rumors and bothered by nagging injuries, he batted .289 with 22 homers and 67 RBIs — a career low and less than half of his average for the previous four years.

Stars welcome back Belfour

DALLAS (AP) — Goaltender Ed Belfour was welcomed back to the Dallas Stars, his suspension lifted after a morning meeting with team officials.

Belfour met with coach Ken Hitchcock, general manager Bob Gainey and assistant GM Doug Armstrong in Atlanta, where the Stars play the Thrashers on Wednesday night.

Hitchcock's decision to use Turco on Saturday in Boston triggered a blowup in which Belfour refused to practice.

NFL Playoffs

All Times EST
Wild-card Playoffs
Miami 23, Indianapolis 17, OT
New Orleans 31, St. Louis 28
Baltimore 21, Denver 3
Philadelphia 21, Tampa Bay 3

Divisional Playoffs
Minnesota 34, New Orleans 16
Oakland 27, Miami 0
Baltimore 24, Tennessee 10
New York Giants 20, Philadelphia 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 14
NFC Championship
Minnesota at New York Giants, 12:30 p.m.
AFC Championship
Baltimore at Oakland, 4 p.m.

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
At Tampa, Fla.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6 p.m.

Local Schedule

THURSDAY
Basketball

Snyder freshman girls at Snyder tourney

Snyder Gold 8th grade boys at Andrews tourney

FRIDAY
Basketball

Snyder girls at Estacado, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30

Snyder boys at Estacado, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30

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

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	25	8	758	—
New York	22	12	647	3½
Miami	21	15	583	5½
Orlando	14	20	412	11½
Boston	12	23	343	14
New Jersey	11	24	314	15
Washington	7	29	194	19½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	22	14	611	—
Milwaukee	19	15	559	2
Cleveland	17	15	531	3
Toronto	16	18	471	5
Indiana	16	20	444	6
Detroit	14	20	412	7
Atlanta	12	22	353	9
Chicago	6	28	176	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	11	667	—
Dallas	23	13	639	½
Utah	22	13	629	1
Denver	20	15	571	3
Minnesota	20	16	556	3½
Houston	17	17	500	5½
Vancouver	10	24	294	12½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	25	10	714	—
Sacramento	22	9	710	1
L.A. Lakers	23	11	676	1½
Phoenix	20	12	625	3½
Seattle	18	18	500	7½
L.A. Clippers	12	24	333	13½
Golden State	11	23	324	13½

Tuesday's Games
Houston 110, Toronto 91
Charlotte 102, Chicago 95, 3OT
Seattle 95, Atlanta 86
Philadelphia 104, New Jersey 87
Milwaukee 99, Washington 95
San Antonio 112, Orlando 95
Utah 103, Indiana 99
Denver 112, Vancouver 105

Wednesday's Games
Miami at Boston, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Golden State at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

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573-1535 Leave Message

Merchandise

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Call 573-0955 or 573-8505

Apartments For Rent

1 bedroom duplex. Good neighborhood. No pets. $250/mo. + deposit. 573-7484.

Houses For Rent

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

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

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

Available February 1st.
For Rent: 2-1-1-1cp, appliances, fenced yard. $300/mo., $150/dep. Call 573-7166.

Cottage, Ideal for 1 or couple. 2-1-2cp $325/mo., $200/dep. No pets. 2907 El Paso **573-2754**

For Rent:
2 bedroom house, $250/mo., $150/dep. References required. **573-6068**

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3902 Eastridge.....3-1-2.....$400
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3-bedroom, CH/A, washer/dryer connections, storage, fenced yard. References required. 2106 40th 573-9068

Mobile Homes For Rent

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

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Mobile Homes

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Bargain Buy 2-1-1 2218 Sunset.....$20T
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IRA BULLDOG CORNER STORE HWY. 350
Nice Quiet Area 3-1¾-1 2205 44th.$46T
Starter Home 2-1-1 707 27th.....$20T
3-1-1+Apartment 3300 Cherry.....$50T
1.84 A's Close In 322 @ Reduced Price! $42T
Wonderful Game Rm-4-1¾-4 2208 45th $58T
Good Size Home 2816 Ave. V 3-1¾-1cp $46ST
Lrg. 2505 Sq. Ft. 4-1¾-2 2800 35th St
Price Lowered Country Dream Home 41/2 Wonderful Storage, 20 As, Pool Outbuildings—$175T
14.49 Acres 32 Hot Tub Sprinkler System—$6T
3774 Dalton Drive Lg Home 3-1¾-1cp $37.5T
1907 15th 3-1-2cp.....$20T
Reduced! 2810 El Paso 5-3, Sunroom, 2860 sq ft $78.5T
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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Big Media rethinks role of Internet

NEW YORK (AP) — With Wall Street frowning on unprofitable Internet ventures, media companies have been doing their part in the dot-com downturn, citing profit pressures and an advertising slowdown as they cut staff in their online units.

But something else is happening as well: As they scale down their Internet divisions, media companies also are bringing them closer to the fold by canceling IPOs, cutting ties with online partners and otherwise making it clear the Web will play a mere supporting role — not a starring one — in their future expansion plans.

Big media's pullback from the Internet accelerated in the last week with announcements from News Corp. and The New York Times Co. Each company laid off online staff and severed links with Internet startups, WebMD for News Corp. and TheStreet.com for the Times.

Some analysts say more bloodshed is on the way. Most newspaper publishers are still operating unprofitable Web operations, and Disney Internet Group — the online spinoff of entertainment giant Walt Disney Co., which owns the ABC television network — has yet to lay off any of its 3,000 employees. The unit lost a staggering $217 million in the fiscal year ending in October.

"We're just at the beginning of feeling the advertising declines, and we're seeing the first round of cuts by companies to make their '01 budgets," says Tom Wolzien, a media analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. "We lived in a time when there was a lot of extra money flowing around, and that's over."

No one is talking about giving up on the Internet entirely. The question is how to maintain an online presence without making investors unhappy with costly operations at a time when slow advertising is hurting the core businesses of publishing and broadcasting.

"With the shrill of the Internet frenzy behind us, companies like the New York Times and News Corp. see that having an Internet presence to support and complement their franchises is certainly valuable, as long as its done in a fiscally prudent way," said Edward Hatch, media analyst at SG Cowen Securities Corp.

Some companies are finding it no longer makes sense to have their Internet units operating as stand-alone businesses. News Corp. cut half of its 450 online jobs and brought those remaining back to the parent networks — Fox, Fox News Channel and Fox Sports — which will take over the production of their associated Web sites.

"During the early days of Internet growth, there was a fear that television and Web programming would rival each other," said Jon Richmond, head of News Corp.'s online operations. "On the contrary, we have seen a strong symbiotic relationship develop between Fox's online and broadcast platforms."

Discovery Communications Inc. made a similar move last fall, drastically scaling back plans for online expansion and scrapping projects that would have created broad-based online destinations. Instead, Discovery's Web sites will be much more closely aligned with its cable channels such as Discovery and Animal Planet while also providing marketing support for them.

The New York Times, for its part, went ahead of other newspaper publishers last year in announcing plans to sell shares in its online unit. Those plans have since been shelved, and in announcing the online job cuts Sunday, company president Russell T. Lewis said the Times remained confident in the Internet as an "additional" medium to serve readers and advertisers.

General Electric Co.'s NBC unit also was an early entrant to the online world, breaking off NBCi as a separate unit with a management team heavy with dot-com entrepreneurs.

But GE, which has a low tolerance for losses, later installed a former executive from its own ranks, Will Lansing, to whip NBC Internet into shape. Shortly after taking over, Lansing went into major retrenchment mode, cutting jobs, suspending acquisitions, and unloading unprofitable ventures.

On the Net:
New York Times Co:
http://www.nytco.com
News Corp: http://www.news-corp.com

No solution reached in electricity talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — California officials, utilities and power generators agreed to meet again this weekend in hopes of working out some possible solutions to bring stability to the state's troubled electricity system.

After seven hours of talks under the direction of Clinton administration officials, the participants agreed early Wednesday that cooperation was needed to keep two of California's biggest utilities from going broke.

"We can see light at the end of the tunnel," California Gov. Gray Davis told reporters shortly after midnight when the talks concluded for the night.

The participants agreed to meet against this weekend.

"Progress was made. All sides gave a bit," Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said.

High-level administration officials and all the major figures in the California electricity wars met behind closed doors to try to fashion a framework for resolving the problems facing the state's electricity supply system.

Afterward a brief statement was issued saying: "The participants agreed on the need for cooperation to maintain stability and avoid bankruptcy of California utilities."

Davis, who has accused electricity wholesalers of price gouging, said some progress was made to develop greater reliance on long-term contracts for wholesale electricity purchases, keeping down prices. He gave no details.

The meeting brought together state officials, regulators and legislative leaders; the state's three largest electric utilities; nine of the major power producers and brokers; and the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has refused to impose wholesale price controls sought by Davis.

In addition to Richardson, also at the meeting were Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Gene Sperling, the president's top economic adviser.

Electricity shortages have produced soaring prices and sporadic threats of brownouts in the state since last June. This week Davis called the state's experiment with electricity deregulation a "colossal failure."

The potential economic fallout from California's power problems became more apparent Tuesday when Intel Corp., the world's largest manufacturer of computer chips, announced it would no longer expand its plants or build new ones in the state until the electricity problems — including sporadic threats of rolling blackouts and soaring prices — are resolved.

Tuesday's meeting was widely viewed as an attempt to calm concerns on Wall Street and in the banking community about the prospects of two of California's major utilities facing bankruptcy because of cash shortages.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co., which together serve about 25 million people, have teetered near insolvency, accumulating more than $9 billion in losses since June. The utilities have seen wholesale prices soar fivefold, but have not been able to pass on the increases to retail customers because of state restrictions.

Last week, the state public utility commission agreed to a 7 percent to 15 percent rate hike, but the utilities said that was not nearly enough. There was growing concern that power suppliers would no longer sell to the utilities because of fear of not getting paid, one administration official said.

The utilities' stock continued to drop in trading Tuesday — shares of PG&E sank from $14 to $13.18 and SoCal Edison's parent company, Edison International, went from $12 to $11 — as Wall Street confidence in the two companies wavered.

Mother reports son as runaway

- ***Runaway***

A mother contacted police at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday to report her 17-year-old son as a runaway.

- ***Disorderly conduct***

A woman spoke to deputies at 9:13 a.m. Tuesday in reference to another subject using foul language towards her. An offense report for disorderly conduct by language was submitted.

- ***Family violence***

An offense report for Class C family violence was taken at 5:07 p.m. Tuesday.

- ***Arrests***

A 22-year-old man was arrested at 9:25 a.m. Tuesday in the 900 block of 25th Street on an Abilene warrant for theft by check.

At 11:22 a.m., a 31-year-old woman was booked into the Scurry County Jail for failing to pay a fine for driving with no driver's license.

- ***Fire notes***

Snyder Fire Department was dispatched to a storage building fire at 200 North Dunn Street in Hermleigh at 6:09 p.m. Tuesday.

The wood frame building, which was approximately 20 feet by 15 feet, was completely engulfed in flames and already collapsed to the ground when firefighters arrived, Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland said.

B.D. Garrett owned the structure.

Two firetrucks and 21 firefighters responded to the blaze.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband has an undescended testicle. Should it be checked? Should we worry?

DEAR READER: Yes, on both counts. Undescended testicles have a higher incidence of malignancy. Although some men's testicles tend to "ride high" in the scrotum and retract easily into the groin, a testicle that is truly undescended should be examined by a urologist. In such cases, the testicle is either brought into its proper position by surgery or is removed altogether. This is an excellent example of preventive medicine to avoid future problems. While this is not an emergency, I urge your husband to be checked.

DEAR DOCTOR GOTT: My husband dresses like a lady every October. This Halloween he dressed like a she-devil. What can I do to help him with this fetish?

DEAR READER: Your hubby has a problem — eventually he'll run out of costumes.

If all he does is dress up once a year, he probably isn't a real cross-dresser; that is, his preference doesn't reflect severe sexual disorientation. I'm not sure in what way you want to help him. Perhaps you can make a game out of his autumn urge by helping him apply makeup, assisting him in choosing a character every Halloween or - as a last resort - dressing yourself as a hedevil. In any case give him a trick and a treat.

Obviously, if your husband insists on some kinky sex when he impersonates females, you may be uncomfortable. In this instance, you both might benefit from some counseling.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is your opinion about mineral ice? I have a shoulder problem that seems to be helped by this.

DEAR READER: Mineral ice is a compound that becomes cold due to a chemical reaction. It is easier to use and is less messy than ordinary ice packs. The application of mineral ice (and regular ice) helps certain conditions, such as sprains, strains, bruises and injured muscles. If mineral ice relieves your shoulder pain, you can safely use it on a regular basis.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 24 and work at a stressful job. About the only way I can relieve the tension that I bring home is to hang myself upside-down over a cellar beam for 30 minutes. Is this practice at all dangerous?

DEAR READER: This type of treatment ("gravity boots") for stress enjoyed limited popularity several years ago, until doctors reported that adults who regularly hung upside-down had a higher incidence of strokes. This was believed to be caused by an inappropriately gravity-related increase in pressure within the veins around the brain. Over time, the veins could burst, causing hemorrhagic strokes.

Most people have given up this fad because of the risks. I think you, too, should. Try other techniques of stress control, such as regular exercise after work, meditation, massage or counseling.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Strokes." 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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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	39 25	38 31	38 81—	13
AT&T Corp	22 81	22 00	22 69 +	19
Albertsons	25 63	25 13	25 50 +	38
Alltel	65 00	64 06	64 50—	06
AmerOnline	44 00	42 50	43 33 +	48
AmEl Pw	42 75	41 81	41 88—	38
AndarkPtr	62 88	61 86	61 95 +	30
ATMOS Egy	25 06	24 44	25 06 +	56
Aviall	5 63	5 50	5 63 +	13
BP Amoco	47 94	47 44	47 69 +	63
BakerHughes	41 63	40 19	41 31 +	19
Bank of Amer	48 25	46 56	47 50 +	50
BellSouth	44 19	43 19	43 75 +	25
Beth Steel	1 81	1 75	1 75—	06
BurlNoSFe	29 75	28 81	28 94—	75
Caterpillar	45 63	44 25	44 25—	1 44
Chevron	80 31	79 75	80 00—	25
Citigroup s	53 69	51 88	53 44 +	1 25
Coastal	77 50	76 06	76 31 +	13
CocaCola	58 88	58 06	58 25—	1 13
ColgatePal	59 73	58 70	58 80—	1 15
ComclMetals	21 38	20 63	21 00—	25
Cooperln	45 19	44 13	44 31—	81
DaimlrChry	42 98	41 75	41 90—	2 34
DallSemicn s	26 88	25 63	26 75 +	50
DeltaAirl	48 50	47 13	48 44 +	06
Dillards Inc	14 75	14 00	14 63 +	38
DowChem s	33 00	31 63	31 69—	1 19
DuPont	45 94	44 69	44 69—	1 75
EastmanChem	46 69	44 50	44 94—	1 19
EstKodak	41 88	41 31	41 63	
EDS Corp	55 19	54 56	54 63—	94
Entergy	38 13	37 38	37 44—	06
ExxonMobil	82 44	80 50	80 50—	1 50
Flowers	16 25	15 81	16 19 +	44
GenDynam	70 31	69 31	70 19 +	38
GenlElec s	44 56	43 19	43 88—	75
GenMills	43 13	42 50	42 75—	31
GenMotors	54 19	53 69	53 69—	50
GaPacGP	30 00	29 44	29 44—	1 19
GlobalMar	27 50	26 38	27 06 +	50
Goodrich	35 69	35 38	35 50—	13
Goodyear s	24 20	23 51	23 55—	46
GtAtlPac	8 50	8 19	8 38 +	13
Halliburtn	38 94	38 00	38 63 +	56
Hanson ADS	35 94	35 00	35 00—	1 94
HarteHanks	22 50	22 00	22 44 +	44
HomeDepot	46 44	45 00	46 19 +	31
Honeywellintl	44 31	43 44	44 25—	44
IBM	94 63	91 69	93 88 +	1 31
IntlPaper	38 75	37 25	37 31—	1 00
JohnsonJn	99 00	97 06	97 06—	1 38
K mart	6 38	6 13	6 19—	19
Kroger Co	24 00	23 81	23 88	
Litton	78 94	78 88	78 94 +	06
LockheedM	33 75	33 00	33 60—	64
Lowes Cos	48 31	47 13	47 94—	56
Lubys	5 56	5 38	5 50 +	06
LucentTech	17 19	16 13	16 75—	06
MayDeptStr	35 00	34 00	34 94—	63
Medtronic	53 56	52 56	52 69—	81
Motorola s	20 63	19 81	20 44—	25
NCR Corp	48 25	46 50	48 00 +	88
Navistar	27 88	27 50	27 69—	19
Penney JC	12 00	11 75	11 81	
PepBoys	4 63	4 50	4 50 +	01
PepsiCo	46 81	45 75	45 81—	94
Pharmacia	55 50	54 88	55 13—	56
PhelpDodge	51 38	50 31	51 06—	44
PhilipPet	55 00	54 06	54 06—	1 00
PilgrmPrd B	8 00	7 94	7 94—	06
Polaroid	5 81	5 69	5 75	
Praxair	43 69	42 25	42 63—	88
ProctGamb	73 94	72 44	72 50—	2 13
PubS NwMx	24 88	24 44	24 88 +	38
RadioShack	45 63	44 25	45 44 +	1 56
ReliantEngy	36 63	35 38	35 44—	63
RoyalDut	59 06	58 69	58 81—	50
SBC Comm	52 00	50 63	51 25—	69
SaraLee	22 63	22 13	22 31—	19
Scripps EW	61 81	61 50	61 50—	06
SearsRoeb	36 59	35 38	35 45—	62
SherwinW	26 00	24 88	25 13—	56
SouthernCo	29 69	29 00	29 06—	25
SwstAirl	32 38	31 94	32 31 +	12
SprintFON	26 31	25 63	25 75 +	25
SprintPCS	26 13	25 56	25 94 +	06
Sunoco Inc	30 06	29 81	29 88—	13
TXU Corp	37 94	36 94	37 00 +	06
TempleInland	51 75	50 63	50 88—	44
Texaco	59 19	58 50	59 00 +	06
Texind	29 69	29 13	29 13—	69
TexasInst s	46 50	43 63	46 00 +	1 25
Textron	49 13	47 63	48 13—	63
TnconGlbR	32 69	31 31	32 44 +	06
TrinityInds	23 50	22 81	22 81—	51
TritonEngy	29 25	28 63	28 94 +	25
TylerTech	1 94	1 88	1 94—	06
USX-Marathn	27 75	27 38	27 44	12
USX-USS	17 31	16 50	16 56—	63
UnCarbde	48 94	46 75	46 75—	1 75
UnionPacif	53 44	52 88	52 88—	56
UnitedTech	71 00	69 09	71 00 +	38
Unocal	35 31	34 88	34 88—	31
Venator Grp	15 06	14 75	14 88—	50
VerizonComm	56 31	54 94	55 94 +	44
WalMart	51 63	50 50	51 06—	1 69
WellsFargo	49 63	47 69	48 88—	56
WstnGasRs	31 88	31 06	31 50 +	31
WinnDixie	19 13	18 81	19 06	
Xerox Cp	6 38	5 88	6 31 +	44

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JAN 10 2001

Scurry County Country

January, February...

South Plains Agriculture conferences announced

LUBBOCK — Farmers on the South Plains can update their crop production, marketing and management skills, and learn more about diversification, energy and water management at several regional ag conferences hosted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in January and February.

"Our regional conferences are designed to provide farmers with a wealth of information on ways to improve their crop and livestock operations," said Jett Major of Texas Agricultural Extension services district director for agricultural, in Lubbock. "The information presented at each conference is specifically designed to help producers in that region or county.

Producers can also earn continuing education units (CEUs) for private and commercial applicator licenses at these regional conferences. All of the one-day conferences will also feature commercial agribusiness exhibits.

This year's conference dates and locations are:

• Jan. 10 — Southern Mesa Ag conference at the Dawson County Annex building, 600 North 1st, in Lamesa. Registration costs $15 through Jan. 11, and $20 thereafter. Topics include regulations and policies affecting agriculture and best management practices for cotton, grain sorghum and peanuts. Five CEUs offered. Call Dawson County Extension office at 806-872-3444 for more details.

• Jan. 17 —West Plains Ag Conference at the Hockley County Fairgrounds (Women's Building) in Levelland, from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Registration costs $5 per person, to cover noon meal. Topics include ag laws and regulations, local and regional water management, an update on FSA and NRCS programs, boll weevil eradication, insect and weed control strategies, production tips, crop diversification and marketing strategies, 3.4 CEUs offered. Call Hockley or Cochran County Extension offices for more details.

• Jan. 23 —Caprock Cotton Conference at the Plains Baptist Assembly Camp south of Floydada runs from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration costs $25 per person up to Jan. 12 and $35 thereafter. Topics include cotton market outlook, crop insurance, local and regional water management, managing no-till cotton, insect pest outlook, boll weevil eradication, cotton varieties and harvest aids. Three CEUs offered. Call Floydada County Extension office 806-983-4912 for more details.

• Jan. 24 - North Plains Cotton Conference in Friona.

Topics include risk management and marketing, insect update, cotton varieties, ag laws, regulations, irrigation and boll weevil eradication. Three CEUs offered. Call Parmer County Extension office 806-481-3619 for more details.

• Jan. 25 —Llano Estacado Cotton Conference at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe. Topics include water and irrigation management, crop production and management strategies, pest control options, cotton varieties, and ag laws — regulations. Five CEUs offered. Call Bailey County Extension office 806-272-4584 for more details.

• Jan. 26 — The Hale County Cotton & Soil Fertility Conference at the Ollie Liner Center. Registration costs $10 per person. A limited number of commercial booths are available for $50 each. Speakers will address cotton production and marketing strategies, alternative crops, risk management and crop insurance. Five CEUs offered. Call Hale County Extension office 806-291-5267.

• Feb. 20 — Sandyland Ag Conference at the Gaines County Community building in Seminole. Topics include water and pest management, cotton production strategies, chemical safety and marketing options. Call Gaines County Extension office 915-758-4006 for more details.

New York airports among worst in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Tuesday the city's two major airports are among the worst in the nation and their poor management could threaten the city's economic vitality.

The mayor's words marked an escalation in his battle with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for control over La Guardia and John F. Kennedy airports.

"We're leading the country for crime reduction ... but we're at the bottom of the pack with regard to airports," Giuliani said, citing passenger surveys that put the airports at the low end of U.S. airports for customer satisfaction.

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Dividing your perennials in winter

In order to increase your stock of clumping perennials, divide spring and summer bloomers during the fall and winter. (Those that are fall bloomers can be divided in the spring or season opposite to bloom time).

Passing favorite plants along to friends or trading for a prized plant are a favorite part of perennial gardening. Most perennials left in the ground in the same place for more than 3 years are likely to become overgrown and overcrowded. They may have dead, unsightly centers and need basic feeding and soil amendments. Flowers tend to be sparse and growth is poor. The clump depletes the soil fertility as the plant crows itself.

To divide mater clumps of perennials, select only vigorous side shoots from the outer part of the clump. Discard the center of the clump. Section the plant into clumps of 3-5 shoots each. Be careful not to overdivide; if a clump is too small, it does not give much color the first year after replanting.

Separate fall perennials in time for them to become established before the ground freezes, or divide when the plants are dormant just before a new growth season. Stagger plant divisions so that the whole flowerbed will not be redone at the same time, good rotation yields a display of flowers each year.

Do not put divisions back in the same place that contained the original plant, this places too many plants in a given area. Mulch carefully in order to give the newly separated plants more protection against drying winds and/or cold. Do not apply so much mulch over the crown that rotting is encouraged, or newly emerging shoots in the spring stretch upwards to reach the sunlight.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 801 head of cattle for the Saturday, Jan. 6, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were $2 to $8 higher, instances even higher. Slaughter cows and bulls were steady. Bred cows were $25/hd. Higher, pairs were firm in a light test. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 134-145
300-400: 119-129
400-500: 107-116
500-600: 94.50-101
600-700: 89-92.50
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 113-121
300-400: 108-116
400-500: 94.94.50
500-600: 88-93
600-700: 82-87
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 575-640
Aged cows: 479-570
Pairs: 750-800
Aged pairs: 610-675
Slaughter cows: Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 37.50-41
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 41-44
Bone High Yielding: 1100-1350 Lbs. 44-45
Lean: 900-1200Lbs. 36.50-41
800-1000: 35-39
Under 750 lbs.: 28-34
Slaughter bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2100 Lbs. 47.50
Low Dressing:* 1,000-1,130 lbs. 54-50-55.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 413 head of cattle for the Thursday, Jan. 4, sale. Cows were steady. Yearlings and calves were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 31-43
Canner and low cutters: 30-36
Slaughter bulls: 41-54
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-125
400-500: 100-120
500-600: 88-95
600-700: 85-92
700-800: 82-87
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-100
400-500: 85-100
500-600: 80-91
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 77-84
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-93
700-800: 78-83
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-750
Grade: 550-625
Springers: 350-725
Baby calves: 125-175
Doodlers: 175-250

Michigan alfalfa co-op is $1.3 million failure

AKRON, Mich. (AP) — After less than a year, a $1.3 million effort by 180 Michigan alfalfa growers to start a cooperative has gone bust.

The last Michigan Alfalfa Processors Cooperative employee was Manager Karl Wildner. His last day was Friday.

"The plant is very much in debt and out of cash," Wildner said. "We have a large accounts payable list to our vendors."

Wildner would not say how much the co-op owes. Its board of directors decided to shutter the operation.

"I think this business can go and be profitable, but we need a different marketing plan," Wildner said.

Construction began in December 1999 on the 64,800-square-foot Alfalfa Processors Cooperative. Growers had hoped to have the plant running by May 2000.

"We finally got going around the end of July, and that really hurt us," said Rich Sylvester of Fairgrove, one of the co-op investors.

The plant dried alfalfa into cubes for animal feed. Wildner said the target market was the horse industry. At its peak, the facility employed 16 workers.

Wildner did not divulge sales figures for the first six months of operation, but said the project was underfinanced from the start.

"There were several mistakes made along the way that hurt our business," Wildner told The Bay City Times.

Sylvester identified several factors he believes caused the plant's shutdown.

"We ended up with some equipment that was older than we thought and couldn't perform some of the jobs adequately," Sylvester said. "We had a tremendous crop this year, and the plant just couldn't keep up."

Sylvester also said there were construction problems with the plant on the co-op's 69-acre site, and described sales as sluggish.

Wildner said the board of directors would continue to meet to try to save the operation. He would not speculate on its chances of reopening.

"Right now, I'm out of a job, and I'm disappointed," Wildner said. "I poured my heart and soul into this place for the past year and now it's gone."

Alfalfa is one of the most important crops grown in the Thumb, and the region's Sanilac and Huron counties rank Nos. 1 and 2 in the state in its production, according to the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service's Huron County office.

"Alfalfa serves as an important cash crop and high quality alfalfa is essential for profitable dairy production," according to the office's Web sight. "Alfalfa also plays an important role in restoring and sustaining soil fertility.

"Alfalfa has such an important impact on soil structure, drainage, and fertility that many row crop farmers are seeking to put alfalfa back into their crop rotations."

On the Net:
Michigan farm Bureau:
http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com

Cotton futures

NEW YORK (AP) — Cotton futures No. 2 were lower in midday dealing today.

The average price for strict low middling 1 & 1-16 inch spot cotton advanced 125 points to 56.41 cents a pound Monday for the seven markets, according to the New York Board of Trade.

Midday prices were unchanged to $2.0050 a bale lower than the previous close. Mar 59.85, May 61.6785, Jul 63.0520, Oct 63.00, Dec 62.00, Mar 63.20, May b63.80, Jul b64.50, Oct b62.00 and Dec b62.20.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 12, 2001

Should there be substantial changes in your mode of living in the year ahead, the quicker you adjust to them, the easier it will be to achieve your personal aims and objectives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Unfortunately, not everyone possesses a cheerful disposition and outlook, yet we must still deal with them. The important thing is not to let them influence your outlook today. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you're not on your toes or if you're indifferent to all the financial ramifications in your commercial dealings today, someone might quickly do a number on you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Sometimes no matter how hard we try, it is impossible to please everyone. This could be one of those days for you, but you must not let this taint your good attitude.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) When partaking of some of the good things life has to offer, use some common sense. Overindulging with substances that could cause deleterious effects will create problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be careful not to make someone who is very fond of you feel as if you are usurping his or her desires for another person who is merely being pushy. Don't get bamboozled.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Although those with whom you have dealings outside of your home today may think you're pretty nifty, chance are if a poll were taken within the clan, your actions would be voted down.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A manipulator who is aware of the fact that you're susceptible to praise and acknowledgment may use this weakness today by spinning flowery phrases to twist you around to do his or her bidding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Avoid high-priced places and/or salespeople who are capable of talking you into buying items you don't need. Sales resistance isn't numbered among your strong suits today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Give others the benefit of the doubt today rather than jump to conclusions and misjudge their intentions without cause. It could harm a special relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Even though this might not be one of your more industrious days and you choose to goof off, if you try to induce co-workers to do likewise, look for the boss to come down hard on you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Chances are when involved with people who lack good taste or decent social graces you won't take kindly to it and could behave in a like manner. You'll have nothing to complain about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Using flattery in hopes of inducing another to do something for you will be a waste of time today. Your actions will be quickly discerned and produce just the opposite results.

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CALVARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM — Members of Calvary Baptist Church who presented a Christmas program last month include Bridgett Garcia, Melissa Newby, Kristal Gomez, Kellie Ruiz, David Gomez, Ty Burton, Steven Seale, Jonnie Porter, Logan Tabor, Alex Steelman, Mason Tabor, LaTasha Seale, Amber Steelman, Ember Proffitt, Casey Newby, Sharla Nolan, Kimberly Nolan, Savannah Valdez, Wendy Proffitt, Jennifer Newman, Cole McLeod, Tiffany Craig, Jessica Hines, Heather Sturdivant. (Contributed Photo)

Therapist booked in 6 deaths

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP) — Almost three years after telling police he was the "Angel of Death," a former respiratory therapist was arrested for investigation of murder in the deaths of six hospital patients.

Tuesday's arrest of Efren Saldivar, 31, capped a lengthy probe of deaths at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

"Today we can announce that we believe we have found the truth, as disturbing as that truth is," Police Chief Russell Siverling said.

He also said investigators have an "initial inkling" that Saldivar may have killed patients at other hospitals where he moonlighted.

Saldivar, arrested as he arrived at his job as an electrician's apprentice, was held without bail.

"He's very distraught. He's very shocked and distressed," said Terry M. Goldberg, who has been representing Saldivar in a series of wrongful death lawsuits filed against him and Glendale Adventist.

Investigators have been tight-lipped about the case since it surfaced in March 1998 when the state Respiratory Care Board suspended Saldivar's license.

That month, Saldivar allegedly told police he committed dozens of mercy killings at the medical center between 1989 and 1997. He told police he considered himself the "Angel of Death."

Police said Saldivar told them he was angry at seeing terminally ill patients kept alive and killed them by injecting muscle-paralyzing drugs into their intravenous lines.

In later TV interviews, Saldivar recanted, saying he had lied because he was depressed, suicidal and wanted to be sent to death row. He was fired from the hospital and his license was revoked.

Investigators reviewed the deaths of 171 patients who died while Saldivar was working at the hospital. Fifty-four cases were eliminated because bodies had been cremated.

Of the remainder, 20 deaths were determined to have been suspicious, and paralyzing drugs were found in the bodies of six.

"We found evidence to conclude that ... these patients were in fact murdered," the chief said.

Siverling referred other questions to the Los Angeles County district attorney, who scheduled a news conference for Wednesday.

Hospital spokeswoman Alicia Gonzalez said officials had no comment.

Apple CEO reveals new items

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Embattled Apple Computer Inc. will try to re-establish itself by offering faster processors in its computers as well as DVD and CD drives that give users the ability to burn their own music and movie discs.

In a keynote speech Tuesday before a crowd of 5,000 at Macworld Expo, Apple chief executive Steve Jobs introduced the items as part of a powerful new lineup of products the company hopes will reinvigorate its business.

"The last several months have been particularly challenging for Apple and for our industry," Jobs said. "We decided we're going to start 2001 with a bang."

Apple is struggling to keep up after having lost its lead to Dell Computer Corp. in its traditionally strong education market. Apple, which has failed to woo PC users away from IBM compatibles, is facing its first non-profitable quarter in three years.

Acknowledging that Apple had fallen behind the competition by previously offering only 500 megahertz processors and no CD-rewritable drives, Jobs announced that a new line of Power Mac G4s will include faster chips and CD-RW drives.

"We're late to the party, but we're about to do a leap frog," Jobs said.

The highest-end model features a 733 MHz G4 chip and what Apple calls a Super Drive: a CD and DVD drive that allows users to copy music discs and movie discs. It will also come with a new software program called iDVD that will allow users to make their own DVD movies. The company already bundles iMovie, which helps users make their own movies, with current Apple offerings.

The two lower-end models, with 466 MHz and 533 MHz processors, are available now, Jobs said, at $1,699 and $2,199. The two higher-end models, powered by 667 MHz and 733 MHz processors, will hit the market in February, priced at $2,799 and $3,499.

Apple will also make its belated way into the digital music arena with iTunes, which will allow users to copy, or burn, MP3-format songs onto CDs in a simple and user-friendly interface.

Apple's earnings report for the quarter that ended Dec. 31 is due next week, and the company has said it will lose between $225 million and $250 million.

Jobs' announcements were part of an effort to bring the Cupertino-based company, around — a task he accomplished previously when he returned to Apple in 1997 after leaving in the 1980s.

"It's one of the best lineups I've seen," said Richard Lambert, a geology teacher at Skyline College in San Bruno, a longtime Mac user.

But some of the Apple faithful acknowledged that though the new lineup was attractive for the so-called Mac community, it failed to include a truly revolutionary new product, such as the iMac. The transparent and fruit-colored family of desktops, introduced in 1997, attracted new customers to Apple and helped catapult the beleaguered company back to healthy profits.

"Being able to write DVDs won't capture the general public's imagination and it won't propel the public out of the PC funk it's in," said Lukas Hauser, a Mac fan and the MacCommunist columnist for Mired.com.

Other computer makers along with Apple have struggled in recent months with a slowdown in PC sales, but Apple's problems were more acute because its products are higher priced than competing models and because it depends more on PC sales than other more diversified companies.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Medic has word to the wise for teens who 'fool around'

DEAR ABBY: While cleaning out some drawers, I discovered a column of yours I had clipped years ago. I'm now saving it for my great-grandchildren.

Your column has helped lots of people, and perhaps this item can save other teen-agers many heartaches and problems if you print it again. Thanks. — **A GREAT-GRANDMA FROM INDIANA**

DEAR GREAT-GRANDMA: You're right. It contains information every teen-ager should know — so here it is for young people who don't think things through before they do "everything but" or become sexually active:

DEAR ABBY: I weep every time I read a letter from a pregnant teen-ager pleading for help. So few people know that the sex act need not be completed for a female to become pregnant.

I was a medic in the service. When I got married, my ward doctor loaned me a medical book that he'd used in counseling young people. From that book, I learned that when a man becomes excited, a few drops of neutralizing fluid are released to neutralize any uric acid in the male urinary canal. It is nature's way of clearing a safe path for the delicate sperm cells to pass through at termination of the sex act.

Lab tests have shown that occasionally a few sperm cells are present in the fluid. This occurs most frequently in teen-agers, since that is when the male is at the peak of fertility.

Abby, please warn young people that if they plan to go beyond kissing and holding hands, they should take all necessary measures a couple would or should take in preventing pregnancy. "Fooling around a little" can be as dangerous as going all the way.

I am a father and a grandfather who is concerned about our youth, so if this information can help someone, you have my permission to edit it any way you like. — **CONCERNED GRANDFATHER**

DEAR GRANDFATHER: Thank you for a lesson in sex education that may save young people from an "accidental" pregnancy they are ill-prepared to handle.

**

DEAR ABBY: When I read the letter from "Puzzled Mother-in-Law," I had to write. She said she and her husband traveled for three days to their son and daughter-in-law's house for Thanksgiving, and then were ignored by the daughter-in-law. She kept to herself, reading books, sewing and staying in her closed bedroom.

I am a man in my 60s, and I think you missed this one, Abby. This behavior happened to me with two of my sons and a couple of friends.

That daughter-in-law and their son are most likely breaking up. Their son invited them, and his wife probably told him, "They're your parents — you entertain them."

What I'm saying is, the son and daughter-in-law most likely put up a "front" for the occasion. As soon as the holiday was over, they probably went their own way. — **BEEN THERE, SEEN THAT, SUN VALLEY, NEV.**

DEAR BEEN THERE: You certainly had a different take on this than I had, and you could be right. If I hear from the mother-in-law and you are correct, I'll print the letter. Thank you for the input.

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Business feud leaves 5 dead

HOUSTON (AP) — A businessman who had apparently been feuding with a Houston wholesaler killed the man and two members of his family at their business Tuesday, then fatally shot himself. The suspect's estranged wife was later found slain inside a cooler at the convenience store they owned.

Witnesses told police that the gunman walked into Amko Trading, a clothing and perfume business, at about noon and said, "They murdered my family, and now I'm going to murder them."

A SWAT team found the bodies of the wholesaler, his wife and their daughter, along with the mortally wounded gunman and two pistols, both of which appeared to have been fired.

The suspect died later at a hospital of a gunshot wound to the head.

Police Capt. Richard Holland said the body of the suspect's wife was discovered about four hours after the shootings. Police identified the gunman as Ki Yung Park, 54, and his estranged wife as Byong Sun Park, 42.

Police said the Amko victims were Chong Chang, 58, wife Hyon Chang, 54, and Kathy Chang, 23. Employee Ruben Zuniga, 29, and others said the victims owned the business, something police did not immediately confirm.

"When I heard the shots I got out and ran," said Zuniga, who added that there were about eight customers inside at the time.

Police spokeswoman Silvia Trevino said the suspect had been in a "lingering feud" with the business, but had no other details.

Chang and the suspect both were Korean and had known each other for years, said Kristopher Ahn, who identified himself as Chang's attorney.

Ahn also said the suspect had been behaving strangely, baselessly accusing Chang of sleeping with his wife.

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$277.00 mo.
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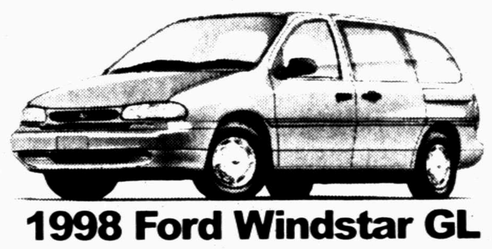
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Cash price $13,963.38, cash down $3741.00, financed 48 mos @ 11.50% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L



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



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



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



1998 Ford Windstar GL
Pow. Win/Locks, Keyless, Exc. Cond., One Owner
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SLE, 318, Auto, PW, PL, Extra Clean, Factory Warranty

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2000 Ford F250 Supercab XLT 4X4 ..... $27,995
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush searches for new labor secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush is searching anew for a labor secretary, saying he was saddened by the withdrawal of Linda Chavez in a controversy over her relationship with an undocumented immigrant.

"I absolutely believe she would have been a great Cabinet secretary," Bush said Tuesday night at Andrews Air Force Base after arriving for a three-day visit to the nation's capital.

Still, "I understand her reluctance to move forward," Bush said.

The president-elect met at the Pentagon Wednesday with outgoing Defense Secretary William Cohen and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Afterward, he said the briefing went "very good" but declined to answer reporters' questions.

He also was to meet with budget advisers in the afternoon. Though hoping to divert attention from the Chavez flap, Bush had no plans to make high-level appointments Wednesday, and aides said an announcement of Chavez's replacement was not imminent.

Republican advisers suggested Bush might fill the post of U.S. trade representative as early as Wednesday.

Top contenders include Robert Zoellick, a former assistant secretary of state for economic affairs during the administration of Bush's father, and Richard W. Fisher, a Democrat who is currently the deputy U.S. trade representative.

Chavez on Tuesday withdrew her name from consideration for the labor post, saying the controversy over an illegal immigrant who once lived with her had become a distraction.

Chavez said she should have been more candid about the circumstances surrounding Marta Mercado, a Guatemalan woman who lived with her for about two years in the early 1990s.

Wednesday, she blamed her troubles partly on the five-week presidential election contest in Florida, which she said forced the Bush team to make nominations first and investigate later.

A Bush spokesman acknowledged that the tightened schedule represented a challenge for the transition team.

"If we had our choice and could have five more weeks put on the clock, I think that would be the best thing for the nation, of course," spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "The recount shortened the time for us to prepare in all matters," he said, but added that Americans "will say this is one remarkably prepared administration given the circumstances."

Chavez had drawn fierce criticism from some labor groups, but Fleischer said Bush had no plans to change his criteria as he renews his search for a labor secretary. "We're looking for someone who will have the same approach to labor as President-elect Bush," he said.

Bush aides said the woman did odd jobs for Chavez around the house and that Chavez gave her spending money. The aides said this was not an employer-employee relationship.

Obituaries

Joe Michie

1925-2001

Joe Michie, retired manager of Oilwell Supply in Snyder, died Sunday, Jan. 7, at his home in Snyder.



Joe Michie

Following cremation, a Masonic memorial service for Mr. Michie, 75, will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Snyder Country Club No. 1 tee box. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 13, 1925 in Childress, he was reared in Wichita Falls where he graduated from high school and attended Midwestern State University for two years.

He married Sophie Zeck on May 11, 1980 in Quanah. A resident of Snyder since 1966, Mr. Michie worked for Oilwell Supply for 37 years and had also managed stores in Abilene and Anson. He also was active in the Men's Golf Association at Snyder Country Club. Mr. Michie served in the Merchant Marines in World War II. He was a Shriner, a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Scurry Masonic Lodge 706.

He was preceded in death by his parents, T.B. and Eulalie Michie; and a brother, Earl Michie.

Survivors include his wife, Sophie Michie of Snyder; a daughter, Jan Michie of Austin; a son, Rodney Glen Michie of Austin; two stepdaughters, Elizabeth Eveland of Snyder and Judy Harrell of Troy, Mo.; a stepson, Ted Allen Bueneman of Troy, Mo.; a sister, Joy Dorsey of Roswell, N.M.; a brother, Ted Michie of Tulsa; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three step grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at 3109 Ave. A.

The family suggests memorial to the Shriner Children's Hospital in Dallas.

Wanda McAnelly

1934-2001

Wanda McAnelly of Andrews, former Snyder resident, died at 8:02 this morning at a caretaker's home in Andrews. Services are pending for Mrs. McAnelly, 66, at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born on March 26, 1934 in Matador, Mrs. McAnelly had worked for the Snyder schools and Cogdell Memorial Hospital in the dietary department.

Survivors include two daughters, Karen Kittles of Snyder and Martha Dever of Andrews; a son, Herman McAnelly of Odessa; two brothers, Weldon Cain of Snyder and Don Cain of Conchas, N.M.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Paula Aguilar

1938-2001

Paula Aguilar, a resident of Snyder for the past 27 years, died Monday, Jan. 8, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.



Paula Aguilar

Funeral service for Mrs. Aguilar, 62, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Fr. Leo Moras will officiate. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Rosary will be held at 7 this evening at the funeral home. Deacon Robert Ramirez will officiate.

Born Oct. 2, 1938 in Gonzales, she was a homemaker and a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. She had moved to Snyder from Ralls.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Antonio Aguilar.

Survivors include six daughters, Victoria Aguilar, Angela Martinez, Patricia Campos and Beatrice Facundo, all of Snyder, Gloria Sanchez of Lubbock and Adela Martinez of Waco; three sons, George Aguilar of Lockhart, Ernesto Aguilar and Antonio Aguilar, both of Snyder; four sisters, Julia Lopez and Santos Rendon, both of Snyder, Rita Banda of Lubbock and Maria Vanegas of Salem, Ore.; three brothers, Esquio Banda of Comanche, Marcelo Banda of Plainview and Leon Banda of Hamilton; longtime partner, Felipe Martinez of Snyder; two daughters-in-law; three sons-in-law; and numerous grandchildren.

Bud Skaggs

1919-2001

Funeral service for G.E. "Bud" Skaggs were set for 2 p.m. today in the First Baptist Church in Hermleigh with Dr. Rex Reynolds, pastor, officiating.

Interment was to follow in the Hillside Memorial Gardens with arrangements under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Skaggs, 81, died Monday, Jan. 8, in Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Born Nov. 18, 1919 in DeLeon, he married Lois Hodges on Dec. 18, 1939 in Littlefield. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Skaggs, a retired mechanic, moved to Morton in the early 1940s and to Snyder in 1969. He had worked for Key Brothers Implement and was a member of the Hermleigh First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Mary Skaggs; three sisters, Jewel Grisham, Pearl Spruill and Lillian Thorton; four brothers, Bill, Byron, Stanley and Elmer Skaggs; and a grandson, Robby Davenport.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Skaggs of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Melvin Davenport of Snyder and Juanice and Troy Tyson of Levelland; a sister, Thelma "Sis" Briggs of Bosque Farms, N.M.; two granddaughters and their husbands, Shellie and Joe Hamby of Hereford and Marni and Doug Roberson of Rockwall; a grandson, Toby Tyson of Plano; a granddaughter-in-law, Patty (Davenport) Creach of Big Lake; 10 great-grandchildren; three step great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and three step great-great-granddaughters.

Don Whisenhunt

1953-2001

ABILENE – Don Whisenhunt, the father of two Snyder residents, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, in an Abilene hospital.

Graveside service for Mr. Whisenhunt, 47, was set for 4 p.m. today in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel with Don Myers officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Community Memorial Funeral Home.

Born in Abilene, he married Sandra Ferguson in Abilene and had lived in Abilene most of his life. A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Whisenhunt worked as a machinist for Hartmann's. He was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arlie Whisenhunt; and by a sister, Carol Sue Whisenhunt.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Whisenhunt of Abilene; two sons, Gary Don Whisenhunt of Snyder and Zachary Whisenhunt of Abilene; a daughter, Amanda Whisenhunt of Snyder; his mother Myrtle Whisenhunt of Abilene; a stepson, Jason Norris of Colorado Springs; a stepdaughter, Amanda Bourland of Abilene; a brother, DeWayne Whisenhunt of Houston; three sisters, Pat Ray of Abilene, Lois Brubaker of Copperas Cove and Frances O'Brien of Des Moines, Iowa; two grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Eugene Mauldin

1911-2001

BAIRD – Eugene Sherwood Mauldin, the father of Irene Masters of Snyder, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Coronado Nursing Center in Abilene after a brief illness.



E.S. Mauldin

Funeral service for Mr. Mauldin, 89, is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church in Baird. The Rev. Miller Robinson of Snyder will officiate, assisted by Dr. James Shields.

Burial will follow in the Belle Plaine Cemetery under the direction of Parker Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 20, 1911 in Shields, Tex., Mr. Mauldin married Verna Belle Cooper on Dec. 27, 1929 in Sylvester. She died last Oct. 16.

The Mauldins, married for 70 years, lived in the Rowden community near Baird for 62 years, in Snyder for three years and in Abilene for the past three years.

Mr. Mauldin was a farmer most of his life but he also worked for Foremost Dairies and Abilene Reporter News. He also worked for the highway department in various locations, including Snyder. He also was employed at the Robo car wash and Snyder Farm & Ranch Supply. Mr. Mauldin was a member of First Baptist Church in Baird. He was a former member of Colonial Hill Baptist in Snyder. Mr. Mauldin served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also served on the school board at Bayou.

Survivors include another daughter, Majorie Brown of San Antonio; three sons, Carl Mauldin of Comanche, Roland Mauldin of Clyde and Don Mauldin of Cape Coral, Fla.; two brothers, Raymond Mauldin of Weatherford and Nolan Mauldin of Fort Worth; 17 grandchildren, including Charlotte Clifton of Snyder; 38 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank to defray medical expenses of Christa Lane Arnold who was born four months premature to Ruby and Larry Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock with medicine expenses alone totaling over $900 per day. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01. Arnold is a DJ at KSNY.

Softball board meeting

The Snyder Girls Softball Association will have a board meeting at 8 tonight in the basement of Texas Savings Bank. All board members are urged to attend.

Flu vaccine available

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will offer flu shots all day Thursday and Friday. The shots cost $6 each and will be administered in the human resources department.

1981 class reunion

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

Northeast family reading night

Family reading night at Northeast Elementary will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Pizza and soft drinks will be served and child care is provided.

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Other testing dates are 9 a.m. Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment call 573-8511, ext. 313.

FBC worship service

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

American Cancer Society

The Scurry County Unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Volunteer training

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

Masonic Lodge

Scurry Masonic Lodge 706 will have work in the E.A. Degree Friday. The degree work will follow a meal that begins at 6 p.m. All Masons are invited.

Country and gospel music program

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

Snyder Neighbors Sharing

The board of directors of Snyder Neighbors Sharing will meet at 5:15 p.m. Monday in the office of Sam Robertson Insurance, 1926 26th St. Anyone interested in the organization is welcome to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Abraham, a Servant of God," followed by "Happy Father's Day."

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.

Ira annual deadline

Thursday, Jan. 25, is the last day to purchase a 2001 Ira Bulldog yearbook with your name on the cover. Cost is $26. Price without name is $22.

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.

Patterson to acquire 21 drilling rigs

Patterson Energy Inc. of Snyder Tuesday announced the completion of an agreement that will result in 21 additional contract drilling rigs.

Patterson Energy acquired the assets of Henderson Welding, Inc., L.E.J. Truck and Crane, Inc., and LE Jones Drilling Company.

The acquired assets consist of 21 contract drilling rigs of which 14 are currently operable. One more is expected to be operable by the end of January, and six will require additional capital expenditures. Also included is a fleet of rig moving trucks, drilling facilities, shops and equipment yards located in Duncan, Okla. and in Bridgeport.

The drilling rigs range from 450 to 1,000 horsepower with 12 rigs having a drilling capacity of 12,000 feet and greater, and four capable of drilling greater than 15,000 feet. The acquired operations are primarily located in Southern Oklahoma, the Permian Basin and Eastern New Mexico and the Barnett Shale area of North Central Texas.

The purchase price of $36.2 million consisted of 810,070 shares of Patterson's common stock valued at $26.8125 per share, and $10.9 million cash, net of certain working capital adjustments.

The six non-operable drilling rigs will require capital expenditures, including drill pipe for each of the rigs. Patterson estimates these expenditures will cost approximately $4 to $6 million. Refurbishment of the six rigs is expected to be completed at various times during fiscal 2001.

Patterson Energy Inc. is one of the leading providers of domestic land-based drilling services to major independent oil and natural gas companies. Patterson currently owns 152 drilling rigs, 138 of which are currently operable.