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WT-Int. Crude - $26.20
WTIC Posted - $23.25

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

Nov. 30, 1999
Vol. 51 No.181
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Charlene Akers

FBI agents, Mexican soldiers search Juarez area for cartel victims

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — As many as 100 people, including 22 Americans, are believed to have been killed by a Mexican drug cartel and buried on two ranches near this border city, Mexican authorities said today.

U.S. and Mexican agents returned today to resume the search for people Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said were believed killed by the Juarez drug cartel, the dominant Mexican drug-trafficking organization in the mid-1990s.

There was no indication any of the bodies had been exhumed and officials were uncertain exactly how many bodies they expect to find.

"The list is of more than 100 persons who hypothetically could be buried in those points," Madrazo told the Televisa network here. Twenty-two of them, he said, were believed to be U.S. citizens.

President Clinton said he had not received confirmation that 22 Americans were among the victims and he condemned the killings as "a horrible example" of the excesses of Mexico's drug cartels.

"I think it reinforces the imperative of our trying not only to protect our border but to work with the Mexican authorities to try to combat these," Clinton said in Washington. "We had a lot of success a few years ago in taking down a number of the Colombian drug cartels, and one of the adverse consequences of that was a lot of the operations were moved north into Mexico.

"There are organized criminal operations there and they are particularly vicious."

On Monday night dozens of armed soldiers, some wearing black ski masks, surrounded one of the ranches in a desolate area 10 miles south of Ciudad Juarez. White iron gates towered in front of the ranch. A concrete block wall covered with graffiti surrounded the rest of the property, located across the street from a junkyard. Topping the concrete wall was a chain-link fence with razor wire.

No bodies were seen being carried out, but several soldiers left the ranch carrying duffel bags. No one at the scene would talk to reporters. A news conference scheduled for Monday night in Ciudad Juarez was canceled.

At Mexico's request, the FBI was sending agents and forensic experts to help recover and identify the remains, believed to be of both U.S. and Mexican citizens, the Mexican attorney general's office said in a statement.

"In the last four years, and possibly over more time, citizens of both nationalities have disappeared without leaving any trace," it said.

The office announced Monday that it had launched a joint investigation with the FBI to solve the slayings and disappearances of residents on both sides of the border during the past several years.

Mexican and U.S. officials would not publicly release details on the graves Monday. But an FBI agent speaking on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press in Washington that as many as 100 bodies had been found on two ranches near Ciudad Juarez, a city across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Rodrigo Falcon, 18, said he and his family were caring for the ranch in the absence of the property's owner, whom he identified as Jorge Ortiz of El Paso. He said Ortiz hadn't been there for a while.

Falcon, who was on the verge of tears, said the soldiers wouldn't let him inside when he arrived from work at a nearby factory.

It could not immediately be determined when the bodies were first discovered on the two ranches in northern Mexico. It also could not be determined how many agents from both countries are involved in the investigation, but CBS News reported that 200 agents and forensic specialists were committed to the operation and that exhumations were to begin today.

For years, Ciudad Juarez has been headquarters for the Juarez cartel, a drug gang formerly run by Amado Carrillo Fuentes. Carrillo was the country's No. 1 cocaine trafficker before he died in 1997 after plastic surgery. In the wake of his death, dozens of people were killed in the city in what police believe was at least in part a battle for control of the cartel.



CHOIR REHEARSAL — A combined Christmas choir concert which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday in Worsham Auditorium will feature Snyder High School, the junior high and West Elementary choir students. Ronda Haire, high school choir director, leads Monday night's rehearsal. Marcie Dennis directs the junior high choir and Judy Brown is the sixth grade choir director. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Community blood drive is continuing

The community-wide blood drive continues today until 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church.

On Wednesday, Cogdell Memorial Hospital employees will be able to donate blood from noon until 5 p.m., and on Thursday, the Price Daniel Unit employees will hold a drive from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Sponsors of the blood drive are the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Scurry County Advisory Council for United Blood Services.

Donors will have the opportunity to be awarded food coupons from several local food service establishments, plus a special incentive of a hotel stay and dinner for two in Lubbock.

Pam Harris, community relations representatives for UBS, said blood supplies are extremely low for this time of year.

"This is especially true for types O-positive and O-negative," said Harris.

Blood donor requirements are simple, as anyone who is in good health, has not donated blood in the last eight weeks, weighs at least 110 pounds and is at least 17 years old can donate.

All donors must present some type of identification, such as a drivers license, social security card or a passport.

Besides the night in Lubbock, donors will also be eligible to receive coupons from local merchants.

These merchants include Dairy Queen, which will donate coupons for DQ sundaes. Whataburger will have a coupon good for a medium drink with the purchase of a dessert and Taco John's will have a coupon for a small soft drink and order of Potatoes Ole'.

Wal-Mart will give a coupon for a medium drink with any food purchase as will Long John Silvers. Wal-Mart will also award every fifth donor with a six-pack of cola.

Golden Corral will have coupons worth $1, while Gill's Fried Chicken will have coupons to give to every other donor for a regular order.

McDonald's will offer 20 assorted coupons and Burger King will have coupons for 10 Whopper burgers, plus 12 coupons for a hamburger, small fry and drink. Ken's Chicken will donate 50 coupons for a quick pack and small drink.

The Shack will donate two "Sunday Dinner for Two" coupons, and Jaramillo's Restaurant will have coupons for nine $5 gift certificates, as will the Spanish Inn, Pizza Hut, Rudy's and Lota' Burger.

Grandy's will donate 12 coupons for "Sinnamon Rolls," with the Rusty Spur Café at the Wagon Wheel Ranch donating two $12.50 gift certificates.

Tiger Health and Fitness Center will donate a $20 gift certificate, while Lulu's Beauty Shop will give a coupon for $2 off on each haircut.

Local businesses advertising the drive on their outdoor signs include Golden Corral, Hackfeld's, McWilliams Pharmacy, Pizza Hut, The Shack and the Scurry County Coliseum.

WTC completes third distance-learning lab

Western Texas College has announced the completion of a third distance-learning classroom that will be utilized beginning the spring 2000 semester.

Britt Canada, dean of technology, said the facility was made possible by a grant, just as the first two distance learning labs were.

"We got it set up with a grant again," Canada said. "The college contributed about $15,000, and the grant contributed the rest."

He said the total cost of the lab was about $65,000.

The lab has a 14-student capacity and is equipped with cameras, monitors and a document camera.

"It has all the things that are needed for a distance-learning classroom."

Canada said classes are scheduled this spring to be sent from WTC to receiving sites. Math and government classes are currently scheduled for this classroom.

"We are not sure yet, but that may be the classroom we use to bring in classes from Abilene Christian University," Canada added. "They should be on-line by then."

This will be the first time WTC can receive classes from Abilene Christian.

Canada also announced that Midwestern University has pulled their classes. The university notified WTC in a letter last week.

"They say it costs too much for them to bring it in and they said enrollment wasn't as high as they wanted," Canada said.

Midwestern will not be receiving classes from WTC either.

"I think they are going to turn the line off at the end of this semester."

Canada said he knows WTC will be working with Stamford High School, but it is uncertain at this point what other schools will be on-line and ready to receive classes.

"I'm not sure what all schools we are going to be working with. We are talking theory right now because some of them haven't got it up and running. A lot of schools have started getting their stuff installed, but haven't got it fully installed."

The first two distance learning labs are located in the continuing education building while the newest lab is located in the Learning Resource Center.

The college is also actively seeking grants to acquire a fourth lab.

"We are involved in several grants that have been submitted. If any of those come through, we will have a fourth one, but we don't know yet."





THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Cast a stone and a heads-up guy will build a road."

We can't remember who handed us these two stories, but we liked them. At least they keep our minds off of Y2K problems.

A woman and a man were involved in a fender bender. Both cars were demolished, but amazingly neither of the drivers were hurt.

After crawling from the wreckage, the woman said, "So, you're a man...That's interesting. I'm a woman. Just look at our cars, there's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt.

"This must be a sign that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

"I agree," said the man.

The woman added, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is demolished, but this bottle of wine didn't break. We should make a toast and celebrate our good fortune."

She handed the bottle to the man. He opened it and took a big swig from the bottle before handing it back.

The woman took the bottle and immediately put the cap back on it and handed it back to the man.

"Aren't you going to have any?" he asked.

"Nah," she smiled. "I think I'll just wait for the police."

Still on the light side...

A cabbie picked up a nun. As she got into the cab, the driver wouldn't stop staring at her. She asked him why.

The cabbie replied, "I have a question to ask you, but I don't want to offend you."

She answered, "My dear son, you cannot offend me. When you're as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get a chance to see and hear just about everything. I'm sure there is nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive."

"Well," he said, "I've always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me."

"Well," replied the nun, "let's see what we can do about that. First you have to be single and second, you must be Catholic."

"I am, I am," replied the cab driver.

The nun instructed the cabbie to pull over to the curb and stop. The nun leaned over the seat and planted a big smack on his lips.

The cab driver immediately began to feel guilty.

"My dear child," said the nun, why are you crying?"

"Forgive me sister, but I have sinned. I lied. I must confess, I'm married and I'm Jewish."

"That's okay," replied the nun. "My name is Bruce and I'm on my way to a costume party."

ASK US

Q-How many people, such as city council, college board or county commissioners, play free on the WTC golf course?

A-No one, but faculty and student fees are half-price.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 62 degrees; low, 39; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 50; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.80 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; low near 45; S wind 5-15 mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy, breezy, warmer; high 70-75; S-SW wind 15-25 mph, gusty.

Sam Lee
Warmer

Sunset:
5:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:25 a.m.

Of 333 days in 1999, the sun has shone 326 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Opportunities are often things you haven't noticed the first time around.

—Catherine Deneuve

Satellite companies start selling local service

WASHINGTON (AP) — Satellite TV companies are hoping to bulk up as stronger competitors to cable this holiday season by offering local channel packages in some of their largest markets.

Moving quickly to capitalize on a new law that frees satellite providers to carry local TV news, weather and sports broadcasts, some of the nation's leading satellite TV companies are launching the service in big city areas.

Officials at the Federal Communications Commission expressed hope that the legislation would boost satellite as a rival to the cable industry and drive down prices. Following the directive of a 1996 law, the FCC stopped regulating cable rates earlier this year.

"Competition remains our best hope of combating rate increases. This law is designed to keep cable rates in check by making satellite a real choice for consumers," FCC Chairman Bill Kennard said.

President Clinton signed the satellite measure, part of the massive budget bill, into law Monday. Almost immediately, the top satellite companies began offering local ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox channels in certain markets.

The legislation lets satellite companies begin to provide local signals right away, allowing them to tap into the holiday gift-buying spree.

Once they start offering local channels, satellite TV providers will have six months to hammer out required retransmission agreements with the networks. By 2002, companies that carry any local broadcast stations in a market would have to carry all of them.

Analysts said the law will open new doors for satellite companies, which were losing customers that wanted local channels.

"This is a big sigh of relief for the industry," said Derek Baine of Paul Kagan Associates in Carmel, Calif. In the major markets, "certainly cable is going to have a much stronger competitor."

DirecTV, the nation's largest satellite company, introduced local signals Monday for customers in its New York and Los Angeles markets. In the coming days, it will add five more cities and expects to enter around 25 of the top markets by the end of January, ultimately offering local channels to 50 million households.

Local channels will cost $5.99 a month, on top of other services customers select. DirecTV satellite packages start at $14.99, but the average subscriber spends about $58 monthly, company spokesman Bob Marsocci said. This figure also reflects consumers who watch pay-per-view movies and televised events, he said.

Littleton, Colo.-based EchoStar, another big player in the industry, launched local channel service Monday in 13 markets, among them New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Denver, Miami and Washington.

Company officials spent part of Monday at a consumer electronics store in Denver, where they watched customers sign up for the service.

"It's kind of like the president put the pen down and we started selling," said Judianne Atencio, EchoStar spokeswoman. "This has been the barrier to entry; not only the last one, but the biggest one."

The company plans to offer local channels in more than 30 markets in the next four months.

Good health habits can extend life

WASHINGTON (AP) — People who don't smoke and who maintain low cholesterol and blood pressure levels can live about 6 to 91/2 years longer than those less careful about their health, according to studies of more than 360,000 patients.

The research, to be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found dramatic, life-extending benefits for adults of all ages who have low heart disease risk factors, including abstaining from cigarette smoking.

"These findings are relevant for the national effort to end the coronary heart disease-cardiovascular epidemic," the study says. "For upcoming generations this means encouraging favorable behaviors beginning in early childhood in regard to eating, drinking, exercising and smoking."

A team led by Dr. Jeremiah Stamler of Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago analyzed the health outcomes from a group of women and four groups of men participating in two long-term studies. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 59. The health of two groups was monitored for 16 years, while the other three groups were followed for 22 years.

For any in the groups who died, the researchers determined the cause of death and then related this outcome to basic health measurements taken at the beginning of the studies.

The researchers found that death from all causes and from cardiovascular disease was substantially reduced among those with low heart disease risk factors, defined as those who did not smoke and who had total cholesterol readings of 200 milligrams per deciliter or below, and blood pressure readings less than or equal to 120 over 80. Less than 10 percent of the patients were in this "low risk" category.

One study, called the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial, or MRFIT, screened the health of 361,662 men between the ages of 35 and 57 in the mid-1970s.

At the end of 16 years, the study found that the MRFIT men in the "low risk" category who started the study between 35 years to 39 years of age had an increased life expectancy of 6.3 years, while those between ages 40 to 57 at the start had a 5.9-year increase in life expectancy.

The risk of death from any cause was 50 percent to 55 percent lower for those in the "low risk" category, the study found.

Another study, called the Chicago Heart Association Detection Project, or CHA, evaluated the health outcomes for 10,025 men between ages 18 and 39, 7,490 men between 40 and 59, and 6,229 women between ages 40 and 59 years.

It found that the younger men in the "low risk" category had a life expectancy 91/2 years longer than other men in the group their same age. For men aged 40 to 59 years, life expectancy was extended by 6 years, the study found.

For women in the "low risk" category, life was extended by 5.8 years.

The risk of death from all causes in the CHA study was reduced by 57 percent to 58 percent for the nonsmoking men with good cholesterol and blood pressure readings. For such "low risk" women, there was a 40 percent lower risk of death for any cause.

"Life style ... clearly influences who will fall into the low risk-factor group," said the study.

Tribe granted say over off-reservation water in Nevada

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The U.S. government for the first time has given an American Indian tribe control over one of the West's most precious commodities — water — outside a reservation's boundaries.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute entered the landmark agreement Monday, assuming authority over portions of the Truckee River off their reservation in an effort to save endangered fish.

"It is a big deal," said Norm Harry, chairman of tribe. "It will enable us to meet the needs of the 21st century while restoring this historic, but fragile environment."

Harry signed the agreement along the banks of the Truckee River with representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It gives the tribe the lead role in scheduling releases of water from two Truckee River reservoirs to benefit the endangered cui ui (pronounced "kee-wee") and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.

"From my view, it is precedent setting," said Betsy Rieke, area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation and former assistant U.S. Interior secretary.

It's the first time the government has voluntarily turned over the scheduling of water releases for fish to a tribe when the water is located outside the reservation boundaries, she said.

Under the agreement, the tribe will take the lead role in scheduling water releases from the Stampede and Prosser Creek reservoirs. Representatives of the tribe and federal agencies will share management decisions as part of an interagency management team.

Elizabeth Stevens, deputy manager of Fish and Wildlife Service operations in California and Nevada, said her agency views the deal as "a positive step forward toward recovery" of the fish.

Located within the reservation, Pyramid Lake is one of the last remnants of the prehistoric inland sea, Lake Lahontan, that once covered most of the Great Basin stretching from Nevada to Oregon, Idaho and Utah.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Holiday Cheer Can't Be Spread Too Thin for Dieting Guests

DEAR ABBY: Along with millions of other Americans, I am overweight. This time of year is particularly difficult for me because of the well-intentioned but misguided actions of friends and family. With the holidays upon us, I have the following suggestions for anyone who knows someone who is fighting the battle of the bulge (and who doesn't?):

1. Avoid giving gifts of food. This means *all* food — even your special sugar-free coconut cream pie. Giving chocolates or other fattening treats is, at the least, insensitive and borders on downright cruelty.

2. Do not "push" food on another person. If you're hosting a meal or a party, make a variety of healthy foods available along with any special treats you've prepared. Allow your guests to choose for themselves without comment. It is especially unfair to use guilt ("I made these just for you") to force food upon someone.

3. Do not comment on how much (or how little) someone is eating. Such comments draw unwanted attention to attempts to maintain control of holiday eating.

4. Have some compassion. We don't want to be fat. Losing weight and keeping it off is extraordinarily difficult for some of us. Don't think that you know what our problem is, because you don't. Obesity is a complicated issue with behavioral, emotional and spiritual elements. A single formula that works for everyone has yet to be discovered.

Finally, be supportive. If someone you love is trying to lose weight, be available to listen. Do not judge.

CHUBBY IN PITTSBURGH

DEAR CHUBBY: Your suggestions are terrific and well worth space in this column. Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in this country, and those who are trying to do something about the problem deserve all the help and support they can get. Dieting is difficult any time of year. But during the holidays with temptation all around, it's especially difficult to make it through the minefield.

***

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 38 years. During the past 10 of them, we have taken up dancing, and folks think we're pretty good.

My problem is, the place where we go has women who have no dancing partner, and they all want to dance with my husband, which leaves me sitting part of the night. There is one woman in particular who is younger than I am and who wants to do all the dances that I like to do with him. She had a dancing partner until just a few months ago. Actually, her husband is there, too, but he doesn't dance.

My husband will tell me he's too tired to dance to anything fast, and then she will ask him and he jumps up. He always says I should go ask other men to dance, but there is really no one there who can dance the way I like. Am I wrong to let this bother me?

CONFUSED IN WHITE PINE, TENN.

DEAR CONFUSED: It all depends upon how many dances you're sitting out. Your husband is probably flattered by the attention he's getting from all of these partnerless ladies. If one of them asks your husband for a dance that's one of your favorites, speak up and tell her that it's already spoken for — and she should try again later. It's better than sitting and fuming.

***

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 per booklet ($4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklets I and II, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Date Book

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

Today is the 334th day of 1999 and the 69th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1954, Elizabeth Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala., was struck by a 8-1/2 pound meteorite that fell through her roof.

On this day in 1967, Julie Nixon and David Eisenhower announced that they were engaged.

On this day in 1977, David Bowie and Bing Crosby sang "The Little Drummer Boy" on Bing Crosby's Christmas television special.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), writer; Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens, 1835-1910), writer; Winston Churchill (1874-1965), English statesman; Efrem Zimbalist Jr. (1923-), actor, is 76; Dick Clark (1929-), producer, is 70; G. Gordon Liddy (1930-), burglar-talk show host, is 69; Bill Walsh (1931-), football coach, is 68; Abbie Hoffman (1936-1989), revolutionary; David Mamet (1947-), dramatist, is 52; Bo Jackson (1962-), baseball player, is 37.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1976, Tony Dorsett, a running back for Pittsburgh, won the Heisman Memorial Trophy.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time — a tremendous whack." — Winston Churchill

TODAY'S MOON: Day after last quarter (Nov. 29).

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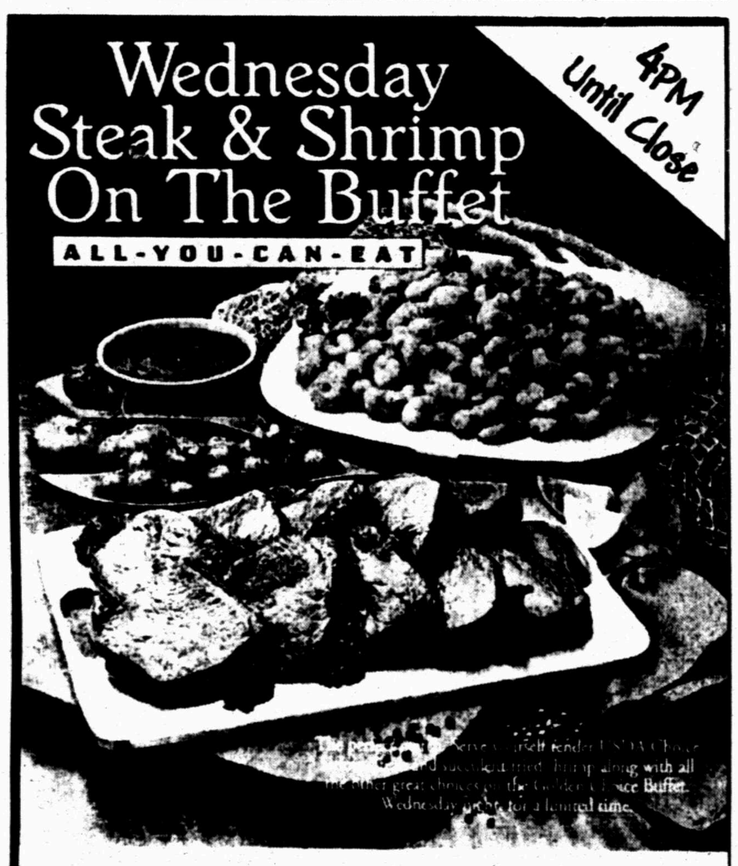
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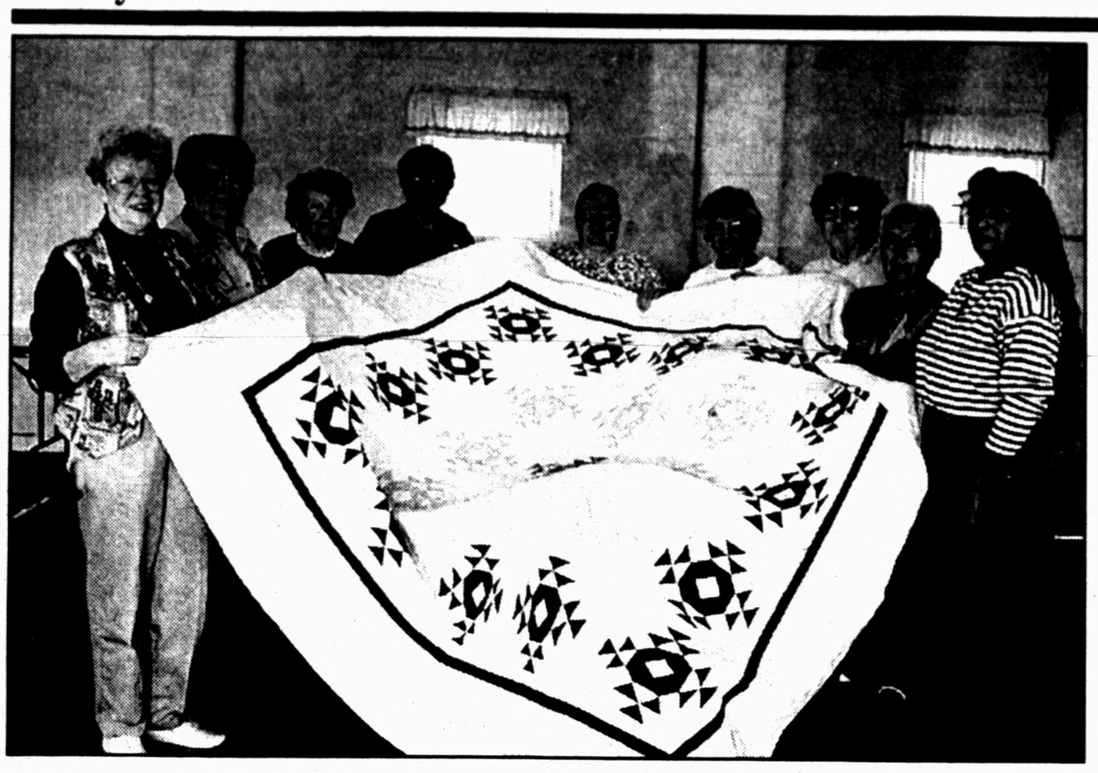


Aleksei Daniel Rakov
My parents, Bob & Theresa would like to thank the nurses in the OB department of Cogdell Memorial Hospital for helping me arrive healthy and happy and taking such good care of mommy & me. My mommy says their skill and caring made my delivery a wonderful experience. She also wants to thank the epidural man for getting up at 4 am to come to her rescue!



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DRAWING FOR QUILT SET — Rock and Roll Quilting Club members that meet in the Hermleigh Community Center have made a single wedding ring (queen size) quilt for a fundraiser for Mary Batchelor. Mrs. Batchelor needs cancer treatments and has no insurance. The drawing will be held Dec. 20 at the center and donation tickets are $1 each, 6 for $5, 12 for $10. Contacts are Ellen Riley, 573-3733, Bernie Sealy, 573-3456 and Maggie Barnes, 863-2426. (SDN Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8018 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club, Lubbock pilgrimage.

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-9742.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information cal 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m. p.m.



PALETTE CLUB GUEST — Hugh Campbell, well-known artist from San Angelo, gave a demonstration in oils to members of the Palette Club at their recent meeting in the east room of the airport terminal. Lila Guinn was hostess. Members will have a Christmas luncheon on Dec. 9 and the next meeting is planned for Jan. 13. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Sylvester Stallone being sued

MIAMI (AP) — Sylvester Stallone has been sued by five former household employees who claim they were fired after being accused of stealing items from the actor's mother and breaking a house rule by speaking to her.

The five, all temporary cooks and cleaners hired in 1995, are seeking more than $1.5 million. They said they were fired six days into their contracts.

They said they were told by Stallone's wife, Jennifer Flavin, they could be fired if they looked directly into the actor's eyes or talked to his mother. They also were to "back out and vanish immediately" when Stallone entered the room.

The workers say that Jackie Stallone, Stallone's mother, gave each of the employees a pen and an autographed photo of herself for Christmas. The lawsuit said Ms. Flavin accused the employees of stealing the items and fired them for speaking to her.

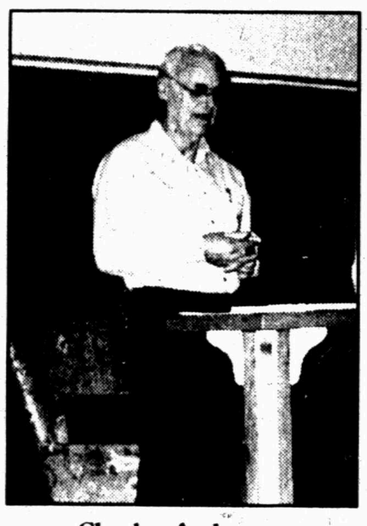
Martin Singer, the Stallones' attorney, called the suit "purely fictional."

"They were fired for absolute cause; they didn't perform the work as requested," said Singer. "We're confident that we will dispose of the lawsuit quickly."

Do you know this face?
Call and tell her
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



From the makers of Liquid Nails and your family at Lighthouse! We wish you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONNIE!



Charles Anderson

Anderson spoke to ABWA meeting on November 9

Scurry County Chapter of American Business Women heard the history of Scurry County by Charles Anderson, former Snyder Junior High School principal and author of several Scurry County history books.

The meeting was held Nov. 9 in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Mr. Anderson was born in a tent in Oklahoma Indian Territory during the depression of 1930.

Scurry County, he said, was named for a Confederate general, William Scurry who settled in East Texas and became a Texas legislator. Gen. Scurry was killed in the Civil War in 1864 and was buried in Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

ABWA president Anita Felan presided over the business session; the invocation was given by Leona Wiggins and the benediction by Carol Young.

Felan introduced guests, Marge Anderson, Texa Ball and Shirley McMillan.

Plans were made to man the concession for the Arts and Crafts show to be held Dec. 4-5 in the coliseum.

Tadpoles shipped to zoo

ST. LOUIS (AP) — It is time for the big jump into the pond of life for thousands of Puerto Rican crested tadpoles.

The tadpoles, part of a breeding program by several U.S. zoos, will be shipped to their homeland this week and placed in the wild. St. Louis Zoo herpetologists have packed the 9-day-old tadpoles in water-filled plastic bags and Styrofoam containers for the journey.

The crested toad was thought to be extinct until 1967.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 11-30-99
♠ K Q 2
♥ 5 3
♦ J 6
♣ K J 10 8 6 4

West
♠ 8 5
♥ K J 10 9 7 6 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A 3

East
♠ A J 10 9 6 4
♥ Q 4
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 7 2

South
♠ 7 3
♥ A 8
♦ A K Q 10 8 5 2
♣ 9 5

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

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

Opening lead: ♥ J

Uncovering defense's mysteries

By Phillip Alder

Mike Lawrence has put out his fourth disk, this one being called "Defense." Requiring Windows 3.1 or higher, it is difficult because defense is difficult. Yet it must improve your game if you analyze the deals. And you have Lawrence at your elbow, asking the key questions that need to be answered.

Take this deal as an example. Cover the West and South hands. Against three no-trump, West leads the heart jack, which you correctly overtake with the queen. After winning the trick, what do you do next?

Unless partner is a kamikaze pilot in training, South cannot have the ace-king of hearts. So you should return your remaining heart: ace, two, five. Declarer leads a spade to dummy's queen. You have four possible defenses. What are they, and which is right?

You could duck, or you could win with the spade ace and (a) return the spade jack, or (b) switch to the diamond nine, or (c) switch to the club two.

The last looks the most dangerous, but it is the only winner. How do you know this? Well, at trick two, partner could have played any of his remaining hearts. He carefully selected his lowest, the two, as a suit-preference signal for clubs. (If he held the diamond ace or king, he would have dropped the heart king under declarer's ace.)

Yes, South should overcall three no-trump; he needs only one instant winner in the dummy. And true, he could have cashed out for one down, but was correct to hope for a misdefense.

The disk costs $39.95 postpaid from the author at 131 Alvarado Road, Berkeley, CA 94705.

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Albion College will serve Pizzas with unusual toppings

ALBION, Mich. (AP) — Extra credit at Albion College this week: Heaping helpings of mealworm pizza and cricket bread.

The private liberal arts college about 25 miles south of Lansing is to hold its International Insect Food Festival on Wednesday, hoping to show its 1,600 students that tasty food can come in all shapes and sizes.

"You put anything on a pizza, they'll eat it. It's college," said Gwen Pearson, a biology professor and chef for the campus feast. "They get really grossed out at first, but everybody usually eats."

The festival coincides with the end of classwork on global hunger and food issues. Students aren't required to eat insects, but can pick up a bonus point by doing so.

Pearson has bought 20,000 crickets, 10,000 mealworms and several thousand waxworms — at $50, cheaper than meat and "far more nutritionally balanced," she said.

To wit: Insects have no cholesterol and seven times more protein as beef or chicken, she said.

The menu will also include spicy Thai mealworm stir fry, made with peanuts and cilantro — a favorite of school spokesman Jim Klapthor, who sampled all the dishes last year.

"The stir fried wax worms didn't have a lot of taste," he said, "but they make quite a popping sound when they fry."

Lewinsky keeps mum

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Lewinsky, New Yorker, is keeping mum on who she would vote for in the Senate race next year.

"I think that, uh, voting preferences should be kept private," Ms. Lewinsky said in an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters to be broadcast tonight.

Ms. Lewinsky, whose affair with President Clinton led to his impeachment, will likely be forced to choose between her former paramour's wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani if she votes for a U.S. Senate candidate next year.

Ms. Lewinsky also said she's been dating but is not in love.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Bonnie Elledge, Christy Byous of Hermleigh, Billy Rawlings and Tyler Warren.

DISMISSALS: Margarita Fuentes, Jessica Odom of Ira, Stephanie Ruiz and Jean Howell.

CENSUS; 46 (Med./Surg.-19, Long-term Care-22, Nursery-2)

Expect big electric bill

KILLINGLY, Conn. (AP) — Mervin Whipple can expect a whopping electric bill.

The man known as Mister Christmas lighted his annual Christmas Wonderland this weekend, turning on a display featuring more than 380 holiday animations and 108,900 lights.

Whipple says this is his biggest light show in the 32 years he's been decking the house and his 31/2-acre property with Christmas lights.

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Wednesday Night Buffet 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Kids Eat Free - with every adult buffet purchase
Thursday Nights 5 - 9 p.m. 50's NIGHT
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$5.39 adults, $2.59 Kids 12 & Under
Saturday Lunch Special 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
2 Medium 2 Topping Pizzas and up to 4 drinks
$11.99 + tax - Dine in only
3907 College Ave. 573-3542

SCURRY COUNTY BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS
We will mail anywhere to a friend or deliver in city limits.
Just off the Press: Confederate General William R. "Dirty Neck Bill" Scurry (1821 - 1864)
In Search of the Buffalo, The Story of J. Wright Mooar
Reflections, An Album of West Texas History, 1840-1990 (Limited)
Deep Creek Merchant, The Story of William H. "Pete" Snyder (Limited)
From Buffalo to Oil, A History of Scurry County by Shelton (only few left)
Other books by request including Fisher County. (Also purchase at Whistle Stop, Snyder Daily News, Friendly Flowers).
"Students often resist studing history because they consider it dull and dry, A monotonous procession of names and dates and little else. In actuality, it is made up of colorful people like William Read Scurry, their lives full of human drama, emotions and conflict. Historians like Charles G. Anderson can bring them back to life for us and show how the things they accomplished - or in some cases did not accomplish - were important in shaping the world we live in today."
Elmer Kelton, Western Writer
"Historian Charles Anderson knows 'Dirty Neck Bill' Scurry more intimately than anyone - even Sam Houston who neck-named him."
Kent Biffle, Texas Columnist Dallas Morning News
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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

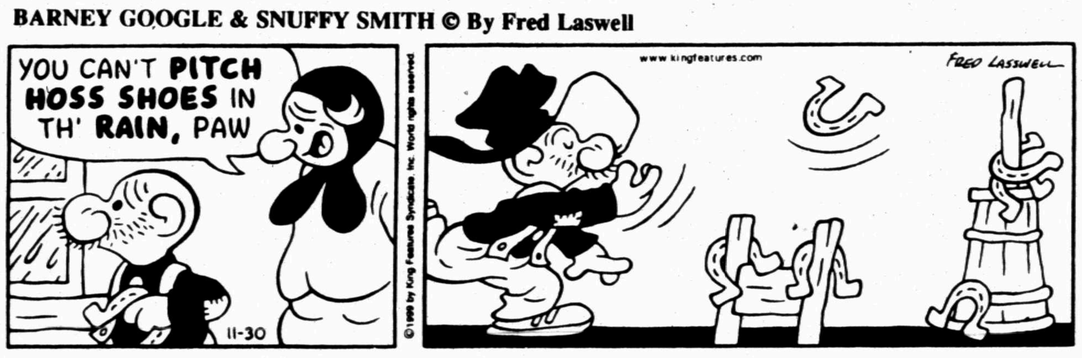
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Missouri mountains
7 Be resistant to
13 "Pulp Fiction" star, — L. Jackson
14 Extreme fear
15 Absorbent object
16 Walks
17 Query
18 — de France
20 Map abbr.
21 Where Lagos is
25 Type of case
28 Choreographer Tharp
32 Shipping box
33 Church singers
34 Actress O'Neal
35 Biblical king
36 Armadillo
37 Lacking foot parts
39 All together (2 wds.)
41 Mouth part
44 "I think, therefore — —"
45 Disencumber
48 Unsealed
51 Sedative
54 Lets down
55 Not at all
56 Classify
57 Himalayan cedar

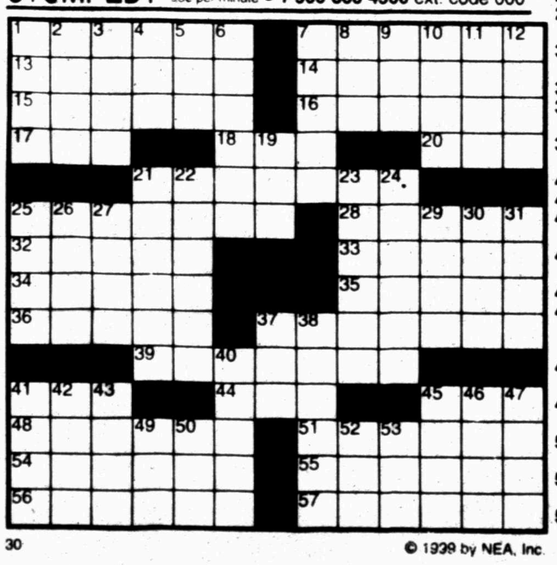
DOWN

1 Greek peak
2 Nukes
3 Frenzied state
4 Flee
5 Beer barrel
6 Vehicle on runners
7 Fur-bearing animal
8 Apiece
9 Opposite of post
10 Kind of test
11 Soft drink
12 Formerly, formerly
19 Lawyer F. — Bailey
21 Inherent character
22 "The — Cometh"
23 Urges
24 For a short time
25 Minutes of court
26 Snare
27 Bye-bye
29 Days of — (antiquity)
30 Geological division
31 Limbs
37 Chinese pagoda
38 Donny and Marie —
40 Center
41 Lady of song
42 Stock-market events (abbr.)
43 Church seats
45 Foray
46 "— — Wonderful Life"
47 Antlered animal
49 "Classical" start
50 Make a mistake
52 Edgar Allan —
53 — Jima

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



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"TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT A DUCK, MARGARET. THINK OF ALL THE KEEN PLACES YOU COULD SPEND THE WINTER!"

SPORTS

Seven games on tap tonight...

Area hoop teams back in action

Following a short break for the Thanksgiving holiday, basketball competition heats up tonight when several area teams return to action.

Seven local squads will hit the floor, including the 1-8 Western Texas Lady Dusters who visit Ranger at 7 o'clock.

After getting off to a 0-7 start, the Lady Dusters split games at the Howard College tournament and are looking to avenge an 82-66 setback suffered to the Rangerettes almost two weeks ago.

"We finally started playing like we are capable of at the Howard tournament," said WTC coach Valery Jackson. "What we have to do now is keep moving forward. We have to take what we did right at Big Spring and build on it."

TONIGHT'S CONTESTS

Western Texas at Ranger, 7 p.m.

Lubbock High at Snyder JV and varsity girls, 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Seminole at Snyder JV and varsity boys, 6 and 7:30

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

Hermleigh girls and boys at Lueders-Avoca, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Six local high school teams will also see action tonight, highlighted by a pair of home games at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers will be looking to end their three-game skid when they square off with 5A Lubbock High at 6 o'clock.

In its last outing, Snyder put together its most impressive stretch of play in the second half, outscoring the Levelland over the final two quarters. Head Coach Sam Tipton is hopeful his Lady Tigers can pick up where they left off.

"In the second half, we came together as a team," Tipton said. "Our players started doing things right individually, and in return, we started executing better as a team."

In boys' action at the SHS gym, the Tigers will be looking to pick up their first win against Seminole in two years.

With University of Texas freshman Chris Ogden at the helm the past two seasons, the Indians walked away with victories in every meeting with the Tigers. But with Ogden and Seminole leader Caleb Clay gone, Snyder should match up better with the Indians.

The Tigers (2-2) have built a strong inside-outside threat with seniors Sonny Cumbie and Greg McAnaw. Cumbie has finished in double digits in three of the Tigers' four games this season, and McAnaw leads the team in three-point shooting.

In other area action, Ira and Hermleigh will hit the road for tonight's contests. The Bulldogs visit Roby, while the Cardinals travel to Lueders-Avoca.

The Ira boys will try to register their fourth straight victory to open the season when, while the Lady Bulldogs look to extend a two-game winning streak.

Girls' action tips off at 6:30, with the boys' game getting under way at 8.

Hermleigh's boys and girls have posted matching records of 1-2 thus far, and will be hoping to even their marks before opening play Thursday in the Klondike tournament.

The Lady Cardinals tip off at 6:30 tonight, with the boys' game starting at 8 o'clock.

Freshman girls top Cougs

The Lady Tigers kept things headed in the right direction Monday, improving to 4-0 with a 53-36 victory over Abilene Cooper in freshman basketball action.

Snyder used a 13-6 spurt in the second quarter to break the ballgame open, before putting the clamps on the Lady Cougars down the stretch.

Three Lady Tigers finished in double digits, with Afton Schwertner's 15 points leading the way. Zipporah Peoples poured in 13 more, and Hailey Putnam drained 12.

Chaelyn Robinson rattled home nine points, while Jacinda Judah dropped in two. Dara Chambers and Crissy Hernandez finished with one point apiece.

Snyder will be in action again Friday when they take on Breckenridge at 5 p.m. in the opening round of the Sweetwater tournament.

Rockets rip Grizzlies, 118-110

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Rookie Steve Francis, returning to the city he snubbed, had 24 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds Monday night to lead the Houston Rockets to a 118-110 overtime victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Francis, who refused to sign with the Grizzlies after they made him the No. 2 overall pick in the June draft, played a sensational game before a taunting crowd of 15,086 that threw objects at him and cursed him.

Francis, who fouled out with 2:45 left in the overtime, sent the game into OT by hitting a 20-foot jumper with 2.6 seconds remaining and put the Rockets ahead for good when he opened the extra period with a 3-pointer.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	11	3	.786	—
New York	8	7	.533	3½
Boston	7	7	.500	4
Orlando	7	7	.500	4
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	4½
Washington	4	10	.286	7
New Jersey	2	12	.143	9

Central Division

Toronto	9	5	.643	—
Charlotte	8	6	.571	1
Milwaukee	8	6	.571	1
Indiana	8	7	.533	1½
Detroit	7	7	.500	2
Cleveland	6	6	.500	2
Atlanta	5	9	.357	4
Chicago	1	12	.077	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	12	3	.800	—
Utah	8	6	.571	3½
Minnesota	6	5	.545	4
Denver	6	6	.500	4½
Dallas	5	10	.333	7
Houston	4	11	.267	8
Vancouver	3	11	.214	8½

Pacific Division

Sacramento	9	2	.818	1½
Portland	13	3	.813	—
Seattle	11	3	.786	1
L.A. Lakers	10	4	.714	2
Phoenix	9	4	.692	2½
L.A. Clippers	4	9	.308	7½
Golden State	2	11	.154	9½

Monday's Games

New York 107, Dallas 82
Miami 98, Sacramento 88
Utah 115, Golden State 99
Indiana 93, Portland 91
Houston 118, Vancouver 110, OT

Tuesday's Games

Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NFL Glance

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Indianapolis	9	2	0	.818	307	204
Miami	8	3	0	.727	219	203
Buffalo	8	4	0	.667	228	173
New England	6	5	0	.545	232	218
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	173	187

Central

Jacksonville	10	1	0	.909	287	125
Tennessee	9	2	0	.818	239	202
Pittsburgh	5	6	0	.455	202	167
Baltimore	4	7	0	.364	196	211
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	188	356
Cleveland	2	10	0	.167	137	317

West

Seattle	8	3	0	.727	239	180
Kansas City	6	5	0	.545	256	201
Oakland	5	6	0	.455	240	226
Denver	4	7	0	.364	221	226
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	183	252

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	7	4	0	.636	330	287
Dallas	6	5	0	.545	255	182
Arizona	5	6	0	.455	162	220
N.Y. Giants	5	6	0	.455	194	222
Philadelphia	3	9	0	.250	183	276

Central

Detroit	7	4	0	.636	239	214
Minnesota	7	4	0	.636	272	226
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	174	141
Green Bay	6	5	0	.545	212	212
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	207	242

West

St. Louis	9	2	0	.818	366	147
Carolina	5	6	0	.455	261	249
San Francisco	3	8	0	.273	166	301
Atlanta	2	9	0	.182	155	269
New Orleans	2	9	0	.182	182	269

Monday's Game

Green Bay 20, San Francisco 3

Thursday, Dec. 2

Pittsburgh at Jacksonville, 8:20 p.m.

Hokies secure berth in championship game

By Richard Rosenblatt
AP Football Writer

In what will become a perfect ending to a perfect regular season, No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Virginia Tech are virtually assured of playing for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4.

All that awaits is the final word from the final Bowl Championship Series standings, which will be released Sunday.

Monday's BCS standings saw second-place Virginia Tech (11-0) take a 1 1-point lead over third-place Nebraska (10-1) following last weekend's games. Florida State (11-0) clinched first place with a 30-23 win over Florida two weeks ago.

The Hokies' 38-14 win over then-No. 22 Boston College on Friday, coupled with the Huskers' close-call 33-30 overtime win over unranked Colorado, turned a .63-point advantage into a lead virtually impossible to overcome.

Even if Nebraska routs No. 12 Texas in Saturday's Big 12 Conference title game in San Antonio, Chicago-based computer expert Jerry Palm says, "There's no suspense. If Nebraska wins 50-0, I'm not sure that could overtake Virginia Tech."

The BCS standings, which determines the teams for the national title game, are based on a formula that considers The Associated Press media poll and the USA Today-ESPN coaches' poll, eight computer rankings, strength of schedule and losses.

Florida State and Virginia Tech are 1-2 in the AP poll and the coaches' poll.

From the start of the Hokies-Huskers points battle, Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer has been confident the top teams would end up in the title game. But until the final results are in, he's taking nothing for granted.

"There's too much invested in the BCS so that the two best teams will play," Beamer said. "I personally think one of the teams has to be Virginia Tech.

"With all the hard work by our coaches and all the hard work by our players, I would be devastated if we did not make it."

Friday's results lowered the Hokies' computer average and raised the Huskers' average. Also, Tech's strength of schedule went from 66th toughest to 54th.

Florida State had 2.24 points in the BCS standings — 1 for poll average, 1 for computer rank average, 0.24 for strength of schedule and zero for losses.

Virginia Tech had 6.16 points — 2 for poll average, 2 for computer rank average, 2.16 for strength of schedule, and zero for losses. Last week, the Hokies totaled 6.78 points.

Nebraska had 7.70 points — 3 for poll average, 2.86 for computer rank average, 0.84 for strength of schedule, and 1 for losses. Last week, the Huskers had 7.41 points.

8th grade girls split contests

DENVER CITY — Snyder Gold was fighting an uphill battle all the way, but came up only one point short in the end.

Snyder trailed through the entire contest, before making a fourth quarter rally that fell short, 31-30, to Denver City in Monday night's eighth grade girls' action.

In Monday's other contest, Snyder Black used a second half spurt to out distance Phillies, 37-21.

For Snyder Gold, it was Erin Burleson leading the way with 14 points. Gretchen Hollis dropped in four points, with Andra Dunham, Dominique Braziel, Desiree Braziel and Jessica Sollis adding three apiece.

Whitney Criswell's 11 points paced Snyder Black. Sharday McKinney tallied eight points, with Katie Chandler draining five. Sarah Crawford, Sharena Lewis, Laura Calmes, Acee French, Kelsi Johnson and Alexis Clawson notched two points each, and Diane Morin chipped in one.

Both Lady Tiger squads will be back on the court Monday when they visit Colorado City at 5 p.m.

N.M. State coach to interview with Tech

LUBBOCK (AP) — New Mexico State football coach Tony Samuel, who led his team this year to only its third winning season since 1967, will interview today for the head coach's job at Texas Tech University, according to Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers.

Myers said Monday he would meet today in El Paso with Samuel, 44, a former player and assistant coach at Nebraska.

Myers is seeking a replacement for longtime Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes, who resigned at the end of the season. The Red Raiders were 5-3 in the Big 12 and 6-5 overall.

Myers said that because the Aggies were mired in a string of four consecutive losing seasons when he took over, Samuel's 11-22 record since 1997 will not be held against him. New Mexico State was 6-5 this year.

"He took over a program that was pretty low," Myers said. "I think the fact he had a winning year his third year is a pretty good accomplishment."

The Aggies were 3-8 in 1998 but were tied or in front with two minutes to go in four games that they wound up losing.

Any coaching candidate will have to present a convincing case that he can add life to the Red Raiders' offense, Myers said.

In 1998, Samuel's team averaged 462.2 yards per game, which ranked 13th nationally.

"I wanted to talk to him just about his offense, his offensive philosophy and kind of what he does," Myers said. "We're looking for somebody that's pretty wide open. I don't know whether he's an option coach. In our discussions, he's talked about throwing the ball quite a bit.

"I want to see kind of what he's doing."

NMSU led the Big West Conference in rushing offense in 1997 and 1998, and had an 1,800-yard passer this season in K.C. Enzminger.

Samuel, a native of Trinidad, West Indies, moved to New Jersey at age 10 and played defensive end at Nebraska from 1974-77. He coached Nebraska's rush ends and outside linebackers from 1986-96.

Samuel will be the second candidate to be granted a formal interview for the job since Dykes announced his retirement Nov. 20.

Clemson assistant head coach and offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez, 36, visited Lubbock twice last week and also said he met with university representatives in Dallas.

Myers said he has no in-person interviews scheduled beyond today's meeting with Samuel. However, Myers said he still wants to discuss the Tech opening with Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach, 38.

Leach did not immediately return a telephone message on Monday, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported today.

Texas Tech cannot hire a new coach until Dec. 7 because state law requires that the job opening be posted for 10 working day.

But Myers told the Lubbock newspaper he would like to hire someone "by next week."

"I don't know that we could have anybody in place by then, but that's what we'd like to do," Myers said.

Freshman boys capture pair of victories over Mustangs

SWEETWATER — The Snyder Tigers broke the Mustangs in a pair of freshman boys' basketball games Monday night.

Trailing by a bucket at halftime, Snyder Gold rallied over the final two quarters to register a 52-47 victory.

Josh Mendoza led the Tigers (2-1) on the offensive end with 15 points, while T.J. Jones added 13 more.

Tyler Pollard poured in 11 points, with Josh McGaha tallying six. Brady Reed posted three points, and Logan Hill, Josh Montoya and Colby Driggers finished with two points apiece.

In other freshman action, Snyder Black improved to 1-1 on the year with a 46-44 win over Sweetwater.

Chance Greenwood's 14 points paced the Tigers. Will Davis dropped in 13 points, with Matt McCormick adding seven. Juan Rodriguez drained six points while Cory Lyon finished with four, and Taylor Cotton chipped in two.

7th grade girls trip Phillies

DENVER CITY — Snyder's seventh grade girls kept their streak alive Monday, sweeping a pair of games from Denver City in convincing fashion.

Snyder Gold topped the Phillies, 49-32, while Snyder Black registered a 45-9 rout to improve both squads to 3-0 on the year.

Stacey Williamson's 12 points led Snyder Gold, with Kayla Guerrero pouring in 10. Courtney Cox added nine points, while Danisha Akins and Kassey Burney tallied five. Heather Zajicek tossed in four points, with Briana Burk posting three and Heather Holmes chipping in one.

For Snyder Black, which led 27-5 at halftime, Jodi Stewart led the way with 12 points.

Rebecca Aguirre dropped in eight points, with Taren Knipe draining six. Jacy Beccue rattled home five points, while Ashley Villegas added four. Casey Crain, Erin Hackfeld, Kalli Wesson, Heather Polk and Joshelyn Tovar chipped in two points apiece.

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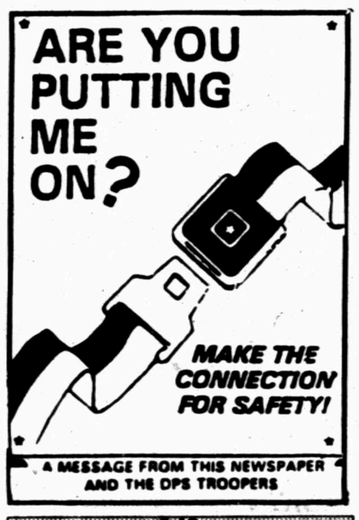
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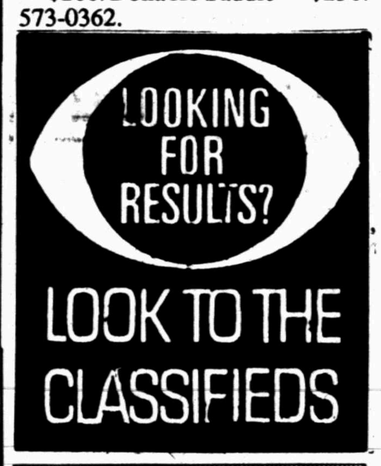
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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)-

High	Low	Last		
AMR Corp		61¼	59⅝	61¼+ 1⅛
AT&T Corp s		59⅛	57¼	58 — 2
Albertsons		31	29¾	29 15-16— 5⅛
AlldSignal		60 7-16	58⅛	60 5-16+ 1⅜
Alltel		86⅛	85 11-16	86 5-16— 7-16
AmerOnline s		79	74⅛	76 15-16—2 1-16
AndarkPtr		30⅛	30 1-16	30 5-16+ 1-16
AtlRichfld		95	93¼	95 + 1-16
ATMOS Egy		22¼	22	22 1-16— 3-16
Aviall		7 13-16	7 11-16	7 11-16
BP Amoco s		60⅛	59 13-16	60⅝— ⅛
BakerHughes		26⅞	2526⅛+ ⅝	
Bank of Amer		58⅛	57 7-16	58 9-16+ 1⅜
BellAtl		63 13-16	63	63 9-16+15-16
BellSouth s		46	44 15-16	45⅛— ⅛
BethSteel		6 7-16	6⅛	6⅜+ ⅜
BurlNoSFe		29⅛	28¼	28⅛+ 5-16
CBS Corp		52 9-16	51 9-16	52⅛— 7-16
Caterpillar		48 3-16	45 9-16	47 13-16+ 1⅜
CenSoWst		20 1-16	19 9-16	19⅛+ 5-16
Chevron		89⅛	87 3-16	89 + 7-16
Citigroup s		55 3-16	53⅛	55 1-16+2 1-16
Coastal		34 15-16	33⅛	34 15-16+ 7-16
CocaCola		67 13-16	66⅛	67⅜+ 5-16
ColgatePal s		56⅞	54⅛	55 9-16+ 1¼
ComclMetals		32 3-16	32⅛	32⅛— 5-16
CooperIn		43 11-16	43 1-16	43 9-16+ 7-16
CyprusAmax		18¼	17 15-16	18⅛+ 5-16
DaimlrChry		68⅛	67 5-16	68⅛
DallSemicn		59 3-16	58⅛	58⅛
DeltaAirl		50⅛	49¾	49 7-16+13-16
Dillards Inc		19¼	18⅜	19 1-16+ ¼
DowChem		119¼	115	118 + ¾
DuPont		62	58 7-16	61 9-16+2 7-16
EastmanChem		39	38 9-16	38⅛+ 1-16
EstKodak		63⅛	62⅛	63 + 3-16
EDS Corp		65 1-16	64 3-16	64⅛+ ⅛
Entergy		27 9-16	27	27 7-16+ ⅛
Exxon		80¼	79 3-16	79⅛+ ¼
FstBksAm		18⅛	18⅛	18⅛
Flowers		16 3-16	15⅝	16 3-16+ 1-16
FordMotor		51 11-16	5151⅛+ 3-16	
GTE Cp		73 11-16	72 1-16	73⅛+ 1⅛
GenDynam		52 9-16	51⅛	52 1-16+15-16
GenElec		133	131 9-16	131 13-16—1 5-16
GenMills s		38 1-16	37⅛	37⅜— ⅛
GenMotors		75 11-16	73⅛	75⅛+1 3-16
GaPacGP s		39 13-16	38⅛	39⅛+13-16
GlobalMar		15 15-16	14⅞	15 13-16+ ⅛
Goodrich		22¼	22 5-16	22⅛+ ⅛
Goodyear s		33¼	32⅛	33⅛+ ⅛
GtAtlPac		25¼	24 11-16	24 13-16— ⅛
Halliburtn		39⅛	38¼	38 15-16+ ⅛
Hanson ADS		43¼	43 5-16	43 5-16— 1-16
HarteHanks		20¼	20	20 3-16— 1-16
HomeDepot		81	80 7-16	80 11-16+ ⅛
IBM s		103¼	102¼	103 11-16— ⅛
IntlPaper		52 7-16	51⅛	52 5-16+1 5-16
JohnsonJn	104	11-16	103 15-16	103 15-16— 1⅛
K mart		10 3-16	9¾	10 1-16— 7-16
Kroger Co s		21⅛	20 15-16	21⅛— 1⅛
Litton		44	42 11-16	43 9-16+ ⅛
LockheedM		20¼	20 5-16	20⅛+ ⅛
Lowes Cos		51 15-16	51 5-16	51 5-16+11-16
Lubys		11	11-16	11⅛ 11⅜
LucentTech s		75⅛	74 11-16	75 1-16— ⅞
MayDeptStr s		34¼	33 5-16	33⅜— ⅛
MediaOne		81⅜	80¼	80 13-16— 1⅛
Medtronic s		38 15-16	37¼	38⅛+ 3-16
Mobil		105⅛	104 3-16	104⅞+ 1⅜
Monsanto		43 7-16	43 1-16	43 3-16—15-16
MorganJP		134⅛	131½	134 5-16+2 13-16
Motorola		120¼	117¼	117⅝— 2¼
NCR Corp		33¼	32 13-16	32 15-16— ⅝
Navistar		37 13-16	37 1-16	37½—13-16
Penney JC		23	22¼	22¼+ ⅛
PepBoys		9 11-16	9⅛	9 9-16+ ⅛
PepsiCo		34 15-16	34 3-16	34 9-16— ⅛
PhelpDodge		52½	50 15-16	51¼+ ⅜
PhilipPet		48	47⅞	47¾— 3-16
PilgrmPrd B		7 11-16	7 9-16	7⅝
Polaroid		19 9-16	19 5-16	19⅜
Praxair		44⅛	43 11-16	44 7-16+ ⅛
ProctGamb	112	13-16	110 11-16	112 11-16+1 3-16
PubSNwMx		16 5-16	16⅛	16 5-16+ 3-16
ReliantEngy		24¼	23¾	24⅛+ ⅛
RoyalDut		59¾	59	59 5-16— ⅛
SBC Comm		52⅛	51¾	52 7-16+ 7-16
SaraLee s		24⅛	23¾	24 — ⅛
Scripps EW		47 1-16	46¾	47 — 1-16
SearsRoeb		33¼	32 9-16	33 13-16+1 13-16
SherwinW		21 7-16	21	21 5-16— ⅛
SmithKlBchm		66¾	66⅛	66⅜— 1⅛
SouthernCo		23¼	22⅞	23⅛+ 9-16
SwstAirl s		16⅞	16 7-16	16⅛+ ⅛
SprintFON s		72	71 1-16	71 1-16— 1⅛
SprintPCS		94 7-16	92⅞	94⅛+ ⅛
Sunoco Inc		25 5-16	24⅛	25 5-16+ 7-16
TNP Ent		41	40⅞	40⅞— ⅛
Tandy s		78⅛	76 15-16	77⅛— 5-16
TempleInland		58	56⅞	57⅝+13-16
Texaco		61 3-16	60	60 15-16+ 9-16
TexInd		36⅛	35 15-16	36 1-16+ 3-16
TexasInst s		101	99¼	100 3-16+ 3-16
TexUtil		35 15-16	34⅞	35 13-16+ ⅜
Textron		71 1-16	69½	70⅛— ½
TriconGlbR		40⅞	40 1-16	40 11-16+ 3-16
TrinityInds		28⅛	28 5-16	28 11-16+ ¼
TritonEngy		23	22 3-16	22⅜— 3-16
TylerTech		4	3 15-16	4
US West Inc		63 7-16	62⅞	63 11-16
USX-Marathn		26¼	25¼	26⅛— 5-16
USX-USS		25⅛	24 9-16	25⅛+13-16
UnCarbde		59 7-16	57¼	58 13-16+1 7-16
UnionPacif		47	11-16	47 5-16 47⅞
UnitedTech s		56½	54¼	56 3-16+ 1¾
Unocal		33 11-16	33	1-16 33⅝— 1-16
Venator Grp		7 3-16	7	1-16 7⅛— 1-16
WalMart s		58 15-16	58	3-16 58 5-16—11-16
WellsFargo		46	5-16	45⅝+ 1¼
WstnGasRs		12¼	11¾	12 — 3-16
WinnDixie		26⅛	25 9-16	25 9-16 13-16
Xerox Cp s		27¼	26½	26⅝— ¾

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	12 15/16	+5/16
Dell	44 11/16	+15/16
Wal Mart	58 3/16	-13/16
Compac	25 1/16	+1/16
Dol. Gen.	24 5/16	-7/16
GTE	73 3/16	+1 3/16
SBC Comm.	52 7/16	+7/16
Tx Instr.	100 1/8	+1/8
LU	75	-15/16
Cisco Sys.	91 3/8	-1 3/8

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Anti-terrorism policy suffers another blow as suspect is freed

NEW YORK (AP) — An Egyptian man freed after being held for more than three years on secret evidence that allegedly linked him to terrorism paused outside a prison, waving at the silhouettes of inmates cheering from above.

Nasser Ahmed, 39, walked out of a federal jail in Manhattan after immigration officials on Monday gave up a last-ditch legal challenge to his release. He emerged from the Metropolitan Correction Center to hug his wife and three children, then smiled broadly as he was greeted by a member of his legal team, Lynne Stewart.

"It's so hard to fight against ghosts, when they say there's evidence and it's not there," Stewart said.

A jubilant Ahmed — who once assisted in the legal case of extremist Muslim cleric Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman — said his accusers were "liars and they know they are liars."

"They knew from day one I had nothing to do with (terrorism)," he said.

The Justice Department notified Ahmed's attorneys Monday afternoon that their client would go free. Later, in a four-line statement, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said it had withdrawn its request of Attorney General Janet Reno to keep Ahmed jailed while it continues to try to prove he poses a threat to national security.

An immigration appeals court had already ruled that Ahmed should be released. Reno had temporarily blocked the order until Monday.

The decision to free Ahmed marks the latest development in the legal and political battle over the government's use of secret evidence to combat terrorism.

Civil liberties and Arab-American groups have accused the INS of denying due process to about two dozen suspects of Arab descent by jailing them without allowing them to confront the evidence against them. U.S. officials say laws and court rulings require immigration judges to consider evidence secretly in terrorism investigations involving non-citizens, in part to protect intelligence sources and national security.

Ads pulled; WWF to tone down shows

ATLANTA (AP) — The World Wrestling Federation has decided to tone down the content on its popular telecasts in the wake of Coca-Cola's decision to end a two-year advertising deal.

"As good business people, we are willing to initiate change," said Jim Byrne, senior vice president of marketing for the WWF. He said future shows will contain "less use of colorful language and less sexuality."

The pledge, made late Monday, is to take effect on Thursday's edition of "Smackdown!" — no stranger to fake blood, vulgarities and bikini-clad women yanking each other's hair.

Such antics have made the WWF a winner among teen-age boys, who have helped WWF's ratings grow in recent years. Sponsoring the show gave the Coca-Cola Co. access to the coveted 12-to-34 male demographic, but left its officials cringing.

Coke stopped advertising on WWF shows last month, citing objectionable language and content on broadcasts such as the Monday night cable program "RAW is WAR," which draws about 6 million viewers weekly.

However, the world's biggest soft drink company continues to advertise with WWF's main rival, World Championship Wrestling, a subsidiary of Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting System.

Although the WCW has recently been accused of making its programs more racy to compete with the WWF, Atlanta-based Coke says the WWF went too far.

Stone Cold Steve Austin swills beers, spouts profanity and salutes other wrestlers with obscene gestures. The Godfather enters the ring dressed like a pimp and accompanied by scantily clad women.

Nothing is off limits — there are even cracks about masturbation.

"It crossed the line in terms of content, particularly in terms of language and story lines," said Coke spokesman Bob Bertini said Monday, before the WWF's decision. "It's not about one episode or one particular character. It's what we observed over a period of time."

Earlier this year, gum maker Wrigley said it would not renew its contract with WWF because of the content of the shows.

Coke's decision comes as the Parents Television Council, a Los Angeles-based conservative group, pressures advertisers to drop "WWF Smackdown!" The show is the top-rated program on the fledgling UPN network.

L. Brent Bozell III, the group's founder, said the council has sent letters about the program to 100 companies since it began its campaign six weeks ago. He said the group hopes the WWF will "shape up" the show's content

On Monday, the WWF said it was changing the rating of "Smackdown!" from TV-14 to TV-PG, although such ratings are voluntary and generally do not affect content much. WWF officials said that change was unrelated to the council's campaign.

Coke's decision won't reduce WWF income. Advertising money from Coke made up 3 percent of WWF revenue, but its ad slots were "immediately snapped up by the movie studios and video game manufacturers at a premium," Byrne said.

Last war casualties hardest to prevent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Preventing casualties in modern war may be toughest not on the battlefield but in the aftermath, and focusing on the danger of traditional weapons could mask less-obvious, long-term hazards to troops, according to a series of Pentagon-ordered reports released today.

Scientists trying to find ways to protect U.S. forces from the unseen dangers of war, such as the still mysterious Gulf War illnesses, outlined a complex strategy for assessing risks, protecting and decontaminating troops and improving medical surveillance and record-keeping.

Three reports financed by the Pentagon and conducted by government-affiliated researchers and scientists also recommended that the military set clear guidelines on how much to tell soldiers, their families and others about the risks soldiers face.

One report said the military needed a cultural change "from the top" in communicating risk to those involved and bluntly recommended: "Decide what information people need to know and when they need to know it."

"Even in the absence of widespread acute casualties from battle, war takes its toll on human health and well-being long after the shooting or bombing stops," said one of the reports prepared by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

A fourth report assessing the military's methods for detecting exposure to potentially harmful agents is due later this year. Each of the new reports includes more than 100 pages of analysis and recommendations.

The report on medical surveillance said "uncertainty and questions remain" about illnesses reported by a large percentage of the 697,000 service members deployed during the 1991 Gulf War. It also draws lessons from deployments in Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia, Southwest Asia and Kosovo.

"Although military preventive medicine programs have developed reasonably effective countermeasures against many of the discrete diseases and non-battle injury hazards of deployment, they have not yet systematically addressed the medically unexplained symptoms seen not only after the Gulf War but also after major conflicts dating back at least to the Civil War," the report said.

The report proposed improved collection of medical data on soldiers, both before and after they enter into conflict, including details on any important environmental and other exposure during the deployment.

The new reports offered some criticism of past Pentagon strategies for protecting troops, citing a natural tendency to focus attention on known hazardous agents and saying that "too much attention on them may result in other hazards being overlooked."

Among risks that need to be recognized beyond traditional weaponry are newly developed biological and chemical threats, infectious diseases, toxic agents, and psychological and physical stress, the report on assessing risk said.

In the area of military equipment used to protect against contamination, one report said detection technologies must be improved to allow troops the time to protect themselves.

"When all components of a protective suit are worn, including a mask, troop ability to meet mission objectives can be significantly reduced because of the physical stresses imposed by the gear," said the report.

Research is needed to develop lighter-weight protections, and more training is needed for commanders to assess how much protective gear is really needed when troops are under attack, it said.

Minorities press networks for more diversity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anne-Marie Johnson, who has a recurring role on the television show "JAG," says she has had repeated casting difficulties because of her light skin tone.

"I'm very tired of being too black for a white project and too white for a black project," Johnson said Monday at a TV diversity forum organized by the NAACP.

Minorities have complained about a perceived lack of progress and even indifference to improving the depiction and employment of blacks, Asian-Americans, Hispanics, American Indians and other ethnic groups on TV.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said it will decide by the end of December whether to follow through on threats of boycotts and demonstrations if the largest networks don't quickly put more minorities in front of and behind the cameras.

"They then run the real risk of a sustained, focused and continuous consumer action in the form of repetitive boycotts, picketing and large-scale demonstrations in front of their network headquarters, the offices of network-owned affiliates and in front of the offices of their major and largest advertisers," said Kweisi Mfume, the group's president.

Boycotts and other action would come during television's critical ratings sweeps period in February, which is used to set broadcast advertising rates, Mfume said.

The NAACP invited top executives of the four big networks to the forum, but only CBS Television President Leslie Moonves showed up. ABC, NBC and Fox all sent broadcast content and standards executives.

Moonves touted CBS's success at improving its depiction of minorities, including producer Steven Bochco's upcoming series, "City of Angels," about an inner-city hospital. The cast and crew are mostly minorities.

"This show is an important effort in bringing down barriers in Hollywood," Moonves said.

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Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

'Kitchen cures' for ulcers

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've heard of numerous home-remedy cures for ulcers, such as cabbage juice, raw potatoes and herbs. Are they effective?

DEAR READER: Peptic ulcers are caused by too much stomach acid entering the duodenum, the first part of the small intestine. Treatment is directed toward either neutralizing the excess acid (with antacids) or reducing the production of acid (with medicine such as Pepcid, Zantac and others). In addition, recent studies have shown that many (if not all) peptic ulcers are associated with a specific bacterial infection by germs called H. pylori; consequently, many specialists are now treating ulcers with potent antibiotics.

Home remedies sometimes work for diseases. When they do, there is usually a sound scientific rationale. For instance, bicarb of soda used to be the standard treatment for ulcers because soda is alkaline and neutralizes acid. Likewise, milk — an effective chemical buffer — used to be in fashion for the same reason. I am not aware that cabbage, potatoes and herbs have enjoyed the same past popularity of the other "kitchen cures" but perhaps they offer relief for some people.

There are so many effective compounds available today for ulcers that home remedies have been largely superseded by the more useful and effective commercial preparations. Thus, your question has more historical than practical relevance. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Peptic Ulcers." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My grandfather died years ago from what my mother calls "dropsy." What is this condition?

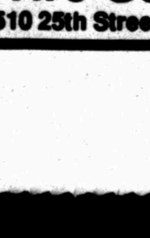
DEAR READER: Dropsy is an antiquated word used to describe an abnormal amount of fluid in a body tissue or cavity. The word has been replaced by a modern equivalent — edema — but the causes remain the same: severe and progressive heart failure, advanced liver disease and kidney malfunction. Patients with these conditions may develop massive edema, especially in the abdomen and lower extremities. Doctors traditionally use powerful diuretics (kidney stimulants) to drive the excess fluid from the body. In some instances, patients may require removal of the abdominal fluid with a needle.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is maple-syrup urine disease?

DEAR READER: This is an unusual, inherited disorder in children who lack an enzyme needed for the metabolism of three amino acids (valine, leucine and isoleucine). The disease causes abnormal reflexes and a urine that smells like maple syrup. The condition is usually discovered in infancy and is treated by diets that do not contain the particular amino acids. More aggressive therapy, such as dialysis, is seldom needed.

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DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

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Parents find answers in gruesome testimony

AUSTIN (AP) — Some of the parents of four girls slain at a yogurt shop in 1991 listened as a police officer read a statement in which one of the accused killers gave details of the brutal slayings.

The parents learned that the girls were stripped naked and pleaded for their lives. Some were sexually assaulted before all were shot in the head.

"This is what we have been looking for eight years," said Bob Ayers, whose 13-year-old daughter, Amy Ayers, was killed.

Speaking with reporters after the first day of a hearing to determine whether two of the suspects should be tried as adults, Ayers said he had finally found the details about his daughter's last moments.

"We heard the truth today," he said.

During a hearing Monday to determine whether Maurice Pierce, who was 16, and Forrest Welborn, who was 15, should be tried as adults, a police detective read the statement of Michael James Scott, 25, another suspect in the Dec. 6, 1991 slayings.

Pierce, now 24, Welborn, now 23, Scott, and Robert Burns Springsteen Jr., 24, have all been charged with capital murder for the slayings of four girls at an I Can't Believe It's Yogurt! store.

Killed in the crime were Eliza Hope Thomas, 17; Ayers; Jennifer Harbison, 17; and Sarah Harbison, 15.

"We were all surprised because we only expected to find two girls inside the store," Scott told police. "There were two other girls sitting in the up front in the dining area."

Scott said the four girls were ordered to the back of the store, where Springsteen allegedly told them to strip naked. Scott told police he tied up the girls with their clothes.

Meanwhile, Pierce had allegedly searched the cash register and found little money, then demanded the girls tell him where it more was hidden, Scott said.

"The girls were crying and whimpering, they were begging us not to kill them," Scott told police. "They said that they didn't want to die."

Scott returned to the front of the store and heard Pierce shoot two girls, he told police.

When he returned to the back, Springsteen was allegedly raping one of the girls. When he finished, Springsteen told Scott to rape one of the girls. He tried, but couldn't, Scott said.

Scott then shot one of the girls in the head, he told police.

The last of the girls to die was Amy Ayers, detectives said. Scott said he shot Miss Ayers, but she didn't die immediately. Pierce allegedly shot her again, but she didn't die. Scott said he thought he strangled her.

Scott then piled the bodies, loaded napkins, paper towels and cups on top of them and set them on fire with lighter fluid.

According to Scott's statement, the four men robbed the yogurt shop because Pierce needed money.

Prosecutors had told the families about the gruesome sequence of events that would be read out loud, "but it was much more violent than we had hoped," said Pam Ayers, Amy's mother.

Mrs. Ayers said she had felt "a void" not knowing the circumstances of her daughter's death.

Hearing the testimony, Mrs. Ayers said she felt "a little bit of hatred and a little hurt."

Pierce and Welborn have been charged as juveniles. Prosecutors are seeking to charge the two as adults.

If tried as adults, Pierce and Welborn could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted. Because they were under 17 when the crime was committed, neither Welborn nor Pierce would face the death penalty.

Scott and Springsteen could face life in prison or the death penalty.

Cartoon-cursor software monitors Web usage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Popular software used by more than 16 million people to change a Web browser's computer cursor into cartoon characters and other images is quietly tracking its customers across the Internet and recording which Web pages they visit.

New York-based Comet Systems Inc.'s free cursor software reports back to its own computers with each customer's unique serial number each time that person visits any of 60,000 Web sites — including dozens aimed at young children — that support its technology.

Computer privacy experts expressed dismay over the behind-the-scenes communications, which are sent without warning. But the company insists it is not violating customers' privacy because it does not attempt to match serial numbers against anyone's real-world identity. It published an explanation of its practices on its Internet site Monday after it was contacted by The Associated Press.

"We don't know your gender, your age or anything except you're a Web browser visiting sites," Comet spokesman Ben Austin said. "There's not a lot of reason to crunch that data because I don't see that it's in anyone's economic interests. We're stating for the record that we don't do that and we never will."

Austin said the company tracks those serial numbers for a census of its customers, who aren't asked to disclose their names or e-mail addresses, and because some Web sites pay Comet based on the number of visitors using the cursor-changing technology.

Critics said the company should have more openly disclosed the transmissions to its customers. They also contend it would not be very difficult with today's technology to begin correlating the Comet serial number with a consumer's identity if the company suddenly decided to or if Comet — with its extensive tracking database — were purchased by new owners willing to do that.

"There's zero expectation that tracking is going on with this product," said Richard M. Smith of Brookline, Mass., a computer security expert who noticed the communications last week. "Who would have thought a little cursor could track your Web movements? It's going back to (Comet's) home base and saying this person with this serial number is now at this Web site."

Consumers are prompted to install Comet's cursor software, which takes only a few seconds, when they visit any of the 60,000 Web sites that support its technology, including those for the Dilbert and Peanuts characters of United Feature Syndicate Inc., the Ty Inc. Web site for Beanie Babies, the Garfield comic strip page and sites for children's movies like "The Iron Giant" from Warner Bros.

The campaign Web site for Vice President Al Gore removed support for the technology Monday, citing privacy concerns.

"To the best of the Gore campaign's knowledge, no personally identifiable information was divulged," spokesman Chris Lehane said. "But even this very benign data collection doesn't meet the Gore campaign privacy standards."

"What I find most disturbing is that most of these Web sites are for kids," Smith said. "You're asking a kid if it's OK to install this software. (Comet Systems) is in such a position to go back and find what sites did this user ID visit. There are so many ways to tie that to an offline identity."

Austin, the company spokesman, insists Comet has no such plans.

"When companies have gotten in trouble in the past, it's typically because they relate user IDs to some list of real names of actual people," Austin said. "We intentionally keep our users anonymous by not collecting names or e-mail addresses, and it's something we've stated we will not do."

The company's technology officer, Tom Schmitter, acknowledged that part of the identifier harvested by Comet includes the serial number for each computer's network connection hardware. That means a customer's Web browsing history could be linked back to a specific machine by examining the company's tracking logs and his personal computer.

Woman ordered to wear sign does not like the punishment

WILKESBORO, N.C. (AP) — Rebecca Escobar says she has grown bitter since a judge handed her an unusual punishment: Walk around wearing a sign that reads "I am a convicted drunk driver and as a result I took a life."

Asked whether she thinks her punishment fits her crime, Escobar answers sharply: "No, I don't." Carrying the sign, she said, doesn't diminish her guilt.

Escobar was driving drunk Jan. 27 when her car collided with another vehicle, killing 52-year-old Faye Schnablegger. She pleaded guilty to felony death by vehicle.

Judge Todd Burke said he wanted to send a message when he ordered Escobar to tote the sign once a month for the first year of her three-year probation.

Escobar was a first-time offender, so Burke said he could sentence her to a maximum of only about a year in jail. He thought that was insufficient.

The judge also ordered Escobar to spend 90 days in jail, relinquish her driver's license indefinitely and maintain the crash site where there are eulogies, a poem and a photo of Schnablegger.

"I thought that a year in jail was a very minimal sentence to have taken someone's life. But I felt that a public sanction would have more impact on her and serve notice on the general public," Burke said.

Escobar agreed to the sentence in June. She has worn the sign three times so far. She doesn't speak to anyone when she arrives a few minutes after leaving her job at a Tyson Foods plant.

TOYS FOR TOTS APPLICATION

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Please list each child's name, age (12 and under), sex (M or F) and three toys they would like to have. We will try to give at least one toy from each child's list. (Please do not list clothes and shoe sizes.)

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2 _____ 3 _____

Child #2

NAME _____ **AGE** ____ **SEX** __

1 _____

2 _____ 3 _____

Child #3

NAME _____ **AGE** ____ **SEX** __

1 _____

2 _____ 3 _____

Child #4

NAME _____ **AGE** ____ **SEX** __

1 _____

2 _____ 3 _____

Child #5

NAME _____ **AGE** ____ **SEX** __

1 _____

2 _____ 3 _____

For families with more than 5 children, please attach a separate sheet of paper.)

Toys will be picked up from the Girl Scout Hut (2501 35th Street) on Thursday, December 23, 1999. Each family will be notified by phone of their pick up time, so please list a phone #. Only adults will be allowed to pick up toys. Please send all applications to: **TOYS FOR TOTS, c/o Judi Martin, 3106 Hill Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-3845. For more information, call 573-3525 or 573-6725. Applications will be accepted through Saturday, December 18, 1999.**

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999

In the year ahead, you could enter into a relationship with a person who thinks on a grander scale than you do. His or her input will elevate your possibilities for attaining greater gains.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Even if you believe the pride of an egoistical friend needs to be soothed today, do not attempt to use flattery to pamper the person. Sincerely will produce better results. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) That which appears to be simple and easy to do could be infested with complications today. Thus, if you work along the lines of least resistance, the end results won't be too desirable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) By gilding the lily today, it could give your listeners cause to doubt any of your future statements. Better to tell it like it is and you'll gain their respect.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Being the usually good manager of your resources might be absent in the way you conduct your material affairs today. You'll have to pay for it tomorrow.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be satisfied today with your share of the returns from a situation you didn't control. If you act up, it might give pause for others to wonder if you're worth what you're getting now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't put off that which you can do early in the day today. Each task might become more difficult to do as time ticks on and they loudly clamor to be taken care of.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Social slights will not only bring resentment from the offended party, but they could cause observers to question what kind of person you really are at this time

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Flamboyance will prove to be counterproductive today while accentuating your modest virtues will attract admirers. The choice is yours, make a good one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Dame Fortune could be rather fickle today, so it's best not to take things for granted, even in situations where you are usually lucky. Be alert at all times.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Should you find yourself in two arrangements today that offer opportunity, don't attempt to handle both. Select the best one and focus on it only.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It's best to be frank and forthright should someone come to you for advice today. You can find a way to tell the truth without being unkind or crude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't expect success today if you get indifferent or careless and leave matters up to chance. Your only chance to attain your objectives is to follow through on all that you do.

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Paul wrote, "Brethren, do not be children in your thinking, be babes in evil, but in thinking, be mature" **(1 Corinthians 14:20).**

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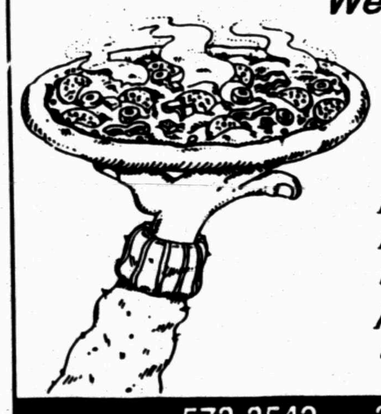
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Obituaries



Margarita Ayala

Margarita Ayala

1912-1999

Margarita F. Ayala died Monday, Nov. 29, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Rosary for Mrs. Ayala, 87, is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Fr. Leo Moras officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born June 24, 1912 in Pearsall, she married Augustine Ayala on Jan. 16, 1931 in San Antonio. He died in 1977.

Mrs. Ayala was a homemaker and a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Mrs. Ayala also was preceded in death by one sister.

Survivors include one daughter, Dolores Ayala of Snyder; one sister, Maria Ayala of San Antonio; two nieces, Lydia Martinez of Lubbock and Rachel Lara of Kerrville; one nephew, Rudy Duckworth Sr. of Snyder; and two great-nephews, Rudy Duckworth Jr. and Anthony Duckworth, both of Snyder.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Claudene Atwood

1924-1999

Claudene Atwood, longtime Snyder resident, died Monday, Nov. 29, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Atwood, 75, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church. Dr. Craig Curry, pastor, and the Rev. Miller Robinson, retired Baptist minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born April 15, 1924 in Portales, N.M., she married Bill Atwood on April 15, 1924 in Dallas. He died on Sept. 14, 1993.

A homemaker, Mrs. Atwood was a member of the First United Methodist Church and was active in the Martha Ann Woman's Club, Altrurian Daughters and Colonial Hill Women's Sunday School Class. She was a longtime member of the Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary.

Survivors include her son, Billy Tim Atwood of Arlington; a daughter and her husband, Janis and Cornel Mot of Jacksonville, Tex.; two sisters, Hazel Fields and Arlene Briggs, both of Plainview; a brother, Worth Jones of Dimmitt; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Friends are contributing to the Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary.

Vermella Tilson

1914-1999

STUTTGART, Ark. – Vermella McCauley Tilson, a former Snyder resident, died Sunday, Nov. 28 in Stuttgart.

Funeral service for Mrs. Tilson, 85, was set for 3 p.m. today in the Turpin Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow in the Lone Tree Cemetery.

Born May 20, 1914 in Stuttgart, she was married to Jack A. Tilson who served as Snyder postmaster until his retirement in 1981.

Mrs. Tilson was a retired school teacher. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Iowta and several professional educators' organizations. She was member of the Stuttgart First Baptist Church and had been a Sunday School teacher.

Survivors include her husband, Jack A. Tilson of Stuttgart; a son, Allen Reid Tilson of Highland Village, Tex.; a sister, Avis Black of Stuttgart; and a granddaughter, Tara Tilson.

Memorials may be made to the Stuttgart Public Library or to the First Baptist Church library.

Dick Williams

1948-1999

KERMIT – Dick Williams, the stepfather of Tracey Henderson of Ira, died Saturday, Nov. 27, in Kermit.

Funeral service for Mr. Williams, 51, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Cooper Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Mark Riley and the Rev. Gene Haley were to officiate. Burial was to follow in the Haley Ranch Cemetery.

Born in Yankston, S.D., Mr. Williams was a U.S. Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Murlene Williams of Kermit; two sons, Travis Carlson of Odessa and Dickie Williams of Midland; two daughters, Christie Rumi of Lechter, S.D., and Stephanie Haley of Kermit; another stepson, Todd Henderson of Willis; a brother, Terry Williams of Valley Springs, S.D.; a sister, Joyce Hyde of Kermit; and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Risenhoover

1910-1999

WARREN, Okla. – Robert L. Risenhoover, the grandfather of Diane Hogan of Snyder, died Monday, Nov. 29, at Quartz Mountain Care Center in Altus, Okla.

Funeral service for Mr. Risenhoover, 89, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church in Warren, Okla., with the Rev. Dennis Osborne officiating. Burial will follow in the Warren Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Peoples Cooperative Funeral Home in Lone Wolf.

Born Dec. 16, 1910 in Martha, Okla., he married Willie McElroy on Feb. 10, 1933 in Warren. She died in 1979.

A resident of Warren, he was a farmer and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include a son, John Robert Risenhoover of Midland and formerly of Snyder; a daughter, Roseann Hand of Wichita, Kan.; a sister, Reba Eley of Shawnee, Okla.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Deputies are investigating oil rig theft reported Tuesday

Deputies are investigating a felony theft that was reported Monday from a drilling rig.

Reported missing were two tubing elevators and a set of tubing elevator bails from an oil rig identified as Baytech Inc., Taylor 46 #2.

Max von Roeder notified deputies of a theft from Von Roeder Gin at 8:55 a.m. Reported missing were a hundred bales of hay.

At 3:47 p.m., Kellye Jackson requested an officer in reference to someone damaging her vehicle. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was filed.

A woman reported her 16-year-old daughter as runaway at 8:42 p.m. She advised that the juvenile had gone to school but had not returned home.

Two subjects were taken into custody Tuesday.

Department of Public Safety troopers arrested a 38-year-old male at 12:32 a.m. at U.S. Hwy. 84 milepost 414 on warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

Parole violation landed a 26-year-old man in jail. Officers arrested Chris Silva of 506 29th Street at his residence at 2:20 p.m.

Officers worked a minor two-vehicle accident at 10:20 a.m. in the 4200 block of College. Involved were a 1998 Dodge 1500 pickup driven by Sonny Wade Robinson, 66, of Burns Flat, Okla., and a 1989 Chevrolet C-1500 pickup driven by Jewel Dyess Pinkerton, 77, of 708 27th Street.

Snyder Fire Department responded to a small grass fire Tuesday at 10:34 a.m. at the Avenue E railroad crossing. The fire was out upon firemen's arrival.

The department was called to the railroad tracks on U.S. Hwy. 84 at 7:33 p.m. in reference to a cross tie on fire. A railroad crew was sanding the tracks and fire officials said they believed that started the fire. Damage was limited to the cross tie.

'Great Western' now known as Days Inn

The Great Western Motel, 800 East Coliseum Drive, is now a Days Inn.

The motel is still owned and managed by Raman Patel, who has operated the motel for seven years.

Patel said the change came about because he decided to go to a franchise.

Property remodeling and upgrading of the rooms is underway.

The restaurant, however, is not re-opening at this time.

"I have no idea yet if the restaurant will open," Patel said. "We have to remodel according to franchise standards in order to re-open it."

The motel has 55 regular rooms and one suite. It has four employees, including three in housekeeping and one at the front desk.

Local workers qualify for TAA

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has announced that all workers of Ratholes Inc. in Snyder who have lost their job due to lack of work on or after Sept. 30, 1998 are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

Under petition number TA-W-39,613 which was certified on Nov. 16, 1999, and will expire Nov. 16, 2001, workers who were partially separated from employment with Ratholes Inc. will qualify for assistance.

TAA is available to workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work or wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. TAA includes a variety of benefits and re-employment services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment.

Workers may be eligible for training, a job search allowance, a relocation allowance and other re-employment services. Additionally, weekly trade adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following their exhaustion of unemployment benefits.

Workers should contact the nearest Texas Workforce Commission office for assistance in filing for the following services: weekly trade readjustment allowance, job placement, employment counseling, vocational training and financial assistance for job search and job relocation.

Locally, call the Texas Workforce Commission at 573-5745 or visit the office on the Western Texas College campus.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Choir Poinsettia sale

Poinsettia plants sold by SHS choir have arrived and are available for pick-up or delivery this week.

Genealogy meeting

The Scurry County Genealogy Society will meet at 7 this evening in the Scurry County Library. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome.

Basketball parents meeting

Varsity and JV boys basketball parents will meet at 7:30 tonight in the SHS student center.

Tiger's Lair senior dedications

Dedications for the SHS yearbook are due Wednesday. The cost is $40. To reserve a space, call Katie Henson at 573-6301.

Girls softball boosters

Girls softball booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the West Elementary cafeteria.

Rotary Christmas dinner

Members and spouses of the Snyder Rotary Club will have a Christmas dinner and party at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. To make reservations call 573-6963 or 573-0187 by today.

Auxiliary Discovery Toys show

The Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary will sponsor a Discovery Toys show from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday in the hospital board room.

Christmas open house

The Scurry County courthouse employees will host an open house Saturday immediately following the lighted Christmas parade. Refreshments will be served.

Faith Baptist Church anniversary

Faith Baptist Church will observe its 30th anniversary Sunday. Chris Boatman of Aransas Pass will preach and singing will be presented by the Alton Wiedel family of Fort Worth.

AARP meeting

AARP Chapter 2063 will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club for the installation banquet. Max von Roeder will be the installation speaker, and entertainment will be provided by Dorothy Duncan and her ventriloquist friend, Dotsy.

Quilting Club

The Rock and Roll Quilting Club meets from 8 a.m. until noon each Monday at the Hermleigh Community Center. Everyone is invited for free quilting lessons. Call 863-2426 for more information.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air each week on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Wisdom of Solomon," followed by "How Do We Deal With the Poor."

Snyder Lions meeting

Lions Club members are to bring a toy to the Tuesday, Dec. 14, meeting for Toys for Tots, or pay a $10 fine to be used as a cash donation. The meeting will be at noon in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Library extends hours

Scurry County Library has extended its Saturday hours and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-W-F and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

WTC planetarium open

The planetarium at Western Texas College is now open with its fall lineup of new programs, developed for specific age groups: pre-K and kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7 through adults. The 60-seat planetarium is open for group showings, by reservation, for Friday morning and afternoon programs. It is also available, by reservation, for group showings Thursday through Saturday evenings. For reservations, call Sharon Gill at WTC, 573-8511, ext. 312.

Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ASC Road to Recovery volunteer coordinator Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 and leave a message, or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

WTC nursing program

Students wishing to enroll in the March class for Licensed Vocational Nursing at Western Texas College need to contact the counseling office to take the pre-entrance exam. Tests will be given through Dec. 7 and interviews will be scheduled through Jan. 10. Classes begin March 1. Contact the counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313, or toll-free at 1-888-GO TO WTC.

Pick 3

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

5-9-1

(five, nine, one)

Cash Five

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

5-25-30-31-34

(five, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-four)

Burke Ramsey's parents sue The Star

ATLANTA (AP) — The parents of JonBenet Ramsey filed suit today against the supermarket tabloid The Star on behalf of their 12-year-old son, Burke, charging that he was libeled by stories alleging he was the prime suspect in his sister's killing.

The Star later retracted the stories.

The suit filed in federal court by John and Patsy Ramsey seeks $25 million in actual and punitive damages.

It said the stories, published May 25 and June 1, were false and defamatory, and subjected Burke to "public hatred, contempt and ridicule."

The newspaper's publicist, Richard Valvo, said The Star would have a statement about the suit later in the day.

The 6-year-old JonBenet, a frequent contestant in children's beauty pageants, was found beaten and strangled Dec. 26, 1996, in the basement of her parents' home in Boulder, Colo.

The Ramseys later moved to Atlanta. JonBenet is buried in suburban Marietta next to her half-sister, Elizabeth Ramsey, 22, who died in a car crash in Ohio in 1992..