INSIDE

Hampton coaches lawsuit 2
Sports 5
FTC approves settlement 8
Dr. Gott 9
What's Up 10

WT-Int. Crude - $34.63
WTIC Posted - $31.75
Natural Gas - $6.181

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Nov. 30, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 183
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Shirley Leftwich

Hospital seeks new auditors

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board members agreed this morning to send out requests for proposals for financial auditing services for 2001, and for cost report services for this fiscal year.

Presently, the county contracts with Condley and Company of Abilene for the services, but the hospital board is wanting a more comprehensive report than has been provided.

"We'd like for them to say more than there is no money missing," said board president Jim Bob Cave. "I would like the accountants to make recommendations for improving the operation of the hospital."

County Judge Ricky Fritz said he is in favor of the action, and that he is supportive of getting a firm that the hospital board was comfortable with.

Hospital CEO George Parsley said by getting one firm to do the audit and the cost report, the county could see some monetary savings.

In other action items this morning, the board approved the financial report and the certification of monthly bills.

Joe Wright, interim controller of the hospital, said the hospital's October financial statements reflected a cash balance of some $3 million.

"About $500,000 of that is escrowed money for the radiology department's renovation," said Wright.

Wright is currently filling the position held by Selina McGuire whose last official day of work is today. McGuire submitted her resignation last month to pursue other business interests.

The board also approved a revision in the hospital's human resource policy as related to on-call personnel.

In Parsley's report to the board, he stated that the hospital's compensation committee had met and noted several inconsistencies in the way employees are paid, especially with the nursing staff.

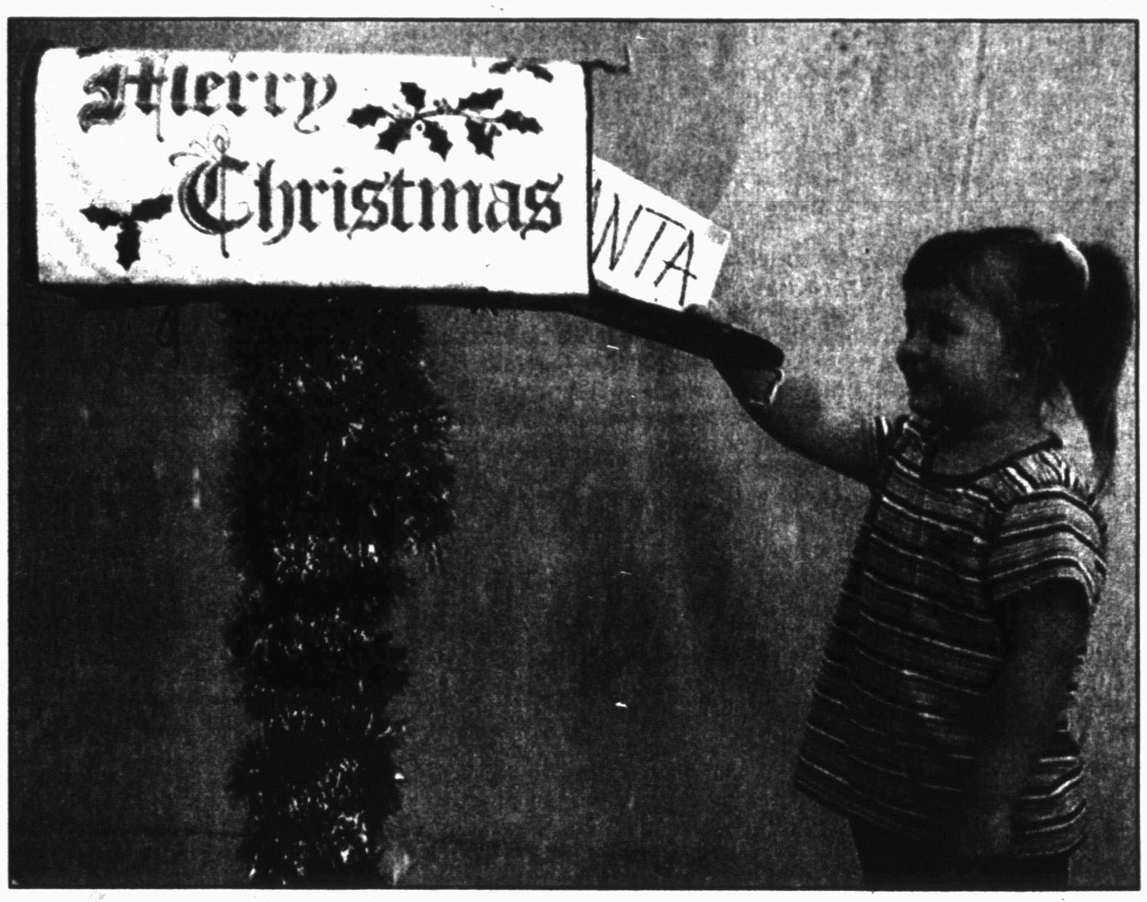
"This is a practice that needs to be corrected," said Parsley.

Cave remarked that the findings did not reflect just people who might be underpaid.

"Not everyone was being underpaid," said Cave.

Parsley said the goal of the committee and the hospital is to have a market-driven pay scale that is fair to everyone on the staff.

Cave presided at the meeting and board members in attendance were Dink Foree, Stanley Martin, Terry Williams and Nan Swanson. E.D. Walton was absent.



SPECIAL DELIVERY — Alexis Proulx, 3½, delivers her letter to Santa to the *Snyder Daily News* mailbox. Letters may be mailed to *Snyder Daily News*, Box 949 or brought by the office at 3600 College Avenue through Dec. 15. Letters will be forwarded to Santa after a copy is made in order to print them for our special Christmas greeting edition Dec. 24. (SDN Staff Photo)

Flu shots are set for Friday at Sr. Center

A limited number of flu shots will be available Friday morning at the Snyder Senior Center for persons in high-risk groups.

Cindy Nix, director of the Scurry County Health Unit, said the shots will be given beginning at 9 a.m. and continue only while the supply lasts.

"This is certainly not the last of the vaccine that we will be receiving," said Nix. "If a person fails to get a shot Friday because of the limited amount of vaccine available, please be patient for the next shipment."

Those considered high risk are persons who are over 65 years of age, those who have asthma, or other chronic lung conditions, or persons with diabetes, kidney or heart problems.

Other high-risk individuals are those with weakened immune systems.

Pot possession in the Price Daniel Unit nets 60 years

It took only 30 minutes for a district court jury to find a Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmate guilty of marijuana possession in a correctional facility and an equal amount of time to assess him a 60-year sentence.

Anthony Gustavo Chavez, 35, is already serving two stacked sentences, including a 45-year sentence for attempted capital murder in Tom Green County and a 15-year sentence from Anderson County for possession of a deadly weapon in a penal institution.

This latest sentence will be stacked on those two which means Chavez faces a total of 120 years.

An eight-woman, four-man jury heard closing arguments Wednesday afternoon in the trial that began Tuesday.

According to testimony Tuesday, correctional officers found Chavez in possession of marijuana while he was in the Price Daniel Unit's administrative segregation unit in May, 1999.

During testimony, correctional officers stated that Chavez had marijuana hidden inside a portion of coaxial cable and inside a hollowed-out marking pen.

Ernie Armstrong, 132nd District Court Judge, presided.

District Attorney Dana Cooley presented the state's case while defense attorney was Kyle Allen of Childress.

Parade entries are still being accepted

Lighted Christmas floats are still needed for the chamber of commerce Christmas parade on Saturday.

Those wishing to participate can call the chamber at 573-3558.

Before the parade, Santa Claus will be visiting with children from 4 until 6 p.m. in the gazebo on the courthouse square, and then he will ride in the fire truck in the parade.

The chamber will be selling popcorn and hot chocolate and there will be other vendors on the courthouse lawn.

Girl Scouts, Northside Baptist Church, TXU Electric, Big Country Electric, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Price Daniel Unit employees, Snyder Police Association and Weaver Wireline have entered floats, according to chamber executive director Donna Fowler.

Share your memories

What is your most memorable Christmas? Were you at grandma's house, or perhaps on the way to her house when you had car trouble and a big change of plans?

We'd like to share your memories with our other readers.

Send your memories to Box 949, or bring them by the newspaper at 3600 College Ave.

CHIP representative here through afternoon

A representative of the Children's Health Program of Texas (CHIP) will be in Snyder today to enroll children in the low-cost insurance program.

The representative will be at the Texas Department of Human Services at 3409 College in the Snyder Shopping Center until 4 p.m. to assist families in completing the insurance application.

To enroll in the program, parents should bring with them proof of income. The proof can be at least two paycheck stubs, W2 forms for 1999, or a letter from their employer indicating their monthly pay.

Parents with day care expenses should also bring receipts indicating how much and how often they pay for that service.

CHIP is a state of Texas program to provide insurance for children up to their 19th birthday. Income guidelines for the program are very generous. The most the insurance can cost is $18 per month to cover all the children in a family.

Florida's election circus headed down the road

Al Gore battled in two supreme courts, one state, one federal, today as he waged an overtime struggle for Florida's all-important electoral votes. George W. Bush was meeting with retired Gen. Colin Powell as he worked conspicuously on a transition to power.

One of the oddest episodes of the 2000 election campaign played out along Florida's highways as a rental truck, in a convoy with police cars, ferried nearly a half-million ballots from Palm Beach County to the state capital in case they're needed for a recount. "The ballots seem to be riding fine back there," Tony Enos, the truck's driver said during a midmorning break at a rest stop.

A second convoy is to set out Friday from Miami-Dade County, also bound for Tallahassee on the order of Circuit Judge N. Sanders Sauls, who is presiding over Gore's legal challenge of Bush's certified victory in Florida.

Sauls has not yet agreed to Gore's request for an immediate manual recount of roughly 14,000 ballots, and the vice president's lawyers sought intervention by the state Supreme Court to order him to do so.

"There is no reason to delay counting ballots even one day," they said in court papers filed in early morning. If there is not enough time to finish the counting before Dec. 12, the day states must choose their electors, the brief said, "the resulting controversy about the legitimacy of the presidency would be destructive for our country."

At the same time, the vice president filed papers with the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington in a bid to blunt a Bush-backed effort by the Florida Legislature to appoint its own electors.

Federal law gives state legislatures the power to intervene whenever a state has "failed to make a choice" of electors on the day prescribed by law, presumably Election Day, Nov. 7. In their legal papers, Gore's lawyers argued the state did, in fact, select electors on Nov. 7, "although by a vote so close and under a counting process so flawed that the state's courts are still attempting to ascertain ... what the choice was."

The legal wheels turned while a committee of the Republican-controlled Legislature called formally for a special session "as soon as practicable" to name a slate of electors loyal to Bush. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the GOP presidential nominee's brother, has recused himself from the recounting controversy, but has spoken favorably in recent days of the possibility of a special legislative session.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "It's not how old you are, but how you are old."

A friend says we are always complaining about having to deal with a brother-in-law. He says we ought to have to endure four during a holiday.

He offered these descriptions of those at a recent family gathering on Turkey Day.

—A few clowns short of a circus.

—A few fries short of a Happy Meal.

—The wheel's spinning, but the hamster's dead.

—Slipped into the gene pool when the lifeguard wasn't watching.

—All foam, no beer.

—The butter slipped off his pancake.

—All cheese and no cracker.

—Body by Fisher, brains by Mattel.

—Warning: Objects in mirror may be dumber than they appear.

—Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel.

—He fell out of the stupid tree and hit every branch on the way down.

—As smart as bait.

—Doesn't have all his dogs on one leash.

—His sewing machine is out of thread.

—One Fruit Loop shy of a full bowl.

—His antenna doesn't pick up all the signals.

—His belt doesn't go through all the loops.

—Proof that evolution can go in reverse.

—Receiver is off the hook.

—Not wired to code.

—Skylight leaks a lot.

—His slinky's kinked.

—Too much yardage between the goalposts.

—Has a six-pack, but lacks the plastic thing to hold 'em together.

—A photographic memory, but the lens cover is on.

—A photographic memory, but no film.

—During evolution, his ancestors were in the control group.

—Gates are down, lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.

—So dense, the light bends around him.

—Some drink from the fountain of knowledge, but he just gargled.

—Stayed on the tilt-a-whirl too long.

—A lot of folks in the family lack intelligence, but he's got papers.

Get ready, Christmas gatherings are just around the corner.

ASK US

Q—Who is the 911 coordinator for Scurry County?

A—Cheyenne Thomison, the county judge's secretary, also serves as 911 coordinator.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 66 degrees; low, 34; 7 a.m. Thursday, 38; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.13 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low mid 30s, S wind 5-15 mph, becoming NE overnight. Friday, partly cloudy, cooler, high lower to mid 50s, E-NE wind, 10-20 mph.



Remington Bloom
Cloudy and Cooler

Sunset:
5:42 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:25 a.m.

Of 334 days in 2000, the sun has shone 327 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Enthusiasm is a vital element toward the individual success of every man or woman.

—Conrad Hilton

Jury convicts man for brick assault

NEW YORK (AP) — A street-hustling crack user with a lengthy criminal record was convicted Wednesday on charges of shattering a Texas woman's skull with a six-pound brick on a mid-Manhattan street.

After 21/2 days of deliberations and two notes declaring that they were deadlocked, the jury of 10 men and two women convicted Paris Drake, 37, of first-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon.

Drake, who was acquitted of attempted murder in the attack, faces up to 25 years in prison when state Supreme Court Justice Laura Visitacion-Lewis sentences him on Dec 13. He will likely face a minimum sentence of 121/2 years.

Drake was accused of bashing Nicole Barrett, 28, in the head with a paving brick on 42nd Street at Madison Ave. — a block from Grand Central Terminal — on Nov. 16, 1999. According to trial testimony, she was near death when hospitalized.

Barrett, who has no memory of the attack, attended the trial daily with her mother, Sharon. They left after the verdict was delivered without making a comment.

One juror, who withheld his name, said reaching the verdict was difficult. "We didn't want to send an innocent person to jail," he said. "It was a hard decision" but continuous review of the evidence left them with no believable suspects but Drake, he said.

Drake's lawyer, Louis A. Zayas, said his client was "shocked" upon being found guilty of the two charges. Zayas had said his client was at his girlfriend's Bronx apartment at the time of the attack and suggested that Drake had been a victim of mistaken identity.

"He said, 'I can't believe this. How can they convict me when I didn't do this?'" Zayas quoted Drake.

The lawyer called the verdict "a tremendous miscarriage of justice, not consistent with the evidence." He said he presented seven witnesses to the attack who either could not identify Drake or had identified someone else.

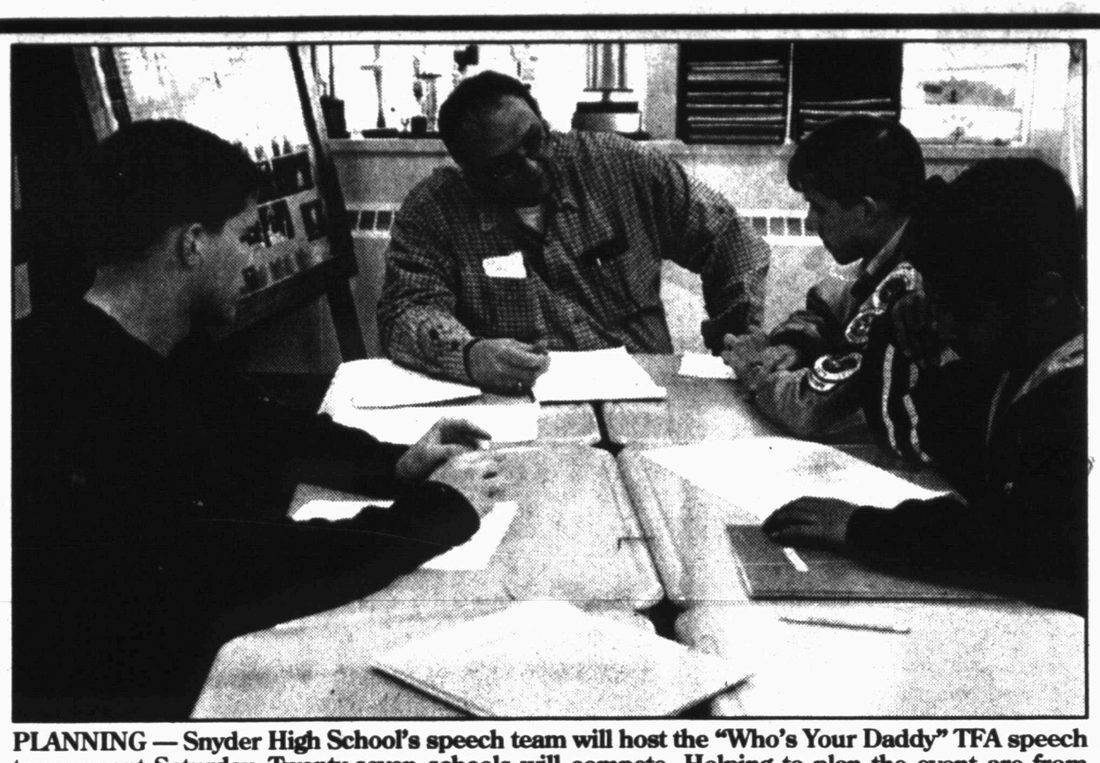
"I think the jury compromised," Zayas said, explaining why he believed they returned a split verdict after twice reporting they were deadlocked.

"They were coerced into coming back with a verdict," Zayas said, but he would not say how he thought the jurors were coerced.

He said an appeal on Drake's behalf "is as certain as there is daylight tomorrow." One ground for appeal, Zayas said, was what he called improper testimony from the prosecution's key eyewitness, Laura Weiner.

The lawyer said the judge had told Weiner, who is a lawyer and an amateur artist, to refrain from saying that she helped police create the sketch of the assailant on the "wanted" poster that was circulated after the attack.

During her testimony, Weiner mentioned twice that she had helped police, Zayas said. He said this was an attempt to bolster the credibility of her identification testimony. Zayas said the judge rejected his subsequent motions for a mistrial.



PLANNING — Snyder High School's speech team will host the "Who's Your Daddy" TFA speech tournament Saturday. Twenty-seven schools will compete. Helping to plan the event are from left, sophomore Will Davis, Ron Hester, speech coach; and Lyndell Lee and Jose Perez, both seniors. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Coach's civil rights lawsuit: Fifth Circuit denies appeal

LUBBOCK (AP) — The Hampton University women's basketball coach has lost a bid before a federal appeals court to pursue a $30 million civil rights lawsuit against the city of Lubbock and others, spurred by her 1998 arrest.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals denied an appeal Wednesday from coach Patricia Bibbs, upholding a previous ruling that said "mistakes were made and acknowledged."

Bibbs, her husband, Ezell, and then-assistant coach Vanetta Kelso alleged that Lubbock police arrested them Nov. 16, 1998, because they were black.

The three were released after four hours of questioning involving a con operation at a Lubbock Wal-Mart.

The lawsuit had also named Police Chief Ken Walker, officers David Houser, Brian McNeill, Roger Hearron and Mike Overland and former officer Keith Jobe.

Walker had expected the appeals court to rule in favor of the officers.

"If there had been any hint of misconduct on the part of the officers, it would have been dealt with swiftly two years ago," Walker told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in Thursday's editions. "There was none."

The case was dismissed in December by U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings. Bibbs appealed, claiming that Cummings' action failed to allow the three their day in court.

Kim Robinson, a Dallas attorney who represents the coaches, said she was disappointed and shocked by the judges' decision.

"We raised some very significant legal issues that the court did not consider," Robinson said.

Lubbock police said they were acting on a description that was similar to that of the Bibbs.

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling said the case arose from an "unfortunate incident in which members of the Lubbock Police Department arrested persons who proved to be innocent."

Floyd Holder, the attorney representing Overland, said his client is pleased the case is over.

"The law is officers cannot be held liable for honest mistakes," said Holder. "The law justifiably protects all but the grossly incompetent and those who intentionally hurt somebody. But we didn't have that in this case."

The trial judge had determined that Bibbs failed to show the arrests were racially motivated.

The case began while the Hampton women's basketball team was visiting Lubbock for a game against Texas Tech.

The arrests attracted national attention when the coaches hired O.J. Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran, who later dropped out of the case.

Associates of former AG testify

HOUSTON (AP) — Colleagues of a Beaumont attorney on Wednesday completed three days of testimony before a federal grand jury investigating financial ties between former Attorney General Dan Morales and lawyers who represented Texas in its $17 billion tobacco lawsuit.

Lawyers, office personnel and former employees of Wayne Reaud — one of the five attorneys hired by Morales — were among what appeared to be the first round of witnesses in a lengthy investigation.

Witnesses were asked about Morales, Reaud and procedures the firm used when signing up clients, a person involved with the probe told the Houston Chronicle for Thursday's editions.

Associates of the other tobacco attorneys are also expected to be subpoenaed.

The investigation centers on the financial relationship between Morales and the attorneys he ultimately hired — Reaud, Walter Umphrey of Beaumont, John O'Quinn and John Eddie Williams of Houston and Harold Nix of Daingerfield.

The investigation began after prominent Houston attorney Joe Jamail said in an affidavit that Morales solicited money from private lawyers he considered hiring for the tobacco suit. Jamail interviewed to work on the litigation but was not selected.

Morales is also under scrutiny for allegedly trying to funnel $260 million in tobacco legal fees to a former partner and longtime friend.

The FBI and two U.S. attorneys have investigated the former attorney general's relationship with Marc Murr of Houston for more than a year. Morales allegedly gave Murr a secret contract entitling him to a cut of the state's $17.3 billion settlement with the tobacco industry in 1998, despite complaints that Murr did little to no work on the case.

For helping to represent the state, the five private attorneys were awarded a total of $3.3 billion in fees. In December 1997, Murr asked for $520 million for his role as an adviser to Morales.

events

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

4-9-26-35-45-46

(four, nine, twenty-six, thirty-five, forty-five, forty-six)

Pick 3

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

8-5-2

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 1, 2000

Stay in your areas of expertise where you know as much or more than the other guys do and you'll successfully accomplish your aims in the year ahead. Knowledge is power.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This is an excellent day to discuss matters with friends who can help bring things to fruition. Collectively, there's enough creative thinking to make everything possible. Astro-Graph year ahead predictions make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the Zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the Zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) To the casual observer you might look like you're taking a huge gamble on something today, but in reality, you'll know exactly what you're doing and prove it with excellent results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Some knowledge you've acquired from either past study or experience is going to serve you well today. You might not make any money off of it, but it will enhance your image big time.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) In your own quiet way your investigative faculties will be used today to research and gather facts that can help you be successful in a very large project in which you're involved.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A gung-ho friend of yours has some plans in the making for today that include you. Hope you got your beauty sleep last night, because this one could call for lots of energy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) That big ambition and strong motivation you have today will enable you to achieve an objective that calls for lots of energy. Be bold and go for it. You've got what it takes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your high spirits will be contagious today to the point that even those who may have been in the doldrums will end up feeling pretty good about things.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Go ahead and flow with the tide of events today, because they could carry you into shifts that might help you achieve the very thing for which you've been hoping.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Those with whom you'll be associating today could exert a strong influence over your behavior patterns. Fortunately, their presence will have a positive affect and one you'll enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your industriousness will pay off quite handsomely today, with even possibly an extra bonus thrown in. Get an early start and do your thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A fun day is in the making with good friends and pleasant happenings. What might be especially heart-warming is the special way you'll be treated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In activities that require staying power and being a good stretch runner, you'll excel. No matter how tough anything gets, hang in there, because you have what it takes.

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Date Book

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2000

Today is the 335th day of 2000 and the 70th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1936, London's Crystal Palace, an exhibition hall completed in 1851, was destroyed by fire.

On this day in 1939, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who would later become president, received a license to pilot an airplane.

On this day in 1969, a Simon and Garfunkel special was broadcast on television.

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 77; Dick Clark (1929-), producer, is 71; G. Gordon Liddy (1930-), burglar-talk show host, is 70; Bill Walsh (1931-), football coach, is 69; Abbie Hoffman (1936-1989), revolutionary; David Mamet (1947-), dramatist, is 53; Bo Jackson (1962-), baseball player, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1946, Army defeated Navy 21-18.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I never wonder to see men wicked, but I often wonder to see them not ashamed." — Jonathan Swift

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Nov. 25) and first quarter (Dec. 3).

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

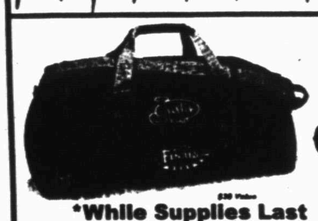
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

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

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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MERRY CHRISTMAS



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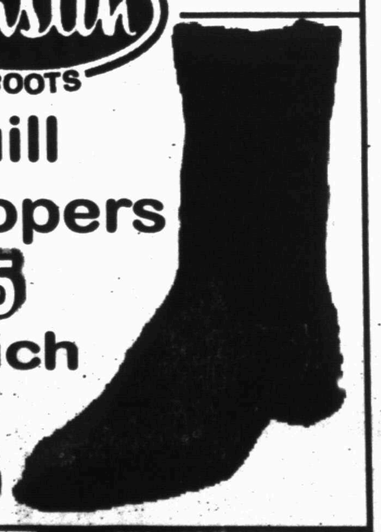
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BSP PLEDGE RITUAL — Xi Alpha Alpha Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Nov. 14 at the Snyder Country Club for a pledge ritual for three new members. Shown from left are pledges Brenda Billingsley, Marcia Dennis and Jana Neal. President Jacalyn Lowrance officiated the ritual. (SDN Staff Photo)

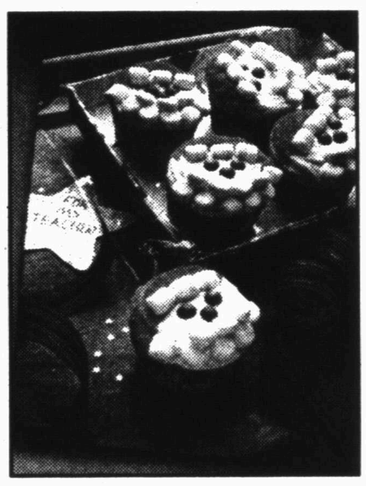
Cupcakes make holiday cooking fun for kids

MERRY SANTA CUPCAKES

24 bake cups
1 pkg. (about 18 oz.) white cake mix
1 container (16 oz.) vanilla frosting
Red sugar crystals
Mini candy coated plain chocolate candies
Mini marshmallows
Holiday print plastic wrap

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place holly bake cups in muffin pans; set aside. Prepare cake mix following package directions for 24 cupcakes. Spoon batter into bake cups. Bake as directed. Cool.

Frost cupcakes. Decorate each cupcake to look like Santa; for hat: sprinkle top third and halfway down one side of cupcake with red sugar crystals. Place chocolate candies on frosting for eyes and nose. Cut 2 marshmallows in half lengthwise, place at edge of red sugar for hat brim. Place a marshmallow at end of red sugar on side for the hat tassel. For beard, place about 10 marshmallows over bottom third of frosting.



Wrap cupcakes in holiday print plastic wrap or place cupcakes in a gift box lined with plastic wrap.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Nov. 29 – Kenneth Armstrong, Elizabeth Brunson, James Frady, Inez Pace, Frank Pinkerton, Stella Pylant, Rios boy and Cherie Rosas.

DISMISSALS: Jennifer Campbell, Helen Grinslade, Joshua Martinez, Zella White and James Frady.

CENSUS: 42 (Med./Surg.-19, Long-term Care-23, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

—

In one of the most incredible coincidences of American history, the second and third president of the United States — John Adams and Thomas Jefferson — both died on July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North		11-30-00
	♠ 6		
	♥ A K 7		
	♦ A Q 7 5 4 2		
	♣ A 4 3		
West		**East**	
♠ A Q 8 4 3		♠ 10 7 5 2	
♥ 10 6 5		♥ J 9 4 2	
♦ 10		♦ J 8 6 3	
♣ K J 10 8		♣ Q	
	South		
	♠ K J 9		
	♥ Q 8 3		
	♦ K 9		
	♣ 9 7 6 5 2		

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

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

Opening lead: ♠ 4

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2000

The day and curse of Scotland

By Phillip Alder

This is St. Andrew's Day, commemorating the patron saint of Scotland. But do you know which card is known as the curse of Scotland? It plays a vital role in landing this three-no-trump contract.

West leads the spade four: six, 10, jack.

You have eight top tricks: one spade (given trick one), three hearts, three diamonds and one club. It looks so obvious to play diamonds from the top, cruising to at least two overtricks. However, when diamonds break as in the diagram, East gets in to push through a spade, and West rattles off four tricks in the suit for one down.

Rather than gamble, enter dummy with a heart, then play a diamond to your nine. West is welcome to the trick because he cannot profitably lead another spade. And now that you have five diamond tricks established, the contract is secure.

Here are six possible reasons why the diamond nine might be known as the curse of Scotland:

1. In the game Pope Joan, the diamond nine was called the Pope.
2. The dispositions for the field of Flodden in 1513 were drawn up on the card by James IV of Scotland.
3. It was the chief card in cornette, which was introduced by Mary Queen of Scots.
4. The order for the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe was written on the back of the card.
5. It is derived from the nine lozenges that formed the arms of the Earl of Stair, who was loathed for his part in both the Massacre of Glencoe and the union with England in 1707.
6. "Butcher" Cumberland wrote the orders for the 1746 Battle of Culloden on the back of the card.

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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



WAL-MART DONATES — R.J. Youngclaus, manager of Wal-Mart presented a $1,000 check to Gateway Services for the Silent Witness project, accepted by executive director Dee Wilson. Gateway, formerly Noah Project-West, staff and volunteers have made life-size, free standing wooden silhouettes representing 20 women and three children in Gateway's five-county area who died as a result of family violence. The Silent Witness project will begin in January. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

BEALLS

Holiday Kick-off Sale

Friday thru Sunday! Find 30% • 40% • 50% Off Storewide!

Save 50%
Misses' Dresses & Pantsuits
When you take EXTRA 30% OFF already-reduced styles. Orig. 68.00-98.00, then 46.99-67.99, NOW 32.89-47.59.

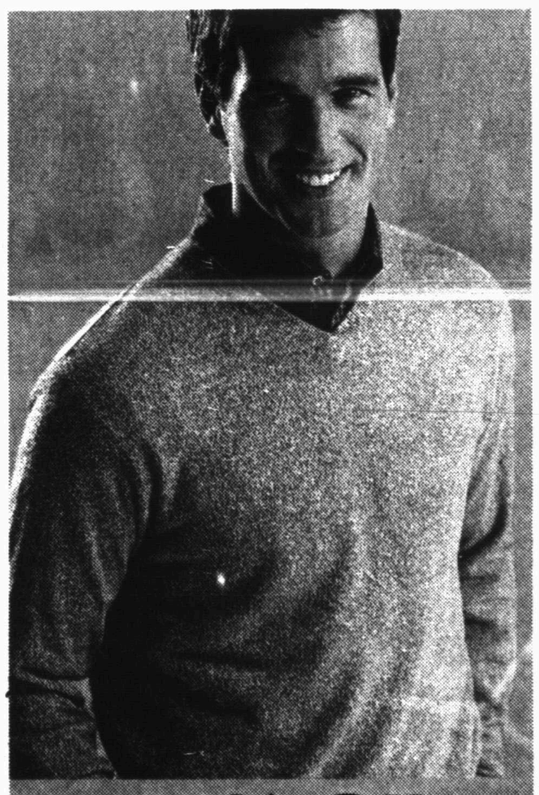
Sale 19.99
All Juniors' Sweaters
By GAS®, It's Our Time® and Creative Cotton®. Reg. 28.00-32.00.

30% Off
All Handbags, Small Leathers
Handbags, reg. 15.00-69.00, SALE 10.50-48.30. Ladies' small leather goods, reg. 15.00-34.00, SALE 10.50-23.80.

30% Off
Family Athletic Shoes
Selected styles from NIKE, Reebok®, Adidas® and Riddell®. Reg. 35.00-70.00, SALE 24.50-49.00.



30% Off
Velour & Fleece Separates
Misses' jackets, big shirts, vests and pants. By East West®, Miss Erika®, more. Reg. 28.00-40.00, SALE 19.60-28.00.



40% Off
All Men's Sweaters
By Dockers®, Peconic Bay® and Sun River®. Cotton and blends. Reg. 32.00-55.00, SALE 19.20-33.00. Excludes designer collections.

Sale 29.99
Men's Dockers® Pants
Classic-fit, pleated pants in wrinkle-free cotton twill. Several colors. Reg. 48.00.

Sale 12.99
Sun River Essentials® Shirts
Men's plaid shirts in cozy brushed flannel. Cotton. Reg. 22.00.

Sale 19.99
Bugle Boy® Jeans
Young men's 750 relaxed-fit styles and 760 loose-fit styles. Waist 28-38. Reg. 25.00.

25% Off
All Men's Loungewear
Plaid flannel boxers and lounge pants. Reg. 12.00-24.00, SALE 9.00-18.00. Excludes designer collections.

Just a sample of the savings you will find. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Selections vary by store. Entire stocks only where indicated.
GIFT CERTIFICATES: always the perfect fit! Available now in Customer Service.
For the store nearest you, call 1-800-324-1313 or log on at www.beallsstores.com

CHARGE IT! GET 10% OFF ALL DAY WHEN YOU OPEN A NEW ACCOUNT.
Exclusions may apply. Subject to credit approval.

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



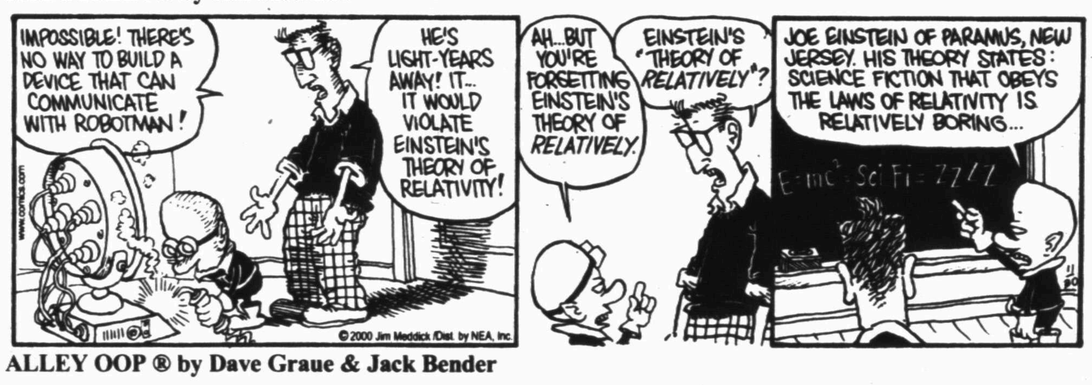
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



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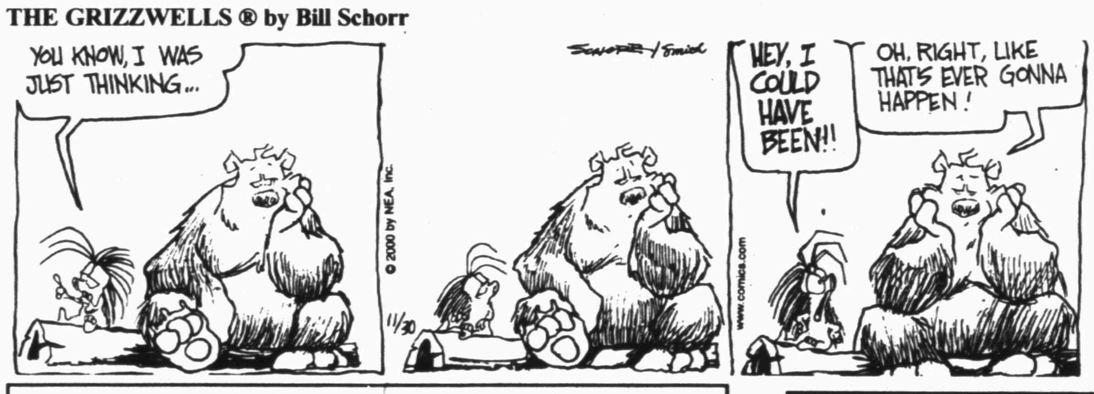
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I get a real sharp pain when I do this."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Existing
7 Male goose
13 Line on a map
14 Glacial epoch (2 wds.)
15 Catlike
16 Tooth material
17 Golf mounds
18 Off — wall
20 Direction
21 Mead's workplace
23 Inedible orange
27 Giggle
32 Made of cereal
33 Pilot
34 Outer ear
35 Shelf
36 Like vending machines
39 Ancient chariot
40 Make a choice
42 Football play
46 "Opal" end
47 Singer — Te Kanawa
51 Like mosaic designs
53 Roman leader
55 Hypnotic state
56 Set on fire
57 Tithe fractions
58 Freed

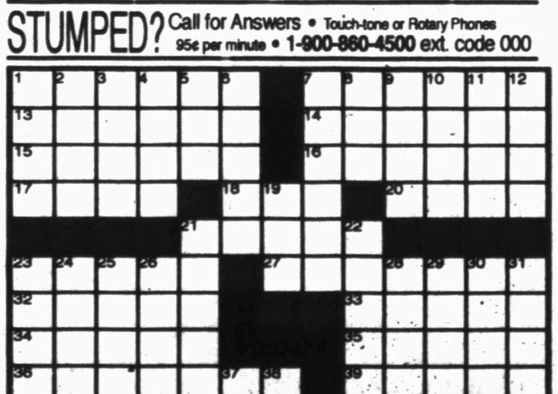
DOWN

1 Raise
2 "Got it!" (2 wds.)
3 Field mouse
4 Wading bird
5 A Bobbsey twin
6 Ms. Garbo
7 Biblical judge
8 High card
9 Hawaiian goose
10 Info
11 Protection
12 Lease
19 Brit. Navy abbr.
21 Part of Congress
22 Shoelace tip
23 "How clumsy!"
24 Ship canvas
25 — — time (never)
26 Chap
28 Hints
29 Children
30 Brim
31 Musical instrument
37 Leaves out speech sounds
38 Lion's home
41 — B. DeMille
42 Singer Eartha —
43 Regarding (2 wds.)
44 Tribe
45 Philosopher Immanuel —
47 Relative of bingo
48 Egyptian goddess
49 Price per unit
50 Angry
52 "— bin ein Berliner"
54 Long —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

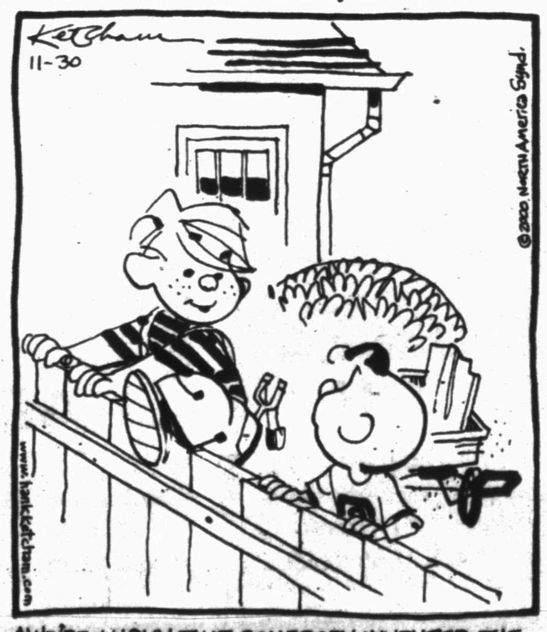
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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"WE'RE LUCKY THAT SOMEBODY INVENTED THE COMPUTER. SINCE MARGARET GOT ONE, SHE HARDLY EVER COMES OUT OF HER HOUSE."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Vikings, Lions tangle tonight

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Matt Birk got into real estate soon after joining the Minnesota Vikings.

The Harvard graduate wasn't dabbling in mansions or high rises, however.

The Vikings center bought a duplex in St. Paul, Minn., his hometown, and rented the upstairs apartment to friends. Birk moved into the basement and never got around to furnishing it.

"I don't even have a refrigerator," he said. "It's just the one room with a couch, bed and TV. And that's about it."

Birk says the Spartan lifestyle helps him stay focused on anchoring the offensive line for a Minnesota Vikings team that will try to clinch a playoff spot Thursday night against the Detroit Lions (8-4). Minnesota (10-2) could clinch the NFC Central Division title Sunday if Tampa Bay loses to Dallas. If Detroit wins, however, that would cut Minnesota's lead in the division to one game.

"I can't appreciate a nice house or nice stuff at this point in my life," said Birk, 24, who can go to his parents' house about two miles away for a good meal.

Getting a win won't be easy. The Lions are 3-0 since Gary Moeller took over following Bobby Ross' retirement Nov. 6. Detroit leads the NFL with 34 takeaways, and Desmond Howard is among the leaders in both punt and kickoff returns.

While the Lions will rely on turnovers and field position, the Vikings hope to keep their explosive offense in high gear behind Birk, quarterback Daunte Culpepper and Co.

Mike Tice, the Vikings offensive line coach, thinks Birk is playing at a Pro Bowl-level in his first full season as a starter.

"I think it's legitimate," Tice said. "I don't think he has to wait a year to establish himself because I think he's established himself already."

Tice ranks Birk among the NFL's top three centers, behind only Kevin Mawae of the New York Jets and Tampa Bay's Jeff Christy, the former Vikings center whom Birk replaced.

Few believed Birk and Corbin Lacina, were adequate replacements for Christy, who played in the past two Pro Bowls with the Vikings, and Randall McDaniel, an 11-time Pro Bowl player.

Birk, Lacina and the rest of the Vikings' offensive line have been more than adequate. They are on pace to allow fewer sacks than last season, and they are major reasons why Minnesota leads the NFL in rushing.

"When you're No. 1 in rushing in the National Football League," said coach Dennis Green, "you're creating some holes."

Green was the first to consider switching Birk, who began his career as a guard and tackle, to center. Birk was clearly intelligent enough to handle calls along the offensive line, and he weighed 304 pounds.

"Matt puts a lot of guys on the ground," Tice said. "A lot of centers don't do that."

Lacina and Birk go back about 10 years, when Birk was a teenager working out at the same gym as a college-aged Lacina. They began working out together about six years ago and currently are co-owners of an athletic-training business.

"It's remarkable, really, the way things turned out," said Lacina, who is in his second season with the Vikings. "When he was drafted by the Vikings, I was a little jealous. My wife and I always wondered what it would be like. I'd spent six months of my career U-hauling back and forth between Minnesota and Buffalo."

A part of Lacina is even jealous of Birk's lifestyle.

"If I was single, I'd be doing the same thing," Lacina said. "It keeps it simple."

Franchione to get offer from Alabama

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Crimson Tide reportedly wants to engulf Texas Christian coach Dennis Franchione, who has been looking around for a team to propel to a national championship.

A source told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Alabama athletic director Mal Moore will offer Franchione the head coaching job in a meeting Thursday.

The coach's name has also surfaced in relation to openings at Arizona State, where officials have reportedly contacted representatives of Franchione about the university's vacant coaching slot.

The Alabama source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Moore is "dead-set on bringing him back to Alabama."

But Franchione told the newspaper Wednesday night that he "couldn't confirm" the report.

The coach's name has also surfaced in relation to openings at USC and Maryland.

"This is a business of rumors," TCU athletic director Eric Hyman said Wednesday. "It has gotten to be absurd."

Hyman and Franchione both said there have been discussions about a new contract at TCU. But no final terms have been agreed upon. The coach has five years left on a deal negotiated after the 1998 season.

A new proposal reportedly includes a substantial raise to $1 million per year (only 14 college coaches now make $1 million a year) and extends the contract for two more years, through 2007.

In 1997, the season before Franchione was hired, the Horned Frogs were 1-10. They have since completed their third straight winning season, and are ranked 13th nationally as they prepare to play Southern Mississippi in the Mobile Alabama Bowl on Dec. 20.

The Frogs have already won two bowl games under Franchione.

Permian player begins rehab from neck injury

ODESSA (AP) — An Odessa Permian high school football player left paralyzed from the neck down after tackling a teammate during practice has been transferred to a Houston rehabilitation center to undergo therapy.

Joe Beene, 17, was playing outside linebacker on Nov. 8, when he tackled teammate James Johnson, breaking an upper vertebrae in his neck. Doctors operated two days later to fuse the vertebrae back together.

On Nov. 22, Beene was transferred from Zale Lipshy University Hospital in Dallas to The Rehabilitation and Research Institute in Houston.

"He was admitted a week ago and he is participating in a full rehab program," hospital spokeswoman Nancy Hudgins said Tuesday. "It is a pretty high level injury. We are doing as much as we can for him."

Hudgins said Beene's transfer to the rehab facility is a step in the right direction.

However, Beene's uncle, Terry Swann, told the Odessa-American in Tuesday's editions that it doesn't necessarily mean the young athlete is getting better.

"A lot of people think 'Oh, he's going to rehab. He's getting better,'" Swann said. "Well, no, he's not. Nothing's changed."

Swann said his nephew remains paralyzed and has had a small tube inserted in his throat to make swallowing easier.

He said Beene is in good spirits, despite the tough road that lay ahead.

"Every day is going to be grueling. It's going to be tough on him," Swann said. But "he's ready to progress. Whatever the rehab entails, he's ready."

JV girls edged by Lubbock

LUBBOCK — Snyder got 10 points from Hailey Putnam, but couldn't overcome Lubbock High to suffer a 37-35 setback in Tuesday's junior varsity girls' action.

Putnam was the only Lady Tiger to finish in double figures.

Amber Russell dropped in eight points for Snyder. Dara Chambers, Zipporah Peoples and Kenetra McDonald tallied five apiece, and Patricia Vargas chipped in two.

Snyder will be in action again this weekend at the Sweetwater tournament.

Sports Briefs

Maryland names head coach

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Georgia Tech offensive coordinator Ralph Friedgen was hired as head coach at Maryland.

Friedgen, who is returning to his alma mater and the scene of his first coaching job, was signed to a guaranteed six-year, $1.05 million contract.

The job will be Friedgen's first stint as a head coach after a 29-year run as an assistant at several colleges and with the San Diego Chargers.

Friedgen, 53, takes over a long-suffering program that hasn't produced a winning record since 1995 or earned a bowl bid since 1990.

Davis staying in Miami

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Butch Davis is staying at Miami, ruling out the Alabama job as well as any other college or pro coaching position.

Just days after leading Miami (10-1) to its ninth consecutive win and its first Big East title in four years, Davis met with Houston Texans owner Bob McNair and talked to Alabama athletic director Mal Moore about their respective coaching vacancies.

But Davis said neither job would lure him away from Miami, which has offered a five-year contract extension that would pay about $1.3 million annually.

Reeves will start rookie

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — Rookie Doug Johnson was given the Atlanta Falcons' starting quarterback job as coach Dan Reeves began looking ahead to next season.

Chris Chandler, the No. 1 quarterback since Reeves took charge of the Falcons in 1997, was dropped to No. 3 behind Johnson and Danny Kanell.

The injury-prone Chandler, who hasn't thrown a touchdown pass in five weeks, has absorbed 36 of his team's NFL-high 49 sacks. He owns a 71.9 quarterback rating, his worst mark as a starter since 1988, his rookie year with Indianapolis.

Court denies coach's appeal

LUBBOCK (AP) — The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals denied an appeal from the Hampton University women's basketball coach who sought to pursue a $30 million civil rights lawsuit against the city of Lubbock.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY

Basketball

Snyder varsity boys vs. Canyon Randall, at Frenship tourney, 1 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls vs. EP Socorro, at San Angelo tourney, 3 p.m.
Ira varsity girls vs. Sweetwater, at Coahoma tourney, 4:30
Ira JV boys at Ira tourney
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys at Wilson tourney
Snyder JV girls at Sweetwater tourney
Snyder freshman boys at Snyder tourney

FRIDAY

Basketball

Snyder varsity boys at Frenship tourney
Snyder varsity girls at San Angelo tourney
Ira varsity girls at Coahoma tourney
Ira varsity boys vs. Coronado sophs., at Klondike tourney, 11:30
Ira varsity boys vs. O'Donnell, 5:30
Ira JV boys at Ira tourney
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys at Wilson tourney
Snyder JV boys vs. Hawley-Borden County winner, at Coahoma tourney, 2 p.m.
Snyder JV girls at Sweetwater tourney
Snyder freshman boys at Snyder tourney

Golf

Snyder varsity girls at San Antonio tourney

SATURDAY

Basketball

Snyder varsity boys at Frenship tourney
Snyder varsity girls at San Angelo tourney
Ira varsity girls at Coahoma tourney
Ira JV boys at Ira tourney
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys at Wilson tourney
Snyder JV boys at Coahoma tourney
Snyder JV girls at Sweetwater tourney
Snyder freshman boys at Snyder tourney

Golf

Snyder varsity girls at San Antonio tourney

Men's College Basketball

EAST
American U. 60, Bucknell 58
Cornell 91, Army 81
Lafayette 60, Columbia 50
Pittsburgh 70, St. Francis, Pa. 52
Providence 74, Fla. International 55
Rutgers 66, Rider 53
St. Joseph's 70, Old Dominion 65
Stony Brook 67, New Hampshire 60

SOUTH
East Carolina 100, Belmont 88
Furman 69, Charleston Southern 59
Georgia St. 67, Bradley 54
Jacksonville 95, Florida Tech 44
James Madison 77, Radford 66
MVSU 83, SE Missouri 77
Memphis 81, Tenn.-Martin 49
Minnesota 76, Florida St. 71
N.C. State 84, Penn St. 76
Nicholls St. 89, Loyola, NO 41
Norfolk St. 87, Hampton 86
South Carolina 71, Mercer 57
VMI 74, Howard 57
Virginia 98, Purdue 79
Wofford 67, William & Mary 63

MIDWEST
Cent. Michigan 73, Drake 68
Chicago St. 78, Loyola, Ill. 76
Cincinnati 82, Dayton 75
E. Illinois 101, McKendree 77
Evansville 79, Georgia Southern 72
Ill.-Chicago 84, N. Illinois 64
Indiana St. 59, Indiana 58
Kent St. 56, St. Bonaventure 53
Michigan St. 77, North Carolina 64
Saint Louis 88, California 66
Toledo 78, Detroit 72
UMKC 73, Delaware St. 49
Wis.-Green Bay 49, E. Michigan 48
Wis.-Milwaukee 61, Valparaiso 59
Wisconsin 78, Maryland 75, OT

SOUTHWEST
Texas A&M 79, Morris Brown 46
UTEP 110, Ark.-Pine Bluff 60

FAR WEST
Arizona 101, Gonzaga 87
Nevada 75, Arkansas St. 68
New Mexico 90, E. New Mexico 50
SMU 85, New Mexico St. 76
San Diego 63, UC Irvine 60
Santa Clara 71, San Jose St. 56
Stanford 84, UC Riverside 41
UCLA 83, UC Santa Barbara 77
Utah St. 59, Idaho St. 55
Washington St. 74, Idaho 57

Women's College Basketball

EAST
American U. 75, Navy 67, OT
Boston College 95, Holy Cross 57
Buffalo 71, Albany, N.Y. 56
Connecticut 90, George Washington 63
Cornell 77, Colgate 65
Delaware 66, Princeton 47
Duquesne 67, Pittsburgh 59
Fairleigh Dickinson 57, Lafayette 52
Florida 96, West Virginia 70
George Mason 66, Georgetown 64
Lehigh 75, Quinnipiac 67
Long Island U. 94, Iona 67
Manhattan 83, Brown 80
Maryland 69, Dayton 55
Monmouth, N.J. 66, St. Peter's 53
Providence 87, Rhode Island 65
Sacred Heart 73, Yale 56
St. John's 63, St. Joseph's 62
Stony Brook 59, Army 53
Vermont 76, Siena 72

SOUTH
Auburn 87, Furman 64
Austin Peay 95, Alabama A&M 71
Clemson 56, South Carolina 43
Davidson 70, Gardner-Webb 59
Duke 78, N.C. Charlotte 59
Georgia 81, Chattanooga 43
Georgia Tech 75, Georgia St. 70
Kentucky 76, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 75
Louisiana Tech 90, Nicholls St. 47
N.C.-Wilmington 64, Elon 61
Radford 89, ETSU 76
Va. Commonwealth 89, Loyola, Md. 56
Vanderbilt 99, Murray St. 52
W. Carolina 67, Tennessee St. 59
William & Mary 54, Norfolk St. 37
Winthrop 64, Mercer 56

MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 85, Cent. Michigan 63
E. Illinois 74, Indiana St. 72, OT
Iowa St. 74, Creighton 71
Lipscomb 61, SE Missouri 60
N. Iowa 79, UMKC 60
Ohio St. 76, Seton Hall 38
SW Missouri St. 78, Oklahoma St. 44
Saint Louis 49, Loyola, Ill. 39
Tennessee Tech 81, S. Illinois 74
W. Illinois 74, Illinois St. 64
Wis.-Green Bay 90, Cincinnati 68
Wisconsin 74, Nebraska 64
Xavier 88, Chicago St. 34
Youngstown St. 89, Akron 61

SOUTHWEST
Houston 71, Texas-San Antonio 57
North Texas 63, TCU 59
Oral Roberts 71, Arkansas Tech 62
Texas 98, Sam Houston St. 51
Texas Tech 72, SW Texas 30
Tulsa 69, W. Michigan 59

FAR WEST
Colorado 78, Wyoming 70
Colorado St. 78, Oakland, Mich. 68
E. Washington 59, Gonzaga 57
Santa Clara 85, San Jose St. 68
Utah 82, Pacific 63

National Basketball League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	12	2	.857	—
New York	9	7	.563	4
Boston	7	7	.500	5
Miami	6	9	.400	6½
New Jersey	6	9	.400	6½
Orlando	5	11	.313	8
Washington	4	12	.250	9
Central Division				
Cleveland	9	5	.643	—
Charlotte	10	6	.625	—
Toronto	8	7	.533	1½
Indiana	6	7	.462	2½
Detroit	6	9	.400	3½
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	4
Atlanta	3	12	.200	6½
Chicago	1	13	.071	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Utah	12	3	.800	—
San Antonio	10	4	.714	1½
Dallas	10	5	.667	2
Denver	8	7	.533	4
Houston	8	7	.533	4
Minnesota	8	7	.533	4
Vancouver	6	9	.400	6
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	11	4	.733	—
Phoenix	10	4	.714	½
Sacramento	10	4	.714	½
Portland	10	6	.625	1½
Seattle	7	9	.438	4½
L.A. Clippers	5	11	.313	6½
Golden State	4	11	.267	7

Wednesday's Games
Philadelphia 93, Washington 87
Utah 88, Orlando 86
Charlotte 103, Toronto 79
Detroit 97, New Jersey 76
Miami 84, New York 81
Denver 107, Minnesota 100
San Antonio 82, Sacramento 79
L.A. Clippers 106, Golden State 83
Vancouver 109, Phoenix 106, 2OT

Thursday's Games
Chicago at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Indiana at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
L.A. Clippers at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 8 p.m.
New York at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Indiana at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

National Football League

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Miami	9	3	0	.750	237	160
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0	.667	260	229
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	237	237
Indianapolis	7	5	0	.583	317	256
New England	3	9	0	.250	192	253
Central						
Tennessee	9	3	0	.750	241	175
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	262	135
Pittsburgh	6	6	0	.500	232	181
Jacksonville	5	7	0	.417	236	272
Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	137	312
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	134	281
West						
Oakland	10	2	0	.833	352	235
Denver	8	4	0	.667	371	293
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	283	274
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	216	298
San Diego	1	11	0	.083	206	307

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	287	199
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	244	191
Washington	7	5	0	.583	238	201
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	242	273
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	177	342
Central						
Minnesota	10	2	0	.833	306	250
Detroit	8	4	0	.667	247	227
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	293	197
Green Bay	5	7	0	.417	249	262
Chicago	3	9	0	.250	163	273
West						
New Orleans	8	4	0	.667	256	207
St. Louis	8	4	0	.667	436	367
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	241	218
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	290	336
Atlanta	3	10	0	.231	206	347

Thursday, Nov. 30
Detroit at Minnesota, 8:35 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3
Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Carolina, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 8:35 p.m.
Open: Baltimore

Monday, Dec. 4
Kansas City at New England, 9 p.m.

WILSON MOTORS
BULL PEN SALE
All Sales As Is...

1993 Olds Achieva $2,595
2 Dr. 4 Cyl., Auto, Good School or Work Car
1991 Lincoln Town Car $3,495
Leather, V-8, Power Windows, Power Locks
1991 Ford Escort $1,995
4 Dr., Auto, Clean, Good School or Work Car
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Woman who took son to Cuba may have embezzled about $150,000

MIAMI (AP) — A Florida woman who took her 5-year-old son to Cuba against his father's wishes left the United States amid suspicions she had embezzled as much as $150,000 from her employer.

Arletis Blanco, 29, is suspected of stealing from McKenzie Petroleum of Key Largo, where she had been an office manager, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday.

Blanco failed to show up for work on Nov. 13, said Jessica McKenzie, finance manager at the oil company. Blanco gave no notice, and McKenzie hasn't heard from her since.

The Cuban-born Blanco sailed to Cuba on a fishing boat on Nov. 12 with her son, Jonathon, her boyfriend and their infant daughter. Blanco has said she wants them to begin a new life on the island.

Her ex-husband, Jon Colombini, 31, a U.S.-born Homestead restaurant manager who has joint custody of Jonathon, has gone to the State Department and the Cuban government for help in getting the boy back.

The case drew attention initially because of its apparent parallel to that of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy who arrived in Florida in 1999 after surviving a boat wreck in which his mother and her boyfriend were killed. After a long court battle, Elian was returned to Cuba to be with his father.

Blanco's mother has turned over to the police audio tapes in which her daughter tells of stealing a large sum of money and leaving Florida to save her family from embarrassment, said Becky Herrin, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

Gore challenges criticized

AUSTIN (AP) — Still waiting to know if he'll be Texas' next governor, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry lashed out at Vice President Al Gore, calling Gore's continued attempts to force vote recounts in Florida "pathetic."

"I think it's time for him to concede. He needs to hang'em up. This race is over with," said Perry, who would become governor if George W. Bush ultimately wins the presidency.

"He (Gore) seems to be begging the American people to let him win," Perry said. "It's kind of pathetic."

Perry said this week his office is working on a possible transition to the governor's office should Bush resign his state post.

Although Florida officials have certified Bush the winner there, court challenges have left the presidential election in doubt.

If Bush does become president, Perry would automatically become governor. The state Senate would then have to pick one of its own members to serve as lieutenant governor.

The potential campaign there has drawn as many as six "favorites" to replace Perry, most of them Republican in a chamber where the GOP holds a 16-15 majority.

Sen. Ken Armbrister of Victoria, the only Democrat considered as a possible candidate, said he doesn't think a front runner has emerged from the group.

A conservative Democrat like himself could win the post if he could draw support from Republican senators, he said.

Asked if he had any commitments from GOP lawmakers, Armbrister said, "I haven't even asked any yet."

There has been some speculation that a senator could get a majority vote if he or she promised not to run a statewide campaign in two years. Armbrister said he would not ask any candidate to make such a promise.

"That individual may turn out to be the best one we've ever had. I would never put that requirement on any of my colleagues," he said.

A key issue among senators whether the next lieutenant governor could be fair when handling redistricting. State lawmakers next year will redraw the lines for legislative and congressional voting districts.

"Everybody wants to be assured there's going to be fairness in the redistricting process," Armbrister said. "(That) somebody is not going to be out there just slashing and burning."

Kidnapping halted

WEST BLOOMFIELD, Mich. (AP) — A man posing as a gas company worker tried to snatch a 2-year-old from her home when the child's mother wasn't looking.

Deann Lutz said she turned away from the man on her doorstep on Monday to ask her husband if he'd called for a repair when she felt a sense of danger.

"It was just a gut feeling that something was wrong," Lutz said.

When she turned back around, the man was leading her daughter, Zoey, down the driveway to a red minivan, she said.

Lutz said the man pushed the girl to the ground and fled when she screamed her daughter's name.

Police have increased patrols in the area.

"I have never heard of a stranger going to a door and taking a child," said West Bloomfield Sgt. Mark Strout.

Bush-backed 'grandfathered' plant law has no takers yet

HOUSTON (AP) — A law backed by Texas Gov. George W. Bush asking older industrial plants to voluntarily reduce pollution levels has no takers, more than a year after the program's creation, a state agency says.

A draft report by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission shows no major industrial facilities have obtained voluntary permits or reduced emissions.

"This is exactly what environmentalists and the public health community predicted would be the outcome of reliance on a voluntary approach," Ken Kramer, the Sierra Club's state director, told the Houston Chronicle in Thursday's editions.

Bush, the Republican presidential nominee who has established a transition team even as Vice President Al Gore has challenged the election count, frequently cited the program of grandfathered polluters during his campaign as one method he's used to cut Texas emissions.

The TNRCC draft report issued Wednesday shows 37 companies have applied for the voluntary permits, while 125 others have promised in writing to apply by the program's expiration on Sept. 1, 2001.

"What this report shows is that there has been a substantial level of activity dealing with these grandfathered facilities, though not so much yet in the pure (voluntary permit) arena," said TNRCC Chairman Robert Huston.

He said the voluntary program has helped "raise the attention level" of industry officials about grandfathered emissions — a carrot that complements the stick in other programs.

In October, representatives of the Texas Air Crisis Campaign said the 1999 voluntary law resulted in a barely-measurable reduction in pollution and proposed repealing or toughening the law next legislative session.

The current legislation applied to an estimated 800 industrial plants built before 1971, when the state adopted new environmental regulations. Before the law, grandfathered plants produced an estimated 900,000 tons a year or 36 percent of the state's industrial pollution.

The earlier report said that, since the law went into effect Sept. 1, 1999, eligible plants reduced emissions by only 0.3 percent. Ralph Marquez, a TNRCC commissioner who worked for a chemical company for 30 years, said earlier that reductions from grandfathered plants were better than that figure.

The new TNRCC report says that because of other mandatory state programs, including proposed smog-reduction plans for Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth, about 23 percent of emissions from major grandfathered facilities will be eliminated.

Kramer said the agency's report supports "putting a mandatory end to the grandfathering of these dirty old industrial plants."

The TNRCC report will be presented to state legislators for the session beginning in January. Lawmakers, Huston said, may not renew the voluntary program.

He expressed surprise that "we have not had more actual applications (for voluntary permits) to this point," but added that it is still too early to draw firm conclusions about what that means.

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Chronic illness burden said rising faster than expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half of Americans suffer at least one chronic disease, everything from allergies to heart disease — 20 million more than doctors had anticipated this year, researchers say.

And they warn that the fast-growing toll, now at 125 million among a population of 276 million, will reach 157 million by 2020. One-fifth of Americans have two or more chronic illnesses, complicating their care and making it more expensive.

The nation is unprepared to cope with the growing burden of chronic disease, with annual medical bills alone expected to almost double to $1.07 trillion by 2020, Dr. Gerard Anderson of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University told a meeting Wednesday of 1,000 chronic disease specialists.

"We think it's the major public health challenge that could affect all Americans," Anderson said.

While doctors have made major advances in treating certain chronic illnesses, they cause 70 percent of all U.S. deaths, reports the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which convened the meeting to explore ways to better prevent and fight long-term illness.

It's a difficult subject partly because so many different diseases qualify. Simple allergies may not kill someone, but require a lifetime of medication and doctor visits. Heart disease can require even more complex drug therapy, surgery and testing. At the other extreme is Alzheimer's disease, eventually requiring round-the-clock care.

Preventive care — weight management, disease screening, nutrition, exercise, geriatric assessments for the elderly — can stave off many chronic diseases. But it takes longer than writing a prescription, and few insurers reimburse fully, Anderson said.

He quoted an insurance director who said his patients demand payment for such care as in vitro fertilization, not ways to prevent illnesses they might not get for decades.

Then he cited a rural Maryland physician's lament about his diabetic patient, an overweight farmer whose insurance pays for a 20-minute visit, just enough time to test his blood sugar and adjust medication. The doctor says helping the man lose weight would do more good, but he is not paid to do that.

Already 60 million Americans suffer multiple chronic illnesses, a number expected to reach 81 million by 2020 as the population ages, Anderson reported.

Someone without a chronic illness pays an average of $182 a year in out-of-pocket health expenses, Anderson said, compared with $369 in out-of-pocket payments by patients with one chronic illness and $1,106 for someone battling three or more.

Total annual health costs for someone with one chronic illness are more than five times higher than for a healthy person — $6,032 vs. $1,105 — and rise even higher the more disabling the chronic illness is, he reported.

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Albertsons	25.56	25.06	25.56	—.13
Alltel	60.50	59.38	60.19	—.56
AmerOnline	42.00	40.25	40.60	—1.71
AmEl Pw	46.19	45.63	46.00	+ .44
AndarkPtr	63.00	62.00	62.37	+ .32
ATMOS Egy	25.50	25.19	25.38	+ .06
Aviall	5.44	5.44	5.44	
BP Amoco	48.50	47.75	47.81	—.69
BakerHughes	34.63	33.75	33.81	—.69
Bank of Amer	41.38	39.94	41.19	+ .50
BellSouth	42.44	41.56	41.63	—1.06
Beth Steel	2.38	2.25	2.31	
BurlNoSFe	26.06	25.75	25.81	—.13
Caterpillar	41.06	39.44	40.50	+ .38
Chevron	83.06	81.81	82.00	—.31
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Coastal	78.69	77.13	77.88	—1.06
CocaCola	62.38	61.44	61.94	—.25
ColgatePal	60.56	59.28	59.35	—.23
ComclMetals	25.06	24.94	24.94	—.56
Cooperin	42.56	41.56	41.63	+ .19
DaimlrChry	39.57	38.90	39.45	+ .43
DellSemicn s	29.88	27.63	28.25	—2.69
DeltaAirl	48.50	47.38	48.19	—.13
Dillards Inc	11.56	11.38	11.38	—.06
DowChem s	31.31	30.69	30.94	—.31
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EastmanChem	43.38	42.63	42.88	—.19
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EDS Corp	51.94	50.63	50.69	—1.19
Entergy	41.81	41.06	41.19	—.50
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IBM	98.00	94.25	94.75	—2.38
IntlPaper	35.38	33.88	34.06	—1.31
JohnsonJn	101.69	99.94	101.31	+ .94
K mart	5.94	5.88	5.88	—.06
Kroger Co	26.63	26.06	26.56	—.06
Litton	60.25	60.00	60.13	+ .13
LockheedM	34.10	33.60	33.76	—1.14
Lowes Cos	40.50	39.81	39.94	—1.00
Lubys	4.94	4.88	4.88	—.06
LucentTech	15.75	15.25	15.50	—.30
MayDeptStr	29.44	29.13	29.19	—.25
Medtronic	54.06	53.13	53.44	—.81
MorganJP	140.50	137.25	137.63	—2.69
Motorola s	20.19	19.63	19.81	—.25
NCR Corp	48.50	47.75	48.06	—1.19
Navistar	32.44	31.63	32.44	+ .44
Penney JC	9.69	9.44	9.44	—.06
PepBoys	4.19	4.06	4.06	—.13
PepsiCo	45.94	44.88	45.56	+ .19
Pharmacia	63.00	61.19	62.69	+ 1.75
PhelpDodge	48.94	47.38	48.94	+ .94
PhilipPet	59.56	57.88	58.00	—1.06
PilgrmPrd B	7.94	7.75	7.94	+ .13
Polaroid	7.88	7.63	7.81	+ .06
Praxair	37.13	36.50	37.13	+ .63
ProctGamb	75.94	74.56	75.63	+ .06
PubS NwMx	25.25	24.75	24.75	—.19
RadioShack	49.50	46.75	48.00	—2.81
ReliantEngy	40.38	39.81	40.19	+ .25
RoyalDut	60.56	59.69	59.94	—1.13
SBC Comm	55.94	54.94	55.00	— .44
SaraLee	23.88	23.38	23.88	
Scripps EW	58.94	58.19	58.94	+ .75
SearsRoeb	33.22	32.15	32.26	—.52
SherwinW	22.00	21.88	21.94	
SmithKlBchm	65.75	65.44	65.44	—.50
SouthernCo	31.44	30.88	31.25	+ .69
SwstAirl	32.75	32.19	32.56	+ .13
SprintFON	23.44	22.88	23.25	—.38
SprintPCS s	23.06	22.56	22.88	—.75
Sunoco Inc	29.00	28.00	28.13	—.44
TXU Corp	40.31	39.56	40.13	+ .50
TempleInland	47.50	46.06	46.13	—1.25
Texaco	59.38	58.63	58.69	+ .05
Texind	22.88	22.63	22.69	
Texasinst s	37.81	36.69	37.38	—.63
Textron	50.75	50.06	50.19	+ .19
TriconGlbR	37.25	36.06	36.19	—1.19
TrinityInds	25.50	25.25	25.44	+ .06
TritonEngy	25.38	23.88	23.88	—1.25
TylerTech	2.00	2.00	2.00	
USX-Marathn	27.50	26.38	26.63	—.88
USX-USS	13.81	13.56	13.63	—.19
UnCarbide	45.00	44.31	44.38	—.81
UnionPacif	48.69	47.75	47.81	—.13
UnitedTech	71.50	68.88	71.44	+ 2.06
Unocal	35.38	34.44	34.69	—.25
Venator Grp	13.63	13.06	13.44	+ .25
VerizonComm	56.75	55.06	55.38	—.44
WalMart	51.88	50.50	51.13	—.63
WellsFargo	47.63	46.75	47.38	+ .44
WstnGasRs	25.38	24.81	24.81	—.56
WinnDixie	22.06	21.63	21.81	—.19
Xerox Cp	6.81	6.56	6.81	

FTC approves settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday approved a tentative $100 million settlement of claims that Mylan Laboratories Inc. fixed prices of anti-anxiety drugs widely used by senior citizens.

The settlement, the largest in FTC history, still must be approved by attorneys general in 32 states and U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan.

"Anticompetitive acts in the pharmaceutical industry potentially cost consumers millions of dollars in higher prescription prices," the FTC's Richard Parker said in a statement. "This settlement serves notice of the Commission's determination to pursue investigations of such behavior and to seek disgorgement of ill-gotten gains in appropriate cases."

Thirty-two states, the District of Columbia, patients and the federal government filed lawsuits in 1998 accusing the Pittsburgh-based pharmaceutical giant of illegally increasing prices for two tranquilizers and cutting off competition. The drugs are used to treat Alzheimer's disease and other ailments.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Mike Fisher said the company hiked the price of clorazepate 3,000 percent in January 1998 and lorazepam by 2,500 percent in March that year.

The FTC said Mylan raised the price of a 500-count bottle of 7.5 mg clorazepate tablets from $11.36 to $377.00, and raised the price of a 500-count bottle of 1 mg lorazepam tablets from $7.30 to $191.00.

FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky said users of the drugs paid even higher prices, adding that many may have reduced the number of tablets they took or stopped taking the drugs altogether because they could no longer afford them.

If finalized, the $100 million will be divided among the states, including Pennsylvania, which sued Mylan. The money then will be used to repay consumers and state agencies who paid the hiked prices for the drugs.

Other states that sued include Texas, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Vermont.

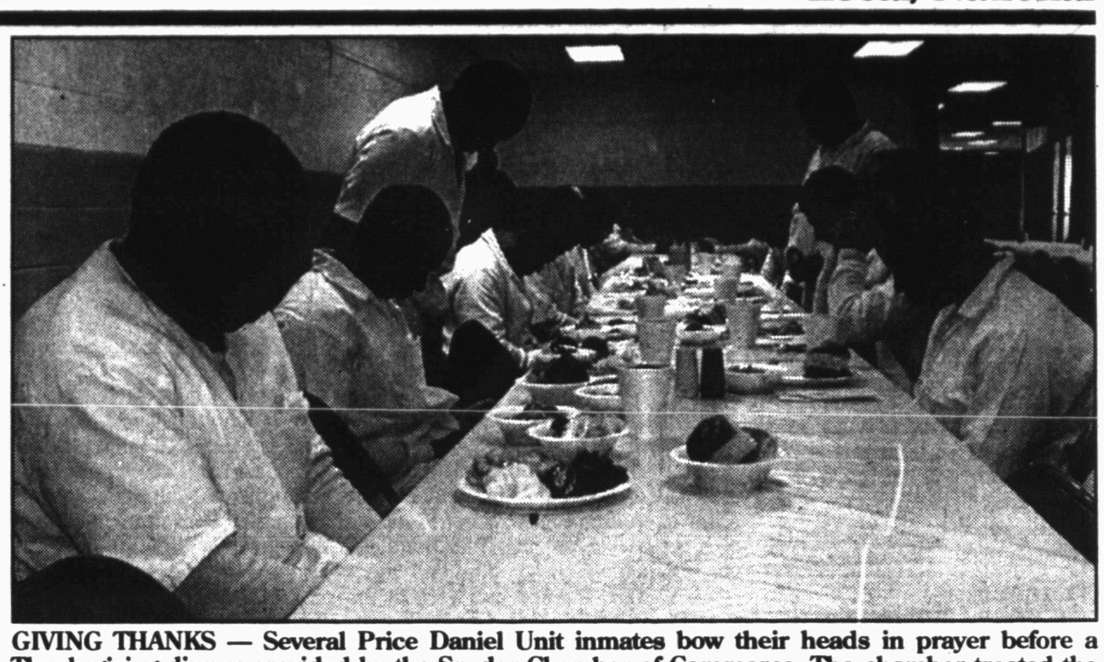
The lawsuits alleged that Mylan cut off competition by striking an exclusive agreement with Profarmaco S.R.L. in Milan, Italy, a crucial supplier. The suits said other suppliers could not make enough of the drugs for Mylan's competitors.

The company says the deal was intended to ensure Mylan's source of ingredients would not be interrupted.

The FTC alleged that Mylan, Cambrex Corp., Profarmaco S.R.L., and Gyma Laboratories of America, Inc. worked to give Mylan the power to raise the price of generic lorazepam and clorazepate by depriving Mylan's competitors of the active ingredient necessary to manufacture them.

Generic drugs are identical versions of branded drugs that usually sell at a fraction of the price. Many companies that manufacture generic drugs purchase the ingredients from a third-party.

Mylan spokeswoman Patricia Sunseri did not immediately return calls seeking comment Wednesday.



GIVING THANKS — Several Price Daniel Unit inmates bow their heads in prayer before a Thanksgiving dinner provided by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. The chamber treated the inmates for all of the work they do throughout the year. (SDN Staff Photo)

Mammogram crisis examined

CHICAGO (AP) — Mammography centers are scaling back or even closing because of inadequate reimbursement rates and malpractice fears at a time when more and more aging baby boomers need annual breast exams.

It all adds up to a crisis taking shape in mammography, experts warned Wednesday.

With access shrinking, women often have to wait months to schedule an annual breast cancer screening and may decide to skip the exams altogether. Even women with suspicious lumps may have to wait several weeks to get a mammogram.

That can delay the diagnosis of breast cancer and result in tumors being detected at later, less treatable stages, a panel of doctors said at the Radiology Society of North America's annual meeting.

Studies have shown that routine mammograms can decrease the risk of dying from breast cancer by as much as 40 percent. About 1 million women a year are turning 40, the age when many doctors say annual screening should begin, the panel said.

Screening mammograms typically cost between $75 and $150, while diagnostic mammograms, performed when a problem is suspected, may cost well over $200.

Recommended Medicare reimbursement rates, set by Congress, are well below that — $67 for a screening mammogram and $81 for a diagnostic exam, said Dr. Stephen Feig, director of breast imaging at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

That cuts into the budgets at many mammography centers, which are being subsidized by their other radiology services, said Dr. Ellen Mendelson, director of a breast imaging center at Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

The most prominent closure occurred last year when New York University Medical Center shut one of its two mammography services for financial reasons. A few smaller centers elsewhere have closed, and many others have reduced services, the panel said.

Lagging reimbursement rates and concerns over malpractice — the exams miss between 10 percent and 20 percent of cancers — are leading many would-be mammographers to choose other specialties, the panel added.

"The people required to deliver the service aren't going into the field," said Dr. Dieter Enzmann, radiology chairman at Northwestern University.

At NYU Medical Center, for example, applications for a mammography fellowship fell 75 percent last year, said Dr. Gillian Newstead, NYU's director of breast imaging.

The result will probably be reduced services, longer waits and potentially more cancers detected at less treatable stages, the panel said.

On the Net:
American Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.org
American Medical Association:or http://www.ama-assn.org

Man kills deer

HERRIN, Ill. (AP) — A man out for a walk in the woods killed a deer with a pocket knife after the animal charged him.

Paul Cheatham, 61, said he grabbed the six-point, 130-pound buck by the horns when it attacked. He then held it with one hand, opened a pocketknife with his mouth and jabbed the deer in the rib cage.

"I knew if I let him go, he would kill me," Cheatham said. "I hung on and got my legs around his neck. We wrestled around quite a while."

Berry's World



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS TOY APPLICATION



Household Name
Phone #
Street Address
Total Monthly Family Income $

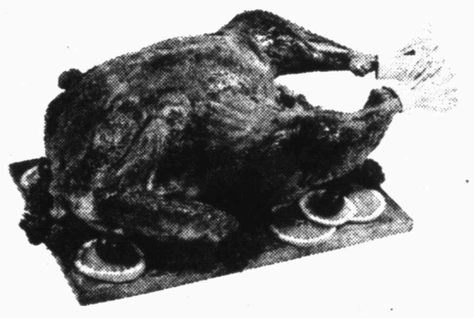
Please list each child's name, age (16 and under), sex (M or F), and three toys each child would like to have. We do not give out shoes and clothing. We will try to give at least one new toy from each child's list.

Child #1 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #2 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #3 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #4 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #5 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3

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

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Location affects post high school education

By ARLENE LEVINSON
AP National Writer

The old real estate adage "location, location, location" turns out to be crucial to whether someone obtains a college degree, according to a new study that evaluates higher education state-by-state.

The state where you grew up and in which you live is paramount to your prospects for education past high school, followed in importance by family resources and race and ethnicity, say the authors of Measuring Up 2000.

The first-of-its kind study by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a nonpartisan think tank in San Jose, Calif., was to be released Thursday in Washington.

"Whether you're going to be prepared to go to college, whether or not you'll have the opportunity to enroll, whether or not you can afford to enroll, and whether you'll complete a degree ... depends on which state you live in, and the policies that state has on higher education," said Joni Finney, a policy analyst who directed the project.

In addition, the study found that in every state, poor people and minorities fared the worst in getting a higher education. "White folks are doing much better than other groups," Finney said.

The states were not ranked or compared. Instead, each received a grade of A through F in five areas: preparing schoolchildren for college; participation of residents ages 18 to 44 in college or other training; affordability of college; how promptly college students finish degrees; economic and social benefits to the state as a result of its residents' levels of education.

No state got straight A's.

The ideal state, by the study's reckoning, would prepare students for college as well as Utah, reach the post-secondary enrollment rate of Delaware, offer higher education as affordable as California's, and see two- and four-year degrees completed as diligently as they are in New Hampshire.

Such a place might then match Maryland, the top state in terms of highly educated residents earning good incomes, and displaying high levels of civic involvement and charitable giving.

Each "report card" was based on broad statistics for each state, largely from the Census Bureau and the U.S. Education Department. The most recent figures were from 1998, and included all learning after high school — vocational and technical schools as well as two- and four-year institutions. It did not look at specific schools.

Complex formulas used to arrive at the grades were derived with help from outside experts including the National Academy of Sciences.

Foundation grants paid for the $1.5 million survey, which took more than two years.

Researchers also had hoped to examine how well people actually learn from higher education in each state, but were stymied by a lack of meaningful and uniform statistics to measure learning nationwide.

The study focused on the states because of their role in all education, whether financing public universities or grants to private colleges. States determine policy and spending on public universities and colleges — where 78 percent of undergraduates enroll, the report said. And they provide about 29 percent of support for all public and private colleges.

Many states were found to be uneven.

Utah, for instance, got A's for preparation and affordability, a B- in benefits to the state from the education of its residents, a C for 18- to 44-year-olds enrolled in any higher education or training, and a D+ for degree-completion rate.

Utah Commissioner of Higher Education Cecelia Foxley took exception to that D+, noting many Mormon students interrupt college and delay graduation because they leave for missionary work.

Among overall top scorers was Massachusetts, which got an A or A- in all but affordability, which merited a D. Illinois got three As, but a B- for benefits to the state and C+ for degree completion.

West Virginia's grades were among the poorest: three in the D range, C for completion rate and an F in benefits for the state.

Report updates are planned in 2002 and 2004.

On the Net:
http://www.highereducation.org

Airlines compete for newest route

ATLANTA (AP) — Delta Air Lines is asking the Department of Transportation for permission to begin flights from its Atlanta hub to Buenos Aires, Argentina starting in April.

Delta and Houston-based Continental Airlines are both seeking to start daily flights April 1. Continental wants to fly from its Newark, N.J. and Houston hubs. Buenos Aires is one of the top business-travel destinations in South America.

United Airlines is also seeking to expand its Argentina service with flights from Los Angeles.

The department recently concluded a new air-service agreement with Argentina allowing two new U.S. carriers to enter the market next year, beginning in April and December.

In its application Wednesday, Delta said that the New York area already has nonstop flights to Argentina, while its proposal would open new competition on the route.

The Argentine carrier LAPA, Lineas Aereas Privadas Argentinas, offers the only nonstop service from Atlanta to Buenos Aires.

Congress chartered the "nation's attic," the Smithsonin Institution, on Aug. 10, 1846. It was named in honor of English scientist Joseph Smithson, whose bequest of $500,000 made it possible. Smithson's will directed the money be used, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Friend's boogie on the beach raises couple's suspicions

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have just returned from a week-long vacation at an ocean resort. Another couple, "Al and Gloria," went with us. We booked separate rooms, and for the most part enjoyed each other's company. However, I observed one thing that disturbed me.

As I sat on the balcony one night waiting for my wife to dress for dinner, I saw Gloria walking on the beach. I watched as she picked up a child's boogie board that was lying at the edge of the surf.

When we were loading the trunk of the rental car to go home, she attempted to conceal the boogie board with their luggage.

My wife and I were astonished at Gloria's behavior. We didn't know whether or not we should confront her. On the trip home, I made some jokes about surfing, but I don't think she got the hint.

Abby, should we keep quiet and preserve our friendship, or ask her why she stole a child's toy? — **PERPLEXED IN NEW CASTLE, DEL.**

DEAR PERPLEXED: Much depends upon how close your friendship is with "Al and Gloria." If you feel the friendship is worth preserving, ask Gloria why she concealed the boogie board instead of turning it in to lost-and-found at the hotel. It's possible she thought the board had been abandoned.

If you're not close and do not wish to risk a confrontation, perhaps the time has come to distance yourselves.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to "Sherri in Cincinnati," who wrote that as a lonely teen-ager she was welcomed into her best friend's family. I agree with your answer, Abby — sometimes it does "take a village" to raise a child.

I left my husband when my son, "Kenny," was 2. I had to work, and Kenny was raised by a "village." My mother, grandmother, father, brother, sister and friends all took the time to play an important part in his life. When I married my current husband, my in-laws never missed a beat — they immediately became a part of my son's "village," too.

I am proud to say Kenny, now 13, is an incredible person — an honor student, athletic, musically talented and popular among his peers. I frequently receive compliments from teachers and other parents about how polite, kind, respectful and well-mannered he is. When I hear those words, I tell them I wish I could take all the credit, but my son is a "village" child.

Some of Kenny's teen-age friends have troubled lives, and we open our door to them. They spend nights here; we do laundry, cook meals, I help with their homework and display their photos. Some have even accompanied us on family vacations. They feel free to discuss any topic that comes to mind. When our relatives visit, we do not exclude Kenny's friends — we simply expand our "village."

Abby, I would like to thank all of these wonderful souls who took an interest in my son. I never could have done it without them. — **LISA IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR LISA: There is nothing as important in the life of a young person as the involvement of caring adults. Your son seems to have incorporated the talents and finest qualities of everyone with whom he has had contact. Strong role models and unconditional love can heal even the most emotionally impoverished person — and that goes for adults, too.

**

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

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



We all need living wills

DEAR DR. GOTT: My grandfather requires a feeding tube because of an advanced neurological disorder that is progressive and incurable. My uncle claims that my grandfather would have refused the tube if he could talk and express himself. Therefore, my uncle wants to have the tube removed. Would this cause my grandfather subsequent pain? How long would it take for him to die?

DEAR READER: This scenario you outlined is one of the great nightmares of modern medicine: Whether to withdraw life support from an aged, terminally ill person who is unable to participate in the decision. On the one hand, your uncle wants to take a course of action that he believes your grandfather would endorse. On the other hand, I am certain that there are other family members — perhaps even your mother or father —. who feel very uncomfortable about such a drastic step. To complicate matters further, the doctors don't wish to discontinue the feeding tube because, in many states, they would be charged with a felony. This situation could have easily been avoided if, in a healthier state, your grandfather had legally expressed his wishes in writing. Called a living will, such a document describes — in general terms or, preferably, in detail — how the person is to be treated (or not treated) if a serious, life threatening medical condition might arise. For example, your grandfather could have recorded his objection to artificial life support, including respirators and feeding tubes. In this instance, the tube would not have been inserted in the first place.

Alas, that wasn't the case. Thus, the patient and family are faced with a thorny ethical and legal issue. Here is what I suggest:

First, your grandfather has to be judged incompetent to make decisions about his own health. Such testimony is usually given by a cadre of doctors and, if the courts accept it, the judge will then appoint a conservator to hold a health proxy. In plain English, a responsible member of the family will be given the legal power to make life and death decisions about your grandfather. Of course, if the family is not in unanimous agreement, serious problems will develop; the conservator may find him- or herself in the unenviable position of having to knuckle under the family pressure and go against the very principles that brought the situation to a crisis. Then things can really turn nasty.

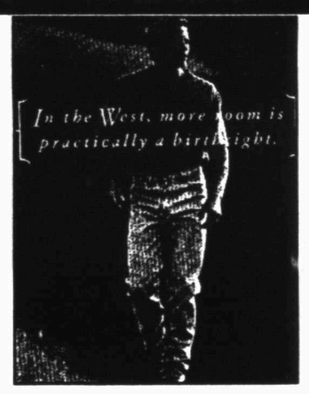
However, given the limited information you supply, I assume that your grandfather's grave condition is probably accepted by those who know and love him; therefore, it must be clearly evident that he is suffering. Consequently, a painless death may be preferable to years of discomfort and anguish.

If the ultimate decision is to remove the feeding tube and withhold all artificial life support, your grandfather will likely die a painless death within a few days or weeks, depending on his general level of nutrition and health status.

The bottom line? Each of us needs to think carefully about living wills and advance directives. We owe this to our families as well as to ourselves.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Personal income drops in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' personal income, buffeted by a big swing in federal farm payments, fell by 0.2 percent in October, the first decline in nearly two years. Consumer spending rose by the smallest amount in six months.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that consumer spending was up just 0.2 percent last month, the weakest performance since a 0.2 percent rise in April. Spending had shot up a strong 0.9 percent in September.

On Wall Street, other concerns, including fears about lower earnings by some big technology companies, pushed down stock prices Thursday. In the first hour of trading, the Nasdaq index lost 79 points and the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 62 points.

The 0.2 percent drop in incomes, the first decline since December 1998, resulted from a big swing in federal subsidy payments to farmers, which had soared in September only to return to more normal levels in October. Personal incomes had been up a sizable 1.1 percent in September.

Without the big changes in farm payments, however, personal incomes would have risen just 0.4 percent in September and instead of declining in October would have posted a 0.5 percent increase.

As election campaign begins, Barak outlines peace plans

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered the most detailed description yet of his peace plan, saying Thursday he would recognize an independent Palestinian state but would put off the explosive issue of control over Jerusalem.

Two months of violence has derailed peace talks, and Barak is now facing early elections, probably in the spring. The prime minister said he was prepared to work toward a political settlement as soon as the violence subsides, but his proposals did not appear to contain any new offers.

The Palestinians said they were not interested in partial solutions, and showed no enthusiasm for Barak's proposals.

"We are looking for an Israeli political decision on whether they are ready for peace, or if they are still wasting time and looking for excuses," said Nabil Aburdeneh, an aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Barak said the looming election would not change his approach to peace negotiations, though many analysts say he's unlikely to win re-election unless he can negotiate some sort of peace deal before the ballot.

"I never said that I'm going to speed things up in working toward an agreement, as a result of the elections," Barak said in a speech.

Retaliation charge filed here

• ***Retaliation***

An offense report for retaliation was filed at 3:58 p.m. Wednesday in reference to a 13-year-old female being assaulted by another 13-year-old female.

Snyder Police Sgt. Terry Luecke said that the girl that was assaulted had filed assault charges on a 15-year-old male Nov. 16 and that this incident stemmed from that. Therefore, the assault is considered retaliation.

• ***Theft***

Steven Thompson of 508 33rd Street reported the theft of compact discs at 4:55 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Gas drive-offs***

A clerk with United Fuels called 911 at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday to report a subject driving off without paying for $8 in gasoline.

Police located the vehicle at Wal-Mart and the driver did return and pay for the gasoline.

At 8:01 p.m. Wednesday, a cashier with Tiger Mart reported a gas drive-off in the amount of $8.

• ***Suicide threat***

Officers took a report for threatened suicide at 8:31 p.m. Wednesday in reference to a 13-year-old female making statements about taking her life.

The girl was transported to the Law Enforcement Center to meet with MHMR representatives and was later released to her parents.

• ***Family violence***

A report for family violence was taken at 9:19 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Arrest***

An 18-year-old man was arrested at 11:39 p.m. Wednesday at 48th Street and Houston for misdemeanor possession of marijuana and warrants for public intoxication and failure to appear.

• ***Accident***

A two-vehicle mishap occurred at 12:11 p.m. Wednesday in the 3100 block of College Avenue. Involved were a 1993 Ford F-150 pickup driven by William Henry Emerson, 83, of 3302 Cherry and a 1993 Chevrolet pickup driven by David Lee Johnson, 34, of 2900 Parks Avenue.

Obituaries

Clara Tate

1918-2000

Funeral service for Clara Tate, longtime Hermleigh resident, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Hermleigh Church of Christ with Wayne Horton officiating.

Burial will follow in the Hermleigh Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Tate, 82, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Born Sept. 12, 1918 in Hot Springs, Ark., she married Glenn Tate on Jan. 29, 1937 in Snyder. She had lived in Hermleigh since 1933 and was a longtime member of the Hermleigh Church of Christ.



Clara Tate

Mrs. Tate was a charter member of the Martha Ann Woman's Club and was a 30-year volunteer for Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

She owned and operated Clara's Drug in Hermleigh for nine years then worked as a bookkeeper at J.C. Penney for 20 years. In 1992, she co-founded Countryplace, along with her daughter, and continued to work there.

Survivors include her husband, Glenn Tate of Hermleigh; one son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Dorothy Tate of Hermleigh; one daughter and son-in-law, Glenda and Robbie Glasscock of Hermleigh; one brother, Robert Chambers of Ruidoso, N.M.; six grandchildren, Bill Glasscock of Snyder, Randy Glasscock of Reno, Nev., Curtis Tate and Anthony Tate of Abilene, Lori Tate of Fort Worth and Mark Glasscock of Hermleigh; and five great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Children's Home of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2824, 79408.

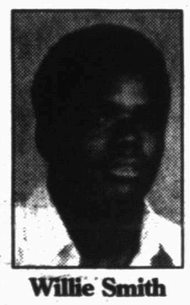
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Willie Smith

1955-2000

Willie Wayne Smith of Snyder died Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Smith, 45, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Bill Looney, Church of Christ minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery.



Willie Smith

Born on Sept. 30, 1955 in Snyder, Mr. Smith was a contract pumper and gauger for Penrose Oil Co. He was a 1974 graduate of Snyder High School and a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso in 1978.

Family visitation will be from 7-8 p.m. Friday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Survivors include his mother, Easter Smith of Snyder; two sisters, Darlene Harrison and Linda Lott, both of Snyder; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Joel Hamlett

1910-2000

Funeral service for Joel H. Hamlett Jr., a lifetime resident of Snyder, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Odom Chapel of the First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Keith Wiseman, retired Methodist minister from Lubbock, will officiate.

Mr. Hamlett, 90, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Born July 29, 1910 in Snyder, he married Mary Jane Beall on Dec. 27, 1937 in Ladonia. Mr. Hamlett served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II, from November, 1943 to November, 1945.

Mr. Hamlett was a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 36 years. He also ranched in northeast Scurry County and was member of the First Christian Church.

Mr. Hamlett was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane Hamlett of Snyder; a son, Joel H. Hamlett III of Houston; a sister, Charles Ella Bullard of Temple; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Kaley Inman
Kylee Inman

Infants

Services for Kaley and Kylee Inman, stillborn twin daughters of Jeb and Amanda Inman of Snyder, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Kaley and Kylee Inman were stillborn Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Survivors also include a brother, Zachery Inman of Snyder; paternal grandparents, Wendy and Janis Inman of Colorado City; maternal grandparents, Leroy and Theda Hanshew of Sweetwater; paternal great-grandmothers, Hazel Dunlap of Colorado City and Sue Inman of Tahoka; maternal great-grandmothers, Blanche Rister and Rosie Warren, both of Sweetwater; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Santos Larralde

1925-2000

Santos Larralde died at 9 a.m. today at her home in Snyder following a lengthy illness.

Services for Mrs. Larralde, 75, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born July 3, 1925 in Snyder, she was married to Lorenzo Larralde. He survives.

Other survivors include four daughters, Erma Sanchez and Lupe Larralde, both of Snyder, Idolina Farias of Lubbock and Maria Santos Larralde of Carlsbad, Tex.; five sons, Elio Garza, Henry Garza and Lupe Garza, all of Snyder, Lorenzo Larralde of Lubbock, Johnny Larralde of Abilene and Johnny Larralde of Abilene; a brother, Isaac Rodriguez of Aqua Dulce, Tex.; 36 grandchildren; 57 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Ruby Dennis

1920-2000

ABILENE – Ruby Dennis, the grandmother of Michael Parker of Snyder, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, at her home in Abilene.

Graveside service for Mrs. Dennis, 80, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Cedar Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Oscar Fanning officiating

Born Jan. 9, 1920 in Hillsboro, she married Hule Carl Dennis on Aug. 3, 1936 in Albany. He died in 1986.

Mrs. Dennis moved to Abilene from Lueders in 1944. She was a nurse and retired in 1985. She was a member of the Elmwood Baptist Church.

She also was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, three brothers, one sister and a daughter-in-law.

Survivors include two sons, Kenneth Dennis of Stevenson, Wash., and Carroll Wayne Dennis of Abilene; two daughters, Linda McMeekan and Marilyn Parker, both of Abilene; three sisters, Hazel Lewallen of Seymour, Agnes Schroeder of Akron, Ohio, and Johnnie Gray of Munday; 10 other grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

WCFH
Independently Owned & Operated
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th St. Snyder, Texas
915-573-6200
FOR INFORMATION GO TO WWW.AMERICANMEMORIALS.COM

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Northeast reading night

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

West Family Reading Night

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

GED testing date

Friday will be the only date in December for GED (high school equivalency) testing. For more information, call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 574-2112 at home or 573-8511, ext. 297 at WTC 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Senior dedications

Snyder High School senior dedications for the The Tiger's Lair are due Friday. For more information, call Katie Henson at 573-6301.

Heart walk

Sponsors and walkers are needed for the Heart Walk scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday beginning at the Towle Park pavilion. The event raises funds to combat heart disease and strokes. For more information call Dee Chasteen at 573-2913.

Troop 27 to turn 50

Boy Scout Troop 27 will celebrate its 50th anniversary at First United Methodist Church Sunday from 2:30-5 p.m. The troop is seeking past information and memorabilia to share at this celebration. If anyone has anything to share or would like to attend, contact Joe or Terry Hefner at 863-2446 after 7 p.m. Max Snider at 574-2784 or Chris Smauley at 573-5183.

Holiday dinner

Church of the Nazarene will host a holiday Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner following the 10:45 a.m. worship service Sunday. Everyone is invited.

Service time is changed

Avenue D Baptist Church, 324 30th, has changed the time of evening services. Beginning Sunday, evening services will start at 5 p.m.

AARP Christmas dinner

The AARP Chapter 2063 Christmas dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Martha Ann Womans' Club. Val Cervantes, area community coordinator, will be present to install chapter officers for 2001.

Vocational nurse program testing

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

Country and gospel music

A country and gospel music program will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Scurry County Senior Citizens Center. Everyone is invited and there is no charge. Call 573-3996 for more information.

VFW arts, crafts show

Vendors are needed for the VFW Arts and Crafts show set for Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Scurry County VFW Post. Contact Jim Bailey after 3 p.m. at 573-5338.

Social Security reps

Representatives of Social Security will be at the Senior Citizens Center Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1-2 p.m.

Windbreak trees

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

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Adult basic education classes

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Russia plans to raise Kursk

MOSCOW (AP) — The sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk will be raised from the Barents Sea next summer to lessen concerns over a possible mishap from its two reactors, officials said Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, who heads a government commission on the Kursk tragedy, said the reactors pose no immediate danger and will remain safe for at least 10 years.

"But we need to raise the submarine, because nuclear reactors lying on the seabed ... in a busy fishing area, would be a constant source of international tension," he said at a news conference. "Despite all our assurances that the reactors are safe and nothing will happen to them, many people wouldn't trust us."

The Russian Navy has said that the Kursk reactors were automatically shut down when the vessel exploded and sank Aug. 12. No radiation leak has been registered.

Klebanov spoke after meeting with Rio Praaning, secretary general of the Kursk Foundation, an international fund-raising organization based in the Netherlands. Klebanov said the resources raised by the foundation would be spent to pay for the services of foreign participants in the approximately $80 million project to raise the vessel.

The Russian government paid $6 million to Halliburton for the 18-day salvage mission that ended in early November.