INSIDE
Texas lottery results 2
Enron faces real test 3
Sports 5
Midday stocks 7
What's Up 10

WT-Int: Crude - $19.78
WTIC Posted - $16.75
Natural Gas - $2.72

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Jan. 2, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 210
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Miller Robinson

At 6 this evening...

Today is filing deadline for March primaries

With the filing deadline at 6 p.m. today, the only Scurry County incumbent yet to file is County Judge Ricky Fritz.

Judge Fritz had indicated earlier that he would seek a third term, but was non-committal this morning when asked about his re-election plans.

Rod Waller, a former Snyder mayor, announced as a GOP candidate for county judge soon after the filing period began.

The latest person to file for a local office was Clifford Hall who is seeking the Precinct 2 commissioner's post on the Republican ticket. Hall filed Monday.

Hall joins Robbie Floyd on the GOP ticket for the post being vacated by Roy Idom.

Hall has ranching interests in the county as well as a transport company, while Floyd owns an oilfield chemical company.

Also seeking the Precinct 2 commissioner's post is Jerry House. House, a Democrat, is a stock farmer and contract meter reader for Big County Electric Co-Op.

A three-person race has also developed for the Precinct 4 county commissioners seat held by first-term Democrat Chloanne Lindsey.

Lindsey, who previously served as the assistant county auditor, was the first to file and Snyder fireman Ronnie Clawson also announced on the Democratic ticket. Last weekend, businessman Keith Hackfeld filed as a Republican candidate.

Incumbent Republicans who have announced for re-election and are unopposed are District Clerk Trina Rodgers, County Clerk Joan Bunch, County Treasurer Nelda Colvin and Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd.

Incumbent Sheriff Darren Jackson, a Democrat, is seeking election to the remainder of a two-year term and he also is unopposed.

U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm, first elected to congress in 1978, is seeking re-election as a Democrat. Russell Gill, an airline pilot from Abilene, has filed for the congressional post as a Republican, as has Abilene businessman and city council member, Rob Beckham.

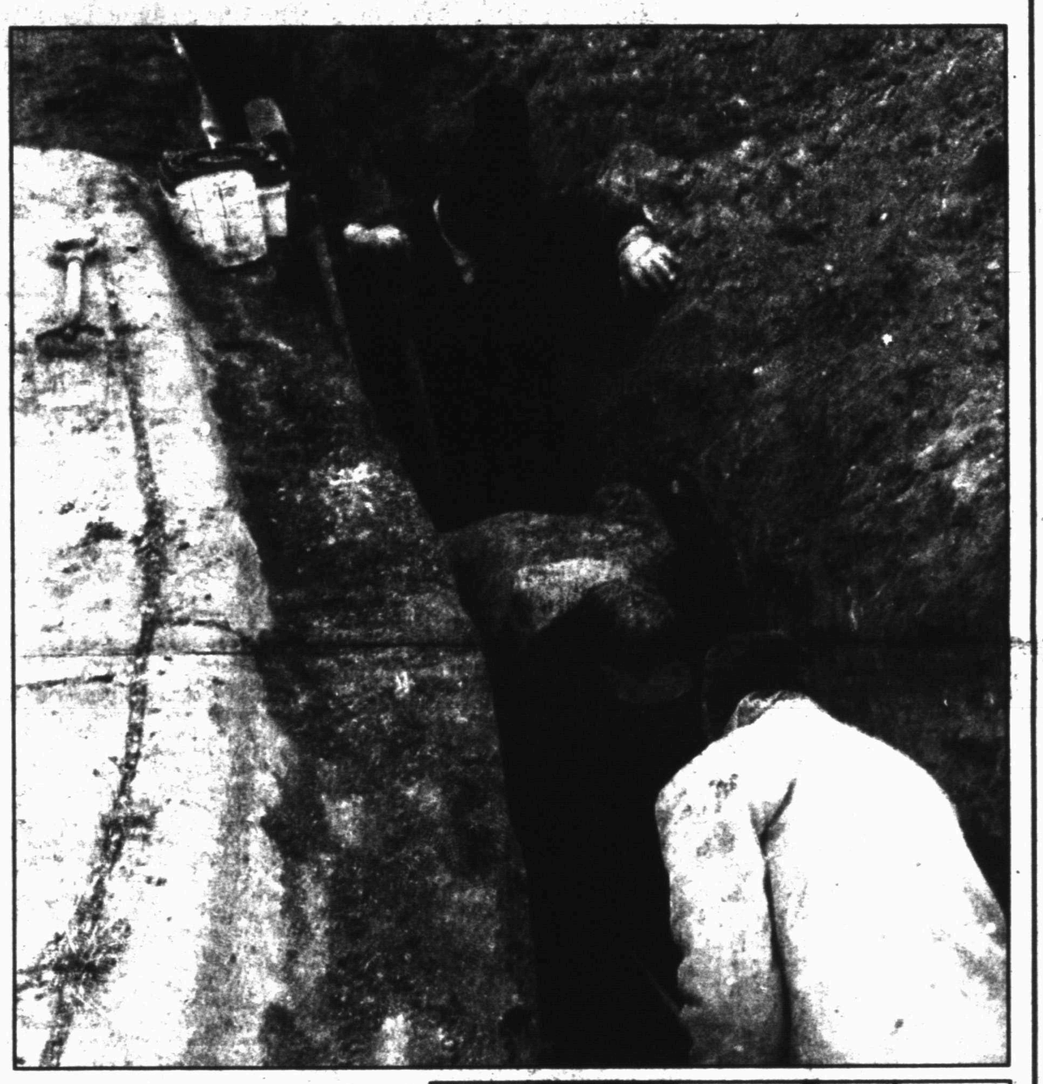
Four persons are vying for the newly-created state representative's district that includes Scurry, Mitchell, Coke and Tom Green counties.

Thomas M. Goff and Drew Darby, both San Angelo attorneys, along with San Angelo businessman Scott Campbell are seeking the Republican nomination.

Jeri Sloan, a Christoval business owner and social worker, is the lone Democratic candidate.

Drew Bullard serves as the county Republican Party chairman and Jerry Gannaway is the Democratic Party chairman.

All-weather crew...



BRAVING ELEMENTS — This city crew endured cold temperatures this morning as they worked on a replacement water line on 25th Street and Ave. H. Working in the trenches are, top to bottom, Danny Montoya, Steve Jones, Alvin Dodson, while Randy Seale operated the backhoe. (SDN Staff Photo)



Tyler newspaper reporter is shot while covering fire

TYLER (AP) — A newspaper reporter shot New Year's Day by a Tyler man from his burning home was in fair condition today as authorities tried to determine a motive for the shooting.

A photographer wounded at the scene was treated and released from a hospital the day of the shooting, a hospital official said.

After a four-hour standoff, a SWAT officer fatally shot the suspect, 73-year-old Fred Douglas Wallace.

"We have no way of telling what his intentions were," police spokesman Chris Moore said. "We don't know what his mental state was."

Tyler Morning Telegraph reporter Shauna Wonzer and photographer Herb Nygren had just arrived on the scene of a fire at the home Tuesday and were waiting to speak with firefighters when shots first rang out and they were hit.

"I'm OK. I just was not expecting a man with a gun in the garage at a house fire," Wonzer said.

Wonzer was taken by ambulance to Mother Frances Hospital where she remained today.

"I heard a gunshot and saw Herb dive to the ground. Then I felt a sharp pain in my left leg and saw blood when I looked down," Wonzer told the newspaper from the hospital emergency room.

Nygren managed to snap several photos before he was taken to the hospital and another reporter was called in to cover the story, said Morning Telegraph managing editor Dave Berry.

Berry said Wonzer "was kind of apologizing for being on her back and not covering the story."

The newspaper staff responded quickly after the incident, Berry said, several interrupting their holiday celebrations to come into work.

"You're never ready for anything this crazy to happen," Berry said. "Everybody was surprised, shocked and kind of asking the same question we all ask: 'how do you know if you're going to walk into something like that when you're out on a routine news story?'"

Police say firefighters arrived shortly before 5 p.m. and found the front portion of the home in flames. As they were working on the blaze, they opened the garage and discovered Wallace in a car pointing a rifle at them, Moore said.

Firefighters retreated and the man began shooting, striking Wonzer in the upper left thigh. Nygren was grazed to the side of the head.

Meanwhile, the man continued firing at police officers from the garage.

At one point, SWAT members attempted to focus a floodlight on the garage to limit Wallace's visibility and see inside.

Wallace then fired twice, Moore said.

Another SWAT team member responded with a shot that killed Wallace.

Wallace lived alone, and no one else was believed to be in the home.

The officer who shot Wallace will be placed on office duty pending the outcome of a probe of the shooting.

Cameraman for FEMA is charged in wife's death

DENVER (AP) — A cameraman who photographed the World Trade Center site for the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been jailed in the shooting death of his wife.

Kurt Sonnenfeld, 39, was arrested Tuesday for investigation of first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Nancy, 36, police spokeswoman Virginia Lopez said.

She was shot in the chest around 1:40 a.m. Tuesday at their home in east Denver and died later that morning at Denver Health Medical Center, Lopez said.

Sonnenfeld was activated as a contract cameraman employee for FEMA, and his footage of the World Trade Center wreckage was broadcast around the world.

More bodies recovered in NY

NEW YORK (AP) — The bodies of 10 firefighters and three civilians were pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center as excavation crews opened up the lobby of one of the collapsed towers, a firefighters union spokesman said today.

"Those lower floors are now 30 feet below ground," said Tom Da Parma of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. He said the building's steel beams collapsed in such a way that pockets were created, and that is where many of the bodies have been found.

None of the 13 bodies, all discovered Tuesday, had been identified this morning.

Da Parma said the excavation of the disaster site is bringing workers to an area of the lobby where many people were trapped when the twin towers collapsed on Sept. 11.

"A lot of firefighters just would not leave that area while people were still trying to get out," he said.

Da Parma estimated that the bodies of 130 of the 343 firefighters missing in the terrorist attack had been identified.

The discovery comes amid reports that the Fire Department is prohibiting firefighters from leaving their companies to go to the site and carry away their fallen comrades. The ban seeks to maintain order at the site, as well as provide protection in communities around the city.

Da Parma said the union is talking with department officials about the policy. Fire Department spokesman Francis X. Gribbon did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "After all the Christmas bills are in, you have to wonder what to do with that new wallet."

It was our first since Sept. 11 – doing what the President suggested – getting out and taking an airline flight.

Fortunately, we followed another suggestion, getting to the airport two hours early for check in.

Midland really wasn't that crowded. But there was a different atmosphere as it will take some getting used to seeing those National Guardsmen, armed with loaded M-14 rifles.

Actually, we're for 'em being there, but it does look unusual in a normally unarmed, relaxed America. They all had friendly smiles, but not enough to offset the sober appearance of those military weapons.

Security is tight. Out on the runways, you can spot police cars stationed about. A policeman looks in your trunk and inspects under your vehicle with a mirror before you are allowed to enter the parking area.

There's no need to put away your picture ID. You will need it three to four times before boarding. Passengers must empty all pockets, remove all watches and jewelry and perhaps even have to take off shoes.

Passengers are selected for random searches of carry-on luggage, especially those with one-way tickets.

On the return home, the security was even tighter. Arriving almost three hours before boarding time proved to be a wise decision as an estimated 300 persons were lined up to be processed by two sets of security checkers.

Advancing to the front of that line took almost an hour.

Again it proves that unless a long distance is involved, it well may be quicker to drive.

The most impressive thing was the attitude of fellow travelers. Everyone liked pre-911 better, but passengers were tolerant and polite.

Likewise, the security people went out of their way to be firm, but polite about what is required. All in all, it was a unique spirit of both necessity and cooperation.

The only fellow out of sorts was the business traveler who spilled hot coffee all over his fresh shirt and tie. But even he was finally philosophical, noting that he would finally arrive at his destination soiled, but safe.

Being in the airport reminded us of ways of life that have changed for all Americans. And we recalled our favorite quote from the War on Terrorism, spoken by a U.S. Marine.

"It's God's job to forgive bin Laden. It's our job to arrange the meeting."

ASK US

Q—How did the 2001 rain totals compare to those of 2000?

A—Snyder received 20.77 inches in 2001 compared with 21.20 inches the previous year.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 33 degrees; low, 25; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 29; slight snow precipitation.

Area Forecast: Tonight clear, low around 20; light S winds. Thursday, sunny, high around 50; SW winds 10-20 mph.



Alexandria Hook
Sunny

Sunset:
5:53 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:43 a.m.
Of 1 day in 2002, the sun has shone 1 day in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Money doesn't always bring happiness. People with $10 million are no happier than people with $9 million.

—Hobart Brown

JAN 02 2002

Texas rainfall in 2001 included flooding

HOUSTON (AP) — That parts of Houston likely got more rain in 2001 than anywhere else in Texas shocks no one, thanks to historic Tropical Storm Allison. The surprise is that one Texas city — officially, at least — actually got more despite the record flooding, and another came close.

Houston took on more than 71 inches of precipitation during the last 12 months, 25 inches more than normal. About 16.5 inches, the official measurement at Bush Intercontinental Airport, fell from June 5-9 as Allison deluged southeast Texas. Other parts of Harris County reported getting 37 inches of rain from the tropical storm, which would undoubtedly, though unofficially, give them the dubious honor of highest rainfall amount.

However, it didn't take a tropical disaster for Texarkana to nearly overtake Houston's official rainfall total. The city on Texas' northeastern corner got just over 70 inches, according to the National Weather Service, because of a steady dose of showers punctuated by double-digit rain totals in February and October.

Nacogdoches topped that, recording nearly 72 inches after several days of intense rain in December.

Weather Service measurements indicate most areas along and east of Interstate 35, switching to I-37 at San Antonio and on to Corpus Christi, got normal or surplus rainfall. West Texas and the border regions, typically drier even in good years, remained mired in drought.

If only those places could have borrowed some of Houston's rains.

"A woman came in here and picked up a new carpet last Friday," Paul Rafferty, co-owner of Dick n' Sons Floor Covering Center, said describing continuing business five months after the floods in the Houston area damaged more than 50,000 homes.

"We're booked (installing carpets and floors) into the third week of January," Rafferty said, adding that he expects to be doing more Allison-related work into March.

According to the state Division of Emergency Management, the storm killed 21 in Houston and two others in Jefferson County. It also caused more than $5 billion in damage. The torrents especially ravaged the University of Houston, the Texas Medical Center and downtown, while idling thousands of waterlogged cars across the city.

Although Houston would have had a wetter-than-normal year even without Allison, the storm made 2001 the third-rainiest in history at about 11/2 inches behind the 1900 record, which also was fueled by a major storm.

At its peak, Allison dumped 6.3 inches of water in one hour, which is 50 percent more than El Paso got all year.

That city on the state's western tip, which normally gets just 8.8 inches anyway, received only 4.3 inches. Midland/Odessa saw 9.85 inches, about 5 inches shy of normal.

Major West Texas agricultural hubs such as Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock and San Angelo did not have individually disastrous rainfall years, but just falling short by a few inches meant the mid-1990s drought is wearing on. Wichita Falls, which got just 18 inches of the 28.9 it expects, fared worse.

Meteorologist Bill Hopkins, of the Weather Service's Lubbock office, sees no letup in sight.

"I would think right now we'll probably stay on the dry side," Hopkins said, noting that it shouldn't be much of a surprise since West Texas is semiarid, after all.

Winter Texans like to keep very active

PHARR (AP) — From afar, a sea of trailer roofs parked among cramped quarters may not seem like a buzz of activity.

But inside the wonderland of landscaped aluminum, the retirees who make their homes in South Texas for about three months may no longer be working, but they are active.

"They don't sit in those little trailers," said Bonnie Christian, a manager and resident of Tip O' Texas RV Resorts, one of the more than 500 recreational vehicle parks dotting four counties in the Rio Grande Valley. "They're too busy."

While parks are all over the Sun Belt, in South Texas they are a large part of the "Winter Texan" economy that is embraced by locals. Some are worried that numbers are down this year.

Most resorts have the standards: an indoor/outdoor pool, hot tub and polo net, a wood shop and art building. Activity boards overflow with notices about the writing club, the bridge and pinochle games, and the kitchen band practice.

Fun N Sun RV Resort in Harlingen boasts a 10,400 square-foot cushioned dance floor.

People rent their lots, parking for a week or a year. The lots grow more personal over time, with lawn furniture, barbecue grills, and small gardens.

There's never an idle moment, said Don Phillips, 68, part of a husband-and-wife square dancing team from Syracuse, N.Y. Nearby McAllen touts itself as the square dancing capital of the world.

"You get up with nothing to do in the morning and by the time you go to bed, you've only got it half done," he said.

The University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg has found that the visitors pour hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy each season.

They also swell the ranks of local volunteers.

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
4-14-23-27-35

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
7-6-2

Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
8-15-23-25
Bonus number 25
Estimated jackpot: $800,000

Berry's World



Date Book

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002

Today is the second day of 2002 and the 13th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1811, the U.S. Senate voted 20-7 to censure Sen. Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts for disclosing secret documents. He was the first U.S. senator to be censured.

On this day in 1893, the U.S. Post Office introduced the first $1 stamp. It depicted Queen Isabella of Spain pledging her jewels to pay for the voyage of Columbus to the New World.

On this day in 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada and President Ronald Reagan signed a trade agreement that removed barriers to trade between Canada and the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676), American colonial leader; James Wolfe (1727-1759), British general; Sir Michael Tippett (1905-1998), composer; Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), writer; Dan Rostenkowski (1928-), U.S. congressman, is 74; Roger Miller (1936-1992), singer-songwriter; James Bakker (1940-), TV evangelist, is 62.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1983, quarterback Ken Anderson, playing for Cincinnati in a game against Houston, set an NFL record by completing 20 passes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right." — Isaac Asimov

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 30) and last quarter (Jan. 5).

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SCURRY COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM.

Scurry County has been chosen to receive $7,913 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; and, United Way of America which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of representatives from United Way, Catholic Churches, Ministerial Alliance, the County, the Food Bank, Scurry Community Service, and a homeless advocate will determine how the funds awarded to Scurry County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of the government, 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

In 2001 Scurry County distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds in the amount of $10,704. These funds were disbursed by Scurry Community Services for utility assistance and shelter.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Shirley Fritz for an application. The deadline for application is January 4, 2002.

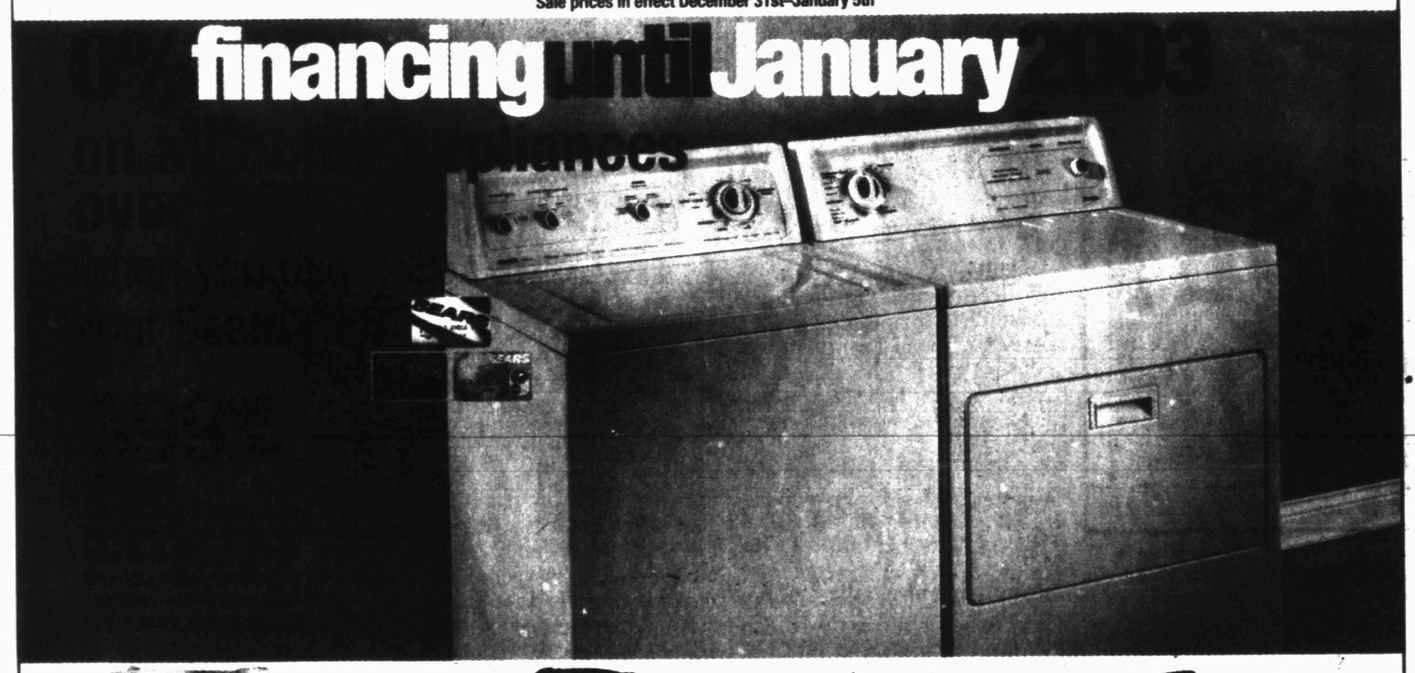
SWEETWATER & BIG SPRING

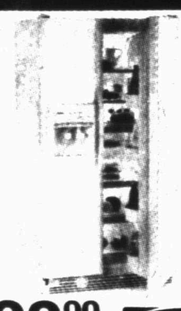
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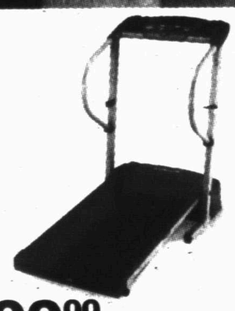
Home appliances, electronics, hardware, lawn & garden, tools
Sale prices in effect December 31st–January 5th

financing until January

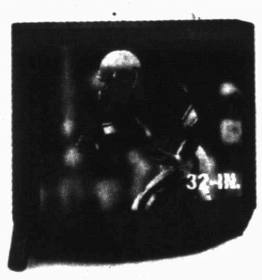




999.99 sale Kenmore
25.2-cu. ft.† refrigerator, save $300
Water filtration. Energy Star® qualified. America's quietest 25.2-cu. ft. side-by-side.† #52522. Reg. 1299.99



399.99 sale PRO-FORM
Treadmill, save $100 16x45-in. cushioned deck. Power Incline™ 3%-10%. 2.0-HP motor. #29160. Reg. 499.99 Exercise equipment requires some assembly.



699.99 SONY
32-in. stereo TV, Sears low price
With digital comb filter, Trinitron picture tube, MTS stereo. #42619



989.99 now CRAFTSMAN
16.5-HP, 42-in. lawn tractor, save $109
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BIG SPRING:1801 East FM 700-C6, Big Spring TX., Phone: 915-267-1127, Owner: Jody & Terri Swinney, Mon. - Sat. 10-7, Sun. 1-6

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Euro faces first real test as Europeans go back to work

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — After a relatively problem-free holiday debut, Europe's new single currency gets put to the test today as stores reopen and people head back to work with the fresh new bills in their pockets.

Europeans flocked to automated teller machines throughout the day on New Year's — their first chance to get their hands on the multicolored euro notes.

Italy's Banca di Roma reported record ATM action — 21,000 withdrawals by late afternoon, totaling 3.5 million euros ($3.1 million). In Belgium, more withdrawals were logged by 8 a.m. than in the entire day a year ago.

The European Union's executive Commission called the first day of the currency switch a success, saying no major glitches were reported from any of the 12 euro-using nations. "No news is good news," spokesman Gerassimos Thomas said.

But EU officials conceded the real test would be today, the first day of business following the New Year's holiday.

Complicating matters, bank workers in Italy and France were expected to go on strike, putting pressure on management at a crunch time.

In France, bank workers say they haven't had a pay rise despite the extra workload linked to the euro's debut. Their unions scheduled the one-day strike despite appeals from the country's finance minister not to spoil the historic moment.

The two Bank of Italy unions planning a walkout are trying to force mediation of a contract dispute.

The euro, a decade in the works, became legal tender with the dawning of the new year. It is perhaps the most concrete evidence of Europe's transition from a divided continent to a team of nations working toward the same goals.

The 12 European Union nations that adopted the euro are parting with currencies that have long histories — such as Greece's drachma, which stretches back 2,600 years.

National currencies will circulate side by side with the euro for up to two months to help ease the transition, but European Central Bank officials are hoping that most people are using only euros after the first two weeks.

The foot soldiers in the switch will be Europe's retailers, who are expected to take in the old and hand out the new in change to help remove national currencies from circulation.

Sometimes it worked, as when Wouter Wils went to his neighborhood bakery in Brussels on Tuesday and bought his bread.

"I'm never going to use Belgian francs again," he said enthusiastically after completing his first euro transaction.

Geerke Netten, a Dutch visitor to Rome, wasn't as lucky. After paying in euros at a supermarket in the underground Termini train station, she was told euro coins had run out.

"Now when I go back home I'll be stuck with lire coins that I don't want," she complained.

At a supermarket in a Berlin train station, change was strictly in euros.

Across the way, Silke Weiss, who was doing brisk business selling German sausages, struggled to make change in whatever her customers wanted — euros or marks.

Renovation at Pentagon erasing signs of terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The victims' families and the nation still grieve, but the once-charred and jagged western flank of the Pentagon no longer looks much like the scene of an American tragedy.

Except for flags waving from two 140-foot-tall cranes, there is little indication that the 400,000 square-foot chunk now missing from the building is anything other than an ordinary construction project.

As the year in which terrorist hijackers rammed a passenger-filled jetliner into the Pentagon's side becomes history, the knoll across a highway from the crash site no longer routinely draws crowds of people coming to see for themselves, weep and pay respects.

Several makeshift memorials that sprang up in the days and weeks after the attack have for the most part disappeared. Movers packed up the hundreds of letters, teddy bears, photographs, flags and other mementos, perhaps for future displays.

Of the 4,600 Pentagon workers displaced, 1,000 are back in their offices. The rest continue on in rented space.

Just more than two weeks ago, the last of the eight most severely wounded victims finally was discharged from Washington Hospital Center's burn unit — three months and a week after going in. The critically burned still face months of additional skin grafts, reconstructive surgeries and painful physical therapy.

The Pentagon itself is a beehive of activity, very much back in business — waging war in Central Asia and maybe someday beyond to find and destroy those responsible for the terrorist attacks in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania.

It also has regained an old title. The destruction of the World Trade Center's twin towers again gives the Pentagon the unconditional, but unwanted, honor of being the world's biggest office building.

"We used to say the largest under one roof," Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said, "but we are the largest now."

There has been some bitterness that the experience of those affected by the Pentagon attack has at times been overshadowed by the magnitude of the horror in New York.

Of course, what happened on Sept. 11 across the Potomac River from Washington would alone have been enough to transfix the nation. Terrorists diverted American Airlines Flight 77 from its course toward Los Angeles out of Dulles International Airport, slamming it at 350 miles an hour and from six feet up into the nerve center of America's defense.

The massive explosion and fire fed by 20,000 gallons of jet fuel spread destruction over 2 million square feet — almost a third of the building. It killed 189 people, 125 inside and 64 on the plane.

Luck — if it can be called that — had it that the terrorists aimed the Boeing 757 at the only part of the Pentagon that already had been renovated in an 11-year, $1.2 billion project meant to bolster it against attack. That significantly limited the damage and loss of life by slowing the plane as it tore through the building and reducing the explosion's reach.

In the renovated section outside the immediate crash zone, most damage was caused by smoke and water that poured out of brand-new sprinklers. Many of these offices are occupied again.

But there was extensive fire damage hundreds of feet away in unrenovated areas that had not yet had sprinklers installed. The fire was so intense it cracked concrete.

That meant a 100-yard wide piece of the Pentagon's western face had to come down, including all five floors and three of the building's five rings. In all, trucks carted off 47,000 tons of debris — six percent of the building.

The demolition took just one month and a day, aided by 24-7 work hours and landfills that stayed open all night.

Weary workers celebrated the day they finished, Nov. 19, by placing a Christmas tree on the roof. It marked a turning point toward the positive: They would now stop tearing down and start building up.

The reconstruction is expected to cost over $700 million and take until spring 2003. The most immediate — and ambitious — goal is to rebuild the outermost ring of offices by the one-year anniversary of the attack, when a memorial is to be dedicated.

Slabs of Indiana limestone cut to exactly match the original exterior started arriving two weeks ago, said Will Bybee, president of the Bybee Stone Co. in Bloomington, Ind. The new section eventually will require 18,000 cubic feet of stone, carved from the same vein, though not the same quarry, as the original.

Rebuilding the lives of the critically injured and those who lost loved ones will be much harder.

Some relatives of those killed are coping by forming advocacy groups to represent their interests on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Also, 110 people were injured in the attack, including the eight severely burned, said Navy Cmdr. Yvette Brown Wahler, director of the Pentagon Family Assistance Center. Some have gone back to their jobs, but the Pentagon was unable to say how many.

Dr. Marion Jordan, chief of the Hospital Center's burn-treatment facility, believes all of the eight will eventually be able to care for themselves and do at least some of the things they love.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Keeping peace in the family isn't always the right course

DEAR ABBY: I loved your reply to the woman whose nasty mother-in-law expects her college-bound grandson to call and visit and do her chores on weekends. This after years of playing favorites with his cousins and disrespectful treatment of his mother. The woman asked what to say to her mother-in-law when she called and demanded the young man's phone number.

You advised her to tell her mother-in-law that college is a big adjustment, that the young man has her telephone number with him, and in the meantime she'll have to find someone else to do her chores.

I have a further suggestion — turn the phone over to her husband when nasty grandma calls and starts complaining. Let HIM do the explaining.

I'm sick of people who advise turning the other cheek or keeping peace in the family. If people want respect, they had better act like they deserve it. — **EX-RELATIVE AND GLAD OF IT**

DEAR GLAD: You are correct that respect is something that cannot be demanded or bought. It's something that must be earned. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: That "mean" grandmother could have been my grandma. She never liked my mother and constantly criticized her in front of us and other relatives. She favored the other grandkids and ignored us.

My mother never held a grudge against my grandmother. Mother encouraged us to ignore the nasty comments. She said that in time, Grandma would realize the error of her ways.

For years, I would go to my grandmother's house and clean the pool, do housework and pull weeds in her yard. My sister would also help, but my brother was less forgiving. He wanted nothing to do with her.

My sister, brother and I have all turned out well. We have college educations and successful careers. The "favored" grandkids are either unemployed or still living with their parents.

Grandma passed away recently. Her "last will and testament" speaks volumes. In it, she stated that she had given money and gifts to her other children — none of whom had ever lifted a hand to help when she needed it — so she was leaving her sizable estate to my family, including my mother.

My mom cried. — **A BIG FAN IN CANOGA PARK, CALIF.**

DEAR FAN: Your mom may have cried, but each time I read your letter I can't help smiling. Your mother's kindness and a lifetime of turning the other cheek paid dividends — literally.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO "SHAFTED AGAIN" IN SILVER SPRING: One of the most exhausting burdens in the world is the weight of bearing a grudge. Read on:

FORGIVENESS
(Author Unknown)

The friend who ran off with your wife,
Forgive him for his lust;
The chum who sold you phony stocks,
Forgive his breach of trust;
The pal who schemed behind your back,
Forgive his evil plot;
And when you're done, forgive yourself
Cause you are all you've got.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips both share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-02-02
♠ 6
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ K Q 9 3
♣ A J 10 6

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

East
♠ 10 2
♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ A J 10
♣ Q 8 7 4

South
♠ K J 8 3
♥ A 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K 9 5 2

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
	2 ♠	Dbl.	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ??

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002

From beautiful Bali to dramatic Paris

By Phillip Alder

Last year, the world championships were scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia. But following the attacks of Sept. 11, they were moved to Paris. (Bali has been offered the 2003 tournament.) There were several dramatic matches in Paris. First, in the 35th Bermuda Bowl, the favorites met in the quarterfinals. Italy, Giorgio Duboin-Norberto Bocchi, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace and Dano de Falco-Guido Ferraro, faced the U.S. squad of Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell and Dick Freeman-Nick Nickell, who have been the most successful team over the last decade. With 32 deals to go, Italy led by one point. But Italy won the next 16-board segment by 57-0 and the final session by 67-9 to score an emphatic victory.

Sitting West, what would you have led against three no-trump?

Soloway selected a fourth-highest spade seven. However, Bocchi won with his jack, played a club to dummy's ace, finessed clubs twice through East, and took nine tricks (one spade, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs) for plus 600.

Lauria chose the diamond six. (Any non-spade lead works.) Versace took dummy's king with his ace and returned the spade 10: jack, queen, six. Lauria led a second diamond. Declarer Rodwell won with dummy's queen and played a third diamond, hoping West would have to win the trick. However, East produced the jack and led his second spade. West took two more spade tricks to defeat the contract and give Italy 12 international match points.

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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Turnpike
6 Cosmetic buy
12 Hug
14 Creepy feeling
15 Bet taker
16 Validates
17 Common Market inits.
18 Sweltering
19 — vivant
21 Enter data
23 Concealed
26 Chit -
27 "Willard" sequel
28 Repair a tire
30 Make tracks
31 Sum up
32 Boxing locale
33 Cuzco builders
35 Dwarf
37 Pretend
38 Playbill word
39 Supermodel Carol
40 Haw opposite
41 Guess (abbr.)
42 Epoch
43 River bottom
44 Horror-film street
46 Cosmonaut's lab
48 Herb for kitty
51 Mr. Spock's mother
55 Neptune or Venus
56 Hot — wine
57 New York capital
58 Saw logs

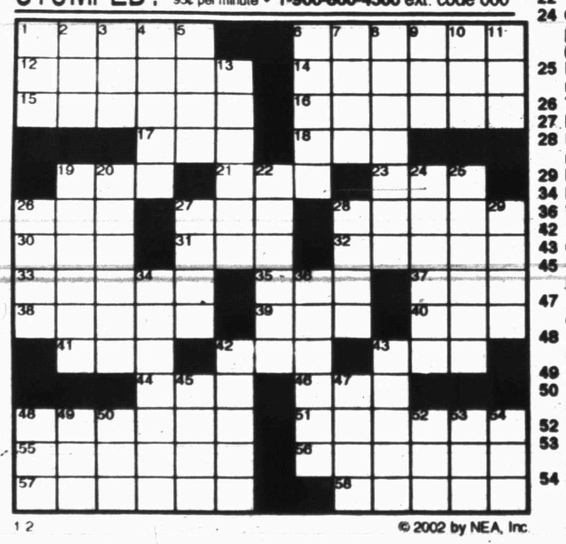
DOWN

1 Soldier in gray
2 Singer Yoko
3 E.T.'s transport
4 Remembrance
5 Writer Wiesel
6 Overly aggressive
7 Aware
8 Safe subject
9 Flood control
10 Psychic power
11 Legal matter
13 Knocked flat
19 Ricochet
20 Pound parts
22 Win over
24 Glacial period (2 wds.)
25 Rocked and rolled
26 Tall flower
27 Foundation
28 Ride the rapids
29 Liver paste
34 Feeler
36 Pack animals
42 Unoccupied
43 Gray matter
45 Claim on property
47 Mischief-makers
48 Spreadsheet pro
49 — by myself
50 Waiter's check
52 Drill sgt.
53 German article
54 Fruit cooler

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	A	Y		I	B	I	S			T	N	T
R	I	O		N	O	O	N		A	W	E	S
E	M	U		T	A	C	O		L	O	O	K
N	E	R	V	E	S		B	E	A			
	D	E	E	R				W	I	S	P	
		E	N	A	B	L	E			H	U	T
G	R	I	P		M	A	E		F	O	R	E
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	E	O	N	S				X	E	N	A	
		O	W	E		P	E	D	A	L	S	
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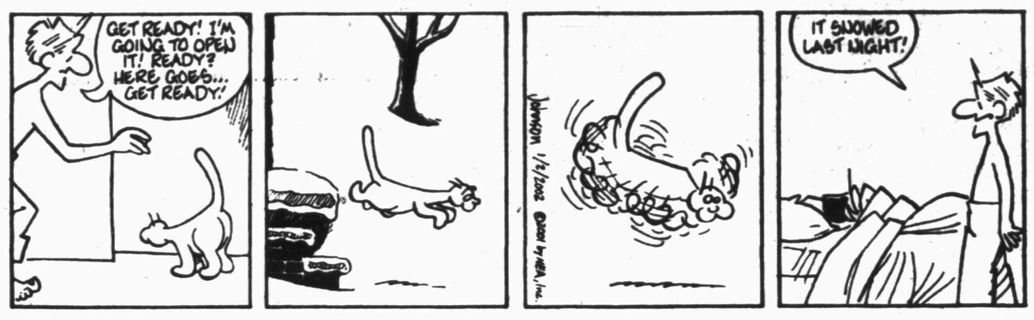
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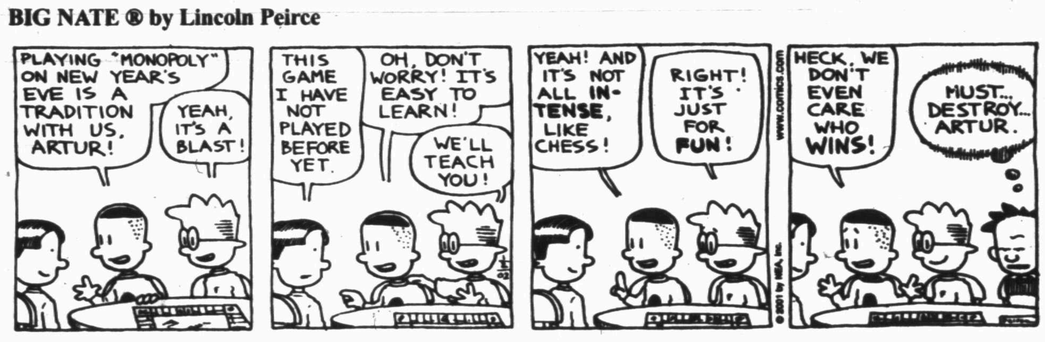
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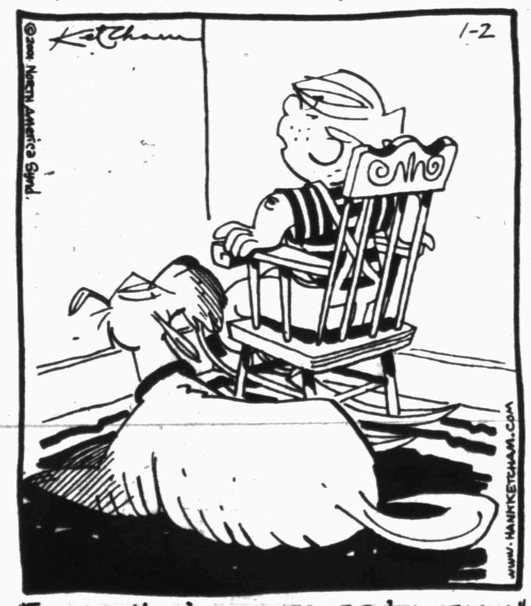
HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Maybe I'd better get going soon."

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION DIDN'T LAST LONG."

Release in Papers of Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.
Today's clue: Z equals R

'EWF NZE VM AEVZREFHHLCK BNCCVE GF AIBBFAAMIHHR PVCF ICHFAA LE WNA FHFXFCEA VM BVCBFNHXFCE.' — AHFIEW'A NCEWVCR AWNMMFZ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "New Year's: The day when the New Year resolutions begin to resist the old year's habits." — Evan Esar

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Red R… to top…

LUBBOCK (A… building a big lea… half, Texas Tech s… the second half … against Wyoming … losing.

But Tech (11-1) … comeback and … eighth straight w… the Cowboys 90-84…

"I thought two … teams played t… Raider coach Bob… "Us in the firs… Wyoming in the … We have a problem… We're not to… enough at this poi…

Tech managed … after nearly squand… point halftime lead… defense toughened… Raiders' shooting … during a 17-4 C… early in the s… Wyoming (9-4) p… four inside the fina…

Tech, however, … free throws in the… onds to hold off th…

"We thought we… Donta Richardson, … 20 points to lead t…

"We came back … down in the second… road against a tea… playing tough. … thought we had it."

Andre Emmett … points and Kasib …

Gators'…

MIAMI (AP) — T… of Steve Spurrier's … carousel might be t… ous of all.

The Florida coac… day he was pulling … phy runner-up Re… from the starting li… Orange Bowl again… because Grossman … few on the team's se… Miami.

Grossman's repla… be Brock Berlin, wh… considering transfe… University of Miami … doesn't play enough… ly finds himself prep… first college start … night on a mighty bi…

"We're going to p… we think deserve … have earned the ri… Spurrier said.

Spurrier fidgete…

Colle…

By The Associat…
All Times E…
Tuesday, De…
New Orleans …
$750,000…
Colorado State 45, North …

Wednesday, D…
GMAC Bo…
Mobile, Al…
$750,000…
Marshall 64, East Carolina…

Thursday, De…
Tangerine B…
At Orlando, …
$750,000…
Pittsburgh 34, N.C. State …

Tuesday, De…
Blue-Gray Cl…
At Montgomer…
Blue 28, Gray 10
Las Vegas B…
At Las Veg…
$800,000…
Utah 10, Southern Californ…

Thursday, De…
Seattle Bo…
$750,000…
Georgia Tech 24, Stanford…
Independence…
At Shreveport…
$1 million…
Alabama 14, Iowa State 1…

Friday, Dec. …
Galleryfurniture.c…
At Houston…
$750,000…
Texas A&M 28, TCU 9
Music City B…
At Nashville, …
$750,000…
Boston College 20, Georgi…
Holiday Bo…
At San Die…
$2 million…
Texas 47, Washington 43

Saturday, De…
Motor City B…
At Pontiac, M…
$750,000…
Toledo 23, Cincinnati 16
Alamo Bo…
At San Anto…
$1.2 millio…
Iowa 19, Texas Tech 16
Insight.com B…
At Phoeni…
$750,000…

SPORTS

Red Raiders hold on to topple Wyoming

LUBBOCK (AP) — After building a big lead in the first half, Texas Tech seemed to play the second half of its game against Wyoming as if to avoid losing.

But Tech (11-1) fended off a comeback and notched its eighth straight win, defeating the Cowboys 90-84 on Tuesday.

"I thought two really good teams played today," Red Raider coach Bob Knight said. "Us in the first half, and Wyoming in the second half. We have a problem with leads. We're not tough-minded enough at this point."

Tech managed to hang on after nearly squandering an 18-point halftime lead. Wyoming's defense toughened and the Red Raiders' shooting turned cold during a 17-4 Cowboys run early in the second half. Wyoming (9-4) pulled within four inside the final minute.

Tech, however, made 6-of-8 free throws in the final 30 seconds to hold off the Cowboys.

"We thought we had it," said Donta Richardson, who scored 20 points to lead the Cowboys. "We came back from 17, 18 down in the second half on the road against a team that was playing tough. We really thought we had it."

Andre Emmett scored 27 points and Kasib Powell added 17 and seven assists for Tech. Emmett, though, got no kudos for his play from Knight.

"I can take you through the film and show you how he gave up 27 points on defense, and we can't have that," Knight said.

Knight was so upset at his team's second half that he did not send any players to postgame interviews, instead having them watch film in the locker room.

"We didn't get a lot done that was good," Knight said. "We had guys standing around in the second half. Winning it giving up 50 points in the half is not good."

Wyoming's run-and-gun offense heated up early in the second half, narrowing the gap to 13 at 62-49 after just 6 minutes.

"We played very aggressively," Cowboys coach Steve McClain said. "We just need to find a way to do that for 40 minutes to win in an environment like this."

Will Chavis scored 16 points and Andy Ellis added 10 for Texas Tech. Marcus Bailey added 17 and had 11 rebounds for the Cowboys.

Tech's biggest lead, 21, came in the first half. The Red Raiders led 52-34 at halftime.

Tech begins Big 12 play Sunday against Kansas State.

Gators' starting QB benched

MIAMI (AP) — The latest turn of Steve Spurrier's quarterback carousel might be the most curious of all.

The Florida coach said Tuesday he was pulling Heisman Trophy runner-up Rex Grossman from the starting lineup for the Orange Bowl against Maryland because Grossman missed curfew on the team's second night in Miami.

Grossman's replacement will be Brock Berlin, who is strongly considering transferring to the University of Miami because he doesn't play enough. He suddenly finds himself preparing for his first college start Wednesday night on a mighty big stage.

"We're going to play the guys we think deserve to play and have earned the right to play," Spurrier said.

Spurrier fidgeted his way through a 20-minute news conference that, as always with the outspoken coach, made for entertaining theater.

He made it clear that Grossman, who started all 11 games this season and came a scant 62 votes short of winning the Heisman, was no sure thing to play when the No. 5 Gators (9-2) face the No. 6 Terrapins (10-1).

"Whoever starts always gets an opportunity," Spurrier said. "It doesn't mean they're going to finish it. But I never start a guy and say, 'If you screw up, you're out the next series.' It takes a bunch of screw-ups to take a guy out."

But clearly, through his 12 seasons at Florida, Spurrier never has been shy with the hook.

Also missing curfew were starting defensive lineman Bobby McCray, backup center David Jorgensen and two other players.

College Bowl Schedule

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

Tuesday, Dec. 18
New Orleans Bowl
$750,000
Colorado State 45, North Texas 20

Wednesday, Dec. 19
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
$750,000
Marshall 64, East Carolina 61, 2OT

Thursday, Dec. 20
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$750,000
Pittsburgh 34, N.C. State 19

Tuesday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue 28, Gray 10
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
$800,000
Utah 10, Southern California 6

Thursday, Dec. 27
Seattle Bowl
$750,000
Georgia Tech 24, Stanford 14
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
$1 million
Alabama 14, Iowa State 13

Friday, Dec. 28
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
$750,000
Texas A&M 28, TCU 9
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$750,000
Boston College 20, Georgia 16
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
$2 million
Texas 47, Washington 43

Saturday, Dec. 29
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
$750,000
Toledo 23, Cincinnati 16
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
$1.2 million
Iowa 19, Texas Tech 16
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
$750,000
Syracuse 26, Kansas State 3

Monday, Dec. 31
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
$750,000
Clemson 49, Louisiana Tech 24
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
$1 million
Washington State 33, Purdue 27
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
$750,000
Michigan State 44, Fresno State 35
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
$1.3 million
Louisville 28, Brigham Young 10
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
$1.8 million
North Carolina 16, Auburn 10

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
$2.2 million
South Carolina 31, Ohio State 28
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
$2 million
Oklahoma 10, Arkansas 3
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
$1.4 million
Florida State 30, Virginia Tech 17
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$4.25 million
Tennessee 45, Michigan 17
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
$11-13 million
Oregon 38, Colorado 16
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
$11-13 million
Louisiana State 47, Illinois 34

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
$11-13 million
Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
$11-13 million
Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Bowl recap...

Ducks demolish Buffs, 38-16

By The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — In an impressive end to his college career, Joey Harrington threw for 350 yards and four touchdowns as No. 2 Oregon routed No. 3 Colorado 38-16 in the Fiesta Bowl on Tuesday.

Samie Parker caught nine passes for 162 yards, including a 79-yard touchdown that put Oregon ahead for good in the second quarter, when the Ducks outgained the Buffaloes 198 yards to 53.

Oregon's Steve Smith set a Fiesta Bowl record with three interceptions, and the Ducks' defense — ranked 81st in NCAA Division I — shut down Colorado's running game.

The Pac-10 champions had a 500-328 advantage in total yards, 150-49 on the ground.

The Ducks (11-1) will root for Nebraska in the Rose Bowl on Thursday, hoping the Cornhuskers upset top-ranked Miami in the Bowl Championship Series title game.

If Nebraska wins, Oregon could be voted the national champion in The Associated Press media poll. The coaches' poll automatically crowns the winner of the BCS game.

It was the worst bowl loss ever for the Buffaloes (10-3).

Sugar Bowl
No. 12 LSU 47,
No. 7 Illinois 34

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Domanick Davis ran for four touchdowns, Josh Reed caught two scoring passes from Rohan Davey and No. 12 LSU beat No. 7 Illinois in the highest-scoring Sugar Bowl ever.

The Tigers (10-3) won their school-record fifth straight bowl. Ahead 27-0 in the second quarter, they held on despite four TD passes by Kurt Kittner.

Davis starred while starting in place of injured star LaBrandon Toefield, gaining 122 yards on 28 carries.

Reed, an All-American, caught 14 passes for a Sugar Bowl-record 239 yards. A junior, the Biletnikoff Award winner as the nation's top receiver scored on grabs of 32 and 5 yards.

Davey closed out his career by winning the MVP award. He was 31-of-53 for 444 yards and three TDs, guiding an offense that racked up 595 yards.

Kittner tried to rally Illinois, throwing two TD passes to Brandon Lloyd in the third quarter and another to Walter Young in the fourth.

Outback Bowl
No. 14 South Carolina 31,
No. 22 Ohio St. 28

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Daniel Weaver's 42-yard field goal with no time left barely cleared the crossbar, giving South Carolina the win in the Outback Bowl.

The Gamecocks (9-3) blew a 28-0 lead. But Ohio State's Steve Bellisari, playing for the first time since his November arrest and suspension on drunken-driving charges, was intercepted by Sheldon Brown. Brown's return to Ohio State's 29 with 23 seconds left set up Weaver's kick, sending the Gamecocks to their second straight Outback victory.

Phil Petty, the game's MVP, threw for 227 yards and two touchdowns, and Andrew Pinnock scored twice for South Carolina.

Bellisari, who was 21-of-35 for 320 yards, brought the Buckeyes (7-5) back. He ran for a 2-yard score to close the third quarter, then hit Darrell Sanders with a 16-yard TD pass with 10:18 to go that cut the lead in half.

Jonathan Wells' 1-yard run made it 28-21 with 5:02 to go. Ohio State got the ball back on its 11 with 3:56 to play and Bellisari was magnificent. He went 6-of-6 for 86 yards, tying the game on Sanders' 9-yard catch.

Then with a chance to win after Cie Grant intercepted Petty with 1:12 left, Bellisari's long pass was picked off by Brown, whose twisting, cutback 37-yard return set up Weaver's winning kick.

Cotton Bowl
No. 10 Oklahoma 10,
Arkansas 3

DALLAS (AP) — Although they weren't playing in the Rose Bowl, the Oklahoma Sooners sure showed a national championship-caliber defense.

The No. 10 Sooners tied a school record with nine sacks and Rocky Calmus made 11 tackles and recovered a late fumble, leading Oklahoma over Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl.

The Sooners (11-2), who might have been able to defend their national championship with a better offense, didn't get much this time, either — only a 1-yard touchdown run by Nate Hybl in the first quarter and a 32-yard field goal by Tim Duncan to open the second half.

But the OU defense made that lead seem insurmountable. The Razorbacks (7-5) gained only 50 yards on 55 plays and made just six first downs, two by penalties.

Hybl set a Cotton Bowl record with 24 completions, most on short passes. He finished 24-of-32 for 175 yards.

Oklahoma's sacks, which cost Arkansas 55 yards, were its most in a bowl and matched the most in any game. Roy Williams, Jimmy Wilkerson and Brandon Moore each had two sacks. Williams had only two all season while Moore had none.

Gator Bowl
No. 24 Florida State 30,
No. 15 Virginia Tech 17

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Bobby Bowden matched Bear Bryant's victory total, leading No. 24 Florida State past No. 15 Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

Chris Rix, a redshirt freshman almost benched by Bowden during the year, made the play of the day when he wrist-flicked a pass that Javon Walker turned into a 77-yard touchdown to give the Seminoles the lead for good.

The pass, which came as Rix was being leveled by a Hokies blitz, sparked a 17-point fourth quarter that allowed the Seminoles (8-4) to put the Hokies (8-4) away, much like they had done in the 1999 Sugar Bowl.

Bowden will begin next season with 323 career victories, tied with the longtime Alabama coach and four behind Penn State's Joe Paterno in Division I-A history.

Citrus Bowl
No. 8 Tennessee 45,
No. 17 Michigan 17

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Casey Clausen helped end No. 8 Tennessee's bowl slump, and No. 17 Michigan couldn't do anything to stop him.

Clausen threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more Tuesday in the Volunteers' romp over the Wolverines in the Citrus Bowl.

Clausen who completed 26 of 34 passes for a career-high 393 yards, threw two touchdown passes to Kelley Washington and connected on a 64-yarder with Jason Witten for Tennessee (11-2). During one stretch in the second half, he completed 10 straight passes.

Local Schedule

THURSDAY

Basketball: Plainview at Snyder varsity and JV girls, 6 and 7:30.

Basketball: Plainview at Snyder JV and varsity boys, 6 and 7:30.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity and JV girls at Frenship, 6 and 7:30.

Basketball: Snyder JV and varsity boys at Frenship, 6 and 7:30.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
New Jersey	19	10	.655	—
Boston	18	11	.621	1
Washington	16	14	.533	3½
Orlando	15	17	.469	5½
New York	13	17	.433	6½
Philadelphia	12	18	.400	7½
Miami	6	23	.207	13
Central Division				
Milwaukee	18	10	.643	—
Indiana	18	15	.545	2½
Detroit	15	13	.536	3
Toronto	16	14	.533	3
Charlotte	13	17	.433	6
Cleveland	12	18	.400	7
Atlanta	11	19	.367	8
Chicago	6	23	.207	12½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	21	7	.750	—
Dallas	21	9	.700	1
Minnesota	20	9	.690	1½
Utah	16	15	.516	6½
Denver	10	19	.345	11½
Memphis	9	21	.300	13
Houston	9	22	.290	13½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	21	6	.778	—
Sacramento	23	9	.719	½
Phoenix	18	13	.581	5
L.A. Clippers	16	14	.533	6½
Seattle	16	15	.516	7
Portland	13	17	.433	9½
Golden State	12	18	.400	10½

Tuesday's Game
L.A. Clippers 112, Portland 97

Wednesday's Games
Orlando at Boston, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Memphis at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Golden State at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Dallas at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

National Football League

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
x-New England	10	5	0	.667	333	266
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	310	283
N.Y. Jets	9	6	0	.600	284	273
Indianapolis	5	10	0	.333	384	476
Buffalo	3	12	0	.200	258	386
Central						
y-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	324	205
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	284	262
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	278	291
Tennessee	7	8	0	.467	315	365
Jacksonville	6	9	0	.400	281	253
Cincinnati	5	10	0	.333	203	288
West						
y-Oakland	10	5	0	.667	377	303
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	280	306
Denver	8	7	0	.533	330	310
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	302	323
San Diego	5	11	0	.312	332	321
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
y-Philadelphia	10	5	0	.667	326	195
N.Y. Giants	7	8	0	.467	269	267
Washington	7	8	0	.467	236	286
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	278	323
Dallas	5	10	0	.333	236	323
Central						
x-Chicago	12	3	0	.800	305	190
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	356	241
x-Tampa Bay	9	6	0	.600	311	263
Minnesota	5	10	0	.333	287	371
Detroit	1	14	0	.067	255	414
West						
y-St. Louis	13	2	0	.867	472	260
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	371	282
Atlanta	7	8	0	.467	278	346
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	333	371
Carolina	1	14	0	.067	247	372

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Game
Tampa Bay 22, Baltimore 10

Sunday's Games
Buffalo 14, N.Y. Jets 9
Miami 21, Atlanta 14
Chicago 24, Detroit 0
Arizona 30, Carolina 7
Dallas 27, San Francisco 21
Green Bay 24, Minnesota 13
Cleveland 41, Tennessee 38
Kansas City 30, Jacksonville 26
St. Louis 42, Indianapolis 17
Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 23, OT
Philadelphia 24, N.Y. Giants 21
Seattle 25, San Diego 22
Denver 23, Oakland 17
Washington 40, New Orleans 10
Open: New England

Sunday, Jan. 6
Denver at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
New England at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 4:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 8:30 p.m.
Open: San Diego

Monday, Jan. 7
New Orleans at Baltimore, 9 p.m.

End Regular Season

Sports Briefs

Former Tech player arrested

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Darvin Ham of the Milwaukee Bucks was arrested on what police said was suspicion of violence against his wife.

The 6-foot-7, 240-pound forward was cited on suspicion of domestic violence-battery, a misdemeanor, at about midnight Monday at a Milwaukee home, Lt. John Andrews said. Andrews was unsure who made the report and did not know the circumstances of what happened.

Ham paid a $500 cash bail and was released.

Scottie Pippen reactivated

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Portland Trail Blazers forward Scottie Pippen, who missed 10 games with a right knee contusion, was activated.

Pippen went on the injured list for the second time this season Dec. 14. He has started just two games since Nov. 15.

Notre Dame announces Willingham

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — When he learned three weeks ago that Notre Dame had hired George O'Leary as its football coach, Tyrone Willingham told Irish athletic director Kevin White he had made a mistake.

White finally took the Stanford coach's advice and signed him to a six-year deal Monday night.

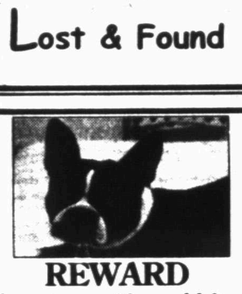
White recounted the conversation as he introduced Willingham, the first black head coach in any sport at Notre Dame, and just one of four black coaches at Division I-A.

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National

Chica

CHICAGO (AP) - night, Al Hanna tru down a pimple of a pares to scale the tain on Earth.

Hanna is closing birthday — and an at setting the recor the oldest person to Everest.

He is more than older than Sherman necticut was when record at age 64 las

"Everybody sa wrong with golf?" s

East to sol

EAST ST. LOUIS Delores Turner ha to cope with the questions about the 33-year-old daug body was found vacant lot nearly t — she simply does

But Turner's grandson isn't so u about the killing o Seriece Johnson.

"He wants to k this," Turner said interview. "I say it if we find out, knows."

Answers have come in the death and 11 other wome ies were found sinc impoverished city rounding metropo stretches across th River into St. Louis

Until recently, Louis Police Dep turned down offers help investigate insisting on solvi alone and making But the departme chief now, who with the FBI, Illino and the St. Louis a Mo., police on the

"There is someb people out there said Chief Delbert year department took over in Septe ally, they're going

Authorities be made progress in whether the dea work of a single se multiple killers wh same type of victi women who sell their drug or alcoh

Police say they in four of the killi ing Johnson's — bodies were foun Louis. The suspec won't identify, is n an unrelated cha tors are still tryin whether the othe linked in any way.

Marion insists h department — un overburdened — task. But he adm have the staff to as the cases full-time bly wouldn't if he are drying up.

The cash-strap

Movie mog is heavily d

LOS ANGELES toric Hollywood a plex built by mov L. Lasky in 1917 a by Charlie Chap damaged Tuesda

The vacant fou Apartments is th ment building Boulevard, city hi

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Chicago man trains to climb 'Everest'

CHICAGO (AP) — Night after night, Al Hanna trudges up and down a pimple of a hill as he prepares to scale the tallest mountain on Earth.

Hanna is closing in on his 72nd birthday — and another attempt at setting the record to become the oldest person to climb Mount Everest.

He is more than seven years older than Sherman Bull of Connecticut was when he set the record at age 64 last year.

"Everybody says, 'What's wrong with golf?'" says Hanna.

"I've got three lawyers and they all threaten to have me committed," he jokes. "My wife, she just rolls her eyes."

But Hanna is always out on the hill, with a 60-pound pack of weights strapped to his 5-foot-4, 140-pound frame.

Five days a week, for three hours a day between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m., he makes his slow march. He climbs to the top of the hill in Chicago's Lincoln Park as many as 50 times a day.

Those who know both mountain climbing and Hanna are impressed.

"I don't know if there is another person who does that kind of day-in-and-day-out rigorous training that isn't a professional mountaineer," said Gordon Janow, of Alpine Ascents International, a Seattle-based guide service.

Vernon Tejas, an Anchorage-based climbing guide who has climbed with Hanna and will scale Everest with him in May, agrees. "I have never had a climber so consistent and who pushes himself so hard as this man," said Tejas.

Hanna took up climbing when he was 58, he said, "because I felt stale." That led to a goal to climb to the top of the highest peak on every continent. Except for Mount Everest, he's made it up every one.

Hanna has tried and failed to scale Everest three times. But each time he got higher. On his last climb, in 2000, he got to within 300 feet of the 29,035-foot summit in Nepal before turning around.

"I think we could have made it," said Tejas, who made the climb with Hanna. "He said he thought he could make it but wasn't sure he could make it back down."

While training, Hanna said he sometimes shares the hill during summer months with what he calls the "night crazies," people who view the area as kind of an open-air saloon.

They talk to him and escort him up and down the hill a few times, but for the most part they don't bother him. "Because I look so strange with this big pack, I think they're more afraid of me than I am of them," he said.

There also is the occasional visit from curious, flashlight-wielding police officers.

Despite his relentless pursuit of the peak, Hanna said he will quit after his next attempt.

"I'm tired of getting up at 1 in the morning to climb the hill with the night people," he said.

Another reason is the cost. Between the plane tickets, hotel rooms, meals and other expenses, the cost of just getting to and from Mount Everest runs into the thousands of dollars. And the ascent itself, said Tejas, comes with a price tag of about $65,000.

Hanna, who owns a mortgage banking company in Chicago, said there also is the cost incurred in leaving his job for two months to climb a mountain.

Hanna's schedule gives him just enough time to work, climb the hill and do countless sit-ups and push-ups. He sleeps four hours before his daily hikes and another two when he gets home. "I'm sleep starved," he said.

East St. Louis police struggle to solve deaths of 12 women

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (AP) — Delores Turner has found a way to cope with the unanswered questions about the death of her 33-year-old daughter, whose body was found dumped in a vacant lot nearly two years ago — she simply doesn't ask them.

But Turner's 16-year-old grandson isn't so understanding about the killing of his mother, Seriece Johnson.

"He wants to know who did this," Turner said in a recent interview. "I say it doesn't matter if we find out, because God knows."

Answers have been slow to come in the deaths of Johnson and 11 other women whose bodies were found since 1999 in this impoverished city or the surrounding metropolitan area that stretches across the Mississippi River into St. Louis.

Until recently, the East St. Louis Police Department had turned down offers by the FBI to help investigate the deaths, insisting on solving the crimes alone and making little headway. But the department has a new chief now, who gladly works with the FBI, Illinois State Police and the St. Louis and St. Charles, Mo., police on the cases.

"There is somebody or several people out there killing folks," said Chief Delbert Marion, a 24-year department veteran who took over in September. "Eventually, they're going to get caught."

Authorities believe they've made progress in determining whether the deaths were the work of a single serial killer or of multiple killers who prey on the same type of victim: poor black women who sell sex to support their drug or alcohol habits.

Police say they have a suspect in four of the killings — including Johnson's — in which the bodies were found in East St. Louis. The suspect, whom police won't identify, is now in prison on an unrelated charge. Investigators are still trying to determine whether the other killings are linked in any way.

Marion insists his beleaguered department — underfunded and overburdened — is up to the task. But he admits he doesn't have the staff to assign anyone to the cases full-time — and probably wouldn't if he did, since leads are drying up.

The cash-strapped city of 31,000 people has shrunk its police department from more than 90 officers three years ago to 61 today, Marion said, while the population and high crime rate haven't diminished.

"If we had more police officers patrolling the streets, people wouldn't come here and feel they can get away with dumping bodies," Mayor Debra Powell said.

At first, the deaths drew little attention. In a city plagued by drugs and violence, the discovery of the first decomposed body in an abandoned house in November 1999 hardly seemed out of the ordinary. Police say the victim was a drug user who frequented dangerous areas.

But the gruesome discoveries continued, within about a 10-mile radius. The bodies of two more women, one of them Johnson, were found three months later under a train trestle on the other side of town. Two more were found months after that nearby — one by a dog that was seen chewing on a human bone.

One was found in St. Louis; two more a few miles away in St. Charles. Another was found in Washington Park, close enough to this city that the East St. Louis Police Department is investigating the death.

There are similarities. Eleven of the 12 women were black. Each was a heavy drug user or drinker, police say, and most sold sex when they needed money. But none was a prostitute in a conventional way, said Lt. Ron Henderson, head of the homicide division in the St. Louis Police Department.

That makes the crimes harder to solve, Henderson said, because the victims didn't have a pimp or a network of other prostitutes to keep track of them.

Some of the women were killed in similar ways, by strangulation or a blow to the head; in many cases, the bodies were too decomposed to tell. Some had ligature marks on wrists or ankles. Some had been stuffed into trash bags; a few were found only feet apart.

St. Charles Sheriff's Lt. Dave Kaiser said it's been hard finding witnesses to cooperate — even if they knew the victims. "These murders don't seem to worry them," he said.

Equally puzzling is why East St. Louis police didn't work with other authorities earlier in the investigation.

The mayor says former Chief J.W. Cowan never needed the FBI's help because he was making progress on his own. She declined to describe that progress, saying to do so would compromise the investigation. Cowan, now retired, could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

The man who said he made the offer, FBI agent Reggie Joseph, has said he doesn't know why Cowan never took him up on it.

The FBI's acting agent in charge of its Fairview Heights office, Matt Iskrzycki, won't discuss the past, either. "We're continuing to help, that's all I can say," Iskrzycki said.

Minor arrested for consuming alcohol

Arrests

A 17-year-old man was taken into custody at 1 a.m. today on U.S. 84 for failure to identify himself and consuming alcohol as a minor.

Officers arrested a 34-year-old man in the 1300 block of 26th Street Tuesday on an outstanding warrant for theft by check.

Close patrol

Anna Hoxsey requested a close patrol of her residence on 29th Street after finding the screens on her windows removed.

Theresa Dupree reported several juveniles prowling around Friendly Flower Shop Tuesday afternoon. Officers initiated a close patrol.

Renee Wright requested officers check the area in the 2300 block of Ave. I at 11 p.m. Tuesday after seeing someone walk through her yard.

A woman requested a close patrol near the Purple Sage Motel after a man told her his cat was stuck in a tree and he was looking for a shotgun.

Movie mogul's home is heavily damaged

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A historic Hollywood apartment complex built by movie mogul Jesse L. Lasky in 1917 and once owned by Charlie Chaplin was heavily damaged Tuesday by a blaze.

The vacant four-story Hillview Apartments is the oldest apartment building on Hollywood Boulevard, city historians say.

Lasky, who founded one of Hollywood's first movie studios, Famous Players-Lasky, built the Mediterranean-style apartment building to provide housing for his actors, according to Historic Resources Group, a California-based preservation firm.

"Everybody that was anybody in the silent (movie) days lived there," Douglas Carlton, director of Keep Old Los Angeles, a local historical society, said Tuesday night.

The building, located between the historic Pantages and El Capitan theaters, was long past its glory days by the time it was abandoned in 1994. Lasky died in 1958.

The cause of the fire, which caused an estimated $500,000 damage, was under investigation.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	22.40	21.62	21.66	—.64
AOL TimeWrn	32.32	31.05	31.07	—1.03
AT&T Corp s	18.49	18.26	18.37	+ .23
Albertsons	31.59	31.18	31.34	—.15
Alltel	61.90	61.30	61.57	—.16
AmEl Pw	43.36	42.50	43.20	—.33
AnderkPtr	55.90	54.35	55.04	—1.81
ATMOS Egy	21.25	20.88	20.98	—.27
Avtell	7.69	7.14	7.14	—.41
BP PLC	46.35	45.85	46.15	—.36
BakerHughes	36.00	34.85	35.12	—1.35
Bank of Amer	62.50	62.11	62.17	—.76
BellSouth	38.52	38.00	38.45	+ .30
vjBeth Steel	.54	.47	.52	+ .07
BurNoSFe	29.09	28.40	28.93	+ .40
Caterpillar	52.60	51.52	51.75	—.50
ChevronTex	69.61	67.91	68.38	—1.25
Citigroup	50.35	49.91	50.23	—.25
CocaCola	46.83	46.27	46.34	—.81
ColgatePal	57.26	56.65	56.85	—.90
ComclMetals	35.28	34.69	34.69	—.29
Cooperin	35.10	34.88	35.00	+ .08
DaimlrChry	43.60	43.08	43.30	+ 1.63
DeltaAirl	29.50	28.66	28.67	—.59
Dillards Inc	16.35	15.75	15.99	—.01
DowChem	34.13	33.77	33.90	+ .12
DuPont	42.85	42.32	42.52	+ .01
EastmanChem	39.02	38.51	38.93	—.09
EstKodak	29.44	28.63	28.79	—.64
EDS Corp	68.49	66.51	66.70	—1.85
Entergy	38.95	38.25	38.90	—.21
ExxonMobil s	39.44	38.90	39.41	+ .11
FstBkAm	31.60	31.52	31.52	
FootLocker	15.80	15.30	15.46	—.19
GenDynam	79.75	78.76	78.90	—.76
GenElec	40.50	40.12	40.38	+ .30
GenMills	51.73	50.76	50.78	—1.22
GenMotors	48.80	48.32	48.58	—.04
GaPacGP	27.75	27.37	27.56	—.05
Goodrich	26.87	26.30	26.30	—.32
Goodyear s	23.77	23.31	23.43	—.38
GtAtlPac	24.00	23.50	23.57	—.21
Halliburtn	13.07	12.51	12.53	—.57
Hanson ADS	33.99	33.70	33.99	+ .37
HartfdHanks	28.11	27.71	27.72	—.45
HomeDepot	51.01	49.92	49.93	—1.08
Honeywellntl	33.95	33.20	33.28	—.54
IBM	121.37	119.81	120.06	—.90
IntlPaper	40.51	39.95	40.15	—.20
JohnsonJn s	59.30	57.58	57.76	—1.34
K mart	5.99	4.64	4.74	—.72
KinderMorg	55.50	54.13	54.65	—1.04
Kroger Co	20.81	20.48	20.57	—.30
LockheedM	46.55	45.91	46.01	—.66
Lowes Cos s	46.12	44.80	44.87	—1.54
Lubys	5.75	5.56	5.60	—.11
LucentTech	6.58	6.40	6.50	+ .20
MarathonOil	30.00	29.40	29.60	—.40
MayDeptStr	36.54	35.50	35.93	—1.05
Medtronic	50.69	49.50	49.57	—1.58
Motorola	15.36	14.92	15.29	+ .27
NCR Corp	37.01	36.80	36.90	+ .04
Navistar	39.61	39.15	39.25	—.25
PNM Resrcs	28.05	27.34	27.34	—.61
Penney JC	27.09	26.20	26.31	—.59
PepBoys	17.40	16.50	16.52	—.63
PepsiCo	48.50	47.96	48.50	—.19
Pharmacia	42.30	41.25	41.70	—.95
PhelpDodge	32.21	31.30	31.45	—.95
PhilipPet	60.16	58.85	59.24	—1.02
PilgrmPrd B	13.57	13.31	13.40	—.15
Praxair	55.75	54.30	54.55	—.70
ProctGamb	78.90	78.02	78.43	—.70
RadioShack	30.80	29.25	29.72	—.38
ReliantEngy	27.10	25.90	26.21	—.31
RoyalDut	49.24	48.64	49.08	+ .06
SBC Comm	39.39	38.95	39.39	+ .22
SaraLee	22.04	21.60	21.65	—.58
Scripps EW	66.92	66.20	66.32	+ .32
SearsRoeb	47.95	46.60	46.70	—.94
ShrwinW	27.51	26.93	27.08	—.42
SouthernCo s	25.28	24.75	24.99	—.36
SwstAirl s	18.62	18.17	18.38	—.10
SprintFON	20.47	19.97	20.11	+ .03
SprintPCS	24.60	24.10	24.47	+ .06
Sunoco Inc	37.39	36.56	36.76	—.58
TXU Corp	47.15	46.27	46.65	—.50
TempleInland	56.72	55.67	55.94	—.79
Texlnd	36.90	35.40	35.55	—1.35
TexasInst	28.95	28.26	28.33	+ .33
Textron	41.74	41.25	41.47	+ .01
TricomGlbR	49.70	48.50	48.59	—.61
TrinityInds	27.33	26.40	26.48	—.69
TylerTech	4.60	4.49	4.49	—.08
UnionPacif	57.22	56.65	56.85	—.15
USSteel	18.12	17.62	17.66	—.45
UnitedTech	65.06	63.92	64.25	—.38
Unocal	36.00	34.93	35.09	—.98
VerizonComm	48.20	47.45	48.01	+ .55
WalMart	57.75	56.90	56.90	—.65
WellsFargo	43.38	43.05	43.21	—.26
WstnGasRs	31.94	31.19	31.50	—.82
WinnDixie	14.35	14.14	14.24	—.01
Xerox Cp	10.50	10.12	10.31	—.11

Birth control pill hormone protects against cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Progestin is the ingredient in oral contraceptive pills that provides the highest level of protection against ovarian cancer, researchers have found.

Analysis by the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center of a 20-year-old study that showed the pill can help prevent ovarian cancer found that the cancer risk was cut by about 50 percent in all women taking pills containing the hormones estrogen and progestin.

However, women who took pills containing high levels of progestin reduced their risk of ovarian cancer by an additional 50 percent, said Patricia G. Moorman, a Duke University Medical Center researcher and the co-author of a study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

"The take-home message from this study is that oral contraceptives are protective against ovarian cancer and our finding that the high progestin potency effect is a scientific (result) that might lead to new protective" drugs against ovarian cancer, Moorman said.

The study is based on a re-examination of the medical and oral contraceptive histories of more than 3,200 women who took part in a study project conducted from 1980 to 1982. The group included 390 women who developed ovarian cancer and 2,865 who did not. It compared the ovarian cancer outcome among women who did not take the pill and with women who took different formulations of the pill.

The groups included women who took no pills; those who took pills high in both estrogen and progestin; women who took pills high in one or the other of the hormones, and women who took pills with low levels of both hormones.

Moorman said earlier results had proven that the pill protects against ovarian cancer, while the new study shows which of two hormones in the pill, estrogen and progestin, are most protective.

She said the study "should lead to the investigation of progestin as a chemopreventative agent for ovarian cancer."

Moorman said the pills used by the women in the study 20 years ago are not now commonly available. She said birth control pill formulations have changed over the years as research showed that pills with lower hormone levels were effective contraceptives. Pills with lower levels of hormone generally have fewer side effects.

Ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cancer among women, excluding the skin cancers. It accounts for about 4 percent of all cancers in women, with more than 23,000 new cases diagnosed in 2001, according to the American Cancer Society.1/4

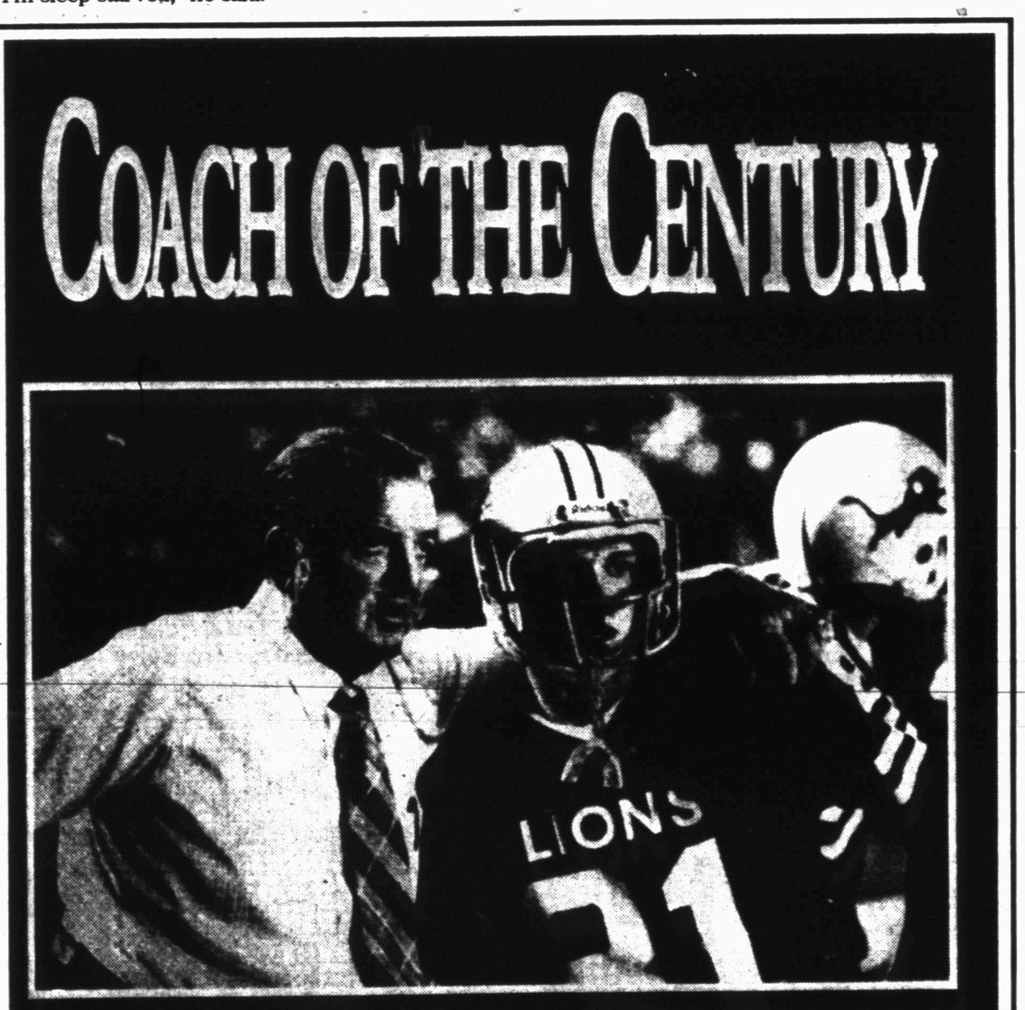
Nearly 14,000 American women died of ovarian cancer in 2001.

Dead tree falls on car, four of five killed

GREENFIELD, Ind. (AP) — A dead tree fell on top of a passing car, crushing the passenger compartment and killing a minister, his wife and two of their children.

"No wind. No storm. The chances of that tree falling at the time they were directly underneath it are astronomical," said Hancock County Sheriff Nick Gulling.

Authorities identified those killed in Monday night's accident as Stan Jones, 47, Beth Jones, 39, and their children Tyler, 10, and Lauren, 6. A third child, 4-year-old Emily, survived the accident and was listed in fair condition.



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Job cuts after Sept. 11 send residents in Washington state looking elsewhere

SEATTLE (AP) — Even before Sept. 11, Darlene and David Goodsell were getting fed up with the state of Washington: the traffic, the skyrocketing cost of living, even the famously gray weather.

Then, after the terrorist attacks, David Goodsell learned he was losing his assembly mechanic job at Boeing.

"I am not even looking (for a new job) in Washington state," he said. "We are done with this state."

The Goodsells aren't alone. The aftermath of Sept. 11 will cost Washington state thousands of jobs, burdening a state already struggling with a downturn in the technology sector. Unable to afford the high cost of living and facing one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, many residents say they plan to move.

For those who stay, the outlook is bleak.

"The recession in Washington will last longer than the U.S. recession and be deeper than the U.S. recession," says Chang Mook Sohn, executive director of the state's economic forecast council.

For nearly two decades, Washington state boasted constant expansion, avoiding even the 1990-91 nationwide recession. A combination of promising technology companies and available manufacturing jobs brought a population explosion, driving up the costs of everything from housing to gas and transforming greater Seattle into a glamorous destination.

As the national economy began its latest slide, many economists believed the state would continue to buck the trend, perhaps sputtering but not slipping into recession.

"But after Sept. 11, the whole thing has changed," Sohn says.

If the technology slump and other factors had put the state on the brink, Boeing job cuts are sending it over the edge.

Boeing plans to cut as many as 30,000 jobs by the end of 2002 as a result of the attacks, including as many as 20,000 in commercial airplane plants in the area. What's more, economists believe that for every Boeing job cut, another 1.7 jobs are lost in related supply and retail sectors.

And unlike during previous Boeing layoffs, other industries won't be around to pick up the slack. The state's unemployment rate in November 2001 soared to 6.8 percent — among the highest in the nation — before the Boeing layoffs started to go into effect.

It could be 2004 before Washington state's economy is on the mend, economists say.

Goodsell started work at Boeing in 1997, attracted by generous pay and benefits. Like many of his co-workers, he was part of a family tradition. His father worked there for 15 years, his uncle for 45 years.

In 1999, he was laid off as part of Boeing's last major round of job cuts.

Still, his family wasn't too worried. The state economy was booming, and Darlene Goodsell, 44, went from part-time to full-time at her grocery store job. David Goodsell went back to school for an information technology degree and took various part-time jobs.

Goodsell was convinced he'd be able to get a tech job quickly — until, a year later, the dot-com boom went bust.

Still, good news arrived in August, when Goodsell was recalled to his Boeing job.

"I figured I'd weathered the storm pretty well," he recalled.

Less than three weeks later, early on Sept. 11, he was awakened by a phone call from his wife, who told him to turn on the television. He hit the remote just in time to see the second plane hit the World Trade Center.

"I said, 'Oh my God,'" Goodsell recalled.

That evening, back at work — on an American Airlines Boeing 757, the model used in two of the terrorist attacks — it dawned on him what the attacks would mean to his family.

"I felt like I got hit twice," he said.

First, his country had been attacked by terrorists. A couple of weeks later, he received his layoff notice.

Like countless other Boeing workers, the Goodsells are looking to move to Texas, with the promise of jobs at rival Lockheed Martin Corp. — which is recruiting Boeing workers after beating out Boeing for the Joint Strike Fighter defense contract.

Enron creditor seeks to block insurers' request for data

NEW YORK (AP) — After demanding payment from insurance companies that backed more than $1 billion worth of oil and gas contracts signed by Enron Corp., J.P. Morgan Chase is trying to prevent the insurers from getting details about the transactions.

The New York-based investment bank Sunday filed an objection to a request made by the insurers, who are refusing to honor $1.1 billion in surety bonds and are asking for access to Enron financial records to determine if energy contracts actually existed. The request was filed last month in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York.

J.P. Morgan sought payment of the surety bonds after the collapse of Enron, the Houston-based energy trader that sought protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code Dec. 2.

The payment dispute between the bankers and the insurers is the subject of a separate civil lawsuit taking place in U.S. District Court. The fact that it is now spilling over into the federal bankruptcy court proceedings shows how the interests of Enron's creditors are intertwined.

J.P. Morgan, one of Enron's largest creditors, said the insurers' request was "a fishing expedition" and would only slow down the bankruptcy court proceedings.

The insurance companies involved are: Citigroup Inc.'s Travelers unit; Kemper Insurance Co.'s Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Co.; Allianz AG's Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.; Chubb Corp.'s Federal Insurance Co.; St. Paul Cos.'s Fire and Marine Insurance; CNA Surety Corp.'s Continental Casualty Co.; Safeco Corp's Safeco Insurance Co.; Hartford Financial Services Group Inc.; and Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

The insurers backed a total of $2 billion in transactions. Early last month, they asked J.P. Morgan Chase for details of the contracts before they would pay off all of the surety bonds. All but one of the insurers, Travelers, subsequently asked a bankruptcy court judge in New York to void $1.1 billion worth of the obligations.

As a result, J.P. Morgan had to increase its estimated exposure in the collapse of Enron to $2.6 billion — more than double what it previously acknowledged — with $965 million of that amount tied to surety bond payments.

Travelers may not have joined the other insurers in seeking to void the bond obligations because owner Citigroup is working with J.P. Morgan to try to establish a $1.5 billion financial assistance package for Enron.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2002

It will take adequate time to nurture each opportunity you wish to develop in the year ahead. Be prepared to give each one the necessary attention it needs in order to realize full success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you're counting on others to do things for you today, even if they promised, chances are you'll be disappointed. You can easily take care of everything yourself. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — In arrangements where you handle the funds today, things are likely to go as you planned. If you let another manage the resources, it could be another story.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Try to avoid any discussions on a topic with your mate today where history has told you a quarrel is likely to pop up. Nothing has changed, so why rehash the unresolvable?

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — It's just plain foolish to deprive yourself of useful information today just because you lack respect for the source. This flawed judgment could cost you valuable time; at least listen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You'd be wise today to take with a grain of salt any proposals presented to you today where you're suppose to get something for nothing. Somebody will, but it isn't apt to be you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Adding fresh fuel to an already smoldering domestic problem today could cause it to turn into a roaring fire. Let sleeping dogs lie, and don't allow anyone else to wake up that hound.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Verify all disclosures in your commercial dealings today before you believe any sales pitch. The one thing you can't afford to be is gullible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you run your financial affairs today based upon what you anticipate to come in, it may be a major mistake. The only cash you can bank on is that which you have in your hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It's a very positive thing to have a good opinion of yourself, but it would be wise to let any overt praise for your abilities today come from the lips of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — If you hope to learn anything in conversations with your friends today, you need to be more of a listener than a talker. The secrets that are apt to come out could be yours, not theirs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There's plenty for you to do today to keep your own affairs in order without butting into developments of others where you are not invited. Don't ask for complications.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you try to be all things to all people, it is a futile effort, and today will be no exception. If you want to have a good day, to thine own self be true.

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Miss USA helped cover the Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Miss USA Kandace Krueger, in town this week to help cover the Tournament of Roses parade for CBS, may be back next time with a different play-by-play job in mind: Rose Bowl football analyst.

Thanks to her father, Krueger wants to become a sports commentator when she graduates from Texas A&M this spring with a degree in journalism.

"My dad was a big influence when I was a kid, and you can't grow up in Texas and not be a football fan," she said.

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OR 89¢ EA.

Turner wants to reintroduce swift fox

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Billionaire media mogul Ted Turner wants the state's permission to release rare swift foxes on his 138,000-acre ranch in central South Dakota.

The Turner Endangered Species Fund has asked the state's Animal Industry Board to allow for the release of the threatened animal on Turner's ranch in Stanley and Jones counties.

The Turner group wants to release 180 swift foxes in the next several years. The animals, about the size of house cats, would be trapped in Wyoming and moved to South Dakota.

"It makes sense to try to advance recovery of this important and imperiled component of South Dakota's natural history," said Mike Phillips, director of the Turner fund, a private, nonprofit charity founded in 1997 to help threatened and endangered species.

Swift foxes once were common from Canada to Texas and from Montana to Minnesota. The disappearance of prairies and accidental trapping, shooting and poisoning under programs aimed at wolves and coyotes have contributed to the animal's decline. Also, food sources such as prairie dogs and ground squirrels have fallen in number.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined in 1995 that the swift fox needed protection under the Endangered Species Act but the agency has not had the resources to pursue it.

The tiny foxes are listed as a threatened species in South Dakota. A small native population exists in the southwestern corner of the state.

"The science of the fox project is very solid," Phillips said. "This has the potential to be a winner for everybody."

Some ranchers aren't so sure. Steve Willard of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association said his group's members worry that the release of rare animals eventually could result in additional government restrictions on the use of farm and ranch lands. Other farm-group spokesmen have echoed that sentiment.

"More often than not, those who have voiced opposition are ultimately concerned about prairie dogs or what Ted Turner may or may not also do in South Dakota," Phillips said. "We need people to judge this on its merits."

Ranchers have fought efforts to give federal Endangered Species Act protection to prairie dogs in part because that would restrict land use.

The Turner ranch will focus on controlling coyotes to keep them from eating the swift foxes, Phillips said.

"We do not like being in a situation where we have to select one species over another. But we're more inclined to work on behalf of a rare species at the detriment of a common species," Phillips said.

A Jan. 7 hearing has been scheduled on the request. If the Animal Industry Board approves the Turner group's request, the first foxes could be released late this winter or early spring, Phillips said.

Man who killed parent at hockey game to be tried

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A manslaughter case that has become a national symbol of parental violence at youth sporting events has made its way to a Massachusetts courtroom.

Thomas Junta, 42, was scheduled to go on trial Wednesday for allegedly beating another man to death after arguing at their sons' hockey practice. The scuffle was witnessed by several of the young hockey players, including children of the two men.

Junta faces manslaughter charges in Michael Costin's death at the Burbank Ice Arena in Reading, north of Boston, on July 5, 2000. At least one son of each of the men was expected to testify

Costin, 40, was supervising the hockey practice while Junta watched from the stands. Prosecutors say Junta became enraged when he saw body-checking in what was supposed to be a non-contact scrimmage. The two men argued on the ice, then brawled in a hallway.

Junta left, but returned a few minutes later, and a second fight broke out. Prosecutors allege that Junta pinned Costin down and banged his head against the floor until he lost consciousness. Costin died two days later.

The death drew national attention to the growing number of cases of parental rage at youth sporting events.

Junta, who claims Costin was the aggressor in the fight, will testify in his own defense, according to his lawyer, John O'Connor.

The defense had wanted to introduce Costin's psychological history, including records that showed he was taking antidepressants.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Systolic hypertension may be a challenge

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have had high blood pressure since my early 20s. I was aware of it when I joined the army. I am now 79 and still have it. About 40 years ago, I was put on medication. After all these years and at great expense, my hypertension continues. Over the years, I have taken pills by the bucketful. The readings have stabilized at about 200/65 with a pulse of 48. The bottom figure stays the same, but the top figure sometimes goes as high as 220.

Every time I have my blood pressure taken, the health care provider gets all excited and warns me that I'm going to have a stroke.

I do not drink or smoke, am five feet tall, weigh 155 pounds, avoid salt in my diet, remain active and maintain (otherwise) good health.

What should I do to bring the readings down?

Please don't tell me I'll have a stroke; I already know that!

DEAR READER: This is a fascinating situation about which I'll make a few comments.

First, some people — for unknown reasons — are extremely resistant to systolic hypertension (as opposed to diastolic hypertension, elevation of the bottom figure). Such people, with or without medication, seem to do well with chronic systolic readings of about 180 millimeters of mercury. While you may be at statistical risk of stroke and other cardiovascular complications, your vascular system appears to have adapted to the elevated systolic pressure. Therefore, one might argue to leave well enough alone, continue your present medication and lifestyle and have your pressure regularly monitored.

Second, perhaps your blood pressure readings do not accurately reflect the true pressure in your body. Ordinarily, the vascular bed is a hydraulic system: The pressure in one part is identical to the pressure in the other parts. On occasion, however, congenital (or acquired) arterial blockages may elevate the blood pressure in one arm — but not in the rest of the body. Thus, if your pressure is consistently measured in that one arm, the level will not accurately indicate that the blood pressure is, in fact, completely normal elsewhere. To test for this possibility, ask your doctor to check the blood pressure in both arms and both legs. Normally, the readings should be close to identical.

Third, pure systolic hypertension may be the result of many conditions, such as hyperthyroidism, abnormal communications between arteries and veins (arteriovenous fistula) and a leaky aortic valve. Some elderly people develop systolic hypertension when their aortas (the major artery leading from the heart) become inelastic with age. Consequently, I recommend that you have a blood test for thyroid problems and an arterial study to check the condition of your aorta and vascular tree.

Fourth, changing your medication may help you. In the past, doctors had pitifully few effective drugs to treat hypertension. Today, however, there are dozens to choose from. The newest class of anti-hypertension agents, called angiotensin II receptor blockers, such as losartan and candesartan, has few side effects and might be ideal for you. Your doctor can guide you in this decision.

In summary, although isolated systolic hypertension does not necessarily cause harm, it should be investigated with further testing. In my opinion, you would benefit from a more aggressive approach to your high blood pressure — in particular, by using one or more of the new anti-hypertension medications available.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Cholesterol." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

New mayor of NYC assumes duties

NEW YORK (AP) — Mayor Michael Bloomberg got down to running the city today by reaching out to union leaders, softening the hard-nose negotiating tactics of his predecessor.

As he talked about his plans on the network morning television shows, Bloomberg said his businessman's style will be different than that of his tough-as-nails predecessor Rudolph Giuliani.

"I tend to sit down and talk with people and break bread with people and try to develop relationships. That's always stood me in good stead in the past and that's the way to go forward," he said on CBS's "The Early Show."

On NBC's "Today," Bloomberg said he planned to call police, fire and education union representatives and tell them, "It's time to sit down." All three unions have been operating without a contract for more than a year.

Bloomberg said the city's growing budget crisis in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks may require more inventive solutions to meet workers' needs.

"I think we're going to have to find some ways whether it is payment later on for services now, or adjusting pensions so that people still get their monies," Bloomberg said. He said it may be necessary to cut the size of the uniformed services through attrition.

He also reiterated the promise he made at his New Year's Day inauguration to cut his own staff by 20 percent and urged other city departments to make similar sacrifices.

"If I can do it with my staff and show that we can do things more efficiently, it just gives me a little more leverage to say, 'Hey, you can do it, too,'" he said.

The new mayor's task is even more daunting considering Bloomberg has never held public office.

On Tuesday, Bloomberg urged business owners to stay in New York. "This is no time to leave the Big Apple," he said. "New York is safe, strong, open for business and ready to lead the world in the 21st century."

Bloomberg also said he agreed with Giuliani that a memorial to the nearly 3,000 people lost in the Sept. 11 attack should be the centerpiece of the World Trade Center site. However, he also wants some of the 16-acre site to be used for offices, schools or housing.

Bloomberg also said he would follow through on his campaign promise to make education and affordable housing top priorities, and he suggested he may find room in the budget for Giuliani's $1.6 billion plan to build new baseball stadiums for the New York Mets and New York Yankees.

The 59-year-old Bloomberg, who made his fortune on Wall Street and from the Bloomberg L.P. media company, spent $69 million of his own money in his bid to succeed Giuliani. Bloomberg has said he would take a salary of $1 a year rather than the $195,000 pay.

Populist senator to head Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A populist senator became Argentina's fifth president in two weeks today, pledging to ditch free-market policies that he said had left Argentina "without a peso."

Eduardo Duhalde, a 60-year-old former vice president and two-term governor of the country's richest province, Buenos Aires, donned Argentina's blue-and-white sash of office and raised the golden scepter in an ornate ceremony in the Casa Rosada government palace.

He was chosen by Congress late Tuesday to serve out the term of his unpopular predecessor, Fernando de la Rua, through December 2003.

Today's inauguration ceremony followed a night of protests by an indignant public, exhausted by nearly four years of recession and recent weeks of social unrest. Some Argentines were angry that Duhalde had not been chosen by a popular vote.

"Elections now!" thousands of pot-banging demonstrators chanted as they swarmed onto the capital's streets overnight. By daytime the protests had largely ended.

Duhalde's election was confirmed by 262 lawmakers with 21 against and 18 abstentions in a marathon session of Congress. The legislators also scuttled earlier plans for a March presidential election.

Over the coming days a flurry of announcements of cabinet positions and economic policies was expected.

Duhalde became the fifth president to take office in this economically crippled South American nation of 36 million people since Dec. 21, when de la Rua was ousted by street violence resulting from his belt-tightening policies.

Duhalde has the unenviable task of turning round the wrecked economy that is unable to pay the country's $132 billion public debt and calming Argentina's most serious political and economic crisis in decades.

Obituaries

Edna Davis

1913-2001

Edna Earl Davis, 88, of Snyder died Monday, Dec. 31, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Graveside service for Mrs. Davis is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Rule Cemetery. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired minister of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Edna Davis

Born Nov. 26, 1913 in Rule to Eugene and Lela Florence, she was a homemaker and a member of Colonial Hill Baptist Church. She married Bert Davis on June 1, 1960 in Snyder. They moved to Snyder from Loop in 1978. Mr. Davis died June 12, 1987.

Mrs. Davis was also preceded in death by three sisters, Velma Graham, Thelma Simpson and Estelle Michels; one brother, Thomas Florence; and one son-in-law, Coy Hewitt.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Loretta Hewitt of O'Brien and Patsy and Lanny Covey of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Faye Beasley of Snyder; a sister, Helen Connel of Meridian; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mildred Wilson

1908-2001

COLORADO CITY – Mildred Juanita Wilson, 93, died Monday, Dec. 31, in the Mitchell County Hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Wilson, a retired school teacher, is set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Dunn Cemetery. The Rev. Sammy Elliott will officiate and arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 17, 1908 in Commerce, she married Ewing Wilson on Oct. 12, 1945 in Colorado City. A member of the Calvary Baptist Church, she was a member of the Retired Teachers Association after having taught 40 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Maggie Anderson.

Survivors include her husband, Ewing Wilson of Colorado City; and several nieces and nephews.

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Violet McCormick

1904-2001

Funeral service for Violet Askew McCormick, a resident of Scurry County since 1928, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the East Side Church of Christ with Tom Holcomb, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



McCormick

Mrs. McCormick, 97, died Monday, Dec. 31, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born Sept. 25, 1904 in Indian Territory in Willis, Okla., she married Claude E. McCormick on Feb. 10, 1928 in Sherman. Four days later the couple moved to Abilene and two days later to Camp Springs in Scurry County where Mr. McCormick farmed with his father.

The McCormicks farmed in the Midway community for four years before moving to the Plainview community, east of Snyder in 1933.

The McCormicks, known for helping develop Scurry County, borrowed $75 of a needed $225 to purchase their own business, a Conoco service station seven miles west of Snyder on a dirt road to Lamesa.

Five years later, they built a new service station on the south side of the Lamesa highway and the family lived next door to the business which Mrs. McCormick operated during the day while her husband delivered kerosene and gasoline.

Mrs. McCormick helped sustain the family by planting a garden and staking the family cow in the highway right-of-way.

In 1941, Mr. McCormick became a Cosden subjobber and moved the business into Snyder. Seven years later, they became the Phillips 66 distributor, and with his five sons, founded McCormick and Sons Oil Co. in Snyder and McCormick Oil Co. in Lamesa. The Snyder business is now McCormick Marketing and is being run by third-generation family members.

The station on the Lamesa highway was sold before the oil boom and the McCormicks bought a farm on which oil was discovered.

The family built a home on Avenue A and moved to Snyder in January, 1951. The McCormick home was the first recipient of the Snyder Garden Club's yard of the month in 1993.

Mrs. McCormick was a longtime member of the 25th Street Church of Christ which later became the East Side Church of Christ.

Mr. McCormick died Sept. 13, 1990. She also was preceded in death by her parents, Willie and Octavia Askew; and two brothers.

Survivors include five sons and daughters-in-law, Bob and Billie McCormick, Bill and JoAnn McCormick, and C.E. Jr. and Barbara McCormick, all of Snyder, Beecher and Joye McCormick of Abilene and Keith and Freida McCormick of Woodway; a daughter, Linda Heath of Salado; 16 grandchildren, including Mark McCormick and Marcia Dennis, both of Snyder; 33 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 7 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale.

Emmitt Moore

1983-2001

MIDLAND – Emmitt Moore, the nephew of Kent and Melissa Moore of Snyder, died Sunday, Dec. 30, in a Midland hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Moore, 18, is set for 1 p.m. Thursday in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Darrel Martin officiating. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.



Emmitt Moore

Born April 18, 1983 in Stanton, he was reared in Midland and graduated last spring from Midland High School where he was a member of the band. He had been a member of the Temple Baptist Church since the age of six.

Mr. Moore was employed by Lewellan Construction Co. and he was scheduled to enter the Army Reserves on Jan. 4.

Survivors include his parents, Ray and Sara Moore of Midland; a sister and brother-in-law, Heather and Wesley Kemp of Midland; his grandparents, Elton and Fredna Moore of Bronte and J.D. and Christine Williams of Midland; other aunts and uncles, Keith and Rhonda Greenwood of Midland, Steve and Margie Burg of Mesquite, Pervis and Donna Williams and Wesley Williams, all of Midland; 15 cousins; and numerous other relatives.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

CADA holiday schedule

The Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be closed for the holidays through today.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will have a slated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with work in the E.A. degree.

Weigh Down workshop

Registration remains open for the Weigh Down workshop that begins at 7 p.m. Thursday at His Joy Ministries, 904 26th. Call 573-9615 for further information or to sign up.

Lions Club meetings

The Snyder Lions Club will resume regular meetings at noon Tuesday with a program about the Texas Boys Ranch.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Funeral expense account

An account has been opened at West Texas State Bank for donations to assist in funeral expenses for accident victim Stacy Copeland. Contact Lisa Williams at 573-2980 or Beth Bowen at 573-2670, for additional information.

Windbreak trees

Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for windbreak trees, both evergreen and hardwoods. Call 573-6317.

VFW membership drive

The VFW is conducting its annual membership drive. Membership is restricted to veterans who served overseas in times of conflict or war. For more information, contact the post commander Jim Bailey at 573-5338.

Nurse testing dates

Testing for the next class of the Vocational Nursing program at Western Texas College will be Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, with the last day to interview set for Feb. 2. Classes are scheduled to begin March 4. Potential students must bring a photo ID. To schedule an appointment, call the Counseling Center at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Military support group

Family members, volunteers, friends, and active or inactive soldiers of Scurry County interested in forming a local Military Support Group are asked to contact Dale or Elaine Byrd at 573-8088 after 4 p.m., or e-mail the byrds@ntsonline.net. The purpose of this group is to provide an avenue of mutual support, assistance, community resources, and a network of communication.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Post-holiday border crossings to test new security program

By The Associated Press

Security procedures implemented along the Mexican border since Sept. 11 are being put to the test.

Traditionally, in the first week of a new year, northbound traffic along the border increases and continues for a week, say officials with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

It comes as border guards are under pressure to balance intensified inspections against the continuous flow of people and goods between the United States and Mexico.

Travelers are expected to wait four or more hours during peak times at the busiest ports of entry, such as Laredo.

Even before the coming increase, community and commerce leaders have complained the government needs to do more to expedite inspections at ports of entry.

An INS official said he wasn't sure what to expect because the federal government never has carried out its highest level of inspections on Christmas traffic.

There's no plan for the inspectors to let down their guard, said Denton Lankford, spokesman for the INS San Antonio district office, which includes Laredo, Eagle Pass and Del Rio.

"Everybody coming across will be scrutinized," he said. "Common sense would tell you that there would be wait times longer than in the past."

Extra lanes will be open around the clock starting Thursday, Lankford said. Citing security concerns, he would not discuss specifics of the inspections.

It is tough to predict how long waits will be, because it is unclear how many people went to Mexico for the holidays, Lankford said.

Some people may have decided not to make the annual pilgrimage to avoid delays caused by the increased inspections.

Delays were seen as a major cause in the 24 percent decline in the number of people who entered the country from Mexico in October compared with the same month in 2000.

An estimate from the Mexican government on how many travelers headed south wasn't available this week. In December, Sergio Casanueva, director of Mexico's federal program to safeguard expatriates, said polls show as many as 2.5 million people of Mexican descent were planning to visit for the holiday season.

If so, that's 500,000 more than last year, said Casanueva, director of the Paisano Program.

The Mexican government's estimates include legal and undocumented immigrants, so many won't be re-entering the United States at official ports of entry.

The large number of people entering the United States along the border will pose a great challenge to the U.S. government, but intensified inspections won't snare terrorists, predicted Randy Larsen, director of the ANSER Institute for Homeland Security.

ANSER is a Virginia-based think tank on national security issues.

"Look at how porous the border is," Larsen said. "If I were a terrorist, I don't think I would come across at a checkpoint."

Based on what he has seen at the nation's airports, Larsen said he doesn't expect people will complain too loudly about delays at the ports of entry.