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Despite ruling, 'W' celebration waits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore has decided to concede the country's overtime election, aides said, clearing the way for George W. Bush to become 43rd president and leader of a nation sharply divided along political lines. The vice president acted after a split Supreme Court ruled against recounts in contested Florida.

Two senior advisers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gore would officially drop out in a nationally televised address at 8 tonight. "The race is over," said one official after speaking with the vice president. "We're done."

Gore made the decision 12 hours after the U.S. Supreme Court, as divided as the nation, ruled 5-4 against the vice president's bid to recount thousands of ballots in Florida. Gore had sought the recount in hopes he could overturn Bush's 537-vote victory in the state whose 25 electoral votes will settle the election.

"The vice president has directed the recount committee to suspend activities," campaign chairman William Daley said in a statement that effectively ended an unbearably close election 36 tumultuous days after the nation voted. Gore topped his Republican rival by more than 300,000 votes out of 103 million ballots cast nationwide. But Florida's electoral votes, to be cast Monday and counted on Jan. 6, would give Bush a total of 271 electoral votes to Gore's 267.

Bush was in Texas, savoring his hard-earned triumph in private, as if to give Gore all the room he needed for a graceful exit. The governor waved to reporters as he strode into the Texas Capitol at midmorning but merely smiled in answer to questions.

GOP running mate Dick Cheney was in Washington, meeting with House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and other lawmakers, part of a transition to power that now could begin in earnest. "The wounds that have come from the passions of partisanship must begin to heal for the good of the country," Hastert said.

Democrats struck a different note, some openly expressing anger at the Supreme Court, others muting their reaction. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he accepted the recount ruling but the "majority has dealt the court a serious blow by taking actions many Americans will consider to be political rather than judicial."

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, speaking for the Republican camp, had said Tuesday night that Bush and Cheney are "very pleased" by the court's ruling. That was an understatement of historic proportions given the furor since Election Day — a saga of counts, recounts, lawsuits by the dozens and two trips to the highest court in the land.

Bush's inauguration on Jan. 20 would give Republicans greater control over the government than at any time since Dwight Eisenhower sat in the White House.

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WT-Int. Crude - $29.68
WTIC Posted - $26.75
Natural Gas - $8.145

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 13, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 194
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Theresa Stephens

Weather wrecks havoc on travelers

From local, wire reports

While Scurry County was spared the snow that was forecast, freezing rain coated highways beginning early Tuesday afternoon, making road conditions hazardous and leading to numerous wrecks on U.S. Highway 84.

Two additional one-vehicle rollovers resulted in Snyder EMS and DPS units responding to the reports this morning. The first one was reported at 9:40 that turned out to be located just inside the Nolan County line, and another at 11:09 at U.S. 84 and CR 4134.

Department of Public Safety troopers, other local law enforcement and emergency response personnel were kept hopping as the chain of accidents occurred Tuesday.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital admitted two people from out of town, and treated and released nine with injuries stemming from the accidents.

The first call came in at 3:49 p.m. reporting a mishap on U.S. 84 near the landfill turnoff. A second call came in at 4:20 p.m. of an accident on U.S. 84, a half mile north of the first wreck.

At 4:23 p.m., another accident occurred on the highway near the Eiland Ranch. Ten minutes later, Deputy TJ Wood advised that another mishap had occurred one mile north of the landfill turnoff.

At 5:59 p.m., a DPS trooper and an ambulance were dispatched to another accident east on U.S. 84, and at 6:20 p.m. they were called again to the landfill turnoff to a vehicle rollover.

A one-vehicle rollover occurred at 1:40 a.m. today 23 miles north of Snyder on U.S. 84. Two people were transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

City police also worked five wrecks Tuesday with none resulting in serious injuries.

The icy conditions also caused the cancellation of the SHS Lady Tigers' first district game against Lake View scheduled here Tuesday night.

Also, all public schools in the county delayed opening until 10 this morning.

The story was the same throughout most of Texas as treacherous ice choked highways and overpasses in Dallas, snarling morning rush-hour traffic today for motorists, while air travelers didn't fare much better in a battle to find flights that weren't canceled.

At least one traffic death was blamed on the storm, which caused hundreds of wrecks in the Dallas area.

Meanwhile, more than 100 flight cancellations at area airports stranded passengers overnight and thousands of North Texas residents were without electric power.

The full effect of the wintry blast, which began dumping a mix of sleet and freezing rain on Tuesday afternoon, wasn't expected to be felt in North Texas until the morning rush hour.

"People are slipping and sliding," said Janell Jones, a cashier the Travel Center of America truck stop in Mesquite between U.S. Highway 80 and Interstate 45. "There are some truckers that are stranded, but most are smart enough to park the things."

All highways north of Victoria and Del Rio were icy and treacherous Wednesday morning, said Alan Moller, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

A Dallas man driving south on Interstate 35E around 9 p.m. Tuesday died when his 1972 GMC pickup skidded off an ice-covered bridge, slammed into a guard rail and overturned.



GIFT WRAPPING — Hackfeld's employees Nita Chaney (left) and Jennifer Sawyer wrap gifts for customers. Holiday buyers have 12 days until the big day. (SDN Staff Photo)

SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A promoter is a guy who sells you something you don't want that he really doesn't have."

Snyder's Jan Thomas sent us this modern-day Noah's Ark story.

God speaks to Noah, who is living in the U.S.

"In one year, I am going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water. I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing. Therefore, I am commanding you to build an Ark."

God delivered the specifications for an Ark. Trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build.

Exactly one year later, a fierce storm covered the earth and all the seas went into a tumult. The Lord saw Noah weeping.

"Lord, please forgive me." cried Noah. "I did my best, but there were big problems.

"First, I had to get a construction permit and your plans did not conform with the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm and redraw the plans.

"Then I got into a dispute with OSHA over whether the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system and flotation devices. Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances.

"I had problems getting wood because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls. So no owls.

"The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the labor union. I now have 16 carpenters, but still no owls.

"When I started rounding up other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without an environmental impact statement.

"Then the Corps of Engineers demanded a map of the proposed flood plane. I sent them a globe.

"Currently, I am trying to resolve a complaint filed with the EEO that I am discriminating by not taking godless, unbelieving people on board.

"The IRS has seized my assets, claiming I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes.

"I got a notice from the state that I owe them some kind of user tax and failed to register the Ark as a recreational water craft.

"Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it is a religious event and therefore is unconstitutional. It may take five or six years to finish the Ark."

The sky began to clear and the sun began to shine. A rainbow arched. Hopefully, Noah asked, "You mean you are not going to destroy the earth?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government already has."

Goodfellows need help

Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute food for this year's Goodfellows project.

Persons who can help sort canned food need to be at the Scurry County Coliseum Thursday at 6 p.m.

Those who can assist in distributing the food are needed at the coliseum at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Volunteers do not need to contact the organization ahead of time. They simply need to show up at the necessary times, Goodfellows chairman Darren Jackson said.

Monetary donations are being accepted to help purchase perishable items such as chicken, eggs and potatoes.

Persons can mail or deliver monetary donations to Jackson or any Kiwanis club member. Collection cans are also set up at local banks.

Canned food drives are underway to benefit the annual program with Lawrence IGA and United supermarkets serving as two collection sites in town.

Goodfellows will pick up the donated goods Thursday and take them to the coliseum for sorting.

Notification cards will be sent out this week to those families who qualify for assistance, and the cards must be brought to the distribution site in order to pick up the food.

The food will be distributed in units that include canned goods, chicken, eggs, flour, corn meal, a sack of potatoes, rice and toilet paper.

The deserving citizens will pick up the units between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Saturday at the covered area between the annex and the coliseum.

In 1997, 286 families (958 individuals) were assisted, and in 1998, 282 families (1,132 individuals) were assisted.

In 1999, Goodfellows distributed food to 266 families (850 individuals).

This year, the organization expects to distribute to 266 families, assisting 850 individuals.

Ira trustees to meet Thursday

Ira ISD's board of trustees will meetat 6:30 a.m. Thursday morning for its last regularly scheduled board meeting of the year.

The trustees will consider a professional service contract with GSW Engineers for design services for heating and cooling projects, and for lighting improvements.

Other items listed on the agenda include addressing the shortage found on the district's annual audit, but Supt. Jim Rumage said this morning that the auditing firm is not expected at the school until next week.

Other items on the agenda are the consideration of adopting the district's vaccination policy, and a fixed asset policy

Rumage, and principal Mike Duke, will also give monthly reports.

Walls on DCOS agenda

The Development Corporation of Snyder will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday for its regularly scheduled board meeting.

The board will hear a report from John Gibson, Western Texas College's dean of vocational instruction, on the status of helping Walls Industries employees get retraining.

The clothing manufacturing plant will close Dec. 21.

John DeLille, executive director, will also give his monthly report and the board will consider the monthly financial statements.

The meeting will be held in the DCOS boardroom at American State Bank.

ASK US

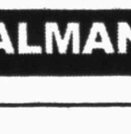
Q—When the new post office opens, will postal customers keep the same box numbers?

A—Customers with small boxes likely will not have to change, but there will be a minimal amount of adjustment for some customers who have larger boxes, according to Snyder postmaster Dale Lipsett.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 23; low, 17; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 24; .11 of an inch precipitation; total for 2000, 21.24 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low near 30, SW wind 5-10 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy, warmer, high mid 50s, SW wind 10-15 mph.



Michael Guardado
Warmer

Sunset:
5:43 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:35 a.m.
Of 347 days in 2000, the sun has shone 340 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Stubbornness is the energy of fools.
—German Proverb

Husband arrested

MIAMI (AP) — An Arizona man forced his new wife on a cross-country trek during which he beat, stabbed, burned, raped and prostituted her, according to federal prosecutors.

Kevin Fraze, 29, entered no plea at a court appearance Tuesday on charges that he violated the federal Violence Against Women Act. He was held without bond pending a Thursday hearing. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Public defender David Markus said Fraze has told him he is innocent.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lilly Ann Sanchez said Fraze also faces charges of kidnapping and violating the Mann Act, which prohibits interstate transportation for prostitution.

The victim, whose name was not released, is recovering at an undisclosed location, Sanchez said.

An affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Miami gives this account:

Fraze met a woman in March and married her in Peoria, Ariz., on July 21.

At their Sun City, Ariz., home in August, Fraze beat and stabbed the woman repeatedly and choked her into unconsciousness. He refused to let the woman get medical attention, threatening to harm her 5-year-old daughter and other relatives if she left.

In Miami-Dade County on Nov. 15, the woman asked someone to call police and Fraze was arrested.



COT GRADS — Graduating from Western Texas College Correctional Officers Training school included (from left) first row, Angela Alcorta, Jimmy Bennett, Eduardo Calderon, Rodolfo Calderon, Jesse Castro, Johnnie Castro, Rebecca Davis; second row, Martha Eckert; Regina Ellis, Christina Gutierrez, Lucy Gutierrez, Carly Haldeman, Pattie Henshaw, Michael Hermosillio; third row, Robert Howard; Rachel Isbell, Robin Jones, Weldon Jones, Christopher LaFountain, Diana Lott, Kenneth Mabes; fourth row, Brijida Madera, Patricia Martinez, Jesse McDaniel, Jeffery McGlothin, Adrian Medrano, Christy Mendez; fifth row, Audrey Mitchell, Eliot Mize, Eric Oaks, Lori Pavlovsky, Sandra Perez, Rosemary Quintanilla, Lorenzo Rangel; sixth row, Cody Rankin, Jeremy Reyes, Salome Rios, Fernando Rodriguez, Monica Saenz, Charles Shelton, Mitchell Springfield; seventh row, Rebecca Stearns, David Trussell, William Umphress, Steven Utley, Shannon Weir, Douglas Wheatley, Ray Wise, Deborah Young, David Trussell , William Umphress, instructor Leanord Dodgen and secretary Linda Warren. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Cash Five

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

13-14-18-22-30

Pick 3

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

4-1-9

McVeigh wants all appeals to be halted

DENVER (AP) — Against his attorneys' advice, convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh has sought to end appeals in his case and be executed within 120 days.

McVeigh offered no explanation for his decision, made public Tuesday, but said he reserved the right to seek executive clemency.

"I want him executed, but still there's nothing to celebrate," said Jannie Coverdale, whose two grandsons died in the April 19, 1995, bombing, the worst such attack on U.S. soil.

McVeigh, 32, was convicted of murder and conspiracy and sentenced to death in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

Marsha Kight, whose daughter was killed in the blast, said she wanted McVeigh to "rot in jail."

"It's not that I don't think that he doesn't deserve to die. I just think it is too easy," she said. "I have to live with this the rest of my life. He should have to live with it the rest of his life."

In March 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court left intact McVeigh's conviction and death sentence, rejecting his contention that his trial was tainted by jury misconduct and news reports that he confessed to his lawyers.

In October, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch denied McVeigh's second appeal, which contended trial attorney Stephen Jones failed to represent him adequately. Jones has denied the allegations.

His current attorneys are researching grounds for other appeals.

In an affidavit made Dec. 7 and filed with the court Monday, McVeigh asked for permission to waive further court reviews. He also asked that his execution be held within 120 days of the statement, or by early April.

He said he will undergo a psychological evaluation if necessary but would "not justify or explain my decision to any psychologist."

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch, who presided at McVeigh's trial, could approve the request, reject it or order a competency hearing first.

Justice Department spokeswoman Chris Watney had no comment. Attorney Nathan Chambers, who represents McVeigh, declined to discuss his conversations with his client.

Chambers believes McVeigh has grounds for a new appeal contending that his constitutional rights were violated at the trial because of ineffective counsel.

During his trial, prosecutors argued that McVeigh, a decorated Gulf War veteran, planned the bombing after becoming bitter over the 1993 deadly FBI raid on the Branch Davidians compound near Waco, Texas.

Andrew Cohen, a CBS-TV legal analyst who has monitored all of McVeigh's judicial proceedings, said McVeigh's latest decision is consistent with views he previously expressed.

"I think he always perceived himself to be a political person, and this would be the ultimate political statement, to give up his appeal and become a martyr," Cohen said.

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000

Today is the 348th day of 2000 and the 83rd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1928, the George Gershwin musical "An American in Paris" opened in Carnegie Hall.

On this day in 1974, former Beatle George Harrison had lunch with President Ford at the White House and was given a WIN ("Whip Inflation Now") button.

On this day in 1983, Martha Layne Collins was inaugurated as the governor of Kentucky. She was the first woman to govern the Bluegrass State.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), poet; Alvin York (1887-1964), U.S. World War I hero; Ross MacDonald (1915-1983), writer; Dick Van Dyke (1925-), actor, is 75; Christopher Plummer (1929-), actor, is 71; John Davidson (1941-), singer, is 59; Ferguson Jenkins (1943-), baseball great, is 57; Ted Nugent (1949-), musician, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1887, Jack Dempsey knocked out Johnny Regan in the 45th round, retaining his world middleweight title.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Whatever tears one may shed, in the end one always blows one's nose." — Heinrich Heine

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 11) and last quarter (Dec. 17).

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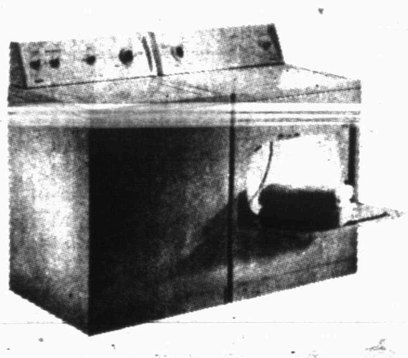
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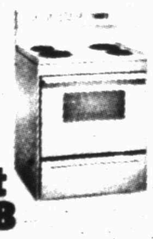
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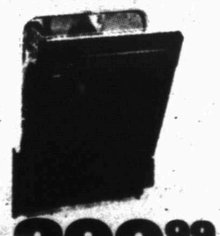


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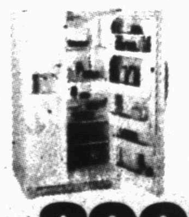




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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Sharing the torch

DEAR READERS: Most of the letters that appear in my column are filled with problems. This one will be different.

I hope you will indulge me this once as I brag about my daughter, Jeanne Phillips. She has worked by my side practically since the inception of this column. As a teen-ager, she earned her allowance by answering mail from other teens (under strict supervision, of course!).

During the majority of the years that followed, my daughter has worked by my side in one capacity or another. Over the course of the 12 years my nationally syndicated radio show aired on the CBS network, Jeanne co-wrote more than half of them.

After that she became my editor and, since 1987, has co-created the **DEAR ABBY** column with me.

With her talent, compassion and kind heart — and the common sense I like to say she inherited from her father and me — Jeanne has walked not in my footsteps, but side-by-side with me. I couldn't be more proud.

As a mother who has every confidence in her daughter, I feel it's time she receives the recognition she deserves as my co-creator.

And no, I'm not going anywhere. I will continue to work on this column until my Maker calls me home. People retire from work — and work is the one thing I have never considered this column to be.

We will both continue to co-create ***DEAR ABBY*** using the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Sign me ... **PROUD MOM IN BEVERLY HILLS, PAULINE PHILLIPS, A.K.A. ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

DEAR ABBY: We just found out that one of our sons changed his last name. What a terrible blow to our family. We found out very painfully when his wife had a baby. We went to the hospital to see the newest member of our family and couldn't find a "Mrs. Barry Nofzinger." However, there WAS a "Mrs. Barry Gibson."

Barry had used the name "Gibson" before, when he was in sales. He said it was much easier to remember than Nofzinger. He never indicated that he was considering changing his name. When he remarried two years ago, he still used the name Nofzinger. As far as we know, the name change occurred prior to our grandson's birth.

When we asked why, he told us his current wife (Barry was married before) didn't want to be the "second" Mrs. Nofzinger. The funny thing is, Barry's first wife remarried long before our son met or married his current wife. She has used her present husband's name for years.

Barry contends that we're making too much of this. He expects his relationship with us will remain as it has always been. In fact, he expects his son to have the same kind of relationship with us that we have with our other grandchildren.

We have been good parents, Abby. We have given our love and support unconditionally to all our children. I pray that I can continue doing that, but right now, I'm so full of anger, pain and shame that I wonder if it wouldn't be best if I told our son we would prefer never to see him again.

Barry's father is very hurt, and his brothers are also upset. He's unable to understand why we feel this way.

Perhaps someday I won't feel like I have been slapped in the face every time I see "Gibson" instead of "Nofzinger" after his name. Please help me to let go of my anger. — **SEEING RED IN OREGON**

DEAR SEEING RED: William Shakespeare was right when he said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." It's no sin to change one's name — and your son's having done so is no reflection upon how he feels about his siblings and you. You're making a mountain out of a molehill.

You say you're wondering if it wouldn't be best to tell your son you'd prefer never to see him again. Be careful what you wish for.

**

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is around the corner. Because our first child was due at Thanksgiving, I planned ahead and did as much of my shopping in advance as I could. The problem is, my husband's family expects everyone to buy presents for everyone else. This means we have to buy for 20 people! I don't mind buying for his parents and siblings, and even his grandparents, but the aunts, uncles and cousins are killing me.

We've bought everyone presents for the past two years and are still paying off credit cards from last year's purchases. I still have my parents and siblings to buy for, too. Money is tight because I'm off work now and will return to work only part time in a few months.

Abby, I don't see how we can afford to continue this tradition. My husband won't let me say anything to his family. Can you give me some advice? — **WANTING A SIMPLER CHRISTMAS**

DEAR WANTING: Only this: If you continue trying to adhere to his family's "traditions," your little family will never be out of debt, and your financial burdens will continue to grow until they crush you. Since your husband won't "let" you explain this to his family, perhaps he will consent to accompany you to some credit counseling sessions. I hope they'll help him see the light.

**

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 $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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SANTA INC. by Dave Whamond



Mechanical problem sidelines express train on second day

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mechanical problem sidelined Amtrak's heavily promoted Acela Express train Tuesday, a day after it began regular passenger operation as America's first high-speed rail service.

To make matters worse, unrelated problems prevented use of a backup Acela Express train, and a conventional train dispatched as a replacement on the Washington-to-Boston route broke down north of New York.

Amtrak officials promised to compensate affected riders.

"There are going to be episodes such as this whenever a new service starts. Obviously, we would have hoped it wasn't the second day," said Amtrak spokesman Rick Remington. "But we're going to learn lessons from this and make sure it doesn't happen again."

The two Acela Express trains are the first of 20 that Amtrak is receiving from Bombardier Transportation of Canada and Alstom Ltd. of France. All 20 are supposed to be running in the Northeast Corridor by next summer.

Acela Express, with its distinctive tapered nose and upgraded seats and amenities, had a successful debut Monday with a roundtrip between Washington and Boston.

But upon its return to Washington, inspectors discovered "minor damage" to a hinged metal assembly that connects the train to overhead electrical lines, Remington said.

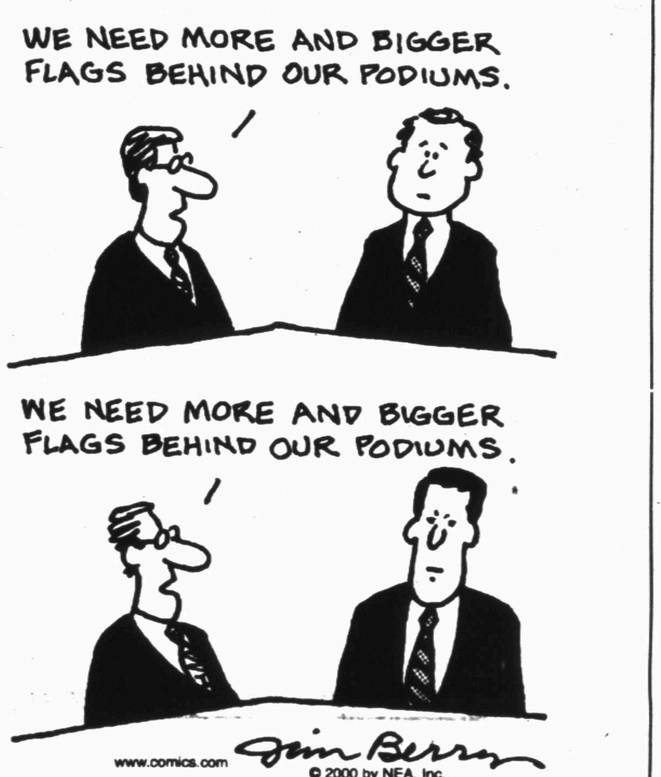
Mechanics repaired the assembly — called a pantograph — but not in time for the train to leave Washington at 5 a.m. for its second day of service.

Amtrak turned to a second Acela Express train, being held in reserve. Inspectors found shortcomings with the train as well, including an inoperative freezer and a lack of hot water in the cafe car, Remington said.

So the railway brought in a conventional Metroliner train for the Washington-to-Boston run, but the bad news continued. The train's engine failed near Bridgeport, Conn., and the arrival in Boston was more than two hours late.

Minus passengers and with its pantograph repaired, the first Acela Express train traveled to Boston in late morning. Remington said it would re-enter service for the southbound trip.

Berry's World



Unruly passenger leads to emergency landing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An unruly passenger reportedly pulled a knife aboard a Dallas-bound American Airlines jetliner on a flight from Hawaii, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing Tuesday at Los Angeles International Airport.

The 190 passengers and crew of 12 weren't hurt, airline spokesman John Hotard said from American's Fort Worth headquarters.

American Flight No. 8 from Honolulu to Dallas/Fort Worth was on the ground in Los Angeles for about an hour before it departed to continue its journey.

The man was identified as Paul Gordon Cochran, 46. Officials said he is from Texas, but did not release his hometown.

"Two hours into the flight he woke from his sleep and became unruly and got more aggressive and became verbally abusive," FBI Special Agent Matthew McLaughlin said.

"He brandished a pocket knife with a two-inch blade and made threatening gestures," the agent said.

A knife with a two-inch blade is permissible aboard airliners, McLaughlin said.

The pilot decided to land in Los Angeles and shortly after touchdown about 1:30 a.m., Cochran forced open a door on the Boeing 767 and threatened to jump just short of the terminal, authorities said.

Airport police waiting at the gate tackled Cochran as the aircraft neared the passenger ramp, McLaughlin said.

The man was taken to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for a 72-hour mental evaluation. The FBI was investigating the case as felony interference with a flight crew, which could lead to a 5-year prison term.

"There was no indication of any provocation at all," McLaughlin said, adding Cochran was "somewhat incoherent" when he was taken into custody.



Come
"Share The Joy"

As Central Elementary's Choir
"THE CENTRAL STARS"
Go Christmas Caroling directed by Sheila Sorrells
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2000

9:00 a.m. Snyder Healthcare Center
10:00 a.m. Snyder Oaks Care Center
11:00 a.m. Burger King
1:00 p.m. First Baptist Church Chapel
2:00 p.m. West Texas State Bank

Oxy Permian (a very supportive Adopt-A-School Partner) is unable to schedule a time for a performance

WE WISH ALL OF OUR ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PARTNERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

Central Elementary School
Principal, Pam Hart

Share the warmth in Snyder this holiday season, with the Snyder Oaks & Snyder Health Care Nursing Homes.

Suggested Donations
Twin Size Blankets (new)
Socks (6pks)
and/or Lotion (24oz.)
(Equivalent to a $15.00 value or more)

and receive
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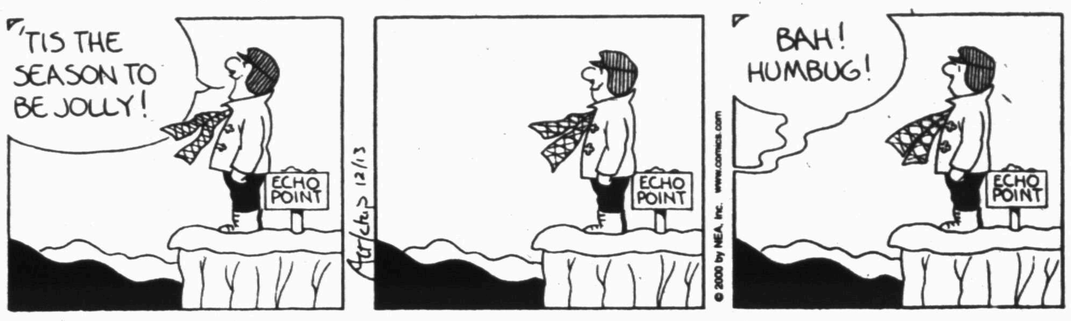
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SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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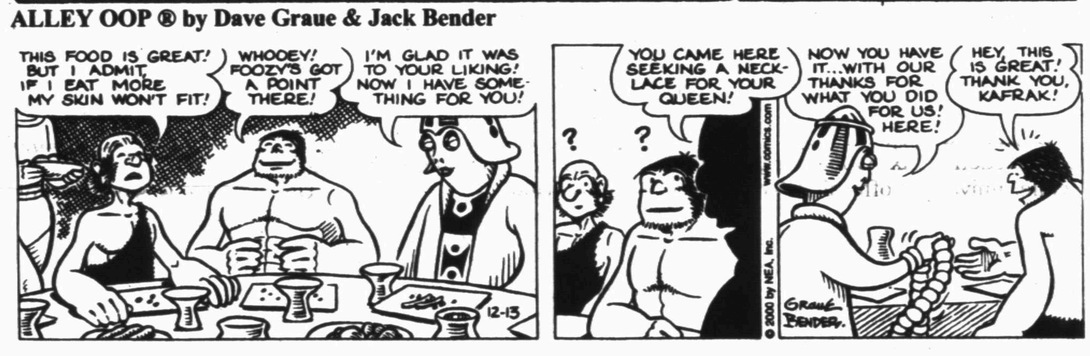
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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Oh, good! Is that my other knitting needle?"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Stockholm resident
6 Deli sandwiches
10 Walking in water
12 Large deer
14 Set fire to
15 Batter
16 — culpa
17 WWII area
19 Hacks
20 Pastry-enclosed croquette
23 Make a vow
26 Spire ornament
27 Mrs. Nixon
30 Squanders
32 Actor Estevez
34 Object
35 Divest of guns
36 Golf peg
37 "I think, therefore — —"
39 Taut
40 Overshadow
42 Look for stuff on the web
45 Before, to a bard
46 Baby food
49 Musical symbols
51 Dryer's companion
54 Most certain
55 "SNL" skit, e.g.
56 "Sphere" start
57 Rings of light

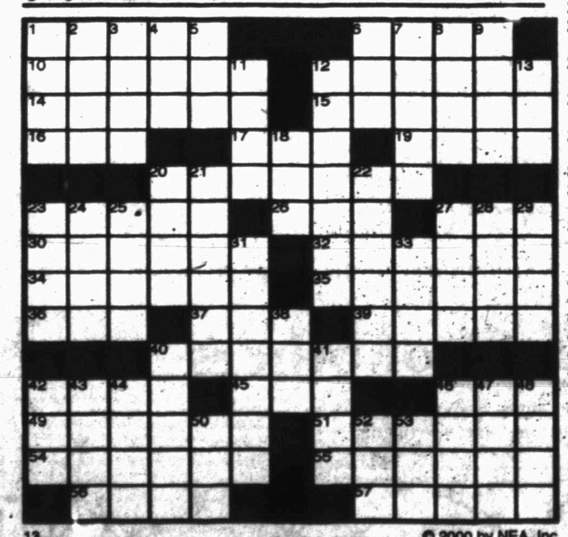
DOWN

1 Do the crawl
2 Minimum —
3 Ferber or O'Brien
4 Roman 502
5 Med. specialist
6 Capuchin monkey
7 — — creek (in trouble)
8 Nip
9 Cook slowly
11 Horse directives
12 — it up (had a noisy party)
13 Apr. 15 org.
18 Mao — -tung
20 Appraise
21 Conducive to peace
22 Boundaries
23 TV actress Loretta —
24 Diminish
25 Princely Italian family
27 Building diagram
28 Assumed manner
29 Heavy volume
31 Least fresh
33 "Got It" (2 wds.)
38 Russian space station
40 Mr. Zimbalist
41 Church seats
42 Draft org.
43 "Nah"
44 Steak order
46 Hockey's Esposito
47 "Dynamic" start
48 VP's superior
50 Greek letter
52 Joyful cry
53 Depot (abbr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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13

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

Lady Tigers' district opener postponed

The District 4-4A girls' basketball season got off to only a partial start Tuesday night, thanks to Mother Nature.

Freezing temperatures and icy road conditions caused two league contests, including Snyder's match-up with San Angelo Lake View, to be postponed until Saturday. Big Spring's meeting with Estacado was also cancelled.

The other half of the district schedule went off without a hitch. Top-ranked Plainview had no problems with Frenship in a 69-36 victory, while Levelland knocked off Andrews, 36-27.

The Lady Tigers travel to Levelland at 7:30 Friday night, before returning home to host Lake View at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, with the JV starting at 5 o'clock.

In Friday's other scheduled games, Estacado visits Lake View. Plainview hosts Andrews, and Frenship travels to Big Spring.

Team	District W	L
Plainview	1	0
Levelland	1	0
Snyder	0	0
Big Spring	0	0
Estacado	0	0
Lake View	0	0
Andrews	0	1
Frenship	0	1

Tuesday's games: Lake View at Snyder, cancelled; Big Spring at Estacado, cancelled; Plainview 69, Frenship 36; Levelland 36, Andrews 27.

Friday's games: Snyder at Levelland; Estacado at Lake View; Andrews at Plainview; Frenship at Big Spring.

Saturday's games: Lake View at Snyder; Big Spring at Estacado.

Aikman definitely out Sunday

IRVING (AP) — The only thing definite about Troy Aikman's future is that he won't play Sunday.

Dallas Cowboys coach Dave Campo confirmed Tuesday that Aikman will be sidelined for Sunday night's game against the New York Giants. The coach wouldn't speculate if the concussion-prone quarterback has played his last game this season or in his career.

"We have to be on the cautious side with the injury he has. But we are not going beyond this game right now," Campo said. "We will continue evaluating him."

Aikman suffered the second concussion of the season and 10th of his career Sunday when he was tackled in the first quarter by Washington linebacker LaVar Arrington.

Campo said the decision for Aikman to miss the game against the Giants was made after medical evaluations and discussions with the quarterback, doctors and other team officials.

"The No. 1 thing in our minds is his health," Campo said. "There are no other considerations. It is a health issue for sure."

After the Giants, the Cowboys (5-9) play their season finale Christmas night at Tennessee.

While agreeing that Aikman and the Cowboys will have some tough decisions to make at the end of the season, Campo repeated he hasn't thought about the possibility that Aikman, a likely Hall of Famer, might never play again at Texas Stadium.

"I don't think about that. Troy has never indicated that to me in any way, shape or form," Campo said.

Anthony Wright, a second-year pro, will get his first NFL start Sunday against the Giants. Wright replaced Aikman in the 32-13 victory over the Redskins and was 3-of-5 for 73 yards.

Rookie Clint Stoerner will move up from the practice squad to give the Cowboys three quarterbacks for the game. Randall Cunningham, who started the other three games Aikman missed this season, is still hampered by a groin injury, but should be available if needed.

Before last Sunday, Wright's only other regular-season action was in the fourth quarter of a 27-7 loss at Tampa Bay last month. Wright was 1-of-3 for 10 yards in that game.

With Emmitt Smith running for a season-high 150 yards and the Cowboys ahead, there wasn't much reason for Wright to throw against the Redskins. So Dallas scaled down the offense for the young quarterback.

"He knew quite a bit more than we used. We were running the football effectively, controlling the game and had the lead," Campo said. "All of those things played into it."

Campo said Wright would be expected to do more in his first start, especially after a full week of practice with the first team.

Wright was moved from the practice squad to the active roster Nov. 21 to protect him after other NFL teams showed interest in the young quarterback.

Dallas acquired Wright on Aug. 30 after he was cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Wright made the Steelers last year as a rookie free agent. He was listed as the No. 2 quarterback by the season finale, but never played.

Cavs' big man fuels win over Mavericks

CLEVELAND (AP) — When 7-foot-3 Zydrunas Ilgauskas asks for the ball, he usually gets it.

"He was saying 'Give me the ball'," Cleveland point guard Andre Miller said. "When he gets it, he's hard to guard."

Just ask the Dallas Mavericks.

Ilgauskas took over in the final minutes, scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter and blocking Steve Nash's late layup Tuesday night as the Cavaliers won their fourth straight, 92-87.

Ilgauskas, who missed most of the past two seasons with foot injuries, had 24 points and 12 rebounds. He scored nine points in the final 4:18 as the Cavs rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth.

"Z was terrific," Cavs forward Chris Gatling said. "He had it going, and when the big man is playing like that, things are a lot easier for everyone. He was Z-riffic."

Miller added a season-high 22 points, and Clarence Weatherspoon had 16 rebounds for Cleveland, which outrebounded Dallas 59-29 and became the first Eastern Conference team to beat the Mavericks this season.

Nash had 21 points, but had his layup with 31 seconds remaining was rejected by Ilgauskas.

"It looked like Nash had that layup, and he came out of nowhere to block it," Cavs coach Randy Wittman said.

Michael Finley had 15 points and Hubert Davis 12, including nine in the fourth, for the Mavericks, now 6-1 against the East.

"They're a very good team," Mavs interim coach Del Harris said of the first-place Cavs. "They play good defense and they're very organized. I think they're for real."

Many were beginning to wonder if Ilgauskas was real.

After a solid rookie year, he played in just five games in 1998-99 before breaking his left foot. He missed all of last season following surgery to repair the foot. In '96, he had screws put in his right foot.

NCAA punishes Runnin' Rebels

LAS VEGAS (AP) — UNLV officials were surprised at the harshness of NCAA sanctions against the school's basketball program. Even more surprised was coach Bill Bayno when he was fired a few hours later.

The NCAA had no sooner informed UNLV it would be given another four years' probation than the university unceremoniously fired Bayno after five-plus years as its coach.

"Sure, it's surprising," Bayno said. "But it's the nature of the business."

Bayno was replaced by assistant coach Max Good. Meanwhile, university officials tried to assess the damage of the latest sanctions against a once-proud basketball program that has had four coaches since Jerry Tarkanian left in 1992.

In addition to the probation, UNLV was banned from postseason play for a year and lost two scholarships for two years for violations that stemmed from the recruiting of Lamar Odom in 1996 and 1997.

"I am disappointed the NCAA decided to expand on these sanctions," UNLV president Carol Harter said. "But for the most part, we accept them."

Bayno's team has struggled this season and was coming off an embarrassing loss to Nevada on Saturday. But Harter said the team's 3-4 start had nothing to do with Bayno's firing.

Instead, she said, Bayno was let go because he allowed recruiting violations in a program that has been plagued for years by NCAA investigations.

"The head coach is responsible for the integrity of the basketball program," Harter said.

Among the latest claims was that a local dentist and UNLV booster gave Odom $5,600 in monthly payments while he was awaiting admission to UNLV. Odom enrolled for a summer school class, but UNLV then refused to admit him, and he never played for the Rebels.

"The institution felt it was my fault," Bayno said. "But I wasn't charged with anything. The NCAA cleared me of wrongdoing."

UNLV, which was put on probation in 1993, escaped the so-called "death penalty" that could have been applied under NCAA bylaws.

"We don't have to put a team on the shelf. It's a drastic remedy," said Jack Friedenthal, chairman of the NCAA Committee on Infractions. The previous probation, he said, "was a while back and it occurred at a different time and level."

UNLV officials argued that the payments to Odom were made after the university said he could not play, but the NCAA found otherwise. The severity of the sanctions finally levied, however, seemed to stun school officials, who said they might appeal the postseason ban.

Men's Basketball League

Men's Basketball League

Team	W	L
GM Auto	8	3
Amer. State Bank	8	3
San Angelo	7	4
Snyder Nat'l Bank	4	7
WT State Bank	1	10

Results: American State Bank 71, West Texas State Bank 67; GM Auto 82, San Angelo 67; Snyder National Bank 75, San Angelo 72; American State Bank 88, West Texas State Bank 65; GM Auto 92, San Angelo 81; San Angelo 94, Snyder National Bank 89.

Local Sports Schedule

THURSDAY
Basketball

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

Ira JV girls and boys at Sands tourney

FRIDAY
Basketball

Snyder JV and varsity girls at Levelland, 6 and 7:30

Snyder varsity boys at Abilene Wylie, 6:30

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

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

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

Ira JV girls and boys at Sands tourney

SATURDAY
Basketball

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

Ira JV girls and boys at Sands tourney

Sports Briefs

Stoops garners honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Oklahoma's Bob Stoops was chosen Associated press College Coach of the Year in balloting by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations.

In just his second season, Stoops guided the Sooners (12-0) to the No. 1 ranking and a shot at the national championship.

Brown given raise

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas football coach Mack Brown was given a raise, increasing his annual salary from $1 million to $1.45 million.

Woods receives SI honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiger Woods is Sports Illustrated's "Sportsman of the Year" — the first two-time recipient in the 46-year history of the award.

Snyder Bowling Leagues

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
Larry's Trucks	119.5	62.5
The Shack	108.5	73.5
YZ Systems	103.5	78.5
Timely Finance	98.5	83.5
Tinder Storage	90	92
Blue Sunco	89	93
Tiger Mart	84.5	97.5
Snyder Lanes	76	106
Cutting Edge	74.5	107.5
Snyder Iron	66	116
Allen Compressor	15.5	28.5

High series: Cindy Aikin, scratch, 493; Tammie Bassett, handicap, 610.

High game: Michelle Ewing, scratch, 243; Dorris Martin, handicap, 252.

Splits and special mentions: Wanda Johnson, 2-7, 5-6; Dorris Martin, 200; Michelle Ewing, 243.

Jack N Jill League

Team	W	L
Renegades	30	18
BCEC	29	19
Shea Jewelers	25	23
Do Overs	24	24
Countryplace	21	27
Snyder Iron	15	33

High series: Scratch: Jeff Smith, 622; Donna Smith, 508. Handicap: Jeff Smith, 652; Donna Smith, 670.

High game: Scratch: Jeff Smith, 225; Donna Smith, 191. Handicap: Greg Ellis, 244; Donna Smith, 245.

High series: Jeff Smith, scratch, 703; Glen Coy, handicap, 646.

High game: Roger Pavlik, scratch, 211; Mike Logan, handicap, 238.

Splits and special mentions: Don Pavlovsky, 5-7; Juan Dominguez, 3-10.

Roll N Hope League

Team	W	L
Snyder Nat'l Bank	31	13
Martin Herefords	28	16
NAPA Auto Parts	27	17
Snyder Machine Shop	26.5	17.5

NCAA Basketball

MEN
EAST
Boston U. 79, Maine 67
Connecticut 82, Massachusetts 67
Dartmouth 70, Haverford 50
Duquesne 94, Ohio 89
Fairfield 91, St. Francis, NY 83
Georgetown 78, Coastal Carolina 60
Howard 67, American U. 65
SOUTH
Delaware St. 84, Towson 66
Mercer 66, W. Carolina 63
New Orleans 66, Nicholls St. 64
Richmond 74, Marist 67
South Alabama 69, West Florida 48
UCF 68, Middle Tennessee 64
MIDWEST
Kansas 75, DePaul 69
Minnesota 69, Louisiana Tech 53
SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Little Rock at Ark.-Pine Bluff, ppd.
FAR WEST
Air Force 63, Cent. Connecticut St. 56
Oregon 110, Ill.-Chicago 87
Washington St. 67, Montana 54

WOMEN
EAST
Army 64, Princeton 46
Boston College 84, Dartmouth 56
Fordham 65, Marist 64
Rhode Island 70, Harvard 58
St. John's 61, UMBC 45
Temple 70, Fairleigh Dickinson 56
Villanova 61, Penn 52
SOUTH
Bethune-Cookman 63, UCF 61, OT
Coll. of Charleston 70, Coastal Carolina 57
LSU 75, Mercer 47
Louisiana Tech 100, Centenary 34
Maryland 73, Coppin St. 42
UAB 84, Jacksonville St. 57
MIDWEST
Cincinnati 75, Xavier 58
DePaul 91, Northwestern 66
Ohio St. 95, Bowling Green 49
SOUTHWEST
No major team scores
FAR WEST
San Diego 73, UC Irvine 54
San Jose St. 53, Montana St. 50

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	16	5	.762	—
New York	14	8	.636	2½
Miami	11	11	.500	5½
Boston	9	11	.450	6½
Orlando	9	13	.409	7½
New Jersey	8	14	.364	8½
Washington	4	17	.190	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	13	7	.650	—
Charlotte	13	9	.591	1
Toronto	11	10	.524	2½
Indiana	10	11	.476	3½
Milwaukee	10	11	.476	3½
Detroit	9	12	.429	4½
Atlanta	5	16	.238	8½
Chicago	2	19	.095	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	16	5	.762	—
San Antonio	13	7	.650	2½
Dallas	14	9	.609	3
Minnesota	13	9	.591	3½
Houston	12	9	.571	4
Denver	10	13	.435	7
Vancouver	7	14	.333	9

Pacific Division

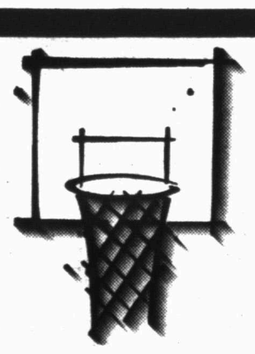
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	14	5	.737	—
Phoenix	14	6	.700	½
L.A. Lakers	15	8	.652	1
Portland	15	8	.652	1
Seattle	11	12	.478	5
L.A. Clippers	7	16	.304	9
Golden State	6	16	.273	9½

Tuesday's Games
Toronto 104, Indiana 90
Cleveland 92, Dallas 87
New Jersey 116, Minnesota 94
Atlanta 107, Sacramento 99
Miami 96, Denver 85
Seattle 97, Orlando 92
Milwaukee 109, L.A. Lakers 105
Portland 101, Golden State 93

Wednesday's Games
Chicago at Boston, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Utah, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
New York at Toronto, 8 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

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at the American Legion
1800 Ave. R
Wednesday, December 20, 2000
9:00 a.m. - ?



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Friday, December 15
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The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of material to be used in water line replacement. The bids will be received until Thursday, December 28, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. A list of material may be picked up at the City Hall in the Accounting Department. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a new fire truck. The specifications may be picked up at the City Hall in the Accounting Department. Bids will be received until Wednesday, December 20, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of public hearing to be held December 28, 2000, in the District Courtroom, Scurry County Courthouse, beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of setting salaries of the County Auditor and Court Reporter for 2001 by order of Ernie B. Armstrong, District Judge, 132nd Judicial District Court, Scurry County, Texas.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Occidental Permian Ltd. * ATTN: D.M. Upson * P.O. Box 4294 * Houston, TX 77079-2696 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon Reef formation, Cogdell Canyon Reef Unit Lease, Well Numbers 101A, 102, 1011, 1014, 1016, 1017, 1020, 1021, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1030, 1032, 1038, 1064, 1088, 6024, and 6040. The proposed injection wells are located 14 miles Northeast of Snyder, Texas in the Cogdell (Area) Field, in Scurry County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 6300 to 7000 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967. (Telephone 512-463-6792)

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U.S.-Russian relations are assessed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton was only half joking when he said in 1993, "Gosh, I miss the Cold War." Clinton, of course, was referring to the clarity of those four decades of U.S.-Soviet rivalry — in contrast to the murkiness of the post-Soviet era.

Now, seven years later, things are no less opaque than they were when Clinton made that statement.

The Russians have a way of keeping people confused by seemingly reaching out in all directions.

And the confusion extends to the assessments of U.S.-Russian relations, with Clinton trumpeting major advances and critics expressing despair over what his policies have wrought.

There are times when Russian President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB official, seems nostalgic for the old days.

This week features a Putin visit to Cuba, a one-time Cold War ally of Moscow. Last week, he proposed restoring the Soviet national anthem as well as the Soviet era insignia for the Russian armed forces.

Two weeks ago, Russia unilaterally walked away from a 1995 agreement with the United States that barred Moscow from making new weapons deals with Iran.

But there are occasions when Putin shows a conciliatory side toward Washington — as in his recent decision to pardon an American, suffering from ill health, just days after he had been sentenced to 20 years in prison on spy charges.

And a newly released White House "Fact Sheet" highlights perceived gains in relations under Clinton.

At Washington's prodding, the document says, Moscow dispatched troops to the Balkans to participate in NATO missions. Clinton also won Russian support for an agreement to end the Kosovo war. In addition, the document touts the institutional links Moscow has established with NATO. As part of that process, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov later this week in Brussels.

As Stephen Sestanovich, the top State Department Russian affairs expert, notes in the current issue of The National Interest, dire predictions by critics of a lasting U.S.-Russian estrangement have not come to pass.

That was the fear when three former Soviet allies — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — joined NATO last year. Moscow, the critics said, would retaliate by refusing to ratify a nuclear weapons reduction treaty with Washington. Moscow ratified it last April.

Still, Russia has shown a deep reluctance to participate in Western-dominated institutions — if membership means accepting certain conditions.

An example is its attitude toward joining the World Trade Organization, which sets rules for international commerce. The Russian hesitance contrasts sharply with China's determined bid to join the WTO, a step anticipated in early 2001.

Some of the criticism of Clinton's Russia policies is unsparing.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., a Russian affairs expert, faults Clinton for continuing to embrace former President Boris Yeltsin in the face of theft of International Monetary Fund loans by criminal elements and other abuses.

"It wasn't surprising to me that polls last year showed that less than 2 percent of the Russian people were behind Boris Yeltsin," Weldon says. "The only support behind Boris Yeltsin last year was Bill Clinton ... and we wonder why the Russian people lost confidence in America."

And Peter Reddaway, of George Washington University, says Western economic policies have had a devastating effect on Russia.

"The majority of Russians, who a decade ago saw democracy and free markets as beacons of hope, now see before their eyes ugly perversions of these institutions and wonder if they just won't work in Russia," he says. "Opinion polls show profound doubt and even despair about Russia's future. They also show that that anti-Americanism has permeated the whole society and is probably now deeper than at any time in Russian history.

"A substantial majority believe that the United States and the West have weakened Russia deliberately in order to exploit and humiliate it."

Oldsmobile's birthplace sorry about demise

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — In the city that's home to Oldsmobile Park and the Oldsmobile Historical Center, the car company founded by Ransom E. Olds has been part of the culture for 103 years.

Though Oldsmobile's presence in Michigan's capital has been fading since General Motors Corp. reorganized in the mid-1980s, affection and nostalgia linger. Thus, for many locals, GM's announcement Tuesday of the brand's impending demise was hard to take.

"For the Lansing area, it's like apple pie," said Steve Zaban of nearby Williamston, who belongs to three Oldsmobile car clubs and owns three Oldsmobiles — the 1998 Aurora he drives and two from 1970.

Oldsmobile was founded as the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. in Lansing in 1897 and became part of GM in 1908. It's the oldest U.S. automotive brand name, behind only the Daimler name worldwide.

But gradually, the Oldsmobile brand will cease to exist. GM said the 2002 Bravada sport utility vehicle coming out next year will be the last new Olds model. GM also announced production cutbacks and a series of moves that will eliminate 13,700 jobs in North America and Europe.

"Oldsmobile was a big part of building Lansing as a city," said Chris Holman, business editor for a Lansing television station. "One thing that won't change, though, is that automotive history, via the R.E. Olds name, started in Lansing."

Oldsmobile was among the pioneers in using chrome-plated trim and the mass production of automatic transmissions, giving drivers the Eighty Eight series, the front-wheel-drive Toronado and the Cutlass.

Oldsmobile grew steadily over the years and in 1977 became the first GM division outside Chevrolet to sell more than 1 million cars. Its high point was 1985, when it built 1,168,982 vehicles.

Since then, Oldsmobile has been in a slow decline. Sales totaled 352,197 in 1999, and through November of this year, the brand had sold 265,878 vehicles — an 18.5 percent decline.

GM executives admitted they had failed to erase the stodgy image of a brand that once was synonymous with American prosperity and dependability.

The company's place in Lansing's history is noticeable in the Oldsmobiles that make up part of the collection at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum and at the historical center three blocks from the state Capitol.

"For us old car guys, we will always be nostalgic about the old Oldsmobile," said Jim Walkinshaw of Holt, a retired GM engineer who owns the 1905 Curved Dash Olds in the historical center lobby.

But Walkinshaw and others in the city of roughly 125,000 are quick to point out that GM's decision won't have a big economic impact. Two years ago, when Oldsmobile moved its office from Lansing to Detroit, Mayor David Hollister already was making sure Lansing remained a major GM town.

"Instead of moping about it and anguishing over what we lost, we really focused on making ourself a manufacturing center," Hollister said.

Not far from the historical center, a new Cadillac Catera plant is rising near an old Oldsmobile assembly plant. The Cadillac plant will open in late 2001 and employ about 1,500 workers.

A new $1 billion GM assembly and parts plant employing about 2,800 workers is to be completed in about three years in nearby Eaton County. The Delta Engine plant, also in Eaton County, will be phased out with the Oldsmobile name.

Lansing autoworkers produce the Oldsmobile Alero, Pontiac Grand Am, the Chevy Malibu and the Cadillac Eldorado and make powertrains and engines. Hollister said GM officials have said the Alero will remain in production until 2003 as long as customers buy it.

The mayor said Oldsmobile will keep its name on Oldsmobile Park, where the minor league Lansing Lugnuts play. Oldsmobile pledged $1.5 million to put its name on the stadium, a $100,000-a-year commitment that continues through 2010.

The division already had decided to make this year its last as the main sponsor of the annual LPGA Oldsmobile Classic, which attracted top female golfers to Walnut Hills Country Club in nearby Meridian Township.

Darrel Dean of Portland, a welder at the engine plant, said he was grateful GM was making the transition fairly painless.

"They eased us into it," he said. "I'm sorry to see it go, but it's not as much of a surprise as it would have been."

Rep. Patrick Kennedy weathers difficulties

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — This was Rep. Patrick Kennedy's year:

He acknowledged he took antidepressants. An airport security guard claimed he shoved her in a scuffle. A charter company accused him of causing $28,000 in damage to a yacht.

The latest blemish came this week, when it surfaced that the Coast Guard in July sent a rescue boat to take Kennedy's distraught date off his chartered yacht.

But he's had triumphs as well, including an Election Day rout and impressive fund raising on behalf of fellow Democrats. Even so, some say the portrait emerging of the 33-year-old Rhode Island congressman could hurt his political future.

"There have been enough things to come to suggest a pattern of bad behavior and that's something he has to worry about, that voters will put the pieces together into a portrait that is unflattering," said Darrell West, a Brown University political scientist and author of "Patrick Kennedy: The Rise to Power."

Kennedy, traveling this week with President Clinton in Ireland, could not be reached for comment. His chief of staff, Tony Marcella, expressed disappointment about the flood of public scrutiny to Kennedy's personal life.

"He can't have a private life at all," Marcella said. "Contrary to what people say, Congressman Kennedy bleeds like the rest of us. He's human. Because his name is attached to it, it becomes a front-page story. I think that's unfortunate."

In the past two years, under Kennedy's chairmanship, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee nearly tripled the amount of money raised, from $37 million to $97 million.

In March, Kennedy, who had previously acknowledged he was treated for cocaine addiction as a teen, revealed he suffered from depression and took prescription medicine to control the illness.

The same month, a Los Angeles International Airport security guard filed a complaint with police claiming he shoved her in a confrontation over his oversized luggage. He later apologized for acting rudely, and was not charged.

In November, a Connecticut charter, Atlantic Navigation Co., said Kennedy caused $28,000 in damage this summer to a rented yacht. Kennedy initially called the boat a "lemon" and refused to pay, but his insurance company settled for an undisclosed amount.

Bail denied for sect leader, two others

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — A sect leader, his wife and sister, accused of starving the couple's infant son, were denied lower bail Tuesday.

Judge David McLaughlin rejected the bail requests without comment, apparently unmoved by lawyers for the three who said they did not intend to kill the baby and were only following a prophecy by the sister, Michelle Mingo.

The prosecutor argued vigorously to keep the three in jail.

"Samuel went from being a happy child to being a pained, weak baby who cried constantly," said prosecutor David Frank, who argued against lowering bail.

Jacques Robidoux's lawyer, Frank O'Boy, said the sect leader believed his sister when she told him and his wife, Karen, that it was God's will to withhold food from the infant. The boy was fed only breast milk and almond milk until he died in April 1999 just before his first birthday.

"They had an abiding faith that God would provide," O'Boy said.

All three have pleaded innocent.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	38.63	38.00	38.13	—.50
AT&T Corp	22.13	21.56	21.75	+ .19
Albertsons	23.88	23.38	23.75	+ .38
Alltel	64.88	63.56	64.38	+ .44
AmerOnline	49.97	49.05	49.12	+ .47
AmEl Pw	45.88	45.13	45.13	—.13
AndarkPtr	65.75	64.46	65.25	—.35
ATMOS Egy	22.00	21.56	22.00	+ .25
Aviall	5.31	5.13	5.13	—.06
BP Amoco	49.44	48.75	49.38	+ .75
BakerHughes	37.19	36.13	37.00	+ .94
Bank of Amer	43.88	42.94	43.06	—.38
BellSouth	44.25	43.06	43.75	+ .69
Beth Steel	2.00	1.94	1.94	—.06
BurlNoSFe	27.00	26.56	26.63	
Caterpillar	43.19	42.56	42.56	+ .19
Chevron	82.81	81.56	82.63	+ .81
Citigroup s	53.69	51.69	51.81	—.81
Coastal	81.63	80.38	80.38	—.44
CocaCola	58.13	57.69	57.81	—.19
ColgatePal	58.81	57.80	58.15	—.83
ComclMetals	25.44	25.38	25.38	
Coperin	43.13	41.44	41.50	—1.63
DaimlrChry	44.37	43.70	43.72	—1.23
DallSemicn s	26.75	25.50	25.69	—.31
DeltaAirl	50.69	49.88	49.88	+ .06
Dillards Inc	12.00	11.81	11.88	—.06
DowChem s	33.25	32.44	32.56	—.81
DuPont	43.56	42.81	43.19	+ 1.00
EastmanChem	46.25	45.69	45.81	—.25
EstKodak	40.50	39.50	40.13	—.94
EDS Corp	54.88	53.63	54.00	—2.00
Entergy	39.06	38.50	38.63	—.19
ExxonMobil	88.00	86.75	87.75	+ 1.19
Flowers	16.00	15.75	15.81	—.38
GenDynam	75.31	73.63	75.13	+ 1.56
GenElec s	53.63	52.75	52.88	+ .06
GenMills	40.13	39.31	39.75	+ .44
GenMotors	52.88	51.56	51.56	—.19
GaPacGP	26.75	26.13	26.13	—.44
GlobalMar	27.06	26.31	26.81	+ .19
Goodrich	34.13	33.75	33.81	—.13
Goodyear s	18.98	18.59	18.65	—.22
GtAtlPac	6.75	6.69	6.75	+ .13
Halliburtn	38.88	37.63	38.31	+ .25
Hanson ADS	30.75	30.44	30.44	+ .19
HarteHanks	23.00	22.56	22.56	—.31
HomeDepot	45.38	44.56	44.56	—.44
Honeywellintl	52.75	51.94	52.13	
IBM	96.63	93.81	94.06	+ .19
IntlPaper	38.44	37.13	37.19	—.38
JohnsonJn	99.44	97.63	99.06	+ 2.06
K mart	5.69	5.50	5.56	
Kroger Co	25.69	25.06	25.56	+ .56
Liton	61.19	60.31	61.00	+ .63
LockheedM	31.90	30.77	30.85	+ .35
Lowes Cos	43.25	42.44	42.44	—.13
Lubys	3.88	3.75	3.81	—.06
LucentTech	20.81	19.44	20.19	+ 1.50
MayDeptStr	30.25	29.50	29.88	—.38
Medtronic	55.50	54.50	55.25	+ 1.31
MorganJP	164.88	161.44	161.94	+ 3.50
Motorola s	21.63	20.63	20.69	—.06
NCR Corp	50.38	50.00	50.00	—.38
Navistar	22.06	21.25	21.25	—.38
Penney JC	9.75	9.50	9.50	—.25
PepBoys	4.06	4.00	4.00	—.06
PepsiCo	48.63	47.31	48.44	+ 1.06
Pharmacia	58.63	57.69	58.63	+ .81
PhelpDodge	53.63	52.94	52.94	—.75
PhilipPet	54.38	53.25	54.19	+ 1.00
PilgrmPrd B	7.81	7.81	7.81	—.06
Polaroid	8.25	7.81	7.81	+ .31
Praxair	40.75	38.38	40.06	+ 2.00
ProctGamb	72.63	71.25	71.81	—.13
PubS NwMx	24.44	24.13	24.25	+ .06
RadioShack	52.00	49.94	49.94	—2.44
ReliantEngy	41.19	40.25	40.88	+ .06
RoyalDut	56.88	56.06	56.63	+ .63
SBC Comm	53.63	52.75	52.88	+ .63
SaraLee	24.44	23.94	24.00	—.44
Scripps EW	60.50	59.75	31	+ .81
SearsRoeb	36.04	35.48	[illegible]	—.27
SherwinW	23.19	23.06	23.1[illegible]	+ .06
SmithIntBchm	65.19	64.38	64.56	+ .94
SouthernCo	30.00	28.69	29.56	+ .50
SwstAirl	32.50	31.88	32.20	+ .41
SprintFON	25.69	24.88	25.38	+ .44
SprintPCS s	29.38	28.50	28.50	+ .75
Sunoco Inc	31.31	30.63	30.88	+ .25
TXU Corp	40.69	39.69	40.06	+ .13
TempleInland	51.13	50.44	50.56	+ .13
Texaco	60.19	59.44	60.00	+ .56
Textind	24.31	24.06	24.06	—.19
TexasInst s	52.25	49.25	49.56	—3.25
Textron	46.44	45.13	45.25	—.38
TriconGlbR	35.50	34.94	34.94	—.75
TrinityInds	25.13	24.63	24.75	—.50
TritonEngy	25.13	24.50	25.00	+ .75
TylerTech	1.94	1.88	1.88	—.06
USX-Marathn	26.69	26.38	26.56	+ .19
USX-USS	17.13	16.44	16.56	—.13
UnCarbde	46.63	45.31	45.56	—.88
UnionPacif	48.63	47.31	47.50	—.31
UnitedTech	74.88	74.13	74.31	+ .81
Unocal	37.00	36.50	36.94	+ .50
Venator Grp	14.25	14.00	14.06	—.31
VerizonComm	56.81	55.88	56.50	+ 1.13
WalMart	52.75	51.00	51.00	—.88
WellsFargo	50.56	49.56	49.56	—.38
WstrnGasRs	24.31	24.25	24.25	+ .06
WinnDixie	18.44	18.00	18.25	
Xerox Cp	5.69	5.38	5.56	+ .06

Working poor descend on U.S. food banks

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — To the working poor looking in on a booming economy from the outside, housing and fuel prices have exploded and health care, prescription drug and car repair costs aren't far behind.

That's leaving precious little for food budgets this holiday season, almost five years into the welfare reform act's efforts to move people off welfare and into jobs.

"A lot of the people that eat here have jobs," said chef Joe Cailteux, cooking up ham, noodle casserole and green beans at Albuquerque's Salvation Army kitchen. "As a matter of fact, we have scheduled the hours that we feed here in order to feed the people who do attempt to work."

A year ago, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that demand for emergency food assistance grew 18 percent over 1998 in 26 cities. On Thursday, they plan an update on hunger and homelessness.

A U.S. Agriculture Department study last year found 10 million families, or 9.7 percent of U.S. households, had inadequate access to food in 1996-98. New Mexico topped the list at 15.1 percent.

"It does become a choice between do I take my child to the doctor, pay my utility bill or go to the grocery store and buy food?" said Cindy Cerf, spokeswoman for St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, which distributes 30 million pounds of food a year, mostly to 900 relief agencies in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

"These aren't people who are depending on welfare," she said. "It's just that they're at the low end of the pay scale."

Also suffering are people whose jobs don't include health benefits, said Sister Paulette LoMonaco, executive director of Good Shepherd Services in New York City.

"Their salaries aren't sufficient to provide benefits or a living wage, so when a small problem comes up, it becomes a catastrophe," she said.

Single mother Margaret Trujillo of Albuquerque earns $60 a week from baby-sitting and gets $120 a month in food stamps. She says rising fuel prices mean she can't pay her bills, so she turned to a food pantry to make sure she and her 3-year-old son have enough to eat.

"My mom's not going to say get out, you know, but I need to pay her," she said.

Soaring demand, low inventories and expected colder weather will keep natural gas and heating-oil prices high through the winter, government and industry economists said Tuesday. The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers would be 50 percent higher this winter than last.

Rents have skyrocketed so much in 38 metropolitan areas that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development broadened its rent-subsidy program this month.

Still, some people aren't getting help that they could. Food stamp rolls dropped 28 percent after welfare reform, according to the General Accounting Office.

Doug O'Brien of Chicago-based America's Second Harvest, a food bank umbrella group, says many people leaving welfare were never told they remained eligible for food stamps or found it hard to get them.

Said Agriculture Undersecretary Shirley Watkins, who supervises the food stamp program: "I think there was a lot of misinformation."

So people turn to food banks. The Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque distributed 10 million pounds of food statewide this year — double the amount since last year, said director Melody Wattenbarger.

"The flaw in that is we can't do it — we were designed to be emergency food suppliers. There's really not enough food to do that," she said.

New Mexico plans a massive outreach program in the next six months to alert people eligible for food stamps.

The prevailing glow of affluence also can make helping the needy trickier: "It's a little harder to convince people there's a whole group of people who have been left behind by that prosperity," Wattenbarger said

Fred Grandy, recently retired as president of Goodwill Industries, says welfare reform was a turning point for that organization. Last year, he said, Goodwill served 373,000 people — three times the number for 1995.

"It's a work in progress," he said. "Replacing welfare with work is a good idea, but it is a long-term strategy, not a short-term fix."

On The Net:

Conference of Mayors:
http://www.usmayors.org

Good Shepherd Services:
http://www.goodshepherds.org

Food Stamps:
http://www.usda.gov

HUD Subsidies:
http://www.hud.gov

Urban Institute:
http://www.urban.org

St. Mary's Food Bank:
http://www.ariz.com/stmarys

America's Second Harvest:
http://www.secondharvest.org

One killed in shootout in Union Station

CHICAGO (AP) — A shootout between a police drug unit and two suspects in Union Station killed one person, injured two and sent waiting train passengers diving for cover Tuesday.

The officers had tried to stop the two men to question them, but one of the suspects grabbed a female officer and there was an exchange of gunfire, police spokesman Pat Camden said.

One of the suspects was killed, the policewoman was shot in the leg, and the other suspect, also hospitalized, was in critical condition, Camden said.

It wasn't immediately clear who shot whom, police said.

The shooting took place in the Amtrak concourse of the sprawling station next to train platforms, police said. A statement from Amtrak said that the two men had just arrived on a train from New York and that the incident was an "apparent federal drug interdiction."

Inez Hart, a traveler from Africa, was in the waiting room when the gunfire erupted

"When they got off the train, they apprehended them right in front of where the lounge was for Amtrak. They tried to grab the bags and take the bags away from them. There was a struggle, and during the struggle, they pulled guns," Hart said.

"The bullets came flying right through the window where we were, and glass shattered everywhere. Everybody had to drop to the ground, the whole waiting area, and we crawled like we were in a movie, an action movie," she said.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 12-13-00
♠ A 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A 7 6 3 2
♣ 7 3 2

West
♠ Q 10 7 6 4
♥ Q J
♦ 10 8
♣ 10 9 6 5

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

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

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 6

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000

What ranges for no-trump opeings?

By Phillip Alder

Yesterday, we learned that a one-no-trump opening or rebid may have an inclusive three-point range. However, a two-notrump opening or rebid should have only a two-point inclusive range.

This means that if you open one no-trump with the modern 15-17 points, a two-no-trump jump rebid shows 18-19 points, and a two-no-trump opening shows 20-21 (or, theoretically sounder in my view, 21-22, and with 20 you either upgrade to 21 or downgrade to 19). If you open one no-trump with the older 16-18 points, a two-no-trump jump rebid shows 19-20, and a two-no-trump opening shows 21-22. (This is a plus for 16-18, but that point-count occurs less frequently than 15-17, and one no-trump is the second-best opening bid in bridge.)

With those aces and kings, South's hand is worth about 19 points — hence the two-no-trump rebid.

West leads the spade six. You have eight top tricks: three spades (given the lead into your king-jack), two hearts, one diamond and two clubs. So, you need just one more trick from somewhere. You could hope for a 3-3 club break, which will happen 35.53 percent of the time. Better, though, is to play for a 3-2 diamond split, which occurs 67.8 percent of the time. However, dummy is short of entries. The right play is to win trick one and duck a diamond. Win the next spade lead and duck a second diamond. Win the next (spade) play by East, lead your last diamond to dummy's ace, and cash the two remaining winners in the suit, giving you 10 tricks in all.

The best opening bid in bridge? Seven no-trump, of course!

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Wilson's is hereditary — and rare

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is Wilson's disease?

DEAR READER: This is a rare, inherited and progressive disorder, marked by a toxic accumulation of copper in the body.

Over a period of decades, as excess copper slowly builds up in tissues, patients exhibit increasingly severe signs of copper poisoning. By measuring the blood-copper level, doctors can diagnose the affliction.

Wilson's disease is marked by at least five characteristics:

— Rings of copper deposits around the pupils of the eyes.

— Hepatitis. This liver inflammation affects up to 50 percent of patients and will lead to cirrhosis (scarring) and eventual liver failure and death.

— Anemia. Red blood cells may absorb so much copper that they burst.

— Tremor, muscle rigidity, personality changes and dementia. These are the end-stage consequences of brain-poisoning by copper.

— Kidney damage.

Left untreated, Wilson's disease is invariably fatal. However, if diagnosed before major and irreversible changes occur, the condition is treatable using chelation therapy, drugs to bind copper and eliminate it from the body. The medicines must be regularly administered; the dose is adjusted according to the blood-copper level. Wilson's disease is one of the few diseases for which chelation has been proved effective. The earlier it is begun, the better the results.

Finally, patients with the disease should avoid foods rich in copper, such as organ meats, shellfish, nuts and whole grain cereals.

DEAR DR. GOTT: After I suffered a massive heart attack, I went into cardiac arrest. The doctors used electric shockers to restore the heartbeat. Now I am fine, except for a 2-inch burn on my left chest. Is this a normal occurrence?

DEAR READER: Heart attacks often result in cardiac arrest: sudden heart stoppage or the development of a fluttery, ineffectual pulse. If not promptly corrected, this complication is fatal.

Therefore, a heart attack with cardiac arrest is usually treated with defibrillation (electric countershock): Hand-held electrode paddles are placed on the patient's chest, and a brief but powerful electric shock is delivered. This momentarily short-circuits the heart's abnormal electrical pattern, after which the normal cardiac rhythm is restored. Countershock sounds like a desperate maneuver — and it is. But the technique, now an accepted standard procedure, is often lifesaving, as it was in your case.

Occasionally, if the medical personnel fail, for one reason or another, to apply the electrode paddles firmly enough to the chest during defibrillation, the electricity causes an arc or spark that may burn the skin. Fortunately, this does not cause any particular health problem — except, as you've discovered, an uncomfortable burn. Once this heals, you'll probably have a scar to prove that you survived near-catastrophe. You were lucky to have had your cardiac arrest where medical attention was immediately available; in other circumstances, the outcome might not have been as favorable. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Heart Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it my iron pills or my multivitamins that turn my stool black?

DEAR READER: Oral iron supplements turn the stool black. This can be quite a shock to someone who is unprepared for such a change, but it is a harmless consequence of iron therapy.

On the other hand, intestinal bleeding can also darken the stool. Fortunately, this can easily be differentiated from the effects of iron by a simple and inexpensive stool analysis that checks for blood.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2000

Any knowledge or investigative information you gather in the year ahead will serve you well. There's a good chance it will produce rewarding friendships, as well as profitable endeavors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Trying untested ideas today could turn out to be an exercise in futility. It's better to adhere to logical, tried-and-true methods and procedures in all that you strive to do. Astro-Graph year ahead predictions make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the Zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the Zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If your expectations are unrealistic today regarding your compensation for a contribution you make, you'll be inviting disappointment. Be realistic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be very careful you don't look like you're trying to manipulate others in order to serve a personal interest. They'll perceive it immediately and do everything they can to trip you up.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If you put yourself in a negative mode today, you will end up operating in a manner that will create a self-fulfilling prophecy. Don't worry about what may never happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Because your need for approval might be greater than usual, you could be very susceptible to flattery today by someone who may try to manipulate you for a selfish purpose. Be careful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Success is possible today, but you must be prepared to put forth the proper effort and courage needed. Thus, first and foremost, assess the difficulties involved realistically.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you feel you might be unable to comply with a promise or commitment, don't make it in the first place. Sincerity is essential in all relationships.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Stick to the tried-and-true today when it comes to sources you depend on to generate income. The old well is still producing, while betting on the unknown is quite iffy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be certain the cohort you select in a partnership arrangement today is as amicable, as you are and is willing to pull his or her own weight, otherwise this person could be a hindrance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others may want to help you manage a critical assignment today, but while doing so may unwittingly strew more obstacles in your path. Try to go it alone and handle things yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Someone who likes you but is a trifle envious of you may not be able to help himself or herself today in trying to make you look bad in front of others. Don't provide any further ammunition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be very careful how you conduct yourself in front of others today, because your image tends to be a trifle fragile today. Anything you do out of line will be blown out of proportion.

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Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 1,338 head of cattle for the Saturday, Dec. 9, sale. No comparison – Reporter absent last week.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 129-137
300-400: 115-124
400-500: 104-112
500-600: 90-96.50
600-700: 86-90
700-800: 80-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 108-113
400-500: 88-95.50
500-600: 82.50-88
600-700: 78-80
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 590-710
Aged cows: 455-580
Pairs: 710-845
Aged pairs: 555-655
Slaughter cows: Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 35-38.50
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 38-40.50
Bone High Yielding: 1100-1350 Lbs. 41.50-42.75
Lean: 900-1200Lbs. 33-38
Under 750 lbs.: 30-32
Slaughter bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2100 Lbs. 46.50-52
Low Dressing: 1,000-1,130 lbs. 44.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 1,071 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 7, sale. Cows were $3 to $3 cheaper. Yearlings and calves were to $2 to $3 cheaper. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 36-41
Canner and low cutters: 28-35
Slaughter bulls: 44-50
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-135
400-500: 95-120
500-600: 85.100
600-700: 85-92.50
700-800: 80-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 95-110
400-500: 85-100
500-600: 80-72.50
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 75-83
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-95
700-800: 74-80
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-800
Grade: 450-625
Springers: 350-700
Baby calves: 125-175
Doodlers: 150-250

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Native to Mexico, the poinsettia originated in a region near the present-day city of Taxco. Joel Robert Poinsett, a Southern plantation owner and botanist, was appointed the first United States Ambassador to Mexico (1825-1829). While visiting Taxco, he was struck by the beauty of the brilliant red plants he found blooming in the region during December. He had some of the plant sent to his plantation in Greenville, South Carolina, where they flourished in his greenhouse. While the botanical name, Euphorbia pulchemima, was given by a German taxconomist in 1833, the common name, poinsettia, became and has remained the accepted name in English-speaking countries. With over 70 million plants sold nationwide each year, the poinsettia is now the number one flowering potted plant sold in the USA.

The widespread belief that poinsettia are poisonous is a misconception. The safety of poinsettia in the home is demonstrated in scientific studies conducted by Ohio State University in cooperation with the Society of American Florists. The study concluded that no toxicity was evident at experiment ingestion levels far exceeding those likely to occur in a home environment. In fact, the POISINDEX Information Service, the primary information resource used by most poison control centers, states that a 50-pound child would have to ingest over 500 poinsettia bracts to surpass experimental doses. Yet even at this high level, no toxicity was demonstrated. As with all of ornamental plants, the poinsettia is not intended for human or animal consumption.

To select a beautiful poinsettia, look for plants with full mature, thoroughly colored and expanded bracts, i.e., the colorful parts of the poinsettia. Avoid plants with too much green around the bract edges. Bracts come in white, pink, peach, yellow, marbled or speckled, as well as the traditional red. An abundance of dark, rich green foliage is a vital sign of good plant health. Look for plants with dense, plentiful foliage all the way down the stem.

Proper proportion of plant height and shape relative to container size is the key to an aesthetically pleasing poinsettia. Plants should also appear balanced, full and attractive from all angles. A generally accepted standard is that the plant should be approximately 2½ times taller than the diameter of the container.

Select plants with stiff stems, good bract and lean retention, and no signs of wilting, breaking, or drooping. Be wary of plants displayed in paper, plastic, or mesh sleeves. A poinsettia needs its space. The longer a plant remains sleeved, the more the plant quality will deteriorate. Examine the soil of the plant. It's best to avoid waterlogged soil, particularly if the plant appears wilted. This could be a sign of irreversible root rot. When transporting the plant, into sleeve or a large, roomy shopping bag will usually provide adequate protection for transporting the plant home when it is cold and windy.

The poinsettia thrives on indirect, natural daylight, and exposure to at least six hours daily is recommended. If direct sun cannot be avoided, diffuse with a light shade or sheer curtain. To prolong the bright color of the poinsettia bracts, daytime temperatures should not exceed 70 degrees F. Avoid placing the plants near drafts, excess heat, or the dry air from appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.

Poinsettias require moderately moist soil. Water the plants thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry to the touch. Remove the plant from decorative pots or covers, and water enough to completely saturate the soil. Do not allow the poinsettia to set in any standing water, root rot could result which could kill the plant. It is not necessary to fertilize the poinsettia when it is in bloom.

Since poinsettias are sensitive to cold weather, frost and rain, outside placement during the winter months should be avoided. However, in mild climate, an enclosed patio or entry way may be suitable, provided the night temperatures do not drop below 55 degrees F. Make certain the delicate bracts are well-protected from the wind and cold rain.

Keep the plants in indirect sun and water regularly. Place your plants outdoors, where they can bask in the warmth of spring and summer, after outside night temperatures average 55 degrees F or above. When the bracts age and lose their aesthetic appeal, usually by late March or early April, cut the poinsettia back to about 8 inches in height. By the end of May you should see vigorous new growth. Continue regular watering during the growth period. Fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks throughout the spring, summer and fall months with a well-balanced complete fertilizer. Around June 1, you may transplant your poinsettia to large pots. Select pots no more than 4 inches larger than the original inner pot. A soil mix with considerable amounts of organic matter, such as peat moss or leaf mold, is highly recommended. If you wish, you may transplant the poinsettias into a well-prepared garden bed. Be sure the planting bed is rich in plants bushy and compact. Do not prune after September 1.

The poinsettia is a photo periodic plant, meaning that it sets bud and produces flowers as the autumn nights lengthen. The plants will naturally come into full bloom during November or December, depending upon the flowering response time of the individual cultivator. Timing the bloom to coincide closely with the Christmas holiday can be difficult without the controlled environment of a greenhouse. Stray light of any kind, such as from outside streetlights or household amps, should delay or entirely halt the re-flowering process. Starting October 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours a night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a totally dark room, or by covering them with a large box overnight. During October, November and early December, the plants require 6 to 8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with nighttime temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees F. Temperatures outside the range may delay flowering. Continue the morning watering and fertilizer program. Following this range may delay flowering. Continue the normal watering and fertilize program. Following this regimen for 8 to 10 weeks should result in a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season.

Big Texas chill beneficial for citrus, growers say

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — The Texas citrus crop, poised to escape much of the hard freeze from an ice storm that marched to almost the southern tip of the state, may have actually benefited from the cold, wet weather.

The result will help grapefruit and other crops in the Rio Grande Valley grow plumper and redder, say agriculturists. That in turn will boost supermarket sales.

"It's going to bring a lot of rain. This is the best thing that can happen to us," Bob Thornton, Texas Citrus Mutual executive vice president in Mission, told The Brownsville Herald in Wednesday's editions. "For one, the cool weather helps the fruit color up quickly. And the other — the rain will help the fruit take on size."

Rod Santa Ana, spokesman for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Weslaco, said the only threat to citrus, vegetable and sugar cane crops is if temperatures dip below 27 degrees for more than an hour.

"As long as it stays above 30 degrees, we will be OK," said Santa Ana, adding that such fronts — or northers — usually help plants build a resistance to cold weather.

Repeated, gradual northers help plants get strong and sturdy.

"We've already had cold temperatures this fall and winter. It has given them time to get used to the cold weather," said Santa Ana. "We start to get into trouble when we dip into the 20s."

The moisture-laden Pacific front, overriding the colder Arctic air, was pushing temperatures into the 30s by Wednesday and also bringing some rain, according to the National Weather Service in Brownsville.

Citrus crops are being harvested through May. Santa Ana said farmers this month are dealing with leafy vegetables such as cilantro, as well as onions, while a third of the sugar cane has been harvested amid the wintry weather.

"It helps the sugar cane accumulate the sugars and starts to burn off the foliage that (farmers) have to burn anyhow," said Santa Ana.



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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Protestant hard-liners confront Clinton

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Drawn into the bitter divisions in Northern Ireland, President Clinton was confronted Wednesday by Protestant hard-liners who oppose the two-year-old accord that has brought a fragile peace to the region.

On the second day of his Northern Ireland mission, Clinton opened meetings about the future of the peace process with David Trimble, Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Roman Catholic, and Gerry Adams of the Sinn Fein Party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army. He also met British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Afterward, all except Adams spoke before a large crowd in Belfast's new sports arena, the Odyssey. In a prepared text, Trimble said he would "stand firm" in his demand for gradual Irish Republican Army disarmament, an issue has bedeviled Northern Ireland's peace process for the past six years.

Before introducing Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair defended his government's cautious approach to scaling down its military forces in Northern Ireland in response to the IRA's 1997 cease-fire. Despite IRA dissidents' continuing effort to wreck the cease-fire, Blair said, Britain had already reduced British forces in the province to around 13,000, the lowest level in three decades.

Earlier in the day, as they made their way through the Great Hall of the Stormont Parliament Building, the president received a warm welcome from the province's major British Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists. But he ended up surrounded by Democratic Unionist Party members who had been excluded from the afternoon's talks.

Little relief is expected from increasing heating fuel prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — A cold and expensive winter could be in store for many American households as natural gas prices show no sign of easing and heating oil costs rival the peaks seen last winter.

Government and industry officials told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday that the prices stem from too little natural gas to meet demand.

"The economy has been robust," pushing up industrial and utility demands for fuel, said Roger Cooper, executive director of the American Gas Association. "And heating demand has been high in this early winter season due to unusually cold weather."

"Volatile (natural) gas prices will prevail until significantly more gas supplies enter the market," added Mark Mazur, head of the Energy Information Administration.

While higher prices have produced new drilling, significant new production would be needed before the "fairly strong mismatch between supply and demand" gets straightened out to force prices to retreat, Mazur said in his testimony.

Meanwhile, a state energy official said the country is already in "an energy crisis" without enough money to help poor families pay for heating bills that will average about 50 percent more than last year — and could go even higher if there is a prolonged cold spell.

"Skyrocketing prices for natural gas, combined with rising heating oil, kerosene and propane costs, and attendant electricity price increases for many households, leave the most vulnerable households at serious risk," said Deborah Schachter, speaking for the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Schachter, head of New Hampshire's state energy office, urged Congress to approve this fiscal year's overdue budget for low-income energy assistance. The $1.4 billion is caught up in partisan budget wrangling, although the fiscal year began 10 weeks ago.

But even $1.4 billion may not be enough, Schachter said.

In New Hampshire, 114,000 households are eligible for low-income energy assistance, but, "faced with the worst energy crisis in 20 years, we project an ability to serve less than 12 percent" of those families, she said.

The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers — even with normal winter weather — will be 50 percent higher this winter than last, averaging $834 this season for a typical Midwest household.

About 56 million American homes are heated by natural gas.

Economists for some time have predicted that this winter would bring sharply higher heating costs whether it's for heating oil or natural gas. Unusually cold weather that has recently gripped parts of the country has added to the upward pressure on prices.

Hospital

ADMISSION: A.L. Byrom, Ellen Claxton, Nellie Davis, Juanita Ford, Elbert Hill, Rosa Maldonado, William Maxfield, Tonya Nobles, Reaghan Ruiz, Shannon Sucre and Cynthia Doral of Cedar Hill.

DISMISSALS: Evelyn Burton, A.L. Byrom, Juan Silvas, Pearl Cagle, Elbert Hill, William Maxfield, Tonya Nobles, C.J. Thornton of Rotan, Gerald Tutwiler of Ira and Becky Williams.

CENSUS: 40 (Med./Surg.-16, Long-term Care-23 and OB-1)

Weather-related accidents keep law enforcement busy

• ***Accidents***

While Department of Public Safety troopers were kept busy working accidents on U.S. Hwy. 84 Tuesday, city officers were handling their share around town.

At 8:03 a.m., a two-vehicle accident occurred in the 3900 block of Eastridge. Involved were a 1992 Buick LeSabre driven by Robin Velasquez, 31, of 3900 Eastridge and a 2000 Mercury van driven by Angela Carol Batchelor, 35, of 4101 Eastridge.

Officers worked a mishap at 9:39 a.m. in the 800 block of 25th Street involving a 1987 GMC pickup and a 1991 Buick Park Avenue. Gregorio S. Gonzales, 82, of 807 19th Street was driving the pickup, and Margie Pinkerton, 67, of 1005 23rd Street was driving the Buick.

An accident occurred at 3:04 p.m. in the Dairy Queen parking lot at 108 Coliseum. Involved were a 2000 Saturn driven by Amanda Blair Smith, 19, of Hermleigh and a 1993 Buick Roadmaster driven by Linda Skaggs Davenport, 57, of F.M. 473 in Snyder.

An accident report was taken at 6:11 p.m. in the 3200 block of College. Involved were a 1998 Ford Spirit driven by Rachel Leslie Massingill, 22, of 2109 43rd Street and a 1997 Dodge Ram driven by Kevin Wayne Sawyer, 29, of 112 Avenue R.

• ***Arrest***

A 33-year-old woman was taken into custody at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 2900 block of Avenue M for not paying a fine on a ticket she received for allowing a child under four to ride in a vehicle unrestrained.

• ***Fire report***

Dispatchers received a call at 2:05 p.m. Tuesday from a caller reporting seeing flames south of CR 221. Deputies checked the area and advised that the flames were from the flare at Torch Energy.

Obituaries

Mary Doak

1913-2000

Mary Clark Doak, a longtime resident of Snyder, died Dec. 1 in San Antonio where she had resided the past five years.

Mrs. Doak was the widow of Herman E. Doak, long-time Gulf oil distributor and director of West Texas State Bank.

A memorial service for Mrs. Doak, 87, is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Craig Curry, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, and Dr. Rex Reynolds, pastor of Hermleigh's First Baptist Church, will officiate. Interment will be in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mrs. Doak was born May 31, 1913 in Hayden, Ariz. She moved to Snyder in 1930 and married Herman Doak in 1932. Mrs. Doak had been a member of the First United Methodist Church since that time. She was active in many phases of church and community life through the years. As an avid and talented artist in all needlework, she enjoyed sharing her craft with others. She was a member of the Nancy Caton Sunday School Class, the Altrurian Daughters Club, Martha Ann Woman's Club and she was a docent at museums in Snyder.

Mrs. Doak also was preceded in death by her sister, Mercie Skiles, and her parents.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ann and Harold Hooks of San Antonio; her son, William H. Doak of Milwaukie, Ore.; four grandchildren, Lindsey Roberts, James Doak, Lena Doak and Katie Abney; two great-granddaughters, Stephanie Marie and Catherine Grace; her sister, Mildred Gamble of Abilene; and numerous other family members and friends.

Family members will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m. Friday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church or to a favorite charity.

Joy Alexander

1920-2000

Joy Alexander, a longtime resident of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, at her home.

Funeral service for Mrs. Alexander, 80, is set for 1 p.m. Thursday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Bill Looney, associate minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery.

Born Oct. 21, 1920 in Snyder, she was a homemaker and bookkeeper. She had lived in Sundown and Lubbock before moving to Snyder where she was a member of the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Mary Lee Trull of Snyder and Eva Stalls of Abilene; a son, Walter Miller of Lubbock; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Cheri Hollis

1954-2000

Cheri Hollis, 46, died Monday, Dec. 11, at her home in Snyder following a sudden illness.

Ms. Hollis will be cremated and a memorial service is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the First Assembly of God Church under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home. The Rev. Larry Lakey, Assembly of God minister from Mesquite, will officiate.

Ms. Hollis was born on Oct. 26, 1954. She was preceded in death by her father, Milton Hollis in December, 1999.

Survivors include her mother, Dolly Hollis of Snyder; a daughter, Melissa Hood of Snyder; and a son, Seth Hood of Austin.

Mr. McCormack

1916-2000

EUGENE, Ore. — Happy M. McCormack, a former Snyder resident, died Sunday, Dec. 10, in Eugene from diabetes complications.

Funeral service for Mr. McCormack, 74, was to be held this morning in England's Eugene Memorial Chapel. Interment was to follow in Sunset Hills Memorial Gardens in Eugene.

Born on June 21, 1916, he married Erlene Moore in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 20, 1948. She died Sept. 3, 1993.

Mr. McCormack grew up and worked in the cotton fields around Snyder until he entered the Army during World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart after being injured in Germany.

After the war, he moved to Long Beach, Calif., where he met his wife. They lived in Long Beach until 1949 when they moved to Seattle, Wash., then to Portland, Ore., in 1971.

He and his son, Tom Moore, co-owned All American Steel Fabricators in Eugene, which his son still operates. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Eugene, the Northwest Steel Association, and Elks Lodges in Eugene and Renton, Wash.

Others preceding him in death include one grandson in 1974; five brothers; and three sisters.

Survivors are a son, Tom McCormack of Eugene; a daughter, Susan Wirth of Eugene; two sisters, Opal Blakely and Lois Nichols, both of Hereford; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Seniors helping seniors

Snyder High School seniors are assisting senior citizens this holiday season by helping put up outside Christmas lights and other decorations. For assistance, call 573-6301 and ask for Beth Bowen.

Early head start registration

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

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

FBC worship service

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

West Family Reading Night

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

Central Stars go caroling

Central Elementary's choir, "The Central Stars," will carol Friday. Under the direction of Sheila Sorrels, the choir will perform at Snyder Healthcare Center at 9 a.m., Snyder Oaks at 10 a.m., Burger King at 11 a.m., First Baptist Church Chapel at 1 p.m. and West Texas State Bank lobby at 2 p.m.

Cub Pack 61

Cub Scout Pack 61 will meet at 7 p.m. Friday at the Scout Hut. Dress warmly as the scouts will go caroling after the meeting.

Christmas musical

Faith Baptist Church's adult choir will present "Bethlehem's Child," a musical drama, at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the church, 208 37th Street.

Christmas cantata

Trinity United Methodist Church will present "Lord, I Left Your Name On High," a Christmas cantata by Steven Taylor at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, and at 7 p.m. Monday. Everyone is invited to the performances that lasts about 30 minutes.

Christmas programs

Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th, will have a day of Christmas celebration Sunday. The adult choir will present "2000 Decembers Ago" at 10:50 a.m. The children and youth will present "Wonderful Christmas' at 6 p.m.

Christmas concert

First Church of the Nazarene will present a Christmas Concert featuring Kimberley and Tom Wagner with Compassionate Heart Music at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. A nursery is provided and there is no charge.

4-H horse club meeting

The 4-H horse club meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Retirement reception

A reception in honor of Rona Sikes will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, in the county courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse. Mrs. Sikes has served as county tax assessor-collector since Jan. 1, 1985. The tax office will be closed during the reception.

Raw peanuts for sale

The women of The Church of God in Ira are selling raw peanuts for holiday cooking. The cost is $10 for a five-pound bag. To order, call Sheila Alexander at 573-8148, or Juanita Hester at 728-3312.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Vocational nurse program testing

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

Adult basic education classes

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

USS Cole returns to Mississippi port

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — The USS Cole, with a gaping hole from terrorist bomb in Yemen that killed 17 sailors, returned Wednesday to the Mississippi shipyard where the $1 billion destroyer was built.

The Navy warship arrived in Pascagoula riding piggyback on a Norwegian-owned heavy-lift ship because of the damage to its port side. The Aegis-class destroyer was christened here in 1995 and built by Ingalls Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Litton Industries Inc.

The Cole was in Aden, Yemen, on Oct. 12 when it was attacked.

A patch for the hull's ragged 40-foot by 40-foot hole will be welded in place before the Cole is taken from the transport ship, and weapons will be unloaded.

The Cole goes into dry dock for repairs next month. The work is expected to last about a year at a cost of $150 million to $170 million

When the Cole arrived, a large tarp covered its hole and sailors stood on the deck. At least 100 employees wearing hard hats worked alongside a huge crane that was pulling the transport ship to the dock.

Ingalls carpenter B.C. Lee, who helped build the Cole, was on hand for the arrival.

"I hate to see it coming back in that shape," Lee said. "It makes me feel good the Navy chose us to repair it."