THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

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Home Of Mary & Jim Waters

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WT-Int. Crude - $24.93
WTIC Posted - $21.75

Christmas countdown continues at fast pace

The countdown is getting serious. There's only 24 days until Christmas.

A highlight of the Christmas season in Snyder is the annual lighted parade sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

This year's parade is Saturday with entrants asked to assemble in the Snyder Shopping Center before dusk on Saturday.

"We're still taking entries," said chamber executive director Donna Fowler. "We have 10 entries now and we will be accepting entries almost to the time the whistle blows to start the parade down College Avenue.

"Seriously, if someone wants to enter the parade as late as Saturday afternoon, that will be okay. Just be in the parking lot before the parade starts," said Fowler.

The chamber is asking that there be no rollerbladers or walkers enter due to the length of the parade.

Fowler reminds everyone who wants to participate that the entry must be lighted in order to participate.

It will be a full afternoon and evening of holiday activities in Snyder as there will be Christmas carolers on the courthouse lawn during the day, and the chamber will be serving hot chocolate, soft drinks and popcorn at the gazebo beginning around 3:30 Saturday afternoon.

Santa Claus will make his appearance at the gazebo at 4 o'clock, and will be hearing Christmas wishes until he has to leave to get in the parade at 5:45.

St. Nick will be back at the courthouse following the parade, making the rounds on the square and visiting with children, but not at the gazebo.

Courthouse employees will host a holiday open house in the courthouse immediately following the lighted parade.

First place winners in the parade will take home $150, while second place winners will get $75, as will the float picked for third place.

Residents can again enter their homes in the annual lighting contest sponsored by the Snyder Goldcoaters.

Entries within the city limits are now being taken at the chamber.

Top prize for the best decorated home is $75, while second place will bring $50 and third place is worth $25.

"Those prizes will go a long way in paying for decorations," said Fowler.

Continuing in the Christmas spirit, the Girl Scouts are again sponsoring the annual Toys for Tots program.

An application is on page 7 of today's edition of the Snyder Daily News. If additional applications are needed, they are available at the newspaper office.

Follow the directions on the application, or call 573-3525 or 573-6725 for additional information.

Upon approval of the application, applicants will be notified by telephone of when to pick up the toys on the distribution date of Dec. 23.

Applications will be accepted through Dec. 18.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Smart people listen to advice. Wise people know when to take it."

We found the news troubling – right here in the midst of the holiday season.

Even the most disciplined folks seem to gain pounds in December. It's impossible to go anywhere without goodies there in plain sight. The temptation is overwhelming.

Then comes the news that even those who exercise regularly will likely continue to gain weight because new scientific findings say that Americans need twice the exercise than previously thought.

But some of us can do double without much trouble. Two times nothing is still nothing.

We cannot tell a lie... Martha Washington candy is our favorite.

The Wilton Holiday Report concludes there is no such thing as a "typical" American holiday.

To our surprise, Christmas is not the most popular special observance. Birthdays are first, followed by Thanksgiving – and then Christmas.

While 87 percent of Americans are at home on Thanksgiving, the number decreases to 86 percent for Christmas. Six percent eat both holiday meals in a restaurant. And the study found that 10 per cent spend the Christmas holidays on vacation.

And concerning holiday parties, chances are the life of any party is a woman. Does that mean that men are party poopers?

Certainly not! Women make all the plans, pick out what he must wear and tell him what time to be ready. It's really a male stress thing.

Christmas, of course, is the top spending holiday. The average household shells out $687 a year on gifts - $448 of that for Christmas.

We have to believe the poll is flawed or at least they didn't interview any family with a grandmother.

We were surprised to learn that Christmas is not the top food holiday. Relax girls, Christmas dinner may not be all that important. In the poll, it ranked ninth behind Thanksgiving, Labor Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Halloween, New Year's, Easter and Valentine's Day.

But when we do eat, American's favorite for Christmas dinner is ham, followed by turkey and beef.

What, no nachos?

BROWSING — Bobbie Combest browses around Hackfeld's, stopping to look at a selection of shoes as there are only 24 more days until the big day. (SDN Staff Photo)

Hospital, prison unit to conduct blood drive

Cogdell Memorial Hospital is the site of today's blood drive, sponsored by Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Scurry County Advisory Council for United Blood Services.

Employees will be able to donate blood until 5 p.m.

On Thursday, the Price Daniel Unit employees will hold a drive from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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

Pam Harris, community relations representatives for UBS, said blood supplies are extremely low for this time of year, especially types O-positive and O-negative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Search for bodies near Juarez is continuing

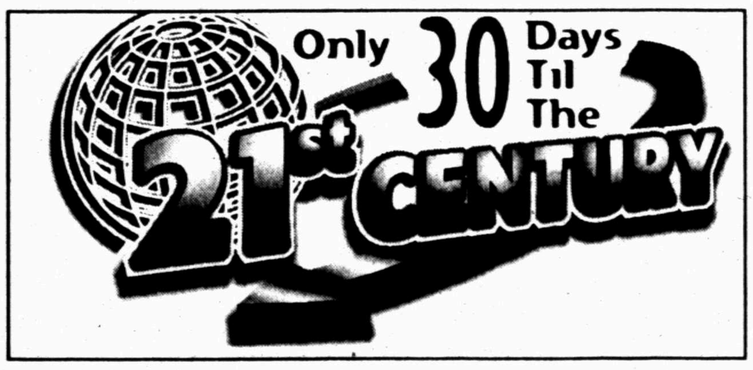
CIUDAD JUAREZ (AP) — U.S. and Mexican authorities resumed searching for bodies today at border ranches where the remains of two people have been unearthed and an FBI informant says as many as 100 victims of a powerful drug cartel could be buried.

FBI forensic experts worked with Mexican soldiers and ski-masked police searching at least two desert ranches near Ciudad Juarez, once the undisputed territory of the Juarez drug cartel, at one time Mexico's largest and most violent drug-smuggling outfit.

Authorities were led to the ranches by an informant who approached the FBI early this year, a federal law enforcement official said in Washington. The informant said there might be as many as 100 bodies there, including people who had been providing information to U.S. drug agents, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bones, clothing and shoes were found at the Rancho de la Campana, 10 miles southwest of Ciudad Juarez, according to Attorney General Jorge Madrazo.

"There is a skull, some bones, some boots; there are bone fragments, including some that are small," Madrazo told the Radio Red network in Mexico today.



Bush studying for Thursday debate with news reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Any misstep in his first debate could renew questions about George W. Bush's readiness for the presidency, so he is cramming for Thursday's event in a Texas-sized way.

Aides have scoured news reports and press releases for every mention of the Texas governor by his rivals, looking for potential debate-night attacks. They say looking through two years of transcripts helped prepare Bush for his Nov. 21 interview on "Meet the Press."

Santa Letters

Snyder Daily News is accepting letters to Santa Claus to be published in its Dec. 24 edition.

Letters may be brought to the newspaper at 3600 College Ave., or mailed to P.O. Box 949.

Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Dec. 14 in order to be forwarded to the North Pole in time for Christmas.

Cogdell board to meet Thursday

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Board of Managers will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday to consider an architectural contract for the relocation and renovation of radiology services.

The radiology department is to be moved to the area where the physical therapy and respiratory therapy were formerly located, near the emergency room.

The board will also consider purchase of equipment for the new radiology area.

Rotary Club to have Christmas party Thursday

Snyder Rotary Club will hold its Christmas dinner Thursday evening at the Wagon Wheel Ranch.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.

Rotary members and their guests are invited.

The regular noon meal will not be held Thursday in lieu of the Christmas dinner.

ASK US

Q—Were charges filed against Jerry Black, driver of the vehicle that killed Clayton Corder on July 4?

A—Black was issued a misdemeanor citation for failure to use due care to a pedestrian. DPS trooper Terry Snyder said at this point the case is closed.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 64 degrees; low, 49; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 52; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.80 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy. Low, mid 40s. S wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy, windy. High around 65. SW-W 20-30 mph, gusty.

Ted Cerd
Windy

Sunset:
5:40 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:25 a.m.
Of 334 days in 1999, the sun has shone 327 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

You only live once, but if you work it right, once is enough.

—Joe E. Lewis

Tax plan would aid very rich, working poor

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush wants to slash tax rates at all income levels, proposing a five-year, $483 billion package he says will "make life better for average men, women and children."

Targeting the working poor as well as the very rich, Bush's package embraces conservative economic staples with a populist twist, further defining what he means by his promise to be a "compassionate conservative." The proposal, which Bush was unveiling today, drew instant criticism from Republican and Democratic rivals as the GOP front-runner looks beyond the primaries to court general election voters.

The package would cut taxes a bit deeper than a similar Republican congressional package vetoed this year by President Clinton, but is not nearly as ambitious as the flat-tax overhaul championed by presidential rival Steve Forbes and other conservatives.

"Clearly, Bush faced down the tax code and blinked," Forbes spokeswoman Juleanna Glover Weiss said.

Bush's package would:

—Simplify and reduce marginal tax rates. Incomes are now taxed at five levels — 15 percent, 28 percent, 31 percent, 36 percent and 39.6 percent. Bush would propose four rates, with the poorest paying 10 percent and the wealthiest paying a top rate of 33 percent.

—Double the $500 child tax credit, a benefit to the middle class. Bush would open the credit to people earning up to $200,000; the current cap is $100,000.

—Reduce the penalty paid by couples who get married by restoring a deduction that ended in 1986.

—Eliminate all estate taxes, a GOP favorite that would primarily aid small business men and women, farmers and family members who inherit huge sums.

—Make permanent the research and development tax credit that Congress just extended for five years.

—Raise from $500 to $5,000 the amount of money a person can put in tax-free education savings accounts. Current law limits the accounts to college expenses; Bush would expand it to kindergarten through 12th grade.

—Eliminate the so-called "earnings limit" for Social Security. Recipients between the ages of 65-69 currently lose part of their Social Security benefits for every dollar they earn over $17,000.

Congress proposed a 10-year, $792 billion package that would have reduced all five marginal income rates by 1 percentage point, eased the so-called "marriage penalty," phased out estate taxes and expanded the IRA-like education savings accounts to $2,000.

Clinton vetoed the bill, saying it would have run the nation deeper into debt. Democrats say Bush's package is just as flawed, even though it lowers rates for low- and middle-income Americans.

"His plan is going to needlessly risk the economic prosperity and jeopardize the future of Social Security and Medicare," Democratic Party spokeswoman Jenny Backus said.

The Bush campaign said budget surpluses would create enough money to finance the tax package and his education and defense spending plans without tapping into Social Security reserves, assuming the economy grows at a rate of 2.7 percent a year.

Tax cuts are a staple of GOP presidential primaries, but the two-term Texas governor is especially eager to establish his supply-side credentials to counter concerns that he will follow the footsteps of his father, the former president who is still blamed for breaking a "no new taxes" promise.

Reducing the income-tax rates favors people with the highest incomes, because they pay the most taxes. Bush, however, is stressing his plan's benefits on people teetering between welfare and work.

Police arrest man in brick attack

NEW YORK (AP) — After an intensive two-week search, police arrested a homeless man Tuesday in the attack on a woman who was struck in the head with a paving brick near busy Grand Central Terminal.

Paris Drake, 34, was charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon in the Nov. 16 attack on Nicole Barrett. An attacker smashed a 6-pound brick into her skull as she walked through midtown Manhattan during the day.

Drake was in police custody from Nov. 23-24 on unrelated drug charges, but was let go because police didn't realize he could be a suspect in the brick attack, Police Chief Howard Safir said at a news conference.

According to police, Drake has a long rap sheet, including 21 arrests since 1982 on charges ranging from drug dealing to assault. He served six years in prison, Safir said.

Drake was picked up Monday on a tip from an inmate held on drug charges, said a police source who spoke on condition on anonymity.

According to the inmate, Drake said he had been panhandling and was upset over how little money he received, so he threw a stone that hit someone, the police source said. It took three days to locate Drake, the source said.

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Berry's World

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Faces From The Past...

Do You Know These Faces? If You Do... ENTER!! You Don't Have To Know Them All..

The Prize For The Winner This Week Will Be
3 Month Subscription
to the Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

9.

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573-5486

1.

Texas Savings Bank
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NEW DRIVE-IN HOURS 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
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SNYDER, TEXAS 79549
(915) 573-9305
1-800-725-9305
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

5.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
Member FDIC

10

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Snyder, Texas

2.

Fast Oil Change
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(Ave E & 25th Street)
915-573-9643

6.

American State Bank
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

LAST WEEK WINNER IS GOLDIE BROWNING

Faces From The Past Entry Week 96

1. Texas Savings Bank _____
2. Fast Oil Change _____
3. Plaza Cafe _____
4. Cutting Edge _____
5. West Texas State Bank _____
6. American State Bank _____
7. Rudy's Restaurant _____
8. Bell-Cypert-Seale _____
9. Snyder Daily News _____
10. Subway _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

3.

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7.

TIGER FANATICS
Rudy's
4604 College
573-7455

4.

CUTTING Edge HAIR SALON
XALYN PALACIOS
574-EDGE (3343)
2109 COLLEGE AVE.
SNYDER, TX 79549

8.

Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home
3101 College Ave.
573-5454

In each advertisement you will find a face from the past. Identify the faces on the entry blank opposite the name of the sponsoring business. **Bring or mail the entry blank to the Snyder Daily News, 3600 College, PO Box 949.** The deadline for entering is 5 p.m. Monday before the next contest appears on Wednesday. The weekly prize winner will be drawn from all the correct entries. The winner will be notified. This week's faces will be identified in next week's contest. Only one entry per person, and please do not make copies of the entry blank. Employees of the SDN are not eligible to enter.

Last Week's Photos: 1. Missy Trull 2. Leslie Warren 3. Kristen Walton 4. Lisa Massey 5. Dewayne Murdock 6. Angie Lay 7. Rafe Hargrove 8. Tonya Holladay 9. Vickie Fletcher 10. Ginger Bryan

Minimal impact is expected from oil merger

DALLAS (AP) — A merger creating the world's largest publicly traded oil company has driven the MOB from Wall Street.

MOB, the stock symbol of Mobil Corp., disappears as of today from stock listings as Exxon Corp. has completed its takeover and formed the new Exxon-Mobil Corp. Exxon's old symbol, XON, also disappears and has been replaced by XOM.

But while stock traders will have a new symbol to deal with, consumers should see relatively little change at the pump, according to oil industry analysts.

The way analysts see it, even the combination of the nation's two largest oil companies isn't enough of a force to control prices in a highly fragmented industry. Nor, they said, would the forced sale of an Exxon refinery in California do anything to reduce high gasoline prices there.

A few analysts even believe the requirement that Exxon and Mobil sell 2,413 service stations — 15 percent of their total — as a condition of the $81 billion merger might increase competition.

A half dozen or so major oil companies and independents are expected to bid for the stations, many of which occupy valuable real estate in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

George Gaspar, an analyst with Robert W. Baird and Co. in Milwaukee, said the forced sale gives smaller companies a chance to get big in a hurry.

"It will enhance at least two of the downstream players, so from that point of view there should be an improvement in competition," Gaspar said.

In a comment echoed by other analysts, Tyler Dann of Banc of America Securities in Houston said the gasoline-retailing business is among the most competitive out there — with or without the merger.

"How many other industries is the price of the product displayed for all the world to see?" Dann said. "On balance, the merger is probably a neutral" on gasoline prices.

"It's such a global market that no one company has a whole lot of pricing power," said Mark Hastings, an analyst with Citibank Global Asset Management in Stamford, Conn.

Some, such as Frank Knuettel of Paine Webber in New York, took a wait-and-see attitude. "It's much too early to tell what the effect on competition will be when we don't even know who the buyers are."

The combined Exxon-Mobil will produce 3.8 percent of the world's oil with 120,000 employees and $138 billion in assets.

Public Citizen, a consumer and environmental advocacy group, said the merger "is likely to lead to higher prices at the gas pumps" because of market dominance.

Company executives have defended the merger as a way to reduce costs and allow them to compete worldwide against the huge government-owned oil companies in Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Venezuela that are even larger than the combined Exxon-Mobil.

Officials in California, where motorists are plagued by gasoline prices significantly above the national average, believe the divestiture of Exxon's refinery in Benicia, Calif. could improve competition among refiners if the facility is sold to a company not already active in the state.

But analysts said the divestiture won't increase refining capacity, and they blamed the higher prices on the state's stricter standards for gasoline that produces fewer emissions.

Analysts generally agreed that the new Exxon-Mobil will suffer a short-term drop in earnings from the sale of service stations but will profit in the long run by cutting costs and shifting assets from selling gasoline into exploring and producing oil. In this view, there is even a silver lining in the forced sales of assets estimated to be worth $2 million to $4 million.

"They're exiting a low-return business and they'll be able to invest the money in a high-return industry," said Dann.

Exxon-Mobil is expected to spend some of the money on exploration in Brazil, off the coast of West Africa and other global spots.

Matthew Warburton, an analyst with Warburg Dillon Read in New York, said the combined company might see a loss of 5 percent of revenue, which his investment bank has estimated at $11.4 billion for next year, but will more than make that up over time.

"There will be a cost hit for a couple years, but Exxon is a very prolific cost cutter," Warburton said.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-01-99
♠ Q 9
♥ J 9 7
♦ A 7 5 4
♣ A 10 6 4

West
♠ 2
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ K J 10 9 3
♣ Q 8 5

East
♠ A K J 10 5 4
♥ 4
♦ Q 6
♣ J 9 7 2

South
♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ 8 2
♣ K 3

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 2

Tricks with trumps

By Phillip Alder

Bobby Wolff's first Bridge Trix CD-ROM won the 1999 American Bridge Teachers' Association's award for the best bridge software. His second CD-ROM, which requires Windows 95 or 98, contains more deals, 76 rather than 60, and you get extra videos of Wolff giving the reasoning behind the right play, 21 instead of 13. You still have to look at the four inanimate mug shots, and these deals on average are more challenging than those in the first product. This is because Wolff covers a harder topic, the various aspects of trump contracts. Anyone who gets all the deals right is already an expert.

With each deal, you get an indication of its difficulty and a hint to point you in the right direction. You are normally the declarer, but there are some defensive deals, of which this is one. Sitting West, against four hearts, you lead your singleton spade, partner winning with the 10. He switches to a trump. After winning with the ace, declarer leads a spade toward dummy's queen. How do you plan the defense?

It looks natural to discard, perhaps selecting an encouraging diamond jack. Still, if you do that, declarer cruises home with these 10 tricks: five hearts, one diamond, two clubs and two spade ruffs in the dummy.

As you know partner doesn't have a second trump to lead, you must ruff his trick and exit with a trump. Now declarer gets only one spade ruff in the dummy and goes one down. The defenders win two spades, one spade ruff and one diamond.

"Trix with Trumps" costs $40.15 postpaid. Call (888) 273-8749 to order.

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The state tree of Michigan is the white pine.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Research Gives 'Club Drugs' Less Than Rave Reviews

by Abigail Van Buren

© 1999 Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: Please alert your readers to a problem of grave concern. (No pun intended.) "Club drugs" are becoming the "rave" with teens and young adults at all-night dance parties across the country. While those who use Ecstasy, GHB, Rohypnol — to name only a few of these drugs — may think they have no side effects, the reality is that these drugs are potentially life-threatening. Whether kids knowingly use these drugs or have them surreptitiously slipped into their drinks at "rave" parties, they can produce a range of effects — including hallucinations, paranoia, amnesia and even death.

Ecstasy, which goes by several names including "X," "Adam" and "MDMA," is both a stimulant and a hallucinogen. People may use Ecstasy for energy to keep on dancing and improve their mood. However, this drug increases the heart rate and body temperature, occasionally to the point of heart and kidney failure. It also appears to diminish the sense of thirst, and Ecstasy users have died from acute dehydration.

In addition, brain-imaging studies have shown that frequent Ecstasy use may damage brain cells that produce serotonin, a natural chemical that is partly responsible for memory and mood. It is still not known if these cells can regenerate, so the memory loss — and perhaps additional, still-to-be discovered serotonin-related impairments — may be long-lasting or permanent.

GHB ("G," "liquid Ecstasy") and Rohypnol ("roofie," "Roche") have been associated with "date rape" and sexual assault cases around the country. These two drugs, which are colorless, odorless and tasteless, have been easily slipped in the drinks of unknowing victims. Because both GHB and Rohypnol cause sedation and produce amnesia, they often prevent a sexual assault victim from identifying and successfully prosecuting the perpetrator.

Widespread use of Ecstasy, GHB and Rohypnol is relatively recent. The worst effects of these drugs may be the ones that are not yet known. Researchers, supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, are studying "club drugs" with a sense of urgency. Although we still have much to learn about the effects of these drugs, we already know that they can be extremely harmful.

On Dec. 2, we will launch a National Club Drug Initiative that will include issuing a Community Drug Alert Bulletin explaining what science says about the effects of these drugs. In addition, we will be working with several national organizations to get the word out to parents, teens and others about the dangers of these drugs. We also have information about these and other drugs on our Web site at www.drugabuse.gov. Or, your readers can call (800) 729-6686 to request free copies of these materials. Thank you for your help in getting the word out, Abby.

ALAN I. LESHNER, Ph.D.,
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF DRUG ABUSE

DEAR DR. LESHNER: I applaud your research, and I'm pleased to help.

When will people learn that there is no free lunch? There is a price to pay for every mood-altering chemical people put into their bodies. One can only hope that the substance is not addictive and the effects aren't permanent. Years ago, many people thought that cocaine was not addictive. Then fortunes were lost and lives were ruined or lost when the opposite turned out to be true.

I hope your Web site will be visited by people of all ages. Young people need to know everything they can about what they are putting into their bodies so they can make informed judgments. And as to the "date rape" drugs — it has reached the point that people should not drink beverages at clubs or parties unless they have opened the container themselves and had the beverages in their possession *at all times*.

***

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Gas station owners uncertain over Exxon's deal with Mobil

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — The $81 billion merger of Exxon and Mobil has created fear among gas station owners as the new company prepares to sell more than 2,400 stations nationwide.

"It's like changing your landlord," said Mark O'Grysko, who co-owns three Mobil stations in the Baltimore area.

The Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday gave conditional approval to the deal, concluding a yearlong review. The merger creates the world's largest privately held oil company and reunites two remnants of the 1911 government breakup of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil empire.

Company executives have defended the merger as a way to reduce costs and allow them to compete against huge government-owned oil companies in Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Venezuela. Combined, Exxon-Mobil will produce 3.8 percent of the world's oil with 120,000 employees and $138 billion in assets.

Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, said the merger will likely lead to higher gas prices because of market dominance.

Analysts, however, weren't so sure.

"How many other industries is the price of the product displayed for all the world to see?" asked Tyler Dann of Banc of America Securities in Houston. "On balance, the merger is probably a neutral" on gas prices.

Mark Hastings, an analyst with Citibank Global Asset Management in Stamford, said oil is "such a global market that no one company has a whole lot of pricing power."

The company agreed to comply with government requirements that it sell 2,431 of nearly 16,000 gasoline stations as well as a Benicia, Calif., refinery and other assets.

In many cases, gas still will be marketed with Mobil or Exxon brand names for several years. But many station owners said it is unclear whether they would have to sell their businesses.

Christopher Canavan, the franchise owner of two Mobil stations and an Exxon station in Connecticut, said the merger will create a new business climate with less competition but greater pressure on owners.

"As you merge companies and you have one less brand in the marketplace, eventually some of the lower-volume stations are going to go away," he said.

Exxon must jettison all its stations in New England and New York, while Mobil must sell its stations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

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•Rest Stop
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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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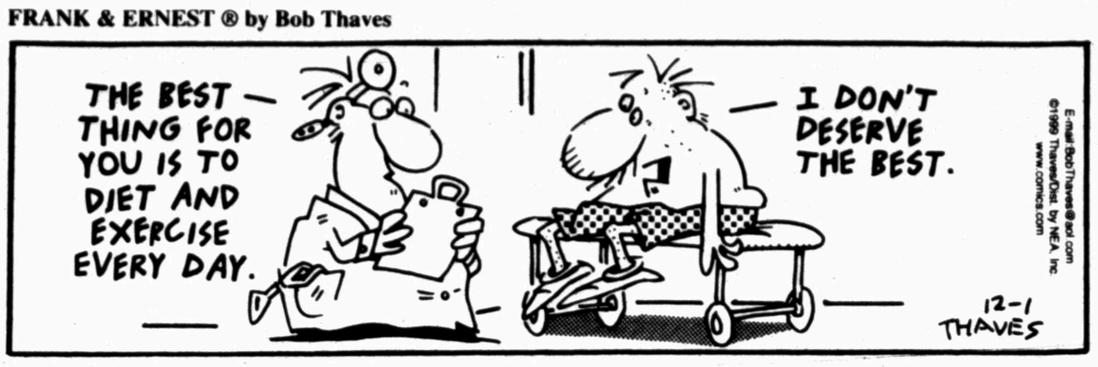

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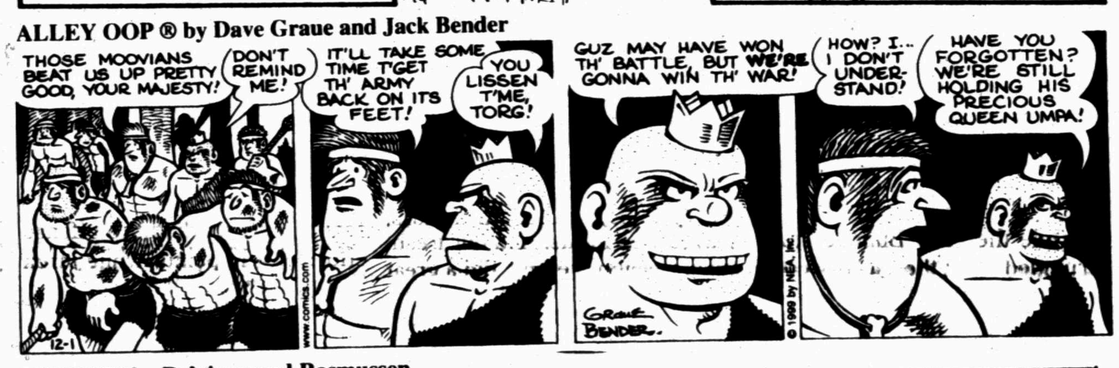

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BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Cowboy movie
6 Future LL.Bs.' exam
10 One stroke under par
12 Nipped
14 Asia
15 Son of Zeus
16 Sixth sense (abbr.)
17 Ms. Reinking
19 Droop
20 Is present
23 Foundation
26 German article
27 Pie — — mode
30 Type of gasoline
32 Roof support
34 Mistakes
35 Type of piano
36 Pt. of a fed. agcy.
37 Evil deed
39 Elicit
40 Let go
42 Put on board
45 Comparative ending
46 Org. for poodles
49 Carefree
51 Corazon —
54 World —
55 Pellet
56 — — angle
57 Caravan stops

DOWN

1 Wind instrument
2 Affected manner
3 Lose one's balance
4 Dutch town
5 — Tin Tin (movie dog)
6 Facial feature
7 Packs (away)
8 Husband of Gudrun
9 Relate
11 Coup d' —
12 Flags
13 Negative word
18 Composer Rorem
20 Verdi opera
21 Sleeping-sickness fly
22 Window coverings
23 Ran, as fabric
24 "Dynamic" start
25 Orange-red stone
27 — — time (never)
28 Onionlike plant
29 Comic Johnson
31 Some newspapers
33 Basketball team
38 Once-named
40 Nerve networks
41 Middle Easterner
42 Many oz.
43 Name for Athena
44 Grime
46 Isn't well
47 Leg joint
48 Camp beds
50 Egg layer
52 Status —
53 Gums

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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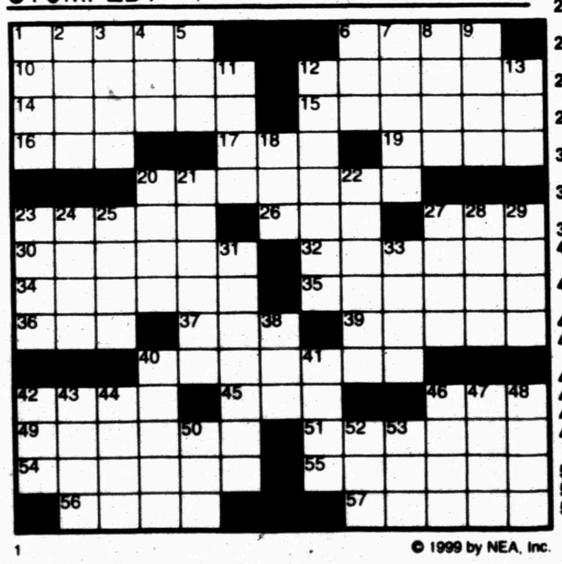

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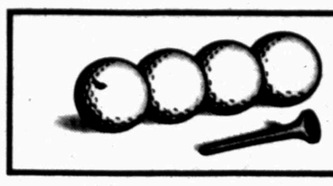
SPORTS



Snyder 56, Lubbock High 44...

Lady Tigers end drought

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

The longer a winless streak continues, the more difficult it is to end. So Tuesday night's victory was a welcome sight to the Snyder Lady Tigers.

Snyder ended its three-game skid Tuesday, picking up its first win under Sam Tipton with an impressive 56-44 performance against Lubbock High.

With the pressure of notching that first win now gone, Tipton believes his squad is ready for bigger and better things.

"Getting that first win is always the hardest," said Tipton. "It's tough because the girls want to win so bad, and then when it doesn't happen, they start wondering if they ever will. Then they put more on themselves and the situation just gets worse.

"But now that pressure is gone. As big a step as we took in the second half against Levelland last week, we took an even bigger one tonight."

The big step Tuesday night came during the third quarter when Lubbock made a run at the Lady Tigers.

After Snyder built a 30-24 lead midway through the period, Lubbock answered with a 9-1 run over the next three minutes to claim a 33-31 advantage.

But rather than calling a timeout, Tipton opted to let his team remedy the situation. The Lady Tigers responded with a 5-0 rally in the closing minutes of the third to regain the lead. All five points came from junior Kristen Murray, who started the run with a three-point bucket.

"Us answering the Lubbock run was huge," Tipton stated. "And the girls did it without me calling a timeout. One more Lubbock basket and I would've called one, but the girls settled down and executed the offense. That shows that they are starting to understand our philosophy. They believe what I've been telling them all along, that they're a good basketball team."

Murray added another long-range bucket in the fourth quarter to finish with 10 points, while fellow guard Cameron Mackey dropped in 12 points.

But the majority of the damage was done underneath where Kameron Kallemeyn had the best performance of her three-year career. The junior post player poured in 19 points and hauled down nine rebounds, with 12 points coming in the first half when the Lady Tigers clung to a 25-24 lead.

After a seesaw battle in the first period, Snyder opened a 20-12 advantage two minutes into the second quarter. Lubbock put together a 12-5 streak over the next six minutes to trim the margin to one point by halftime.

A Mackey three-pointer and an inside bucket from Ashley Delce put the Lady Tigers back up by six in the third period, before Lubbock began its run that was answered by Murray.

Snyder will look to continue its improved play Thursday when it opens the Concho River Classic hosted by San Angelo Central. The Lady Tigers open the event at 4:30 against Lubbock Estacado.

Lubbock	10	14	09	11	— 44
Snyder	12	13	11	20	— 56

Lubbock
Williamson 4 1-4 12, Cass 1 4-6 7, DeLeon 1 3-3 5, Garcia 1 0-0 3, Daniel 5 0-0 10, Nash 1 5-7 7. **Totals 13 13-20 44.**
Snyder
Kallemeyn 7 5-6 19, Mackey 4 2-4 12, Murray 3 2-4 10, Eicke 3 0-1 7, Delce 2 1-2 5, Geiger 0 2-2 2, Voss 0 1-2 1, Bane 0 0-1 0. **Totals 19 13-22 56.**
Three-point goals: Lubbock 5 (Williamson 3, Garcia, Cass), Snyder 5 (Murray 2, Mackey 2, Eicke). Rebounds: Lubbock 14 (Williamson 5), Snyder 37 (Kallemeyn 9). Total fouls: Lubbock 22, Snyder 15. Fouled out — Garcia.

Lady Dusters off target in 82-66 loss

RANGER — The first time Western Texas and Ranger met this season, the Lady Dusters connected on only 35 percent of their shots in an 82-66 setback.

In Tuesday night's second meeting, Lady Dusters still couldn't find the mark.

Western Texas shot 34 percent from the field Tuesday, dropping an 83-54 decision to the Rangerettes to fall to 1-9 on the year.

While the Lady Dusters struggled in the shooting department, Ranger had no trouble finding the range. The Rangerettes shot 60 percent and put together a 15-of-18 performance from the free-throw line.

Danielle Brown led WTC with 13 points, while Carrie Fincher added nine more. Crystal Williams dropped in seven points, with Akisha Waters registering six. Charsalyn Mitchell and Veronica Hubbard tallied four points apiece, While Heather Moon finished with three. Mona Carrasco, Marquis Ellis, Erica Jackson and Cassie Wilson chipped in two points each.

Next on tap for the Lady Dusters is the Seminole State College Classic in Seminole, Okla. Western Texas squares off with Seminole State at 6 p.m. Friday, before facing St. Gregory junior varsity at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Lady Bullogs hold off Roby; Ira boys remain undefeated

ROBY — Ira started each game in different fashion Tuesday night, but came out with the same result.

The Lady Bulldogs got off to a slow start before hitting their stride in the second half to notch a 48-40 victory over Roby in 1A girls' basketball action.

While the Lady Bulldogs (3-1) struggled early, the Ira boys came out firing and rode the momentum to an 80-63 win over the Lions.

In the girls' match-up, Roby jumped to a 12-6 first quarter lead, before the Lady Bulldogs started clicking just before halftime.

Ira trimmed the deficit to three-points at the midway mark, then took control in the third period. The Lady Bulldogs limited Roby to only six points in the third to grab a 32-26 advantage heading into the final stanza.

"We got off to a rusty start, but we had some girls step up when we needed it," said Ira coach Jason Weese. "Jamie Goolsby and Korby Calley, two of our seniors, played well for us. And our freshman, Celeigh Sterling, did a great job of defending Roby's best player."

Goolsby paced Ira with 15 points, while Calley added 11. Sterling and Morgan Clements dropped in nine apiece, with Tara Allen chipping in four.

For the Ira boys, it was a standout defensive effort in the opening quarter that set the tone.

The Bulldogs held the Lions to only seven points in the first period to build a 15-7 lead. Ira relied on its offense for the remainder of the contest, posting over 20 points in all three stanzas to improve their record to 4-0.

Logan Daves, the Bulldogs' 6-7 senior post, sparked the offense effort with 17 points, while Jerek Brown poured in 16 more. Terry Jamison also finished in double digits with 11.

Both Ira squads open the New Home tournament on Thursday against Lazbuddie. Girls' action tips off at noon, with the boys' game getting underway at 1:30.

Miscues hamper Tigers in setback to Seminole

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

The Snyder Tigers stumbled coming out of he blocks Tuesday night, and it went downhill from there.

Snyder committed 17 first-half turnovers, then couldn't buy a bucket in the second half as Seminole Indians rolled to a 75-37 victory at the SHS gym.

The Tigers (2-3) finished the night with 34 turnovers and shot a dismal 24 percent from the field. The lackluster performance, not typical of the Tigers, had snowballed in the second half when Seminole outscored Snyder, 43-13.

"We couldn't shoot, and they couldn't miss," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "They broke us down defensively, and we couldn't hold onto the ball. When we didn't turn it over, we didn't do a very good job of attacking their zone. It's no individual's fault. We didn't play well as a team."

The Indians jumped out to a 17-10 first quarter lead, thanks in part to eight Snyder fouls in the eight-minute span.

The Tigers seemed to be headed in the right direction in the second period, posting 14 points to trail by only eight at halftime.

But in the third quarter, Seminole began to dictate the tempo.

The Indians forced four Tiger turnovers to spur a 13-2 run in the first four minutes of the period. Snyder had only four points in a seven-minute span, before Greg McAnaw drained a three-pointer with 25 seconds left in the quarter.

Things turned even worse for the Tigers in the final stanza. Snyder connected on just one of 16 shot attempts in the fourth quarter, and added 10 more turnovers to their tally.

Sonny Cumbie hit a short-range jumper 35 seconds into the period, before the Tigers went scoreless for the next six minutes. Foreign exchange student Greg Knirsch drained four free throws in the final 1:30 of the game to end the drought.

"We have to just forget about this one. We have to correct our mistakes and move on," remarked Birks. "I know that sounds trite, but it's the truth. We have to throw this one out and get back to work on what we can do to become a better basketball team."

The Indians shot 68 percent on the night and were led by Eric Sheets' 21 points. Seminole held a 32-22 advantage on the boards.

Knirsch tallied 11 points to lead the Tigers.

Snyder will be back on the court Thursday when it opens the Cotton Pickin' Shootout at Frenship. The Tigers tip off the first round at 2:30 against San Angelo Central.

Seminole	17	15	21	22	— 75
Snyder	10	14	07	06	— 37

Seminole
Sheets 6 9-12 21, Clay 3 2-2 8, Alaniz 3 0-0 6, Ogden 2 0-0 4, Nichols 1 0-0 2, Cavazos 4 2-2 10, Ralech 3 4-4 10, Espinoza 4 0-0 8, Guerra 3 0-0 6. **Totals 29 17-20 75.**
Snyder
Pinkerton 2 4-4 8, Hester 3 0-0 6, McAnaw 2 0-0 6, Cumbie 2 0-0 4, Knirsch 3 5-5 11, Thornhill 1 0-0 2, Scott 0 0-1 0. **Totals 13 9-10 37.**
Three-point goals: Seminole 0, Snyder 2 (McAnaw 2). Rebounds: Seminole 32 (Ogden 7), Snyder 22 (Pinkerton 5). Total fouls: Seminole 14, Snyder 18. Fouled out — McAnaw.

Hermleigh splits with Lueders

LUEDERS — Looking to even their record at 2-2, the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals turned in a solid performance Tuesday night.

The Lady Cardinals got it done on both ends of the floor Tuesday to walk away with a 50-35 victory over Lueders-Avoca in 1A girls' basketball competition.

While the Lady Cards got back to .500 for the season, the Hermleigh boys came up short against the Raiders, falling to 1-3 with a 71-66 setback.

In girls' action, Hermleigh picked up the pace in the second quarter. The Lady Cards went on a 16-5 run to turn a four-point ballgame into a 30-16 halftime lead.

Brandy Wood finished the night with 17 points, five rebounds and five assists to lead the Hermleigh girls.

Sheena Callaway tallied 12 points, six rebounds and four steals, while Kendra Dacus added seven points.

Crystal Jackson dropped in six points, with Randi Herrington posting four. Sabrina Terry and Samantha Smith finished with two points apiece.

In the boys' game, the Lueders-Avoca Raiders saved their best for last.

After Hermleigh rallied with 15 points in the third quarter to knot the tally at 47-47, the Raiders exploded for 24 points in the final period to hold off the Cardinals.

Joey Garza continued his string of stellar offensive performances, pouring in 21 points to lead the Cards.

Andy Luna dropped in 15 points and dished out eight assists, while Billy Lambaren drained 12 points and pulled down 13 rebounds.

Caleb Callaway registered 11 points, with Andy Luna adding five, and Tony Garza chipping in two.

Both Hermleigh squads will be in action Thursday when they take part in the Klondike tournament.

NHL Glance

National Hockey League
At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
Philadelphia	13	8	4	1	31	74	57
New Jersey	11	8	3	2	27	58	52
Pittsburgh	8	11	3	3	22	71	66
N.Y. Rangers	7	13	3	1	18	54	69
N.Y. Islanders	6	12	3	0	15	44	62
Northeast Division							
Toronto	14	9	3	2	33	75	55
Ottawa	14	9	2	1	31	69	58
Boston	11	8	6	0	28	65	58
Buffalo	11	12	2	0	24	67	69
Montreal	9	14	1	1	20	50	62
Southeast Division							
Florida	13	8	2	2	30	63	54
Carolina	11	8	6	0	28	61	62
Washington	9	10	4	1	23	59	67
Tampa Bay	8	13	2	2	20	64	75
Atlanta	5	15	2	1	13	51	84
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
St. Louis	15	7	2	0	32	75	53
Detroit	14	7	3	1	32	78	54
Nashville	7	15	1	2	17	56	74
Chicago	5	15	4	2	16	57	77
Northwest Division							
Vancouver	10	9	6	1	27	69	76
Colorado	11	11	3	1	26	70	71
Edmonton	6	11	6	3	21	57	63
Calgary	8	14	2	0	18	56	82
Pacific Division							
Phoenix	16	6	3	0	35	85	60
Los Angeles	14	7	4	1	33	82	64
San Jose	14	11	3	2	33	81	70
Anaheim	12	11	2	1	27	66	60
Dallas	11	11	3	1	26	54	57

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

Monday's Game
Toronto 3, Washington 1
Tuesday's Games
Ottawa 2, Chicago 1
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 1
Dallas 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Carolina 4, Calgary 3
Phoenix 6, Nashville 3
Colorado 4, Vancouver 2
Wednesday's Games
Dallas at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

NBA Glance

National Basketball Association
At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Miami	11	3	.786	—
New York	8	8	.500	4
Philadelphia	8	8	.500	4
Boston	7	7	.500	4
Orlando	7	8	.467	4½
Washington	5	10	.333	6½
New Jersey	2	13	.133	9½
Central Division				
Toronto	9	6	.600	—
Charlotte	8	6	.571	½
Milwaukee	8	6	.571	½
Cleveland	7	6	.538	1
Indiana	8	7	.533	1
Detroit	7	8	.467	2
Atlanta	6	9	.400	3
Chicago	1	12	.077	7
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	13	3	.813	—
Minnesota	7	5	.583	4
Utah	8	6	.571	4
Denver	6	7	.462	5½
Dallas	5	11	.313	8
Houston	4	11	.267	8½
Vancouver	3	11	.214	9
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	10	2	.833	1
Portland	13	3	.813	—
L.A. Lakers	11	4	.733	1½
Seattle	11	4	.733	1½
Phoenix	10	4	.714	2
L.A. Clippers	4	10	.286	8
Golden State	2	11	.154	9½

Monday's Games
New York 107, Dallas 82
Miami 98, Sacramento 88
Utah 115, Golden State 99
Indiana 93, Portland 91
Houston 118, Vancouver 110, OT
Tuesday's Games
Atlanta 107, Toronto 89
Washington 85, New Jersey 78
Cleveland 106, Dallas 99
Sacramento 111, Orlando 102
Minnesota 109, Denver 92
Philadelphia 74, New York 70
San Antonio 106, Detroit 87
L.A. Lakers 101, Seattle 77
Phoenix 94, L.A. Clippers 80
Wednesday's Games
Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Portland, 10 p.m.
Indiana at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Sacramento at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Women's College Basketball Scores

EAST
American U. 74, UMBC 73
Binghamton 68, Colgate 52
Bucknell 85, Hampton 71
Connecticut 100, Illinois 79
Cornell 85, Canisius 50
Holy Cross 66, Fordham 62
Manhattan 74, Albany, N.Y. 56
New Hampshire 60, Massachusetts 58, OT
Pepperdine 77, Seton Hall 67
SOUTH
Alabama 82, South Alabama 54
Auburn 95, Nicholls St. 48
Belmont 81, E. Kentucky 74
Catawba 60, Winthrop 54
Coll. of Charleston 65, Limestone 60
Coppin St. 65, High Point 49
Florida St. 74, Mercer 62
Georgia 102, Georgia Southern 70
LSU 82, Louisiana-Lafayette 39
Maryland 95, Fairleigh Dickinson 60
Mississippi 68, Ark.-Little Rock 56
Mississippi St. 96, Memphis 57
N.C. State 80, Georgia Tech 70
Southern Miss. 74, New Orleans 67
Southern U. 83, Tougaloo 66
Tennessee St. 67, Alabama St. 64
UAB 68, Alabama A&M 39
Virginia Tech 75, Appalachian St. 55
MIDWEST
Illinois St. 59, W. Illinois 57, OT
Iowa St. 67, Northwestern 32
Kansas St. 89, E. Michigan 45
Michigan 79, Providence 66
Youngstown St. 70, Akron 64
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 79, Boston College 68
Louisville 70, Arkansas St. 84
Prairie View 87, Paul Quinn 46
Stephen F.Austin 99, Centonary 40
Texas A&M 73, SMU 69, OT
Texas Wesleyan 59, Texas-Arlington 58
Texas-San Antonio 66, Houston Baptist 56
FAR WEST
Arizona 86, UC Santa Barbara 76
Fresno St. 69, Sacramento St. 44
Gonzaga 61, E. Washington 44
Montana St. 62, Montana Tech 53
Oregon 68, Portland 57

Men's College Basketball Scores

EAST
Buffalo 75, Manhattan 71
Dartmouth 82, Holy Cross 66
Duquesne 94, West Virginia 80
Marist 87, Harvard 82
Monmouth, N.J. 81, Drexel 69
Providence 85, Boston U. 70
Robert Morris 96, Carnegie-Mellon 41
Towson 62, Long Island U. 44
Wagner 71, Lehigh 68
SOUTH
E. Kentucky 72, Loyola, Ill. 60
High Point 90, Campbell 66
Maryland 83, Iowa 65
Miami 102, Bethune-Cookman 75
Morehead St. 87, St. Francis, Ind. 76
South Carolina 72, Charleston Southern 52
Southern Miss. 61, New Orleans 51
The Citadel 84, Anderson, S.C. 82, OT
Tulane 85, Va. Commonwealth 44
Wake Forest 67, Wisconsin 48
MIDWEST
Akron 75, W. Kentucky 62
Detroit 72, MVSU 50
Duke 72, Illinois 69
Ill.-Chicago 70, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 65
Indiana 81, Notre Dame 64, OT
Minnesota 74, Virginia 62
Ohio 95, George Washington 77
Wright St. 66, South Alabama 64
SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Little Rock 75, Alcorn St. 68
Baylor 82, Alaska-Fairbanks 48
TCU 79, Northwestern St. 61
Texas-Arlington 64, Missouri-Kansas City 60
FAR WEST
CS Northridge 69, Fresno St. 66
Louisiana-Lafayette 81, Denver 68
N. Arizona 64, Utah St. 52
New Mexico St. 66, San Diego St. 49
Oregon 74, Portland 62
San Francisco 69, Lamar 43
St. Mary's, Cal. 89, Cal St.-Fullerton 62

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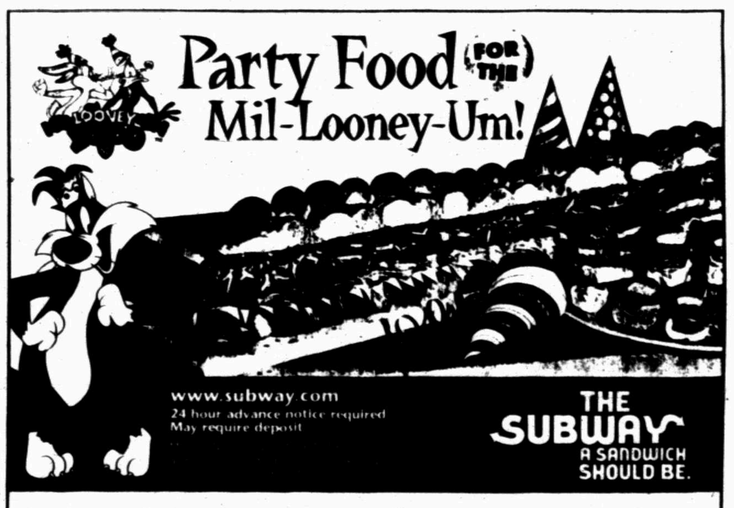

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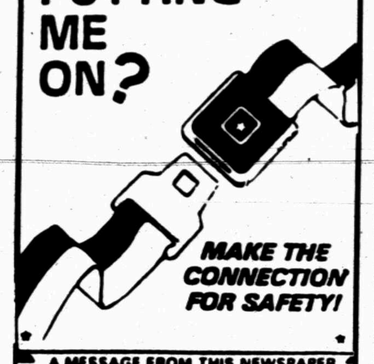

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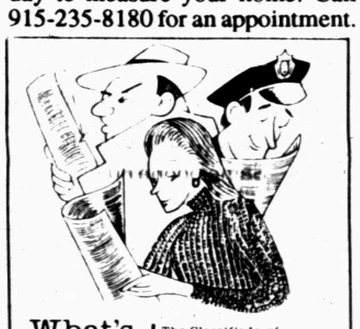

What's Black And White And Read All Over Town?

The Classifieds, of course. That's where everyone goes when they're in the market for just about anything at all. It's the place to find a great bargain, scout out a new job, look for a new car or home... and when you have something to sell or a service to offer, Classifieds are the place to get fast results! You can't go wrong with the Classifieds!

Snyder Daily News

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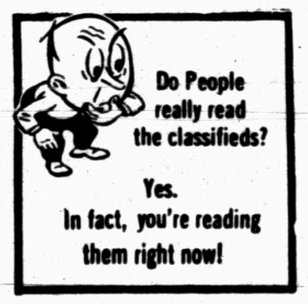

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Sunday & Monday 3:00 p.m. Friday
Snyder Daily News
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P.O. Box 949 Snyder, Texas 79550

For Classified Power Call
573-5486
Fax 573-0044

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Advertisers Should Check Their Ad On The First Day Of Insertion!
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$15.90 for 5 days, get 6th day FREE! 15 words or Less

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1000 NEW CUSTOMERS NEEDED! No Credit — No Problem! Loans $100 to $446. Apply by phone at 573-1761 or come by Security Finance, 511 Coliseum Dr., Snyder, Tx.

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CALL TODAY
Anytime is the Right Time to use the Want Ads.

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Your Snyder Daily News should be delivered to you by 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Your Carrier strives to give prompt service, but should your paper be missing...

Please Call 573-5486

Before 6:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

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(4:00 p.m. Friday for Sun. & Mon.)

ALL ADS ARE CASH in advance unless you have an established advertising account with The Snyder Daily News.
ALL GARAGE SALES must be paid in advance.

PLAY IT SMART... GET INTO THE CLASSIFIEDS
573-5486

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Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____

By Carrier Or Mail In County
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260 MERCHANDISE

(2) 220 Electric Heater/AC w/ sleeves, $75 each. See at Purple Sage Motel. 573-5491.

Boy's Mongoose bike, 27" - 1 year old w/shocks. Toddler clothes; Nice baby mattress. 573-4736.

Canon electric typewriter, $25; JennAir drop-in stove top $300; Girl's Mongoose bike, $75; Redline bike, $75; Single speed ladies bike, $25; 10 speed Huffy Bicycle, $50. 573-0774 after 3 p.m. or leave message.

FIREWOOD!! Oak & Mesquite! Local Cutter! Part Seasoned. 24", 22", 20" & 18". Some Split, DELIVERED. 573-1216.

For Sale: Used GE dishwasher. For more information call 573-8728.

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REMODELING SALE: Good Clean Kitchen Appliances
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS 573-5486

290 DOGS, PETS, ETC.

AKC Registered Pomeranian puppies. Great Christmas gifts!! 6 weeks old. 573-8542.

310 GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE
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Super Clean 2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances & CH/A. Call 573-1012, leave message.

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Office located at 3901 Ave O
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3-2-2 w/fireplace. 4111 Eastridge. $570 mo. plus $250 deposit. Heritage Homes Realtors 573-5056.

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For Rent: 2 bedroom house, $350/mo., bills paid. 1 small furnished trailer, $200/mo., bills paid. 2709 Ave. O. Call 573-2101.

** HOUSE FOR RENT **
2405 37th 2-1 ..... $300
3010 39th 3-1 ..... $375
Sarah Jamison 573-4028 or Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505.

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335 MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME FOR RENT. $250/month. 573-1711.

340 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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$1400 TO $1800 ON SELECT FLEETWOOD HOMES. CALL J. HITE HOMES, ABILENE, 800-378-0998 OR 793-9999.

345 MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Mobile home site on 5 acres, in the city. Only $7,500. (915) 573-4425/ 573-1550.

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$1,000 TOTAL MOVE-IN!!!! If you have your new home built by Key Homes, Inc. Paid child care and interest rate reduction to as low as 1% to qualified lower income buyers. Good credit essential. Maximum income limits apply. Financing provided by or guaranteed by USDA, Rural Development, formerly known as Farmer's Home. NO MIP! You do not need to own a piece of land. Our plans, your color choices!! Call now for a pre-qualification appointment. (915) 520-9848.

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228 Acre 3-1 Brick ..... $80T.
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3-1¾ 2107 43rd Agency EX. $54,900.
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301 Acres, Fisher County 3-2 Good Grass.
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Make Offer 3208 Ave. B 2-1-1+Apl. $20T.
3-2-2 4005 Eastridge ..... $30T.
Reduced! 5 A's 2 Story Ira ISD 4-1¾ $50T.
Comm. Yard & Residence 9 A's $150T.
Colorado City 4.45 Acres 3-2-2cp .$60T.
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Rand pulls out of organ transplants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dicey politics of organ transplant policy have persuaded a private group to opt out of the competition to run the nation's transplant system, leaving just one choice — the current contractor.

The decision by Rand Corp. means the Department of Health and Human Services will have to continue its contentious relationship with the United Network for Organ Sharing, assuming no other bidders come forth.

Rand, a Santa Monica, Calif.-based research powerhouse, said it was too perilous to dive into a transplant fight that has been raging for more than a year and a half in Congress and across the country between HHS and many transplant surgeons.

"In the current environment, it would be difficult for any new contractor to avoid being perceived as a new combatant in an ongoing power struggle," said the letter from Rand's team sent Monday to HHS and nearly 100 other interested parties.

The contractor is responsible for developing and maintaining the computer system to match donated organs with patients waiting for them. It also develops rules that determine which patients advance to the top of the list.

The Richmond, Va.-based United Network for Organ Sharing has run the transplant system under an HHS contract since 1986, when the national system was created. It is now operating under a one-year contract extension.

The network is in the middle of a bitter high-profile fight with HHS over who has the authority to set transplant policy and what the policy should be.

HHS wants to break down the geographic lines that govern the current system, where most organs are offered within defined local and then regional areas, even if sicker patients are waiting just outside the boundaries.

The network argues the current system ensures a supply of organs for transplant centers on the country and says it encourages organ donation because families know the organs will stay within their communities.

Both sides believe they have the right to set the rules, and Congress has stepped into the middle of the fight. It put on hold HHS regulations that directed more organs to the sickest patients.

Congress also is working to rewrite the National Organ Transplant Act, which governs transplant policy. A bill passed by the House Commerce Committee would strip HHS of its authority over policy beyond administrative matters. That bill would also make it virtually impossible for HHS to give the contract to anyone other than the current contractor, UNOS.

HHS and its allies had hoped that Rand's interest in running the system would put pressure on UNOS to work more closely with HHS. It also gave the department the power to give the contract to a group much friendlier to the HHS position.

Rand officials said the organization, a longtime government contractor, is simply accustomed to dealing with the government on the government's terms, whereas UNOS has its roots as an independent group of transplant surgeons and patients and had to mold its operations into the government's rubric.

"We have very strong long-term relationships with the government, in which we've been their partner," said Robin C. Meili of Rand, who led the team that has been developing its HHS proposal since March.

The delays in implementing the HHS rule, the contentious debate in Congress and HHS' delay in issuing a formal request for contract proposals persuaded Rand to pull out, the group said in its letter.

Even if it were chosen, the delays would not give Rand enough time to implement the complex computer system that does the matching of organs with recipients. Rand lamented the tension surrounding transplant policy would make it very difficult to operate the system.

Rand said it hoped to continue working on transplant policy, including organ donation rates, quality and availability of transplant data and public trust in the system. Researchers said they also hoped to help address the fundamental problem — "the lack of national consensus on the basic principals and structure for transplantation policy making."

HHS had no comment, but its allies said they were disappointed.

"The current system really is held captive by the current contract holder," said Charlie Fiske, director of the National Transplant Action Committee, a patient group. "Competition is a good thing in this particular area."

Software firm in privacy flap letting users remove number used in tracking

WASHINGTON (AP) — A company that offers free software to change an Internet browser's computer cursor into cartoon characters is offering to let people delete a serial number the company was using to track its customers across the Internet.

Responding to an outcry over the privacy implications of its software, Comet Systems Inc. also said it will seek certification from Truste, an organization that monitors whether Web sites are following the privacy promises they make to consumers.

Truste said Comet Systems had "significantly damaged the trust of their customers."

New York-based Comet Systems acknowledged earlier this week that its cursor software — used by more than 16 million people — reports back to its own computers with each customer's unique serial number each time that person visits any of 60,000 Web sites that support its technology.

Those sites include dozens aimed at young children, such as those for the Dilbert and Peanuts characters of United Feature Syndicate Inc. and the Ty Inc. site for Beanie Babies.

Comet said it never violated customers' privacy because it does not attempt to match its serial numbers against anyone's real-world identity. But it said Tuesday it will allow customers to delete those numbers, anyway, although the numbers helped Comet keep an accurate census of its customers for marketing and billing purposes. Some Web sites pay Comet based on the number of visitors using the cursor-changing technology.

Customers will be able to download a program from Comet's Web site, at www.cometsystems.com, to replace their serial number with a meaningless number that isn't unique.

"If that's what we need to do to appease users, we'll do that," spokesman Ben Austin said.

Comet's certification to Truste could take 45 to 60 days. But that organization only monitors data collected at a company's Web site, not by its stand-alone software programs.

"We don't cover software privacy practices," Truste spokesman David Steer acknowledged. "Comet Systems has realized they have significantly damaged the trust of their customers, and they're looking at ways to rebuild that trust."

Critics said earlier that the company should have more openly disclosed the behind-the-scenes transmissions, which are made without warning. They also said it would not be difficult given today's technology to begin correlating the Comet serial number with a consumer's identity if the company suddenly decided to or if Comet — with its extensive tracking database — were purchased by new owners willing to do that.

"The typical guy who goes to Best Buy and buys a computer and installs this software, he'll never know about this stuff," said programmer Dave Gale of Tampa, Fla. "It's like a toy, but you wouldn't expect a toy to follow you around on the Internet."

Steer, the spokesman for Truste, said other companies also undoubtedly are clandestinely monitoring the online behavior of their customers.

TOYS FOR TOTS APPLICATION

HOUSEHOLD NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
PHONE # _____
MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME $ _____

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

Child #1
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #2
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #3
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #4
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #5
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

For families with more than 5 children, please attach a separate sheet of paper.)
Toys will be picked up from the Girl Scout Hut (2501 35th Street) on Thursday, December 23, 1999. Each family will be notified by phone of their pick up time, so please list a phone #. Only adults will be allowed to pick up toys. Please send all applications to: TOYS FOR TOTS, c/o Judi Martin, 3106 Hill Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-3845. For more information, call 573-3525 or 573-6725. Applications will be accepted through Saturday, December 18, 1999.

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WE HAVE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION...
We are with M.B.'s Beauty Salon and Best Little Hair Place in Town Salon on
2310 25th Street
(To all our customers..Sorry for the inconvenience)
Stacy Chandler & Elma' Olvera wish everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas Holiday Season.
Join us at our new location...Same name... Same phone number
2310 25th Street 573-0312

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

High	Low	Last		
AMR Corp	61 13-16	60¼	61 13-16	+15-16
AT&T Corp s	56¼	55¼	55¾	— 3-16
Albertsons	32 3-16	31¼	31⅛	— ⅜
AlldSignal	61 15-16	60¾	61 7-16	+1 7-16
Alltel	87¼	86¼	86½	
AmerOnline s	76½	72 1-16	76 1-16	+2 13-16
AndarkPtr	30 7-16	29 13-16	30	— ⅛
AtlRichfld	91¼	89 11-16	90 15-16	— 5
ATMOS Egy	22 5-16	22 1-16	22 1-16	— ⅛
Avialt	7¼	7 7-16	7⅛	— ⅛
BP Amoco s	61 1-16	59	60 11-16	— ¼
BakerHughes	25 13-16	24¼	25¼	
Bank of Amer	59 57¼	58¼	— ¼	
BellAtl	64¼	62 9-16	64 7-16	+ 1⅛
BellSouth s	46	45 9-16	45 13-16	— ⅛
BethSteel	6¾	6 3-16	6 5-16	+ 1-16
BurlNoSFe	29¼	28 9-16	29 1-16	+ 1-16
CBS Corp	52½	51 5-16	52⅜	+ ⅜
Caterpillar	47½	46 3-16	47 3-16	+13-16
CenSoWst	20 1-16	19¾	19 13-16	— 3-16
Chevron	90 7-16	87¼	89⅛	+15-16
Citigroup s	54¼	53	54¾	+ 9-16
Coastal	35¼	34¼	34 13-16	— 7-16
CocaCola	67¼	66 11-16	67⅜	+ 7-16
ColgatePal s	54⅛	53⅛	54 7-16	— 7-16
ComclMetals			32	3232
CooperIn	42 13-16	42 5-16	42 9-16	— ⅜
CyprusAmax	18 5-16	18 3-16	18 3-16	+ ⅛
DaimlrChry	67⅞	67½	67 11-16	— 7-16
DallSemicn	57 15-16	56 11-16	57 15-16	+ ¼
DeltaAirl	50¼	49	50⅛	+ 1
Dillards Inc	19¼	18 15-16	19	+ ⅛
DowChem	117 15-16	116 1-16	116 11-16	— 7-16
DuPont	60⅛	59 5-16	60⅛	+11-16
EastmanChem	39	38 11-16	38¼	
EstKodak	62 13-16	62 1-16	62 5-16	+ 7-16
EDS Corp	64⅜	64 5-16	64½	+ 3-16
Entergy	27⅛	27¼	27 5-16	— ¼
ExxonMobil	80 11-16	79¾	80 7-16	+ 1⅛
FstBkxAm	18⅛	18¼	18¼	
Flowers	16¼	16	16 1-16	— 5-16
FordMotor	50 15-16	50 7-16	50 13-16	+ 5-16
GTE Cp	74 9-16	71¼	74 3-16	+1 3-16
GenDynam	52⅞	51½	51⅞	+ 5-16
GenElec	134½	130 1-16	133 15-16	+3 13-16
GenMills s	37 15-16	37 3-16	37 13-16	+ ⅛
GenMotors	73¼	72	72¼	+ ⅛
GaPacGP s	40⅛	39¾	40⅛	+ 5-16
GlobalMar	15 9-16	15 5-16	15½	+ 3-16
Goodrich	22 11-16	22 7-16	22½	— 1-16
Goodyear s	34 3-16	33 9-16	33⅝	— ⅛
GtAtlPac	25 9-16	25¼	25 3-16	— ¼
Halliburtn	39 3-16	38½	38⅝	+ ⅛
Hanson ADS	42 11-16	42½	42⅝	+ 1¼
HarteHanks	20 13-16	20 11-16	20 13-16	+ ⅛
HomeDepot	81	79⅝	80 5-16	+ 1⅛
IBM s	104 7-16	102 9-16	103 11-16	+ ⅜
IntlPaper	52⅝	51¼	51 7-16	— ⅜
JohnsonJn	103 7-16	102 9-16	102⅛	— ⅞
K mart	10⅛	9¾	9¾	— ¼
Kroger Co s	21 11-16	21⅜	21 11-16	+ ⅜
Litton	46	45¾	45¾	+15-16
LockheedM	20 7-16	20	20	+ ⅛
Lowes Cos	50⅛	49⅝	49⅝	— 1-16
Lubys	11⅜	11⅛	11⅛	— ⅛
LucentTech s	75½	72 13-16	75	+1 15-16
MayDeptStr s	33 15-16	33¼	33 9-16	— 1-16
MediaOne	78 13-16	78 3-16	78½	— ⅜
Medtronic s	38 13-16	38 7-16	38 9-16	— ¼
Monsanto	42⅝	42	42½	— 1-16
MorganJP	133¼	130⅛	132⅝	+ ⅞
Motorola	117¼	114¼	116 13-16	+2 9-16
NCR Corp	32⅛	32	32½	— 3-16
Navistar	37⅛	37	37⅞	+ 9-16
Penney JC	23	22 5-16	22 9-16	+ 1-16
PepBoys	9¼	9⅛	9 11-16	— 3-16
PepsiCo	34⅛	34 5-16	34¼	— 3-16
	46 9-16	46 5-16	46½	
SearsRoeb	34 15-16	33 13-16	34½	+ 5-16
SherwinW	21 5-16	20 11-16	20 13-16	— 7-16
SmithklBchm	67 7-16	66¼	66 15-16	+ 7-16
SouthernCo	23¼	23¼	23 7-16	+ 1-16
SwstAirl s	16¼	16 5-16	16 9-16	+ ⅛
SprintFON s	70 9-16	70	70 7-16	+1 1-16
SprintPCS	93¼	90⅛	91 7-16	— 5-16
Sunoco Inc	25 13-16	25 3-16	25¼	— 5-16
TNP Ent	40¼	40⅛	40⅛	— 3-16
Tandy s	78½	76¾	77 15-16	+1 5-16
TempleInland	58 5-16	57 5-16	57 5-16	+ 1-16
Texaco	60 7-16	59 13-16	60 1-16	— ¼
TexInd			36⅞	3636¼
TexasInst s	98⅞	96 3-16	97⅛	+1 5-16
TexUtil	35 13-16	35 1-16	35 3-16	— ⅛
Textron	72⅜	71⅛	72 9-16	+1 1-16
TriconGlbR	41 5-16	40 13-16	41¼	— ⅜
TrinityInds	29 7-16	28¼	28 15-16	— 5-16
TritonEngy	24¼	23¼	23 5-16	— ⅜
TylerTech	4¼	4 1-16	4¼	
US West Inc	63¼	61¼	63 1-16	+ 1
USX-Marathn	26 13-16	26 7-16	26⅝	+ 3-16
USX-USS	25⅛	24¾	25 1-16	— ¼
UnCarbde	59 58	58 1-16	— 7-16	
UnionPacif	47¼	46 11-16	47	— 1-16
UnitedTech s	58¼	57 13-16	58½	+ 2
Unocal	33¼	33 1-16	33¼	— 1-16
Venator Grp	7 5-16	6¾	7 5-16	+ 7-16
WalMart s	58¼	57 11-16	58⅛	+ ⅛
WellsFargo	46⅞	46½	46 11-16	+ 3-16
WstnGasRs	11¼	10⅞	11¼	— 1-16
WinnDixie	26 1-16	25 7-16	25 11-16	— ⅛
Xerox Cp s	26⅞	26 7-16	26 13-16	— 9-16

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	12 15/16	+1/4
Dell	42 11/16	-5/16
Wal Mart	58 5/8	+1
Compac	25 1/16	+5/8
Dol. Gen.	24 5/8	+1/8
GTE	74 1/4	+1 1/4
SBC Comm.	52 3/16	-57/128
Tx Instr.	97 3/8	+1 5/16
LU	74 7/8	+7/8
Cisco Sys.	89 7/8	+11/16

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Scientists map chromosome

By The Associated Press

An international team of scientists has for the first time mapped virtually an entire human chromosome, one of the molecular chains within cells bearing the genetic recipe to make a human being.

The achievement announced today is an important step forward for the $3 billion Human Genome Project, which seeks to detail the tens of thousands of genes that carry instructions for everything from how the brain is organized to hair color to the size of a person's feet.

"This is the first time that we've had a complete chapter in the human instruction book, and that's pretty amazing," said Francis Collins, who chairs the international project from the National Institutes of Health.

"I think this is probably the most important scientific effort that mankind has ever mounted," he said. "That includes splitting the atom and going to the moon."

In laying out the chemical instructions for life, scientists believe they are in the early stages of revolutionizing the study of human development and medicine.

The human genetic pattern, or genome, is a biological map laying out the sequence of 3 billion pairs of chemicals that make up the DNA in each cell. All human DNA is contained within 23 pairs of chromosomes.

Already, researchers have begun testing several biological therapies that replace faulty genes or correct their misfirings to make cells work correctly. Such therapies, if they can be made reliable, would bring a more precise and elegant way to treat diseases without the sometimes debilitating side effects of conventional drugs.

A draft of the entire genome was expected to be done next spring, but the milestone announced today may hasten its completion.

What the scientists have done is lay out the order of about 700 genes on chromosome 22, representing 1.1 percent of the estimated minimum of 61,000 genes in the human body. The group, which includes British, American, Japanese, Canadian and Swedish scientists, could find only 97 percent of the chromosome's genetic material, so the results are viewed as complete for now.

The details will be published Thursday in the journal Nature. While five government-supported centers and many university labs have already identified about a third of the whole genome, the map of chromosome 22 is the most complete part so far.

"One down, the others to go," said Ian Dunham, a biochemist with the Sanger Centre in Cambridge, England, and lead author of the Nature report. "It's a great relief to have it finished."

Genes are arrayed along chromosomes, the rod-shaped bodies inside the nucleus of a cell. Proteins and other compounds carry out the instructions of genes.

Inside the chromosomes, genetic material is linked along tightly coiled strands of the master molecule DNA, which twists like a spiral ladder. Each rung is built with pairs of four chemical bases ordered in different numbers and combinations to form genes.

Of the 3 billion base pairs in the human genetic makeup, more than 33 million are on chromosome 22 — the second-smallest of the 23 pairs.

Scientists took aim at the tiny target because its genetic envelope is one of the most densely packed of all chromosomes, and its genes are very active in a variety of diseases.

Mutations to genes along chromosome 22 contribute to heart defects, immune system disorders, cancers, schizophrenia and mental retardation.

The Human Genome Project isn't the only effort to describe the genetic code. The government project is competing with a privately funded effort by Rockville, Md.-based Celera Genomics, whose work is scheduled for completion by the end of 2001.

Collins, the government project chairman, said organizers have taken no official stand on human cloning.

UPCOMING CONCERT — Snyder high school, junior high and sixth grade choir students will join forces Thursday night for a Christmas concert to begin at 7 p.m. at Worsham Auditorium. Marci Dennis, junior high choir director, is pictured with her students at Monday night's rehearsal. Ronda Haire directs the high school choir and Judy Brown is the sixth grade choir director. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Year later, park slaying still unsolved

WALPOLE, Mass. (AP) — Thomas Kennedy uses his shoes to clear the dead leaves from a clearing near a dirt path in Bird Park.

"This is where I found her," he says. "She was lying on her back. She didn't know what hit her."

Irene Kennedy, 75, had left her husband during one of the couple's regular morning strolls when someone slashed her throat, head and stomach. Deep bite marks were left on her body.

A year later, police still don't know who it was.

The fear that gripped Bird Park after Mrs. Kennedy's slaying is still evident. Older women walk in groups. Most single walkers have dogs in tow. Residents living nearby often avoid the park after nightfall, or carry weapons for protection.

On Tuesday, Kennedy returned to the park as he continues to do. Sometimes, the strolls make him feel closer to Irene. On other days, he scans the gentle hills, wondering if a passer-by could know something about his wife's vicious killing.

Last Dec. 1 was unseasonably warm when he and his wife began their regular stroll at the park near their home in Foxboro, 25 miles southwest of Boston.

Irene, often a faster walker, went in one direction, he in another. At times husband and wife could see each other in the distance because the park was small and the leaves had already fallen.

Kennedy finished his walk and went to the car to wait for his wife.

"I waited 10 minutes, then 10 minutes more," he recalled. "Then I headed back into the woods, and she was there."

Irene's body was covered in blood and naked from the waist down, her clothes strewn nearby. The woman he married more than 50 years ago was dead.

"I couldn't say anything. I didn't touch her. I was numb with shock," he says.

He ran to the car and drove to a groundskeeper's office for help.

In the days that followed, police interrogated Kennedy, even confiscating his jacket and shoes as evidence. He didn't mind: It was proof police were doing everything to find whoever killed the woman with whom he had square-danced, laughed and raised four children.

Hours into the investigation, police thought they had a break.

Search dogs chased a scent to the home of Edmund Burke, a distant relative to the Kennedys who lived on the edge of the park, just a few yards from where the couple's car was parked.

Burke was arrested 10 days later. Reports that dead cat carcasses were found in his freezer made the unemployed loner seem even more like a murder suspect.

But Burke's DNA didn't match evidence, and he was released.

Mrs. Kennedy's death was the first of three slayings in Norfolk County over the past year that remain unsolved. The district attorney's office has repeatedly refused to speculate on whether the killings are related.

Kennedy's daughter, Susan, 48, hasn't ruled out a connection. She and her family planned to gather today at a memorial in the park erected in her mother's honor.

Sides silent as Microsoft settlement talks continue

CHICAGO (AP) — Justice Department officials and attorneys for Microsoft Corp. plan to continue talks aimed at settling the government's antitrust case against the software giant, but say secrecy is vital to the process.

"If this is going to work, it's going to work confidentially," Justice Department lawyer David Boies told reporters on Tuesday after a two-hour talk with a court-appointed mediator, federal appeals Judge Richard Posner.

"We're going to have no comment at all about anything to do with the mediation," Boies said after leaving the session near the federal courthouse.

He declined to characterize the tone of the talks or say whether any progress was made.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates did not attend. Aides said he wanted to remain in Seattle for the World Trade Organization meeting.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in Washington found on Nov. 5 that Microsoft is a monopoly and has hurt consumers.

Since then, Jackson has tried to push the parties to settlement on the issues, chief of which is whether Microsoft's Internet browser and other features should remain a part of its Windows operating system package.

Jackson named Posner, chief judge of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and an antitrust expert, as mediator.

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999

Today is the 335th day of 1999 and the 70th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1917, Father Flanagan opened the Boys Town orphanage in Nebraska. The orphanage now admits girls.

On this day in 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.

On this day in 1982, "Thriller," an album by Michael Jackson, was released. It became the all-time best-selling album.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Martin (1913-1990), actress; Woody Allen (1935-), director-writer, is 64; Lou Rawls (1936-), singer, is 63; Lee Trevino (1939-), golfer, is 60; Richard Pryor (1940-), comedian, is 59; Bette Midler (1945-), singer-actress, is 54.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, Mississippi defeated Mississippi State 49-7. "Showboat" Boykin scored all 7 of Mississippi's touchdowns.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Had I been born in New York, I'd probably be painting taxis... but because I live on this farm, I paint objects and landscapes I know and love." — Jamie Wyeth

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Nov. 29) and new moon (Dec. 7).

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Always cook ground beef thoroughly

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been eating raw hamburger since I was a child. What we called beef tartare was a delicacy. Now, when I grill burgers, I always pinch off a bite of the raw stuff. Is this practice harmful?

DEAR READER: Unfortunately, yes. In the past decade, there have been several instances of widespread food poisoning caused by contaminated ground beef. The culprit is a particularly vicious type of E. Coli bacteria, which has even caused deaths in young children and elderly adults. Public health experts, in a unanimous consensus, urge consumers to cook hamburgers thoroughly before consuming them. Because of the very real danger posed by raw ground beef, the days of steak tartare are over. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Insuring Your Good Health." 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 true that expectant mothers can get a disease from cats that may endanger the fetus?

DEAR READER: You are referring to toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease that can be spread to humans from cats.

Cats acquire the organism by eating infected birds or mice. The felines suffer few, if any, symptoms from the infection. The parasite is carried from cat excrement to humans by inadvertent oral contamination — usually after an individual fails to wash thoroughly after coming in contact with soiled cat litter.

Once in a human host, the toxoplasma reproduce, leading to infection in the lungs, heart, lymph nodes and brain. In pregnant women, the parasite easily penetrates the placenta and enters the fetus, where its effects are far more serious than in the adult. Once in the fetus, toxoplasmosis can cause convulsions, brain shrinkage, blindness and mental retardation. Because of this possibility, pregnant women should avoid contact with cat litter.

The disease can be diagnosed in the mother by blood tests and is treated with special medications.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a beautiful, bright, 7-year-old grandson who constantly walks on his tiptoes. His parents refuse to seek medical advice and they tell me to back off. Will he outgrow this way of walking?

DEAR READER: Children often tend to walk on their toes. Although this occurs in normal youngsters, some orthopedic abnormalities — such as congenitally tight calf muscles — can produce this gait. Your grandson will probably outgrow the tendency to walk on his toes as he grows older.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that he should be medically checked. Perhaps, with your gentle encouragement, his parents will mention this to his pediatrician at the time of the child's next routine examination.

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO INCREASE RATES

Pursuant to Tex. Utilities Code § 104.103 (1999), TXU Lone Star Pipeline, a Division of TXU Gas Company ("Applicant") hereby gives notice of intent to change the city gate rate of TXU Lone Star Pipeline (formerly known as "Lone Star Pipeline Company") established by Order of the Railroad Commission of Texas in Gas Utilities Docket No. 8664 ("GUD 8664").

Applicant proposes a two-part transportation rate that consists of a demand charge per MMBtu based upon the contractual demand for city gate service and a volumetric charge per MMBtu based on actual delivered volumes. This transportation rate would result in a revenue increase to Applicant. Applicant also proposes to increase the storage rate applicable to city gate deliveries established in GUD 8664. The storage rate would consist of a monthly demand charge for capacity and a monthly demand charge for deliverability. The deliverability demand charge would only be charged during the months of November through March.

The proposed effective date of the change is December 20, 1999. The change is a major change, and will result in an increase in annual revenues of approximately $20.3 million or sixteen percent (16%). The change will affect 1.3 million residential and commercial customers. The rate change will affect transportation and storage rates at the city gate for TXU Lone Star Gas-Transmission, who in turn sells the gas to TXU Lone Star Gas which serves 1.3 million residential and commercial customers in Texas under the rates established by the local regulatory authorities in municipalities and the Railroad Commission in environs areas.

A Statement of Intent to make such a change has been filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas in GUD 8976 and is available for inspection at the Commission's office at 1701 North Congress in Austin, Texas, and at the offices of Applicant at 301 South Harwood in Dallas, Texas. Copies of the Statement of Intent have also been sent to the appropriate city official of each incorporated city served by TXU Lone Star Gas. Any affected person may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the rates with the Docket Services Section of the Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time on or before 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 1999. Any person or agency who has a justiciable or administratively cognizable interest who desires to be designated as a party may petition for leave to intervene and request to become a party to this proceeding. The final date for intervention in this case shall be 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 1999.

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Wednesday, December 1 through Sunday, December 5
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Judge blocks testimony at ValuJet trial

MIAMI (AP) — Testimony directing blame at ValuJet in a crash that killed 110 people was barred by a judge hearing the criminal case against the airline's maintenance contractor.

U.S. District Court Judge James King refused on Tuesday to let jurors hear an operator's recollection of a teleconference call involving ValuJet executives, company attorneys and its insurer 10 days after the 1996 Everglades crash.

Defense attorneys for the contractor, SabreTech, and two former employees were expected to finish their case today.

Recalling notes she took during the call, Sprint operator Kathleen Wheaton testified that Gil Morgan, ValuJet vice president of contracts, said: "I hope the people or the FAA never find out we did not follow McDonnell-Douglas recommendations to keep those doors shut. If those doors were closed, that would have contained the fire."

Defense attorney Jane Moscowitz said the remark represented "an attempt to cover up the cause of this accident."

Morgan testified that he never said it, didn't recall the conversation and wasn't familiar with aircraft operations.

There was no elaboration on what doors were involved. Attorneys in the case have refused comment during the trial.

The judge rejected the testimony sought by the defense from both Morgan and Ms. Wheaton — both spoke outside the jury's presence — as inflammatory hearsay.

"There's no showing that it's anything more than a rumor," he said.

Outside court, Ms. Wheaton said she didn't usually take notes on the contents of conference calls. She guessed she did that time because it involved ValuJet, which was in the news because of the crash.

Investigators have blamed the DC-9's crash on 144 oxygen generators removed by SabreTech from other ValuJet planes. The generators were blamed for fueling a cargo fire on Flight 592, which went down 11 minutes after takeoff on May 11, 1996.

SabreTech and the employees are charged with conspiracy and lying on repair records in events leading up to the crash. SabreTech also faces murder and manslaughter charges in state court.

Also Tuesday, King stripped eight of 11 charges against mechanic Eugene Florence in an unusual move based on the prosecution's failure to prove he recklessly caused the shipment of the oxygen generators.

Florence signed a work card stating he had placed required shipping caps on the used generators when he had not. SabreTech shipping department employees packaged and delivered the generators to the jet.

Florence still faces one count of conspiracy and two counts of lying on repair records in the trial with SabreTech and Daniel Gonzalez, a former vice president of maintenance.

If convicted, Florence faces up to 15 years in prison on the reduced charges. Gonzalez faces up to [illegible] years in prison.

SabreTech could face up to $6 million in fines plus restitution to victims' families. The Phoenix-based subsidiary of Sabreliner Corp. was driven out of business after the crash.

ValuJet, which has changed its name to AirTran, and SabreTech have settled most lawsuits brought by victims' families, but a handful are set for civil trial.

FBI agents get cooperation from Egypt in crash probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite public criticism in Egypt of the U.S. investigation of EgyptAir 990's crash, FBI Director Louis J. Freeh says bureau agents are receiving good cooperation in Cairo.

FBI agents have examined aircraft and personnel records in Egypt and participated in interviews there, Freeh told reporters Tuesday at FBI headquarters. "The cooperation has been very, very good."

Although Egyptian government objections halted the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board's plan to turn over control of the probe to the FBI as a potential criminal case, Freeh raised no complaints about Egyptian investigators.

"We have done quite a bit of work with them, including some interviews in Egypt just recently completed," Freeh said. "And we got access — together with the safety board — in Cairo to personnel records, aircraft records.

"There's a whole series of things we've requested," he added. "We have furnished the Egyptians with a list of particular investigative leads that we need to have covered" by them.

"We have not had any of our requests turned down," Freeh added. He noted some requests are still being evaluated and need to move through the Egyptian police and court system.

The Egyptian public reacted angrily when word leaked that U.S. investigators suspect that a relief co-pilot, Gameel El-Batouty, for unknown reasons sent the Boeing 767 into the steep dive that carried all 217 aboard to their deaths in the Atlantic Ocean off Massachusetts on Oct. 31.

NTSB Chairman James Hall has said no evidence of an explosion or mechanical problem has surfaced in the plane's flight and cockpit recorders. But last week, Gen. Issam Ahmed, who heads the Egyptian Transportation Ministry's flight training program, blamed the crash on an explosion.

Freeh declined to respond to the uproar in Egypt: "I'm not going to discuss what any non-police officials have said."

The FBI and the NTSB will jointly start a recovery operation at the crash site in the next couple of weeks, said Freeh, who spoke with Hall on Tuesday morning. So far, only the cockpit and flight recorders have been brought from the Atlantic floor, and investigators want to recover the cockpit itself. Bodies of victims also would be a recovery priority.

The bureau has hundreds of agents assigned to checking out the plane's history and that of any person who had contact with it in the days before the crash. Freeh said there was no timetable for deciding whether to turn the lead over to the FBI.

"I know it's been made an issue as to who is the lead agency," Freeh said. "But the investigation is going to proceed whether the FBI stays in a subordinate role or a lead role. The same things are being done."

The only practical difference that would flow from a change in leadership would be in the release of information, he said.

"The safety board has a statutory mandate to publicize and actually release very quickly information which is relevant to safety," Freeh noted. "We would have to keep the information confidential in the context of a criminal case."

Freeh spoke at a farewell news conference by Deputy Director Robert M. "Bear" Bryant, retiring today after 31 years with the bureau.

Bryant said his most important legacy might be the FBI strategic plan he devised "where we identified national security issues and economic security issues as the bureau's top priority, where we have organizations of criminality, civil rights and public corruption as a tier two priority and the third tier is crimes against persons and property."

Obituaries

Claudene Atwood

1924-1999

Funeral service for Claudene Atwood, longtime Snyder resident, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Craig Curry, pastor, and the Rev. Miller Robinson, retired Baptist minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Atwood, 75, died Monday, Nov. 29, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Born April 15, 1924 in Portales, N.M., she married Bill Atwood on July 10, 1944 in Dallas. He died on Sept. 14, 1993.

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

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

Friends are contributing to the Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary.

Margarita Ayala

1912-1999

Rosary for Margarita F. Ayala is set for 7 this evening in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for Mrs. Ayala, 87, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Fr. Leo Moras will officiate, and burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

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

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

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

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

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

Personal, Professional Service

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Births

Troy and Kristi Menix announce the birth of their daughter, Lacey Lynn Menix, at 12:05 a.m. on Nov. 28 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Robert and Sara Menix of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Tommy and Carroll Wells of Hereford and Carolyn Roe of Arlington.

Isreal and Belinda Tavarez of Snyder announce the birth of their six-pound, 13-ounce daughter. She was born at 3:37 p.m. on Nov. 30 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Nov. 30-Shauna Green, Belinda Tavarez, Sandra May and Hazel Haynes.

DISMISSALS: Billy Rawlings, Tiofilo Alaniz, John Covey, Freda McKnight, Mary Moffett, Emageane Rochelle and Valree Shroyer.

CENSUS: 41 (Med./Surg.-12, Long-term Care-23, OB-4, Nursery-2)

Criminal mischief, theft reported here

Officers investigated a report of criminal mischief and theft Tuesday.

At 1:40 p.m., Frank Selvera of 1104 20th notified officers that someone had shot out his front window with a BB gun. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was filed.

Tony Martinez reported the theft of his bicycle at 7:39 p.m. He advised the incident occurred in the 1300 block of 19th Street. An offense report was submitted for Class B theft.

Outstanding Abilene traffic warrants for speeding and failure to appear resulted in the arrest of a 29-year-old male. Officers took him into custody at 4:04 p.m. in the 3800 block of Dalton.

A minor accident occurred around 7 p.m. in the northwest parking lot of Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Involved were a Chrysler Fifth Avenue driven by Sue Teaff Trice, 84, of 3500 Irving Avenue and a parked, unoccupied 1998 Chevrolet C-3500 pickup owned by Troy Lee Menix of 8399 CR 3105.

Some sales halted by instant checks on backgrounds

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 160,000 people, nearly three-quarters of them convicted felons, were barred from buying a gun during the first year of computerized instant criminal background checks, the Justice Department says.

The overwhelming majority of 8.7 million would-be gun buyers were approved during the year. Most checks took seconds and nearly all were complete within two hours.

Combined with the 312,000 handgun purchases barred during the manual checks in effect from Feb. 28, 1994, through Nov. 30, 1998, the Brady Act has barred a total of more than 470,000 prohibited people from acquiring firearms, the department said Tuesday.

State and local authorities did background checks under the old system.

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WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Choir Poinsettia sale

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

Girls softball boosters

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

Rotary Christmas dinner

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

Auxiliary Discovery Toys show

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

Christmas open house

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

Faith Baptist Church anniversary

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

Special service

Snyder's First Church of the Nazarene presents southern gospel music by the Richardsons at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. A Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner will be held immediately after the service. The public is invited, and daycare is provided.

AARP meeting

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

Quilting Club

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

Bible study tapes

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

WTC nursing program

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

Snyder Lions meeting

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

Christmas wish list

Scurry County Child Welfare Board, in conjunction with local financial institutions, is working to make Christmas special for county foster children. Trees are set up in the lobby of each bank and citizens can help share Christmas with a child by choosing a star from one of the trees. Purchase and wrap the gift and return it to the CPS office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center by Dec. 17. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. The service is sponsored by the Support Group Ministry in recognition of the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season.

Library extends hours

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

WTC planetarium open

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

Road to Recovery program

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

Cash Five

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

11-18-20-22-36

(eleven, eighteen, twenty, twenty-two, thirty-six)

Pick 3

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

5-4-9

(five, four, nine)

Experts warn of e-mail virus that can cause much damage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Experts scrambled to warn thousands of computer users that a familiar and damaging virus has struck scores of companies and could be slumbering in their e-mail inboxes.

The Mini-Zip virus tore through computers on Tuesday, devouring files and crippling e-mail systems, anti-virus analysts said. It was expected to renew its assault today as unsuspecting users logged on.

Town & County Topics

By Kathryn Roberts, County Extension Agent

Keep holiday parties and dinners trouble free

The holiday season can be a very special time for families and friends to get together. But if proper care isn't taken, unfortunate symptoms — nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches — of food-borne illness, can be an unwelcome guest.

Food-borne illness is more likely the result of eating at parties and large holiday gatherings for a number of reasons. The quantity of food being handled is usually much larger than normal. Therefore, normal techniques for cooking and cooling may not be adequate. Foods may have been carried long distances and held at warm room temperature for long periods of time before being consumed. And, it's more enjoyable to talk with guests than to put leftovers away promptly after everyone has eaten, especially when there's enough food left to feed a small army. Here are some tips to help keep your holiday parties and buffets trouble free.

*Always wash your hands before and after handling food. Keep your kitchen, dishes and utensils clean. Always serve food on clean plates, not those that previously held raw meat or poultry; bacteria which may have been present in raw meat juices can cross contaminate the food to be served.

*Cook foods thoroughly. This has always been important, but it's even more critical today. Use a meat thermometer to ensure that the center of meats and poultry reach a safe end point temperature. Fresh roast beef is still considered relatively safe if cooked to the medium rare stage of 145 degrees. However, all other meat, fish and ground red meats should be cooked to 160 degrees; whole turkey should be cooked to 180 degrees.

*Think safety when preparing foods in advance. If time on the day of the party or holiday gathering is short, you may find it convenient to prepare several items ahead of time. Divide cooked meats and dishes ready to serve. Reheat foods to be served hot to 165 degrees.

*Don't let cooked or prepared food sit at room temperature for more than two hours. This rule applies to buffet or served foods. If serving a buffet, set out just enough food to be consumed in two hours or less. Keep replacement items piping hot or refrigerator cold until needed. For safety's sake, replace empty platters rather than add fresh food to a dish that's been sitting out for some time.

*Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Keep hot dishes at 140 degrees or warmer use chafing dishes, crock-pots or warming trays. Keep cold foods at 40 degrees or below by nesting dishes in bowls of ice. Otherwise, use small serving trays and replace them often.

High court to rule in tobacco, FDA war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government and tobacco industry lawyers are squaring off in a high-stakes Supreme Court argument over whether the Food and Drug Administration can regulate tobacco as a drug and crack down on cigarette sales to minors.

The Clinton administration wants the justices to overturn a lower court's ruling that the FDA lacked authority to make the "major policy decision" to regulate tobacco. The lower court said that decision should be left to Congress.

After today's argument, the court is expected to decide by July whether to uphold what the government calls the FDA's most important public health and safety effort in the last 50 years.

"We know absolutely that tobacco products are not just a major cause of cancer but the single most important cause of cancer in human beings," said John Seffrin, chief executive of the American Cancer Society, which is supporting the government in a friend-of-the-court brief. About 45 million Americans are addicted to nicotine, he said.

Cigarette maker R.J. Reynolds' lawyers said in court papers, "FDA seeks to cut a great road through the law to seize power over tobacco products.

"The claim that FDA may dramatically expand the scope (of federal law) ... to do whatever it thinks serves the public interest is ultimately lawless," Reynolds' lawyers said.

The industry argues that because the FDA must certify that drugs are safe and effective, if the government is allowed to regulate cigarettes it will be forced to ban them. The government counters that it can permit the continued sale of drugs and devices if it finds the dangers of banning them would outweigh the benefits.

Forty states are backing the government at a time when the tobacco industry has been under increasing attack.

All 50 states have reached settlements in which tobacco companies will pay them $246 billion for the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses. Cigarette billboards around the country were taken down last spring as part of those agreements.

The Justice Department sued the industry in September, alleging that cigarette makers placed profits above public health and seeking additional billions of dollars to repay federal health-insurance costs.

And in July, a Florida jury ruled in a class-action lawsuit that the five largest cigarette makers produced a defective and deadly product.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 2, 1999

In the year ahead, substantial strides can be made in advancing your personal interests. Where you tend to be the luckiest is in ventures or enterprises you orchestrate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Someone upon whom you can usually rely will once again drop everything today in order to assist you. This person is likely to do so without any prompting from you. Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't broadcast your ambitious intentions where your work is concerned and you'll be more effective today. Do what needs doing and let your deeds speak for themselves.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Group involvements appear to produce the greatest benefits for you at this time, so subdue your own personal interests in order to get on board the bandwagon today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You have the necessary wherewithal today to fulfill your ambitious intentions if you're determined enough to do so. Focus your efforts and attention on meaningful objectives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll back up your philosophical beliefs with action and deeds today. This will not only please those with whom you associate, but fill you with pride as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take a second look at a financial situation that could drop in your lap today and provide you with additional income. Chances are you'll want to take advantage of it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Strive to be open-minded and supportive of teammates instead of picking apart their thoughts. At least give their ideas a chance to prove themselves before discounting them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try to catch up on any tasks you've been neglecting of late. Today is a productive time to undertake and complete to your satisfaction jobs that need to get done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might see another side of someone you recently met which you'll like immensely today. Chances are a romance or a good social relationship could result from the revelation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A family problem can be resolved today if all the parties involved are willing to devote the necessary time to it now. It may take some serious discussion, but it'll be worth it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you take it upon yourself today to be a trifle more assertive, a present plan of yours can be advanced. Give the project the necessary impetus it deserves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Favorable changes are in the wind today concerning your financial wherewithal. They could blow in on a sudden gust, so be ready to trap its power.

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Britain celebrated the golder jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887

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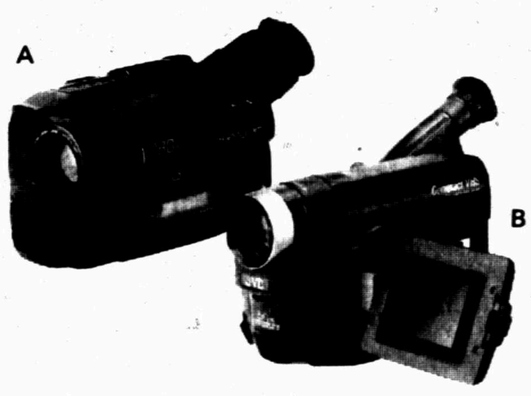

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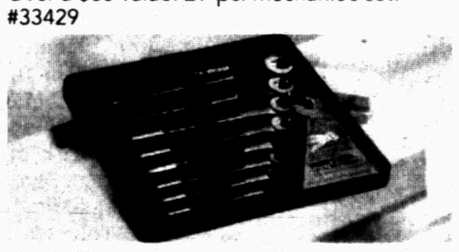

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