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WTIC Posted - $31.50
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY
Jan. 13, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 221
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Beth Teal

DAILY RITUAL — Red Tefetiller, 86, has made friends with a renegade duck at the Towle Park pond, and one will peck at his feet until he feeds him. Feeding the ducks and groundhogs every day is a longtime part of Red's daily activities. (Contributed Photo)

On Wednesday...

Weigh-in for annual stock show to begin

Young farmers and ranchers will once again have the chance to show their animals at the 2004 Scurry County Junior Livestock show where 516 entries are slated to compete.

Weigh-in for the competition begins Wednesday with swine in place no later than 3 p.m.

Lambs and goats will be weighed in and classified beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday and steers will be weighed and classified at 11 a.m. Thursday.

The show schedule will start with the pig show, senior showmanship and junior showmanship at 1 p.m. Thursday.

The competition will continue beginning at 1 p.m. Friday with the lamb show, lamb senior showmanship and junior showmanship. The goat show, heifer show, steer show and cattle showmanship classes will follow.

The livestock auction will be held Saturday with a barbecue dinner catered by Kerry Clay kicking off the event at 5 p.m.

The awards presentation will start at 6 p.m. followed by the auction at 7 p.m.

A donation table will be available if anyone in the community would like to make a donation to support the Scurry County 4-H and FFA youth exhibitors.

Scurry County citizens are invited to attend the livestock show and sale. Individuals my purchase premium sale animals during the action on Saturday.

By church...

Building donated to WTC

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

Construction momentum continues at Western Texas College.

In addition to the soon-to-open athletic complex, the donation of the Christian Student Center is the first step to a Visitor's Center.

The transfer of ownership of the building from the 37th Street Church of Christ to WTC will be effective Feb. 1.

The announcement of the gift, which has been in the discussion phase for several months, was announced at the WTC board meeting Monday night.

"This is a very generous gift to the college," said Dr. Greg Williams. "We sincerely appreciate it."

The center has existed at the college for 37 years, providing a faith-based environment for students. Under the terms of the 50-year lease agreement, either side could exercise the option to terminate the lease. The decision was made to make a gift of the center to WTC.

Mike Thornton, dean of continuing education, will be at the helm of what is being called a visitor's and community center.

"First of all let me say that I am very happy and appreciative of this gift. I believe that the new center will prove to be an asset for the community and the college," he said.

Thornton also will oversee the remodeling of the facility. His goal is to eventually make the building available for use to the community.

"It's a new future at WTC," he said. "Our intent is to make the building a focal point for those who visit the college."

Thornton went on to discuss specific goals for the center. In addition to acting as a visitor's center, the building would also be a multi-purpose center where meeting and community events could be held.

"We would like to be able to host business or other special groups. Then we could also be available for bridal showers, wedding or recitals, for instance."

It will be necessary to remodel the building to bring it up to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Thornton estimated the cost of remodeling, upgrades and landscaping to be between $50,000 to $60,000. Reserve funds will be used for the renovation.

After months of construction, the WTC sports complex is scheduled to host its first home baseball game at 1 p.m. Jan. 30. In light of the field's completion Dr. Jim Clifton, dean of student services, announced the addition of a number of athletic programs at WTC.

Volleyball, cross country track, golf and cheerleading will be added.

Clifton said that choosing the new sports would require no new construction because the college can already accommodate these events.

"The gym is already equipped for volleyball and we have the golf course. The best part is that we don't have to build anything new."

In other business, Dr. Williams announced the retirement of Ms. Joann Snider, assistant professor for computerized business technology, after 20 years at WTC.

The board also recognized the employment of Shawn Fonville as social science instructor. Fonville has a master's of art degree from Southwest Texas State University and M.Ed. from Texas Tech.

Fonville will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Michael Pouchet last December.

Additionally, the board approved the college calendar for the year 2004-2005.

Lee Presswood presided and trustees present were Carolyn Barbee, Jay Kidd, Eddie Peterson, Drew Bullard and Scott Richburg. Jackie Greene was absent.

Superintendent's contract extended at Hermleigh ISD

Hermleigh trustees Monday night unanimously extended the contract of Supt. Marvin Beaty through June, 2007.

Marvin Beaty

Trustees also gave Beaty a $2,400 year pay increase to make his salary next year $67,400.

This action followed a 25-minute closed session as the board finished its evaluation of the district's first-year superintendent.

In other action items, the board voted to implement a catastrophic sick leave bank for employees.

"Any school employee can donate up to three days per year of their local personal leave time to give to other employees for catastrophic illnesses," said Beaty.

"It is commendable that our employees were in favor of this plan to help others. These days will be coming out of the employees' own pocket as they would have been paid for them if they had not been used by the end of the school year."

Beaty noted the plan would not cost the district any more money as the days have already been budgeted.

The school board will begin interviewing applicants for the head coach and athletic director's post on Jan. 23 and will continue the interviews on Jan. 26.

"We have plans to interview 14 candidates with seven the first day and seven more the next interview period," said Beaty.

Trustees also received a report on the cafeteria inspection and the new elementary computer lab.

"The cafeteria passed okay and the wireless computer lab is up and running," said Beaty.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Eating your own words sometimes is the worst case of indigestion."

A New Year usually brings some apprehension about the future. The past has proven that the future will have both good and bad – so it's probably in everyone's best interest not to know for sure.

That fact, however, doesn't keep folks from speculating on what's going to happen. Here's a collection things to expect in 2004, according to the Farmer's Almanac.

—The new ketchup: salsa.

—The new coffee: green tea.

—New restaurant chic: fondue dipping and sushi bars.

—New trend power lunch: hearty barbecue or a simple sandwich. (That means West Texans are trend setters.)

—Nudist tourism will hit an all-time high: even if you have nothing new to wear.

—A get-well vacation: The next prescription your doctor gives may include a travel guide. (Five-star hospitals?)

—Bargain hunting: More Americans are flocking to flea markets than to sporting events, concerts or golf courses. (Fishing old balls out of the pond is always a bargain.)

—Super soap: A company is testing a shower gel that won't rinse off. Instead it forms a microbe-thin shield to protect the skin from bacteria and other foul goo.

—Spa dentistry: Said to be the wave of the future. Trips to the tooth fairy will include aromatherapy; foot, neck and hand massage; a vibrating chair; movies via virtual-reality glasses; access to the Internet on a screen wired to the ceiling; concierge services — in addition to clean teeth.

—Pet cloning: will gain in public acceptance and technology will help lower the costs, now said to be $10,000 for a cat and $20,000 for a dog.

—Bowlingual: a device that will help you interpret what your dog is trying to tell you.

—For dogs: electric toothbrushes and mouthwash.

—Artificial intelligence counseling: robots for therapy and for confessional.

—Family consultants: paid $1,000 to evaluate how good a dad a man's family thinks he is.

—A fitness browbeater: consultants who charge up to a hundred bucks a month to contact clients to coach them and to verify that they've done their workout. (You don't need a personal trainer, if you have a wife.)

We got to think about this one: competitive solitaire as a new game.

SHS students named all-state

Two Snyder High School students, Sterling Millhollon and Rebecca Pavlosky, have earned all-state music honors.

Following competition Saturday at Lubbock Cooper, Sterling Millhollon, a senior and the son of Jerry and Martha Millhollon, was named to the all-state band in baritone saxophone.

Sterling Millhollon

Rebecca Pavlovsky

In December, Millhollon also qualified for state competition in alto sax and tenor sax. However, as he could only advance in one area, he chose the bari sax.

He will attend the Texas Music Educators Convention in San Antonio next month. Rehearsals and the Feb. 14 performance will begin at 11 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Auditorium.

Donnie Reston, SHS band director, praised Millhollon. "I am very proud of Sterling, his dedication to his instrument and to music in general. He has musical ability works very hard in his pursuit of perfection."

Pavlovsky was selected as an alto II for a position on the Women's All-State Choir Saturday at competition hosted by Midland Lee High School.

Pavlovsky, a senior, is the daughter of Donny and Lori Pavlovsky. She studies voice in the studio of Shelly Bradberry of Snyder.

She will participate in the all-state choir concert in San Antonio at 11 a.m. Feb. 14 at the Lila Cockrell Auditorium at the San Antonio Convention during the Texas Music Educators Association annual convention.

Pavlovsky is a member of the a cappella choir and has been in the choral program at SHS all four years in high school under the direction of Ronda Haire.

"I am very proud of Rebecca for this accomplishment. She has worked very hard to achieve this position. Participating in the all-state choir performance will be an experience that she will never forget," Mrs. Haire said.

Guilty pleas result in prison terms, probation

Several guilty pleas were heard in 132nd District Court Friday afternoon, including one person charged with three offenses.

Chad Collin Price, 32, of 5904 Tabosa in San Angelo pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong sentenced Price to two years in a state jail facility, probated for five years on each count. The sentences will be served concurrently.

The burglaries occurred in Scurry County between June 19 to June 26. He also must pay restitution.

Also placed on probation was Michael Wayne Gaither, 19, of 1368 Smith Ave. Gaither was sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, probated for 10 years. He also was fined $1,000.

Gaither committed a burglary on Nov. 29 and also must pay $640 in restitution.

One person was sentenced to prison following a probation revocation hearing.

Christy Ann Collier, 24, of 9587 CR 242 now must serve two years in a state jail facility as her probation for a Nov. 2000 offense of forgery was revoked.

A case of evading arrest against Justin Podhorsky, 20, of 302 W. Alabama in Sweetwater was dismissed.

Podhorsky had been sentenced on Jan. 9 in Lubbock County to 15 years in prison for an October, 2002 robbery.

ASK US

Q—What is the new law about passing stopped emergency vehicles?

A—A driver must vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle or slow down 20 mph below the speed limit.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Teena Cobb...

...has lived in Snyder for 31 years and she is married to Brady Cobb Sr. and is the mother of Jeremiah Johnson of Brownwood, Brady Cobb Jr. of Snyder and Colton Cobb, 7. She is grandmother to Madelyn Cobb, 1. Teena enjoys all sports and especially likes Texas Tech Lady Raiders basketball.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Money is a terrible master but an excellent servant.
—P.T. Barnum

JAN 13 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Relay team captains rally

The 2004 Scurry County Relay for Life kickoff is set from 6-7 this evening at Stanfield Elementary cafeteria. Theme is *Anything Goes in 2004*. Team recruitment, luminaria and survivorship lap information and volunteer opportunities will be available. Call 573-1031 for more information.

Central seminar

Central will host its fourth seminar, *Helping Kids Face Today's World*, at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 5. Principal Pam Hart will present ways to help parents and educators understand and deal with pressures, frustrations and challenges children face. Door prizes, childcare and refreshments will be provided. Call 573-8592 for more information.

Singles night out

Learn how to play bridge Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the building due south of First Baptist Church. This is for singles over 30 and there is no charge. For more information, call John Fenton at 573-7337 or Bill Johnson at 573-2772.

Antique tractor and equipment club

The Scurry County antique and tractor equipment club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jack's Roadboring on the Colorado City highway. For more information, call 573-4414.

Gifted/talented parent meeting

A gifted and talented parent meeting for grades 6-12 will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Snyder Junior High School Library.

Eastern Star meeting canceled

Eastern Star Snyder Chapter #450 will not have a stated meeting Thursday due to sickness and illness.

United Way short of goal

United Way is selling tickets for a Super Bowl Prizes project, one for $2 or six for $10. Items include black leather chair-and-a-half, 19-inch TV, two large topping Pizza Hut pizzas. To purchase tickets or for more information call 207-1929, 573-5311, 207-1385 or 574-1931.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Marriage enhancement seminar

Snyder's First Church of the Nazarene is offering a marriage enhancement seminar, *Making Marriage Work*, from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 and 31. Call 573-5601 for more information.

LVN testing dates

LVN testing dates are next Tuesday and Tuesday, Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

Concert at Word Is Life

"Moving into Worship," a concert in movement with Randall Bane, is set for 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, at the Word Is Life Church, 312 Coliseum Dr.

Doodle Bug writers club

Members of the Doodle Bug writers club invites all writers to meet at 1 p.m. every other Tuesday at the Golden Terrace Village community room. For more information call 574-1817, 573-7369, or 573-5819.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Jan. 31 for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

What's up guidelines

Effective Feb. 1, items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

Fired Treasury chief under investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paul O'Neill, the former treasury secretary who's been saying some harsh things about his old boss, President Bush, is now taking a little heat from the administration himself.

The Treasury Department said Monday it was launching an inspector general's investigation into how a Treasury document stamped "secret" wound up being used in O'Neill's interview Sunday night on the CBS program "60 Minutes," where O'Neill was promoting his new book, "The Price of Loyalty."

O'Neill said today: "The truth is, I didn't take any documents at all."

Interviewed on NBC's "Today" show, he said he had asked the Treasury Department's chief legal counsel "to have the documents that are OK for me to have."

Asked if he thought the internal Treasury probe was a get-even move by the Bush administration, O'Neill replied, "I don't think so. If I were secretary of the treasury and these circumstances occurred, I would have asked the inspector general to look into it." But O'Neill also said he thinks the questions could have been more readily answered if top Treasury officials had talked to the agency's legal counsel.

"I'm surprised that he didn't call the chief legal counsel," O'Neill said of his successor, Treasury Secretary John Snow.

O'Neill said a cover page for the documents might have suggested they were classified material but said that the legal counsel's office "sent me a couple CDs, which I never opened." He said he gave them to former Wall Street Journal reporter Ron Suskind, the book's author.

O'Neill, who was fired by Bush in December 2002, is quoted in the book as saying the president was focused on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq from the start of his administration.

O'Neill also contends the administration's decision-making process was often chaotic and Bush Cabinet meetings made the president look "like a blind man in a room full of deaf people."

Bush made a strong defense of his Iraq policy on Monday, while some of the Democratic presidential candidates weighed in, saying Bush had misled the American public.

On the nationally broadcast interview today, O'Neill said, "It was not my intention to be personally critical of the president of anybody else," but to cooperate with Suskind "on a chronicle of 23 months" in government.

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark said O'Neill "confirms my worst suspicions about this administration," while Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, said, "Now we find from Secretary O'Neill that the president was planning on attacking Iraq before 9/11 and that the American people, in effect, have been misled by this."

All the furor has boosted interest in the book, which was going on sale today in bookstores nationwide.

O'Neill was the principal source for the book, written by Suskind, a former Wall Street Journal reporter, who relied not only on extensive interviews with O'Neill but also on 19,000 documents O'Neill provided him.

In his author's note at the beginning of the book, Suskind writes that he and O'Neill both believed that government secrecy "had almost no value" and that the real threat to national security came not from revealing secrets but from the government's bad analysis of the information it had.

For that reason, Suskind said he and O'Neill were striving through the book to provide readers' with as much information as possible about the inner workings of the Bush White House so they could draw their own conclusions.

Now, however, Treasury Department Inspector General Jeffrey Rush has been asked to investigate the use of a document on CBS.

Suskind in the "60 Minutes" interview referred to discussions in the early days of the administration and said, "There are memos. One of them, marked secret, says 'Plan for post-Saddam Iraq.'"

CBS spokesman Kevin Tedesco said CBS simply "showed a cover sheet that alluded to" a secret document but did not show any actual secret documents during the telecast.

Simon & Schuster, the publisher of the book, issued a statement denying that any laws governing the use of classified material had been broken.

In Mexico on Monday to attend a Summit of the Americas meeting, Bush offered a forceful defense of his decision to go to war against Iraq, saying, "the decision I made is the right one for America" and for the world.

Asked specifically whether O'Neill was correct in saying that planning for the war had begun far ahead of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Bush said that when he had become president he had inherited a policy of "regime change" from former President Clinton and had decided to adopt it as his own.

"So we were fashioning policy along those lines and then all of a sudden Sept. 11 hit," he said.

Treasury spokesman Rob Nichols said the department's request for a probe shouldn't be viewed as a way to strike back at O'Neill. "This is standard operating procedure," he said.

Frost endorses Clark for president

DALLAS (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark said Monday that he believes President Bush took the United States to war in Iraq without adequate reason or justification.

Clark, a former NATO commander, also said statements he made regarding his belief that Saddam Hussein was not involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks stemmed from a question about a New York Times article.

Clark, 59, said he made the statement when he was asked about a front page article in which there was a statement made about low level contact between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida.

He said his comments were meant to say that it was a normal thing to expect that there would be contact between the two. Clark then misspoke saying that he didn't believe that al-Qaida was involved in Sept. 11, but he quickly returned to the microphone to point out his error and say that he didn't believe Saddam Hussein was involved.

"I think George W. Bush took us to war based on a preconception, a party ideology and without adequate reason or justification to do so," Clark said.

Clark made the original statements during a 2002 news conference in which he endorsed a New Hampshire Democrat for Congress.

Lindsay Taylor, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, called Clark's comments baseless.

"Wesley Clark will say anything to get elected and that becomes more and more evident every day," she said. "Before he became a candidate he praised President Bush and his national security team for their leadership, and now that he's launched his campaign all we hear is inconsistencies and baseless attacks."

Clark appeared at a news conference Monday in which U.S. Rep. Martin Frost added his name to the list of those endorsing him.

"This is the kind of candidate I believe Texans can relate to," Frost told a room of supporters and reporters.

Clark said he would work with Frost and other Texas Democrats. U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz announced his endorsement Monday in Corpus Christi.

World Almanac

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2004

Today is the 13th day of 2004 and the 23rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1864, American songwriter Stephen Foster died in New York's Bellevue Hospital at age 37.

In 1910, inventor Lee De Forest made a live radio broadcast from New York's Metropolitan Opera.

In 1942, the Allies announced that they would prosecute war criminals after the end of World War II.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Horatio Alger (1834-1899), author; Sophie Tucker (1884-1966), singer; Gwen Verdon (1926-2000), dancer and actress; Julia Louis-Dreyfus (1961-), actress, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1982, in their first year of eligibility, both Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I've been rich and I've been poor. Believe me, honey, rich is better." — Sophie Tucker

TODAY'S FACT: The National Yo-Yo Museum in Chico, Calif., claims to have the world's biggest working yo-yo; it weighs 256 pounds and has a diameter of 50 inches.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 59 — The highest temperature (in Fahrenheit) ever recorded in Antarctica (Jan. 5, 1974).

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Jan. 7) and last quarter (Jan. 15)

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events

LOTTO TEXAS

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-8-11-16-31.

Number matching five of five: None.

Matching four of five: 155. Prize: $423.

Matching three of five: 5,039. Prize: $9.

Matching two of five: 47,526. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 7-5-0
(Night) 2-6-0

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Sheriff unhappy with inquiry

TYLER (AP) — An investigation into the whereabouts of at least $1 million worth of surplus federal property given to an East Texas county as part of a deal to house federal prisoners in the jail included grand jury and Texas Rangers review, but law officers here have reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with it.

Documents obtained by the Tyler Morning Telegraph in a copyright report for today's editions detail the Rangers investigation into alleged misuse of inmate labor and military surplus by two Smith County employees, both later no-billed by a county grand jury. The newspaper obtained signed affidavits through the Texas Public Information Act detailing activities of those who knew and participated in the alleged misuse.

A 60-year-old county employee who retired at the onset of the investigation and his former superior, a 56-year-old sheriff's lieutenant, were both cleared by the grand jury on Dec. 18.

On Monday, the acting district attorney for Smith County rejected a request by the commissioner's court that he ask for a state investigation of the location of surplus federal property given to the sheriff's department.

County Judge Becky Dempsey said the refusal by Matt Bingham to ask the attorney general to investigate was unacceptable.

The newspaper reported that Ranger Sgt. Philip Kemp's investigation that led to the grand jury case centered more on the use of inmate labor than on missing equipment. The newspaper said documents it obtained showed Kemp reported receiving digital photographs of surplus federal property at the private shop of county barn maintenance supervisor Eugene Nobles.

Nobles, who retired from the county July 31 after eight years of service, told the newspaper last week that he had done nothing wrong and wasn't worried.

Sheriff J.B. Smith did not appear before the grand jury.

Pizza-Inn EVENTS

TUESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
SENIOR BUFFET SPECIAL
$4.49 with coffee or tea
WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
KIDS 99¢ BUFFET
13 Years & Under with Adult Buffet at Reg. Price
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFETS 5:30-9:00 p.m.
Featuring Our New White Sauce Pizzas & Pepperoni Wraps
We Accept Local Competitors Coupons And We Will Meet Or Beat Any Other Special
Fresh Dough • Great Pizza • Locally Owned
573-3542 • 3907 College Ave.

Just Arrived.....
New AROMATIQUE Potpourri
Mango Melon
Final Week...
Christmas 75% Off
Classic Interiors
2520 Ave R 573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri., 10:00-5:00, Sat. 10:00 - 4:00

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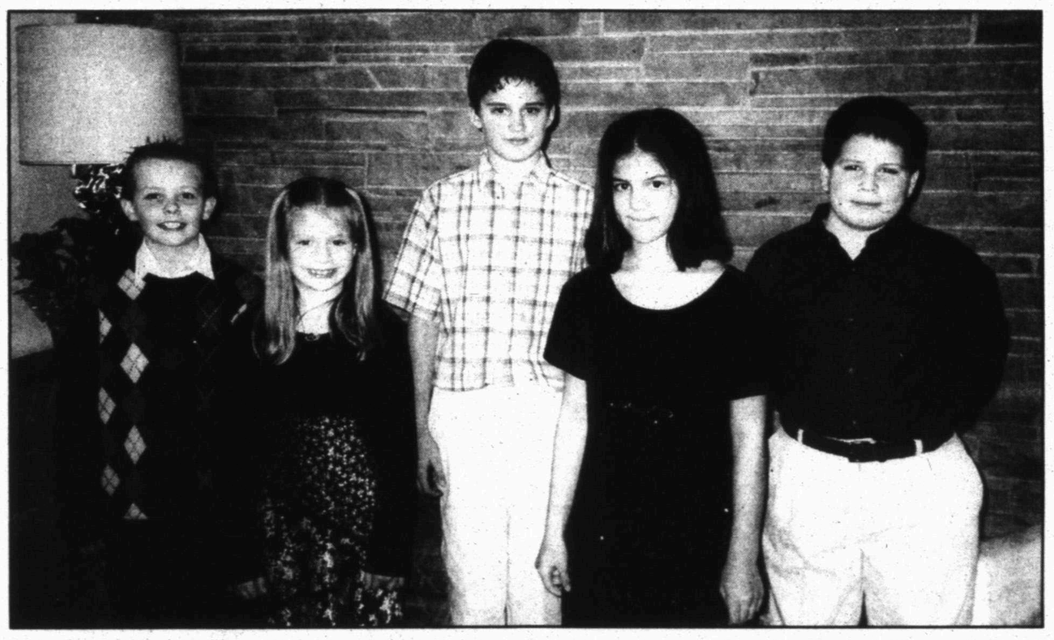


HOLIDAY RECITAL — Piano students of Joann Snider presented a "Christmas Piano Recital" on Dec. 17 in the Martha Ann Woman's Club for friends and relatives. From left are, top photo, Stacey Clifton, Eleanor Ashley, Meghan Cooley; bottom photo, Chase Gaines, Robyn Thompson, Jonathan Kerr, Angela DeLoera and Samuel Ashley. Mrs. Snider recognized Samuel for practicing the most; Jonathan for memorizing the most pieces; and Robyn Thompson for playing the most pieces by memory without mistakes. (Contributed Photo)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

Snyder Shrine Club; call 573-1055 for meeting place; 6 p.m.

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

Atheneum Study Club; MAWC; "Africa No. 3," by Jim and Andrea Mason; hostesses include the social committee; 7 p.m.

Retired Teachers; The Shack; "Clean" Fun, by Beth Dannheim; noon.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughers Study Club; MAWC; Dr. Ed Barkowsky will present "Creations in Wood;" Lynn Baldwin and Francene Noah, hostesses; 11:30 a.m.

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

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

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Ski school held just for women

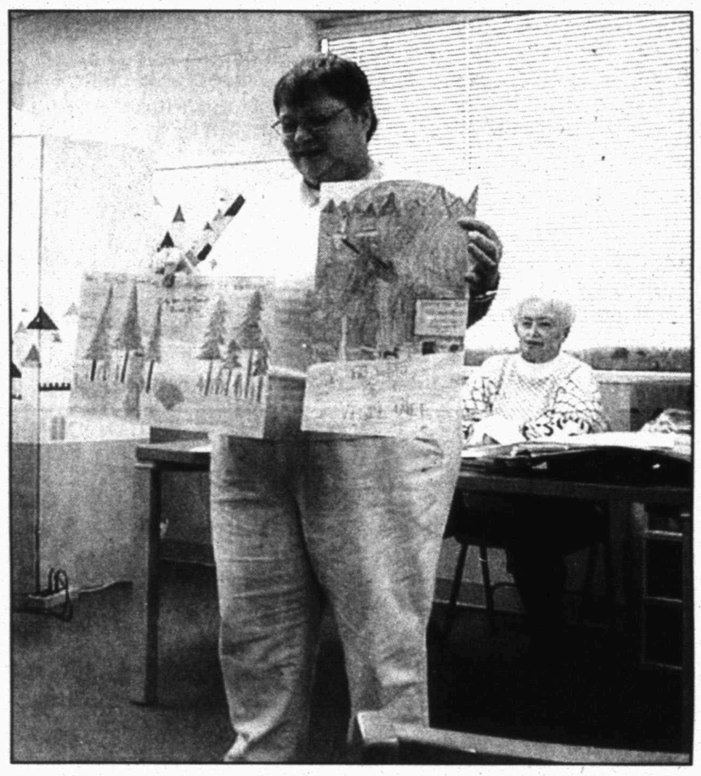
BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. (AP) — It's ski school, but just for women.

Female skiers looking for a little time off from testosterone are being offered their own four-day camp this week at the Breckenridge Ski Resort.

"The instruction is specified to a woman's body and her strengths and weaknesses," said Laura Allen, program director for Breckenridge Ski and Ride School. "Some women approach skiing differently than men do; women are more cautious, while a lot of men kind of muscle through the run."

The camp offers individual training, video analysis and updates on the latest woman-specific equipment for all skiers, novice and above.

The all-female instructor staff divides the participants into level-specific groups and spends four days honing their skills in an environment many women prefer over coed lessons.



SNYDER GARDEN CLUB MEETS — Members of the Snyder Garden Club met Thursday at the Scurry County Library. Pamela Maresch gave a report on the poster contest by elementary-age children celebrating this year's 60th birthday of Smoky the Bear. Winners, to be announced later, will have their posters entered in state competition. Also pictured is Sandra Browning, president. The garden club will meet again on Feb. 5 in the library. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-13-04
♠ A K 6
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ 8 7

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

East
♠ Q J 10 3
♥ K 10 8 7
♦ Q 9 7
♣ 6 4

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

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2004

The simple line is often best

By Phillip Alder

If you watch a beginner playing in a trump contract, you will often see her or him taking as many ruffing tricks as possible. And typically this will be disastrous, declarer losing trump control and having winners ruffed later in the play. But every now and then ...

In traditional methods, South's sequence shows five (or six) spades and game-invitational strength. North has only 15 high-card points, but three aces, one king and a doubleton make his hand worth the jump to game. (If you use transfer bids, this sequence would show a game-invitational hand with five spades and four hearts. Instead, you should respond two hearts, transfer, then rebid two no-trump.)

One can make the spade game by various means, but the line adopted by Frenchman Herve Pacault looks best. The deal arose during the 5th European Mixed Championships, held in Aachen, Germany, in 1999.

South won with the club ace, then, apparently playing like a beginner, led a heart to dummy's ace and ruffed a heart in hand. Back to dummy with a trump, declarer ruffed another heart. Repeating the process — trump to dummy, heart ruff — South had now raked in seven tricks. He cashed the club king and trumped a club in the dummy. If that had won, declarer would have taken dummy's diamond ace for his contract. But East overruffed. No worries! East cashed the spade queen and tried her best, leading the diamond queen, but declarer let her hold the trick. East had to play another diamond, giving South two more tricks for plus 620.

Often, it is fine to ruff in hand when dummy holds strong trumps.

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New Lifestyles policy will begin Feb. 1

Beginning Feb. 1, the Snyder Daily News Lifestyle section will have a change of policy for running wedding and quienceanera pictures and stories.

These type pictures and stories will continue to run free of charge if turned in at the lifestyle desk within two months of these wedding. After two months, there will be a charge of $150 for insertion of this type. Forms for these occasions may be helpful and are available at SDN.

Proofs from professional photographers can be scanned and returned in one day. Black and white or colored prints are accepted. SDN welcomes this type news and requests sharp pictures and typed or legible copy turned in by dates stated on the forms.

Engagement photos and information are welcome and continue to be free of charge.

Blueberry is named state fruit of New Jersey

BRICK, N.J. (AP) — For anyone who has lamented New Jersey's failure to designate an official state fruit, consider two words: "Vaccinium corymbosum."

That's the technical name for the blueberry, which became the Garden State's state fruit Monday.

In a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Elementary School, Gov. James E. McGreevey signed the bill into law.

The location was symbolic: A fourth-grade class at the school, noticing New Jersey's lack of a state fruit, nominated the highbush blueberry for the honor and then lobbied lawmakers hard.

"If it weren't for the commitment and civic involvement of the students at Veterans Memorial, New Jersey would still be without a state fruit," McGreevey said. "I want to thank them and their teachers for proving that when you believe in something, you can make a difference through government."

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Best Available Copy

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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

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MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Dublin dance
4 Truckers' radios
7 Oil job
11 Great Lakes cargo
12 Injure
14 Tart
15 Over there
16 Mixed bag
17 Happy
18 Creeps about
20 Worried
22 Stadium cry
23 Term of respect
24 Hypnotized
27 Burned sandalwood
30 Legal costs
31 Good old days
32 Glamorous wrap
34 W. Hemisphere alliance
35 Swerves
36 Cookbook qty.
37 Gaea's children
39 Surgical tool
40 Mo. neighbor
41 Fabled bird
42 Positive aspect
45 Trail users
49 Stairway amenity
50 Emend
52 Opening
53 Low voice
54 Trig function
55 Had dinner
56 Ogle
57 Cousteau's sea
58 Beads on grass

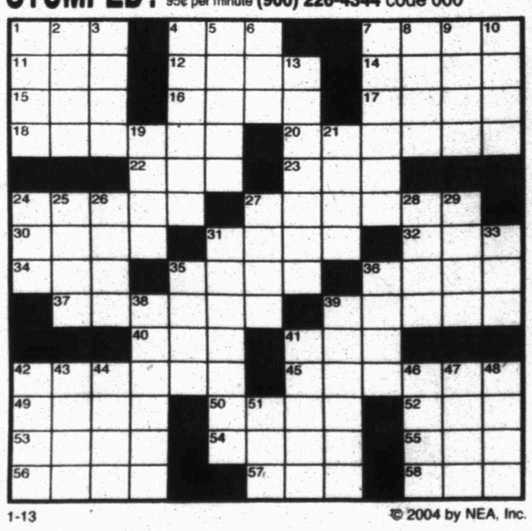
DOWN

1 Pleasures
2 Rust component
3 It may be spliced
4 Necklace
5 Model airplane wood
6 — Lanka
7 Tavern brews
8 Bruins sch.
9 Dressmaker's cut
10 Whirlpool
13 Working cats
19 Votes in favor
21 Baseball team
24 Sci-fi craft
25 Undiluted
26 Bandleader — Arnaz
27 Pasture grazers
28 Wanes
29 Two tablets, maybe
31 Union soldiers
33 Spring mo.
35 Place for flowers
36 Pushpin
38 Adapt
39 Dillydally
41 Dry white wine
42 River to the Caspian
43 Without a tan
44 It has a home page
46 Maj. Hoople's word
47 Appraise
48 Gush forth
51 Faint

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000



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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

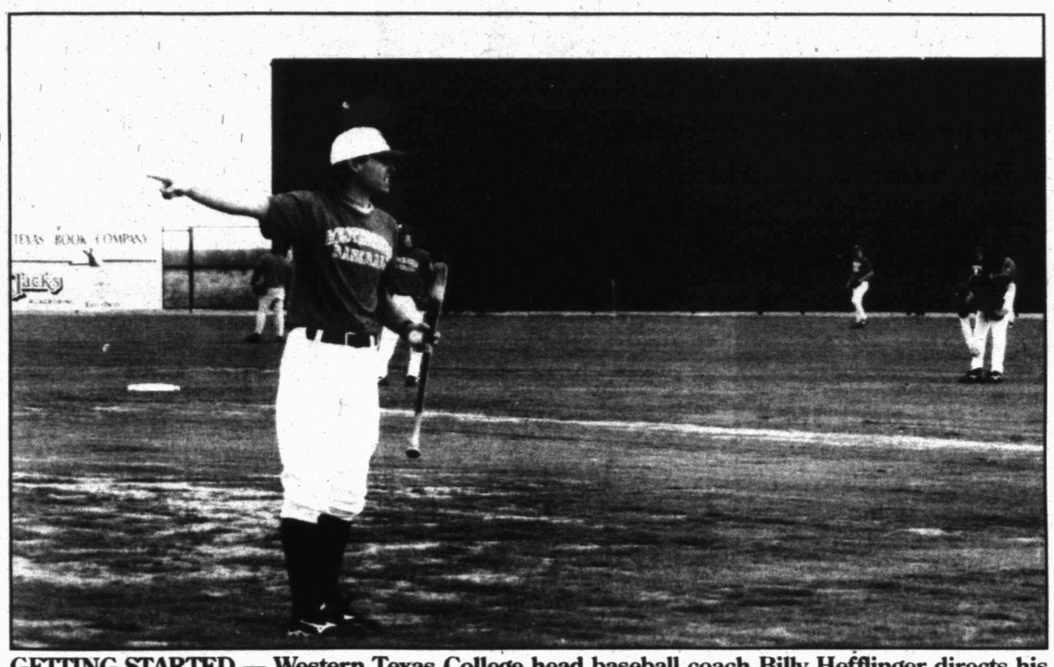
"MY MOM CLEANED MY ROOM THIS MORNING. YOU WANNA HELP ME GET IT BACK TO NORMAL?"

"Make sure he pays cash."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

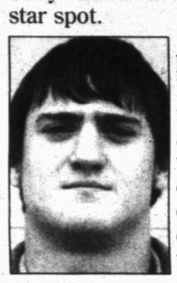


GETTING STARTED — Western Texas College head baseball coach Billy Hefflinger directs his team during the first practice on the new baseball field on campus. The Westerners will open the season Jan. 29 by hosting Vernon Junior College. (SDN Staff Photo)

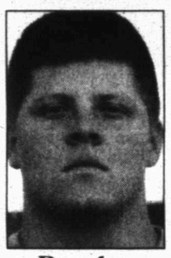
Goodwin named all-star coach...

Bulldogs earn All-State nods

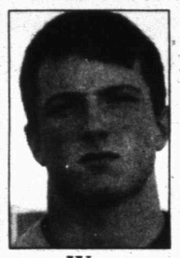
Three Ira Bulldogs were named to the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association All-State Team, while Ira head coach Toby Goodwin earned an all-star spot.



Jake Barnes



Brandon Graves



Wes Kellner

Sophomore kicker Wes Kellner was named to the all-state second team from the district and bi-district champion Bulldogs, while Jake Barnes and Brandon Graves were selected as honorable mentions.

Barnes was the key receiver for the Bulldogs at end this season, and Graves anchored the Ira line.

Goodwin was named as the coach of the West All-Stars in the annual six-man all-star game, which is scheduled for July 17 in Lubbock.

Goodwin will coach Districts 1-8, with each district sending two players to the game.

Toby Goodwin

Barnes will join his coach at the all-star game as one of the picks from District 8, as will Kyle Pinkerton of Borden County, a District 5 selection.

Ladies shoot for 17th straight

The Snyder Lady Tigers look to extend their winning streak to 17 games when they host the Seminole Maidens at 6:30 this evening.

The Lady Tigers (18-2, 1-0) have won 16 in a row after a 2-2 start, taming Denver City, 47-28. They host a Seminole team that was topped by Sweetwater, 43-34, Friday in its district opener.

Seminole is 5-12 on the season.

The Snyder Tigers get their final tune-up for district at 8 p.m. today when they travel to Midland to take on the third-ranked Greenwood Rangers.

Snyder (7-12) downed Clyde, 66-53, Friday.

Both Ira clubs play host to Dawson tonight in the first game at home for the Bulldogs this season, and the first for the Lady Bulldogs since Nov. 18. The ladies were slated for a 6:30 start, with the boys tipping off at 8.

Both Ira teams fell to Grady Friday in their district debuts.

Hermleigh resumes district action tonight when it host Trent at 6:30 tonight.

Both Hermleigh teams lost their first district game Dec. 19 at Blackwell.

SJHS girls take three of four

The Snyder junior high girls took three of four games from Lamesa Monday, with the seventh-grade B team and both A squads emerging victorious.

The eighth-grade A girls got 11 rebounds and 10 points from Audrey Jones in a 25-24 win.

Jordan Derryberry added seven points and two boards, Allison Sharrock notched four points and Kelly Holdren added two points.

Caylea Rhodes and Devin Davidson each hit a free throw.

Lamesa topped the eighth-grade B team, 33-24.

Heather Garza contributed eight points, five steals and four boards in defeat, while Kaycee Loveall had four points.

The seventh A club downed Lamesa, 41-22, behind 16 points from Brittney Mitchell and 10 from Jessica Sandoval.

Mitchell also recorded five steals and hauled in four rebounds. Sandoval added two boards and two steals.

Brittney Webb produced an all-around effort, collecting eight points, seven rebounds and seven steals.

Shaquita Sneed had four boards, Teryn Sullenger had four points and a pair of steals and Shaquita Sneed pulled down four boards and grabbed two steals.

The seventh B team kept the Lamesa offense in check with a 24-11 win.

Lareshia Carey had five points and three boards and Chelsea Young produced four points and three boards.

Marino lands front office job

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — He was at his best in the pocket, where he became the most prolific passer in NFL history.

Now Dan Marino embarks on a new career in an office as an inexperienced executive. But his goal remains the same: lead the Miami Dolphins to a Super Bowl title.

"I'm back home again," Marino said Monday, when he became senior vice president of football operations. "I love everything about this place."

The Dolphins pulled off a quarterback sneak, hiring Marino without a hint that the deal had been in the works for two weeks.

Marino said that since retiring, he often talked with owner Wayne Huizenga about returning to the organization. But his interest was a well-kept secret while Huizenga and team president Eddie Jones interviewed seven candidates for the new position of general manager.

One of them, Rick Spielman, was promoted to that job Monday. Spielman had been the Dolphins' personnel boss under coach Dave Wannstedt since 2000.

A second new position was created for Marino.

"A lot of things you do in life, you do with a gut feel. This is one of those things," Huizenga said.

"Dan will do a great job," said his former coach, Don Shula. "He has proven that he is a true leader."

Marino has been working as a network TV analyst. Huizenga bristled when asked about the perception that the former quarterback might be a figurehead.

"Here's a guy who's on CBS and HBO and making four jillion dollars a year to work there," Huizenga said. "He's not going to quit a job like that to come here for somebody to say it's just a figurehead job. This is serious business here."

Marino will report directly to Jones. Spielman and Wannstedt will report to Marino. Spielman will have final say regarding player personnel, including draft decisions.

The Dolphins still hope to hire retired Green Bay general manager Ron Wolf as a part-time consultant.

The organizational reshuffling comes after Huizenga stripped Wannstedt of control over personnel decisions two weeks ago. The Dolphins went 10-6 in 2003 and missed the playoffs.

High school player dies at practice

CLEBURNE (AP) — A Joshua High School junior varsity basketball player died Monday after he collapsed during practice at the school's gym, a school official said.

Trey Easter, 16, was practicing with the team when he collapsed around 12:30 p.m., Joshua ISD Superintendent Ray Dane said Monday night.

"In the middle of practice, he just collapsed," Dane said. He said the coach went to Easter immediately when he saw him fall. Dane said the coach sent for help and got the trainer into the gym and the two worked on him until paramedics arrived.

School officials called 911, and emergency officials arrived at the school at 12:31 p.m., said Assistant Fire Chief Les Kaline. EMS officials found the player not breathing and administered CPR, Kaline said.

EMS Capt. Ross Terry told the Cleburne Times-Review for a story in Tuesday's edition that firefighters were delayed slightly in reaching the player because the doors to the gym were locked and they had to cut through the locks.

Dane said he didn't know what doors Terry could have been referring to.

"The main doors into the gym and the doors into the building would not be locked because kids are in and out all day long," he said. He said he would make some calls to try to determine what doors they were talking about.

Easter was transported to Huguley Memorial Medical Center in south Fort Worth, where he was pronounced dead.

He was practicing for a Tuesday game when he collapsed, said Principal Mick Cochran.

"It was just a real light, getting-ready-for-a-basketball-game kind of day," he told the newspaper. "It wasn't anything real heavy."

"His mom told me he just loved basketball, loved basketball. It was very important to him," Dane said.

Dane said Easter was approved to play sports. "I do know that. And he loved basketball, and had since he was a kid," he said, adding that he was not aware of any factors that might have led to his death.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office listed the cause of death as natural causes.

Dane said Easter's teammates and friends were devastated.

Trent nips HJHS

The Hermleigh Junior High Cardinals failed to score in the opening quarter Monday, before holding Trent scoreless in the second in a close, 20-19, loss.

Dustin Dacus and Derek Anderson each put in six points. Jeremy Eaton hit a three-pointer, while Brett McClure added two.

IJHS girls fall shy at Borden

The Ira Junior High Lady Bulldogs fell to Borden County Monday, 34-26, despite a game-high 13 points from Rebecca Juarez.

The junior high ladies could not overcome a 10-point halftime deficit, after scoring just four points in each of the first two quarters.

A'Lex Koonce had eight points, Kaci Waller added four and Laura Juarez connected on a free throw attempt.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	20	15	.571	—
Boston	20	19	.513	2
Philadelphia	18	20	.474	3½
Miami	15	22	.405	6
New York	15	24	.385	7
Washington	10	25	.286	10
Orlando	9	29	.237	12½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	28	11	.718	—
Detroit	24	13	.649	3
New Orleans	22	15	.595	5
Toronto	19	16	.543	7
Milwaukee	20	17	.541	7
Chicago	12	25	.324	15
Cleveland	11	26	.297	16
Atlanta	10	28	.263	17½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	26	11	.703	—
Minnesota	24	11	.686	1
Denver	22	16	.579	4½
Dallas	21	16	.568	5
Houston	20	16	.556	5½
Utah	19	17	.528	6½
Memphis	19	18	.514	7
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	26	9	.743	—
L.A. Lakers	23	11	.676	2½
Seattle	19	16	.543	7
Portland	16	19	.457	10
L.A. Clippers	15	19	.441	10½
Golden State	15	21	.417	11½
Phoenix	12	25	.324	15

Monday's Games

Dallas 127, New York 121, OT
Philadelphia 87, Orlando 82
L.A. Lakers 89, Cleveland 79
Memphis 115, Golden State 113, 2OT

Today's Games

Houston at Washington, 6 p.m.
San Antonio at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Utah, 8 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Frosh split with Lamesa

The Snyder freshmen girls jumped out to a 13-8 lead Monday, controlling the action from the outset in a 40-31 victory over Lamesa.

Candace Chandler again paced the frosh with 18 points, while Desiree Cortez stepped up with 16.

Amber Acosta, Courtney Tyrrell and Brianna Birks each contributed two points in the victory.

The freshmen girls will battle at Sweetwater at 8 p.m. Friday.

The frosh boys got off to a fast start Monday, only to fall, 57-44, to Lamesa.

Snyder jumped out to an 8-2 lead early in the first quarter, but did not score again in the period. The team took a 22-21 advantage into the locker room at halftime, but was outscored 12-4 in the third quarter.

Ryan Mitchell led the frosh with eight points, and Ricky Sanchez and Tagaba Kyei each put in seven.

Jamie Arnold and Kyle Sanchez each knocked in four, Michael Mann added three and Tyler Driggers and Jeremy Rodriguez hit for two apiece.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys at Midland Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls vs. Seminole, 6:30 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys vs. Dawson, 6:30 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys vs. Trent, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys at Greenwood, 6 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Seminole, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

Basketball: Snyder freshmen boys at Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Ira junior high at Roscoe Tournament

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls at Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys at Sweetwater, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys at Grady, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater, 6 p.m.
Snyder JV girls at Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls at Sweetwater, 8 p.m.
Snyder frosh boys at Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Basketball: Ira junior high at Roscoe Tournament

AP Top 25

Men

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (52)	13-1	1,767	1
2. Duke (4)	12-1	1,689	2
3. Stanford (11)	13-0	1,647	4
4. Wake Forest (5)	11-0	1,562	5
5. Kentucky	10-1	1,477	7
6. Saint Joseph's	13-0	1,356	9
7. Arizona	10-2	1,249	3
8. Louisville	11-1	1,248	10
9. North Carolina	10-2	1,146	12
10. Cincinnati	11-0	1,136	11
11. Oklahoma	10-1	973	6
12. Georgia Tech	12-2	952	8
13. Pittsburgh	16-0	926	15
14. Kansas	9-2	923	13
15. Florida	11-2	914	14
16. Gonzaga	12-2	810	16
17. Syracuse	11-1	806	17
18. Texas	9-2	619	18
19. Wisconsin	11-2	472	21
20. Mississippi St.	13-0	388	22
21. Marquette	11-2	294	23
22. Texas Tech	**13-2**	**240**	—
23. Vanderbilt	12-1	222	20
24. Creighton	12-0	218	—
25. Illinois	10-3	133	19

Others receiving votes: Purdue 94, Seton Hall 27, Maryland 26, LSU 24, South Carolina 12, W. Michigan 12, Utah St. 8, Oklahoma St. 6, Charlotte 4, Memphis 4, N.C. State 3, Rice 3, Boston U. 2, Florida St. 2, Nevada 2, Boston College 1, Iowa St. 1, Kent St. 1, Providence 1.

Women

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Duke (24)	13-1	1,115	1
2. Texas Tech (17)	**15-0**	**1,095**	**2**
3. Texas (5)	14-1	1,060	3
4. Connecticut	11-1	1,044	4
5. Tennessee	12-1	972	5
6. Minnesota	14-0	907	6
7. Stanford	13-2	845	7
8. Penn St.	11-3	795	9
9. Purdue	12-2	738	10
10. Kansas St.	11-2	737	11
11. Georgia	13-2	706	12
12. Louisiana Tech	10-2	642	8
13. North Carolina	13-2	557	13
14. LSU	13-2	547	17
15. Colorado	12-2	491	14
15. Oklahoma	11-2	491	15
17. DePaul	14-1	434	18
18. TCU	13-2	362	19
19. Villanova	12-2	187	—
20. Auburn	12-3	178	21
21. Miami	13-1	177	24
22. Boston College	12-2	161	20
23. Virginia Tech	12-2	134	16
24. Baylor	13-2	131	24
25. Michigan St.	10-3	105	23

Others receiving votes: Ohio St. 79, Rutgers 72, Vanderbilt 43, Utah 36, Maryland 29, SW Missouri St. 16, Florida 15, Idaho 13, Arizona 7, Houston 6, Clemson 4, Richmond 4, Seton Hall 4, Oregon 3, South Alabama 3, Notre Dame 2, UC Santa Barbara 2, Southern Cal 1.

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Automakers show off hybrids

DETROIT (AP) — Long the domain of concepts and smaller cars, gasoline-electric hybrids soon will power trucks and sport utility vehicles as automakers work to expand the more environmentally friendly technology.

The major auto manufacturers are ramping up the introduction of hybrids this year. At the North American International Auto Show, several touted those and other green innovations, such as efforts to tweak traditional engines to improve fuel economy and attempts to persuade Americans to give diesels another chance.

But environmentalists complain hybrids have been slower to reach production than once predicted. And they fear the industrywide push toward developing vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells, while offering potential long-term benefits, will overshadow improvements that can be made now.

"The fuel cell one day will dethrone the internal combustion engine," said Roland Hwang, a vehicle technology expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "In the meantime, there will be a lot of gasoline vehicles bought and sold in this country. ... We need to start cleaning up those vehicles."

Past auto shows have featured varying promises and predictions about greener vehicles. In 1998, for example, some automakers forecast that they would be ready to produce hybrids by 2001 and fuel cell vehicles by 2004. Now, hybrids are just making headway and widespread availability for fuel cell vehicles is probably a decade from now.

"There clearly is a desire to improve fuel economy," said Mike Wall, an analyst for the forecasting firm CSM Worldwide. "The trick is consumers still want the high horsepower vehicles, the large vehicles."

Trucks and SUVs that deliver higher horsepower typically consume more gas than cars. The average fuel economy for all 2003 model vehicles on the road was 20.8 mpg, down 6 percent from the peak year of 1988, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Overall, they're not doing a good job," said Brendan Bell, an expert with the Sierra Club's global warming and energy program. "They're creating a few vehicles. But at the same time under current fuel efficiency standards, when they build an efficient vehicle they can build another gas guzzler. That is really taking us backward."

At the auto show, which runs through Jan. 19, displays from Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG and others highlight efforts to develop environmentally friendly vehicles. Honda announced plans for a hybrid version of its mid-sized Accord and its exhibit shows off its efforts to develop fuel cells.

Toyota's Prius, the world's first commercially mass-produced hybrid, was honored as the 2004 North American Car of the Year. DaimlerChrysler this year introduces its Jeep Liberty and Mercedes-Benz E-Class with fuel-efficient diesels.

Other hybrid offerings include a version of Chrysler Group's Dodge Ram pickup and No. 1 automaker General Motors Corp.'s Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks. No. 2 Ford Motor Co.'s Escape SUV will be sold as a hybrid in 2004, although its launch was pushed back from the end of last year for more testing.

While companies like Honda and Toyota are more aggressively bringing hybrids to market, GM decided last year to focus its most advanced hybrid technology on its largest, least-fuel-efficient, high-volume vehicles models. It plans for them to reach showrooms in 2007.

26 hurt in Missouri school bus accident

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A school bus overturned on a highway Monday morning, injuring the driver and many of the 26 children aboard.

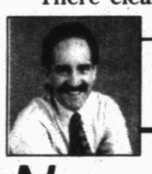
The bus was carrying St. Louis students, ages 6 to 11, to a school in suburban Chesterfield as part of a voluntary desegregation program.

The accident happened on Interstate 64 about 10 miles outside the city limits. The bus flipped over after the driver crested a hill and found traffic was backed up. She tried to stop, but the bus skidded about 100 feet on its side, the Highway Patrol said.

No other vehicles were hit. Children were able to get out through a back door and through the front, where the impact knocked out the windshield.

The driver, Linda Gilley, 50, of St. Louis, and an 8-year-old were seriously hurt, and both underwent surgery late Monday. A 10-year-old, originally said to be in serious condition, was treated and released, a hospital spokesman said.

Hospital officials said most of the injuries were bumps and bruises.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

New supplement of questionable use

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I respect your opinion, and would be interested in knowing more about the safety, quality and benefits of CLA. — **D.B., San Diego, Calif.**

DEAR D.B.: CLA stands for conjugated linoleic acid. This is an unusual fatty acid that is made inside the rumen — the five-chambered stomach — of a cow. CLA is found in meat and dairy products, and it is now being sold as a dietary supplement. To date, much of the promise of CLA has come from scientific studies done with growing animals — primarily animals that had just finished weaning.

In humans, there are positive results where the CLA is used with isolated cells grown in culture. Few, if any, beneficial effects have been found in studies where the CLA has been fed to people, and this is what you are asking about. There were no positive changes from an elegant set of studies conducted on the metabolic ward of the USDA's Western Human Nutrition Research Laboratory at the University of California at Davis. This type of research is where the volunteers live at the facility and virtually all factors are controlled, the only difference being the treatment being given. Results from metabolic ward studies are considered the gold standard in clinical research.

CLA is expensive, and while some limited use may eventually be found for this compound, I remain skeptical given the data at present. It is a good example of the fact that animal studies do not always translate to human use.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Greetings from one of your many fans in Hawaii. My low-carb experience is as follows: I'm 70 now, and 25 to 30 years ago, in a mostly sedentary job, I weighed 165 pounds — quite fat for a 5-foot 6-inch, light-boned man. Diets never seemed to work for me, but around the late '70s I went on a rather strict low-carb diet, i.e., minimal starch and sugar, including fruits (which I love), and no alcohol. I continued eating salads, as I enjoy them, too. I also began running, which was very difficult at first due to being out of condition, but I kept adding more laps and finally advanced to a course around the local school, which is on a major hill. In '81 I ran a 10-kilometer race, finishing third in my age group in my first competitive run. Over some nine months, I moved down to about 122 pounds. I was never really hungry and enjoyed beef and other animal proteins. Although I've been prone to head colds all my life, during this time I noticed a marked, most welcome decrease.

Now, with somewhat less exercise and back to eating some carbohydrates and sugar (almost exclusively fruits and fruit juices, and still no more booze), my weight's stabilized about midway, up-and-down a couple of pounds around 145 pounds depending on trips, parties and the like. So my experience is that a low-carb diet is a good way to get the fat off, and then, once it's off, it can be modified to keep most of it off. Hope this is of some interest to you, Dr. Blonz. Best wishes for your continued success, and aloha. — **B.H., Kamuela, Hawaii**

DEAR B.H.: That is a great success story. It all began with a conscious decision to make some changes. Once motivated, you found a plan that made sense and opened the door for you. The immediate success was a great reinforcement. You began exercising even though it was difficult at first. Then — and this was the key — you took that essential next step of gradually modifying things to fit your own lifestyle. You "made it your own," coupling the now-expanded dietary changes with a continued emphasis on physical activity. All this was accomplished with a reasonable approach and an eye-on-the-prize mentality. I have always found that the best approaches are those that can provide that template for a long-term plan. There is no one-size-fits-all method. It's always best to opt for changes that are slow and long-lasting rather than radical and short-lived.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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AmEl Pw	31.00	30.85	30.96	—.13
AndarkPtr	52.79	52.34	52.58	+.46
ATMOS Egy	24.79	24.60	24.69	—.06
Aviall	15.74	15.55	15.70	+.19
BP PLC	49.89	49.66	49.83	+.16
BakerHughes	33.70	33.09	33.43	+.73
Bank of Amer	78.75	78.25	78.50	
BellSc.uth.	29.39	29.03	29.16	—.01
BurlNoSFe	31.95	31.77	31.83	—.06
Caterpillar	83.60	82.05	82.05	—.40
CenterPoint	10.34	10.20	10.28	—.02
ChevronTex	85.13	84.61	84.85	+.15
Citigroup	49.84	49.58	49.63	—.22
CocaCola	50.20	49.76	49.99	—.02
ColgatePal	50.90	50.64	50.70	+.34
CmclMetals	31.17	31.00	31.09	—.01
ConocoPhill	67.00	65.73	66.94	+1.22
Cooper Inds	57.95	57.05	57.07	—.55
DaimlrChry	47.37	46.98	47.08	+.80
DeltaAirLines	12.58	12.10	12.13	—.38
Dillards Inc	16.30	16.03	16.12	+.01
DowChem	41.80	41.37	41.37	—.17
DuPont	44.40	43.86	43.90	—.39
EastmanChem	40.33	39.93	39.93	—.22
EstKodak	26.78	26.40	26.56	+.23
EDS Corp	23.82	23.29	23.32	—.49
Entergy	56.33	56.04	56.18	—.04
ExxonMobil	40.98	40.81	40.84	—.02
FootLocker	25.60	24.95	24.95	—.69
GenDynam	92.21	91.24	91.67	—.08
GenElec	32.15	31.91	31.93	—.16
GenMills	45.56	45.30	45.34	—.16
GenMotors	54.08	53.69	53.73	—.13
GaPacific	30.70	30.40	30.45	—.09
Goodrich	29.82	29.45	29.58	+.38
Goodyear	8.90	8.78	8.78	—.05
GtAtlPac	9.27	8.90	9.05	—.28
Halliburtn	28.30	28.05	28.28	+.23
Hanson PLC	37.70	37.70	37.70	+.06
HarteHanks	22.09	21.94	21.96	—.10
HomeDepot	35.45	34.91	34.93	—.27
HoneywellIntl	35.40	34.97	35.22	+.21
IBM	91.51	90.64	90.78	—.77
IntlPaper	44.93	44.55	44.57	—.06
JohnsonJn	52.75	52.31	52.57	+.18
KinderMorg	59.50	59.20	59.47	+.45
Kroger Co	18.62	18.47	18.50	—.09
LockheedM	50.98	50.35	50.49	—.39
Lowes Cos	52.22	51.51	51.85	+.34
Lubys	3.73	3.66	3.73	+.12
LucentTech	4.11	3.92	3.94	+.07
MarathonOil	34.34	34.08	34.20	+.22
MayDeptStr	30.38	29.94	30.03	+.21
Medtronic	48.99	48.77	48.91	+.18
Motorola	16.85	16.40	16.41	+.21
NCR Corp	40.74	40.15	40.25	—.27
Navistar	50.70	50.10	50.15	—.15
PNM Rescs	28.67	28.50	28.56	+.01
Penney JC	26.34	25.91	26.09	+.12
PepBoys	22.77	22.45	22.61	
PepsiCo	45.95	45.54	45.69	—.14
PhelpDodge	77.97	74.89	74.89	—2.61
PilgrimsPride	17.30	16.71	16.88	—.60
Praxair s	37.77	37.21	37.35	—.22
ProctGamb	100.30	99.90	99.91	—.34
RadioShack	30.40	29.62	29.64	—.25
RoyalDut	48.68	48.49	48.61	—.36
SBC Comm	27.65	26.53	26.77	—.06
SaraLee	21.55	21.23	21.27	—.07
Scripps EW	93.77	93.43	93.47	—.04
SearsRoeb	46.01	45.46	45.72	—.28
SherwinW	35.40	35.04	35.18	+.02
SouthernCo	29.85	29.76	29.84	+.01
SwstAirl	15.36	15.25	15.33	+.01
SprintFON	18.43	18.10	18.26	+.06
SprintPCS	6.25	6.12	6.15	+.20
Sunoco Inc	55.50	52.83	55.30	+2.47
TXU Corp	23.55	23.45	23.52	—.07
TempleInland	62.58	62.25	62.27	—.13
TexInd	37.68	37.40	37.48	—.20
TexasInst	33.17	32.22	32.22	—.58
Textron	57.90	57.21	57.86	+.53
TimeWarner	18.67	18.56	18.61	—.03
TrinityInds	31.79	31.25	31.57	+.22
TylerTech	10.00	9.97	9.97	—.01
UnionPacif	67.10	66.41	66.89	—.17
USSteel	35.21	34.41	34.73	—.07
UnitedTech	93.95	93.12	93.75	+.80
Unocal	38.74	38.28	38.58	+.33
VerizonComm	37.43	36.68	36.73	
WalMart	52.70	52.20	52.55	+.04
WellsFargo	56.84	56.31	56.35	—.61
WstnGasRs	48.37	48.12	48.33	+.27
WinnDixie	9.55	9.44	9.45	—.09
Xerox Cp	14.14	13.97	14.00	—.03
YumBrands	34.66	34.32	34.44	—.06

JAN 13 2004

Best Available Copy

ME identifies remains as missing girl

SAGINAW (AP) — They had been preparing for this call for nearly five years, since the 6-year-old with big blue eyes under a fringe of thick bangs was snatched from the front yard in the middle of a spring day.

Opal Jennings' family had expected the worst as months turned into years without her and as a child molester was convicted in her kidnapping.

But as relatives watched home videos of the raven-haired youngster grinning and cradling her dolls, they couldn't stop hoping that Opal might come home alive.

The heartbreaking confirmation of their worst fears came in a phone call from the Tarrant County medical examiner on Monday, about two weeks after two people on horseback found part of a small skull in woods and brush in northwest Fort Worth.

The remote area is about 10 miles from the working-class neighborhood in Saginaw where Opal had been playing in her grandparents' yard when she vanished in March 1999.

After the skull was found in late December, authorities scoured the area and found more bone fragments, a toy and a pair of pink Barbie tennis shoes similar to those Opal was wearing when she disappeared, said Dr. Nizam Peerwani, Tarrant County's chief medical examiner.

The skeletal remains were identified as Opal's using DNA testing, Peerwani said Monday. The remains had been scattered in a 300- to 400-square-foot area inhabited by wildlife. Investigators could not tell if she had been buried.

Opal was killed from a crushing blow to the right side of her forehead, but authorities could not determine when or where she died or if she was sexually assaulted, Peerwani said. Her death was officially ruled a homicide.

Some of Opal's relatives said finding out what happened to the little girl was painful, but also somewhat of a relief after so many years of unanswered questions.

"I feel a lot better. The weight's taken off," said Opal's mother, Leola Sanderford.

Richard Lee Franks of Fort Worth was convicted of aggravated kidnapping in Opal's case in 2000, three months after his first trial ended with a hung jury.

Survey: Younger Americans say they prefer to donate their time

DALLAS (AP) — In Brian Bennett's view, volunteering one's time is even more important than giving money.

The 35-year-old advertising salesman donates hundreds of hours a year as assistant scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop in Dallas. "I spend time on it every single day," Bennett said.

Like Bennett, a majority of Americans — particularly the younger generation — see volunteer work as a better gift than writing a check, according to a national survey released today.

In the random telephone survey of 1,000 Americans, more than 50 percent identified volunteering as more important than giving money, while 22 percent chose money as more important.

"This research suggests that there's an emotional, visceral connection to volunteering that just cannot be duplicated by writing a check," said Brad Hewitt, senior vice president of charitable programs and volunteerism for Minneapolis-based Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, which commissioned the survey.

Younger and older Americans held decidedly different views: Fifty-eight percent of adults aged 18-34 said giving time was more important. Just 29 percent of those aged 65 and older agreed.

Harris Interactive Inc. conducted the telephone interviews between Nov. 20 and Dec. 4. The overall results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Most experts said the findings weren't surprising.

"Older people have more money to give, and they are more likely to have a history of giving than young adults," said Mark Hager, senior research associate at the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy in Washington. "Older Americans may also have a better understanding of how important money is to charities."

America's young adults aren't stingy, though — just skeptical, other experts suggested.

Younger Americans have grown up at a time when scandals have tarnished institutions from Enron to the Roman Catholic Church, said Kurt Senske, CEO of Austin-based Lutheran Social Services of the South.

Abducted girl didn't know four relatives had been murdered

CALHOUN, Ga. (AP) — The oldest of three girls allegedly abducted by a man accused of murdering four relatives said she did not know anyone had been killed until she was rescued by police the next day.

In an interview with The Associated Press, 10-year-old Brittney Phelps said her mother's ex-boyfriend, Jerry William Jones, picked her up outside her home after school Wednesday afternoon. Brittney said Jones told her to join her two sisters, 4-year-old Brandy and 3-year-old Tammy, already in the SUV.

"I was scared for my sisters. I was scared, too," Brittney told the AP after a wake and funeral Monday at Trinity Baptist Church.

Jones is accused of shooting Tom and Nola Blaylock and their daughter, Georgia Bradley, and strangling his youngest daughter, 10-month-old Harley Jones, at their trailer homes Thursday in Ranger, a tiny town about 55 miles north of Atlanta.

According to the investigators' timeline, Jones apparently picked up Brittney soon after the killings.

Brittney and her sisters were with Jones during a 19-hour national manhunt that ended Thursday night in a police chase and a suicide attempt by Jones that left one of the girls splattered with blood.

Jones shot himself in the face when stopped by police just over the Tennessee line. He's in a hospital and is expected to recover. Brittney and her sisters were unharmed.

Brittney said she tried to keep her little sisters calm as Jones eluded police.

"I talked to them a lot. I read them stories," she said.

She said she also didn't sleep during the ordeal.

Asked what she thought of Jones, Brittney responded: "I'm angry at him."

Brittney joined scores of relatives at the wake and funeral for the four slain family members. Three silver caskets sat behind a pink-cloaked table that held the infant girl's tiny white casket.

Today's chuckle

Researcher uses laser to slice cheese

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A researcher from the University of Wisconsin at Madison has figured out a better way to slice cheese — just use a laser.

"At any other university, people would have just laughed. But this is Wisconsin. It's cheese. And this is no laughing matter," said Xiaochun Li, a mechanical engineering professor and laser expert.

Traditional cheese processing has a number of shortcomings, he said.

Large cutting machines require considerable care to keep cheese from becoming contaminated by bacteria. And it's impossible to slice cheese very thin because it tears or sticks to the cutting blade.

But now Li, working with engineering graduate student Hongseok Choi, has adapted the same kind of laser used for eye surgery to slice Wisconsin's most famed food product.

At first, Li tried using a traditional commercial laser that uses heat to cut by melting or evaporating; it fried the cheese.

"It smelled really bad," he said.

Li tried again using a new class of laser that emits light in ultraviolet, and therefore shorter, wavelengths. That laser, known as a cold laser, cuts by blasting apart the molecular bonds that hold materials together.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004

Career matters that have been fortunate for you in the past could be even luckier for you in the year ahead. Do everything you can to keep these contacts in good stead so you can continue your winning combinations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Even if you know going in that you are the better competitor, do not let your guard down and become too lackadaisical in a competitive situation. It would instantaneously alter the odds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Without realizing it, in the name of truth-telling, you could have a tendency to contradict or challenge a companion today and cause an unintended argument. It will be a futile debate.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Harmony on the home front could be disrupted today if you insist on overriding your mate's views on budget matters. Do your part to be budget-conscious in all matters.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be careful today not to do anything tactless that could alienate an associate whose cooperation you need. Even if you didn't intend to be clumsy, and apologize for it, it still may be too late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't think that a competitor at work hasn't noticed that you may have been neglecting certain duties to which you should be attending, because this person has, and today may spill the beans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Remember today to do what you know to be right in your social involvements. Your peers could pressure you into altering your behavior to do something foolish.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Comparing what you get to another who you think is getting more will put you in a pity-party mood today. You'll be rejecting the very person or group you need to better your end.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It's fine to look at things in a humorous fashion today, but be careful about who you single out to be the butt of one of your jokes. This person may not take kindly to your joshing around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be kind and helpful in your dealings with others today, but don't let a selfish person take advantage of your goodwill and get you to do more than your practical judgment dictates.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — If you've been appointed social director for your group today, do not include those that you know from experience do not readily get along with others in the crowd. They could be troublemakers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There's always room for improvements, but keep your thoughts to yourself today about how someone else could do something better. Concentrate only on your own shortcomings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your "love everybody" attitude could be carried too far today if you give someone too much attention in the presence of one you love. It might turn out to be an act of rejection in that person's eyes.

Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Travelers with Alzheimer's require care giver's company

DEAR ABBY: I work for a major airline and saw something today that was very disturbing but more common than you might think. A relative of an 87-year-old lady with Alzheimer's disease put her on a plane with a card pinned to her clothes with her name and information written on it. It was not a nonstop flight, and we were asked to make sure she didn't get off the plane before her final destination. The traveler obviously had no idea where she was going or what to do.

Abby, as you know, things can happen when people fly. Weather and mechanical problems can leave passengers stranded away from home or their destination. Can you imagine how that would affect an already scared and confused lady?

Airline personnel are not baby sitters. People with this mental capacity should be escorted when traveling. Between elderly travelers and inexperienced travelers, we have a lot to deal with during peak seasons. — **CONCERNED AIRLINE EMPLOYEE, AMARILLO, TEXAS**

DEAR CONCERNED: I can see why you're concerned. All it would take for tragedy to strike is a flight attendant who is momentarily distracted and a traveler with diminished capacity who follows people off the plane and blends into the crowd in the terminal.

The Alzheimer's Association urges families to always have a caregiver accompany someone with Alzheimer's while traveling. It also offers helpful travel tips for the caregiver. **Read on:**

(1) Get plenty of rest before the trip.

(2) Dress the patient in clothes that are easy to put on and remove (skirts with elastic bands for women; sweatpants for men).

(3) Have the patient wear an ID bracelet at all times. Information on it should include: name, address and phone number. In addition, inside the patient's purse or pocket, place a card with the name of the hotel or person you'll be visiting.

(4) Be sure to carry pertinent medications, medical records and insurance cards with you. (Also the tickets and money.)

(5) Check all luggage at the curb through to the final destination.

(6) Realize that change may create confusion and disorientation. Be realistic. Know going in that strange people, accommodations, time changes and busy terminals are all known to precipitate panic in AD patients.

(7) Keep the patient's diet and dining times simple and consistent.

(8) Do not travel at peak hours and seasons if at all possible.

(9) Carry a small sign that reads, "Please be patient. My ( ) has memory loss/Alzheimer's disease" to alert others of your special situation.

(10) If the AD patient is of the opposite sex and in a public restroom, ask someone to look in on him or her if it seems like it's taking a long time. Or place an "Occupied" sign on the door.

(11) Be patient. Reassuring the traveler with memory loss may mean reminding him or her repeatedly of where he or she is going.

Readers, for more valuable tips and suggestions, call the Alzheimer's Association toll-free at (800) 272-3900. Someone will be there to help you 24/7.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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The Gospel Pattern

Paul was writing to a young evangelist. It may be the last letter that the apostle wrote before his death. In that letter, Paul encouraged Timothy in this way:

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
II Timothy 1:13

The letters of I Timothy, II Timothy and Titus are filled with encouragements to hold on to the teaching of the apostles of Christ. These letters acknowledge that many have not held onto this teaching. I Timothy 1: 19,20 and II Timothy 2: 17, 18 talk specifically about men who had left the teaching they had received behind. Paul writes with sadness. And Paul warns in I Timothy 4 and II Timothy 4 that problems lie ahead. Some will leave the faith, and they will lead others away as well.

According to the New Testament, faith is not something to take for granted. We are to study, examine and hold on to the teaching of Christ. What was the pattern of sound teaching Paul referred to in II Timothy? That's a great question to ask! The answer is found in the New Testament, where the apostles of Christ remember Jesus' teaching, record it and encourage us to follow it. We will look at some of that pattern in the weeks ahead.

Dale Huff

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JAN 13 2004

National/State

Democratic candidates each favor their own tax proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Kerry says Howard Dean and Dick Gephardt would raise taxes in more ways than one. Joe Lieberman says he's the one who'll chop middle-class taxes most. Gephardt would scrap past tax cuts to pay for health coverage. Dean would scrap them, too, but find a way to give some money back. John Edwards says he's got a better way. Wesley Clark says his plan's more sweeping.

Got that?

Not to worry, not many people do.

With just days left until the Democratic primaries and caucuses begin, the major presidential candidates are in overdrive as each tries to stand out from the pack by promoting his tax plan as the best. Dollar signs and percentage points are being bandied about with abandon in a mind-jarring whirl of competing statistics.

"I don't think the voters can absorb it," said Democratic pollster Doug Schoen. "It's shades of gray."

Still, the tax debate offers the candidates an important opportunity to draw a contrast between themselves and President Bush, even if it's tougher to make a clear case that one Democratic plan is better than the rest.

All the major candidates say the tax cuts Bush pushed through over the past three years are too costly and unfairly favor the rich. But that's where the unanimity ends. Some want to scrap all the tax cuts, others want to get rid of certain parts, and some have plans to raise more money elsewhere or provide more tax relief to select groups.

And, boy, can they get worked up over whose plan is best.

The candidates have had a number of testy exchanges over taxes in recent debates and unleashed a flurry of ads faulting one another's proposals. You can almost imagine the Republicans squirreling away the Democrats' negative comments to use against the party's nominee in the fall campaign.

For example, Kerry, taking aim at Dean's proposal to do away with marriage penalty relief, said at one recent debate, "Now, there's a terrific message: Democrats in America, if you get married, you ought to pay more taxes. I think it's wrong."

Despite the hubbub, "it's a tyranny of small differences among the plans," said William Gale, co-director of the Tax Policy Center, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute. "I'm amazed at how heated the rhetoric is."

In essence, Gale said, all the candidates are proposing "progressive, simplifying, revenue-raising tax plans."

The tricky part politically is that another name for a revenue increase is a tax increase.

By putting the tax cuts in place, Bush made a first big move, leaving the Democrats to contend with what diplomats might call new "facts on the ground," said Alan Auerbach, director of the Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance at the University of California.

"He's essentially daring them to take it away," said Auerbach. Even though many Americans question whether the government can afford the tax cuts, he said, once the money is in their pockets "they get used to it. Now the candidates are put in the position of trying to decide how much of it to take away."

Americans themselves are divided on the question. An ABC News-Washington Post poll last month found 49 percent of adults were more likely to vote for a candidate who wants to keep the tax cuts in place and 41 percent more likely to favor a candidate who wants to repeal the cuts or reduce them.

The candidates are trying different strategies to make their proposals appealing, or at least palatable.

Gephardt, for example, argues that all Bush's tax cuts must go, and promises to use the money for health care coverage. "I'm going to give $3,000 to the average family in economic benefits instead of the $500 or $700 that they get under the Bush tax cuts," he says.

Front-runner Dean, too, wants to repeal all of Bush's tax cuts. He says Bush's plan was so tilted toward the rich, "the truth is that there was no middle-class tax cut for most people." But after his plan drew mounting criticism from Democratic rivals, Dean is suddenly putting new emphasis on reducing the tax burden on the middle class.

He's talking about an income tax credit to offset payroll taxes, but has been vague about details and no formal proposal is expected for a few weeks.

Source of pollution is sought

HOUSTON (AP) — Levels of dioxins and other toxins in the Houston Ship Channel haven't diminished under an intensive cleanup that included closing industrial plants, leaving scientists puzzled about other sources of the pollution.

Results from University of Houston researchers show that dioxin, a group of 75 related chemicals that may cause cancer, exceeded standards in more than 80 percent of the water samples. Tests for the chemicals in sediment found it above normal 83 percent of the time.

Researchers who tested fish, blue crabs, sediment and water in 2002 and 2003 presented the results last week to a group of state, local and company officials.

Particularly alarming to researchers was that levels in fish had not changed, or were higher, than a decade ago. Eating fish is the primary way humans are exposed to dioxin.

"We have exceedances just about everywhere," Hanadi Rifai, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the university which is conducting the research for the state, told the Houston Chronicle in today's editions.

Formerly regarded as one of the nation's most polluted waterways, the channel section most tainted with dioxin was a stretch of several miles between Greens and Carpenter bayous, which are home to numerous refineries and chemical plants, researchers found.

"The fact that there is so much of an exceedance means we are looking at a pervasive issue, instead of a historic problem," said Rifai.

The research's goal was to determine how much dioxin can continue to enter the Ship Channel while making fish safe to eat. The state health department first warned in 1990 against eating more than 8 ounces a month of certain species of fish in the waterway to Upper Galveston Bay.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

A balance program may fit the bill

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband, 70, has type 2 diabetes. He is starting to lose his balance when he walks. Are there any exercises that might help him?

DEAR READER: Diabetes, in conjunction with the normal aging process, often leads to balance problems. This is a complex issue relating to vision, muscular reflexes, proprioception (the perception of body positioning) and neuropathy (nerve damage).

In my experience, such patients can be helped by a formal balance program. These programs are frequently available in hospitals through the physical therapy departments. Ask about this at your community hospital. If such a program is not available, inquire at your nearest teaching hospital. Your — and your husband's — efforts will be well-rewarded if he can receive training by professionals.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been on Zocor for high cholesterol. For the past few weeks my muscles have been so stiff and sore that I cannot raise my arms and even have difficulty walking. A CPK blood test was normal and my physician has no suggestions. What should I do?

DEAR READER: Stop the Zocor immediately.

"Statin" drugs (including Zocor) are used to treat high cholesterol levels. By and large they are safe medicines, but they can occasionally cause liver inflammation. More important, in rare cases, statin drugs are associated with destruction of muscle cells. When this occurs, pain and stiffness result; the protein released by the damaged cells is carried in the bloodstream to the kidneys, where it can cause serious damage, even kidney failure.

Although the CPK blood test will usually reflect muscle damage, it may not in 100 percent of cases.

Therefore, I urge you to stop the Zocor. If your symptoms disappear, I'd have to conclude that you had Zocor-induced rhabdomyolysis and your physician will have to try alternative methods to treat your cholesterol problem.

If, on the other hand, your stiffness and soreness persist after a week or two off the statin drug, I am incorrect in my presumption, and your doctor will then have to investigate other causes, such as myalgia and myositis, for your symptoms.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 55-year-old grandmother who had a hysterectomy 10 years ago because of malignant cells in my cervix. At that time, I was prescribed hormone replacement therapy to avoid hot flashes, which I never had anyway. I don't feel that I need this therapy. Is it necessary for me or can I stop it?

DEAR READER: Based on current medical studies, I would advise you to stop HRT because 1) You may not need it, and 2) It is associated in many women with significant health risks, such as breast cancer. More and more authorities are recommending that postmenopausal women avoid HRT altogether.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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2000 Chevy 1500 ExCab
#TC6241A 53K miles, 5 speed $10,850

1993 Ford F150 Supercab
#TC6624B Shortbed $4,500

2003 Chevy Tahoe LS $26,000
#C6232A 3rd Seat, 20K miles

1989 Ford F250 SuperCab
#P1695C Farm truck $2,500

2000 Chevy Suburban 4x4 LS
#TC6655A Loaded $16,900

2003 GMC Sonoma
#A8877 Auto, 13K miles, program truck $9,900

2001 Mitsubishi Sport
#C6604A 44K miles, silver $12,500

2001 GMC 2500 SLE 4x4 ExCab
#TG6681A Short bed, 18K miles .. $26,500

2001 GMC Yukon SLE
#A2402 28K miles, red $23,500

2003 Chevy Z71 ExCab $23,500
#C6638 LS pkg.

1997 Chevy 1500 ExCab Sportside #C5988A
48K miles, Regency Conversion pkg. $13,500

2001 GMC 1500 Reg Cab 1500 Sportside #G6421A $12,500

2001 Chevy Tahoe LS
#AA3922 Red, 3rd Seat, Loaded .. $24,000

1995 Pontiac Grand Am
#P5447A 84K miles, 5 speed $2,750

2000 Chevy Lumina
#G6214A Runs great V-6 ..... $4,850

1998 Buick Century Custom
#P5812 67K miles, white $4,500

1996 Cadillac Deville
#C6126A Great Buy $5,500

1999 Pontiac Grand Prix
#C6640A Loaded $5,500

1999 Buick LeSabre
#B6480A Blue leather, 41K miles $8,500

1996 Cadillac #TG6625B
Polo green, 76K miles, Northstar $7,500

2001 Chevy Prism
#A5414 Automatic, 11K miles $7,850

2003 Chevy Cavalier LS #A7437
Power windows/locks, auto, 18K miles $9,900

2003 Chevy Cavalier #A9830
2 Door, 10K miles, sunroof $9,500

2003 Pontiac Sunfire #A2447
2 Door, CD, sunroof, 13K miles $9,500

2001 Chevy Impala $12,750
#A6694, Maroon, power windows/locks

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Court reviews protections for disabled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The image of a paraplegic man crawling up two flights of stairs to reach a public courtroom is the dramatic backdrop to the latest Supreme Court fight over protections for the disabled.

The high court was considering the case of George Lane today. The case is one of the most closely watched on the justices' busy calendar, now about halfway complete.

In previous cases, the high court has repeatedly limited the effect of the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act, a landmark law meant to guarantee equality for the disabled. At issue now is the right of private citizens to sue over alleged violations such as the lack of an elevator in the small-town courthouse where Lane was scheduled to appear in 1996.

Outside the court today, protesters chanted, "Justice for all, we won't crawl." Then a disabled woman set aside her wheelchair and clambered up the steps and crawled across the court plaza, joined by a handful of supporters. She was stopped at the steps of the court building by about 10 court officers.

Lane wants to sue the state of Tennessee for up to $100,000 for what he claimed was humiliating treatment that violated the ADA. He crawled up the Polk County courthouse steps once for an appearance in a reckless driving case, but was arrested for failing to appear in court when he refused to crawl a second time. Courthouse employees say he also refused offers of help.

Tennessee claims that Congress went too far in writing the ADA, and argues that under the Constitution, a state government cannot be sued in federal court without its consent.

That sets up a conflict over states' rights and the powers of Congress. In a series of cases since the late 1990s, the Supreme Court's five-member conservative majority has gradually expanded the sovereign rights of state governments while limiting federal control and congressional power.

Bush says Canada eligible for Iraq reconstruction contracts

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — President Bush, seeking to mend relations with America's northern neighbor, said today that Canada will be eligible for a second round of U.S.-financed reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

In a breakfast meeting with new Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, Bush said he had told Martin of the shift in policy. Martin "understands the stakes" in rebuilding a free and peaceful Iraq, Bush said. He offered no details of what the contracts would be worth.

It was Bush's second fence-mending session in two days. On Monday, Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox put aside two years of differences and said they see eye-to-eye about a new U.S. proposal to grant legal status to millions of undocumented workers in the United States, many of them Mexicans.

The United States had angered many allies last month by banning firms in countries that had opposed the Iraq war from bidding on Iraqi reconstruction projects. French, German and Russian leaders had protested to Bush, and Canada threatened to stop sending aid to Baghdad.

Martin, eager to patch up the cross-border relationship, said he was pleased by the new U.S. stance toward Canada, and the lucrative contracts that could come Canada's way.

"It does show that working together, we can arrive at a reasonable solution," Martin told reporters after the breakfast.

Four arrested here on various charges

• Arrests

Four arrests were made in Scurry County Monday.

A report of a suspicious vehicle led to the incarceration of one subject at 4:41 p.m. Monday. A 44-year-old man was taken into custody in the 800 block of 29th on outstanding DPS warrants from Taylor County.

A report of a disturbance in the parking lot of Dollar General on College Ave. at 5:53 p.m. Monday led to the arrest of a 19-year-old man on a warrant for speeding.

Department of Public Safety troopers arrested two subjects on U.S. 84 near the city limits. Two men, ages 20 and 23, were taken into custody at 9:53 p.m. Monday charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana.

• Recovered stolen vehicle

A 1997 Chevrolet pickup reported stolen from Fisher County on Saturday was recovered in the 500 block of Ave. R at 7:51 a.m. Monday.

• Accident

DPS troopers investigated a one-vehicle accident reported at 12:13 p.m. Monday on U.S. 84.

• Burglaries

Snyder officers were called to a residence at 1910 30th at 6 p.m. Monday. The caller reported that several CDs and some spare change had been stolen from a vehicle.

Officers responded to a home at 3702 Beaumont at 11:20 p.m. Monday. It was reported that two vehicles had been burglarized and two purses were missing.

The purses were later recovered down the street from where they were taken with an undetermined amount of cash stolen.

Some property from a vehicle at 2709 35th was recovered at 3:29 a.m. today.

• Thefts

A deputy was requested in the 8000 block of CR 2126 at 12:51 p.m. Monday. The caller reported that a pair of earrings of undetermined value had been stolen.

A bicycle was reported stolen at 4:47 p.m. Monday. A woman told police that her son's red/chrome bicycle had been taken.

• Identity theft

A caller requested to speak to an officer at 5:39 p.m. Monday in reference to another subject using her driver's license number on checks. An offense report for identity theft was submitted.

'Dr. Death' said hanged in prison

LONDON (AP) — A British family doctor blamed for killing at least 215 elderly patients over several decades hanged himself with bed sheets in his prison cell, a prison spokeswoman said today.

Dr. Harold Shipman was found hanging in his cell at Wakefield Prison in northern England at 6:20 a.m. He was pronounced dead about two hours later after attempts to resuscitate him failed, the Prison Service said in a statement.

Shipman, 57, labeled "Dr. Death" by tabloid newspaper, preyed largely on elderly women, killing them with lethal injections. But a trial and a later former investigation never determined why he committed the slayings that horrified the nation.

He was convicted in 2000 of murdering 15 elderly patients and sentenced to life in prison. The later investigation said Shipman murdered at least 200 other people since 1975 and raised questions about how he was able to evade detection for so many years.

After news of Shipman's death, the word "Justice" was scrawled 12 times across the metal shutters of his former office.

The daughter of one of Shipman's victims expressed regret that the doctor never acknowledged his crimes.

"I am not sorry he has gone, but it brings it all back and it stirs it all up for us again," said Kathleen Wood, whose 83-year-old mother, Elizabeth Baddeley, was murdered by Shipman in 1997.

"I just wish he had been forthcoming and admitted he had done those things — it would have put a lot of people's minds at rest."

Shipman, who maintained his innocence, hanged himself by using bed sheets attached to the window bars in his cell, a spokeswoman for the Prison Service said on condition of anonymity.

Obituaries

Myrtle Redden

1910-2004

Graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in Hillside Memorial Gardens for Myrtle Redden of Snyder. Tom Holcomb, minister of East Side Church of Christ, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Redden

Mrs. Redden, 93, died Monday, Jan. 12, in Snyder Oaks Care Center after a lengthy illness.

Born July 28, 1910 in Hamilton County, she married Hershal Redden on Nov. 4, 1928 in Hamilton County. He died in 1961. Mrs. Redden moved to Snyder in 1949 from Hamilton. She was a homemaker and member of the East Side Church of Christ.

Two brothers, James W. Smith and Richard Thomas Smith, and one sister, Virginia Hoard, also preceded her in death.

Survivors include three daughters, Linda Babcock of Snyder, Barbara Denson of Ira and Martha Aycock of Lubbock; three sons, James H. Redden of Kentucky, Grover C. Redden of Arizona and Kenneth Redden of Gilmer; a sister, Mary Arnett of Hamilton; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Family visitation will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p. m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

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U.S. Army chopper shot down in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — An Army Apache attack helicopter was shot down today, the third downed in less than two weeks, though the crew escaped unharmed. U.S. troops reacting to attacks opened fire and killed four civilians, including a woman and a young boy, in separate incidents, witnesses said.

In the volatile town of Fallujah, north of the capital, hundreds of Iraqis protested in the streets, shouting "Bush, you coward!" after U.S. troops detained a young woman while searching for a Saddam Hussein loyalist. The woman, who relatives acknowledged was handled only by female soldiers, was released after several hours questioning.

The American AH-64 helicopter gunship was shot down near the town of Habbaniyah, in a western region near where a medevac helicopter was downed today, killing all nine soldiers on board. A Kiowa Warrior helicopter was shot down in the area on Jan. 2, killing the pilot.

The AH-64's two-person crew was unhurt, and the U.S. military secured the area, military spokesman Col. William Darley said. "It was apparently downed by enemy fire," he said.

Habbaniyah is 12 miles from Fallujah, in the so-called "Sunni Triangle," north and west of the capital, a region that has been the center of guerrilla attacks on American forces.

Two incidents in Fallujah and Baghdad were the latest in a growing number of cases of civilians being shot by U.S. soldiers.

After the morning protests subsided in Fallujah, U.S. troops positioned at city hall were attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The troops opened fire, killing two people and injuring four, witnesses, police and hospital staff said.

They identified the dead as Sahar Adnan, a 33-year-old woman shot inside the home of her sister, and Ahmed Naji, 37, who was driving a car. His brother and father were seriously injured, police Capt. Taha al-Falahi said.

In Baghdad the day before, a roadside bomb went off near a U.S. checkpoint, hitting a U.S. Humvee and killing a soldier. Soliders in another Humvee started shooting, hitting a car carrying civilians, said Wijdan Abdel Wahab, a relative of the car's passengers.

Abdel Wahab's 10-year-old nephew, Mustafa Jamal Shaikhly, and the family driver, identified only as Haider, were killed, she said. The boy's 30-year-old mother and another aunt were seriously wounded, and his younger sister and brother suffered minor cuts, Abdel Wahab.

"The Americans have ruined an innocent family, children and women," Abdel Wahab said, distraught and weeping at the hospital. "They didn't even bother to look back at them after shooting them."

She said the family is fed up with the situation and wants to "leave Iraq because of the Americans and the (U.S.-installed) Governing Council."

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 1/14	Thu 1/15	Fri 1/16
63/40	60/42	58/38
Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High 63F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph.	Afternoon showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Showers possible. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:59 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 6:00 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 6:01 PM

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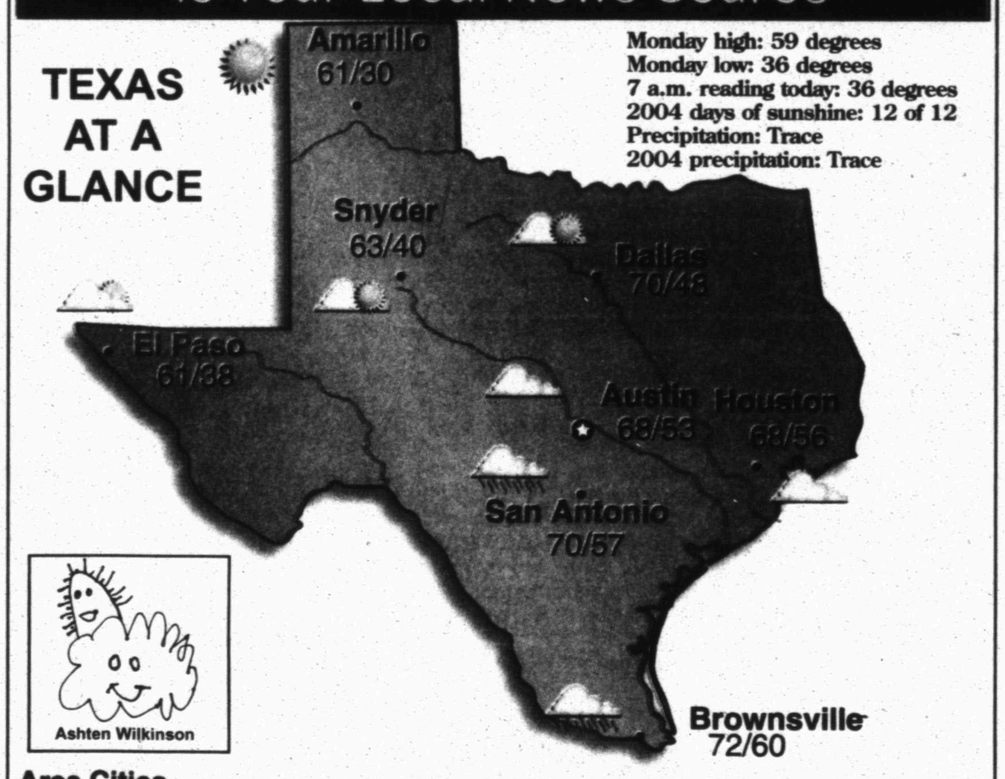
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high: 59 degrees
Monday low: 36 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 36 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 12 of 12
Precipitation: Trace
2004 precipitation: Trace

Ashten Wilkinson

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	66	44	pt sunny	El Paso	61	38	cloudy	Midland	65	40	pt sunny
Amarillo	61	30	sunny	Fort Stockton	65	44	pt sunny	Raymondville	71	58	rain
Austin	68	53	cloudy	Gainesville	67	42	pt sunny	Rosenberg	68	55	cloudy
Beaumont	67	54	cloudy	Greenville	67	45	pt sunny	San Antonio	70	57	rain
Brownsville	72	60	rain	Houston	68	56	cloudy	San Marcos	69	54	cloudy
Brownwood	70	47	pt sunny	Kingsville	72	59	rain	Sulphur Springs	68	46	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	69	59	rain	Livingston	67	51	cloudy	Sweetwater	66	43	pt sunny
Corsicana	68	50	pt sunny	Longview	70	46	cloudy	Tyler	69	48	cloudy
Dallas	70	48	pt sunny	Lubbock	65	33	mst sunny	Weatherford	69	44	pt sunny
Del Rio	68	53	rain	Lufkin	68	52	cloudy	Wichita Falls	67	36	mst sunny

National Cities

Atlanta	55	41	pt sunny	Houston	68	56	cloudy	Phoenix	77	49	mst sunny
Boston	9	0	windy	Los Angeles	71	54	mst sunny	San Francisco	59	51	rain
Chicago	35	22	sn shower	Miami	72	54	mst sunny	Seattle	52	44	rain
Dallas	70	48	pt sunny	Minneapolis	25	13	pt sunny	St. Louis	52	29	pt sunny
Denver	55	31	sunny	New York	20	14	cloudy	Washington, DC	33	26	pt sunny

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 7	Jan 15	Jan 21	Jan 29

UV Index

Wed 1/14	Thu 1/15	Fri 1/16
Low	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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