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WT-Int. Crude - $28.78
WTIC Posted - $26.75
Natural Gas - $9.102

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 20, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 200
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Betty Morgan

Toys are donated...

CYCLISTS SHARE CHEER — Wings of Grace, Christian motorcycle association of Big Spring, Tuesday donated toys and other gifts to Gateway Family Services Inc. Dee Wilson, director, and staff member Joanne Crill directed a tour of the facility and gave the history and services offered. From left are Richard Bross, Wilson, Crill, Paul Glover, Gary Sharp and Dee Harmon. The association, with a dozen members from Snyder, speaks at prisons, churches, holds weekend rallies, and participates in other projects. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Cabinet getting full

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush will be nominating Pennsylvania business executive and former Ford administration budget expert Paul O'Neill as treasury secretary today, the Associated Press learned. Three other Cabinet positions were to be filled by the end of the day.

His transition delayed by the 36-day election standoff, Bush also planned to nominate longtime friend Don Evans as commerce secretary, former Cuban refugee Mel Martinez as housing secretary and Californian Ann Veneman as agriculture secretary.

Two GOP sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush decided to name O'Neill during a two-day visit to Washington that ended Tuesday night.

Bush was making the announcements in two separate news conferences at the University of Texas. The events were sandwiched between meeting with leaders of charitable organizations to discuss ways to encourage faith-based groups to provide social services for the poor.

Bush sounded nostalgic after stopping by the governor's office to pack up his collection of autographed baseballs.

"I'm going to miss this place, I have a lot of fond memories," he said. "On the other hand, I'm looking forward to my new assignment."

O'Neill, 65, has been chairman of Alcoa Inc. since 1987. He was deputy budget director under President Ford when Vice President-elect Dick Cheney was President Ford's chief of staff. O'Neill and Cheney now serve as directors of American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington.

Cheney is head of Bush's transition team, and has left his fingerprints on several Cabinet selections, including the yet-to-be-determined defense secretary.

The Senate, divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats, must confirm Bush's nominees.

Evans, 54, is chief executive of Tom Brown Inc., a Denver-based oil and gas company with an office in Midland.

More flu shots

The local health unit will hold a flu vaccine clinic at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Scurry County Senior Center.

The clinic is expected to continue until 11:30. The clinic is for everyone, and not just for those in the high-risk category. Persons need to bring their Medicare cards, or pay $5.

Holiday hours vary within community

Three of five local banks will close early Friday for the Christmas holiday.

Snyder National Bank, Texas Savings Bank and West Texas State Bank will all close at noon on Friday and not reopen until Tuesday.

American State Bank and First American Bank will conduct regular business hours Friday and close Christmas Day.

Scurry County Library will be closed Saturday through Tuesday, reopening as usual on Wednesday.

City offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday while the city landfill will be closed Saturday and Monday.

The courthouse and other county offices will close Christmas Day only.

The Texas Workforce Commission, located on the Western Texas College campus, will close Monday and Tuesday for the holiday.

Snyder Chamber of Commerce will close for the holidays from Friday through Jan. 1. The staff will not return until Jan. 2.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh schools dismissed today for the holidays. All schools resume classes Jan. 3, however they all have teacher work days scheduled for Jan. 2.

Western Texas College ended its fall semester Dec. 11, and the spring semester will start Jan. 17.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Somebody with a belly that shakes like a bowl full of jelly may be in shape. Round is a shape."

This may be just the thing for the guy or gal who has almost everything.

We were thumbing through one of those Christmas gift catalogs and found something truly unique.

For a mere $1,590, you can have a second generation autonomous robot companion in the shape of a mutt.

The Sony creation is named AIBO and the name is derived from Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robot (BO). The Japanese word "aibo" means companion.

The first generation was launched in 1999 and all 3,000 available in Japan were sold in 20 minutes. The couple of thousand available in the U.S. sold in just four days.

The second generation is said to have a greater emotional range and ability to learn.

The robot first learns the name you give it. It's built-in stereo microphone and voice-recognition technology and speaker form the foundation of a loving relationship.

Call its name and it will respond. It begins with a limited vocabulary, but with time and encouragement, it can learn about 50 verbal commands.

The four-legged robot has 20 motorized joints that make its movements realistic, free and energetic. It walks, sits, rolls over, and has flapping ears and a wagging tail. It's wobbly at first, but learns better balance as it matures.

The robot has four senses – touch, hearing, sight and balance. These allow it to adapt to surroundings and to interact with humans.

It also is said to express real emotions to include tail wagging, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and dislike. Daily communication and attention will determine its behavior.

If you praise it when it plays with its ball, it will seek out that toy even more. If you scold it, the robot will learn to avoid that activity.

The robot is said to have a strong desire to play with people, to move about and to satisfy its hunger. That means to have a battery recharge.

The metal puppy shows happiness when needs are met and can express sadness or anger when ignored.

Other software is available if you want it to do more – like chase a cat up the tree or snap at the mailman.

The best part – it's already housebroken.

Snyder EMS clients to see slight increase in mileage charge Jan. 1

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Action taken Monday by Scurry County commissioners concerning Snyder EMS and its fee schedule will have very little immediate impact on citizens utilizing the ambulance service.

The court approved a request from Perry Westmoreland, Snyder EMS manager, to allow the service to establish rates based on the Medicare fee schedule, which will fluctuate from year to year based upon inflation.

Westmoreland said that a court-approved rate increase that went into effect June 1 of this year remains in effect.

He said he doesn't anticipate a dramatic increase in a patient's overall bill, but there will be a slight increase in mileage.

"I don't think that the bottom line is going to go up from what the commissioners approved in June with the exception of mileage. The reason for that is Medicare has standardized the fee at $5 per loaded mile."

The local service had already increased to $4.50 a loaded mile on June 1.

The $5 mileage change will go into effect Jan. 1, said Westmoreland.

Westmoreland said there are still many unanswered questions and that even that $5 rate could be slightly higher if the Snyder area is deemed a rural area by Medicare standards.

"It may go above the $5 for rural areas, but if they deem us rural it will only affect the first 17 miles."

The changes in the four base rates approved in May are as follows:

Basic life support, non-emergency went from $85 to $150 while basic life support, emergency went from $125 to $175.

Advanced life support increased from $160 to $225, and mobile intensive care increased from $185 to $275.

While the ambulance service is charging those rates, Medicare does not recognize them. Therefore, Snyder EMS is only being reimbursed on the rates that the company charged prior to June 1 — rates that date back to 1987.

"We will remain at the new rates but Medicare will not fully reimburse us," Westmoreland said.

He pointed out that the company is not allowed to bill patients the difference between what Medicare reimburses and the company's costs.

"Regardless of charges, Snyder EMS is only allowed to bill for the difference between what Medicare approves as the total bill and the 80 percent they reimburse. In other words, 20 percent."

Westmoreland noted that Medicare cases make up 70 percent of the ambulance services' business.

After the commissioner's court had approved the rate changes in May, Westmoreland began the steps to have Medicare recognize them, only to later find out that the federal health program had decided to scrap its old system.

"Under Medicare rules, we had to bill the new rates for three months before they recognized that we changed anything," he explained. "Then we had to take it before what they call the adjudication committee. We submitted paperwork for that to only find out that Medicare is totally doing away with the old system and going to a fee-based reimbursement schedule."

The federal plan to standardize the system will be phased in over a four-year period, beginning Jan. 1. The idea is to equalize the way reimbursements are handled so some providers are not being overpaid while others are being underpaid.

The first year of the phase-in will see Medicare reimbursing 80 percent of the old provider's fee plus 20 percent of the new fee schedule.

Year two would be at 50 percent of the old provider's plus 50 percent of the new fee schedule while year three would be at 20 percent of the old fee plus 80 percent of the new.

The fourth year would be 100 percent of the new fee schedule.

Westmoreland expressed concerns over the first year, saying the business would "take a hit" because it would not be able to itemize charges.

"The base fee will include all disposable items such as IV, oxygen, bandaging and anything that is required to provide service to our clients. It has to become a part of our base fee, we cannot itemize disposables as before," he said.

"Year one, we will lose money. The 20 percent of the new fee schedule will not cover our loss in not being able to itemize our additional expenses."

However, Westmoreland said over the long range the plan will probably have a positive effect.

"Long term, I am not upset with this. It will help hold down insurance costs, and we will finally see a standardization."

Area sales tax rebates

City	Dec. '00	Dec. '99	+/-	Year '00	Year '99	+/-
Abilene	$1,719,772	$1,940,820	-11.38%	$24,491,586	$23,636,244	3.61%
Big Spring	$227,171	$276,411	-17.81%	$3,541,115	$3,450,945	2.61%
Colorado City	$30,175	$38,110	-20.82%	$432,393	$422,123	2.43%
Lamesa	$58,230	$85,103	-31.57%	$860,513	$877,227	-1.90%
Lubbock	$2,096,024	$2,272,778	-7.77%	$27,220,416	$25,755,614	5.68%
Post	$21,241	$24,070	-11.75%	$265,489	$218,733	21.37%
Roby	$1,115	$2,694	-58.61%	$26,653	$25,641	3.94%
Rotan	$7,234	$12,065	-40.03%	$129,779	$129,877	-0.07%
Snyder	$105,152	$121,308	-13.31%	$1,431,564	$1,434,302	-0.19%
Sweetwater	$123,879	$149,488	-17.13%	$1,835,352	$1,870,382	-1.87%

SALES TAX REBATES — Sales tax rebates to the City of Snyder for December were down 13.31 percent from last year — $105,152 this year compared to $121,308 in 1999. December payments reflect sales taxes collected in October and reported to the comptroller in November.

ASK US

Q—When will the Department of Public Safety release the estimated number of deaths in traffic accidents for the Christmas holidays?

A—The DPS no longer estimates the number of fatalities for any holiday period.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 55 degrees; low, 21; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 33; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.25 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, colder, low lower 20s. NE wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, cloudy, cold, high lower 40s, E wind 5-15 mph.

Dana VanWinkle
Colder

Sunset: 5:46 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.
Of 354 days in 2000, the sun has shone 347 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Cherish your visions and your dreams, as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.
—Napoleon Hill

Jury orders Exxon Mobil to pay $3.5 billion in gas case

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A jury returned a $3.5 billion verdict against Exxon Mobil Corp., finding the oil company defrauded Alabama on royalties from natural gas wells in state waters.

The verdict by the circuit court jury Tuesday was six times Alabama's previous record of $581 million in a civil damages case.

The jury's verdict awarded Alabama $87.7 million in compensatory damages and $3.42 billion in punitive damages.

The jury arrived at the punitive damages by tripling the Irving, Texas-based company's annual production from 13 natural gas wells along the Alabama coast. The jury deliberated two hours before returning the verdict.

Exxon Mobil spokesman Tom Cirigliano said the company would appeal the verdict, adding, "We have always endeavored to comply with the requirements of our leases."

State attorney Bob Cunningham told jurors internal company documents showed the oil company labeled Alabama officials "inexperienced" in the natural gas business and deliberately decided to underpay the state.

After the verdict, jury foreman Shae Fillingim of Montgomery said those documents were the deciding factor, adding that the company "pretty much knew they were doing something wrong."

But Exxon Mobil's lawyers argued that the company has tried to follow the state's contradictory leases for natural gas wells in coastal waters and the simple contract dispute with the state didn't warrant a huge punitive damage verdict.

"The numbers of Exxon are right. They make it something it's not," defense attorney Joe Espy said in closing arguments Monday.

Exxon and state officials have been arguing since 1995 over how much the company owes Alabama in royalties from natural gas well drilled in state waters along the coast. Alabama consultants put the disputed royalties and unpaid interest at $87.7 million. The company — now Exxon Mobil as the result of a merger deal reached two years ago — contends it is much less, if anything at all. Wells that Mobil developed along the coast before the merger were not involved in the dispute.

The state's attorneys contended Alabama's leases with Exxon Mobil require it to pay the state royalties on the gross proceeds from its natural gas wells along the coast.

Exxon Mobil contended the leases allow it to deduct its processing costs before paying royalties. It also contended the leases don't require royalty payments on natural gas used as part of its Alabama production process.

Cunningham told the jury that with natural gas prices climbing, the company's decision to underpay Alabama could have earned Exxon Mobil $1 billion over the next 30 years, and he asked the jury to return three times that amount in punitive damages, or $3 billion.

"You've got to look at not only what they stole, but what they wanted to steal," Cunningham said.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM — Nancy Lomax's pre-school students at Kids Kampus put on their Christmas program last Thursday. They sang songs and refreshments were served to parents and guests. From left, back row, Megan Jaramillo, Bryana Mitchell, Jasmine Edledge, Jay Williams, Zachary Pinkerton, Leon Michols, Caitlyn Cunningham; front row, Omar Salinas, Roy Terrazas, Chase Baker, Danielle Lambaren, Chelsea Lambaren. Isaiah Pittman is not pictured. (Contributed Photo)

Imprisoned mothers enjoy reunion

YORK (AP) — Brightly wrapped packages covered a table, and holiday banners hung on walls. Laughing children sat on their mothers' laps throughout the room.

Christmas had arrived at Rikers Island.

Infants and teen-agers were reunited with their mothers Tuesday through the Children of Incarcerated Mothers Initiative. The program, launched six months ago, is run by New York City's Department of Correction and the Administration for Children's Services. It brings children in foster care to their incarcerated mothers for weekly visits.

"We want to afford incarcerated women an opportunity to see their children, who we view as innocent victims in this scenario," said Anthony Serra, a corrections official.

The women in the program are at Rikers Island awaiting court appearances or serving 12 months or less for misdemeanors.

Gelisha Paige, 37, couldn't hug her toddler fast enough as he came through the sliding metal security door into the room.

"Whenever he comes to visit, it's the happiest moment in my life," she said. "If I don't have my son, I don't have my life. People make mistakes, but they can change, they can learn."

Besides promoting close family relationships, the program may help rehabilitate the women, according to officials.

"They have time to think about reinventing their lives and to bond with their children," Warden Jacqueline Thomas-Andrews said.

The visitors' center usually contains small, square, numbered tables arranged in rows, with blue chairs on one side for inmates and red chairs on the other for guests.

But organizers transformed the center for Tuesday's gathering, modeling a home situation where the bond between parent and child is the focus.

Mothers sat next to their children at round tables covered with white linens, red-and-blue chairs were scattered around the tables and gift-wrap dressed the walls.

Damara Quiles, 21, had seen her two children — Meagan, 5, and Justin, 8 months — once during her month at Rikers.

"Mom, you need to feed him," Meagan said, "and change his Pampers."

"She takes good care of her brother," Quiles said.

"I'm coming home soon, real soon," she said, stroking her daughter's hair.

"As a father of four it almost brings you to tears to see this," said Serra, as children and their parents played and laughed together.

After lunch, mothers picked wrapped gifts from a table to give their children. Others looked on, sometimes helping younger ones open their presents. Soon the room was awash with musical books, dolls, electronic equipment and countless balls.

A cake — baked by inmates — was served and a children's services worker took instant snapshots of each family.

But then a warden said, "OK, time to go," and a chorus of "No!" erupted.

Nonetheless, misty-eyed children obeyed and filed out.

events

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RESULTS

Cash Five

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

3-8-11-13-37

Pick 3

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

6-0-8

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000

Today is the 355th day of 2000 and the 90th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1669, in Delaware, the first rebellion against a British governor in North America began.

On this day in 1820, Missouri became the first state to tax bachelors.

On this day in 1981, "Dreamgirls," a musical based on the lives of Diana Ross and the Supremes, opened on Broadway. The musical ran for more than 1,500 performances.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harvey S. Firestone (1868-1938), industrialist; George Roy Hill (1922-), director, is 78; Bo Diddley (1928-), singer-guitarist, is 72; Billy Bragg (1957-), singer, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1987, San Francisco 49er Jerry Rice played the 12th consecutive game in which he caught a touchdown pass. At the end of the 1987-88 season, Rice had caught a record 22 touchdown passes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Every man is the architect of his own fortunes, but the neighbors superintend the construction." — George Ade

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 17) and new moon (Dec. 25).

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Berry's World

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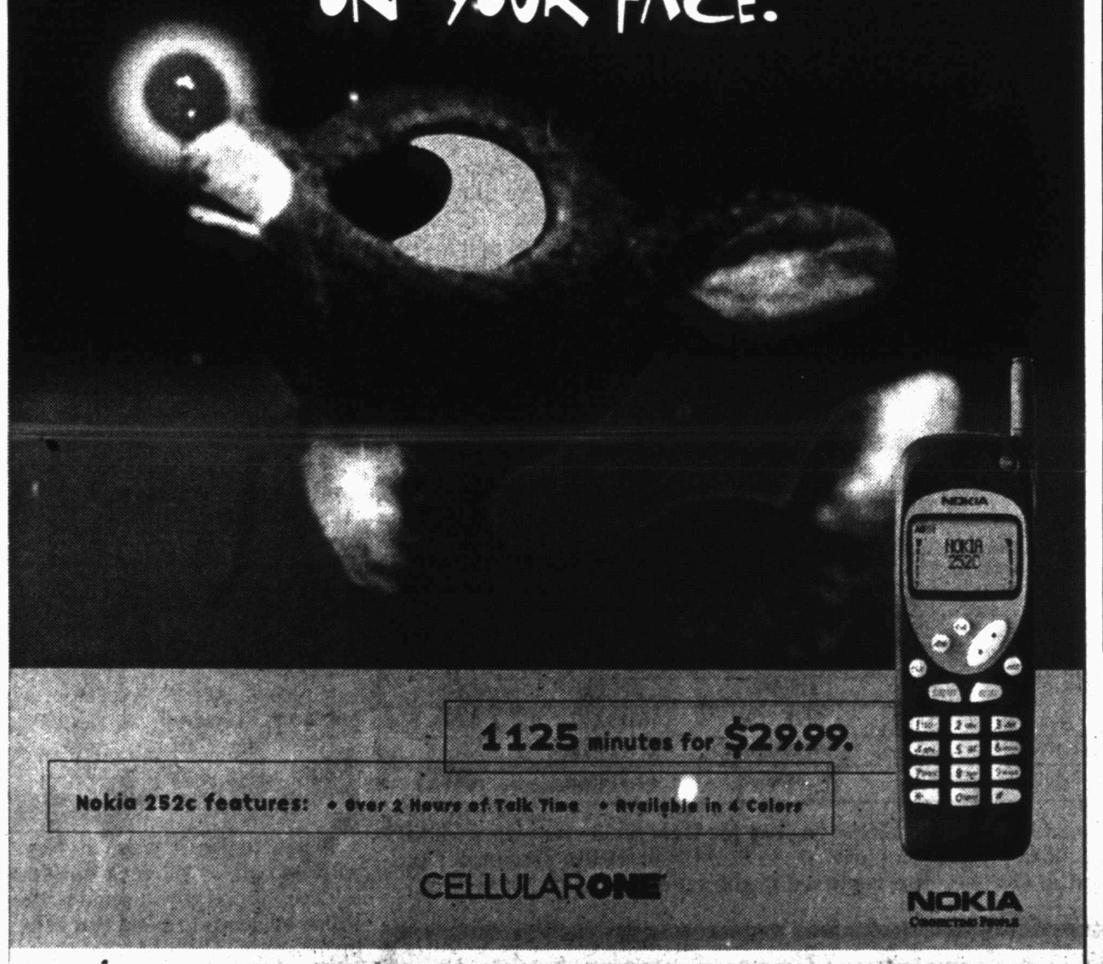

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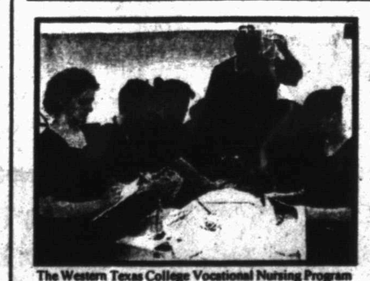

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Clinton vetoes bankruptcy bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton vetoed legislation Tuesday that proposed the most sweeping changes in the bankruptcy law in 20 years because he said it was unfair to ordinary debtors and working families who fall on hard times.

Supporters of the bill, including credit card companies, have pushed for three years to pass a bill to overhaul the nation's bankruptcy system. Clinton also favors revamping the bankruptcy laws but thinks the current bill is not evenhanded.

"I would have signed a balanced bankruptcy reform bill that addressed known abuses without tilting the playing field against those debtors who genuinely turn to bankruptcy for a fresh start," Clinton said in a statement released Tuesday evening.

The president said the bill would allow debtors who own expensive homes to shield their mansions from creditors while debtors with moderate incomes, especially renters, must live frugally and comply with rigid payment plans for five to seven years.

"This loophole for the wealthy is fundamentally unfair and must be closed," Clinton said.

Clinton also criticized the bill's failure to address the "abusive use" of the bankruptcy laws by anti-abortion activists "who espouse and practice violence at health care clinics" and then use bankruptcy as a shield against liability.

An early version of the bill would have barred such use of the bankruptcy system, but that provision was dropped in the final legislation that passed Congress.

By leaving the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2000 unsigned, the president issued a "pocket veto," the fourth indirect veto of his administration. By waiting until the lame-duck congressional session adjourned before vetoing it, he deprived lawmakers of the chance to override the veto.

The veto drew criticism from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a leading sponsor of the legislation.

"President Clinton let the American people down by pocket vetoing the bipartisan bankruptcy reform bill," Grassley said Tuesday. "This veto means that financially troubled family farmers don't have protection against foreclosure, that residents of nursing homes that file for bankruptcy can be evicted in the middle of the night and that consumers will continue to pay higher prices for goods and services due to the exploding number of bankruptcies"

Proponents cite as evidence of rampant abuse of the bankruptcy court system a rapid rise in personal bankruptcy filings in the mid-1990s, which reached a record 1.4 million in 1998.

The legislation would have established a complex mathematical formula for determining whether debtors can repay part of their debts under a court-supervised plan rather than have them dissolved.

Consumer groups, unions and other opponents contended the legislation would hurt families hit by job losses, catastrophic medical expenses or other unforeseeable hardships that push them over the edge financially. They also pointed to single mothers and their children who need alimony and support payments from bankrupt fathers.

The banking and retail credit industries strongly backed the measure. The American Financial Services Association said the legislation retained protections for Americans to seek bankruptcy protection. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce had urged Clinton not to veto.

Opponents of the legislation, including Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said the president's veto was no surprise and well-deserved.

"Next year, I hope the credit card industry will revise its punitive legislative proposal," Kennedy said Tuesday. "We should pass a balanced bill that deals effectively with existing problems, without creating new abuses."

Family asks murder charges in beating death of black man

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The conviction on civil rights counts of five policemen accused of beating a black man they suspected of murdering a fellow officer has prompted renewed calls for homicide charges.

The Orange, N.J., officers were found guilty of civil rights violations Tuesday by a federal jury after a six-week trial. They have not been charged with killing Earl Faison, who died in police custody of an asthma attack less than an hour after being arrested on April 11, 1999.

His father, Earl Williams, and fiancee, Mikki J. Wilkins, applauded the verdict and maintained the officers should face murder charges.

"They murdered a beautiful person," Williams said outside the courtroom. "I'm sure they are good men. But they made a mistake and they will have to pay for it.

Prosecutors said the asthma attack was exacerbated by pepper spray shot into Faison's face.

Defense lawyers promised an appeal. They said the attack followed Faison's violent struggle with the arresting officer, who was not charged.

Resorts like snow

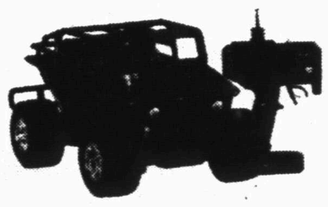
WINTER PARK, Colo. (AP) — Holiday crowds are heading back to ski areas from New England to the Sierras, raising hopes the resorts can make up some of the money they lost last season due to Y2K fears and decidedly unwintry weather.

A year ago it was raining in some high-mountain areas in mid-January, and the Y2K scare kept many visitors away even from resorts that did have ample snow.

"There are a lot of people who feel robbed about last Christmas because the Y2K paranoia wouldn't let them travel. This year they want that winter vacation," said Joan Christensen, spokesman for Winter Park.

The resort's skier numbers are up 89 percent from last season. Winter Park has already received about 130 inches of snow, more than twice last year's total at this time.

ALL RADIO CONTROL VEHICLES



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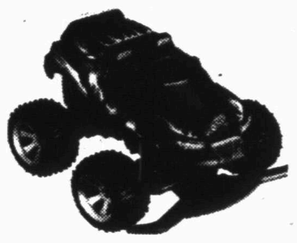

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-20-00
♠ J 4
♥ A J 5 4
♦ A 5 4 3
♣ K Q 8

West
♠ K 10 2
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ 10 7
♣ 10 7 6 4

East
♠ Q 9 8 7 6 5
♥ K
♦ K 9 2
♣ 9 3 2

South
♠ A 3
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ A J 5

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 2

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000

Separating the real from the artificial

By Phillip Alder

Oops! Last month, Gap Stores announced that its sales were down. While telling viewers about this, CNBC showed some footage in a clothing store. One assumed it was a Gap, until a customer was handed a Banana Republic bag! (To be fair, CNBC errs rarely.)

Bridge writers make mistakes, yet Deep Finesse, written by William Bailey, has reduced the number. It is a wonderful double-dummy solving program. You feed in the cards and name the contract, then Deep Finesse quickly works out the result, even supplying the necessary analysis. Of course, one has to be careful not to rely totally on the program. There are certain plays one would find only by being able to peek at all 52 cards, which Deep Finesse does.

Here is a deal from a tournament in Deauville, France. If you were South, looking only at your hand and the dummy, how would you try to make four hearts after West leads the spade two? Then look at all 52 cards. How would that alter your approach?

It looks normal, after winning trick one, to finesse the heart 10 to East's king. Now, however, East plays a spade to his partner's king, and West continues with the spade 10. If you ruff in the dummy, West must win a trump trick. Add to that East's diamond king, and you are one down. If you ruff in hand and draw trumps, when you take the losing diamond finesse East cashes a spade trick.

How do you make the contract? By playing a heart to dummy's ace — a double-dummy play.

A free demo version of Deep Finesse is available from www.deepfinesse.com. If you like what you see, it costs $39.95 to download the full version.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Aneurysms need surgery for cure

DEAR DR. GOTT: Unless I am mistaken, I think that you recently discussed medication to cure aortic aneurysms. What is it?

DEAR READER: I'm afraid you misunderstood me. Although aneurysms are worsened by high blood pressure (which must be aggressively treated), there are no drugs to treat aneurysms themselves. The only valid therapy for this affliction is surgery, once the aneurysm has swollen to the point where therapy is necessary.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 32 years old and in good health, except that I am about 100 pounds overweight. Every time I see my gynecologist, my blood pressure is unreadable. On one occasion, the nurse got a reading of 210/110. How can I remedy this situation?

DEAR READER: You may be the unwitting victim of a common medical mistake: the universal tendency of health care professionals to use a standard blood pressure cuff on overweight patients. Here's why such a practice leads to inaccurate readings:

In order for a blood pressure reading to be obtained, the air pressure in the cuff must be sufficiently high to shut off the artery in the arm. As this pressure is gradually reduced, the artery is allowed to open and the characteristic pulse thumping can be heard through a stethoscope.

In people of normal weight, the upper arm is relatively thin and composed primarily of muscle. In contrast, obese patients have a surfeit of fat in the arm; consequently the cuff has to be inflated to extremely high pressures to overcome this resistance. These pressures may not accurately reflect the true blood pressure.

There's a simple answer to this problem. An extra-wide cuff should be routinely used, because the additional surface area more easily compresses adipose tissue (and the artery that lies deep in the area). I'd be willing to bet that a wide cuff would confirm that you have a normal blood pressure. On the other hand, if I am wrong and the wide cuff shows your blood pressure to be abnormally high, your physician needs to address this problem without delay.

The important fact to remember is that people with large arms (even body builders) should have their blood pressures checked with a wide cuff; otherwise, the readings may be totally invalid.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hypertension." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Because of cough and heartburn from reflux and a hiatal hernia, I have been prescribed Prilosec. The medicine helped my symptoms. However, I have recently noticed thinning hair and sensitive skin. Could this be caused by the medication? The pharmacist says, "Get off the medicine!"

DEAR READER: I have never heard that Prilosec, a safe drug used to relieve symptoms of various peptic disorders, causes hair or skin problems. Therefore, I don't understand your pharmacist's advice.

Nonetheless, it wouldn't hurt for you to switch medication and see what happens. To start with, try over-the-counter Pepcid AC, Zantac or Tagamet. If these are ineffective, your doctor can suggest prescription alternatives, such as Prevacid. Let me know what effects you experience from the changes.

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American Legion
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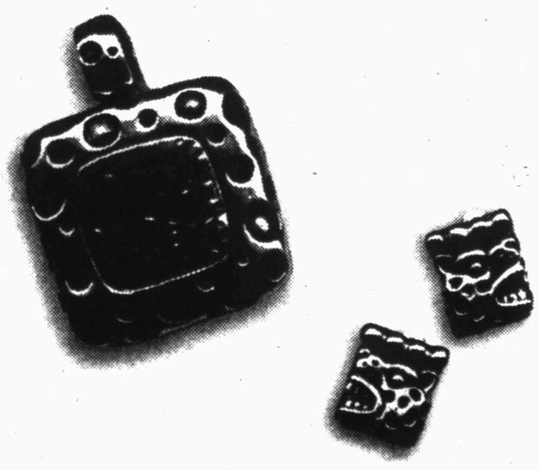
Members & Guests

dian malouf



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Woman's short coat
7 Suitor
12 Hard-handed defense
13 Sesame sauce
14 Portland's state
15 Mrs. Marcos
16 Med. specialist
17 Long time
18 Third degree?
21 Like run-down places
23 Artist's deg.
26 Crazy as a —
28 Comic Martha —
29 W. hemisphere assn.
30 Facility
31 Tiresome
33 Make anxious
36 Tamarisk salt tree
37 Transgression
38 Goofs
40 Catcher's glove
41 Brain test
42 Synthetic material
44 Type of curve
45 Small amount
46 Dog's foot
48 Explosive
51 Like models
55 Had to have
56 Ruler's realm
57 In a difficult position
58 Type of engine

DOWN

1 Boxing-victory abbr.
2 Rower's need
3 "School" start
4 Book unit
5 Short jackets
6 Apartment dweller, usually
7 Breed of dog
8 At what time?
9 Languish
10 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
11 TV's Peeples
13 Fabric-coloring method
18 Polite word
19 Large sandwich
20 Giving medicine to
22 Diner
23 Baby shoe
24 Character flaws
25 Items owned
27 Openwork fabric
32 "I think, therefore I —"
34 Made fizzy
35 Swapped
39 With "up," absorbed moisture
43 A Judd
45 Ocean movement
47 Dry (dishes)
48 It's a blast! (abbr.)
49 Above (poet.)
50 Born
52 Fam. member
53 Before, (poet.)
54 Neighbor of Md.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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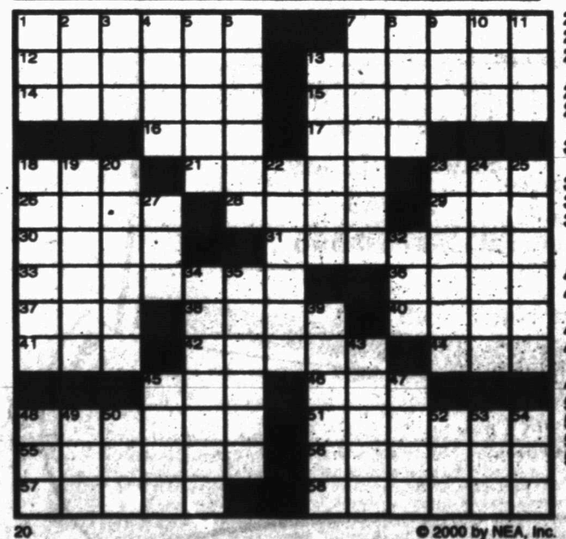

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SPORTS

Lady Tigers tackle Big Spring

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

BIG SPRING — Throughout the season, the Snyder Lady Tigers have shown the ability to win strategic match-ups.

Tuesday night against Big Spring, the Lady Tigers proved they can win a physical battle, as well.

Snyder fought back from a five-point deficit in the third quarter, and wrestled away a share of the district lead with a 49-37 victory over Big Spring at the Steer Gymnasium.

The win pushes the Lady Tigers to 12-2 overall, and keeps them in a tie with Plainview atop the district standings at 3-0. The Lady Steers fall to 11-3 on the year and 2-1 in league play.

While Snyder's first two district games were more like chess matches won by flawless execution, Tuesday night's victory resembled hand-to-hand combat.

"We knew Big Spring favored a physical style of game, but it was even rougher than we expected," said Snyder coach Sam Tipton. "But our girls didn't back down from the fight. If we had ever doubted ourselves for a minute, we would've been beat. Our girls always believed they were going to win, and they found a way to do it."

Big Spring controlled the action for the first 20 minutes. The Lady Steers used a 5-0 run in the first five minutes to build its momentum, then held on for a 22-19 lead at halftime.

Snyder struggled on the offensive end in the first half, with 11 turnovers, only six baskets, and a 7-of-16 performance from the free-throw line.

"I told the girls at halftime that we had our chances to take the lead in the first half, but we didn't capitalize on them," Tipton stated. "We knew if we kept the pressure on them, and took advantage of our opportunities in the second half, then we would come out on top."

The Lady Tigers followed Tipton's advice, starting with defensive pressure.

After Big Spring scored the first bucket of the second half, the Lady Tigers wouldn't surrender another basket until the 6:40 mark of the fourth quarter.

The Lady Steers managed four free throws in the third period, but it wasn't nearly enough to hold off the Lady Tigers' charge.

Snyder's Kameron Kallemeyn converted a three-point play to cut the deficit to two points with 3:11 left in the third, followed by six consecutive points by fellow senior post Ashley Delce that put the Lady Tigers on top, 32-28, heading into the final frame.

After seizing their first lead of the night, the Lady Tigers never looked back.

Snyder managed only one bucket in the fourth quarter, but drained 15 of 20 free-throw attempts, and held Big Spring to a 2-of-17 shooting performance over the final eight minutes.

Senior T'Leah Eicke led the Lady Tigers from the stripe with a perfect 10-for-10 effort, all in the fourth quarter.

"We got on a run in the third quarter and we kept it going the rest of the night," said Tipton. "Eicke kept knocking down those free throws, and that was great to see. That's what it's all about, going to the line in a tight district ballgame and converting on every single attempt. Our girls just never lost faith in themselves, and they out battled their opponent."

In the midst of their second-half foul barrage, the Lady Steers made only three shots from the floor in the final 16 minutes. Big Spring committed 30 fouls on the night.

Delce paced the Lady Tigers with 18 points and seven rebounds, while Kallemeyn added 13 points, and Eicke finished with 12.

Snyder now has a two-week break from district play, before its Jan. 2 visit to top-ranked Plainview.

The Lady Tigers will be in action again Dec. 28 at the Abilene High tourney.

Snyder	06	13	13	17	— 49
Big Spring	09	13	06	09	— 37

Snyder
Delce 7-9 4-8 18, Kallemeyn 4-10 5-9 13, Eicke 1-3 10-10 12, Murray 0-0 2-4 2, Mackey 0-1 0-1 0, Geiger 0-1 4-8 4. **Totals 12-24 25-40 49.**

Big Spring
Rollins 3-6 1-4 8, Forth 0-5 7-8 7, Gwynn 3-8 0-0 7, Pudliner 0-1 2-2 2, Wrightsill 0-6 1-2 1, Braxton 2-4 0-0 5, Flenniken 1-5 2-2 4, Bryant 1-2 0-0 3, Churchwell 0-1 0-0 0, Long 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 10-39 13-18 37.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 0, Big Spring 4 (Rollins, Gwynn, Braxton, Bryant). Rebounds: Snyder 20 (Delce 7), Big Spring 21 (Gwynn 6). Total fouls: Snyder 15, Big Spring 30. Fouled out — Forth, Wrightsill.

District 4-4A Girls

	District		Season	
Team	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Plainview	3	0	15	1
Snyder	3	0	12	2
Big Spring	2	1	11	3
Levelland	1	2	12	3
Estacado	1	2	10	5
Frenship	1	2	10	6
Andrews	0	2	10	5
Lake View	0	2	8	8

Tuesday's results: Snyder 49, Big Spring 37; Plainview 43, Levelland 34; Frenship 57, Estacado 51.

Thursday's game: Andrews at Lake View.

Jan. 2 games: Snyder at Plainview; Frenship at Levelland; Big Spring at Lake View; Estacado at Andrews.

District 4-4A Boys

	District		Season	
Team	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Snyder	1	0	8	6
Plainview	1	0	8	8
Estacado	1	0	8	8
Andrews	0	0	11	4
Lake View	0	0	7	8
Levelland	0	1	12	4
Big Spring	0	1	5	10
Frenship	0	1	8	8

Tuesday's results: Snyder 78, Big Spring 63; Plainview 67, Levelland 56; Estacado 77, Frenship 71 (2OT).

Thursday's game: Andrews at Lake View.

Jan. 2 games: Snyder at Plainview; Frenship at Levelland; Big Spring at Lake View; Estacado at Andrews.

JV boys down Steers, 69-49

BIG SPRING — Snyder worked its way into the lead, then took off running.

Snyder posted 53 points over the final quarters Tuesday night to turn an early five-point lead into a 69-49 over Big Spring in junior varsity boys' action.

Colby Driggers paced the Tigers with 15 points that included three buckets from behind the arc.

Cory Clay poured in 14 points, while Josh Mendoza drained 11.

T.J. Jones netted nine points. Jay Scott tallied eight, and Brad Spells notched four. Brady Reed registered three points, while Tyler Pollard finished with two, and Josh McGaha chipped in one.

Scoring droughts doom Ira cagers

TRENT — A pair of scoring droughts victimized Ira's girls and boys Tuesday night.

The Ira Lady Bulldogs suffered a third-quarter slump in a 40-33 setback to Trent, while Ira's boys got off to a slow start to fall, 50-39, to the Gorillas.

In the girls' match-up, Ira opened up a slim lead in the opening quarter, before the Lady Gorillas went on top, 20-17, in the second period.

Trailing by three points, the Lady Bulldogs went cold in the third quarter, mustering only two points to allow Trent to build its lead to 10.

Ira tried to rally with 14 points in the final frame, but could get no closer than seven points.

Ira's Morgan Clements poured in 23 points to lead all scorers.

Kristen Harless drained six points, and Tara Allen and Michelle Nettles netted two apiece.

In boys' action, it took a while for Ira to get rolling, while Trent came out firing from the opening tip.

The Bulldogs managed only 12 points in the first half to trail, 27-12, at the break.

The Bulldogs started to turn things around with nine points in the third quarter, and finally found their rhythm with 18 points in the final frame.

"We played decent defense, and we took care of the ball. We just couldn't make any shots," said Ira coach Bubba Edwards. "That's been our downfall all season. But we're going to keep on working, and hoepfully the shots will start falling for us."

Cade Tuckers' nine points led the Bulldogs, while Eric Dickerhoff added eight more.

Nathan Smith, Bryce Wilkins and Jeff Fine netted six points apiece, and Seth Sterling finished with four.

Both Ira squads will be in action again Thursday at Jayton.

Tigers race past Steers, 78-63

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

BIG SPRING — For all intent and purposes, the Snyder Tigers' district opener was over early, but it would be almost two hours and 50 fouls later before the final seconds ticked off the clock.

Snyder used Big Spring's run-and-gun style for its own benefit, racing to a 14-0 lead in the first five minutes, then holding on for a 78-63 victory Tuesday night in the Steer Gymnasium.

With the win, the Tigers improve to 8-6 on the year and 1-0 in district play, which is exactly what Head Coach Bud Birks was hoping for.

"I was very pleased with our effort and our execution for most of the game," said Birks. "Big Spring went to a zone and it changed the pace of the game, but our guys put forth a tremendous effort tonight."

The Steers came into the contest hoping to beat the Tigers in transition with their full-court pressure, but Snyder turned the tables.

The Tigers out ran the Steers from the opening tip. Snyder put together a 14-0 to start the game, with all seven buckets coming on breakaway layups.

Big Spring was held scoreless until the 4:40 mark of the opening frame, but by then the Tigers were on a tear.

After the initial outburst, Snyder never let up. The Tigers closed out the first quarter with another 9-3 run that pushed the tally to 25-8.

"We had a bunch of layups, simply because of our hustle," said Birks. "Then when we weren't able to score in transition, we took good shots, and we hit the boards."

Snyder shot 65 percent from the field on the night, compared to only 45 percent for the Steers.

Big Spring finally found its rhythm in the second quarter, matching Snyder with 17 points over the eight-minute span.

The Tigers figured to build on their lead in the second half, but were hampered by foul trouble and Big Spring's zone defense.

The game slowed from a sprint to a crawl in the third quarter. The two teams combined for 22 fouls in the third, 13 of them whistled against the Tigers.

Snyder lost seniors Shante Taylor and Heath Pinkerton to fouls early in the fourth, but maintained its defensive pressure to hold off the Steers.

Despite fouling out, Pinkerton led all scorers with 24 points on a 12-of-16 performance from the floor.

Jared Thornhill added 19 points for Snyder, and Jamaal Wofford finished with 18.

"It shows that you don't have to take a lot of shots from everywhere on the floor to score," said Birks. "We scored 78 points and we didn't take that many bad shots."

Of the Tigers 33 successful field goal attempts, only five of them came from outside the paint.

Snyder's largest lead of the night was 25 points midway through the third quarter, before Big Spring used its extra opportunities at the stripe to whittle the deficit back to 15.

In Tuesday's other district openers, Estacado fought off Frenship in double overtime, 77-71, and Plainview toppled Levelland, 67-56. Andrews and Lake View meet on Thursday.

The Tigers get a two-week break from district play before their Jan. 2 visit to Plainview.

Snyder will be in action again Dec. 28 at the Brownwood tournament.

Snyder	27	17	21	13	— 78
Big Spring	08	17	23	15	— 63

Snyder
Pinkerton 12-16 0-0 24, Thornhill 6-13 7-14 19, Wofford 7-10 2-3 18, McLeod 4-6 0-1 8, Taylor 2-2 0-0 4, Landes 1-2 0-0 2, McGuire 1-1 0-0 2, Pruitt 0-1 1-5 1, Dorsett 0-0 0-1 0. **Totals 33-51 10-24 78.**

Big Spring
Fleming 5-13 4-7 16, Wilkins 6-9 1-4 13, Belvin 3-7 1-4 7, Greathouse 1-6 0-0 2, Nutting 1-2 0-1 2, Harris 3-6 6-7 12, Smith 3-3 2-4 8, Martinez 0-1 2-2 2, Jackson 0-1 1-2 1, Watson 0-1 0-2 0. **Totals 22-49 17-33 63.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 2 (Wofford 2), Big Spring 2 (Fleming 2). Rebounds: Snyder 28 (Thornhill 10), Big Spring 23 (Wilkins 7). Total fouls: Snyder 28, Big Spring 22. Fouled out — Taylor, Pinkerton.

NCAA Basketball

MEN
EAST
Dartmouth 69, Quinnipiac 47
Harvard 89, Vermont 71
Michigan St. 72, Seton Hall 57
Navy 81, Gettysburg 62
UMBC 90, Loyola, Md. 72
Virginia 107, Tennessee 89
SOUTH
Auburn 93, Georgia Southern 79
Florida 106, Bethune-Cookman 64
Morehead St. 70, St. Francis, Pa. 53
South Alabama 82, Murray St. 76
South Carolina 80, N.C.-Asheville 55
Southern Miss. 87, Arkansas Tech 41
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 87, Florida St. 85, 2OT
DePaul 68, Saint Louis 43
Iowa 72, Centenary 52
Notre Dame 99, Canisius 71
Ohio 79, West Virginia 67
Old Dominion 81, Dayton 76
Wright St. 56, Miami (Ohio) 47
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 91, Grambling St. 82
Creighton 86, Tulsa 76
Lamar 67, Loyola, NO 41
North Texas 91, Texas A&M-Kingsville 82
Oklahoma St. 70, Ark.-Little Rock 60
TCU 115, Texas-Arlington 84
FAR WEST
Boise St. 65, San Francisco 58
Duke 97, Portland 64
Lipscomb 92, Cal Poly-SLO 87
Oregon St. 58, E. Washington 50
S. Utah 70, W. Oregon 50
UC Irvine 84, Belmont 74
Utah 69, Pepperdine 56
Wyoming 92, Delaware St. 64
TOURNAMENT
Stanford Invitational
Third Place
Idaho St. 95, Sacred Heart 59
Trend Homes Classic
First Round
Louisiana-Lafayette 76, Samford 66
WOMEN
EAST
Florida St. 73, Fordham 52
Georgia Tech 73, Wagner 50
Md.-Eastern Shore 60, Robert Morris 57
Penn St. 81, UC Santa Barbara 68
Wake Forest 77, Quinnipiac 68, OT
Wright St. 69, West Virginia 65
SOUTH
Arkansas St. 100, Florida Atlantic 75
Auburn 69, Arizona 66
Campbell 63, N.C.-Wilmington 59
Chattanooga 95, Appalachian St. 66
Louisiana Tech 89, Texas-Arlington 44
Louisiana-Monroe 71, Lamar 62
Marshall 83, Norfolk St. 61
Mercer 60, Louisiana-Lafayette 56
Miami 74, Kentucky 59
Mississippi St. 68, Southern Miss. 53
Nebraska 99, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 43
New Orleans 74, Wofford 63
South Carolina 117, ETSU 71
Tennessee Tech 80, N.C.-Asheville 59
MIDWEST
Ball St. 95, Cleveland St. 76
Evansville 69, Ill.-Chicago 44
Loyola, Ill. 88, E. Illinois 74
Ohio St. 100, Akron 35
Pittsburgh 86, Youngstown St. 67
Purdue 90, Stanford 60
S. Illinois 74, Tenn.-Martin 67
Saint Louis 71, Austin Peay 57
SOUTHWEST
TCU 86, Sam Houston St. 55
Texas Southern 47, Texas-San Antonio 39
Texas Tech 94, SE Louisiana 37
FAR WEST
BYU 58, Marquette 44
CS Northridge 84, UNLV 69
Colorado St. 77, N. Arizona 54
Houston 90, Detroit 80
Montana 81, Montana St.-Billings 59
Nevada 78, Wyoming 68
New Mexico 87, New Mexico St. 68
TOURNAMENT
Beach Classic
First Round
Mississippi 68, WiEAST
Florida St. 73, Fordham 52
Georgia Tech 73, Wagner 50
Md.-Eastern Shore 60, Robert Morris 57
Penn St. 81, UC Santa Barbara 68
Wake Forest 77, Quinnipiac 68, OT
Wright St. 69, West Virginia 65
SOUTH
Arkansas St. 100, Florida Atlantic 75
Auburn 69, Arizona 66
Campbell 63, N.C.-Wilmington 59
Chattanooga 95, Appalachian St. 66
Louisiana Tech 89, Texas-Arlington 44
Louisiana-Monroe 71, Lamar 62
Marshall 83, Norfolk St. 61
Mercer 60, Louisiana-Lafayette 56
Miami 74, Kentucky 59
Mississippi St. 68, Southern Miss. 53
Nebraska 99, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 43
New Orleans 74, Wofford 63
South Carolina 117, ETSU 71
Tennessee Tech 80, N.C.-Asheville 59
MIDWEST
Ball St. 95, Cleveland St. 76
Evansville 69, Ill.-Chicago 44
Loyola, Ill. 88, E. Illinois 74
Ohio St. 100, Akron 35
Pittsburgh 86, Youngstown St. 67
Purdue 90, Stanford 60
S. Illinois 74, Tenn.-Martin 67
Saint Louis 71, Austin Peay 57
SOUTHWEST
TCU 86, Sam Houston St. 55
Texas Southern 47, Texas-San Antonio 39
Texas Tech 94, SE Louisiana 37
FAR WEST
BYU 58, Marquette 44

National Basketball Association

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	6	.750	—
New York	15	11	.577	4
Miami	13	13	.500	6
Orlando	10	14	.417	8
Boston	9	15	.375	9
New Jersey	9	15	.375	9
Washington	5	20	.200	13½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	15	7	.682	—
Charlotte	16	9	.640	½
Toronto	13	12	.520	3½
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	4
Indiana	12	13	.480	4½
Detroit	11	14	.440	5½
Atlanta	7	18	.280	9½
Chicago	3	22	.120	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	17	8	.680	—
Dallas	17	10	.630	1
San Antonio	15	9	.625	1½
Minnesota	15	10	.600	2
Houston	13	11	.542	3½
Denver	12	13	.480	5
Vancouver	7	17	.292	9½
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	17	6	.739	—
Portland	17	8	.680	1
L.A. Lakers	18	9	.667	1
Phoenix	15	9	.625	2½
Seattle	13	12	.520	5
L.A. Clippers	8	18	.308	10½
Golden State	7	18	.280	11

Tuesday's Games
Toronto 103, Utah 95
Atlanta 87, New York 77
L.A. Lakers 81, Miami 79
Indiana 90, Chicago 85
San Antonio 86, Houston 79
Detroit 89, Phoenix 84
Sacramento 106, Washington 72
Golden State 120, Minnesota 99
Wednesday's Games
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Miami at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Washington at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Chicago at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Boston at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

College Bowl Glance

All Times EST
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Mobile Alabama Bowl
TCU (10-1) vs. Southern Mississippi (7-4), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
UNLV (7-5) vs. Arkansas (6-5), 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24
Oahu Bowl
Virginia (6-5) vs. Georgia (7-4), 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25
Aloha Bowl
Boston College (6-5) vs. Arizona State (6-5), 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m.
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
Texas Tech (7-5) vs. East Carolina (7-4), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m.
Music City Bowl
West Virginia (6-5) vs. Mississippi (7-4), 4 p.m.
Micronpc.com Bowl
Minnesota (6-5) vs. North Carolina State (7-4), 7 p.m.
Insight.com Bowl
Iowa State (8-3) vs. Pittsburgh (7-4), 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
Colorado State (9-2) vs. Louisville (9-2), 1:30 p.m.
Sun Bowl
UCLA (6-5) vs. Wisconsin (8-4), 2 p.m.
Peach Bowl
Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4), 5 p.m.
Holiday Bowl
Texas (9-2) vs. Oregon (9-2), 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
Nebraska (9-2) vs. Northwestern (8-3), 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
Fresno State (7-4) vs. Air Force (8-3), 7 p.m.
Independence Bowl
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. Mississippi State (7-4), 8 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Ohio State (8-3) vs. South Carolina (7-4), 11 a.m.
Cotton Bowl
Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11 a.m.
Gator Bowl
Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30 p.m.
Citrus Bowl
Michigan (8-3) vs. Auburn (9-3), 1 p.m.
Rose Bowl
Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m.
Fiesta Bowl
Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
Oklahoma (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m.

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Legal Notice

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF NAFTA-TAA CERTIFICATION
All Workers of Snyder Walls Industries Incorporated of Snyder, Texas who became totally or partially separated from employment due to a lack of work on or after October 25, 1999, are eligible under petition number NAFTA-04269 to apply for NAFTA-Transitional Adjustment Assistance. The petition was certified December 14, 2000, and will expire December 14, 2002. Workers should contact the nearest Texas Workforce Commission office for assistance in filing for the following services: weekly trade readjustment allowance, job placement, employment counseling, vocational training, and financial assistance for job search and job relocation.

Lost & Found

FOUND: Small female red dog, possible Pomeranian mix. Call 573-0835 after 9p.m.

Lost in Snyder: Black male Lab. Declawed on front feet. Call 573-7014 or 573-7669.

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Medical Insurance Clerk with front office skills, part-time, experience required. Call 574-1581 after 1p.m. Mon.–Fri.. Resume & references required.

MERCHANDISER- Key responsibilities of this position are to merchandise Company products in large volume stores; place and maintain point of sales materials; organize Company products in the customer's stock room; stock all sales areas and vendors; place pricing, shelf talkers, and larger signs and banners; build displays; cultivate and maintain positive relations, and maintain impeccable housekeeping standards at all selling points. Must live in the Snyder area, as the starting point will be from that area, coming to Abilene once a week for meetings. A Company vehicle will be provided. Must have good driving record. Apply at Coca-Cola, 2074 N. 1st Street, Abilene, TX 79603 between 8a.m. and noon. EEO/AAP/VET Employer. Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 22, 2000.

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads in The Snyder Daily News. Call 573-5486 now!

Employment

Nix's Cafe - Help Wanted- All positions. Apply in person only, 8a.m.–2p.m., 1510 College Ave.

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Instant messaging conditions sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Companies that compete with America Online in the growing market for instant messaging are making last-minute pitches for conditions on the company's merger with Time Warner. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is among those lobbying the government.

As the Federal Communications Commission inches toward a final decision on the $111 billion marriage of AOL and Time Warner, a deal announced almost a year ago, rivals are stepping up efforts to extract concessions they say would promote competition.

Companies, including ExciteAtHome, Microsoft and AT&T, are urging the agency to require AOL to work toward making its instant messaging service operate with their systems.

Microsoft's Gates has even made personal calls to members of the Federal Communications Commission on the subject, according to documents made public Tuesday.

The lobbyists want customers to be able to send real-time short messages to each other even while using different services. That would make instant messaging similar to how people now communicate using different e-mail providers or make a phone call over more than one telephone network.

On Tuesday, instant messaging providers met with FCC members and staff to press them to attach requirements to AOL's merger.

The FCC staff already has recommended an instant messaging condition to the five commissioners. That recommendation, however, would apply more narrowly to advanced instant messaging services offered over Time Warner's cable lines and would require AOL only to make its system work with one other provider, according to sources familiar with the review.

Rivals are pushing for a broader standard that would let customers of all other providers send messages to AOL users.

The current recommendation "falls short of the need for consumers to be able to communicate seamlessly across platforms," said Estela Mendoza of ExciteAtHome.

Gates emphasized similar points in phone calls to FCC Chairman William Kennard and two other commissioners last week, the documents made public Tuesday said.

Gates stressed that without having to satisfy conditions on the merger, AOL will be able to further strengthen its position in the market. AOL already boasts about 140 million registered users through its AIM and ICQ services.

Gates also noted that instant messaging is evolving into more than just a text service. It can support audio and video teleconferencing and could be a key feature in interactive television that allows consumers to access the Internet through their TV sets.

Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., who heads the Senate Commerce subcommittee on communications, urged the agency in a letter Tuesday to "prevent the Balkanization of this new service and all its potential."

Earlier this month, AOL Chairman Steve Case met with Kennard and various agency staff members to argue that other companies are gaining footholds quickly in the instant messaging market. He also said any attempt to intervene in how the service is delivered could stifle innovation and growth, according to company filings.

UPS copes with busiest shipping day

HODGKINS, Ill. (AP) — Not counting Santa's workshop, or maybe Macy's on Christmas Eve, it would be tough to find a busier place during the holidays than UPS's mammoth package-processing plant outside Chicago.

If the slowing economy has put a chill on holiday shopping, no such evidence was visible at the frenzied facility Tuesday on "Peak Day," the busiest shipping day of the year.

Nearly 11,000 workers scrambled against next Monday's unmissable deadline, processing more than 1.7 million packages and documents. Worldwide, United Parcel Service estimated it would ship 19 million packages Tuesday as momentum from the online shopping boom carries it and its competitors to another record-breaking holiday season.

"It's really intense. Everything is on the go, on the go," said Brandon Ashana, 20, a "jam-breaker" assigned to help prevent parcels from getting mashed as they speed through the dizzying 65-mile network of conveyor belts.

A fleet of 3,800 trucks ferried parcels in and out of the plant, while next to snowy railway tracks 200 yards away, workers loaded one of a dozen trains full of UPS goods that were due to depart by day's end.

One in every 10 of the 325 million packages that UPS anticipates delivering worldwide between Thanksgiving and Christmas will come through this little suburb, which Atlanta-based UPS chose as its main shipping point because of Chicago's transportation hub and large labor pool.

The facility — the world's biggest and busiest package distribution facility, according to UPS — is as long as three aircraft carriers and twice as wide.

The explosive growth in Internet shopping may be slowing. Commercial shipping leaders UPS and FedEx warned last week that revenues for the holiday period will not be as great as predicted because of public uneasiness with a slipping economy.

But nearly 45 million Americans are expected to do holiday shopping online this year. As a result, shippers will still finish with a banner year.

FedEx spokeswoman said the overnight delivery company shipped 6.5 million packages on Monday, its busiest day, up 5 percent from last year's holiday peak. The Postal Service estimates it will handle 191 million packages during the holidays, also a 5 percent increase from 1999.

UPS handles more than half of all online purchases, and the fate of some e-retailers may ride on whether the company delivers their Christmas orders on time.

After some Christmas Day disappointments in 1999 that resulted from bad planning by dot-coms, the shipping giant spent considerable time coaching them to improve coordination this year.

UPS also continues to upgrade the heavily computerized plant, where conveyor belts speed at up to 500 feet per minute, 80,000 sensors keep track of them, and dozens of employees man computer banks in a room that looks like Mission Control.

With six days to go and overtime pay opportunities flowing, employees were in a holiday mood Tuesday despite the din of conveyor belt rollers, clanging warning bells and motorized carts.

"It can get hectic because we have so much volume," Ashana said. "But being part of an important process and helping to make sure everybody gets their presents on time and in one piece, that makes me feel good."

Governors seek price cap for electricity

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — With an electricity market meltdown flickering on California's horizon, Western governors and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson are gathering in Denver to lobby federal regulators for a region-wide cap on wholesale energy prices.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission so far has resisted establishing a firm cap, but several governors are hoping a show of unity Wednesday will change the tide as Southern California faces potential rolling blackouts as early as next week.

"We need to hit FERC over the head about this," said Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for California Gov. Gray Davis.

California's electricity generators, marketers, utilities and regulators also planned to continue negotiating Wednesday in Washington, focusing on long-term contracts designed to avoid volatile price fluctuations.

FERC last week approved a flexible rate cap of $150 per megawatt hour that allows power suppliers to charge more if they can prove a higher price is warranted. Davis and California's major power utilities ridiculed the flexible cap as ineffective.

Davis, who said he would stay in California to address the crisis, wants a firm regional price cap of $100 per megawatt hour, a concept that appears to be winning favor among some Western states worried that California's energy woes could become contagious if a remedy isn't found soon.

Wholesale electricity prices peaked at $1,400 per megawatt hour this month in California after a $250 per megawatt hour price cap was dropped.

The California-only price cap exacerbated the state's energy shortage because suppliers stepped up their sales to other Western states willing to pay higher rates, leaving less energy for California.

Energy suppliers, who have been raking in record profits, are fiercely opposed to price caps. They warn that the restrictions could hurt California in the long run by discouraging energy suppliers from building desperately needed power plants.

"You can't hide behind a rate cap and say that's the answer to the problem because it isn't," said Bill Brier, a vice president for the Edison Energy Institute, an industry trade group.

New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson said he won't support a regional price cap because "if you just give it time, the market will correct these problems." California also has been warned that Wyoming is vehemently opposed to a cap, Maviglio said.

The imminent changing of the guard in the White House also could prove nettlesome. Davis, a Democrat, may find a less sympathetic reaction from President-elect Bush, a Republican whose Texas roots and ties to the oil industry make him a more natural ally of energy suppliers than President Clinton.

"We are going to be dead ducks if we don't get a solution before Bush takes office," said Nettie Hoge, executive director for The Utility Reform Network, a consumer watchdog group.

Richardson and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said they believe a regional price cap may be the best way to ease a crisis that has pushed California's two biggest utilities to the brink of bankruptcy.

Man suffocated by passengers on plane

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A flight attendant might have provoked an enraged Southwest Airlines passenger who was later suffocated by fellow passengers trying to control him, according to an FBI report.

Prosecutors relied partly on the report, released Tuesday, in deciding in October not to file criminal charges against the passengers who restrained 19-year-old Jonathan Burton.

The document does not include some evidence, such as autopsy photos, nor does it name other passengers on Southwest Flight 1763 from Las Vegas to Salt Lake City on Aug. 11.

In the report, witnesses said that about 15 minutes before the Dallas-based airline's plane landed, Burton began pacing the aisle and gesturing.

"(He) ran up the aisle very quickly and smashed through the door to the cockpit," one witness said. "He started to yell about someone needs to fly the plane because the pilot was not flying the plane."

Other passengers tackled Burton and walked him back to his seat. He tried to leave his seat several times but was stopped by burly passengers sitting on either side.

A flight attendant "exacerbated the situation by approaching Burton, shaking her finger in his face, and yelling at him," the report says.

The same attendant suggested Burton be moved away from the emergency exit. As he was changing seats, Burton swung his fists and kicked wildly, bloodying one man's face. One passenger said he was "like a tornado."

As many as eight men dragged Burton to the ground and stayed on top of him for several minutes until he lost consciousness.

Paramedics who met the plane found that Burton was not breathing. An autopsy showed Burton had suffocated.

Passengers speculated that Burton was on drugs, and one said that before Burton charged the cockpit, he shouted, "It's not the drugs."

The medical examiner's report found cocaine and marijuana in Burton's system but concluded drugs were not directly responsible for Burton's behavior or his death.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	34.69	33.75	33.88	—1.19
AT&T Corp	20.63	19.06	19.88	—.69
Albertsons	25.31	24.75	25.06	—.06
Alltel	60.56	58.81	59.06	—1.56
AmerOnline	39.40	37.04	37.28	—3.48
AmEl Pw	45.38	44.50	45.06	+ .38
AnderkPtr	67.30	65.55	65.95	—1.30
ATMOS Egy	23.75	23.13	23.13	—.50
Aviall	4.88	4.75	4.75	—.25
BP Amoco	46.56	46.13	46.19	—1.38
BakerHughes	41.50	39.88	40.00	—1.31
Bank of Amer	44.06	42.94	43.56	—.69
BellSouth	41.63	40.63	41.56	+ .31
Beth Steel	1.81	1.69	1.69	—.13
BurlNoSFe	26.50	26.13	26.38	+ .19
Caterpillar	42.25	41.25	41.75	—1.13
Chevron	80.13	78.69	79.06	—2.00
Citigroup s	50.00	48.63	49.00	—1.25
Coastal	82.00	81.06	81.63	+ .13
CocaCola	58.00	55.56	57.75	+ 1.00
ColgatePal	60.00	58.75	59.59	+ .57
ComclMetals	23.25	22.50	22.50	—.88
Cooperin	40.94	40.50	40.69	+ .13
DaimlrChry	41.10	40.50	41.05	—.09
DellComcn s	23.56	22.63	23.00	—.88
DeltaAirl	47.25	45.81	45.81	—1.38
Dillards Inc	10.69	10.25	10.69	
DowChem s	34.13	32.88	33.25	—.63
DuPont	45.25	44.13	44.94	—.69
EastmanChem	47.00	45.88	46.31	—1.31
EstKodak	38.13	37.31	38.00	+ .38
EDS Corp	56.25	53.81	53.94	—.06
Entergy	42.06	41.38	42.06	+ .69
ExxonMobil	87.50	85.56	86.13	—1.06
FstBksAm	17.13	17.13	17.13	
Flowers	15.56	15.25	15.31	—.13
GenDynam	75.44	73.88	74.00	—1.75
GenElec s	49.50	47.88	48.63	—1.50
GenMills	41.50	40.75	40.88	
GenMotors	50.44	49.94	50.19	—1.69
GaPacGP	27.88	26.50	27.75	
GlobalMar	28.69	27.25	27.31	—1.56
Goodrich	33.44	32.38	33.00	—.25
Goodyear s	19.00	18.39	18.61	—.39
GtAtlPac	6.69	6.44	6.50	+ .13
Halliburtn	38.94	37.69	37.69	—1.38
Hanson ADS	31.69	31.50	31.63	+ .19
HartfdHanks	22.81	22.56	22.56	—.31
HomeDepot	41.44	40.50	41.25	—1.38
Honeywellnt	49.25	46.88	47.50	—1.38
IBM	87.69	85.00	85.38	—4.75
IntlPaper	38.00	37.00	37.94	—1.56
JohnsonJn	100.81	99.38	100.50	+ 1.31
K mart	5.13	5.00	5.13	—.06
Kroger Co	26.19	25.69	25.81	—.13
Litton	62.50	61.63	62.50	—.13
LockheedM	31.85	31.21	31.84	+ .48
Lowes Cos	41.06	40.19	40.50	—.56
Lubys	3.56	3.50	3.50	—.13
LucentTech	16.25	15.56	15.94	—1.44
MayDeptStr	27.63	27.25	27.63	
Medtronic	54.88	54.00	54.31	—.94
MorganJP	165.00	162.19	163.88	—.31
Motorola s	19.31	18.75	19.19	—.25
NCR Corp	47.81	47.00	47.50	—.56
Navistar	22.31	22.00	22.31	+ .31
Penney JC	8.88	8.75	8.81	—.13
PepBoys	3.81	3.69	3.75	
PepsiCo	49.63	48.38	48.63	—.56
Pharmacia	59.50	58.00	59.44	+ 1.44
PhelpDodge	54.69	53.94	54.31	—.94
PhilipPet	53.25	52.63	53.00	—.88
PilgrmPrd B	7.63	7.63	7.63	—.06
Polaroid	6.31	5.94	6.00	—.31
Praxair	40.94	39.88	40.63	—.38
ProctGamb	74.75	72.56	74.63	+ 1.50
PubS NwMx	25.13	24.75	25.00	
RadioShack	47.88	45.88	46.50	—1.31
ReliantEngy	42.38	41.00	42.38	+ 1.06
RoyalDut	58.13	57.50	58.00	—.31
SBC Comm	46.25	45.50	45.88	—.69
SaraLee	24.25	23.81	23.81	—.50
Scripps EW	61.19	60.25	60.38	—1.00
SearsRoeb	32.00	30.25	31.76	—1.61
SherwinW	24.44	24.00	24.13	—.44
SmithKlBchm	62.50	61.38	62.44	+ .63
SouthernCo	31.69	30.81	31.69	+ .56
SwstAirl	30.88	29.00	29.15	—1.87
SprintFON	23.63	23.06	23.06	—.88
SprintPCS s	25.19	24.13	24.25	—1.00
Sunoco Inc	31.13	30.38	30.44	—.88
TXU Corp	41.69	40.50	41.63	+ .69
TempleInland	49.81	49.00	49.63	—1.38
Texaco	58.31	57.56	57.88	—1.88
Textrnd	27.00	26.31	26.75	+ .06
TexasInst s	46.63	44.63	45.19	—2.81
Textron	43.31	42.50	42.69	—1.13
TriconGlbR	35.63	34.69	35.25	—.13
TrinityInds	23.88	23.50	23.50	—.38
TritonEngy	27.00	25.50	25.69	—1.31
TylerTech	1.50	1.38	1.44	
USX-Marathn	27.00	25.94	26.25	—.44
USX-USS	16.75	15.81	15.81	—.94
UnCarbde	49.25	47.25	47.75	—.88
UnionPacif	48.56	47.00	47.69	—1.69
UnitedTech	74.50	72.75	73.50	—1.25
Unocal	37.44	36.63	36.69	—.75
Venator Grp	13.06	12.75	13.06	—.13
VerizonComm	51.44	50.13	50.31	—1.58
WalMart	48.56	46.94	48.50	+ .56
WellsFargo	52.63	51.44	52.25	—.56
WstnGasRs	28.38	27.88	28.00	—.31
WinnDixie	18.63	17.94	18.44	+ .44
Xerox Cp	6.38	6.25	6.25	—.38

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Houses For Rent

3-2 Brick, lg. fenced back yard, CH/A, new refrigerator/stove, washer/dryer connection. 2210 30th. $350/mo., $200/dep. 915-837-0146

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4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, CH/A. 2406 Ave. L. $350/month. 573-2219

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2400 Beaumont, $300/month w/references & deposit. 573-9812.

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3789 Highland.....3-2.....$400
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2204 43rd.....2-2.....$350
3212 42nd.....4-2.....$475
3902 Eastridge.....3-1-2.....$400
Sarah Jamison 573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505

Mobile Homes For Rent

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IRA BULLDOG CORNER STORE HWY. 350
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Starter Home 2-1-1 707 27th.....$20T
3-1-1+Apartment 3300 Cherry.....$50T
1.84 A's-Close In 3-2-2 @ Reduced Price! $42T
Wonderful Game Rm+4-1¾-4 2208 45th $65T
Good Size Home 2805 Ave. V 3-1¾+1cp $46.5T
Lrg. 2505 Sq. Ft. 4-1¾+2 2800 35th St
Price Lowered Country Dream Home 4-1¾+2 Wonderful Storage, 20 A's, Pool, Outbuildings....$175T
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3774 Dalton Drive Lg. Home 3-1¾+1cp $37.5T
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*890 acres, Westbrook, TX. 505 acres of cultivation, balance in good pastures w/pens and tanks. Excellent hunting. $330/per acre.

*40 acres, Capitola area in Fisher County. 8 years remaining of CRP. Intersection of FM 419, FM 611 & CR 424. $425/per acre.
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Drought losses in Texas spark ruling of state disaster

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman declared Texas a disaster area Tuesday, making emergency farm loans available to growers who suffered losses from drought and other problems this year.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs called the announcement a nice Christmas present for hard-hit producers.

"Texas has been really hammered, year after year," Combs said. "And this year sort of topped it off... It's a rare thing to have this state be that beaten up."

But some growers questioned whether the declaration can do much for the state's devastated farmers.

Rick Clem, a New Home cotton farmer, said Glickman's action was good, but it's far from enough to keep struggling cotton farmers afloat without better conditions and a higher price for cotton.

"If there's nobody here to farm it, what good is it," Clem said. "We've got all the loans we need and we can't pay back the ones we already have. You don't understand how bad this thing is."

Lorenzo cotton farmer Tommy Fondren echoed Clem.

"We need a way to make some money," he said. "It's not working. The scary part of it is that there is no way the lenders are going to be able to loan this money for the 2001 crop."

"The excessive heat and drought made a devastating year for farmers in Texas and all over the South," Glickman said in a statement. "USDA is working to help farmers in Texas and other states during these difficult times."

Several contiguous counties in nearby states also are eligible for the assistance.

This year's drought was the third in four years and is believed to have wrought $1.1 billion damage on the state's economy, with West Texas cotton being hit especially hard. Only 54 percent of the Texas summer cotton crop and 48 percent of the summer peanut crop survived, the Texas Agriculture Department reported.

Zane Reese, a cotton and peanut farmer in Lubbock County, said West Texas farmers need the help.

"Sounds good to me," he said Tuesday. "I'm glad he acknowledged what we already knew. It will help everybody we owe. We've had two pretty bad years in a row. Everything has just stacked up against us."

Some areas of the state received as much as 15 inches of precipitation at the beginning of November, but by that time the state's reservoirs had dipped to 66 percent of full capacity — the lowest recorded reading in 23 years and the fifth-lowest of all time.

The disaster declaration makes family-sized farm operators in Texas and the contiguous counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans. Such operators have eight months to apply for the loans.

Also eligible for assistance are growers from Curry, Eddy, Otero, Roosevelt, Dona Ana, Lea and Quay counties in New Mexico and Beauregard, Calcasieu, Sabine and Vernon parishes in Louisiana.

While the loans will help, they won't be a cureall though, said Shawn Wade, spokesman for the Plains Cotton Growers.

"What this does is it just authorizes the producers in this area that qualify to get low-interest service loans," he said.

E-tailors try to extend holiday season

NEW YORK (AP) —Desperate to extend a holiday season that peaked too early, online retailers are trying to entice shoppers with big-time promotions and incentives like speedy air shipping freight for the price of standard ground shipping.

Web sites from Kmart Corp.'s Bluelight.com to Orvis.com have started offering free shipping upgrades to Express and Priority delivery for the cost of standard ground shipping if consumers order by Thursday — and they're promising delivery before Christmas.

Others, such as Eddiebauer.com, offer free delivery on orders of $100 or more.

To drive toy sales, which have been generally ho-hum this season, American Online teamed up with its merchants eToys Inc., Toysrus.com, Walmart.com, and Target.com to offer a hefty 75 percent off of selected toys, from scooters to video games. The unplanned four-day promotion ended Tuesday.

"Online companies are making a concerted effort to generate traffic this week," said Cameron Meierhoefer, an Internet analyst at PC Data, a research firm. "A lot of e-tailers thought their slice of the pie was going to be much more, and now they feel it is worth their while to offer all these incentives."

Many online retailers were pushing consumers to buy earlier this year, with e-mail campaigns and banner advertising, and weren't "ready to give away the store" Meierhoefer said.

However, holiday sales have fallen short of many Internet retailers' lofty expectations. Many companies thought sales would peak the week ending Dec. 17, not the week ending the 10th.

Anthony Noto, an Internet analyst at Goldman Sachs, said in a joint report with PC Data on Monday that online holiday revenues already were falling off by Dec. 12, and that they were likely to finish at the low end of the company's forecast of $8 billion to $10 billion. Noto had estimated last season's spending at a conservative $5 billion.

Ken Cassar, a senior analyst at Jupiter Research, estimated that online holiday sales will just about match his $11.5 billion forecast, compared to last year's revenue estimate of $7 billion.

The same economic factors that have hurt brick-and-mortar retailers — stock market volatility and an overall economic slowdown— have taken the froth out of Internet sales, analysts said. The string of well-publicized e-commerce failures may have also scared some consumers away from the Web — or caused them to click on earlier to ensure that their packages would arrive on time.

Eddiebauer.com, whose holiday sales weren't as strong as expected, has been able to keep consumers on the Web this week with their free delivery offer, which started Dec. 16.

"We wanted to attract more customers," said Susan Knight, vice president of customer care for Eddiebauer.com.

She added, "Our business is strong, but it's not as strong as expected."

Trail monument plan would span interstate with an arch

FORT WORTH (AP) — Along a cattle route that once fed into the Chisholm Trail, a Nebraska developer hopes that Interstate 35 near Hillsboro will someday be spanned with an $80 million monument to Texas livestock drives.

Featuring a 485-foot-long set of horns across the interstate, the Great Texas Trails monument would also feature a museum, interactive displays and a souvenir shop.

"It's a walk back into time," Greg Smith, a member of the group and the Omaha, Neb., developer, said. "It allows visitors the opportunity to revisit the Texas trails."

The group, which helped build another monument to cattle drives that opened in June in Kearney, Neb., made a presentation Tuesday night to the Hillsboro City Council.

A 485-foot- long set of horns within the monument would — at their tips — tower 15 stories above the freeway.

"Our hope is if someone starts a trip in San Antonio and they're going to Dallas, or San Antonio to Oklahoma, it could turn that one-day trip into a five-day trip," said Autumn Dipert, chief operating officer of Dipert Travel and Transportation of Arlington, Texas.

Group members have been meeting with officials of the Development Corp. of Hillsboro.

Monument visitors would be able to create their own cattle brand at a computer kiosk and get an escalator ride across the enclosed bridge along with a film trip through Texas history, from images of cattle drives to the fight for state independence.

The development group is trying to sell Hillsboro's economic development corporation on financing the project, which would be completed by 2004, through sale of bonds.

Group members want the council to authorize a feasibility study, which the economic development corporation needs before it can sell industrial revenue bonds for construction of the project, scheduled for completion by 2004 in the city about 45 minutes south of Fort Worth.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2000

There's a good chance that a great opportunity could come through a member of the opposite gender in the year ahead. That's fine and good, but do not mix romance with business.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) In order to appear poised in the eyes of your peers today, you must maintain control over your emotions. If you display a temperamental attitude, it'll only irritate your companions. Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper. P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Plan on being taken advantage of if you allow your feelings to rule your logic today. Treat others kindly, but be pragmatic when it comes to your financial affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Try to guide those you love today if you truly believe your intentions are in their best interests, but do not attempt to badger or push them. They'll rebel, not comply.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Today it might be difficult for you to keep your jealousy under control. If you see someone else receiving more attention than you, your nose could get bent out of shape. Be careful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Unfortunately, you're quite vulnerable to spending far beyond your means today. When involved in activities with your friends, don't get enticed into forking out more than you should.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Should pressure be put on you today to do something for which others are partially responsible, speak up and make sure all share in the obligation. Don't be a whipping board.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A romantic adventure could start off innocently enough today but get quite complicated unless you take measures to keep things under control. Know what you're getting into.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Possessiveness in never a healthy behavior, no matter how much you want to keep someone close to the breast. Be careful today not to monopolize a friendship in ways that could be stressful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If there is any lack of compromise today between you and your mate, it could cause you to pull apart instead of come together. Both could end up being losers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Rather than complicate distasteful tasks, try to shelve them for the time being. Unfortunately, if your heart isn't in your work today, you're likely to do a poor job.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Coming on too strong with members of the opposite gender will not accomplish your purpose. If you want to score more points, play it gentle and humble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A failure to deliver what you promised today could leave a lasting scar on those who are let down. This is especially true when dealing with family members who can cause discomfort in the home.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Sister-in-law's high life makes husband feel low

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law "Charlotte's" lifestyle is extravagant. She has an annual income of $500,000, plus "perks." She is in her 40s, divorced for 10 years, and lives in a Park Avenue condo with her live-in boyfriend. Everything Charlotte does is "first class" — restaurants, vacations, clothing, entertainment, etc.

I earn $50,000 a year. My wife and I have a nice home with a pool. She drives a top-of-the-line car, has plenty of nice clothes, and we enjoy sailing on our small boat. I have never denied her anything.

Several times last year, my wife visited Charlotte in New York. While visiting, my wife charged things we can't afford. I suspect she's trying to keep up with Charlotte's lifestyle, which is impossible. When I point out to her that we can't afford all the expensive things she purchases, she becomes cool and annoyed with me.

Trying to keep up with her sister's lifestyle is causing a rift in our once happy marriage. We are moving apart, and I don't know what to do. I love my wife, and it hurts. — **HURT HUSBAND IN FLORIDA**

DEAR HURT: If your wife's visits to her sister make her feel deprived to the point where she routinely busts the budget, you are overdue for a frank talk about it. Tell her how hurt you feel — and give her this message from me: If you don't appreciate what you've got, you'll lose it. Perhaps it will wake her up to reality.

**

DEAR ABBY: Please remind your readers it is extremely important that whenever a patient has a laboratory test, the physician or his or her office communicate the results directly to the patient — regardless of whether the test is positive or negative. It is possible for the lab test to come back with a significant life-threatening or health-threatening finding for the patient and be accidentally misplaced or filed in a chart without the physician seeing it and the patient never learning anything until it's too late.

As recently as last week, I had a patient tell me that her family doctor told her, "No news is good news." This is absolutely the dumbest advice that can ever be given. Almost all physicians know of individuals who have died from cancer because the findings had not been communicated to the patient years earlier (at a preventative stage), or diabetic findings or dangerously high cholesterol, etc., had never been communicated to patients.

Please, Abby, urge all individuals who have lab tests to expect a call within a week or two. If they hear nothing, they MUST call the doctor's office to inquire about the results. This could save one's life. — **HAROLD J. GOLDFARB, M.D., ALLENTOWN, PA.**

DEAR DR. GOLDFARB: This subject has been addressed in my column before, and I'm sorry it is still an ongoing problem.

Readers, "No news" ISN'T good news. No news is simply that — no news. Always make a point of obtaining medical test results if you don't receive them from your physician. That precaution could save your life.

**

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to your "Confidential" to "Wants to Get Rich Quick in Nevada." I agree that "the quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket"; however, may I also suggest that Ireland is a good place to invest it? I have it on reliable authority that the capital there is always Dublin! — **RAY PLOETZ, MAPLE GROVE, MINN.**

DEAR RAY: You may suggest it, but I suspect your "reliable authority" is full of Blarney.

**

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

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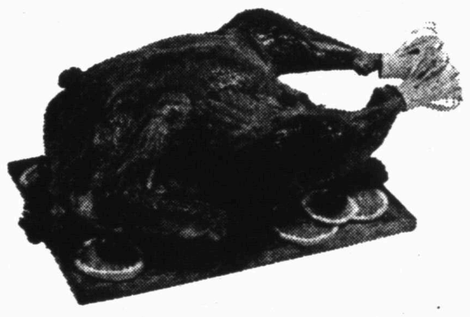
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Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

It's a Great Time to Have Your Soil Tested

If your garden performed below expectations last year, or maybe things just didn't grow quite right, a few dollars invested in a soil test may be just the solution. A properly prepared and fertilized garden soil is the real key to successful gardening in most areas of Texas. You can't look at the soil, taste it, smell it, or feel it to tell whether your soil is low in nitrogen, high in phosphates, or maybe just right. One sure way to overcome the mystery, and avoid confusion when it comes time to purchase fertilizer, is to have your garden soil tested.

Why is it important to know how much phosphorus or nitrogen is in the soil, or what the pH of the soil is? The answer is simple. Vegetables don't do well in improperly fertilized soil, whether it is too fertile or not fertile enough.

The soil test report will tell you the level of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium available to your garden plants. It will also indicate the pH (acidity or alkalinity) of your garden soil. For the most part, this is all you need to know to properly fertilize your garden soil, and ensure a bountiful harvest.

To take a soil sample, make a hole about a foot deep in the garden with a spade or sharpshooter. Throw out the first spadeful of soil. Then, from the back of the hole, cut a slice of the soil ½ inch to 1 inch thick. Be sure the slice is at least 6 to 7 inches in depth, with fairly even width and thickness. Then place the soil slice in a bucket or tub. Repeat this procedure 4 to 6 times in different spots in the garden, depending primarily on the size of the garden. Thoroughly mix the composite of the soil, and mail it to the Soils Testing Laboratory at A&M University. Soil testing is a service provided by the university; soil test kits, with instructions, can be obtained from the Scurry County Extension Office at 2600 Avenue M.

If a soil sample is taken in late winter or very early spring, you should expect to get your results back within 2 to 3 weeks. If you wait until spring, then it may take considerably longer to get your results back. An adequate soil test, properly done and properly interpreted, will go a long way toward ensuring a bountiful harvest from this spring's garden.

Woman's son buried in Mexico

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The body of Tillie Blount's son is just across the Texas-Mexico border, buried in an unmarked grave, but it might as well be on the other side of the world.

To return James Abell's body from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico for a Texas burial will cost Blount about $2,000 in what has become her holiday quest. She wants an autopsy for her eldest son, who was beaten to death in a Mexican jail.

"I'm not satisfied with the information I've been given," she told the San Antonio Express-News in Wednesday's editions. "I want him here complete. I don't want to do away with any evidence of any kind."

Blount is spending the holiday season trying to scrape together the rest of the money needed to return her son's body across the border at Laredo. The retired sales clerk has received donations from car dealer Red McCombs and some neighborhood churches, but she's still $1,400 short.

According to Mexican reports, Abell was arrested in Nuevo Laredo in September for possession of 600 tranquilizer pills.

Mexican authorities said he was behaving erratically and was beaten by five prisoners and a guard.

Many programs are available for rural Texans, USDA says

USDA Rural Development has numerous programs that help rural residents to be able to buy or build a home, repair and improve their existing home, go into business for themselves, live in a decent and affordable apartment, drink clean water and have a dependable sewer system, or have updated community facilities — such as fire trucks, hospitals, or community centers.

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) offers loans and grants to very low, low and moderate-income persons in towns and cities meeting certain population requirements. There are several programs offered under RHS with varying requirements to aid qualified persons to buy a home, repair their home, or build/maintain multi-family housing units.

RHS also administers the Community Facilities program that provide loans and grants to governmental entities (such as towns, cities, counties, hospital, schools, or fire districts, etc.), Nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes to construct and improve facilities providing essential community services, and for the purchase of major equipment (such as X-ray machines, fire trucks, etc.) which will provide an essential service to rural residents.

Some examples of eligible types of community facilities are:

- Health care services such as hospitals, out-patient clinics, rehab centers, group homes, visiting nurse and home health care providers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.
- Community, social or cultural services such as schools, libraries, community centers, social services, buildings, museums, theaters, day care facilities, etc.
- Fire, rescue and public safety services such as fire stations, fire trucks, rescue vehicle, equipment, etc.
- Transportation facilities such as streets, buses, airports and hangars, railway spurs, etc.
- Industrial park sites (only land acquisition and site preparation).

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) offers aid for several different programs relating to business programs. Population limits for RBS assistance range from very small towns to cities up to 50,000. The majority of RBS loans are guaranteed loans that are made in conjunction with a private lender; however, there are other programs, which offer direct loans and even some grant funds.

A community's needs for safe and sanitary water and sewage treatment may be met by the Rural Utility Service (RUS) which offers aid to rural communities of less than 10,000 in population. Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms are eligible for assistance. There is also a program for aid in emergency situations where a rural community has had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to the occurrence of a natural disaster.

Rural Development has a very diverse mission area for the purpose of helping improve the quality of life of rural Texans.

For more information regarding these programs, please contact the Rural Development office at 4400 Buffalo Gap Road Suite 4150Abilene, or call 915-690-6162, extension 4. Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 905 head of cattle for the Saturday, Dec.16, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers mostly steady. Slaughter cows were steady to $1 higher and bulls were steady. Bred cows and pairs were steady. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 129-131
300-400: 115-122
400-500: 108.50-113
500-600: 90-97.50
600-700: 87-88.50
Feeder heifers:
299-300: 112-113
300-400: 105-111
400-500: 88-95
500-600: 82.50-87
600-700: 79.25-83
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 590-630
Aged cows: 440-585
Pairs: 675-780
Aged pairs: 550-660
Slaughter cows: Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 35-39.50
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 38-41.50
Bone High Yielding: 1100-1350 Lbs. 42-44
Lean: 900-1200Lbs. 34-36.50
Under 750 lbs.: 32-36.50
Slaughter bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2100 Lbs. 44.50-50
Low Dressing: 1,000-1,130 lbs. 42.50-46.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 419 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 14, sale. Cows were $1 to $2 cheaper. Yearlings and calves were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 36-42.50
Canner and low cutters: 28-35
Slaughter bulls: 46-55
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-125
400-500: 100-120
500-600: 90-100
600-700: 85-92
700-800: 80-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 95-110
400-500: 85-100
500-600: 80-91
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 75-80
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-95
700-800: 75-80
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-830
Grade: 500-625
Springers: 350-680
Baby calves: 125-175
Doodlers: 175-275

SANTA INC. by Dave Whamond

As big-vehicle sales soar, gas milage reaches 20-year low

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's love affair with gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles and pickups is keeping national fuel economy at a 20-year low, the government says.

With automakers focusing on the bigger, more powerful vehicles, the Environmental Protection Agency found that average gasoline mileage for 2000 model year passenger vehicles was 24 miles per gallon, the same as last year and the lowest since 1980. The figure had climbed to 25.9 mpg in 1987 and 1988.

The drop in fuel economy corresponds to a surge in sales of "light trucks," which include vans, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. Those now account for 46 percent of all U.S. passenger vehicle sales.

Light trucks tend to weigh more than cars and get fewer miles to the gallon. The average 2000 car gets 28.1 mpg, while light trucks get 20.5 mpg.

"Consumers want cars that have certain performance features," said Gloria Bergquist, spokeswoman of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers that lobbies on behalf of 13 automakers. "We sell cars that get 40 miles per gallon, but fewer than 2 percent of consumers buy them."

But Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming program, said Tuesday that automakers spend much of their huge advertising budgets pushing lower-mileage SUVs because they are so profitable.

"They have found that the American public will buy a large pile of steel with plush seats and cup holders, despite the fact that they will guzzle gas, pollute the air and roll over and kill people," he said.

Better gas mileage would reduce oil consumption, lower fuel costs and lower carbon dioxide emissions, he said. Passenger vehicles discharge about 20 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.

The federal government's Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, adopted in 1975 to boost fuel economy, require each automaker to reach a 27.5 mpg average fuel economy on new passenger cars and 20.7 mpg for light trucks. The automakers do not have reach the standard for each vehicle, but their entire fleet must meet the average.

Critics say the standards are too low, but since 1996 the auto industry has successfully lobbied Congress to block the Clinton administration from even studying a possible increase.

The EPA report, published last week, said new technologies are on the market that could increase fuel economy, but automakers instead have focused on building heavier vehicles and increasing acceleration. Vehicles that are heavier or have higher horsepower need more gas to operate, making it difficult to lower fuel economy even when new technologies emerge.

The average fuel economy for 1981 vehicles was 24.1 mpg — slightly higher than model year 2000. But if the 2000 fleet had the same average weight and performance as in 1981 with today's technologies, it could have achieved 25 percent higher fuel economy, according to the report. That would have saved more than 10 billion gallons of gasoline per year, according to EPA officials.

The weight of cars and light trucks increased 10 percent and 16 percent, respectively, since 1981. Today's cars can go from 0 to 60 miles per hour in 10.3 seconds, on average, down from 14.4 seconds in 1981. Average 0-to-60 acceleration for light trucks has moved from 14.6 seconds to 11.0 seconds.

Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and DaimlerChrysler AG have been working with the federal government since 1993 to develop higher-mileage vehicles in a program called the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles.

Under that program, the Clinton-Gore administration challenged automakers to develop by 2004 production prototypes of a family size sedan that would get at least 80 miles per gallon. All three automakers have produced concept cars that at least come close to reaching the goal and are using the technology to develop production vehicles with better gas mileage.

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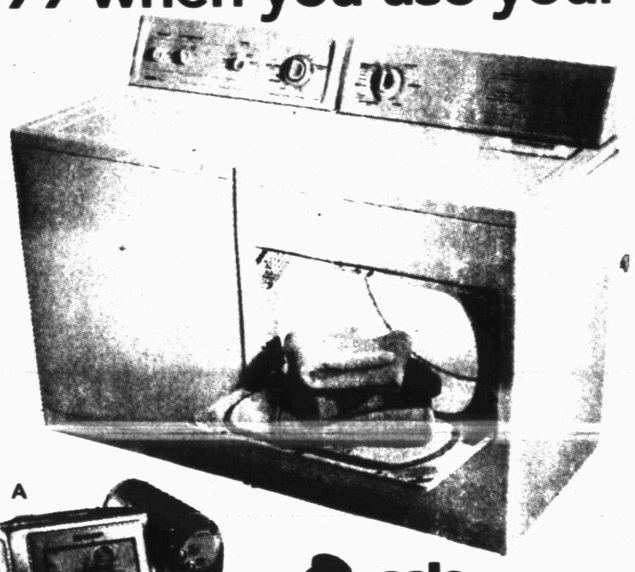

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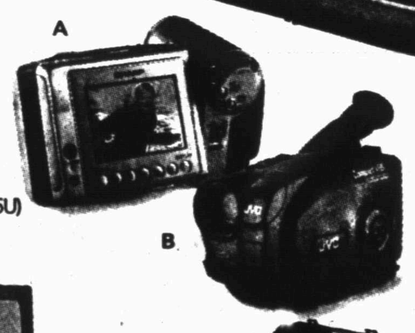

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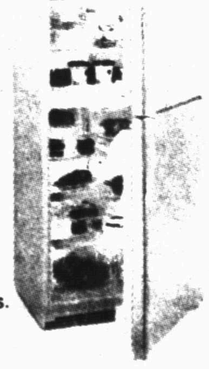

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Winter snowstorm strikes Northeast

By The Associated Press

A winter snowstorm moved into the Appalachians and Northeast on Wednesday, a day after socking the South and causing wrecks and school closings.

The storm hit states as far south as Alabama and Georgia, and frigid temperatures and bone-chilling winds kept the snow from melting. In Atlanta, the wind chill early Wednesday was minus 5 degrees.

Hundreds of wrecks were reported as motorists tried to cope with the slick roads left behind the storm. Farther north, as much as 6 inches of snow was forecast for Pennsylvania, New York and other parts of the Northeast.

Citrus growers in northern and central Florida were warned of freezing temperatures, and freeze warnings were posted for coastal Mississippi, with overnight temperatures expected to hit the teens and low 20s.

The temperature in Birmingham, Ala., at midnight stood at 16 and homeless shelters filled. At many, people slept on mats on the floor.

"It's not as nice as a bed, but it certainly beats the cold weather outside," said Tony Cooper, executive director of the Jimmie Hale Mission.

The northern Plains also prepared for more flurries and powerful wind that was expected to cause drifting snow and diminished visibility.

North Carolina transportation crews stayed busy Tuesday afternoon and evening, applying salt and sand to prevent overnight ice buildup on wet roads and bridges.

"If you don't clear a road before dark, chances are good it will crust back over, making it a lot harder to deal with," said Mike Pettyjohn, who oversees eight northwestern counties. "We don't want any roads freezing up if we can help it."

The Carolinas got as much as five inches of snow, but for some people that wasn't enough.

"It seems like every time they say it's going to snow down here, it doesn't," said Jeff Molinari, a University of South Carolina graduate student who wanted weather more like at his Syracuse, N.Y., home.

Clinton prepared to intervene in Israeli & Palestinian talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel seemed poised to offer concessions to the Palestinians in Washington peace talks as President Clinton prepared to intervene in what could be the last chance for a settlement before he leaves office.

The two delegations were calling at the White House, along with U.S. mediators, in what White House spokesman P.J. Crowley described as a stock-taking session.

Clinton is reviewing with the two sides the discussions they have had at Bolling Air Force Base in southest Washington and "see where we all go from there," Crowley said.

Egypt's foreign minister Amr Moussa said Wednesday in Cairo the negotiations could produce an agreement if both parties have the political will.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held separate talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and an Israeli envoy, former Cabinet minister Yossi Sarid, in the Egyptian capital.

Arafat said he had briefed Mubarak on the Washington talks and had listened to his advice. He did not elaborate and left promptly to return to Gaza.

Sarid told reporters the Washington negotiators would focus on three main issues: the future of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in east Jerusalem, the Palestinian refugees and the borders of a future Palestinian state.

Here, Israel's foreign minister Shlomo Ben-Ami brushed aside the issue of Israel making concessions to gain an accord that has stirred concern among the Israeli public, especially if it will weaken Israel's control over Jerusalem.

"It's not a question of concessions, it's a matter of making peace," Israeli Foreign Minister said as he arrived late Tuesday to join the talks in Washington.

U.S. mediators Dennis B. Ross and Aaron D. Miller met separately Tuesday with the Israeli and Palestinian delegations at Bolling Air Force Base to set the stage for the negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, proposed Palestinian statehood in July.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 19 – Thomas Franks, Eva Hester of Colorado City, Miguel Moreno, Iva Black, Kelsey Davis, Mozelle James, Armando Martinez and James Merrell.

DISMISSALS: Donna Blair-transfer to Lubbock, Juanita Ford, Danyell Hester, Amber Tatum and Emanuel Cabrera.

CENSUS: 43 (Med./Surg.-20, Long-term Care-22 and ICU-1)

Juveniles escorted to school Tuesday

• ***Escort***

At 9:32 p.m. Tuesday, an officer contacted two male juveniles in the 2900 block of 33rd Street and transported them to Snyder High School where they were released to the assistant principal.

• ***Arrests***

A 26-year-old man was taken into custody at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the 1000 block of 29th Street for disorderly conduct.

At 8:50 p.m. Tuesday, a 17-year-old man was booked into jail for failing to take the proper steps upon striking an unattended vehicle.

A misdemeanor charge of driving while intoxicated landed a 37-year-old woman in jail at 11:52 p.m. Tuesday.

Police arrested a 34-year-old man at 1:04 a.m. today in the 3000 block of Avenue N for evading arrest.

• ***Accident***

Officers investigated an accident at 2:40 p.m. Tuesday at the traffic circle. Involved were a 1999 Dodge Ram pickup towing a 1979 flatbed trailer and a 1987 Oldsmobile Firenza.

James Charles Norris, 75, of Holliday was the driver of the Dodge, and Leslie Yvonne Fletcher, 28, of 3717 Avenue U was the driver of the Oldsmobile.

Obituaries

Elizabeth Beard

1909-2000

Funeral service for Nell Elizabeth Beard, longtime Snyder resident, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Craig Curry, pastor, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Elizabeth Beard

Mrs. Beard, 91, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Born Dec. 8, 1909 in Bowie, she married Haskell O. Beard on Aug. 31, 1935 in Bowie. Mr. Beard, a retired school teacher, died July 3, 1987.

Mrs. Beard, a 1933 graduate of Texas Tech University, taught first grade in the Electra Independent School District.

Mrs. Beard moved to Snyder from Sulphur Springs in 1941. She was a homemaker and a substitute teacher for the Snyder ISD. A member of the First United Methodist Church, she was a longtime Sunday School teacher, and at the time of her death was a member of the Hayley Sunday School Class.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby and Diane Beard of Snyder, Billy and Alice Beard of Abilene and Jerry and Frances Beard of Levelland; a sister-in-law, Brunette Jenkins of San Antonio; five grandchildren, Dale, David, Doug, Chris and Melissa Beard; and five great-grandchildren.

Personal Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Mary Villa

1946-2000

Mary A. Villa, 54, died Saturday, Dec. 16, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Villa, a homemaker, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Tommy Davis of Sound of Jubilee will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mary Villa

Born Feb. 18, 1946 in Pleasanton, she married Juan E. Villa on Oct. 24, 1969 in Post.

Survivors include her husband, Juan Villa of Snyder; a son, Joe Daniel Villa of Snyder; a daughter, Janice Villa of Snyder; three brothers, Paul Anguiano of Grand Rapids, Mich., Manuel Anguiano of Wimberly and Greg Anguiano of Bishop, Tex.; and a sister, Juanita Gutierrez of San Antonio.

Pallbearers will be Teyo Maldonado, Jose Hernandez, Jesse Gutierrez, Jr. Gutierrez, Isabel Gutierrez and Francisco Sanchez.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Mauryse Blacklock

1912-2000

MUNDAY – Mauryse G. Blacklock, a former resident of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, at her home in Munday.

Funeral service for Mrs. Blacklock, 88, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Munday Church of Christ. Jeff Christian and Charles Baker will officiate. Burial will follow in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

Born in Munday, she attended Baylor University and graduated from Oklahoma College for Women. A teacher at Central Elementary in Snyder for seven years in the 1960s, she also taught in Lewisville for two years before teaching in Munday for 24 years.

Mrs. Blacklock, a member of the Munday Church of Christ, was Munday's citizen of the year in 1980. She also was a member of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include two daughters, Bettye Moore and Sandra West, both of Munday; a stepson, Tony Scott of Snyder; a stepdaughter, Tina Armstrong of Lubbock; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Jerry Beavers

1922-2000

LUBBOCK – Jerry Beavers, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Dec. 18, in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

A memorial service for Mr. Beavers, 78, will be held at a later date.

Born April 4, 1922 near Camp Springs, Mr. Beavers was a graduate of Hobbs High School. He earned a degree in agriculture from Texas Tech University in 1947. He married Bobbye Clark in November, 1946.

Mr. Beavers was retired and a member of Trinity Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbye Beavers of Lubbock; a son, Jerry Beavers Jr. of Lubbock; a daughter, Penny Harmonson of Austin; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Gene Gunn

1915-2000

BROWNFIELD — Service for Gene Gunn, 85, of Brownfield will be at 2 p.m. Friday in the Brownfield Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Bob Reynolds will officiate. Burial will follow in the Terry County Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Gunn died Friday, Dec. 15 in Brownfield.

Born Dec. 1, 1915, he married Mildred Clifton on June 6, 1933 in Franklin, Ky.

Reared in Nashville, Ky., he attended school there and moved to Brownfield in 1941. He owned a variety of businesses ranging from bicycles to tire recapping, appliances and accessories and he retired from Gene Gunn Oil Co. in 1980. Mr. Gunn served on the Brownfield school board, was a member of the Brownfield Chamber of Commerce and the Brownfield Church of Christ. His sons are DPS troopers having worked in the West Texas area.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Michael D. Gunn in 1996.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred Gunn of Midland; three sons, Max Gunn of Childress, Charles Gunn of Midland, and Gary Gunn of Houston; one daughter, Ginger Vertz of Boston, Miss.; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Michael D. Gunn Scholarship Fund in care of The Opportunity Plan Inc.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Retirement reception

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

Senior citizen swimnastics

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

FBC worship service

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

Christmas Party

Snyder Healthcare Center will host the annual Christmas party at 7 p.m. Friday. Families are asked to bring a gift for residents and also cookies. Santa will also attend.

Knapp Baptist change

Knapp Baptist Church will have its regular church service at 10 a.m. this Sunday, rather than 11 a.m. Call pastor Leroy Ochoa at 573-6009 for more information.

Christmas Eve candlelight service

The Colonial Hill Baptist Church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church, located at 37th St. and El Paso.

First Christian Church services.

The First Christian Church will hold its annual Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church, located at 2701 37th St.

The Christmas Story

Northside Missionary Baptist Church, 1909 16th St., will present "The Christmas Story" cantata at 11 a.m. Christmas Eve. The 45-minute program will also be signed for the hearing-impaired. For transportation, call 573-7105.

Candlelight service

First Presbyterian Church, 2712 Ave. R, will hold its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Community candlelight service

A Community celebration of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion will be held at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve at First United Methodist Church, 2700 College Ave.

Retirement honor

A retirement reception will be held from 10 until 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29, in the District Courtroom for John Cline who is retiring after 36 years as the court reporter.

Turkey shoot

The Snyder FFA Booster Club members will have a Turkey Shoot on Sunday, Dec. 31, from noon until dark at the Canyon Gun Club Range. R.S.V.P. by calling Skip Craig at 573-7750 or 725-7027; or Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

Raw peanuts for sale

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

Retirement reception

A come-and-go retirement reception in honor of Bob Martin, Windham School District deputy superintendent for Region 5, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at the region office located on the south side of the Price Daniel unit.

Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

Glory Room open

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 5. Testing in the extended application process is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 11, 9 a.m. Jan. 17 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-851[illegible], ext. 313.

Adult basic education classes

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

Windbreak trees

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

Sopranos may be getting new neighbors

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Tony and Carmela Soprano could be getting new neighbors.

Former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Joe Piscopo is shopping "Bloomfield Avenue," a miniseries to be set — and shot — on the road of the same name that runs from Newark to Bloomfield, Piscopo's hometown.