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WT-Int. Crude - $32.03
WTIC Posted - $29.00
Natural Gas - $6.580

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Dec. 2-3, 2000
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40 Pages 50¢

Home of Lois Leech



SATURDAY MORNING FIRE — Flames completely engulf a house in the 2400 block of Avenue L in which a two-year-old girl is feared to have lost her life. The search for the child's body was awaiting the arrival of investigators from the state fire marshal's office. (SDN Staff Photo by Wade Warren)

Fire may have tragic results

Snyder firemen and EMS crews responded to a house fire shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday in which a two-year old girl is feared to have lost her life.

"From all indications, a child died in the fire," said Perry Westmoreland, Snyder's fire chief.

Large quantities of smoke spread over Snyder from the 24th and Avenue L location from a brisk northeast wind that hampered firemen's efforts in extinguishing the blaze of the frame house.

Westmoreland said a representative of the state fire marshal's office was to be at the scene shortly after noon Saturday to help in the investigation, and they had requested the interior remains of the structure not be disturbed until their investigation was underway.

Firemen donned life support units as they searched for the child in zero visibility due to the heavy smoke and flames, but it was not located. There were reports that at least six people lived in the house, including the child's mother and grandmother.

Scouts to celebrate birthday

Snyder Boy Scout Troop 27 will celebrate its 50th anniversary of continuous sponsorship by the First United Methodist Church from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the church. **(Additional stories on pages 1B, 3B)**

A semi-formal program, about 30 minutes in length, will kick off the event. Then refreshments and fellowship will follow in Wesley Hall. Boy Scout and Troop 27 memorabilia will also be on display.

Troop 27 is a member of the Lone Buffalo District in the Buffalo Trail Council, which is headquartered in Midland. Glenn Burns is the scoutmaster. Assistant scoutmasters are Max Snider, Mike Tyrrell, James Garvin and Robin Smauley. Justin Stokes is the senior patrol leader. Joe Hefner is the committee chairman.

Boy Scouts include Zane and Zach Block, Dalton Cole, Danny Courtney, Nathan Wittie, Andy Garvin, Jacob Hinson, Jarrod Fletcher, G.J. Burns, Brock Tyrrell, Matthew Stokes, Chris Smauley, Thomas Hefner, Joseph Hefner and Barrett Munson. Weekly meetings are conducted Tuesday evenings in the First United Methodist Church's Smith Building (formerly the Lone Star Gas building.)

Troop 27 is involved in several community activities throughout the year. Members carry the flags in the Fourth of July Parade. They work with the Snyder Garden Club to provide birdhouses for Deep Creek. They also set flags outdoors for Veterans Day.

Troop 27 conducts the opening flag ceremony for Snyder ISD's convocation held at the beginning of each school year, as well as for other organizations. They are also learning how to conduct the ceremony for retiring flags.

During the past four years that Burns has served as scoutmaster, Troop 27 has participated in many scouting events.

They attended a three-day Mountain Man Renaissance in Raton, N.M. where they had the opportunity to fire black powder weapons, practice throwing hatchets and learn how mountain men lived.

They also attended a weeklong camping trip at the BTSR Ranch in the Davis Mountains. Burns said they have also attended several scouting jamborees in the area where different Boy Scout troops compete against each other.

This past spring Troop 27 members spent two nights aboard the USS Lexington, a historical site. In addition to learning a lot of history they also received an award from the Boy Scout Council for spending the night on the ship because it is an historical site.

Troop 27 members took part in the flag ceremony, which included all of the military branches. Burns said the trip was "very meaningful" and the boys "walked away with a greater respect for World War II veterans."

Sheriff appointment process ready to begin

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Scurry County Commissioners will discuss Monday morning what will hopefully begin the last chapter in a saga that began with the March primaries.

Judge Ricky Fritz said the county will begin formally accepting applications for the position of sheriff Monday, and the court will decide at its 10 a.m. meeting the time period for accepting them.

Fritz said a representative in the state's attorney general's office — John Fuller — recommended that the county not officially declare the position vacant or fill it until after Jan. 1.

A vacancy exists because Keith Collier submitted a letter last month declining to take the office he was elected to Nov. 7. The Democratic Party appointed Collier as its candidate after Darren Jackson was ruled ineligible to be on his party's ballot after voting in the Republican primary.

If the county waits until Jan. 1 or after to declare a vacancy, that raises the question as to who will be handling the county's top law enforcement post come the first day of 2001 since Jackson's term officially ends at midnight Dec. 31.

"What the law says is that if there is a current office holder and there has not been a replacement named, then the current officeholder will maintain that position until a replacement is named. That is even if it goes past Jan. 1," Fritz said.

Therefore, Jackson would remain in the office until he or someone else is officially appointed to it.

Fritz said he does not expect the process to drag out.

"We are meeting Jan. 2, and I will be surprised if we are not ready to do something then," he said. "I expect some sort of action will be taken at our regular commissioners' court meeting on that date The plan now is that it will not be necessary to have an interim."

The appointment will be for two years.

Fritz said he has received Jackson's application already, but has not received any others. As far as interest, he said, "We don't know if anyone else is interested at this point."

The judge said that the court would discuss Monday what would be the time period for accepting applications.

"We'll have to decide that in court. I would say no more than two weeks," he said.

Fritz also wanted to point out that the process is not costing taxpayers.

"Unlike Florida, this is not costing the citizens anything to go through this procedure. Florida has spent millions on recount and hiring people and hauling ballots around. That's not like this, this is not costing anything."

In other business, commissioners will consider seeking proposals to have the same company perform the county's audit and Cogdell Memorial Hospital's cost report.

"There are some benefits to having one company do the audit and the cost report," Fritz said. "The county pays for the audit and the hospital pays for the cost report but they have to have a completed audit before they can do a cost report."

Fritz said a company has already been named to complete the 2000 audit, so the county could not make a change until 2001.

"But we want to start talking about it since the hospital is going to have to find someone to do their cost report."

In a routine item, commissioners will discuss seeking bids for the purchase of two automobiles for the sheriff's department.

Fritz said the county purchases two vehicles every year for the department.

Possible changes in the county's vacation policy will also be discussed.



SANTA CONGRATULATES KENNER — Bobby Kenner was named employee of the year at the City of Snyder Employee Awards Banquet Friday evening at the Snyder Country Club. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A budget is a document that reveals that you need more money."

We have no quarrels with regulations that improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the initial rule of thumb made sense.

The rule said businesses and organizations must make "reasonable accommodations" to provide access for handicapped persons. And when you wheel around the elderly in a wheelchair, those firms that have made reasonable accommodations are appreciated.

We just believe that expenditures for those reasonable accommodations should be within reason.

Take the school district situation in Seminole, for example, who got caught napping when it came to complying with the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA).

Seminole's Wigwam Stadium is similar to the football stadium in Snyder. It was showing its age and needed some repairs.

Seminole still had plenty of oil money, so in 1998 it spent some money on the west bleachers.

The Seminole ISD was visited by the Texas Department of Licenses and Regulations last August and the agency ruled the stadium to be out of compliance with handicap access requirements.

Because the school district spent more than $50,000 on upgrading the stadium, it must now provide either an elevator or ramp to the press box. The district was facing fines of up to $10,000 per day.

Since a ramp or chair lift was declared impractical for such heights, the only solution was an elevator to the press box.

The first bid came in at more than $137,000. Finally, the school district decided it could be its own contractor and do it more economical — a price tag of $92,555.

That's a bureaucrat's idea of reasonable accommodations — for five home football games.

Snyder's Tommy Fletcher passed along an item out of the Paducah, Ky. newspaper concerning the flap about canned bird songs during televised golf tournaments.

Speculation about whether CBS used taped bird sounds was a hot topic on birding chat sites. People who know their birds were sure they were hearing some songs in the background that did not belong in the tournament locations.

For example, the dulcet tones of a canyon wren were heard on the Buick Open telecast from Michigan. And any bird expert knows that canyon wrens never venture east of Texas.

CBS finally fessed up and said the network would no longer used taped bird songs, but rather would bribe native birds close to their microphones with birdseed.

The writer in Kentucky concluded, "Now if they would just stop with the canned laughter on sitcoms."

As ole Charlie Brown would say, "Good grief!"

ASK US

Q—What does it cost to rent Texas Stadium in Irving for a high school playoff game?
A—$500 per team.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 54 degrees; low, 28; 7 a.m. Saturday, 28; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.13 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, mostly cloudy; low near 30; SE wind 5-15 mph. Sunday, mostly cloudy, high 45-50, S wind 5-15 mph.



Jonathan Kerr
Cloudy

Sunset:
5:42 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:27 a.m.
Of 336 days in 2000, the sun has shone 329 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Warmth, kindness and friendship are the most yearned for commodities in the world. The person who can provide them will never be lonely.

—Ann Landers

Sound treasures preserved by the Library of Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the dawn of computers and television, Americans gathered around their radios for entertainment, listening to dramas such as "One Man's Family" and variety programs like the "Rudy Vallee Show."

Now some of those classic sounds are in danger of vanishing as the tapes on which they are preserved deteriorate.

The Library of Congress is allocating about $833,000 for a project to restore tapes of the endangered programs. They include "One Man's Family" and others such as George Gershwin's performance on Vallee's show and Arturo Toscanini's symphony concerts.

A law signed by President Clinton last month promises an additional $250,000 a year to create a register of sound recordings already in the library and to select outstanding ones for preservation. A similar system for films already exists.

In July, Clinton announced a $750,000 preservation grant through the Smithsonian Institution that requires matching funds from other sources. Last year, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the collection, from private sources, of more than $130,000 to preserve Louis Armstrong's home in New York and 600 audio tapes housed there.

Traditional recording methods have serious drawbacks when it comes to long-term preservation.

A fatal mold can grow on the wax cylinders developed for Thomas A. Edison's first phonographs, making them unreadable. Lacquered disks exude a white oil that in time shrinks the grooves so that they peel off. Some early audio tapes, made in layers, begin to "delaminate" in as little as five years, said Sam Brylawski, head of the library's Recorded Sound Section.

"It's unlikely that there's any permanent medium for preserving sounds, so we're moving toward digitizing them," Brylawski said. "For the time being, we're trying to make one analog and one digital copy of each item."

The library recently took delivery of 179 wax cylinders made by Harvard University's James Madison Carpenter. He scoured England and Scotland with a battery-powered early phonograph, collecting 2,000 songs, ballads, sea shanties, carols and fiddle tunes in the 1920s and 1930s.

"Those are the basis of our country music today," said Peggy Bulger, director of the library's American Folklife Center.

The cylinders have not yet been fully explored.

Brylawski's experts have been working on dozens of 15-minute disks that singer Frank Sinatra made for the National Broadcasting Company in the 1950s.

Also on the list for preservation are radio broadcasts of the World Series, Army-Navy football games, a documentary on the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem and other programs of historic interest.

On the Net:
Smithsonian site:
http://www.si.edu

Gravity rules the universe, but any kitchen magnet's electromagnetic field is stronger — over a space of a few inches — than the earth's entire gravitational field.

Clarence Moore is SDN winner

Clarence Moore of 591 CR132 in Snyder is the November winner of a free year's subscription to the Snyder Daily News. Each month a drawing is held from the names of those who have subscribed or renewed for six months or more.

PTK names 3 winners

Phi Theta Kappa honor society at Western Texas College hosted a talent show in conjunction with its daylong event Nov. 16 entitled "Water: The Power Behind Its Presence."

The first prize winner of $100 was Mary Castillo, who sang "Rain." Second place and a $50 prize went to Reid "Magic" Johnson for a water-related magic show.

Third place and a $25 prize went to students of Jeanine Wilburn's creative arts for young children class.

Janell Davis sang "The River," and class members Amy Franco, Kim Fritz, Donna Green, Victoria Guynes, Amy Hall, Jeanita McIlroy, Connie Ragan and Tiffany Trimble each offered a water conservation tip.

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December 4, 7:00 pm



T'Leah Eicke

T'Leah Eicke earns her 4-H Gold Star

LUBBOCK — Outstanding 4-Hers from across the South Plains were honored Nov. 20 at the annual South Plains District Gold Star banquet.

T'Leah Eicke is Scurry County's Gold Star winner.

"Approximately 37 4-Hers received their Gold Stars at this year's banquet," said Brad Davis, South Plains 4-H youth and development specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. "The Gold Star award is the highest honor 4-Hers can earn at the county level. It is a true mark of their 4-H achievements."

4-H is the youth development program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, part of the Texas A&M University System. A complete overview of Texas 4-H is available on the Internet at http//texas4-h.tamu.edu.

This year's banquet was sponsored by Bailey, Cap Rock, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Lamb and Lea Counties; and Lighthouse, Lyntegar, Big Country, South Plains and Swisher Electric Cooperatives.

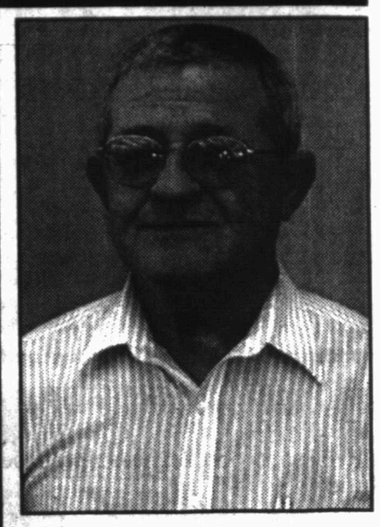
T'Leah Eicke, Scurry County's 4-H council delegate, gave the invocation.

Dr. Nat Cooper, vice president of international affairs and director of the Center for Character Development at Lubbock Christian University, gave the keynote address.

The Character Counts! curriculum familiarizes youngsters with six pillars of good character, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio while at his summer home on the island of Campobello.

The National Military Establishment was renamed the Department of Defense in 1949.



Billy Tarter

Billy Tarter retires from TxDOT post

Billy Tarter, construction inspector with the Texas Department of Transportation, has retired following a 38-year career.

A 1960 graduate of Snyder High School, Tarter began his TxDOT career as an engineer aide in the Snyder area office in 1962 and remained in that section throughout his career.

Tarter and his wife, Connie, have one daugher, Lea, who is a police officer at Buffalo Springs Lake. They also have a grandson, Johnathan, a third grader.

Commenting on his retirement, Tarter said it will be nice to be able to do what he wants to, when he wants to.

Fatal fire kills six

DETROIT (AP) — Fire swept through a two-story apartment in a public housing development Friday, killing six children and leaving a 7-month-old boy in critical condition.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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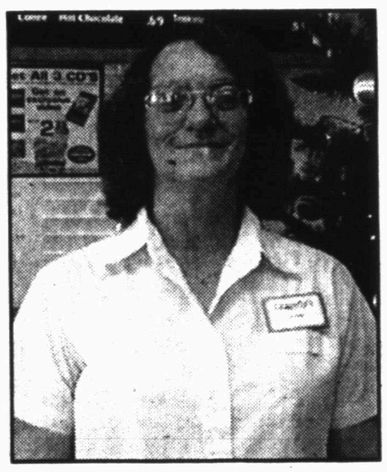
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By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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Senior Center Menu

Monday

Frito pie, cheese sticks, sliced onion, fruit cocktail, chocolate chip cookies

Tuesday

Braised ham, baked sweet potato, green beans, tossed salad, orange whip

Wednesday

Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, red beans, Mexican salad, sopaillas.

Thursday

Chicken spaghetti, green peas, creamed corn, heavenly delight salad, sugar cookie

Friday

Fried fish, broccoli/cheese, scalloped potatoes, creamy slaw, peach cobbler.

Senior Center News

The Advisory Board makes policy decisions for the Senior Citizens Center and is comprised of representatives of various entities. Senior citizens have two representatives. Due to vacancy, seniors are asked to contact Carla or Valerie at center to submit a nomination.

The election will be held on Dec. 12-13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nominees and those voting in the election must be residents of Scurry County and 60 years old or older.

The coffee can fund raiser is scheduled for Dec. 13. Volunteers are needed to bake goodies and deliver them to the center by 10 a.m. Beginning at 11 a.m., the empty coffee cans will be sold for $3. Staff members will then fill each can with the buyers' selections of goodies.

The Senior Center Christmas dinner is scheduled for Dec. 15 at 11:30 a.m. Seniors are asked to pre-register for this meal. Raffle tickets are still on sale and the drawing will be held at noon that day.

Monday

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11. Swimnastics at Western Texas College is from 10-11 a.m. The domino tournament begins at 10 a.m. and seniors interested in participating should be at the center before 10 a.m.

The AARP Christmas dinner will be held at Martha Ann Woman's Club at 5:30 p.m. The program will include the installation of new officers and guest speaker Val Cervantes of Wichita Falls.

Tuesday

"88" play begins at 10 a.m. The Hoss Clayton Band will entertain at 11 and the Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon in the conference room.

Wednesday

The Kitchen Band will entertain at Snyder Healthcare at 10 a.m. Line dancers and cloggers will practice at the center at 1 and 2 p.m., respectively.

Thursday

The fabric painting class will meet beginning at 9 a.m. The Sunshine Choir will present a Pearl Harbor Day program at the center at 11 a.m. The Senior Center will open at 6 p.m. for game night. Enjoy "88", bridge, pool and dominoes.

Friday

The blood pressure clinic and the bridge tournament begin at 9:30 a.m. Eighty-eight begins at 10 a.m. The West Elementary Honor Choir will perform in the dining room at 11:30 a.m. The center will host the Scurry County employees' Christmas dinner and volunteers will be needed to help with this project. The tables will need to be decorated and preset with silverware etc. Call the center at 573-4035 to volunteer.

Saturday

The country/gospel community sing will begin at 6 p.m. December 9 at the center. This activity has been very successful and everyone is invited.

Cocaine seized at checkpoint

McALLEN (AP) — Officials in the Rio Grande Valley netted $80 million worth of cocaine at a checkpoint in Falfurrias, in the latest of a series of busts that has Texas leading in drug trafficking among border states, authorities say.

The most recent bust came Thursday when a narcotics dog sniffed out more than a ton of cocaine in a tractor trailer loaded with T-shirts, according to the McAllen Monitor.

The tractor-trailer was driven by Leopoldo Tamez-Ramirez, 34, of Laredo, who was charged Friday with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, said DEA spokeswoman Lori Schwarzkopf.

"It's got to be an organized group," said U.S. Border Patrol Supervisory Agent Jesse Jimenez. "When you're talking about a shipment worth $79 million, you're talking about a big load. It's got to be a cartel, not a local user."

In the past several months, authorities in the Valley have confiscated about 6,700 pounds of cocaine, worth about $215 million, officials said.

Organized drug groups have reportedly made the Valley an important transportation route because of its remote areas and because the drugs can be shipped to distribution centers elsewhere in the country.

Nerve gas plan approved

DENVER (AP) — State and Army officials agreed Friday on a plan to destroy six "bomblets," at least half containing deadly sarin nerve gas, that were found in a scrap metal heap at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

The plan calls for the canisters to be taken to a vapor-tight building that would have to be constructed at the 27-square-mile arsenal northeast of Denver. The bomblets would be placed in an oven-sized chamber inside the building, then cracked open with a small explosive charge. The nerve gas would then be neutralized with a caustic chemical.

"We believe that this provides the highest level of assurances that these bomblets will be disposed of as safely and as quickly as possible," Gov. Bill Owens said Friday.

He said the process could take five to seven weeks.

The first of the grapefruit-size bomblets was found by workers removing industrial waste from a scrap pile on Oct. 16. So far, three of the M-139 bomblets have been confirmed to contain sarin, the same chemical used in a Tokyo subway attack in 1995 that killed 12 people.

The arsenal is being converted into a wildlife refuge, but during the Cold War, sarin was manufactured there. The bomblets were designed to be carried in a battlefield tactical missile in clusters of 368. Each bomblet holds 1.3 pounds of sarin, designed to kill everyone within 900 feet.

Owens said at least one of the bomblets found had a serial number that identified it as a test model. He said the Army told him all the production bomblets had been accounted for.

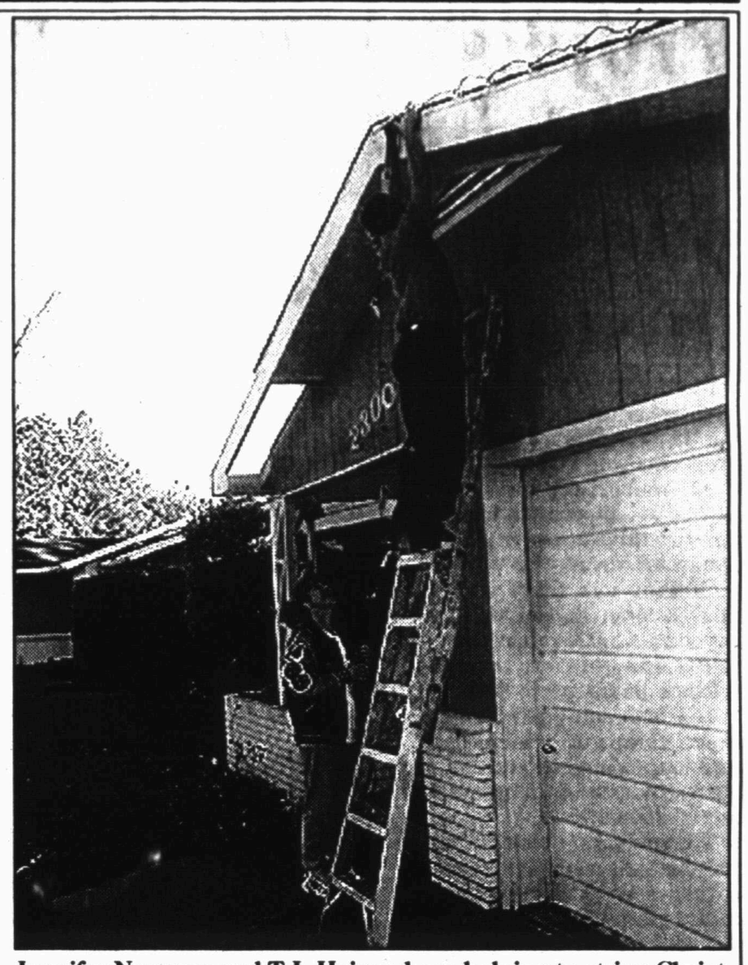
The state and the Army have been at odds about the handling of the bomblets. Owens complained to Defense Secretary William Cohen, prompting a meeting Friday between the governor and Gen. John Coburn, commander of the Army Material Command.

Owens said state health and environmental experts would meet with Army officials next week to ensure the plan is sound. He said the Army also agreed to extensively search the area.

Seniors helping seniors..

Snyder High School seniors are offering a free service to senior citizens in Snyder. They will volunteer their time to help senior citizens decorate their houses for the holidays by hanging Christmas lights. This is a free service that the students are offering as a way to say "thank you" to the generations that came before them.

If anyone would like to have a group of young people decorate, call the high school at 573-6301.



Jennifer Newman and T.J. Haigood are helping to string Christmas lights at the Gerrald Bowen residence. (SDN Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Amish want exemptions from child-labor laws

GAP, Pa. (AP) — A community known for insulating itself from the outside world is reaching out to lawmakers in an effort to preserve a centuries-old tradition of having children work.

On Friday, about 25 Amish leaders met at a fire station with Rep. Joseph Pitts and Sen. Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania Republicans who support legislation that would allow Amish youths to work in limited, supervised settings.

The Amish leaders are seeking an exemption to federal child-labor protection laws barring teen-agers from working in sawmills and woodworking shops. They began pushing for the change recently after the Labor Department began fining some of their businesses thousands of dollars for employing youths.

The Amish leaders told Pitts and Specter they believe existing laws threaten their religious and work values.

The Amish at the meeting declined to comment, but the lawmakers said one man who owns a leather shop said he was fined $8,000 because his 13-year-old daughter was caught working the cash-register in his store.

"We do not want children running dangerous machinery," Pitts said after the meeting. "This is about allowing youth to complete their classroom educations ... and to continue their educations as their fathers did — as trade apprentices."

Under Amish tradition, youngsters were supposed to work in apprenticeship settings after the eighth grade. For years that didn't conflict with federal law, because the Amish community's livelihood was rooted in agriculture, and farms are exempt from child labor laws.

But with the growing costs of farming in the last decade, many families have turned to woodworking and other small trades.

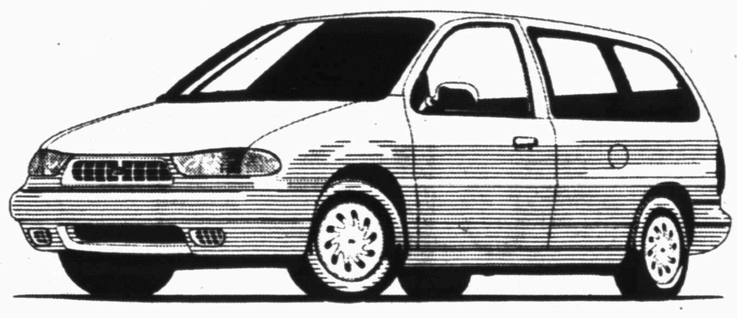
Federal labor laws prohibit children younger than 16 from working in manufacturing operations and children younger than 18 from working in other hazardous occupations.

On the Net:
U.S. Department of Labor:
http://www.dol.gov/

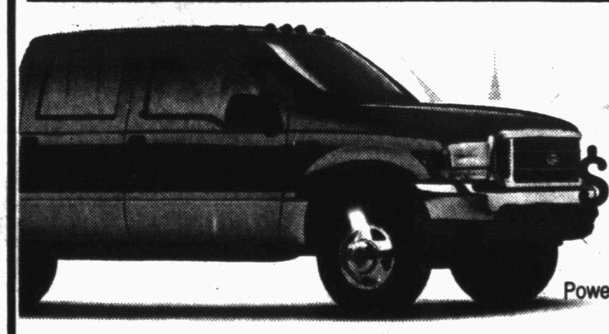
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1998 Ford Windstar GL
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1996 Chrysler Sebring $10,595
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, leather, CD, alloy wheels
1995 Chevy Lumina $8,995
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Project will help one area in state

FORT WORTH (AP) — In addition to adding 1,000 jobs to the city, a new North Texas plant proposed for Dell Computer Corp. would also generate at least $1.2 billion in property taxes over the next 40 years, according to a published report.

Officials told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram the city's plan to go beyond a 75,000-square-foot Dell sales and support center at Alliance Industrial Park in north Fort Worth and build the Austin-based computer manufacturer a campus, complete with a new plant, could bring in as much as $300 million a year.

"Depending on how you measure our various incentives, the packages we've put together for different projects, this would probably be the most aggressive one we've done," Tom Higgins, Fort Worth economic development director, was quoted by the newspaper Saturday. "You can just see the kind of wealth that can occur."

Fort Worth officials are considering creating a 40-year, 2,500-acre tax increment financing district, known as a TIF, to entice Dell to open a corporate campus, like its main campus in Round Rock, where the company has manufacturing, sales and support functions.

So far, Dell has only agreed to build the Alliance support center, near U.S. 287 and Interstate 35W, which will house 500 employees. Company officials have said it could grow to 1,000 by 2002.

Previous reports have said that Fort Worth officials may be competing against a location in Colorado and as many as two other sites, one in the United States and one abroad.

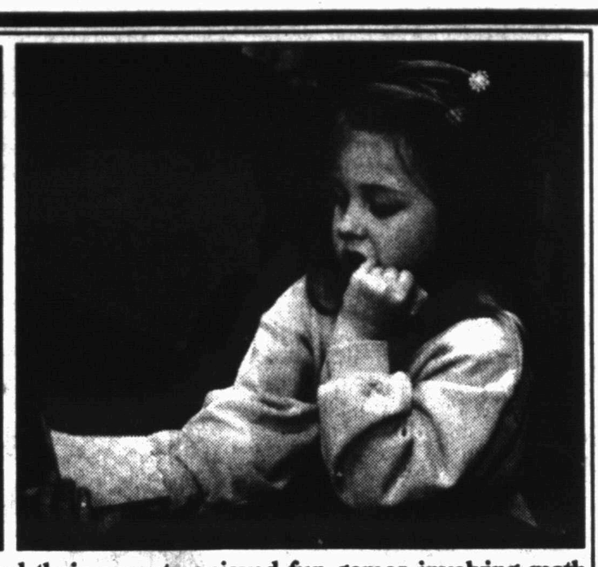
Although the city and Dell have yet to agree on such an expansion, officials have begun to create the district and hope to annex all its land by Dec. 19.

If the district were created, the land's property value would be frozen and revenues caused by new development could be used to pay for the millions of dollars of needed street and public improvements.

In developing the package, city officials projected that the district's current appraised value is zero and that area tax rates will not increase.

Math and science can be fun!

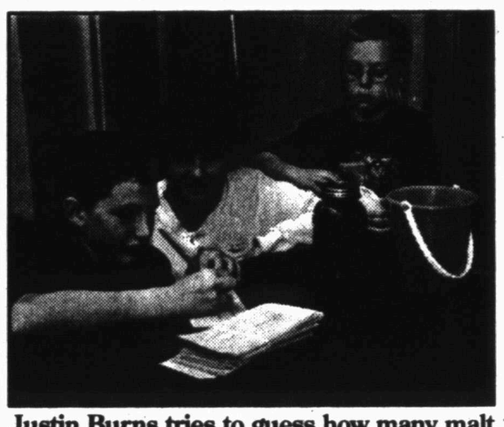




Snyder Junior High School seventh graders and their parents enjoyed fun games involving math and science Tuesday night. Lucy Hyer, 5, thoughtfully studies the impossible cube. Her sister, Ashley, is an seventh grader.



Morgan Bildeback and her mother Sherry Bilderback tries to guess how many M&Ms are in the jar.



Justin Burns tries to guess how many malt balls are in the jar, with a little help from his mother, Tammy Holmesly and younger brother, Corbin Holmesly.



Austin Lyle looks through an x-ray tube.

Photos By Shirley A. Gorman

Jury orders 2 firms to pay

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A jury ordered two companies Friday to pay $99.2 million to the widows of three ironworkers killed when a crane collapsed at the construction site of Milwaukee's new baseball stadium.

Under the verdict, all but $157,500 of the award must be paid by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of America. The company was held responsible along with Lampson International Ltd. for the July 1999 accident that killed William DeGrave, Jerome Starr and Jeffrey Wischer.

"It's about time," Wischer's widow, Patricia Wischer, said after the verdict as she cried and hugged her attorney. "I knew they would be confident in finding Mitsubishi was deeply in error."

Mitsubishi was building the stadium's retractable roof, using a crane called Big Blue and a crew leased from Lampson.

The ironworkers were guiding a 450-ton roof piece into place from a safety basket held aloft by another crane when Big Blue smashed them to the ground.

The jury reached its verdict after nearly three days of deliberations. Each of the widows will receive $1.7 million for pain and suffering. The verdict also includes $94 million in punitive damages, to be paid entirely by Mitsubishi.

Lampson attorney Donald Carlson said the company will not have to pay any money because of an indemnity agreement between the two companies that was signed before the accident.

Mitsubishi's attorneys declined to comment after the verdict.

Robert Habush, a lawyer for the widows, argued that the ironworkers died because of an "outrageous" decision to perform the roof lift in hazardous winds. Winds were gusting to 26 mph the day of the accident.

Mitsubishi attorney John Bell said the company should not have to pay any punitive damages for what was an accident. He also said that the crane was not properly assembled and that a soft spot in the ground caused it to lean.

Mitsubishi and Lampson have filed claims blaming each other for the accident.

Jurors said they arrived at the punitive damages figure by doubling the amount of Mitsubishi's $47 million contract for the roof construction project. their husbands to fall to the ground.

Holiday shoppers buying accessories

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The personal computer seems so '90s this holiday season, with shoppers drawn instead to handheld computers, digital cameras and other newer, hipper gadgets.

"Right now, we have all the features on our computer that we need. There's nothing really new that's out there," Diana Poston, 19, said while shopping this week for a DVD player at a Circuit City in Glendale.

The stocks of computer manufacturers took a nosedive this week as Gateway, Micron, Hewlett-Packard and others warned that sluggish domestic demand would mean lower profits. Those warnings also dragged down other computer industry stocks, including Microsoft.

The trigger for the profit warnings was lower-than-expected sales over the Thanksgiving weekend. But computer makers have been worried about weaker sales for months, especially as the economy has shown signs of slowing and rising oil prices have eaten up more of people's disposable income.

"Macroeconomics have caught up with everybody after a decade-long party," Roger Kay, an analyst with International Data Corp, said Friday. "Consumers with fewer disposable dollars are looking to throttle back their holiday purchases and buy lower-ticket items, such as things that plug into PCs and other devices."

Sales of desktop computers fell 10 percent in October compared with the same month a year earlier, following three months of slow or no growth, according to PC Data.

"The heady, carefree days of double-digit growth are over," Kay said.

In contrast, sales of digital cameras rose 30 percent in October, while flat panel monitors showed a 150 percent increase and even standard 19-inch monitors rose 50 percent. Sales of handheld computers and personal digital assistants, or PDAs, were up more than 100 percent.

Adding to computer makers' woes is a feeling that the PC market is saturated and won't pick up again for at least a year.

"Everybody's got a PC," said Martin Reynolds, an analyst at the Gartner Group. "About 60 percent of homes have a PC and many of those have a second PC."

Brett Miller, an analyst at AG Edwards, said that unlike past years, when fast new computer chips or feature-packed software programs combined with offers of rebates to boost PC sales, there is no compelling reason this year for computer owners to upgrade.

"There are not applications out there that I can't run on the PC I already have," Miller said. "The PC is getting kind of old in terms of what it does. People are spending money on home networks, PDAs, digital cameras, consumer electronics. There are a lot of things getting people's attention."

Corporate sales of computers are expected to pick up late next year as companies upgrade to more powerful machines than can run the new Microsoft operating system, Windows 2000.

California desert wilderness gets dedicated

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — A vast swath of wilderness in Southern California was dedicated as a national monument, with federal, local and tribal officials celebrating the cooperation that led to monument status.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains make up a stark and rugged landscape that is home to bighorn sheep, tortoises, salamanders and migratory songbirds. The 440-square-mile expanse includes everything from broiling palm oases to rocky, often snowcapped peaks topping 10,000 feet.

"This is one of the few places in Southern California where you can still find solitude," said Frank Bogert, 91, a former Palm Springs mayor who has lived in the area since 1927.

The land became a national monument on Oct. 24 when President Clinton signed a congressional measure into law. Of the 11 national monuments approved this year, Santa Rosa-San Jacinto was the only one created by an act of Congress and not by an executive order by Clinton.

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
83-2-69-55

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
9-20-21-22-37

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
2-0-8

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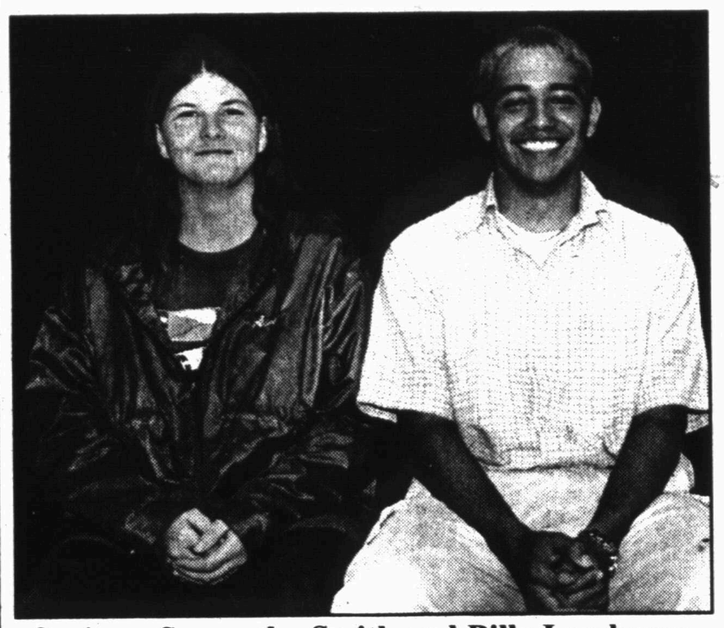
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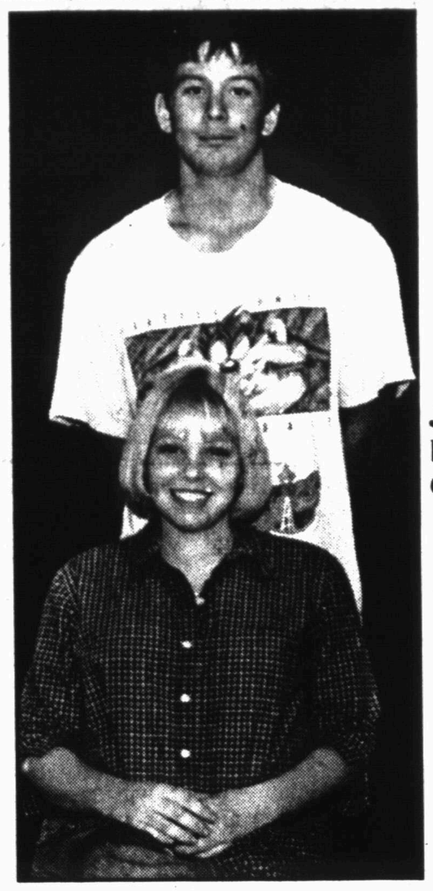
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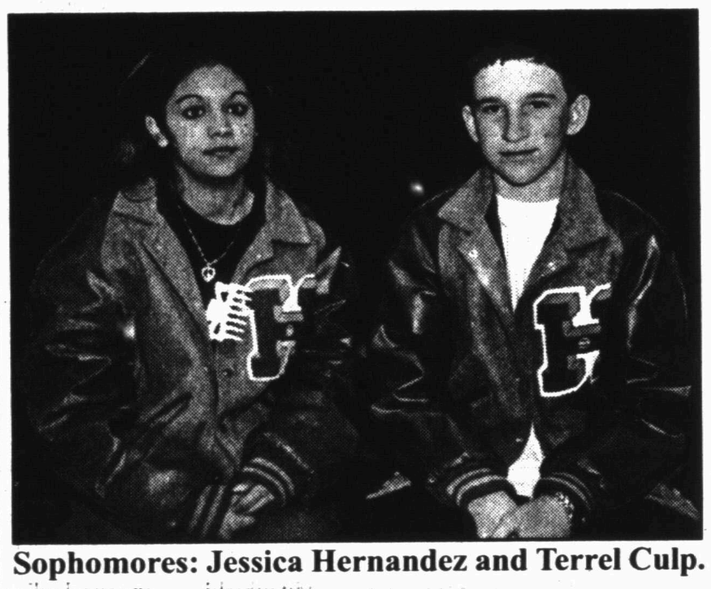


Seniors: Samantha Smith and Billy Lambaren.

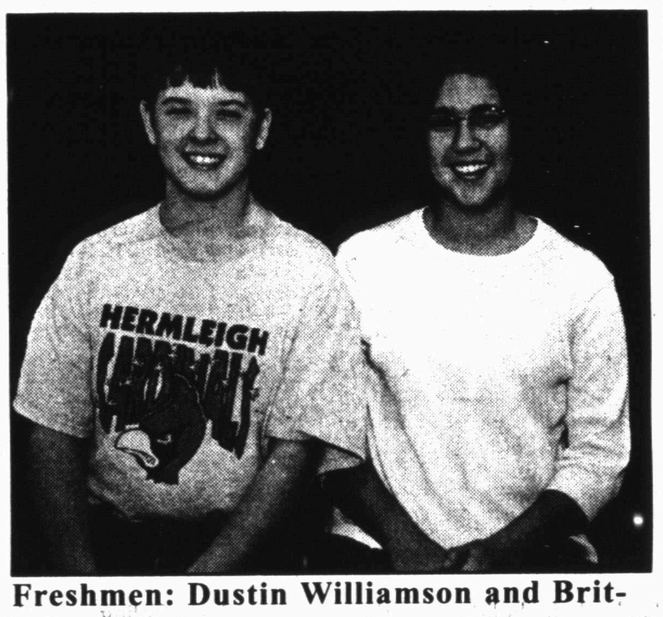


Juniors: Chris Bilberry and Cheyenne Walker

SDN staff photos by Shirley A. Gorman



Sophomores: Jessica Hernandez and Terrel Culp.



Freshmen: Dustin Williamson and Brittainy Milota

Museum opened in Parks' honor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Forty-five years after defying a city bus driver's order to give up her seat to a white passenger, Rosa Parks was back on the same street corner Friday, quietly inspiring people again.

The 87-year-old civil rights pioneer didn't speak, but she waved from her wheelchair to about 1,000 people attending the dedication of a $10 million university library and interactive museum named for her at Troy State University Montgomery.

"I just wanted to see her in person, to see how she looks. She's a famous woman, like a leader," said Tony Johnson, a 10th grader at Foley High School, after the ceremony of tributes and gospel music.

The arrest of Parks, then a seamstress, prompted a 381-day boycott of Montgomery buses that eventually lead to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that forced the integration of the city transportation system.

The boycott launched the modern civil rights movement and propelled the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to national prominence. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, was among those honoring Parks on Friday.

Gov. Don Siegelman awarded Parks the first Governor's Medal of Honor for Extraordinary Courage before the dedication ceremony. Mayor Bobby Bright proclaimed Dec. 1 Rosa Parks Day.

"It was an act that changed this state and our nation forever," Siegelman said.

Troy State University Montgomery President Cameron Martindale said the university had planned a parking lot for the corner until realizing many people were making pilgrimages to the place where Parks was arrested.

The Rosa Parks Library and Museum opened Friday after the ceremony. It provides a glimpse of life under segregation, partly by recreating the conversation between Parks and the bus driver. It includes an old bus that was used in Montgomery at the time of Parks' arrest.

Mayor admits he had an affair with a former aide

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The city's four-term mayor publicly announced Friday he had had an extramarital affair with a former staff member.

Mayor John Norquist said he came forward to put a stop to the rumors and extortion attempts he said had been made against his family. He said the relationship with the woman, whom he identified as Marilyn Figueroa, ended a year ago.

"I made a serious mistake, for which I am deeply sorry," Norquist, 51, said at a news conference outside his home with his wife at his side. "This is a very painful and personal matter and one that I obviously wish had never occurred."

The former staff member was fired in February after failing to appear for work over a period of time, Norquist attorney Anne Shindell said.

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Gonzalez to be laid to rest

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Envoys from President Clinton, including U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, were to join a host of federal and state elected officials Saturday at the funeral of a former U.S. congressman remembered for being a staunch defender of "the little guy" and his unwillingness to work within the system.

Mourners, ranging from city residents to U.S. senators, were to gather in the San Fernando Cathedral for a noon Mass honoring former U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, known as "Henry B.," who represented Texas in the U.S. House for almost 40 years.

"We don't know how many people are coming, but we'll be ready," city spokeswoman Bertha Lopez told the San Antonio Express-News in Saturday's editions.

Lopez said the City Council chamber, which holds up to 300 people, was to be opened should the crowd overflow the 600-seat cathedral. The city will also place loudspeakers outside the church.

Archbishop Patrick Flores was to lead a blessing and deliver remarks to the family.

Gonzalez, who retired in 1998 after 37 years on Capitol Hill, died Tuesday in a San Antonio hospital at the age of 84.

Among the other dignitaries expected to attend the service include:

— U.S. Sens. Patrick Kennedy and Jack Reed of Rhode Island; U.S. Reps. Henry Bonilla, Chet Edwards, Martin Frost, Ciro Rodriguez, Lamar Smith, Ken Bentsen and Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas; and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters of California.

— Former congressional colleagues Kika de la Garza, Bob Krueger, Bill Patman and J.J. "Jake" Pickle will attend, as will state Sens. Gonzalo Barrientos and Leticia Van de Putte, and former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Born in San Antonio in 1916 to recent immigrants from Mexico, the man known as "Henry B" emerged from poverty by attending San Antonio Junior College and St. Mary's University of Law School.

He began his political career as a city councilman and then became the first Mexican-American elected to the Texas Senate.

Elected to Congress in 1961, the proud, sometimes irascible and always unpredictable Gonzalez, was criticized throughout his tenure for his unwillingness to work within the system.

Unafraid of clashing with top Republicans — he sought to impeach Presidents Reagan and Bush — the ornery Texan didn't shy away from tangling with his own party either.

He still rose, however, to become the chairman of the powerful House Banking Committee and dean of the Texas congressional from 1961 to 1998.

Back home in San Antonio, the unabashed populist was widely popular for his fights for affordable housing and as a defender of the downtrodden.

Gonzalez was credited with crafting tough savings-and-loan bailout legislation and helping expose the industry's 1980s excesses.

As banking chairman, Gonzalez opened investigations that led to the resignation of the government's chief thrift regulator and the conviction of S&L owner Charles Keating. Those hearings proved uncomfortable for Democrats, spotlighting four Democrat senators' ties to Keating.

Gonzalez also probed the Reagan and Bush administrations' friendly dealings with Iraq before the Gulf War. He unearthed evidence that U.S. agricultural credits and illegal loans were used to help Saddam Hussein build his war machine before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

While in Congress, Gonzalez flew home nearly every weekend to San Antonio to see his wife, Bertha, and their children.

Bullying eyed

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — Bullying was a problem at Columbine High School shortly before the worst school shootings in the nation's history, despite administrators' denials of harassment there, according to a report released Friday.

Regina Huerter, an investigator with the Denver district attorney's office, said students and teachers had reported numerous cases of harassment.

In August, Columbine principal Frank DeAngelis said the school had been a safe and welcoming place before the shootings.

"What is not in doubt is that bullying occurred at Columbine, that in some instances the school administration reacted appropriately, and in other instances the school administration's reaction is unclear or altogether unknown," Huerter said.

The report was presented to a commission formed by Gov. Bill Owen to gather facts about the April 19, 1999 rampage in which Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

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The Western Texas College Scholarship Foundation Honors

Justin Lester

The Justin Lester Memorial Scholarship fund created a fully endowed scholarship through memorial gifts from friends and family members at the time of his death in 1994.

Justin was born in Abilene May 28, 1975. He attended school in Sweetwater before moving to McCamey in 1982, where he graduated from high school in 1993.

At McCamey High School, he participated in several sports, playing tight end in football as well as being a member of the tennis and track teams. He played trombone in the MHS Badger Band. He participated in U.I.L. debate and one-act play; was a class officer for three years; a student council representative for two years; and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Speech Club.

During his freshman year at WTC, Justin majored in journalism and was a sports writer for the campus newspaper. He was a member of the Student Senate and the campus food committee. He also participated in intramural sports.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church where he was active in MYF, participated with several Chrysalis retreats and helped with Vacation Bible Schools.

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Together we make a difference

SPORTS

Lady Tigers earn shot at title

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — For the second year in a row, the Snyder Lady Tigers have advanced to the championship tilt of the Concho River Classic.

But unlike last year, the Lady Tigers may have faced their toughest competition in the semifinals, this . ne around.

Snyder dominated on the boards and shut down Killeen Ellison's transition game to knock off the Lady Eagles, 55-40, in Friday's semifinal action at San Angelo Central High School.

The Lady Tigers, who remained unbeaten at 6-0, handed Ellison just its second loss in 10 games this season.

The Lady Eagles, considered by many as the tournament favorite with their run-and-gun style of play, never got their transition game going after the first quarter and were frustrated by the Lady Tigers' scrappy effort.

"The team we faced today was probably the most athletic team we've faced since we played Plainview here last year," said Snyder coach Sam Tipton. "That shows you how far our girls have come.

"Our guards stood up to their pressure, and we out battled them on the boards. Our team is one of the toughest groups of eight girls you'll find. All eight girls contributed in every way possible to win this game."

It looked early on as if the Lady Eagles would have the upperhand. Snyder committed nine turnovers in the first quarter, six of them coming against Ellison's full-court pressure.

But trailing by five points entering the second period, the Lady Tigers righted the ship and it was clear sailing from there on in.

Snyder turned it over only once against the press in the second period and trimmed the deficit to three points by halftime, before taking over in the third quarter.

"We knew if we played our style of defense, Ellison would have a hard time scoring in the half court," said Tipton. "The only way they could win, was if we tried to run with them.

"Our girls knew the game plan and they never deviated from it. They stuck to it for all 32 minutes, and it paid off with a win."

Snyder's T'Leah Eicke led off the second half with a three-pointer to knot the tally at 22-22 and the Lady Tigers never trailed again.

Snyder strung together an 11-2 run in the first five minutes of the third quarter and held a 36-27 advantage entering the final frame.

The Lady Tigers grabbed nine rebounds to only two for Ellison in the third quarter, and held a 37-24 final advantage on the boards.

The Lady Eagles managed to force nine turnovers in the fourth quarter, but couldn't capitalize against Snyder's tenacious defense.

The Lady Tigers held Ellison to a 5-of-30 performance from the floor in the second half, while shooting the lights out on the other end.

Snyder missed on only three of 16 shot attempts over the final two quarters and shot 64 percent on the day.

After Ashley Delce scored to put Snyder up, 43-31, with five minutes to go, Ellison made its final run of the game.

The Lady Eagles slashed the margin to six points with three minutes left on the clock, before a bucket from sophomore Afton Schwertner and two more from Delce stretched the lead back to 12.

"Last year at this time, we had no clue as to what it took to beat a quality ballclub like Ellison," Tipton stated. "Now we know. Our girls know what it takes to win, and they expect to win every time they step onto the floor."

Delce led the Lady Tigers in scoring with 23 to go along with 11 rebounds. Kameron Kallemeyn had 16 points, before fouling out with six minutes to go.

Snyder was to have faced El Paso Coronado in the championship game Saturday afternoon.

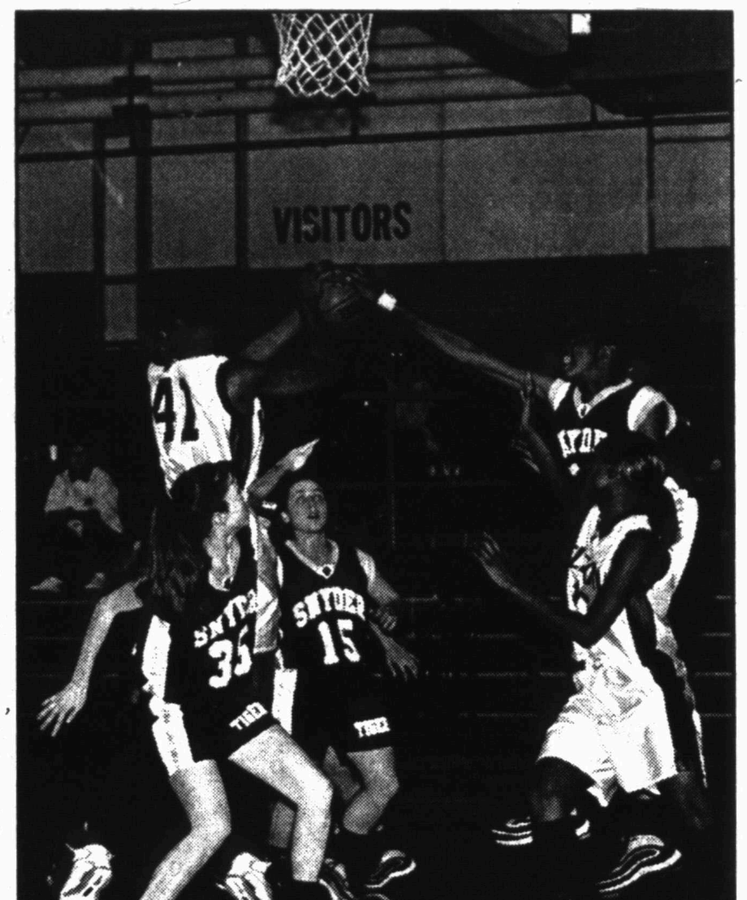
Snyder	11	08	17	19 —	55
Ellison	16	06	05	13 —	40

Snyder
Delce 11 1-4 23, Kallemeyn 6 4-5 16, Eicke 2 2-2 7, Murray 0 3-4 3, Mackey 0 2-5 2, Geiger 1 0-0 2, Schwertner 1 0-0 2, Robinson 0 0-1 0. **Totals 21 12-21 55.**

Ellison
Beamon 4 2-6 10, Overstreet 2 5-8 10, Williams 2 1-5 5, Rucker 1 3-7 5, Ridgle 2 0-2 4, Warren 1 1-2 3, Jones 0 3-7 3. **Totals 12 15-37 40.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 1 (Eicke), Ellison 1 (Overstreet). Rebounds: Snyder 37 (Delce 11), Ellison 24 (Rucker 6). Total fouls: Snyder 20, Ellison 22. Fouled out — Kallemeyn.

CONCHO RIVER CLASSIC
at San Angelo Central HS
Thursday's Games
First round
Round Rock Stony Point, bye
Game 1: Snyder 37, EP Socorro 31
Game 2: Lubbock Estacado 67, Lake Travis 49
Game 3: Killeen Ellison 50, SA Lake View 31
Game 4: EP Coronado 62, SA Central 45
Friday's Games
Championship bracket
Game 6: EP Coronado 59, RR Stony Point 27
Game 8: Snyder 55, Killeen Ellison 40
Game 11: EP Coronado 61, Lubbock Estacado 53
Consolation bracket
Game 5: SA Lake View 41, EP Socorro 32
Game 7: SA Central 60, Lake Travis 38
Game 9: Lake Travis 41, EP Socorro 40
Game 10: SA Lake View 49, RR Stony Point 31
Saturday's Games
Championship bracket
Third-place game: Killeen Ellison vs. Lubbock Estacado, 1 p.m.
Championship game: Snyder vs. EP Coronado, 2:30 p.m.
Consolation bracket
Game 12: RR Stony Point vs. Lake Travis, 10 a.m.
Consolation final: SA Lake View vs. SA Central, 11:30 a.m.



BATTLE ON THE BOARDS — Snyder's Afton Schwertner (35) and Ashley Delce battle a pair of Killeen Ellison players for a rebound, while teammate Cameron Mackey (15) looks on during the Lady Tigers' 55-40 victory Friday at the Concho River Classic in San Angelo. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bulldogs drop two at Klondike tournament

KLONDIKE — The Ira Bulldogs entered the Klondike Cotton Classic with an unblemished 2-0 record. After one day of action, the Bulldogs find themselves at .500.

Ira fell to Lubbock Coronado's sophomores, 69-64, before suffering a 67-36 setback to O'Donnell during Friday's action at the Klondike tournament.

The losses leave the Bulldogs at 2-2, heading into the second day of competition.

In its opener against the Coronado sophomores, Ira trailed by 10 points at halftime and by 14 at the end of the third quarter.

The Bulldogs tried to rally down the stretch with a 22-13 run in the final period, but make up the deficit.

Nathan Smith and Cade Tucker poured in 16 points apiece.

Eric Dickerhoff posted 13 points, and Bryce Wilkins added 12.

In the nightcap against O'Donnell, the Bulldogs managed only five points in . e first quarter and were on the bottom end of a 38-17 tally by halftime.

O'Donnell didn't let up in the second half, outscoring Ira 29-19 over the final two periods.

Dickerhoff's nine points led Ira.

Hermleigh cagers suffer pair of tourney setbacks

WILSON — New Home found its offensive rhythm in the second half, and in doing so, denied the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals off a shot at the tournament title.

New Home scored 24 points in the second half to overtake Hermleigh, 34-23, in the second round of girls' action at the F.M. 211 Classic.

Hermleigh's boys also fell on Friday with a 53-23 setback to Loop.

The Lady Cardinals held an 11-10 lead at halftime, before New Home grabbed a 25-19 advantage in the third quarter. The Lady Leopards tallied nine points in the final frame to preserve the win.

Sheena Callaway paced Hermleigh with 12 points.

In the boys' match-up, Loop jumped out to a 28-12 lead in the first half, then held the Cardinals scoreless in the third quarter for a 46-12 advantage.

Andy Luna netted eight points to lead the Cardinals.

Men's Basketball League

Men's Basketball League

Team	W	L
San Angelo	6	2
Amer. State Bank	7	3
GM Auto	6	4
Snyder Nat'l Bank	4	6
WT State Bank	1	9

This week's results: American State Bank 96, Snyder National Bank 65; West Texas State Bank 72, GM Auto 68; San Angelo 119, West Texas State Bank 82; American State Bank 92, San Angelo 91; GM Auto 98, Snyder National Bank 88.

Monday's games: West Texas State Bank vs. American State Bank; GM Auto vs. San Angelo; Snyder National Bank vs. San Angelo.

Snyder JV boys fall to varsity hoop squads

COAHOMA — Competing against Class 2A and 3A varsity squads, Snyder junior varsity boys suffered a pair of setbacks Friday to begin the Coahoma tournament.

Snyder JV fell to Hawley, 55-40, before dropping a 51-44 decision to Monahans.

Josh Mendoza poured in 24 points to lead the Tigers against Hawley.

Jay Scott netted eight points. Corey Clay, Tyler Pollard and Tanner Beard posted two points apiece, and Colby Driggers and Brad Spells chipped in one each.

Against Monahans, the Tigers trailed by 15 points early on, before rallying to trail by only four entering the fourth quarter.

Mendoza registered 15 points against the Lobos, while Scott accounted for 10.

Driggers, Clay and Pollard notched four points apiece. Spells drained three points, and Beard and Josh McGaha finished with two each.

Snyder was to have been in action again Saturday morning against Abilene Wylie.

Sports Briefs

Alabama hires TCU coach

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama hired Texas Christian football coach Dennis Franchione to turn around the Crimson Tide, opting for someone with no ties to the school.

Franchione said he and Alabama athletic director Mal Moore agreed to a seven-year deal worth between $1.2 million and $1.4 million a year.

Franchione replaces Mike DuBose, who resigned Nov. 1, but finished out the season. The Crimson Tide finished 3-8, their worst record in 45 years.

Franchione inherited a 1-10 team at TCU three years ago and has taken the school to bowl games each season.

ASU gets new coach

PHOENIX (AP) — Boise State coach Dirk Koetter agreed to a contract to coach Arizona State. Koetter replaces Bruce Snyder, who was fired after nine seasons.

Using an innovative, wide-open offense, Koetter guided Boise State to a 25-10 record in three seasons. This year's team led the nation in scoring at 44.9 points per game.

Clark, Policy to pay $600,000

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland Browns president Carmen Policy and team vice president Dwight Clark agreed to pay $600,000 for alleged NFL salary cap violations while with San Francisco. The settlement calls for Policy to pay $400,000 and Clark $200,000.

The principal issues involved provisions in quarterback Jim Druckenmiller's rookie contract, deals signed by linebacker Lee Woodall and tight end Brent Jones, and an agreement with quarterback Steve Young.

As part of the settlement, the 49ers agreed to pay $300,000 and surrender two draft choices.

Oakley fined, suspended

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto Raptors forward Charles Oakley was suspended for three games without pay and fined $15,000 by the NBA for punching Los Angeles Clippers guard Jeff McInnis during the morning shootaround. McInnis was not fined or suspended.

Kings' guard fined

NEW YORK (AP) — Sacramento Kings guard Jason Williams was fined $10,000 by the NBA for swearing at fans and making obscene gestures after Wednesday night's game in San Antonio.

National Football League

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	9	3	0	.750	237	160
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0	.667	260	229
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	237	237
Indianapolis	7	5	0	.583	317	256
New England	3	9	0	.250	192	253
Central						
Tennessee	9	3	0	.750	241	175
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	262	135
Pittsburgh	6	6	0	.500	232	181
Jacksonville	5	7	0	.417	236	272
Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	137	312
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	134	281
West						
Oakland	10	2	0	.833	352	235
Denver	8	4	0	.667	371	293
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	283	274
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	216	298
San Diego	1	11	0	.083	206	307

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	287	199
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	244	191
Washington	7	5	0	.583	238	201
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	242	273
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	177	342
Central						
x-Minnesota	11	2	0	.846	330	267
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	264	251
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	293	197
Green Bay	5	7	0	.417	249	262
Chicago	3	9	0	.250	163	273
West						
New Orleans	8	4	0	.667	256	207
St. Louis	8	4	0	.667	436	367
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	241	218
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	290	336
Atlanta	3	10	0	.231	206	347

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday, Nov. 30
Minnesota 24, Detroit 17

Sunday's Games
Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Carolina, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 8:35 p.m.
Open: Baltimore

Monday's Game
Kansas City at New England, 9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10
Arizona at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
New England at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New York Giants, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Miami, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 4:15 p.m.
New Orleans at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
New York Jets at Oakland, 8:35 p.m.
Open: Atlanta

Monday, Dec. 11
Buffalo at Indianapolis, 9 p.m.

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SPORTS

Tigers fall to 'Roos at tournament

WOLFFORTH — The Snyder Tigers, who were 3-1 earlier in the week, find themselves at 3-4 after two days of action at the Cotton Pickin' Shootout.

Weatherford jumped out to an 18-9 lead in the first quarter, then continued from there to notch a 68-46 victory over Snyder during Friday's second-round action at Frenship High School.

The setback to the Kangaroos came on the heels off an 84-52 loss to powerhouse Canyon Randall in the opening round. The Tigers, who drop one game below .500, were to have faced El Paso Franklin Saturday afternoon.

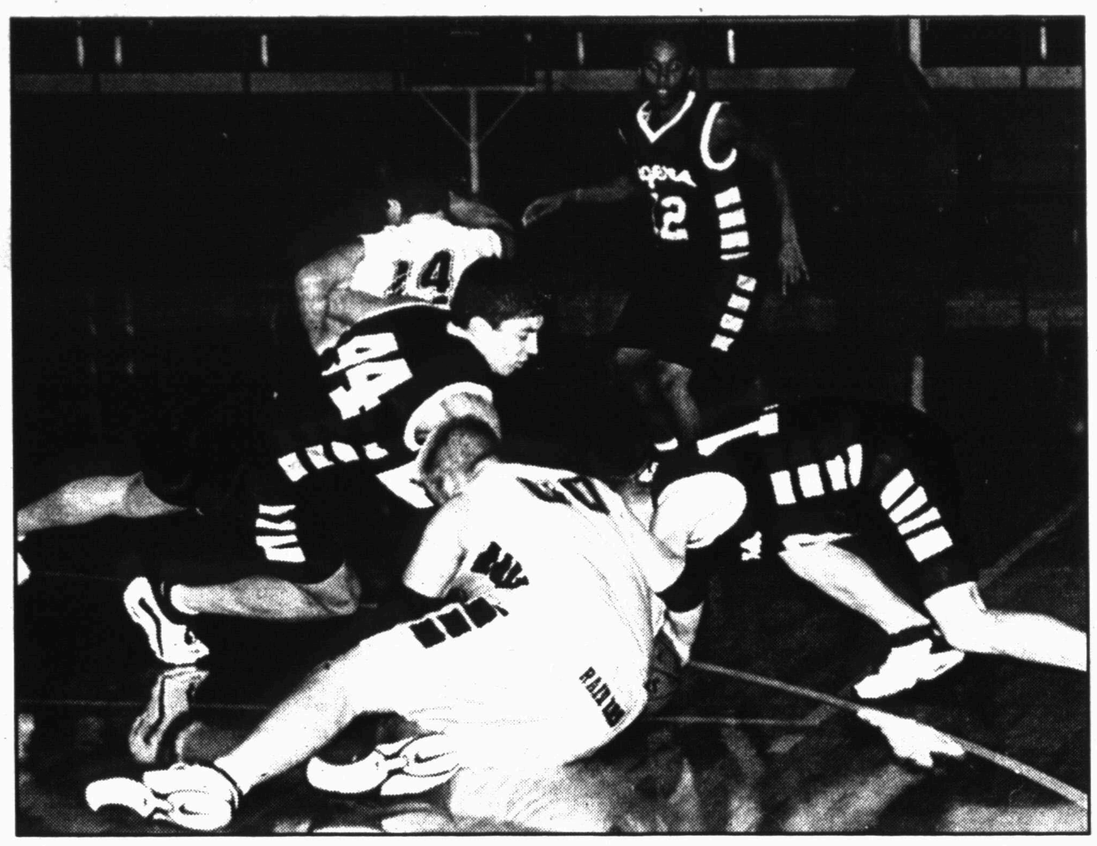
Senior point guard Jamaal Wofford paced Snyder with 18 points, 11 of them coming at the free-throw line. Senior Jared Thornhill finished with 11 points.

It was the Tigers third consecutive game without the services of 6-6 senior post Shante Taylor. Taylor, who was in the Metroplex to attend a family funeral, was to have suited up Saturday morning.

Following the tournament, Snyder will be back on the court Tuesday when it hosts Lubbock High at the SHS gym.

Snyder	**09**	**15**	**10**	**12**	**— 46**
Weatherford	**18**	**17**	**18**	**15**	**— 68**

Snyder
Wofford 3 11-14 18, Thornhill 5 1-2 11, Pinkerton 3 2-3 9, Landes 1 0-0 2, McLeod 1 0-0 2, Thompson 1 0-0 2, Pruitt 1 0-1 2. **Totals 15 14-20 46.**
Weatherford
Hale 7 0-0 14, Boles 6 1-2 13, Brown 5 0-1 10, Sellers 3 2-5 8, Rogers 2 2-3 6, Seidler 2 2-2 6, Weber 2 0-0 4, Jones 1 2-3 4, Dunlap 1 0-0 2, Smith 1 0-0 2. **Totals 30 9-16 68.**
Three-point goals: Snyder 2 (Wofford, Pinkerton), Weatherford 0. Total fouls: Snyder 17, Weatherford 18. Fouled out — Thornhill; Sellers.



BATTLE FOR THE BALL — Snyder's Jared Thornhill (44) and Chris McLeod (10) wrestle for the ball with Canyon Randall's Matt Embry (00) and Garrett Pool (14), while Jamaal Wofford (12) looks on during action at the Cotton Pickin' Shootout. Snyder dropped its second-round game with Weatherford on Friday, 68-46. The Tigers were to have faced El Paso Franklin Saturday afternoon. (SDN Staff Photo)

COTTON PICKIN' SHOOTOUT
at Frenship High School
Friday's Games
Championship bracket
Game 13: Canyon Randall 89, EP Ysleta 45
Game 14: Lubbock Trinity 54, Lubbock Monterey 46, OT
Game 15: Frenship 40, Canyon 37
Game 16: Seminole XX, Lubbock Cooper XX
Consolation bracket
Game 9: Weatherford 68, Snyder 46
Game 10: SA Alamo Heights 40, EP Franklin 24
Game 11: Abilene 58, EP Riverside 40
Game 12: Lubbock Coronado 66, EP Coronado 50
Saturday's Games
Championship bracket
Game 19: Canyon Randall vs. Lubbock Trinity, 10:30 a.m.
Game 21: Seminole vs. Frenship, noon
Third-place game: Game 19 loser vs. Game 21 loser, 6 p.m.
Championship game: Game 19 winner vs. Game 21 winner, 7:30 p.m.
Consolation bracket
Game 17: Lubbock Cooper vs. Weatherford, 9 a.m.
Game 18: Lubbock Monterey vs. Abilene High, 9 a.m.
Game 20: Canyon vs. SA Alamo Heights, 10:30 a.m.
Game 22: EP Ysleta vs. Lubbock Coronado, noon
Game 23: Snyder vs. EP Franklin, 1:30 p.m.
Game 24: EP Coronado vs. EP Riverside, 1:30 p.m.
Game 25: Game 17 winner vs. Game 20 winner, 3 p.m.
Game 26: Game 22 winner vs. Game 18 winner, 4:30 p.m.

Emmitt ready for homecoming

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — It's as close to a homecoming as Emmitt Smith has had since his rookie season, and the NFL's third all-time leading rusher is excited about it.

The Dallas Cowboys face the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for the first time in 10 years Sunday, affording Smith an opportunity to play for just the third time as a pro in the state where he grew up.

The Cowboys last visited Florida in 1996 to face the Miami Dolphins. But the eight-time Pro Bowl running back hasn't played in Tampa, a two-hour drive from Gainesville, where he played college ball, and another six hours from his hometown of Pensacola, since 1990. That year he would have been a senior at the University of Florida if he had not elected to turn pro a year early.

"It's special in a number of ways. I'll be two hours from the university where I played and just a couple of hours away from some of my closest friends in Florida," the four-time league rushing champion said. "This should be a great situation."

Smith returns 130 yards shy of becoming the third player in NFL history to run for 15,000 yards. He is on pace to break the league's career rushing mark of 16,726 set by Walter Payton.

The first of his 69 regular-season 100-yard rushing performances came during a victory over Tampa Bay in the fifth game of his rookie season. The Cowboys beat the Bucs again two weeks later, with the 5-foot-9, 209-pound running back gaining 48 yards on 16 carries at Tampa Stadium.

"Jerry Jones said it set a tone for bigger and better things," Smith, who's played on three Super Bowl champions, recalled. "We were on the road ... It was something that the ballclub needed and it worked well for us. But correlations from 1990 to 2000, it's a different kind of setting for us. We're 4-7 (actually 4-8) now and trying to get things on track. Tampa Bay seems like it has some things on track. It's going to be a tough game for us."

The Bucs (7-5) are coming off a 31-17 victory over the Buffalo Bills and battling to stay in contention for a playoff berth. The Cowboys have dropped four of their last five. They have to win their remaining four games to avoid a losing record for the just the third time in Smith's 11 seasons.

Dallas has been decimated by injuries. However, the Bucs said it would be a mistake — not to mention a serious blow to their postseason hopes — to take the Cowboys lightly.

Bryant leads Lakers past Spurs, 109-100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant was in no mood to celebrate after scoring a career-high 43 points.

He was too sick.

Bothered by an upper respiratory infection, Bryant scored 16 points in a span of six minutes at the end of the third quarter and start of the fourth Friday night as the Los Angeles Lakers rebounded from their most lopsided loss in nearly six years to beat San Antonio 109-100.

The usually accessible Bryant, who also had six assists while playing 44 minutes, did a brief television interview afterward and said he was very weak and totally drained. He didn't make himself available for other interviews after that.

"Kobe did a great job of hitting some really big shots," said San Antonio's Tim Duncan, who had 24 points and 11 rebounds. "We turned up our defense and were right in front of him on every one of those shots, with a hand in his face, but he just kept hitting them."

Bryant scored five points in the last 38 seconds of the third quarter, including a 3-point shot in the final seconds, to put the Lakers on top 82-78. Then, he scored 11 points to spark an 18-5 Los Angeles run to start the fourth period for a 100-83 lead.

The Spurs followed by outscoring the Lakers 17-4, making it 104-100 on a dunk by David Robinson with 1:11 to play.

However, Bryant surpassed his previous career high of 40 points by hitting a jumper with 51 seconds left for a six-point Los Angeles lead, and a foul shot by Brian Shaw and two more by Bryant completed the scoring.

"(Bryant) played very excellent ball, moved the ball well, shot the ball well," said Shaquille O'Neal, who had 36 points, 16 rebounds and three blocked shots to help the Lakers beat the Spurs for only the second time in 11 games despite blowing a 20-point halftime lead.

"It was a long night, a banging night," O'Neal said. "They've always had their way with us."

The Lakers, 121-88 losers Thursday night in Seattle, took it out on the Spurs in the first half, dominating throughout in taking a 62-42 lead. Duncan had only five points and four rebounds at that stage, compared to 23 points and nine rebounds for O'Neal.

However, with Duncan leading the way, the Spurs outscored the Lakers 16-2 to start the third quarter, and took a 74-73 lead — their first since the game's opening minute — on two free throws by Avery Johnson with 3:06 left in the period.

O'Neal had only two free throws in the quarter until making a dunk with 1:12 to play in the period to give the Lakers a 77-76 lead, and they were on top the rest of the way.

"You can't not play against the Lakers for 24 minutes and expect to come out winning," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's a good lesson for us. You've got to play the whole game."

Sean Elliott scored a season-high 19 points and Robinson had 16 points, 10 rebounds and five steals for the Spurs.

Isaiah Rider, who arrived about an hour late for the Lakers' game against Indiana on Tuesday night, played only two minutes against the Spurs, but coach Phil Jackson said it was a matter of experience in the team's triangle offense.

"I thought we needed to have some real concise execution out there, and he's still a little bit of a novice out there," Jackson said.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	13	2	.867	—
New York	10	7	.588	4
Boston	7	9	.438	6½
Miami	6	10	.375	7½
New Jersey	6	10	.375	7½
Orlando	6	11	.353	8
Washington	4	12	.250	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	9	6	.600	—
Charlotte	10	7	.588	—
Toronto	9	7	.563	½
Indiana	7	8	.467	2
Detroit	7	9	.438	2½
Milwaukee	6	9	.400	3
Atlanta	3	13	.188	6½
Chicago	2	14	.125	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	13	3	.813	—
San Antonio	10	5	.667	2½
Dallas	10	6	.625	3
Houston	9	7	.563	4
Minnesota	9	7	.563	4
Denver	8	8	.500	5
Vancouver	6	10	.375	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	11	4	.733	—
L.A. Lakers	12	5	.706	—
Phoenix	10	5	.667	1
Portland	11	6	.647	1
Seattle	8	9	.471	4
Golden State	5	11	.313	6½
L.A. Clippers	5	12	.294	7

Friday's Games
Toronto 104, L.A. Clippers 95, OT
Philadelphia 95, Charlotte 74
Utah 94, Miami 92
Minnesota 102, Boston 98
Orlando 83, New Jersey 80
Detroit 103, Cleveland 93
New York 91, Chicago 86
Indiana 86, Vancouver 76, OT
Sacramento 105, Phoenix 98
L.A. Lakers 109, San Antonio 100
Saturday's Games
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 2:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 8 p.m.
Portland at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 12:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 3 p.m.
San Antonio at Vancouver, 3:30 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Texas High School Football Playoff Results

CLASS 5A
DIVISION I
Region I
Midland Lee (10-2) vs. Duncanville (11-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Irving
Region II
The Woodlands 27, North Mesquite 7
Region III
Alief Hastings (10-2) vs. Aldine Eisenhower (12-0), 5 p.m. Saturday, Houston
Region IV
Austin Westlake 42, CC Carroll 0
DIVISION II
Region I
Lubbock Monterey (11-1) vs. Arlington Lamar (8-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock
Abilene Cooper (9-3) vs. Coppell (7-5), 7 p.m. Saturday, Irving
Region II
Tyler John Tyler (9-3) vs. Round Rock (8-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Waco
Lufkin (9-3) vs. Waco (7-5), 2 p.m. Saturday, Bryan
Region III
Katy 24, Aldine 9
Alief Elsik (8-4) vs. Galena Park North Shore (11-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Houston
Region IV
SA Marshall (12-0) vs. McAllen (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, McAllen
SA MacArthur 58, Edinburg 6
CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
Region I
Frenship (10-2) vs. FW Wyatt (7-4), 1 p.m. Saturday, Amarillo
Region II
Denton Ryan 33, Corsicana 29
Region III
Bay City 7, Nederland 0
Region IV
SA Roosevelt 63, Smithson Valley 28
DIVISION II
Region I
Big Spring (8-4) vs. Wichita Falls (12-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Abilene
Andrews (9-3) vs. Southlake Carroll (8-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Coppell
Region II
Waco University (6-6) vs. Jacksonville (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Huntsville
Ennis (10-2) vs. Lancaster (8-4), 1 p.m. Saturday, Irving
Region III
Harker Heights (10-2) vs. La Marque (9-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, College Station
West Orange-Stark (12-0) vs. Friendswood (9-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Pasadena
Region IV
CC Calallen 38, Kerrville Tivy 26
Rockport-Fulton 35, New Braunfels 28
CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
Region I
Abilene Wylie 36, Lamesa 0
Region II
Everman (11-1) vs. Daingerfield (12-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Garland
Region III
Gatesville 24, Cleveland 0
Region IV
Bandera (10-2) vs. Sinton (11-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio
DIVISION II
Region I
Greenwood 27, Lake Worth 7
Muleshoe 34, Ferris 14
Region II
Commerce (12-0) vs. Spring Hill (10-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Mesquite
Forney 20, Gladewater 0
Region III
Marlin 14, Newton 7
Cameron Yoe 28, Sweeny 14
Region IV
La Grange 49, Yoakum 22
Hondo (11-1) vs. Mathis (11-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Kingsville
CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
Region I
Sonora (12-0) vs. Olney (12-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Brownwood **Region II**
Pilot Point 28, Farmersville 14
Region III
Arp 9, San Augustine 3 (OT)
Region IV
Blanco 20, Poth 7
DIVISION II
Region I
Stanton (10-2) vs. Hamlin (9-3), 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Colorado City
Albany 26, New Deal 10
Region II
Whitewright 35, Hico 0
Cooper (10-2) vs. Celina (12-0), 7 p.m. Saturday, Bedford
Region III
Lone Oak (12-0) vs. Mart (12-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Arlington
Troup (10) vs. Corrigan-Camden (9-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Nacogdoches
Region IV
Jarrell (11-1) vs. Refugio (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio
Rogers 42, Three Rivers 13
CLASS 1A
Region I
Iraan 33, Springlake-Earth 13
Stratford 57, Rankin 33
Region II
Roscoe 26, Celeste 0
Rotan (10-2) vs. Collinsville (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Haltom City
Region III
Beckville 32, Bremond 0
Mount Enterprise (11-0) vs. Wortham (8-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Groesbeck
Region IV
Burkeville 36, Falls City 21
Shiner 50, High Island 0
SIX-MAN
Region I and Region II
Whitharral (10-1) vs. Grandfalls-Royalty (10-2), 6 p.m. Saturday, Klondike
Highland 34, Groom 6
Region III and Region IV
Aquilla 44, Trent 42
Panther Creek 45, Abbott 0

National Hockey League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	12	8	4	0	28	82	62
Pittsburgh	12	8	3	1	28	71	65
N.Y. Rangers	13	12	0	0	26	85	82
Philadelphia	11	10	4	0	26	61	66
N.Y. Islanders	7	12	3	2	19	56	70

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	13	7	3	2	31	76	57
Ottawa	13	7	4	0	30	77	58
Buffalo	12	8	2	1	27	64	59
Boston	8	12	3	2	21	61	88
Montreal	9	15	2	0	20	68	81

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	10	10	3	1	24	58	67
Washington	8	10	6	1	23	60	69
Tampa Bay	8	12	2	2	20	71	90
Atlanta	6	10	6	1	19	61	75
Florida	5	10	4	4	18	47	61

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	16	4	3	0	35	77	44
Detroit	16	8	1	2	35	86	72
Nashville	10	10	5	1	26	62	63
Chicago	9	13	2	2	22	64	78
Columbus	7	16	1	1	16	49	81

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	18	4	3	0	39	79	51
Edmonton	14	10	3	0	31	78	70
Vancouver	13	8	3	2	31	88	73
Calgary	6	12	5	4	21	57	78
Minnesota	7	14	4	1	19	52	68

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	15	5	2	0	32	65	46
Phoenix	13	7	6	0	32	70	58
Dallas	13	7	3	1	30	65	50
Los Angeles	11	8	6	0	28	88	75
Anaheim	8	12	4	3	23	68	89

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Thursday's Games
Carolina 2, Philadelphia 0
Toronto 6, N.Y. Islanders 4
Nashville 3, Chicago 0
Phoenix 2, Minnesota 0
Montreal 4, Vancouver 3
San Jose 3, Anaheim 2, OT
Friday's Games
Washington 3, Boston 2
Pittsburgh 6, Buffalo 4
Atlanta 5, Tampa Bay 3
N.Y. Islanders 0, New Jersey 0, tie, OT
Detroit 3, Florida 1
Chicago 2, Nashville 1
Colorado 4, Dallas 2
Saturday's Games
Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Colorado at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

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1908 37th Street 573-7779

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE HERE!
Large Selection of Pansies
Time To Put Down
ferti·lome
Winterizer and Weed Preventer
SNYDER NURSERY
106 37th Street 573-0123
Mon. - Sat. - 9 - 8:30
Sun. 2- 5
Scotty Prince & JoAnn Prince

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

ALWAYS A WINNER

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of AGNES W. SORRELLS, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,631:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Co-Executrices of the estate of Agnes W. Sorrells, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 29th day of November, 2000, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to Emilie Ellen Tucker of Route 1, Box 63A, Meadow, TX 79345 and/or Elizabeth Lucille Sterling of 20311 East Hwy. 350, Coahoma, TX 79511, within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 29th day of November, 2000.

(s)EMILIE ELLEN TUCKER
(s)ELIZABETH LUCILLE STERLING
Independent Co-Executrices
of the Estate of
Agnes W. Sorrells,
deceased

Announcements

AGRAVET
Now Authorized UPS Station
Plus, Gift Wrapping and
Packing For Shipping!
4107 College 574-2472

Complete your bachelor's degree at Abilene Christian University without driving the distance. Videoconferencing technology allows you to work towards your bachelor's degree in criminal justice (sociology emphasis) from your hometown. For more information contact Beth Ridge at 915-674-2505.

Lost & Found

Found: White male poodle w/grey ears, close to Snyder Iron & Metal on Old Post Rd. 573-6862/573-5373.

Missing: Female red Mountain Cur, bobtail, red collar. Camp Springs area. 573-0078

Vehicles

1992 Nissan Sentra, 4 cyl., 5 spd., 2 dr. $2,850. Financing available. 573-0495 or 573-8147

1995 Grand Prix Sport, red. Less than 40,000 miles. Loaded. $8,750 Call 573-0874.

1999 Ext. Cab Silverado Z71 LT Loaded w/extras. 26,000 miles. $27,200. 915-573-0593-(H), 915-575-1378 mobile.

Storage Lien: Taking bids on the following vehicle through December 6th: 1984 Olds 2 door. All vehicles to be sold as is. Can be seen at **Nichols Wrecker Service** 1304 Ave. T, Snyder, TX 8a.m.–6p.m. **915-573-7447** (Note: Bids for less than lien amount may be rejected.)

Business Directory of Services

Backhoe Service — TRIPLE T — Dump Truck Service
SEPTIC SERVICE
State Licensed — Install & Repair
STATE APPROVED SEPTIC SYSTEMS
Serving Snyder & Surrounding Areas
1-888-345-4384

Bullard's Internet Service
Join the Snydertex.com online community, serving Scurry County
●Local Storefront, New Computers, Repairs
Upgrades, Software, Networking
●If you are our customer, we fix your Internet problems for free
3405 College Ave. 573-4801

RONNIE WOOLDRIDGE
Painting Contractor
*Interior & Exterior Painting
* Wall & Ceiling Repairs
* Minor Carpentry & Repairs
* Wall Paper Hanging
* Varnish Work
573-8015

PRODUCTION BUILDERS Div. of Production Pump
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800-221-8672
FAX 915-573-3471
www.productionpump.com
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PRODUCTION BUILDERS
of Snyder, TX
Specializes In All Sizes Welded Constructions
Pre-Engineered Portable or On-Site Buildings
Call PRODUCTION BUILDERS
Today For All Your Commerical
And Industrial Building Needs

Plumbing Repair Service
Telephone
(915) 573-3085
Coventry Plumbing
M-19955
1311 College Ave. Snyder, Texas 79549
Jim Coventry Owner

Lee's Construction
"No Job Too Small"
Residential
Remodeling & Repair
STEVE LEE
Snyder, Texas
79549
915/573-2709
Mobile
915/725-3165

SPARLIN CONSTRUCTION
Welding *Metal Buildings*
Fabrication *Carpentry*
Fencing *Painting*
Bud Sparlin
Mobile 575-4182
or 573-4766
1945 Santa Fe Ave.
Snyder, Texas
79549

ADVOCARE
We Build Champions
*Manage Weight *Gain Strength
*Increase Energy & Muscle Tone
*Sleep Better *Recover from a
*Resist Stress Workout Quicker
Terri Williams Independent Distributor
915-573-2501 or 915-573-7777
twilliams11@hotmail.com

WILLIAMS WOODSHOP
TERRI'S COMPUTER TUTORING
Craft Store
218 N. Hwy. 84
(Call for directions) 573-7777
Ricky & Terri Williams
All Types Of Wood Work & Finishing
HOURS: Tue/Thurs/Fri/Sat 10–6, Wed. 10–5

Plant a Business Directory Ad... reap a cash crop. Call 573-5486

Let This Space Be Your Place To Advertise Today!!

Janie's Creations
915-573-4396
Custom Window Treatments with a Creative Touch!
Drapes, Valances, Pillows, Plus.

VILLAFRANCA CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Custom Homes & Remodeling
Sweetwater, Tx
Jose Villafranca-Owner
915-235-1573
Home 915-235-9666
Cell 915-338-7174

Over 10,000 People Read The Snyder Daily News Every Day! For Just $65 A Month You Could Advertise Your Business And Get Quick Results!

TOTAL COVERAGE IRRIGATION
Do you have a freeze sensor for your sprinkler system?
If not call
Jim Thomas
(915)651-5030 (915)574-1562
Texas Irrigators Lic. #6312

Hillman & Company
573-4884
●FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS ● Assistance with Insurance Claims
HAIL DAMAGE
●RESIDENTIAL All Types ● COMMERCIAL All Types
ELK
● Free Estimates ● Bonded ● Quality Workmanship
Sales Representative - BillCovey

Let Us Help You With Your Business Advertising Needs Today! 573-5486

DAVID HOLT
Insurance Services
All Types Insurance
Specializing In
LONG TERM CARE
1800 26th St. Office: 915-573-3255
P.O. Box 97 Toll Free: 877-571-3255
Snyder, TX 79550 Res: 915-573-6526

B & B HOUSE LEVELING & FOUNDATION REPAIRS
Free Estimates
We accept Visa & MC
10 Year Guarantee
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADS JUST $65 A MONTH CALL 573-5486 TODAY!!

Business Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
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Sunday & Monday 3:00 p.m. Friday
Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave.
P.O. Box 949 Snyder, Texas 79550

For Classified Power, Call
573-5486
Fax 573-0044

ERROR
Advertisers Should Check Their Ad On The First Day of Insertion!
The Snyder Daily News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within 5 days from date of first publication. No allowance can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement. All ads are cash unless customer has an established advertising account with The Snyder Daily News.
The Publisher is not responsible for copy ommissions, typographical errors, or any unintentional error that may occur further than to correct it in the next issue after it is brought to his attention.

$16.95 for 5 days, get 6th day FREE! 15 words or less

Business Opportunity

AT&T-SPRINT Payphone Rtes 50 Est. Locations, local. Proven Income. Free Info. 800-800-3470

DO NOT READ THIS AD
Work at Home F/T–P/T
Earn Paid Vacation
Full Training $25–$75 per hour
No Computers Needed
www.prosper-now.com
1-915-338-0935 Referred by RH

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads. Call today!

Business Opportunity

HALLMARK Style Card Rte. 55 Est. Loc's. FORTUNE 500. Great Income. Free Info. 1-800-277-9424

Work from home and get up to $1200/$1500 mo. PT or $6000/$8000 mo. FT
No experience needed.
Will Train! Free recorded information 24hrs. 888-456-4451

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

Business Services

Antique Restoring
& Furniture Refinishing
Re-gluing & Veneering
Free Estimates, Work Guaranteed
863-2342 Hermleigh, TX

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

For best results, use Snyder Daily News classifieds. They really work! 573-5486

Business Services

The Carpet Store & More
Call 915-235-8180 for flooring, renovations, custom cabinets.
Open Mon. – Sat.

West Texas Centers for MHMR
Human Resource Department
409 Runnels Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
915-264-2650
West Texas Centers for MHMR has position for Supported Employment Specialist in Sweetwater. High school diploma/GED required plus 3 years experience in duties related to the position. Salary $7.71hr ($16,044 annually). Applications may be obtained at 909 25th St, Snyder or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE

Due to expansion Sun Loan Company has an immediate opening for an Assistant Manager and Manager. We are a multi state company specializing in consumer loans.

We Offer
✓ On the Job Training
✓ Advancement Opportunities
✓ Competitive Salary
✓ Paid Vacation and Holidays
✓ 401k Plan
✓ Excellent Insurance Package
✓ Smoke-Free Environment

If you are team oriented and enjoy working in a professional, but relaxed atmosphere, then apply in person at Sun Loan Company, 2519 College Ave., Snyder, TX 79549.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER ACADEMY
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE
SNYDER, TEXAS
A TDCJ training academy
Students will be employees of the state while training.
Salary for Academy students, $1577.00 monthly, plus benefits.
Class time 8a.m. – 5p.m. MON.–FRI. Classes will be held
FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 7, 2001
Testing to be held on
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001 @ 8:00 A.M.
At Western Texas College, Building 15-A
Additional Classes will be offered at later dates.
Contact WTC for more information.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (915) 573-8511 EXT. 391
APPLICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT WTC IN CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFICE UNTIL DECEMBER 8, 2000. APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR THE TDCJ UNITS AFTER DECEMBER 8. MAIL APPLICATIONS TO WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE OR BRING WITH YOU ON DAY OF TESTING.

Business Services

Will Haul
Clean your garage, attic, old estate or house. For estimates call Tim **573-3047.**

Employment

1 Truck Driver needed. Texas only, home weekends. Requires 1 year OTR. Call immediately 915-735-2062.

ATTN: **Work From Home**
$500-$5000 Month FT/PT
Mail Order/Internet
1-800-690-2540
www.destinyofwealth.com

Buy Christmas Gifts
Sell AVON – No Start-up Fee
Start Immediately! 573-1271
Ind. Sales Rep.

Dairy Queen in Snyder has an opening for Manager. Drug test required. Richeson Companies. Call Tammy at 940- 549-5041 or fax resume to 940-549-6106.

Extreme People Wanted!
Internet Business From Home.
$25–$75/Hr.
www.MakeWorkFun.com

FOOD SERVICE OPENINGS AT COGDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. We have full-time positions, with benefits, available for two COOK positions and two DIETARY ASSOCIATE II (tray line). Ask about our PRN positions. EOE Apply through the Human Resources office at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, 1700 Cogdell Blvd., Snyder, TX 79549.

HOME MAILERS NEEDED
Earn $635 weekly mailing letters. Easy! Limited open positions. Call 1-888-333-7114 Ext. 8125 24 Hrs.

Lose 40 pounds in 2 Months
Natural & Doctor Recommended
1-888-252-1759
www.ezfitness4life.com

Nail Tech & Hair Stylist wanted full-time.
The Cuttery
2417 College Ave.
Apply in person only

Now hiring a janitor for American Legion. Apply in person after 3p.m.

Personal Care Attendant needed in Hermleigh to assist aged and disabled individuals in their homes. Tasks include assistance with personal care, light housekeeping, heavy lifting, and other tasks as assigned. Hours vary according to client served. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and free of any criminal history charges. Contact Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Home Health at 235-1701 (ext. 413) or fax resume to 235-1783.

Security Finance is now looking for people with experience in collection or cashiering. We offer competitive pay, good benefits and the opportunity for advancement. Send resume or apply in person to Security Finance, 511 Coliseum Dr., Snyder, TX 79549.

ALWAYS A WINNER THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

Wait-staff Needed – All shifts. Apply in person at Plaza Cafe from 6a.m. to 2p.m.

Instructions

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course**. Saturday Dec. 9th, 8a.m.–3p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course**. Mon. & Tue., Dec. 11th & 12th, 6p.m.–9p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

Financial

1000 New Customers Needed No Credit! No Problems!! Loans $100 to $467. Apply by phone at **573-1761** or come by **SECURITY FINANCE, 511 Coliseum Drive**, Snyder, TX

Advance-Fee Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit **before** you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC HELP. A public service message from Snyder Daily New and the Federal Trade Commission.

Woman's Column

AVON FOR CHRISTMAS!
915-574-2899–I'll come at your convenience. Orders by Dec. 8th, delivery by Christmas.

Holiday Gift Wrapping!
Call Amanda @ 573-5363.

MARY KAY COSMETICS
Complimentary Facial or Re-orders! Call Geraldine Thames, 915-573-9433, 1812 38th St. Snyder.

Farmer's Column

Bar R Dozer
Farm & Ranch Work
Grubbing, Terrace, Tank Repair
962-2416/Mobile 338-5656
Free Estimates

Bar R Hauling
Tractor & Equipment
Loading Winch (if needed)
962-2416/Mobile 338-5656

Farm Equipment

1989 Peterbilt, extended hood, 425 CAT, 15spd, 370 rears. Must See! Exceptional!!
John Deere 4020 Propane–$5000
Shawn Justiss 915-573-4879
Leave Message

Sporting Goods

ATTENTION!
Wall's Retail Outlet Store Will Remain Open
1609 Scott St.
Mon. –Sat. 9–5:30
Sun. 1–5
See Us For All Your Outerwear & Camouflage Needs
573-8118

Merchandise

BABY...and Before
1817 25th St.
573-0502
! $2 TUESDAYS !
Infant – Children's Wear (Consignments 20% Off)
5 Racks to choose from
Tuesdays Only
1:00 – 5:30

9x13 plus beige carpet. Wicker w/glass top table & chairs. Under sink Sears water softener. 573-7161

Chest freezer, 18½ ft. capacity, in good condition, $100. Call 573-5155, leave message.

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, Etc. Sales & Rentals
3706 College 573-7582

Deal Of The Year Is Back!!!
Direct TV with free installation. Excellent Channel Choice. Best Digital Picture. $89 plus tax.
Offer ends 1-14-01.
Call **573-6269** for details.

Deep freeze, $100. Apartment size refrigerator, $75. Call 573-1550 or 725-8503.

"EVERYTHING MUST GO"
Failing Health. Closed Nail Salon. Furniture to Polish.
Serious Inquiries Only.
573-7354

FREE Satellite System
FREE Basic Install
FREE 3 Month Movies
Cable & Wireless Customers
Some Restrictions Apply
For More Information
573-2948/575-0990

Pallets for sale, $1.00. Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News.

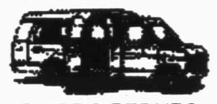
Merchandise

Great Savings on New Furniture. *Solid Oak* Just in time for Christmas! Can be seen at 4017 Houston or call **573-8394**.

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES: Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers. WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R.

New card table set, New Computer Sub Woofer (*Both in boxes*). New crop pecans!! 573-9853

PECANS FOR SALE
$2.25 per lb.
Call 863-2207

SALES
Braun
Wheelchair Lift

SERVICE & REPAIRS ON ALL BRANDS
AMERICAN
Equipment & Trailer
3707 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd. Lubbock, TX
806-747-2991

SANTA SPECIAL
Metal Detectors
By Whites Electronics
915-728-2494 Colorado City

Shelled Pecan Halves
$5 A Pound
Call 573-8728

Shelled Pecans For Sale.
573-2505
Great for the holidays & gifts!

Shelled pecans for sale.
$3.00 lb. Call **915-573-5921**

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

Christmas Eve is upon us. Give the gift of life and adopt one of my adorable puppies, ½ Golden Lab, ½ Border Collie. Black w/white markings on bellies/toes. Short hair. Only 2 females & 1 male left. **FREE**. Call Santa's Elf @ 573-5701.

COW DOGS 10 weeks old. Already working! To be given away to GOOD HOMES!
573-4473.

Free to a good home. Lab mix, 1½ years old. Free bag dog food. 721-0918

Apartments For Rent

1–2 Bedroom Apartments Furnished/Unfurnished, all bills paid, no pets. Start at $275/mo. More information 573-5773

2 bedroom apartment for rent. Good location, reasonable. Call 573-0996.

Apartments For Rent

For Rent: 1 bedroom efficiency apartment in quiet area. 573-8533 or 573-4749

Large 2 bedroom apartment. New paint, good location, reasonable. Call 573-5525 or 573-0990.

One bedroom, nicely furnished apartment for rent in Hermleigh. 863-2700

Houses For Rent

2204 40th, brick, nice 3 or 4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, washer/dryer, stove/refrigerator, 2-car garage + storage. $500/mo. 573-9066 or contact 1809 38th.

2790 Dalton: 3-1-1, CH/A, $395/mo.
573-1550 or 725-8503

2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012

2 bedroom country house. City water & cable, no pets. Call 573-2919.

3-1, brick, fenced backyard, storage shed. 2204 30th St. No deposit. $275/mo. 806-748-5873 or 573-3191

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

Several 2 & **3** bedroom houses, CH/A. Rent or sell, owner finance. 573-2251 after 5p.m.

JACK & JACK
Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

2701 34th Updated-Nice 3-2-2+sunroom $86T
Beautiful 3-2½+2 + Nice garage apartment 2018 37th St. $185T
Lovely 4-1&(2)½+2cp Pool 2907 33rd.....$117T
Red, Wonderful Location 3-2½+2 Fpl.....$85.9T
Nice-New Listing 302 36th Pl. 3-1.....$32.5T
Lovely Country Setting 80 Acres 4-2 + Barns w/Pens
3 Acres 3-2-2cp 1966 sq ft $65T
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2+2 Living Areas...$92.5T
Red! Nice Home Close In 2.37 A's 3-1½+2
Good Size Home 3-1¾+2cp 308 23rd $27.5T
Ira ISD 2 A's, Sheds, Water Well 2-1¾ $33T
Good Starter Home 211 34th 3-1¾ $27T
2.13 A's 3-2-2cp Apprx 4 miles.....$36T
3-1¾+-1 1901 29th Street.....$27T
Reduced - LOVELY 4-2-2 3303 Irving $99.9T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th St. $42T
Good Farm 3 miles out,... 160 Acres 3-1¾+2
C. City 4+A's Lovely Home 3-2-2.....$60T
2 Acres 2-1¾ w/storage bldg. & shop $27T
Eastridge 4104 Nice 2-1-1+ office....$30T
IRA BULLDOG CORNER STORE HWY 350
Nice Quiet Area 3-1¾+1 2205 44th.....$46T
Starter Home 2-1-1 707 27th St.....$20T
3-1-1 + Apartment 3300 Cherry..... $50T
1.84 A's-Close In 3-2-2 @ Reduced Price!
Wonderful Game Rm + 4-1¾+4 2208 45th $65T
Good Size Home 2805 Ave. V 3-1¾+1cp..$46.5T
Large 2505 Sq. Ft. 4-1¾+2.....2800 35th
Price Lowered Country Dream Home 4-1¾ Wonderful Storage, 20 A's, Pool, Out Buildings.....$175T
14.49 Acres 3-2-Hot Tub, Sprinkler System...$95T
Fixer-Uppers: 1011 28th & 2311 Ave. M
3774 Dalton Dr. Lg Home 3-1¾+1cp..$37.5T
1907 15th 3-1-2cp.....$20T
Red! 2810 El Paso 5-3+Sunroom, 2865 sq ft $78.5T
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

Houses For Rent

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, w/fireplace, patio, $450/mo. + deposit.
4113 Eastridge 573-1640

For Rent: 2 bedroom house w/garage & fenced backyard. 2807 38th Street. No pets.
573-8739

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

Large 2 bedroom house, bath newly redone, large fenced yard, carport. $200/mo., $100/dep. Call 573-8251.

Mobile Homes For Rent

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom mobile home. Stove & refrigerator furnished, CH/A, water paid. **573-2893.**

For Rent: 2-2, washer/dryer, & appliances. 2403 27th. $300/mo., $100/dep.
915-728-2374 or
Jack & Jack Realtors
573-8571

Everyone reads classifieds!

Mobile Homes

$500 Move-In
Owner Finance
Call Juan **915-725-4133**

Beautiful Doublewide in country. Call Laura 915-665-3544.

Cute Little House. Very Affordable. Call 915-673-7353.

Real Estate

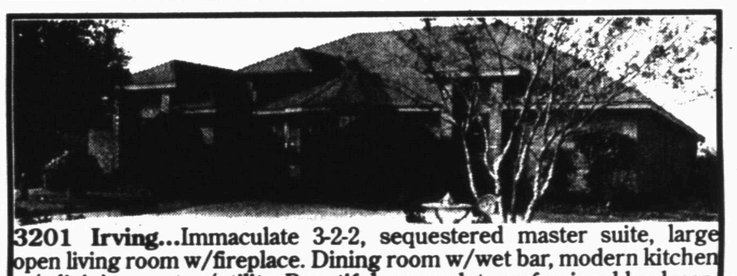
1–bedroom house, $200/mo. plus bills.
2-bedroom house, $325/mo. water paid. $100/dep. each.
725-2764/573-2720

2803 34th, 3-2-2, 3324 total sq. ft., den w/fireplace, new roof, water softener, sprinkler system, cinder block fence cellar, storage bldg. & more!! $117.5T Call 573-0397.

2908 42nd, 3-2 w/2 large living areas. Sprinkler system and new heat pump. Great location!! Call today for more information–appointment. 573-4782 after 5p.m./575-5013.

Cozy Home!! 3-1, carpeted, good storage, new roof, low utilities. 402 31st. $18,000 OBO 573-5629

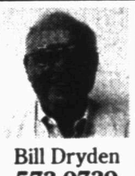
Little ads get big results!



3201 Irving... Immaculate 3-2-2, sequestered master suite, large open living room w/fireplace. Dining room w/wet bar, modern kitchen w/adjoining pantry/utility. Beautiful corner lot, professional landscaping, sprinkler system. Assumable VA Loan @ 6.5% w/equity, or FHA/Conv. **$94,500. 915-573-5597**

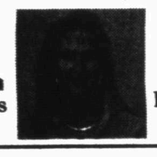
Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612
2405 25th Street
Snyder, Texas


BillyDurham
573-0446


Bill Dryden
573-9739


Doris Beard
573-8480


Wenona Evans
573-8165

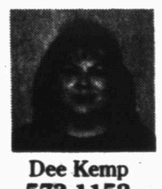

Kayla Moreland
573-4809

New Listing 2018 37th. ..... Call
2106 42nd 3-1-2 CH/RA.... $34.5T
3742 Avondale 3-1½ CH/A. $33.9T
2803 Ave. Y 2-1½-1 ..... $18.5T
New on Market 123 34th 3-2-1cp $59.5T
New Listing 2511 30th 3-2-3 with office, and RV Cover $96.5T
Quality Home, Cedar Creek, Custom Built, Call
3606 44th 3-2-2 Pretty Decor.....$73.5T
2608 47th 4-2-2 Reduced.. $124.9T
2705 35th 4-3-2 New Roof, office $119.5T
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 Owner Says Sell. $62T
Reduced 3500 Ave. W 3-3-2... $85.9T
2700 46th 3-2½-2-2 LA's Nice Yard $119T
2907 33rd 3-3-cp + pool.... $117.5T
3503 Kerrville 3-2-2..... $54.9T
2701 34th 3-2 Nice tile $86T
FM 1607 3-2 cp w/5 Acres $69.5
3402 Irving Neat 3-1-1 LA+Den $39T
Hermleigh 3-2-2cp Lg. fam. rm. 5 A's $77.5T
2212 43rd 3-1 CH/A $39.5T
2411 28th 1-1 Dining.. Only $10T
3717 Avondale 3-1-1..... $35T
2266 Sunset 3-2-2cp Liv & Den. $33T
304 34th 2-1½ CH/RA .. $24.9T
2706 28th 3-2½-2 ..... $95.5T
279 CR 243 10 A's, Shop 3-2-2cp $69.5T
221 29th 3-2cp Mobile Hm/RV cover $19.9T
409 20th 3-1 CH/A $15T
CR 3114 - SW - 3-2 w/116 A's.. $64.9
4110 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ..... $75.5
2810 El Paso 4 or 5 bd-3bth Red. $78.5T
1861 Tuscola 3-2-2.. Reduced $85.9T
Hermleigh 3-2 w/acreage Call for Details
3-2-2 brick w/2 LA's, nice shop & storage plus 3-2-2 rental home on 7.49 acres . $120T
College Ave. Large Office Bldg.. $48T
Commercial Bldgs N & W side of square
Farmland - 142 Acres and 243 Acres .. Call
146 Acres - South of Town... $46.5T
Hwy 180 - 80 Acres $42T
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3602 Kerville 3-2-2, New List ... $55T
REDUCED! 4509 Fredonia 3-2-2, Firplace
1209 Coliseum 3-2-2cp, 3 A's Owner Finance
2233 Sunset 3-1-1 w/$1000 buyers Allowance
4014 Irving Great Buy! 3-2-2 Fpl Only $65T
Dunn 3-1½ Nice..... Only $35T
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2266 Sunset 3-2-2Cp Spacious..... $33T
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2907 33rd, Fabulous Home.... 4-3-Pool
3008 38th 2-1½-2 Call!..... $19.5T
Lg. Metal Shop w/4 covered Parking spaces
211 34th 3-1¾+1 detached..... $27T
Beautiful 2 Story on 37th ..... Call
585 Armadillo Dr. Brick Hm.13 A's Reduced
2605 33rd Magnificent Custom Home
218 29th 2-1 Owner Finance–Call for Info
3011 40th 4-2-New siding, paint $24.9T
217 35th 3-1 w/storage $25T
27 CR 243 3-2-2cp w/pens $42T
241 28th ..... ONLY $10T
Nice! Country Home. w/barns/ Acreage
Rent or Sell 3724 Ave. U 3-1-Cp. $25.9T
110 Jacksboro 3-2-2 FP, Patio... $75.5T
2647 Pleasant Hill Rd 3-2-2-fpl 1 Acre
REDUCED! 1861 Tuscola 3-2-2.. $85.5T
1801 22nd Reduced Comm., 7 offices/yd
2606 47th Lg lot Great Neighborhood $8T
2708 48th 4-2-2 Brick Call us Today $88.5T
207 36th 3-1¾+1 CH/A..... $32.5T
Reduced 1804 38th 3-1½-1cp Brick $52T
Approx. 7 Acres Roundtop..... Call
REDUCED! Best Buy Motors... $16.9T
Commercial Building. RENT OR SELL
IRA 3-2-2cp on ½ Acre Needs Work. $30T
134 20th 2-1 Owner Finance Starter Home
3015 38th 3-1-1 CH/A Wood Burning Stove
4304 Lubbock Ave. 3-2-1..... CALL!
3704 Muriel Sell or Lease. Cute Home
3500 Ave. W 3-3-2..... $85.9T
4013 Eastridge 3-2-2, lovely, fp .. $37T
New Listing! 2308 42nd St. 3-1.... $35T

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3509 40th Brick 3-2-1cp large utility & hobby room, large shop..... $55T
321 35th Corner 3-1-detached garage $27T
3505 Irving Cute 3-1¾+detached garage.....Assumbale Loan
New Listing 2110 42nd 3-1-rear garage, Creative Financing.....$30's
3100 El Paso Pretty as a Picture..$75T
Dine By Fireplace 3-2-2.....$110T
3-2-2 Beautiful Home & Yard.....$85T
Reduced 3-2-2 Den, Beautiful Kitchen, Landscaped
Country 3-2-2 rock fireplace, Wood Floors, Pool
Close In 2 1 Acres, pond 2-2-office.... $100's
Brick 3-1¾+1cp 160 Acres.....$100's
2206 44th 3-1¾+1 Assumable Note...$40's
2902 34th Extra Nice 3-2-2-den-FL... $90's
Ready for New Family 3-3-office, basement.....$100's
North - 4-1¾ 80 Acres.....$100's
2701 34th Updated! 3-1½+2..... $86T
2907 33rd Spacious 4-3 Pool.....$100's
2205 44th 3-1¾+1..... $46T
Close In Pretty 3-2-w/cp 14 A's.....$95T
Hwy 84 3-2-2 Shop 10 Acres..... $100's
Victorian 2-1 w/wrap around porch $55T
E. 23rd 3-2-shop, covered patio, 9A's...$120T
3500 Ave W Great View 3-3-2...$85.9T
4110 Jacksboro Doll House 3-2-FL-2... $70's
3303 Irving GREAT BUY 4-2-2...$99.9T
4107 Avondale Brick 3-1-1.....$38T
3409 Apple COZY 3-2-fireplace .....$40's
206 32nd Roomy 4-2-1.....Wants Offer
3605 Jacksboro Large Den 3-2-2...$60's
2609 37th Large, close to schools...$100's
New Listing 3-2½+2 Den.....$118T
2810 El Paso LOTS for the MONEY $78.5T
1861 Tuscola 3-2-2 Sm. Acreage $89.9T
IRA 3-2 Mobile Home 18 A's.....$68T
IRA 3-2 M.H. game room, shop....$68.5T
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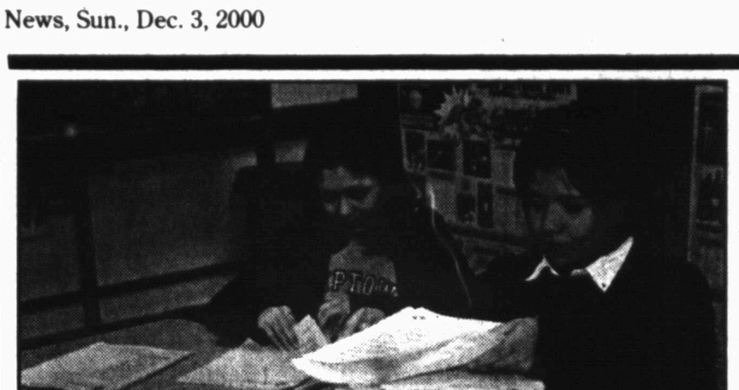
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SPEECH TOURNAMENT — Snyder High School's speech team is hosting a TFA speech tournament today (Saturday) at the high school and West Elementary. Speech students Stacey Garcia, junior, left, and Janie Salinas, sophomore, separated the ballots before the event got underway. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Farm workers may get expanded visa

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's no secret the agriculture industry is utterly dependent on illegal foreign workers, but for years lawmakers have been unable to agree on a way to curb the flow of illegals without harming the farmers who need them.

Now a compromise plan has emerged in Congress that would allow as many as 1 million illegal farm employees to stay in the country permanently and add perhaps 1 million more foreigners temporarily through an expanded visa program.

"The current system is broken and this compromise takes the first steps to fix it," said Anthony Bedell, a lobbyist for the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

It's unclear whether a lame-duck Congress that returns next week will want to tackle such a difficult issue, though those who worked on the plan are hopeful.

"We remain cautiously optimistic," said Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla. and one of the lead negotiators. A spokesman for another lead negotiator, Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., said, "The senator is confident this will happen this session."

Texas Rep. Lamar Smith, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's immigration panel, is fiercely critical of efforts to let illegal immigrants stay in the country.

"Providing green cards to people who are already here amounts to an amnesty and the chairman absolutely opposes amnesty," said John Lampmann, Smith's chief of staff.

Smith supports expanding the visa program, but the Clinton administration has threatened to veto a bill that did only that. Advocates hope a compromise involving both visas and green cards will win White House approval.

Earlier this year, Congress nearly doubled the number of visas for foreign high-tech workers — to 195,000 per year — after high-tech companies complained about acute labor shortages. Critics say it is unfair for Congress to help those companies while ignoring the plight of farmers.

More than half the country's 2 million farm workers acknowledged in 1998 that they were here illegally, according to a Congressional Research Service survey released in March, leading industry experts to conclude the actual figure is much higher.

Farmers say they walk a line between bankruptcy and committing a crime because of their reliance on illegal labor, said Kerry Whitson, a plum farmer and president of the Tulare County Farm Bureau in California. Wages in the depressed farm economy fail to attract domestic workers, he said.

"You try to determine who is legal and who is not," he said. "It becomes so fraught with fraudulent documentation, that becomes a nightmare in itself."

The H-2A visa program allows foreigners to work on farms up to 10 months a year at a federally calculated wage rate in housing that farmers must provide.

Critics say the program allows unscrupulous employers to abuse workers by threatening to have them deported if they demand better wages or conditions. Marcos Camacho, general counsel for United Farm Workers of America, has compared the program to "indentured servitude."

Farmers also complain about the program. The cumbersome application process takes months, which farmers say is too long for them to wait when they need laborers quickly to respond to sudden weather changes that alter planting and harvesting schedules.

"When you get into seasons where Mother Nature steps in and you get 105-degree temperatures prematurely, you might have three days to respond," Whitson said.

Despite complaints, the number of workers covered by the visas has been growing in recent years — from 15,000 visas in 1996 to nearly 42,000 in 1999, according to the Labor Department.

The compromise plan would shorten the visa application process from months to days. Now, Department of Labor inspectors investigate farmers to ensure they will pay adequate wages and provide housing before issuing visas. The bill would let farmers obtain visas simply by promising to adhere to federal laws. Those who do not would be fined.



NEWSPAPER STAFF — Hermleigh School's newspaper staff includes back row, from left, Amber Harbin, Amber Yruegas, Samantha Smith, Julie Mireles; front row, Toni Martinez, Lisa Sanchez, Kally Berkley, Kendra Nachlinger. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Army may yank promotions for soldiers linked to abuse

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army may withdraw promotions and other favorable personnel actions from several 82nd Airborne Division members who were disciplined earlier this year for their role in abuses against ethnic Albanians during peacekeeping duty in Kosovo.

The actions that could be withdrawn include unspecified "favorable assignments" and selection for promotion or advanced schooling. The names of those involved were withheld, but Army officials speaking privately said they include Lt. Col. Michael D. Ellerbe, commander of the 82nd Airborne's 3rd Battalion.

The Army on Friday released a five-page memo from Gen. John W. Hendrix, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, who reviewed the results of an internal investigation of the misconduct in Kosovo last winter.

Hendrix concluded that the crimes and abuses committed by some members of the 3rd Battalion's A Company "were the direct result of failures in leadership and a lack of personal discipline." He cited no names, but he referred by job title to Capt. Kevin Lambert, who commanded A Company.

"Junior leaders — both commissioned and non-commissioned — beginning with the A Company commander, participated in misconduct themselves and condoned the misconduct of their soldiers," Hendrix wrote in the memo to the Army chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki. The memo was dated Nov. 6.

"In their actions, these leaders clearly failed to set the proper moral and ethical tone for their unit although their training had provided them the tools to act in accordance with Army values and the Law of Armed Conflict," Hendrix wrote. The Law of Armed Conflict, an international convention, protects civilians against "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment."

Some members of A Company's 1st Platoon were found by investigators to have slapped, threatened and verbally abused ethnic Albanian civilians while on patrols in Kosovo last winter. The investigative report, released in September, said some soldiers "experienced difficulties tempering their combat mentality." It also said their overly aggressive tendencies were manifest in their unit's slogan: "Shoot 'em in the face."

Hendrix said the vast majority of peacekeepers performed their duties faithfully and honorably.

The investigation was ordered after Staff Sgt. Frank J. Ronghi, a member of A Company's 1st Platoon, was accused of raping and murdering an 11-year-old ethnic Albanian girl last January in Vitina, Kosovo. Ronghi was convicted and sentenced in August to life in prison.

In addition to Ronghi's conviction, nine members of the 3rd Battalion were given administrative punishments as a result of the investigation. The Army chose not to court martial any except Ronghi.

In his memo to Shinseki, Hendrix said those disciplinary actions were appropriate.

"However, subsequently several of those responsible received favorable assignments or selections for schooling or promotion," he wrote. "I recommend that all of these favorable personnel actions be reviewed."

Hendrix asked that the Army Suitability Evaluation Board review the original investigative report. Officials said his action meant the board would decide whether to include the information in the nine soldiers' personnel files. If it is included, their selection for promotions or favorable assignments likely would be withdrawn.

FDA says American Red Cross blood operations are flawed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal agency is questioning the handling of blood supplies by the American Red Cross, saying the agency repeatedly failed inspections over 15 years and continues to have problems that could harm patients.

Documents filed in U.S. District Court by the Food and Drug Administration said the Red Cross is not in compliance with the current laws and regulations. "The problems are serious because of the potential for harm," FDA official Dr. Jay S. Epstein said Friday.

The Red Cross collects about 6.5 million units of blood annually, about half of the nation's medical blood supply.

The FDA filings maintained that the Red Cross has "a long-standing and ongoing failure to comply with good manufacturing practice" standards in collecting, processing and distributing blood used in medical procedures.

The Red Cross "has not been in compliance with the (standards) ... since at least 1985," the FDA said, saying increasingly tough actions by the government have failed to correct the problems.

Dr. Bernadine Healy, the American Red Cross president and chief executive, said the blood supplied by the organization is "the safest in the world."

"We are not releasing dangerous blood, but there have been near misses," she said. "These are red flags and we are jumping on them."

The FDA said the Red Cross failed inspections in 1985. After repeated notifications of non-compliance, it entered into an agreement in 1988 to pursue a plan to meet agency standards.

The problems continued and the FDA sent three notices threatening to revoke establishment licenses. The license of one Red Cross center eventually was revoked.

"When even these measures did not spur (the Red Cross) to meaningful action, FDA negotiated" a 1993 court decree that required better controls and a quality assurance program, court papers said. The FDA said that since 1993 it has sent 10 letters warning the Red Cross of noncompliance with blood center regulations.

An FDA inspection in July found 25 violations in an Atlanta Red Cross center. A similar inspection of Red Cross headquarters in Washington uncovered 63 violations.

The violations included an improper release of blood products that tested positive for the cytomegalovirus and failure to follow procedures in a second HIV test of blood that had been rejected because it tested positive for the AIDS virus in an initial test. The HIV-suspected blood was never distributed and the cytomegalovirus-positive blood was not used by patients, the Red Cross said.

The FDA said the "current violations are of deep concern to FDA because of the impact they may have on the safety of the nation's blood supply."

Epstein said FDA officials have been in discussion with Red Cross officials about possible fines, which he said "are an appropriate step to provide increased incentives to bring the Red Cross into compliance."

Following the discussion, the Red Cross filed court papers to block the fines and ask that the court order mediation of the FDA compliance enforcement efforts. In a response, the agency said it "does not believe mediation would be productive."

The increasingly severe actions of the FDA came to light after Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe, director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group, released copies of a letter he sent to FDA Commissioner Jane Henney demanding the agency "stop playing dangerous, cooperative, polite games with the (Red Cross) and ask that the organization be held in contempt of court" for not complying with the 1993 consent decree.

"Unless the FDA exercises this legal responsibility, there is little evidence that the (Red Cross) will come into compliance with the terms of the (court decree) or with U.S. laws and regulations concerning blood and blood products," Wolfe said in a statement.

Healy, who became head of the American Red Cross last year, said the organization took out a $300 million loan in 1991 to build and equip laboratories and to improve the management of the blood supply system.

She said one blood processing center, in Puerto Rico, has been closed and 36 other centers are being upgraded to comply with FDA regulations.

On the Net:
American Red Cross site: http://www.redcross.org
FDA site: http://www.fda.gov

CARDS OF THANKS

THANK YOU

We want to say a very special thank you to our friends and family who have loved and supported us though Olton's illness and death. Words cannot express how much we appreciate your calls, visits, cards, food and other expressions of concern for our family.

God bless each of you.
The Olton Smith Family

THANK YOU

We wish to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for the beautiful flowers, the abundance of food and for every act of kindness and helpfulness shown during the loss of our loved one. A special thanks to all the area farmers and ranchers that Johnny (Bubba) worked for. Thanks to Wright Colonial Funeral home and Mr. W.C. Graves. Thanks to all who donated money, buckles, equipment and livestock to the Johnny "Bubba" Ervin Memorial Benefit Team Roping, and to all those who participated in the event. Once again our heartfelt thanks.

The Family Of
Johnny Ervin Jr.

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Christmas parade Saturday

College Avenue will be alive with the sights and sounds of the holiday season Saturday as the annual lighted Christmas parade makes its way to the square.

The parade, sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, will start at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Line-up will begin at 6 p.m. in the Snyder Shopping Center in front of the cinema.

"We will leave the cinema and go all the way down to the white buffalo and then turn to the right on 25th Street around the Courthouse square," Donna Fowler, chamber manager, said.

The parade will disband across from the West Texas State Bank drive-in windows.

Judging will be in the Snyder Shopping Center parking lot between 6 and 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Christmas Memories," and prizes will be $100, $75 and $50.

Fowler said that all floats must be lighted. "We'd love it if they'd put music on them," she added.

She also encourages people with old cars and pickups, children on bicycles and people on horseback to participate.

"Just show up if you want to be in parade. It doesn't have to be formal, just as long as they are lit," Fowler said. "We'd love for it to be just like the Fourth of July."

However, Fowler said she would prefer that there be no walkers.

Santa will be on hand for Saturday's festivities. He will visit with children in the gazebo from 4 to 6 p.m. and then he will ride in the fire truck in the parade.

Fowler reminds parents to bring their cameras if they want pictures of their children with Santa.

The chamber will sell popcorn and hot chocolate. Snyder Junior choir students under the direction of Marci Dennis will be caroling around the square from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, also.

"Bundle up and come on out and join the fun," Fowler said.

Legend Airlines shuts down

DALLAS (AP) — Legend Airlines, a start-up that said last week it had lost $1 million a week in its first six months, shut down operations Saturday.

Legend executives decided late Friday to suspend operations until it can raise more capital, according to a statement released Saturday.

Spokeswoman Kim Plaskett said she was not prepared to say how long the suspension would last and what the airline's prospects for recapitalization were. President and Chief Executive Officer T. Allan McArtor scheduled a news conference for later Saturday to discuss the matter, she said.

Continental Airlines and Continental Express have agreed to honor Legend tickets to all destinations. Customers will fly to Cleveland or Houston before heading to their final stop. Other airlines also may step in to help out, Plaskett said.

From its Dallas hub, it serves New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Organized in 1996, Legend attempted to challenge Fort Worth-based American Airlines for business travelers in the Dallas-Fort Worth market by offering first-class amenities, such as leather seats and in-flight live television, aboard 56-seat jets.

American and the city of Fort Worth tried to block the airline's start-up, but Legend won the lengthy court battle and began flying from Dallas Love Field on April 5.

Last week, Legend filed documents with the U.S. Department of Transportation that indicated that it lost $25.6 million from its launch until the end of the third quarter on Sept. 30, and had lost nearly $44.7 million since it was formed in 1996, including expenses for property, equipment and employees.

As of Sept. 30, Legend had $184,522 in cash on hand and had been drawing down by nearly $14,500 a week during the third quarter. At that rate, it would run out of cash the week of Christmas.

But McArtor said last week that the company would be able to raise enough capital to keep going. He said advance ticket sales for the holiday season and early 2001 are "very strong."

Florida fight shifts back to Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Returning to the courtroom, Al Gore's lawyers sought Saturday to persuade a Florida judge to count 14,000 disputed ballots they hope will erase Republican George W. Bush's margin of victory.

While both sides waited for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide the fate of earlier recounts, Gore's lawyers opened their case contesting the state's official election results declaring Bush the winner by 537 votes.

"We have alleged that the certified results reject a number of legal votes and include a number of illegal votes," attorney David Boies said, laying out the Democrat's arguments.

He asked the court to allow contested votes in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties to be counted belatedly, saying the tallying could "place in doubt" Bush's victory. He predicted a hand review of 9,000 Miami-Dade ballots rejected during computer counting would unearth at least 2,000 votes in the largely Democratic county.

Bush attorney Barry Richard said no further recounting should be allowed, calling Gore's request "contrary to the long-standing and clearly established law of the state."

Richard accused the Gore team of trying to get the court to alter the course of the election to reach "a destination that he must arrive at in order to win."

Circuit Judge N. Sanders Sauls, a registered Democrat appointed by a Republican governor, was reviewing the evidence in a rare weekend hearing.

The central players stayed far from the legal fray. Bush took a motorcade from Austin to the dusty back roads of Crawford, Texas, to meet at his ranch with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and House Speaker Dennis Hastert. The vice president spent a quiet day in Washington.

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments from attorneys for Bush and Gore on Friday at one of the most closely watched hearings in the court's long history. The justices are considering Bush's request to overturn a Florida Supreme Court ruling and disqualify hand recounts in the state, which Gore needs to overtake his Republican rival.

The justices peppered the lawyers with questions, then disappeared quietly into their chambers, clearing the stage for the next dramatic legal showdown.

Sauls has the power to order a correction to Florida's results, which were certified when Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush partisan, last Sunday declared the Texas governor the winner.

Palestinian killed; four more buried as violence continues

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli security forces shot and killed a Palestinian man on Saturday, witnesses said, and four more Palestinians were buried as the death toll in the two months of violence climbed to 294.

The intensity of the clashes and the number of Palestinian stone throwers have been declining in recent weeks, yet rarely a day passes without fatalities.

A Palestinian working with an electric drill was fatally shot in the neck and the chest Saturday afternoon near the West Bank town of Ramallah, according to witnesses and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The man, Shehada al-Jafari, 26, was working near the window of a building that was damaged in previous clashes, and Palestinian witnesses speculated that his electric drill was mistaken for a weapon by the Israeli forces, who opened fire.

The Israeli military said soldiers identified an armed Palestinian in the area and opened fire, but did not have information on what happened to the man.

The Red Crescent also said 10 Palestinians were wounded in the area, el-Bireh, a village outside Ramallah.

Elsewhere, Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops exchanged gunfire in the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said, but no one was hurt. Palestinians threw firebombs at Israeli soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip, but no injuries were reported, the army said.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinian mourners brandishing guns and chanting anti-Israeli slogans attended four funerals Saturday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Three of the Palestinians died in confrontations Friday and the fourth, a 14-year-old boy, died of gunshot wounds suffered Wednesday in Gaza at the Karni crossing point with Israel.

Obituaries

Mary Doak

SAN ANTONIO — Mary Clark Doak of San Antonio, formerly of Snyder, died Friday, Dec. 1.



Mary Doak

Following cremation, plans for the service and interment will be under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

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Roy Gilmore

1920-2000

POST — Roy "Rosy" Gilmore of Post died Thursday, Nov. 30, at his home.

Service for Mr. Gilmore, 80, was held this morning at Calvary Baptist Church with Paul Jones officiating, assisted by the Rev. Jerry Graham. Burial was to follow in Terrace Cemetery.

Born on March 23, 1920 in Gorman, he married Gloria "Sis" Hays on May 10, 1946 in Snyder. Mr. Gilmore was a truck driver in the oil field. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Gilmore of Post; two daughters, Charlotte Baker of San Antonio and Sue Cash of Post; a sister, Maudeen Priddy of Brownwood; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Three arrested in Snyder

Arrests

A 37-year-old Snyder man was booked into jail at 11:22 p.m. Friday for felony driving while intoxicated. Lazarus Garcia of 601 25th Street was taken into custody by Snyder police in the 2600 block of Avenue U.

At 11:53 p.m. Friday, officers arrested a 33-year-old male for public intoxication and an out-of-state warrant for conditional release violation. He was arrested in the 1800 block of 26th Street.

At 1:46 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 17-year-old male in the 4400 block of Avenue U for consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Domestic disturbances

Officers were called to the 100 block of Peach Street at 6:29 Friday in reference to a disturbance. Officers issued a criminal trespass warning to a man living in Fisher County.

Another criminal trespass warning was issued to a man at 9:19 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of 37th Street in reference to him harassing his wife.

Criminal mischief

Officers responded to a report of criminal mischief in one of the restrooms at the Scurry County Health Unit at 12:27 p.m. Friday. Officers made contact with juveniles in the area and advised them of the complaint.

Possible missing money

Clerks at the Town & Country store on East Highway reported the theft of money from a donation jar on a counter at 5:20 this morning. The incident is still under investigation.

Gas drive off

Clerks at the Town & Country store on North College reported a gas drive off at 1 p.m. Friday in the amount of $14.50.

WCFH

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Holiday dinner

Church of the Nazarene will host a holiday Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner following the 10:45 a.m. worship service Sunday. Everyone is invited.

Missionaries to visit

Charlie and Pat Reynolds, missionaries to Guatemala, will be at the Word Is Life Deliverance Church, 312 Coliseum Drive, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Service time is changed

Avenue D Baptist Church, 324 30th, has changed the time of evening services. Beginning Sunday, evening services will start at 5 p.m.

Grand jury

The Scurry County grand jury will consider approximately 10 cases Monday when it convenes at 8:30 a.m. in 132nd District Court.

AARP Christmas dinner

The AARP Chapter 2063 Christmas dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Martha Ann Womans' Club. Val Cervantes, area community coordinator, will be present to install chapter officers for 2001.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "When Tradition Becomes Sin," followed by "Are You Having More Fun at Church Nowadays?"

Historical commission to meet

The Scurry County Historical Commission will meet at noon Tuesday at The Shack.

Lions Club to meet

The Lions Club will meet at noon Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Members are to bring a gift for Christmas For Kids (formerly Toys for Tots) Dec. 12 is the deadline for bringing a toy or be fined $10.

Vocational nurse program testing

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

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.

Northeast reading night

Northeast Elementary's Family Reading Night will be at 6:30 Thursday. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Childcare is available. All Northeast Elementary families are invited to attend.

West Family Reading Night

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

Scurry County Health Unit

Effective Jan. 1, 2001, the Scurry County Health Unit will charge a flat fee of $5 per person for Health Unit Administration services. No charge may be made to patients for the cost of vaccines provided through federal grant funds, whether administered in public clinic or by private physicians. If an administration fee (personnel, salaries, rent, utilities, supplies, etc) is charged, no one receiving an immunization in public clinics may be denied vaccine provided through federal grant funds for failure to pay the administrative fee or failure to make a donation to the provider. Public Law 100-177.

Pearl Harbor Day

Take a trip down Memory Lane. Scurry County Senior Center will present a "Remember Pearl Harbor Day" program at 11 a.m. Thursday at the center. World War II veterans are encouraged to be there by 11 a.m.

Country and gospel music

A country and gospel music program will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Scurry County Senior Citizens Center. Everyone is invited and there is no charge. Call 573-3996 for more information.

VFW arts, crafts show

Vendors are needed for the VFW Arts and Crafts show set for Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Scurry County VFW Post. Contact Jim Bailey after 3 p.m. at 573-5338.

Social Security reps

Representatives of Social Security will be at the Senior Citizens Center Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1-2 p.m.

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.

Births

Joseph and Erica Arispe of Snyder announce the birth of their son at 2:58 a.m. on Dec. 2 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, five ounces.

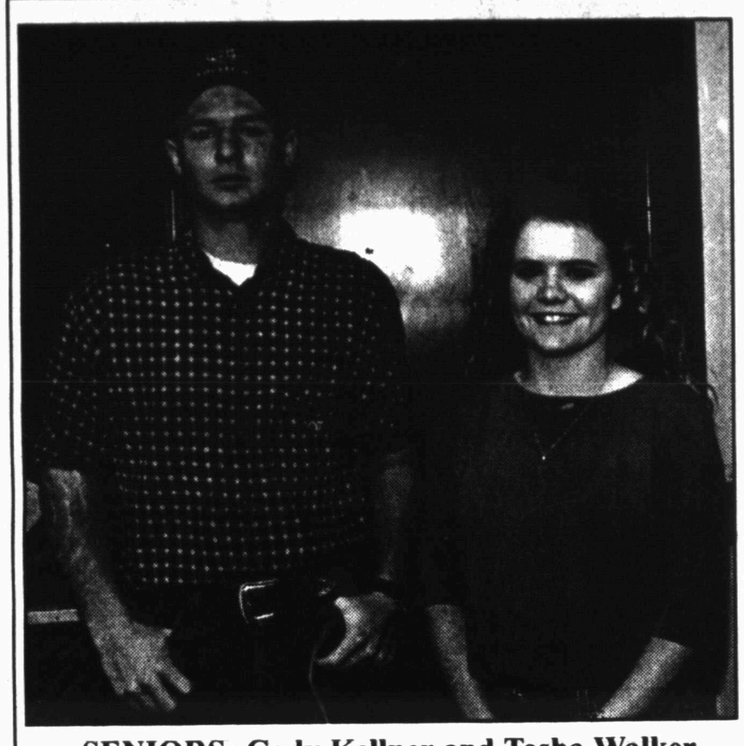
Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 1 – James Burleson, Angel Duran, Erica Arispe and Mahoya Smith.

DISMISSALS: Stella Pylant, Mahoya Smith, James Burleson and Florine Merritt.

CENSUS: 38 (Med./Surg.-13, Long-term Care-23, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

Ira High School class favorites for 2000-2001



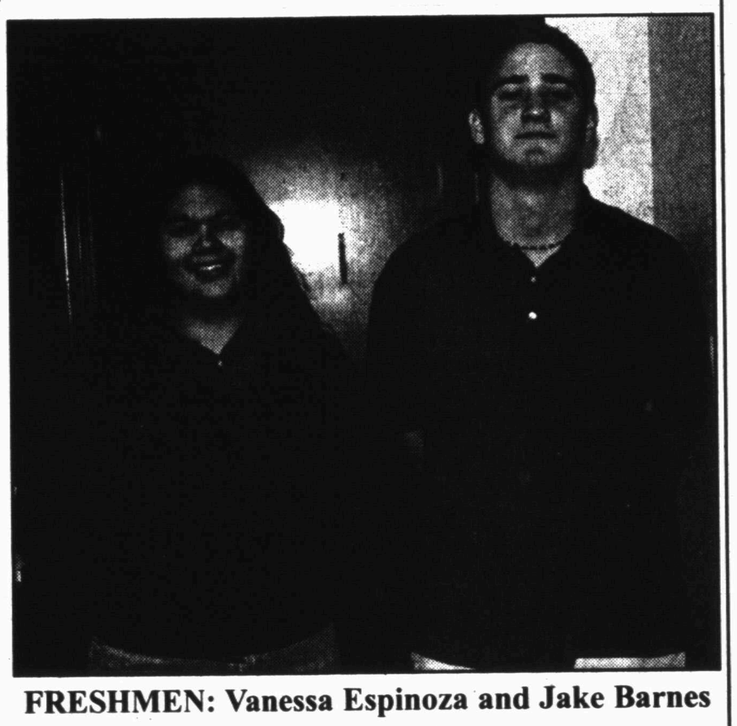
SENIORS: Cody Kellner and Tosha Walker



JUNIORS: Jerry Jamison and Lecia Knight



SOPHOMORES: Celeigh Sterling and Josh Gutierrez



FRESHMEN: Vanessa Espinoza and Jake Barnes

Photos by Shirley A. Gorman

Internet class is coming

AUSTIN (AP) — Armed with donated laptop computers, several gifted Texas students will be taking a U.S. government class over the Internet beginning this month.

The pilot project was announced Friday as part of Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander's e-Texas initiative, which aims to use new technology to streamline government.

Selected high school juniors at Paris, Plainview, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo and Donna school districts will use the computers donated by IBM Corp. to participate in the class that will be conducted over the Internet.

The students will have access to the course 24 hours a day, seven-days a week. The instructor, Rosemary Morrow, will communicate with the students via e-mail and other electronic means.

The curriculum includes video conferences, a live chat room and an electronic bulletin board. Guest speakers and interactive presentations from state leaders also may be included.

Assignments will be completed online with aid of a supplemental textbook.

"This pilot project targets Texas' gifted and talented students, but with success the same technology could help kids in special education, bilingual classes and any number of other areas, as well as students in the mainstream," Rylander said.

Home burglarized

LONDON (AP) — Thieves broke into Madonna's new London home and stole a vehicle, police said.

British newspapers said in their Saturday editions that the 42-year-old pop star, her two children and boyfriend Guy Ritchie, 32, were asleep upstairs during the burglary at their home in Notting Hill.

Couple to appeal conviction

DALLAS (AP) — A couple convicted of running what authorities called one of the largest child pornography Web sites in the world have vowed to appeal a jury's ruling that they are guilty on nearly 90 counts.

Jurors deliberated eight hours before returning guilty verdicts against Thomas and Janice Reedy and their home-based company, Landslide Inc., which netted more than $1 million between 1997 and 1999.

The Fort Worth couple's business gave subscribers passwords to access Web sites containing graphic pictures and videos of children engaging in sex acts with each other and adults.

The Reedys and their business were charged in April in an 89-count indictment after an extensive investigation by the FBI, Postal Service and Customs Service. The charges included sexual exploitation of minors, distribution of child pornography and conspiracy.

Jurors found Janice Reedy, 32, innocent of one count of possession of child porn but convicted her on all other counts. Thomas Reedy, 37, and the company were found guilty on all 89 counts.

The couple face from 20 years to life in prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

"We are disappointed with the verdict," defense attorney Wes Ball was quoted by The Dallas Morning News Saturday. "We didn't think the responsibility goes with this level when you're dealing with the Internet."

Ball said he plans to ask for a hearing to release Thomas Reedy, who was taken into custody because he was considered a potential flight risk. Janice Reedy remains free on bond and left the courthouse with family members.

Authorities called it one of the largest Internet child porn cases in the country because three webmasters also were indicted. R.W. Kusuma and Hanny Ingganata of Indonesia and Boris Greenberg of Russia have not been extradited to the United States.

The Reedys maintained their innocence, saying they thought the Web sites contained only adult porn. They said their company verified that customers were adults and was designed to make sure children did not have access to porn sites.

Janice Reedy testified Thursday that the computers were owned by her husband. She was Landslide's bookkeeper, where she handled billing forms with site names such as "XXX Pre-Teen," but said someone told her the names did not mean the site contained lewd pictures of children.

But authorities said the couple had an international clientele of more than 300,000 subscribers who paid from $14.95 to $29.95 a month for access to "Just Grow Up," "Lolita Hardcore," "Child Rape" or other sites.

Authorities said the Reedys kept 40 percent of the profits and gave the webmasters 60 percent.

During the five-day trial, prosecutors projected pictures and videos on a large screen. Some jurors looked away from the images.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Terri Moore said the couple served as a link between pedophiles and the webmasters who launched the sites. She said Friday's verdict sends a message she hopes others in the business will follow.

"I hope it scares them into stopping, because police and prosecutors are getting smarter about this stuff," she said. "We're coming after them."

Judge throws out anti-airport bill

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A judge has thrown out a voter-approved measure aimed at stopping the development of a defunct Marine Corps air station into Orange County's second airport.

The measure would have required a two-thirds majority by Orange County residents before an airport, toxic landfill or regional jail could be built. It passed in March with 67 percent approval, but prompted several lawsuits.

The judge also said the measure, dubbed the Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative, had statewide impact and attempted to undermine the county's Board of Supervisors.

The Marine Corps Station El Toro, adjacent to the cities of Lake Forest and Irvine, was an air station from 1943 until it closed last year.

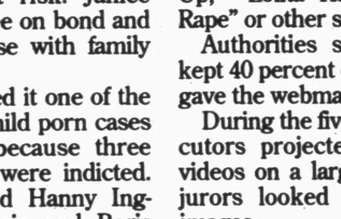
Both sides agreed to move the case from Orange County to Los Angeles to avoid the appearance of conflict.

On the Net:
El Toro Airport information: http://www.eltoroairport.org/

The Civil War Battle of Gettysburg ended after Confederate Gen. George Picken's troops suffered severe losses in his famous charge.

Idaho becaame the 43rd state of the union in 1890.

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Troop 27 to celebrate 50 years Sunday at FUMC

Joe Hefner, Boy Scout committee chairman, and Max Snider, assistant scoutmaster, have spent several weeks researching the history of Boy Scout Troop 27 which will celebrate 50 years of continuous sponsorship by the First United Methodist Church from 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday.

The history they compiled is somewhat sketchy because the troop's records were lost when the Buffalo Trail Council office located in Sweetwater burned down several years ago. They encourage anyone who has information or photos to contact them. Everyone is also invited to attend the 50th anniversary to be held at the church.

What is known for sure is that the troop has been in continued existence since 1950, and its sponsor during that period has been and continues to be the First United Methodist Church. However Troop 27 was actually organized in 1911, but there is no record of its continuous existence. During the oil boom years, Snyder had several Boy Scout troops. Membership changed frequently as oil field people moved into and away from the city.

Today Troop 27 is the only one left in town. However, Snyder does have several Cub Scout packs, Snider said.

Hefner said Boy Scouts have fun as they learn. The BSA Mission is defined as follows: "It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

Hefner and Snider named some scoutmasters (the only ones they know about) including Earl Stubbs, Bernhard Bartels, Glenn Barron, George Rawlings, W.A. Vestal, Paul Carroll, David Young, Robert Clinton, Bill Sikes, Harry Vanderpool, Jack Lawrence, Ted Zeck, Tommy Williams, Lyle Deffebach, Hubert Cargile, Robert Adams, Joel Hamlett, Jack McDonald, Hamp Yearwood, Laddie McMillan, Greg Crawford, Danny Pierce, Leon Earles, Bob Dupree and Glenn Burns.

Troop 27 has also had its

See Troop 27 Page 3B

Scurry County Folks

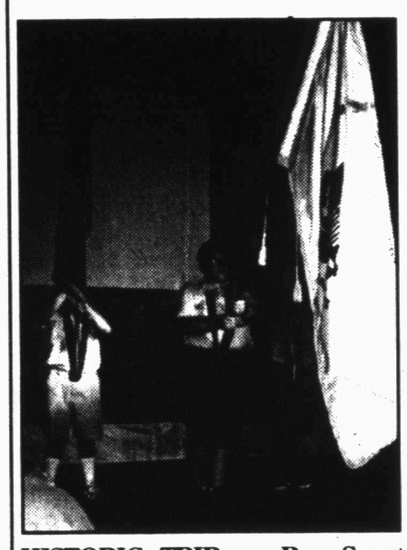
By Shirley A. Gorman

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

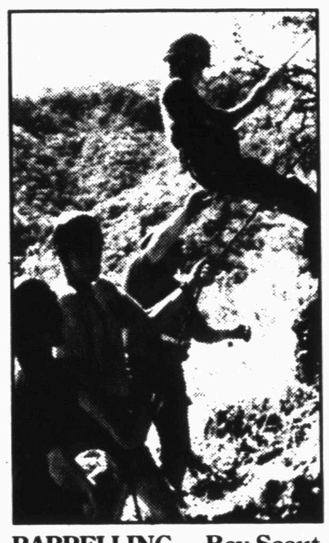
Troop 27: Boy Scouts in action



TROOP 27 — Members of Boy Scout Troop 27 include back row from left, Mike Tyrrell, assistant scoutmaster; James Garvin, assistant scoutmaster; G.J. Burns, Brock Tyrrell, Matthew Stokes, Chris Smauley, Glenn Burns, scoutmaster; middle row, Justin Stokes, senior patrol leader; Robin Smauley, assistant scoutmaster; Danny Courtney, Nathan Wittie, Andy Garvin, Jacob Hinson, Jarrod Fletcher; front row, Max Snider, assistant scoutmaster; Zane Block, Dalton Cole, Zack Block. Not pictured are Thomas Hefner, Joseph Hefner, Barrett Munson. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



HISTORIC TRIP — Boy Scout Troop 27's activities include an historic trip to the USS Lexington. G.J. Burns, center, took part in the flag raising ceremony. The boys spent the night on the historic ship. (Contributed Photo)

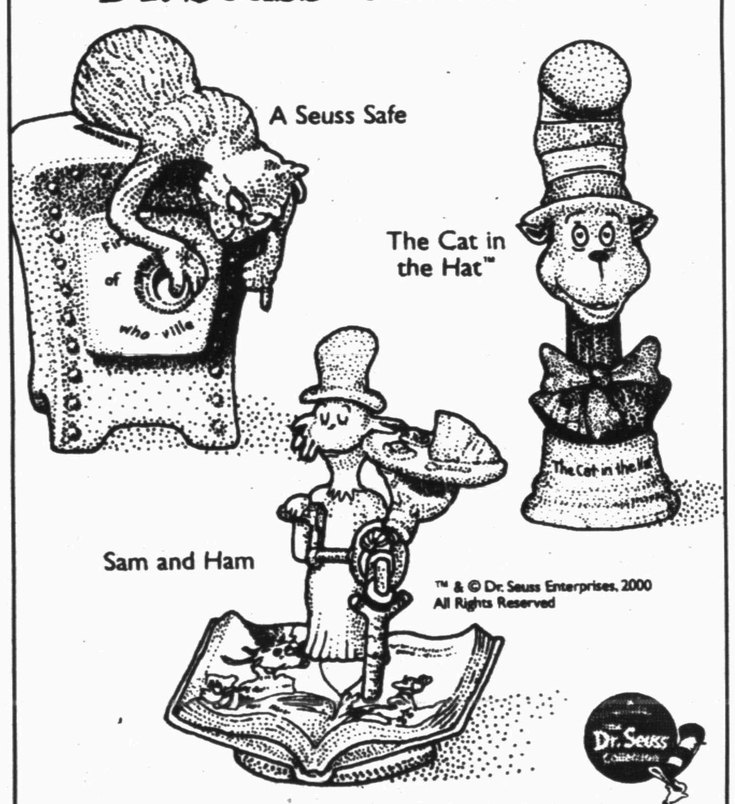


RAPPELLING —Boy Scout Troop 27's activities include a summer campout in the Davis Mountains. Enjoying rappelling are from left, Chris Smauley, Joe Hefner, Robin Smauley and Thomas Hefner. (Contributed Photo)



SUMMER CAMP — In June, 1999, members of Snyder's Boy Scout Troop 27 worked on the pond weed award during summer camp. (Contributed Photo)

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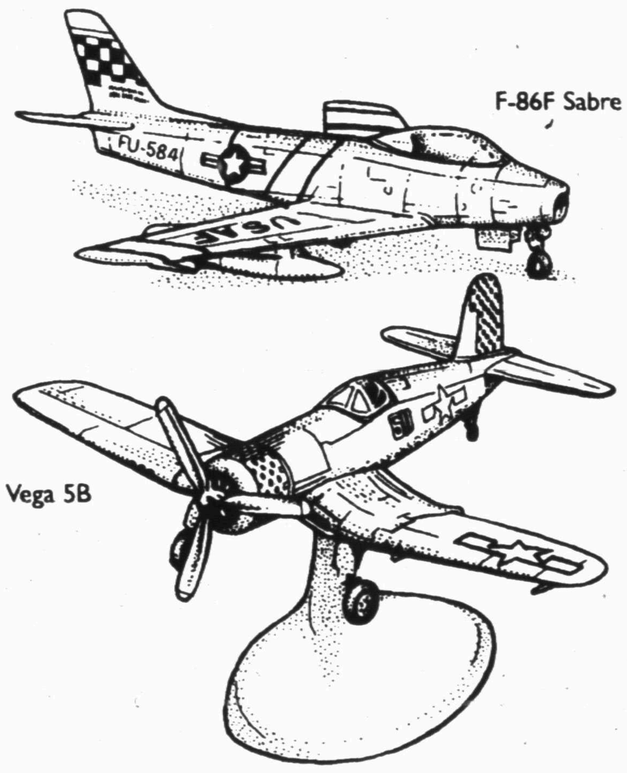
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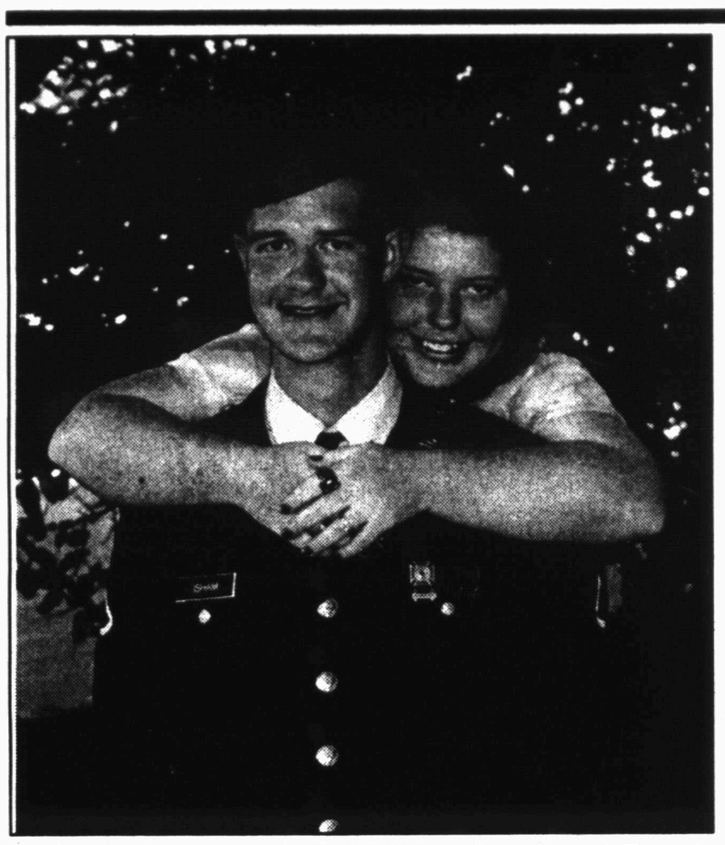
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Virginia Bloom, Owner



DECEMBER WEDDING PLANNED — Dennis and Tommie Reynolds announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their daughter, Amy Jewell Reynolds, to Victor Allen Isham. He is the son of Jack and Kim Isham of Colorado City and Frances Isham of Pampa. The future bride's grandparents are Nate and Johnnie Pyburr and the prospective groom's grandmother is Irma Towe of Comanche. A 6:15 p.m. ceremony will unite the couple on Dec. 29 in the Snyder Church of God. (Contributed Photo)

Stock kitchen with special items for a festive touch

This Christmas season, stock your kitchen with a few special items that will add a festive touch to even the simplest of meals. Recipe experts at Meals.com and *The Basic Gourmet Entertains* cookbook author Kathleen Taggart offer the following suggestions to help you simplify your preparation and enjoy the celebration.

Toasted nuts – chop and decorate the edges of plates or sprinkle over side dishes.

Dried cranberries – add to green salads, stuffing, pork and chicken dishes for color and tang.

Roasted red bell peppers – top eggs and sandwiches with pepper strips for festive color.

Oranges, kiwi or star fruit – slice thinly and arrange on plate to accent meats and vegetables.

Chutneys or fruit relishes – serve in small, individual bowls to accompany holiday meats.

Fresh herbs – use springs of thyme or rosemary to garnish fish, chicken, pork and lamb; basil or parsley adds color and spark to vegetables and potatoes.

Kalamata olives – serve in a bowl as an appetizer, add to green salads, or chop and add to deviled eggs.

Extra virgin olive oil – puddle oil in mashed potatoes, drizzle on grilled steak, or serve with balsamic vinegar for dipping bread.

Cocoa or chocolate powder – sprinkle cocoa on white dessert plate or dip rim of ice cream bowl into cocoa before serving dessert.

Orange or lemon zest – add zest, grated or as thin curls, to fish or chicken for color and fragrance; also adds zing to ordinary desserts.

Tortillas – make leftovers special by wrapping in warm tortillas, or melt pepper jack cheese between two tortillas for quick appetizer quesadillas (serve with salsa).

—

Herbert Clark Hoover, the 31st president of the United States, was born in West Branch, Iowa, in 1874.

Bridal Registry

SARAH FISHER AND BRIAN FIELDS
APRIL WHITTENBURG AND JOSHUA LEVENS
ANNIE BURT AND TOMMY REEVES
JALENE YOUNG AND CARL MCBROOM
TAMMY LOGSTON AND CHRIS WINTER
KRISTY BOLLINGER AND BRIAN MILLER
JENNY HUNTER AND DALVIN HAMPTON
SHERRIE BUCHANAN AND DALE STANLEY
MAUNA FLORA AND DELL BLACKWELL

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Phone In Orders Welcome
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School Menus

Ira

All meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST
Monday
Cereal
Toast
Juice
Tuesday
Breakfast Pizza
Juice
Wednesday
Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy
Thursday
Eggs
Biscuits
Sausage
Friday
French Toast
Juice
LUNCH
Monday
Vegetable Soup
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Corn Bread
Peanut Butter Chewies
Peaches
Tuesday
Chicken Sandwiches
Lettuce & Tomatoes
Chips
Apples.
Wednesday
Pizza
Vegetable Salad
Corn
Crackers
Cherry Crisp
Thursday
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Apple Crisp
Friday
Corn Dogs
French Fries
Pork & Beans
Cookies

Snyder

All meals are served with milk; breakfasts with milk and juice.

BREAKFAST
(East, Northeast, Stanfield)
Monday
Cereal
Tuesday
Cinnamon Roll
Wednesday
Donut
Thursday
Teddy Grahams
Friday
Breakfast on a Stick
BREAKFAST
(Other Schools)
Students may choose from the menu or assorted dry cereal, toast w/jelly.
Monday
Donut
Tuesday
Cinnamon Rolls
Wednesday
Sausage on a Stick
Thursday
Scrambled Eggs & Bacon
Friday
Oatmeal w/Spiced Apples

LUNCH
Monday
Hamburger
Fideo Chicken
Green Beans
Garlic Toast
Chilled Peaches
Tuesday
Hot Dog on a Bun
Chicken Patty on a Bun
Tossed Salad
French Fries
"Grinch" Pudding
Wednesday
Pizza or
Tuna & Noodles
Green Peas
Dinner Roll
Fruited Gelatin
Thursday
Beef Soft Taco or
Green Chili Casserole
Pinto Beans
Tossed Salad
Corn Bread
Friday
Crunchy Corn Dog or
Steak Fingers w/Gravy
Baked Potato
Carrots
Apple Cobbler

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST
Monday
Juice
Buttered Oatmeal
Toast
Tuesday
Fruit
Blueberry Muffins
Wednesday
Juice
Kolaches
Thursday
Fruit
Dry Cereal
Toast
Friday
Juice
Fried Ham
Toast
LUNCH
Monday
Enchiladas/Cheese Sauce
Refried Beans
Tossed Salad
Crackers
Lemon Squares
Tuesday
Pepper Steak
Steamed Rice
Buttered Carrots
Hot Rolls
Chilled Pineapple
Wednesday
Chili Beans
Buttered Cabbage
Corn Bread
Pink Applesauce
Thursday
Oven Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Buttered Green Beans
Hot Rolls
Fruit Jell-O
Friday
Sloppy Joe on a Bun
French Fries
Relish Cup
Cardinal Cake

Bridge Scores

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Jane Hinton directed games at the Snyder Country Club.

1. Dot Casey, Jane Hinton.
2. Pat Floyd, Shirley Stewart.
3. Margaret Birdwell, Dorothy Rosson.

—

For a quick confection, stuff whole almonds into whole, pitted dried apricots and roll in confectionery sugar.

Fold chopped almonds into fruit crumble toppings for extra flavor and texture.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 12-02-00
♠ A 7
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ K J 2
♣ K Q J 6

West
♠ K 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 7 4 3

East
♠ Q 10 9 8 5 3
♥ A 4
♦ A Q 6
♣ 9 8

South
♠ J 6
♥ K Q 8 7 5
♦ 7 5
♣ A 10 5 2

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: East

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

Opening lead: ??

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2000

A book with a Canadian connection

By Phillip Alder

One of the English books mentioned Tuesday has a Canadian connection: the publisher Master Point Press. "For Love or Money" by Englishmen Mark Horton and Brian Senior is a global travelogue of various tournaments where the authors either played or wrote daily bulletins. It is, of course, a somewhat self-indulgent exercise, but the deals are interesting and the stories colorful.

This deal comes from one of the five chapters written by Senior. (There are 18 chapters and five so-called interludes.) Four hearts must lose one spade, one heart and two diamond tricks, right? Well, how did two experts allow four hearts to make without doing anything "wrong"?

It all started with West's opening lead. Thinking that as either the dummy or declarer might have a singleton spade and that it might be vital for him to switch to a minor through the dummy at trick two, Polish world champion Krzysztof Martens opened with the spade king.

Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to her king, and another heart to East's ace. Now the Israeli international Daniella Birman paused to count the deal. South was "known" to have started with three spades (West had to have two from his lead) and five hearts. And as declarer needed the club ace for her overcall, she would soon cash four club tricks, leaving herself with at most one diamond loser. There was only one chance: Birman led a low spade, hoping partner had started with the doubleton king-jack.

The book is $19.95 postpaid from Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies. Call (800) 274-2221 to order.

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Taylor Clark donates hair

Taylor Clark, eight-year-old granddaughter of Bill and Barbara Tune didn't let her lifelong locks of hair hit the floor and be swept away. She donated her hair to Locks of Love; a non-profit organization that collects donated hair. The company manufactures high-quality vacuum-fitted wigs made entirely of human hair at little or no cost to families who otherwise could not afford the $3,000 or more investment.

Since its first year of operation in 1997, Locks of Love has helped more than 200 children by processing thousands of inches of donated hair.

Not ever having a hair cut, Taylor was ready to have her waist-length first hair cut. Lisa Clark of Kingwood, Taylor's mother, said it was much easier to part with her child's beautiful blond hair knowing it benefited a good cause.

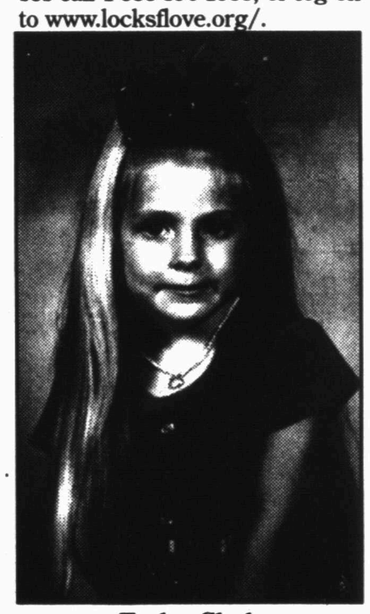
M.D. Anderson Cancer center referred her to Locks of Love, and Clark found out that the Clairol Tour would soon visit a mall near her home.

After a few scissor-snips, Taylor was able to donate two 10-inch ponytails to Locks of Love. According to the organization, the majority of hair donations are received from kids who want to help kids.

"Taylor loves her new hairstyle, and she feels really good about helping another kid who lost her hair," her mother said.

It takes 12 ponytails to make a single hairpiece. Donated hair must be at least 10 inches in length because two inches get lost in the manufacturing process of the prosthesis.

Information about donating hair or receiving a hair prostheses call 1-888-896-1588, or log on to www.locksflove.org/.



Taylor Clark

United Methodists approve grant for National Council of Churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The United Methodist Church finance agency approved an emergency grant of $400,000 to help bail out the financially troubled National Council of Churches, the Methodist news service reported.

In September, the council's other major funder, the Presbyterian Church (USA), provided a special $400,000 grant beyond regular dues.

Presbyterian News Service quoted the council treasurer as saying the ecumenical agency might have been forced to shut down without the Methodist money.

The Methodist grant is an advance against membership dues from 2001 to 2004 and will be deducted from future payments.

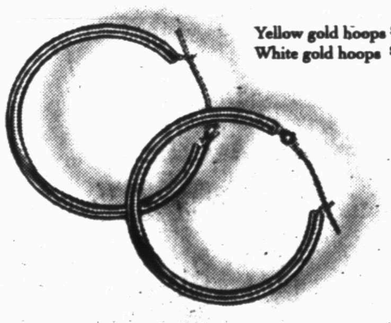
Bar converts to church

PINCKARD, Ala. (AP) — A rural bar that showcased topless performers has been converted into a church center for work with youth and the poor. The new occupants believe prayer drove the dancers away.

The Rev. Michael Senn of Kings Table Worship Center said his congregation has leased the building where T.J.'s Annex was located, renaming it J.C.'s Annex. The church is expanding from its prefab sanctuary across the street from the former bar.

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Bartels shares memories of Boy Scout Troop 27

By Shirley A. Gorman
News Editor

Boy Scout Troop 27 has been in continuous existence in Snyder for at least 50 years, maybe longer. As a former scoutmaster, Bernhard Bartels knows quite a bit about the troop's history, since he restarted it in 1950. Though Bartels' association with Troop 27 began five decades ago, he said its origin actually predates that.

Nancy Patterson Caton is credited with spearheading the organization of the first Boy Scout troop in Scurry County in 1911. It was numbered 27, because it was the 27th troop organized west of the Mississippi River. Mrs. Caton was a member of the First United Methodist Church, which sponsored that first troop.

She had read about Sir. Robert Baden-Powell who had organized such a group in England in 1907 and 1908. She thought the idea was a good one and that her Sunday School boys should have the benefits of such an organization. Porter King was the scoutmaster.

Bartels' knowledge of Troop 27 comes from personal experience and information told to him by Lyle Deffebach, who had asked Bartels to restart the troop in 1950.

When the Boy Scouts of America organization was divided into councils, the Buffalo Trail Council, of which Troop 27 is a member, allowed the local troop to keep the number 27.

When Bartels restarted the troop five decades ago, he lived at Lake Thomas. Taking care of troop business then meant traveling 16 miles on dirt roads and nine on pavement.

That first year, he said five boys signed up. He no longers remembers their names, but in later years some of the members included Jimmy Joe Key, Sonny Harrell and Joel Hamlett, III.

During the oil boom, Bartels said the size of the troop fluctuated. Every meeting he signed up different boys, and had several move away.

Troop 27 was then so large that Bartels needed two assistants. They all met together and then would break up into smaller groups, each led by a different man who taught them such skills as tying knots ard building camp fires.

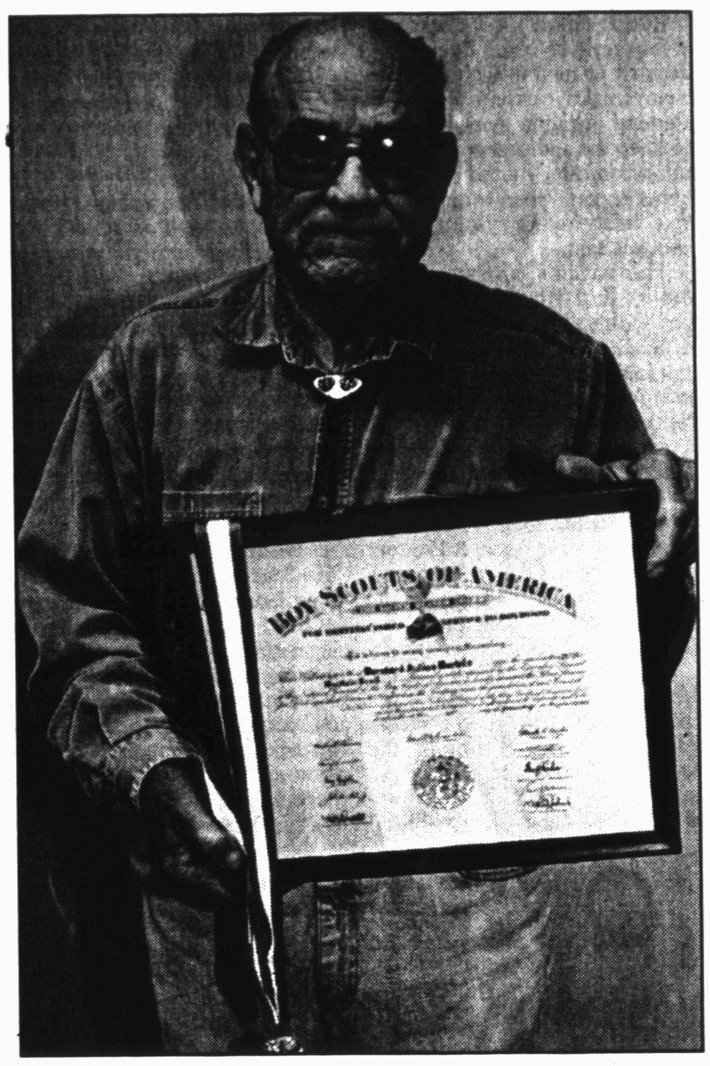
Bartels said he and his assistants would trade off so they worked with all of the boys.

Snyder had several troops in those days, but Bartels said Troop 27 was the largest because "winter or summer I made a point of leading one camping trip each month." He said they "camped all over" this area, varying their locations and, whenever possible choosing camp sites near water. Camping out allowed the scouts to utilize what they learned in their weekly meetings.

"We tried not to let the weather bother us," Bartels said. He recalled camping trips when the temperature would drop so low at night that the water in their canteens would freeze. Some of the boys did not realize how cold the mountains would get at night, and did not bring enough bedding, Bartels said.

"They preferred to keep a fire going throughout the night. Sometimes I could hear them trying to scrounge up some wood for the fire at 3 a.m." he added.

He also recalled that sometimes the weather could get rough. Just as they were leaving Snyder on one trip, he said the weather turned very dark and windy. They had to set up camp in the bottom of a gully to escape the winds.



SILVER BEAVER — Bernhard Bartels, former scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 27, is a past recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a council can bestow on a volunteer. He received the award in 1960 for services to Troop 27 and the Buffalo Trail Council. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

While rattlesnakes were always in the areas they camped in, Bartels said no one was ever bitten, nor did they have a serious accident.

During Bartels' first tenure as scoutmaster, he said the boys enjoyed camping and were anxious to learn about everything including campfire cooking. After a hiatus of several years, Bartels returned as scoutmaster, but the attitude of the boys had changed. They did not enjoy camping as much, and especially did not want to cook over an open fire. He recalled that some scouts would bring cans of stew from a grocery store and some even ate the stew without warming it up. He said they also did not enjoy taking five-mile hikes.

"I'm not sure what brought about the change, but I did not enjoy being scoutmaster as much as I had the first time," Bartels said.

During his tenure, Bartels said troops in the area would meet for contests involving tying knots and building fires. They would also compete in sack races and other fun events. Campsites were judged also. Often the boys would gather rocks to put around their campsite to enhance its appearance.

Eventually, as more and more troops were organized, those contests were discontinued.

He had served as a unit leader for 12 years in all. Bartels had been the scoutmaster for six years when he organized an Explorer Post for the older boys in Troop 27. He led that group for two years, later returning to Troop 27 for two years as assistant scoutmaster and two years as scoutmaster. For two years, Bartels had also been a Cub Scout scoutmaster when his son, Lothar, was in the troop sponsored by East Elementary School. He returned to Troop 27 as scoutmaster when his son reached that age.

He also served as a member of the Buffalo Trail Council.

Bartels had received recognition for his years in scouting. In 1960, he was picked as scoutmaster for Troop 66 (made up of area Boy Scout troops) who attended the fifth annual jamboree held in Colorado Springs.

That year, the First United Methodist Church conducted a special tribute to scouting in recognition of the Boy Scouts of America celebrating its 50th anniversary.

On Jan. 28, 1960, Bartels, then adviser to Explorer Post 27, was presented the Silver Beaver Award in Scouting by the Buffalo Trails Council. The Silver Beaver is the highest award that can be presented by a council to a volunteer scout leader.

It was noted that the church also sponsored Troop 27 and Pack 27, one of the few institutions in this part of the state at the time to sponsor the entire Boy Scout family of units.

The Silver Beaver plaque and medal recognized Bartels for his service to scouting on finance, camp development, expansion, and district advancement committee.

Bartels drew up the plans for Camp Ed Murphy established at Lake Thomas several years ago. Boys in the Buffalo Trail Council used the facility, which had everything from canoes, to a large dock and a bathhouse.

The camp was later abandoned, Bartels said, as more and more water was being pumped from Lake Thomas.

Troop 27 anniversary slated Sunday at FUMC

Continued From Page 1B

share of Eagle Scouts. The only ones Snider and Hefner are aware of are Jay Callaway, Wade Yearwood, Jason Cooper, Jack McDonald (who later served as a scoutmaster), Chad McMillan, Casity Reneau.

The following information about Troop 27's activities has been gleaned from Hefner's scrap book containing photos and newspaper clippings. Troop 27 members have attended many Jamborees, the international event held every four years.

In August of 1993, Troop 27 attended the National Jamboree. In August of 1989, seven scouts "roughed it" for two weeks, having the time of their lives. They along with 29 other members of Buffalo Trail Council formed Troop 1633 for the duration of the event.

That year, one of the highlights was a visit from then president George Bush who arrived by helicopter. Another highlight was Steven Spielberg who introduced a new merit badge for cinematography.

That year there was an abundance of rain but it did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of local Boy Scouts. In all, some 30,000 Boy Scouts attended.

Troop 27 members set up their tents, flagpole and a special entryway featuring colorful Indian designs. Some of the most popular activities included the obstacle course, art and science exhibits and a spectacular fireworks display, which closed the Jamboree. Other available activities included kayaking, rappelling and rifle range shooting.

Some of the troop's activities have been preserved through various photos published in the Snyder Daily News. One photo shows that Troop 27 operated a fingerprinting booth for the annual fall festival, which used to be sponsored by the five elementary schools.

Another photo shows Troop 27 members placing flags at Hillside Memorial Gardens and Snyder Cemetery on Memorial Day.

In October of 1998, Robin Smauley and George Roberts, then assistant scout masters, finished first in the Scout Master Cobbler cook-off.

Members of Troop 27 also won second place in the September, 1998 Camporee.

An undated news clipping notes that Brian Earles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Earles, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Jason Cooper also became an Eagle Scout in February of 1990. According to a program for the 1994 annual banquet of the Lone Buffalo District, Patrick Earles and Robert Kimmell had both become Eagle Scouts in 1993.

A photo dated June 4, 1990 shows boy scouts placing 400 flags on graves of local veterans during Memorial Day.

Two other newspaper accounts date to the 1950s when Bernhard Bartels was the scoutmaster. One noted that Joel Hamlett, then 13, had climbed to the rank of Star Scout in only 14 months. Bartels said his rapid promotion through the ranks of scouting was then the fastest recorded in Snyder by any boy.

Another clipping refers to a troop (no number given) which had rapid growth and was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. M.M. (Pepper) Martin was the scoutmaster.

Still another news clipping indicates that finances were one of the Boy Scouts biggest problems.

During Boy Scouts Sunday one year, held during National Boy Scout Week, the scouts in Snyder and Scurry County wore their uniforms and attended church with their troops and troop masters.

The article noted that while the scouts were recognized one Sunday that character building went on the entire year.

Another photo depicts Bartels and Troop 27 members getting ready for a knot-tying contest.

More recent activities included participating in the Fish-A-Thon '98 at Towle Park.

There is also a photo of a Troop 66 that attended the fifth annual Jamboree in 1960.

That year, the First United Methodist Church conducted a special tribute to scouting in recognition of the Boy Scouts of America celebrating its 50th anniversary.

It was noted that the church also sponsored Troop 27 and Explorer Post 27, one of the few institutions in this part of the state at the time to sponsor the entire Boy Scout Family of Units.

Troop 27 members also participated in Hughes Aquatic

United Airlines cancels more than 100 flights

CHICAGO (AP) — United Airlines canceled more than 100 flights Thursday for the second straight day in an escalation of operational turmoil it blames on its contract-seeking mechanics. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers denies responsibility.

The airline attributed 86 of its 106 cancellations by mid-afternoon to maintenance problems — a percentage that spokesman Joe Hopkins said is "elevated significantly."

State supreme court sides with asbestos victims

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court has made it easier for some victims of diseases caused by workplace exposure to asbestos to sue more than once over their injuries.

The court unanimously ruled on Thursday that relatives of the late Henry Pustejovsky, a longtime employee of the Alcoa aluminum plant at Rockdale, could pursue a second lawsuit against asbestos suppliers even though he had secured a $25,000 settlement in the 1980s in a previous lawsuit.

Pustejovsky's case illustrated the impact of the single action rule, which prevents an injured person from collecting damages more than once for an injury, on victims of asbestos. Some may suffer different types of injuries years apart.

Pustejovsky, after learning he had asbestosis, sued Johns-Manville Corp., an asbestos supplier, in 1982.

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Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Because of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act, the Scurry County Tax Assessor-Collector's office is prohibited from releasing vehicle registrations, effective Dec. 1.

Marriage License

Gary Edwin Wheeler and Surena Louise Gagneaux, both of Snyder.

Dalvin Dee Hampton and Jenny Leigh Hunter, both of Snyder.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Stephanie Rene Ludwig and Joshua Wade Ludwig, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Raul and Dorothy Rodriguez to Chon Rodgriguez, Lots 2 and 3 in Block 2 of the Lundy's Park Addition.

Faydean Hart, independent executrix of the estate of Rufus Hart, the northwest one-quarter of Section 99, Block 3, H&GN survey.

R.J. and Dorthy Mack Rosson to Lynda D. Rosson Neel, Patsy J. Rosson Scrabat, Robert W. Rosson, John M. Rosson, Jim C. Rosson, Roy J. Rosson and Dotsy L. Rosson Wright, an undivided interest in 418 acres in Section 174, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company to ANT Properties, an 0.398-acre tract in Block 3, Survey 155 and 180, H&GN survey.

Pattsie Andrews Haines and Frank A. Andrews, independent executrix and executor of the estate of Mildred May Andrews, to Pattsie Andrews Haines and Frank A. Andrews, an undivided one-half interest in 426 acres in the J.V. Scarborough Survey.

Mark and Dorothy Cave to Mark and Amy Hargrove, 663 acres in Section 102, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Eileen Reese Martin Family Trust to the Raleen Martin Sloan Descendant's Trust, the Suzanne Martin Brown Descedant's Trust and the Samuel Barber Martin Jr. Descendant's Trust, to each an undivided one-third interest in 68.5 percent interest in: tract one being 2.18 acres in Section 576, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being 650.95 acres in Section 602, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract three being 80 acres in Section 663, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract four being 640 acres in Section 601, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract five being 80 acres in the northwest one-quarter of Section 603, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract six being 160 acres in the south one-half of Section 664, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract seven being 5.0 acres in the northeast corner of Section 576, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract eight being 640 acres in Section 665, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract nine being 640 acres in Section 575, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract 10 being 95.6 acres in the northwest one-quarter of Section 574, Block 97, H&TC survey.

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Tune leaving role

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tommy Tune is leaving his headline role in "EFX" at the MGM Grand hotel-casino after two years.

The nine-time Tony Award winner's last performance in the $75 million stage production will be Jan. 13.

"Tommy has been an integral part of 'EFX' and we'll miss his passion for perfection and dynamic performance style," said Richard Sturm, president of MGM Mirage Entertainment.

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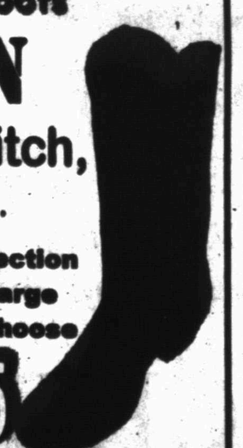
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WOODS WB BOOTS

Airlines push to keep safety reviews secret; FAA says no

DALLAS (AP) — Recent air safety reviews could be released as early as next week, prompting many major carriers to ask the Federal Aviation Administration to keep the audits secret because shortcomings cited in the reports could lead to an inaccurate safety rating system, airline officials said.

The nation's largest carriers, led by Fort Worth-based American Airlines, have asked federal officials to withhold the results, but Jane Garvey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, has denied the request.

American Airlines scored among the lowest of the nine large carriers that were reviewed, showing a need for improvement in each of the four areas the FAA examined, sources familiar with the results told The Dallas Morning News for Friday's editions.

America West, a Phoenix-based carrier that has been under increased FAA scrutiny for months, also was among the worst performers in the review, sources said. Dallas-based Southwest Airlines and Chicago-based United Airlines earned high marks for exhibiting several "best practices."

The FAA declined to comment on how individual airlines performed.

American spokesman John Hotard said the airlines wanted the results kept secret for now because they fear critics may use the information to develop an inaccurate rating system. He defended American's safety programs and said the reviews, undertaken after the January crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 in which 88 people died, focused on how each airline managed and documented its programs, rather than on actual safety performance.

"We are getting the results that the FAA wants us to have in our operations and maintenance programs," Hotard said. "The disagreement is over the process we use to get there."

Officials said inspectors found no significant problems that threatened passenger safety, but they added that all the carriers have room for improvement in certain aspects of their safety management programs.

John Meenan of the Air Transport Association, which serves as the industry's lobbying voice in Washington, said the airlines didn't ask the FAA to withhold the information forever.

"What we are saying is, 'Don't release things that are incomplete and potentially very misleading,'" he said. "This information has a very serious possible effect of introducing competitive pressures into the safety environment when we all ought to be cooperating on this issue."

FAA officials said all the airlines were invited to respond to the reviews by attaching their comments to a report before it is made public.

In June, the FAA announced that it would conduct special inspections of nine major airlines to gauge conditions throughout the industry. Those airlines were American, America West, Southwest, United, Northwest, Delta, USAirways, Continental and TWA.

Ex-penitentiary worker sentenced

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A former state penitentiary employee was sentenced to four years in prison for a drunken driving crash that killed a Juarez, Mexico, woman last year.

Rogelio Barroteran Jr., 25, of El Paso, Texas, was sentenced on Thursday in the death of 18-year-old Maria Isabel Orozco, who was a passenger in a pickup truck. District Judge Stephen Bridgforth also ordered him to spend two years on probation with alcohol abuse counseling following the prison term.

Orozco died on May 30, 1999, a day after the vehicle Barroteran was driving rear-ended the truck, which was driven by her fiance on Interstate 10 near Vado.

The finance, Omar Hernandez, 18, and his younger brother, Ivan Hernandez, suffered minor injuries.

Barroteran pleaded guilty this year to homicide by vehicle and DWI.

His attorney, Michael Gibson, called the probation office's sentencing recommendation biased, saying his client had no prior drunken driving offenses and should be given probation and counseling rather than prison time.

Gibson also questioned prosecution claims that Barroteran reached up to 100 mph before the crash.

Q & A

Alcohol, drug use declines

(The Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, are devoting this column to current information and your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

Student alcohol, drug use declines

Alcohol and drug use is declining among Texas students, according to a survey released Monday by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Some of the most dramatic decreases were seen in tobacco use. The percentage of students reporting they had used tobacco in the month before the survey fell 15 percent between 1998 and 2000. Among lower grades, the decrease was even greater. Seventh graders reported a 30 percent decline, and eighth graders reported a 19 percent drop.

"These survey results are another positive sign for our state and our students. When we help young Texans avoid alcohol and drugs, we are creating an environment in which our children can learn and succeed," said Lt. Gov. Rick Perry. "This news is evidence that Texas parents, educators and legislators are working together to give all our children the foundation for a bright future."

More than 200,000 Texas students in grades 4-12 participated in the survey, the largest of its kind in the nation. TCADA has been conducting the statewide survey every two years since 1988. Among the findings:

Among grades 7-12, there was a 9 percent decline since 1998 in the percentage of students reporting they had used any illicit drug in the month before the survey. There was also a 17 percent decline in past-month inhalant use. Secondary students reported a 15 percent decline in past-month use of tobacco.

Past-month use of marijuana fell 10 percent among secondary students, and past-month alcohol use dropped 5 percent.

"I am quite pleased by this downward trend in alcohol and drug use, but this survey also indicates that Texas must continue to focus on creating healthy and safe environments for our children," said Health and Human Services Commissioner Don A. Gilbert. "As a state, we need to remain dedicated to looking for new and better ways to ensure that parents and educators have all the tools they need to prevent substance abuse."

The results are proof that the state's prevention efforts are working, say TCADA leaders. "Four years ago, the Commission made a commitment to the Legislature, the governor and the people of Texas to make preventing drug abuse this agency's top priority," said TCADA Board Chairman James C. Oberwetter said, "Today's news is a strong sign that Texas is headed in the right direction, and it provides evidence of the wonderful work taking place in schools and communities all across this state."

TCADA Executive Director Jay Kimbrough said the survey also points out the need for more emphasis on preventing underage drinking. "Clearly, the state's prevention efforts are working," Kimbrough said. "But we want to see the same dramatic declines in teen alcohol use that we're seeing today in tobacco and marijuana use."

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

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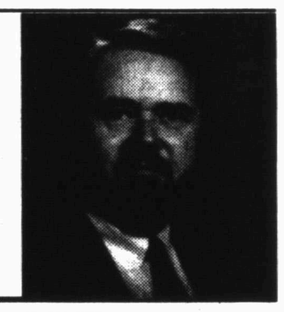
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Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Forget the Split, America Still Won.

During our recent presidential election, the media focused for hours on how terribly the country was split. The popular vote was the closest in history (numerical split). Most blacks voted one way, while the majority of whites voted the other (racial split). The House and Senate are narrowly divided (political split). The rich favored one candidate, the poor the other (economic split). The Supreme Court itself is divided 5 to 4 (philosophical split).

The media made it sound as if we are in another Civil War, a country torn by divisiveness. They say we are a nation unable to continue effectively because of the rifts. Even the President — whoever he will be — won't be able to govern this wreck of a nation.

Unlike most of the media, I believe America will continue to grow and prosper despite the "alleged" damage done by a close, high-voter turnout election. I still believe in the system. Freedom of choice, freedom to vote, free enterprise and free speech are still working. The fact that record numbers cared enough to vote is invigorating to me. The system still works.

Change is coming

A few months from now — or it may take a year or two — our economy will slow down a little. Prudent business owners, investors, and analysts expect it to. Why? Because it always has. Business cycles are real, the stock market goes up and down, the economic mood of the people changes and the laws of supply and demand still work.

This election was important because the actions of the government do impact our lives in a great way. This is especially true in the areas of rising taxes (expect to pay even more), increasing regulations (bureaucracies breed policies, rules and regulations) and growing entitlement programs.

However, the government doesn't run the country. People still do. People decide what is acceptable. People determine what the cause of action will be. And, that is exactly how it should be. We are indeed a nation "of the people, by the people, for the people." If you learned anything from this presidential election, I hope it was just how important your vote is.

So, why the big fuss about the "split" in America? The highly biased media, the entrenched politicians and others who live off legitimate taxpayers are intimidated by a balance of power. They are afraid "their" power will go away. They may lose their livelihood.

It is said that "sex, money, and power" is the fuel that runs our government. Even in this area there is a split. You see, sex is an inherent drive, built into the human by God. The lust for money and power is learned, and originates from an altogether different source.

I See the Positive

Here is my take on the "terrible rift." I believe it is really a healthy balance of power. Let me explain. Take a United States Congressman from Michigan as an example. If he is overwhelmingly elected by "union" voters, his votes in Washington will favor "union interests" every time. But, if he squeaks out a narrow victory this time, he must balance his actions in order not to alienate anyone for fear of not being elected again in two years.

Now let's look at the House and the Senate. When these bodies are equally divided, they must focus on issues important to all the people. No longer can political muscle (party politics) and splinter group pressure drive legislation through the process.

Now let's assume that you disagree with me on this topic. That's fine, too! We can disagree agreeably, and wait for another ballot. You see your vote in the next election carries exactly the same weight as mine. Isn't the American system great?

Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

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Community Calendar

MONDAY

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Al-Anon Brown Bag Open Meeting, Snyder Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

Weight Watchers meeting; Trinity United Methodist Church; for more information call Nathalie at 573-1868 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Scurry County Chapter of American Heart Association; The Shack; noon.

Overeaters Anonymous, Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 574-1254, 573-8322 or 573-3733; 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Central Fire Station; 7 p.m.

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

AA Beginner's Meeting-Open; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Spiritual Solutions for Living Problems Book Study; Snyder Park Club; 6 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 574-1292 or 573-8018 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; meet at 9 a.m. at Martha Ann Woman's Club for pilgrimage to Lubbock.

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving course; Texas Savings Bank Community Room, 27th & College; no reservations needed, for more information call 573-2850.

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

Rolling Plains Ratite Assn.; The Shack; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

Global Marine, Transocean Sedco Forex settle lawsuit

HOUSTON (AP) — Transocean Sedco Forex Inc. will pay fellow offshore driller Global Marine Co. $67.5 million in cash and waive a prior claim of $2 million to settle a dispute over a rig, the companies said Friday.

Coupled with an earnings warning because of unexpected inactivity and higher expenses, Transocean Sedco shares on the New York Stock Exchange plummeted $4.50 to $35.44, or a drop of 11.3 percent, in late morning trading.

According to Houston-based Global Marine, it bought the semisubmersible drilling rig Vinlander in 1997 while it was chartered with Sedco Forex, which subsequently merged with Transocean Offshore.

The companies disputed the date the charter was terminated and the condition of the rig, now called the Glomar Grand Banks, upon return to Global Marine. The conflict had gone to arbitration.

Transocean, also in Houston, reported the settlement will prompt a one-time $37.4 million charge, or 18 cents per diluted share, in fourth-quarter earnings. Global Marine chief financial officer W. Matt Ralls said the settlement should not affect his firm's earnings.

Transocean also warned investors Friday that unexpected downtime of other rigs will cause the company to fall 10 to 15 cents short of the 22 cents per share anticipated in a survey of analysts surveyed by First Call/Thomson Financial.

J. Michael Talbert, chairman and chief executive officer, was positive going into next year.

Unknown boycotters are saluted

By The Associated Press

Most people know Rosa Parks launched a movement 45 years ago by refusing to surrender her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Ala. But few people know that Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith did the same thing.

Parks' protest on Dec. 1, 1955, is credited with launching the Montgomery bus boycott that helped strike down segregation in public accommodations. Colvin and Smith, who similarly refused to budge from their bus seats earlier that same year, also were arrested and convicted but they were sent home, their contributions barely mentioned again.

The spirit of women like Parks, Colvin and Smith will be celebrated in Alabama this weekend when civil rights leaders gather in Montgomery to celebrate the anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

"The men were decision-makers, but had not there been for women, there would not have been a movement," said Juanita Abernathy, who will be honored with Parks and Coretta Scott King during the weekend's festivities. "They were the foot-soldiers, the young people and women. We played a very significant role."

Abernathy is the widow of the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, one of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s top lieutenants. King and Abernathy led the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 that launched the civil rights movement. King was assassinated in 1968 and Abernathy died in 1990.

While names like King, Abernathy and Parks readily come to mind when the bus boycott is mentioned, there were thousands of others who should be remembered for their efforts, leaders said. In her book, "Quiet Strength," Parks herself warned against people giving her too much credit.

But Parks is known best. Then a 42-year-old seamstress, she boarded a Montgomery city bus that December day and sat in the first row of seats in the black section of the bus. When some white men got on the bus, the driver ordered Parks to give up her seat because whites and blacks were not supposed to sit in the same seats at the same time. She refused. The bus driver had her arrested.

Two days later, then-unknown ministers Abernathy and King met with black leaders in Montgomery, The boycott began that Monday and continued through 1956, when the Supreme Court ordered the buses desegregated.

The 40,000 people who walked to work and the people like Colvin and Smith who stood up for themselves in Montgomery also shouldn't be forgotten, said Kweisi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who plans to attend the Alabama celebration.

However, many of those like Colvin, who ended up part of the lawsuit that desegregated the bus system, want to keep their anonymity.

On the Net:
NAACP: http://www.naacp.org

Scurry County Service Men & Women

(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

PFC Marisa Barrera
263 Mt. Co.
Box 78
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

Sgt. Joe Bilano Jr. USMC
Marine Security Guard Detachment
American Embassy Mexico City
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Tx. 78044-3087

MN 2 (SW) Delton C. "Cole" Drum II
Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven
2214 W. Old Tom Rd.
Goose Creek SC 29445-8608

Sgt. Cory & Jamie Fisher
C Co 702D MSR
Unit II 15092 Camp Cosey
APO AP 96224-0353

Maj. Amadeo B. Garza
Hidelburg A.F. Base
Florida

Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Japan
AO3 Gulseth, Sharon
VS-21 AO SHOP
FPO AP 96601-6500

SR Justin C. Herrington
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Sgt. Michael R. Hill
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

LCPL Jones, N.J. (Nicky)
CSC/Maintenance Platoon
Box 33038
MCB Kaneohe, HI 96863

Quintin and Christina Kasparek
15540 East Center Ave.
Apartment #E-103
Aurora, Co. 80017

Sgt. Michael D. Long
C-Trp ¼ Cav.
CMR 464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

Pvt. Louis Mann
2nd Platoon
B Company 832nd ODBN
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35897

McMillan William J.
2709 13th St. 602
Brooks AFB, Tex. 78235-5221

Chase Minter
4300 Horizon North Parkway
Apartment #1626
Dallas, TX 75287

SrA Edwin Neeley
PSC 103 Box 4882
APO AE 09603

Melchor Para
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
15015 Preston Court Drive
San Antonio, TX 78247

Michael A. Perez
HHC 2-35 INF. 25 ID
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

Ssgt Brad Pilgrim & Dawn Pilgrim
4615 A
Redwood St. SW
McChord AFB,WA 98439

Ssgt Mark S. & Ssgt. Stacy J. Pilgrim
67th Fighter Squadron
PSC 80 Box 15172
APO, AP
96367

Cpl. Freddie & Christy Rocha
6675-B Larkspur Ct.
29 Palms, Calif. 92278

Sgt. Jason Sealy
P.O. Box 71402
Ft. Bragg, N.C. 28307

Johnathan A. (Adams) Scott
5509 B Langley Way
Bolling AFB DC 20336

Roy Tavarez
WPNS Co. 3/3 Dragons
MCBH
Kanoehe Bay, HI 96863

PFC Thompson Jacob L.
Mat Sg AMS-1PR
222 East Ave.
Pensacola, Fla. 32508

SSgt. W.S. Warren
3009 Barberry Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Pvt. E-l Daniel A. Wells
B Co. 73d Ord. ETL 1st PLT
Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905

Col. Joe Dan Wilson
CMR 460
Box 121
APOAE 09703

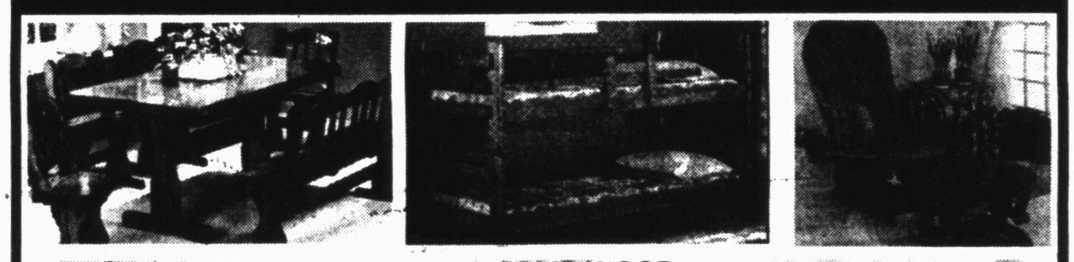
EM3 Wittie, Shawn D.
C/O Deer Run
8759 Yearling Drive Apt. 7A
North Charleston, S.C. 29406

Bone marrow cells can grow new brain cells

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bone marrow cells can transform themselves into brain cells, according to researchers who say their laboratory discovery may lead to new therapies for Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders.

Two separate teams of scientists, using different methods and different strains of mice, have demonstrated that transplanted bone marrow cells can transform themselves naturally into neurons and install themselves seamlessly into the brain.

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Experts say low risk of mad cow disease exists in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mad cow crisis gripping Europe has so far spared the United States, and experts say there is no reason for Americans to worry about their meat.

The risk of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, in the United States is "extremely low" because of bans on imported cattle and a restriction on cattle feed, according to a recent report by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, a nonprofit organization of scientific societies.

About 12,000 U.S. cattle have been tested for the disease over the past 10 years, including about 2,300 in the past year. None has tested positive.

But scientists say that better methods for testing cattle are needed and there remain many questions about the disease's origin, cause and transmission. Current tests are considered too slow and they can only be done on dead cattle.

The government also is concerned about halting the spread of related diseases that do affect animals in this country, including sheep, deer and elk. Those disease are not believed to pose a threat to humans.

"There's every reason for the government to be concerned," said William Hueston, a University of Maryland scientist. "The tendency is that if we're successful in preventing disease it becomes less and less important and people become complacent

"As has been demonstrated in Europe the last thing we need is complacency."

The Food and Drug Administration lists mad cow and related diseases among its top research priorities for food safety.

"We still don't know what's behind this disease," said Bernard Schwetz, the FDA's acting deputy commissioner.

Cases of mad cow disease are turning up across Europe this fall following the discovery of infected cows in France and one recorded case of its human form. Since then, scientists have found the first cattle with the disease in Germany and Spain.

The disease was first diagnosed 14 years ago in Britain, where there have been close to 180,000 cases. In Britain, the number of cases fell dramatically after herds were slaughtered and tests were made mandatory.

Mad cow, which leaves holes in the brains of infected animals, is believed to be transmitted when cattle eat fodder with ground parts of infected animals. It is also thought to cause a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a fatal brain-destroying ailment, in humans who ate meat from infected animals.

The only way to test for the disease in cattle is to slaughter the animals and look at the brain tissue.

The Agriculture Department halted the import of British cattle in 1989 and in 1997 extended the ban to a number of other European countries, including Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Also in 1997, the FDA banned the feeding of animal proteins, such as meat and bone meal, to cattle and sheep.

Some 496 cattle that were imported from Britain and Ireland in the 1980s were traced and all but 32 were found. Four are still alive: rare Scottish beef cattle living under federal quarantine on a farm in Vermont.

An Agriculture Department veterinarian inspects the cattle every few months to make sure they are healthy. The brains of the cattle will be tested after they die, but none of the cattle has shown any signs of mad cow.

Thirty-five other cattle imported from Europe before the 1997 ban are under quarantine in four other states, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and Texas.

Scrapie, the version of mad cow that strikes sheep, is believed by some scientists to have cause the outbreak in cattle in Britain.

The Agriculture Department is now battling in court to destroy 355 sheep in Vermont that may carry the disease.

Judge denies continuance, trial drags on

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge Thursday denied an attorney's request to put on hold the inheritance trial of former Playboy Playmate of the Year Anna Nicole Smith while the lawyer goes to Austin to serve as a state legislator.

Harris County Probate Judge Mike Wood denied the plea from state Rep. Will Hartnett, who represents J. Howard Marshall III. Marshall, along with Smith, are suing for a slice of the late J. Howard Marshall II's oil fortune.

The elder Marshall met Smith while she was working in a topless bar in the early 1990s. They married in 1994, when she was 26 and he was 89; he died the following year.

Both Smith and Howard Marshall III claim the multimillionaire's other son, E. Pierce Marshall, is blocking their rightful inheritance claim.

Howard Marshall III said Hartnett is crucial to his case.

"I just don't see how I could go forward without Will's participation," said Howard Marshall III of Los Angeles, in an interview with Houston television station KPRC.

Earlier this month, Wood indicated he would not grant Hartnett a continuance and tried to speed up the plodding trial to accommodate the attorney.

Rusty Hardin, representing E. Pierce Marshall, said the plaintiffs are trying to end the trial because they are losing.

"None of us is indispensable," Hardin said. "They knew this (the legislative term) was coming. The trial is just not going the way they want."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



In-laws are puzzled by cool reception during holiday visit

DEAR ABBY: We were invited to spend Thanksgiving with our son and daughter-in-law — a three-day drive for us, but we were eager to spend time with family and see our grandchildren.

We make it a point to keep our visits short. They are busy young people with lots to do. We take them all out to dinner at least once during our visit, and offer to help wherever needed.

However, our daughter-in-law remained cool and distant. It made us feel we weren't a part of their family. She kept herself occupied reading books or sewing, or she would go into their bedroom and close the door and we wouldn't see her again until morning. Her behavior made us feel we were unwelcome and in the way.

Abby, we could use some pointers on what to do — and what not to do — while visiting our married children. Please help. — **PUZZLED MOTHER-IN-LAW**

DEAR PUZZLED: You appear to be gracious people. I'm not sure the problem is yours, and giving you any pointers seems beside the point. If she usually behaves that way during your visits, your daughter-in-law may have insecurity or self-esteem issues that make it difficult for her to entertain houseguests, or she could simply be a "loner." Whatever her reasons, you're overdue for a private talk with your son to help you understand what's really going on.

**

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I are being married next summer. We have asked my niece and nephew, who will both be teenagers, to be in the wedding. They were delighted.

The problem is that they live out of town with their mother, "Rosie." Their father (my brother) lives in the same city.

In the past when my parents wanted to see the children, transportation would have to be provided to get them here. Rosie didn't want the children to fly, so Mom and Dad had to drive both ways. My brother helped with transportation when he could, but it was mostly up to my parents to provide it.

My fiance doesn't want Rosie at the wedding. I have no strong feelings one way or the other. What would be the right thing to do? — **CONFUSED BRIDE-TO-BE**

DEAR BRIDE: You should not be obligated to invite Rosie, particularly in light of the fact that your fiance would prefer she not attend. If your brother is attending the wedding, he should provide transportation for his children.

**

DEAR ABBY: May I respond to "Happy Grandmother, Dallas," the grandma of an adopted baby girl, who paid tribute to the courageous sacrifice made by the child's birth mother?

I cried when I read her letter. Her kind, loving words touched me and helped to heal a part of me that has been empty and aching. You see, I recently celebrated the 10th birthday of my son, whom I placed for adoption.

Abby, there are many women like me — women who are grieving quietly — wondering every day if what we did was the right thing. Just one small "thank you," even if it was not meant specifically for me, makes me smile and puts a new spring in my step. That's exactly what "Grandma's" letter did for me, and I want to express my thanks. — **SMILING IN THE CAROLINAS**

DEAR SMILING: I'm pleased that you found that letter comforting. You — and all birth mothers who have given up their children — deserve a star in your crown for having made the most unselfish (and painful) decision a parent can make.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: I have been stuck at home on worker's comp for a year, but will be returning to my job in a few days. Unfortunately, a rumor has gone around at work that my fiance (who is also employed there) is having an affair with one of our co-workers.

This woman visits our home regularly and has been a friend to both of us. The rumor stems from the fact that people at work see my fiance and her joking and playing around, and assume they have something going on — especially since I'm not there.

Abby, I know that nothing is going on between them. My fiance is devoted to me, and we have a perfect, loving relationship.

My question: What, if anything, should I do about this rumor? When I'm back on the scene, I'm afraid it's going to make our working environment uncomfortable for all three of us. I want these people to know that the rumor is not true, and they should mind their own business. — **ANXIOUS IN NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.**

DEAR ANXIOUS: Do nothing about the rumor. To bring it up will only fuel the gossip. If someone mentions it, say you've already heard about it and then change the subject. When you're back on the scene, interacting normally with both your fiance and your co-worker, the rumor should die a natural death.

**

DEAR ABBY: Your response to "Hopeful in Kentucky," the man whose wife is a gambler, was right on the money. Pathological gambling was first identified as a mental disorder in 1980. According to the American Psychiatric Association, pathological gambling can be identified if a person exhibits at least five of the following 10 symptoms:

(1) Is preoccupied with gambling.

(2) Tries unsuccessfully to control, cut back or stop.

(3) Gambles with increasing amounts of money.

(4) Becomes restless or irritable when attempting to cut back or stop.

(5) Gambles as a way of escaping problems or relieving feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety or depression.

(6) After losing money gambling, often returns to get even.

(7) Lies to family members, therapists or others to conceal the extent of gambling.

(8) Commits illegal acts such as forgery, fraud, theft or embezzlement to finance gambling.

(9) Jeopardizes or loses a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling.

(10) Relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling. — **ERIC GEFFNER, PH.D., CERTIFIED COMPULSIVE GAMBLER COUNSELOR, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.**

DEAR DR. GEFFNER: After that letter appeared, several readers wrote to point out that people with gambling problems should contact Gamblers Anonymous, P.O. Box 17173, Los Angeles, CA 90017, or call (213) 386-8789. The Web site is: www.gamblersanonymous.org.

Also, the National Council on Compulsive Gambling, a nonprofit organization, refers gamblers to qualified mental health professionals who have been trained to work with gamblers and their families. The hotline number is: 1-800-522-4700.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Pensacola attorney receives eight years

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — An attorney has been sentenced to more than eight years in federal prison for taking part in a $5 million investment fraud scam.

Ray Pope was sentenced Thursday on 19 counts connected to defrauding firms out of money and illegally wiring it across state and international boundaries.

Co-defendants Kevin Kelly, a Chicago broker, and Russell Kaemmerling, an east Texas businessman also were sentenced Thursday. Kelly was given nine years in prison and Kaemmerling received 10 years.

The three men were found guilty of bilking more than $5 million from seven companies across the country. The three claimed to represent a firm that offered high-yield investments.

Instead, they took the money and filtered it through several financial institutions in what U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson described as a "well-established, but informal network around the world."

The scam ran from January 1995 to the middle of 1996.

Vinson said one of the mysteries is what happened to the money. He said very little of it had been found.

Court documents show Pope acted as the escrow agent and actively participated in wiring the money and responding to investors' inquiries.

Kaemmerling and Kelly presented themselves as investment consultants. They claimed to work for Watlely Corp., an Illinois company that was dissolved in June 1994, and for the KEL Corp., which never existed.

Vinson ordered the three men to pay what restitution they could toward the $5 million and report to federal marshals on Jan. 10.

Denver hosts auction

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (AP) — "Gilligan's Island" fans will be able to get rare mementos of the popular 1960s TV sitcom next week.

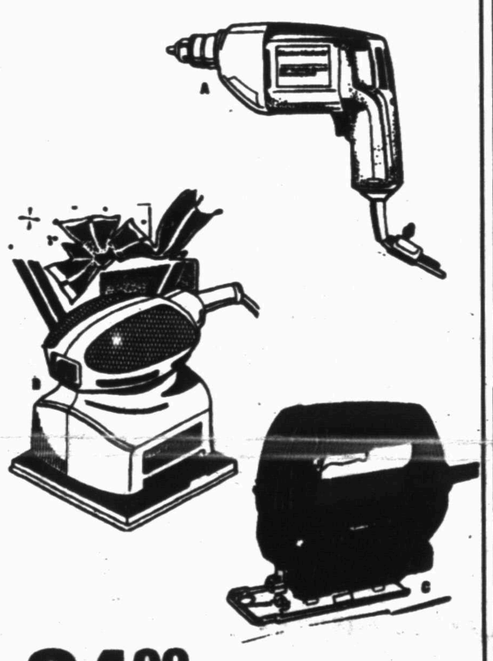
The items, including denim shorts worn by Mary Ann and a show script, will be up for grabs during an auction Dec. 9. Bob Denver will be the host. Proceeds will go to the Bluefield Union Mission.

"We wanted to give something back to the community that's been so good to us," said Denver's wife, Dreama.

Among the items being auctioned: original promotional "Gilligan" T-shirts, autographed photos of the cast and denim shorts worn by actress Dawn Wells on the show.

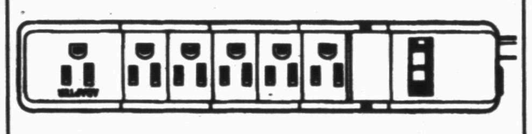
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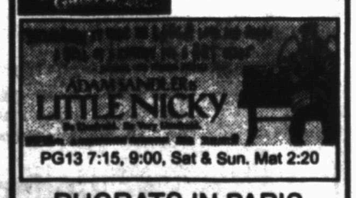
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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Antibiotics unnecessary for reflux

DEAR DR. GOTT: I want to be put on an antibiotic for reflux disease, but my doctor and my gastroenterologist refuse to do so, because I've tested negative for H.pylori. What can I do?

DEAR READER: Follow your doctor's advice with respect to acid-controlling medication, such as Prevacid or Prilosec.

While it's true that some forms of peptic disease and ulcer are associated with a bacterial infection caused by a microorganism called H.pylori, reflux is not. In contrast, this common cause of heartburn, bloating and cough is related to a backwash of acid from the stomach to the esophagus. Therefore, the medicine I mentioned is a far more effective antidote than is an antibiotic.

On the other hand, antibiotic therapy is entirely appropriate for patients with peptic disorders in whom testing has identified H.pylori.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Peptic Ulcers." 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: I have a bicuspid aortic valve that has not given me any health problems. Should I have it repaired?

DEAR READER: The aortic valve, which prevents backflow of blood from the aorta back into the heart, is normally composed of three sections — or cusps. Some people, however, are born with only two. Such bicuspid valves can work reasonably efficiently for decades, whereas others begin to malfunction early in life. Whether or not you should have your valve replaced is a decision best made in conjunction with a cardiologist, after appropriate testing. Your valve may be performing normally enough to enable you to avoid surgery. Or the cardiac tests may reveal a problem that should be addressed. The specialist can advise you.

Remember that diseased or deformed heart valves can become more easily infected than do normal ones. So you should take antibiotics prior to any procedure, such as dental cleaning, that could release bacteria into your bloodstream.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a grandson who has twice been arrested for drunken driving. He doesn't believe that he is an alcoholic. What can I do?

DEAR READER: Unfortunately, nothing. While you and I might agree that two DWI convictions is proof of alcohol abuse, your grandson will probably not alter his behavior until he accepts and deals with his disease of alcoholism. In most states, drivers convicted of DWIs have to undergo alcohol counseling. If this is true in his case, the authorities have the responsibility to treat your grandson — or, in extreme cases of denial, revoke his license to drive. You can certainly express your opinion, but only your grandson can accept the responsibility for alcoholism and seek the help that he desperately needs. Alcoholism is characterized by denial. When the alcoholic accepts that he is powerless over alcohol, the healing process can begin and sobriety will become the most important thing in his life.

DEAR DR. GOTT: In preparation for surgery to remove kidney stones, I had a routine chest X-ray this year that showed a shadow in my left lung. After a CT scan and biopsy, I was found to have cancer, for which I am now receiving therapy.

Last week, my wife — who hasn't smoked in years — went to her doctor because of a persisting cough. She asked about an X-ray but was told that by the time a malignancy showed up in a chest film, nothing could be done. Why would a doctor make such an insensitive remark? Am I, in fact, merely wasting my time and money on therapy?

DEAR READER: Your wife's physician was, in my opinion, being unnecessarily blunt, even cruel, because he brushed off her concerns without realizing that hope is a necessary human emotion, especially in dealing with diseases as serious as cancer.

As a general rule, the smaller the tumor, the greater the chance for cure. True, by the time they are visible on chest X-rays, lung cancers may have spread, making cure less likely. Yet, depending on the type of cancer (some lung tumors are highly aggressive, others, not so), therapy can be highly effective; at the very least, it can add months — or years — to a patient's life.

Your wife should have a chest X-ray as an integral part of the evaluation of a chronic cough. She may, of course, need other tests as well. If her doctor is not inclined to follow through appropriately, perhaps she should consider changing physicians. Would your primary provider agree to accept her as a patient? While she is sorting out the situation, continue your therapy — and don't lose hope.

DEAR DR. GOTT: If we wiped out the words depression, responsibility, consequences and mental illness, we would stop communicating. Instead of referring to blame, we say consequences; instead of a screwed up life, we refer to depression; instead of punishment, we call it discipline; instead of hitting, we term it spanking. Impotence is a disease, not a form of birth control. If you can't perform, go wash the dishes, read a book, be a mentor, use the thing to go potty with. Give me a break.

DEAR READER: Gladly, but I'm not sure what objection you're making. Blame may be merely finger-pointing without constructive engagement; depression is a valid medical condition caused by an imbalance of chemical substances within the brain; discipline extends far beyond punishment; spanking is more than a swat on the behind. Erectile dysfunction is a calamity that affects men long after their partners are interested in or programmed for pregnancy. So much of life depends on definition and appearances. Give me a break.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a healthy 21-year-old woman who has noticed several gray hairs on my head. My parents, in their 50s, have not started to gray. My grandparents were also late in showing signs of aging. What's wrong with me?

DEAR READER: Nothing. You're simply getting prematurely gray. This is probably a genetic tendency that has skipped a generation or two. It's not something you should be concerned about. One of my healthiest patients, now in his mid-60s, had white hair in college. This unusual characteristic added interesting facets to his life as a young man. I suggest that you make the most of your graying hair, which will convince people that you are wiser and more intriguing than other women your age. If that doesn't appeal to you, use hair coloring — but, I confess, I prefer the natural look.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What are the dangers of warming a small room with a kerosene heater? Does the odor affect the lungs?

DEAR READER: Your question is all the more appropriate, given the predictions for a cold winter ahead.

Kerosene heaters are dangerous for two primary reasons: They can cause house fires and they emit dangerous exhaust, including carbon monoxide. Don't use them. Most manufacturers are out of business. Consider electric space heaters or a well-ventilated wood stove.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've read that zinc has been touted for nocturnal leg cramps. But I've found that tonic water works better. One small glass at bedtime does the trick. Why?

DEAR READER: I don't know the exact reason why quinine (in tonic water or pills) prevents nighttime leg cramps, but it may. Your bedtime beverage is harmless. Continue if you wish.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Fads I: Vitamins & Minerals." 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.

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Web site angers Bryd's sister

HOUSTON (AP) — A relative of James Byrd Jr. is outraged by a Web site posted on behalf of the first person convicted and sentenced to die for the East Texas man's dragging death.

Byrd's sister, Louvon Harris, said Thursday that she was stunned when John William King's Web page, posted through the Lamp of Hope Project, was brought to her attention.

"I didn't know that a death row inmate could have access to the Internet," Harris told the Houston Chronicle in Friday's edition. "I thought once you sent a person to death row, their freedom stopped."

Inmates who do not have access to computers provide the contents for Web sites to LHP volunteers, who donate space for Web pages and forward e-mail messages to inmates through the Postal Service.

"That's too much freedom," said Harris. "It's very offensive. It makes me wonder about the world. I will do all I can to see that this is stopped."

She said she will be in Austin in January to push for a tougher state hate crimes law, and plans to bring up the subject of death row inmates being allowed to solicit funds and support over the Internet.

A jury in 1999 sent King, a white supremacist, to death row for helping two friends chain Byrd to a pickup truck and drag him to pieces along a country road near Jasper. Lawrence Russell Brewer, 33, also received the death penalty. The third participant, Shawn Allen Berry, 25, was sentenced to life in prison.

Byrd was black and the men convicted in his killing are white.

The 25-year-old King's Web page solicits donations to the John King Defense Fund at First National Bank in Jasper.

More Ford cars recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is recalling 876,413 Explorers and Mercury Mountaineers to replace faulty parts on the suspension system. Thousands of the Explorers, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle, already are under recall in connection with the Firestone tire problem.

The recall affects 1995 through 1997 models of the Explorer and the 1997 Mountaineer, which have sway bar links that can break off, especially in cold climates. The sway bar connects the left and right front wheel control arms and helps control the pitch of the vehicle in turns.

The recall covers 846,591 Explorers and 29,822 Mountaineers.

Ford will notify owners by mail and its dealers will provide free replacement links that are wider. The recall ends an investigation by the government's auto safety agency.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened a preliminary investigation into the problem on Sept. 20 after an agency employee having handling problems discovered a broken link on his vehicle. The employee's dealer told him that he had sold many replacement links for other drivers with similar problems.

NHTSA investigators went to their parking garage at the Transportation Department and examined 28 Explorers. Seven of the SUVs, all either 1995 or 1996 models, had repaired or broken links, so the agency opened an investigation to assess the scope of the problem.

At the time, a Ford spokesman said the company did not believe it was a safety problem, but further testing showed it could affect handling and safety, Ford spokesman Mike Vaughn said Thursday.

"We went back and we decided that, yes, there is a small risk at the extreme limits," Vaughn said. "We felt the right thing to do is administer it as a safety recall."

NHTSA has collected 13 complaints from owners who said that stability was reduced during a lane change or turn, especially at speeds above 40 mph. Ford received 262 owner and field reports of the problem, including two reports of minor accidents that may be related, Vaughn said.

He said most of the reports came from New England and Canada.

Clinton seeks cancer research donations

NEW YORK (AP) — President Clinton was in New York Thursday night to plead for more donations for cancer research, but the presidential election controversy wasn't far from his mind.

The president joked that CNN's Larry King, who was master of ceremonies for the G&P Foundation Angel Ball, had used the event to ask him for an exit interview. "I am not a very good story," he said. "You should be down in Florida doing interviews tonight."

Receiving a new saxophone as a gift, Clinton also got a little nostalgic about his waning days as president. "I'll have a little more time to play it in a week or two," he said.

Clinton was an honorary co-chair of the black-tie event at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel, which drew about 1,800 guests, among them celebrities Robert DeNiro, Michael Jackson, Queen Noor of Jordan, Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn.

The president and his wife, Hillary, received a lifetime award from the foundation for their advocacy of cancer research. "In the Senate I will do everything I can to increase our federal commitment to cancer research," said Mrs. Clinton, the U.S. senator-elect from New York.

Vice President Al Gore sent a letter expressing regret that he could not attend the event.

Clinton has attended G&P Foundation events before. One of the two co-founders is songwriter Denise Rich.



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS TOY APPLICATION

Household Name
Phone #
Street Address
Total Monthly Family Income $

Please list each child's name, age (16 and under), sex (M or F), and three toys each child would like to have. We do not give out shoes and clothing. We will try to give at least one new toy from each child's list.

Child #1 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #2 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #3 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #4 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3
Child #5 Name
Age Sex
1
2
3

Toys will be picked up Monday, December 18th from 1-6 p.m. and on Tuesday, December 19th from 9-6. Each family will be notified (by phone) of their pick up time. Only adults will be allowed to pick up and sign for toys (ID will be needed). Mail applications to: Judi Martin, Christmas For Kids, 3106 Hill Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-3845. For more information, please call 573-3525 or 473-6725. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, December 13th.

Holiday Inn
Park Plaza
LUBBOCK
3201 South Loop 289
Lubbock, Texas 79423
806-797-3241

Shop and Drop
Holiday Special
$49
Reservations required. Must present this ad at hotel check in!

Come to Lubbock and do your holiday shopping!
Spend the night for this special rate.
Package includes:
Gift Wrap Room in the hotel
All Wrapping supplies provided at no extra charge
Complimentary beverage of choice for the weary shopper
Complimentary Shuttle Service to the South Plains Mall and Kingsgate Center in Lubbock

Other amenities of the hotel include:
Oversized sleeping rooms with Queen size beds
Park Plaza Cafe
Fountain Court Lounge serving hot horderves daily
Complete fitness center
Lubbock's largest hotel heated indoor pool
Sauna
Game Room

Come see why we were selected #1 hotel in Lubbock
Our specialty gardens are a magical diversion...a lush gathering atmosphere or quiet escape!
This special rate is available through December 24, 2000 excluding December 15-16, 2000

GOLDEN TERRACE VILLAGE
Accepting applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apartments.
For applicants 62+ or qualify as handicapped or disabled.
Central heat & air. Water is paid. Refrigerator & range furnished, washer & dryer connections in each apartment. Each apartment has its own separate storage attached to the apartment.
RENT BASED ON INCOME
This facility is handicap accessible and operates in accordance with Rural Development/HUD policy which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin.
Applications may be picked up at the office located at 1607 52nd St. (North of Cogdell Hospital Emergency Room) or call 573-1416.
Locations: 2006 37th St.
1607 52nd St.
1911 Martha Ann Blvd.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

STATE CERTIFIED ALZHEIMER/DEMENTIA UNIT
Snyder Oaks Care Center, in Snyder, Texas, has just recently opened an Alzheimer Unit that is certified by the State of Texas.
We provide a safe, stable, secure environment for your loved one.
If you have a loved one at home that needs this kind of care, call Ray Turner at 915-573-9377 or come by and visit us at 210 East 37th Street in Snyder, Texas.
SNYDER OAKS CARE CENTER
210 E. 37th Snyder, Texas 573-9377
Ray Turner, Administrator

Letters to the editor

Thanks volunteers

Dear Editor:

The Rotary Club of Snyder wishes to thank all the volunteers that made the 2000 Thanksgiving Dinner for the needy a tremendous success.

Approximately 300 meals were served on Thanksgiving Day due in large part to the generosity of this community.

The Rotary Club especially wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Stan Pavlick of The Shack Restaurant who coordinated and hosted the day's activities.

Special thanks to C.R. Perez and the staff of Lawrence IGA for donating food and assisting with the meal preparation and to Ken Robinson and his staff with Aramark for preparing the turkey.

Thanks again to the Snyder High School Student Council under the direction of Roc Ann Rogers and Christi Smith for their countless volunteer hours in food preparation and delivery of meals to many individuals confined to their homes.

This combined effort allows us to pause and remember the true meaning of this holiday season and to be especially thankful to live and work in such a wonderful community.

Sincerely,
Beth Bowen
Snyder Rotary Club Board
Gayle Lomax
Project Supervisor

Exchange of views

Dear Editor:

Thank you for printing the letters of Dr. Vinson and myself, I have received many comments from people in the community who have enjoyed reading our exchange of views, learning more about these issues in doing so.

In his last letter to the editor, Dr. Vinson made an important statement: "...what science currently believes about evolution." Dr. Vinson here personifies, or gives human qualities to something inanimate. Science is both a system of knowledge and the methods of obtaining knowledge of the physical world.

As such, it cannot "believe" anything. Humans, or in this case, scientists, are the ones who do the believing. But notice the implication of his statement: Scientists believe evolution. And as I have been pointing out, this belief is often in spite of the facts.

Dr. Vinson stated that he and I "would likely disagree as to which information is 'most accurate.'" Actually, our disagreement is over how we interpret the data. Consider a fossil. The existence of the fossil is certainly a fact, but deciding what to name it, what the living animal it represents looked like when alive, when the animal lived, and whether the animal "evolved" from some other species, are dependent on our presuppositions and beliefs.

In considering the horse, as discussed in previous letters, the fossil remains of what is called Hyracotherium or the "dawn horse," supposedly the ancestor of all existing horse types, looks very much like what we would expect from a Hyrax or a Coney (an animal that resembles a rabbit). This is why the discoverer, Robert Owen, called it Hyracotheium.

If we believe that all living organisms have evolved from less complex ancestors, beginning from a single-celled organism hundreds of millions of years ago, then we would try to fit this fossil into such a scheme, imagining that it was the ancestor of all horses. But it is more likely, from the existing evidence, to see Hyracotherium as the ancestor of modern day Coneys and Hyraxes, and not of horses. The same occurs with the "Dino-birds." Although some see dinosaur-bird intermediates, others do not see this at all, but rather, unique species such as flightless birds and dinosaurs with big hips.

Dr. Vinson stated that "the existence of fossils most emphatically does not point toward a huge cataclysm that deposited all or even a fraction of them." I most emphatically disagree: for fossils to form, plants or animals must be covered extremely rapidly by sediment, not allowing for significant degradation of the organism, i.e., a movement of mud and silt or the deposition of volcanic ash is required.

You have seen what happens to earthworms and jellyfish when they lay dead for a few days: they disintegrate. Yet, jellyfish and earthworm fossils have been recovered. They did not become fossils by laying around for thousands of years! The famous fossil bed north of Newcastle, Australia is at least 6 miles long, and contains hundreds of millions of insects, many with wings intact in precise detail. This is evident of an event of huge proportion that entombed them in rock quickly.

A triceratops was discovered with identifiable food in the stomach! And a fossil of a fish in the process of swallowing another fish has been found. It makes sense to me that these fossils and most others exist because one or more cataclysmic events buried plants and animals rapidly. This has been long recognized; events buried plants and animals rapidly. This has been long recognized; prior to the popularization of Darwin's theory, catastrophism had been the leading view of mainstream geologists. It is again gaining interest among some geologists.

Some people may be wondering why I keep writing about this. My deeper concern is the impact of Darwinism on modern thought and behavior. If we persist in teaching children that life came about due to time, chance and random mutation, that we are all part of a great struggle, in which only the fittest survive, we will see an escalation of the rudeness, lying, cheating and violence that have increasingly characterized our culture.

The only real basis of ethics in a world existing by chance is for individuals or groups to take advantage of others for their own benefit.

Compassion, forgiveness and mercy are senseless and have no place. Think this is far-fetched? Consider Adolf Hitler. Did you know he was a Darwinist? As documented in the books, Hitler's Personal Security, and Evolution and Ethics, Hitler saw the extermination of the Jews as the inevitable outcome of the struggle between the races, with the fittest race surviving. When the Aryan race triumphed, Hitler believed that the human race would progress more fully toward perfection. He believed that Darwinism is the only real basis for national policy. I fear that our culture is drifting in the same direction.

Some recent developments are worth mentioning. The Mt. St. Helens eruption in 1980 set in motion a series of events that are revising the way experts look at the formation of the Grand Canyon as well as the fossilization of plants and the development of coal.

After the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, a huge amount of volcanic ash was deposited at the base of the mountain. Spirit Lake broke loose and flowed through these deposits, creating a canyon that resembles the Grand Canyon. It is now thought that the Grand Canyon could have been created in a short time by numerous volcanic eruptions and the breaking loose of a large inland sea that covered much of what is now the Midwest. A second example is the discovery at Glen Rose, Texas of trilobite, dinosaurs and human footprints in the same layer of Cretaceous limestone. This places man, dinosaurs and trilobites on the earth at the same time.

I could go on, but readers who are interested can obtain more information from a variety of resources. I have tried to show in my letters that evolution has serious flaws, and many facts do not support it.

So, other views, such as that of creationists and the intelligent design view should be seriously considered in school textbooks and the media.

Let me close with a quote from philosopher and journalist Malcom Muggeridge: "I, myself, am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially to the extent to which it has been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books of the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the credulity that it has."

Dr. Gary Nussey

Thanks Guys

This is for the firefighters, with whom I have served.
Your camaraderie and friendship, more than I deserved.

Guys like Ronnie, and Darrell, Kyle and Bobby, too
Odell and PeeWee, you showed me what to do.

And of course Don and Bruce, though no longer here
Both fine men, whose memory I hold dear.

Then came Perry, Walter and Cy, Toby and Doug Scott
You are the paid men, the best that Snyder's got.

I haven't forgot those who fill the volunteer ranks
I owe you a lot, and I offer you my humble thanks.

Guys like Sterling, Billy, Snuffy and of course Jack
Guys I could depend on, I knew you'd watch my back

I trusted you completely. I'd follow you anywhere
I never had to look back, I knew you'd be there.

And if the situation required that we had to go in
I wouldn't hesitate to follow any of these fine men.

And if I needed guidance and if I thought I could
I'd turn to guys like Leonard, Alfred and Kenneth Wood.

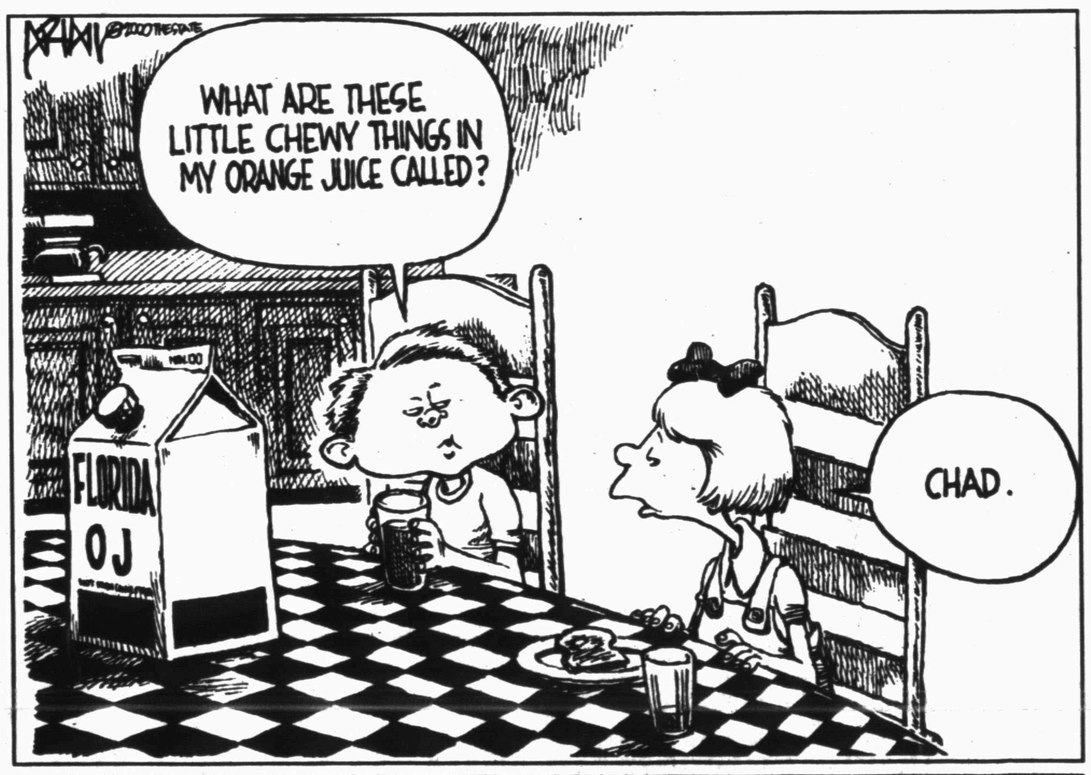
There are others whose names somehow slip my mind
But reast assured guys, a finer group, I could never find.

As for the ladies who don the firefighters gear
I felt a little safer, when I knew you were near.

So hang in there ladies, I know you are among the best
You've met the challenge, and you have met the test.

And as I bring this to an end, I salute you one and all
For there are none better, who answer the dragon's call.

Johnny Pilgrim
Mustang, Okla.





EDITORIAL COMMENT

The McAllen Monitor

Carnivore e-mail surveliance

An independent technical review of the FBIs controversial Carnivore e-mail surveillance system suggests strongly that the software can snoop as advertised and that may be the problem.

The FBI began developing the system in 1997 to perform the equivalent of a telephone wiretap on Internet communications. When news of the system was leaked in July, alarmed privacy advocates sued for release of details of the software. Instead, the Department of Justice commissioned a review of the system by the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute. The report was released this week. It is available on the Web at http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/ publications/carniv-entry.htm.

The report indicates that Carnivore doesn't have the power "to spy on almost everyone with an e-mail account," and that it has filters that can adjust it to fit different kinds of court orders simply monitoring whom a suspect communicates with or probing the content of those e-mails. But it expressed concern over the lack of assurance that an FBI agent can't abuse the system.

"(The Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute) did not find adequate provisions e.g. audit trails," the report said, "for establishing individual accountability for actions taken during the use of Carnivore." The system doesn't keep track of who accesses it, every user is simply called "administrator" and there is no feature for confirming that the snooping has been ordered by a court. And while it can't monitor everyone, it can do very broad sweeps that raise significant privacy concerns.

The Odessa American

The next president's term

Even as the Florida vote count wends its interminable way toward an eventual conclusion that will leave about half of those involved believing they were cheated, it is not too soon to consider whether any benefit to the country might come of the entertaining yet embittering aftermath of the closest national election in recent memory.

Even as the battle increases in bitterness, the value of the prize of the presidency declines. The next president, whoever he is, will face a closely divided Congress that, because of the potential of shifting coalitions involving "moderate" Republicans and "yellow-dog" Democrats, will be functionally controlled by the opposition. He definitely will not have a mandate. He will not be able to enact very much of his program.

That means a President Bush would not be able to move dramatically in the direction of smaller government (which was not really expected) and a President Gore would not be able to put ambitious new programs in place. That might be frustrating for the next occupant of the Oval Office. Presidents have become accustomed to thinking they are the center of national life. But it might not be bad for the country. Most of the pundits are likely to characterize the next presidency as a failure, a time of drift and indecision.

But a government on "pause" could present some intriguing possibilities. And there is a chance that Americans could use the next administration not only as a bit of a breather from obsessive politicization, but as an opportunity to reflect on how politicized they want their lives to be.

For example, Congress might take time to do a little spring housecleaning. Given the likelihood that no ambitious new programs or departments are likely to be created, it could concentrate on aggressive "oversight" of existing agencies and programs with the idea of cutting out deadwood and unworkable programs.

The San Angelo Standard-Times

Violence in Hollywood

The entertainment industry tries to lure children into watching some of the trashy, ultra-violent stuff it puts out, and it ought to stop, but the Federal Trade Commission is correct in deciding not to pursue a legal case against Hollywood.

An FTC report about the industry's child-aimed advertising tactics was issued earlier this year, momentarily getting attention from presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush.

Gore, perhaps trying to shake off the suspicion that campaign donations from Hollywood had made him soft on such behavior, said he would take tough steps as president if Hollywood did not cease and desist on its own. The problem for him is that the First Amendment protects free speech. According to published quotes, the FTC recognizes as much.

But the First Amendment does not prohibit boycotts. There is nothing in the constitution prohibiting parents from keeping their children away from vile material. CEOs from entertainment companies can act responsibly on their own, and if they do not, politicians and civic activists should be specific about who they are and what they are permitting.

Even while safeguarding free speech, America is not helpless in the face of an entertainment industry that too often seems to have no standards at all.

The San Antonio Express-News

Child support collection

It doesn't look like the Legislature will be wrestling the child support collection duties from Attorney General John Cornyn any time soon.

The Sunset Commission found the beleaguered agency has made "significant strides" in improving its services in the last two years by increasing collections and reducing the turnaround time for families waiting for money.

The favorable report from the state review panel comes nine months after the state auditor issued a report blasting the child support division for a backlog of nearly 1 million delinquent cases and a poor collection record.

If the state is grading on improvement, Cornyn deserves some credit. But showing improvement is a long way from excellent performance.

Before Cornyn took office, state lawmakers had threatened to take the child support division from the attorney general's office and set it up as an independent agency reporting directly to the Legislature if it did not show signs of improvement.

At the time the threats were made, the agency was failing the children of Texas miserably. The child support collection rate was 16 percent and an estimated 30,000 callers to the division were greeted with a busy signal each day.

Obviously, the agency's dismal performance left a lot of room for improvement.

Cornyn has made some administrative changes that are benefiting the children of Texas, but the problems are far from being resolved.

Today, child support collection is up to 19 percent, and 95 percent of the calls are being answered. That's better than before but not great.

The improved statistics look good on paper but are meaningless to the children who have to do without because their child support is not being collected by the state.

NAFTA dispute board agrees with Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. policy aimed at keeping unsafe Mexican trucks off American highways could be in jeopardy after Mexico won a round in a long-running dispute stemming from the North American Free Trade Agreement.

NAFTA, approved in 1993, called for Mexican trucks to have unrestricted access to U.S. highways in border states in 1995 and full access starting last January. The Clinton administration has ignored the timetable, citing safety concerns, prompting protest from the Mexican government.

A five-member panel formed to resolve the dispute issued a preliminary ruling favoring Mexico, Amy Stilwell, spokeswoman for the U.S. Trade Representative, said Thursday.

NAFTA rules prohibit publicly releasing a preliminary opinion, so Stilwell said she had no details on it. She said the full text of the ruling has been given to the U.S. and Mexican governments, which have 14 days to respond. A final decision is expected Dec. 29, she said.

"We are satisfied, but we are not celebrating yet," said a Mexican embassy official who did not want to be identified.

A Department of Transportation spokesman confirmed the agency has a copy of the ruling and is reviewing it, but declined to comment.

A final ruling favoring Mexico could force the United States to either accept trade sanctions to keep all Mexican trucks off its roadways or significantly enhance its truck inspection efforts to ensure those that do enter are safe.

Mexican trucks delivering goods for U.S. markets typically unload their cargo in a 20-mile commercial border zone, where it is then re-loaded onto American trucks.

The Department of Transportation's inspector general reported last year that it could find inspections for only 17,332 of the 3.5 million trucks entering the United States from Mexico in fiscal year 1997. Some 44 percent of the inspected vehicles were taken out of service due to serious safety concerns.

"It is a simple fact that Mexican trucks are unsafe," said Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio and a NAFTA opponent. "We cannot allow NAFTA to open our borders and roll over the public safety laws that keep American families safe."

Unions also cite safety in opposing full access for Mexican trucks, though there is concern U.S. workers who load and drive trucks in the commercial zone could lose their jobs.

Bret Caldwell, a Teamsters' spokesman, said the union "vehemently" opposes access until Mexico increases its safety standards.

"We have no reason to believe that they are going to come back with a decision that has in it the interest of the Amercian driver or the safety of the America highway," he said of the NAFTA board.

Brown has introduced legislation that would restrict Mexican trucks from entering the United States until the Transportation Department's inspector general has certified that Mexican trucks and drivers are complying with U.S. safety, environmental and driver competency standards.

Mike Jones, a spokesman for Texas Gov. George W. Bush, said Bush believes all terms of NAFTA should be implemented, including cross border trucking. But he added that the trucks need to comply with Texas weight and safety standards.

On the Net: The Office of United States Trade Representative: http://www.ustr.gov

Mexican Embassy: http://www.embassyofmexico.org/english/main2.htm

Rep. Sherrod Brown: http://www.house.gov/sherrodbrown/

Date Book

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2000

Today is the 337th day of 2000 and the 72nd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France.

On this day in 1933, "Dancing Lady," a movie musical starring Fred Astaire and Joan Crawford, was released by MGM.

On this day in 1991, Paul McCartney's "Liverpool Oratorio" became No. 1 on Billboard's magazine's classical music chart.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Georges Seurat (1859-1891), painter; Adolph Green (1915-), playwright-lyricist, is 85; Alexander Haig (1924-), U.S. Army general-politician, is 76; Julie Harris (1925-), actress, is 75; Edwin Meese III (1931-), U.S. attorney general, is 69; Tracy Austin (1962-), tennis player, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1896, in a match between boxers Tom Sharkey and Bob Fitzsimmons, referee Wyatt Earp declared Tom Sharkey the heavyweight champion of the world. Fitzsimmons fought and won a rematch several months later.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To meet my goals, I couldn't let up when I was playing tennis." — Tracy Austin

TODAY'S MOON: Day before first quarter (Dec. 3).

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2000

Today is the 338th day of 2000 and the 73rd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1875, the Coaching Club, the first four-in-hand coach-driving club in the United States, was formed in New York City.

On this day in 1922, "The Toll of the Sea," the first Technicolor movie to be a success, opened at the Rialto Theatre in New York City.

On this day in 1967, in Capetown, South Africa, Dr. Christian Barnard performed the world's first successful heart transplant operation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), painter; Joseph Conrad (1857-1924), writer; Jean-Luc Godard (1930-), film director, is 70; Andy Williams (1930-), singer, is 70; Ozzy Osbourne (1948-), singer, is 52; Katarina Witt (1965-), figure skater, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1982, Thomas Hearns won the WBC super welterweight boxing title in a decision over Wilfred Benitez.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Art attracts us only by what it reveals of our most secret self." — Jean-Luc Godard

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Congress' diversity lags behind nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress remains a largely white male institution. Blacks and Hispanics made no gains in the last election. Women did slightly better but still are only 13 percent of the House and Senate.

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., head of the congressional Hispanic Caucus, said Congress is "not even close to looking like the rest of America."

What Roybal-Allard is talking about is this: There are no black or Hispanic senators. Nine percent of House members are black and 4 percent Hispanic. Blacks comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population; Hispanics 12 percent.

Women fare better, particularly in the Senate where they now hold the most seats in history. If Maria Cantwell maintains her narrow lead in Washington, she will join first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and two other Democrats to give the Senate 10 Democratic and three Republican women out of 100 senators. The 435-member House will have 59 women, including 18 Republicans, up slightly from 56.

But those numbers still amount to only 13 percent in each chamber.

"Change is tremendously slow," said Amy Caiazza of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a Washington-based research group. She said that at the recent pace of women getting elected at all levels of public office, "it's going to take another century for women to achieve equality."

There were 18 women in the House when John Kennedy became president in 1961. The 1992 election when Bill Clinton won the White House also saw women increase their numbers in the House from 30 to 48.

Roybal-Allard, who was elected to Congress in 1992, said things have improved since then, when male lawmakers were so unaccustomed to working with women they "didn't know how to act with us in the elevators. Now they are not so self-conscious. We are part of the group."

Three House members are openly gay, and two lawmakers — Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., and freshman Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I. — use wheelchairs.

The Senate's minority population stayed at three: Hawaii's Daniel Akaka, a native Hawaiian; Daniel Inouye, an American of Japanese descent; and Colorado's Ben Nighthorse Campbell, an Indian of the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

Since Reconstruction there have been only two black senators, Ed Brooke, a Republican from Massachusetts from 1967 to 1979, and Carol Moseley-Braun, an Illinois Democrat from 1993 to 1999. New Mexico is the only state ever to send a Hispanic to the Senate, with two serving consecutively from 1935 to 1977.

Of the 39 blacks in the House, including two nonvoting delegates, 38 are incumbents and the other, William Clay Jr., D-Mo., is filling the seat of his father, who retired. The situation is the same for Hispanics, where the one new face among 19 full House members, Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., is replacing a Hispanic she defeated in the primary.

Black and Hispanic representation both increased substantially after the 1992 election, a result largely of redistricting after the 1990 national census that reflected growths in their populations.

Reservoirs still low despite recent rain

AUSTIN (AP) — Recent rain in North and Central Texas has helped, but it has done little to change record-low reservoirs and probably won't help farmers still struggling from the state's continuing drought, according to the Texas A&M University's agricultural extension service.

Some areas of the state received as much as 15 inches of precipitation at the beginning of November. However, water reservoirs in Texas dipped to 66 percent of full capacity — the lowest recorded reading in 23 years and the fifth-lowest of all time, said Travis Miller, an agronomist with the extension service.

"We've had enough water now for runoff, but at this point, we are still low," Miller said. "Our supply hasn't been adequate enough to catch up with our normal reservoir levels."

The rain will help the state's winter wheat crop, 70 percent of which already has been planted.

But the water won't solve all problems for farmers and ranchers who have been trying to get through the third Texas drought in four years.

For many, it's too late. Only 54 percent of the summer cotton crop and 48 percent of the summer peanut crop survived the scorching summer heat, Miller said.

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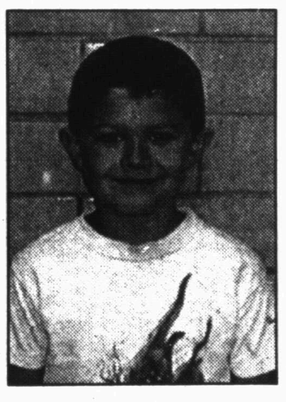
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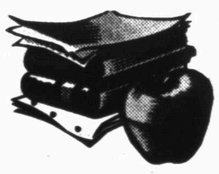
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Texas Savings Bank Congratulates East Elementary Kindergarten Citizenship Award Winners

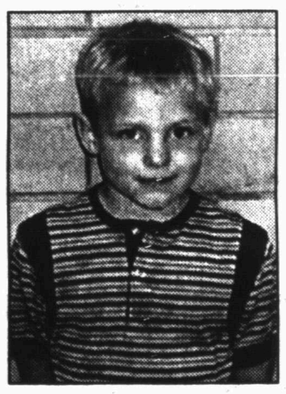


Bryce Roberts
Student of Nell Henry

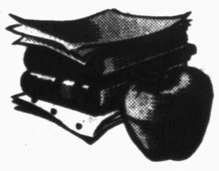


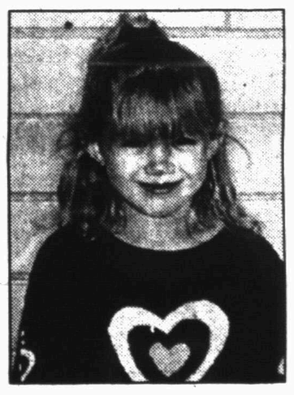


Allie Hollingsworth
Student of Nell Henry



Dalton May
Student of Patsy Massey





Heather McFatridge
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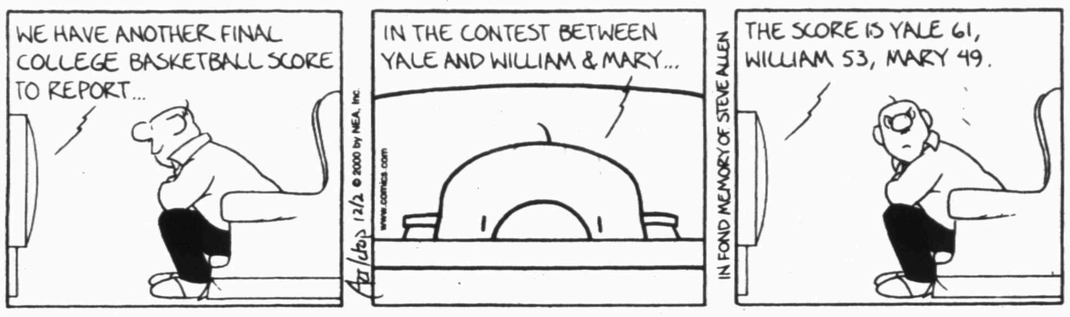
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Delicious beverage
7 Indexed
13 Come into view
14 Perform excessively
15 Felt sorrow for
16 Domestic establishment
17 Fr. holy woman
18 Man-mouse connector
20 Unit of light
21 Less experienced
25 Boundless
28 Attack (2 wds.)
32 Fashion designer Donna —
33 Cut of beef
34 Eject
35 Female kin
36 Reddish-brown
37 Skin decorations
39 Shirt parts
41 Nonprofit TV
44 Saloon suds
45 Atty.'s org.
48 Click beetle
51 Came closer
54 Libation
55 Continental rival
56 Indian and Arctic
57 Exit

DOWN

1 Knots in cotton fiber
2 Give off (heat)
3 Whale
4 "Pod" start
5 Grow old
6 Performs anew
7 Arthur Miller's salesman
8 "— been had!"
9 D.C. hotshot
10 Snare
11 Nervous
12 Active one
19 That legal thing
21 Gradual slope
22 Income from housing
23 Landed property
24 Contradicts
25 — out (makes do with)
26 Part of a church
27 Trickle
29 Up — — good
30 Aware of (2 wds.)
31 Promontory
37 — Aviv
38 City thoroughfare
40 Acquires by labor
41 Gourd
42 Political group
43 Fill to excess
45 Comic Johnson
46 Busy ones
47 Does math
49 Senorita's aunt
50 Long time
52 Pt. of ESL
53 Melody

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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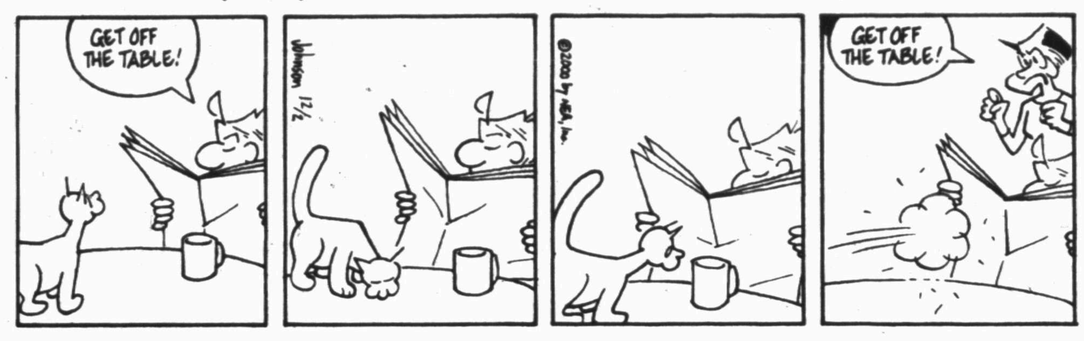


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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



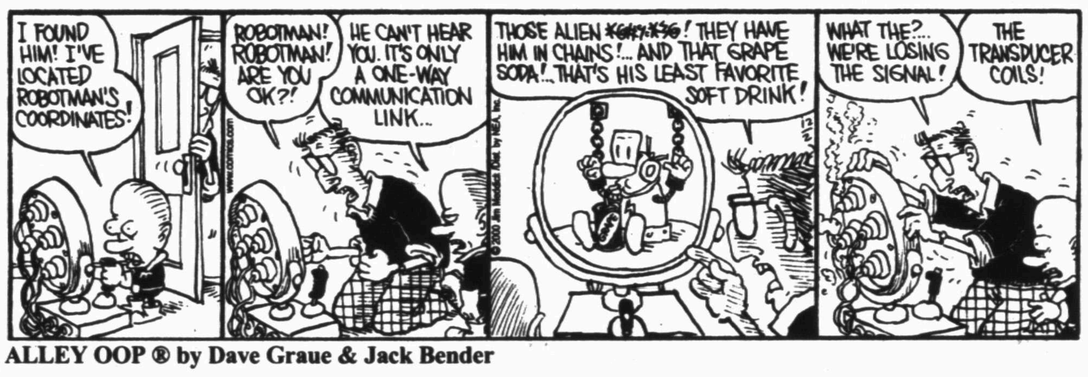
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Any diet drinks?"

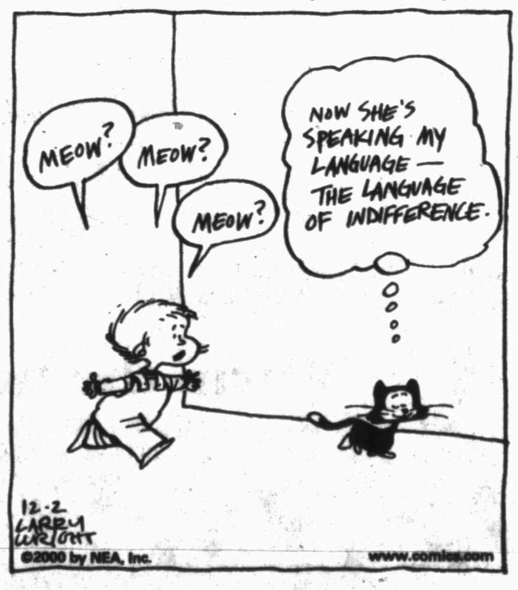
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"YOU PEOPLE SHOULD BE THE ONES TO GO TO BED EARLY, INSTEAD OF ME."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2000

Don't get rattled should some changes you didn't anticipate occur in the year ahead. When the dust settles, you'll discover they worked out for your ultimate good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The only way you can lead today is to first set the example you want others to follow. Issuing edicts will fall on deaf ears if cohorts think you're unwilling to do what you're asking of them. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 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) Although you might get an opportunity to get in a few licks about someone who has caused you some frustrations lately, it could make you look like the dissenter, not the other guy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be ready to respond with a friendly "no" today if someone asks to borrow something you prize greatly. If it is damaged, you'll have yourself to blame for loaning it out in the first place.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Establishing objectives for yourself today that are way beyond your capabilities is self-defeating and demoralizing. Be realistic about what you can accomplish.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you talk negatively about an associate today who isn't present, it could make you look bad instead of the one you're criticizing On top of that, your words will get carried back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Just because somebody asks a question doesn't necessarily mean you must answer it. If someone is probing you for what doesn't concern him or her, keep mum.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Should your intuition be sending your warning signals today about a deal someone wants to make, respect your perceptions. Chances are something isn't quite right, even if you don't know what.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's a giant waste of your keen powers of observation if you use them for faultfinding today. You can only correct your own shortcomings, not anybody else's.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Try not to be too demanding of your friends today. No matter how much they feel for you, they have their own concerns to cater to, so it's not a good time to test their loyalty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Steer clear of volatile issue today with anyone whose views are diametrically opposed to yours. The nerves of people in general are frazzled at this time and a real blow-up could occur.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Keep your own counsel today, and don't attempt to tell others how things should be done. Co-workers won't take kindly to your being a self-appointed boss.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you intend to go shopping today, be extra diligent in examining the merchandise very closely. It is one of those days when inferior goods could get passed on to you.

Monday, Dec. 4, 2000

Because of the good auspices of someone in the position to help you, opportunities for financial growth are indicated in the year ahead. It will make everything else easier in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The harder you work today, the larger the returns. It's one of those days where conditions are such that care, diligence and effort can pay large dividends. Major changes are ahead for Sagittarius in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions 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) This is the time to put your leadership qualities to good use, because taking control of situations where you can advance your self-interests and those of others is your best asset today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Because your nobler instincts will be very pronounced today, you're apt to make sacrifices on behalf of others without giving it a second thought. They won't go unnoticed, nor unappreciated.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Events could occur today that will enable you to tighten the bonds that already bind you to a valuable friend. By strengthening the relationship, it'll strengthen your worth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Work a bit harder today and be willing to stay on the job a little longer, as well. Your chances of fulfilling your ambitious aspiration can be realized, given the extra effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) What makes you such a good promoter today, should you choose to be one, is that you have the ability to take serious, heavy ideas and make them sound light and enticing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Unbeknownst to you, someone you've helped in the past is pitching your causes today to a source that could be of enormous help to you. You could hear about it later in the day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you're looking to go out on the town tonight, chances are you'll have the best time being with another close couple you and your mate like than being with casual acquaintances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Try to express your artistic urges today instead of just coasting along. It will not only reward you with beautifying effects but will give you a great deal of self-satisfaction.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There's a good chance Dan Cupid might single you out for some special attention today. Arrows could fly when you catch the eye of someone you've been longing to meet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) This is an excellent day to do some decorating for the holidays. You'll have some good ideas that will come off so great that you'll repeat the designs for many years to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Putting the concerns and needs of your mate above your own today will work wonders for your relationship. It will be so appreciated that it won't be forgotten easily.

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Anti-tobacco laws, less cancer linked

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's tough anti-smoking measures and public health campaigns have resulted in a 14 percent decrease in lung cancer over the past 10 years, the government reports.

Other regions of the country reported only a 2.7 percent decrease over the same period, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

"Based on the California experience, we would hope to see similar effects in other states using similar programs," said Dr. Terry Pechacek, CDC associate director for science and public health.

Lung cancer develops slowly and the full benefits of quitting can take up to 15 years to be realized. However, Pechacek said, researchers can start seeing some results within five years.

Smoking rates in California began dropping in the late 1980s, helped in part by Proposition 99 in 1988. The voter-approved measure added a 25-cent-per-pack tax on tobacco products that paid for anti-smoking and education programs. Local governments also began restricting smoking in public buildings and workplaces.

Two years ago, voters bumped the price of cigarettes an additional 50 cents per pack, money also earmarked for education. And this year alone, the state will spend $136 million on smoking prevention, cessation and research — some $45 million of it on anti-tobacco advertising.

"California has the most comprehensive program for protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke," said Ken August, spokesman for the state health department. "Restaurants, bars and almost all indoor workplaces are smoke-free."

The effect of the anti-tobacco efforts has been fewer smokers and fewer deadly cases of cancer related to smoking, health officials said. August and Pechacek both said they expect the trend to continue.

August said that means there will be up to 4,000 fewer lung cancer cases in California this year and about 2,000 fewer deaths.

In its report, the CDC compared cancer registries in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, New Mexico and Utah, as well as Seattle, Atlanta and Detroit.

In 1988, the lung cancer rate in California was 72 cases per 100,000 people, slightly higher than that of the other regions studied. By 1997, California's rate had dropped to about 60 per 100,000.

The CDC averages the statistics for the first two years and the last two years studied to arrive at an accurate representation, health officials said. The numbers the CDC used were 71.9 for 1988 and 70.3 for 1989, averaging to 71.1; and 62.2 for 1996 and 60.1 for 1997, averaging to 61.15. That computes to a 14 percent drop in lung cancer cases.

While lung cancer rates for women in the other regions rose 13 percent, the rate for California women dropped 4.8 percent. Among California men, lung cancer rates dropped 23 percent, compared with a 13 percent drop among men elsewhere.

Dr. David Burns, a volunteer with the American Lung Association in California, said: "This is an accomplishment of Proposition 99 money being invested wisely by the state to help people change their smoking behavior."

On the Net:

CDC: http://www.cdc.gov

California health services agency: http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov

Financial institutions spring up in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — In 1987, David Tai quit the hotel business to join several other Asian businessmen in Houston and open a bank catering to immigrants.

Many of the newcomers couldn't persuade mainstream banks to finance their restaurants, dry cleaners and other small businesses, said Tai, a native of Taiwan.

"The culture is different here," he said. "In our country, we use cash, so it's difficult to get a credit rating."

From a storefront operation with 11 employees and $13 million in assets, MetroBank has grown into a publicly traded banking company with 15 branches, 300 employees and $700 million in assets. It specializes in wholesale banking services, such as trade finance and commercial loans.

MetroBank is at the forefront of a wave of banks serving Asian and Hispanic immigrants, many of whom arrive in the United States without an understanding of U.S. financial customs or a credit history.

They do have one thing of great interest to banks: Money.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Asians have the highest median income of any group, at $51,205 in 1999, compared with $44,366 for whites. Household income of Hispanics climbed to an all-time high of $30,735.

University of Georgia researchers estimate that Asian and Hispanic buying power has nearly doubled since 1990, much faster than the rate for the overall population — attributed to population growth and the strong economy.

The researchers predict that by next year, the nearly 12 million Asian-Americans will command $253 billion in disposable personal income, and 33 million Hispanics will have $452 billion in buying power.

Bankers say many of this country's newest residents come with a strong work ethic and single-minded desire to succeed.

"They work hard — long hours and six, seven days a week," said Ken Mok, chairman of First International Bank. "Most are family businesses ... the children come in to help after school."

Mok, a native of Hong Kong and an accountant by training, joined with partners to buy a failed bank in 1991 and reopen as First International. The bank now operates seven branches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Houston and has assets of $120 million.

Small banks such as First International are no longer alone in targeting ethnic markets. Some of the nation's largest financial institutions are hiring tellers and running advertisements in many languages.

Charles Schwab & Co. operates a Chinese-language call center and 14 branches — including one in Houston — where staffers speak Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

"The investment experience is very new to them," said Wallace Louie, vice president of Marketing for Schwab's Global Asia Pacific Services unit.

Schwab responded by offering regular investment seminars in several Asian languages. A sign of the program's success: Schwab's Asian unit now manages $17 billion in assets in the United States and abroad.

In Texas and the nation, Hispanics far outnumber Asians, although with lower household incomes, they only recently have begun to be courted by financial institutions.

Bank One officials in Dallas assembled Hispanic focus groups to develop advertising themes and products that would appeal to Hispanics.

"It was a market you couldn't ignore, or you were going to be in trouble. In 10 years, we're going to be the majority," said Mario Quintanilla, a Bank One vice president and chairman of the Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Still, bank marketing to ethnic customers is tricky. Mok, the First International chairman, said many customers come from Asian countries where bank deposits were not insured until recently, so they distrust banks.

And groups as broadly defined as Asian and Hispanic are not homogenous.

"Targeting Hispanics and Asians have proven to be more of a challenge than targeting African-Americans because there is less similarity culturally," said Jeffrey Humphreys.

U.S., Chile quietly begin free trade talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six years after it was poised to become NAFTA's "fourth amigo," Chile is quietly beginning talks with a lame-duck Clinton administration on a bilateral free-trade agreement.

That would leave it to the next administration to nail down a pact that could be a model for a hemisphere-wide trade agreement — and which also could re-ignite labor and environmental debates that effectively torpedoed Chile's entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos announced the negotiations Wednesday in a lunchtime speech during a tour of San Jose, Calif.; The White House issued a six-paragraph statement shortly afterward.

The low-key approach contrasted with President Clinton's announcement at the end of 1994 Western Hemisphere summit that he would push to have Chile join NAFTA, which consists of United States, Mexico and Canada. Chile was dubbed NAFTA's "fourth amigo."

But Chile's entry into the agreement was effectively killed in 1998 when Democrats in Congress refused to give Clinton "fast-track" authority to negotiate a trade pact.

That authority would have required Congress to vote on trade agreements without having the power to change them. Opponents — mostly Democrats — feared it could lead to agreements that ignore labor and environmental concerns.

Unable to enter NAFTA, Chile hoped to reach a separate agreement with the United States. But there was little movement on the U.S. side. Meanwhile, the United States signed a free-trade pact with Jordan and, just two weeks ago, said it would begin negotiations with Singapore.

When the Singapore negotiations were announced, "we felt perhaps we should be next on line," he said.

The United States' two-way trade with Chile last year was just under $6 billion — a tiny fraction of U.S. trade with its NAFTA partners. But a free-trade agreement would have symbolic importance in recognizing Chile's economic stability and its transition to democracy since dictator Augusto Pinochet stepped down in 1990.

An agreement also could be seen as an important step toward the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the hemisphere-wide trade zone that the Clinton administration hopes will be approved by 2005.

Preliminary talks with Chile will begin in mid-December and a U.S. delegation will go to Chile in January, said Brendan Daly, spokesman for U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky.

On the Net:

State Department information on Chile: http://www.state.gov/www/background—notes/chile—0010—bgn.html

Last minute deal spares mother's house

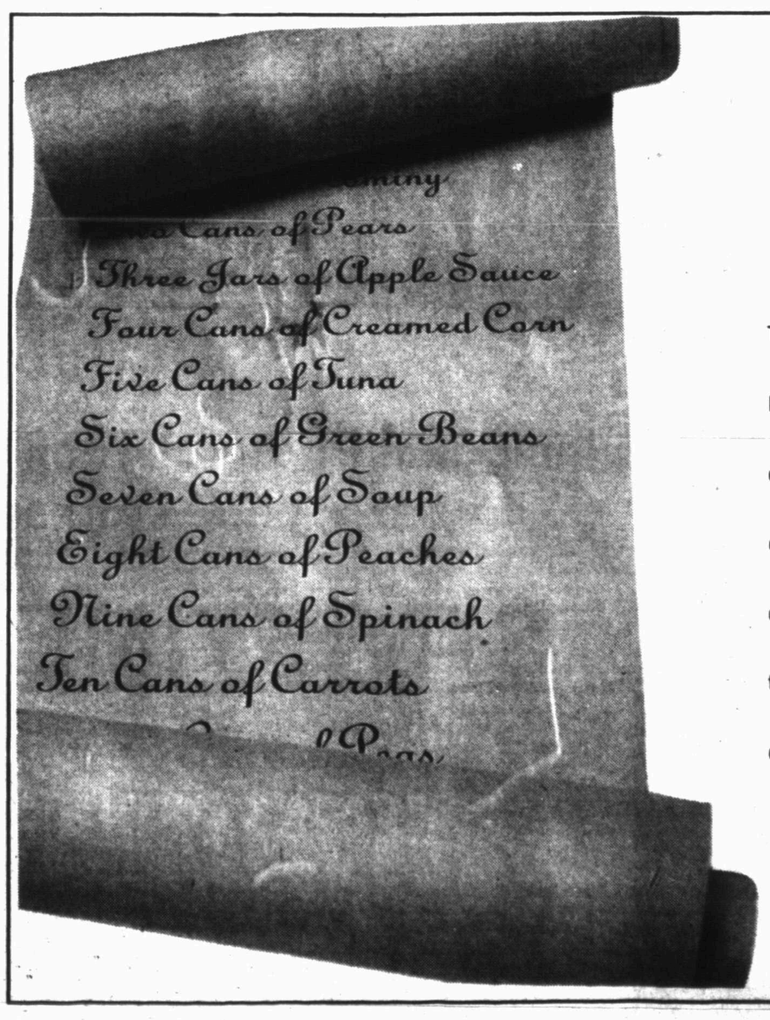
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A last-minute deal has spared the house O.J. Simpson bought for his mother from the auction block — at least for now.

The auction had been scheduled for Thursday, but Simpson and a lawyer who he owes $148,000 agreed to postpone action until Jan. 11.

Representatives of the two sides are negotiating how to satisfy the claim by lawyer Marjorie Fuller without forcing sale of the house.

Fuller represented Simpson's two children in the custody battle that followed his 1995 acquittal in the slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.





An Event Worth Singing About

This is your chance to spread some Christmas cheer! Covenant Family Healthcare Center is holding an area-wide food drive, and you can help out by bringing non-perishable food items to our clinic! Food will be collected Monday, December 4 through Tuesday, December 19 and then donated to the Food Cupboard on Wednesday, December 20. So grab a few cans of veggies, soup or whatever else you've got, and get over to our clinic!

Covenant Family Healthcare Center

5009 College Ave. • 573-1300

Europe strikes back against fears of 'mad cow disease'

BERLIN (AP) — Anxious to calm public fears in Europe's mad cow crisis, German officials said Thursday they will introduce mandatory beef testing, check whether pastures spread the disease and possibly burn up huge stocks of animal feed in power plants.

German lawmakers also were expected later Thursday to approve an immediate blanket ban on meat and bonemeal feed after the first German cows tested positive last week for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, as the disease is formally known. The measure is to take effect Saturday.

Feeding animal meal to cattle has been banned in Germany since 1994, but officials want to help regain public confidence by extending the ban to other animals raised for slaughter.

Contaminated bone and animal meal in cattle feed are believed to cause mad cow disease. Some scientists suspect the disease causes a similar fatal brain-destroying ailment, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, in people who eat infected beef. Two people in France and 80 in Britain have died from the human form of the disease.

In Brussels, Belgium, a European Union veterinary panel Thursday backed proposals for further testing of all cattle over 30 months of age in all of the union's 15 countries.

Illustrating the spread of the scare, non-EU countries also took new measures against the disease.

Switzerland said it will ban animal products in all livestock feed by March. The Czech Republic announced it will widen an existing ban on beef and cattle imports from some EU nations to cover Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

Germans, long told that their beef was safe, were shaken by reports about the first mad cow cases in the country. Media reports say beef sales have decreased up to 50 percent.

"It's pretty drastic," said Marcus Girnau of the German Association of Food Retailers, which represents supermarkets. "Everyone is selling less beef, some none at all."

Responding to a German government request, a utility said Thursday it was considering burning meat and bonemeal in its power plants to help the government dispose of several hundred thousand tons of the animal feed.

German officials have stepped up spot checks for the disease in German herds and introduced extensive food tests. Going further, Deputy Agriculture Minister Martin Wille announced plans Thursday to check out all pasturelands for possible contamination.

Health Minister Andrea Fischer said Germany plans also to introduce mandatory spot checks of all beef from animals more than 30 months old, saying this would give consumers an additional — "although not 100 percent" — guarantee.

Officials last week confirmed for the first time that a cow born and raised in Germany had contracted the disease. A second German-born animal exported to Portugal also tested positive.

The latest scare over mad cow disease was sparked by the discovery of infected cows in France, along with a recorded case of its human form. Since then, scientists have found the first cattle with the disease in Germany and Spain.

That triggered bans of French beef imports in several EU countries, as well as in East European nations, which have banned imports from EU members with reported cases of mad cow disease. Spain followed France's example and banned meat and bone meal from animal feed.

The EU currently uses some 2.5 million tons of meat and bone meal per year. If a ban is enacted, it would cost an estimated $2.6 million to incinerate the animal parts.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Are doctors any help?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I read with interest your answer to the question about drug/herbal interactions regarding St. John's Wort and heart/blood pressure medication. You advised "touching base with his or her physician." Yeah, right. You might as well describe a two-headed monster. None of the physicians I've approached with this problem know as much about it as I do, so they are no help at all. I've located the studies that indicate that there may be problems, but because I'm not a physician or pharmacologist, I can't interpret it. I take Atenolol for blood pressure problems and St. John's Wort for fibromyalgia. St. John's Wort helps to deepen my sleep, which in turn alleviates the muscle and joint pain of the fibromyalgia. I would hate to have to give it up. My rheumatologist recommended Prozac since it is so effective.

I suggest you think twice before you assume that physicians know or care about herbal/pharmaceutical interactions. I've found them to be clueless. This is a very dangerous state of mind, since so many people are taking so many herbal medications. - **B.G., Andover, N.J.**

Dear B.G.: Thank you for your letter. You have outlined a definite problem. An understanding of herbs, supplements and alternative medicine is not what you'd consider to be a strength with most physicians these days — although there are exceptions.

This being the case, however, I cannot be the one to provide medical advice. I am a trained scientist. I read the research, and I have a reasonable grasp of the topics, but I am not a medical doctor. As such, I am legally obliged to toss it back to you, the questioner, with advice that you discuss it with your doctor, the one who is charged — and licensed — to tell you what to do.

I try to express my answers in ways that will be empowering by providing information and important perspectives. The advice to consult one's doctor is absolutely necessary, and it makes sense on a number of levels. I do not really know much of a questioner's medical history or any intervening variables that could affect a recommendation. Even if I were a physician, it is risky business to attempt to diagnose and recommend treatments through letters or e-mail.

I understand that you do not appear to be taking issue with my role as much as complaining that there is no one at your end to pick up the ball. You say that I should think twice before assuming that physicians know or care about herbal interactions. I think that the knowledge might be lacking in some cases, but much of this is due to a lack of research. To attribute a lack of caring on the part of your physician is unfair and inappropriate. During this period of knowledge transition, we must be prepared to become activists on our own behalf. This includes doing our homework, speaking with others that have gone down the same road, and attempting to have an active dialog with our physicians. Always inform your doctor, and be willing to accept responsibility if you have chosen to act independently.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have read an article concerning the benefits of selenium. However, it is, of course, yeast. I seem to have an intolerance to bread and cheese (yeast?), which causes bad stomach pain. Does this mean I shouldn't take selenium? - **N.S., London, England**

Dear N.S.: Your concern is that selenium can contain yeast, but it is really the other way around. The selenium present in our foods depends, to a great degree, on the selenium content of the soil or water in which they're grown. The same can be said for yeast, as the mineral will only be present if the yeast is allowed to grow on a selenium-rich medium. Typical food sources for selenium include seafood such as tuna, clams, oysters and swordfish, nuts and seeds, organ meats, and grains such as oats and wheat. If you are concerned about a selenium supplement, purchase one that is yeast-free.

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

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

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Insurance hikes, decreases proposed for benchmarks

AUSTIN (AP) — Insurance companies and consumer advocates filing competing recommendations for residential benchmark rates on Thursday with one side calling for an increase and the other proposing sharp reductions.

The Insurance Council of Texas, an industry trade group, recommended an overall 3.6 percent rate increase.

The industry group's plan includes raising homeowners premiums an average of 3.5 percent statewide. It also has a 10.7 percent decrease in tenant rates.

Public Insurance Counsel Rod Bordelon, who works on behalf of policyholders, recommended an overall reduction of 8.1 percent. That plan includes reducing homeowner's premiums 9.7 percent and reducing renters' policies 15.9 percent.

The rate proposals will be considered at a public hearing on Dec. 19. The proposals are for rates effective Aug. 1, 2001.

A hailstorm that struck North Central Texas in 1995 is still impacting rates, and next year the industry will have to account for the March tornado that ripped through downtown Fort Worth, said Rick Gentry, executive director of the industry group.

"That storm alone generated some 95,000 claims and $445 million in insured losses," Gentry said. "Suffice it to say, we make every effort to accurately forecast future rate needs."

Miss India wins Miss World beauty pageant

LONDON (AP) — Miss India, paying tribute to Mother Teresa as the woman she most admired, was crowned Miss World on Thursday — the second consecutive year India has carried off the title.

Priyanka Chopra, 18, was chosen from among 95 contestants who posed in evening gowns on a chilly night at London's Millennium Dome.

In second place was 18-year-old Giorgia Palmas from Italy. Third was 20-year-old Yuksel Ak from Turkey.

The tall and slender Chopra said she would use her success as "a platform to influence people's thoughts, minds and actions." She won $100,000 in prize money.

Mother Teresa, she said, was someone "I admire from the bottom of my heart for being so considerate, passionate and kind ... giving up her life to put smiles on people's faces."

Yukta Mookhey of India was last year's winner.

At the semifinal stage, when only 10 contestants remained, Miss India said she didn't feel any tension.

"I work best under pressure," she said.



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