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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY
Jan. 19, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 222
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Brandon Mednansky

Impeachment partisan, Clinton lawyers say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening President Clinton's trial defense, White House lawyers today added congressional Democrats to their team to bolster arguments that his impeachment was handled in a "very partisan way." The Senate Republican leader rejected Democratic suggestions that calling witnesses would turn the trial into a lurid show.

"I don't think it should lead to an unseemly spectacle. You don't have to get into the details," said Majority Leader Trent Lott. He said he hadn't made a final decision on recommending witnesses, calling it "premature" to do so before the White House made its opening arguments.

The tactical move by the White House came on an extraordinary day in which Clinton was both opening his defense at the first presidential trial in 131 years and also delivering the State of the Union address to a Congress that has impeached him.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said today that some Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee will join Clinton's defense team, along with former Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, a longtime ally of the president.

Lockhart declined to name the House Democrats or say how many are involved. He said they were joining the team at the White House request to "offer some valuable insight into how we got to this point."

Congressional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the White House was interested in having Reps. John Conyers of Michigan, Rick Boucher of Virginia and Tom Barrett of Wisconsin join the team. Each would speak before the Senate as part of the president's defense.

All three are members of the Judiciary Committee, where Democrats battled Republicans to the end in opposition to the articles of impeachment that eventually cleared the panel.

Lockhart said the lawmakers would make presentations during the opening arguments to explain how the impeachment effort "moved forward in a very partisan way, and in a way that was not fair to the president."

The White House team also was to focus on conflicts in testimony gathered by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, a shift in strategy aimed at undercutting House charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

This will be the second year that Clinton's State of the Union address has been clouded by charges of marital infidelities. He presented his 1998 speech a few days after the Monica Lewinsky story was made public.

At his trial, the switch from not discussing the facts to disputing many of them could bolster Republican demands for witnesses to help resolve the disputes. The White House has been fighting that prospect but now expects witnesses, officials said.

Nevertheless, John Podesta, the White House chief of staff, said today there is no assurance that witnesses could resolve whatever conflicts might exist in testimony.

"We think after our defense team has put down the case on the facts, the law and the Constitution, have reminded the senators there are 60,000 pages of testimony from over 100 witnesses that are before them already, they may find there is no need for witnesses," Podesta said on NBC's "Today."

When Clinton's lawyers conclude their arguments, he said, they will move to dismiss the charges.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said Monday that witnesses might be inevitable. In an interview with The Associated Press, the South Dakota Democrat said witnesses could lead to the spectacle of 100 senators watching former Ms. Lewinsky, the former White House intern, "point to where the president touched her."

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., dismissed Daschle's warning as "all-or-nothing" scare tactics that are "just not true." Lott seconded Kyl's opinion.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "They say the only gracious way to accept an insult is to ignore it. If you can't ignore it, top it. If you can't top it, laugh at it. If you can't laugh at it, the insult was probably deserved."

Yesterday was a national holiday. Among those closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday was the Snyder Independent School District.

Riley Davis, son of Janna and Barry Davis, is a second grader. Janna asked Riley if he knew that he didn't have to go to school on Monday.

Riley answered "Yes, I know. Aren't we lucky that Martin Luther King made that speech on Monday instead of Saturday."

That's the logic of a second grader, but a lot of folks who enjoyed the day off likely agreed with Riley.

Monday was not a holiday for the Texas Legislature. And Monday's session was opened by a prayer offered by Snyder's Miller Robinson.

The retired minister was invited to give the invocation at Monday's opening by State Rep. David Counts.

There are reports that Miller attempted to take up a collection, but was quickly informed that collecting money was the legislature's task.

And last week on the opening day of the session, Secretary of State Elton Bomer gaveled the State House into order.

And he also had something on his mind: "If I had a prayer to offer it would go: Dear God, we're going to be here 140 days. Hope you will be, too."

Rep. Pete Laney, a frequent visitor to Snyder, was elected to his fourth term as speaker of the House.

Laney, a Hale Center farmer, was chosen by the other 149 House members. A guy from Houston said that the House leader needs to be blessed with an incredible well of patience and perseverance and added, "It's a comfort that the House is led by a man who grows cotton for a living."

Laney had this bit of humor in his opening-day acceptance speech, saying Texas has come a long way in the last 100 years.

"Back then we were fighting over water and everybody was carrying a gun." Laney paused and grinned, "Maybe things haven't changed that much."

Investigation continues on attempted abduction

A 20-year-old Snyder woman was the target of an attempted abduction shortly after 10 p.m. Monday as she walked along Gary Brewer Road after her vehicle broke down near her home.

Karrah Nicole Griswold told Deputy Sheriff Maurice Herridge that a "yellowish, green" two-door vehicle pulled beside her while she was walking, and two white males tried to force her into their vehicle.

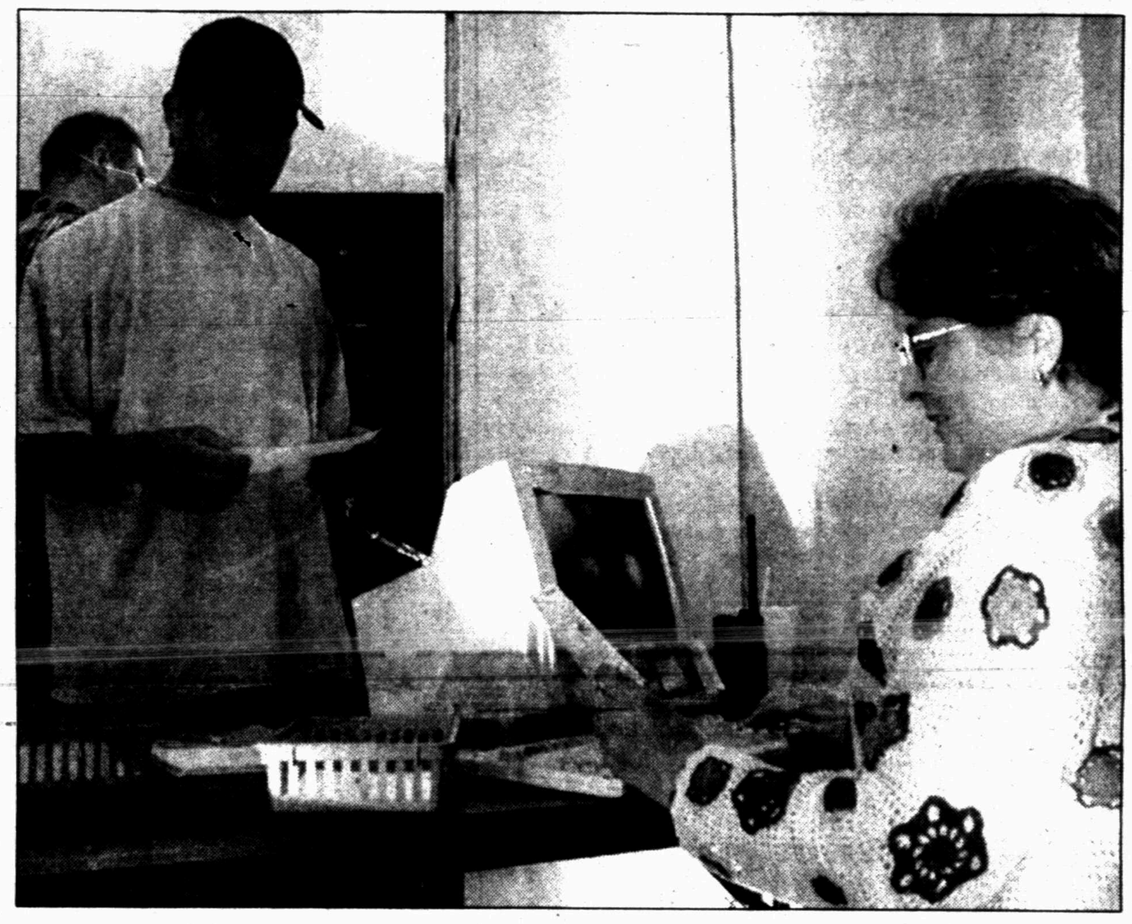
The two men were described as in their mid '30s, Herridge's offense report stated.

The woman was able to pull away from the two men, and then ran away from them.

She then called and reported the incident to Deputy Herridge at the Law Enforcement Center.

This morning Sheriff Darren Jackson said that a search for the vehicle and its occupants began after the incident was reported.

Jackson said deputies continue to investigate.



REGISTRATION — Western Texas College freshman Gabriel Madrid of Snyder waits while registrar's secretary Patty Kuhl enters his courses into the computer. The station is just one step in the registration process that continues today at WTC. (SDN Staff Photo)

Clinton to focus on SS and taxes tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — On trial in the Senate, President Clinton goes before Congress and the nation tonight to make the case for his presidency with a State of the Union address setting an "ambitious and activist agenda" for the remainder of his administration.

Clinton's challenge was to generate interest in his proposals among lawmakers still caught up in the impeachment proceedings against him, and aides said his speech would be brimming with ideas on education, health care, Social Security and other issues.

"At the end of the speech, people will look not at an administration that has entered the last two years of office and is slowing down, but an administration that is energized and is looking forward to moving into the 21st century with an ambitious and activist agenda," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said Monday.

But the address fell on the same day Clinton's defense team began its presentation in the Senate, and White House officials conceded that the GOP-controlled Congress wouldn't rush to rubber-stamp the agenda of a chief executive many Republicans want to see removed from office.

Undaunted, Clinton's plan was to continue to portray himself hard at work on the nation's business, outlining initiatives to shore up the Social Security system and renewing calls to build new schools, overhaul the campaign finance system and increase the minimum wage.

Last year, Clinton challenged Congress to reserve all of the burgeoning budget surplus to "save Social Security first." This year, the catch phrase is to "save Social Security now," Lockhart said.

Bush is making history with 2nd oath of office

AUSTIN (AP) — Launching his second term today, Gov. George W. Bush said he was humbled by the election, hopeful for the future and called on the "armies of compassion" to help all Texans achieve "prosperity with a moral and spiritual center."

Becoming the first Texas governor to serve back-to-back four-year terms, the Republican said the state needs to be open, educated, diverse and united by common values.

"A healthy democracy depends upon the character of its citizens," Bush said in remarks prepared for his inaugural address.

Bush, a front-runner among prospective GOP presidential candidates for 2000 despite saying he's undecided on the race, made no mention of President Clinton or his impeachment trial. However, Bush said it is important to teach children values along with reading.

"We must teach them that there are right choices in life and wrong choices in life. Some people think it's inappropriate to make moral judgments anymore. Not me," Bush said.

"Because for our children to have the kind of life we want for them, they must learn to say yes to responsibility, yes to family, yes to honesty and work, and no to drugs, no to violence, no to promiscuity or having babies out of wedlock.

"We must be willing to draw a clear line between right and wrong," he said.

Bush and Lt. Gov.-elect Rick Perry were being sworn in shortly after noon in a tradition-laden ceremony on the Capitol's south steps. Perry, a one-time Democrat, becomes the first Republican inaugurated as lieutenant governor.

Bush, who won re-election in November with a staggering 69 percent of the vote, leads a state government that's dominated almost entirely by Republicans for the first time since Reconstruction.

"I am humbled because elections are far more than just votes tallied. Every vote cast is a hope," he said.

Bush, who says he claimed a record portion of the state's growing Hispanic vote, voiced hope that the state will unify and celebrate its diverse cultures.

"Our diversity gives Texas new life, new energy, new blood and we should not fear it but welcome it," he said.

"We should be proud of our various heritages; we should celebrate them in festivals; we should enjoy their traditions in our homes; we should share them with friends," he said.

Bush also used the speech to revisit his theme of compassionate conservatism. Neither government nor economic growth can solve all problems, he said. "In fact, we're now putting too much hope in economics, just as we once put too much hope in government," he said.

"We must rally the armies of compassion that are in every community of this state. We must encourage them, to love, to nurture, to mentor, to help and thus to offer hope to those who have none.

Classes start for spring term on Wednesday

Registration for the spring semester at Western Texas College continues until 4 p.m. today with open registration.

Classes begin Wednesday morning, but students have until Jan. 29 to register for the spring semester.

That date is also the deadline for students to change class schedules or add classes.

Courses toward an associate degree in a variety of liberal arts and pre-professional fields are being offered at the college.

Vocational programs are offered in computerized business technology, criminal justice, golf-landscape technology and welding.

Students can also take classes just for fun — including ceramics, aqua-aerobics, diet and weight control or creative writing.

The registration process begins in the Student Center where students meet with their advisors.

Campus dorms opened Monday morning.

ASK US

Q—How much is Cogdell Memorial Hospital paying Hospital Receivable Services to manage its self-pay accounts?

A—HRS is paid approximately 12 percent of collection for its services.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 65 degrees; low, 33; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 40; no precipitation.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy. Low, mid 40s. S-SW wind 10-15 mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy. High 70-75. W wind 15-25 mph.

Tanner Butler
Partly cloudy

Sunset: 6:07 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.
Of 18 days in 1999, the sun has shone 18 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Drop the question of what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you."

Horace

Marine's comments about discipline sparks dispute

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) — A Marine's offhand complaint in a base newspaper has sparked a swift rebuke by a senior officer and a war of words among fellow Marines across the country.

Staff Sgt. Paul Rinnander, an 11-year veteran with a spotless record that includes successful tours as a recruiter, was asked last month by a reporter for the Scout newspaper whether anything bugs him about the Marine Corps.

"Recruit discipline," Rinnander, 29, answered in comments printed in the Scout's "Marine on the street" column. "There is a total lack of discipline and respect shown by Marines coming out of basic training."

The day the column was published, Sgt. Major Lewis G. Lee, the corps' senior enlisted man, was visiting Camp Pendleton. He read it and blew his lid.

"You take a swipe in public at what the commandant and I and a lot of fine Marines are trying to do, you shoot your mouth off to a newspaper, and you're going to hear from me," Lee told the Los Angeles Times in today's editions.

Rinnander was ordered to report to Parris Island, S.C., by Jan. 2 to become a drill instructor. He got a blistering e-mail from Lee, expressing "regret" that they didn't get to discuss the matter in person: "It would have been an unforgettable meeting for you."

The situation has prompted mounds of letters to the Marine Corps Times, a nationwide weekly. Sympathies are roughly split between the two men.

DONATION — Debra Perez, left, Wal-Mart's assistant manager, presented a $250 check to New Hope Baptist Church. Gloria Dunkins, wife of pastor Raymond Dunkins, accepted. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

GOLD COAT AWARDS — Gold Coats receiving gold pins for attending the most meetings and working the most chamber of commerce events included (from left), front row, Betty Bredemeyer, Linda Sellars, Elois Pruitt, Donna Gray; back row, Dink Foree, John DeLille, Jeffrey Martin, Howard Limmer. Earning a gold pin but not present were Betty House, Harry Krenek, Nancy Smith and Kent Wright. Gold Coats meet every other month. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Power outage stalls NE trains

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An electrical outage during a series of storms knocked out power to rail lines between New York and Delaware, halting at least 20 rush-hour trains.

The outage happened shortly before 5:30 p.m. Monday as a line of thunderstorms made its way through the Northeast with 60 mph winds.

Trains for Amtrak, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and New Jersey Transit were stopped in their tracks as far south as Wilmington, Del. Power was restored an hour later between Wilmington and Philadelphia, and to the rest of the system shortly after 7 p.m.

There was no immediate word on how many passengers were affected.

The problem was traced to an insulator that blew out at a North Philadelphia power station, Amtrak spokesman Rick Remington said.

The trains had only emergency lighting at first, but enough power was restored soon after to provide heat and full lighting, Remington said.

Residents want curbs on drug raiders

REDWAY, Calif. (AP) — For years, federal helicopters have buzzed over a lush stretch of Northern California in search of marijuana patches, scaring livestock and angering residents who don't like the noise.

Now, fed-up homeowners are hoping to help the government literally rewrite the book on drug raiding.

At an unusual public hearing Monday, two dozen people offered testimony to advise the federal Bureau of Land Management on the handbook it must write on how to conduct raids in the region known as "The Emerald Triangle."

"The rule book would be something written down that people could see in advance and they would know what was coming," said Ed Denson, a ranch owner.

Last year, U.S. District Judge Fern Smith approved a settlement that ordered the BLM to craft new guidelines for its agents conducting the annual harvest-season raids. It followed years of litigation over 1990's "Operation Greensweep," in which state, local and federal agents, and Army troops raided pot farms.

Local residents have long complained that the noise and propeller wash from the choppers harms the environment because the craft fly too low.

BLM authorities, citing security concerns, did not attend Monday's hearing, which was supervised by a retired state justice. But residents' testimony will be included in the record when federal officials consider public comment for the book.

"You have to be here to see what it is like — from the first of August through September, it's like a war zone," said Dan Weaver. "The big problem is these helicopters. This whole thing would be calmed down significantly by getting those guys up higher."

Denson said helicopters buzzed his barn and frightened his workers.

"They say they fly at 500 feet, but actually, they're coming in at 200 feet. We're saying the handbook should require them to fly at least 1,000 to 1,500 feet," said Denson, who lives in Redway, about 220 miles north of San Francisco in Humboldt County.

Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties are known for their lush wilderness and the region is the richest marijuana growing area in the nation. Last year, authorities reportedly seized 1,100 marijuana plants and more than eight tons of cultivation gear in just one raid.

Announcement called surprise

COLUMBIA, Md. (AP) — A mortgage company is disputing an announcement by the Clinton administration that it has agreed to a $6.5 billion settlement of discrimination accusations.

The head of Columbia National Inc. denied that the company, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission reached a settlement.

Chief Executive Officer Dave Gallitano said the only agreement with HUD is to continue the company's mission to bring home mortgage loans to low-to-moderate income families.

"The statements released by the White House and HUD are inaccurate and very misleading," Gallitano said in a statement.

Columbia National was accused of violating the Fair Housing Act by making too few loans to minority or low-to-moderate income families.

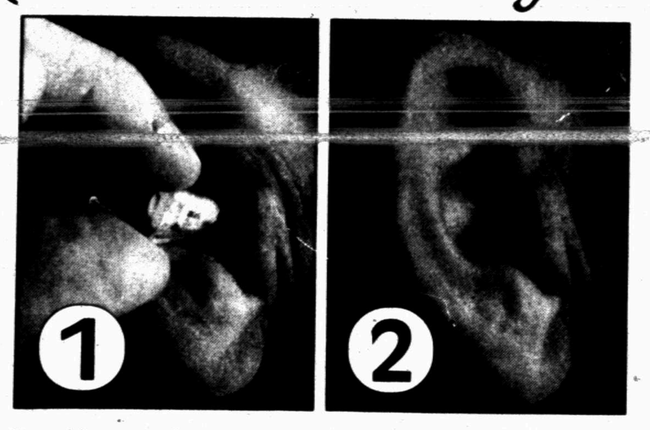
President Clinton announced the settlement Monday in a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., saying the Columbia, Md.-based lender agreed to make $6 billion in home mortgage loans available over five years to minorities and low- to moderate-income families in 28 states.

The company also will spend $529 million on programs designed to increase home ownership among minority and poor families, the president said.

But Columbia National said the $6.5 billion figure actually represent the "volume of loans we made over the past five years." It said it was told HUD had made no finding of discrimination.

New Fully Digital Hearing Aid

Now Available in Snyder



Digital hearing aid prescriptions are precisely matched to your hearing loss. Once inside your ear, it is hardly noticeable.

"The new Direct Digital Hearing Aid has been released. It samples sound one million times per second with more processing power than many desktop computers," said Arthur Bickel, hearing aid specialist with Livingston Hearing Aid Center.

"Sound is pre-processed and fed 32,000 times per second through the digital sound processor for statistical analysis and over 100 parameters are adjusted automatically."

The Fully Digital hearing aid automatically and continuously analyzes the sound in the wearer's environment.

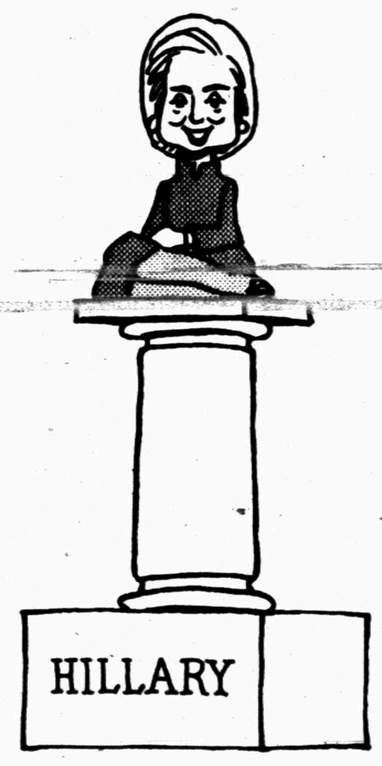
This new technology is capable of fitting mild to severe hearing losses and because of the ability to program this hearing aid, it can be modified to meet the needs of the user for many years. Livingston Hearing Aid Center offers a 60-day money back satisfaction guarantee.

Call for a free demonstration: 1-800-828-0722. Livingston Hearing Aid Center is located in the office of Dr. Cave - Optometrist in Snyder.

ONE DAY ONLY
Wed., Jan. 20th

Come meet Hearing Aid Specialist, Arthur Bickel of Livingston Hearing Aid Center. He will be demonstrating the new Direct Digital Hearing Aid one day only, Wednesday, January 20th at Dr. Cave's Office in Snyder.

Berry's World



Datebook

Jan. 19, 1999

Today is the 19th day of 1999 and the 30th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1840, Charles Wilkes discovered Antarctica.

On this day in 1853, Verdi's "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.

On this day in 1937, Howard Hughes flew across the United States in 7 hours and 28 minutes, setting a record for the fastest transcontinental flight.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: James Watt (1736-1819), inventor; Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), Confederate general; Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), writer; Paul Cezanne (1839-1906), painter; Jean Stapleton (1923-), actress, is 76; Phil Everly (1939-), singer, is 60; Janis Joplin (1943-1970), singer; Dolly Parton (1946-), entertainer, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1937, Cy Young, Tris Speaker and Nap Lajoie were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself, and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself." — Lisa Kirk

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Jan. 17) and first quarter (Jan. 24).

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

Homer Anderson
Minister

37th St. Church of Christ
2500 37th St.
You Are Cordially Invited

Sun. 9:30 a.m. Bible Classes
Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 10 a.m. Ladies Class 7:00 p.m. Mid Week Bible Class
Mon. - Fri. 8:05 a.m.
"Five Minutes with the Master" KSNY 101.5 FM

"I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL!"

Paul wrote of his many persecutions for the cause of Christ in 2 Corinthians 11:24-33, then after speaking of his "thorn in the flesh," he wrote, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Paul forgot the past and looked to the future, "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" **(Philippians 3:13-14).** Today the Lord makes us the same promise, what we lack He will supply, and our dependence on the Lord will draw us closer to Him.

Latria's

FURTHER REDUCTIONS

20% to 75% off

Shoes 1/2 Price

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SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM — Pat Alexander, retired DPS state trooper, gave a program, "Women on the Road," to Atheneum Study Club members. Giving positive habits for safe driving, he said records showed that 30 people were killed during Christmas — 50 percent of the drivers didn't wear seat belts, and 8 percent were alcohol related. New Year statistics showed 30 people were killed, 10 were pedestrians, 68 percent were not wearing seat belts and 40 percent were alchohol related. Alexander was introduced by Atheneum president, Doris Spikes. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-19-99
♠ K 4
♥ A Q 7 6 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 6 3 2

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

East
♠ Q J 8
♥ J 9 8 5
♦ K 6
♣ Q J 10 9

South
♠ A 7 3 2
♥ 3 2
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ A K 4

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♦ J

Don't they read their own magazine?

By Phillip Alder

Glancing at a magazine promoting walking as the way to lose weight, I noticed two recommendations: Make the intensity of your walking enough to get your heart pumping, and keep your abs firm, but not so tight that you cannot breathe.

So, start with your heart stationary, and be careful not to asphyxiate!

Well, let's see if you can stop your partner from gagging or having a heart attack with your play of this deal. Against three no-trump, West leads the diamond jack, East putting on the king. Walk over to the South seat and take charge.

North should add one point for his good five-card suit, so he is worth game opposite 15-17 or 16-18. His sequence, a transfer bid followed by three no-trump, offers a choice of games. With only two hearts, South passes, of course.

You start with seven top tricks: two spades, one heart, two diamonds (given trick one) and two clubs. You need to get the heart suit going, but dummy is short on side-suit entries. And a 4-2 heart split is more likely than 3-3. So, you should grab the first trick (for fear of a spade switch from East) and *duck* a heart.

Let's assume West switches to a spade. Win in hand with the ace, then lead your second heart, planning to take the finesse. However, when the king appears, win with dummy's ace, cash the queen, and play another round to establish your ninth trick.

When you must lose a trick while establishing a suit, it is usually better to lose it as quickly as possible.

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FIVE GENERATIONS, TWO WAYS — Ora Ussery, pictured center on the back row, was visited by her twin daughters and their families during the holidays. Also on the back row (from left) are Debra Davis, her granddaughter; Loyce Hayes, her daughter; Joyce Weber, her daughter; Karen Tiffee her granddaughter; on the front row are Stephanie Parham, her great-granddaughter, Jennifer Pietras, another great-granddaughter; and in front are her great-great-grandsons, Keagan Parham and Garrett Pietras. (Contributed Photo)

Recipes For The Cook

Casserole Sauce Mix (Cream Soup)

2 cups nonfat dry milk, crystal or powdered
¾ cup cornstarch
¼ cup instant chicken bouillon
2 Tbsp. dried onion, flakes or chopped
1 tsp. dried basil, crushed (optional)
1 tsp. dried thyme, crushed (optional)
½ tsp. pepper

Mix all ingredients. Store in a glass jar or other airtight container. Makes 3 cups; equal to 9 cans of soup. To use, combine ⅓ soup mix with 1 cup water. Cook and stir till thickened, or microwave in the bottom of a glass casserole. If you like, add mushrooms, celery or bits of chicken to resemble the soup you usually use.

Add other ingredients, such as cooked turkey, fish or meat, with your favorite combination of vegetables and pasta. Heat in microwave or oven for an easy, delicious, low-calorie, low-fat main dish. This mix works just as well for gravies, creamed vegetables, and sauces. The South Dakota Extension Service gives these statistics for the mix equivalent of one can mushroom soup, serving four or more people:

Fat: .2 grams (mushroom soup 23.8); Calories: 95 (soup 330)
Sodium-710 mg (soup 2,370); Price: 25 cents (soup .79 plus)
(Note: Sodium may be reduced, if needed, by reducing bouillon)
Recipe source: Family Information Service

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Art Guild Study Club; MAWC; 5 p.m.

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for 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 Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; houseshoe courts, located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information, call 573-9762; 3 p.m.

Just For Today NA; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-8626, 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 573-9742.

Some residents of Tucson have a surprise in their mailbox

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Tired of those post-holiday bills showing up in your mail? Try moving to Tucson.

A number of residents were puzzled last weekend when they opened their mailboxes — and found $100 bills. Some found as many as three.

"This is a perfectly calm, ordinary place. It's very mysterious," resident Barbara Dennis said Monday.

The finds were reported to the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Sgt. Brad Foust said officers were baffled — they had no idea who left the money, or why.

Authorities also weren't sure how much free cash was handed out.

Foust was certain of one thing, though.

"It's not a crime to leave money for people," he said.

Must pay taxes

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — The 6,000 tax forms issued to Muscogee County school employees on Friday had a fatal flaw.

"We are all dead," a middle school teacher said Monday.

Instead of checking the box marked pension plans on their W-2 earnings statements, the district's payroll department checked deceased.

"Unfortunately, the computer just printed in the wrong field," said school district treasurer Fred Jones.

School officials and area accountants say that by the April 15 filing deadline, the IRS will know they're alive.

"I don't think anyone will have a problem with their taxes — just a good laugh," said Silvia Newell, a certified public accountant.

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Robin Williams
PATCH ADAMS
Rated PG13
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RUG RATS
Rated G
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Matinees Sat. & Sun. $3.00
Tues. All Seats $3.00

GOOD NEWS

By Wayne Horton

TRUTH!

It was Jesus who said, "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." Jesus is the "Truth." And no denomination or group is so right that they have all the other Truth. Truth is where you find it.

It occurs to me that a lot of folks are literally afraid of truth. Their "applecart" is just like they want it and any suggestion of re-arrangement threatens their security. Others are just plain too lazy to seek it. Besides that, they don't know how since all they've ever done is study to prove their own beliefs. Still others are so arrogant as to believe they possess all truth and therefore have no real need to search for truth.

Do we need the encouragement of this little poem by an unknown author?

From the COWARDICE that shrinks from new Truth;
From the LAZINESS that is content with half-Truths;
From the ARROGANCE that thinks it knows all Truths;
Oh, God of Truth, deliver us!

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the TRUTH, and the life." Maybe we should spend a little less time learning things ABOUT Him and a lot more time learning to KNOW HIM!

SUGGESTION: Read through your Bible without trying to see what you already believe. Just seek to see what it says. You'll find many things which will not be complementary to what you already believe. Those things are true, and they will upset your "applecart," and you won't be in such control, and it will frighten you... but then ... you will begin to realize the importance of centering on Jesus, knowing Him and allowing RELATIONSHIP rather than RELIGION to drive you. Try it and see.

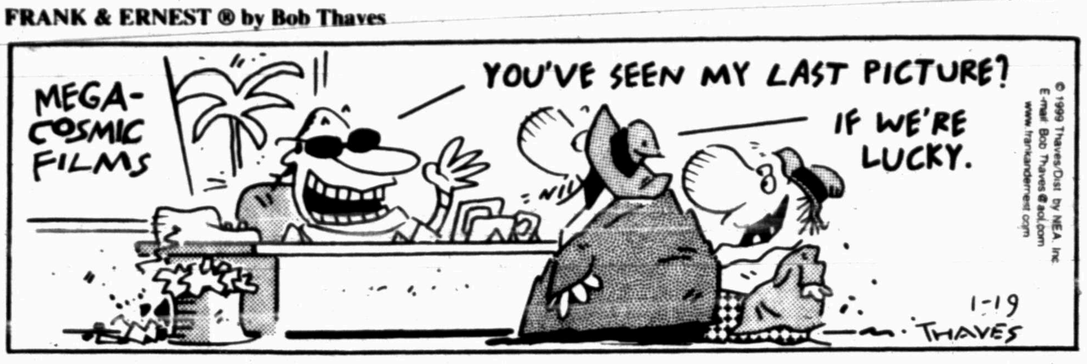
Good News is a Ministry of the Hermleigh Church of Christ

Comic Page

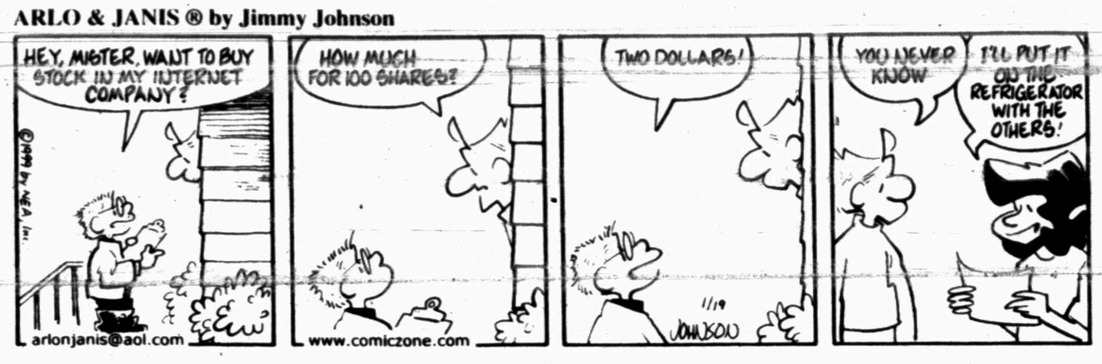
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

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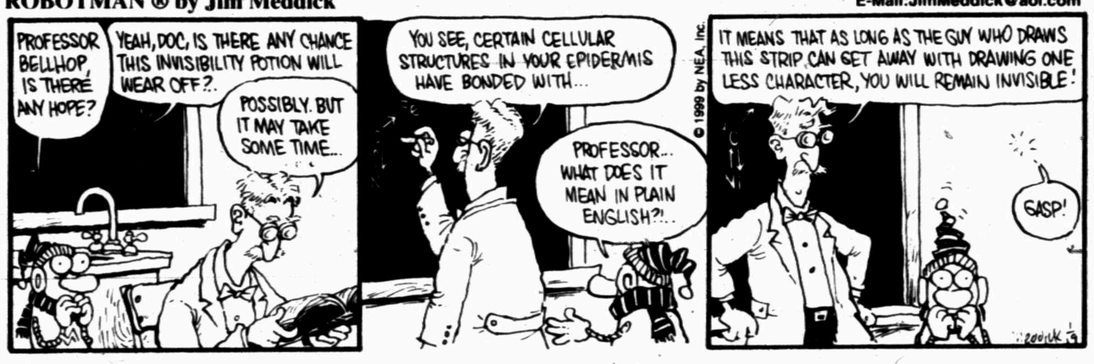
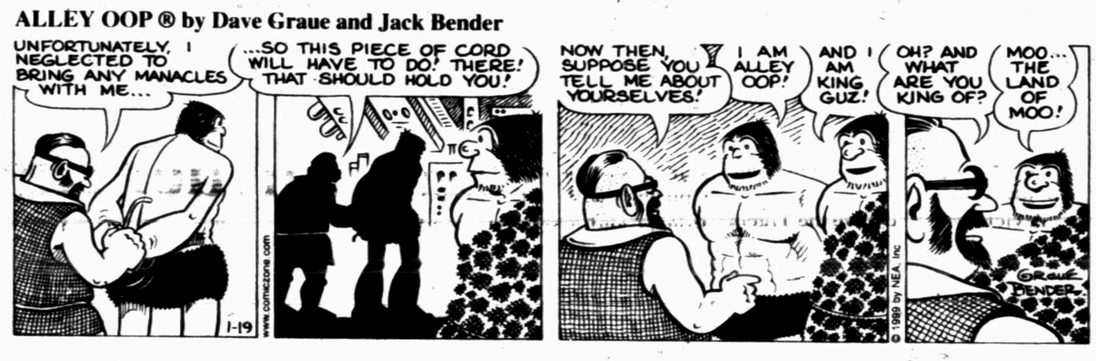
E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com

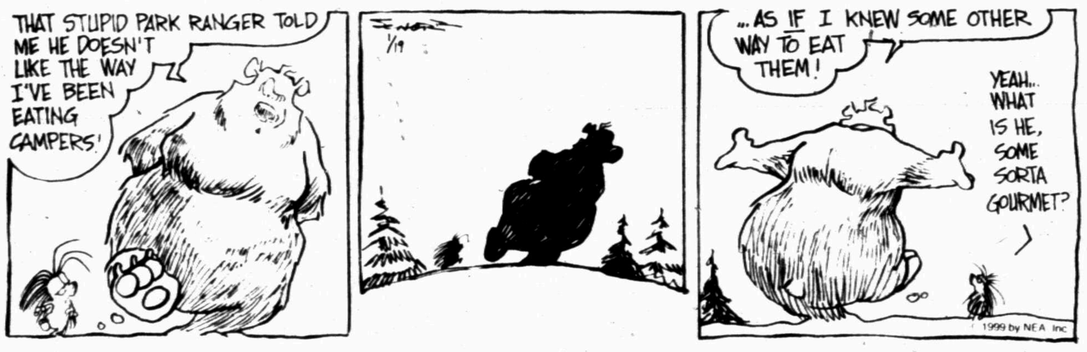


BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Dane's neighbor
6 Architect Mies van der —
10 Actress Anita
12 Famous chocolate maker
14 Team of three
15 Small hole
16 Imitate
17 Actor Silver
19 Up — — good
20 Seven — of the World
23 Use a broom
26 Exist
27 Greek letter
30 Fish trap
32 Sorer
34 — d' (restaurant employee)
35 One of the Barrymores
36 Seine sight
37 Prefix for pod
39 Type of bear
40 More infested with wrigglers
42 Sulk
45 Photo- — (camera sessions)
46 Tear
49 Artful dodger
51 Playwright O'Neill
54 Latin dances
55 Before this time
56 Spike and Peggy
57 Short jackets

DOWN

1 Coarse hair
2 — in Cincinnati
3 Central American oil tree
4 Agnus —
5 Aircraftsman
6 Cowboy Rogers
7 Playwright Clifford
8 City in Hawaii
9 Level
11 First senator in space, Jake —
12 Soap opera, — Hospital
13 From — — Z
18 Harem room
20 Cried
21 Portuguese seaport
22 Repeat from memory
23 Half (pref.)
24 Well-being
25 Author Wiesel
27 Cheese coating
28 Obey
29 Paris airport
31 Frightening things
33 Cultivator
38 Demon
40 Type of heel
41 Words of understanding
42 Ran into
43 Egg-shaped
44 Sheet of glass
46 Nevada city
47 — — the ground floor
48 Church seats
50 Dawn goddess
52 Yorkshire river
53 Receive

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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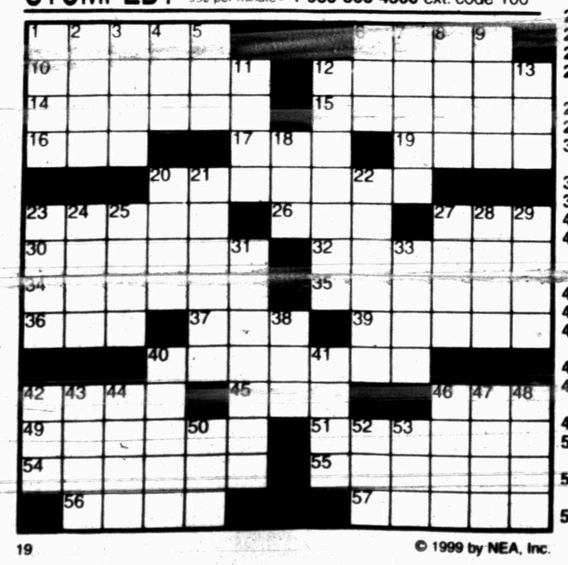

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

"Don't you have a 'nodding acquaintance' category?"

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"How long have these eggs been in the fridge?"

"IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOURSELF IN THE MORNIN', WHY DON'T YOU JUST SLEEP 'TIL NOON?"

SPORTS

Area squads face key games tonight

With victories tonight, five area basketball teams can secure a seat atop the district standings.

Both Snyder squads, along with the Ira Bulldogs, will put their unblemished league marks on the line, while the Lady Bulldogs and Hermleigh girls can move back into the top spot with wins this evening.

The Snyder Lady Tigers (11-11, 3-0) travel to Sweetwater for a first-place showdown with the Lady Mustangs (18-4, 3-0). Action gets underway at 6 o'clock.

The Lady Tigers are coming off a 60-plus point trouncing of Ft. Stockton on Friday and have a chance to move into the 5-4A driver's seat tonight,

"This is no doubt a big ballgame," Snyder coach Rick Archer said. "Sweetwater is a good team with a strong post game. If we stay focused and play with intensity, then we have a good chance to be 4-0 heading into Friday."

The Snyder boys (10-11, 1-0) captured their district opener in a one-point thriller over Ft. Stockton and will be looking for a 2-0 start against the Mustangs, setting up a possible battle of undefeated teams on Friday when the Lake View Chiefs visit the SHS gym.

The wire-to-wire battle with the Panthers could be a preview of the 5-4A schedule, according to Tiger coach Bud Birks.

"I expect every game to be nip-and-tuck like last Friday's," Birks said. "I though we kept our composure pretty well and that's what we're going to need to do in these tight district ballgames. It would be big to win another one on the road."

A victory would have the Tigers in good shape at 2-0 with five of their last eight league games at home. The contest at Sweetwater is slated for 7:30.

Two more undefeated district teams square off tonight at Borden County when the Bulldogs and Coyotes tip-off at 8 o'clock.

With a victory, Ira could move to 3-0 in 18-A action and hold sole possession of the top spot with only five contests remaining.

The Lady Bulldogs and Lady Cardinals, currently occupying second place in their respective districts, will be looking to jump back on top with wins over league leaders.

The Ira girls can pull even with the Lady Coyotes at 2-1 in the 18-A race, while the Lady Cards have the chance to grab a share of the 19-A lead with a victory at Trent.

Both contests get underway at 6:30.

The Hermleigh boys tip-off at 8 p.m. against Trent. The Cardinals would move into the win column for the first time with a victory over the Gorillas.

5-4A Girls

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Snyder	3	0	11	11
Sweetwater	3	0	18	4
Lake View	2	1	9	12
Andrews	1	2	6	15
Ft. Stockton	0	3	4	16
Big Spring	0	3	4	18

Tonight's games: Snyder at Sweetwater; Ft. Stockton at Andrews; Lake View at Big Spring.

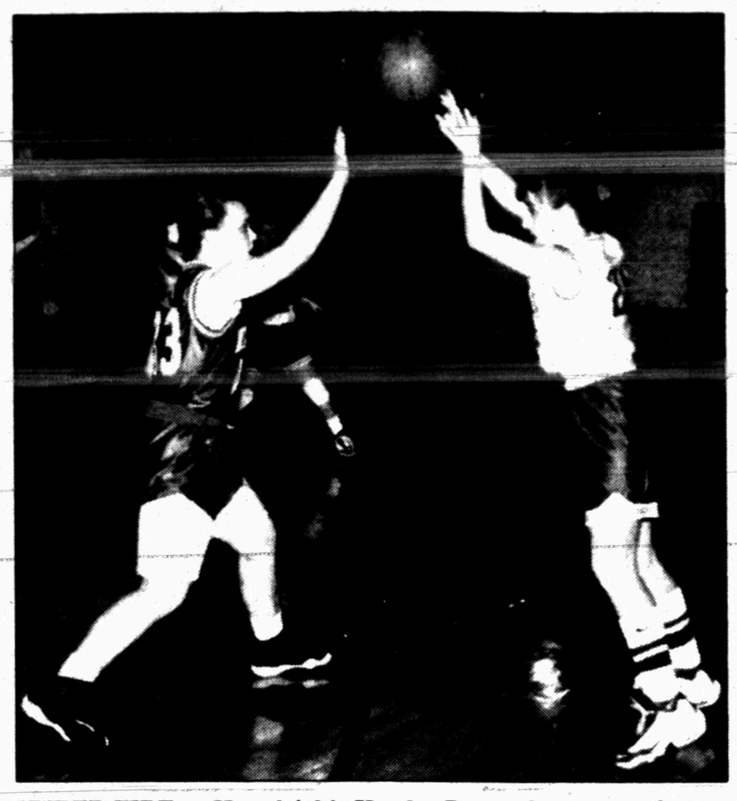
Friday's games: Lake View at Snyder; Ft. Stockton at Big Spring; Sweetwater at Andrews.

5-4A Boys

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Snyder	1	0	10	11
Big Spring	1	0	7	13
Lake View	1	0	17	7
Sweetwater	0	1	7	13
Ft. Stockton	0	1	12	8
Andrews	0	1	5	18

Tonight's games: Snyder at Sweetwater, Lake View at Big Spring; Ft. Stockton at Andrews.

Friday's games: Lake View at Snyder; Big Spring at Ft. Stockton; Sweetwater at Andrews.



UNDER FIRE — Hermleigh's Kendra Dacus shoots over the top of a charging Highland defender on Friday. The Lady Cards travel to Trent for a 6:30 contest tonight. (SDN Staff Photo)

Pippen, Kerr headed for Texas

CHICAGO (AP) — Keep the door open, the exodus from the Chicago Bulls is picking up speed.

With Michael Jordan trading in his gym shoes for golf spikes, the Bulls are wasting little time in breaking up the six-time champions. Scottie Pippen will be traded to the Houston Rockets, with Steve Kerr and Luc Longley following him out the door.

The Bulls will sign Pippen to a five-year, $67.2 million deal — with an additional $15 million in incentives — and then promptly ship him to the Rockets. In return, Chicago will get forward Roy Rogers and a second-round draft pick, said numerous league sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I am excited about my new career in Houston, and even though everything seems to be changing, I hope Bulls fans everywhere will understand that it is time for a new era to begin in Chicago," Pippen said Monday night in a statement released by his agent, Jimmy Sexton.

Kerr, one of the best 3-point shooters in the league, will sign a five-year, $11 million deal with the San Antonio Spurs, according to a source close to the Bulls.

And Longley, the starting center on the Bulls' last three championship teams, was reportedly headed to the Phoenix Suns. According to newspaper reports, Longley will sign a five-year, $30 million deal with the Bulls, who will then trade him to Phoenix for forward Martin Muursepp, forward-center Mark Bryant and guard-forward Bubba Wells.

Ira Jr. High trips Sands

ACKERLY — The Lady Bulldogs staved off a comeback, while the Ira boys mounted a rally of their own.

The Ira girls built an eight-point halftime cushion, before holding back Sands in the final two quarters to notch a 29-23 victory in junior high basketball action.

In boys' play, Ira strung together a 12-7 fourth-quarter run to slip past the Mustangs, 38-35.

The Lady Bulldogs were paced by the effort of Celeigh Sterling who poured in 11 points on the night.

Michelle Nettles netted six points for Ira, with Amanda Calley posting four. April Lollar rattled home three points, while Kali Clements and Amanda Ramirez added two apiece. Lindsey Wilson chipped in one.

The Ira boys were spurred in their comeback effort by Jess Wall and Jake Barnes who drained 10 points each.

Eric Dickerhoff and Tyler Frey dropped in seven points apiece, while Jeff Fine finished with four.

Both Ira squads will be back in action Saturday when they host the Ira Junior High tourney.

Snyder eighth grade girls capture first, third places in tourney action

DENVER CITY — Snyder Gold improved to 7-1 on the season and picked up a tourney title along the way.

Snyder Gold knocked off Brownfield and Denver City on Saturday to capture the crown of the 8th grade Denver City girls basketball tournament, while Snyder Black was able to notch a third-place finish.

For the Gold squad, Zipporah Peoples poured in 14 points and Hailey Putnam netted 12 more to get the event started with a 42-36 Lady Tiger victory over Brownfield.

Afton Schwertner and Shelley Fisk posted six points apiece, with Dara Chambers and Chaelyn Robinson adding two each.

The Lady Tigers registered another rout in the championship tilt, racing past Denver City, 42-22.

Schwertner rattled home 12 points against the Fillies, while Peoples dropped in nine. Chambers and Putnam drained six apiece, with Fisk accounting for five and Robinson for four.

Snyder Black also toppled Denver City, 21-17, in a n opening-round match-up.

Ashlee Grantham paced the Lady Tigers with 16 points, while Jacinda Judah and Lauren Day chipped in two each. Chrissy Hernandez added one point.

In its next outing, Snyder Black was victimized by a last-second shot. Brownfield posted the winning basket with under three ticks left on the clock to steal a 24-23 win.

Grantham put 10 points on the board, while Day finished with eight. Valerie Hernandez netted five points for the Lady Tigers.

Snyder Black had seven players score in their final action of the tourney, but couldn't overcome a steady Frenship squad, falling 40-30.

Day led the way with eight points, while Grantham recorded seven. Judah drained six points, with Chrissy Hernandez and Ashley Blevins accounting for three apiece. Jessie Keller posted two points and Clarissa Sauceda chipped in one.

Both Snyder squads will be in action again Monday when they host Sweetwater, beginning at 5 p.m.

BOWLING NEWS

Men's Commercial

Teams	W	L
McLeod Jewelry	21	7
Whit's Auto	20½	7½
Team 8	16	12
Longhorns	14	14
Stephens Office	13½	14½
The Shack	12	16
Stooges	8	20
Daylight Donuts	7	21

High series scratch: Jeff Smith, 598.
High series handicap: Marcus Carroll, 643.
High game scratch: Andy Poe, 197.
High game handicap: David Fisher, 233.
Splits and special mentions: Bobby Hataway, 5-7; Strick Posey, 4-5-7.

Roll & Hope

Teams	W	L
American State Bank	45	27
Redman Pipe & Supply	45	27
IGA	39	33
City National Bank	39	33
Baze Gun Repair	38	34
Martin Herefords	37	35
Neff's Greenhouses	31	41

High series scratch: Wanda Johnson, 523.
High series handicap: Alma Posey, 608.
High game scratch: Dorris Martin, 178.
High game handicap: Janell Johnson, 230.
Splits and special mentions: Setsuko Jones, 2-7; Bernie Sealy, (2)3-10; Terri Blocker, (2)4-5; Cara Lindsey, 5-6; Lisa Stephens, 5-7, 5-10; Wanda Johnson, 207, 523.

NCAA Basketball Scores

EAST
Canisius 83, Loyola, Md. 74
Lafayette 72, Cornell 54
Md.-Baltimore County 68, Fairleigh Dickinson 62
Mount St. Mary's, Md. 81, Robert Morris 79, OT
Niagara 119, Marist 108
Penn 66, St. Joseph's 58
Rutgers 74, Syracuse 71
Siena 86, Rider 84, OT
St. Francis, N.Y. 86, Cent. Connecticut St. 80
St. Francis, Pa. 78, Quinnipiac 70
Wagner 74, Monmouth, N.J. 53
Yale 77, Swarthmore 48
SOUTH
Alabama A&M 104, Southern U. 90
Alcorn St. 65, Alabama St. 59
Appalachian St. 77, W. Carolina 59
Centenary 64, Jacksonville St. 54
Charleston Southern 72, Liberty 67
Coll. of Charleston 70, Chattanooga 63
Coppin St. 65, Md.-Eastern Shore 61
East Carolina 60, George Mason 58
Florida A&M 65, Hampton 63
Georgia Southern 51, Furman 49
Miss. Valley St. 65, Texas Southern 63
Morgan St. 68, Delaware St. 58
Nicholls St. 66, McNeese St. 65
Norfolk St. 69, Bethune-Cookman 68
Old Dominion 77, Richmond 65
Radford 104, Coastal Carolina 75
S. Carolina St. 53, Howard 46
South Alabama 54, New Orleans 32
The Citadel 70, Davidson 60
UNC-Greensboro 76, E. Tennessee St. 65
VMI 58, Wofford 56
MIDWEST
Butler 71, Fla. International 63
Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 85, Belmont 70
Kansas 76, Texas 67
S. Illinois 69, Drake 52
Wichita St. 94, SW Missouri St. 88, 2OT
Wis.-Green Bay 68, Loyola, Ill. 55
Youngstown St. 61, Missouri-Kansas City 58
SOUTHWEST
Prairie View 80, Ark.-Pine Bluff 79
FAR WEST
Utah 60, Hawaii 46

Lady Dusters stay afloat in WJCAC

CLARENDON — Western Texas freshman Rosalind Lawrence was diagnosed with bronchitis, and the Lady Dusters were in dire need of a conference win.

Tuesday night, they both got just what the doctor ordered.

Playing through illness, Lawrence nailed four three-pointers and finished with 18 points to lead Western Texas to a much-needed 67-58 WJCAC victory over Clarendon.

After dropping its first two conference contests, WTC now holds a 1-2 mark, and a 13-6 record overall, heading into Thursday's match-up with last-place Frank Phillips at Scurry County Coliseum.

"Last week was such a big week for us, but this week is just as important," second-year Lady Duster coach Valery Jackson said. "Every game is important in conference. Even though we're not playing the top-ranked teams like last week, a loss this week would hurt us just as bad."

Lawrence was the spark the Lady Dusters needed against Clarendon. The 5-8 wing player had been diagnosed with bronchitis earlier in the day, but turned in her best performance of the season Monday night.

"She's been feeling bad for about two weeks and it's just been gradually getting worse," said Jackson. "I took her to the doctor, but she's the kind of player who is going to be on the court no matter what."

The Lady Dusters trailed most of the first half, before Lawrence drained a key three-pointer, then connected on two of three free throws only second later to give WTC a 30-23 halftime lead.

The Lady Dusters' 18 first-half turnovers, combined with some unbelievable shooting by Clarendon, had hampered WTC.

"It was hard for us to get going," Jackson remarked. "After playing a big game against Howard and then going on the road, we struggled some early on. But that's the way conference play is. You have to be ready to go out and play hard every night."

WTC got things started in the right direction in the second half, posting the first basket of the period uncontested as Clarendon failed to exit the locker room in time to begin play.

The Lady Bulldogs continued their shooting streak in the second half, but to no avail. On the night, Clarendon connected on 64 percent of its shots from two-point range, while going 0 for 7 from behind the arc.

WTC dominated the glass, hauling in 13 more rebounds than Clarendon. The Lady Dusters garnered 16 offensive rebounds, many of them coming in the final 20 minutes, to outlast the Lady Bulldogs.

WTC's Pam Odhuong'o posted 11 points and Kathy Tran added nine to help keep the Lady Dusters out front.

Clarendon was paced by the play of 6-2 post Kirl Neptune, who poured in 23 points.

WTC can even their WJCAC mark at 2-2 with a win over Frank Phillips on Thursday. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Western Texas 67, Clarendon 58
WTC: Lawrence 6 2-3 18, Odhuong'o 5 1-5 11, Tran 4 1-2 9, Williams 4 0-0 8, Wells 3 0-1 6, Fincher 1 1-3 4, Brown 2 0-0 4, Cavazos 1 0-0 3, Vizcorrondo 1 0-0 2, Walker 1 0-0 2.
Halftime score: WTC 30, Clarendon 23. Three-point goals: WTC 7 (Lawrence 4, Tran, Fincher, Cavazos). Rebounds: WTC 33, Clarendon 20.

WJCAC Women

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Season W	Season L
Midland	3	0	16	2
Howard	2	1	17	2
Odessa	2	1	13	3
South Plains	2	1	11	8
WTC	1	2	13	6
New Mexico	1	2	13	5
Clarendon	1	2	7	4
FPC	0	3	5	13

Monday's results: WTC 67, Clarendon 58; South Plains 58, New Mexico 53; Midland 74, Howard 69; Odessa 77, Frank Phillips 54.

Thursday's games: Frank Phillips at WTC; South Plains at Odessa; Clarendon at Midland; Howard at New Mexico.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY
Basketball: Snyder Lady Tigers at Sweetwater, JV at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 6 p.m.
Snyder Tigers at Sweetwater, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.
Hermleigh at Trent, girls at 6:30 p.m., boys at 8 p.m.
Ira at Borden County, girls at 6:30 p.m., boys at 8 p.m.
THURSDAY
Basketball: Western Texas hosts Frank Phillips at Scurry County Coliseum, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
Basketball: Snyder Lady Tigers host Lake View, JV at 4:30, varsity at 6 p.m.
Snyder Tigers host Lake View, 9th grade at 4:30, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30.
Hermleigh and Ira are open.

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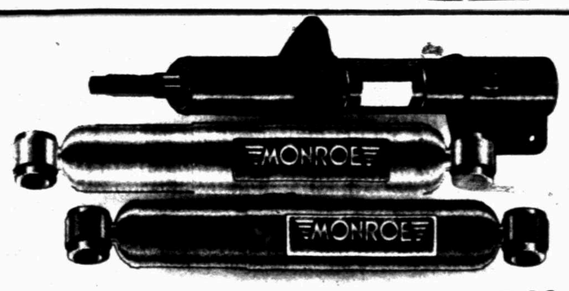

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Sealed proposals for 8.137 km of plant mix seal on US 277 from 6.0 km Southwest of FM 1235 to FM 89 covered by CPM 407-5-21 in Taylor County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., February 10, 1999, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Dan Richardson, Area Engineer, Abilene, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transporation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction and Maintenance Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder.

The Texas Department of Transporation hereby notifies all bidders that it will ensure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award.
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PLAY IT SMART... GET INTO THE CLASSIFIEDS 573-5486

Dear Senator, there is a ton of Clinton opinion in mailbox

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Let's get on with the business of our lives," a constituent from Tacoma begs Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington. Across the country, a Rhode Islander implores Sen. John Chafee to "be not the voice of compromise" but vote to throw President Clinton out.

Senators are getting it both ways in the mail these weeks — and how. The mailbags are bulging with everything except tepid indecision.

Missives are coming in by the thousands to Senate offices by regular mail, electronic mail and fax. True to the Senate's old-fashioned way of doing things, even the e-mail tends to get answered by old-fashioned paper, just as real people usually answer the phones.

A self-described elderly Episcopalian woman from Port Angeles, Wash., writes crisply that Clinton has done a good job in office. He should only be censured, she writes — "with a firm smack on those hands that fondled" Monica Lewinsky.

And then there is this Dear Senator letter: "You, sir, are in the position to begin to repair the long-term damage to our way of life that the Clinton Presidency has caused."

The letters make liberal use of that fine democratic flourish, the exclamation mark. Whole words come capitalized or underlined. Many senators in both parties report a rough 50-50 split for and against Clinton's removal, making the mails more hostile to the president than the nation overall.

The notes are brief, appealing for an end to this "gruesome episode." Or, heartfelt musings on morality: "It is true most people have made youthful indiscretions but most of us have mended our ways by the time we became responsible adults."

One constituent likens impeachment and conviction to throwing parents in jail, unsettling the children.

"It may hurt us for a while but that is not what the law is about," the constituent writes. "But we do what is right even if people get hurt because the person who commits a crime has to be punished."

Rookie Democratic Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, a noted trial lawyer, is hearing from fellow attorneys who are parsing the legal implications of it all. "Regular people kind of distill it to more basic things," says Josh Stein, chief of staff. "Either, 'We elected this man, this is a witch hunt,' or 'This man did something immoral'" and begone with him.

In many offices the flow rivals that seen before the 1991 Persian Gulf War or when groups have organized mass mailings for abortion votes — war and abortion being surefire magnets for a Dear Senator note.

Maine Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe may not have heard so much on any issue since she did battle against federal lobster restrictions, spokesman Dave Lackey says. Some 200 faxes alone await the staff each morning; more than 10,000 letters, e-mails and phone calls have come in since August.

In the office of Democratic Sen. John D. Rockefeller of West Virginia, aides find that when things are going sour for Clinton, the mail turns a bit sweeter for him. When he bounds back, more critics emerge.

That rings true for other senators, too. "In the same way that ire drives mail, so does sympathy," says Nicholas Graham, speaking for Chafee.

Few aides would allow a peek into the mail. But Republican moderates Chafee and Gorton offered a cross-section with names blocked out.

Heart-burning operation proves safe and effective

DALLAS (AP) — An operation in which doctors burn away heart tissue to try to eliminate heart rhythm disturbances almost always succeeds and has low risks, researchers reported today in the biggest study ever on the procedure.

The results, the researchers said, should encourage doctors to consider radiofrequency catheter ablation over drugs when treating patients with certain irregular heart rhythms, including a rapid beat.

"This procedure has clearly moved into a front-line therapy of choice," said Dr. Eric Prystowsky of the Indiana Heart Institute in Indianapolis.

The findings were published in today's issue of Circulation, a journal of the American Heart Association.

Catheter ablation was introduced about 10 years ago and has grown rapidly, with thousands now performed every year. The irregular heart rhythms treated by catheter ablation are usually not life-threatening but cause palpitations that can frighten patients.

Catheters are threaded through blood vessels from the groin or an arm or leg into the heart and used to burn away tissue containing nerve pathways that cause the heart to misfire. The catheter emits radio frequencies so strong that it can destroy tissue.

Researchers looked at 1,050 patients at 18 hospitals who underwent a catheter ablation.

The irregular rhythm, or arrhythmia, disappeared in about 95 percent of the patients. A few patients needed repeated treatment, and 3 percent developed major complications, including three who died within a month of the surgery.

The researchers said there was a 1 percent risk that patients would eventually require a pacemaker.

Patients who fare poorly after surgery "generally have the most heart disease. Some of them are going to die, period," Prystowsky said.

Surgery generally costs $10,000 to $12,000 and up, and it's usually covered by insurance, although insurers frequently require that drugs be tried first.

Earlier studies of catheter ablation tended to focus on individual, elite hospitals.

"These are numbers we can hang our hats on and will help us when we discuss options using this procedure rather than drug therapy," said the study's lead author, Dr. Hugh Calkins of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Dr. Kenneth Ellenbogen, director of cardiac electrophysiology at the Medical College of Virginia/ Virginia Commonwealth University, said the findings seemed to confirm that the technique is relatively safe and is a "very effective alternative to lifelong drug therapy."

Markets Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	Chg
AMR Corp s	64 5-16	63 13-16	64	— 5-16
AT&T Corp	89	86⅝	87¾	+ 3¼
AirTouch	97	92¾	92 15-16	+9 9-16
Albertsons	61⅛	60⅞	60⅞	—13-16
AlldSignal	42¼	41⅛	41⅛	—1 7-16
Alltel	63 5-16	62¼	62¼	— 3-16
AmOnline s	152¼	147⅞	148¾	+ 2¼
AmStores	36¼	35 7-16	35 7-16	— ½
Ameritech	64 15-16	64	64 13-16	+ 9-16
AndarkPtr s	28¾	28 1-16	28 3-16	— 5-16
Armcolnc	5 1-16	4 15-16	5	+ 3-16
AtlRichfld	61⅞	60¼	60¼	— ¾
ATMOS Egy	30¼	30¼	30¼	— ¾
Aviall	11	10 9-16	10 15-16	+ 7-16
BP Amoco	90¾	89¾	89¾	+ 1
BakerHughes	18¾	18¾	18¾	— ¾
BankAmerica	64 9	62½	62 11-16	— 1⅞
BellAtl s	58 7-16	55¾	57 15-16	+4 13-16
BellSouth s	48 9-16	47¼	47½	— ⅜
BethSteel	9¼	8¼	8 15-16	
BurlNoSFe s	33 3-16	32¼	32 15-16	— ⅛
CBS Corp	35¾	34 7-16	34 13-16	— ⅛
Caterpillar	48 5-16	46 5-16	46¾	—1 3-16
CenSoWst	27¾	26¾	26¾	— ⅜
Chevron	81⅛	79¾	80½	+ 7-16
Citigroup	53	51¾	51¾	— ⅛
Coastal s	32 3-16	31¼	31¼	—1 3-16
CocaCola	65 1-16	62 15-16	63	—1 13-16
ColgatePalm	77¾	74¾	74¾	— 1¼
ComclMetals	25 9-16	25 3-16	25¼	— ¼
Cooperln	45 13-16	44 13-16	45¼	+ 5-16
CyprusAmax	10¾	9 15-16	9 15-16	— 3-16
DaimlrChry n	106½	104 3-16	104 5-16	—15-16
DallSemicn	42	40¾	40¾	— 1⅜
DeltaAirl s	57	56 1-16	56¼	+ ⅛
Dillards Inc	27¾	26 9-16	27 1-16	+ ⅜
DowChem	92½	91¾	92 5-16	+13-16
DuPont	56½	54¾	54¾	— 2¼
EastmanChem	46¼	45 1-16	45¼	
EstKodak	69	67¾	67¾	— 1¾
EDS Corp	49 5-16	48 13-16	49 1-16	— 3-16
Entergy	30½	30 1-16	30 1-16	— ¼
Exxon	71 5-16	70¾	70¾	— 3-16
FstBksAm	19¾	19¼	19¼	
Flowers	23¼	23	23 1-16	+ 1-16
FordMotor s	63	61¾	62¼	+ ½
GTE Cp	68	66¾	67¼	+ 4¾
GenDynam s	56½	55¼	55¼	— 1¼
GenElec	101¾	100 3-16	100 3-16	— 9-16
GenMills	83¼	82 5-16	82 5-16	— 7-16
GenMotors	86⅛	84½	85¾	+2 1-16
GaPacGP	64¾	62 7-16	62 7-16	—1 15-16
GlobalMar	9½	9 3-16	9¼	+ ⅛
Goodrich	35 15-16	35¼	35¼	+ ½
Goodyear s	51¼	50¾	50¾	+⅜
GtAtlPac	29¾	28 9-16	29 3-16	+ ¼
Halliburtn	32¼	31 5-16	31¾	+ 1-16
Hanson ADS	35 13-16	35¼	35¼	— 2¼
HarteHanks s	24 15-16	24¾	24 7-16	+ 5-16
HomeDepot	56 5-16	55¼	55⅝	+ ⅜
HoustonInds	31 5-16	30¾	31	— 1-16
IBM	190	185¾	186¾	+1 13-16
IntlPaper	44 15-16	42¾	43	— 1⅜
JohnsonJn	80 7-16	79¾	80 1-16	+ 1-16
K mart	15 1-16	14¾	14 11-16	— ½
Kroger Co	59 7-16	58 7-16	59	+ 9-16
Litton	61 7-16	61¼	61 3-16	+ 1-16
LockheedM s	40 13-16	39 9-16	39¾	— ½
Lowes Cos s	51¾	51 3-16	51¾	+ ¼
Lubys	15¾	15 1-16	15 1-16	— 5-16
LucentTech s	114¾	111 11-16	111 11-16	+1 7-16
MayDeptStrs	60 15-16	60 1-16	60 1-16	— 5-16
MediaOne	55	53 11-16	54¾	+ 2¾
Medtronic	71 15-16	70¾	70¾	— ½
Mobil	85¾	85	85 1-16	— 1-16
Monsanto	40	38 1-16	38 11-16	— 5-16
MorganJP	110 69-128	107¼	107 3-16	—1 9-16
Motorola	69¾	68 5-16	68¾	— ¼
NCR Corp	50¾	49¾	49¾	+ ¼
Navistar	31⅞	31¼	31 5-16	+ 5-16
OryxEngy	13 3-16	12¾	13	+ 3-16
Penney JC	41 11-16	41 5-16	41 9-16	+ ¼
PennzEnergy s	15½	15¼	15 5-16	+ ¼
PepBoys	14 7-16	14 3-16	14 3-16	— 3-16
PepsiCo	39¾	38 15-16	39	— ½
PhelpDodge	51 3-16	48	48	—3 11-16
PhilipPet	40¼	40¼	40½	— 7-16
PilgrmPrd B	23¾	23 1-16	23¾	+11-16
Polaroid	19 11-16	19 5-16	19¾	+ 1-16
Praxair	36 3-16	35¾	35¾	— ⅜
ProctGamb	87 13-16	85	85	— 1¾
PubSNwMx	19¾	19 11-16	19 11-16	— 1-16
RoyalDut	45¼	44¼	44 11-16	— ⅞
SBC Comm s	56¾	56	56 7-16	+ ½
SaraLee s	27½	27 1-16	27¼	— 1-16
Scripps EW	47⅞	47½	47 5-16	— ¼
SearsRoeb	44¼	43 7-16	43 7-16	
SherwinW	28¼	27 7-16	27 7-16	—15-16
SmithklBchm	74½	73¾	73¾	+ 4¾
SouthernCo	28½	28 1-16	28 3-16	— 7-16
SwstAirl s	27¼	26¼	26¼	+ ¼
SprintFON n	79¾	78 1-16	79¼	+ 1¼
SprintPCS n	26¼	25 9-16	25¼	+ ¼
Sunoco Inc	34¼	34 7-16	34 7-16	— ⅜
Tandy	43¾	43¼	43¼	+ 7-16
TempleInland	61	13-16	60	60 — 1¼
Tenneco	34 15-16	33 13-16	33¾	—1 1-16
Texaco	51 11-16	50¾	50 13-16	— 7-16
TexInd	25 9-16	25¼	25¼	— 5-16
TexasInst	93 1-16	91¾	91¾	— 1¼
TexUtil	44¼	44 9-16	44¼	+ ⅛
Textron	73¾	71¼	72 13-16	+ 1½
TriconGlbR	49	48 7-16	48½	— ¼
TrinityInds	37 15-16	37¼	37¼	+ 3-16
TritonEngy	7 11-16	7 7-16	7 7-16	— ⅛
Tyler	4 15-16	4¾	4¾	— 1-16
US West Inc	63¾	62 15-16	62 15-16	
USX-Marathn	29¼	28 7-16	28½	— 9-16
USX-USS	25 15-16	24¾	25	— ¾
UnCarbde	45 3-16	44¼	44½	— ½
UnionPacif	47 3-16	46 13-16	47¼	— ¼
UnitedTech	111 15-16	110½	110½	+13-16
Unocal	31 13-16	30 13-16	31 3-16	+ ⅛
Venator Grp	6 11-16	6½	6½	— 1-16
WalMart	80 15-16	79¾	80¼	
WellsFargo	37¾	36¾	36 7-16	—1 1-16
WstnGasRs	6¼	6¼	6 3-16	
WinnDixie	45 7-16	44¾	45	+ ⅛
Xerox Corp	117¾	116¼	116¼	— ¼

Tyson helps Ali celebrate his 57th birthday

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson helped Muhammad Ali celebrate his 57th birthday at an emotional birthday party that paid tribute to the former boxing champ.

Tyson, fresh from his victory over Francois Botha on Saturday night, posed for pictures with Ali and family during the private dinner party. Also on hand was singer Gladys Knight, a longtime friend.

Knight noted that one of her sons is named after Ali.

"He was not only the greatest outside, he was the greatest inside," she said of the legendary boxer.

Ali, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, did not speak to the crowd Sunday night. But he helped cut his birthday cake, made in the shape of a boxing ring, as the crowd chanted "Ali, Ali."

Ali's wife, Lonnie, said her husband had been "an inspiration to everyone he has met and everyone he has touched from afar."

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Mary Boydstun of Hermleigh, Mandy Sickler, Santiago Cosio, Paul Haynes of Ira, Jessica Highfield.

DISMISSALS: Barbara Allen, Mary Boydstun, Kimberly Villarreal, Lillian Cearley.

CENSUS: (Med., Surg.-13, Long-term Care-25).

Whitley Fulford was inadvertently omitted from the A-B Honor Roll At East Elementary Fourth Grade.

USDA setting up new gene research center at Cornell

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP) — In an effort to provide a valuable resource of genetic data on key crops, the Agriculture Department will set up a national gene research center at Cornell University.

The new facility, the Center for Bioinformatics and Comparative Genomics, is expected to open this spring, said Judy St. John, an associate deputy administrator with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"The USDA-funded center will aid researchers around the country and the world in the quest to discover all the genes in grains — like corn, wheat and rice — and plants in the family that includes tomatoes, potatoes and peppers," St. John said in a statement released Monday.

Genomics refers to the study of the gene map, and bioinformatics is the use of computers to help researchers answer life-science questions. Once a gene's structure is mapped, scientists can use computers to look for similar structures in genome databases of plants, humans, mice and other life forms.

Once a gene's function is identified, scientists can begin experiments to see if that gene can be rebuilt in a way to make it more effective. For example, disease-resistant genes can be moved into plants that lack resistance, and those plants should require fewer chemical pesticides.

SILVER PINS — Snyder Gold Coats receiving silver pins for attending meetings and working chamber of commerce events were (from left) front row, C.R. Perez, Nancy Stansell, Bill Dryden; back row, Sheriff Darren Jackson, County Judge Ricky Fritz, R.C. Patton, and not pictured, Daryl Thomas, Max von Roeder, Rod Waller, Carla Thompson, Gayle Burleson, Trent Driggers, Mel Gilbert, Jack McGlaun and Phil Ragland. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

St. Louis will get papal visit

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire has nothing on the pope.

The frenzy over the march by the St. Louis Cardinals slugger to a record 70 home runs last fall pales in comparison to the excitement over the city's first papal visit.

Estimates call for 600,000 people to gather for the Jan. 26-27 visit. If the weather behaves — a big question for the end of January in St. Louis — that number could easily rise to one million, officials say.

"I'm guessing the crowd will be very, very large, if the weather is decent," Monsignor Richard Stika, event coordinator for the St. Louis Archdiocese, said Monday. "We are so centrally located."

At the peak of McGwire mania, there were crowds of 50,000 downtown and about 700 out-of-town media. This time, more than 2,000 media representatives are expected to attend Pope John Paul II's visit.

Nuns from three convents have been asked to pray for fair skies and warmer temperatures — some divine aid in a city where snow and ice still cover lawns and many sidewalks a week before the pontiff's arrival.

Hotel rooms were long ago snapped up and tour bus operators across the Midwest say they're booked solid. The nearest available bus for hire is hundreds of miles away in Dallas, operators said Friday.

Nearly all of downtown St. Louis' streets have been re-paved and powerful lights are being set up to make the Gateway Arch glimmer at night. Thousands of banners welcoming the pope have been hoisted.

Even the smallest things have been accounted for. Nuns have baked 131,000 tiny hosts for the more than 100,000 Roman Catholics expected to jam the Trans World Dome to capacity for Mass on Jan. 27.

Retail dairy prices expected to decline

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — After three months of record high milk prices for the producer, the retail price of cheese, butter and milk should begin a slow decline.

Strong consumer demand powered a run-up in the milk prices for producers during October, November and December. That was reflected in consumer costs at the dairy counter.

After record highs, it was inevitable that prices would come back down, said Chris Nubern, director of economic research for the National Milk Producers Federation in Arlington, Va.

Nubern said the U.S. milk supply increased last year, but not as much as expected. At the same time, there was exceptional demand for cheese, ice cream and butter.

"All those products really turned the market around for us," Nubern said. "This was just an unbelievable year in terms of price strength for dairy."

Overall, regional prices for milk on the farm averaged more than $17 per hundred pounds in December and set a yearly average high of $14.20 in 1998. Even though the prices paid to producers have topped out and are headed down, milk still ranks as one of the few profitable commodities on the farm these days.

Dairy farmer Jim Gilkerson of Brookings, S.D., said milk producers needed the period of prosperity after tough prices in previous years.

"It was a struggle there for several years. I hope the dairy industry has had its hard years, and now it will stay up there for a while," Gilkerson said. "We've probably had four or five months of prosperity now. And for the next two months, it should still be pretty good."

Test fails to discredit papers said tied to MLK's murder

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two documents that a former FBI agent said he took from James Earl Ray's car in 1968 after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have passed one scientific test designed to detect whether they are bogus, a federal official says.

But the results do not prove the documents are authentic or that they clear Ray in the murder, the official said Monday on condition of anonymity.

The former agent, Donald Wilson, came forward last March with the two documents, which he said he had kept hidden for 30 years after the civil rights leader's assassination. An FBI spokesman at that time called them fabrications.

Wilson's documents both have the name "Raul" written on them. Shortly after Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to the King killing in return for a 99-year sentence, he recanted and claimed he was set up by a smuggler he knew only as Raul.

Ray died in prison in April at age 70 from liver disease, unsuccessful in his long bid to obtain a trial. The King family supported his efforts.

"The tests can't establish authenticity, but they can determine if a document is bogus in certain ways. One test failed to show the documents were bogus," the federal official said.

Other tests are planned, this official said, "Investigators still have doubts about them."

Although the test results fall short of confirming the documents' validity, Wilson told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which first reported the results, that he believed the test was "a very positive development."

"It doesn't extricate Ray from the arena of responsibility, but it gives credibility to the existence of this mystery man Raul," Wilson said.

"It's encouraging," said King's son, Dexter Scott King. "I hope this will lead to something."

In August, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a limited probe into two developments that have come to light since King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968: Wilson's documents and a public statement by former restaurant owner Lloyd Jowers that a mobster paid him $100,000 to hire a hit man.

Reno approved a limited investigation by the Justice Department's civil rights division into the two allegations, which had not been fully examined by earlier federal probes of the King killing. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and her four children had urged President Clinton and Reno to begin a broader probe by setting up a national commission with power to offer immunity for testimony.

Lewis Garrison, Jowers' attorney, told The Journal-Constitution that his client wants to receive immunity before talking with Justice Department investigators.

Police say slain doctor took difficult case, paid with life

AVENTURA, Fla. (AP) — When Dr. Bradley Silverman arrived at work last week, police say, a former patient was waiting to see him.

Robert Herndon didn't have an appointment. Authorities say he was there to seek revenge for surgery that left him with limited use of his arm, a side effect Silverman had warned could happen.

Herndon is accused of shooting and killing Silverman as the 41-year-old doctor arrived at his Miami-area office on Jan. 11. Witnesses heard angry words, followed by the doctor's cries of "No! No!"

Police tracked down Herndon at a Port Richey hospital near St. Petersburg. The carpenter and handyman was returned to Miami on Friday and charged with first-degree murder. He was placed under a suicide watch in the Miami-Dade County jail, where he remained Monday.

Herndon, 45, suffers from Crohn's disease, a debilitating illness destroying his intestines, and he came to Silverman for treatment last year.

Silverman operated on Herndon to remove underarm polyps that other doctors had failed to cure.

Northern ozone thinning could pose serious threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The densely populated regions of North America and Europe could face the threat of increased ultraviolet radiation if ozone loss over the Arctic, such as occurred in 1996 and 1997, resumes.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere blocks the sun's ultraviolet rays, which can cause sunburn, skin wrinkling, eye damage and even cancer.

Thinning of that layer over the Antarctic in the 1980s led to the ban on ozone-damaging chemicals, such as certain refrigerants and spray-can propellants.

But those chemicals already released remain in the air for years, and researchers now are reporting potentially serious thinning of the ozone layer over the Arctic, where there is a greater hazard to people if the damage spreads.

It's too soon, however, to declare a definite trend, said the scientists, noting that the situation improved a bit last year.

Damage to the ozone layer was first noticed in the Antarctic, where circular winds, known as a vortex, trap air, giving chemicals the chance to react with the ozone.

The Antarctic is usually colder than the Arctic, causing more frequent stratospheric clouds of the type that lead to ozone depletion within the vortex. In 1996-1997, however, the Arctic vortex produced low temperatures and ozone depletion as great as that recorded in the Antarctic during the early 1980s, the researchers said.

This threatens to "allow the penetration of enhanced UV radiation at northern mid-high latitudes," warn researchers in the latest issue of the Journal of Geophysical Research, published by the American Geophysical Union.

Unlike the sparsely populated region in the southern mid- to high-latitudes, an expanded area of damaged ozone in the north could affect parts of Europe and North America.

Georg Hansen of the Norwegian Institute for Air Research in Tromso, Norway, and Martyn P. Chipperfield of Cambridge University in England studied the northern ozone layer.

"In particular, if Arctic (ozone) depletion persists later in the year, as in 1997, more UV will penetrate to the surface when the sun is higher in the sky in late spring and summer," Chipperfield said in an interview via electronic mail.

"There is the possibility that the Arctic may becoming more Antarctic-like," he said. "Certainly 1997 was nearer than other years."

AOL removes thesaurus

DULLES, Va. (AP) — America Online and the Merriam-Webster Inc. Web site have temporarily removed a thesaurus that included two slurs among synonyms for the word "homosexual."

The thesaurus is being reworked to remove all synonyms for "homosexual," including "fruit" and "faggot," and to clarify symbols that indicate potentially offensive words.

Merriam-Webster and Dulles-based AOL, which licenses the thesaurus from Merriam-Webster, took the thesaurus offline Friday.

Deborah Burns, Merriam-Webster's director of marketing, said the company decided Monday to remove all synonyms for "homosexual" to conform with a 25-year-old policy not to offer entries for racial or ethnic groups such as Jews, Hispanics or blacks, Ms. Burns said.

"Along the way, we should have incorporated sexual groups into that same policy," she said.

Merriam-Webster, a leading publisher of dictionaries and language reference books, is checking its Collegiate Thesaurus for other disparaging entries.

"But first, we're making an apology about this. We were in error in a couple of ways and we're glad someone has brought it to our attention," she said.

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Blacks: We have extra stake in impeachment

By The Associated Press

With the impeachment trial of President Clinton entering its second week, many blacks spent Martin Luther King Day asking whether the proceedings prove that any man embraced by their community is doomed.

"Everybody that I know that is black thinks that if he wouldn't have employed so many black folks and passed so many laws that benefited them, this wouldn't be much of an issue," Armon Henry, an Atlanta business owner, said Monday at the Martin Luther King Day parade in the neighborhood where the slain civil rights leader grew up. "Clinton really is the first black president we've had."

Hundreds of miles away, Victoria Mares Hershey had a similar sentiment.

"My question is, are they really hounding him for his personal transgressions, or (to punish) him for making his administration the most diverse that the country's ever known?" said Hershey, a vice president of the NAACP in Portland, Maine. "That, to me, seems the undertone."

Many blacks have praised Clinton for his urban policy, focus on race relations and record number of black federal appointments — and have rewarded him with their support.

A poll taken after the release of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report last September showed that blacks were more supportive of the president than whites.

In Congress, black legislators have followed suit. All but six members of the Congressional Black Caucus opposed releasing Starr's report, and the entire caucus rose to his defense when the House considered impeaching him.

On Monday, blacks from all walks of life, at parades and prayer breakfasts, at work or at home, said it was particularly painful for them to watch the Senate trial.

"I think black Americans have a lot at stake if President Clinton is impeached," said Alicia Durbank, a 31-year-old homemaker and mother from New Orleans. "It doesn't take a brain scientist to figure out that these are a bunch of right-wing conservatives trying to get a liberal Democrat out of the White House by any means necessary."

Mikel Holt, editor of the Milwaukee Community Journal, a black newspaper, agreed.

"If Clinton is removed from office, that's a slap in the face for black America," said Holt. "That's in essence, derailing the civil rights freedom train."

Clinton has long enjoyed black support, both from the public and in Congress, because he socializes and prays with black people, appoints them to high positions and understands the struggle of racism, blacks said.

Some even summoned King's name and message in Clinton's defense — saying the two men shared a common dream of equality.

"Dr. King would be suspect of the impeachment process because he would be suspect of the impeachers," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said after a breakfast honoring King in Chicago.

Jackson specifically mentioned Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, who was recently linked by his uncle to an ultraconservative group accused of promoting white supremacy. Lott denied last week that he was affiliated with the group and said he is opposed to racism and white supremacy.

Richard Bailey, a historian and author from Montgomery, Ala., said he too was suspect of some of Clinton's critics.

"I think (blacks) are most uncomfortable with the way matters are being handled and with the key players," he said.

A few blacks said the trial is an outrage — no matter what color you are.

"It's about the same for everybody," said Millard Johnson, 58, a maintenance man at a downtown Cleveland. "Congress just doesn't have any business fooling with the man."

Others said Clinton is getting exactly what he deserves, and that race is irrelevant.

Lawmakers canvass election returns

AUSTIN (AP) — Just in time for Tuesday's inauguration, state lawmakers canvassed election returns for governor and lieutenant governor.

And the winners were ... George W. Bush and Rick Perry.

The future was secure for a plethora of prospective inaugural parade participants, numerous knickknacks (a commemorative divot repair tool is $6, while a BBQ apron fetches $12) and thousands of pounds of barbecue being readied for the inaugural festivities.

The final count for Republican Gov. Bush after Monday's official tally of the November general election results was 2,550,821 votes.

Democratic candidate Garry Mauro got 1,165,592.

Republican Rick Perry got 1,858,837 to affirm his election as lieutenant governor.

Democrat John Sharp still lost with 1,790,106.

The Legislature officially counts, or canvasses, election returns for the office of governor and lieutenant governor.

Clerks of the 254 counties send the results of their canvasses to the House speaker in care of the secretary of state.

Six senators and six House members were assigned to open the envelopes, read the totals and compare them to the list from the secretary of state, Texas' chief elections officer. Members of the state auditor's office assisted with adding machines.

The procedure, which is set out in the Texas Constitution and Election Code, is a solid one in this high-tech age, said Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, one of those who participated in the canvass.

"I think it would make them (Texans) feel more confident in the system. We aren't relying on computers. We are making sure, envelope by envelope," she said.

Voucher bill filed by lawmaker

AUSTIN (AP) — Up to 20,000 Texas public school students who are low-income and have failed the state academic skills test could get taxpayer-funded vouchers to attend private school under a bill filed Monday by a Republican state lawmaker.

Under the proposal by Rep. Mike Krusee of Round Rock, the voucher program would be restricted to a maximum of 5,000 students each in the Dallas Independent School District, Houston ISD, San Antonio ISD and Northside ISD, also in San Antonio.

Those are the four school districts that have 60,000 or more students and are in cities with populations of 1 million or more, among the criteria set forth by Krusee.

To be eligible for a voucher, a student would have to be enrolled in public school, have failed at least one section of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills and be eligible for the free or reduced-price school lunch program.

"It simply provides an escape valve for needy children in urban areas who are failing the TAAS test. It is limited in scope and applies to only a few districts," Krusee said.

The anti-voucher Coalition for Public Schools — whose members include the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers along with teacher, school board, school administrator and some religious groups — has said it's wrong to funnel badly needed money from public to private schools.

Instead, voucher critics say, it would be better to focus time, money and attention on public schools that aren't doing well and improve them.

"I've tried to listen to those arguments and respond to them in a respectful way in the bill" by proposing a limited program, Krusee said.

The voucher amount would be equal to the average per-student funding in the school district the student would otherwise attend, including state and local money — except for state Available School Fund money and local money dedicated to debt retirement.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Runaway Dad Isn't Welcome To Walk Daughter Down Aisle

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: I need some advice about how to talk to my father. I'm getting married soon and do not want him to give me away at the wedding ceremony.

He left when I was about 2 years old and came back into the picture again when I was 16. The man who was more like a father to me, and still is, is my grandfather. He is the person I would like to ask to give me away.

I haven't been able to come up with a diplomatic way of telling my father how I feel. I'm not even sure I want him at my wedding. He knows I don't value him as a daughter should value a father and has made several attempts to redeem himself in my eyes. However, I am far from impressed.

Since I am sadly lacking communication skills, will you please help me?

LISA IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LISA: You communicate your feelings better than you think you do. May I suggest a compromise? Ask both your father and your grandfather to walk you down the aisle, one on each arm. There is no reason to hurt either man on your special day. In years to come you will be happy you made the gesture. The alternative is to walk down the aisle alone.

***

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Still Crying in Fairmont," whose fiance, "Mike," rejected her after she had spent a year caring for his sick mother, really hit home with me. I was asked to come to Colorado from the Northwest to help a man who had some development property. "Cary's" affairs were in a mess. He hired me, and I tried to straighten everything out. He promised to pay me after everything was taken care of. Like Mike, Cary pledged eternal fidelity and promised we'd have a wonderful life together. I worked long hours every day for six years for him.

Cary received some death threats, and I even risked my life for him. I protected him because I believed him. I spent 18 months in prison because I refused to testify against him. Guess what? When I was released, I came home and found he was living with another woman! He told me he had never cared about me, and has since tried to make me look like the bad guy.

I have cried a bucket of tears and am ashamed for having been taken in. My life has been torn apart, and I ended up with post-traumatic stress syndrome. I finally realized that Cary has done this to people all his life. Well, enough was enough! I sued him for what he owes me. No judgment has been rendered, but I do have a trial date.

Abby, men like Mike and Cary are the worst criminals of all. Not only do they take everything you have, they break your heart.

I have been sick emotionally and physically, and cannot seem to get over it and have turned to God for his guidance.

DEVASTATED IN DENVER

DEAR DEVASTATED: You have my sympathy. There is give-and-take in all relationships, but it's supposed to be a two-way street. It's clear from your letter that you did all the giving and Cary did all the taking.

I'm pleased that you are finding comfort in God. I can't think of a more potent combination than God and a good lawyer. I hope you nail the buzzard.

***

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999

Success in the year ahead is likely if you have the courage to follow your convictions. The route you elect to follow might not be an easy one, but if you know its true worth, stay on course!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) This could be one of those days when you might use poor judgment and reward someone undeserving while ignoring those who warrant generosity. Think before you act. Aquarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Reexamine your present goals and objectives today. There is a strong possibility that you may be spending more time and effort on things that won't bring you contentment once achieved.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Because of your reluctance to verbally express yourself should friends do something you find disturbing, they may find you a trifle difficult to deal with today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There is a strong probability that trouble will plague you today if you choose to associate with those who have a faculty for making waves. Be more selective of your companions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) For the sake of harmony on the home front today, try to view things from your mate's perspective instead of just yours. Remember, matters of importance to you might not be so to your spouse or partner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A poor attitude today concerning your duties and responsibilities could cause you to do things in ways that may produce the opposite result you're hoping for, so be wary of having a negative attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you attempt pressure tactics to collect on an obligation indebted to you by another today, it may only make matters worse and cause further delays. Use diplomacy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This might not be the best day to bring up issues with your mate that have been bugging you. In order to maintain domestic harmony, tolerance and patience may be called for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you overstep that fine line between constructive criticism and nit-picking with anyone today, you could quickly provoke a hostile response that may surprise you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) What you purchase today might not live up to your expectations, so when shopping, make certain the merchandise can be returned, especially if your dealing with a new firm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Make a concerted effort to be congenial instead of commanding today, especially when dealing with those who can't defend themselves. It's impossible to please everyone all the time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might get a chance today to even the score with a person who recently did something you've come to resent. Fight the urge, for tactics of this ilk will only create new complications.

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Bright headlights on luxury cars may replace halogen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Luxury cars have always drawn admiring looks for their graceful lines, well-appointed interiors and powerful engines. Now they have eye-catching headlights to boot, ones that will soon be making it into less costly cars.

The bright, bluish lights are known as high-intensity discharge lamps. They provide about twice the brightness of ordinary headlights, closely approximating daylight. At the same time, they use less power and can last for 100,000 miles of driving time.

While HID lights arrived on the scene in high-end cars as a $1,000 option, some experts believe they will soon displace halogen headlights — the current technology — just as other lighting systems bettered the oil lamps first used on cars.

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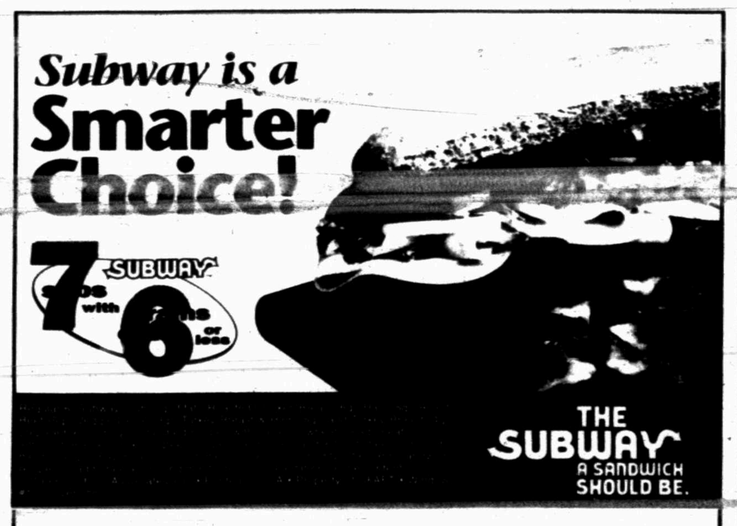

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

GOP, Demos introduce agendas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders of both parties introduced dueling agendas today dealing with taxes, schools and crime as the new 106th Congress returned in force to the Capitol and began burrowing into its legislative tasks.

Neither party, however, offered proposals for what is expected to be one of the year's top issues: How to shore up the politically sensitive Social Security program for the baby boomers' looming retirement.

Democrats simply said federal surpluses should be untouched until a Social Security fix is implemented. Senate Republicans, like their House counterparts, set aside their first bill — S. 1 — for a Social Security plan from President Clinton, which is unlikely to come anytime soon.

"He's got to show us the specifics," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Senate Republicans' other top four bills would give communities more power over schools and limit federal controls; cut income taxes by 10 percent across the board; boost military salaries and pensions; and increase anti-drug efforts.

The announcement by each party of its first five bills of the new Congress is a biennial ritual that each uses to publicize its top priorities.

Democrats' top bills would expand the rights of patients of health maintenance organizations; beef up resources for hiring and training teachers; boost the minimum wage and cut taxes for many couples; move against crime and illegal drugs; and expand access to Medicare for many older Americans.

As they unveiled their measures, Democratic leaders blamed Republicans for killing similar initiatives last year.

"The American people are waiting for us to act," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said on the Senate floor. "They've been waiting, frankly, too long."

Legislative work will begin slowly as usual, with little but committee work going on this month. But with polls showing most members of the public disenchanted with GOP efforts to remove President Clinton from office, Republicans are especially interested in demonstrating that they are eager to address issues of concern to voters.

"A good message is the work moves forward," said Rep. Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., in an interview Monday. Dunn and Rep. Steve Largent, R-Okla., will be delivering the GOP response tonight to Clinton's State of the Union address.

In the House, new Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said Monday he would reserve H.R.1, the House's first bill of the new Congress, for the president's legislation on strengthening the pension program for the elderly and disabled.

Clinton wants to bolster SS, create retirement accounts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton will propose in his State of the Union address tonight spending most of the government budget surplus to bolster Social Security and create new 401(k)-style retirement accounts for most American workers.

For the first time, some of the money in Social Security cash reserves would be invested by the government in the stock market.

"It's a bold approach to save Social Security now," said White House press secretary Joe Lockhart. "You remember last year was to 'save Social Security first.' It's moved to now."

The president also will call for using some of the budget surplus to support the ailing Medicare system and spending another 11 percent for military and domestic programs.

Clinton's proposal includes no income tax cuts and thus is certain to set up conflicts with many Republicans who want the budget surplus spent, at least in part, to reduce taxes.

"He wants to spend a lot more money, he wants government to grow," Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., the Senate majority whip, said of Clinton's plan. "If we're going to have a surplus, we think that taxpayers should be the primary beneficiaries."

Congressional Republicans also have placed Social Security atop their own agenda for the new Congress. At a news conference today, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said the GOP was committed to saving the giant pension program without raising taxes or cutting benefits for current recipients.

He said the first bill to be introduced in the Senate this year would be reserved for the subject, and it would be left blank until March in hopes the White House would submit a formal proposal. House and Senate committees will hold a joint hearing on the subject in March, he said.

Clinton's proposals would commit more than $4 trillion in budget surpluses expected by the federal government over the next 15 years. The surpluses are the result of spending curbs lawmakers set in the 1997 balanced-budget act and tax revenue flowing from the healthy U.S. economy.

Clinton will suggest using about 62 percent of the extra money — or more than $2.7 trillion — to directly bolster Social Security's cash reserves. Another 11 percent, or $500 billion, would go to the new government-subsidized retirement savings accounts.

Another 15 percent of the surplus would go to strengthen Medicare, the nation's health insurance program for the elderly and disabled, which like Social Security is expected to be financially overburdened by the huge, aging baby boom generation.

The rest of the surplus — about 11 percent — Clinton wants for other spending, including military readiness and domestic programs.

The White House estimates the spending would keep Social Security solvent through 2055 and Medicare through 2020. Clinton also will suggest that other structural changes may be needed, but he would leave those choices, which could include painful choices such as raising the retirement age, to be decided through bipartisan negotiations with Congress.

Court rejects appeal to 'three-strikes' law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today rejected a challenge to California's three-strikes law by a man who was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after stealing a bottle of vitamins from a grocery store.

The court refused to hear an appeal in which Michael Riggs said the state sentencing law, which provides longer sentences for repeat offenders, violated his rights and amounted to cruel and unusual punishment.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer voted to hear Riggs' appeal, but four votes are needed to grant such full review.

Three other justices said Riggs' case raised "obviously substantial" issues but that they were willing to let lower courts consider them first.

"It is prudent ... for this court to await review by other courts," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for himself and Justices David H. Souter and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Riggs was convicted of shoplifting a bottle of vitamins from an Alberston's Store in Banning, Calif., in 1995. When arrested, Riggs had a hypodermic syringe hidden in one of his socks.

He previously had been convicted of a variety of crimes — vehicle theft, possession of a controlled substance, forgery, receiving stolen property, attempted burglary, check fraud and robbery.

In a lengthy appeal he wrote by himself from his Corcoran, Calif., prison, Riggs contended that his lengthy sentence violated his due process rights and wrongly punished him for crimes committed before the state's three-strikes law was enacted.

Riggs had not raised those issues when he appealed his sentence in state courts.

The Supreme Court appeal also argued that the sentence violated the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment because it was disproportionate to the crime.

A state appeals court rejected that argument in 1997 and the California Supreme Court last year refused to hear Riggs' ensuing appeal.

"Someone who commits a cold-blooded, premeditated murder with a deadly weapon receives a maximum sentence of 26 years to life, and is eligible for parole in 17 years, four months" under one California homicide law, Riggs said in the appeal acted on today.

In contrast, he will not be eligible for parole until serving 25 years.

State prosecutors urged the justices to reject Riggs' appeal, saying the California law complies with past Supreme Court decisions on sentencing recidivist criminals.

Funeral for slain women draws crowd

MIDLAND (AP) — Sobbing, distraught and disheartened, family members and friends of three women slain in a triple-murder suicide last week say it's the simple, everyday memories that make their loss so painful.

Some told stories about 67-year-old Margaret Compton's constant need to sweep the floor of her small antique shop. Others shared tales about how the three women organized projects to feed the poor.

"Right now it may feel like we're drowning in memories, but soon it will be those memories that will keep us afloat," said religious leader Ronnie White, to the nearly 2,000 people who attended the women's funeral.

Many friends said the most obvious signs that Midland had lost three beloved residents were the darkened lights of her antique store, which was known for remaining open no matter the weather.

A small sign taped to the door Monday read: "Closed due to a death in the family."

Doug Jeffers, whose wife Janette Jeffers was killed, said he couldn't measure what losing her would mean for his life.

"My life has been divided into two halves, before Janette and after Janette," Jeffers said. "Everything good in my life started with her. I'll never regret a moment of it."

Police in the Dallas suburb of Richardson said Allen Dale Price, 48, shot ex-wife Janette Jeffers, 43, her mother Margaret Compton and Mary Rowland, a family friend, before turning the gun on himself.

Monday's grass fires keep Snyder department busy

Grass fires kept Snyder Fire Department busy Monday afternoon.

At 2 p.m., firemen received a report of a grass fire three miles south of U.S. Hwy 84 on CR 465.

Six trucks and 20 men, all from the Snyder department, responded to the blaze that burned approximately 50 acres. A county maintainer was also used.

Assistant Fire Chief Tommy Guynes said it was unknown who owned the land.

Firemen were through at 4:45 p.m., no one was injured and damage was limited to grass.

At 6:18 p.m., firefighters responded to reports of grass fires scattered along the railroad tracks between Halliburton and Dermott on US. 84.

The fires were started by a passing train and damage was limited to grass.

One subject jailed Monday

An outstanding warrant for felony revocation of probation sent one subject to jail Monday.

Deputies arrested 27-year-old Olin Thomas Lane at 4:34 p.m. at his residence at 5052 CR 473 in Hermleigh.

Several offense reports were filed Monday also.

Diana Mowles requested an officer at 3:41 p.m. in the 600 block of 34th Street in reference to the passenger door on her vehicle having been shot. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was filed.

A woman requested an officer at 5:43 p.m. in the 1700 block of Avenue I in reference to her two juvenile daughters fighting.

Officers were dispatched, however, the two had left prior to their arrival. An offense report for runaway and two offense reports for assault/family violence were filed.

An offense report for family violence was filed at 11:11 p.m.

A minor two-vehicle accident occurred at 5:20 p.m. in the 400 block of 34th Street. Involved were a 1979 Mercury Cougar driven by Abel Gonzales of 708 28th Street and a 1990 Pontiac Grand Prix driven by Earl Edward Abell of 2316 42nd Street.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Library storytime change

Beginning this month, Storytime for 4-5-year-olds at the Scurry County Library will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

A&M Mom's Club

The Rolling Plains Texas A&M Mother's Club will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at the home of Pat Anderson, 2609 47th Street. All Aggie moms, former students or interested persons are invited to attend. For more information call 573-3178 or 235-1031.

Stanfield parent-council meeting

The Stanfield Elementary parent-council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the library.

Clogging lessons

Deep Creek Cloggers will start beginner lessons at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the American Legion. For more information, call after 5 p.m. to 573-3315 or 573-0807.

Planetarium shows

The refurbished planetarium at Western Texas College is again available for group shows Thursday evenings and all day on Fridays. The shows are by reservation only and there is no charge. There are three presentations available in the 59-seat auditorium, one for pre-K, another for K through 4, and one for general audiences. For reservations contact Sharon Gill at WTC, 573-8511, ext. 312.

Jeremiah People to sing

The Jeremiah People, a Christian musical theatre group, will be presenting their new program from 7-8:45 p.m. Thursday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Scholastic book fair

Snyder Head Start will have a scholastic book fair from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1-6 p.m. Jan. 25-29. For more information call 573-7403 or 573-1784.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Mondayy are "Jesus Through the Eyes of James," followed by "Where Have All the Fathers Gone."

Ira Bulldog annual

Ira's 1999 Bulldog annuals are on sale until next Tuesday, the last time they will be offered this school year. The cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact Becky Hudgins at the school. Only a few are left.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

The First United Methodist Church's 1998 cookbook, compiled by the Angel Seekers Sunday School Class and dedicated to the memory of Ruby Anderson, can be purchased at the church or Classic Interiors. The cost is $10 and all proceeds benefit the Lord's Acre projects.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is selling windbreak trees. Both evergreens and hardwoods are available. Call 573-6317, or come by the office at 5309 Big Spring Highway.

Library reading day

WTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, plus local senior citizens, will be presenting a reading day at the library on Jan. 30 from 10 a.m. until noon. All kids and parents are invited and anyone who signs up for a library card during this time will be eligible for a special drawing.

UW recognition luncheon

The annual United Way recognition luncheon for volunteers will be held at noon Feb. 1 at The Shack.

Adult education classes

Adult basic education classes that can lead to a GED are underway at Western Texas College. Students may enroll at any time in Room 209 of the WTC library. Both day and evening sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday. Call 573-8511, Ext. 322, for more information.

Cash Five

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

8-12-14-22-31

Pick 3

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

0-0-4