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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Dec. 21-22, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 202
38 Pages $1.00

Home of Carolyn Carter

Rural health clinic becoming reality

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Recognizing the need for additional medical services in the the area, Cogdell Memorial Hospital next month will open its rural health clinic.

"With the community losing a couple of health providers in the form of Dr. (Gary) Nussey and Dr. (Kimberly) Leighton, we recognized a real need for more health care here," said hospital CEO George Parsley.

"We looked at various options and decided the establishment of the rural health clinic would serve the needs of the community best," said Parsley.

Parsley said the hospital staff worked to get this area designated a health professional shortage area and that in turn, opened the door for the hospital to apply for the rural health clinic.

"We got approval in the fall from the federal government to open the clinic and since that time, we have been working to have it open in January," said Parsley.

Parsley said he hoped all the equipment would soon be in place so the clinic could open Jan. 6.

"The clinic will serve anyone in the community that wants to use it," said Parsley. "And the costs will be comparable to what one might pay in a local doctor's office."

Parsley said there are no income guidelines or restrictions for people wanting to use the new clinic. "It's open to everyone."

Parsley said opening of the clinic should relieve the hospital emergency room of treating non-emergency cases.

"For some, the emergency room is being used like a doctor's office and not for emergency cases."

Parsley told of a case where a person had an ingrown toenail and came to the emergency room for treatment.

"The person certainly had pain in the toe for several days leading up to coming to the emergency room and could have gone to a doctor for less expensive treatment.

"With the opening of the rural health clinic, that person would have been referred to it for treatment and freed the emergency room for real emergencies," said Parsley.

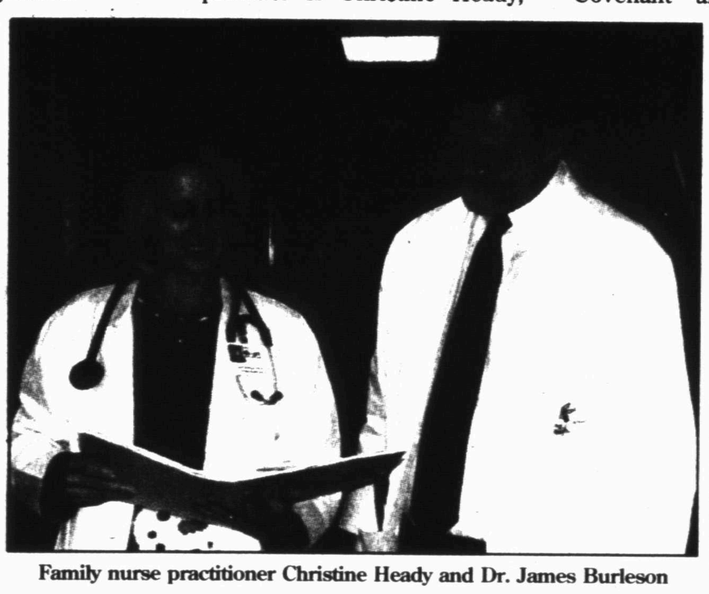
"And at a much lesser cost to the patient."

Dr. James Burleson is the supervising physician and the provider is Christine Heady, FNP (family nurse practitioner).

"Christine has actually been on our staff since the first of December and is looking forward to the opening of the clinic," said Parsley.

Parsley had said earlier in the week that he would welcome Beth Ashley, Covenant Healthcare's nurse practitioner, to work with Heady at the clinic, but she has decided to move closer to family in Tennessee.

Covenant announced this week that Ashley would no longer be on the local clinic staff due to cutbacks.



Family nurse practitioner Christine Heady and Dr. James Burleson

Heady, a native of Odessa, is a graduate of West Texas A&M where she received her nursing degree, and of Abilene Christian University where she received her master of science degree in nursing/family nurse practitioner.

She has worked five years as a critical care nurse with four of those in Abilene's Regional Medical Center, and one in Shannon Hospital in San Angelo.

She also worked at the Colorado City rural health clinic for one year.

Patients may make appointments with Heady by calling 573-7288. The clinic will also accept walk-ins and is located in the specialty clinic area of the hospital.

Nurse practitioners, like physicians, serve as the regular health-care providers for both children and adults.

The nurse practitioner can perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat acute health problems and injuries, treat and monitor chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, order lab work and x-rays, prescribe medications and other treatments, and collaborate with physicians and other health professionals as needed.

"I'm real excited about the clinic," said Heady. "It will provide a very beneficial service to Snyder and the area, and will take a load off the ER."

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?"

If you need gift-buying help for that special guy in your life, here are some suggestions:

—When in doubt, select a cordless drill. It does not matter if he already has one. A guy can never have too many. And if he's not handy, at least he can brag at the coffee shop that he has a new drill.

—If you cannot afford a cordless drill, buy anything with the word ratchet or socket in it. It sounds good when exchanging Christmas stories with friends.

—If money is a big problem, buy something for his car. Even a 99-cent ice scraper or a small bottle of de-icer will be appreciated at some appropriate time.

—Do not buy socks. Ties also are a no-no. And never pick out a bathrobe. If God had intended for man to wear a bathrobe, he would have never invented Jockey shorts.

—A label maker is a good choice. Within weeks everything in the house will have labels — shorts, socks, cups, saucers, door. "Do not touch" will be on the remote control.

—If assembly is required, pass on it. The kid next door will be too busy enjoying his gifts to assemble 'em.

—Men don't cook, but they do grill. Any real man would like a monster barbecue grill with a 100-gallon propane tank. You can also get him a gift certificate for the propane dealer to come by and refill it next summer. Neighbors will be impressed.

—Experienced women say never buy a man a chainsaw. It gets a similar reaction to the label maker.

—It's hard to beat a really good wheelbarrow or an aluminum extension ladder. A real man doesn't want a stepladder, but nobody knows why.

And if you need help finding that perfect gift for the special gal, we also have some advice.

—Don't buy something to cook or clean with. She probably already has a skillet and a vacuum cleaner — and doesn't enjoy either.

—Don't shop at the second-hand store. Saving money on her gift will not win brownie points.

—Gift certificates are a no-no. You need to buy her something personal, even if she returns it.

—And if you buy her something personal, pick out a size too small. She'll take it as a compliment and remember, she's gonna exchange it anyway.

—Jewelry is always a good choice, but there's a catch. If it's too inexpensive, you're cheap. If it's expensive, she'll think you been up to something.

—For men, money is always okay. Money for her is okay, if you have already picked out something personal. She can use the money when she goes back to exchange your gift.

Happy holidays!

Cotton producers and ginners looking at best crop in years

Area cotton producers may be seeing one of their best harvests in years, according to extension agent Greg Gruben. To date, some 26,974 bales have been processed.

Farmers are back in their fields and stripping continues at full speed, Gruben said.

"We're probably 80 percent harvested, but not many are completely through just yet," he said. "Every day the weather stays good like it has this week, that's better for all of us."

Gruben said most producers are "within just a few days" of finishing stripping their crop.

This year's average yield also is cause for celebration, the extension agent said.

"We're averaging about three-quarters of a bale per acre," he said. "That's pretty good for our area. Better than in the past for dry-land cotton."

All three gins in the county are running and report strong bale counts.

Farmer's Co-op gin reported 12,868 bales ginned Friday.

A gin employee said the cotton's grade doesn't seem to have suffered with the late rains that delayed farmers from getting into their fields in November.

Jim Edmonds at Scurry County Gin said they are "a little behind because of the wet spell last month," but they are catching up with 3,200 bales so far.

"The quality of the cotton looks good and production is up too," he said.

An Inadale Gin spokesperson said their bale count as of Friday morning was 10,906, "with probably 7,000 to go."

Gruben said Scurry County's agricultural outlook right now is "positive in every aspect."

"The rains kept farmers out of the fields for a little while, but we're past that now and they were very beneficial for the wheat crop and the pasture lands," he said. "It's already looking good out there for next year's cotton."

Gruben said there should be considerable underground water, which local producers haven't had in many years.

"All forecasts I've seen show that we should have a wetter than normal winter and if that comes to be, it's good for everybody," he said. "All we need is for Mother Nature to cooperate."



READY TO GIN — Robby Robinson stands by cotton waiting to be ginned at the Farmer's Co-op Gin. Producers report this is one of the best years for the crop in quite a while. (SDN Staff Photo)

J. B. Tate to retire at end of this year

J.B. Tate Jr., president and chief executive officer of Texas Savings Bank since 1987, will retire from that position effective Dec. 31.



J.B. Tate, Jr

A successor has not yet been named.

A native of Scurry County, Tate has been employed by the bank (formerly Snyder Savings and Loan), since 1967 when he began work as a loan collector and vice president.

A 1958 graduate of Hermleigh High School, Tate attended Tarleton State University. He later served three years in the U.S. Army, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Following his military career, he returned to Scurry County.

Tate has served in many civic endeavors in Snyder in addition to serving on the board of Texas Savings Bank. These include the Scurry County Veterans Land Board, Cogdell Memorial Hospital board, and is a charter member of the Scurry County Senior Citizens Inc., and serves as its current president.

Tate has also served as an adult 4-H leader and currently serves on the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Foundation Board.

He is also an elder at Hermleigh Church of Christ.

Tate and his wife, Kathryn, have two children. Jana and her husband, Clay Peterson, live in Abilene with children Carlton and Caroline. Kevin and his wife, Cheree, live in Snyder with their daughter, Abby.

An avid woodworker, Tate intends to expand on that hobby following his retirement.

"I also plan to pursue a few fish," said Tate.

Christmas eve edition will be delivered early

The annual Christmas eve edition of the Snyder Daily News will be delivered Tuesday morning and will contain season greeting messages as well as letters to Santa from area children.

The SDN will not publish Christmas Day and will resume regular publication schedule on Thursday.

Local schools dodge absences due to flu

While schools across Texas have closed for a few days this month in hopes of breaking a flu-like illness cycle, Snyder schools made it to the Christmas holidays this week without experiencing extremely high absenteeism.

"We normally have around five percent of our students absent," said attendance clerk Linda Winter.

Absentee rates this week have been 8.2 percent on Monday, 9.1 percent on Tuesday, 7.5 percent on Wednesday, and 7.9 percent Thursday.

The number of absentees ranged from 198 to 241.

Schools in East Texas and some closer to Snyder have experienced much higher absentee rates causing classes to be cancelled.

Hermleigh was closed two days last week because of illness, as was Coahoma.

Westbrook school started its Christmas vacation three days early, as more than 30 percent of students were absent.

Cindy Nix, director of the Scurry County Health Unit, said she was not aware of any confirmed

See Flu, Page 12A

Lighting winners are announced

Snyder Gold Coats announced three winners and one honorable mention for the annual Christmas decorating and lighting contest.

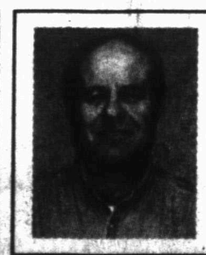
Winning first place was the Wilbur Fry home at 3309 48th Street. The Ray Harlan home at 2807 47th Street captured second place, and the Jenni Jackson home at 94 CR 112 took third place. Honorable mention went to Red and Pat Faver at 4107 Midland.

ASK US

Q—What is the number for calling for emergency roadside assistance in Texas?

A—The number found just above the bar code on your drivers license is 1-800-525-5555.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



David Hillger...

...has worked in Snyder five years as manager of Wilson located at 1912 Kings Highway. His wife, Debra, works at Wilson Supply in Midland. They have seven children, Tricia, Christy, Lucy, David, Tisha, Robert and Amber, and 11 grandchildren. After the grandchildren, David enjoys woodworking.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

There's not many more shopping days until Christmas.

DEC 22 2002

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Christmas Cantata

Northside Baptist Church's Christmas Cantata will be presented at 11 a.m. Sunday. The church is located at 1909 16th St. For transportation, call 573-7105.

Candlelight service

A candlelight service and Lord's supper will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will not have its monthly stated meeting Monday due to the holidays. The next stated meeting will be held Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Esther, a Woman of Destiny," followed by "What On Earth Am I Doing Here?"

Candlelight Christmas Eve service

Trinity United Methodist Church will have a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Christmas Eve candlelight service

The First United Methodist Church will have a candle light service on Christmas Eve beginning at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve service

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 11 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 2712 Ave. R. The public is invited.

Landfill closed Wednesday

The City of Snyder landfill will be open Tuesday but closed Christmas Day and also next Saturday.

Windbreak trees

Orders for windbreak trees and drip irrigation are being taken at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office through Jan. 31. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Highway. Call 573-6317, ext. 2.

SHS booster club fund raiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

Trinity Bible study

A 10-week study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," begins Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Melissa Petty will lead the study and all women are invited to attend. To order a book or for more information call 573-3988.

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP include Jan. 4, 12:30 p.m.; Jan. 7, 9 a.m.,1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m.; and Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Tigers Lair yearbook

Orders for 2002 Tigers Lair yearbooks are still being taken. The cost is $50 with additional options available. Call 574-6138 for information.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Pakistan arrests four militants

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Four Islamic militants armed with grenades were arrested in Karachi late Friday, allegedly as they were on their way to blow up a bridge in the southern port city.

Police said the four men belong to Jaish-e-Mohammed, an Islamic group declared a terrorist organization by the United States. It was outlawed in Pakistan after the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Authorities believe the four were recruited by Osama bin Laden's network.

On Saturday, a court in Karachi ordered the suspects held without bail while an investigation is conducted. The four arrived in court under tight security, their heads hidden behind scarves.

Under a new law, authorities in Pakistan can hold a suspected terrorist for one year without pressing charges.

Police said they received a tip about the four, who were headed toward a major thoroughfare where police believe they were planning to blow up a bridge.

"We swiftly took action when we received our information and were able to arrest all four terrorists with three hand grenades," said Shafi Rind, divisional police officer in eastern Karachi.

The four men were recruited more than two months ago by two men from a Middle Eastern country who police suspect are members of al Qaida, Osama bin Laden's network. Neither they nor their country of origin were identified.

The men were given $180 to purchase explosives, mostly grenades, police said.

The four Pakistanis — identified as Riaz Uddin, Aziz Mubarak, Mohammed Kamran and Abdul Rehman — told police they stole about $3,350 in several robberies to buy explosives and weapons.

State Farm rate hike called 'slap in face'

AUSTIN (AP) — State Farm's decision to raise rates is a "direct slap in (the) face" to its policyholders and to the Legislature's insurance reform efforts, a lawmaker who heads a committee that handles insurance legislation said Friday.

"For State Farm to announce another round of rate increases on the eve of the 78th Legislature that begins Jan. 14, 2003, is nothing short of unconscionable," state Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, wrote in a letter to a State Farm executive.

State Farm spokesman Keith Androff said the company disagrees with Fraser and said the rate increases were necessary.

"We would never have implemented them if we did not believe they were not," Androff said.

The company this week said it would raise its automobile rates by an average of 9.2 percent statewide, while homeowners insurance rates will increase by an average 5.2 percent. Androff said that even though mold and water claims are starting to stabilize in the homeowners insurance market, construction, replacement and repair costs are increasing.

The new rates will take effect Jan. 15, the day after the legislative session starts. With some consumers seeing their rates increase as much as 200 percent, insurance is expected to be a top issue.

Texas has no control over most homeowners insurance rates because many policies are written under unregulated companies that are exempt from rate regulation.

Several lawmakers already have filed legislation to change the way insurance is priced and regulated in Texas.

In his letter, Fraser also questioned whether the 5.2 percent increase was accurate, saying the Texas Department of Insurance indicates that the figure could be closer to 15 percent after optional endorsements are added to the policy.

State Farm sells a new policy that does not cover mold, slow water leaks or foundation damage unless a customer pays extra. Androff said most people are not purchasing the additional coverage.

Fraser also accused the company of rebuffing or ignoring his efforts to try to find common ground on legislative remedies to insurance issues. "I view State Farm's latest increase as a direct slap in (the) face to State Farm's Texas policyholders."

Snyder woman McMurry grad

Sherry Faulkenbery of Snyder graduated from McMurry University with honors last Saturday.

She is a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society for Psychology and Alpha Kappa Delta, the National Honor Society for Sociology.

Faulkenbery currently works for Harmony Family Services. She intends to enter law school.

The 1994 graduate of Snyder High School is the daughter of Wayne and Janet Highfield of Snyder.

She is also married to Paul Faulkenery. They are parents of Bailey, who is two years old.

KEY TO THE KINGDOM
Esther, a Woman of Destiny
IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY
What on Earth Am I Doing Here?
Cox Cable TV Channel 2,
Monday, Dec. 23, 7:00 pm

Whatever happened to...

Deanne Hood, after graduating from Snyder High School in 1987, earned her bachelor's degree at Angelo State University and her master's degree in counseling at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Now Deanne Hood Harrup, she is an elementary school counselor, following in her counselor mom's footsteps. Deanne is the daughter of Drs. Duane and Mary Hood. Mary Hood was director of counseling at Western Texas College and Duane was dean of student services. The Hoods are retired and living in Granbury.



Deanne Hood
1987



Deanne Harrup
2002

In her free time, Deanne scrapbooks, teaches aerobics and works with the youth group at her church. When not doing that, she can be found chauffeuring one or both of her daughters, (Hannah, age 7, and Trey, age 4) to choir, hand bells, soccer, tee ball, G.A.'s, mission friends, basketball, little gym, ballet, Girl Scouts or orchestra. Luckily, her husband of 11 years, Monty, helps out a lot.

This holiday season, both Deanne and daughter Hannah are busy getting ready for the production of "The Nutcracker."

Hannah is cast as a "cherub" and Deanne will play an adult party guest.

(Readers are invited to submit information and pictures for this feature. Bring by Snyder Daily News or mail to Box 949 in Snyder, 79550.)

Rylander warns budget shortfall of $5 billion

AUSTIN (AP) — Firing a warning shot of even tougher fiscal times for Texas, state Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said Friday the state budget shortfall could be "significantly larger" than the $5 billion she predicted two years ago.

Rylander isn't the first to predict the shortfall could be larger than first thought. But her remarks to graduates at Texas A&M University were significant because next month she will give lawmakers the official estimate of how much money they have to spend in the 2004-05 state budget.

"I have scores of Ph.D.s and economists on my staff, and they've been carefully monitoring our Texas economy," Rylander said. "And they've done a remarkable job, but now they're telling me that the economy has softened to the point that the initial $5 billion shortfall I warned about two years ago could grow significantly larger."

Some state lawmakers had predicted the figure could be higher, but Rylander had previously refused to budge off her original estimate.

Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, said in September the shortfall could be as high as $12 billion. Rylander dismissed it as a doomsday prediction and said at the time $5 billion was "concrete."

Texas is not in a recession, but "we are in an extended period of anemic growth," Rylander said.

She did not reveal a new estimate on Friday and said she would wait as long as possible before the start of the next legislative session on Jan. 14.

"I will wait as long as necessary so I can watch every possible economic indicator before releasing the next revenue estimate," she said in a copy of the speech provided to The Associated Press.

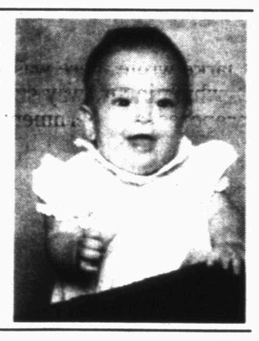
Rylander's office did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

The state constitution prohibits a budget deficit.

The shortfall is the amount of money needed to cover higher-than-expected costs in the current budget. Those overruns will be covered with money that would otherwise be spent in the next two-year spending plan.

Happy 16th Birthday

Love
Grandma



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
A Snyder Tradition since 1964

Tuesday, December 24, 2002
11:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
2712 Ave. R

Everyone is welcome to join us in worship

events

TEXAS LOTTERY™
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RESULTS

Friday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step
AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
4-9-20-24
Bonus number 20
Estimated jackpot: $425,000
Pick 3
(Day) 2-3-4
(Night) 0-9-4
Cash Five
13-23-36-33-28

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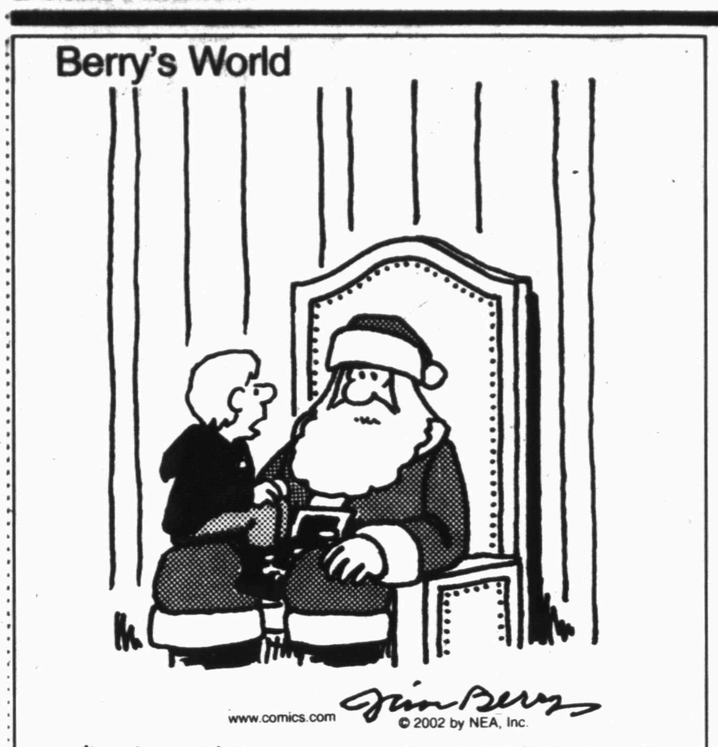
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All Friends of Hermleigh I.S.D. are Invited to A Retirement Reception for Jerry Church, Superintendent
December 29, 2002
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Hermleigh High School Cafeteria





GUEST SPEAKER — David Hanes recently spoke to Stanfield students about his Indian heritage. He showed a variety of Indian-related artifacts as he told students how the Indians lived years ago. (Contributed Photo)

Man pleads guilty to more federal charges

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A former computer systems administrator who pleaded guilty last month to storing cyanide compounds in Chicago's subway system pleaded guilty Friday to causing power outages in Wisconsin.

Joseph Konopka, 26, of De Pere, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to destroy energy facilities, arson, trafficking in counterfeit goods, intercepting electronic communications and damaging a protected computer. The government agreed to recommend that he get 20 years in prison at sentencing, scheduled for April 11.

Prosecutors said Konopka, who called himself "Dr. Chaos," was the self-appointed leader of a loose affiliation called "The Realm of Chaos" that recruited youths through an Internet chat group to engage in property damage.

Prosecutors said Konopka was linked to about 30 power outages in Wisconsin and about 20 other service interruptions between 1998 and 2001 that affected more than 30,000 power customers and resulted in more than $800,000 in damages.

Investigators have said Konopka wanted to create anarchy by getting people to mistrust the government.

University of Illinois-Chicago police arrested Konopka and a 15-year-old in March on suspicion of trespassing. The 15-year-old told police Konopka was storing cyanide in the Chicago subway system.

Jury deadlocks in rape case

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial in a rape case in which the alleged victim — a 3-year-old girl — testified in open court.

Sobbing could be heard from the jury room before deliberations ended Friday night after three hours. When the jury foreman announced the panel had deadlocked, defendant Karess D. Jones, 26, began to cry.

Deputy Prosecutor Alan Copelin said he would try the case again, probably in February.

Jones was charged with raping the child June 10 while he was staying overnight at her home. He also is charged with attempted rape and second-degree sexual assault of the girl.

Copelin said before the Jones case, the youngest person to testify in an Arkansas criminal case was 4. At a Monday hearing, the judge ruled the 3-year-old was competent to take the stand.

Dressed in a black-and-gold print dress, black stockings and shoes, the 3-year-old girl testified for 30 minutes Thursday — after first being asked to recite her ABC's and count to 10.

Before testifying in open court before about 15 people, the girl also was asked to identify various colors. Her young age often showed: When she counted to 10, she forgot the number 10 and went on to 11 and 12 before naming numbers randomly.

She sometimes answered "yes" before the lawyers completed their questions, and became confused about her actions in June — testifying that she crouched behind a Christmas tree and pulled bows off presents.

The girl said "(Jones) touched me first. I did not touch him" and described the contact in childish terms.

Jones also faces a sex charge in Mississippi County, involving a 9-year-old girl.

Internet monitoring center wouldn't spy on e-mails, Bush says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is proposing an Internet-wide monitoring center to detect and defend against major cyber-attacks, but the Bush administration sought Friday to ease worries it might scrutinize individual users' e-mails along with other data traffic.

Some Internet industry executives and lawyers said they would raise serious civil liberties concerns if the U.S. government, not an industry consortium, operated such a powerful monitoring center. Such a proposal would require congressional approval.

Under federal wiretap laws, privately operated centers can in some circumstances analyze e-mails and other data flowing across parts of the Internet without approvals from a judge.

President Bush's top cyberspace adviser, Richard Clarke, on Friday strongly disputed concerns about government broadly eavesdropping on citizen e-mails. Clarke wrote there was "nothing ... which in any way suggests or proposes a government system that could extend to monitoring individuals' e-mails."

Clarke sent the letter to Harris Miller, the head of a prominent trade group, the Washington-based Information Technology Association of America. He said the White House plan "articulates a strong policy of protecting citizens' privacy in cyberspace."

The industry's fears appeared to stem from a subtle change between an earlier proposal and one currently circulated within the administration as part of its forthcoming "National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace," set for release early next year.

The latest draft, parts of which were obtained by The Associated Press, envisions a monitoring center to "analyze and exchange data about attacks that could prevent exploits from escalating and causing damage or disruption of vital systems."

It said the center "could be operated by the private sector but could share information with the federal government through the Department of Homeland Security."

The administration's earlier proposal, released in September as a draft for public comment, acknowledged explicitly that such a monitoring center "would not be a government entity and would be managed by a private board."

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the administration still envisions that any such monitoring operation would be run by the private sector.

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DEC 22 2002

DPS trooper indicted

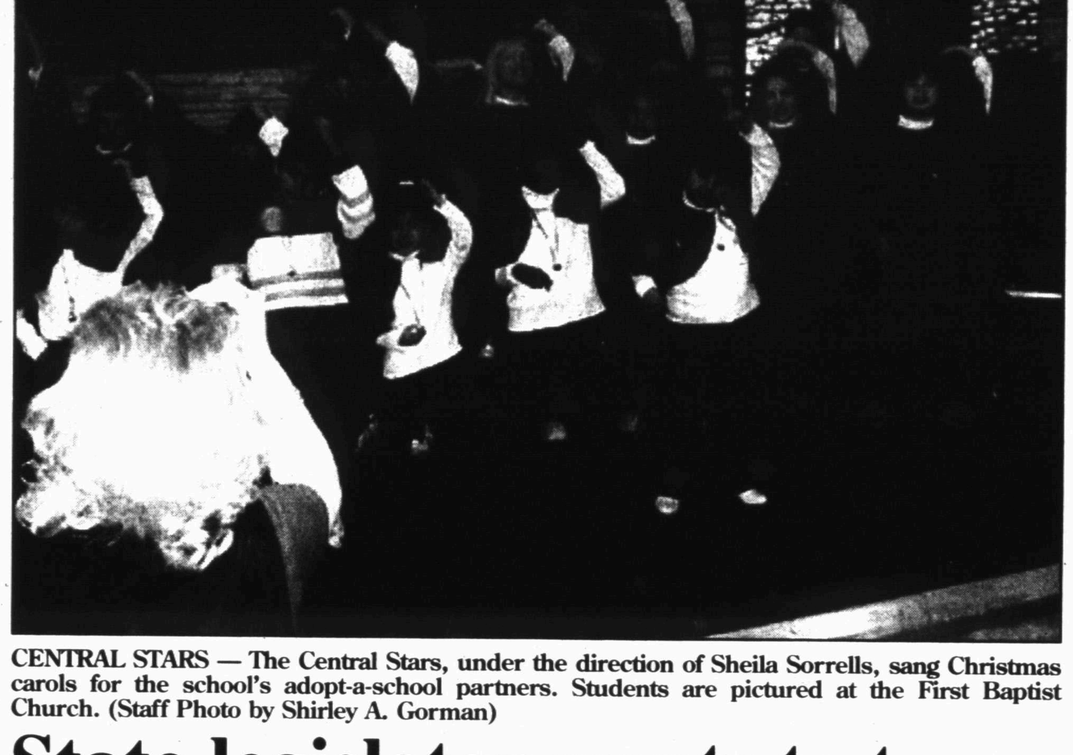
HOUSTON (AP) — A grand jury has indicted a Texas Department of Public Safety narcotics investigator on charges that he tried to hire a hit man to kill two witnesses against him in a drug theft investigation.

Sgt. Johnnie Davis was held Saturday in the Harris County Jail without bail on a new charge of solicitation of capital murder.

The veteran drug agent was arrested in March on charges he tried to rob a drug courier, investigators said. The courier was an undercover agent in a sting operation set up to catch Davis, who has worked for DPS 12 years.

Davis, 42, was indicted Friday by Harris County grand jurors on the first-degree felony count of solicitation, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

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CENTRAL STARS — The Central Stars, under the direction of Sheila Sorrells, sang Christmas carols for the school's adopt-a-school partners. Students are pictured at the First Baptist Church. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

State legislator wants to turn Astrodome into luxury casino

HOUSTON (AP) — The world's first indoor baseball park could become its biggest luxury casino if a Texas lawmaker has his way.

State Rep. Ron Wilson wants to bring the Astrodome back to life, wagering that the state and county could pull in probably $1 billion in revenue a year running the gambling operation.

"I think it's an excellent idea; the Eighth Wonder of the World. You've already got 30,000 parking spaces," Jordy Tollett, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, told the Houston Chronicle in Saturday's editions.

Wilson has bet against the odds before. The Houston Democrat concedes he's sponsored state gaming proposals in the recent past that never went anywhere.

The Astrodome, once the venue of former President Lyndon Johnson's barbecue for astronaut heroes and former President Bush's second nomination to the presidency,

But since a retractable-roof facility was designed for construction next to the Astrodome, its fate has been in question. When the Astrodome opened in 1965, it was the largest such facility ever.

But some Houstonians are taking Wilson seriously after county officials scoffed at the idea.

County Commissioner Steve Radack noted that Wilson is known for his headline-grabbing exploits.

"It sounds like a publicity-seeking bill," said Radack. "Never mind the fact that the state doesn't own the dome, and never mind that the owners aren't even asked about it before he wastes a bunch of time drafting a bill."

The Texas Legislative Council is drafting Wilson's measure, calling for Texans to amend the Texas Constitution to legalize state-sponsored gaming in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

"I like the idea of the state running casino gambling," said Wilson. "Then you can manage advertising, the number of compulsive gamblers it creates. If you have private industry that does it, they don't care about creating compulsive gamblers."

Wilson estimates development costs at $25 million.

County Judge Robert Eckels said gambling would create a net loss for Houston, not a gain as it drains local dollars that would have been spent on other entertainment.

Holiday greeting ignites dispute

INDIANOLA, Pa. (AP) — A holiday greeting from Mr. and Mrs. Claus this holiday season is stirring up a dispute here over whether the message is doubling as a political ad.

Paul and Dotty Claus are both elected officials in Indiana Township, a mining and farming community outside Pittsburgh. He's a constable and chairman of the local Democratic party; she's a township supervisor.

Together, they paid $40 to rent a local fire company's marquee for four weeks to create a holiday message. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Paul and Dotty Claus," the Indianola Volunteer Fire Company sign reads.

Fellow Indiana Township supervisor Jeff Peck, who also serves as the township's mayor, has objected to the sign, which he says amounts to political advertising because both Clauses are elected representatives.

On Monday, fire company officials listened to Peck's complaint and decided the message could stay.

Dotty Claus and her husband say they never intended the message to be political. The Clauses said they have used the sign in past years to send family and friends special greetings and to provide the community a greeting.

Under the latest municipal redistricting, Dotty Claus, a Democrat, and Peck, a Republican, could face off in the general election.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 p.m.

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

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Financial Focus

Know What to Expect from Bonds

When the stock market is going through rough times, many investors "rediscover" bonds. After all, the thinking goes, bonds are fixed-rate investments, so they must be more secure than stocks. And even if a bond's rate isn't particularly high right now, at least it's predictable. But are bonds really that solid and stable? Yes — and no.

Let's look at the "yes" side first. When you invest in bonds, you will receive a regular stream of interest payments. And, if you hold the bond until it matures, you will get the full value of your principal back, provided the issuer doesn't default. And there's not even much chance of that, as long as you purchase a government bond or a high-quality, "investment-grade" bond.

So far, it looks like bonds do indeed offer the stability you seek. But now, let's look at what happens if you don't hold your bonds until maturity. To begin with, keep in mind that bond prices rise and fall all the time. For example, if you have a bond that pays five percent interest, and market rates rise to six percent, then no one will want to buy your bond at full value, so, if you want to sell it, you'll have to offer it at a lower price. Conversely, if market rates fall to four percent, then your five-percent bond will look pretty good to other investors, so they'll pay you a premium over and above the face value.

Consequently, if you buy a bond with the intention of selling it before it matures, you need to be prepared for the ups and downs of the bond market. In that case, as a true investment, rather than just a source of income, bonds may not be quite as "stable" and "solid" as you might expect.

The only way you can be sure that you won't lose any principal on your bond is to hold it until maturity. One way to do that is to match a bond's maturity with your needs. If you think you'll need proceeds from a bond in five years to help pay for a child's college education, you won't want to buy a 10-year bond. In five years, interest rates could have risen higher than what your 10-year bond is paying - so, if you want to sell it, you'd have to take a loss. But if you bough a five-year government bond, or a high-quality corporate or municipal bond, you can be reasonably certain of having the money you need in time for college.

It's also important to be aware of a couple of the characteristics of bonds. First, bonds with longer maturities usually - but not always - pay higher interest rates than shorter-term bonds. And second, long-term bonds carry a higher degree of interest-rate risk. In other words, the longer you hold your bonds, the more susceptible you are to interest rate fluctuations and their impact on bond prices.

You'll also need to be cognizant of the fact that your bond may be "called" at any time. Bond issuers may pay off principal early — or "call" their bonds - when interest rates have fallen. They can then reissue bonds at a lower rate. Some bonds, however, can't be paid off early, so, before buying a bond, find out if it offers this type of "call protection."

Since you usually don't know exactly when you might need to sell a bond, a good long-term strategy would be to build a "bond ladder" containing bonds of varying maturities. Bond ladders also offer a degree of income protection: When market rates are low, you'll always have some higher-rate long bonds, and when market rates are high, you'll have short-term bonds coming due to reinvest.

Bonds may not be the perfect safe and sound haven you seek from the stormy stock market, but they still offer good diversification benefits. In addition, if you take a long-term perspective and ladder bond maturities, bonds can offer you smoother sailing.

Today's chuckle

Thief returns jewelry after 34 years

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A thief with a conscience mailed back a gold wedding band and earrings to the jewelry store where he or she stole them 34 years ago.



A letter to Sartor Hamann Jewelry accompanied the traditional woman's wedding band, size 7, and a pair of pearl earrings with gold posts, tiny diamonds and dangling pearls.

"Enclosed are two items that I stole from you in 1968. I'm very sorry and I should not have taken your property," it said. "The pieces belong to you NOT me. I was wrong and I want to apologize for my actions."

Store owner Don Hamann said the letter that arrived Tuesday did not have a signature. The only telltale sign was a Boys Town, Neb., postmark.

"It's kind of interesting," Hamann said. "What must have gone through the person's mind after what, 34 years?"

The package provided few clues. The 18-karat gold ring appeared worn even though it had been polished, he said.

The earrings on close examination appeared to be costume jewelry, a brand the store normally wouldn't carry.

It was the first time Hamann could remember a stolen item being returned voluntarily.

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY
Barbecued Chicken
Potatoes Au Gratin
Black-eye Peas
Carrot Strips
Red Applesauce

TUESDAY
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

WEDNESDAY
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

THURSDAY
Chicken Strips w/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Fried Squash
Peaches & Cottage Cheese
Chocolate Chip Cookies

FRIDAY
Fried Fish
Broccoli w/Cheese
Whole Kernel Corn
Creamy Slaw
Peach Cobbler

Senior Center News

As the Christmas Holiday and the New Year nears, we would like to encourage all senior citizens (sixty and over) to visit and join us for activities and meals. There are many seniors in our community who have not taken advantage of our facility and we invite each of you to participate and give us the opportunity to meet you. There is no fee for daily activities at the center. We do ask that each senior citizen make a donation for the meal at lunch. We suggest $2.50. Visitors under the age of sixty must pay $4 per plate. We offer dominoes, eighty-eight, bridge, pinochle, bingo, pool, quilting for May Day, choir, entertainment, exercise, line dancing, clogging, western dance, fabric painting, swimnastics, blood pressure readings, monthly craft for May Day, holiday meals, parties, and morning transportation. Or, simply join us to visit with longtime friends and make new friends.

We have three organizations that meet at the center. The Golden K Kiwanis are a service organization that meets each Tuesday for the noon meal and a program.

The AARP meets the third Monday of the month for the noon meal and a program. Periodically they meet at night on the third Monday. This group focuses on all aspects of senior life and how to improve it. Both these groups meet in the conference room at the center. The Mesquite Country Women's Writers Guild meets every-other Tuesday from 11-2 in the bridge room at the center. This group is for women interested in writing poetry. For further information on any of these groups phone the center at 573-4035 or visit us at 2603 Avenue M.

The candy sale was great fun and raised $203 for the Senior Center.

MONDAY

The center will be open for regular activities and lunch, but will close at 2 p.m.. Bridge begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11 a.m. Seniors may play eighty-eight beginning at 10 a.m., since the afternoon session will be canceled.

TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY

The Scurry County Senior Center will be closed for Christmas Eve day and Christmas day. We hope each of you have a peaceful holiday and will join us on Thursday.

THURSDAY

The center will be open regular hours. Seniors may participate in dominoes, pool, and quilting. Don't miss exercise at 11 a.m.

FRIDAY

The bridge tournament and the blood pressure clinic both begin at 9:30 a.m. Seniors may participate in eighty-eight at 11. Join us for exercise at 11 a.m.

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Cameras to be used during anti-war, abortion protests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police intend to use more than a dozen automated surveillance cameras to keep an eye on large demonstrations planned in the nation's capital next month.

The cameras, monitored at police command centers, will keep tabs on anti-war protests planned for the weekend of Jan. 18-19 and the Jan. 22 "March for Life," an anti-abortion demonstration to mark the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Officials said Friday they were publicizing the plans to comply with an ordinance passed in November by the District of Columbia Council. It requires advanced public notice when the tactic is to be used.

"The major advantage is to deploy police resources if you see any problems developing, if you need more people one place or fewer people another place," said councilwoman Kathleen Patterson. Besides the notice provision, district law requires that signs be posted to inform the public that certain areas in or near downtown Washington can be under camera surveillance.

"I don't think the police ought to be taking video of peaceful demonstrators when there's no hint of lawbreaking," said Art Spitzer, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Capital Area Chapter. The ACLU worries that cameras will deter participation in what they see as expressions of First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, association and expression.

Police concede they have no information to indicate any plans for civil disobedience or violence.

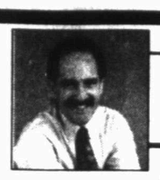
The cameras transmit images of the areas they are trained on and are not connected to videotaping equipment. Kevin Morison, spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Department, said the cameras do not employ face recognition or biometrics technology to help identify specific individuals.

"Big events like this that attract people to the nation's capital could either themselves become targets of terrorists, or terrorists could use those major events as cover to launch some sort of attack," Morison said.

"We expect tens of thousands of people to be coming out Jan. 18 to oppose this war drive," said Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, a lawyer with the Partnership for Civil Justice, a nonprofit lawyers' group. "We hear from people who are outraged by the surveillance cameras."



PRESENTS PROGRAM — Paul Hudgins presented a program for Central students in the library. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Alternative medicine a thorny topic

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I realize that you are a Ph.D., but you seem to have the same knee-jerk reaction to alternative treatment that medical professionals do. When you say there is no evidence that something works, you mean (of course) no clinical or laboratory evidence. You mistrust anecdotal evidence. But how many times must a doctor say about an improvement apparently effected through alternative treatment, "I don't know what you are doing, but keep on doing it," before he realizes how nutty that sounds? To me it sounds like an excuse for not having to do some honest research into areas where current medical education has dropped the ball. Although I respect your expertise and even your skepticism, I do not respect your automatically dismissive reaction to alternative treatment. — **K.R., Charlotte, N.C.**

DEAR K.R.: We might have more in common than you think. Actually, I am pro-alternative medicine, but I do have some basic standards. I am not against all things new, but at the same time I will not automatically embrace something simply because it is "alternative." Conversely, I am not in lock step with the mainstream.

Ideally, there would be no need for alternative medicine. Ours should be a system that tests, verifies and integrates new treatments in an open and efficient manner. Research takes time, however, and people understandably clamor for a new product as soon as they hear it might help them. It is unfortunate that the truth of such products is not always within easy reach.

If a patient reports that a particular dietary supplement or nontraditional therapy has "worked," how is the doctor to know what's really going on? It's not appropriate to broadcast one person's experience to others as something that will occur for everyone. Let's say that over time a number of people make a similar claim about a product. It makes sense to be skeptical if the origin of their claims is self-serving or involves a product in which they have a financial interest. On the other hand, if there were a number of independent, unbiased reports supporting the claim, it would not be appropriate to react skeptically out of fear of the unknown.

There is also the possibility of a placebo effect. This is when a percentage of people using a product or treatment experience an effect simply because they believe one is supposed to occur. In such cases, it's helpful to do additional research.

There is no question that alternative medicine is alluring. To an individual dissatisfied with the medical establishment, or to one frightened by disease, discomfort and pain, the temptation to try something that promises relief or a cure can be irresistible.

In some cases such treatments may actually help, but in other cases they can lead to more than simple frustration or a waste of one's time and money. Delaying the initiation of proven, even marginally effective medical therapy can result in tragedy, allowing for the progression of a treatable condition into something much more serious.

As I see it, those who stand to profit from alternative treatments should shoulder the burden of substantiation before making claims of success, and they should do so with competent and reliable scientific evidence. At the same time, there is a definite responsibility that falls upon scientists, educators and health professionals to be objective and open-minded. There is nothing wrong with being new and different; many of the treatments that are currently in the mainstream were once considered revolutionary.

Being reflexively dismissive of alternative approaches is not the way to go. But where health is concerned, the concept of "let the buyer beware" takes on special importance.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What is taurine? I saw it listed as an ingredient in cat food and didn't give it much thought. Now I find that is an ingredient in some of those energy drinks. I don't know what it is or what it is supposed to do, and was hoping that you could help. — R.G., Portland, Ore.

DEAR R.G.: Taurine is a common amino acid, one of the building blocks of protein. It is not an "essential" amino acid for healthy adults, in that the body can make all that it needs. There is, however, some preliminary evidence that taurine at higher levels of intake may be of therapeutic value for those suffering from congestive heart failure. It is unclear what value taurine adds to energy drinks, especially given the extremely small amounts present in such beverages.

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

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

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Family of crash victim files suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The family of a 5-week-old infant whose left arm was severed in a car crash at the end of a high-speed police pursuit filed a $30 million claim against the city.

The parents of Harley Medellin asked for $25 million for their son's injuries plus $5 million for themselves, according to a legal claim filed Friday on behalf of the family. The claim is the first step toward filing a lawsuit against the city and the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Dec. 3 crash sparked an intense debate about the department's pursuit policy, with Chief William Bratton calling for a ban on chases that begin as a result of minor infractions. In this case, officers were pursuing a suspect wanted in connection with a stabbing.

The family's claim alleged the officers "conducted a pursuit with a complete, total and deliberate disregard for the safety of the public.

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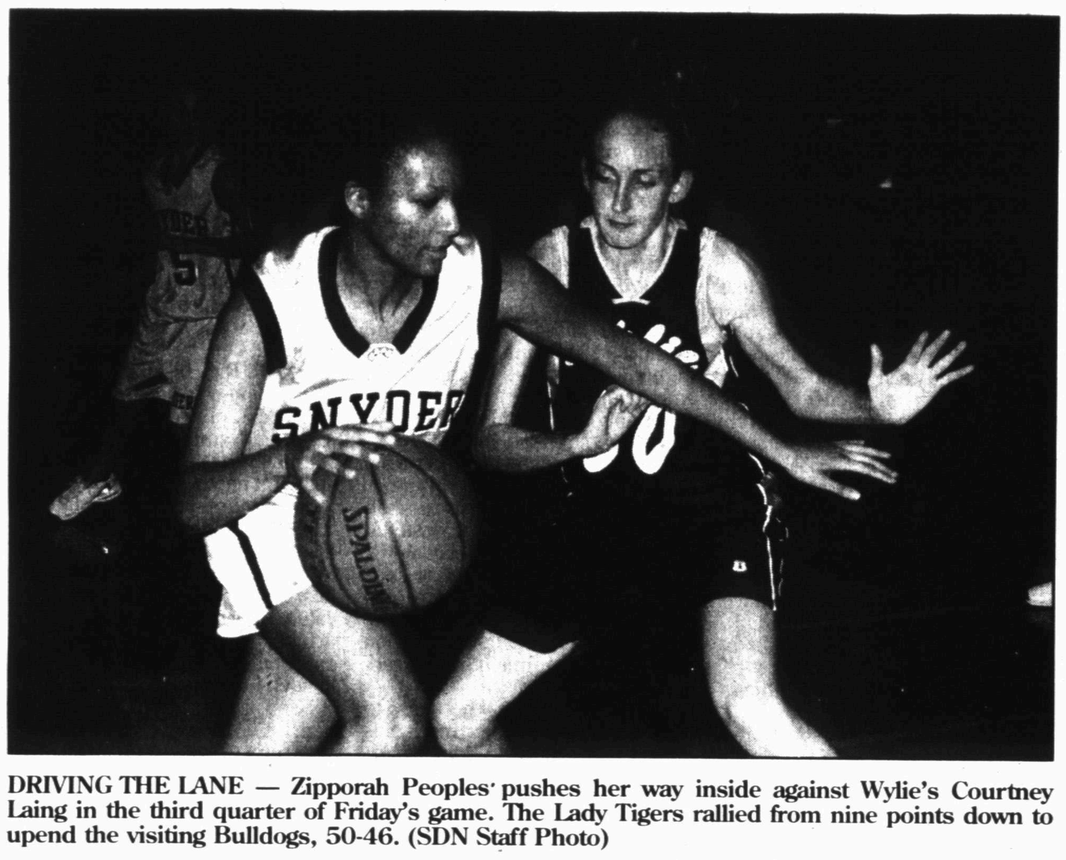
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SPORTS



DRIVING THE LANE — Zipporah Peoples' pushes her way inside against Wylie's Courtney Laing in the third quarter of Friday's game. The Lady Tigers rallied from nine points down to upend the visiting Bulldogs, 50-46. (SDN Staff Photo)

Aggressive plays sparks Lady Tigers in comeback victory

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Lady Tigers made a concerted effort to penetrate the lane against Wylie Friday, and it paid off.

Overcoming a large deficit in the third quarter, Snyder (12-4) battled back to take a sizzling 50-46 victory over the Lady Bulldogs.

"This is the first night we've taken it to the basket," head coach Mike Martin said. "That was the game plan. It's something we haven't been doing this year."

Martin said the team went to a full-court defense in the fourth quarter.

"That helped maintain the defensive intensity," he said.

The defense was stifling, holding the hot-shooting Lady Bulldogs to just one fourth-quarter field goal.

Sirena Medrano, Erin Burleson and Zipporah Peoples each had steals, as the defense took Wylie out of its offensive rhythm.

After guard Dara Chambers got into foul trouble early in the final period, Medrano came off the bench and provided a spark for the Lady Tigers, taking the ball aggressively inside, and nailing five of six from the charity stripe as a result.

"Dara did a good job getting the ball up through the press," Martin said. "But that's the way it's supposed to work — when someone goes out, someone else has to step up."

Snyder trailed from the opening horn, falling behind by as many as 11 at one point in the third period, and entering the final stanza down 42-33.

"We had a long climb, but we kept it up," Martin said. "I'm proud of them for the way they came back."

Burleson was a force on both sides of the floor, forcing untimely shots, and nailing two three's on her way to a game-high 15 points. She also paced the ladies with six rebounds.

The Lady Tigers took their first lead with 3:03 left in the game, with Peoples making a free throw to put Snyder ahead, 45-44.

Burleson swiped the ball away from a Wylie player a few seconds later, and Sequoya Powell grabbed an offensive rebound and hit the put back to make it 47-44.

Fouled on the play, Powell drilled the free throw, and Burleson iced it seconds later with a long-range bomb that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Peoples and Powell both finished with four boards. Hailey Putnam added six points for Snyder.

The junior varsity ladies handed Wylie a 31-26 defeat behind seven points each from Kayla Guerrero, Heather Holmes and Stacey Williamson. The team never trailed in the contest, cruising to a 17-8 halftime advantage.

The varsity ladies will play in the Post tourney on Thursday and Friday, then travel to Greenwood on New Year's Eve.

Wylie	**16**	**13**	**13**	**4—46**
Snyder	**9**	**16**	**8**	**17—50**

Wylie — Stockard 3 0-0 7, Swanson 0 2-2 2, Oglesby 3 0-0 7, Chauveaux 3 2-1 9, Anders 2 0-0 6, Myott 3 2-2 8, Laing 3 1-2 7. **Totals 17 6-8 46.**

Snyder — Burleson 5 2-3 15, Putnam 3 0-3 6, Lollar 1 0-0 2, Peoples 3 1-2 7, Chambers 2 2-5 7, Medrano 1 6-8 8, Powell 2 2-4 6. **Totals 17 13-25 50.**

Three-point goals: Wylie 6 (Anders 2, Chauveaux 2, Oglesby, Stockard), Snyder 2 (Burleson 2).

Lady Bulldogs rally in the fourth; Boys lose big lead against Rankin

KLONDIKE — In a physical, back-and-forth contest Friday, the Lady Bulldogs accelerated in the fourth quarter to head into the break with a 38-30 triumph over Rankin.

Ira (11-4) held a nine point lead at the start of the fourth period, only to see Rankin come back and take a two-point advantage midway through the quarter.

"We finished the game on a great run," said head coach Brent Parr. "We never gave up. We've done it all year. We can put runs together because we never quit."

The Lady Bulldogs dominated the first quarter, then saw the momentum shift to the Lady Red Devils in the second quarter, as the teams went to the locker room at halftime tied.

Celeigh Sterling paced the ladies with 17, and Lindsey Wilson put in 13 for Ira.

Wilson drilled nine of 12 from the free throw line, improving an area of her game that she has struggled with this season, according to Parr.

Amanda Calley finished with eight points to complete the scoring for the Lady Bulldogs, who will take on Munday in the opening game of the Jayton tourney Thursday.

Tip off is slated for 12:30 p.m.

It was a tale of two halves for the varsity boys.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a big lead against the Rankin Red Devils Friday, only to run out of gas late, falling, 67-61.

"The fourth quarter really wore us out," head coach Randy Jones said. "We are playing better, we just have to put four quarters together."

The Bulldogs (7-4) led 36-21 at halftime behind 18 points from center Jake Barnes, but were outscored, 46-25, in the second half.

Eric Dickerhoff scored 14 and Jess Wall knocked in 12.

Despite blowing a large lead, Jones said he saw some encouraging signs from his team in the loss.

"We played a little better on defense, and we were much more patient on offense," he said. "We are heading in the right direction. If we play more like we did in the first half the rest of the season, we are going to be alright."

Wes Kellner finally saw a full 32 minutes Friday, contributing nine points as he recovers from an injured foot.

Jeff Fine and Brandon Crane rounded out the scoring with four points each.

Ira will play Munday at the Jayton tournament Thursday, with a 2 p.m. start scheduled.

Tigers fall at Wylie, 45-40

One play made the difference.

The Wylie Bulldogs scored the final five points en route to a 45-40 victory over Snyder Friday night.

"It was a really close, hard-fought game," said head coach Bud Birks. ""We played hard."

The Tigers held a five-point lead late in the first half, only to see Wylie snatch the lead away at 20-19 with 19 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

The Tigers trailed the entire second half before Josh Mendoza drilled a field goal to tie the game at 40 with 52 seconds left.

A few seconds later, Wylie's Chase Hanner drove the lane and bowled over T.J. Jones, making the basket and drawing the foul on a play Birks said could have gone either way.

"We felt T.J. took the charge, but they called a blocking foul," he said. "It was the key call of the game. Sometimes you get the call, sometimes you don't."

The Tigers got 16 points from Mendoza and 13 from Lee Scott, while the rest of the squad struggled to find the bucket.

"We're struggling for points. We have to put the ball in the bucket," Birks said. "Josh and Lee are doing a good job, but we have got to get other people scoring."

The boys will take a few days off before taking on 5A San Marcos Thursday at the Brownwood Tournament.

Cards mauled by Bulldogs

Loraine's full-court press paid off for the visiting Bulldogs as they scored 29 first-quarter points en route to a 79-31 win over the Hermleigh Cardinals Friday night.

"They were quick and their press killed us early," said Hermleigh coach Don Jones.

Hermleigh's inability to get their early shots to fall added to the Cardinals' woes in the district opener for both teams.

Coach Jones said the Cardinals eventually broke the Bulldogs' press and he was pleased with that aspect of the game.

"Defensively, we didn't play as well as we could have," said the coach. "But we did move the ball better offensively, and that was encouraging."

Joseph Yruegas again led the way for the Cardinals with 13 points, and Terrel Culp drained 10 for Hermleigh.

State Rep. wants to convert Astrodome into luxury casino

HOUSTON (AP) — The world's first indoor baseball park could become its biggest luxury casino if a Texas lawmaker has his way.

State Rep. Ron Wilson wants to bring the Astrodome back to life, wagering that the state and county could pull in probably $1 billion in revenue a year running the gambling operation.

"I think it's an excellent idea; the Eighth Wonder of the World. You've already got 30,000 parking spaces," Jordy Tollett, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, told the Houston Chronicle in Saturday's editions.

Wilson has bet against the odds before. The Houston Democrat concedes he's sponsored state gaming proposals in the recent past that never went anywhere.

The Astrodome, once the venue of former President Lyndon Johnson's barbecue for astronaut heroes and former President Bush's second nomination to the presidency, was also once home to the Houston Astros' National League team.

But since a retractable-roof facility was designed for construction next to the Astrodome, its fate has been in question. When the Astrodome opened in 1965, it was the largest such facility ever.

But some Houstonians are taking Wilson seriously after county officials scoffed at the idea.

County Commissioner Steve Radack noted that Wilson is known for his headline-grabbing exploits.

"It sounds like a publicity-seeking bill," said Radack. "Never mind the fact that the state doesn't own the dome, and never mind that the owners aren't even asked about it before he wastes a bunch of time drafting a bill."

The Texas Legislative Council is drafting Wilson's measure, calling for Texans to amend the Texas Constitution to legalize state-sponsored gaming in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

"I like the idea of the state running casino gambling," said Wilson. "Then you can manage advertising, the number of compulsive gamblers it creates. If you have private industry that does it, they don't care about creating compulsive gamblers."

Wilson estimates development costs at $25 million.

County Judge Robert Eckels said gambling would create a net loss for Houston, not a gain as it drains local dollars that would have been spent on other entertainment.

Although Gov. Rick Perry is against any expansion of gambling in Texas, some still hold out hope for Wilson.

Men's League Basketball

Rotan defeated Big Country Autoland, 70-57, Thursday night behind 18 points from Jeremy Griffith and Jason Wishert to advance to the semifianl game against Snyder National Bank.

Big Country's Billy Luna was the high scorer with 20 points.

Rotan was walloped by SNB, 85-49, with Shane Christianson leading the way with 27.

In the other semifinal contest, American State Bank edged West Texas Savings Bank, 80-78, as Bryan Cave pumped in 30 points for the winners, and Ryan Braziel nailed 41 for WTSB.

The tournament championship game will be held Monday at 8 p.m. between American State Bank and Snyder National Bank.

Sports Briefs

Modano placed on IR

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Stars placed center Mike Modano on injured reserve after he showed signs of post-concussion syndrome.

The team made the move, retroactive to Wednesday, as a precaution after Modano was hit by Philadelphia's Jeremy Roenick Tuesday night.

Pitt AD moves to same post at Nebraska

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh athletic director Steve Pederson was hired by Nebraska to turn around a football program that had its worst season in 41 years.

Pederson, a Nebraska graduate, replaces athletic director Bill Byrne, who resigned to take the same job at Texas A&M.

East Carolina hires Florida assistant

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Florida defensive coordinator John Thompson was introduced as the new coach at East Carolina. He replaces Steve Logan, who left the program Dec. 7.

Thompson has concentrated on defense during his 21-year college coaching career. Before Florida, Thompson was the defensive coordinator at Arkansas, LSU, Memphis and Southern Mississippi.

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SPORTS

Phillies add Millwood as Hot Stove league heats up

NEW YORK (AP) — Persistence paid off for the New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies.

The Phillies and Mets kept up their offseason dealing Friday, with Philadelphia acquiring right-hander Kevin Millwood from Atlanta, and New York agreeing in principle to a $26 million, four-year deal with outfielder Cliff Floyd.

It was a busy day in baseball. Fred McGriff agreed to a one-year deal with Los Angeles, Sandy Alomar Jr. signed a $700,000 deal with the Chicago White Sox, shortstop Mike Bordick agreed to a $1 million deal with Toronto, and lefty Shawn Estes finalized a $3 million deal with the Cubs.

Also, All-Star Robert Fick, World Series champion designated hitter Brad Fullmer, Jose Cruz Jr. and Shane Spencer all became free agents when their teams did not offer them contracts for 2003.

But the biggest news came in the NL East.

After watching the Braves run away with yet another division title this year, the Phillies and Mets have been two of the busiest teams this offseason.

The Phillies finished just two games behind Atlanta in the NL East in 2001, but faltered last year, finishing 211/2 games out.

Philadelphia already committed $102 million to free agent first baseman Jim Thome and third baseman David Bell, but missed out on pitchers Tom Glavine and Jamie Moyer.

The Phillies are very pleased with their addition.

"He had electric stuff last year," manager Larry Bowa said of Millwood. "He had the best stuff on that staff."

With the Braves looking to shed salary and unload an extra starter, they got catcher Johnny Estrada for Millwood.

Millwood was 18-8 with a 3.24 ERA last season, helping the Braves win an unprecedented 11th straight division title. He made $3.9 million last season. He is eligible for salary arbitration, and will get a hefty raise in 2003.

"We had no choice but to move payroll," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said. "We had to trade Kevin Millwood. It wasn't a pleasant thing to do."

The Mets committed $44 million to sign Glavine and reliever Mike Stanton but still needed to upgrade one of the NL's worst offenses if they want to reverse a last-place finish.

Floyd batted .288 with 28 homers, 43 doubles and 79 RBIs last season for Florida, Montreal and Boston. He must pass a physical to make the deal official.

The Mets missed out on third baseman Norihiro Nakamura, who decided to stay in Japan.

"Despite Mr. Nakamura's decision, today was a productive day for the Mets' organization," GM Steve Phillips said.

McGriff, whose deal also well be finalized when he passes a physical, will take over at first base after Los Angeles traded Eric Karros to the Cubs.

The 39-year-old McGriff hit .273 with 30 homers and 103 RBIs for the Cubs last season. He needs 22 homers to become the 17th player in history with 500.

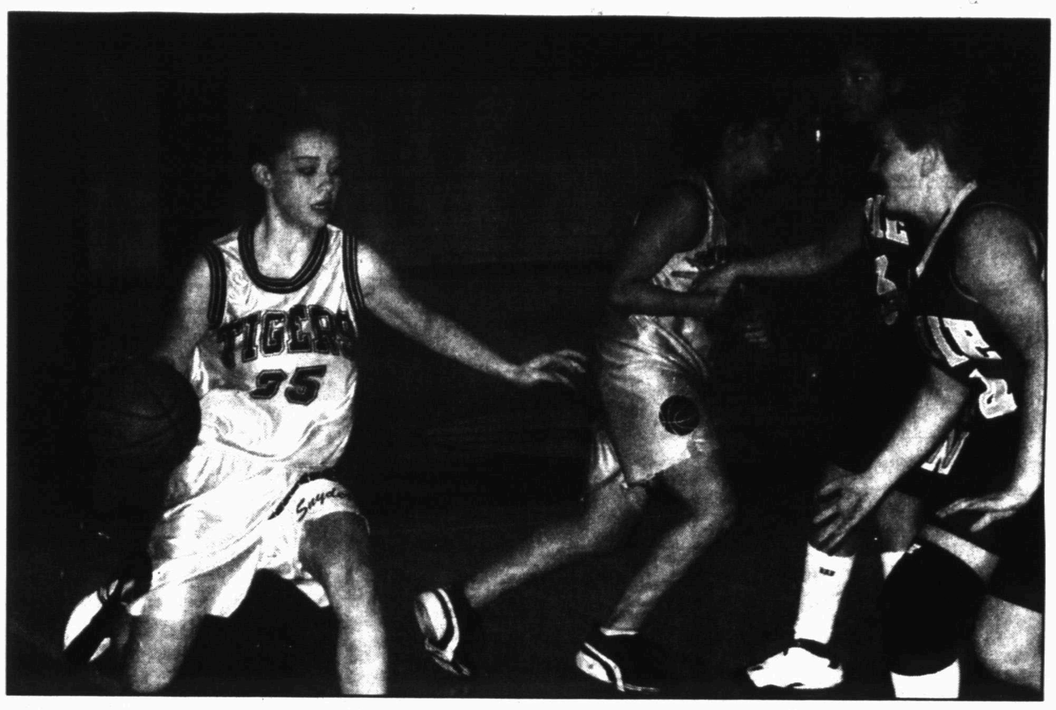
"He is coming off another solid season and would add more power to our lineup," GM Dan Evans said.

After a disappointing 2002, Estes was reunited with manager Dusty Baker and former pitching coach Dick Pole.

Estes was an All-Star in 1997 when he pitched for Baker and Pole on the Giants, going 19-5 with a 3.18 ERA. But the former All-Star struggled last season, going 5-12 with a 5.10 ERA for Cincinnati and the Mets.

Alomar returned to the White Sox as a backup catcher five months after they traded him to Colorado.

Bordick finished last season with 110 consecutive games without an error and 543 consecutive errorless chances, both major league records for a shortstop. He will back up Chris Woodward.



RUNNING THE SHOW — Snyder junior varsity guard Stacey Williamson (35) attempts to penetrate against Wylie's defense in the first quarter of Friday's contest, as Brianna Burk moves into position. The JV girls got the 31-26 victory behind Williamson's seven points. (SDN Staff Photo)

Home win streak snapped...

Mavs offense struggles in loss

DALLAS (AP) — Two nights after the Dallas Mavericks lost their offense, they lost their club-record home winning streak.

Matt Harpring scored 19 points, and Calbert Cheaney had a season-high 18 as the Utah Jazz ended the Mavericks' 12-game home streak with a 93-81 victory Friday night.

The Mavericks began the night as the league's highest scoring team at 104.9 points per game, but finished with their second-lowest point total of the season against the physical Jazz.

Dallas had its worst offensive game of the season Wednesday night in Denver, but managed to pull out an 80-75 victory.

"We had a bad performance in Denver and we really needed to come out and play better," point guard Steve Nash said. "We just weren't smart with the ball. We made too many errors."

Karl Malone had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Greg Ostertag added a season-best 16 points to help Utah end a four-game losing streak.

Malone said the key was limiting Dallas to 33.3 percent shooting from the field (25-for-75), 4-for-24 on 3-pointers.

"You just try to contain them. They're steady players, you know their habits. As much as you can, you've got to keep your body on them," Malone said.

Dallas was the last team unbeaten team at home in the NBA.

Coach Don Nelson and his top assistant, son Donnie, weren't around to see the end. Both were ejected in the second half for complaining about the lack of foul calls against the Jazz.

Dallas was whistled for a season-high 29 personal fouls and Utah shot 37 free throws, the most by a Dallas opponent this season.

"They felt the referees weren't giving us a fair shake," Michael Finley said. "That's their job, if they see something is wrong, they have to contest it. But we as players got too much into critiquing the referees."

Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and 17 rebounds while playing all 48 minutes despite a sprained ankle. Nash added 25 for the Mavericks, who still have the league's best record (22-4).

Rockets ignite in third, win 101-82

HOUSTON (AP) — Down 49-38 at the half, the Houston Rockets had their highest scoring quarter of the season, outscoring Atlanta 37-19 in the third en route to a 101-82 victory Friday night.

The Rockets knew they had played poorly in being outrebounded 32-17 at the half, including a 14-3 deficit in offensive rebounds.

"We weren't aggressive in the first half," Cuttino Mobley said. "We were slower getting into our offense. They rattled us in the beginning when Glenn Robinson was so hot.

"But we huddled up at halftime and went out on the floor and said we had to be more aggressive. We were aggressive in the third quarter. We moved the ball and we played a good zone defense and we were the regular Rockets then."

Tomjanovich made an impression with his talk.

"He looked everyone of us in the eye and said we weren't playing the way we were capable of playing," Maurice Taylor said.

"He told us if we played the way we were capable of, we would win. He said to pass the ball and get more aggressive on defense and we did."

Tomjanovich loved the team's response.

"We played better defense and we moved the ball in the second half," he said. "This is the happiest I've been with our offense all year. A player would drive in and flip it to another player who would throw it out to another.

"We got everybody involved and the difference was phenomenal."

The difference was pretty stark to Hawks coach Lon Kruger as well. After shooting 44.9 percent (22 of 49) the first half, Atlanta shot 34.1 perfect (14-of-41) in the second.

"The third quarter was totally different for us," he said. "We didn't get any stops at all in the third quarter."

The Hawks were shocked by how poorly they shot in the third quarter, when they went 8-of-23.

"They put a snag on us with that zone in the third quarter," Theo Ratliff said. "And we couldn't throw it in the ocean. Houston was hitting a lot of big shots in the third quarter."

Shareef Abdur-Rahim agreed.

"It was a contrast of two halves," he said. "The second half we didn't do any of the stuff we did well in the first half."

The Rockets also went inside more to Yao, the 7-foot-6 rookie who scored 11 of his 17 points in the second half.

"Watching everybody get their shots was like watching a fireworks display," he said.

National Hockey League

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

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Philadelphia	16	7	7	1	40	76	65
New Jersey	17	9	1	3	38	73	64
N.Y. Rangers	13	17	4	1	31	87	112
N.Y. Islanders	12	15	5	0	29	88	101
Pittsburgh	11	14	3	4	29	89	102
Northeast Division							
Ottawa	19	8	4	0	42	101	70
Boston	19	9	3	1	42	104	81
Montreal	15	12	4	2	36	92	102
Toronto	16	14	3	0	35	92	80
Buffalo	8	17	5	1	22	67	83
Southeast Division							
Tampa Bay	15	11	4	3	37	98	91
Carolina	14	12	5	3	36	80	85
Florida	10	10	8	4	32	79	95
Washington	14	16	3	0	31	88	99
Atlanta	8	19	1	4	21	81	119
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
Detroit	17	8	6	1	41	99	79
St. Louis	16	10	5	2	39	105	87
Chicago	16	13	4	0	36	76	76
Columbus	12	15	3	2	29	94	97
Nashville	7	16	5	4	23	63	88
Northwest Division							
Vancouver	19	9	5	0	43	100	79
Minnesota	18	9	6	1	43	90	76
Edmonton	16	11	4	2	38	89	81
Colorado	11	8	9	4	35	84	81
Calgary	9	16	5	3	26	67	94
Pacific Division							
Dallas	18	7	8	1	45	105	67
Los Angeles	15	10	4	3	37	91	81
Anaheim	14	10	6	3	37	86	81
San Jose	13	14	2	3	31	89	99
Phoenix	11	15	6	2	30	87	105

Friday's Games

Florida 3, Buffalo 0
Carolina 3, Atlanta 2, OT
Chicago 3, Columbus 1
St. Louis 3, Phoenix 3, tie

Saturday's Games

Dallas at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Dallas at Carolina, 1:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	18	9	.667	—
Boston	17	9	.654	½
New Jersey	17	9	.654	½
Orlando	15	13	.536	3½
Washington	12	13	.480	5
New York	8	14	.364	7½
Miami	8	18	.308	9½
Central Division				
Indiana	19	7	.731	—
Detroit	18	7	.720	½
New Orleans	18	10	.643	2
Atlanta	10	15	.400	8½
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	8½
Chicago	9	17	.346	10
Toronto	8	18	.308	11
Cleveland	5	23	.179	15
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Dallas	22	4	.846	—
San Antonio	16	10	.615	6
Houston	15	10	.600	6½
Utah	13	12	.520	8½
Minnesota	14	13	.519	8½
Memphis	8	20	.286	15
Denver	6	21	.222	16½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	21	7	.750	—
Phoenix	15	11	.577	5
Portland	14	11	.560	5½
Seattle	14	13	.519	6½
L.A. Clippers	11	16	.407	9½
L.A. Lakers	10	18	.357	11
Golden State	9	17	.346	11

Thursday's Games

New Jersey 98, L.A. Lakers 71
San Antonio 83, Sacramento 81

Friday's Games

Miami 97, Toronto 77
Indiana 101, Chicago 86
Boston 108, Minnesota 99
Memphis 95, Milwaukee 84
Detroit 109, Cleveland 107, OT
Philadelphia 107, L.A. Lakers 104, OT
Houston 101, Atlanta 82
Utah 93, Dallas 81
Orlando 89, Denver 80
New Orleans 88, Seattle 86, OT
Phoenix 87, L.A. Clippers 76
Portland 113, Golden State 111

Saturday's Games

Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Boston at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Portland, 10 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Utah at Memphis, 4 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 5 p.m.
Miami at New York, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 9 p.m.



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Repair, Upgrades,
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Fast Track Computer Service
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Employment

Dishwasher needed at
Kerry's Pit & Grill.
Apply in person, 711 N. Ave. X.
No phone calls please.

Need full-time LVN. Contact Sandi Martin at Rotan Healthcare Center, 735-2233.

West Texas Centers for MHMR
Human Resource Department
409 Runnels Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
West Texas Centers for MHMR
Case Worker Assistant: Performs on-going casework activities to assist individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational, educational, and other needed services. High school diploma or GED required. Clerical experience preferred. Salary $7.28–$7.71 hr ($15,132.00–$16,044.00 annually). DOE
Applications may be obtained at 909 25th St. or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. www.wtcmhmr.org **EOE**

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
FACILITIES DIVISION has the following unit maintenance position available at the **Smith Unit** located in Lamesa, Texas.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR IV - ELECTRICIAN, annual salary $29,232 plus benefits. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or GED and five years full-time, wage-earning experience as an electrician in maintenance, construction, or an industrial environment. Completion of an apprenticeship program may substitute for two years of the required experience.

Applicants must submit a State of Texas Application for Employment to TDCJ - Facilities Division Human Resources, ATTN: Terri Hall, One Financial Plaza, Suite 302, Huntsville, TX 77340 by 5:00 P.M. on ***Thursday, January 16, 2003***. A complete job description and all application forms may be obtained at the above address, by calling the Facilities Division Human Resources Office at (936) 437-5585, or by visiting our web-site at www.tdcj.state.tx.us.

ALWAYS A WINNER THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

Jailer needed, must be at least 18 years old w/ high school diploma. Must be available nights & weekends. Applications available at Scurry Co. Sheriff's Office, 1300 26th Street. Applications must be returned by Sunday, December 22.

LVN Needed
Competitive hourly rate and benefits, including mileage. Apply in person to Terri Owens, at Kristi Lee Manor, 1941 Chestnut St., Colorado City.

NEEDED
Medical Technologist at Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City. Full-time position with employee benefits. Experience preferred. For further information please contact, Marilyn Soler, MT at (915) 728-3431.

Now taking applications for bartenders at VFW. Apply in person, 1701 Ave. T.

Snyder Oaks Care Center is now taking applications for LVN's. All shifts, part-time, and full-time. We offer a competitive benefits package & pay 2/3 of health insurance. Call Vicky, Darla, or Kellie at 573-9377 or come by & apply in person at 210 37th St.

Snyder roofer needed to barter for roofing job out of town. Call 915-683-9217, leave message.

TITLE SECRETARY
Local Title Insurance Company needs secretary for preparation of title policies, real estate closings, general secretarial duties. Title company experience preferred. Please send resume to:
Title Secretary
P.O. Box 69
Snyder, TX 79550
or call 915-573-8558

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Employment

Wait-staff and dishwashers needed. Apply in person at White Buffalo Cafe, 3703 College Ave.

Simple, easy way to build $5,000+ monthly income part-time from home! Free assistance. E-mail: arlie@consultant.com

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

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Professional pool table with accessories. Plus pecans for sale, shelled $5.00lb, hulled, $1.50lb. 863-2284

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***We pay water**
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915-573-1416
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1607 52nd St.
1911 Martha Ann Blvd.

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2-1 quaint house, available 12-21. Be in a house for Christmas. $300/mo. plus deposit. References required. Call 573-1047.

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***2** bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room. 1202 26th St. $350/mo., $200/dep.
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2 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A.
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2BR-1bath with garage for rent, fenced back yard. 2807 38th. Call 573-4454.

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New 2003 16' wide, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $1000 dwn., $171.95 per month*. 888-539-7780 *$19,900 sale price, 5% on $18,900 to finance, 240 months, 9.5 APR.

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600 29th 3-1-1-2Living Areas, needs TLC **$20,000**
2202 Sunset 3-2-2cp . . Contract Pending **$65,000**
217 36th St. 3-1-2 li Lease Pending ened porch. **$40's**
Commercial: 1800 Ave. R **$8,500**
Commercial: Motel on E 180 . . . . . **$80,000**

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Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!

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2611 48th - Extra Nice! 3-2½-2, office, formal living area/den, FP . . . . . $100's
Wonderful Plan - 2601 35th 3-2½ -2, formal living & dining, patio . . . . . $100's
3409 Apple - So Cute! 3-2-cp, large lot $40's
3605 41st Close to Park! 3-2-2, formal liv., den $90's
3718 Sunset 3-1¾-cp, brick . . . . . $40's
5603 Cedar Creek - Buy of the Century Call
2601 35th - Great Floor Plan - 3-2½-2, Cabana w/hot tub, metal fence . . . . . $100's
2901 Ave. M 1900's Victorian 2-story, 3-2, high ceilings, porch, on corner lot . . . . $30's
2212 Towle Park Updated & ready to enjoy! 3-2-2LA's, rock fireplace, dining, office $100's
2901 38th Large with possibilities 4-1 . . $35T
New Listing - Beautiful professionally decorated! 3-2-2 . . . . . $90's
2702 37th Fre Contract Pending . . . . . $30's
1705 Gilmore - 2 story, 3-2-cp, pool, fenced, storage building . . . . . $80's
3700 Austin - Roomy 3-2-2 living areas, FP, carport & storage . . . . . $50's
Lorraine - Bank Acquired - 4-3½-2 lofts, office, hobby rm., 3 car Contract Pending Reduced $94.9T
4009 Irving - Nice - 3-2-2, shop . . . $80's
3766 Highland INVESTORS 2-1 Low $20's
3112 Ave. X Updated 3-2-2 Motivated . . $100's
5501 Cedar Creek 3-2-2 . . . . . $100's
Good Buy 3741 Highland 2-1-1 . . . . $25T
1804 39th 3-1, covered patio, needs TLC $37T
New on the Market 3-1-cp, Investors $25T
5404 Cedar Creek- Reduced 3-2½-2 LA's .$90's
2202 41st - CUTE 3-1, den . . . . . $20's
3002 37th - Motivated Seller 2-1, rear cp $40's
2108 42nd 3-1-1 . . . . . $30's
Hermleigh 3 bedroom house w/3 apartments $89T

OTHER LISTINGS

2105 42nd - Cute 3-1 . . . . . $20's
1508 Preston Trail - Quality & Design 3-2-2LA's Double fireplace tile floors .Call
2510 Towel Park Rd. 3-2 . .Reduced $79T
513 34th Updated 2-1, Great rental prop. $20T
One of a kind! Custom, 2605 33rd . . .Call

COUNTRY HOMES

4483 F.M. 1607 Country at its best!! 3-2-2cp 2 acres . . . . . $60's
7507 FM 1607 - Great 3-2-den, FP, 5 A's $75T
2476 Uvalde Contract Pending Reduced $30's
New Listing Close in, 4-3, 3 acres . . .$68T
S. 208- Custom 2-2, barn, shop w/10 A's Must See!
Reduced - Hermleigh - Good 80 acre farm 20 plus buildings, 3-3½-2 . . . . . .Call
C-City - 5 bedrooms with 10 acres $31.9T

LAKE PROPERTY

C-City - 2050 LCR 252 Brick doublewide plus small guest house . . . . . $100's
New - Lake Champion - 3-1½-cp, dock, wood deck, shop, pool . . . . . $50's

COMMERCIAL

401 37th Great Location for offices, salon, etc **$47.5T**
5109 College Comm. Lot 2 acres . . .$90's
College Ave. Frontage, over 7 acres . . .Call

LAND

Lot - Prime Location, Colonial Hills . . .$3,400
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40% off on a large selection of books.

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DEC 22 2002

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Real Estate

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage plus office. 1650 sq.ft. 3404 Kerrville. $75,000. Call 574-2668.

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2-1 home. Nice & clean. Low down payment. $200-$250 monthly. 806-790-0827

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3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, w/patio, brick home, CH/A.
2803 38th 806-790-0827

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Corner 3-1¾-2 + RV shed + shop & other
Gorgeous Home 1986 Sq. Ft. on 12 + Acres
Lrg. Home Nice neighborhood 5-1¾ ..$59.5T
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Stock Farm 146 Acres Near Dermott
REDUCED! 2510 Towle Park Rd 3-2-2cp, 1Acre
Mobile Home Site w/Privacy Fence 807 16th St.
5 Business Shopping Complex 606 Coliseum
2 Living Areas, 3-1¾-1+2cp....2111 43rd
Nice Storm Cellar 3-2-2cp 314 36th $37.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
1.89 Acres 2-1-2cp South of Hermleigh.....$20T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
20 Acres 4-1¾-2 Beautiful Pool & Yard
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call

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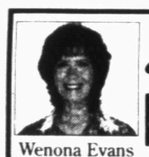

Keith Hackfeld
573-2873

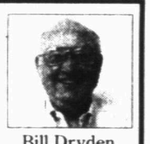
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

1508 Preston Trail 3-2-2 Very Nice $147.5T
3003 40th St 4-2-1 .....$27.5T
Comm. Bldg. w/paved parking...401 37th
3211 Cherry 4 CONTRACT PENDING .5T
3766 Ave. V 2-1-1, CH/A.....$14.5T
Country! Brick 2-1½, w/FP 13 A's $38T
Rolling Hills Rd. 5 acres w/well, electricity $12.5T
New Listing! 3402 40th 3-1½, corner lot $48.9T
5603 Cedar Creek RV Garage Reduced Call
2556 CR 31 CONTRACT PENDING $65T
320 Acres IRA.....Call
513 34th 2-1, Clean, Nice!.....$17T
Commercial Lot 2101 College Ave. Reduced
900 25th, 2309 25th, 2703 College Call
1801 22nd Reduced Comm. 7 offices/yd
2605 33rd Magnificent Custom Built Home
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6 to 22 acres tracts ... Owner Finance
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105 23rd 3-2 + cp w/shop, 9 A's, lots of extras
City Block on 21st plus more ..$7T
Commercial: 1706 25th St. ...CALL
3104 41st 3-1¾-2cp.....$55T
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1505 39th CONTRACT PENDING .$34T

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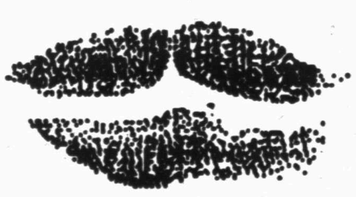

Kayla Moreland
573-4809

We Hope You Have A Safe & Happy Holiday Season

Ready to work for you! List with us.

1508 Preston Trail 3-2-2 LA's-2, FP
2409 36th 3-3-3, office Red. $155T
2800 34th 3-3-2 LA's, pool Red. $149.9T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2 .....$87.5T
4105 Jacksboro 3-2-2 .....$85T
2501 32nd - 3-2, office, 2 living areas, pretty decor. $84.5T
2950 Gary Brewer Rd 3-2½-1-shop $79.5T
3004 Beaumont 3-2 liv-2-2 ..$79.5T
3309 Ave U 3-2-2 .....$79.5T
2510 Towle Park 3-2-2cp ...$79T
3600 41st 3-2-2 .....$78.5T
2200 30th 3-2½-2, 2 LA's Red. $75T
2204 45th 3-2-2 living areas $75T
2808 47th 3-2, 2 LA's Reduced $69.5T
4505 Denison 3-1¾-1 .....$68T
2303 43rd 3-2-2 .....$65T
1710 37th 3-2-2 Reduced to $60T
7233 W Hwy 180 3-2-3, 2.5 acres $55T
2209 30th 3-2-1 + 1cp Reduced $49.5T
2203 43rd 3-2-1 .....$45T
2108 41st 4-2 living-1 .....$45T
2315 42nd 4-2 .....$43.5T
3742 Avondale 3-2-1 .....$37T
2609 Ave. U Duplex $35T
E. 23rd Mobile Home 3-2, 1 acre ..$33T
2405 40th CONTRACT PENDING 50
207 36th 3-2-1cp $32.5T
West 180 3-1-2 .....$31.5T
W. Hwy 180 3-2, 1 acre $30T
2307 28th 2-1-shop $25T
501 35th 2-1 .....$22.5T
Hermleigh 2-1 SOLD ...$6,500
McBeth Pecan Farm House, 15+ acres, some equipment included ..Call
E. 180 Lots avail. w/mobile hook-ups Bldg. suitable for shop on 4 lots. ...Call
Comm. Bldg Westerner Golf $49T
College Ave. Large office Bldg. ..$48T
Car Lot w/Comm. Bldg 709 Hwy 180 $40T
600 37th Large Comm. Bldg ...Call
3607 College - Lg Comm. Bldg Call
Comm. Buildings downtown ....Call

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snydertex.com/stevensonrealestate/index.htm



Kiss unwanted items goodbye

by selling them in the
Snyder Daily News CLASSIFIEDS

573-5486

U.S. anti-terror war casualties listed

By The Associated Press

U.S. soldiers killed or wounded in the anti-terror campaign:

— Oct. 10: Air Force Master Sgt. Evander Earl Andrews, 36, Solon, Maine, killed in a heavy-equipment accident in the northern Arabian peninsula. The first death in the campaign.

— Oct. 19: Army Rangers Pfc. Kristofor Stonesifer, 28, Doylestown, Pa., and Spc. Jonn J. Edmunds, 20, Cheyenne, Wyo., killed in crash of Black Hawk helicopter in Pakistan.

— Nov. 7: Sailor Bryant L. Davis, 20, of Chicago, a fireman apprentice, declared dead after he fell overboard from an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea.

— Nov. 25: CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann, 32, of Winfield, Ala., killed by rioting prisoners at Mazar-e-Sharif. First American killed in action in Afghanistan.

— Nov. 29: Pvt. Giovany Maria, 19, New York, shot to death in Uzbekistan, where about 1,000 members of the Army's 10th Mountain Division were stationed. Officials say death under investigation, not the result of enemy action.

— Dec. 5, 2001: Staff Sgt. Brian "Cody" Prosser, 28, Frazier Park, Calif.; Master Sgt. Jefferson Donald Davis, 39, Watauga, Tenn.; and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Petithory, 32, Cheshire, Mass., killed in Afghanistan when a U.S. bomb missed its target.

— Jan. 4: Army Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, 31, San Antonio, killed in vicinity of Khost, near the Pakistan border. The first U.S. soldier killed by the enemy.

— Jan. 9: Capt. Matthew W. Bancroft, 29, Redding, Calif.; Capt. Daniel G. McCollum, 29, Irmo, S.C.; Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson, 36, Montgomery, Ala.; Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen, 37, New York; Sgt. Nathan P. Hays, 21, of Wilbur, Wash.; Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Bertrand, 23, Coos Bay, Ore.; and Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters, 25, Gary, Ind., all Marines, killed in the crash of tanker plane into a mountain in Pakistan.

— Jan. 20: Staff Sgt. Walter F. Cohee III, 26, Wicomico, Md., and Sgt. Dwight J. Morgan, 24, Mendocino, Calif., both Marines, killed when their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crashed while on a resupply mission. Five other Marines injured.

— March 2: Army Chief Warrant Officer Stanley L. Harriman, 34, of Wade, N.C., was killed by enemy fire during an assault on Taliban and al-Qaida fighters regrouping in eastern Afghanistan; Lt. Cmdr. Christopher M. Blaschum, 33, of Virginia Beach, died after ejecting from his F-14 Tomcat fighter jet that crashed during a training exercise in the Mediterranean Sea.

— March 4: Seven American soldiers were killed and 11 were wounded when two helicopters took enemy fire in the largest allied air and ground offensive of the war.

— March 28: Chief Petty Officer Matthew J. Bourgeois, 35, of Tallahassee, Fla., is killed by a land mine during a training mission near Kandahar. Another serviceman is wounded.

— May 19: Sgt. Gene Vance Jr., U.S. Special Forces soldier, is killed while on patrol in eastern Afghanistan after his unit comes under heavy fire.

— Aug. 7: Sgt. 1st Class Christopher James Speer, 28, of Albuquerque, N.M., dies of wounds received July 27 in an ambush in eastern Afghanistan. Four other American soldiers are injured.

— Aug. 19: Two U.S. Special Operations soldiers wounded while on an intelligence gathering operation in central Afghanistan. One soldier is shot in the calf, the other in the upper thigh.

— Nov. 27: Gunmen ambush a U.S. special forces convoy in eastern Afghanistan, wounding one soldier in the leg. He was riding in a convoy of pickup trucks near the town of Gardez when as many as six gunmen in civilian clothes shot at them with Kalashnikov rifles.— Dec. 18: Two U.S. soldiers and their Afghan interpreter are injured in the first-ever grenade attack on American forces in the Afghan capital, Kabul. One of the soldiers suffers an eye injury and the second is wounded in the leg.

— Dec. 21, 2002: A U.S. soldier is killed in a firefight with enemy forces in eastern Afghanistan.

— Dec. 21, 2002: Two other American soldiers are wounded in separate incidents, one when rockets are fired at a U.S. compound in Asadabad, in northeastern Afghanistan.

Mother of Dr. Laura slain in Beverly Hills

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Telling her audience, "I have to talk to you listeners about something," radio host Dr. Laura then dropped a bombshell: "You may have already heard that my mother was found murdered."

The host, whose full name is Laura Schlessinger, made the announcement at the conclusion of her radio program Friday, adding during an emotional statement that she and her mother had been estranged for many years.

"I do pray that she is at peace and (am) confident that the Police Department will be able to bring justice to this situation. But I am overwhelmed by sadness," she said.

The body of Yolanda Schlessinger, 77, was found Monday in her Beverly Hills condominium. Police would say only she had been dead for a long time.

On Friday, Laura Schlessinger took calls from people with problems and administered her typically blunt advice before mentioning her mother's slaying in the final minutes of her last broadcast of the year.

"Because this is an ongoing homicide investigation I cannot say very much about the circumstances surrounding this unbelievable and tragic event," she told her radio audience.

"But I'm, of course, shocked and horrified that she would be the victim of a violent crime, and it's so hard — it's so hard to imagine — so hard to get that reality into your head. Emotions rise up and (you) feel the clinch in your chest, but your IQ is still going, 'I don't get it.'

Beverly Hills police Lt. Gary Gilmond said authorities had not yet positively identified the body, but indicated there was no reason to doubt it was that of the talk show host's mother.

"We have notified Dr. Laura," he said.

The body was discovered when officers made a check at a North Palm Drive residence after a neighbor became concerned about not seeing the woman for several weeks.

The investigation has yet to narrow down the date of death.

Laura Schlessinger said her mother had shut the family out of her life for years.

"And I guess one of the reasons I am so clearly committed to the sanctity of the family and protection of children and the welfare of children in my books and on this radio program is quite frankly because I was not fortunate enough to grow up in a loving, close-knit family myself," she said.

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due to their undivided and unconditional care. Thanks to the Snyder Police Dept., Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd, the deputy, EMS and ER staff.

Again,
Thank you!

THANK YOU

The family of Audry Head wishes to express their deepest gratitude to all family, friends, and neighbors for the prayers, food, and kindness shown during this difficult time.

A special thank you to Dr. Jim Burleson and the Hospice Odyssey Team. We also want to extend a very special thank you to the 4th floor Cogdell employees for all their wonderful love and support the past 8 years.

Bonnie Head & family

THANK YOU

To those who expressed their sympathy in so many beautiful and practical ways during our recent bereavement, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

The family of Kelly Southard

Ask Hollywood By Holly Wood

Talia Shire's 'Dunwich' detour

Q: My friend likes scary movies, and he and I saw "The Dunwich Horror." I think it came out in 1970. I couldn't catch all of the opening credits, but I saw an actress named Talia Coppola. Is she related to Francis Ford Coppola? Who else starred in this thriller, and wasn't there a sequel? — P.B., Tulare, Calif.

A: Talia Coppola is Francis Ford Coppola's sister. "The Dunwich Horror" was released in 1970, and it was Talia's second feature film. Movie fans will recognize her as Talia Shire, who played Connie in the "Godfather" trilogy and Adrian in the "Rocky" movies. "The Dunwich Horror" starred Sandra Dee, Dean Stockwell and Ed Begley. It doesn't have a sequel, but many works by H.P. Lovecraft, who wrote the "Dunwich Horror" in 1929, were turned into movies.

Q: Please provide me with the address for the Lifetime cable network's "Women Docs" and "Beyond Chance." **— V.P., North Little Rock, Ark.**

A: You can write to the people at "Beyond Chance" and "Women Docs" at 3727 West Magnolia Blvd., No. 813, Burbank. CA 91510. You can also send e-mail to the folks at Lifetime through their Web site at www.lifetimetv.com.

Q: Please tell me what Brent Spiner and Gates McFadden, from "Star Trek: The Next Generation," are doing. McFadden was on some crummy show for a brief time, but I haven't seen Spiner in anything. **— J.H., Helena, Ark.**

A: You can see both actors in the newest "Trek" movie, "Star Trek: Nemesis," which is now playing in theaters. (Spiner also co-wrote "Nemesis" with John Logan and Rick Berman.) Recently, he was in the movies "Master of Disguise," "Dating Service" and "I Am Sam," and next year he'll appear in the TV movie "This Much I Know." McFadden's most recent screen work was a guest spot on "The Division," but she has also appeared in "All My Children" and the TV movie "Crowned and Dangerous." She has done some stage work as well.

Q: There is a scene in "The Wizard of Oz" where Dorothy (Judy Garland), the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) and the Tin Man (Jack Haley) are skipping down the road away from the Tin Man's cottage. In the background, you see what appears to be someone small climbing up a tree and then dangling back and forth in the air. My daughter swears that it is a disgruntled Munchkin who committed suicide on the set because he did not get a lead part in a movie for which he auditioned. I find this story really hard to believe. Can you give me the real story? **— S.C., East Galesburg, Ill.**

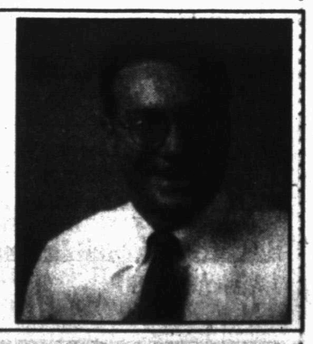
A: You're referring to one of the most popular urban legends in cinematic history. One version has the supposedly suicidal Munchkin killing himself over unrequited love for another Munchkin on the set. I can assure you that no Munchkins were killed during the making of "The Wizard of Oz." The visual was most likely created by a misplaced boom mike in the background, but I've heard some people theorize that it was a bird or a stagehand who got caught in the shot.

TRIVIA: Judy Garland earned $500 per week for her work in "The Wizard of Oz."

(Send your questions to Ask Holly Wood, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, or write to HollyWood85@hotmail.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Fat burning foods: a myth

DEAR DR. GOTT: Do you have a list of "fat burning" foods, or is there a book on the subject?

DEAR READER: Although there is no such thing as a food that helps the body to burn fat, it's certain that someone somewhere has probably written a book about this non-topic. I pass.

In the body, fat is stored energy. The calories in the food we eat are either used immediately (for heat, metabolic needs and muscle work) or changed into fat for later use. Whether we are "burners" or "storers" is largely a question of inheritance. That is, whether we are fat or skinny depends, of course, on what (and how much) we eat — but also on genetic influences.

In either case, when the energy demands of metabolism exceed the caloric consumption, the body calls upon the fat to provide the difference. This is how stout people can lose weight: By reducing the amount of food (and calories), the body is forced to use the fat it has in reserve. There is no food that accelerates this process; it occurs in each of us as according to a highly individualized genetic plan.

People can lose weight quickly if their metabolism is turned up, such as in hyperthyroidism, or if they use diuretic medication that causes the kidneys to excrete water-weight. However, these are not natural, healthful ways to burn excess calories.

I should add, at this juncture, that there are "weight-loss experts" who practice in most large cities — very successfully, too. These doctors typically demand that their patients (who may pay up to $200 for an office visit) consume a pill cocktail every day. This consists of a prescription stimulant (to suppress appetite), a thyroid supplement, a diuretic, a mineral (to compensate for the potassium deficiency that may result from the diuretic), and Heaven knows what else. Sure, people can lose weight on such an aggressive (and potentially harmful) program, but after the weight-loss — what? Are these victims then expected to continue the unhealthful program? If they don't, they'll surely gain back the weight. I cannot believe the number of people who are suckered into these quick-fix stunts. You'd think they put their brains on autopilot.

The secret of a healthful weight-reduction plan is that it should be easy, safe, cheap and appealing for chronic (or intermittent) use. Forget fat-burning foods.

I have developed such a diet plan. It doesn't get any simpler: no flour, no sugar. Moreover, I now have hundreds of letters from readers who have successfully followed this diet.

Therefore, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Weight Loss," that includes my no flour, no sugar diet. Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it true that sleeping on your back tends to keep your stomach flat, the wrinkles out of your face and your breathing more regular.

DEAR READER: No. The one exception is sleep apnea, marked by excessive snoring and slowed respiration. In this instance, sleeping on the stomach (or one side or the other) may improve breathing. However, as a general rule, sleeping positions play no role whatsoever in helping paunch or wrinkles.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I read your column on athlete's foot. I, too, suffered this while growing up, and my mother treated it by having me stand barefooted in fresh cow manure. I know this sounds pretty far-fetched, but it really works. Maybe your readers can find relief this way.

DEAR READER: Thank you for your suggestion — I think. I don't know how many of the urban and suburban public would be willing to try your remedy. Perhaps more than I predict. From your brief description, however, I wonder if there might not be some distressing social consequences of standing in cow manure. But that could be a topic for a future essay.

By the way, what on earth do you do while standing in cow manure? Look around and wonder about who's watching you? Meditate about what you did wrong to deserve this? Memorize the Gettysburg address? Make a mental list of all the demagogues and dictators actively supported by the U.S. government?

Also do you have to stand in the stuff for it to be effective? Why can't you sit down and wiggle your toes in it? If so, what would be the most appropriate reading material to pass a few glorious minutes while you perch on a stool with your feet ankle-deep in cow plop? All this for a 10-cent case of athlete's foot? What about jock itch? I could go on, but I won't. Let me shift gears.

I knew I would be in for some interesting mail when, several months ago, at the conclusion of answering a reader's question about using the veterinary skin ointment Bag Balm on chapped human hands, I requested information about the use of other veterinary products on people. I was deluged with letters. Therefore, I'll take some time now to share with you some of the responses I received.

Several readers mentioned how effective hoof hardener is for brittle nails. "Straight Arrow" was a popular brand. It costs about $8 for a 2-pound can. This is a deal, folks.

Hoofsaver (probably related to the above compound) was touted as a great cure for rough heels. When massaged into toenails and dry, cracked skin of the feet, the product produces astounding results.

Phillip's Corona Ointment, which supposedly has multiple uses on the farm, cures diaper rash and, some readers claim, any kind of chronic skin irritation caused by urine or perspiration.

Clean kerosene works as an antiseptic for cuts and abrasions.

OrthoSoap, which is used to wash livestock, comes in gallon jugs. It's great for laundering sweaters and makes an efficient, inexpensive shampoo. (Don't ask me to verify this; I'm merely passing on information.) According to one reader, OrthoSoap is often used in commercial dry-cleaning establishments to hand wash delicate fabrics.

My favorite response came from a horse-breeding family in Colorado. I guess some horses are worth more than humans, in dollar amounts. Therefore, horses have a whole line of cosmetics that are believed to be as effective as products for humans at a fraction of the cost. Shampoos and hair conditioners are, it seems, as appropriate for a woman's mane as for the pampered thoroughbred. In fact, out West, some beauty parlors are using equine cosmetics. "Soft and Silky," "Mane Tamer" and "Silk Shine" are popular items that can be purchased by the case for far less than the familiar human equivalents. The horse breeders concluded that these products "don't make a stallion a better sire, a mare a better brood, or a gelding any better a riding horse." But they look better, and who knows what marvelous repercussions could befall a woman with the horse sense to shop from veterinary salesmen, rather than pay the department store mark-up?

Finally, Bag Balm really does cure chapped, raw, cracked skin. After all, generations of cows swear by it.

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

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Frist ready to step up as Senate majority leader to replace Lott

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took Republicans little time to anoint Bill Frist as Senate majority leader after Trent Lott's historic resignation over his apparent nostalgia for segregation, and not long for critics to launch a scrutiny of Frist's own history with race.

While Frist seems a shoo-in — none of the 51 GOP senators challenged him after Lott's resignation Friday — the Tennessee heart surgeon faced questions about allegations of minority intimidation during this year's Senate race and his former membership in a white-only country club.

Senate Republicans didn't seem too concerned, rushing to endorse their affable colleague. They planned a conference call Monday to tally votes — although interviews by The Associated Press Friday showed Frist has more than the 26 votes he needs when the GOP takes over the Senate Jan. 7.

The party wants to repair its relations with America's minorities and move on to this year's congressional agenda.

But Democrats said letting Lott go would not end the discussion on race started by the Mississippian at the 100th birthday party for South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond on Dec. 5. Lott said Americans would have been better served had Thurmond won his 1948 segregationist campaign for president.

"Sen. Lott's remarks represent a symptom of a much larger problem his resignation does not solve," Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said in a statement.

Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, called Friday for a Justice Department investigation of allegations that the National Republican Senatorial Committee — run by Frist — was behind the intimidation of minority voters during this year's election.

"Sen. Frist owes us a full accounting," Conyers said.

The nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity pointed out that Frist, 50, was a member of the then all-white Belle Meade Country Club in Nashville, Tenn., before entering public life. He resigned from the club before running for Senate in 1994, saying he left because of the impression it left with voters.

Frist's past drew other spotlights as well. Consumer groups criticized Frist for owning stocks in HCA, the nation's largest for-profit hospital chain, which settled allegations of health care fraud this week for $631 million. HCA's founders include Frist's late father and brother.

The Humane Society raised Frist's shamefaced confession in a 1989 book to adopting cats as a medical student, and then experimenting on them. "We hope that the drive behind that pattern of behavior has been fully purged," said Wayne Pacelle, the Humane Society's senior vice president.

Frist, known to be close to President Bush, would offer the GOP a fresh face who often comes across in a reassuring manner.

When an anthrax-laden letter surfaced in the office of Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle's office a year ago, Frist — who periodically performs medical procedures in hospitals in the United States and Africa — led an effort to calm his colleagues and worried Americans.

He also has been a leading Republican on health care issues, and many Republicans say they believe he may consider a presidential run in 2008.

Frist said nothing about his candidacy for the Senate leadership Friday after being approached by several senators asking him to seek the job, only praising Lott for making "the selfless decision."

Leadership elections are notoriously unpredictable affairs in which promised votes fail to materialize and lawmakers' decisions are based on personal relationships, past conflicts and any number of unpredictable factors.

But most of Frist's Republican colleagues praised him and said the eight-year Senate veteran and millionaire heart surgeon would be good for the party.

"I am confident he will lead the Republican Party to accomplish important priorities for the American people," said Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., who was considered a potential rival of Frist.

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Appeals court nixes $32 million judgement in toxic mold case

AUSTIN (AP) — In a high-profile case involving a mold-damaged home, a state appeals court on Thursday reduced a jury verdict against Farmers Insurance Group from $32 million to $4 million plus interest and attorneys fees.

The Third District Court of Appeals said a Farmers affiliate violated the state Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

But the court rejected the jury's findings that Farmers committed fraud and failed to deal fairly with Melinda Ballard, who had sued over water and mold damage in her 22-room Southern mansion in Dripping Springs.

The appeals court left intact a $4 million award for actual damages but threw out $17 million for mental anguish and punitive damages. The court also threw out assorted small fees and ordered that $8.9 million in attorney's fees be recalculated and likely reduced.

Ballard's case was probably the most prominent of many mold claims filed recently against insurers in Texas. Ballard, dressed in a gas mask and head-to-toe white protective suit, was pictured on the cover of the New York Times Magazine last year.

The huge jury verdict for Ballard last year sent shock waves through the homeowners insurance industry, which has blamed rising claims for mold and water damage as a key reason behind escalating premiums.

Farmer's saw a measure of redemption in the appeal court's ruling Thursday.

"We are pleased that the court affirmed everything that we said all along; that we did not commit fraud or knowingly act in bad faith," said Michelle Levy, a spokeswoman for Los Angeles-based Farmers.

Farmers is the state's second-largest home insurer with about 700,000 Texas customers.

Ballard said she would appeal the reduced verdict, which could take the case to the Texas Supreme Court.

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DEC 22 2002

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — Hours after a top American commander warned that coalition troops in Afghanistan face the threat of increased attacks, a U.S. soldier was killed in a firefight Saturday while another was injured by rocket fire in a separate incident.

The slain soldier was shot while on a nighttime operation in the eastern province of Paktika, near the border of Pakistan. His name was not released until his family could be notified.

He was the first U.S. soldier killed in combat in Afghanistan since May.

Also Saturday, a German military helicopter crashed near the Kabul airport, killing five peacekeepers aboard and two civilians on the ground, officials said. There was no immediate information about the cause. British Maj. Gordon MacKenzie, spokesman for the peacekeepers, said the helicopter had not been fired upon.

Elsewhere, two U.S. soldiers were injured in separate incidents and an American base came under rocket fire — underscoring the continuing danger in Afghanistan.

On Friday, Lt. Gen. Daniel K. McNeil, a top U.S. commander in the region, warned that more attacks on American and allied troops were likely.

"Is there likely to be an increase in hostile acts against the coalition? I think yes," McNeill told The Associated Press in an interview.

McNeil, speaking from the U.S. command center at Bagram Air Base, said American forces were stepping up reconstruction efforts in the war-battered nation, but their first priority was to hunt down terrorists — and that job was not over.

"We have not in my view captured or killed all the terrorists in Afghanistan," he said. "Some of them have gone underground so deep that it's difficult for me to put an absolute mark on them."

About 8,000 American troops are deployed across the mountainous nation.

President Bush scrubs planned trip to Africa

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraq crisis intensifying, President Bush called off a planned trip to Africa next month to focus on his looming decision — expected in several weeks — whether to go to war to disarm Saddam Hussein's regime.

Hoping to increase pressure on Saddam to fully disclose and dispose of his weapons of mass destruction, Bush had already given the go-ahead to double the 50,000 U.S. troop deployment in the Persian Gulf region in early January, a senior administration official said Friday.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is expected to sign the deployment order in the next week or two as part of what another official called "a ramping up on various fronts."

A senior White House official, speaking like others on condition of anonymity, said the biggest international concern with Bush's Africa trip, which had been scheduled for Jan. 10-17, was the conflict with Iraq. Bush did not want to be out of the country and away from his foreign policy team during a crucial decision-making period.

The official advised against interpreting the postponement as any signal that Bush intends to speed up his timetable for the war decision.

But on Jan. 27, United Nations weapons inspectors are due to report their findings on Iraqi compliance with the recent U.N. Security Council resolution demanding that Saddam give up his weapons voluntarily. That is the point at which Bush is expected to choose whether to proceed with a military campaign — with or without Security Council approval.

Asked Friday if the United States and Iraq were now on a path toward war because of U.S. concerns with Saddam's 12,200 pages of U.N.-mandated weapons inventory, the president replied that the "document was not encouraging."

"The world spoke clearly that we expect Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm," he said.

Bush, meeting with U.N., European Union and Russian diplomats on a Middle East peace plan, said he will work with America's friends to enforce Security Council demands — if necessary through a U.S.-led war.

For now, he appears inclined to abide by the "two-step" process the French insisted upon, whereby the council reconvenes to decide consequences of any Iraqi violations.

"The commitment of the president to work with the United Nations, the commitment of the United States to try to make this U.N. process work has been strong and sustained," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

But other evidence that the United States and Britain were nonetheless ramping up for war came from British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Four brothers charged with aiding terrorists in custody

DALLAS (AP) — The most prominent defendant among four brothers charged with laundering money for a member of the militant group Hamas is not a flight risk and may be released from federal custody without having to post bond, a magistrate has ruled.

However, longtime Palestinian activist Ghassan Elashi and the other three remained Saturday at a federal detention center while a federal district judge considers the Friday ruling to detain two of the brothers and set two free.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Irma Ramirez on Friday ordered that two of the Elashi brothers — Ghassan, 49, and Basman, 46 — be freed because she said the government didn't present sufficient evidence that they were flight risks.

Ramirez ordered Basman released on $15,000 bail and Ghassan — the only U.S. citizen among the four — freed without bond.

The magistrate judge ruled that the other two — Bayan, 47, and Hazim, 41 — were a flight risk and should be detained by the U.S. Marshal's Service.

But all four remained in custody after Ramirez agreed to grant the government's request for a stay on her ruling while the government appeals.

Two persons booked into jail

Arrests

Two persons were booked into Scurry County Jail at 4:30 Friday afternoon after being transferred from California on local warrants.

Larry Beard, 47, had felony warrants for forgery and misdemeanor thefts, while Robin Thurmond, 25, had a felony warrant for forgery and motion to revoke probation.

At 6:22 p.m. Friday, a 39-year-old male was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant out of Runnels County.

Two persons were arrested early Saturday.

A 15-year-old female was taken into custody at 1:15 a.m. in the 3800 block of College Avenue for public intoxication and minor in possession of tobacco.

At 3:22 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 25-year-old female in the 1000 block of Avenue E for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Theft

At 3:42 p.m. Friday, Brian Moffett reported his wife's wedding and engagement rings had been stolen from Wal-Mart. An offense report for Class A theft was submitted.

Trespassing

Sandra Huddleston reported someone was trespassing on her property in the 300 block of 24th Street. A criminal trespass warning was issued in the case.

Music disturbance

Officers were called to the Westridge Apartments at 11:45 p.m. Friday in reference to loud music.

Flu

Continued From Page 1

cases of flu in the county, but was aware of the flu-like illness making the rounds.

And Nix reminded that flu vaccine is still available at the health unit.

"We give flu shots on Tuesdays and Thursdays," said Nix, noting that the office would be closed Christmas Eve.

Shots are given those two days from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and from 1:30-4 p.m.

"It takes two weeks to build up antibodies for the flu," said Nix. "Flu season runs into March and April so there is still time to get some protection from the illness."

Cost is $10, or senior citizens may file with Medicare.

The ideal time to get a flu shot is in the early fall months.

"We gave 749 flu shots in October, 194 in November and so far this month, over 160," said Nix.

While a flu shot is the best protection, good hand washing habits and avoiding people with coughs will help stop the spread of the disease.

An airborne disease, influenza is spread when a person who has it coughs, sneezes or speaks, sending the flu virus into the air.

The virus then enters the nose or throat of another person and begins to multiply, using the body's own cells to make more of itself.

Occasionally, flu may be spread when a person touches a surface that has flu virus on it — a door handle, telephone or drinking glass or cup, for example — and then touches his or her mouth or nose.

There is no drug to take to cure the flu, but recently developed antiviral medications might shorten the length of a flu illness.

Those who suspect they have the flu should consult with their physicians.

Most people who get the flu will recover in about two weeks, but the illness has the potential to develop into more serious problems such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

The flu can also aggravate chronic medical conditions such as asthma or heart disease.

Obituaries

Dorothy Simpson

1928-2002

Dorothy Jean Simpson, 74, died Friday, Dec. 20, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Simpson is set for 2 p.m. Sunday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of First Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.



Dot Simpson

Born Nov. 1, 1928, she married Fred Ellworth Simpson on Dec. 2, 1945. He died on June 19, 1998.

Mrs. Simpson was a homemaker and a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters-in-law, Jimmy Simpson of Snyder, Jacky and Vickie Simpson of Snyder and Joe and Beverly Simpson of Anna; and three grandsons, Cade Simpson and Kodee Villegas, both of Snyder, and Michael Franke of Tallahatchie, Miss.

Kathy Willis

1962-2002

COLORADO CITY — Kathy Willis, the sister of Mary Jo Kay of Snyder, died Thursday, Dec. 19, in a San Angelo hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Willis, 40, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Sammy Elliott officiating. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Born July 25, 1962 in Loraine, she married William Earl Willis on July 25, 1978. He died May 14, 1993. She also was preceded in death by her father, Charley Pilkington.

Mrs. Willis was a homemaker and a Baptist.

Survivors include her husband, Curtis Craghead of Colorado City; her mother, Jo Nell Pilkington of Colorado City; another sister, Gay Nell Massingill of Hobbs, N.M.; two brothers, Charles Ray Pilkington and Sammy Dean Pilkington, both of Hobbs; her mother-in-law, Kay Craghead of Colorado City; and her grandmother-in-law, Ginny Craghead of Colorado City.

Vicente Barrientez

1931-2002

Vicente Barrientez of Lubbock died Friday, Dec. 20, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Service for Mr. Barrientez, 71, is set for 10 a.m. Monday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born Dec. 13, 1931 in Snyder, he was married to Stella Rodriguez for 40 years.

Survivors include his wife, Stella Barrientez of Irving; two daughters, Gloria Nava of Amarillo and Teresa Bravo of Nashville, Tenn.; two sons, Sammy Romero of Irving and Joe Romero of Lubbock; three sisters, Margarita Barrientez, Carolina Ybarra and Nellie Martinez, all of Snyder; four brothers, Ernesto Barrientez of Midland, George Barrientez of Snyder, Nicholas Barrientez of Nashville and Samuel Barrientez of Amarillo; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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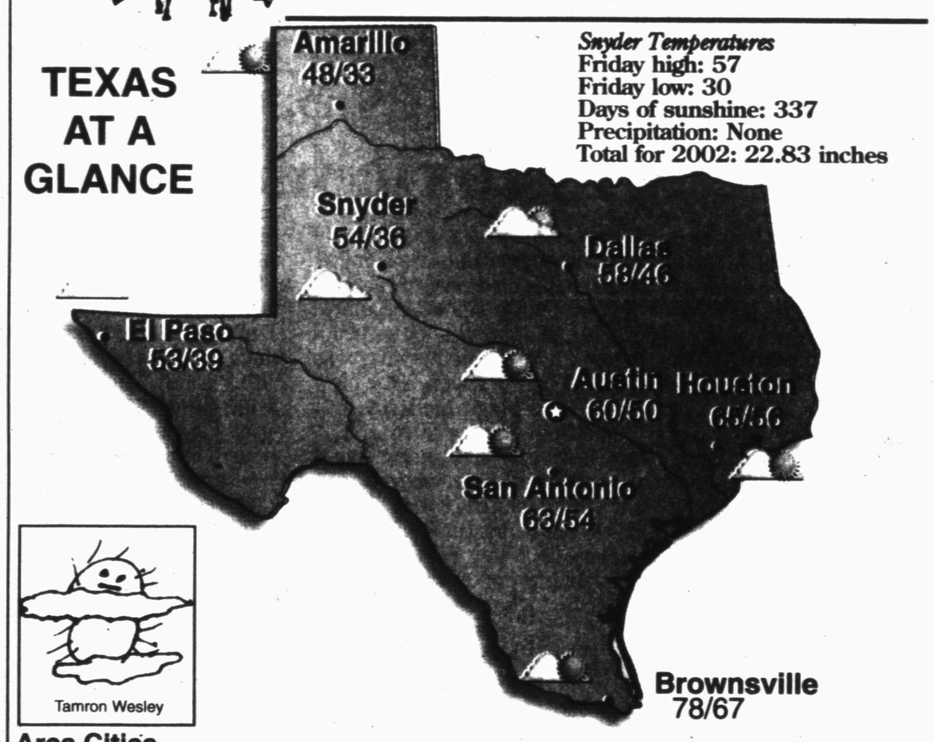
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 12/22	Mon 12/23	Tue 12/24
54/36	49/26	42/20
Cloudy skies. High 54F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	Rain at times. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	Mix of rain and snow. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 20s.
Sunrise 7:42 AM / Sunset 5:42 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM / Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM / Sunset 5:43 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Friday high: 57
Friday low: 30
Days of sunshine: 337
Precipitation: None
Total for 2002: 22.83 inches

Tamron Wesley

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	57	43	cloudy	El Paso	53	39	cloudy	Midland	56	37	cloudy
Amarillo	48	33	cloudy	Fort Stockton	59	42	cloudy	Raymondville	76	62	cloudy
Austin	60	50	cloudy	Gainesville	54	39	cloudy	Rosenberg	65	56	cloudy
Beaumont	64	55	cloudy	Greenville	55	40	pt sunny	San Antonio	63	54	cloudy
Brownsville	78	67	cloudy	Houston	65	56	cloudy	San Marcos	61	52	cloudy
Brownwood	60	44	cloudy	Kingsville	72	60	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	56	41	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	69	60	cloudy	Livingston	61	50	cloudy	Sweetwater	57	41	cloudy
Corsicana	59	46	pt sunny	Longview	58	44	pt sunny	Tyler	60	48	pt sunny
Dallas	58	46	pt sunny	Lubbock	52	35	cloudy	Weatherford	56	39	cloudy
Del Rio	65	52	cloudy	Lufkin	61	51	cloudy	Wichita Falls	55	41	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	57	32	pt sunny	Houston	65	56	cloudy	Phoenix	56	46	rain
Boston	46	35	cloudy	Los Angeles	58	46	rain	San Francisco	54	40	pt sunny
Chicago	34	24	pt sunny	Miami	78	68	pt sunny	Seattle	44	32	pt sunny
Dallas	58	46	pt sunny	Minneapolis	29	20	cloudy	St. Louis	43	30	pt sunny
Denver	39	16	pt sunny	New York	46	35	cloudy	Washington, DC	51	36	pt sunny

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 2	Jan 10

UV Index

Sun 12/22	Mon 12/23	Tue 12/24
Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

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

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Local/N

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By The A

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Early decision popular among high schoolers

By The Associated Press

The flow of early decision applications to America's top colleges and universities seems to have remained steady or even increased this fall, despite a growing debate in academic circles over whether such admissions are fair to students.

Precise statistics about the number of early decision applicants are spotty. But university and high school officials involved in the process said in interviews that this year's high school seniors are about as interested in early decision as students were in previous years.

Early decision is a policy that allows college applicants to apply to a school in the fall of their senior year, and then commits them to attending if they are accepted. One advantage to students is they have a better chance of being accepted by applying early.

The procedure has come under fire, however, for adding undue pressure to the already stressful college application process.

Critics say students are being forced into hasty decisions. They also charge early decision is unfair to students who need financial aid because it prevents them from shopping for a better deal.

Two academic powerhouses, Stanford and Yale, said in November that they were dumping their early decision policies next year. The universities will replace them with nonbinding "early action," which allows students to apply in the fall but also allows them to try to get into other schools.

While the Yale and Stanford cases drew attention to early decision policies and stirred debate in academe, most students were not affected, high school guidance counselors said.

"My estimation is that this is much ado about nothing," said Bob Turba, chairman of school counseling services at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Fla., where 10 percent to 15 percent of seniors made early decision applications this fall.

Turba said the overall portion of high school seniors who apply early to college is small, and those who do represent "the rich and famous syndrome, pretty much."

"The silent majority of American high school kids are struggling to get into community college and don't know what they want to do," he said.

Lisa Rosenberg, a policy analyst with the American Association of Registrars and College Admissions Officers, said the changes at Yale and Stanford may even have the unintended effect of increasing early decision applications elsewhere.

"The publicity has gone a long way in letting people know that (early decision) is available," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said "word of mouth" received by her association indicates a slight increase in early decision applications this year.

For current high school senior Matthew Baer of South Orange, N.J., early decision made sense.

Drawn to the University of Virginia by its architecture program, ambiance and the comparatively low tuition, Baer never considered applying anywhere else.

"One of the real bonuses is that you find out earlier if you do get in. It's a humongous relief. You don't have to do all those other applications and you don't have to worry about it again until May," said Baer, who was informed by Virginia early in December that he'd been admitted.

But many teenagers lack the focus of students such as Baer, according to Yale spokesman Tom Conroy.

Conroy said too many students are so interested in simply getting into a good school that they apply early decision — rather than seriously considering whether that school is the right fit for them. That's "backward," he said, and helped persuade Yale to get rid of the policy.

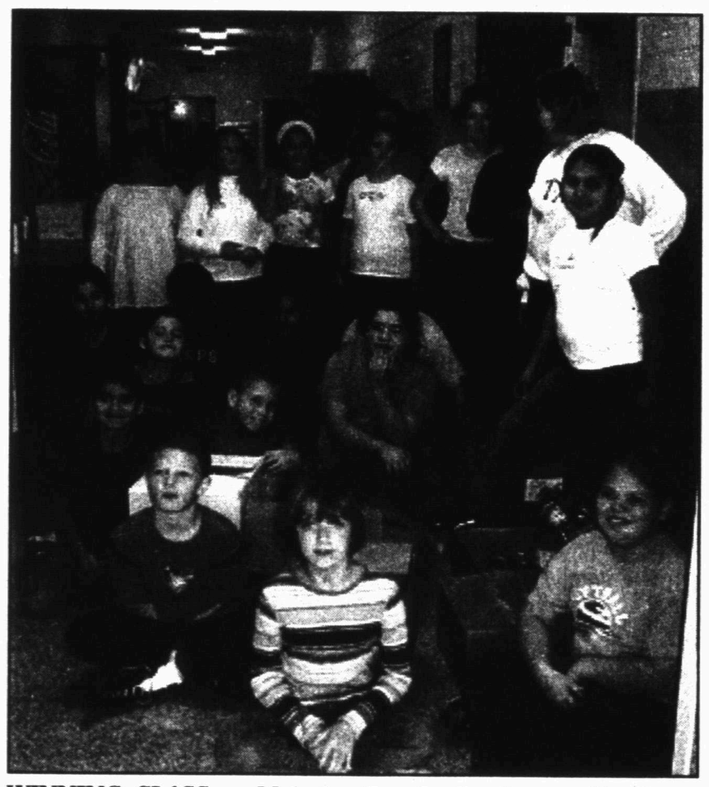
Officials at Alma College found the move from early decision to early action two years ago has hampered the central Michigan school's ability to plan ahead for the needs of the upcoming freshman class.

"It puts more burden on the institution, no doubt about it," said Paul Pollatz, Alma's director of admissions. "Because you can't sit there and project your class until later" in the admissions cycle.

The advantage an early commitment provides to both the school and its incoming students is one of the reasons Northwestern University, another elite school, is sticking with the process.

"We believe the students we admit in early decision are ready to make that commitment," said Keith Todd, Northwestern's director of undergraduate admissions.

On the Net:
American Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers:
http://www.aacrao.com



WINNING CLASS — Malcolm Crawford's class at Northeast Elementary collected the most cans during the Kiwanis Club's Goodfellows Food Drive. The school collected 980 cans in all. Crawford's students who collected 339 cans include: Steven Carey, Dylan Carrizales, Brittni Chaidez, Kristen Cortez, Tom Davis, Shehala Essery, Jacie Eveland, Jose Ferruzca, Chris Fuentez, Sergio Guajardo, Krystal Guerrero, Val Guzman, Arielle Huddleston, Jesica Kenly, Maggie Marshall, Kylie Moreland, Chelsea Moss, Kimberly Nolan, Janie Ornelas, Brailee Sanchez, David Sosa, Matthew Velasquez, Clint Wall, and Tayla Wesson. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



CENTRAL MATH WINNER — Ashton Lee won a portable CD/Radio Thursday. Lee is pictured with his teacher Kori Glenn. Central students take a math test every week and those making a perfect score get to put their name in a jar. Every six weeks a drawing is held for prizes like the portable CD player. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Space industry contractor pleased with site

HARLINGEN (AP) — Willacy County's proposed site for a spaceport is an excellent choice for suborbital launches, a NASA official and the president of Advance Propulsion Systems said Thursday after touring the area.

Mike Dunkel, president of the NASA contractor, and NASA Project Manager Roelf Schuiling took an aerial tour of the site Thursday. Both had been skeptical when they arrived that the site would be suitable for sub-orbital launches.

To qualify as a launch site, there can be no human population.

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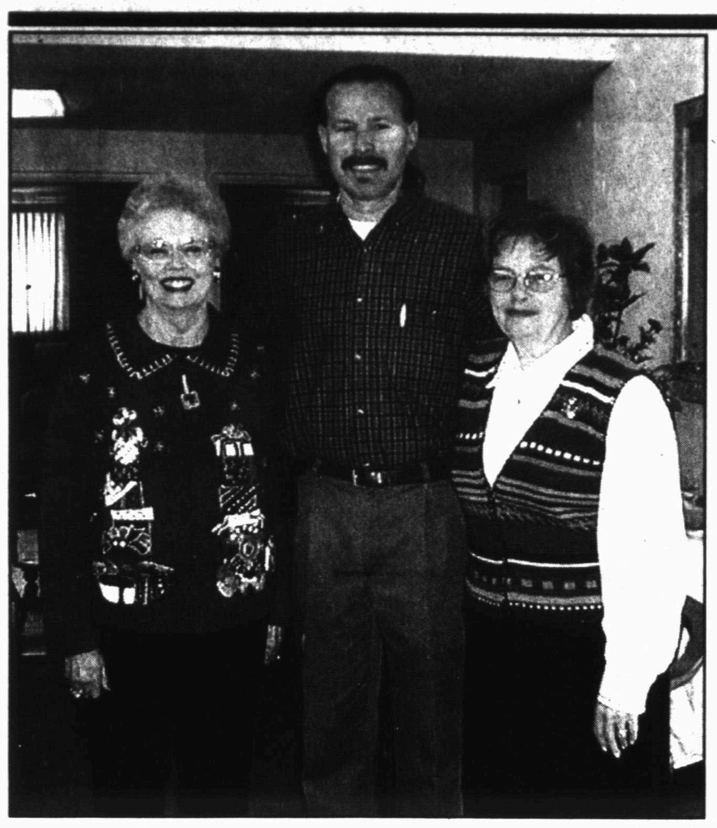
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ALTRURIAN DAUGHTERS CLUB LUNCHEON — Matt Cross, cardiac rehab coordinator at Cogdell Memorial Hospital and member of men's singing group, entertained members of the Altrurian Daughters Club at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. He sang several Christmas carols, and led the group in several songs. Hostesses were Jo Ann Peek, left, Jo Ann Littlepage and not pictured, Margaret Weaver. Altrurian Daughters will meet again on Jan. 8 when Judy English and Betsy Armstrong will present the program. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-21-02
♠ K
♥ Q J
♦ A Q 10 6 5
♣ Q J 10 9 4

West
♠ 9 8 3
♥ 10 6 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ K 7 3 2

East
♠ Q 10
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ J 7 4
♣ 8 6 5

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 5

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002

Three trips around the table

By Phillip Alder

This deal featured interesting play at three tables during the 2001 Casino Royal Aarhus Championship in Denmark. What should the result be in four spades after West leads a heart?

You don't like the one-spade opening? Europeans open lighter than Americans.

At the first table, East began with three rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing the last in the dummy. South played a club to his ace, cashed the spade ace, and led a low spade. However, East won with his queen and produced a fourth round of hearts to promote his partner's spade nine as the setting trick. If South ruffed low, West would overruff; if South trumped with his jack, West would discard.

At the second table, the declarer, Morten Stege, let West win trick three with his heart 10! Declarer won the diamond shift with dummy's queen, played off the spade king, led a club to his ace, and cashed the spade ace. When the queen dropped, Stege took the spade jack and claimed.

Finally, when Morten Bilde was sitting West, under the heart ace at trick two, he unblocked the 10. Now East continued with the winning heart nine, and the contract was unmakable. If declarer ruffed in the dummy, he would lose two trump tricks, as at the first table. If declarer discarded from the dummy, as at table two, a fourth heart would guarantee a trump trick for the defense.

How did Bilde find this defense? Apparently, he and his partner use MUD: middle-up-down from a low tripleton. So, he led the heart six at trick one, then followed with the 10 as part of the MUD convention!

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Always try to be a little kinder than is necessary.
—James Matthew Barrie

Hares are not true rabbits. In general, hares are larger and usually have longer ears and legs.

Davis, Zalman exchange vows

Stephanie Anne Davis and Zachary Tobias (Toby) Zalman exchanged solemn vows at 2 p.m. on July 20 in Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Dr. Tommy Culwell officiated the double-ring ceremony.

Judy and Delwyn Davis of Snyder are the bride's parents and Donna and John Zalman III of Hermleigh are the groom's parents.

The exchanging of vows were held in a setting decorated with columns draped with tulle and candles on either side. Tulle also draped the pews on the sides of the church and bows marked the family pews.

Alyssa Davis, sister of the bride from Snyder, and Tyler, brother of the groom from Hermleigh, were candlelighters.

Organist was Reba Bailey.

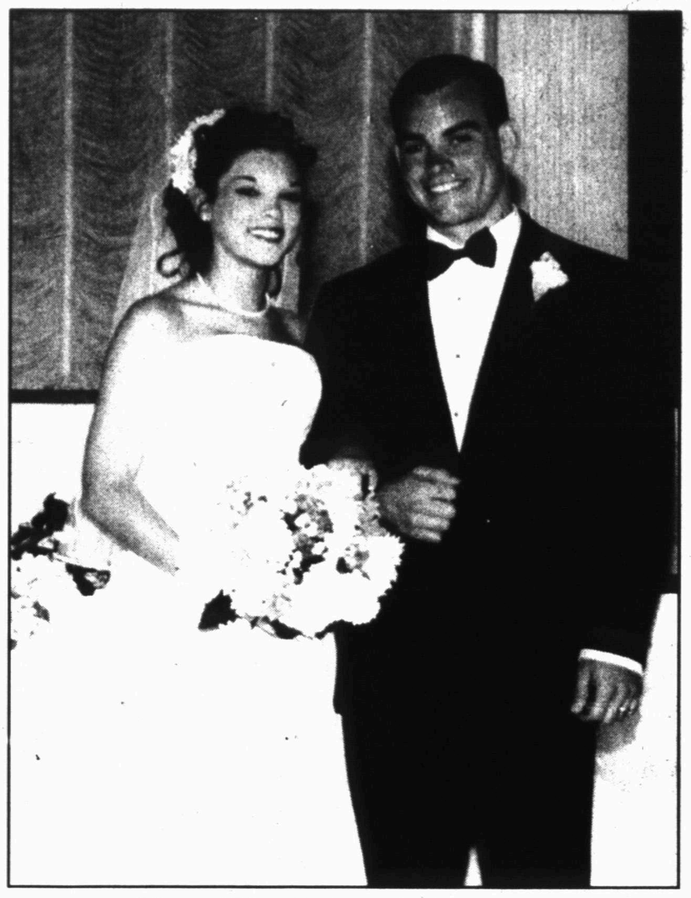
"From This Moment On," by Shania Twain was played as the family was being seated. The bride entered to the "Wedding March." While the couple lit the unity candle, "If There Hadn't Been You," by Billy Dean was played.

The bride's father presented her in marriage as she wore a gown by Lamour. Her sleeveless white polyester, mock two-piece gown had a bodice with white flowers embroidered on top and an A-line skirt. The bride's veil of tulle was attached to a leaf-design embellished headpiece. She carried a bouquet of white and blue daisies filled with baby's breath and greenery, and the stems were wrapped in blue satin ribbon. Alice Alvarez, friend of the groom's family, made the bouquet.

Maid of honor was Kayla Phillips and bridesmaid was Terra Kincade. They wore powder blue, full-length dresses featuring cutwork in the back with bows down the center back. Their bouquets were smaller versions of the bridal bouquet.

Flower girls were Baylee Ritchey, niece of the bride from Snyder, and Bethany Zalman, niece of the groom from Monahans. They wore white dresses with daisies around the empire waists and each wore a halo of daisies in her hair. They also gave daisies to guests as they walked down the aisle.

Best man was Nathan Zalman, brother of the groom from Lubbock and groomsman was Arron Stansell of Snyder. The three ushers included Bryan Ritchey, brother-in-law of the bride from Snyder, John Zalman IV, brother of the groom from Monahans and David Zalman, brother of the groom from Uvalde.



Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Tobias Zalman
(Contributed Photo)

The male attendants wore black tuxedos with black bow ties.

Laura Ritchey and Sarah Clay, sister and cousin of the bride respectively, were wedding coordinators.

The reception was held in the fellowship hall of the church featuring the bride's table centered with the three-tiered wedding cake. The cakes, on pedestals, were joined by a cascading arrangement of daisies, lilies, and roses. The bride's bouquet was the centerpiece. Brenda Clark made the bride's cake served by cousins of the bride Amanda Rankin and Jannica Northerns.

The groom's table was covered with a chocolate cake with a DPS badge covering the top of the cake and a small DPS car to the side. Josie Hernandez made the cake. A bouquet of fresh daisies centered the table where Robyn Zalman, sister-in-law of the groom from Monahans, and Johnnie Riggs from Colorado City served.

Their honeymoon trip was to Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels and their new home is in Canadian.

The bride, a 2001 Snyder High School graduate and former employee at Texas Savings Bank, now works at First State Bank in Canadian.

The groom graduated from SHS in 1999 and Western Texas College in 2001. He worked at the Scurry County Sheriffs Office in Snyder and graduated from the Department of Public Safety Academy July 12, 2002. He is employed in Canadian.

Some unusual New Year's resolutions

Here are ten unusual New Year's resolutions for diet hoppers and yo-yo dieters from weight-loss coach Linda Spangle, RN, MA, a leading authority on the psychological aspects of eating.

Spangle says you will lose weight and keep it off forever once you stop blaming your diet, the food you eat, or your willpower, and focus instead on why you eat.

Spangle is founder and director of WINNERS for Life, Inc., a Denver-based weight management program specializing in emotional eating. Serving as a referral source for more than 350 physicians, her clinic has a success rate that far exceeds the national average.

In her new book, Life Is Hard, Food Is Easy: The 5-Step Plan to Overcome Emotional Eating and Lose Weight on Any Diet (Lifeline Press, Jan. 2003), Spangle shows how we all engage in nonhunger eating at one time or another, and use food to deal with boredom, stress, and other emotions. She presents her successful five-step program including exercises, creative techniques, and tips that address the underlying eating behaviors and emotional issues most dieters ignore.

If your resolutions for 2003 include Start New Diet, Lose Weight, Spangle says cross that out and commit to these instead:

1. Eat when hungry, stop when full. Too hard? You are not alone. Try the next one.

2. Whenever you have a food thought or craving, ask yourself, Am I physically hungry?

3. If you are not physically hungry, ask yourself what you really want. Will food fix it?

4. Make a list of what you need in your life. Begin to address these needs and food will lose its power.

5. Find out how foods got linked to emotions in your life. Write down childhood memories and associations about eating and your favorite foods. This will be an eye-opener.

6. When you eat, eat very, very slowly. Set a timer for 20 minutes, and make your meal last that long, even if it is just one cookie. Savor every single bite. Appreciate food to the fullest.

7. Keep a list of activities handy, such as drinking ice water, stretching, walking, or calling a friend, that you can do the instant you want food for a reason other than hunger.

8. Ask yourself what is causing you to give up, cheat, slip, or lose motivation. Dig deeply until you get to that very last excuse, then work on changing it.

9. Eat regular meals and snacks to avoid getting too hungry or overeating at night.

10. Identify the people and situations in your life that stress you out. Pounds will drop and self-esteem will rise as you begin to deal with these.

Bridge Scores

Duplicate Bridge is played at the Snyder Country Club. Coleen Palmer directed Friday and Monte West directed Tuesday.

Friday, Dec. 13

A Group

1. Ann Spitler, Frances Stevenson.
2. Artie Harris, Gracie Craig.
3. Suzy Reed, Anita Talbott tied with Margaret Birdwell, Barbara Yorgesen.

B Group

1. Artie Harris, Gracie Craig.
2. Suzy Reed, Anita Talbott
3. Peggy Hardin, Christine Stuard.

Group C

1. Peggy Hartin, Christine Stuard.
2. Pat Floyd, Fritz Smith.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

1. Jane Hinton, Monte West.
2. Barbara Yorgesen, Dora Blakey.
3. Dorothy Rosson, Nonnie Ward.

Since the house is on fire let us warm ourselves.
—Italian proverb

If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.
—Anatole France

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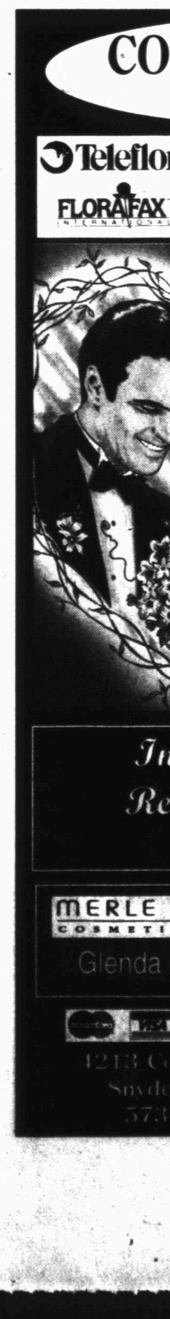


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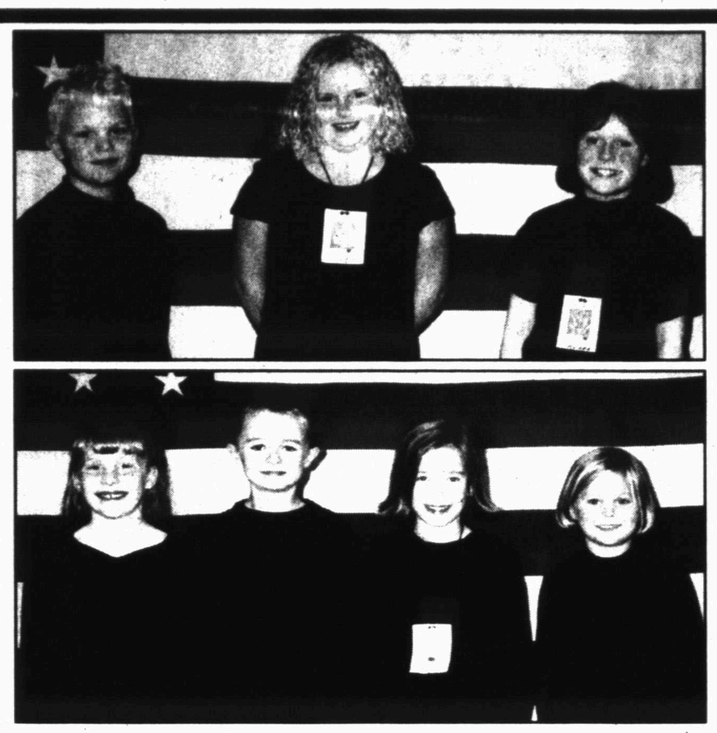
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MAGIC MUSIC MACHINE CONCERT — Lynn Baldwin's Studio of Music presented *Magic Music Machine Concert Tours* at the First Baptist Church on Nov. 23. Chicago, Ill.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; New York City and Washington, D.C. Pupils played at six keyboards featuring a song representing each city. From right are Joni Clay of Colorado City; Kelsey Shaw, Emily Jones, Glyn Wright and Zach Greenlee of Rotan. (Contributed Photos)



MORE PIANO STUDENTS — Members of the Tuesday Beginner Ensemble Group boarded the Magic Music Machine "See America" tour bus for a whirlwind trip to Rocky Top, Tenn, Springfield, Ill., Minneapolis, Minn.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Fargo, N.D.; and Billings, Mont. Students are Kobie and Kagan Benham and Autumn Posey, all of Rotan. The Friday Cubbie Bear Esemble took a balloon ride from Lubbock to an Indian Reservation for a pow wow; Padre Island for sailing on the Gulf of Mexico; Biloxi, Miss., to the circus and visit with the clown, Willie Way; on to Atlanta, Ga., to the zoo; and finally to Florida to perform for Mr. Party Cat. Pupils pictured are Averey Wright, Justin Haggard, Megan McWilliams, Blake Bethel, and not pictured Sarah Taylor, of Rotan.



OTHER PERFORMERS — Also choosing Stockholm, Sweden; Monte Carlo, Monaco; Naples, Italy; Isle of Crete; Tijuana, Mexico were performers Kate Wallace, Borden County; Leah Phillips, Carl Ramsey and Catherine Dolan of Colorado City; Devin Davidson. In the bottom photo, the Tuesday Ensemble chose to tour Boston, Mass.; Barcelona, Spain; Dresden House for Performing Artists in Germany; Helsinki, Finland; Sydney, Australia; Argentina as the famous group "Quatro". From left are J.D. Clay of Colorado City; Austin Owens, Brett Bowlin and Heather Posey of Rotan. The concert concluded with a parade of flags from 84 different countries and an international party in the garden room.





RECITAL HELD — Lynn Baldwin's Studio of Music presented Magic Music Machine Concert Tours in the First Baptist Church Chapel Nov. 23. In the top picture, the Thursday Ensemble Group chose a tour of music festival where they were invited to perform in Mexico City; Dublin, Ireland, Russia; India; Switzerland; and Paris, France. Pupils in second the picture, bottom row are, from left, Courtney Pollard; second row, Karissa Medina, Jordan Wright, Brooke Hall, of Haskell; William and Elizabeth Davis. Top row, Amanda Kerr, Nathan McCright, of Colorado City; Frances Leighton and Kailea Shaw. In the thrid picture the Monday Ensemble Group toured Alaska, Japan, Egypt, Scotland, England and U.S.A., where they spent 10 days performing in unique places. Pupils are bottom row, Scott Bankhead, of Roscoe; Jacob Kemp, Brodie Calley; top row, Madison Feaster, Laura Bankhead and Madison Black all of Roscoe. Not picture is Lauren McCall of Rotan.



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DEC 22 2002

Scurry County Library News & Views

By Janie Romine, librarian

Happy Holidays from the Scurry County Library.

Remove yourself from the hustle and bustle of the holidays by enjoying some quiet time at our facility. No matter your interest, we have the magazines or newspapers that you can enjoy.

Sit in the reading section and enjoy "Taste of Home" or "Sports Illustrated." Perhaps you want some ideas for building things or just crafts. No matter your interest, we have the magazine for you.

Holiday hours for the next two weeks are:

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 25, Closed

Thursday, Dec. 26 – Open 10 a.m.—6 p.m. (no evening hours)

Tuesday, Dec. 31, — Open 10 a.m.—6 p.m. (no evening hours)

Wednesday, Jan. 1, — Closed

Remember that you can pay off your video fines with canned food. For the next two weeks you may bring two cans for every dollar you owe. Clear your video fine so that you can check out some of our new books and videos.

The library staff wishes you meaningful times with your family and friends this Christmas season. Please drive safely and responsibly if you are traveling.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Thief returns nativity scene

EMBARRASS, Wis. (AP) — Whoever stole the baby Jesus from a church nativity scene in this central Wisconsin community apparently was too embarrassed by news reports to keep it.

After The Post-Crescent of Appleton ran a story on the theft Tuesday and area television stations reported on it, the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department called the Rev. Todd Jerabek to say the person who took the statue wanted to return it.

The statue and attached manger, a single unit that had been screwed to the floor of the nativity set outside Zion Lutheran Church, were delivered Tuesday evening. The identity of the thief wasn't made clear.

Jerabek, pastor of Zion Lutheran, said the church did not plan to pursue the case with the sheriff's department, making any legal charges unlikely. He said the theft was "a bit disconcerting to many people."

"Some people were really disappointed," he said. "They wondered why would somebody do this, especially with Christ in front of a church."

They'll likely hear about it. When asked if the incident would be the topic for his holiday services, Jerabek smiled and said, "I don't want to give my sermon away."



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Births

Sean and Maria Duncan of San Angelo announce the birth of their son, Bryson Lee, at 5:22 p.m. on Dec. 18 in Shannon Women's and Children's Hospital in San Angelo. Bryson weighed eight pounds, five ounces and was 21 inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Terry and Angel Duncan of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Julian and Estella Guzman of Eldorado.

Paternal great-grandparents are Don and Dorothy Duncan of Snyder, Pamela John of San Angelo, and Charles and Kathleen John of San Angelo.

Good company in a journey makes the way seem the shorter.
—Izaak Walton

The main thing needed to make men happy is intelligence.
—Bertrand Russell

Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet.
—Chinese proverb



VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED — Odyssey Healthcare Hospice volunteers were recognized at a Christmas party held in the garden room of First Baptist Church. From left are, front row, Zola Kornegay, Kim Gorman, Ginny Griffith; back row, Fred Cross, Ann Cross, Allene Terry, Laura Jones, Edna Merrell, Betsy Armstrong and Judy English of Odessa, hospice coordinator. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Odyssey Hospice recognized sixteen outstanding volunteers

Odyssey Hospice recognized 16 outstanding volunteers in the Snyder area Thursday at an open house in the garden area at First Baptist Church.

Five volunteers have gone "above and beyond the call of duty" and were especially honored as well as four whose extra efforts were mentioned.

"Hospices all over the nation are required to have volunteers in order to receive funding for the patients they serve. Snyder can be proud of their Hospice volunteers," said Judy English.

The Snyder area has 16 persons who have collectively dedicated over 5,000 hours of their time to those in need of tender loving hearts at a very stressful and heart-wrenching time in their lives. Hospice volunteers are skilled, trained and willing to help ease their heavy burden.

In addition to the many services they provide, they plan and prepare dinner for the patients' caregivers once every other month. Odyssey Hospice not only served the Snyder area but also reaches out to smaller communities surrounding Snyder. These volunteers have driven many miles to care for these individuals.

Hospice is a concept rather than a place. It is a team of professional individuals who tenderly care for people with life limiting illnesses and for their loved ones. These people are cared for in nursing homes and the hospital as well as in their individual homes throughout this area. Nurses, chaplains, social workers, home health aids, volunteers and physicians make up the team.

According to English, every effort is made inmaking certain that the patient and caregivers are comfortable physically, emotionally and spiritually. She said the community is blessed to have a wonderful team of Hospice workers. The Odyssey Healthcare Snyder, Big Spring, Lamesa, Colorado City, Ira, Fluvanna, Hermleigh, Stanton and many other small communities throughout West Texas. Trained volunteers are always needed and if you would like information on Hospice volunteering contact Judy English at 1-888-881-0238. Volunteer training will be held in Snyder on 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 4.

Local Odyssey Hospice volunteers include Betsy Armstrong, Ginny Griffith, Laura Jones, Allene Terry, Ann and Fred Cross, Harold and Zola Kornegay, James and Edna Merrell, Doyle and Peggy Chandler, Elizabeth Jenkins, Vernest Tippens, Ellie Dryden and Kim Gorman.

Special recognition was given to Ginny Griffith who is the coordinator of volunteer activities in Snyder. " Her kind and helpful heart have helped this volunteer program functioning in the Snyder area for the past two years.

Also receiving special recognition were Ann Cross and Fred Cross, bereavement; Laura Jones, activities coordinator; Peggy Chandler and Allene Terry, "tuck-in" calls to Hospice families before the weekend.

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Duncan's Christmas



Date Books

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002

Today is the 355th day of 2002 and the first day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1937, Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" premiered in Los Angeles.

On this day in 1968, Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, was successfully launched.

On this day in 1969, Diana Ross and the Supremes made a farewell appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show." They sang "Someday We'll Be Together."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Heinrich Boll (1917-1985), novelist and poet; Kurt Waldheim (1918-), U.N. secretary-general, is 84; Jane Fonda (1937-), actress and activist, is 65; Frank Zappa (1940-1993), singer; Chris Evert (1954-), tennis player, is 48.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1975, George Blanda became the first professional football player to reach 2,000 points.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There are only three ages for women in Hollywood — Babe, District Attorney and Driving Miss Daisy." — Jane Fonda

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 19) and last quarter (Dec. 26).

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002

Today is the 356th day of 2002 and the second day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act, which prohibited trade between the United States and European nations.

On this day in 1894, the U.S. Golf Association was founded.

On this day in 1941, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill began a conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss World War II.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), composer; Edward Arlington Robinson (1869-1935), poet; Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson (1912-), U.S. first lady, is 90; Diane Sawyer (1945-), broadcast journalist, is 57.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1971, the Los Angeles Lakers set a major-league professional sports record for consecutive victories when they won their 27th straight game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The way you overcome shyness is to become so wrapped up in something that you forget to be afraid." — Lady Bird Johnson

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 19) and last quarter (Dec. 26).

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Judge overturns verdict

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge has overturned a jury verdict that found Dallas businessman Scott Ginsburg guilty of insider trading.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Ryskamp ruled Thursday in Florida that the SEC had failed to provide sufficient evidence that Ginsburg passed insider information to his brother, Mark, and father, Jordan. Prosecutors said the information enabled them to earn $1.8 million in profit by trading shares in two companies, EZ Communications Inc. and Katz Media Group Inc., in 1996 and 1997.

"I am deeply grateful to my friends, attorneys and family who have stood next to me and supported my efforts to fight the charges against me," Ginsburg told The Dallas Morning News for its Friday editions. "It has been a 5 1/2-year ordeal and my faith in our legal system has never wavered."

Ginsburg, the former chief executive of radio chain Evergreen Media Corp., is chairman of DG Systems Inc., an Irving-based provider of digital distribution services for the broadcast advertising industry. He also owns a porsche dealership in Plano and an Asian fusion restaurant in North Dallas.

In July, Ryskamp had levied a $1 million penalty against Scott Ginsburg after a Florida jury found him guilty of violating securities laws for insider trading. The SEC had requested the maximum judgment of $5.4 million.

After the judge made his ruling on the penalty, Scott Ginsburg filed a motion arguing that the jury's verdict was based on speculation. That is the motion that Ryskamp ruled upon on Thursday.

Mark and Jordan Ginsburg had settled the SEC's case against them in March, agreeing to pay $4.7 million without admitting or denying the SEC's allegations.

Wall Street firms near deal with regulators to settle complaints

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Some of the nation's largest brokerages are nearing agreement to pay almost $1 billion to settle conflict-of-interest allegations, one of the largest fines ever levied by securities regulators, people familiar with the talks said.

The settlement calls for the 12 firms to implement reforms to remove bias, sources familiar with the talks said Thursday on the condition of anonymity. One reform calls for the firms to fund independent stock research for investors that would complement their own analysts' work.

The agreement includes firms such as Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch. The largest fine was expected to be about $350 million to be paid by Citigroup, a regulatory source said.

The deal also would ban initial public stock offerings to chief executives of companies that have investment banking business with the Wall Street firms, the sources said. The deal was to be announced Friday.

It was not clear how much of the fines will go to a restitution fund for investors. In agreeing to the fines, the firms would neither admit nor deny charges that they had misled investors, The New York Times reported Friday.

Regulators began investigating brokerages following the decline of Enron Corp. and revelations that small investors lost millions of dollars after they were advised to buy stocks that analysts privately derided in order to bolster the stocks' value and lure the companies as investment banking clients.

A dozen major brokerages have been meeting in New York City over the last two weeks with representatives of New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Steven Cutler, the enforcement director of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC and Spitzer's office declined to comment on a possible settlement. Officials at Citigroup, Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney also declined to comment Thursday.

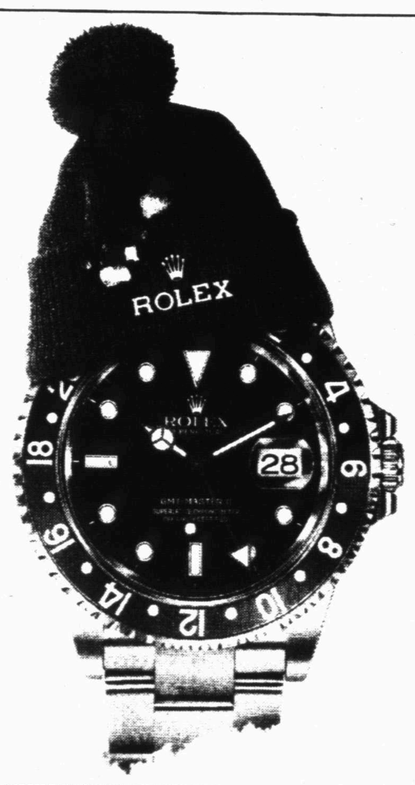
The brokerages gave their initial support in October, but squabbles over the fines and which firms would pay how much has held up the settlement.

The biggest progress in the talks came Tuesday when smaller brokerages dropped their effort to lower their fines from a range of $50 million to $75 million, one of the sources said.

In May, Merrill Lynch, the nation's largest brokerage firm, agreed to a settlement with Spitzer's office that included a $100 million fine and the separation of its analysts from investment banking.

Spitzer had released documents and e-mails showing that Merrill Lynch analysts privately used words like "disaster" and "dog" to describe some stocks while publicly recommending that investors buy the companies' shares.

The National Association of Securities Dealers, which polices the brokerage industry, and the New York Stock Exchange announced in October that they were tightening their rules governing analysts and stock offerings.



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DEC 22 2002

Letters to the editor

Veterans Day service

Dear Editor:

I hope you share my thoughts with my friends and family in Snyder.

My parents were here today after Thanksgiving and brought me a videotape of the Veteran's Day Memorial Service at First Baptist Church. I planned to attend the service but was sick with the flu and couldn't make it … much to my disappointment.

I was humbled by the military history of so many members of the church. I grew up with many of their kids who are now all grown and have families of their own. I hope they realize that their moms and dads went through in military service before and after they were born.

Our parents have seen many wars and conflicts that we, as a younger generation can only imagine or witness in the news or the movies.

It's hard to imagine what they went through and what they carry with them today. I thank all of you for your service to our country and our families.

First Baptist Church has some of the world's best heroes, teachers, friends, parents and mentors that God can give us. God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Jerry D. Hardin

Feds and banks

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to the President and Congress of the United States.

It is my opinion that the Federal Reserve System and our banks are so intent on money that they have overlooked the principles they stand for.

Honesty — they expect me to keep my agreements with them, and the contracts that we agree upon. If we go to court the original contracts are presented to the court. Our original contracts are our personal property. If either one of us took the others contract unwillingly it would be considered stealing.

Our President and Congress seem not to be aware that the banks and Federal Reserve System is in the process of taking our private property.

Our checks — replacing them with a system called imaging. The front and the back are not in one piece. My checks form contracts with those that accept and endorse them subject to the conditions written on the check.

One of my insurance companies states in a letter sent through the U.S. mail that my check is my receipt that our contract will continue for another year.

Would any one of you be willing for me to take away any of your personal contracts? This imaging system is taking hundreds of my personal contracts. The IRS is not the only authority in the U.S.A. Even though it seems to have unlimited power.

Yours truly,
Surry H. Gillum

P.S. If you agree with the thoughts in this article let the proper authorities know or send copies of this article and sign your name.

Votes count

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to Judge Fritz for his article of telling it like it is.

He was absolutely correct about people making up their minds whether it is good or bad for the county.

The hospital not leasing is the one that was the goof of the decade. As he stated, Community Health System was going to give us $13 million, which in the end is $29 million from where we are now.

Remodeling was included. Well, we're getting the remodeling now but you, the taxpayers, are paying for it. We were promised more doctors. What do we have four years later, same amount of doctors and longer waiting lines. And now we're screaming 'cause they're taking away from us. God help our doctors with their workload.

You may wonder why I take this stance. Well, I was an employee at the hospital for 12 years, and employees had to have a little more knowledge of the situation. Raises have been vetoed for the last three years and already for 2003. The insurance is more of a supplement with an astounding deductible. Many employees now have their children on their spouses' insurance because of the cost and the value of the policy.

Many of the employees that voted to not lease are no longer there. Many that voted to lease are not there. Many say I wish I had known then what I know now — too late.

Me, I was terminated. After 12 years, I don't know if it was because I was 59 years old or that I voted to lease it, maybe both.

Who knows, maybe the same computer chip that was used to count the hospital lease votes was the same one used in the commissioners' race. I, too, would hate to see Beth go as my grandkids really like her. Well, I'll close saying "You get what you vote for," and above all, Ruth was right.

Tony Hayley

No curfew

Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to all those who helped in any way with the effort to get a curfew for our city of Snyder. So many of you have asked questions about the City Council Meeting.

You wonder when signatures of just over 20 percent of Snyder citizens indicated support of a curfew, why the City Council did not take any action on this matter.

So do I! Many of us do not have a working knowledge of how the City Council process works, and other than being told where and when to turn in my material and the petitions, I was not given any information to guide me in the presentation process - or even to advise me of the date of the City Council Meeting!

So when I was asked why the matter was not tabled or even held over for further study, I could not answer. However I have been receiving information about other places that have workable curfew ordinances. Also, people are still contacting me in favor of this issue.

Andra Lancaster wrote in her letter last week, "I think if this issue is looked at rationally that it can be seen that the teens that do act responsibly will be punished more than those who are irresponsible."

It would be difficult to imagine that towns such as Midland, Big Spring, Brownfield, Houston and others are "punishing" their good kids. These teens are not detained. The youth who are picked up are ones who do not have a valid reason to be out.

Such as the ones who damaged our motel two weeks ago. Only one was over 17 and the youngest was 11 years of age. The accident occurred after midnight, a time that would have been past normal curfew hours. So let me just say thank you to the citizens of Snyder that helped me and supported the effort in getting a curfew implemented. I will not give up and the curfew will be brought up again in the future.

Sincerely,
Celia Morales

Not on front page

Dear Editor:

My son recently won the State FFA Sr. Creed Speaking competition. The Sr. & Jr. Quiz Teams also competed at the state level. This was a major accomplishment for our local students and should have been properly acknowledged by being featured on the front page of our local newspaper.

Instead, they were relegated to the third page. There is no doubt in my mind that had this been a sports or drama event, it would have been prominently displayed on the front page.

Considering that Scurry County has a large agriculture community, I believe this level of achievement should be recognized and acknowledged in order to encourage our children to carry on the spirit and tradition of a rural community.

Thank you,
Lisa West



THE LIST IRAQ DIDN'T WANT HANDED OVER

Open Government Barometer

Number of Executive Sessions held by public entities in 2002.

Snyder ISD	17
DCOS	12
Scurry County	9
Ira ISD	9
City of Snyder	4
Hermleigh ISD	4
WTC	3
Cogdell Hospital	3

NEWSPAPERS: LIGHTING FREEDOM'S WAY

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Lotto Texas losing numbers

As the rock band Led Zeppelin might have put it, there's not a whole lotta love for Lotto Texas these days. Perhaps that's because a whole lotta Texans have wasted money wagering on Lotto in the 10 years since the game was launched.

Texas Lottery Commission officials are now brainstorming to find new ways to revive sagging ticket sales for Lotto, the high-profile game that provides multimillion-dollar purses to winners but leaves most payers at least a buck poorer.

Perhaps it's time to admit that the whole lottery program has been a big disappointment. Texans voted in 1991 to create the lottery. That was a year in which the Legislature was desperately seeking more money to fund state government.

Proponents billed the lottery as a significant new revenue source. Actually, it's been pretty insignificant. In the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, lottery revenues totaled $2.97 billion. Payouts to lottery winners totaled $1.7 billion. But for every dollar wagered, the average ticket buyer won only about 57 cents.

After subtracting the $170.9 million cost of operating the lottery, only $928.9 million actually went to state funding for programs such as public education. That leaves the lottery's net contribution to the state budget at less than 2 percent.

Perhaps the only plausible financial argument for creating the lottery was that it would produce revenues that otherwise would go to other states with lotteries. But even after taking that into account, the lottery has provided minimal beneficial impact for Texans. Gambling doesn't create added wealth for society as a whole — it just redistributes income. And many people who buy fistfuls of lottery tickets are people of modest income who can't afford to lose.

El Paso Times

AG to expand open government

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has wasted no time in looking out for the people's right to know. Abbott announced Wednesday that he wants to expand his office's Open Records Division.

That's welcome news for Texans, and it's especially encouraging that Abbott addressed this crucial issue so quickly. Abbott was elected Nov. 5 to take office in January, but he was sworn in earlier this month when John Cornyn resigned to become U.S. senator.

Swift and thorough attention by state officials to open-records requests is essential. As Abbott correctly pointed out Wednesday, "I think that with the heightened concerns that we have about security going forward, I think it also calls for heightened scrutiny of our government, and I want to be involved in that process."

The state Open Records Division is where local governments turn for decisions on whether they must release documents or require meetings to be open to the public. Fortunately, Texans are doing their part to become more involved. The Open Records Division processed 2,962 ruling requests in 1998. That number has grown to 7,181 this year and is expected to exceed 8,000 next year.

Staffing for the division has grown from 11.5 positions four years ago to 16.5 positions currently. Abbott wants to almost double the staff size, hoping to add 14 new positions.

The first obstacle he must overcome, of course, will be a tight budget. Legislators are expected to encounter a budget shortfall of at least $5 billion when they convene next month. But that should be Abbott's only obstacle, because no one should dispute the extreme importance of the people's right to know.

The Dallas Morning News

Legislature must tackle water

Think 39 million people. That's how many people will live in Texas by 2050, twice as many Texans as today.

The boom will keep the state growing. But it also places demands on natural resources. Water especially. The state's aquifers are not bottomless pools. And its lakes and rivers are not limitless. Canadian. Houston. Aledo. Austin. McAllen. Those towns and others must provide their residents enough water. And not just in 50 years. The problem hits home this very moment. Remember Throckmorton? It almost dried up two years ago.

The immediacy of the challenge is why planning groups worked fast and furiously in the late 1990s. They created water strategies for each part of Texas. Their ideas are being rolled out now. Now's the time to take Step Two.

The state Legislature needs to ask those same planning groups to spend the next two years discovering the best water conservation strategies. Communities then can start putting the ideas into practice for the good of their residents.

Think of all those golf course sprinklers. Why can't they use treated wastewater? Also, are all cities charging their biggest water users higher rates than moms and pops? They should. What worked for towns that had the best luck getting residents to install low-flow showerheads? Rebates? Giveaways? And what farm communities have the best irrigation methods? Some parts of the Panhandle have made enormous strides. Are they being followed elsewhere?

This effort must be more than a big-ideas session. The state must set goals. Those who meet them receive rewards. Those who don't draw penalties. The aim is to get results.

San Antonio and El Paso have shown the way. These cities deserve praise for decreasing water use, even if by necessity. It can be done, including in Dallas. Big D uses more water per capita than any major Texas city. That needs to change.

San Antonio Express-News

Fat city

Remember those futurist prognosticators some years back who observed the trend in modern societies toward less and less physical activity and more and more mental?

They extrapolated from that trend a future race of human beings characterized by large, high-powered bubbleheads and small, virtually useless bodies.

Obviously, that's not what happened. The trend toward the mental has, indeed, continued, but decreasing physical activity has not resulted in bodies rendered vestigial.

The nation is fat and growing fatter, with more than half of all Americans overweight or obese.

Of the 55 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, San Antonio has the second-highest percentage of overweight and obese adults. Only barbecue-loving Memphis has it beat unless another Big Mac or the latest order of refried beans and cheese enchiladas has propelled us into the lead.

"This is our next public health disaster," Texas Health Commissioner Dr. Eduardo Sanchez told Finley. "It may soon surpass tobacco as our No. 1 cause of preventable deaths."

As Sanchez's comment underscores, the obesity problem is more than a matter of clothes that don't fit or dissatisfaction with our image in the mirror.

Across the nation, excess weight that human bodies just can't support is blamed for more than 300,000 deaths a year from heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and other illnesses.

In San Antonio, diabetes, particularly early-onset diabetes among children, is reaching epidemic proportions.



The Village Idiot by Jim Mullen

Honest Abe didn't sleep here

"They made the whole thing in Vermont, then took it apart and shipped it here piece by piece," Bob told me. He was showing me his new weekend house, a log cabin which Sue and I had watched going up all summer on a nearby hill. Bob is one of those hardworking CEOs who walked away with multimillions when his company went bankrupt. "I guess you could say I'm a self-made man," he likes to tell visitors.

Calling this place a log cabin is like calling the QE II a cabin cruiser. The peeled log beam spanning the front door is 136 feet long and two and a half feet thick. The logs that form the walls are five feet around. A wide, shallow groove has been carved into their undersides, so when they stack on top of one another their sheer weight makes the log-to-log connection airtight. No plaster is needed between the timbers to keep out the elements. All electrical wiring and plumbing had been drilled into the logs after they were taken apart but before they were reconstructed, so that no outside drilling or holes or wires are visible.

Three deer-antler chandeliers hang from the hand-hewn log ceiling in the ballroom. The floor is tiled in brown leather with animal skin throw rugs scattered around; the heads of moose, elk and caribou line the walls. You expect to bump into Teddy Roosevelt at any moment. The kitchen is a rustic throwback to the days of the pioneers — granite countertops, Viking range, matching Zero-Kings refrigerators, Calphalon pots and pans hanging over the butcher-block island with vegetable sink. If Donald Trump ever runs for President and says he was born in a log cabin, this would have been the one.

The second and third floors have balconied bedrooms that overlook the ballroom from the inside, and also have dormered windows overlooking the valley. Lincoln's birthplace could have fit easily into any of the bedrooms, with plenty of room to spare for studying by candlelight.

Though our county may have more charming stone fences than any county on the planet, stone masons were busily placing new, old-looking ones all over Bob's property. From the glassed-in rear deck the view went on for 20 miles.

"See that," Bob said as he pointed to a mobile home about a half-mile away. He wrinkled his nose. "There ought to be a zoning law against that. Why can't people build things like this," he said, waving his arms around his house, "things that fit into the environment?"

Vardon and Verbena Frasier live in that trailer. Verbena used to work in one of Bob's factories. She lost her medical insurance and 401(K) when Bob's company folded. Vardon drove the school bus until he couldn't pass the physical. Bad heart. The environment is way down on the list of their worries.

Until the bankruptcy Bob paid himself $8 million a year plus bonuses. "She'd have been out of a job anyway. If we hadn't gone broke we were going to take the entire business to Mexico. To avoid the high cost of American labor," he told me. Verbena made $22,000 a year.

"Why don't we keep the American jobs here and bring in extremely low-paid Mexican CEOs to run our companies?" I asked Bob. He thought that was the funniest thing he'd ever heard.

"Thank goodness you're not running a business," he said. "We'd all go broke. Did I show you the waterfall in the master bath?"

Jim Mullen is the author of "It Takes A Village Idiot: A Memoir of Life After the City" (Simon and Schuster, 2001). He also contributes regularly to Entertainment Weekly, where he can be reached at jim_mullen@ew.com

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More cattle seizures may occur in Nevada

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The bad news isn't over for two sisters who had 227 cattle confiscated and sold by the government this fall. The women risk losing 250 more cattle and nearly 1,000 horses if they continue to defy officials.

In an ongoing dispute over livestock grazing and tribal treaty rights, Bureau of Land Management special agents served Mary and Carrie Dann with notice Tuesday that they had five working days to remove the livestock accused of trespassing on federal land in northeast Nevada.

The Danns, Western Shoshone tribal members, maintain the Ruby Valley Treaty of 1863 gives them title to the land, including the right to graze livestock on the land free from U.S. constraints.

The government disagrees and argues the horses and cattle are causing damage by overgrazing. Officials said the Danns owe back grazing fees totaling nearly $3 million over the past three decades and that the seizures are a last resort.

"We have urged the Danns to remove the horses they claim as private livestock and put them on their private land to avoid impoundment," said Bob Abbey, the bureau's state director in Nevada.

Over the past year, the bureau has confiscated and auctioned hundreds of cattle belonging to three other non-Indian ranchers in Nevada and one member of the Te-Moak band of the Western Shoshone on similar trespassing violations.

The Danns said not all the animals belong to them and have asked the bureau for proof that the livestock are damaging the range. Their lawyer, Deborah Schaaf, notified bureau field manager Helen Hankins on Nov. 29 that the Danns are making plans to round up and sell additional horses.

Public Records

Filed in District Court

Sears, Roebuck & Co. vs. Andres Perez, suit on debt.

Denise Holye vs. Trent Investments Inc., suit for wrongful termination.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Claudio Lara and Raquel Lara, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Mary Gill Lewis and Earl D. Lewis, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Kelly Gressett Warner Courtney and Timothy Allen Courtney, divorce granted.

Charles Scott Williams, individually and as next friend of Tyler Williams, a minor, Dena Williams, next friend of Tyler Williams, a minor, and Dean Wemken vs. Key Energy and J.B. Moore, judgment for plaintiffs.

Deed Records

J.P. and Miranda Stice to Harold Yearwood, an 0.61-acre tract in Section 182, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Harold Yearwood to Helen M. Yearwood, an 0.61-acre tract in Section 182, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Belinda Kay Alwin, independent executrix of the estate of Jimmy Frank Bridges, to Belinda Kay Alwin, Larry Frank Bridges and Melvin Glen Bridges, tract one being 120.5 acres out of the west part of Section 42, Block Y, T&P survey; tract two being part of the east one-half of Section 21, Block Y, T&P survey; tract three being 155.4 acres out of Section 2, Block C, W.H. Cowen survey; tract four being 2.0 acres out of Section 2, Block C, W.H. Cowen survey; tract five being 66.634 acres in the north one-half of Section 245, Block 3, H&TC survey; tract six being 42.8 feet of Lot 3 and the west 25.8 feet of Lot 4 in Block 2 of the Sunrise Addition No. 2.

Edward N. Yruegas Sr. to Alma Yruegas, Lot 29 in Block 4 of the Noble Heights Addition.

Donald J. and Kathy L. Patten to Delbert Hataway, Lot 4 in Block 27 of the Original Town of Hermleigh.

Donald J. and Kathy L. Patten to Delbert Hataway, tract one being the south one-half of Lot 3 in Block 1 of the D.R. Layman's Subdivision of Block 115, Town of Hermleigh; tract two being a 60 x 120-foot tract out of 62.06 acres in the east one-half of Section 484, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Joe R. Greene, attorney-in-fact for Aruana M. Greene, to Asburn Gale Branscum, part of the east portion of Lot 3, Block 19 of the Blankenship Addition.

David W. and Barbara A. Odom to the Odom Family Living Trust, Lot 13 in Block 2 of the Park Place Addition.

Rebecca K. Kirby to Michael Robert Kirby, the south one-half of Lots 4-6 in Block 35 of the A.C. Wilmeth's Addition.

Michael Robert and Becky Kirby to Brady Jones, the south one-half of Lots 4-6 in Block 35 of the A.C. Wilmeth's Addition.

Bank of America, Trustee of the Eugenia Hailey Smith Trust, to Kinder Morgan CO2 Company, tract one being 228.561 acres in the east one-half of Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey; tract two being 59.934 acres in the east one-half of Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey; tract three being a 0.388-acre tract in the east one-half of Section 18, J.P. Smith survey.

Pegge Jean Alcorn to Lee and Sheri Davis, 1.0-acre tract in the southwest one-quarter of Section 180, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Patsy Gene Brackeen to Fred and Sharon Green, Lots 1-7, 16-18, 21 and 23-24 in Block 36 of the Original Town of Hermleigh.

Rebecca Aragon Tobar and Carlos Aragon to Lucia Camacho Perez and Luis Contreras Villa, tract one being a 1.0-acre tract in Tracts 37 and 41 of the Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision, Section 14, J.P Smith survey; tract two being a 0.45-acre tract in Tracts 37 and 41 of the Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision, Section 14, J.P. Smith survey.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002

By putting new twists on a flagging enterprise in the year ahead you could turn the venture into something quite beneficial and profitable. Put your thinking cap on and come up with some fresh ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There are several indicators that you might be far more extravagant than your pocketbook can afford. Be especially careful when out shopping in expensive stores.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — It doesn't matter what the circumstances are, do all within your power today to assure harmony prevails in situations that directly affect your mate or partner. Be cooperative, not demanding.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A job may pop up today that could interfere with other plans you are considering. Don't pawn off this responsibility on an ineffective person. You'll be held accountable for the poor handling.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you're planning a social get-together today, don't forget to invite a sensitive friend or family member whose feelings would be hurt if s/he is not included, even if this person isn't one of your favorites.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be careful not to be so self-involved today that you ask more of others than you should. Even those who are extremely fond of you won't be too tolerant of your lack of consideration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Avoid the company of an acquaintance today who has a talent for putting a damper on everything. Single out those who are upbeat and see the positive side of life to spend your day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Someone who knows you are a "softie" about being imposed upon might put the finger on you again today. Maybe it's time to remind this person his/her past obligations were never fulfilled.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Sometimes it can be as self-defeating to be overly cautious about things as it can to be a bit rash. Today, too much dillydallying could put you behind the eight ball.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Further postponing an unappealing responsibility or task today will gain you nothing. Roll up your sleeves and get it over with once and for all. You'll feel better for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Should a person you'd like to avoid be at an activity you are attending today, do your best to remain civil and tolerant. It'll make you the bigger person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's unlike you, but chances are, you might become too easily and too quickly discouraged today when your first attempts at what you hope to achieve fall short. Regroup and try again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's not a personal affront if everybody isn't in accord with your ideas or suggestions, so don't let your temper flare today when someone sees things differently. Nothing is meant by it.

Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and an SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Monday, Dec. 23, 2002

Improvements in your overall affairs are indicated in the year ahead. However, where you can make the most inroads will have to do with your material well-being. Increased earnings are indicated through extra effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — An endeavor that may not be your principle source of income can be expanded upon today to a point where it might eventually equal or exceed your present base of earnings. Make it work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Take the initiative today to call someone you recently met who you are most anxious to get know better. This person might be a bit shy and isn't likely to contact you. The ball is in your court.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your financial affairs look better than usual today, so take positive measures to do what you can to generate more earnings while this propitious period is working for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — It's to your benefit to go where the people mingle today. Someone you bump into could have some interesting pieces of information that will be very useful for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Your financial picture looks quite encouraging at this time, but in order to take full advantage of it today, you might have to disengage yourself from some unproductive involvements.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — This can be an excellent day to launch a new enterprise or venture on which you've been working, but only if you remember the lessons learned from the past so you don't repeat your mistakes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Your chart indicates that several opportunities exist today with persons you've had dealings with in the past. Go back to them if you need a cohort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you are called upon to assume some additional duties involving your business affiliations, don't hesitate to do so. The respect you gain will will be more than worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There's a possibility that an old goal of yours could finally get off the drawing board today when you meet someone who knows how to launch it. The initial idea may be your contribution.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — An old, valued relationship that has been diluted by distance may be regenerated today when this person starts to operate once again in your locale. It could mean a lot to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Owing to an unexpected shift in conditions, something you've wanted to do for a long time can be accomplished today. Don't sit on it; you'll only get this one opening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A partnership arrangement you've established in the past with a person of integrity and talent could work out successfully for you again today. Check him or her out to see if it's possible.

Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and an SASE to Astro-Graph c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167 Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Actors raise money

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Michael Nouri and his fellow cast members collected more than applause during a recent national tour of the musical "South Pacific."

The cast collected more than $360,000 in donations for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Lubbock OKs relocation of prairie dogs

LUBBOCK (AP) — The City Council approved a plan Thursday to relocate as many as 15,000 prairie dogs from a sewage treatment site east of Lubbock.

Instead of killing the animals as city officials had originally planned, the black-tailed prairie dogs will be removed from their burrows at the 750-acre site and relocated elsewhere by various environmental groups, officials said.

In June, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality cited the city after finding high levels of nitrate from the sewage threatened the groundwater.

The wastewater sprayed on the site contains nitrate that is supposed to be evaporated and absorbed by grasses. The TCEQ said sewage water instead was flowing into prairie dog burrows.

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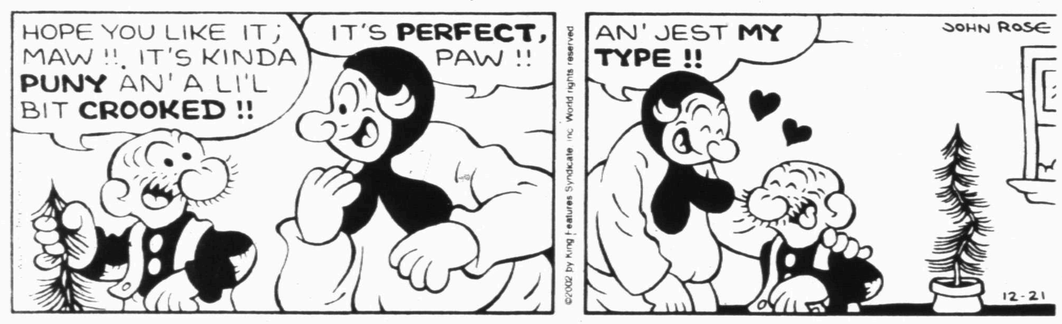
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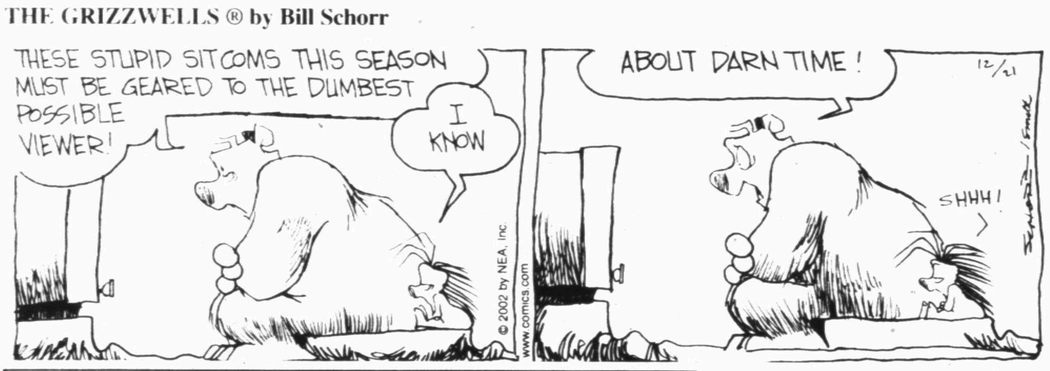
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Luau strings
4 Big rigs' radios
7 Promises
11 Superman foe — Luthor
12 Kitty's bane
13 Right now
14 Once named
15 Tail end
16 Godiva, e.g.
17 Stop the ship
19 Comparable
21 Sort
22 Peter or Nicholas
23 Opera composer
26 Yield
28 Nabokov novel
29 Pick over
31 Con game
35 Frat-party attire
37 "— a hike!"
39 Fury
40 Thailand, once
42 Macrame, e.g.
44 Stuck-up
46 Upsilon follower
47 Scale unit
49 Heaps
53 Long skirt
54 Farm unit
56 Help-wanted abbr.
57 Dutra of golf
58 Little kids
59 TV alien
60 Go out with
61 "Help!"
62 JFK arrivals

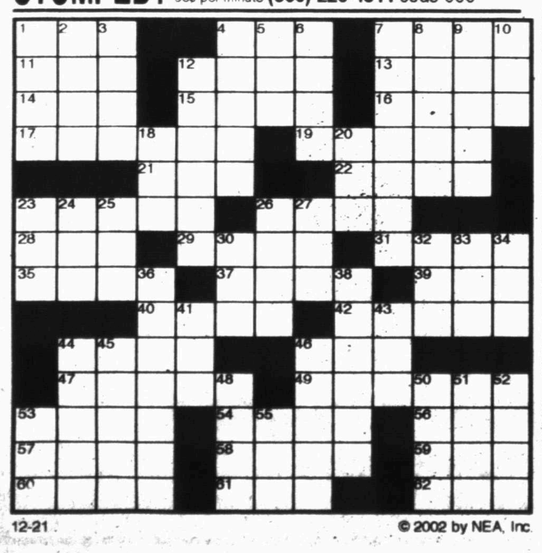
DOWN

1 Humerus neighbor
2 Sharp-edged
3 Corporate VIP
4 Store worker
5 Comic — Lillie
6 Lee of cakedom
7 Luggage items
8 City near Kyoto
9 Angler's boot
10 Mole, maybe
12 Play
18 Lay low
20 Soho co.
23 Large tank
24 Ancient Tokyo
25 Tease
26 Chowder ingredient
27 Wapiti
30 Ms. Hagen
32 Spy org.
33 Canine comment
34 Got acquainted
36 Silly
38 Canyon sounds
41 Financial mag
43 Disencumber
44 Monsieur's shout
45 Look at the books
46 Wharf locales
48 Has a meal
50 Grasslands
51 Underwater shockers
52 Pastel
53 Stylish
55 Murmur soothingly

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	U	G	E		S	E	A		D	A	S	H
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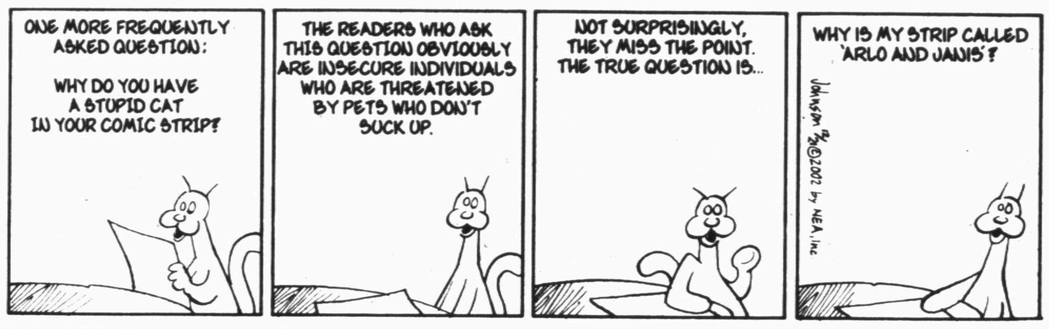


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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



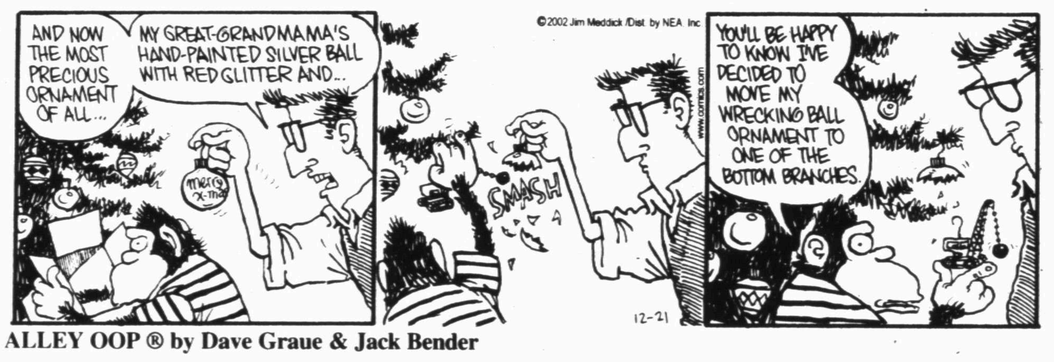
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



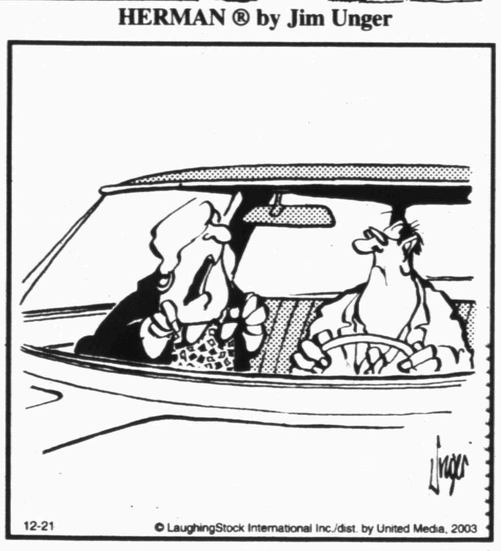
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"How many times have I told you not to start moving till I get my glasses on?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD OPEN SOMETHING BEFORE CHRISTMAS TO GET IN PRACTICE?"

San Antonio is now courting Miss USA

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio City Council has approved providing $500,000 and other incentives to keep the city in the running for the Miss USA pageant.

The city should learn Monday whether it will host the 50-year-old event, which will be televised nationally on NBC on March 24.

The Miss Universe Organization, owned by real-estate magnate Donald Trump, also is considering Branson, Mo., and Overland Park, Kan., according to the San Antonio Express-News in its Friday editions.

To host the event, San Antonio will have to shell out $500,000 and provide free and discounted hotel rooms for the three-week production.

Council officials unanimously approved the expenditure, saying the city's investment is well worth the nine minutes of television exposure the show will dedicate to San Antonio.

Miss Universe spokeswoman Mary Hilliard McMillan said 30 seconds during prime time typically costs about $250,000. The Miss Universe organization controls the Miss USA pageant.

McMillan said the pageant draws 10 million to 11 million domestic viewers and is broadcast in 57 other countries.

Dale Lockett, acting director for the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, said the $500,000 is from a fund the city set aside to lure the 2007 Pan American Games, which eventually went to Rio de Janeiro. The money came from city hotel occupancy taxes, which are used to promote San Antonio.

Scurry County Anti-drug Connection

The best things in life are drug free

The Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with the Scurry County Anti Drug Connection and Al-Anon support groups devote this column to current information on substance abuse, and how we, as a community, can work together to create a safe and drug free environment for our children.

Thank You —No Thank You

With the holiday season is full swing, the Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection would like to encourage you to talk to the young people in your life about the importance of saying "thank you" for the gifts that we are given at Christmas time and all through the year. We would also like to encourage you to talk to them about the importance of saying "no thank you" to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and the possible consequences if they choose not to listen to the warnings.

At one of the area schools this week we had hat very conversation with fifth and sixth graders, and thought you might enjoy some of the answers.

Why is it important to say "thank you" for gifts?

"People like to know when you like what they gave you."
"Gifts are good things that come from good people."
"Gifts can make you happy and put joy in your life."
"Gifts come from the heart."
"You should say thank you if you are happy to get a gift, because some people do not get any gifts at all."
"You should say thank you because people used money to buy a gift."
"You should show someone respect and be polite by saying thank you."
"Gifts bring happiness and joy and brings families together".
"A gift shows that someone cares for you."
"My parents taught me to be polite and say thank you."
"When kids get gifts they are likely to do good in school."
"It would not be right not to say thank you and use the gift that they got you."

Why is it important to say "no thank you" to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

"Drugs do nothing but mess up your life real bad and hurt other peoples feelings and make you do bad things."
"Drugs are bad things that come from bad people."
" Drugs are not something to play with."
"Ask for toys that make noise instead of thugs that make drugs."
"Drugs can kill you and hurt you real bad."
"You can get addicted to drugs a lot faster than you can get off of them."
"Drugs are bad for you and cost a lot of money."
"You can die from taking drugs, so it is not safe."
"My mom and dad taught me better."

As you can tell by reading the answers, our children are listening when we talk to them. Continue to show them how much they are loved and remind them often how harmful alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs can be.

Wishing you a Very, Very, Merry Drug-Free Christmas,

students from Loraine, Texas—Alex, Megan, Javier, Santiago, Joel, Daniel, Ray, Stormy, David, Jonathan, Felicia, Leslie, Ector, Mario, Carlton, Candace, Jessica, Seth, Kassandra, Victor, Jacob, and one unidentified student.

For more information on how you and/or your business or organization can be involved in promoting a drug-free community, contact the Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection at the Snyder Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 574-1931 or 573-1411.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Attempts at holiday conversion leave woman with little joy

DEAR ABBY: I am a Hindu woman living in the Bible Belt. Many of my friends and acquaintances are Christian, and they are all wonderful — except for one thing. Some try in small, subtle ways to convert me to their faith.

With Christmas approaching, I know what's coming — boxes of baked goodies with little brochures and pamphlets tucked inside all about Jesus and the Christian faith. I wish you would remind people that all of us in this diverse nation should respect the faiths of others. To try to convert someone to your faith implies that you consider your religious beliefs superior, and that is just plain wrong.

I know these gestures are well meant, but I wouldn't dream of sending Hindu brochures with my holiday goodies. Abby, what is a tactful, but firm, way of dealing with this? — **HAPPY HINDU IN THE BIBLE BELT**

DEAR HAPPY HINDU: Much as you would like, you are not going to change people who feel it's part of their religious commitment to "save" you. Ignore the brochures and enjoy the goodies — unless you have lost your appetite. If that's the case, donate the treats to a homeless shelter or take them to the office.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old boy facing a heap of problems this year. I'm taking some very difficult college-level classes. I don't have a great grade point average, but I manage to stay around 3.3.

I don't plan on applying to an Ivy League school, but Mom thinks I won't get accepted anywhere without at least a 3.5 GPA. She won't let me get a part-time job until I raise my GPA to 3.5 — which means I am totally dependent on her for spending money.

Mom complains that I'm not putting in enough time on my schoolwork and that she spends too much money on me. I'd be glad to cover my expenses if she'd let me get a part-time job.

It may sound like it would be too hard to improve my GPA, but I'm working at it and I'm proud of my grades. I just don't know what to do about my mom. — **TROUBLED IN MISSOURI**

DEAR TROUBLED: If there is a counselor at your school, ask him or her to speak to your mother about your grades as well as your prospects. Your mother is trying to be a conscientious parent and to see to it that you have a successful future. However, if you are working at your capacity, a compromise is in order.

**

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Ken," and I have been together four years. We plan to become engaged during the holidays. Kenny is my heart and soul, and he feels the same about me.

I have one small problem. There is a guy at work I find very attractive. There's something about him that makes my mind wander "off-track." Is it only lust? I cannot imagine cheating on Kenny — and I never would.

Is this attraction normal? Or does it mean I'm doubting my love for Kenny? — **NEEDS TO KNOW ASAP IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: It's normal. That's why the wedding vows read "forsaking all others." There is nothing wrong with being attracted to more than one person as long as you don't act on it. If this continues to trouble you, a couple of sessions with a counselor will help you to put things in perspective.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO DONE WRONG IN WICHITA: Take the high road. Do nothing impulsive. Remember the words of Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626): "By taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy; but in passing over it, he is superior."

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

DEAR ABBY: What on earth has become of college education when professors and teachers write that they use dear Abby for English courses? I am horrified that an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher uses your column to teach foreign students our customs. WHAT customs? Unresolved anger? Sibling rivalry? Mistrust of spouses? Broken homes? Drunk driving? Homosexuality? Sexual abuse? Internet pornography? It is insanity that this is what foreign students use to gauge American culture.

Abby, what about the monogamous marriage that has endured hardships? The couple still devoutly loyal and faithful to each other? Kids who still have the same mother and father and are contributing to society? What about the people who give 100 percent of themselves for community involvement with no thought to themselves? You have even said yourself that some people accuse you of making up the letters because they are so bizarre. Some are R-rated at best. And this is what teachers use to teach English? God forbid!

No wonder people in other countries think Americans are idiots. If they get all their information from Dear Abby, they may not be too far off the mark. You may print my name. — **MICHELLE CRIPPEN, HARPERS FERRY, W.VA.**

DEAR MICHELLE: Ouch! I cannot agree with you that the people who write to me are idiots. The problems they write about are human relations problems — and not necessarily unique to the U.S.A. Furthermore, they make interesting reading — and that, I think, is what motivates the teachers to use my column. By the time people reach adulthood, "See Spot Run" and "The Adventures of Dick and Jane" no longer hold their interest. Face it, my column has it all — drama, human interest, comedy, sex, drugs — and solid information that many people relate to.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 and dream of becoming a voice for a Disney animated film. This is not some silly phase, Abby. I really want to do this. The only problem is, I have no clue how to get the attention of Disney. I have had little theatrical experience, and my school's drama program isn't the best. I have a good singing voice but have had no lessons.

I need your advice on what to do here. I have sent letters to Disney, but no response has ever come. Any suggestions you might offer would be great. Thanks. — **DISNEY DREAMER IN CONCORD, CALIF.**

DEAR DREAMER: You're welcome. I checked with my friend, Tress MacNeille, who does voice-overs for "The Simpsons" and is the classic voice of Daisy Duck and Chip 'n Dale. She asked me to tell you that "longevity in a show business career can be measured by the amount of time spent PREPARING for it."

Do not attempt to do this straight out of high school. Study drama and speech in college, and work to sharpen your improvisational skills. Take every acting class you can. Be a reader and an observer, so you can pick up nuances of language in the mold of Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. And most important of all, remember this is not a part-time effort. Keep your eye on your goal. Good luck.

**

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude to open a drawer or medicine cabinet in the bathroom of someone's home? — **SNOOPY IN PORTLAND, ORE.**

DEAR SNOOPY: It certainly is, although many people do it anyway. It's also nosy — and it's wrong. (But fascinating.)

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Texas Tech band member dies

MENARD (AP) — A Texas Tech University band member en route to San Antonio died in a fiery early morning crash Thursday after his vehicle collided with a tractor-trailer rig.

Omar Jesus Garcia, 19, of Monahans died in the accident on U.S. 83 near Menard. Garcia was a sophomore majoring in music.

Garcia, known as O.J., had played in the pep band at the men's basketball game Wednesday night and left for San Antonio, following his roommate.

School officials believed the two band members planned to spend the night in San Antonio and then catch the band's charter flight to Orlando, Fla., for the Tangerine Bowl, where Tech plays Clemson on Monday.

"He was an incredibly talented tuba player and a very polite young man, always smiling," Anna Henry, coordinator for special activities for the school of music, said in a story in Friday's Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "He was the type of person who was going to stand up and make the world a better place."

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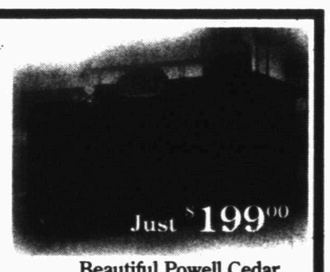
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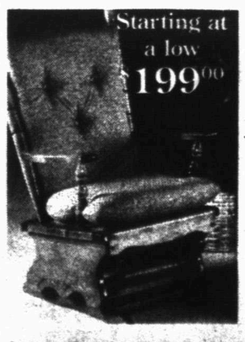
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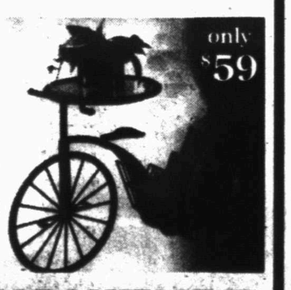
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Survey: Many misconceptions exist about smallpox in U.S.

BOSTON (AP) — Americans are deeply confused over just about every aspect of smallpox, including the risks of vaccination, whether it can be treated and even whether people still catch it.

A newly released survey found that a majority actually believes smallpox cases still occur in some parts of the world, even though the disease was eradicated 25 years ago in one of the greatest public health victories in history.

"It's staggering," said Robert J. Blendon, who directed the survey at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Like several other recent surveys, this one found that about two-thirds of Americans say they would like to be vaccinated, though that willingness would plummet if people found their own doctors avoided the vaccine.

The survey will be published in the Jan. 30 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, along with several other reports on smallpox. The journal posted all of the smallpox papers on its Web site Thursday.

Three decades after the U.S. smallpox vaccination program was retired, it is to resume in January because of the risk that terrorists could introduce the disease, using virus stockpiled after person-to-person spread was eliminated.

The vaccine will be mandatory for about 500,000 military personnel and recommended for another half-million who work in emergency rooms and on special smallpox response teams. The government will make the vaccine available to anyone else who wants it beginning late next spring or early summer, though it will not encourage ordinary people to get the shots.

The government's policy of targeting doctors and nurses is supported by a detailed analysis in the journal, sponsored by the RAND Center for Domestic and International Health Security, that examines various scenarios of smallpox release.

"We show there would be a net benefit to vaccinating health workers, even if there is a low probability of an attack, because health workers are at greatly increased risk," said the study's director, Dr. Samuel Bozzette of the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System.

Blendon's survey was based on calls to 1,006 randomly selected adults over the past two months. It carried a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Among the findings:

—30 percent believe there has been a smallpox case in the United States in the past five years, and 63 percent think there has been one somewhere in the world. Actually the last U.S. case was in 1949 and the last in the world was in 1977.

—25 percent said it was likely they would die from the vaccine. The actual death rate from the shots is estimated to be less than three per million.

—78 percent said they thought medical treatment for smallpox would prevent death or serious illness. Actually, there is no proven treatment after symptoms start.

—16 percent think the country has enough vaccine to give everyone in case of a smallpox attack. The government says it has enough for all.

—58 percent do not believe that vaccination within a few days of exposure will prevent people from contracting smallpox. Actually, it will.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has largely focused on educating doctors about smallpox, assuming they will then communicate with patients. "If and when a licensed vaccine is made available to the general public, the plan here is to embark on a mass-media education campaign that could include posters, advertisements and public service announcements," said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner.

The possibility of rare but potentially serious side effects is the main drawback of widespread smallpox vaccination. The Bush administration estimates that one to two people per million would die from the shots. After reviewing about 14,000 medical articles going back 100 years, Buzzette's team chose a somewhat higher estimate of about 2.7 deaths per million.

If 60 percent of the 290 million Americans were vaccinated, that would mean nearly 500 deaths, even if smallpox never reappears. However, in any outbreak, health care workers are the ones most likely to catch the virus. They make up 3 percent of the population but would account for 20 percent to 60 percent of all smallpox cases, depending on which scenario of disease spread is used.

Smallpox could be spread by terrorists in various ways. One scenario would be to let three smallpox-infected terrorists ride mass transit in a large city. The researchers estimated that fewer than 20 people would die before the disease was contained through a vaccination campaign.

The worst scenario imagined was turning 40 terrorists loose on a busy day in 10 large airports with portable nebulizers spraying smallpox into the air. Unless most of the population had already been vaccinated, between about 40,000 and 55,000 people would die.

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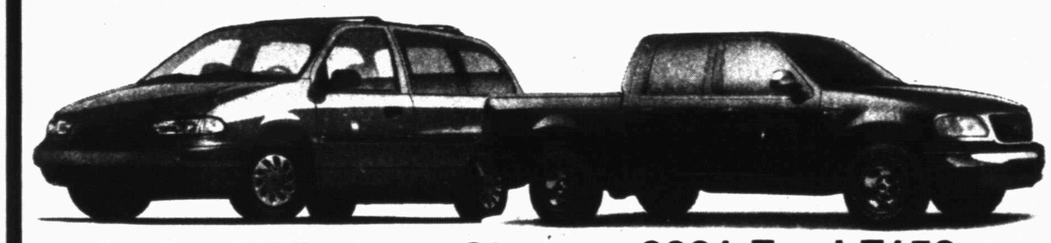
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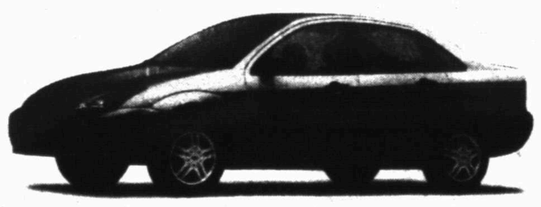
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