# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Jan. 11, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 218
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Pat Cornett


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WT-Int. Crude - $29.48
WTIC Posted - $26.50
Natural Gas - $9.128



THIS IS JUST A TEST — Western Texas College held a mock registration Wednesday afternoon in which staff and faculty portrayed students going through the registration process. The event was staged to test new software at the college. Pictured from left are Lee Burke and Mary Dee Price assisting "student" Janet Halbert. (SDN Staff Photo)

# TDCJ releases escape report

AUSTIN (AP) — The seven convicts who escaped from a Texas prison systematically overpowered prison guards and staff over a 21/2-hour period, eventually driving out the rear exit unchallenged in a prison vehicle, according to a report released today.

The convicts, who escaped Dec. 13 from the Connally Unit about 60 miles southeast of San Antonio, are charged in the Christmas Eve slaying of an Irving police officer and are still on the loose.

In an hour-long report, Gary Johnson, director for the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, outlined the events of the escape in which the inmates overpowered about a dozen employees and guards, several inmates and stole weapons and ammunition.

"In retrospect, the events fit together like a puzzle. We just didn't fit them together fast enough to keep the offenders from escaping," Johnson said.

Johnson called Warden Tim Keith "a good warden" but acknowledged that he may face disciplinary action. "All of those types of personnel actions, we will be talking about."

The prison's "snitch system," where inmates inform on each other, also failed. "One of the things that puzzled us the most about this escape is that we did not know anything about it," Johnson said.

The escape was not a quick strike, taking place around the lunch hour as the inmates subdued their guards and maintenance employees practically one-by-one, binding them in duct tape and pillow cases over their heads and dragging them into a storage room.

A few of the inmates disguised themselves as maintenance workers to get unchecked access into the prison's entrance and exit area.

Once there, Johnson said, they managed to overpower yet another guard, and forced him at gunpoint to open a gate and they drove away in a maintenance vehicle.

Police have said they drove to a Wal-Mart in nearby Kenedy, ditched the maintenance vehicle and escaped in two cars. The report does not detail any events outside the prison's grounds.

The report noted at least two security lapses:

— A prison employee who noticed several of the unsupervised inmates in the maintenance area did not report it as suspicious.

— Although several of the hostages managed to free themselves and pull a fire alarm, the prison official who called the maintenance area and did not get an answer did not send anyone to investigate.

Johnson said there was no evidence that a staffing shortage had any effect on the breakout, although the prison guard union has reported that during the shift of the escape, the prison was 22 staffers short.

Johnson did acknowledge that the shortage might have had an indirect effect.

Prison officials do not know all the details of the escape.

"We know of only seven people who know of the details of the escape. All of us want to understand fully how and why this incident occurred," Johnson said.

He began the presentation by offering condolences to members of the Hawkins's family.

"Words are not enough to express our sympathies and regrets to the Hawkins family," he said.

Prior to the release of the report, TDCJ spokesman Larry Todd said, "We don't have any secrets, and we're not hiding anything. We want to be as candid as we possibly can."

The gang left a note vowing that "you haven't heard the last of us yet.,"

Other letters left behind by three of the convicts complained of the "tyranny of the Texas prison system."

## THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

**The feller on Deep Creek says, "Some people hold everything except their tongues, keep anything except their word, and lose nothing except their patience."**

It's fun reading, as well as thought-provoking, to consider inspirational messages on church signs and bumper stickers:

—A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.

—A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

—Are you wrinkled with burden? Come into church for a faith lift.

—Be ye fishers of men. You catch them and He will clean them.

—Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

—Don't wait for six strong men to carry you to church.

—Fear knocked. Faith answered. No one was there.

—Forbidden fruits create many jams.

—Give God what's right, not what's left.

—God loves everyone, but probably prefers fruits of the spirit over religious nuts.

—The promise is a safe landing, not a calm passage.

—He who is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else.

—Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

—Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.

—Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

—Prayer. Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

—We're too blessed to be depressed.

—Warning! Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

—Worry is the darkroom in which negatives are developed.

—Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.

—If God is your co-pilot. Swap seats.

—Give Satan an inch, and he'll be a ruler.

—He doesn't want shares of your life, He wants controlling interest.

—Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

—Kneel before God and you can stand before anyone.

—Do your best and then sleep in peace. God is awake.

—Jesus is coming soon. Look busy!

—Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

—God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

—Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.

# SISD administrators to seek grant approvals

Snyder ISD trustees will consider applications seeking grants to improve students' reading skills and their performance on state-mandated tests when they meet this evening at 6 o'clock.

The educational grants total $1.3 million.

Trustees will also consider a resolution seeking renewal of a grant from the Texas Criminal Justice Division for $12,200 for a school police officer.

Also on the agenda is the approval of a formal contract for Theresa Stephens to teach second grade at Stanfield Elementary.

Several informational items will be presented to the trustees, including a report on the district's heating and cooling project, the district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report, and the planned use of the designated cable TV channel.

## Banks to close on MLK Day

Just a few offices and businesses in town will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday.

All financial institutions will close for the national holiday, as will the Snyder Post Office.

Mail will be placed in post office boxes, but there will be no home deliveries.

Scurry County and City of Snyder offices will not observe the holiday, nor will county public schools.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh schools will attend classes as usual.

However, Hermleigh schools will take a holiday Jan. 19 in conjunction with the Scurry County Stock Show, and Ira schools will release early — at noon.

The Texas Workforce Commission will be closed Monday.

# Planning session today for ACS Relay for Life

A planning session for the April Relay for Life event will be at 5 p.m. today in the boardroom of Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Volunteers are needed in several areas, including walkers, runners and team captains.

The 24-hour event is set for April 20-21 at Tiger Stadium.

Today's meeting will lay the groundwork for the event designed to raise funds and increase the awareness of the fight against cancer in Scurry County.

The Relay for Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life, including patients, medical support staff, companies, civic organizations, churches and volunteers, to join together in the fight against cancer.

The volunteers join together in relay teams to walk or run in the event.

"Relay for Life is as much an awareness-raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser," said Wendy Barnett, communications chairperson of the local ACS unit.

"Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy in this exciting event, as volunteers or participants, have made a commitment to fight back against this disease and let the community know that we can beat cancer."

Anyone interested in volunteering in any way, or participating as a team member, is encouraged to call the Scurry County American Cancer Society president, Carole Haynes, at 573-7874, or attend today's meeting.

## Rainfall Reports

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Snyder | .48 | Camp Springs | 1.0 |
| North of Snyder | .5 | Dunn | .8 |
| East of Snyder | .6 | Ira | .6 |
| West of Snyder | .7 | Union | .91 |
| Lake J.B. Thomas | .7 | Gail | 1.0 |
| Hermleigh | .6 | Farmer's Co-op | .75 |
| Inadale | .5 | Loyd Mountain | .7 |



GET IT IN EARLY — Scurry County taxpayers have until Jan. 31 to pay their property taxes in order to avoid paying penalties. Don Gray (standing) beat the deadline by taking care of the matter this week. New tax collector Diana Williamson takes his payment. (SDN Staff Photo)

# Tuition, fees due for some WTC students

All Western Texas College students who have pre-registered for the spring semester at Western Texas College must pay tuition and fees by Monday.

Payment at this time will prevent the student's schedule from being deleted to make room for other students.

Those students receiving financial aid should report to the financial aid office in the student center on that date, and all others should report to the business office located in the administration building to start payment procedures.

These offices will be open for payment from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., 1 to 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Registration at the college begins Monday for the spring semester, and classes will start Wednesday.

## ASK US

Q—When does Daylight Savings Time begin?
A—Sunday, April 1.

## FORECAST - ALMANAC

**Snyder Temps:** High Wednesday, 41 degrees; low, 30; 7 a.m. Thursday, 35; .48 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, .82 of an inch.

**Area Forecast:** Tonight, mostly clear, low lower 30s, light S. wind. Friday, partly cloudy, high near 60, S wind 10-20 mph.



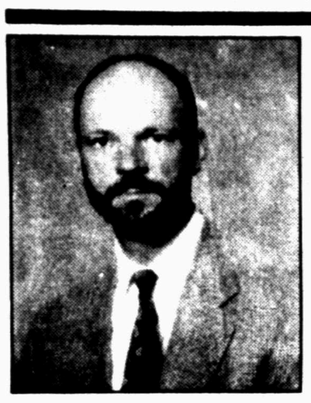
Shawn Wasson
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
6:01 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:44 a.m.
Of 10 days in 2001, the sun has shone 8 days in Snyder.

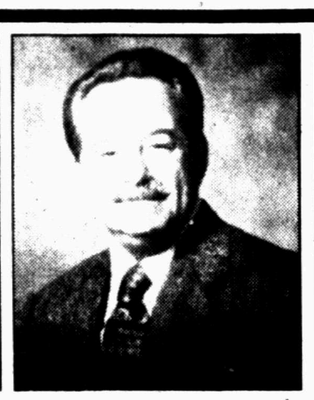
## TODAY'S THOUGHT

I would rather perform at 90 percent of an excellence standard than 110 percent of an adequacy standard.
—Don Beveridge

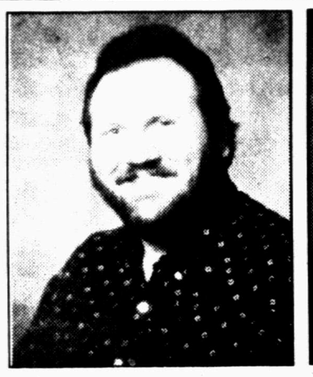
JAN 11 2001


Mark McCormick


Richard Chambers


Mike Levens


Luann Burleson


Glenn Clarady


Kathy Peoples


Janet Stribling

*January is School Board Recognition Month...*

# Seven serve on Snyder ISD School Board

January is School Board Recognition Month and Snyder Independent School District is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions trustees make to their communities.

"Volunteer school board members serve countless hours working to improve public education, said Superintendent Gayle Lomax. In difficult times, school trustees develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues, which impact the entire community and the lives of individual students. They bear the responsibility in the school district for an annual budget of over $20 million; 2,762 students, ages 3 to 19; 343 employees and 11 school sites.

"School trustees have a tremendous responsibility, preparing today's students — and tomorrow's leaders — for productive roles in our society. School board members are the voice of their communities, serving first and foremost in the best interest of our school children," said Lomax.

"We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families," said Lomax. "These individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their commitment and dedication to the continuing success of our students and schools," he said.

Snyder school board members include:

Mark McCormick, president, who was elected to the school board for Place 4 in 1993, 1996 and 1999. He was elected president in 1998, 1999 and 2000. He is president of McCormick Marketing, Inc., in Snyder.

Richard Chambers, vice president, was elected to Place 3 in May 1994 and re-elected in 1997 and again in 2000. Chambers is presently a student at Texas State Technological College in Sweetwater.

Mike Levens, secretary, was elected to Place 2 in May 1997, and re-elected in 2000. Levens is employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Glenn Clarady was elected to Place 1 in May 1990 re-elected in 1993, 1996 and 1999. He is co-owner of G & G Glass in Snyder.

Luann Burleson was elected to the at-large post in April 1987 to a two-year term. She was re-elected in 1989, 1992, 1995 and 1998. She is active in the community coaching several youth sports

Janet Stribling was elected to Place 5 in May 1993, and re-elected in 1996. She is employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Cathy Peoples was appointed to fill the un-expired at-large term of Bill Moss in May 2000. She is a licensed respiratory therapist and real estate agent.

# Designers wrap old memories in new hardware

DETROIT (AP) — For every futuristic concept vehicle on display at the North American International Auto Show, there's one meant to evoke America's century-long love affair with the automobile — sometimes with something as simple as an oval taillight.

All the vehicles here are chock-full of computer chips and materials costing billions in research and development. For some, however, the 21st century stops where the sheet metal begins. From there, the goal is to rekindle memories of cross-country vacations with mom and dad, Friday night cruising, or that first car of one's own.

"People want technology, but they don't always need to see it," said Richard Hutting, chief designer at Ford Motor Co.'s West Coast studio in Valencia, Calif. "When it comes to stimulating the visual senses, technology just doesn't do it.

"You have to wrap it in a package that delivers the surprise and delight the customer expects."

Hutting led the design team that created the Forty Nine concept vehicle, a longer, more sinuous take on the 1949 Ford coupe billed as its inspiration.

If the Forty Nine tries to replicate anything, Hutting said, it's "postwar optimism about the future, feeling good, the Jet Age — everything positive. We tried not to capture a particular car but an era, a mindset."

Back-to-the-future designs have been on the streets for a couple of years. The Plymouth Prowler, built to resemble a customized street rod, was one of the first consciously "retro" production vehicles. It was followed by throwback designs like those of Volkswagen's New Beetle and Chrysler's PT Cruiser.

Those vehicles were designed and marketed with baby boomers in mind, but younger buyers are showing more interest in them as well.

A study released Monday by the R.L. Polk research firm showed the number of Prowler buyers age 18 to 34 more than doubled between late 1997 and early 2000, from 4.4 percent to 10.8 percent. That age group bought 13.5 percent of New Beetles in late 1997 and 12.5 percent of them in early 2000. They bought 7.7 percent of the PT Cruisers sold during the first half of 2000; a comparison with the earlier period wasn't made.

Even more conventional vehicles have reached back to their past. Several Buick models feature the aggressive-looking grilles of their late-'40s predecessors; the edges of the Chevrolet Monte Carlo's fenders suggest those of the early '70s original.

Then there's Ford's new Thunderbird, whose aluminum egg-crate grille, "porthole" side windows, removable top and turquoise-and-chrome emblem are drawn almost directly from the 1955 original.

Hutting said the Forty Nine and the Thunderbird are meant to tap into emotions.

"We've really almost taken technology beyond what the market will bear," he said. "What we have to do is bring some of the warmth back between the consumer and the product.

# Missing minister resurfaces

**By The Associated Press**

A former San Antonio minister missing for more than 16 years and presumed dead told family and friends after he was recognized last month that he knew nothing about his past and had picked a new name and birth date after he emerged from a coma.

But the name, birth date and Social Security number used by James Simmons, formerly known as Wesley Barrett "Barre" Cox, are the same as those of a Clarendon rancher, the San Antonio Express-News reported in a copyright story for Thursday's editions.

Rancher James Simmons told the newspaper that he had since been audited by the Internal Revenue Service in 1987 and 1989 and had gotten calls from the FBI. He was told to put a notice in his credit file explaining that someone was using his Social Security number.

The minister was recognized Dec. 10 by a former parishioner as he preached in a Texas church.

Beth Cox, the minister's former wife, said he apparently remembered nothing of his life before 1984, when he said he was brutally beaten and left for dead in the trunk of a car in a Memphis, Tenn., junkyard. At the time, he and Beth had a 6-month-old daughter and he was a family minister at MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio.

Law officers haven't been able to confirm the description from Abilene Christian University, which publicized Beth Cox's account, of how Cox was found beaten and left with amnesia.

Mary Cox, his sister-in-law, told The Associated Press late Wednesday that he was reunited with his mother and brother on New Year's Day. She said the minister did not recognize his 80-year-old mother or his 54-year-old brother, George. He spent a few hours with the family at their home in Frankston in East Texas.

Cameron Crabtree, director of public relations at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., confirmed Wednesday that Barre Cox and Simmons were the same person, the Abilene Reporter-News first reported in a copyright story in its online edition.

The rancher, who goes by the name Jem, said he had never known Cox. Both men were students at Texas Tech, but not at the same time, the Express-News said.

The minister has not been available for comment. Mary Cox declined Wednesday to tell the AP where he was.

## events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

### RESULTS

**Lotto Texas**

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $4 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 8-18-21-28-33-40.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.

**Pick 3**

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

3-3-3

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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American State Bank
West Texas State Bank
Snyder National Bank

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OPEN REGISTRATION
January 2-9
Currently enrolled students can register in departmental or school offices

FRESHMAN/TRANSFER ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION
January 10
Student Lounge - Mesa Building

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January 10
All Seniors & Graduate Students
January 11
All admitted students

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(Hand-carried transcripts not accepted)
• Proof of TASP (undergraduate students)

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Lifestyles



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Nuestra Nue
Park Club; fo
573-8626; 8 p.m

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Senior Citizens
a.m.





PATHOLOGIST SPEAKS AT CLUB — Loretta Lee, standing, visited with Geleska Baze, from left, Vera McSpadden and Maribeth Vestal prior to her program at Altrurian Daughters Wednesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Lee is speech-language pathologist at PRIME Rehab. Hostesses were Shirley Stewart, Nona Morrison and LaVerne Hood. Altrurian Daughters members meet each second Wednesday at noon at the woman's club. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

# Busy parents plan easier meals

Today's busy parents are seeking quick, easy meals to bring the family together and provide variety.

From Cajun jambalaya, to picante wraps, to sauerkraut, households across the country are regularly enjoying more flavorful dishes at the dinner table.

The one ingredient that seems to be missing is time. According to a recent study by Consumer Trends & Industry Futures, 80 percent of meals are prepared in less than 20 minutes.

A flavorful example of a meal that takes under 20 minutes to prepare and is great for grilling is German Kabobs. Made with smoked sausage, onion, green pepper, apple, potato and tomato, the kabobs can be served over noodles or sauerkraut for a real German treat.

Another healthy dinner alternative that's ready in 15 minutes is the Flavorful Light Country Supper featuring turkey smoked sausage, paired with potatoes, broccoli, carrots and celery.

**FLAVORFUL LIGHT COUNTRY SUPPER**

6 potatoes, thinly sliced
1 bunch broccoli, trimmed and sliced
4 carrots, sliced
½ cup celery, sliced
1 medium onion, chopped
Salt and pepper
1 lb. turkey smoked sausage or Polska Kielbasa

Saute sliced potatoes, broccoli, carrots, celery and onion in oil for 10 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste. Place sausages or kielbasa on top when vegetables are tender. Heat 12 minutes, covered.

For free recipes and meal ideas, write to Hillshire Farm & Kahn's, P.O. Box 25111, Cincinnati, OH 45225 or visit www.hillshirefarm.com.

# Computer skills offer more job security

Today's new scientific trends and technology have made it easier for people who want to totally control their work life, professionals who want to decide when to go to work, how much to work, and where to work.

Major studies conducted by national temporary professional work services found that individuals who possess a combination of technical, relationship, business and computer skills are the ones with the most job security and career options. Scientific employees don't have to be masters of all these respective skills, but they should be competent in them.

"Smart companies hire a basic, multi-faceted team as their core staff," notes Rolf Kleiner, senior vice-president and general manager of Kelly Scientific Resources. "Then they supplement that staff with temporary or contract employees, who might be specialists or generalists based on their need to fill in on project work, clinical trials, or when additional personnel are needed. Their method of staffing ultimately saves time, money and resources."

From an employer perspective, having a multi-talented employee pool allows companies to rapidly re-deploy resources and talent to those areas driving overall business objectives. These employees can move quickly and easily from new customer service teams to product development or become a team representative for soliciting additional funding for a product or project.

Experts say that it is important to not only be up-to-date with what's new in technology, computers, medicine, but to even be one step ahead with knowledge about new developments that are going to come about. The need to keep learning and adding to skills is essential to most, especially necessary to those who want to pick and choose their jobs. The more candidates know, the more doors they can expect to open in their professional lives.

"The most successful professionals are those who are continuously learning," said Kleiner. "Whether they are taking classes online, management seminars or classes at their local college, the need to develop a breadth of skills is essential."

# Bridge

**By Phillip Alder**

North 01 11 01
♠ 5 2
♥ A 5
♦ A K Q J 10
♣ 9 8 6 3

West
♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ 8 7 6 4 3
♦ 6
♣ A 10 4

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

South
♠ K Q J 10
♥ K Q 9
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ Q 7

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Pass |
| 1 NT | Pass | 3 NT | All pass |

Opening lead: ♥ 8

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001

## Southeast to the coast

**By Phillip Alder**

Wednesday morning, I was chauffeured from Rotorua to Taupo by Neil Dravitzki, who had been the driving force (and running force; he has completed 53 marathons!) behind my classes at Te Puke and Rotorua. There, I switched to the car of Beryl and Terence Bolton for the onward journey to Napier in the southeast corner of New Zealand's North Island. That afternoon, Beryl and I visited two vineyards making excellent red and white wine, Brookfields and Te Mata.

In the evening, only 15 people — from a membership of more than 700 — showed up for a look at the defensive target. The best pair in the room, Cynthia and Ian Clayton, got this deal right.

South opened with a weak no-trump, showing 12-14 points. This still enjoys almost universal popularity in the former British Empire. (Not without reason, in my opinion. One no-trump describes one's hand so well, the weak variety occurs twice as often as the strong, and it is harder to compete against.)

Cynthia correctly led the heart eight: top of nothing. If you lead fourth-highest, you must (should!) have an honor in the suit.

Declarer found the best play, winning trick one in the dummy and immediately calling for a low spade, trying to sneak in the ninth trick while the defenders were still asleep. However, Ian was awake. The opening lead had marked declarer with both the king and queen of hearts. And declarer had dummy's five diamond tricks ready to run. So, the only chance for the defense was immediately to cash four club tricks. Ian rushed in with the spade ace and switched to the club two — success!

*Copyright 2001, NEA*

# Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan 10 – Betty Naquin, Freida Dever and Meeghan Puente.

DISMISSALS: Shara Humphrey, Marjory Lee, Robert Wyatt and Horace Williamson.

CENSUS: 36 (Med./Surg.-12 and Long-term Care-24)



DAR PROGRAM — Dale and Elaine Byrd presented a program, "Historic Williamsburg," to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution Tuesday at the Snyder Country Club. Mrs. Byrd chose Gateway Family Services to have a DAR donation made in her honor. DAR officers to resume their duties in October were elected: Virginia Clark, regent; Ann Smartt, vice regent; Lois Bartels, recording secretary; Nonnie Ward, corresponding secretary; Helen Hatter, treasurer; Joanne Sterling, registrar; Dorothy Campbell, historian; and Tizzy Hall, librarian. Clark and Smartt plan to be delegates at the state conference in Houston in March. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

# Top Five

**TELEVISION**

1. "ER," NBC.
2. "Orange Bowl: Oklahoma vs. Florida State," ABC.
3. "Friends," NBC.
4. "Will & Grace," NBC.
5. "Rose Bowl-Postgame," ABC.

(From Nielsen Media Research)

**FILMS**

1. "Cast Away," Fox
2. "What Women Want," Paramount.
3. "Traffic," USA.
4. "Miss Congeniality," Warner Bros.
5. "The Family Man," Universal.

(From Exhibitor Relations Co.)

**HOT FIVE**

1. "Independent Women Part I," Destiny's Child, Columbia.
2. "It Wasn't Me," Shaggy feat. Ricardo "RikRok" Ducent. MCA.
3. "He Loves U Not," Dream. Bad Boy. (Gold)
4. "Case Of The Ex (Watcha Gonna Do)," Mya. University.
5. "With Arms Wide Open," Creed. Wind-up.

(From Billboard magazine)

**ALBUMS**

1. "1," The Beatles. Apple. (Platinum)
2. "Now 5," Various Artists. Sony/Zomba/Universal/EMI. (Platinum)
3. "Hotshot," Shaggy. MCA. (Gold)
4. "Chocolate Starfish And The Hot Dog Flavored Water," Limp Bizkit. Flip. (Platinum)
5. "Tha Last Meal," Snoop Dogg. No Limit.

(From Billboard magazine)

Singer Burl Ives was born in 1909.

# Community Calendar

**THURSDAY**

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

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

Canyon Gun Club; 1910 25th; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

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

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

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

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9453; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY**

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




In Kindergarten here they are.
Now they can legally drive a car.
WATCH OUT!
Happy 16th Birthday
Hailey and Katie



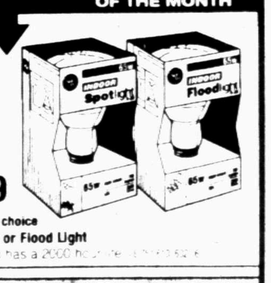
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**SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski**



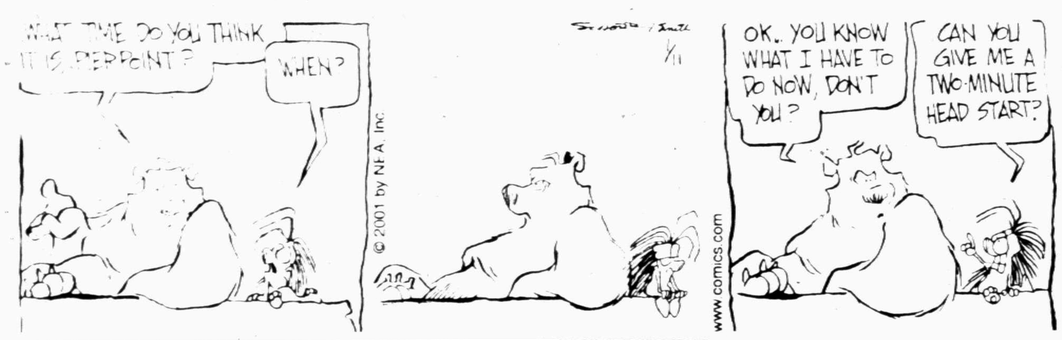

**BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell**




**BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun**




**THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr**




## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Cycles
7 Maui greeting
12 Biblical plant
13 Closed tightly
14 The long way home?
15 Of an inferior substitute
16 Inlet
17 Author John — Passos
18 Flying saucer (abbr.)
21 "— Marner"
23 Uncle
26 Starlet's quest
28 Western defense org.
29 Atmosphere
30 Radar-screen image
31 Singer Manchester
33 Make headway
36 Spasms
37 Once named
38 Wild buffalo
40 Swing around
41 Goof
42 Like some remarks
44 "Absolutely!"
45 D.C. hotshot
46 Dawn goddess
48 Pounding instrument
51 Handsome young man
55 Popular newspaper name
56 Calm
57 Foolish
58 Pass by

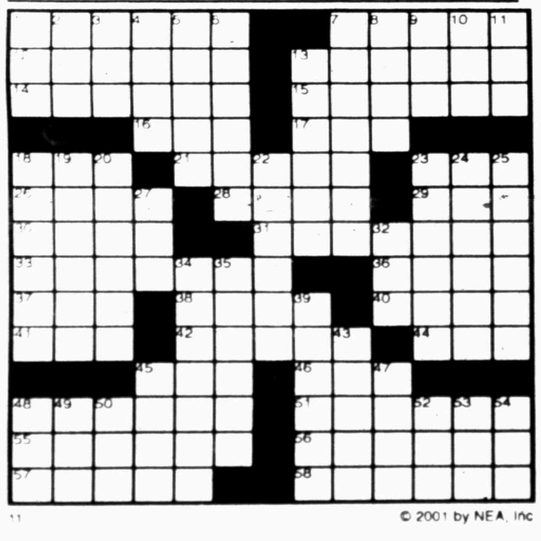
**DOWN**

1 Third deg.?
2 View
3 Aug. time
4 Hebrew lyre
5 Jazz great Armstrong
6 Stretch injuriously
7 Type of spray
8 Girl
9 "Pay" ending
10 — up (angry)
11 Axlike tool
13 Give an opiate to
18 Suave
19 File-cabinet item
20 "— Twist"
22 Regret deeply
23 Simply
24 Pool-player's error
25 Rubs out
27 Clean-air org.
32 "— My Party"
34 Engine housing
35 Stretched one's neck
39 Army order (2 wds.)
43 Swiss song
45 Musial or Kenton
47 Swamp bird
48 — Beta Kappa
49 "Velvet" end
50 Marbella Mrs.
52 Wool fiber
53 — and outs
54 Look at

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

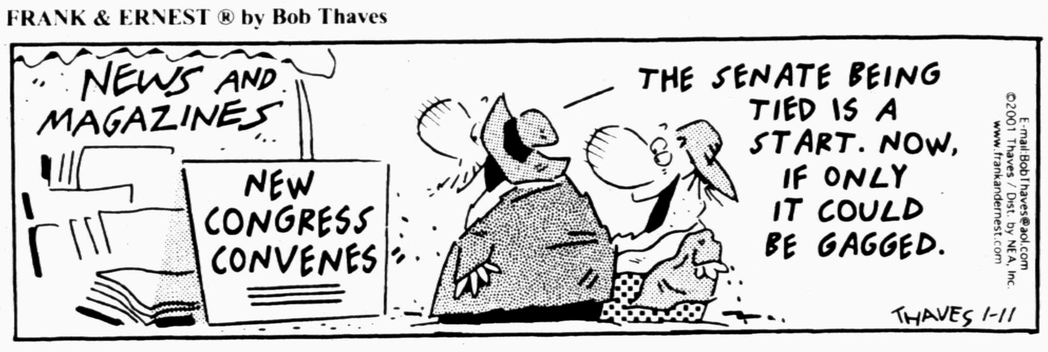
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**HERMAN ® by Jim Unger**




"I can't find my ticket. Give me a nice blue one."

**KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright**




# Snyder Daily News Comics

**DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham**




"MATT JUST MOVED IN DOWN THE STREET. I TOLD HIM YOU'D SHOW HIM WHAT A GOOD COOK YOU ARE."

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Snyder boys at
p.m., varsity at 7:30
Westbrook at Ira
at 8 p.m.
Snyder freshma
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Snyder Gold 8t
Andrews tourney
**SATU**
**Bask**
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Snyder Gold 8t
Andrews tourney

### Bills hire new

ORCHARD PA
helped rebuild th
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### Baseball to a

NEW YORK (A
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About 35,000 t
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Kathleen Fineout

### Coomer now

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### Phillies sign

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### McKay to le

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the 1988 Winter

# SPORTS

## UT moves to 2-0 in conference

AUSTIN (AP) — Chris Owens had 14 points and 15 rebounds and No. 23 Texas recovered from poor first half of shooting for a 63-41 win over Kansas State on Wednesday night.

After shooting just 6-of-36 from the floor in the first half, Texas (12-2, 2-0 Big 12) broke it open in the second with a 12-0 run that turned a close game into a 37-21 Texas lead.

Texas won its seventh straight, the 'Horns' longest winning streak in three seasons under coach Rick Barnes.

Phineas Atchison led Kansas State (7-6, 1-1) with 11 points.

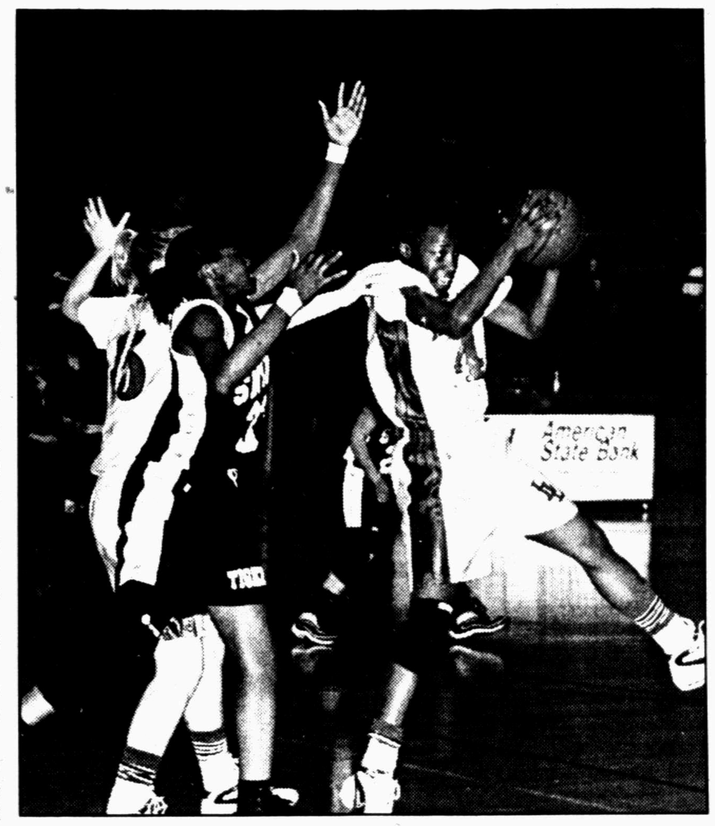
The Longhorns looked like anything but a team on a roll in the first half.

The Texas crowd, which stands until the Longhorns score their first points, was on its feet for nearly four minutes to start the game. The teams combined for just four points and seven fouls in the first five minutes.

Kansas State's Atchison drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer to make it 20-16 Longhorns at the half. The teams combined to hit just 11 of 59 shots in the first half.

Texas finally started finding the basket in the second. The Longhorns went 15 of 27 from the floor and connected on six 3-pointers after halftime.

Texas led 25-21 when Owens hit a short jumper and Darren Kelly followed with a 3 and floater in the lane that made it 32-21. Texas maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way.



**TWO ON ONE — Snyder senior Ashley Delce (33) battles two Levelland players for the ball during district action earlier this season. Delce, who is averaging 14.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game during district play, will lead the Lady Tigers into battle at 6 p.m Friday at Lubbock Estacado. (SDN Staff Photo)**

## Ruling clears way for Vermleil to coach KC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Dick Vermeil is finally set to return to the NFL as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Now that the NFL has issued a compensation ruling, the Chiefs have called a news conference for Friday to formally introduce Vermeil, according to The Kansas City Star.

The newspaper also reported in Thursday's editions that Vermeil last week agreed to a three-year, $10 million contract.

Kansas City pried Vermeil out of his consultant's contract with St. Louis, and the NFL ruled Wednesday it will cost the Chiefs a second- and third-round draft pick and Vermeil $500,000 he was paid this season by the Rams.

Chiefs president Carl Peterson said it's fair compensation for "the premier football coach in the National Football League."

"Dick Vermeil's record speaks for itself," Peterson said Wednesday following NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue's ruling. "I think it was appropriate for a Super Bowl coach. This man has been successful at everything he's ever done."

Vermeil, who retired after coaching the Rams to last year's Super Bowl title over Tennessee, said he, too, was pleased.

"I thought they made it fair. I feel good about it. I'm glad the Rams got something," Vermeil said from his home in the Philadelphia area. "They were good to me for three years. This is a way of paying something back to them."

Asked when the Chiefs would begin working out contract particulars with Vermeil, Peterson said, "When does the next plane from Philadelphia get in?"

Peterson and Vermeil were coaches together at UCLA more than two decades ago. Their friendship deepened when Vermeil led the 1980 Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl while Peterson was director of player personnel.

Peterson tried to talk his buddy out of retirement when he was first put in charge of the Chiefs in 1989. He wound up with his second choice, Marty Schottenheimer.

Gunther Cunningham, after a 7-9 season, was left dangling for a week until Peterson persuaded Vermeil to come back "to doing what he loves."

It's the second time Vermeil, 64, has come out of retirement. He stepped down after Philadelphia's Super Bowl and worked as a TV commentator for 13 years before joining the Rams three seasons ago.

"I guess it was just meant to be," he said of his reunion with Peterson. "We were together at UCLA and the Eagles and now we're together again."

## JV boys hold off Mustangs

Snyder controlled the final 16 minutes of action Tuesday night to hold off Andrews, 44-35, in junior varsity boys' basketball action at the SJHS gym.

The Tigers held a one-point advantage at halftime, before widening the gap with a 13-point effort in the third quarter. Snyder held the Mustangs to only 17 points in the second half to preserve the win.

Colby Driggers poured in 15 points to pace the Tigers, while T.J. Jones added nine more.

Brady Reed and Corey Clay netted six points apiece. Clay Williams and Tanner Beard posted three each, and Jay Scott finished with two.

The Tigers will be in action at 6 p.m. Friday at Lubbock Estacado.

## Raiders, fans enjoy home-field advantage

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Fans of the Oakland Raiders have names like Skull Man, Spike and Dark Raider. They lurk in places like the Black Hole.

Welcome to the Raider Nation.

The Oakland Raiders, playing host to an AFC title game for the first time since 1980, say their wacky fans will be a distinct advantage on Sunday when they play the Baltimore Ravens for the conference championship.

"Relentless support," coach Jon Gruden said of his team's fans. "Relentless."

The Raiders (13-4) have a distinct home-field advantage in the playoffs, having lost only one game at home this season. The fans, Gruden and the players say, are part of the reason.

Often, die-hard fans arrive at the Coliseum as early as 3 a.m. on game day, jockeying for the best tailgate position in the parking lot.

And they don't take kindly to those who have taken up with the team now that they're winning. A banner in the north parking lot before the Raiders divisional playoff game against the Miami Dolphins read "Welcome Bandwagon Fans!" above a drawing of an obscene gesture.

Silver and black is required. Chains and dog collars have always been de rigueur. And the latest accessory is a "Chucky" doll from the "Child's Play" series of horror movies.

Although the origins are unclear, it has been said that Gruden resembles Chucky when he's angry. So fans put blond hair, headsets and Raiders garb on their dolls.

When asked about the phenomenon, Gruden seemed amused, if not perplexed.

"All I know is there's some comparison between me and some horror character," he said with a smile.

Eighteen-inch Chucky dolls, not normally found in your corner toy store, were going for as much as $42 on eBay's auction Web site this week.

The Raiders' fans may seem a bit extreme in the San Francisco Bay area, more accustomed to the civilized, wine-drinking boosters of the San Francisco 49ers, but there are actually stadiums that are just as inhospitable.

"Every stadium is a little bit different, but that's a unique environment to go into," Ravens coach Brian Billick said. "But no more so than Philly, New York, Chicago. Those are some pretty tough places with pretty tough characters, as well."

Raiders receiver Tim Brown said the one thing about Oakland fans is that they're loud.

"We can't hear ourselves, so we know they can't hear themselves," he said.

## Peoples leads JV girls past Lady 'Stangs

Zipporah Peoples got on track in the fourth quarter Tuesday night to help carry Snyder past Andrews, 34-30, in junior varsity girls' basketball action.

Peoples poured in eight points in the final frame to fuel a Snyder run that erased a nine-point Andrews lead.

Peoples paced the Lady Tigers with 14 points, while Hailey Putnam added seven more.

Chasity Perales tallied six points. Dara Chambers dropped in three, and Patricia Vargas and Kentara McDonald netted two apiece.

Snyder will be in action at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Lubbock Estacado.

## Lady Raiders knock off Baylor

LUBBOCK (AP) — Jia Perkins scored 23 points as No. 11 Texas Tech beat previously unbeaten Baylor 84-61 on Wednesday night for the Lady Raiders' 38th straight home victory.

Texas Tech (12-2, 3-0) used a 30-9 run to take a 48-22 lead at the half. No. 23 Baylor (13-1, 2-1) shot only 29 percent during the first half, hitting 9-of-31 compared to Tech's 20-of-35.

The Lady Bears shooting vastly improved during the second half and Tech's declined as Sheila Lambert scored 18 of her 25 points. Danielle Crockrom added 15.

Lambert entered the game with a Big 12-best scoring average of 24.5 points. Crockrom was second with a 21.5 average, and topped the conference's rebounders at 12.8.

In last season's regular season finale, Tech beat Baylor 105-52.

## Local Sports Schedule

**TODAY**
**Basketball**

Snyder freshman girls at Snyder tourney

Snyder Gold 8th grade boys at Andrews tourney

**FRIDAY**
**Basketball**

Snyder girls at Estacado, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30

Snyder boys at Estacado, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30

Westbrook at Ira, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Snyder freshman girls at Snyder tourney

Snyder Gold 8th grade boys at Andrews tourney

**SATURDAY**
**Basketball**

Snyder freshman girls at Snyder tourney

Abilene Cooper at Snyder freshman boys, 10 a.m. and 11:30

Snyder Gold 8th grade boys at Andrews tourney

## College Basketball Scores

**MEN**
**EAST**

Binghamton 72, Army 55
Canisius 95, Siena 77
Cent. Connecticut St. 80, Sacred Heart 63
Connecticut 73, Pittsburgh 53
Drexel 68, Penn 63
Duquesne 83, Rhode Island 69
Fairfield 84, Niagara 82, 2OT
Georgetown 86, Morgan St. 68
Hofstra 57, Manhattan 43
Holy Cross 68, Colgate 55
Lehigh 90, Lafayette 80
Maine 86, Hartford 76
Navy 89, Bucknell 67
New Hampshire 87, Vermont 69
Rider 94, Iona 81
St. John's 73, Boston College 71
St. Joseph's 76, George Washington 71

**SOUTH**

Belmont 88, W. Carolina 75
Duke 84, N.C. State 78
Elon 88, Liberty 82
Florida 81, Mississippi St. 80
Georgia 85, Auburn 80
Kentucky 69, South Carolina 63
Louisville 87, Tulane 84, OT
N.C.-Asheville 72, Charleston Southern 65
N.C.-Wilmington 66, High Point Green 90, Buffalo 75
Bradley 76, S. Illinois 65
Kent St. 94, N. Illinois 68
Loyola, Ill. 57, Wis.-Green Bay 55
Marquette 47, Cincinnati 44
Miami (Ohio) 73, Cent. Michigan 61
Michigan St. 84, Northwestern 53
Penn St. 78, Ohio St. 75
Purdue 73, Wisconsin 67
Toledo 74, E. Michigan 55

**SOUTHWEST**

Houston 67, UAB 65
Mississippi 53, Arkansas 48
Rice 75, Texas-Pan American 71
Texas 63, Kansas St. 41

**FAR WEST**

Fresno St. 94, TCU 82
Missouri 82, Colorado 76

**WOMEN**
**EAST**

Bucknell 60, Navy 57
Duquesne 62, Fordham 59
Hartford 64, Towson 50
Kent St. 68, Buffalo 60
Lehigh 64, Lafayette 46
Miami 65, Boston College 59
Rutgers 81, Providence 76, OT
Seton Hall 62, Pittsburgh 60
Siena 63, Loyola, Md. 57
Villanova 61, Georgetown 51

**SOUTH**

Campbell 82, Gardner-Webb 67
Florida St. 69, Maryland 38
N. Carolina A&T 68, Savannah St. 63
Winthrop 68, Elon 64

**MIDWEST**

Ball St. 94, W. Michigan 68
Iowa St. 67, Kansas 48
Loyola, Ill. 73, Butler 66
Miami (Ohio) 64, Akron 52
Missouri 69, Texas A&M 61
Nebraska 67, Kansas St. 58
Toledo 83, Ohio 73

**SOUTHWEST**

Colorado 65, Oklahoma St. 49
Oklahoma 85, Texas 74
Texas Tech 84, Baylor 61
Texas-Pan Am 76, Houston Baptist 64

**FAR WEST**

New Mexico St. 84, Louisiana-Lafayette 65

## Sports Briefs

### Bills hire new GM

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Tom Donahoe, an executive who helped rebuild the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1990s, was hired as president and general manager of the Buffalo Bills.

Donahoe replaces John Butler, who was fired by the Bills last month before becoming general manager of the San Diego Chargers.

### Baseball to authenticate merchandise

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league baseball has hired an accounting company to authenticate autographed and game-used merchandise sold by its licensees.

About 35,000 to 40,000 autographed items, including 1,200 used in games, will come under the program this year, baseball spokeswoman Kathleen Fineout said.

### Coomer now with Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — Ron Coomer, who hit .270 with 16 homers and 82 RBIs for Minnesota last season, agreed to a $1.2 million, one-year contract with the Chicago Cubs.

A 1999 AL All-Star, Coomer has a career average of .278 in 676 major league games with 77 homers and 364 RBIs.

### Phillies sign speedy OF

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Speedy outfielder Brian L. Hunter agreed to a $900,000, one-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Hunter is joining his third team since the start of last season. He hit .267 in 104 games with the Colorado Rockies and Cincinnati Reds.

### McKay to lead NBC's Olympic coverage

Jim McKay, the veteran TV sports commentator who helped make ABC the Olympic network more than three decades ago, will work for NBC at Salt Lake City under an unusual talent-sharing arrangement.

He will contribute features and commentary in Salt Lake City, while Bob Costas will stay on as NBC's main Olympic studio host.

The 79-year-old McKay brings a wealth of experience and a measure of audience familiarity to NBC's Olympics coverage.

He has worked at 11 Olympics, all but one for ABC, but none since the 1988 Winter Games.

## National Football League

**All Times EST**
**Saturday, Dec. 30**
**Wild-card Playoffs**

Miami 23, Indianapolis 17, OT
New Orleans 31, St. Louis 28

**Sunday, Dec. 31**

Baltimore 21, Denver 3
Philadelphia 21, Tampa Bay 3

**Divisional Playoffs**
**Saturday, Jan. 6**

Minnesota 34, New Orleans 16
Oakland 27, Miami 0

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

Baltimore 24, Tennessee 10
New York Giants 20, Philadelphia 10

**Conference Championships**
**Sunday, Jan. 14**
**NFC Championship**

Minnesota at New York Giants, 12:30 p.m. (FOX)

**AFC Championship**

Baltimore at Oakland, 4 p.m. (CBS)

**Super Bowl**
**Sunday, Jan. 28**
**At Tampa, Fla.**

AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6 p.m. (CBS)

**Pro Bowl**
**Sunday, Feb. 4**

NFC vs. AFC, 5:30 p.m. at Honolulu (ABC)

## National Basketball Association

**All Times EST**

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Atlantic Division** | | | | |
| Philadelphia | 25 | 9 | 735 | — |
| New York | 22 | 12 | 647 | 3 |
| Miami | 21 | 16 | 568 | 5½ |
| Orlando | 14 | 20 | 412 | 11 |
| Boston | 13 | 23 | 361 | 13 |
| New Jersey | 11 | 24 | 314 | 14½ |
| Washington | 7 | 30 | 189 | 19½ |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Charlotte | 22 | 14 | 611 | — |
| Milwaukee | 19 | 15 | 559 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 17 | 16 | 515 | 3½ |
| Toronto | 17 | 18 | 486 | 4½ |
| Indiana | 16 | 20 | 444 | 6 |
| Detroit | 14 | 21 | 400 | 7½ |
| Atlanta | 12 | 22 | 353 | 9 |
| Chicago | 6 | 28 | 176 | 15 |
| **WESTERN CONFERENCE** | | | | |
| **Midwest Division** | | | | |
| San Antonio | 22 | 11 | 667 | — |
| Dallas | 24 | 13 | 649 | — |
| Utah | 22 | 13 | 629 | 1 |
| Denver | 20 | 16 | 556 | 3½ |
| Minnesota | 20 | 17 | 541 | 4 |
| Houston | 17 | 17 | 500 | 5½ |
| Vancouver | 10 | 24 | 294 | 12½ |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | |
| Portland | 26 | 10 | 722 | — |
| Sacramento | 23 | 9 | 719 | 1 |
| L.A. Lakers | 23 | 11 | 676 | 2 |
| Phoenix | 20 | 12 | 625 | 4 |
| Seattle | 19 | 18 | 514 | 7½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 13 | 24 | 351 | 13½ |
| Golden State | 11 | 23 | 324 | 14 |

**Wednesday's Games**

Boston 88, Miami 76
Seattle 104, Washington 101
Toronto 110, Detroit 85
Dallas 106, Minnesota 86
Portland 93, Philadelphia 75
Sacramento 108, Cleveland 103
L.A. Clippers 92, Denver 86

**Thursday's Games**

Golden State at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

**Friday's Games**

Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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# News Briefs

## McVeigh still wants prompt execution

DENVER (AP) — On the eve of the deadline for changing his mind, Timothy McVeigh still wanted a prompt execution for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, according to his attorneys.

"There has been no change in Mr. McVeigh's intent," lawyer Nathan Chambers said Wednesday after meeting with his client in an Indiana prison. "He is continuing with his decision to forgo the appeals."

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch agreed to McVeigh's request last month, giving him until today to change his mind. Otherwise, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons will set a date for him to die by lethal injection.

At a Dec. 28 hearing, McVeigh reserved the right to seek clemency from the White House telling the judge: "The president, as I understand it, has almost unlimited power in this respect."

## Researchers genetically modify monkey

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Researchers have created the first genetically modified primate in the world, a baby rhesus monkey whose name — ANDi — stands for "inserted DNA" spelled backward.

Born in October, the male monkey carries a tiny extra bit of DNA in a gene introduced as a marker that can be seen under a microscope because it actually glows green, researchers at Oregon Health Sciences University said.

The creation of ANDi was described in the Friday issue of the journal Science.

Researchers hope they now can introduce other genes in rhesus monkeys that could trigger a host of human diseases such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, breast cancer or HIV in order to find a way to block them at the genetic level.

The technique for inserting the gene has been used for more than a quarter century in mice, but comparing a mouse to a human being has limits, said Dr. Gerald Schatten. He is leading the research at the university's Oregon Regional Primate Center.

Because monkeys are close cousins to humans in terms of DNA, they may give scientists a better picture of how human disease develops, he said.

"I think we're at an extraordinary moment in the history of humans," Schatten said Wednesday.

## Crew member is charged with sabotage

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP) — A Navy missile technician was charged with sabotaging the Trident nuclear submarine where he worked.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ernesto G. Cimmino, 23, of Scotia, N.Y., faced 23 counts in the damage to the USS Alaska.

Cimmino, who assigned to the Alaska since June 1998, was being held at the Trident base at Bangor and was given a lawyer, Lt. Kevin Stephens said.

The Alaska arrived at the shipyard in April for an 18-month conversion to handle the larger and more powerful Trident II missiles.

Navy officials said in November that the sub had apparently been damaged intentionally. At the time, The Sun of Bremerton reported that the damage apparently involved cut electrical cables.

"The damage did not compromise the safety of the personnel working on the ship," Mary Anne Mascianica, public affairs officer for the shipyard, said at the time.

## Mother sentenced for killing baby son

WARREN, Ohio (AP) — A woman who drugged her newborn's formula so he would sleep while she went barhopping has been sentenced to five years in prison for the 2-month-old's death.

Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Andrew Logan told Nicole Phillips, 25, before sentencing Tuesday that her son, Tavares, should have been more important than going out with friends.

Phillips declined comment before sentencing, but her attorney, Anthony Consoldane, said his client did not intend to kill her son.

"She loved her baby," Consoldane said. "This is a terrible tragedy."

Phillips laced her son's bottle with a prescription painkiller on Oct. 16, 1999, prosecutors said. The infant died the next day.

She pleaded guilty last month to one charge each of corrupting another with drugs and involuntary manslaughter and could have been ordered to serve 10 years in prison.

## Police kill man holding girl hostage

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — A gunman who briefly took a 17-year-old high school student hostage was shot and killed by police.

No one else was injured in the shooting Wednesday at the 2,500-student Hueneme High School, about 60 miles north of Los Angeles.

The gunman, who was also 17, apparently wasn't a student at the school and didn't know the girl, police said. His name was not released.

It wasn't clear what prompted the attack but the teen-ager may have wanted officers to shoot him, police Cmdr. Tom Chronister said at a news conference Wednesday night. He declined to elaborate.

Devon Bishop, a 10th-grader, said the gunman had his arm around the girl's head with the gun at her neck.

"I ran. I just got my backpack and ran. It wasn't cool at all," Bishop said.

Student Michael Garcia said he saw the gunman wave the weapon at other students, yelling "Back away, back away."

Students who fled the campus went to a nearby middle school where they were sent home for the day.

Before grabbing the girl, the gunman got into a dispute with another student who was being picked up outside the school. He fired several shots as their car drove away but they were not hurt, Chronister said.

The gunman then took his hostage in an open quadrangle of the school. A campus officer ordered him to drop the gun, Chronister said, but the gunman replied that he had a bomb.

# Date Book

**Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001**

Today is the 11th day of 2001 and the 22nd day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1759, in Philadelphia, the first life insurance company in the British North American colonies was incorporated.

On this day in 1911, textile workers went on strike in Lawrence, Mass.

On this day in 1949, in Washington, D.C., the cornerstone was laid for the first mosque of importance in the United States. It was called the Islamic Center.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Alexander Hamilton (1775-1804), U.S. statesman; William James (1842-1910), psychologist-philosopher; Alice Paul (1885-1977), feminist-lawyer; Alan Paton (1903-1988), novelist; Grant Tinker (1926-), broadcast executive, is 75; Rod Taylor (1929-), actor, is 72; Ben Crenshaw (1952-), golfer, is 49.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1984, the Denver Nuggets defeated the San Antonio Spurs 163-155.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row." — Alice Paul

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between full moon (Jan. 9) and last quarter (Jan. 16).

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# Lawsuit charges racism in Florida voting; hearings set

MIAMI (AP) — Civil rights groups are suing Florida election officials on behalf of thousands of blacks, saying they were denied the right to vote in the presidential election because of institutionalized racism.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday asks a federal judge to overhaul how Florida's elections are run by getting rid of punch-card ballots used in 25 counties, fixing the system for purging voter lists and monitoring state elections for 10 years.

Today a federal commission was to begin hearings in Tallahassee on voting problems in the presidential election. The panel was to hear accusations of harassment, voter registration irregularities, illegal voting-poll purges and accounts of a state patrol road block set up election morning near a precinct.

"We do not know whether discrimination existed or exists but we're here because we have a duty to look at these allegations," said Mary Frances Berry, chairwoman of the U.S. commission on Civil Rights.

Gov. Jeb Bush, brother of the president-elect, was subpoenaed last week and was scheduled to testify today. The governor formed a panel last month to recommend improvements, and both houses of the Republican-controlled Legislature are examining the disputed balloting.

The civil rights lawsuit does not attempt to overturn the results of the Nov. 7 presidential race in Florida, which provided the decisive margin for President-elect Bush.

Secretary of State Katherine Harris, state elections chief Clay Roberts and county election supervisors are named in the suit. Roberts said he couldn't comment because he hadn't seen it.

Groups supporting the lawsuit said lawful voters were purged from registration lists and some voters were not given required language assistance.

The groups also claim thousands were turned away from Florida polls, some because applications from state motor vehicle offices weren't processed. About 17,000 letters were sent out informing people they couldn't vote because they were convicted felons, even though many were not.

"This thing is so massive," said Adora Obi Nweze, Florida president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "It's scary to think about what the numbers could be."

The plaintiffs include voters and others who say they were turned away from the polls.

Earlier this week, a lawsuit was filed in state court in an attempt to block use of the punch-card "Votomatic" system. Plaintiffs claim the error-prone system caused thousands of votes to go uncounted and may have changed the results in a race that was decided in Bush's favor by 537 votes.

Last week, the American Civil Liberties Union sued Georgia officials to throw out the punch-card system used in 17 counties. The ACLU claims the system disenfranchises thousands in areas with large numbers of black voters.

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On the Net:
NAACP:
http://www.naacp.org
American Civil Liberties Union of Florida:
http://www.aclufl.org
People for the American Way:
http://www.pfaw.org
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law:
http://www.lawyerscommittee.org

# Ashcroft says Christian faith helped shape political career

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft says he tries to "invite God's presence" while making crucial decisions and compares his political victories and defeats to resurrections and crucifixions.

The former Missouri governor also wrote that he was anointed before each of his gubernatorial terms and on the evening before he was sworn into the U.S. Senate a friend brought out Crisco cooking oil for anointing when no holy oil could be found.

In his 1998 book, "Lessons From A Father To His Son," the son of a pastor makes clear his deep devotion to Christianity and details how it has shaped his lengthy public career — from his view on race to his staunch opposition to abortion and support for the death penalty.

Since President-elect Bush selected the defeated Missouri senator to be America's next chief law enforcement officer, civil rights groups and abortion rights supporters have mobilized to oppose his nominations based on some of his views.

Democracy Group, a newly created advocacy group, plans to distribute about 3,000 posters and signs Monday at San Antonio's Martin Luther King Jr. march to protest Bush's choice of Ashcroft as well as the presidential election outcome.

Members of the group, a coalition formed in response to voting irregularities in Florida, oppose Ashcroft's nomination because he does not support an investigation into the Nov. 7 election, said Tommy Calvert, the son of eastside San Antonio activist T.C. Calvert.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson had said demonstrations protesting "the chaos and the debacle in Florida" would take place Jan. 15, the legal holiday celebrating King's birthday.

"It is against my religion to impose religion on people. ... But I also believe that I need to invite God's presence into whatever I'm doing, including the world of politics," wrote Ashcroft, who is Pentecostal.

The mixing of politics and faith is embraced by many public officials, according to the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., an Orthodox Jew, often spoke of his faith during his campaign for vice president and strictly observed the Jewish Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

"There are more today in high places who unashamedly express their faith in God than I have known in my 50 years in the ministry," Falwell said. "John Ashcroft is one of the most genuine and committed Christians I have ever met."

Ashcroft's book is a tribute to his late father, J. Robert Ashcroft, who was a pastor and college president. The former senator credits his father with teaching him the moral values that shaped his life as a state and federal officeholder.

"My theory about elections is mirrored in what I hold about all of life: for every crucifixion a resurrection is waiting to follow — perhaps not immediately, but the possibility is there," Ashcroft wrote.

He used the same analogy to describe his first defeat for Congress in 1972.

"My congressional election loss did not end at a crucifixion; it became a resurrection, and an open door to my lifelong vocation of public service. But other crucifixions lay ahead."

Ashcroft, a former Missouri attorney general, addresses in the book some of the issues he would face in the Justice Department and at his confirmation hearing next week before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ashcroft is criticized by black leaders for his role in halting the nomination of Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White, the first black on the state's high court, to a federal judgeship. White has agreed to testify.

Of race, Ashcroft wrote that he learned discrimination was wrong when he asked his father, "What would you say if I told you I wanted to marry a black woman?"

His father replied: "John, what would be trouble was if you married someone who didn't share your faith." Ashcroft recalled, "This was my father's way of telling me that what really mattered was not skin color but the condition of a person's heart."

The Cabinet designee has said he considered White to be soft on criminals, and noted he had supported 23 of the 26 nominations of black judges during his Senate tenure.

The man who would have a major say in selecting judicial nominees was harshly critical of judicial activists.

He wrote that such jurists "refuse to accept the inactivity of the legislature or the silence of the framers of the Constitution as evidence that the ignored issues should not be addressed or were purposely not covered by the law or the Constitution."

# Markets

## Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

| | High | Low | Last | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMR Corp s | 39 63 | 38 69 | 38 88 | + 19 |
| AT&T Corp | 23 69 | 22 88 | 23 69 | + 56 |
| Albertsons | 25 44 | 25 00 | 25 25 | — 13 |
| Alltel | 66 63 | 66 13 | 66 19 | |
| AmerOnline | 47 00 | 43 89 | 46 51 | + 1 62 |
| AmElPw | 41 75 | 39 56 | 39 88 | — 1 75 |
| AndrkPtr | 63 25 | 62 25 | 63 01 | + 2 01 |
| ATMOS Egy | 25 44 | 25 00 | 25 00 | — 25 |
| Aviall | 5 50 | 5 44 | 5 44 | — 06 |
| BP Amoco | 49 25 | 48 63 | 48 94 | + 1 44 |
| BakerHughes | 42 81 | 41 44 | 42 00 | + 63 |
| Bank of Amer | 49 31 | 48 69 | 49 25 | + 69 |
| BellSouth | 44 63 | 43 81 | 44 63 | + 50 |
| Bethl Steel | 1 88 | 1 75 | 1 81 | |
| BurlNoSFe | 29 63 | 29 06 | 29 25 | + 44 |
| Caterpillar | 45 38 | 44 13 | 44 25 | — 81 |
| Chevron | 81 63 | 80 50 | 80 69 | + 56 |
| Citigroup s | 55 25 | 53 75 | 55 25 | + 1 31 |
| Coastal | 79 25 | 76 81 | 78 50 | + 1 63 |
| CocaCola | 58 88 | 58 38 | 58 38 | — 75 |
| ColgatePal | 59 30 | 58 35 | 58 83 | — 33 |
| ComclMetals | 21 81 | 21 63 | 21 63 | — 06 |
| CooperIn | 45 94 | 45 44 | 45 44 | + 19 |
| DaimlrChry | 43 19 | 42 45 | 43 10 | + 1 27 |
| DallSemicn s | 28 00 | 27 06 | 27 81 | — 88 |
| DeltaAirl | 48 75 | 47 88 | 48 25 | — 13 |
| Dillards Inc | 14 63 | 14 25 | 14 25 | — 19 |
| DowChem s | 32 25 | 30 56 | 30 81 | — 1 31 |
| DuPont | 45 88 | 44 13 | 44 44 | — 2 44 |
| EastmanChem | 46 25 | 44 38 | 45 00 | — 1 25 |
| EstKodak | 41 50 | 41 06 | 41 25 | — 25 |
| EDS Corp | 53 50 | 52 25 | 53 19 | — 50 |
| Entergy | 37 56 | 35 88 | 35 88 | — 1 38 |
| ExxonMobil | 82 88 | 81 38 | 82 38 | + 1 38 |
| FstBksAm | 17 94 | 17 94 | 17 94 | + 19 |
| Flowers | 16 19 | 15 94 | 16 13 | |
| GenDynam | 69 94 | 69 69 | 69 94 | — 06 |
| GenlElec s | 46 31 | 45 50 | 46 13 | + 1 44 |
| GenMills | 42 69 | 41 88 | 42 00 | — 69 |
| GenMotors | 52 50 | 51 94 | 52 00 | — 75 |
| GaPacGP | 30 31 | 29 81 | 29 94 | — 13 |
| GlobalMar | 28 25 | 27 13 | 27 63 | + 25 |
| Goodrich | 35 75 | 35 31 | 35 56 | — 19 |
| Goodyear s | 23 50 | 23 16 | 23 19 | — 42 |
| GtAtlPac | 8 38 | 8 19 | 8 25 | — 06 |
| Halliburtn | 40 25 | 39 06 | 39 69 | + 38 |
| Hanson ADS | 34 38 | 33 63 | 33 94 | — 1 06 |
| HarteHanks | 22 88 | 22 50 | 22 56 | — 38 |
| HomeDepot | 48 75 | 47 50 | 48 25 | + 81 |
| HoneywellIntl | 46 88 | 45 88 | 46 75 | + 1 56 |
| IBM | 93 38 | 91 25 | 92 31 | — 1 13 |
| IntlPaper | 38 06 | 36 63 | 37 00 | — 1 13 |
| JohnsonJn | 96 44 | 94 75 | 94 88 | — 1 00 |
| K mart | 6 44 | 6 25 | 6 38 | — 06 |
| Kroger Co | 23 69 | 23 31 | 23 50 | + 31 |
| Lilton | 79 06 | 78 94 | 78 94 | — 13 |
| LockheedM | 33 60 | 33 00 | 33 55 | — 22 |
| Lowes Cos | 50 94 | 49 25 | 50 19 | — 19 |
| Lubys | 5 50 | 5 38 | 5 50 | — 06 |
| LucentTech | 17 75 | 17 25 | 17 56 | — 06 |
| MayDeptStr | 35 31 | 34 81 | 34 81 | — 88 |
| Medtronic | 54 00 | 53 19 | 53 38 | + 75 |
| Motorola s | 22 38 | 21 31 | 22 31 | + 1 13 |
| NCR Corp | 49 06 | 48 00 | 48 88 | + 06 |
| Navistar | 28 44 | 28 06 | 28 31 | + 13 |
| Penney JC | 12 38 | 11 75 | 12 19 | + 38 |
| PepBoys | 4 69 | 4 50 | 4 63 | + 13 |
| PepsiCo | 46 50 | 45 75 | 45 81 | — 19 |
| Pharmacia | 55 69 | 54 88 | 54 88 | — 63 |
| PhelpDodge | 51 13 | 49 50 | 49 63 | — 1 69 |
| PhilipPet | 55 50 | 54 69 | 55 25 | + 1 19 |
| PilgrmPrd B | 8 25 | 7 94 | 8 13 | + 13 |
| Polaroid | 5 88 | 5 75 | 5 88 | + 13 |
| Praxair | 44 50 | 42 25 | 42 75 | — 94 |
| ProctGamb | 74 13 | 73 06 | 73 13 | — 69 |
| PubS NwMx | 25 19 | 24 13 | 24 13 | — 1 13 |
| RadioShack | 46 06 | 45 06 | 45 75 | — 1 50 |
| ReliantEngy | 35 75 | 33 19 | 33 25 | — 2 25 |
| RoyalDut | 60 56 | 60 13 | 60 19 | + 1 25 |
| SBC Comm | 52 44 | 51 50 | 51 50 | — 88 |
| SaraLee | 22 25 | 21 69 | 21 75 | — 75 |
| Scripps EW | 61 44 | 60 69 | 61 75 | + 1 75 |
| SearsRoeb | 36 19 | 34 81 | 34 94 | — 25 |
| SherwinW | 26 13 | 25 38 | 25 56 | — 25 |
| SouthernCo | 29 00 | 27 50 | 27 56 | — 1 31 |
| SwstAir | 31 06 | 31 00 | 31 00 | — 21 |
| SprintFON | 27 81 | 27 06 | 27 75 | + 63 |
| SprintPCS | 27 69 | 26 81 | 27 44 | |
| Sunoco Inc | 30 69 | 30 31 | 30 44 | + 31 |
| TXU Corp | 37 81 | 36 88 | 36 00 | — 1 50 |
| TempleInland | 52 06 | 50 69 | 51 13 | — 88 |
| Texaco | 56 44 | 55 25 | 55 44 | + 25 |
| TexInd | 29 81 | 29 25 | 29 25 | — 56 |
| Texaslnst s | 46 94 | 45 13 | 46 81 | + 38 |
| Textron | 48 75 | 47 44 | 48 06 | — 69 |
| TrinonGlbR | 32 44 | 31 44 | 32 25 | — 44 |
| TrinityInds | 22 88 | 22 63 | 22 75 | + 13 |
| TritonEngy | 36 13 | 35 50 | 36 00 | + 50 |
| USX Marathn | 27 81 | 27 44 | 27 56 | |
| USX USS | 16 88 | 16 13 | 16 44 | — 50 |
| UnCarbide | 47 75 | 46 56 | 46 88 | — 1 88 |
| UnionPacif | 53 25 | 52 13 | 52 69 | + 25 |
| UnitedTech | 73 44 | 72 81 | 73 38 | + 1 13 |
| Unocal | 35 63 | 34 94 | 35 00 | + 13 |
| Venator Grp | 14 75 | 14 38 | 14 44 | — 38 |
| VerizonComm | 56 81 | 55 63 | 56 06 | — 13 |
| WalMart | 52 25 | 50 81 | 51 81 | + 13 |
| WellsFargo | 50 56 | 49 06 | 50 38 | + 1 69 |
| WstnGasRs | 32 13 | 31 50 | 31 94 | + 69 |
| WinnDixie | 19 75 | 18 50 | 18 56 | — 29 |
| Xerox Cp | 7 25 | 6 81 | 6 88 | — 25 |

JAN 11 2001

# Three elderly sisters found dead, huddled by coal stove

WEISHAMPLE, Pa. (AP) — From their home at the bottom of a ravine in the stark coal-and-farm country of central Pennsylvania, the Knorr sisters could not see their neighbor across the street, or the houses on the hill behind them.

The three elderly sisters went to school for a time, and two once worked at a factory. Mostly, though, they spent their days working the land or sitting inside the dilapidated, two-story farmhouse, about 40 miles northeast of Harrisburg.

That's where Ida Knorr, 82, and sisters Sally, 78, and Mildred, 73, were found dead Tuesday, around a coal-burning stove in the kitchen.

Roger Neumeister, a neighbor who farmed their land in recent years, found their bodies after someone noticed newspapers piling up in the mailbox dating back to Jan. 3.

The sisters probably had been dead for five or six days. The temperature in the house when police arrived Tuesday night was 22 degrees.

"This happened during the day — the lights weren't on," said Neumeister, 66. "Although they're the kind of people who would sit in the dark."

Preliminary autopsy reports suggested the sisters died of some combination of carbon monoxide poisoning and hypothermia, state police Sgt. David Shinskie said Wednesday. soot had built up in the stove's pipe, causing carbon monoxide to back up in the kitchen, police said.

The sisters' youngest sibling, 74-year-old Margaret Wolfgang of Williamstown, said she last spoke with them before Christmas.

"I guess a cold spell or something came," she said. "I don't even know the whole story."

"They were peculiar, let's face it," said Wayne Wolfgang, whose brother is married to Margaret.

The three oldest Knorr sisters lived like hermits, growing most of their own food and venturing to the store only occasionally for necessities they could not grow or make. They had electricity and a space heater in the living room, but apparently did not rely much on either.

The sisters, each of whom had health problems in recent years, were found on the floor — two lying down, one sitting up. Two had their feet tucked under the coal stove. Each had on several layers of clothing — sweatshirts, jackets, sweaters, blankets.

"I think they were holding hands," Neumeister said.

Although the sisters did not venture out much, Neumeister said they were talkative and even feisty at times when he saw them. For the last 20 years, he has grown grain on their approximately 17 acres, paying them about $850 a year for the privilege. He also plowed the long, steep, dirt lane leading to the farmhouse it more than an inch or two of snow fell.

But Neumeister had not come out for the latest snow. He didn't think they would take their car out, and also figured they could get to the mailbox through the light snow on the ground.

As young girls, the sisters had helped their mother grow produce and make milk and butter from the farm. Their father worked the early shift in the mines, then picked up the farm goods and went on his "market route" to neighboring towns.

The older sisters dropped out of school at an early age, although Margaret, the only sibling to marry, went to high school, Neumeister said.

As they entered middle age, Ida and Mildred Knorr got their first jobs outside the house, working in a garment factory.

Neumeister believes they received some type of retirement income from those jobs. "I actually don't think they were quite as poor as they thought they were," he said.

Neumeister had told Ida Knorr that he would no longer be farming their land after this season because of declining grain prices. He wonders if they had become discouraged, and given up on life.



WEST 'A' HONOR ROLL — West students named to the 'A' Honor Roll for the fall semester are back row, from left, Ashley Luecke, Sydney Wright, Kinsey Guynes, Starla Early, Amanda Rivera, Michael Mann, John Whitworth, Jordan Stansell, Joe Fitzgerald; front row, Felicia Guzman, Jada Bilano, Ramsey Herrera, Andrew Garvin, Krista Dorsett, Hollie Berry, Taran Ragland. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

# Ex-officials seek help from president

HOUSTON (AP) — Two once-prominent Hispanic political figures have requested executive clemency from President Clinton.

Ben Reyes and Betti Maldonado are serving federal prison sentences after being convicted in 1998 on bribery charges. They want their sentences cut to time served and have not challenged the convictions or asked for pardons.

Both have been in prison for about two years.

Reyes, who served on the Houston City Council for 16 years, and Maldonado, a former Port of Houston commissioner, were the targets of an FBI sting operation that focused on the City Council's vote on a contractor for a convention center hotel.

"Mr. Reyes and Ms. Maldonado are serving prison sentences as a result of an unjust and unfair FBI sting operation that targeted Hispanic and African-American members of the Houston City Council and lured them into committing acts that could then be characterized as corrupt," defense attorneys Dick DeGuerin and Michael Ramsey state in the petition.

Reyes, Maldonado, Councilman John Castillo and then-Councilmen Michael Yarbrough and John Peavy Jr. were indicted in 1997 on bribery and conspiracy charges in a case that enraged the minority community. The indictments were the culmination of a two-year probe that had its genesis with an FBI sting of minority political leaders.

The charges stem from an undercover sting that revolved around an FBI undercover informant and an undercover agent. The two posed as investors and claimed to represent the Cayman Group, a consortium of Hispanic businessmen interested in securing a subcontract on the hotel proposal submitted by a developer. The group was fictitious.

They contacted Reyes and the others and ultimately tried to buy their support to vote for the developer's proposal.

A first trial involving all five ended in a hung jury. Reyes and Maldonado were retried together and convicted. Castillo, Yarbrough and Peavy were tried later and the jury again deadlocked. Prosecutors ultimately decided not to retry them.

Reyes was convicted of four counts of bribery, one count of conspiracy and one count of mail fraud. He was sentenced to nine years in prison. Ramsey said Reyes is in prison in Georgia where he is participating in a work-release program.

Maldonado was found guilty of two counts of bribery and one count of conspiracy for helping with the scheme. She is serving 54 months in a federal prison in Fort Worth.

Ramsey, Reyes' attorney, said he and DeGuerin have spent the past month garnering the support of local Democrats and urging them to send Clinton letters in support of clemency.

## Father questions son's death in camp

ARLINGTON (AP) — The death of a teen-age inmate at a North Texas boot camp from a sudden disease has prompted questions about quality of medical care at the privately operated correctional facility.

Bryan Dale Alexander died of lobar pneumonia Tuesday, according to an autopsy by the Tarrant County medical examiner's office.

His father, Rick Alexander, is asking law officers how his 18-year-old son could have died from the fast-acting, severe strain of pneumonia after asking for medical attention from officials at the Mansfield boot camp, also known as the Tarrant County Community Correctional Facility.

"That boy was as healthy as a horse," said the elder Alexander, who is consulting an attorney about an independent investigation into the death.

# Astro-graph

**By Bernice Bede Osol**



**Your Birthday**

**Friday, Jan. 12, 2001**

Should there be substantial changes in your mode of living in the year ahead, the quicker you adjust to them, the easier it will be to achieve your personal aims and objectives.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Unfortunately, not everyone possesses a cheerful disposition and outlook, yet we must still deal with them. The important thing is not to let them influence your outlook today. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** If you're not on your toes or if you're indifferent to all the financial ramifications in your commercial dealings today, someone might quickly do a number on you.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Sometimes no matter how hard we try, it is impossible to please everyone. This could be one of those days for you, but you must not let this taint your good attitude.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** When partaking of some of the good things life has to offer, use some common sense. Overindulging with substances that could cause deleterious effects will create problems.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Be careful not to make someone who is very fond of you feel as if you are usurping his or her desires for another person who is merely being pushy. Don't get bamboozled.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Although those with whom you have dealings outside of your home today may think you're pretty nifty, chance are if a poll were taken within the clan, your actions would be voted down.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** A manipulator who is aware of the fact that you're susceptible to praise and acknowledgment may use this weakness today by spinning flowery phrases to twist you around to do his or her bidding.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Avoid high-priced places and/or salespeople who are capable of talking you into buying items you don't need. Sales resistance isn't numbered among your strong suits today.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Give others the benefit of the doubt today rather than jump to conclusions and misjudge their intentions without cause. It could harm a special relationship.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Even though this might not be one of your more industrious days and you choose to goof off, if you try to induce co-workers to do likewise, look for the boss to come down hard on you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Chances are when involved with people who lack good taste or decent social graces you won't take kindly to it and could behave in a like manner. You'll have nothing to complain about.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Using flattery in hopes of inducing another to do something for you will be a waste of time today. Your actions will be quickly discerned and produce just the opposite results.

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# Dear Abby

**By Abigail Van Buren**



## *Favored son gets mom's rings and daughter now feels hurt*

**DEAR ABBY:** About four years ago, my dad bought my mother a beautiful set of diamond rings to upgrade the set he had given her many years ago when they first married. My mother gave her smaller rings to my brother, who then proposed to his girlfriend and later married her. I thought it was very nice of my mother, and I was happy for my brother.

Last month, my father died. While my brother and I were staying at her house, my mother gave my brother her new set of diamond rings and told him to give them to his wife.

My brother and I have often joked about how he is her favorite child. (For instance, one year my folks gave him a camcorder and I got a dozen pairs of stockings.) There is nothing in our history that would warrant this favoritism. We both were always responsible, hard-working children and adults.

I am extremely hurt and do not know how to get past the pain. Have you any suggestions? — **DESPERATELY NEEDS ADVICE, NEW ORLEANS**

**DEAR NEEDS ADVICE:** Yes. Tell your mother exactly how you feel and why. Allowing this to fester will only make it worse. It does appear that your brother is the favored child — and it is not a joking matter. The answer you receive may not be to your liking, but it's better than not knowing. In fact, the truth may set you free.

P.S. Under the circumstances, I commend you for having such a good relationship with your brother.

**

**DEAR ABBY:** My best girlfriend recently informed me that her son and his girlfriend are engaged. They plan to be married in six weeks. Apparently, her future daughter-in-law is expecting in March. She told me that the wedding will be for immediate family members only — parents, grandparents and godparents.

They have already made arrangements to have a big wedding one year from the date of their marriage. I am unsure if I should send a wedding gift now (which would be a check), or wait until the "big" wedding. I would like to do something. What would you suggest?

We sent the couple an engagement gift as soon as we heard the news. I'd really appreciate your input, Abby. — **UNSURE IN ILLINOIS**

**DEAR UNSURE:** Since you have already given the young couple an engagement gift and you are not attending the "small" wedding, wait until you are invited to the "big" celebration before giving them anything more than your heartfelt good wishes.

P.S. Offering to host a baby shower would be a caring and supportive gesture.

**

**DEAR ABBY:** You said you thought it wouldn't be easy to top the story about the 50th anniversary reception collection basket. Allow me to try:

We were invited to a couple's home for a party to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. When we arrived, there was a prominently displayed money tree. Of course, all the guests ended up covering the branches with "leaves" of money. Several days later, we learned that the happy couple had been in the midst of getting a divorce before the party, but needed extra cash, so they decided "why not?"!

We certainly hope the divorce was a friendly one, because I don't think they have any other friends left after that scam. — **DUMBFOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR DUMBFOUNDED:** Your letter is a first. Surely no one can top this one.

**

**Abby shares her favorite recipes in a two-booklet set. To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $7.90 per set ($9 per set in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)**

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Zoellick selected U.S. trade rep

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush has selected Robert Zoellick, who served in previous Republican administrations at the State and Treasury departments, to be U.S. trade representative, officials close to the transition said Thursday.

Bush was expected to make the announcement later in the day before ending a two-day visit to Washington and returning to his ranch at Crawford, Texas.

Zoellick is a close associate of former Secretary of State James A. Baker III. When Baker was treasury secretary in the Reagan administration, Zoellick served as his executive secretary, controlling the paper flow into Baker's office. He later was undersecretary of state for economic affairs when Baker headed the State Department in the administration of Bush's father.

The trade representative, who carries the rank of ambassador, is the chief U.S. negotiator in trade talks with other nations. The post traditionally has been given Cabinet rank, although Bush had previously indicated that his former campaign manager, Don Evans, whom he has said he would nominate to be commerce secretary, would take the lead on trade issues.

Bush advisers who spoke on the condition of anonymity also said the president-elect was near a decision on a new choice for labor secretary. But it was not clear whether a decision would be made in time to announce before Bush heads back to Texas.

Bush's first choice for the labor post, Linda Chavez, withdrew Tuesday in the face of disclosures that she provided shelter and financial support to an illegal immigrant who performed household chores for her.

A leading candidate for the job, Eloise Anderson, former social services director in Wisconsin and California, was interviewed by Bush for the post late Wednesday after being summoned from California.

The Bush team, meanwhile, defended Interior Secretary-designate Gale A. Norton against criticism of a 1996 speech on states' rights and the confederacy. In the speech, she said "we lost too much" in terms of states' rights against the federal government when the South was defeated in the Civil War.

# Lawmakers review asbestos threats

AUSTIN (AP) — Gaps in laws intended to protect workers from asbestos exposure will be filled, either through legislation this session or changes in Texas Department of Health practices, according to key legislators.

Almost 90 percent of asbestos removal projects in Central Texas are being performed illegally, exposing thousands of construction workers to dangerous levels of the mineral, according to an Austin American-Statesman analysis of data published this week.

It said workers facing the greatest risk are mostly Hispanic day laborers who unknowingly rip out asbestos materials without respiratory protection. Violation rates the newspaper identified in Houston and Dallas suggest the problem extends statewide.

"I don't know if the civil penalties the Health Department can impose for violations are a sufficient deterrent," said state Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth, who was among several committee or caucus leaders who pledged this week to try to fix the problems.

Moncrief, chairman of the Senate committee that oversees the Health Department, said Wednesday he has instructed the committee's staff to examine the issue and identify solutions that would have a good chance of being enacted.

The House health committee's vice chairman, Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, said he plans to introduce a bill that would direct Texas cities to follow building permit procedures similar to those in use in San Antonio.

The city, for the past 18 months, has required building owners to prove they've had a licensed asbestos consultant check their building for asbestos before the city will issue a building permit for commercial renovation or demolition work.

# Barak set to implement parts of plan; holding firm on Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (AP) — If peacemaking with the Palestinians grinds to a halt, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak intends to proceed with a pullback on some West Bank fronts but make no changes in Jerusalem, a senior Israeli national security official said Thursday.

Barak would withdraw Israeli troops in stages, separating Israel from the Palestinians in some areas and hoping that would ease frictions, the official said.

The aim is not to retreat from the prime minister's peace proposals, which are on hold in a dispute with Yasser Arafat partly over Palestinian refugees, the official told a group of columnists and reporters on condition his name would be withheld.

Rather, the official said, Barak wants to lay a foundation for a settlement when the Palestinians are ready to reopen negotiations.

Barak has offered Arafat about 95 percent of the West Bank, more than doubling the area relinquished to the Palestinians in interim accords. His plan to move unilaterally would give them less territory, but the official did not say how much.

In the meantime, the official said, Israel is bracing for confrontation with the Palestinians for months, perhaps longer.

President Clinton is eager to cap his eight years in the White House with an accord between Israel and the Palestinians. He presented the two sides with a proposed outline last month, and Barak and Arafat both accepted it, in principle.

However, the two sides have reservations. Arafat, for instance, is holding out for Israel to recognize that Palestinian refugees have a right to go to Israel on the grounds they or their ancestors were expelled more than a half-century ago.

The administration delayed again Thursday in sending its top mediator, Dennis B. Ross, to the region until it determines whether progress is being made in Israeli-Palestinian talks on curbing violence.

"There have been actually some encouraging contacts in that regard. We want to see how those talks progress," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday. "The president still hopes to narrow the gaps and reach an agreement between the parties."

## Woman reports windmill stolen

• ***Theft***

Pat Brackeen notified police at 9:06 a.m. Wednesday that someone had stolen a four-foot windmill yard ornament from her front yard at 710 30th Street.

• ***Gas drive-off***

A report was taken at Allsup's convenience store at 4:27 p.m. in reference to a subject driving off without paying for $15.11 worth of gasoline.

• ***Arrest***

Kenneth Clinton Studyvin, 21, of 3709 Highland was taken into custody at 2:03 p.m. Wednesday on a TDCJ warrant for parole violation.

• ***Accidents***

At 11:50 p.m., a two-vehicle mishap occurred in the junior parking lot of Snyder High School. Involved were a 1996 Ford Taurus driven by Jessica Ramos, 17, of 3101 Cherry and a 1989 Buick Century driven by Erika Marissa Ynguanzo, 16, of 3720 Avenue U.

Officers investigated an accident at 4:18 p.m. Wednesday in the 1600 block of 25th Street. Involved were a 1992 Ford pickup driven by Michael Hildebrand, 16, of 1622 Voss Lane and a 2000 Toyota pickup driven by June Turnage, 55, of Colorado City.

# Obituaries

## Wanda McAnelly

**1934-2001**

Wanda McAnelly of Andrews, a former Snyder resident, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, at a caretaker's home in Andrews.

Funeral service for Mrs. McAnelly, 66, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Owen Sharp, Community Care Hospice of Odessa chaplain, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born on March 26, 1934 in Matador, Mrs. McAnelly had worked for the Snyder schools and Cogdell Memorial Hospital in the dietary departments.

She was preceded in death by a twin brother, Dean Cain; two other brothers, Paul and Jack Cain; and by two sisters, Edith Crady and Faye Stiller.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Charles Kittles of Snyder and Martha and Henry Dever of Andrews; a son and daughter-in-law, Herman and Danna McAnelly of Odessa; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Weldon and Pat Cain of Snyder and Don and Anita Cain of Conchas, N.M.; a sister-in-law, Chess Cain of Charthage; a brother-in-law, Al Stiller of Sun City, Calif.; and her former husband, Don McAnelly of Hamlin; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

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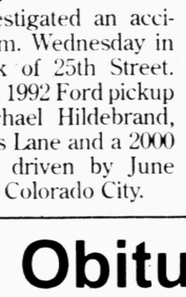
*BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME*

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

## Eugene Mauldin

**1911-2001**

BAIRD – Eugene Sherwood Mauldin, the father of Irene Masters of Snyder, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Coronado Nursing Center in Abilene after a brief illness.



Eugene Mauldin

Funeral service for Mr. Mauldin, 89, is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church in Baird. The Rev. Miller Robinson of Snyder will officiate, assisted by Dr. James Shields.

Burial will follow in the Belle Plaine Cemetery under the direction of Parker Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 20, 1911 in Shields, Tex., Mr. Mauldin married Verna Belle Cooper on Dec. 27, 1929 in Sylvester. She died last Oct. 16.

The Mauldins, married for 70 years, lived in the Rowden community near Baird for 62 years, in Snyder for three years and in Abilene for the past three years.

Mr. Mauldin was a farmer most of his life but he also worked for Foremost Dairies and Abilene Reporter News. He also worked for the highway department in various locations, including Snyder. He also was employed at the Robo car wash and Snyder Farm & Ranch Supply. Mr. Mauldin was a member of First Baptist Church in Baird. He was a former member of Colonial Hill Baptist in Snyder. Mr. Mauldin served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also served on the school board at Bayou.

Survivors include another daughter, Majorie Brown of San Antonio; three sons, Carl Mauldin of Comanche, Roland Mauldin of Clyde and Don Mauldin of Cape Coral, Fla.; two brothers, Raymond Mauldin of Weatherford and Nolan Mauldin of Fort Worth; 17 grandchildren, including Charlotte Clifton of Snyder; 38 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

## James Haynes

**1915-2001**

BIG SPRING – James Whitcomb Haynes, a native of Scurry County, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, in a Big Spring nursing home.

Graveside service for Mr. Haynes, 85, is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in the Trinity Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 30, 1915 in Scurry County, Mr. Haynes was a longtime resident of Big Spring. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he had worked for Mobil Oil Co. and was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Evant.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Haynes of Big Spring; a daughter, Kay Henry of Houston; a sister, Nadine Hodnett of Big Spring; and 15 nieces and nephews.

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### Appraisal office closed Friday

The Scurry County Appraisal District Office will be closed Friday for remodeling.

### Flu vaccine available

Cogdell Memorial Hospital is offering flu shots all day today and Friday. The shots cost $6 each and will be administered in the human resources department.

### Northeast family reading night

Family reading night at Northeast Elementary will be at 6:30 this evening. Pizza and soft drinks will be served and child care is provided.

### Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 6:30 this evening. Other testing dates are 9 a.m. Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

### American Cancer Society

The Scurry County Unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. today.

### Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 this evening at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

### Masonic Lodge

Scurry Masonic Lodge 706 will have work in the E.A. Degree Friday. The degree work will follow a meal that begins at 6 p.m. All Masons are invited.

### Country and gospel music program

The next country and gospel music program at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday. For additional information, call 573-3996.

### Snyder Neighbors Sharing

The board of directors of Snyder Neighbors Sharing will meet at 5:15 p.m. Monday in the office of Sam Robertson Insurance, 1926 26th St. Anyone interested in the organization is welcome to attend.

### SHS baseball booster club

The Snyder High School baseball booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the high school student center.

### Defensive driving class

A 55/Alive defensive driving class will be held next Thursday and Friday at the Senior Center in Snyder. Cost of the two-day course, four hours each day, is $10, Classes each day begin at 8:30 a.m. To pre-register, call 573-4035. Completion of the course results in a reduction of auto insurance premiums by most companies.

### Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank to defray medical expenses of Christa Lane Arnold who was born four months premature to Ruby and Larry Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock with medicine expenses alone totaling over $900 per day. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01. Arnold is a DJ at KSNY.

### 1981 class reunion

The SHS class of 1981 reunion committee is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion scheduled June 29-30. Submit names, addresses and e-mail addresses at shsclassof81@hotmail.com, or by calling Beth Bowen (573-2670), or Charlotte Clifton (573-2430).

### Adult basic education classes

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

### Ira annual deadline

Thursday, Jan. 25, is the last day to purchase a 2001 Ira Bulldog yearbook with your name on the cover. Cost is $26. Price without name is $22.

### Windbreak trees

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

### Glory Room open

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

### Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.

# American tourist trampled

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — An American woman was trampled to death by an elephant in a Tanzanian national park after it became enraged by the clicking sounds of her camera, officials said Thursday.

Natalie Waldinger, 24, of Huntington, N.Y., died Sunday in Ruaha National Park in central Tanzania, during a break in her tour as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer teacher in this East African nation.

Waldinger and an unidentified American female left their car to photograph the wild animal, said Lota Melamari, chief of the Tanzania National Parks Authority. The pair was traveling with a driver — who was not an official guide.

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# S. Carolina prison sex scandal growing

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — In the latest twist in the state's ongoing prison sex scandal, two guards have been charged with allowing inmates to have sex at the governor s residence.

The South Carolina Corrections Department has been under fire since August when news accounts emerged of employees having sex with inmates.

Wednesday's charges involve guards Freddie Priester and Demont Gilbert and four minimum-security inmates who worked at the governor's mansion complex and temporary residence, handling maintenance, housecleaning and cooking.

Gov. Jim Hodges' office said personnel changes at the Corrections Department may be made.

"We're shocked, disgusted, furious," said Hodges' spokesman Morton Brilliant.

The charges also prompted an outcry from a top lawmaker.

"It's long past time that the ultimate in discipline be levied against those employees in the Department of Corrections," said Sen. Greg Ryberg, chairman of the Senate Corrections and Penology Committee. "An example has to be set. We need to get this ship back on a level course."

Neither guard is charged with having sex with the inmates, and prisoners told investigators they did not use the Hodges' bedroom or have encounters while the governor, the first lady or their two sons, ages 5 and 7, were home, said Richland County chief prosecutor Barney Giese.

Priester allegedly left his post at the temporary residence while Nancy Mulwee and Antoine Frazier had sex, according to an arrest affidavit.

Priester and Gilbert are also accused of failing to report sexual encounters between those prisoners and inmates Michelle Mathias and Todd Johnson. The encounters began in April and ended in December, the affidavit said.

Mathias became pregnant, and Priester tried to arrange an abortion for her, the affidavit says. Gilbert allegedly advised her to drink bleach to induce an abortion.

Corrections Department spokesman John Barkley said he did not know the status of Mathias' pregnancy. He said he was unsure what discipline the inmates might face.

Barkley said women prisoners will no longer be assigned to the governor's home or buildings on the mansion grounds.

He said Johnson, Mulwee and Frazier were serving time for possession of crack cocaine, while Mathias was serving five years for arson.

Priester, 49, and Gilbert, 22, spent Wednesday night in jail. Both were suspended without pay on Dec. 13.

# Texans mark centennial of historic Spindletop discovery

BEAUMONT (AP) — Spindletop Hill was not the first oil strike in the United States, nor was it the world's first petroleum "geyser," as it was called on Jan. 10, 1901.

Yet the massive strike came at the right time, as automobiles were emerging and the industrial revolution was looking for new fuel.

"Back in '01, Beaumont for a week there was in every international newspaper ... with headlines saying, 'Oil Found in Texas,'" said Ryan Smith, executive director of the Texas Energy Museum.

On Wednesday, with a towering column of water spouting from a replica 1901 derrick, Texans recreated the scene 100 years to the minute after the gusher erupted at Spindletop.

The geyser of water spewed about 150 feet through the derrick and into the cloudy sky, misting some of the thousands in attendance. Re-enactors portraying the drillers scurried below.

Former President George Bush and other speakers at the ceremony, including Houston oilman Michel Halbouty, recounted how Spindletop helped fuel the industrial revolution and make possible new technologies.

"Let future generations know that the oil from this Texas soil helped transform the American land of liberty into a beacon of freedom, hope and, yes, opportunity to the world," Bush said.

The centennial celebration took place at a replica boomtown on the campus of Lamar University, not far from the actual site, which sits on private property.

Spindletop drew worldwide attention because it was the Western Hemisphere's first gusher, proving oil was abundant enough to become a primary energy source.

"The significance of Spindletop cannot be overlooked," said Halbouty, who at 91 knew many of Texas' early wildcatters, including the Spindletop pioneers. "It started the modern petroleum industry."

By the end of 1901, major industries already had begun readying for the oil age.

Oil had been produced in Pennsylvania for nearly half a century and small wells were active in Texas when amateur geologist Pattillo Higgins insisted there was oil beneath lonely Spindletop Hill, south of Beaumont along the coastal plain.

Higgins found backing, but several abortive drilling attempts exhausted the money. Desperate for technical help, Higgins placed newspaper ads, and Anthony Lucas, an Austrian expert on salt dome formations, responded.

Lack of money and difficult terrain curtailed another drilling operation in 1899, but the project got new life when $300,000 was funneled to Lucas from industrialist Andrew Mellon.

On land adjacent to Higgins' tract, Lucas went back to work Oct. 27, 1900, with the help of Texas drillers Al and Curt Hamill. Better equipment and troubleshooting know-how helped them reach 1,020 feet the morning of Jan. 10. That's when mud, gas and drillpipe began blowing from the hole.

Then came the oil, in amounts never imagined, streaming an estimated 200 feet in the air.

"No production in the world had ever been like that," said Halbouty, a Beaumont native. "Not Baku (Russia), Pennsylvania or Corsicana (Texas). They were producing 50, 75, maybe 100 barrels a day. Spindletop came in at 100,000 a day. In one year the potential was for more oil than had been produced up to that time."

The drillers capped the well Jan. 19, but not until about 1 million barrels had spilled onto the ground. By then, prospecting had begun and the logging town of Beaumont grew from 5,000 to 50,000 in weeks. It was the first of many oil boomtowns across Texas in the early 20th century.

Higgins "had a dream of how oil would be so wonderful for people and how Beaumont would be the center of the world because it had the ocean and the energy," said Anne Pattillo Foerster, Higgins' granddaughter, who attended Wednesday's ceremony along with several other descendants of key players in the century-old drama.

Berry's World



"WILL YOU PLEASE STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR LEGACY!?"

# Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



## Satirist or jerk?

**DEAR DOCTOR GOTT:** Many of your columns, under the guise of satire, criticize the medical profession, including drug-company representatives and doctors. I think that you are a jerk.

As a medical resident who has already had as much as I can take of the current doctor-bashing, I think that it is disgraceful for someone in the profession to jump on this bandwagon. Why don't you pick up what little decency there is left in you and write an apology? Frankly, I don't think you have the guts to do it.

**DEAR DOCTOR:** I never have minded making an apology - if an apology is in order. In this case, it isn't.

I can readily understand why you are feeling so much stress early in your training. As a physician who has practiced solo general medicine for 30 years, I can assure you that your stress level will not diminish once you leave your residency. However, the difficulties inherent in medical practice do not, I hope, mean that humor is a lost quality. Many of my columns are parodies and satires, not serious diatribes against physicians. I believe that health professionals who are angered by such columns have lost an important perspective: a sense of the absurd.

Unfortunately, many practitioners have chosen to give up a healthy sense of humor. This is too bad, because we professionals often do wacky things and think strange thoughts - especially about ourselves and our self-proclaimed sanctity.

Relax, doctor. Take time to laugh at yourself and at other doctors who take themselves so seriously that they have become pompous bores.

I tend to approach many of our current professional problems with tongue-in-check. It's a great way to maintain sanity. Try it — you'll like it.

Now, with this new orientation, re-read my columns. Perhaps then you'll be inclined to apologize to me for your unwarranted outburst of name-calling.

**DEAR DOCTOR GOTT:** About 10 years ago, I was put on Synthroid because of a goiter. However, the medicine caused me to be jumpy and hot; I lost weight and slept without blankets in the winter. I drove my husband crazy. Six months ago, I stopped the Synthroid as a trial. Within weeks, I began feeling more normal than I had in years. What do I do if the goiter grows back? My doctor doesn't know I stopped the medication.

**DEAR READER:** Synthroid is a synthetic thyroid hormone. It is used to treat thyroid deficiency or to reduce the size of an enlarged thyroid gland (goiter). From your description, I suspect that your daily dose of Synthroid was excessive — so excessive, in fact, that it caused symptoms of thyroid overactivity (hyperthyroidism).

I think you should describe your past symptoms to your physician. If he or she believes that further therapy is mandatory, you could take a smaller dose, thereby keeping your goiter under control without risking the side effects of over-medication.

Incidentally, unless goiters grow so large that they are unsightly or interfere with breathing (by pressing on the trachea), they do not need treatment. So, at this point, you probably don't require therapy. However, as a courtesy, inform your doctor of your decision.

Finally, you might ask about iodine supplements. For many people with goiters, this inexpensive mineral, which does not cause symptoms of overactive thyroid, will shrink the glandular swelling. This is yet another option for you to consider.

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# State to set nearly two million baits

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rabid foxes are a new target in a long-running program of air-dropping rabies vaccine baits in South and Central Texas.

The Texas Department of Health program, now in its seventh year, has eliminated the last traces of the canine rabies strain in dogs and free-ranging coyotes that spread the disease in South Texas.

An outbreak of dog rabies has killed at least two people and hundreds of pet dogs in the past dozen years.

The eradication program, which has included the first large-scale use of an oral rabies vaccine in the United States, resumed Wednesday from Cotulla. A test run one day earlier included dropping 40,000 baits, officials said.

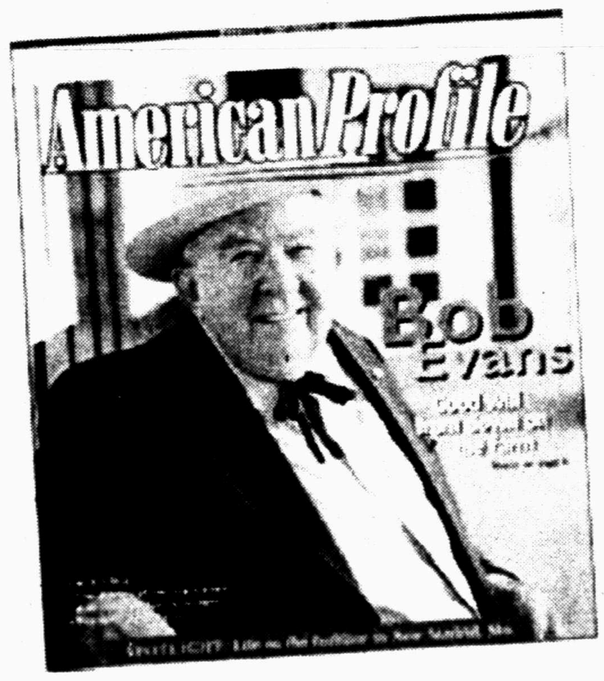
Phase I of the plan calls for dropping about 770,000 baits to prevent a reoccurrence of canine rabies in a 30-mile-wide band along the border from Maverick to Cameron counties.

Phase II will disperse an additional 900,000 baits in a north-south band over some 24 counties, including Bexar. The second phase is intended to contain a second outbreak of fox rabies from spreading east into populated areas.


# Coming to the Snyder Daily News

## Sunday January 21st

The Only Magazine in America that Celebrates Hometowns Just Like Snyder.




*American Profile* is all about America's heartland, and includes regular features on unsung heroes, hometown profiles, regional food, family and more. Look for it right here and fall in love with hometown life all over again.

American Profile