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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 15, 1997
Vol. 49 No. 194
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Michael Arbuckle

Clinton to name Lee civil rights chief

Defying fierce GOP opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, defying fierce Republican opposition, decided to bypass Congress and name Bill Lann Lee today as the government's civil rights chief in a temporary capacity, officials said.

Lee was seen at the White House this morning in advance of the announcement later in the day in the Oval Office.

With Senate Republicans blocking Lee's nomination, Clinton planned to name him as acting assistant attorney general for civil rights — allowing him to serve in the job without Senate confirmation.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who said he had been invited to today's ceremony, urged Clinton to reconsider the interim appointment of Lee.

Specter said that by skirting Senate confirmation, the president would "poison the water on other important matters which require senatorial concurrence on administration policy. Based on my 17 years of service on the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am fearful that this recess appointment would seriously jeopardize, if not entirely preclude, judicial confirmations, which are already problemsome."

White House officials said that by naming Lee on an acting basis, the president could come back to the Senate later and ask for his confirmation. Republicans had blocked a confirmation vote, saying Lee's history as an NAACP lawyer indicated he would enforce racial quotas under affirmative action programs.

Clinton decided today to name Lee on an acting basis and seek a confirmation vote later, White House deputy chief of staff John Podesta said. "It still may be difficult, but that's the best route. I don't see that happening early in the new year, but I hope we could press for it by the spring."

"If there is a vote" by the full Senate, Podesta said, "I'm sure we'll win."

In the test of wills with Congress, naming Lee as acting attorney general was considered less confrontational than putting him in the job through a recess appointment.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the leading opponent of Lee's nomination, signaled Sunday he would not be as upset by an acting appointment as he would be a recess appointment.

"By taking the less confrontational approach, we hope to get him (Lee) up on the Senate floor and confirmed (eventually)," Podesta said. He said Lee would have full authority in his job as acting assistant attorney general.

Lee, 48, would become the first Asian-American to hold the civil rights post. He has been Western regional director of the NAACP's legal defense fund.

Commissioners set '98 holiday schedule

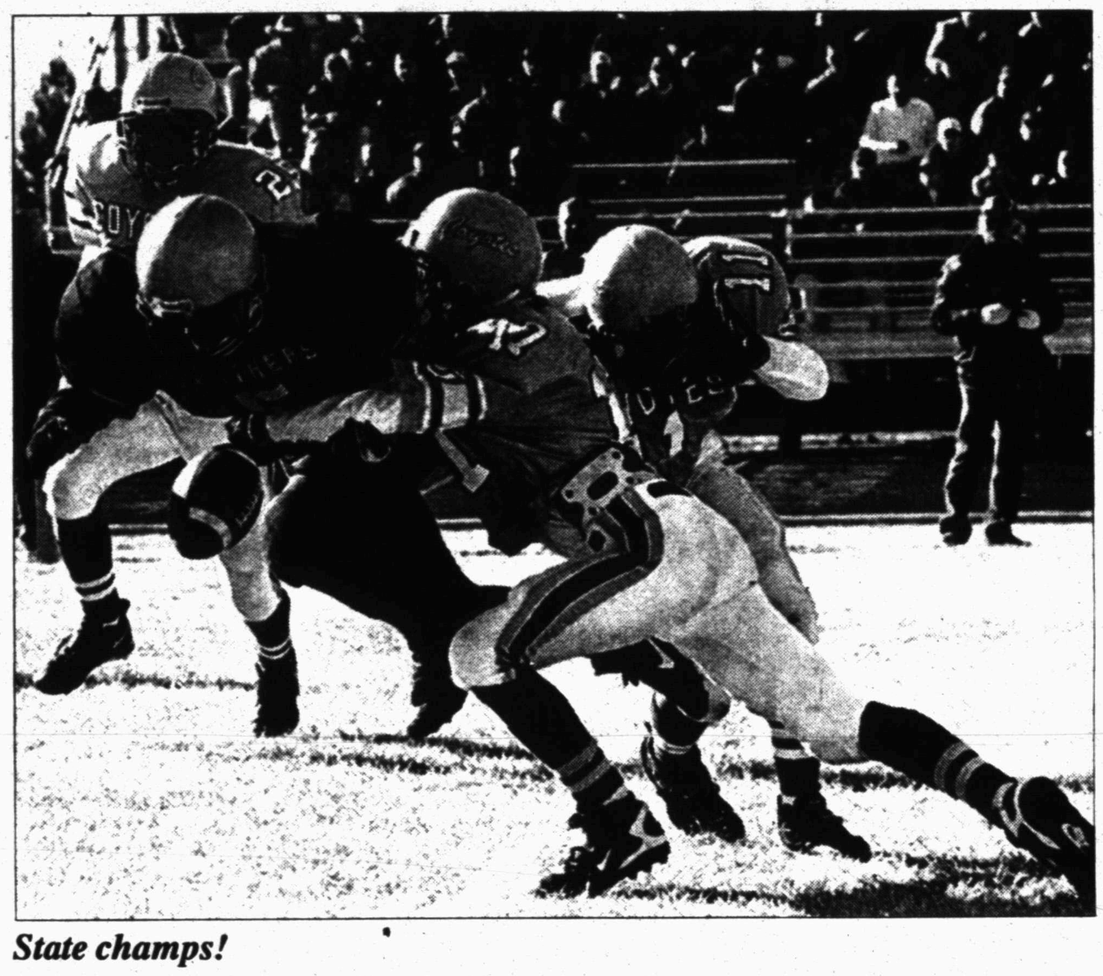
Scurry County commissioners used this morning's court meeting to take care of year-end house cleaning.

The court set the county's holidays for 1998 and approved numerous line-item transfers.

County employees will be off Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2, President's Day on Feb. 16 and April 10 for Good Friday.

Other holidays include:
—Memorial Day, May 25.
—Labor Day, Sept. 7.
—Veteran's Day, Oct. 11.
—Thanksgiving, Nov. 26-27.
—Christmas, Dec. 24-25.

Commissioners approved line-item transfers for the library, health department, adult probation office, airport, welfare department and for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice program.



State champs!

Borden County's Colt Miller causes Mike Risse to fumble during Saturday's Six-Man state championship game, won by the Coyotes, 48-16. Borden's Oscar Baeza moves in as D.J. Smith helps with the tackle. See story, Page 5. (SDN Staff Photo by Eric Drennan)

Full slate for Ira ISD on Tuesday

Ira ISD trustees face a full agenda in a meeting scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Among the items is the adoption of a job description for an athletic director. Last month, a committee was formed to consider duties for the postion, which Supt. Rick Howard said is expected to be filled in-house.

The decision to name an athletic director came as a result of parents voicing concern that there was not enough continuity between the various sports.

Trustees will consider bids for the purchase of a school bus and repairs to the old gym — two items that were tabled a month ago.

Trustees will also consider hiring an auditor for the 1997-98 outside audit and discuss an agreement with Aldine ISD for the collection of Medicaid Administrative Claims reimbursements.

Approval of senior trips plans is also on the agenda.

Tuesday's meeting will open with a public hearing on the Academic Excellence Indicators System, the school report card and district improvement plan.

Record storm...

Snow buries Mississippi, Alabama

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A record storm dumped snow on Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, knocking out power and leaving hazardous icy patches on roads today.

Many took time to play in the rare winterlike weather.

"My kids have been outside since 8 o'clock this morning. I'm afraid they're going to freeze to death," Angela Wright said Sunday as she watched her sons Brian, 10, and Hunter, 7, build an igloo in the front yard of their Jackson home. "They've never seen snow like this before. They think it's magic."

"It's so beautiful. I wish we got this every year," Cari Price of Madison, Miss., said as she used a broom to push several inches of snow off her car windshield.

Up to 10 inches of snow covered parts of south-central Mississippi in the state's biggest December snowstorm on record. It also was the heaviest snowfall since Jan. 22, 1982, when 5.5 inches fell. More than 4 inches fell in parts of Louisiana and Alabama.

The snowfall tapered off by Sunday evening, followed by an overnight freeze that left ice on bridges and viaducts, making this morning's commute hazardous in places.

Most highways were dry today under a sunny sky and Jackson was warming into the 40s.

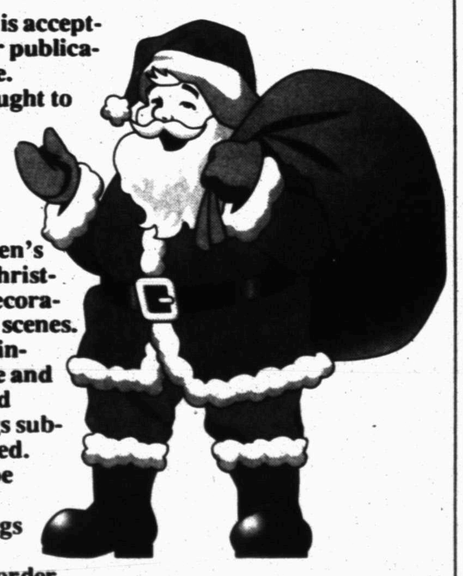
Police reported dozens of accidents on slippery roads and at least one traffic death was blamed on the weather in Alabama on Sunday.

Schools were closed today in several counties in Alabama and Mississippi, and some businesses in Jackson delayed opening.

While parts of Louisiana recorded more than 4 inches of snow, parts of the often frigid and snowy Midwest basked in warm weather. While it was 35 degrees with freezing rain in Birmingham, Ala., it was 66 in Rapid City, S.D.

Emergency shelters in Jackson were opened for people who lost electricity in their homes. Entergy Mississippi Inc. officials reported that 18,000 customers had lost power at one point, and about 5,400 were still blacked out today.

Santa letters deadline near



Snyder Daily News is accepting letters to Santa for publication in its Dec. 24 issue.

Letters may be brought to the newspaper office at 3600 College Avenue or mailed to P.O. Box 949.

This year, the SDN will also accept children's drawings depicting Christmas, such as Santa, decorated trees and Nativity scenes. The drawings should include the child's name and age. Because of limited space, not all drawings submitted can be published.

Drawings will not be returned.

Letters and drawings must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday in order for them to be forwarded to the North Pole in time for Christmas.

Nichols' trial...

Closing arguments underway

DENVER (AP) — From fall 1994, Terry Nichols was a willing participant in the plan to destroy the Oklahoma City federal building, a prosecutor told jurors in a summation today.

"There's only one question in this case," prosecutor Beth Wilkinson said. "Did Terry Nichols intentionally help Timothy McVeigh bomb the federal building and kill the people inside?

"The avalanche of evidence is a mountain of proof that Terry Nichols can't dispute," she said.

Before the case goes to the jury, defense attorneys have their chance in closing arguments to hammer away at doubts they tried to raise about the government's case, from the elusive John Doe 2 and multiple Ryder truck sightings to claims that the FBI mishandled evidence.

"This is a much closer case than the McVeigh trial," said Andrew Cohen, a Denver attorney who has attended both trials. "These jurors are going to have more to think about than did the McVeigh jurors."

To knit together the prosecution's mostly circumstantial evidence, Wilkinson took the jurors back to the fall of 1994 when Nichols left his job at a Marion, Kan., farm and allegedly began to acquire bomb components.

"Leaving behind an honest job and hard work, Terry Nichols started down the road toward the biggest terrorist act in our history," she said.

She said Nichols and McVeigh used aliases as they rented storage sheds to hide fertilizer, explosives and racing fuel that was purchased and stolen.

On Sept. 30, 1994, Wilkinson said, Nichols bought a ton of fertilizer, the first of the key components needed to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

In Nichols' home, FBI agents seized a receipt for one ton of fertilizer in the name of Mike Havens, Wilkinson said. Nichols has admitted using the last name "Havens" as an alias, but not the full name of "Mike Havens."

"Terry Nichols was Mike Havens on Sept. 30, 1994," Wilkinson said.

Prosecutors contend that Nichols and McVeigh, enraged over the deadly government siege near Waco, Texas, exactly two years before the bombing, plotted the blast for months.

RBTI meeting slated Tuesday

The public is invited to a public meeting on the Air Force's Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI) at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the chamber of commerce.

The Air Force has announced that it is putting together a RBTI range for use by B-1s from Dyess and B-52s from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

According to the military, the range will be a mapped route which will include about a dozen sites of a few acres each. Most of the potential sites are in far West Texas and New Mexico, and most of the other meetings on the range will be held in those areas.

ASK US

Q—How many members are there in Snyder's volunteer fire department?

A—Currently there are 40 members. The maximum number is 45, said Fire Chief Terry Don McDowell.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 54 degrees; low, 17; high Sunday, 65; low, 26; 7 a.m. Monday, 27; no precipitation; total for 1997, 24.26 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear. Low, mid 30s. S wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy. High 60-65. SW wind 10-15 mph becoming NW by late morning.

Alexander Griffith
Partly cloudy

Sunset: 5:43 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:35 a.m.
Of 348 days in 1997, the sun has shone 333 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Sometimes a winner is just a dreamer who never gave up.

Will Rogers

DEC 15 1997

Meals reflect what students want at WTC

Before Western Texas College students broke for the Christmas holiday, the cafeteria was decorated with yuletide decor.

It's all part of "trying to give the students what they want," said Lee Jones, food service director. Great Western Dining is in charge of the college's cafeteria.

Besides special decor for holidays and important functions, Jones said they usually plan something special each week.

September featured a tropical buffet, cookout and marshmallow roast, Rajun Cajun BBQ and Mexican buffet.

Special meals in October were pizza and pasta, smoked brisket and BBQ chicken, Halloween buffet and costume contest.

November had the taco bar and Thanksgiving buffet.

Other events include midnight breakfast, pancake night, breakfast in bed, dating game and ice cream party.

Popular themes include the soup and sandwich and taco bars. He said students also like the cookouts so they plan several throughout the school year.

Other treats such as the weekly steak luncheon and strawberry shortcake day "helps break the monotony," Jones said.

He said they work closely with George Cormack, dean of student services, and Alisha Cooper, college relations.

Eleven people work in the cafeteria including Fermin Garza, chef.

HOLIDAY TIME — Yuletide decorations brightened Western Texas College's cafeteria before students were dismissed for the Christmas break. Chef Fermin Garza helps serve the main course for a noon meal. Some 11 people help provide meals throughout the school year. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Holiday shopping picks up; however last-minute surge needed by retailers

NEW YORK (AP) — After weeks of just browsing, shoppers finally began making some of their holiday purchases over the weekend, crowding many of the nation's stores and malls.

While thrilled with the throngs of shoppers, retailers are counting on a big burst of buying in the next week to make this a respectable holiday season.

"We've learned that the last weeks are very important — the most important — of the season," said Gail Dorn, spokeswoman for Dayton Hudson Corp. "The closer we get to Christmas, the busier it should be."

Christmas arrived at retailers months ago, with trees and lights lining store corridors. But the holiday shopping spirit is just hitting many Americans.

Many merchants reported Sunday that sales picked up over the weekend, with jewelry, home furnishing and toys among the top sellers.

Extra discounts drew some consumers to stores like Sears, Roebuck & Co., which offered 10 percent off everything early Saturday. J.C. Penney was busy during its Friday night sale, while half-off discounts boosted traffic at Lord & Taylor.

"Consumers are more loyal to value and sales promotions than any particular store," said Ken Volk, marketing director for mall developer Simon DeBartolo Group in the New York area. To many shoppers, "good prices are most important."

Other shoppers flocked to stores once they realized that there's only one more weekend left before Christmas. Hanukkah begins the eve of Dec. 23, much later than a year ago.

A slow start to the holidays left many retailers nervous about how much consumers would be willing to spend this year. And while signs of strengthening sales were welcome, analysts warned that sales must rise significantly in the next week to salvage the season.

Any sign of a weakness may force stores to slash prices to clear inventory, which would likely erode their profits during the most critical part of the retailing year.

"They need that final big push," said John Konarski, vice president of research at the International Council of Shopping Centers. "They saw some good sales this weekend, but the surge needs to really come next week."

Last year, the four biggest shopping days came in the 11 days before Christmas, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers, a New York-based trade group.

One vote forces hung jury in trial

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The lone juror who voted to convict two white police officers in the death of a black motorist said the jury could deliberate "until doomsday" and he would not change his mind.

Walter Moorefield, 53, the only black juror on the panel, said he based his vote on "some of the things I heard, some of the evidence I saw, and the rest was common sense."

The other 11 jurors voted to acquit, resulting in a mistrial Saturday in the second trial of Brentwood Lt. Milton Mulholland and Baldwin Officer Michael Albert. The men were charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of Jonny Gammage.

The officers were accused of contributing to Gammage's suffocation when they struggled with him during a traffic stop Oct. 12, 1995. Their first trial ended in a mistrial before the case went to deliberations because of a coroner's improper testimony.

"We only had 98 percent participation on the jury," she said. "The whole experience was frustrating. We had a person who wouldn't listen to reason."

Moorefield denied that fear affected his decision, even though he admitted joking about the subject while sequestered with other jurors.

Gammage, 31, died during a fight with five white officers after Mulholland pulled him over in a traffic stop; three officers were charged. One, Brentwood Officer John Vojtas, was acquitted last year.

USDA proposes rules for organic foods

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government today took first steps toward regulating organic foods, but sidestepped the most controversial issues such as use of irradiation and crops that have been genetically altered.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said more public hearings would be held before a decision is made on those issues, which many farmers and environmental groups contend would violate the all-natural spirit of organic food.

"I have intentionally left open some of the more divisive questions," Glickman told reporters. "I think it's important to have a full national and international discussion of this issue."

The rules, which won't be final until next year, will implement the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, which became law as interest in natural products grew among the baby boom generation.

Supporters of organic farming welcomed the plan but said using irradiation, genetically altered crops and sewage sludge as fertilizer would undermine organic farming.

"The industry has a long history of operating within certain guidelines that are acceptable," said Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group. "These questions need to be answered very clearly."

The National Organics Standards Board created by Congress to help develop the proposed rules recommended against including the controversial practices.

Although organic products account for only about 1 percent of food sales nationwide, sales have grown by more than 20 percent annually since 1990 and account for $3.5 billion in annual sales. Agriculture Department officials forecast a fourfold increase in sales the next decade.

Glickman said the rules will replace a patchwork of guidelines around the country that make it impossible for consumers to be sure of what they're getting. The rules also will require imported foods to meet the same standards if they are sold as organic.

"These rules are about giving consumers choices about how their food is produced," he said.

To gain an Agriculture Department seal, the proposed regulations require that raw products be 100 percent organic and that processed foods contain 95 percent organic ingredients.

Processed foods with 50 percent to 95 percent organic content could be labeled as "made with certain organic ingredients," while those with less than 50 percent organic content must specify the organic ingredients.

Those selling or labeling products that do not meet the standards could be fined up to $10,000, it said.

The rules, first reported today by The New Tork Times, also set standards for producing and handling the foods, including use of pesticides and a prohibition on antibiotics or hormoes to stimulate growth in livestock.

About half the states now have their own organic-food regulations.

Prozac reduces explosive tempers, new study says

CHICAGO (AP) — Low levels of a natural brain chemical called serotonin may frequently be the reason people explode in fits of rage, according to a study that says the antidepressant Prozac often reduces their aggressiveness.

Forty people who considered their explosive tempers a problem enrolled in the study.

"One of the people that we studied had road rage," said Dr. Emil F. Coccaro, lead researcher and a psychiatry professor at Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in Philadelphia.

"He went nuts in traffic, heard our ad on the radio, and called us up. He came into the study and was helped by the drug. He was one of the success stories," Coccaro said Friday.

In a week, each subject typically had fits of temper equivalent to 15 verbal outbursts directed at others, eight physical outbursts directed at objects or two physical assaults against others, the researchers said.

Twenty-seven participants were given Prozac and 13 got a placebo. Neither group knew what they were getting.

Prozac significantly reduced aggression for some subjects, although not everyone was helped, researchers reported in the December issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, published by the American Medical Association.

The drug helps maintain levels of serotonin, a brain chemical that helps regulate mood and has been linked with controlling aggression in previous studies.

Prozac is currently approved to treat depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and bulimia. Doctors may prescribe it for other reasons if they believe it is appropriate.

Yo-Yo Ma meets other musicians

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Teenage musicians put down their instruments and got a chance to chat with one of the best: Yo-Yo Ma.

The cellist met with 105 young string players in an informal setting at Heinz Hall, where Ma played Saturday with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Ma, whose most recent album is "Piazzolla: The Soul of the Tango," was asked whether he gets nervous before a performance.

"Absolutely," he said. "But I'm always thinking that the thing I'm doing is so exciting that I want to share it with somebody else."

He told the students that he picked the cello because it was the biggest instrument he could play when he was 4 years old.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1997

In the year ahead, you might participate in a unique involvement with a respected individual. It could be one of the best intellectual and material alliances you've ever formed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Carelessness on your behalf in filing receipts or records of your commercial transactions could invite a future problem. Be orderly now and avert trouble later. Major changes are ahead for Sagittarius in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Do not let a hot-headed associate upset you today and create a confrontation. Arguments are futile and unproductive, so simply walk away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It is better to temporarily postpone a distasteful assignment today than to attempt to do it with a poor attitude. You might mess it up for yourself and others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) An antagonistic acquaintance could spoil everyone's fun today. It would be in your best interest not to include him or her in any social arrangements.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If the world doesn't treat you royally today, don't take your anger out on innocent family members. They will be supportive if you treat them with care.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Make suggestions to companions today without doing so forcefully. You can encourage a friend to think, but you shouldn't try to make him or her blink.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be cautious in a joint endeavor that places the greater burden on you, physically or financially. It will fail if the load isn't distributed equally.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Being self-sufficient is an admirable quality, but do not carry it to extremes today, especially in arrangements that require harmony and teamwork.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you don't do things in a proper order today, they might end up taking charge of you. Work simply so you can fulfill all of your duties.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Upmanship won't be fun today, so try to spend your free time with people who make you feel comfortable instead of those who engage you in competition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Chances for domestic skirmishes are higher than usual today. If an incident does develop, keep calm and don't let your temper contribute to the input.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In your haste to get things done today, you might end up running around in circles. Take the time to organize your affairs in a rational manner.

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Oil Patch News

Borden County

Patterson Petroleum will drill the No. 1 Anderson, an 8,500-foot wildcat located 20 miles southwest of Gail. Location is in Section 29, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

Pioneer Natural Reserve will drill the No. 12 Etta Holt Brown in the Iatan East Howard field, nine miles southwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,450 feet, drill site is in Section 12, Block 29, T1S, T&P survey.

Howard County

Miltex Oil Company will drill the No. 1-37 Texaco, an 8,100-foot wildcat located five miles south of Coahoma. Location is in Section 37, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Oryx Energy has completed the No. 4118 Dora Roberts in the Howard-Glasscock field, one mile southeast of Forsan. The well was finaled to produce 105 barrels of oil and 280 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,402-922 feet, and location is in Section 136, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Garza County

Primrose Operating Co. has completed the No. 167 Fuller-Dorward in the Dorward field, nine miles southeast of Justiceburg. The well was finaled to produce 22 barrels of oil and 91 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,004-568 feet, and location is in Section 692, Block 97, H&TC survey.

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Community Calendar

MONDAY

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Al-Anon meeting (smoke Free), brown bag lunch; Park Club in Winston Park. For more information, call 573-1579 or 573-5525; noon to 1 p.m.

AARP installation dinner; Rudy's; all members are urged to attend; 5 p.m.

Delta Kappa Gamma; Martha Ann Woman's Club; hostesses, Judy Barkowsky, Billie Hartsfield, Dorothy Kayser, Allyce McMullan, Monette O'Day, Maribeth Vestal; 7 p.m.

Stargazers FCEC; 3117 Ave. T; 7 p.m.

Bilingual AA meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 8 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Art Guild Study Club; MAWC; hostesses, Rea Adams, Vondell King; 3:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

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

Hermleigh Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Lodge; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughters Club luncheon; MAWC; "Christmas Cheer," by David and Judy Brown; hostesses, Francene Noah, June McGlaun; 11:30 a.m.

Cosmorama Study Club; at Classic Interiors; hostesses, Laurie Grinslade, Jean McMillon; 4 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; country club; noon.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

Three support groups: Divorce Recovery, Cancer/Grief, and Caring for Aging Parents; in Family Life Center of First Baptist Church; 6:30 p.m.; for more information call the church office at 573-2631. Anyone is welcome to attend and child care will be provided.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Chapter No. 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th; 7:30 p.m.

Bilingual AA meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 8 p.m.

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

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 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 appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

BJ

BJ Services and the Texas Blood Institute will be conducting a blood drive Sunday, December 21
Noon-4:00 p.m. at 311 N. Lubbock Hwy.
PUBLIC WELCOME
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parties vy on tax system overhaul ideas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leading Democrats have joined Republicans in the clamor to overhaul the tax system, broadening debate on an issue certain to get plenty of attention in Congress next year.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., plus the libertarian Cato Institute and a San Francisco think tank called Redefining Progress, are promoting various ideas following GOP-sponsored debates on a flat tax and national sales tax. Many other alternatives are expected to crop up when Congress returns in late January.

This fall, House Republicans revived the tax reform topic with a series of well-attended debates featuring a flat tax advocate, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, and a national sales tax proponent, Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La. Armey and Tauzin limited the debate to proposals already introduced as legislation that promised a single, flat rate.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., applauded the debates. While not endorsing either option, he backed an effort to scrap the income tax code by 2001 and replace it with a new system.

Kennedy proposed a "post-card tax return with progressive tax rates."

"Democrats can and must seek genuine tax simplification," he told the National Press Club last week. "But the tax rate on the post card cannot and must not be the same flat rate for all Americans."

Gregory Jenner, national tax policy director at the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, said, "One of the things that seems to be occurring frequently these days is the co-opting of issues of one party by another. I don't think there is complete ownership of tax reform by one party."

Kennedy also proposed a major overhaul of the Social Security payroll tax, which he called "our most regressive tax." Currently, individuals pay a 6.2 percent rate on all wages up to $65,400; their employers match that amount.

Kennedy would remove the $65,400 cap and use the proceeds to cut Social Security taxes to 5.3 percent for everyone. "Everyone earning less than $80,000 a year would receive a tax break," he said. His proposal would not affect the 1.45 percent Medicare payroll tax.

Jenner said Kennedy's tax idea amounts to "redistributing the tax burden to the upper-income levels."

Kennedy left the details for his post-card tax return until next year, but a spokesman said it is "roughly similar" to the 10 percent tax plan advanced by Gephardt, who is eyeing a run for the presidency.

Gephardt says that under his plan, 75 percent of taxpayers would pay a 10 percent federal tax on a post card-sized return. He would eliminate nearly all deductions, credits and exclusions from taxes, except for the home mortgage interest deduction.

Another new voice in the debate is economist Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute, who would let taxpayers choose between the current system or a 25 percent flat tax on gross income.

Another new entrant is a modified "green tax" proposed by Redefining Progress. It would be aimed at discouraging pollution and heavy energy consumption with new taxes on emissions or fuels.

The basic idea involves a tax shift — raising taxes on socially undesirable pollution while delivering tax breaks that encourage investment and reward workers.

Writer Franz Kafka worked as a government bureaucrat in Prague.

Student's cafeteria makeover said model for other schools

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (AP) — Fifth-grader Justin Walker's bid for a student council seat included a promise to get better-tasting cafeteria food that was healthy, too.

The 10-year-old was sick of seeing full trays of uneaten food thrown in the garbage. A year later, students at Alpharetta Elementary School choose from such dishes as beef quesadillas and oven-roasted turkey at the Eagle Rock Cafe. No more tasteless meatloaf.

Justin's success is just the innovation the government is looking for to help turn America's schools into training grounds for healthy eating habits, giving youngsters a better chance against the top three killers of adults — heart disease, stroke and cancer.

"All we have to do is clone him," said Howell Wechsler, a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "What an example of how anyone can make a difference. And he was just trying to fulfill a campaign pledge."

Justin made his improvements at a time when the CDC says many schools are giving students the wrong message on health and exercise. Physical education classes are being cut, and participation is low in schools that still have them. And youngsters still would rather have an order of fries than a handful of carrot sticks.

School cafeterias do serve healthy food, but kids won't eat it if it doesn't taste good.

"Programs to promote health eating and physical activity are most likely to be effective when they help kids learn the skills themselves and aren't just cramming kids' heads with facts," Wechsler said.

Justin was weaned on the four basic food groups. His parents told him he'd be stronger and faster if he ate nutritious food — a philosophy that fueled his efforts to change the cafeteria.

"I was quickly reminded by my peers of my promise," he said. "It's easier to give your word, but harder to keep your word."

Justin talked with a family friend who worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and learned about a program called Team Nutrition that helps school cooks make healthy and tasty dishes.

He formed a committee that surveyed students on their opinions about cafeteria food. The results — thumbs down on meatloaf, white cake and the cafeteria itself. Justin then held a contest to rename the cafeteria and offered his own prized Beanie Baby (Garcia, the tie-dyed teddy bear) to the winner.

After a year of work, the cafeteria got a modern makeover. Chefs from four- and five-star restaurants came in for a day and treated students to chicken nuggets with oriental sauce, Greek salad and apple strudel, all with supplies from the cafeteria kitchen. All were low-fat dishes — and the kids thought they tasted great.

Wechsler praised Justin's ability to motivate his fellow students and the teachers.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-15-97
♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ A Q 5
♦ 5 2
♣ A 7 6 4

West
♠ K 4
♥ K 8 7 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ Q J 10 8

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

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

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

One plus one equals twelve

By Phillip Alder

Do you have trouble remembering people's names? I do. But now I might have the answer. Let's do as recommended by Benjamin Disraeli: "When I meet a man whose name I can't remember, I give myself two minutes; then, if it is a hopeless case, I always say 'And how is the old complaint?'"

This deal was played correctly by an unnamed man. How would you declare six spades after West has led (a) the club queen or (b) a diamond?

You start with 11 tricks: five spades, one heart, four diamonds and one club. The 12th trick can come from either winning a heart finesse (your club loser then disappears on dummy's heart ace) or avoiding a spade loser.

If West leads a diamond, take both major-suit finesses, getting home if one of them wins. That is approximately a 75 percent chance.

After a club lead, though, a losing finesse will result in immediate defeat, as the defenders will cash a club trick. Should you finesse in spades or in hearts?

After winning with dummy's club ace, call for the spade queen to encourage a cover by East. Yet whichever spade East plays, win with the ace. You are home immediately if the king appears. But if it doesn't, take the heart finesse.

Relying on the spade finesse (assuming East doesn't have the singleton king) is a 50 percent proposition. However, the recommended line works whenever West has either the singleton spade king or the heart king. This works out to 63 percent. However, don't worry about these figures. Just remember that it is (usually) better to have two chances than one.

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Church of the Hills
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Look for Lighted Cross on the Hill.
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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® by Fred Lasswell

BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Guy
5 Director's cry
8 Detective Charlie —
12 Cosmonaut Gagarin
13 Made of (suff.)
14 Arizona city
15 Strip of wood
16 Clatter
17 Harvest
18 Tiny pastry
20 Excessive
21 Play by —
22 — out (stretch)
23 Fine and —!
26 Grabbed
30 Language suffix
31 Ungentlemanly men
32 Guido's high note
33 Crow's utterance
34 Spanish painter
35 Building wing
36 Choices
38 — Lama
40 Fair grade
41 — -de-sac
42 More serious
45 Montana's neighbor
49 Part of the eye
50 Cadillac or Lincoln
51 Baseballer Hershiser
52 King —
53 Roman 3
54 Duck
55 Art deco illustrator
56 Not well
57 Mountain pool

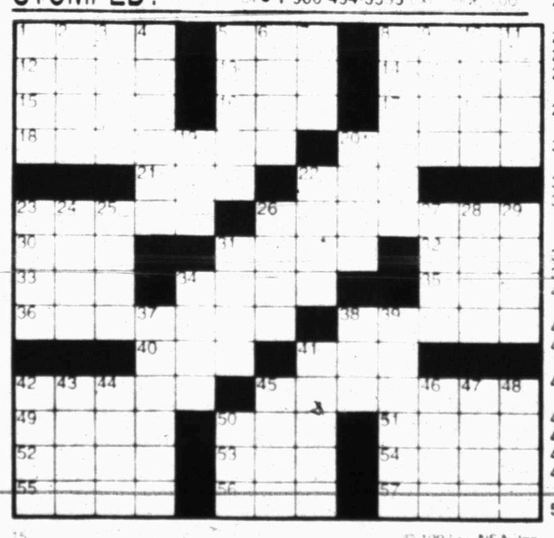
DOWN

1 Sac
2 Hawaiian dance
3 Resin-producing tree
4 Like canned cherries
5 Halloween beverage
6 Single part
7 Bo Derek's number
8 Pedals
9 Injure
10 Cupid
11 California wine valley
19 Place
20 Hawaiian instruments
22 Opera role
23 Art — (1930s style)
24 Pronto (abbr.)
25 Tailed amphibian
26 Manners
27 Sesame
28 Singer Fitzgerald
29 Surrealist painter
31 Ice-cream holder
34 Patron
37 Glacial epoch (2 wds.)
38 Pair
39 Nearly
41 Actor — Ritchard
42 Nobleman
43 Actor Novello
44 Kind of income
45 Howl
46 — La Douce
47 — -do-well
48 Small valley
50 Roman 102

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for Answers ● 1-900-454-3535 ● 1-900-454-3500



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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

"Sorry, folks, new directive. Starting immediately, there will be no more strip poker played on commuter trains."

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Okay, Class ... name four things he did wrong."

"FIRST, I WAS GETTING ON HIS LAP, THEN HE SAID I WAS GETTING ON HIS NERVES."

SPORTS

Perfection...

Coyotes cap undefeated season with state crown

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

ABILENE — On a day when neither team was in the giving mood, Borden County *earned* its first state title.

The Coyotes outhit, outran and outcoached the Panther Creek Panthers, capturing a 48-16 victory Saturday in the Six-Man State Championship.

"This is just terrific," Borden County coach Bobby Avery said. "It hasn't completely sunk in yet. When we put the plaque in the trophy case, it will probably all hit home."

The Coyotes, who finished the season 15-0, dominated the contest from the opening kickoff to the final gun.

Fernando Baeza ran for three touchdowns. Colt McCook threw for three more. And once again Ed Rodriguez, who returned two Lazbuddie kickoffs for touchdowns last week, notched one score.

Panther Creek had cut the Coyote lead to 16 points early in the third quarter, when Rodriguez went to work.

The speedy sophomore took the kick at his own 4-yard line, cut to his right and was off to the races.

"Ed's return was a big play," Avery remarked. "They (Panther Creek) had just gotten within 16 and I was thinking, 'Oh my, how many times in a state chmapionship game do you see a team have the lead and then lose it in the second half.'

"Then Ed returns the kickoff and gets the momentum back for us. So it was definately a big play."

Following a scoreless first quarter, the contest looked to be a defensive battle.

But the Coyote offense started clicking in the second.

Fernando Baeza plunged in from five yards out for the game's first score.

Then at the 5:37 mark, Oscar Baeza had a step on a Panther defensive back and McCook lofted a pass his way.

Both players reached for the ball and Baeza pulled it away from the defender, sprinting 69 yards into the endzone.

McCook added a 38-yard scoring toss to Rodriguez for a 20-0 halftime score.

The Borden County defense took control in the second half, punishing the Panthers' ball carriers.

"I'm a big believer of the idea that you make your own breaks," Coyote defensive coordinator Trey Richey said. "We played a very physical ballgame and that is a testament to our kids.

"These kids love to hit and they will battle every play, all game long."

Richey, who tasted title victory as a player, said this win was even more enjoyable.

"I enjoyed this more because I got a chance to sit back and watch these kids have fun and see the community embrace this team," he remarked. "As a player you really don't take everything in, but this time I did. And it was great."

Game Summary

Borden County	00	20	12	16	— 48
Panther Creek	00	00	08	08	— 16

Second Quarter

BC — Fernando Baeza 5-yard run (Oscar Baeza kick), 9:54.
BC — O. Baeza 69-yard pass from Colt McCook (kick failed), 5:37.
BC — Ed Rodriguez 38-yard pass from McCook (kick failed), 1:23.

Third Quarter

BC — Clint Scott 11-yard pass from McCook (kick failed), 8:39.
PC — Stephen Loyd 7-yard pass from Brent Dawson (Loyd kick), 2:10.
BC — Rodriguez 76-yard kickoff return (kick failed), 1:57.

Fourth Quarter

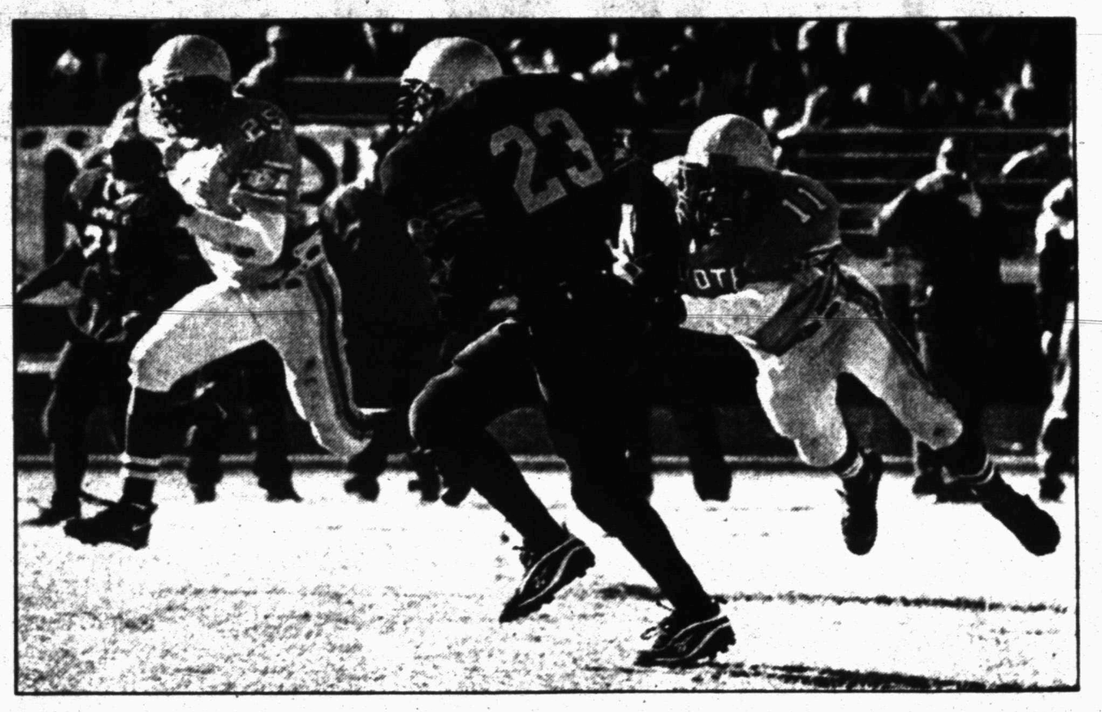
PC — Luis Delgadillo 6-yard pass from Dawson (Loyd kick), 9:06.
BC — F. Baeza 1-yard run (McCook kick), 8:40.
BC — F. Baeza 41-yard run (Nick Flanigan kick), 2:05.

	BC	PC
First downs	14	14
Rushes-yards	26-182	37-221
Passing yards	217	190
Comp-Att-Int	8-14-1	18-25-0
Punts	1-21	1-36
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	7-58	6-49

RUSHING — Borden County: F. Baeza 16-129, Scott 4-26, McCook 4-19, Brummett 1-8, Cowart 1-0. **Panther Creek:** Delgadillo 28-181, Speckels 6-52, Dawson 3-minus 12.

PASSING — Borden County: McCook 8 of 14 for 217 yards, 1 int., 3 TDs. **Panther Creek:** Dawson 18 of 24 for 190 yards, 2 TDs.

RECEIVING — Borden County: O. Baeza 2-87, Vasquez 2-59, F. Baeza 2-21, Rodriguez, 1-38, Scott 1-11. **Panther Creek:** Risse 8-84, Loyd 3-51, Guijosa 2-28, Dawson 2-23, Delgadillo 1-6, Speckels 1-minus 7.



FLYING TACKLE — Borden County's Fernando Baeza (11) makes a diving tackle on Panther Creek's Dustin Speckels, while brother Oscar Baeza (25) pursues the play. The Coyotes pounded the Panthers, 48-16, for the six-man state title. (SDN Staff Photo By Eric Drennan).

Cowboys' playoff hopes dashed

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' playoff chances vanished in a game befitting their season: a good start, a quick fade and a comeback that wasn't nearly enough.

Now, for the first time since 1990, the Cowboys get to spend a winter at home wondering why they just weren't good enough.

Dallas dominated the first quarter Sunday, but Boomer Esiason threw a pair of touchdown passes as the Cincinnati Bengals scored 31 consecutive points and then held on for a 31-24 victory.

The Cowboys (6-9) let a 10-point first-quarter lead slip away. With it went their already slim chance of making the playoffs for a seventh straight year.

"This game was like our season," safety Bill Bates said. "We fought our tails off, made too many mistakes and came up short."

The Cowboys will finish with their first losing record since 1990, when they went 7-9. That season was a reason for optimism, another step forward in Jimmy Johnson's rebuilding.

No one expected the Cowboys to let the season slip away so easily. Dallas has lost four in a row for the first time since 1989, when quarterback Troy Aikman was a rookie and the team went 1-15.

WTC wins shootout against Dodge City

LIBERAL, KAN. — The Lady Westerners might have had poor shooting night in their first game of the Pizza Hut Classic, but they more than made up for it in the second.

Western Texas College topped Dodge City, 78-69, Saturday in Liberal, Kan.

The Lady Westerners, who connected on less than 40 percent of their shots on Friday, played much more consistent against Dodge City.

"We were hitting our shots much better than we did in the first game," WTC coach Valery Jackson said. "At halftime on Friday we were in the low 30s percentage wise, compared to almost 50 percent on Saturday."

Pam O'dhuougo and Whitney Kimbley had the hot hands for WTC.

O'dhuogo was 70 percent from the field, finishing with 14 points.

Kimbley led the Lady Westerners with a game-high 16, including three from behind the arc.

The only possible bad note for Coach Jackson's team was an injury suffered by Tonelle Hanna.

Hanna, who shut down Seward's scoring threat on Friday and posted 14 points against Dodge City, twisted her ankle late in the second half.

"We're hoping it's just a sprain," Jackson stated. "Hanna had a real good road trip. She played well in both games.

"Hopefully, the layoff will do her some good. We'll take a look at it again after the Christmas break."

The Lady Westerners, who improve to 4-8, won't be in action again until Jan. 2, when they face Central Arizona in Odessa.

WTC opens conference play Jan. 12 at home against New Mexico.

WESTERN TEXAS — Miller 0 3-3 3, Hanna 7 0-0 14, Vizcorrondo 5 1-2 11, Wells 3 3-5 9, Otuoro 4 0-0 9, Kimbley 6 1-1 16, O'dhuougo 7 0-0 14, Kilabwa 1 0-0 2.

DODGE CITY — Brown 5 2-2 14, Carner 2 4-6 10, Ricke 5 0-0 12, Richards 2 2-2 7, Guernsey 3 2-2 9, Curtis 2 1-1 5, Johnson 2 1-1 5, Cole 1 1-1 3, Campbell 3 0-2 6.

Halftime score: WTC 40, Dodge City 26. Three-point goals: WTC 4 (Kimbley 3, Otuoro); Dodge City 8 (Brown 2, Carner 2, Ricke 2, Richards, Guernsey)

Lady Tigers topple C-City for Wylie tournament title

ABILENE — The Lady Tigers employed a solid defense and some key shooting to capture the Wylie tournament championship.

Snyder topped Colorado City, 57-47, Saturday night.

It was a second-quarter defensive stand and some fourth quarter freethrows that proved to be the difference.

Following a 12-12 first period, the Lady Tigers got stingy in the second.

Trailing 18-17 with 4:09 left in the quarter, Shannon Hall drained a three-pointer to give Snyder the lead for good.

The Lady Tigers held a 25-20 halftime advantage, which they extended to 40-32 by the end of the third period.

Colorado City threatened to rally in the fourth, trimming the deficit to seven points with 48 seconds remaining in the contest.

But the Lady Tigers pushed the margin back to double digits by sinking three free throws down the stretch.

Freshman Ashley Delce paced Snyder with 12 points, while Hall finished with 11.

The Lady Tigers, now 8-4 on the season, will be in action again Friday at home.

Snyder hosts a rematch with Colorado City, beginning at 6:30.

SNYDER — McGuire 1 1-2 3, Hall 3 4-5 11, Daniel 0 2-3 2, Delce 2 8-10 12, Kidd 3 3-4 10, Hess 2 3-5 7, Kallemeyn 1 1-4 3, Peoples 2 1-5 5, Murray 2 0-1 4. Totals 16 23-39 57.

COLORADO CITY — Anderson 5 4-4 14, Rivera 4 4-6 12, Merrell 2 4-4 8, Bridgford 2 3-3 7, Mason 0 1-2 1, Miles 1 0-0 2, Scott 1 0-0 3. Totals 15 16-19 47.

Snyder	12	13	15	17	— 57
Colorado City	12	8	12	15	— 47

Three-point goals: Snyder 2 (Hall, Kidd); Colorado City 1 (Scott). Total fouls: Snyder 18, Colorado City 24. Fouled out: Miles.

LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today

Highland at Hermleigh Junior High, 6 p.m.

Ira Junior High at Sands, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Ira varsity girls & boys at Patton Springs, 6:30, 8 p.m.

Tigers fall to Dimmitt

SEMINOLE — The Snyder Tigers ran into a determined pack of Bobcats Saturday afternoon.

Snyder saw Dimmitt turn a five point halftime deficit into a seven point victory, as the Tigers dropped the consolation final of the Seminole tournament, 57-50.

Snyder, led by Justin McNair's 18 points, held a 29-24 advantage at the end of two quarters.

But the Bobcats came out hot in the second half.

Dimmitt posted 21 points in the third quarter, while surrendering only 14 for a 45-43 lead entering the final eight minutes.

The Bobcats kept the pressure on, not allowing a Tiger rally in the fourth period.

Dimmitt outscored Snyder 12-7 in the fourth for the 57-50 victory.

Senior Jimmy Taylor, the Tigers' leading scorer through 12 contests, finished with 11 points.

Snyder, now 5-7 on the season, will be in action again Friday at Slaton, beginning at 7:45.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
NewEngland	9	6	0	.600	355	277
Miami	9	6	0	.600	327	313
N.Y.Jets	9	6	0	.600	338	274
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	234	336
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	285	362
Central						
Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	366	291
Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	374	309
Tennessee	7	8	0	.467	317	304
Baltimore	6	8	1	.433	312	329
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	339	391
West						
KansasCity	12	3	0	.800	350	219
Denver	11	3	0	.786	417	250
Seattle	7	8	0	.467	327	353
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	315	399
SanDiego	4	11	0	.267	263	387

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y.Giants	9	5	1	.633	287	258
Washington	7	7	1	.500	292	257
Philadelphia	6	8	1	.433	285	337
Dallas	6	9	0	.400	297	294
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	254	353
Central						
GreenBay	12	3	0	.800	391	261
TampaBay	9	6	0	.600	268	248
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	366	296
Minnesota	8	7	0	.533	315	331
Chicago	4	11	0	.267	248	390
West						
SanFrancisco	12	2	0	.857	332	210
Carolina	7	8	0	.467	247	284
Atlanta	7	8	0	.467	294	332
NewOrleans	6	9	0	.400	224	302
St.Louis	4	11	0	.267	269	341

Saturday's Games

New York Giants 30, Washington 10
Pittsburgh 24, New England 21, OT

Sunday's Games

Cincinnati 31, Dallas 24
Detroit 14, Minnesota 13
Baltimore 21, Tennessee 19
Jacksonville 20, Buffalo 14
Indianapolis 41, Miami 0
Atlanta 20, Philadelphia 17
New York Jets 31, Tampa Bay 0
New Orleans 27, Arizona 10
Green Bay 31, Carolina 10
Kansas City 29, San Diego 7
Seattle 22, Oakland 21
Chicago 13, St. Louis 10

Monday's Game

Denver at San Francisco, 8 p.m.

High School Playoff Results

CLASS 5A
Division I Final
Katy 24, Longview 3

Division II
Semifinals
Flower Mound Marcus 31, Tyler John Tyler 7
Alief Hastings 46, New Braunfels 23

Final
Flower Mound Marcus (13-2) vs. Alief Hastings (14-1), 12:07 p.m., Saturday, Astrodome

CLASS 4A
Division I Final
Texas City 37, Corsicana 34

Division II
Semifinals
Denison 42, Mount Pleasant 0
La Marque 13, Corpus Christi Calallen 3

Final
Denison (15-0) vs. La Marque (12-3), 4 p.m., Saturday, Astrodome (tentative)

CLASS 3A
Semifinals
Commerce 33, Aledo 14
Sealy 24, La Grange 14

Final
Commerce (15-0) vs. Sealy (15-0), 7:30 p.m., Friday, Astrodome

CLASS 2A
Semifinals
Stanton 35, Italy 7
Rogers 42, Alto 33

Final
Stanton (15-0) vs. Rogers (14-1), 6 p.m., Saturday, Texas Stadium (tentative)

CLASS 1A
Finals
Granger 40, Wheeler 0

SIX-MAN
Finals
Borden County 48, Panther Creek 16

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	15	6	.714	-
Orlando	16	8	.667	½
NewYork	13	9	.591	2½
NewJersey	12	10	.545	3½
Boston	9	12	.429	6
Washington	9	14	.391	7
Philadelphia	6	14	.300	8½
Central Division				
Atlanta	17	5	.773	-
Charlotte	14	7	.667	2½
Cleveland	14	7	.667	2½
Indiana	13	8	.619	3½
Chicago	13	9	.591	4
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	6
Detroit	11	12	.478	6½
Toronto	2	20	.091	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	12	7	.632	-
Utah	13	8	.619	-
SanAntonio	12	10	.545	1½
Minnesota	9	12	.429	4
Vancouver	9	14	.391	5
Dallas	5	17	.227	8½
Denver	2	19	.095	11
Pacific Division				
Seattle	18	5	.783	-
L.A.Lakers	17	5	.773	½
Phoenix	13	6	.684	3
Portland	13	7	.650	3½
Sacramento	7	16	.304	11
GoldenState	4	16	.200	12½
L.A.Clippers	4	19	.174	14

Saturday's Games

Indiana 109, Washington 92
New Jersey 133, Denver 95
New York 95, Philadelphia 83
Charlotte 85, Cleveland 84
Detroit 93, Boston 77
Minnesota 112, Phoenix 101
San Antonio 107, Orlando 78
Chicago 97, Toronto 70
Miami 87, Milwaukee 84
Golden State 95, Sacramento 91, OT

Sunday's Games

Seattle 107, L.A. Clippers 101
Atlanta 93, Sacramento 89
Vancouver 110, Houston 105
L.A. Lakers 119, Dallas 89

Monday's Games

Philadelphia at Boston, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Utah at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 9 p.m.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

010 LEGAL NOTICES

LEAGAL NOTICE
Public Hearing will be held December 31, 1997, in the District Court Room beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of setting salaries of the County Auditor & Court Reporter for 1998, by order of Ernie B. Aemstrong, Judge, 132 District Court, Scurry County, Texas.

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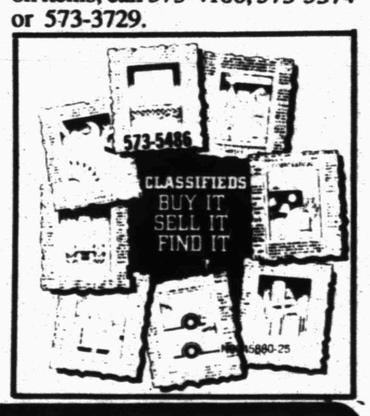

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3113 Ave T 3-2-2	$49.5T
3006 El Paso 3-3-2	$115T
3000 Crockett 4-3-2	$110T
2208 Towle 3-2-2-den	$117.5T
Close To Park 3-2Low	$60's
Col. Hill 2-2-1	Call!
218 36th 3-2-1	$37T
3704 Muriel 2-1-1	$30T
3006 42nd 3-1 W/cp	$30T
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Love Poppy & Nanny

Busy weekend for law officers

Snyder area peace officers made five arrests over the weekend — all but one of which was alcohol-related.

Officers arrested a 23-year-old male at 8:13 p.m. Saturday at the Law Enforcement Center for public intoxication. A juvenile was also taken into custody and later released to his parents.

Three people were arrested at 2:43 a.m. Sunday in the 3000 block of Avenue E. An 18-year-old male was arrested for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and minor in possession. Another 18-year-old male and a 20-year-old male were taken into custody for public intoxication and minor in possession.

City officers arrested a 23-year-old male at 4:36 p.m. Saturday in the 800 block of 37th Street on two city warrants for expired motor vehicle registration and two warrants for failure to appear.

An offense report for overdose was submitted at 10:46 p.m. Sunday as a 21-year-old female overdosed on medication. She was transferred by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital. Cogdell officials declined to release information on her condition, citing privacy laws.

Officers were called to the 2000 block of Avenue R at 8:47 a.m. Saturday as Gracie Villa reported someone had broken into the Primera Iglesia Bautista Church. An offense report for burglary of a building was submitted.

In other activity over the weekend, at 7:31 a.m. Saturday, Martin Gomez reported he had found a mobile telephone that he had reported stolen.

A gas drive-off from the L&L service station was reported at 12:50 p.m. Saturday as a person failed to pay for $7.14 worth of gas.

A report of vandalism was made at 2:38 p.m. Saturday from the 1500 block of 39th Street.

A deputy was called to Allsup's in Hermleigh at 3:46 p.m. as a person had damaged the bathroom at the store. An offense report for criminal mischief was submitted.

Corey Tothiel reported the theft of speakers from his vehicle at the Eastridge Apartments at 4:12 p.m. Saturday. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was submitted.

A person complained to officers at the police department at 8:45 a.m. of a barking dog in the 3700 block of Austin.

At 12:34 p.m. Sunday, officers investigated several reports of Christmas decorations being vandalized in the 2200 block of 45th Street.

An offense report for a dog bite was submitted at 5 p.m. Sunday from the 1300 block of 17th Street.

A report of possible prowlers was made at 4:22 a.m. Sunday from the 2300 block of 43rd Street.

At 1:11 a.m. today, officers on patrol discovered several window screens torn off windows on the First Assembly of God Church.

Officers were called to the 3300 block of Avenue U at 2:25 this morning and to the 3100 block of Crockett at 4:36 a.m. as residents reported someone ringing their doorbell and then running away.

A&M scientist's eye for pollen helps crack tough criminal cases

HOUSTON (AP) — While allergy sufferers may consider pollen a nuisance, a Texas A&M scientist who is helping to pioneer a new technique for helping to solve some of the most inscrutable crimes says the tiny particles may be a detective's best friend.

Vaughn Bryant is the head of A&M's anthropology department and one of the nation's leading exponents of forensic palynology — the study of pollen to help solve crimes.

The 57-year-old pollen expert has helped the FBI, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and many local law enforcement agencies in pollen cases.

In Germany, the technique is credited with getting one murder confession. When the suspect was confronted with the fact that his muddy boots had trapped pollen from plants that grew only near the murder site, his denials of guilt buckled. Often times, particular types of pollen can be linked to a certain region, helping investigators narrow down their search.

Bryant believes the microscopic particles ultimately could be as valuable a detection method as DNA testing.

"When it works," he said, "it works marvelously."

Bryant, who entered the field about 20 years ago as a honey expert, can tell dozens of stories of how palynology has solved a case or provided key evidence.

However, he knows full well that persuading detectives to routinely test for pollen is an uphill battle.

The state's top medical examiners said it is done rarely.

Dallas County Medical Examiner Jeffrey Barnard likened the procedure to studying insects found at a crime scene, a field called forensic entomology and one that has gained acceptance only in recent years.

"It takes a while to break ground, for a procedure to become popular," he said. "It's not going to be used on every case, but it certainly has great potential."

However, Vincent DiMaio, chief Bexar County medical examiner, laughed when asked about it.

"I've never heard of it," he said.

Bryant admitted the forensic study of pollen can be daunting. Pollen from the crime scene must be well-preserved, then compared to other known pollens microscopically. Bryant estimates there are more than 1 million plant species worldwide.

Still, he blames "laziness" as a possible reason for law enforcement's slow adoption of the procedure.

He remembers a case he worked on, involving a man found stabbed to death beside a remote West Texas highway. Labels were ripped from his clothes, and his hands and feet hacked off to

See Pollen, Page 10

One of the family to leave program

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A member of the family is leaving.

JoMarie Payton-Noble, who plays the mom on the CBS sitcom "Family Matters," said she's leaving her job of nine seasons because she wants more artistic freedom.

'Scream 2' tops box office in biggest December opening ever

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Scream 2" didn't just kill its competitors — it buried them.

The lampoonish teen slasher movie earned $39.2 million in the biggest opening ever for a December weekend, according to estimates released Sunday.

The sequel to Wes Craven's horror blockbuster "Scream" nearly doubled the $20.1 million December record set last year by "Beavis and Butt-head Do America."

The film features TV stars Neve Campbell and Courteney Cox, who both appeared in the original, along with Jada Pinkett and Tori Spelling.

"The American public continues to find new and different stars that they've become attached to," said David Davis, a movie industry analyst for Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin.

After "Scream 2," family comedies held the next three box office slots. Robin Williams' "Flubber" was second with $6.9 million. "For Richer or Poorer," starring Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley, earned $6 million for the No. 3 spot, followed by "Home Alone 3" with $5.1 million.

"Amistad" and Woody Allen's "Deconstructing Harry" did well in limited release.

"Amistad," Steven Spielberg's slave ship drama, did well on just 322 screens, placing fifth with $4.6 million, according to estimates from Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"It's slightly higher than we were expecting. We are just very pleased with it," said Dreamworks SKG executive Jim Tharp.

Although it failed to make the top 10, Allen's new comedy had the best per-screen average. Its debut take of $325,000 on 10 screens worked out to $32,500 per screen.

"Alien Resurrection" dropped from No. 2 to No. 7 with $3.3 million.

Estimated North American ticket sales for Friday through Sunday:

1. "Scream 2," $39.2 million.
2. "Flubber," $6.9 million.
3. "For Richer or Poorer," $6 million.
4. "Home Alone 3," $5.1 million.
5. "Amistad," $4.6 million.
6. "John Grisham's The Rainmaker," $3.4 million.
7. "Alien Resurrection," $3.3 million.
8. "Anastasia," $3.1 million.
9. "The Jackal," $2.5 million.
10. "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," $1.8 million.

Markets Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP) High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	129	11-16	127⅞ 129¾+ 2¼
AT&T Corp		57⅛	57⅛ 57 9-16— ⅛
AirTouch		40	39⅞ 39⅞+ 1-16
Albertsons	47⅞	47	3-16 47 5-16— 3-16
AlldSignal s	36	13-16	36 1-16 36 3-16— ⅜
Alltel	40	39	11-16 39 13-16+ 3-16
AmerOnline	87⅝	84	1-16 84 3-16—1 15-16
AmStoress		20	19⅝ 19 13-16+ ⅛
Ameritech		79⅝	78⅝ 79⅝— ⅜
Amoco	87⅝	86	11-16 86⅝—11-16
AndarkPtr	61	5-16	60 15-16 61 1-16+ ¼
Amcolnc		5	4⅞ 4⅞— 1-16
AtlRichfld s	77	5-16	76 9-16 77 3-16+13-16
ATMOS Egy		27	26⅞ 26⅞— 5-16
Aviall	14	9-16	14 7-16 14½— 1-16
BakerHughes		41	40⅝ 40⅝— ⅜
BellAtl	89	15-16	89⅝ 89 13-16+ 5-16
BellSouth		56	3-16 55 13-16 56 1-16
BethSteel			8⅛ 8⅛ 8⅛
BritPet s	80	79	11-16 79 11-16— ⅞
BurlNoSFe	95¼	94	13-16 95¼+1 1-16
CBS Corp		30	1-16 29⅝ 29⅝+ ⅜
Caterpillar s		51	3-16 50⅝ 51 + ¼
CenSoWst	25	15-16	25 11-16 25⅝— ⅛
Chevron		76⅝	75⅞ 76 11-16+1 3-16
Chrysler	35⅞	35	3-16 35 3-16— 3-16
Coastal		60⅛	60 60 + ⅛
CocaCola	65	11-16	65 65 7-16+ ⅛
ColgatePalm s	67	13-16	66¼ 66¼—2 3-16
ComclMetals		31⅞	31⅞ 31⅞— ⅛
CooperIn		50⅝	50 50 1-16+ 1-16
CyprusAmax	15	15-16	15 9-16 15 11-16— 1-16
DallSemicn	36	5-16	35⅞ 36 5-16+ 9-16
DeltaAirl		119	117⅞ 118⅞+ 1⅞
DigitalEq		38⅝	38⅛ 38 5-16— 9-16
Dillards Inc	35	9-16	35 5-16 35 5-16+ ⅜
DowChem	97	15-16	97 13-32 97 11-16+ 3-16
DresserInd	40	9-16	39 15-16 40 1-16— ⅜
DuPont s		61	7-16 60⅝ 61 7-16+ ⅛
EastmanChem		57	7-16 57 57 3-16+11-16
EstKodak		54⅝	54 1-16 54 5-16+ 1-16
EDS Corp		38⅛	37 13-16 38⅜— 1-16
Entergy		27⅝	27 1-16 27½— ¼
Exxon s		62⅞	62⅛ 62½+ ⅛
FstBksAm	22	3-16	21 3-16 22 1-16+ 1
Flowers s		21	20⅝ 20⅝— 1-16
FordMotor		47	7-16 47⅛ 47⅛+ 3-16
GTE Cp	49⅝	48	15-16 49 11-16+ ⅜
GenDynam	87	11-16	86⅞ 86⅞— 1-16
GenElecs	73	15-16	72¼ 73 11-16+1 7-16
GenMills		77⅛	76⅞ 77⅛+ 1
GenMotors		63⅞	62⅞ 63⅝+ ⅞
GaPacif		85¼	84⅞ 85 1-16+ 5-16
GlobalMar	25⅞	24	1-16 24 1-16—1 9-16
Goodrich		43⅝	43⅛ 43⅝+ ⅛
Goodyear s		66⅛	66⅛ 66 7-16+ 9-16
GtAtlPac	27	15-16	27⅛ 27 9-16— ⅜
Halliburtn s	51	15-16	49 15-16 49 15-16— 1⅜
Hanson ADS	24	23	15-16 23 15-16— 3-16
HarteHanks		33⅛	33⅛ 33⅛+ ⅛
HomeDepot s	59⅝	58	13-16 58 13-16—15-16
HoustonInds		24⅝	24 7-16 24 9-16+ 1-16
IBM s	101	15-16	98 7-16 98 11-16—1 11-16
IntlPaper		43	7-16 42 15-16 43 + 9-16
JohnsonJn		64⅝	64 1-16 64⅝+ ⅜
K mart	11	9-16	10⅝ 11 1-16— 9-16
Kroger s			34⅛ 34⅛ 34⅛
Litton		55	54⅝ 54 13-16— 1-16
LockhdMart		99	98⅛ 98 7-16— ⅛
Lowes Cos		45	15-16 45⅛ 45 9-16+ ⅛
Lubys		19	18⅝ 18 15-16+ ⅛
LucentTech	75	13-16	72⅝ 72 15-16—2 3-16
MayDeptStrs			53⅝ 53 53 + 7-16
Medtronic s		51¼	50 5-16 50 9-16— ⅛
Mobils			74⅛ 73 3-16 73⅝+ ⅜
Monsanto	41	15-16	41⅜ 41 9-16— 3-16
MorganJP		119	117 5-16 118⅛+1 7-16
Motorola	56⅛	55	11-16 55 13-16— 1-16
NCR Corp		27	7-16 27 5-16 27 5-16— ⅛
NationsBk s		62	13-16 62⅛ 62⅛+11-16
Navistar		23	7-16 23⅛ 23 5-16+ 3-16
Norwests			37⅛ 37⅛ 37⅛— ¼
OryxEngy			24⅛ 24 5-16 24⅛
Penney JC		61	15-16 61⅝ 61⅝+ ⅛
Pennzoil			68⅛ 67⅝ 68⅛+ 1
PepBoys	24	13-16	24⅛ 24 11-16— 1-16
PepsiCo	35	13-16	35 7-16 35 7-16+ 5-16
PhelpDodge			63⅛ 63⅛ 63⅛+ 5-16
PhilipPet		48⅞	48 5-16 48 9-16+ ⅜
PilgrmPrd			15⅛ 15 1-16 15⅛
Polaroid		42⅞	41⅞ 42⅝+ 7-16
Praxair	45	1-16	44 9-16 44 13-16— 1-16
ProctGamb s		80⅛	79⅝ 79 11-16—15-16
PubSNwMx			21⅞ 21⅞ 21⅞
RoyalDut s	54⅝	53	13-16 53 13-16+11-16
SBC Comm		73	9-16 73 73⅜+ ⅜
SaraLee		54⅞	54⅛ 54⅞+ 9-16
Scripps EW	45	44	15-16 44 15-16+ 3-16
SearsRoeb		46	3-16 45⅛ 45⅞+ ⅜
SherwinW s		28	13-16 28 9-16 28⅞
SmthBc ADS s		51	7-16 50 13-16 50⅞+ ⅛
SouthernCo	23	9-16	22⅞ 23 9-16+ 7-16
SwstAirl s		26⅛	25⅞ 25⅞+ ¼
Sprint	57⅛	57	1-16 57 3-16— 5-16
SunCo		42	5-16 42¼ 42¼+ 1-16
TNP Ent		28⅞	28⅞ 28⅞+ ¼
Tandy s	39	11-16	39⅝ 39 7-16— ⅛
TempleInland		53	1-16 52⅛ 53 1-16+ 1¼
Tenneco		40	15-16 40⅛ 40⅛+ 5-16
Texaco s			53⅛ 53 53⅜+ ⅜
TexInd s			46¼ 45 15-16 46⅛
TexasInst s		41¼	39⅝ 39 15-16—15-16
TexUtil		39⅝	39 9-16 39⅝+ 1-16
Textron s		63¼	62⅝ 62⅝+ 3-16
Travelers s		53⅛	52 15-16 53 3-16+ ⅛
TriconGlbR n			30 7-16 30 1-16 30⅝
TrinityInds		40⅝	40 40 5-16+13-16
TritonEngy	30	15-16	30⅛ 30 9-16— 7-16
Tyler		5	3-16 5⅛ 5 3-16— 1-16
US WestCm		46⅝	45⅝ 45 11-16— 5-16
USWstMda			28⅛ 28⅛ 28 5-16
USX Delhi		19⅝	19 11-16 19⅝+ 1-16
USX-Marathn			33⅞ 33 11-16 33⅞
USX-USS		29⅝	29 1-16 29⅝+ 7-16
UnCarbde	45	13-16	45⅛ 45 3-16— 7-16
UnionPacif		61⅞	60⅝ 61 11-16+11-16
UnitedTech s		73⅞	72⅞ 72⅞— ¼
Unocal		38⅝	38⅛ 38⅝+ 1-16
WalMart		40⅝	40 1-16 40 9-16+ ⅜
WstnGasRs	21	11-16	21⅛ 21⅛— 1-16
WinnDixie		43⅛	42⅝ 43 1-16+ ⅛
Woolworth	20	9-16	20 5-16 20 7-16— 1-16
Xerox Corp		72⅞	70⅞ 72⅞+ 1
ZenithE		6⅝	6⅝ 6⅝

Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

Herniated disc may require surgery

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 50 years old and weigh 280 pounds. My back bothered me for years until 1995, when I had surgery to repair a herniated disc. About six months later, I accidentally tripped and strained my back. An MRI showed a new herniated disc and a lot of arthritis. Despite physical therapy, I continue to have pain. In addition, my left leg has become weak, I experience pain during the straight-leg raising test, my left foot is numb, and I occasionally lose bowel and bladder control.

My doctors won't operate until I lose at least 50 pounds. What should I do?

DEAR READER: Lose 50 pounds and have the surgery.

Your symptoms, your examinations and the MRI test prove that yet another disc has slipped out of place and is pressing against the spinal nerves. You are at definite risk for a permanent neurological handicap if you don't seriously address the problem. Understandably, your doctors are reluctant to re-operate because your obesity puts you at risk for dangerous complications such as stroke or heart failure.

I believe that your options are limited. You've simply got to get on a weight-reduction program now.

Ask your family physician to suggest a diet, send you to a dietitian for advice, or refer you to a weight-reduction support group. Once you have trimmed down, surgery should help you immensely.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been told that caffeine destroys the vitamins and minerals in the body. What is your opinion?

DEAR READER: Recent reports have confirmed the safety of caffeine-containing beverages, provided they are consumed in moderation. Therefore, you can safely enjoy your morning coffee or tea — or a soda later in the day — without fearing that your vitamin and mineral levels will be depleted.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have received a flyer claiming that "stabilized oxygen" or "vitamin O" can help lung disorders. The company states that such oxygen is present only in hydrogen peroxide and that, to be effective, it must be drunk several times a day. Is this a scam?

DEAR READER: You bet — and not a particularly sophisticated one either.

Oxygen breathed in from a tank or concentrator really does help people with advanced lung disease, because it enters the bloodstream and partially overcomes the oxygen deficit that such patients have. Hydrogen peroxide doesn't produce such effects and could actually be harmful if taken in quantity.

Oxygen therapy should be prescribed and supervised only by appropriate professionals, such as MDs or inhalation therapists. There is no such thing as "stabilized oxygen" or "vitamin O." Throw the flyer in the trash — or better yet, report this hoax to the Better Business Bureau in your community. Honestly, what some people will do for a buck!

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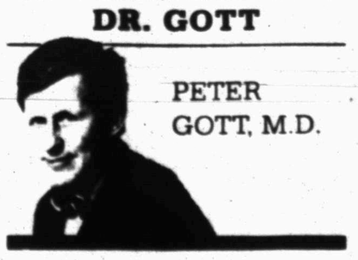
DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

DEC 15 1997

Kentucky couple has eluded international search for year

MADISONVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Nearly a year ago, David and Martha Crowe disappeared in a rented U-Haul, leaving behind frustrated authorities and convictions for a pyramid scheme that raked in millions of dollars.

The Crowes were allowed to remain free after a federal judge sentenced them to jail for mail fraud and money laundering, an arrangement authorities say is routine for some white-collar crimes.

The Crowes simply never showed when they were to report to prison.

Since then, the couple from a quiet community in western Kentucky has eluded authorities in a yearlong international manhunt.

"We don't think they're here anywhere in this country," George Walsh, a supervisor for the U.S. Marshal's Service in Louisville, said last week.

During a trial in Owensboro last summer, prosecutors described the family's Gold Unlimited Inc. as a pyramid scheme with 96,000 customers across the country and Canada. Company assets reportedly ranged from $8 million to $13 million.

Participants could buy a $400 coin or invest in the company. They could earn commissions on products they sold and get the gold coin if they brought more people into the company.

But payouts were based largely on others paying in, and the government said two-thirds of Gold Unlimited's customers failed to make a profit.

"It was their version of the American dream, paid for with other people's money," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Campbell, who helped prosecute the case. "It was a scam."

The defense described Gold Unlimited as a legal sales company. But the jury ruled against the Crowes.

In November, U.S. District Judge Joseph McKinley sentenced the couple to more than 10 years in prison each on seven counts of mail fraud and eight counts of money laundering.

The Crowes were allowed to remain free on bond until Jan. 21, the day they had been ordered to report to separate federal prisons.

A TIME-TRAVELING CHRISTMAS by Jack & Carole Bender

FBI investigating energy contracts for Dallas ISD

DALLAS (AP) — The latest corruption accusations at the city's embattled school system center on kickbacks involving energy-savings deals, The Dallas Morning News reports in a copyright story.

The FBI is investigating allegations that some energy conservation contracts were obtained through $1 million kickbacks and may have cost the Dallas Independent School District millions more in poor paint work, school officials said.

Federal agents have subpoenaed district records and interviewed school officials, contractors and subcontractors, according to the newspaper, citing unidentified sources who said they had been contacted by the FBI.

Mike Clark, special agent in charge of the FBI squad that is investigating the district, confirmed that his agents have been examining the "energy area" for two months.

"We're interested in anything that looks like an anomaly in the energy field, something that just doesn't make sense," Clark said.

An unidentified federal source told the newspaper that agents have targeted contracts with Honeywell Inc. and Johnson Controls Inc. to improve energy efficiency in the district's aging buildings.

U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins declined to comment on whether the contracts were being scrutinized. But he told school board members last month that federal investigators were looking into accusations that private vendors had paid kickbacks for district contracts.

Officials with Minneapolis-based Honeywell and Milwaukee-based Johnson Controls told the newspaper that they had not heard from the federal agents.

Deadly gas still considered threat to Texas workplace

HOUSTON (AP) — Hydrogen sulfide, the hazardous gas with the rotten egg smell, has killed 40 people in Texas since 1975, including 32 workers, according to the Houston Chronicle's copyright story Sunday.

Also, 156 people in Texas have been injured by emissions of this hazardous gas, according to Texas Railroad Commission records. Hydrogen sulfide is usually released through oil and gas extraction, as well as refining, mining and agriculture.

Many of those exposed, are oil and gas workers like Keith McCoy, who was knocked unconscious and nearly asphyxiated by the gas at the Elf Atochem organic chemical plant in eastern Harris County on Nov. 9, 1995.

Shortly after 8 a.m., McCoy drained lubricating oil from a compressor. Unaware that a malfunction in the compressor had allowed the oil to become contaminated with hydrogen sulfide, he opened a valve to drain it into a bucket and "all this stuff just came up and hit me in the face."

McCoy fell headlong into a pool of water on the concrete floor, breaking his nose. Minutes passed before anyone came to help him. By the time the first rescuer appeared, he had stopped breathing. After his breathing was restored, it appeared that McCoy would recover completely from his exposure.

A few days later, his memory began to fail.

"He'd go in and out of consciousness," his wife, Tammy McCoy said. "In the hospital he didn't know his mother and dad. He didn't know me."

At 40, McCoy shuffles about his Channelview home with the unsteady gait of an old man. He supports himself with a cane and has trouble remembering the names of his four children. His vision is poor, his energy level low.

His extremities are dangerously insensitive to pain. On one occasion, after some yard work, his arms were covered with fire-ant bites. He felt nothing. His thinking is so muddled that he must follow a "do and don't" list drawn up by his wife to get through the day.

"I was the type who went to work sick," McCoy said. "I still don't want to believe I'm hurt. I don't have any self-esteem anymore."

In a pending lawsuit against Elf Atochem, the McCoys claim the accident was a result of the company's eagerness to keep the plant running after a longer-than-anticipated maintenance shutdown.

The McCoys charge that hydrogen sulfide sensors were deactivated — in some cases covered with rubber gloves — so that alarms would not sound and bring work to a halt.

Plant manager Hank Williams was reluctant to discuss the McCoys' case at length. However, he said, "We take extreme precautions when handling this material. We do not take any chances with it."

Williams said that, to his knowledge, none of the 100 or so hydrogen sulfide sensors in the plant has ever been deactivated during his 10 years there.

Ron Jones, a vice president with the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, said that the U.S. oil and gas industry has made "tremendous progress in addressing the acute, toxic hazards" of hydrogen sulfide. "The institute itself has done a lot of work on developing safety practices."

Body could be missing professor

JOHNSON CITY (AP) — Authorities believe they have found the body of a Texas A&M University geology professor in the wreckage of the plane he vanished in one month ago.

Norman Tilford, 62, had not been seen since his single-engine Cessna 180 took off Nov. 13 from Bryan for a weekend outing with students at Van Horn, 120 miles southeast of El Paso.

The wreckage was found Saturday in Blanco County off Farm Road 1320, about one mile north of the Pedernales River and about 50 miles west of Austin.

"We did find a body at the crash site," Sheriff Bill Elsbury told Austin television station KXAN.

The body had not been positively identified as of Sunday morning, but Tilford's driver's license was found in the wreckage, Elsbury said.

The destruction suggested that the plane had hit the ground at high speed and burned, investigators said.

Datebook

Dec. 15, 1997

Today is the 349th day of 1997 and the 86th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1874, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was founded in New York.

On this day in 1890, Sitting Bull, the legendary Sioux leader, was shot to death by federal troops.

On this day in 1939, the film "Gone With the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, premiered at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Alexandre Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923), engineer; Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959), dramatist; John Paul Getty (1892-1976), oil developer; Alan Freed (1922-1965), entertainer; Tim Conway (1933-), comedian, is 64; Don Johnson (1949-), actor, is 48.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1935, the Detroit Lions defeated the New York Giants, 26-7, in the NFL championship game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Today the future occupation of all moppets is to be skilled consumers." — David Riesman

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1987, a low pressure center in Chicago caused 70-mph gusts that forced O'Hare Airport to close temporarily.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 13) and last quarter (Dec. 21).

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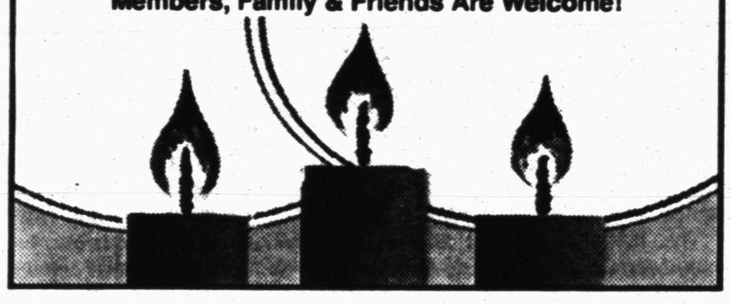
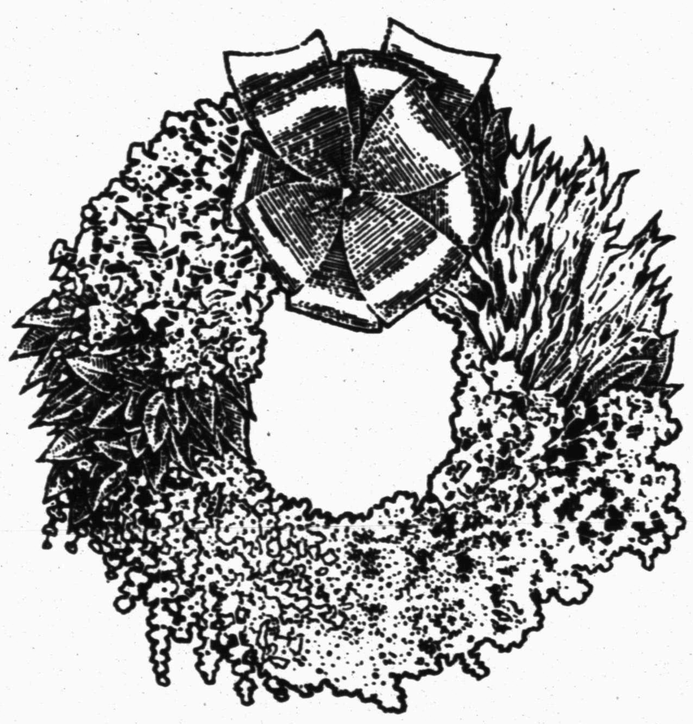
Mesquite Country Emmaus
Christmas Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. December 16, 1997
First Baptist Church
Members, Family & Friends Are Welcome!





Best Holiday Wishes
Attention Merchants and Businesses:
Contact the
Snyder Daily News
by Friday, Dec. 19
to ensure having your
Christmas Greeting Ad
in the Christmas Eve SDN.
573-5486

Berry's World

Happy Holidays
Snyder!
Edward Jones is proud to be a part of the Snyder community, and we want to thank you for the support and friendship you've given us. Join us for a holiday open house:
Location: Edward Jones Office, 4204 College Ave.
Date: Wednesday, December 17
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Have a happy and prosperous holiday season. We look forward to seeing you December 17!
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Police investigating baby beauty pageant

HOUSTON (AP) — A police investigation is under way after unhappy parents complained about not getting trophies that were promised to participants in a baby beauty pageant.

Many of the 200 parents who attended the pageant at The Braeswood Hotel and Convention Center on Sunday had sold hundreds of dollars worth of raffle tickets to qualify for free trophies for their babies.

When it came time for the trophy presentation there were no trophies and the 1997-Annual Houston Area Baby Pageant & Diaper Derby was canceled.

A pageant promoter says it was a "mixup" and promised that the trophies will be given out.

The pageant is under investigation, according to Houston Police Sgt. D.W. Hallene.

"I know the hotel received their money," Hallene said.

The parents left puzzled and unhappy.

"I never thought this was a big hoax. Now I have to go back and explain (to those who bought raffle tickets) that we all got ripped off," said Kim Cooper, 33, of suburban Spring.

She said she spent four weeks selling the tickets to raise $275 for her 6-month-old son Bryce, who would have received a $40 trophy.

The size of the trophy that babies were eligible to receive was based in part on the number of raffle tickets sold by parents, parents said.

Joel Guajardo, who manufactured the trophies in Brownsville, was at the hotel, but said he did not hand over the trophies to the operators because they did not pay for them.

Pageant representatives told him they were leaving the hotel to get the $2,800 to pay for the 300 trophies and 200 ribbons. However, they never returned, he said.

Leslie Reynolds, president of R.C. Consulting of Dallas which promoted the pageant, said late Sunday night there a "mix-up" with Guajardo and "we will rectify the situation."

Christmas will be national holiday in Cuba, Castro says

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro offered Sunday to declare this Christmas a national holiday in the formerly atheist Cuba — a one-time event in honor of Pope John Paul II's visit.

In Rome, the Vatican expressed "satisfaction" at the gesture, which the pontiff had sought directly during a meeting with Castro in Italy last year.

The Cuban president said during a speech Sunday he would present the proposal to those in charge of organizing the pope's mid-January visit — the first-ever to Cuba by a Roman Catholic pontiff. But he stressed that it would be an official holiday for one year only.

The proposal, announced during a pre-dawn session of the Cuban Parliament, was sure to be accepted because the organizing committee is made up of Castro appointees.

In his speech Sunday, Castro also promised to extend every courtesy to the pope during his five-day visit beginning Jan. 21, including full freedom in the news media for the Roman Catholic Church to disseminate its messages.

Under Castro's communist government, virtually all the news media is government-owned and controlled.

"We have set no conditions" for the Pontiff's visit, Castro said, referring to speculation that he asked John Paul to intercede with the United States to lift its decades-old economic embargo on Cuba.

"The Pope should feel free to address anything he wants to in Cuba," he said in the talk, which aired on state-run television later in the day.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Castro's announcement about Christmas was a "decision much-desired by the Cuban people and the church," Italy's ANSA news service said.

Since the government tightly controls the economy, not everyone would get the vacation day. The Labor Ministry was expected to make a formal announcement in the coming days specifying which sectors of the economy would be expected to work.

When Castro stopped off in Rome last year, the pontiff, through his secretary of state, asked Castro to declare Dec. 25 a national holiday in Cuba.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Blind Lead Way With Some Commonsense Suggestions

DEAR ABBY: You recently ran a letter from a woman who gave a few tips on what sighted people should do when they meet a blind person. As president of the American Foundation for the Blind, and a blind person myself, I believe I can add a few more points of etiquette your readers may find helpful:

1. Speak to people who are blind or visually impaired using a natural conversational tone and speed. Do not speak loudly and slowly unless the person also has a hearing impairment.

2. Address blind people by name when possible. This is especially important in crowded places.

3. Immediately greet blind people when they enter a room or service area. This lets them know you are present and ready to assist.

4. Indicate the end of a conversation with a blind person in order to avoid the embarrassment of leaving a person speaking when no one is actually there.

5. Feel free to use words that refer to vision when conversing with blind people. Words such as "look," "see" and "watching TV" are part of everyday communication. The words "blind" and "visually impaired" are also acceptable in conversation.

6. Do not leave a blind person standing in "free space" when you serve as a guide. Also, be sure that the person you guide has a firm grasp on your arm or is leaning against a chair or a wall if you have to be separated momentarily.

7. Be calm and clear about what to do if you see a blind person about to encounter a dangerous situation. For example, if the person is about to bump into something, calmly and firmly call out, "Wait there for a moment; there is an obstruction in your path."

Abby, thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide this information. If your readers have any questions about blindness and visual impairment, the American Foundation for the Blind has a toll-free information line, (800) 232-5463, and a Web site, www.afb.org.

CARL R. AUGUSTO, PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR
THE BLIND, NEW YORK

DEAR CARL: Thank you for the excellent input. I'm sure my readers will find it of interest. In addition to your letter, I also heard from David M. McGown, executive director of the Guild for the Blind in Chicago, offering pointers for the general public when interacting with blind people:

— Address the person directly, and not through someone else.

— If you think a person needs assistance, *ask first*. Don't assume you should help. Let the person choose to accept help or not.

— When offering assistance, never take someone by the arm who is blind or visually impaired; and never take hold of a white cane or guide dog. If you offer your arm instead, the person can follow a half-step behind and anticipate changes.

— When guiding someone to a chair, place his/her hand on the back of the chair.

— Remember, people who are blind or visually impaired are people first — people who have feelings and lives just like you do. Many of them like movies and sports and have interests of their own. Treat a person who has a visual disability with the same courtesy and respect you would give to anyone else.

For more information about the Guild for the Blind and its services, write: 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1700, Chicago, Ill. 60601-7463 or call (312) 236-8569.

***

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Business and Industrial News

Harley Bynum puts quality, care first

When it comes to quality, professional photography and framing there is no limit to what Harley Bynum can do.

The only Master Photographer in the area, Harley Bynum has been serving Snyder for 18 years.

"We are quality and service minded. One hundered percent satisfaction is always guaranteed," Harley said.

Earning the title of Master Photographer is no small accomplishment.

Of the thousands of photographers in Texas, only 53 have earned the degree given by the Professional Photographers of America.

Harley and his wife, Judy, can add a special touch to any photograph with specialty decorative matting and custom framing.

"Judy is skilled and trained in framing, and we have attended various seminars to keep up to date with the latest trends and styles in custom matting," Harley said.

Harley and Judy can custom frame just about anything, including photographs, documents and diplomas.

They also frame cross-stitch, wedding invitations, limited edition prints and posters of all sizes.

"We sell western prints here, or you can buy prints elsewhere and bring them in for framing," Harley said.

Individuals can also bring pictures they have taken in for framing.

If you have keepsakes, medals or any type of memorabilia you would like to display, Harley and Judy also do shadow boxes.

The studio carries a large selection of frames, including western, rustic wood, ornate gold and metal frames.

A variety of colors are available.

Harley Bynum is also a full-service photography studio. Although he specializes in children's photography, Harley also does family pictures, weddings, senior pictures and anniversary parties.

Harley adds a creative, special touch to each photograph he takes to ensure quality and satisfaction.

If it's an old photograph you need retouched, Harley has skilled copying and restoration services.

Right now Harley has a special on photographing your child in an adorable angel setting, and he has all the necessary items ready in the studio.

For quality and care in photography and framing, visit Harley Bynum Photography at 3403 Snyder Shopping Center or call 573-4190.

SERVICE-MINDED — Harley Bynum Photography is a quality and service-minded photography and framing studio. Harley offers a variety of services including custom framing and matting. He can also display keepsakes and other memorabilia in a special shadow box. Right now Harley has a special on photographing your child in an adorable angel setting. (SDN Staff Photo)

Beef industry trying to combat E. coli problems

IRVING (AP) — The beef industry, concerned about public perception of its product's safety, is trying to improve its image and get out the message that Americans should not fear eating meat.

The Beef Industry Food Safety Council met last Thursday and Friday to address the problems presented by E. coli bacteria and other food-borne pathogens.

"The problem is the occurrence of E. coli ... in ground beef," said Chuck Schroeder, chairman of the council and chief executive of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "Even though it occurs rarely, we've determined that it is a top priority of the industry."

Tainted meat became a major concern last summer when a recall was issued for 25 million pounds of Hudson Food Co. hamburger that may have been contaminated with E. coli.

The council, made up of ranchers, meat packers, processors and scientists, was organized after that incident.

Seeking a way to avoid headlines about consumers sickened from contaminated meat, the meat industry got approval from the Food and Drug Administration this month to zap beef with gamma rays to kill bacteria.

Now, the council is trying to help disseminate information about the new technology and better handle similar "crisis situations" like the Hudson hamburger incident.

"We're looking to limit the damage and work more cohesively with each other," Schroeder said.

The council is considering whether to hire a public relations firm to handle questions from the news media and consumers.

Peat moss found through Internet

MERRILL, Wis. (AP) — When farmer Jeff Utech needed peat moss for blueberry planting, he found it the modern way — via the Internet.

"What's nice is that now you can contact these companies and talk to them that otherwise you'd have had no idea where to find," Utech said.

His only qualm was over doing an online credit card transaction, he said.

"I didn't have to do that, because I was able to establish a line of credit with the company," he said.

Utech, who milks 70 dairy cows, said Marathon County Extension farm agent Ken Barnett found the Web site of the New York-based company that led to his purchase of peat moss in September.

"I got it for about half the price of retail in stores," he said. "The other thing was, at the time the retail stores didn't have it available in quantities I needed."

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Judges to decide on scientific testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today said appeals courts generally must defer to federal trial judges' decisions on whether to allow scientific expert testimony.

By an 8-1 vote, the court threw out part of a Georgia electrician's lawsuit that contends his lung cancer was caused by exposure to harmful chemicals.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court that appeals courts can reverse lower court rulings on whether to allow expert testimony only when the judge's decision was an "abuse of discretion."

Appeals courts cannot give themselves more leeway to overturn decisions barring expert testimony as opposed to decisions allowing such testimony, the justices added.

In other action today, the court:

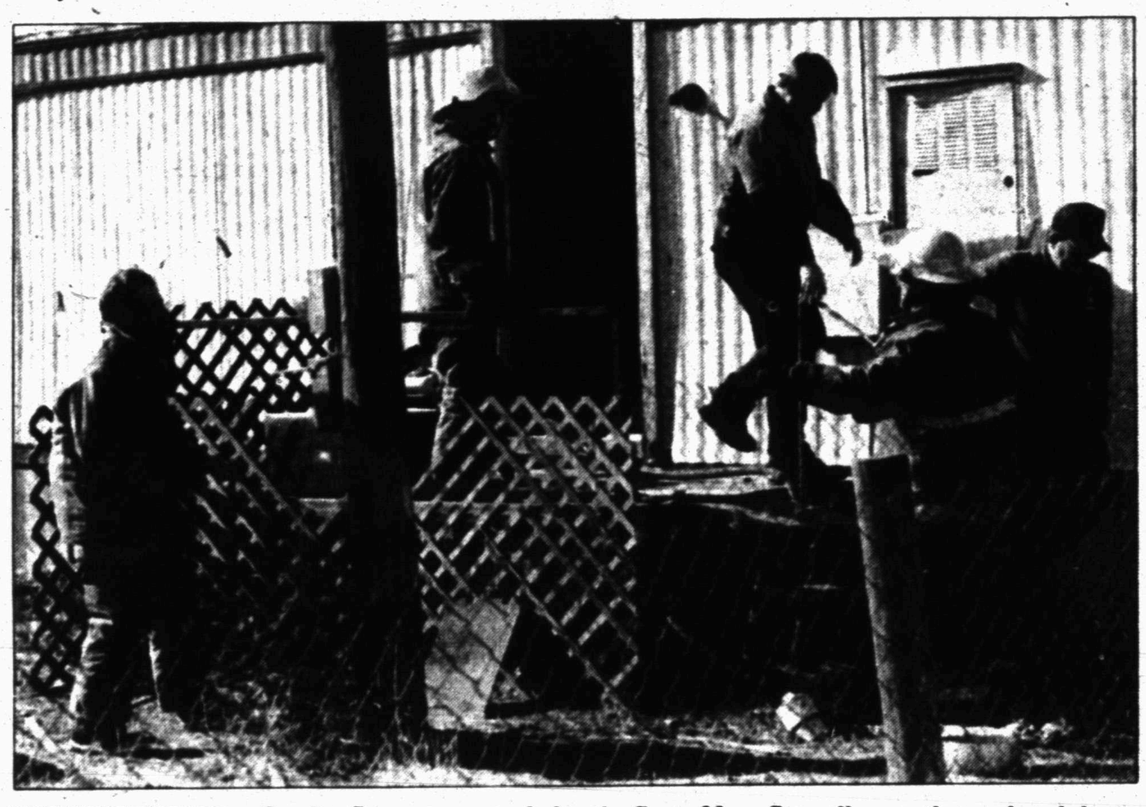
—Gave federal judges greater authority to review the decisions of local governmental agencies, a ruling that left in legal limbo a landmark-preservation dispute from Chicago. By a 7-2 vote, the justices ruled that legal challenges to such agency decisions can be handled by federal judges whenever they raise an issue of federal or constitutional law.

—Refused to revive a workplace-bias lawsuit by a Massachusetts woman who says her boss demoted her because she refused to attend a religious seminar. The court, without comment, turned away the woman's argument that she should have the right to refuse to attend the seminar even if it did not conflict with her own religious beliefs.

—Gave federal judges greater authority to review the decisions of local governmental agencies, a ruling that left in legal limbo a landmark-preservation dispute from Chicago. By a 7-2 vote, the justices ruled that legal challenges to such agency decisions can be handled by federal judges whenever they raise an issue of federal or constitutional law.

—The National Collegiate Athletic Association, accused by coach Jerry Tarkanian of wrongly trying to drive him out of college basketball, lost a Supreme Court bid today to move his lawsuit from Las Vegas to another Nevada court. Tarkanian was head coach at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas from 1973 until he resigned under pressure in 1992. The NCAA was investigating the school's basketball program at the time.

In the expert witness case, the high court decided in 1993 that federal trial rules allow a somewhat broader range of scientific expert testimony than was permitted under previous standards.



BUSY WEEKEND — Snyder firemen responded to the first of four fire calls over the weekend shortly after 11 a.m. Thursday at 2404 Merril. The Bobby Sanderson family mobile home suffered minor damage when a space heater caught some carpet on fire. The department also answered fire calls Saturday night at Towle Park as a trash can had been set on fire, to a grass fire on CR 243 around 1 p.m. Sunday and to 906 27th St. at 7:41 p.m. Sunday where an electrical short in the attic caused minor damage. (SDN Staff Photo)

Obituaries

Ben Laster

1907-1997

Ben Laster, a longtime Scurry County resident, died at 2 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in Terrace West Nursing Home in Midland.

Funeral service for Mr. Laster, 90, is set for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Revs. C.J. Smith and Jimmy Laster will officiate, and burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born Aug. 1, 1907 in Eastland County, Mr. Laster had lived in Scurry County most of his life. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he married Vivian Davis on July 31, 1948 in China Grove. She died in 1981.

Mr. Laster was also preceded in death by two brothers.

Mr. Laster was retired, having worked for Scurry County for more than 25 years. He was a member of the North College Avenue Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Don and Gale Laster of Midland; a brother, C.E. Laster of Dunn; two granddaughters, Paula Brookings and Pam Earnest, both of Midland; and a great-grandson, Tanner Earnest of Midland.

Lloyd Duncan

1922-1997

BIG SPRING — Lloyd H. Duncan, the father and brother of Snyder residents, died Sunday, Dec. 14, in a Lubbock hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Duncan, 74, is set for 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Nalley-Pickel and Welch Chapel. Rodney Tedford, minister of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, will officiate. Interment will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

Born Dec. 29, 1922 in Wagoner, Okla., he married Willie Jo Hamner on Oct. 25, 1941 in Monahans. She died in 1995.

Mr. Duncan moved to Big Spring from Wink in 1962. He worked for Amoco Production Co. for 41 years, retiring as a senior field foreman.

Mr. Duncan was a member of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ and was a Mason. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law, Rosalie and Robert New of Snyder, Linda and Richard McCormick of Levelland and Peggy Jo Duncan of Hurst; a son and daughter-in-law, Buddy and Ann Duncan of Big Spring; a twin brother, Floyd Duncan of Snyder; a sister, Ethel Ramsey of Carlsbad, N.M.; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Roy Murphy

1920-1997

MIDLAND — Roy Murphy, 77, died Saturday, Dec. 13, in a Midland hospital.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Wilshire Park Baptist Church with the Rev. Steve Tims officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Pipkin Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 25, 1920 in Homer, La., he attended high school in Hobbs, N.M. He married Francis Fredrick on Aug. 5, 1939 in Hobbs. She died in 1995.

An oilfield machinist, he had lived in Midland for the past 37 years. He was a member of the Wilshire Park Baptist Church and was a member of the Texas Baptist Church Builders.

In Hobbs, he had been a Boy Scout leader and civilian crew chief at Hobbs Airfield and in Carlsbad during World War II.

Survivors include three sons, Pat Murphy of Albuquerque, Bill Murphy of Round Rock and Mike Murphy of Pecos; a brother, D.C. Murphy of Hobbs; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a niece; and two nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Ella Bea and Bill Ingram of San Angelo.

The family suggests memorials to the Wilshire Park Baptist Church or to the Allison Cancer Center in Midland.

Scientists say...

Volcanic eruption in Sierra would jeopardize LA water

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After recent swarms of earthquake tremors in Los Angeles' main watershed, authorities are worried about what would happen to the city water supply if a volcano were to erupt.

A magnitude-4.9 earthquake struck the Mammoth Lakes area Nov. 30 — the strongest of thousands of quakes since the summer — and U.S. Geological Survey scientists came close to declaring a "yellow volcano watch," the second level of a four-step alert system.

The tremors decreased dramatically in the past week, so the condition remains "green" with no immediate risk of an eruption.

Department of Water and Power geologists recommended last week that the agency update its plan for dealing with a possible eruption in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Two-thirds of all water used in Los Angeles comes from a network of streams, reservoirs and aqueducts that stretches for hundreds of miles down the eastern Sierra Nevada through the remote Mammoth Lakes area.

The earthquakes are believed to be caused by moving magma, or molten rock, fracturing rock or pressurizing liquid roughly four miles beneath the surface, which has risen more than 2 feet in places over the past 18 years.

Geologists don't know when or how severe a volcanic eruption will be.

"You just don't know. It could be years, decades, centuries away," said Winston K. Wu, a geotechnical engineer with the department.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 12-Milton Comer; Dec. 13-Anastacia Bonilla, Oliver Vasquez; Dec. 14-Mary Wampler.

DISMISSALS: Dec. 12-Lanny Covey, Bradley Staton, John Smith; Dec. 13-Roberta Stewart; Dec. 14-Frances Denman, Lonard Kildow, Anastacia Bonilla, Oliver Vasquez.

CENSUS: 39 (Med., Surg.-12, Long-term Care-26, CCU-1).

Pollen

Continued From Page 7

to obscure his identity.

"All the deputies knew," Bryant said, "was that this guy had been stabbed a number of times and that he was Hispanic. They didn't know if he was a drifter, an illegal alien or what. They tried all the normal forensic techniques, then after six months they decided to go the pollen route."

Examining dust from the victim's clothing under an electron microscope, Bryant — who also holds degrees in botany and geography — found large amounts of marijuana pollen and pollen from plants that grow primarily in the Midwest.

Although the case remains unsolved, investigators have turned their inquiry away from South Texas, where they had been drawn by the victim's ethnicity, and are looking closer at a Kansas City drug gang.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

AARP installation dinner

The AARP installation dinner will be held at 5 p.m. today at Rudy's. All members are encouraged to attend.

VFW and auxiliary

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 this evening.

Bible study video tapes

Mike Tackett of Merkel appears on the Key to the Kingdom series, airing weekly on Cable Channel 2. Robert Oglesby of Richardson narrates The Story of the Bible. The next video, "God's Blessings," airs at 7 this evening, followed by Lesson 2 of The Story of the Bible.

FSA open house

The Farm Service Agency office invites citizens to an open house from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday. Stop by for cookies and wassail.

Blood pressure clinic

Total Home Health of Post will have a free blood pressure clinic from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday at the Fluvanna Cafe.

Mesquite Country Emmaus

Mesquite Country Emmaus Christmas Candelight Service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church. Members, family and friends are welcome.

Ira Council for Excellence

Ira Council for Excellence will meet at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday in the school cafeteria.

Safety awareness program

Total Home Health of Post will host a free safety awareness program and Christmas tea from 3-4 p.m. Wednesday in the Golden Terrace Apartments meeting room. Everyone is welcome.

Watson in concert

Church of the Hills presents Johnny Ray Watson in concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday. A fellowship will follow the service. Those attending may wish to bring a snack. The church is located off the intersection of U.S. Highway 84 and FM 612. Look for the lighted cross on the hill.

Support group ministry

Three support groups for divorce recovery, cancer/grief and caring for aging parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. For more information, call the church office at 573-2631. Anyone is welcome to attend and child care will be provided.

Out for the holidays

Classes at Ira and Hermleigh ISDs will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. Friday for the holidays. Classes will be dismissed at 2 p.m. for Snyder ISD students.

Parents Night Out

Snyder Senior Class will sponsor Parents Night Out, a babysitting service, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, for children 4 years old through the 4th grade. For reservations, call Jill at 573-7073 or Traci at 573-1400 by Thursday.

'A Christmas Story'

The Western Texas College planetarium will present "A Christmas Story" Sunday at 2 p.m. There is no charge for admission.

'Does Santa Really Care?'

Snyder First Church of the Nazarene, 2462 S. 208, will present "Does Santa Really Care?" at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Everyone is invited. Santa will be there.

Shelled pecan halves

Snyder High School Technology Student Association (TSA Club) is selling shelled pecan halves at $6 per pound. Contact a club member or call 573-6301 to purchase.

Tiger banners for sale

Snyder Girls Hoops Club is selling Tiger banners for $25. Call 573-1769 or 573-4283. They will deliver.

Driver's license office

The Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license office will be closed each Monday through Jan. 9.

Pick 3

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

1-3-7
(one, three, seven)

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 08-10-11-27-36-49
Estimated jackpot: $8 million.
Number matching six of six: 0
Matching five of six: 111. Prize: $1,501.
Matching four of six: 6,280. Prize: $95.
Matching three of six: 120,378. Prize: $3.
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
Estimated jackpot: $12 million.