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# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Dec. 19, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 197
40 Pages 75¢

Home Of Kallie Billingsley


# Voters need yellow cards for voting in spring primary

***9,500 new cards mailed to eligible Scurry County voters by county clerk's office***

Scurry County has some interesting political races shaping up in 2000, and County Clerk Joan Bunch reminds citizens that a yellow registration card will be needed in order to vote.

"We just sent out 9,500 new voter registration cards that are yellow in color. This new card will be required to vote in any election from the first day of 2000, until the end of 2001," said Bunch.

The yellow cards are replacing blue ones, Bunch said.

State law requires the postal service to return all cards where the address is not correct for current residents, and over 400 have been returned to the county clerk's office.

Bunch said that number is similar to what the office has received in the past.

Joan Bunch

"I want to remind citizens who have moved, changed post office boxes, or made some other change in their address to contact our office at 573-5332," said Bunch.

"After we get a new address, we will mail out new cards."

Bunch said if any information on the yellow card that has been received is wrong, to also contact her office.

"It' a lot simpler and more convenient for the voter to change the information now, than waiting until just before an election," said Bunch.

"And by looking at the right card, you'll be sure to go to the right voting place on March 14."

That is the date of the Republican and Democratic primaries in Texas in 2000.

So far, the county has contested races in two commissioner precincts, and one constable race.

Democrat incumbent Ralph Trevey is being opposed by Bill Baldwin and Cloyce Scarberry for the Precinct 1 commissioner post, while Precinct 3 commissioner Howard Limmer is being challenged in the Republican primary by Joe Bass.

Pat Alexander filed this week with the Republican Party to run against Kirk Taylor for Precinct 1 constable.

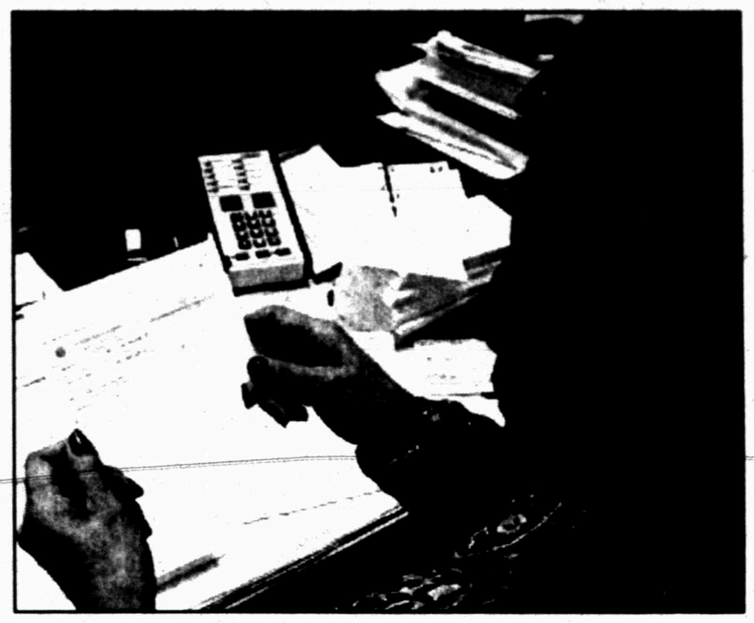
Others who have filed include Jeff Duck for constable in Precinct 2 in the Democratic primary, and Diana Williamson for the Democratic nominee for tax-assessor collector.

Williamson is seeking the office currently held by Rona Sikes who chose not to seek re-election.

Others who have filed, and who are currently unopposed, are District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, Sheriff Darren Jackson and County Attorney Mike Hartman.

All but Jackson are on the Republican ticket.

The deadline for filing for a spot on either March 14 primary ballot is Jan. 3.



CHECKING ADDRESSES —Deputy county clerk Abelia Espinoza looks over one of the voter registration cards that has been returned to the clerk's office due to the voter failing to change an address. (SDN Staff Photo)

***United Way campaign...***

# Over the top

Contributions to this year's United Way has exceeded the drive's goal by some 37 percent, according to the latest figures from this year's president.

As the latest contributions came in to push contributions even higher, president of Scurry County United Way, Bryan Cave, exclaimed, " I just don't believe it!"

"There has been an overwhelming spirit of generosity by Scurry County citizens resulting in the United Way going over its goal of $60,000, Cave said.

To date, the contributions total $82,155.31.

Dr. Cave expressed a humble and hearty "thank you" to the community for responding in a positive way and exceeding the goal. "The agencies are in great need of the funds to fulfill their obligations for the year."

Agencies of the United Way include Snyder Child Day Care Center, Boys and Girls Club of Scurry County, Noah Project-West, Buffalo Trail Boy Scouts, West Texas Girl Scouts, Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Food Cupboard and American Red Cross.

Division chairmen of this year's drive included Marsha Lovelady, oil and gas; Wilma Dillard, hospital; Gayle Lomax, education; Ed Barkowsky, WTC/SEC; Bill Dryden, Gary Landes and Kent Wright, commercial; Bryan Cave, professional; Barbara McGee, financial institutions; Jeannie Johnson, city employees; and Chloanne Lindsey, county employees.

Allocations for the funds include the Food Cupboard, $1,140; Snyder Day Care, $16,500; Boys and Girls Club, $16,500; American Red Cross, $600; Boy Scouts, $4,020; Girl Scouts, $4,020; Noah Project-West, $10,800; Snyder Area CADA, $3,420; and working expenses for United Way, $3,000.

Others officers for this year's drive included Wright, first vice president; Carter Wiggins, second vice president; Landes, treasurer; Leslie Cooley, recording secretary; and Nola Schlegel, executive secretary.

An appreciation luncheon is tentatively set for the second Monday of February when the Jack Smartt Award and other recognitions will be made.

## New CMH staff officers

New medical staff officers have been elected by the Cogdell Memorial Hospital physician staff.

Dr. Bid Cooper is the new Chief of Staff while Dr. Mark Weaver remains Vice-Chief of Staff.

Dr. Marcia Odal is secretary.

Past president is Dr. James Burleson.

# Shelter will change name; keep mission

Noah Project-West – a family violence center located in Snyder – is expected to begin operating under the name of Gateway Family Services, Inc., in the spring of 2000.

The local shelter has been operating under the umbrella of Noah Project Inc. since 1984, but a dramatic increase in clients of 85 percent prompted the shelter to seek independent status.

Dee Wilson

As a result, the board of Gateway met Thursday and adopted the mission statement and goals.

The board also named present Noah Project area director Dee Wilson as its executive director.

The incorporating board members of Gateway are Tom Holcomb, Steve Warren, Temi Matthies, Linda Hunter, Beth Hall and Patsy Knox.

Holcomb will serve as chairman of the shelter.

The present staff will continue to serve Gateway. The staff consists of Vikki Langham, Brenda Martin, Yvonne Myers and Lea Phillips.

The goals of the shelter include providing shelter for victims of family violence or sexual assault in a five-county target area 24-hours a day.

The shelter will also provide individual and group counseling for victims and their families.

The counties to be served include Scurry, Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell and Kent.

# JP resignation is on agenda

Scurry County Commissioners Court is scheduled to consider the resignation of Justice of the Peace Charlie Reynolds when it convenes at 10 a.m. Monday.

Reynolds is resigning so he and his wife, Pat, can pursue full-time missionary work in Guatemala.

In other business, commissioners will consider the county's investment policy, which will be presented by Charlie Bell.

The court is required to review the policy each year.

"We have guidelines on how the county's money can be invested and once a year we have to review that," Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz said.

He added that there have not been any changes in the policy since he has been office.

Snyder Fire Chief and Snyder EMS owner Perry Westmoreland is also expected to attend the meeting to assist the court in drawing up specifications on a new ambulance.

Funds for the new emergency vehicle were included in the 2000 budget.

Commissioners will also discuss a request that will allow septic inspectors from Scurry, Mitchell and Howard to be able to work in all three counties if the need arises.

"They want to see if Mitchell, Howard and Scurry can work together and each inspector help the other out. For an example, when one inspector is out of town, or when one needs to get their license renewed," Fritz said.

Bennie Marricle is the local septic inspector.

The court will also set the 2000 county holiday calendar and consider line-item transfers and budget amendments.

## THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

**The feller on Deep Creek says, "This year, many Americans are planning the biggest Christmas they have ever charged."**

---

We remember the fourth grade. Right after Christmas, all the kids toted to school what Santa had brought them.

Jimmy Mobley had gotten boxing gloves, so at recess the boys circled up to watch a boxing match while the girls sat in a circle telling stories about their Barbie dolls.

Mobley was looking for an opponent. We incorrectly assumed that since the gloves were padded, a punch in the kisser wouldn't hurt much.

Wrong!

After one short round, we shed the gloves and decided we would be better off learning about Barbie dolls.

Barbie, still a popular gift item, is well past middle age.

Still one of the most popular Christmas gifts, the famous doll began as a glamorous airline stewardess when introduced in 1959. She soared into space as an astronaut in 1974 and ran for president in 1992.

In 1997, she bore disability bravely, folding her first-ever bending legs into a wheelchair to become a role model once again for a newly-discovered market.

With Barbie portrayed as Miss Perfect, it has been suggested that the doll company capitalize with a collection of Over-40 Barbies.

Bi-focal Barbie comes with her own set of blended-lens fashion frames in six wild colors. Also available is the popular half frame, neck chain and large print editions of Vogue and Marta Stewart Living.

Hot Flash Barbie has a belly-button that you can press and watch her face turn beet red while tiny drops of perspiration appear on her forehead. She comes with a hand-held fan and tiny tissues.

Bunion Barbie is inspired by years of disco dancing in stiletto heels that have taken a definite toll on her previously dainty, arched feet. Soothe her sores with pumic stone and plasters, then slip on soft terry slippers.

The Mid-life Crisis Barbie decides it's time to ditch Ken. Barbie needs a change, and Bruce –her personal trainer – is just what the therapist ordered, along with Prozac. They hop in her new red convertible to head to Napa Valley to do wine tasting. Comes with a real tape of "Breaking Up is Hard to Do."

Who knows when Barbie will have outlived her appeal. From Dream House to Assisted Living, the possibilities are endless – and even a doll is better than a punch in the nose.

GOOD WORK — Goodfellows Edwin Jackson and Joe Ellington (from left) fill additional boxes Saturday for distribution to needy families. Over 400 boxes were filled Thursday night. Volunteers from Goodfellows, Snyder Kiwanis, Calvary Baptist and coliseum employees assisted in the effort to provide needy families with food this holiday season. (SDN Staff Photo)

## ASK US

Q—When and where will Super Bowl XXXIV be played?
A—On Jan. 30 in Atlanta.

## FORECAST - ALMANAC

**Snyder Temps:** High Friday, 66 degrees; low, 32; 7 a.m. Saturday, 35; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

**Area Forecast:** Saturday night, partly cloudy. Low, 30-35. SW wind, 10-20 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy. High, mid 50s. N to NW wind, 10-20 mph.

Jayme Tomlinson
Cool and cloudy

**Sunset:** 5:44 p.m.
**Sunrise:** 7:37 a.m.
Of 351 days in 1999, the sun has shone 344 days in Snyder.

## TODAY'S THOUGHT

**The best career advice given to the young is — find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it.**
**—Katherine Whitehorn**

WEST FOOD DRIVE — West Elementary School collected more than 1,000 cans for the Goodfellow food drive. Pictured with some of the cans are from left, Dustyn Williams, Kimberlin Willson, Steven Jaramillo, Briana Stanford, Jazmyn Moore, Kenetra James. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

# Western singer-actor, 78, dies in car accident

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Rex Allen Sr., a singer and actor in Westerns who also served as the voice on Walt Disney films and TV shows, died from injuries suffered when he accidentally was run over by a car. He was 78.

Police believe his caretaker did not realize Allen was behind the car when she began to back it up, police spokeswoman Judy Altieri said. Detectives were attempting to determine whether Allen had fallen before he was hit.

Allen, who grew up on an Arizona ranch, starred in several western movies, including a 1949 film called "The Arizona Cowboy," and in a television series called "Frontier Doctor."

His signature stallion for the western movies, Koko the Wonder Horse, was added in his second film, "The Hills of Oklahoma."

Among his narration credits are more than 80 Walt Disney films and the animated classic, "Charlotte's Web."

"Faith That Will Not Shrink"
Getting To Know God
"Getting to Know God's Person & Problem"
Cox Cable TV - Channel #2
Mon., Dec. 20, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

# Bored teen is arrested in Florida

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (AP) — An Internet threat that shut down Columbine High School for two days led the FBI far from Colorado to a Florida teen-ager.

Michael Ian Campbell, 18, was charged Friday with using an interstate communications facility to threaten injury to a person, after he admitted to FBI agents that he sent the message.

U.S. Magistrate Judge George T. Swartz ordered Campbell to remain in the Lee County jail without bail until a Dec. 22 detention hearing.

The charge carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Campbell's mother said her son told her, "I was bored to death."

A 16-year-old Columbine student received the message Wednesday night and reported it to Colorado authorities. The message threatened to "finish what begun," in reference to the April 20 shootings in which two gunmen killed 13 people before committing suicide.

Because of the threat, classes at Columbine were canceled Thursday and Friday, forcing the postponement of some final exams until after the holidays. It was the first time the school was shut since classes resumed in August.

Public defender Martin DerOvanesian tried to downplay the severity of the incident. "This was a threat that was not phoned into the school, that was not relayed to a school official," he said.

Officials would not comment on the seriousness of the threat.

"The Columbine tragedy has taught us all that we cannot afford to ignore any threat, no matter how farfetched it might at first appear," said Thomas Strickland, U.S. Attorney for the Denver district.

Pamela Campbell, 60, said her son, "didn't mean to do anything."

"This was a stupid, stupid mistake and he knows it and they know it too," she said, referring to the FBI, whose agents made the arrest.

She said her son, whom she adopted three days after his birth, was an aspiring actor and community college student with no prior arrest record.

LIBRARY COLLECTS FOR TOTS — Scurry County Library has collected donations for Toys for Tots and canned goods for Goodfellows. The Girl Scouts headed the Toys for Tots this year and the Noon Kiwanis Club headed up the Goodfellows drive. Non-perishable foods and toys will be accepted until Tuesday, according to Peggy Vernon, right. Librarians from left are Linda Jones and Sharon Sumruld. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

# More people studying on Web

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half of all U.S. colleges and universities now offer classes taught outside a traditional classroom, by audio, video or over the Internet, according to a new Department of Education study.

Between 1995 and 1998, the number of universities offering "distance learning" classes increased by one-third. In 1998, they were offered by over 79 percent of public four-year universities.

"Distance education brings postsecondary education closer to students," said Gary W. Phillips, a Department of Education official. "It not only provides greater access, it also provides alternative ways of delivering new educational opportunities."

Behind the distance learning trend are the rising number of adults deciding to make a midlife move back to the classroom to enhance their career or pursue a new path through an undergraduate or graduate degree.

The biggest jump is in courses taught over the Internet.

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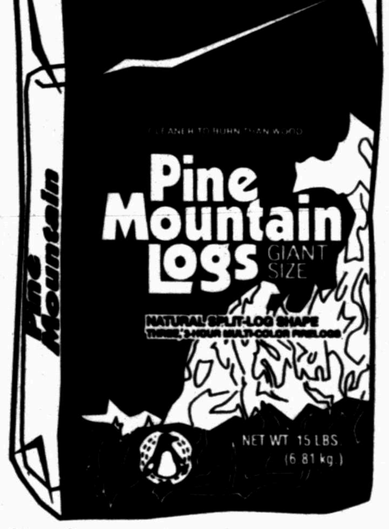


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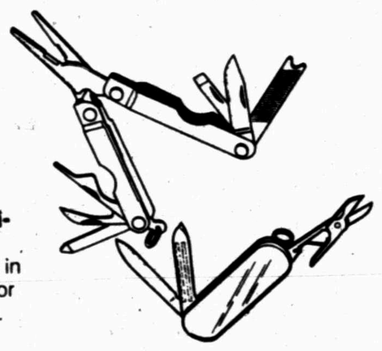

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Tara Price

Jaci Smith

## Two at SHS are honored by Who's Who

Two Snyder High School students have been selected for recognition by "Who's Who Among American High School Students," and will appear in the 1998-1999 edition.

Jaci Smith is a sophomore and Tara Price is a junior. Tara was also recognized in the 1997-1998 edition.

Selection is based upon a student's performance in scholarship award contests, extracurricular activities and community service.

Traditionally, 99 percent of "Who's Who" students have a grade point average of "B" or better and 97 percent are college-bound.

Only five percent of all high school students receive this award. Less than one percent are honored in consecutive editions.

Jaci is the daughter of Clay and Tina Hill of Snyder and Andy and Ann Smith of Bronte. Her grandparents are Beverly Glasscock of Snyder, Johnny and Janice Merrill of Coleman and Jack and Carl n Smith of Ballinger.

Tara is the daughter of Larry and Terri Price. Her grandparents are Mr. And Mrs. Joe Price and Mary Jo Whitmire, all of Snyder, and Jerry Dennis of Colorado. Her great-grandmother is Mary Yarbrough of Brady.

## Decline noted in injury and illness in workplaces

WASHINGTON (AP) — Job-related illnesses and injuries in private workplaces were at a record low last year, government figures show.

The total of 5.9 million in 1998 amounts to about 6.7 workers out of every 100, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Thursday. The rate in 1997 was 7.1, the lowest since the agency started keeping track in 1973.

"Employment rose 3 percent in 1998, yet 200,000 fewer workers got hurt or sick on the job than in 1997," Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said.

It was the sixth consecutive year of declines in the illness and injury rate.

BOOK FAIR AT STANFIELD — Stanfield Elementary School conducted a book fair last week, manned by members of the Parent Council and retired teachers. Billie Hibbit, far left, said they sold about $2,500 in books. Also pictured are Bobbie Taylor, center, and Sammie Jarrell, both retired teachers. The book fair was sponsored by the Parent Council and Scholastic Books. In previous years, it had been held in March. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

# White House advocates open high-speed Internet access

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inserting itself into an acrimonious fight affecting how Americans will use the Web, the Clinton administration said Friday that consumers with high-speed Internet connections should be able to choose different service providers.

In a 57-page report about the extraordinary technology changes since President Clinton's election, the White House said "customers should have choice in both their content and their Internet access provider."

The report noted that "considerable attention" has been paid to the high-stakes issue of whether cable companies must give rivals access to their high-speed Internet lines, which could be worth billions.

That debate has pitted technology giants AT&T Corp. and Cox Communications Inc., which are jealously guarding access to high-speed cable lines they control, against America Online and other Internet providers that want to offer their services over the lines.

The report said high-speed connections — which allow people to transmit video, audio, text and images with almost no delay — are "critical in order to realize the full benefits of the Internet."

The report, called "Towards Digital eQuality," was written by the government's working group on electronic commerce. The group includes White House staffers and representatives from key federal agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission and the Commerce and Justice departments.

The FCC has so far resisted pressure from some consumer groups, Internet providers and regional Bell companies to force cable companies to allow their customers to choose their primary service provider.

Cable companies argue that they need the revenue from those services to cushion the roughly $9 billion in costs they expect to incur in upgrading the nation's cable lines to support Internet connections.

As of August, just a little more than 1 million consumers were subscribing to high-speed cable service in North America — a fraction of the 40 million residential Internet subscribers total. AOL, the nation's largest Internet provider, said this week it has 20 million subscribers.

FCC Chairman Bill Kennard has generally agreed it's too early in the life of the nascent technology to force cable companies to open their lines to competitors.

Kennard said Thursday in a speech that he was "putting my faith in the marketplace. Unless a compelling case can be made for government action ... then we should give the marketplace a chance to work."

He noted that some local governments across the country are seeking to require cable companies to open their lines to competitors.

# Airman pleads guilty

ABILENE (AP) — An airman who refused to submit to an anthrax vaccination has been sentenced to 21 days confinement and will be discharged from the Air Force.

A military court handed down the sentence Friday to Brent Rogers, 20, who had pleaded guilty to disobeying an order and making himself unavailable for deployment.

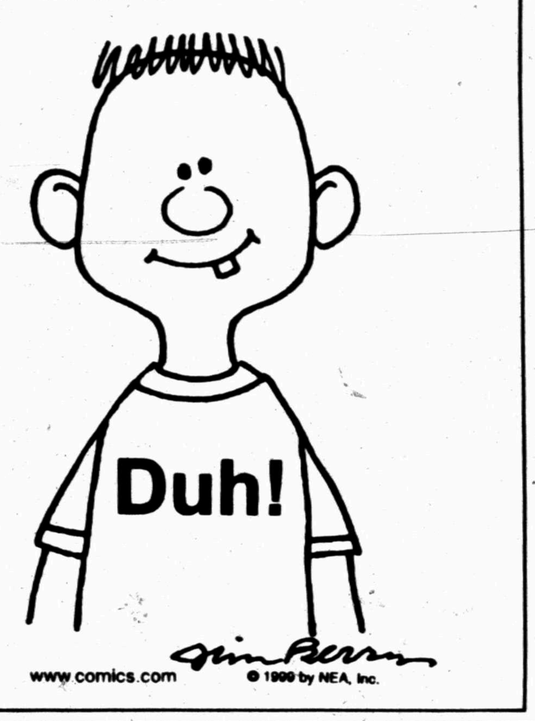
Rogers, who will receive a non-punitive administrative discharge from the Air Force, also will be docked $500 in pay, said Lt. Wes Ticer, a spokesman at Dyess Air Force Base.

The administrative discharge was "very important to him," said Rogers' attorney, Capt. Sandra Kent. The airman denied that by refusing the vaccine he intended to avoid being deployed to Saudi Arabia, his next assignment.

Anthrax is an infectious bacterial disease that can be used in biological warfare, and the Pentagon is trying to inoculate the nation's 2.4 million service personnel.

Nationally, as many as 300 servicemen have cited health concerns in refusing the inoculation.

## Berry's World

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**1999 BUSINESS REVIEW**

**PREPARED BY : HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SERVICES, INC.**

**LONE TREE ROOFING**

**WENDY MOORE - OWNER**

Your roof is very important in the preservation, beauty and durability of your home or business. Your roof represents only about 3% of your building investment, yet the value of a good roof is much more. A name people in this area have come to know and trust is **LONE TREE ROOFING**, locally owned and operated in **Sweetwater** at **101 East El Paso**, **toll free** phone is **888-701-2460**. Many people do not know just what type of roof they should have on their home to add to its beauty and durability. The professionals at **LONE TREE ROOFING** will explain the various roofing materials, the advantages of each to you and will gladly give you an accurate estimate. They feature a varied selection of materials and colors to customize your roof. Call today and let the experts at **LONE TREE ROOFING** come out and examine your roof. They may find it is in good condition, ready for many years of service or they may find defects that can easily be remedied. Their sales crew has the necessary experience to spot minor problems and correct them inexpensively before they develop into a major re-roofing expense. Getting a good roof is a direct result of durable materials and professional workmanship, both of which you will find at **LONE TREE ROOFING**. So, when you have roofing worries, call the professionals at **LONE TREE ROOFING**. **The staff at LONE TREE ROOFING would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season! And invite you to see our ad in the Snyder phone book.**

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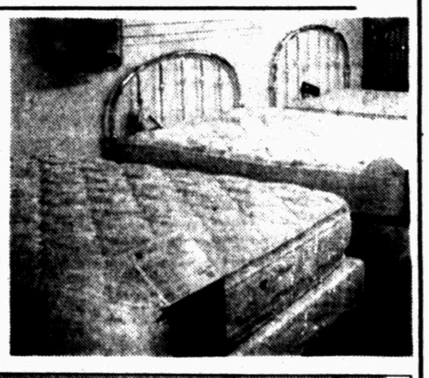

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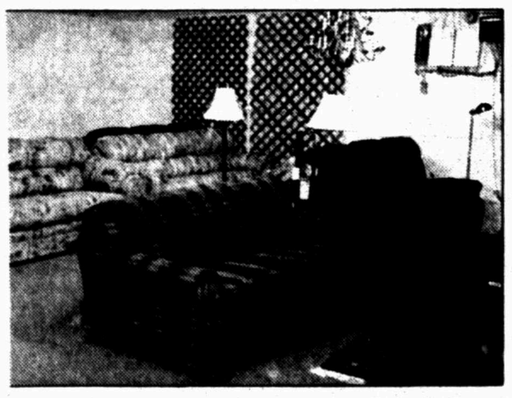

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# Clinton, EU pledge effort to get the WTO talks started

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton and leaders of the European Union pledged Friday to redouble their efforts to resolve deep differences so that global trade negotiations can be started next year.

However, in separate briefings, administration officials and EU leaders both expressed significant distrust in the willingness of the other side to make necessary compromises.

"If Europe stays with its proposals in Seattle, a round simply will not launch," U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said. "This is going to be a considerable challenge."

Pascal Lamy, the top trade negotiator for the EU, said that on a number of substantive issues "we are still quite far apart" but he said it was "good news" that Clinton made it clear it was a top priority to him to start a new round of trade talks.

U.S. and EU officials discussed but failed to achieve any breakthroughs Friday on disputes involving bananas grown by American companies and U.S. beef that contains growth hormones. The United States has imposed nearly $300 million in sanctions on the EU because of European barriers to the products.

The United States and the EU did show more harmony on political problems, issuing statements condemning Russia's military actions in Chechnya and pledging continued cooperation on Balkans peacekeeping efforts.

Russia understands that United States and the EU are united in believing that a political, not a military settlement, was needed in Chechnya, said Martti Ahtisaari, the president of Finland who currently holds the EU's rotating presidency.

"I think that message has gone through very clearly," Ahtisaari said.

But while the US-EU talks were taking place in Washington on Friday, Russia was launching one of its heaviest attacks yet on Chechnya's capital with Russian tanks advancing on Grozny from three directions.

The Clinton administration suffered a major embarrassment earlier this month when the 135-nation World Trade Organization failed in the effort to agree on an agenda for a new round of trade liberalization talks during four days of discussions marred by violent street protests.

While the administration pledged to begin working early next year in Geneva, headquarters for the WTO, to get the discussions moving, the United States has been unhappy with comments made by EU officials that it was unlikely that any progress will be made until after the U.S. presidential election next November.

In the joint statement issued after a morning of talks at the White House, the United States and the EU pledged to "find a way forward" so the global negotiations can be launched while making sure to "take full account of the lessons of Seattle."

The statement said both the United States and the EU supported reforming WTO operations to increase participation of developing countries, many of which threatened to walk out of the Seattle talks because of their unhappiness with being shut out of key negotiating sessions.

The statement also promised to work to expand current programs offered by the United States, the EU and other wealthy nations to lower trade barriers for products from poor countries.

However, Barshefsky said this will require further consultations with Congress.

APPRECIATION AWARDS — Several individuals from the community received appreciation awards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8231 during an appreciation dinner Tuesday night. Pictured on the front row are Valton Buchanan, Geneva Buchanan, Kay Bradberry and Lori Kincheloe. Back row are Debbie Cooper, Joyce May, Ronnie Clawson, Victor Means, and Joyce Buchanan. (Contributed Photo)

VFW HONORS — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8231 honored several individuals and businesses at an awards dinner this week. Pictured front row are VFW commander Howard Bruns, Steve Warren, Jeanette Claxton, Chloanne Lindsey and Rick Campos. Back row are Snyder Terry Luecke, Frank Brown, Wayne Horton, Darren Jackson and Howard Limmer. (SDN Staff Photo)

# Awards are presented by the VFW

The Veterans of Foreign War Post 8231 honored law enforcement agencies and several businesses and individuals at a banquet Tuesday night.

Members of the Scurry County Sheriff's Department, Snyder Police Department, Snyder EMS, Snyder Fire Department and personnel with Price Daniel Unit were recognized.

Those receiving appreciation awards included Snyder Mayor Dayton Robertson, who was unable to attend.

Also honored were Department of Public Safety Trooper Rick Campos, Price Daniel Unit Senior Warden Wilhelmenia Howard, PDU veterans sponsor Sgt. Frank Brown and PDU Chaplain Wayne Horton.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong was also given an appreciation award, but he was unable to attend the banquet.

Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz and the Commissioners Court were also recognized, as was Sheriff Darren Jackson and dispatcher Jeanette Claxton.

City Manager John Gayle and Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland also received appreciation awards, but neither was in attendance.

Others receiving awards included Police Chief Steve Warren, Snyder Police Sgt. Terry Luecke, Snyder Fire Department Captain Ronnie Clawson, Snyder EMS dispatcher Lori Kincheloe and Snyder EMS paramedic Cindy Josey.

Donna Fowler and the Snyder Chamber of Commerce staff were also recognized, but a representative from the office was not present.

KSNY radio staff and employees were also given an appreciation award as was Snyder Daily News and staff.

Joyce Buchanan accepted the award for KSNY and Joyce May accepted the award for Snyder Daily News.

Victor Means with Cox Communications accepted an appreciation award on behalf of the company.

Individuals honored included Howard Bruns, Valton and Geneva Buchanan, Kay Bradberry, Debbie Cooper, Earline Brooks and Joyce Buchanan.

# Record number flocked to theme parks in '99

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A series of accidents at American amusement parks didn't keep visitors away this year.

A record 170.5 million people visited the 50 largest theme parks in North America in 1999, a 3 percent increase over last year, according to estimates released Friday and appearing in the Dec. 27 issue of Amusement Business.

"In years past, the accidents have been so few and far between that people realize that this year was a fluke year," said Tim O'Brien, an editor with the trade magazine.

Six people were killed in ride accidents at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, N.J.; Paramount's Great America in Santa Clara, Calif.; Paramount's Kings Dominion in Doswell, Va.; Six Flags over Texas; and on Coney Island.

The larger theme parks don't release attendance figures, but the Nashville, Tenn.-based trade publication calculates them each year based on sources within the theme parks and information provided by visitors and convention bureaus.

For the third year in a row, the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando was the No. 1 attended park in North America, with an estimated 15.2 million visitors, a slight decrease from 1998.

Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif. was No. 2 with 13.4 million visitors, a decrease of about 5 percent. Rounding out the top 5 were other Walt Disney World parks: Epcot with 10.1 million visitors; Disney-MGM Studios with 8.7 million visitors; and Animal Kingdom with 8.6 million visitors.

Worldwide, Tokyo Disneyland was the best-attended theme park with 17.4 million visitors.

In its second year, Animal Kingdom saw its attendance increase by 43 percent. The park's success may have contributed to decreases in its sisters parks, but overall Walt Disney World's four parks drew a record 42.6 million visitors, O'Brien said.

Two Premier-owned parks, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Six Flags America in Largo, Md., saw the greatest gains, with attendance up 68 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

The Texas park, with 2.4 million visitors, invested $30 million.

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# Financial Focus

With more than 9,000 mutual funds available, you might think that there's not much of a market for new ones. Yet, new mutual funds are introduced all the time. Should you be interested in these funds? After all, there's no track record to study, and you have no way of knowing how consistent the portfolio manager's style will be.

Still, these factors shouldn't necessarily stop you from investing in a new fund. But, before you take any steps, get answers to several questions:

*What is the goal of the portfolio manager? As is the case when you're considering any mutual fund, you will want to know the fund manager's goals. If the fund is designed to achieve growth, for example, how will the managers go about it? Will they focus on growth stocks in particular industries or sectors? Do they plan to trade frequently, or will they keep their holdings for a relatively long time? Once you know these things, you should have a clear sense of what the manager wants to do with the fund.

*If the new fund is part of a fund family, what is the family's historical investment philosophy? Some mutual fund families have clearly distinct investment philosophies. For example, you could choose to invest with a "socially conscious" fund family. The funds within this family may seek out companies perceived to be environmentally friendly.

*How would this new fund fit into your portfolio? You'll need to evaluate the new fund to see if it could bring something different to your portfolio. Diversification is essential to investment success, so if the new fund would not be redundant for you, it might be worth exploring.

*What sort of performance can you expect from the new fund? You won't have the benefit of knowing how this brand-new fund has done in various market cycles, so you'll have to base your performance expectations on the fund's stated management style and investment philosophy.

One you've gotten answers to these questions, then you may decide that a particular new fund is right for you. And you may be pleasantly surprised by your choice. One study has shown that new funds, during the first two years of their existence, actually outperform their older peers. Why? For one thing, new funds don't have to sell established positions to avoid realizing big capital gains. And new funds are able to make favorable moves quickly, because they have fewer assets under management. With fewer assets, new funds also can get greater leverage from their investments that turn out to be winners.

Ultimately, a fund's age is less important than how appropriate it is for your individual needs. So, do your research and make informed decisions. In the long run, it doesn't much matter if a fund is a "rookie" or a "veteran" — as long as it's right for you.


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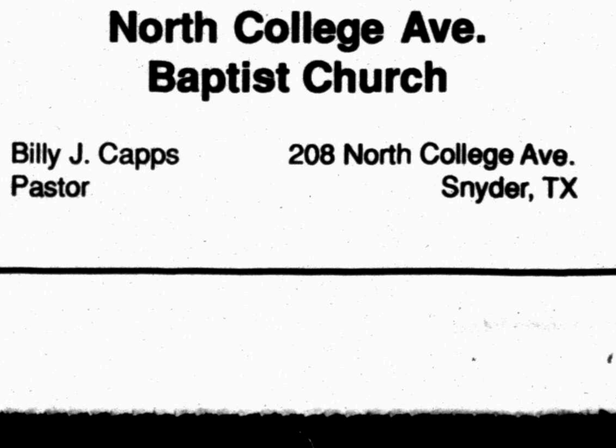

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DONATION TO NOAH — The Scurry County 4-H Horse Club donated a money tree to Noah Project-West. Pictured given the donation is 4-year-old Ethan Head, son of Kirby and Randy Head. Dee Wilson, service area director for Noah accepts the donation. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)

# Deputy director promoted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The No. 2 official at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was named Friday to head the law enforcement agency.

Bradley Buckles, a longtime ATF official, has been the agency's deputy director since 1996 and replaces John Magaw as director. As Magaw's deputy, Buckles has assisted in the day-to-day management of the bureau.

"Brad has devoted his entire professional life to the men and women of ATF and the invaluable services they provide to the American public," Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said in a statement announcing the appointment. "I have no doubt that Brad will bring the same professionalism, expertise and integrity to the position of director that he has demonstrated throughout his long and productive tenure with the bureau."

Buckles joined the agency in 1974 as an attorney, rose through the ranks and was named chief counsel in 1995.

In his tenure at ATF, he has dealt with program development, strategic planning, budget, personnel and other matters, the Treasury statement said.

# Cornyn announces settlement

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General John Cornyn announced Friday a $1 million settlement with "payday lending" company Cash Today, which was accused of violating consumer protection laws by charging more than 800 percent interest on some small, short-term loans.

Cash Today, which operated about 60 stores around the state, will pay the money as restitution to consumers. It also will end the practice of "payday lending" by unlicensed lenders, loans usually offered to poor consumers who face short-term money problems.

State law caps interest rates at 10 percent for short-term loans by unlicensed lenders.

"This kind of abusive payday lending is illegal in Texas, and those companies who continue this practice will face serious consequences," Cornyn said.

Cash Today attorney Guy Wade did not return telephone calls to his Dallas office on Friday. However, Cornyn spokeswoman Heather Browne said the company did not admit any wrongdoing under the terms of the settlement.

Cash Today will have until Feb. 15 to supply Cornyn's office with customer transaction records over the last two years to help determine who will be paid part of the settlement.

Cash Today operated affiliated stores under various names. including Cash Now, Cash One, Cash Box, Cash in Minutes, Cash Boys, Cash Club Sales of Texas, and Title Mart.

Cash Today would lure customers with advertisements offering cash. The customers would write checks to the payday lender for about 33 percent over the amount loaned, and the lender would agree to hold the check for two weeks, Cornyn said.

After the two weeks, the customer could let their check be cashed or pay another $33 per $100 loaned to have it held another two weeks. Spread out over a year, 33 percent every two weeks amounted to 860 percent interest.

Cash Today required customers to agree not to file for bankruptcy, which is a right guaranteed under state and federal laws, Cornyn said.

The company also required customers to not list it as a creditor in case of bankruptcy, which would amount to perjury, Cornyn said.

The state filed lawsuits against Cash Today and two other companies, EZ Cash and Quick Cash, in May. Friday's settlement agreement involves only Cash Today, Ms. Browne said.

Most who obtain the payday loans are poor people who face short-term money problems, live paycheck-to-paycheck, or can't get mainstream forms of credit

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# State AG says no to list of domestic partners

SANTONIO (AP) — A gay activist's request for South Texas officials to establish a legal registry for same-sex domestic partners has been denied, according to an opinion released by the state's top lawyer.

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn in effect squelched Michael McGowan's request Thursday when he answered questions about the legality of such a registry raised by Bexar County officials.

"What the ruling means is that I'm required to uphold the law and cannot accept such requests," said Bexar County Clerk Gerry Rickhoff. "What we have now is an answer for county clerks all across Texas."

In July, Bexar County District Attorney Susan D. Reed wrote to Cornyn on behalf of Rickhoff, asking if he should accept and file such declarations.

Cornyn's opinion is just that, an opinion. However, since the opinions of attorneys general often carry the weight of law, Cornyn's ruling appeared to jeopardize an existing registry in Travis County, the only county in the state with such a listing, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

"In the broad view of things, it's an example of just how far behind the times Texas is," said McGowan, president of San Antonio's Log Cabin Republicans and chairman of the local gay and lesbian community center board of directors.

"With private employers across the country and in our state offering domestic partnership benefits, Texas is going in the wrong direction," he told the newspaper.

Same-sex marriages are illegal in Texas, but since 1993 the Travis County clerk's office has accepted and filed sworn statements by domestic partners affirming their commitment and financial responsibility to each other.

The registry allows same-sex couples to document their relationship when applying for employee benefits.

McGowan had asked Rickhoff to create the registry in June.

Cornyn's ruling stated that the declarations of same-sex partnerships are designed to proclaim or create a legal relationship similar to marriage.

Both common-law unions and marriages are cemented by a civil ceremony, but state law specifies such arrangements are between men and women.

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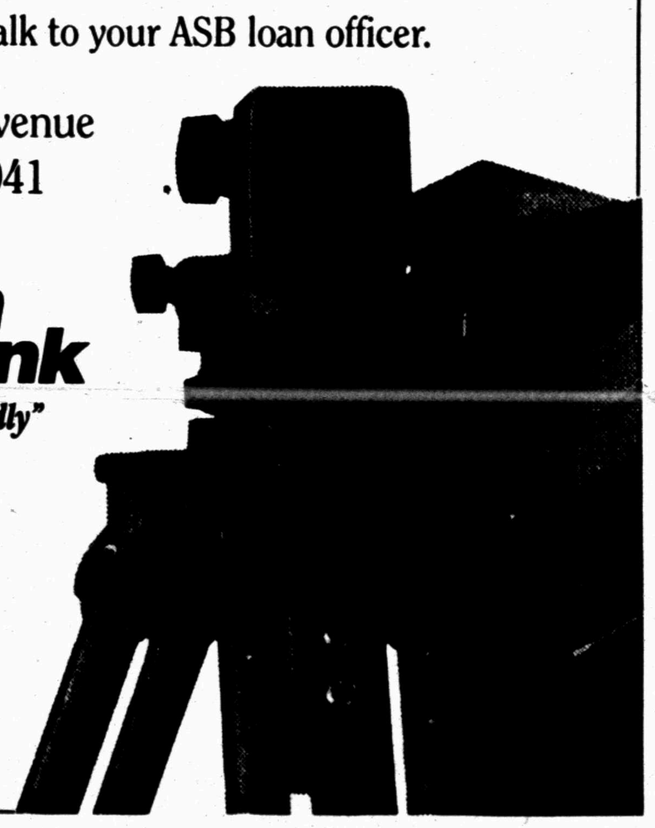

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In our front yard, we have placed a special outdoor remembrance tree. Each one of the hundreds of lights is shining brightly to honor those special people in our lives. We hope you will drive by to see the lights and be reminded of the ones who have been the guiding lights in our lives.

Most of all, we trust that this Christmas season will reflect upon the One who said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

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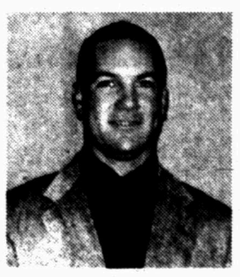
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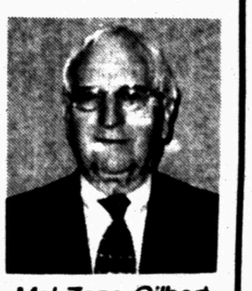
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# SPORTS

*Wylie Bulldogs 47, Snyder Tigers 42...*

## Fourth-quarter mistakes costly for Tigers

By Eric Drennan
*Sports Editor*

After overcoming first-half mistakes with a third-quarter run, the Snyder Tigers' miscues in the final period cost them a victory.

Snyder committed turnovers on three of its first four possessions in the fourth quarter, and connected on only 3 of 15 shot attempts, to allow the Wylie Bulldogs to walk away with a 47-42 win at the SHS gym.

Snyder, which struggled on both ends in the first half, still had a chance to rescue a victory late in the game. But costly mistakes at crucial times down the stretch gave Wylie extra opportunities.

"Coming in, we felt like this was a game we needed to and probably should win," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "But late in the game, Wylie made the plays and we didn't. They were shooting lay ups and free throws, and we were shooting long jumpers. I feel like we shot ourselves out of the ballgame in the fourth quarter."

After a 15-4 run in the third quarter gave them a two-point lead, the Tigers unraveled in the final eight minutes.

Three turnovers in the first two minutes of the fourth led to seven points and a 40-37 lead for Wylie.

An inside bucket by Sonny Cumbie and a three-pointer by Heath Pinkerton put the Tigers back on top, 42-40, with 3:26 remaining.

But the two-point advantage would be Snyder's final lead, as it went scoreless for the last three minutes. The Tigers missed shots on five of their last six trips down the floor, and turned the ball over on the other.

"We stopped doing the things that got us the lead in the third quarter," Birks stated. "We stopped going inside and started taking bad shots. We took 22 shots over the course of the game that we never should have taken. When you combine that with the turnovers and the number of offensive rebounds that Wylie had, and it makes it real difficult to win."

Wylie held a 27-25 advantage in the rebounding department, with 12 of them coming on the offensive end. Those sec l-chance opportunities, and eight Snyder turnovers, allowed the Bulldogs to take control in the first half.

Wylie owned a 12-11 lead after the first period, before pulling away in the second quarter.

Six of Snyder's eight turnovers in the first half came in the first five minutes of the second quarter when the Bulldogs went on an 8-0 run. Michael Loper scored the Tigers' only five points of the period.

After a disappointing first half, the Tigers owned the third quarter. A 15-4 run in the first four minutes gave Snyder its 35-33 lead, leading to Wylie's rally in the fourth period.

Snyder, now 8-7 on the year, will be in action again Monday when it visits Midland Lee for a 6 p.m. tipoff.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wylie** | **12** | **12** | **09** | **14** | **— 47** |
| **Snyder** | **11** | **05** | **19** | **07** | **— 42** |

**Wylie**
Workman 7 0-2 14, Holt 3 0-0 7, Austin 3 0-0 6, Anders 1 2-4 4, White 0 1-2 1, Ripley 3 1-2 7, Henderson 1 2-2 4, Miers 1 0-0 2, Self 1 0-1 2, Rampy 0 0-2 0. **Totals 20 6-15 47.**

**Snyder**
Pinkerton 3 3-4 11, Cumbie 3 3-3 9, McAnaw 2 2-2 8, Hester 1 0-0 2, Loper 2 2-4 6, Wofford 2 0-0 4, Thornhill 1 0-0 2. **Totals 14 10-13 42.**

Three-point goals: Wylie 1 (Holt), Snyder 4 (Pinkerton 2, McAnaw 2). Rebounds: Wylie 27 (Workman 9), Snyder 25 (Cumbie 6). Total fouls: Wylie 12, Snyder 18. Fouled out — None.

## *Wylie overpowers Lady Tigers, 67-24*

ABILENE — Facing a Wylie ballclub that had lost only two games coming in, Snyder needed all the fire power it could muster.

But unfortunately for the Lady Tigers, injuries have shortened their line-up, and the Lady Bulldogs took advantage.

Playing with only nine players, Snyder struggled early and often against Wylie, recording just 12 points in the first three quarters Friday night before falling, 67-24.

The setback, which drops the Lady Tigers to 4-8 on the season, was Snyder's third consecutive outing without starting post Ashley Delce. Also absent from the line-up was reserve guard Rina Geiger.

Wylie, which improves to 12-2, took advantage of Lady Tiger turnovers in the first half to take a 27-11 lead at the break.

Snyder committed 13 turnovers through the first two quarters, resulting in a 4-of-12 shooting performance.

The hole got deeper for the Lady Tigers in the third period. Wylie was connecting from everywhere, while Snyder failed to convert from the floor. The result was a 23-1 run by the Lady Bulldogs that put the game out of reach.

Trailing by 38 points, the Lady Tigers' highest output of the night came in the fourth quarter. Kameron Kallemeyn connected on five of six shots for 10 of Snyder's 12 points.

The Lady Tigers will be in action again Monday afternoon when they visit Lamesa at 2:30.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Snyder** | **05** | **06** | **01** | **12** | **— 24** |
| **Wylie** | **14** | **13** | **23** | **17** | **— 67** |

**Snyder**
Mackey 2 1-3 5, Eicke 1 1-1 3, Kallemeyn 7 0-1 14, Voss 0 1-2 1, Bane 0 1-2 1, Daniell 0 0-1 0. **Totals 10 4-10 24.**

**Wylie**
Bull 2 0-1 5, Hatchett 3 0-0 6, Sharp 4 0-0 8, Jones 2 0-1 5, Barbee 3 0-0 6, Pruitt 3 0-0 8, Williams 2 4-4 8, Barton 3 1-2 7, Been 4 0-1 9, Clardy 1 0-0 2. **Totals 27 5-9 67.**

Three-point goals: Snyder 0, Wylie 5 (Pruitt 2, Bull, Been, Jones). Fouled out — None.

## Dallas nets 2-2 tie with Oilers

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Chris Murray scored with 4:27 remaining in the third period to give the Dallas Stars a 2-2 tie against the Edmonton Oilers on Friday night.

Murray shoveled in the puck from close range, following a shot from the point by Sergei Zubov.

Ryan Smyth and Tom Poti scored for the Oilers.

Brad Lukowich had the other goal for Dallas. Lukowich skated behind the net, came out front and tucked the puck behind goaltender Tommy Salo at 17:59 of the first period.

Poti made a great individual effort for his second goal of the season. He picked up the puck at center ice, beat defenseman Darryl Sydor at the Dallas blueline and burst in for a backhander at 6:41 of the second.

Smyth banked a shot off goalie Ed Belfour's stick, from the side of the net, on a power play at 2:08 of the third period.

Salo made a big stop at 1:12 of overtime on Brett Hull, who broke in on a two-on-one break with Mike Modano.

The Stars' Derian Hatcher needed to be helped off the ice following a collision with Todd Marchant behind the Dallas net.

## State grid titles up for grabs

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
AP Sports Writer

The Sealy Tigers will get a second chance to make Texas schoolboy football history Saturday, and the Stephenville Yellowjackets will go for their fourth state title of the decade.

Sealy missed out on its fifth straight title last year when the Tigers were eliminated in the first playoff round. This year, they've charged back to Saturday's Class 3A championship game against Commerce in Texas Stadium in Irving.

A win over Commerce (15-0) would give the Tigers (14-0) their fifth state championship in six years, making them the team that got to five championships in the shortest amount of time. Breckenridge got five titles in nine seasons, 1951-59.

Sealy-Commerce will be a part of a five-game state championship schedule on Saturday.

The Katy Tigers (14-1) were disqualified from last year's Class 5A Division II title game when it was discovered they had used an ineligible player. They will get a chance to win the 1999 title against the Garland Owls ( 14-1) in the Astrodome.

Afterward, at the Astrodome, Stephenville (15-0) will take on the Port Neches-Groves Indians (14-1) for the Class 4A Division II crown. Celina ( 15-0) will play Elysian Fields (14-1) in the Class 2A title game at Texas Stadium, and Aspermont (14-1) and Bartlett (14-1) will play for the Class A crown at Bedford's Pennington Stadium.

The Tigers are familiar with the playoffs and accustomed to playing Commerce. Sealy beat Commerce in the 1995 and 1997 championship games.

"I think it's great we have a chance to play them again," Sealy tight end Sherwin Bassett said. "After we beat them the last game, they were saying they would beat us the next time."

Still, the Tigers are unhappy they aren't playing for their sixth title of the decade.

"I feel after last season we have something to prove to people around the state," middle linebacker Derek Curry said. "Losing in the first round was a good slap in the face. I think it helped us out. We can't overlook anyone. Other teams work hard, too."

Stephenville won its three other titles of the decade over LaMarque in 1993, '94 and '98.

The Yellowjackets have a strong offense built around running back Zac Hunter and junior quarterback Kendal Briles, son of the coach. Hunter has rushed 1,785 yards this season and Briles has passed for 2,989 yards and rushed for 1,232 yards.

The Yellowjackets were behind in three of their six playoff games in last year's run for the title.

"We have been behind in playoff games and came back to win," coach Art Briles said. "We didn't feel pressure because our players know that they are going to do all they can to be the best they can be."

The Katy Tigers have been spurred all season by what happened to them a year ago as they prepared to board a bus for the state Class 5A Division I game. A player faked his grade report to be a part of the team, and it caused the Tigers to be disqualified.

"It's easy to say, 'Put it behind you and go home,'" Katy coach Mike Johnston said. "But our kids are so close on our team, and we had 54 seniors last year who were denied an opportunity to play for the state championship. That was worse than going and playing and getting your tail kicked."

## Lady Raiders struggle to 60-44 victory over Bulls

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Defense saved the day for Texas Tech.

Keitha Dickerson scored 14 of her 16 points in the second half as the seventh-ranked Lady Raiders overcame a lackluster offensive performance to beat South Florida 60-44 Friday night, the Bulls' first loss of the season.

The Lady Raiders (8-0), off to the best start in school history, forced 27 turnovers and limited South Florida to 39 percent shooting (20-of-52).

"Something that remained constant was our defense," Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp said. "That was our strength, and it has been all year. It was the reason we were able to win."

Texas Tech led by just two points at halftime, but took control with a 10-2 run to start the second half. Dickerson had eight points in the run that gave the Lady Raiders a 33-23 lead.

"We tried to step up and accept the challenge. ... We knew we struggled in the first half," Dickerson said.

Monica Echeverria had 16 points for South Florida (7-1).

"Very, very disappointing second half," South Florida coach Jerry Ann Winters said. "We let down, without a doubt. In the second half, we came out and didn't play hard on the defensive end, and didn't convert shots on the offensive end."

The Bulls also hurt themselves at the free throw line, going 2-of-11. Texas Tech was 8-of-10.

Texas Tech shot 28 percent (10-of-36) and committed 10 turnovers in the first half. Sandwiched between scoring droughts of seven and 15 possessions, Texas Tech overcame a 5-0 deficit with a run that gave it a 19-7 lead with 11 minutes left. South Florida scored the next 12 points to tie it 19-19.

A layup and jumper by Aleah Johnson, who had 14 points, gave Texas Tech its halftime lead.

## Sports Briefs

### Coach's contract not extended at ACU

ABILENE (AP) — Jack Kiser is out as Abilene Christian University head football coach when his contract expires next June.

Athletic director Stan Lambert said "after an extensive evaluation of the football program, and after a determination of where it needs to be in the future," it was decided not to bring Kiser back.

Kiser was 21-20 in four years as head coach, and was 4-6 for each of the last two seasons. Kiser had no comment on Friday's announcement.

Kiser played football at Abilene Christian from 1968 to 1970 and graduated in 1971. He later joined the University of Texas coaching staff and went onto various high school coaching jobs before moving to the coaching staff of Abilene Christian in 1993.

### Army names new coach

WEST POINT (AP) — Todd Berry, who led Illinois State to the I-AA playoffs the past two seasons, is the new coach at Army.

Berry, who in four years turned around the struggling Redbirds, replaces Bob Sutton, who was fired a few days after Army lost to Navy on Dec. 4 in the 100th meeting between the teams.

Berry rebuilt the ISU football program, leading the Redbirds to the Gateway Conference title this season and an 11-3 record. Illinois State lost to Georgia Southern 28-17 in last week's I-AA semifinals. Berry also was voted the league's coach of the year.

### Georgia QB to stay in school

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Georgia quarterback Quincy Carter, who hinted at the end of the regular season he might enter the NFL, decided to return for his junior season.

Carter has passed for 5,197 yards and 29 touchdowns while being intercepted 15 times.

Carter said he will return to the Chicago Cubs' organization this summer to pursue his baseball career.

### CU linebacker suspended

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Colorado linebacker Andy Peeke was suspended from the Insight.com Bowl for violating team rules and ethics, coach Gary Barnett said.

Peeke and wide receiver John Minardi, both 20, were arrested Dec. 11 on suspicion of stealing a woman's bicycle on campus.

Before the bicycle arrest, Peeke faced misdemeanor theft charges for allegedly shoplifting from a Boulder hardware store earlier this year. He was granted deferred prosecution until April 2000.

The arrest was Minardi's first offense and he will be allowed to travel to Tucson for the bowl game against Boston College on Dec. 31.

### Ex-Bear awarded $3.85 million

CHICAGO (AP) — Former Chicago Bears cornerback Anthony Blaylock was awarded $3.85 million in a lawsuit stemming from surgery he contends led to the end of his career.

The lawsuit was filed against a Chicago surgeon who removed a scar from Blaylock's right knee after the 1993 season.

After the surgery, Blaylock developed bursitis in the knee. That meant another surgery and time in a cast, which led to tendinitis. The injuries ended his football career.

Blaylock's lawyers argued that the orthopedic surgeon never warned Blaylock of the risks associated with the scar-removal procedure.

### Gugliotta hospitalized

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Phoenix Suns forward Tom Gugliotta had a seizure on the team bus and was hospitalized after a 110-102 victory over Portland.

Gugliotta, who turns 30 Sunday, was taken by ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Hospital, near the Rose Garden, and was in serious condition.

Gugliotta had 17 points and 14 rebounds and seemed fine as he answered questions in the locker room after the game, but apparently collapsed on the bus.

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# SPORTS

## *Spurs survive 50-minute final quarter to top Celtics, 103-94*

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — This was not what the NBA had in mind when it implemented new rules on fouls.

When it was finally over after a 50-minute, foul-filled fourth quarter, the San Antonio Spurs had a 103-94 over the Boston Celtics on Friday night.

Sixty fouls were called, 23 in the final quarter as Boston cut a 19-point lead to six.

The Celtics, who have won only one of nine road games this season, used a pressing defense to come back against San Antonio's reserves, who played most of the fourth quarter.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was forced to go back to his star frontcourt of Tim Duncan and David Robinson to seal the victory in the last minute.

San Antonio earned its third straight win by hitting 7 of 10 free throws in the final minute, a fitting end to a game in which the Spurs hit a season-high 42 of 54 foul shots.

Tim Duncan, who scored 22 of his 30 points in the first half, hit four foul shots in the last minute. He finished 16-for-18 from the line, while the Celtics were 14-for-22.

"The guys played great defense, it was one of our better games," said Popovich, who was upset after his team's lethargic 83-77 win over Houston on Wednesday night. "We kept people off the free throw line and made them hit jumps shots, rather than layups."

Popovich was glad to see his reserves work against a press they don't usually see, even though the game got close at the end.

Boston attempted 27 more field goals than the Spurs, but connected on just eight more. Too many were perimeter jumpers, while San Antonio worked the ball inside.

"They did a good job of forcing jump shots by playing a come-to-us style defense," said Boston forward Antoine Walker, who had just eight points before being ejected in the fourth quarter after jawing with San Antonio's Malik Rose, who was also tossed. "They pose a lot of problems for us defensively. Our guys did a good job of pressing and getting us back in the game late."

Boston committed 37 fouls as Eric Williams, Tony Battie and Calbert Cheaney fouled out. But the Celtics almost fought their way back with a 16-6 run down the stretch.

"I was ready to go back in to finish it if I needed to," Duncan said. "Boston had nothing to lose. We put a lot of our guys in an odd situation. We had a big lead and they were pressing."

## *Bulldogs to battle Post for title...*

# Ira boys and girls nab spots in tourney finals

IRA — With another pair of wins, Ira has two teams trying for tournament titles.

The Ira Lady Bulldogs knocked off Midland Trinity, 40-32, Friday night and the Ira boys held off the Chargers, 53-50, to put both Ira teams in the finals of the Dogpound Classic.

The Lady Bulldogs (11-4) will face post Saturday night at 6, with the Ira boys taking on the Antelopes at 7:30.

For the Lady Bulldogs to advance to the championship round, it took steady play through all four quarters against Trinity.

Ira was outscored in only one quarter, building a 15-10 lead by halftime. Trinity trimmed the margin to four points in the third period, before the Lady Bulldogs got some breathing room in the fourth.

Jamie Goolsby paced the Lady Bulldogs with 12 points.

In the boys' match-up, Ira again used the third quarter to power it to victory.

After limiting Hermleigh to only one point in the third on Thursday, the Bulldogs went on a 16-8 run in the third on Friday to turn a six-point halftime deficit into a two-point lead.

The Chargers tried to make a run in the final period, but couldn't overcome Ira's 16 fourth-quarter points.

Jerek Brown poured in 21 points, and Logan Daves added 11 to lead the Bulldogs, who improve to 13-0.

In Friday's other girls' games, Post pounded Loraine, 105-27, and Hermleigh took care of Highland, 44-34.

In the boys' bracket, Loraine ran past Ira JV, 64-44, Post held off Andrews JV, 47-45, and Highland edged Hermleigh, 55-51.

## *Lady Cards 44, Highland 34...*
## *Highland 54, Cards 51...*

# Cardinals split games in Dogpound Classic

IRA — The Hermleigh Lady Cardinals showed their resiliency Friday night.

After suffering a loss to Ira in the opening round, the Lady Cardinals bounced back to grab a 44-34 victory over Highland in the second round of the Dogpound Classic.

While the Lady Cards were to have squared off with the Andrews freshmen Saturday in the consolation finals, the Hermleigh boys were to have met Ira JV. The Cardinals dropped their second decision of the tournament Friday when they were edged by Highland, 55-51.

In the girls' match-up, Hermleigh played solid defense in the opening quarter to grab a 9-2 lead, which it would never relinquish.

Both teams started heating up in the second period, with the Lady Cardinals extending their advantage to 25-16 by halftime.

Hermleigh preserved the win down the stretch by limiting Highland to only 14 points over the final two quarters.

Kendra Dacus poured in 18 points to pace Hermleigh, with Randi Herrington adding 13.

In the boys' battle, the Cardinals and the Hornets traded punches early on.

Highland jumped out to an 18-17 lead in the first quarter, before Hermleigh came storming back in the second. The Cardinals outscored the Hornets, 18-13, in the second period to grab a four-point lead at the break.

The third quarter was just as tight as the first two, with each squad adding 10 points to their tally.

But in the final frame, the Hornets turned up the defensive pressure, limiting Hermleigh to only six points to walk away with the win.

Joey Garza's 25 points for the Cardinals led all scorers, with Andy Luna and Billy Lambaren adding 10 each.

# Jets receiver looks for big day in Dallas

IRVING (AP) — Although Keyshawn Johnson spent all week preparing to face Deion Sanders, there are other people he'll be trying to impress Sunday when the New York Jets play the Dallas Cowboys.

Johnson is looking forward to strutting his stuff in front of about 50 relatives and friends, including his mother, at Texas Stadium, the longtime home of Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin.

"To be honest, even though I'm playing against Deion, I wish Mike was playing," Johnson said. "I would rather show Michael up than Deion for the simple fact that when you're a wide receiver, you measure yourself against a guy like Michael Irvin.

"He's somebody I've kind of always patterned myself after. That would've been special if he'd had the opportunity to play."

Irvin, who is on injured reserve with a neck injury, won't even be at the game. Instead, he'll be a studio guest for ESPN preparing for a possible new career in broadcasting.

Dallas (7-6) may also be without running back Emmitt Smith, who hurt his groin in last Sunday's victory over Philadelphia. Sanders was slowed this week by the flu, but he's expected to play.

This will be the first time Johnson and Sanders go head-to-head. Doing it at Texas Stadium, where the Cowboys are 6-0 this season, makes it even more special to Johnson, because his mother is from the Dallas area. Strangely, the Jets haven't played at Texas Stadium since 1971, the facility's first season.

"My mom and her sisters and cousins and everybody will be at the game," said Johnson, who grew up in California. "Just getting to play in front of 50-plus members of my family will be fun."

Fun is about the only motivation left for New York (5-8), which must sweep its last three just to reach .500. The Jets are playing well, though, having won four of six.

Johnson has been a big part of the surge as he and quarterback Ray Lucas become more comfortable together.

In the last two games, Johnson has 21 receptions. He had 11 — several of them one-handed — for 144 yards in last Sunday's victory over Miami. He has 77 receptions for 1,025 yards and seven touchdowns for the year.

"Keyshawn is one of the great receivers in our game today," said Dallas coach Chan Gailey. "You'd like to be able to shut him down, but that's almost impossible. So you'd like to at least slow him down and make some other people try and beat you. But they have other people who can."

The only thing that usually compares to Johnson's big numbers is his big mouth. Yet, this week, he turned humble when discussing Sanders.

"He's the best cornerback I've ever seen," Johnson said. "There are some good DBs in the AFC, but it's an extra step above the rest when you talk about Deion Sanders. You talk about him in a special light."

Sanders also is equally adept with his mouth and his moves, yet his illness quieted him this week.

Still, Sanders should start at cornerback and will return as many punts as he can. If anything, he'd be limited on offense, where he caught two passes last Sunday in his first action at receiver.

Jets safety Omar Stoutmire, who became close friends with Sanders as Cowboys teammates the last few seasons, is hoping to get to cover his pal.

"We talked a little about that over the weekend," said Stoutmire, who heard from lots of old friends after returning an interception for a touchdown. "He wants to dance; I want to go at his ribs."

With Sanders absent, other Cowboys were asked how Prime Time will fare against Johnson. Safety George Teague laughed, rolled his eyes and gave the same answer he always gives before games against top receivers.

"I'm always going to bet on Deion," Teague said. "Regardless. I mean, I see him every day in practice."

Practice tapes are about all Johnson hasn't watched this week as part of his preparation for Sanders.

"I normally watch four games," Johnson said. "But for him, I'll go as far back as we have. You have to prepare for a guy like this — believe me."

The disappointing reality is that he and Sanders will go head-to-head only about a dozen times.

Sanders will almost always be on the right side of the Dallas defense, so Johnson knows where to find him. Only occassionally will Sanders go where Johnson does. It's a special treatment used this season only on Washington's Michael Westbrook, Indianapolis' Marvin Harrison and Minnesota's Randy Moss.

"We'll mix it up," Gailey said. "It might be Deion on him. It might not."

## NFL Glance

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

| East | W | L | T | Pct. | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Indianapolis | 11 | 2 | 0 | .846 | 364 | 253 |
| Buffalo | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 245 | 192 |
| Miami | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 273 | 268 |
| New England | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 260 | 244 |
| N.Y. Jets | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 229 | 248 |
| **Central** | | | | | | |
| y-Jacksonville | 12 | 1 | 0 | .923 | 334 | 155 |
| Tennessee | 10 | 3 | 0 | .769 | 274 | 257 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 268 | 249 |
| Pittsburgh | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 232 | 218 |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 10 | 0 | .286 | 276 | 414 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 12 | 0 | .143 | 175 | 384 |
| **West** | | | | | | |
| Seattle | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 276 | 229 |
| Kansas City | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 303 | 239 |
| Oakland | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 284 | 268 |
| San Diego | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 222 | 278 |
| Denver | 4 | 9 | 0 | .308 | 255 | 269 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

| East | W | L | T | Pct. | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 375 | 323 |
| N.Y. Giants | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 254 | 267 |
| Dallas | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 281 | 205 |
| Arizona | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 186 | 265 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 11 | 0 | .214 | 210 | 317 |
| **Central** | | | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 9 | 4 | 0 | .692 | 221 | 174 |
| Detroit | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 288 | 254 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 278 | 264 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 317 | 281 |
| Chicago | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 226 | 277 |
| **West** | | | | | | |
| x-St. Louis | 11 | 2 | 0 | .846 | 430 | 182 |
| Carolina | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 315 | 314 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 9 | 0 | .308 | 222 | 352 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 10 | 0 | .231 | 197 | 307 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 11 | 0 | .154 | 208 | 334 |

**Saturday's Games**

Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 12:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Carolina, 4:15 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**

Atlanta at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
New York Giants at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Miami, 1 p.m.
Washington at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
New York Jets at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Buffalo at Arizona, 8:20 p.m.
OPEN: Cincinnati

**Monday's Game**

Green Bay at Minnesota, 9 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 24**

Dallas at New Orleans, 3:05 p.m.

## National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 15 | 7 | .682 | — |
| New York | 15 | 9 | .625 | 1 |
| Philadelphia | 13 | 12 | .520 | 3½ |
| Orlando | 11 | 11 | .500 | 4 |
| Boston | 10 | 12 | .455 | 5 |
| Washington | 7 | 17 | .292 | 9 |
| New Jersey | 6 | 17 | .261 | 9½ |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Charlotte | 15 | 7 | .682 | — |
| Indiana | 15 | 8 | .652 | ½ |
| Milwaukee | 13 | 10 | .565 | 2½ |
| Toronto | 13 | 10 | .565 | 2½ |
| Cleveland | 11 | 11 | .500 | 4 |
| Detroit | 11 | 12 | .478 | 4½ |
| Atlanta | 10 | 12 | .455 | 5 |
| Chicago | 2 | 18 | .100 | 12 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Midwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 18 | 7 | .720 | — |
| Utah | 15 | 8 | .652 | 2 |
| Denver | 11 | 11 | .500 | 5½ |
| Minnesota | 7 | 13 | .350 | 8½ |
| Dallas | 8 | 16 | .333 | 9½ |
| Houston | 7 | 17 | .292 | 10½ |
| Vancouver | 4 | 18 | .182 | 12½ |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | |
| L.A. Lakers | 20 | 5 | .800 | — |
| Portland | 18 | 6 | .750 | 1½ |
| Seattle | 16 | 7 | .696 | 3 |
| Phoenix | 15 | 7 | .682 | 3½ |
| Sacramento | 13 | 7 | .650 | 4½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 6 | 17 | .261 | 13 |
| Golden State | 5 | 18 | .217 | 14 |

**Friday's Games**

Indiana 89, Utah 74
Philadelphia 77, Chicago 74
Charlotte 99, Cleveland 86
Orlando 112, Toronto 98
L.A. Lakers 97, Minnesota 88
San Antonio 103, Boston 94
Phoenix 110, Portland 102
L.A. Clippers 92, Golden State 91

**Saturday's Games**

Washington at New York, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 3:30 p.m.
Utah at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

## Local Basketball Schedule

**SATURDAY**

Ira boys vs. Post, at Ira tourney, 7:30

Ira girls vs. Post, at Ira tourney, 6 p.m.

Hermleigh boys vs. Ira JV, at Ira tourney, 10:30 a.m.

Hermleigh girls vs. Andrews freshmen, at Ira tourney, noon

Snyder JV boys vs. Merkel, at Sweetwater tourney, 9 a.m.

**MONDAY**

Snyder JV and varsity boys at Midland Lee, 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Snyder JV and varsity girls at Lamesa, 1 and 2:30

**TUESDAY**

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

## National Hockey League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 18 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 41 | 98 | 77 |
| New Jersey | 17 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 39 | 86 | 68 |
| Pittsburgh | 12 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 93 | 83 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 11 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 75 | 84 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 6 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 55 | 89 |
| **Northeast Division** | | | | | | | |
| Toronto | 18 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 42 | 97 | 73 |
| Ottawa | 16 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 37 | 80 | 71 |
| Boston | 13 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 34 | 83 | 81 |
| Buffalo | 13 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 79 | 83 |
| Montreal | 11 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 67 | 82 |
| **Southeast Division** | | | | | | | |
| Florida | 18 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 40 | 86 | 68 |
| Carolina | 12 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 31 | 74 | 80 |
| Washington | 12 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 30 | 73 | 79 |
| Tampa Bay | 10 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 27 | 82 | 92 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 21 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 63 | 111 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Central Division | W | L | T | RT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 21 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 46 | 114 | 75 |
| St. Louis | 19 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 41 | 95 | 68 |
| Nashville | 9 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 78 | 102 |
| Chicago | 8 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 82 | 100 |
| **Northwest Division** | | | | | | | |
| Colorado | 15 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 34 | 90 | 93 |
| Edmonton | 10 | 15 | 8 | 5 | 33 | 79 | 88 |
| Vancouver | 11 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 31 | 83 | 96 |
| Calgary | 12 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 29 | 77 | 99 |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | | | | |
| San Jose | 17 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 40 | 103 | 91 |
| Phoenix | 18 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 98 | 82 |
| Los Angeles | 16 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 39 | 99 | 88 |
| Anaheim | 16 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 37 | 84 | 73 |
| Dallas | 16 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 37 | 77 | 74 |

**Friday's Games**

Florida 4, Buffalo 2
Detroit 5, Colorado 2
Washington 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Boston 3, Atlanta 1
Dallas 2, Edmonton 2, tie
Anaheim 2, Chicago 0

**Saturday's Games**

Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.


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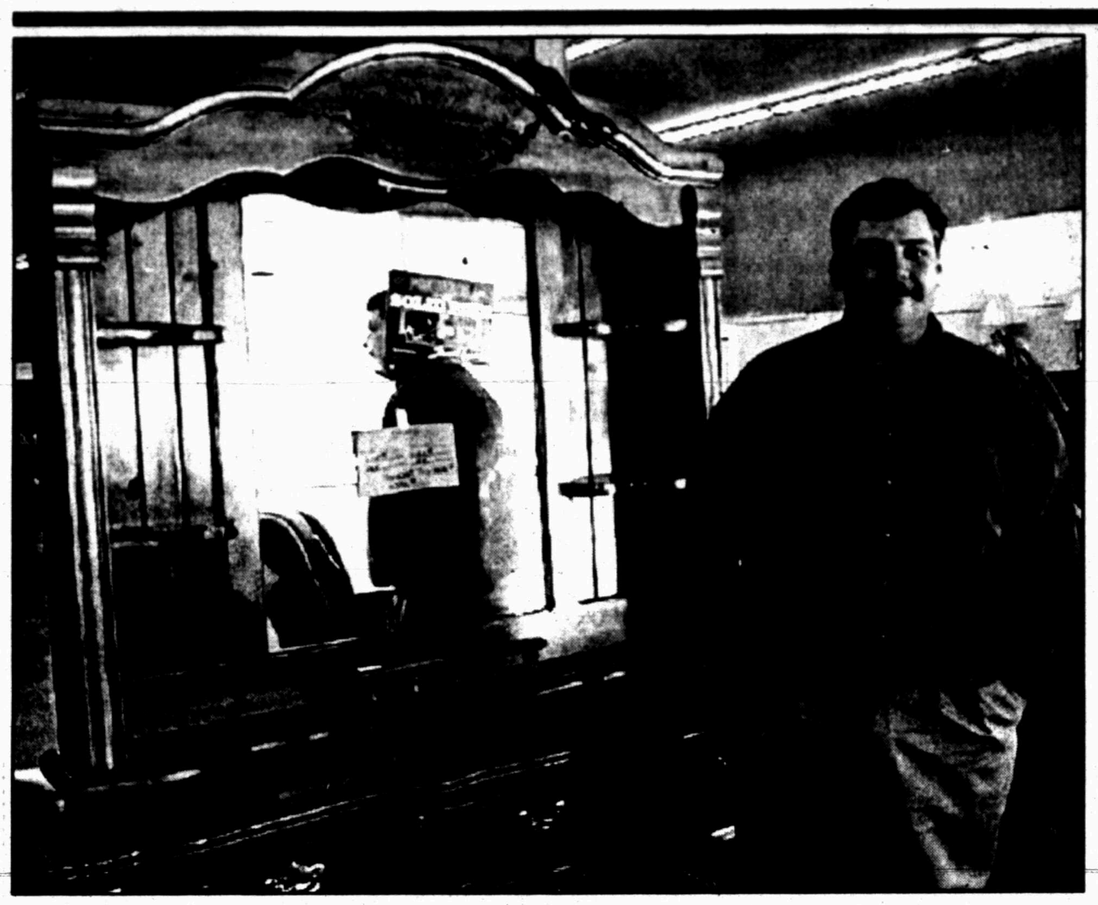

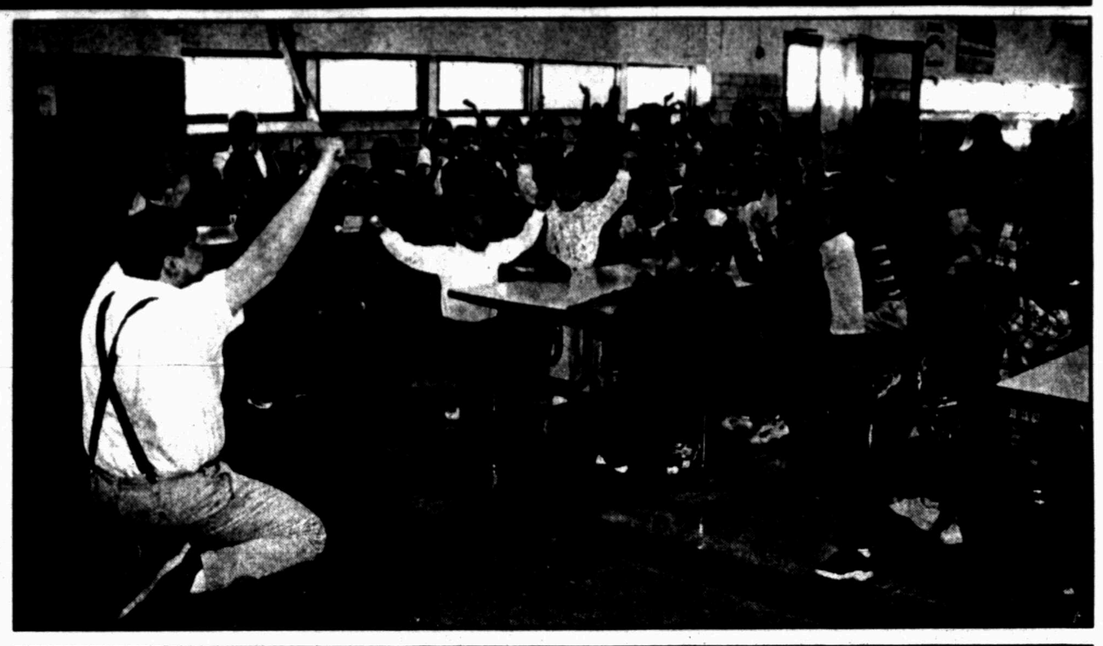

MITCHELL'S RENT TO OWN — Mitchell's Rent to Own is now open on the square at 1809 25th. John Howell, pictured, is the manager for the local store. He is also regional manager. The store is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. A wide selection of merchandise is offered including recliners, sofas, VCR's, big screen televisions and appliances. (SDN Staff Photo)

YOUNG PERFORMERS – The Young Performers of Abilene presented a program at Central Elementary recently. Daisy doesn't like to read books until M.Y.R.T.L.E., the magical librarian, shows her that reading is fun. During the 45-minute presentation, children in the primary grades helped dramatize several story selections, learn about the library and experience the magic and fun of reading. The Young Performers appearance is made possible through a TEA Restructuring Grant which Central received. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

# Government plans to put more information online

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's future on the Internet: a single World Wide Web site that links all federal agencies, puts hundreds of government forms available at the click of a mouse, and perhaps provides a way to vote by computer.

"In order to meet the full potential of this new medium, we must continue to look ahead and develop new ways to promote 21st century commerce," Vice President Al Gore said in a statement released by his office. "As we enter the new millennium, we must use technology to unleash the full benefits of the digital age for all our citizens."

Gore has been a vocal advocate of high technology and the Web and heads the administration's Electronic Commerce Working Group, but he was criticized this year for asserting that he invented the Internet.

Like other presidential candidates, Gore has a campaign Web site and has courted the high-tech industry for campaign contributions. Through Sept. 30, Gore had received $276,687 from computer makers, second only to Republican Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who had taken in $575,558, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a research group that studies campaign finance.

Under the program Gore outlined, the government will set up a single Internet site, as yet unnamed, that will serve as a portal to allow users to find information by subject rather than by agency.

"If your work product is public information, it should go up on the Web site and be organized in a way that people can find it," said Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst with the Center for Democracy and Technology, a nonprofit advocacy group. "If you're looking for environmental information, it doesn't matter if it's at the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) or Department of the Interior. You can go and find it through this portal by subject area."

In addition, federal agencies plan to make hundreds of often-requested forms available online, to be called in via computer, completed and returned to the agency involved.

The administration also plans to study the feasibility of online voting. Such a step could increase the percentage of Americans voting, which has dropped to the lowest level in 50 years.

# Report: New heart drill may help patients with angina

WASHINGTON (AP) — Imagine a drill smaller than the tip of a ball-point pen, made out of a tiny needle that spins up to 2,000 times a minute.

Dr. Fayaz Shawl threaded this miniature drill inside a Maryland man's heart and, working between heartbeats, punched 15 tiny holes in his left ventricle in a mere half-hour, just like a carpenter would bore holes in wood.

Tube-like sections of the 53-year-old patient's diseased heart tissue slid out of the drill and into a little canister.

Minutes later — still lying on the operating table — the first American to undergo the experimental drilling made a surprising statement: He already felt relief from the excruciating chest pain and breathlessness that had left him disabled.

"I feel much better, I'm breathing better," said Norman Ridgeway, who was awake and watching on a video screen at Washington Adventist Hospital on Wednesday as Shawl drilled his heart.

Is he really improved or is this a placebo effect, where simply offering treatment makes some people feel better? There's no proof yet, since Ridgeway is just the first of 15 patients the Food and Drug Administration is allowing to undergo the new needle-drilling technique in a study.

And drilling holes into diseased hearts is one of the most controversial areas in cardiology, particularly since no one understands why it would work.

But Shawl, who first tried his drilling technique on nine patients in India — he says they are doing well — believes the relief is real. He predicts the needle drill could one day help nearly 1 million Americans crippled by the chest pain called angina.

The holes-in-your-heart approach isn't new; doctors first tried it by cutting open patients' chests and burning holes in the heart with a laser.

Many patients clearly felt better. Some who had been bedridden could now walk around the block. The FDA recently approved open-heart laser surgery as a last-chance treatment for severe angina.

But open-heart surgery is dangerous for very ill people, and some 8 percent of angina patients die during open-heart laser drilling, called "transmyocardial revascularization."

So doctors now are trying a less invasive method of burning holes, by threading a wire-like laser through an artery from the patient's groin up to the heart.

That procedure is still highly experimental. While Shawl has performed it and contends it helps patients who couldn't survive surgery, he says the laser wire is difficult to control, and flops around as it's positioned in the heart.

Good control is crucial to keep holes from boring so deep that they punch through the heart wall.

The new needle-drill is much easier to control, and would cost $20,000, far less than the $250,000 tab of a laser, Shawl said.

He sees another benefit: Instead of vaporizing heart tissue like the laser does, the needle-drill, made by Angiotrax Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., spits out little cores of heart tissue ready for scientific study. Shawl wants to eventually compare before-and-after tissue samples.

Why? It might help prove a theory that drilling the holes stimulates the heart to grow new blood vessels, much like a new scar on skin turns pink as blood vessels form during healing.


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Thank You Snyder!

I have enjoyed serving your community. I will no longer be available for consultations at Cogdell Hospital/Speciality Clinic. I will continue seeing patients in Big Spring, Texas. I would like to thank the staff at Cogdell Hospital, and a special thanks to Margo Grant, LVN.

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# Man exploring life as a lizard

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — His tongue is surgically forked, his forehead ridged with implants — this green-scaled man breathes fire and lifts car batteries with chains running through his nipples.

Erik Sprague, 27, is slowly turning into something of a 5-foot-8 reptile. His next step might involve a prosthetic tail.

It's not to shock or provoke people, the University at Albany graduate philosophy student said Friday, but rather to see how people react to new stimuli.

"It's not usually a monster movie situation," he said. "But there's already a question in their mind, the conversation has already started on their part."

Sprague's tongue was split by a plastic surgeon in the Albany area. The forehead bumps were inserted without anesthesia in a New York City "bod mod" shop, by a specialist in extreme piercings, tattoos and other body modifications. The green scales are tattoos, and more are planned.

The changes haven't harmed his academic performance or his teaching assistant work, said Bonnie Steinbock, chairwoman of the University at Albany Philosophy Department.

"As a matter of fact, I've heard very nice things," she said. "The professor who had him as a TA said he was an excellent student."

Sprague graduated first in his high school class and was a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

These days, Sprague is a college-hangout bartender called Satan, who picks up metal barstools by the caribiners slung from his ears. With the Jim Rose Circus, he's "Amago," whose antics include blowing up hot water bags and lighting cigarettes by sticking his head in a shower of sparks.

He's gotten very adept at answering the question "why?"

"I try to give people as much as they seem to want," he said. "Obviously I could sit down and ramble on about the theory of art. The most basic answer is because I want to."

SING AT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER — Students from two elementary schools sang Christmas songs at the Senior Citizens Center last week. East Elementary's AR Choir (bottom photo) performed on Tuesday with Freda Shepard directing. Students who participated had to spend 25 of their Accelerated Readers points. Central Elementary students, (top photo) under the direction of Paula Howard, performed on Thursday. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

## Zoo volunteer is killed by snake

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A zoo volunteer died of a bite from one of 10 poisonous snakes she kept as pets.

Anita Finch, 33, was found in her mobile home with a note for help clenched in her severely swollen hand, police said Friday.

"We can only surmise she was attempting to seek help but was not able to do so because whatever happened, happened so suddenly," said Scott Carrier, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County coroner.

The note read: "Northridge Hospital — Ask for ICU."

Ms. Finch had nearly finished an animal keeper's training course at the Los Angeles Zoo and was on her way to becoming a full-time employee there, said Michael Dee, the zoo's general curator.

The manager of the mobile home park said she knew some of Ms. Finch's snakes were illegal, but she decided against calling animal control.

"That would have killed her," Charlene McMorris said.

Animal control officers killed the 10 snakes. The heads were delivered to the coroner's office to determine which one bit Ms. Finch. Investigators believe it may have been her foot-long Gabon viper or her hog-nosed sand viper.

## Machine to help find breast cancer moves closer to market

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first computerized mammogram is one step closer to approval.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration on Thursday unanimously recommended approval of a first step toward fully digitized mammograms, GE Medical System's Senographe 2000D.

The FDA is not bound by its advisers' recommendations, but generally follows them.

American women undergo some 30 million mammograms every year. The breast X-ray is the gold standard in detecting breast cancer, particularly early tumors.

But mammograms are not foolproof. Scientists long have hoped digital mammography — computerized breast X-rays that do not use film — could help improve them. For example, radiologists might enhance computerized images for a better view of a spot that is too light or too dark on a standard mammogram's X-ray film.

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## Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORDER DEMOLITION**

ATTENTION: The Jeff Laurens Estate; I have surveyed the property located at 416 24th Street, (Lot 2, Block 15, Grayum and Nelson Addition) Snyder, Texas. I declare the structure unsafe as defined by Ordinance #324 of the City of Snyder, and intend to order demolition of said building on or about January 28, 2000. If no objections are received by this date the demolition order will be issued.
(s)Tom Valentine
Code Enforcement Officer
City of Snyder
(915)573-4959

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital, a county hospital, owned and operated by Scurry County, and in compliance with the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act, as passed by the Texas Legislature do declare the following:

D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital is the "mandated" provider for the indigents of Scurry County. All services offered by D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital will be furnished or D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital will make available elsewhere the services necessary for the proper care and/or evaluation of all qualifying individuals.

D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital, as the "mandated" institution for indigents of Scurry County will not be responsible for care and or treatment of any indigent county resident, in any other county or institution unless there is an emergency situation requiring immediate care, unless the patient has first received approval and or clearance from the Scurry County Welfare Department. Forms necessary for approval for Indigent Health Care may be obtained at D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital or Scurry County Welfare Office, 3409 Snyder Shopping Center, Snyder, Texas.

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## Real Estate

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**5310 Etgen** 3-2-2 Fireplace Reduced..$86T
**Reduced** 3303 Irving 4-2-2.....$112T
**2704 28th** 3-1½-2.... Basement & Pool
**2808 Westridge** 4-3-2 w/ Pool..Reduced
**3015 Denison** 3-2¾+2 Lots of Extras$105T
**W. Hwy 180** 3-2-2cp with 2 Acres..$39.5T
**1154 CR 241** 3-2-2 + Shop.....$74T
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**316 32nd** 2-1-1.....$22.5T
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**3750 Avondale** 3-1¾+1.....Only $31.5T
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**2600 47th** 3-2½-2 Lots of Extras $110T
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**3608 Irving** ... 3-1-1.....$30's
**3405 Kerrville** ... 3-2-2.....$55T
**3303 Irving** ... 4-2-2.....$100's
**3309 Irving** ... 3-3-3.....$100's
**4004 Irving** ... 3-2-2.....$60's
**4008 Irving** ... 3-1-1.....$60's
**3402 Irving** ... 3-1-1.....$40's
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**2212 43rd** 3-1.....$34.9T
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**2205 41st St.** 3-2-2 cp.....$43.9 T
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**3600 41st** 3-2-2 HUD Home.....$65T
**3750 Highland** 3-1-CH/A.....$29.5T
**Clairemont Hwy** 3-2 15 A's.....$75T!
**3742 Avondale** 3-1.....$33.9T
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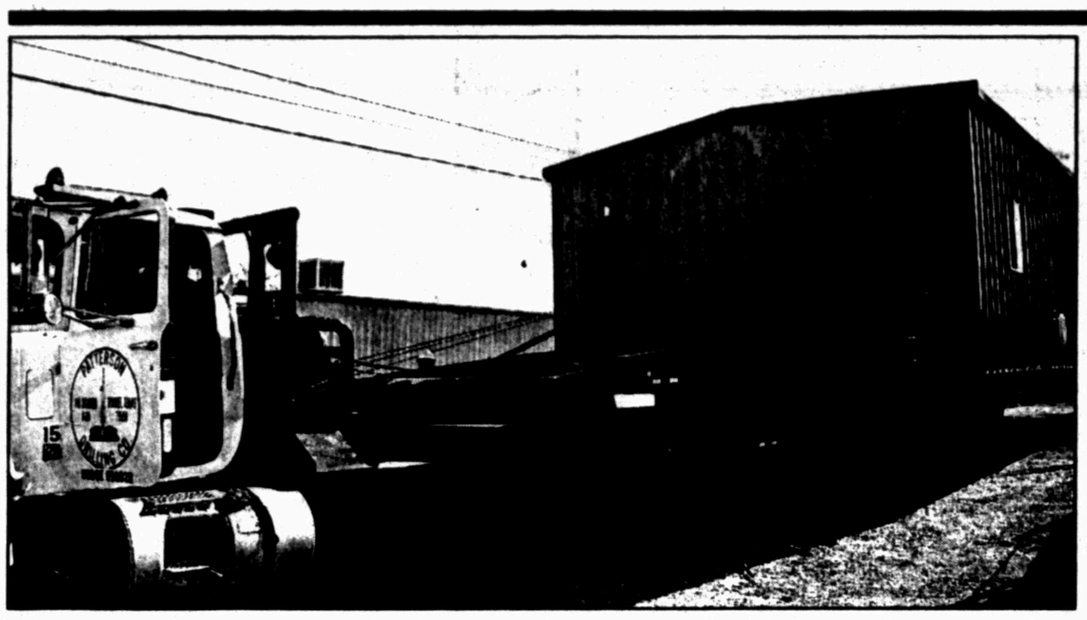

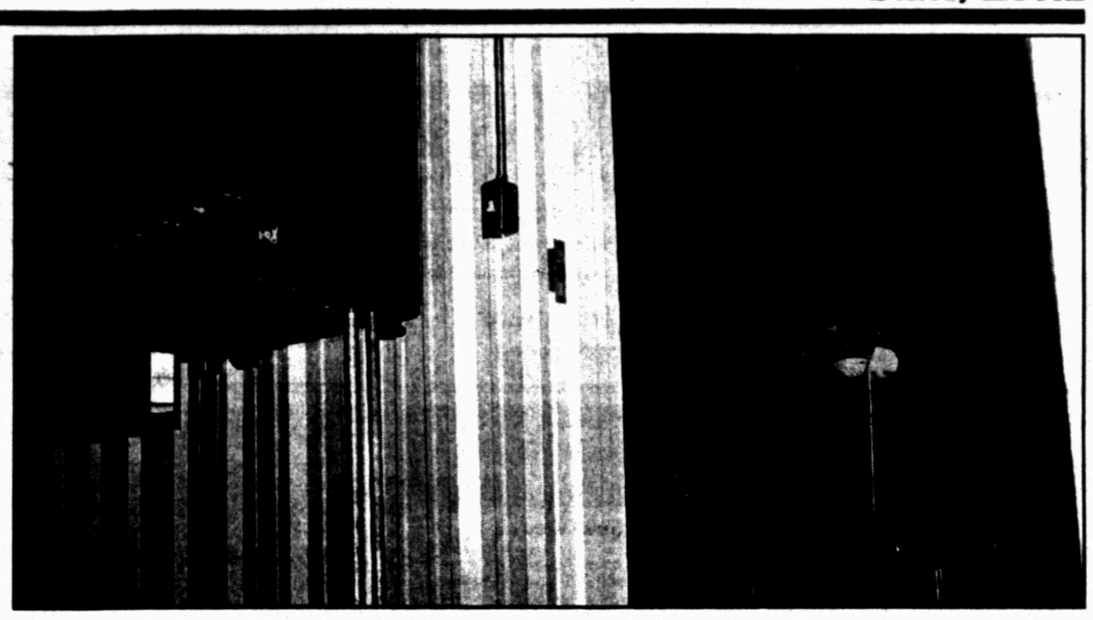

WATER FLOOD STATION — This large turn key portable water flood station engineered, designed and made by Production Pump on 25th Street, was transported by Patterson Drilling Co. Thursday to the Lott Lease near Post. This is the only portable station and it injects a total capacity of 10,000 barrels of salt water per day. The photo at the right shows the inside of two rooms. Electrical work was done by Southern Electric. The project took about six weeks to complete. (Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

WALLS SERVICE AWARDS — Walls employees received service awards Tuesday. From left, front row, are Martha Infante, Jacinta Galindo; middle row, Debbie Kimery, Carol Stewart; back row, Christa Tankersley, Brenda Oliver. Susie Campos is not pictured. (Contributed Photo)

# Saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. is dead

NEW YORK (AP) — By fusing jazz with soul music, saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. became one of the first young musicians on the jazz-funk scene.

Washington, who died Friday following a televised performance, once described his style as short stories without words, impressions turned into sound.

"There's a record player playing in here all the time," said Washington, pointing to his head in a 1989 interview with The Associated Press. "I'm listening to everything. The screech of brakes. Three or four people walking and you can hear their heels clicking. Railroad tracks."

Washington, 56, collapsed Friday evening after taping a performance for CBS' "The Saturday Early Show," which aired this morning. He was pronounced dead at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital.

Washington was one of the first musicians to enter the jazz-funk scene.

His career highlights included playing at President Clinton's 50th birthday celebration at Radio City Music Hall in 1996. He also played in a jazz and blues jam with the president and other jazz greats including Herbie Hancock and Wynton Marsalis in 1993 after a White House concert celebrating jazz.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Washington was introduced to music by his saxophone-playing father. He joined his first band — The Four Clefs — as a teen-ager in 1959.

In the early 1960s, Washington moved to Philadelphia, which became his home for life. He honed his rapid-growing abilities, playing in clubs.

# Walls honors 7 employees

Service certificates were awarded Tuesday to seven employees of Walls Industries, Inc. in Snyder.

Jacinta Galindo received a 20-year pin.

Fifteen-year pins were presented to Debbie Kimery and Christa Tankersley.

Those receiving five-year pins were Susie Campos, Martha Infante, Brenda Oliver, Carol Stewart.

David Wittie, plant manager, and Garland Braune, vice president of manufacturing, presented the awards,

Walls Industries, Inc., a Cleburne based apparel firm, has six locations in Texas employing over 900 people. This year 137 employees were honored with service awards, totaling 1,385 years of combined service to the company.


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# Iraq rejects U.N. resolution about weapons inspectors

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq rejected Saturday a new U.N. resolution that would return arms inspectors after a hiatus of more than a year, striking a blow to attempts to resume the search for Baghdad's alleged weapons program.

The U.N. Security Council passed the resolution Friday 11-0. But Iraq's allies on the council abstained from the vote, wrecking hopes for a united front to force Iraq to cooperate in return for a possible suspension of U.N. sanctions.

Iraq, which has expressed its opposition to the resolution all along, formally rejected it, with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz saying it does not meet Iraq's "legitimate demand for the lifting of the sanctions."

Iraq is "ready to face all of the consequences in defense of its sovereignty and legal rights," Aziz said, quoted by the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

Aziz derided the U.S. and Britain, chief backers of the resolution, saying their true objective is "to cheat international public opinion," and not to achieve an end to U.N. sanctions imposed in 1990.

The resolution establishes a new weapons inspection agency for Iraq to resume overseeing the destruction of Iraq's biological and chemical weapons and missiles to deliver them. The International Atomic Energy Agency remains in charge of monitoring Iraq's nuclear weapons program.

If inspectors report full cooperation and progress toward answering outstanding disarmament questions, the resolution offers to consider suspending sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait for renewable 120-day periods.

Russia, China, France and Malaysia abstained from voting on the resolution, agreeing to allow it to pass although they said they couldn't vote in favor of it. In abstaining, the four dashed U.S. and British hopes to send a unified signal to Baghdad that the Security Council would stand for nothing less than full compliance with its demands.

"We were hoping that some of the permanent members, which had maintained balanced positions during the deliberations, would have stopped the resolution by vetoing it. However, we appreciate their abstentions," Aziz said.

Russia and China had wanted sanctions suspended soon after Iraq allows inspectors to return. The United States and Britain pressed for Iraqi answers to outstanding questions about its disarmament and a longer waiting period before the sanctions could be suspended.

In the end, the resolution is intentionally vague on the specific amount of cooperation that would trigger the suspension — an ambiguity France cited for its abstention and Aziz noted.

Aziz called the conditions on cooperation "harsh" and "ambiguous," saying they were "inserted to empty any suspension — if it ever took place — of any meaning."

On Friday, China's U.N. Ambassador Qin Huasun said it was "highly questionable" whether the resolution could ever be implemented.

VERNON WINS QUILT — Peggy Vernon was winner of the Senior Center quilt made from blocks painted in the TriChem class at the center. Dot Stokes set the blocks together, Senior ladies quilted it and Edna Laster finished it with the hem. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)


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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# New peace partnership starts

LONDON (AP) — Embracing the dreams of the Belfast peace accord, lawmakers from throughout Britain and Ireland launched a formal partnership Friday that foresees a new millennium built on friendship and close cooperation.

The first meeting of the British-Irish Council was overseen by prime ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland. It capped a significant few weeks when last year's long-gridlocked Good Friday peace accord finally traveled from paper to reality.

The landmark deal proposed three key institutions that sprang to life this month — a new Protestant-Catholic administration for Northern Ireland; an all-Ireland council linking that power-sharing Cabinet with its counterpart in the Irish Republic; and, lastly, Friday's first-ever assembly of legislators from the Irish Republic and all parts of the United Kingdom.

On a day already redolent with symbolism, Blair offered his first public handshake to a member of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army-linked party that now is a junior member of Belfast's fledgling administration.

Blair said his welcome for Bairbre de Brun, Northern Ireland's minister for health, reflected growing normalcy in extraordinary times.

"Part of this whole process is that we start to treat each other like normal human beings in a normal society," he said. "Bairbre de Brun is a minister in the Northern Ireland Executive, and I think it would be strange if I were not able to shake hands with her in public. If that's a milestone — well, so be it."

In a sign that some scars still run too deep, however, David Trimble, leader of Northern Ireland's major British Protestant party and the top Cabinet minister in the new government, declined to follow Blair's lead.

Trimble's Ulster Unionists agreed to form Northern Ireland's four-party administration only on condition that the IRA starts to disarm by February.

# Over 200 dead in flooding in Venezuela

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP) — With the death toll from Venezuela's torre. tial rains reaching over 200 and as many as 7,000 people missing, hundreds were trapped in their homes by mudslides and high waters.

President Hugo Chavez announced Friday that he was sending elite army paratroopers to aid trapped survivors. A team of 1,000 soldiers was to use ropes to descend from helicopters with supplies for victims stranded on rooftops of buildings surrounded by water and mud.

The announcement came as officials conceded that the magnitude of Venezuela's disaster was far greater than previously thought.

The death toll from mudslides and flooding was 202 and expected to rise significantly, with Foreign Minister Jose Vicente Rangel saying between 6,000 and 7,000 people were reported missing.

Another 80,000 people were rendered homeless.

Rains continued Friday, but their intensity leveled off somewhat, allowing rescue teams to begin clearing debris and recovering cadavers.

Starting Wednesday, avalanches of mud, boulders and water came crashing down a mountain between the capital, Caracas, and the Caribbean coast.

Hundreds of people along the coast were trapped in high-rise apartment buildings enveloped by mud and water up to three floors high. Others wandered amid the rubble looking desperately for something to eat or drink.

"A two-story house used to be here," said Bestalia Rada, 60, pointing to an empty piece of land covered in mud. "It was my house."

Nine northern states and Caracas have been declared disaster areas. Much of Venezuela remained paralyzed, with most banks, businesses and government offices closed. Chavez called in the Navy to clear away mud and debris from coastlines so that ships could bring in relief supplies and help evacuate victims.

Chavez on Friday declared three days of "national mourning" and asked citizens to fly flags at half mast.

He said 25 countries had offered relief aid, including three Blackhawk helicopters that arrived Friday from the United States. Cuba, he said, was sending in a medical team. Mexico announced it was sending two 727's and two Hercules planes with some 200 disaster relief experts.

From the Vatican, Pope John Paul II offered "prayers for the eternal rest of the deceased" and the "comfort of those affected by the tragedy."

In La Guaira, a port city 20 miles over the mountain from Caracas, huge boulders and mounds of dirt as high as 10 feet littered the streets. There was no electricity, no phones and no running water.

Survivors, some setting up makeshift tents in the streets, waited anxiously for missing friends and relatives to appear.

# Critics blasting low charter test scores

DALLA S (AP) — Standardized testing scores have shown that students in the state's independent charter schools are failing the exam in much greater numbers than those attending public schools, education officials said.

The results from Texas Assessment of Academic Skills testing has fueled critics' claims the state has rushed too quickly into charter schools.

Meanwhile, charter school supporters — including Gov. George W. Bush — insist the schools must be given time to establish themselves, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"This is a program that doesn't lend itself to instant evaluation," said Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, a longtime supporter of charter schools. "It will take time."

The Texas Education Agency said that of the 63 charter schools that tested students in the spring, the median TAAS passing rate last year was 45 percent. That compares to an overall passing rate of 78.3 percent for all public school students, according to the newspaper.

Moreover, a majority of charter schools — 34 — had failure rates of more than 50 percent on the TAAS. At 15 schools, more than 75 percent of the students who were tested failed.

Charter schools are publicly funded but operate independently of school districts and are exempt from many state rules, such as class-size limits. They generally accept students regardless of where they live.

"If you look at their test scores, charter schools have not done well in Texas," said Rene Lara of the Texas Federation of Teachers, which supported creation of the program in 1995 but opposed its expansion two years ago.

"They have not lived up to expectations, and that is partly the fault of the charter schools," Ms. Lara said.

But Bivins insisted that charter schools need more time to work. He said many charter schools have a large percentage of students who were considered "at risk" of dropping out when they were in public schools. Others did enroll in charter schools after dropping out of conventional schools.

Mr. Bush also remains committed to the program despite the low scores.

## Obituaries

### Dalton Moore Jr.

1918-1999

ABILENE — Dalton Moore Jr., Snyder native, died Monday, Dec. 13, in Benbrook.

Graveside service was held Saturday at Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene.

Mr. Moore, 81, was born in Snyder, grew up in Sweetwater, and graduated from Newman High School and Texas A&M with a major in geology/petroleum engineering. He was an Eagle Scout and served as a captain during World War II.

Survivors include one daughter; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one sister, three nieces and nephews.

### Dot Childers

1923-1999

COLORADO CITY — Dollie Mae "Dot" Childers, 76, of Colorado City died Friday, Dec. 17, at a local hospital. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Westbrook Cemetery with Dr. Ted Spear officiating under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Childers was born to Charles and Lula Davenport on Nov. 24, 1923 in Ada, Okla. She had been a long-time resident of Colorado City.

She married Kenneth Childers on July 5, 1953 in Portales, N.M.

She worked as a secretary in the oil industry for many years.

She is survived by her daughters, Wanda Suggs and husband Bobby of Lubbock; Judy Clare of Lubbock; Shirley Grimes and husband Jimmy of Colorado City. One son, David Childers and wife Crystal of Big Lake; and one sister, Ida Stokes of Snyder.

She is preceeded in death by her parents, her husband, three brothers, Angelo Davenport, H.F. Davenport and G.E. Davenport, and one sister, Vera Shafer.

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## Prison guard killed at McConnell Unit

BEEVILLE (AP) — A prison guard was killed by one or more inmates Friday in a knife attack while on duty at the McConnell Unit.

State prison spokesman Larry Todd said the 37-year-old officer was found around 3:45 p.m. Friday on the floor in a pool of blood near an entrance to a multi-purpose room. Todd said the officer was taken to the prison infirmary, where he was pronounced dead.

The victim was Officer Daniel Nagle of Beeville. He had been employed by the prison since June 1, 1996, according to Todd.

"Our officers are investigating that and they believe it may have been a planned assault, rather than a spur-of-the-moment attack," Todd said.

Other officers said a sharpened cylindrical rod, about 6-8 inches long with cloth wrapped around one end to make a handle was found nearby.

No inmates were near the downed officer, but several prisoners were in a room across the hallway, Todd said.

"The entire unit is on lockdown and will remain on lockdown until further notice," Todd said. Internal affairs officers began interviewing numerous inmates who were in the area.

The McConnell Unit, which has inmates from minimum to maximum security, has a capacity of 2,900.

"We've had numerous staff assaults, but this is the first officer killed in the line of duty in recent history," Todd said.

The last Texas corrections officer killed was in 1982, when Minnie Houston was stabbed to death by an inmate at the Ellis Unit, according to Todd.

## Bible study slated at North College

Come with us on a "Journey of a Lifetime. Journey of a Lifetime is designed to provide a working knowledge of every book in the Bible, as well as a close look at many of the truths and how they relate to people.

Participants will receive a 226-page commentary filled with maps, charts, and diagrams to make this "journey" more meaningful.

Sessions will begin on Jan. 9 in the followship hall of North College Avenue Baptist Church and will continue each Sunday at 5 p.m. for one year.

Enroll now by calling 573-9540 or 573-7930.

Cost of the material will be $4 per quarter or $16 for the complete course.

## Theft report filed Friday afternoon

Officers filed a report for Class C theft at the movie stop Friday in reference to a shoplifter.

An employee of the video store requested an attempt to locate on a male subject at 12:50 p.m. in reference to him leaving the store when she confronted him about shoplifting.

A criminal trespass warning was also issued to the 20-year-old.

Officers assisted six subjects in unlocking keys from their vehicles Friday.

A complaint was received at 3:10 p.m. in the area of 23rd Street and Milburn of two juvenile males walking with a Pit Bulldog and trying to get other dogs to fight it. One subject was contacted and advised of the complaint.

Dispatchers also received a report of a music disturbance in the 300 block of 25th Street at 8:57 p.m. A subject was advised of the consequences if the disturbance continued.

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### Faith Baptist Cantata

The adult choir will present a Christmas Cantata and drama, "His Name is Jesus," at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Faith Baptist Church, 208 37th. Steve Pierson is the director.

### Christmas cantata

Northside Missionary Baptist Church, 1909 16th Street, will present its Christmas cantata, "The King of Kings," at 7 p.m. Sunday. The public is invited.

### "A Christmas to Remember"

The public is invited to attend, "A Christmas to Remember," presented by the music ministry of the First Baptist Church, at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

### Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday. The service is sponsored by the Support Group Ministry in recognition of the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season.

### Gospel singer

Johnny Ray Watson, gospel singer, will present special music during the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday at Church of the Hills. He will present a Christmas concert at the 6:30 p.m. service, and a fellowship will follow. Call 573-7794 for more information.

### FUMC Christmas cantata

First United Methodist Church will present its Christmas cantata, "Emmanuel Has Come," at 10:50 a.m. Sunday.

### Christmas cantata

First Assembly of God, 1809 College, will present its Christmas Cantata, "Color It Christmas," at 6 p.m. Sunday. Pastor Mike Matheny said the public is invited.

### Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Faith That Will Not Shrink," followed by "Getting to Know God's Person and Problem."

### Christmas eve service

The community is invited to a Christmas eve service of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion at the First United Methodist Church. The service begins at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and will feature a variety of narrations and musical selections.

### Lions Club

The Snyder Lions Club will not meet the next two Tuesdays. The next meeting will be at noon Jan. 4 in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

### Toys for Tots helpers

Snyder Lions Club members are reminded to be at the Girl Scout Hut at 9 a.m. Thursday to help load toys. For more information, call 573-6725.

### Social security reps

Representatives of the Social Security Administration will be at the Senior Citizens Center in Snyder on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

### Library extends hours

Scurry County Library has extended its Saturday hours and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-W-F and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

### Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ASC Road to Recovery volunteer coordinator Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 and leave a message, or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

### Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:

5-50-76-83

(five, fifty, seventy-six, eighty-three)

### Cash Five

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

3-5-7-11-30

(three, five, seven, eleven, thirty)

### Pick 3

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

1-2-3

(one, two, three)

# Goodrich to cut back Euless plant work; many may lose jobs

EULESS (AP) — BFGoodrich Co. said it will cut back operations at its Menasco landing-gear plant in Euless, possibly leading to hundreds of job losses.

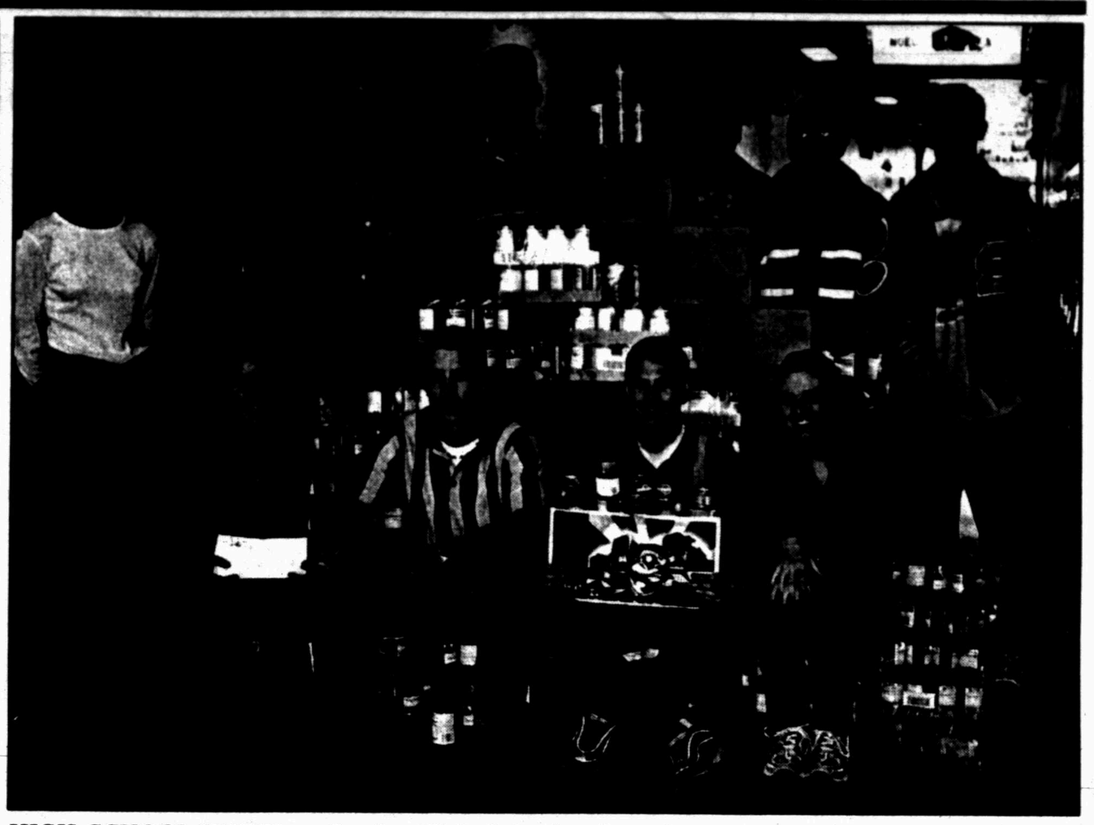
The Charlotte, N.C.-based company refused Friday to say how many of the plant's 900 workers would lose their jobs. But the company, the nation's No. 1 maker of landing-gear parts, said it may close the suburban Dallas-Fort Worth site if it fails to get a contract by an Oct. 1 deadline, the expiration date of the current contract.

"We told the workers that we want the plant to have a future," said company vice president Richard Strehle.

A news release from the company said, "While the company would prefer to operate the Texas site as an advanced machining center, it could close this location completely depending on discussions with the union."

Goodrich also announced it was closing a Seattle landing-gear plant.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE — Snyder Junior High School students collected 1,308 cans for the Goodfellows annual food drive and $350 for the Toys for Tots campaign. Eighth graders pictured with some of the toys in the top photo are from left, Ruben DeLoera, Justin Boyd, Paula Carranza, Kelsi Johnson and Emily Long. Pictured with the canned goods in the bottom photo are from left, eighth graders Ashley Martinez, Kelby Drum, Mario Rivera, Israel Sosa and Adam Diaz. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)



HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE — Snyder High School collected a total of 4,500 cans of food and $119.45 for the Goodfellows food drive. Members of the Kiwanis Club, which sponsors the drive, picked up the cans last week. From left, back row, are Christina Holden, Greg McAnaw, Avon Rushing, Sonny Cumbie, Steve Highfield, Larry McAden, Jared Hester; front row, Janette Allen, Justin Phillips, Layne Scott, Tessa Hildebrand. (Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

# House's DeLay looks back on accomplishments of GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reflecting on the Republican Congress' accomplishments, House GOP Whip Tom DeLay of Texas said Saturday that Americans could have prospered even more in 1999 if the Clinton White House hadn't interfered.

"If the Republican tax relief plan had not been vetoed by the president this year, you would have had more to give this holiday season to your families, friends or those in need," DeLay said in the weekly Republican radio address.

DeLay said that only five years ago people were afraid of losing their jobs and a Democratic-controlled Congress was wasting money on government programs that didn't work.

"Americans decided that something had to change," he said. "When Republicans were put in control of Congress, we jumped right in and went to work and we got things done quickly."

Recounting their accomplishments, DeLay said Republicans overhauled the welfare system, provided tax relief for families and raised salaries for the military. He also said the GOP had stopped the Internal Revenue Service from treating taxpayers like criminals and had protected Social Security from being used to pay for other programs.

Looking ahead, DeLay said taxes are still too high and the "marriage penalty" in the tax code should be eliminated. He added that Republicans are committed to paying down the national debt and continuing to protect Social Security.

"We believe that you — the American people — are responsible for the greatest period of economic prosperity, innovation and success in history.

## Jury orders GM to pay family millions

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — A jury on Friday ordered General Motors Corp. to pay $14.2 million to the family of a woman who died when her GM truck backed over her.

The family of Ruth Golonka, 67, sued GM, claiming her death in 1997 was the result of a faulty transmission. The lawsuit said the truck suddenly shifted into reverse and backed over her.

A Maricopa County Superior Court jury awarded $7 million in compensatory damages but also found Golonka was 40 percent responsible.

# Gore and Bradley prepare to rally supporters for election

NASHUA, N.H. (AP) — After sparring in debate over touchy questions of Medicare and Medicaid, Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley turned their focus on rallying troops for the frenetic — and crucial — month ahead in their fight for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Gore entered a post-debate party of campaign volunteers Friday night like a prizefighter, offering high-fives and striking a he-man pose with fists thrust over his head. "We are fighting from behind," he declared.

Bradley planned a rally of his own Saturday before preparing to meet Gore again Sunday, on NBC's "Meet The Press," a one-on-one format that promised an even more direct exchange between the rivals.

Both camps declared victory after Friday's forum, in which they took questions from voters and each other, and said the greater task is on the ground here, in this first-in-the-nation primary state.

"Tonight was one night, and there are many more and many more days between now and the primary of Feb. 1," Gore said. "We have a big job ahead of us."

Iowa kicks off the nominating season with delegate caucuses on Jan. 24 and both candidates planned nonstop campaigning after the New Year's holiday.

Bradley adviser Anita Dunn said her troops are energized "because they've seen in a year this campaign go from nowhere to being ahead of the vice president of the United States."

If not exactly ahead (Bradley has, according to polls, only held narrow leads in New Hampshire and New York, where the race is now a dead heat), Bradley did succeed Friday night in putting Gore on the defensive about his health plan.

It was turnabout for the former New Jersey senator, who has seen his proposal for universal health insurance savaged by the vice president in recent weeks.

Gore accused Bradley on Friday of shortchanging Medicare. Bradley shot back that Gore's own less costly, more incremental health insurance plan would let many Americans go without coverage.

"Who would you leave out?" Bradley asked repeatedly.

Gore replied: "The answer is simple. I won't leave anybody out." He later scaled back that claim, saying, "Neither one of us has covered everyone."

The 90-minute forum at Daniel Webster College, carried on ABC-TV's "Nightline," was cordial and contentious by turns. The candidates found some common ground, agreeing:

—Gays should be allowed to serve in the military.

—Now is not the time to set a timetable for a manned space mission to Mars.

—Long-ago marijuana use should not disqualify anyone from serving in the White House. "I've admitted that I have smoked marijuana, as the vice president has," Bradley said.

Gore has said Bradley's costly prescription for universal health care would mean not enough money would be left over for bolstering Medicare for the baby boom. The issue has emerged as a flash point in their increasingly contentious battle for the Democratic nomination.

Gore repeated his claim midway through the debate, and Bradley had a quick rejoinder. In three terms in the Senate, he said, "I defended Medicare for 18 years. It was through my efforts that we prevented premiums from going up on a number of occasions."

Gore tried another front. "You canceled Medicaid," he told Bradley.

Bradley defended his plan to replace Medicaid with government subsidies to help the poor buy health insurance, wrapping his defense in language designed to cast Gore as a lifelong Washington insider.

Gore's charge that Bradley had not paid enough attention to education prompted a long defense from the former senator.

Bradley conceded that he had supported the limited use of vouchers in experimental education programs, but said he doesn't believe they offer a national antidote to bad public schools. "I have never supported, even in experimental programs, any voucher program that took any money from public schools," he added.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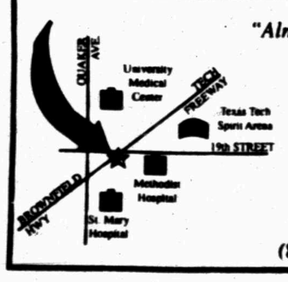


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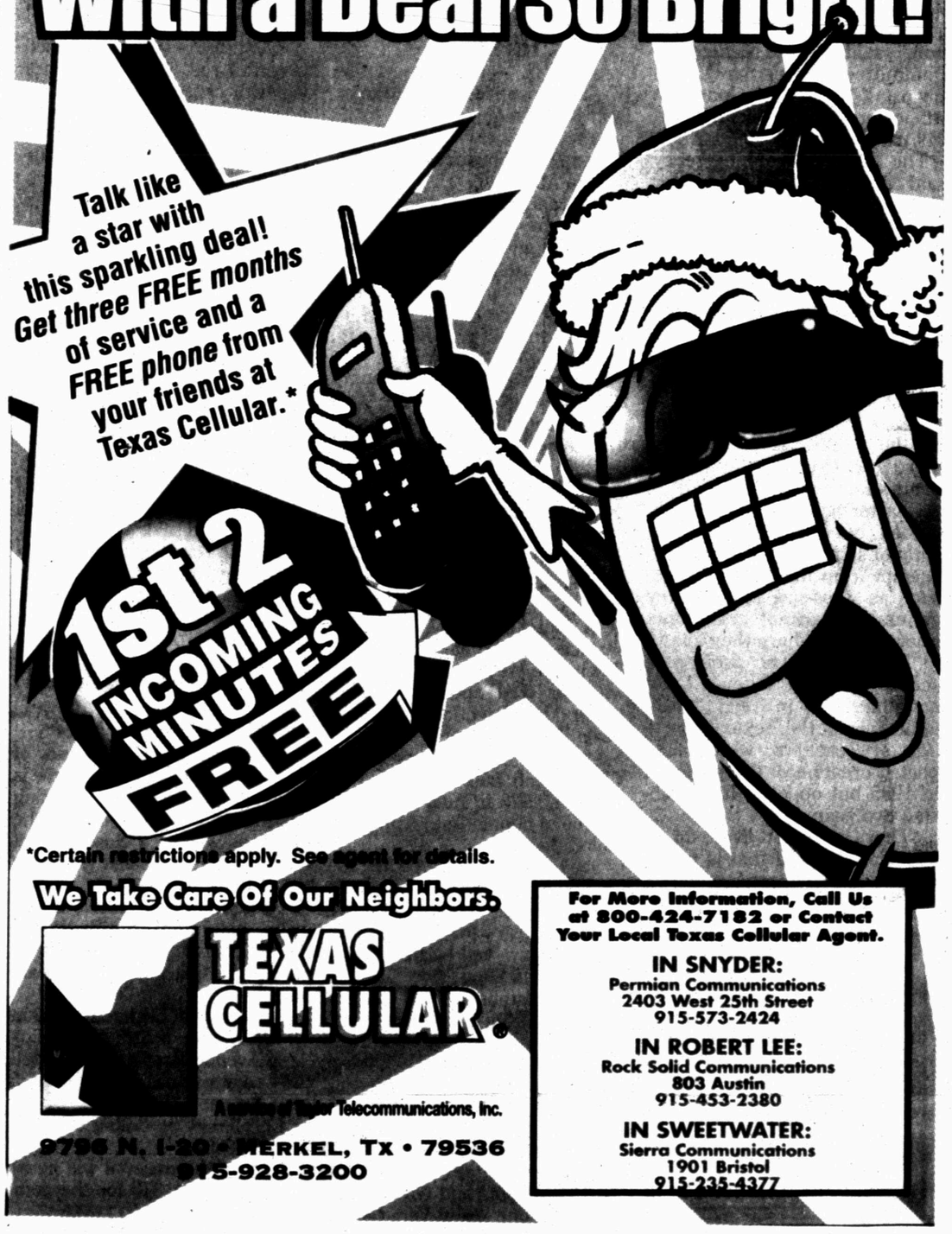


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Scurry County Folks

by Shirley A. Gorman

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Lyndell Lee participates in national competition

Lyndell Lee, Snyder High School junior, recently returned from Washington, D.C. where he participated in a national competition sponsored by the Model OAS (Organization of American States), which operates through the Pan American Student Forum.

Thirty-four countries are members of the OAS, and all were represented by delegates at the contest.

The OAS is " a lot like the U.N. of the western world," Lyndell said.

He was one of 10 Texas students to qualify at February's PASF-sponsored state contest, and the only one in West Texas.

Midland High and Midland Trinity also participated in the national competition, but they did not do so as part of the Pan American Student Forum, which sponsored Lyndell's trip.

Lynda McCormack is Lyndell's speech instructor and sponsor.

Lyndell and the other delegates had many opportunities to present speeches throughout the contest.

The overall contest winner was Madera Private School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Even though the Texas delegation did not place overall, Lyndell and his partner were judged the best delegates in their committee, the First Committee, which also included delegates for 33 other countries in the OAS. They were the only ones to place in their delegation.

Lyndell and his partner were members of the First Committee which dealt with juridical issues, mainly human rights.

Each group of delegates was divided into committees, with two members in each committee.

The Texas delegates, divided into five committees, represented Ecuador. Each committee member submitted a resolution, designed to improve all of the OAS countries. They had written them prior to the contest and each addressed different areas of need, Lyndell explained.

Delegates gave proponent speeches which explained what their resolutions were designed to do. For clarification purposes, the other delegates could question the speakers, with three the limit. Then a list of speakers was drawn up, alternating three proponents with three against.

Speakers against a resolution could propose amendments. Questions were allowed after each speech. Then another speakers list was drawn up and two proponent speeches were alternated with two against.

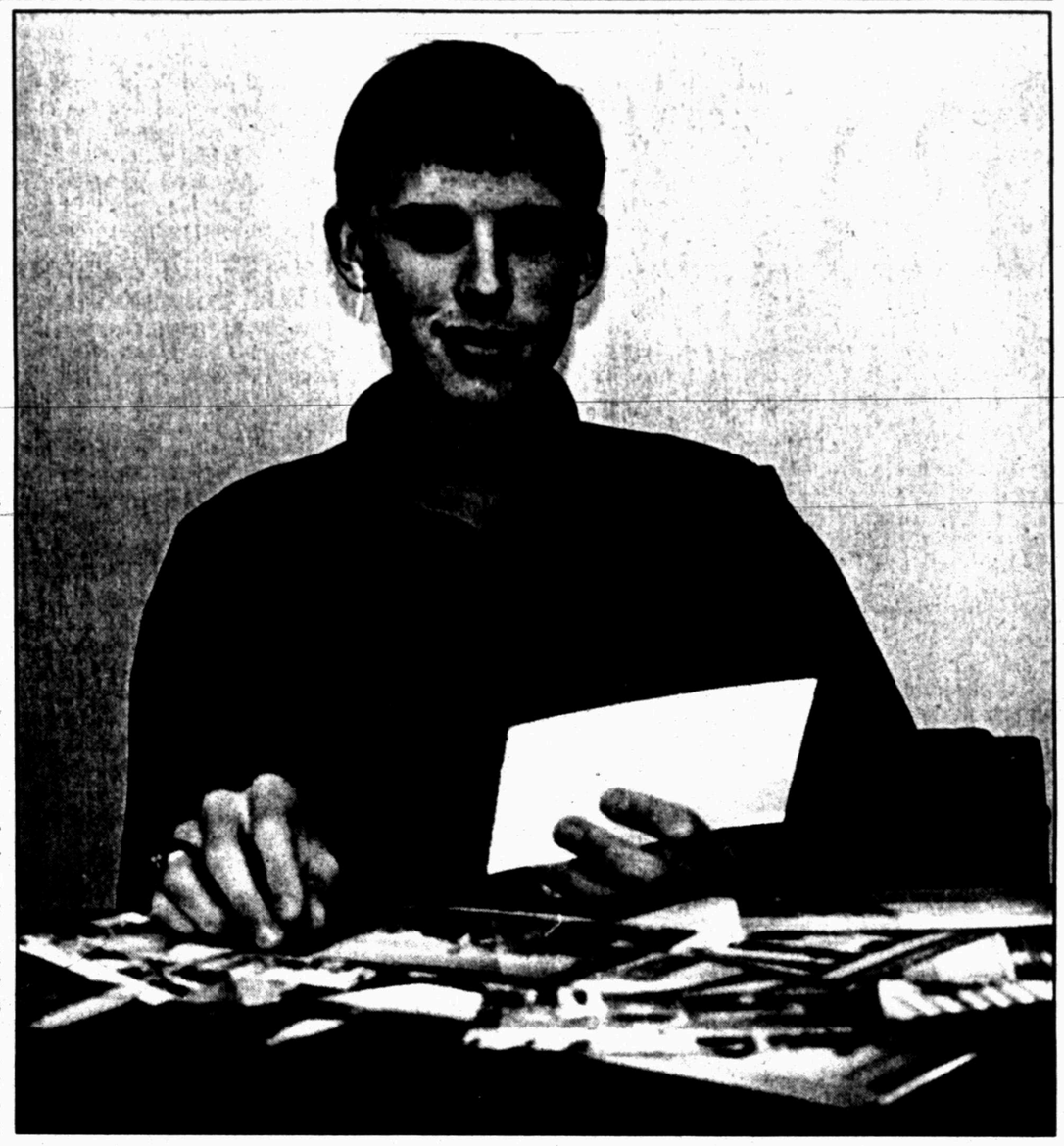
Presenting a proposal took about 30 minutes but the whole process could take as much as two hours, Lyndell said.

The contest was very formal, strict parliamentarian rules were followed and everyone had to speak in the third person, he said.

Lyndell presented a resolution on forming a committee to monitor migrant workers as they enter

See Lyndell Lee, Page 2B

VISIT EMBASSY — Lyndell Lee, at left in the back row, and the rest of the Texas delegation visited the Ecuadorian Embassy in Washington, D.C. At left in the front row is the ambassador to the U.N. The ambassador to the OAS, Organization of American States, is at right in the front row. Teachers who accompanied the students were Cruz Castillo and Jan Christmas. The flag of Ecuador is also pictured. (Contributed Photo)



ATTENDS NATIONAL CONTEST — Lyndell Lee has just returned from the national Model OAS competition held in Washington, D.C. He is shown looking at the pictures he took while there. He was one of 10 delegates from Texas who attended. He qualified at the state contest sponsored by the Pan American Student Forum last February. Lyndell also spent two days sightseeing in Washington, D.C. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

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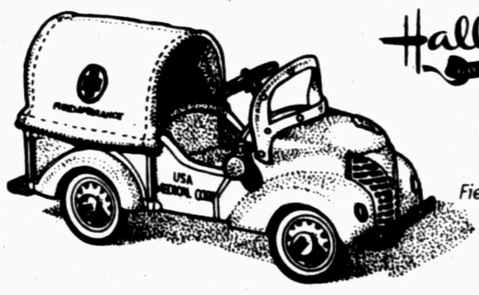

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# Public Records

**New Vehicle Registrations**

Richard Mhoon, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Melissa Alexander, 2000 Ford Mustang from Wilson Motors.

Luis Perales and Mark Nowlin, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Harvey Jones, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Raymond F. Medrano, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Lease Plan USA, two 2000 pickups from Big Country Autoland.

Walter and Bonnie Gene Coonrod, 2000 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Alvin Ruth, 1999 Ford Taurus from Wilson Motors.

Larry and Wynola Early, 1999 Ford Winstar from Wilson Motors.

Lupe Lopez, 1999 Mercury Sable from Wilson Motors.

Ford M. Spikes, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

SACROC Devon unit, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Morris Head, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jeff and Dena Reecer, 2000 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

James C. Beaver, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Blankenship Packers and Jackie Leatherwood, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Richard and Peggy Hardin, 2000 Cadillac from Big Country Autoland.

Colorado City Tank Rental, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Reece Orsburn, 2000 GMC Yukon from Big Country Autoland.

Joe G. Williams, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Elvira Gonzales, 2000 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Joe L. Roberts, 2000 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Lawrence L. Jaramillo, 2000 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Paige and Todd Shaw, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Fred Phillips, 2000 Chevrolet Suburban from Big Country Autoland.

Phillip Kincheloe, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

M.J. and JeanetteRains, 2000 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Gracie Degrate, 1999 Chevrolet Suburban from Big Country Autoland.

**Marriage License**

Manuel Sandoval Jr. and Jennifer Ann Rankin, both of Snyder.

Jassen Paul Russell and Amber Lanice Hahn, both of Snyder.

**Deed Records**

United Pentecostal Church of Snyder to Abundant Life Church, tract one being the west 50 feet of the north 140 feet of Lot 1 in Block 67 of the Grayum and Nelson Second Addition; tract two being Lot 1, Block 68, Grayum and Nelson Second Addition.

Glenn Huffman Jr. and Jimmy J. Huffman to Mike and Melinda Merrill, Lots 3-7 in Block 4 of the Glenn Huffman Addition.

Geneva E. Ward, individually and as Successor Trustee of the Forbes Family Trust, et al, to Cornell and Janis Mot, Lot 3 in Block H of the Replat of the Highland Park Addition.

Scott and Lana J. Crenwelge to John T. and Jane Joyce Crenwelge, the west one-half of Section 58, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Guadalupe and Maria Elena Flores to Aaron Abel Escobedo, the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of Lot 1 in Block 13 of the Adams Addition.

Bharat M. Bhakta to Snyder Hospitality Inc., 1.332 acres in the southeast one-quarter of Section 123, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Halliburton Energy Services Inc. to Bubba Teeth Inc., 1.99 acres in the north one-quarter of Section 183, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Swartz and Brough Inc. to Mike and Julia Martinez, Lots 7-11 in Block 2 of the Andress Heights Addition.

Melba Elizabeth Cooper to Donald J. and Kathy L. Patten, Lot 18 and the south 10 feet of Lot 17 in Block 1 of the Davis Subdivision of Block 71, Grayum and Nelson Second Addition.

Viola N. Gracey to Nazario and Gregoria Juarez, Lot 5 and 6 in Block 3 of the Bootheland Addition.

Jean More and Peggy Roach, independent co-executrices of the estate of Dessie McMillan, to Twilla Williams, the north one-half of Section 100, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Doris Byus to Ina Mae Murphree Friday, all of Lot 8 in Block 14 of the Bootheland Addition.

# Two teenagers plead guilty in murder of Iowa couple

WACO (AP) — Two teenagers could face life sentences in federal prison after pleading guilty to the murders of an Iowa couple.

Christopher Michael Lewis, 15, and Terry Terrell Brown, 17, each pleaded guilty Thursday to two counts of second-degree murder, punishable by life in prison, said federal prosecutor Mark Frazier.

That was after a federal judge ruled the two juveniles could be prosecuted as adults for the June 21 carjacking and slaying of the couple near Fort Hood in Central Texas.

Stacie Lynn Bagley, 28, of Ottumwa, Iowa, was found murdered with her husband, Todd Alan Bagley, 26, in the trunk of their car. The couple was in Central Texas visiting relatives and had planned to attend a church revival in Killeen.

Lewis and Brown also pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. That charge carries a mandatory five-year sentence, to be served upon completion of any other sentences.

Lewis also pleaded guilty to carjacking, punishable by 15 years in prison, Frazier said.

Two other teen-agers have been charged in the case.

Christopher Andre Vialva and Brandon Bernard, both 19 and of Killeen, are charged with federal conspiracy to commit murder and carjacking resulting in death. Vialva also is charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

Vialva's trial date has been set for Jan. 10, Frazier said. Prosecutors want to seek the death penalty against both.

Authorities said Vialva and one of the younger boys were dropped off at a Killeen shopping center by the two others to scout for victims to rob. They apparently spotted the Bagleys at a convenience store and asked them for a ride, officials said.

"Once they got in the car, Vialva pulled a gun and directed them to a remote area," FBI Special Agent Daniel W. Chadwick testified at a hearing in June.

They forced the couple into the trunk of the car, then drove around for three to four hours and tried to use the victims' credit and debit cards, Chadwick said.

Later, Vialva shot the couple in the car trunk, and the four then spread lighter fluid in and around the car and set it afire in an effort to destroy evidence, Chadwick said.

A medical examiner's report said Mrs. Bagley had inhaled soot from the burning vehicle, meaning that she was likely still alive when the car was burning.

Vialva, Bernard, Brown and Lewis were detained at the scene after their getaway car got stuck in the mud.

## Senior Menu

**Monday**

Vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwich, French fried potato rounds, dill pickle spears, chocolate chip cookie

**Tuesday**

Baked ham, spinach, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, spice cake

**Wednesday**

Oven fried chicken w/cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, jellied citrus, cheery turnover

**Thursday**

Creole steak, wild rice, chopped broccoli, peaches & cottage cheese, oatmeal cookies

**Friday**

Closed for Christmas

# Lyndell Lee competes in national competition in Washington, D.C.

Continued From Page 1B

and leave countries.

In many OAS countries, even the migrant workers with correct papers were often thrown in jail and beaten, Lyndell said. There were also other abuses.

The committee in charge of the operation would be a subsidiary of the OAS, he explained.

A member of Lyndell's group organized an educational summit for OAS countries.

Lyndell said the contest began and ended on a Sunday. Contestants worked Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Monday and Tuesday were devoted to sightseeing.

All the delegates were able to meet with the ambassador of the country they represented.

On Wednesday, Lyndell said the Texas delegates met with the Ecuadoran ambassador to the U.N. and the Ecuadoran ambassador to the OAS. Lyndell said the OAS ambassador was a very nice man who spent some 2½ hours going over the proposals with them, and providing some pointers.

Lyndell said they spent more time with him because he spoke English and the other ambassador did not. Since the Texas delegates also spoke some Spanish, Lyndell said they were able to speak briefly with him.

While there, they saw the flag of Ecuador which is made of yellow velvet. Lyndell said the Ecuadorians take the desecration of their flag very seriously.

Ironically, he said they had much easier access to Ecuador's embassy than they did anywhere else in Washington, D.C., including the mall.

Lyndell noted that the contest was held in the building where the OAS conducts its business. He thought it was neat that he could briefly sit in the chair the Eduadoran member sat in when the OAS voted to exclude Cuba from everything. However, since then the OAS has "lightened its grip on Cuba."

While this was Lyndell's first trip to Washington, D.C., he has entered similar type competitions before. His freshman year, SHS entered the state contest for the first time. That trip was mainly a learning experience, he said.

He said they were "better prepared" the next year, and his qualifying for the national competition was "really cool."

He hopes to qualify for the national competition during the next state contest as well.

The Pan American Student Forum holds a state contest each year to qualify students for the national event. Delegates also represent a OAS member country.

The organization paid for the approximately $5,000 cost of Lyndell's trip to the national contest, excluding taxi fares and meals.

Most of the other schools participating were private or day schools. Anyone could attend the competition, but they had to pay their own expenses.

While Lyndell enjoyed the competition and had "lots of fun," he said he "definitely does not want to become a politician."

It's too much of a responsibility and it takes a very long time to get anything changed were other reasons he cited.

While in Washington, D.C., Lyndell said they visited the Supreme Court where a case involving Playboy Magazine was being heard.

He said they also visited the Congressional building where senators have offices on one wing and congressmen occupy offices on two wings. Had they had the time, he said they could have attended a session of Congress.

Lyndell has participated in speech for three years. He has played the trombone in the SHS band for three years also.

He is a member of the Spanish Club and participated in golf his freshman year. He is also active in the youth group at East Side Church of Christ.

He is the son of Lannie and Loretta Lee.

# Senior Citizens News

We appreciate all of the teachers and students who have taken the time to entertain at the center during December. You have made our Christmas season a joyous occasion.

—

Congratulations to Janice Cox for winning the monthly bridge tournament. Doyle Fowler was second and Helen Wadleigh placed third.

Bridge is played at 9:30 a.m. Monday and Friday. Newcomers are welcome.

**Monday**

Bridge begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11 a.m. Cozy Jones and Bailey Stoker will be playing the piano, beginning at 11:40 a.m.

We will leave the center at 5 p.m. for Christmas caroling at the Golden Terrace I and II, followed by a pot luck dinner. Everyone bring a covered dish.

**Tuesday**

Sunshine Choir members will entertain at Cogdell Extended Care at 10 a.m. "88" play beings at 10 a.m., the Hoss Clayton band will perform in the center at 11 a.m. and the Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon.

**Wednesday**

Birthday cake will be served at 10:30 a.m. and daily exercise begins at 11 a.m. Line dancers and cloggers practice at 1 and 2 p.m., respectively.

**Thursday**

Daily activities include dominoes, quilting and pool. The "88" and bridge rooms are always available.

**Friday and Monday**

The Senior Center will be closed for the Christmas holidays. We hope each of you will have a joyous holiday season. We look forward to seeing you back in the center on Tuesday, Dec. 28. Don't miss the New Year's party on Dec. 31. The Kitchen Band will entertain.

Gina Jones is back from maternity leave.
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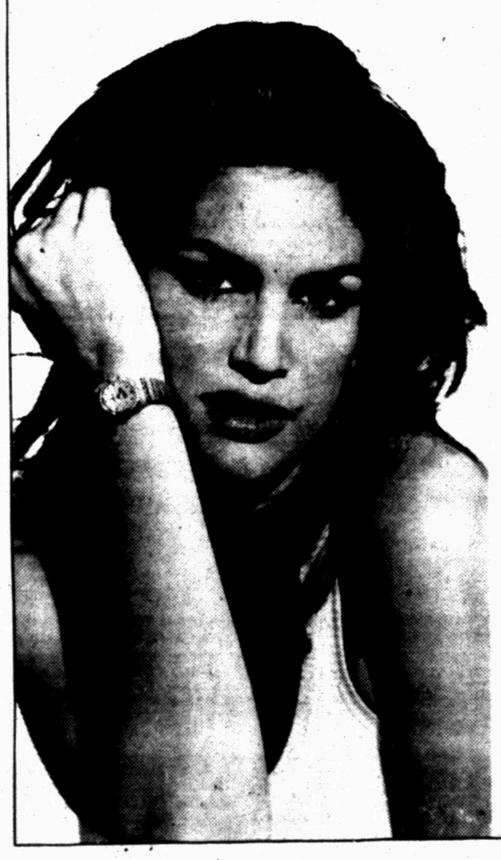

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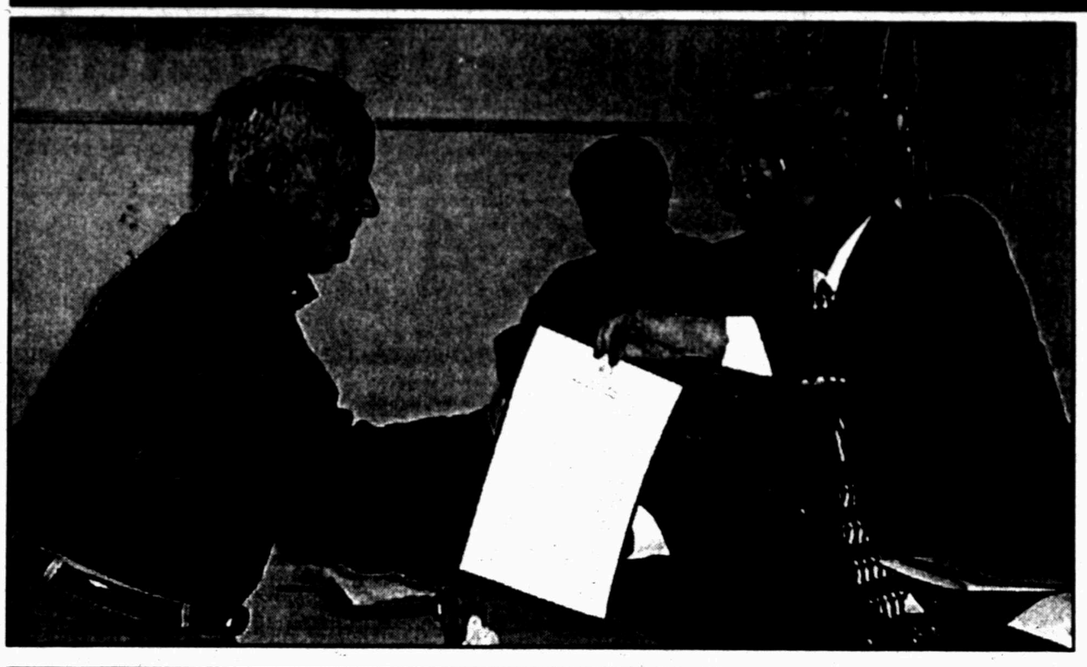

TWO MEN HONORED — Miller Robinson, left, was presented a resolution from State Representative David Counts at Tuesday's Lions Club meeting at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Rep. Counts thanked Rev. Robinson, retired minister of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, for his contribution to the betterment of the community. Robinson continues to stay active in civic affairs and is interim pastor in Abilene. In the bottom photo, Rep. Counts read a resolution to honor Max von Roeder for outstanding leadership and notable achievements. Von Roeder is owner and operator of Von Roeder Seed Farms. Also pictured is his wife, Anne. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

RIGSBY-DAVIS TO MARRY — Malcolm and Marla Rigsby of Friendship, Ark., announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Lynn Rigsby, to Adam Wayne Davis of San Angelo. He is the son of Donald and Cynthia Davis of Snyder. A 2 p.m. ceremony is being planned for Jan. 8 in East Side Church of Christ. (Contributed Photo)

# Bridge

**By Phillip Alder**

North 12-18-99
♠ K Q 3
♥ 8 6 5
♦ K J 3
♣ A 9 8 5

West
♠ 10 7
♥ A J 7 2
♦ 9 7 6
♣ Q 6 4 3

East
♠ 9 8 6 5 4
♥ K 10 3
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ 2

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

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♥ 2

## *His partner was partial*

Many words have more than one meaning. For example, there is "partial." You can be partial to something, perhaps oysters romanoff. Alternatively, you are dealing with only a fraction of something. Or you are in a below-game contract.

Yesterday, I showed how declarer could turn an apparent guess into a certainty by getting a full count of the deal. Today, though, South can get only a partial count. Still, that gives him enough information to push him in the winning direction.

How should the play go in three no-trump after West leads the heart two?

It would be embarrassing to go down with 30 combined high-card points.

East wins the first trick with the heart king, then returns the heart 10, the higher of two remaining cards. On the last heart, South discards a club from both the dummy and his hand. East parts with the spade four. Let's assume West exits with a spade.

South has eight top tricks: three spades, three diamonds and two clubs. He must find the club queen to get home. And when faced with a two-way guess like this, leave that suit as late as possible. Cash those spade and diamond tricks first. What does declarer learn? That West began with two spades, four hearts and three or four diamonds. So, he has four or three clubs. Similarly, East has at most two clubs. The odds dictate that West is more likely than East to hold the club queen.

South should cash his club king, then finesse through West. Here, the partial count worked beautifully, and North said how partial he was to South's line of play.

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## Holiday treats brings joy, good cheer

When the holiday season brings joy and good cheer, it also creates a long list of time-consuming tasks. Fortunately, preparing desserts to serve your holiday guests this year can require less time than it takes to find a parking space at the mall.

Don't be surprised when everyone requests a second slice of Cranberry Walnut Cheesecake Pie at your holiday party.

For all of those chocolate lovers without time to bake this season, try the ultra thick and rich Chocolate Triple Layer Pie. Chocolate instant pudding and whipped topping are mixed together and poured into a delicious chocolate flavor crumb crust for a treat that will definitely satisfy everyone's chocolate craving.

And if traditional pumpkin pie doesn't muster up the "oohs" and "aahs" like it used to, try an eye-opening canned pumpkin, cheesecake.

So while you're making your holiday "to-do" list and checking it twice, remember that the recipe for hassle-free holiday preparation is literally "as easy as pie."

**Cranberry Walnut Cheesecake Pie**

Prep. 15 minutes plus refrigerating

1 1/4cups cold milk
2 pkg. (4-serving size) Jell-O Cheesecake Flavor Instant Pudding
½ tsp. Grated lemon peel
1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip Whipped Topping, thawed, divided
1 Keebler Ready Crust Graham Cracker Pie Crust (6 oz.)
1 can (16 oz,) whole berry cranberry sauce, divided
½ cup toasted chopped walnut, divided

Pour milk into large bowl. Add pudding mixes and lemon peel. Beat with wire whisk 1 minute. Gently stir in 1/2 of the whipped topping.

Spread ½ of the pudding mixture on bottom of crust. Spread 1/2 of the cranberry sauce over pudding mixture. Sprinkle with ½ of the walnuts. Top with remaining pudding mixture.

Refrigerate 4 hours until set. Garnish with remaining whipped topping and walnuts. Serve with remaining cranberry sauce. Makes 10 servings.

**Chocolate Triple Layer Pie**

Prep. 15 minutes plus refrigerating

2 cups cold milk
2 pkg. (4-serving size) Jell-O Chocolate Flavor Instant Pudding
1 Keebler Ready Crust Chocolate Pie Crust (6 oz.)
1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip Whipped Topping, thawed, divided

Pour milk into large bowl. Add pudding mixes. Beat with wire whisk 1 minute (mixture will be thick). Spoon 1-1/2 cups of the pudding into crust. Gently stir 1/2 of the whipped topping into remaining pudding. Spread over pudding in crust. Top with remaining whipped topping.

Refrigerate 4 hours until set. Makes 8 servings.

**Streusel Topped Pumpkin Pie**

Prep. 15 minutes plus refrigerating

1-1/4 cups cold milk
1 cup canned pumpkin
2 pkg. (4-oz serving size) Jell-O Cheesecake Flavor Instant Pudding
½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip Whipped Topping thawed, divided
1 Keebler Ready Crust Graham Cracker Pie Crust (6 oz.)
Streusel Topping (recipe follows)

Stir milk and pumpkin in large bowl until smooth. Add pudding mixes and spice. Beat with wire whisk until well blended. Gently stir in ½ of the whipped topping. Spoon into crust.

Refrigerate 4 hours until set

Sprinkle with streusel Topping just before serving. Garnish with remaining whipped topping. Makes 8 servings.

**Streusel Topping:** Mix 1.2 cup chopped walnuts, 2 tablespoons brown sugar and 1 tablespoon butter in small microwave bowl. Microwave on high 2-1/2 minutes or until bubbly, stirring once. Cool.

# Community Calendar

**MONDAY**

Al-Anon, Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

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

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Vueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

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

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

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

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

**WEDNESDAY**

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

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8018 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

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

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

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

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

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

# Ira Menu

All meals are served with choice of milk.

**Monday**
Burritos w/Chili & Cheese
Corn
Vegetable Salad
Brownies
Crackers

**Tuesday**
Chimichangas
Refried Beans
Shredded Lettuce
Crackers
Fruit

**Wednesday**
Sandwiches
Chips
Oranges

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# Sen. Hatch says tax system requires overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American tax system needs major changes now and a complete overhaul in the long term, Sen. Orrin Hatch Friday told an audience on the presidential campaign trail in New Hampshire.

Hatch, R-Utah, said that if he is elected president, he will appoint a commission on his second day in office that will propose the long-term changes, including eliminating the Internal Revenue Service and replacing the progressive income tax with a national sales tax.

That same day, he also would send Congress interim legislation to:

—Double the personal exemption.

—Allow a deduction for Social Security taxes paid.

—Eliminate capital-gains taxes and exempt the first $5,000 in dividend income, or $10,000 in income for couples filing jointly.

—Eliminate the "marriage penalty" and estate and gift taxes.

"If we merely tinker with the tax code, the changes can be easily reversed by a subsequent administration," Hatch told about 25 people attending a breakfast meeting of the Nashua, N.H., Chamber of Commerce. "This house is broken, and it can't be fixed by rearranging furniture in the living room. It has to be torn down and built anew."

The senator did not identify the tax rate for his proposed national sales tax, nor did he provide an estimated cost for his plan. He also did not outline any principles of economic growth upon which it would be based.

He estimated that the deduction for Social Security taxes would save the average two-income American family $1,770 a year in income taxes. He said increasing the personal exemption could save the average family of four as much as $3,000 a year.

This summer, Hatch voted in favor of a 10-year, $792 billion tax package passed by the Republican-controlled Congress that. President Clinton vetoed it, saying it would have run the nation deeper into debt.

Hatch, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, complained that in general, Americans are overtaxed.

"Today, we pay a higher percentage of our gross domestic product in taxes than at any time since World War II," the senator asserted. "Back then, we were, of course, saving the world. Today, high taxes pay for a slightly less noble goal: saving the bureaucracy.'

Hatch said New Hampshire voters, whose state motto is "Live Free or Die" and who pay no sales or income tax, are overburdened by the existing system, paying more to Washington than the federal government spends in their state.

"New Hampshire gets less money than any other state in the union, per capita. And yet, (Democrats) Bill Bradley and Al Gore refuse to rule out tax hikes. In fact, they are proposing billions and billions in new spending. These guys have to work in government because you sure couldn't run a business with that kind of math," Hatch said.

Toward that end, Hatch wants a national sales tax that contains exemptions for "necessities of life" such as food or medicine.

Other Republican presidential candidates, including Steve Forbes and Gary Bauer have proposed flat, or single-rate, income taxes. The front-runner for the nomination, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, recently proposed a plan that would cut taxes $483 billion over five years.

"If you accept the premise, which I do, that any tax is a disincentive to the activity taxed, then I believe it is better for our nation to reward saving rather than penalize the effort to earn more," Hatch said in defending his idea.

Later, Hatch toured a defense electronics plant and spent nearly an hour speaking to and answering the questions of about 50 employees.

He continued to hammer away at his opponents, particularly Bush and Sen. John McCain.

Concerning McCain's promise to get military personnel off food stamps, Hatch said: "I just wonder where ... he's been the last 10 years in the Armed Services Committee?"

# Q & A

## Holiday Tips For Hosts, Guests

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

**Holiday Tips for Host and Guests**

**TIPS FOR GUESTS:**

*Do not drink if any of the following are true:

a. You are pregnant or trying to conceive

b. You are using medications of any kind

c. You have had difficulty keeping your drinking in moderation

*Feel free to refuse alcohol; regardless of pressure or encouragement to drink, you don't have to offer excuses or reasons.

*Do not drink if you are a child or adolescent. For anyone under 21, alcohol poses a number of serious health risks, as well as being illegal.

***If you drive, do not drink; if you drink, do not drive!** There is no safe level of alcohol for drivers because everyone reacts differently to alcohol on different occasions. If you are going out with others, decide beforehand who will drive on the return trip. Do not ride with drivers who have been drinking.

Eat before and during occasions when you are drinking.

*If you are a woman, remember that alcohol will have a greater effect on you than it will on a man of your same weight.

Parties and social gatherings shouldn't be held just to consume alcohol. About one-third of all adults in the United States abstain from drinking alcohol completely,and their decision should be respected by family, friends, and hosts.

**TIPS FOR HOST:**

During the holiday season when the alcohol beverage industry is marketing their products with glitzy television, radio, and magazine ads, it's easy to forget that half of all traffic accidents are alcohol related. According to the latest statistics from the Department of Public Safety, Christmas and New Year's weekends accounted for thirty-three fatal accidents with thirty-eight deaths. Be sure that this year's holidays live up to your expectations. Take care of your friends, your family and yourself by following these simple and easy guidelines.

*Do not let someone who has been drinking drive. Arrange for him or her to sleep in your home or to ride with a sober driver

*Remember that informed, health-conscious adults may prefer non-alcoholic beverages.

*Never serve alcohol to anyone under the age of 21, for whom it is an illegal drug. Remember that your responsibility for drinking by guests lasts beyond the time they are in your home. Remember, too, that alcohol-related car crashes are the leading cause of death for people between 15-24 years of age.

*Provide your guests with nutritious food. Eating will slow alcohol's effects.

*Appoint a sober bartender to monitor guests' drinking and serve measured, standard drinks rather than doubles or "holiday specials". Guests can better control their drinking when they are drinking amounts with which they are familiar.

*Do not serve alcohol to an intoxicated guest. Offer him or her a non-alcoholic drink, but remember that nothing can "sober up" a person immediately. It takes the human body approximately two hours to metabolize each ounce of alcohol; coffee or a cold shower can only create a wide-awake drunk instead of a sleepy one.

*Choose fruit juices instead of carbonated mixers. *Carbonation speeds alcohol absorption.

*Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before the party ends

**Try these NON-Alcoholic Recipes**

**Strawberry Sparkle Punch**

4 cups unsweetened utrawberries
1 pkg 3-oz strawberry Jell-O
1 cup water — boiling
1 pkg lemonade concentrate (6 oz) frozen
1 bottle cranberry juice coctail (32-oz)
2 cups cold water
1 bottle ginger ale (28-oz)

Puree strawberries in blender; place puree in large punch bowl. Strain, if desired, to remove seeds. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in lemonade concentrate. Add mixture to punch bowl. Add cranberry cocktail and cold water. Slowly add ginger ale.

**Spicy Tomato Cocktail**

1 cucumber
6 cups canned tomato juice
3 green onions — chopped
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 dash Tabasco sauce
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish

Peel and grate the cucumber. Add it to the tomato juice with the remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. Strain before serving.

The Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse wishes everyone a safe Holiday and New Year and reminds everyone that if you choose to drink, please do it responsibly!

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

# Scurry County Service Men & Women

**(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.**

PFC Marisa Barrera
263 Mt. Co.
Box 78
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

LCPL Joe Bilano Jr. USMC
1/1 A CO.Wpns. Pit.
U.I.C. 39712
FPO AP 96609-9712

MNDelton C. "Cole" Drum II
9320 S.P.I.D.
463-29-0621
Apt. 3706
Corpus Christi TX 78418

Sgt. Cory & Jamie Fisher
C Co 702D NSR
Unit II 15092 Camp Cosey
APO AP 96224-0353

Capt. Amadeo B. Garza
CJSOTF/ILIZDA Complex Operation
Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09780

Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

SR Justin C. Herrington
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Sgt. Michael R. Hill
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

PFC Jones, N.J.
Assault Amphibian School Battalion
MCB Box 555041
SCOLS Co. 2100 Awaiting CampPendleton,CA
92055-5041

LCPL Quintin L. Kasparek
47-016 C Hui Iwa Place
Kanohe, HI 96744

Clinton Albert Lewis
VMAQ4...OOPL
Cherry Point, N.C. 28533-0061
Phone: 252-223-0435

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C-Trp ¼ Cav.
CMR 464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

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Apartment #1626
Dallas, TX 75287

St. Edwin A. Neeley
51 MXS
PSC 3 Box 2689
APO AP 96266

Melchor Para
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
CampPendleton,CA 92055

Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
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Avi Dept. b-4Div.
USS-Wasp (LHD-1)
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Lance Cpl. Freddie & Christy Rocha
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Jason Sealy
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Bolling AFB DC 20336

Roy Tavarez
WPNS Co. 3/3 Dragons
MCBH
KanoeheBay, HI 96863

SSgt. W.S. Warren
PSE 559 PO BX 5530
FPO AP 96377-5530

Pvt. E-l Daniel A. Wells
B Co. 73d Ord. ETL 1st PLT
Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905

Col. Joe Dan Wilson
1302 Pepperidge
O'Fallon, Il 62269

EM3 Wittie, Shawn D.
NPS 0001-2
101 NN PTC Circle
Goose Creek, S.C. 29445

# Boot camp guard is charged

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — A guard fired from a state-run juvenile boot camp in western Maryland has been charged with assaulting two teen-age inmates in the first criminal case stemming from reports of violent discipline.

Kenneth D. Craddock, 29, declined to comment Friday on allegations that he grabbed and bruised the throats of two boys, ages 16 and 17, at the Savage Leadership Challenge camp in August. Craddock said he was eager to testify at his trial April 19.

"Anybody who can possibly think knows there are two sides to anything," Craddock said .


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Katrina Carrasco and Eric Garivay
Molly Corbitt and Jeffrey Armstrong
Valarie Winkles and Thomas Scull
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Jennifer Rigsby and Adam Davis
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# FDA OKs treatment

WASHINGTON (AP) — People with fingernail or toenail fungus, notoriously hard-to-cure infections, won their first topical treatment Friday — a drug that comes as a nail polish.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Penlac Nail Lacquer, a clear to slightly yellowish polish containing the antifungal medicine ciclopirox. Patients brush on the prescription drug once a day to infected nails, for up to a year or until the infection improves.

The drug is not a cure-all: Clinical trials measured how many patients had less than 10 percent of the nail still infected after treatment. Between 6.5 percent and 12 percent of patients who used the drug, plus the special nail care that fungus sufferers need, met that strict recovery measurement.

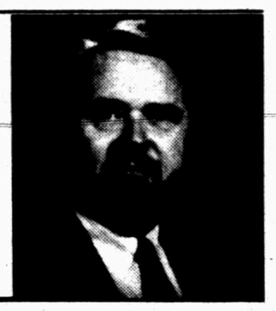
That was significantly more than patients who applied a placebo nail polish, and additional patients did improve, just not enough to meet that strict criteria, said FDA's Dr. Martin Okun.

Fungal nail infections are very difficult to cure, and previous topical agents could not penetrate the tough outer nail. There are oral medications, where cure rates can range above 35 percent. But those sometimes cause serious side effects, so doctors have hoped for a topical alternative.

Because Penlac does not penetrate to the nail bed, its side effects appear confined to some irritation if brushed on skin instead of nail, FDA officials said.

# Minding Your Own Business

**By Don Taylor**



**Unlucky Jim: A Christmas story of unselfish love**

The very best stories are those worth retelling. The story of Unlucky Jim is a Christmas tradition in this column and definitely worth sharing again.

Unlucky Jim is a sad little story my mother read to me when I was small. It's about a little boy named Jim whose family was very poor. His little sister was an invalid and spent most of her days in bed. Christmas held no hope or joy for either of the children.

As he trudged home from school each day, Jim would stop to look at the toys in the bright store windows. More than anything, he wanted a little red fire engine. Jim knew he would never be lucky enough to get one. In fact, his only marble had rolled down a storm drain the previous week. He felt that he was the unluckiest boy alive.

Then, one night just before Christmas, Jim received an invitation to a Christmas party for the poor children in the neighborhood. A nice lady from a nearby church mission promised Jim a special gift. Jim grew excited as he drew near the mission. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Christmas tree. It was covered with lights and surrounded by toys. Jim saw a bright red fire engine just like the one in the store window.

When it came time for each child to pick out a gift, Jim's heart nearly stopped. He was afraid that someone else would pick the fire engine. Fortunately, when his turn came, the little red truck was still under the tree. As Jim reached for the engine, he thought of his frail little sister at home in bed. He stopped and turned to the mission lady. He asked softly if he might pick two gifts, one for himself and one for his sister at home. The lady shook her head sadly and told Jim there were only enough presents for one for each child.

Jim looked longingly at the little fire engine. Then he picked out the prettiest doll under the tree. It had blue eyes and curly blond hair just like his little sister. As he returned to his seat with the doll, the other children began to laugh and make fun of him. Unlucky Jim clutched the little doll and ran from the mission. He stopped crying by the time he reached home.

Jim began to feel better when he saw the look of surprise and delight on his sister's face. As she hugged the doll and cried with joy, Jim didn't feel so unlucky after all.

Later, as Jim sat by his little sister's bed watching her play with her doll, someone knocked on the door. When he opened it, the mission lady was there. She gave Jim a neatly wrapped package and explained to him that the children were sorry they had laughed at him. They had not known about his sick little sister. After she told them why Jim had chosen the doll, the children asked her to bring him a present. To Jim's delight, the package contained the most beautiful red fire engine he'd ever seen.

Jim's unselfishness should be our model all year long. Christians celebrate Christmas to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether or not you're a Christian by faith, Christ's life of giving, sharing and caring is a good example for all men.

**I found the book**

After years of searching, I found the book this story was remembered from. The title is "Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories." The author is Arthur S. Maxwell. The book was published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Tacoma Park, Washington, D.C. It contains the story of Unlucky Jim and about 20 others.

Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, Box 67, Amarillo, 79105.

# Astro-graph

**By Bernice Bede Osol**

## Your Birthday

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 1999**

If you take the time to sort out your opportunities as to which ones are realistic and which ones are pipedreams, the year ahead will reward you with many gratifying results.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Although this may be a day of rest, you still have some responsibilities that need to be tended. If you let them go today, they'll grow to double the size by tomorrow. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't allow a well-heeled pal who lacks an understanding of your economic circumstances entice you into the world of big spenders today. It won't hurt him or her, only you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You could end up feeling pretty lousy about life today if you try to fight every little problem or dilemma that comes along. Don't sweat the small stuff.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) Should you find an attack of the blues coming on today which can be prevalent for you, nip it in the bud immediately. You know that harboring negative thoughts is fruitless.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Going out on a buying spree and throwing caution to the wind today will play havoc on your budget for perhaps a lot longer period of time than you bargained. Spend within your means.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) As continued resistance to your aims stiffens today, you may suddenly let loose that famous temper bottled up in you which you've held back for some time. It could be a big blow.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Try not to bury your head in the sand today or go flying off without your propeller. Allowing yourself to react irrationally to problems will only make matters worse.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) By expecting too much from others today you set yourself up for not only disappointment, but responding in a manner that is unbecoming to you and totally out of character.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) That prized dignity you cherish could get thrown out with the bath water if you retort to a thoughtless blunder with tasteless behavior when out in public. Maintain your discipline.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A large dose of realism may be called for today in order to temper your grandiose ideas. Otherwise, when go into action, all you might get is a lot of sizzle, but no steak.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Caution should be heeded today in all your recreational involvements. Just because something sounds like fun, doesn't mean it isn't filled with hazards.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't allow anyone to rush you to judgment today or attempt to force your hand. Any hasty evaluation or action could cause serious consequences.

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**Monday, Dec. 20, 1999**

The more ambitious elements of your personality may be accentuated in the year ahead, giving you the motivation and tenacity to set yourself a rewarding course.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You're rarely without words, but today you might be even more talkative than usual, with your listeners finding what you have to say both convincing and interesting. Major changes are ahead for Sagittarius in the coming year. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

## Your Birthday

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The possibilities for adding to your resources continue to look encouraging. Today may bring you one of your greatest gains which might come about in a most unusual manner.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be a pragmatic visionary today, because your hopes and wishes have good chances of being fulfilled if they are both realistic and structured on a solid base.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) Try to keep your intentions secret as long as possible in order to realize their full potential and impact, no matter how tempted you are to spill the beans today.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Don't turn a deaf ear to advice you're offered today, just because it may be unsolicited. Receive it as a gift given to you by someone who has your best interests at heart.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Even if you're unsure of how to get to where you want to go today, keep plugging ahead and you'll eventually zero in on your target. Follow your instincts.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) It may not take as much time as people would have you believe to analyze an important issue. Trust your own thoughts and past experience to light your way today.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Reconstructing situations that others have left in a state of disarray may be both your calling and your greatest gift today. There will be a definite need for your talents.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't ignore a snap judgment your instincts tell you to make today. This may not be the time to move ahead on an old, unsettled issue. Wait for a better time.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Speak up when you get the chance today. Remind those who are in charge of compensation for a good job you did in the past that you haven't received the bounty.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today you'll be the first to realize life is too short to take yourself or others more seriously than situations warrant. You'll use humor in your approach to put all at ease.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) The aspects indicate that your earnings can be increased today if you focus your time and attention on an off-chance occurrence that drops in your lap. Go get it.

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# Dell Computer will add jobs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Dell Computer Corp. plans to add another 400 jobs in Tennessee, which will bring its total employment in the state to approximately 3,300 just a year after establishing operations here.

The new jobs, which will be in Nashville, are in sales and will pay between $25,000 and $40,000 per year, spokesman Matt Drury said. Recruitment will begin early next year and the jobs should be filled in late spring or early summer.

Dell also announced that its Nashville manufacturing facility, which is expected to employ 650 when it opens next summer, will make notebook personal computers.

Dell founder and chairman Michael Dell visited Tennessee last month and announced plans to open the Nashville plant. The company opened its first U.S. plant outside of Texas on Aug. 2 in Lebanon.

# Library News And Views

The library staff thanks everyone who had donated canned goods and toys for tots during this holiday season. Due to your generosity, lives of others will be brightened.

**BOOK FEATURE**

"Zone Food Blocks: The Quick & Easy Mix and Match Counter for Staying in the Zone," by Barry Sears, Ph.D.

Over two million people worldwide are already experiencing the health and performance benefits of the Zone diet. Based on the hormonal consequences of food rather than the caloric content, the Zone treats food like a powerful drug.

Properly administered, this drug allows you to maintain peak alertness through-out the day, increase your energy, and still lose excess body fat.

**NEW NON-FICTION**

"We Are Not Alone: How ECK Masters Guide Our Spiritual Lives Today," by Robert Marsh

"Aretha, From These Roots," by Aretha Franklin.

"Jo Verso's Cross Stitch Gifts for Children." By Jo Verso.

"Rosie's Bakery Chocolate-packed, Jam-filled Butter-rich No-holds-barred Cookie Book," by Judy Rosenberg.

**NEW FICTION**

"Help Me, Please," by Barbara D'Amato.

"The Unexpected Guest," by Agatha Christie, adapted as a novel by Charles Osborne.

"Murder at the Library of Congress," by Margaret Truman.

**LIBRARY HOURS**

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Mon., Wed., Fri.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.: Tues. & Thurs.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Sat.

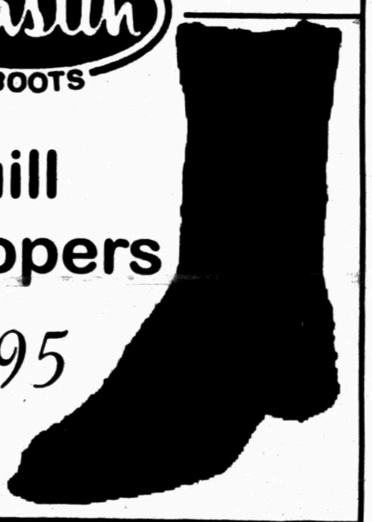
Books may be placed in the book drop in front of the library.

Johnny Kay Watson

"Music that heals the heart"
in concert at
CHURCH OF THE HILLS
Sunday, Dec. 19th
Special Music 10:00 a.m. Service
6:30 p.m. Christmas Concert
Fellowship immediately following the evening service
For more information call 573-7794
North of Snyder on Hwy. 84
Turn left on Hwy. 612

A Christmas to Remember
Presented by the Music Ministry
First Baptist Church
1701 27th Street
Snyder, Texas
Sunday, December 19, 1999
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
The First Baptist Family cordially invites you and your family to join us for this celebration of the Season of Christmas.
Admission free.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Genuine
ELEPHANT SKIN
ROPERS
$299.95
Justin BOOTS
Full Quill
Ostrich Ropers
$399.95



WOODS WB BOOTS

# Editorial Cartoons, Columns & Letters

# Letters to the editor

## Don't Stereotype People

**Dear Editor:**

As I, James Cain, grew up as a teen and adult in Snyder, Tex., I have experienced so much adversity in my life, and I've had my highs and lows as a person in our community. I've been selectively chosen or stereotyped at times by many people throughout our community, because of my past. I've been known as a partner, athlete, looser and a winner, yet what is so alarming half these people do not even know me. Society has already sold me out through rumors and gossip.

This is my argument, a person's life can be destroyed because of what people say about another person. People in our society or community can be labeled as a thief, alcoholic, druggie, ugly or snitch, and these kind of rumors can and will affect people mentally and emotionally. This gossip and rumors can put a scar on a person's life to the day they die, therefore, leading a person to drugs, alcohol, or suicide to cover up the pain.

I feel society should take into consideration how people's lives can be affected. I hope who ever reads this, you take a good look at how you treat and talk about people, because someday it could be you or your child being dragged through this misery.

In my opinion, people being talked about, or being picked on, need to keep their heads up, because no one can take away your pride. Be strong because that person gossiping is probably hurting more than we ever thought possible.

**Thanks,**
**Jimmy Cain**

## Thank You Mary And Ed

**Dear Editor:**

Help! While traveling from Lubbock to Levelland Thanksgiving Day, we had a blow out. A very nice couple from Snyder, traveling to Levelland, stopped to assist (thank goodness) and replaced the blown out tire.

Their first names are Mary and Ed. They have twin girls, about four, and a tiny baby.

Now, please help us get in touch with this wonderful couple. We had their name and telephone number but lost it. If you know them, call them and ask them to call us at 806-799-2061, or e-mail at wibennet@ttacs.ttu.eu.

Many thanks to somebody and to the Snyder Daily News.

**W.F. Bennett and**
**Audrey Bennett**

## Hunger In Texas

**Dear Editor:**

Recently the Center for Public Policy Priorities out of Austin released a report concerning hunger in Texas. This report revealed that since 1994 the number of Texans receiving food stamps has dropped in half. This decline has kept pace with falling cash assistance caseloads resulting from economic changes and state and federal welfare reforms.

Some view the decline in food stamps as the result of an improved economy and welfare reform initiative designed to move poor people from dependency to self-sufficiency. While this reform represents some laudable goals there is credible evidence that people are going hungry as the result of the decline in food stamp participation.

Even though families are leaving welfare and food stamps at a startling pace, numerous studies have shown they are doing so for jobs that pay too little to lift them out of poverty. As a result families are having to choose between food and school clothes, between paying utilities and buying food.

Last week our Ministerial Alliance sponsored Food Cupboard had a record number of people coming in for free food, over 100. In one year the Food Cupboard served as many people as represents the entire population of Snyder.

This kind of reporting on hunger in Texas has been conducted recently by such news media as the WFAA television station of Dallas (owned by the Dallas Morning News), not one of your "bleeding heart liberal" media. It's time for Texans of good will — liberal, conservative, whatever — to join in demanding of the government, state and federal, that "welfare reform" be reformed to ensure that no one who is willing to work should have to choose between food and the other necessities of life.

In this Christmas season when we as Christians, who make up the majority in this county, proclaim the good news of the coming of the Messiah, we cannot afford to let this issue go unnoticed. To proclaim the good news of Jesus but to ignore hunger in our midst is to deny the validity of our message of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

**Sincerely,**
**Tim Griffin, pastor**
**First Christian Church**

# From Our Family To Yours, Have A Blessed Holiday Filled With Love And Joy

## Country Life

*by Deanie Francis Mills*
*Weekly SDN Column*

Through the years, this old house in the country has seen a parade of dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and horses who have all made up part of our extended family. So our kids grew up with animals as a way of life, and they loved them all.

But in all those years, a team of ATF agents couldn't get my daughter to change a litter box, or even to notice that the cat's dishes were getting empty and it was time to sprinkle in a little more dry food.

If I was, say, sick in bed for a few days, my husband would feed the cats and order my daughter to change the litter boxes. She always swore she did so, but when I would get out of bed, the situation would be so dire that I would consider such options as setting explosive devices in the laundry room. You couldn't go in there without a full biohazard suit.

Jessica loved to cuddle the kitties and pet them and take pictures of them. She just didn't particularly like to take care of them. When she went away to college, she told us that one of the things she missed most in the dorm was having a kitty. And I thought, yeah sure, as long as the dorm mother changes the litter box.

Then she moved into an apartment complex, got her first boyfriend and a job on-campus, and was acting in plays and having a ball—until she had a car wreck last summer. Though she wasn't hurt, her little car was badly damaged, and Jessica called home in tears every single day. Her dad went down to Nacogdoches to see what could be done to salvage her car and to make sure she wasn't going to have a nervous breakdown.

One rainy night, as Kent brought Jessi and her roommate back from dinner, they discovered right on Jessica's doorstep, huddled shivering, a scraggly little kitten—coal black from nose to tail and soaking wet. Of course Jessi brought it in and dried it off and fed it and talked the matter over with her roommate, and of course, adopted the kitten on the spot.

Being theatre majors and all, they gave her a romantic name—Cassiopia, after the constellation (because she's so black blah blah), and took to calling her Cassie for short.

In a half-hearted attempt to find Cassie's real owner, Jessica did some investigating, and learned that a guy who used to live in the apartments had gotten the kitten for his girlfriend. They broke up and he moved out. The girlfriend didn't want the cat after all, so he took it with him, but he wasn't all that interested in it either. Little Cassie, it seemed, had made her way back, from the guy's new home to the apartments—a distance of more than three miles.

Kent and I had mixed emotions. On the one hand, we didn't have any problem with Jessica having a pet. On the other hand, we didn't want the landlady to call the cops someday to investigate a suspicious odor coming from the apartment, only to learn that the litter box had never been changed. We even worried that, should Jessica get involved in a play and constant rehearsals, she'd forget to feed Cassie.

But when we checked in from time to time, Jessica assured us that Cassie was a delight who curled up with her at night, waited for her in the apartment window, and had even charmed her cat-hating boyfriend. She insisted that she was changing the litter box every day, but then, I'd heard that before.

Then right before Thanksgiving, Jessica called, sobbing, to say that the landlady had told her that pets were not allowed in the complex and that Jessica had to get rid of Cassie or move out. I told her that we would take Cassie, of course, that Jessi could see her on holidays, and that when her lease ran out in May, she could look for an apartment that allowed pets.

We met at her granddad's house in Dallas over Thanksgiving break. And I saw something that I have seen before, in my first-born, but I still find it awe-inspiring. Call it "the Transformation."

I watched as Jessica unloaded Cassie from her cat carrier, then took out her little toys and her food and water dishes, her (clean) litter box, and sacks of food and litter. The animal's coat was so glossy you could practically see your reflection in it, and her flea collar was brand-new. I don't believe I've ever seen a healthier, happier little cat.

"Here's the receipt from the vet," said Jessica. "She's been spayed, checked for feline leukemia, and given her first round of shots." She handed over a bill she had already paid, a struggling working student, for more than $100.

When the Transformation occurs, you watch as—seemingly overnight—a lazy adolescent suddenly blooms into a mature, responsible young adult. As a parent, there is nothing more gratifying, and it never ceases to amaze me.

When it came time to go, Jessica threw her arms around my neck and wept, even though she knew she'd be seeing her beloved little kitty at Christmas. As for Cassie, she cried all the way home.

The thing is, all those years when we were harping at our daughter to change the litter box or feed the cats, we thought we were teaching her responsibility. And we were.

But what we didn't realize was...we were really teaching her love.

From our family to yours, have a blessed holiday, filled with just that much love and joy.

# Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

## *For Harried Shopper's Wife, It's the Money That Counts*

DEAR ABBY: Since it's the holiday season, your readers might enjoy the encounter I had with a last-minute holiday shopper years ago.

It was five minutes before closing time on Christmas Eve. I worked in the lingerie department of a major St. Louis department store. The regular employees were balancing and closing their cash registers, so I was the only seasonal employee left on the floor. As the closing announcement was sounding, my supervisor directed me to wait on a young man who had hurriedly entered the department.

To each of my questions regarding cost, size, style or color, his reply was, "Doesn't matter. Just one of everything that amounts to $200." I then selected panties, slip, nightgown and a negligee in medium sizes and neutral colors. After boxing the items and ringing up the sale, I wished him a happy holiday and hoped that his wife would like the gifts.

He replied: "Doesn't matter. She'll return them unopened; she just wants to see the sales receipt to see how much I spent on her."

Abby, the entire transaction took 15 minutes and gave me a humorous story to tell my waiting family. The gifts I received that year were praised to the skies and not one was returned. A lesson learned. — SHIRLEY IN CAPE CORAL, FLA.

**DEAR SHIRLEY: Thank you for sharing. More than a few people can benefit from that lesson.**

**

DEAR ABBY: I liked the letter from "Knowing in the Northwest" regarding depression. However, I wish you had made the point that there is a difference between emotional depression, which usually happens in response to an unfortunate event (such as death or divorce), and biochemical depression, which is often genetic and usually requires medication to be fully treated.

The misunderstanding about the differences between these two conditions is widespread.

I have had polar depression for more than 30 years. I am doing well on medication and am very grateful for this. However, I am tired of people who do not understand that there is such a thing as biochemical depression.

People repeatedly ask what is depressing me. When I reply that I am not depressed ABOUT anything, and that the problem is biochemical, they insist that isn't possible. These same people understand that diabetics need to take insulin because their bodies do not produce or properly use it. Why can't they comprehend that there are people who need antidepressants because their bodies are lacking a chemical?

Abby, please do all of us who suffer from polar depression or bipolar depression a great service by informing the public that some forms of depression are purely medical in origin. Anyone who thinks otherwise is stuck in the misinformed thinking of 20 years ago, when getting in touch with your feelings was thought to cure all emotional ailments. I tried that. It simply didn't work for polar depression. — ALSO KNOWING IN SUNNYVALE, CALIF.

**DEAR ALSO KNOWING: I agree there is much confusion about emotional depression and biochemical depression. However, after reading your letter, I'm sure there will be much less confusion. You have explained the difference very well.**

**

**To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)**

DEAR ABBY: What do you do when your daughter's ex-boyfriend continues to call you and ask for information about her personal life and activities?

After two years of dating, "Anna" ended the relationship. There were vast differences in their maturity and goals, and she had been unhappy for some time. Our family always welcomed him into our home, and I think because of this, he feels that I'll sympathize with him.

I have told him that I cannot and will not give out information that is no longer his concern, yet he continues to call. He cries and tells me how much he loves her, that he cannot live without her. This is beginning to frighten me, as I have seen him driving down our street late at night with the headlights turned off. He is not a teen-ager; he is 24. My daughter insists that he would never harm her, but his denial of reality makes me very concerned. — A WORRIED MOM

**DEAR WORRIED MOM: The next time he calls and cries, tell him that the signals he's sending out are not those of "love" but obsession. Tell him that he has been seen driving by with his lights off, and it's not a sign of devotion; it could be considered stalking. Explain that you are concerned about him because his behavior isn't normal, and if he's unable to accept reality, he should seek professional counseling. If he persists, consider getting caller ID — and notify the police about the drive-bys.**

**

DEAR ABBY: I am in love with a 44-year-old man I'll call "Mark." He was a guest for about five months here at the hotel where I work. Mark would stay here Monday through Friday and go home every weekend. His job transfer was the reason he was staying here. After he sold his home, he planned to move closer to here.

Well, a few days ago Mark got promoted, and now he has to work in Detroit. He lives only a couple of hours from Detroit, so he might not have to sell his house after all. The bad thing is, not only is Mark working in Detroit, he also has a wife.

I know this whole thing is wrong, but I love him. He promised to leave me his pager and cell phone numbers when he left, but he didn't. In fact, my boss was the one who told me that he got the new job and would never be back again. Mark and I saw each other for most of his stay here, and I miss him so much. I don't know why he left the way he did or why he hasn't even called. I have a boyfriend, and he happens to like Mark. (He doesn't know about us.)

I have Mark's address and telephone number at home, but I can't call because of his wife. I'm in the process of making plans to move to Detroit just so I can be near him. Abby, I love Mark and will do anything just to see his face and hear his voice — even if it's for the last time. What should I do? — MISSING MARK IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR MISSING MARK: A man who cared about you and respected your feelings would not have left it to your boss to tell you about his promotion and the fact that he wasn't returning.**

**Not only are you missing Mark, you also seem to be missing the entire picture. Face it, my dear — you've been dumped.**

**

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# Vaccine against nicotine shows promise in tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — One day, folks who want to quit smoking may find help by getting a shot.

Researchers sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse are doing laboratory tests on a vaccine that works against nicotine, with a target of beginning human trials by 2002.

"It's not going to be a magic bullet," warned Dr. Paul Pentel of the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. It would be part of a package designed to help people who want to stop smoking.

While the idea of vaccination is similar, combating a drug like nicotine isn't identical to battling an infectious disease, Pentel explained.

"In a disease, you get a series of immunizations, and you are protected for life," he said. "We do not expect that kind of effect for nicotine. ... It's not clear how long the protection will last."

The vaccine, currently being tested on rats, is designed to keep nicotine, the main addictive component of tobacco, from reaching the brain.

The amount of nicotine in the brains of vaccinated rats was reduced by 64 percent, compared with unvaccinated rats, when both were given the equivalent of the nicotine a human would get from smoking two cigarettes, the team of researchers led by Pentel reports in Friday's edition of the journal Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior.

"A nicotine vaccine may be useful for preventing and treating tobacco addiction because vaccinated persons would not get a kick from the nicotine," commented Dr. Alan I. Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. "Since they would find tobacco less rewarding, they would be less likely to continue using it."

Leshner added that his agency is also supporting efforts to develop vaccines against cocaine and other drugs.

Dr. Gary A. Giovino of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y., said the idea of a nicotine vaccine has potential if it proves to be safe.

Giovino, who was not part of Pentel's team, said he would be cautious, however, because while the vaccine reduces the nicotine's effect, it doesn't eliminate it. Thus people might simply compensate by smoking more.

"This is still exploratory animal work. We want to do more studies of the efficacy, safety, before considering whether it's appropriate for a clinical trial" in humans, Pentel said. "We're hopeful. We're encouraged."

In tests so far, vaccinated rats given nicotine injections did not have the increase in blood pressure that accompanies smoking, nor did they undergo nervous movements that nicotine stimulates in people, the team found.

Nicotine itself is so small, the smoker's body doesn't develop antibodies naturally to it, Pentel said.

So the researchers combined nicotine with a bacteria the body recognizes immediately as foreign. The immune system develops antibodies to attack the nicotine-bacteria combination, some of which specifically target the nicotine component, he explained in a telephone interview.

Thus, when someone later smokes, the antibodies recognize and bind to the nicotine, creating a molecule too large to cross into the brain to produce nicotine's effects. The molecule stays in the bloodstream and is eventually broken down into harmless chemicals, the researchers said.

The initial target will be people who are quitting smoking, Pentel said, to help them prevent relapses by eliminating any pleasant effect of smoking.

# Kickbacks funded lavish lifestyle for man

NEW YORK (AP) — A pension fund manager took nearly $7 million in kickbacks and spent the money on a lavish lifestyle that included 75 cars, multiple homes and huge credit card bills, authorities say.

Alan Bond, 38, president and chief investment officer of Albriond Capital Management, allegedly used his control of client accounts to misdirect millions of dollars in business, according to an indictment unsealed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

He allegedly steered business to brokers and took the money from commissions paid to them. The scheme involved about 25 clients.


COGDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Holiday health watch

The holidays won't be happy if you're not healthy

Remember during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to take care of yourself. Get plenty of rest, remember to exercise, and use common sense at holiday dinners that are loaded with fats and sugars. Maintaining a sensible lifestyle – even during the holidays – is the best way to stay in shape for a healthy life. Throughout the year, the skilled professionals at Cogdell Memorial Hospital are here to help you get healthy when you are sick and help you stay healthy when you're well.

*Healthy Holidays!*

Cogdell Memorial Hospital
*1700 Cogdell Boulevard • Snyder, Texas*



Now Featuring 30 Minutes for $19.99 Month

We've got the spirit, how about you?

Accessory Pack $29.99

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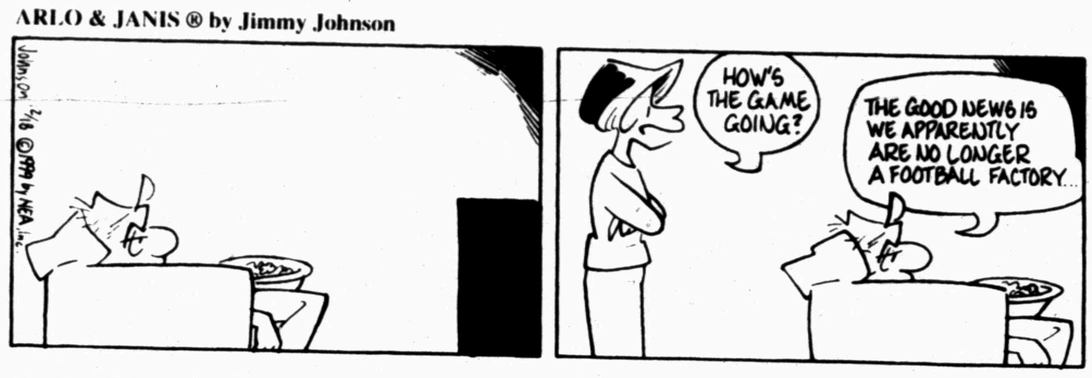
# Comic Page

# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

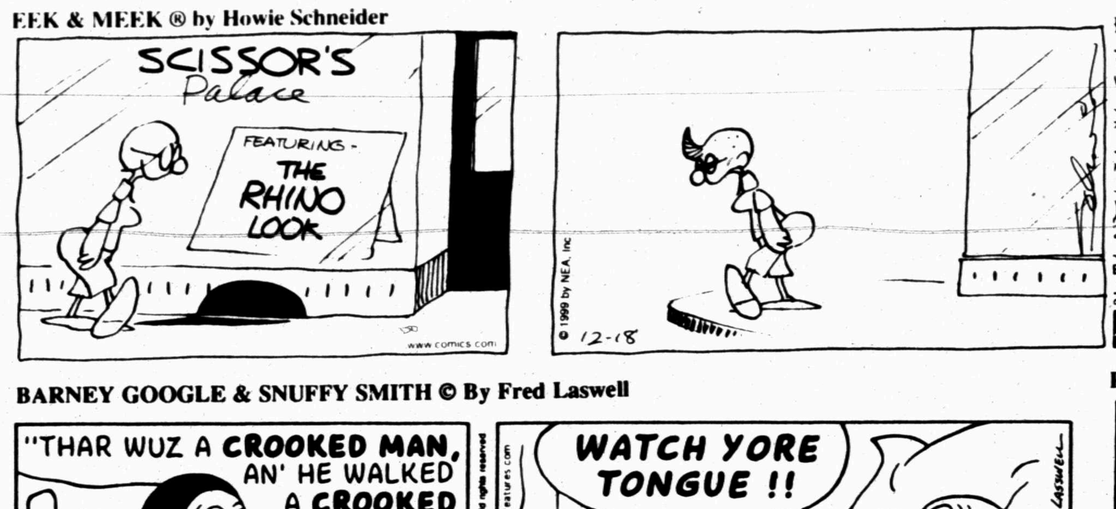
**THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom**

**FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves**

**ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson**




**FEEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider**

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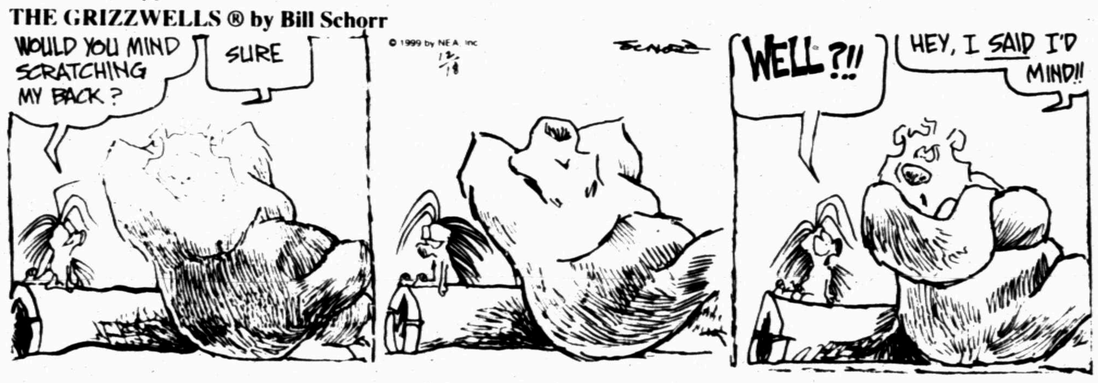


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## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 River horse, for short
6 Puerto —
10 Bearlike
12 Reddish brown
14 Present as a gift
15 Invisible
16 Fast flier (abbr.)
17 Ger.'s place
19 Actual being
20 Saddam —
23 Bees' homes
26 Turf
27 Female deer
30 Effective
32 Sour fruits
34 Cape Kennedy platform
35 Lobe
36 Terminate
37 Energy unit
39 Very small
40 Trickled
42 Travel on horseback
45 Mil. title
46 Neither's partner
49 Kampala's land
51 Debonair
54 Throat feature
55 Strainers
56 Marsh plant
57 Watchful

**DOWN**

1 Centers
2 Makes angry
3 "Hey there!"
4 Coal mine
5 Lennon's love
6 Do a marathon
7 "A Doll's House" author
8 Prompts
9 Unrefined metals
11 Rams' mates
12 Circle of light
13 Compass pt.
18 Naval inits.
20 Bulk
21 Loan shark
22 Conceive
23 Tremendous
24 "No man — — island"
25 Sell
27 Former candidate Elizabeth — —
28 — — even keel
29 See
31 Songlike
33 TV equine (2 wds.)
38 Mail-center abbr.
40 Slow-witted
41 And
42 Wagon track
43 Composer Stravinsky
44 Copenhagen native
46 Church area
47 Something unique
48 Remainder
50 Accomplished
52 River inlet
53 Barbara — Geddes

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | P | P | O | S | E | | | C | U | L | T | S |
| O | L | I | V | E | R | | D | A | N | I | E | L |
| P | O | T | A | T | O | | E | N | T | I | T | Y |
| | | L | E | D | | | N | C | O | | | |
| I | K | E | | E | E | R | I | E | | I | E | R |
| L | E | A | K | | S | E | A | L | | N | N | E |
| L | E | S | E | | | A | L | S | O | R | A | N |
| U | N | T | A | M | E | D | | | L | O | B | O |
| S | E | E | | I | V | E | S | | D | A | L | I |
| E | R | R | | M | A | R | K | S | | D | E | R |
| | | D | I | D | | | I | A | N | | | |
| O | F | F | I | C | E | | | L | L | O | Y | D | S |
| S | C | H | O | R | R | | | L | E | M | M | O | N |
| S | C | A | R | Y | | | | S | M | E | A | R | Y |

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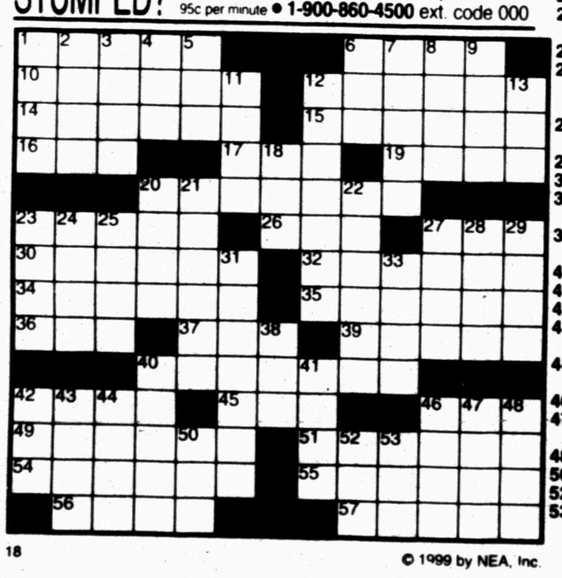



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**HERMAN® by Jim Unger**

"I'll take over, Wilson."

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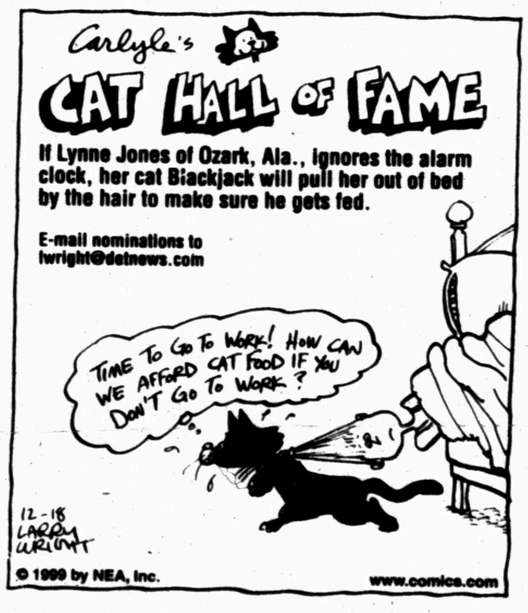


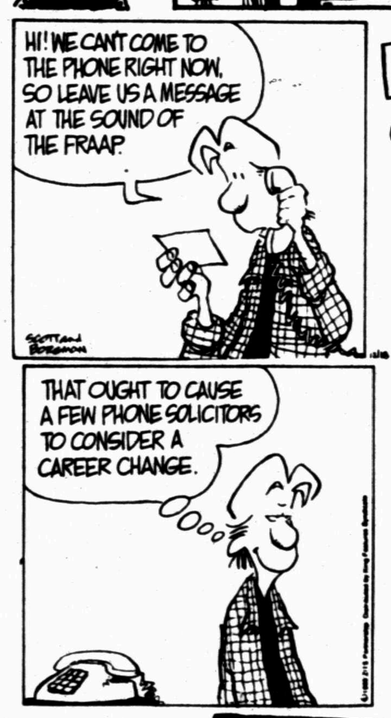

"IF YOU WANT ME TO SMILE... PUT DOWN THE CAMERA."

## Datebook

**Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999**

Today is the 352nd day of 1999 and the 87th day of fall.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The amendment made slavery illegal in the United States.

On this day in 1899, the golf tee was patented by George Grant.

On this day in 1969, the United Kingdom abolished capital punishment.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Joseph J. Thomson (1856-1940), physicist; Paul Klee (1879-1940), artist; Ty Cobb (1886-1961), baseball great; Christopher Fry (1907-), dramatist, is 93; Ossie Davis (1917-), actor, is 82; Ramsey Clark (1927-), U.S. attorney general, is 72; Keith Richards (1943-), musician, is 56; Steven Spielberg (1947-), director-producer, is 52; Leonard Maltin (1950-), movie reviewer, is 49.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1949, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Los Angeles Rams 14-0, winning the NFL championship.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "In my plays I want to look at life — at the commonplace of existence — as if we had just turned a corner and run into it for the first time." — Christopher Fry

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between first quarter (Dec. 15) and full moon (Dec. 22).

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 1999**

Today is the 353rd day of 1999 and the 88th day of fall.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1686, Scots sailor Alexander Selkirk was rescued from the uninhabited island of Juan Fernandez in the Pacific Ocean. His adventures were the basis of Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe."

On this day in 1950, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower was appointed commander of NATO forces.

On this day in 1957, "The Music Man," starring Robert Preston, opened on Broadway.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Ralph Richardson (1902-1983), actor; Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982), Soviet leader; Jean Genet (1910-1986), writer; Edith Piaf (1915-1963), singer; Cicely Tyson (1933-), actress, is 66; Phil Ochs (1940-1976), singer; Richard E. Leakey (1944-), anthropologist, is 55; Kevin McHale (1957-), basketball player, is 42.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1948, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Chicago Cardinals 7-0, winning the NFL championship. The game was played in a snowstorm.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "Actors are the jockeys of literature. Others supply the horses, the plays, and we simply make them run." — Ralph Richardson

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between first quarter (Dec. 15) and full moon (Dec. 22).

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## Dr. Gott

**By Peter Gott, M.D.**

# Zinc not alone in body's cells

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've read that zinc is found in every cell in the body. What is the significance of this?

DEAR READER: Well, it means that zinc is an important metabolite. But don't get hung-up on this. Protein, as well as hundreds of other compounds, is also a constituent of living cells.

Nonetheless, zinc is an incredibly versatile element. It participates in more than 70 enzyme systems that control an extraordinary array of human functions, ranging from maintaining cellular health to the formation of nuclei, the cells' communication centers. It is also required for the synthesis of key proteins, including RNA and DNA, the components of living tissue. The recommended daily allowance of zinc is 15 milligrams for adults. The mineral is found in meat, eggs, seafood and grains. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Fads I: Vitamins & Minerals." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it true that every person should get at least 20 minutes of sun exposure in order to activate vitamin D? Is such exposure necessary in our world of vitamin-D enriched foods?

DEAR READER: Sunlight activates vitamin D, but the amount of necessary exposure varies considerably, depending on intensity and area of exposure and the color of skin. In locales where sunlight is limited by season or by air pollution, longer exposure is paramount; in dark-skinned people, 95 percent of ultraviolet radiation does not penetrate to the deeper layers of skin, where the vitamin is activated.

Exposure to sunlight is less important today than it was years ago because many foods — including breakfast cereals and milk — are routinely fortified with vitamin D. Nonetheless, 15 to 20 minutes a day is sufficient for most people. As an additional benefit, many folks feel better from being out in the fresh air for a few minutes every day.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I take Synthroid for a sluggish thyroid gland. After my regular, weekly game of racquetball, I experience muscle cramps in my legs. Is this due to my thyroid condition?

DEAR READER: Probably not. Muscle cramping after exercise is usually the result of electrolyte (mineral) deficiency, not thyroid medicine or the thyroid gland itself. Most likely, you are sweating profusely and losing fluid (and electrolytes) from your body. Try consuming more fluid during your workouts — or consider using an electrolyte drink, such as Gatorade.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 70-year-old grandmother to a 7-year-old boy. His parents are divorced and his new stepfather has made (what I consider to be) outrageous demands. At dinner, he sets an oven timer for five minutes. If my grandson fails to finish his meal in that time, he is prohibited from playing with his toys for a week. Is this reasonable behavior?

DEAR READER: Not in my book. Although I do not know the details of this interesting situation, on the surface it sounds unreasonable. I do not believe that your grandson should, under threat of punishment, be required to complete a meal in 5 minutes. This may well be a form of child abuse.

If your grandson is a straggler and does not finish his meals within a reasonable time, some sort of intervention is probably appropriate. Off the top of my head, I'd probably recommend that he be expected to complete a meal with the adults in the family — maybe 20 or 30 minutes. On the other hand, more stringent and less flexible rules are probably not in his best interests. In addition, his new stepfather's insistence hardly bodes well for an improved and loving relation between him and your grandson. Such oppositional interactions now could well lead to serious future acrimony. To complicate matters further, your daughter is probably reluctant to take a stand, for fear that she will jeopardize her relation with a new husband.

Here's what I would do. Pick a time to review your concerns with your son-in-law. This should occur when he is relaxed and not threatened. Explain that while you respect his opinion, five minutes for a meal is unreasonable; family dinners should be a time for relaxation and bonding, not discipline necessarily. Ask him to revise his edict so that your grandson can finish his meal with the family, in 30 to 45 minutes or so. Listen to what he has to say in rebuttal. Confirm that your primary concern is the health, welfare and stability of your grandson. Try to work out an equitable compromise.

If this doesn't work and you still feel uncomfortable about the situation, bite the bullet. Tell him that you will report him to the appropriate authorities in your community. Of course, this action may doom your future relationship with him (and, possibly, with your daughter), but your grandson's health should be your overriding concern. And, while you're at it, show him my response to your question. The point here is to avoid a senseless power struggle and to do what's in the best interests of your grandson. (Incidentally, if the boy has become a holy terror and a management problem, counseling may be in order.) Let me know how this difficult situation plays out.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Although I'm almost 70, I exercise regularly by running about 30 miles a week. Unfortunately, I've developed shin splints, which are helped by ice packs and pain killers. What can I do to prevent this uncomfortable condition?

DEAR READER: Shin splints are pains caused by excessive stress on the leg muscles that attach to the tibia (shin). When these muscles are stretched during running, some of the fibers tend to pull away from the bone, leading to pain while running and walking. Ice packs, rest and medication will help alleviate symptoms. However, to prevent recurrence, you will first have to allow the muscles to heal. Discontinue brisk walking or running until the pain disappears, then begin an exercise program of increased walking or jogging after a suitable period of stretching and warm-up.

Because shin splints are much more common in people who exercise on hard surfaces (such as pavement and hard gravel), you should work out on soft surfaces (such as grass) until your legs adapt to the increased activity. Also, make sure that you wear shoes with adequate ankle support and soft resilient soles.

If these measures fail, check with your physician to make sure that you don't have a stress fracture or circulatory insufficiency that could be the source of your leg pain. To give you related information, I am sending a copy of my Health Report "Managing Chronic Pain." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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# Televised debates becoming ratings winners for networks

NEW YORK (AP) — It may not rival "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," but "Who Wants to Be President" is a big draw on TV's cable news networks.

Three early presidential debates have drawn sizable audiences, an encouraging development for news outlets gearing up to cover the campaign.

It has the makings of the most television-intensive presidential campaign ever: There are competitive races for both party nominations for the first time since 1988, and this is the first primary season covered by three cable news networks.

Fox News Channel's Dec. 2 telecast of a Republican debate from New Hampshire drew higher ratings than any other program in the 3-year-old cable network's history.

CNN's Dec. 6 airing of a Republican forum from Arizona was seen in 1.7 million households, a sharp increase from the average of 500,000 households that watched CNN's nightly news wrapup in November.

And MSNBC's telecast of another GOP event on Monday drew six times the audience that would normally tune in to the network's struggling prime-time schedule.

Although ratings aren't the reason for covering such events, it's gratifying to see them do well, said Beth O'Connell, executive producer of NBC's elections coverage. Usually, people accuse the media of trying to pump up interest in the campaign before the public cares, she said.

"Once people found the debate, they stayed with it," O'Connell said. "There has been three of them now and there is an interest there."

Marty Ryan, O'Connell's counterpart at Fox News Channel, said many people are curious about Texas Gov. George W. Bush and want to see if Vice President Al Gore can maintain his early lead in the Democratic race.

"It did surprise me that it was the highest-rated thing we've ever done," he said.

Only CNN was around during the 1996 primary campaign. Early campaign forums that might typically be seen only in New Hampshire or Iowa now have a national audience.

"I think it's a good thing," said Clark Hubbard, a political scientist at the University of New Hampshire. "It opens the process up a lot more. It allows the rest of the country to find out about the candidates."

With television often accused of focusing only on the horserace aspect of campaigns, the forums give cable outlets a chance to show substantive talk on the issues, said Tom Hannon, CNN's political director.

"Debates are one of the things that television does best," he said.

Competition is also breeding more opportunities for candidates to speak to the public.

Gore and challenger Bill Bradley, for example, were to participate Friday in a town meeting organized by ABC's "Nightline," and will appear together on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

# Teen drug use stable for third year in row

WASHINGTON (AP) — Overall teen-age drug use remained stable for the third consecutive year, but more high school students have been using steroids and the "club drug" ecstasy, the government reported Friday.

The annual Monitoring the Future survey examines drug, alcohol and cigarette use among eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders. While drug use rose through most of the 1990s, this year's report marks three years of steady — and in some cases, dropping — drug and alcohol use, according to a summary of the findings.

"Today's report confirms that we have halted the dangerous trend of increased drug use among our young people," said Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services.

"Our job now is to continue the momentum we have built up with local communities, parents and teachers, and to work even harder to let teen-agers know the real danger of alcohol, tobacco and drugs," she said.

The use of most illegal drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin and inhalants, remained steady in 1998. Cigarette smoking remained stable, although there was a small decline among eighth-graders.

Also among eighth-graders, the use of crack cocaine began to decline this year after tripling between 1991 and 1998.

While alcohol consumption generally remained stable, seniors reported a slight decrease in daily use.

Barry McCaffrey, the White House drug policy director, said the findings were encouraging and served as an indicator that the country's strategy against drug abuse is working.

"If we can prevent drug, tobacco or alcohol abuse by a child through his or her teens, statistically speaking, that child will avoid chemical dependency as an adult," McCaffrey said.


# Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. offers Christmas Special

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Computer Solutions is committed to a reliable busy-signal free Internet service with friendly local support. In addition they host and design web pages. They provide nonprofit sites for free and work with small businesses to get the most out of the unlimited potential of the Web. They also sell new computers, do upgrades and repairs, and provide networking and consulting. They are located at 3405 College Avenue or you can call them at 573-4801.

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# Brick attack victim heads home with family

NEW YORK (AP) — A month after a brutal midtown Manhattan brick attack shocked New Yorkers and critically injured Nicole Barrett, the Texan headed home from the hospital Friday.

"We're anxious to get her home for Christmas," said her father, Arlen Barrett. "She couldn't be released at a better time than Christmastime."

Ms. Barrett is making a solid recovery from brain trauma following the daylight attack last month. She will undergo intensive rehabilitation while living with her parents in Athens, Texas, and hopes to move back to New York as soon as she is well, said her mother, Sharon Barrett.

"We'll keep her as long as we can, but I don't think that will be very long," Mrs. Barrett said at a news conference before leaving Bellevue Hospital Center with her daughter around noon.

Nicole's recovery "has been pretty phenomenal," Mrs. Barrett said. "Everybody's amazed. Even her doctors never expected it."

The 27-year-old woman has undergone two brain operations since the attack, suffers debilitating headaches, but has few other major physical problems, her mother said. She still has cognitive troubles, however, including problems with her speech and difficulty with judgment and decision-making, Mrs. Barrett said.

Nicole Barrett was heading to her job at a temp agency when she was struck from behind with a 6-pound paving stone at 42nd Street and Madison Avenue on Nov. 16.

Authorities thought her attacker might be homeless, and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani quickly announced a controversial crackdown on those who live on the streets. Police began asking the homeless to accept help, move along, or face arrest for disorderly conduct.

Paris Drake was charged on Dec. 1 with second-degree attempted murder in the case. Giuliani said Drake was homeless at the time of the attack, but law enforcement sources said he was living with his girlfriend and other friends — not on the streets.

Mrs. Barrett said that although doctors warn that victims of serious brain trauma rarely return fully to the way they were before the injury, she was hopeful that her daughter's recovery would be almost complete.

"She's going to be nearly normal," the mother said.

Mrs. Barrett said Nicole knows what happened but has not completely absorbed it.

"She seems to comprehend it, but she's not dealing with it too much on an emotional basis right now," Mrs. Barrett explained. "She doesn't want to have to deal with it because she's working so hard with her recovery. She just wants to focus on the positive and get on with her life."

Mrs. Barrett said she's sure she'll worry if her daughter moves back to New York, but no more than if she were living in Athens or Dallas.

"She's a grown person and she can do what she wants with her life," Mrs. Barrett said. "We'll be fine with whatever decision she makes."

The family has been overwhelmed by support from the public, including donations to a fund for Nicole's medical bills. Because she was about to begin a new job, she had no health insurance when she was attacked.

"It probably restores my faith in people a lot," Mrs. Barrett said. "So many strangers have just poured out their hearts."

# Quieter aircraft engines required as of Jan. 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's a kind of hush all over the skies.

U.S. commercial jets have been getting quieter, and come New Year's Day, all of them have to meet a new federal noise standard.

In general, an airplane meeting the new benchmark — known as Stage 3 — will be up to 12 percent quieter than airplanes that complied with the expiring Stage 2 noise standard.

Because of the way noise accumulates over time, five airplanes meeting the new standard can operate at an airport in an hour without making the noise allowed one plane under the old standard.

People familiar with the issue say jetliners won't become truly quiet until airlines replace older planes with new models using modern engines.

Some airlines have merely fitted their aging jets with "hush kits" to muffle their existing engines and bring them in under the new Stage 3 limit.

US Airways is taking a different route, replacing old Boeing 727s and McDonnell Douglas DC-9s with new Airbus A320s on its East Coast shuttle routes. It says the new planes spread their noise over an area 10 times smaller than their old planes at the airports in Boston and Washington.

Around LaGuardia Airport in New York, the noise "footprint" is 17 times smaller. In total, US Airways expects to replace its fleet with up to 400 new planes. Other carriers are stocking up on Boeing models with similarly quiet engines.

"You can certainly hear the difference," said Rep. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y., who represents some of those living around LaGuardia.

Using hush kits meets "the letter of the law in compliance, but it's not in the spirit of the law, which is to have these airplanes become more quiet," the congressman said.

Toward that end, the International Civil Aviation Organization, a Montreal-based group with roots in the United Nations, has begun work on a Stage 4 standard that would apply to all airliners worldwide early in the 21st century.

It is expected to take at least two years to write the new benchmarks, and then a decade or more to phase in the resulting standard.

Crowley and Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., who represents the Brooklyn borough of New York City, also pressed through Congress $30 million in funding this year so NASA can research quieter airplane engines.

"As we enter the year 2000, I remain committed to working with all aspects of the aviation community to reduce the environmental impact that aviation places on our communities," said Jane Garvey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, which is enforcing the new Stage 3 standard.

Jet engines make noise in two ways: Some noise radiates out of the intake, where a rotating fan sucks in air, while the bulk of the noisecomes out of the exhaust, where high-velocity gases are propelled into the atmospheric air.

The exhaust roar is most noticeable on takeoff; the whine of the intake more detectable upon landing.

In 1990, Congress voted to require the phased elimination of the noisiest engines by the end of this year. Airlines could comply by buying new planes or installing the muffling hush kits on existing aircraft.

The difference between Stage 2 and Stage 3 can be seen by comparing older and newer versions of the Boeing 737, the most common jetliner in the sky.

On takeoff, older versions projected noise of 97 decibels. Newer Stage 3 aircraft take off at 85 decibels. Landing noise drops from 103 decibels to 99 decibels between the older and newer models.

Because new airplanes are expensive and older ones have a useful life of 30 years or more, some airlines decided to meet the new guidelines by installing hush kits.

The kits quiet both the intake- and exhaust noise, but only enough to meet the new guidelines. Such maneuvering touched off a diplomatic problem between the United States and members of the European Union.

Urged on by environmentalists, the EU's European Parliament voted in February to adopt a rule prohibiting registration in Europe of aircraft outfitted with hush kits after April 1.

U.S. officials complained, saying the rule discriminated against American companies, which made the kits, and American airlines, which often sell their older planes abroad.

The EU later delayed implementing the rule, and EU officials who met Friday with President Clinton said the president pressed for an agreement on a worldwide noise standard.

The uncertainty about future noise standards prompted United Parcel Service, a heavy user of the older 727s, to take a novel approach to solving its noise problem.

Instead of replacing its old planes with new ones, or slipping in under the Stage 3 limit with hush kits, the package carrier decided to put new engines on its old aircraft.

"We wanted to make sure that we didn't come up with a solution that would get short-circuited in a couple of years," said company spokesman Ken Shapero.

## 3 dead in South African train wreck

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Two passenger trains collided about 25 miles east of Johannesburg Friday afternoon, killing at least three people and injuring at least 153 others, officials said.

More than two hours after the accident, rescue workers were still looking for trapped passengers and trying to remove the train carriages from the tracks near Kaalfontein, Provincial Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj said.

Several yellow and gray railway cars were derailed and badly mangled. Passengers' belongings lay strewn on the floor inside.

The 153 injured included two people in critical condition and about another 50 in serious condition. Survivors were still lying on the grass next to the train, waiting to be taken to hospital.

The driver of one of the trains was among the three people killed.

Metrorail spokeswoman Nolundi Rawana promised a full investigation into the accident, which happened between two railway stations.


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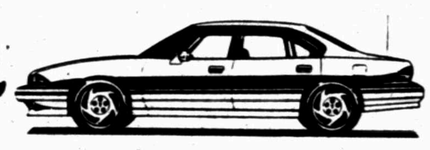

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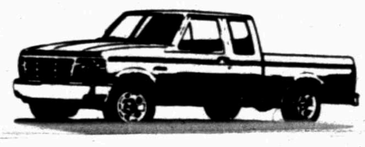

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