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WT-Int. Crude - $31.28
WTIC Posted - $26.00
Natural Gas - $7.115

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Jan. 25, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 230
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Becky Johnson

No action after closed session...

Cave again chairman of Cogdell Hospital board

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's board of managers re-elected Jim Bob Cave as its chairman this morning – a post he has held four previous terms.

Dink Foree was also re-elected as vice president, and E.D. Walton was named by members to serve another term as secretary.

There were no other nominations for the positions.

The action came as the board handled mostly routine items in a 45-minute meeting today.

Interim controller Joe Wright gave the December financial reports that indicated the hospital had $2.5 million in cash at the end of 2000.

Wright said the hospital averaged just over 12 patients daily during the last month of 2000.

He also reported that the hospital's emergency room was busy during December, serving 640 patients.

As a comparison, the hospital saw 503 patients in November.

Wright also reported that the hospital's long-term care unit now has 22 patients, down from the maximum 25.

Cave questioned why there were vacancies since he knew there is a waiting list.

Interim director of nurses Cathy Boden explained that everyone on the waiting list had been contacted, but no one was ready to admit family members to the unit at this particular time.

Cave suggested that the hospital advertise the vacancies in area communities in hopes of fill the vacancies.

Christy Brown, administrative assistant to CEO George Parsley, told Cave that process is now underway.

In another matter related to the financial report, Foree questioned why the hospital is using three collection agencies for past-due accounts.

"We directed the previous CEO and controller to look into this with the hopes of phasing this out," said Foree. "We changed agencies, but we still have three."

CEO George Parsley said he did not know which agencies are being used, but he would bring a complete report to the board in February.

In his reports to the board, Parsley stated that two physicians who were being recruited, had decided to go elsewhere.

Parsley did say that a general surgeon is expected to visit the hospital in late February.

In his medical staff report, Dr. Bid Cooper expressed his appreciation for the surgical coverage Dr. John Gregg of Sweetwater has provided since the community no longer has a general surgeon.

"He has been a great help," Dr. Cooper said.

In other action, the board appointed Nan Swanson and James Brown to the Cogdell Hospital Foundation, joining J. B. Tate Jr., Max vonRoeder, Sammie Jarrell, Helen Hatter and Lynn Heard.

Swanson also was administered the oath of office following her reappointment to the board by the commissioners court earlier this month.

Walton must be administered the oath of office before the end of the month in order to remain on the board.

The board also met for over an hour in executive session.

No action was taken following the closed session that included the discussion of various hospital positions.

Board members present were Cave, Foree, Swanson and Terry Williams. Absent were Walton and Stanley Martin.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Everybody should maintain a cemetery in which to bury the faults of true friends."

The holidays are over, but there remain indicators that many of us enjoyed too much of the goodies. Such a dilemma makes the following verse, author unknown, seem appropriate.

'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house.
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walk to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt
I said to myself, as I only can"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man."
So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
'Til all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie – not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or cornbread or pie.
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore,
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all,And to all a good diet!

And if one of your resolutions for the 2001 was to find another job, consider the appeal of this recruiting ad for the Infernal Revenue Service:

The ad touted "casual work environment."

At least the IRS folks used the world 'casual', no 'low-stress' in describing the job to get blood out of a turnip.



TALL IN THE SADDLE — Peyton Jones, 2, of Kings Kids at First Baptist Church, sits tall in the saddle during a cowboy fun time provided by Greg Rhodes' Western Texas College rodeo students. Kassie Mowry leads the horse to insure Payton's safety. Children also got to ride the bucking barrel. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Commuty-wide reading program set

The Snyder Independent School District is working with various organizations and businesses to host a community-wide reading program once a month for the remainder of the school year.

The first program will be presented at 10 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church. The public is encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Call Mary Ann Juarez, SISD community liaison, at 574-6012 for more information.

Besides FBC, other businesses and organizations participating in this event include Sonic Drive-In, Scurry County Library, First Presbyterian Church and Pizza Inn.

The community-wide reading program is an Academics 2000 initiative designed to improve students' reading achievement.

Other district Academic 2000 initiatives include the Accelerated Reader Program, family literacy, Saxon Phonics, technology, staff development and parent training.

The district received $275,000 for the 2000/2001 school year to implement activities designed to improve elementary education so that Snyder students are fully proficient in reading by the time they exit fourth grade and continue to read at or above grade level as they progress to upper grades.

Pssst, wanna' buy a trombone?

Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" debuts at 7:30 tonight at Worsham Auditorium. Additional performances of Snyder High School's musical are set for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Choir and drama students are combining their talents for the production. Tickets are $5 for students, $6 for adults and $8 for reserve seating.

Co-directors are Ronda Haire, who heads the choral department, and Brad Vincent, drama director.

The play tells the story of Professor Harold Hill, a turn of the century con artist who sets his sights on the people of River City, Iowa. Hill promises to organize a band for boys so he can sell nonexistent band instruments. However, his real intentions are to skip town before his con game is unmasked by the lovely but suspicious town librarian.

Hill will be played by Brandon McCraw and Matt Coronado on alternate days. Kelli Henderson and Crissida Tyler will alternate playing Marian Paroo, the town librarian.

Cast members include: Tanner Beard, who will play a salesman; RJ Sanders as Charlie Cowell; Austin Haire as Mayor Shinn; Patrick Vantine as Jacey Squires; and Bobby Sands as Oliver Hix.

Matt Coronado and Michael Compton will take turns playing Ewart Dunlap. Cole McLeod will portray Olin Britt; Michael Compton and Bobby Sands will share the role of Marcellus Washburn.

Mark Haines will portray Tommy Djilas; Marcie Rodriguez and Beth Parsley will both portray Mrs. Paroo, but on different days. Molly Haire will be Amarylis, Sara Cantu will be Winthrop Paroo; Hayli Henderson and Mallorye Miller will share the role of Eulalie Shinn.

Zaneeta Shinn will be played by Valery Haines and Whitney Graham, on alternate days. Nicole Slaboda will be Gracie Shinn; Jacinda Judah will be Alma Hix; and Rachael Cave portrays Maud Dunlap.

Other characters will include Krisi Early as Ethel Toffelmier; Leslye Starnes as Mrs. Squires; and Robert Early as Constable Locke.

Townspeople will be played by Rebecca Pavlovsky, Brooke Preterson, Don King, Kendall Brewster, Caleb Durham, Tim Gutierrez, Shell Hembree, Jeff Scott, Wes Hardin, Misty McClure, Justin Stoker, Wade Pinson and Heath Conner.

Others playing townspeople are Shahala Massingill, Taz Moorehead, Emily Vinson, Scott Gilliland, Afton Schwertner, Casandra Darlin, Sterling Millhollon, Rankin Hardin, Jessica Dea and Haley Holmes.

Students who also will help make the musical possible include Hayli Elkins, production manager; Amber Alexander, assistant production manager; Jayson Kincaid, techaical director; Mycah Hilburn, house manager; Joanna Burk, assistant house manager, Josh Heaton, stage manager, assistant stage manager, Clark Reed, assistant stage manager, Chaelyn Robinson; and Tiffany Craig, costumer.

Members of the crew are Shavon Pesina, Wendi Whittenburg, Alision Billinglsey, Erin Dunham.



MUSICAL — Harold Hill, played by Brandon McCraw, warns the people of River City, Iowa about the terror of having a pool table. Townspeople are played by Rachael Cave, Misty McClure, Taz Moorehead, Sterling Millhollon, Leslye Starnes. "The Music Man" debuts at 7:30 tonight at Worsham Auditorium. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

ASK US

Q—How many bales of Scurry County cotton did Lorber Industries purchase this year?

A—Zero. Manager Jack Whitworth said the local cotton was not suitable for the type of fabrics that the company is currently producing.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 51 degrees; low, 30; 7 a.m. Thursday, 36; no precipitation; total for 2001, .94 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, slight rain chance, low around 30, W wind 5-15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, warmer, high around 60, NW wind 5-15 mph.



Daniel Escobedo
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
6:14 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:40 a.m.

Of 24 days in 2001, the sun has shone 20 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you don't invest very much, then defeat doesn't hurt very much and winning is not very exciting.
—Dick Vermeil

JAN 25 2001

Senators urge independent probe of Osprey

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key members of Congress have served notice to the Marine Corps that allegations of fraud in the V-22 Osprey aircraft program, while not yet confirmed, have undermined confidence in a $40 billion project already under intense scrutiny because of safety lapses.

In a joint letter Wednesday to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Sens. John Warner, R-Va., and Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the allegations cast doubt on "the integrity of information" provided by the Marines. The charges also have raised questions about the aircraft's safety and reliability.

Warner is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee that oversees the Defense Department and Levin is the panel's ranking Democrat. They urged Rumsfeld to move the investigation of the Osprey fraud allegations to a group independent of the Marine Corps.

"This program will not be able to move forward unless and until the Defense Department has restored confidence in the integrity of the V-22 program and the people managing it," the senators wrote.

Just moments before the Warner-Levin letter was made public, the Marines announced that Gen. James L. Jones, the Marine commandant, had decided to relinquish control of the investigation to the Defense Department's inspector general. Previously the probe had been led by the Marines' own inspector general.

In an interview later, Levin said he was satisfied by Jones' decision, which Rumsfeld approved.

"It has to be separate from the Navy if the investigation is going to have the credibility it really needs," Levin said. The Marine Corps is part of the Department of the Navy.

In an anonymous letter to the office of the secretary of the Navy on Jan. 12, a person who said he was an Osprey mechanic wrote, "What we have been doing is reporting aircraft that are down, as in they can't fly, as being up, as in full mission capable. This type of deception has been going on for over two years."

Osprey maintenance personnel were "being told they have to lie on maintenance records to make the numbers look good," the letter said. It said the lying was ordered by the squadron's commander, Lt. Col. Odin Fred Leberman, who was relieved of command last week when the investigation began.

On Wednesday, the Marines announced Leberman has been reassigned for an undetermined period to Camp Lejeune, N.C., as the training projects officer for the Training, Operations and Education directorate.

The Osprey uses unique tilt-rotor technology to take off and land like a helicopter and fly like an airplane.

Jones said in a brief statement Wednesday that he had not lost confidence in the ability of the Marine Corps inspector general to conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation, but added, "I am concerned that the nature and gravity of the allegations may invite unwarranted perceptions of command influence or institutional bias."

The Marines have said they believe the alleged doctoring of maintenance records in Leberman's squadron had no bearing on either of two recent crashes that killed 23 Marines. The first, last April in Arizona, killed 19 Marines and was blamed on pilot error. The second, last December in North Carolina, killed four and is still under investigation. Officials said last week they believe the latest crash was caused by a hydraulics failure.

On Tuesday, Jones said the investigation of alleged fraud at New River would determine whether higher-ups in the Pentagon or elsewhere put undue pressure on Leberman to exaggerate the Osprey's readiness record.

"We will investigate this ... in an unlimited fashion to make sure that all throughout the chain of command people have acted properly," Jones said in an interview on PBS' "Newshour with Jim Lehrer."

The investigation includes "looking at ourselves to see what it is that might cause our commanders — or a commander — to feel that he would have to do something like that," Jones said in the interview.

On the Net:
The Osprey:
http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/ac/v-22.htm

Battered woman's case thrown out

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chances that battered women could win asylum in the United States have improved with a little-publicized order Attorney General Janet Reno signed in her last hours in office.

"We're thrilled, but we're not out of the woods yet," Wendy Young of the private Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, said Tuesday.

And in another last-minute decree, Reno left to the Bush administration a decision on asylum for a former Algerian politician charged with having links to terrorism, an immigration lawyer says.

In the first case, Reno threw out an immigration board's 1999 decision to deny asylum to Rodi Alvarado Pena, who fled to the United States and sought refuge from repeated and savage beatings by her husband, a former Guatemalan soldier. Reno said the board should reconsider the case, but not until final passage of a new rule proposed last month by the Justice Department that would make to easier to justify claims of gender-based persecution.

Women's advocates and refugee advocates have been pushing for more than a year for a reversal of the case.

"This was as bad as it gets — being dragged all over the house, bloodied, raped," said immigration lawyer Michael Maggio. "The abuse she suffered was so egregious — and the evidence that the Guatemalan government didn't do anything about it so equally obvious — if anybody could qualify for asylum on this basis it would be her."

Advocates say that since the denial of asylum to Alvarado set a precedent against such claims, its reversal could open the doors to other women persecuted because they are women.

Alvarado has been living in the United States while her appeal and a review of the case by Reno were under way.

The proposed rule change allows victims of domestic violence to be considered members of a "social group," one of five categories in U.S. immigration law along with religion, race, nationality and political beliefs.

In fiscal year 2000, some 49,000 people from nations around the world applied for U.S. asylum for a variety of reasons. There is no breakdown on how many applied because of domestic violence, but the total for people persecuted because of membership in a social group numbered a few hundred, officials say.

In the second notable case that she dealt with Friday, Reno also indefinitely stayed an immigration boards' decision to grant asylum to Anwar Haddam, an Algerian Islamic leader whose case has gone through several reversals, said Maggio, an attorney for groups that opposed asylum for Haddam. The Justice Department did not return a phone call seeking confirmation of the action.

A physics professor and one-time candidate for parliament, Haddam and his fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front party won the first round in Algeria's first-ever multiparty elections in late 1991. But the army canceled the second round in early 1992 when it became clear the Salvation Front would win.

The party was banned and many of its members were jailed or went into exile.

Haddam had been living in the Washington area from 1993 through 1996, as a representative of the parliamentary wing of the party and awaiting a decision on his asylum request. Then, he was jailed pending deportation in December 1996, when his asylum was denied on "secret evidence" that alleged his links to terrorist activities in the North African nation. Neither Haddam nor his lawyer has been given access to this evidence.

He was kept in detention for more than three years, then given asylum in May in what INS days later called a mistake, revoking it. He was granted asylum anew by a judge later in the year and released from jail. Reno reviewing it and stayed it. It was that stay that she extended Friday, Maggio said.

On the Net:
Immigration and Naturalization Service site:
http://www.ins.gov

Technician's error caused problems

SEATTLE (AP) — A Microsoft technician's error jammed company computer systems responsible for directing online traffic, preventing customers from reaching some of the software giant's Web sites.

The problem was fixed by Wednesday evening.

"This was an operational error and not the result of any issue with Microsoft or third-party products nor the security of our networks," spokesman Adam Sohn said.

The temporary predicament was caused by a foul up with Microsoft's domain-name servers, the computer hardware that connects users with particular addresses on the Internet, Microsoft said.

Among those servers not responding, meaning that customers could not access the Web sites the servers handled, were the ones handling the company's home page, http://www.microsoft.com.

Other sites that had been inaccessible, including MSNBC.com and the company's main MSN.com address, had returned to operation by the middle of the day.

Microsoft said the problem began Tuesday evening after a technician reconfigured the network equipment that directs Internet. That caused many of Microsoft's sites to be unreachable.

The biggest effect of this week's glitch may be embarrassment for Microsoft, experts said.

"You can have a company full of technical people but it doesn't mean that you are going to get everything right," said Paul Robertson, director of risk assessment at TruSecure, an Internet security company based in Reston, Va.

On the Net:
http://www.microsoft.com
http://www.securityfocus.com
http://www.trusecure.com

events

Lotto Texas

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

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 18-19-30-32-33-42

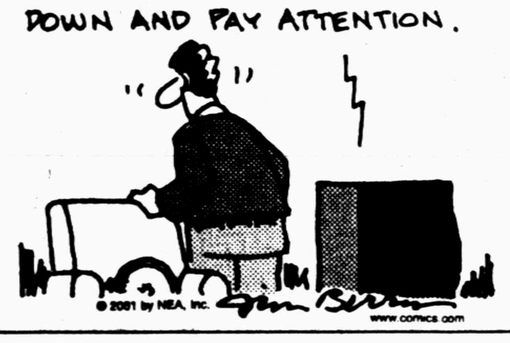
Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $23 million.

Pick 3

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

4-7-0

Berry's World



Date Book

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2001

Today is the 25th day of 2001 and the 36th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1915, Alexander Graham Bell made the first public demonstration of transcontinental telephone communication. He called from New York City to San Francisco.

On this day in 1969, Creedence Clearwater Revival released the album "Proud Mary."

On this day in 1981, 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran for 444 days returned to the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Burns (1759-1796), poet; W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965), writer; Virginia Woolf (1882-1941), writer; Eduard Shevardnadze (1928-), Georgian president, is 73; Dinah Manoff (1958-), actress, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1976, George Foreman knocked out Ron Lyle in the fifth round.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Dare to be honest and fear no labor." — Robert Burns

TODAY'S MOON: Day after new moon (Jan. 24).

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INTRODUCING
an Old Friend

FIRST AG CREDIT
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

On January 1, 2001, four of Texas' most respected agricultural lenders,
First Ag Credit FLBA, Ag Credit of Texas PCA,
Wichita Falls PCA and El Campo PCA joined forces to create
First Ag Credit, Farm Credit Services.

For years, the Land Bank has served the real estate borrowing needs of rural Texans, while PCA has provided production and equipment financing. At First Ag Credit, we believe you deserve a convenient full-service Farm Credit lender. Secure, strong and able to meet the changing financial needs of rural America. That's why we are combining our resources to provide you with the most competitive short- and long-term lending products available.

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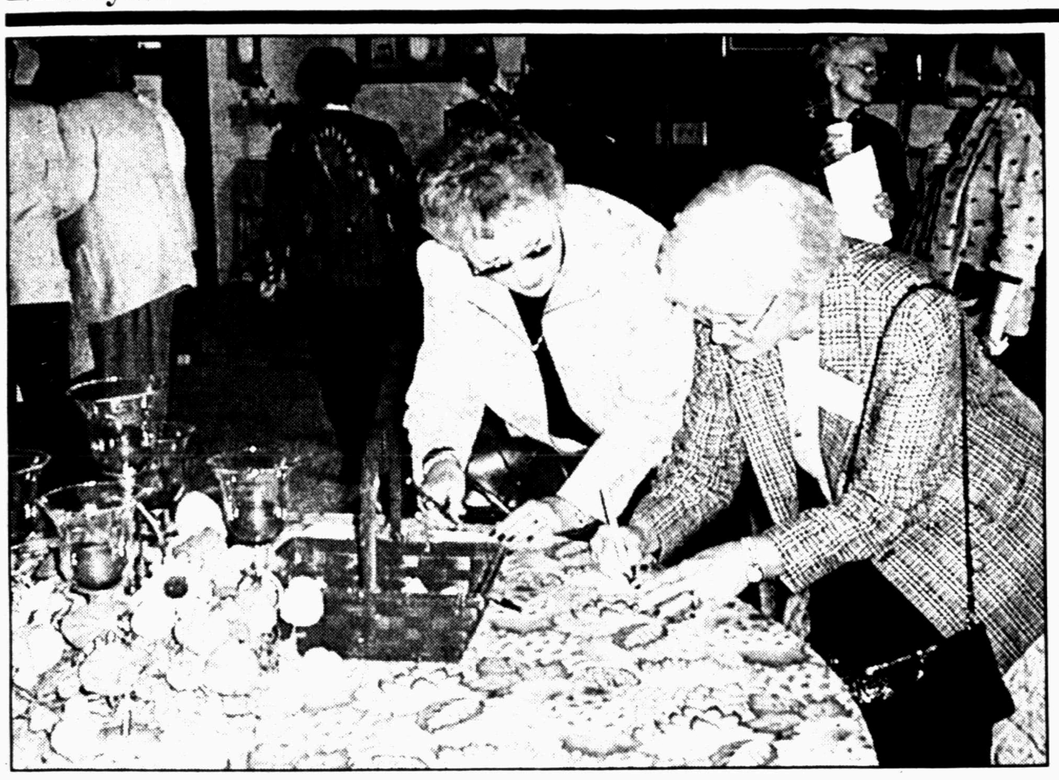
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Amanda and
Snyder announc
their son at 9:07 p
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ADMISSIONS:
James, Bobbie
Scott, Amanda
Breedlove, Jes
Michael Lindsey,
Ruby Pulis, Sar
Laura Williams.
DISMISSALS:
(transferred),
Austin Worley
Nichols.
CENSUS: 50
Long-term Care
and Nursery-3)

Happy Birt
Chris





LADIES' EVENTS — Joyce Hargrove of Crosbyton and Carolyn Weathersbee of Rotan, wives of members of Lions Club District 2-T2 attending the mid-winter conference at the Wagon Wheel, register at the ladies' brunch. In the photo at left, Bobbie Steakley from Colorado City gave a book review. Not pictured, Terrisu Mann, from Snyder, entertained ladies with music and a program on quilting. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

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

Scurry Charter Chapter ABWA; MAWC; 7 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Births

Kim Northcutt of Snyder announces the birth of her son weighing seven pounds, 1½ ounces. He was born at 12:02 p.m. on Jan. 23 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Amanda and Otaviano Villa of Snyder announce the birth of their son at 9:07 p.m. on Jan. 24 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, 10 ounces.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan. 24-Mozelle James, Bobbie McShan, Nancy Scott, Amanda Villa, Jacob Breedlove, Jesus Hermosillo, Michael Lindsey, Madisyn Oliva, Ruby Pulis, Sarah Torres and Laura Williams.

DISMISSALS: Thomas Franks (transferred), Juanita Ford, Austin Worley and Rebecca Nichols.

CENSUS: 50 (Med./Surg.-18, Long-term Care-23, ICU-3, OB-3 and Nursery-3)

Happy Birthday Chris Stahl

Genealogy Society schedules meeting at SC Library

The Scurry County Genealogy Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Scurry County Library.

Society members will read narratives about their paternal great-grandfathers.

The public is invited to attend and each visitor will receive a free family pedigree chart.

Membership dues are $12.50 per person and $15 per couple.

Plans go wrong

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. (AP) — Ernie Myers' alleged plan to drive off with a truckload of stolen goods went straight down the toilet.

Myers, a truck driver, flipped a tractor-trailer filled with toilet paper onto its side Thursday morning as he was being pursued by police. Myers allegedly had stolen the truck earlier in the day, fully aware of its cargo.

Nobody was hurt in the accident, which was videotaped by news cameras in a helicopter above. Myers jumped out of the truck, but police using flashlights took him into custody in nearby woods about five minutes after the wreck.

Snyder High School
Choir and Drama Departments
presents
Meredith Willson's
The Music Man
January 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m.
January 28 at 2:00 p.m.
$5 students
$6 adults
$8 reserved seats
call 573-6301 for reservations
Jerry P. Worsham Auditorium
Presented in Cooperation with Music Theatre International

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North	
	♠ A K 5 3 2	
	♥ A K 4	
	♦ A 6 3	
	♣ J 5	
West		**East**
♠ 9 6		♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 9 8 5		♥ 7 6
♦ Q 10 7		♦ K J 9 8 2
♣ A 7 4 3		♣ 6 2
	South	
	♠ 7 4	
	♥ Q 10 3 2	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ K Q 10 9 8	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 5

The northward trek continues

By Phillip Alder

The next morning (Aug. 31), I was collected by Alison Wilkie and driven farther up the coast to Christchurch, the biggest city in the south island of New Zealand. My first class was at the Christchurch Bridge Club, where 47 people came to hear me talk about blocking and unblocking plays.

This deal caught out the greatest number of declarers. How would you try to bring home three no-trump after West leads his fourth-highest heart?

I was worried that some Norths would open two no-trump, which usually shows 20-22 points in New Zealand. (That hand is worth about 20.5 points.) But everyone counted only their high-card points and started with one spade (which allowed me to discuss upgrading with aces and kings and a decent five-card suit).

Given the heart lead into South's Q-10 tenace, declarer apparently has seven top tricks: two spades, four hearts and one diamond. And the club suit provides an ideal source of tricks. Yet South must watch his entries. If he runs the opening lead to his heart 10 and drives out the club ace, how will he get back to his hand to cash those club winners? The answer is that he won't (unless West suicidally wins the first club trick).

South must sacrifice one heart trick in order to get four club tricks. He should put up dummy's heart king at trick one and immediately attack clubs. Then he will collect at least 10 tricks: two spades, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs.

It is good business to lose one trick if you get three in return.

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Cows rounded up at meatpacking plant

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — More than a dozen head of cattle being sent to slaughter apparently had a serious beef with their destiny.

Police and Nebraska Humane Society employees rounded up the cattle Wednesday after the animals bolted from a truck en route to a meatpacking plant.

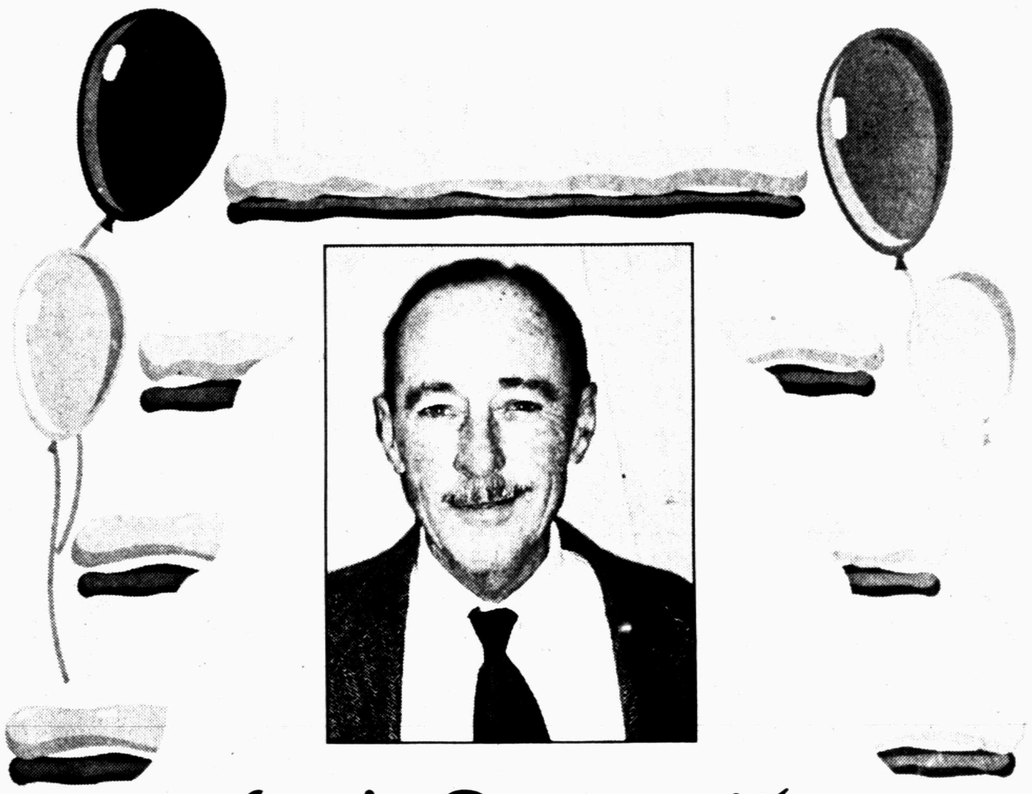
The rustlers used more sophisticated methods than their counterparts of the Old West could have imagined, tracking the cattle from a police helicopter.

The short romp by the cattle only delayed the inevitable. They were shot as a safety precaution.

One Humane Society employee suffered minor injuries.



DR. WEAVER RECOGNIZED — Dr. Mark Weaver was presented a plaque of appreciation for his years of service on the local cancer board. Dr. Weaver is relocating his practice. The presentation was made by Carole Haynes, local unit president of the American Cancer Society. (Contributed Photo)



Let's Party with
Bill Parker
celebrating his 60th Birthday
Friday, January 26
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
In the Lobby
Refreshments will be served.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
Member FDIC

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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



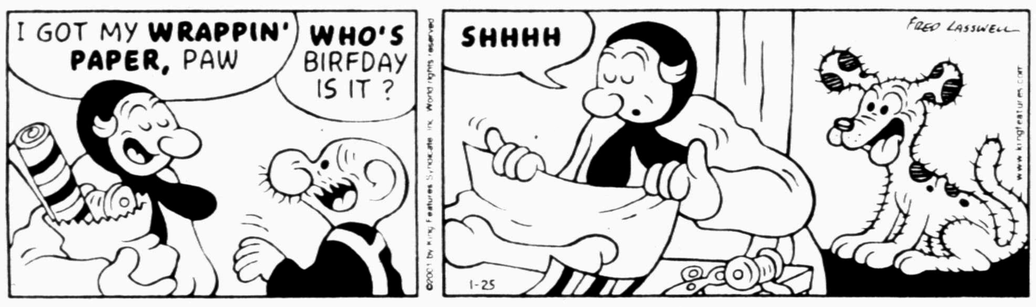
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



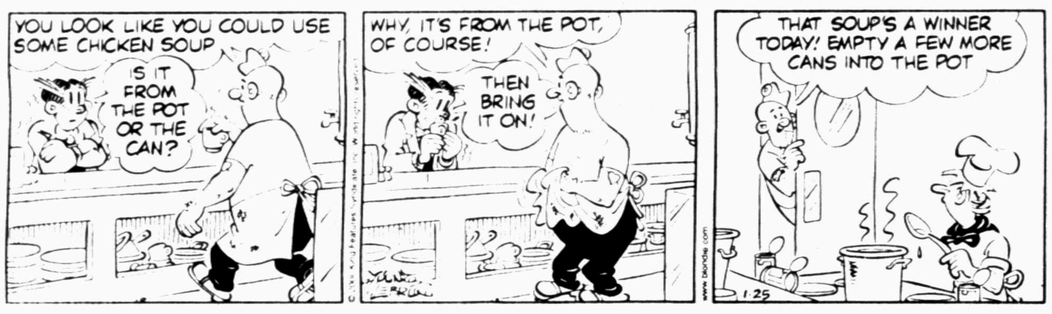
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Card combination
7 Term in office
13 Spheres
14 Loan shark
15 Sends out
16 Incense burner
17 Cold — (timidity)
18 Classified items
20 Mineo and Maglie
21 Beginners
23 Ice house
27 Not fortunate
32 Alaskan native
33 Donald Trump's ex
34 High I.Q. society
35 Actress Bo —
36 Lennon, McCartney, etc.
39 Facilitates
40 Narrow openings
42 Freckle
46 "Rose — — rose"
47 Trumpet-player Alpert
51 Tantalized
53 Balance unsteadily
55 Refrigerant
56 Kampala's land
57 Traveled to several places
58 Swamp

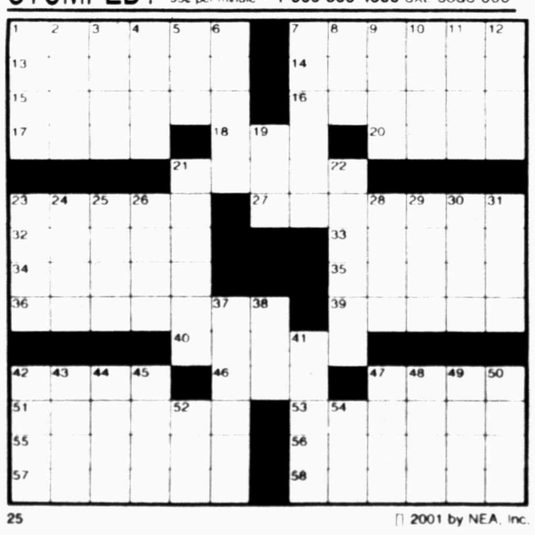
DOWN

1 End-of-week abbr.
2 Other
3 Snoop
4 Border upon
5 So-so grade
6 Written composition
7 City in Arizona
8 "Japan" finish
9 Convent dwellers
10 — Major (constellation)
11 Stagger
12 Is mistaken
19 Actress Joanne —
21 Adds
22 Playground sights
23 Poetic foot
24 Mirth
25 Horne or Olin
26 Expel
28 Part of the eye
29 Jam ingredients?
30 — bend
31 Gabs and gabs
37 Left out sounds in speech
38 Bud's sibling
41 Actress O'Neal
42 Editor's word
43 Type of fish
44 Hawaiian island
45 Emperor
47 Listen
48 Spirit lamp
49 Cincinnati ball club
50 Bikini tops
52 Compass pt.
54 Conceit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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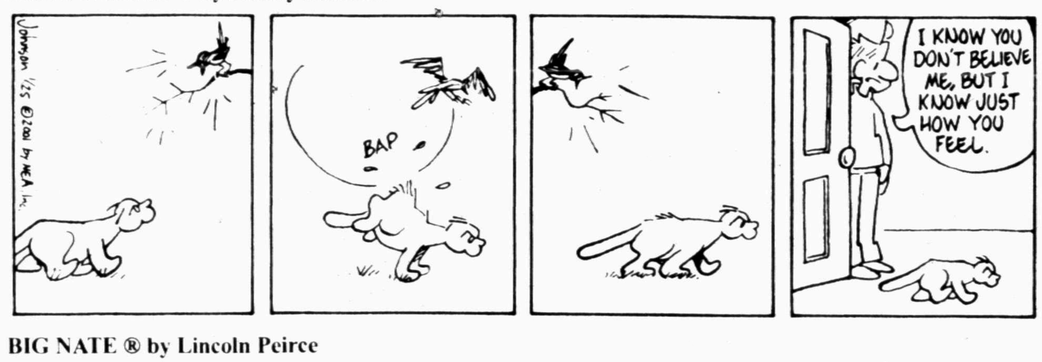


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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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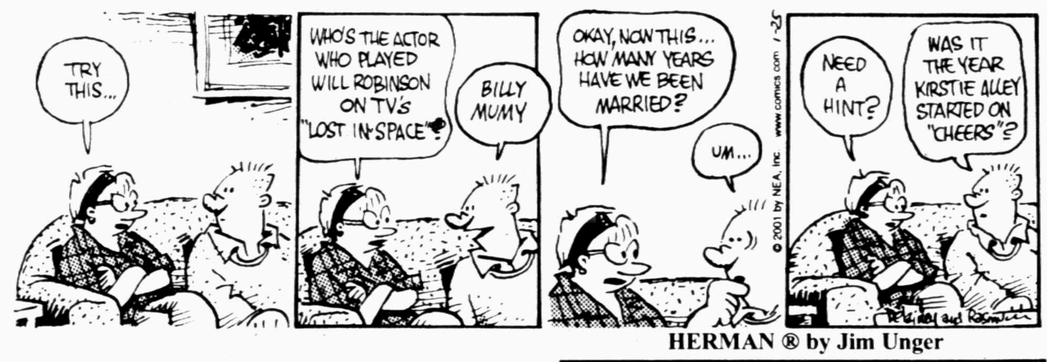
ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



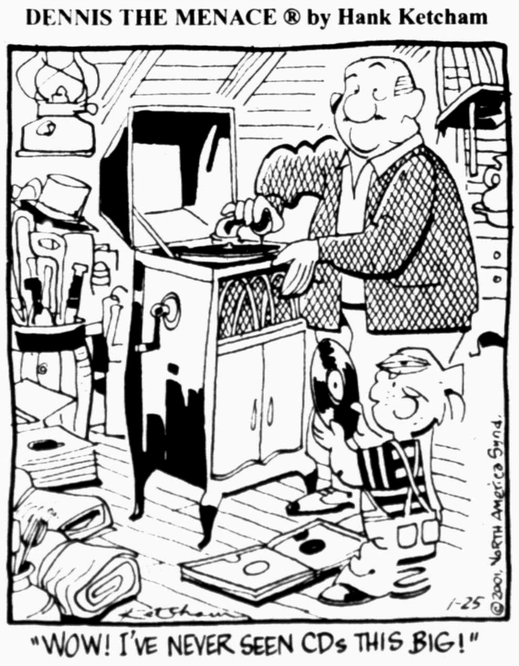
"You've got seven new fillings on the left side."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN CDs THIS BIG!"

On eve

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SPORTS

On eve of key game at Frenship...

Lady Tiger coach unemotional about return to former school

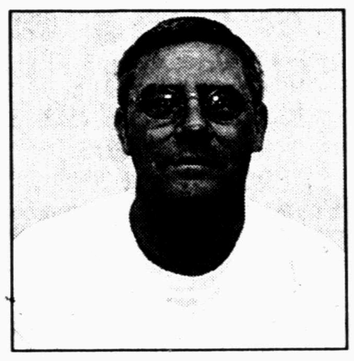
Sam Tipton spent 14 years at Frenship High School, and when he left, he had won more basketball games than any girls' coach in the school's history.

Two years later, Tipton must now lead his Snyder Lady Tiger squad into the Frenship gymnasium for what could boil down to its biggest ballgame of the season.

Snyder visits Frenship at 6 p.m. Friday with playoff implications on the line, and despite his past history with the school, Tipton says the high stakes are enough motivation for his team.

"It's a big ballgame. Nobody will deny that. We don't have to tell our girls what this game means, and I'm sure their players understand, as well," Tipton stated. "I think the opportunity to make the playoffs is enough to motivate both teams. I won't have to tell my girls to play at a higher level because of my situation."

Snyder and Frenship enter Friday's match-up tied for third place in the District 4-4A standings at 6-4. Snyder won the first meeting earlier this month, 39-30. The outcome didn't surprise Tipton, but his reaction to the game did.



Sam Tipton

"I was surprised when we played them before," said Tipton. "I really had no feelings at all towards the other bench. I don't mean that in a bad way, but my years at Frenship seem like centuries ago to me."

After building Frenship into one of the strongest programs in the state, Tipton announced his resignation with four games left in the 1999 season, under somewhat clouded circumstances.

Some members of the Frenship school board felt the program needed a change, so after 14 years, 233 victories and a barrel full of coaching honors, Tipton stepped down.

"There are a lot of different feelings from a lot of different people at Frenship, but overall I think some of my best friends in this world are associated with Frenship High School," Tipton said. "I'm sure we'll be treated with respect. People will be coming to the gym to see to good basketball teams square off. I don't expect any more animosity than we would see at any other District 4-4A road game."

The biggest difference between this match-up and the one earlier this month might be Snyder's line-up. It was late in the fourth quarter against Frenship when senior Kameron Kallemeyn suffered her season-ending knee injury.

Kallemeyn underwent successful surgery Wednesday in San Angelo to replace the anterior cruciate ligament and repair the medial collateral ligament.

"I talked to Kameron this morning and she was in good spirits," said Tipton. "She's a key member of our team, and she probably played one of her best games ever against Frenship. We'll need some other people to step up this time around, I think we have the players who can do it."

OU wins foul-filled meeting with Texas

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma and Texas coaches couldn't bear to look at the boxscore.

There were 50 fouls called in Oklahoma's 75-68 victory over No. 20 Texas. While Oklahoma was 22-of-31 from the free-throw line, Texas missed 13 of 29 shots from the line, including nine of 12 in the final 3:44 Wednesday night.

Neither team seemed able to take advantage of its breaks, but Oklahoma held on for a needed victory, which was all coach Kelvin Sampson wanted.

"I'm just proud of our kids and the effort they put forth," Sampson said. "We have a young team, and I'm more concerned with us getting better rather than wins and losses."

This victory was big, though, because it left Oklahoma 14-4 overall and 3-3 in the Big 12. The Sooners took advantage of poor free-throw shooting by Kansas State to win there on Saturday night, and this time Texas did its part to help the Sooners.

Coach Rick Barnes didn't seem upset by the performance, even though the Longhorns (15-4, 4-2) shot below 38 percent from the field for the sixth time in eight games.

"I didn't think we looked like a team standing around looking for one or two guys on the offensive end," Barnes said. "We had chances.

"There's one thing I know about our basketball team — we're going to give a great physical effort for 40 minutes. Now we've got to do it mentally."

The Longhorns had an eight-minute stretch in the first half when they scored just one basket, and Oklahoma outscored them 13-3. But Texas used five 3-pointers to stay within range and only trailed 32-29 at halftime.

J.R. Raymond, who had his second straight solid game with 21 points, hit two 3-pointers in the first 31/2 minutes of the second half, and the second one gave Oklahoma its biggest lead, 45-34.

Darren Kelly then scored five points in a 12-2 run that got Texas within 47-46, but that was as close as the Longhorns would get.

An 8-0 spurt pushed the Sooner lead to 55-46. Texas closed to within three points three times after that, the final time 71-68. But they crippled themselves by missing over and over again from the foul line.

Super Bowl coaches parlayed brash statements into victories

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Making a guarantee he can't keep is one sure way for an NFL coach to quickly become an ex-coach. Another is to pepper every moment with bold, brash statements, then fail to produce a winner.

As everyone knows, big talkers Jim Fassel and Brian Billick are both securely employed.

The coaches of the New York Giants and Baltimore Ravens have taken a unique, refreshing approach to football this season. They've substituted platitudes and coachspeak with reality and emotion, and that could have as much to do with their teams' sudden ascension to the Super Bowl as anything else.

"Both coaches sort of put sticks of dynamite out there and told everybody, 'This is what we've got going,'" sports psychologist Greg Buell of Wichita State University said. "Once they said it publicly, it became easy to continue it in their locker rooms. It was easy to say, 'If we continue to do what we do, we're going to be fine.'"

For Fassel, it was the famous November playoff guarantee. The Giants were reeling from two straight losses and, in the coach's mind, being savaged by the New York media.

Coming off two straight non-playoff seasons, it was almost universally agreed Fassel was out of a job if he didn't produce a post-season trip. He knew as much, so he compared his situation to a poker game.

"I am shoving my chips right in the middle of the table," he said. "I am raising the ante. Anybody who wants out can get out. This team is going to the playoffs."

Some players were shocked to see their placid coach get so out of character.

"I think it was temporary insanity," defensive lineman Michael Strahan said. Buell believes it was much more calculated than that.

"It was a situation where he read the tea leaves just right," Buell said.

Lancaster records ace

While getting in some extra practice for the upcoming high school golf season, Snyder golfer Andra Lancaster recorded her first hole-in-one.

Lancaster, a junior at SHS, aced the par-3 fifth hole at Andrews. The Lady Tiger linkster used a 9-iron on the 125-yard hole.

Lancaster and her Lady Tiger teammates begin the spring golf season Feb. 9-10 at the Big Spring Invitational.

The Snyder boys begin play Feb. 2-3 when they host the Snyder Invitational.

Sixers stop Rockets in OT

HOUSTON (AP) — Some nights, Allen Iverson's offense isn't enough for the Philadelphia 76ers.

While Iverson scored 32 points on a poor shooting night, the 76ers' defense sparked a rally as Philadelphia beat the Houston Rockets 85-84 in overtime for their franchise-record 12th straight road win.

"We defend, that's why we can win games," 76ers coach Larry Brown said. "You don't win many games if you let the other team shoot well. I thought we forced them to shoot the ball poorly."

Iverson hit only 32 percent of his shots for the game, but he had nine big points in the third quarter to keep the Rockets from getting too far ahead. He also hit 12 of his 15 free throws.

"Yeah, it was an ugly win, but it was a win," Iverson said. "I'll take a win any way we can get it."

George Lynch's basket gave the 76ers a 72-70 lead to start overtime and they never trailed.

"It's always hard to win on the road whether it is one win or eleven," Iverson said. "It says a lot about this coaching staff and this team. It definitely will help us in the long run."

Steve Francis led the Rockets with 24 points and Cuttino Mobley had 22, including a 3-point basket at the final buzzer.

Sports Briefs

Super Bowl party

A Super Bowl party for area teenagers will be held Sunday from 4-9 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. Refreshments will be provided, and door prizes will be given away each hour. Admission is $1 for members, and $2 for non-members.

Mornhinweg hired by Lions

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Marty Mornhinweg got the head coaching job he wanted. It just wasn't the one many people expected.

The Detroit Lions hired the San Francisco offensive coordinator on to replace Gary Moeller.

Mornhinweg, rumored to be headed to the Cleveland Browns for months, reached an agreement with Detroit following a final interview Tuesday, Lions president Matt Millen confirmed.

Moeller, who took over in midseason for Bobby Ross, was fired to make way for Mornhinweg. Moeller's assistants also were fired but could be considered for rehiring.

Faulk wins award

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — St. Louis Rams tailback Marshall Faulk added to his collection of honors, winning the NFL player of the year award.

Faulk had already been named The Associated Press' most valuable player and offensive player of the year.

Despite missing two games, he set an NFL record with 26 touchdowns and finished with 2,189 yards from scrimmage. He rushed for 1,359 yards and a 5.4-yard average.

Sanders headed to Triple-A Louisville

CINCINNATI (AP) — Deion Sanders, who snubbed the Cincinnati Reds when they tried to call him up from the minors last season, is getting another chance to play for their Triple-A team.

The Washington Redskins cornerback got a nonguaranteed minor league contract to play for Triple-A Louisville. He'll report to Sarasota, Fla., with the rest of the Reds' minor leaguers on March 4.

Sanders, 33, returned to baseball last spring after a year of concentrating solely on his NFL career. He couldn't run during spring training because of a football injury to his knee, which required arthroscopic surgery.

Ex-girlfriend sues Ceballos

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cedric Ceballos of the Miami Heat has been sued for more than $5 million by a former girlfriend who contends he broke a promise to take care of her and their 6-year-old daughter for life.

Sherlynn Cook, of Brentwood, said she gave up her career and a growing business in 1993 to devote time to Ceballos, traveling with him to games with whatever team he was playing for at the time.

The 31-year-old woman contends she is entitled to half the money Ceballos has earned as an NBA player since 1993. She said the couple met in 1992 while Ceballos was playing for the Phoenix Suns, and their daughter, Cyndee, was born in 1994.

Cook's lawyer, Jay Coggan, said the couple broke up earlier this month.

Local Schedule

TODAY
Basketball

Snyder 7th and 8th grade girls at Big Spring tourney

Snyder 7th and 8th grade boys at Snyder tourney

FRIDAY
Basketball

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

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

Blackwell at Hermleigh, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY
Basketball

Lubbock Slaton at Snyder freshman girls, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Snyder freshman boys at Lubbock Slaton, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Snyder 7th and 8th grade girls at Big Spring tourney

Snyder 7th and 8th grade boys at Snyder tourney

JV boys whip Big Spring

After a tight first quarter, Snyder turned up its defensive intensity to blow out Big Spring, 66-35, in Tuesday night's junior varsity boys' action at the SJHS gym.

The Tigers grabbed an early 18-14 lead, then pulled away with a 21-6 stretch in the second quarter. Snyder limited the Steers to only 15 points in the second half to widen the gap.

Four Tigers finished in double figures led by Colby Driggers' 13 points. Brad Spells dropped in 12 points, and Brady Reed and Corey Clay added 10 apiece.

Tanner Beard tallied seven points. T.J. Jones registered five, and Cory Lyons chipped in four. Josh McGaha and Tyler Pollard accounted for two points each, and Jay Scott finished with one.

Snyder will be back on the court at 6 p.m. Friday at Frenship.

JV girls bow to Lady Steers

Snyder controlled the first three quarters Tuesday, but couldn't buy a bucket in the final frame to fall to Big Spring, 44-37, in girls' junior varsity action at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers held a 35-31 lead entering the fourth quarter, before Big Spring posted a 13-2 run to close out the game.

Zipporah Peoples dropped in 15 points to pace Snyder, while Hailey Putnam added eight.

Dara Chambers netted seven points. Cindy Sanchez tallied four, and Chasity Perales chipped in three.

The Lady Tigers will be in action again at 7:30 Friday when they visit Frenship.

Freshmen top Steers, 67-45

Three Tigers finished in double figures Tuesday night to lead Snyder past Big Spring, 67-45, in freshman boys' action.

Lee Scott led the way for the Tigers with a game-high 26 points. Marcus Villarreal was also on target with 15 points, and Blake Grimmett poured in 14.

Tucker Early added seven more for the Tigers, while Justin Boyd tallied three, and Jacob Rodriguez chipped in two.

Snyder will be in action Saturday morning at Lubbock Slaton.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	32	10	.762	—
New York	25	16	.610	6½
Miami	26	18	.591	7
Orlando	19	21	.475	12
Boston	16	26	.381	16
New Jersey	14	29	.326	18½
Washington	9	34	.209	23½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	26	15	.634	—
Charlotte	24	20	.545	3½
Toronto	22	21	.512	5
Cleveland	20	20	.500	5½
Indiana	20	21	.488	6
Detroit	15	27	.357	11½
Atlanta	14	26	.350	11½
Chicago	6	36	.143	20½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	26	14	.650	—
San Antonio	24	15	.615	1½
Dallas	27	17	.614	1
Denver	25	17	.595	2
Minnesota	25	18	.581	2½
Houston	20	22	.476	7
Vancouver	11	30	.268	15½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	28	11	.718	½
Portland	31	13	.705	—
L.A. Lakers	26	14	.650	3
Phoenix	24	16	.600	5
Seattle	24	21	.533	7½
Golden State	14	28	.333	16
L.A. Clippers	13	30	.302	17½

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland 94, Chicago 86
Phoenix 106, Detroit 73
Miami 103, Toronto 83
Charlotte 81, New York 67
Philadelphia 85, Houston 84, OT
Golden State 109, New Jersey 87
Seattle 114, L.A. Clippers 110, OT

Thursday's Games

Vancouver at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Denver at Utah, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
New Jersey at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Exxon Mobil Corporation, P.O. Box 4358, Houston, TX 77210-4358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The application proposes to inject fluid and oil and gas wastes that are exempt from regulation under Subtitle C of the Federal Resource Conservation Recovery Act into the Canyon Reef formation, Sharon Ridge Canyon Unit lease, Well Number 1308W located 1.5 miles NW from Knapp, TX in the Diamond -M- Field in Scurry County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 6315' to 7385' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section; Oil and Gas Division; Railroad Commission of Texas; P.O. Drawer 12967–Capitol Station; Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone: (512)463-6792).

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Anadarko Petroleum Corp., P.O. Box 2497, Midland, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Glorieta/Clearfork Formation, Van Norman Lease, Well Number 3R. The proposed injection well is located 12 Miles NW of Ira, TX in the Sharon Ridge (Clearfork) Field, in Scurry County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2100 to 3500 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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Snyder, Texas
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3212 42nd.....4-2.....$475
3902 Eastridge.....3-1-2.....$400
Sarah Jamison 573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505

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2106 40th 573-9068

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For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down payment. Can work with your income tax. Low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Call Kelly **915-425-9994**.

HOMES FOR SALE
Owner Financing Available
***2411 28th**-1 bedroom, 1 bath, garage, storage.
***1907 15th**-2 bedroom, 1 bath, storage, 2 lots, carport.
***221 29th**-3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1½ lots, carport, storage.
573-9001 8a.m.–6p.m.

House For Sale By Owner
Brick 4-2-2LA-FP, CH/A, new roof. Possible owner finance.
574-6849/721-8937 cell

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Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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CLASSIFIEDS

More than six years ago new homes built

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — Cheryl Morgaridge has set some firm rules at home: no playing football or basketball inside the house and no nailing holes in the walls to hang pictures.

That's because Morgaridge, who once relied on the government for housing, now owns her own home. Taped-up posters adorn the four-bedroom house and her four children play hockey in the basement.

Morgaridge and about two dozen other families on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation have a former president to thank for their new homes.

More than six years after Jimmy Carter and 1,500 other volunteers built 30 houses in a week on the reservation, 24 of the original homeowners remain.

"One thing is that if something happens to me, the kids will have a place," Morgaridge said in a recent interview. "It gave us a home for us to take care of."

It was the first Habitat for Humanity project on an American Indian reservation, where roughly eight of 10 people don't have a job and government housing is the main alternative.

The Habitat-built homes are on a tract of land just outside Eagle Butte on a stretch of wide-open prairie about 120 miles northeast of Rapid City.

"I think given the economic situations that take place not only on Eagle Butte but on all Native American reservations, we've been very successful in keeping Habitat homeowners in their homes," said Michael Willard, director of program enhancement at Habitat headquarters in Georgia.

Before Morgaridge moved into her Habitat house, which she and Carter helped build, her rent for government-owned housing was $400 a month. Now her 20-year mortgage is $170 a month.

And the home is better insulated and has a gas furnace instead of electric heat, so it's a lot cheaper to take the chill out of South Dakota winters.

The foreclosure of six of the original 30 loans works out to a default rate of about 20 percent, compared to the 1 percent average for Habitat homes in general and most commercial banks.

Morgaridge did fall behind on payments during her divorce, but she has since caught up and stayed current. Flexibility to help during such times helps most people stay in their homes, said Kay Bourland, director of the Eagle Butte Habitat chapter.

But not always.

"It's the hardest part of the job, the foreclosure procedure. But Habitat's motto is 'We are a hand up, not a handout.' Not everyone is cut out to be a homeowner," she said, referring to maintenance and upkeep.

West Texas inmate indicted

LUBBOCK (AP) — A prison inmate faces indictment in connection with abductions and sexual assaults of two women while he was receiving treatment at a South Plains hospital.

Dekenya Nelson of Tyler, brought to University Medical Center for emergency treatment after swallowing a can opener, is accused of brandishing a fake gun and barricading himself and the women inside a treatment room.

A Lubbock County grand jury on Wednesday returned aggravated kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault indictments against Nelson, 25.

The inmate from the Smith Unit prison in Lamesa was accused of brandishing a fake gun and barricading himself and the women inside a treatment room on Jan. 3. He held a police SWAT team at bay for nearly 90 minutes before surrendering peacefully.

The victims told police that during the standoff, Nelson restrained them with handcuffs and repeatedly raped them.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office will consider Nelson's medical condition, the victims' wishes and security issues before deciding whether to bring Nelson to Lubbock for a trial, prosecutor Susan Scolaro said.

She said the can opener remains inside Nelson's body. Doctors have indicated the condition is inoperable. Prosecutors must also consider whether adding time to Nelson's already lengthy prison terms serves any purpose.

"Until a decision is made, he'll remain in TDCJ custody," said Scolaro.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has transferred Nelson to the high-security Estelle Unit in Huntsville. Prison officials reviewing the attack were expected to release a public report within a few weeks.

Nelson is serving 140 years for numerous offenses, including aggravated sexual assault and burglary.

The region's only trauma center, UMC typically treats inmates with more serious injuries than can be dealt with in the prison's infirmary.

Last April, six inmates involved in a deadly prison riot in Lamesa were taken to UMC's intensive care unit.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s		37 56	36 94	37 50 + 38
AOL TimeWm		56 40	55 15	55 60— 15
AT&T Corp		24 38	23 63	24 00— 19
Albertsons		26 06	25 25	25 44— 63
Alltel		68 06	67 25	67 63— 13
AmEl Pw		44 19	43 50	43 69 + 56
AndarkPtr		61 20	59 40	61 10 + 2 33
ATMOS Egy		24 94	24 69	24 75— 13
Aviall		6 06	6 00	6 00
BP Amoco		51 50	51 19	51 25 + 13
BakerHughes		42 63	41 44	42 63 + 56
Bank of Amer		52 38	50 31	50 81— 25
BellSouth		40 75	39 56	39 63— 63
Beth Steel		2 56	2 50	2 56 + 06
BurlNoSFe		28 25	27 75	27 88— 63
Caterpillar		43 13	42 81	43 06 + 88
Chevron		81 50	80 13	81 50 + 1 63
Citigroup s		56 63	54 50	54 69—1 13
Coastal		76 69	75 25	75 81 + 19
CocaCola		58 44	57 81	58 25 + 19
ColgatePal		57 45	56 26	56 48—1 62
ComclMetals		22 06	22 06	22 06 + 06
CooperIn		45 63	44 94	45 56 + 56
DaimlrChry		47 23	46 97	47 09 + 78
DallSemicn s		27 94	27 06	27 13— 81
DeltaAirl		45 50	44 81	45 31 + 13
Dillards Inc		15 00	14 75	14 81— 13
DowChem s		32 56	31 63	32 31 + 31
DuPont		42 88	42 13	42 63 + 75
EastmanChem		44 94	43 75	44 63 + 38
EstKodak		42 50	41 88	42 00 + 13
EDS Corp		57 44	55 56	55 56—1 75
Entergy		37 50	36 56	37 00 + 25
ExxonMobil		82 81	82 00	82 19 + 56
FstBksAm		19 50	19 50	19 50 + 19
Flowers		15 94	15 69	15 75— 13
GenDynam		71 81	69 81	71 56 + 1 69
GenlElec s		47 00	46 31	46 81 + 50
GenMills		40 63	40 06	40 13— 25
GenMotors		53 56	52 94	53 00— 44
GaPacGP		30 63	29 44	30 63 + 1 44
GlobalMar		27 88	27 13	27 75 + 63
Goodrich		35 44	34 56	35 38 + 50
Goodyear s		25 00	24 69	24 96
GtAtlPac		9 88	9 44	9 75 + 19
Halliburtn		40 69	39 25	40 06 + 25
Hanson ADS		33 00	32 75	32 88— 06
HarteHanks		22 81	22 44	22 50— 06
HomeDepot		45 50	44 63	44 75— 31
HoneywellIntl		48 13	47 25	47 94 + 56
IBM		111 13	109 75	109 94— 50
IntlPaper		37 75	36 44	37 44 + 1 19
JohnsonJn		91 88	90 50	91 56 + 1 00
K mart		8 38	7 75	7 88— 50
Kroger Co		23 94	22 06	22 56— 1 44
Lifton		78 94	78 69	78 75 + 06
LockheedM		34 35	33 05	33 96 + 1 96
Lowes Cos		48 13	46 63	46 81— 50
Lubys		5 63	5 50	5 50
LucentTech		19 38	18 44	18 63— 1 00
MayDeptStr		36 44	35 75	36 25— 75
Medtronic		53 94	53 38	53 94 + 31
Motorola s		23 25	22 56	22 88— 56
NCR Corp		45 06	43 81	44 38— 56
Navistar		27 44	26 50	26 69— 1 25
Penney JC		13 06	12 56	12 69— 13
PepBoys		5 06	5 00	5 00— 13
PepsiCo		43 25	42 25	42 63— 13
Pharmacia		55 75	54 63	55 13— 25
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PhilipPet		58 38	57 63	57 94 + 1 19
PilgrmPrd B		9 00	8 38	9 00 + 50
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Praxair		40 81	39 50	40 75 + 06
ProctGamb		70 31	69 00	69 81— 13
PubS NwMx		26 63	25 81	26 44 + 63
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ReliantEngy		38 00	36 69	36 75 + 50
RoyalDut		59 38	58 63	59 19 + 94
SBC Comm		48 19	46 38	46 38— 1 00
SaraLee		21 75	21 50	21 56— 19
Scripps EW		64 50	64 13	64 38
SearsRoeb		36 50	36 00	36 44— 45
SherwinW		24 94	24 25	24 88 + 31
SouthernCo		29 88	29 25	29 69 + 44
SwstAirl		28 92	28 56	28 79 + 20
SprintFON		25 88	24 88	25 00— 1 00
SprintPCS		31 56	29 94	30 56— 69
Sunoco Inc		30 31	29 88	30 13 + 13
TXU Corp		38 63	37 81	38 19 + 44
TempleInland		51 56	49 31	51 06 + 1 75
Texaco		60 31	59 13	60 31 + 1 19
TexInd		28 25	28 13	28 25
TexasInst s		43 50	42 63	42 88— 63
Textron		48 50	47 69	48 38 + 44
TriconGlbR		33 81	33 25	33 56— 19
TrinityInds		24 63	24 25	24 25— 06
TritonEngy		27 50	26 63	27 25 + 25
TylerTech		2 00	1 94	2 00 + 06
USX Marathn		27 63	26 38	27 25— 06
USX-USS		15 69	15 38	15 38— 25
UnCarbde		48 51	46 44	48 06 + 1 63
UnionPacif		49 81	49 06	49 75— 19
UnitedTech		76 38	73 81	76 25 + 3 25
Unocal		35 19	34 31	34 88 + 75
Venator Grp		12 00	11 63	11 69
VerizonComm		51 44	49 75	49 88— 2 00
WalMart		53 94	52 94	53 19— 31
WellsFargo		50 56	49 69	50 00— 19
WstnGasRs		27 13	26 38	27 06 + 94
WinnDixie		17 75	16 88	17 06— 69
Xerox Cp		7 63	7 06	7 31— 25

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 26, 2001

There's a possibility that a sideline, hobby or avocation might show greater potential in the year ahead than you would have thought. It could turn out to provide a tremendous opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) In any investment proposal you're considering today, focus on the long-term results rather than on the immediate. That's where the real profits lie. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If your priorities are out of kilter today, you're apt to accomplish nothing and fail to get an important project off dead center and out of the way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Although you'll finalize and realize some gains from a couple of transactions today, you may later discover that if you had studied matters more carefully, you could have done even better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) So long as you are functioning within your sphere of operation today, you can be quite effective, but should you try to work in areas where you have no control, it'll be another story.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're likely to perform quite well in your material endeavors, but don't expect any pats on the back for your accomplishments. Profit and praise won't go hand in glove today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Contacts can not be depended upon today to help you accomplish what needs to get done. In truth, however, you really don't need them, but you may have to convince yourself of that.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be particularly careful today that you don't get yourself into something that has strings attached where you'll end up giving more back than what you'll receive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A well-intentioned pal may offer to intercede on your behalf to make a social connection for you, but it's far wiser for you to be your own ambassador. You can sell yourself the best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Should you find yourself today inclined to view situations from an idealist perspective with a little logic thrown in, know you're right. Don't let others persuade you otherwise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) An invitation might be extended to you today to join some type of affiliation that could bolster your ego a bit. However, it would be wise to check out more about the other members first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Take care not to impulsively make any major changes today. Sleep on your thoughts, because upon review and time, you may discover your first conclusions were unwise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Caught in time, a loophole hidden among the details that would not serve your best interests can be deleted. Check out all the fine print before signing onto anything today.

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Georgia Senate may change state flag

ATLANTA (AP) — After being warned by the governor that Georgia's divisive flag issue could cause "irreparable harm," the state House voted to shrink the flag's dominant Confederate battle emblem to a tiny symbol.

Now Gov. Roy Barnes' top lieutenant will try for the same outcome in the Senate, where its prospects are uncertain. A vote is expected early next week.

The new flag, approved by the House 94-82, would feature a gold Georgia state seal against a blue field. Along the bottom would be the words "Georgia's history" and five small replicas of flags that have flown over Georgia, including the current one. The motto "In God We Trust" was added through a last-minute amendment.

Barnes told legislators that Georgians would never settle their differences over the current flag and urged them to end the controversy "before it does irreparable harm to the future we want to leave for our children."

"Some argue that it is a symbol of segregation, defiance, and white supremacy. Others that it is a testament to a brave and valiant people who were willing to die to defend their homes and hearth," he said. "I am not here to settle this argument — because no one can — but I am here because it is time to end it."

During the past year, South Carolina was hit with marches, protests and an NAACP travel boycott over the Confederate flag, which was eventually removed from atop the Statehouse to a spot on the grounds.

In Mississippi, the only other state with the Confederate emblem on its flag, voters will decide whether to change it in an April referendum.

The Confederate battle emblem was added to the Georgia flag in 1956 in what some historians say was a gesture of contempt for school desegregation.

Civil rights leaders — many of whom successfully fought last year to remove the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina's Statehouse — had threatened boycotts of Georgia if the Confederate emblem wasn't removed.

Martin Luther King III had asked the NCAA to move basketball's 2002 Final Four and other sporting events out of Atlanta if the banner was not changed. He said he will drop the effort if the bill passes.

"The fact of the matter is the Confederate rebel flag is still a divisive symbol," King said. "It still is repulsive to many African-Americans in this state and really throughout our nation."

The vote Wednesday featured plenty of representatives breaking party lines and one opponent calling the proposal a sneak attack.

The bill would have died without the votes of 18 Republicans, most of whom are from the Atlanta area. Seventy-six Democrats voted for the redesign; 26 others, mostly from rural districts, voted against it.

The emergence of the issue caught many off guard. Most legislators had not seen the new design until a surprise unveiling Wednesday morning at the House Rules Committee meeting.

"It was the old sneak attack," said House Republican Leader Lynn Westmoreland. "Since this is the people's flag of Georgia, I think we ought to give them an opportunity to at least look at it."

Opponents of the Confederate symbol said they were pleased with the compromise.

"Even though I'm not getting everything I wanted, I'm willing to compromise and bend a little bit," said Rep. Tyrone Brooks, a Democrat from Atlanta and leading flag opponent.

Supporters of the current flag said they felt betrayed by the compromise.

"Although this is supposedly a compromise ... it just diminishes our heritage," said Rep. Warren Massey, a Republican.

Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor said he doesn't believe a consensus has developed in the Senate.

The design of the proposed new Georgia flag was offered by an Atlanta architect whose son serves on the Atlanta City Council.

On the Net:

Georgia's flag page:
http://www.sos.state.ga.us/museum/html/state—flag.html

Array of Civil War items will be sold

NEW YORK (AP) — John M. Bracken has spent 40 years assembling a vast collection of Civil War artifacts that includes weapons, uniforms, photos, flags and even band instruments.

It's almost as if he had walked across smoldering battlefields to gather the debris of conflict.

Now, he's ready to give it all up — for a price.

The New Market, Va., collector's memorabilia was to be sold today in an auction described by one Civil War authority as "once in a lifetime." For aficionados, it could well be that — offering rare visual and physical links to events of 140 years ago, some well-documented by historians, others known only to a few careful descendants.

"I've enjoyed it, but I'd rather sell it now, when I have control of selling it, and let someone else enjoy it," Bracken said as workers put rifles, letters, canteens, paintings and a myriad of other items into glass cases at the New York Historical Society, where the auction will take place.

The sale is being run by Guernsey's, a New York auction house that specializes in "unique and rare" 20th century objects, according to its president, Arlan Ettinger. Guernsey's conducted a 1998 auction of John F. Kennedy memorabilia, and sold a Mark McGwire home run ball the next year for $3 million.

"What's good about all this is that there's nothing duplicated," said Bracken, 58. "About 503 pieces, all different. These are things that you can't just go out and get."

The collection also includes items from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican and Spanish-American wars.

"One of the most unusual aspects of the Bracken collection is its comprehensiveness," said historian William C. Davis, who has written more than 40 books on the South and the Civil War.

A naval cannon has a suggested price of $25,000, a Confederate surgeon's tools are valued at $10,000 to $15,000, and a pair of spurs worn by Brig. Gen. George Custer is offered at $8,000 to $12,000. Scores of smaller items — cannon balls, belt plates, tin cups, playing cards — have presale prices starting at $200.

But Ettinger said the sale is unreserved, with no minimum prices even on such major items as Confederate President Jefferson Davis' matched pair of Remington pistols, and the personal sword of Gen. "Fighting Joe" Hooker, who briefly commanded the Union Army.

Bracken, whose father was an antiques dealer, said his collecting habit began in childhood and grew into full-time buying and trading military memorabilia — made easier by living in northern Virginia towns steeped in colonial and Civil War history.

"I'm predisposed toward the Confederacy, because I had people there, but they were all Americans and they all believed in what they were doing," he said.

Man saws off his hand accidentally

ETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — A construction worker accidentally cut off his hand with a power saw and then shot himself in the head with a nail gun several times, apparently hoping to end his pain, police said.

William Bartron, 25, had at least a dozen 1-inch nails protruding from his scalp, police said. He underwent surgery to reattach the hand and was hospitalized in stable condition Wednesday, said his employer Greg Soltis.

Bartron severed his hand Tuesday while using a miter saw in the basement of another man's home, police said.

After finding Bartron, the man called 911. Soltis arrived a short time later.

Soltis said Bartron had shot several nails into his head with a pneumatic gun "because he could not stand the pain from the amputation," according to police.

Director nominated

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steven Soderbergh says he's proud of his Directors Guild of America Award nominations.

Soderbergh is nominated for "Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich." It is the first time in 26 years that a director has received simultaneous nominations.

"I'm a very proud member of the guild," Soderbergh told AP Radio this week. "To me, it's a big deal because these are the people who I work with every day. And they know what a director's responsibilities are. And so being recognized by them is pretty nice."

Judge apologizes for his 'insensitivity'

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A judge who proceeded with a hearing even though the defendant had collapsed following a small stroke apologized after sentencing the man to nearly three years in prison on a gun charge.

U.S. District Judge John Shabaz, known for detesting delay in his court, told Craig Gorsuch on Wednesday that he was sorry about his "insensitivity" in not inquiring about his physical condition during the November hearing.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Parents fight against disease that claimed both daughters

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I would like to thank you for printing our letter about our two daughters, and how we were inspired by Emily Perl Kingsley's poem "Welcome to Holland." Our daughters eventually lost their lives to epidermolysis bullosa, a rare genetic condition.

When I saw the letter in the newspaper, I suddenly realized that no mention had been made of the wonderful, dedicated people who are working so hard behind the scenes to find a cure or a preventative for this terrible condition.

Readers who would like more information about epidermolysis bullosa or who would like to become involved in this worthwhile cause should contact: **The National EB Registry, c/o Madeline Weiner, RN, 1 Bolin Heights, Campus Box 3369, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3369. (E.B. research is currently under way at the University of North Carolina.)**

Also: DEBRA of America, 40 Rector St., Suite 1403, New York, NY 10006. (The Web site is www.debra.org.) This is the international headquarters, and contributions are welcome. — BILL MAULTSBY, ORANGE, TEXAS

DEAR BILL: No one could have read your letter and not have been touched by it. My readers and I join you in the hope that the disease that took your daughters will soon be a thing of the past. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a 77-year-old World War II veteran, and I regularly visit and entertain the disenfranchised children of our town.

I have never experienced a tragedy as great as Mr. and Mrs. Maultsby's, whose daughters suffered from a severe skin malady, but my heart cried out for them and then it quickly turned to cheers!

Their daughters would never have excelled in oratory or music without their parents' love, patience and direction. If this country had homes like theirs for all our children, we could tear down the jails and sing of life's accomplishments.

We must strive to have faith and hope in our lives, but love must be the dominant force. — **BILL WATERS, LEBANON, TENN.**

DEAR BILL: That's true. And if we measure people by their abilities, rather than prejudging them because of their disabilities, we would have a far more inclusive and constructive society utilizing all of the unique talent that's available.

**

DEAR ABBY: One of my co-workers is being married in the spring. She has announced that none of her co-workers will be invited to her wedding.

That's fine with me because I understand the expense involved with a large guest list. However, she is strongly hinting that I should do her a favor and host a bridal shower for her — a co-workers' party.

I was under the impression that bridal attendants should host the showers. Am I wrong? — **FEELING GUILTY**

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: No — you are right. Also, no one should be asked to a bridal shower who isn't being invited to attend the wedding.

P.S. Don't feel guilty for ignoring the hints. You're doing her a favor by preventing her from being criticized.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Burley tobacco warehouses are now barren

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Keith Lambert's near-empty warehouse has become a testament to the hardships and changes in burley tobacco country.

This time a year ago, his Farmers Tobacco Warehouse in Owensboro would have been a hive of activity as farmers dropped off truckloads of golden leaf for sales that stretched four days a week into February.

Now the vast warehouse is almost empty. A mere 30,000 pounds of burley is stacked in a building that can hold 600,000 pounds. No tobacco has been auctioned off there since Jan. 18, and only one other sales day is scheduled next month to finish off any late tobacco.

"We don't think there's enough volume to have anything else," Lambert, the warehouse co-owner and manager, said Wednesday. "You see one or two pickup loads of tobacco come in a day, instead of 30 or 40 or 50" in past years.

Activity has dropped off at other tobacco warehouses across Kentucky, the nation's leading burley producer.

Burley was sold in just three of the state's 23 markets on Tuesday and in five markets on Wednesday. A year ago, at least half the markets would have had sales, said Ben Crain, president of the Burley Auction Warehouse Association.

Three Kentucky markets, in Lebanon, Paris and Bloomfield, have closed for the season, according to the Agriculture Marketing Service in Lexington. Sales will be limited to once per week in each of the remaining markets until the last burley is sold, Crain said.

"It's the lowest volume year that I've ever experienced," said Crain, owner of Fourth Street-Gentry Warehouse in Lexington. Crain has been a warehouse operator for 26 years, and before that was a buyer for a tobacco company.

Crain and Lambert blame the drop-off on steep quota cuts and the arrival of direct burley purchases by the largest tobacco manufacturer.

Since 1997, burley growers have endured a 65 percent free-fall in quota, the legal authority to grow and sell tobacco under the federal price-support system. The quota drop means less tobacco is available to auction at the massive tobacco warehouses in towns across Kentucky.

The amount of tobacco shipped to warehouses declined further when Philip Morris USA, the world's largest tobacco manufacturer, began contracting with growers directly to supply a portion of its burley needs.

Last year, about 550 million pounds of burley was sold at auction warehouses across the Burley Belt. This year, auction sales will plummet to about 225 million to 235 million pounds, said Scott Althauser, leaf processor for the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

Plan for summertime surcharge gets lawmakers, consumer advocates riled

FORT WORTH (AP) — Texas utility regulators are proposing a $15 to $20 surcharge on summertime electric bills in a move that lawmakers and consumer advocates say undermines a deregulation law.

The surcharge is designed to save local utilities from California-style financial losses.

The proposal and others come under review today by the Texas Public Utility Commission, or PUC.

Lawmakers and consumer advocates say the surcharge and other proposed rule changes could undermine a rate cut promised Texas consumers when lawmakers passed deregulation in 1999.

Rep. Kevin Bailey, D- Houston, a member of the committee that drafted the original law, said Tuesday that he would press for a change in the law if the PUC adopts the surcharges. Bailey requested that the PUC delay consideration of the various rule changes for further study.

"I think we promised consumers some up-front benefits from deregulation," said Bailey. "Already, because of the higher cost of fuel, consumers are paying more. I think it would be a disservice to the residential ratepayers if we now backtrack on the rate cut."

Pat Wood III, chairman of the three-member PUC, said he would not agree to any rule that violates the rate cut — or the spirit of the deregulation law he helped draft.

The Texas law has come under increased scrutiny in recent months after California electric deregulation began bankrupting utilities and blacking out millions of customers.

The financial losses suffered by several California utilities have been blamed on a disconnect between that state's unregulated wholesale market and continued regulation of its retail market.

The current debate over the rate cut, known as Texas Price to Beat, involves similar issues.

Under the Texas deregulation law, the wholesale electric market is unregulated. Open competition in the retail electric market begins in January 2002.

The state's existing utilities will have to cut their rates to customers in their home territories by 6 percent. Rates would generally remain frozen at that level until 2005, or until the utility loses 40 percent of its customers to competition.

But utility officials want the Price to Beat to fluctuate with changes in the cost of fuel. Some electric companies also call for the summer surcharge. Without such mechanisms, they argue, the Price to Beat could cause financial losses similar to those driving California companies into bankruptcy.

"The absence of more consistent and continuous 1/8Price to Beat3/8 adjustments exposes 1/8 utilities3/8 to significant financial risk," wrote American Electric Power in one brief before the PUC.

Janee Briesemeister, a senior policy analyst at the Austin office of Consumers Union, said the Price to Beat was "intended to shield consumers from the risk of a deregulated market" — not to protect utility profit margins.

Gore to teach, write book

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore will spend the next few months teaching and writing while he decides whether to pursue a career in politics.

Columbia University announced Wednesday that the former vice president will teach a graduate-level journalism class "Covering National Affairs in the Information Age" and Gore told The New York Times he also will lecture at two universities in Tennessee, his home state.

He also told the Times he and wife Tipper plan to write a book about families.

"I'm not considering anything political right now, but I haven't ruled out thinking about such things later on," Gore told the Times in a telephone interview from his home in Arlington, Va. "The only decision I've made about politics is not to make a decision until I've had more time for reflection and rest."

Gore, who lost a White House bid to George W. Bush, will join the Columbia staff as a visiting professor in February and has committed to give six to eight lectures during one semester, and possibly two.

Gore told the Times his other teaching jobs will be "community building" courses at Middle Tennessee State University and Fisk University.

The Fisk job will be shared with Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat and civil rights leader who was graduated from Fisk.

"I've always wanted to try teaching and I'm particularly excited about teaching these courses on community building because it's something new and to me it's very exciting," Gore told the Times.

He described the emerging discipline as seeking to bring together authorities from fields like education, business, architecture, law and public policy to teach "all of the skills that are relevant to bringing a community to life."

His book with Mrs. Gore is to be published in the fall of 2002.

"Tipper and I have in many ways been preparing for this for over nine years now," he told the Times, referring to their conferences on the family. "We've both made a strong personal and professional commitment to supporting and strengthening the family at a time of tremendous cultural and economic upheaval."

He said the book would blend personal anecdotes with a discussion of history, psychology and policy.

Gore was a reporter at The Tennessean in Nashville for three years in the 1970s and has long held an interest in evolving information technologies.

Funeral home chief discovers woman in body bag still alive

ASHLAND, Mass. (AP) — Emergency medical technicians thought the 38-year-old woman found slumped in a bathtub was dead. So did funeral director John Matarese — until he heard a gurgling noise coming from the body bag.

"It scared me half to death," Matarese said. "The girl was alive."

Matarese quickly unzipped the body bag and held the woman's mouth open to keep her air passages clear. By the time emergency technicians arrived, the woman was breathing. She's now hospitalized in good condition.

The woman, whose name was not released, was found Saturday unconscious in a tub of cold water. She apparently overdosed on pills, police said.

Police officers and emergency medical technicians were unable to detect any signs of life. After police determined she was an apparent suicide victim, her body was taken to Matarese's funeral home.

"From everybody's observation, more time had elapsed than would have allowed resuscitation," said Town Administrator Dexter Blois.

The state Department of Public Health is investigating to determine whether emergency workers acted properly, said spokeswoman Roseanne Pawelec.

"The fact that they didn't take her to the hospital, just assumed she was dead, is the big mistake," said Dr. Murray Hamlet, a hypothermia resuscitation expert in Natick, Mass. "People have to understand that cold, stiff, blue people can be resuscitated."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Aspirin controversy

DEAR DR. GOTT: I was shocked to read a column in which you stated that an aspirin a day is not necessary for good health. First you said you were neutral on the issue, but then went on to defend the position that only patients with heart disease and a history of stroke should receive aspirin therapy. You even went so far as to say that daily aspirin is not appropriate for healthy men and women.

What's wrong with being proactive in using aspirin to prevent heart attack, stroke and other diseases? If excessive bleeding is the issue, what about patients with heart attacks and strokes? So now we have a medical doctor advising against daily aspirin for everybody. Will your next column tell us we shouldn't exercise until we've had a heart attack, or we needn't lose weight if we have hypertension?

I'm a registered pharmacist and I think you owe the public an apology.

DEAR READER: Slow down there, good buddy. Let's examine this issue from the standpoint of the risk/benefit ratio. (I apologize to my regular readers for having to sit through this analysis yet again, but it is really important.) Aspirin is a great drug. It is cheap, effective and readily available. One of its primary effects is to reduce the stickiness of blood. Therefore, it is commonly given to patients who have disorders caused by inappropriate blood clotting, such as coronary artery disease and stroke. In such patients, the benefits of aspirin (prevention of further serious vascular events) far outweigh its risks (to be outlined below). Most authorities recommend one half to one aspirin a day for these patients.

In contrast, there are no studies showing that aspirin has much of an effect in normal, healthy adults without previous heart attack or stroke. Many editorials in prestigious medical journals have championed the judicious use of aspirin therapy, but none of them has endorsed the use of aspirin in the general adult population. None.

Here is the zinger, a list of aspirin's potential side effects: intestinal hemorrhage, abdominal pain, heartburn, nausea, ulcers, vomiting, kidney slow-down, bruising, severe allergic reactions, increased blood pressure, asthma and ringing in the ears. Also, pregnant women should not take aspirin during the last trimester because the drug can harm the fetus or complicate delivery.

Now think of the risk/benefit ratio: normal adult risks (listed above)/benefits (none). I do not believe, based on current scientific evidence, that I should endorse aspirin therapy for the general public and, I suspect, if you were familiar with the medical literature, you wouldn't either.

Oh, I almost forgot. I encourage people to exercise regularly, both before and after a heart attack, and I certainly encourage obese patients to lose weight whether or not they have hypertension. Why? Because medical studies have shown that these recommendations are prudent.

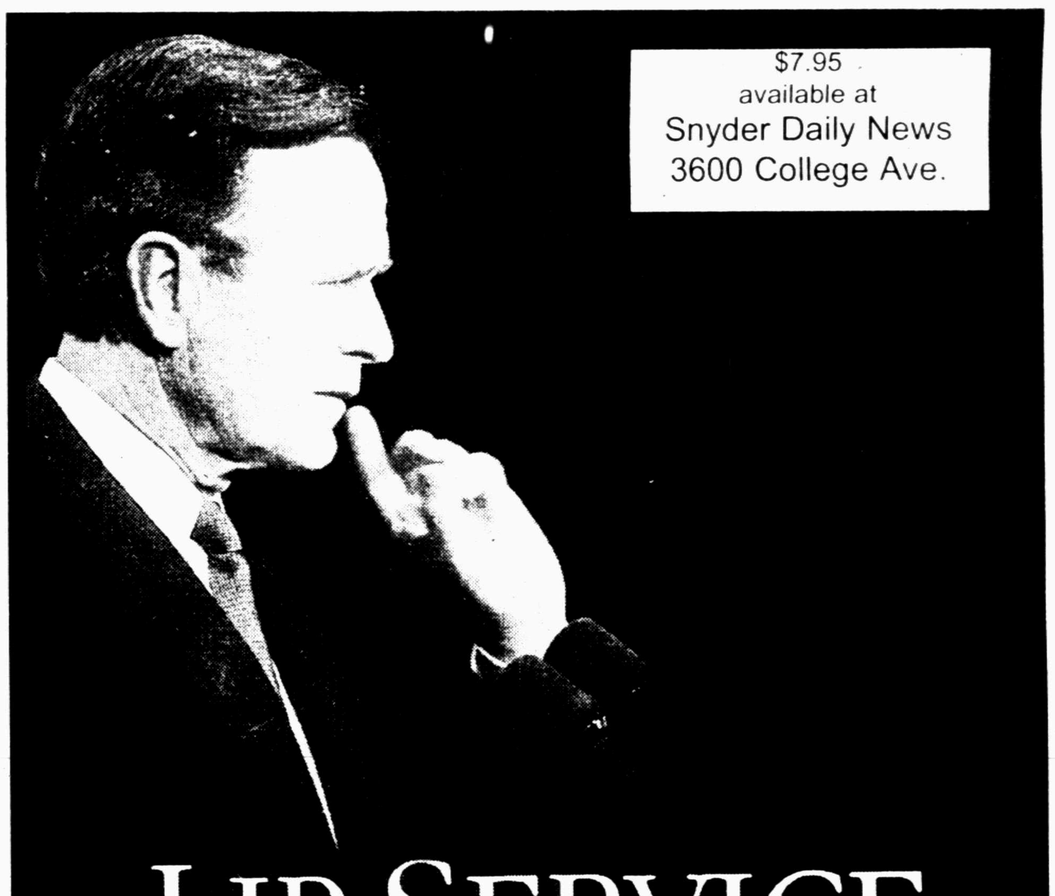
Finally, I will change my position in the aspirin controversy when there is solid scientific documentation that the benefits outweigh the risks of therapy.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I become violently car sick if I read in a moving vehicle. Why?

DEAR READER: You are experiencing motion sickness that is related to stimulation of the balance mechanism in your inner ears by the car's motion. Don't read in a moving vehicle; concentrating on close objects while you are in motion will make matters worse.

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Thanks!

The Snyder Lions Club wishes to thank the following Snyder Merchants for their donations helping to make our District Mid-Winter Conference a success:

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Greenspan endorses tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress Thursday that rising estimates of budget surpluses make room for a tax cut. He said the U.S. economy has slowed dramatically, signaling that further Federal Reserve interest rate reductions are on the way.

Greenspan's endorsement of tax cuts provided a significant boost for President Bush's effort to reduce taxes. Greenspan would not be drawn into a discussion of whether the 10-year, $1.6 trillion package being put forward by Bush is an appropriate size.

Discussing the current economy, Greenspan said, "As far as we can judge, we have had a very dramatic slowing down. We are probably very close to zero at this particular moment."

Wall Street took Greenspan's statements in stride. Two hours into his testimony, the Dow Jones industrials were up about 80 points — just where the index stood when he began speaking. Nasdaq was down 50 points at midday.

Greenspan's comments on economic conditions were the first he has made since the Federal Reserve announced a surprise one-half-point cut in interest rates Jan. 3. The remarks revealed the seriousness with which the central bank views the economy's weakening, which began in the last two months of 2000.

Greenspan said "inflation pressures are well contained."

While he refused to answer a direct question over whether the Fed will cut rates again at its meeting next week, his comments about the sharp slowdown and the absence of inflation pressures sent a strong signal that further rate cuts will be forthcoming.

Bush wants to focus attention on education

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush ventured Thursday to a District of Columbia elementary school, trying to shift attention back to education after one-time political adversary Sen. John McCain thrust campaign-finance reform into the spotlight.

The president and his wife, Laura, visited Merritt Elementary in a poor and predominantly black Washington neighborhood. Bush, who joked that one reason for the drive was "getting out of the White House," saluted principal Nancy Shannon, who tests students at every grade — something Bush wants all 50 states to require of their schools.

He recalled his twin daughters, now in college, complaining about tests when they were in school in Texas. "My answer was well, I'm sorry you're sick of it but we want to know ... whether or not you're learning," Bush said.

"Accountability is not a tool to punish, but a tool to reward and a tool necessary to correct deficiencies. It's a positive tool."

Bush was meeting in the White House later with 14 congressional education leaders, four of them Democrats, the latest in-person gathering he has convened to pitch his package.

Late Thursday, he was dining at the home of Monsignor Theodore E. McCarrick, the archbishop of Washington, to lay groundwork for next week when Bush will send to Congress his plan for allowing "faith-based" groups to receive government money for providing social services.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush is prepared to face the "church-and-state" questions his proposal will inevitably raise.

"His focus is going to be on helping people get through some of the worst problems they face in life — alcoholism, prisons, children of prisoners, helping people leaving prisons to re-enter the workforce. This is in many ways the next step in welfare reform," Fleischer said.

"Faith-based solutions are often one of the best ways to help people get through crises in life," Fleischer said.

Bush focused tightly on schools in his first two weekdays in office, hosting education experts at the White House on Monday and submitting his proposals to Capitol Hill the following day.

But on Wednesday, McCain, the Arizona senator Bush defeated for the GOP presidential nomination, visited the White House and changed the subject to campaign finance.

The two Republicans have both called for overhauling the way campaigns are paid for.

Family members relieved about inmates' capture

WATAUGA (AP) — Lori Hawkins' hands shook steadily as she fidgeted with her slain husband's gold wedding band and spoke about the Texas convicts accused in Aubrey Hawkins' shooting death.

Hawkins' widow said that when Irving officers delivered the ring shortly after her husband was killed in the line of duty, she promised herself she would wear it until the seven escaped convicts were caught.

Now, she can choose to go without it.

The last of the fugitives accused of killing her husband surrendered early Wednesday in Colorado Springs, a month to the day that Hawkins, 29, was gunned down while trying to stop a robbery at an Irving sporting goods store.

The inmates who escaped from the Connally Unit Dec. 13 are named in capital murder warrants in connection with his death.

"I can't wait for them to look at me in the courtroom," Lori Hawkins said. "I want them to feel how much pain they caused."

Lori Hawkins, the victim's father and his ex-wife say they are glad the escapees are back in custody but that the story is far from ended.

Curtis Hawkins, the officer's father, said the images of his son's death won't pass quickly. The trials of the six men, appeals and the potential for six executions will prompt him to relive the tragedy many times.

"The question is whether to go to the trials; do you even want to?" he said. "My inclination is to go and see what it's like."

Dixie Buchanan, officer Hawkins' ex-wife and the mother of his 9-year-old son, said she was relieved by the surrender of the Donald Newbury and Patrick Murphy Jr. early Wednesday. But news accounts that the six surviving fugitives were now in custody was difficult and upsetting for her son Andrew.

"I feel like at least this will help Andrew, so he can try to be a normal child. He'll always miss his daddy, but we can go on living now and try to be happy."

Curtis Hawkins said he does not expect the pain of his son's memory to fade.

"To the people who loved Aubrey and were concerned about him, this will never close," he said.

Set of quints are born in Amarillo

AMARILLO (AP) — A West Texas family grew by five Wednesday when an Amarillo woman gave birth to quintuplets — four boys and one girl.

Leah Williams gave birth by Caesarean section Wednesday morning, said Northwest Texas Healthcare System spokeswoman Caytie Martin.

The quintuplets were born at 27 weeks, about seven weeks shy of full term, Martin said. They ranged in weight from 2 pounds one-half ounce to 2 pounds 9 ounces.

All babies are listed in stable condition in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"The Caesarean section went very smoothly," said Dr. Thomas Myles, a Texas Tech maternal/fetal specialist. "There were just a lot more hands and feet than usual."

The infants are expected to be released within seven weeks. Williams was being evaluated, but was listed in satisfactory condition.

Myles said the couple had known for months they were having quintuplets.

He said while he has delivered triplets and even quadruplets, he had never delivered quintuplets.

"It was a different experience, but it's part of what I went into," Myles said.

This is at least the second set of quintuplets born in Texas in the last two months.

A set of quintuplets — all boys — were born in Lubbock in December.

Obituaries

C.J. Thornton

1909-2001

ROTAN — C.J. Thornton, father of Mike Thornton of Snyder, died Wednesday, Jan. 24, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Thornton, 91, is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the Rotan First Baptist Church. Dutch Parks and Larry Holder will officiate. Burial will follow in Belview Cemetery under the direction of Weathersbee Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 5, 1909 in Simpsonville, Tex., he was married to Helen Thornton who died in 1981. He married Marie Rivers on Oct. 6, 1981 in Clovis, N.M.

He also was preceded in death by a son, Gene Thornton; four brothers; four sisters; and his parents.

A member of the Calvary Baptist Church, Mr. Thornton was a retired car salesman and served two terms on the Rotan City Council.

Survivors include four other sons, Bolwin Thornton and Troy Thornton, both of Houston, Charles Thornton of Rotan, Donald Thornton of Mabelvale, Ark.; two daughters, Patricia Porter and Vicky Mortan, both of Rotan; a brother, Jack Thornton of Pittsburg, Tex.; three sisters, Merle Bell of Pittsburg, Armeta Dacus of Commerce and Mary Lou Cooper of Bryan; 24 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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J.C Penney to close 57 stores

PLANO (AP) — J.C. Penney Co. Inc. said today it will cut 5,300 jobs and close 47 stores as part of an effort to boost profits at the long-struggling retailer.

Penney said it would take a $275 million charge, about 68 cents after taxes, in the quarter ending Jan. 27.

The stores being closed include 44 underperforming department stores and three catalog outlets, Penney said. Most will be closed in the first half of the year, the company said.

The Plano-based retailer operates about 1,100 Penney department stores.

The closings will eliminate 5,000 store jobs and 300 jobs in headquarters and field offices — together, about 2 percent of the company's work force of 290,000 employees. Penney said an undisclosed number of store employees could be offered other jobs.

Today's announcement marked the second recent round of store closings. Last year, the company announced it would close 45 department stores.

Graffiti report taken at stadium

• ***Graffiti***

Deputies filed a report at 11 p.m. Wednesday at the Hermleigh football stadium in reference to graffiti.

• ***Felony arrests***

Anna Rodriguez Perez, 34, of 2807 Avenue U was taken into custody at 11:52 a.m. Wednesday on warrants for possession of marijuana and parole revocation.

A Department of Public Safety trooper arrested Ray Earl Penkert, 20, of 1437 17th Place in Lubbock at 10:16 p.m. Wednesday. The subject had a Lubbock County warrant of bond surrender on an original charge of forgery. He was also charged with public intoxication.

• ***Other arrests***

A 35-year-old man was escorted to the justice of the peace office at 1:58 p.m. Wednesday to take care of a warrants for a traffic violation and failure to appear.

At 10:16 p.m. Wednesday, a DPS trooper took a 21-year-old man into custody for public intoxication.

• ***Fire notes***

Snyder firefighters were dispatched to the alley behind Warehouse Furniture at 7:25 p.m. Wednesday in reference to mattresses being on fire. Fire Marshall Cy Posey requested a close patrol of the area in reference to the incident.

• ***Accident***

An accident report was taken at 5:20 p.m. Wednesday in the 3100 block of 25th Street. The mishap involved a 1996 Ford Taurus driven by Tyler Wayne Trout, 16, of 2991 Gary Brewer Road and a 1986 Toyota Regency driven by Paul Alan Overhulser, 17, of 3712 Austin.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Diabetes education group

The Snyder diabetes education group will meet at 6 p.m. today in the Cogdell Hospital cafeteria. Brian Moffett, CMH radiology manager, will discuss diabetes patients getting X-rays.

Life Changing Power

The Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church will sponsor a "Life Changing Power" revival at 7 p.m. today and Friday at Central Elementary, 2700 Ave. K. Daniel Gutierrez is the evangelist. Call 573-0510 for more information.

Selling food items

Our Lady of Guadalupe Guadalupanas will sell food items, including menudo, caldo, gorditas, brisket burritos, cake and other items, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 1311 Ave. K. Prices will vary depending on the item and carry out will be available.

GED testing dates

The next testing date for GED (high school equivalency) is Friday. For more information call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, at home at 574-2112, or 573-8511, ext. 297 at WTC between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Praise and worship revival

Trinity United Methodist Church will have a praise and worship revival at 6 p.m. Saturday and at 10:45 a.m. Sunday with "Full Circle" from Lovington, N. M.

Chili supper

Ira Baptist Church will sponsor a chili supper Saturday to raise funds for the GA and RA programs. The meal will be served from 5-7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Cost is $5 for adults, tickets for children under 12 are $3.50 and a family can eat for $20.

Ex-resident on 'Nick News'

Julie Zeck Smithey, former Snyder resident, and her fifth grade class in Adriana, Mich., will be featured on "Nick News," which airs at 7:30 p.m. Sunday on Nickelodeon. Smithey's students wrote letters explaining what they thought should be done with the Kennewick Man, a 9,000- year-old skeleton unearthed four years ago in Washington State.

Girl Scout cookie sale

Girl Scouts are taking cookie orders until Sunday for delivery in February. Anyone not contacted by a Girl Scout who wishes to order cookies may call Carla at 574-8004 or Peggy at 573-6725.

Credit union annual meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Scurry County School Federal Credit Union will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the SHS cafeteria.

Scholastic book fair

Scurry County Head Start will have a Scholastic book fair from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the head start program, 2800 2nd St. Everyone is invited.

WTC continuing ed classes

Western Texas College's Continuing Education Department will present "The Great American Debt Opportunity" Monday and "Spend Smart" Tuesday. Each session will last from 6 to 9 p.m. and both will be located in building 15A. The cost for each is $40. The textbook for "The Great American Debt Opportunity" costs $43, but it is not required. Call 573-8511, ext. 390 to reserve space in either class.

Family Math, Science Night

Math and Science Night for Snyder 7th graders is from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday.

Vocational nurse program testing

The next testing dates for the March vocational nursing class at WTC are 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

Snyder tennis boosters

The Snyder tennis boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Texas Savings Bank. Parents of all tennis players are invited.

Ira booster club

The Ira booster club will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the school cafeteria.

Alzheimer support group

Alzheimer family support group will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Snyder Oaks Care Center. Speaker will be Sue Davis of the Abilene Alzheimer Association.

7th grade special needs parents

There will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday for parents of special needs 7th graders. For more information, call Jean Burns at 573-6301, or Sylvia Sapsky at 573-6356.

8th grade special needs parents

A meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Snyder High School's CVAE building, room C-5 for parents of special needs 8th graders. Call Jean Burns or Charles Haggard at 573-6301.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank for four-month premature Christa Lane Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01.

1981 class reunion

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

Scout food drive

The annual food drive for Boy and Girl Scouts will be from 8:30 until noon on Saturday, Feb. 3. The bags will be passed out Wednesday and next Thurday. Please, no glass or perishable items and place your items on your porch in a visible place.