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INSIDE

DFW Airport sued 2
Lifestyles 3
Comics 4
Midday stocks 7
New organic standards 10

WT-Int. Crude - $26.03
WTIC Posted - $22.75
Natural Gas - $9.102

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

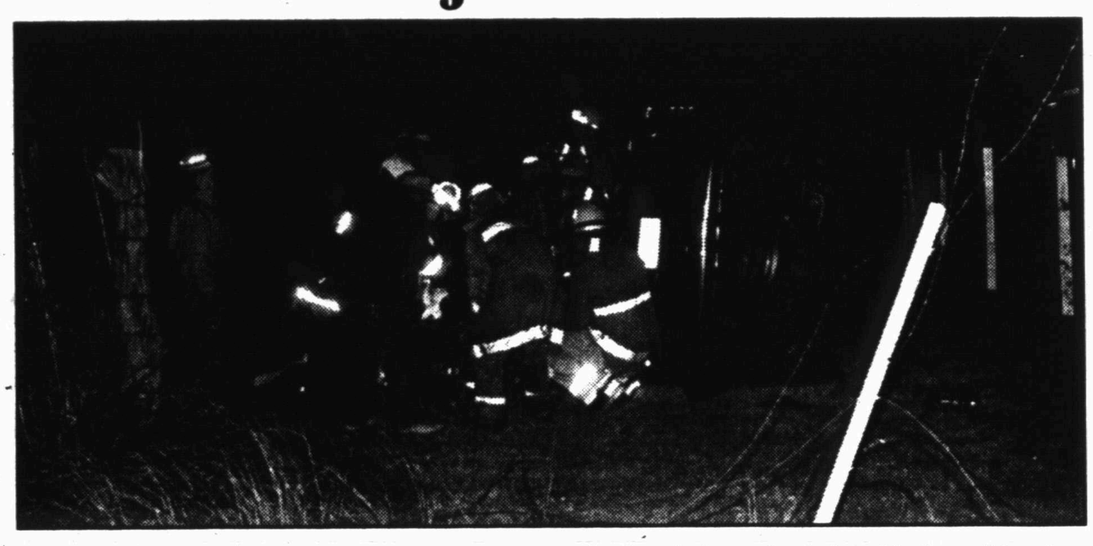
THURSDAY

Dec. 21, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 201
10 Pages 50¢

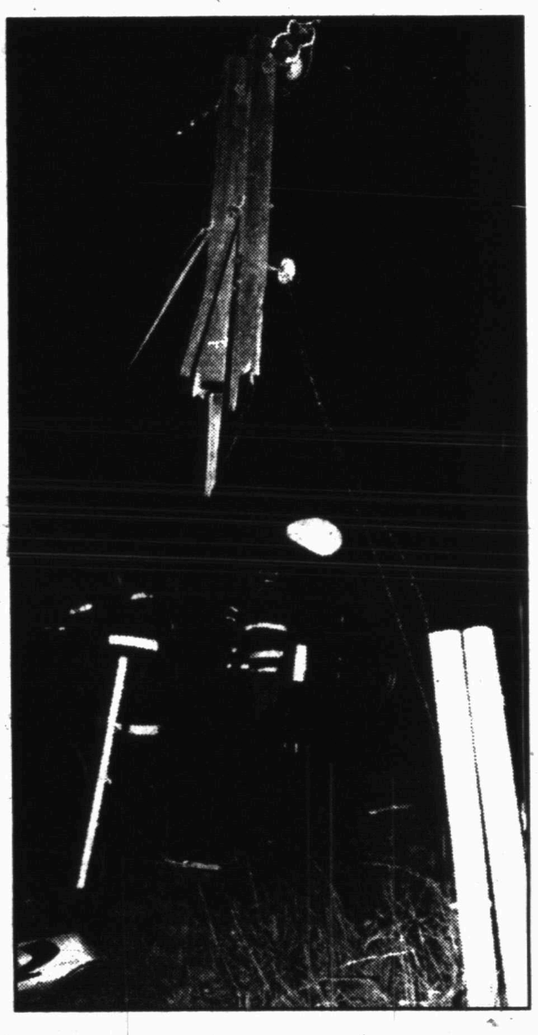
Home of Bill & Martha Schiebel

One in critical condition...

Accident injures four teens



Snyder EMS personnel and firemen treat an injury following a one-vehicle accident late Wednesday night on CR 362. The photo below shows a splintered utility pole. (SDN Staff Photos)



An Ira ninth grader is in critical condition in Lubbock's Covenant Healthcare Center following a one-vehicle accident Wednesday night about three miles west of Snyder.

Stephan Kirk, 15, of 1284 CR 241 and a passenger in a SUV that contained four Scurry County teens, was airlifted from Snyder to the Lubbock hospital after first being treated at Cogdell Memorial Hospital following the accident that was reported to authorities at 10:23 p.m.

The mishap occurred on County Road 362, just west of the CRMWD water reservoir, located on the Ira-Union road.

Snyder High School sophomore Randall Rich, 15, also was airlifted to the Lubbock hospital. A Covenant Hospital spokesman said this morning that Rich's condition is stable. He had been listed in serious condition prior to his transfer from Cogdell.

Admitted to Cogdell following the accident were two other 15-year-olds.

Stafford Gray, a Snyder High School sophomore whose address is listed as Box 322, was listed in fair condition.

April Lollar, an Ira freshman who resides at 3305 Evans St., was listed in good condition.

DPS Trooper Rick Campos said Gray was driver of a 2000 Isuzu whose owner is listed as David Cotton of Snyder. The vehicle was traveling west when the vehicle's left front struck a guardrail, flipping it into the air. While airborne, the vehicle splintered a power pole belonging to Big Country Electric Cooperative. The vehicle came to rest on its side. The mishap temporarily disrupted electrical service to some residents in the immediate area.

Two of the victims were trapped inside the vehicle and Snyder firemen had to use the Jaws of Life to free them. Two others managed to walk a short way to a nearby house and the residents notified emergency personnel.

Campos said a passenger said the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed. The trooper said the accident remains under investigation.

Drug probe results in 46 sealed indictments

Forty-six sealed indictments were returned by a special session of a Scurry County grand jury that met Wednesday.

Local and area law enforcement personnel were to begin serving arrest warrants around 1 p.m. today. The indictments culminated a six-month investigation in what is the county's largest drug bust in history. A large number of Snyder and Scurry County residents are among those indicted, local officials said Wednesday afternoon.

In all, 46 drug-related indictments were returned by the grand jury against 26 individuals.

All the indictments were sealed, pending their arrest.

District Attorney Dana Cooley, Sheriff Darren Jackson and Lt. Jerry Parker of the Snyder Police Department said Wednesday afternoon that the indictments are a result of a six-month investigation.

"The investigation began in July and it was a cooperative effort of the sheriff's office, police department and West Central Texas Interlocal Crime Task Force of Abilene," Jackson noted.

Cooley said Lt. Parker coordinated the efforts of the local agencies.

"Our work to stop drug trafficking in Snyder won't stop with these indictments," the officers emphasized.

The Snyder Daily News became aware of the special session of the grand jury on Monday, but agreed to cooperate with law enforcement officials to prevent suspects from fleeing.

"We were asked not to report that a grand jury would be in session Wednesday, and we were happy to cooperate in this effort to reduce the flow of illegal drugs in our community," said Wade Warren, Snyder Daily News managing editor.

Roy McQueen, SDN publisher, said the newspaper received several anonymous calls Wednesday. "It was not clear whether the individuals were trying to confirm a grand jury session or trying to be helpful to us."

Christmas holiday results in closings

The Christmas holiday will prompt some local financial institutions to close early Friday.

Snyder National Bank, Texas Savings Bank and West Texas State Bank will all close at noon on Friday and not reopen until Tuesday.

American State Bank and First American Bank will conduct regular business hours Friday, but close Christmas Day.

Snyder Chamber of Commerce will close for the holidays from Friday through Jan. 1.

Scurry County Library will be closed Saturday through Tuesday, reopening as usual on Wednesday.

City offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday while the city landfill will be closed Saturday and Monday.

The courthouse and other county offices will close Christmas Day only.

The Texas Workforce Commission, located on the Western Texas College campus, will close Monday and Tuesday for the holiday.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh schools are out for the holidays and students do not return to class until Jan. 3. Teachers, however, have a work day scheduled Jan. 2.

Western Texas College ended its fall semester Dec. 11, and the spring semester classes start Jan. 17.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Kindness is a great gift. One size fits all."

Blame it on Santa. He's the reason that kids these days have no shame in asking for something for Christmas.

At every turn, and in almost any store, there is the gentleman in the red suit pinning folks down on what they want him to bring.

And now it's easier to get your wish list to Santa. If you don't have time to wait in line and sit on the jolly feller's knee, the Internet now provides a means for boys and girls of all ages to post their Christmas wish list.

One enterprising fellow posted the following. "Gift Certificates for CDs." He explained further, "because I know you won't pick the ones that I want if you go out and buy them, so let's just save everyone a lot of time and just get me the certificate."

With such a brazen approach, the grateful little fellow should have gone ahead and asked for the green stuff.

It's hard to imagine that just a few years ago children would have been happy with a some candy and fresh fruit.

Here's how Christmas gift giving has progressed.

The mood from 1900 to 1920 was cautious and pragmatic. A store-bought shirt was rare.

Wish lists for women included a fireless cookstove, recipe file and chocolates. Men wanted suspenders, garters for socks, a pocket watch or fountain pen.

Kids likely were to ask for crayons, a doll, teddy bear, air rifle, pocket knife, tinker toys or checkers.

From 1920-40, a woman might want a waffle iron, blender, steam iron or silk stockings. Top gifts for dad were a phonograph, radio, leather razor strop or watch chain.

Kids might ask for ice skates, jacks, a pogo stick, yo-yo or cowboy outfit.

From 1940-1960, women were seeking an electric percolator, pressure cooker, or even an automatic dishwasher. Male gifts were 33-vinyl records, a pink shirt, transistor radio or Polaroid camera.

Kids asked for roller skates, Tiny Tears doll, slinky, Davy Crockett coonskin cap, Legos or Lincoln Logs.

For the next 20 years, starting in 1980, women wanted Teflon cookware, microwave ovens, electric toothbrushes while men asked for their own color TV sets, pocket calculators, quartz watches and home computers.

Kids wished for G.I. Joe, Pong video game, Walkman, Hot Wheels cars, Barbie and accessories, princess telephone and Cheerful Tearful doll.

Gifts the past 20 years have kept pace with the affluent society.

For her: health-club memberships, in-line skates, cordless phones, diamonds.

For him: camcorder, Palm Pilot, portable CD player, washed jeans, cordless drill, laptop computer.

For kids: Video games, action figures, Barney merchandise, Beanie Babies, kickboard scooter, Harry Potter stuff and new cars.

Just three more days!

Gov. Bush steps down in emotional farewell

AUSTIN (AP) — President-elect Bush resigned as governor of Texas with an emotional farewell this morning, saying there was "only one thing that would cause me to leave early," and that is the White House he will take over in 30 days.

He yielded office to Rick Perry, the Republican lieutenant governor, but said he would need a bit more time to move out of the governor's mansion, a block from the State House where he said goodbye in the Senate chamber.

Misty-eyed, Bush said the mansion he and wife Laura have occupied for six years "won't be our home, but Texas always will be." With that, he and Perry embraced, to the applause of the State House audience.

"Serving as the governor of the great state of Texas ... has been a higher honor than I could ever imagine," Bush said, "and there's only one thing that would cause me to leave early, and that's to become your president."

Two years remain of the second term to which Bush was elected in 1998.

He said his six years in office have been a time of steady, shared progress, and of bipartisanship he intends to take to Washington.

Bush said that he takes with him Texas lessons of diversity, optimism "in tough places," independence and enterprise. "Through it all I have tried to be a good steward of the office, to shape this state for the better," he said. "But the truth of the matter is I realize how much this state has shaped me."

"It's an emotional moment to leave a job I loved for a state I love. But you move on," Bush told reporters after he left the Senate chamber.

The president-elect had already packed up his office, including his collection of autographed baseballs, and said that while "I'm going to miss this place," he was looking forward to his new assignment.

As he hurtled toward the start of that assignment on Jan. 20, Bush's progress in building a new administration accelerated.

Citizens kept busy with yule festivities

From open houses to candlelight services, a variety of holiday happenings are scheduled to get citizens into the spirit of the season.

American State Bank, Texas Savings Bank and West Texas State Bank will host open houses today and Friday.

City Hall will host an open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

Snyder Healthcare Center will hold its annual Christmas party at 7 p.m. Friday. Families are asked to bring a gift for residents and also cookies. Santa will also attend.

Colonial Hill Baptist Church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church.

First Christian Church will also hold its Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Northside Missionary Baptist Church will present "The Christmas Story" cantata at 11 a.m. Christmas Eve. The 45-minute program will also be signed for the hearing-impaired.

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 11 p.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Hermleigh United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 p.m. Sunday.

A Community Celebration of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion will be held at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve at First United Methodist Church.

ASK US

Q—Will the Scurry County commissioners meet again before the end of the year?

A—No. The next scheduled meeting is Jan. 2.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 65 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Thursday, 26; no precipitation; total for 2000, 21.25 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear, cold, low around 20, SE wind 5-15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, high around 55, S wind 10-20 mph.



Angelica Lopez
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:47 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:39 a.m.

Of 355 days in 2000, the sun has shone 348 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

—Malcolm S. Forbes



Alabama may have to wait years to get Exxon's money

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama and its attorneys may have to wait years before seeing the largess of a jury's record $3.5 billion verdict against Exxon Mobil for underpaying natural gas royalties.

Exxon Mobil spokesman Tom Cirigliano said the company will "take all legal steps to challenge the verdict."

Bob Macrory, an attorney with the state Conservation Department and the author of Alabama's leases with Exxon, said the case is sure to be appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

That has been the route with some other big jury verdicts from Alabama.

The Supreme Court has used two Alabama cases to set guidelines for determining whether jury awards are excessive.

The state and Exxon Mobil, based in Irving, Texas, sued each other over the payment of royalties from 13 natural gas wells that Exxon drilled in the state's coastal waters.

A Montgomery jury found Tuesday that the oil company had fraudulently underpaid the state and levied $87.7 million in compensatory damages and $3.42 billion punitive damages.

That broke the state's record for the largest punitive damage verdict returned by a jury, which was $581 million in Hale County. That judgment, resulting from a suit over the purchase of a satellite dish, was reduced by the trial court judge to $300 million and was later settled out of court for a smaller amount that the two sides declined to disclose.

John McMillan, who was the state conservation commissioner in 1981 when Exxon signed the leases to drill along the coast, said the Exxon verdict could also be reduced or settled for a smaller amount. But no matter what happens, the state shouldn't expect anything for years, he said.

Skip Tucker, director of Alabama Voters Against Lawsuit Abuse, said he had hoped the days of Alabama being known as "tort hell" were over when the Legislature put limits on punitive damage verdicts last year.

Those limits didn't apply to the Exxon case because it was filed before the law was passed.

"It might be cold in Alabama, but 'tort hell' is not yet frozen over," Tucker said Wednesday.

The $3.5 billion verdict, if paid to the state, would be nearly as big as the state's $4 billion education budget for this year and about two-thirds as big as the $5 billion judgment against Exxon for the Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

Ex-airport official sues; DFW says fraud case has no merit

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is accused in an ex-employee's federal lawsuit of fraudulently obtaining more than $350 million in grants it used to expand while exaggerating its ability to prevent pollution.

The whistle-blower lawsuit by former airport environmental analyst Susan Heath contends that D-FW officials obtained the federal grants to build new runways and terminals by overstating the facility's ability to dispose of hazardous wastewater.

Parts of the lawsuit pleadings filed almost two years ago were revealed for the first time this week when U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn, acting under a statutory deadline, ordered them unsealed.

Heath's accusations became the basis for a multi-agency criminal investigation that authorities said continues into whether D-FW Airport has violated state and federal environmental laws.

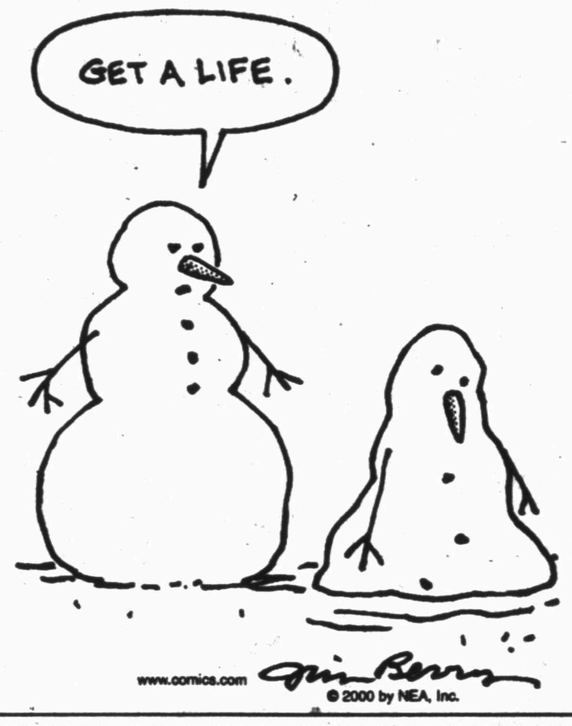
Papers filed in the lawsuit contend that since at least 1988, D-FW airport officials concealed the extent of massive illegal discharges of dangerous wastewater into waterways around the facility, one of the world's busiest.

The complaint said that the wastewater contained petroleum solvents and other pollutants that would run into nearby creeks during minor rainfall.

Airport officials, provided a copy of the documents, declined to address the allegations specifically but said they were all without merit.

"D/FW Airport prides itself on following all rules and regulations and being a responsible environmental entity," Kevin Cox, the airport's senior executive vice president, told The Dallas Morning News in Thursday's editions.

Berry's World



Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2000

Today is the 356th day of 2000 and the first day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1914, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," starring Marie Dressler, Mabel Normand and Charlie Chaplin, was released. It was the first feature-length silent movie in the United States.

On this day in 1919, anarchist Emma Goldman was deported to Russia.

On this day in 1970, singer Elvis Presley visited President Richard Nixon at the White House.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Stalin (1879-1953), Soviet dictator; Heinrich Boll (1917-1985), novelist-poet; Kurt Waldheim (1918-), U.N. secretary general, is 82; Joseph Paterno (1926-), football coach, is 74; Jane Fonda (1937-), actress-activist-fitness instructor, is 63; Frank Zappa (1940-1993), singer; Chris Evert (1954-), tennis player, is 46.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1984, the West Virginia University basketball team defeated the University of Charleston 110-82. During the game, WVU player Georgeann Wells became the first woman to dunk a basketball in a college game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Consider the little mouse. How sagacious an animal it is which never entrusts its life to one hole only!" — Plautus

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 17) and new moon (Dec. 25).

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

10-18-23-39-42-46

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $13 million

Pick 3

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

5-0-4

RED BARN BARBECUE
Hwy 84 at Huffman 573-2291
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ALL YOU CAN EAT CATFISH
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ONLY $5.95
4 til 9 p.m.
ORDER NOW - HOLIDAY TURKEYS AND HAMS

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★ PEACE
★ HAPPINESS
★ PROSPERITY
★ FRIENDS LIKE YOU



Thank you for your patronage and friendship.

Please join us for Open House
December 18th - December 22

Texas Savings Bank
2619 College Avenue
Snyder, Texas
79549
915-573-9305

The Following Financial Institutions In Observance Of
Christmas
Will Have The Following Holiday Business Hours

Please Transact Your Business Accordingly

Texas Savings Bank
Close at Noon Friday & Reopen Tuesday

American State Bank
Regular Business Hours Friday Reopen Tuesday

West Texas State Bank
Close at Noon Friday & Reopen Tuesday

Snyder National Bank
Close at Noon Friday & Reopen Tuesday





CHRISTMAS PIANO RECITAL — Students of Joann Snider presented a piano recital on Dec. 10 at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Students playing Christmas music were (top photo) from left, front row, Megan McCormick and Jana Lewis; back row, Erin Cooley, Dana Welsh, Cole McLeod and Kasey Collier; (bottom photo) Baylee Lewis and Samuel Ashley; back row, Amanda Midwell, Stacey Clifton, Eleanor Ashley and Meghan Cooley. (Contributed Photos)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



12-21-00

North
♠ K Q 4 3
♥ A J
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ 7 6 2

West
♠ 2
♥ K Q 9 8 5
♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ A 9 3

East
♠ 8 7
♥ 10 7 6 3 2
♦ 10 7
♣ Q J 10 8

South
♠ A J 10 9 6 5
♥ 4
♦ A J 2
♣ K 5 4

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

If you are now 50, aim for 100

Apparently, if you reach 50 years of age during the next 12 months, it is 50-50 that you will live to 100. That's good news — for those in the long-lived half! And someone already knew the secret. Victor Hugo, who died in 1885, had this inscribed over his study's door:

To rise at six, to dine at ten,
To sup at six, to sleep at ten,
Makes a man live for ten times ten.

Well, as you will have guessed, today's deal revolves around 10 — not a 10, but 10 tricks. How would you try to make four spades after West leads the heart king?

With more favorable vulnerability, East should make a pre-emptive leap to four hearts, hoping both to shut out South and to suggest to partner what might be a profitable sacrifice.

As West rates to have the club ace, there is a danger of losing one diamond and three clubs. But if you assume from his opening lead that West has the heart queen, there is a guaranteed line of play. Win with dummy's heart ace, draw trumps ending in the dummy, then call for the heart jack, and instead of ruffing, discard a club (or diamond). West wins the trick, but is endplayed.

If he leads a minor, it eliminates a loser in that suit. And if he returns a heart, you ruff in the dummy and discard a club from hand. Whatever happens, you win 10 tricks and score a perfect 10 from partner.

Yes, with this layout you could win with the heart ace, ruff the heart jack, draw trumps ending in the dummy, and play a diamond to y ur jack. Eventually, you will endplay West with the fourth diamond. However, this line doesn't work so well when West has the Queen-doubleton of diamonds.

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED — Barbara Mott was honored on Dec. 14 with a reception in her home, given by her daughter, Kathy Kaun, to celebrate her 88th birthday. Barbara and her husband, Virgil, have lived in Snyder 42 years, serving on staff of several local churches. She taught piano lessons in Snyder for 37 years. Many friends and former students attended the birthday party. (Contributed Photo)

Dec. 31st
New Year's
DANCE
ZABOR
American Legion
1800 Ave. R
Members & Guests

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

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.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY

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

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 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

THE SUBWAY A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
Holiday Party Platters
Call
573-9782

Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch, Inc.
915-573-2348
The Wagon Wheel Ranch would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and to let you know we will be closed Dec. 24th-26th.

During this week just 'fore Christmas

All through West Texas State Bank
We'll be serving up some special treats,
To show to you our thanks.

It's the Wassail time of year
And time for Gingerbread too.
We've cooked up some special recipes.
We're serving them just for you.

So finish up the shopping,
And tying up those loose ends.
And be sure to drop by the Bank this week,
As we say Merry Christmas to all our friends.

Noel

OPEN HOUSE
December 20, 21, 22
Wassail and Gingerbread 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
FDIC

Dandy WESTERN WEAR
Exit 242
I-20 & Hopkins Road
Sweetwater 235-4456
OPEN:
Thurs. till 7 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. till 8 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.
*We Are Now Stocking
Imperfect Boots
by Tony Lama, Justin & Diamond J Justin
Prices Start At
$64.98, $83.98,
$99.98, $109.98 & up
Variety of Leathers
*Over 300 Pairs
Tony Lama & Justin Smooth Ostrich Western & Roper Boots
$199.98
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First Quality
Justin Classic Ropers
$79.98
Black, Brown, & Goatskin, Black Cherry & Dark Brown
Sizes 6-14, B-EEE
HATS
By Resistol
Western
3X
*Tan *Brown *Black
*Silverbelly
$79.98
4X by Resistol Black $99.98
Wrangler
Cowboy Christmas
Denim Ridge Wranglers
$18.99
Cowboy Cut, SlimFit, Regular Fit
Waist 44 & 46, Lengths 38, 40,& 44
Slightly More
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY ONLY!
LEVI'S hot prices
All 560™ Loose Fit Jeans
All 550™ Relaxed Fit Jeans
All 505® Classic Fit Jeans
All 501™ Prewashed Blue Denim
All 501™ Prewashed Black Denim
LOW PRICE of only $29.98
All 501™ Original Button Fly Jeans $28.98
All 517™ Traditional Boot Cut Jeans $26.96
OPEN SUNDAY: 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m.

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



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"You'd better not bring my brother anything!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Paler
7 Pertaining to sheep
12 Drink
13 Steele or King
14 Made fun of
15 Puppeteer Jim —
16 Apr. 15 addressee
17 In time gone by
18 Communion vessel
21 Famous physicist
23 Unit of light
26 Be ahead
28 Solar disk
29 Female sandpiper
30 Roof edge
31 Not friendly
33 Lithely
36 Letters on a cross
37 Look at
38 Playwright Coward
40 Skin ailment
41 Commit a faux pas
42 Playful
44 19th letter
45 Capuchin monkey
46 Mrs. Nixon
48 Hoses
51 Mrs. Marcos
55 Glacial epoch (2 wds.)
56 Merchant
57 Feel
58 Join metals

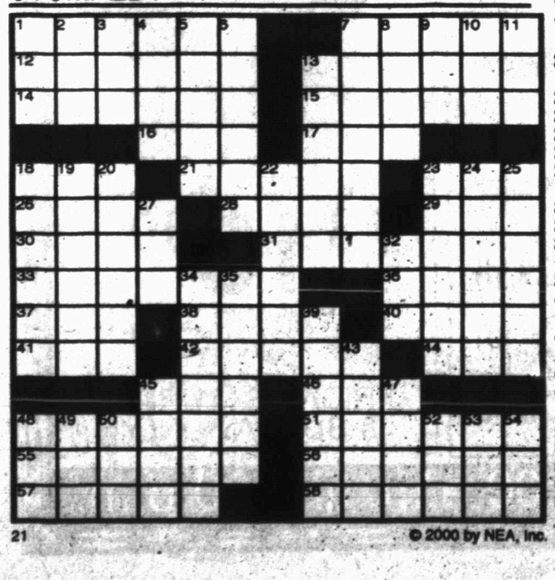
DOWN

1 Humorist
2 Soul (Fr.)
3 Celtics' org.
4 Unless (Lat.)
5 Critics Siskel and —
6 African-Arabian waters (2 wds.)
7 Pizza herb
8 Wine
9 "— a girl!"
10 "Classic" start
11 Sea eagle
13 Large sea creatures
18 Gratify
19 Aviation hero Chuck —
20 Musician Cugat
22 Remained
23 Charles' title
24 Longs (for)
25 Depends (on)
27 Neighbor of Md.
32 Spy org.
34 Widen
35 "Thelma and —"
39 Fats, e.g.
43 Relief-carved gem
45 Sargasso and Adriatic
47 Shade of blue
48 Neighbor of Minn.
49 King topper
50 Decimal base
52 Atty.'s deg.
53 Poor mark
54 LAX abbr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	O	P	P	E	R			S	W	A	I	N
K	A	R	A	T	E		T	A	H	I	N	I
O	R	E	G	O	N		I	M	E	L	D	A
			E	N	T		E	O	N			
P	H	D		S	E	E	D	Y		B	F	A
L	O	O	N		R	A	Y	E		C	A	S
E	A	S	E			T	E	D	I	O	U	S
A	G	I	T	A	T	E			A	T	L	E
S	I	N		E	R	R	S		M	I	T	T
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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



SPORTS

FSU's top target ruled ineligible

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State's Marvin "Snoop" Minnis was declared academically ineligible Wednesday, knocking the All-America receiver out of the Orange Bowl.

The third-ranked Seminoles (11-1) will meet top-ranked Oklahoma on Jan. 3 in the BCS national championship game.

Minnis was Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke's favorite target during the season, catching 63 passes for 1,340 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Weinke called the development a "shock to the whole team."

Minnis came out of relative anonymity this season as a fifth-year senior to become one of the nation's most dangerous receivers. He enjoyed his two best games against Florida and Clemson.

Weinke said Minnis had been a big part of the team's success this year.

"We'll just have to regroup offensively and we will call on some guys to step up and make the plays that he would have," Weinke said.

The Florida State depth chart lists Talman Gardner and Nick Maddox as the top two backups at flanker. They combined for 19 catches good for 333 yards and one touchdown.

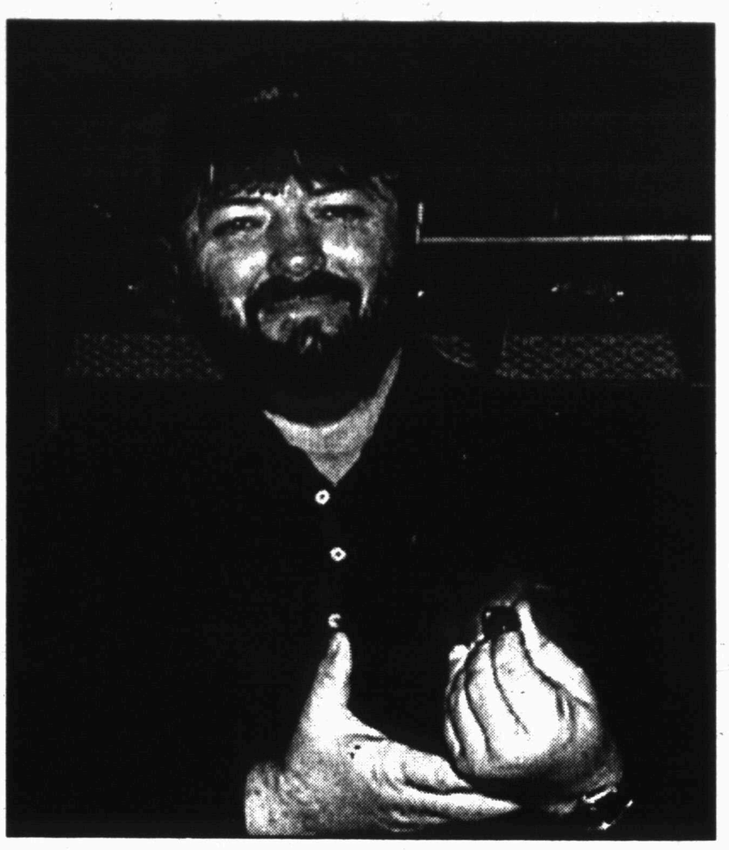
"We're all surprised," school spokesman Rob Wilson said. "No one was more surprised than Snoop."

Athletics director Dave Hart said Minnis would not accompany the team to the bowl game in Miami, the player's hometown.

Minnis was nine hours from graduation but did not satisfy the semester's requirements, Hart said.

"My one desire at this point is that he does what he has to in order to earn the degree, which we all anticipated he was on track to complete," Hart said. "We all feel badly for him."

Florida State is playing in its third straight national game and its fourth in five years. The Seminoles won national championships in 1993 and 1999.



KINGPIN — Snyder's Jeff Smith bowled a game of 298, and a three-game series of 761, recently during league play at Snyder Lanes. The American Bowling Congress recognized Smith's accomplishment by presenting him with a "298" ring. The ABC rings are only presented for games of 298 through 300. (Contributed Photo)

Southern Miss dissects Horned Frogs' defense

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Southern Mississippi delivered a message to a Conference USA newcomer: Get ready for a wild ride.

The Golden Eagles shed their late-season offensive struggles, contained Texas Christian tailback LaDanian Tomlinson and got the best of the nation's top defense Wednesday night.

The final blow was Jeff Kelly's 29-yard touchdown pass to freshman Kenny Johnson with eight seconds left, giving Southern Miss a 28-21 win over the 13th-ranked Horned Frogs in the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

It was a wild beginning to the bowl season and a triumphant finish for a senior class that won three of four bowl games.

"It's like I told our seniors," said Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower, whose team went 8-4 despite losing three of its last four regular-season games. "You always want to leave the program better than the previous senior class, and the foundation of this program is stronger than it's ever been."

The Horned Frogs (10-2) missed a chance to win bowl games in three consecutive years for the first time. Next season, they'll join Conference USA, where Southern Miss has won three titles in five years.

They'll make the move without Tomlinson and four starting offensive linemen, and with a new coaching staff, led by former defensive coordinator Gary Patterson. Quarterback Casey Printers will be back, too, and looking forward to the challenge.

"You want better competition," the sophomore said. "That's what we live for."

The Southern Miss defense, rated No. 2 overall coming in, sent Tomlinson, a Heisman Trophy finalist after rushing for more than 2,000 yards, into the NFL with what for him was a poor game. Tomlinson scored a pair of third-quarter TDs, but was held to 118 yards on 28 carries. He was still voted the game's Most Valuable Player by the media.

"He got his yards, but we held him to a minimum," said Southern Miss safety Leo Barnes, who returned an interception 50 yards for a TD in the first quarter. It was his fourth interception return for a score this season.

Normally reliable placekicker Brant Hanna had a nightmare game for Southern Miss, missing four field goals and getting two blocked. When the Golden Eagles got the ball back with 33 seconds left and 43 yards to cover, Bower had already planned to use Curtis Jones for a final kick if it came to that

"It was a tough night for Brant, but Brant's won a lot of games for us," Bower said. "I asked Curt, 'Will you take that redshirt off to win this football game?' He said, 'Yeah, coach.'"

The final chance came after Etric Pruitt got a hand on Mark Haulman's punt to set up good field position. TCU went three-and-out when a first down would have enabled the Horned Frogs to run out the clock and force overtime.

Kelly wasn't surprised at the second chance.

"Our defense has been making plays for us all season," said Kelly, who was 11-of-23 for 159 yards and three TDs. "We just told them on the sideline, 'We want one more shot.'"

"There weren't many people who gave us a chance to even stay on the field with the No. 1 defense in the country," Kelly said.

Rangers seek help on mound

DALLAS (AP) — Having bolstered their offense with the $252 million signing of Alex Rodriguez, the Texas Rangers turned their focus to upgrading the worst pitching staff in baseball.

General manager Doug Melvin met for 31/2 hours Wednesday with free agent right-hander David Cone. Melvin planned to talk with the pitcher's agent in the next few days but said no offers have been made.

"It's too early to tell, but there might be a right mix, a right fit," Melvin said by phone from Tampa, Fla., where he met Cone.

During his meeting with Melvin, Cone worked out and spoke about his problems of 2000, when he was 4-14 with a 6.91 ERA for the New York Yankees.

"We talked about last year and what went wrong, how he feels he can bounce back," Melvin said. "He felt that last year in the offseason he didn't work as hard as he should. He slacked off, and he blamed himself."

Cone turns 38 on Jan. 2.

The Rangers also signed left-hander Justin Thompson, who hasn't pitched for Texas since being acquired last year, to a $2.42 million, one-year contract. The Rangers also signed infielder Frank Catalnotto, who came to Texas in the same trade as Thompson, to a one-year contract.

Thompson, acquired from Detroit in a nine-player trade last offseason for Juan Gonzalez, didn't pitch this season because of shoulder surgery, but the Rangers remain optimistic that he will still be an impact pitcher.

Thompson is gets a $1.42 million salary for 2001 and could earn performance bonuses that would raise his earnings to $3,025,000 — matching 2000. The deal includes a team option for 2002 that will be worth $2.5 million to $5 million, depending on his performance this season. If the option isn't exercised, he would get a $1 million buyout.

In all, he could make about $9 million for two years.

"We have hopes that he will be back and pitching for us midseason," Melvin said. "At that point, we have an option on him so that year we feel very confident that he will be back at full strength and able to reach a higher level of performance."

Thompson, 27, is still undergoing rehabilitation and isn't expected to be ready for the start of the 2001 season. He has had surgery two more times since the arthroscopic surgery that ended his 1999 season.

Thompson was an All-Star in 1997, his first full season with Detroit, when he was 15-11 with a 3.02 ERA in 32 starts. He was 20-25 the next two seasons, including just 24 starts in 1999 before arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder that August.

Thompson needed additional surgery in May to repair a left rotator cuff tear. He continued to have pain in the shoulder while undergoing rehab and had surgery to remove scar tissue on Oct. 22.

"It's hard to tell physically when guys sit out a year or so, but we feel confident he can come back," Melvin said. "We have to be optimistic that he will bounce back."

Catalanotto, 26, batted .291 with 10 homers and 42 RBIs in 103 games with the Rangers in 2000. He started 34 games at second base, 20 as the designated hitter, and 12 at first base and was among the A.L.'s top pinch-hitters with a .357 average.

"He had a good year for us, coming off the bench, playing second base and filling in as DH," Melvin said. "He will probably have that same role with us this year."

Right-hander Pete Munro was not offered a major league contract for 2001 by Texas and will become a free agent.

High School Football Playoffs

CLASS 5A
Division II Championship
Katy (15-0) vs. Tyler John Tyler (12-3), 12:07 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston

CLASS 4A
Division II Championship
Ennis (13-2) vs. West Orange-Stark (15-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving

CLASS 3A
Division II Championship
Forney (11-4) vs. La Grange (13-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium, Irving

CLASS 2A
Division II Championship
Celina (15-0) vs. Mart (15-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving

CLASS 1A
Championship
Stratford (15-0) vs. Burkeville (10-4), 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISD Stadium

Mavs ride Nowitzki past Blazers

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks are proving to be a team that's tough to beat.

Or beat up.

Dallas trailed Portland for nearly three quarters Wednesday night, then Dirk Nowitzki overcame a slow start and finished with 29 points as the Mavs rallied for a 106-101 victory.

While the Trail Blazers couldn't fight back, they did start fighting, drawing four technicals down the stretch and seven for the game. Dallas never backed down and came away with a a win that was memorable for many reasons.

The Mavericks won for the fourth straight time to improve to 18-10, their best start since 1987-88. They've won five straight at home, their most since March-April 1988, and their next five are at Reunion Arena, beginning Friday night against the Los Angeles Lakers.

For coach Don Nelson, it was career victory No. 944, tying Bill Fitch for No. 3 in NBA history.

"It was an intense game, about as crazy a game as I've ever been involved in," Nelson said. "It was a hard game for the referees because of the antics by the Trail Blazers.

"It was a huge win for us. Who would ever think that we could get into a playoff-type atmosphere this time of the season ad come away with a win against what a lot of people think is the best team in the NBA come playoff time."

Should Dallas keep up its roll and make the playoffs, then meet Portland in the postseason, this game surely will be remembered.

The Blazers, though, still have to be convinced the Mavs are for real.

"When the smoke clears at playoff time, we'll see who's there," swingman Bonzi Wells said.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	18	7	.720	—
New York	15	11	.577	3½
Miami	13	14	.481	6
Orlando	10	14	.417	7½
Boston	10	15	.400	8
New Jersey	9	16	.360	9
Washington	5	21	.192	13½
Central Division				
Charlotte	17	9	.654	—
Cleveland	15	8	.652	½
Toronto	14	12	.538	3
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	4
Indiana	12	14	.462	5
Detroit	11	15	.423	6
Atlanta	7	18	.280	9½
Chicago	3	22	.120	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	18	8	.692	—
Dallas	18	10	.643	1
San Antonio	16	9	.640	1½
Minnesota	15	11	.577	3
Houston	13	11	.542	4
Denver	13	13	.500	5
Vancouver	8	17	.320	9½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	17	7	.708	—
L.A. Lakers	18	9	.667	½
Portland	17	9	.654	1
Phoenix	15	9	.625	2
Seattle	14	12	.538	4
L.A. Clippers	9	18	.333	9½
Golden State	7	18	.280	10½

Wednesday's Games
Boston 99, New Jersey 86
Toronto 99, Indiana 98, OT
Charlotte 65, Miami 56
Dallas 106, Portland 101
San Antonio 94, Cleveland 77
Utah 91, Philadelphia 89
Denver 108, Detroit 106
Seattle 89, Sacramento 85
Vancouver 118, Washington 104
L.A. Clippers 103, Minnesota 96

Thursday's Games
Chicago at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Boston at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

College Football Bowl Game Glance

All Times EST

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payout: $750,000
Southern Mississippi 28, TCU 21

Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: $800,000
UNLV (7-5) vs. Arkansas (6-5), 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Virginia (6-5) vs. Georgia (7-4), 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Boston College (6-5) vs. Arizona State (6-5), 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: $750,000
Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 4 p.m.

Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
Payout: $750,000
Texas Tech (7-5) vs. East Carolina (7-4), 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Boise State (9-2) vs. Texas-El Paso (8-3), 1:30 p.m.

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $750,000
West Virginia (6-5) vs. Mississippi (7-4), 4 p.m.

Micronpc.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $750,000
Minnesota (6-5) vs. North Carolina State (7-4), 7 p.m.

Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
Payout: $750,000
Iowa State (8-3) vs. Pittsburgh (7-4), 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: $1.25 million
Colorado State (9-2) vs. Louisville (9-2), 1:30 p.m.

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1 million
UCLA (6-5) vs. Wisconsin (8-4), 2 p.m.

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $1.8 million
Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4), 5 p.m.

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: $1.9 million
Texas (9-2) vs. Oregon (9-2), 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: $1.2 million
Nebraska (9-2) vs. Northwestern (8-3), 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: $1.2 million
Fresno State (7-4) vs. Air Force (8-3), 7 p.m.

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: $1.1 million
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. Mississippi State (7-4), 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $2 million
Ohio State (8-3) vs. South Carolina (7-4), 11 a.m.

Cotton Bowl
Payout: $2.5 million
At Dallas
Kansas State (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-3), 11 a.m.

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $1.4 million
Virginia Tech (10-1) vs. Clemson (9-2), 12:30 p.m.

Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Auburn (9-3), 1 p.m.

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $13.5 million
Purdue (8-3) vs. Washington (10-1), 4:30 p.m.

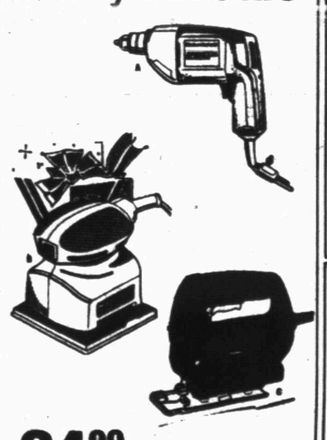
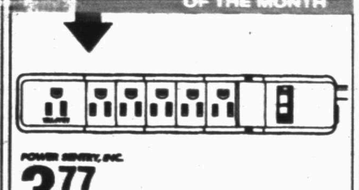
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe Ariz.
Payout: $13.5 million
Oregon State (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $13.5 million
Florida (10-2) vs. Miami (10-1), 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $11-13 million
Oklahoma (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m.

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To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of K.J. KNOLLENBERG, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,635:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executrix of the Estate of K.J. KNOLLENBERG, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 19th day of December, 2000, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to HELEN MARIE HUCKABY, 4005-B Boren Avenue, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 19th day of December, 2000.

(s)HELEN MARIE HUCKABY
Independent Executrix
of the Estate of
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deceased

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3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, separate garage, CH/A. 300 20th, $275/month, Call **573-2219.**

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3-2 1/2-2+RV Gar., Pool, Hot Tub 2501 48th
2701 34th Updated Nice 3-2-2 + sunroom $86T
Beautiful 3-2 3/4-2 + Nice garage apt. 2018 37th..... $185T
Lovely 4-1 & (2) 3/4-2cp Pool 2907 33rd $117T
Red. Wonderful Location 3-2 3/4-2 fpl $85.9T
Really Nice Starter 302 36th Pl 3-1 $32.5T
3 Acres 3-2-2cp 1966 sq. ft $65T
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2 + 2 LAs.. $92.5T
Red.! Nice Close In 2.37 A 3-1 3/4-2 $85.5T
Good Size Home 3-1 3/4-2cp 308 23rd $27.5T
Ira ISD 2 A's, Sheds, Water Well 2-1 3/4 $33T
Good Starter Home 211 34th 3-1 3/4 $27T
Reduced-Lovely 4-2-2 3303 Irving $99.9T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th. $42T
Good Farm 3 Miles out 160 A's 3-1 3/4-2
C. City 4.45 A's Lovely Hm 3-2-2 $60T
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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Cheney active as vice president-elect

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President-elect Bush announced that Paul O'Neill would serve as his treasury secretary, O'Neill volunteered that he and Dick Cheney "go back many years" together to their days in the Ford administration.

When Bush sat down to breakfast with Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chief's longtime friend Cheney was right there at the table.

When the government handed over keys to the presidential transition offices, it was Cheney who gladly accepted them.

Americans are seeing a lot more of Dick Cheney and his crooked smile than they ever did of past vice presidents-elect, even the notably visible Al Gore.

Bush's appointment of O'Neill was only the latest sign of Cheney's extraordinary influence in the work-in-progress Bush administration. Another candidate backed by Cheney, former Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana, is seen as the leading candidate for defense secretary.

"It's unbelievable, really," said Paul Light, a Brookings Institution scholar who has written a book about the vice presidency. "Al Gore had an amazing vice presidency — he really upped the ante for future vice presidents. Dick Cheney has already broken every precedent that Al Gore set. He has extraordinary range of authority."

Almost by definition, Cheney's role is broad: He is simultaneously wearing three hats as chief of Bush's transition operation, vice president-elect and future president of an evenly divided Senate where he will hold the tie-breaking vote.

Even a heart attack two weeks after the election didn't slow Cheney down for long. He has worked long hours and weekends on Bush's transition, wielding a phalanx of cell phones from his home in the days before a transition office was established.

Bush and Cheney interview job applicants together and Cheney plans to join Bush whenever there's a personnel announcement.

Beyond all that, Bush has demonstrated that he is personally comfortable working with Cheney, ever since putting him in charge of his vice presidential search operation and then deciding that Cheney himself would be the best choice.

Cheney's job description in the new administration is still being written, but Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday: "It's going to be serious, it's going to be heavy."

"One of the reasons that Governor Bush chose Secretary Cheney to serve on the ticket was because of his unparalleled experience and his ability to carry very ably a wide and diverse portfolio," Fleischer said.

Light said even highly effective vice presidents like Gore and Walter Mondale had limited roles early on as their relationships with the president were still developing. Gore, for example, got slapped down in his early efforts to take a leading role on health care and welfare overhauls, settling instead for the Reinventing Government program to streamline the federal bureaucracy.

Cheney, by contrast, "has already passed through that portal," said Light. "It's as if there were no trial period in the world. George Bush trusts him."

Erwin Hargrove, a professor of political science at Vanderbilt University, said Cheney's influence is clear although he tries to avoid leaving his fingerprints.

"A lot of it is behind the scenes," he said.

That is by design. The fewer specifics publicly known about Cheney's influence, the fewer opportunities there are to identify power struggles or places where Cheney fails.

In one largely behind-the-scenes skirmish, Cheney appears to have gained the advantage as Coats emerges as Bush's likely choice to run the Pentagon over another candidate favored by Colin Powell, tapped to be secretary of state.

Keeping quiet about the specifics of Cheney's role also helps to diminish speculation about whether Bush is ceding him undue authority.

But Bush himself has made it clear he is looking to delegate key responsibilities, referring to himself Wednesday as the "chief executive officer soon-to-be." If Bush is to be the CEO, then Cheney is poised to serve as chief operating officer — a role he's already fulfilling, in the view of some.

"I'll bet Cheney's saying to himself, 'I'm the COO. I'm running the shop,'" said Light.

Secret ballot to pick Perry's successor

AUSTIN (AP) — The state senator who will succeed Lt. Gov. Rick Perry once he becomes governor will be chosen by his colleagues in a secret, non-record vote, lawmakers decided Wednesday.

The Senate met in a closed-door caucus for two hours to lay down the rules for electing the senator who will take over the duties of the lieutenant governor.

At least six senators have emerged as contenders.

There was an "overwhelming consensus" for a rule to make the selection a non-record vote, said Senate Pro Tempore Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.

"Of all of candidates who are running, all of them feel good about their chances," Ellis said. "It was certainly not on my part or the parliamentarian's part, an attempt in any way to hurt or help anybody's candidacy. I think it would protect the decorum of the Senate."

Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, had pushed for keeping the vote public.

"In my opinion, we should conduct this election like we conduct all other business in the Senate and we should vote viva voce and if a member wants a record vote, it should be put on the record," Ogden said after the meeting.

About 10 other senators also supported holding an open vote, Ogden said. He would not give their names, but said he would cast his vote in public. He said he supports Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco.

"At least two other senators — Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, and Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi — said they would reveal their votes if their constituents ask them to.

The only rule spelled out in the Texas Constitution is that Ellis must convene the group within 30 days of the lieutenant governor vacancy happening.

President-elect Bush will resign his post as governor on Thursday morning and Perry will be sworn in later in the afternoon.

The vote for the lieutenant governor is expected Dec. 28.

Candidates for the post include Republican Sens. Sibley, Buster Brown of Lake Jackson, Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio, Teel Bivins of Amarillo and Bill Ratliff of Mount Pleasant.

Ken Armbrister of Victoria, a Bush ally during the presidential race, is one Democrat mentioned as a contender.

Each senator's name will appear on a ballot for the lieutenant governor's post. Ellis said several senators have said they do not want the post and will have their names stricken from the ballot. He would not specify which names will be removed.

Whoever wins will have the job of the lieutenant governor, but technically not the title. He or she will in effect be an acting lieutenant governor, presiding over the Senate until the 2002 election while continuing to serve as a senator.

Later Wednesday, the Senate Democratic Caucus interviewed the six candidates individually, asking them to discuss their views on issues such as hate crimes, school vouchers and redistricting. They also were asked whether they would assign committee chairmanships to both Democrats and Republicans.

Barrientos, chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, said Tuesday he believed that Republicans Wentworth and Brown were the "strong contenders" with the caucus. On Wednesday, he would not say which candidate might best appeal to Democrats.

"I do believe that a majority of Democrats will stay together," Barrientos said after the interviews.

Republicans hold a 16-15 majority in the Senate.

The Senate Republican Caucus had no plans by Wednesday afternoon to call a caucus.

Presidential panel says nothing covered up in Gulf War probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential panel says the Pentagon has worked "diligently" and did not cover anything up in investigating Gulf War illness, a series of veterans' ailments still unexplained 10 years after the war. The head of one veterans' advocacy group called the conclusion "a whitewash."

A 90-page report released Wednesday details 30 months of work by the board President Clinton ordered to oversee Pentagon investigations of illnesses reported by thousands of vets from the war.

The board concluded that the Defense Department has "worked diligently to fulfill the president's directive to 'leave no stone unturned' in investigating possible causes" for illnesses, which include memory loss, nervous system disorders, headaches, joint pains and chronic fatigue.

It also found the department "made no effort to deliberately withhold information," an allegation among critics who believe the Pentagon is hiding data about Iraqi chemical warfare agents or other toxins veterans may have been exposed while serving.

"On the contrary, DoD has made an extraordinary effort to publicize its findings through the publication of reports and newsletters, public outreach meetings, briefings to veterans," a website and so on, said the Presidential Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents.

The board repeated the main theme of all Pentagon findings so far — one that has frustrated veteran groups and contributed to suspicions of a cover-up: "To date, research has not validated any specific cause of these illnesses." It said research must continue.

An estimated $300 million has been spent and scores of studies have looked into such possible culprits as Iraq's chemical and biological weapons, service members' vaccinations, oil well fires, anti-nerve agent tablets taken by troops, desert sand and stress.

One of the board's seven members, immunologist Dr. Vinh Cam, dissented with the report in a three-page letter. An immunologist, Cam charged that the board — largely retired military brass — lacked independence from the Pentagon office it was overseeing, the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI). She also said it had no authority to suggest that stress be studied further as a possible cause.

"At times (the board) acted more like an extension of OSAGWI," Cam wrote in her dissenting letter.

"It's a whitewash — exactly the kind of whitewash we were expecting," said Pat Eddington of the advocacy group National Gulf War Resource Center, criticizing what he called the board's "cozy relationship with the Pentagon."

In a 1997 lawsuit still pending in federal court, Eddington is seeking thousands of pages of Pentagon and CIA documents he says could contain information on Iraqi chemical and biological weapons and other information relating to troop health.

Wednesday's report is the final one by the oversight board, which goes out of business this month.

Steve Smithson of the American Legion said veterans' organizations will continue to push for better medical treatment and compensation for the sick.

"I'm not going to say there was a cover-up, but there have been problems," Smithson said. "Ten years later we still don't know anymore, and in the meantime people out there are sick."

He noted that it was several years before the Pentagon acknowledged troops had been exposed to nerve gas when they blew up an Iraqi weapons stockpile in March 1991 at Khamisiyah.

On the Net:
Oversight board:
http://www.oversight.ncr.gov

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	36.75	36.19	36.19	+ .19
AT&T Corp	18.25	16.50	16.81	—2.13
Albertsons	25.44	24.63	25.25	+ .06
Alltel	57.19	55.13	56.00	—1.88
AmerOnline	36.75	34.48	35.06	—2.19
AmEl Pw	46.75	45.81	46.13	—.63
AndarkPtr	66.11	64.80	64.90	+ .11
ATMOS Egy	23.50	23.19	23.50	+ .13
Aviall	4.56	4.50	4.50	—.06
BP Amoco	46.38	45.63	46.06	+ .44
BakerHughes	40.94	39.56	39.81	—.94
Bank of Amer	44.13	42.94	43.88	+ 1.13
BellSouth	41.06	40.06	40.13	—.81
Beth Steel	1.75	1.69	1.69	
BurlNoSFe	26.50	26.19	26.19	+ .38
Caterpillar	42.88	42.25	42.75	—.31
Chevron	79.38	78.75	78.88	+ .44
Citigroup s	48.69	47.25	48.44	+ .44
Coastal	82.81	81.44	81.81	+ .44
CocaCola	58.00	56.25	57.69	+ 1.44
ColgatePal	59.87	59.30	59.49	+ .18
ComclMetals	22.44	22.06	22.06	
CooperIn	41.50	40.56	41.19	+ .56
DaimlrChry	41.19	40.50	41.03	+ .43
DellComicn s	23.38	21.94	22.94	+ 1.06
DeltaAirl	47.75	47.13	47.44	+ .63
Dillards Inc	10.94	10.75	10.75	—.13
DowChem s	33.75	32.69	33.69	+ .56
DuPont	45.25	44.56	45.06	+ .56
EastmanChem	46.81	45.88	46.50	+ .63
EstKodak	37.44	37.00	37.13	—.13
EDS Corp	53.31	52.13	52.50	—.94
Entergy	43.38	41.69	42.81	—.31
ExxonMobil	86.75	85.00	86.50	+ 1.31
FstBksAm	17.13	17.13	17.13	
Flowers	16.00	15.69	15.94	+ .06
GenDynam	74.25	73.31	74.25	+ 1.19
GenElec s	48.31	47.19	47.88	+ .44
GenMills	41.94	41.25	41.25	—.44
GenMotors	49.44	48.69	48.75	—1.25
GaPacGP	28.44	27.56	28.13	+ .38
GlobalMar	27.69	26.69	26.75	—.75
Goodrich	32.81	32.50	32.69	
Goodyear s	19.33	19.00	19.02	—.22
GtAtlPac	6.94	6.31	6.75	+ .38
Halliburtn	38.00	36.81	36.81	—.94
Hanson ADS	33.00	32.75	32.75	+ 1.19
HarteHanks	22.88	22.13	22.75	+ .75
HomeDepot	43.25	41.00	42.69	+ 1.56
Honeywellnt	47.25	46.19	46.69	+ .69
IBM	87.94	85.06	85.06	—.94
IntlPaper	39.00	37.06	38.81	+ 1.19
JohnsonJn	101.94	100.00	101.94	+ 1.31
K mart	5.06	4.94	5.06	
Kroger Co	26.75	26.06	26.63	+ .25
Lilton	62.19	61.50	61.75	+ .06
LockheedM	32.40	31.84	32.05	+ .10
Lowes Cos	41.06	40.00	41.00	+ .75
Lubys	3.63	3.50	3.56	—.13
LucentTech	13.94	12.06	13.13	—2.38
MayDeptStr	28.34	27.63	28.00	+ .50
Medtronic	54.63	54.00	54.19	+ .19
MorganJP	166.00	160.13	164.25	+ 5.13
Motorola s	18.38	17.25	17.75	—.69
NCR Corp	46.13	45.50	46.13	—.94
Navistar	22.50	22.00	22.19	+ .13
Penney JC	8.94	8.63	8.81	+ .06
PepBoys	3.56	3.38	3.38	—.19
PepsiCo	49.25	48.81	49.00	+ .13
Pharmacia	59.38	58.50	58.81	—1.13
PhelpDodge	54.31	53.38	53.38	—.69
PhilipPet	53.44	52.63	53.13	+ .19
PilgrmPrd B	7.63	7.56	7.63	+ .19
Polaroid	6.06	5.81	5.94	
Praxair	41.13	40.69	40.88	+ .06
ProctGamb	73.75	72.31	73.44	+ .88
PubS NwMx	25.75	25.44	25.50	—.38
RadioShack	44.88	42.56	42.63	—2.38
ReliantEngy	43.00	42.25	42.94	+ .38
RoyalDut	58.69	58.00	58.56	+ 1.38
SBC Comm	44.06	42.63	43.38	—.69
SaraLee	24.50	24.06	24.06	—.19
Scripps EW	60.06	59.63	59.63	—.50
SearsRoeb	32.68	31.96	32.49	+ .09
SherwinW	24.31	23.88	24.06	+ .06
SmithfldBchm	62.00	61.00	61.44	—.81
SouthernCo	32.69	32.00	32.44	—.36
SwstAirl	30.23	29.65	30.00	+ .43
SprintFON	23.06	20.38	20.75	—2.31
SprintPCS s	24.13	22.25	22.88	—1.06
Sunoco Inc	31.06	30.50	31.00	+ .50
TXU Corp	43.13	41.88	42.94	+ .75
TempleInland	50.94	49.63	50.94	+ 1.31
Texaco	58.19	57.13	57.75	+ .13
Texind	27.50	27.00	27.13	—.31
TexasInst s	44.00	41.75	43.13	+ .13
Textron	42.25	41.69	41.81	—.19
TriconGlbR	33.75	32.81	32.94	—1.00
TrinityInds	24.19	23.31	24.19	+ 1.13
TritonEngy	26.06	25.25	25.94	+ .63
TylerTech	1.44	1.25	1.38	
USX-Marathn	26.81	26.13	26.75	+ .63
USX-USS	16.25	15.56	16.19	+ .19
UnCarbde	48.69	47.13	48.38	+ 1.00
UnionPacif	48.38	47.63	47.88	
UnitedTech	73.44	72.75	72.81	—.50
Unocal	36.75	35.94	36.75	+ .81
Venator Grp	13.13	12.94	13.13	+ .06
VerizonComm	50.06	49.31	49.38	—.75
WalMart	51.94	49.31	51.69	+ 2.75
WellsFargo	53.50	52.56	52.81	—.13
WstnGasRs	27.13	26.56	26.94	+ .06
WinnDixie	18.88	18.63	18.81	+ .19
Xerox Cp	5.81	4.81	4.88	—1.13

NASA requesting proposals for robot mission to Pluto

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA wants to tap the brains of America's space thinkers to develop a mission to faraway Pluto that is cheap enough to be feasible and won't significantly delay a planned exploration of one of Jupiter's moons.

Ed Weiler, the agency's chief of space science, announced Wednesday that the agency was seeking proposals that would make it possible to send a robot craft to Pluto before the most distant of the solar system planets sweeps out of reach.

A launch planned in 2004 to Pluto, the only planet not yet visited by robot probes, was canceled in June because of spiraling costs.

Weiler said at the time that rising expenses for the Pluto-Kuiper Express were threatening the schedule for a higher-priority mission: a probe to Europa, a Jupiter moon that may harbor an ocean and possibly life.

The costs of the Europa and Pluto missions had risen from $650 million to $1.5 billion and Weiler said he acted to stay within budget and preserve the Europa mission.

The decision prompted protests from space-oriented organizations such as the Planetary Society and the American Astronomical Society.

Planetary scientists feared the opportunity to explore Pluto would be lost for years. Reaching Pluto with current technology requires a spacecraft first to pass by Jupiter and pick up speed with a gravitational boost from that huge planet. After 2006, Pluto will move out of alignment for such a boost from Jupiter, and the opportunity for a Pluto mission could be lost for about 20 years.

Under the new plan, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is soliciting proposals for a cheaper Pluto mission that would have only a modest impact on the Europa mission launch plans.

A delay of the Europa mission to 2008 would be acceptable, Weiler said, but not much beyond that. Its original launch date was to have been 2003, delayed by costs.

There is high interest and support for the Europa mission because early studies suggest that its Jovian moon has an ice-capped ocean. Some scientists believe that if this is true, then the possibility exists of life there. The search for life beyond Earth is among NASA's highest priorities.

Weiler said NASA will accept Pluto mission proposals from any organization, including universities, aerospace companies, even NASA centers such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which was in charge of the canceled Pluto mission.

"We'll leave it to the best minds in the country to determine the mission," he said. "We are trying to cast the net wide to see what ideas are out there."

Weiler said NASA is open to considering any "viable option" but is not committed to a Pluto mission. If no acceptable proposal comes, then the Pluto plans could be scrubbed.

At least two of the proposals, which are due March 19, will be picked in May for more study. If NASA concludes a Pluto mission is possible, the announcement will be made next fall, Weiler said.

The proposals require that a spacecraft, with specific scientific and imaging capabilities, reach Pluto by 2015 and cost no more than $500 million.

'Sammy The Bull' faces more charges

PHOENIX (AP) — Former Mafia underboss Salvatore "Sammy The Bull" Gravano for the third time this year has been hit with felony charges alleging he ran a narcotics ring in Arizona.

The indictments, handed down Dec. 13 and made public Wednesday, supplement earlier criminal counts against Gravano, family members and associates that allege he led and financed a major Ecstasy operation.

The indictment includes five new counts of narcotics violations and one count of money laundering. The filing was sought to ensure that prosecutors go to court with appropriate charges when Gravano's trial begins next year, said Pati Urias, a spokeswoman for the state Attorney General's Office.

Gravano, 54, killed 19 people for New York's Gambino crime syndicate before becoming a protected government witnes.

Organic standards could spur boom

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Organic growers in California, which led the push to eliminate pesticides and other manmade chemicals from the food supply, say new federal standards could legitimize organic farming and be a boon to the industry.

Under U.S. Department of Agriculture standards released Wednesday, foods grown using approved organic methods will bear a seal that reads "USDA Organic." The standards are rooted in the efforts of a small cooperative, California Certified Organic Farmers, which in 1973 began inspecting and certifying member farmers' methods and setting standards for just what "organic" means.

"It's going to mean an additional standard of integrity in the marketplace and the ability to move product from state to state and country to country," said Ray Green, organic program manager for California's Department of Agriculture.

"In terms of the old supply and demand thing, it's going to create more integrity, consumer confidence and legitimacy, and that will fuel growth."

The rules may make organic farming and processing more attractive to bigger growers, which could drive prices down.

"I think, because they're federal, we'll see more of the large retailers getting into organics," said Brian Leahy, CCOF's executive director. "I think we'll see prices getting closer to conventional."

California growers had worried that federal standards would be weaker than the state's law, but the USDA included ways to monitor compliance. California had only required organic farms and processors to register with the state and promise to comply with the rules; inspectors rarely checked whether they were followed. The federal standards require annual certification.

"We're long-term organic growers. We've been in this 22 years," said Jonathan Steinberg, co-owner of Route 1 Farms in Santa Cruz. "It probably won't affect the way I grow much, but it'll be interesting to see if it affects my costs and if I see more competition."

On the Net:

California Department of Agriculture: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov

California Certified Organic Farmers: http://www.ccof.org

USDA's National Organic Program: http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop

Organic Trade Association: http://www.ota.com

Seven surviving octuplets turning two

KATY (AP) — While she managed to calm her crying and cake-covered son Jioke as he celebrated turning 2, Nkem Chukwu's work at this birthday party was far from over.

Jioke's six siblings were also gripped in the throes of the terrible twos Wednesday afternoon.

Chukwu and her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi, were proud parents, cleaners and referees at the birthday party Wednesday in honor of their children, the seven surviving Chukwu octuplets.

"Looking at my kids brings me joy," Chukwu said as she cleaned icing from the face and hands of her other son, Ikem. "I don't care what I do for them or how tired I am."

Along with her two sons, Chukwu's other children are daughters Ebuka, Chidi, Echerem, Chima and Gorom.

At their party on Wednesday, held at a Toys R Us store and attended by about 50 people, the seven children were like any other 2-year-olds at such a celebration: they threw fits, squirmed in their small chairs and lathered their hands and faces with cake icing.

The babies were the world's only living octuplets at the time of their birth in nearby Houston.

Ebuka was delivered vaginally on Dec. 8, 1998. Her siblings joined her a week and a half later via Caesarean section on Dec. 20, 1998.

Odera, the tiniest at 10.3 ounces, died of heart and lung failure a week after being born.

About two-and-a-half months premature and each weighing less than two pounds, the babies faced numerous health problems when first born. They spent the first few months of their lives in the hospital.

Now they are doing well and have no ongoing health concerns, said Dr. Patti Savrick, who has looked after the children since their birth.

"The babies are beautiful. They have very good language development. They're walking, talking machines. They are not the biggest kids on the block but they are of normal size for 2-year-olds," she said.

The seven children — products of fertility treatment — live with their Nigerian-born parents, in a six-bedroom house in nearby League City. The home was donated by the Federal National Home Mortgage Association.

Besides the house, the family also has received a van, a lifetime supply of diapers and an undisclosed amount in donations to a trust fund set up for the children.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 22, 2000

The payoff for projects you've had in the mill for some time is closer than you might think. Finish what you started this year before embarking on a new venture or enterprise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Looking for ways to dodge or postpone responsibilities that require your immediate attention today will compound problems, not avoid them. Keep your nose to the grindstone. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It's good to be in a sociable mood, but you'd be wise today to stick to socializing with tried-and-true friends rather than moving in circles with just anybody. Things might not turn out well.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You might feel you have the edge today, but take nothing for granted in competitive developments. This is especially true if it involves your career. You could easily miscalculate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be very careful not to exaggerate or pretend you're knowledgeable about something which, in truth, you know very little. You'll be exposed and could be very embarrassed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not take on any long-term fiscal obligations at this time if a loss could jeopardize your present lifestyle. It's not a good day for getting into debt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's extremely important you not allow someone whose judgment you have found questionable in the past impose his or her opinions or decisions on you today. Think for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be a producer, not a procrastinator today. Your co-workers, or worse yet, your boss will become extremely disenchanted with you if you fail to shoulder your responsibilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) There is a strong probability today that your self-discipline might not be operative and cause you to overindulge. Relax and enjoy yourself, but do everything in moderation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone who is spoiled and accustomed to having his or her way might attempt to push you around today. Don't be a patsy and let this individual continue those selfish ways.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It's important to always remain optimistic and positive about that which is feasible. However, today wishful thinking might override realism, making disappointment inevitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) What looks like a good deal today could turn out to be anything but. Carefully examine either merchandise or a proposition before buying what's being sold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be certain the person with whom you are negotiating today is bending over backward to be fair, then follow his or her example. An agreement is only as good as the intent of both sides.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Quilters rattled by raffle try to do the right thing

DEAR ABBY: We have a unique problem and hope that you can help us. We are members of a quilt-making club. The quilts we make are well thought of. Once a year, we raffle off one of them, and therein lies our problem.

The man who won this year's quilt is not very well thought of. In fact, some people here consider him "scum." Nevertheless, his name was drawn, and we draw only once. The ladies were shocked. They stood there with their mouths open. Some of them said if they had known he would be the winner, they would not have worked so hard on the quilt. Others suggested that we draw again — which, in fact, we did.

Then one club member spoke up and said it wasn't fair. The man won the quilt fair and square. Buying a raffle ticket was the only requirement involved.

I can see no way around giving that man the quilt. I believe honesty is the best policy. Can you help us to do the right thing? — **TROUBLE IN PARADISE**

DEAR TROUBLE: Consider this: If you give the quilt to someone else, you will put yourselves on the same moral level as the man you have labeled as "scum." So do the honest thing — give him the quilt and hold a good thought. Perhaps the love and care that went into crafting it will rub off on him, and he'll be better for it.

**

DEAR ABBY: Both my grown daughters work, and I take care of their daughters for them. Granted, I have them only a few hours a day, but I still have to feed them and give them snacks and juice.

All I ask in return is $20 for each child every two weeks to help pay for the food and beverages.

My older daughter says it's definitely worth it to her, as it would cost far more for someone else to care for her daughter. My younger daughter and her husband, however, are throwing a fit. They insist that a grandmother should never charge money to watch her own grandchild. I also watch them on weekends and barely get a thank-you.

What is your opinion, Abby? Am I ... **A GRANDMA OR A DOORMAT?**

DEAR GRANDMA: Twenty dollars per child for every two weeks seems reasonable to me. I'm sure you wouldn't ask your daughters to chip in if you didn't need the money. Your younger daughter is looking a gift horse in the mouth. Tell her to stop saying "nay" and pony up the money or provide her own lunches and snacks.

P.S. Your older daughter is right. Child care costs a bundle these days, and anyone who doubts it should check it out.

**

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have this little disagreement about how to eat properly.

I eat with the fork in my left hand and my knife in my right hand. I have the fork facing downward, so I don't have to ever let go of my fork to eat. My girlfriend holds the utensil in the same hands, but she puts down her knife and switches her fork to her right hand to eat.

We saw on a Web site that both ways are correct. However, we want to have the final answer and figured you would be a good mediator. — **HUNGRY COUPLE, EAU CLAIRE, WIS.**

DEAR HUNGRY COUPLE: You and your girlfriend are both eating "properly." You are doing it in the European style, and your girlfriend is doing it in the American style. You don't need a mediator. The person with the bone to pick needs to exercise a little more tolerance.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS: Happy and blessed Hanukkah!

**

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

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CENTRAL CAROLERS — Central Elementary students sang Christmas carols at several locations in Snyder last week. They are pictured singing in the First Baptist Church chapel. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)





EAST CAROLERS — East Elementary students who earned at least 25 Accelerated Reader points helped spread the Christmas cheer this week by caroling. They sang at the Senior Citizens Center on Wednesday. Sharlot Sparlin, music teacher, accompanied them on the piano. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Much excitement, little info as Madonna's wedding nears

DORNOCH, Scotland (AP) — Among the stars invited to rub shoulders with Madonna and Guy Ritchie at the baptism of their son on Thursday are a few dozen elderly local gents whom the couple will have special reason to toast.

The celebrity pair, hoping for some privacy, chose the remote Scottish Highlands for their wedding and the christening of their 4-month-old baby, Rocco.

But the Church of Scotland forbids private christenings unless elders — parishioners with faultless attendance records — are allowed in as witnesses.

If the religious loophole hadn't been used, the prying eyes currently clambering up stepladders and peering out of windows opposite Dornoch's 13th-century cathedral might have been a little too close for comfort at Thursday evening's ceremony.

Madonna and Ritchie are to be married in Dornoch on Friday afternoon — apparently. The venue is thought to be Skibo Castle, developed a century ago as steel baron Andrew Carnegie's palatial vacation hideaway overlooking Dornoch Firth.

The couple have shrouded the two ceremonies in secrecy. Even the groom's father, 71-year-old John Ritchie, claims he's in the dark about the details of Friday's wedding.

"I wouldn't dare ask," he said.

The stars arriving at the airport, the masses of telephoto lenses and the eager kids hoping for a glimpse of someone famous all testify that Madonna's wedding is no secret.

Susan Brown, the minister who will conduct the ceremony, said she was initially contacted by a third party and had no inkling that a major celebrity was seeking her services.

In an interview with AP Television News, she said her son Simon, 13, and daughter Hannah, 10, probably didn't believe Madonna would be the bride "until the press arrived at the doorstep."

While she wouldn't describe Madonna and Ritchie as just another couple, Brown said: "Each couple you marry you try to do the very best for them, to make their day a special day, a meaningful day and everything they want it to be to give them the best possible start."

The couple's idea of a good start seems to be to stay out of the public eye as much as possible, leaving local people to endure the attention of the media.

On Wednesday evening, television crews packed a local pub asking reluctant locals for interviews. Barmen carrying pints of beer to the tables ducked to avoid cameras, carefully negotiating yards of knotted cables.

"Normally there'd just be three or four people in tonight," said 40-year-old Bryan Connell. "Now it's heaving. We've even had to listen to Madonna all night on the jukebox."

Hundreds of photographers have staked out positions for a possible photo opportunity, chaining their tall ladders to police barriers opposite the church. Journalists hovered about, clutching mobile phones while school children stared.

The church gladly accepted a donation from photographers and reporters to take down a sign which blocked views of the cathedral entrance, Britain's Press Association news agency reported.

Madonna seems determined to thwart the intrusion, remembering the circling press helicopters that marked her 1985 wedding to actor Sean Penn on a California clifftop.

While the media may not be so obliging, many people in Dornoch, a town of 2,500 on Scotland's far north coast, seem inclined to protect the couple's privacy.

"That's the way we Scots are up here," said Sandra Peterkin, manager for the Northern Highlands Tourist Board. "We don't intrude They've come here for a reason, and we'll be respecting that. Have no doubt."

Enterprising residents have, however, been quick to seize on the moneymaking potential of the event.

Lockney ISD drug-test suit goes to judge

LUBBOCK (AP) — A federal judge will rule on a challenge of the Lockney school district's mandatory, across-the-board drug testing policy.

Both sides in the lawsuit over testing students in the Panhandle town for drugs have asked U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings of Lubbock to decide the case without a jury.

Larry Tannahill and the American Civil Liberties Union sued in March on behalf of Brady Tannahill, alleging the district violated the 13-year-old's constitutional rights by punishing him as if he tested positive based on his refusal to submit to urinalysis.

Now a seventh-grader, Tannahill is the only student who was not allowed by his parents to be tested.

School district administrators, in documents filed Friday and made available publicly Monday, contend that a prevalent drug problem in Lockney prompted the policy.

The district contends that the policy deters drug use, helps ensure students' health and safety and helps promote education.

"There were enough rumors, enough talk and enough input and even enough kids being detained by police and these kind of things that it was a concern to us, that we felt fairly certain that there was a serious drug problem," Superintendent Raymond Lusk said in a sworn statement.

Tannahill claims that the drug-testing policy violates the Fourth Amendment.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Prednisone can raise blood sugar

DEAR DR. GOTT: During routine exams for the past few years, my fasting blood-sugar levels have ranged from 80 to 100 milligrams. Last summer, because of persistent asthma, my doctor prescribed a lengthy course of prednisone, which I'm still taking. A repeat determination in September revealed a blood sugar of 219. My doctor says I have diabetes and wants to prescribe medication for this. Do I have a better option?

DEAR READER: Yes. Stop the prednisone. Actually, you must slowly taper the dose of the medication.

Cortisone, of which prednisone is one form, has many side effects, the most glaring of which is diabetes. The reasons for this are unclear, but many patients who are prescribed steroids exhibit elevated blood-sugar levels, which fall to normal once the medications are discontinued.

Your doctor is correct that your blood sugar is above the normal level (110 milligrams) and this places you technically in the diabetic range — and for all I know, you may actually have a diabetic tendency that was brought out by the steroid therapy. However, in my experience, patients taking prednisone commonly show this pattern. Rather than committing you to a lifetime of therapy, I would feel more comfortable with the following scenario:

1. Cut back on your intake of sugar and sweets. This is a prudent measure even if you have no tendency to diabetes; Americans consume too much of this stuff.

2. At the same time, follow your doctor's advice about slowly reducing your dosage of prednisone.

3. When you have been drug-free for a month or two, have another fasting blood sugar determination. If your sugar level is normal, Bravo! Your diabetes was steroid-induced. If the level continues to be high, you will probably need medication to bring it down.

4. Continue to have annual (at least) blood-sugar tests because you are at increased risk for diabetes.

In summary, steroids can often bring out an unsuspected diabetic tendency, which can customarily be handled satisfactorily by either dietary modification or discontinuation of the cortisone drugs. Appropriate laboratory follow-up is mandatory.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Based on an MRI study for abdominal pain, my doctor diagnosed "inflamed fat" around my intestines. Please explain this to me.

DEAR READER: I'm not sure I can, without further information. There are portions of the intestine surrounded by fat. If part of the intestine becomes inflamed or infected, the fat may be secondarily involved. Such a situation could result from diverticulitis, bowel abscess, appendicitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease and a host of other intestinal disorders. Therefore, I believe that your "inflamed fat" is more a marker for disease than a disease itself. Ask your physician for clarification. Perhaps you need further testing (such as colonoscopy) or evaluation by a gastroenterologist.

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Actress not hurt in plane crash

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — A plane carrying actress Sandra Bullock and three other people missed a runway and crashed at the Jackson Hole Airport early Wednesday. Authorities said no one was hurt.

Bullock, who stars in the current "Miss Congeniality," was aboard the plane with two crew members and another person, airport manager George Larson said. He said all were uninjured.

The twin-engine Hawker corporate jet, owned by RR Investments of Texas, was heavily damaged. The main nose landing gear was sheared off and both wings were extensively damaged, Larson said.

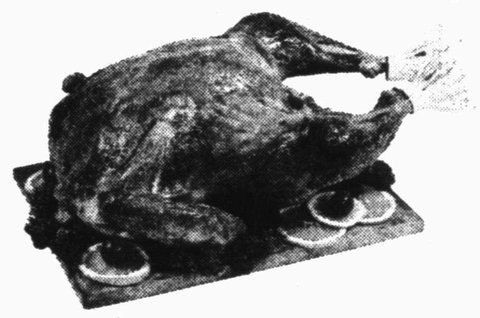
The plane landed between a runway and taxiway at the airport in northwestern Wyoming about 1:30 a.m.

Blizzard conditions and a high cross wind made landing more difficult than usual, authorities said.

The harsh weather may have disoriented the pilot, Richard Campbell, of Fort Worth, Texas, causing him to mistake a set of ground lights for the center of the runway, airport officials said.

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Clinton outlines peace plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has proposed the outline of a peace accord to Palestinian and Israeli negotiators and they appeared to be drawing closer on the volatile issue of Jerusalem's future, Palestinian officials said Thursday.

The Israelis shared some of the optimism as the talks moved into a third day with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright joining the deliberations.

Clinton is due to see the two sides again on Friday, said an Israeli diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Israeli described Clinton's outline as somewhat vague, but dealing with all the core issues in the 52-year dispute between Israel and the Arabs.

Several major stumbling blocks remained, including disagreement over whether millions of Palestinians had a right to resettle in Israel.

Clinton intervened on Wednesday when the two delegations called on him at the White House, Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami and Palestinian negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

"Concerning sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, including holy Islamic and Christian shrines, we are very close on this point," Abed Rabbo said.

The holy places of Jerusalem — in particular, the disputed hilltop that is the holiest site in Judaism known as the Temple Mount and also reversed by Muslims as the Haram as-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary — lie at the heart of the conflict.

Abed Rabbo told The Associated Press that sharp disputes remained over the fate of thousands of Palestinian refugees and Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but that progress had been made on the status of Jerusalem, which both sides claim as their capital.

The peace talks were entering their third day on Thursday.

The White House gave a subdued account Wednesday of U.S.-sponsored negotiations after the two sides visited with Clinton. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was scheduled join the negotiations Thursday.

"We're very realistic," spokesman P.J. Crowley said

Buses, trucks get new pollution rules

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Clinton administration on Thursday approved new regulations expected to cut air pollution from heavy-duty trucks and buses by more than 90 percent over the next decade.

Attacking one of the major sources of dirty air, the federal standards will require new large trucks and buses to meet stringent tailpipe emission limits. The standards will also direct refiners to produce virtually sulfur-free diesel fuel.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the new requirements, when widely in effect, will annually eliminate 2.6 million tons of smog-causing chemicals and 110,000 tons of soot that now belch from the heavy-duty trucks and buses.

"Today's action will dramatically cut harmful air pollution," EPA Administrator Carol Browner said at a news conference announcing the new rules.

President Clinton, in a statement, said the new emission controls "will prevent not only the thick plumes of diesel exhaust all too familiar to motorists, but also thousands of cases of respiratory illness and premature deaths."

Browner said she hoped the incoming Bush administration would not delay the new requirements, which begin to go into effect in 2006.

The new rules are the latest in a flurry of regulations being churned out in the last days of the Clinton administration, crafted to head off challenge by George W. Bush.

The president-elect has not expressed any views on the truck rules, but some Republicans in Congress have criticized the new sulfur requirements for diesel fuel. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., has vowed to push legislation that would roll back the diesel rule next year, arguing the requirements could lead to fuel shortages.

Environmentalists, who have eagerly awaited the EPA truck and diesel regulations since they were proposed last May, expressed doubt they would be overturned given the widespread public sentiment against trucks belching black smoke from their smokestacks.

"This is the biggest vehicle pollution news since the removal of lead from gasoline," said Richard Kassel, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and head of a campaign to reduce truck pollution.

The American Lung Association's John R. Garrison said: "Millions of Americans, especially children with asthma, will breathe easier."

And Jason Mark of the Union of Concerned Scientists termed the announcement "the end of the road for rolling smokestacks."

The rules apply to new trucks and replacement truck engines sold beginning in late 2006. It is expected to take at least a decade beyond that for the cleaner trucks to replace most of the current fleet. Still, the pollution reductions eventually will be equal to removing 13 million trucks from the road, according to various estimates.

To meet the more stringent emission standards, heavy-duty trucks will for the first time will have to be equipped with pollution controls that capture exhaust chemicals — similar to the catalytic devices that have been required on cars for years.

At the same time, 80 percent of the diesel fuel sold nationwide will have to be virtually sulfur free — on average 15 parts per million of sulfur — by 2006. All diesel will have to meet the new requirement by 2010.

Patrols requested in neighborhoods

• ***Close patrol***

A woman requested a close patrol in the 100 block of Peach in reference to coming home around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and finding a window open in her home.

She did not discover anything missing.

A man in the 3700 block of Highland requested a close patrol of his neighborhood in reference to someone dragging his swing and Christmas lights around his yard.

• ***Arrests***

A 23-year-old man was taken into custody at 10:17 a.m. Wednesday on warrants for theft by check and failure to appear.

At 7:02 p.m. Wednesday, a 26-year-old man was arrested on two justice of the peace warrants for issuance of bad checks.

A Department of Public Safety trooper took an 18-year-old man into custody at 10:41 p.m. Wednesday at Highway 84 and Ennis Creek Road for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

• ***Hit and run***

Inez Alonzo notified police at 9:16 p.m. that a truck had come through the area of 26th Street and Avenue C and pulled down a transformer and electric wires.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 21 – Victoria Lopez and Oleita Mitchell.

DISMISSALS: Iva Black, Jake Bowman, Keisey Davis, Mozelle James, James Merrell, Barbara Allen, Dorothy Boyd, Jack Ezell, Pearl Masters, Steven Stanley and Vonnie Wallace.

CENSUS: 34 (Med./Surg.-12, Long-term Care-22)

Obituaries

Jerry Beavers

1922-2000

LUBBOCK – Jerry Beavers, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Dec. 18, in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

A memorial service for Mr. Beavers, 78, will be held at a later date.

Born April 4, 1922 near Camp Springs, Mr. Beavers was a graduate of Hobbs High School. He earned a degree in agriculture from Texas Tech University in 1947. He married Bobbye Clark in November, 1946.

Mr. Beavers was retired and a member of Trinity Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbye Beavers of Lubbock; a son, Jerry Beavers Jr. of Lubbock; a daughter, Penny Harmonson of Austin; a sister, Bennie Sealy of New Home; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Hilda Etheredge

1914-2000

ROSCOE – Hilda Matilda Ohlenbusch Etheredge, longtime area resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, in Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater.

Funeral for Mrs. Etheredge, 86, is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the First Salem Lutheran Church with the Rev. Glenn Dittmer officiating.

Interment will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 2, 1914 in Loraine, she was married to Clifford C. "Pete" Etheredge. He survives.

Mrs. Etheredge was a homemaker and was a life-long resident of Roscoe and a member of the First Salem Lutheran Church.

Survivors also include two sons, Jay Etheredge of Houston and Cliff Etheredge of Wastella; a brother, Albert Ohlenbusch of McGregor; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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D.M. Cogdell Jr.

1922-2000

D.M. Cogdell Jr. died on Tuesday near his home in Floyd County as a result of a single-car automobile accident. He was 78 years old.



D.M. Cogdell Jr.

Funeral services are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church in Floydada. A graveside service will be held at Snyder Cemetery in Snyder at 4:00 p.m. following the funeral service.

Cogdell was born Sept. 20, 1922 at his grandparents' home in Jones County to the late Mr. D.M. Cogdell Sr. and Mrs. Johnnye Kate Oldham Cogdell. He had resided in Floyd County since the early sixties.

He grew up on ranches in Kent and Cottle Counties. He attended high school in Snyder and college at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and at Texas Tech. He graduated from the United States Navy V-12 Program at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois for officer training in World War II. He served in active duty in the Navy as an officer aboard a combat vessel for an extended tour of duty in the Pacific.

He was a member of the National Cutting Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association, Texas Cattle Feeders Association and the First United Methodist Church.

Cogdell was a well-known rancher, oilman and philanthropist, who generously supported many charitable activities throughout the area.

Cogdell's significant ranching heritage dates back to the turn of the century when his father D.M. Cogdell Sr. began ranching near Abilene. During his more than 60 years of active ranching, Mr. Cogdell continued the family's ranching tradition by acquiring and operating many Panhandle area ranches in several different counties.

He is survived by two daughters, Connie Delle Cogdell of Lubbock, Texas and Carol Cogdell Courtney and her husband, John Patrick Courtney of Houston, Texas; a brother, Billy Cogdell of Silverton, Texas; and two grandsons, John Cogdell Courtney and David Martin Courtney.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Martha Ann Cogdell and JoniSue Cogdell Bowden Stiff.

The family suggests memorials to the Ranching Heritage Center, 3121 E 4th St., Lubbock, TX 79403; Humane Society c/o Lubbock Animal Shelter, PO Box 2000 Animal Services, Lubbock, TX 79457 or to a favorite charity.

The family will receive friends at the First United Methodist Church at 12:00 noon until service time Friday, December 22, 2000.

Honorary pallbearers are: Todd Beedy, E.A. Birdwell, Fred Cardinal, Bob Cave, Don Floyd, Dick Hart, Babe Jones, J.W. Lindley, Scott Lindley, Ed McCormick, Sam Middleton, Tommy Riley, Mike Smith and Jack Westbrook.

(Paid Obituary)

WCFH
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WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th St. Snyder, Texas
915-573-6200
FOR INFORMATION GO TO WWW.AMERICANMEMORIALS.COM

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Retirement reception

A reception in honor of Rona Sikes will be held until 5 p.m. today in the county courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse. Mrs. Sikes has served as county tax assessor-collector since Jan. 1, 1985. The tax office is closed during the reception.

Christmas Party

Snyder Healthcare Center will host the annual Christmas party at 7 p.m. Friday. Families are asked to bring a gift for residents and also cookies. Santa will also attend.

Knapp Baptist change

Knapp Baptist Church will have its regular church service at 10 a.m. this Sunday, rather than 11 a.m. Call pastor Leroy Ochoa at 573-6009 for more information.

Christmas Eve candlelight service

The Colonial Hill Baptist Church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church, located at 37th St. and El Paso.

First Christian Church services.

The First Christian Church will hold its annual Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church, located at 2701 37th St.

The Christmas Story

Northside Missionary Baptist Church, 1909 16th St., will present "The Christmas Story" cantata at 11 a.m. Christmas Eve. The 45-minute program will also be signed for the hearing-impaired. For transportation, call 573-7105.

Candlelight service

First Presbyterian Church, 2712 Ave. R, will hold its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Community candlelight service

A community celebration of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion will be held at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve at First United Methodist Church, 2700 College Ave.

Word Is Life Church

The Word is Life Church will present Keith Longbotham and his niece, Macy Hill, in ministry at 7 p.m. Dec. 27. Longbotham travels the nation sharing the messsage of the power of God's love. Hill is a young recording artist. Everyone is invited.

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

Auditor reception

A retirement reception to honor County Auditor Eddie McHaney will be held from 2-4 p.m. next Thursday in the county courtroom on the third floor.

Retirement honor

A retirement reception will be held from 10 until 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29, in the District Courtroom for John Cline who is retiring after 36 years as the court reporter.

Turkey shoot

The Snyder FFA Booster Club members will have a Turkey Shoot on Sunday, Dec. 31, from noon until dark at the Canyon Gun Club Range. R.S.V.P. by calling Skip Craig at 573-7750 or 725-7027; or Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

Raw peanuts for sale

The women of The Church of God in Ira are selling raw peanuts for holiday cooking. The cost is $10 for a five-pound bag. To order, call Sheila Alexander at 573-8148, or Juanita Hester at 728-3312.

Retirement reception

A come-and-go retirement reception in honor of Bob Martin, Windham School District deputy superintendent for Region 5, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at the region office located on the south side of the Price Daniel unit.

SHS class of 1981 reunion

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

Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

Glory Room open

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

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information call Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 5. Testing in the extended application process is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 11, 9 a.m. Jan. 17 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.