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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

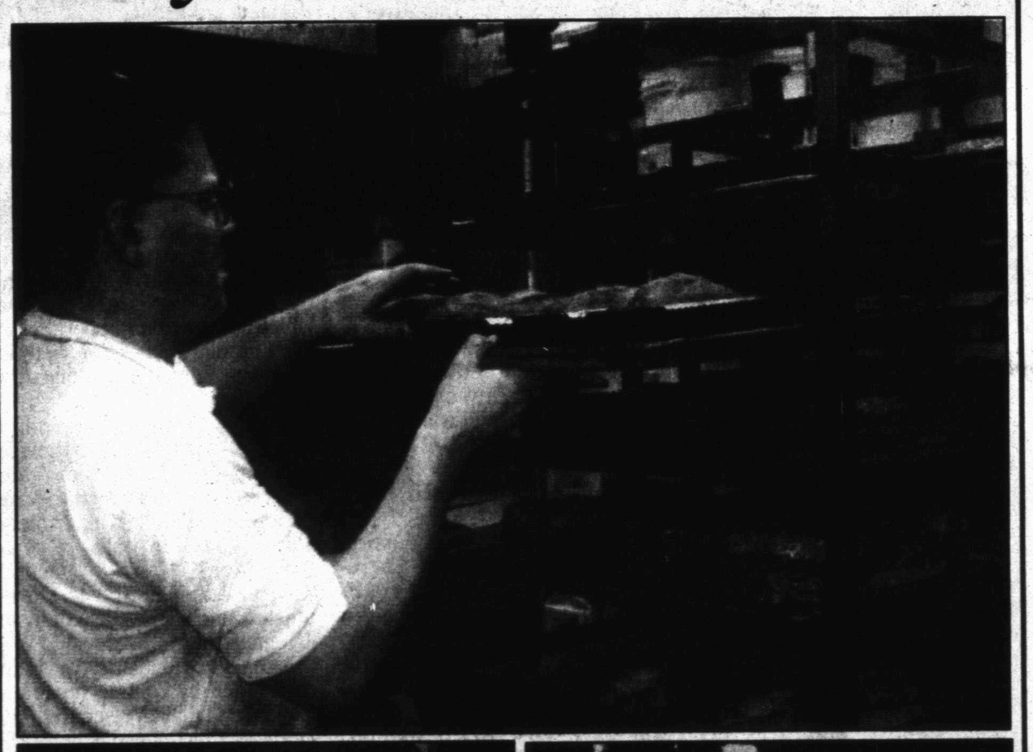
MONDAY

Jan. 5, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 214
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Terann Ragland, Brooks Nunley

JAN 05 2004

Early risers...







BRIGHT AND EARLY—David Brim, (top) bakes while Nola Krop (bottom right) displays the finished products at United Supermarket bakery. Sharon and Martin Latta (bottom left) prepare for another morning at Daylight Donuts. (SDN Staff Photos)

Some bakers rise early here

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

Cake and glazed donuts, filled longjohns, cinnamon twists, bearclaws and other tasty treats for breakfast-on-the-go demand a parallel work shift from the normal nine to five.

In Snyder there are some folks who rise in the wee hours of the morning making sure that their customers' breakfasts will be delicious.

At 3 a.m. most people are still fast asleep, oblivious to anything before they begin the 8 a.m. drive to work which often requires coffee and a donut.

However, Martin and Sharon Latta, owners of Daylight Donuts, and David Brim and Nola Krop of the United Supermarket bakery, have already completed more than half of their workday.

"We've been at this for so long, the odd hours don't bother us," said Sharon Latta.

The Lattas begin stirring dough at midnight six nights a week, opening for business at 4 a.m. They have owned the franchise in Snyder since 1997.

"We've been in the donut shop business for more than 25 years. Someday we'll retire, but I'm not sure when."

Along with donuts and sweet rolls, United Supermarket bakery specializes in breads, cakes and pies.

"I generally start baking at around 3 a.m.," said Brim. "It takes some time, but I've gotten used to it. Although there are some days when I'd like to sleep."

Krop feels the same about the early hours.

"It's hard to get up sometimes, but it's really a good job," she added.

Burritos are also a popular breakfast item in Snyder and they will be a subject of a future story.

Landfill work is on city council agenda

Animal shelter also agenda item

Snyder city council tonight will consider a contract with an engineering firm to expand the capacity of the sanitary landfill.

The contract with Freese & Nichols calls for payments not to exceed $85,000 for work that will modify grades and improve the drainage to increase the capacity.

The work will require a permit from the state and the engineering firm will assist the city in obtaining the necessary permits.

The council also will consider the first reading of an ordinance granting a zone change request for 2007 West Drive. The owner of the property wants to put in a pipe yard at the site located one block west of the former radio station on KSNY Drive.

The city's planning and zoning commission has recommended the city deny the application for the zoning change due to several neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity objecting. The neighbors cite noise and additional heavy truck traffic in the neighborhood as their main concerns.

The council also will hear a report from the animal shelter committee concerning a city-owned shelter and possible locations.

Police Chief Steve Warren will present bids for three police vehicles that are included in the city's budget. The city budgeted $67,500 for the vehicles.

City finance officer Jeanne Johnson also will give the 2003 investment report.

The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

Fingerprinting foreigners underway at major airports

ATLANTA (AP) — Authorities began scanning fingerprints and taking photographs of arriving foreigners today as part of a new program that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said will make borders "open to travelers but closed to terrorists."

The program, aimed at letting Customs officials instantly check an immigrant or visitor's criminal background, targets foreigners entering the 115 U.S. airports that handle international flights, as well as 14 major seaports. The only exceptions will be visitors from 27 countries — mostly European nations — whose citizens are allowed to come to the United States for up to 90 days without visas.

Ridge was at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to meet with some of the first foreign passengers to go through the new system.

He described the move as "part of a comprehensive program to make sure our borders remain open to travelers but closed to terrorists."

"It's easy for travelers to use but hard for terrorists to avoid," Ridge said today.

In a pilot program at Hartsfield-Jackson that preceded today's nationwide implementation, authorities turned up 21 people on the FBI's criminal watch list for such crimes as drug offenses, rape and visa fraud, Ridge said.

Foreigners also will be checked as they leave the country as an extra security measure and to ensure they complied with visa limitations.

Most passengers breezed through the fingerprinting and picture-taking today, spending only a few seconds more than they normally would at the Customs station where they're asked about their visits.

But one traveler doubted the program would deter terrorists because they could come from the 27 countries that are exempt from visa checking.

"It's easy, but I don't think it's going to be effective," said Carlos Thome, who flew in from Sao Paulo, Brazil. "You can also have terrorists in Europe."

Some passengers said they supported the extra scrutiny.

"I don't have any real ethical problems with it, just the inconvenience of having to wait a little bit longer. But it's not a big deal," said Bradley Oakley-Brown, who was changing planes at Atlanta en route from South Africa to Wisconsin.

Called US-VISIT, or U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, the program will check up to estimated 24 million foreigners each year, though some will be repeat visitors.

Inkless fingerprints will be taken and checked instantly against the national digital database for criminal backgrounds and any terrorist lists.



NEW SYSTEM — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, left, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Mary Armbrust look on as a passenger has fingerprints taken today in Atlanta. (AP Photo)

Homeland Security spokesman Bill Strassberger said that once screeners become proficient, the extra security will take only 10 to 15 seconds per person. Foreign travelers also will continue to pass through regular Customs points and answer questions.

Photographs will be used to help create a database for law enforcement. The travel data is supposed to be securely stored and made available only to authorized officials on a need-to-know basis.

A similar program is to be installed at 50 land border crossings by the end of next year, Strassberger said.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry has requested that Brazilians be removed from the U.S. list, and police started fingerprinting and photographing Americans arriving at Sao Paulo's airport last week in response to the new U.S. regulations.

"At first, most of the Americans were angered at having to go through all this, but they were usually more understanding once they learned that Brazilians are subjected to the same treatment in the U.S.," Brazilian police spokesman Wagner Castilho said last week.

The U.S. system consists of a small box that digitally scans fingerprints and a spherical computer camera. It will gradually replace a paper-based system that Congress ordered to be modernized following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

A person whose fingerprints or photos raise questions would not be turned away automatically. The visa holder would be sent to secondary inspection for further questions and checks. Officials have said false hits on the system have been less than 0.1 percent in trial runs.

The system was scheduled to begin operation New Year's Day but was delayed to avoid the busy holiday travel period.

Former Baylor player...

Dotson's trial date not firm

WACO (AP) — The murder trial for the former Baylor University basketball player charged with killing of one of his teammates has been set for March but probably will be delayed, his attorney said.

A preliminary hearing was set for Feb. 27, and a trial date for Carlton Dotson was set for March 22, according to Waco's 54th State District Court.

But the trial likely will be later, Dotson's attorney Abel Reyna said.

"We are really still in the investigative process right now," Reyna said. "As you can imagine, there were a lot of reports that were generated by police on this case, and we are going to have to go through all that before we are going to be ready to go forward."

Dotson, 21, has been jailed in Waco without bond on a murder charge since he was brought to Texas on Oct. 28 from his home state of Maryland, where he was arrested July 21.

Patrick Dennehy had been missing about six weeks when his body was found July 25 near a gravel pit southeast of Waco. An autopsy later revealed Dennehy, 21, had died from two gunshot wounds to the head.

While authorities in Maryland reported that Dotson confessed to shooting Dennehy, Dotson told reporters after his arrest that he "didn't confess to anything."

Reyna said "it is too early to tell" whether Dotson's defense team will seek to move the trial to a different city or will file any other motions that could change the trial date.

Reyna said Dotson's lawyers had not decided whether to seek an insanity defense. The day before his arrest, Dotson called Chestertown, Md., authorities saying he was delusional and asking for help.

Schools reopen with security much tighter

GROVE CITY, Ohio (AP) — Some parents drove students who normally ride the bus and extra security guards were on hand as schools in this Columbus suburb reopened today after bullet marks on two buses were linked to a series of sniper shootings.

In the parking lot of East Franklin Elementary School, parents sat in cars and watched their children walk to the front door after a two-week winter break.

"I think all these schools should have some people here to protect them. I feel they're safer with me," said Amy Stainer, who dropped off her two children.

South-Western School District canceled classes for its 20,000 students on Dec. 18 and 19, the last days before the break, after the marks were found on two buses. The district is next to Interstate 270 where many of 18 shootings have happened.

ASK US

Q—What is the number to call for a snow report at Ski Apache?
A—505-257-9001.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Mandi Scott...

...is a life-long resident of Snyder and is married to Bryan Scott. She is the mother of Morgan, 8 and Dillon, 5. Mandi's parents are Chuck and Nelda Colvin and her brother is Ryan Colvin. Mandi's favorite hobbies are spending time with her children and shopping.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

When life kicks you, let it kick you forward.
—E. Stanley Jones

Best Available Copy

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "God Has Spoken of Mercy," followed by "Where is My Honor?"

VFW Ladies Auxiliary to meet

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 tonight at the post home.

Lions meet Tuesday

Snyder Lions Club will resume regular meetings Tuesday at noon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Stanfield Parent Council

The Stanfield Parent Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the teachers' lounge.

Scurry Masonic Lodge

Scurry Masonic Lodge #706 will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Masonic Hall.

Drama booster club meeting

The SHS drama booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the foyer of Worsham Auditorium.

Project Linus

Blankets and quilts are being accepted by Project Linus with the blankets to be given to children in crisis. Anyone interested in becoming a blanketeer can meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at First Christian Church. Blanket and quilt construction will be discussed and all items made will be donated on Blanket Day, Feb. 1. For additional information, call Marsha Cribbs at 573-7117.

Hermleigh boosters

Hermleigh boosters club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the school gym.

First Baptist support group

First Baptist Church sponsors a support group for persons facing difficulties — including cancer, divorce, grief, etc. It meets on the first floor Adult 6 Department at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Auto theft prevention program

A representative of the West Central Texas Auto Theft Task Force will present information from 10 a.m. until noon Friday at the Senior Citizens Center. The agent will speak in the dining room at 11:30 a.m.

Retired teachers meeting

Scurry County retired teachers will meet at noon next Monday at The Shack. Volunteer hours will be turned in.

Snyder Chapter Council

Snyder Chapter Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. next Monday at Scurry Masonic Hall.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will hold its monthly stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. next Monday. A meal will follow and all Master Masons are welcome.

SHS band boosters

Snyder High School band boosters will meet at 7 p.m. next Monday at the band hall.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

LVN testing dates

LVN testing dates are Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

Doodle Bug writers club

Members of the Doodle Bug writers club invites all writers to meet at 1 p.m. every other Tuesday at the Golden Terrace Village community room. For more information call 574-1817, 573-7369, or 573-5819.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Jan. 31 for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Neglect threatens historic site

GOLIAD (AP) — This shrine of the Texas revolution, with one of the oldest standing forts west of the Mississippi River, is threatened by neglect and the ravages of time, state officials say.

A plan by state agencies, local governments and private groups called for building two sites for visitors at Goliad — a Tejano history center to focus on the Hispanic history of Texas and a ranching heritage center to explain the evolution of that centerpiece of Texas identity. But five years after the concepts, neither has been built or even seriously discussed.

"This is one of the last great places in the state," F. Lawerence Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, told the Austin American-Statesman. "There are so many threads in our history that come to a confluence in Goliad. There's an absolutely unique opportunity here. Certainly we need to get the public and private sectors focused back on that vision."

On Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, Col. James Fannin and 341 of his men, after surrendering and being held captive for a week, were killed by Mexican troops under Gen. Santa Anna — almost double the number of Texans killed three weeks earlier at the Alamo.

Texans' battle cry at San Jacinto, where independence was secured, were inspired by the two attacks: "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!"

Presidio La BahDia, established in the area in 1749, is the only Spanish colonial fort still standing in Texas. Two Franciscan missions, one partially restored, introduced Catholicism and cattle ranching to the region.

Along the San Antonio River in South Texas are the presidio, the restored mission, the battleground where Fannin surrendered, Fannin's grave and the restored birthplace of Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, a Cinco de Mayo hero. But display panels at many of the sites are outdated, and no panel explains the role of Samuel McCulloch Jr., a freed black man who became the first Texas casualty of the revolution when the presidio was seized from Mexican control in October 1835.

Recent budget trimming by the Legislature has meant that some planned repairs to state-owned sites here are indefinitely delayed.

The battleground where Fannin and his men died — less than a mile from the presidio, where the Texans were held captive — has never been thoroughly studied. No historical marker stands on or adjacent to the grounds.

"I think that something should at least be done to positively identify those sites and put up a marker," said Newton Warzecha, the director of Presidio La BahDia, which is owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Victoria. "It takes someone to take the leadership."

At the restored mission, a granary, Zaragoza's birthplace, the Fannin Battleground and other sites operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, costly repairs to walls, roofs or foundations are needed. Zaragoza's birthplace is closed most weekdays because of insufficient staffing.

Agency officials have been challenged by routine repairs at Goliad and haven't secured the funds for new construction projects. About $1 million in bond money has been set aside for repairs.

Program to bring water to colonias scaled back

LAREDO (AP) — Bureaucratic delays, ambitious goal setting and technical problems are preventing the state from bringing water to some of Texas' poorest communities.

Despite a legislative initiative five years ago, residents of colonias may not have water and wastewater services for at least two more years. Life without drinking water, sanitary housing, wastewater disposal, basic electricity or paved roads continues for many of the estimated 400,000 Texans who live in these unincorporated residential areas from El Paso to Brownsville.

The Texas secretary of state's office in 1999 created a bold plan to bring water and wastewater connections to 32 colonias.

Called the Texas Plan, it was expected to complete 25,000 water and wastewater connections by 2002. But state officials, after missing last year's completion deadline, have scaled down their goal to 10,000 connections in seven colonias in Cameron, Hidalgo and Val Verde counties by 2006.

Three of the seven colonias in the Texas Plan have just started to see some connections, five years after the plan's creation.

But the Secretary of State's office maintains that the other colonias haven't been forgotten. Colonias scattered from El Paso to Willacy counties still will get water and wastewater infrastructure through other agencies such as the Office of Rural and Community Affairs, which will treat them as individual projects and not part of the Texas Plan, Yvette Sanchez, director of colonia initiatives for the secretary of state, has said.

Juanita Medelln, 87, lives in Pueblo Nuevo, a colonia in Webb County, and gets her water from a nearby creek.

Her neighbors depend on an area nonprofit group that trucks in water from Laredo weekly. Six dollars buys three 55-gallon drums of water.

"A lot of times we have to wait until there are about six to 12 neighbors who need water so that the trip is worthwhile for whoever goes," Pueblo Nuevo resident Maria del Carmen Gomez said in Spanish. "In the meantime, what do we do?"

State Sen. Eddie Lucio's district includes six of the seven communities that remain targeted in the Texas Plan.

"The original vision of the plan didn't materialize the way I would have liked to have seen it," Lucio, D-Brownsville, told the San Antonio Express-News.

Lucio co-authored a 1999 bill that focused attention and money on water and wastewater needs on the border. "The plan is on a smaller scale, and I would like (it) to reach more people."

The Texas Plan is a collaborative effort between the secretary of state's office; the Texas Water Development Board; the North American Development Bank, or NADBank; and several Texas communities.

The project, when completed, will have cost $77.5 million, according to state estimates.

Flooding in October throughout the Rio Grande Valley forced construction to stop temporarily. Officials in Webb County and elsewhere had to reroute water lines after discovering colonia populations growing in different directions than foreseen five years ago.

The plan's emphasis on good management for water and wastewater systems also creates snags. Colonias can't get hookups until city officials have an adequate system for billing and setting rates for them, said Veronique Laurents, project development analyst for NADBank.



World Almanac

Monday, Jan. 5, 2004

Today is the fifth day of 2004 and the 15th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1925, Wyoming's Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman governor in U.S. history.

In 1968, Alexander Dubcek came to power in Czechoslovakia, launching what is known as the "Prague Spring."

In 1979, the Vietnamese captured Phnom Penh, ending the rule of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Walter Mondale (1928-), former U.S. vice president, is 76; Robert Duvall (1931-), actor, is 73; Juan Carlos (1938-), king of Spain, is 66; Diane Keaton (1946-), actress, is 58.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1995, Lenny Wilkins became the winningest coach in NBA history when his Atlanta Hawks defeated the Washington Bullets for his 939th career victory.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If you are sure you understand everything that is going on, you are hopelessly confused." — Walter Mondale

TODAY'S FACT: The National Weather Service issues a blizzard warning when a storm has sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or more and enough falling snow to cut visibility to less than a quarter mile for three hours.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 206 billion — The number of Legos that have been manufactured since their invention in 1949.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 30) and full moon (Jan. 7)

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events

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TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-22-24-32. Bonus Ball: 35.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $10,328.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 21. Prize: $1,786.

Number matching four of five: 776. Prize: $104.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 676. Prize: $106.

Number matching three of five: 31,665. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 8,625. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 38,030. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $39 million.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-15-31-37.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 146. Prize: $404.

Matching three of five: 4,428. Prize: $9.

Matching two of five: 46,320. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 8-5-2

(Night) 1-3-2

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Soldiers deployed to Iraq

KILLEEN (AP) — About 250 Fort Hood soldiers left Saturday for Iraq to relieve active duty troops and reservists returning home from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. James Woods said the soldiers were the first of several thousand Fort Hood soldiers who will be deployed this month.

Troop deployments from other military installations also are expected. On Friday, 49 members of a medical team at Brooke Army Medical Center were deployed.

The soldiers who left Saturday were the first from III Corps headquarters to head to Iraq. They will be replacing troops from V Corps, based in Germany, who have been coordinating the U.S.-led peacekeeping mission, Woods said.

"They've got everything built, and we're just going to move in," he told the San Antonio Express-News. "It's pretty much a one-for-one swap."

Woods said the III Corps troops will be in Iraq for about a year. Their main duties will be to coordinate civil affairs, intelligence and communications for the peacekeeping effort.

"We're just going to go and do what we have to do and get back," said Spc. Meredith Maxam, 26.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 114-3 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet; location is in Section 297, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Chevron will drill the No. 3628 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Contracted for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 18, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

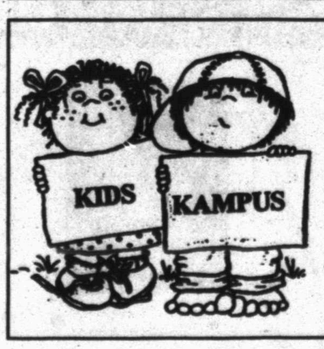
Garza County

George R. Brown Partnership will drill the No. 1 Wheeler-Brown in the Buenos field, 10 miles north of Post. The re-completion project is planned for a depth of 8,835 feet, Drill site is in Section 1305, BS&F survey.

Halvey Energy will drill the No. 1 Kirkpatrick, a 7,600-foot wildcat located eight miles southeast of Post. Location is in Section 14, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Mitchell County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1-73 Vincent East, a 7,700-foot wildcat located five miles northeast of Vincent. Location is in Section 73, Block 20, Lavaca Navigation Co. survey.



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Teen convicted of killing 6-year-old signs plea deal

MIAMI (AP) — The mother of a Florida teen who beat a 6-year-old playmate to death said neither she nor her son is happy with the terms of a plea deal yet chose to accept it simply so he could have freedom.

Lionel Tate, 16, signed papers Sunday agreeing to plead guilty to second-degree murder in the 1999 beating death of Tiffany Eunick. Tate could be freed by the end of the month from a maximum security juvenile prison in Okeechobee.

"My son wants to come home. I want him home," said Kathleen Grossett-Tate. "He did not receive a fair trial the first time. For us to go back to trial again, I know he would not get a fair trial."

An autopsy showed Tiffany suffered a fractured skull, lacerated liver, broken rib, internal hemorrhaging and cuts and bruises. Tate's trial attorneys argued he accidentally killed her while imitating the moves of professional wrestlers he saw on television.

Grossett-Tate said she would have preferred her son to plead guilty to manslaughter since she and her son contend Tiffany's death was accidental. They declined the same second-degree murder plea deal before Tate's trial.

Tate's first-degree murder conviction and life sentence were overturned last month after state appellate judges ruled that his mental competency should have been tested before trial. Following that decision, prosecutors again offered the plea deal, giving the teen a rare second chance.

In the deal, Tate is agreeing to be sentenced to three years in prison — most of which he has already served — plus one year of house arrest and 10 years probation.

"Just knowing it's all been signed, I'm very happy for him that he and his mom are on the same wavelength and moving forward," said Richard Rosenbaum, Tate's attorney.

A judge still has to ratify the plea deal, a process that could take a few weeks, Rosenbaum said. No hearings have been scheduled.

Ken Padowitz, who prosecuted Tate and now represents Tiffany's mother in private practice, did not return a message left Sunday. He said Saturday that the girl's mother was pleased that Tate was accepting responsibility for the murder.

A&M defends admitting students through legacy

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University officials are defending a program that last year admitted more than 300 white freshmen from the families of A&M graduates — freshmen who would not have been admitted otherwise.

Critics say the university, which last month announced it wouldn't consider race in its admissions process, is perpetuating class distinction and white advantage through a program which seems to contradict a call by A&M to attract more minority students.

Students admitted under the program are known as "legacy admits" because they reward the grandchildren, children or siblings of A&M graduates.

While nearly all selective private universities and some public universities around the country have some sort of legacy program to boost alumni support, A&M is the state's only public school with one.

Typically, anywhere from 1,650 to more than 2,000 A&M applicants a year receive legacy points, usually 4 points on a 100-point scale that also takes into account such factors as class rank, test scores, extracurricular activities and community service.

While most applicants don't need legacy points to get in, in 2003, 312 whites were admitted because of them. In 2002, that figure was 321, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

The legacy program was the difference for six blacks and 27 Hispanics in 2003, and three blacks and 25 Hispanics in 2002.

"That's a lot of kids being advantaged because A&M is where mommy and daddy went," said state Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston. "Clearly, if you want to go to A&M, it pays to be a legacy applicant rather than black."

A&M officials noted that minority legacies are usually admitted at roughly the same rates as white legacies. They also stressed that having legacy points is no guarantee of being admitted.

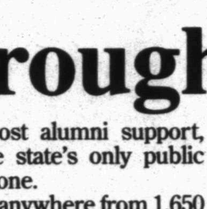
"I wish I had the numbers for how many applicants with legacy points don't get in," said Frank Ashley, A&M's acting assistant provost for enrollment. "There are roughly as many of them. I know because I hear from alumni parents when their kid's application is rejected."

Ashley said A&M's admission categories include one that gives points for an applicant's parents' lack of education — up to 6 points if neither parent finished high school.

A&M President Robert Gates, on the job less than two years, said he knows little about the legacy program and will have a task force study its future.

Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that race could be used as one of many factors in admissions and scholarships, prompting many Texas schools to implement such policies.

Gates has said he will continue to make attracting minorities a top priority, but he intends to do this through increased outreach efforts and scholarships targeting first-generation college students who come from lower-income families.



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Workers who make holidays happy deserve our thanks

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to thank all those generous people who work nights, weekends and holidays.

Without the help of the auto club operator who answered my call one Christmas morning (and the mechanic who showed up), I would have missed the joy of seeing my grandchild opening gifts.

We no longer argue about what everyone wants for Christmas breakfast because of the servers, chefs and busboys who give me the best present of all — more relaxed time with my family — because everyone can eat what they want.

And let's not forget the emergency medical workers who are always there for childhood emergencies, all too often in the middle of the night or on holidays. Thanks, too, to the pharmacists who fill prescriptions when the establishments around them are closed.

I am grateful to everyone who gives up precious time with their own families and friends in order to make life easier for the rest of us.

Abby, thanks for printing this. I want all these generous people to know how appreciated they are, especially at holiday time. Bless you one and all. — **GRATEFUL**

DEAR GRATEFUL: Thank you for an uplifting letter. Counting our blessings is a wonderful way to start a new year, and you have mentioned only a few of our unsung heroes. Add to that our police, our firefighters, our brave young men and women in the military, and caregivers everywhere. They, too, are unsung heroes.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Phil," and I lost a child two years ago on Christmas Eve. Before that Phil was always affectionate. Now he hardly shows his emotions at all, and doesn't tell me he loves me as often as he used to.

I love my husband with all my heart and want things the way they used to be. I think he is still hurting, but he refuses to get help.

What should I do? Please help me. — **LOVING HIM IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR LOVING: It's clear that your husband is still grieving and has not been able to move on as quickly as you have. Since he refuses to go to grief counseling, go without him.

It may help you to understand that grief is an individual process, and perhaps it will better enable you to help him through it.

Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss.

**

DEAR ABBY: I really need some help. When I was 15, my half-brother raped me. I am now almost 40. I want nothing to do with him, and I don't want him around my kids.

Abby, my half-brother keeps trying to call me. How can I make him leave me alone without anyone knowing what happened? ñ **EMBARRASSED IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Please stop protecting him with your silence. Contact a rape crisis hotline. It is long overdue and you can still benefit from post-traumatic stress counseling. You have no reason to be embarrassed or to keep this a secret. A rape victim is never at fault.

You can also install caller ID on your telephone and block his calls to stop the harassment. If that fails, talk to your lawyer about a restraining order.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Police charge couple with abusing elder

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police have charged a San Antonio couple with elder abuse after the woman's mother was taken to a hospital with what officials believe was a chewed off finger.

Carol Fryling, 60, said in an affidavit that she gave up caring for her 87-year-old mother, Celeste Fox, more than a year ago. Howard Fryling, 57, told police he had been caring for his mother-in-law since his wife "just gave up," the Express-News reported.

The two, who were Fox's sole caregivers, were being held Sunday at the Bexar County Jail in lieu of $10,000 bond each, said Frank Espinoza, processing clerk at Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

Howard Fryling told police Fox needed to go to the hospital a month ago, but his wife refused to take her.

Carol Fryling told police she went to the store on Dec. 30 and returned home about two hours later to find her mother had gnawed her left index finger past the second knuckle and appeared to have started chewing on her thumb and index finger.

She then decided to take the woman to the hospital.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Exercise cramps? No sweat

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a follow-up question to your column on exercise. Should a person worry about improper functioning of the liver, or something else, if their body is constantly cramping? If there is enough salt, water and potassium in the diet but the body continues to cramp, is there another problem? I have worried about this problem ever since my body seized up after an excruciating 30-plus-mile march during training while I was in the Marine Corps. I constantly suffer from cramps in all regions of my body. Any advice, suggestions or help would be greatly appreciated. — **J.W., no city or state given**

DEAR J.W.: A cramp is a strong contraction or tightening of a muscle that comes on suddenly. It can last from a few seconds to several minutes and can be caused by a number of factors. For this answer, I will limit my discussion to a cramp that might occur after an exhausting workout, such as the one you describe.

To begin with, muscular work creates heat, and sweating is the means by which our body regulates its temperature. Sweat is mostly water, but it does contain mineral salts as well. The amount and composition of sweat can vary. Most sweat falls within normal limits, and drinking water replenishes things nicely. Some people, however, put out more minerals in their sweat, to the point that there are caked-on deposits on the forehead, back or around the armpits after an intense workout. For individuals who sweat profusely, those that have high concentrations of minerals in their perspiration, or others who exercise for longer periods of time, water might not be enough. This would especially be the case if you experience weakness or unusual symptoms during or after exercise.

There is an interesting bit of sports history here. The coaches of the University of Florida football team noticed that performance, in general, seemed to fall in the fourth quarter— even beyond that which would be expected from normal exhaustion. Particular players might be more likely to get cramps after intense plays. The coaches also noted that players never seemed to need bathroom breaks toward the end of the game.

University scientists studied the situation and determined that not only were the players dehydrated, they were low in certain electrolytes needed for efficient muscular contraction. The University of Florida team name is Gators, so the scientists developed what became known as Gatorade to replace some of the glucose and electrolytes that are lost during lengthy, intense exercise. It made a big difference, and is credited with some of the success of Florida sports teams during those years, before the rest of the sporting community caught on. This product, or something like it, is now standard fare on the sidelines at most sporting events.

There is more to the story. I visited and went through testing at the Gatorade Institute, a science laboratory located outside of Chicago. They put me on a stationary bicycle in an 80-degree, temperature- and humidity controlled room. I was weighed before and after the workout, and the scientists collected samples of my sweat as I pedaled for about an hour. The lab analyzed how the composition of my sweat changed over time. I had access to water or a sports drink and measured how much of each I consumed. The tests revealed that I had moderately concentrated sweat, but the volume was not unusually large. I had consumed enough electrolytes in the drinks to balance the loss. I also learned that some people release sweat that is loaded with varying concentrations of salts. For these people, special types of replenishment are needed — amounts of salts that wouldn't be advised for those with average sweat.

The key here is that your experiences may be a sign that intense exercise is causing a higher-than-normal drain of needed components. You can experiment with sports drinks to see if they make a difference. There is some information online at www.gatorade.com and www.powerade.com. If you really want to dive into the topic, check out the book "Sports Drinks: Basic Science and Practical Aspects" (CRC Press, 2000), by Ronald Maughan and Robert Murray.

I know little of your health history, so it makes sense to check in with your physician to see what he or she recommends before you make any radical changes in your routine.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Clear weather over weekend helps South Texas bird count

LAREDO (AP) — South Texans who were among volunteers in a nationwide bird count have benefited from clear skies in their weekend quest, which resulted in identifications of more than 100 different species.

The count, which began Saturday, was an effort to identify and monitor bird species within a 15-mile radius, charting population numbers and migration patterns, said Jim Hailey, president of the Audubon Society's Monte Mucho chapter.

Twelve volunteers were on the count led by Hailey. After birds were observed throughout a circular trek, Hailey made chirping sounds that attracted numerous birds.

"Birds are very curious, so they'll respond to the sounds," Hailey told the Laredo Morning Times.

A team of three people, including Hailey, chapter member Raul Delgado and United Water Operations Manager Charlie Bardonner, explored a brushy area at the Shiloh water-treatment plant in search of different bird species.

Hailey said the information is documented and later used by scientists to get a general idea of the trends within the bird population. In the 103rd count last year, about 73 million birds were counted by more than 55,000 volunteers nationwide.

Hailey said the great-tailed grackle is abundant in Laredo.

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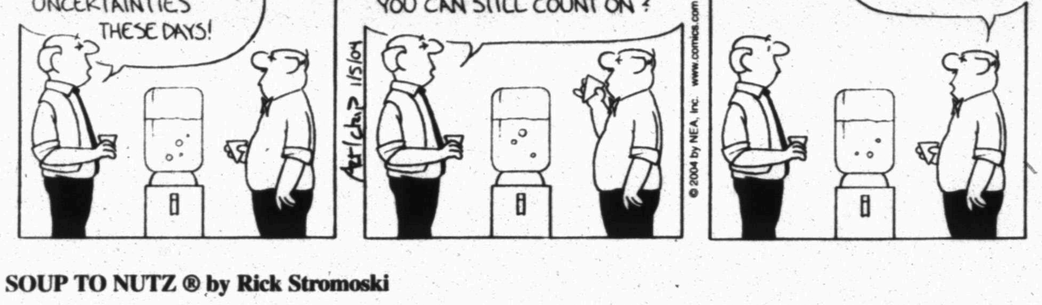
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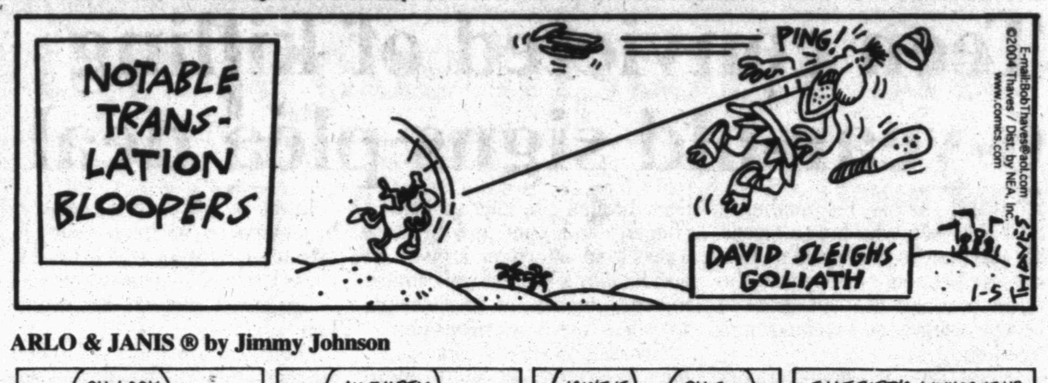
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



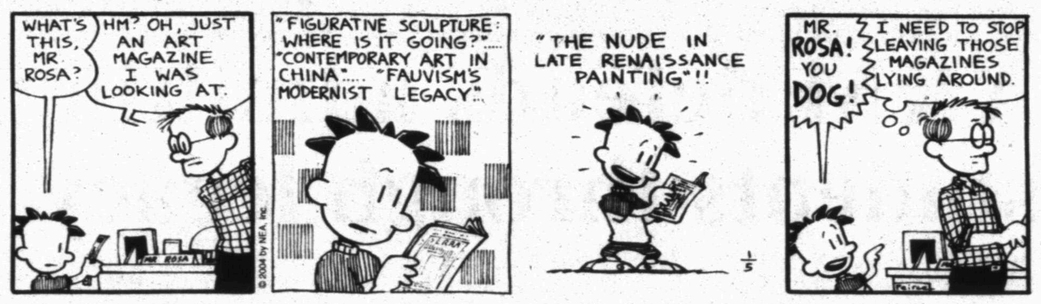
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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Gawk at
5 Diary unit
8 Nature's band-aid
12 — the kitty
13 Turkish official
14 Storage bin
15 Against
16 State-of-the-art
17 Fishing gear
18 Legacy
20 Gait
21 Cheer
22 Near empty
23 Striped animal
26 Expensive paper
29 Yes votes
30 Film
31 Taro root paste
33 Before, in combos
34 Tramp
35 Nonflying bird
36 Getaway
38 Cool fabric
39 Pilot's dir.
40 Meditation practice
41 Lowlands
43 Mozart's city
46 Dietary needs
47 Circuit
48 Woosnam and Fleming
50 Zits
51 Orange seed
52 1492 caravel
53 Darling
54 Furtive
55 Tall flower

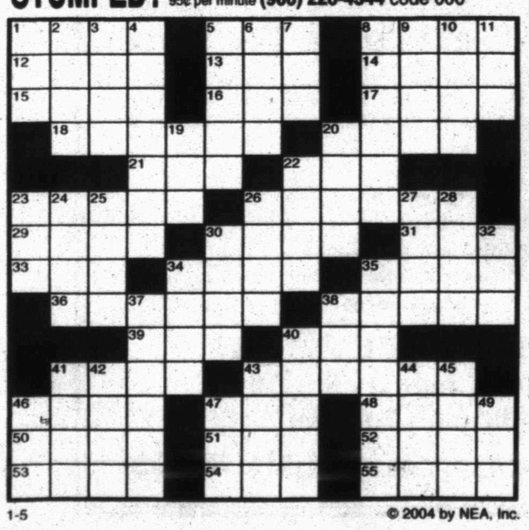
DOWN

1 Ghost — — chance
2 Mr. Autry
3 Authorizes
4 Publishing VIPs
5 Beatrice's admirer
6 Tommie — of baseball
7 Fishtail
8 Write badly
9 Gator kin
10 Helper
11 Air rifle shot
19 Chicken — — king
20 Rod
22 Late-night host
23 Skip past commericals
24 Fictional governess
25 Pollen distributors
26 Slangy feeling
27 Very soon after
28 Way
30 Hold one's own
32 Atomic particle
34 Inventor — Geiger
35 Instilling
37 Thurible
38 Bruce — of kung fu
40 Full of energy
41 Look toward
42 Mediterranean landmark
43 Colorado ski resort
44 Secure
45 Freud's daughter
46 Temporary trend
47 Hi-fi records
49 Melancholy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Q	U	A	D		E	M	M	A		S	P	A
U	N	D	O		D	O	L	E		P	A	L
I	C	O	N		D	A	B	S		A	R	M
T	U	R	K	E	Y			O	I	N	K	S
	T	E	E	M			O	P	T			
			Y	I	E	L	D		C	A	S	H
A	B	S		R	U	E	D		H	I	K	E
T	R	I	G		B	A	L	K		D	I	M
M	A	X	I		I	D	Y	L	L			
		B	E	E				E	A	R	P	
N	E	V	E	R			C	E	D	A	R	S
U	T	A		U	C	L	A		L	I	O	N
K	A	N		P	E	A	T		E	T	N	A
E	T	E		T	O	W	S		S	T	E	P

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SPORTS

LSU claims BCS, shares national title

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The colorful, rich history of LSU football can now claim the one thing that had been missing for almost a half-century: a national championship.

Backed by frenzied fans wearing purple feather boas, gold beads and faces painted with tiger stripes, LSU earned its share of the title Sunday night, holding off Heisman Trophy winner Jason White and Oklahoma 21-14 in the Sugar Bowl.

Jessie Daniels tipped away a fourth-down pass into the end zone with three minutes left, sealing a victory that made the Tigers the best team in the bayou, on Bourbon Street and in the Bowl Championship Series.

So what if it was Splitsville everywhere else in college football, with USC also earning a crown? The Tigers hardly cared.

"Do they deserve to share the title?" LSU All-America defensive tackle Chad Lavalais said. "Yeah. But when I tell my friends, I'm going to say we're national champions. In this part of the country, we are national champions."

"It doesn't bother me," he said of the split. "It's like winning the lottery, but you have to share the Powerball with another person. It's still a good deal."

The No. 2 Tigers automatically received the USA Today/ESPN coaches' crown for beating the third-ranked Sooners. Southern California won The Associated Press title with a 28-14 victory over Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

"There was always a chance it could be out of whack and it happened this year. It doesn't take anything away from what LSU accomplished," USC coach Pete Carroll said.

Too bad there's not one game left for winner-take-all.

"I think there'd be an awful lot of people who would love the matchup," Carroll said. "It would be exciting for the country. It's too bad it can't happen."

USC received 48 of the 65 first-place votes cast in the AP poll and LSU got the other 17. Three coaches broke the USA Today/ESPN agreement and instead voted for USC.

Freshman Justin Vincent ran loose for 117 yards and was selected the Sugar Bowl's most outstanding player, defensive end Marcus Spears scored on an interception return and coach Nick Saban's team never trailed in bringing LSU its first crown since 1958.

It was a rewarding win for Saban. He makes $1.5 million, but a clause in his contract said that if he won this game, he was guaranteed $1 more than the highest-paid college coach — Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, at $2.3 million.

"I'm just happy that we could make this state proud," Saban said. "We got tired at the end of the game, but we played from the heart."

Lavalais and his LSU teammates shut down the nation's top-scoring team for most of the game, extending the jinx that haunted previous Heisman winners such as Chris Weinke, Eric Crouch and Gino Torretta.

"It dampers it quite a bit," White said. "You win 12 games and that's extremely hard to do in college football and you end up with nothing to show for it."

Defensive end Marquise Hill and his LSU teammates blitzed White a lot, often putting him on his back.

"He's Mr. Heisman and we wanted to go at him all night. That's a big award and if you win it, you're going to pay for it," Hill said. "I said to him, 'Excuse me, Mr. Heisman. I'm going to be coming at you all night.' He just nodded his head at me."

White found his touch in the fourth quarter and led the Sooners down the field in the final minutes. But on fourth down at the LSU 12, his pass was tipped and it trickled off the hands of star receiver Mark Clayton in the end zone.

"I just tried to give somebody a chance to catch it," White said.

Said Stoops: "We had our opportunities, we just didn't convert."

White finished 13-for-37 for 102 yards with two interceptions. LSU quarterback Matt Mauck was efficient enough, overcoming two interceptions.

Up to 1 million people were expected to swarm the French Quarter — LSU's campus in Baton Rouge is only 70 miles away — and the Tigers' victory brought in Mardi Gras about two months early.

LSU fans are considered the most rabid and revved-up in the sports world, marked by their "Geaux Tigers" signs. Their passion was captured in the movie "Everybody's All-American," a film that some said loosely resembled the life of former LSU Heisman winner Billy Cannon.

A record crowd of 79,342 that slowly made its way through heavy security before the game went crazy cheering for the Tigers (13-1), who finished last season out of the AP Top 25.

Kejuan Jones scored on two short runs for the Sooners.

Green Bay keeps magic alive; Colts destroy sloppy Broncos

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Upstaging teammates Brett Favre and Ahman Green, Al Harris scored on a 52-yard interception return in overtime to lift the Green Bay Packers past the Seattle Seahawks 33-27 Sunday in a first-round NFC playoff game Sunday.

Harris picked off Matt Hasselbeck's throw and headed to the end zone — directly past former Packers coach Mike Holmgren. Only Hasselbeck had a chance to tackle Harris, but he couldn't get there before Harris surged into the end zone for the first defensive touchdown to win an overtime playoff game.

The defender never got a chance at a Lambeau Leap. His teammates tackled him, setting off a wild celebration that included a victory lap by Harris.

Harris' heroics sent the Packers (11-6) to Philadelphia next Sunday, while the Seahawks (10-7) — and Holmgren — go home knowing they let a prime opportunity slip away.

Seattle tied the game with 51 seconds remaining on Shaun Alexander's third 1-yard touchdown run. Then Packers kicker Ryan Longwell was short on a 47-yard field goal attempt as regulation time expired.

Seattle won the coin toss, and Hasselbeck told the official, "We want the ball, and we're going to score."

The Seahawks got the ball and punted. After Seattle got the ball back, it was Harris, a six-year veteran in his first season with the Packers, who scored on the game's only turnover.

Haselbeck, had a pretty good day, throwing for 305 yards. He also made the one critical mistake, however.

And Favre thrived in the cold: 20 degrees, with a wind chill of 7.

He set a record by throwing for a touchdown in a 14th straight playoff game and rallied the Packers to a 27-20 lead. Then Hasselbeck guided a 67-yard drive to tie it before the Packers gutted out the victory.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts entered the playoffs facing a lot of questions.

Their 41-10 rout of the Denver Broncos provided all sorts of positive answers.

Yes, Peyton Manning could win a playoff game. Yes, Tony Dungy could coach a team to a postseason win. And yes, that two-touchdown loss at home to the Broncos two weeks ago was no more than one bad game.

The major factor was Manning, who shared the NFL's MVP award with Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair.

He won for the first time in four playoff starts, throwing five TD passes. That made him the first quarterback to throw for five or more three times in a season. He had six TD passes against New Orleans and five against Atlanta in the regular season.

"Every ball he threw was perfect," said Brandon Stokley, who had two TD catches, including an 87-yarder just after the 2-minute warning of the first half. Marvin Harrison also had two scores and Reggie Wayne caught the fifth.

The Colts (13-4) led 31-3 at halftime, and Manning was 14-of-16 for 327 yards by then.

Denver was sloppy in the loss, with their most memorable gaffe with 24 seconds left in the first quarter, when Harrison caught a pass at the Denver 30 and went down. As four Broncos stood around without touching him, Harrison slowly got up and trotted to the end zone to complete a 46-yard scoring play.

It made the score 14-3 with three quarters left, but it effectively ended the game.

Manning certainly had a banner day, finishing 22-of-26 for 377 yards with a perfect passer rating.

Rose ends denials about betting in autobiography

NEW YORK (AP) — After 14 years of denials, Pete Rose has finally come clean and admitted he bet on baseball while manager of the Cincinnati Reds.

The career hits leader says in his soon-to-be-released autobiography that he hopes the acknowledgment will help end his ban from baseball, which could lead to his induction into the Hall of Fame.

Rose says he was a big-time gambler who started betting regularly on baseball in 1987 but never against the Reds, according to excerpts from the book released to Sports Illustrated for its issue that hits newsstands Wednesday.

"Yes, sir, I did bet on baseball," Rose told commissioner Bud Selig during a meeting in November 2002 about Rose's lifetime ban.

"How often?" Selig asked.

"Four or five times a week," Rose replied. "But I never bet against my own team, and I never made any bets from the clubhouse."

"Why?" Selig asked.

"I didn't think I'd get caught."

Rose repeated his admission in an interview on ABC News' "Primetime Thursday," parts of which aired today on "Good Morning America."

"It's time to clean the slate, it's time to take responsibility," Rose says in the interview. "I'm 14 years late.

"I just never had the opportunity to tell anybody that was going to help me. ... I couldn't get a response from baseball for 12 years. It's like I died and, and they knew I died and they didn't want to bring me back. They were just going to let me rot."

In "My Prison Without Bars," to be released Thursday, Rose writes that he regrets lying for all those years and says, "I wish I could take it all back."

"I've consistently heard the statement: 'If Pete Rose came clean, all would be forgiven.' Well, I've done what you've asked. The rest is up to the commissioner and the big umpire in the sky."

Rose agreed to the lifetime ban in August 1989 and applied for reinstatement in 1997, but Selig hasn't ruled on the request.

Zimmer interested in Nebraska

FORT WORTH (AP) — Dallas Cowboys defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer is interested in the head coaching position at Nebraska, according to published reports today.

Zimmer has made plans to travel to Lincoln, Neb., and could interview for the job as soon as today, unidentified sources told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Dallas Morning News for stories in today's editions. The News reported that one source said Zimmer flew to Nebraska on a private plane Sunday evening.

Zimmer, who helped build a Cowboys defense that ranked No. 1 in the National Football League for 2003, joined the Dallas staff nine years ago. Zimmer, 47, was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2000 and was one of just a handful of carry-overs from the previous staff to serve under coach Bill Parcells.

Lady Raiders stay undefeated

LUBBOCK (AP) — Natalie Ritchie scored 19 points and the No. 2 Texas Tech Lady Raiders placed five players in double figures Sunday en route to a 95-53 victory over Pepperdine.

One day after No. 1 Connecticut lost 68-67 at the buzzer to No. 4 Duke, Texas Tech (14-0) made a strong case for the nation's top ranking.

"We haven't played anyone in the Top Five yet, but we're undefeated and what a great honor that would be for us," coach Marsha Sharp said. "They deserve that, and it would be something we'd be very proud of."

Ritchie connected on five of six 3-pointers. She was joined in double figures by Jametra Clark with 17 points, Jia Perkins with 15, and Jolee Ayers-Curry and Alesha Robertson with 10 apiece.

"To tell the truth, this is the most fun I've ever had with any basketball program going back all the way to the third grade," Ritchie said. "It's been a blast. Every single player on this team is so unselfish. We all cheer for each other. It's what you play college basketball for."

Pepperdine (6-7) was paced by Shandrika Lee's 15 points. Kelly Greathouse added 10.

"They jumped out on us early, they jumped out in the middle of the game and they jumped out at the end of the game," Waves coach Mark Trakh said. "They pretty much jumped out all over the game."

Texas Tech never trailed while building a 50-21 halftime lead. The Lady Raiders jumped ahead 12-2 and pushed the advantage to 29-9 on a pair of free throws by Cisti Greenwalt at the 9:54 mark.

Tech tops OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Andre Emmett had 27 points and Texas Tech beat Ohio State 80-72 Sunday in Bob Knight's return to his alma mater.

Knight had not led a team into Columbus since the next-to-last team of his 29 seasons at Indiana was beaten 73-56 five years ago — his most lopsided loss ever against Ohio State. He had lost three in a row against the Buckeyes.

Devonne Giles added 17 points and Robert Tomaszek had 10 points for Texas Tech, which has beaten three Big Ten opponents.

Sports Briefs

Baseball/softball booster clubs

The SHS baseball and softball booster clubs will meet at 6 tonight in the film room.

Football booster club

The SHS football booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the film room.

Volleyball tournament

There will be an indoor volleyball tournament Jan. 24 at the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club. Call 573-7321 for more information.

Football banquet

The Snyder Tigers football awards banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Cost is $8 per person. Food will be served at 6, and the awards ceremony will begin at 7.

NFL Playoffs

Saturday
Carolina at St. Louis, 3:30 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday
Indianapolis at Kansas City, noon (CBS)
Green Bay at Philadelphia, 3:45 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 18
AFC Championship Game, 2 p.m. (CBS)
NFC Championship Game, 5:45 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Feb. 1
Super Bowl at Houston, 5:25 p.m. (CBS)

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	19	14	.576	—
Boston	17	18	.486	3
Philadelphia	15	18	.455	4
Miami	14	19	.424	5
New York	14	21	.400	6
Washington	9	22	.290	9
Orlando	8	26	.235	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	25	10	.714	—
Detroit	21	13	.618	3½
New Orleans	21	13	.618	3½
Toronto	17	15	.531	6½
Milwaukee	17	16	.515	7
Chicago	10	23	.303	14
Cleveland	10	23	.303	14
Atlanta	10	25	.286	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	11	.667	—
Minnesota	21	11	.656	½
Dallas	19	13	.594	2½
Denver	20	14	.588	2½
Houston	18	14	.563	3½
Utah	17	16	.515	5
Memphis	17	17	.500	5½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	23	8	.742	—
L.A. Lakers	21	9	.700	1½
Seattle	16	15	.516	7
Portland	15	16	.484	8
L.A. Clippers	14	16	.467	8½
Golden State	14	18	.438	9½
Phoenix	12	22	.353	12½

Sunday's Games
Toronto 83, Phoenix 73
Milwaukee 100, Washington 94
New Jersey 95, New York 85
Sacramento 130, Seattle 99
L.A. Clippers 101, L.A. Lakers 98

Today's Games
Detroit at Boston, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 8 p.m.
Portland at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

TUESDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls at Midland Greenwood, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV girls at Midland Greenwood, 5 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys at Roby, 6:30 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity girls and boys at Loraine, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Basketball: Snyder freshmen boys vs. Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder freshmen girls at Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
SJHS boys vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
SJHS girls at Sweetwater, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls vs. Denver City, district, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Clyde, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys at Grady, district opener, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Clyde, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Denver City, 5 p.m.
Snyder freshmen girls vs. Denver City, 8 p.m.
Snyder freshmen boys, 5 p.m.

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Astronomers find oldest, most distant galaxy clusters ever seen

ATLANTA (AP) — In observations looking back to the edge of time, astronomers have captured images of the oldest and most distant galactic clusters ever seen, a discovery that shows immense numbers of stars formed less than 2 billion years after the birth of the cosmos.

The finding, to be presented this week at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society, suggests that the raw materials needed to create life may have formed far earlier than astronomers once believed, researchers say.

"We are coming to the realization that stars and galaxies formed very quickly after the Big Bang," said Marc Postman, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "This means that galaxy and star formation was a rapid process. It was not something that took billions and billions of years to get under way."

"Since it is true that stars formed very early after the Big Bang, then it is also true that life could have formed very early," said John Blakeslee of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Other studies have established that the Big Bang, the birth of the cosmos, was about 13.7 billion years ago. For years, most astronomers believed that it took many billions of years for stars to form galaxies and then for those galaxies align themselves in vast structures called galactic clusters that could include thousands of galaxies.

The sun's home galaxy, the Milky Way, is part of cluster that is, in turn, moving toward an even larger cluster of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars like the sun.

"Our whole galaxy and its two dozen neighbors are falling into the Virgo cluster at a speed of about 300 kilometers a second (about 671,000 mph)," said Postman. "Now we have a good example of this sort of thing happening in very early time."

A series of studies by the Hubble Space Telescope focused on an area of the sky where radio telescopes had suggested the presence of very old galaxies. The Hubble detected mature, fully formed galaxies aligned in a vast cluster. Astronomers estimated that stars in the cluster formed more than 11 billion years ago.

Another observation detected a "protocluster," a collection of young galaxies formed just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang and just starting the process of forming a cluster. It is the most distant cluster ever seen. The galaxies were so young, the researchers found evidence of a burst of stars still being born.

"The stars in these galaxies are likely to be the second generation of stars," said Postman.

This suggests that even at an early moment in time, millions of stars already gone through their life cycle, forming, burning out, exploding and spewing into space the basic heavy elements, such as carbon and oxygen, needed for the formation of life.

"In these galaxies are all the basic building blocks for life," said Postman. "Whether you can say that life follows a similar rapid time scale is a bit of a leap, but not a ridiculous one."

With billions of stars in those early galaxies, a certain percentage may have planets "capable of sustaining life," Postman suggested. "There is no proof, but it certainly is a possibility."

The existence of the very early galactic clusters was supported by studies at the Chandra X-ray Observatory and by observations by the European Southern Observatory.

News Briefs

Skeletal remains found on airport grounds

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Investigators today were checking for clues and trying to identify human remains found at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

A rescue squad training in a field near the airport's water pretreatment plant found a human skull Sunday evening, said Alvy Dodson, the airport's vice president of public safety.

Dodson said other bones were found scattered nearby in the field, located in a remote area in the southwestern part of the vast airport property.

The remains appear to be from a male, he said. Dodson said it was unclear how long the remains had been there.

Troubled district attorney to challenge judge

BROWNWOOD (AP) — Facing new felony charges that he lied under oath, an embattled West Texas district attorney has filed to run against the state district judge whose contempt charge against him ignited his legal woes.

Sky Sudderth is scheduled for arraignment Wednesday on felony counts of aggravated perjury, evidence tampering and records tampering.

On Friday, the Republican lead prosecutor of the 35th Judicial District filed just before the deadline to challenge 35th District Judge Steve Ellis, a Democrat.

Sudderth declined to comment Saturday to the Brownwood Bulletin, citing a gag order in the criminal proceedings against him. Last week, visiting Judge Billy John Edwards ordered attorneys to refrain from discussing the criminal case against Sudderth.

Jailer in Goliad will now guard Iraqi POWs

VICTORIA (AP) — David Acree's work as a jail guard is giving him experience for his next assignment as a military reservist: monitoring prisoners of war in Iraq.

For the second time in less than a year, the U.S. Marine Corps reservist is going to Iraq. The correctional officer, who is used to watching over inmates at the Goliad County Jail, was scheduled this month to guard POWs.

Acree, who spent four years as an active duty military policeman in the Marine Corps, was surprised when he found out he was being sent back.

"I'd heard stories of it happening right after 9/11 but they were assigned to a stateside base not back to the country they just left," he told the Victoria Advocate.

Britney Spears weds, then annuls marriage

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pop star Britney Spears married a childhood friend from Louisiana in an early-morning ceremony, but quickly arranged to have it annulled, a source close to the singer told The Associated Press on Sunday.

George Maloof Jr., owner and operator of the Palms Casino Hotel, confirmed that the 22-year-old Spears married Jason Allen Alexander of Kentwood, La., about 5:30 a.m. Saturday at a Las Vegas wedding chapel.

"Nobody knew it was coming," said Maloof, Spears' good friend.

71 years old...

Victoria man sets flying record

VICTORIA (AP) — Diabetes didn't ground a retiree's efforts to take his vintage aircraft to the skies and set a new U.S. transcontinental air speed record for small planes.

Last October, 71-year-old Fred Coon, a retired business owner from Victoria, along with his co-pilot, flew a red, white and blue 1976 Grumman Cheetah airplane from California to North Carolina in just under 15 hours.

That's the fastest anyone has ever flown from the Pacific to the Atlantic in one of the small, piston-engine aircraft typical of the kind favored by weekend pilots. The National Aeronautic Association approved the new record on Dec. 17.

"We flew wide open all the way," Coon told the Victoria Advocate for its Sunday editions.

Coon's accomplishment takes on greater significance after considering he had lost his pilot's license in 1990 because of diabetes. Through hard work and new medicine he was able to get it back seven years later.

The inspiration for the record flight came last September after a group of Grumman aircraft owners, known as the "Grumman Gang," discussed over the Internet the then-current record for small planes weighing between 1,102 and 2,205 pounds.

After the Web chat, Coon got a call from fellow Grumman Gang member Mark Stolzberg of Long Island, a psychiatrist and owner of a Grumman Tiger the pair had once flown from Victoria to New York. The two decided to break the record using Coon's plane.

Before they set out on their trip from John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, Calif. early Oct. 16, the transponder in Coon's plane went out and they had to scramble to replace it.

The transponder signals air traffic controllers on the ground with an aircraft's unique identification number as well as its altitude.

"For a while, we didn't know for sure if things were going to work out," said Coon.

With the transponder fixed, Coon and Stolzberg took off.

Uncooperative winds weren't enough to slow down the plane and just as the sun was setting on Oct. 16, the little Cheetah reached its North Carolina airport — 14 hours, 53 minutes and 32 seconds after passing over the Santa Ana airstrip.

Coon downplays the achievement.

"I put my pants on the same way I did before," he said, adding that it is Stolzberg who tends to get emotional about it.

The aeronautic association will recognize Coon and Stolzberg at a springtime ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Nelson debuts anti-war ballad

AUSTIN (AP) — Willie Nelson has premiered his new anti-war ballad at an Austin fund-raising concert for Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich.

"(Nelson) brought down the house," said Kucinich's media coordinator Susan Mainzer of the Saturday performance. "People were on their feet applauding."

Nelson has said he wrote "What Ever Happened to Peace on Earth" on Christmas Day at the Lake Elsinore, Calif., home of his in-laws.

"There was nothing but bad news, and here it was Christmas Day," Nelson told the Austin American-Statesman last month. "I said, 'There sure are a lot of babies dying and mothers crying,' and (wife) Annie said, 'That sounds like a song.'"

The song asks questions such as, "How much oil is a human life worth?"

It is the second protest song Nelson has written. He often performed his Vietnam-era protest song, "Jimmy's Road," at peace rallies during the 1991 Gulf War.

Kucinich's two-day tour through Austin started Friday. At a Capitol rally Saturday, Kucinich told several hundred people that ending combat in Iraq is among his highest goals.

Asked if his new song might cause a backlash with conservative country music fans, Nelson said, "I sure hope so. I don't care if people say, 'Who the hell does he think he is?' I know who I am."

Last spring, Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines' criticism of President Bush led to boycotts of the group's music.

On the Net:
Willie Nelson home page:
http://www.willienelson.com

Study details kids' fast food habits

CHICAGO (AP) — Every day, nearly one-third of U.S. children aged 4 to 19 eat fast food, which likely packs on about six extra pounds per child per year and increases the risk of obesity, a study of 6,212 youngsters found.

The numbers, though alarming, are not surprising since billions of dollars are spent each year on fast-food advertising directed at kids, said lead author Dr. David Ludwig, director of the obesity program at Children's Hospital Boston.

The findings suggest that fast-food consumption has increased fivefold among children since 1970, Ludwig said.

The nationally representative study included boys and girls from all regions of the country and different socio-economic levels.

The highest levels of fast-food consumption were found in youngsters with higher household income levels, boys, older children, blacks and children living in the South. The lowest levels were found in youngsters living in the West, rural areas, Hispanics and those aged 4 to 8, but more than 20 percent of youngsters in each of those groups still reported eating fast food on any given day.

Fast-food lovers consumed more fats, sugars and carbohydrates and fewer fruits and nonstarchy vegetables than youngsters who didn't eat fast food. They also consumed 187 more daily calories, which likely adds up to about six pounds more per year, the study found.

The results are based on children questioned in government surveys from 1994 to 1996 and 1998. The study lacks data on the children's weight.

Children's current levels of fast-food consumption probably are even higher because of an increase in the number of fast-food restaurants and in fast-food marketing since the late 1990s, Ludwig said.

The study appears in the January issue of Pediatrics, published today.

The nation's obesity epidemic has focused attention on fast-restaurants, and while recent class-action lawsuits attempting to blame McDonald's Corp. for making people fat have failed, many chains have begun offering healthier fare.

Recent data suggest that nearly 15 percent of U.S. youngsters and almost one-third of adults are obese.

The new study results bolster evidence that fast food contributes to increased calorie intake and obesity risk in children, Yale University obesity researcher Kelly Brownell said in an accompanying editorial.

Brownell said the study refutes a July report from the U.S. National Chamber of Commerce, which includes fast-food companies, that suggested fast-food restaurants "are not a chief culprit in the fattening of America."

Brownell said there are encouraging signs that policy-makers are taking action to protect children from the fast-food trend, including efforts to limit soft drink and snack food sales in schools, and to curb food advertising aimed at children.

On the Net:
Pediatrics: http://www.pediatrics.org

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.25	13.00	13.08	+.08
AT&T Corp	21.50	20.87	21.50	+.63
Albertsons	23.05	22.75	22.93	+.18
Alltel	48.03	47.12	47.99	+.87
AmEl Pw	30.88	30.57	30.77	+.01
AndarkPtr	52.13	51.13	51.76	+.63
ATMOS Egy	24.89	24.45	24.48	—.25
Aviall	15.60	15.40	15.45	—.15
BP PLC	49.80	49.31	49.78	+.38
BakerHughes	32.28	31.56	32.26	+.46
Bank of Amer	79.60	78.95	79.09	
BellSouth	28.99	28.27	28.97	+.70
BurlNoSFe	32.26	32.00	32.20	+.20
Caterpillar	84.49	82.65	84.26	+1.61
CenterPoint	9.78	9.67	9.73	+.01
ChevronTex	86.99	85.89	86.96	+1.07
Citigroup	49.64	49.00	49.61	+.61
CocaCola	50.35	50.18	50.24	—.11
ColgatePal	49.90	49.62	49.83	+.21
CmclMetals	30.73	30.37	30.43	—.06
ConocoPhill	66.68	65.48	66.65	+1.17
Cooper Inds	58.06	57.73	57.77	+.22
DaimlrChry	47.40	47.14	47.29	+.55
DeltaAirLines	12.16	11.85	11.89	—.10
Dillards Inc	16.47	16.20	16.20	—.16
DowChem	41.65	41.13	41.48	+.35
DuPont	46.13	45.51	45.88	+.37
EastmanChem	40.45	39.98	40.35	+.75
EstKodak	25.45	25.23	25.23	—.07
EDS Corp	25.44	24.55	25.35	+.80
Entergy	57.25	56.80	56.81	—.44
ExxonMobil	41.22	40.63	41.21	+.58
FootLocker	23.43	22.69	22.69	—.51
GenDynam	90.17	89.44	89.88	+.22
GenElec	31.33	31.12	31.29	+.17
GenMills	45.90	45.01	45.74	+.73
GenMotors	54.80	53.64	54.13	+.49
GaPacific	30.99	30.40	30.55	—.01
Goodrich	29.40	29.16	29.16	+.02
Goodyear	8.02	7.96	7.96	+.10
GtAtlPac	8.55	8.40	8.43	—.04
Halliburtn	26.22	25.80	26.13	+.10
Hanson PLC	37.44	37.00	37.44	+1.10
HarteHanks	22.03	21.58	21.97	+.39
HomeDepot	35.25	34.81	34.97	—.05
HoneywellIntl	33.78	33.05	33.32	—.01
IBM	93.00	91.55	92.48	+.93
IntlPaper	43.22	42.74	43.04	+.30
JohnsonJn	52.08	51.66	51.85	+.19
KinderMorg	59.20	58.79	58.90	+.40
Kroger Co	18.60	18.30	18.32	—.16
LockheedM	50.70	49.90	50.27	—.43
Lowes Cos	53.98	53.66	53.77	—.13
Lubys	3.86	3.68	3.84	+.17
LucentTech	3.31	2.23	3.31	+.19
MarathonOil	33.81	33.25	33.69	+.44
MayDeptStr	28.72	28.00	28.00	—.35
Medtronic	48.90	48.42	48.87	+.45
Motorola	15.00	14.50	14.94	+.44
NCR Corp	39.25	38.93	39.05	+.23
Navistar	47.80	47.27	47.39	+.06
PNM Rescs	28.74	28.46	28.55	+.06
Penney JC	26.19	25.59	26.10	+.51
PepBoys	23.61	23.00	23.58	+.48
PepsiCo	47.12	46.46	47.08	+.62
PhelpDodge	78.20	77.09	77.27	+.10
PilgrimsPride	17.22	16.65	16.92	—.06
Praxair s	38.34	37.65	37.91	+.26
ProctGamb	99.65	98.81	99.24	+.25
RadioShack	29.90	29.40	29.45	—.37
RoyalDut	53.07	52.70	53.07	+.32
SBC Comm	26.87	26.14	26.87	+.73
SaraLee	21.85	21.44	21.45	—.13
Scripps EW	96.26	94.94	96.00	+1.16
SearsRoeb	45.80	44.87	45.67	+.80
SherwinW	34.85	34.55	34.79	+.13
SouthernCo	30.29	30.06	30.15	+.09
SwstAirl	15.99	15.86	15.94	
SprintFON	16.77	16.33	16.76	+.43
SprintPCS	5.75	5.62	5.70	+.08
Sunoco Inc	51.37	50.90	51.29	+.50
TXU Corp	23.98	23.78	23.88	+.09
TempleInland	63.19	62.00	62.09	—.42
Texind	37.05	36.73	36.86	+.13
TexasInst	29.95	29.31	29.92	+.61
Textron	57.37	56.25	56.87	—.32
TimeWarner	18.30	18.10	18.15	—.07
TrinityInds	31.25	31.06	31.18	+.32
TylerTech	9.95	9.77	9.94	+.17
UnionPacif	69.23	68.91	68.98	—.11
USSteel	36.33	35.70	36.06	+.54
UnitedTech	95.04	94.36	94.70	+.34
Unocal	37.24	36.89	37.09	+.20
VerizonComm	35.94	35.25	35.91	+.66
WalMart	52.80	52.07	52.08	—.22
WellsFargo	58.69	58.10	58.13	—.04
WstnGasRs	47.24	46.95	47.24	+.48
WinnDixie	9.90	9.65	9.65	—.07
Xerox Cp	13.84	13.57	13.82	+.23
YumBrands	33.97	33.25	33.79	+.26

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JAN 05 2004

Best Available Copy

Finding jury of peers for Jackson may be difficult

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When the law speaks of defendants being entitled to a jury of their peers, it's obvious no one contemplated Michael Jackson's place in the justice system.

The millionaire pop music star, who is charged with committing lewd acts on a child, is in a class of his own.

But should his lawyer decide to challenge Santa Barbara County's jury-selection process as skewed against him, it would be possible to do so on one issue: whether it systematically excludes racial minorities. That issue already has been a subject of legal challenges in Santa Barbara County.

One of those cases is pending before a state appeals court. A judge found that Hispanics were being excluded from juries because of the manner in which jurors were summoned for service.

For Jackson, the problem is compounded by the lack of blacks in Santa Maria, where his case would be tried. Census figures show blacks represent just 2.3 percent of Santa Barbara County's population.

The issue under consideration by the appellate court is a lack of follow-up to jury summonses by the jury commissioner's office. The commissioner sends out questionnaires to prospective panelists but does not follow up if they are not returned, said Santa Barbara attorney James Herman, a past president of the state bar.

"You wind up with a self-selecting jury pool," he said.

The lack of follow-up results in "a volunteer jury," said Los Angeles criminal defense attorney Steve Cron, who is familiar with the procedure. He said many Hispanics in the agricultural areas around Santa Maria are farm laborers who might not return the jury summons because they can't afford to take time off work for jury service.

Loyola University Law School Professor Laurie Levenson said the Jackson case could provide an unexpected twist: that Santa Barbara County residents who normally would not answer a jury summons may do so now with the high-profile trial looming.

Jackson's arraignment on seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts on a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent is scheduled for Jan. 16. Until then, all warrants and affidavits in the case will be sealed.

Cron said the law guarantees defendants a jury taken from a cross-section of the community in which they live. But that cross-section in Santa Maria would have few blacks.

Los Angeles defense attorney Harland Braun said there is no question Jackson would have a better chance with a multiracial jury.

"Blacks still tend to regard him as a hero," he said. "Whites look at him as a weirdo."

Braun suggested the defense should try to move the case out of Santa Barbara County to a more urban, racially diverse area such as Los Angeles or San Francisco. But he said the legal argument for change of venue should not be racially based.

"I would challenge on the basis of the district attorney having polluted the potential jury pool in Santa Barbara County with his pretrial comments," Braun said.

Missing Washington state skier said found alive after four days

SEATTLE (AP) — A 25-year-old skier missing for four days and four freezing nights in the central Cascade Mountains was found alive after rescuers spotted his fresh tracks by helicopter.

"It's unbelievable — four tough nights in the teens with no food, no water, just normal ski gear and a helmet," said King County Sheriff's Lt. Jim Fuda.

Dan Witkowski was "lucid and talking," Fuda said Sunday night.

He told Fuda that he got turned around while skiing Wednesday, so decided to head downhill in hopes of finding his way out.

So for four days, he kept moving, resting in the dips of snow surrounding tree trunks to get out of the wind. He told Fuda his longest break was two hours.

"He's whupped," Fuda said.

Witkowski was listed in critical condition Sunday night at Harborview Medical Center, a nursing supervisor said. She could not provide any more information.

Scores of people had been looking for the Ellensburg resident since he was reported missing Thursday. Witkowski had failed to meet up with friends on New Year's Eve and his car was found parked at the Alpental ski area in Snoqualmie Pass, off Interstate 90 about 40 miles east of Seattle.

About a foot of snow fell in the area on Saturday, and searchers feared that if they didn't find him in the clear daylight Sunday, they might not find him at all. A bad storm was expected today.

Temperatures in the central Cascades had dropped way below freezing, with a low of zero degrees reported Saturday night at nearby Stampede Pass. Alpental reported 8 degrees Sunday.

The sheriff's office sent up three helicopters Sunday with spotters on board who were familiar with the terrain.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004

In the year ahead, you are likely to receive greater rewards from seeds you've sown in the past than from any new ventures. When your past endeavors start to ripen, get ready to pick the fruits and blossoms.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A close relationship with someone could take on greater meaning today because of something magnanimous you do at this time. Your actions will benefit you as well this person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You can take positive measures today to correct anything that has not been to your liking at work lately. As long as you hurt no one in the process, what you do will be welcomed by all.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Someone who may have come off as untouchable may do an about face today and show you how much you mean to him or her. It'll gladden your heart and change the way you feel about this person.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be industrious today because your accomplishments can erase any erroneous bad images someone might have had of you. You'll be able to tell the naysayers, "I told you so."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You could be quite lucky today in involvements that depend on education and/or past experience. The more you know, the easier it will be to be bold and direct when called for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — The better you've handled your resources in the past, the easier it will be to take advantage of a great opportunity that is available today to all those who have saved and bided their time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The secret to success in your endeavors today is to focus on your preparedness for what you're going after. Rely on what you know and not on guesswork and you won't dilute your chances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It's quite possible today that you could reap some big benefits from a situation that has been controlled by another. You were wise not to make waves when all was running smoothly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A desire of yours has a good possibility of becoming a reality today if you go after your dream in a pragmatic and efficacious manner. Being a realist will be your means to success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be neither obvious nor devious about the means you apply for reaching your objectives today. If you're too transparent, it'll welcome intruders. If you're devious, it'll invite termination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you're involved in something beneficial today, don't keep it all to yourself when it's just as easy to share with others. The thanks you get from your friends will be more than you can imagine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Rewards are in the offing today where an important matter you've worked hard and long on is concerned. Be prepared to move with the rising tide when it beckons you.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Today's chuckle

Mankato residents want to 'lose a ton'

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — Mankato residents hope to lose a ton of weight in the new year.



The "Lose a Ton" event is designed to provide a system of support, advice and an atmosphere of fun to help people lose weight, said Micki Schaffer, fitness director at the YMCA.

Organizers say losing a collective 2,000 pounds will be easier if a lot of people sign on to the effort, being sponsored by the YMCA, Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital and Mankato Clinic.

"Most people's New Year's resolutions only last a couple weeks. We wanted to make things fun and keep people motivated all year long," Schaffer said.

Anyone 18 or older can sign up for the program at the YMCA or on its Web site. The program, which begins Jan. 10, is free and open to anyone.

People will then be able to log into a secure and confidential personal Web link that will let them track their weight loss. They also will be able to view newsletters that include tips on safe weight loss and exercise programs, and they'll be able to ask questions of experts in diet, nutrition and exercise.

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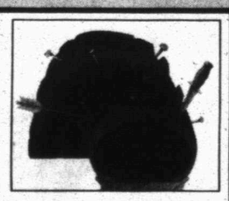
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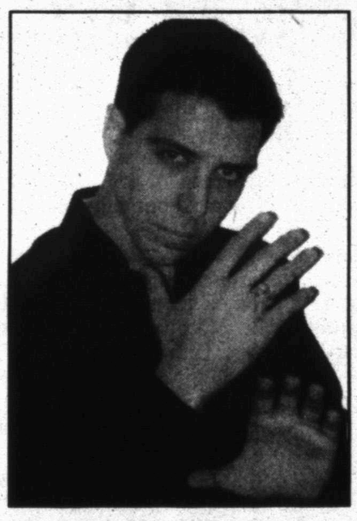
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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



LOCAL YOUNG MAGICIAN RELEASES FIRST VIDEO

Reid Johnson, son of Becky Johnson and the late Eddie Johnson, has produced his first magic video. In 1992, Reid "Magic" Johnson's father passed away and in order to make some extra money, Reid began performing magic for birthday parties, reunion, Christmas gatherings, etc. Twelve years later, Reid has done over 500 shows, owns over 2,000 tricks, and has made over $20,000 doing it. Reid was asked to reach magic at WTC, which he did for four summers to full classes of eager students. Magic also helped Reid in other areas of life. During college, Reid waited tables at a local restaurant. He started doing magic at his tables, and he saw his tips amazingly double! Magic has provided an easy icebreaker for Reid to meet people and make new friends. Reid graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2003, and is now teaching defensive driving while he and Cody Christopher are hosting nationally syndicated Christian rock top 20 countdown show playing all over the United States.

Reid wants to share his secrets for 8+ easy to perform illusions, which can be performed with everyday household items. With a few minutes of practice, you too could be on your way to making more friends, more money, and a better personality. Hey, it worked for Reid!

VHS tapes and DVDs for $19.95 plus tax are available at TEXAS TREASURES & YOU STAR VIDEO in Snyder. The Phone number is 325-573-7567

Best Available Copy

Reservists go back to duty to bury veterans

By Penny Cockerell
Associated Press Writer

Sylvia Valdez used to spend her days caring for her four young children. Now she spends them among the grieving relatives of dead veterans.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Valdez is one of dozens of Navy reservists voluntarily recalled to active duty to work as honor guards at military funerals — a job much in demand as the thousands of veterans who die each day are guaranteed two honor guards at their military funerals.

"It's something that takes a lot of respect and dedication to be able to do," said Valdez, a 32-year-old former homemaker from San Antonio who for nine months has been folding U.S. flags and presenting them to survivors at South Texas cemeteries.

While nearly 160,000 reservists have been called up for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Navy has on a much smaller scale recalled some 65 reservists to help bury its veterans.

Other military branches also have boosted honor guards but haven't asked reservists to return in this role. Hundreds of full-time honor guards serve in each military branch.

And more will be needed, said Lee Price, a civilian casualty operations chief at Fort Hood in Central Texas, noting that up to 2,000 World War II veterans die each day. At Fort Hood, the Army's largest post, there are 126 full-timers — up from 64 in 2000.

"They expect the death population to peak in either 2006 or 2007," Price said.

Most honor guards spend months or years attending funerals, but many say the work is not depressing.

"This is our only way and last way we can say we appreciate them serving their country," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Ekborg, 31, who accepted a recall to Fort Carson, Colo., 18 months ago after the Denver Internet company he worked for folded. "It's rewarding to give back to the veterans that served. And their families, to tell them that we appreciate what they did for us."

Honor guards add an air of formality to funerals. They wear meticulously-crafted dress uniforms, an arm braid, neck scarf and button-up leggings.

They march slowly into position and stand at attention as the flag-covered casket is rolled next to the grave. Both honor guards salute the casket, then carefully fold the flag into a perfect "V." After inspecting the flag, a guard leans down to a survivor, hands over the flag and says:

"On behalf of a proud nation and a grateful (name of service), I present this flag to you in recognition of your loved one's years of honorable and faithful service to our country."

The honor guards hold their salutes while "Taps" plays, then slowly and quietly march away.

"A lot of them, especially if they're World War II widows, will mention how they remember ironing their husband's uniform or how we look like their husband when they were dating or got married," Ekborg said. "They're glad that we're out there."

A 2000 law allows veterans at least two service members and a bugler at free military funerals.

Since then, military funerals have increased dramatically. In 2001, the most current statistics available, there were about 100,000 nationwide. Officials say that has at least doubled by now. Price estimates more than 9,000 funerals in Texas in the past year.

George Burch, a New Orleans-based military funeral honors manager for a 10-state region including Texas, says finding honor guard reservists is easy.

"We have some very dedicated people out there," he said. "I've really had no problem filling them."

At Fort Carson, Petty Officer 2nd Class Dennis Durst has been a full-time honor guard for more than two years. Durst, a landlord in Ault, Colo., in civilian life, attends up to four funerals a day. When he retires from the reserves in two years, he figures he'll have served at some 1,600 funerals.

"I'll be searching for something different when this is over, that's for sure," Durst said.

Even though military funerals follow a specific format, each is different.

Valdez has attended funerals where friends rode up on horseback. Once, a Mariachi band performed while the casket was wheeled in. At one Colorado funeral, an emotional minister insisted the 50 or so guests hug Durst and Ekborg as they passed the casket. At another, a 4-year-old boy hollered for the sailors to "open the box and let Grandpa out."

Funerals have drawn anywhere from 500 guests to none.

Often, the Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion provide gun salutes and bugling. Buglers are so few that the military now loads a bugle with a compact disc, so anyone can appear to play "Taps." In a pinch, they use a boom box.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Carlos Vega has been recalled since April 2001. Before accepting funeral duty, he was a maintenance man at a San Antonio apartment complex. He finds funeral duty far more rewarding.

"I take it very personal," said Vega, fast approaching his 1,000th funeral. "I represent the Navy in a very professional manner. Just by the way you wear your uniform and how you march toward the ceremony and fold the flag and present it. And the way you do your hand salutes — it means something."

Reservists find way back to old job, lives

EDINBURGH, Ind. (AP) — Rifles they've carried for months are gone. So are the roar of helicopters overhead and the piercing sounds of gunfire.

Guard and reserve soldiers coming home from Iraq in droves beginning this month are exchanging tents for cubicles and MREs for business lunches.

Some feel financial pressure to return to civilian jobs after a month, when their active military pay ends. Others go back even earlier, trying to quickly make up the income lost during their tour of duty.

"I gotta keep the money rolling in," said Spc. William Tate, 22, of Lakewood, Ohio, who intends to take 30 days before going back to work as a mechanic.

Like Tate, at Indiana's Camp Atterbury for postwar processing, thousands of Guard and reserve soldiers are coming home from overseas. The Pentagon is making a big push in the coming five months to replace troops completing a year of service in Iraq.

For many, the stress of returning to civilian jobs leaves them feeling as though they no longer belong. And going back to work too soon can worsen potential side effects of war, such as anxiety, flashbacks and irritability.

Many see "every bit as much combat" as active soldiers in Iraq and need time to decompress, said Lt. Col. Jim Cotter, the chaplain at Camp Atterbury, a mobilization post 30 miles outside Indianapolis.

Cotter compared the return for some soldiers to a door-to-door salesman who must tone down his tactics for peddling his wares.

"He comes back from Iraq and he's used to kicking doors in. He doesn't ring the doorbell. He takes his boot, smashes it against the door and says, 'Do you want to buy this?'" Cotter said. "The whole issue is so different in what he was doing and is doing. It takes time to readjust."

Active soldiers have an advantage because they report back with war comrades after postwar leave. They talk about shared experiences, which experts say accelerates the readjustment process.

Guard and reserve soldiers lack that in the workplace. And while their employers by law must take them back, they are not always warmly welcomed back to the jobs.

Soldiers also face the potential of having resentful co-workers who did extra work in their absence. They may feel they are behind on projects and envious of others who were promoted while they were away fighting, said Mary Graham, senior policy consultant at the National Mental Health Association.

In some ways, Maj. Ken Fox, 36, said he feels like he's never left his job dealing with federal regulators at a Cleveland bank. His co-workers sent him information while he was still commanding troops in Kuwait.

Still, Fox is not returning to the office for a month: "I need 30 days off just for my own sanity."

Cotter advises the soldiers to attend monthly drills the first three months they are home, even though they are not required to go.

"The reason being those have been their battle buddies, those have been the people they cried with, they shared with and supported them," Cotter said. "They understand what each one went through and did."

Employers are encouraged to meet with a soldier's co-workers before a soldier returns to discuss ways to ease the transition. Returning soldiers should be urged to take things slow and use mental health benefits, said Graham, of the National Mental Health Association.

Spc. Brian Crawford, 22, who was an unemployed landscaper from Cincinnati before he deployed, said he'll start looking for a job after two weeks of leave.

He fears that without a routine,

Travelers returning to U.S. wait to cross border

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Heightened security along the Texas-Mexico border has forced waits of up to 15 hours for holiday travelers to go through customs.

The delays were so long in Laredo on Sunday that some motorists had to buy gasoline because their cars ran low while idling in line to cross international bridges over the Rio Grande.

In Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, an estimated 10,000 cars stretched six miles at the JuDarez-Lincoln Bridge, said Police Officer Javier Villanueva.

"We've never had it like this," Villanueva told the San Antonio Express-News.

He blamed the long wait on strict inspections on the U.S. side of the border.

With the rush of holiday travelers returning for work, all lanes at all four Laredo bridges were open and extra agents were working to help keep the lines moving, said Richard Pauza, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"This weekend is when a majority of people who live in the United States but visit family in Mexico during the holiday season return to the United States," said Pauza. "Increased security does add somewhat to the delays, but the majority of it is just a large number of travelers hitting Laredo all at the same time."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



More on Canadian drugs

DEAR DR. GOTT: I represent a state health alliance that is committed to affordable prescription drugs for our clients. Consequently, we sell prescription drugs from Canada, have been satisfied with the arrangement, do not believe that it's illegal, and will continue to do so. Our senator has endorsed the plan and confirmed that the quality of the medications is superior — not deficient, as many critics have alleged.

If you would like more information about our privately owned company, please telephone us at (800) 216-4913, fax (800) 691-7847 or visit us on our Web site at www.illinoishealthalliance.com.

DEAR READER: Since I offhandedly suggested that readers consider buying their prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies (to save bundles of money), I have received a torrent of mail criticizing me for bad judgment. Much of this mail has been from drug companies, U.S. pharmacists and federal authorities, claiming that purchasing drugs from Canada is illegal, the medicines are impure or contaminated, the practice should be abandoned, and I — as a columnist — should be ashamed.

The issue seemed so unbalanced that I printed a retraction, because I didn't want to jeopardize patients' health; nor did I want to endorse illegal activity. In my printed retraction, however, I did ask the question: How can the Veteran's Administration be allowed to purchase drugs in Canada? (This has been reported in the media.)

No answer from my critics — yet.

However, your letter, like so many others, does stress the financial savings and appropriateness of ordering medications from Canada. Therefore, I am printing it, along with additional information that I hope will be of interest to my readers.

Let me summarize my position as neutral. Drugs are expensive in the United States; the Canadian option is real and is utilized by many. I cannot comment on the legality of the practice because so many state and federal agencies are subscribing to it. So, from my perspective, the issue is closed.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is psoriatic arthritis?

DEAR READER: Patients with psoriasis, a chronic skin disease marked by scaly patches, will often develop arthritis that can be difficult to treat. Actually, most autoimmune diseases, of which psoriasis is one, are associated with arthritis to a lesser or greater extent.

If you have psoriatic arthritis that has not responded to ibuprofen or basic prescription drugs, you should, in my opinion, be examined by a rheumatologist, a specialist in autoimmune disorders. There are new treatments available. The doctor can advise you.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Eczema and Psoriasis." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-05-04
♠ A 8 6 4
♥ 10 8
♦ K Q
♣ A 10 9 6 3

West
♠ 7 5 2
♥ J 9 3 2
♦ 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 7

East
♠ K J 9 3
♥ K 6
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K J 4

South
♠ Q 10
♥ A Q 7 5 4
♦ A 10 8
♣ 8 5 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 7

Monday, Jan. 5, 2004

Misleading declarer warms the cockles

By Phillip Alder

Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva wrote: "A deception that elevates us is dearer than a host of low truths." Moving this to a bridge context, we get more fun from one successful deceptive play than from several technically correct coups.

This deal arose during the match between France and United States 2 at the 9th World Youth Team Championship, held last year in Paris. How did East talk South into failing in three no-trump?

For the home team, Godefroy de Tessieres (West) led the unbid major, selecting his highest card because he didn't have an honor in that suit. Olivier Bessis (East) won with the spade king and returned the three to declarer's queen. South played a club to dummy's nine and East's jack.

At this point, you or I would return the spade jack. But declarer would win with dummy's ace, unblock the king-queen of diamonds, and duck another club. He would have nine easy tricks: two spades, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs.

Instead, East shifted to the heart six! South knew the spade position, and this defense persuaded him that East had no remaining entry. So, declarer thought that if he finessed the heart queen and lost to West's king, he could fail, losing one spade, two hearts and two clubs. But by ducking this trick, everything seemed under control.

However, West won with the jack and shot back his last spade. Then, when East got in with the club king, he cashed his high spade to defeat the contract. The defenders scored two spades, one heart and two clubs.

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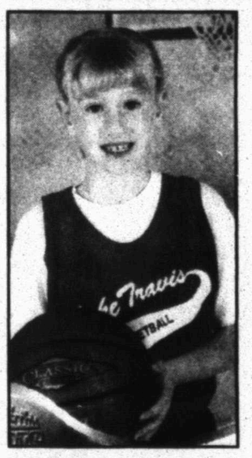
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Tape calls on Muslims to keep fighting

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A speaker who was purportedly Osama bin Laden said on an audiotape that the U.S.-led war in Iraq was the beginning of the "occupation" of Gulf states for their oil and called on Muslims to keep fighting a holy war in the Middle East.

The voice on the audiotape, which was broadcast Sunday on the Al-Jazeera satellite channel, referred to recent events including the Dec. 13 capture of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and peace initiatives between Israel and the Palestinians.

The speaker urged Muslims to "continue the jihad to check the conspiracies that are hatched against the Islamic nation."

A CIA official speaking on condition of anonymity said that a technical analysis determined that the tape was likely an authentic audio message from bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida terror network.

On CBS's "Good Morning America," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge also said that "preliminary assessments says this is the voice of Osama bin Laden."

Al-Jazeera played the audiotape while showing a still photo of bin Laden against a dark blue background.

"My message is to incite you against the conspiracies, especially those uncovered by the occupation of the crusaders in Baghdad under the pretext of weapons of mass destruction, and also the situation in (Jerusalem) under the deceptions of the road map and the Geneva initiative," the speaker said.

China, Russia eye compromise on nuclear standoff in N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Talks on ending the North Korean nuclear crisis hung in limbo today. North Korea blamed the impasse on Washington's demand for disarmament, and South Korea and Russia said it was unlikely a new round of six-nation negotiations could open this month.

Russian and Chinese diplomats met in Moscow today to discuss a compromise solution that first freezes North Korea's atomic programs, then rolls them back.

The developments come as a delegation of U.S. congressional aides headed to North Korea to possibly tour the communist country's disputed nuclear plant at Yongbyon. The two staffers will then visit the South Korean capital of Seoul over the weekend, U.S. Embassy Spokeswoman Maureen Cormack said.

The Yongbyon complex is at the heart of the standoff, and there has been no outside access to the facility since North Korea expelled U.N. nuclear inspectors at the end of 2002.

The two Koreas, the United States, Russia, China and Japan have been trying to resume a second round of talks for months, aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

Six arrests reported over weekend

Arrests

Six subjects were arrested in Snyder and Scurry County over the weekend.

Eric DeLeon, 23, 4400 Ave. U, Apt. 5B6, was arrested at 12 p.m. Sunday on felony warrants from Randall County for burglary of a vehicle, a Potter County warrant for violation of probation, an Amarillo DPS warrant for seatbelt violation, failure to appear, failure to ID and fugitive from justice.

Two men were taken into custody in the 400 block of Coliseum Dr. at 8:53 p.m. Saturday. A 54-year-old man was charged with misdemeanor DWI, and a 35-year-old man was arrested for public intoxication.

A 21-year-old man was arrested near the intersection of Round Top Rd. and FM 1606 at 12:10 a.m. Sunday on warrants from Abilene for speeding and failure to appear.

State troopers arrested a 20-year-old man on U.S. 84 near the city limits at 4:11 p.m. Sunday for driving while license suspended.

A 34-year-old woman was taken into custody in the 2000 block of 37th at 12:28 a.m. today on a Kerrville DPS warrant for not wearing a seat belt and failure to appear.

Minor accident

A minor accident with no injuries was reported in the 3800 block of College Ave. at 1:46 p.m. Saturday. Involved were a 2000 Mitsubishi driven by Amber Yruegas, 19, of 2112 28th and a 1996 Buick driven by Rosemary Jones, 83, of 1204 29th.

Burglary

A Honda 300 four-wheeler and a flatbed trailer were reported stolen at 9:21 a.m. Saturday while parked on CR 2148.

At 9:35 a.m. Saturday, a storage building in Ira was reported to have been burglarized.

A caller from 1408 19th reported at 12:49 p.m.Saturday that a wallet had been stolen from a vehicle.

A homeowner at 3907 Eastridge reported at 1:31 p.m. Sunday that a burglary had occurred at the residence sometime after 9 p.m. Saturday. A list of items reported missing was not available.

A theft of a trampoline net was reported at 4:08 p.m. Sunday from a residence at 3726 Ave. U.

Criminal mischief

An officer was requested in the 1500 block of College Ave. at 12:59 p.m. Saturday to take a report that a door to a workshop behind the residence had been damaged.

Disturbance

A caller reported at 7:21 p.m. Saturday that her father was not allowing her to make entry into a residence on 28th St. in order to care for her mother who was ill. Officers were dispatched and the father did allow the woman to enter the home.

Obituaries

Tillie Welsh

1926-2004

Funeral service for Theda Jo "Tillie" Welsh, longtime Snyder resident, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Buddy Payne, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.



Tillie Welsh

Mrs. Welsh, 77, died Sunday, Jan. 4, at her home in Snyder after a lengthy illness.

Born Dec. 28, 1926 in Garza County, Mrs. Welsh had been a resident of Snyder since 1951. She was a member of Morningside Baptist Church and a former operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Survivors include a daughter, Leslie Wright of Odessa; a son, Bill Bilberry of Snyder; a sister, Louella Bilberry of Post; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Homer Dunn

1925-2004

BIG SPRING — Homer Chestine Dunn, the brother of Geraldine McPherson of Snyder, died Friday, Jan. 2, in a Pampa hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Dunn, 78, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jim Binnix officiating.

Graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with the Rev. Chris Webb officiating.

Born Sept. 29, 1925 in Ringling, Okla., he married Colleen Hatfield on July 12, 1947 in Wheeler.

A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he retired as a senior production supervisor from the Vealmoor office of Texaco in December, 1988. A resident of Coahoma, he was a member of the Midway Baptist Church and the McLean Masonic Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Survivors also include his wife, Colleen Dunn of Coahoma; three sons, Dennis Dunn of Lefors and Michael and Terry Dunn, both of Coahoma; a daughter, Jonetta Sweatt of Big Spring; a brother, Bob Dunn of Pampa; and four grandchildren.

Annie Paske

1925-2004

ROTAN — Annie Collene Paske, the mother of Katy Doty of Snyder, died Sunday, Jan. 4, in the Fisher County Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Paske, 78, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church with the Revs. Werth Mayes and Randy Larpenteur officiating. Burial will follow in the Roby Cemetery under the direction of Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 29, 1925 in Nienda, she was a life-long resident of Fisher County and married Tomie Paske on June 15, 1948 in Rotan. He preceded her in death as did her parents, Arthur and Addie White; two brothers, G.L. and A.L. White; and a sister, Vivian Langis.

A member of the First Baptist Church, she worked for 19 years as a nurses' aide at Callan Hospital in Rotan.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Tommy and Karla Paske of Rotan; two other daughters and their husbands, Nancy and Joe Alan Fudge of Hamlin and Becky and Michael Sanders of Rotan; another son-in-low, Clint Doty of Snyder; two brothers, Sonny White of Rotan and Donald White of Connecticut; two sisters, Christine Baker of Jayton and Josephine Wells of San Antonio; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

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Snow closes schools; flights are canceled

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Many Iowa schools canceled or delayed the start of classes today after a storm dumped up to 10 inches of snow on parts of the state.

The storm also spread snow Sunday across northern sections of Illinois and Indiana and parts of Wisconsin and Michigan. Heavy rain caused flooding in Ohio.

The storm was linked to six traffic deaths.

In Iowa, most of the snow fell across the southern half of the state, and the Des Moines area got only about 7 inches, said Marc Russell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The snow had tapered off by this morning, with only light, intermittent snow in Illinois, but it was followed by bitter cold. Wind chills could reach 20 to 30 degrees below zero today and tonight, Russell said. Temperatures were expected to hit zero today night in northern Illinois.

"This is the real first (storm) like this, this winter," Russell said. "We've had snow before with a lot of wind, but this is more of an arctic blast."

The temperature hit 26 below zero at Fargo, N.D.

The snow may have contributed to an accident that killed two people on Interstate 80 in eastern Iowa, the Iowa State Patrol said. Accidents Sunday on snow-covered or rain-wet highways killed two people in Ohio, one in Indiana and one in Wisconsin, police said.

Delayed or canceled flights stranded travelers Sunday at Des Moines International Airport. In Chicago, which got about 6 inches of snow, airlines on Sunday canceled more than 300 flights to and from O'Hare International Airport, city aviation department spokeswoman Monique Bond said.

A combination of snow and ice knocked out electrical service Sunday night to about 3,200 customers in central Illinois, said Mike Harrison, regional manager at Illinois Power.

More than 40 vehicles were involved in one chain-reaction crash Sunday on Interstate 90 in Madison, Wis., and 17 were involved in another about five miles away.

"I had my window rolled down and could hear the cars crashing into each other as I rolled up to the scene," said Wisconsin State Patrol Sgt. Dennis Kruger. "You just can't stop on glare ice."

No one was killed but about 20 people were injured, some seriously.

Rain in Ohio flooded basements, closed roads and caused several traffic accidents, and police said some motorists had to be rescued from vehicles stalled in deep water.

Firefighters in Ohio's Licking County had to evacuate about 125 people Sunday night from a mobile home park east of Columbus.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

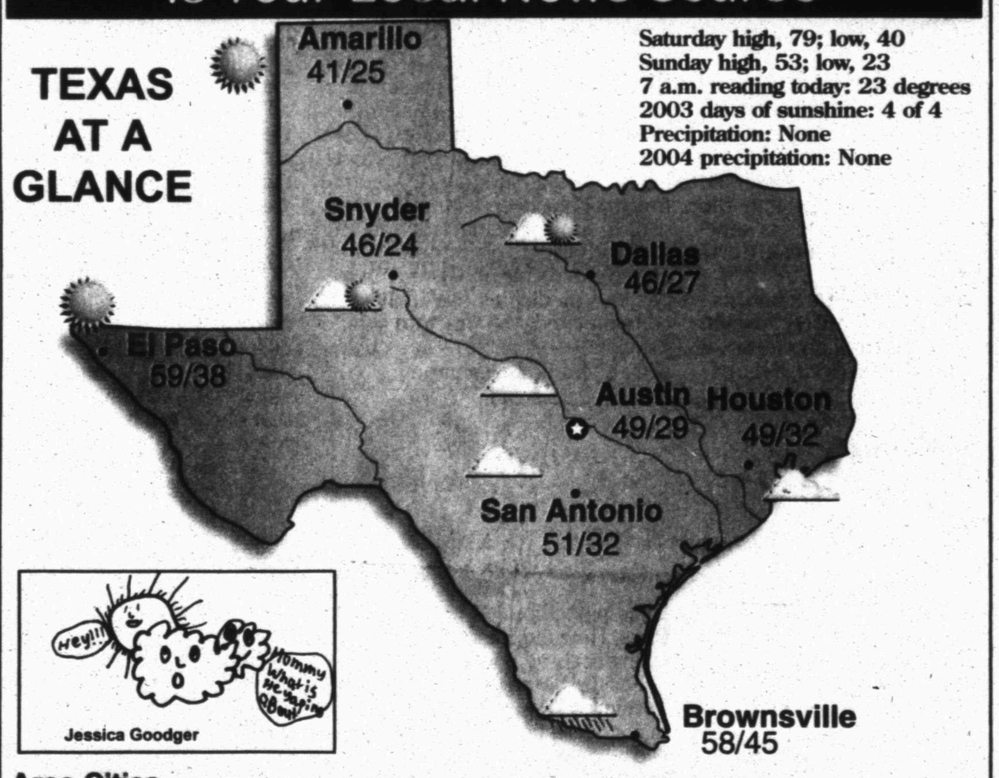
Tue 1/6	Wed 1/7	Thu 1/8
46/24	56/39	69/40
Partly cloudy. High 46F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:52 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:53 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:54 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 79; low, 40
Sunday high, 53; low, 23
7 a.m. reading today: 23 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 4 of 4
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: None

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	47	28	mst sunny	El Paso	59	38	sunny	Midland	48	26	mst sunny
Amarillo	41	25	sunny	Fort Stockton	52	35	mst sunny	Raymondville	55	41	rain
Austin	49	29	cloudy	Gainesville	43	21	pt sunny	Rosenberg	49	31	cloudy
Beaumont	50	30	cloudy	Greenville	45	22	pt sunny	San Antonio	51	32	cloudy
Brownsville	58	45	rain	Houston	49	32	cloudy	San Marcos	49	30	cloudy
Brownwood	49	25	pt sunny	Kingsville	54	37	rain	Sulphur Springs	46	23	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	52	37	rain	Livingston	48	26	cloudy	Sweetwater	48	27	pt sunny
Corsicana	48	28	pt sunny	Longview	47	25	pt sunny	Tyler	47	25	pt sunny
Dallas	46	27	pt sunny	Lubbock	47	25	mst sunny	Weatherford	45	23	pt sunny
Del Rio	53	32	pt sunny	Lufkin	49	26	cloudy	Wichita Falls	43	27	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	46	22	pt sunny	Houston	49	32	cloudy	Phoenix	70	50	mst sunny
Boston	34	19	mst sunny	Los Angeles	65	51	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	47	cloudy
Chicago	15	4	windy	Miami	80	67	pt sunny	Seattle	36	34	mixed
Dallas	46	27	pt sunny	Minneapolis	8	1	windy	St. Louis	26	13	sunny
Denver	34	19	pt sunny	New York	38	22	mst sunny	Washington, DC	41	23	pt sunny

Moon Phases

First	New	First	Full
Dec 30	Jan 21	Jan 29	Feb 6

UV Index

Tue 1/6	Wed 1/7	Thu 1/8
3	3	3
Low	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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