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WT-Int. Crude - $21.28
WTIC Posted - $18.00
Natural Gas - $2.660

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Dec. 27, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 205
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Jack Elam

Precinct 2...

Commissioner's race draws second candidate

With the deadline for filing for the March primaries less than a week away, the post of Precinct 2 commissioner has drawn a second candidate.

Jerry House, 57, a life-long resident of Scurry County, filed today to run for Precinct 2 commissioner, subject to the Democratic primary.

On the opening day of filing, Republican Robbie Floyd had filed for the post being vacated by three-term commissioner Roy Idom, also a Republican.

House is a stock farmer seven miles north of Snyder on the Clairemont Highway and has been a contract meter reader for Big County Electric Co-Op for six years. His wife, Rita, owns the WR Whistlestop on the north side of the square.

Jerry House

The couple has six grown children.

House said he is running for commissioner because he wants to give something back to the county where he has lived all his life.

"I ran for commissioner before, and it has remained my desire to work for the county. I would like to have the opportunity to give something back to Scurry County," said House.

"I feel Scurry County has a lot of pluses and we need to continue to try to build it and the city of Snyder up. The new parks department is step in the right direction.

"We all need to try and find something to keep our young people here by bringing in new businesses," House added.

This is the second race to develop on the commissioners' court as incumbent Chloanne Lindsey is being challenged by Snyder fireman Ronnie Clawson. Both are Democrats.

All county incumbents have filed for re-election with the exception of County Judge Ricky Fritz, but the Republican judge has said he plans to seek a third term.

A former Snyder mayor, Rod Waller, filed with the Republican Party to seek the county judge's post.

Republicans who have filed for re-election include Trina Rodgers, district clerk; Nelda Colvin, treasurer; Joan Bunch, county clerk; and Deborah Boyd, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace.

Also seeking re-election is Democratic Sheriff Darren Jackson.

In other contested races, U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm will have a Republican opponent.

Abilene resident Russell Gill, a 37-year-old pilot for Delta Airlines has filed the necessary papers.

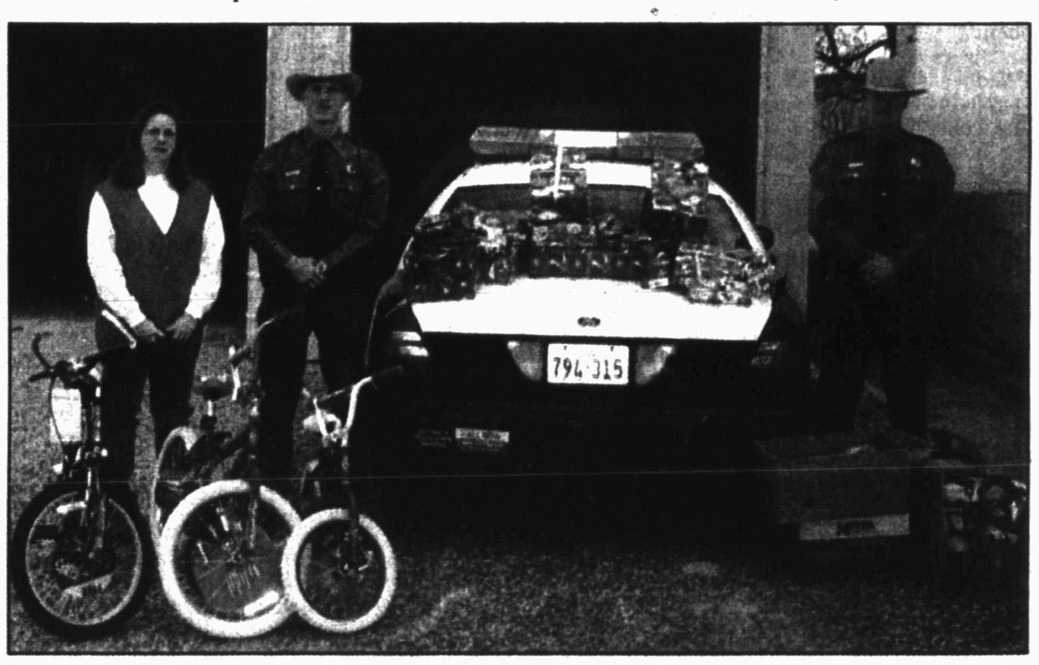
Rep. Stenholm, a Democrat, was first elected to Congress in 1978.

San Angelo attorneys Thomas M. Goff and Drew Darby, Christoval business owner and social worker Jeri Slone, plus San Angelo businessman Scott Campbell are seeking the state representative's post being vacated by Rob Junell.

Goff, Darby and Campbell are Republicans, while Slone is a Democrat.

Wednesday is the filing deadline.

Drew Bullard is the GOP chairman for Scurry County, while Jerry Gannaway is the Demo county chairman.



A GOOD DEED — Snyder DPS troopers adopted a local family for Christmas and provided gifts for the mother and four children. Shown just prior to delivering the gifts on Christmas Eve are from left, secretary Dee Boone, Trooper Terry Snyder and Trooper Bill Blackley. (Contributed Photo by Sgt. Troy Wilson)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "You have a lot of working room when the sky's the limit."

Not everybody loves – or even likes – cats. However, we kind of favor 'em because of their fierce independence.

We have a friend who believes that cats, for the most part, should be left alone. According to an item he passed along to us, cats have their own line of physics. It's called Feline Fisics and here's how it works.

—Law of Cat Inertia: A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force such as opening a container of cat food or a nearby scurrying mouse.

—Law of Cat Magnetism: All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.

—Law of Cat Thermodynamics: Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat in which case all heat flows to the cat.

—Law of Cat Stretching: A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.

—Law of Cat Sleeping: All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable as possible for the cat.

—Law of Cat Elongation: A cat can make its body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.

—Law of Cat Obstruction: A cat must lie on the floor in such a position to obstruct the maximum amount of human foot traffic.

—Law of Cat Disinterest: A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest it.

—Law of Cat Composition: A cat is composed of matter - Anti-Matter and it doesn't Matter.

When you gotta, you gotta.

Picked up this story from a teacher during the holidays.

A pre-school teacher told her pupils that they were to raise their hand if they had to go to the bathroom.

The following day, one of the students said, "Teacher, I had to go to the bathroom, so I raised my hand. It didn't help, I had to go anyway."

Racial profiling policy approved by city council

In a called meeting at noon Wednesday, Snyder's city council adopted a policy dealing with racial profiling.

Police Chief Steve Warren said the state legislature mandated all police departments to have a policy in effect by Jan. 1 and the council's action satisfies the state requirements.

Police departments have the option to either document their traffic stops by video taping them, or by filling out paperwork.

"Of 19 police cars, 14 of them are now equipped with video cameras and these are the officers' cars that would routinely make traffic stops," said Chief Warren. "We chose video cameras because the other route would be a paperwork nightmare.

Chief Warren had said earlier that the police department realizes that there will be unavoidable disagreements from time to time resulting from traffic stops, but the use of the cameras would document what actually happened.

"We are far ahead of most cities our size in this respect," said the chief. "We started working a long time ago on this, and thanks to our city council's help, we are in a lot better shape than most."

Mayor Francene Noah presided in the half-hour meeting and council members present included John Reed, Vernest Tippens, David Harrell and I.E. Martin. James Ashley and Terry Martin were absent

Investigation continues in Christmas Day assault

A 25-year-old Snyder man is in stable condition at Lubbock's University Medical Center after he was assaulted and robbed Christmas night.

Snyder Police Sgt. Terry Luecke is continuing investigation into the aggravated robbery reported at 11:04 p.m. Tuesday in the 3000 block of Ave. V.

The victim's name was not released for investigative purposes.

Luecke said the man was leaving a Christmas party Tuesday night when he was assaulted by as many as five subjects. A small amount of cash was taken from his pocket, warranting the aggravated robbery charge.

One juvenile was taken into custody and transferred by Larry Thompson, county juvenile probation officer, to the Garza County Detention Center.

The victim was transported to Cogdell Hospital then to Lubbock for treatment.

Luecke was to interview more witnesses today.

Third Monday of each month...

County sets 2002 meetings

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

The Scurry County commissioners' court this morning, in a brief special session, acted on only one business item, setting its regular meetings for 2002 on the third Monday of each month.

County Judge Ricky Fritz said meeting on the third Monday, rather than the first, allows more reports from the previous month to be reviewed.

The court can meet in special session any time, but must post the time and place of the meeting 72 hours in advance.

In other business, District Judge Ernie Armstrong addressed the court about a Texas Senate bill requiring all criminal courts to set policies ensuring timely appointment of counsel for indigent defendants.

Armstrong said $93 million is spent in Texas each year on indigent defense, but the majority of those costs are shouldered by the 20 largest counties in the state.

"The main thing this does is clarify the process," Judge Armstrong said.

The bill, vetoed two years ago by then Gov. George W. Bush, was approved in the last legislative session.

No action was necessary by the court because no cost increases are expected.

Seven line-item transfers were approved, to include $464 for medical expenses in the judge's office, $1,500 for jury expenses, $100.85 for bank service charges, $1,188.92 for part-time help and utilities, $1,900 for communications and other equipment at the sheriff's office, and $2,305 for road materials in Precinct 4.

Budget amendments also were approved to include $11,498.99 for legal services, $5,121.33 for Scurry County EMS and $2,630.16 for tires and tubes and operating supplies.

Judge Fritz presided and commissioners present were Ralph Trevey, Howard Limmer and Chloanne Lindsey. Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom was absent.

Hunt for terrorists far-reaching

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military officials are making it clear publicly that Afghanistan isn't the only country where American forces are fighting — or planning to fight — terrorist networks.

They won't say where, but other areas known as hide-outs for terrorist Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network include Somalia, Yemen, Sudan and the Chechnya region of Russia. All are predominantly Muslim, with vast, war-ravaged areas under little or no central government control.

The Afghanistan war's commander, Army Gen. Tommy Franks, gave one of the strongest indications yet about the shadowy aspects of the U.S. military campaign. Speaking to The Associated Press Tuesday on the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier, Franks said overt and covert U.S. military operations are "going on in a great many places."

Those operations "are designed to do away with these pockets of terrorism," Franks said without giving details.

"I think General Franks was being vague for an obvious reason," said Army Col. Richard Thomas, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, which Franks heads. "There's a lot of stuff going on. Some of it you get to report, some of it you don't."

Defense Department officials have said they are focusing on rooting out al-Qaida and their former Taliban sponsors from Afghanistan. They also have stressed that the fight won't end there, and have mentioned several countries where al-Qaida operates or that sponsor terrorism.

One of those countries is Yemen, the native country of bin Laden's wealthy construction magnate father, the late Mohammed Bin-Awad Binladin.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker on Wednesday denied reports that the United States had asked Yemen to allow U.S. forces to participate in the hunt for al-Qaida members there. Yemeni troops have been searching for members of the terrorist network since Dec. 18, and at least 24 solders and six tribesmen have been killed.

U.S. officials hold al-Qaida responsible for the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in a Yemeni harbor which killed 17 sailors.

In Somalia, guerrillas believed to be trained by bin Laden's group shot down two U.S. helicopters during a 1993 peacekeeping mission, resulting in the deaths of 18 American soldiers. Americans have been meeting with local Somali leaders recently and the Pentagon has said they are not from the military.

Bin Laden spent several years living in Sudan before leaving for Afghanistan in 1996. The United States hit a Sudanese factory with missiles in 1998 in response to the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Although al-Qaida was linked to the bombings, controversy continues over whether the Sudanese plant was making chemical weapons components, as the United States claimed, or pharmaceuticals.

Bin Laden's network also has ties to Chechnya, the breakaway Russian region where Muslim fighters have battled government troops for years.

ASK US

Q—When and where is the Super Bowl going to be held?

A—It is scheduled for Feb. 3 at the New Orleans Superdome. The date of the game was pushed back after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 53 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Thursday, 29; no precipitation; total for 2001, 20.77 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low 25-30, NW winds 5-15 mph; Friday, partly cloudy, high around 60, W winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy, low around 30. W winds 5-15 mph.

Rebecca Jones
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:50 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:42 a.m.

Of 360 days in 2001, the sun has shone 347 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Human beings, like plants, grow in the soil of acceptance, not in the atmosphere of rejection.
—John Powell

DEC 27 2001

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Missing boy's body recovered from lake

SILSBEE (AP) — A 6-year-old boy whose body was recovered from a lake after he disappeared during a family hike was described as an outspoken and fearless kindergartner who enjoyed climbing trees and playing video games.

Family members had puzzled for days over Ira Clutter's disappearance because he wasn't one to run off, his father, Randy Clutter said.

"We just kept thinking we would find him," Clutter said. "Nobody thought he was in the water."

Hundreds of volunteers spent days searching the rocky, brushy terrain and dirt trails in Possum Kingdom State Park, about 130 miles west of Dallas. Clutter, who is legally blind, searched alongside those who came from across the state to help.

Divers recovered Ira's body Wednesday from the lake where family members least suspected he would be found.

"It appeared like he fell from a large rock. He was found in 24 feet of water near the bottom," said Kristin Everett, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. "Investigators found a skid mark real close to where he was found. We believe he was exploring the shore line and he fell in."

Billie Kyles, principal at Robinson Elementary School in Silsbee, said Ira was an outspoken student who was eager to discuss his faith. A Jehovah's Witness, Ira often would sit in Kyle's office during holiday or birthday celebrations, which conflicted with his religious beliefs.

"To tell the truth, my heart is breaking," Kyles said. "I'm going to miss him."

Clutter said the discovery of Ira's body brought closure to the family after a very difficult four days of not knowing what had happened to his son.

"He was pretty much a fearless little fella," Clutter said. "He was not intimidated by anybody, really."

After 11 years, thief admits to killing Air Force sergeant

HONDO (AP) — A guilt-ridden California prison inmate, serving a four-year sentence in San Quentin on a grand theft charge, has been extradited to Texas to be tried for the killing 11 years ago of an Air Force sergeant outside San Antonio.

The files on the disappearance on Nov. 9, 1990, of Scott M. Prince had been all but forgotten when Timothy C. Thomason told California officials last May 30 that he robbed and strangled the airman with the help of two others.

Thomason told California officials he robbed and strangled the airman with the help of two others.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit by Medina County Sheriff Joe Tschirhart, Thomason said he and a female friend posed as hitchhikers on Loop 410 in San Antonio, planning to rob whoever stopped.

Prince was overpowered and robbed after he picked up the pair, Thomason reportedly said, and they then were joined by an acquaintance he identified only as "Mike."

According to the affidavit, Thomason said he and his friend strangled Prince at a ranch owned by a relative of Mike, who watched, and the body was dumped near Medina Lake, about 25 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Thomason, who did not fight extradition, was charged with capital murder last week at the Medina County Jail in Hondo. He is being held without bond.

"He just said that he wants to get this taken care of," Medina County Sheriff Joe Tschirhart said.

The sheriff said Thomason will be asked to help build a case against other suspects. Thomason was cooperative during a brief interview Tuesday, Tschirhart said.

The case may go before a grand jury in February. No date has been set for Thomason's trial.

Prince's parents welcomed word that Thomason was in Texas awaiting trial.

"It's great. It's about time. This thing has been dragging on and on," Jim Prince, 57, told the San Antonio Express-News. "I just hope that I'm alive to see the end of it."

Prince criticized Air Force investigators for handling his son's disappearance as a case of an airman absent without leave.

Woman dies in car crash

LUBBOCK (AP) — A woman ran over her husband during an altercation Wednesday, then died when she lost control of her car and crashed into a tree in a rural area just east of Lubbock, police said.

Trina Richardson, 34, died at the crash site in her 1993 Cadillac DeVille, Lubbock Police Sgt. Greg Gregg said.

"She went airborne after crossing a high intersection, then slid sideways before hitting a tree," Gregg said.

Her husband, L.D. Richardson Jr., 39, was taken to Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock with a cut on his head, and a possible broken arm and broken leg, Gregg said.

The altercation apparently began while the two were driving in separate cars. L.D. Richardson got out of his car and began walking toward his wife's car at an intersection when she accelerated into him, Gregg said.

When an officer arrived, Trina Richardson took off, Gregg said. The officer chased her but only got within about a half-mile when she crashed, Gregg said.

The reason for the fight was unclear, but Gregg said the couple had a long history of domestic violence.

"This has been an ongoing feud between those two for years, and there's just no telling with those two," said Gregg, who said he and several other officers have been called to the Richardsons' residence over the years.

Two San Antonio residents observe 212 years of life

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Amelia McDaniel and Julia Hoyle-Gayden have a few things in common.

Both live in San Antonio, both have strong beliefs, and both celebrated birthdays Wednesday.

McDaniel, 105, is the young one. Hoyle-Gayden is 107.

"It's unbelievable," said Dr. Thomas T. Perls, a geriatrician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Mass., and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"There are about 50,000 centenarians living in the United States but having two celebrating their birthdays on the same day in the same city — San Antonio is truly lucky," Perls told the San Antonio Express-News.

"The average age of death in the United States is 77," said Perls, who runs a longevity study with two Boston hospitals. "Why some are living beyond that can be attributed to anything from environment to good genes."

McDaniel attributes her longevity to three things:

"It's good to listen," she said. "And it's important to be good. One other thing, it's good to know there's a God somewhere."

Several blocks away, Hoyle-Gayden also credits God for her long life. She agrees that good genes also are a factor, as is crystal-clean living.

The women, who don't know each other, are both sound of mind. And neither lets age affect her eating habits.

McDaniel loves fried chicken and shrimp gumbo. Hoyle-Gayden's not shy about adding hot sauce to her enchiladas, beans, ham and turkey, which were among the dishes at her birthday celebration Wednesday.

For her birthday, McDaniel celebrated with a cupcake. She was also presented with gifts from her friends and workers at Alta Vista Nursing Home, where she lives.

"There's going to be a bigger celebration for her on Sunday at her church," said Rosie Flores, activities director at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

McDaniel said she loves praying and enjoys visiting sick friends at Alta Vista. She uses a walker, but is still very mobile.

"I enjoy seeing people," she said. "I like to keep doing things."

She moved to San Antonio in the 1940s and soon after met her husband, Tommy McDaniel. They were married for more than 40 years and had two children, but she outlived them all. She has one stepgrandson, Ernest Collins.

A member of Mount Olive Baptist Church for more than 60 years, McDaniel enjoys getting dressed to attend Sunday services. According to Flores, McDaniel attends church at least twice a month.

God is important to Hoyle-Gayden, too. Wednesday morning, her pastor, the Rev. Sarah Davis, called to wish her a happy birthday and pray with her over the phone.

Miss Julia, as she's known to family and friends, treated her 107th birthday like a New Year's Eve celebration, staying awake until midnight to ring it in.

Around 3 p.m., nearly 30 relatives from Arlington and Houston arrived for her birthday party. It's been a tradition since she turned 100.

Miss Julia, a retired teacher, has been a stalwart supporter of women's and civil rights, an active member of the NAACP until she could no longer drive. She also likes to tell stories.

Relatives howled and winked as she recited all of the Great Lakes and shrugged off light teasing about returning from a solo trip to Kansas in June 1976 with a special souvenir — her third husband.

As for her 108th celebration, she said she'll be here.

"Unless I'm called to the kingdom," she said.

events

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $36 million.

The ticket was sold in Fort Worth.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 8-20-40-44-47-51

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3

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

9-4-8

Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2001

Today is the 361st day of 2001 and the seventh day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1845, in Jefferson, Ga., Dr. Crawford Long became the first doctor to administer ether to a woman giving birth to a child.

On this day in 1932, Radio City Music Hall, a theater at Rockerfeller Center, opened in New York City.

On this day in 1947, "Howdy Doody Time," hosted by "Buffalo Bob," debuted on television.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), astronomer; Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), scientist; Sydney Greenstreet (1879-1954), actor; Marlene Dietrich (1901-1992), actress; Oscar Levant (1906-1972), musician-actor; William H. Masters (1915-2001), physician; Lee Salk (1926-1992), psychologist; Gerard Depardieu (1948-), actor, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, the Cleveland Browns won the NFL title by defeating the Baltimore Colts 27-0. During the game, Browns receiver Gary Collins caught three touchdown passes thrown by quarterback Frank Ryan.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." — Aristotle

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 22) and full moon (Dec. 30).

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Berry's World

PUTTING THE FRUITCAKE TO GOOD USE.

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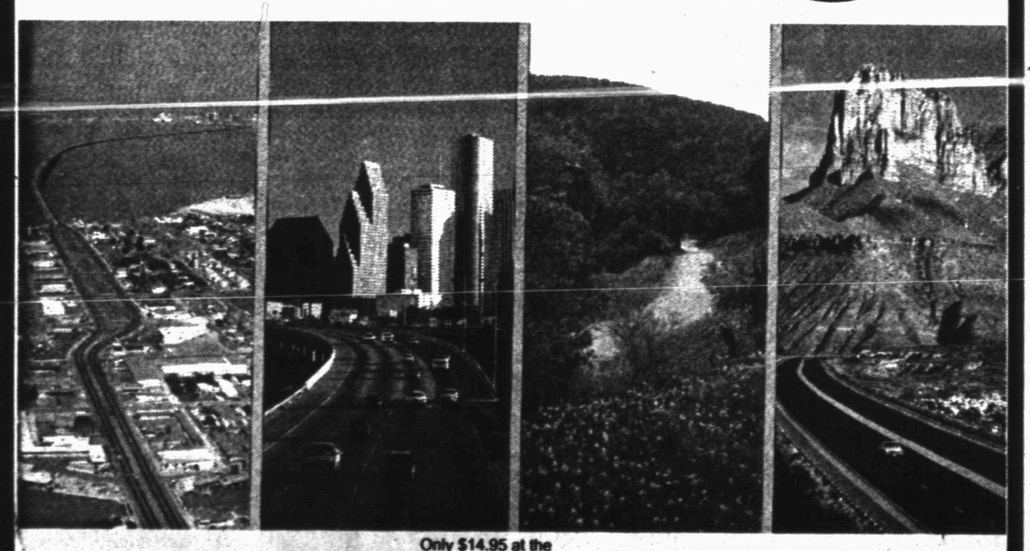

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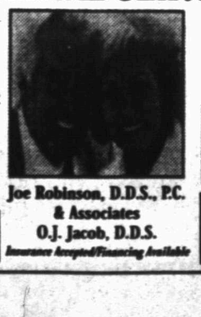

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WAL-MART CHARITY APPEAL — Snyder Wal-Mart manager R.J. Youngclaus presented Snyder Neighbors Sharing (SNS) a check for $899.08, represented by president Thomas Fogleman. This marks the 11th holiday season that Wal-Mart stores across the country are assisting charities within the local communities. SNS is a program that repairs home for the handicapped or elderly usually the last Saturday of April. "Our associates selected this charity because of the tremendous contribution it makes to this community," said Youngclaus. Also pictured are sales associates Norma Torres and Betty Benson, right. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2001

A simple technique in a difficult form

By Phillip Alder

Defenders start each deal with a slate of "standard" defensive techniques at their fingertips. They all serve a purpose, but don't always automatically defeat a contract. Sometimes the textbook play must be followed by another telling continuation.

How should the play go in this five-heart contract? There are also two side issues. What do you think of the auction? What would have happened to four spades doubled?

This deal occurred in 1962 during a match between Chicago and New York. It's a pity — but no surprise — that these encounters are not held today.

North had to redouble because two clubs would have been nonforcing. South's four-heart rebid was aggressive. His partner might have been void of hearts. West's four-spade rebid was also debatable, especially at the adverse vulnerability. (Four spades doubled costs 200 unless South starts with the diamond ace and another diamond, when 500 can be collected.)

Under the spade king, East signaled with the queen, guaranteeing that he also held the jack. Taking the hint, West underled his spade ace at trick two.

Now the spotlight turned on East. If West had the diamond ace, surely he would have cashed it at trick two. And if West had a club trick coming, it couldn't disappear. Leading a third spade couldn't help either. So, East, having eliminated the impossible, did what was left: He shifted to a trump.

This defeated the contract. South could no longer ruff all three diamond losers in the dummy.

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	North 12-27-01	
	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ A 10 6 ♦ 6 ♣ K Q J 8 6 5	
West		**East**
♠ A K 8 5 ♥ — ♦ Q 9 7 5 2 ♣ A 9 7 2		♠ Q J 10 3 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ 10 4 3
	South ♠ 7 6 ♥ K Q J 8 7 5 4 ♦ A 10 4 3 ♣ —	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Dbl.	Redbl.	1 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-4048 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8494 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

MONEY TREES FOR GATEWAY — Scurry County 4-H Horse Club presented a money tree to assist with the Gateway Family Services' Christmas program in which it helped 59 children and 22 families of domestic violence. From left are Anita Goodger representing the 4-H Horse Club and Sheri Jameson, with Gateway. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Funeral preplanning reduces stress

There are things you can do now to ease your family's feelings in the future.

The death of a loved one, for example, may be extra stressful if little advance thought was given to final arrangements. Did the loved one want a traditional funeral with a burial? Cremation with ashes scattered at sea? What music should be played?

Where should the service be held? Who should preside? Often, family members and friends are unsure of the answers and worry about making poor choices. With the following tips, Dignity Memorial funeral and cemetery providers encourage families to plan ahead to help resolve these issues.

Preplanning may help families make better choices. "Thinking ahead can help you make informed and thoughtful decisions about funeral arrangements. It allows you to choose the specific items you want and need and compare the prices offered by several funeral providers," advises a Federal Trade Commission consumer guide.

Preplanning may also reduce stress. "Funerals are not a pleasant subject to contemplate, and they are often very stressful and expensive events. Planning a funeral in advance can alleviate some stress on remaining family and friends," says the Better Business Bureau.

If the wishes of a loved one are known, families and friends may be prevented from emotional overspending. "An increasing number of people are planning their own funerals, designating their funeral preferences, and sometimes even paying for them in advance. They see funeral planning as an extension of will and estate planning," the FTC guide adds.

One of the best ways to preplan may be to sit down and put your thoughts in writing. A "fill-in-the-blank" final arrangement guide will lead families through the actual recording of their wishes.

When choosing such a guide, look for one that includes space for important family and estate information, such as the Personal Planning Guide by Dignity Memorial. Offered free of charge, the guide is clear, concise and easy to complete.

Designed for a couple's dual responses, the Personal Planning Guide begins with a vital statistics section. It also records armed forces information, will, banking, credit card, life insurance and real estate holdings data, and a medical history. The second half of the guide helps families leave detailed instructions regarding a funeral or cremation service as well as cemetery memorialization.

To obtain a free copy of the Personal Planning Guide, call 1-800-9-CARING.

Santa Claus takes on challenger in fight

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. (AP) — A man who took a swing at a mystery man in a Santa suit discovered that Father Christmas was up to the challenge, according to authorities.

Jonathan Danzey, 20, is facing misdemeanor intoxication and criminal mischief charges after authorities say he got into a fight with Santa on Saturday at a fast-food restaurant 100 miles south of St. Petersburg.

"Santa Claus whipped his butt," said Katherine Phillips, who witnessed the fight.

"He won," Danzey conceded. "He was stronger and more sober."

According to Lee County sheriff's deputies, Danzey saw Santa in a convertible and became belligerent when Santa told him he had no gifts for him.

"I was in a bad mood," Danzey said.

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SALE $147

SOFA & LOVESEAT
In a rich rust print cover. 1 only, floor sample Reg. $799.95
SALE $399

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Reg. $179.95
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Twin Set ... Reg. $169.95 ... Sale $68
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MARKET SPECIAL SETS
15 YEAR WARRANTY
Twin Set ... Reg. $269.95 ... Sale $138
Full Set ... Reg. $349.95 ... Sale $168
Queen Set ... Reg. $449.95 ... Sale $198
King Set ... Reg. $599.95 ... Sale $268

BACK BEAUTY SETS
OUR BEST SELLER
Twin Set ... Reg. $399.95 ... Sale $178
Full Set ... Reg. $449.95 ... Sale $218
Queen Set ... Reg. $549.95 ... Sale $268
King Set ... Reg. $699.95 ... Sale $348

DELUXE PILLOW TOP SETS
CYBER REST
Full Set ... Reg. $499.95 ... Sale $248
Queen Set ... Reg. $599.95 ... Sale $298
King Set ... Reg. $799.95 ... Sale $388

SEALY TWIN SIZE MATTRESS SET - ONLY 1
Disc. Cover. Reg. $199.95 Sale $99

4 PC. BEDROOM
In rich cherry finish. Includes large chest, poster headboard and footboard and mirror. Reg. $599.95
SALE $247

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With recliner and full size mattress. Reg. $1499.95
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Several Styles & Finishes Values to $399.95
SALE $148 Up

QUEEN SIZE PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SETS
Great value - while 5 sets last. Reg. $499.95
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Large, oak, slight damage - 1 only Reg. $249.95
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5 PC BEDROOM
Includes triple dresser, hutch, mirror, BC headboard, chest and night stand, pine finish. Reg. 699.95
SALE $388

GLIDER ROCKER W/MATCHING OTTOMAN
Choice of Colors.Reg. $199.95
SALE $99

8 PC. LIVINGROOM GROUP
Includes sofa, loveseat, chair, 3 tables, 2 lamps. Reg. $899.95
SALE $588

DECORATOR WING BACK CHAIRS
Choice of colors. Reg. $199.95
SALE $148

3PC GLASS TOP COFFEE AND END TABLES SET
Choice of colors.Reg. $99.95
SALE $47

4 DRAWER STORAGE CHEST
Lots of storage room, nice finish. Reg. $69.95
SALE $37

SOFA & LOVESEAT
BY ASHLEY
ISpecial purchase - while they last. Reg. $899.95
SALE $399

CLOSEOUT ON ALL REMAINING BEAN BAGS
Several colors and sizes
SALE $15

5 PC CONVERSATION PIT GROUP
Includes 2 sofas, loveseat and 2 ottomans, nice cover. Reg. $899.95
SALE $548

BEAUTIFUL 5 PC. WROUGHT IRON TABLE
With glass top and 4 sturdy chairs. Reg. $399.95
SALE $247

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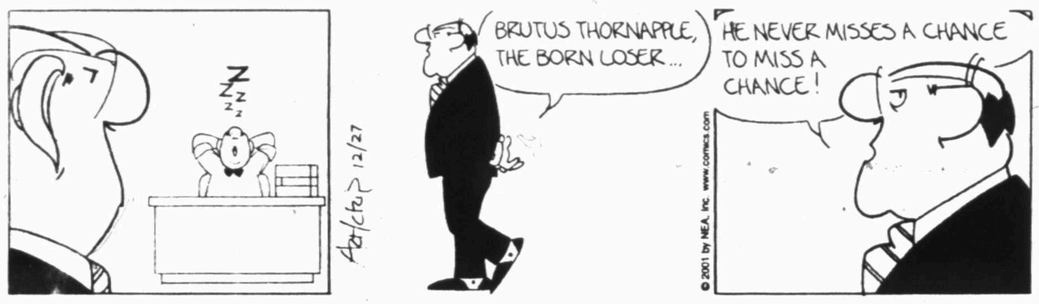
•All Items Subject to Prior Sale

DEC 27 2001

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Stinging insect
5 Chores
10 OPEC, e.g.
12 Cowlike
13 Squids' relatives
14 Fisher
15 Cellist Ma
16 Several pts.
18 Be in debt
19 Honors
23 Regulatory org.
26 Actress Myrna
27 Slangy no
30 Robin Hood
32 More certain
34 Gentler
35 Flower part
36 Ernie's pal
37 Baseball's [illegible]
38 Mind-reading
39 Dancer Fred
42 Watch chain
45 Wise bird
46 Wanes
50 With enthusiasm
53 Sign up
55 Prizes
56 Extremely delicate
57 Ration
58 Desk items

DOWN

1 Central Texas town
2 Pretentious
3 Seat for a saloon patron
4 Gusto
5 2000 pounds
6 Median (abbr.)
7 Barn [illegible] neighbor
9 Arid
10 Prim
11 Bourbon
12 Foundation
17 Endeavor
21 Sheen
22 Feng —
23 Suet
24 Faded
25 Summit
28 Natural impulse
29 Borders
31 Zeus' spouse
33 Knock sharply
35 Dirtied
37 Chat
40 Santa's presents
41 A bit creepy
42 Type of bean
43 Elliptical shape
44 Beak
47 Rhine port
48 Deli orders
49 Stallone nickname
51 Batman and Robin
52 Allow to happen
54 Take a snooze

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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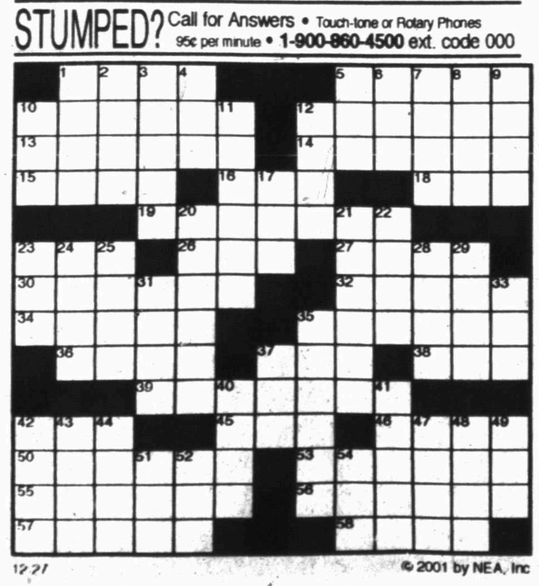

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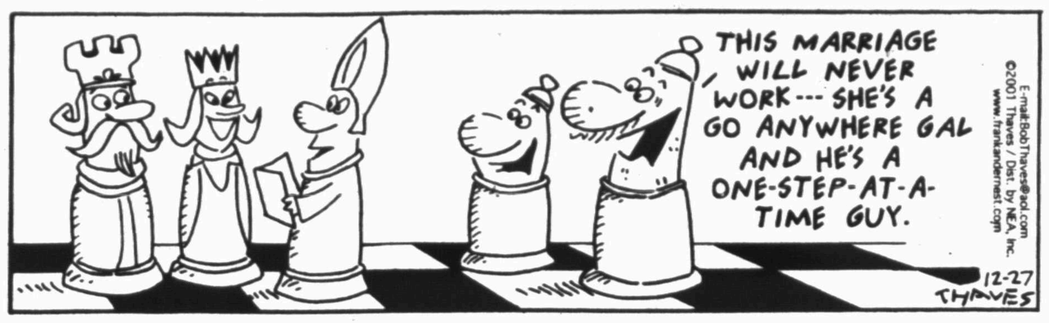
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Dad put glue in her denture cleaner."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"I'M BACK! I JUST CAME TO PLAY WITH SOME OF THE TOYS SANTA DIDN'T BRING ME."

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SPORTS

Texans close to signing players

HOUSTON (AP) — Former New York Jets defensive back Kevin Williams is in the final stages of talks with the NFL expansion Houston Texans, his agent says.

Agent Jerome Stanley told Houston television station KRIV that he expects a contract to be reached Thursday, the first day the Texans can sign free agents.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Williams told the station. "I really would like to play for this team. It's a new situation and I'm looking for a new situation to get in."

Williams played nearly three seasons with the Jets and started in 13 games before being cut in November 2000.

Free agent Matt Snider, a fullback with the Green Bay Packers for two seasons, also is close to signing with the Texans, KRIV reported.

Agent Joe Linta said Snider has reached an agreement in principle with Houston and will sign with the Texans providing he doesn't get a call from another team by Thursday morning.

Charlie Casserly, Texans general manager, said the team is talking to Williams, Snider and about 20 others.

"We expect to sign some players over the next couple of days," he said. "Our policy is going to be until the contract is signed we are never going to announce it. We're not even going to say we've agreed to terms because until it's signed it's not signed."

Applewhite thankful for start in final game as a Longhorn

SAN DIEGO (AP) — If Major Applewhite was bitter or angry or disillusioned about the way the Texas quarterback controversy played out the last two seasons, he never let on.

He kept his frustrations to himself, even when he felt he could have gone in and gotten the Longhorns rolling. Like, say, after Chris Simms threw four interceptions in a 14-3 loss to Oklahoma back in October.

The one thing he did do while watching his senior season tick away Saturday after Saturday was keep himself ready. That's why Applewhite, the leading passer in Longhorns' history, gets to start his final game for No. 9 Texas, in the Holiday Bowl against No. 21 Washington on Friday night.

"I'm just gracious that this opportunity has presented itself," said Applewhite, ever the diplomat. "There's no bitterness. I don't have time for that now. I just want to go out and play football."

Applewhite, who holds 44 Texas records, had seen only mop-up duty this season. After throwing for a school-record 7,974 yards the previous three seasons, he threw for just 379 this year. But he was pretty sure his career wouldn't end with him holding a clipboard on the sideline.

After Texas blew a shot at the national championship game by losing 39-37 to Colorado in the Big 12 championship game Dec. 1, coach Mack Brown didn't waste any time in naming Applewhite the Holiday Bowl starter over Simms, a junior.

Simms committed four turnovers that led to 26 Colorado points and was replaced by Applewhite, who passed for 240 yards and a pair of touchdowns in a desperate rally that fell just short.

Applewhite was surprised and happy to be named the starter.

"Surprised, because as a bowl game, you're thinking maybe they want to give Chris confidence going into spring and next season. At the same time, you're thinking, 'I did play well against Colorado,' so it's like I made a case for starting."

Applewhite's performance against Colorado rekindled a two-year debate among Texas fans — whether to start Applewhite, a proven winner, or the 6-foot-5 Simms, whose strong left arm make him a solid NFL prospect.

"Just being a quarterback at Texas, regardless of whether you're first or second team, you're going to have pressure," Applewhite said. "That's why you go there. That's the fun part of it. You live for those situations."

Applewhite was the Big 12 offensive MVP in 1999 when he was the first Texas quarterback to pass for 3,000 yards in a season. Brown rotated the two quarterbacks in 2000 before Applewhite was sidelined by a knee injury.

Simms became the permanent starter late last season, including in a 35-30 loss to Oregon in the Holiday Bowl in which he threw four interceptions.

Until the disaster against Colorado, Simms had quieted most of his critics by leading Texas to its first 10-win season since 1995 and its highest national ranking since 1983. He set a school record with 22 touchdown passes, breaking Applewhite's mark of 21 set in 1999.

Applewhite said he's been able to handle the controversy because he saw it coming when the Longhorns recruited Simms, the son of former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms.

"You just know that with a high-profile quarterback coming in, that there's going to be a lot of hype, that there's going to be some decisions, and you know it's not going to be as smooth sailing as it was in '98 when there was no other quarterback," he said.

"Also, it would be foolish to not try to recruit anybody that's as good as Chris. You need somebody great in case somebody goes down."

That's what helped contribute to the controversy.

"I do think the reason this one is so unique is Chris was so highly recruited and Major had done so well," Brown said. "People forget the fact that Major got hurt last year. And both of them have been tremendously successful."

Which is why having both of them has been a blessing, not a difficulty, Brown added.

"We wouldn't have won all the games we've won over the last three years without both of them," said Brown, whose Longhorns have been 9-5, 9-3 and 10-2 with Applewhite and Simms on the roster. "They're still the best two quarterbacks in the country."

A&M, TCU renew rivalry

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Southwest Conference rivals Texas A&M and TCU are putting the best face they can on the galleryfurniture.com Bowl.

The Aggies (7-4) expected to contend for the Big 12 title before late losses soured their season. TCU (6-5) needed upsets in its final two games just to qualify for a bowl.

"We've had some great highs and we've had some very, very low points in our season," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "I think it's the incredible part of our kids, the chemistry and the kind of makeup that they have, that they fought back and gave themselves a chance."

Kickoff is at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

The Horned Frogs were going nowhere with a 4-5 record when they upset Conference USA champion Louisville and followed that with a 14-12 victory over Southern Mississippi.

It was the conclusion of a 16-week season that started with a 21-7 loss to Nebraska on Aug. 25 in the Pigskin Classic and included six open dates.

"I think in the last four weeks of the season, the two weeks we had off for Louisville and Southern Miss really helped us because I think we matured and we started to grow," Patterson said.

The Aggies have a 55-29-7 advantage in the series, and they've won 23 in a row since the Horned Frogs' last victory in 1972.

The Aggies were poised to be a major postseason player with a 7-1 record before they lost their last three games to Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Texas.

Their offense has struggled most of the season under quarterback Mark Farris. The Aggies scored only 17 points in their final three games.

"I'm impressed with what coach Patterson has done with his team," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "He picked a better course than I did, winning your last two games instead of losing your last three."

The Aggies' Wrecking Crew defense overcame a slow start this season. The Aggies rank No. 10 nationally in total defense, allowing 294 yards per game.

A&M's offense has been stalled by injuries to its running back and tight end corps.

Derek Farmer, Keith Joseph and Oschlor Flemming have shared running back duties. Former defensive lineman Thomas Carriger is starting at tight end and is backed up by walk-on Haven Massey.

The Aggies expect a tough time running against TCU's eight-man front.

"Any time there's extra people in the box, it always makes it difficult to run," A&M running backs coach Ken Rucker said. "We're going to win some and lose some in that situation. But as a team, you've got to do what is you. Running is part of our deal."

TCU junior quarterback Casey Printers helped the Horned Frogs' late-season surge. Printers threw eight touchdown passes in the last four games and became the third quarterback in school history to surpass 4,000 yards.

"I've got to do something to slow that quarterback down," Slocum said. "He's a great player and I know that they've got a defense that puts a whole lot of pressure on you."

The Aggies expect to have a big crowd advantage at the Astrodome.

"A&M is only about an hour and a half away, and Houston is probably where our biggest alumni base is at, so we're going to have a lot of Aggies here," linebacker Christian Rodriguez said.

"It's going to be like a home game for us, and if it's as loud as it is at Kyle Field, being in this dome, I bet you it's going to be 20 times louder."

Mavericks hold off Duncan, Spurs in OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks couldn't handle Tim Duncan. The San Antonio Spurs failed to shut down Michael Finley, Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki.

Duncan scored a career-high 53 points, but two 3-pointers in the last 26.3 seconds — Tim Hardaway's 27-footer and Nash's in the final second — gave Dallas a 126-123 victory Wednesday night.

Dallas won its seventh straight game despite Duncan, who scored 28 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and also pulled down 11 rebounds.

Finley scored 28 points, Nash 27 and Nowitzki 26 for the Mavericks.

Leading 86-82 going to the fourth quarter, Dallas was able to maintain its advantage by matching baskets with San Antonio. Nowitzki converted consecutive three-point plays to give the Mavericks a 97-92 lead with 5:59 left.

Duncan then scored 13 straight points for San Antonio, and his driving bank shot brought the Spurs to 106-105 with three minutes remaining.

Consecutive baskets by Nash gave Dallas a 112-107 lead with 1:45 to play.

After Juwan Howard connected on four straight free throws to give Dallas a 116-111 lead, San Antonio tied the score on two free throws by Duncan and Terry Porter's 3-point field goal with 5.9 seconds left.

Goals by Nash and Hardaway gave the Mavericks a 120-116 lead halfway through the five-minute overtime.

Duncan answered with a 7-0 run that put the Spurs ahead 123-120 with 1:14 to play. With the game clock ticking into its final half-minute, Hardaway stunned the crowd with a shot from 4 feet behind the 3-point line, tying the score.

With less than 10 seconds left in overtime, Nowitzki stole a pass and fed the ball to Nash, who worked the ball downcourt and hit the game-winner with six-tenths of a second left.

Porter's desperation 3-point shot was short.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	9	.654	—
New Jersey	17	9	.654	—
Washington	14	13	.518	3½
New York	13	15	.464	5
Orlando	13	17	.433	6
Philadelphia	12	16	.429	6
Miami	5	20	.200	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	16	9	.640	—
Indiana	17	13	.567	1½
Detroit	14	11	.560	2
Toronto	15	13	.536	2½
Charlotte	13	15	.464	4½
Cleveland	11	17	.393	6½
Atlanta	10	18	.357	7½
Chicago	4	22	.154	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	6	.769	—
Minnesota	19	8	.704	1½
Dallas	19	9	.679	2
Utah	14	15	.483	7½
Denver	9	18	.333	11½
Memphis	8	20	.286	13
Houston	8	21	.276	13½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	20	5	.800	—
Sacramento	21	9	.700	1½
L.A. Clippers	15	12	.556	6
Phoenix	16	13	.552	6
Seattle	14	15	.483	8
Portland	13	14	.481	8
Golden State	12	17	.414	10

Wednesday's Games

New Jersey 91, Cleveland 89
Memphis 107, Chicago 85
Milwaukee 107, Atlanta 97
Dallas 126, San Antonio 123, OT
Indiana 89, Orlando 82
Charlotte 99, Washington 93
Phoenix 97, Houston 91
Utah 99, Boston 86
Minnesota 94, Denver 91
Sacramento 89, Portland 74
Golden State 101, L.A. Lakers 90
Philadelphia 100, L.A. Clippers 86

Thursday's Games

Washington at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Miami at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 9 p.m.
Boston at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

New York at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Toronto at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

College Bowl Schedule

All Times EST

Tuesday, Dec. 18
New Orleans Bowl
$750,000
Colorado State 45, North Texas 20

Wednesday, Dec. 19
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
$750,000
Marshall 64, East Carolina 61, 2OT

Thursday, Dec. 20
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$750,000
Pittsburgh 34, N.C. State 19

Tuesday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue 28, Gray 10

Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
$800,000
Utah 10, Southern California 6

Thursday, Dec. 27
Seattle Bowl
$750,000
Georgia Tech (7-5) vs. Stanford (9-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
$1 million
Iowa State (7-4) vs. Alabama (6-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 28
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
$750,000
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. TCU (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$750,000
Boston College (7-4) vs. Georgia (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
$2 million
Texas (10-2) vs. Washington (8-3), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 29
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
$750,000
Toledo (9-2) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), Noon (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
$1.2 million
Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Iowa (6-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
$750,000
Kansas State (6-5) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Monday, Dec. 31
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
$750,000
Louisiana Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
$1 million
Washington State (9-2) vs. Purdue (6-5), 2:15 p.m. (CBS)

Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
$750,000
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 3 p.m. (FOXSN)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
$1.3 million
Brigham Young (12-1) vs. Louisville (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
$1.8 million
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
$2.2 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. South Carolina (8-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Arkansas (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
$1.4 million
Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Florida State (7-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$4.25 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
$11-13 million
Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
$11-13 million
Illinois (10-1) vs. Louisiana State (9-3), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
$11-13 million
Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
$11-13 million
Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Sports Briefs

Issel resigns as Nuggets coach

DENVER (AP) — Since 1975, Dan Issel had been synonymous with the Denver Nuggets, first as a player, then as general manager, president and — twice — as head coach.

That relationship ended when Issel accepted a buyout and resigned as president and coach, two weeks after he was suspended for making an insensitive ethnic remark to a spectator.

Mike Evans, the assistant coach, will continue as interim coach.

All-Star Sele signs with Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Aaron Sele, one of baseball's winningest pitchers over the last four years and an All-Star with the Seattle Mariners last season, signed a three-year, $24 million contract with the Anaheim Angels.

Ruben Sierra headed to Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — Free-agent outfielder Ruben Sierra signed a one-year, $1.9 million contract with the Seattle Mariners. The deal has $150,000 in performance bonuses.

Dilfer draws start for Seahawks

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — Trent Dilfer will start at quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks in San Diego this week in place of Matt Hasselbeck, whose separated left shoulder is too sore for him to play.

Carter lashes out against Moss

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Vikings receiver Cris Carter turned in his harshest rebuke yet of teammate Randy Moss.

During a conference call in which he also said he's thought about playing for the Green Bay Packers, Carter criticized Moss for saying he played hard only when he felt like it.

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Notice of public hearing to be held January 10, 2002, in the District Courtroom, Scurry County Courthouse, beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of setting salaries of the County Auditor and Court Reporter for 2002 by order of Ernie B. Armstrong, District Judge, 132nd Judicial District Court, Scurry County, Texas.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of GLENA BELLE ROGGENSTEIN, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,715:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of GLENA BELLE ROGGENSTEIN, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 20th day of December, 2001, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to, MONTE WEST, P.O. Box 406, Snyder, Texas 79550-0406, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 20th day of December, 2001.

(s)MONTE WEST
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Mass attempt to cross Channel Tunnel ends

SANGATTE, France (AP) — Hundreds of refugees living in an overcrowded Red Cross center on the English Channel coast gathered Christmas evening to plot their risky escape to Britain.

Some ate dinner two or three times to store up energy for the journey on foot through the 31-mile Channel tunnel.

The attempted mass exodus ended Wednesday with clouds of tear gas as police dispersed some refugees and hunted down others in the tunnel.

The incident highlighted the fate of some 1,300 Iraqi Kurds, Afghans, Iranians and other refugees holed up indefinitely in this northern French village.

In more than a dozen interviews, refugees explained their plan and vowed to continue trying to reach Britain, drawn there by its relatively liberal asylum laws and dreams of new homes and jobs.

In all, about 550 refugees from the Red Cross center attempted the crossing in two waves beginning Tuesday night. Such a large-scale attempt is rare, but not unprecedented. The refugees were trying to take advantage of the reduced traffic on Christmas Day.

"We decided to form two groups — A and B," Ahmed, a 23-year-old Afghan refugee, told The Associated Press on Wednesday, speaking in Farsi. "We thought we could cross all together by foot. We had almost managed, but at the very end the police stopped us."

Another Afghan refugee, Zia, said the plan was to launch the assault just after dinnertime. "Some of us ate dinner two or three times, just to have enough energy to cross," the 24-year-old said. Like other refugees, Ali did not want to provide his last name because of his illegal status.

The melee began at 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, when some 150 refugees broke through electronic barriers. Overwhelmed security forces called in French police, who tracked them down and arrested 129 of them. The refugees had managed to get one-quarter of the way through the tunnel.

"We ran and walked for three hours inside the tunnel," said Ali, an Iraqi Kurd, who said he found it difficult to breathe inside.

Just before 1 a.m. Wednesday, a new group of about 400 tried to storm the same entrance. Police used tear gas to repel them.

Every night, dozens of refugees who live in mobile homes and tents here attempt the dangerous crossing, trying either to jump on trains or navigate the tunnel on foot. Most are caught, but others make it through.

Both Eurotunnel and the Red Cross accused the refugees of staging a media event.

"This is a well-constructed media operation," said Alain Bertrand, an executive with Eurotunnel. "They knew very well that they would never make it to England," he told France-Info radio.

The Sangatte center, set up in an unused Eurotunnel building in 1999, was intended to house 700 refugees but now holds about 1,300.

Refugees the world over are eager to go to Britain, regarded as having more liberal asylum laws. For some, the journey ends in tragedy. In June 2000, 58 Chinese refugees were found suffocated in the back of a tomato truck in the English Channel port of Dover.

About 50 refugees remained in custody on Wednesday evening, police said. The rest were returned to the center.

Eurotunnel has long demanded that the French government dismantle the Sangatte center. But the government instead is setting up more centers in northern France to ease the burden at Sangatte.

Sangatte mayor Andre Segard, in an interview published today in the daily newspaper Le Figaro, called for the center to be closed.

"A new aggressiveness and violence has appeared among the refugees at the Sangatte camp," Segard said. "Families won't let their children go out alone in the streets, last summer the town's camp sites recorded a decline in visits and real estate agents say buyers are avoiding Sangatte."

Red Cross officials say about 500 to 600 new refugees arrive each week at the center. On average, they stay only five or six weeks before leaving for other European locations.

Eurotunnel says it intercepted about 18,500 refugees in the tunnel in the first half of 2001 alone.

As calm returned to the camp Wednesday night, a group of 200 refugees stood around the center's only television set, applauding the evening news.

"We saw ourselves this morning on TV and again tonight on the news," said an elated 24-year-old Afghan named Rassoul.

Europe's blind face euro's challenge

PARIS (AP) — In a class for blind and visually impaired children, 9-year-old Gregoire Bouchetout traces his fingertips over a few euro coins, searching for tiny notches and raised patterns that will help him tell them apart.

The two-cent piece has a little groove running along its edge, he notices. The two-euro coin is bigger, heavier and "has ridges on the edge that make your fingernail vibrate if you scratch it," he explains.

Everyone in the 12-nation euro zone has eight coins and seven new bank notes to get accustomed to when the new single currency becomes legal tender New Year's Day. For the blind, that means mastering minute tactile details that most people never notice. It also means hours of practice.

Thousands of people, many of them volunteers, some of them blind themselves, have been trained to help familiarize the visually impaired with the new currency. Their tools are board games, talking calculators and "euro cash tests" — plastic gadgets the size of a credit card that measure the coins and bills to indicate their denomination.

The switch would have been much more difficult if the euro hadn't been designed with the blind in mind.

Seven years ago, even before countries agreed on a name for the currency, the European Blind Union started working to make sure their needs were taken into account.

What people feared most was a bank note design similar to the U.S. dollar — a currency that's a nightmare for anyone who has trouble seeing. Unlike many existing European currencies that vary bank notes by denomination, every U.S. bank note is the same size and color, whether it's a dollar bill or a $100 bill.

Each denomination of the new euro bills has different dimensions and comes in a different candy-colored hue, such as magenta and lime green. The coins have different sizes, weights and textured edges.

Most blind people are pleased with the final euro design.

"I'd say that about 95 percent of our recommendations were taken into account," said Mokrane Boussaid, director of the European Blind Union's main office in Paris.

Boussaid said European monetary institutions were very cooperative. Once in a while, they needed a little push. A few years ago, the group noticed a problem with 10- and 50-cent coin samples for the euro line: The milling on their edges was much finer than what had been agreed on. The group campaigned for weeks, and the French mint agreed to melt down 9 million coins it had already produced.

Only one important suggestion was turned down. The group lobbied for a polygonal coin like the British 50-pence piece, which has seven sides, but the vending-machine industry opposed the move.

The European Blind Union is now focused on education. By now, many blind people have manipulated real euro coins handed out in advance.

In the Netherlands, the Visio institute for poor vision holds 90-minute classes for the blind, where participants act out scenarios they'll face starting Jan. 1, such as using the euro in shops.

On a recent afternoon at a Paris school for the blind, instructor Marie-Laure Martin passed around a book with raised patterns that are on euro coins: a map of Europe, a cathedral window, a bridge and its reflection in water.

In Belgium, many instructors use a board game designed by a blind former teacher to help people get acquainted with the currency.

With some practice, the blind should face no more problems than anyone else, said Hamou Bouakkaz, who founded France's Euro Vision program.

"Everybody's in this together, rich, poor, blind, sighted," said Bouakkaz, who is blind himself. "Now, people who aren't handicapped are going to have to do what we do all the time — learn to adapt to new situations."

The European Union states adopting the euro are: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain. Those staying out are Britain, Sweden and Denmark.

On the Net:

European Central Bank information for visually impaired: http://www.euro.ecb.int/en/section/information.html

European Blind Union: http://www.euroblind.org/

Mosque leader said he tried to warn police about radicals

LONDON (AP) — The leader of a south London mosque, whose members once included a man now suspected of trying to detonate explosives aboard an airliner, says police failed to act on repeated warnings that radicals were recruiting young Muslims.

Richard C. Reid, who formerly attended the Brixton mosque, was overpowered by flight attendants and passengers after he allegedly tried to detonate explosives in his sneaker aboard an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami on Saturday.

Abdul Haqq Baker, leader of the mosque, said Reid — also known as Abdel Rahim — drifted away from the Brixton community after falling under the influence of radicals.

"We have been in contact with the police numerous times over the last five years to warn of the threat posed by militant groups operating in our area," Baker was quoted as saying in today's editions of The Times.

"Only now are they bothering to follow it up. My fear is this is all too little too late."

Reid has been charged with intimidation or assault of a flight crew and could face 20 years in prison. He is being held in jail under suicide watch pending a psychological examination.

According to news reports, Reid was born in south London in 1973, the son of a Jamaican father and an English mother. He joined the Brixton mosque in 1996 after serving a prison sentence for street crimes, the reports said. Scotland Yard has declined to give any details of Reid's record.

Reid joined the mosque at about the same time as Zacarias Moussaoui, a Frenchman of Moroccan descent charged in the United States with conspiracy in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, Baker said.

ABC News reported Wednesday that European authorities have evidence of contact between Moussaoui and Reid late last year, and that the two spent time together in a training camp in Afghanistan run by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

ABC News quoted unidentified sources as saying that some al-Qaida suspects detained in Afghanistan have identified Reid from pictures shown to them by interrogators.

"At the end of Zacarias Moussaoui being in the community and spouting off his views, it was true that Mr. Reid was attending at the same time," Baker said. "I'm pretty confident they were attending the extreme scholarship classes being held by some of the extremists who could not attend our center."

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Baker said he doubted that Reid could have acted alone.

"He was one who was easily led — the way the whole thing was bungled is because of his naivety," Baker said.

"The way he tried to commit this act shows his gullibility. He was sent as a tester though he was not to know that. We are confident he was not acting alone."

The mosque, located in a row of Victorian houses, has a young, multicultural membership that includes a large number of converts. It teaches "basic, mainstream orthodox" Islam, but has attracted some "extreme elements" who targeted enthusiastic converts like Reid, Baker said.

Baker suggested Reid might have had contact with more radical mosques such as the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, home of militant Egyptian-born cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri.

Al-Masri said he had no knowledge of Reid.

"I don't know about the guy, actually," he told the BBC.

Pesticide differences spark debate over crops in world

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Grapes and wine from Chile. Tomatoes, carrots and broccoli from Mexico. Apple juice from Hungary. Orange juice from Brazil.

The global economy is bringing more foreign-grown produce to American tables and blurring the borders for nations and multinational corporations. But all produce still is not created equal, especially when it comes to pesticide content.

Illegal pesticide residue shows up 31/2 times as often on produce from Mexico as on produce grown in California, according to the state's Department of Pesticide Regulation.

"It appears to us the disparity is getting worse rather rapidly," particularly in the last four or five years, said Charles Benbrook, a national pesticide expert and Consumers Union consultant.

That realization has sparked renewed debate about pesticide residue. And in Washington, support has grown for "country of origin" labeling requirements in a farm bill pending in Congress.

Developing countries generally have few controls on pesticide use, which results in more residue on produce exported to the United States, said Colorado State University sociology professor Douglas Murray, an expert on pesticide hazard reduction.

Mexican tomatoes, for instance, had a "toxicity index" more than four times higher than California tomatoes, according to a February Consumers Union report based on 1998 data, the most recent available.

The California Farm Bureau and Western Growers Association said they are more likely to point out the overall safety of produce than they are to play up a disparity between producers, admittedly out of reluctance to discourage consumers.

"In 97 percent of Mexican produce there was no pesticide detected whatsoever, and in 99 percent of California produce there was no pesticide detected whatsoever," said Hank Giclas, Western Growers' vice president for science and technical affairs.

Critics take a different view.

"If you magnify that out to the marketplace, that's a lot of produce," said Richard Wiles, senior vice president of the Environmental Working Group. "This is indicative of the pesticide that's out there."

Though foreign produce tests higher for pesticide residue, "we're still talking about very low levels" that have resulted in no reported illnesses, said Glenn Brank, spokesman for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Bernardo Mendez, a spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, said little disparity exists in standards between the two countries.

"I don't think there is much of a difference in standards," said Mendez. "Maybe in some past years there has been some problem in enforcement, but that is getting better."

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	21.64	21.31	21.38	—.19
AOL TimeWm	32.26	31.75	32.11	+ .66
AT&T Corp s	18.19	17.99	18.14	—.07
Albertsons	31.68	31.25	31.42	
Alltel	62.59	61.58	62.10	+ .52
AmEl Pw	43.31	42.95	43.25	+ .15
AndarkPtr	56.50	55.01	56.20	+ .68
ATMOS Egy	21.50	21.36	21.45	+ .09
Aviall	7.25	7.15	7.25	+ .15
BP PLC	46.46	46.00	46.38	+ .50
BakerHughes	37.41	36.40	36.80	—.41
Bank of Amer	63.51	62.40	63.02	+ .66
BellSouth	38.75	38.50	38.66	—.04
vjBeth Steel	.50	.49	.50	
BurlNoSFe	29.00	28.75	29.00	+ .30
Caterpillar	52.85	52.46	52.57	+ .12
ChevronTex	90.30	89.03	89.91	+ .71
Citigroup	50.82	50.00	50.44	+ .22
CocaCola	47.90	47.47	47.57	—.95
ColgatePal	58.05	57.75	57.78	—.27
ComclMetals	36.00	35.12	35.87	+ .75
CooperIn	35.31	35.02	35.26	+ .31
DaimlrChry	42.05	41.65	42.01	+ 1.61
DeltaAirl	28.64	28.12	28.35	+ .31
Dillards Inc	16.35	15.90	16.26	+ .33
DowChem	34.25	34.00	34.04	+ .22
DuPont	42.73	42.26	42.57	+ .32
EastmanChem	39.30	38.99	39.09	+ .08
EstKodak	30.69	30.31	30.45	—.13
EDS Corp	69.51	68.75	69.26	+ .89
Entergy	38.90	38.23	38.83	+ .31
ExxonMobil s	40.01	39.45	39.97	+ .37
FootLocker	16.06	15.89	15.97	+ .11
GenDynam	78.25	77.92	78.10	+ .19
GenElec	40.61	40.33	40.41	+ .04
GenMills	52.50	51.91	52.25	—.12
GenMotors	48.45	48.00	48.00	+ .30
GaPacGP	27.98	27.66	27.76	+ .48
Goodrich	26.41	26.00	26.41	+ .42
Goodyear s	24.07	23.56	24.07	+ .17
GtAtlPac	25.70	24.55	24.57	—.97
Halliburtn	13.13	12.80	12.86	—.07
Hanson ADS	33.65	33.50	33.58	—.04
HarteHanks	27.80	27.57	27.71	+ .08
HomeDepot	51.93	51.22	51.33	—.29
HoneywellIntl	33.15	32.80	32.98	+ .38
IBM	123.93	122.64	123.57	+ 1.17
IntlPaper	40.43	39.80	40.24	+ .44
JohnsonJn s	59.90	59.34	59.82	+ .15
K mart	5.29	5.21	5.22	+ .03
KinderMorg	56.95	56.65	56.89	+ .14
Kroger Co	20.63	20.40	20.60	+ .11
LockheedM	46.59	46.15	46.32	+ .16
Lowes Cos s	47.80	46.71	46.80	—.58
Lubys	5.85	5.65	5.79	—.06
LucentTech	6.24	6.10	6.16	+ .02
MayDeptStr	36.85	36.23	36.85	+ .63
Medtronic	51.38	51.07	51.25	+ .18
Motorola	14.98	14.84	14.89	+ .09
NCR Corp	37.05	36.70	36.98	+ .07
Navistar	40.85	40.50	40.72	+ .11
Penney JC	26.52	26.10	26.37	+ .19
PepBoys	18.35	17.91	18.00	—.10
PepsiCo	49.60	49.10	49.46	+ .01
Pharmacia	43.01	42.55	42.77	—.22
PhelpDodge	31.71	31.36	31.60	+ .40
PhilipPet	60.42	58.80	59.45	—.96
PilgrmPrd B	13.90	13.70	13.77	+ .07
Praxair	55.50	54.85	55.24	+ .01
ProctGamb	80.60	80.16	80.16	—.34
PubS NwMx	28.20	28.02	28.16	—.04
RadioShack	30.50	29.60	30.10	+ .08
ReliantEngy	26.74	26.12	26.47	+ .21
RoyalDut	49.48	48.95	49.39	+ .56
SBC Comm	39.35	39.01	39.28	+ .16
SaraLee	22.24	21.87	22.20	+ .26
Scripps EW	67.00	66.61	66.98	+ .24
SearsRoeb	48.93	48.28	48.37	+ .10
SherwinW	27.85	27.53	27.56	—.12
SouthernCo s	25.64	25.35	25.44	+ .09
SwstAirl s	18.94	18.52	18.62	+ .05
SprintFON	19.30	19.20	19.24	+ .05
SprintPCS	24.34	23.75	24.24	+ .22
Sunoco Inc	37.40	37.00	37.29	+ .29
TXU Corp	46.53	45.85	46.50	+ .61
TempleInland	56.55	55.70	56.03	+ .41
Textnd	36.90	36.41	36.82	+ .31
TexasInst	29.25	28.50	28.76	+ .71
Textron	41.20	40.18	41.09	+ .98
TriconGlbR	50.20	49.70	49.84	—.18
TrinityInds	28.23	27.93	27.99	—.01
TylerTech	4.20	3.95	3.95	—.15
USX-Marathn	29.70	29.12	29.62	+ .01
USX-USS	17.85	17.39	17.83	+ .54
UnionPacif	57.35	56.92	57.20	—.15
UnitedTech	65.57	64.45	65.30	+ .75
Unocal	35.82	35.18	35.34	—.24
VerizonComm	47.99	47.05	47.87	+ .67
WalMart	58.60	58.00	58.49	+ .34
WellsFargo	43.39	43.17	43.32	+ .15
WstnGasRs	33.15	32.41	32.59	—.22
WinnDixie	14.38	14.25	14.34	+ .09
Xerox Cp	9.59	9.49	9.50	+ .10

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DEC 27 2001

Enron donates to Demos just before bankruptcy

WASHINGTON (AP) — A week before filing for bankruptcy protection, energy giant Enron Corp. donated $100,000 to the Democratic Party committee that helps Senate candidates, campaign finance reports show.

The company, which had given 90 percent of its money to Republicans this year before the Democratic donations, also has hired high-profile Washington lawyer Robert Bennett, whose past clients include President Clinton.

"Donations of this type reflect certain political realities which are followed by all major corporations," Bennett said Wednesday in explaining Enron's $50,000 checks on Nov. 25 and Nov. 26 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Houston-based Enron filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Dec. 2.

Tovah Ravitz-Meehan, a spokeswoman for the Democratic Senate fund-raising committee, said the head of the organization, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., has asked that Enron's money be given to a charitable organization helping laid-off Enron workers. She said the charity hasn't been chosen.

"It wasn't right to keep it and it wasn't right to give it back to Enron so we're looking for charitable options," Ravitz-Meehan said.

Congressional Republicans and Democrats alike have heaped criticism on Enron, accusing the company of burning stockholders who were unaware of the company's failing condition, throwing thousands of people out of work and decimating retirement accounts.

Earlier this week, Democrats on the Senate Commerce Committee demanded the Federal Trade Commission investigate why company executives were allowed to cash out their stock while other employees were prevented from selling the company's sinking shares in their retirement accounts.

Bennett said there was no connection between congressional inquiries and the donations.

"It is very unfair to draw any improper motive based on these contributions," he said. "While the money was given in November, a large portion of it had been committed as far back as September."

Bennett will represent Enron in dealing with Congress, the news media and investigators.

He represented Clinton in the sexual harassment lawsuit filed by Paula Jones, and was the Senate ethics committee's counsel in the investigation of five senators with ties to a failed savings and loan operator.

Before the contributions to the Democrats, Enron this year had contributed $173,000 to candidates and parties, with almost 90 percent going to Republicans.

Since the 1989-90 election cycle, Enron has made nearly $5.8 million in campaign contributions, 73 percent to Republicans.

The contributions were compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, an organization that tracks campaign finance issues.

In addition to the corporate donations, federal reports show Enron chairman and chief executive Kenneth Lay donated $250,000 to the Republican Party during President Bush's campaign and raised at least $100,000 for Bush from other donors.

State investment funds lost $62M from Enron downfall

AUSTIN (AP) — Retirement funds for teachers and state employees lost nearly $60 million in stocks and bonds because the funds' managers continued to invest in crumbling Enron Corp.

The Teachers Retirement System and Employees Retirement System lost a combined $59.7 million. Smaller state investment funds lost another $3.3 million.

The loss is not going to affect retirees, officials told the Austin American-Statesman in Wednesday's editions.

The Teacher Retirement System bought $9 million worth of Enron stock just three weeks before Houston-based energy giant filed bankruptcy on Dec. 2. When ERS bought the shares, prices ranged between $9 and $10.

After a loss of investor and industry confidence because of questionable financial practices, Enron crumbled and the company's stock, which once traded for $80 or more per share, tumbled to less than a dollar.

Shares sold Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange for 67 cents.

A message left with TRS on Wednesday by The Associated Press was not immediately returned.

TRS fund managers would only answer questions from the American-Statesman with e-mails from their agency spokesman. In one e-mail, managers said they anticipated Dynegy Inc.'s purchase of Enron would go through.

It didn't, and TRS lost $35.7 million.

The Employee Retirement System largely avoided the late buying spree of stocks, but managers bought a $10 million bond for Osprey Trust, one of several partnerships at the center of Enron's downfall.

The purchase was made on the same day Enron's chief executive officer, Andrew Fastow, resigned under fire.

"We knew the other partnerships were in trouble," said Sheila Beckett, ERS executive director. "We didn't realize this one was."

The Permanent School Fund, which invests money for public schools, booked $105 million in profits by selling out months before the collapse.

"You don't always hit them over the fence like that," said Paul Ballard, executive administrator of the Permanent School Fund. "I wished every bet worked out like Enron did."

"It turns out that not all that glitters is gold," he said. "That stock became so volatile in November, it became a lottery ticket."

Ballard said school fund mangers bought a $5 million Enron bond on Oct. 22, two days before ERS bought its Osprey bond.

"It looked inexpensive," Ballard said. "We thought it was a chance to buy on bad news. The bad news ended up catastrophic. Occasionally, you make a mistake."

Texas' investment funds' managers, including the Permanent School Fund, held Enron stock at the end because the portfolios were supposed to mirror the Standard & Poor's 500, an index of some of the country's largest companies.

In such investments, the portfolio manager holds onto his investments in all 500 companies, including Enron, despite bad news about one company.

On Nov. 28, after Enron's bonds were reduced to junk-bond status and Dynegy backed away from buying its rival, Standard & Poor's dropped Enron stock from its index.

Other states have had similar losses.

Glover uses Kofi Annan look for movie

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Danny Glover has the secretary-general of the United Nations to thank for his look in the film "The Royal Tenenbaums," now in theaters.

Glover said he introduced "Tenenbaums" director Wes Anderson to Secretary-General Kofi Annan at a U.N. event.

After meeting Annan, Glover said Anderson told him, "'Man, that's the look I want for you to have in the movie: Kofi Annan with his hair the way it is and the goatee and the mustache.'"

New York police museum set to open

NEW YORK (AP) — A police museum set to open next month pays tribute to officers who were killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with a display of their photos and badges.

The city's police officers have taken on special hero status since the attacks and the New York City Police Museum — located six blocks from the ruins of the World Trade Center — will reflect that when it opens to the public in mid-January.

A room in the museum will honor the 23 officers who died in the attacks. In one photograph, Officer Moira Smith is seen escorting a bloodied man minutes before she was killed.

Visitors looking for a comprehensive history of the police department — warts and all — will be disappointed. The museum does not note some recent controversies, including the cases of Abner Louima, sodomized with a broom handle by officers in a stationhouse, and of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed immigrant gunned down by four officers.

"What this should be about is the day-to-day work of the police department, not the singular incident," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The five-story museum, unveiled Wednesday, moved from a smaller location and is built on the site where New York's first police precinct opened in 1884. The precinct closed in 1977 in the wake of a corruption scandal.

The museum provides a unique look into the history of policing. On display is a Tommy .45-caliber submachine gun with a cylinder holding 100 rounds — a state-of-the-art weapon that criminals like Al Capone relied on in the 1920s.

There are also so-called gentlemen's pistols, such as a gun hidden in a cane, used in the late 1800s by Manhattan men as protection from street gangs.

A fully furnished apartment section "shows a burglary scene, with simulations of blood on the carpet, how the suspect entered and other clues police used in the investigation," said Lynn Boccardi, of Loffredo Brooks Architects, which executed the $4 million renovation of the 17,000-square-foot museum.

In another room, marijuana pipes and crack vials are among other simulated drug samples that will be used for a 17-week course for fifth- and sixth-graders called Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or DARE.

Another exhibit gives adults a chance to grab a gun and shoot a suspect in a simulated test, then compare their judgment to that of a New York Police Department officer.

The computer second-guesses whether participants were right to fire.

"It puts you in the driver's seat, in the shoes of a police officer when they come across an incident," museum Executive Director Todd Ciaravino said. "Then the computer tells you — good judgment, bad judgment."

Man killed in family fight over holiday

TYLER (AP) — A 44-year-old man who had been drinking all day was stabbed to death after he attacked his wife and three teenage children with a baseball bat because he didn't want them to celebrate Christmas, authorities said.

Johnny Ray Griffin of Gresham died at East Texas Medical Center Tuesday night.

"Apparently he didn't like Christmas and his wife did," Lt. Larry Wiginton of the Smith County sheriff's office said in a story in Thursday's Tyler Morning Telegraph. "She was not going to deny her children an opportunity to have Christmas."

Investigators have not ruled out self-defense, and no one has been arrested.

Sherlene Griffin, 38, suffered a blow to the back of the head. The teens sustained minor injuries. At some point, someone used a knife to fend off the man, according to reports.

The brawl began in the house and ended outside, according to reports. Deputies found Johnny Ray Griffin collapsed in the yard with at least one stab wound and his wife suffering from a head injury.

Johnny Ray Griffin's body was sent to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences for autopsy. Ms. Griffin was released from the hospital Wednesday.

Authorities said alcohol was involved.

"He had been drinking for most of the day," Wiginton said.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Good words live on long after they've been written

DEAR ABBY: Would you please reprint the letter from Sister H.P.M. of St. Paul, Minn.? In a nation of so much unrest since Sept. 11, and the tragedies of the school shootings in the recent past, now is the time for America's teachers to take action. Sometimes one small gesture of caring is enough to let people know they are appreciated and important. **— FAITHFUL READER, MONROE, MICH.**

DEAR READER: Thank you for requesting that inspirational letter. I'm pleased to run it again:

DEAR ABBY: I have been retired from teaching for many years and would like to share a lesson I learned that stands out in my memory like no other.

I was young, teaching math at the junior high school level. We had worked hard on a new concept all week and the students were very stressed. They were frowning, frustrated and carping at each other and me. Wanting to stop the crankiness before it got out of hand, I asked the students in the room to take out two sheets of paper and list the names of the other students in the room, leaving space between each name. Then I told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish the assignment. When the students handed me the papers and left, they seemed more relaxed.

That weekend, I wrote the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper and listed what the students had said about that individual. On Monday, I gave each student his or her list. Before long, everyone was smiling. "Really?" I heard one whisper. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone." "I didn't know anyone liked me that much!"

The assignment was never mentioned again, but it didn't matter, because the exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students felt better about themselves and each other.

Years later, I was asked to attend the funeral of one of those students, a promising young man even when I taught him in junior high school. I was deeply saddened by his untimely death in Vietnam.

The church was packed with "Mark's" friends, many of whom had been his classmates and students of mine.

After the funeral, I and many of Mark's former classmates were invited to his parents' house. They approached me and said, "We want to show you something. Mark was carrying this when he was killed." His father pulled something from a wallet. It was the list of all the good things Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

A group of Mark's classmates overheard the exchange. One smiled sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in my diary." "I put mine in our wedding album," said another. "I bet we all saved them," said someone else. "I carry mine with me at all times."

That's when I finally cried. The lesson my former students taught me that day became a standard in every class I taught for the rest of my career. **— SISTER H.P.M., ST. PAUL, MINN.**

DEAR SISTER H.P.M.: Your students were fortunate, indeed. They learned at an early age that "Good words are worth much, and cost little." (George Herbert, 1593-1633)

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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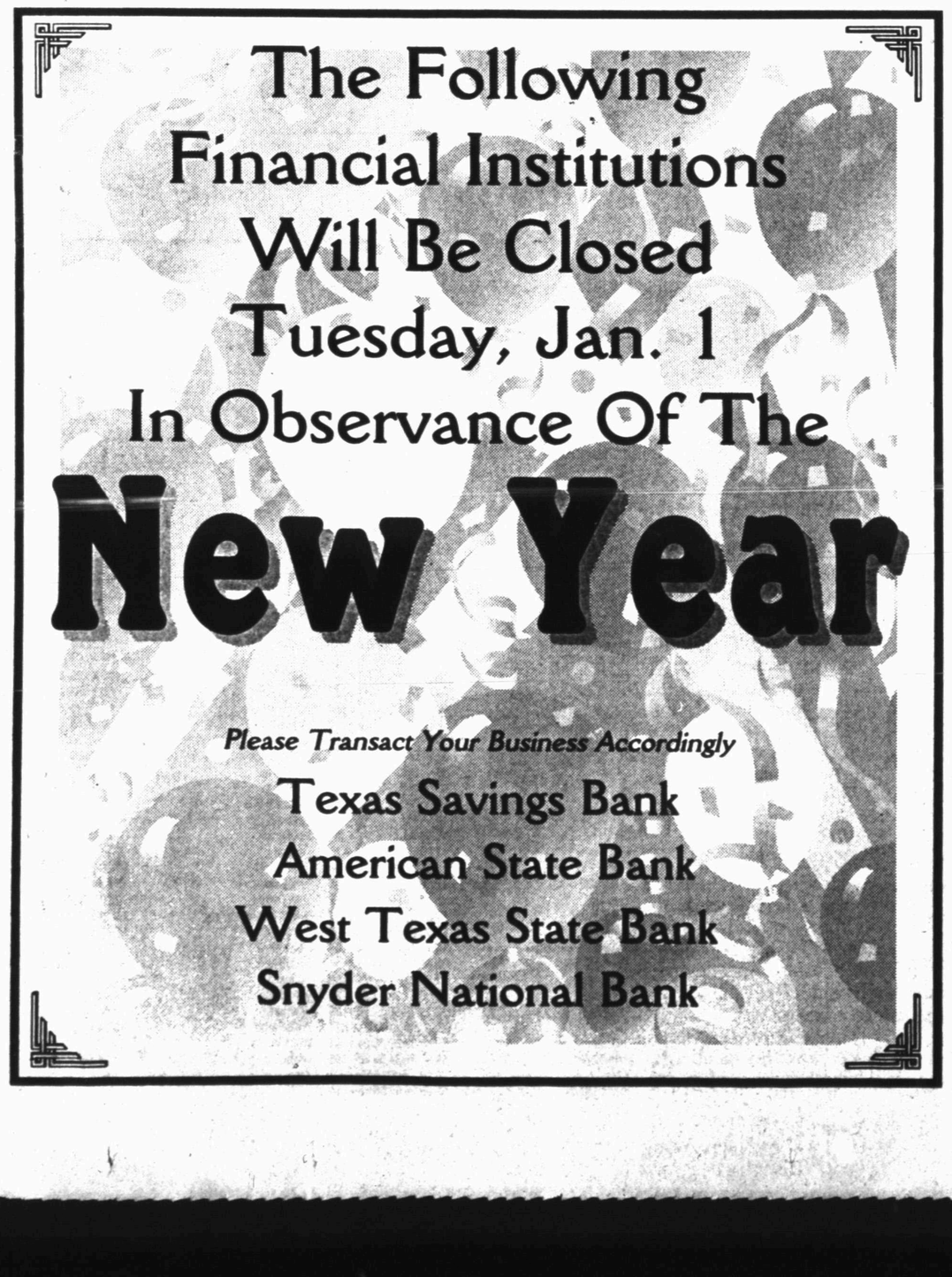

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Cheney, wife make over VP residence in western style

WASHINGTON (AP) — He doesn't spend much time there, but Dick Cheney has one of the finest homes in Washington — a newly renovated 33-room mansion with an indoor gym, seven fireplaces and art borrowed from some of the nation's most prestigious collections.

The government-owned residence "doesn't have an institutional feel about it," said Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife. "It's still very warm. At the same time I think it has a lot of dignity."

Mrs. Cheney led a pair of Associated Press reporters on a recent tour.

Sitting on grassy hillside inside a 12-acre compound, the vice president's mansion is a good fit for the Cheneys' western lifestyle. "When you grow up in the wide-open spaces you just don't like to feel crowded," said Mrs. Cheney, like her husband a Wyoming native. "You just kind of like the feel of your space."

The white brick Victorian, on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory, was updated with a $363,000 renovation this year. The work included all new hardwood floors in most of the house, remodeling the seven fireplaces, new paint or wallpaper in every room, electrical updating and new carpeting.

The vice president spends many nights away from home. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he has been staying in an undisclosed location to ensure continuity of government in case of more assaults.

Back in the mansion intended for him, Cheney has many reminders of Wyoming.

There is the bronze sculpture by Gerald Balciar of running buffalo, "Prairie Thunder," in a hallway, and a framed Wyoming map in the sun room. In the gym upstairs, there are large photos of the vice president fly-fishing and riding a horse in the Teton Range. And there is the black lab puppy Jackson, named for the Cheneys' Jackson Hole, Wyo. home.

With some of the nation's best public and private collections at their disposal, the Cheneys borrowed an esoteric mix of portraits, modernist paintings and Western sculpture.

The most striking piece is Helen Frankenthaler's "Lush Spring," a large, abstract acrylic on canvas, as wide as the couch it sits over and nearly reaching the high ceiling. The painting, on loan from the Phoenix Art Museum, graces a drawing room with rounded windows built into a cone-shaped turret.

It's the most formal room in the home, and the one where the vice president recently posed with hundreds of guests during receiving lines at holiday parties. One curious touch: a tray of grass above the fireplace. "It's so fresh," Mrs. Cheney said.

There is a piano in the foyer, though it gets little use, Mrs. Cheney said. In the dining room, there is an antique English table on loan from the State Department.

The Cheneys generally spend their time elsewhere in the home and seem to prefer a more casual style.

The vice president holds occasional meetings in the sun room, where light pours through enormous windows and visitors look out into the leafy yard. New sand-colored hardwood floors have replaced the sunken old ones.

The workout room features rows of stationary exercise machines. Cheney, who has a history of heart problems, prefers the Schwinn Airdyne bicycle — and it's a pleasant space, full of light from windows and skylights. There is also a basket full of kids' toys, including a stuffed Barney doll, for when the grandchildren are around, and an entertainment system with stereo and television.

"This is a great room to motivate you to exercise," she said. "You can watch TV when you do it and we've got a bunch of old movies you can watch."

The house was built in 1893 for the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory, one of the oldest scientific agencies in the country.

Western property owners and federal officials square off over public land use

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Federal cattle seizures. Gun-toting ranchers. Government surveillance cameras in the desert.

Land management has always been a heated issue in the West, but the animosity is especially strong in Nevada, where ranchers are outraged over being punished for grazing on federal land without authorization.

"This is what the Revolutionary War was fought about, standing up against tyranny to defend life and liberty," said Janine Hansen, a conservative activist and an organizer of the Nevada Committee for Full Statehood.

The long-running land management dispute pits Westerners who claim their property rights are being violated against federal officials who say they want to protect the environment.

In Oregon, disputes rage over irrigation water. In Northern California, logging is controversial. Livestock grazing is contentious in several Western states, including Nevada.

The state was the birthplace of the Sagebrush Rebellion of the 1970s and 1980s, when miners and ranchers rallied to pressure state lawmakers to take control of public lands. Some say a similar rebellion is now under way.

At a recent rally in front of the federal courthouse in Reno, Hansen and dozens of others waved the Nevada state flag and protested livestock grazing policies enforced by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

They wore shirts that read "87 percent" — the proportion of Nevada owned by the federal government. Their slogan: "Nevada is a state, not a territory."

"You're going to see a lot more of this," said Don Alt, a rancher from Silver Springs, Nev., who says he has witnessed growing discontent with the federal government in recent years.

Bob Abbey, the BLM's director for Nevada, said the focus of the land debate should be on preserving the diverse resources of the state.

He also warns the activists are "jeopardizing the future of grazing on public lands" given the growing pressure from environmental groups to halt federal grazing entirely.

Those activists are rallying behind Cliff Gardner of Ruby Valley, Nev., who was jailed briefly by a federal judge in Reno this month after he and 40 state's rights backers disrupted his trial for grazing on Forest Service land. Gardner faces up to six months in prison at his March 11 sentencing.

Protests also erupted after the BLM seized and auctioned off cattle from rancher Ben Colvin of Goldfield, Nev., who they said owed the government $73,000 in fines and fees for trespassing on federal land. At one point, a BLM law officer drew a gun on a protester, who also was armed.

Activists are fighting to force the Forest Service to rebuild a washed out road near Jarbidge, Nev., that the agency says would harm the threatened bull trout.

And the BLM has been criticized for using hidden cameras to determine who stole more than 100 signs marking the boundary of the Black Rock Desert National Conservation Area 100 miles north of Reno. Some local residents oppose the conservation area designation.

At 70 million acres overall, Nevada is more than twice as large as Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont combined. But only 10 million acres are in private hands, giving Nevada the highest percentage of federal land of any state.

For decades, the government tended to give locals free access and use of federal land. But a wave of national environmental laws in the 1970s tightened restrictions on land use.

Ranchers like Gardner — many of them descendants of 19th century pioneers — say the federal government has no authority to keep them off public land.

"Our property, our livelihood, our ranch which has been in the family since 1862 is on the Forest Service chopping block," he said. "These federal agents are obviously taking my property rights."

Gardner, who is appealing last year's conviction, doesn't deny grazing his livestock without a permit on federal land. He argues the Forest Service has no authority to require one.

"It's been my objective since 1994 to get this question before the U.S. Supreme Court but I realize to accomplish that is almost impossible," he said. "We're trying to make people understand that in dealing with the public lands, the Constitution has in effect been suspended."

But Abbey, of the BLM, doesn't see ranchers like Gardner as victims fighting for their rights.

"I don't really even care to characterize these people as ranchers. They are trespassers," Abbey said this summer. "What they are trying to do quite frankly is get something for free from the American taxpayers."

Art museum joins elite group

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A New Braunfels museum that is less than 10 years old has gained access to one of the world's greatest museum collections through its recent alliance with the Smithsonian Institution.

The New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music is one of 71 museums in the United States that is affiliated with the Smithsonian, whose collection contains 143 million artifacts.

"In a way, we are a satellite of the Smithsonian. All of their strengths and assets are ours," said museum director Charles Gallagher.

The New Braunfels museum can book traveling Smithsonian exhibits, and curators can go to the Smithsonian archives and borrow pieces to create new exhibits. The Smithsonian also provides programs for local schools, lectures, workshops and study tours.

Last year, the affiliated museums hosted 6.2 million visitors, and attendance at those museums increased as much as 35 percent as a result of loaned Smithsonian collections, said Aaron Glavas, Smithsonian affiliation coordinator.

"The program is designed to bring the Smithsonian to communities around the country," he said. "I have talked to the people in New Braunfels, and I know they have a lot of good ideas to make the most of it. They seem very focused on their themes, and that is a big bonus because it helps us to help them select items for their exhibits."

The first Smithsonian exhibit at the New Braunfels museum was "Women of Taste: A Collaboration Celebrating Quilt Artists and Chefs," which opened earlier this month and runs through Feb. 10. The 25 quilts in the exhibit are collaborations between quilt artists and chefs. It is paired with an exhibit of quilts from Texas quilt artists.

The exhibit has been touring museums for more than a year, Glavas said.

"It has been booked solid, which is a good sign," he said. "New Braunfels has a lot of quilters, so it seemed this would be an excellent tie-in for their local displays."

The New Braunfels museum opened in 1992 in an empty bank building on the city's Main Plaza as The Hummel Museum, dedicated to displaying the art of a German nun whose art inspired the popular collectible figurines.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 28, 2001

Improvements in your career status and subsequent better financial base are indicated for you in the year ahead. What you receive will be due to your own efforts and not from sheer luck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Instead of helping you ease a problem at work today, co-workers could inadvertently create more work for you by their well-intentioned suggestions. Screen all ideas well. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — It doesn't matter that you may be justified in reacting harshly to a negative social situation today caused by another. What counts is that your reputation for tolerance remains intact.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Today may be the day when something you've left unresolved rears its ugly head and puts you in a tight spot. Deal with it, and don't try to shift the blame onto an innocent bystander.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Keep your head screwed on straight today, and don't read ill will into what others say where no harm was intended. It would create unnecessary unpleasantness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — When it comes to anything to do with your career or finances today, be careful not to take any undue risks. Those appealing long shots could turn out to be loaded with blanks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Today, keep your challenges away from anything about which another feels strongly. If you pick apart the beliefs of others, it does nothing but cause hard feelings or a nasty incident.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Hold your tongue today should the boss give you an assignment that another in your work place wants to avoid. Unfortunately, complaining won't help your cause.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Should an instigator within your peer group attempt to play politics today, don't let him or her use you as a pawn. It's imperative you keep your guard up and not get dragged into it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be patient today should a development cause a delay in achieving an objective that is personally important to you. It's smarter to wait for calmer seas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be careful today not to assume you have all the answers or that your methods of doing things are superior to others. It behooves you to listen attentively to the suggestions of associates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — When it comes to any situation today where money is changing hands, be doubly alert. This is especially true if you do not know the party you're dealing with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It is always wise to check out all the pertinent facts before negotiating an agreement with another. Hold to this practice today, because someone may not be level with you.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Does a hernia affect potency?

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband has a double hernia so bad that his penis is inverted, making sex impossible. He promised before our marriage to have corrective surgery and that hasn't happened. I am angry. Do you have a solution?

DEAR READER: This is more complicated than it seems.

To begin with, your husband's hernias are an implausible cause of his sexual difficulties. Nonetheless, he should have them repaired before they strangulate (become wedged) and cause major consequences. In my view, the hernias and the sexual problem are two separate entities.

From the tone of your question, I gather that things are not going well on the home front. You mention broken promises and anger, two important ingredients in marital discord. So, perhaps, while your husband is deliberating his options, some counseling might help you. I believe that you may need to deal more effectively with your expectations and anger.

For example, you cannot "make" your husband seek medical attention if he is unwilling to do so. This may be crazy, but it's his craziness, not yours. On the other hand, you do have control over your own attitude. With counseling, you will be able to obtain a healthier perspective on your dilemma. As your husband sees you taking care of your own feelings and dealing more realistically with your frustration, he may be more motivated to search out the help he needs.

In the meantime, I urge you to communicate openly and honestly. This is an important approach for both of you if the marriage is to survive, much less improve.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hiatal Hernia." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: About a year ago, I had a malignant tumor removed from my tongue. At the same time, the surgeon excised and analyzed lymph glands from my neck. Fortunately, they were free of cancer, so I required no further treatment. Immediately following surgery, however, I noticed a bitter metallic taste that has persisted. My doctor cannot explain this condition and I feel hopeless. Any thoughts?

DEAR READER: Not being your surgeon, who is familiar with your case, I'd have to guess that your symptom is a consequence of the operation. The tongue is richly supplied with nerve endings and, I suspect, the taste you are experiencing is probably the result of minor nerve damage that was unavoidable. Such damage is a common complication of tongue surgery and may regress with time — or may be permanent.

While I appreciate how annoying the symptom must be, you are truly fortunate in other ways. Tongue cancer is particularly difficult to treat because it often invades lymph glands in and around the neck. Evidently, yours was discovered early enough and treated successfully before it had a chance to spread.

Therefore, your taste problem may be simply a trade-off for becoming cancer-free. Don't, for Heaven's sake, feel hopeless; the situation might well have turned out less favorably. I believe that your bitter taste would be more bearable if you tried to develop an attitude of gratitude. Your doctor apparently did a good job.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

20 suspects transferred to U.S. Marines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty suspected al-Qaida fighters who fled the area of eastern Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden may have been hiding have been transferred to a U.S. Marine detention center, a Pentagon spokeswoman said today.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry said bin Laden is believed to be in a border area of Pakistan with friends of a Pakistani religious party leader. A party spokesman said the report was baseless, and a Defense Department official said the United States does not have information to prove or disprove it.

U.S. Navy warplanes struck a Taliban or al-Qaida target southwest of Kandahar Wednesday night, Pentagon officials said. No further information was immediately available.

The new prisoners at the Marine base in Kandahar were captured in Pakistan, where dozens of al-Qaida members fled amid heavy fighting in Afghanistan's Tora Bora region earlier this month. American officials say the prisoners could have useful information in the hunt for bin Laden and the rest of the anti-terrorism campaign, Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said.

"We want to talk to them pretty thoroughly," Clarke said, adding that the interrogations would be performed by "a variety of U.S. officials, including military."

The new prisoners bring to 45 the number of detainees held by U.S. forces. Eight, including American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh, are being held on the USS Peleliu in the Arabian Sea. The rest are at the Marine base at Kandahar's airport in a facility built to hold up to several hundred people.

The military is considering several sites to hold prisoners captured during the war in Afghanistan, Clarke said. A likely choice is the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, defense officials said. The base would offer a secure location close to the United States for possible terrorist trials by a military tribunal.

The Defense Department does not have a copy of a newly aired videotape of bin Laden, Clarke said. The tape does not offer any obvious clues to bin Laden's whereabouts — or even whether he is alive or dead.

The Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, Mohammad Abeel, said bin Laden is believed to be in Pakistan with associates of Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman, leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party. Abeel did not divulge the source of his information.

The party, which is sympathetic to Afghanistan's deposed Taliban militia, is supported in parts of Pakistan's North West Frontier and Baluchistan provinces, both of which border Afghanistan.

Riaz Durrani, central information secretary for Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, dismissed the report. "We support the Taliban, but never had any connection with Osama bin Laden," he said. "Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman is under detention for the last three months. How can he or his party do this?"

U.S. intelligence hasn't reported picking up any credible signs of bin Laden's location in about two weeks, and so cannot determine for certain whether bin Laden is dead, alive in Afghanistan or alive in Pakistan, officials said. Bin Laden's statements on the videotape suggest it may have been made just before he disappeared.

Israel won't let Arafat into Bethlehem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops arrested seven suspected Islamic militants in an incursion into the West Bank town of Hebron early today, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is sabotaging cease-fire efforts.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, assured activists from his hard-line Likud Party that he, not moderate Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, would manage future peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres has been talking to Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia about the framework for a possible peace deal.

"When the day comes for peace talks, I will run them ... in coordination, of course, with the foreign minister, but I will run them," Sharon said.

Also today, Israel insisted it will not let Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat attend Orthodox Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, which will be held Jan. 6 according to the Orthodox calendar, unless he arrests the assassins of an Israeli Cabinet minister.

Israel drew worldwide criticism for barring Arafat from this week's Christmas festivities in Jesus' traditional birthplace.

Despite the tensions, Israeli and Palestinian security commanders met Wednesday, with Israel agreeing to ease some restrictions on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including reopening the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt.

Palestinian officials said Israel also agreed to let the Palestinian Authority rebuild the landing strip at Gaza International Airport, which was torn up by Israeli bulldozers earlier this month in response to attacks by Palestinian militants.

However, Israeli Defense Ministry adviser Yarden Vatikay said today that the rebuilding still required Israeli Cabinet approval.

Before dawn today, Israeli troops entered Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron and arrested seven suspected members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, Palestinian security officials said. The detainees were students at a Hebron university. The army confirmed the raid.

The Palestinian Authority accused Israel of trying to sabotage Arafat's cease-fire efforts, saying in a statement that: "The Israeli escalation is a clear indication that Sharon's government is still continuing its war against the Palestinian people."

Earlier this month, Arafat condemned attacks on Israelis by Palestinian militants and renewed his commitment to a U.S.-brokered truce deal. Since then, Palestinian police have rounded up dozens of suspected militants, closed several Hamas and Islamic Jihad offices and raided several Hamas mortar factories.

However, Israel has said Arafat has not done enough. It has confined the Palestinian leader, a frequent flyer, to the West Bank town of Ramallah by destroying his helicopters and the Gaza airport landing strip.

Sharon adviser Raanan Gissin said today that Arafat would only be permitted to leave Ramallah once he arrests the militants .

18-year-old man arrested for theft by check warrants

•Arrests

DPS troopers arrested an 18-year-old man on U.S. 84 Wednesday morning on outstanding warrants for theft by check.

A 21-year-old man was taken into custody just after 7 p.m. on U.S. 180 for driving without a license.

Troopers arrested a 35-year-old woman on Highway 180 for driving while intoxicated. She was transported to the jail and her vehicle was secured and left at the scene.

Officers took a 21-year-old man into custody in the 200 block of 35th Street early today on charges of public intoxication.

A 56-year-old woman was arrested on U.S. 84 at 5:20 a.m. today for driving while intoxicated and being in possession of marijuana, less than two ounces. Officers were told to watch for the woman by a Sweetwater 9-1-1 operator who received a call about her reckless driving.

•Theft

A woman reported a mobile phone stolen from a vehicle Wednesday morning. An officer contacted her and submitted a report for theft.

Eva Morena reported her purse stolen Wednesday afternoon while she was at Wal-Mart. A Class B theft report was filed.

•Criminal trespass

A woman requested a criminal trespass warning be issued to her ex-husband Wednesday advising him to stay away from two different residences. A deputy located him and issued the warning.

•Close patrols

Joe Burk Wednesday requested a close patrol of a vacant residence he uses for storage. Burk reported someone broke into the house, but he was unsure of any missing items. A close patrol was initiated for the location.

Dewayne Robertson requested officers check a vacant residence on 42nd Street Wednesday after someone parked a bicycle in the driveway.

An officer responded and advised everything was in order, but initiated a close patrol.

Obituaries

Margry Sorrells

1922-2001

Margry Sorrells, a Snyder native, died this morning in August Health Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Sorrells

Services for Mrs. Sorrells, 79, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Sorrells was born May 1, 1922 in Snyder and married Vollie E. Sorrells on July 9, 1943 in Long Beach, Calif. She moved to Snyder from Big Spring in June, 1981. Mrs. Sorrells was a homemaker and a member of 37th Street Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Myrtle Brown.

Survivors include her husband, Vollie E. Sorrells of Snyder; one daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Mike Ezzell of Austin; and two grandchildren, Michael Ezzell of Stillwater, Okla., and Marla Warren of Galveston.

Claudia Day

1927-2001

Claudia Day of Snyder died Wednesday, Dec. 19, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a sudden illness.

Claudia Day

Graveside service for Mrs. Day, 74, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Slaters Chapel Cemetery in Nolan County. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born June 23, 1927 in Winters, she married Velta J. Day on Dec. 18, 1947 in Winters.

A homemaker, she was a longtime member of 4th & Elm Street Church of Christ in Sweetwater. After living in Sweetwater for many years, she moved to Snyder last December.

Her parents, William H. and Cora Hubach Hord; and a sister, Corine Oliver, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Velta J. Day of Snyder; one daughter, Velma Jean Ward of Snyder; one son and daughter-in-law, Velta James and Jimmie Day of Snyder; a sister, Barbara Gray of Winters; one brother, Rance Hord of Sterling City; four grandchildren, Michael Allen Ward and Melissa Jean Wells, both of Snyder, Jodi Latrisha Wall and Jennifer Robin Phillips, both of Amarillo; and four great-grandchildren, Christopher Ward, Hunter Ward, Amanda Wells and Chase Gaines.

Glenda Hewitt

1949-2001

POST – Glenda Hewitt, the sister of Bud Sparlin of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Funeral service for Mrs. Hewitt, 52, is set for 3 p.m. Friday in the Graham Chapel Church of Christ with David Joyner and Bobby Cowdrey officiating.

Burial will follow in Terrace Cemetery under the direction of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Born June 24, 1949 in Lubbock, her family lived in Smyer and she attended school at Graham Chapel, Lubbock, Tulia and Odessa. She moved to Post in 1994.

A member of the Graham Chapel Church of Christ, she was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW for 20 years.

A son, Bill Hewitt, preceded her in death.

Survivors include two sons, Nicky Hewitt and Brent Hewitt, both of Post; her mother, JoElla Sparlin of Post; another brother, David Sparlin of Post; and two grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

CADA holiday schedule

The Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be closed for the holidays through Wednesday, Jan. 2.

New Year's Eve celebration

Far Above & One Generation will provide music and Doorkeeper of His Glory dance troupe will perform at 8 p.m. Monday at Thee Place, 904 26th. Call 573-9799 for more information.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will have a slated meeting at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday with also have work in the E.A. degree.

Weigh Down workshop

Registration remains open for the Weigh Down workshop that begins at 7 p.m. next Thursday at His Joy Ministries, 904 26th. Call 573-9615 for further information or to sign up.

Lions Club meetings

The Snyder Lions Club will resume regular meetings at noon Tuesday, Jan. 8, with a program about the Texas Boys Ranch.

Funeral expense account

An account has been opened at West Texas State Bank for donations to assist in funeral expenses for accident victim Stacy Copeland. Contact Lisa Williams at 573-2980 or Beth Bowen at 573-2670, for additional information.

Windbreak trees

Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for windbreak trees, both evergreen and hardwoods. Call 573-6317.

VFW membership drive

The VFW is conducting its annual membership drive. Membership is restricted to veterans who served overseas in times of conflict or war. For more information, contact the post commander Jim Bailey at 573-5338.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Nurse testing dates

Testing for the next class of the Vocational Nursing program at Western Texas College will be Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, with the last day to interview set for Feb. 2. Classes are scheduled to begin March 4. Potential students must bring a photo ID. To schedule an appointment, call the Counseling Center at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Military support group

Family members, volunteers, friends, and active or inactive soldiers of Scurry County interested in forming a local Military Support Group are asked to contact Dale or Elaine Byrd at 573-8088 after 4 p.m., or e-mail the byrds@nts-online.net. The purpose of this group is to provide an avenue of mutual support, assistance, community resources, and a network of communication.

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.

Family blames officer for death of student during 'Columbine'

DENVER (AP) — The family of slain Columbine student Daniel Rohrbough claims a Denver police officer killed the boy as he fled the massacre inside the school.

A motion filed Wednesday in federal court said Sgt. Dan O'Shea, a member of the SWAT team during the April 20, 1999, shootings, was identified through testimony by a school administrator, Celine Marquez, who said O'Shea told her two days after the shooting that he feared he may have shot an innocent student.

The motion asks a judge to reconsider the dismissal of a lawsuit brought against the Jefferson County school district and sheriff's office.

Brian Rohrbough has long claimed his son was shot by a lawman rather than by one of the student gunmen firing from inside the school because of the angle of his fatal chest wound. In all, 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, a Denver suburb, were killed before attackers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed themselves.

The motion said O'Shea's handwritten police report stated he shot a 9 mm machine gun from the base of a hill on which Rohrbough was shot and killed. Rohrbough's wounds were consistent with the student facing downhill and O'Shea firing from below, the motion said.

The court papers said Marquez was visiting Westridge Elementary School on April 22, 1999, when she encountered O'Shea, whose daughter attended preschool at Westridge.

According to the motion, Marquez thanked O'Shea for responding to the attack at Columbine. O'Shea broke down crying, saying he had thought he might have mistakenly shot an innocent student, the motion said. He told her he was relieved to learn that ballistics tests showed none of the victims had been struck by police bullets, it said.

Lawyer Barry Arrington, who represents the Rohrboughs, said Wednesday that in fact, ballistics tests on the bullets had not been started when O'Shea spoke to Marquez. "Someone told Sgt. O'Shea a grievous lie," he said.

O'Shea could not be reached for comment Wednesday, the Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post reported. Denver Deputy Police Chief Dave Abrams said Wednesday that he was unaware of the accusation against O'Shea.

The motion also accuses Sheriff John Stone and his department of making 29 "blatant, bald-faced lies" about the investigation, including initially identifying a bullet recovered from Rohrbough's body as one from Klebold's weapon.