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WT-Int. Crude - $20.18
WTIC Posted - $17.00
Natural Gas - $2.310

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Jan. 10, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 217
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Amy Hall



SURVEYING THE SCENE — Law enforcement officers from several agencies survey the scene moments after a high-speed pursuit was ended just a block from the Scurry County courthouse Wednesday morning. Involved in the pursuit of a stolen pickup were officers from Snyder and Big Spring police departments, Scurry and Mitchell county sheriff's departments and DPS troopers from Scurry, Mitchell and Howard counties. (SDN Staff Photo)

Teens jailed following three-county joyride

Two juveniles taken into custody Wednesday morning after a high-speed pursuit ended just a block from the courthouse are being held in a juvenile detention facility in Midland, according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt of the Big Spring police department.

The teenagers, a 14-year-old boy and 15-year-old girl, are charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading arrest and aggravated assault on a public servant.

Sweatt said the Chevrolet pickup was stolen in Big Spring from a carpet layer.

"The owner of the pickup loaded some carpet in the bed and then went back inside his building to get the carpet pad," he said. "When he came back out he didn't have anywhere to put the pad. His truck was gone."

Big Spring officers began pursuing the vehicle after the boy refused to pull over, Sweatt said.

"Our officers just happened to be behind the pickup in traffic when it was reported stolen and we sent out the call to locate it," he said. "We attempted to stop him and the pursuit began."

Big Spring authorities called the Scurry County Sheriff's Office at 9:47 a.m. requesting assistance with the stolen truck. The vehicle was traveling north on Texas Highway 350 toward Snyder.

Snyder officers attempted to use road spikes to deflate the stolen truck's tires, but the boy avoided the spike strip.

Just south of Snyder, a Howard County DPS trooper shot out the truck's right rear tire, but the driver continued through the city at a high rate of speed until he reached the square.

The pickup turned from College Ave. east on 25th Street then south on Ave. R, circling the courthouse, before local police and sheriff's units rammed the pickup, stopping the fleeing teens in the First Baptist Church parking lot.

Both juveniles were handcuffed and transported to the county jail before they were returned to Big Spring.

Involved in the pursuit were officers from several agencies, including Snyder and Big Spring police, Scurry and Mitchell county sheriff's departments and DPS troopers from Scurry, Mitchell and Howard counties.

Also involved were Chief of Police Steve Warren, Sheriff Darren Jackson and Fire Marshall Cy Posey.

No one was injured.

Bush seeks review of pension plan guidelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, fearing political fallout over an energy corporation whose collapse cost employees millions of dollars in savings, ordered his economic team today to review pension rules that could put other workers and pensioners at risk.

The politically charged action came one day after the Justice Department opened an investigation into Texas-based Enron Corp., an energy company closely tied to Bush and other administration officials. Enron's top officials, including Kenneth L. Lay, the chief executive officer, are financial supporters of Bush.

Lay was in contact with top administration officials while his company was collapsing last fall, the White House disclosed today.

Bush said the Enron case shed light on potential problems in the nation's pension system. "One of the things that we're deeply concerned about is that there has been a wave of bankruptcies that have caused many workers to lose their pensions," he said.

A senior Bush adviser said the president wants to protect workers' pensions as well as inoculate himself against mounting criticism for his administration's association with Lay and Enron.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer cautioned Congress against "partisan witch hunts, endless investigations or fishing expeditions" into GOP ties to Enron. "Enron gave thousands of dollars to Democrats," he said.

The spokesman said Bush did not see the need for an independent prosecutor to take over the Justice Department inquiry.

Bush was put on the defense as well.

"I have never discussed with Mr. Lay the financial discussions of the company," the president told reporters after his Oval Office announcement. He had been asked if he had discussed the issue with Lay or any other company official.

Lay contacted Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Don Evans last fall to express concerns about his firm's financial situation and bond ratings, Fleischer said. The pair decided not to take action, he said.

Bush said he last saw Lay at a fund-raiser in the spring.

Grant applications on Snyder's agenda

Grant applications are the main subject of tonight's 6 o'clock Snyder ISD board of trustee meeting.

The district is seeking outside funding for a school resource officer, and to upgrade the existing Internet network at Central Elementary.

The district is seeking $6,100 from the Criminal Justice Division of Texas to help fund a resource officer for the high school, and up to $45,000 from TIF Funds for the Internet system.

Trustees will formally act on the contract of Kelly McWilliams to teach English at Snyder High School, replacing RocAnn Rogers who resigned at mid-term.

The board also will receive an update on Texas Association of School Board policies, and hear the 2000-2001 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report.

A public hearing on the report also will be held.

WTC in-service continues

In-service for Western Texas College is continuing as an administrative retreat was planned this afternoon in the Baptist Student Union.

Friday, there will be two informational sessions on crisis response at 8:30 a.m., and 9 a.m. in the Science Lecture Hall and an admissions hearing at 10 a.m. in the boardroom. Also at 10 a.m., the Internet Instructional Support Committee will meet in the LRC conference room.

Registration is Monday with classes getting underway Wednesday.

Evaluation of superintendent is planned by Hermleigh board

Hermleigh ISD's board of trustees will meet at 7 p.m. today to continue the evaluation of Supt. Jerry Church.

The trustees also will discuss the vacancy on the board created by Vance Reynolds moving from the community.

Church said this morning that he did not know whether the board would appoint someone to serve out the unexpired term, or wait to fill the position during the next election.

An abstinence curriculum for sixth through 12th grade students also will be reviewed and considered for adoption.

The meeting will be held in the high school building.



HEAVY DAMAGE — Snyder firemen responded to their second house fire in as many days Tuesday afternoon as this blaze at 3309 Ave. A was caused by a resident lighting incense and the curtains catching on fire. Twenty-five firemen responded along with four fire trucks. The home was occupied by Rebecca Capetillo and her daughter when the fire started. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The best thing about a new suit from a garage sale is you don't have to remove all those manufacturing tags."

If continuing your formal education was on the list of resolutions for the new year, this e-mail contained a questionable come on.

Your degree may be closer than you think!

It offered a chance to earn a "legitimate associate, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree - complete with a degree printed on premium paper and bearing an official gold, raised college seal."

It promised more than a piece of paper. The offer guaranteed degree verification and official transcripts in writing when requested by potential employers.

All that is needed is a high school diploma and three years of experience in the field in which the degree is requested.

What a deal!

Just think, with more than 40 years in the newspaper business, a bachelor degree and already a few hours toward a master's, we qualify for the big Ph.D. We were always told that was short for "piled higher and deeper."

We might even become as famous as the White Buffalo, tourists would want to drop by and have a photograph taken with Dr. Mac, the SDN's degreed obit writer.

Ole what's-her-name got wind of our continuing education plan, and like most educators, took a dim view on our planned shortcut.

She reminded us that we nearly failed defensive driving and were a dropout from WTC's aqua aerobics program several years ago. Our glasses kept steaming up.

Her suggestion was to sign up for a real class at WTC this spring.

Education is a relative thing, based on the story told by a senior citizen who was drinking coffee with some of his peers.

They got to discussing their lives, and one said it would be interesting if you could turn back the clock and live your life over again.

One said he would like to be 18 again. "I thought I knew everything then. I would like to be 18 and know what I've forgotten in the past 60 years."

The waitress, who was pouring coffee, stopped and asked, "I'm 18, what do you want to know?"

ASK US

Q—Does anyone compile a list of hunting leases for Scurry County?

A—The chamber of commerce compiles a list and mails a copy upon request.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 73 degrees; low, 32, 7 a.m. Thursday, 44; no precipitation for 2002.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, 20% rain chance; low mid 30s; N winds diminishing 5-15 mph. Friday, mostly cloudy a.m., partly sunny p.m., high 50-55; N winds 5-15 mph.



Brandon Scott
Cloudy

Sunset:
5:59 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:44 a.m.
Of nine days in 2002, the sun has shone nine days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Excellence demands that you be better than yourself.
—Ted Engstrom

JAN 10 2002

Thousands honor Wendy's founder

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Thousands of mourners — friends, strangers, even employees dressed in Wendy's uniforms — waited in line to pay their respects to a man many knew simply as "Dave."

Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, who began pitching his burgers and fries in television commercials in 1989 and went on to become a household face, died Tuesday of liver cancer at his home in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 69.

Even though he never met the man, Chris Corona, 27, of Dublin, was among the mourners who gathered for a public viewing Wednesday to say goodbye. He fought back tears as he approached Thomas' closed casket, draped in red roses, in the lobby of Wendy's International headquarters.

"He just looked like a nice guy," Corona said as he looked at Thomas' portrait above the casket. "You could tell the guy had personality to get up and do these goofy commercials. To see a guy in his 60s do that ... you have to give him credit."

Gary Tanguay, 44, of Columbus, said Thomas' work promoting adoptions inspired him to pay his respect.

"It's amazing to me how much of himself that he gave to better the lives of children," Tanguay said as he passed dozens of photos of Thomas and plaques commemorating his achievements.

Denny Lynch, vice president of communications for Wendy's International, said Thomas had an incredible talent for connecting with people.

"People have come up to me and told me that they didn't know Dave well, but when he would talk to them he made them feel like they were the most important person in Dave's mind at that moment," he said.

Husband gets life in prison

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A man whose estranged wife disappeared more than two years ago was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to murder and agreed to provide information about the location of her body.

Diazien Hossencofft also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, kidnapping and tampering with evidence in a deal with prosecutors.

Had he been convicted of first-degree murder, Hossencofft, 36, could have faced the death penalty. He has 10 days to give authorities information about Girly Chew Hossencofft's body, state District Judge John Brennan said.

Brennan said that after entering his plea, Hossencofft said: "Sometimes the guilty are set free and the innocent are incarcerated."

Defense attorney Vera Ochkenfels did not return a call Wednesday.

Girly Chew Hossencofft disappeared Sept. 9, 1999. The couple had been involved in divorce proceedings, and she had told fellow bank employees to "expect the worst" if she disappeared.

Her boss called police the following day. Within hours, her bloody clothing was found along a rural highway and her purse was found in the middle of an Albuquerque street. Damp carpet with bleached-out bloodstains was found at her home.

Hossencofft and his girlfriend, Linda Henning, 46, each were indicted on 20 felony counts, including first-degree murder and kidnapping. Co-defendant Bill Miller was charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

New GED test now designed to meet updated curriculum

AUSTIN (AP) — Oralia Arreazola is anxiously awaiting the results of her General Educational Development exams, hoping the certificate will be a ticket to a brighter future.

"I want to start studying for my family," Arreazola said Wednesday. "I want to be a medical technician or something like that."

Arreazola, 20, did not complete high school in Mercedes, a border town located about 20 miles southwest of Harlingen. She was among the hundreds of Texans who completed the GED tests before updated, broader exams were implemented Jan. 1.

The General Educational Development Testing Service, which administers the GED, has upgraded the exam nationwide to make it a better judge of students' writing and technology skills.

The math portion, for example, will now require the use of a calculator in some sections.

The changes to tests students take in place of graduating from high school prompted many to hurry to finish the battery of exams by Dec. 31. Those who missed the deadline or failed the old test will have to start from scratch with the new test, which many believe is more difficult.

"That caused a lot of people to scramble in November and December to take the test," said Debbie Graves-Ratcliffe, spokesman for the Texas Education Agency.

The state has not calculated how many people took the test before the new year, but "every testing center was full," she said.

Arreazola said the deadline was not a factor for her because she would have finished the five exams no matter what to earn a GED and set a good example for her husband and 2-year-old daughter.

"But my friend's brother wanted to get it over with before it got harder," she said.

Rudy Elizondo, a Mercedes teacher who has helped administer the GED for 20 years, said the new test may scare away prospective test-takers.

"It will discourage some, but if a person is really dedicated they will come," Elizondo said. "A lot of people have low self-esteem and may be intimidated about coming, but that is one of the things we work on. We try to build them up."

Elizondo said he hopes the GED program will get more funding and attention so more people have the opportunity to better their lives.

Arreazola agrees.

"I recommend it for people who dropout so they can have a better future, even if it's a harder test," she said.

events

Lotto Texas

RESULTS

AUSTIN (AP) No tickets 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 $12 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 5-9-14-34-38-43

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $17 million.

Pick 3

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

0-8-4

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 11, 2002

In the year ahead you could be luckier traveling on the road than if you stay close to home. You'll sense this and make plans for more than your usual amount of sojourns, near and far.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't get involved with people or situations that could tie you down today. When you operate independently of others is when you'll be the most successful and the happiest. 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) — Visualize events ending up in a positive manner today and your psyche will make certain everything will turn out exactly as you envision. The mind is a powerful force.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Take advantage of every opportunity you get today to see and be with your favorite friends. Excellent benefits can be derived through social contacts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A large and ambitious goal you are anxious to attain is reachable today, but you're going to have to make it so yourself. Nothing will block you, but nothing will help you either.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be open-minded about suggestions today, so you can be flexible to progressive thoughts and ways of doing things. A better way to accomplish your aims might come to your attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you investigate and look hard enough today, you could discover ways to develop additional earning sources. What you uncover could turn out to be exciting.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Today is one of those days where a partnership situation can bring you an additional sense of security. Don't be afraid to team up with someone you trust for a common cause.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Try to focus your efforts and energies today working on and fulfilling your ambitious projects. It's a good day to do so, because most people will leave you alone to do your own thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Keep that which is social, purely social today without involving any business transactions. It's neither the time nor the place to mix these two activities together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — It will be a family member or a relative that will come to your aid today when you are trying to pull off something important. You won't have to look any further.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Important knowledge can be acquired today by closely and quietly observing others, especially people whom you'd like to emulate. Your observation powers are quite keen at this time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Let your natural common sense and business instincts guide you in your financial dealings today, and you should come out on the plus side of the ledger.

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Teen detained

ROSENBERG (AP) — Authorities are trying to determine why a seventh-grade student had five homemade bombs in his bedroom.

The 13-year-old boy was arrested after police found the bombs in his bedroom Wednesday, police said. Rosenberg is 35 miles southwest of Houston.

Administrative Sgt. Wyman Hopkins said police had not determined the boy's plans for the bombs, but said the teen-ager's comments about having the explosives were interpreted as a general threat.

No specific threats had been made against the boy's school, George Junior High School, officials said.

Police were alerted Wednesday morning that two of the suspect's classmates reported hearing him talking about the bombs.

Officers went to the boy's home, where they questioned his mother. Police said the woman gave them permission to search the house, and they found bomb-making materials and the five small explosive devices in the boy's room.

The Houston police bomb squad was called to the scene.

Date Book

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002

Today is the 10th day of 2002 and the 21st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1847, United States Navy forces occupied Los Angeles.

On this day in 1870, Standard Oil, a company owned by John D. Rockefeller, was incorporated.

On this day in 1991, Judy Sweet became the first woman to serve as president of the NCAA.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ethan Allen (1739-1789), patriot; George Washington Carver (1864-1943), inventor-educator; Robinson Jeffers (1887-1962), poet; Ray Bolger (1904-1987), dancer-singer; Sherrill Milnes (1935-), operatic baritone, is 67; Willie McCovey (1938-), baseball great, is 64; Rod Stewart (1945-), singer, is 57; George Foreman (1949-), boxer-actor, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1982, the Cincinnati Bengals won the AFC championship by defeating the San Diego Chargers 27-7.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." — Franklin Delano Roosevelt

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Jan. 5) and new moon (Jan. 13).

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Berry's World



www.comics.com Jim Berry © 2002 by NEA, Inc.

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INSTALLATION — Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Snyder High School installed 2001-2002 officers in the living room of the SHS Family and Consumer Sciences department. Mothers were special guests. From left are Adrienne Garcia, historian; Kim Walker, treasurer; Leslie NeSmith, reporter; Megan Langham, president; Stacy Garcia, vice president; and Tammi Walker, secretary. Not pictured are advisors Mrs. Carolyn Limmer and Mrs. Carolyn Derouen. (Contributed Photo)



ROSSON GIVES BOOK REVIEW — Dorothy Rosson, center, presented a book review to members of the Altrurian Daughters Study Club Wednesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Pictured with Rosson are hostesses Billie Boren, left, and Francene Noah, mayor. Another hostess, LaVerne Hood, is not pictured. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-10-02
♠ A J 7 6 5
♥ J 4 3
♦ K Q 8 2
♣ A

West
♠ Q 4 3
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ 10 9 6
♣ 9 4 3

East
♠ 8 2
♥ K 9 6
♦ J 7 5 3
♣ 8 7 6 5

South
♠ K 10 9
♥ 10 7 5
♦ A 4
♣ K Q J 10 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ??

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002

Same language, different countries

By Phillip Alder

The second Venice Cup semifinal pitted Austria against Germany. The official language for world bridge championships is English, but this match was conducted purely in German.

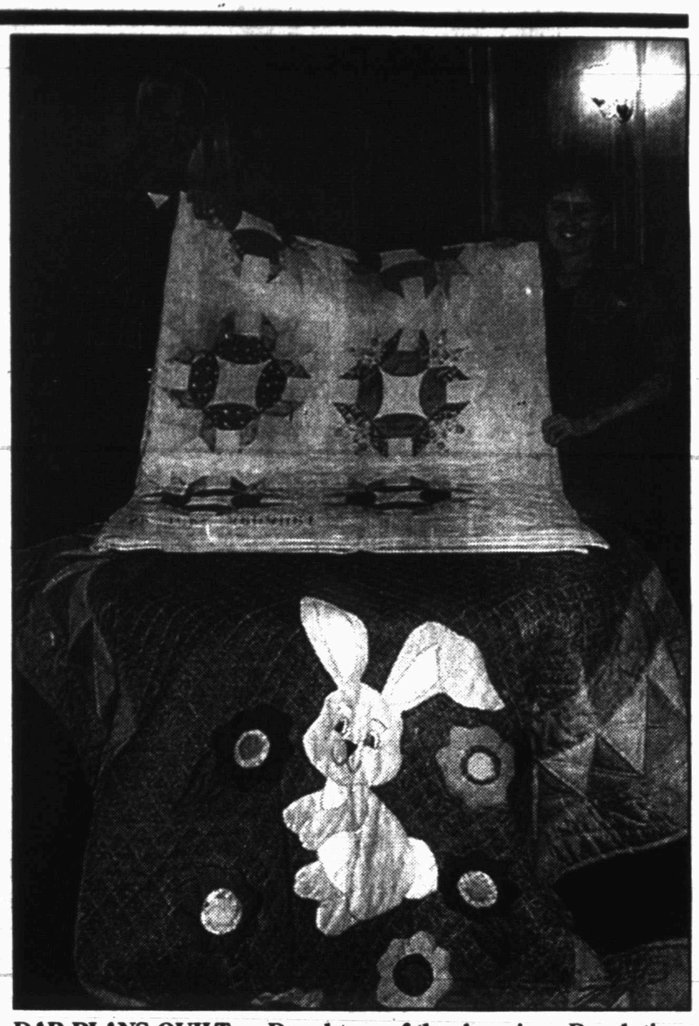
It was close until Germany pulled away in the final session to win 240-207.

The Germans gained 13 on this deal. First, look at the West hand. What would you lead against four spades? South opened with a weak no-trump, showing 12-14 points. North revealed first five spades (with her two-heart transfer bid), then four diamonds and game-forcing values. After spades were agreed, North control-bid (cue-bid) in clubs and South did the same in diamonds.

The auction made it obvious that neither North nor South had a heart control. So, one would have expected West to lead that suit regardless of her holding — even from the ace-queen. But West selected a club. The German declarer, Andrea Rauscheid, crossed to her spade king, then threw two of dummy's hearts on top clubs. West ruffed the fourth club, but declarer overruffed in the dummy, cashed the spade ace to draw trumps, and claimed all 13 tricks: five spades, three diamonds, four clubs and a diamond ruff in the South hand.

At the other table, the defenders took their three hearts tricks before casting adrift with a diamond. The percentage play in the spade suit is to cash the king, then to run the 10 (or nine) through West. However, Austria's best player, Maria Erhart, felt East had the spade queen and finessed the wrong way, going one down.

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DAR PLANS QUILT — Daughters of the American Revolution, Martin Preuitt Jr. Chapter, met Tuesday at noon at The Shack. DAR members are planning a quilt using blocks depicting members' ancestors dating back to the Revolutionary War. Pam Fenton, activities director at the Senior Center showed quilts, with the help of James Patrick, and gave steps for making the quilt that will be offered to the Historical Commission to be used on the bed in the historical Dodson House on special occasions. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Campaign sign reverses candidate's name

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A statewide billboard campaign to boost Democrat Gary George's campaign for governor got off to a false start, promoting the hopes of candidate "George Gary."

Some of the 13 billboards that George's campaign bought have already gone up. They show a picture of George, a veteran state senator from Milwaukee, but with the words, "George Gary for Governor."

The campaign spent between $50,000 and $75,000 on the billboards.

Dave Begel, George's campaign spokesman, said he was perplexed when he heard about the billboards, which are being handled by North Woods Advertising in Minneapolis.

The company also handled the billboards for Jesse Ventura's campaign when he ran for Minnesota governor, Begel said.

The president of North Woods said Wednesday that the company was still investigating what went wrong.

Begel said the billboards will be changed.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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.

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

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 5731141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving Course; Texas Savings Bank; no reservations necessary, cost $30; for more information call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Mormon trail hiker detained, questioned

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — A 50-year-old Mormon Trail hiker took a wrong turn and ended up on the tarmac of the regional airport and in the arms of National Guard troops.

Alex Meyer was detained and questioned by police before his release Wednesday.

Officer Zack Peters said Meyer seemed truly remorseful for causing so much trouble.

"I think he just wanted to be invisible," he said.

Police said Meyer, a school teacher, was conducting research of his Mormon faith by hiking the trail through Lincoln County.

He followed a trail for 13 miles along the Platte River to North Platte. When he came across a security fence, he scaled a gate to continue his trek. He didn't realize he was on airport grounds until he saw runways.

Police said he immediately tried to exit the airport grounds, but airport employees called the National Guard troops.

After determining he was not a security threat, officers drove Meyer back to the highway so he could continue his research.

Couple to set date

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP) — Rockers Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale are getting married.

Rossdale, the 34-year-old lead singer for Bush, proposed to Stefani, the 32-year-old lead singer for No Doubt, on New Year's Day, Stefani spokeswoman Terry Wang said Wednesday.

Stefani became a staple in the music world with the 1995 release of No Doubt's "Tragic Kingdom" album. British-born Rossdale made his American debut with the more somber album "Sixteen Stone."

The pair will set a wedding date later in the year, Rossdale publicist Laura Gold said.

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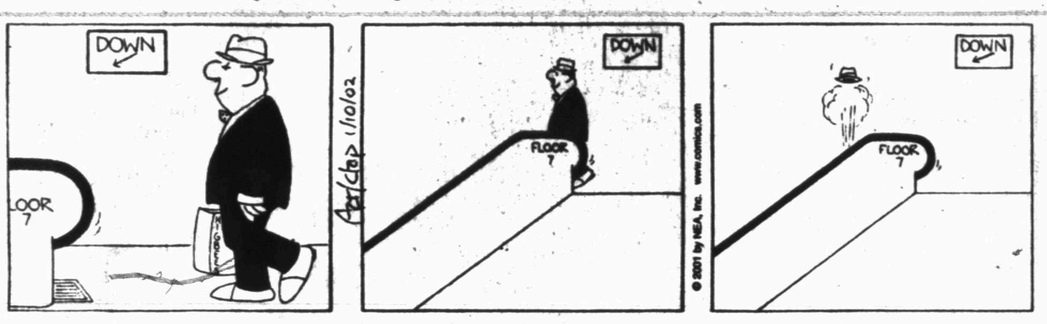
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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



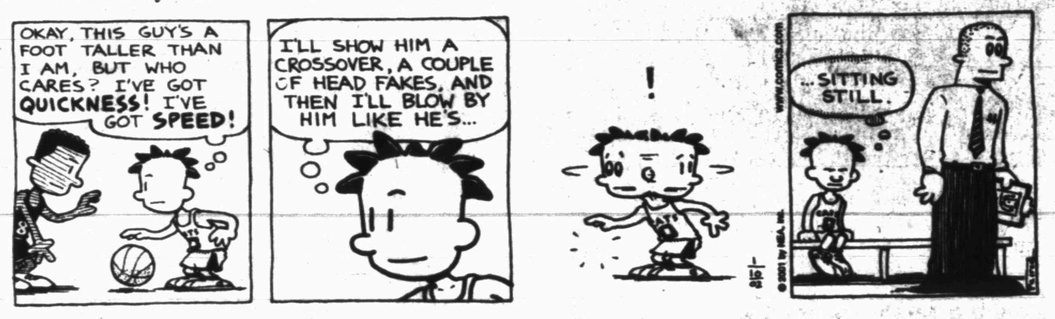
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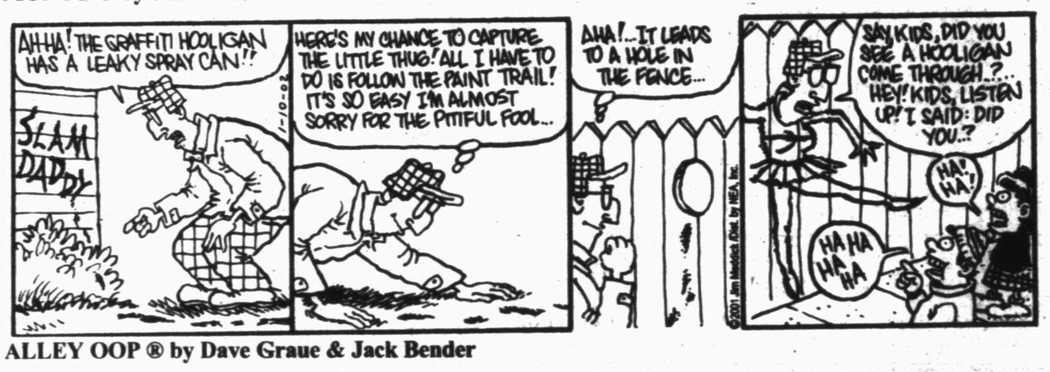
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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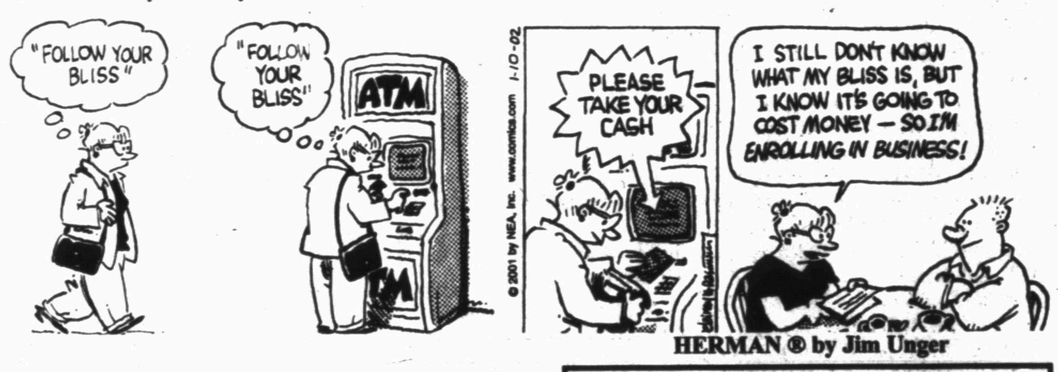
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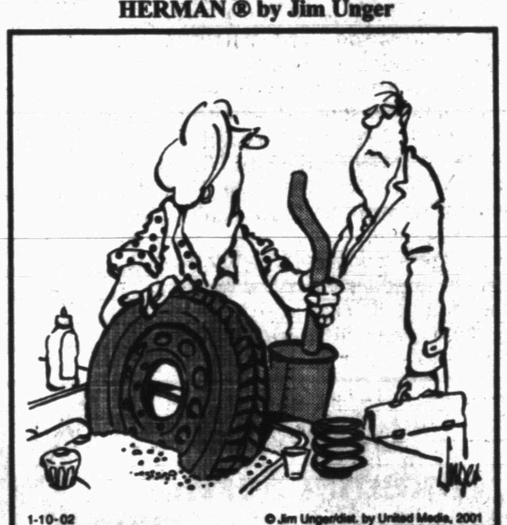
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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"The car wash never gets it clean."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Fills the trunk
6 Nesting places
11 Polar show
12 Ferocious bear
13 Ghost
14 Beehive
15 Eye color
16 Lhasa —
17 Kiddie talk
19 Doll's cry
23 Hairstyles
26 Polite address
28 Sapphire
29 Type of computer
31 Overact
33 Sheer
34 Highway alerts
35 Horse command
36 Movie lioness
39 Bump
40 Whirlpool
42 Headphones
44 Passable
46 Bedding plant
51 Plump
54 Evil
55 Delights in
56 Anchor Tom
57 Uptight
58 Cager Olajuwon

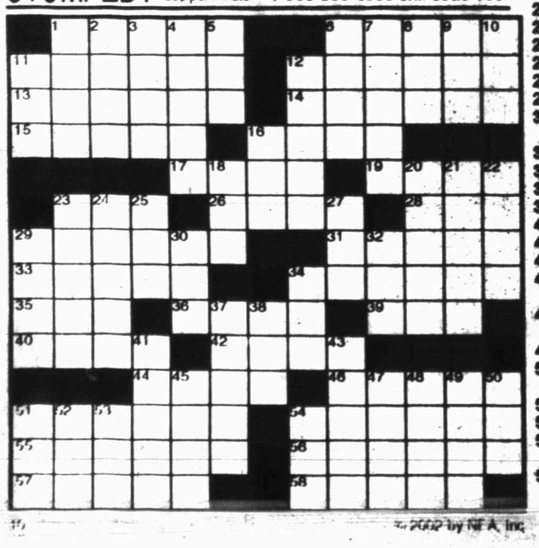
DOWN

1 Butterfly stage
2 Grand Canyon st.
3 Geologic sample
4 Whale's diet
5 Took a chair
6 Prunes
7 Figure of speech
8 Woody's ex
9 Exclude
10 Outer space
11 Fire residue
12 Sorority letter
16 Film speed no.
18 Little rascal
20 Mail for Plato
21 — maid
22 Iowa town
23 Went steady
24 Made a choice
25 Fem. saint
27 Actor Gibson
29 Kind of sled
30 Vein contents
32 Army off.
34 Not near
37 Main roles
38 Express
41 Not mine
43 Fire starter
45 Tot's perch
47 Lotion ingredient
48 Adidas rival
49 Con game
50 Evergreen shrub
51 Two-timer
52 Keats work
53 Coal measure
54 Exec's deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING BOYS CAN DO... WE'RE JUST SMART ENOUGH NOT TO."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS



EIGHT-POINT — Chase Peterson shot his first buck last month in Howard County. Chase is the son of Brian Peterson. (Contributed Photo)

Texas Tech 72, Texas A&M 70...

Tech survives scare by Aggies

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Streaking Texas Tech brought out the best in slumping Texas A&M, but it still wasn't enough.

Kasib Powell scored 12 of his 21 points in the second half and Will Chavis' 3-point basket in the closing minutes helping the Red Raiders hold on for a 72-70 victory over Texas A&M Wednesday night.

The Red Raiders (13-1, 2-0 Big 12) won their 10th straight and are off to a blazing start under first year coach Bob Knight, but still couldn't pull to a comfortable lead against the Aggies, (6-10, 0-2). The Aggies lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

"On the basis of what I saw tonight, they played better against us than anybody has," Knight said.

"Obviously we made some mistakes," Knight said. "I told our players they were an accident waiting to happen. If you're not careful, you'll be the accident. That turned out to be pretty prophetic."

With the score tied at 60-60, Andy Leatherman took a fast break pass from Bernard King and raced the length of the floor for a layup that gave A&M the lead with 5:08 to play.

Chavis countered with a big 3-pointer with 4:42 that started a 9-0 run and a 69-62 lead with 2:22 to go. A&M got it back to a one-point 71-70 deficit with 14 seconds left on a 3-pointer by Nick Anderson, two free throws by Leatherman and a 3-point play by Bernard King.

Chavis added a free throw with nine seconds left and King's final 3-point shot at the buzzer missed the mark.

"If we play like this and build on it, we'll get healthy and see where we go from there," A&M coach Melvin Watkins said. "We had a couple of good practices, but it's hard when you have to discipline some players. We hope the ones who are remaining got the message and will come out and carry out the game plan."

Watkins suspended guards Michael Gardner and Daryl Mason on Monday. The Aggies played the second half without starting center Andy Slocum, who broke a bone in his hand in the first half.

Andre Emmett added 17 points for the Red Raiders. King had the sixth triple double in A&M history with 20 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds. Leatherman finished with a career high 17 points.

The Aggies matched the favored Red Raiders shot-for-shot in the early first half, led by Leatherman, making his first start of the season after recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Tech hit 6-for-7 of its first seven shots and the Aggies, slumping from the field in recent games, hit 7-for-11.

Watkins didn't call a timeout for the final play when King missed a long 3-point attempt.

"I wanted to get it and go. We didn't want a timeout and give them time to set up the defense," Watkins said. "We wanted to go to the basket with the ball. I was looking for the two to tie but we didn't get it."

The Raiders were expecting King to take the big shot.

"We knew Bernard was going to shoot it because he's a big time player and big time players take big time shots," Powell said. "He got rid of the ball and fortunately, it was a little off."

Spurs rely on Smith in win over Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs counted on Steve Smith against Boston instead of their usual inside combination of Tim Duncan and David Robinson.

Smith scored 13 points in the final 6:20, including a go-ahead jumper with just over a minute to play to lead the Spurs to a 93-90 victory over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

"Steve made some big shots for us down the stretch," Spurs guard Terry Porter said. "We've tried to be successful on the perimeter to balance out what David and Tim do on the inside."

San Antonio needed Smith's clutch shooting to beat the Celtics for the eighth straight time. There were nine lead changes and five ties in a seesaw fourth quarter.

"Jim O'Brien has done a heck of a lot better job with his team than I have with mine," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "They're not just improved, it's ridiculous the steps they have taken."

With 1:28 remaining, Kenny Anderson rebounded Antoine Walker's missed 3-pointer and hit a 10-foot jumper to give the Celtics a 90-89 lead.

Smith then hit a fallaway jumper to give the Spurs the lead for good. Smith added two free throws with 14 second left for the final outcome. Paul Pierce and Walker each missed a pair of shots over the final minute.

"You get so focused in on their big men," Pierce said. "Their perimeter players knock down shots and leaving Smith open cost us the game."

Pierce led the Celtics with 31 points, including 26 in the second half. Boston has lost six of nine.

Duncan had 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Spurs and led them in scoring for the 15th consecutive game. The Spurs are 12-3 against teams in the Eastern Conference.

Pierce capped off an 18-7 run for the Celtics during a five minute run late in the third quarter with a driving lay-up to tie the game at 67.

Walker had 21 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Celtics, but played through a twisted knee in the first half and is scheduled to have an MRI tomorrow.

"We did the right things tonight to win the game," Walker said. "My knee is killing me right now, but hopefully it will be OK."

Boston lost back-to-back games at home for the first time since Nov. 21-23, when they lost to Atlanta and Toronto.

With the Celtics trailing 36-31, Walker scored 11 of his 17 first-half points, including three 3-pointers to tie the game at 42.

The Spurs connected on 23 of 26 free throws in the first half and hit 33 overall.

There was a 21 minute power-outage with 5:08 remaining in the third quarter with the Spurs ahead 65-59.

Missouri 82, No. 10 Texas Tech 71...

Missouri upsets Lady Raiders

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The way Missouri's Kerensa Barr sized it up, playing No. 10 Texas Tech wasn't much different that playing anyone else in what she considers a balanced Big 12.

On Wednesday night, Barr made her case.

"I know that any team can be beat, especially at home in our conference because it's so even," Barr said after scoring 19 points as the unranked Tigers (10-3, 1-1 Big 12) upset the cold-shooting Lady Raiders 82-71. "We think we can beat anyone in our conference, especially at home."

Evan Unrau and Natalie Bright added 16 points apiece for the Tigers, while Melanie Fisher had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Texas Tech (9-4, 1-2) trailed 34-32 at halftime but shot just 38 percent — 12-of-23 — in the second half, at one point leading 61-60 with 6:02 left before the Tigers pulled away with a 22-10 run down the stretch.

The Tigers connected on 54 percent of their second-half shots against a Lady Raiders team that struggled inside and never really found its touch for the second-straight game. In an 80-68 home loss Saturday to Oklahoma, Texas Tech missed 17 of its first 18 shots, fell behind 24-3 and never recovered, ultimately trailing by as many as 25 points in the second half.

Against Missouri, Texas Tech missed 15 of its 20 3-point attempts — going just 2-of-13 from behind the arc in the second half — and finished 26-of-60 overall from the field for 43 percent. The Lady Raiders also were outscored by nine points from the free-throw line and outrebounded 44-21.

The outcome had Lady Raiders coach Marsha Sharp shaking her head.

"It's a little frustrating, obviously. It's tough for us to handle what we're going through right now," she said, saying her team played "stagnant" in the second half. "I think the bottom line for us is that it's hard to run offense when you've absolutely got no post play, and we're looking at that right now. To (Missouri's) credit, they really took advantage of that and took it to the paint, where we're weak."

Jia Perkins had 20 points for Texas Tech on 10-of-17 shooting before fouling out with 4:30 left. Amber Tarr added 18 points despite missing seven of her 10 3-point tries.

Fisher was 9-of-9 from the free-throw line but struggled from the floor, missing 11 of her 16 attempts overall and both of her 3-point tries for a Missouri team that missed six of seven shots from behind the arc.

Unrau and Fisher had eight rebounds each for Missouri. Bright also had seven assists.

Natalie Ritchie added 11 points for the Lady Raiders.

Vikings will name Tice as team's coach today

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Mike Tice, who took over the Minnesota Vikings when Dennis Green was forced out last week, was hired as head coach today, a team source said.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Tice would be introduced as coach at a 12:30 p.m. EST news conference.

Owner Red McCombs said this week that Tice was the leading candidate.

Tice replaced Green, who was forced out last week with the Vikings heading toward the worst finish in his 10-year tenure.

Tice led the Vikings in their final game Monday, a 19-3 loss at Baltimore that capped a 5-11 season.

As acting head coach, Tice met with Green that day to talk about operational issues and a restructuring, and was the person who informed four assistants that day that they wouldn't be retained.

Tice, 42, is popular among many Vikings, and some free agents said his hiring would be a reason to re-sign.

Sports Briefs

Selig asks players to accept luxury tax

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball commissioner Bud Selig asked players to accept a luxury tax that would slow the increase of salaries and proposed that teams vastly increase the amount of local revenue they share.

Wagner agrees to three-year deal with Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Billy Wagner agreed to a $27 million, three-year contract with the Houston Astros that makes him among the highest-paid relievers in baseball.

Dodgers win rights to Japanese pitcher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After watching Ichiro Suzuki lead the Mariners to a record-setting season, the Los Angeles Dodgers won the rights to 28-year-old Kazuhisa Ishii when their bid of $11,264,055 was accepted by the Yakult Swallows, the left-handed pitcher's team in Japan's Central League.

Cardinals sign Taguchi for $3 million

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals turned to Japan to fill a vacancy in the outfield, agreeing to a three-year contract with So Taguchi worth about $3 million.

Kukoc out 6-8 weeks with broken wrist

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Atlanta Hawks forward Toni Kukoc is expected to miss 6-to-8 weeks after breaking his right wrist in a 111-87 loss to Charlotte.

National Football League Playoffs

By The Associated Press
All Times EST
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 12
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia (ABC), 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Oakland (ABC), 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 13
San Francisco at Green Bay (FOX), 12:30 p.m.
Baltimore at Miami (CBS), 4 p.m.

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 19
Green Bay, Philadelphia or San Francisco at Chicago, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)
Baltimore, Miami or Oakland at New England, 8 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 20
Baltimore, Miami or N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)
Green Bay, San Francisco or Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 4 p.m. (FOX)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 27
NFC Championship
12:30 p.m. or 4 p.m.
AFC Championship
12:30 p.m. or 4 p.m.

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 3
At New Orleans
AFC Champion vs. NFC Champion, 6 p.m.

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 10
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC, 4:30 p.m.

NCAA Basketball

MEN
EAST
American U. 76, Colgate 59
Army 69, Lehigh 62
Boston College 88, Villanova 81, OT
Bucknell 65, Lafayette 64
Buffalo 66, Kent St. 65
Hofstra 77, Va. Commonwealth 62
Holy Cross 70, Navy 57
Notre Dame 67, West Virginia 64
Ohio St. 70, Massachusetts 62
Penn St. 51, Wisconsin 49
Rider 82, Iona 79, OT
Saint Joseph's 87, Rhode Island 71
Temple 85, Duquesne 48
SOUTH
Alabama 92, Vanderbilt 79
Bethune-Cookman 65, Savannah St. 52
Canisius 74, Morgan St. 68
Florida 104, Tennessee 100, OT
Georgia 66, Kentucky 64
Marquette 75, Louisville 71
Maryland 112, North Carolina 79
Mississippi 69, Auburn 65
N.C.-Wilmington 68, George Mason 51
Radford 69, Winthrop 48
MIDWEST
Ball St. 89, Cent. Michigan 77
Creighton 88, Evansville 74
Dayton 83, George Washington 59
Iowa 72, Northwestern 62
Iowa St. 71, Missouri 67
Kansas 96, Nebraska 57
Miami (Ohio) 80, Marshall 65
Minnesota 90, Michigan 82
Ohio 86, W. Michigan 68
Purdue 84, Illinois 75
Toledo 85, E. Michigan 60
Xavier 88, Fordham 58
SOUTHWEST
Memphis 98, TCU 93
Texas Tech 72, Texas A&M 70
FAR WEST
Colorado 84, Morris Brown 44

WOMEN
EAST
American U. 79, Colgate 77
Bucknell 78, Lafayette 65
Connecticut 84, St. John's 43
Georgetown 67, Rutgers 57
Lehigh 67, Army 58
Providence 62, Villanova 49
SOUTH
Elon 66, Winthrop 57
Fla. International 70, North Texas 65
Florida A&M 92, Morris Brown 70
Georgia St. 67, Campbell 58
Liberty 64, Norfolk St. 60
Monmouth, N.J. 73, Morgan St. 55
Ohio 80, Marshall 73, 2OT
UCF 89, Florida Atlantic 69
Virginia Tech 73, Boston College 52
MIDWEST
Kansas St. 75, Colorado 72
Miami (Ohio) 103, Akron 67
Missouri 82, Texas Tech 71
N. Illinois 56, Bowling Green 52
Nebraska 77, Texas A&M 73
Notre Dame 79, Seton Hall 45
Toledo 67, Kent St. 62
W. Michigan 80, E. Michigan 68
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 68, Kansas 49
Oklahoma 65, Oklahoma St. 48
Texas 66, Iowa St. 65
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 62, Prairie View 47
FAR WEST
No major team scores reported from the FAR WEST.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
New Jersey	22	11	.667	—
Boston	20	14	.588	2½
Washington	18	14	.562	3½
Orlando	19	18	.513	5
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	8
New York	14	20	.412	8½
Miami	8	24	.250	13½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	19	13	.594	—
Indiana	20	16	.556	1
Toronto	19	16	.543	1½
Detroit	16	17	.485	3½
Charlotte	16	18	.471	4
Atlanta	13	21	.382	7
Cleveland	13	21	.382	7
Chicago	6	28	.176	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	25	8	.758	—
Minnesota	25	9	.735	½
Dallas	23	11	.677	2½
Utah	18	16	.529	7½
Houston	11	23	.324	14½
Denver	10	23	.303	15
Memphis	10	24	.294	15½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	26	6	.812	—
Sacramento	26	9	.743	1½
L.A. Clippers	18	17	.514	9½
Phoenix	18	17	.514	9½
Seattle	18	17	.514	9½
Portland	15	19	.441	12
Golden State	12	23	.343	15½

Wednesday's Games
San Antonio 93, Boston 90
Charlotte 111, Atlanta 87
L.A. Lakers 109, Indiana 90
Orlando 102, Philadelphia 91
Minnesota 111, Seattle 106
Toronto 85, Chicago 73
Thursday's Games
Portland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
New York at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Friday's Games
Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 10 p.m.

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Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

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117 Channels, $9.00/mo. 1st year. Dish 500, installation, full year warranty, $99.00 Locally owned & operated.
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Lab/Collie/Blue Heeler mix. (5) males, (2) females. **863-2323**

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Open Thursday & Friday 10 – 5:30
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1 bedroom, brick duplex, garage, CH/A, sunroom. Quiet neighborhood. 915-573-1012, leave message.

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2 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, central heat, refrigerated air. References required. 2902 Ave. V 573-9068

2 bedroom unfurnished house, $200/mo., $100/dep. Close to business center. Call after 4p.m., 573-5911, or leave message.

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Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Houses For Rent

3200 40th 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard, garage. References required. $275/mo., $150/dep. Dupree Rentals, 1212 25th 573-9001 8a.m.–6p.m.

AVAILABLE January 10th
4009 Eastridge, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, 2 car garage. References required. $400/mo., $200/dep. Dupree Rentals 1212 25th 573-9001 8a.m.–6p.m.

RENT HOUSES AVAILABLE
3906 Eastridge
3910 Eastridge
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505
Suzan Pinkerton 573-0004

Real Estate

1207 26th 3-1. Terms $500 down, $252.53 month + tax and insurance, 180/months 10% interest. 800-804-7110.

2-1 carport, 1 car garage, cellar, storage building on 2 lots. Inside remodeled with new carpet. 2510 Ave. C after 5p.m. 573-0201

304+/- acres cultivated, located northwest of Snyder on CR 264, one water well, small house with barn. May sell house and 10 acres for $39,500, or all for $155,000. Nelson Farm & Ranch Properties, 915-698-3374.

3 bedroom, 2 bath house, CH/A. 573-8015

BY OWNER
5603 CEDAR CREEK DRIVE
CHOICE LOCATION! 3 BDRM, 3 BATH, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM.
573-9780

FOR SALE -3200 40th
Well kept, 2-1-1, fenced yard, great shade trees. Owner financing available. Dupree Rentals, 1212-25th, 573-9001.

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided.
Low down, low monthly.
2bd,-1bth, 608 33rd
Call Kelly, 915-425-9994

HOME FOR SALE
3105 Ave. T Immaculately kept, large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, dining, utility, carport, garage. Convenient neighborhood. Owner financing available. Dupree Rental *1212 25th, *573-9001 8a.m.–6p.m., Monday–Friday.

House For Sale
Owner will finance.
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Spacious 4 Bdr. + 2 living areas...3600 Hill Ave.
Nice Beginner for a Family 308 33rd.....$36T
1 of Snyder's newest homes 3-2-2 3309 Irving
Great Neighborhood 3-2½+2+1cp.....$65T
321 35th St. 3-1-1 Detached.....$25T
1.89 A's w/2-1-2cp Near country Near Hermleigh $25T
160 A's 3-2-cp & shop 5.2 mi. NE of Hermleigh
REDUCED 2805 Ave. V 3-1¾-1cp.....$39,750
14.49 Acres 3-2 Hot Tub, Sprinkler System...$95T
Attractive 3-1¾-2 3014 Irving.....$65T
Economical mobile home 3-1 $9T 2209 Gilmore
Near City 160 acres w/2-1-1cp.....$100T
3202 40th 3-1-1 Nice Kitchen & Carpeting $29.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
3-2½-2+4+RV Gar., Pool, Hot Tub, 2501 48th
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2+2 Living Areas $92.5T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th.....$42T
4-1¾-2cp Det. $28.5T w/$4000 Repair. Allow.
Great Home 4-2-4cp, office....2803 El Paso
1 Acre with 3-1 & 4-2 cp detached E. 23rd St.
Lovely Home 2-1, ¾, ½-2 + Office + Sunroom
Doris-Spikes.....573-6602

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$99 MOVE IN SPECIAL
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We Have Apartments for Hud Housing & Section 8 Qualifiers
Call 573-1488 in Snyder
Quality Living At An Affordable Price

Cris

DALLAS (AP) W.A. Criswell, a gelical leader who the First Baptist C las for nearly 50 the Southern Ba tion as its presi terms, is dead at spokeswoman said

He served as nation's largest S tist congregation until 1991, when the title of senior held the title of pa since 1994.

Funeral servic announced imme

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"I never dream would do in Criswell said d interview.

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WASHINGTON Justice Departme criminal investig Corp., the ban company whose many employees life's savings.

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Sigh

DURANGO, C sightseeing plan remote mountai and rescuers re passengers to search helicopt ed. No one was

After the Wednesday, the hours to find a cell phone wou could call for he

The plane's one wearing s found early tod bones. None aboard the h Kirtland Air Albuquerque w



DEAR DR. F that by the time ter the holiday their mark on want your take ment that is saf claims to use th to burn fat while from your co product, do you advice to offer? kee, Ill.

Dear F.S.: T handle — no d to deal with th that are the ca cern. First, we while we sleep we're not losing eating or drinki a few pills can h few sizes whi sounds great in that's all it is, so

Thermogeni ing) refers increase the ba (BMR). The thought of as o living." It's the needed to "engine" at idl 24/7 for such ing, maintainin ture and keepi ing. This ba accounts for 50

Criswell, longtime Baptist leader, has died

DALLAS (AP) — The Rev. W.A. Criswell, a national evangelical leader who was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas for nearly 50 years and led the Southern Baptist Convention as its president for two terms, is dead at 92, a church spokeswoman said today.

He served as pastor of the nation's largest Southern Baptist congregation from 1944 until 1991, when he was given the title of senior pastor. He has held the title of pastor emeritus since 1994.

Funeral services were not announced immediately.

During Criswell's tenure at the First Baptist Church, it grew from 5,000 members and an annual budget of $150,000 in 1944 to nearly 26,000 members and a budget of more than $11 million. The denomination's largest church also has a small college of 300 students and an 800-pupil private school. A 700-bed homeless shelter was added in 1991.

"I never dreamed what God would do in this church," Criswell said during a 1984 interview.

Criswell underwent surgery in May 1998 for colon cancer and remained hospitalized for two months because of unexpected complications from the surgery. Before leaving the hospital, he underwent angioplasty to clear three clogged arteries and then returned to the hospital after his blood-sugar levels dropped dangerously low.

In a telephone interview from the hospital in September 1998, Criswell told The Dallas Morning News:

"I feel better than anybody you ever knew in your life. I have been in the hospital since May 1, and, oh boy, I've really had my fill of the hospital in that time. I only have a day or two left, and then I'll go home and that will be like heaven to me. It'll be a breath of fresh air."

A month later, Criswell marked his 54th anniversary with First Baptist by returning to the pulpit for the first time since his surgery. He returned three weeks later to read the Scriptures during a service, but collapsed and was briefly hospitalized.

Until his illness, Criswell had rarely missed a Sunday service.

Born on Dec. 19, 1909, Criswell grew up in Texline, a tiny farming community in the northwestern tip of the Panhandle. His father gave up cowboying to scrape out a living as a barber.

Although his mother, Anna Criswell, led her children in family devotions and often sang hymns to them, Criswell recalled that she discouraged his idea of becoming a preacher.

"They thought that was the worst thing that could have happened to me," he recalled. "My mother's father was a doctor. She taught me to say that I was going to be a doctor."

But Criswell said, "Ever since I can remember, I've been preparing to be a preacher ... I have never deviated from that."

Converted and baptized when he was 10, Criswell preached in a Waco jail and on street corners during his freshman year at Baylor University. A straight-A English major, he put himself through school pastoring a country congregation.

He later earned his doctorate in theology and held two relatively short pastorates before First Baptist called in 1944.

Criswell soon rose to prominence within the Southern Baptist Convention, earning a reputation as a skilled orator. A scholar in both Hebrew and Greek, he spent 18 years preaching through every verse of the Bible.

"He has been an outstanding pulpiteer among Southern Baptists for more than the 40 years he has been at First Baptist," one of his closest friends, former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Duke McCall, said in 1984.

Criswell, the author of "Why I Preach That The Bible Is Literally True," was both a target of denomination liberals and conservatives during his two terms as SBC president in the late 1960 and early 1970s. He openly clashed with liberal theologians over the issue of Biblical inerrancy, inviting them to "get out" of the convention.

Biblical inerrants believe the Bible is the literal, exact word of God and that events described in its verses are historically accurate.

Over two decades, Criswell's Bible-based views came to prevail in the 15.6-million-member Nashville-based denomination. The increasingly conservative leadership passed a 1984 resolution against the ordination of women, supported a boycott of the Walt Disney Co. in 1997 and called in 1998 for women to "submit graciously" to their husbands' leadership.

"Somebody said that Dr. Criswell preached the crusade and the younger generation carried it out, and I suppose there's a lot of truth in that," said Paige Patterson, whom Criswell hired as president of Criswell College and later became president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"A lot of us who have acted in subsequent years were profoundly influenced by the man and his message," Patterson said.

Criswell once told the South Carolina legislature during a speech that integration was "idiocy," but announced after his election to the SBC presidency in 1968 that he was renouncing segregationism, a practice that was common in Southern churches. First Baptist was for the first time open to blacks.

Criswell later drew criticism when he suggested Baptist leaders could open a dialogue with the National Council of Churches, which Southern Baptists considered too liberal in its religious and political outlook.

Like most fundamentalist leaders of his generation, Criswell for the most part eschewed politics. But in 1976, while then-President Gerald Ford was seated in his congregation, Criswell endorsed him for re-election over Ford's Southern Baptist opponent, Jimmy Carter.

In 1982, Criswell arranged through several Jewish leaders in Dallas for then-Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to come to the church, although Begin later had to cancel the visit because of the death of his wife.

Considered a catalyzing center of the fundamentalist upsurge of the 1980s and 90s, First Baptist is now led by the Rev. O.S. Hawkins, who assumed the post in October 1993.

A previous replacement for Criswell, the Rev. Joel Gregory, had been hired in late 1990. But he resigned two years later, saying Criswell had not lived up to an agreement to leave the pulpit after a short transition.

Criswell reportedly sought to keep the reins until his 50th anniversary in 1994.

Criswell's worldly success as a pastor was matched by few. His salary was never disclosed publicly, but he lived in a 12-room mansion set on the city's historic Swiss Avenue. Well-to-do members of his congregation have provided his clothes and a new car each year.

"I'm an affluent preacher," Criswell reflected during an interview. "I often wonder how it would be if I didn't have these things. I like the life I live. I like the car, the house, the place in the community. I like the prestige. I like the people I go with.

"Sometimes I wonder if I am as worldly as the materialistic people in this city."

As pastor emeritus, Criswell made regular appearances in support of Baptist practices.

In 1999, he spoke in favor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas to move away from the Baptist General Convention of Texas and join the new, more theologically conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

'Justice's criminal probe of Enron underway

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has begun a criminal investigation of Enron Corp., the bankrupt energy company whose collapse caused many employees to lose their life's savings.

An attorney for Enron welcomed the inquiry, the latest in a series of governmental probes into the company's demise, saying the investigation would "bring light to the facts."

"We want to get to the bottom of this too," said Robert Bennett, a Washington attorney representing the Houston-based company. "A lot of decent and honorable people work at Enron and we should wait until the facts are out."

The Justice Department is forming a national task force to look into the company's dealings. The group will be headed by lawyers at the department's criminal division and include prosecutors in Houston, San Francisco, New York and several other cities, said a Justice Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official declined to say when the investigation began. Enron faces civil investigations by the Labor Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission and subpoenas from congressional committees.

All are looking into the energy trading company's collapse, the largest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.

The failure hit employees and investors hard. Workers were prohibited from selling company stock from their Enron-heavy 401(k) retirement accounts as the company's stock plummeted. Many lost their life's savings.

Enron executives cashed out more than $1 billion in stock when it was near its peak.

Formed in 1985, Enron had 20,000 employees and was once the world's top buyer and seller of natural gas and the largest electricity marketer in the United States. It also marketed coal, pulp, paper, plastics, metals and fiber-optic bandwidth.

One likely focus of the Justice Department investigation is possible fraud based on Enron's heavy reliance on off-balance-sheet partnerships which took on Enron debt. The partnerships masked Enron's financial problems and left its credit ratings healthy so it could obtain the cash and credit crucial to running its trading business.

The Houston-based company went bankrupt after its credit collapsed and its main rival, Dynegy Inc., backed out of an $8.4 billion buyout plan late last year.

Just a year ago, stock of the nation's largest buyer and seller of natural gas traded at $85 per share. Today it is less than $1.

Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay has close ties to President Bush and his father, former President Bush. Lay was a top contributor to the younger Bush's 2000 presidential campaign.

Last week, the president said: "I think the life savings issue is something we need to look into. ... The government will be looking into this."

Lay also gave $25,000 to a leadership committee headed by then-senator and now Attorney General John Ashcroft, according to the Center for Public Integrity.

The company played a key role earlier this year when a White House task force met with business executives and other interests to fashion a national energy policy. The task force was headed by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House has acknowledged that Enron representatives met six times with Cheney or his aides on energy issues last year, most recently in mid-October just before the investing public realized the company was heading for disaster.

The vice president's office said the last Enron meeting with a Cheney aide was Oct. 10, just six days before the first in a series of public admissions by the company about its true financial condition that sent it careening into bankruptcy court.

Enron's financial position wasn't discussed in any of the meetings, vice presidential counsel David Addington said in a letter.

On Wednesday, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters: "I'm not aware of anybody in the White House who discussed Enron's financial situation."

Sightseeing plane crashes in Colorado

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) — A sightseeing plane crashed in a remote mountain creek valley, and rescuers reached the two passengers today after a search helicopter crash-landed. No one was killed.

After the plane crash Wednesday, the pilot hiked six hours to find a place where his cell phone would work so he could call for help.

The plane's passengers — one wearing shorts — were found early today with broken bones. None of the eight aboard the helicopter from Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque was injured.

The four-seat, single-engine Cessna 172 took off from Farmington, N.M., and crashed about 60 miles to the north in a grove of trees, said Mike Spray of the Civil Air Patrol.

The pilot was picked up by helicopter about six hours later and briefly helped with the search.

A dozen rescuers were ferried by ski lift to the top of Durango Mountain Ski resort and then boarded Sno-Cats and snowmobiles to head for the crash site 25 miles north of Durango.

Snow flurries and temperatures in the 20s were reported in the region overnight. The passengers had jackets but no survival gear, said Lt. Dan Bender of the La Plata County sheriff's office.

The rescuers reached the site before sunrise today, said Butch Knowlton, the director of emergency preparedness for La Plata County.

The two passengers, both in their 40s, had broken ribs, a broken ankle and some facial injuries. One was from Florida and the other from San Juan County, N.M. Their names, and that of the 31-year-old pilot of Farmington, were not released.

The MH53J Pavlow helicopter crash-landed less than a mile from the plane-crash site after its main rotor struck a tree as it either was landing or departing, said Steve Milligan, an Air Force spokesman.

The helicopter, carrying six crew members and two medical personnel, made a hard landing and its rotor broke.

Trees in the heavily wooded area are about 60 feet tall.

The eight rescuers were walking around, and a second team of four was sent to the site. All 12 were to be evacuated from the mountains by helicopter or snowmobile, Bender said.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Weight loss isn't a snap

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I expect that by the time you read this letter the holidays will have left their mark on my waistline. I want your take on a diet supplement that is safe, all-natural, and claims to use thermogenic action to burn fat while you sleep. Aside from your comments on the product, do you have any general advice to offer? - F.S., Kankakee, Ill.

Dear F.S.: This one is easy to handle — no doubt much easier to deal with than the "handles" that are the cause of your concern. First, we all lose weight while we sleep. The only time we're not losing is when we are eating or drinking. The idea that a few pills can help you to drop a few sizes while you slumber sounds great in a sales pitch, but that's all it is, so don't be fooled.

Thermogenic (heat producing) refers to attempts to increase the basal metabolic rate (BMR). The BMR can be thought of as our caloric "cost of living." It's the amount of energy needed to keep our body "engine" at idle, and it adds up 24/7 for such things as breathing, maintaining body temperature and keeping the heart beating. This basal metabolism accounts for 50 percent to 70 percent of the energy we burn every day.

Supplements that promise thermogenic effects usually rely on stimulants. I see nothing safe about it. The all-natural descriptive is also a laugh. How natural can it be to walk around (or attempt to sleep!) while on stimulants? Such products do not increase your basal metabolic rate. All they do is jazz you up while the drugs are in your system. They can have dangerous side effects as well.

The way to increase your metabolic rate is through an activity program that increases the relative amount of muscle tissue in the body. We can understand that a car with an eight-cylinder engine burns more gas sitting at a stoplight than a four-cylinder car. It is the same way with the amount of muscles in the body.

Muscle is metabolically active; fat is not. Think of the benefits. First there is the burning of calories to fuel the activity. Then the body responds to new activity patterns by building more muscle to handle the new demand, which also takes energy. Then you have the increased muscle mass that raises your basal metabolic rate.

Here are some basic guidelines that can help regardless of what road you take.

There is no magic ticket to weight loss. It helps to appreciate that obesity is rarely a disease of willful misconduct. That's too simplistic a way to view the condition that affects almost one out of every three adults and one in five children in the United States. Carrying around excess weight comes as a result of a complex combination involving genetics, diet, activity and one's psychological environment.

Motivation to change must come from within. Attempts to change one's body weight solely at the behest or friends or family are usually doomed to failure. While you may find a way to drop a few pounds, your chances for long-term success are only as good as your personal commitment.

It is essential that you pick a sensible target. It's well established that parental obesity plays a role in determining one's body type, so take a hard look at your other family members. Having a large-framed family doesn't mean you should abandon hope of losing weight, you can set realistic goals.

Your best approach is a long-term strategy, where changes are subtle and lasting instead of radical and short-lived. This gradual shift should not place the sole emphasis on reducing dietary calories - it must include an activity component. Activity burns calories, but it also checks the metabolic slowdown that can accompany weight-loss dieting.

Finally, it is important to realize that it probably took years of bad habits to gain the weight. Don't be fooled into thinking that there are magic products that can make it all go away overnight. The key goal should be the adoption of a healthier lifestyle, not merely weight loss. With conviction and good planning, results can be achieved. Regardless of where you end up weight-wise, your actions will result in a healthier you.

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

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

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	25.60	25.06	25.51	+ .16
AOL TimeWrn	31.35	30.75	31.05	—.50
AT&T Corp s	18.87	18.52	18.75	+ .05
Albertsons	31.35	30.75	31.15	+ .76
Alltel	57.85	57.50	57.65	—.28
AmEl Pw	44.19	43.65	44.17	+ .30
AndarkPtr	52.76	51.29	51.56	—1.20
ATMOS Egy	21.33	21.08	21.32	+ .24
Aviall	7.37	7.25	7.31	+ .03
BP PLC	45.27	45.05	45.09	+ .02
BakerHughes	33.96	33.15	33.48	—.48
Bank of Amer	62.66	62.07	62.36	+ .41
BellSouth	38.30	37.88	38.24	—.16
vjBeth Steel	.55	.52	.53	
BurlNoSFe	28.25	27.65	27.81	—.44
Caterpillar	51.80	51.01	51.20	—.36
ChevronTex	89.34	88.20	89.30	+ .19
Citigroup	50.30	49.70	49.93	+ .14
CocaCola	44.95	44.60	44.71	+ .15
ColgatePal	56.35	55.80	55.85	—.40
ComclMetals	35.63	35.00	35.56	+ .23
Cooperin	34.19	33.45	33.92	—.12
DaimlrChry	42.40	42.00	42.10	—1.11
DeltaAirl	31.64	30.98	31.40	+ .42
Dillards Inc	17.85	17.32	17.59	+ .46
DowChem	33.68	32.70	32.89	—1.11
DuPont	44.17	43.36	43.47	—.63
EastmanChem	43.68	42.90	43.45	+ .39
EstKodak	28.18	27.62	27.67	—.70
EDS Corp	68.20	67.38	67.80	+ .10
Entergy	40.70	39.72	40.69	+ .76
ExxonMobil s	39.35	39.06	39.14	—.10
FootLocker	16.99	15.74	15.87	—.08
GenDynam	80.75	79.41	79.85	—1.15
GenElec	38.90	38.43	38.69	+ .14
GenMills	48.97	48.38	48.80	+ .23
GenMotors	50.61	49.18	49.36	—.88
GaPacific	26.50	25.29	25.70	—.29
Goodrich	26.57	26.27	26.50	+ .21
Goodyear s	24.76	24.25	24.32	—.45
GtAtlPac	25.21	24.70	24.99	—.28
Halliburtn	12.40	11.72	12.01	—.12
Hanson ADS	33.77	33.60	33.77	—.25
HartleHanks	28.20	27.95	28.05	+ .15
HomeDepot	50.64	49.75	50.53	+ .27
Honeywellntl	34.86	34.20	34.61	+ .16
IBM	124.00	121.42	121.94	—2.55
IntlPaper	41.80	41.05	41.09	—.67
JohnsonJn s	57.67	56.60	57.65	+ .74
K mart	4.80	4.34	4.34	—.46
KinderMorg	56.21	55.95	56.03	—.02
Kroger Co	20.55	20.43	20.48	+ .03
LockheedM	48.20	47.76	48.05	+ .87
Lowes Cos s	43.64	43.10	43.40	+ .25
Lubys	6.67	6.41	6.58	—.08
LucentTech	7.29	7.20	7.20	
MarathonOil	29.70	29.30	29.48	—.51
MayDeptStr	37.06	36.30	36.90	+ .15
Medtronic	48.99	48.35	48.85	+ .57
Motorola	14.55	14.26	14.32	—.14
NCR Corp	44.10	43.30	43.52	—.68
Navistar	38.90	37.25	37.45	—1.52
PNM Rescs	28.60	28.40	28.60	+ .05
Penney JC	26.54	26.05	26.51	—.02
PepBoys	15.45	14.95	15.07	—.29
PepsiCo	48.08	47.72	48.00	+ .39
Pharmacia	41.03	40.80	40.91	—.06
PhelpDodge	33.90	33.32	33.59	—.28
PhilipPet	59.11	58.55	59.10	+ .10
PilgrmPrd B	14.45	14.20	14.35	—.15
Praxair	54.01	53.05	53.17	—.92
ProctGamb	76.84	76.38	76.65	—.55
RadioShack	30.15	29.40	29.81	+ .10
ReliantEngy	26.16	25.70	26.07	—.03
RoyalDut	48.75	48.39	48.59	+ .45
SBC Comm	38.10	37.55	37.92	—.25
SaraLee	21.50	21.10	21.29	—.01
Scripps EW	69.73	69.65	69.68	—.05
SearsRoeb	51.20	49.65	51.12	+ 1.67
SherwinW	27.50	27.02	27.08	—.23
SouthernCo s	24.72	24.51	24.67	+ .15
SwstAirl s	18.69	18.36	18.40	+ .06
SprintFON	19.28	19.02	19.13	—.15
SprintPCS	19.75	19.05	19.33	+ .13
Sunoco Inc	37.79	37.20	37.66	—.38
TXU Corp	47.18	46.75	47.18	+ .45
TempleInland	57.04	54.50	55.37	—1.36
Texlnd	37.20	36.45	37.01	+ .44
TexasInst	28.25	27.52	27.64	—.57
Textron	43.60	43.25	43.31	—.40
TriconGlbR	53.46	52.80	53.28	+ .38
TrinityInds	25.75	25.18	25.72	+ .29
TylerTech	4.63	4.42	4.60	+ .18
UnionPacif	58.50	57.41	57.55	—.81
USSteel	18.38	18.01	18.14	—.05
UnitedTech	65.55	64.91	65.30	+ .13
Unocal	34.80	34.52	34.57	—.26
VerizonComm	48.70	48.35	48.60	—.28
WalMart	57.04	56.26	56.65	+ .25
WellsFargo	43.64	43.39	43.51	+ .12
WstnGasRs	32.60	31.65	31.65	—1.05
WinnDixie	13.93	13.75	13.85	—.01
Xerox Cp	9.79	9.65	9.69	—.07

JAN 10 2002

Houston, two other cities named zone for digital TV

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland, Houston and Indianapolis apparently are the best places to live if you're ready for full surround sound, high definition and wide screen television as the nation reaches the halfway point in its conversion to digital TV, officials say.

The National Association of Broadcasters on Wednesday declared the three cities the leaders in the digital TV conversion, with stations broadcasting television signals with the kind of resolution and sound effects once available only in movie theaters.

The digital signal allows much more information to be transmitted, vastly improving video and audio quality while also allowing data for home computers and electronic game equipment to "piggyback" to the TV.

Later this year, the association plans to add Washington, D.C., to its short "digital TV zone" list of the most progressive metropolitan areas in the nation for moving into a new broadcast era that began when Congress approved the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

By 2006, the old analog signal that has carried entertainment, news and sports across the nation for more than half a century will be as extinct as the dinosaurs, according to the regulatory plan laid out by the Federal Communications Commission.

"There's a huge gravitational pull toward digital in all electronics," said Edward "Eddie" Fritts, NAB president. "Whether it's TV, cell phones or computers, digital is the future."

Now midway into its conversion to digital TV, the nation has 229 television stations offering a digital signal in 80 markets, reaching 73 percent of TV households, Fritts said.

By the end of this year, another 600 stations are expected to join the list.

The FCC began assigning every TV station in the nation a separate digital channel shortly after approval of the 1996 act, so stations can broadcast both an older analog signal or a new digital signal. Many stations have not yet converted to the necessary equipment, and some face various technical problems posed by signal strength or location.

Time is running out, however, under FCC rules that will require every station to broadcast a digital signal at least 50 percent of the time it broadcasts its analog signal, beginning April 1, 2003.

By April 1, 2004, the requirement increases to 75 percent until the full conversion deadline of April 1, 2005.

By 2006, stations are expected to begin switching off their old analog transmitters. Some will keep the same channel numbers while others will have new channels. But the digital signal will allow the entire TV broadcast industry to be contained in channels 2 to 51.

The FCC is reclaiming the higher end of the broadcast spectrum for other commercial uses. Some of it will go to public safety agencies and most of the rest will be up for bid for various wireless services still on the drawing board.

The agency does not comment on industry announcements, said spokesman David Fisk in Washington, D.C.

But he said FCC Chairman Michael Powell has made digital conversion a priority and it is working with broadcasters to smooth the transition.

"Still, a lot depends on the industry and various issues that consumers will be dictating — marketing type of decisions," Fisk said.

The big question for broadcasters is how soon consumers are willing to convert to TVs and other electronic equipment that handle digital signals — much of it still very expensive.

But digital TVs have proved a popular item despite the recession, with holiday sales up 4 percent in 2001 compared to 2000, said Jeff Joseph of the Consumer Electronics Association.

He said a total of 1.4 million digital TVs were sold last year, easily surpassing the 1 million-unit mark where products typically begin to take off. As a result, prices have fallen 50 percent in the past three years, Joseph said.

"And if you look at other products, the more competitive the market place, the faster the price declines," he said.

By 2006, consumers will have to either purchase new TVs or buy a converter box that will translate the digital signal back to the old analog format.

Fritts said the industry will be closely watching Portland, Houston, Indianapolis and Washington, D.C., to see how broadcasters and consumers adapt to the digital conversion in hopes of learning lessons that can speed the national switch.

But he expects it will be much faster than the switch from black-and-white broadcasts to color. In, 1954, the first full year of color broadcasts, the major television networks broadcast just 68 hours of programming, compared to more than 1,000 hours of digital programming they offered last year.

"If broadcasters had not grabbed the brass ring and agreed to make the transition to digital TV, we'd have been considered passe," Fritts said.

On the Net:

National Association of Broadcasters: http://www.nab.org

Consumer Electronics Association: http://www.ce.org

Federal Communications Commission; http://www.fcc.gov

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Children left behind 30 years ago still want to contact mom

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to the letter from "Lost Mother in the Midwest," who suddenly left her family because she was overwhelmed with personal problems and felt unneeded and alone. I know what it's like to be one of the children left behind, and I cannot be silent.

Following are some suggestions I would like to offer for "Lost Mother": First, get professional counseling so you understand what led you to do such a thing. Everyone has problems — that's part of life. However, you must have the courage to face up to what you've done so you can forgive yourself.

Second, when you're stable enough, contact your children to let them know that you're OK and that you realize you mishandled the situation. They need to know that you are seeking help and that you love them. They will be angry, but they are entitled to their feelings. It will begin the healing process. No matter how painful it may be, it is easier than carrying around a lifetime of guilt and pain.

Third, give your family time to sort out their feelings. At first, they may be reluctant to reconcile with you. It will take time and understanding, and may not produce the kind of relationship you are immediately hoping for.

Last, don't delay! Your doubts and fears might cause you to chicken out. You left your family, so it's your responsibility to make the first move. Every day you wait causes more pain and suffering. Life is too short to prolong this separation. It will be worth it in the end. I wish you and your children well.

I speak from experience. Our mom left us when we were very young. It has been 30 years since we've had any contact with her. We've done everything we know to find her, with no luck.

If I could somehow communicate a message to our mom, it would be this: Everyone makes mistakes, but we can try to make up for them. Love and forgiveness can go a long way. The few memories and mementos we have of you suggest that you were a very loving mother. Your children are well-adjusted, happy people, and we hope this will bring you some comfort. We have forgiven you and want you to know we love you. We still live in the same state where you left us. Life is getting shorter, and we would love to have the opportunity to spend the rest of it with you. So what do you say, Mom? It's your move. — THE SECOND OF THREE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SECOND: I pray your mother sees your letter and realizes how much a reunion would mean to her children. Where there is life, there is hope.

**

DEAR ABBY: The reader who claimed the funny story about the drunken geese who were plucked because the owner thought they were dead plagiarized it from "Revenge of the Lawn," written and published by Richard Brautigan. The person probably meant no harm, but Mr. Brautigan deserves acknowledgment. If I'm not mistaken, his book came out in the mid-'60s. — CYNTHIA PECK, TORONTO

DEAR CYNTHIA: Thank you for the information. Back in 1985 when I first printed the drunken geese story, no one wrote to inform me that it had been taken from a published book. Interestingly, this time several readers have sent me versions of the story, and each of them have claimed it is a true story from their family history.

I'm pleased that Mr. Brautigan has now received the credit he deserves.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Four arrested in '84 slaying

CONROE (AP) — After receiving new evidence in a 17-year-old Montgomery County slaying, sheriff's investigators have made arrests in Texas, Arkansas and Kentucky as part of a continuing investigation.

David Bluestien, first assistant district attorney, said the victim's then-wife and a man she later married and divorced were among four charged in the June 1, 1984, slaying of Larry Dean Chatagnier of Porter.

Bluestien declined Wednesday to disclose information that led to the arrests, nor would he detail the suspects' alleged roles or motives. Porter is about 25 miles northeast of Houston.

Investigators arrested Chatagnier's former wife, Jana Chatagnier Kalmbach, 46, in Montgomery County; her former husband, James William Kalmbach, 52, in Glenwood, Ark.; Nancy Devine Kalmbach, 43, in Fulton, Ky.; and Harold Edward Devine, 52, in Carrollton, Ky.

Nancy Kalmbach was formerly married to James Kalmbach and later to Harold Devine, sheriff's detective Lynn Dottie said. None of the four is now married.

Officials said the two women are being held at the Montgomery County Jail in Conroe on criminal conspiracy charges. Bail was set at $100,000 for Jana Kalmbach and at $50,000 for Nancy Kalmbach.

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Loved ones recall 7 Marines killed in crash

MIRAMAR, Calif. (AP) — Lance Cpl. Bryan Bertrand had just saved up enough money to buy a guitar. Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson had just called home to tell his mother he was thinking about her on his birthday.

Both men were among the seven Marines killed when their plane — a KC-130 used for in-flight refueling and hauling cargo — crashed into a mountain in Pakistan late Wednesday as it approached a military airfield.

All the victims were based at the Marine Corps Station in Miramar, near San Diego. The crash was the worst U.S. casualty toll in the war against terrorism.

"Any time you hear one Marine, from anywhere, has lost his life, it's just sad. It's even harder on you when they come from your home base," said Maj. T.V. Johnson, director of public affairs at the Miramar base.

Bryson, of Montgomery, Ala., joined the service after graduating from Montgomery's Robert E. Lee High School in 1983.

"He is my only child," his mother Deloris Bryson told The Birmingham News. "He just called to let me know he was thinking about me on Tuesday. It was his birthday. He turned 36."

The dead included the first U.S. servicewoman to die since the war began. Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters, 25, was a radio operator who joined the Marine Corps in 1997. She followed in the footsteps of her older brother Matthew Winters Jr., who was also a Marine.

Her father, Matthew Winters, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on today from the family home in Gary, Ind., that he last spoke to her just before the holidays.

"She told me, 'Dad, I won't be home for Christmas,'" but sent a guitar as a gift, he said. "She was so proud to get into the Marine Corps. She loved her job."

The Pentagon listed her home town as Du Page, Ill., a county near Chicago, but family members said she grew up in Gary. Her high school track coach, David Walton, called Winters "a lady of honor and respect."

"Many times she ran in pain," he said. "I asked her 'Why don't you just quit and get off the track? She said, 'Coach, I just can't quit.'"

Among the other victims were Sgt. Nathan P. Hays, a 21-year-old flight mechanic, who grew up in Wilbur, Wash., a small town about 55 miles west of Spokane.

Bill Grigsby, his former teacher and high school football coach, said Hays "was a kid who probably didn't have quite as much actual football talent as other kids but he always just worked so hard and was such a team guy."

The parents of Capt. Matthew Bancroft, 29, the pilot of the plane, recalled Wednesday that their son was 7 years old when he first announced he wanted to become a pilot.

"This is truly sad," said Bob Osborne, his basketball coach at Burney High School in Redding, Calif., Bancroft's hometown. "But I think that if a person has to leave this world, doing it for your country is the best way to go."

The other victims were identified by the Department of Defense as: the co-pilot, Capt. Daniel G. McCollum, 29, of Richland, S.C.; and Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen, 37, of New York.

Bertrand, 23, of Coos Bay, Ore., had served as a Marine for three years and could have been home about a month ago. But he volunteered for another tour of duty, said his father, Bruce.

"He didn't want to be on the sidelines," Bruce Bertrand said. "He loved what he was doing."

In one of his last letters, Bryan Bertrand told his parents he'd saved enough money to buy an electric guitar. It was to be waiting for him when he returned from his tour of duty in Pakistan.

The dead Marines were part of the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, whose history includes service in every major U.S. military action since World War II.

Known as the "Raiders," the squadron was activated on April 1, 1943. Its logo shows an aircraft between a pair of crossed swords with the word "Raiders" above it.

The base, tucked into a nondescript-looking section of San Diego, is reached by a busy street lined with strip malls, furniture stores, fast-food restaurants and convenience markets.

"It makes me sad. I know a lot of people from Miramar," said Sarah Lindsay, a waitress working late Wednesday night at Keith's, a 24-hour restaurant near the base that is a popular hangout for Marines.

On the Net: http://www.miramar.usmc.mil

Traffic court brings in lots of money

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A quick-witted judge whose threats, humiliation and some good-natured needling have earned him the nickname "The Terminator" has turned Philadelphia traffic court into a moneymaking machine.

"They can't believe the money I'm bringing in," said Judge Fortunato Perri, a 65-year-old grandfather of 12 who became the court's administrative judge a year ago.

In addition to boosting revenue, Perri has been credited with increasing the court's professionalism and efficiency, and expanding and creating programs that have produced safer streets.

At the same time, his brusque, aggressive manner has given traffic violators every reason not to want to return to his court.

"Very frankly, I want to scare people," Perri said.

The court's revenue — 48 percent of which goes to the city and 52 percent to the state — increased by $2 million in Perri's first six months and could reach $20 million this fiscal year. That is nearly $8 million more than the court earned in 2000.

Truck drivers accused of traffic violations argued their cases to Perri in a packed courtroom on Wednesday. The reception they got from him depended upon their violation and their attitude.

To a man who had appeared multiple times for his employees' truck violations, Perri said: "If you come back here again, I'm going to knock your socks off."

To a heavily hair-gelled violator stopped while transporting an unsecured load on Interstate 95: "Stop and buy a comb on your way back to New York."

Perri, who isn't an attorney, said he feels for the working man and tries to cut breaks when they're deserved. But he doesn't tolerate drivers who are antagonistic.

"If you come in with a cocky attitude, I'm going to croak you," he said. "If you don't learn a lesson by us doing this, then what good is it doing?"

Court employees and attorneys say improvements in traffic court started before Perri was appointed administrative judge, but that he has contributed to the upswing with his toughness and work ethic.

"He's a workaholic," attorney Richard Hoy said. "He can be sarcastic, but he's fair. If you drive without a license, registration, that's where he humiliates people."

Perri has gone after unsafe truck drivers on major interstates, jailed drag racers and plans to expand a program that allows police to seize vehicles from unlicensed and unregistered drivers.

After reading about a drag racing problem in Philadelphia, Perri started a program to arrest everyone present during racing. He has sentenced six repeat offenders to jail.

His program has all but eliminated the problem and he has received letters from officials in Detroit and Hawaii asking for advice.

Sheriff's deputy fired for conflicting stories

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Citing "unacceptable conduct," a sheriff fired a deputy accused of giving conflicting statements about the shooting of a student whose parents say was accidentally killed by an officer during the 1999 Columbine High School massacre.

Relatives of slain student Daniel Rohrbough said Lt. Jim Taylor told them he saw a boy fall to the ground after apparently being shot and realized it was Rohrbough after seeing newspaper photos of him.

But in a Dec. 31 statement, Taylor said he didn't see the shooting and told the family only what he had seen on television and read in newspapers.

Taylor was fired for his actions Wednesday.

"I am extremely disappointed that false information regarding the tragedy of Columbine High School was provided to the families of the victims of Columbine by a member of my staff," said Arapahoe County Sheriff Pat Sullivan. "I sincerely apologize for the unacceptable conduct of one former member of my organization."

Sullivan said radio tapes and interviews prove Taylor was not in a position to see gunfire or Rohrbough during the shooting.

Taylor did not immediately return a call for comment.

Rohrbough's family members claim the 15-year-old was accidentally shot by an officer as he fled the school.

But authorities have maintained since the April 20, 1999 rampage that gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were responsible for all 13 victims. The two took their own lives in the school library.

Sullivan said Taylor had worked for the department since 1988 and that he had never before been investigated. He described Taylor's past performance as "excellent."

Sue Petrone, Rohrbough's mother, said Taylor, a longtime family friend, told her and her ex-husband, Brian Rohrbough, shortly after the tragedy and several times later that he saw the teen killed.

"He had absolutely no reason to lie to me or to Brian," Petrone said. "He was telling me the truth. I saw his face."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



What are heart murmurs?

DEAR DR. GOTT: My doctor told me that I have a heart murmur. What causes this? Is it serious?

DEAR READER: Shame on your doctor for not sitting down with you to discuss the implication of this finding. Here's why I say this.

The beating heart normally produces two characteristic sounds — the well-known "lub-dub" immortalized by generations of radio and TV programs — as the cardiac contractions circulate blood through the heart's valves.

If, in the process, currents of turbulence are produced, doctors can hear (through their stethoscopes) a third sound that may be whooshing, scraping or musical. Called a murmur, this sound may indicate valvular disease. But it may have no importance at all in some cases; many people — especially children and young adults — have perfectly "innocent" murmurs that are harmless and do not reflect heart disease. Thus, a murmur can be significant or insignificant, depending on its location, duration, audible characteristics and intensity.

When doctors suspect that a murmur is abnormal, they will usually order tests — such as a cardiogram, chest X-rays and an ultrasound exam — to confirm that the sound originates from a valve that is not efficiently opening or shutting. (Also, these tests will show evidence of holes or defects within the cardiac chambers through which blood may be leaking.) Then specialists can offer advice and guidance about therapy, which may include medication or corrective surgery.

Thus, I cannot comment on whether your murmur is a cause for concern; this would depend on your age, the type of murmur and the results of the testing. You should query your physician about this. Although an innocent murmur can be disregarded, other types may require treatment. If your doctor is unable to diagnose the cause of your murmur, you should be examined by a cardiologist. At the very least, however, your doctor owes you the courtesy of an in-depth discussion with respect to his findings.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Heart Disease." 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: After experiencing palpitations, I was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect that causes a murmur. I have a strong family history of heart disease and would like to know if I'm worrying too much about the problem. If my chance of a heart attack has been heightened, should I take precautionary measures?

DEAR READER: Ventricular septal defect means that you have a hole in the wall of tissue separating the two major cardiac chambers (ventricles). This is a form of congenital heart disease. You were born with it.

Small defects often cause a murmur and can interfere with the electrical conduction within the heart muscle, leading to irregular pulse, palpitations or rapid heartbeat, which may cause fainting. Medicine to regulate the pulse is often sufficient therapy.

In contrast, large holes are associated with cardiac strain and eventual heart failure. Therefore, such defects must be surgically repaired.

Ventricular septal defects are serious, depending on their size and location. They are diagnosed by cardiac catheterization, during which specialists obtain pressure readings in the ventricles, while taking X-ray movies of the heart.

In my opinion, you should be under the care of a cardiologist, who can fully describe your affliction to you and recommend appropriate therapy. Ventricular septal defects are not ordinarily associated with heart attacks, so you are not in any immediate danger. You needn't worry on that score.

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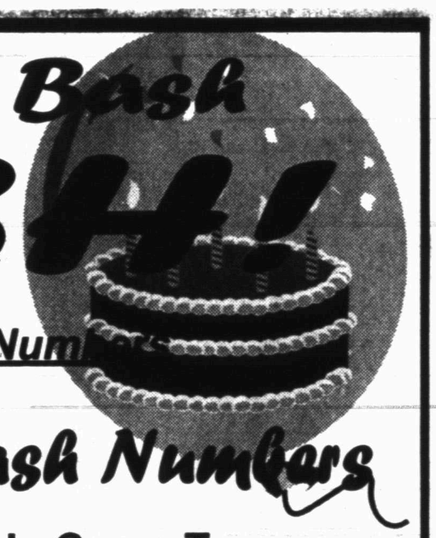
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

U.S. forces prepare to move prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taliban and al-Qaida war prisoners, hooded and chained, are being assembled by U.S. forces at Kandahar airport in southern Afghanistan for movement to a detention facility in Cuba.

Preparing for a trans-Atlantic operation presented an unprecedented security challenge, officials said today. Prisoners were shuttled from locations throughout Afghanistan to the Marines' main jail at the airport. Others were moved from the Navy's USS Bataan in the Arabian Sea.

Prisoners would also be chained to their seats — and possibly be sedated, forced to use portable urinals and be fed by their guards — during the flights from Afghanistan to newly constructed jail cells in Guantanamo, Cuba, according to newspaper and television reports. Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke wouldn't comment on the reports except to say detainees were being treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention rules on prisoners.

Meanwhile, U.S. warplanes struck again early today Afghan time at the huge cave, tunnel and building complex used as an al-Qaida training camp in eastern Afghanistan.

American-led forces for several days have been detonating ordnance found there and hitting the compound itself, saying intelligence indicated it was recently occupied by al-Qaida fighters preparing to escape the country into Pakistan.

As for the prisoners, Clarke told a press briefing that she was trying to determine what details of the transfer would be released, saying officials would not be talking about schedules or other things that would breach security, but would simply announce when the detainees had reached Guantanamo.

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the transfer could begin as early as today.

"This thing is being done ... with the most expertise that we can bring to bear on it," said spokesman Steve Lucas at the U.S. Southern Command, the Miami-based command that is helping coordinate the move.

"These suicidally murderous people have compatriots at large," said Lucas. "We don't want to provide them any information that could make a big terrorist splash."

Former employee threatens co-workers

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (AP) — A fired nuclear power plant employee accused of threatening former co-workers amassed a cache of weapons that he allegedly wanted to use to "whack a bunch of people" at the plant.

David Reza was so angry over being fired from his job as a mechanic at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, authorities say, that he told an acquaintance, "They have taken my job, they have taken my life ... I'll take my guns and go to San Onofre and whack a bunch of people."

Orange County sheriff's deputies served search warrants at Reza's Laguna Niguel home and a storage unit in nearby San Juan Capistrano, finding 54 weapons at the house and more than 250 in the storage unit. Among them was a handheld, anti-tank rocket launcher.

They also found 4,000 to 5,000 rounds of ammunition and four inert hand grenades lying next to a container of explosive powder.

Two deputies at the storage unit were overcome by a yellowish vapor that officials believe was military-grade tear gas stored in an ammunition canister. They were treated and released from a hospital.

The case demonstrated that authorities take any threat seriously, especially one from a former nuclear power plant employee, said sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino.

"Is the person capable of carrying out the threat?" asked Amormino. "Considering we found a cache of weapons and ammunition, we think the answer is yes."

Reza, 43, was arrested Tuesday and charged with making terrorist threats, possession of a controlled substance and various illegal firearms counts. He was jailed without bail pending a Thursday arraignment.

In a telephone interview from jail, Reza told The Orange County Register he believes he is being discriminated against because he is an American Indian with an ongoing disability dispute with Southern California Edison, which runs the plant 65 miles south of Los Angeles.

Reza, who began working at the plant in 1984, was fired in 1995 for undisclosed reasons, Edison officials said. He was reinstated in 1998 and later went on disability leave.

He attempted to return to work last July but was fired in December, again for undisclosed reasons, said Edison spokesman Ray Golden.

F-16 crashes

LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — An F-16 with the New Jersey Air National Guard crashed this morning during a training mission, officials said.

The pilot, based at the 177th Fighter Wing at Pomona, may have ejected from the aircraft, officials said.

"Somebody did have confirmation that they did see the parachute," said Zoe Natasha, a spokeswoman for the New Jersey National Guard.

The unit has been flying cover missions over major U.S. cities since the Sept. 11 attacks. Col. John Dwyer of the Air National Guard said the plane "was not involved in a combat mission. This was involved in a training mission."

The plane crashed at about 10:45 a.m. near the Garden State Parkway and debris was scattered across the highway, a major north-south route, said John Hagerty, a state police spokesman. Hagerty did not know if anyone on the ground was injured.

Israeli army bulldozers destroy buildings in Gaza refugee camp

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli army bulldozers destroyed dozens of buildings in a Gaza refugee camp early today, Palestinians said. The raid came in retaliation for a deadly assault by Islamic militants on an Israeli army post that threatened to derail U.S. truce efforts.

Israel said the structures served as cover for Palestinian gunmen and smugglers. Palestinian officials said most of the buildings were inhabited, and some residents said they fled their homes in heavy rain as bulldozers approached. After daybreak, residents picked through the rubble, looking for belongings.

Local officials said hundreds of people were made homeless. The Israeli military said Palestinians threw grenades and fired rifles toward troops during the demolitions, but that no one was hurt.

The Israeli military would not say how many buildings were flattened in the Rafah refugee camp, while Palestinian officials gave conflicting numbers, ranging from 52 to 73. Damage was difficult to assess because Israeli troops have targeted the area several times in the past, and some of the buildings might have been hit in earlier raids.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad announced today it would no longer adhere to a halt in anti-Israel attacks. A leaflet by the group's military wing said that, "starting from today, we will not adhere to any understanding or cooperate with the Palestinian Authority and its security services in the lie of the cease-fire."

The larger Islamic group Hamas gave mixed signals today whether it was ending its suspension of attacks in Israel following a raid by gunmen on an Israeli army outpost near the Gaza Strip on Wednesday. Four soldiers — all members of a Bedouin Arab battalion — were killed before the two assailants were shot dead. The gunmen were from Rafah.

Israeli officials said that eight assailants were involved, including six who remained on the Gaza side and intentionally set off alarms along the high-security border fence to divert troops from the outpost to be attacked.

Hamas claimed responsibility, saying the attack was partly a response to Israel's seizure from "Arab waters" of a vessel laden with 50 tons of Iranian-made weapons.

Khaled Mashal, a Hamas leader in Beirut, Lebanon, suggested more attacks would follow. "The resistance is continuing," he said. However, Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in Gaza City, suggested that the assault on the outpost was not a signal for a new wave of Hamas attacks.

"Hamas has not changed its position," Zahar said today. Last month, Hamas had announced a suspension of mortar attacks and suicide bombings in Israel, in compliance with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's truce call.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad have carried out scores of attacks on Israelis, including suicide bombings, in recent months.

Obituaries

Aurelia Almanza

1940-2002

Aurelia Almanza, 61, died at 2:22 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at her home in Snyder.

Services for Mrs. Almanza, born Feb. 16, 1940, are pending at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Survivors include three daughters, Amanda Villa of Snyder, Adriana Davis of California and Angie Rodriguez of Stanton; a son, Adrian Almanza of Weatherford; four brothers, Florenteno Escobedo, Ruben Escobedo, Robert Escobedo and Johnny Escobedo, all of Snyder; and six grandchildren.

Veta Tompkins

1920-2002

McCAMEY — Veta Ruth Tompkins, mother of Billie Adams of Snyder, died Tuesday, Jan. 8, in Lubbock.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Eastside Baptist Church with the Rev. Murry Sauders officiating. Graveside service is set for 1 p.m. Sunday in the Hamlin East Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 12, 1920 in Royston, she married George J. Tompkins on Dec. 23, 1937 in Hitson, Tex. The couple moved to McCamey in 1945 where the couple established a White's Auto store that they owned and operated for 54 years. Mrs. Tompkins was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and the Eastside Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Tompkins, on March 2, 2000; and by her parents, Green Berry and Lillie Mae Phillips.

Survivors include another daughter and two sons-in-law, Jean Anne and Jim Dawson of Larrisa, Greece, and George Adams of Snyder; two sons and daughters-in-law, George and Marene Tompkins and Jack and Dorothy Tompkins, all of Houston; two brothers, Jack Phillips of Lubbock and Benson B. "Hack" Phillips of Dallas; seven grandchildren, Sonya Huisman, Jeff Adams, Scott Tompkins, David Tompkins, John Tompkins, Michael Tompkins and Barron Tompkins; and three great-grandchildren, Mikayla Huisman, Anna Huisman and Katie Adams.

Personal, Professional Service
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Officers, JP handle unattended death

Unattended death

Snyder officers and EMS paramedics responded to a call at 2:22 p.m. Wednesday from Amanda Villa who reported her mother was unconscious and not breathing at her 29th Street residence.

Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd also responded and a report for an unattended death was submitted for Aurelia Almanza, 61, of 500 29th Street.

Boyd ruled today that Almanza died of natural causes.

Thefts

Officers responded to two reports of thefts in Snyder Wednesday.

At 9:45 p.m. Edward Phillips reported two weed eaters stolen from his front porch at 213 34th Street. Phillips advised he would not file a report, and requested a blotter entry only.

Scott Williams requested officers responded to Donnie Franks' residence at 1909 Peyton Ave. just before 11 p.m. Wednesday in reference to a burglary. An offense report for burglary of a habitation was submitted.

Noise disturbance

Cindy Torres reported loud music in the 2500 block of 30th Street at 10:20 p.m. Wednesday. An officer was dispatched and located a subject playing the music from his vehicle. The subject was contacted and did turn down the music.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

FBC support groups

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

Country and gospel music

There will be country and gospel music beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Snyder Senior Center. Call 573-3996 for more information.

Noah's Ark Church

Randy and Delia Asebedo from Lord's Church in Lubbock will be ministering at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at Noah's Ark Church, 18th St. and Ave. R.

Scurry County retired teachers

The Scurry County unit of the Texas Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon Monday at The Shack. Pete Greene will present the program.

United Way board meeting

The Scurry County United Way board will meet at noon Monday at 2311 Ave. T.

Technology booster meeting

The SHS technology student association booster will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the shop classroom. The project will be painting yard signs.

Baseball booster club

The SHS baseball booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the athletic film room. Help is needed for the upcoming season.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 15. The classes are held from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Relay for Life meeting

The Scurry unit of the American Cancer Society will hold a Relay for Life meeting at 5 p.m. next Thursday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on Channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

Ira school pictures

Spring portraits and friendship pictures will be made at Ira School on Wednesday, Jan. 23. Also, each class group, K-12, will be photographed. Each student will also be photographed. The friendship pictures have a sitting fee of $2 per person in the picture. Orders may be placed from proofs that will be received. Call 573-2628 for more information.

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.

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.

MAWC monthly luncheon

Martha Ann Woman's Club will have its monthly game day and luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 23. Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. and games of choice will follow throughout the afternoon.

Video school

The Center for Biblical Counseling video school, sponsored by His Joy Ministries, begins Tuesday, Feb. 12. Supplies must be ordered now. Call 573-9799 for more information.

Junta's attorney calls his client 'gentle giant'

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — The attorney for a 270-pound dad who beat another father to death at their sons' hockey practice said today that the "gentle giant" had a right to defend himself against the other man's attacks.

Attorney Thomas Orlandi Jr. said Thomas Junta never intended to kill Michael Costin, who was an inch shorter and 114 pounds lighter.

"It was simply a fight," Orlandi said in his closing argument at Junta's manslaughter trial. He called Junta, 44, a "gentle giant."

Junta and Costin, 40, tangled in July 2000 after arguing about rough play at their sons' hockey practice in Reading.

Prosecutor Sheila Calkins said Orlandi left out what Junta did just before leaving Costin to die in the rink lobby, as several children, including their own, looked on.

"He took (Costin's) head, and he slammed it into the mat," she said. "The 'Gentle Giant.'"

Jurors will have more than a half-dozen versions of the fight to consider. They were expected to begin deliberations later today.

The case attracted national scrutiny following what some say is a surge of parental violence at youth sporting events.

Junta testified Wednesday that he tried to avoid coming to blows with Costin.

He left the rink after the initial confrontation, but returned minutes later to pick up his son.

A rink employee, Nancy Blanchard, testified she tried to stop Junta from entering, but he pushed her aside, bruising her arm.