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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND
Jan. 2&3, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 208
36 Pages 75¢
Home Of Bryan Heddleston

Major storm socks Midwest with heavy snow and winds

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A massive winter storm arcing from Gulf Coast states to the upper Midwest grounded scores of New Year's flights, knocked out power to thousands and threatened to dump more than a foot of snow across the northern half of the region.

Highway officials warned motorists to stay off roads and airlines canceled flights Saturday, hoping the storm would lift in time for the post-holiday traffic peak Sunday.

"We're urging everyone, if you don't need to be out, don't go out," said Sgt. Hubert Looney of the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Forecasters said parts of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri could get up to 15 inches of snow by tonight, with gusty winds creating near-blizzard conditions.

About a half-foot covered St. Louis by Friday night, along with areas of central and southeastern Illinois and central Iowa. Several inches fell on the Dakotas.

More than three dozen flights were canceled Friday at Lambert Airport in St. Louis and dozens of others were delayed, some for three hours or more. Trans World Airlines canceled all of this morning's flights into and out of the airport — about 140 total.

In Chicago, walls of sandbags were placed along Lakeshore Drive to prevent waves from Lake Michigan from flooding the busy road. O'Hare and Midway airports assembled than 100 pieces of snow removal equipment, along with hundreds of cots for travelers who may be stranded by the storm.

"Right now we have our crews in place, additional staff has been called in and is ready to go," Monique Bond, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation, said Friday. "We're ready to go — just waiting."

United passengers planning to fly from O'Hare should wait until Monday or Tuesday as the airline expects delays and cancellations, said spokesman Matt Triaca. Before dawn Saturday, American Airlines already had canceled half of its flights in and out of O'Hare, said spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan.

A Northwest Airlines spokesman said the Eagan, Minn.-based carrier had canceled about 150 flights systemwide Saturday because of bad weather to the east.

In Indiana, state officials declared snow emergencies in 19 counties, allowing police to ticket drivers on roads and tow cars parked on emergency roads.

Heavy, drifting snow also halted mail delivery in the Indianapolis area. Postmaster Mike Lamborne said the threat of freezing rain and icy conditions made it too dangerous for mail carriers to hit the streets Saturday.

The weather forced Purdue University to postpone its men's basketball game with Minnesota.

Deputies in Texas said tornadoes injured at least seven people and destroyed three mobile homes east of Huntsville. None of the injuries were life-threatening, said hospital spokeswoman Jill Baine. Both Walker and Trinity counties reported downed power lines and significant tree damage.

Over the state line in Arkansas, freezing rain toppled power lines and cut service to more than 100,000 utility customers.

Commissioners to meet Monday

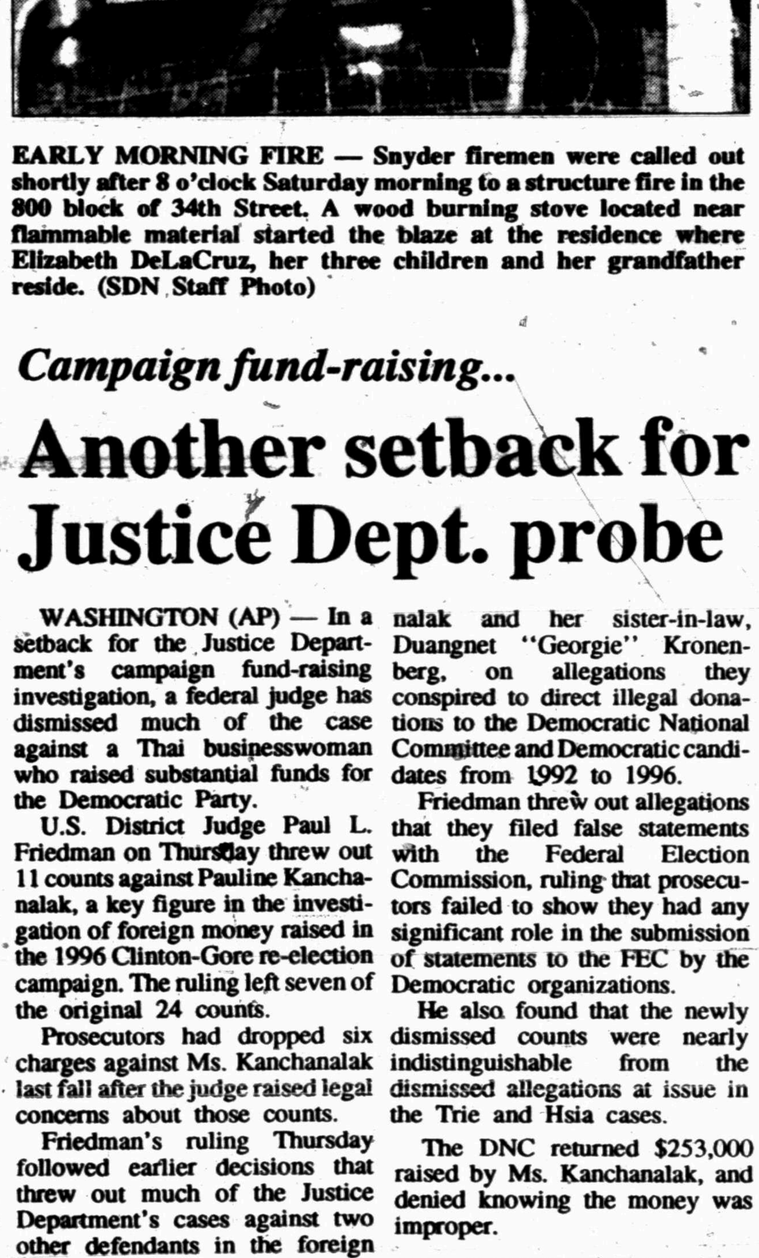
Two items of business will greet the Scurry County commissioners court when it meets Monday at 10 a.m. for the first session of the new year.

In one item of old business, the court is scheduled to complete county board appointments for 1999.

Board places left to be filled include three spots on the Child Welfare Board left vacant by outgoing board members Donna Zalman and the Rev. Raymond Duncan, as well as by the late James Aaron, III.

Commissioners also have one vacancy to fill on the Scurry County Library board.

In the one item of new business, Cogdell Memorial Hospital will present to the court a pharmaceutical prescription assistance program.



EARLY MORNING FIRE — Snyder firemen were called out shortly after 8 o'clock Saturday morning to a structure fire in the 800 block of 34th Street. A wood burning stove located near flammable material started the blaze at the residence where Elizabeth DeLaCruz, her three children and her grandfather reside. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN
By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "You know you're from a small town when there's no town nut — so people just take turns."

---

dallas is no longer Big D.

dallas and the dallas morning news join the ranks of abilene and the abilene reporter news. That's the price you pay when you slander our hometown.

Hayward Clay, a 1992 Snyder High School graduate, went on to Texas A&M and became a star tight end for the Aggies. After graduation there, the NFL became interested.

After some struggles, Clay was picked up by the dallas Cowboys. Because of some injuries, Clay moved into a starting role for the Cowboys and likely is earning himself a permanent spot on the roster.

The dallas morning news sports staff had this to say in an update column right after the 'pokes' victory over the Redskins.

"Tight end Hayward Clay, who partially blocked a punt in the Cowboys' 23-7 win over Washington, said he was simply carrying out his assignment.

"'I was supposed to drive the guy outside and then try to get inside of him. I did that, and I was able to get a hand on the ball,' said Clay who attended Snyder High School, a 4A school near Sweetwater."

Attention dallas writers, especially Jean-Jacques Taylor. Snyder is no nearer to Sweetwater than Sweetwater is to Snyder. It's 35 miles both ways and both are 4A schools, District 5-4A to be exact. And Snyder defeated Sweetwater, 23-7 this past season.

And in 1990, when Hayward Clay was a junior, Snyder defeated Sweetwater 17-3 in an Area playoff game that advanced Snyder to a regional contest against Stephenville. (Stephenville is near Brownwood). Even though Sweetwater is near Snyder, the Tigers and Mustangs didn't play when Hayward was a senior. The UIL doesn't know West Texas geography either, and put Snyder and Sweetwater in different districts. That goof has since been corrected.

The Snyder Tigers are coached by David Baugh, son of the legendary Sammy Baugh who played at TCU in Fort Worth. I think dallas is near Fort Worth. Sammy Baugh lives on a ranch near Rotan. Rotan is near both Snyder and Sweetwater.

TAKING THE OATH — Several county officials elected in November took the oath of office in a ceremony Friday morning at the Scurry County Courthouse. Precinct 4 Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey (middle) and District Clerk Trina Rodgers were sworn in by District Judge Ernie Armstrong. Lindsey is the first female to serve on the commissioners court. (SDN Staff Photo)

Campaign fund-raising...

Another setback for Justice Dept. probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a setback for the Justice Department's campaign fund-raising investigation, a federal judge has dismissed much of the case against a Thai businesswoman who raised substantial funds for the Democratic Party.

U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman on Thursday threw out 11 counts against Pauline Kanchanalak, a key figure in the investigation of foreign money raised in the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. The ruling left seven of the original 24 counts.

Prosecutors had dropped six charges against Ms. Kanchanalak last fall after the judge raised legal concerns about those counts.

Friedman's ruling Thursday followed earlier decisions that threw out much of the Justice Department's cases against two other defendants in the foreign money probe, Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie and Maria Hsia.

A number of Republican lawmakers have urged Attorney General Janet Reno to recommend an independent counsel to investigate the Clinton-Gore money-raising effort, including the roles of the president and vice president.

After conducting preliminary inquiries, she concluded the step was not warranted. She still is conducting a preliminary investigation on seeking a counsel to investigate former White House aide Harold Ickes.

Ms. Kanchanalak was indicted last summer on charges of illegally channeling $659,000 to the Democratic Party. Trial is scheduled for March 8 for Ms. Kanchanalak and her sister-in-law, Duangnet "Georgie" Kronenberg, on allegations they conspired to direct illegal donations to the Democratic National Committee and Democratic candidates from 1992 to 1996.

Friedman threw out allegations that they filed false statements with the Federal Election Commission, ruling that prosecutors failed to show they had any significant role in the submission of statements to the FEC by the Democratic organizations.

He also found that the newly dismissed counts were nearly indistinguishable from the dismissed allegations at issue in the Trie and Hsia cases.

The DNC returned $253,000 raised by Ms. Kanchanalak, and denied knowing the money was improper.

Legislature expected to study bills to counter ruling's effect

AUSTIN (AP) — Three years ago, four white students won a lawsuit against the University of Texas Law School for reverse discrimination, but lawmakers are still grappling with the aftermath.

The Legislature is expected to debate several bills this session to counter the effects of the Hopwood ruling, which ended affirmative action from admission and scholarship decisions at the state's public universities.

"The harsh reality of Hopwood is that the next generation of Texans will have to live in a state where our best black and brown minds have to go to other states," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.

The ruling, named after Cheryl Hopwood, one of four plaintiffs who sued for admission into the school, was allowed to stand in 1996 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Since then, the persisting problem has been "the brain drain," many school officials complain. Out-of-state schools have recruited some of Texas' most talented minority students with affirmative action scholarships.

When Texas becomes a majority-minority state, as demographers predict, lawmakers will face a much larger problem than if they address the issue now, said Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas.

A recent study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board found minority enrollment at Texas colleges had risen slightly in 1998, but the number of blacks and Hispanics at many of the state's most selective institutions remained below the level it was before affirmative action programs were dismantled.

A bipartisan push to put more money into financial aid could help, West said. The House Higher Education Committee has proposed spending an additional $250 million over two years.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, MOM — The first baby born in 1999 at Cogdell Memorial Hospital was to Summer Flores of Snyder on Jan. 1. in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Noah Isaiah Flores, right, was born at 7:10 a.m. weighing five pounds, six ounces, followed by Noel Isaac Flores, born at 7:41 a.m. weighing four pounds, 10 ounces. Last year's "new year baby" was five-pound, 12½-ounce Kelsey Nicole Reed born on Jan. 3. She was also delivered by Dr. James Burleson. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

ASK US

Q-Where can a person get the service station calendar that was featured in Friday's newspaper?

A—The calendar is published by Roadway Express and the firm's address is 1077 Gorge Boulevard, Box 471, Akron, OH 44309-0471.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 71 degrees; low, 31; 7 a.m. Saturday, 32; no precipitation.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, increasing cloudiness, cold. Low 15-20. NE wind 5-15 mph. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High, lower 30s. SE wind 5-15 mph.

Destiny Rylant
Cold

Sunset: 5:52 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:43 a.m.
Of 1 day in 1999, the sun has shone 1 day in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"You can never plan the future by the past."

Edmund Burke

Challenge for 1999:

Making sure Millennium Bugs stay dead

NEW YORK (AP) — With only a year to go until 2000, organizations that say their computers are ready to face the Millennium Bug now face the task of checking the fixes.

That means checking millions of lines of computer code, and then running what industry insiders call IVV — independent verification and validation. And that's after companies and organizations have already spent a fortune to inoculate their computers.

But since the alternative is likely worse, a whole "fix and test" industry has sprouted up, manned by an army of programmers who independently check the original programmers' debugging and run computer simulations pretending it's Jan. 1, 2000.

One such verifier is Sapiens International Corp., an Israeli company specializing in Year 2000 problems. Sapiens' verification business started picking up about six months ago and has really taken off in the last two or three months, said Monica Wooden, senior vice president for Sapiens America.

Companies like Sapiens have spent the past two years flushing out Y2K bugs for organizations ranging from Holiday Inn, IBM and Siemens Energy & Automation Inc., to the state of Arkansas and the Virginia Farm Bureau.

Founded in 1990, Sapiens is considered one of the leaders in the fix and test industry. It employs about 650 people and has $60 million to $70 million in yearly sales. It has scanned more than 100 million lines of code in more than 100,000 programs.

The problem known as the millennium bug, or the Year 2000 or just Y2K, results when computers use two digits to denote the year — such as "98" for 1998 — and read "00" as 1900 instead of 2000. That causes computers to think they have moved back a century and give faulty readings, corrupt the data or shut down completely.

Worst-case scenarios for Jan. 1, 2000, speak of chaos in the financial markets, electricity shutdowns, disrupted airline schedules and missed paychecks. More moderate forecasts suggest spotty power outages, delayed flights and ATMs refusing to dispense cash for a few days.

To see if it's ready for 2000, a company can send a sample of about 10,000 lines of computer code to the verification firm, which uses specialized software programs and programmers to scan for erroneous date calculations.

They also run simulations, moving the computers' internal clocks forward to the last minutes of 1999 to see what happens.

Once a company's computer code is checked and converted, it should expect to spend another 25 percent more to have a third party verify that the corrected code works, said Shai Sole, Sapiens' chief technical officer. But even then, nothing is perfect.

"There will obviously be bugs," Wooden said. "The key is to reduce the amount. There will be bugs at midnight (when 2000 arrives) and there will be bugs afterward. You just have to keep chipping away."

No one knows how many U.S. companies have completed the first phase of their Y2K fix because there's no one source of hard data for that kind of information.

While Wooden wouldn't mention specific clients — nondisclosure agreements are the norm in the Y2K industry — she did say that the state governments of North Carolina, New York and Louisiana had begun asking for bids on testing.

She also said that American insurance companies are well prepared, and billing companies, payroll companies and other financial organizations are gearing up for the final round of testing.

Automatic Data Processing, the country's largest payroll company, handles about 30 million W-2 forms every year and says it's ready for 2000. Marketing director John Gregory said the company announced in April that its AutoPay system successfully passed an independent audit — after working on the problem for 2½ years.

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Chicago U.S. murder capital, according to latest figures

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago is the nation's 1998 murder capital, despite experiencing a 10-year low in murders, according to preliminary data from cities nationwide.

Chicago had 698 homicides in 1998, surpassing New York City's homicide totals for the first time ever. New York has seen a dramatic drop in its homicides. There were 629 there last year, compared with a 1990 high of 2,262.

When looked at per capita, Chicago's 1998 homicide rate is more than double that of New York.

The bad news comes at a time when Chicago is witnessing a drop in murders. There were 759 murders there in 1997. The last year murders numbered less than 700 was 1988, when there were 663.

"One murder is too many, but we are always pleased when the numbers go down," Chicago police spokesman Pat Camden said.

He credited the city's community policing program for much of the decline. But once the final numbers are in, Chicago is expected to again have the highest violent crime rate of the eight largest U.S. cities, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Although the city's violent crime rate has dropped consistently in the last decade (it dropped 20 percent overall between 1990 and 1997), it still lags behind the other largest cities. In that same period, New York City cut its violent crime rate 47 percent.

"It is upsetting and very disturbing that we have now passed New York City in the number of murders...," said Arthur Lurigio, chairman of the criminal justice department at Loyola University. "I am at a loss as to why Chicago's reductions are not commensurate to other large cities."

Poverty levels in Chicago could account for some of the statistics, said James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

Six die in fire

CEYLON, Minn. (AP) — A defective heater in a garage was suspected of causing an early morning fire that engulfed a two-story wooden house and killed six people inside.

Five of those who died New Year's Day were members of one family and the sixth was a family friend, Martin County authorities said.

Investigators believe the fire started in a wall-mounted propane gas heater in the garage. The flames were spotted at 5:45 a.m. by Barb Cuppy, the mother of one of the victims, who lives across the street.

The victims were identified as Kathleen A. Hatfield, 60; her son, Alfred Hatfield, 40; and his three children, 8-year-old son JaJa, 7-year-old daughter Brenna, and 3-year-old son Brandon. The sixth victim was Jenny Hoffmeyer, 22, Ms. Cuppy's daughter.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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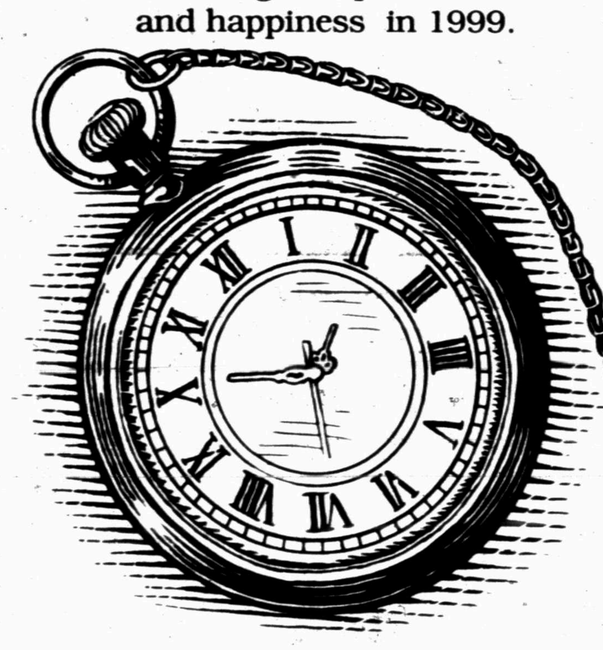
We've got that hometown spirit and we're passing it around!

Time To Get A Move On!

The clock has ticked down on the old calendar. Now is the time to gear up for a fresh start and look ahead to success and happiness in 1999.



Many thanks for giving us so much to celebrate this past year. We've enjoyed every minute of serving you and look forward to your continued support.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin the New Year with optimism and enthusiasm, Snyder National Bank renews its pledge for continued Leadership and Cooperation in all that is good for Snyder & Scurry County... and its Fine Folks!

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Snyder Oaks Care Center
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Susie Wishert

Resident of the month at Snyder Oaks Care Center is Susie Wishert. Mrs. Wishert is well loved by all employees and residents. She attends all exercise classes and participates in all activities. She has one son, Jeral Jay, and one daughter, Myrda Sue. Susie also has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Congratulations Susie for being selected Resident of the Month!

210 E. 37th Street, Snyder, Texas 915-573-9377, FAX 573-8306

Bible history offered by West Texas Bible Institute

Persons interested in learning more about the Bible will have that opportunity this spring when West Texas Bible Institute will conduct a course entitled, "Bible History I."

The class will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. weekly beginning Thursday in the Christian Student Center on the Western Texas College campus. Richard Rogers of the Sunset International Bible Institute Satellite School will be the instructor.

Tuition is free for all students. Those enrolled in audit level will not be required to take exams, memorize scriptures or write term papers. The only cost is a $3.95 study guide.

Intermediate level students are required to complete study guide exercises, memorize assigned passages and take written exams. In addition to the workbook, there is a $15 enrollment fee. A certificate of completion is provided.

Students enrolled in the Biblical Studies and Ministry Certificate program will complete additional assignments. Outside reading is required from books purchased by the student. Also, a term paper is required. Cost is $3.95 for the workbook plus the $15 enrollment fee.

Bill Looney, institute coordinator, said the advanced level student can actually earn credits toward a degree from Sunset International Bible School, located in Lubbock.

Numerous courses are available through Sunset, and others will be offered later, Looney said. "Classes are not just for preachers and church leaders, but are for anyone who has a desire to deepen their knowlege of scriptures."

For more information, contact Looney at 573-8242 or 573-0154.

Lawmaker involved in 2 research plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — He is, as anyone on Capitol Hill will tell you, a prolific talker. But Sen. Robert Torricelli also pays attention to the words of others.

The New Jersey Democrat is compiling memorable quotes from throughout history, as well as great speeches from the 20th century. The quotes may eventually be published; the speeches are being turned into a book, "In Our Own Words: The American Century," to be released this year.

In this project, he is emulating the senior Democratic senator, West Virginia's Robert C. Byrd, who has written a history of the Senate.

Torricelli's book will include the congressional testimony of Titanic survivor Olaus Abelseth; Woodrow Wilson's World War I declaration; a pre-game speech by football coach Vince Lombardi; Christmas greetings beamed from the orbiting Apollo 8 astronauts; and the words of prosecutor Marcia Clark at the O.J. Simpson trial.

Like their speeches, the speechmakers in the book are both noble and ignoble.

Here is Al Capone at a farewell press conference in 1927: "Let the worthy citizens of Chicago get their liquor the best they can. I'm sick of the job."

There is a Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon speaking in North Carolina in 1923: "(T)he strength of unity and completeness lies in the fact that there is only one Klan — one Klan, one nation, one and indivisible."

Torricelli explained, "I want someone to be able to read these speeches and without the filter of a historian or journalist, understand the 20th century in the words of leading Americans."

Among his favorites is William Faulkner's Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1950, a time of Cold War anxiety.

"I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail," Faulkner said. "He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. The poet's and writer's duty is to write about these things."

Torricelli collected quotes long before he first ran for Congress in 1982. Having concluded there was no adequate book of quotations, he compiled his own — 174 pages of ruminations throughout the centuries on war and peace, art and economics, life and death, global affairs and civil rights, even insults (Winston Churchill on a member of Parliament: "He spoke without a note and almost without a point.")

One copy of the compilation sits on Torricelli's office desk, a handy reference tool for when he works on speeches of his own. He said he may approach Rutgers University Press about publishing the compilation.

Torricelli said he was determined to compile a book on great speeches ever since he was a boy, when he would listen to famous American speeches on 33-rpm records his mother, a school librarian, would bring home.

He found a partner for his project after hearing author Andrew Carroll on the radio reading excerpts from his book "Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters."

With Carroll and the assistance of students from Rutgers and Princeton universities, Torricelli collected 170 great speeches for the upcoming book.

As incoming chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Torricelli is expected to expand his prolific speechmaking to audiences nationwide.

His political action committee published a collection of his own speeches and writings in 1995 as Torricelli, then a member of the House, prepared for his successful run for the Senate.

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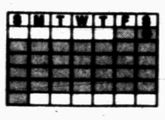

Today is the second day of 1999 and the 13th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy, D-Mass., announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for president.

On this day in 1974, President Richard Nixon signed into law a bill making 55 mph the speed limit in all states receiving Federal highway funds.

On this day in 1980, Queen Elizabeth awarded Cliff Richard membership in the Order of the British Empire.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676), American colonial leader; James Wolfe (1727-1759), British general; Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), writer; Dan Rostenkowski (1928-), U.S. congressman, is 71; Roger Miller (1936-1992), singer-songwriter; James Bakker (1940-), TV evangelist, is 59.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1965, Joe Namath was signed by the New York Jets.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "In our life there is a single color, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love." — Marc Chagall

TODAY'S MOON: Day after full moon (Jan. 1).

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Jan. 3, 1999

Today is the third day of 1999 and the 14th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1847, the city of Yerba Buena, Calif., changed its name to San Francisco.

On this day in 1973, George Steinbrenner bought the New York Yankees from CBS for $10 million.

On this day in 1989, the "Arsenio Hall Show" premiered on television.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Lucretia Mott (1793-1880), abolitionist-feminist; Father Damien (1840-1889), missionary; J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973), writer; Victor Borge (1909-), comedian-pianist, is 90; Sergio Leone (1921-1989), director; Bobby Hull (1939-), hockey great, is 60; Victoria Principal (1945-), actress, is 54; Stephen Stills (1945-), musician, is 54; Mel Gibson (1956-), actor, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1993, the Buffalo Bills defeated the Houston Oilers 41-38, coming back from a 32-point deficit to win in overtime.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Any one thing in the creation is sufficient to demonstrate a Providence to a humble and grateful mind." — Epictetus

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Jan. 1) and last quarter (Jan. 9).

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Dow Chemical to appeal ruling

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Dow Chemical will ask the Nevada Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to uphold a $4.2 million award to a Las Vegas woman in a breast-implant case, a company spokesman said.

The court ruled 4-1 on Thursday that Charlotte Mahlum wasn't entitled to $10 million in punitive damages. But in a 3-2 vote, it kept intact $4.2 million in compensatory damages, affirming the jury's conclusion that the silicone implants made Mahlum sick.

The jury also found that Dow Chemical had a duty to ensure the safety of the implants made by Dow Corning, once the largest maker of silicone implants. Dow Chemical owns 50 percent of Dow Corning.

Dow Chemical spokesman John Musser said courts in California, New York and Michigan have examined essentially the same evidence and determined Dow Chemical was not liable for Dow Corning's implants.

Happy New Year!

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573-9253

Free Y2K Preparedness Workshop: 12 Step Planning

Recently, the **American Red Cross** recommended Americans begin preparing for Y2K. Some people are beginning to realize that Y2K may create severe hardship and even life threatening conditions in many parts of the world. Strategic planning for the year 2000 computer problem is crucial in the months ahead. This is a time for prudence, not panic; a time for faith, not fear.

The Bible says, **"A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it."** (Prov. 22:3) We all need to sharpen our personal reliance skills rather than relying on others if we are to be a blessing for the problems arising from the Millennium Bug.

Here is a minimum statement of the major areas we all must address to be ready for the year 2000:

- *What will you do in the event of a sustained power failure?*
- *Where would you live in a crisis?*
- *Would you be reasonably safe without 911?*
- *What if you lost your job?*
- *Are your savings and valuables safe?*
- *What will you do if there are food and water shortages?*
- *Are you on friendly terms with your neighbors?*
- *What if you or your family needed medical services, or medicine?*

These are all-important questions to consider and thinking about them in advance will help you to become a part of the Y2K solution instead of a panicky, Y2K victim. Our prayer is that this Y2K crisis will pull us together. The difference is being prepared physically, emotionally mentally, financially, and most importantly, spiritually.

This practical, hands-on 12-Step Planning Workshop will address each of these topics and provide sources for each: Keeping Your Identity • Drinking Water • Food/Sources • Finances • Clothing • Emergency Medical Supplies • Heating/Lighting Sources • Emergency Preparedness Library • Communication • Waste Disposal • Home Safety • Family Safety.

Date/Time: January 9 - 8 am til noon
Location: FamilyLife Community Church, 904-26th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549
Contact: Doug Morrell, preregistration is preferred
Phone: (915)573-0482
Childcare: Not provided

FamilyLife Community Church

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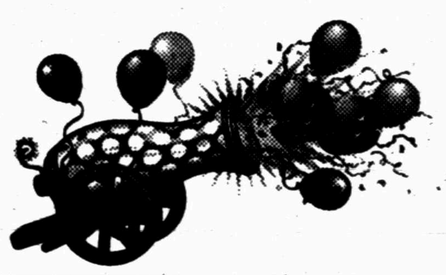

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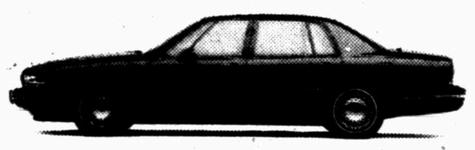

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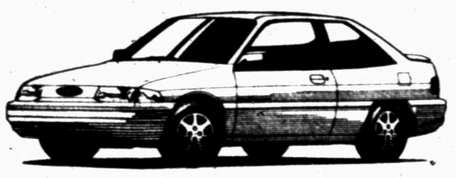

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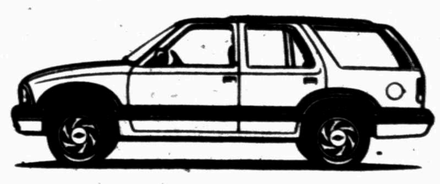

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Analog-to-digital shift tops consumer electronics in 1999

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The cool new high tech gadget everyone's talking about these days is something we've been watching in our living rooms for almost 60 years. But in 1999, say consumer electronics aficionados, television gets a whole new look.

"This new digital television is not your grandfather's television," said Jeff Joseph, vice president of the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association in Arlington, Va. "It's amazing. It has an enormous 'Wow!' factor. Any time consumers see it, their eyes pop out."

Television viewers may think that their football game, soap opera or science show looks fine as it is. But when a show is broadcast digitally onto a high definition television, the action appears disturbingly lifelike, nearly three-dimensional.

Although the high definition digital television debuted Nov. 1, its introduction as a mainstream consumer item comes Jan. 7 to Jan. 10 at the 1999 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

There, among the 90,000 product developers, financiers, investors, venture capitalists, reporters, exhibitors and actual consumers, the crisp and clear digital televisions and their makers are expected to be the darlings of the world's largest annual trade event.

"A lot of people may have heard of digital television, but at CES they're finally going to see it," said Kevin Hause, analyst with International Data Corp. of Framingham, Mass. "It's finally time for consumers to get a really good look at them."

Television stations in more than 40 cities are now airing high-definition broadcasts, but most Americans are missing the show because they haven't been willing to shell out the $5,000 to $12,000 for a new set and tuner that show the brighter, crystal-clear images. Prices, though, are expected to drop 10 to 20 percent in 1999.

While televisions are the biggest item making the high-tech shift, technology is also making a leap in other consumer goods such as telephones and VCRs.

"It appears we're going to go through an evolution from analog to digital," said Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies, Inc. in Campbell, Calif. "It's a fascinating change, and certainly the buzz of industry."

Electricity travels through either analog or digital signals. Analog signals are generated directly, like a light hitting a camera picture tube. They can be converted into digital signals that are composed entirely of ones and zeros. A lot more can be done with digital information because it can be manipulated by computers and is more immune to noise.

For example, digital VCRs can now record on a hard drive instead of cassettes, a function that allows television watchers to set up their own instant replays and pauses during broadcasts.

Digital video discs play both music and movies on a five-inch disc with CD-quality sound. And digital telephones can package Caller ID and an answering machine.

With the touch of a button, users of digital camcorders can create special effects including fade, dissolve and scroll up or down. And digital audio is bringing movie theater-like surround sound into the living room.

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GOLDEN TERRACE Village
Resident of the Month
Floye Johnson

Floye Johnson grew up on a farm in Erath County and lived there for 18 years. She has lived in Scurry County for 49 years and at Golden Terrace Phase III since 1995. Mrs. Johnson has six living children (three sons and three daughters), 23 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She enjoys birds and anything outside. Her hobbies are piecing quilt tops and embroidery.
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Resident received bouquet donated by Countryplace Floral & Gift Shop

Cogdell Memorial Hospital
Department of the Month
Prime Rehab Wellness & Development

Pictured (from left top row) Matt Cross, Cardiac Rehab Coordinator, Jeff Mason, Physical Therapist, Kathleen Weaver, M.D., Medical Director. Standing, Delwin Bane, volunteer, Jeff Reecer, CEO, Cogdell Memorial Hospital, Richard Stout, Physical Therapist, Tammy Tyler, LMSW, Social Services, Kathy Curry, Physical Therapist, Nicki Riggs, PT Tech (PRN), Santiago Gutierrez, PT Tech, Cliff Shiller, Physical Therapist & PT Manager, Loretta Lee, Speech-Language Pathologist. Seated, Bonnie Ward, clerk, Denise Fuentes, PT Tech, Becky Rodriguez, exercise assistant, Cathy Trout, Physical Therapist & Rehab Services Director, Julienne Stewart, Physical Therapist, Peggy Foster, clerk. Not pictured is Robin Cave, PT Tech.
Prime Rehab specializes in all areas of rehabilitation services, including cardiac rehab, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social services.
Cogdell Memorial Hospital

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

How can calories be "empty"?

DEAR DR. GOTT: Where do the calories come from in alcohol? I'm told they are "empty calories"; if so, why do they cause weight gain?

DEAR READER: Every edible substance contains calories. That is, when metabolized by the body, each provides energy. Without the calories in our food, we would have no fuel to burn for our life processes. Of course, food contains other nutrients as well — such as protein vitamins and minerals — that the body needs. This is how a well-balanced diet provides the components that are vital for good health and growth.

Some foods, however, are composed almost exclusively of calories, without other nutritional benefits. Such foods are said to contain "empty calories." Sugar and alcohol are good examples. When people consume a surfeit of empty calories, they gain fat, which has no healthful benefits. Thus, patients on weight-reduction diets are often prohibited from consuming empty calories.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I take care of a 95-year-old relative who developed a cough and green sputum about a month ago. The doctor said that antibiotics should not be used in the elderly. Why not?

DEAR READER: Beats me. I have never heard of this prohibition. True, doctors sometimes withhold antibiotics in the terminally ill or in the advanced elderly in order to avoid interfering with a natural, painless and dignified death in a person whose quality of life is severely compromised. But being 95 is no justification for such an act. If your relative enjoys life, has a lung infection and is not hopelessly senile, antibiotics are appropriate.

Ask for a sit-down consultation with the doctor so that he or she can explain the basis for such a decision.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've always experienced pain and blockage in my ears when descending during airplane flights. Recently, I tried a new product called Earplanes. These plugs relieved my discomfort. Perhaps other readers might find them useful.

DEAR READER: Your letter was one of several I received from readers who use Earplanes to avoid the build-up of pressure in the ears while flying.

I questioned my ear-nose-and-throat experts, none of whom had any experience with this new product. Therefore, they were unwilling to support or refute the advantages of the earplugs. Nonetheless, they all agreed that Earplanes are free of risk or hazard. Consequently, if the product works, I encourage its use. For more information, call toll-free (800) EAR-6151.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: When my father died, the cause of his death was not clear-cut. In order to address this issue, his doctors requested an autopsy. However, my mother refused, saying that "he had suffered enough." Are autopsies important?

DEAR READER: They're not only important but vital when the cause of death is unclear. In many instances, of course, the reason a person succumbs is obvious and an autopsy is not necessary. Still, a post-mortem examination may show unexpected findings that a family needs to know. For example, a few years ago, I took care of a middle-aged man who suddenly and without warning died of intestinal bleeding. Although we had incorrectly assumed he had bled from an ulcer, an autopsy revealed that the site was actually a small colon cancer that had eroded an artery. Because colon cancer tends to run in families, the patient's brother and sister underwent colonoscopy. Both siblings were found to have pre-malignant polyps that, if they hadn't been removed, would have turned malignant. Thus, on the basis of their brother's autopsy, two relatives were given a new lease on life.

In addition to providing practical benefits for the living, autopsies can help bring closure to the relatives of a loved one.

Finally, post-mortem examinations are a crucial way for doctors to learn more about a variety of diseases. For example, the examination of the brains of Alzheimer's patients has enabled physicians better to understand this puzzling and common affliction.

When an autopsy consent is requested, many families are understandably reluctant to allow a post-mortem examination. The most common excuse I hear is "my wife (or husband) has suffered enough." On close scrutiny, however, this reasoning doesn't make sense. The patient is dead; the suffering is over. Also, modern autopsies are respectfully and carefully performed so that the procedure rarely interferes with the families' plans or the morticians' duties.

In short, by granting permission for an autopsy, relatives are taking a very life-affirming approach to their loved one's death.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Following an active autumn season of cross-country running, my 17-year-old son developed extremely tender and painful areas over the lower shin bones. X-rays were negative and a bone scan showed "periosteal reaction consistent with shin splints." What is this disorder?

DEAR READER: Stress fractures and shin splints are two of the most common consequences of any sport that requires running.

In the first instance, tiny cracks — called stress fractures — can cause disability and pain. This disorder is diagnosed by X-rays or a bone scan. Treatment consists of rest.

Shin splints, however, are not usually as evident as stress fractures on X-rays and bone scans. This uncomfortable affliction is marked by portions of calf muscle that pull away from the shin, leading to difficulty running. As the muscle fibers detach from the shin, they exert traction on the bone covering, called the periosteum. This reaction can often be seen as an area of inflammation on the bone scan, as was the case with your son. Shin splints are treated with rest, followed by a cautious return to running when pain diminishes. Specially padded insoles may help prevent a recurrence.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am taking medicine for depression. During my last visit to the dentist, I was surprised to learn that I had four cavities for the first time in my adult life. Could the medicine be to blame?

DEAR READER: In all likelihood, yes. A recent study in the medical journal General Hospital Psychiatry found that cavities and mouth infections have become more widespread since the rising use of antidepressants. Because these drugs often reduce the flow of saliva, patients frequently experience dry mouth syndrome, which can interfere with the removal of bacteria from the teeth and gums. The researchers concluded that doctors should warn their patients of these risks.

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GOP again eyes tax penalty for married couples

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans will resurrect legislative efforts in the new Congress to give married couples a tax break by getting rid of the "marriage tax penalty" in existing law.

GOP lawmakers "will work to make elimination of the marriage tax penalty our top tax relief priority to help families in 1999," Rep. Jerry Weller, R-Ill., said in the party's weekly radio address.

With Weller as chief sponsor, the House last year passed legislation that would have given some 28,000 married couples tax relief. But the measure died because the Senate never acted on it.

"Republicans believe it is wrong and unfair that today's tax code imposes higher taxes on married working couples," Weller said.

"In fact, an average married working couple pays almost $1,400 more in taxes than an identical couple living together outside of marriage," he added. In his district, he said that is equal to a year's tuition to a community college or three months of day care.

Russian artist is depicting miseries of her homeland

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian painter known in Soviet days as "the queen of the Moscow Artists' Union" has brought to the capital of the other Cold War superpower reminders of the stark lives of many Russians in post-Soviet Moscow.

A veteran of the Soviet war in Afghanistan begs on crutches for money to buy an artificial leg. A young man, with a sign offering deals in gold and dollars, stands not far away. A sign carried by a woman with a couple of puppies does not offer them for sale but begs for money to feed them.

They are painted life-size cutouts, the art of 54-year-old Tatyana Nazarenko, who under the old regime obediently glorified communism and the Communist Party.

But even then, said Rebecca Phillips Abbott, director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Nazarenko also tried to "extend the boundaries of Socialist realism and paid for her semi-independence by being excluded from some exhibitions."

Under the Soviets, said curator Alexandre Gertsman, Ms. Nazarenko even took the provocative step of painting the faces of anti-Soviet dissidents on the figures of century-old heroes whom the communists considered their precursors.

Abbott's museum is showing Ms. Nazarenko's paintings and cutouts until Jan. 10. Paintings line the walls, and cutouts of Russian street people occupy floor space.

In one diorama, Ms. Nazarenko painted well-dressed young people looking at a crucifixion scene in a museum. Below them in the Washington exhibit, three life-size cutouts of roughly dressed young people sit looking blankly in the opposite direction. One has a heavily tattooed face, including the word "Blockhead" above his eyes.

Yunna Morits, a Russian poet visiting Washington, described an exhibit she saw in Moscow of Ms. Nazarenko's art in which the visitors looked just like the artwork. "It was hard to tell whether the people were looking at the cutouts or the other way around," she said.

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HOW THE PENGUINS SAVED CHRISTMAS — Hermleigh Elementary School students recently presented "How The Panguins Saved Christmas." First grade penguins (top left photo) from left, back row, Dustin Dacus, Timothy Arellano, Shawn Shankles, Gloria Ramirez, Vincent Mireles, J.P. Smith; front row, Jaron Perry, Jordan Williamson, Jose Rangel, Melanie Karlainen, Naomi Arellano. Jacob Sanchez is not pictured. Other penguins (middle left photo) include second grader Gerald Shearer, and third graders, J.D. Mireles as the Old Emperor Penguin, Ben Harrington, Brett McClure, Willie Berkley and Jonathan Hernandez. Josh Beasley is Santa Claus. The reindeer (bottom left photo) are from left, back row, Marissa Davis, Rustin Webb, Ashley Luna, Jeremy Eaton, Casey Williamson; front row, Lelan Shankles, Sean McClure, Shaye Williams, Tony Perales. Kindergarten penguins (top right photo) from left, back row, Lori Garcia, Garrett Gray, Gavin Gray, Junior Arellano; front row, Matt Williams, Jacob Nachlinger, Megan Shearer (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Deputy shot in Nixon

NIXON (AP) — A Gonzales County deputy responding to a disturbance call over loud music was wrestled to the ground and shot with his own weapon on Friday, officials said.

Deputy Randall Boop was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Victoria with a gunshot wound to the hip. He was listed in stable condition, a hospital spokeswoman said.

A manhunt continued through the evening for the shooter, who was thought to be armed with the deputy's gun and hiding in the town of Nixon.

Dozens of law enforcement officers from surrounding counties and the Department of Public Safety assisted in the search that began in late afternoon near Nixon, said Sgt. Steve Skinner of the Gonzales County Sheriff's Department.

Authorities have identified the shooter who fled with another man after the disturbance call but did not release his name.

Spotlight crushes woman at hotel

HOUSTON (AP) — A Louisiana woman died Friday after a spotlight fell and struck her at a Houston hotel.

Police said three other people were hurt in the pre-dawn New Year's accident at the downtown Hyatt.

Investigators said the 200-pound spotlight fell several stories and crushed 33-year-old Tracy Guy of Kenner, La.

Ms. Guy died later at Ben Taub Hospital.

the stae flower of Oregon is the Oregon grape.

Thanks!

Thank you, Precinct 4, for the priviledge of being your Commissioner for the past eight years and thank you Scurry County for your support and thoughtfulness throughout my term.

Jerry M. Gannaway

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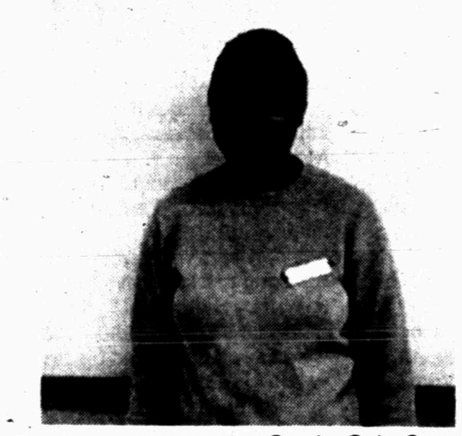
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Roy Braziel

Employee of the month at Snyder Oaks Care Center is Roy Braziel. She has worked at Snyder Oaks Care Center for ten years. Roy has twin girls, Desiree and Dominique, in the seventh grade and one son, Dexter, in the fifth grade. Roy is the Rehab Aide at Snyder Oaks Care Facility. Congratulations Roy for being selected as Employee of the Month!

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The Association for Retarded Citizens held an annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 17th for clients, their families, staff and ARC members at the WTC cafeteria. We would like to thank the following businesses for making it special.

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SPORTS

Williams, Longhorns bury 'Dogs in Cotton Bowl, 38-11

DALLAS (AP) — Ricky Williams closed out his college career by striking a Heisman pose — to match the trophy that's already his.

He rushed 30 times for 203 yards and scored two touchdowns as the No. 20 Texas Longhorns beat No. 25 Mississippi State 38-11 in the Cotton Bowl on Friday.

Williams got some running room after redshirt freshman quarterback Major Applewhite burned the blitzing Bulldogs for three touchdown passes in Texas' first Cotton Bowl victory since 1982.

Heisman winner Williams, who thrived in the foggy, rainy conditions before a sellout 72,611 fans, scored on a 37-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Upon reaching the end zone, he froze into the famous stiff-armed pose seen atop the Heisman trophy.

"It was something the guys were trying to get me to do all year but I wanted to win the Heisman first," Williams said. "We had a big lead and I knew the penalty wouldn't hurt us."

The 15 yards for excessive celebrating hardly disturbed the Longhorns.

Williams scored again on a 2-yard third-period run against the tiring Mississippi State defense and finished with a school bowl-record rushing yardage. The Texas rushing record for a bowl game was 164 by Eddie Phillips against Notre Dame in 1971.

"State had a tough defense but we had a size advantage on them," Williams said. "The offensive line did a good job of handling the crazy blitzes and Major and Wane (McGarity) kept them honest with the passing game."

Williams, who set 16 NCAA records during his career, had 248 all-purpose yards. He caught five passes for 45 yards and his rushing total was the third-highest in Cotton Bowl history.

"It was a lot of fun for me to watch our offense and defense play like they did," Williams said. "I was glad I came back for my senior year."

The game was dedicated to the late Doak Walker and Williams noted "my first touchdown run was his old number, No. 37. That run was for him."

The Bulldogs hounded Williams' every step, but they were forced to pay for their blitzes by Applewhite, who hit two touchdown passes in the first half for a 14-3 lead.

Applewhite, noting the Bulldogs' jamming at the line of scrimmage, twice hit McGarity for touchdown passes on plays of 59 and 52 yards, victimizing cornerback Kendall Roberson both times.

McGarity capped off a 97-yard drive with his first touchdown reception in the first quarter as he slipped behind Roberson. In the second period, McGarity caught a short pass, shook off Roberson's tackle and sprinted the rest of the way for the score.

"Major did an outstanding job handling all the blitzes," said Texas coach Mack Brown. "He did threw the ball where it was supposed to be. He throws the deep ball well."

McGarity did his part. "We worked to perfection today," he said. "Major did a great job of getting some air under the ball."

"Nobody has covered McGarity one-on-one this year," Brown said.

Applewhite said he knew the Bulldogs would be blitzing on almost every down.

"We thought they would bring everything they had and if we picked it up we could do what we wanted to do," Applewhite said. "Ricky was amazing as usual."

Brown said it was a typical Williams performance.

"The rumor was he was fat," said Brown, "but I don't think he was out of shape at all. He looked pretty good to me."

Williams joked "I came up here this morning hoping my pants would fit and they did."

MSU coach Jackie Sherrill said of Williams: "We knew we had to tackle well or it would be a long day. Applewhite also hurt us with some of his throws. He did a great job of throwing the deep ball."

Bulldogs linebacker Barrin Simpson said Williams lived up to his billing. "With a great back like Williams you can't make many mistakes," he said.

Aggie offense sputters again; Buckeyes cap Big Ten sweep

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — All No. 3 Ohio State can do now is wait on some help from Florida State — and hope its 24-14 victory Friday night in the Sugar Bowl was championship material.

The Buckeyes kept alive their slim hopes of sharing the national title by beating No. 8 Texas A&M in a game that began like it might be the rout they could have used, but had too many anxious moments in the end.

Joe Germaine threw for a touchdown, Joe Montgomery rushed for one and the special teams came up with a blocked punt return for a score — all in the first quarter. But that was all the touchdowns Ohio State (11-1) could muster.

It was the first time the Buckeyes beat Michigan and won a New Year's Day bowl game in the same season since 1968, which is also the last time Ohio State won a national championship.

Whether that adds up to another one depends on No. 2 Florida State beating top-ranked Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl — and the AP voters being impressed enough with Ohio State to make them No. 1. The Fiesta winner is the automatic choice for national champion in the coaches poll.

"If it's a sloppy game and Florida State wins, you could make an argument that the Buckeyes are as good as anybody in the country," coach John Cooper said.

The Buckeyes had few problems against the Wrecking Crew defense of Texas A&M (11-3), but may have lacked the knockout punch they needed. Ohio State continually broke down once it crossed midfield, and Dan Stultz didn't help the cause by missing two field goals.

"I thought we played a real good, solid game tonight," Cooper said. "I thought we played a real good, solid team. I was a little disappointed at halftime that we didn't score a couple of more touchdowns."

The Aggies were making their first appearance in the Sugar Bowl since winning their only national championship 49 years ago.

Coach R.C. Slocum had said the Buckeyes should have a shot at sharing the national title, and he may know best as the only coach to face Ohio State and Florida State. In the Kickoff Classic, his Aggies put a scare into the Seminoles before losing 23-14.

"We'll play anybody head-to-head in the country," said receiver David Boston, the Sugar Bowl MVP after catching 11 passes for 105 yards. "I'm not going to make a comment on No. 1. We'll have to see how everything shakes out."

Texas A&M, which came from behind in five of its victories this year, never quit. After trailing 24-7 at halftime, the Aggies closed to 24-14 on a 7-yard touchdown pass from Branndon Stewart to Leroy Hodge.

They tried for one more comeback — just like the one over Kansas State in the Big 12 Championship game that put them in the Sugar Bowl — but Jerry Rudzinski tipped a lateral pass and recovered the fumble to end one drive, and the Buckeyes' defense made enough plays to keep the lead.

The victory made it a New Year's Day sweep for the Big 10 — and gave it a 5-0 record in bowl games for the first time in conference history.

Cooper had said he would try to score as many points as possible against the Aggies, and it showed.

Ohio State didn't look anything like a team trying to milk the clock with a 10-point lead throughout the fourth quarter. Germaine continued to throw downfield, with mixed results, and frustration began to mount even if the points didn't.

The Aggies, who had managed just three first downs after taking their opening drive for a touchdown, got three first downs off penalties during a 68-yard drive that culminated with Hodge's touchdown.

Derek Ross, who blocked a punt that Kevin Griffin returned for a touchdown in the first quarter, got into a shoving match with teammate Joe Brown on the sidelines, and then the Buckeyes got a personal foul after their kickoff return.

Despite a commanding lead, Germaine wound up 21-of-38 for 222 yards. That set an Ohio State bowl record for passes attempted.

Bowl game round-up

By The Associated Press

Rose Bowl

No. 9 Wisconsin 38, No. 6 UCLA 31

At Pasadena, Calif., Ron Dayne rushed for 246 yards and a record-tying four touchdowns against UCLA's weak defense.

Dayne scored on runs of 54, 7, 10 and 22 yards to lead Wisconsin (11-1) to its first 11-victory season. UCLA (10-2) lost its final two games of the season after winning 20 in a row.

Citrus Bowl

No. 15 Michigan 45, No. 11 Arkansas 31

At Orlando, Fla., Anthony Thomas ran for 139 yards and three touchdowns as Michigan (10-3) beat Arkansas (9-3).

The Wolverines (10-3) blew a 24-10 halftime lead and trailed 31-24 in the fourth quarter before rallying. Michigan tied it on Thomas' 1-yard TD run with 5:45 left and then pulled away with two scores in the final 2½ minutes — a 21-yard pass from Tom Brady to DiAllo Johnson and a 26-yard interception return by James Whitley.

Gator Bowl

No. 12 Georgia Tech 35, No. 17 Notre Dame 28

At Jacksonville, Fla., local product Dez White caught TD passes of 44 and 55 yards from Joe Hamilton as Georgia Tech (10-2) reached the 10-win mark for the second time in school history.

Hamilton threw for 237 yards and three TDs, ran for 19 yards and caught a 5-yard TD pass from running back Joe Burns. Autry Denson ran for 130 yards and three touchdowns for Notre Dame (9-3).

Outback Bowl

No. 22 Penn State 26, Kentucky 14

At Tampa, Fla., Kevin Thompson threw a 56-yard TD pass to Joe Nastasi, Chafie Fields scored on a 19-yard reverse and Travis Forney kicked a bowl-record four field goals for Penn State (9-3).

Kentucky's Tim Couch threw for 337 yards but was intercepted twice and sacked six times in the first New Year's bowl game for the Wildcats (7-5) since 1952.

Holmes vs. Foreman...

Battle of the aged is still a possibility

HOUSTON (AP) — Don't count out George Foreman and Larry Holmes just yet.

Promoter Roger Levitt says the former heavyweight champs may still fight on Jan. 23. The 12-round match, scheduled for the Houston Astrodome, was called off Friday, according to Foreman's brother.

"George says it's off," Roy Foreman told The Associated Press, adding that Levitt did not meet the deadline for paying Foreman the remaining $9 million of his $10 million purse.

"They were supposed to have the money last week and they didn't have it," Roy Foreman said. "George gave them an extra week and they still didn't have it."

Holmes hadn't been told that the fight was off.

"I don't know what's going on," he said.

But Levitt said Friday he still expected the deal to be closed Monday.

"George Foreman will have his letter of credit," Levitt told KRIV television.

"Ninety-five percent of the financial markets have been away for the holidays," he said. "George knows the pressure we've been under and his lawyers have been extremely kind in working with us. Everybody is trying to get this on."

The match, scheduled for two weeks after Foreman's 50th birthday, was to carry a $39.95 closed circuit television price tag. Holmes, who was 49 on Nov. 3, had promised it would be worth the money.

"I appreciate George giving me the opportunity to whip on him a little bit," Holmes said when the fight was announced in September. "He says the same thing about me, so you got to buy a ticket to see it.

"This will be a classic. It's history. It's two men who over the decades never fought. Two men with lots of pride. Two men will give it all and only one will win. I'm sure that it will be me and George thinks it will be him."

Foreman, who became the oldest heavyweight champion when he regained the WBA crown at age 45 by knocking out Michael Moorer on Nov. 5, 1994, seemed eager for the fight.

"Larry Holmes was a second-rate fighter sparring for (Muhammad) Ali when I had my original career," he said. "This is the only time this fight could be made. This is the only time it is important."

At 99, the combined age of the fighters was believed to be the highest in boxing history. Holmes' career record is 66-6 and Foreman's is 76-5.

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

Friday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Penn State 26, Kentucky 14
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Texas 38, Mississippi State 11
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia Tech 35, Notre Dame 28
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Michigan 45, Arkansas 31
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Wisconsin 38, UCLA 31
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Ohio State 24, Texas A&M 14

Saturday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Syracuse (8-3) vs. Florida (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Monday, Jan. 4
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe Ariz.
Tennessee (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Sports Briefs

49ers bring Haley out of retirement

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Desperate to bolster their pass rush, the San Francisco 49ers plan to bring Charles Haley out of retirement and play him in Sunday's wild-card game against the Green Bay Packers.

Haley, a linebacker-defensive end, was en route to the 49ers' Santa Clara headquarters. Provided he works out well and passes a physical, he'll be signed and put to work in time for the 49ers' playoff showdown, a source close to the team told The Associated Press.

Haley, 34, racked up 97½ sacks in 11 NFL seasons, the last five in Dallas after starting his career with the 49ers in 1986.

National Football League Playoff Glance

Wild Cards
Saturday, Jan. 2
Buffalo at Miami, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Arizona at Dallas, 4:05 p.m. (ABC)
Sunday, Jan. 3
New England at Jacksonville, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Green Bay at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Dallas, Green Bay or San Francisco at Atlanta, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Buffalo, Miami or New England at Denver, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 10
Buffalo, Jacksonville or Miami at New York Jets, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Arizona, Green Bay or San Francisco at Minnesota, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Local Sports Schedule

SATURDAY
Basketball: WTC at Collin County College, 6 p.m.
Basketball: San Angelo Central at Snyder JV & varsity boys, 1:30, 3 p.m.
Basketball: Seminole at Snyder varsity girls, 6:30.
Basketball: Hermleigh at Ira varsity girls & boys, 2 p.m.
Basketball: Snyder JV girls at Midland Christian tourney.
MONDAY
Basketball: WTC at Southwest Shootout, Waco.
TUESDAY
Basketball: WTC at Southwest Shootout, Waco.
Basketball: Snyder varsity girls & boys at Levelland, 6:30, 8 p.m.
Basketball: Loraine at Hermleigh varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.
Basketball: Klondike at Ira varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.

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SPORTS

Local sports year in review...

1998 was thrill ride of highs, lows and changes

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

For area athletes, coaches and their fans, the journey through 1998 was like a roller coaster ride in the dark. It was a thrilling up-and-down trip where you could never be sure of what was coming around the next corner.

Coaching changes brought about new faces. District realignment brought about new places. And there were a number of uplifting victories and heartbeaking losses.

Here now is a quick glance back at the 1998 local sports scene.

The year began on a calm note, as local basketball teams positioned themselves for district and conference races.

It wasn't until the first day of February that changes started taking place — in the form of UIL realignment.

Snyder, which many people believed would remain its South Plains district, was instead sent south to compete once again with the likes of Sweetwater, Big Spring, Andrews, San Angelo Lake View and Ft. Stockton.

For District 6 six-man, out was the annual cellar-dwellar Loraine and in came traditional powerhouse Sands.

With the changes not taking effect until the fall, area hoop teams remained focused on the season at hand.

Riddled by injuries and carrying on the of the tougher schedules in the state, Western Texas struggled to a 7-23 overall record and 2-12 conference mark under first-year coach Valery Jackson.

The Lady Tigers finished their second season under head coach Rick Archer with a 13-14 mark overall and a 3-7 district record.

After a dominating performance early on, the Ira girls struggled in league play as well, finishing at 20-5 on the season, but failing to make the playoffs.

For the Ira boys, it was a 16-9 final mark in what would end up being head coach Russell Gee's last season at the helm of the Bulldogs.

Three local squads did advance to the postseason. The Hermleigh boys and girls won district titles, while the Tigers secured a third place finish in 2-4A.

The Lady Cardinals' season ended in the bi-district round, along with the Cardinals. The Hermleigh girls finished 15-9, with the Cards sporting a 11-14 final record.

The Tigers seemed to have their bi-district contest wrapped up, before a late foul gave Hereford a 35-34 victory, ending Snyder's year at 17-16.

With the hoops season concluded, spring sports came to the forefront, as well as a coaching change.

Ira assistant football coach Toby Goodwin was promoted to the head job, replacing Gee who had posted back-to-back 1-9 seasons.

On the golf scene, the NJCAA lifted its one-year probation of the WTC golf team in April and the Lady Tigers won another district title by a remarkable 195 strokes.

The Lady Tigers went on to win the regional tourney, breaking their own mark set a year earlier with a two-day total of 641.

Snyder's Landon Day, who finished second in the district medalist race, also competed for Snyder.

Rounding out the links action in April, ex-Lady Tiger golfer Brooke Lowrance made the All-Big 12 team at Texas Tech, with a strong performance in the conference tourney.

Five Snyder tennis players advanced to regional competition. The doubles teams of Jamie Juarez-Adrian Gonzales and Laura Gonzales-Whitney Graham, along with singles entry Allen Smith, competed for SHS.

On the track, Callie Bane set a Snyder High School record in the 300-meter hurdles at the Big Spring relays, posting a time 49.95 seconds.

On the diamond, the Lady Tiger softball squad ended its first campaign under head coach Carmen Bohannon with a 1-0 setback to Ft. Stockton in the area round of the playoffs. The Lady Tigers went 16-17 on the year.

The month of May was dominated by action on the baseball diamond.

Despite bright moments in the field, Ira and Hermleigh missed out on postseason play, while Snyder earned a share of the district title.

The Tigers embarked on a playoff run which wouldn't end until the first day of June. Snyder captured series wins over Pampa, El Paso Riverside and Lake View, before falling to Sherman in the regional semifinals.

Snyder finished with a 30-8 mark, having never lost consecutive games.

Also in regional action, the WTC rodeo squads earned a trip to the national finals. The Lady Westerners won the regional event, with the WTC men nabbing the runner-up spot.

Back on the links, the Lady Tigers went to Austin in search of their second straight state title.

But with a 20-stroke margin to make up after the first round, Snyder finished second to Highland Park which broke the Lady Tigers' state record with a 309-314—623 performance. SHS fired rounds of 329 and 324 for a 653 tourney total.

Another coaching change took place in the month of May, with the naming of Bubba Edwards as Ira boys basketball coach.

The final big event, before the summer months settled in, was the college national finals rodeo, highlighted by the performance of WTC's Tona Wright.

Wright won the national barrel racing crown, while the Lady Westerners finished fourth in the team standings and the WTC men finished sixth.

July saw the Scurry County Rodeo get underway. More than 300 competitors took part in what ended up being the richest rodeo in county history.

By the time August rolled around, eyes were once again focused on the upcoming fall seasons.

September began with news that former Snyder football standout Hayward Clay had been claimed off waivers by the Dallas Cowboys.

Clay has since been activated off the practice squad, starting in the Cowboy's final three regular season games. The ex-Tiger and former Texas A&M tight end caught a key pass against Philadelphia and blocked a punt in Dallas' win over Washington.

Two big games dominated local high school grid action in October.

The Tigers, carrying a 1-1 district mark at the time, upset state-ranked Sweetwater at the Mustang Bowl, 23-7. The victory put the Tigers on a path to the postseason.

In six-man action, defending state champion Borden County saw its 21-game winning streak snapped by Sands, 35-34.

On the tennis court, Snyder captured its third consecutive team tennis district title. SHS advanced to the regional tourney, before being eliminated in a first-round tiebreaker by Dumas.

In the gymnasium, the Lady Tiger volleyball squad made another trip to the postseason with a third-place finish in district play.

The Lady Tigers were eliminated in the first round by Crowley (15-1, 15-6), to cap their season with a 12-16 record overall.

With the Tigers already having cinched a playoff spot on the gridiron, November began with news of Adam Beck's operation.

The junior tight end underwent open-heart surgery to repair a hole in his heart, just two days prior to Snyder's final district ballgame. The surgery was deemed a success, with Beck awaiting doctor's clearance to return to the athletic field.

Hermleigh finished its football season under second-year coach Juan Rios with a 1-9 mark, while Ira saw drastic improvement.

Goodwin turned the Bulldog program around, notching a 5-5 record in his first campaign.

The Tigers, who captured the runner-up spot in 5-4A, drew third-ranked Brownwood for its bi-district opponent.

Following a tight first half, the Lions controlled the ball over the final two quarters to walk away with a 42-28 win.

Coach David Baugh's Snyder Tigers finished with their best record in recent years at 7-4.

Defending six-man champion Borden County made another run through the postseason. The Coyotes eliminated Wellman-Union, Grandfalls-Royalty, Groom and Balmorhea, before taking on top-ranked Trinidad in the title game.

The Trojans dominated the action, ending Borden County's bid for back-to-back crowns with a 70-24 victory.

As 1998 came to a close, things had come full-circle, with all eyes once again focused on hoops action.

As the new year opens, the Lady Dusters are carrying a 8-4 mark. The Snyder Tigers are 8-9, as are the Lady Tigers. Hermleigh's girls are 9-4, with the Cardinals as 0-9. Ira's boys are owners of a 12-4 record, with the Lady Bulldogs at 10-6.

In NBA standoff...

Owners await players' next offer

NEW YORK (AP) — Somebody has to make the next move, and the NBA lockout will remain in limbo until someone does.

Drawing a line in the sand, the locked-out players are refusing to hand over their new proposal until the owners agree to meet with them. Today marks Day 3 of this latest standoff, and the countdown to the NBA's deadline of Jan. 7 is down to five days.

"This is like some gesture of how tough they are and how they're ready to lose the season. The rational question here should be if people want to make a deal, why wouldn't they want to meet," said union attorney Jeffrey Kessler. "I expected something like this from them."

NBA chief legal counsel Jeffrey Mishkin explained his side's stance:

"The reason for not having a meeting is that we have given our final offer and they have rejected it," he said. "But as we've said a number of times, out of respect and courtesy, if they have another offer they would like us to consider, please give it to us in any form or any manner of delivery. We will put it before the (negotiating) committee and ultimately the Board of Governors for a vote."

Players on the union's negotiating committee had been expecting to travel to New York early in the week to begin a final round of negotiations.

Now, however, it looks like the next full bargaining session might not come until a day or two before the Thursday deadline.

Agent David Falk, who has been accused by commissioner David Stern of hindering a settlement, disputed a published report saying he would now prefer to scrap the entire season.

"I certainly don't want to scrub the season, but if it's a choice of taking the deal totally on the owners' terms or shutting it down, at that point I think the position to take is to shut it down and start fresh. But I don't think that's going to happen," Falk said.

Union president Patrick Ewing and several prominent members of the union's negotiating committee are clients of Falk.

The union's new proposal will include a limit on the salary any player can receive — a concession the league has pushed for throughout nine months of negotiations. It also includes a demand for 55 percent of revenues in the fourth year of the agreement; the league has offered 53 percent.

"We are not going to comment on a proposal that has not been made," Mishkin said.

"The only way a deal can be made is to get the people in the room, and they'll conclude that," Kessler said. "I don't think the owners want to lose the season any more than the players do.

"This isn't about pride and it isn't about relationships. All we want to do is make a deal. We don't want to prove who's tougher, but they're going to have to come in and negotiate.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NewJersey	21	9	4	46	104	86
Philadelphia	18	9	9	45	102	79
Pittsburgh	15	10	7	37	92	88
N.Y.Rangers	13	15	7	33	97	96
N.Y.Islanders	13	22	2	28	87	107
Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	21	13	2	44	115	100
Buffalo	19	9	5	43	95	68
Ottawa	17	13	4	38	99	83
Boston	16	13	6	38	92	80
Montreal	11	18	7	29	80	99
Southeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	17	14	6	40	96	90
Florida	13	13	7	33	88	92
Washington	11	20	3	25	75	89
TampaBay	9	24	3	21	75	123

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	17	16	2	36	108	99
St.Louis	13	11	9	35	93	88
Nashville	13	19	3	29	85	109
Chicago	11	20	4	26	78	113
Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	16	17	3	35	86	92
Edmonton	15	17	3	33	96	94
Vancouver	13	19	4	30	98	110
Calgary	12	21	3	27	97	108
Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	24	5	6	54	107	67
Phoenix	21	8	4	46	95	63
Anaheim	14	13	8	36	86	81
SanJose	10	16	8	28	71	80
LosAngeles	12	21	3	27	83	96

Friday's Games
Carolina 3, Florida 3, tie
Ottawa 4, Washington 3
St. Louis 6, Nashville 5
Anaheim 7, Buffalo 2
Dallas 2, Phoenix 1, OT

Saturday's Games
San Jose at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Anaheim at Boston, 7 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 4 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 8 p.m.

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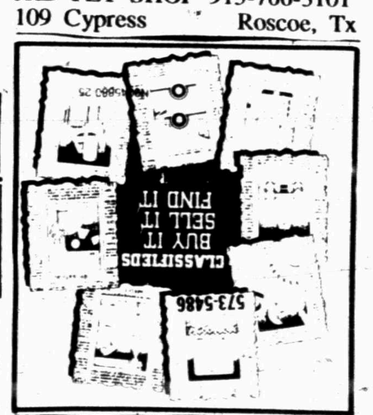

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3 Acres 4-3 Corral $60's
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 Nice!
Ira 3-2-2 CP-Shop+12.7A $78T.
2 Acres 2-1 CR $20's
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138.9 Acres CR 473 Wells/Pens!
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Rita Knox	573-7082
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573-8571 573-3452

4.45 A's 3-1¾ Barns/Arena
587 A's App 8 Mi. W. of Ira
3-2-2 Great Area $60T
5.60 Large Country 3-2-2cp.
W. Hwy. 180 2.13 A's 3-2-cp
2-1-1 CH/A 310 34th $22T
2-1-1cp Fenced 510 28th St.
3-1¾-2 Range & Refrigerator
3-1-1 2109 43rd St. $49T
20 Acres 3-1-2 Cp. Sheds
Small Starter Home 2-1½.
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107 Elm St. 4 Bdrm $23,320
MOBILE HOMES!
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1508 Preston Trail Cedar Crk Add. Lovely 3-2-2 2-L.A.'s!
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4505 Denison 3-2-1-Stor $68.5T
Red! Santa Fe 4-3-off-3cp Nice
Red! 2305 30th 3-2-cp $39.5T
310 36th 3-1 Fresh Look $31.5T
5502 Cedar Crk 3-2½-2 $105T
2800 46th 4-3-2-spacious $150T
2803 47th 3-2-Shop+Apt $80's
118 Milburn 2-1-1cp $12.5T
2103 37th 3-2-2cp $65T
2400 42nd 3-2-1 CH/A $42.5T
4103 Eastridge 3-2-2 $39.5T
3108 39th Own. Says Sell 3-1-cp
3007 41st 3-1-2cp $30's
2210 33rd 3-3-2-Lovely view!
3503 40th 3-1½-1.....$41.5T!
3725 Ave U 3-1-1cp $29.5T
2211 27th 4-2-corner $39.5T
2811 Ave. U 3-2-1 $56.5T
3005 Ave U 3-2-4cp $75T
3404 Jacksboro 3-2-2 $60T
Union 3-2-Plus Rental $50's
2107 41st 3-1 Own/Fin. $27.5T
Super Nice Office Building, Old Lubbock Hwy.
Comm. Bldg. West 25th CALL
College Ave Office Building w/15 Storage Units.
3007 40th 2-1 $15.5T
104 35th 1 bedroom Make Offer
3719 Ave. U 4-2 CH/A $38.5T
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UT rule overturned by judge

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge has overturned a University of Texas policy that bans people who aren't students from distributing fliers outside the Erwin Center.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ruled the Erwin Center is different from the main campus, and attempts to limit free speech on the center's sidewalks to students, faculty and staff are unconstitutional.

Four environmentalists challenged the policy after almost being arrested in 1996 for trying to pass out brochures in front of the Erwin Center, which hosts public events from rock concerts to Ice Capades shows.

University leaders had argued UT owns the sidewalk in front of the center, making it subject to the same policies governing the West Mall and other parts of campus.

Sparks disagreed.

"The entire paved area that runs along Red River Street, even though part of it is literally owned by the University, is a public sidewalk for First Amendment purposes," he wrote in his ruling Tuesday.

Broken windows keep police busy

Officers were kept busy Friday investigating broken windows all over town.

At 8:51 a.m., Jeral Beard requested an officer in the 3600 block of 41st Street in reference to someone breaking a window out of his vehicle. An offense report for criminal mischief was filed.

A broken window was reported at Snyder Lanes at 10:11 a.m. An offense report for burglary of a business was filed.

Dianna Mowles requested an officer in the 600 block of 34th Street at 12:49 p.m. in reference to someone shooting the window of her vehicle with a BB gun. An offense report for criminal mischief was filed.

At 9:16 p.m., Tom Seaborn reported that someone had broken a window out of his vehicle while it was parked at his residence in the 2400 block of Sunset. An offense report for criminal mischief was filed.

Outstanding warrants sent one subject to jail Friday.

At 11:56 p.m., officers arrested a 21-year-old male in the 3900 block of College Avenue on an Abilene Department of Public Safety warrant for expired registration and a Scurry County warrant for misdemeanor criminal mischief.

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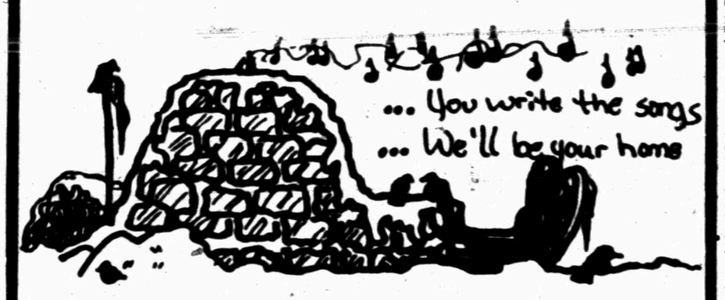
Field Crest Apartments



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2½-2 MOBILE Home, partially furnished, CH/A + Washer/Dryer included. Fenced, corner lot. $300/mo. plus deposit. 573-5525 or 573-0990.

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3 bedroom Mobile Home w/no bills paid. 573-3279, 573-5879, no answer 915-728-8482.

3 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME FOR RENT. $250/month. 573-1711.

TRADE IN YOUR USED HOME in any condition, for a new one at A-1 Homes Midland, ask for Jesse James, Credit Bandit. 915-563-9000 or 1-800-755-9133.

NEED A NEW HOME? Looking for low payments. Call The Credit Doctor, Calvin. A-1 Homes 7206 W. Hwy. 80, Midland, Tx. 915-563-9000 or 1-800-755-9133.

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Card Of Thanks

Thank You

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude for the cards, food, flowers, calls and kindness and concern shown to our family and friends during the illness and death of our loved one, Roy Staton.

Mrs Roy Staton
Bobby Staton & family
Dean Staton & family
Betty Moore & family
Linda Sellars & family

Endangered sea turtles focus of dispute

CORPUS CHRISTI — In the bayside community of Aransas Pass, tough-talking, chain-smoking shrimper Wilma Anderson is working to preserve not only Texas' $200 million-a-year offshore shrimping industry but a way of life cherished by generations of Texans.

Only a few miles away at the Padre Island National Seashore is soft-spoken government biologist Donna Shaver, who has spent the last decade logging in every dead or injured Texas sea turtle that washes ashore on the beach or in the bays. Her goal is to stop the killing of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle, and the cause of most of those deaths, she is convinced, is the shrimper's net.

The two women are at the center of a divisive, long-playing feud between environmentalists and the Texas shrimp industry.

"Donna has an interest in sea turtles — that is her field — and she does what she thinks is right," says Anderson, who has owned a trawler since 1973 and has directed the Texas Shrimp Association since 1991.

"That's her commitment in life, and I can understand her statements and how she looks at things. And I'm sure she doesn't agree with my statements, but she knows I am working for the shrimp industry and a vessel owner, and I'm going to support the strong points of what the industry thinks. She knows there has to be a level playing field on all sides, and I don't fault her for what she thinks."

Anderson's view of the Kemp's ridley is based on what she's heard, secondhand, from boat captains.

"They are a very aggressive little turtle, they will bite the fire out of you," she said. "Nobody wants to handle a Kemp's."

Likewise, Shaver speaks respectfully of Anderson. The two maintain a professionalism even as 1998 ends with Texas once again leading the nation in the number of dead or injured sea turtles — 379 so far — and signs that their battle will become more fierce.

"Your environmentalists do not want any commercial fishing in the Gulf of Mexico or anyplace else, and we decided we wasn't leaving," Anderson declares, taking a break from her duties at the association's headquarters last week. "And they would have to spend a ton of money to try to take us out, so we would keep them in the courtroom if we have to."

Anderson is spearheading a federal court challenge of the latest government-mandated escape hatch in shrimpers' nets, this one designed to permit fish and other by-catch to escape the nets.

Combined with the earlier TEDs, or Turtle Excluder Devices, which allow turtles caught in the nets to escape, the industry contends that the two devices also result in the loss of 30 percent of the catch. The resulting economic impact over the last decade has spawned bankruptcies, broken marriages, cut short the college educations of shrimpers' children, and caused a dramatic winnowing of Texas' offshore shrimp fleet, Anderson said.

And in the waning days of 1998, after a record loss of 37 adult Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Shaver is more convinced than ever that the shrimp fleet is largely responsible for those deaths.

"On Texas Gulf beaches, there continues to be an association between shrimping efforts and stranding of turtles, and I believe it is a primary cause of strandings we see on the Texas coast now," Shaver said last week as she compiled year-end figures.

At the same time, Shaver and others who work with stranded turtles are quick to acknowledge there is no direct evidence linking dead turtles to shrimp nets.

"You can't look at a dead turtle and determine if it died in a shrimp net. That's the problem we've had for a long time," said Shaver, who has conducted hundreds of turtle necropsies.

But she and other experts say there is powerful circumstantial evidence to be found in the timing of sea turtle strandings and shrimping activity. One South Texas county extension agent referred to the evidence as a "smoking gun."

When shrimp trawlers are banned from Texas portions of the Gulf of Mexico during a 60-day closure each summer — a ban to allow juvenile shrimp to migrate from the bays and greatly increase in size and value — the number of dead turtles washing ashore has dropped by as much as 90 percent, Shaver noted.

Likewise, David Bernhart, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Florida, said recent studies have shown the sizable impact just one violator of the TED requirement can have on turtles.

The turtle strandings in Texas are caused primarily by the state's large shrimp fleet, he said. "It is the biggest single cause, and in Texas it may account for the majority" of the strandings.

But Anderson wants her industry to stop getting the blame for turtle deaths caused by others, including those that die after swallowing fishing hooks or becoming entangled in fishing line. She also points to the deaths caused by seismic testing during undersea oil exploration and the removal of oil production platforms.

"We have noticed, and they'll (government officials) tell you it's no connection, but when our shrimp boats report seismic activity, I guarantee we'll have strandings in two to three days," she said.

"They do die of natural mortality once in a while, and they do die of pollution, and they do die of tumors, and they do die of disease. I think this is what everybody forgets."

These committed adversaries are Yankees who were drawn to Texas for different reasons.

Anderson came to the Texas coast in 1958, after she met and married Aransas Pass native Jerry Anderson in Denver, where she was working as a secretary in a glass company. He was in the Air Force and stationed near Denver.

Wilma Anderson was born in Baudette, Minn., where her parents were farmers. After high school graduation in 1956, she studied accounting and business management at Bemidji State University in Minnesota.

She was ready to head to warmer climes when she met her husband, who was from a West Texas farming family that moved to Aransas Pass when he was 8. "Frankly, it was 17- and 20-degrees-below weather, and I said, 'To hell with this, I'm going south,'" she recalled.

After moving to Texas, Anderson found work as a secretary at a Rockport builder of shrimp trawlers. Eventually, she moved into marketing for the company and was given stock, which she and her husband used to buy their first shrimp boat in 1973. Together they run three vessels today.

Her harshest criticism of Shaver is that the scientist does not emphasize the other industries that harm turtles.

"Donna acknowledges to a point other takes of sea turtles, but never in the press do we ever see anybody else being talked about or what is happening with the industry.

"I believe everything has a right to live, but I also look at the fact you have a lot of user groups in the Gulf. Our group has taken the brunt. They're carrying the heavy load for protection, but I don't think anyone wants to see anything go extinct."

Shaver grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., with three older brothers. Her father was an electronics salesman and her mother a homemaker. She was studying wildlife biology at Cornell University in upstate New York when she saw a listing of summer volunteer jobs and selected the one on Padre Island National Seashore.

"And I came down here, and I fell in love with the area," she said. "It was the first time I had seen the ocean."

She recalls that on her first day at the park assisting biologists, several sea turtles were stranded. One was dead, but the other was alive and was sent to the a nearby rehabilitation center.

"By the end of the summer, I knew that was what I wanted to do. After I graduated, I applied for a seasonal position, and I worked as hard as I could."

After Shaver graduated from Cornell in 1981, she was hired at the national seashore. In 1984, she earned a master's degree at Texas A&I University and is working on her Ph.D. dissertation on a colony of green sea turtles.

In 1995, she and another scientist at the national seashore, John Miller, were married. The couple have offices across the hall from each other.

"I've had other opportunities to go other places and earn more money, but I turned them down," she said.

On April 3, northeast of Port Mansfield, the Coast Guard discovered that the TEDs in the shrimp nets of a 66-foot trawler were sewn shut.

I buried my daughter, Rhonda Wadleigh, recently. Wright Colonial Funeral Home, 200 37th Street, did a beautiful job. They have a lovely home, chapel, good casket selection, excellent price, and near to both cemeteries.

Thelma Gardner

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Jan. 3, 1999

Alliances formed for commercial purposes in the year ahead could turn out to be liabilities if you're not careful. Check for hidden facts before linking up with anyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't throw good money today if someone who is already indebted to you requests additional material assistance from you. Chances are nothing will be repaid. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope 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) If it doesn't serve your best interests, don't allow anyone to make any decision on your behalf. Should you learn someone did so without your knowledge, rectify it promptly.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Things could quickly begin to pile up on you if you don't take prompt measures to dispose of your responsibilities as they occur today. You could lose control of events fast.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't let anyone pressure you into doing something you believe could be bad for you. Be your own person, even if you have to stand up against your peers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In domestic situations that call for being tactful, be careful that you don't come off too assertive today. If you start rocking the boat, there's a chance it could capsize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Nothing of value will be accomplished today if you start making changes every time you run into some trivial obstacle. Be consistent if you want to perform productively.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is not the time to take on any new financial obligations where you'll have to rob Peter to pay Paul. Instead, skillful management of your resources may be required to set things right.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Should more stress than usual be prevalent in a personal relationship of importance at this time, try not to take things too seriously. A light position will get you over the hump.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Volunteer to help if an opportunity to assist a person who was helpful to you recently should develop today. Don't wait to be asked. Act out of kindness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Treat all your pals equally, because dissension is likely to erupt today if you're overly attentive to one friend in a clique while ignoring the others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you should get involved in a competitive development today, don't underestimate your competition. Don't minimize your attributes, but be aware of his or hers as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Just because someone isn't in accord with your perceptions today, it's no reason to give into inclinations to challenge the person's statements. It'll only cause a rift in the relationship.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Jan. 4, 1999

If you are approached in the year ahead by a loyal acquaintance who offers you a proposal, don't hesitate to check it out, and join him or her if all looks well. It could result in an exciting joint venture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) By closely observing how a friend successfully handles all of his or her relationships today, you can learn some valuable techniques that can be tailored to suite your own affairs. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It seems as though many people discourage drop-in company, but today could be an exception. If you're in the neighborhood and get a yen to pop in on a pal, do so. It could be good for both parties.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Concerning your financial and commercial dealings today, small factors could have more significance than usual. Pennies you make or save now could be compounded into dollars for the future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Even though you may not be aware of it, your thinking and constructive suggestions will have an inordinate impact on persons you'll be involved with today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take advantage of some confidential information of a financial nature that is shared with you today. It's not meant for publication, but it is designed for you to enjoy what it offers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Valuable information could be exchanged today through associating with friends whose views and objectives closely parallel your own. Encourage a frank discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Almost everything you do today will be done quite well, but if you should be confronted with a challenge in front of an audience, you'll handle it in a most outstanding fashion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Take any team effort you've involved in seriously today, be it in sports or business. Because your associates will be playing to win, they'll be expecting the same from you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If there is a subject you need to discuss with your mate and you're looking for his or her support on how you want to handle a delicate issue, do so today. You'll have a meeting of the minds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Not only will you be able to conceive sound ideas, but you'll also know how to implement them in a productive manner. This is why you'll be so successful today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't be discouraged today if returns aren't up to your expectations. Small gains have a way of adding up into something substantial when allowed to accumulate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Although you have a tendency to relish spontaneous involvements, you're likely to find more enjoyment from activities which have been well thought out and soundly planned today.

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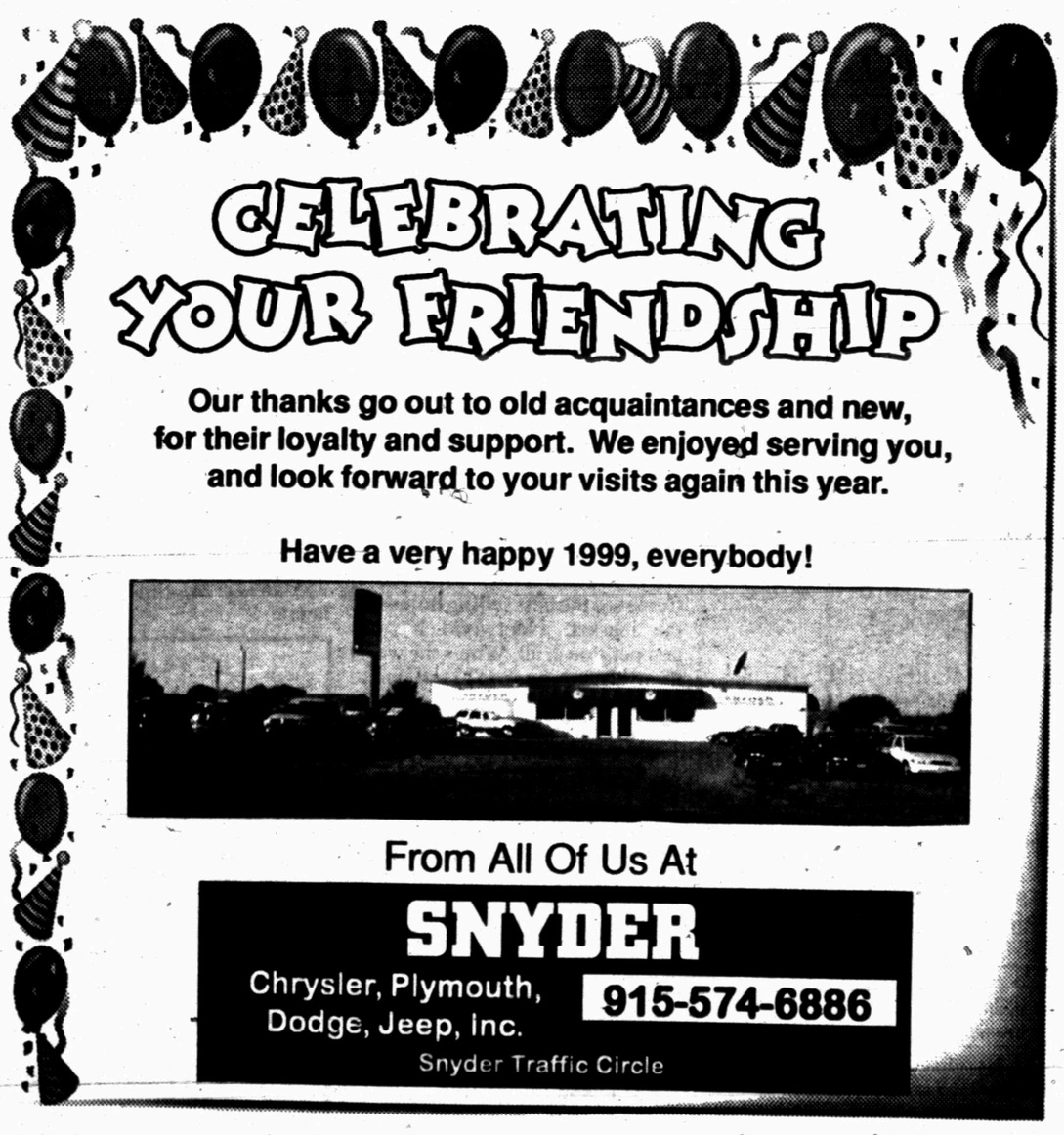

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Iraq says...

U.S., British aid workers not welcome

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq has told the United Nations that American and British citizens working with U.N. aid agencies are no longer welcome in the country, diplomats said today.

They said the government passed the directive verbally to U.N. officials in Baghdad, but it was not immediately clear whether any of the world body's staffers had been ordered to leave.

The diplomats, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said Iraq has stopped issuing or extending visas for Britons and Americans working with the U.N. relief agencies that supervise the oil-for-food program. The program allows Iraq to export limited amounts of oil, in an exception to U.N. economic sanctions, to pay for food and other essential imports.

The U.N. spokesman in Iraq, George Somerwill, refused to confirm or deny the report. He would only say: "We've not received anything in writing" on the issue.

The development could set the stage for a new confrontation between Iraq and the two Western powers that launched airstrikes against it last month.

Some 120 relief workers were evacuated during the bombardment to Amman, the capital of neighboring Jordan, but all returned five days later.

U.N. weapons inspectors, who also were withdrawn just before the bombings, have not been allowed to return by Iraq.

The airstrikes were aimed at punishing Iraq for its refusal to cooperate with the inspectors, who are responsible for certifying that the country has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq has repeatedly complained that the U.N. inspection teams are dominated by Americans and Britons. It accuses them of spying and had ordered them out briefly in November 1997.

Somerwill declined to say how many Britons or Americans work for the aid agencies in Iraq or whether their expulsion will hamper relief operations there.

But the diplomats said there were at most a dozen American and British citizens among the 420 U.N. humanitarian workers in Iraq.

They said Iraq told the U.N. officials that it cannot guarantee the safety of Britons and the Americans in the aftermath of the airstrikes.

Clinton seeks big military spending hike

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, freshly back from a 48-hour New Year's respite, said Saturday he would seek a $12 billion increase for the Pentagon's readiness and modernization efforts when he submits his new budget request next month.

The proposal for an overall six-year increase of $100 billion, if approved by congressional appropriators, would be the first increase in Pentagon spending above inflation since 1991, the year of the Persian Gulf War, and the largest since the Cold War buildup of the mid-1980's.

"We must undertake this effort Saturday so that our nation will remain strong and secure tomorrow," the president said Saturday in his weekly radio address. He was responding to complaints by military leaders and Republicans critical of Clinton for the armed force's declining readiness in the face of increased commitments abroad and aging weaponry and equipment.

The budget proposal, which will also include a 4.4 percent military pay raise, the largest since 1982, "will help us to do right by our troops by upgrading and replacing aging equipment, barracks and family housing," Clinton said.

The $12 billion, part of a proposed six-year program, would also pay for joint exercises, flight training, badly needed spare parts, recruiting, and "the next generation" of ships, planes and weapons systems, Clinton said.

But Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., ranking Democrat on the National Security Committee, worried that even a $12 billion increase in fiscal 2000 would not "be sufficient to take care of the needs of the troops plus modernize our forces."

Plotted out over the full six years, his administration's proposal would bring the total budget increase for the Pentagon to $100 billion, administration officials said.

Separately, officials said Clinton's fiscal 2000 budget will seek a 12 percent, $105 million increase in food safety programs, most of it to upgrade Agriculture Department inspections at smaller meat and poultry processing plants.

White House budget director Jack Lew said Clinton's budget, due to Congress in early February, would "balance defense needs with an aggressive domestic agenda in the context of the president's overall policy to save the surplus until we fix Social Security."

Clinton has not advanced a plan for overhauling Social Security.

Heston says prostate cancer almost gone

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charlton Heston is battling prostate cancer but says he is on the road to recovery after weeks of intense radiation treatments.

"It's not totally gone but it's on the path to it," the Academy Award-winning actor said Friday from his home in the Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains. "Happily, I seemed to have survived. It's very good news."

He said he found out about the cancer during his annual checkup and prostate screening in June. Doctors agreed to let Heston, who is active in politics and is president of the National Rifle Association, postpone radiation treatment until after the November election so he could stump for Republican candidates and continue shooting a film.

Heston, 75, underwent the treatment for six to seven weeks, finishing last month. He said he went to the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center about 7 a.m. five days a week to receive treatment and then went to work.

"They've got this huge machine, they zap you and you go on about your day's work," he said. "You're in and out."

He currently is shooting "Town and Country," a comedy also starring Warren Beatty, Diane Keaton and Goldie Hawn. It is his 75th film and third comedy.

Heston said he will have another checkup in several weeks. No surgery is planned but he may undergo radioactive seed implants. The implants deliver a strong dose of radiation to the prostate but deliver little radiation to other organs.

Personal, Professional Service

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Christmas freeze leaves orange pickers, packers out in the cold

ORANGE COVE, Calif. (AP) — It took Jose Rosas 10 years of picking oranges to bring his family to the United States. Together, they worked their way from a miserable apartment where they slept on the floor to a big stucco ranch house with cathedral ceilings and a back yard.

But now a four-day freeze that struck shortly before Christmas here in California's Central Valley has ruined much of the citrus crop and closed down most packing houses. Jose and Alicia Rosas have been laid off along with thousands of other workers.

"I don't want to lose our home. I don't want to move out," said Mrs. Rosas, who is studying English at home in hopes of becoming an U.S. citizen. "This place is a palace compared to the way we used to live."

The economic disaster, now estimated at $591 million statewide, is particularly severe in towns along the Sierra foothills such as Orange Cove, a virtual labor camp for the citrus industry.

Private groups and public agencies are marshaling resources, hoping to avoid the trauma of the freeze of 1990, when it took three months for the government to take notice and 12,000 people lost their jobs. Most people haven't fully recovered, city officials say.

In 1990, many citrus workers were migrants, and could find work elsewhere. Now, only a quarter of the pickers are. Most of the rest have apartment leases, mortgages, green cards — roots. The crisis threatens more than just monthly expenses.

Officials in Orange Cove estimate that 90 percent of the population depends directly on California's orange industry, which produces 80 percent of the nation's fresh table oranges.

With two long harvest seasons for oranges — valencias in the summer, navels in the winter — those who can find work can earn a relatively good living. Packers usually make minimum wage, while the going rate for pickers is about $12 a bin. A good week in the field can bring in $300 to $400.

But unexpected weather like December's cold snap can be devastating, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, where 90 percent of navel oranges are grown and 65 packing houses employ up to 15,000 pickers and packers.

"That's who gets killed in this whole thing, the pickers and the packers," said Nick Hill, whose family has been growing oranges for three generations. "We like to keep these people working. It's not a good thing all around."

Orange Cove is a mostly Hispanic community of 8,000 nestled at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There's no high school and no drug store, just acre after acre of orange trees, many in orchards owned by corporations or absentee landlords.

For Alaskans...

After 40 years of statehood, local-federal tensions remain

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The state of Alaska marks its birthday Sunday, 40 years since a remote, thinly populated territory overcame skepticism from the Lower 48 and became equal to every other state in the nation.

The statehood struggle may now be the stuff of history books, but some of the same conflicts with the federal government that drove that quest remain.

Becoming a state took some time and many trips to Washington. But in the end statehood supporters made their case, and on Jan. 3, 1959, Alaska's became the 49th star on Old Glory.

For the 215,000 people who lived in Alaska at the time, statehood meant freedom from the indignity of not being able to vote in presidential elections, from being forced to pass through U.S. Customs upon arrival in the Lower 48, from having governmental decisions made thousands of miles away in Washington.

"It all comes back to resources," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. "And it's going to remain a problem for a long time."

Stevens, now 75, was part of the 1950s statehood struggle as a young Interior Department lawyer in charge of the agency's relations with Congress. Once the Eisenhower administration lined up behind statehood, he became the middleman for determined Alaskans making the two-day flight to Washington.

Former Gov. Walter Hickel, then a go-getting Anchorage developer, says he made at least a dozen trips East to lobby. It didn't take long to figure out whom he had to convince.

"It was really the senior members of the Senate that gave us what we needed," recalled Hickel, now 79. "You had to get the seniority to win."

Alaska won in Congress by a comfortable margin in 1958 and thought it was getting out from under the federal thumb when it came to its resources. To Alaskans, that meant land — the right to hunt and fish on it, access to mine it and drill it, the desire to preserve it in its natural state.

The amount of land in Alaska is not the problem. How it's used is. The new state government was granted about 28 percent of the land — an area larger than California. The federal government, however, kept 64 percent of Alaska, just as it controls large sections of many Western states. The rest is private or native-owned.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

First Christian service at Jr. High

The First Christian Church will have its Sunday worship service once again in the Snyder Junior High School auditorium. The service begins at 10:50 a.m. with no Sunday School classes.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Church as Part of God's Eternal Plan," followed by "Teaching Your Child to Pray."

VFW auxiliary

The auxiliary of Post 8231 will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the VFW hall.

4-H Canyon Reef Club

The 4-H Canyon Reef Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Pizza Hut. Cost is $5 per person.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

The First United Methodist Church's 1998 cookbook, compiled by the Angel Seekers Sunday School Class and dedicated to the memory of Ruby Anderson, can be purchased at the church or Classic Interiors. The cost is $10 and all proceeds benefit the Lord's Acre projects.

Lions Club meeting

The Snyder Lions Club will resume meeting at noon Tuesday.

Economic review, outlook

A satellite presentation entitled "Outlook '99: Catch the Vision," will be presented Tuesday at the Edward Jones office in Snyder. Chad Holliday, CEO of DuPont, will be a special guest on the broadcast. For more information or to reserve a seat call 573-4055.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Masonic Lodge No. 706 will have its stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the lodge hall.

Rotary meeting

The Snyder Rotary Club will resume its regular noon meeting on Thursday.

Snyder Bible Institute

Bible History I will be taught for 24 weeks beginning Thursday in the Christian Student Center on the WTC campus. Richard Rogers of Sunset International Bible Institute Satellite School will be the instructor. Classes meet from 7-9 p.m. All Bible students are welcome and tuition is free.

Community singing

Join in singing praise and worship songs and enjoy special music at a community worship set from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday in the Scurry County Coliseum. The public is invited and there is no admission charge. Bring lawn chairs to sit on floor level, or seating in stands is also available.

Y2K preparedness workshop

The FamilyLife Community Church will hold a Y2K workshop next Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon at the church at 904 26th St. Admission is free.

Library storytime change

Beginning this month, Storytime for 4-5-year-olds at the Scurry County Library will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednedays.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is selling windbreak trees. Both evergreens and hardwoods are available. Call 573-6317, or come by the office at 5309 Big Spring Highway.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-8-6

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
4-5-7-18-25
(four, five, seven, eighteen, twenty-five)

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
35-44-46-99
(thirty-five, forty-four, forty-six, ninety-nine)

NAFTA at 5:

Glass half full, half empty depending on who's assessing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years after the United States, Canada and Mexico entered into a sweeping new trade alliance, debate rages on about the benefits and burdens the North American Free Trade Agreement created.

With NAFTA celebrating its fifth anniversary Friday, critics and fans alike are issuing report cards.

The verdict? It depends on who is doing the grading.

The Clinton administration, which lobbied furiously to secure congressional passage of the controversial trade pact in 1993, views NAFTA as a net positive — particularly in light of the current Asian economic downturn and Mexico's 1994 peso crisis.

"We think it's been a very successful enterprise," said David Aaron, Commerce undersecretary for international trade. "There are still problems, it's still a work in progress and there are more things we need to do to improve it ... but I think we can take significant satisfaction in the fact our exports to NAFTA in the five years have risen more than 67 percent — almost double the rest of world exports."

Critics, however, blame NAFTA for job flight to Mexico, lowered labor and environmental standards and a host of other ills in all three partner countries.

"It's obvious NAFTA has failed to produce the benefits its boosters promised," said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, which battled to derail the pact's enactment. "But NAFTA also fails a more lenient 'do no harm' test. In key areas NAFTA affects, things are worse than before."

In its recently issued NAFTA report card, Global Trade Watch gives failing grades on everything from agriculture to highway safety, public health and national sovereignty.

NAFTA has cost Americans hundreds of thousands of jobs, depressed wages in some sectors, and transformed the $1.7 billion trade surplus with Mexico in 1993 to an $11.5 billion deficit by fall 1998, Global Trade Watch says.

The administration retains a far more positive view.

"Look at the whole spectrum of issues — trade, the environment, labor conditions, cooperation with Mexico in law enforcement. Whatever the issue, there is not one area where we would be better off today if the NAFTA were not in place," said Jay Ziegler, a spokesman for the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.

Trade with Canada and Mexico supports 2.6 million U.S. jobs, Aaron said, representing an increase of 655,000 over 1993. As to the job loss claim, he said: "It's quite clear that most of the job dislocation that has taken place in the United States is not due to trade, let alone trade with NAFTA. Most of it is due to technological change."

Noting the United States now boasts an unemployment rate at a near-28-year-low of 4.4 percent, Aaron added, "You can hardly say (NAFTA) has precipitated some kind of jobs crisis."

NAFTA, however, is scored as having cost some 209,000 Americans their jobs. That is the number of workers who have been certified under a federal program designed to help people who have lost work because of shifting trade patterns with Canada and Mexico.

Administration officials rush to say it's far easier to quantify jobs lost under NAFTA than those created. They also say the 209,000 figure is an inaccurate reflection of job loss because, although entire workforces are certified as NAFTA losses, many of those displaced workers immediately go on to new jobs or choose to retire. Some also may be reported under different federal trade assistance programs.

Don Beale, acting director of the Labor Department's Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, said his staff often is asked how many jobs have been lost to NAFTA, "to which we give a hearty 'We don't have the slightest idea,'" he said.

The states with the most certifications of NAFTA job loss are North Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York and California.

The sectors with the most certifications are the apparel industry, with 55,000; electrical and electronic equipment, 26,600; and transportation equipment, 14,600.

Y2K suits being filed

HOUSTON (AP) — The threat of a worldwide computer meltdown is less than a year away.

But a wave of Y2K litigation, named for the year 2000, is expected to flood the courts for years to come.

Lawyers already have filed 39 Y2K lawsuits, most of which target software vendors that have no solutions for possible computer glitches, according to the Information Technology Association of America, which maintains a database.

The first lawsuit, filed in August 1997, claims a company's cash registers crash whenever they process a credit card with a "00" expiration date.

After Jan. 1, 2000, lawyers say a wide range of corporate defendants will face breach of contract, fraud, product liability, personal injury and shareholder suits for products or operations that failed because of Y2K.

Meanwhile, law firms in Houston and across the nation are building Y2K practice groups.

Vinson & Elkins has devoted 40 to 50 lawyers to the project. The Y2K team at Bracewell & Patterson has been working with banks for several years on Y2K issues. Baker & Botts' Y2K network has been advising corporate clients on disclosure issues.

"Over the last six months, it seems like everybody and their brother has formed a Y2K practice group," Vito Peraino, chairman of a 12-lawyer practice group at a California firm, told the Houston Chronicle. His law firm maintains a Web site tracking Y2K legal filings.

State Sens. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, and Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, and Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano, hope to introduce Y2K legislation before the Legislature convenes this month.

The Year 2000 Working Group bill would create a window in which the defendant must try to solve the problem before the claimant can sue, encourage sellers to make repairs and notify buyers of upgrades, narrow the statute of limitations on claims, limit reliance on representations of Y2K compliance, and limit damages.

Others say mediation and arbitration are the answer.

"Y2K problems are just that; problems to be solved," said James F. Henry, president of CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution in New York, which has assembled a panel of 77 lawyers to mediate in Y2K disputes.

Mother accused of dumping baby

WEATHERFORD (AP) — An 18-year-old mother is accused of dumping her newborn daughter from a house window early Friday.

The child suffered minor injuries outside the home near Weatherford, where the mother helped care for the homeowners' children.

The hours-old baby was in good condition Friday at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, officials said.

Parker County Sheriff Jay Brown said Petra Francesca Torres has been named in an attempted murder warrant.

Ms. Torres was to be taken to jail after her release from Campbell Memorial Hospital, where she was being examined Friday afternoon, Brown said.

Ms. Torres told an investigator she gave birth around 2 a.m. Friday, wrapped the baby in a plastic garbage bag, opened a window and placed the baby outside, Brown said.

But opening the window set off a burglar alarm and alerted the sleeping homeowners. They later found the discarded, crying baby and called deputies.

Investigators were trying to determine why Ms. Torres may have dumped her child.

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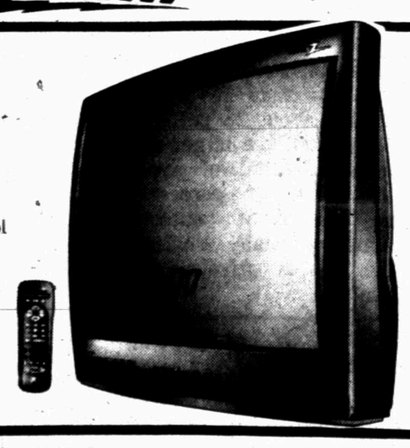

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Clinton-Lewinsky, McGuire-Sosa voted top 10 stories

By ARLENE LEVINSON
AP National Writer

The year's No. 1 story began as unprintable gossip in January. Then it seldom left the front page.

The sex scandal linking President Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky easily ranked as the year's top story, according to the annual Associated Press poll of American newspaper editors and broadcast executives.

By contrast, the year's second biggest story followed a pair of heroes on the baseball diamond, men whose feats brightened an often discouraging year.

Despite cries of public weariness with Bill and Monica, the story also placed first among readers who cast electronic votes on the AP's Web site and among visitors who voted on the AP ballot at the Newseum in Arlington, Va., a museum about newsgathering. One visitor interpreted this contradiction for Eric Newton, the Newseum's managing editor. The middle-aged man likened the story to a car accident. "You know you probably shouldn't stare at it so hard," he said, "but you can't stop yourself."

The public's ranking differed after that, but not much. Users of the AP Web site and AP news executives agreed that the home run contest ranked second. The public placed Iraq third, while the editors chose economic upheaval and devastating hurricanes.

Balloting to choose the year's top stories began Nov. 24. Most votes were cast before the bombing of Iraq and President Clinton's impeachment.

Website voters agreed with editors on nine of 10 top stories; only their order differed. But both groups diverged completely on stories involving tobacco and nuclear weapons. Editors put the tobacco companies' multibillion settlement as No. 10, an event that failed to make the public's top 10. Web users' instead chose India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests as No. 10.

Newseum visitors also agreed with nine of the editors' 10 top picks. Again, their priorities varied. They placed John Glenn's return to space as No. 2. And they ranked the arrival of Viagra No. 9 and excluded the bombings of U.S. embassies from their top choices.

Other major stories added gloom: killer hurricanes, bloody bombings, bloodied schoolchildren. A roiling stock market, and shocked Republicans — cast out by disgusted voters who blamed them for preoccupation with Clinton's peccadilloes. Then Republicans threw out their leader Newt Gingrich.

Here, according to the AP poll of news executives, are the top 10 stories of 1998:

1. CLINTON-LEWINSKY. Like the juiciest potboiler, this was a tale of desire, betrayal, broken vows and shattered careers. Only this was no fiction, and the outcome was the unprecedented impeachment of a twice-elected president.

Shifting focus from the Whitewater land deal, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr turned the nation's curiosity to secret tapes and grand jury testimony. By year end, the House impeached Clinton for lying to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice and sent the charges to the Senate for trial. Then Speaker-designate Bob Livingston offered himself as an example for the president — promptly resigning over his own extra-marital affairs.

2. SLUGGER RECORDS. The joy-filled home run race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa also challenged the national imagination. Even those indifferent to pro sports felt inspired by their drive, courage and gracious rivalry. Without bluster or arrogance, McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals and Sosa of the Chicago Cubs slugged it out to break Roger Maris' single-season home run record of 61 set in 1961.

McGwire was first. Yet they both kept going. In the end, the mighty McGwire hit 70, Sosa 66. "This is a season I will never, ever forget," an emotional McGwire told a roaring hometown crowd at Busch Stadium, "and I hope everybody in baseball never forgets."

3. ECONOMIC TURMOIL. As the year opened, Asia's economies were already in trouble. Then Asia's crisis became Russia's, Latin America's — and the world's. Instability threatened the U.S. economy. Lenders stopped lending; the Federal Reserve cut interest rates three times. The stock market, after reaching record highs and peaking in mid-July, tumbled hard and fast in the fall, causing alarm; it recovered by year's end.

4. HURRICANES. First came Georges. The September hurricane plowed over 17 Caribbean islands, killing at least 400 people. As torrents became floods, Georges destroyed tourist income along with the basics. "Hurricane mash up my life," Verna McHenry reported through tears, amid ruins of her home on Antigua.

A month later, Mitch arrived. Estimates of dead ranged to 9,000 people, more than half in Honduras, where President Carlos Flores lamented loss of "50 years of construction of the country's infrastructure."

5. IRAQ SHOWDOWN. All year, Saddam Hussein double-dared United Nations weapons inspectors and the countries backing them. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan tried to calm tensions by promising efforts to lift sanctions against Iraq, but that didn't last. In November, the United States and Britain deployed forces to the Gulf. In December, they launched a four-night barrage, bent on damaging Iraq's ability to make weapons of mass destruction. "God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory, which will be attested by your enemies," an unbowed Saddam told his countrymen.

6. GOP SLIDE. In mid-term elections, Democrats made unexpected and highly visible gains in Congress and state elections. Most notably, they narrowed the Republican majority in the House, prompting Speaker Newt Gingrich to give up his gavel, and then his seat. GOP regulars blamed Gingrich's lack of focused issues — and avid pursuit of impeachment against a popular president.

7. EMBASSY BOMBINGS. Security at home seemed suddenly fragile when, in early August, half a world away, car bombs shattered U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The terrorist attacks killed 224 people and injured nearly 5,500. They also catapulted exiled Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind, into notoriety. In reply, the United States fired cruise missiles at targets in Afghanistan and in Sudan.

8. DEADLY CHILDREN. Are schools and children only safe when locked up tight? There were no clear answers for Jonesboro, Ark., where two boys, ages 11 and 13, killed four girls and a teacher. Or for Edinboro, Pa.; Fayetteville, Tenn; Springfield, Ore., where classmates, parents and a teacher died in gunfire — allegedly from teen-aged boys.

9. HERO GLENN. With elegant symmetry, 77-year-old John Glenn returned to space 36 years after becoming the first American in orbit. In between, he spent 24 years representing Ohio in the Senate. Amid national cheers and parades, his hometown of New Concord celebrated his courage as it had in 1962. "It takes a lot of nerve, I believe, to make a trip into space at his age," said Jim Hall, among Main Street greeters. "It scares me driving down Interstate 70."

10. SMOKE CLEARS. No more billboards urging a relaxing puff, no more cartoon ads, no more brand-pegged merchandise. Plus $206 billion that tobacco companies pledged in a November deal with 46 states — the largest civil settlement in U.S. history. Over 25 years, cigarette makers will reimburse states for health care related to smoking.

This was the 63rd year that the AP polled newsroom executives. This year, 299 responded. For the third year that AP posted a ballot on its Web site, www.wire.ap.org, 1,302 readers registered their news choices. At the Newseum, 765 visitors cast votes.

WS wants to protect cave-dwelling spiders

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Suburban development could be hampered if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service succeeds in listing as endangered nine invertebrate species found only in caves in northern and northwestern Bexar County.

Habitat destruction and contamination, along with the proliferation of imported red fire ants, threaten the species — five spiders, three beetles and a harvestman — Fish and Wildlife Service experts said. The service published a notice Wednesday in the Federal Register, initiating a 120-day public comment period that could result in a decision within a year.

The species inhabit 56 caves, but three dwell only in one cave and two live in only two caves. Half the caves are on public land, the San Antonio Express-News reported Thursday.

Several area groups petitioned for the listing six years ago. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said they waited to respond because they were working out voluntary conservation agreements with landowners.

If conservation efforts succeed, "the chances of extinction should be reduced and the need to list one or more of these species could be precluded," said Nancy Kaufman, director of the service's southwest regional headquarters in Albuquerque, N.M.

Conservation easements that prohibit development could protect the caves. Funding for the protection probably would come from state, local and private sources.

Trenching, grading, digging or applying pesticides and fertilizers around caves or sinkholes could destroy the species.

Alan Glen, an Austin lawyer representing a coalition of Bexar County landowners, developers and businesses concerned about the impact of listing the species, said he's optimistic about preventing the move.

"I think the habitat of these creatures is adequately protected by existing federal, state and local conservation and regulatory measures," Glen said.

Glen said funding for cave protection could come from the state parks department, local agencies and private landowners.

CBS bosses leave Osgood alone

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Osgood deals with the new bosses at CBS much the same way as he has with the network brass through the years.

"Mostly I just want them to leave me alone, and they do," Osgood says of the new management at CBS, where he has been on radio for 34 years and television for 15. He has been anchor of "CBS News Sunday Morning" since 1994.

Osgood, 66, who has the reputation of being one of the busiest men in broadcasting, gets up weekdays at 2:30 a.m. to do his "Osgood Files" for the CBS Radio Network.

"I used to come in Saturdays, too, to write," he says in this weekend's Parade magazine.

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Reception planning basics for the bride

NEW YORK (AP) — The post-ceremony reception is the most social — and expensive — part of your wedding festivities, so plan it with care, advises Bridal Guide magazine editor Diane Forden.

"The options can be overwhelming," she says, noting these considerations to help you sort out what you want and can afford:

— Budget. Your guest list will provide the basic math on how much you can spend on each person.

— Location, location, location. Inspect the potential site, and visualize if it will be big enough to let your guests mingle and dance comfortably. The management's idea of "comfortable seating" may be too close for real comfort.

— Food, music, atmosphere. If food is your main consideration, check out a favorite restaurant. But perhaps the band you hire is a big attraction, so finding a spacious dance floor and good acoustics take priority. For more low-key, delicate ambience, you may want to invest more in floral displays.

— Long into the night. Suppose you want your guests to enjoy themselves into the wee hours? Investigate the closing time of the location and if the establishment has any problems with guests drinking and dancing until dawn. A hotel or private club may be your best bet.

— Something different. You don't have to pick a conventional location. According to Forden, many bridal couples choose offbeat sites such as art galleries, lofts, or athletic clubhouses. Use your imagination.

— Delegate it. Maybe you hate all the planning rigmarole. Then why not just choose a place that will do everything in-house, such as a hotel, country club or catering hall? A special events manager will know how to take care of the food, flower and bar setup, and you'll only have to deal with this one person.

Bridal Registry

MICHELLE DEROUEN AND CODY MAULDIN
AMY HODGES AND J.J. VOLLET
PEPPER HINKLE AND JEFF FRANKLIN
ALISE LLOYD AND JOEL KERN
CAROLYN ATKINSON AND CHAD GRIMMETT
LESLIE DANIELL AND CURT RINEHART
MARGOT (DEERE) MCNEIL AND BRANDON MCNEIL
KRYSTYL VALENTINE AND MICHAEL CARROLL
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Bridge By Phillip Alder

North 01-02-99
♠ K 4
♥ 3
♦ A J 9 4 2
♣ A K Q 9 8

West
♠ 8 6 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 8 7 3
♣ J 10 7

East
♠ A 5
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ K Q 10
♣ 6 5 4 2

South
♠ Q J 10 9 7 3
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ 6 5
♣ 3

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ??

Another gem from yesteryear

By Phillip Alder

Yesterday, I gave my favorite declarer-play from last year. Today, here's my favorite defense, which I saw in Alan Truscott's column in The New York Times.

The deal occurred during a high-stakes game at the Regency Club in New York City. North was Jack Dreyfus, the former financial guru who is an avid advocate of phenytoin, the drug sold under the trade name of Dilantin. Declarer was the peripatetic Pakistani, Zia Mahmood. The defenders were Amos Kaminsky and Ronnie Blau, two New York experts.

Aided by the lucky club position, four spades looks sure to succeed. After a top-heart lead, it would have made. West switches to a trump at trick two, but declarer counters by playing dummy's king. If East wins with the ace and returns a trump to stop a heart ruff, declarer scores 10 black-suit tricks and the diamond ace. Yet if East ducks his spade ace, South takes dummy's three top clubs, pitching a diamond and a heart, cashes the diamond ace, ruffs a diamond in hand, ruffs a heart in the dummy, and has three more trump tricks to come.

Knowing dummy was short in hearts, Kaminsky (West) led a trump. Hurdle 1 over. Zia called for dummy's king; Blau ducked. Hurdle 2. Declarer played off four clubs, discarding three hearts from hand. Kaminsky ruffed and resisted the temptation to lead a second trump. Hurdle 3. Instead, he cashed the heart ace, then switched to a diamond. Zia couldn't do better than win with dummy's ace and throw his last diamond on the club eight. But West ruffed, and the spade ace was the fourth defensive trick. Brilliant!

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Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

TUESDAY
Dec. 29

Jane Hinton directed bridge games at the Snyder Country Club.

1. TIE: Martha Fagin, Barbara Yorgesen — Billisue Stuard, Jane Hinton.
2. Dot Casey, Louise Thompson.

Scurry County Library News and Views

The Scurry County Library will be moving storytime from Monday mornings to Wednesday mornings beginning Jan. 6. Storytime is for 4- and 5-year-olds and is held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The staff will present stories, fingerplays, crafts and puppet shows.

Parents are asked to stay and browse while their children attend storytime.

BOOK FEATURE

"Bridal Bargains," by Denise and Alan Fields.

With average wedding costs soaring near $20,000 you need creative ideas to plan a wedding without going bankrupt. Bridal Bargains will show you the best web sites to save on everything from flowers to gowns. It contains 14 creative ways to cut the catering bill for your reception. It lists 11 questions you need to ask any photographer, and has 7 ways to lower photo expenses. Many more money-saving tips are included in this timely book.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS

"House Mouse," by Barrie Watts.

"Fantastic! Wow! and Unreal!" by Ruth Heller.

"Think About It! Projects and Puzzles for All the Family," by Ian Howarth.

"The Young Baseball Player," by Ian Smyth.

"Locked in the Library," by Marc Brown.

"Arthur and the Crunch Cereal Contest," by Marc Brown.

"Hand-print Animal Art," by Carolyn Carreiro.

"The Ghost of KRZY," by Bill Myers.

"The Case of the Vampire Vacuum Sweeper," by John Erickson.

"Walter Wick's Optical Tricks," by Walter Wick.

Football: tops holiday viewing

By The Associated Press

Prime-time ratings as compiled by Nielsen Media Research for Dec. 21-27. Top 10 listings include the week's ranking, with rating for the week and season-to-date rankings in parentheses:

1. (5) "NFL Monday Night Football: Denver at Miami," ABC, 16.3, 16.2 million homes.
2. (8) "60 Minutes," CBS, 14.4, 14.3 million homes.
3. (7) "Touched by an Angel," CBS, 11.4, 11.3 million homes.
4. (16) "NFL Monday Showcase," ABC, 11.1, 11.0 million homes.
5. (X) "Barbara Walters Presents," ABC, 10.1, 10.0 million homes.
6. (18) "Dateline NBC-Monday," NBC 9.8, 9.7 million homes.
7. (12) "Home Improvement," ABC, 9.7, 9.6 million homes.
7. (33) "NFL Monday Blast," ABC, 9.7, 9.6 million homes.
9. (10) "CBS Sunday Movie: Final Descent," CBS, 9.5, 9.4 million homes.
10. (25) "Walker, Texas Ranger," CBS, 9.3, 9.2 million homes.

FIVE GENERATIONS —Family members gathered for a five generation photo included Pete Rasco, seated, holding his great-great-granddaughter, Mekenna Nicole Martin born on Aug. 13; seated left is his great-granddaughter, Tricia Guyer of Justin; and standing from left, Karolyn Robertson of Justin, his daughter, and Tracie Guyer of Justin, his granddaughter. (Contributed Photo)

School Menus

Ira

MONDAY
Tacos
Vegetable Salad
Corn
Peaches

TUESDAY
Chicken Strips
Cream Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Cookies

WEDNESDAY
Pinto Beans
Fried Okra
Whole Potatoes
Corn Bread
Peach Cobbler

THURSDAY
Chicken & Dumplings
Green Peas
Relish Cup
Toast
Plain Cake

FRIDAY
Patti Melts
French Fries
Vegetable Salad
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Snyder

All meals are served with choice of milk. With breakfast menus, there is a choice of assorted dry cereal and chilled juice.

BREAKFAST
MONDAY
No School
(Teachers' Workday)

TUESDAY
Pancakes w/Syrup

WEDNESDAY
Donuts

THURSDAY
French Toast w/Syrup

FRIDAY
Scrambled Eggs w/Toast

LUNCH
TUESDAY
Hot Dog or
Chicken Pot Pie
Tossed Salad
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Dinner Rolls

WEDNESDAY
Pizza or
Hamburger
French Fries
Lettuce & Tomato
Chocolate Pudding

THURSDAY
Burrito or
Crispy Tacos
Lettuce & Tomato
Corn
Refried Beans
Chilled Fruit

FRIDAY
Corn Dog or
Beef Stew
Tater Tots
Tossed Salad
Sliced Bread
Cake

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST
MONDAY
Juice
Toast & Jelly

TUESDAY
Fruit
Buttered Rice
Toast

WEDNESDAY
Juice
Apple Burritos

THURSDAY
Fruit
Sausage & Biscuits

FRIDAY
Juice
Dry Cereal
Toast

LUNCH
MONDAY
Taco Chalupa
Refried Beans
Relish Cup
Hot Rolls
Pineapple Fruit Bars

TUESDAY
Sloppy Joes
Cream Style Corn
Hot Rolls
Blueberries/Whipped Topping

WEDNESDAY
Chicken & Dumplings
Mixed Vegetables
Hot Biscuits
Baked Apples

THURSDAY
Pinto Beans
Buttered Cabbage
Corn Bread
Fruit Jello

FRIDAY
Hamburgers
Burger Salad
French Fries
Cardinal Cake

Andrew Young resigned as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1979 after being reprimanded over an unauthorized meeting with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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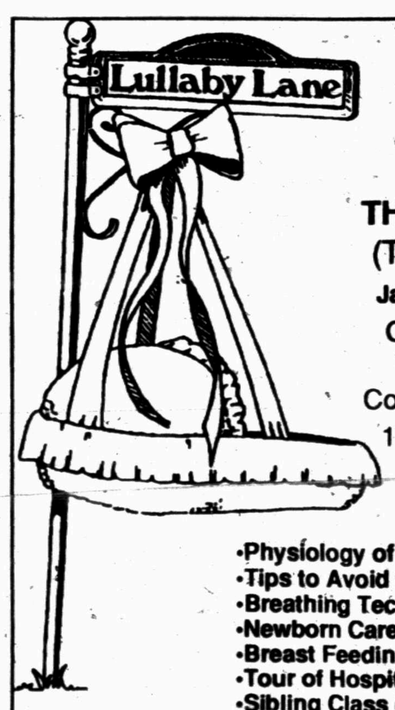

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•Breathing Techniques
•Newborn Care
•Breast Feeding Techniques
•Tour of Hospital OB Department
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Hurry, hurry! Step right up to the frantic 20th century

(Editor's Note: This is the first in an occasional series to run through the next 12 months, examining the 20th Century.)

By Ted Anthony
AP National Writer

ON INTERSTATE 80 IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY (AP) — In a realm where few want to slow down, he stops. As other cars barrel toward New York City, he calmly backs his into the foliage that separates the two coursing forks of I-80. He has come to watch people hurry.

New Jersey State Police Trooper John Salamone knows fast, resents fast, tries to prevent fast. Just west of the most frenetic town of all, on one of the busiest stretches of one of the busiest roads, he polices a rush-hour parade.

He switches on his radar, and as trucks, cars, sport-utility vehicles pass the 55-mph sign, the LED readout clocks each. 66. 69. 73. 77. Hurtling toward Hackensack. 67. 71. 76. Pushing toward Parsippany. 80. 69. 74. 86. Flying toward Fort Lee. Drivers cutting off drivers, tailgating, passing on the shoulder.

Each with a foot on the gas and a century of hurry in the rearview mirror.

"That really frightens me, when you see how oblivious people are," Salamone laments. A Lexus whooshes by. "This overwhelming desire to get from A to B, it's madness,"

A hundred-year madness. The 20th century: It started with horses and hours. It ends with Maseratis and microseconds, with cars speeding across highways, airplanes streaking across skies, microprocessors burning across desktops and magnificent metal birds called Discovery and Endeavour and Columbia circling the earth. This century's mad dash of innovation has produced all of these things — and the most frantic human era ever.

We phone. We fax. We page. We e-mail. We stuff day planners. We race from one end of life to the other, rarely glancing over our shoulders. Technology, mass media and a desire to do more, do it better and do it yesterday have turned us into a world of hurriers.

"Don't look back," the baseball pitcher Satchel Paige once said. "Something might be gaining on you."

In these jumbled days, something probably is.

Stop and smell the roses? No more. Instead, better wake up and smell the coffee. What an exhilarating, exhausting world we've created in our haste to create a world we can manage.

A world of seven-day diets and 24-hour news channels and one-hour photo processing and 30-minute pizza delivery and 10-minute facials and two-minute warnings and Minute Rice.

Fast food. Fast computers. Fast cars in fast lanes. (Or, if you prefer, rapid transit.) And Nestle Quik and Quik Marts and quick-cut commercials. A superhero faster than a speeding bullet and a bullet train faster than a speeding car. VCRs with five fast-forward settings. Sound bites and the rat race and instant coffee and microwave popcorn and radio stations that make a breathless promise: "You give us 22 minutes, we'll give you the world."

And now a brief pause — but only for station identification.

Get rich quick. Get fast-tracked. Get your 15 minutes of fame. Live fast, die young, leave a good-looking corpse. Run on empty. Just do it.

"Most people are trying to figure out what it is that they need to do. Before they even get up in the morning, they feel like the day's half over," says Joan DesCombes, a Florida interior designer who helps busy people streamline their homes.

About this time a century ago, America was still a rural nation.

Meals could take entire afternoons to prepare; trips into town ate up whole days. Those with telephones made calls by turning a crank and dialing "central" to connect them.

Yet people were already open-mouthed at life's fast pace. A man named Simon Newcombe looked back at the 19th century and observed: "A beggar today riding in a boxcar can travel faster than a king could 100 years ago."

Then, everything accelerated. The innovations in transportation alone boggle the mind:

—1903: the first speed limit (England, 20 mph).

—1908: the Ford Model T, top speed 45 mph (speeded-up assembly-line manufacturing began in 1913).

—1911: the world's earliest air-mail delivery (in India).

—1933: the Boeing 247 (600 miles in four hours).

—1947: Test pilot Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier (700 mph).

—1969: Apollo 10's three astronauts become the fastest humans ever (24,791 mph).

And consider this standard of speed: a North Atlantic crossing. By sea, the leisurely old-fashioned method, the liner SS United States set the record in 1952 with a trip of 3 days, 10 hours, 40 minutes.

By air, Charles Lindbergh took 33½ hours in 1927. In 1976, the supersonic plane Concorde cut that to three hours (1,453 mph).

Quick transit begetting quick access begetting quicker, busier, more compressed lives.

"No century has been like this. And we're only speeding up," says David Grubin, producer of the recent PBS documentary "America 1900." To him, fast often means progress: "We're always complaining about the pace of life, but prosperity and speed go together."

What caused it all? Was it the Industrial Revolution, which automated tasks, created a vast off-the-farm labor force and infused the twin dreams of Bigger and Better into American life? Was it the urbanization that brought heartland job-seekers and northward-migrating blacks and foreign immigrants pouring into spaces too small for them, racing to build the national industrial behemoth and catch the American dream?

Was it the technology? The radio and the telephone, which transmitted the human voice instantaneously? The movie, which condensed life into a fast-moving tale? Or the microchip, whose speed, according to Moore's Law, doubles every 18 months and makes us view gadget efficiency as a birthright?

It was all of the above — vast forces working together, condensing life, collapsing events into one big glob of Franklin Planner complexity.

"My dad was born in 1897. And he moved from a farm in the Central Valley of California to Los Angeles in a covered wagon. And then he sat there in his living room and watched guys walk on the moon. I don't know how his mind held both of those events," says Carroll Pursell, a technology historian and author of "White Heat," a book that examined the cultural impact of technology.

"We're witnessing the annihilation of time and space," Pursell says. "Who knows what it means?"

Milestones from a hurried century (pared down, of course, to keep this quick):

—In 1922, Reader's Digest was founded to give busy people the "nub" of articles they wouldn't otherwise have time to read.

—The "Twentieth Century Limited," a luxury train said to "make New York a suburb of Chicago," covered the 961 miles between the two cities in just 16 hours. It shut down, outdated by airliners, on Dec. 2, 1967.

—During the 1980s, when disc jockeys played "oldies," they meant songs from the 1950s. Today, "oldies" can be from 1990. Will we lap ourselves?

—In 1968, in an allegorical episode of the original "Star Trek," Captain Kirk encounters a species whose existence is far faster-paced than humans'. But there is a price. "At this level, they are easily damaged," Kirk says, "as if accelerated living burns them out."

—In Japan, the modern era has coined two new words: "karoshi" and "karojisatsu" — death from overwork and suicide from overwork.

—In 1998, 65 million Americans subscribed to wireless services such as pagers and cell phones, according to the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.

—And right now, labs in New Mexico, California and New York are competing to build the fastest computer ever — one that performs more than 1 trillion calculations per second. That's equivalent to every person on Earth doing 200 sums on a pocket calculator.

All in that same second.

A year after it began overnight deliveries in 1973, Federal Express was handling 4,000 of them on an average day. In 1998, the company delivers 3 million packages across the globe, dispatching them in a post-postal way that would have made Benjamin Franklin's head spin. But even overnight has its shortcomings.

"Sometimes the next morning by 10:30 isn't fast enough," says Jim Lyski, the company's vice president of marketing. So three years ago, the company introduced "First Overnight" — delivery by 8:30 a.m. But...

"Sometimes early morning delivery isn't fast enough," says Lyski. So same-day delivery was born. And yet...

"Sometimes six days a week isn't enough," says Lyski. So last year came the next step: Sunday delivery.

Federal Express, by the way, has been painting its trucks with its new name: FedEx. Those extra syllables, it seems, took too long to say.

People do recognize this kind of hurry in their lives. They talk of fixing it, but they don't have the time. A survey conducted for Hilton hotels found 71 percent of Americans think time is moving too quickly, but only half of them would slow down if they could. And even fewer — 43 percent — don't think thinning their packed schedules would make them happier.

Even the fastest man around —

See 20th, Page 5B

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor

A One-Year Countdown to 2000

By the time you read this, some of you will have already broken a few of your New Year's resolutions. Others will approach this year as you have every previous year. Ho hum, so what else is new?

What's new is that we are on the brink of a new millennium. An exciting, once-every-thousand-years experience that we will never witness again.

In early 1900, the New York Times chronicled the new century with these editorial comments: "The advance of the human race during the past 100 years had not been equaled by the progress of man within any of the preceding ages." The Times could rewrite that editorial and apply it to this century as well. What a glorious century it has been.

As Americans read the paper that day in 1900 they never dreamed of headlines to come. No one expected World War I, the stock market crash, the ensuing depression and World War II, manned flights and space travel. Television, computers and car phones were not on their minds.

Now, as we countdown the days to 2000, we are in no better position to predict the future than were they. Global economies will rise and fall, trends will come and go and leaders will succeed and fail. Only the master timekeeper will know the course of events.

When we awaken on January 1, 2000, we will face a brand new day just as we did today. There will be problems to solve, jobs that need doing and reasons for action.

The New Century

Let's take a whimiscal journey into the first century of the new millennium. As a trained engineer, your job is to find new uses for things made obsolete. For example, what to do with those hallowed halls of now empty colleges and universities. The new Laser Optic Brain Cell Information Transfer Technoloty (lobcitt) patented in early 2008 allows complete transfer of all knowledge directly into the human mind. No professors, classrooms or textbooks are needed. For a one-time fee of $25,000 you can become a true know-it-all.

You also have the challenge of what to do with all those empty hospitals and medical centers. The new medical breakthrough. Gene Engineering Mattrixing (GEM) provides total wellness through gene positioning and manipulation. There is no more cancer, no more heart disease and no more addiction.

Other of your associates' struggle with the issues created in the changing retail environment. Once the Molecular Optimizing Virtual Enhancing Imaging Technology (MOVE-IT) became popular, folks no longer go to stores to shop. They simply log into their T-boxes and transport items into their homes via the MOVE-IT system. They keep what they want and beam the others back to the manufacturers.

T-boxes replaced personal computers in 2007. These new "technology-boxes" are the size of a credit card, radio wave powered, voice activated and directed, and require no operating system or software. Bill Gates took bankruptcy in 2008. The government dismissed Microsoft's anti-trust investigation in 2010. They cited Microsoft's 2008 revenues of $519 as evidence that the company no longer held a monopoly position.

Ford Motor Company produced the last Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) in 2011. The latest transportation rage is the Chrysler built Flying Aquatic Regional Transporter, affectionately referred to as ... "the Runabout." GM and Ford are testing prototypes of the new plane/boat/car vehicles.

Harley-Davidson acquired Japan's Honda Motor Company for $1 trillion and free lifetime golf for all Honda directors. Harley will produce its 2012 models in the old Honda factories. City commissioners from Milwaukee, Wis., annexed Sturgis, SD, in a surprise move last month.

I'd love to tell you more, but I've got to beam this column to the "Netpaper." Funny thing about columns, deadlines still apply.

Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

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Deanie Francis Mills

How kids survive

When I was a new mother, I almost suffocated my newborn son to death.

Lord knows, I had good intentions, but to this day, I sometimes wonder how that kid survived the winter of '78. The recent bitter cold reminded me of those days and set me to thinking about how mothers have to spend a lifetime, I guess, trying not to smother their kids.

That winter, my husband and I were living out in Union in a white frame, uninsulated house that set like a sturdy box beneath six elm trees. We had two little space heaters to warm that whole place, one in the living room and one in the bathroom.

It didn't help.

If you are less than 20 years old, it may be hard for you to imagine just how miserable the winters can be out here in West Texas. It's been fairly mild in recent years, but in the '70s, believe me, there were often weeks of icy white-outs that stick like sharp icicles in the memory. In fact, when I was teaching English at Snyder High the year before, a freak snow storm sent everyone home even earlier than normal for Thanksgiving break.

And I can remember one New Year's Day where the roads were so iced over that no one ventured out except the sanding trucks. Kent got the car stuck in a ditch just trying to get down our private caliche road to the mailbox and a friend had to pull him out with a tractor.

The winter of '78 was no exception. Our first-born was only four months old and that old house was so cold it defies description. Around the house during the day, we kept him bundled up in two fleecy footed sleepers, and at night, we put him to bed in two clean sleepers and just piled on the baby blankets. Floor-to-ceiling leaky windows in every room screeched with howling wind leaks that couldn't be stopped no matter what we stuffed in the gaps.

Back then, the accepted wisdom was to put a baby to bed on his stomach. (Now they say babies are safer on their backs or sides.) But we'd faithfully rock him to sleep every night, singing little songs, then snuggle him down under his blankets. Off and on, I'd check on him by placing my hand on the bed underneath the blankets. If my hand stayed warm, I figured he would too.

Then in the morning, I'd hear this little squealing sound a kitten makes, and I'd rush into his room to find the baby completely burrowed down under his mountain of blankets like some kind of human mole. You couldn't even see him, and we'd have to peel off layers of blankets to get to him.

And I think back on those cold days now and wonder how on earth that baby survived his mother's smothering attempts to keep him warm. He's 21 years old now, that sweet baby — strong and tall and very much his own young man. (He's only sweet now when he wants to be.) And I'm trying very hard to figure out how to be a mom to him without, well, smothering him.

It's tough. We spent so many years looking after them, fretting over them. We try not to send them to school without breakfast and we make sure they're dressed warmly, and when they're old enough to drive, we give them curfews.

Then one day they're all grown up, and if they want to walk out the door on a cold day without a coat, well, that's their business.

You have to start peeling back those blankets and give them room to move around. We still fret. We can't help it. We see them skipping meals and dashing out the door without gloves and we want to DO something.

They make their plans and they don't ask permission — they just tell us. "If I'm not home Sunday," announced my son before the holidays, "I'll be home Monday. I'm going to visit friends in Austin on the way."

And no, he wasn't going to call first. "I'll be there when I get there," he said. And when I complained to my husband, he shrugged and said something like, "He's a big boy now."

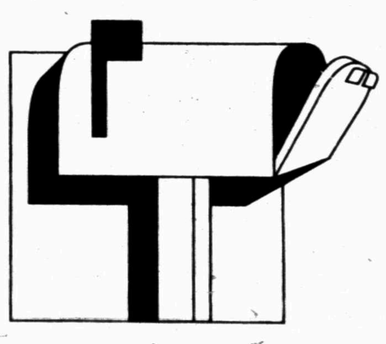
So I peeled off another blanket, so to speak, and stepped back. Okay. Fine. I don't have to fret and fuss. I'll expect him Monday. He's a big boy now.

And of course, he walked in the door on Sunday. With a big hug and a bigger smile, he said simply, "I was ready to get home."

When they're all grown up, we just cuddle the baby blanket memories in our arms and bite our tongues and trust that we kept them warm. We have to. Anything more is something, not mothering — and the more we try to hold them close the harder they struggle to get away. So, instead, we learn to gather up the blankets and give them room to breathe.

And that way, when the cold winds howl, they will remember. And even if they can't come home just then, they'll wrap the warm blankets of our love around their hearts and weather the winter storm.

Letters to the Editor



Mad mom

Dear Editor:

Hello!! I'm very angry at the people who run Toys for Tots! They need to find some other people to manage it.

They turn down the people who need the toys and give the people who don't need them all the toys!!

This is the second year they turned me down when I needed the help, they say we make too much. Don't they know there are such things as bills and days people miss a lot of work because of so-called holidays!

I went to the Girl Scout Hut and I saw a lot of people I knew who bought a lot of toys already. There was even an LVN there. And they make $18 an hour and my husband only makes $6 an hour.

So who makes more, huh??

So why did she get some and I didn't. Doesn't that tell you something.

I had called over to the hut and a lady named Tracy was very rude, she hung up on me three times. I even tried to get my daughter in Girl Scouts last year and they turned her down.

They don't have hearts at all, but of stones only. They need to do deeper checks.

Just because you have one child they think, wow, that they can afford it. Yeah! Right!

Just like the food cupboard people get $500 in food stamps and still go to get food. They need to leave it for people who really need food, and I know there are more people who feel the same way I do.

If I could manage the toy drive I'd make sure people get toys who needed them. I know I won't be donating used toys anymore and I'd advise the same thing to other people because they don't give to the needy like they should.

Thanks to Judi, she showed me another side of Christmas spirit. There was a little old man last year who wanted something to give his grandkids (God rest his soul) and they turned him down.

My daughter just sat there and asked me why Santa won't bring anything to her this year. Thank goodness a church from Plainview came last year and brought her a doll.

Bad enough I have to go to Big Spring to buy food because it's too expensive here, I go to Bargain Mart on 3rd and Runnels where everything is 3 for $1.00 or less.

If I had the money I wouldn't ask for help. People don't know the true Christmas meaning. All it is now is hate, greed, poverty!

A mad mom,
Diane Torres

1998: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

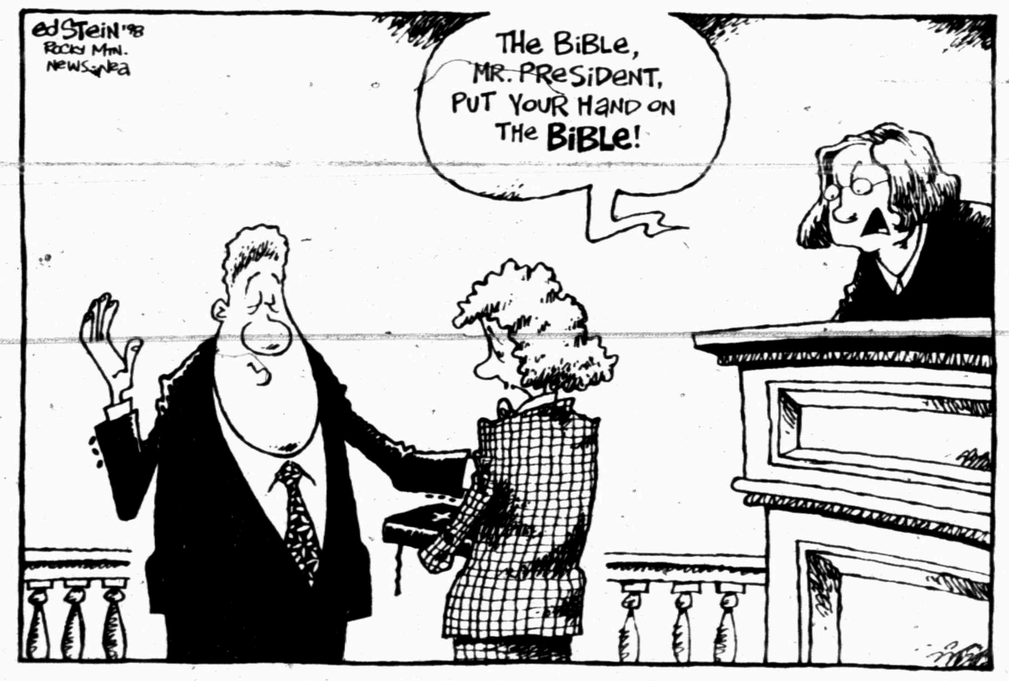
ED STEIN

"1998, The Alltime Year of the Cartoonist. Retire the trophy. Was there ever a series of events and a set of players more tailor-made for satire? Sex. Clinton. Sex. Power. Sex. Starr. Sex. Politics. Sex. Gingrich. Sex. Intrigue. Sex.

"Oh, and did I mention sex?

"You didn't know whether to laugh or to cry, at least if you were an ordinary American you didn't. If you were a cartoonist you knew exactly what to do. The only problem was that your best work couldn't be printed in a family newspaper.

"What can history possibly do for an encore?"



EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Lawsuits against HMOs

The Houston Chronicle

Earlier this month, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales filed lawsuits against six health maintenance organizations, claiming they illegally compensated doctors who limited patients' medical care and penalized those who would not. Each lawsuit accused the HMOs of fixing budgets for services like hospital admissions and forcing doctors to stay within those limits.

Doctors who came in under budget were given a percentage of the surplus. They were expected to compensate the HMOs when they went over budget, according to the lawsuits.

Morales contends that these arrangements give HMOs leverage to limit treatment to improve their bottom lines. His suits further assert that the HMOs in question gave patients deceptive or untruthful coverage information.

The HMOs deny those assertions and maintain their policies are approved by Texas and federal regulators.

Until the lawsuits come to trial and the evidence is heard and weighed, it will be impossible to judge the merit of these charges. However, there have been so many complaints by patients and doctors themselves about lawyers and administrators limiting care and making medical decisions to warrant a careful consideration of these complaints.

It's time the courts helped test these allegations so that changes can be made if in fact they are needed.

Warranties for graduates

San Antonio Express-News

Texans should watch a proposal in Virginia to offer warranties ensuring the competence of its high school graduates. The idea could have applications here.

Under the plan being considered by Virginia's Council of Higher Education, the cost of remedial studies incurred by state-supported colleges and universities would be passed on to the high schools that failed to produce freshmen ready to pursue college- level work.

Critics assail the idea, noting that public schools cannot be selective about who they serve, unlike colleges where admissions officers can be choosy, reports the Associated Press. They weakly argue that they cannot guarantee the success of all students.

If not the public schools, then who can or should?

The impetus for the Virginia proposal is simple: Schools should be held accountable for the students they produce.

Taxpayers in San Antonio, who foot an enormous bill for remedial education at the community college level, would stand to win under such a plan. Consider that most first-time, incoming Alamo Community College District students require remedial classes, costing the district about $5 million annually.

Students also would come out ahead because they wouldn't be sidelined until they're ready for college work. Of course, some still might need help. But the numbers at ACCD, which surely are mirrored in other communities, are too staggering to ignore.

Minnesota now has a program similar to the one being eyed in Virginia that reimburses colleges for lapses in their students' skills, the AP reports. The Virginia proposal would be voluntary, with officials hoping public pressure would boost participation.

It's hard to imagine the public wouldn't get behind the plan as it goes to the heart of what people say they want from schools: accountability.

School, teacher accountability

The Dallas Morning News

The bipartisan National Education Goals Panel recently reported how schools in Texas and North Carolina have realized "significant and sustained" achievements. The panel's members applauded the states for such improvements as having plenty of teachers with advanced degrees.

But the report claimed the two states mostly made strides because of their commitments to "holding schools accountable for improvement by all students."

This analysis should help Texas legislators understand that "accountability" is more than a kitschy education term. The concept actually elevates schools and their students.

The point is worth emphasizing because Texas legislators will be asked to push through new "accountability" reforms during their 1999 legislative session.

Gov. George W. Bush, for example, wants them to end "social promotions." The wink-and-a-nod practice allows some students to skip from one grade to the next without mastering the basics.

Gov. Bush wants legislators to start ending this custom over the next few years. He correctly argues that social promotions serve the interest of no one, especially the child who fails to learn relevant skills.

Some legislators, however, could go wobbly when they consider this proposal next year. Opponents already argue it is too harsh.

The doubters should be swayed, though, by the governor's willingness to spend more money for reforms like reading academies that help failing students. As he says, the state cannot ask students to improve without giving them the means to do so.

Similarly, state lawmakers will consider improving the way Texas measures student performance. Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses, along with Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, recently proposed adding more subjects to the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

The pair also want the exit-level TAAS exam moved from 10th grade to 11th grade. They believe this change would provide a more accurate reading of student skills.

These ideas deserve legislative support as well. They would strengthen the accountability system that has helped sustain Texas schools.

Of course, other education proposals also will surface next year. Legislators, for instance, must provide enough funds to keep class sizes small. Some fast-growing Texas schools have had to hike their teacher/student ratios.

Yet lawmakers must remain primarily committed to the state's accountability system. As the bipartisan education panel understood, it is the cornerstone of the state's effort to improve Texas schools.

The future of NATO

The Valley Morning Star (Harlingen)

During the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations meeting earlier this month, diplomats argued whether NATO should take a pledge against the "first use" of nuclear weapons.

The proposal was defeated, but the testy debate revealed deep divisions between the members of this Cold War-era military alliance.

Below the veneer of camaraderie within NATOs ranks lies conflicting views about the future of the organization, and even about the fundamental reasons for its continuing existence. After World War II, NATO was formed as a military barrier to protect war-weary European nations from the growing Russian communist threat. It served the purpose well until the break-up of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s.

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY

Chicken and dumplings, golden carrots, fried squash, three bean salad, brownie

TUESDAY

Meat loaf, lima beans, baked potato, tomato wedges, coconut pudding

WEDNESDAY

Country fried steak w/cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green peas, cucumber/onion salad, cherry cobbler

THURSDAY

German sausage w/barbecue sauce, green beans, potatoes au graten, lettuce/tomato salad, sugar cookie

FRIDAY

Fried fish, baked beans, maçaroni & tomatoes, cabbage slaw, pineapple flop cake

Senior Center News

MONDAY

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. and seniors registered for the snooker tournament may begin play.

TUESDAY

88 play begins at 10 a.m., the Hoss Clayton Band entertains at 11 and the Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon.

WEDNESDAY

The Kitchen Band will be entertaining at Snyder Healthcare at 10 a.m. and the line dancing and clogging classes will resume at 1 and 2 p.m., respectively.

THURSDAY

The fabric painting class meets at 9 a.m. Craft items are available for newcomers and seniors who would like to learn this craft.

The Sunshine Choir will be practicing at 10 a.m. Norma Laywell, ex-director and Sunshine Choir director, has had enough of retirement and will be returning to direct the choir.

FRIDAY

Bridge play and the blood pressure clinic will meet at 9:30 a.m. and the sing-a-long at 11:30 a.m.

Western Texas College registration is set for Jan. 18. The swimnastics class will resume after schedules are set. Don't forget daily exercise, walking in the gym and the stationary bikes.

Don't put away those holiday recipes yet. A new project will start with the New Year. A cookbook is being compiled for a fund-raising project. Seniors have a gold mine of recipes that can be offered to the public.

Beginning Jan. 4 forms to write recipes on may be picked up in the office. The more recipies the better the book will be. Recipes are sought from all participants of the center, past and present. Employees and past employees are encouraged to bring recipes. Help will be available for copying recipes onto the form provided.

Since recipe books take long time to organize, all recipes are due by Feb. 5 in order to get the books ready to sell for May Day.

Business booming in Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Once the overlooked wallflower on the border, Brownsville is becoming the belle of the ball with a bustling mall, national retail and restaurant chains and a 17-screen megatheater.

The big turnaround began when Titan Tire announced in June it would build a one million-square-foot manufacturing plant in the city, meaning the addition of several hundred jobs.

"It was the first time a real national player like that had put a significant investment like that on this side of the border," said Rick Luna, spokesman for the Brownsville Economic Development Council.

Brownsville landed Titan by promoting its young, available work force as well as sweetening the deal with incentives. Brownsville paid Titan's costs to prepare the plant site as well as to move machinery. The city also is reimbursing the company for its first year of salaries.

In 1993, the city persuaded Continental to fly from its airport by guaranteeing that the carrier would sell a certain number of seats or the city would pay the difference, Luna said. That deal expired in 1996 and the airline continues to operate in Brownsville.

Brownsville's aggressive use of incentives was made possible by a half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1991 that allows the city to collect $3.5 million a year.

"We're finally catching up with the rest of the country as far as competing, putting together the kinds of deals it takes to attract these kinds of projects," Luna said. "Incentives help set Brownsville apart from other communities."

Historically, Brownsville was known as a place for manufacturing, while McAllen and other cities in the upper Rio Grande Valley were seen as more attractive for retailers and residential developers.

But signs of that perception fading are all over Brownsville:

— The Sunrise Mall is expanding by 500,000 square feet, a move that will accommodate stores like Foley's, The Gap and Old Navy, along with a 17-screen movie theater.

— A 4,000-unit master planned community with higher-priced homes is in the works.

— Five new hotels are expected to open for business in 1999, including a Hilton, two Marriotts and a Hawthorne Suites.

— A second international bridge into Matamoros, Mexico, is set to open in March. Brownsville's lifeline, U.S. 77, is being extended to accommodate the new bridge.

Said Luna: "Basically, it's just a whole new Brownsville."

Mayor Henry Gonzalez attributes the economic upswing to financial and political leaders' efforts to obtain funding for city infrastructure projects.

He also applauds another positive outcome: Brownsville businesses can survive on local trade and customers, instead of relying heavily on business from Mexico, which put them at the mercy of the fluctuating peso.

"We don't just depend on Mexican trade like we did before," Gonzalez said

The North American Free Trade Agreement is partly responsible for renewal in border communities like Brownsville, economic experts say.

"Companies are now aware that the border exists," Luna said. "You can be successful in Mexico or next to Mexico even if you're not a maquiladora."

Border cities are attractive to U.S. companies that want to be near Mexico to enjoy the benefits of free trade, but still want to be in this country where they're familiar with the rules of running a business, said Betty McIntosh, an Atlanta-based consultant with KPMG Peat Marwick who works with companies seeking to relocate and expand.

Border cities also offer a good labor pool, particularly for manufacturers.

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Claud Fryar, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Juanita Wright, 1999 Chevrolet Suburban from Big Country Autoland.

Christopher B. and Lucy L. Wright, 1999 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

James R. Campbell, 1998 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Tommy G. and Lu Dana R. Baker, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Ann Henderson, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Lawrence Whitten, 1999 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

South Plains Christian Fellowship, 1999 Ford van from Wilson Motors.

Rick Hardin, 1998 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Thomas D. Strayhorn, 1999 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

Joseph Shad Hodge and Elizabeth Ann Bishop, both of Snyder.

Oren Ray Carpenter and Julie Lynn Carpenter, both of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Kathleen Bullard vs. John and Carolyn Derouen, suit for injuries.

Action in District Court

Snyder National Bank vs. Postex Warehouse, et al, order of dismissal with prejudice.

Manuel Soto De Guardado, individually and representative of the estate of Juan Guardado, et al, and Cathy McNew, individually and as representative of the estate of Jerry McNew Jr., et al, vs. GECKO Booty 1994 I Limited Partnership, et al, agreed judgment.

In the marriage of Leatha Ann Stout and Darrell Lee Stout, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Dianna Lynn Allen and Jeffrey Elvin Allen, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Amy Elizabeth Fowler and Jimmy Joe Fowler, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Jim J. and Lanell Hogan to Gary and Jennie Sorrells, 16.39 acres out of the west one-half of the southwest one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of Section 124, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Snyder Farm and Ranch Supply Inc. to Bryon and Brenda Hedges, the east 20 feet of Lot 3 and all of Lot 4 in Block 8 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Snyder Farm and Ranch Supply Inc. to Bryon and Brenda Hedges, 7.014 acres out of the northeast one-quarter of Section 153, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Linda J. Burns to Jay Dee Burns, an 0.58-acre tract out of the west one-half of the southwest one-quarter of Section 250, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Jay Dee Burns to Billy Mitchell Smith, an 0.58-acre tract out of the west one-half of the southwest one-quarter of Section 250, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Mathias Rodriguez to Toby Morris, Lots 5-7 in Block 28 of the Bootheland West Addition.

Howard and Eloise Smith to Floydell Johnson, the north 50 feet of the south 100 feet of Lot 2 in Block 29 of the T.N. Nunn's Addition.

20th century events examined

Continued From Page 3B

DC Comics' "The Flash" — is having trouble keeping up. When he was conceived in the 1940s, The Flash could race at four, maybe five times the speed of sound. Today, he can almost catch light. But even that's not enough.

"The world's overtaking him," says Mark Waid, who writes the stories that are made into "Flash" comic books. "It becomes increasingly harder to come up with real-world superspeed stunts for this character to do. I recently had him try to outrace a modem signal from computer to computer."

Can we slow down? Is it still possible?

Well, there's always baseball — the patient pastime and official evoker of Elysian-field relaxation. But has it, too, been supplanted by the video-age spectacles of pro basketball and pro hockey?

After watching one game of the 1997 World Series, a decidedly impatient Commissioner Bud Selig was heard to say, "The 'Unfinished Symphony' had a better chance of finishing before that game last night."

Hello. This is your blood pressure speaking. Why not consider letting that tension ebb out of you for a while? How about a nice, deep, oil-saturated back rub. Or perhaps aromatherapy. Some nice scented candles, plush pillows, a nice down comforter. How does that sound?

Here's a book to help you relax. It's by Anne Wilson Schael. It's called "Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much."

"Feeling overwhelmed isn't surprising," she'll tell you. "Being surprised about it is."

Or how about a slow walk through the Pennsylvania woods? A gentle snow falling on the crisp leaves of late autumn. Squirrels meandering up old oaks. Slow, deep breaths of clear air. Stroll, maybe, with the Rev. Geoff Kohler of Marketplace Community Church in suburban Philadelphia, who has started to preach about the virtues of slow.

"I went for a walk the other day, and I made myself walk slow," he'll tell you. "I walked three miles in 2½ hours. ... I was completely relaxed and refreshed. I came back feeling so good."

But his is a family of athletes, he said, and their response was different: "They told me that my body missed all the benefits by not going. fast."

Keep walking — forward, just a little more now. What's that in the distance? A fence?

And just beyond it? An interstate?

Cars moving faster than any human did in 1900. Eighteen-wheelers roaring along. Caffeinated drivers push, push, pushing from Point A to Point B as their counterparts across the median whiz from B right back to A.

So much for getting away from it all.

Not a chance. We're busy beings, we 20th century humans. Places to go, people to meet, planners to fill, files to download, shows to tape, bills to pay, planes to catch, frozen dinners to nuke, Web sites to surf, kids to pick up, stress to manage, thromboses to have, speeding tickets to pay. Gotta move on.

Twentieth century's about over, folks. Hurry along, now. Nothing more to see here.

Libel verdict overturned

HOUSTON (AP) — An appeals court on Wednesday overturned a $3.25 million libel verdict against a Houston television station and one of its reporters, finding they acted without malice in linking a former mayoral candidate to an insurance scam.

A three-judge panel of the 14th Court of Appeals reversed the 1996 verdict against KTRK-TV and reporter Wayne Dolcefino in a lawsuit brought by state Rep. Sylvester Turner after his unsuccessful bid for Houston mayor.

"KTRK is delighted with today's ruling," the station said in a statement. "We believe ... in our broadcasts, and are pleased that the court recognized that the people of Houston were entitled to hear what we had learned about a candidate for public office."

Dolcefino added: "The First Amendment won a big victory today."

Turner denounced the ruling and said he would ask the full appeals court to review the case. If that fails, he promised to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

'TIS THE SALE AFTER Christmas

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Santa Windsocks
Christmas Cups
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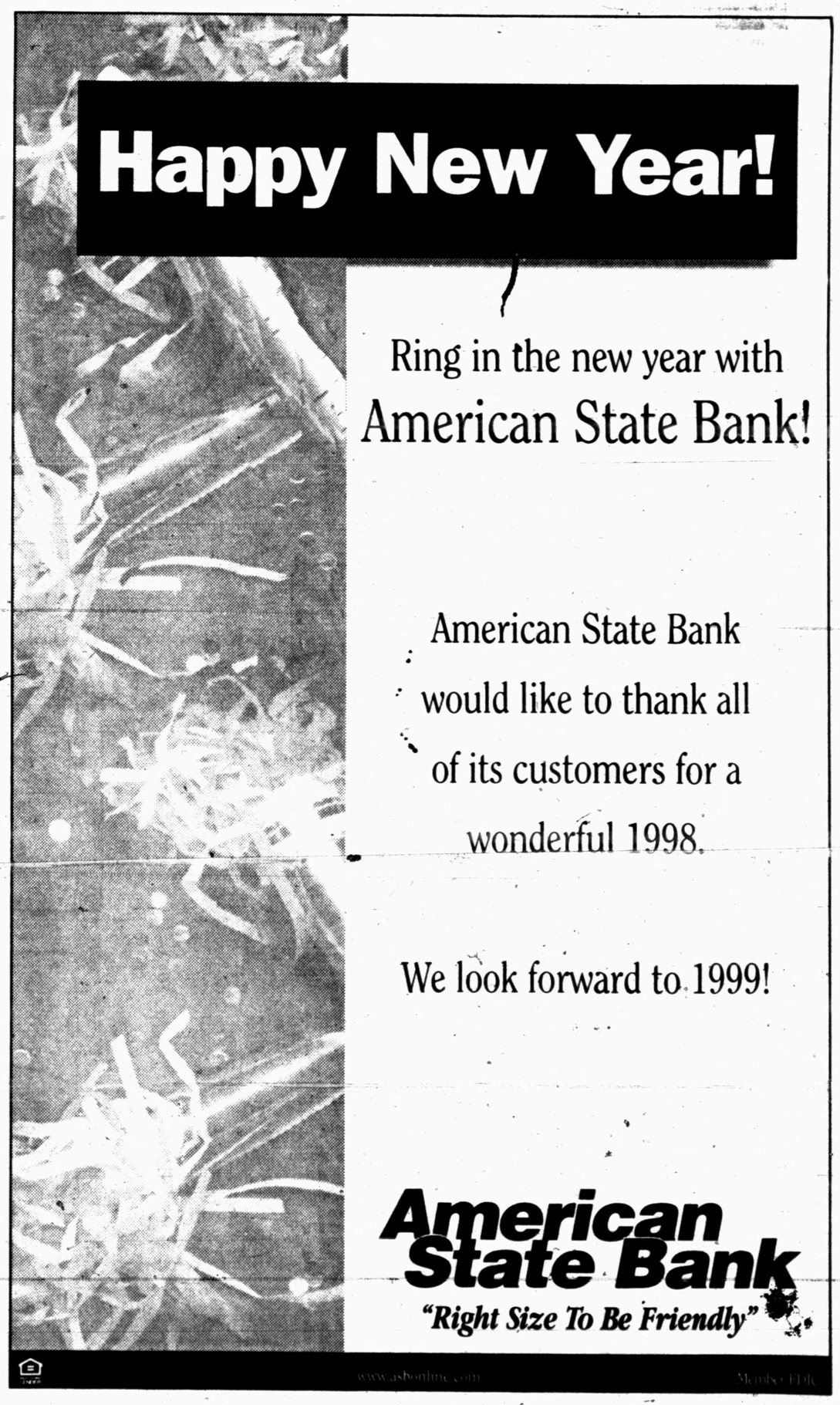
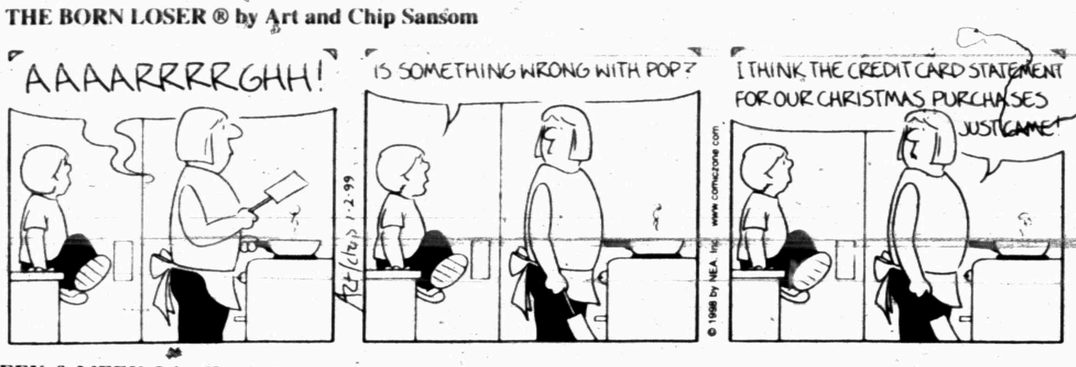


Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



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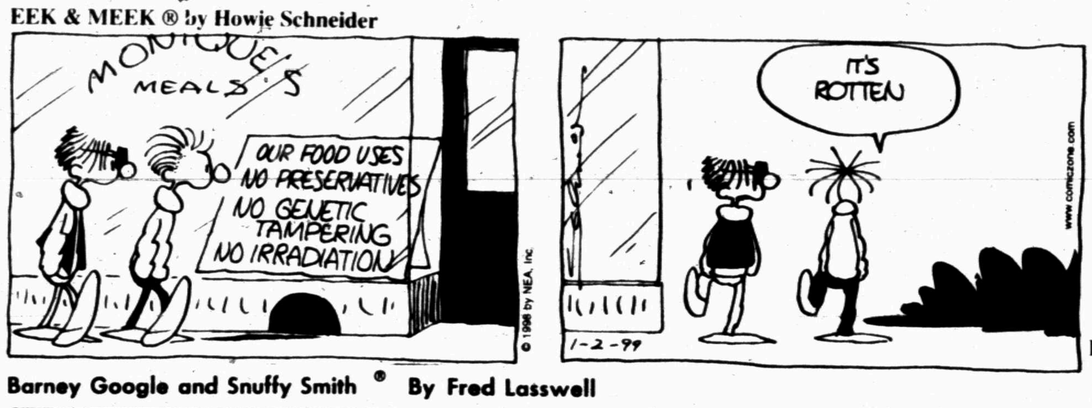

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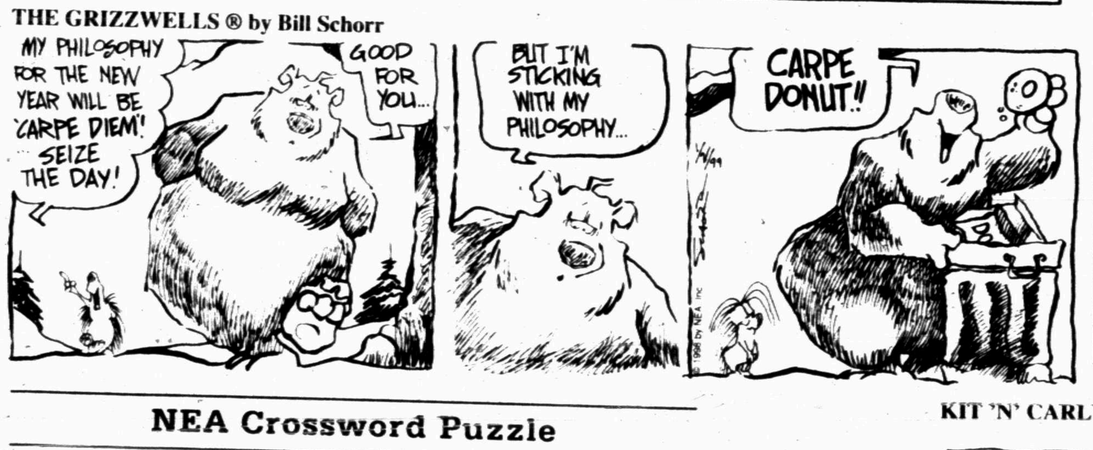

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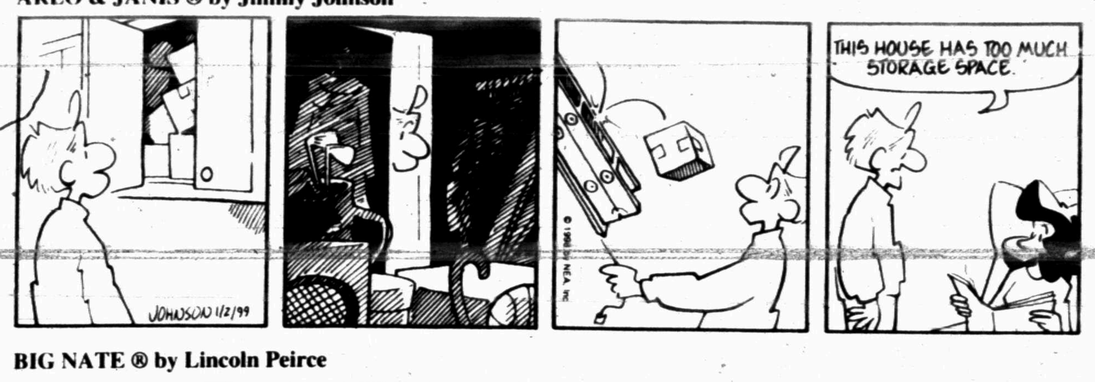

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

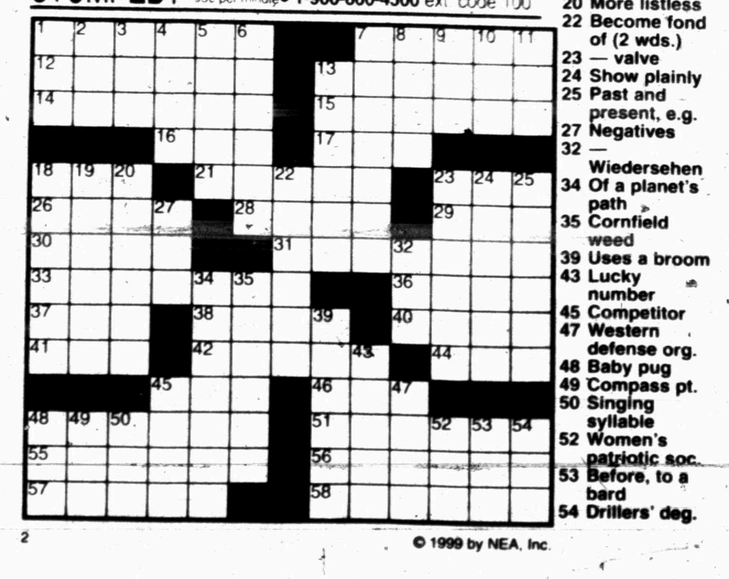
1 — — flow
7 Religious poem
12 Pencil part
13 Wears away
14 Quick lunch place
15 Cowhands' loops
16 Bird (comb. form)
17 Weight unit abbr.
18 Wriggly fish
21 Outer
23 Ran into
26 Once — a time
28 Lighten
29 — Got a Secret
30 Type of dancer
31 Hair protein
33 Miniseries part
36 Plant holders
37 Wedding-page word
38 Rodents
40 Countenance
41 Ending for auction
42 Foreheads
44 Bandleader Brown
45 Wine, in France
46 Poetic time
48 Women's clothing size
51 Dodged adroitly
55 Imaginary
56 Firecracker
57 It could be cultured
58 Makes sleep noises

DOWN

1 Wide shoe size
2 Bikini top
3 Baseball club
4 On the briny
5 Gall
6 Cooler item (2 wds.)
7 Cat, at times
8 Chimney dirt
9 Billboards, e.g.
10 Confederate general
11 Future bks.
13 Package
18 Playwright O'Neill
19 Epic poem
20 More listless
22 Become fond of (2 wds.)
23 — valve
24 Show plainly
25 Past and present, e.g.
27 Negatives
32 — Wiedersehen
34 Of a planet's path
35 Cornfield weed
39 Uses a broom
43 Lucky number
45 Competitor
47 Western defense org.
48 Baby pug
49 Compass pt.
50 Singing syllable
52 Women's patriotic soc.
53 Before, to a bard
54 Drillers' deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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



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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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1-2

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Q&A

What is youth drug scene?

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse. The current series is dedicated to supplying general information to our readers. Getting back to the basics, we are using the ABC's as a structured guideline. Each week, the column will concentrate on such topics as Valium, Wassail Warning, Xanthines, etc. Readers may want to cut out the articles and save them as a resource for future reference.)

ABC's of Substance Abuse
(Article 25 of 26)

Y ~ YOUTH DRUG SCENE

The contemporary *youth drug scene* encompasses a vast number of people, from all socioeconomic classes, in their teens and early twenties. These people are confronted with rapid change, too many choices, and computerized technology that often leads to depersonalization. They face difficult and confusing decisions about education, religion, work, and the directions they will choose for their lives. Because of the tensions such decisions can bring, many youths look to drugs to temporarily escape or to look inward for solutions.

A recent study has found that drug users are increasingly younger, that use begins as early as elementary school. It has also been found that there is a growing propensity toward polydrug use (the use of several drugs), with younger students imitating the drug-taking behavior of classmates and friends. Group acceptance plays a key role in this increasing drug taking. Many youths do not have the strength or the desire to resist peer pressure and often find themselves with drug-related problems. Consistent with these facts are the yearly increases in the number of liquor- and marijuana-related arrests of those under 18.

Our society is based on drugs. Nearly everyone relies upon them to cure aches and pains as well as for recreational purposes. Drug use begins very early. Chemical substances are given to infants and toddlers. Children are frequently treated with prescription drugs, over-the-counter remedies, or home remedies. In addition, youngsters are often given chemicals such as vitamins. As kids enter school they continue to use prescription and over-the-counter drugs. However, there is usually a dramatic increase in the use of caffeine in the form of chocolate, cocoa, or cola drinks.

During grades 4, 5, and 6, recreational illicit drug use and abuse begin to appear. The types of drugs used to get high are often aerosols and inhalants. These substances give a quick high and are everyday items – for example, glue – that are easily obtained. As children continue to use these substances, they often begin to experience irritation. However, they are not willing to give up the high, so they turn to other drugs. Grade schoolers may begin using tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, or amphetamines. It is alarmingly easy for children as young as 11 or 12 to obtain drugs.

Children often have their first experience with alcohol in grades 4 and 6. Many of these children have older siblings who are drinkers, or alcoholic parents. At the junior high, alcohol and marijuana use increases; it is often associated with school dances or other evening functions. The ease of buying drugs such as marijuana and speed contributes to their increased use at the junior high level. At the high school, there is much greater use of a wider variety of drugs. Serious problems, such as dependency and drug-related accidents and fatalities, are more frequent.

Aside from dangerous behavior, there are the physical and mental consequences of taking a chemical. Drugs block, retard, or distort the most crucial human capacities, and this loss of function is rewarded by surpassingly pleasurable sensations. According to educator Richard Hawley:

> American children are most likely to make their initial decision to try intoxicating drugs between the ages of 12 and 16; during the peak years of adolescent growth. During these years, every cell and tissue of the body is either altered or replaced altogether. Sexual potency, nearly all of one's adult skeletal stature, and the capacity for higher-order mental functions are produced during this developmental surge.

Hawley continues by saying, "Chemically anesthetizing oneself with drugs serves only to delay maturation – or in some cases to replace it altogether – often with lifelong consequences" (Schlaadt & Shannon, Drugs: Use, Misuse and Abuse, pp. 38-40).

If you have, or someone you know has, a drug or alcohol problem, be a part of the solution. Seek, or urge your friend to get, help!

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

Piece by piece, Chicago on the remake

CHICAGO (AP) — It is called the City of Big Shoulders, a tough town whose image is rooted in a brawling, bloody past that's part truth and part fiction.

Don't bother trying to keep up with Chicago, Mark Twain advised more than a century ago. "She outgrows her prophecies faster than she can make them. She is always a novelty; for she is never the Chicago you saw when you passed through the last time."

Sure enough, those Big Shoulders are shrugging again, putting Chicago through yet another transformation.

Piece by piece, the city of 2.7 million is being reshaped, both by market forces and by a mayor with the political clout and financing to realize his vision of a post-industrial city of public spaces, greenery and a booming tourist economy.

Tourists still take buses along the Al Capone trail. But the 27 million who visited Chicago in 1997 mostly came for the shopping, the architecture and the thriving theater scene, according to city figures. Capone himself wouldn't recognize the place. He'd find flowers and trees planted along the streets, baskets of flowers dangling from old-fashioned wrought-iron lampposts and planters overflowing with prairie grass and mums.

It goes beyond pretty. A lakefront highway has been moved. An airport is to become a park. Funky galleries in the River North neighborhood are overshadowed by "eatertainment" outlets such as Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Cafe.

The "Capone's Chicago" museum, a kitschy tourist trap, has given way to the big green frog of the Rain Forest Cafe. Old market streets that once were home to Greek grocers and peep shows have become European-style boulevards lined with flowers and cigar-and-martini-intensive restaurants.

Jackhammers clatter away on construction projects across the Loop. The Goodman Theater is building a new home. Nearby, the historic Oriental Theatre has been rescued from a seedy decline with a grand renovation.

The city has rebuilt itself in a big way before, of course. By 1875, scant evidence of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 remained.

Some compare the changes to the remaking of Paris in the mid-19th century, when Baron Haussmann uprooted whole neighborhoods to create the grand boulevards of the modern French capital.

"Chicago doesn't quite have that kind of medieval heritage to destroy. But as neighborhoods change, as old stores, taverns, houses, disappear, people miss them," says University of Chicago political scientist Neil Harris.

"The image of Chicago is of the El, the stockyards, the steel mills, but that in fact is no longer the way the city is," Harris says. "There's an image of Chicago becoming feminized almost, if you use old gender categories."

Chicago feminized? The rough-and-tumble Windy City on Lake Michigan? The Prohibition-era stamping ground of the crime syndicate? The birthplace of Playboy magazine?

This is the can-do city that built the world's tallest skyscraper, and reversed the flow of its river to curb disease. The University of Chicago produced America's first Nobel Prize-winning scientist. This is the metropolis that writers from Rudyard Kipling to Norman Mailer have described as the most American city of all.

Now, says Larry Bennett, a political science professor at DePaul University, "It is becoming a theme park for tourists."

But that's a lament heard in many great American and European cities in the post-industrial age, and it isn't shared by Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago's version of Baron Haussmann.

Daley speaks of the changes with the passion of an architect or urban planner, reeling off the names of schools that have been improved, parks built, streets beautified. He sounds like the proud proprietor of a family business; after all, a Daley has run Chicago for more than 30 of the last 50 years.

"The city's like a big puzzle," Daley says. "There's more to a city than concrete and steel. There's life in the city. We're making it a city to live in, to raise your children in."

His father, Mayor Richard J. Daley, was immortalized as "The Boss," an old-school politician who ran the storied Democratic Machine and whose name seems forever linked with the image of baton-swinging police during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

But that Daley and that convention are as firmly in the city's past as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, or the stockyards, which closed for good in 1971. The Daley currently in City Hall brought the Democrats back in 1996, putting the ghost of convention past to rest.

This Daley is a thoroughly modern mayor, an ex-prosecutor and mountain bike enthusiast with a passion for architecture and urban life. But while he may be a kinder, gentler Boss, he enjoys something close to political carte blanche in reshaping the city. The city council does his bidding and the administration in Washington is friendly and often comes through with grants for Daley's projects.

"It's actually sort of thrilling," says Stanley Tigerman, one of the city's best-known architects. He compliments Daley for trying "to find somehow a bridge between the environment and profits.

Norplant hurt by lawsuits and bad press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Four years of litigation and bad press have nearly driven the once-popular Norplant contraceptive from the market, although courts have not awarded a penny or even a favorable verdict to the plaintiffs.

The gradual dismissal of lawsuits — although thousands remain — against Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories of St. Davids, which makes Norplant, and the product's endorsement by federal regulators and many doctors, has made little impression on consumers, who still shun the product, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported Wednesday.

Norplant, a device of six capsules surgically inserted in the arm, was heralded as a breakthrough for its 99-percent effectiveness in preventing pregnancy when it was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1990. Since then, nearly 1 million women in the United States and 4.5 million worldwide use it, according to the maker.

But sales fell 98 percent after lawsuits representing at least 50,000 women were filed beginning in 1994. Sales, which peaked at $86.4 million in 1993, fell to $1.8 million in 1995, though they did rebound to $4.8 million in 1997.

The women claim Wyeth-Ayerst failed to warn Norplant users adequately of side effects ranging from headaches and weight gain to ovarian cysts and depression. The company said the less serious side effects were clearly marked in accompanying literature and more serious problems cannot be proven to be linked to Norplant.

About 80 percent of the Norplant claims were filed in federal courts around the country and consolidated before a U.S. District judge in Beaumont, Texas. The rest of the 10,000 or so claims are scattered in state courts, mostly in Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and West Virginia.

So far, not a single claim has been vindicated in court, the paper said.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Irresponsible dog owners ruin neighborhood walks

DEAR ABBY: I am an older man in fairly good health. I walk regularly in the early mornings (to avoid the hot Texas sun). My problem is the number of dogs that are allowed to run loose through the streets. I must carry a heavy cane to beat the dogs off my legs at times. Sometimes the owners give me a hard time about that, but it's necessary to keep the dogs from biting me. The owners seem to think the dogs have the right to roam at will and bite anyone they choose.

There are so many dogs in our neighborhood that the back yards look like dog pounds, and the "gifts" the dogs leave on everyone's lawns are disgusting! The owners couldn't care less.

Abby, in my opinion, some of the uncooperative owners should be jailed. What do you think?

FED UP IN CORPUS CHRISTI

DEAR FED UP: For the sake of the animals as well as pedestrians, it's unconscionable for owners to allow their dogs to run free in their neighborhood. The animals could be injured or killed, and very few neighbors appreciate the "gifts" dogs leave behind. The loose dogs should be reported so that the owners can be notified or cited if they refuse to control their pets. Continue calling until the job is done.

***

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wealthy, successful businessman for a year. I am a working single mother of two who is financially stable and independent. I own my home, have savings and retirement, and have always been sensible with money.

From the beginning he has told me he was attracted to me because I am "down-to-earth, honest, genuine and not materialistic."

We have recently been discussing marriage. I love him, and feel certain about our relationship in every way. However, I am hesitant about marrying him for one reason: He wants a prenuptial agreement. I have told him that I feel it shouts, "I do not trust you," and it makes me feel that he lacks the desire for a lifetime commitment through thick and thin, good and bad, sickness and health. I also feel it hinders the bond of oneness and unity that a Christian marriage is based upon.

Abby, I truly do not want anything he has worked for and have given him my promise on that issue. I am a compromising person, but I feel very strongly about a "pre-nup." May I add that I did not take my first husband "to the cleaners" after 15 years of marriage.

Please advise me. I want my next marriage to be my last.

OLD-FASHIONED SOUTHERN LADY

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: Please rethink your position and do not regard his insistence on having a prenuptial agreement as an insult. The purpose of the document is to protect *both* parties should the unthinkable occur.

***

DEAR ABBY: "B.J." in Arkansas said she loops the strap of her handbag over her arm and then rests it on the child's seat in a shopping cart. I did that, too, but I didn't take the time to snap all the snaps and zip all the zippers on my handbag.

Someone distracted me, and when I looked away briefly, my wallet was removed from my handbag in a flash. I discovered the wallet was missing when I got to the cash register to pay for my purchases.

KNOWS BETTER NOW IN SCOTTSDALE

DEAR KNOWS BETTER NOW: Ouch! You learned an expensive lesson. Thank you for warning other shoppers to keep their purses closed.

***

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: My father paid my mother child support until my twin brother and I turned 18. Then he quit. He said, "It's time for your mother to support you."

Abby, he doesn't understand how much our mother has done for us. She gave us all her time and enormous moral support after he left.

My brother and are both in college, and it's really hard on our mother. She says that according to the law, since we are now 18, Dad is no longer legally responsible for us, but that law is unfair!

I understand that years ago most kids graduated from high school and went to work, but today it's different. Education is vital.

I don't like seeing Mom work two jobs and make sacrifices while my father and his new wife have a new house, a new boat, a new car and lots of vacations. Dad says his financial responsibility to us is over — we're adults, and we're on our own. If it weren't for a scholarship, we would be unable to attend college.

Abby, is there a way to get our political leaders to change the law to make fathers pay child support until their children graduate from college?

IN COLLEGE IN GEORGIA

DEAR IN COLLEGE: Child support laws vary from state to state. In some (not all) states, fathers of college students must continue supporting their children beyond the age of 18. In Georgia, I am told, child support stops when the child reaches majority — unless an order has been made by a judge that the support continues for the college education. However, even though the original order may go only until the child is 18, the mother and children can petition a judge to amend the order to continue or resume it. Whether or not to order child support through the college years is at the discretion of the judge.

If that approach doesn't work, there's still a way to complete your education without depending on your mother to carry the entire financial load. You could apply for student loans, or extend your education over a longer period by taking fewer classes each semester — thereby allowing you to hold a job. Many young people work their way through college, and if need be, you can, too. That would also lighten the load on your mother.

***

DEAR ABBY: I teach elementary art and was explaining to my fifth-graders how to incorporate their experiences into their art. As an example, I showed them an oil painting I had just completed that was inspired by a recent traumatic event. I had been robbed in my home and left bound and gagged. I took pains to describe the various emotions I experienced while waiting helplessly for my husband to return home and untie me. I showed the students how the painting reflected those emotions.

The class listened very intently. When I finished talking, one of my students raised his hand and asked very seriously, "Mrs. K., how did you ever manage to paint that with your hands tied behind your back?"

BOUND TO KEEP TRYING, NEW HOPE, PA.

***

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Texas firm negotiating for computer contract

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A Texas company has been chosen to negotiate with the state for a $1 billion contract to create a "digital democracy" for residents and businessowners.

The state will take the next 90 days to negotiate a seven-year contract with Electronic Data Systems Corp., which manages the computer systems for England's tax collector and the government of South Australia.

EDS plans to transform government computer systems so they can communicate with one another, and wants to make government information and services more accessible, said Bill Dvoranchik, EDS's managing director for Connecticut.

"We'd like to see citizens be online, not in line, getting information from the state using PCs, phones, ATMs, TV screens," said Dvoranchik said.

The Plano, Texas-based company also promises to recruit state employees, by offering them comparable or better salaries, signing bonuses, comparable benefits and two-year job guarantees, said state computer chief Rock Regan in announcing the selection Wednesday.

"Our employees are key to this initiative. They're extremely important to us," Regan said.

Gov. John G. Rowland proposed the privatization of executive branch computer systems as a way to streamline operations. He said privatization would save the state about $50 million a year by reducing paperwork and making better computer purchases.

Regan refused to discuss many details of the job EDS is expected to do, saying the whole agreement is subject to negotiation.

Two unions immediately lambasted the choice of EDS, saying the company did a poor job in setting up a link between the Department of Social Services and pharmacies to monitor Medicaid prescriptions.

"It's been obvious that the Rowland administration just wanted to get rid of state employees," said Oscar Gomez, who represents about 400 state computer workers with the Connecticut State Employees Association.

DSS spokeswoman Claudette Beaulieu said that while the Medicaid prescription plan was delayed, the agency has had contracts with EDS since 1981 and is "very satisfied" with their work.

Bill Meyerson, a spokesman for about 300 additional computer workers under the AFSCME union, said the privatization of computer systems would save money by cutting jobs. He also said the plan could jeopardize privacy rights to state data, including welfare and health records.

"This is too important a function of government to be put in the hands of a moneymaking operation," Meyerson said.

Dvoranchik said his company has an excellent track record with governments, banks and businesses around the world at maintaining security and privacy of data.

"Our security is at least as great as state's level of security, if not better," Dvoranchik said. "We do privacy every day in our business."

EDS's team for the bid includes help from other technology companies, including Xerox, Lucent Technologies and Unisys. EDS's stock rose 87½ cents Wednesday to close at $49.93¾.

Losing bidders were the CSEA union, IBM and Computer Sciences Corp. of El Segundo, Calif.

Once a contract is negotiated, state auditors have 75 days to review the proposal. The contract would take effect 45 days later, unless three-fifths of one house of the Legislature rejects it. If the plan passes, the privatization would begin in September.

Man arrested after argument on bus over paying dime fare

LAREDO (AP) — Police say a man threatened a bus driver with a knife because he didn't want to pay a 10-cent fare.

Felix Castaneda, 66, boarded the Laredo El Metro bus Tuesday morning and told the driver he didn't want to pay to ride. According to city policy, senior citizens ride for free between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., but Castaneda got on the bus at 8:30 a.m., police said.

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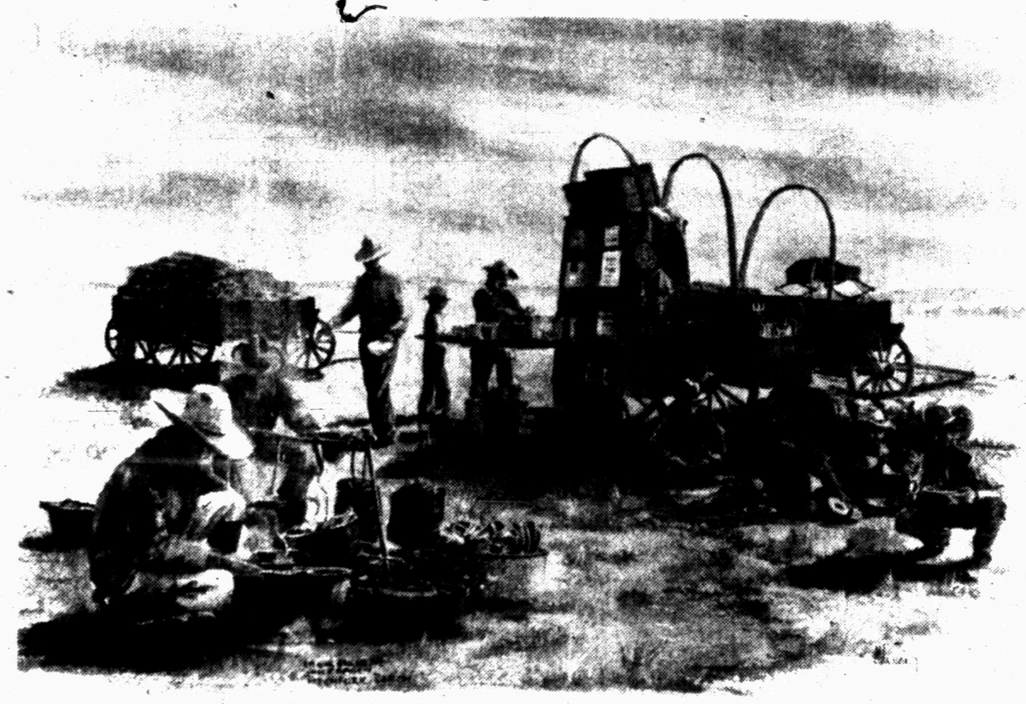

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