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WT-Int. Crude - $25.33
WTIC Posted - $22.50

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

Dec. 14, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 193
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Mary Phy

New video equipment demonstrated at WTC

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Western Texas College trustees viewed a demonstration of new video equipment for the mass communications department and also approved several items of business when it met for its regular monthly meeting Monday night.

During mealtime, trustees, accompanied by members of the Board of County Development, viewed a demonstration of new video equipment for the mass communications by Donny Brown, assistant professor of mass communications.

The equipment was funded in part by a grant from the BCD.

The college uses the equipment to produce its recruitment video as well as other educational projects.

Brown said that in the future he hopes to use the studio for production of programming to be aired on a local television station.

In the business portion of the meeting, an expanded mission statement for the college was approved unanimously.

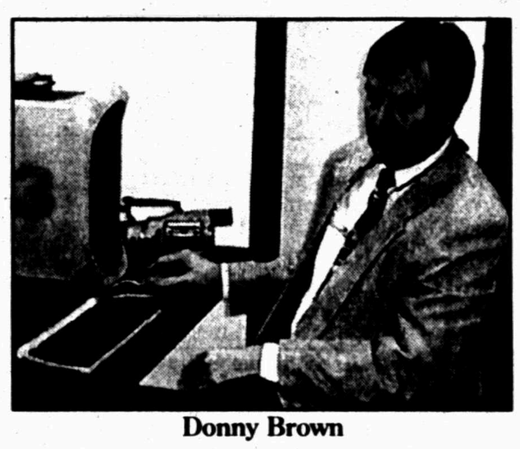
The revision was recommended by the Higher Education Coordinating Board following a monitoring visit earlier this fall.

The new mission statement has been expanded to include workforce education and the adult literacy program.

Trustees also approved one tuition variance request for a pediatric advance life support system class taught at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

In addition, the board approved three personnel items, including the employment of Jeanine M. Wilburn as early childcare education instructor, Ronald D. Wells as commercial truck driving instructor and Tammy Shirley as director of allied health.

Wilburn and Wells will begin effective Jan. 1. Shirley will begin her responsibilities on Jan. 11.



Donny Brown

Wilburn holds her bachelor of arts in early childhood education from Eastern New Mexico University. She is an active member and chapter president of the National Association of Educating Young Children.

Wells has 24 years of truck driving experience. He is currently employed as a truck driving instructor with MTA Truck Driving School in Midland.

Shirley holds her bachelor of science degree in education from Wayland Baptist University and is also a graduate of Texas Tech University Health Science Center Emergency Medical Services Division.

For the past 6½ years, she has taught home economics, health and EMT basic for the Ira schools. She is also Advanced Cardiac Life Support certified, EMTParamedic/Instructor, and a member of Snyder's Search and Rescue Team.

The board was updated on the status of the 20 new golf cart sheds, which are now complete.

Twelve of the sheds have been rented and Patricia Claxton, director of fiscal services, said she expected the remaining sheds to be filled by the first of the year.

Trustees also gave prebid approval for the purchase of 11 computers.

Two of the computers will be purchased with Carl Perkins funds, which is federal grant money, and will be used in the Golf Landscape Technology department.

The other nine will be used in the reading lab, the Learning Resource Center and in the technology department.

Trustee Carolyn Barbee presided and those present included R.C. Patton, Lee Presswood, Eddie Peterson and Drew Bullard. Board President Dr. Jay Kidd and Jackie Greene were absent.

WRESTLING WITH THE WIND — Carman Juarez, floral manager at United Supermarkets, struggles to hold up a portion of the front ceiling that came loose during high winds this morning. Winds gusts up to 40 mph caused problems across the area, including low visibility. (SDN Staff Photo)

Dress code at Hermleigh ISD to be discussed

Hermleigh school trustees will hear a request from a parent to change the district's dress code when they meet this evening at 7 o'clock.

Wesley Shankles, a parent of a Hermleigh Elementary third-grader, will address the board concerning the rules for hair length for boys.

Currently, the district's dress code calls for the hair to be no longer than just off the collar, said Supt. Jerry Church.

"Mr. Shankles is requesting that we change our policy," said Church.

Liz Shankles, the boy's mother, said this morning that the third-grader's hair is touching his shoulders.

In addition to the dress code, the board will also cast its ballots for a member of the Scurry County Appraisal District board of directors.

The board has nominated Walter Stirl as its representative.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The things folks let eat on them rarely diet."

A guy at the coffee shop revealed his major Christmas wish.

When the holidays are over, he proclaimed, he hopes that his credit card bill still shows a zero balance.

At most houses, his might – but hers won't. And unless the guy pays cash for her gift, the zero balance may be a bigger problem than Y2K.

Another fellow suggested that a computer crash on Jan.1 could be the only thing that keeps him out of debtor's court.

But another reminded that this is the season to be jolly – forget about the cost. And the other half is probably finding that ultimate gift –just for us.

Unless you're one of the few who have already shopped 'til you dropped, here are a few suggestions for the man who has almost everything.

There is a web site that caters to modern man – or at least the stereotypical image of such a critter.

Called UltimateGuy.com, the site boasts the Internet's largest selection of TV remote controls, as well as other essential tools, gadgets and fun stuff.

The news release informs that good taste is not required to shop at the site. It is, in fact, discouraged.

Where else could one find TV remotes shaped like footballs, female torsos, Corvettes, fishing reels, Star Trek phasers or golf greens?

And if your man likes to enjoy his TV viewing in comfort, the web site also offers boxer shorts in a variety of patterns – from beer bottles to racing cars to fishing equipment.

The news release said the web site caters to the current trend of "guyness as promoted by TV sitcoms. It also includes an Ultimate Guy Hall of Fame, featuring such celebrities as Babe Ruth, a legendary man about town.

The web site owner said he had a simple reason for starting his on-line business. The news release is brutally honest – to buy suds money.

The specialty site may be an answer for folks who want to buy a gift for someone fitting the macho profile, but it leaves one question unanswered.

Where do "ultimate guys" go to shop for the ultimate her?

Corridor funding is on Wednesday BCD agenda

The Texas, Mexico & Asian Corridor Corporation is scheduled to approach the Board of County Development Wednesday to seek funds for Scurry County to participate.

The corridor group passed a motion in November requiring each participating member to put in 20 cents per capita.

Scurry County's portion will be based on 18,000 people.

"We are going to be requesting $3,600," Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz said.

Fritz is also the president of the TM&ACC.

The funds will be used for approved expenses, such as travel and promotion.

"So far, I know I have the check from Nolan and we have received notification that Mitchell has theirs."

He added that Howard County has verbally committed to have their portion and Fisher and Jones also have their money ready.

The BCD also will hear a request for funding from the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District.

The BCD will also consider a request for funding for improvements to the Brick Plant Road.

John DeLille, Development Corporation of Snyder executive director, said the request will be to temporarily hold the remaining funds of the BCD, until they are needed for the county to make road improvements to Brick Plant Road.

Improvements are needed on the road to eliminate traffic hazards once Snyder Brick and Tile is on-line and begins shipping products.

DeLille said the estimated amount of money that is requested to be held is around $30,000.

In other business, the board will consider approval of financial statements and consider bills for payment.

The meeting is set for noon in the DCOS boardroom.

Routine items on Ira's agenda

Mostly routine matters are on the Ira ISD agenda for Wednesday morning's 7:30 trustee meeting.

The board will consider casting its votes for the Scurry County Appraisal District Board and the board's nominee, Joe Bob Flowers.

The board will also review the results of the Texas Education Agency school report card, and consider renewing its contract with its auditor.

The resignation of Tammy Shirley will also be considered, as will applications for the Spanish teaching position.

The board also will hold an executive session to consider the annual evaluation of Supt. Rick Howard.

Deadline here for mailing packages

Wednesday is the deadline for persons wanting to get holiday packages to their destinations in time for Christmas without paying higher fees.

According to Snyder Postmaster Dale Lipsett, the longer customers wait to send a package, the higher level of service will be required.

If you wait until Dec. 17 to mail packages, Lipsett said priority mail will be required in insure delivery in time for the big day.

"And from the 20th to the 22nd you'll have to go express mail in order to get it there in time. After the 22nd, it depends on the size of town you are shipping it to," he added.

Larger cities have guaranteed delivery on Christmas Day, but smaller cities may not be delivering on the holiday.

Lipsett said Snyder would be delivering packages to residents that are received on Christmas Day.

"If we have priority or express packages come in on Christmas Day and they look like Christmas packages, we will have someone here to handle it," Lipsett said. "If they tell me we have a truck coming, I will have someone here to deliver it to homes."

Deliveries will not be made to offices, however.

Lipsett said the cost of shipping priority is $3.20 for up to two pounds. Express shipping starts at $11.75 for eight ounces and goes up from there depending on weight.

The retail lobby will close at 1 p.m. Christmas Eve. However, deliveries can be picked up at the double doors in the box lobby until 5 p.m.

VFW post to host banquet

VFW Post 8231 will honor law enforcement personnel this evening as it will host members of the Scurry County sheriff's department, Snyder police department, along with Snyder EMS, fire department and personnel with the Price Daniel Unit.

The post is combining its annual Christmas party with the awards banquet, said Howard Bruns, commander.

The event is set for 7 p.m.

Bruns urges all VFW members to attend and honor citizens involved in public safety.

The post is also taking orders for engraved paver bricks to be used in the post's memorial project.

Memorial project chairman John Fair said the post will construct the project in honor of local soldiers killed in action.

"The monument will be surrounded by paver bricks," said Fair. "A person can have the name of a veteran, or the veteran's family inscribed in the bricks."

"This is a long-overdue project," said Fair. "We can inscribe the remaining lines with any inscription you want below the veteran's name."

Fair said the bricks are similar to those around the statue of the White Buffalo on the grounds of the courthouse.

Fair said the inscriptions would have a black epoxy filling to make the inscriptions more readable, and protect the inscription from the elements.

ASK US

Q—What is considered drug paraphernalia?

A—Anything that has been used in the manufacturing, transport or use of a controlled substance. This includes smoking and injection devices.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 61 degrees; low, 28; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 37; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear. Low, mid 20s. NW wind, 15-25 mph; then 5-15 mph after midnight. Wednesday, mostly sunny. High 55-60. W wind 10-20 mph.

Kendra McGuire
Windy

Sunset: 5:42 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:35 a.m.
Of 347 days in 1999, the sun has shone 340 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Experience is the worst teacher; it gives the test before presenting the lesson.

—Vernon Law

Inter-species frozen embryo transfer produces a wildcat

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Scientists have announced an extraordinary birth, saying they have pulled off the unprecedented feat of transferring a frozen embryo between species by bringing a rare African wildcat to term in the womb of an ordinary house cat.

Researchers at the Audubon Institute Center for Research of Endangered Species said the advancement could be used to resurrect entire species.

"If extinction happens in the wild, the technology will be there to bring the species back," said Ron Foreman, chief executive officer of Audubon Institute.

Rebecca Spindler, a researcher at the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Va., cautioned that the process is no substitute for conservation.

"I think we have to be careful how we use this," Spindler said. "People tend to believe that we can bring a species to the brink of extinction and bring it back. That's not necessarily true."

Still, she called Monday's announcement an exciting breakthrough.

The house cat, Cayenne, acts towards her kitten like any typical feline mother: protecting her, nursing her and objecting loudly when her offspring is picked up. And the baby wildcat, named Jazz, nurses off her surrogate mother.

"She thinks she has the ugliest baby in the world, but she takes care of it," said Betty Dresser, the center's director for research.

Jazz was born Nov. 24, about 70 days after scientists had taken sperm from a male African wildcat named Sid and the egg of a female named Sheena and implanted the embryo in the domestic cat.

Because of its size — ranging in weight from three pounds to eight pounds — the African wildcat was considered to be a good match for a domestic cat. Cayenne was chosen because she had proven herself able to carry kittens to term, having had nine litters.

Ms. Dresser and C. Earle Pope, another researcher at the center, produced a kitten from in vitro fertilization and a frozen embryo in 1994. In Jazz's case, scientists grew the embryo in an incubator for five days, then froze it for a week at minus 373 degrees. Researchers implanted eight embryos into Cayenne in hopes that at least one would survive.

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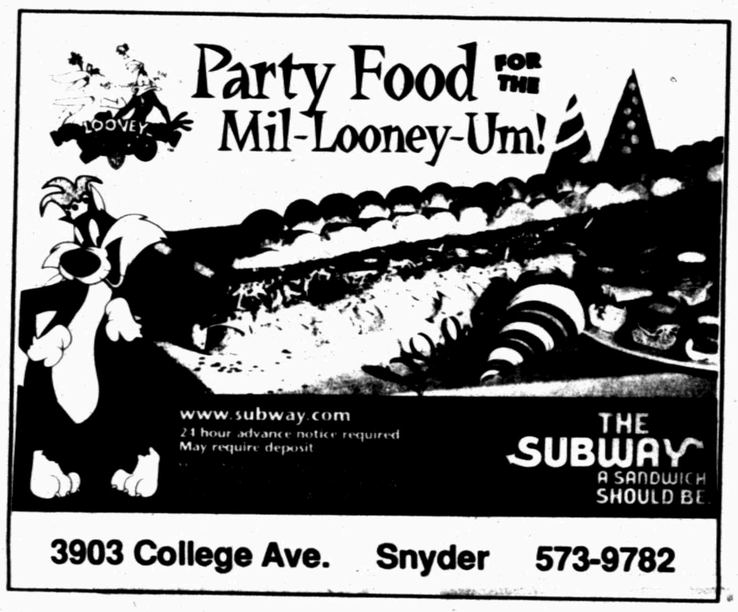

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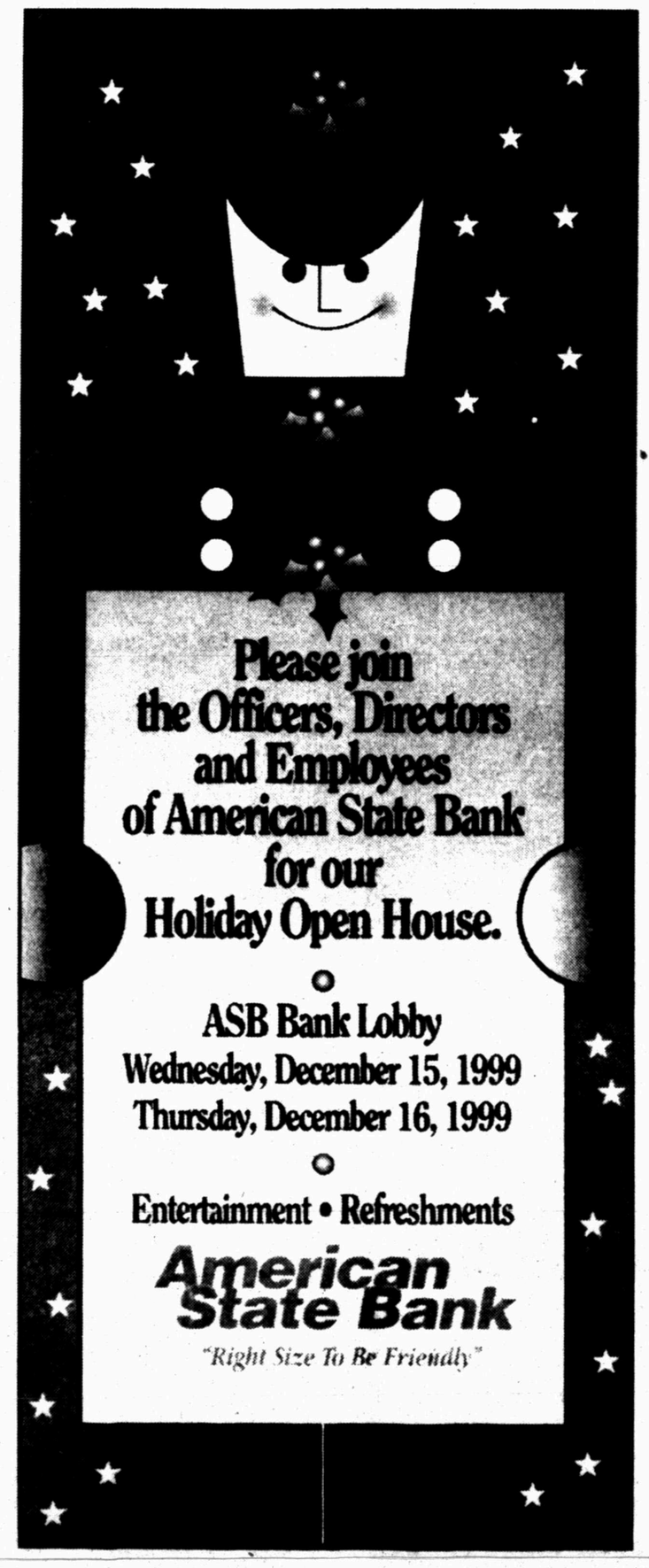


Search set for lander

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — NASA researchers are hoping the powerful camera aboard the Mars Global Surveyor will capture images showing them whether the Mars Polar Lander made it to the Red Planet.

Mission controllers will aim the camera toward the lander's intended touchdown area Thursday.

"We don't expect to see the lander itself, but there's a good chance we might be able to see the parachute if it's spread out on the surface," Richard Zurek, Mars Polar Lander project scientist, said Monday.

Mars Polar Lander was supposed to touch down Dec. 3 for a 90-day mission to study and analyze the planet's atmosphere and search for frozen water beneath its south pole. It has not been heard from since it started its descent after an 11-month cruise.

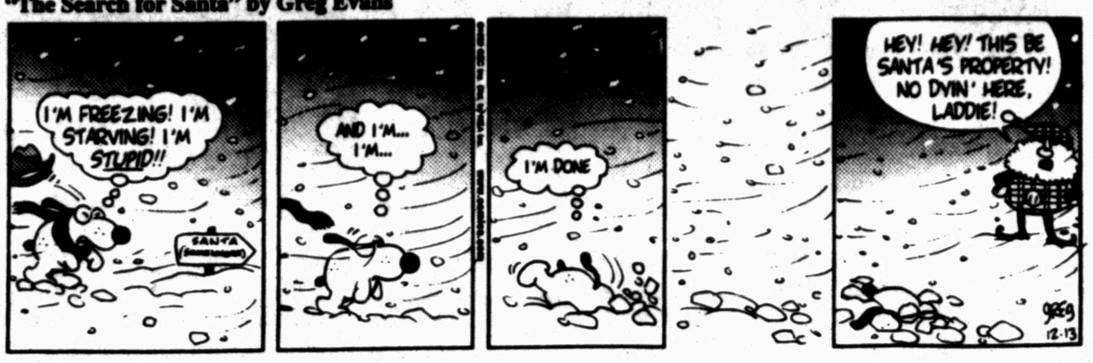
Last week, NASA officials announced that the Mars program will be scrutinized, including whether scientists are pushing the current state of technology too far in their quest to unravel the planet's mysteries.

An orbiter and lander scheduled for launch in 2001 may be delayed until questions about this year's lost missions are answered. The Mars Climate Orbiter was lost in September.

David Paige, a planetary scientist and principal investigator of Polar Lander's payload, said it would be a mistake to ignore science.

"Now we're left with a rather nebulous situation where the whole fate of our Mars exploration program seems about as uncertain as our Polar Lander itself," he said.

"The Search for Santa" by Greg Evans



"The Search for Santa" by Greg Evans

BP agent avoids prosecution

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Border Patrol agent who used a pellet gun to sink a raft carrying three illegal immigrants across the All-American Canal has agreed to quit the agency and won't face criminal charges.

Gary S. Whitfield, 32, admitted he fired a pellet pistol at the raft in May and tried to cover it up by throwing the gun into the New River, federal officials said Monday.

A witness told authorities that two immigrants swam to safety, but the third did not make it across.

The shooting happened in the fast-moving, concrete-lined canal that carries Colorado River irrigation water to the arid Imperial Valley. Eighteen immigrants have drowned in the canal so far this year.

Whitfield acknowledge violating Border Patrol policy by shooting at illegals trying to cross the border, but a criminal conviction was unlikely since there was no evidence that anyone was injured, said his attorney, Everett Bobbitt.

"Their chance of conviction, in my opinion, was about zero and they recognize that or they would have prosecuted it," Bobbitt said.

However, federal officials said they had evidence that Whitfield had bought the gun the day before the shooting and bragged to other agents that he intended to "get a raft."

Amalia Meza, an assistant U.S. attorney, said the government didn't drop the investigation because "we found that the actions of the officer were so reckless, we needed to take some action."

Whitfield, who had been on administrative duty at the Calexico station since the May 14 shooting, resigned Friday. He cannot apply to any law enforcement agency for four years.

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Name of Applicant:_____ Birthdate:_____
Address:_____ Phone Number:_____
Spouse:_____ Birthdate:_____
How Long at this Address:_____
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( ) Renting $_____ Monthly Amount
Are You:
( ) Widowed ( ) Divorced
( ) Handicapped How:_____
Number of People living in this Household:_____
( ) Adults ( ) Children Ages:_____ _____ _____
Income:
( ) Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) Spouse Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) No One Employed
Other Income:
( ) Social Security: Amount $_____
( ) Public Welfare: Amount $_____
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For information leading to the arrest and conviction of parties responsible for damage to certain oil properties located in southern Scurry County and northern Mitchell County.

Please respond to PO Box 949G, Snyder, Texas 79550.

The informant will remain anonymous.

Date Book

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1999

Today is the 348th day of 1999 and the 83rd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1911, explorer Roald Amundsen and four companions became the first men known to have reached the South Pole.

On this day in 1961, Jimmy Dean was awarded country music's first gold record from the Recording Industry Association of America for his song "Big Bad John."

On this day in 1986, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager began a nonstop voyage around the world in an experimental airplane called Voyager.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nostradamus (1503-1566), physician-seer; Tycho Brahe (1546-1601), astronomer; Spike Jones (1911-1965), bandleader; Don Hewitt (1922-), TV-news producer, is 77; Charlie Rich (1932-), singer, is 67; Lee Remick (1935-1991), actress; Patty Duke (1946-), actress, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1953, pitcher Sandy Koufax joined the Brooklyn Dodgers.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Let's give the conventions back to the politicians.... If we think there's any news, we can tack it on afterward as commentary. But the conventions should be their show, not ours." — Don Hewitt

TODAY'S MOON: Day before first quarter (Dec. 15).

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Create special memories for holidays

Evergreen boughs, Twinkling lights. A gift of fresh oranges. The holiday season is a wonderful time to teach kids the old-fashioned value of giving.

One way is to spend time together creating cherished homemade gifts such as gingerbread men and frosted holiday cookies — all with the zesty aroma and special flavor of California navel oranges, a Christmas memory in itself.

Even little hands can help decorate cookies, stir gingerbread dough and arrange the oranges in the basket in the following collection of easy-to-make citrus-flavored recipes:

Orange Gingerbread Men

1 package (about 14 ounces) gingerbread mix

Grated peel of 1 orange

¼ cup fresh squeezed orange juice

Decorating icing, redhots and/or raisins

In a large bowl, combine gingerbread mix, orange peel and juice; mix well. Knead dough lightly to thoroughly blend in gingerbread mix. Cover and chill 1 hour.

On lightly floured board, roll dough, one half at a time, to 1/8-inch thickness; cut with floured "gingerbread man" cookie cutter. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Carefully remove and cool on wire racks. Decorate as desired. Makes 8 to 10 large (6-inch) gingerbread men.

Holiday Orange Cookies

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

2/3 cup margarine, softened

¾ cup sugar

1 egg

Grated peel of 2 oranges

3 tablespoons fresh squeezed orange juice

Chopped unsalted almonds or pistachios, shredded or flaked coconut, colored sugar crystals, cinnamon sugar, decorating icing, etc.

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. In large bowl, cream together margarine and sugar. Add egg, orange peel and juice; beat well. Gradually blend in dry ingredients. Cover and chill 2 hours.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls, logs (3 x ½-inch) or roll dough to 1/8-inch thickness and cut with lightly floured holiday-shaped cookie cutters. Roll or sprinkle cookies with chopped nuts, coconut, etc.

Place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. Remove and cool on wire racks. Decorate with icing. Makes about 3 dozen.

Note: To make rolled cookies for use as gift tags or hanging Christmas tree ornaments: Cut out cookies and place on baking sheets.

To make holes, cut *paper* straws into 1-inch lengths. Press one end of straw into unbaked cookie at desired location for "hole." Remove straw and shake out dough from inside of straw.

Replace straw in hole. Bake and cool. Carefully twist out straw. Write message or decorate with icing. Run a ribbon through hole and tie bow or form a loop and knot.

CREATE SPECIAL MEMORIES — This holiday season, create special memories making favorite citrus recipes with your children.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-14-99
♠ K 10 6 2
♥ 5
♦ A K Q 8 4
♣ 8 7 6

West
♠ A Q J 4
♥ 6
♦ J 7 5 3 2
♣ K Q 9

East
♠ 7 3
♥ K Q 10 9 8 4 3
♦ 10
♣ 5 4 3

South
♠ 9 8 5
♥ A J 7 2
♦ 9 6
♣ A J 10 2

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: East

South	West	North	East
			3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 6

One man against seven machines

On Sept. 3 and 4 in London, Zia Mahmood competed in a bridge tournament with and against seven computers. There were several hundred spectators, and play was broadcast on the Internet. Instead of holding a round robin of seven matches, which might let one competitor gain a big lead, they kept going until one person or machine had won 10 matches. After 15 rounds, Zia sneaked home, with four machines (Blue Chip and Oxford Bridge from England, Q-Plus from Germany, and Saitek from Hong Kong) tied in second place. Sixth was Meadowlark from the United States; seventh was Microbridge from Japan; and last was the pre-tournament favorite, GIB from the United States.

Despite its finish, GIB won the prize for this best-played deal. Especially at the prevailing vulnerability, a human South would have gone for the penalty in three hearts doubled, yet it should be only 200. And at the other table, Micro Bridge did pass, although East had opened with a cautious two hearts. That contract should make, but the machine mistimed the play and went one down.

After winning the heart queen with its ace, GIB played the diamond six to dummy's queen, then finessed the club 10. West, Saitek, exited with the spade queen to dummy's king. GIB played a spade to its eight. West took the jack and ace, then led its last spade to dummy's 10. Declarer crossed to its club ace, then successfully ran the diamond nine. (If West covers with the jack, the contract fails.) Now GIB exited with a club, endplaying West to lead from J-7-5 of diamonds into dummy's A-K-8.

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Rival book clubs may unite

NEW YORK (AP) — A German media company is seeking a partnership with the Book-of-the-Month Club, a deal that could unite America's two biggest book clubs, The New York Times reported today.

Bertelsmann is negotiating a joint venture that could link its Bertelsmann Literary Guild with the Book-of-the-Month Club, a unit of Time Inc., said the Times, citing unidentified publishing executives.

The clubs have been trying to figure out how to better compete against online booksellers.

Bertelsmann, based in Gutersloh, Germany, purchased Random House last year. Bertelsmann's Doubleday Direct, parent of the guild, has reportedly been in talks with Time for more than six weeks in hopes of striking a deal before the end of the year.

Terms have not been finalized, the Times said.

A joint venture would allow the clubs to lower costs by sharing distribution, warehousing and other tasks.

Book clubs lure members with offers such as four books for $2 on the condition that more books are purchased later at regular prices.

The Book-of-the-Month Club and its affiliated niche clubs have 4.5 million members. Doubleday Direct has a membership of about 4.8 million, which includes the guild.

Whales surround boat off coast

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP) — Quick, pull those hooks out of the water!

Fishermen and boaters had a whale of a time off the Southern California coast Sunday when a rare "super pod" of killer whales swam in close for an inspection.

"The whales surrounded us in a loose circle that extended for more than a mile from the boat," said Chris Pica, skipper of the Sum Fun charter. "Some of them breached and others held their tails out of the water. It was a great show."

Between 60 to 70 killer whales, one of the largest groups of orcas to venture near Orange County's coastline, gathered for reasons that scientists say is unclear.

"It's one of those things that's really neat," said John Heyning, a killer whale specialist.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Snyder Shrine Club; call 863-2702 for meeting place; 6 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8018 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

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

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-9742.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information cal 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m. p.m.

Singer confronts tragedy

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Contemporary Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman said he tried to take a break in 1997, only to be confronted by one tragedy after another.

Now he is addressing school shootings, including one in his hometown in Paducah, Ky., in his songs and two movies he has made with a friend.

Chapman said he needed a vacation two years ago from professional music after 10 years in the business.

Former 'Star Trek' fan's ashes sent to space

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Carol Berman didn't want to be buried beneath the ground. She had higher aspirations.

Mrs. Berman, former president of Springfield Day Nursery and a "Star Trek" fan, may get her final wish Sunday when some of her ashes are sent into orbit.

Her ashes and those of 35 others were scheduled to blast off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Celestis Inc. of Houston purchased spots on a commercial NASA rocket for what is billed as a "Millennial Flight."

"She didn't want to be in the cold ground," said Eugene B. Berman, Carol's husband. "And she wanted to explore. She was also a devotee of 'Star Trek.' So, you start thinking about things celestial."

Celestis pioneered post-cremation spaceflight memorials in 1997 when it sent the ashes of LSD prophet Timothy Leary and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry aloft.

"There's something poetic about ashes to ashes, dust to dust, as it were," Berman said Monday. "She will become celestial dust, from which we may have all originated."

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Wednesday night buffet!
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We will mail anywhere to a friend or deliver in city limits.
Just off the Press: Confederate General William R. "Dirty Neck Bill" Scurry (1821 - 1864)
In Search of the Buffalo. The Story of J. Wright Mooar
Reflections. An Album of West Texas History. 1840-1990 (Limited)
Deep Creek Merchant. The Story of William H. "Pete" Snyder (Limited)
From Buffalo to Oil. A History of Scurry County by Shelton (only few left)
Other books by request including Fisher County. (Also purchase at Whistle Stop, Snyder Daily News, Friendly Flowers).
1973 Billionth Barrel Collector Plates
1930 Windows w/Mirrors for Wall Hanging
"Students often resist studing history because they consider it dull and dry, A monotonous procession of names and dates and little else. In actuality, it is made up of colorful people like William Read Scurry, their lives full of human drama, emotions and conflict. Historians like Charles G. Anderson can bring them back to life for us and show how the things they accomplished - or in some cases did not accomplish - were important in shaping the world we live in today."
Elmer Kelton, Western Writer
"Historian Charles Anderson knows 'Dirty Neck Bill' Scurry more intimately than anyone - even Sam Houston who neck-named him."
Kent Biffle, Texas Columnist Dallas Morning News
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Comic Page

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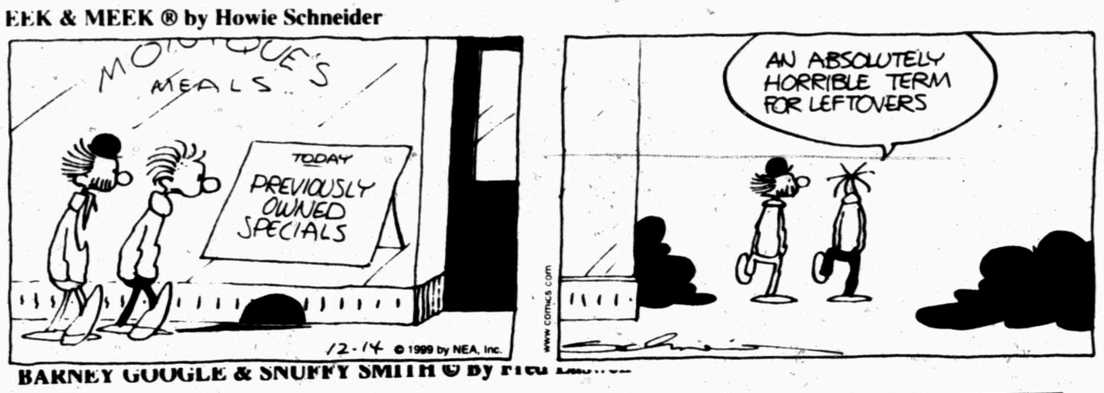
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Rouse from sleep
6 Turn sharply
10 Corazon —
12 — National Park in Maine
14 Importuned (a debtor) for money
15 One who does tedious work
16 Sink in the middle
17 Section of an org.
19 Dachshunds, e.g.
20 Channel
23 Loses color
26 Chemical suffix
27 Honest —
30 — 13 mission
32 Spring bloomer
34 Reagan's predecessor
35 Red-hot pieces of coal
36 Time period
37 Comedian Philips
39 River in France
40 Like October birthstones
42 Prexy's asst.
45 "Natal" start
46 New Zealand parrot
49 Curved
51 Didn't exist
54 Inform
55 Notwithstanding
56 Classify
57 Swing dance

DOWN

1 Rolls of money
2 Bluish-green
3 — fu
4 German one
5 Compass pt.
6 TV accessory
7 — — cologne
8 Taro root
9 Actress Diana —
11 Betting factor
12 Make headway
13 Roman bronze
18 "Rose — — rose"
20 Animal skin
21 Snoozing
22 Munich resident
23 Confront
24 On — — with (equal)
25 Dumb one?
27 High cards
28 Char
29 Actual being
31 Conductor Eugene —
33 Acting award
38 Bullring cry
40 Biblical land
41 Hawkeye State
42 Mover's truck
43 God of love
44 Outside (comb. form)
46 Sharp
47 Geraint's wife
48 ABA member
50 Salamander
52 Addition to a house
53 Baseball stat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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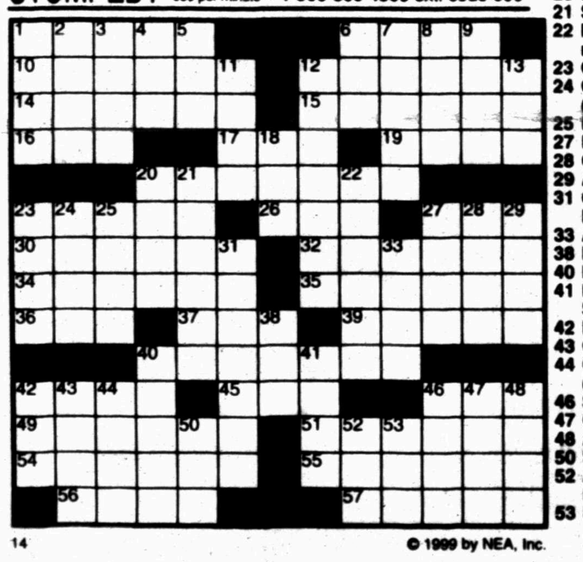

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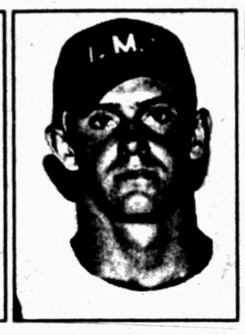
SPORTS

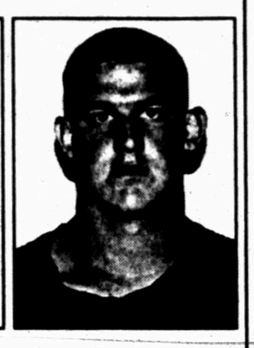
All-South Plains Team...

Three Tigers earn spots on grid squad

Hackfeld



Grimmett



Green

Three Snyder High School football players were recognized for their efforts this season, as they were named to the Avalanche-Journal All-South Plains 5A-4A Team.

Senior Brady Hackfeld and junior Matthew Grimmett were named to the defensive unit, with senior Randy Green garnering a spot on the offensive line.

Hackfeld led the Tigers with 103 tackles this season. He also caused a fumble and had one interception, from his free safety spot.

Grimmett, who also received honorable mention at wide receiver and punter, was selected for his effort at cornerback. The 6-1, 175-pound junior totaled 45 tackles and picked off three passes during his first season as a defensive starter.

On the offensive side of the ball, Green once again helped anchor Snyder's line from his center position. The 6-1, 200-pound senior started every game his junior and senior seasons.

Receiving honorable mention from Snyder were Sonny Cumbie, quarterback; Tovares Brandon, fullback; Chase McJimsey, tackle; Max Blackwell, defensive end; Mark Medley, linebacker; Tremaine Johnson, defensive lineman; Ralph Ramon, kicker.

Dallas shuffling defensive line

IRVING (AP) — Alonzo Spellman's best game at defensive tackle has made it more difficult for the Dallas Cowboys to decide how to replace injured end Greg Ellis.

Spellman, a lifelong end until being moved to tackle during training camp, would be the obvious choice to take Ellis' place — especially with a rapidly re-emerging Leon Lett ready to take Spellman's place at tackle.

But coach Chan Gailey said Monday that rookie Ebenezer Ekuban might replace Ellis rather than setting off the chain reaction that moving Spellman would cause.

"The reason you wouldn't do it is because Alonzo is playing so well at tackle," Gailey said. "Do you move him where he may be as dominating as he is right now? He might be, he might not be. There might be such a comfort level at tackle now that it changes things.

"There are a lot of factors to consider. We'll look at all of them before we make a decision."

Having a starting lineup of Spellman and Kavika Pittman on the outside and Lett and Chad Hennings inside seems most likely, partly because Spellman plays end in many of Dallas' defensive formations.

"It will come down to getting our best linemen on the field," defensive coordinator Dave Campo said. "I'm not really concerned with who is playing defensive end or who is playing tackle. I want the best lineup on the field."

Gailey said coaches will have a good idea of their plan in time for their next practice on Wednesday so they can go with it as the Cowboys (7-6) prepare to play the New York Jets (5-8).

Whatever they decide, however, won't necessarily be posted on the Internet.

"You can probably rest assured we won't tell exactly what we're going to do because it's a strategy thing for this ballgame," Gailey said.

Ellis was having a breakout year as a main cog in a defense that has allowed 13 or fewer points in nine games, including the last five.

The second-year player known to Cowboys fans as the guy drafted instead of Randy Moss had a team-best 71/2 sacks and was playing equally well against the run. He also scored two touchdowns on a fumble return and an interception return.

His season ended early in Sunday's 20-10 victory over Philadelphia when Spellman accidentally rolled into Ellis, jerking him down and breaking his left shin bone. He underwent surgery late Sunday and a full recovery is expected by training camp next summer.

"He was having one of those years you can build on to get to a Pro Bowl in the future," Gailey said. "He probably didn't have enough statistics or enough name recognition to get it this year."

Spellman also has had a Pro Bowl-caliber year after sitting out a season following a difficult bout with mental illness.

He was all over the Eagles' backfield Sunday, forcing Donovan McNabb to fumble once and to flee the pocket several other times. Spellman had no sacks but he set up a couple and came close plenty of times.

Lett, who has played in five games after being suspended from the first eight, showed Sunday he can still be the disruptive force that has made him a Pro Bowler in his last two full seasons, 1998 and 1994.

"He's as good as any in the league as far as getting off the ball," Eagles center Steve Everitt said. "He's in there before you can do anything."

Ekuban, who didn't start playing football until his junior year of high school, was Ellis' understudy at North Carolina, then followed him as a first-round pick by the Cowboys.

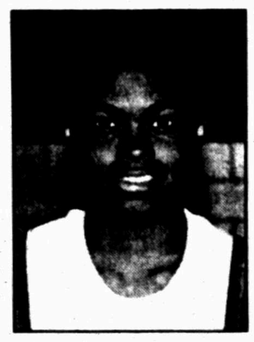
He and fourth-round pick Peppi Zellner have played almost equally in Dallas' end rotation.

"I think a lot of the technical aspects of the game slowed him early in the year," Gailey said. "As he's gone on, it's become more natural and he's able to let his ability to take over."

Delce expected back by district hoops opener

After his squad ended a four-game skid Saturday, Snyder Lady Tigers' basketball coach Sam Tipton received another piece of good news Monday.

Junior Ashley Delce underwent successful arthroscopic knee surgery Monday, and is expected to be back in action by the district opener Jan. 7.



Delce

"Everything went great," Tipton said. "She'll start rehab on it today, and she should heal pretty quick. Ashley is a key part of our team, and we're excited about getting her back by the district opener."

Delce missed all of the Wylie Catclaw Classic over the weekend, after being bothered by pain in her knee. The operation was performed to clean out scar tissue left over from a previous injury.

While Delce will be back for the 5-4A opener, junior guard Rina Geiger will not.

Geiger

Geiger, who went down during Saturday's win over Colorado City, will miss 4-6 weeks with a fracture of her right ankle.

"Rina's injury is just one of those things that happens in basketball sometimes," Tipton said. "She was going up for a rebound and came down on someone else's foot. It's a shame because she was really starting to get the hang of things and was beginning to fit into our system."

The Lady Tigers, 4-7 on the year, will be in action again Friday when they visit Abilene Wylie for a 6:30 tip-off.

Cards hold on for 61-59 win

HERMLEIGH — The Klondike Cougars did their best to give the Hermleigh Cardinals a scare.

Hermleigh owned a 14-point lead after three quarters Monday, but had to hold off a 31-point effort from Klondike down the stretch to pull out a 61-59 victory in non-district boys' action.

The Cardinals controlled the action throughout the first half to build a 32-13 advantage at the midway point. Hermleigh held Klondike to only three points in the first quarter.

But in the third period, the Cougars started to heat up. Klondike outscored Hermleigh, 15-10, in the third to trim the deficit to 14 points.

Klondike continued to whittle away at the Cardinals' lead in the fourth quarter. The Cougars erupted for 31 points, while surrendering 19, to move within two points of the lead.

Hermleigh, paced by Joey Garza's 18 points, slammed the door on Klondike down the stretch to preserve the victory.

Garza's 18 was a game-high for both teams. Caleb Callaway poured in 17 more for Hermleigh, with Billy Lambaren adding 12. Andy Luna drained 11 points, and Jared Higgins chipped in two.

Callaway won the battle on the boards, hauling in 14 rebounds, while Garza and Lambaren grabbed 10 each.

In the girls' match-up, the Lady Cougars did most of their damage in the first and last quarters to top the Lady Cardinals, 58-31.

Klondike opened the game with 18 points in the first period, and closed it with 22 points in the fourth.

Randi Herrington paced the Lady Cards with 11 points, while Sabrina Terry and Crystal Jackson rattled home six apiece. Kendra Dacus and Toni Martinez tallied three points each, with Sheena Callaway adding two.

Both Hermleigh squads will be in action again Thursday at the Ira tournament.

Local Basketball Schedule

TODAY

Ira girls and boys at Veribest, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Ira girls and boys at Ira tourney

Hermleigh girls and boys at Ira tourney

FRIDAY

Abilene Wylie at Snyder 9th and varsity boys, 6 and 7 p.m.

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

Snyder 9th, JV and varsity girls at Abilene Wylie, 5 and 6:30

Ira girls and boys at Ira tourney

Hermleigh girls and boys at Ira tourney

SATURDAY

Ira girls and boys at Ira tourney

Hermleigh girls and boys at Ira tourney

Snyder JV boys at Sweetwater tourney

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	15	5	.750	—
New York	13	9	.591	3
Boston	10	9	.526	4½
Orlando	10	10	.500	5
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	5½
Washington	6	16	.273	10
New Jersey	5	16	.238	10½
Central Division				
Charlotte	13	7	.650	—
Indiana	13	7	.650	—
Toronto	12	8	.600	1
Cleveland	10	9	.526	2½
Milwaukee	11	10	.524	2½
Detroit	10	11	.476	3½
Atlanta	9	11	.450	4
Chicago	2	16	.111	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	15	7	.682	—
Utah	13	7	.650	1
Denver	10	10	.500	4
Minnesota	7	10	.412	5½
Dallas	8	14	.364	7
Houston	7	15	.318	8
Vancouver	4	17	.190	10
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	17	5	.773	—
Portland	17	5	.773	—
Seattle	15	6	.714	1½
Sacramento	12	6	.667	3
Phoenix	13	7	.650	3
L.A. Clippers	5	16	.238	11½
Golden State	4	16	.200	12

Sunday's Games

Utah 103, Toronto 88
New York 99, Boston 97
L.A. Lakers 101, Detroit 93

Monday's Game

L.A. Clippers 102, Vancouver 90

Tuesday's Games

Utah at Washington, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 8 p.m.
New York at Houston, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Denver at Seattle, 10 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

National Football League

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	11	2	0	.846	364	253
Buffalo	8	5	0	.615	245	192
Miami	8	5	0	.615	273	268
New England	7	6	0	.538	260	244
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	229	248
Central						
y-Jacksonville	12	1	0	.923	334	155
Tennessee	10	3	0	.769	274	257
Baltimore	6	7	0	.462	268	249
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	.385	232	218
Cincinnati	4	10	0	.286	276	414
Cleveland	2	12	0	.143	175	384
West						
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	276	229
Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	303	239
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	284	268
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	222	278
Denver	4	9	0	.308	255	269

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	8	5	0	.615	375	323
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	254	267
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	281	205
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	186	265
Philadelphia	3	11	0	.214	210	317
Central						
Tampa Bay	9	4	0	.692	221	174
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	288	254
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	226	277
West						
x-St. Louis	11	2	0	.846	430	182
Carolina	6	7	0	.462	315	314
San Francisco	4	9	0	.308	222	352
Atlanta	3	10	0	.231	197	307
New Orleans	2	11	0	.154	208	334

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's Game

Tennessee 21, Oakland 14

Sunday's Games

Washington 28, Arizona 3
Baltimore 31, Pittsburgh 24
Carolina 33, Green Bay 31
Cincinnati 44, Cleveland 28
Indianapolis 20, New England 15
New York Giants 19, Buffalo 17
Dallas 20, Philadelphia 10
St. Louis 30, New Orleans 14
San Francisco 26, Atlanta 7
San Diego 19, Seattle 16
New York Jets 28, Miami 20
Tampa Bay 23, Detroit 16
Kansas City 31, Minnesota 28

Monday's Game

Jacksonville 27, Denver 24

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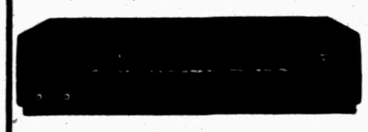
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Snyder Daily News
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P.O. Box 949 Snyder, Texas 79550

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Farmers Column

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Hay For Sale: Rox candy square bales. Call Ross Preston (915) 573-1217.

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Firewood!! Oak & Mesquite! Local cutter. Part seasoned. 24"-22"-20"-18". Some split. Delivered. 573-1216

Everyone reads classifieds!

Merchandise

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GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES: Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers. WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R.

Just in time for Christmas!! 386 Computer, Windows 95, 210MB hard drive, several games loaded, color monitor, keyboard, mouse, printer, all for $150. Call 573-5683 after 5pm.

Queen-size Sofa Bed. Used very little. Reasonable price. 3605 Jacksboro. Call 573-7615.

Merchandise

Moving Sale: Living room furniture, Henry Don coffee table, Pictures, Chairs, Large executive desk w/hutch, Computer desk, lawn mower. For details 766-2290 (Local call).

SANTA SPECIAL: Metal detectors by White's Electronics. (915)728-2494, Colorado City.

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"FREE" Hamster & Gerbil w/ Cage Purchase
Parakeet 1/2 price w/setup
Also: Ferrets, Guinea pigs, Bunnies, Eclipse – fish set ups
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All New Merchandise

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2 Blade White Tail	$3.98
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40 pc. Socket Set	$5.00
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2 hp Plunge Router	$89.00
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53 pc. Rachet Set	$20.00

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPY: MALE with 1st Shots. 1-915-728-8970. If no answer leave message.

Great Christmas Gift!! AKC Registered Pomeranian puppies w/1st shots. 8 weeks old, 2 males left. 573-8542.

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SANTA: Please bring us some kids for Christmas! AKC Dachshunds, males, black/tan. $125. 573-7369.

Want To Buy

Want to Buy: Fixer Upper, House that needs work. Call 573-2333.

Apartments For Rent

2 bedroom apartment for rent. Good location, reasonable. Call 573-0996.

2 Bedroom Apartments. Furnished or unfurnished. All bills paid, no pets. $250-up. Call 573-5773.

Apartment For Rent: One small efficiency apt. Bills paid. $225/month, $100/deposit. 27th & Ave. Y. 573-7008.

Large 2 bedroom Duplex apartment. Appliances. 1802 28th, $175/mo + Dep. 573-5525, leave message.

Super Clean 2 bedroom, brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012 Leave message.

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573-1488

Houses For Rent

1208 25th, New Carpet, 2-1, Water & Cable paid, Appliances. $300/month $150/deposit, References. Dupree Rentals, 573-9001.

For Rent: 3 B/R brick house. 310 20th. Call 573-8382.

Houses For Rent

3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, 2-car garage. 4111 Eastridge. $570/month plus $250/deposit. HeritageHomes Realtor. 573-5056.

3 Bedroom House, carport. $325 per month plus deposit. References required. No Pets. 573-9812.

Exceptionally nice house, 2-1-1, CH/A, W/D hookups, ceiling fans. $375/mo, $175/dep. 573-6487 after 5 p.m.

HOUSES FOR RENT

3733 Sunset.....3-1-1.....$375
3010 39th.....3-1.....$375
2307 40th.....3-1-cp.....$375
Sarah Jamison.....573-4028
Elizabeth Potts Realtors.....573-8505

Option to Buy: 3-1 house on 100 X 100 lot, fenced. $300/mo., $200/dep. 573-5105.

Several 2 & 3 bedroom houses & Mobile Homes, CH/CA. Rent or owner finance. Hud approved. 573-2251.

Small neat unfurnished 2 bedroom house. 509 33rd, $275/mo. 573-2649 before 5 p.m.

Mobile Homes For Rent

3-2 Mobile Home. CH, appliances (washer/dryer incl.). Fenced back yard. $285/mo + $250/dep. 573-5525

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom Mobile home. Stove & refrigerator furnished. CH/A, water paid. 573-7318.

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Mobile Homes

$16,000 for very nice 2 bedroom, 2 bath. **We Finance You!! 563-9000.**

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Horse Lovers Dream Home, on 5 Acres. Possible Owner Carry. Call Brendan 915-721-2101.

Large Mobile Home w/den, shop/office, acre of land. Rent or Owner Finance. 1311½ College. 573-2251.

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IN THE CLASSIFIEDS
573-5486

Mobile Homes

SI ESTA CANSADO de pagar Renta. Pero su credito esta mal, o no tiene credito. Venga a verme en **A-1 HOMES, Midland, TX.** O hableme al telefono **563-9000** y pregunte por **Cuco Arellano**, para ayudarle en su casa mobil nueva o usada.

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Country Living, Newly remodeled 2-1-2cp home. New well, 2.89 acres, trees and much more. 863-2249.

For Sale By Owner: 2-1-1 CH/A. 3004 Ave. U. 573-7629.

For Sale By Owner: 3-2-2 carport, 1900sq. ft.,hardwood and saltillo tile floors, immaculate. 1,000 sq.ft. studio, 300 sq.ft. outbuilding, deck. 2600 35th, Colonial Hill subdivision. $90,000. Call 501-880-8125 or 573-1248 (Ben), or 573-6351 (Joann).

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For Sale: 2BR/2B fixer upper house, outside city limits. Reasonable! 573-3758.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Nice house, CH/A. 3009 39th St. Close to schools. Good location!! Will take $18,500. Please call 573-4101.

Nice Country Home: 15 miles east of Snyder. 3-2-2, 2200 sq.ft., acres available. (806)745-9701 or (806)794-7919.

Owner Finance: $2000/Down $375/mo. total payment. 3-1, laundry room, fenced yard & storm windows. 126 20th Place, 573-3304, Carolyn.

Perfect First Home 119 Peach, 3-1, Storage Room, Newly remodeled. $15,500. Call 573-1793 after 6pm.

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(915) 573-5056

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3201 Ave. U Pic. Per.2-1-2cp...$30's
Investors 2812 Ave. W 2-2-Apts..$25T
3402 Irving Darling! 3-1-1.....$40's
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Real Estate

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Super Nice! 3-1¾-1-1cp 402 35th...$35T
Ready!! 3-1-1 4004 Eastridge.....$32.5T
Country SW-Ira ISD 2-1¾ 2 A's.....$37T
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PRETTY! Close In 4-2 5 A's or 36 A's.....Opt
Co. Dream Home 4-1¾+2 Lots of storage, 20 Acres, Pool ,Several Out Bldgs.....$185T
14.49 Acres 3-2 Hot Tub, Spk. Syst.... $105T
3-1¾-1 3728 Austin HANDY.....$36T
Unique 4-1¾+½-2cp 223 25th.....$25T
4-1¾ Great Storage 3733 Dalton.....$47.5T

Shirley Drum: 573-1550
Doris S. Spikes: 573-6602

STEVENSON REAL ESTATE
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573-5612 or 573-1755
Bill Dryden Broker/Owner

110 35th 3-2-1.....$31T
2113 Ave. I 3-2-Shop.....$30T
3108 39th 2-1-cp.....$25T
Investment Property 3 Houses.....$25T
4608 Ave. R 3-1½-1 One Acre.....$40's
3012 Austin 2-1-Corner.....$14.5T
300 36th Street 2-1-1.....$13T
312 36th Street 2-1.....$17.5T
709 North Ave. W.....$11.5 T
3810 Noble Drive 2-1.....$15T
2211 27th 4-2.....$39.5T
118 Milburn 2-1-cp.....$12.5T
1901 29th 3-2-1.....$20's
3301 Ave. A 3-1.....$13.5T
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TexSCAN Week of December 12, 1999

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks:

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	68¾	66⅝	67 5-16	+ 3 9-16
AT&T Corp s	56 1-16	55¼	55 13-16	+ 5-16
Albertsons	30⅝	30	30 3-16	— ¼
Alltel	88 15-16	86 5-16	87 1-16	— 1¾
AmerOnline s	93⅞	88	90¼	—3 9-16
AndarkPtr	31	30⅛	30⅛	— 9-16
AtlRichfld	89 13-16	89	89	— ⅛
ATMOS Egy	20⅞	20 13-16	20 13-16	— 1-16
Aviall	7 5-16	7¼	7¼	+ ⅛
BP Amoco s	60⅝	60⅛	60 3-16	+ 3-16
BakerHughes	19 1-16	17 5-16	18½	+ ¾
Bank of Amer	52¼	51 3-16	51⅜	— 1
BellAtl	65 9-16	64 3-16	65⅛	
BellSouth s	47¾	47⅛	47 7-16	+ 5-16
Beth Steel	7 9-16	7 7-16	7 9-16	+ 3-16
BurlNoSFe	28 15-16	28½	28⅝	— 3-16
CBS Corp	58½	57 11-16	57¾	— 9-16
Caterpillar	47 1-16	45½	46 11-16	+ 11-16
CenSoWst	19 13-16	19⅝	19 11-16	— ⅛
Chevron	89⅝	87⅞	89⅝	+ 1 1-16
Citigroup s	54 13-16	53 15-16	54⅜	—15-16
Coastal	33½	32⅝	32⅞	+ 1-16
CocaCola	61 9-16	61⅛	61 5-16	— 3-16
ColgatePal s	60 3-16	59	59½	
ComclMetals	31⅜	30 13-16	31⅛	+ 11-16
CooperIn	41 5-16	40 9-16	41 3-16	+ ⅝
DaimlrChry	68 7-16	67¾	68 3-16	+ 15-16
DallSemicn	60⅛	59	59 1-16	—11-16
DeltaAirl	51¼	50¼	50⅞	+ ⅝
Dillards Inc	18⅜	18 3-16	18¼	+ 1-16
DowChem	124⅞	122⅛	124 3-16	+ 2 11-16
DuPont	64⅞	61 7-16	64⅝	+ 3
EastmanChem	45 13-16	44¾	45 9-16	+ 13-16
EstKodak	61	60 5-16	60⅜	—11-16
EDS Corp	67 13-16	66½	67⅛	— ⅝
Entergy	24 5-16	23 13-16	24¼	+ ⅜
ExxonMobil	83⅛	82	82 9-16	— ⅛
Flowers	15 15-16	15 9-16	15 15-16	
FordMotor	49½	48 15-16	49 3-16	+ 5-16
GTE Cp	75⅛	72¾	74 5-16	— 5-16
GenDynam	50 9-16	49⅜	49 11-16	—1 1-16
GenElec	150½	148½	149 13-16	+ 2 1-16
GenMills s	34 3-16	33 9-16	33⅝	— ½
GenMotors	71¼	70 11-16	70 13-16	— 5-16
GaPacGP s	41¼	40⅛	41¼	+ ½
GlobalMar	15	14½	14 13-16	+ 7-16
Goodrich	21⅜	21	21 3-16	+ 1-16
Goodyear s	28 13-16	28½	28 9-16	
GtAtlPac	25 9-16	25 5-16	25 9-16	+ ⅜
Halliburtn	35¾	34 5-16	35 3-16	+ ⅝
Hanson ADS	42 15-16	42 7-16	42 7-16	— 7-16
HarteHanks	20 5-16	20¼	20 5-16	+ 1-16
HomeDepot	92⅞	91 13-16	92⅛	— ⅝
HomeDepot wi	61 15-16	61¾	61⅞	+ ⅛
HoneywellIntl	59⅝	58 15-16	59 3-16	
IBM s	110 3-16	108½	108 15-16	— 1⅛
IntlPaper	53¾	52¼	53¾	— ⅛
JohnsonJn	94	92	93 13-16	+ 1¾
K mart	12¼	11¼	11¼	— ¼
Kroger Co s	16 1-16	15 13-16	15 13-16	+ ⅛
Litton	44 7-16	43¾	44 3-16	+ ⅛
LockheedM	20⅜	19 15-16	20¼	+ ⅜
Lowes Cos	54 7-16	53⅞	54 5-16	
Lubys	10 13-16	10 11-16	10 13-16	
LucentTech s	80 15-16	80⅛	80 5-16	+ ½
MayDeptStr s	30¾	29¾	30 11-16	+ 1⅛
MediaOne	79¼	78 7-16	79	+ 9-16
Medtronic s	34⅞	34⅜	34 7-16	— ½
Monsanto	41⅜	39¼	39½	— 2½
MorganJP	133¾	132¼	132 5-16	— 2¼
Motorola	128⅛	125 7-16	125 15-16	— 2⅝
NCR Corp	32 11-16	32¼	32¼	— 9-16
Navistar	40½	38⅞	40 7-16	+ 1
Penney JC	19⅛	18 11-16	18¾	+ 1-16
PepBoys	9	8 13-16	8⅞	— 1-16
PepsiCo	35 3-16	34¾	35	— 5-16
PhelpDodge	55⅞	53 5-16	55½	+ 1 15-16
PhilipPet	47 9-16	47⅛	47⅜	— ⅜
PilgrmPrd B	7¼	7⅛	7 3-16	+ ⅛
Polaroid	17⅝	17⅛	17½	+ ¼
Praxair	45 7-16	44¾	45⅜	+ 5-16
ProctGamb	111⅜	108 13-16	110 9-16	+ 3-16
PubS NwMx	15 11-16	15⅝	15 11-16	+ 1-16
ReliantEngy	23 7-16	22⅞	22 15-16	— 3-16
RoyalDut	58 5-16	57½	57 13-16	+ 1
SBC Comm	54⅜	53	53 13-16	+ ½
SaraLee	21 13-16	21 1-16	21 5-16	— 9-16
Scripps EW	44	43⅞	44	— ½
SearsRoeb	31 11-16	30¾	31 3-16	+ ⅛
SherwinW	19¼	18⅞	19 1-16	+ 1-16
SmithklBchm	63	62½	62¾	—2 11-16
SouthernCo	22 9-16	22 5-16	22 7-16	
SwstAirl s	16⅛	15 13-16	15 15-16	+ 1-16
SprintFON s	67 13-16	65 9-16	65 13-16	—2 3-16
SprintPCS	109 13-16	107⅞	108⅛	+ ⅜
Sunoco Inc	24⅛	23⅜	23 11-16	+ 5-
WstnGasRs	13½	13¼	13⅜	+ ⅛
WinnDixie	25½	24⅛	25 5-16	+ 7-16
Xerox Cp s	22⅛	21¼	22	+ ⅞

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Patterson	10 7/16	0
Dell	41 15/16	+3/16
Wal Mart	68 1/8	+1/8
Compac	24 9/16	-9/16
Dol. Gen.	24 1/16	+1/8
GTE	74 1/8	-1/2
SBC Comm.	53 9/16	+1/4
Tx Instr.	101 1/8	-4 61/64
LU	80 1/2	+3/4
Cisco Sys.	99 7/16	-1 3/4

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Oil firms near settlement in civil suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six oil companies tentatively have agreed to pay $71 million to settle a civil lawsuit filed in Texas that alleges they underpaid royalties for oil taken from federal and Indian lands.

That total, along with $153 million in payouts that Chevron, BP Amoco and Conoco agreed to earlier this year, would bring to $276 million the settlements struck with the Justice Department and the private plaintiffs who first brought the civil suit in 1996.

"We're extremely pleased with the progress so far," Rayford Etherton, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said Monday.

During a session in federal court in Tyler on Friday, Etherton briefed the presiding judge about the combined $71 million tentative settlement that Canadian Occidental, Kerr-McGee/Oryx Energy, PennZEnergy, Sun, Texaco and Union Pacific Resources would pay.

U.S. District Judge John Hannah Jr. had put pre-trial preparation on hold for six weeks to give the parties time to hash out settlements, requiring them to provide a status report on Friday. During that session, Etherton also notified the court that previously disclosed settlements with Chevron for $95 million, BP Amoco for $32 million and Conoco for $26 million are on the verge of being signed.

Etherton said the plaintiffs are in "serious good-faith negotiations" with Burlington Resources and Phillips Petroleum and hope to present the court with settlement proposals within the next two weeks.

Discussions with Shell, Marathon, Unocal and Exxon are continuing, Etherton said. The trial is set to begin in September.

The Justice Department, which intervened in the lawsuit last year, declined to discuss specifics of the proposed settlements. "We have an agreement in principle with those companies, but we don't have any kind of signed agreement yet," Justice spokeswoman Gina Talamona said Monday.

A government watchdog group that has accused oil companies of underpaying royalties by more than $2 billion in the last two decades welcomed word of the latest settlement proposals.

"It's just incredibly exciting," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight. "At last, taxpayers, Native Americans, school children and the environment are getting their due from the oil companies. This is a real David-and-Goliath victory."

The lawsuit, filed in 1996 by two private citizens, charged that 18 oil companies knowingly defrauded the government in royalties derived from the production of crude oil from lands spanning more than 27 million acres onshore and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Berry's World

POKEMON DAY TRADERS

Ex-New York cop gets 30-year term

NEW YORK (AP) — A former beat cop who brutalized a prisoner in a grimy precinct bathroom has been sentenced to 30 years behind bars, a punishment his victim calls "a clear message that no one is above the law."

Justin Volpe, 27, fought back tears during the 21/2-hour hearing Monday in federal court. Reading from a handwritten statement, he apologized to his victim, Abner Louima.

"I was and still am ashamed," he said. "I am extremely sorry."

Volpe rammed a broomstick into Louima's rectum in a police station bathroom in 1997 after arresting and handcuffing the 30-year-old security guard. Police said Volpe mistakenly thought Louima had punched him from behind during an earlier melee outside a Brooklyn nightclub.

"Short of intentional murder, one cannot imagine a more barbarous use of force than Volpe's," U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson told a packed courtroom.

Louima, who addressed the court during the sentencing, did not ask the judge for any specific punishment, although prosecutors had pushed for a life sentence.

"I suffered three operations to repair my bladder, colon and intestines. I spent over 21/2 months in the hospital," Louima said in court. "Sometimes I ask God, 'Why me?' and why he let me live. But when I look at my family, my kids, my wife and all my friends and supporters, that gives me courage."

The defendant's father, retired police detective Robert Volpe, spent his 57th birthday watching his son be sentenced. He said the family "came prepared for the worst... most of our expectations have been seen."

Acting U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch said she accepted the 30-year sentence, given that Volpe "has forfeited the balance of his productive life." Volpe was also ordered to pay Louima $277,495 restitution.

The case strained relations between the city's police and minorities and sparked demonstrations against police brutality. Louima has also filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit alleging his attackers were shielded by a "blue wall of silence."

Police Commissioner Howard Safir called Volpe's punishment "appropriate," and said he hoped "that this is a chapter in the history of the New York Police Department that is behind us."

Outside the courthouse, Louima said he wanted Volpe's sentence to send "a clear message that no one is above the law." He refused further comment.

Volpe pleaded guilty to violating Louima's civil rights in the middle of trial after other officers testified that he waved the broomstick around proudly following the assault on Louima and even boasted how he "broke a man down."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Mom fears for child's safety around in-laws packing heat

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice on how to handle a sticky situation with my in-laws. My husband's father carries a concealed handgun in his pocket, and in addition to this, his wife carries one in her purse. My father-in-law is in his early 70s, and it was not until recently that I learned they carried these loaded weapons everywhere they go. This includes our home.

We have a child under the age of 1, and I am so afraid that the gun may go off while my father-in-law is holding our child. The other possibility is that it may go off in a public place. My father-in-law does have a concealed gun permit, but the thought of his gun going off by accident and injuring our child or someone else has really upset me.

My husband says if it bothers me, I should say something to his father. How should I bring this up to the in-laws if my husband will not talk to his dad about this?

I really do want to have a good relationship with my in-laws, but guns in my home or around my child at any time will not be tolerated. Please help! — DESPERATE IN DALLAS

DEAR DESPERATE: Tell your pistol-packing in-laws that the world may be a dangerous and scary place, but they are safe when they are in the confines of your home. Then do what any saloon keeper in the Old West would do to safeguard the customers: Insist that they check their weapons at the door and put them in a place the toddler cannot possibly reach or get into.

**

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to the one you printed from the woman who signed herself "Lost in a Dream," who dreamed repeatedly about a former boyfriend.

I can relate to her. When I was 13, I met my "first love." He was the same age. We lived 30 minutes from each other, but we corresponded through letters and saw each other at monthly youth functions. It lasted more than a year.

Because of circumstances beyond our control, we were forced to part. It was one of the hardest things I ever did. Neither one of us wanted to break it off, but it was something I just had to do. I saw him for the first time in about 10 years four years ago. It was very nice to see him again, but it brought back a lot of memories.

Now, 15 years from the time we broke up, I'm married and so is he. Like "Lost in a Dream," I have a wonderful marriage. But every so often I think of him and dream about him, and wonder "What if?" He was very special to me. Some people call it "puppy love," but it was real to me. And for a 14-year-old, that was all that mattered.

I want to tell "Lost in a Dream" that she is not alone. She is not a bad person for this. Anything can trigger dreams. I am just relieved to know that I am not the only person who experiences this. Thanks, Abby, for printing that letter. — RELIEVED IN ORLANDO, FLA.

DEAR RELIEVED: You're welcome. I have a stack of letters from readers echoing your message to "Lost in a Dream." Dreams of a former romance are nothing to lose sleep over. However, if they are causing anxiety, it can't hurt to talk them over with a professional.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Can people in comas hear?

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are comatose patients likely to hear what is going on around them?

DEAR READER: Ordinarily not. Coma is a form of unconsciousness and, under this circumstance, there is little if any sensory input to the brain.

Early in my training, I learned an important lesson, however. Several other interns and I were conducting rounds at the bedside of a comatose woman who had had a stroke. She appeared to be entirely unresponsive and we had little hope that she would live. Because she was unconscious, we inexperienced doctors openly discussed her care while standing around her bed, trying to figure out what to do. After a few minutes of discussion, a rather brazen intern concluded his presentation of the case by stating that the patient was "terminally ill in a vegetative state and that her death, which was expected, would be a blessing."

Inexplicably, she lived, recovered and eventually left the hospital. I had become close to her and, on her day of discharge, she looked up at me, smiled and said: "Thank you for all you have done. Do you know that what you interns said — especially the one who predicted my death — hurt and frightened me? I wasn't ready to die yet."

This experience convinced me that comatose patients may have persisting mental function that is not obvious to those around them. They can hear, remember and react. Consequently in my almost 40 years of practice, I've made the habit of never saying anything in the presence of a comatose patient that could hurt her or come back to haunt me. On many occasions, I've been grateful for that lesson learned.

So, the short of it is this: Some comatose patients comprehend what is said in their presence; therefore, always assume that they can hear, assimilate and be affected by what goes on around them.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is the basal temperature test considered a valid method for diagnosing an underactive thyroid condition?

DEAR READER: It used to be, but it has now been supplanted by a more accurate test, called the TSH (a blood test that measures thyroid stimulating hormone.)

If taken properly (before a patient gets out of bed in the morning), a basal temperature will often be below normal in the presence of hypothyroidism. However, the test is so cumbersome that many people prefer to avoid it. Furthermore, a basal temperature may be low because of other factors.

Blood tests are quicker and more accurate. By ordering a T3 and a T4 (to measure thyroid hormone levels), as well as a TSH, your doctor can easily tell you in a couple of days whether your thyroid gland is normal or whether a deficiency exists. In my opinion, blood tests are the way to go. Basal temperature recordings have largely been confined to women who need to know the time of ovulation so that they can become pregnant.

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MAKING A DECISION

Our God is a God capable of daily involvement in all of life's decisions. The Bible is our all-sufficient guide and authority. It shows us the basic direction our lives should take. But we still need wisdom for our personal, daily decisions, so we go to God in prayer as James teaches, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

Our God is a personal God and we desire His wisdom. Knowledge comes by Bible study; wisdom comes by prayer. The Bible can tell us the kind of person to marry, wisdom tells us whom. The Bible gives us guidelines concerning child-rearing, but God's wisdom can help us make daily decisions. Many are afraid to pray lest they minimize the Bible. Others want God, but the thought of Bible study freezes them. Some pray simply because prayer is a command. How tragic! Let us follow James' admonition to seek God's wisdom. God is able!

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1999

Should you be subjected to some changes you don't anticipate in the year ahead, don't let them stifle your forward motion. You can control the circumstances with a little ingenuity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) So long as everything goes your way today, you'll be a rather pleasant person to be around. Your disposition could suddenly change, however, should a problem arise. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Even if you get the opportunity to get in a few licks about someone who has caused you frustrations recently, try to keep your comments to yourself. You could regret it later if you don't.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you aren't doing too good a job handling your own dollars, don't volunteer to manage the resources of another today. Put you own affairs in order first.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Much depends upon your tactics and procedures today if you are to achieve several key objectives today. If your plans are poorly constructed, the end results will reflect this.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) There's a good chance you might not be too good at keeping secrets today, so be cognizant of this fact should someone begin to question you in areas that are off limits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's unlike you to be an impractical, wishful thinker, yet today your desire for everything and everybody to be beautiful and wonderful could lead you down the garden path.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't put yourself in a position today where you have to depend upon unenthused cohorts, especially if your support base has been a trifle fragile lately. They'll let you down.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try not to make a big fuss over little things you find annoying today. Once Pandora's box is opened, it might be difficult for you to take back what you say or do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) People who like you are concerned about your needs, but this is not the day to put their loyalty to a test. They may not be able to comply with your demands due to those of their own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Size up situations realistically today and don't be naive where the odds are concerned. You may not be in as strong a bargaining position as you'd like to lead yourself to believe.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Should someone attempt to boss you around today, you're likely to respond in an angry manner that is unlike you. Chances are you'll only be good at issuing orders, not taking them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Make the necessary time needed to carefully evaluate merchandise you need to purchase today. If you're a hasty, impulsive shopper, you'll not get good mileage from your dollars.

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Some 8,000 people suffer bites from venomous snakes in the United States each year, but only 10 to 15 die

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Paul, Gramm oppose federal proposal on collecting data

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two dozen Republicans on the House Banking Committee have joined the opposition to a Federal Reserve proposal that would allow banks to collect data on the race and sex of people applying for loans.

Led by Reps. Ron Paul of Texas and Bob Barr of Georgia, the GOP members criticized the proposal in a letter Monday to the central bank. They said it could lead to racial lending quotas mandated by the government.

"It should be Congress, not the regulators, that decides government policy," the letter said.

One Democrat also signed, Rep. Virgil Goode of Virginia.

Last week, Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and other GOP senators told Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan they opposed the proposal.

Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, chairman of the House Banking Committee, was not among the 24 Republicans who signed the letter. The committee has 32 Republican members.

The panel's senior Democrat, Rep. John LaFalce of New York, supports the proposal, which he says would help regulators enforce laws against racial discrimination in granting loans.

The nation's bankers oppose the proposal on grounds that such voluntary collection of racial data could eventually become mandatory and impose new costs and burdens on the industry. It also has drawn criticism from the Libertarian Party and the conservative Eagle Forum.

The proposal would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to allow banks to collect demographic data on credit applicants. They currently are prohibited from doing so, except for mortgage applications.

Because of the political sensitivity involved, the Fed asked Congress to resolve the matter through legislation. When that didn't happen, the Fed put out the proposal for public comment, but it is unclear when the Federal Reserve governors will vote on the proposal.

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2 _____ 3 _____

Child #2
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #3
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #4
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

Child #5
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX ___
1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____

For families with more than 5 children, please attach a separate sheet of paper.)

Toys will be picked up from the Girl Scout Hut (2501 35th Street) on Thursday, December 23, 1999. Each family will be notified by phone of their pick up time, so please list a phone #. Only adults will be allowed to pick up toys. Please send all applications to: TOYS FOR TOTS, c/o Judi Martin, 3106 Hill Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-3845. For more information, call 573-3525 or 573-6725. Applications will be accepted through Saturday, December 18, 1999.

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Missing holiday goat is returned

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — It could have been a wild goat chase.

But Mary Lou, the missing goat, turned up in someone's driveway just hours after she disappeared. It was enough to scare officials at Midwestern State University, however, who feared their missing nativity animal was gone for good.

The miniature goat was swiped Saturday morning from Midwestern's annual Fantasy of Lights Christmas display. A witness told campus police that someone had scaled a fence, nabbed Mary Lou from her pen and handed her to a man outside.

Mary Lou, the smallest of three goats who share the pen with two miniature donkeys, was returned soon afterward to her owners, George and Patt Giddings.

For a while, investigators were unaware the goat had been found, amid confusion as to whether she was the missing animal in question. Mary Lou was held at a Humane Society animal reclaim center until the Giddings could identify her and take her back to campus.

Employers paying more for insurance

NEW YORK (AP) — Employers looking to hang onto workers amid a booming economy and low unemployment are absorbing increases in health insurance costs that are three times the overall inflation rate.

In fact, according to a study released today, many large employers improved their employee health benefits this year, adding coverage for dental and vision care.

"In this tight labor market, many employers are reluctant to upset workers with bad news about their medical benefits," said Blaine Bos, a co-author of the study by the consulting firm William M. Mercer Inc.

Next year, employers expect health insurance costs to climb 7.5 percent to about $4,404 per worker, a slight increase over the 7.3 percent jump in 1999, according to the annual Mercer study, which polled 3,166 employers. The government's consumer price index rose at an annual rate of just 2.4 percent in October.

Yet, only about 25 percent of employers plan to shift more costs to their workers by raising insurance deductibles or co-payments when they see a doctor, or by requiring the workers to pay higher insurance premiums, the survey found.

With unemployment at 4.1 percent — a 30-year low — many workers can switch jobs nearly at will.

Perhaps as a way to attract or hold workers, the percentage of companies providing dental benefits rose to 54 percent this year from 49 percent in 1998, the survey found. The percentage offering vision coverage rose to 46 percent from 42 percent.

With the cost of prescription drugs rising at 15.2 percent, about one-third of big companies made changes to their drug benefits, usually pushing workers to use cheaper generic drugs or brand name medicines preferred by the health plan, the survey said.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Ceremony to mark canal transfer

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — With President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright declining to attend, the task of witnessing the turnover of the Panama Canal fell to former President Jimmy Carter, who agreed to the handover 22 years ago.

Carter was scheduled to join President Mireya Moscoso, King Juan Carlos of Spain and other world leaders in a ceremony today marking the transfer.

It will be the end of a relationship between Panama and the United States that dates to Panama's birth as an independent country in 1903, when it broke away from Colombia. The U.S. government took over the canal project, which was completed in 1914.

Officially, the U.S. presence ends on Dec. 31, but the ceremonial turnover was moved forward to avoid conflict with millennium activities. Already, the Americans are all but gone.

In Washington, President Clinton today expressed a "continuing commitment" to the canal's security and a determination that the strategic waterway remain open for global commerce.

"Today's ceremony underscores our confidence in the government of Panama and the Panamanian people's ability to manage this vital artery of commerce," Clinton said in a written statement.

The treaties transfer to Panama 360,240 acres of real estate that made up the Canal Zone, a fenced-in U.S. civilian and military enclave with schools, churches and federal laws. Its crown jewel was the canal, a 50-mile engineering marvel that raises ships from one ocean and deposits them in another through a system of water locks and a man-made lake.

About 14,000 ships pass through the canal every year, steered by Panamanian or U.S. pilots, and pay $540 million in tolls.

Carter signed the treaties in 1977 with Panamanian strongman Gen. Omar Torrijos, who 10 years earlier had come to power through a military coup.

Tripp didn't have immunity when she turned over tapes

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — A judge ruled today that Linda Tripp didn't have federal immunity when she turned over her secret tapes of Monica Lewinsky to Kenneth Starr's office. It was a victory for state prosecutors planning to try Mrs. Tripp on wiretapping charges.

Howard County Circuit Judge Diane O. Leasure ruled that Mrs. Tripp's immunity didn't begin until Feb. 19, 1998, when a federal judge signed an immunity order.

Mrs. Tripp's lawyers had argued that she had immunity starting Jan. 16, 1998, the day she turned over the tapes to Starr's prosecutors.

The judge's order appears to clear the way for the state to use the tapes against Mrs. Tripp.

Maryland law forbids recording a phone conversation without the other party's consent. Mrs. Tripp's attorneys have argued that her cooperation with Starr's investigation of President Clinton protected her from prosecution on state wiretap charges.

The judge called the federal court's immunity order in February a technicality but an important technicality, "unfortunately for Mrs. Tripp."

The ruling means Mrs. Tripp wasn't protected by the immunity agreement when her attorney played a Lewinsky tape on Jan. 17, 1998, to Newsweek magazine.

The pretrial hearing is continuing. The Maryland prosecutor still must show that his case is untainted by any of Mrs. Tripp's statements to the independent counsel's office after she received formal immunity in February.

A Howard County grand jury indicted Mrs. Tripp on two counts of breaking Maryland's wiretap statute because she secretly taped Ms. Lewinsky confiding her affair with Clinton. The recordings were the starting point for Starr's investigation.

Bamma Strayhorn

Bamma Strayhorn

1908-1999

Funeral service for Bamma Laverne Strayhorn, 91, of Snyder is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Elder Chuck Sammons of the Snyder Primitive Baptist Church will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mrs. Strayhorn died Monday, Dec. 13, at Grace House West Care Center in Lubbock where she had lived for the past 18 months.

Born March 10, 1908 in Eastland County, at age 13 she moved with her family by covered wagon to Fisher County, a trip that required one week. The family moved to Scurry County shortly thereafter.

She married David Pope Strayhorn on June 8, 1929 in Snyder. He died June 16, 1991. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Ab and Allie Cayce; and two brothers, Rollin and Powers Cayce.

The Strayhorns farmed for many years and they operated the Strayhorn Motel on 25th Street for 37 years, opening just before the oil boom in 1948. They also began Strayhorn Storage Company when they were 73. She was a member of the East Side Church of Christ.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Vina Strayhorn of Snyder; two sisters, Ruby Turner of Rotan and Rose Harlan of Fort Worth; a brother and sister-in-law, Gayle and Bonnie Cayce of Houston; and three grandchildren, Ellen Marie Strayhorn and Carol Vina Strayhorn, both of Lubbock, and David Lee Strayhorn of Snyder.

The family suggests memorials to the American Alzheimer's Association, South Plains Chapter, 3601 4th Street in Lubbock, 79430.

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Bush, McCain spar over tax policies and farm subsidies

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — In a spirited presidential campaign debate, Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain fought over tax policy and farm subsidies, while McCain was pushed to defend his centerpiece campaign finance proposals.

Bush challenged McCain to include working women in his tax cutting plans, while McCain asked Bush to join in on campaign finance reform.

"We can commit to having nothing to do with soft money," McCain told Bush. "I hope you'll make that commitment right here tonight."

"I don't think that's fair, I think that's unilateral disarmament," Bush said. Looking to McCain, he said "It's going to hurt the Republican Party, John."

"We have a flawed campaign finance system ... that (has) given the megaphone to the big-money people," retorted McCain, of Arizona.

For his part, Bush questioned McCain directly on taxes, saying his plan did little for working women. "I'm wondering why," Bush asked.

The exchange was their most intense in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, reflecting a campaign where Bush's once commanding lead has begun to erode in some important early states.

Their rivals — Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, former State Department official Alan Keyes and former Reagan administration official Gary Bauer — tried hard but had difficulty injecting themselves into the mix.

Bush is the front-runner by far in national polls, and is rated a solid favorite in Iowa, where the first delegates will be picked in precinct caucuses on Jan. 24. McCain has no organized effort in Iowa, but has pulled even — or slightly ahead — in New Hampshire, the leadoff primary state, according to the most recent soundings. His rise there presents a challenge to Bush's effort to march unmolested to the nomination.

McCain did make a plea for backing in Iowa, hoping for an early surprise that would add to his momentum.

"I will be on the ballot, and I hope that hearty band of brave souls will go out and vote for me," he said.

McCain also clashed with his rivals by going out of his way to trash subsidies for ethanol, a gasoline additive made from corn, which are very popular in Iowa.

"I'm here to tell you things you don't want to hear as well as things you want to hear," said McCain. "Everybody here on this stage, if it wasn't for the fact that Iowa has the first caucuses, would share my view that we don't need ethanol subsidies."

Bush quickly countered that "I'd support ethanol whether I was in Iowa or not."

Cubans hold five hostages

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP) — Negotiators worked today to persuade five armed Cubans frustrated with their incarceration to release two deputies and a warden from the St. Martin Parish jail.

The hostages were taken in an "uprising" that began shortly after 4 p.m. Monday as the detainees left an exercise area, Sheriff Charles Fuselier said. No injuries were reported.

A fourth hostage, a deputy sheriff, was released after six hours of negotiations. Some of the 160 prisoners were herded into buses and driven away while others were moved to more secure locations.

"We want to be released and sent back to our country or any other country. We don't care," said Jonne Ponce, one of the Cubans who telephoned television station KLFY in nearby Lafayette.

Maria Placer, station vice president for news, talked to Ponce in Spanish and relayed messages to negotiators. Video showed the detainees using walkie-talkies and holding two shivs, or homemade weapons.

Felony warrants send two to jail

Two persons were arrested on felony warrants Monday.

Christopher Lane Strong, 46, of 10695 FM 1609 was booked into custody at 9:30 a.m. on a parole department warrant.

Deputies arrested 23-year-old Angela Morris of 2604 Avenue V at the Adult Probation Office at 11:08 a.m. on a warrant for felony motion to revoke probation.

Two subjects were taken into custody at 10:41 p.m. in the 1600 block of Avenue E. Officers arrested a 20-year-old male for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and a 20-year-old male for minor in possession.

Verleatha Johnson spoke to deputies at 8:45 a.m. in reference to a subject forging a check. An offense report was submitted.

An employee with the Movie Stop requested an officer at the business at 4:09 p.m. in reference to two juvenile males stealing a video. The subjects were located at Winston Park and one subject was released to his parents.

The other subject was taken to the police department and was later released to his parents. An offense report for Class C theft was filed.

At 4:56 p.m., an offense report was submitted for Class C assault.

A minor accident occurred at Western Texas College at 1:27 p.m. Involved were a Chevrolet 1500 pickup driven by Jeremy Glen Daniel, 18, of 804 East 15th Street and a Pontiac Grand Am driven by Joyce Ann Boyd, 56, of 4500 Ave. U.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Vanessa Taylor, Petra Vasquez, Belinda Calloway, Larry Hildreth and Terri Racher.

DISMISSALS: Eleanor Burns, Ysidro Estrada, Brice Fuqua, Wortham Loyd, Vanessa Taylor, Benito Barrera, Jose Garza, Petra Vasquez and Jordon Williamson.

CENSUS: 37 (Med./Surg.-11, Long-term Care-23, CCU-1, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

Births

Brent and Terri Racher of Snyder announce the birth of their son at 4:14 a.m. on Dec. 13 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, 4 ½ ounces.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Stanfield book fair

Stanfield Elementary's parent council is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair today and Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

4-H horse club

Scurry County 4-H horse club will meet at 7 tonight at East Elementary.

Northeast family night out

Northeast Elementary will have family night out this evening at Ken's Chicken. Serving will be until 9 p.m. and parents are urged to bring their coupons.

ACU registration

Abilene Christian University will register for spring classes at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Christian Student Center on the WTC campus. For more information, call Jerry Cox at 674-2505.

East Elementary T-shirts

East Elementary's physical education department is selling millennium T-shirts in order to buy new equipment. Limited sizes are available. Youth are $6 and adult sizes are $7. Call 573-1769 or go by the school office.

Christmas wish list

Scurry County Child Welfare Board, in conjunction with local financial institutions, is working to make Christmas special for county foster children. Trees are set up in the lobby of each bank and citizens can help share Christmas with a child by choosing a star from one of the trees. Purchase and wrap the gift and return it to the CPS office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center by Friday. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Faith Baptist Cantata

The adult choir will present a Christmas Cantata and drama, "His Name is Jesus," at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Faith Baptist Church, 208 37th. Steve Pierson is the director.

Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday. The service is sponsored by the Support Group Ministry in recognition of the difficulty that family members who have lost loved ones have during the holiday season.

Gospel singer

Johnny Ray Watson, gospel singer, will present special music during the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday at Church of the Hills. He will present a Christmas concert at the 6:30 p.m. service, and a fellowship will follow. Call 573-7794 for more information.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Faith That WillNot Shrink," followed by "Getting to Know God's Person and Problem."

Library extends hours

Scurry County Library has extended its Saturday hours and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-W-F and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ASC Road to Recovery volunteer coordinator Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 and leave a message, or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

Pick 3

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

9-1-5

(nine, one, five)

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:

12-21-27-30-38

(twelve, twenty one, twenty seven, thirty, thirty eight)

Restraining orders block subway strike Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP) — Judges today granted two temporary restraining orders blocking New York City transit workers from going on strike just after midnight Wednesday.

The city and state Attorney General Elliot Spitzer sought and won the orders early today from a state Supreme Court judge.

Darren Dopp, spokesman for Spitzer, and Gary Dellaverson, chief negotiator for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said the restraining orders would facilitate enforcement of a state law that bars strikes by public employees.

"As a result of information that came to our attention last night and inflammatory statements by the militant wing of the union, we believe that this action was necessary," Dellaverson said.

Talks continued this morning, and both sides said some progress had been made as the strike deadline of 12:01 a.m. Wednesday neared.

About 3.5 million people who use New York City's buses and subways each day would have to find alternate transportation if transit workers went on strike.

City officials announced contingency plans Monday that include mandatory car pools, shared taxi rides and extra ferry service.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who has no role in the negotiations, had said Monday he would hold off on plans to seek an injuction. But he said today the city acted because "the MTA is not capable of reaching an agreement in sufficient time without hurting the city."

Both sides said Monday they were making progress towards staving off what could be a crippling strike at the height of the busy holiday season.

"We are making some movement in many areas," said Willie James, president of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union. "We've been rockin' and rollin'."

Marc Shaw, executive director of the MTA, was more subdued, calling Monday "another day of continued moderate progress."

The union's 33,000 members want pay raises and other benefits.