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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Dec. 2, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 183
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Lois Leech

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST — Scurry County 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. Citizens choose a star from one of the trees, purchase and wrap a gift and return it to the CPS office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center by Dec. 17. Rick Williams is pictured looking at one of the trees. (SDN Staff Photo)

Hospital's renovation funding is questioned

By Wade Warren
Managing Editor

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's board of managers this morning gave its approval to the architect's contract for the hospital's first step in a planned $2.5 million renovation project.

The board voted unanimously to okay a contract with Lubbock architect Joe McKay for services associated with the renovation and relocation of the radiological department.

The department will be moved to the area where the physical therapy department was located, near the emergency room.

While the vote for the contract was 4-0, (board member E.D. Walton was absent), Dink Foree questioned how the hospital is going to pay for the renovation.

"If there is some sort of plan to pay for the renovation, I haven't heard about it," Foree said.

Board president Jim Bob Cave said the hospital is looking to pay for the initial project out of reserves unless a long-term plan for financing the project is approved by the county.

Plans discussed in an earlier meeting of the board included financing the project by borrowing the money.

"I'm all for the project," said Foree. "I'm just not sure if the hospital board can encumber the county by borrowing money."

"We have not come up with a formal decision on financing," said Cave. "I guess what we're saying is we will use cash flow to pay for it unless another plan is approved by the county."

The estimated cost of the relocation of the department is $571,000.

Jim Bullard, regional vice president for Covenant Health Systems, told the board that approving the contract was just the first step in the renovation process to get the actual costs of the project.

"The estimate is just based on a square-footage estimate," said Bullard. "The actual cost will be based on the architect's drawings."

"This is not a go, or no-go decision – just the process to start it," added Bullard.

In a related matter to the radiology department, an agenda item to purchase equipment for the department was tabled.

Cave told the board that hospital administrator Jeff Reecer is at a meeting in Chicago viewing "bigger and better equipment" than what had been received in bids.

"And at a savings of some $80,000," Cave added .

The board did approve the monthly financial statements unanimously.

Foree did question a payment to a hospital collection service in the amount of $5,500.

Hospital controller Selina McGuire told Foree that the payment is part of the settlement the hospital made when it terminated a contract with an accounts receivable firm.

"We were told the contract was to expire in May or June. Why are we having to pay this now," questioned Foree.

McGuire said she did not know the specifics of the settlement, but would research it and give him a report.

Cave presided at the meeting and board members present were Foree, Dr. Mark Weaver and Stanley Martin.

Christmas concert set

A good way to get into the Christmas spirit and get a head start on the holiday season will be to attend the Snyder ISD combined choirs' Christmas Concert at 7 tonight in Worsham Auditorium,

About 350 voices — high school, junior high and sixth grade choir students — on combined selections will be featured. "Silent Night" will be featured as a candlelight song surrounding the audience.

A reception will follow in the main hallway.

Choir directors include Ronda Haire, high school; Marci Dennis, junior high; and Judy Brown, West Elementary.

Terri Williams and Ronda Haire will play the piano. Other instruments will include Marie Clark on the flute; Casey Collier on tambourine and Lane Scott, conga drums.

The program will include "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!," "Silver Bells," and "Holiday Romance."

Snyder High School's Tiger Jazz will sing "No Well, No Well" and "One Silent Night."

West Elementary's Honors Choir will perform "Angel's Lullaby," "The Shepherds Saw a Star," and "Jazzy Jinglin' Bells."

Snyder Junior High School's beginning girls choir will sing "Children Go Where I Send Thee," "It's The Christmas Time of Year," and "Mary Had A Baby."

The junior high boys' choir will perform "Do You Hear What I Hear?," "Behold, A Tiny Baby," "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" from "Hodie!"

The junior high's advanced girls choir will be featured on "I Wonder As I Wander," "Sleigh Ride," "Cantique de Noel."

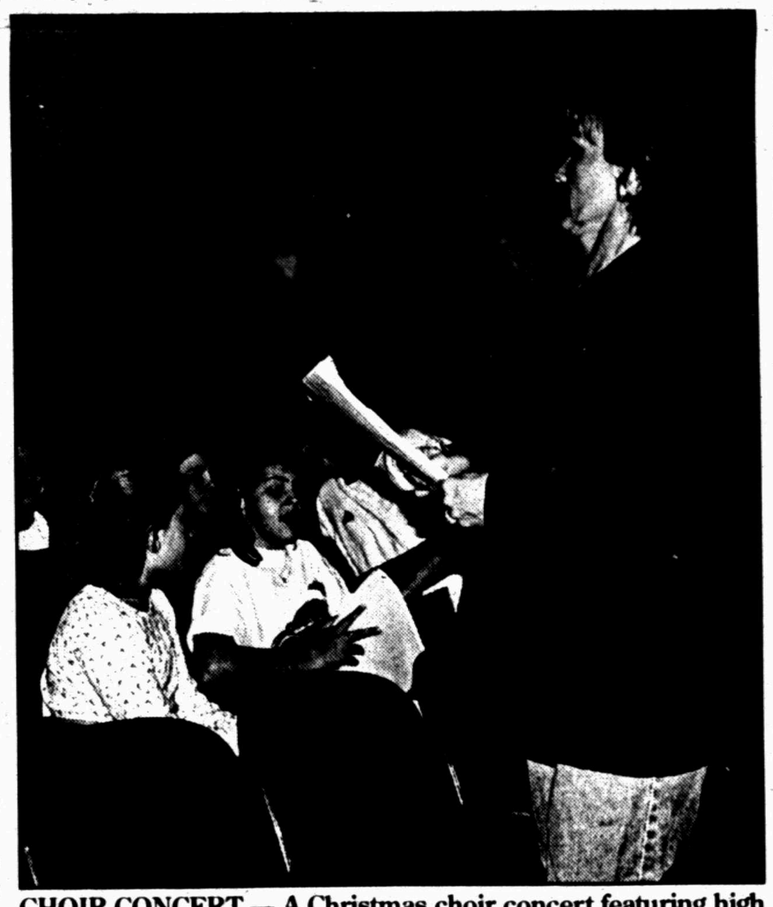
The SHS Women's Chorale will sing "Masters In This Hall," "The Little Drummer Boy," and "The Christ Child Is Born."

The Men's Chorale at SHS will perform "The First Noel/Pachebel's Canon," "The Bells" from "Through The Eyes of A Child," and "Before The Paling of the Stars."

The high school's Strictly Treble Choir will sing "Carol of the Bells," "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," "African Noel," and "Jingle Bells."

SHS' A Cappella Choir will perform "Hosanna" and "Silent Night."

The combined choirs will sing "The Lord Bless You And Keep You."



CHOIR CONCERT — A Christmas choir concert featuring high school, junior high school and sixth grade choir students is set for 7 tonight at Worsham Auditorium. Judy Brown is pictured directing her students at rehearsal. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

County filings to begin Friday

Filing begins Friday and runs through Jan. 3 for seven local positions up for election in 2000.

All incumbents but one have indicated an intent to seek re-election.

In addition, local accountant Joe Bass has formally announced his intent to seek the Precinct 3 county commissioner spot, currently held by Republican Howard Limmer.

Other positions up for election in 2000 include the office of sheriff, now held by Democrat Darren Jackson.

Jackson said he would be filing to run for his second term.

County Attorney Michael Hartman, a Republican, also indicated he would be running for re-election in 2000. He is also serving his first term.

Also up for election is the Precinct 1 commissioner spot. Incumbent Ralph Trevey, a Democrat, said he will be filing.

Trevey has served two terms as Precinct 1 Commissioner while Limmer is serving his first term in Precinct 3.

Other offices up for election include district judge, which is held by Ernie Armstrong; and district attorney, which is held by Dana Cooley. Both are Republicans.

Armstrong said he would be running again. He was appointed in 1995 to fill the unexpired term of retiring Judge Gene Dulaney and was elected in 1996 to his first full term.

Cooley said she will also be running for re-election.

She was first appointed to the office of district attorney in July of 1995, following Armstrong's appointment to the court bench. She was elected to the office in 1996.

Rona Sikes, tax assessor-collector, said she would not be seeking another term.

Sikes, a Democrat, has served as tax collector for 16 years.

Candidates must file with each individual political party chairman. Drew Bullard is the county GOP chairman. Billy Haynes is chairman of the Scurry County Democratic party.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "More zinc and copper in the hair is a sign of an intelligent person, experts say. Wonder what that say about people with no hair?"

Some of these folks must have lacked zinc and copper.

A woman in Aberdeen, Scotland has filed a lawsuit against the Westhill Golf Club for maintaining a badly-designed course.

She came to that conclusion after a ball she hit struck a rock and bounced back, hitting her in the eye and causing severe damage.

We like the idea, getting refunds for the balls we duffers hit in the water.

Obviously anybody can sue, and America is not the only litigious society.

Escapee Jimmy Haakansson, in court in Stockholm, Sweden on a theft charge and who broke a foot leaping through a courthouse window before being recaptured, filed a lawsuit against police for failure to prevent his foolishness.

In Roseville, Mich., a man filed a lawsuit against a homeowner whose house he had broken into.

The lawsuit claims that the homeowner lured him back to the house the next day, saying all was forgiven. But when he arrived, several of the homeowner's friends beat him up.

Kids don't let their mommies drive drunk....

In separate incidents in the same week, a 41-year-old woman in Iowa and a 34-year-old in Wisconsin, both of whom had been drinking, forced their young kids to drive their cars home so the mothers would avoid a DWI in the event they were stopped.

An inexperienced 11-year-old daughter caused a rollover, injuring both occupants.

In the other incident, an 8-year-old son drove the family vehicle safely over the bridge connecting Duluth, Minn., to Superior before being spotted by a policeman, who arrested the tipsy mom.

And the mothers had a full head of hair.

An unique, but failed defense.

The Supreme Court in Canada ruled 5-4 to reject a husband's "automaton" defense.

He claimed he was able to stab his wife 47 times only because he was in a robotic state brought on by the trauma of being called a failure in the bedroom.

And a jury in Atlanta rejected a man's self-defense claim for shooting his boss in the head 14 times, then walking to another room, reloading, and shooting him 10 more times.

ASK US

Q—What types of flu does the vaccine at the health department protect against?

A—A/Sydney, A/Beijing and B/Yamanashi.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 67 degrees; low, 51; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 51; 7 a.m. Thursday, 55; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.80 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; low, lower 40s. W winds 20-30 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, breezy, High around 70. W-SW wind 15-25 mph.

Bailey Richardson
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 5:40 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:26 a.m.
Of 335 days in 1999, the sun has shone 328 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Bargain: something you can't use at a price you can't resist.
—Franklin P. Jones

Arlington intruder remains at large

ARLINGTON (AP) — Arlington police are warning residents to lock their doors and windows and be on the lookout for an intruder who has been sneaking into apartments and, in some cases, awakening residents by touching them.

Five incidents have been reported since Nov. 15, according to the Fort Worth Star Telegram. In each instance, a woman was sleeping in bed when she realized an intruder was in her home. In three of those cases, a husband or boyfriend was sleeping with her, said police spokesman Dee Anderson.

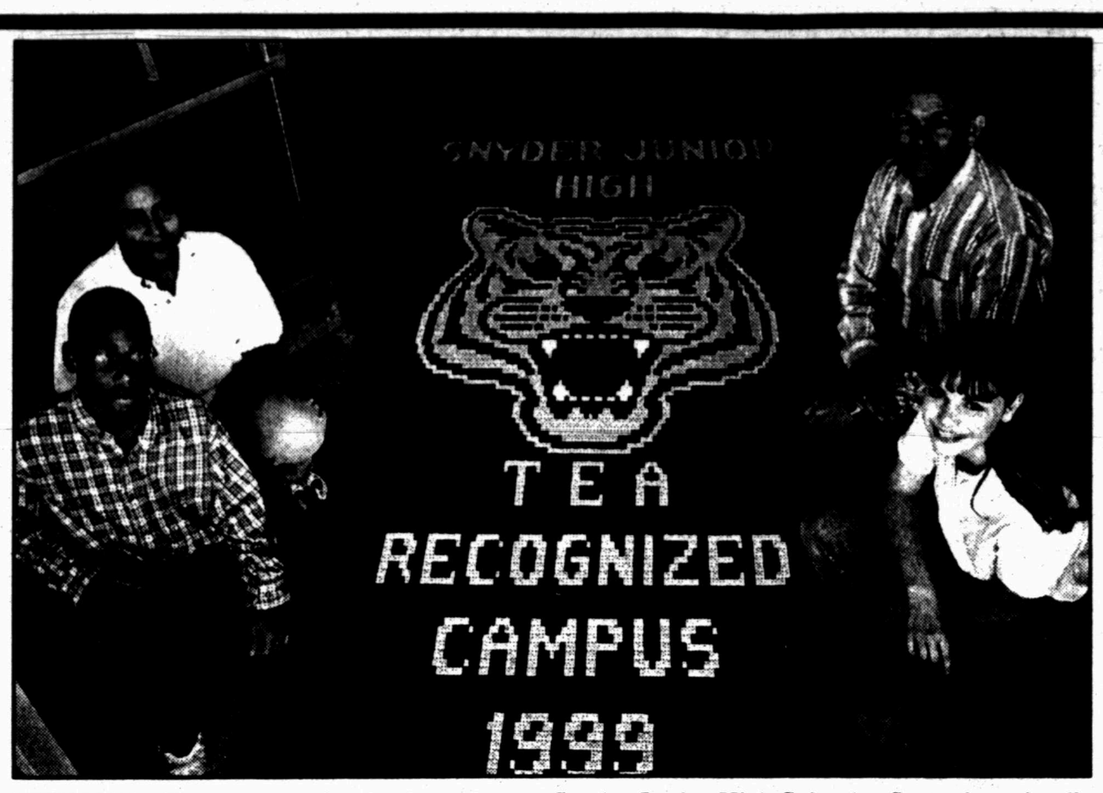
One woman said she believes the man was naked when she saw him standing next to her bed. Another woman awoke to find him rubbing her leg.

Police believe the man, who entered through unlocked doors or windows, is more likely to be a sexual predator than a burglar, said Anderson. The incidents have prompted the management at Woodbridge Townhomes to begin a neighborhood crime-watch group, and police are urging residents to lock all doors and windows and to activate alarm systems.

"This person is brazen. Who knows, he might come in when people are awake," said Anderson.

The intruder fled when the residents woke up. Police don't have a detailed description of the man, but they said he is described as about 6 feet tall with broad shoulders.

"The simple answer in this case is to keep doors and windows locked at all times, not just when you go to bed," he said.



NEW MAT – The new mat for the front door at Snyder Junior High School reflects the school's TEA recognized campus ranking for 1999. Besides enhancing the appearance of the front lobby, principal Kellye Starnes said they also ordered the mat to honor the students who earned the recognition through the TAAS tests. Pictured at left are students Rosanna Gonzales and Chad Thompson. At right are Stewart Long, math teacher, and student Acee French. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

High court to decide invitro birth case

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court was asked on Wednesday to determine whether a man has a parental right to his ex-wife's daughter, whose birth resulted from a frozen embryo the couple created when still married.

But the justices will have to make their decision — which is expected next year — with little legal guidance. The state has no laws directly addressing the rights attached to an embryo created in a laboratory.

"This is truly a case where technology is outpacing the law," said attorney Lynne Liberato in today's editions of The Dallas Morning News. Ms. Liberato is representing Mildred Schmit, the mother of the girl.

Houston auto dealer Don McGill and Ms. Schmit divorced in August 1996 after a 20-year marriage. Ms. Schmit wanted another child and McGill agreed that she could use a frozen embryo they produced in 1994.

Ms. Schmit claims the embryo was implanted only after her ex-husband promised that he wouldn't pursue parental status. But McGill denies making such a promise.

Their daughter was born in June 1997. McGill, who is listed on the birth certificate as the father, sued for parental rights.

A trial court and intermediate appellate court sided with McGill, who currently has visitation rights.

"He loves children," Roy Moore, an attorney representing McGill, told the Morning News after the hearing. "He said he never gave up his parental rights."

Ms. Liberato argued that the only state law that addresses assisted conception refers to artificial insemination.

As the law was written, the procedure involves having a man's sperm introduced directly into the woman's uterus shortly after the sperm is produced. If the man is not married to the mother, he is considered a sperm donor and has no parental rights.

But the justices questioned why an artificial-insemination law should override the Texas Family Code, which addresses paternity rights, interests of the child and marital property.

Justice Deborah G. Hankinson said the Family Code provides that a father can't voluntarily relinquish paternity rights before birth of the child, and after that can do so only in writing.

Justice James Baker asked whether McGill had automatic parental rights because the embryo was formed during the marriage, or if he forfeited those rights because the embryo was implanted after the divorce.

"Our position is very, very simple," Moore said. "When a husband and wife provide sperm and an egg during a marriage, they both have parental rights and obligations."

The judges also questioned the legal differences between artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization, in which the egg and sperm are joined outside the womb and the resulting embryo is implanted in the mother at any time.

6 die in house fire

DETROIT (AP) — A predawn fire today killed six people, including three children.

Fire Department Capt. Mike Markowski said adults ages 65, 50 and 23 and children ages 9, 6 and 2 were killed in the house fire that began around 3 a.m.

Two boys and a girl died in the emergency room at Grace Hospital, hospital spokeswoman Cheryl Angelelli said. The adults were taken to Henry Ford Hospital.

Deputy Fire Commissioner Gregory Love told television station WDIV that the fire originated in the basement, where the children may have been sleeping.

Church celebrates recovery with music

FORT WORTH (AP) — The young people were excited as Wedgwood Baptist Church filled with live music. The audience swayed, cheered and laughed.

It wasn't until the band began playing "I Will Call Upon The Lord" that tears appeared.

Many at Wedgwood knew the song only too well. A Christian rock group had been playing it on Sept. 15 when a gunman burst into their sanctuary and shot seven parishioners dead.

Eleven weeks later, more than 800 people attended the concert on Wednesday to celebrate the church's recovery — twice the number there the night of the shooting. Forty Days, which had been performing when Larry Gene Ashbrook's shooting rampage began, returned to finish its performance.

As the band played the song, several groups of teens embraced, tears streaming as they sang along.

"It kind of made up for that night," said 15-year-old Elizabeth Johnson.

Many who came to the emotional 90-minute service on Wednesday night wore T-shirts that carried the date of the shooting and the words, "The darkness had no victory over the light."

"That is exactly what we are showing tonight, that in spite of that, we're coming back anyway and doing the same thing," said Glen Bucy, an 18-year-old parishoner. "And look how much bigger it is."

Bucy narrowly escaped harm when Ashbrook's bullets flew over his head, and was brimming with emotion at the gathering.

"God just has so much to do with this tonight," he said.

The service began with Jay Fannin, the church's youth pastor, leading the group in prayer. He said the band's return was an opportunity "to replace the negative experience with a positive experience."

Recently, he said, "a lot of the kids have come to a point to where the numb feeling is wearing off and they begin to feel something."

Fannin said several Forth Worth police officers in place at the church were there primarily for the peace of mind of the concert-goers' parents and the returning victims.

"It kind of makes it seem better that we get to come back and do everything that was supposed to go on the first time, and everything was going to be all right," said E.V. Denson, a 16-year-old church member.

Armed with two pistols and a pipe bomb, Ashbrook killed seven people and injured seven others before sitting in a pew and shooting himself to death — one of a string of deadly shootings in public places nationwide this year.

Police still don't have a motive for Ashbrook's attack. Investigators have said they could only guess why Ashbrook, whom they termed a loner, targeted a church several miles from his house.

On the Sunday after the shooting, Wedgwood members returned to their sanctuary for worship. At that time, there was only a concrete floor as the blood-stained carpet had been removed and several bullet-riddled pews were replaced by folding chairs.

Since then, the carpet and pews have been replaced in the sanctuary. The only visible signs of the spree are a few small bullet holes.

Tonight is 50's Night at
Pizza Inn 573-3542 3007 College

TUPPERWARE STOP & SHOP
Across From Wal-Mart
Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Place Orders And Get Them Back By Christmas!!
Glenda Glasscock, Consultant
573-1817 Ext. 80011

GOODFELLOWS

Scurry County families may apply for Goodfellows food donations by filling out this form. The deadline to apply is Dec. 13th. Applications should be mailed to: Goodfellows, P.O. Drawer 112, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

Home's Monthly Income $ _____
Do You Receive: Food Stamps ___ AFDC ___ SS/SSI ___
Father of Home _____
Age _____
Last or Present
Employer _____
Work Phone _____
Mother of Home _____
Age _____
Last or Present
Employer _____
Work Phone _____
Home Address _____
Home Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
Another Telephone Where
You Can Be Reached _____
List Ages of Children at Home
Boys: _____
Girls: _____
Total Number of People at Home _____

Acceptance Cards will be mailed to only Qualified applicants at their address.

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Fridays just 'fore Christmas

All through West Texas State Bank,
We'll be serving up some special treats,
To show to you our thanks.

It's the Wassail time of year
And time for Cookies too.
We've cooked up some special recipes.
We're serving them just for you.

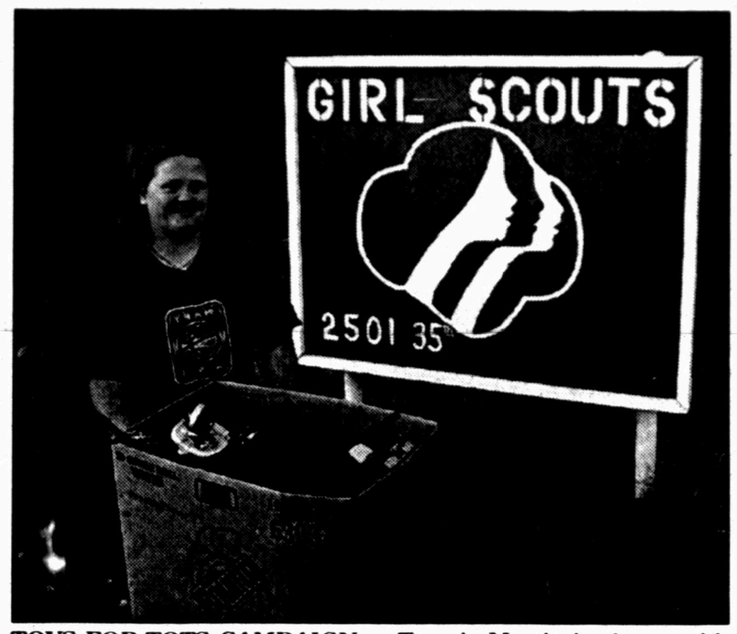
So finish up the shopping,
And tying up those loose ends.
And be sure to drop by the Bank on Friday,
As we say Merry Christmas to all our friends.

Noel

OPEN HOUSE - 3 Fridays
December 3, 10, & 17
Wassail And Cookies 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
MEMBER FDIC

9TH ANNUAL
Scurry County
Arts & Crafts Show
DECEMBER 4-5, 1999
SAT: 10 AM - 6 PM SUN: 12 - 5 PM
SCURRY COUNTY COLISEUM
IN SNYDER
FREE ADMISSION



TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN — Tressie Martin is shown with a box of toys donated to Toys for Tots. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Girl Scout Troop 100 heading 1999 'Toys for Tots' campaign

It's that time again! Christmas Toys for Tots campaign has geared up and the serious work begins.

Girl Scout Cadette Troop 100 is in charge of the project and has begun collecting toys and planning a work schedule.

"Donations of good toys and money are needed badly," said Judi Martin, GS leader. "Also, some of the people who help repair toys last year have moved from Snyder and we are in great need of helpers."

There are several convenient ways being set up for donations. A container has been placed at the Snyder Daily News. KSNY Radio is planning their "roof top vigil" to collect donations and some civic clubs are collecting toys at their meetings.

Applications to receive Toys for Tots will be published in the Snyder Daily News until the deadline.

Martin and her troop members ask for anyone who can help repair and clean the toys to give to underprivileged children for Christmas to come to one or all of the following work sessions at the Scout Hut at 2501 35th Street:

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2:15 to 5
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 10 to 2
Wednesday, Dec. 1, 4 to 5:30
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 4 to 5:30
Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 to 3
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 4-5:30
Saturday, Dec. 18, 10 to 3
Monday, Dec. 20, 6-9

Toys will be bagged at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and Wednesday, Dec. 22.

Recipients will pick toys up from 9 to 6 on Thursday, Dec. 23.

If the drop-off sites are inconvenient, donations may be picked up by calling Peggy Vernon at 573-6725 or Martin at 573-3525.

TOYS FOR TOTS APPLICATION

HOUSEHOLD NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME $ _____

Please list each child's name, age (12 and under), sex (M or F) and three toys they would like to have. We will try to give at least one toy from each child's list. (Please do not list clothes and shoe sizes.)

Child #1
NAME _____ AGE ____ SEX __
1 _____
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.**

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 1- Thelma Collins, Shauna Green, J.B. Kasparek, Sue Kelley, Pauline Luna, Mary Molinar, Stella Zuniga, Floyd Fowler, Dorothy Gill and Bobby Scott.

DISMISSALS: Sandra May, Christy Byous of Hermleigh, Harmon McCormack, Kristi Menix and baby girl, Rudolph Norwood of Dunn and Tyler Warren.

CENSUS: 44 (Med./Surg.-12, Long-term Care-23, ICU-3, OB-3 and Nursery-3)

Bridge By Phillip Alder

North 12-02-99
♠ A Q 10 6 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ 8

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

East
♠ K 8 7 5
♥ J 8 6 4
♦ 7 2
♣ K Q 6

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

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♣ 3

Read and click over the shoulder

By Phillip Alder

Terence Reese started the "over the shoulder" technique in his book "Play Bridge With Reese." Now comes Larry Cohen's CD-ROM called "Play Bridge With Larry Cohen — 1999 Life Master Pairs Day One."

You play through 56 boards, with Cohen periodically asking what you would bid or play. Also, you receive oodles of good advice about both bridge in general and matchpoint duplicate strategy in particular.

This deal is important only in a pair event. Against three no-trump, you decide to lead the club three: eight, queen, ace. South advances the spade nine. Do you play low or high?

North's two hearts was fourth-suit game-forcing, asking opener for more information. Then, over two no-trump, North should have bid three diamonds. Note that six diamonds would probably succeed.

As the spade nine is likely to be a singleton, you should cover with the jack. (If you duck, partner must do likewise; otherwise, four spade tricks automatically fall into declarer's lap.) After taking dummy's spade queen with his king, partner cashes the club king. Which spot do you drop?

This is complex. It looks obvious to play the two, showing your five-card suit. But you know that another club from partner will give declarer a second club trick (and 10 tricks in all). You should drop the four or five. Then, a clever partner will switch to a heart. This holds South to nine tricks. Minus 600 was worth 149.5 matchpoints out of 194 (it was a big event). Minus 630 was worth only 90.5.

The disk costs $33.95 postpaid. Call (800) 713-9935 to order.

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Harley Byram Photography
"Christmas Special"
Several Packages To Choose From
By Appointment Only Call 573-4190
3403 Snyder Shopping Center

Births

Sherman and Berkleigh Gressett of Midland announce the arrival of their baby sister, Jensen Bellamy. Jensen was born at 11:15 p.m. on Nov. 24 in Midland Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 8 ½ ounces.

Parents are Steven and Terri Gressett of Midland. Grandparents are Dr. Earle and Shelby Davis of Lubbock, Sara Gressett of Snyder, and the late Don Gressett.

— — —

Shauna Green of Snyder announces the birth of her son at 12:21 p.m. on Dec. 1 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, 8 ½ ounces.

— — —

Mary Molinar of Snyder announces the birth of her five-pound, 15-ounce daughter at 8:40 a.m. on Dec. 1 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

EXPERT HAIR DESIGN
WE HAVE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION...
We are with M.B.'s Beauty Salon and Best Little Hair Place in Town Salon on
2310 25th Street
(To all our customers..Sorry for the inconvenience)
Stacy Chandler & Esme' Olvera wish everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas Holiday Season.
Join us at our new location...Same name... Same phone number
2310 25th Street 573-0312

NIX'S CAFE
1510 College Ave. - Open 6 a.m.
All the Pork Ribs or Catfish Fillets You Can Eat EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11 A.M. - 9 P.M. ONLY $6.95
Shrimp Plate $7.95
Chicken Fried Steak
Steakfingers
Hamburgers
Fries
Sandwiches
Chicken Strips
Clubs
Cobbler
FAMILY MEAL DEAL FOR EIGHT
To Go Orders Only
2 Lbs. Meat of your choice
1 Quart Potato Salad
1 Quart Pinto Beans
Sauce, Bread or Buns
ONLY $16.95
Price Good Thru 12-23-99
We Serve Breakfast From 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. Daily
Best Little Cafe In West Texas 573-8855

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY ONLY!
HOLIDAY BONUS!
GREAT GIFTS AT GREAT SAVINGS
PLUS, BONUS COUPONS SO YOU'LL SAVE EVEN MORE!
VALID THRU DEC. 5 ONLY
EXTRA 20% OFF
ANY SINGLE ITEM SALE-PRICED OR REG.-PRICED*
*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levi's, Dockers, shoes by Dr. Martens, Easy Spirit, Nine West, Kenneth Cole Reaction and NIKE, and designer collections. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Must be relinquished at time of purchase. See restrictions below.
VALID THRU DEC. 5 ONLY
EXTRA 20% OFF
ANY SINGLE ITEM SALE-PRICED OR REG.-PRICED*
*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levi's, Dockers, shoes by Dr. Martens, Easy Spirit, Nine West, Kenneth Cole Reaction and NIKE, and designer collections. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Must be relinquished at time of purchase. See restrictions below.
PLUS, SAVE 50% WHEN YOU TAKE AN EXTRA 33% OFF GREEN-TICKETED ITEMS†
Coupons valid thru December 5, 1999 only. Redeemed only at point of sale. Not valid on permanently reduced clearance merchandise, gift certificates or payment on credit accounts. †Excludes outerwear. Just a sample of the savings you will find. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Styles, sizes and colors may vary by store.
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Comic Page

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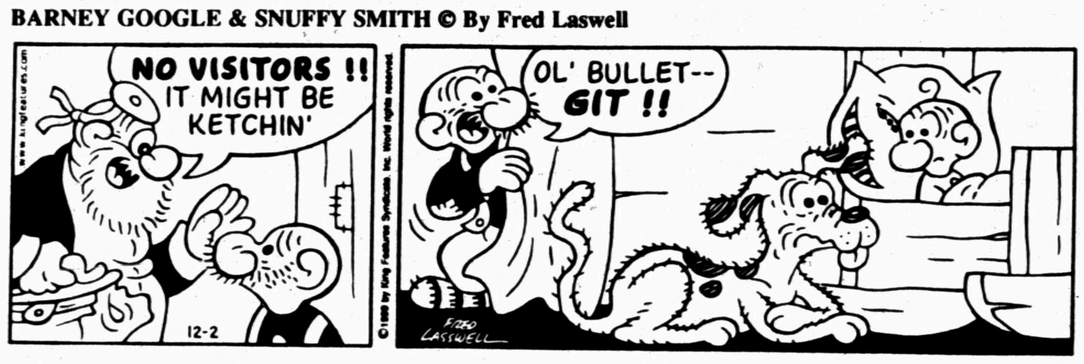

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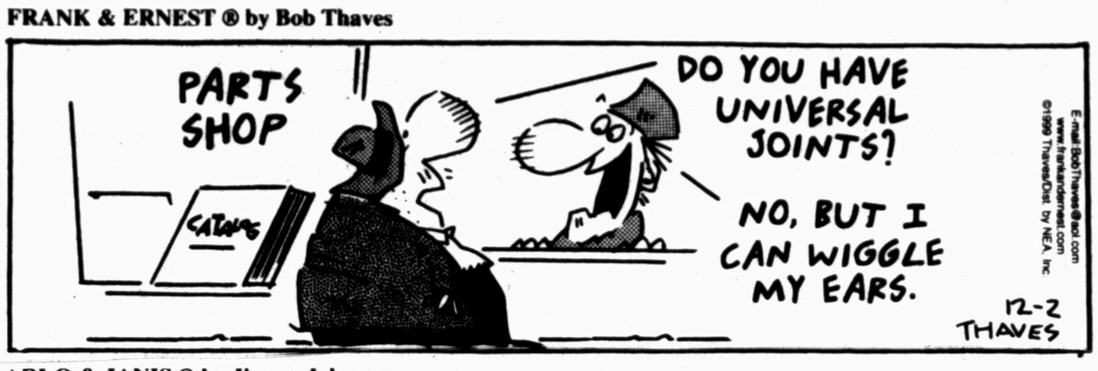

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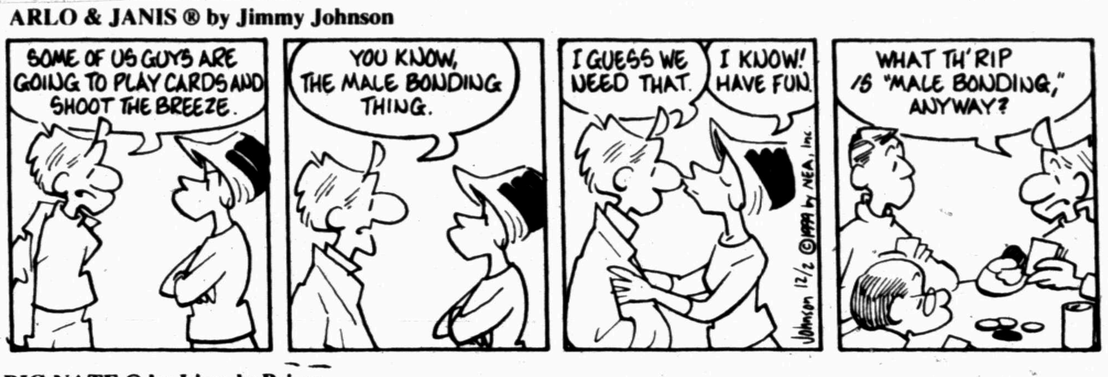

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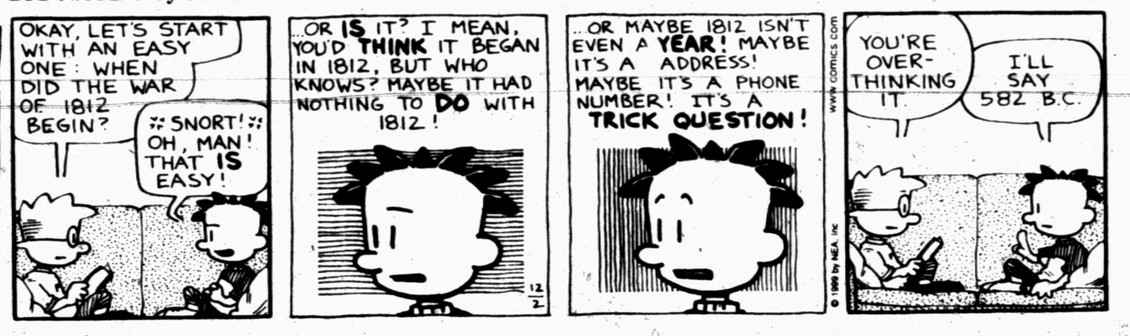

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"Sorry about your window, I'm practicing for the Olympics."

"MR. WILSON ISN'T REALLY MAD UNTIL HIS NOSE TURNS PURPLE."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 UCLA players
7 Planet's path
12 — Jean King
13 Cooking direction
14 "Thelma and —"
15 Having a good nce (2 wds.)
16 Warm mo.
17 The man's
18 Hawaiian timber tree
21 Lucky number
23 New Zealand parrot
26 Cannonballs (sl.)
28 Terza — (Italian verse form)
29 Writer Beattie
30 Knots in cotton fiber
31 Aerial navigation system
33 Railroad car
36 Entertainer McEntire
37 — Lingus (airline)
38 Rara —
40 Actress Carter
41 Sault — Marie
42 Right-hand page
44 Intermediate (pref.)
45 Electrically charged particle
46 Climbing plant
48 Horse's gear
51 Cast a sidelong glance
55 Merchant
56 Paths
57 Requested
58 Narrow water channel

DOWN

1 Beer holder (abbr.)
2 — Grande
3 Eskimo knife
4 Skeleton parts
5 Effort (Lat.)
6 Folksinger Pete —
7 — number
8 Radiation measures
9 Twice
10 Same (comb. form)
11 Decade number
13 La — (opera)
18 Sunflower State
19 Brunch dish
20 Current unit
22 Resembling glass
23 — Abdul-Jabbar
24 Give legal power to
25 Historical records
27 "Verb" ending
32 Sea eagle
34 Released conditionally
35 Smoother
39 Walking poles
43 Out in the open
45 Unemployed
47 2000, for one
48 Youth org.
49 Legal matter
50 Kind
52 Small inlet
53 Yale graduate
54 Summer hrs.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	A	T	E	R				L	S	A	T	
B	I	R	D	I	E		B	I	T	T	E	N
O	R	I	E	N	T		A	P	O	L	L	O
E	S	P			A	N	N		W	I	L	T
			A	T	T	E	N	D	S			
B	A	S	I	S		D	E	R		A	L	A
L	E	A	D	E	D		R	A	F	T	E	R
E	R	R	A	T	A		S	P	I	N	E	T
D	O	D		S	I	N		E	V	O	K	E
			R	E	L	E	A	S	E			
L	A	D	E		I	E	R			A	K	C
B	L	I	T	H	E		A	Q	U	I	N	O
S	E	R	I	E	S		B	U	L	L	E	T
	A	T	A	N				O	A	S	E	S

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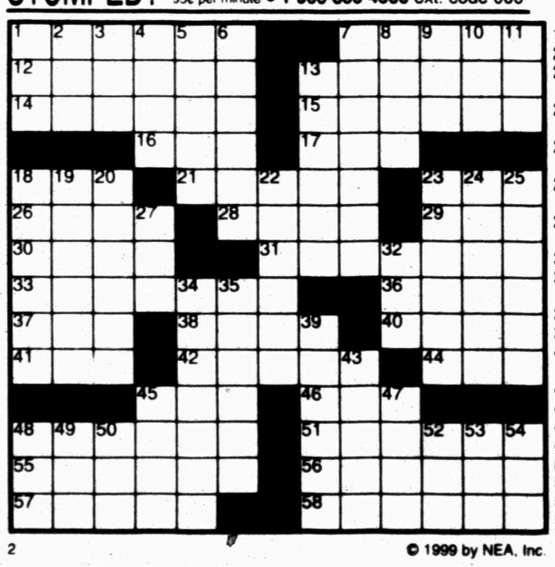

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SPORTS

Age not a factor in Smith's production

IRVING (AP) — So what if he's 30 years old, in his 10th NFL season and playing with a broken hand.

Emmitt Smith says he's not the aging back on the downside of his career that some people have suggested he is. And his desire to succeed hasn't diminished, even with three Super Bowl rings and four NFL rushing titles.

"To win another rushing title, another rushing title and another Super Bowl and another Super Bowl, that's all in me," Smith said Wednesday. "That's what it's all about. That's my motivation.

"Why would I go out here and beat up myself to take chances on breaking hands and breaking bones and everything if I did not want to be a champion all over again?" Smith said, showing the swollen right hand and its accompanying 3-inch scar.

Smith, who has played his entire NFL career in Dallas, concedes that it takes more effort to stay in playing shape. He doesn't recover from the wear and tear of games as quickly as he did when the Cowboys were winning three Super Bowls in four seasons earlier this decade.

That's not showing in his performance this season for the Cowboys (6-5), who are a game behind Washington in the NFC East.

Smith is fifth in the NFL in rushing, just 22 yards shy of his ninth straight 1,000-yard season. He is third on the NFL career rushing list and with 13,544 yards and is within striking distance of Walter Payton's record 16,726 yards compiled over 13 seasons.

Smith has had consecutive 100-yard rushing games since having six screws and a plate surgically inserted into his broken hand on Nov. 9.

He had rushed for 140 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries, the best rushing total in a half in his career, before fracturing the hand in the second quarter against Minnesota on Nov. 8.

"To try to tie in my age with my physical condition and my injuries, that's the variable right there that they got them wrong," Smith said. "They failed to look at the overall picture. They just wanted to look at one segment.

"I feel like I've got a good four or five more years in me," he said. "They jumped the gun, and never took the time to really look at the game and dissect the game."

Stars topple Canadiens, move up in standings

MONTREAL (AP) — With help from some former Montreal captains, the Dallas Stars showed their Stanley Cup-winning form against the Canadiens.

Mike Keane and Brett Hull scored late third-period goals to lead the Stars past the Canadiens 3-2 Wednesday night.

Keane, a former Montreal captain, broke a 2-2 tie when he was left alone in front of goalie Jose Theodore and scored off a pass from Joe Nieuwendyk.

Theodore stopped 38 shots, but Hull's one-timer at 14:28 of the third tied the game. Hull scored on a pass from Guy Carbonneau, another former Canadiens captain, from behind the net.

Rookie Roman Lyashenko scored Dallas' other goal on which Hull picked up an assist.

The Stars finally escaped last place in the strong Pacific Division, moving one point ahead of Anaheim, which lost 4-2 to Tampa Bay. Dallas' 28 points would lead the Northwest Division.

Sergei Zholtok and Dainius Zubrus scored for Montreal, and Oleg Petrov had two assists for the Canadiens.

NHL Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	13	8	4	1	31	74	57
New Jersey	12	8	3	2	29	61	54
Pittsburgh	8	11	3	3	22	71	66
N.Y. Rangers	7	14	3	1	18	56	72
N.Y. Islanders	6	12	3	0	15	44	62
Northeast Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	14	9	3	2	33	75	55
Ottawa	14	9	2	1	31	69	58
Boston	11	8	6	0	28	65	58
Buffalo	11	12	2	0	24	67	69
Montreal	9	15	1	1	20	52	65
Southeast Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	13	8	2	2	30	63	54
Carolina	11	8	6	0	28	61	62
Washington	9	10	4	1	23	59	67
Tampa Bay	9	13	2	2	22	68	77
Atlanta	5	15	2	1	13	51	84

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	15	7	3	1	34	82	56
St. Louis	15	7	2	0	32	75	53
Nashville	7	15	1	2	17	56	74
Chicago	5	15	4	2	16	57	77
Northwest Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	9	6	1	27	69	76
Colorado	11	12	3	1	26	71	74
Edmonton	7	11	6	3	23	60	64
Calgary	8	14	2	0	18	56	82
Pacific Division	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	16	6	3	0	35	85	60
Los Angeles	14	7	4	1	33	82	64
San Jose	14	12	3	2	33	83	74
Dallas	12	11	3	1	28	57	59
Anaheim	12	12	2	1	27	68	64

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

Tuesday's Games

Ottawa 2, Chicago 1
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 1
Dallas 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Carolina 4, Calgary 3
Phoenix 6, Nashville 3
Colorado 4, Vancouver 2

Wednesday's Games

Dallas 3, Montreal 2
New Jersey 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
Detroit 4, San Jose 2
Edmonton 3, Colorado 1
Tampa Bay 4, Anaheim 2

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Ottawa at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	12	3	.800	—
New York	8	8	.500	4½
Boston	7	7	.500	4½
Philadelphia	8	9	.471	5
Orlando	7	8	.467	5
Washington	5	11	.313	7½
New Jersey	2	13	.133	10
Central Division				
Toronto	9	6	.600	—
Cleveland	8	6	.571	½
Milwaukee	8	6	.571	½
Indiana	9	7	.563	½
Charlotte	8	7	.533	1
Detroit	7	9	.438	2½
Atlanta	6	9	.400	3
Chicago	1	12	.077	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	13	3	.813	—
Minnesota	7	5	.583	4
Utah	8	6	.571	4
Denver	7	7	.500	5
Dallas	5	11	.313	8
Houston	4	12	.250	9
Vancouver	3	12	.200	9½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	10	2	.833	1½
Portland	14	3	.824	—
L.A. Lakers	12	4	.750	1½
Seattle	11	4	.733	2
Phoenix	11	4	.733	2
L.A. Clippers	4	10	.286	8½
Golden State	2	12	.143	10½

Tuesday's Games

Atlanta 107, Toronto 89
Washington 85, New Jersey 78
Cleveland 106, Dallas 99
Sacramento 111, Orlando 102
Minnesota 109, Denver 92
Philadelphia 74, New York 70
San Antonio 106, Detroit 87
L.A. Lakers 101, Seattle 77
Phoenix 94, L.A. Clippers 80

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland 111, Washington 108
Miami 90, Philadelphia 83
Phoenix 128, Houston 122, 2OT
Denver 100, Detroit 96
Indiana 96, Vancouver 89
Portland 94, Charlotte 90
L.A. Lakers 93, Golden State 75

Thursday's Games

Sacramento at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Miami at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Utah, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Search for Tech coach nears end

LUBBOCK (AP) — The active search for a new head football coach for Texas Tech University is nearly over, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported today.

The newspaper quoted "sources" as saying the search has nearly reached its conclusion.

Athletic Director Gerald Myers said Wednesday he has narrowed his current list to "about five" candidates. They include Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez, Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach and New Mexico State head coach Tony Samuel.

Rodriguez has visited Lubbock twice for an interview and was told by Myers that the active search might be done by today.

Myers, who is leading the search to replace the recently retired Spike Dykes, declined to divulge the names of other candidates but said no new in-person interviews have been planned.

The next step of the process will be more talks with candidates and university officials.

Myers says the university hopes to name a new coach next week. He denied that the school has made a decision to hire Rodriguez.

According to state law, Tuesday is the earliest Tech could name a new coach because the position is required to have been open to applicants for at least 10 working days.

Tech chancellor John Montford cited the state guideline Wednesday in saying the process remains open and he doesn't consider the search over yet.

"New names have come in (Wednesday)," said Montford, who declined to disclose them.

Myers has received "several" calls about the opening and will continue to leave open the possibility of additional interviews.

He conducted a first in-person interview at El Paso Tuesday with Samuel, 44. He also contacted Leach, 39, and Rodriguez, 36, by phone that day.

Leach, the former offensive coordinator at Kentucky, did not return phone calls from the Lubbock newspaper.

Myers said he was not scheduled for another in-person interview and had already visited with him "extensively" after Oklahoma played Tech in Lubbock Nov. 20.

Rodriguez made visits to Lubbock on Nov. 22 and Nov. 26. On his latter visit, he brought his wife, Rita, and told the newspaper he was "looking at neighborhoods" to get a feel for the city.

"I feel good," Rodriguez, the offensive coordinator at Tulane from 1997-98, told the newspaper.

"I feel the (interview) process went well with me. I met all the people involved in the decision-making," he said. "I feel pretty good about everything, but nothing further is scheduled right now."

Myers said he would talk to Rodriguez again and added that he researched several other candidates, including Florida State offensive coordinator Mark Richt and Georgia Tech offensive coordinator Ralph Friedgen.

Both Richt and Friedgen told the Lubbock newspaper they would be interested. Myers says he has not talked to either of them and said he doesn't plan to.

Phoenix 128, Houston 122...

Rockets suffer third loss in OT

PHOENIX (AP) — A double-overtime loss filled with unpopular calls resulted in a cranky Charles Barkley, especially when it was his third straight overtime game.

Barkley's uncharacteristically brief remarks after the Houston Rockets lost to Phoenix 128-122 Wednesday night, the Suns' seventh victory in a row, were aimed squarely at the game's lead official.

"We lost the game because of one reason — Mike Mathis," Barkley said. "I ain't going to say nothing else. He's a bad official."

Barkley, called for a foul while going for a rebound after teammate Kelvin Cato missed a free throw with 3.5 seconds left in the first overtime, has a history of run-ins with Mathis, one of seven officials who resigned following tax charges last year.

"He's been bad the whole time I've been in the league," Barkley said. "He cost us the game, and I hate that he's back in the league."

Barkley's blast punctuated a wild night at America West Arena, where the Suns fell behind by 16 points in the first half and 15 in the third quarter.

The Rockets' third consecutive overtime game tied an NBA record. They lost at Portland on Friday and won at Vancouver on Sunday, becoming the first team since Milwaukee in December 1997 to play three straight OT games.

The Suns' Rodney Rogers was ejected with 44.4 seconds left in regulation on a play that tied the game for Houston, and the Rockets' Steve Francis left the game with an injured left ankle 24 seconds later.

"There were a lot of controversial calls in different directions at the end," Phoenix coach Danny Ainge said. "I'm sure they're not happy with some, but we weren't happy with some either."

Cliff Robinson scored a season-high 25 points, including 4-of-6 3-pointers. Hardaway had 21 points, eight assists and eight rebounds. Kidd, despite a 5-for-19 shooting night, had 17 points, 11 assists, eight rebounds and four steals.

"We stay among the leaders in the Western Conference, and we showed some character," Kidd said.

Men's College Basketball Scores

EAST

Bucknell 68, St. Francis, Pa. 63
Drake 64, Stony Brook 57
Penn St. 85, Clemson 75
Pittsburgh 102, Norfolk St. 78
Rhode Island 77, Brown 70
St. John's 75, Coppin St. 52

SOUTH

Auburn 65, Belmont 56
Centenary 73, Southern U. 69
Creighton 58, Georgia St. 54
East Carolina 59, Old Dominion 57
Elon 85, N. Carolina A&T 73
Florida Atlantic 67, Nova Southeastern 63
Georgia 84, Tennessee St. 78
Grambling St. 102, Jarvis Christian 90
Lafayette 64, Howard 55
Md.-Eastern Shore 74, Delaware St. 72, OT
Memphis 79, Jackson St. 74
Michigan 80, Georgia Tech 77
Michigan St. 86, North Carolina 76
Mississippi 77, Alabama St. 65
Mississippi St. 70, SE Louisiana 56
N.C. Charlotte 74, Davidson 55
N.C.-Wilmington 76, William & Mary 66
Richmond 68, James Madison 58
Tennessee 78, Miami, Ohio 59
Troy St. 77, Jacksonville 69
UAB 103, Texas-Pan American 82
UNC-Greensboro 78, Coastal Carolina 76
VMI 82, Bluefield 76
W. Carolina 94, N.C.-Asheville 86
Wofford 77, King, Tenn. 59

MIDWEST

Bowling Green 80, Illinois St. 60
Bradley 79, W. Illinois 75, OT
Butler 77, Indiana St. 55
Cent. Michigan 81, Rochester, Mich. 63
Dayton 83, UMBC 60
DePaul 104, Chicago St. 57
Florida St. 60, Northwestern 46
Kansas St. 69, Saint Louis 68
Missouri 63, SMU 60
N.C. State 61, Purdue 59

SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma St. 68, Wichita St. 56
Texas A&M 70, Stephen F.Austin 65
Texas Tech 100, North Texas 70
Tulsa 76, Texas-San Antonio 59
UTEP 84, New Mexico 69

FAR WEST

Arizona 86, BYU 62
Arizona St. 72, Colorado St. 57
Gonzaga 71, Boise St. 55
Oregon St. 66, Idaho 49
San Diego 93, Holy Names 51
Santa Clara 50, San Jose St. 42
Southern Cal 94, UC Santa Barbara 73
UC Irvine 69, Loyola Marymount 59
UCLA 100, Morgan St. 39
Weber St. 84, Utah 72

Women's College Basketball Scores

EAST

Army 86, Iona 71
Buffalo 73, St. John's, NY 67
Dartmouth 65, Northeastern 62
Drexel 53, Hofstra 42
Fairfield 83, Delaware St. 74
Howard 80, Towson 51
Kent 76, Pittsburgh 68
La Salle 75, Villanova 65
Lehigh 70, Columbia 52
Princeton 73, Lafayette 58
St. Bonaventure 81, Niagara 76
Stony Brook 74, Long Island U. 58
Vermont 90, Siena 66
West Virginia 90, Robert Morris 80
Yale 76, Quinnipiac 69

SOUTH

Chattanooga 72, Samford 60
Clemson 57, Furman 52
Coastal Carolina 74, Coker 44
Duquesne 57, Marshall 47
East Carolina 79, Campbell 70
Florida 85, Miami 77
Georgetown 82, George Mason 59
Kentucky 75, W. Kentucky 48
Mercer 74, Georgia Southern 67
N.C. Charlotte 77, Davidson 43
Richmond 81, Cent. Connecticut St. 46
S. Carolina St. 80, N. Carolina A&T 70
Vanderbilt 74, Indiana 54

MIDWEST

Ball St. 69, Bradley 71
Dayton 63, Cincinnati 50
DePaul 56, N. Illinois 37
Indiana St. 61, Toledo 58
Marquette 70, Wis.-Milwaukee 51
Miami 72, Wright St. 52
Notre Dame 77, Butler 57
Rutgers 46, Ohio St. 35
Saint Louis 52, S. Illinois 44
W. Michigan 80, Detroit 62
Wisconsin 66, Wis.-Green Bay 56
Xavier 87, Bowling Green 72

SOUTHWEST

Grambling St. 93, Texas-Pan American 71
Texas 81, SW Texas 52

FAR WEST

BYU 68, Idaho St. 47
Colorado St. 73, Colorado 67
New Mexico St. 67, Colo.-Colo. Springs 38
Pacific 59, Portland St. 50
San Francisco 67, San Diego St. 58
Santa Clara 79, San Jose St. 51
UNLV 71, N. Arizona 57
Wyoming 88, Penn 70

Sports Briefs

NFL owners support Tagliabue

ATLANTA (AP) — In the latest legal battle with Al Davis, fellow NFL owners closed ranks around commissioner Paul Tagliabue by voting not to investigate charges that he raided millions of dollars from the league.

Davis, owner of the Oakland Raiders, said the decision was expected and vowed to return to court with his claims against Tagliabue and outgoing NFL president Neil Austrian.

Davis filed a suit in Santa Clara County, Calif., claiming Tagliabue and Austrian deceptively set up an executive compensation fund that now totals nearly $100 million to benefit themselves and some 60 other league officials.

Phillies sign top closer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies signed baseball's top free-agent closer, agreeing to a $3 million, one-year contract with Mike Jackson after a lengthy delay for medical tests.

The deal contains numerous bonuses depending on Jackson's health and how often he pitches. If a right elbow or shoulder injury doesn't put him on the disabled list at the end of next season, he would be guaranteed at least $7 million over two years, with the Phillies holding an option that could make the deal worth $11.25 million over three seasons.

Wal-Mart CEO bids on Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City Royals chairman David Glass, who has decided he will try to buy the team, isn't sure whether he will top the failed $75 million bid by Miles Prentice.

Glass, the chief executive officer of Wal-Mart, Inc., dropped out of the bidding process two years ago but reentered last month after baseball rejected Prentice's bid, which the Royals' board had endorsed last year.

Europe names Ryder Cup captain

VIRGINIA WATER, England (AP) — Sam Torrance, a sharp critic of the American celebration in the Ryder Cup, pledged to do his part as Europe's next captain to bring peace to the 2001 matches in England.

The 46-year-old Scotsman with a quick wit was selected to succeed Mark James as captain of a European team victimized by the greatest comeback in Ryder Cup history.

Jarrett named top driver

NEW YORK (AP) — Dale Jarrett, who reached the pinnacle of stock car racing this season with his first NASCAR Winston Cup championship, was been chosen the 1999 Driver of the Year.

The formal presentation to the son of two-time NASCAR champion Ned Jarrett will be made Saturday during a luncheon in New York.

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States fall short of teaching goals

WASHINGTON (AP) — States have made some progress in improving their educational systems, but overall the nation will not meet by 2000 the goals in reading, math, graduation rates and other measures that a national commission set a decade ago, a panel reported today.

The good news, however, the National Educational Goals panel said, is that more U.S. preschool children are starting school in better health and with better reading skills, more middle school students are also reading better, and everyone is making strides in math.

More older students also are going to college and more are earning degrees in math and science, said the panel, charged with measuring the eight education goals set over the decade by Presidents Bush and Clinton and the nation's governors.

"The improvements called for in the National Education goals are as important today as they were 10 years ago," said Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton, who heads the bipartisan panel of governors, state lawmakers and members of Congress. "I urge every state to make them a priority and to continue working toward their attainment."

But progress toward goals for improved teacher preparation, school safety and parent participation has stalled or worsened since the goals were established, according to information gleaned from the states for the panel's last report of the decade.

In 1990, after Bush and the nation's governors and business leaders held an education summit, six goals were adopted to target preschool preparation, high school graduation, student achievement in basic subjects, achievement in math and science compared with other nations, school safety, and adult literacy and job skills.

Two goals for teacher training and parent involvement were added in 1994 under the Clinton administration.

Serious challenges remain on all eight goals, panel members acknowledged, but many educators said that didn't mean the mission was a failure.

"I am not deeply troubled that America did not conquer all these goals during the 10-year period," said Sharon Lynn Keegan, a Yale University early childhood learning researcher. "The national education goals panel has created hope, dreams and opportunities for millions of children in this nation."

Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., a goals panel member and chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, said the goals have prompted states to improve individually.

"They took the goals as a real challenge," Goodling said. "The whole idea of setting goals and getting the American people to think about education has helped a lot of enlightened governors win support from their state assemblies in order to move reform programs."

The panel's report found that Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas have shown the biggest improvement in meeting the goals during the 1990s. Maine, Connecticut and North Dakota are the states that consistently do the best, as measured by how closely they meet the goals. Connecticut, the District of Columbia and North Carolina were cited for strides made in numerous categories.

Despite the praise for states, some observers have asked whether policy-makers set unrealistic goals or whether states failed an easy task.

Chester Finn, a former assistant secretary of education in the Reagan administration, argues for fundamental change in the way schools are run, including giving more freedom from regulations, yet more responsibility to graduate successful students.

"After all the celebrations, millions of American kids will remain badly educated," he said.

Study: Drug may build strong bones

WASHINGTON (AP) — An anti-cholesterol drug taken by millions of Americans to prevent heart attacks may have the added benefit of restoring bone ravaged by osteoporosis, the brittle-bone disease.

A new study in laboratory rats shows that the statin drugs, which patients take to lower cholesterol levels, prompt growth cells to build new bone, replacing bone that has been leached away by osteoporosis.

The study will appear Friday in the journal Science.

Although the bone-building use of statins has not been tested in humans, a retrospective study of osteoporosis patients who also took the drugs shows evidence that their bones became more dense than did bones of osteoporosis patients who did not take the drug.

A team led by Dr. Greg Mundy, an endocrinologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, found the potential new use for the statin drugs after screening more than 30,000 compounds for possible bone-strengthening effects.

"The statin discovery came out of the blue," said Mundy. "We did not expect it."

Mundy said the drug works by encouraging production of BMP2, an enzyme that prompts bones to grow new cells. There also is some evidence that the drug reduces the number of osteoclasts, the cells that reduce bone density.

When tested on laboratory rats, the statin drugs doubled the density of bones in the leg and spine.

Mundy said the drug also was tested on rats that had been surgically altered to develop bone loss in the same way that elderly women do. After treatment with the statin drugs, the bones strengthened, increasing in volume by up to 96 percent compared to altered rats not taking the drug, he said.

Dr. Sundeep Khosla, an osteoporosis researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., said Mundy's research "offers a lot of promise."

Khosla said some drugs will slow bone erosion in osteoporosis but the statins could be the first to actually restore bone that has been lost to the disease.

"It is a very intriguing discovery and really unexpected," said Khosla. He cautioned, however, that the work needs to be verified by other researchers and that it will be tricky to find the proper dose that safely prompts the bone-strengthening effect in humans.

More than 10 million Americans have been diagnosed with osteoporosis. The disorder most commonly strikes women after the age of menopause. It causes bones to lose density and become brittle.

Study: Vacuum and forceps deliveries safe as C-sections

By The Associated Press

Fears that expectant mothers may have over the use of vacuum extractors and forceps during delivery should be eased in the wake of a new study showing the devices have proven as safe as Caesarean sections.

The study, which appears in today's New England Journal of Medicine, suggests difficult labor itself, as much as the method of delivery, may lead to brain injuries and deaths in babies.

"It's not always easy to get a baby's head out of the pelvis once it gets jammed in there, even if it's a Caesarean section," said Dr. Michael Greene, chairman of the Obstetrical Practice Committee for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an associate editor of the Journal.

"So whether you dig it out from up above or pull it out from down below, there's always some risk of injury," he said.

Additionally, vacuum extraction is generally safer for the mother than the use of forceps or Caesarean section, said Dr. Dena Towner of the University of California at Davis, the study's lead author.

The study comes more than a year after the Food and Drug Administration warned of a tiny but growing number of head injuries and deaths among infants delivered with vacuum extractors. In May 1998, the FDA advised doctors to exercise caution when using the devices.

Caesarean sections typically are performed when labor stalls in the early stages or if the baby is in an awkward position. Vacuum extraction or forceps should be used only during the last stage — when the mother's cervix is fully dilated — and if the baby's head is in the proper position, Towner said.

Most vacuum extractions "are done for maternal exhaustion — Mom just can't push any more," Towner said. "Most babies that are in the right position, one or two little pulls and they're out."

Vacuum extractors use a soft plastic cup placed on top of the baby's head to pull when the mother has a contraction. Doctors use rounded forceps to grasp the baby's head on either side, then pull.

Some injuries and deaths occur because forceps or the extractor are misapplied to the baby's head, or used when labor is not far enough along, Towner said.

The study examined 583,340 live births to first-time mothers in California from 1992 through 1994. Breech deliveries, multiple births, and babies weighing more than 9 pounds or less than 51/2 pounds were excluded.

Brain injuries occurred in 1 of 1,900 infants delivered normally and 1 of 2,750 delivered by Caesarean section before labor began.

In difficult labors, brain injuries occurred two to three times as often as during normal, vaginal birth. Injuries were detected in 1 of 664 infants delivered with forceps, 1 of 860 delivered by vacuum extraction, and 1 of 907 delivered by Caesarean section after labor began. The differences in risk among the three methods were not statistically significant.

The study also found the risk of head injuries tripled when a combination of methods was used.

Dr. Benjamin Sachs, chairman of obstetrics at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, said the results may have been skewed because the study was based on limited information from birth certificates and hospital discharge records.

Sachs, who was not involved in the study, said many of the mothers and newborns would have been discharged from the hospital within 24 hours of giving birth, but head injury symptoms often don't show up that quickly. Also, information wasn't available on the severity of the reported injuries.

"Without careful follow-up of these kids, you wouldn't really know what's happening," Sachs said.

Sachs also cautioned against an effort by some hospitals and insurers to lower Caesarean section rates by increasing vacuum and forceps deliveries inappropriately.

"In certain areas, there's a real push to increase the usage of these techniques, and that's led to an increase in injuries," he said.

Forceps were used in 2.8 percent of all U.S. births in 1997, down from 5.5 percent in 1989, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The use of vacuum extractors rose during the same period, from 3.5 percent to 6.2 percent. The C-section rate dropped slightly from 22.8 percent to 20.8 percent.

Markets Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	Chg
AMR Corp	60¼	59⅛	59 15-16	+ 5-16
AT&T Corp s	57	55¾	57	+1 5-16
Albertsons	32 1-16	31⅛	31⅛	— ⅛
Alltel	87 1-16	86⅝	86 11-16	+ 3-16
AmerOnline s	79 7-16	76 9-16	79⅛	+2 11-16
AndarkPtr	31¼	30⅛	30 5-16	— 3-16
AtlRichfld	90 13-16	87⅞	88	—4 1-16
ATMOS Egy		22⅛	22⅛	22⅛
Avialt	7¼	7 1-16	7 3-16	+ 1-16
BP Amoco s	60 9-16	59¼	59 11-16	—1 13-16
BakerHughes	25	24	24 9-16	—1 15-16
Bank of Amer	58 3-16	57⅞	57⅞	— ¼
BellAtl	64⅞	63¾	64⅞	+ 7-16
BellSouth s	45 11-16	44	13-16	45⅛ + 1-16
BethSteel	6 9-16	6	5-16	6⅛ + 3-16
BurlNoSFe	29¾	29¼	29	3-16
CBS Corp	52¼	51	13-16	52⅛ — ¼
Caterpillar	48⅛	47¾	47⅞	+15-16
CenSoWst	20	1-16	19	15-16 20
Chevron	92 7-16	90	11-16	91 — 1⅛
Citigroup s	55⅞	54⅛	54⅝	+ 7-16
Coastal	35¾	35⅛	35⅛	+ 7-16
CocaCola	67⅞	67	67⅛	—15-16
ColgatePal s	56	55	3-16	55 3-16 — 5-16
ComclMetals			31⅛	31⅛ 31⅛
Cooperin	43 3-16	43	1-16	43 3-16 + 1-16
CyprusAmax	18 3-16	17⅞	18	3-16 + 7-16
DaimlrChry	66 15-16	66⅛	66	7-16 —1 3-16
DallSemicn		59¼	57⅞	59⅛ + 1⅛
DeltaAirl		49 15-16	49⅝	49⅞ + ½
Dillards Inc	18 15-16	18	5-16	18⅛ — 7-16
DowChem	120	118⅝	119	5-16 + ¼
DuPont		60	11-16	60 60⅝ + ⅜
EastmanChem	40 7-16	39⅛	40⅛	+1 5-16
EstKodak		62⅝	62	62⅛ — ¼
EDS Corp	68	5-16	67⅞	67⅞ + 3⅛
Entergy	27 7-16	27	1-16	27 3-16 — ¼
ExxonMobil		82⅛	81	13-16 82⅝ — ⅛
Flowers		16⅛	16⅛	16 13-16 + ⅞
FordMotor	52	50	13-16	52 + 1⅜
GTE Cp		74⅛	74	74⅛ + ⅜
GenDynam		51⅝	50⅝	51⅛ + ½
GenElec	136⅛	134⅛	134	3-16 — ⅜
GenMills s		37⅞	37⅞	37 11-16
GenMotors		73	71⅛	71 15-16 — ⅛
GaPacGP s	39 13-16	38	13-16	39 13-16 +13-16
GlobalMar		16⅝	15	11-16 16 — 9-16
Goodrich		22¼	21	15-16 22 — ¼
Goodyear s	33⅞	32⅝	32	15-16 — 9-16
GtAtlPac	25 11-16	25	7-16	25 9-16 + 1-16
Halliburta		40⅞	39¾	40 — 1⅛
Hanson ADS	41⅛	41	3-16	41 5-16 —1 11-16
HarteHanks		21⅛	20	13-16 21 1-16 + ⅛
HomeDepot		81⅛	80⅛	80 11-16 — ⅜
HoneywellIntl	62 15-16	61	7-16	62 9-16 +1 13-16
IBM s	105⅝	103⅝	105	9-16 +1 13-16
IntlPaper		52⅛	50⅛	51⅛ +13-16
JohnsonJn	101 5-16		100⅛	100⅛ — 2⅛
K mart		9⅞	9⅝	9⅝ — ⅛
Kroger Co s		21⅛	21⅛	21 5-16 — ¼
Litton		47⅛	46⅝	46 15-16 —11-16
LockheedM		20⅛	19⅝	20 1-16 — ¼
Lowes Cos	51 3-16	50	9-16	50 9-16 + 1⅛
Lubys		11⅛	11	9-16 11 9-16 — ⅛
LucentTech s	79 5-16	76	5-16	78 11-16 +1 7-16
MayDeptStr s		33⅛	33	1-16 33 5-16 — 5-16
MediaOne	79 11-16	78⅛	79	11-16 + 1⅛
Medtronic s		38⅛	38	3-16 38⅛ + ⅛
Monsanto		42⅛	41⅛	42⅛ + ⅛
MorganJP		133⅝	131⅛	132⅝ + 1⅛
Motorola	119 5-16	118	118⅝	+1 15-16
NCR Corp			32	9-16 32 3-16 32⅛
Navistar		39⅛	37⅞	38⅛ + 7-16
Penney JC	22 7-16	21	5-16	21 7-16 — 1
PepBoys		9⅝	9⅛	9⅝ + 3-16
PepsiCo		34⅝	34⅛	34⅝ + ⅛
PhelpDodge		52	1-16	50 15-16 52 + ⅛
PhilipPet	48 15-16	48	1-16	48 1-16 — 9-16
PilgrmPrd B	7 13-16	7	11-16	7 13-16 + 1-16
Polaroid	19 1-16	18	13-16	18 15-16 + 3-16
Praxair	45 3-16	44	15-16	45 1-16 — ¼
ProctGamb		112	15-16	112 112⅝ + ⅝
PubSNwMx		16⅛	16⅛	16⅛ + 1-16
ReliantEngy	24 15-16		24⅝	24 15-16 + ⅛
RoyalDut	58 15-16		58	58 3-16 — 1⅛
SBC Comm		52⅛	51⅞	52⅛ — 3-16
SaraLee s		23⅛	23	9-16 23⅝ + 5-16
Scripps EW			46⅝	46⅛ 46⅝
SearsRoeb	35	33	7-16	34 5-16 — ⅜
SherwinW	21	20	5-16	20⅝ + 9-16
SmithklBchm		71⅛	69⅝	71 + 4
SouthernCo		23⅛	23⅛	23 11-16 + ¼
SwstAirl s		16⅛	16⅛	16⅛
SprintFON s		68⅛	67⅛	67⅛ + ⅛
SprintPCS		90⅛	89⅝	90 5-16 + 1⅜
Sunoco Inc		25	9-16	25 25⅛ — ⅛
TNP Ent		40	31-32	40⅛ 40 15-16
Tandy s	76 11-16	74⅛	76	11-16 + ⅜
TempleInland	58 11-16	58⅛	58⅜	+ 9-16
Texaco		61	1-16	60⅛ 60⅛ — ⅜
TexInd	37 5-16	36	5-16	37 5-16 +1 1-16
TexasInst s		99⅛	98¼	99 — ¼
TexUtil		35⅛	35	9-16 35 11-16 + ⅛
Textron	73⅛	71	13-16	71 13-16 — 9-16
TriconGlbR		40⅛	40	9-16 40 11-16
TrinityInds		29	1-16	28⅞ 29 + ⅛
TritonEngy	23 13-16	23	23	3-16 —11-16
TylerTech		4	3	15-16 4 + 1-16
US West Inc		63	62	9-16 62⅜ + 9-16
USX-Marathn		26⅛	26	5-16 26 5-16 — ⅜
USX-USS		25	15-16	25⅛ 25⅛ + ⅜
UnCarbde		60⅛	59⅝	60 3-16 — ⅛
UnionPacif		47	46	9-16 46 11-16
UnitedTech s	58 15-16		57⅞	57⅞ — 3-16
Unocal		33⅛	33	5-16 33⅜ — ⅛
Venator Grp		7	11-16	7⅛ 7⅛ — ⅛
WalMart s	59 3-16		57⅞	57⅞ —11-16
WellsFargo		47⅛	46⅞	47 + ⅛
WstnGasRs		12	11⅞	12 + ⅛
WinnDixie		26⅛	25	7-16 25⅞ — ⅜
Xerox Cp s	26 15-16		26⅛	26 11-16 + 3-16

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	12 7/8	-1/2
Dell	43 1/8	0
Wal Mart	57 3/4	-105/128
Compac	24 3/4	+1/4
Dol. Gen.	24 5/16	-59/256
GTE	75	+3/4
SBC Comm.	52	-1/8
Tx Instr.	99 1/16	-3/16
LU	78 13/16	+1 9/16
Cisco Sys.	92 3/16	+3/4

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Child abuse is a problem that affects all of us. Many abused children grow up to be abusive parents themselves. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month — a time when communities who care about their children and families can work to find solutions to tough problems. Our community cares. Get involved in preventing child abuse before it occurs. Report child abuse at 1-800-252-5400.

Mission's sights, sounds - a click away

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Pictures, weather reports, science data and even sound clips from Mars will soon be just a mouse click away.

Virtual tourists will be able to access the sights and sounds of the Red Planet beginning on Friday, when NASA's Polar Lander begins transmitting from 157 million miles away.

Internet traffic is expected to rival that of the Independence Day weekend of 1997, when the landing of Mars Pathfinder attracted a record 33 million hits a day.

"It's hard to say that it will be the Internet's biggest event ever, but it certainly will be right up there," said Kirk Goodall, a Web page engineer at the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Faster computers should prevent Internet traffic jams that made it difficult to access sites two years ago.

For this mission, several million hits are expected in the first days after the landing near Mars' south pole, with at least 1 billion during the entire three-month mission. A hit is counted each time a file such as a graphic or text is accessed on a Web site's host computer.

In addition, Polar Lander's pages will be duplicated at 20 mirror Web sites around the world. Technology now allows browsers to be automatically redirected to mirror sites with the least traffic.

"If we have any problems, we have other mirror sites we haven't told the world about yet," Goodall said.

Improvements over the Pathfinder presentation also include streaming video from NASA TV, a continuously updated panorama of the operations room at JPL and a movie of the descent made up of shots made by a camera mounted at the bottom of the lander.

By Saturday, sound clips recorded from the lander's small microphone are expected to be available online from the Planetary Society, a private space advocacy group that funded that part of the mission.

Web sites offering information on Mars and the Polar Lander mission:

— JPL's main Mars site will post the latest pictures and updates throughout the 90-day mission: marslander.jpl.nasa.gov or mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msp98

— JPL's home page has links to the latest Mars projects as well as probes sent to other planets over the last 20 years. www.jpl.nasa.gov

— JPL's Mars Educational site includes activities for children and teachers. In one section, pages can be printed, folded and glued to create a model of the Mars Polar Lander: marsnt3.jpl.nasa.gov/education/index.html

— The University of California, Los Angeles, where the primary science team is based, offers a site focusing on experiments aboard the Mars Volatiles and Climate Surveyor payload: mars.ucla.edu

— The Planetary Society will mirror JPL's site and offer its own content in conjunction with its PlanetFest '99 gathering at the Pasadena Center: planetary.org

— The Mars Society, which advocates human exploration of the Red Planet, will mirror JPL and offer its own content: www.marssociety.org

AG demands explanation of cigarette giveaway promotion

PHOENIX (AP) — R.J. Reynolds maintains it has done nothing wrong by giving away free cigarette samples to people who sign up for assorted promotions.

But the state attorney general says Reynolds is violating the national tobacco settlement, accusing the cigarette maker of handing out "addiction starter kits."

"These are thinly disguised efforts to target youth — to get kids who may pick them up in the mail first to get them to start smoking," said Attorney General Janet Napolitano, who threatened to get a court order to stop the mailing.

The $246 billion multistate settlement bars companies from giving young people access to free tobacco samples.

A Reynolds spokeswoman said Wednesday that the company has safeguards to ensure the cigarettes are mailed only to adults over age 21 who already have certified their age in writing.

But Ms. Napolitano wrote a letter Tuesday to Reynolds demanding an explanation of the giveaway and whether the company believes it is abiding by the settlement. Under the settlement, the company and Ms. Napolitano must meet before she can take any court action.

"We have received it and we will respond to it as quickly as possible. At this point, we don't have any reason to believe we have done anything wrong," said company spokeswoman Carol Crosslyn. "We are confident our safeguards are solid."

Ms. Crosslyn said the company keeps a database of age-qualified people who signed up to participate in product testing or receive mail from Reynolds.

Since the national promotion started in July, Reynolds said, only several Arizona residents and one person in North Carolina complained about receiving the samples.

The samples come in canisters or book-size parcels containing two to four packets of Winstons. The brown, decorated tubes and boxes include a survey asking recipients to smoke the cigarettes, then share their comments with the company, based in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Pati Urias, a spokeswoman for the attorney general, said all of the calls they have received since last week have been "from non-smokers and people who have no idea why they're getting these cigarettes in the mail."

McDonald's will buy Boston Market restaurant chain

CHICAGO (AP) — McDonald's Corp. is buying struggling Boston Market restaurants with the promise of returning the meat-and-potatoes chain to its glory days of the mid-1990s.

McDonald's Golden Restaurant Operations Inc. subsidiary will pay $173.5 million for 751 Boston Market restaurants and the franchise rights for an additional 108 restaurants from Boston Chicken Inc., officials of both companies said.

The deal does not include Boston Chicken's interest in Einstein/Noah Bagel Corp.

"We're just thrilled to jump-start the concept," McDonald's chairman Jack Greenberg said. He added that the Boston Market chain, which filed for federal bankruptcy protection last year, is now operating in the black.

"They've made a lot of mistakes ... but there's no question that there's life here," Greenberg said.

Greenberg said it's likely that some Boston Market restaurants will be closed or turned into McDonald's or, perhaps even more likely, one of his company's new endeavors — Chipotle Mexican Grill or Donatos Pizza.

Between 1992 and 1996, Boston Chicken grew from 34 stores in the Northeast to 1,143 nationwide. The stores were named Boston Market in 1995. Later, financial problems forced the Denver-based chain to close shops.

Midwives, induced labors on the rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — More pregnant women are inducing childbirth, using ultrasounds and fetal monitors. At the same time, more women are going back to basics, using midwives to bring babies into the world, the government reports today.

"It is ironic and it's not completely understood," said Sally C. Curtin of the National Center for Health Statistics, who co-authored the report on birth trends being released today.

The report, which charts birth trends through most of the 1990s, found that the vast majority of babies are born in the hospital, with a medical doctor handling the delivery.

But there has been a steady rise in the number of midwifes delivering babies, from 3.7 percent of all births in 1989 to 7 percent in 1997.

Midwifery is much less medically invasive, focusing on the woman as a future mother, not just as a patient, said Judith Rooks, a midwife in Portland, Ore., who published a book on midwifery in 1997.

"The women who are choosing midwives don't want such a medical approach," she said. "It's not just 'how are we going to get this baby out of your uterus,' but how are we going to make this transition into being a mother?"

At the same time, use of modern techniques is up.

The number of induced births doubled from 9 percent in 1989 to 18 percent in 1997. Some are medically necessary, but many are simply for the convenience of the patient or the doctor, said Dr. Fredric Frigoletto, chief of obstetrics at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

"Most often, women are tired of being pregnant at the end of their pregnancy. It's always a bit of a challenge to convince them they just have to hang on because it's better for them and their baby," he said.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recently issued guidelines for doctors to help determine when inducing labor is appropriate. In response to media inquiries, the group warned women not to try to induce delivery on Jan. 1, 2000.

"Inducing labor to meet some arbitrary millennial timeline is frivolous," said Dr. Charles Lockwood of the group's Committee on Obstetric Practice.

The government report also found an increase in use of ultrasounds, from 48 percent of births in 1989 to 64 percent in 1997. During that period, the use of electronic fetal monitoring went from 68 percent to 83 percent.

That does not mean that all those women need these procedures, Frigoletto said. More are done partly because more doctors were trained with the technology and because fewer are uncomfortable with it.

The monitors screen for respiratory distress in the fetus, though they often wrongly suggest distress when it is not there and contribute to unnecessary Caesarean sections, he said.

Frigoletto also said ultrasounds probably are overused. They can detect birth defects, he explained, and should be used when there is cause for concern. If serious defects are detected, a woman can choose to abort the pregnancy, but short of that, there is little that can be done.

Still, virtually all pregnant women now want ultrasounds.

"I actually do tell them they don't need it, but it's whistling Dixie," he said.

The report also found that the percent of C-sections fell from 22.8 percent in 1989 to 20.7 percent in 1996. That drop followed national concern too many C-sections being performed, especially for mothers giving birth to another child following an earlier C-section.

Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 2, 1999

Today is the 336th day of 1999 and the 71st day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1823, President James Monroe, in his annual message to Congress, warned Europe that the United States would not allow any further colonization of the New World. This policy became known as the Monroe Doctrine.

On this day in 1933, "Dancing Lady," starring Fred Astaire and Joan Crawford, was released.

On this day in 1991, "The Liverpool Oratorio," by ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, reached No. 1 on the Billboard classical chart.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Georges Seurat (1859-1891), painter; Adolph Green (1915-), playwright-lyricist, is 84; Alexander Haig (1924-), U.S. Army general-politician, is 75; Julie Harris (1925-), actress, is 74; Edwin Meese III (1931-), U.S. attorney general, is 68; Tracy Austin (1962-), tennis player, is 37.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1972, the University of Southern California defeated Notre Dame 45-23.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All children alarm their parents, if only because you are forever expecting to encounter yourself." — Gore Vidal

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Nov. 29) and new moon (Dec. 7).

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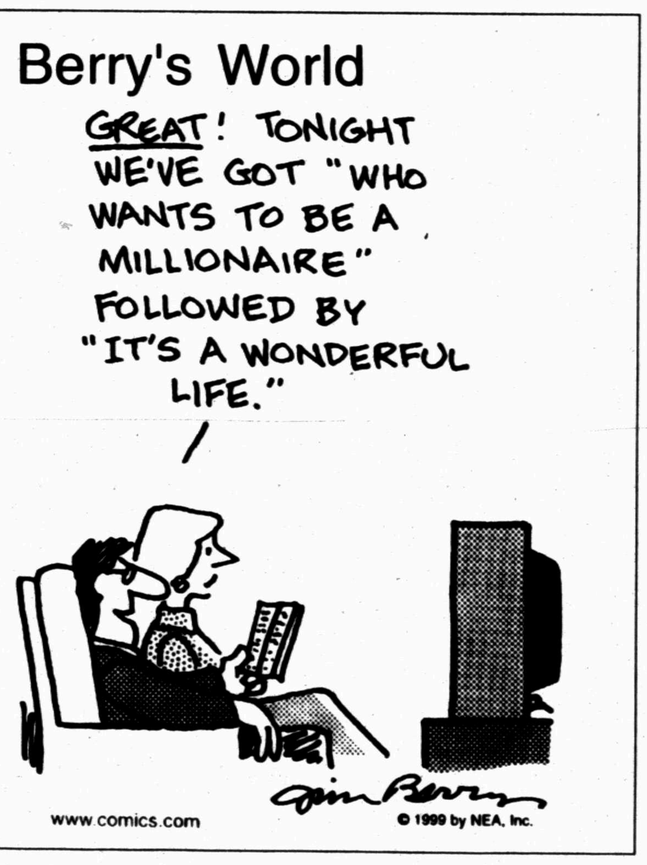
Berry's World



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Ties to Mother-in-Law Endure Despite Divorce From Her Son

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: After reading your column about outrageous mothers-in-law, I had to write. When I was 17, I married my high school sweetheart. He was only 20. We were entirely too young to get married. However, his mother never said a negative word about it. In fact, she was our most ardent supporter.

The following year, we had a baby boy. We were too immature to have children, but my mother-in-law never said an unkind word. She was extremely kind and generous to my son and to me as well. She never once criticized the way I took care of the baby. When she came to visit, she asked me nicely what I wanted her to do, and then she did it. When I think of this now, it brings a smile. I was only 19 and knew nothing about babies, but still she respected my wishes as the mother of this child. If she had a negative opinion about me, she kept it to herself.

After a few years, the marriage fell apart. The subsequent divorce and custody battle got very ugly. My mother-in-law never took sides.

I am now happily remarried and live about 3,000 miles away from my former mother-in-law. My former husband has also remarried. Neither of us has had any more children, so my 12-year-old son is my former mother-in-law's only grandchild. He visits her every summer, and I keep her up-to-date as much as possible about his activities via e-mail and pictures.

Sometimes people are curious about why I work so hard to keep this connection to my ex-husband's family. After all, according to the world's expectations, we're supposed to "hate" each other, right? Wrong! This lady is a gem. She's a sterling example of how people should treat each other.

She and I had a long talk this summer about this very subject. I told her that I do not "own" my son. He's part of her, too. And I would be doing a grave disservice as a parent to deny my child the gift of knowing this wonderful grandma. I only hope that someday I will be as terrific a mother-in-law and grandmother as she is.

RACHAEL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RACHAEL: I'm sure you will be — because you fully appreciate the maturity, generosity and diplomacy that are required to fulfill those roles. Many people could take a lesson from your former mother-in-law.

***

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter about checking to see that a security whistle is in working order. Many years ago, I had a persistent obscene caller. Hanging up on him did not dampen his enthusiasm, so I decided to blow a shrill whistle during his next call. As expected, he called late one night, so I grabbed the whistle and began to blow.

Instead of making a shrill noise, the whistle made an odd rattling sound. Undaunted, I continued trying to whistle — but I began to laugh at the pathetic noise. A moment later, the caller asked in an incredulous voice, "What on earth is that noise?" I explained, laughing, "I'm trying to blow a whistle in your ear!" With that, he howled with laughter, hung up and never called back.

STILL LAUGHING IN DALLAS

DEAR STILL LAUGHING: Congratulations. Even though the whistle malfunctioned, you succeeded in "blowing off" the obscene caller. That's a victory.

***

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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*All others
January 13, 2000
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•Documentation needed•
• Completed Admission Application
• Official High School Transcript
• Official transcripts from each college previously attended
• Proof of TASP

USDA expects no improvement in 2000 farm exports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers hoping to make more money on their crops next year are unlikely to get much help from overseas. The Agriculture Department is predicting no improvement in U.S. farm exports over the next year.

"The main problem at the moment seems to be that the production in other countries is much stronger than had been expected. That's pushing the prices down," Carolyn Whitton, a trade specialist with the department's Economic Research Service, said in an interview Wednesday.

USDA projected in August that farm exports would grow by $1 billion to $50 billion for the 2000 budget year, which began Oct. 1. But the department now says in a report to be released shortly that agriculture exports will remain at $49 billion in fiscal 2000 because of growing stockpiles of grain worldwide.

Since August, projected exports of wheat, corn and soybeans have dropped by 5.4 million tons, according to a summary of the report.

Prices for wheat, corn, soybeans and other crops have fallen sharply over the past two years because of shrinking export markets, leading Congress to pass successive multibillion-dollar aid packages to soften the blow.

Border car deposit policy takes effect

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A crowd gathered as Eduardo Zuniga loudly complained about Mexico's new policy requiring drivers crossing the border to leave hundreds of dollars behind as a deposit.

The unpopular program, which began Wednesday, is aimed at preventing the illegal importation of cars registered in the United States.

Zuniga, a Chicago resident who visits relatives in Tampico, Mexico, several times each year, usually takes several hundred dollars to spend. He said the deposit would practically wipe him out.

"What am I going to do in Tampico with (only) $200?" he asked outside the Mexican customs building in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville. "Beg for money?"

Zuniga predicted that the Mexican government will stop the program once the economic impact is apparent.

"This will last perhaps a few months," he said.

Frustrated motorists were given hologram stickers for their windshields that will allow them to recover their deposits if they leave Mexico within six months. For model years 1998-2000, the deposit is $800; for model years 1994 to 1997, $600; and for older cars, $400. Refunds can be collected at any border post.

The Baja California peninsula and parts of Sonora are exempt to preserve easy access to Mexico's west coast beaches.

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Be careful with fiberglass

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband installs fiberglass insulation. Despite the use of a mask, gloves and proper clothing, he still suffers from intense itching after work. Why? Is fiberglass dangerous if inhaled?

DEAR READER: While your husband appears to be taking adequate precautions, the fiberglass is still getting under his clothing and causing severe itching and rash.

Fiberglass is composed of glassy filaments that break easily. These fragmented filaments, usually in the form of dust spicules, penetrate the skin and produce irritation. Although the particles are too short and brittle to penetrate deeply, they tend to stick to skin made moist by perspiration. This results in an itchy rash as the body responds to the foreign material, much as it would to a splinter.

Fiberglass workers can usually solve this problem by washing thoroughly after work to remove the tiny spicules that have worked their way under the protective garments. Some contractors swear by cold showers, which close the skin's pores and allow the fiberglass to be washed off more readily.

In theory, swallowed fiberglass could cause intestinal irritation. However, I am unaware of any studies linking ingestion of fiberglass particles to disease. On the other hand, inhaled fiberglass often causes pulmonary inflammation, increased mucus secretion, chronic cough and — if present in sufficient quantity — a syndrome of chronic lung disease that resembles silicosis, a lung disorder associated with sand particles.

If your husband carefully protects himself and washes faithfully at the end of the day, he shouldn't suffer any serious consequences of industrial fiberglass exposure.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it possible for a person's hair to turn white overnight after a severe emotional shock?

DEAR READER: I have heard tales of people's hair turning white within minutes after a particularly frightening experience. However, I can see no valid scientific reason for this medical curiosity, because pigment is bound in the hair shaft and cannot be removed except by chemical means. Hair may grow out white after a shock, though. Under such circumstances, compounds that circulate in the body can affect the pigment cells in the scalp, so that new hair is devoid of color. I think that it would be impossible for your whole thatch to turn white overnight unless you paid a beauty parlor operator to do it for you.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've heard that caffeine prevents the body from absorbing vitamins for about 12 hours. True or false?

DEAR READER: False. Caffeine is a stimulant that may cause irritability, nervousness, excessive urination, insomnia, rapid pulse and tremulousness. But to my knowledge, caffeine does not produce vitamin or mineral deficiency. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Fads I: Vitamins & Minerals." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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DR. GOTT

PETER GOTT, M.D.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

Endeavors that do not call attention to yourself are likely to be the most successful ones for you in the year ahead. Keep a low profile and let the finished work be your reward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If there is a social gathering you're reluctant to attend today, it might be better to pass it up. You could make a bad impression if you're in the wrong mood. Astro-Graph year ahead predictions make great Xmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the Zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the Zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be prepared to do things the hard way today, because Lady Luck isn't likely to be around or intervene while you're in the midst of doing a critical task. You're on your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It's far better to say little or nothing today when in the company of those who are apt to repeat what you say. Your comments are more than likely to be misconstrued.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) In order to assure that your emotions do not govern your spending patterns today, discipline yourself. Extravagant urges must not be allowed to overrule prudent judgment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is not a good day to rely solely on your judgment. Should you have to make a important decision, especially a legal one, seek out good counsel first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you're in the position today of selecting who does what on a job, be extremely cognizant of your choices. Choosing the wrong person for the task could leave you with a mess to clean up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) In a disagreement between two friends, don't allow yourself to get drawn into their petty politics. No matter which side you choose, you'll end up unpopular with the other.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be careful not to assume things that are under your control will run smoothly without your supervision. Indifference could be your worst enemy and you'll be held accountable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Anything put in writing today is subject to severe criticism and scrutiny. This also holds true when attempting to alter something to which you've agreed in the past.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a day when you'll be totally on your own, especially involving financial situations. There won't be anybody around when it comes time to pay the tab.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you're teaming up with anybody today for a special endeavor, be sure she or he can make a contribution to the effort. Partners could turn out to be liabilities instead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Concentration and continuity of purpose might not be your long suit today, even though they usually are. Wait until they're in working order before tackling a mental task.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Search for bodies is continuing

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Using ground-piercing radar, DNA analysis and shovels and sieves, Mexican and U.S. officials have slowly unearthed what appear to be the remains of six people on a desert ranch near the U.S. border.

Authorities believe the bodies of as many as 100 people — suspected victims of drug traffickers — could be buried on four ranches in the area near Ciudad Juarez, a city across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Ciudad Juarez is the home base for the Juarez drug cartel, which was Mexico's largest and most violent drug-smuggling outfit in the 1990s.

FBI forensics experts, working side-by-side with Mexican soldiers and ski-masked police, uncovered the apparent remains, along with clothing, belts and shoes, behind a barn at the Rancho la Campana, 10 miles southwest of Ciudad Juarez.

"The remains have been located in a very specific area. The bodies have been found very close together, one atop another," said Jose Larrieta Carrasco, head of the organized crime unit for Mexico's attorney general's office.

Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said the remains would undergo DNA and other analyses by FBI and Mexican experts while investigators continue searching for more bodies.

"At this moment, nobody in the world could tell you who they belong to," he said.

Residents and investigators said they have known about secret burials on land owned by drug lords since a power struggle broke out in the area in 1993, but that corrupt police in Mexico made uncovering them impossible.

"The Mexican federal government and the (U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration) know that every major (narcotics) player in Mexico who has a ranch, has graves on that ranch," said Phil Jordan, retired head of the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center.

Clinton's ideas get chilly reception

SEATTLE (AP) — President Clinton wants worker rights and environmental safeguards to be included in global trade talks, but he's getting a chilly reception from Third World nations as trade officials get down to serious negotiations after two days of street protests.

With a Friday deadline for wrapping up the World Trade Organization meeting, the commerce minister of Thailand, who takes over the top WTO post in 2002, said Wednesday that Clinton's tough stance on worker rights could jeopardize efforts to launch a new round of trade talks.

"I know it is an important issue for the United States administration, but to have trade sanctions linked to labor rights violations would be really ultimately highly detrimental," Supachai Panitchpakdi told reporters.

It could even prompt some trade ministers from developing countries "to walk away from any agreement on a new round," Supachai warned, responding to an interview Clinton gave to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Clinton was quoted as saying a new trade deal should contain provisions on worker rights, and countries that don't go along should face sanctions.

Giving a luncheon address Wednesday to trade ministers from the 135 member countries, Clinton pressed the U.S. case that the new trade talks should work to eliminate the secrecy that shrouds WTO deliberations and search for ways to tie trade agreements to worker rights and environmental protection.

"I implore you," Clinton said. "Let's continue to find ways to prove that the quality of life of ordinary citizens in every country can be lifted, including basic labor standards and an advance on the environmental front."

U.S. airport security often lax, study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Security at some airports is so lax that Transportation Department investigators were able to sneak through without tickets and settle into seats aboard planes ready to take off, the department's inspector general says.

In a series of tests early this year, investigators slipped through security by "piggybacking" or following employees through doors. They also walked unchallenged through concourse doors, gates, jetbridges and cargo facilities. Some drove through unmanned vehicle gates or rode unguarded elevators.

"In some instances, we were seated and ready for departure at the time we concluded our tests," DOT's inspector general's office said in a statement Wednesday.

The IG's latest report on airport security shows that the nation's airports remain vulnerable to intruders wishing to slip through security amid increasing threats to U.S. air travel.

The Federal Aviation Administration "has been slow to take actions necessary to strengthen access-control requirements and adequately oversee the implementation of existing controls," the IG's office said.

A similar investigation in 1993 uncovered virtually identical weaknesses; auditors said many of those same problems still exist.

While the names of the major airports tested were not included in the report released to the public, The Washington Post in today's editions quoted unidentified sources who identified three of the airports as New York's John F. Kennedy, Washington's Reagan National and Chicago's O'Hare. The five others were the main airports in Atlanta, Miami, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Honolulu, the Post said.

The IG's report blamed airport operators and air carriers for not enforcing security procedures and airport employees for not meeting their security responsibilities. The IG also said the FAA was failing to ensure that its security policies were being implemented.

In March, when early results from the IG investigation showed security holes, the FAA began testing at 79 of the nation's largest airports and opened nearly 400 investigations into airport weaknesses.

"These tests showed airports had fixed the problems and that industry, once focused, was capable of providing high levels of compliance with regulations," the FAA said in a statement.

Power-sharing Cabinet now in place in Northern Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Overcoming enmities older than Northern Ireland itself, a power-sharing Cabinet of Protestants and Catholics sat down together for the first time today to begin implementing last year's peace accord.

David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, respectively the senior Protestant and Catholic ministers in the four-party coalition, convened the history-making session inside Stormont Parliamentary Building, the enduring symbol of Northern Ireland's divisive foundation 79 years ago as a Protestant-majority state.

Most significantly, beside Trimble's Ulster Unionists and Mallon's Social Democratic and Labor Party sat the two ministers from the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party, which had spent a generation seeking the bloody overthrow of a state it now is committed to help govern.

The two seats belonging to the Cabinet's fourth party, the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, remained empty in a sign that this grand experiment in local compromise — after 27 years of colonial-style "direct rule" from London — faced a bumpy ride.

Cameras were allowed in the room briefly as the 10 ministers took their seats at a circular wooden table.

No sound recordings were allowed but Trimble was seen to crack a joke across the table, though not in the direction of Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness, a former IRA commander who will now be in charge of education.

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Standards for bunkbeds approved by safety group

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lynn Starks' 3-year-old daughter, Whitney, died two years ago after strangling in a bunk bed accident.

Since then, the Oklahoma City woman has been pleading with federal regulators for mandatory standards that would make the familiar fixtures less of a hazard for children.

Today, the Consumer Product Safety Commission approved the standards, effective next July. Mary Sheila Gall, the sole Republican on the commission was the lone dissenter in the 2-1 vote.

The mandatory standard, like voluntary standard already in place, requires that the opening in the structure of the upper bunk be less than 31/2 inches all around.

The new standard also will tighten the rules, requiring a continuous guard rail on the wall side of the top bunk. Until now, the only requirement has been for a partial guard rail. The commission's action also toughens spacing requirements for the lower bunk.

The mandatory standard allows the government to hold retailers and distributors accountable by levying fines against manufacturers who don't comply, officials said. U.S. Customs authorities will also be able to stop noncomplying bunk beds at the docks, said Ann Brown, chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Theft, assault reports filed

City officers filed offense reports for theft and assault Wednesday.

An officer was requested at Whataburger at 9:53 a.m. in reference to the theft of some money. An offense report was submitted for Class C theft.

At 4:54 p.m., an offense report for Class A assault was filed.

Deputies took two subjects into custody at 12:24 a.m. today at Avenue N and Smith Street. A 20-year-old male was arrested for driving while intoxicated, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while unlicensed. Also arrested was a 38-year-old male for public intoxication.

A minor accident occurred at 3:15 p.m. in the 2400 block of 35th Street. Involved were a 1999 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Betty Dunn Watts, 60, of 2607 35th Street and a 1991 Grumman van owned by the United States Postal Service and driven by Fletcher Bailey Smith, 44, of 1641 Keller.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Choir Poinsettia sale

Poinsettia plants sold by SHS choir have arrived and are available for pick-up or delivery this week.

Girls softball boosters

Girls softball booster club will meet at 7 this evening in the West Elementary cafeteria.

Rotary Christmas dinner

Members and spouses of the Snyder Rotary Club will have a Christmas dinner and party at 6:30 this evening at the Wagon Wheel Ranch.

Auxiliary Discovery Toys show

The Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary will sponsor a Discovery Toys show from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday in the hospital board room.

Christmas open house

The Scurry County courthouse employees will host an open house Saturday evening immediately following the lighted Christmas parade. Refreshments will be served.

Faith Baptist Church anniversary

Faith Baptist Church will observe its 30th anniversary Sunday. Chris Boatman of Aransas Pass will preach and singing will be presented by the Alton Wiedel family of Fort Worth.

Special service

Snyder's First Church of the Nazarene presents southern gospel music by the Richardsons at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. A Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner will be held immediately after the service. The public is invited, and daycare is provided.

AARP meeting

AARP Chapter 2063 will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club for the installation banquet. Max von Roeder will be the installation speaker, and entertainment will be provided by Dorothy Duncan and her ventriloquist friend, Dotsy.

Quilting Club

The Rock and Roll Quilting Club meets from 8 a.m. until noon each Monday at the Hermleigh Community Center. Everyone is invited for free quilting lessons. Call 863-2426 for more information.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air each week on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Wisdom of Solomon," followed by "How Do We Deal With the Poor."

WTC nursing program

Students wishing to enroll in the March class for Licensed Vocational Nursing at Western Texas College need to contact the counseling office to take the pre-entrance exam. Tests will be given through Tuesday and interviews will be scheduled through Jan. 10. Classes begin March 1. Contact the counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313, or toll-free at 1-888-GO TO WTC.

Retired teacher party

The Scurry County Retired Teachers will have a Christmas party at Mrs. Marge Mathis' ranch home (Polar Route, 5231 CR 2128) on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Snyder Lions meeting

Lions Club members are to bring a toy to the Tuesday, Dec. 14, meeting for Toys for Tots, or pay a $10 fine to be used as a cash donation. The meeting will be at noon in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

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 Dec. 17. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Candlelight service

First Baptist Church will present a Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. 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.

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.

WTC planetarium open

The planetarium at Western Texas College is now open with its fall lineup of new programs, developed for specific age groups: pre-K and kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7 through adults. The 60-seat planetarium is open for group showings, by reservation, for Friday morning and afternoon programs. It is also available, by reservation, for group showings Thursday through Saturday evenings. For reservations, call Sharon Gill at WTC, 573-8511, ext. 312.

Pick 3

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

0-7-0

(zero, seven, zero)

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The jackpot was worth an estimated $13 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 15, 19, 25, 26, 30 and 43.

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

Climate changes may be predicted

By The Associated Press

Researchers have shown links between ocean currents and global temperature changes during the last ice age, a step toward understanding Earth's complicated cycle of warming and cooling.

A German scientist argues that sea circulation likely exerts some control over the millennial cycle of warming and cooling. But Carsten Ruhlemann, the marine geologist who supervised the study, acknowledged that ocean currents could be an effect rather than cause of temperature shifts.

"Nobody knows what causes the process. That's the major question that everyone wants to know," he said.