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WT-Int. Crude - $33.08
WTIC Posted - $29.75
Natural Gas - $4.585

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Jan. 4-5, 2002
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Home of Brooks Nunley

Probationers pay supervision costs, restitution...

If you do the crime, you'll pay the fine

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Sending convicted lawbreakers to jail isn't always the best solution, according to law enforcement officials, because adult probationers can contribute to their communities in many ways.

Scurry County is home to more than 500 under supervision as probationers and they contribute daily to the quality of life in the community, said Sy Tabor, director of the probation department.

"Supervision is a great program because it allows these probationers the opportunity to pay back society and their families for the things they have done wrong," Tabor said. "They still work and they pay taxes and they support their families. There is more responsibility for a probationer than there is for a prisoner."

Convicted lawbreakers in Texas put on adult probation instead of being sent to prison paid $237 million in court-assessed fines and fees last year, an amount equal to $1.05 for every dollar spent by the state on community supervision.

But while offender-generated fees provide vital revenue for community supervision programs, there is overwhelming agreement among district judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys that the fees have reached the limit and any new or higher fees would be counterproductive.

132nd District Judge Ernie Armstrong of Snyder concurred.

"We order our probationers to pay $40 per month for supervision fees," he said. "Once you get much higher than that, it gets to a point where we are taxing them at such a rate that they can't meet all of their other obligations."

Armstrong said probationers pay fines and restitution for damage they may have caused and he doesn't want to "get to a state where a probationer is throwing up their hands and saying 'I can't do that or pay that' and stop complying with the terms of their probation."

Figures compiled for the first time ever by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice show that fees collected from 243,500 felony and 198,000 misdemeanor probationers contributed $122 million to defray the cost of their supervision last year across the state.

They also paid $47 million to victim restitution and $68 million in fines and other fees.

In Scurry County in 2002, probationers contributed almost $179,000 to defray supervision costs and just shy of $95,000 to victim restitution.

Probationers also contribute millions of hours in unpaid work in the form of community service.

Statewide last year, 8.5 million community service hours contributed the equivalent of $45 million at minimum wage.

Tabor said 239 of the county's probationers worked in community service last year, compiling 20,265 hours in the community.

"At minimum wage, that's more than $100,000 of free labor in our town," Tabor said.

The probationers work at "virtually every non-profit agency" in the county, Tabor said. "They do a lot of work with the county and with the city and the boys and girls club and some with the schools."

Tabor said the majority of work is general maintenance.

Probationers are supervised by Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) operated by local judicial districts.

CSCDs received $225 million in state grants last year through the TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division.

Scurry County's adult probation department received more than $493,000 of those grant funds in 2002.

TDCJ executive director Gary Johnson said community supervision is a "bright star" in the criminal justice system. "Supervision provides public safety while rehabilitating these offenders in their communities where they can work, support their families, pay taxes and get treatment."

The findings also showed that it costs $1.01 per day per probationer to provide basic local CSCD supervision and another $1.14 per day per probationer where specialized supervision and treatment programs are required, such as specialized sex offender supervision or substance abuse treatment.

By comparison, it would cost taxpayers as much as $40 per offender to send the felony probationers to prison or state jail.

Opposition by judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys to increased fees came through loud and clear in a survey conducted by TDCJ. More than 93 percent of the judges and 87 percent of the prosecutors surveyed said fees should not be increased.

A majority of the judges and district attorneys said current fees often are an undue hardship on probationers.

Research indicated that while almost 75 percent of all probationers have fulltime employment, their annual median income of $18,200 is 30 percent below the state average income.

IRA ACTION — New Ira superintendent Dr. Larry Devitt, left, views Ira basketball action Friday night with Mike Barnes. At left, Jess Wall puts up two points for the Bulldogs as Ira fell to Grady, 60-51. (SDN Staff Photos by Bobby Allen)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A tightwad is a guy who won't pay to repair his breaks, but just makes his horn louder."

There's been a lot of stories lately about identity theft, and those who have been the victim of such a scam can attest that it's not pleasant.

A corporate attorney who had the misfortunate of having his wallet stolen passed along some helpful hints to avoid theft of a person's identity.

—Next time checks are ordered, have only initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. Only your bank will know how you sign your name.

—Put your work phone number on checks instead of home phone. Use P.O box instead of home address or use work address.

—Never have Social Security number printed on checks — you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

—Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel in case of theft or loss.

—Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of passport when traveling.

—Cancel credit cards immediately. The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

—File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation.

—Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

The numbers are: Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

It could happen, so a little prevention might make life easier.

At Cogdell Hospital...

Rural health clinic to open Thursday

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

A delay in receiving some equipment will push back the opening of Cogdell Memorial Hospital's new rural health clinic until Thursday.

The clinic, designed to give relief to the hospital emergency room, was tentatively scheduled to open Monday.

"We had a little delay on some of our equipment, but we'll be ready to go Thursday," said hospital CEO George Parsley.

Parsley expects the opening of the clinic to take the burden off the hospital emergency room in treating non-emergency cases.

"Too many people use the ER as their doctor's office," said Parsley. "Our rural health clinic will ease their (ER staff) load of non-emergency care."

Parsley said it would be a lot more inexpensive to use the clinic, as opposed to the emergency room.

The new clinic will be located in the specialty clinic area and patients are requested to use the main entrance of the hospital.

Clinic hours will be 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Costs of using the clinic will be similar to a physician's visit, Parsley said.

Patients are urged to call 573-7288 for an appointment, or just walk-in.

"With the clinic just opening, we envision at first there will be a lot of walk-in traffic," said Parsley.

Nurse Practitioner Christine Heady will be the primary medical provider at the clinic under the supervision of Dr. James Burleson.

Heady has five years experience as a critical care nurse, and has worked in a rural health clinic for a year. A nurse practitioner provides care to a patient, much like a physician.

"We diagnose and treat diseases, read X-rays, prescribe medications, do immunizations and physicals, and much more," said Heady.

"We all think the clinic will provide a level of care to a segment of the community that is not now being served, plus we'll help keep the load off the ER.

Parsley said the offer to nurse practitioner Beth Ashley to work in the rural health clinic remains open.

Ashley has worked at Covenant Family Health Clinic since 1996, but her position is being eliminated this month as part of a cost-reduction program instituted by Covenant in Lubbock.

Board appointments on agenda

Scurry County commissioners' court will convene for the first time this year at 10 a.m. Monday with appointments to county boards topping the agenda.

The terms of four members of local boards expired at the close of 2002.

E.D. Walton completed his third two-year term on the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board and a replacement will be considered.

Tony Scott reached his term limit on the Board of County Development and Kathy Hall will exit the County Welfare Board.

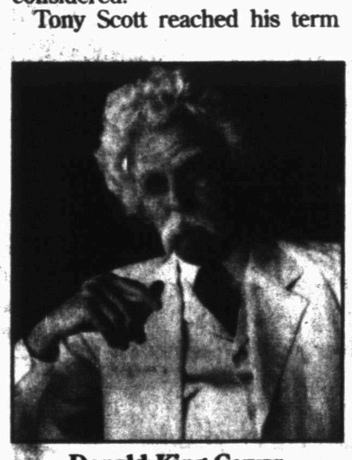
Penny Perry's second term on the Library Board also has expired.

Several vacancies also exist on the Child Welfare Board as two members resigned last month and a third was removed for non-attendance.

The court also will open and consider bids for fuel, oil and grease plus road materials.

The meeting will be the court's first with its new judge and one new commissioner.

Judge Rod Waller and Precinct 2 Commissioner Jerry House became members of the court Wednesday with a swearing-in ceremony in the courthouse.



Donald King Cowan as Mark Twain

Chamber banquet will feature Twain portrayal

"Meet Mark Twain!," starring Donald King Cowan in his portrayal of America's greatest humorist, will be the one of the highlights of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce banquet Jan. 25.

The event will be held in the Martha Ann Woman's Club and only 225 tickets will be available at $15 each.

"We're having the banquet at the woman's club due to the parlor setting we want to achieve with Mark Twain," said Donna Fowler, Snyder chamber executive director.

"It will be the old South at its best, including the menu," said Fowler.

Cowan's performance of Mark Twain will come in two sessions, with the annual chamber awards presented during intermission.

Since 1975, Cowan's characterization of Twain has appeared on hundreds of stages from Maine to California.

Cowan spares no detail in transporting audiences back in time. His makeup requires three hours to apply, and his handmade suit is an exact copy of Twain's trademarked white linen.

ASK US

Q—Will the newspaper put out a special basketball section this season?

A—Yes, it will be in Thursday's edition.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Debra Cline...

...a seven-year employee of NAPA on College Ave., has lived in Snyder 37 years. She works in auto parts and likes to spend her spare time with her kids, Ashley Gunset, 16; Paige Gunset, 14; and Cassie Gunset, 10. She also likes hiking, computers and watching drag racing.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Everything is funny as long as it's happening to somebody else.

—Will Rogers

Campbell in town Monday

State representative-elect Scott Campbell will be in Snyder at 2 p.m. Monday at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

Campbell will host a question-and-answer session for local residents.

Campbell, a Republican from San Angelo, will take office Jan. 14 in Austin.

JAN 05 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Grand jury

The Scurry County grand jury is expected to consider 11 felony cases when it convenes at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court.

100th birthday reception

A reception to celebrate Sadie Shifflett's 100th birthday is set from 1-3:30 p.m. Monday in the Church of God fellowship hall, located at Ave.0 and 21st Street. All are welcome to attend.

Town hall meeting

State Rep. Scott Campbell, R-San Angelo, will be in Snyder at 2 p.m. Monday for a question-and-answer session at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited. Campbell will take office Jan. 14 in Austin.

VFW auxiliary meeting

VFW Post 8231 Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the post home. Members are urged to attend.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Overcoming Temptation by Understanding Temptation," followed by "Gambling is Evil."

Topics on aging

The Area Agency on Aging will present programs for the elderly and how to qualify for Medicaid at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder Healthcare Center.

Drama booster club

The SHS drama booster club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the meeting room of Texas Savings Bank.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Masonic Lodge. All master Masons are welcome.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will resume Tuesday and will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S. L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Bass Club meeting

The Snyder Bass Club will hold its first monthly meeting of 2003 at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Kinder Morgan offices on U.S. 180.

FFA booster club

The Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the ag building. Officers will meet at 6:30.

Lions Club meetings

Snyder Lions Club meetings Tuesday and Jan. 14 will be held at Snyder Country Club while repairs are being made at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP include Tuesday at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m.; and Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

AARP board meeting

A breakfast meeting of AARP board of directors will be held at 8 a.m. Wednesday at Rudy's.

Trinity Bible study

A 10-week study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," begins Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church. Melissa Petty will lead the study and all women are invited to attend. To order a book or for more information call 573-3988.

FBC services televised

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

Retired teachers meeting

Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon on Monday, Jan. 13, at The Shack. Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president, will be the guest speaker."

FBC support groups

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

Benefit enchilada dinner

There will be a benefit enchilada dinner for liver transplant patient Carol Carrasco Garza from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19, at West Elementary Cafeteria. For advance tickets for a $5 donation, call Mickey Carrasco at 573-3343.

SHS booster club fund raiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Whatever happened to...

Recruiters say a military career is a chance to "see the world."

One Snyder High School graduate, Air Force Lt. Col. Gregory Pavlik, however, is pleased to be back home – in Texas.

A 1977 graduate of SHS after being active in drama, UIL and football, Pavlik received an appointment to the Air Force Academy and earned his degree in 1981. He then graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1986.

Gregory Pavlik
1977

Gregory Pavlik
2003

Lt. Col. Pavlik currently is a military judge in the Air Force and has been stationed in San Antonio the past 5½ years.

Pavlik, the son of Shirley Pavlik of Snyder and the late Erwin Palvik, is married to Snyder native Patti Ayers Pavlik.

The couple have two sons. Joshua Pavlik, 20, is a student at Abilene Christian University. Jeffery Pavlik, 15, attends MacArthur High School in San Antonio.

Lt. Col. Pavlik has three brothers. Stan and Roger live in Snyder and John Pavlik is a resident of Irving.

(Readers are invited to submit information and pictures for this feature. Bring to Snyder Daily News or mail to Box 949 in Snyder, 79550.)

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh grads...
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name _____

Year graduated _____

Parent's name _____

Some general high school activities for which they might be remembered _____

_____

_____

_____

After graduation they (college, military, etc.) _____

_____

_____

_____

Married to _____

Now live in _____

Children _____

_____

Professional work or accomplishment _____

_____

_____

Anything additional _____

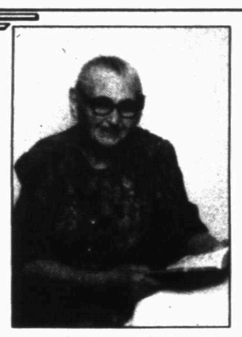
_____

_____

_____

Current picture?

Readers are invited to submit information and pictures for this feature. Bring by Snyder Daily News or mail to Box 949 in Snyder, 79550



We would be honored
with your presence
at a Reception
celebrating the
100th Birthday of
Sadie Shifflett
Monday, January 6, 2003
1:00-3:30 in the afternoon
Church of God Fellowship Hall
Ave. O & 21st Street
Snyder, Texas
Everyone Welcome

LOANS - LOANS - LOANS

Phone Applications Welcome

Loans from $100 to $495

Se Habla Espanol

ASK ABOUT OUR SELECT BUYERS CLUB

Security Finance
CALL 573-1761 511 COLISEUM DRIVE
Ask For Elsa, Jason or Esther

Senior Center Menu

Monday
Swiss steak, broccoli/rice almondine, green beans, tossed salad, brownie

Tuesday
Chili con carne, cheese sticks, sliced onion, fruit cocktail, peanut butter cookie, cornbread

Wednesday
Pork chop w/gravy, whole kernel corn, fried okra, tomato wedges, apple cobbler

Thursday
Oven fried chicken w/cream gravy, mashed potatoes, savory peas, tossed salad, red applesauce

Friday
Fried fish, pinto beans, crinkle cut fries, cole slaw, chocolate cake w/white frosting

Senior Center News

The New Year is here and we extend best wishes to each of you. We encourage senior citizens to add a visit to the Senior Center to their New Year's resolutions. Call us if you are in need of services or join us in serving others. Our goal is to add quality to the lives of others through nutrition, activities and fellowship.

Senior citizens interested in bridge lessons are asked to call the center and speak to Pam. The class scheduled to begin Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. is full; but, the volunteer teaching the class has offered to teach a second class.

Local transportation is available during the morning Monday-Friday. Seniors needing transportation are asked to call the center a day or two in advance of the appointment date. Speak to Valerie about transportation needs.

Call the center and speak to Glenda for information on the Meals-on-Wheels program. The noon meal is delivered Monday-Friday. Recipients must meet certain guidelines before qualifying for this service, and a visit will be made to the home.

Call the center at 573-4035 or visit our facility at 2603 Avenue M for information on any program.

MONDAY

Join us for party bridge beginning at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11 a.m.

Eighty-eight is scheduled for 1 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. Tuesday, and 10 a.m. Friday. However, the room is always available for those who enjoy eighty-eight.

TUESDAY

Eighty-eight begins at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. seniors may exercise, enjoy the Aubrey Wilson band, or ladies may join the poetry group. The Aubrey Wilson band will entertain until noon. The Mesquite Country Women's Writers Guild meets until 2 p.m. in the bridge room. The Golden K Kiwanis will have lunch and a meeting in the conference room beginning at noon.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies join us for pool at 9 a.m. The mild exercise class begins at 11 a.m. and continues for 20-30 minutes. After lunch seniors may participate in pinochle, or line dancing and clogging.

THURSDAY

The Sunshine Choir will entertain the residents of Snyder Healthcare at 10 a.m. Don't miss exercise at the center at 11 a.m. The center will open at 6 p.m. for game night.

FRIDAY

Bridge and the blood pressure clinic both begin at 9:30 a.m. Seniors may participate in eighty-eight at 10 a.m. Join us for exercise at 11 a.m. Beth Dannheim will present a nutrition program at 11:45.

SATURDAY

The community sing will begin at 6 p.m. at the Scurry County Senior Center located at 2603 Avenue M. Music is provided by volunteers.

Pair charged with murder

SUGAR LAND (AP) — More than eight years after a 43-year-old woman mysteriously disappeared from her residence, her daughter and son-in-law have been indicted on murder charges.

Brenda Vanessa Trejos, 28, and Frank Jose Trejos, 33, were arrested at their Houston apartment and are being held on $50,000 bail each.

A Fort Bend County grand jury indicted them last month in the death of Maria Barrientos, with whom they were living when she disappeared on June 11, 1994.

"I have been dealing with this for the past eight years, trying everything I can. This is very satisfying," said Sugar Land police Det. Glenn White.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Friday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step
AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
14-18-23-24
Bonus number 27
Estimated jackpot: $200,000
Pick 3
(Day) 1-4-7
(Night) 2-5-4
Cash Five
10-16-17-31-35

Whitney Jones

Jones receives Who's Who for 2nd year

Whitney Jones, a senior at Snyder High School, has received *Who's Who Among High School Students* recognition for the second year.

Her parents are Wayne and Cynthia Jones of Snyder. Grandparents include Skinny and Norma Sue Chapman; J.R. and Wanda Jones, all of Snyder, and the late Pat Jones.

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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"Your complete satisfaction is our Priority."
Toll Free: 1-866-660-1718

I LOVE CHRISTMAS — Janie Carroll's and Susan Brisendine's students at East Elementary recently presented *I Love Christmas*. Carroll's students in the top photo include from row from left, April Arispe, Jonathan Castanada, D.J. Clayton, Adrienne Gonzales-Keller and Priscilla Molinar; second row, Scott Smith, Ally Cooper, Samantha Shankles, Shawndon McVey and Cassie Gunset; top row, Caedra Robbins, Audriana Rascon and Kevin Bowers. Not pictured are Shawn Burns, Dakota Carroll, Crystal Hernandez, Kaitlin Horton, Freddy Lopez, Jessica Pineda, Alex Lopez and Anna Vasquez. Brisendine's students in the bottom photo are Kaylee Lord, Darlene Kaska, Mary Quintano, Ashley Kenner, Troy Henry, Amanda Villa and Ricky Esquibel; middle row, Dyllan Vera, Tiffany Stack, Tremain Selders, Zac Smith, Chance Young and Anthony Thurmond; top row, Brianne Perry, Staphany Arizmendi, Kaitlin Bass, Angela Hernandez, Brandon Elam, Kelton Garcia and Gage Welsh. Melisa Chhuor is not pictured. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Bush rallies Fort Hood troops

FORT HOOD (AP) — Taking a brief time out from his two-week vacation, President Bush visited the nation's largest military post to rally Army troops as the nation faces possible war with Iraq.

Bush told the servicemen and women at Fort Hood on Friday that if military force becomes necessary, they may be called into combat to "secure our country and keep the peace."

"America will act deliberately, America will act decisively and America will prevail, because we've got the finest military in the world," said Bush, greeted with cheers of "Hoo-ah!" from the 4,000 camouflage-clad soldiers waving small American flags.

Bush said war is a last resort.

Iraq is a threat to the United States and Saddam Hussein has "publicly proclaimed his hatred for our country," he said.

Saddam has used weapons of mass destruction, has defied U.N. resolutions that he disarm and "did not even attempt to submit a credible declaration" to the United Nations on his alleged stockpiles of weapons and his programs to develop more, Bush said.

No soldiers from Fort Hood, home to about 41,000 troops, have been sent to the Persian Gulf region as part of the current buildup. But during the 1991 Gulf War, more than 25,000 were deployed and it's almost certain that some would be deployed in another war with Iraq.

Some soldiers acknowledged they are nervous, even as they said they are well-trained and ready.

"Anybody who said he is not nervous or scared is lying to himself," said Spc. Eric Wilkerson, who would leave behind a fiancee and young daughter if he is sent abroad.

Others said it is time to act.

It's time to "show Saddam who is boss," said Sgt. Chris Kura of Austin.

Bush had little to say about the threat posed by North Korea.

"In the case of North Korea, the world must continue to speak with one voice to turn that regime away from its nuclear ambitions," the president said.

During his Fort Hood visit, Bush also inspected an Abrams tank, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, a mobile command center, an Apache helicopter and a Paladin howitzer.

With Gov. Rick Perry and first lady Laura Bush at his side, Bush snapped salutes and greeted dozens of soldiers in battle gear.

Fort Hood, which sprawls across 350 square miles in Central Texas, is home to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Newspaper photos show officer fired stun gun

ARLINGTON (AP) — An analysis of photos taken by a newspaper photographer shows that a police officer fired an electrical stun gun at a distraught man just before he leaped to his death from a highway overpass onto Interstate 20 on New Year's Eve.

The photos by a photographer for The Dallas Morning News show a police officer pointing a stun gun at Ronald E. Wright, 35, of Grand Prairie. Electrical wires extend from the pistol's barrier and drape across the 10-foot expanse between the officer and Wright.

Seconds after the police officer fired the stun gun, Wright propelled himself over a waist-high concrete retaining wall atop the overpass where Texas 360 and Interstate 20 come together in southeast Arlington.

Wright fell an estimated 100 feet and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The brief police report that is publicly available made no mention of the use of a stun gun. Sgt. Will Johnson, an Arlington police spokesman, saw the photographs Friday but declined to confirm that an officer fired a stun gun at Mr. Wright.

Police had said Wright became agitated when he saw a television news truck pull up near the overpass, and jumped shortly afterward.

Wright's leap, witnessed by dozens of onlookers, ended a three-hour standoff with police negotiators. They had managed to get within a few feet of him as they tried to talk him down to safety.

The incident began shortly after noon on New Year's Eve. Arlington police received several 911 calls from people who reported seeing Wright running in and out of traffic.

When officers arrived, he was perched atop the concrete wall on the overpass feeding southbound 360 traffic onto eastbound Interstate 20. During the standoff, he repeatedly got up on the wall and then came down.

At 2:30 p.m., Wright got off the ledge and slid to a sitting position next to the retaining wall — seemingly out of harm's way. A police negotiator sat a few feet from him.

Thirty minutes later, he rose again and straddled the wall, one leg hanging over the side.

Police said Wright expressed concern that a television news van had pulled up within his line of sight about a quarter-mile away.

Police Lt. James Hawthorne, the department's lead negotiator, radioed that someone needed to ask the van to move. A few seconds later, the Arlington police officer fired the stun gun.

Wright — dressed in shirt, tie, dark pants and white athletic shoes — jumped to his death.

KEY TO THE KINGDOM
Overcoming Temptation by Understanding Temptation
IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY
Gambling is Evil
Cox Cable TV Channel 2,
Monday, Jan. 6, 7:00 pm

Butterfly fans still come to observe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's Monarch butterflies — whose appearance in winter is a celebrated show of color and beauty that draws tourists from around the world — have dwindled in numbers this year.

Sarah Hamilton of the Ventana Wilderness Society, a group that counts the orange and black butterflies as they spend the winter clustering in California's coastal groves of eucalyptus, pine and cypress, said the numbers are "dramatically fewer."

In Monterey County, south of San Francisco, Hamilton's counts have found only about a third as many butterflies this winter as last.

But even with the diminishing numbers, tourists are still flocking to the California coast to see the insects, said Ro Vaccaro, president of the Friends of the Monarchs in Pacific Grove, a town that hosts a Butterfly Parade, has a Monarch Avenue and slaps a $1,000 fine on anyone who molests a Monarch.

"The ones that made it are looking pretty good," Vaccaro said.

Monarchs are famous for both their beauty and their stamina. East of the Rocky Mountains, the butterflies make an extraordinary annual migration of thousands of miles, flying from summer habitats in the United States to wintering grounds in Central Mexico.

In California, the butterflies generally make a shorter journey, flying from the Central Valley to the Pacific Coast, but they are still popular with tourists and nature-lovers alike.

Volunteers spend hours peering through binoculars trying to count the butterflies as they huddle together, a difficult task that makes a precise count impossible.

"We try to count their feet and divide by six, but that doesn't always work," Vaccaro joked.

Still, the best estimates show a decline.

Dennis Frey, a professor of biological sciences at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, estimated there might be only a million Monarchs in California's 300 wintering sites this year, down from roughly 1.5 million last year.

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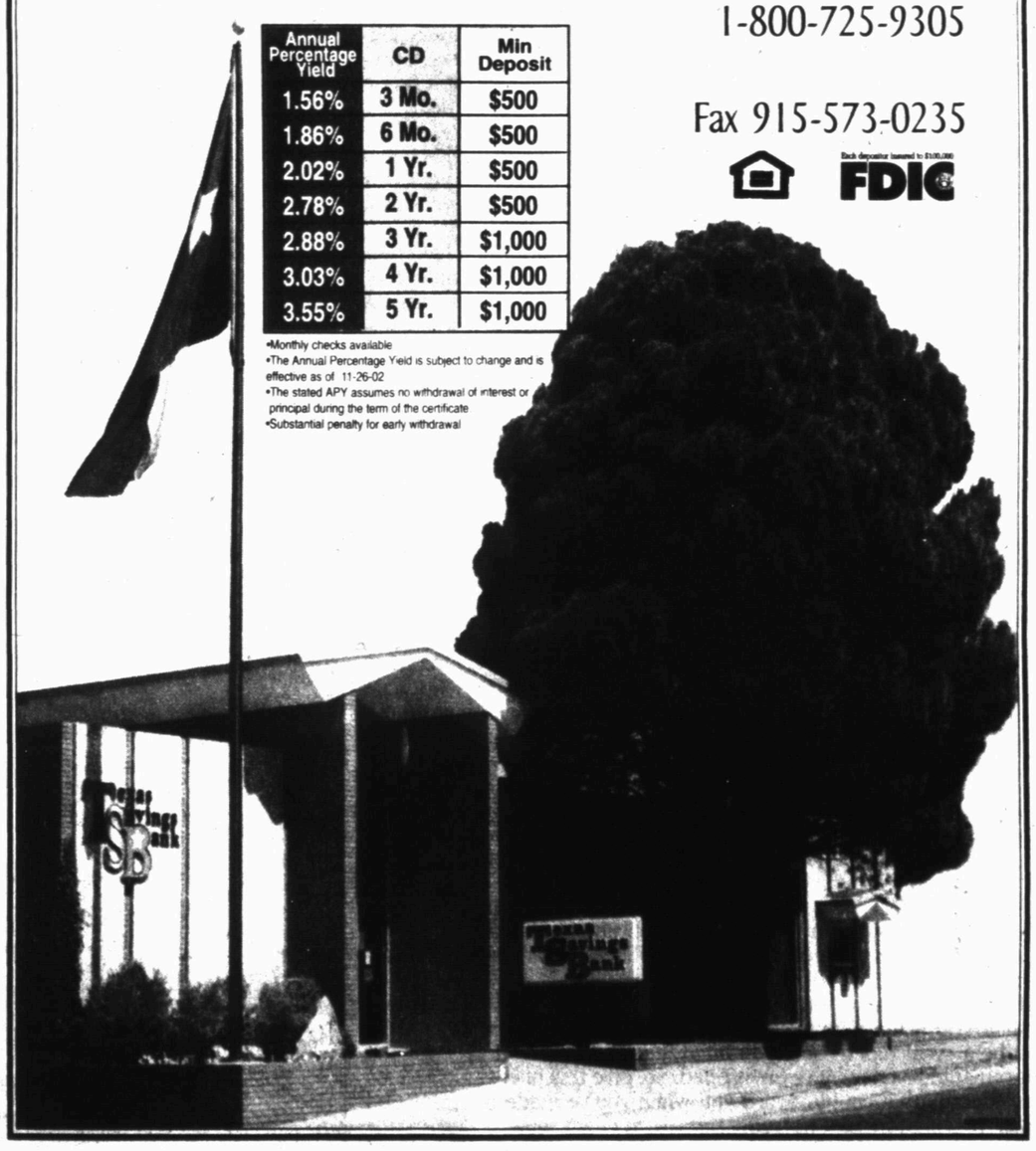

JAN 05 2003

A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS — Hermleigh kindergartners through 5th graders recently presented *A Storybook Christmas*. Students in kindergarten (first photo starting at left) include front row from left, George Delacruz and Anna Landin; middle row, Austin Merrick, Austin Belcher, Brock Vasquez, Kelby Greene and Lauren McQuirk; back row from left, Douglas Gilbert, Michael Portillo, Jessica Clark, Danielle Lambaren, Mary Ann Portillo and Chelsea Lambaren. Alex Martinez and Ramona Rodriguez are not pictured. First graders (second photo) include front row from left, Jesse Martinez, Betty Sanchez, Aaron Williamson, Trey Ford and Tyler Nachlinger; back row, Jonathan Nixon, Nathan Mayo, Walker Barrett and Cari Berry. Second graders (third photo) front row from left Kirsten Shankles, Felix Martinez, Aaron Williams, Aaron Lane and Kendall Benitez; back row from left, Armando Martinez, Barney Ramirez, Karsten Morrell and Catherine Witte. Third graders (fourth photo) include front row from left, Carly Gill and Delinda Dacus; back row, Fabian Fuentez, Larissa Nachlinger and Santos Reynoza. Fourth graders (fifth picture) include front row from left, Jordan Williamson, Duncan Sorrells and Jacob Nachlinger; back row from left, Senon Delacruz, Gloria Ramirez, Matt Williams and Lori Garcia. Fifth graders (sixth photo) include front row from left, Ricky Garcia and Shawn Shankles; middle row, Vincent Mireles, Jacob Sanchez and Shaye Williams; back row from left, Sean McClure, JP Smith, Anthony Jones, Naomi Arellano and Michael Redman. Not pictured are Dustin Dacus, Josh Beasley, Caroline Granados and Melanie Kariainen. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Four die in shooting

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A man using an assault-style rifle shot and killed his girlfriend and two convenience store workers Friday before turning the gun on himself, police said.

All four victims were declared dead at the scene.

Police said the man went into a home in Richmond's Southside before 6 p.m. and shot his 27-year-old girlfriend in a bedroom as children and other relatives watched.

The man then ran from the house several blocks to the Golden Food Market, where police said he shot and killed the owner of the store and an employee.

Neither their nor the gunman's identities were immediately released.

Tennis club provides college scholarships

EL PASO (AP) — On one of the chilliest evenings of winter, with the sun just a memory, a small group of students were hitting fuzzy yellow balls over the nets at a local tennis center.

"It was cold. My hands were numb in about 10 minutes," said Larry Haugness, the center's tennis director. "But I had 15 kids playing."

The kids — mostly from low-income families — play for free at the El Paso Youth Tennis Center. Lessons cost far less than instruction at country clubs and are provided free for students who can't afford them.

But in this mostly poor city, where tennis is considered a game for the rich, and college is a luxury, free lessons are not the biggest bonus for the students.

The center promises a way for some of them to go to college.

If they stay out of trouble, complete the year-round training program, maintain a "B" average and graduate from high school, they qualify for a four-year scholarship to a local college.

The scholarship program, open to students in grades six through 12, currently has five participants. Foundation officials hope to expand it to 16 kids.

"We use the tennis to get kids in here, but we're completely committed to getting kids to stay in school and go to college," said Debra Hester, the center's director of development.

In three years, the center has opened its doors to 30,000 kids. Center officials say they expect to reach 20,000 players each year.

Private donations have supplied $1.3 million for capital construction, including 22 lighted courts — two show courts have bleachers — a 3,000-square-foot clubhouse, locker rooms, showers, a weight room and a library with computer stations.

Each year on its show courts, the center hosts three U.S. Tennis Association national open tournaments and one International Tennis Federation junior tournament.

Hester is leading the drive to build an endowment for deferred maintenance and scholarships. Program expenses are about $250,000 each year, Hester said, two-thirds of which comes from grants.

Center officials say theirs is the largest public youth facility in El Paso. They plan to add a small jogging track and fitness stations this month.

Haugness said he expects some of his students to become competitive players. He said he already has three students who are attending college on tennis scholarships from the schools.

"The kids that play out here, you're going to see on television one of these days," he said. "My frustration is that nobody in El Paso even knows about it. People say, 'You can't get good in El Paso.' Well, you can because the opportunities are here."

Matthew Rivera is one of the players Haugness is watching. The 14-year-old started the tennis center's college-scholarship program a year ago.

"It was pretty neat to see that many courts in El Paso," Rivera said. "It's a lot of fun. There's a lot of good kids out there. Good training and good coaches."

Rivera is in a magnet program for math and science at his high school and regularly makes the honor roll.

"I'm hoping to get a college scholarship," he said, adding that he wants to attend the University of Texas at Austin.

Rivera's dream of attending college appears to be too rare among El Paso youths, according to Christy Balsiger, a self-described "tennis mom" who came up with the idea of the El Paso Youth Tennis Center. She is president of its board and a national official with the U.S. Tennis Association.

Balsiger said she recently visited an eighth-grade classroom and found that fewer than 5 percent of the students plan to go to college. Only 12 percent of the people in El Paso have a college degree, she said.

"We are finding we are approaching kids who don't have the going-to-college mentality," Balsiger said. "It's a brand new obstacle for us."

—

Fire engines are rarely used in La Paz, Bolivia, because the city is at an elevation of about 12,000 feet. At that altitude, it is difficult for fires to get started because there is less oxygen in the atmosphere.

Financial Focus

Can You Benefit From "Owner-Only" 401(k)?

If you own a business, and you and your spouse are the only employees, you may think that your retirement plan options are somewhat limited. But that's no longer the case. Thanks to recent tax law changes, it may now make sense for you to invest in one of the most popular retirement plans of all - a 401(k).

Up until 2002, you might not have considered setting up a 401(k). Even though this type of plan offered some important advantages, it also had some drawbacks for owner-only businesses. For one thing, the money you might have placed in a 401(k) would have been included as part of your total allowable contributions to most business retirement plans. Furthermore, you might have found it somewhat burdensome to administer a 401(k), which had traditionally been designed for larger companies.

However, thanks to the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA), things have changed. As of last year, you can now establish an "owner-only 401(k)" - sometimes referred to as an "Individual (k) plan" - and receive some big benefits.

And the biggest of these benefits is the high contribution limit that now applies. Before the tax law changes, the most you could contribute to all "defined contribution" plans - such as profit sharing and 401(k) plans - was 15 percent of your total compensation. Now that the new laws have gone into effect, though, you can put in up to 25 percent of your compensation in a profit-sharing plan, plus $12,000 (in 2003) as 401(k) contributions, provided you earn at least $12,000. That means you could actually contribute more than 100 percent of your compensation to your retirement plans - an extremely attractive concept if your spouse works in your business. (You can't contribute more than $40,000 per year, or 100 percent of your compensation - whichever is less.)

If you're 50 or older, you can even put in an extra $2,000 to your 401(k). Furthermore, both the 401(k) and 50-and-over "catch-up" limits will be increasing over the next several years, so you'll be able to put away even more money for retirement.

Apart from the new contribution limits, your owner-only 401(k) offers you other key advantages. First, of course, you get the same benefits offered by traditional 401(k) plans, including tax-deductible contributions, tax-deferred earnings and a variety of investment options. Also, you'll find that an owner-only 401(k) is quite easy to set up and administer. And, unlike other types of retirement plans for small-business owners, a 401(k) offers you a loan feature, so if you need money in a hurry, you can simply borrow from your account and pay yourself back. (Keep in mind, though, that your 401(k) is designed to help you pay for retirement; any loans you take out may slow the overall growth of your account.)

You don't even have to start an owner-only 401(k) from scratch. That's because you can transfer most retirement plan assets - profit sharing and money-purchase plans, "traditional" IRA and SEP-IRA - into your owner-only 401(k).

If you've looked on enviously for years at your friends and relatives with 401(k) plans, your time has come at last. The owner-only 401(k) can be a great tool to help you build the resources you need for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. So, give this plan some serious consideration - it could reward you when you've made the transition from "business owner" to "retiree."

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Government is proposing rules to ID all international travelers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government wants detailed information about every person who comes to or leaves the country by plane or boat, and for the first time will require U.S. citizens to fill out forms detailing their comings and goings.

Under rules proposed Friday, the information would be sent electronically to the government for matching against security databases.

"It's another way to enhance security for travelers," Immigration and Naturalization Service spokeswoman Kimberly Weismann said.

The public will have a month to comment on the plan and the final regulations will take effect later this year. The American Civil Liberties Union, which has criticized many of the administration's anti-terrorism information-gathering efforts, said these rules should not impinge on people's privacy.

"We don't see a huge downside," said spokeswoman Emily Whitfield.

Congress mandated the changes in legislation that was signed into law by President Bush last May. The law also tightened rules governing the issuance of visas to visitors and students coming to the United States and added more Border Patrol officers.

The proposal requires all passengers arriving or departing, as well as crew members, to provide this information: name, date of birth, citizenship, sex, passport number and country of issuance, country of residence, U.S. visa number and other details of its issuance, address while in the United States, and, where it applies, alien registration number.

All airlines, cargo flights, cruise ships and other vessels carrying crew or passengers will be affected, with the exception of most ferry boats. The information will be sent electronically to the government before a traveler arrives in the United States or departs from it, giving officials a complete passenger and crew manifest.

The law also gives Attorney General John Ashcroft leeway in proposing further requirements.

The aim is to detect potential terrorists or criminals immediately and to enhance the government's ability to track whether visitors to the United States have departed as planned.

The INS is weighing how long it will keep the information.

For years, international travelers have been required to fill out forms detailing their arrival and departure from countries around the world. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, the main goal was to speed travelers through customs.

The U.S. government, however, has not previously required its own citizens to submit such forms, and never required forms from departing travelers. Canadians, permanent resident aliens and certain other people also were exempted.

More than 29 million passengers flew to the United States from overseas in the first nine months of 2002, according to the Commerce Department. The cruise industry estimates that about 8 million U.S. passengers will embark in 2003.

Officials in the cruise and airline industries say the changes will be costly and could result in some initial delays and inconveniences for passengers.

"It'll be a little tricky at first but I don't see any major problems," said David O'Connor, U.S. director for the International Air Transport Association.

Industry officials agree the departure rules will present the most problems. Inbound ships and planes have an easier task because they already have a manifest of the crew and passengers on board, while those departing often must juggle last-minute passengers and delays caused by late-arriving connecting flights.

DONATION — The Mesquite Country Writers Guild, which meets at the Senior Citizens Center, presented a Christmas cash donation to Carla Thompson, Senior Center director. From left are MCWG president Helene Tutt; vice president Pam Mauldin, Mrs. Thompson and treasurer Virginia Wade. (Contributed Photo)

WINNERS — Winners in a poetry contest sponsored by the Mesquite Country Writers Guild include from left, Bert Johnson, Yvonne Nunn, Helene Tutt and Pam Mauldin. Not pictured are Betty Kellum and Von Bourland. (Contributed Photo)

Poetry contest winners named

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild, which meets at the Senior Citizens Center, recently presented a Christmas cash donation to Carla Thompson, center director.

Dr. Edward Barkowsky, professor of English at Western Texas College, also has completed judging poems for two forms: Dor Sim Bra and Ella Wilcox's *Will*.

Winners in Dor Sim Bra include first place Bert Johnson, for *Desire*; second, Helene Tutt, *Rainbow Promises*; and third, Pam Mauldin, *Beguiled*."

Will winners include first place, Von Bourland, *Farmer's Armour*; second, Betty Kellum, *Muse*; third, Yvonne Nunn, *Code Orange*.

Creighton medical school dean named to Texas Tech post

LUBBOCK (AP) — A Creighton University medical school administrator will be the new president of Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center, school officials said Friday.

Dr. M. Roy Wilson is dean of the school of medicine and vice president for health sciences at Creighton in Omaha, Neb.

He became dean at Creighton in 1998 and was named to the vice president's post a year later.

Texas law requires that finalists for top jobs at Texas public universities be publicly announced 21 days before the appointment is final.

Tech Chancellor David Smith said Wilson will start the job in June.

Wilson, an ophthalmologist, will become the first black president of a health sciences center in Texas and is one of a handful of black leaders of health sciences centers in the country.

He replaces Smith, who stepped down as president of the health sciences center when he was named chancellor in May 2002.

The Marine Corps was created in 1789 by an act of Congress.

Bush, Democrats prepare rival plans to stimulate the economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats and their new leader, Nancy Pelosi, said Friday they will propose new benefits and job opportunities for the unemployed next week, putting them at odds with President's Bush and assuring a quick and heated battle in the new Congress.

Pelosi said the Democrats' plan, to be announced Monday, would focus on job creation and wouldn't cost as much as Bush's proposals to expand tax breaks. The president is to outline his ideas on Tuesday, when the new Republican-controlled Congress convenes.

At a news conference, Pelosi also addressed the "very dangerous situation" in North Korea, expressing support for Bush's diplomatic approach.

"I am pleased, so far, that the same pre-emptive policy that has been professed for other parts of the world has been, shall we say, softened when it comes to North Korea," the California lawmaker said, referring to Iraq.

Pelosi urged the administration to press China, North Korea's closest ally, to do more to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Pelosi, about to become the first woman ever to lead either party in Congress, recalled a visit she made to North Korea several years ago. "I never saw anything like the poverty of spirit that I saw visiting North Korea. The people, of course, you know are starving. They are eating roots and grass. ... At the same time, they have the technology and the intellectual capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction."

Back at home, the White House and Democrats agree the government must act to help the struggling economy and the people whose livelihoods have been affected by the downturn, but their approaches are significantly different.

The president's plan, to be unveiled in a speech in Chicago on Tuesday, is likely to concentrate on tax relief — speeding up tax cuts included in the $1.35 trillion tax act of 2001 but not scheduled to take effect until later years, reducing by possibly half the current tax on corporate dividends paid to investors and increasing tax breaks for businesses investing in new plants and equipment.

Pelosi said the administration talks about economic stimulus but uses the term "as a Trojan horse to wheel in some favorite tax breaks for the high end that they're so fond of."

Pelosi wouldn't give details of her plan, but Democratic aides said it would center on three components: extending unemployment benefits and assuring that all laid-off workers are eligible for 26 weeks of federal aid; providing payroll tax relief and tax cuts for small businesses, and giving aid to states to promote infrastructure and homeland security projects.

"What we're talking about is something that will be immediate, that would be fiscally sound which would not have long-term harm to our budget," Pelosi said.

She said House Democrats were in contact with Democrats in the Senate, where Sen. Max Baucus of Montana has outlined a $160 billion plan that includes aid to the states, unemployment benefit extensions and elimination of taxes on the first $3,000 of taxable wage income.

A stimulus package is certain to be one of the first orders of business in the new Congress. Republicans narrowly control both houses, and could have trouble advancing the president's plan in the Senate, where it takes a 60-vote majority to move controversial legislation.

Bush on Thursday took issue with the Democratic argument that his tax breaks would mainly benefit the rich.

"Some would like to turn this into class warfare," he said from his ranch in Crawford, Texas. "That's not how I think. I think about the overall economy and how best to help those folks who are looking for work."

In 1859, a prospector laid claim to a silver deposit in Six Mile Canyon in Nevada — a claim that later turned out to be the multimillion-dollar Comstock Lode.

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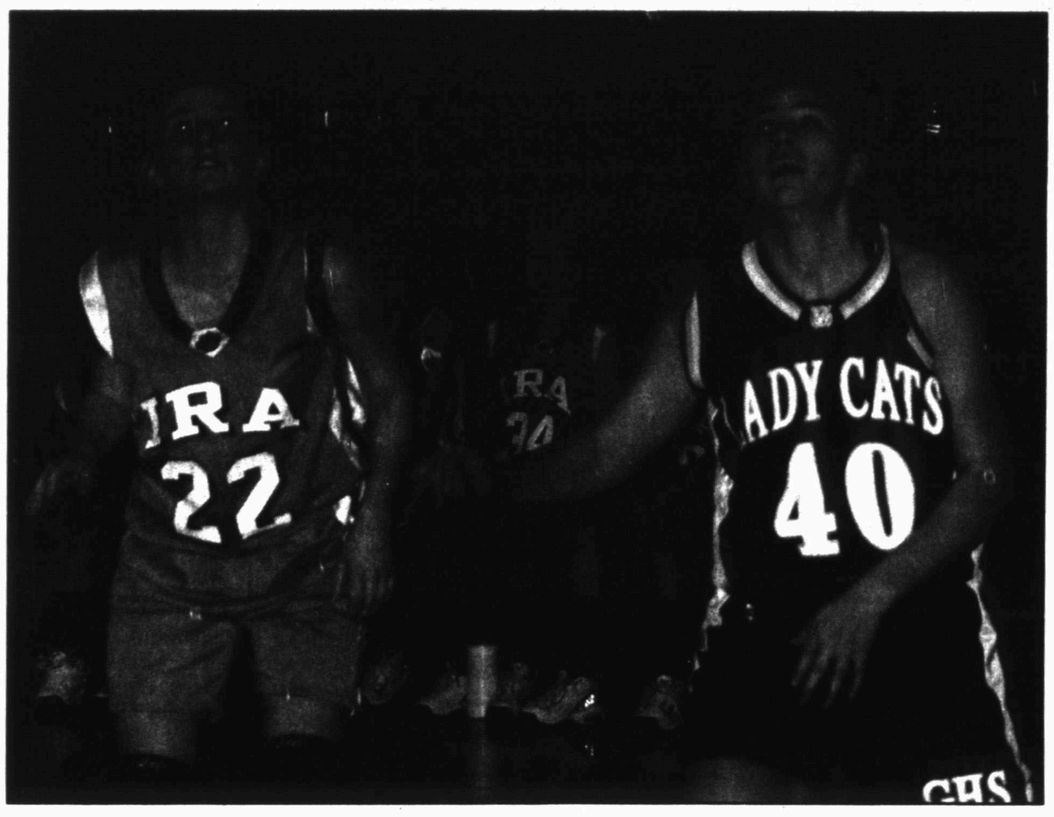


BOXING OUT — Lady Bulldog Michelle Nettles watches a free throw shot fall in during the third quarter of Friday's district opener against Grady. Nettles scored 11 points as the Lady Bulldogs whipped Grady, 50-40. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Bulldogs 'picture perfect' against Grady

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

IRA — Lady Bulldog head coach Brent Parr got the kind of performance from his team in the first half Friday he has been seeking all year.

With intense focus on defense and a patient offense that set up — and hit — good shots, the Ira varsity girls jumped out to a 26-14 halftime lead on their way to a 50-40 triumph over Grady in the district opener for both schools.

"The first half was picture perfect," Parr said. "The offense stayed patient and we got opportunities to get the ball inside."

The Lady Bulldogs (13-7, 1-0) seized control of the contest from the outset, outhustling the Lady Cats for loose balls and rebounds, and their defensive focus forced Grady into numerous turnovers.

The intensity from the girls was noticeable from the tip off, as the team scrambled for errant passes and pounced on mistakes from Grady.

"That is something we have been working on," Parr said. "We talked about playing with more intensity before this game."

Celeigh Sterling once again paced Ira on the scoreboard, racking up 15 points with a high shooting percentage.

"We talked about not being afraid to shoot, and tonight we hit shots," Parr said.

Michelle Nettles nailed two treys on her way to eight points, and Parr said it was "her best offensive game of the season — she shot with confidence."

Ira controlled the glass, getting second chances by being in better position to grab rebounds on both ends of the court.

"The girls did a good job blocking out," Parr said, adding that he saw a lot of improvement in every facet of the game.

Amanda Calley had a solid, all-around effort, knocking in 11 points and pulling down seven rebounds.

Lindsey Wilson drained seven, and her presence inside allowed the perimeter game to good open looks to the basket.

Parr said the victory helps Ira set the tone for district, and the performance by the Lady Bulldogs means other teams will have to take note of another competitive team in district.

"Winning the district opener is important," he said. "We wanted to prove that we could play in district. Every team (in district) is a good team, and we will have to play our best every night."

He said the vocal fan support gave the team a boost. "It helped to be at home."

The effort against a solid Grady club should open the eyes of Dawson, which will host the Lady Bulldogs Tuesday evening at 6:30.

"This gives the other teams the idea that they have to think about us," Parr said.

Legendary Sid Gillman dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sid Gillman was years ahead of his time in the game of football. The proof will be on display this weekend as the NFL playoffs begin.

Gillman, the Hall of Fame coach who was one of the masterminds behind the West Coast offense used by several of the NFL's best teams, died early Friday. He was 91.

Gillman died at home in his sleep, his wife, Esther, said.

"We loved watching football, we were so looking forward to the playoffs," Esther Gillman said. "My life with him was wonderful, the memories, we shared so much."

Gillman coached the Los Angeles Rams from 1955-59 and the Chargers in Los Angeles and San Diego from 1960-69 — their first 10 years of existence — and again in 1971. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1983 and also was a member of the National Football Hall of Fame.

In 18 years as coach of the Rams, Chargers and Houston Oilers, Gillman had a 123-104-7 record.

Former Chargers running back Keith Lincoln remembers Gillman at his best in the AFL.

"He was so innovative," Lincoln said. "When we won the championship in '63, during the regular season we played Boston twice so we were playing them for the third time for the championship. He showed them some things that we hadn't done before. I think that's what gave us the advantage in that game."

Al Davis, who coached the Oakland Raiders from 1963-65 when he and Gillman were AFL coaching rivals, called Gillman "the flagship for the modern-day passing game."

"It was my good fortune to know him for 50-60 years, be a part of his life," said Davis, the Raiders' managing general partner. "Obviously, he exerted an influence on my life. The great ones, time never ends for them. Immortality is real when it comes to those people. I am sad. We'll miss him greatly."

The West Coast offense has been used by several successful teams over the years, including the Raiders, San Francisco 49ers and St. Louis Rams.

And the New York Jets made their run to the playoffs with such an approach.

The 49ers, quarterbacked by Joe Montana and Steve Young, used it to win five Super Bowls in the 1980s and 1990s. The Rams won the title three years ago.

It's similar to the passing offense Gillman used, one that spreads the field horizontally and vertically to open up passing lanes and give quarterbacks more options to throw the ball.

Gorillas down Cards, 68-39

TRENT — Two Hermleigh cagers hit in double figures Friday, but it wasn't enough to get past the Trent Gorillas who sprinted out to a 21-6 first-quarter lead in claiming the district opener, 68-39.

Senior Terrel Culp pumped in 14 points, and Jonathan McClure added 12 for the Cardinals, who only dressed five players for the contest.

"I wasn't disappointed with the effort," head coach Don Jones said. "We are seeing some improvements."

The Williamson twins — Dustin and Justin — combined for eight points, with the former netting five.

Robby Anderson scored three for Hermleigh, who hope to have a full roster for Tuesday's district showdown with Blackwell at home at 6:30 p.m.

Denver City steals one from Snyder

DENVER CITY — An inability to hit freebies finally caught up with the Lady Tigers.

Leading by 11 points heading into the final quarter, Snyder (15-6, 0-1) missed five free throw attempts down the stretch, allowing Denver City to steal a 38-37 victory at the buzzer.

"We lost the game in the last 30 seconds," assistant coach Stephanie McKnight said. "We were up by 10 most of the game. We have got to make easy shots, and we've got to hit free throws."

The Lady Mustangs dominated the boards in the fourth quarter, grabbing five off the offensive glass in shocking Snyder at the end.

Still, the Lady Tigers had a chance to put the game away, but missed three consecutive one-and-ones, then both ends of a two shot penalty as the game drew to a close.

"We shot ourselves in the foot and gave the game away," McKnight said. "We beat ourselves. Coach Martin told them after the game that champions make plays. We didn't make plays (Friday)."

Erin Burleson played another tremendous all-around game, posting 18 points, eight rebounds and four steals, while Zipporah Peoples knocked in eight.

Hailey Putnam, who canned seven, twisted an ankle late in the contest, and her status for Tuesday's 6:30 p.m. tilt at Seminole is uncertain.

Late Bulldog surge not enough; Grady claims district opener, 60-51

IRA — The Ira Bulldogs showed they are not quite there yet by digging themselves into an early hole Friday.

They also showed they aren't that far away, either.

Clamping down on defense and nailing big buckets down the stretch, the Bulldogs climbed to within seven behind 26 fourth-quarter points in falling to fourth-ranked Grady, 60-51.

"I'm so proud of these kids," head coach Randy Jones said. "They never quit. We played defense in the second half as well as we have all season."

Jones said the game was "by far our best defensive effort of the year."

Ira (9-7, 0-1) did not shoot well to start the contest, and fell behind by 15 to close out the second half, 36-21.

The Bulldogs also suffered because of early foul trouble by post player Jake Barnes, giving Grady a tremendous size advantage when the junior standout was relegated to the bench in the second quarter.

"They hurt us on the boards when Jake was out," Jones said. "And we were not patient. We did not have enough offense early."

The Bulldogs were helped by the unexpected start of Eric Dickerhoff, who was in the hospital Wednesday following an automobile accident. Coaches first felt he may be unable to play for an extended stretch, but the senior guard showed grit in playing with a deep bruise to his left shoulder.

Dickerhoff played all 32 minutes, diving for loose balls and aggressively penetrating the lane on his way to 13 points.

"That's senior leadership," Jones said. "He has a big heart and he is a competitor."

The Bulldogs had taken all of Grady's momentum in the fourth quarter, when an intentional foul call set tempers blazing.

Jess Wall was called for an intentional foul at mid-court, and Jones was given a technical for vehemently arguing his case with the game officials.

"It didn't cost us the game, but it sure didn't help us," Jones said of the call and the resulting technical.

Jake Barnes was a major force when he was wasn't confined to the pine, leading all players with 15 points and hitting five of six free throw attempts.

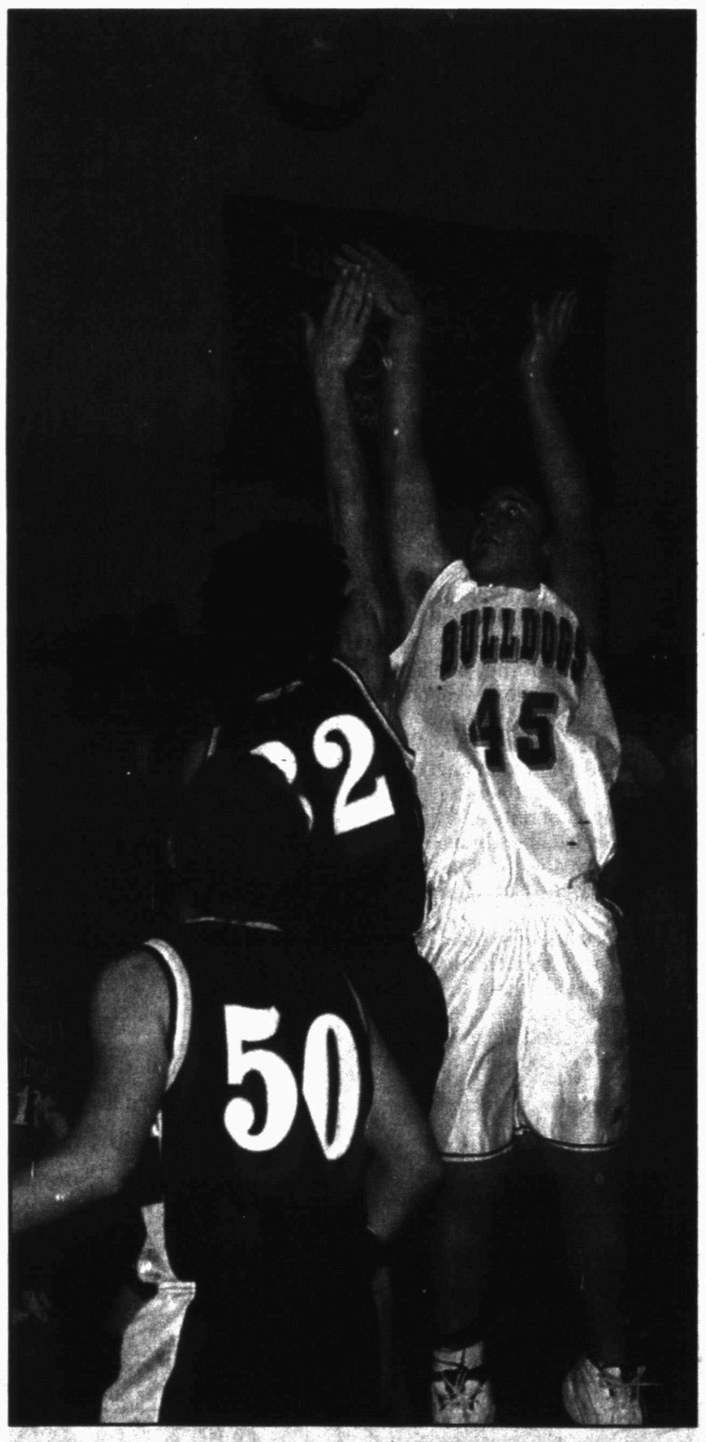
Barnes also held Grady's best player, Brent Madison, to 11 points.

Wall finished with 11 for Ira.

"Grady is a very good team and I give them credit," Jones said. "They are number four (in the state coaches poll) and have only lost one game."

Jones said the Bulldogs are a confident group that expects to win every time it steps onto the court.

"We have a willingness to finish," he said. "These kids believe in themselves and believe they are better than whatever team they play. If we play with the same intensity that we played with tonight, we'll be there."



OUT OF REACH – Bulldog junior post player Jake Barnes shoots over Grady's Trent May and Brent Madison (50) during Ira's fourth-quarter comeback attempt. The Bulldogs fell, 60-51, to fourth-ranked Grady in the district opener (SDN Staff Photo)

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SPORTS

Buckeyes claim national title

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Two nerve-racking overtimes and a delayed officials' call were hardly too long to endure for a team waiting 34 years for another national title.

Showing patience and poise of a champion, Ohio State outlasted Miami in one college football's greatest games, beating the Hurricanes 31-24 Friday night in the Fiesta Bowl.

"At least once a week we have one play where it's the last play in the world and it means everything," All-American safety Mike Doss said. "We stepped up to the challenge."

On this night, the Buckeyes needed many plays to derail the Hurricanes' run for back-to-back national titles and snap their 34-game winning streak.

Craig Krenzel engineered two touchdown drives in overtime — with help from a delayed penalty — and the relentless Ohio State defense came up with a goal-line stand in this shocking, thrilling season-ender.

The confident 'Canes rushed onto the field at one point thinking they had won, only to learn that a pass-interference call game the Buckeyes another chance in the first overtime.

Krenzel tied the game with his second touchdown and freshman Maurice Clarett scored on a 5-yard run in the second overtime to give the second-ranked Buckeyes (14-0) the win over No. 1 Miami (12-1). Ohio State was an 11½-point underdog.

"It's no different than what we've done all year," Krenzel said. "We make plays in the big games when we have to."

Miami's Todd Sievers sent the game into overtime with his 40-yard field goal on the final play of the fourth quarter.

The Buckeyes' punishing defense rattled and pounded Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey all night.

And on the last play of the game, on fourth-and-goal at the 1, Cie Grant blitzed and forced Dorsey to heave a desperation pass that linebacker Matt Wilhelm batted to the ground.

"It hurts. Losing hurts," Dorsey said. "For me, it hurts even more. thinking back to what this team has done. I should have made some of those throws, and I take responsibility for that."

While Miami coach Larry Coker lost for the first time in 25 games, Tressel has a major college title to add to the four he won in Division I-AA at Youngstown State.

Nine times since Woody Hayes coached the Buckeyes to the 1968 title, Ohio State lost a late-season game that cost it a possible championship. But the Buckeyes finally brought the title back to Columbus with a conservative offense and fierce defense that Hayes would have loved.

The fantastic finish was nothing new for Ohio State this season. The Buckeyes won six games by seven points or fewer.

After Kellen Winslow Jr.'s 7-yard TD catch gave Miami a 24-17 lead in the first overtime, Krenzel converted a fourth-and-14 pass.

The Buckeyes then faced a fourth-and-3 at the 5 when Krenzel threw to the right corner of the end zone for Chris Gamble, who was being covered Glenn Sharpe.

As Gamble reached back for the ball, he got his hands on it but couldn't hold on. Seconds later, field judge Terry Porter threw a flag from the back of the end zone indicating pass interference even as Miami players and fans spilled onto the field.

"He was holding me. He was in my facemask and my shoulder pads," Gamble said. "I was waiting for the flag, but he kind of hesitated. I didn't see him going for the flag and I thought, 'He ain't going to throw it.' Luckily, he did, and I'm like, 'Whew.'"

Porter said: "I saw the guy holding the guy prior to the ball being in the air. He was still holding him, pulling him down while the ball was in the air."

Order was restored quickly, and three plays later Krenzel scored from the 1 to send the game to a second OT.

Dorsey, a Heisman Trophy finalist, finished off his career with just his second loss in 40 starts. Willis McGahee, the Hurricanes' other Heisman finalist, left early in the fourth quarter with an injured left knee.

The Associated Press poll of writers and broadcasters was released early Saturday with the Buckeyes No. 1. They also were the champions of the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, which automatically goes to the Fiesta winner, this season's designated Bowl Championship Series title game.

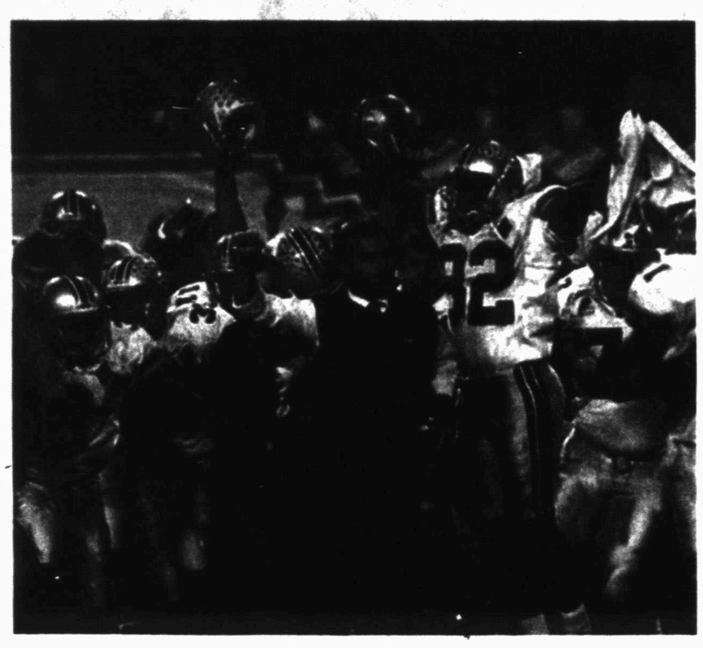
Ohio State led 14-7 at the half, and extended the margin to 10 points on Mike Nugent's 44-yard field goal. The 'Canes closed to 17-14 on McGahee's 9-yard scoring run with 2:11 left in the third quarter. And that set the stage for Sievers' kick, leaving the Sun Devil Stadium crowd of 77,502 breathless.

The Buckeyes' ferocious defense had Dorsey in trouble from the opening series with two sacks. Although Ohio State fell behind 7-0 on Dorsey's 25-yard pass to Roscoe Parrish, the constant pressure paid huge dividends in the second quarter as the Buckeyes took a 14-7 halftime lead, turning two turnovers into touchdowns in a 78-second span.

After an interception by Doss, Krenzel tied it with a fourth-down run from the 1 with 2:28 left in the half.

On the next play from scrimmage, Dorsey dropped back to pass, but defensive tackle Kenny Peterson came around from the right side and spun him to the ground as the ball came loose. Darrion Scott recovered at the Miami 14.

Clarett then scored from 7 yards out with 1:10 left.



UPSET SPECIAL — Head Coach Jim Tressel leads the celebration after Ohio State upset 11½-point favorite Miami, 31-24, in one of the most thrilling college football games ever played. The win gave the Buckeyes their first title since 1968. (AP Photo)

Baseball players may pursue collusion evidence by owners

NEW YORK (AP) — The baseball players' association has asked agents to keep detailed records of negotiations involving free agents, a possible prelude to another collusion case against owners.

Several agents have told the union their clients received similar offers from several different teams, three agents said this week on the condition they not be identified.

Union officials asked them to maintain the records of the bids, and the three agents said the union was contemplating a collusion grievance. Baseball's labor contract says teams may not act in concert with regard to free agents.

In the 1980s, owners were found by arbitrators to have conspired against free agents during three offseasons, and management settled those cases in 1990 for $280 million.

The union wouldn't comment on the possibility of a collusion case, and Gene Orza, the associate general counsel of the players' association, said Friday that requesting agents to keep records was not unusual. The agents, however, said the union has emphasized record-keeping more than in recent years.

"Asking agents to keep good notes of negotiating meetings is nothing new," said Orza, the union's No. 2 official. "We've been doing it the last 15 years. It's the way we monitor the market. The operation of the free-agency market is always a concern for us."

While agents point to the relative lack of bidders for high-profile free agents such as Greg Maddux, Jim Thome and Ivan Rodriguez, management officials point to the aggressive bidding for free agents by the Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees, New York Mets, Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs.

Management also says the weak economy has caused clubs to retrench and that the lack of top free agents in the primes of their careers has hurt prices.

"Any thought there has been any violation of our newly negotiated collective bargaining agreement is both disappointing and farfetched," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

"The market is behaving as it always does, reacting to economic stimuli and the quality of the players on the marketplace. There have been numerous free agents who have attracted attention from any number of clubs. I can state unequivocally that there has been nothing done in contravention of the Basic Agreement."

If owners are found to have violated their labor contract once again, the damages would be much larger than in the 1980s. The average salary in the major leagues increased from $412,000 in 1987 to $2.3 million last year, and since 1990 the labor contract has included a provision that any collusion damages be tripled.

All of the agents spoke on the condition they not be identified, citing their need to negotiate with teams for their remaining free-agent clients.

The agents all recounted similar experiences: Their clients received similar initial offers from several teams and only signed when one of those teams, after many days of negotiations, finally made a higher bid.

This practice is different from the collusion cases of the mid-1980s. The union accused owners of boycotting free agents after the 1985 and 1986 seasons and of sharing their offers to free agents following the 1987 season as part of an "information bank."

Arbitrator Thomas Roberts ruled for the players in the first case, and arbitrator George Nicolau ruled for them in the second and third cases. Thirty-four players, including Kirk Gibson and Carlton Fisk, were granted another chance to become free agents.

Roberts ordered teams to pay $10.5 million in damages for 1986, and Nicolau ordered $102.5 million in damages for 1987 and 1988.

Duncan leads Spurs over Warriors

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — With the game on the line, the Golden State Warriors could only watch in amazement as Tim Duncan ran down the court and showed off another move.

"It's hard to put into words, to describe Tim," Golden State's Antawn Jamison said of the reigning MVP, who scored a season-high 37 points in the Spurs' 98-95 victory Friday night.

Duncan made 14 of his 18 field-goal attempts and went 9-of-9 from the line. He also had nine rebounds and four assists, and he led the Spurs in scoring for the 13th straight time.

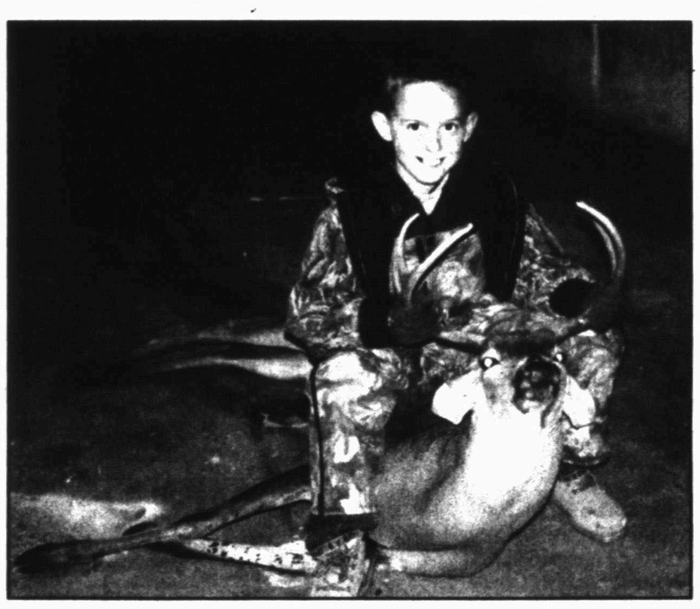
"Tim is playing MVP basketball, unfortunately we're having a hard time finding people to join him," coach Gregg Popovich said. "We needed a win and we got it. Wins are always good."

The Spurs had lost two in a row, and three of four on their road trip — all to sub-.500 teams. In their last defeat, 105-103 at Washington on Tuesday night, Duncan had a then-season high of 35 points and also grabbed 13 rebounds.

Duncan has 24 double-doubles this season, second only to Kevin Garnett.

"He was just typical Tim Duncan," Jamison said. "It is amazing how consistent he is."

Jamison did his best to match Duncan with 37 points.



FIRST BUCK — Ten-year-old Kolton Stokes killed his first buck, a seven-pointer, in November in Scurry County. His parents are John and Deana Stokes of Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
New Jersey	24	9	.727	—
Boston	19	13	.594	4½
Philadelphia	19	13	.594	4½
Orlando	18	17	.514	7
Washington	15	17	.469	8½
New York	12	17	.414	10
Miami	12	20	.375	11½
Central Division				
Indiana	23	9	.719	—
Detroit	20	10	.667	2
New Orleans	20	15	.571	4½
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	10½
Atlanta	12	19	.387	10½
Chicago	11	21	.344	12
Toronto	8	25	.242	15½
Cleveland	7	27	.206	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Dallas	26	5	.839	—
San Antonio	21	13	.618	6½
Utah	19	13	.594	7½
Houston	17	13	.567	8½
Minnesota	17	14	.548	9
Memphis	10	22	.313	16½
Denver	7	24	.226	19
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	23	9	.719	—
Phoenix	20	12	.625	3
Portland	19	12	.613	3½
Seattle	16	16	.500	7
L.A. Lakers	13	19	.406	10
Golden State	12	20	.375	11
L.A. Clippers	12	21	.364	11½

Thursday's Games
Washington 107, Chicago 82
Dallas 102, L.A. Clippers 92
Phoenix 96, Philadelphia 78

Friday's Games
Cleveland 81, Toronto 80
Portland 108, Boston 103
New Jersey 100, Miami 80
New York 98, Indiana 96
Memphis 116, L.A. Clippers 111
Utah 118, Milwaukee 115
New Orleans 100, Orlando 89
San Antonio 98, Golden State 95
Denver 94, Seattle 82

Saturday's Games
Philadelphia at Dallas, 1:30 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games
New Orleans at Toronto, 3:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Portland at New York, 7 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Final AP Top 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Ohio St. (71)	14-0	1,775	2
2. Miami	12-1	1,693	1
3. Georgia	13-1	1,598	4
4. Southern Cal	11-2	1,590	5
5. Oklahoma	12-2	1,476	8
6. Texas	11-2	1,363	9
7. Kansas St.	11-2	1,356	6
8. Iowa	11-2	1,334	3
9. Michigan	10-3	1,182	12
10. Washington St.	10-3	1,085	7
11. Alabama	10-3	988	13
12. N.C. State	11-3	943	17
13. Maryland	11-3	844	20
14. Auburn	9-4	821	19
15. Boise St.	12-1	692	18
16. Penn St.	9-4	675	10
17. Notre Dame	10-3	657	11
18. Virginia Tech	10-4	544	21
19. Pittsburgh	9-4	520	24
20. Colorado	9-5	307	14
21. Florida St.	9-5	291	16
22. Virginia	9-5	250	—
23. TCU	10-2	231	—
24. Marshall	11-2	201	—
25. West Virginia	9-4	195	15

Others receiving votes: Florida 120, Texas Tech 80, Oklahoma St. 73, Boston College 52, Colorado St. 44, LSU 38, South Florida 27, Wisconsin 15, Minnesota 4, Arkansas 3, Air Force 2, Hawaii 2, Purdue 2, Fresno St. 1, North Texas 1.

NFL Playoffs

All Times EST
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4
AFC
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
NFC
Atlanta at Green Bay, 8 p.m. (ABC)
Sunday, Jan. 5
AFC
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12
AFC
Indianapolis, Cleveland or N.Y. Jets at Oakland
Indianapolis, New York or Pittsburgh at Tennessee
NFC
San Francisco, N.Y. Giants or Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Atlanta, N.Y. Giants or San Francisco at Philadelphia

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
AFC Championship and NFC Championship
3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At San Diego
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:18 p.m.

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC, TBA (ABC)

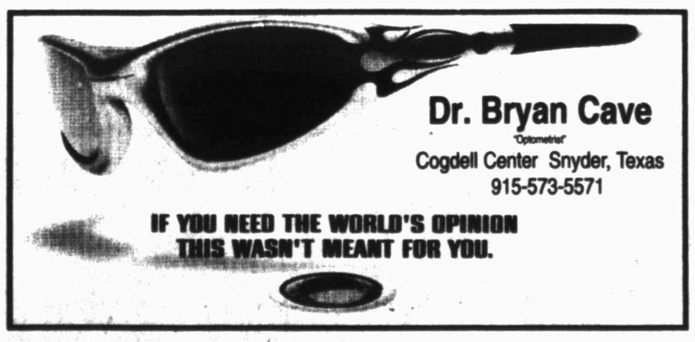
National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
New Jersey	21	11	2	3	47	88	75
Philadelphia	19	10	8	1	47	87	78
Pittsburgh	16	15	3	5	40	113	116
N.Y. Islanders	17	16	5	0	39	106	110
N.Y. Rangers	15	20	5	1	36	99	129
Northeast Division							
Ottawa	24	9	5	0	53	128	84
Boston	21	12	4	1	47	119	100
Toronto	19	15	4	1	43	111	95
Montreal	16	15	5	3	40	106	117
Buffalo	9	22	5	2	25	85	109
Southeast Division							
Washington	18	16	4	2	42	105	111
Tampa Bay	17	14	5	3	42	114	111
Florida	12	11	9	7	40	92	111
Carolina	15	16	5	3	38	87	101
Atlanta	10	23	1	4	25	92	142
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
Detroit	22	9	7	1	52	119	92
St. Louis	20	12	5	2	47	126	101
Chicago	19	13	6	0	44	90	83
Columbus	13	19	4	2	32	106	117
Nashville	10	18	6	4	30	79	106
Northwest Division							
Vancouver	23	11	5	0	51	124	99
Minnesota	21	11	7	1	50	106	90
Colorado	15	10	9	5	44	110	99
Edmonton	17	13	4	5	43	102	101
Calgary	12	18	6	3	33	82	106
Pacific Division							
Dallas	21	10	9	1	52	122	80
Los Angeles	16	15	4	3	39	98	104
Anaheim	15	15	6	3	39	97	101
Phoenix	15	16	6	3	39	104	118
San Jose	15	16	4	3	37	104	115

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

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

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 8:30 p.m.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The Publisher is not responsible for copy omissions, typographical errors, or any unintentional error that may occur further than to correct it in the next issue after it is brought to his attention.

Classified Ads $17.55 for 5 days, get the 6th day FREE!!
15 words or less
(Excluding Garage Sales & Displays)

Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is receiving sealed bids for the purchase of a new 2003 complete sanitation truck. The specifications may be picked up at the City Hall in the accounting department. The bids will be received until Monday, January 20th, 2003. at 4:00 P.M. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is receiving sealed bids for the purchase of a new half ton pickup. The specifications may be picked up at the City Hall in the accounting department. The bids will be received until Monday, January 20th, 2003 at 3:30 P.M. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Notice of Salvage Disposition

The Railroad Commission of Texas has disposed of equipment and/or hydrocarbons pursuant to Section 89.085 of the Texas Natural Resources Code. Any person with a legal or equitable ownership or security interest in the equipment or hydrocarbons that was in existence on the date the Midland District Office filed the 30 day certified notice to the Operator, may file a claim with the Commission. Contact the Midland District Office at (915) 684-5581 to obtain a claim form.

SFP & A # 8A-12424
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
Ira Cemetery Association Lease (63633)
Wells: 1
Sharon Ridge (1700) Field
Scurry County, Texas

SFP & A # 8A-12425
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
1st Nat'l Bank of Snyder -B- Lease (63103)
Wells: 1
Sharon Ridge (Clearfork) Field
Scurry County, Texas

SFP & A 8A-12426
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
Mullins Lease (61615)
Wells: 1, 2, & 6
Sharon Ridge (1700) Field
Scurry County, Texas

SFP & A 8A-12427
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
Mullins Lease (61567)
Wells: 3, 4, & 7
Sharon Ridge (Clearfork) Field
Scurry County, Texas

SFP & A 8A-12429
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
Taylor Lease (63233)
Wells:
Sharon Ridge () Field
Scurry County, Texas

SFP & A 8A-12430
Omni Operating Co. (A) 622738
Willard Lease (67026)
Wells: 1
Sharon Ridge (Clearfork) Field
Scurry County, Texas

Legal Notice

Danny Miles
State Plugger 08/8A

Lost & Found

LOST
Black, female,
long hair, Shar-Pei dog.
Call Mrs. A.M. Boyd, 573-9801.

Vehicles

1966 Mustang
Black w/red interior.
Extra clean, runs good. $6,000
574-2049

1997 Ford F350 crew cab, 4-wheel drive, gasoline or propane. Excellent condition. New motor & clutch. Will wholesale. 915-737-2403 or 338-4949.

Dependable 1994 Pontiac Sunbird. 4dr, mags w/ tires(with warranty) $1200. Also, 1984 Isuzu. 573-0846

Business Services

A COMPUTER PROBLEM?
"Don't Unplug, we come to you."
Repair, Upgrades,
Networking, Tutoring, etc.
Fast Track Computer Service
573-8995

Antique Restoring
& Furniture Refinishing
Re-gluing & Veneering
Free Estimates, Work Guaranteed
863-2342 Hermleigh, TX

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

HANDYMAN
Can fix anything, inside or out.
Painting, cut trees, haul, yard work.
573-3894 725-2151

R & J CONSTRUCTION
Metal buildings, Roofs
Carports & Fences
John Green 573-3976

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 915-573-8264

WILL HAUL
Clean your garage or house.
Will move furniture.
For estimates call
Tim 573-3047

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held on January 7th, 2003 at 10a.m., at North Steps of the Scurry County Courthouse located at 1802 25th Street, Snyder, Texas.

The following abandoned vehicles will be sold under the terms and provisions of the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Article 1436-3, VPC.

1.	1990 Chevrolet Blazer	VIN#1GNEV18K0LF129996
2.	1975 Chevrolet Pickup	VIN#CCY145S121537
3.	1975 Pontiac 2 Door	VIN#2Z27F5L112988
4.	1982 Volk 2H	VIN#1VWBB0178CV022024
5.	1987 Pontiac 4 Door	VIN#2G2AF51R7H9204586
6.	1979 Chevrolet Pickup	VIN#CCS449F462603
7.	1990 Ford Van	VIN#1FMCA11U1LZB69084
8.	1981 Oldsmobile 2 Door	VIN#1G3AM47A6BR530454
9.	1992 Ford 4 Door	VIN#1FACP50U4NA125051
10.	1998 Ford UT	VIN#1FMZU32E5WZC03312
11.	1994 Geo 2 Door	VIN#2C1MR2468R6792319

Darren Jackson, Sheriff
Scurry County, Texas

BY: (s) W.C. West, Deputy
Date Posted: 12-27-2002

ALWAYS A WINNER THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

COPY BOOKS BY HAND
No exp. necessary, only legible writers, please. **419-535-6731**

Dependable person in Snyder to operate wheel loader. Must have CDL & cell phone. Call 915-690-0088.

KITCHEN HOSTESS
First Baptist Church
Responsible for planning, total preparation and serving of a meal for approximately 100 people on Wednesday nights. This also includes purchasing supplies and the cleaning and sanitation of the kitchen. Experienced in food service a plus. Training in food safety and sanitation rules preferred. Pick up application in church office at 1701 27th and return by January 31st.

LVN's all shifts.
Call Rotan Health Care
Sandi Martin, D.O.N. 735-2233

Now taking applications for LVNs and CNAs at Snyder Healthcare Center. 5311 Big Spring Hwy - Snyder,TX. EOE

The Snyder Independent School District is accepting applications for Substitute Teaching Positions. Minimum requirements: 21 years of age, 60 college hours. Applications may be secured by contacting the personnel office, Snyder Independent School District, 2901 37th Street, Snyder, TX 79549 or call Dr. Melissa Jones, Assistant Superintendent, or Janet Davis, Personnel Secretary at 915-573-5401. Snyder ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

Simple, easy way to build $5,000+ monthly income part-time from home! Free assistance. E-mail: arlie@consultant.com

Laid off? Work from home. Be your own Bo$$! First, call the Federal Trade Commission to find out how to spot work-at-home schemes.
1-877-FTC-HELP
A message from The Snyder Daily News & the Federal Trade Commission.

Financial

Advance-Fee Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit **before** you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC HELP. A public service message from Snyder Daily News and the Federal Trade Commission.

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads. Call today!

Woman's Column

Company's Gone! It's cleaning time. Need help? Call us! Experienced. References. 573-7593, 573-8249, 338-5038

MARY KAY COSMETICS
Complimentary Facial
or Reorders!
Call Geraldine Thames
915-573-9433, 1812 38th Snyder

Farmer's Column

HAY FOR SALE
Round Coastal & #2 Alfalfa
Square-Wheat, Sudan, Coastal
Also, 6700 Ford Tractor
w/ cab & air 4950 hrs.
Ross Preston
573-1217 725-9444

Merchandise

(4) lighted glass cases.
(6) flower bedding tables.
(1) Refrigerated flower box.
735-2581 or 735-3211

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE
Large selection of books
40% off!
Come by Snyder Daily News
Mon. – Fri. 8a.m. – 5p.m.

Amazing metabolism breakthrough. Lose 20–200 lbs. Results guaranteed. Free samples. Herbalife Distributor. 1-888-836-5536

AVON
Free Samples, Catalogs.
Big Discounts on Cash & Carry!
573-0990/573-5525 (Ind. Sales Rep)

CAROL'S
CRITTER CORNER
BOOK NOOK
BABY. . . and Before
& More!
1809 25th 573-0990

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

Digital Big Screen TV
Take on small payments.
Good Credit Required.
1-800-398-3970

Firewood Delivered
Mesquite & split oak.
573-1535, leave message.

FIREWOOD!! Mesquite!
Local cutter. Part seasoned.
24"-22"-20"-18". Some split.
Delivered. **573-1216**

Large oak dining table w/six chairs. Excellent condition! Call 573-7874.

Merchandise

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

Pentium computer, internet ready, Windows 98, zip drive, needs monitor. $150 573-8780

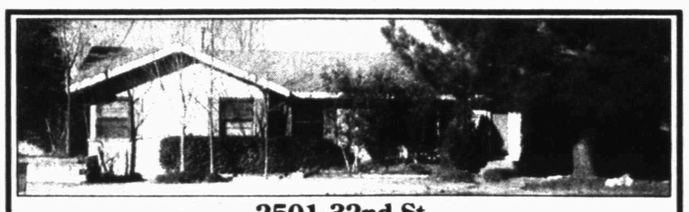
For results, use Snyder Daily News Classified ads. 573-5486

Merchandise

YOUR TRASH CAN BE MY **TREASURE**
I buy/sell estates. Call Jackie, 573-1800 573-3631 721-4430

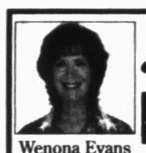
Newspaper End Rolls
$1.00 & Up
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News today!

Plant a classified ad . . . reap a cash crop. Call 573-5486.

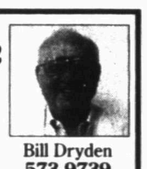


2501 32nd St.
Nice Family Home - Large Corner Lot, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with Living and Den. Updated and ready to move in. $84.5T

Call **Wenona Evans** to view this lovely home today!
Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612 (W) **or 573-8165** (H)



Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612
2405 25th Street
Snyder, Texas



Wenona Evans
573-8165

Bill Dryden
573-9739
Broker/Owner

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
REALTORS®

Lora Lord
573-1700

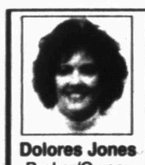
Kayla Moreland
573-4809

Ready to work for you! List with us.

1508 Preston Trail 3-2-2 LA's-2, FP
2409 36th 3-3-3, office Red. $155T
2800 34th 3-3-2 LA's, pool Red. $149.9T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ..... $87.5T
4105 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ..... $85T
2501 32nd - 3-2, office, 2 living areas, pretty decor. $84.5T
2950 Gary Brewer Rd 3-2½-1-shop $79.5T
3004 Beaumont 3-2 liv-2-2 . . $79.5T
3309 Ave U 3-2-2 . . . . . $79.5T
2510 Towle Park 3-2-2cp . . . $79T
3600 41st 3-2-2 ..... $78.5T
2200 30th 3-2½-2, 2 LA's Red. $75T
2204 45th 3-2-2 living areas $75T
2808 47th 3-2, 2 LA's Reduced $69.5T
4505 Denison 3-1¾-1 ..... $68T
2303 43rd SOLD $65T
1710 37th 3-2-2 Red SOLD 60T
7233 W Hwy 180 3-2-3, 2.5 acres $55T
2209 30th 3-2-1 + 1cp Reduced $49.5T
2203 43rd 3-2-1 ..... $45T
2108 41st 4-2 living-1 ..... $45T
2315 42nd 4-2 ..... $43.5T
3742 Avondale 3-2-1 ..... $37T
2609 Ave. U Duplex $35T
E. 23rd Mobile Home 3-2, 1 acre . . $33T
2405 40th CONTRACT PENDING 50
207 36th 3-2-1cp $32.5T
West 180 3-1-2 ..... $31.5T
W. Hwy 180 3-2, 1 acre $30T
2307 28th 2-1-shop $25T
501 35th 2-1 Nice! $22.5T
McBeth Pecan Farm House with 15+ acres ..... Reduced!
E. 180 Lots avail. w/mobile hook-ups Bldg. suitable for shop on 4 lots. . . . Call
Comm. Bldg Westerner Golf $49T
College Ave. Large office Bldg. . . $48T
Car Lot w/Comm. Bldg 709 Hwy 180 $40T
600 37th Large Comm. Bldg . . . Call
3607 College - Lg Comm. Bldg Call
Comm. Buildings downtown . . . . Call

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:
snydertex.com/stevensonrealestate/index.htm

HERITAGE HOMES REALTORS



Dolores Jones
Broker/Owner
573-5308

Faye Blackledge
Broker/Owner
573-1223

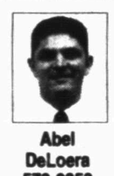
REALTORS®

**** 573-5056 ****

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Joan Tate
573-8773

Tresa Cornett
574-1024



Abel DeLoera
573-9353
"Se habla español"

Sherry DeLoera
573-9353

Robin Newton
573-9368

Shirley Drum
573-1550

3405 Snyder Shopping Center Suite B

EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

2310 Sunset - Clean & Cute - 2-1 . . . $28T
2611 48th - Extra Nice! 3-2½-2, office, formal living area/den, FP ..... $100's
Wonderful Plan - 2601 35th 3-2½ -2, formal living & dining, patio ..... $100's
3409 Apple - So Cute! 3-2-cp, large lot $40's
3605 41st Close to Park! 3-2-2 formal liv, den $90's
3718 Sunset 3-Contract Pending . . . $40's
5603 Cedar Creek - Buy of the Century Call
2601 35th - Great Floor Plan - 3-2½-2, Cabana w/hot tub, metal fence ..... $100's
2901 Ave. M 1900's Victorian 2-story, 3-2, high ceilings, porch, on corner lot . . . . $30's
2212 Towle Park Updated & ready to enjoy! 3-2-2LA's, rock fireplace, dining, office $100's
2901 38th Large with possibilities 4-1 . . $35T
New Listing - Beautiful professionally decorated! 3-2-2 ..... $90's
2702 37th Fresh Contract Pending . . . $30's
1705 Gilmore - 2 story, 3-2-cp, pool, fenced, storage building ..... $80's
3700 Austin - **Roomy** 3-2-2 living areas, FP, carport & storage ..... $50's
Lorraine - Bank Acquired - 4-2½-2 lofts, office, hobby rm., 3 car ga... Contract Pending ...duced $94.9T
4009 Irving - Nice - 3-2-2, shop . . . $80's
3766 Highland INVESTORS 2-1 Low $20's
3112 Ave. X - Beautiful Turn of the Century Home - Renovated with class!! .Call for details
5501 Cedar Creek 3-2-2 ..... $100's
Good Buy 3741 Highland 2-1-1 . . . . $25T
1804 39th 3-1, covered patio, needs TLC $37T
New on the Market 3-1-cp, Investors $25T
5404 Cedar Creek- Reduced 3-2½-2 LA's $90's
2202 41st - CUTE Contract Pending . . $20's
3002 37th - Motivated Seller 2-1, rear cp $40's
2108 42nd 3-1-1 ..... $30's
Hermleigh 3 bedroom house w/3 apartments $89T

OTHER LISTINGS

2105 42nd - Cute 3-1 ..... $20's
1508 Preston Trail - Quality & Design 3-2-2LA's Double fireplace tile floors .Call
2510 Towel Park Rd. 3-2 . .Reduced $79T
513 34th Updated 2-1, Great rental prop. $20T
One of a kind! Custom, 2605 33rd . . .Call
3403 Irving - A Steal! 4-2, 2 LA's . . . $50's
2274 McMullan - Mobile home site, has well $5T
1815 Garden Lane - Four lots, shop with loading area and income property $10T
1626 Pecan Farm Rd. - Pecan Farm/Approx. 800 trees, 15 acres, MH, equipment, truck . . . $100T

COUNTRY HOMES

4483 F.M. 1607 Country at its best!! 3-2-2cp 2 acres ..... $60's
7507 FM 1607 - Great 3-2-den, FP, 5 A's $75T
2476 Uvalde 3-2, brick . . . .Reduced $30's
New Listing Close in, 4-3, 3 acres . . . $68T
S. 208 - Custom 2-2, barn, shop w/10 A's Must See!
Reduced - Hermleigh - Good 80 acre farm 20 plus buildings, 3-3½-2 ..... .Call
C-City - 5 bedrooms with 10 acres $31.9T

LAKE PROPERTY

C-City - 2050 LCR 252 Brick doublewide plus small guest house ..... $100's
New - Lake Champion - 3-1½-cp, dock, wood deck, shop, pool ..... $50's

COMMERCIAL

Comm. Bldg. Site - 2 acres close in Hwy 350 $30's
401 37th Great Location for offices, salon, etc $47.5T
5109 College Comm. Lot 2 acres . . . $90's
College Ave. Frontage, over 7 acres . .Call

LAND

Lot - Prime Location, Colonial Hills . . $3,400
Call about new home construction sites!

We want your listing to reach all buyers!
Check out our new website - Updated Daily!
www.heritagehomesrealtors.com
E-Mail: HeritageHomes@snydertex.com

☆ We Need Listings! ☆
Call Us Today!

Merchandise

PALLETS FOR SALE
2 For A $1.00
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News

Apartments For Rent

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex. Locally owned. 573-0340 or 575-4934

Fieldcrest Apartments
Under New Ownership
1 bedroom/1 bath - $290 (very big bedroom)
2 bedroom/1+ bath - $310
***We pay water**
***You pay electricity**
***$100 security deposit**
***No application fee**
700 E. 37th
(across from coliseum)
573-3519

Furnished 1 bedroom apartment for rent. Nice & clean. Located in Hermleigh. Call 863-2700.

NEW RATES! $300/mo.
2-bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. All bills & cable paid. No pets. 573-5773.

Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
Quality Living At An Affordable Price
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Pool
2 Bedrooms. 2 bath
W/D Connections. Pool & Playground

Houses For Rent

2409 28th
2-1, fenced backyard, storage building. No pets. 6 month lease required. 573-4454

HOUSES FOR RENT
Available Now
3004 40th St. 3-2 ..... $375
2306 41st St. 3-1-1 ..... $400
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505
Suzan Pinkerton 573-0004

Mobile Homes

3B/2B/DEN/2CP/3RV waterwell, 6-lots. Fenced nice trees. $2500/DWN $500/MO. 959 Naver. 573-2251

Call our 24 hour credit hot line to see if you qualify for a home loan. 806-894-3883, 800-375-8739

For Sale or **Rent**
2 bedroom Palm Harbor mobile home. 573-8636

Good job, rental history, car note, 2 out of 3 will put you in a home. We tote the note. 1-800-830-3515

Need a home now? Don't wait, use your tax refund. We tote the note. 800-830-3515

New 2003 16' wide, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $1000 dwn., $171.95 per month*. 888-539-7780 *$19,900 sale price, 5% on $18,900 to finance, 240 months, 9.5 APR.

Several doublewide repo's to choose from. We tote the note. 800-830-3515

TAX REFUND?
Don't wait! We will do your tax returns FREE for your new home business. 888-539-7780

CALL FOR RESULTS!
573-5486
CLASSIFIEDS

Mobile Home Lot(s) for Sale

2 corner mobile home lots, plumbed & ready. School bus rt. $500/DWN $100/MO 573-2251

Cemetery Plots

Hillside Memorial Garden - 2 plots. "The Garden of Christus" 915-944-1284 915-949-9318

Real Estate

2 br 1 bath home on huge corner lot in Colorado City. New carport, fresh paint, refrig., air, 1500 sq ft. No debt. Must sell. Will carry note or trade for land equity, mineral interest, nice autos, big boats, anything considered. Can pay cash difference. Bring all offers. Call Dan or Mike, 1-800-747-3104 or 806-794-5644.

BY OWNER
CONSERVATIVE, CONTEMPORARY STYLE. IMMACULATE! MORE FOR YOUR MONEY
5603 CEDAR CREEK DR.
573-9780

FOR SALE
4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, large utility, new fenced backyard, storage building, patio, fireplace. 311 36th Place Sell for tax appraisal, $34,000. Call 573-5812, after 6p.m. 915-573-7293.

For Sale by **owner,** 2bd, 1bth, carport re-done. Very clean, 1701 39thSt. 573-1667 or 573-7547.

For sale by owner, 3bd/2bth plus office or 4th bd. 1-car garage re-done. Very Clean 4021 Eastridge, 573-1667 or 573-7547.

OWNER WILL FINANCE
3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, w/patio, brick home, CH/A.
2803 38th 806-790-0827

SNYDER
160 acres, all cultivation, on pavement. 3-1¾-2 brick home, storm cellar, new carport/paint. Possession on closing. Might take trade. Call 806-780-6399.

For rent or **lease:** Lake CCity waterfront, 2 or 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $475 mo. Contact Fleeta at 915-728-3982

JACK & JACK
Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

Corner 3-1¾-2 + RV shed + shop & other
Gorgeous Home 1986 Sq. Ft. on 12 + Acres
Lrg. Home Nice neighborhood 5-1¾ ..$59.5T
Shop Bldg. + 3 Lots 407 College & 2-1 Merrill
Stock Farm 146 Acres Near Dermott
REDUCED! 2510 Towle Park Rd 3-2-2cp, 1Acre
5 Business Shopping Complex 606 Coliseum
2 Living Areas, 3-1¾-1+2cp....2111 43rd
Nice Storm Cellar 3-2-2cp 314 36th $37.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
1.89 Acres 2-1-2cp South of Hermleigh....$20T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
20 Acres 4-1¾-2 Beautiful Pool & Yard
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call

We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON?

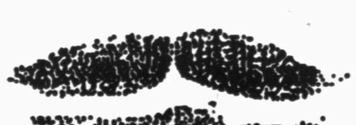
MAKE THE CONNECTION FOR SAFETY!

A MESSAGE FROM THIS NEWSPAPER AND THE DPS TROOPERS

Human Resource Department
409 Runnels Street
Big Spring, TX 79720

West Texas Centers for MHMR has opening for Program Manager in Snyder. Bachelor's degree from accredited college in social behavior or human services plus one year's experience. Supervises clinic staff including Service Coordinator, Casework Assistant, Intake Specialist, Clerical and other clinic staff. Salary $14.71 hr. ($30,588.00 annually). On call rotation.

Applications may be obtained at 909 25th St. or by calling JOBLINE 1-800-687-2769 or www.wtcmhmr.org. **EOE**



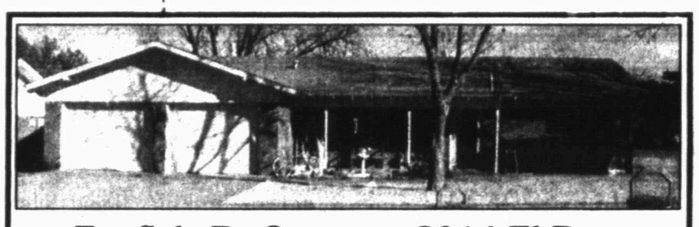
Kiss unwanted items goodbye

by selling them in the
Snyder Daily News CLASSIFIEDS

573-5486

JAN 05 2003

SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIED
ALWAYS A WINNER



For Sale By Owner 3014 El Paso
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday 2p.m. - 4p.m.
Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with fireplace, CH/A, formal living/den, new fence, nice established yard all on a corner lot. 573-5922

homePRO REALTORS®
4002 College Ave. Snyder, TX 79549
915-574-1600 or 915-573-2075
Branch Office NOW OPEN!!
904 E. Holland Alpine, TX 79830
915-837-0767 or 915-837-0768
Debby Miller, Broker/Owner, ABR, RECS
"Where Serious Buyers & Sellers Meet!"

600 29th 3-1-1-2Living Areas, needs TLC $20,000
2202 Sunset 3-2-2cp . Contract Pending $65,000
217 36th St. 3-1-2 li Lease Pending ened porch. $40's
Commercial: 1800 Ave. R $8,500
Commercial: Motel on E 180 .....$80,000

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Banning cell phone use while driving eyed

AUSTIN (AP) — Amy Seager blames irresponsible cell phone use for the deaths of her 17-year-old twin daughters.

Kim and Kathy Seager were stopped at a railroad crossing on their way to a lake for a moonlit walk one evening last summer. A driver in another car was on his cell phone when he rear-ended them at 50 mph, sending the girls' small car directly into the path of a moving train.

Both girls died four days after the accident.

Amy Seager says the driver deserves much of the blame for the collision. She also says, however, that people seem unaware of the dangers of driving while distracted by the phone.

Five months later, the Ohio woman spends much of her time lobbying lawmakers around the country to limit driving while talking on a cell phone.

In Texas, state Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, has taken up the cause of regulating cell phones in cars. Moreno filed a bill for the upcoming legislative session that would ban drivers from using a cell phone unless they have a handsfree device.

"If you're holding a cell phone in one hand, then you've only got one hand on the steering wheel,"

"We have nothing against cell phones or companies that make cell phones. We're just concerned that it's a distraction," said Moreno spokesman Mike Lopez. "Cell phones are fine as long as you have an instrument that lets you keep both hands on the wheel."

Only New York has a handsfree requirement. New Jersey lawmakers are considering a similar law. Six other states have some regulation of in-vehicle use of cell phones, ranging from a one-hand-on-the-steering-wheel rule to prohibiting school bus drivers from using a phone.

Twenty-two other countries, including Japan, have restrictions on cell phone use by motorists.

Wireless phone and service companies are likely to oppose Moreno's legislation, as they did with similar proposals in California.

Townsend Heald, a spokesman for Cingular Wireless, said that driver education is more effective than legislation in fighting driver distraction.

In Texas, the Department of Transportation estimates that cell phone use was a contributing factor in at least 716 crashes in 2000.

Some safety experts believe a handsfree requirement would by merely window dressing and wouldn't increase safety.

Dave Willis, director of the Center for Transportation Safety at the Texas Transportation Institute, said the danger of cell phones isn't in handling them, it's that drivers are distracted by the conversation.

A requirement that drivers use a handsfree device "tells people that it's OK to yak while driving, and that's simply not the case," said Willis, who favors a simple ban on using cell phones while driving.

The AAA recommends that motorists avoid talking on the phone at all while driving.

"The research out there suggests that going from handheld to handsfree does not relieve any danger," said Mantill Williams, a spokesman for the automobile association. "With handsfree it's more convenient, so you might actually talk longer, and that creates an even more unsafe environment."

In Japan, where motorists were barred from using handheld phones in 1996, police reported that accidents and injuries caused by drivers using cell phones fell by half.

A Harvard University study released in December estimates that about one in 20 U.S. traffic accidents are caused by a driver talking on a cell phone, resulting in 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries each year.

Some Texas motorists agreed that phones and driving can be a dangerous combination.

Dan McDougal of Austin, who uses a handsfree phone regularly while driving, said he wouldn't mind the handsfree device being mandatory.

"I'm sure it's not the safest thing in the world, but at least you'd have both hands on the wheel," he said.

Manuel Azuara, an Austin CPA, said motorists shouldn't be forced to use a handsfree device. "It's kind of a personal preference," he said.

Willis, the Texas safety expert, acknowledged that the Legislature is unlikely to agree with his desire to ban all cell phone calls while driving.

"People would be up in arms ... other countries have banned the use of cell phones, but I don't think we're ready for that in this country, especially not in Texas," he said.

Campaign attracts experienced lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic presidential field for 2004 is rapidly taking shape — with a heavy emphasis on congressional veterans with experience in foreign policy, military and intelligence matters.

But two already in the race don't fit that mold: a blunt-spoken Vermont governor and a freshman senator from North Carolina who argues his role as a relative "outsider" gives him a better understanding of regular people.

The Democratic field grew to four Thursday with the North Carolina senator, John Edwards, and departing House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt, a seasoned lawmaker who is forming an exploratory committee in the next few days.

They joined Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, a Vietnam war hero with significant experience in international affairs, and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

The field is likely to grow to more than a half-dozen in the next week or so — with the entry of veteran lawmakers like Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, who was the vice presidential candidate in 2000, and Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota senator.

"I expect several more people to get into the race and I look forward to it," Kerry said Thursday after attending the inauguration of the state's new Republican governor, Mitt Romney. "I think it's an opportunity for the country to test leaders and test their ideas."

Sens. Bob Graham of Florida and Joe Biden of Delaware, two senators with plenty of experience in national security matters, are pondering running. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark of Little Rock, Ark., the former supreme commander of NATO, is also mentioned as a possible candidate. And the Rev. Al Sharpton is planning to form an exploratory committee later this month.

Edwards, a trial lawyer and first-term senator, is wading into this steep competition with an unusual — but necessary — strategy. He's boasting about his short time in Washington.

Though he has little experience on the national stage, Edwards said, "I'm more than happy to be judged on the basis of my ideas."

"If the American people want a lifelong politician in the White House, that's not me. They'll have a group of people to choose from if that's what they want," he said. "If they want instead somebody who is closer to them, more connected to them and spent his entire life fighting for them and comes from them, that is me."

Edwards' strategy is so audacious it could either fail miserably or surprise a lot of people. He's hoping his appealing personal style could overcome some concerns about his experience.

"Edwards has got as good a shot as anybody, but it remains to be seen how well he will perform," said Emory political scientist Merle Black. "He has Shakespearean ambition. Most freshmen would defer."

Michigan State political scientist David Rohde said all candidates "try to trade on their experience." And he noted that Edwards will have about the same time in politics as President Bush had when he ran in 2000.

"I doubt if we'll hear much from President Bush about Edwards' experience level," he said.

The field is generally lacking politicians with executive experience, said Black.

"Experience is very important and especially executive experience," he said. "That's what's missing from the pool this year. Where are the governors?"

The two with executive experience are Florida Sen. Graham, a former governor of that state, and Vermont Gov. Dean, who is also a physician.

Dean has spent a great deal of time in early states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. And when state officials are handicapping the field, they usually recommend closely watching Dean, who has impressed party activists in those states with his matter-of-fact style and his accomplishments as Vermont governor.

While the veteran senators and longtime House leader Gephardt clearly have the edge in experience, historians point out that few politicians move directly from Congress to the presidency. The last was John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Any Democrat nominated is likely to face a tough battle ousting an incumbent president in wartime, said congressional historian Ross Baker of Rutgers.

"When the country is in danger," Baker said, "there tends to be a preference to hold onto what you have and not make changes."

New bag-screening systems will be tested

WASHINGTON (AP) — Air travelers will find out this weekend whether the new baggage-screening system that started at every U.S. airport on New Year's Day is capable of handling heavy traffic.

So far, air traffic has been light and few problems were reported as 429 airports began examining bags for explosives. But on Saturday, millions of holiday travelers are expected to return home.

Congressional orders to verify that no checked bag contains explosives have been carried out by 23,000 newly hired government workers at airports using new equipment. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, only 5 percent of the roughly 2 million bags checked each day were screened for bombs.

"Most (airports) are saying there really haven't been too many customer service issues," said Juliette Wright, spokeswoman for the Airports Council International-North America, an airport trade group. "This weekend will be the true test."

David O'Connor, U.S. director of the International Air Transport Association, which represents 276 U.S. and foreign-owned airlines, said many carriers anticipate problems this weekend.

Scattered delays have been reported since screening began.

Passengers had to wait 45 minutes to check their bags at Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Reno, Nev., and Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, Wis. But the new screening system hasn't caused long lines or flight delays at such hubs as New York, Chicago or Atlanta.

Marion Blakey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, said Friday, "When you look at the fact that a year ago we had very little oversight of checked baggage, and now it is virtually 100 percent, it's amazing how well this is moving."

The Transportation Security Administration, created in response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks, is in charge of screening baggage. The agency will be watching carefully this weekend to make sure security checks don't cause delays, TSA spokesman Brian Turmail said.

"We're going to be monitoring the bag screening at all airports," he said. "We want to know if there are crowds in lobbies in airports, and what's causing those crowds."

Airports can use several methods to inspect bags: big bomb-detection machines, wands that detect traces of explosives, bomb-sniffing dogs or hand searches. They also may match each bag to a passenger before takeoff.

At Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport, TSA screeners feed bags by hand into big white machines stationed every 100 to 200 feet in front of the north terminal ticket counters. They hand-search bags if the machines register positive for explosives.

A half-dozen air travelers interviewed Friday at Washington's Reagan National Airport all said the new procedures require more effort, but most appreciated the added security.

"I think it's a hassle, but worthwhile," said Wendy Loder, 42, a marketing director who was rushing to catch a shuttle flight to New York.

Marie and Pascal Mbiene waited 20 minutes while a TSA screener unwrapped and opened each of the wedding gifts they'd packed. One of their bags registered a "false positive" — that is, a machine recorded an explosive or weapon when none existed. The couple also missed their flight home to Dallas because they arrived at the ticket counter too close to takeoff. New rules require passengers to be at the gate at least a half-hour before departure.

"To me this is the most painful burden dealt by 9/11," said Mrs. Mbiene, a 34-year-old physician.

Airports can adjust if lines move too slowly. At Dane County airport, workers scrapped their strategy of screening luggage with wands after passengers checked in at the ticket counter. TSA spokesman Paul France said that plan left too many screeners waiting with nothing to do while passengers — and their luggage — waited for boarding passes.

Instead, the workers decided to screen luggage as soon as passengers stepped up to the ticket counter.

Turmail said the agency is "cautiously optimistic that TSA will pass the test this weekend."

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank You

The family of Kathy Willis would like to thank the ambulance service, the EMT's, and all of the doctors and nurses who worked so hard. For all of the cards, flowers, food, comfort, support and prayers in our loss, we thank each and every one. To Calvary Baptist for the wonderful lunch you prepared and to Pastor Sammy Elliott for the beautiful service, thank you.

May God bless each and every one.
The family of Kathy A. Willis

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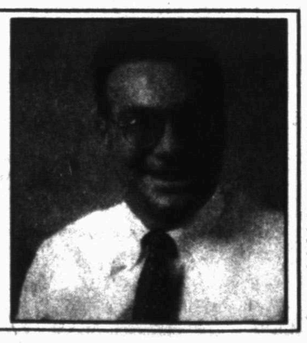
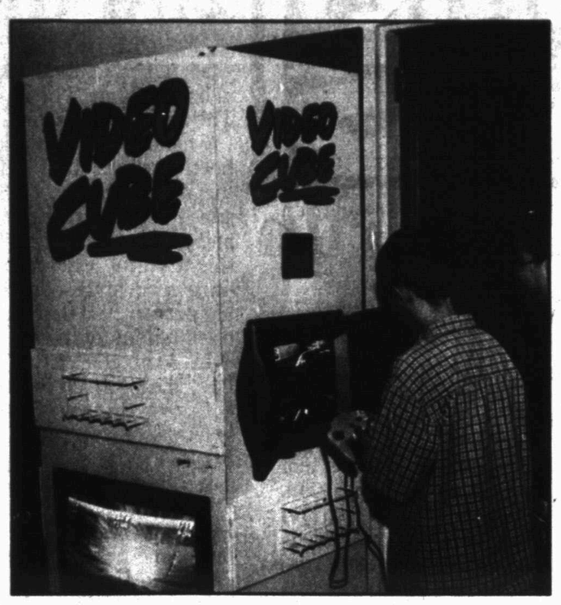
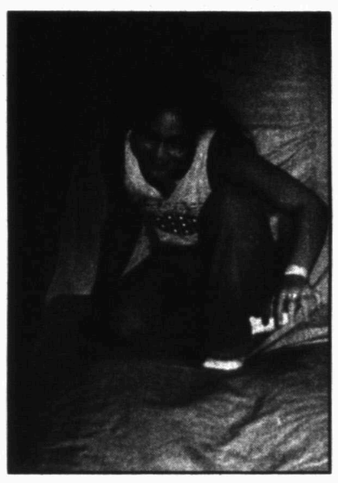
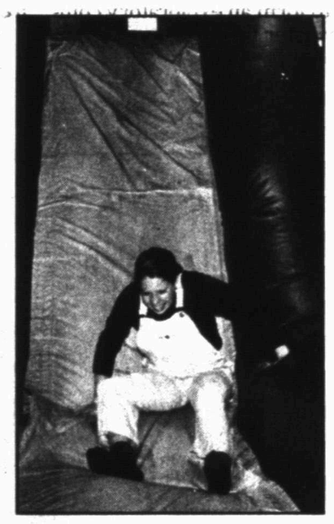


The Big Show ...at West







West Elementary students recently enjoyed *The Big Show* at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Students were rewarded for how many candles they sold during West's annual fundraiser. Students had a variety of fun activities to choose from, based on their total sales. (SDN Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

President Bush to propose Medicare changes

FORT HOOD (AP) — The Bush administration later this month will propose sweeping changes to Medicare, moving to include a prescription drug benefit for seniors in the government program, administration officials said Friday.

A central component of the changes aimed at ensuring Medicare's survival will be competition among providers, said senior officials who discussed the issue only on grounds of anonymity. President Bush has long proposed such reforms as a way to cut escalating costs.

Looking to the 2004 presidential election, adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare is a central political goal of Bush and Congress. But one administration official said the government can't just "bolt a drug benefit onto Medicare without structural improvements" to the system.

The primary goal is saving Medicare from bankruptcy, this official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The administration has new confidence it can enact the changes Bush proposed in summer 2001, given the Republican takeover of the Senate. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee is a Bush ally, surgeon and major player on health-care issues.

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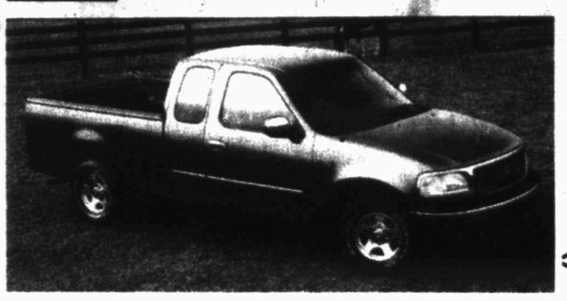

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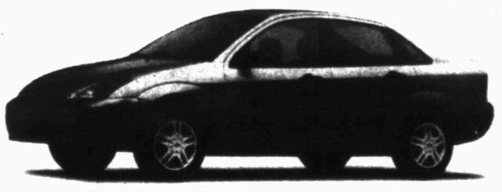

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Gephardt considering presidential run

WASHINGTON (AP) — Departing House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri has decided to kick off his second run for the White House in 14 years by forming a presidential exploratory committee, The Associated Press has learned.

An invitation obtained by the AP says Gephardt will raise money for the exploratory committee at an event Jan. 22, asking for donations of at least $1,000 — or half the maximum for presidential candidates.

"Join us for a reception benefiting Richard Gephardt for President Exploratory Committee," the invitation said.

Aides to Gephardt, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the Missouri Democrat would file paperwork to form the exploratory committee — the traditional first step in a presidential bid — on Monday. They said he will travel to early presidential contest states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina later this month to meet with party activists.

Gephardt is stepping aside after eight years as the Democratic House leader and will bank on a strong national organization and close ties to traditional Democratic groups like organized labor to help him in his presidential bid.

Robert Kelley, president of the Greater St. Louis Labor Council, said his friend has been the "most active champion of working people in Congress over the last decade."

In his last bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, in 1988, Gephardt started strong by winning in Iowa and finishing second in New Hampshire, but his campaign quickly faded.

Gephardt is joining a fast-growing Democratic field that includes Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who formally announced Thursday that he would run. The field is expected to grow to at least a half-dozen in the coming days.

The St. Louis native has been in politics since his days as a precinct captain and then an alderman in the city. He has represented that area of eastern Missouri in the House since 1976.

The sandy-haired, youthful-looking Gephardt ran for president in 1988 and drew early attention with his stands on the economy and trade.

Town coping with 2nd disappearance

MODESTO, Calif. (AP) — The yellow ribbons. The news trucks. The fears for the worst.

Chandra Levy's hometown has been through it all before. With the disappearance of Laci Peterson — eight months pregnant and gone since Christmas Eve — this Central California town is once again at the center of a missing person case that has captured the attention of the nation.

In May 2001, the 24-year-old Levy disappeared in Washington, D.C., triggering speculation about her relationship with Democratic Rep. Gary Condit and his possible role in her disappearance.

One year later, Levy's body was found in a Washington D.C. park, but police have made no arrests. Condit lost a bid for re-election last year.

Modesto also served as command center in the February 1999 disappearance of three women who vanished while visiting Yosemite National Park. Five weeks later, authorities found Carole Sund, 43, her daughter, Juli, 15, and Argentina exchange student Silvina Pelosso, 16, murdered in nearby foothills. Last year, a jury convicted motel handyman Cary Stayner and gave him a death sentence.

This time, the 186,000 residents hope things will turn out differently even though police — scouring neighborhoods, creeks and irrigation canals for Peterson — have so far come up empty.

Volunteers have been undaunted. For 10 days, they have taken over a suite at the Red Lion Hotel, coordinating distribution of thousands of fliers and receiving supportive e-mails from across the nation.

"The more exposure they get the more chances there is she'll come home safe," said Dave Montgomery, a Folsom resident who drove nearly 90 miles to pick up fliers to post in suburban Sacramento.

Kevin Jaeger, of Oklahoma City, also drove from Sacramento for fliers to pass out in various towns along Interstate 40 as he flew his airplane around the area over the weekend.

"They haven't found out what actually happened to her," he said. "This way it gets out on the road."

While many believe Peterson may still be missing, police are looking into the potential alleged role of her 30-year-old husband, Scott, in her disappearance. He has not been declared a suspect, nor has he been ruled out.

Police said Scott Peterson has cooperated "to some degree," but declined to confirm whether he has an attorney.

Family members vigorously defend Peterson, a San Diego native who met his wife at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and married her five years ago. Both majored in agriculture.

After reporters' bruising questions to police this week about Peterson, Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, said, "We feel Scott has nothing to do with it."

South Korea 'getting closer' to plan to end nuclear crisis

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea honed a compromise plan Saturday to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff and said the crisis was closer to ending, but the communist nation warned the situation was still "serious and unpredictable."

The proposed settlement was expected to dominate a joint strategy meeting of South Korea, the United States and Japan early next week. Details were scant, but media reports suggested the proposal would require concessions from both Washington and Pyongyang.

Seoul's diplomatic offensive, under scrutiny Saturday at a National Security Council meeting, underlines its new drive to mediate between the United States, its key ally, and neighboring North Korea, its erstwhile enemy. But brokering a deal won't be easy.

The United States refuses to talk until the North scraps its nuclear programs. And North Korea insists Washington must take the first step by signing a nonaggression pact promising not to attack the isolated country.

"There is no reason why the U.S. should not accept the proposal, the best way for peaceful solution," the North's state-run news agency KCNA said. "The present situation is very serious and unpredictable."

Still, officials in Seoul were upbeat about a diplomatic solution.

"We are getting closer to finding an answer," a senior government official said on condition of anonymity after Saturday's security meeting.

In past crises with the North, Seoul played a subordinate role to the United States. Now many South Koreans want their government to help chart the course of talks and assume more equal footing with Washington.

Being heard out by the United States is also seen as soothing rocky relations with South Korea amid rising public resentment over 37,000 U.S. troops based here.

"The United States will be able to save a major strategic partnership by redefining South Korea's role in seeking a peaceful solution in this diplomatic maze," The Korea Herald said in its Saturday editorial.

The trilateral meeting — Monday and Tuesday in Washington — is part of the allies' regular forum for coordinating policy toward the communist North. This time, they will focus on bringing North Korea's nuclear weapons programs under international controls.

Burglary of motor vehicle reported Friday

Burglary

Shane Terry reported at 8:12 p.m. Friday that a window of his vehicle was broken out while parked at The Shack. An officer advised a report for burglary of a motor vehicle would be submitted.

Assault

An employee at Cogdell Hospital requested a deputy at the emergency room and advised two women who were assaulted in Hermleigh were there. The deputy contacted both women and advised reports would be filed for Class A assault family violence and for aggravated assault family violence.

Dogs

An employee at Cogdell Hospital advised at 2:40 p.m. Friday that a patient was in the emergency room with a dog bite and deputies filed an offense report.

At 5 p.m., a woman requested an officer in Towle Park and reported a dog chasing her children. Animal warden Hope Carillo took two dogs from the park to the animal shelter.

A man contacted officers at 5:20 p.m. Friday to report that two children were bitten by a pit bull in the 400 block of 31st Street. Two reports for dog bite were filed and the dog was quarantined at the shelter.

Criminal mischief

A woman in the 100 block of Milburn reported at 11 a.m. Friday that someone damaged her mailbox, but requested no report.

A man reported at 8:12 a.m. Friday that several highway signs had been shot in the area of FM 1673 and Ennis Creek Rd. A deputy advised that signs on four county roads had been shot and a report for criminal mischief was submitted.

Close patrol

A woman requested a close patrol of her residence in the 2500 block of Ave. M at 1 a.m. Saturday in reference to being harassed.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Allsup's on College Ave. reported a gas drive off worth $16 at 11:40 a.m. Friday.

Obituaries

Butch Prichard

1940-2003

Robert Allen "Butch" Prichard died Friday, Jan. 3, at his home in Snyder.

Services for Mr. Prichard, 62, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Oct. 3, 1940, Mr. Prichard was an oilfield foreman and had moved to Snyder from Hobbs, N.M.

Survivors include a daughter, Melanie Prather of Snyder; a stepdaughter, Christy Gilbert of Odessa; and a sister, Charlesea Motley of Tennessee.

Hester Palmer

1910-2003

CLEBURNE — Hester M. Palmer, a former Snyder resident, died Thursday, Jan. 2, in a Cleburne hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Palmer, 92, is set for 10 a.m. Monday in the Rose Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Mark Ely officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Crosier-Pearson-Mayfield Funeral Home.

Born April 29, 1910 in Nemo, Tex., she married Cecil E. Palmer on May 20, 1934. He died April 15, 1966.

Before moving to Cleburne, Mrs. Palmer had resided in Snyder from 1963-67 and was a member of the Ave. D Baptist Church and Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Mrs. Palmer was a homemaker and a retired nurses' aide.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Patti Palmer of Snyder, Charles and Nancy Palmer of Marshall and A.E. and Carole Palmer of Muncie, Ind.; a daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Jerry Ward of Cleburne; two sisters, Lilly Chaffin of Sanford and Judy Archer of Riverton, Wyo.; five grandchildren, J.K. Palmer of Los Angeles and Josh Palmer of Denver, Colo., Justin Ward, Steve Whiteside and Shara Wellborn, all of Cleburne; and five great-grandchildren.

Rick Dale

1948-2003

SWEETWATER — Rick Dale, the brother of Kathy Huff of Snyder, died Thursday, Jan. 2, in Rolling Plains Hospital.

A graveside service for Mr. Dale, 54, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Sweetwater Cemetery under the direction of Cate-Spencer and Trent Funeral Home. The Rev. Lyndel Hix will officiate.

Survivors also include his wife, Barbara Dale of Sweetwater; a son, Richard Dale of Dallas; three daughters, Teresa Dale of Oklahoma, and Bobbie Dale and Tammie Abbott, both of Dallas; and one grandson, Jacob Brents.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Students return to classes next week

Hermleigh students will be back in class Monday while Snyder ISD students don't report until Tuesday.

Snyder teachers have a workday Monday as their Christmas holidays come to an end.

Ira schools ended their holidays last Thursday.

Western Texas College staff members will report Monday with in-service beginning on Wednesday.

Registration for the spring semester is Monday, Jan. 13, and classes start Wednesday, Jan. 15.

WCFH

Independently Owned & Operated

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th St. Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

FOR INFORMATION GO TO WWW.AMERICANMEMORIALS.COM

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

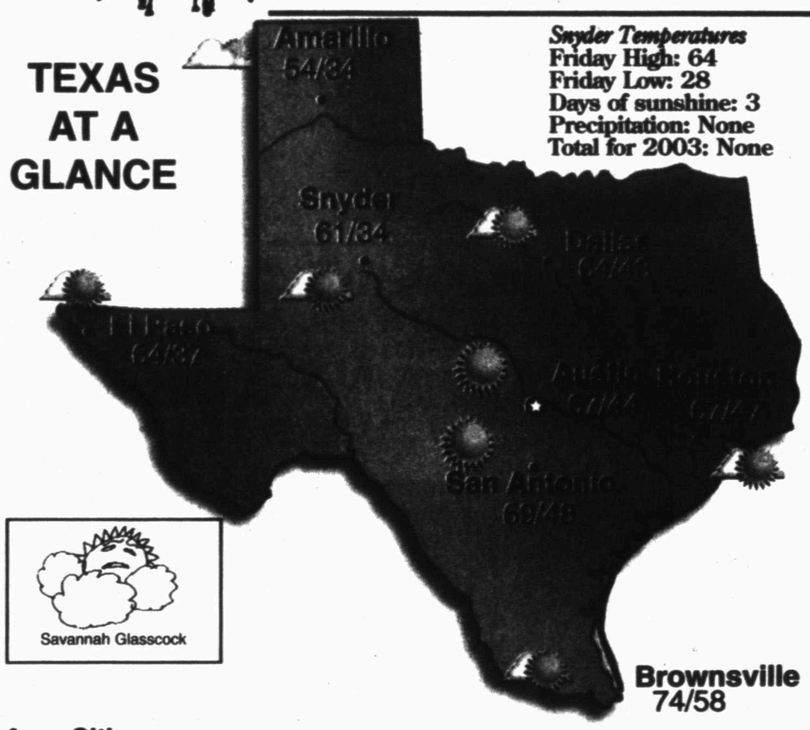
Sun 1/5	Mon 1/6	Tue 1/7
61/34	47/25	43/26
Mostly sunny skies. High 61F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.	Chance of late day showers. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	Partial sunshine. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise 7:47 AM / Sunset 5:52 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM / Sunset 5:52 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM / Sunset 5:53 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK

1901 26th Street • 573-5441

FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Friday High: 64
Friday Low: 28
Days of sunshine: 3
Precipitation: None
Total for 2003: None

Savannah Glasscock

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	64	41	mst sunny	El Paso	64	37	mst sunny	Midland	63	38	mst sunny
Amarillo	54	34	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	67	41	mst sunny	Raymondville	73	53	mst sunny
Austin	67	44	sunny	Gainesville	60	35	mst sunny	Rosenberg	67	47	mst sunny
Beaumont	66	45	pt sunny	Greenville	60	36	mst sunny	San Antonio	69	48	sunny
Brownsville	74	58	mst sunny	Houston	67	47	mst sunny	San Marcos	68	45	sunny
Brownwood	66	40	sunny	Kingsville	72	52	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	61	37	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	70	53	mst sunny	Livingston	65	41	sunny	Sweetwater	64	37	mst sunny
Corsicana	64	41	sunny	Longview	62	39	mst sunny	Tyler	65	43	mst sunny
Dallas	64	43	mst sunny	Lubbock	60	36	pt sunny	Weatherford	62	36	mst sunny
Del Rio	71	47	sunny	Lufkin	65	43	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	61	38	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	49	33	cloudy	Houston	67	47	mst sunny	Phoenix	77	49	mst sunny
Boston	33	27	cloudy	Los Angeles	81	55	mst sunny	San Francisco	62	49	pt sunny
Chicago	35	29	sn shower	Miami	72	56	pt sunny	Seattle	49	42	cloudy
Dallas	64	43	mst sunny	Minneapolis	34	20	cloudy	St. Louis	43	31	cloudy
Denver	51	25	rain	New York	35	30	pt sunny	Washington, DC	39	33	sn shower

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 2	Jan 10	Jan 18	Jan 25

UV Index

Sun 1/5	Mon 1/6	Tue 1/7
Low	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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Some key state lawmakers bear close watching

By The Associated Press

There are 150 members of the Texas House and 31 more in the Senate, making it easy for lawmakers to get lost in the crowd.

Some, however, stand out because of their powerful positions, reputations or skill at getting things done. Here is a glimpse of lawmakers to watch in the upcoming session.

HOUSE

Tom Craddick, R-Midland: First elected in 1968, Craddick, is in line to become the first Republican House speaker since Reconstruction. How he handles the job will be closely scrutinized.

Craddick, 59, already has been criticized for being too close to business lobbyists.

He hired two prominent lobbyists for his transition team and his daughter was a Capitol lobbyist until recently, stepping down when questions arose about a potential conflict of interest.

Craddick has vowed to lead the House with a "fair, even hand. No one will be shut out."

Craddick will decide who chairs House committees. He also will set the tone for how business is done. He has promised that all issues are open for debate. He has said state lawmakers can balance the budget without raising taxes, despite a projected shortfall of $5 billion or more.

Talmadge Heflin, R-Houston: Heflin, 62, is a favorite to be appointed chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Under the rotating system with the Senate, the budget bill will originate in the House.

That means Heflin would have tremendous influence over what goes in or gets left out of the 2004-2005 spending plan. While potentially the Legislature's most influential position, it could be the most difficult.

The appropriations chair must craft a budget under dire predictions of massive shortfalls and Republican predictions of no new taxes. It will take thick skin to deflect the criticism that will come with any cuts in services.

Pete Laney, D-Hale Center: Laney, 59, is in the rare position of leaving the speaker's office to rejoin the House rank-and-file.

It didn't happen by choice. Laney has served as House speaker since 1993 and is being ousted because Republicans won a majority of the chamber's seats in November.

Laney could become the leader of the Democratic minority and a potential thorn for the Republicans. Or he could slip quietly back into the chamber and be easily overlooked.

Arlene Wohlgemuth, R-Burleson

A Republican expert on Medicaid, Wohlgemuth may be in a key spot because of the health care program's exploding cost.

Wohlgemuth, 55, has supported efforts to make it easier to sign up children for Medicaid, but she has tried also to add more requirements to the program for low-income and disabled residents.

SENATE

David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor

Dewhurst, 57, is stepping from the relative obscurity of being state land commissioner to arguably the most powerful job in state government.

Dewhurst, a Republican, will assign Senate committees and preside over the chamber during the 140-day session.

Dewhurst will have a 19-12 Republican majority — more manuevering room than GOP predecessors Rick Perry and Bill Ratliff.

Dewhurst angered many lawmakers in both parties in 2001 with his votes on the Legislative Redistricting Board that ultimately pushed the GOP into the majority in the House and strengthened its hold in the Senate. One Republican lawmaker said publicly that Dewhurst's Democratic opponent would be better in the job.

His ability to heal any lingering doubts will depend on how he makes committee assignments and how he handles the transition to power.

Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant

Like Laney in the House, Ratliff, 66, is in the unusual position of stepping down from the lieutenant governor's office to return to his Senate seat. Ratliff took a step back by choice — a fill-in when Perry became governor, he decided against a run for statewide office last year.

A former Senate Finance Committee chairman, Ratliff's experience could be crucial during consideration over the state budget. But Ratliff has angered top Republicans in the past and appointed Democrat Rodney Ellis as Finance chairman in 2001. He also fueded with Dewhurst during the 2002 primary and Republicans may insist that he be pushed aside.

Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo:

Bivins, 55, chairs the Senate Education Committee and is considered a favorite in the race to lead the finance panel in the new session.

Dewhurst has predicted that lawmakers won't have time to address the state's public school funding formula, but Bivins insists something must be done.

He co-chaired a committee that was directed to find a solution to the school funding problem, but the committee completed its yearlong review without agreeing on specific recommendations.

Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay

A key ally of Gov. Rick Perry, Fraser, 53, has tried to position himself as the lead senator in the effort to lower property-insurance rates in Texas.

The current chairman of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee, Fraser has already filed several bills on one of the hottest topics around — insurance reform.

Freshman lawmakers learn Capitol ropes

AUSTIN (AP) — It was sort of like a college freshman's first day at the big university.

Early in December, newly elected legislators gathered for a conference in Austin. Eager lawmakers-to-be searched for apartments and roommates. They nervously navigated their way through the maze of Capitol hallways.

The band of 35 freshmen — the largest number of legislative newcomers in a decade — were briefed on the ins and outs of their new roles, ranging from setting up an office to dealing with news reporters.

When the 78th Legislature convenes Jan. 14, these legislators will face their real test. They'll get their first crack at making laws in a particularly difficult year.

Formidable issues face these freshmen, including a projected $5 billion state budget shortfall.

Some in the group say their fresh outlook is an advantage.

"We can offer a new perspective and new ideas to streamline in the shortfall and to avoid the tax increases that some people are talking about," said Rep.-elect Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs, a 24-year-old recent Princeton University graduate.

The inexperienced lawmakers are prepared for a frenzied five months.

"There's no doubt it's going to be frantic and busy," Rose said. "But people who are elected are supposed to be putting their lives on hold for this."

Handling a homeowners' insurance crisis, expanding education programs and putting limits on lawsuits also rank high on legislative agendas.

Rep.-elect Martha Wong, R-Houston, is undaunted by the long itinerary, starting with the budget deficit.

"The economy is picking up, so I think we'll be OK, but if we don't have the money we just won't spend it," Wong said. "We'll have to learn how to tighten our belts. I'm very optimistic that we will be able to operate with moneys that we have."

So far, Republican and Democratic newcomers seem to be developing camaraderie.

"It's exciting," said Rep.-elect Inocente Quintanilla, D-El Paso. "This is the first for all of us, so we're all getting to know each other and becoming very good friends. There's just a feeling of friendship all around."

So friendly, in fact, some newcomers have circulated their own lyrics to the tune of "Texas, Our Texas," detailing their expectations:

"Freshman of Texas! We'll change old Robin Hood. Freshman of Texas! We'll do just what we should. We'll remember Texas, their water and their kids. We'll prioritize our issues; our spending will have lids."

Written primarily by Rep.-elect Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, the group presented a copy of the song to Gov. Rick Perry and presumptive House speaker Tom Craddick.

As the session draws nearer, freshmen also are receiving the benefit of some hard-learned lessons from more veteran lawmakers.

"The one thing that veteran legislators have stressed to us is to keep our word," said Rep.-elect Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola. "The one thing you have is your word. It's so important with the legislators, our constituents and the media. A number of different legislators from both parties have stressed that to us."

State Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, whose first legislative session was in 2001, offered similar advice.

"Even in this arena, hard work pays off," he said. "But also the power of relationships really does matter. Freshmen come in with that advantage because they come with a clean slate, and they can begin building bridges with each other with no baggage. Other members have a harder time because of past encounters on the House floor."

Villarreal studied politics and public policy extensively in graduate school. But, he says, no professor or textbook could have prepared him for the tumultuous months that were his first session in the Texas House.

Now, even with one session complete, Villarreal is anxious about the bumpy months ahead.

Bank robber waits patiently in line

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — An alleged bank robber waited in line for a friendly face — his former girlfriend, authorities said.

A tearful Andrea Dejesus walked into the police department Wednesday and told police she had ended a four-month relationship with Marco Lugo, 26, about three weeks ago, court documents said.

She alleged that Lugo waited in line on New Year's Eve and approached her as she worked behind the counter, police said.

The suspect placed a paper bag on the counter and handed Dejesus a note that read "give me all the money in both drawers, large bills first," a court affidavit said. The suspect never displayed a weapon or implied that he had one, police said.

Police would not say how much was allegedly stolen from the bank, and declined to comment on why Dejesus waited to come to police.

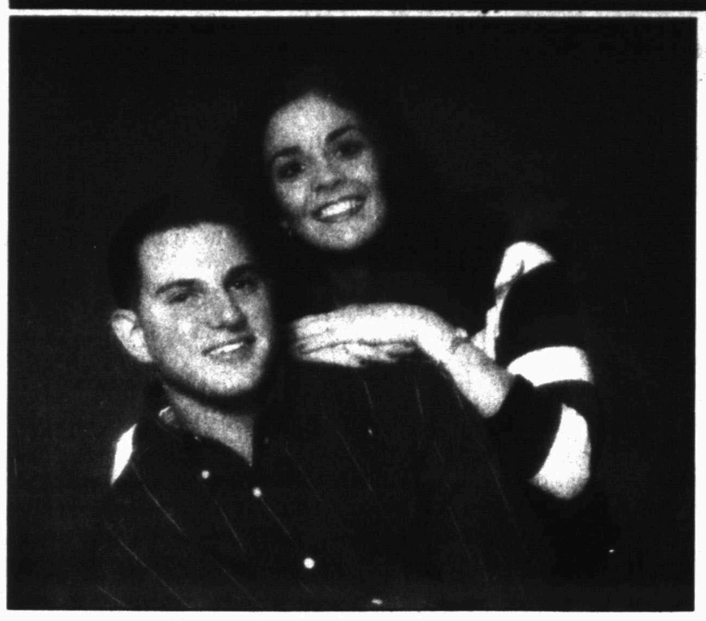
Charges were filed against Lugo, who remained at large Thursday.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks Snyder, Scurry County and surrounding areas for a sucessful 2002.
We're looking forward to serving everyone in 2003!
O'Neal's Interiors
The Pleasure's Mine

1/2 price sale continues
at
The Pleasure's Mine
2502 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 915/573-6536 • Layaways
Virginia Bloom, Owner
Hallmark

JAN 05 2003



ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — Sheila Kemp of Snyder announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Keri Kemp, to Jim Edwards, son of Donald and Lisa McCarl of Butler, Pa., and James and Jo Ann Edwards of Ford City, Pa. A March 8 wedding is planned at the Christian Church in San Angelo. (Contributed Photo)

Snyder Cheer Stars will perform during All-American Bowl

Snyder Cheer Stars will compete in the U.S. Army All-American Cheer Bowl and will perform during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, televised on ESPN. The game begins at 6 p.m. Sunday.

The competition to be held at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio is sponsored by American Cheer Power.

The junior team will perform during halftime and both squads will perform stand routines throughout the game.

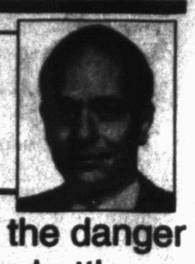
Members of the PeeWee intermediates All Stars include Kaci Archer, Cenna Lane, Naudia Gonzales, Olivia Blum, Brittany Rios, Keylee Glass, Gabriella Sanchez, Avery Wirsching, Kalyn Massingill, Hayley Taylor, Madeline Moreno, Heather Medrano and Megan Smith.

The Junior All-Stars are Carly Gill, Savannah Valdez, Brook Bollinger, Samantha Rogers, Haylee Piland, Joelyn Deleon, Jessica Deleon, Melanie Kariainen, Megan Kariainen, Tana Sullenger, Ember Proffitt, Whitley Fulford, Jana Lewis, Aspen Mann and Starla Brutton.

Coaches are Kay, Neika and Crystal Porter, Ruby Valdez, Kasey Crill, Jerimiah Johnson, KK McClain and L.S. McClain.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-04-03
♠ K 10 7 3
♥ A 7
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 7 4 2

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

East
♠ A Q 2
♥ J 8 5 4 2
♦ 2
♣ A 8 5 3

South
♠ J 9 8 6 5
♥ K 6 3
♦ A K 7
♣ K 6

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Spotting the danger is half the battle

By Phillip Alder

We all try to learn from our mistakes, but Leon Trotsky had a different spin on that: "Learning carries within itself certain dangers because out of necessity one has to learn from one's enemies."

In this deal, declarer did very well to anticipate the danger to her contract. Can you spot it? Against four spades, West leads the club queen: two, three, king. Sitting South, how would you continue?

Three spades was a limit raise, promising 10-12 support points and at least four trumps.

The deal was reported in Bridge Plus magazine by North, Kitty Teltscher. It was played in the house of Scarlet and Edward Leatham, the latter being the great-grandson of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, who sponsored Howard Carter's hunt for King Tut's tomb.

Normally, East would win the first trick in case South had a singleton club king, but East had spotted a way to defeat the contract. Suppose declarer immediately finesses in spades. East wins with the queen and shifts to his singleton diamond. Then, when back in with the spade ace, he can underlead in clubs to put his partner on play and receive a diamond ruff.

The declarer, Tessa Attwater, found the riposte: At trick two, she returned her club six, a pretty Scissors Coup. East won and shifted to his diamond, but when he got in with the spade queen, West was entryless. Attwater lost only two spades and one club.

Finally, for those of you who missed or lost my Christmas Competition and would like to enter, you can find it on my Web site at www.phillipalderbridge.com.

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Library News & Views

By Janie Romine, librarian

The New Year brings both enjoyable and not so enjoyable situations.

Remember, the Scurry County Library can help you with your needs during this time. Of course, at the first of the year, you may be one of those who receives seed catalogs. As you peruse the catalogs and have questions about plantings, come to the Scurry County Library and consult our gardening books.

Unfortunately, all things at the beginning of the year are not as gratifying as seed catalogs. Uncle Sam wants you to pay your taxes.

The Scurry County Library has many of the forms you need. The library receives what the government thinks the citizens need, so the library does not always have all the forms you may need. Because of this, you may need to send off for some other forms.

Come by and pick up the forms you need. Please, however, do not ask the staff questions about your taxes. The library staff is not allowed to help you with your taxes. Believe me, you will do better without our input!

For those of you getting ready to send a child to college, look at the helpful materials sent from the state. There are booklets to help you with seeking financial aid for those college years, plus, other helps. For those who will have a college age student in the future, it is never too early to plan.

Are you interested in the HMOs in Texas? The library has received the new, "Comparing Texas HMOs, 2002," and it is available in the reading area. No matter your interest, you can find it here at the Scurry County Library.

Within a year of quitting smoking, your excess risk of coronary heart disease is cut by half.

Courage is more exhilarating than fear, and in the long run it is easier.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Beware of the half-truth. You may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

—Seymour Essrog

Community Calendar

MONDAY

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NA-Just for Today; Park Club at Winston Park; 573-1438.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY

Gateway Family Services parenting discussion group, focuses on a variety of parenting issues and special challenges; no charge; call 73-1822 for more information; 10:30 a.m.

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

Snyder Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Central Fire Station; 7 p.m.

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

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughters Club; MAWC; Judy English and Betsy Armstrong will give the program, "Easing the Journey, Personalized Care Offers comfort and Peace;" hostesses, Francene Noah and LaVerne Hood; 11:30 a.m.

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal bldg.; program, Virginia Lowrance; hostess, Myrtle Joiner; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9.30 a.m.

Snyder Garden Club; Scurry County Library; election of officers and a program "Iris: The Rainbow Flower," video tape from National Garden Clubs; 4 p.m.

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

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-8015, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

School Menus

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk. Juice is offered on the breakfast menu.

BREAKFAST

Monday
Dry Cereal
Toast

Tuesday
Pancake Pups

Wednesday
Blueberry Muffins

Thursday
Oatmeal
Toast

Friday
Biscuits
Sausage

LUNCH

Monday
Corn Dogs
French Fries
Pickle Spears
Pears

Tuesday
Beef Enchiladas
Spanish Rice
Ranch Style Beans
Crackers
Pineapple

Wednesday
Frank Wraps
Tater Tots
Salsa Sauce
Peaches

Thursday
German Sausage
Potatoes in Cheese Sauce
Black-eyed Peas
Corn Bread
Vanilla Pudding

Friday
Toasted Cheese Sandwiches
Vegetable Soup
Pickled Beets
Crackers
Mixed Fruit

Ira

All meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST

Monday
Biscuit, Gravy & Sausage
Juice

Tuesday
Breakfast Tacos

Wednesday
Cinnamon Rolls
Juice

Thursday
Pancakes
Bacon
Juice

Friday
Breakfast Pizza

LUNCH

Monday
Chicken Spaghetti
Salad
Peas
Cookies

Tuesday
Stromboli
Potatoes
Carrots
Fruit

Wednesday
Barbecue Sausage
Black-eyed Peas
Corn on the Cob
Corn Bread
Jell-O

Thursday
Soft Tacos
Salad
Beans
Cake

Friday
Chicken Fried Steak on a Bun
Lettuce & Tomatoes
Tater Tots
Cookies

Snyder

All meals are served with milk and the breakfast menu offers juice.

CLASSROOM BREAKFAST

(East, Northeast, Stanfield, West)

Monday
Holiday

Tuesday
Strawberry Toaster Pastry

Wednesday
Ham & Cheese Wrap

Thursday
Donut

Friday
Sausage Topped Muffin

Other Schools

Tuesday
Donut or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly

Wednesday
Ham & Cheese Wrap or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly

Thursday
French Toast Sticks w/Syrup
or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly

Friday
Sausage & Egg in a Biscuit or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly

LUNCH

Tuesday
Salisbury Steak or
Chicken Nuggets w/Gravy
Cheese & Chives Mashed Potatoes
Seasoned Green Beans
Texas Toast

Wednesday
Burrito Grande or
Crispy Beef Taco
Campfire Beans
Golden Kernel Corn
Ice Cream

Thursday
Barbecue on a Bun or
Picnic Wrap
Potato Salad
Beans & Rice
Fruited Gelatin

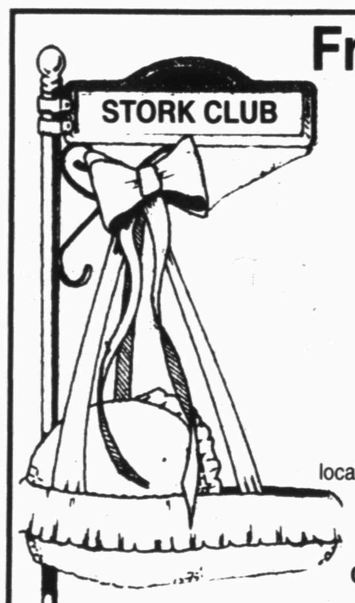
Friday
Cheese Quesadilla or
"Fighting Tiger"
Cheeseburger
Lettuce & Tomato Cup
Broccoli Wedges w/Dip
Strawberry Shortcake

Bridal Registry

Lynn Polk and Brad Hart
Leslie Deere and Corey Trujillo
Laurie Huddleston and Joey Roland
Stephanie Cox and Chris Reed
Sarah Ann Dykes and Joe Mac Cheyne

Infant Registry
Wedding Invitations
•Tuxedo Rentals
Phone In Orders Welcome
Free Delivery To Bridal Shower

Classic Interiors
2520 Ave. R East Side of Square 573-1701
Open Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 10:00-4:00


STORK CLUB

Free Prepared Childbirth Classes

Tuesdays 7-9 pm
(Total of Five Classes)
January 14 through
February 11, 2003

Classes will be held at
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located next to Prime Rehab entrance

Instructor:
Bonnie Carroll, RN
Certified Childbirth educator

After This Class, Next Class Begins March 2003

•Physiology of Pregnancy and Delivery
•Tips to Avoid Complications
• Breathing Techniques
• Newborn Care
• Breast Feeding Techniques
• Tour of Hospital OB Department
• Sibling Class (for future big brothers and sisters included in final class)

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a coach.

FREE To Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB patients.
Fee - $40 per couple, payable prior to first class when delivering out of town. For more information please contact Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB Department 574-7050

Class Size Is Limited
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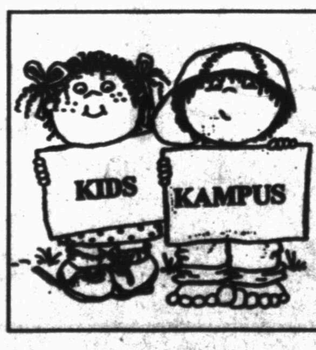
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Scurry County Service Men & Women

(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave.; or e-mail to gorman@snyderdailynews.com. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

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3rd TSB Landing Support Company Unit 38420
FPO AP 96604-8420

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Marine Security Guard Detachment
American Embassy Mexico City
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Tx. 78044-3087

Pvt. Bishop, Joseph E.
Mar. Cor. Pet. EEIC Class #EEC-OL
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Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473-6981

Sr A Micah Brown
763 EARS/SC
APO AE 09853

SGT Ryan D. Byrd
138th PMCT
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Mineman First Class
MN1 (5W) Delton Drum
USS Raven (MHC-61)
FPO AE 09586-1960

MASA Early Robert G.
PCS 451 Security
FPOAE 09834-2800

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26th MEU DET K
Unit 74079
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Col. Joe Dan Wilson
CMR 460
Box 121
APOAE 09703

Shawn Wittie
202 L St. Clair CR
Yorktown, VA. 23693

California's poultry shipments banned

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Canada and Mexico have banned shipments of poultry and poultry products from California because of the outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, the California Farm Bureau said.

The disease, which threatens the state's $3 billion poultry industry, is harmless to humans but fatal to birds.

State farm officials said Canada will stop all shipments of poultry and its products from California for 14 days. Mexico, the state's leading export market for poultry, also called for a similar ban.

Insurance proposals emerge as lawmakers get ready to meet

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has declared homeowners insurance reform a legislative priority for the 2003 session, and lawmakers are already working on it.

More than two dozen bills have been filed to address insurance, a leading issue in the November elections.

Since the Legislature last met, in 2001, lawmakers have been hit with consumer complaints about the rising cost of homeowners insurance. Some consumers say their rates have increased as much as 200 percent.

Insurance companies blame the higher premiums on the rising cost of water claims and other factors that have caused them to lose money. Two of the state's three largest insurers have stopped writing new homeowner policies in Texas.

There is little the state can do now to control the rates because about 95 percent of homeowner policies in Texas are written by subsidiaries that are exempt from rate regulation by the Texas Department of Insurance.

Many lawmakers have called for some type of insurance regulation. The hard part will be determining how much to regulate the system.

That already has consumer and industry groups at odds with each other.

"It is going to be critical for real Texas homeowners and consumers to make sure their legislators know that they want real reform and that token reforms are not going to be tolerated," said Dan Lambe, executive director of the consumer group Texas Watch, which advocates state regulation over insurance rates.

Jerry Johns with the industry group Southwestern Insurance Information Service said his group would like to see lawmakers give companies more choices in the type of policy they offer.

His group also would support a "reasonable" file and use system, allowing companies to file their rates with the insurance commissioner, who then would have a designated period of time to reject the rates if they were unjustified.

"We need to look at this in a balanced, reasonable way, devoid of emotion and try to get this market stabilized and get us in a position where we can serve customers," Johns said.

Here are some of the bills that have been filed:

— SB 14 would require homeowner and auto insurance companies to file their rates with the Texas Department of Insurance, which could reject them. Now almost all homeowners policies in Texas are exempt from regulation. Sponsor: Sen. Mike Jackson, R-La Porte.

— HB 114 would bring all homeowner insurance companies under rate regulation. Sponsor: Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth.

— SB 125 would prohibit an insurance company from writing any other line of insurance if it withdraws from the homeowner or auto market in Texas. Last fall, Farmers Insurance threatened to stop writing homeowner policies but continue selling other coverage in Texas. Sponsor: Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay.

— HB 45 would ban an insurance company from using an underwriting guideline based on a person's credit history or rating. Sponsor: Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston.

— HB 99 would give rate reductions to homeowners policy holders who have clean claims records. Sponsor: Rep. Eugene "Gene" Seaman, R-Corpus Christi.

Juror's illness forces retrial in murder case

HOUSTON (AP) — Because a juror is too sick to continue with the punishment phase, a judge has thrown out the conviction of a man convicted of the torture slaying of a 3-year-old girl.

After learning the juror could not go on, state District Judge Jeannine Barr declared a mistrial Thursday in the capital murder conviction of Tomas Gallo, 27, and set a new trial for next fall.

Gallo, 27, was convicted in November of torturing Destiny Marie Flores to death. Her body was found in the bathroom of her south Houston residence on Dec. 11, 2001, her third birthday.

The jury that found Gallo guilty was to have resumed hearing testimony next Monday to decide between life in prison or execution by injection.

The trial was halted abruptly on Nov. 18 after new information surfaced, indicating that Gallo may be mentally retarded. Barr stopped the trial to allow experts from both sides to evaluate him.

Barr said the juror alerted her about his illness this week. After a brief, informal court hearing Thursday, Barr declared that the man is disabled and unable to complete jury service.

The judge granted a motion by defense lawyers Gerald Bourque and Robert Morrow, granting a mistrial. Barr scheduled a new trial for Oct. 27, when a new jury will hear the case from the beginning.

Destiny Flores had been bitten all over her body, investigators said, and had more than 180 bruises, including to her heart, lungs and kidneys.

The Houston Chronicle reported that the child had broken ribs and a crushed skull and her vagina was torn in two places, caused apparently by the handle of a saucepan.

JAN 05 2003

Bankruptcy business now booming in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — The bankruptcy business is booming in Chicago — hometown for the airlines struggling to emerge from the biggest such filing in aviation history.

Partly due to increased attorneys fees and new rules reducing days in court, Chicago has been picking up big cases that formerly might have gone to courts in Delaware or New York.

A raft of high-profile filings in 2002 — Kmart, United Airlines parent UAL Corp. and Conseco Inc. — showed that corporations, too, are getting comfortable with Chicago's federal bankruptcy judges.

Delaware long has been considered a prime spot to file because, in part, many companies are incorporated there, and because attorneys say they find the judges easy to work with.

However, "Delaware as a venue became unfavorable because of its backlog," said David Newby, a Chicago attorney for property owners leasing to Kmart. "Ironically, it became too popular."

Newby and others say Chicago is now benefiting from the feedback from attorneys who have brought their cases to Chicago.

Attorney Harold Kaplan, chairman of the Chicago Bar Association's bankruptcy committee, said the Chicago bankruptcy court formerly had a reputation for rejecting attorney fees that would be in the range of New York and other East Coast courts.

Rulings in recent filings have evened that out, he said. And bankruptcy judges here have proven swift and responsive, encouraging some of the city's corporations and top bankruptcy law firms to stay at home with their filings.

Bankruptcy Judge Eugene Wedoff, the court's chief judge, said he and other judges have worked to simplify and standardize court policies so the court has become more efficient.

"The goal is to make the court more effective rather than to drum up business," Wedoff said.

"We want to be as good a court as we can for everybody who uses the court. If you can see recent filings here as an indication that we're doing our job, then good."

Chicago's 363 Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings, primarily corporate cases, in the year that ended Sept. 30 left it a distant fourth behind New York, Delaware and Los Angeles. But the trend in major corporation filings here is new, and both UAL and Conseco filed in December.

Newby said one change that corporations and attorneys favor is the omnibus hearing — where all related motions are heard at once, often over two days each month.

The old practice of allowing anyone involved in a case a hearing at any time is "not going to work in a Kmart case," Newby said. "It's not going to work in the United case. It's not going to work for Conseco, because you'd be in court all day every day."

Newby added that Chicago also has an abundance of respected bankruptcy attorneys who used to take big cases elsewhere.

"This sounds like apple polishing, but it's just true. There are some extraordinarily skilled bankruptcy lawyers in Chicago," Newby said. "It's not that talented folks aren't living in Philadelphia and New York, but we've got our share.

"Once it became acceptable to file in Chicago, it almost became imperative to file in Chicago."

Radio station hopes 'Joe Chemo' will inspire teens to quit smoking

PITTSBURGH (AP) — If Joe Camel encouraged some youngsters to start smoking, a producer at a western Pennsylvania radio station figures a sickly Joe Chemo will inspire teenagers to stop.

Joe Chemo — a cancer-stricken, disgruntled satire of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s now-extinct Joe Camel advertising campaign — is one of radio station WLER-FM's weapons in its war against teen tobacco use. The program also uses alternative music, local bands and money from Pennsylvania's share of a settlement between states and the tobacco industry.

WLER's "Dead Air" program hit the airwaves Dec. 2. For two hours, four nights a week, the program plays music aimed at teens and young adults. But unlike other alternative rock programs, the music is peppered with 20 minutes of commercials bought by the Butler County Tobacco Prevention and Control Program and the Butler County Tobacco Coalition.

Dead Air producer John Walchesky said the anti-tobacco groups are paying WLER $5,000 a month, or $75 per half hour, to exclusively sponsor Dead Air. Typically, the radio station charges companies $150 per half hour to sponsor a program.

Some commercials use humor to reach teenagers, while others use straight-talk from peers to get a message across, said Butler County Drug and Alcohol Program Director Kimberly Clark, who helped Walchesky create the program.

"We don't throw statistics at them. The ads kind of sound like conversations on the school bus," Clark said.

One ad features an aspiring dancer telling the audience how cigarette smoking sapped her energy. In another commercial, a narrator encourages listeners to "let big tobacco companies know that we're on to them."

Radio programs are good ways to reach teenagers because they are drawn to music, said Cheryl Healton, president and chief executive of the American Legacy Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based foundation that works to decrease tobacco use.

The foundation created and distributed a similar radio program — one that featured edgy music and commentary — about two years ago, Healton said.

Ask Hollywood by Holly Wood

Who really makes 'Heaven'?

Q: I just wanted to write to you to say "hello" and to comment on one of your columns. You answered a question concerning The WB. You stated that "7th Heaven" is produced by Paramount Pictures, and you gave their mailing address. For the past several years, I've known that "7th Heaven" is produced by Aaron Spelling and Spelling Entertainment. So, are you sure that the show is now produced by Paramount? Also, how can I get all of the show's episodes on tape? David Gallagher is my favorite cast member. **— T.T., Bessemer, Ala.**

A: We're both right. "7th Heaven" is produced by Spelling Entertainment, which is owned by Paramount-Viacom. It's a full-time job keeping track of who owns whom.

The series hasn't yet been released on VHS or DVD, but you can tape reruns when you catch them on television. You can build your collection more quickly if you get the ABC Family Channel, which airs reruns of the series every weekday and weekend. Check your local listings.

Q: I am a big fan of "The Young and the Restless." I'm writing to find out where I can write to Heather Tom. I've been a fan of hers since I started watching the soap opera, and I've asked everybody, but nobody has been able to help me find an address. Tom has been in a couple of movies on television, and her talent has taken her a long way. One of her movies is called "Deadly Whispers," with Tony Danza from "Who's the Boss." She was also in an episode of "Diagnosis Murder." I've seen her in person, too. She was in a play called "Vanities." She's a beautiful woman. **— K.W., Harrisburg, Ill.**

A: You can write to Tom, who plays Victoria McNeil, at "The Young and the Restless," Columbia TriStar Television, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Suite 3305, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Q: Can you tell me about the young actor Allan Kayser, who played Bubba on "Mama's Family"? I don't believe I've ever seen him on another show. **— H.K., Lawrence, Mich.**

A: Kayser was born in 1964 in Littleton, Colo., and he recently appeared in a TV movie called "Double Teamed." In 2000, he was in a film called "More Than Puppy Love." During the late 1990s he was involved mostly in theater.

Q: I saw a TV special about an album produced by George Martin, and the songs were all Beatles music, featuring stars such as Phil Collins, Robin Williams and Jim Carrey. Can you tell me if it is available for purchase? If so, where can I find it? **— J.D., Little Rock, Ark.**

A: The album "In My Life" was released in 1998, and, if you can't order it through your local music store, you can find it at Tower Records. Call (800) ASK-TOWER, or visit their Web site at www.towerrecords.com. It usually costs $12.99, but it's on sale for $8.99.

TRIVIA: David Gallagher of "7th Heaven" will graduate from high school in 2003.

(Send your questions to Ask Holly Wood, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, or write to HollyWood85@hotmail.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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Scurry County Anti-drug Connection

The best things in life are drug free

The Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with the Scurry County Anti Drug Connection and Al-Anon support groups devote this column to current information on substance abuse, and how we, as a community, can work together to create a safe and drug free environment for our children.

DO NOT DELAY, CONTACT TODAY

There is no telling how many opportunities are lost each year due to procrastination. Instead of living in the here and now and doing what we can at this moment, we put off and put off and put off. As the old joke asks, "Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow?"

Stop and consider, however, how it would affect the world if everyone procrastinated their responsibilities. How about the person who signs your paycheck? What if he or she decided to do payroll "another day"? What if your house was on fire and the firefighters decided, "Oh, let's wait another 15 minutes. No big deal." What if you put off talking to your kids about drugs, alcohol and tobacco?

Thanks to campaigns launched by organizations like Partnership for a Drug-Free America and MADD, the message is being spread about how talking honestly and openly with your children can reduce the likelihood of them getting involved in dangerous habits.

Do not assume that your children have learned all they need to know from school programs such as All Stars and Rainbow Days. You as a parent or influential adult are responsible for reinforcing the positive messages presented in such school programs. And certainly do not make the dangerous assumption that your kids are good kids and would not go that route.

No one is immune from the powerful temptations, especially those of a best friend or potential boyfriend or girlfriend saying, "Drink this beer. Smoke this joint." Please do not brush it off with "kids will be kids" or "when I was their age…" Consider what lessons you have learned that you do not want them to learn the hard way if at all possible.

You may find that your kids already know a great deal about the topic. The media sends many messages about drug, alcohol and tobacco use. Unfortunately, some kids know firsthand because they have watched parents or older siblings engaging in tobacco use or substance abuse. How do you want your little ones to learn about tobacco, alcohol and drugs? Who do you want teaching them? Remember, being a positive role model yourself is the best way. "Do as I say, not as I do" is not the best approach.

You may feel embarrassed about talking to your kids about major issues such as this. It is much easier if you have established a line a communication between you and your children from the time they started putting words together. If you do not have open channels, now is the time to begin establishing them. Here are some tips courtesy of *The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign's Behavior Change Expert Panel* for speaking with your children. The website www.theantidrug.com offers additional information and resources.

Be absolutely clear with your kids that you don't want them using drugs. Ever. Anywhere. Don't leave room for interpretation. And talk often about the dangers and results of drug and alcohol abuse. Once or twice a year won't do it.

Be a better listener. Ask questions — and encourage them. Paraphrase what your child says to you. Ask for their input about family decisions. Showing your willingness to listen will make your child feel more comfortable about opening up to you.

Give honest answers. Don't make up what you don't know; offer to find out. If asked whether you've ever taken drugs, let them know what's important: that you don't want them using drugs.

Use TV reports, anti-drug commercials, or school discussions about drugs to help you introduce the subject in a natural, unforced way.

Don't react in a way that will cut off further discussion. If your child makes statements that challenge or shock you, turn them into a calm discussion of why your child thinks people use drugs, or whether the effect is worth the risk.

Role play with your child and practice ways to refuse drugs in different situations. Acknowledge how tough these moments can be.

Source: The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign's Behavior Change Expert Panel.

For more information on how you and/or your business or organization can be involved in promoting a drug-free community, contact the Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection at the Snyder Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 574-1931 or 573-1411.

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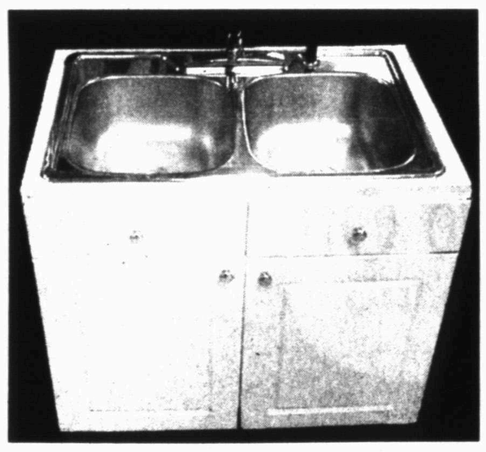
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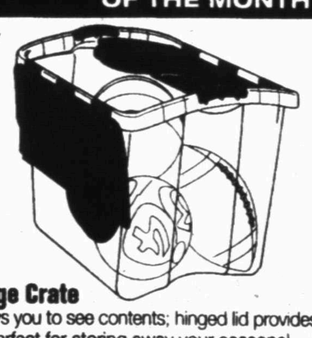
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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Family can't give high-dollar wedding

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Jenny," is engaged to marry a nice young physician. It's going to be an elaborate "black tie" affair in a castle in Europe.

The young man's family is enormously wealthy, and his siblings are all doctors or lawyers. Some of the wealthiest people in the world will attend the wedding.

On the other hand, our combined income is less than $30,000 a year. We pay our bills on time, but we have nothing extra at the end of the month.

The good news is that the groom-to-be's family has contributed a lot of money toward the wedding.

The bad news is that they're asking me why we haven't contributed any. Our daughter mentioned that some of her friends' parents have taken out a second mortgage on their homes so they can give their daughters their dream weddings.

(We live in an apartment.) Jenny hasn't lived at home for 12 years and makes more money than I ever will.

Abby, what is expected of me and my family? How can we explain to Jenny that we are happy for her and love her, but cannot and will not use our small retirement savings to pay for her elaborate extravaganza?

As it is, we will all have to travel to her castle, and pay for hotel rooms, tuxes, plus give them a lovely gift. We need your expert advice — and fast! — **NOT EVEN CLOSE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK**

DEAR NOT EVEN CLOSE: Do not allow yourself to be stampeded. I've said it before and I'll say it again: Under no circumstances should you mortgage your future to pay for a wedding. A wedding is a gift, not an obligation. Your daughter has chosen something that's beyond your means.

If the groom's family is unaware of this fact of life, please waste no time in explaining it to them. There should be no shame in doing so. It's reality.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am miserable. I am married and the mother of two children. I don't know how to get out of my marriage. My husband is so volatile he hollers, throws things, and is loud and verbally abusive to me. He also acts this way with the children.

I do not love him. I married too young and for all the wrong reasons. When we argue, he goes running to my family and tells them a sob story, and they blame me. When I try to talk to them, they refuse to listen and push me to stay with him.

I don't want to have to walk out on all of my possessions, but I will if I have to. I am willing to do almost anything to get out of this marriage.

The last time we went through this, he wouldn't leave. Now he is saying he will and promises he will not contact my family. However, I'm afraid to trust. Please help me. — **CONFUSED AND UNSURE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR CONFUSED: Since you have already decided that the marriage was a mistake and not worth trying to save, consult a lawyer who specializes in family law. He or she will counsel you about what each of you is entitled to and how to ensure that your husband leaves.

Establish how you will support yourself and the children when the time comes. Do not depend upon your family for emotional support and you will not be disappointed. It is said that "breaking up is hard to do," but your lawyer can help you through the process. No one comes through a divorce entirely unscathed — but it's better than remaining in a loveless marriage with a volatile, verbally abusive spouse.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY: I loved, loved, loved the column about signs that indicate a spouse is cheating. I sent it to my former husband with red "x's" next to every point that reminded me of him. Since our divorce 22 years ago, he has remarried twice.

You hit the nail on the head when you listed "changes in grooming." My 55-year-old Romeo went out and bought hair dye and began to blow-dry his hair every morning to hide his large bald spot.

He had taken his wedding ring off years before, saying he couldn't wear it around the machines at work.

But he didn't work seven days a week, and he was a supervisor. His men did all the work. (His company later demoted him for sexual harassment.)

The "emergency errands" you mentioned were hilarious. One night my ex said he had to get oil for the car immediately.

When I casually-on-purpose suggested I accompany him, he went to the garage to pretend to take another look, then came back and said he didn't need the oil after all.

At the time of our divorce, I found a package of condoms in his fishing tackle box.

I kept the package and stomped on all his lures and other fishing equipment. It was a few days before fishing season opened in Wisconsin.

A day or two later, I discovered another package of the same brand in my daughter's dresser drawer. She had been away at college for six months. (I had wanted to launder things in her underwear drawer when I came upon the package.)

When I confronted my husband, who thought he'd had a sure bet with that hiding place, he said, "Don't tell 'Joanie' you found them in case they're hers." I screamed at him, "In case they're HERS, you creep!"

Only the Lord must have kept me from getting a knife from the kitchen that night to use on a man who'd accuse his own daughter to get himself off the hook. It was the last straw.

So, Abby, if you think that you have heard it all, trust me — you haven't. I don't miss him. And I will never remarry because of the alimony. My only regret is that I didn't throw him out sooner. — **HELL HATH NO FURY IN MILWAUKEE**

DEAR H.H.N.F.: Just when I think I HAVE heard it all, a letter like yours comes along! I don't blame you for being angry. But please don't make it a career. Hate corrodes the vessel that carries it.

**

DEAR ABBY: My high school friends have invited me to a party that's coming up soon.

I know there's going to be beer, drugs and sex. I was thinking about not showing up, but I don't want to let my friends down.

Maybe I'll tell them an emergency came up and I had to go to the hospital. I don't like making up lies, but I don't know what else to do. What do you think? -- **TEXAS DUDE**

DEAR DUDE: I'm impressed that you are not caving into peer pressure. You deserve to be commended.

Make other plans so you won't have to lie. Then tell your friends you have another commitment. That way, you'll be telling the truth.

**

DEAR ABBY: Do you think I am selfish because I want to go on a ski vacation without my pregnant wife? At the time of the trip, she'll be eight months along. She says I'm being inconsiderate. Am I? -- **SKI BUMMED**

DEAR SKI BUMMED: I think so. Babies have been known to arrive early. And while you're on the slopes, your wife may need "a lift" to the hospital.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby."

Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Prediction reduced

FORT WORTH (AP) — Consumer-electronics retailer RadioShack cut its profit prediction for the fourth quarter, citing weaker sales of items from cellular phones to remote-controlled toy cars.

The retailer said it expected to earn 58 cents to 60 cents per share instead of the previously forecast 63 cents to 68 cents per share.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call had expected 65 cents per share earnings.

The company said it still expects earnings per share to grow between 13 percent and 15 percent per year for the next three years.

Mother of 8 becomes the first in family to get college degree

FORT WORTH — Beatrice Rosas started working at age 6, got married at 16 and had the first of eight children at 17, but she never gave up on the idea of earning a college degree.

At 69, Rosas achieved that goal last month when she walked across the stage at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth to receive her bachelor's degree in sociology.

Blind in one eye and arthritic, she endured the death of her husband and one child to become the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

"No one is more surprised by that than I am," she said.

Rosas has no dreams of a big job waiting for her after she graduates. Her degree was a personal journey, one that she crossed off her list of things to do in life. Learning is good for the soul, Rosas said.

"I've learned in my life that everything I do has a purpose behind it," she said. "I may not know what it is, but it falls into place later."

Rosas, who lives in south Fort Worth, focused on college after her husband, Jesse Rosas, died in 1992.

"The biggest motivator in my life was my husband," she said. "He always felt that there wasn't anything that I couldn't do. I didn't feel that way, but he did."

She dropped out of school in the sixth grade to work at a drugstore in Fort Worth, helping support her family after her father, a single parent, became ill.

In her early teens, she began dating Jesse Rosas, and eventually, she married him. They had met at a relative's house when she was 9. Jesse Rosas was playing marbles outside. She raised their eight children while he worked at his body shop.

It wasn't until their youngest child started kindergarten that she pursued her general equivalency diploma. After spending two years at what is now Tarrant County College, she received her GED in 1984.

"I had to teach myself the things I missed when I did not get my high school diploma," Rosas said.

Through the years, she also started a food pantry, served on boards in the Catholic Church and worked with nonprofit groups. She now works for Southeast Area Churches, or SEARCH, which distributes food and clothing to the needy. But she always longed to go to college.

And it has never been easy.

When she went to register for classes at Texas Wesleyan, Rosas could not climb a set of stairs because of arthritis — an ailment she has endured for 20 years. A student saw her predicament and got an employee from the registrar's office to come downstairs to enroll Rosas.

When Rosas suffered a minor heart ailment during midterms last semester, Denise Burns gave her notes from a class they were taking.

"I was concerned when she missed the class, because she is always there," Burns said.

The university's security staff gives her rides to and from classes. Such acts of kindness have touched Rosas.

"The young people in college are beautiful," Rosas said. "There are always three or four people willing to help."

Police nab 1st baby's father

SPRING HILL, Fla. (AP) — David Jose Orama, the father of the first baby born in Florida's Hernando County in 2003, told the St. Petersburg Times the New Year's birth "was a big surprise."

He got another surprise Thursday — when deputies who saw the newspaper story arrested him on probation violation charges.

Hernando County sheriff's deputy Neil Sullivan saw the man's name in the newspaper Thursday morning, and learned where he had been living. Sullivan canvassed the area until seeing an "It's a boy" banner.

Sullivan knocked on the door, was told Orama was at the hospital, and then went to Spring Hill Regional Hospital's maternity ward to arrest the man.

"He did not resist," sheriff's spokesman Joe Paez said. "He knew we were looking for him."

Orama remained in the Hernando County Jail in lieu of $1,700 bail. His probation violation stemmed from a DUI conviction, officials said.

He and his fiancee, Cynthia Colon, 23, told the newspaper they were leaning toward naming their son Darie Newyear.

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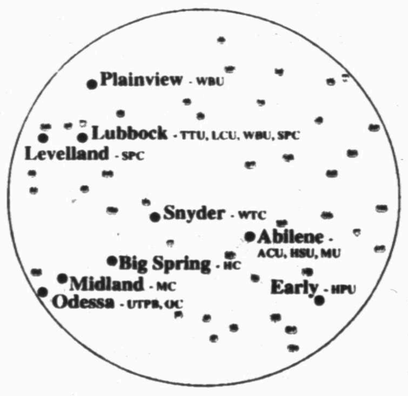

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Saints and Sinners by George R. Plagenz

A mission: breathe new life into sermons

Nothing is wrong with today's churches that good preaching wouldn't fix.

In a Dec. 1 article, "For Pastors, Worldly Help With Spiritual Messages," Washington Post staff writer Caryle Murphy came to the conclusion that humdrum sermons no longer suffice. Many sermons, she said, "leave listeners uninspired, impatient and bored."

Murphy quoted several passionate pastors on the subject, including Rev. Wallace Charles Smith, who said that many modern preachers take great pains to deliver sermons that are "theologically correct," forgetting that "for preaching to be effective, ... what a good sermon has to do is meet a human need." Another preacher Murphy interviewed, Rev. John J. Enzler, said that preachers shouldn't tiptoe around tough issues that may alienate some of the congregation members. "It's pretty easy to just get up and talk about scripture," Enzler said. "What is not so easy is to say, 'I think the war in Iraq is wrong.'"

But what I miss most about modern preaching is that it lacks flair. It lacks the type of flair that was often expressed by the late Rev. Bernard Clausen, a Baptist minister from Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

There have been other great preachers, but at least one thing set Clausen apart from all the rest: His congregation not only looked forward to his sermons, they even looked forward to the collection. Clausen had a special way of sharing stories that would soften people up for the offering. He would tell the story of a church usher who passed the collection plate to a man who said, "I don't think I'll contribute today. I don't believe in missions."

But the usher — so Clausen's story went — had the quick wit to reply, "Take some out then, it's for the heathens."

It was Clausen's sermons, though, that people talked about most. It wasn't only what he said, but the way he said it. There was animation in every word. He could smile and frown at the same time. It was wonderful to watch the mobility of that face.

I recall, in particular, one sermon of Clausen's. The topic was "I Hope You Fail":

"I mean you," he said. "Not your enemies but your closest partners in the human enterprise. I want you to be known as failures because you try too much ... because you set your hopes too high ... because your reach exceeds your grasp. If you succeed you have attempted too little."

Clausen was colorful and he was theatrical, but he was no mere performer — no Elmer Gantry. He was a man with a mission — to help "build a world safe for the hopes of motherhood, safe for the dreams of childhood" as he said. He once told the story of the cynic who said, "I could build a better world than this." Clausen replied, "Why don't you then? That's why God put you here."

There was a time in Clausen's life when an accident deprived him of the use of his tongue and threatened to leave him speechless. "Out of those anxious days of silence," he said later, "I took a vow that if ever the precious gift of speech were given back to me, I should try to speak no untrue, unfair, unkind word so long as I lived."

I was acquainted with Clausen the last 20 years of his life and I never knew him to go back on that vow.

But somewhere along the line, he must also have taken another vow — never to speak a dull word. That is what made him unusual in his own day. It would have made him even more unusual today.

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Letters to the Editor

Enjoys letters

Dear Editor:

I have intended to write this letter for quite some time if for no other reason than to tell you how much I enjoy the section of your newspaper with the Letters to the Editor.

I love to read what other citizens have to say and as far as I'm concerned the subjects they choose do not have to be one of praise for some institution or an individual. I just like to read what other people are thinking on a variety of subjects. Of course I realize one must not expect something to reach print that could be construed as libel for that may cause harm to the newspaper in the form of a suit for damages.

With the above in mind I want to say that I think the Snyder Daily News' restrictions as to what the content of a letter to the editor might be about is and has been a bit too qualifying and restricting. Further, if the honchos in charge of SDN would realize what a gold mine they have in allowing people to say their piece I think circulation would see an increase. I believe that individuals should be able to write about government and all sorts of things such as the way public schools are run and what is taught in the public schools and also about what is not taught in public schools.

I watched the contest of knowledge on Channel 12 Saturday evening between some Snyder High School youngsters and those from the Jim Ned High School and though I did not graduate from either school I knew the answers of several questions that neither high school could answer. I hasten to add that my schooling took place some 65 years before theirs. That was before the 'dumbing down procedure' began. I have an 8th grade to 9th grade examination that was required before the turn of the 19th century and which, I think, no high school graduate of this day and time could pass. I don't blame the youngsters for not knowing the answers to the questions they missed rather the SISD deserves it. One can't expect one to know a whole lot more than they are taught or that they be not inspired to read and learn for themselves.

Sincerely,
George R. Clark

Letter Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed and must give the address of the writer. Letters should be of reasonable length.

The newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters if they contain libelous material or information deemed in poor taste.

Following a long-standing policy and practice, Snyder Daily News does not publish letters pertaining to a candidate or issue once an election has been called.

Opinions in favor or in opposition to an issue or candidate may be published in paid political advertisements.

Letters to be published in the weekend edition must be submitted no later than noon Thursday.

Open Government Barometer

Number of Executive Sessions held by public entities in 2002.

Snyder ISD	17
DCOS	12
Scurry County	9
Ira ISD	9
City of Snyder	4
Hermleigh ISD	4
WTC	3
Cogdell Hospital	3

The Village Idiot by Jim Mullen

The bagel equation

Our city friends Bob and Bev have spent many weekends at the farm with us over the years. They bring their kids, they go to the county fair, they watch the farmers plow the fields and cut the hay, they let their dogs run wild. Their kids love it. They can play without having to have seven security guards watch them every minute. The neighbor's horses and chickens and goats amuse them endlessly. Their dogs love it; they come home covered in mud, beaming with the satisfaction of knowing that if it was rotting and disgusting, they had rolled in it. Bob and Bev love it — she shops for antiques, he loves to help Sue in the greenhouses. The entire time they're here they complain about how hard life is in the city, and how expensive. To hear them talk you would think they lived in a Third World country that was temporarily in-between dictators, not in the heart of Manhattan.

First the French chef quit Cartier's school cafeteria, then Bev's supermarket ran out of white truffle oil. Their life is just one crisis after another.

"I was going to make seared tuna over squid ink pasta, but without white truffle oil that plan went right out the window. You know what picky eaters Cartier and Bresson are. So I said I guess we'll just have to heat up the leftover Boeuf Bourguignon if Bob hasn't given it to the dogs already. I had to explain to the children what leftovers meant. But it was good lesson. Now they know how poor people live." We listen to how much they have to tip the doorman, to how tiny their apartment is, to how bad the traffic is, to how loud the sound is from the disco next door at 3 a.m.

"So why don't you leave and move to the country and start living like humans?" I asked.

"Oh, no, we could never move here," Bob said. "You can't get a good bagel up here."

"I never knew bagels had such power."

"Well, it's not only that. There are no museums in the country."

"When was the last time you went to a museum?"

"Not for, oh, well, since the kids were born, but we could go if we wanted to, and that's the point. Besides, we know people that still go to museums, and they say there's not much new stuff in them." Bob and Bev's children, Cartier and Bresson are 12 and 15.

"So if we called our farm a 'Farmer's Museum' it would be worth visiting, but if it's just a plain old farm, it's not."

"Exactly. Besides, this farm couldn't be a museum. It doesn't have a gift shop. Or cafeteria. Or public toilets. So don't try to pass this off as some kind of 'learning experience' for the kids. They're not a bunch of hicks, you know."

Hardly. This is a family of sophisticated New Yorkers.

So let's do the math. Not having to lock your doors at night or a good bagel? Not having to worry if your kids are out joining the Crips and the Bloods or a good bagel? Not having to pay $300 a month to park your car or a good bagel? Peace and quiet or a good bagel? Seeing the stars at night or a good bagel? A 14-room farmhouse or a good bagel?

"But you don't even eat that many bagels," I told Bob.

"I eat them all the time," he said.

"OK, when was the last time you ate a bagel?

"I remember it well. I was at some museum cafeteria."

Jim Mullen is the author of "It Takes A Village Idiot: A Memoir of Life After the City" (Simon and Schuster, 2001). He also contributes regularly to Entertainment Weekly, where he can be reached at jim_mullen@ew.com

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

El Paso Times

Specter of TAKS test

Widespread predictions of doom and gloom accompany the advent of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) that students across Texas will begin taking in 2003.

TAKS is the successor to TAAS, the controversial Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test. Third- through 11th-graders will take the test for the first time this spring, and this year's sophomores will end up being the first class that has to take the exit-level TAKS in order to graduate.

Officials at the Texas Education Agency are predicting that two-thirds of El Paso eighth-graders will not pass the TAKS. It would not really be a surprise, and certainly not a reason for panic, should this dire prediction turn out to be reality. When TAAS was introduced, there were some initial problems and low scores, but those problems were largely rectified and the scores improved dramatically.

TAKS is touted to be more difficult than TAAS, so it's to be expected that there will be problems.

If indeed the initial scores turn out to be as dismal as state officials are predicting, one thing must not happen. The students must not be blamed and they must not be assumed to be unable to learn the more-difficult material.

If there is a problem, first attention must be turned upon the curriculum and how it is taught.

A toughened curriculum was introduced in 1998, and the TAKS is based on that curriculum. Although the curriculum has been taught for four years, it's not inconceivable that there still are glitches needing to be worked out in the test and possibly the curriculum. Among other things, the TAKS should reveal this.

Complaining about ratcheting up the difficulty of the test is a specious argument. Raising the bar in education isn't a bad thing. Expecting more out of students and teachers isn't bad. With Texas striving to increase the number of its secondary students who go on to enroll in college, the standards need to be raised, and that's what the exit-level TAKS will do.

College isn't easy, and the TAKS, plus a more-difficult curriculum, should help prepare students for the academic challenges that await them beyond high school. An increasingly high-tech world and workplace will show no sympathy to those who are ill-prepared. To that end, science and social studies have been added to the reading, writing and math that students had to conquer to pass the exit-level TAAS in order to graduate. Also, passing standards will be gradually tightened for TAKS until 2005.

TAKS is certainly going to pose a challenge. But education should be challenging, and the world after college certainly is.

Austin American-Statesman

North Korea

As the new year approaches, the United States is facing extraordinary international difficulties fighting a war against terrorism and preparing an attack against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to prevent his developing weapons of mass destruction.

Now North Korea's strange, addled regime is determined to foment a nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula, and President Bush is being forced to grapple with it.

Pyongyang has defied international law by removing monitors and cameras, installing fuel rods at a mothballed nuclear plant that can be used to make weapons-grade plutonium and kicking out international inspectors. It is a grave situation to say the least.

Nuclear bombs in the hands of the paranoid, dictatorial regime in the North is a frightening prospect. More so for South Korea, the likely target of any aggression from North Korea, than the United States. But Russia, Japan and even China are in harm's way as well.

Bush has been reluctant to negotiate with Pyongyang because he doesn't want to reward North Korea's years of lying and treachery. But there is little choice. He can, however, combine diplomacy with force. He can open negotiations and send troops and carriers to the region, as the United States did in 1994, to reinforce the message that continued defiance courts disaster for North Korean President Kim Jong Il's despotic regime.

A pre-emptive strike on North Korea's nuclear facilities would be risky. North Korea, with 1 million troops under arms, would almost certainly retaliate against Seoul and the 37,000 American troops in South Korea. The cost of such a first-strike and its inevitable response could be horrendous.

America's strained relations with longtime ally South Korea add another layer to the crisis that the Bush administration must deal with. South Korea recently elected an anti-American president who does not welcome the American troops stationed in the South.

South Korea desperately wants better relations with the North, even to the point of ordering out the U.S. troops. But the North's nuclear aggression has changed that scenario considerably. South Korea, like the United States, cannot abide nuclear weapons in the hands of the desperate, isolated and unpredictable militants in the North. The South, then, must rely on the United States for protection.

Bush's path is clear: He cannot allow North Korea to develop nuclear capability. High-grade weapons in the hands of the unstable regime in the North would leave much of Asia hostage to nuclear blackmail.

Houston Chronicle

Americans not saving

Americans are living longer, but few are saving enough to help ease their lives in their old age. Three out of four working people between the ages of 55 and 64 live in households with retirement savings of $56,000 or less.

That's not much comfort or support for someone who may live another 20 years or so.

The trouble for most people is that the habit of saving a little of each paycheck is harder to get into than the practice of spending as much as they can, including loading their credit cards to the max.

More than half of paid workers between 25 and 64 don't have retirement savings accounts of any kind, according to a new congressional study. Saving is even more difficult for those who work for companies without retirement savings plans. About a third of Americans work for employers without retirement plans.

Still, everybody can save a little something for the future, no matter how small. But saving is a choice that requires discipline. Little more than half of employees participate in retirement saving plans of the companies that offer them.

It's smart for people to take it upon themselves to prepare for retirement. Most cannot count on others — be it their employer or their government. Fewer companies today offer defined-benefit pension plans. Social Security will begin paying out more money in benefits in 2016 than it takes in in payroll taxes.

Get into the routine of saving and investing. Maximize 401(k) accounts, where possible.

For the long run, young people should be taught early in school and at home about the importance of saving.

Benjamin Franklin was right. A penny saved is a penny earned. So is a dollar, allowing, of course, for inflation.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2003

Both old and new friends and associates will play important roles in helping you have an easier row to hoe in the year ahead. They'll stand by you in your time of need because you'll be there for them when they need you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you choose to work in a busy environment today, chances are you'll be easily distracted and somewhat limited in your productivity. Try to find solitude if you hope to accomplish your aims.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't make waves today by ignoring family needs to satisfy a personal, expensive desire. Talk things out first with the clan in order to understand how they'd feel.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be careful not to come on too bossy today. Persons with whom you share your day will perform better with a minimum amount of supervision. Leave others to their own devices.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Again today, you may find yourself periodically out of control when it comes to your spending practices. Strike a balance between wastefulness and penny-pinching.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — What you desire to accomplish today can be achieved, so long as you don't start taking shortcuts to save time. Your haste will invite mistakes and more delays.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Behavior predicated upon sober, clear-headed reflection will lead to desirable results today. Conversely, when you're nonchalant about situations, the opposite will be true.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Before getting involved again with one who is already obligated to you, ask him/her to straighten out the old matters satisfactorily first. Otherwise, you'll only get in deeper.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you truly want to make progress today on a present objective, re-evaluate it to be sure you haven't been chasing an unattainable goal. You may need to replace it with a feasible target.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Relying too heavily upon chance or luck today in a situation that requires methodical management will lead to failure. Logical procedures will enhance your abilities to achieve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Should you slip out of your bailiwick today, you could act in ways that would prove costly. Stick to endeavors where you have knowledge, expertise and experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Standing around waiting for others to catch up with you today will get you no place fast. Greater progress can be made if you act alone and proceed at your own speed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Sometimes you allow irrelevant matters to dominate your time and attention and this could be one of those days again for you unless you focus on important issues and make them your priority.

Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and an SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

Monday, Jan. 6, 2003

In the year ahead many restrictions and tensions might be lifted off your shoulders and a fun cycle could be in the offing for you. A number of new friends and interests might command your time and attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It's smart to do more listening today than talking, especially when having a discussion with a well-informed friend. What he or she tells you could end up being very constructive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Although you might have to do so in small stages, a goal you've been anxious to achieve will be attainable today. Be both patient and persistent and you'll accomplish your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Watch the winners of the world today to see what you can effectively imitate. You can learn an important lesson by using your abilities as an observer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — It isn't likely that anyone will be able to pull the wool over your eyes today. You won't be deceived by outward appearances; you'll grasp what lurks behind people's motives and actions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It pays to rehash important issues today down to their smallest details before taking any action on them. It's best to do so with a cohort who understands the matter as well as you do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You'll be compensated in proportion to the efforts you expend today. Use your smarts when performing your work and do a little extra if you can fit it in. It'll be appreciated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — By getting others to talk about themselves today, you'll not only put them at ease, you'll make them think you're pretty great to be around as well. Popularity stems from showing interest in others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Showing thoughtful concern for loved ones will be particularly appreciated today. They will focus on the little things you do for them that show how much you care.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Apply your ingenuity and resourcefulness to involvements that require creativity or an imaginative twist. You'll be especially skillful in devising original concepts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — A number of small gains can build up to a pretty large sum today, so be satisfied with each little accomplishment and let them add up one at a time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Because you'll have a way of making the affairs of others appear more enticing than yours today, it shouldn't be too difficult for you to find persons who will be supportive of your views.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — This could be the day that someone who owes you something will try to make an effort to repay you in some manner. His or her gesture will be most welcome.

Major changes are ahead for Capricorns in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and an SASE to Astro-Graph c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167 Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Lab's next chief must do better at communicating with public

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Los Alamos National Laboratory's next director must do a better job telling the public about the lab's failures as well as its success, outgoing director John Browne said.

The 60-year-old physicist has resigned amid a growing number of government investigations into charges of widespread theft and fraud at the nuclear weapons lab.

Browne said Thursday was not pressured to quit by federal officials or the University of California, which runs the lab for the Energy Department.

Browne said university president Richard Atkinson told him during a Dec. 23 conversation the lab may need a "management change" to address its problems.

Browne, whose contract was through November, told Atkinson he was prepared to offer his resignation and Atkinson said he would accept it. Browne acknowledged it would have been difficult for UC to renew his contract had he not stepped down.

Browne's resignation is effective Monday. Also stepping down is Joseph Salgado, a principal deputy director at the lab.

In an interview, Browne said he felt his credibility had suffered too much to be able to guide the lab through the latest round of problems.

"The controversy was so strong and so critical of management that I personally thought the best thing for me to do was resign and to have the university come in and take it to the next level of performance," he said.

The Energy Department, the FBI and at least two congressional committees are investigating allegations of credit card abuses at the lab over the past several years and the disappearance of high-tech hardware and other equipment.

Browne said he hopes the interim director — retired Navy Vice Admiral George Nanos — will continue efforts started until Browne's administration to improve lab management, including its purchasing and procurement systems.

"What the laboratory has to learn to do better and better is to communicate with everyone and it's something the new administration at Los Alamos will have to maintain a focus on very strongly," Browne said.

Browne also urged the interim administration to move quickly on improvements and not wait until the university selects a permanent director.

Reflecting on his own tenure, Browne called the job the toughest professional challenge of his life.

Browne said he felt he had made significant improvements as director, but the controversies had distracted him from improving lab management.

"My tenure as director has felt like sailing a sailboat and trying to put up a new set of sails in the middle of a squall," he said.

The lab, during Browne's tenure, was also tarnished by security scandals that included missing computer disks and the controversy involving former scientist Wen Ho Lee. Lee was jailed for nine months after being accused of stealing nuclear secrets. He denied any wrongdoing and ended up pleading guilty to a single felony count after the government's case crumbled.

Racial profiling...

Maryland state police reach partial settlement in lawsuit

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Maryland State Police reached a partial settlement of a racial-profiling lawsuit, agreeing to policy changes designed to keep troopers from unfairly singling out minority drivers.

Troopers complained they weren't involved in the settlement, which will be considered by the state Board of Public Works next week, its last meeting before Republican Gov.-elect Robert Ehrlich and his new state police superintendent take office.

The agreement was reached a decade after a black public defender refused to consent to a police search. The public defender sued and settled the case after state police agreed to track traffic stops, but the American Civil Liberties Union later filed a class-action lawsuit maintaining that discriminatory stops and searches continued.

The deal includes $325,000 for the plaintiffs' attorney fees but does not include monetary damages for individual motorists who say their stops were racially motivated. Those will be sought in separate lawsuits to be filed in the future, said William J. Mertens, the ACLU's lead outside counsel.

The deal also includes measures to identify racial profiling, including the distribution of brochures to drivers who are pulled over, informing them how to file a racial-profiling complaint, The Washington Post reported Friday.

Lt. Bud Frank, a spokesman for outgoing State Police Superintendent David B. Mitchell, declined to comment.

Jim Wobbleton, president of the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance, said he was angry that the agreement was struck without input from troopers.

"I see a tremendous amount of problems with this," Wobbleton said. "You get frustrated as a police officer when you are just trying to do your job and you get accused of being racist."

Ehrlich spokesman Paul E. Schurick said the incoming governor would reserve judgment on the consent decree.

"We've just learned about this, too, and I believe it's best that we not comment until we have a chance to review it, assess how much it will cost to implement, and evaluate its potential effectiveness," Schurick said.

Former Baltimore police commissioner Edward Norris will take over as state police superintendent once Ehrlich takes office.

Other aspects of the settlement include a police-citizen panel to hear police and citizen concerns about racial-profiling policies and make recommendations. When troopers ask for consent to search cars, they also would have to inform drivers that they have a right to refuse and have them waive that right in writing, a practice many troopers already follow.

The brochure also would be made available at rest stops, state police barracks and Motor Vehicle Administration offices. In addition, the agreement calls for setting up an 800 number for complaints.

Social worker in Missouri resigns after she's blamed in child's death

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri social worker has resigned, saying she was being made a scapegoat in the death of a 2-year-old foster child.

Kristy Hardy quit Thursday from her job as Greene County supervisor for the state Division of Family Services — the first county official to resign in a statewide shakeup of the Department of Social Services.

Hardy was the supervisor in the case of Dominic James, whose father has publicly blamed her and another social worker for the little boy's death.

Kathy Martin, director of the state department of Social Services, also resigned during the shakeup.

In Hardy's letter to her boss, Carmen May, who leads the DFS Greene County office, she wrote: "This resignation is a result of the last conversation we had in which you made it clear I am to be the scapegoat for the problems and current difficulties" the family services system is experiencing in Greene County.

Hardy said her superiors approved of decisions she and a social worker made in Dominic's case.

"I want people to know I left for the right reasons," she said. "I left because of the stress of the job and I had no choice. Carmen made it clear to me, I resign or be fired."

Hardy, who also sent her resignation to Gov. Bob Holden, intends to write a letter to the governor explaining problems with the system he pledged to fix after Dominic's death.

"People shouldn't be looking at the front-line workers. The problem isn't with the front-line workers," Hardy said. "The problem is with local management."

May was out of the office Thursday and unavailable for comment. Deb Hendricks, director of communications for the Department of Social Services, said she wouldn't respond to Hardy's comments.

"We'll just let her resignation stand," said Hendricks. "We have accepted her resignation."

Sidney James, Dominic's father, has blamed Hardy and another social worker for his son's death.

"If I wasn't guilty of anything, I wouldn't quit my job," James said. "I would stand up and fight."

Records obtained by the Springfield News-Leader show that Hardy and the other social worker decided to send the toddler back to the foster home of John and Jennifer Dilley, despite concern from other members of the team assigned to look out for Dominic's welfare, including his biological parents.

John Dilley has been charged with second-degree murder; prosecutors say he shook Dominic to death.

Holden ordered an independent investigation into the Greene County foster care system after Dominic's death. Investigators Dick Dunn and retired Judge Frank Conley wrote in their report that the local system was "dysfunctional" and had suffered a "complete breakdown."

Church-goers chase down kidnapper

ODESSA (AP) — Churchgoers came to the rescue of a 7-year-old girl whom a man whisked away from a worship service.

"No one knew this guy apparently," Odessa police Cpl. Sherrie Thompson was quoted in Friday's editions of the Odessa American. "The girl was just sitting in a pew, he grabbed her and took off."

According to police reports, a man entered Casa de Oracion about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, during a New Year's Day service, taking the girl from the pew where she sat, and taking her with him as he left the church.

Someone alerted the girl's father, who chased the abductor. The man finally released the child and continued to run.

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January 7, 2003

Snyder Healthcare
5311 Big Spring Hwy
573-6332

7:00 p.m.
Area Agency on Aging

Topics:
Programs for the elderly
How to qualify for Medicaid

SCRATCH OFFS — TEXAS LOTTERY

TO DO ~~TODAY~~ BY JANUARY 30TH

GIANT JUMBO BUCKS — GIANT JUMBO BUCKS (GAME #295) *OVERALL ODDS ARE 1 IN 3.06

BARREL OF BUGS — BARREL OF BUGS (GAME #300) *OVERALL ODDS ARE 1 IN 4.70

GRAND SLAM — GRAND SLAM (GAME #302) *OVERALL ODDS ARE 1 IN 4.78

SILVER & GOLD — SILVER & GOLD (GAME #311) *OVERALL ODDS ARE 1 IN 4.58

CASH DASH DOUBLE DOUBLER — CASH DASH DOUBLE DOUBLER (GAME #353) *OVERALL ODDS ARE 1 IN 4.76

END OF GAME NOTICE

These games will be closing on January 30, 2003. You have until July 29, 2003, to redeem any winning tickets for these games.

You can claim prizes of up to $599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of $600 or more are redeemable at any one of the 22 Texas Lottery Claim Centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

Notice: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. *Overall odds include break-even prizes. © 2003 Texas Lottery Commission.

JAN 05 2003

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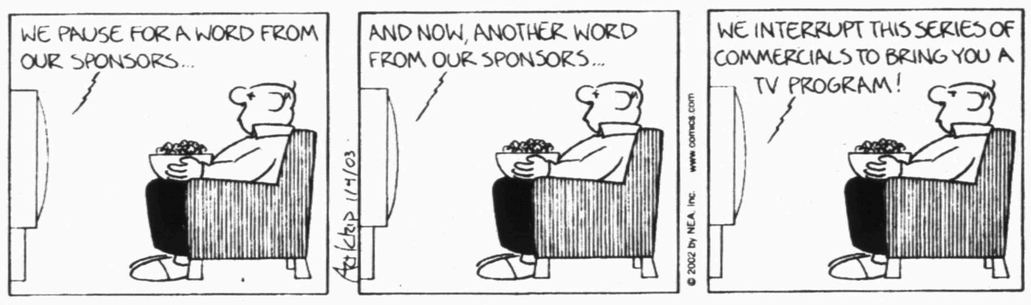
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



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BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

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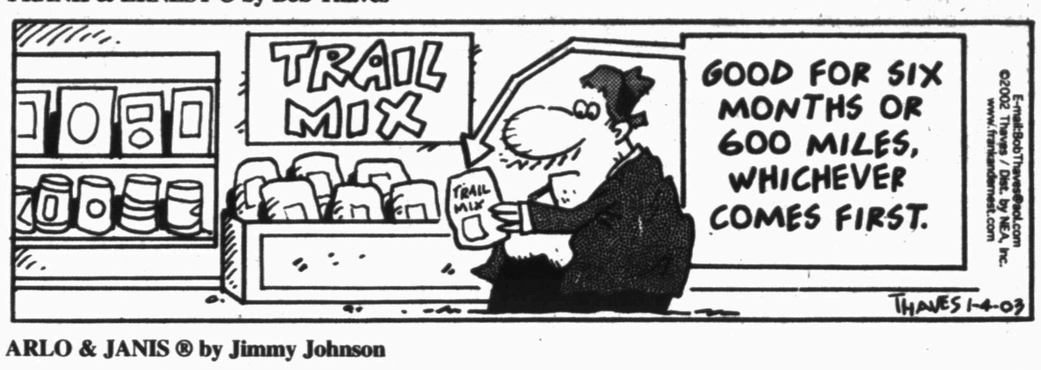
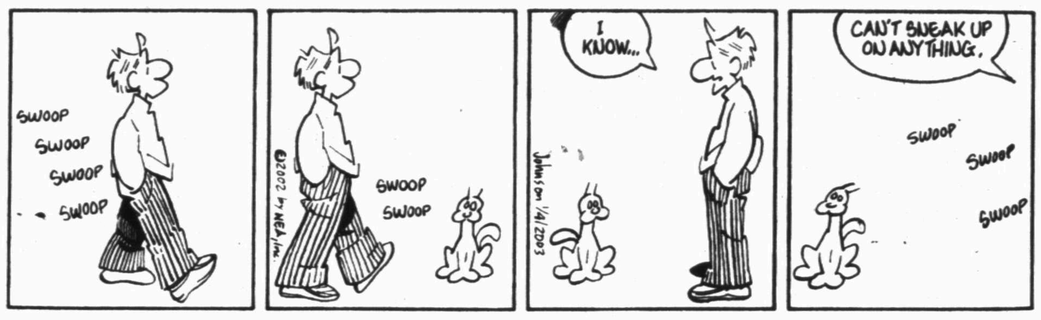
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Tofu constituent
4 Navy noncom
7 Asian desert
11 Melodrama shout
12 Gullet
13 Economist — Greenspan
14 Zip
15 Assistant
16 Metal for galvanizing
17 Approves
19 Urges
20 Kind of tent
21 Bench warmer
22 Fruit pastries
25 Composure
28 Function
29 Sundance Kid's girl
31 Lummox
33 Hopper
34 Time periods
36 Pub pint
37 Greece's sea
40 Free
42 Chat
43 Cassowary kin
44 Hindu teacher
46 Pulls hard
49 Ms. Turner
50 Elegant
52 Faucet word
54 Quit flying
55 Fleming and Smith
56 Dentist's org.
57 Hubby
58 Burrow
59 Siesta

DOWN

1 Family member
2 John Glenn's state
3 Egg yellow
4 Brittle
5 Waterlily leaf
6 Feel grateful
7 Summerhouse
8 Actress Lena —
9 Prohibits
10 Corporate abbr.
12 Indian pony
18 Classified wd.
19 "Westworld" name
21 Bridge
22 Container
23 Big continent
24 Lalique or Russo
25 Like — — of bricks
26 Trench
27 Island near Java
30 Shipbuilder's wood
32 Retainer
35 Wild shrubs
38 Dance wildly
39 — de cologne
41 Wimple wearer
43 Inspecting
44 Arizona river
45 Platoon
47 Tatar chief
48 Carbonated drink
49 Woolen cap
50 Spanish hero El —
51 Yes, in Kyoto
53 Collect maple sap

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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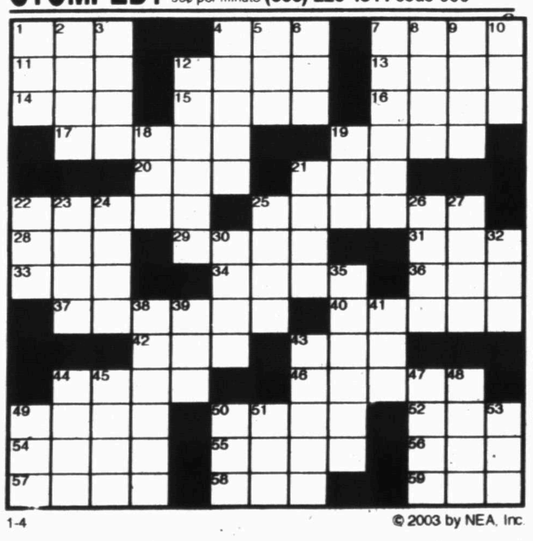

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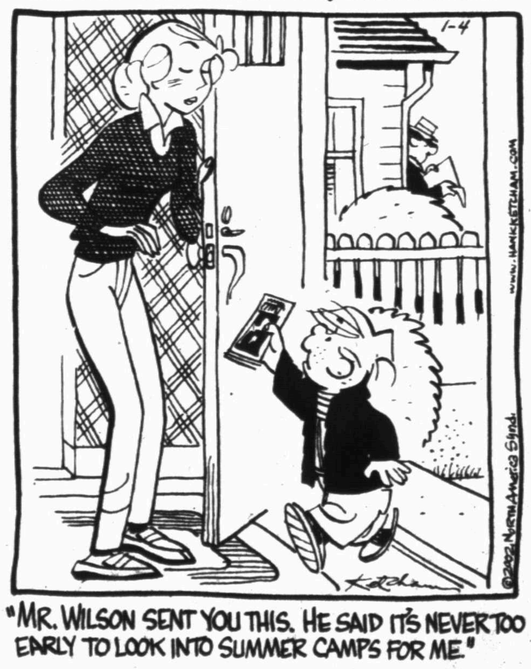
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"MR. WILSON SENT YOU THIS. HE SAID IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO LOOK INTO SUMMER CAMPS FOR ME."

"Head office wants us to send someone to the Arctic."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Partially hydrogenated oils are pervasive

Dear Dr. Blonz: Thanks a million for your clarification on partially hydrogenated fats, coconut oil and lard — I am truly grateful. Tortillas are a real problem for me; most have partially hydrogenated fats, and the ones at Trader Joe's (my favorite store) have oil and are not only small but high in sodium. Because of their size I usually need two to make a decent burrito. Partially hydrogenated fat is everywhere, even in the new calcium chews that I contemplated getting for my mother. There is either palm kernel oil or partially hydrogenated fat in each "chew." — **B.G., Walnut Creek, Calif.**

Dear B.G.: Thanks for your comments. The tide has definitely turned regarding partially hydrogenated vegetable oils and the unhealthful trans fats they contain.

The real issue is that they have so infiltrated fast foods — as well as our processed-food supply — that it will take time and a good deal of food engineering to get suitable replacements to market. I tend to rely on whole foods whenever possible, but I cannot deny the fact that food technology is an amazing field.

If the consumer demand for a partially hydrogenated vegetable oil replacement is there, the food industry will certainly step in to fill it. The implication is that for now we will have to continue to read labels and vote with our pocketbooks for those products that provide the ingredients we seek.

You mentioned palm kernel oil. Just so you know, it is similar to coconut oil in the types of fatty acids it contains.

Dear Dr. Blonz: In a recent column you mentioned the amino acid taurine, and I wanted to provide a little background on the reason we find taurine in cat food. Cats cannot produce this amino acid, so it is essential in their diet. In the late 1980s and early to mid-1990s, there was a large incidence of a heart problem called dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in cats, and this was finally found to be related to the low amounts of taurine in their diets (with consequential low plasma levels). These cats had poor left-ventricular contraction and developed DCM, which is reversible with taurine supplementation. Recently, evidence has shown that American cocker spaniels have low taurine levels. There have been some cases where these dogs present with low plasma taurine and poor left-ventricular contraction, and it turns out to be DCM that responds to taurine. It would be interesting to look at people with DCM and measure their plasma taurine levels as well as survey their diets. I was sending this to let you know the veterinarian perspective. It's always amazing how much vet medicine and human medicine overlap. — **M.G., DVM, Davis, Calif.**

Dear M.G.: Thanks for this perspective. Your comments also have implications for individuals who make their pets' foods. Cats, for example, don't do well on vegetarian diets. It should come as no surprise that fresh fish and meat, the food cats tend to eat in the wild, are relatively high in taurine. Milk and cream, by the way, are not good sources of taurine.

Dear Dr. Blonz: I am a garlic lover and was wondering if a daily intake of two or three cloves of garlic is too much for the body to handle. — **G.B., Charlotte, N.C.**

Dear G.B.: To determine how much garlic is safe for you to eat depends on a number of factors, including whether garlic was a regular part of your diet before and how the garlic is prepared.

Having fresh garlic on an empty stomach increases the likelihood of problems. In one experiment, volunteers consuming fresh garlic juice reported lightheadedness, nausea, sweating and a burning of the mouth, esophagus and stomach. They may not have experienced these problems had they consumed the same amount of garlic in foods or as part of a recipe in which the garlic was baked.

Some individuals experience stomach distress from too much garlic in any form, but what constitutes "too much" can differ from person to person. The one universal side effect of eating garlic is its lingering odor.

There is great interest in this herb, for in addition to its culinary qualities, garlic is associated with a boost to the immune system and beneficial effects on high blood pressure and blood cholesterol. Be guided by your own taste preferences and body reactions, and increase your garlic consumption gradually.

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

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

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Date Books

Saturday Jan. 4, 2003

Today is the fourth day of 2003 and the 15th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1896, Utah became the 45th state of the Union.

On this day in 1974, President Richard Nixon rejected the Senate Watergate Committee's subpoenas seeking White House tapes and documents.

On this day in 1984, "Night Court" made its television debut.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), physicist and mathematician; Jacob Grimm (1785-1863), writer; Louis Braille (1809-1852), inventor; Dave Foley (1962-), actor, 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1987, the New York Giants beat the San Francisco 49ers 49-3 in the NFC divisional playoff game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." —Sir Isaac Newton

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Jan. 2) and first quarter (Jan. 10).

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2003

Today is the fifth day of 2003 and the 16th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1914, Henry Ford announced that all Ford Motor Company employees who were of "good personal habits" would receive a minimum wage of $5 a day. The policy, explained by Ford as "profit sharing and efficiency engineering" was seen by some as an attempt to prevent unionizing. The Sociological Department was set up within the company in order to determine whether an individual was worthy of the wage.

On this day in 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman to serve as governor upon her inauguration in Wyoming.

On this day in 1970, "All My Children" made its daytime television debut.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Alvin Ailey (1931-1989), choreographer and dancer; Robert Duvall (1931-), actor, is 72; Umberto Eco (1932-), writer, is 71; Diane Keaton (1946-), actress, is 57; Charlie Rose (1942-), television host, is 61.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1967, Gordie Howe became the first hockey player to reach 700 goals.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I think that people who are famous tend to be underdeveloped in their humanity skills." — Diane Keaton

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Jan. 2) and first quarter (Jan. 10).

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Tapping East Texas oil reserves considered

LONGVIEW (AP) — The chairman of the state House Energy Committee is hoping to renew interest in tapping East Texas oil reserves, a plan that was vetoed two years ago by Gov. Rick Perry.

Rep. Tommy Merritt, R-Longview, is asking lawmakers to support a bill to approve research into drawing from the estimated 600 million barrels that remain in the once-booming East Texas Oil Field.

The bill has the support of Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews, who plans to join Merritt in a meeting Monday with oil producers in Kilgore.

"Primarily it's about getting all the information out to the taxing units that are suffering from the decline in the production of the oil field about how to enhance production," Merritt told the Longview News-Journal in Friday's editions.

House Bill 183 is identical to the bill vetoed by Perry, but Merritt said the need for the bill is more urgent this time.

"We have a disruption in Venezuela," he said. "We have a possible attack on Iraq. We have a commitment to Israel for oil. And where are you going to make up the shortfall?"

Merritt said foreign-based multinational oil companies make up the shortfall.

"For every barrel that you lose in Kilgore out of the East Texas field, the multinationals have got to import it," he said. "When you start with a field that has 7 or 8 billion barrels of oil, the residue that's left is a lot of oil."

He said President Bush has called for increased domestic production and conservation.

"I think that the president would look favorably on Texas taking the lead in setting a policy," he said.

Brother of suspect arrested in slayings

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The brother-in-law of a woman found shot to death along with her two daughters on Christmas was arrested Friday and charged in the killings, authorities said.

The woman's estranged husband, Ernest Wholaver, is also being investigated in the execution-style slayings but has not been charged. He was jailed Thursday pending trial on earlier charges that he had sexually abused the two girls who were killed.

On Friday, police arrested Ernest Wholaver's brother, Scott Wholaver, after interviewing him about the killings, Middletown Police Chief Keith Reismiller said.

The three counts of criminal homicide and other charges were filed based on "certain admissions and statements" Scott Wholaver made, Reismiller said.

He declined to elaborate on the statements, but said, "We had been wanting to speak with Scott for a number of days."

It was not immediately clear if Scott Wholaver had an attorney.

Ernest Wholaver's attorney, Spero T. Lappas, did not immediately return calls Friday. He has previously declined to comment on allegations that his client may have been involved in the killings.

The bodies of Jean Wholaver, 43, and her daughters Elizabeth, 15, and Victoria, 20, were found in their Middletown home Christmas morning, each with a single gunshot wound to the head.

Victoria Wholaver's 9-month-old daughter, Madison, was found in the house unharmed.

Ernest Wholaver, 42, was first arrested in July after his daughters told police he had sexually abused them over several years. He was released on $100,000 bail and ordered to stay away from them.

He had been scheduled to stand trial this month on the molestation charges and was arrested Thursday after a Dauphin County Court judge gave fugitive recovery agents permission to apprehend him.

—

Only one baseball player besides Nolan Ryan had more than one of the major-league teams he played for retire his number: Carlton Fisk (Boston Red Sox, No. 27; Chicago White Sox, No. 72).

Public Records

Marriage License

Douglas James Monday and Emily Louise Harding, both of Snyder.

Kyle Ray Freeman and Shelly Renee Brewster, both of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Kimberly Ann Adams vs. Mariana Rivera Benitez, suit for injuries.

Action in District Court

JPMorganChase Bank, aka Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, vs. Ector Barboza, order of dismissal.

In the marriage of Euphemia Virginia Silva and Pedro Pablo Silva Jr., divorce granted.

Deed Records

Helen Grinslade, individually and as independent executrix of the estate of John W. Grinslade, to Dewey Grinslade, the north one-half of Lot 1 in Block 53 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Mary Jo Harrell and Robert Garrett Cromwell to Edgar L. and Linda C. Williams, Lot 4 in Block 6 of the Warren Crest Addition.

Kathy Jean Robbins and Rebecca Diane Robbins to Rickey T. and Paula S. Graham, all the southwest one-quarter of Section 192, Block 3, H&GN survey.

George R. and Jenia K. Adams to Larry Brock, tract one being the east 15 feet of Lot 1 and the west 85 feet of Lot 4 in Block 36 of the Cody Heights Addition; tract two being the east 25 feet of the west 150 feet of Lot 1 in Block 36 of the Cody Heights Addition.

James Lane to William P. and Robin M. Lane, the east one-half of the northeast one-quarter of Section 137, Block 3, H&TC survey.

James Lane to William P. and Robin M. Lane, an undivided two-thirds interest in 118.79 acres in Section 138, Block 3, H&TC survey.

James Lane to William P. and Robin M. Lane, 40 acres in the east part of Section 138, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Humbertina Jaimez to Melinda Arellano, the north 90 feet of Lot 5 in Block 29 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Byron and Brenda Hedges to Delbert Joe Helms, 7.014 acres in the northeast one-quarter of Section 153, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Timothy Ray Green to Patsy Gene Taylor Brackeen, the north 110 feet of Lot 1 in Block 22 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Yvonne J. Higgins, individually and as Trustee of The Higgins Family Trust, to Jackie Jenkins, the north one-half of Lot 1 in Block 26 of Cody's Addition.

Richard Lee Stoker to Jesse Allen, 1.82 acres in Tract 23 of the Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of the Grimes Ranch Lands, Section 4, Kirkland and Fields survey.

Don L. and Joyce L. Bowman to The James R. Cave Children's Trust, 581.283 acres in Section 68, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Steven Palmer and Leawana Ruth Fritzgerald to Jeffrey G. Reed, 0.64-acre tract in the southeast one-quarter of Section 181, Block 3, H&GN survey.

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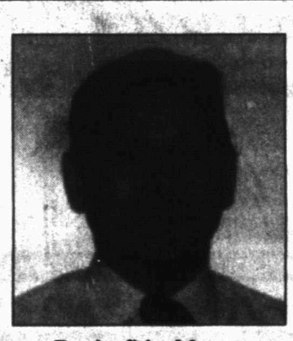

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JAN 05 2003

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Diet must be reasonable

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am in a health class that is learning about weight loss — in particular, the safest way to lose weight. Our teacher said to consume 500 calories a day rather than following the Hollywood diet or Slim-Fast. She claims that once these diets are stopped, the weight will return. We think the best way is to follow what our teacher said and not starve ourselves. What is your opinion?

DEAR READER: I totally disagree with your teacher. What you describe as her solution is, in reality, a starvation diet that will be virtually impossible to follow for any length of time. Here's why I object.

The normal American diet contains about 2,500 calories from various sources, including protein, fat and carbohydrate. Unfortunately, many adults (and, recently, children) consume more calories because they eat junk food and sugary products, don't exercise and make no effort to be prudent. Most professionals agree that limitation of dietary calories is the most efficient and healthful way to shed pounds.

However, your teacher's policy — 500 calories a day — means that people would have to make drastically unacceptable and unhealthful reductions in caloric consumption. If you don't believe me, try a 500-calorie meal: meat, potato and vegetables; forget breakfast and lunch. Could you accept such limitations? I doubt it. Maybe for the short haul, but not as a consistent program, which is precisely the problem. The Atkin's diet, the grapefruit diet, the Hollywood diet and diets ad nauseum are great for rapid and significant weight loss — but they are impossible to follow chronically. And this is precisely where we must focus our attention. Flip-flop, up-and-down dieting may be medically harmful; it's also discouraging. A more appropriate diet is one that 1) enables patients to lose at least a pound a week, 2) is inexpensive, 3) is healthful and safe, 4) will permit patients to take better (and more realistic) control of their lives. Believe me, folks, being in control — reasonable control — is a vital factor in any weight-reduction diet.

All this leads me to disagree with your teacher. I will send you my Health Report "Weight Loss" which contains my simple, cheap and effective diet: no sugar, no flour. Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is the current recommendation regarding the precautions and/or toxicity associated with eating garden fruits and vegetables grown in soil previously contaminated by lead paint? Are strawberries safe to eat under these circumstances?

DEAR READER: Lead from lead paint will leach into the soil. However, studies have shown that it is not incorporated to any harmful extent into plants grown in that soil. Thus, you may safely consume strawberries grown in this environment.

My comments do not include soil that has been massively contaminated by toxic materials or hazardous substances, such as occurs in landfills or toxic dumps. In those situations, toxicology testing should be performed on groundwater samples, as well as on edible vegetation.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a vegetarian for health, ethical and environmental reasons. I also believe that people are far too inclined to take medication for various medical conditions instead of first relying on beneficial lifestyle changes, such as weight reduction, increased exercise and prudent eating habits.

I was pleased to read in one of your recent columns that you suggest a low cholesterol diet as a first step (before statin drugs) in treating high serum-cholesterol levels.

However, I don't believe that you were strict enough. Cholesterol is usually present only in foods of animal origin: meat, poultry, fish, eggs and dairy products. You haven't gone far enough in prohibiting these edibles. Although many people say they like meat and cheese too much to give them up, they should.

Please instruct your readers to prepare and/or eat meals that do not contain animal products. This makes environmental, as well as health, sense.

DEAR READER: Your comments, which I have excerpted from your letter because of space, are certainly right on target. In fact, as you probably know, recent epidemiological studies in developing countries have more than confirmed the obvious: diets low in animal products and fat, with an emphasis on grains and vegetable products, are invariably associated with markedly low blood-cholesterol levels. That is, people who are starving (or who must rely on non-animal sources of nutrition) never have high levels of cholesterol.

But, in all fairness, we must be realistic here. The average American consumer is not going to restrict his or her diet to the extent that you suggest — unless that person has ethical / philosophic / religious reasons to do so.

Strict low cholesterol diets are all but impossible to follow indefinitely, except for the truly committed advocate. Therefore, I suggested a compromise: Obvious sources of animal fat should be moderated (but not necessarily omitted). To that end, I urge people to buy lean cuts of meat (such as extra lean hamburger). Avoid luncheon meats, sausage and bacon. Don't eat fried foods in restaurants (frying at home is OK with olive oil). Restrict cheese consumption to no more than one portion a day. Buy skimmed milk and give up ice cream (substituting low-fat frozen yogurt, sorbet or sherbet). Stop using butter, change to low-cholesterol fats and don't exceed two eggs a week. In my practice, this diet has often led to a significant reduction in blood fats, and it is easy to follow, in part because I don't restrict fish and poultry or prohibit some cholesterol foods.

I suggest that people with high cholesterol levels try a lower cholesterol (not necessarily a low-fat) diet, as a reasonable option before considering medicine. Also, for overweight people, a "no flour, no sugar" diet will produce astonishing results. Therefore, I am sending you free copies of my Health Reports "Eating Right for a Healthy Heart" and "Weight Loss," which includes this diet. Other readers who would like copies should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 for each to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the titles.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My hands stay cold and pale year 'round. I smoke cigarettes. Could this be a circulatory problem and would the condition resolve if I quit the habit?

DEAR READER: Probably. The nicotine in tobacco smoke causes vasoconstriction, meaning that small arteries slam shut because the muscles in their walls contract. Nicotine often affects the circulation in the hands and feet, causing a cold sensation that may be associated with pallor, tingling, numbness, joint stiffness and skin breakdown.

A more serious consequence is that nicotine also may cause spasm of the coronary arteries that supply oxygen to heart muscle. For obvious reasons, this is not good — as many ex-smokers who have had heart attacks or strokes will attest.

Stop smoking before you get into real trouble. You may be surprised at how much your circulation will improve.

To help you kick the habit, you may need a support group (such as Smoke Enders) and nicotine patches (or chewing gum). While it's true that the nicotine in these two over-the-counter products may also cause arterial spasm similar to that associated with tobacco smoke, the long-term benefits clearly outweigh the risks.

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Judge sentences killer of Danielle van Dam to death on Friday

SAN DIEGO (AP) — David Westerfield was sentenced to death Friday for kidnapping and murdering 7-year-old neighbor Danielle van Dam, whose mother called him a heartless "monster" who ripped the little girl away from her family to pursue his "sick fantasies."

Superior Court Judge William Mudd imposed the sentence, which had been recommended by a jury, after hearing from the girl's tearful parents. Danielle was snatched from her bedroom last February and her body was found a month later.

"What were you thinking as you killed her? Did she not touch your heart one bit? If not, you are heartless. You are an empty shell," Danielle's mother, Brenda, told Westerfield while fighting back tears.

"It disgusts me that your sick fantasies and pitiful needs made you think that you needed Danielle more than her family."

Earlier, she wept as the judge recounted how her daughter's body was found naked and missing teeth. Mudd called the crime "extremely cruel and vicious."

Westerfield sat without emotion, as he had done throughout the trial. The 50-year-old engineer declined to make a statement before sentencing, turning aside the mother's plea for an apology.

"Our precious Danielle was taken by a monster, thinking only of self-gratification and not thinking about the sweet little child he was harming and about how his crime would affect her family, the community and the world," Brenda van Dam said.

Danielle's father, Damon van Dam, said he regretted that he would never see his daughter grow up.

"I'll never get to see her be a doctor or a teacher. I'll miss seeing her going to the prom. I'll miss her graduation. I'll miss seeing her go off to college and seeing what she will become," he said. "We know we have a whole lot of hearts that will never heal."

The killing was the first in a string of child abductions that gripped the nation last year. The sentence, which is automatically appealed, made Westerfield the 617th inmate on California's death row.

Prosecutors said there was no justification for anything less than the death penalty for such an "evil, selfish, cold-hearted child killer."

Attorneys for Westerfield had argued that police misconduct justified a lesser sentence. They contended detectives interrogated Westerfield without reading him his rights or letting him talk to a lawyer.

However, Mudd said Westerfield's case was not hurt by the police.

"The defendant suffered absolutely no, zero, zip, nada prejudice in this trial as a result of the conduct of these officers," the judge said.

Danielle was last seen Feb. 1, when her father put her to bed in the family's home in an upper-middle class neighborhood of San Diego. Her nude body was found nearly a month later along a road outside the city, too decomposed to determine the cause of death or whether she had been sexually assaulted.

Westerfield, who lived two doors away and bought Girl Scout cookies from Danielle days before her disappearance, became an early suspect.

Investigators learned he was at the same bar as Danielle's mother and two friends the night Danielle vanished. He left in his motor home early the next day as police and volunteers searched the neighborhood.

Ultimately, the girl's blood was found on Westerfield's jacket, and her hair was discovered in his bedroom. Investigators also found Danielle's blood, hair and fingerprints inside the motor home.

For reasons the defense did not explain, Westerfield decided to exercise his right to a speedy trial. On Aug. 21, he was convicted of murder, kidnapping and possessing child pornography — an unusually rapid end for a capital case.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission kept plant open despite concerns

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission could have shut down a nuclear power plant several months before an acid leak was discovered but wanted to avoid hurting the plant owner financially, according to a report by the agency's watchdog.

The NRC's Office of Inspector General concluded that top agency safety officials had "strong justification" to order the Davis-Besse plant shut down early because of concerns over public safety, The Plain Dealer reported Friday. The newspaper obtained the document before its public release.

Inspectors in March discovered that leaking acid had nearly eaten through the 6-inch-thick steel cap that covers the plant's reactor vessel. It was the most extensive corrosion ever at a U.S. nuclear reactor.

The damage was discovered during a maintenance shutdown, and the plant, near Toledo, has remained closed.

The NRC in December said regulators suspected there could be leaks at the plant, but allowed it to stay open a few more weeks because they didn't think there was much risk.

According to the inspector general report, the agency struck a deal with plant owner FirstEnergy Corp. to allow it to continue making energy at Davis-Besse until Feb. 16, instead of shutting down for an inspection before the end of 2001.

The agency had enough information at the time to suspect that there were cracks in the reactor lid, the report concluded.

The company had told NRC that shutting the reactor before the planned maintenance shutdown in February could be costly and could cause power shortages in Ohio.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich said the report shows that "FirstEnergy and the NRC worked together to put profits above public safety. It's unacceptable."

But NRC Chairman Richard Meserve defended the agency's actions at Davis-Besse.

"Safety is in fact our highest priority," Meserve told the newspaper. "You're faced with a situation where you had some uncertainty about conditions in the plant."

Meserve, who has 90 days to prepare a formal response to the report, said NRC officials made the right decisions based on the information they had available at the time.

Meserve announced last month he will resign from the agency at the end of March, more than a year before his term expires, to become president of a prominent research center in Washington.

The inspector general decided to investigate after receiving complaints from the Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental advocacy group that supports tighter safety rules for nuclear plants.

The General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, also is looking into why the plant continued to operate despite the concerns.

FirstEnergy spokesman Todd Schneider said Friday the company's own investigation concluded that the managers at Davis-Besse put too much emphasis on production goals and not enough on safety concerns.

"Ten managers and executives have left the company as a result of this," he said.

But Schneider added that before the shutdown, the Akron-based company was unaware that there was any potential for acid to damage the reactor head.

On the Net:
Nuclear Regulatory Commission: http://www.nrc.gov
FirstEnergy Corp.: http://www.firstenergycorp.com

When work is pleasure, life is a joy! When work is a duty, life is slavery.

—Maxim Gorky

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