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WT-Int. Crude - $26.73
WTIC Posted - $24.00

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 20, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 198
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Patsy Moore

JP resignation accepted; job to be filled by Feb. 1

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Scurry County Commissioners Court unanimously accepted the resignation of Justice of the Peace Charlie Reynolds and as a technicality, declared the office vacant.

Declaring the vacancy allows for persons to file for the office in either March primary. Those wishing to file have until Jan. 3 to do so and must file with their party chairman.

Reynolds' resignation is effective Dec. 31., so he and his wife, Pat, can pursue full-time missionary work in Guatemala.

He was not present at the meeting and there was no discussion. The court, however, plans to appoint an interim peace justice to begin work Feb. 1.

The court had several other items to consider during this morning's meeting,

In a split vote, the court decided to table approval of the county's investment policy presented by county treasurer Charlie Bell.

Bell presented a change this year, requesting that the court allow the county the option to also invest with the Local Government Investment Cooperative of Dallas.

Bell said the company is similar to Texpool, which is the pool the county currently uses.

"I have been real satisfied with Texpool and I do not have a problem with them," Bell said. "I think it would be to our advantage if some of our money was diversified and we did not keep all of our eggs in one basket."

Commissioner Howard Limmer, Ralph Trevey and Chloanne Lindsey asked to be presented more information about the company before taking action.

Idom opposed the action saying, "That is a big decision when you start letting someone else handle your money. I wouldn't be for it."

The court is required to review the policy every year.

Snyder Fire Chief and Snyder EMS owner Perry Westmoreland was given the green light to go out for bids for a new ambulance to be purchased in 2000.

Westmoreland said he contacted two manufacturers and attended a trade show to help him draw up the bid specifications.

In another split-vote, commissioners approved a request allowing septic inspectors from Mitchell and Howard Counties to make on-site septic inspections in Scurry County when needed.

Bennie Marricle is the local septic inspector, but his credentials have expired, and he will not be able to attend re-certification training until March.

The action allows the two inspectors to cover the local county until Marricle is recertified.

The deal is reciprocal, so Marricle will also be able to assist the other two counties when necessary.

Idom questioned how much the county would pay the other inspectors to come over and do the work.

Judge Ricky Fritz said he didn't know, but since the deal is reciprocal, they will also pay when Marricle travels to their counties.

Trevey questioned the number of inspections Marricle would do between now and March, and whether the contract is necessary.

Fritz added that the contract would also allow the inspectors to cover for each other during vacations and other times when recertification is needed.

Idom and Trevey cast the opposing votes and Fritz broke the tie in favor of the action.

The court also set the county's 2000 holiday calendar and approved numerous line-item transfers.

A budget amendment for the county welfare office was also granted.

Added into the office's budget was $968.11 for indigent doctor expenses, $4,286.60 for hospital indigent expenses, $11.89 communications, and $263.86 for indigent transportation.

Fritz presided and all commissioners were present to include Trevey, Idom, Limmer and Lindsey.



JUST DAYS AWAY — Holiday shoppers have just four more days to take care of their shopping list for the 1999 Christmas season. Local businesses are expecting busy days as shoppers realize Friday is Christmas eve. Nancy Brice was shopping in Classic Interiors this morning on the Snyder square as the weather turned nippy to add to the holiday spirit. (SDN Staff Photo)



Situation described as 'tense' at prison facility in Beeville

BEEVILLE (AP) — Dozens of inmates escaped from their cells today at a South Texas state prison, where authorities say at least two correctional officers were injured less than a week after a guard was stabbed to death.

More than 80 prisoners at the McConnell Unit "manipulated their cell doors and got out," said Glen Castlebury of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"We have regained control of the prison area where there were 80 cells," he said.

Larry Todd, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Corrections, said the maximum security inmates escaped from their cells around 3 a.m.

He said all 83 inmates in the prison area, called a pod, were involved in the disturbance.

Prison riot teams moved in about 5 a.m. with tear gas and batons. Within 30 minutes, correctional officers had escaped from the disturbance, he said.

One officer was taken to a local hospital with cuts on his hands. Another was being treated for minor injuries at the prison infirmary.

"By 7 a.m. we were advised we had total control of the cell block, " Todd said. "The unit is now under lock down and we are assessing the cause and amount of damage."

Todd said the unit has been "tense" since Friday night's stabbing death of a correctional officer.

In the first deadly attack on a Texas correctional officer in 17 years, Daniel Nagle was found lying in a pool of blood Friday in a hallway of the unit. Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like a struggle before Nagle, 37, was stabbed multiple times with a thin metal rod.

Prison officials believe the attack was planned and that Nagle was specifically targeted by inmates.

A lockdown was in effect over the weekend at the prison.

Castlebury said damage from the latest disturbance at the prison area was minimal. But he said prison officials were trying to determine how all the prisoners' cell doors opened at once.

"When the inmates came out of their cells, three officers were blocked from getting out of the area," he said. "It was not a true hostage situation. But the officers managed to extricate themselves."

Beeville is about 90 miles southeast of San Antonio.

Astronauts finally blast off from cape

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and seven astronauts roared into the night toward the crippled Hubble Space Telescope, ending an embarrassing string of launch delays for NASA.

The flawless launch came after nine postponements, a record for the space shuttle program.

"We appreciate your patience in hanging in there with us," launch director Dave King told the crew just before Sunday night's liftoff. "We hope you have a great mission to Hubble, and we'll see you back here before the next millennium."

"We have one request," replied commander Curtis Brown Jr. "We'd like you to send a note to Hubble to get ready, because we're on our way!"

It was NASA's last chance this year to send Discovery to Hubble's aid. One more postponement would have bumped the flight into January.

Everything came together, including the weather, and Discovery soared at 7:50 p.m.

Hubble was passing more than 370 miles above Africa when Discovery blasted off. The shuttle should catch up Tuesday with the $3 billion telescope, which has been out of service for the past month. Spacewalking astronauts should start making repairs on Wednesday.

NASA officials were thrilled to have a space shuttle aloft after five exasperating months of fixing flawed wires across a grounded fleet. Their victory was especially sweet because of Discovery's perfect condition in orbit.

"It was a difficult route to get here," said King.

Chamber sets Tuesday meet

Snyder Chamber of Commerce directors will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Snyder Country Club to hear hotel/motel fund requests from West Texas Taekwondo for its Feb. 5 tournament, and from Scurry County Museum to help secure an upcoming private collection exhibit, "Art and War."

Other upcoming events to be discussed include two stock shows at the Scurry County Coliseum, Snyder FFA Show on Jan. 15, and the Scurry County Stock Show Jan. 19-22.

Traci McDowell, new coliseum secretary, will be introduced along with incoming board members.

In addition, awards will be presented to retiring directors.



OVER THE TOP — United Way president Dr. Bryan Cave puts the finishing touches on the sign on the square showing the campaign progress. "With the economy like it is," he said, "the community has shown so much generosity so the agencies can continue to operate in the best interest of youth and adults of Scurry County." Looking on are Kent Wright, incoming president; and Zola Schlegel, executive secretary. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Railway firms to combine operations

DALLAS (AP) — Canadian National Railway Co. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. plan to merge their rail operations in a $6 billion deal that would create the largest railroad in North America.

The combined company would have about 50,000 miles of track, extending from Los Angeles to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and from the Gulf of Mexico to Vancouver, British Columbia.

The new company would be called North American Railways and be based in Montreal.

It would outrank Union Pacific Corp. as the biggest line on the continent, according to the new company. Union Pacific says it has 33,700 miles of track.

The companies don't expect to complete the deal until 2001 because it requires the approval of shareholders, courts and government agencies on both sides of the border.

ASK US

Q—Are the Harlem Globetrotters going to play in Snyder in 2000?
A—No. The team is scheduling an appearance here in 2001, a spokesman said today.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 54 degrees; low, 33; high Sunday, 58; low, 28; 7 a.m. Monday, 28; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, cold. Low around 29. E-NE wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy. High 40-45. E-NE wind 10-15 mph.



Jonathan Wallace
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:44 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:39 a.m.
Of 353 days in 1999, the sun has shone 346 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.

—Michael Korda



CENTRAL COLLECTS — Central Elementary School collected 915 cans of food for the annual Goodfellows Food Drive, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Students pictured are from left, Jordan Wright, Carson Mathies, Lesa Jones, Daniela Allen. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

U.S. automakers revel in sales

DETROIT (AP) — If the U.S. auto industry had its way, every year would be like 1999.

A record 16.8 million new cars, pickups, sport utility vehicles and vans were expected to drive off U.S. dealer lots by the end of the year. Industry pundits were taken by surprise — the economists who predict sales for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG underestimated sales by more than a million.

"Nobody foresaw the market in the United States as it turned out to be," said GM vice chairman Harry Pearce. "The market continued to get stronger and stronger and stronger."

The sales propelled profits at GM, Ford and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler to record heights and gave them sizable war chests. GM could write a $1.4 billion check for 20 percent of the Japanese company that makes Subaru cars, and still have about $16 billion on hand.

The GM-Subaru deal announced this month was the latest intercontinental linkup of automakers. Ford also dipped into its kitty for $6.5 billion to buy the carmaking side of Sweden's Volvo AB. French automaker Renault SA spent $5.4 billion for control of Japanese giant Nissan Motor Co.

Korean automaker Daewoo, meanwhile, is still looking for a suitor.

Domestic automakers also had a better year in terms of labor relations. GM, Ford and Chrysler completed four-year deals with the United Auto Workers without the public fussing that marked past negotiations. The UAW got more money — up to $29,000 per worker over four years, according to the union — but gave the companies more room to trim jobs.

Pickups and sport utility vehicles continued to be hot sellers; in December, Lexus said it was essentially sold out of all its luxury RX 300 SUVs. Ford saw strong sales from a restyling of its Taurus sedan, and it also unleashed the Excursion, an SUV over 18 feet long, almost 7 feet wide, weighing about 7,000 pounds and getting 10 to 18 miles per gallon of gas.

This was also the year Honda brought out the Insight, a stumpy two-seat coupe powered by a three-cylinder engine mated to an electric motor that gets 70 mpg on the highway.

On the downside, despite higher sales for Ford, GM and Chrysler, the three lost market share to Korean imports and Volkswagen, which returned to its Beetle-era glory. By the end of the year, Mercedes-Benz and Lexus appeared ready to capture the title of best-selling luxury brand from Cadillac and Lincoln.

Chrysler finally killed the Plymouth brand that had survived World War II and the gas crises of the 1970s, but withered on the vine this decade.

Another name also was removed from the Chrysler letterhead: Thomas Stallkamp, the well-liked president who had been one of the top cheerleaders for the merger of Chrysler and Daimler-Benz, and whose departure signaled the gulf between Auburn Hills and Stuttgart.

Perhaps 1999 will be remembered as the year automotive industry leaders discovered the Internet, in part by watching the value of companies like Yahoo! Inc. (market value $85 billion, revenues of $145 million last quarter) soar past their own (GM's market value is $45 billion; revenues last quarter totaled $42.8 billion).

GM formed a new unit called e-GM to speed the virtues of the Internet throughout the company. It unveiled a Cadillac Seville that could read e-mail to its passengers. GM and Ford also announced plans to do all of their purchasing over the Internet, aiming to save billions and earn some money on the side.

And there are now hundreds of Internet sites appealing to new and used-car shoppers. Automakers, dealers and new Internet companies are all jockeying for online advantage — while few people actually bought cars on the Internet, many believed that would change soon.

"The e-world is now merging with the auto world," said David Cole, the director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation at the University of Michigan. "The reality is going to be earthshaking."

Inmates will be sent back to Cuba, State Department says

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP) — The State Department says the Cuban detainees who surrendered peacefully after holding hostages at a jail for nearly a week will be sent back to Cuba.

Five Cubans and one Bahamian gave up late Saturday at the St. Martin Parish jail, freeing the warden, a female guard and five female inmates. The standoff began Dec. 13 by inmates who demanded to be released from the south-central Louisiana jail and sent to another country.

"We're gratified that the situation has been resolved in a peaceful manner," the State Department said Sunday in a statement read by a spokeswoman who asked not to be identified by name. "The detainees turned themselves in without harming hostages and in accordance with their request, we contacted the government of Cuba which has agreed to take these individuals back."

The inmates were in federal custody Sunday while details for their return were being worked out. Two other Cuban detainees had surrendered Thursday. It was unclear how many inmates would be going to Cuba.

The New York Times reported today that all seven Cubans would be returned to Cuba. The newspaper said officials were unclear on the exact timing of the deportations, but expected them to take place in the next few days.

"We believe this resolution is in the best interest of the United States and is consistent with our long-standing practice of removing deportable aliens to their country of origin," the State Department statement said.

The Cubans were being held indefinitely in a state of legal limbo. Before the surrender, the U.S. government wouldn't release them because it considered them subject to deportation and the Cuban government would not take them back.

There was no word on the agreement from Cuba. Government offices in Havana were closed Sunday and calls to the office of Foreign Ministry spokesman Alejandro Gonzalez rang unanswered.

The uprising began Monday when the inmates armed themselves with homemade knives and took the warden and three guards hostage while being escorted to an exercise area.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Hotline volunteers get as much as they give by helping others

DEAR ABBY: Please print my letter about volunteering on suicide prevention/crisis hotlines.

Suicide affects most of us at some time in our lives. Most of us know someone who has considered suicide, attempted it or killed himself or herself. While it is a challenge to talk with someone about suicide, doing so opens communication in an amazing way. It is an enriching experience for both the person in crisis and the volunteer. I hope the U.S. surgeon general's recent statements on this issue will draw nationwide attention to its importance. There IS something that can be done about it — become a volunteer! Contact your local suicide prevention/crisis hotline and find out how. — A VOLUNTEER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR VOLUNTEER: Your letter is an important one. I'm often asked to recommend worthy causes to which people can donate time or money. I can think of no more meaningful way to fill one's extra time than by literally saving the lives of others. It takes some time and training to become a hotline volunteer; however, the emotional payoff is beyond description.

**

DEAR ABBY: Here's how we solved the "appropriate gift" problem for our elderly parents.

Knowing that my mother-in-law was having difficulty keeping her house cleaned (vacuuming, floor scrubbing, etc.), we decided to give them one gift that would last all year. We eliminated Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary and Christmas presents, and instead hired someone to come into their home and clean it once a month. My husband, his sister and I pay for the service each month.

We lost my mother-in-law last year, and the day after her funeral, my father-in-law asked if we could continue the service because it was so very much appreciated.

No longer do I have to wrack my brain to buy something I'm not sure would be wanted or needed. — ANN MANOS, GRAVETTE, ARK.

DEAR ANN: I can't think of a more practical gift. Thanks for an ingenious solution to a problem that crops up every year. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: A reader asked you how to stop elderly relatives from sending useless gifts without hurting their feelings.

I would suggest that the reader tell them how much a record of their own history and personal recollections would mean to younger members of the family. These stories could be written or taped, but should always be identified as to who the person is and all the proper dates. They could also be recorded in installments and given on various gift-giving occasions. Many families would deeply appreciate such gifts. Historical societies could no doubt help the elderly with suggestions, if needed.

My mother was born in the late 1800s to pioneer parents. I am grateful that she allowed me to tape her recollections of her parents as well as her own experiences. Many children and other relatives would appreciate similar gifts. — HARRIET FROM TAMPA

DEAR HARRIET: That's a terrific suggestion. A collection of written recollections would make a unique bound volume after a few years — and the collection of tapes becomes a one-of-a-kind library or oral history.

**

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 per booklet ($4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklets I and II, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Youth who tackled shooter honored as Carnegie Hero

PITTSBURGH (AP) — As his girlfriend lay shot and bleeding at his feet, Jake Ryker — who had just taken a bullet to his chest — said, "That's enough," and tackled the teen-age gunman who had sprayed his school cafeteria with bullets.

Ryker, then 17, was joined by his brother, Josh, and three other boys in subduing Kip Kinkel, who shot and killed his parents before going on his shooting spree at Thurston High School in Springfield, Ore. Kinkel killed two students in the May 1998 rampage and has since pleaded guilty to four counts of murder and 26 counts of attempted murder. He is serving a 112-year prison sentence.

For his courage in pouncing on Kinkel, Ryker was among 20 people from the United States and Canada who were to be honored for heroism today by the Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Five of the honorees died during rescues.

Each recipient gets a bronze medal and $3,000 from the commission, which was established in 1904 by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie after he was inspired by rescue tales from an industrial disaster.

The honor was one of many bestowed on Ryker, who has since graduated from high school and is now attending a community college and serving in the Marine Reserves. He also won the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America; and the Silver Cross by the Legion of Valor, a group formed in 1890 of war veterans.

Ryker's father, Robert, said his son was away on reserve duty during the weekend and had not heard that he had been given the Carnegie Medal.

"It wasn't too out of character for him," Robert Ryker said of his older son's tackle. "Jake's always been kind of stubborn and set in his ways. He's had his own way of doing things. You can tell him what you think, and he'll listen, but he kind of goes his own way."

Jake Ryker has downplayed his role as a hero, saying at one point, "I was one of the five that tackled the guy. It wasn't me, it was five guys that did it."

"I'm glad somebody did it," said his father. "I'm proud that it's my sons ... that's the way you'd want them to do it. They definitely did things right."

Also honored Monday was Brendan Wahl, 41, of Big Sur, Calif., a weekend surfer who paddled his big yellow board into the Pacific Ocean south of Carmel, Calif., last Christmas Eve and plucked Daniel Lackey, then 11, from the cold, choppy waves.

Daniel's family had stopped for sightseeing along the California coast on the way to the Hearst Castle, and he was trying to keep up with his brothers as they scampered on the seaside granite. A big wave caught him in a low point between two rocks and played with him before sending him toward Japan.

"For a while there it was like he was in a big washing machine. He kept getting jostled around, and then a big wave took him out," said Susan Lackey, Daniel's mother.

She flagged Wahl down after two other drivers whizzed by on California's famous seaside highway.

Date Book

Monday, Dec. 20, 1999

Today is the 354th day of 1999 and the 89th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1879, an incandescent electric lamp was demonstrated by inventor Thomas Edison.

On this day in 1985, Howard Cosell retired at the age of 68, having worked for 20 years as an ABC sports announcer.

On this day in 1989, the United States began "Operation Just Cause," an invasion of Panama that ended the regime of Manuel Noriega.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harvey S. Firestone (1868-1938), industrialist; George Roy Hill (1922-), director, is 77; Bo Diddley (1928-), singer-guitarist, is 71; Billy Bragg (1957-), singer, is 42.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1985, New York Islander Dennis Potvin broke Bobby Orr's career scoring record for a defenseman by scoring his 916th point.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Sports is the toy department of human life." — Howard Cosell

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 15) and full moon (Dec. 22).

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Oil Patch News

Garza County

Patterson Petroleum Inc. will drill the No. 23 John unit waterflood in the Happy field, 13 miles south of Post. Planned for a depth of 5,200 feet, location is in Section 30, Block 2, T&NO survey.

Trophy Harvest Energy Co. will drill the No. 1-38 Connell Ranch, an 8,300-foot wildcat located five miles north of Justiceburg. Location is in Section 38, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Howard County

Vista Resources Inc. will drill the No. 14-A Chalk in the Howard-Glasscock field, three miles east of Forsan. The re-completion project is planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, and location is in Section 125, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Nolan County

Enrich Oil Corp will drill the No. 1 Arnold Brown in the EA field, one mile south of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 5,900 feet, drill site is in Section 286, Block 64, H&TC survey.

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Infant seats may need repair

WASHINGTON (AP) — A manufacturer is issuing repair kits for some 754,000 infant car seats because of a handle problem that has led to injuries.

When used as an infant carrier, the handle of the seats made by Kolcraft Enterprises unexpectedly can change position, causing the seat to rotate and the baby to fall to the ground, government officials said Sunday.

At least one infant has suffered a skull fracture, and two have suffered concussions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said 42 infants have been injured as a result of the defect.

There have been more than 3,000 reports of handle-related problems with the product.

Kolcraft is recalling the car seats in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Chicago company is offering a free repair kit to address the faulty handle.

The recall involves Kolcraft infant car seats/carriers with the model names: Infant Rider, Secura, Travel-About, Plus 4, Plus 5, Kolcraft Infant Restraint, Kolcraft Infant Car Seat and Playskool Infant Car Seat manufactured from Jan. 1, 1993 through last June 30.

To receive a free repair kit, consumers can call Kolcraft toll-free at 877-776-2609.

"The Search for Santa" by Greg Evans



Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1999

If you have experienced a void in your social life in the past, the year ahead will give you the opportunity to fill this gap. The more you get out and mingle, the more people you'll meet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Because Lady Luck could play a role in your affairs today, things should work out very well for you, especially in situations where you are working with others on a one-to-one basis. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'd be wise to keep your nose to the grindstone today, even if associates are frittering their time away on fun and games. Large material rewards are possible in such cases.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) This is an excellent day to take measures to expand your circle of acquaintances, because your popularity is on an upward trend. You'll be well received wherever you go.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Even though it may still be necessary for you to exert an effort to guide your affairs along today, important situations will have a way of working out to your ultimate benefit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The important thing to remember today is to not put limitations on your hopes and expectations. Even if you should fall short of your mark, it'll still be more than you'd have otherwise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Things are looking better than usual for fattening your bank account today, so do not waste your time on frivolous pursuits. Get down to business as promptly as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If there is a matter in which you're trying to gain support from others, today may be the day to approach them. Your powers of persuasion are extremely strong at this time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Something substantial can result today by linking up with someone who could fill in where you are weak. Earnestly explore all your joint venture options.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Should you be in need of a special favor, do not hesitate to make your desires known to your friends today. One or more of your buddies will come through for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Victory can be yours today if you ignore any minor setbacks and continue to push forward towards your goals. You are in a better achievement cycle than you may realize.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You've always been lucky and today may prove this to be true as situations that might be a bit chancy for others could turn out to be a sure thing for you. Just don't push your luck.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be sure to fully utilize all of your opportunities for increasing your holdings. Your financial projection looks extremely encouraging again today.

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Straying from straight, narrow during Democratic debates

WASHINGTON (AP) — It sounded from the latest Democratic presidential debate as if independent scholars endorse Bill Bradley's health plan over Al Gore's and that Republicans were all to blame when campaign finance reform fell short early in the Clinton administration.

The reality is not that simple. Sunday's debate on NBC's "Meet the Press" featured misspoken history as well as campaign-inspired research dressed up in the day's rhetoric to look objective.

Bradley, attacked on health care by the vice president, said his proposal covers far more people than Gore's does. He cited as evidence a "study last week by Harvard and Stanford."

A joint study by those two top universities? Hardly. It was done by three economic advisers to the Bradley campaign, two of whom work at Harvard and Stanford.

For his part, Gore blamed a Republican Senate majority for standing in the way of efforts to clean up the system of campaign financing in 1993. But Democrats were in control then — of the Senate, the House and the administration in which he has been vice president since January of that year.

Thanks to a format that permitted tough follow-up questions by moderator Tim Russert as well as back-and-forth between the rivals, the candidates were called to account for some statements that would have gone unchallenged in more formal debates.

For example, Gore declared flatly that budget surpluses would be certain if he became president. "I'm committing to surpluses," he said. "I'm committing that in every budget that I propose in a Gore presidency, we will pay down the national debt."

Gore backed down in a blink when asked about the prospect of an unforeseen crisis, such as war. "No, of course," he said. "If there's a national crisis, then all bets are off."

Bradley was more open than Gore to the possibility that the economy could tank in the future and throw off assumptions underlying his spending plans.

Even so, Bradley retreated into that handy cover used by leaders who don't want to speculate about painful choices, such as raising the Social Security retirement age or cutting benefits: He would seek a "bipartisan approach to the problem."

The candidates were not brought back to earth on all occasions, however.

Bradley said that as a senator from New Jersey, he urged the administration to push campaign finance reform in 1993, when Democrats were in control of both houses of Congress.

"Now I don't know if you were in the loop or not," Bradley told Gore. "But the fact of the matter is that no action took place."

"Because all of the Republicans voted against it," Gore replied. "And they controlled the Senate."

"Where was the effort made, Al, in 1993?" Bradley asked, repeating the year.

"We got every single Democratic senator to vote for it," Gore went on.

Republicans won control of the Senate and House in the November 1994 elections.

Several campaign finance proposals were passed in 1993 with at least some Republicans in support and some Democrats dissenting.

In a battle of dueling studies, Gore went after Bradley on the costs and scope of his plan to expand health coverage.



50 is fine in '99

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PATSY

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	12-20-99
	♠ K 6 3 2	
	♥ K Q 8 5	
	♦ 7 5 4	
	♣ A J	
West		**East**
♠ Q 10 8 7		♠ 9 4
♥ 9 4 3		♥ ---
♦ A 9 6		♦ Q J 10 8
♣ K Q 4		♣ 10 9 8 7 6 3 2
	South	
	♠ A J 5	
	♥ A J 10 7 6 2	
	♦ K 3 2	
	♣ 5	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Does practice make perfect?

What is the derivation of "practice makes perfect"? I tried to find it, but only came up with this from Confucius: "To be able to practice five things everywhere under heaven constitutes perfect virtue. (They are) gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness." Not what I was after, but it will do.

The theme of this deal is often overlooked by players below the expert level. How would you declare four hearts after West leads the club king?

North's response of three no-trump is a forcing major-suit raise, guaranteeing at least four hearts with the high-card values for game. This permits a pair to use the invaluable limit raise: jumping from one of a major to three of that major to show four-plus trumps with 10-12 support points.

You start with nine top tricks: two spades, six hearts and one club. So, if the spade finesse works, or the spades split 3-3, or East has the diamond ace, you are home. However, with this layout, trying these three chances leads to failure. Instead, it is easier on both your and partner's blood pressure if you make four hearts whatever the lie of the cards.

After winning with dummy's club ace and drawing trumps ending in the dummy, call for the club jack and discard a diamond.

West is endplayed. If he returns a spade, it is into your ace-jack tenace. A diamond switch generates a trick for your king. And a club back concedes a ruff-and-discard. In all cases, you receive trick 10.

If you sincerely and earnestly search for a successful loser-on-loser play, a kind partner will generously congratulate you.

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Border tired of dealing with old tires

LAREDO (AP) — It seems pretty easy to dispose of one used tire, but what about 25 million?

That's how many used tires are generated in Texas every year, and many of them end up along the border because of the high demand for them in Mexico, the Laredo Morning Times reported Sunday.

"We are becoming a 'tired' border," Laredo health official Victor Oliveros told the newspaper.

Because not all the tires are resold, many are piling up in border landfills, illegal dump sites and people's backyards.

Disposal of all the tires can be difficult, Oliveros said. If the tires sit around, they can trap water, breed mosquitoes and harbor disease. If thrown whole into a landfill, they will surface eventually because of methane gas buildup. If they are burned, they will cause acid rain.

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A Remembrance Tree For Our Loved Ones

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it is important for us to pause for a moment to think of those who are or have been the shining lights in our lives. Some, sadly, are gone now, but the warm memories of moments shared with them, will remain with us always.

In our front yard, we have placed a special outdoor remembrance tree. Each one of the hundreds of lights is shining brightly to honor those special people in our lives. We hope you will drive by to see the lights and be reminded of the ones who have been the guiding lights in our lives.

Most of all, we trust that this Christmas season will reflect upon the One who said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

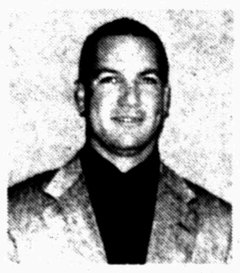
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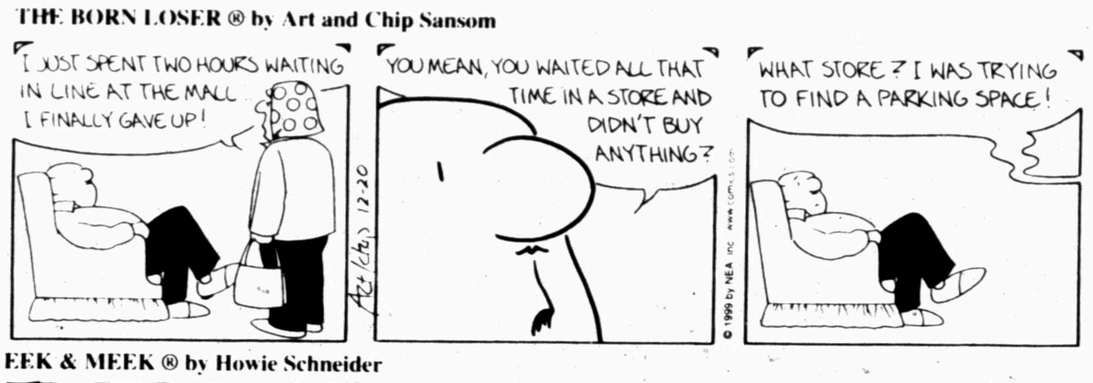

Sandra Roberts


Mel Zane Gilbert

Comic Page

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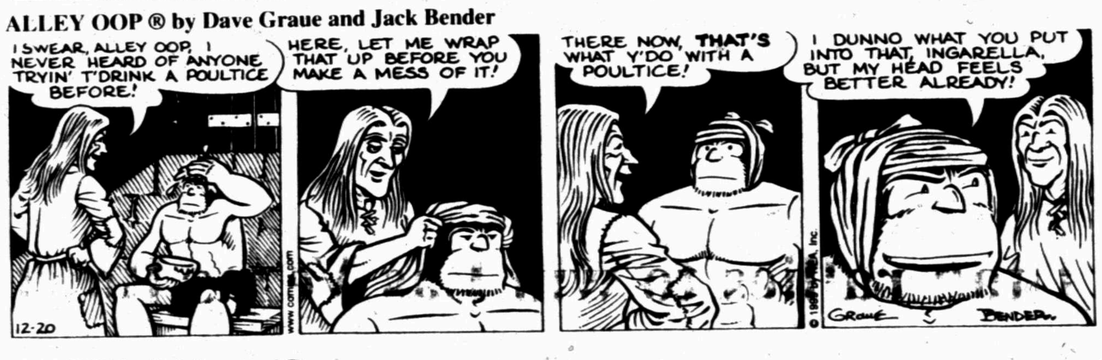
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Saint Lawrence —
7 High up (2 wds.)
12 Stern
13 Pries
14 Shows scorn
15 Not moving (2 wds.)
16 Mas' mates
17 Flight-regulating agcy.
18 Actress Gardner
21 More dry
23 Bird (comb. form)
26 Tears
28 Bandleader Arnaz
29 Fasten
30 On the briny
31 Tales
33 Destructive spree
36 Teen's skin problem
37 — Khan
38 Unit of Iranian currency
40 Actress Delany
41 Decade number
42 Made of cereal
44 On the — (fleeing)
45 Enjoyment
46 Roman bronze
48 Least
51 Slender
55 Chalcedony varieties
56 Weirder
57 Shaped (up)
58 Window coverings

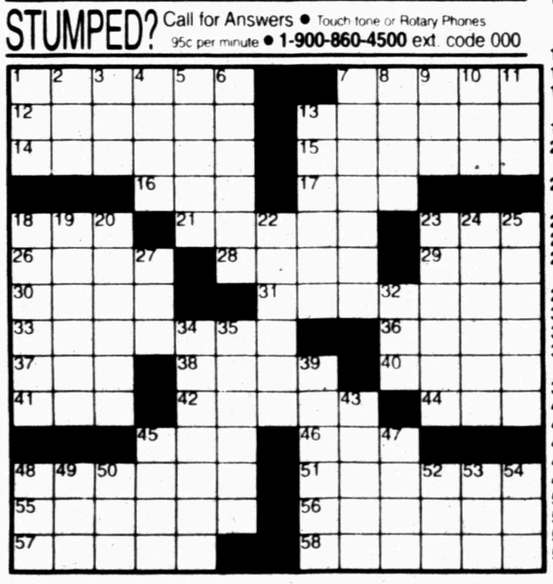
DOWN

1 Draft agcy.
2 "Velvet" end
3 St. crosser
4 Cry
5 Tapestry
6 Affirmed
7 Part of HOMES
8 Writer Ephron
9 Shoe part
10 Photo- — (picture-taking times)
11 Nev. hrs.
13 Most secure
18 Biblical mountain
19 Countenance
20 Extinct primate
22 Place in another chair
23 At the tip
24 Waltz city
25 Tailor's measurement
27 Drain
32 "Way out!"
34 Excited
35 Super Bowl XXV winners
39 Rented
43 At no time
45 Honor
47 Antitoxins
48 Chunky
49 Vanity
50 Pale
52 Mouth part
53 Golf peg
54 Ums' kin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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"I know you've been late for work twice this week, but it's ridiculous to sleep in the car all night!"



SPORTS

Cowboys blow chance at NFC East lead...

Dallas stumbles to 22-21 loss

IRVING (AP) — As the Dallas Cowboys sulk over yet another wasted opportunity, at least they know they're still in the playoff hunt.

Instead of moving into the thick of the NFC race Sunday, Dallas remained on the fringe with a 22-21 loss to the New York Jets, who continue doing a nice job of trying to keep other teams out of the postseason with them.

John Hall won it with a 37-yard field goal with 1:35 left.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was especially annoyed that his team blew an eight-point lead on a day when a victory would've given them first place in the NFC East and moved them near the top of the wild-card chase.

Instead, Dallas (7-7) remained tied with the New York Giants, a game behind the Washington Redskins in the division.

"Our entire team knew that the Giants had lost, Washington had lost, Detroit had lost. So everyone knew what was at stake," Jones said. "This was a playoff-type reward if we could have gotten it done. That makes this one of the toughest losses that we've had in the time I've been here."

Playoff ramifications aside, this loss was fairly similar to the Cowboys' previous six defeats.

Dallas blew a late lead, was set back 92 yards on seven penalties and converted just three of 12 first downs — yet still kept it close. This was the Cowboys' fifth loss by seven points or less. The biggest difference was that this was at home. Dallas had been 6-0 at Texas Stadium.

"Anytime you lose when you're in a situation when you can gain ground in the division, it's disappointing," said Eric Bjornson, whose 20-yard touchdown run on a fake field goal put Dallas ahead 14-13 in the second period. "I don't know the whole situation, but I know we are not completely out of it. We have got to pick it up and turn it around quickly."

To make the playoffs, the Cowboys must win their last two. They haven't won consecutive games in three months.

Dallas, 1-6 on the road, has just four days to prepare for a game in New Orleans, then the Giants visit Texas Stadium for the finale.

Although the Jets' playoff hopes were erased by a 1-6 start, coach Bill Parcells has done a nice job of keeping New York (6-8) focused on finishing the year right.

"Right now any win is sweet," said quarterback Ray Lucas, who was 20-of-34 for 229 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. "Coach Parcells challenged us in these last three games to fight and we're getting the job done. It's real easy to look past us because of our record, but we've grouped together."

The Jets almost tied the game on the drive after the Cowboys went up by eight as Lucas threw a 2-yard touchdown to rookie Blake Spence. But the quarterback was stopped a yard short on a 2-point conversion attempt.

Neither team did much until New York's game-winning drive. The Jets didn't have to do much, though. They churned out 41 yards on 11 plays, setting up Hall for the winning field goal.

"I can't say I was 100 percent confident in him because I've seen him miss some kicks for us this season," Parcells said. "But he hit that one real well and it went right down the middle."

Dallas' final drive was unimpressive. The Cowboys, who burned all three timeouts on New York's drive, got a 23-yard pass from Troy Aikman to Raghib Ismail, then Aikman threw four straight incompletions.

Ismail also scored a 27-yard touchdown on an end-around to put Dallas up 21-13.

Aikman finished 12-of-28 for 158 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. They came in a span of three throws after he'd gone 216 attempts without one.

Emmitt Smith, playing on a strained groin that limited him to one carry last week, had 110 yards on 19 carries.

He also turned a 14-yard pass into the 146th touchdown of his career.

Ira squads nab first, second at tourney

IRA — The Dogpound Classic was a successful outing for Ira High School's hoop teams. In fact, one more win by the Lady Bulldogs and it would have been perfect.

Ira captured the boys' crown and finished as the runner-up in the girls' division, posting an overall record of 5-1 at the event.

After knocking off Hermleigh and Midland Trinity in the first two rounds, the Ira boys roared past Post, 57-36, Saturday to secure the tournament title.

The Bulldogs, accustomed to fast starts this season, jumped on the Antelopes early. Ira opened the game with a 17-4 run, and held a 34-16 advantage at halftime.

Post tried to rally in the third quarter, but was thwarted by an 11-4 Ira run in the final period.

Three Bulldogs finished in double figures, led by Richard Wilkins who poured in 15 points. Jerek Brown drained 13 points, and Nathan Smith added 10.

In the girls' title tilt, the Lady Bulldogs were victimized by a second half rally by Post.

Ira held a 29-24 advantage at the midway point, before the Lady 'Lopes rallied with 34 points in the second half to notch a 58-49 victory.

Post outscored the Lady Bulldogs, 21-13, in the third quarter, then with a 13-7 flurry in the fourth.

Both Ira squads will be in action again Tuesday when they host Trent. The Lady Bulldogs get underway at 6:30, followed by the boys' game at 8 p.m.

SHS teams face pair of road games today

Snyder High School hits the hardwood today for the final time before the Christmas break, when the Tigers and Lady Tigers square off against non-district opponents in a pair of road games.

The Snyder boys, coming off a disappointing loss to Abilene Wylie on Friday, take on Class 5A Midland Lee at 6 p.m. at Midland's Chaparral Center. The junior varsity contest tips off at 4:30.

For the Tigers (8-7), it will be their fifth meeting this season with a 5A opponent. Snyder is 1-3 against the bigger schools.

In girls' action, the Snyder Lady Tigers were to have faced Lamesa this afternoon at the Golden Tor gym.

The Lady Tigers were looking to get back on track after dropping five of their last six games.

Both Snyder squads will take the weekend off, before making a pair of tournament appearances next week. The Tigers will compete in the Brownwood tourney next Monday, while the Lady Tigers' next action will be Dec. 29 at the Abilene High event.

In the Dogpound Classic...

Lady Cards win consolation title

IRA — Overall, it was a pretty productive event for the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals.

The Lady Cardinals put the clamps on Andrews' freshman squad Saturday, capturing the consolation title of the Dogpound Classic with a 44-29 victory.

The Hermleigh girls, who suffered their only setback of the event at the hands of the host Lady Bulldogs, have won two straight heading into the holiday break.

The Lady Cards grabbed the early lead, but couldn't pull away from Andrews in the first half. The Lady Mustangs held Hermleigh in check through the first two quarters, as the Lady Cards led, 17-13, at the break.

But in the third quarter, Hermleigh took control. The Lady Cards picked up the pace on both ends of the floor, pouring in 17 points, while limiting Andrews to only 4.

Hermleigh preserved the 17-point lead with 10 points in the fourth quarter.

Randi Herrington paced the Lady Cardinals with 17 points, while Kendra Dacus added 10.

In boys' action, the Hermleigh Cardinals broke a two-game skid with a 64-52 win over Ira JV to finish seventh.

After the Bulldogs went up by two at the end of the first quarter, the Cardinals took over. Hermleigh outscored Ira, 46-19, over the next two periods to put the game out of reach,

Four Cardinals finished in double figures, led by Caleb Callaway who drained 16 points. Billy Lambaren tallied 13 points, with Joey Garza dropping in 12. Andy Luna added 11 points for Hermleigh.

The Bulldogs were paced by Chet Stuart's 20 points. Jeremy Bowden rattled home 13 points, and Eric Dickerhoff posted 10.

Both Hermleigh squads take the week off, before returning to action Dec. 31 at Klondike.

Utah rallies to win Las Vegas Bowl

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A round of midseason frustration for Utah coach Ron McBride was erased in a sweet finish.

The Utes beat Fresno State 17-16 on Saturday night in the Las Vegas Bowl behind Mike Anderson's school-record 254 yards rushing and Cletus Truhe's 33-yard game-winning field goal.

The victory was the third straight for Utah (9-3) after consecutive losses to Colorado State and Wyoming that threatened to derail the Utes' season and generated a wave of criticism of McBride and the program on local radio talk shows and media.

While a failed extra point by Fresno State (8-5) was the deciding margin in the game, Bulldogs coach Pat Hill said it would wrong to focus on that miscue.

Hill said the Utes simply wore down the Bulldogs, using their strength and size to grind out 548 yards in total offense, including a Las Vegas Bowl-record 334 yards rushing.

"I said before the game that we really needed to step it up on the offensive line and the defensive line, and I've got to give credit to Utah, Hill said.

JV boys drop two games

SWEETWATER — Snyder's junior varsity boys dropped a pair of games at the Sweetwater tournament, but can get back on track today against Midland Lee.

At the Sweetwater tourney, Snyder fell to Lubbock High, 59-49, before dropping a 65-43 decision to Merkel.

Jamaal Pruitt poured in 14 points to pace the Tigers in the opener. Wade Pinson drained 11 points, with Nick Landes adding eight.

Tate Thompson and Chris McLeod tallied seven points apiece, while Shay Franks chipped in two.

Against Merkel, it was Pinson leading the way with eight points, while Landes dropped in seven more. McLeod and Tovares Brandon registered six points apiece.

Thompson, Pruitt and Colter Bedell registered four points each, with Riki Dorsett adding three, and Franks chipping in one.

Snyder will be in action today when it visits Midland Lee. The contest tips off at 4:30 at the Chaparral Center.

Snyder Bowling Leagues

Jack N Jill

Team	W	L
Renegade	32.5	11.5
Country Place	29.5	14.5
BCEC	23.5	20.5
Alley Kats	17.5	26.5
Clayton & Mills	12	27
Ratliff Ins.	12	32

High series: Jeff Smith, scratch, 579; Daphne Thompson, scratch, 539; Jeff Smith, handicap, 699; Joanna Browning, handicap, 645.

High game: Jeff Smith, scratch, 236; Daphne Thompson, scratch, 211; Jeff Smith, handicap, 265; Ginger Walton, handicap, 249.

Splits and special mentions: Jessie Salas, 7-10; Mark Thompson, 4-6-7-10.

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
The Shack	106	80
Rose Barber Shop	106.5	89.5
McLeod Jewelers	105	91
Headquarters	103	93
Daylight Donuts	102.5	94.5
State Farm	98	98
Stephens' Office	89	107
Wal-Mart	75.5	120.5
G&W Trucking	60.5	73.5
Clayton & Mills	60.5	51.5

High series: David Lyle, scratch, 592; Darrel Grant, handicap, 710.

High game: Roger Pavlik, scratch, 218; Mark Thompson, handicap, 243.

Splits and special mentions: Roger Pavlik, Wayne Monroney, Toby Roemer and Rick Mammolite, 2-7; Harold Kornegay and Mark Thompson and Jessie Salas 3-10; Gary Kinder, 5-10; Glen Cox, 2-10, 3-10; Mark Glassock, 6-8-10; Manuel Garcia, 6-7-10.

NBA Glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	15	8	.652	—
New York	15	10	.600	1
Orlando	12	11	.522	3
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	3½
Boston	10	13	.435	5
New Jersey	8	17	.320	8
Washington	8	17	.320	8
Central Division				
Charlotte	16	7	.696	—
Indiana	15	9	.625	1½
Milwaukee	14	10	.583	2½
Toronto	13	11	.542	3½
Detroit	12	12	.500	4½
Cleveland	11	12	.478	5
Atlanta	10	14	.417	6½
Chicago	2	19	.095	13
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	18	8	.692	—
Utah	16	8	.667	1
Denver	12	11	.522	4½
Minnesota	8	13	.381	7½
Dallas	8	17	.320	9½
Houston	8	17	.320	9½
Vancouver	5	19	.208	12
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	21	5	.808	—
Portland	18	6	.750	2
Seattle	17	7	.708	3
Phoenix	16	7	.696	3½
Sacramento	13	8	.619	5½
L.A. Clippers	6	18	.250	14
Golden State	5	18	.217	14½

Saturday's Games

Washington 95, New York 83
Utah 106, Atlanta 96
Detroit 104, Philadelphia 91
Charlotte 106, Miami 89
New Jersey 98, Cleveland 74
Minnesota 108, Dallas 104
Houston 100, Boston 94
Orlando 83, Chicago 74
Milwaukee 109, Indiana 95
Denver 86, San Antonio 84
Phoenix 119, Sacramento 103
Seattle 112, Vancouver 89

Sunday's Games

L.A. Lakers 94, Toronto 88
New Jersey 96, Atlanta 88
Vancouver 85, L.A. Clippers 84

Monday's Games

Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Portland at Denver, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NFL Glance

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
y-Indianapolis	12	2	0	.857	388	274
Buffalo	9	5	0	.642	276	213
Miami	9	5	0	.643	285	277
New England	7	7	0	.500	269	268
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	251	269
Central						
y-Jacksonville	13	1	0	.929	358	169
Tennessee	11	3	0	.786	304	274
Baltimore	7	7	0	.500	299	257
Pittsburgh	5	9	0	.357	251	253
Cincinnati	4	10	0	.286	276	414
Cleveland	2	13	0	.133	189	408
West						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	338	258
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	306	265
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	329	268
San Diego	6	8	0	.429	231	290
Denver	5	9	0	.357	291	299
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	8	6	0	.571	396	347
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	264	298
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	302	227
Arizona	6	8	0	.429	207	296
Philadelphia	4	11	0	.267	234	326
Central						
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	221	219
Detroit	8	6	0	.571	298	282
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Chicago	6	8	0	.429	254	287
West						
x-St. Louis	12	2	0	.857	461	192
Carolina	7	7	0	.500	356	338
San Francisco	4	10	0	.286	246	393
Atlanta	3	11	0	.214	214	337
New Orleans	2	12	0	.143	216	365

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's Games

Kansas City 35, Pittsburgh 19
Carolina 41, San Francisco 24

Sunday's Games

Tennessee 30, Atlanta 17
Chicago 28, Detroit 10
Jacksonville 24, Cleveland 14
Philadelphia 24, New England 9
Baltimore 31, New Orleans 8
St. Louis 31, New York Giants 10
Miami 12, San Diego 9
Indianapolis 24, Washington 21
Oakland 45, Tampa Bay 0
New York Jets 22, Dallas 21
Denver 36, Seattle 30, OT
Buffalo 31, Arizona 21
OPEN: Cincinnati

Monday's Game

Green Bay at Minnesota, 9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

Dallas at New Orleans, 3:05 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Modell to sell part of Ravens

BALTIMORE (AP) — Art Modell has reached an agreement in principle to sell a minority interest of the Baltimore Ravens to Stephen Bisciotti, who founded Aerotek in 1983 and helped build it into one of the nation's leading technical staffing firms.

Modell had been seeking one or more partners to buy a minority share of the team and wanted at least $150 million. He was seeking a partner so he could pay off loans and strengthen the team's financial position.

Carruth returned to North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Police brought Rae Carruth back to North Carolina to face a murder charge and possible death sentence.

The suspended Carolina Panthers player had been jailed in Jackson, Tenn., since Wednesday. Investigators who had traveled to Tennessee returned by car with Carruth in custody at about 4 p.m. Carruth will make a court appearance Tuesday on the first-degree murder charge.

Iverson lashes out at coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson did not attend an optional practice, the morning after saying he should be traded if coach Larry Brown is unhappy with his play.

Iverson lashed out at his coach Saturday night after being benched for the final 20 minutes of Philadelphia's loss at Detroit. Though he has disagreed with Brown many times, it was the first time Iverson mentioned a trade.

Local Basketball Schedule

TODAY

Snyder JV and varsity boys at Midland Lee, at Chaparral Center, 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Snyder JV and varsity girls at Lamesa, 1 and 2:30

TUESDAY

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

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

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

HOUSES FOR RENT
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3010 39th.....3-1 ..... $375
2307 40th.....3-1-cp..... $375
Sarah Jamison..... 573-4028
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Real Estate

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For Sale By Owner: Owner finance provided. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Low down payment, low monthly payments. Buying your home before the year 2000 can save you lots of MONEY! Call Kelly (915)425-9994.

For Sale: Fixer-Upper 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 3002 40th. 573-3046.

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

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2-1-2 + cp 3 Lots 911 17th	$37T
2-1-1cp 1509 39th	$30T
Starter Home 2-1-1cp 1381 N. Ave P	$18.9T
107 Elm Street 4-2-1 + Den/Fireplace	$23,320
Mobile Home to be moved 2-2	$4T
2.56 Acres 3-1-2 Detached	$38.5T
2266 Sunset 3-1¾-2cp	$39T

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

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573-1233



3402 Irving 3,1, den, w/F.P., $42,500
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'American Beauty' leads nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "American Beauty," a dark satire of suburbia and family dysfunction, received six Golden Globe nominations today to lead all film contenders.

"The Insider," based on the true story of tobacco industry whistleblower Jeffrey Wygand, and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," a tale of a high society murder plot, were right behind with five nominations each.

"American Beauty" received nominations for best dramatic picture, best dramatic actress for Annette Bening, best dramatic actor for Kevin Spacey, best director for Sam Mendes, best screenplay for Alan Ball and best score for Thomas Newman.

"The Insider" was nominated for best dramatic picture, best dramatic actor for Russell Crowe, director Michael Mann, screenplay by Mann and Eric Roth and score by Lisa Gerraro and Pieter Bourke.

"The Talented Mr. Ripley" was also nominated for dramatic picture, dramatic actor for Matt Damon, supporting actor for Jude Law, director for Anthony Minghella and score for Gabriel Yared.

The other nominees for best dramatic picture were "The End of the Affair" and "The Hurricane."

Perennial award nominee Tom Hanks was shut out for a widely acclaimed performance as a death row prison guard in "The Green Mile." The film received only one nomination, for supporting actor Michael Clarke Duncan.

The nominations for best movie musical or comedy were "Analyze This," "Being John Malkovich," "Man on the Moon," "Notting Hill" and "Toy Story 2."

Though chosen by the relatively small Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which has about 100 members, the Golden Globes often serve as a predictor for the Academy Awards in March. A year ago, "Shakespeare in Love," the eventual Oscar winner, walked away with the Golden Globe for best musical or comedy picture.

The Golden Globes will air on NBC on Jan. 23.

Other nominees for best dramatic actress were Julianne Moore for "The End of the Affair," Meryl Streep for "Music of the Heart," Hilary Swank for "Boys Don't Cry," and Sigourney Weaver for "A Map of the World."

The other nominees for best dramatic actor were Richard Farnsworth for "The Straight Story" and Denzel Washington for "The Hurricane."

The winner a year ago for best dramatic actor, Jim Carrey, was nominated for best musical or comedy actor for his role as the late comic Andy Kaufman in "Man on the Moon." The other nominees were Robert De Niro for "Analyze This," Rupert Everett for "An Ideal Husband," Hugh Grant for "Notting Hill" and Sean Penn for "Sweet and Lowdown."

Nominees for best musical or comedy actress were Janet McTeer for "Tumbleweeds," Julianne Moore for "An Ideal Husband," Julia Roberts for "Notting Hill," Sharon Stone for "The Muse" and Reese Witherspoon for "Election."

The nominations, announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, also covered 11 television categories.

The nominees for dramatic TV series were "ER," "Once and Again," "The Practice," "The Sopranos" and "The West Wing."

Nominees for musical or comedy TV series were "Ally McBeal," "Dharma & Greg," "Sex and the City," "Spin City" and "Will & Grace."

HBO had the most TV nominations with 18, followed by ABC with 14, NBC with 11 and CBS with seven.

Condition worsens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former first lady Nancy Reagan says that five years after her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he no longer is capable of having a conversation that makes sense.

Mrs. Reagan also said that friends of former President Ronald Reagan no longer are invited to their California home because Reagan does not recognize them. The former president no longer swims or takes walk.

Pharmacia & Upjohn to form company

NEW YORK (AP) — In the second major drug merger in as many months, Monsanto Co. and Pharmacia & Upjohn are combining in a $27 billion deal that will create the world's 11th largest pharmaceutical company.

The two companies signed an agreement Sunday to merge their operations, which together will have 1999 revenues of $17 billion, driven by sales of blockbuster treatments for arthritis and glaucoma.

"Diversifying one's risk is very important in pharmaceuticals," said Fred Hassan, chief executive officer of Pharmacia & Upjohn. "This will give us the diversity we need."

The combined company will have a research budget of $2 billion, and a broader sales force to push each other's drugs. Monsanto's Searle division, which sells the popular arthritis treatment Celebrex, can be used to bolster next year's launch of Pharmacia's new antibiotic called Zyvox.

The new company's pharmaceutical business will be headquartered in Peapack, N.J., where Pharmacia is based, and it will have an agricultural-chemical unit based in Monsanto's hometown of St. Louis.

The frenetic search for partners in the pharmaceutical industry is being driven by the need to finance research for blockbuster drugs, while facing pressure from political and consumer groups to keep prescription costs down.

Last month, American Home Products Corp. announced an agreement to acquire Warner-Lambert Co. That deal, however, is being challenged in court by a rival suitor, Pfizer Inc.

Sunday's announcement ends Monsanto's long search for a buyer. Robert Shapiro, Monsanto's chairman and chief executive officer, has had at least three failed attempts to clinch a deal since October 1998, when a merger with American Home Products fell apart.

Shapiro will be the non-executive chairman of the newly combined company for 18 months and then retire. Hassan will be the president and chief executive and assume the chairman's title when Shapiro steps down.

Monsanto has had trouble finding a partner because its agricultural-chemical business, which makes genetically altered seeds and weed killers like Round Up, is facing consumer backlash, particularly in Europe. Concerns about potential health risks from genetically altered foods have caused many manufacturers to rethink ingredients.

Combining the operations of Monsanto and Pharmacia will save the new company $600 million within three years. Together, the companies have 60,000 employees. Hassan said there would be some layoffs, though he could not say how many.

Russian mafia infiltrates Mexican night clubs

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico City nightclubs have been infiltrated by Russian criminal organizations that bring young women from eastern European countries to work as dancers and prostitutes, a newspaper reported Sunday.

"In operations carried out recently in night clubs in the Mexican capital, we have been able to identify the presence of the Russian mafia, which has been very active in bringing women from eastern Europe with the help of nationals and Canadians," the daily newspaper Reforma quoted an unidentified high-ranking federal police source as saying.

The young women have an average age of 25 and the majority of them are Hungarians who, unlike Slovakians and Russians, don't need visas to enter Mexico, the report said.

Before coming to Mexico, the young women are contacted by Canadian women who serve as translators and guides, the report said. Once in Mexico, where most have arrived on tourist visas that don't permit employment in the country, they are introduced to the night club owners, who then keep a tight rein on them by setting them up in nearby apartments or hotels.

When the women are caught, they are deported at the expense of the clubs that employed them, said immigration official Irma Garcia Andrade.

On Nov. 27, a surprise raid by the Mexican Attorney General's office at The Men's Club, located in the tourist area known as the Zona Rosa, netted 29 foreign women dancers, including 15 Hungarians, the newspaper said.

Club owners were fined 70,000 pesos (about $7,400), the newspaper reported, citing police sources. It said that was very little, compared what the businesses bring in — as much as $1,500 daily per woman.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Should I take a bacteria supplement

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I try to include a lot of yogurt in my diet, and at least one brand pushes the fact that it is made with some sort of special bacteria. I must admit that the idea of a bacteria in food as an asset is a bit strange, and I was hoping you could discuss it a bit. If I am unable to have yogurt very often, should I take this bacteria as a dietary supplement? — H.C., Berkeley, Calif.

DEAR H.C.: Most people are unaware that there is a vast colony of "friendly" bacteria which live in the lower portion of our digestive system. Called "intestinal flora," these bacteria play an important role in our general health. The lineup of potential benefits from healthy intestinal flora is impressive, and it continues to grow. Research now associates these friendly bacteria with:

— Protection against colon cancer and other diseases in the intestines.

— Stimulation of the immune system.

— Enhanced absorption of the protein, vitamins and minerals in milk.

— A reduction of the symptoms of lactose intolerance.

— Protection against bladder (urogenital) infections.

But in the large intestine (or colon), where the bacteria live, it's not all a one-sided affair. Alongside the friendly bacteria are other, not-so-friendly bugs seeking to gain the upper hand.

In recent years, science has begun to study the factors that influence the bacteria in the intestinal flora. Researchers have discovered that although the flora are usually quite stable, they can be affected by what you eat and medications you take. Whenever there's a rapid change in the flora, you can expect to experience temporary discomfort, such as cramps, diarrhea, bloating or gas.

The "diet" of the flora consists of the undigested food we eat. The makeup of the flora is affected anytime we make radical changes in our diet, such as the addition or removal of large amounts of fiber. Digestive upset, which often accompanies such changes, can be minimized if changes are gradual.

Physical or emotional stress can change the conditions of the lower intestines, where the flora live. Some researchers speculate that the effect of stress on the intestinal flora might predispose the body to the diarrhea often experienced by travelers.

Of all the factors, though, nothing affects the flora more than antibiotics. When taken to eliminate an illness-causing bacteria, antibiotics destroy friend and foe alike. This permits yeast organisms normally kept in check by the friendly flora to grow in greater numbers. That's one reason why yeast infections often flare up during and after the taking of antibiotics.

Where does yogurt fit in? Well, it turns out that foods such as yogurt contain the benevolent bugs that can help strengthen the friendly flora and make them stronger allies. That means that one way to maintain healthy flora is to keep sources of friendly bacteria like yogurt, acidophilus milk or a flora-containing supplement in your diet. Yogurt is made from milk that is usually cultured with two different bacteria: s. thermophilous and l. bulgaricus. As a food, it is well-tolerated by people who have lactose intolerance (the reduced ability to digest the lactose in milk) because the yogurt bacteria produce their own lactose-digesting enzyme.

Some refrigerated yogurts and many brands of frozen yogurt also contain added acidophilus and bifidus bacteria. These two types have special value, because unlike the standard yogurt bacteria, acidophilus and bifidus bacteria can establish themselves as long-term residents in the intestinal flora.

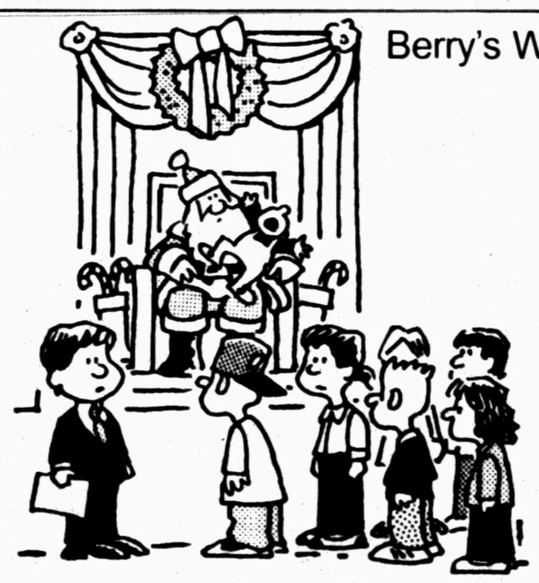
Food supplements that contain these friendly flora, often referred to as probiotics, usually contain the acidophilus and bifidus bacteria. They are a convenient way to supply the needed flora.

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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EDITOR'S NOTE: For newspaper publication before Christmas day. #348.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK(AP)	High	Low	last	
AMR Corp	68 7-16	66 15-16	66 15-16	— 9-16
AT&T Corp s	54⅝	53½	54 3-16	+ 7-16
Albertsons	30	29 9-16	30	+ ¼
Alltel	85 15-16	84 13-16	84⅞	— ⅝
AmerOnline s	87½	84⅞	86½	+ 1⅝
AndarkPtr	31 5-16	30½	30 9-16	—15-16
AtlRichfld	86⅞	84⅛	84⅞	— 2¾
ATMOS Egy	21⅛	20 7-16	20⅞	+ ⅜
Avnll	8 7-16	8 3-16	8 3-16	— ¼
BP Amoco s	61 3-16	60¾	60 13-16	—1 1-16
BakerHughes	19	18½	18 11-16	+ 5-16
Bank of Amer	49⅝	48 15-16	49	+ ¼
BellAtl	65	64½	64 11-16	— ¼
BellSouth s	46 15-16	46½	46¾	— 9-16
Beth Steel	7 15-16	7 13-16	7 13-16	— 3-16
BurlNoSFe	27 13-16	27	27⅜	— 1
CBS Corp	59¾	59 1-16	59 11-16	— ⅛
Caterpillar	45¾	45	45 7-16	+ ½
CenSoWst	19 15-16	19 13-16	19⅞	— 1-16
Chevron	88	86 9-16	86⅝	— ⅞
Citigroup s	55⅜	54 1-16	54 3-16	— 5-16
Coastal	35⅜	34 11-16	34 15-16	—15-16
CocaCola	59 13-16	58½	58 9-16	—1 3-16
ColgatePal s	60⅝	59⅞	60 5-16	— 7-16
ComclMetals	33¼	33	33¼	+ ⅜
CooperIn	41 15-16	41 5-16	41 5-16	— ⅝
DaimlrChry	72⅛	71⅝	71⅜	— 1⅜
DallSemicn	59¾	59 1-16	59 1-16	— 3-16
DeltaAirl	49½	49	49⅜	+ ¾
Dillards Inc	19 9-16	18¾	18¾	—11-16
DowChem	123½	122⅛	122 5-16	—11-16
DuPont	68 11-16	67¼	67 5-16	—1 1-16
EastmanChem	46½	45½	45 9-16	— ⅜
EstKodak	61⅛	60⅜	60 13-16	— 5-16
EDS Corp	64 5-16	62 1-16	64 1-16	+ 4 13-16
Entergy	25⅝	25⅜	25 7-16	
ExxonMobil	83 11-16	82¼	82 5-16	— 5-16
FstBksAm	18 1-16	18 1-16	18 1-16	
Flowers	16⅛	15 11-16	15 11-16	— ⅛
FordMotor	50½	49 13-16	50 7-16	+ ⅜
GTE Cp	73½	72¾	72¾	— ¼
GenDynam	49	48	48 7-16	— 9-16
GenElec	154¼	152 13-16	153½	+ 1½
GenMills s	34 13-16	34½	34 11-16	+ 1
GenMotors	72¼	70⅝	71¾	+ ¾
GaPacGP s	47⅝	46¼	46 7-16	—1 3-16
GlobalMar	14 15-16	14⅝	14⅜	— 1-16
Goodrich	24 15-16	24 13-16	24⅞	
Goodyear s	27 5-16	26 13-16	27	— 1-16
GtAtlPac	25 9-16	25⅛	25½	+ 1-16
Halliburtn	37	35 15-16	35 15-16	—13-16
Hanson ADS	42	41 9-16	41 9-16	+ 9-16
HarteHanks	21	20⅜	21	+ ¼
HomeDepot	98 13-16	96¾	96¾	— 1¼
HomeDepot wi	65⅜	65¼	65¼	— ⅛
HoneywellIntl	63⅝	60⅛	60 9-16	—3 3-16
IBM s	110 7-16	108¾	109 13-16	+ 13-16
IntlPaper	54¼	53⅛	53⅛	— ⅜
JohnsonJn	94	91⅜	92 1-16	—2 9-16
K mart	11 5-16	11	11 1-16	— ⅛
Kroger Co s	16⅛	15 15-16	16⅛	— ⅛
Litton	46½	45	46¼	+ 1¼
LockheedM	20 5-16	19 15-16	20	— 5-16
Lowes Cos	57 1-16	55½	55¾	— ⅞
Lubys	10¾	10 3-16	10 3-16	— 9-16
LucentTech s	82 5-16	80 15-16	81 11-16	+ 15-16
MayDeptStr s	31¼	30¾	30¾	
MediaOne	78 3-16	77 1-16	77 15-16	+ ¾
Medtronic s	34¼	33½	33 9-16	
Monsanto	40	36¾	36⅞	— 4⅞
MorganJP	129¾	126⅛	126⅞	— 1¼
Motorola	134¾	130½	134⅛	+ 3 1-16
NCR Corp	31 11-16	31	31 9-16	+ 9-16
Navistar	47⅜	43⅞	46⅛	+ 2
Penney JC	18⅞	18¼	18¼	— 5-16
PepBoys	8 7-16	8 5-16	8 5-16	— 1-16
PepsiCo	35¼	34	35⅛	+ ⅛
PhelpDodge	58 1-16	57 11-16	58	— ⅜
PhilipPet	46¾	45 13-16	45⅞	— 1¼
PilgrmPrd B	7⅜	7¼	7 5-16	
Polaroid	19¼	18 11-16	18¾	
Praxair	46 15-16	45⅞	46¼	— 9-16
ProctGamb	107⅞	106½	107½	+ 1¼
PubS NwMx	16 1-16	15 15-16	16	+ 3-16
ReliantEngy	23 5-16	23 1-16	23⅛	— 5-16
RoyalDut	61 13-16	61 3-16	61¼	— ¼
SBC Comm	51¼	50½	50 13-16	— 9-16
SaraLee	22 1-16	21⅝	21⅞	— ¼
Scripps EW	44¾	43¾	44½	+ 1
SearsRoeb	31 5-16	31⅛	31⅛	— ⅛
SherwinW	20⅛	19⅞	19 15-16	+ 1-16
SmithklBchm	63⅜	62 5-16	62⅜	— 5-16
SouthernCo	23⅜	23 3-16	23¼	— 5-16
SwstAirl s	15 13-16	15⅝	15⅝	
SprintFON s	67 7-16	66⅞	67	— ½
SprintPCS	97 7-16	94⅛	95⅜	+ 15-16
Sunoco Inc	24 1-16	23¾	23¾	— 3-16
TNP Ent	41 3-16	40 13-16	41	
Tandy s	53	49½	49 11-16	—3 5-16
TempleInland	62 9-16	60 11-16	61 1-16	—1 15-16
Texaco	55 5-16	54¾	54 15-16	— ⅛
TexInd	39 9-16	39	39	
TexasInst s	101⅞	99 7-16	100⅞	—1 1-16
Tex- Util	33⅞	33 9-16	33 9-16	— ½
Textron	73 5-16	72 3-16	72 3-16	—1 3-16
TnconGlbR	39 5-16	38⅞	39 1-16	— ⅜
TrinityInds	27 5-16	26⅞	27 5-16	+ ⅛
TritonEngy	20	19 9-16	19⅞	
TylerTech	3 15-16	3⅞	3 13-16	— 1-16
US West Inc	69 5-16	68 11-16	68¾	— 9-16
USX-Marathn	27 11-16	26⅞	27	—15-16
USX-USS	30⅜	29⅜	29 15-16	— ¾
UnCarbde	61½	61⅛	61¼	— ⅜
UnionPacif	45⅛	44 5-16	44 5-16	— 3-16
UnitedTech s	58¾	57⅜	58⅜	+ 2
Unocal	34⅛	33½	33⅜	— ⅛
Venator Grp	7 3-16	7 1-16	7⅛	
WalMart s	66 7-16	63½	63 9-16	—1 7-16
WellsFargo	40 15-16	39⅞	40¾	+ 13-16
WstnGasRs	12 13-16	12 11-16	12 11-16	— 3-16
WinnDixie	24 1-16	23 7-16	23⅞	— ⅛
Xerox Cp s	21 7-16	21⅛	21 3-16	

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Dell	+1 11/16	82 3/16
Wal Mart	-2 3/16	99 1/4
Compac	-6 1/16	50 13/16
Dol. Gen.	-5 1/16	72 11/16
GTE	+7 1/16	25 11/16
SBC Comm.	-7 1/16	25 5/16
Tx Instr.	-3 1/4	64 1/4
LU	+2 1/16	47 5/8
Cisco Sys.	+1 1/16	11 7/8

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Lubbock police officer suspended indefinitely following complaint

LUBBOCK (AP) — A police officer who allegedly asked a 16-year-old girl to take nude photos of her friends is fighting an indefinite suspension, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported Sunday.

Officer Keith Jobe is accused of committing 11 criminal violations, 57 police department rules violations, one Alcoholic Beverage Code violation, and other state Civil Service and Lubbock City Charter violations, according to a suspension order obtained by the newspaper under the Texas Public Information Act.

Two of the counts — promoting child pornography and soliciting sexual performances from a minor — are felonies. The Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's Office, however, previously told the newspaper the evidence was insufficient to prosecute Jobe.

The 37-page suspension order alleges that Jobe gave the girl his police-issued Polaroid camera and packages of film to take the photos. He also gave the girl his handcuffs for use as props, the order states.

Other violations include use of a police database to gain personal information about the girl and her friends, offering alcohol to the girl, giving her cigarettes, grabbing and twisting her arm, and taking unauthorized employment for pay, according to the order.

Jobe was placed on indefinite suspension without pay Thursday. On Friday, he submitted a written notice appealing his suspension and requested a hearing before a third-party hearing examiner.

In his statement, Jobe said, "The facts are not true as alleged. ... The charges, as made, are not legally sufficient."

The officer's home telephone number was not published and he could not be reached for comment Sunday.

The police department's internal affairs unit began investigating Jobe in late August and September after the girl accused him of harassing her while he worked security at South Plains Mall.

While on paid leave during the investigation, Jobe applied to join the Grand Prairie Police Department.

UAW workers okay contract

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (AP) — The risk-reward arrangement that helped make Saturn Corp. "a different kind of car company" has been overhauled after workers demanded a more certain salary package.

Union workers voted 2,220-271 Sunday for a four-year contract that is much closer to those negotiated by United Auto Workers for other U.S. autoworkers, officials with UAW Local 1853 said.

The contract covers Saturn's 7,200 workers in Spring Hill and about 100 at the company's engineering center in Madison Heights, Mich.

"I don't think Saturn had any choice but to bargain with us," said union spokesman Thomas Hopp. "If we had to strike we surely would have ... we were ready, and they didn't want to test that."

Hopp said the new contract would add 15 percent to base pay, retroactive to Sept. 20. It calls for 3 percent pay raises each year for four years, plus a $1,350 up-front bonus and other economic gains.

"Everyone involved in our negotiations process was searching for a win-win solution, and we achieved that goal together," said Brian McClelland, a Saturn vice president.

Under a "risk-and-reward" pay program, Saturn employees earn less in salary than General Motors' other workers but receive bonuses for reaching productivity and qu ty goals. For years, that arrangement produced a harmonious relationship between management and union rank-and-file at Saturn, which dubbed itself "a different kind of car company."

But as the demand for small cars waned in recent years, Saturn's sales fell and worker bonuses shriveled, the agreement became a source of friction.

Union leaders charged Saturn wasn't giving workers enough input and last year they threatened a strike. They backed off when the company agreed to build a sport utility vehicle. Production is expected to begin in 2001.

In the current contract, workers are paid 88 percent of their base salary. Then, provided certain training and quality goals are met, the company pays them the other 12 percent.

Y2K could mean local skiers have Rockies to themselves

DENVER (AP) — There's plenty of room at the inn in Aspen for Christmas, and some suites are going for $99 a night in the nation's glitziest resort.

Chic hotels in the Rockies, famed for their powder, are even offering rooms at early-season prices for their busiest two weeks of the season. The reasons for the apparent lack of interest, resort owners say, are Y2K and a snowless start to winter.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to see these kinds of prices at this time of the year in the mountains," said Joan Christensen, spokeswoman for Winter Park. One luxury condo company is offering six-person lodgings for only $33 per person.

Snow is finally falling almost daily at many Colorado resorts and most have decent bases after enduring an unusually warm Indian summer followed by water torture-like snowfalls of two or three inches a day instead of the hoped-for dumps.

"People who are not tied to work are crazy not to take advantage of it," Ms. Christensen said, speaking by cellular phone as she shoveled freshly fallen snow from her driveway.

With reservations down 40 percent, many Park City, Utah, hotels and other lodgings, have cut rates by up to 50 percent.

Even with the new snow — Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado picked up eight inches and Steamboat Springs, also in Colorado, got 18 inches in one day last week — reservations remained down at many areas.

Y2K fears are also having an effect. Not only are some travelers wary of being away from home, but many companies are requiring workers to be on the job in case computers crash. Flights, cruises, concerts and other events are being canceled.

"People can have much of the Rockies to themselves while others are awaiting an X-File to unfold upon them," said Jim Felton of Breckenridge, referring to the scary Fox TV show.

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STORYTELLER — Gary J. Varner brought his "Tales From The Story Trunk" to Central Elementary School last week. He takes his invisible trunk with him and pulls stories from it which enthrall his listeners. Varner's appearance was made possible by a TEA Investment Capital Fund Grant which Central has received. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Family's car hit by another, reportedly during drag race

DALLAS (AP) — An illegal drag race down a Dallas street turned tragic when one of the speeding cars crashed into a mother's station wagon, killing her 8-year-old boy and critically injuring his younger brother as the two rode in the vehicle's back seat, police said.

Joshua Montanez died early Sunday with a severed spinal cord, broken bones and other injuries. His brother, Anthony Montanez, 7, was reported in critical condition at Children's Medical Center in Dallas following the late Saturday crash, police said.

Officials refused to release details on the surviving boy's condition, at the family's request.

Their mother, Victoria Vargas, who was driving her family, was listed in fair condition at a local hospital. Another passenger, Alfredo Gaston, who lives with the family, was treated at the same hospital for a head trauma and other injuries and released, officials told The Dallas Morning News.

Police said two cars driven by John Melendez and Miguel Villasenor Jr., both 20, were engaged in an illegal drag race along a residential street when Melendez's 1998 Honda struck Ms. Vargas' station wagon. The woman and her family were returning home from the store with a car full of groceries when the they were hit not far from their home.

Both Melendez and Villasenor have been charged with one count of manslaughter and two counts of aggravated assault, according to The News. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a $10,000 fine on each charge.

Melendez, of Mesquite, has been treated for minor injuries and released into police custody, hospital officials said. Villasenor, of Dallas, was not injured in the crash after his car struck Melendez' car careering away from the station wagon, police said.

On Sunday, red prayer candles burned in silent tribute near the two boys' bicycles sitting on the family's porch. Across town, family members traveled from hospital to hospital, comforting the injured while mourning their loss.

The family declined to comment.

Illegal drag racing has long been a problem in the Dallas area. Last December, are police departments teamed up to crack down on racers in suburban Farmer's Branch, arresting nearly 200 people.

Most Web merchants will meet holiday sales forecasts

NEW YORK (AP) — Most online merchants are on target to meet or exceed their aggressive sales forecasts for the holiday season, but there are some e-retailers that haven't brought in the business they had hoped for this Christmas.

A survey released today by market research firm International Data Corp. found that 55 percent of Web sites said sales were in line with their holiday forecasts and 29 percent had sales that topped their expected gains.

However, 16 percent of cybershops said their sales are trending below their own expectations.

The survey of executives from 50 online merchants — both well-known and startups — is one of the first to show how Internet businesses are faring this holiday season. The survey was conducted Dec. 13 to Dec. 15.

Many e-retailers spent heavily in the last year to improve their businesses. They upgraded the technology that runs their Web sites and built new distribution centers so they could stock more goods and deliver them faster.

Many also dumped hundreds of millions of dollars into advertising to lure shoppers to their online stores.

Overall, their efforts have paid off. Online market research firm BizRate.com found that orders to their 2,700 Web-based clients during the week ended Dec. 18 were up more than five times what they were a year ago.

Despite the rise in sales, the IDC survey indicates that not everyone will survive in cyberspace and there will likely be a shake-out next year among the smaller Web merchants that are not seeing the growth they need to remain in business.

"There are some companies that won't see Santa again next year," said Sean Kaldor, an Internet analyst at IDC. "They will merge with other companies, be sold or fade off the map."

With business up so sharply, many merchants were finding it hard to keep up with the increasing demand. The survey, however, found that the number of glitches are down from a year ago when consumers complained bitterly about problems with shopping online.

Twenty-five percent of executives reported some problems with processing orders, such as losing orders.

'Stuart Little' leads parade of family films at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Stuart Little" was anything but small at the box office.

The film version of the E.B. White children's book about a talking mouse adopted by a human family debuted at the top of the box office this weekend, taking in an estimated $15.4 million, according to studio figures released Sunday.

Tom Hanks' prison drama "The Green Mile" came in second at $12.6 million. The animated film "Toy Story 2," featuring the voice of Hanks for the character Sheriff Woody, came in third with $12.1 million.

Audiences were expected to continue to flood theaters through the holidays, especially with the openings of several anticipated films, including "The Talented Mr. Ripley," starring Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow; "Man on the Moon," with Jim Carrey playing the late comic Andy Kaufman; and "Snow Falling on Cedars."

"This holiday season is really going to send us out on a high note, no doubt about it," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co., a Los Angeles-based box office tracking firm.

"People want to be entertained, they've been getting what they want, and they just keep going back."

Annual box office receipts were expected to top $7.5 billion, smashing last year's record $6.9 billion.

Family-themed films dominated the top Friday-through-Sunday numbers, with three such movies in the top five. In addition to "Toy Story 2" in third place after five weeks at the box office, "Bicentennial Man," in which Robin Williams plays a robot, tied for fourth in its debut week with "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo."

Dergarabedian said it's no surprise films geared toward children were popular this weekend.

Families typically head to theaters during the holiday season, when parents spend more time at home and children are out of school, he said.

"Parents look at a movie like that and it's a natural," Dergarabedian said. "They feel safe taking their kids. They know they're going to be entertained."

"Anna and the King" starring Jodi Foster and Chow Yun-Fat, brought in $5.1 million to finish No. 6 during its opening weekend.

"Magnolia," which has some critics buzzing about an Oscar-worthy performance by Tom Cruise, opened in seven theaters in New York and Los Angeles, taking in $184,000, for a per-screen-average of more than $26,000. The film, about a day in the lives of nine characters in Southern California's San Fernando Valley, opens for general release Jan. 7.

Gasoline prices are down half-penny

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gasoline prices dipped a half-cent nationwide to an average per-gallon price of $1.3412, due to continued stabilization of crude oil prices and a season of lower demand, an industry analyst said Sunday.

Trilby Lundberg, who conducts the Lundberg Survey of 10,000 stations, also said there was little sign of Y2K panic buying, but that the industry was ready, with actions including timed supply shutdowns to control the flow of gasoline.

"If anything happens it would be an artificial scare, creating an artificial shortage," she said. "The gasoline industry is well prepared for Y2K.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Find another way to treat depression

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've found that my depression disappears when I take oral contraceptive pills or eat a half-pound of candy a day. However, my gynecologist wants me to stop the medicine because of my age (40) and the fact that I smoke cigarettes. I know that I shouldn't continue my candy binge because of a weight problem. What can I do to prevent this depression?

DEAR READER: Your doctor is correct. The use of birth control pills in smokers over the age of 35 is not a good idea because of the increased risk of blood clots that can cause lung damage. You are also correct that a high-sugar diet will lead to adverse health consequences, not to mention a weight problem.

If you were to stop smoking, your doctor might be cajoled into continuing your contraceptive pills. However, this might not be the best approach. I'd rather consider giving you antidepressant medicine. Ask your physician about this. If she is reluctant to consider this possibility, request a consultation with a psychiatrist, who could prescribe appropriate antidepressant medication or engage you in counseling.

As you have discovered, women's natural hormone cycles may predispose them to depression, which can be overcome by correcting their hormone deficiency with the synthetic variety. Therefore, some form of hormone therapy may be necessary for you. Your gynecologist should be able to work with your psychiatrist/therapist to find the proper combination of medication that would be suitable for you. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Mental and Emotional Illness." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Because of a stroke that I was told came from infection from endocarditis, I am hemiplegic. I have to use a plastic brace to walk. Will my foot drop ever disappear?

DEAR READER: Endocarditis is an infection that involves a heart valve. This is a serious affliction because, without aggressive treatment with intravenous antibiotics, the infection can destroy the cardiac valve — or, as you have discovered, pieces of the infection can break off and be carried to distant parts of the body.

These globs of bacteria, called septic emboli, will lead to stroke if they lodge in the brain. Under such circumstances, the infected material acts like a clot to shut off blood supply, oxygen and nutrition to a part of the brain.

The muscle weakness resulting from an embolism/stroke is usually permanent. Therefore, I doubt that your weak (dropped) foot will ever return to normal.

However, you can be helped by a program of physical therapy to train other muscles to compensate for the damaged tissue. With such a program — and the use of appropriate braces — you should be able to maintain a satisfactory degree of mobility and independence.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Alleged accomplice now sought

SEATTLE (AP) — An Algerian man charged with bringing bomb-making materials into Washington state from Canada may be connected with a theft ring that funneled funds to terrorist groups, authorities say.

Ahmed Ressam — currently in federal detention near here after being charged Friday — was jailed for a few weeks in Montreal last year for stealing laptop computers and cellular phones from cars, Montreal Police spokesman Andre Poirier said Sunday.

According to Poirier, Ressam and Said Atmani, the man believed to be the head of a Montreal crime ring which engaged in identical thefts, are connected.

"We have reason to believe that the money that was gathered after selling those goods was distributed to some terrorism groups," Poirier said.

Investigators believe the money raised through the thefts was quickly funneled out of Canada via a sophisticated network passing through France, Belgium, Italy, Kosovo, Pakistan and finally, Algeria.

Last week, police arrested 11 alleged members of the ring, eight of them Algerian nationals, Poirier said.

Newsweek magazine, citing unnamed Canadian police sources, reported in this week's issue that Ressam lived with Atmani in Montreal for a time. The magazine said Atmani was extradited from Canada to France in connection with the 1995 Paris subway bombing that killed four people and injured 86. The bombing was attributed to the Algerian radical Armed Islamic Group.

Penn Station fire disrupts train service

NEW YORK (AP) — A fire in Penn Station made a mess of thousands of shopping excursions and holiday visits on the last weekend before Christmas.

Trains came to a halt on Amtrak and suburban commuter railroads after a two-alarm fire was reported Sunday in a communications shed at 3:17 p.m. on one of the busiest travel days of the year.

Penn Station slowly filled with smoke and was evacuated for four hours as Amtrak passengers waited through hours-long delays up and down the East Coast.

There were no reported injuries, but service was suspended for hours on Amtrak, the Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit, stranding thousands of travelers.

Amtrak reported delays for Northeast Corridor trains between Washington, D.C., and Boston. Trains heading south from Boston were stopping at New Haven, Conn., and northbound trains were halted in Newark, N.J. Trains began running through Penn Station again by the early evening.

In New York, Penn Station was filled with would-be passengers lugging shopping bags. A performance of "The Christmas Carol" at the Theater at Madison Square Garden was delayed for an hour, but a New York Rangers game was played as scheduled.

"I came in to see the tree," said Gus Brandstatter of Howell, N.J., referring to the 100-foot-tall Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center. "It looks like I'm staying here."

Obituaries

Oleta Gilmore

1913-1999

ABERNATHY – Oleta Gilmore, the sister of Walter Driver of Gail, died Friday, Dec. 17, in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

Funeral service for Mrs. Gilmore, 86, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Abernathy First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Jesse Nave was to officiate and burial was to follow in the Abernathy Cemetery.

Born Feb. 11, 1913 in Erath County, she married Arlie Gilmore in January, 1936. He died in 1975.

Mrs. Gilmore moved from Petersburg to Abernathy in 1975. She moved to Littlefield in 1997 and to Lubbock last March. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Abernathy.

Survivors include a son, Don Gilmore of Lubbock; a daughter, Geneva Lynn of Littlefield; a sister, Doris Booth of Hobbs, N.M.; another brother, Warren Driver of Brownwood; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Hiram Jordan

1925-1999

LUBBOCK – Hiram Jordan, a native of Scurry County, died Saturday, Dec. 18.

Funeral service for Mr. Jordan, 74, is set for 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Monterey Church of Christ with Keith Mast officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park.

Born June 9, 1925 in Dunn, he attended school in Dunn and married Irene Duke on Nov. 22, 1950 in Artesia.

A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he was a 1950 graduate of Texas Tech and was president of banks in Tulia and Shallowater. Mr. Jordan was a regional director for the State of Texas Department of Banking and was a member of the Monterey Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Irene Jordan of Lubbock; two sons, Doug Jordan of Lubbock and Gregg Jordan of Amarillo; a daughter, Deborah Titus of Lubbock; a brother, Harold Jordan of Oklahoma City; a sister, Lenora Olson of Colfax, Iowa; and five grandchildren.

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Vermont Supreme Court has okayed rights for gay couples

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Gay couples must be granted the same benefits and protections given married couples of the opposite sex, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled today.

The court said the Legislature will determine whether such benefits will come through formal marriage or a system of domestic partnerships.

"We hold that the state is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law," the justices said.

Whatever marriage or domestic partnership system is chosen by the Legislature, the court said, "must conform with the constitutional imperative to afford all Vermonters the common benefit, protection, and security of the law."

Earlier this month, Hawaii's Supreme Court slammed the door on gay marriages in that state, once considered most likely to legalize same-sex unions. Hawaii's high court said the issue was resolved by a 1998 amendment to the state constitution against gay marriages.

Vermont was the only other state whose top court was considering the issue, and today's ruling had been anxiously awaited by both sides in the highly charged debate over same-sex marriages.

Today's ruling stems from a suit filed in July 1997 by three couples — one of gay men and two of lesbians — after they were denied marriage licenses by their local town clerks. The clerks acted on the advice of the state attorney general, who relied on a 1975 opinion by a predecessor calling same-sex marriages unconstitutional.

The three couples first filed suit in Chittenden County Superior Court but a judge rejected their claims. The couples then appealed to the Supreme Court, which heard arguments in the case 13 months ago.

The couples argued that their inability to get married denied them more than 300 benefits at the state level and more than 1,000 at the federal level. The Supreme Court acknowledged that, saying the benefits included "access to a spouse's medical, life, and disability insurance, hospital visitation and other medical decisionmaking privileges, spousal support, intestate succession, homestead protections, and many other statutory protections."

Today's ruling cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court since the Vermont court based its decision on the state Constitution. The Vermont Supreme Court is the state's only appeals court.

The decision places the issue before the Legislature, which will convene next month for its 2000 session.

Gov. Howard Dean has declined to state a position on same-sex marriages, saying that he was awaiting the decision of the court. But the lieutenant governor, Douglas Racine, and the speaker of the Vermont House, Michael Obuchowski, have said they favor same-sex marriages.

Today's decision, written by Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy, acknowledges the controversy swirling around the issue of same-sex marriages. It is "a question that the court well knows arouses deeply felt religious, moral, and political beliefs."

Hit and run reported; woman treated at ER

Officers and a Snyder EMS ambulance were requested at 20th Street and Avenue E Sunday evening as one person was injured in a hit-and-run accident.

The accident also resulted in one person being arrested.

Officers took a 31-year-old male into custody at 8:04 p.m. for evading arrest, and he was issued citations for no liability insurance and failure to yield right of way.

Maria Barron, 18, of 901 14th St., was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital where she was treated and released.

She was a passenger in a 1996 Chrysler driven by Gloria Barron, 20, of the same address.

The other vehicle was driven by Ruben Vera of 1811 19th St.

Three other subjects were arrested Sunday.

Deputies received a call at 10:09 p.m. Sunday of a female being harassed by a person under a protective order. The caller reported the other person possibly had a weapon. Deputies arrested the 35-year-old male at the intersection of CR 644 and Highway 84 for unlawfully carrying a weapon.

At 4:35 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested two 20-year-old males at the Plaza Restaurant for public intoxication.

DPS troopers took one person into custody early this morning.

Troopers arrested a 26-year-old male at 12:35 a.m. on U.S. Highway 84 for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

In other activity over the weekend, officers were called to 1279 Huffman at 11:14 Saturday as Don Johnson reported the theft of a hubcap.

Officers filed a Class C offense report for assault by threat at 6 p.m. Sunday in reference to an incident which happened on Dec. 9.

A clerk at Town & Country on East Highway reported a gas drive-off at 9 p.m. Sunday in the amount of $24.04.

Two juvenile females – ages 15 and 17 – were listed as runaways following reports filed Sunday.

A two-vehicle accident occurred at 12:46 p.m. Saturday in the 4500 block of College Avenue.

Snyder EMS was called to the scene, but no one was transported to Cogdell Hospital.

Involved in the accident were a 1998 Ford driven by Glenda Freeman of 2214 43rd St., and a 1994 Buick driven by Dianne Morton of 6330 Highway 208.

A private property accident report was filed at 6:32 p.m. Saturday at Pizza Inn. Involved were a 1994 Chevrolet pickup driven by Christopher Kemp of San Angelo, and a parked and unoccupied 1963 Chevrolet owned by Juan Dominguez of 3006 Ave. F.

Brenda Hill, 308 36th St., notified officers at 8 p.m. Saturday of a hit-and-run accident on the parking lot of Wal-Mart. She said her 1998 Chevrolet was struck by a vehicle that left the scene. She was able to give the license number of the vehicle to the officers.

Gift Certificates

SUBWAY

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 17- Leda Beck, Lavienna Bodry, Kathryn Tate, Faye Bloomer, Shauna Green; Dec. 18-Charldee Donaldson, Vera Kruse, Billy Reeves, Edna Addison, Margaret Birdwell, Dorothy Owens, Daisy Aguilar; Dec. 19-Gladys Cartwright, Erma House, Bradley Johnson and Kenneth Rinehart.

DISMISSALS: Dec. 17-None; Dec. 18-Edna Addison, Lula Gaddis, Larry Hildreth, Patricia Porter, Helen Winter; Dec. 19-Margaret Birdwell, Faye Bloomer, Shauna Green, Dorothy Owens, and Daisy Aguilar.

CENSUS: 35 (Med./Surg.-12, Long-term Care-23)

Independently Owned & Operated

WCFH

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th Street
Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 this evening are "Faith That Will Not Shrink," followed by "Getting to Know God's Person and Problem."

Lions Club

The Snyder Lions Club will not meet the next two Tuesdays. The next meeting will be at noon Jan. 4 in the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Toys for Tots helpers

Snyder Lions Club members are reminded to be at the Girl Scout Hut at 9 a.m. Thursday to help load toys. For more information, call 573-6725.

Christmas eve service

The community is invited to a Christmas eve service of carols, candlelight and Holy Communion at the First United Methodist Church. The service begins at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and will feature a variety of narrations and musical selections.

Christmas eve candlelight service

The First Presbyterian Church will hold a candlelight service on Christmas eve. The worship service will begin at 11 p.m. It is a service of lessons and carols and will bring one into the day of our Lord's birth in celebration of what Christmas is really about.

Landfill hours

The City of Snyder Landfill will be open Friday, but will close Christmas Day.

Social security reps

Representatives of the Social Security Administration will be at the Senior Citizens Center in Snyder on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Library extends hours

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

Road to Recovery program

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

Pick 3

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

9-6-3

(nine, six, three)

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $7 million.

The ticket was sold in Denton.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 4, 12, 32, 36, 37, 50

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Indicted nuclear scientist will sue U.S. authorities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former nuclear weapons scientist Wen Ho Lee is suing the FBI and the Justice and Energy departments, alleging they violated his privacy and wrongly portrayed him as a spy for China.

Lee, who was indicted Dec. 10 on charges he improperly removed nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos (N.M.) National Laboratory, planned to file the lawsuit as early as today in U.S. District Court in Washington, said associates familiar with his plans.

The suit will allege that the three agencies violated the Privacy Act by making unauthorized disclosures of private information about Lee, and contend that much of the information used to suggest he was a spy was false or unsubstantiated, said the associates, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In making a case against the government agencies, the suit will cite recent Associated Press articles that disclosed that the FBI had doubts as early as November 1998 that Lee was a Chinese spy, but that agents continued to pursue him for many more months amid continued leaks portraying him as a spy, the sources said.

The indictment eventually brought against Lee accused him of downloading a wide array of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos computers and illegally removing them from the lab on computer tapes. It offered no evidence that Lee gave the information to a foreign government.

Brian Sun, a California attorney representing Lee, his wife, Sylvia, and their two adult children, declined to discuss the lawsuit but said Sunday that his clients tried months ago to get the federal agencies to stop news media leaks.

"The Lees were very concerned about this biased and unfair media coverage and requested that this activity stop, but they were unsuccessful," said Sun, who has represented other prominent Asian-Americans, including Democratic fund-raiser Johnny Chung.

"It is troubling to any American, much less the Lees, to have a system where government officials can systematically leak for their own purposes and ends and not be held accountable," Sun said. "This may be how government officials in Washington operate, but the law does not allow it and such conduct should not be condoned."

An FBI spokesman was not available for comment Sunday, the bureau said. An Energy Department spokeswoman said she hadn't seen the lawsuit, but that the department doesn't believe there is "a valid basis for such a claim."

The suit will set up a second front for Lee's legal attack, allowing him to pursue the agencies in civil court while his criminal lawyers defend against the indictment.

The action comes at a sensitive time for federal authorities.

FBI Director Louis Freeh persuaded Congress last week not to hold hearings that could divulge government dissension and doubts in the China espionage investigation, fearing such disclosures might help Lee's defense.