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WT-Int. Crude - $18.93

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Dec. 21, 1995
Vol. 46 No. 197
12 Pages 50¢

Home Of Darrell Doty

CMH secures pact for inmate services

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers this morning approved routine business items and received an update on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice contract through Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Cogdell CEO Jeff Reecer told the board that although there are some differences in the new contract, total funding to the hospital will be close to what it was this past year.

Instead of a $2.35 per day, per inmate capitation rate, the new contract calls for a flat rate of about $1.07 million. That's about $18,000 less than the current contract, said Reecer, However, he noted that Cogdell will no longer pay for transportation cost such as helicopter flights, which will save roughly $10,000 annually. Also, there will be some maintenance costs that will be dropped from the contract, saving CMH more dollars.

Dr. Bid Cooper, chief of the medical staff, informed the board that the staff has re-elected officers for the year. Cooper will remain chief of staff with Dr. Gary Nussey as vice chief and Dr. Mark Weaver as secretary.

Board members approved payment of bills and the November operating report, which indicated an average daily census of 12.3, a long term census of 34.9, 38 endosopy procedures, 71 surgeries, 10 newborns and 593 emergency room visits.

Net income for the month was a negative $14,615. It was noted that the hospital cash balance is down from $1,111,891 in November of 1994 to $622,943. The reason for the lower balance is primarily due to some $300,000 the TDCJ owes the hospital as well as costs to repair and replace the facility's plumbing and phone system.

Matt Cross, who heads the cardiac rehabilitation department, gave a report on the Heart Gym. Depending on the time of the year, some 30 to 70 people use the facility daily.

Present this morning were board members J.B. Tate Jr., Jimmy McMillan, Ted Crenwelge and G.A. Parks Jr. Bill Wilson III and Sue Mize were absent.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Most people get what they order in life."

From what we read, Santa may be in trouble with young ladies this year.

It seems that the maker of the 1995 Happy Holidays Barbie doll has underestimated demand.

They were in most stores in early November. Eighth in a series, the special limited-edition doll appealed to adult collectors as well as to kids.

A conservative estimate by Mattel's marketing department meant a December shortage. The doll sold out so fast that the company is issuing redemption certificates to guarantee '95 Happy Holidays Barbie mailed to buyers before the end of April.

Santa coming in April is gonna result in more confusion for those who still wanna believe.

The collector's Barbie sells for only $35. We suspect somebody willing to let go of one on Christmas Eve could make a tidy profit.

We saw one toy store still running the holiday Barbie at mid-December, priced at $29.99. The circular, however, was printed several weeks in advance for national distribution.

There were other Barbie selections: A Baywatch Barbie or Ken for $14.99 each, a Purple Passion Barbie for $19.99, a Dr. Barbie for the same price. Also there are Barbie Cordless walkie talkies and a Barbie cellular flip phone, for $19.99 each.

The most expensive Barbie item we saw was the three-feet tall My Size Bride Barbie, for a mere $129.99.

Mark Rodriguez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chon at the Spanish Inn, deserves something special for being a good elf. His aunt, Joni Gonzales, enlisted him to take younger family members to see Santa.

All the kids sat in Santa's lap and revealed their wish list. When finished, Santa motioned to Mark, who is small for his age, that he was next.

"Who me?"

So, Mark hopped onto Santa's lap and the jolly gentleman asked, "And how old are you little boy."

Mark good-naturedly admitted he was 17, but never too old to pass along a few hints to Santa.

MAKING IT OFFICIAL - With the aid of a bucket truck, Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz uncovers the new speed limit signs on Highway 84. Currently, Highway 84 is the only roadway in Scurry County to have the new speed limit. (SDN Staff Photo)

County approves drug testing firm

Scurry County commissioners voted this morning to allow Southwest Consortium of San Angelo to conduct the county's drug and alcohol testing program for county employees who are required to have a commercial driver's license.

Commissioners then promptly recessed the meeting for a two-hour class to implement the program.

Meeting with representatives of the testing firm were commissioners Roy Idom, Ralph Trevey and Jerry Gannaway, and precinct foremen.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is requiring that counties have a drug and alcohol testing program for those with commercial driver's licenses in effect by Jan. 1.

The cost for the drug testing for each employee will be $40. An alcohol test is $15.

The court was to reconvene at 1:30 p.m. today to consider employee health insurance and appointments to several county boards.

20 applicants...

Gary Johnson new director of prisons

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' sprawling prison system, with 129,000 inmates and 33,000 employees, has a new director.

Gary Johnson, who has 18 years of prison management experience with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, was named Wednesday as institutional division director for the agency.

He was picked by Wayne Scott, who is moving from prison director to executive director of the criminal justice department. Twenty people applied to succeed Scott. Johnson was among six finalists.

Scott called Johnson, 40, "a skilled professional who has a strong grasp on the big picture of corrections, from public safety to budget and personnel management to rehabilitation as a means of reducing recidivism."

Allan B. Polunsky of San Antonio, Texas Board of Criminal Justice chairman, said, "Gary Johnson is a talented administrator and Texans can be proud that the agency has produced another gifted manager capable of leading the nation's largest prison system."

Johnson is currently stationed in Beeville as southern regional director. His new job will be in Huntsville.

Scott also announced two other management changes. Art Mosley's position as director of operations and logistics for the Institutional Division was upgraded to serve the agency as a whole. Mosley oversees food service, laundry, transportation and supply and warehouses.

Dimitria Pope, director of the Community Justice Assistance Division, will become executive assistant to Scott in Austin. TDCJ deputy executive director Carl Jeffries will serve as interim director of Community Justice until a new director is chosen.

At least spell our name right

Even the big boys have to scrap for news.

Scurry County got some unexpected publicity in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal. Each Wednesday, the financial publication runs a section called the Texas Journal and a regular feature is an item called "Winners, Losers."

The local item under "Losers" read:

"West Texas School Days: A *Synder* junior high cancels its Christmas concert and an Ira school calls off basketball games because so many students have the flu."

They got Ira right, but Snyder was misspelled.

Wonder what they would have done with Hermleigh?

Appeals warrant executed

Sheriff's deputies on Wednesday arrested 55-year-old Cecil Don Vineyard on a warrant from the Court of Criminal Appeals on a charge of possession of child pornography.

Vineyard, a Scurry County resident, had been free on appeal since he was convicted by a 132nd District Court jury on Jan. 19, 1994 and sentenced to 10 years and a $10,000 fine.

The 11th Court of Appeals affirmed the jury verdict on June 15 of this year, but Vineyard was not arrested until Tuesday, when the district court received a mandate warrant from the appeals court.

Vineyard was the subject of a covert postal investigation of sexually-oriented material which was bought, sold and traded through the U.S. Postal Service.

In an investigation initiated by a postal inspector and assisted by federal and local law enforcement officers, Vineyard was arrested outside the Snyder Post Office. He had just picked up a package containing two sexually-explicit video tapes, according to trial testimony.

Testimony at the trial also revealed that officers discovered various sexually-oriented materials, including 633 video tapes, when they conducted a search of Vineyard's rural home.

Vineyard was also found guilty of possession of child pornography by another 132nd District Court jury on June 22, 1994 and received another 10-year sentence and $10,000 fine. That verdict is still being appealed.

DPS estimates higher holiday death toll

High traffic volume, long trips and the probability of increased speeds has caused the Texas Department of Public Safety to estimate more Christmas and New Year's traffic deaths this year.

"With this increase in the speed limit, motorists are going to have to drive even more carefully this holiday season," said DPS Assistant Director Lt. Col. Dudley Thomas.

Based on federal law changes, Texas' speed limits rose to 70 miles per hour during the day on Dec. 8, and to 65 mph at night for passenger cars on many highways. For trucks, the maximum speed is 60 mph during the day and 55 at night. However, the Texas Department of Transportation is conducting safety studies, and speed limits will be set lower in some areas.

"Texas motorists should continue obeying the posted speed limit signs until the Department of Transportation changes those signs," Thomas said. "During 1994, speed contributed to 21 percent of all traffic fatalities in Texas. Motorists should be particularly careful during this holiday season, when traffic will be heavy on our state's highways."

The DPS is estimating as many as 35 people might die on Texas roads during the Christmas holidays, compared with 32 who were killed during the same time period last year. For the New Year's holiday, the estimate is 40, compared with 33 fatalities in 1994.

During both holiday periods, all available DPS troopers will be on the roadways looking for traffic violations and assisting motorists.

In addition to excessive speed, drinking and driving continue to play a major role in the traffic death toll, said Thomas.

"Don't get behind the wheel if you have been drinking. That's a fast way to tragedy, to jail, and to lose your license through the Administrative License Revoca-

See Travel, Page 10

Munden's to house TDH offices

Remodeling of the former Munden's Discount Store in Snyder Shopping Center will begin shortly after the first of the year, according to Abilene resident Burl Harris who has purchased the building to relocate the Texas Department of Human Resources offices.

The offices are currently located at 312 East Highway 180. the former location of Shakey's Pizza.

"They just need more room than where they are now," said Harris.

The remodeling is expected to be completed by March 1 and the personnel moved in, added Harris.

The state offices will take up some 8,000-square feet, said Harris.

The remainder of the space in the building will also be available for lease.

Choir dispute said resolved

The disagreement over handling of student discipline between five high school students and the school's choral director has been resolved.

Mike Thornton, father of one of the students, said the students were offered the option to return to the choir, but all have declined.

"As far as we are concerned, the matter is resolved to our satisfaction," said Thornton, who indicated the school had violated written policy regarding the removal of students from classes.

The disagreement surfaced after the students were removed from participation in the choir by teacher Ronda Haire for the remainder of the fall semester for what Thornton described as an "alleged" behavioral attitude.

Thornton had addressed the Snyder ISD board of trustees last Thursday and told the trustees that he hoped the matter could be settled "in-house" and without him having to address the board in a formal agenda item.

High school principal Larry Scott said as far as the administration is concerned, the matter is closed.

ASK US

Q—How many accidents have occurred this year on Highway 84 between Snyder and Post?

A—The Department of Public Safety in Austin only has complete records for 1994 and before. Last year there were 62 total accidents and in 1993, 65.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 40 degrees; low, 24; 7 a.m. reading today, 29; no precipitation; total for 1995, 19.22 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy with a 40% chance of rain or snow mixed, changing to snow in evening. Low, upper 20s. E to NE wind 5-15 mph. Friday, cloudy; 30% chance of snow in a.m. High 35-40. NE wind 5-15.

Sunset: 5:45 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.

Of 354 days in 1995, the sun has shone 338 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, but in the bosom of fools it is made known.

Proverbs 14:33

Snyder Jr. High

December Students of the Month

Four Snyder Junior High School students have received Student of the Month recognition for December.

Seventh grade recipients are Jarred Minefee and T'Leah Eicke.

Eight graders include Layne Scott and Eric Kirk.

Criteria for judging the citizenship award includes effort, attitude, behavior and kindness.

Toys donated for foster kids stolen

KINGSVILLE (AP) — Police in this South Texas city are trying to find the Grinch who stole toys that had been donated for some 40 foster children.

They didn't have to go too far to investigate the case. The toys were taken from a box just inside the Kingsville Police Department's front door.

Police Chief Felipe Garza said a receptionist sits behind a glass window in the lobby on weekdays, but the lobby is unattended at night and on weekends.

"We get a couple hundred people in and out of here every day," Garza said. "We don't have many officers going in there. It's not something you notice right away."

Officers had secured the toys in an evidence room at the end of each weekday, but they did not secure the weekend donations, Garza said.

The toys were meant for children served by the Upper Valley Foster Parents Association.

"It's kind of sad to think that someone would walk in and steal them," said Viola Perez, secretary of the foster parents association. "They had notices up there that they were for foster children and someone still took them. That's pretty sad."

The chief said he had received some calls from local citizens who complained about the toy drive, saying that the foster parents association serves children outside Kingsville. But he said that all but about four of the children live in the city.

The children served by the association range in age from 6 months to 16 years old, but Ms. Perez said most are from 6 to 12 years old.

"I appreciate the police department doing this," Ms. Perez said. "Some of these children come to us without shoes on their feet. These kids are really appreciative of anything they can get."

Ms. Perez has started looking for help from other sources.

Trial cost not paid by county

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Nueces County has been assessed a 1 percent penalty for failing to pay promptly the $90,237 that Harris County claims in trial expenses for the woman convicted of killing Tejano music star Selena.

Yolanda Saldivar, 35, was found guilty Oct. 23 of murder for shooting Tejano music star Selena once in the back March 31 at a Corpus Christi motel. She was given a life sentence and must serve at least 30 years before becoming eligible for parole.

Harris County Auditor Tommy Tompkins said Wednesday that Nueces County has been penalized $900 for not paying promptly. He said additional penalties will follow each month that the debt is outstanding.

"We intend to purse this like any other receivable," Tompkins told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "There is a speedy payment statute that says if a bill is not paid within 30 days, (the county) can assess a fee that is 1 percent (of the bill) a month. We have not received a payment from Nueces County."

Nueces County Judge Richard Borchard described the bill, dated Nov. 16, as "shocking," with a number of unreasonable charges. He said he'll contact the Harris County judge in the next week to outline his concerns.

"I will consider any direct costs to Harris County, but anything beyond that is not reasonable to me," Borchard told the newspaper.

NEW OFFICERS — Snyder Board of Realtors recently installed new officers for 1996 at its annual luncheon. The new officers are, from left, Doris Beard, treasurer; Wenona Evans, president; Claudia Sanchez, vice president and Temi Matthies, secretary. Local attorney David Cotton, shown at right, installed the officers. (SDN Staff Photo)

Hearing for jailed Davidians slated Jan. 4 in New Orleans

WACO (AP) — Attorneys will appear next month before a federal court to seek reduced sentences for six of the eight Branch Davidians convicted in connection with the Feb. 28, 1993, gunfight that killed four federal agents.

Attorneys will appeal their cases Jan. 4 in oral arguments at the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. None of the members of the group once headed by David Koresh will be in court personally.

Four Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and six Koresh followers died during an exchange of gunfire that broke out when scores of agents on two trailers arrived at the cult compound 10 miles east of Waco to arrest Koresh on weapons charges.

"I think we've got some excellent points," Waco attorney Richard Ferguson, who represents Brad Branch, told the Waco Tribune-Herald. "If they don't give us some relief, we've got some pretty good grounds to go up to the Supreme Court."

Appealing their February, 1994, convictions are Renos Avraam, Branch, Jaime Castillo, Graeme Craddock, Paul Fatta and Kevin Whitecliff.

Two other convicted sect members, Livingstone Fagan and Ruth Riddle, are not appealing.

Avraam, Branch, Castillo, Fagan and Whitecliff are serving 40-year sentences — 10 years for voluntary manslaughter and 30 years for carrying a weapon while committing a violent crime.

Craddock is serving 20 years for possessing a grenade, and Fatta is serving 15 years for possessing a machine gun and aiding and abetting Koresh in possessing machine guns. Ms. Riddle is serving five years on the weapons charge.

Attorneys will challenge the decision of the trial judge, U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith Jr., to reinstate the guilty verdict on the weapons charge. Smith originally threw out the verdict because jurors acquitted the defendants on charges of conspiracy to murder.

Classified Ads 573-5486

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Roy McQueen, Publisher
Bill McClellan, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

Hermleigh Methodist slates special service

Hermleigh United Methodist Church is planning a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Sunday. Nelda Church will sing "O Holy Night." The service will conclude with the traditional lighting of candles and singing "Silent Night."

The Sunday morning worship service will begin at the reguar time — 11 a.m. It will be preceded by a birthday party for Jesus in the fellowship hall. Cake, coffee and juice will be served.

Everyone is welcome.

We've got that hometown spirit and we're passing it around!

A Bright Spot in Our Hometown!

It doesn't take a big splash to make a lot of ripples.

Clyde Hall does little to call attention to himself. He doesn't seek publicity, his name isn't in headlines, and he rarely poses for a photograph.

Yet for 45 years, Clyde Hall's quiet, but steady style has made Snyder and Scurry County a better place. For his many years of continuous service to his community, Snyder National Bank is pleased to honor Clyde Hall Jr. with December's Hometown Spirit Award.

Born in the heart of Texas, Clyde Hall finished high school in Brady, attended Texas A&M University and began his distinguished career in the insurance business.

During World War II, Clyde served as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corp. He married Elizabeth Ann "Tizzy" Sikes in 1944 in Eastland.

Clyde and his wife moved to Brady for a short period after the war, and in 1949, Clyde and Tizzy brought their young family to Snyder, and he became a partner in Snyder Insurance Agency in 1950.

Clyde Hall and his business grew with Snyder, an oil boom town. Clyde has ridden the highs and the lows of the Snyder economy, but always approaches each day with a positive attitude and words of encouragement to his many friends.

Often asked to run for various boards, Clyde instead worked behind-the-scenes, cooperating with other progressive businessmen working for civic improvement.

Clyde has been a member of the Snyder Rotary Club since 1953, Appointed by the Scurry County Commissioners Court, Clyde served eight years as a member of the board of county development. Clyde also served 25 years on the city board of adjustments, appointed by the city council.

Clyde also served his church, the First United Methodist Church, by serving as treasurer and as a member of the board of finance.

His interest in aviation has continued. Until last week, Clyde flew is own airplane, often donating his time and resources to help someone needing to go somewhere in a hurry.

Clyde Hall served as president of the Southwest Navion Air Group, and the organization named him pilot of the year in 1990.

An avid sports booster, Clyde helped organize and is a past-president of the Snyder Little League. A long-time member of Snyder Country Club, one of Clyde's favorite activities is playing golf with his many friends and business associates in Snyder.

Clyde and Tizzy have two sons. Rob is a vice president of Walton Construction Co. and lives in Midland. Rick is now owner of Snyder Insurance Agency. The Halls have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Snyder National Bank is proud to salute Clyde Hall Jr., a long-time bright spot in our hometown.

Clyde Hall Jr.

Snyder National Bank

Lobby Hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FDIC

Motor Bank Hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sharing the HOMETOWN SPIRIT Since 1905

The Following Financial Institutions Will Be Closed

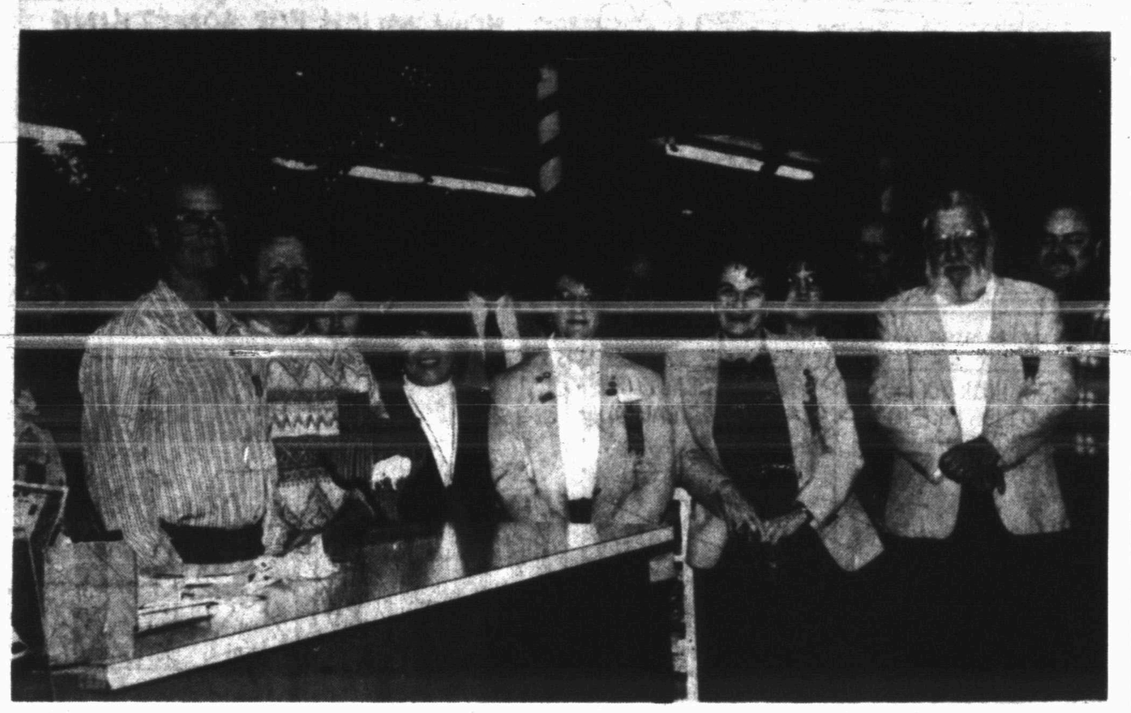
Monday, Dec. 25 1995

In Observance Of

CHRISTMAS

Please Transact Your Business Accordingly

Snyder Savings & Loan
American State Bank
Snyder National Bank
West Texas State Bank



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH — Snyder Gold Coats named Western Auto as the business of the month and honored employees with a reception and a trophy. Midwest Electric employee Jerry Scrivner, last month's recipient, made the award presentation to Jeff Lowrance, Western Auto co-owner and manager. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH — Cogdell Memorial Hospital's employee of the month recipients were recognized and Laurie Stark was named employee of the year at the recent Christmas awards banquet held at the coliseum. Employees of the month pictured from left are Kerry Smith, Laurie Stark, Sherry Early, Tammy Tyrell, Mae Cole, Jim Underwood, and not pictured are Mary Lou Orosco, Mary Crane, Joy Richardson, Roxann McDonald, Michael Alewine, and Ricky Crouse. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Breach of confidence suit filed by Harding's bodyguard

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Tonya Harding's former bodyguard Shawn Eckardt is suing a minister for $6 million over a confession he says was repeated for police and reporters.

Eckardt contends in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that Portland minister Eugene Saunders wore a wire to record Eckardt's confession for federal investigators, breaching confidentiality laws.

As a result, Eckardt was "humiliated, embarrassed and generally scorned," according to the lawsuit.

Eckardt pleaded guilty to racketeering after he admitted that he and the figure skater's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, conspired to whack skater Nancy Kerrigan in the leg during a January 1994 practice session in Detroit.

Eckardt was sentenced to 18 months in jail. After earning three months off for good behavior, he was released in September.

During this week just 'fore Christmas

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

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

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

Open House

December 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Wassail And Gingerbread
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK

Bridge By Phillip Alder

	NORTH 12-21-95 ♠Q 7 2 ♥A Q 8 7 6 ♦6 4 3 ♣Q 10	
WEST ♠A J 8 5 ♥3 2 ♦J 10 9 ♣K 8 6 4		EAST ♠10 6 4 3 ♥4 ♦Q 7 5 ♣A 7 5 3 2
	SOUTH ♠K 9 ♥K J 10 9 5 ♦A K 8 2 ♣J 9	

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

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

Opening lead: ♦ J

Pause to succeed

By Phillip Alder

My Chinese fortune cookie motto the other day was, "Everyone around you is rooting for you. Don't give up!" So, reluctantly I picked up my spoon and absolutely forced down the rest of my caramelized banana fritters with vanilla ice-cream!

At bridge, it's often the same. Even when things look grim, hunt for a fortunate lie of the cards that will allow you to finish with a clean score-sheet. This deal, which I got from Eddie Kantar's first book of lesson notes, would fool most people. Do you see any chance to bring home four hearts after West leads the diamond jack?

Despite its 10 points, that North hand is only just worth a limit raise. The black-suit queens might be useless, but the five trumps make one loath to settle for two hearts.

Even if East has ace-doubleton of spades, establishing dummy's spade queen for a discard doesn't help you. So, after winning trick one and drawing trumps, did you continue diamonds, hoping for a 3-3 split? Fair enough, but the defenders will surely cash their three black-suit tricks to defeat the contract. Both of them can see what is happening.

You must put up a smokescreen at trick one. You should play the diamond *eight* from hand.

Thinking he has struck gold, West is virtually certain to continue with another diamond. Then, since the suit breaks 3-3, you have a discard established for one of dummy's club losers.

Note, though, that you must make this play smoothly. So, always pause to plan your campaign when the dummy is tabled.

Phillip Alder's book, "Get Smarter at Bridge," is available, autographed upon request, for $14.95 from P.O. Box 169, Roslyn Hts., NY 11577-0169.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

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

SOS (singles of Snyder) volleyball and games; First Baptist Church Family Center; 7 p.m.

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

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

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or573-8929; (last Friday of the month is the birthday, open meeting); 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

Scurry County Museum; Western Texas College; open from 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was sitting in his library one day when Franklin D. Roosevelt called, a few days after his inauguration in 1933, and found him reading Plato, at the age of ninety-two. "Why do you read Plato, Mr. Justice?" "To improve my mind, Mr. President," Holmes replied.

Thursday Night Specials
5:30-8:00

50% Off
All Christmas Accessories

Glass & Brass Round Accent Table
Reg. 19.00
$9.95
6:30 - 8:00 Only

Needle Point Foot Stool
With Storage
Reg. 29.00
Sale
$19.95

All Porcelain Dolls
50% Off Retail

Sale Prices Starting At
$9.47
5:30 - 6:30 Only

All In Stock
Watches & Jewelry
50% Off

Just In Case Dad Needs a Few Ideas for Mom

Curios
Starting at $249

Hall Trees
Starting at $289

Crystal
Vases, Bells, Clocks, Candle Sticks, Bowls
All 20% Off

Every Dad Needs A...

La-Z-Boy or Lane Recliners
Starting at $299

Riverside Roll Top Desk
Starting at $339

Gun Cabinets
Starting at $299

Free Decorative Oven Mit With All Purchases Over $200

We Accept Snyder Scrip

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Home Furnishings, Inc.
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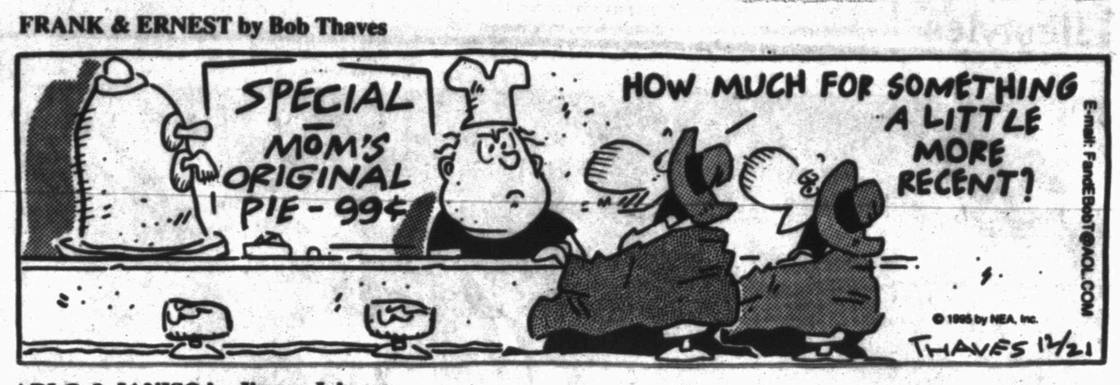
Comics Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRANK & ERNEST by Bob Thaves

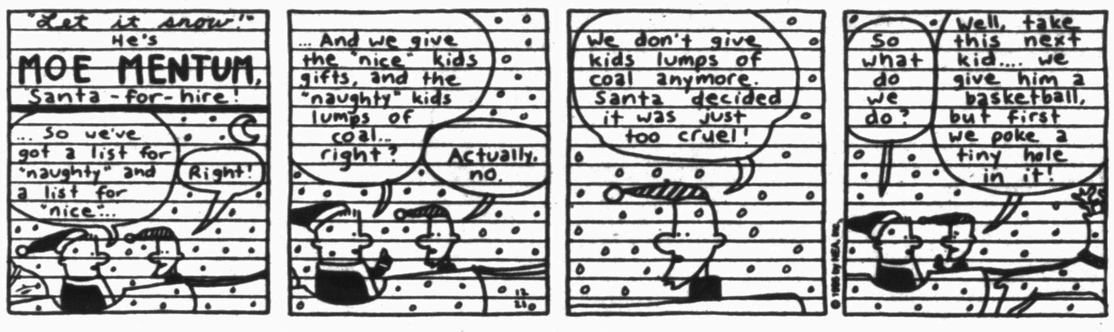


THE BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom

ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider

BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith © By Fred Lasswell

ROBOTMAN® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

BLONDIE © by Dean Young and Stan Drake

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

THE GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Believer in an ism
4 Boors
8 Runner Sebastian —
11 — — angle
13 Cotton bundle
14 Spanish gold
15 Tour (Italian)
16 Wine types
18 Citrus fruit
20 Ills
21 Waxed
23 Stow cargo
25 Singer Fitzgerald
29 Elsie, e.g.
30 Slav
32 Olympic org.
33 Rage
34 Take a chance
36 Actress West
37 Custard apple
39 Set of four
41 Laboratory tube
44 Motive
46 Lifted
50 Carriage escort
52 Lighten
53 A Gershwin
54 Church part
55 Ancient writing
56 Permit
57 Small valley
58 Actor — Danson

DOWN

1 Villain in Othello
2 Flurry
3 Scarlett's house
4 Watched
5 Happy sound
6 Navy force
7 Start a tennis game
8 Spiral
9 Sources of metal
10 Dawn goddess
12 Time being
17 Carnival attraction
19 Horse directives
22 Make fizzy
23 Kind
24 Chirp
26 — bean
27 Laundry unit
28 High card
29 Espionage org.
31 Members of a sect
35 Diminutive suffix
38 Incite
40 Allude
42 Of thee — —
43 Ride a bike
44 Restore to health
45 Rat- — · —
47 Strained
48 Anglo-Saxon slave
49 Act
50 Grease
51 First woman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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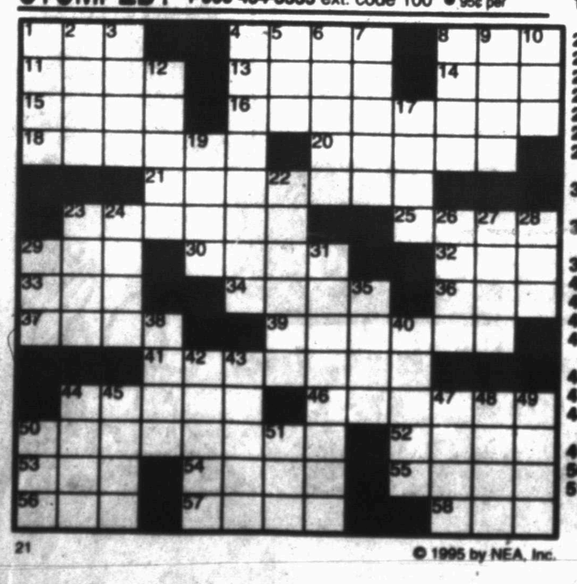

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"Let's hope the ballet lessons pay off."

BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie

"You can't shave your beard into a goatee. Kids will think their presents came from Colonel Sanders!"

"MY SON IS WORRIED THAT YOU MAY BE SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME HERE AT THE MALL."

SPORTS

NBA AT A GLANCE

By The Associated Press
National Basketball Association
All Times EST

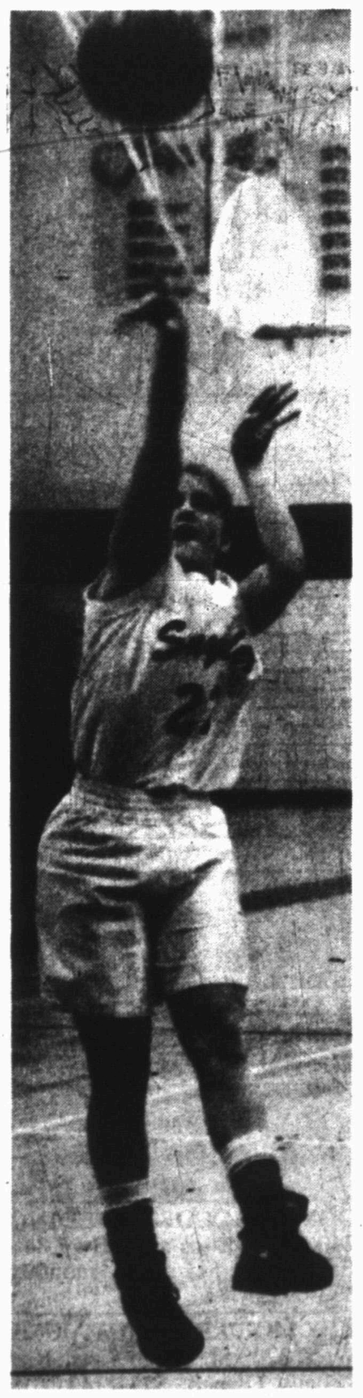
EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Orlando	19	6	.760	—
NewYork	18	6	.750	½
Miami	13	10	.565	5
Washington	12	11	.522	6
Boston	11	11	.500	6½
NewJersey	9	13	.409	8½
Philadelphia	5	17	.227	12½
Central Division				
Chicago	21	2	.913	—
Indiana	12	10	.545	8½
Cleveland	12	11	.522	9
Atlanta	11	12	.478	10
Detroit	11	13	.458	10½
Charlotte	11	14	.440	11
Milwaukee	7	15	.318	13½
Toronto	8	18	.308	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Houston	18	6	.750	—
Utah	16	8	.667	2
SanAntonio	14	7	.667	2½
Denver	11	12	.478	6½
Dallas	7	15	.318	10
Minnesota	6	16	.273	11
Vancouver	4	21	.160	14½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	15	7	.682	—
Seattle	15	8	.652	½
L.A.Lakers	13	13	.500	4
Portland	11	12	.478	4½
Phoenix	10	12	.455	5
GoldenState	9	15	.375	7
L.A.Clippers	8	16	.333	8

Wednesday's Games
Miami 112, New Jersey 104, OT
Philadelphia 108, Utah 104
Orlando 107, Minnesota 100
Indiana 109, L.A. Lakers 98
Detroit 102, Milwaukee 77
Denver 109, Golden State 104
Phoenix 106, Washington 104, OT

Thursday's Games
Boston at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Dallas at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Washington at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.



SHOOT FOR TWO—Trish McGrew fires up a shot during Wednesday afternoon's basketball game. The Lady Tigers were narrowly defeated by San Angelo Central, 48-47. (SDN Staff Photo by Brent Taylor)

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Sickness cancels games...

Lady Tigers just miss victory with Central

By Brent Taylor
Sports Editor

How do you play two quarters of a four-quarter basketball game and almost win? Ask Coach Steve Qualls of the Snyder High School Lady Tigers because that is what they did Wednesday afternoon against San Angelo Central Lady Cats.

Trailing by a score of 25-8 at halftime, the Lady Tigers clawed there way back into the game and at one point had a four-point lead only to lose, 48-47.

Snyder tripled their first half out put in the third quarter and scored 24 points to start the come-back. Central could only manage 12 points.

Jami Brown gave Snyder its first lead of the game with 4:40 to play in the final quarter, 38-37. Erica Garvin increased the Lady Tigers' lead to four with a jumper at the 2:55 mark, but Central came back to tie the game at 41 with 2:30 to play.

Snyder regained the lead only to see Central take the lead for good on a three-point shot, 45-43, with 1:16.

Garvin led all scorers with 22 points, including 16 second-half points. Jodi White also hit double figures for the Lady Tigers with 10. White had two three-point baskets in the second half, including one at the final buzzer.

In the JV game, Central came out on top of Snyder, 51-36.

The Lady Tigers were to play Big Spring tonight, but the Lady Steers cancelled the game due to sickness.

Next action for the Lady Tigers will be in the fifth annual Shake'n Bake on the Lake basketball tournament held at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, La. The Lady Tigers will play O.P. Walker High School of New Orleans at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

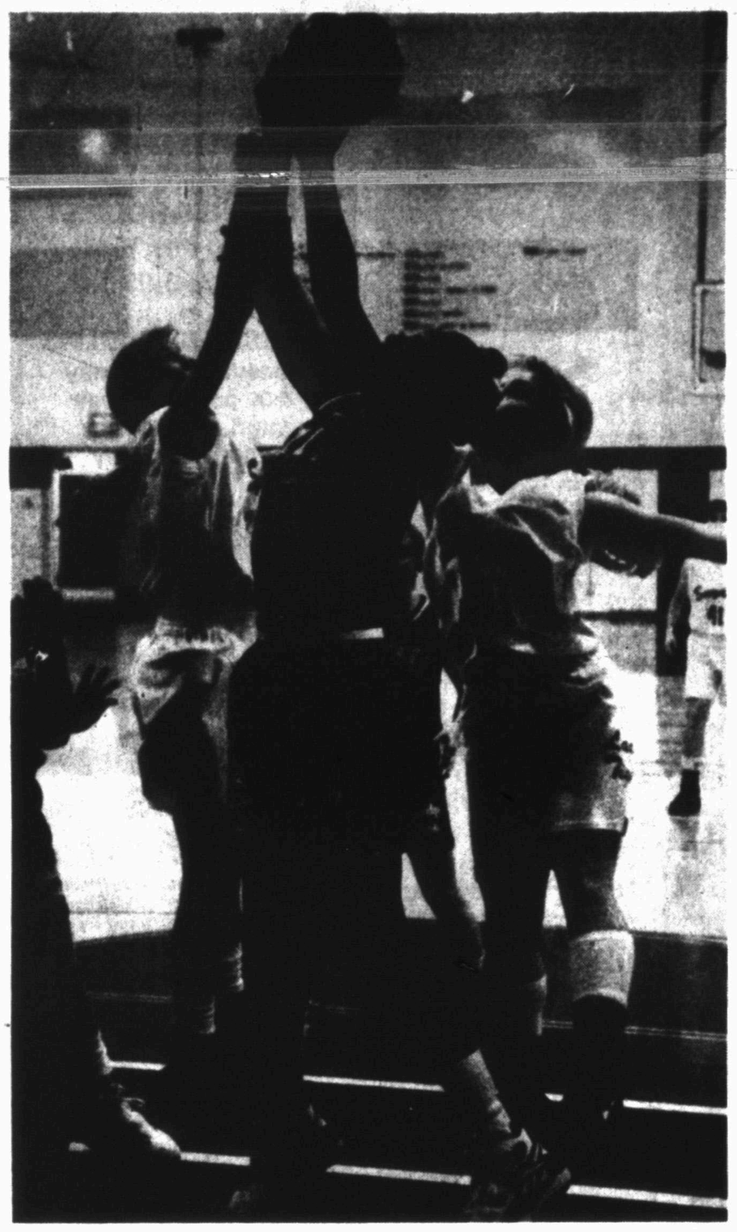
SA CENTRAL 48, SNYDER 47

SA Central	15	10	12	11 — 48
Snyder	6	2	24	15 — 47

SA Central: Hudgins 1 0-0 2, Argo 0 2-4 2, Halfmann 1 2-2 4, Anderson 0 1-2 1, Holtz 1 0-0 2, Randle 4 3-4 11, DelaCruz 2 2-2 9, Rodgers 1 0-0 2, Dunbar 5 2-4 15, Totals 15 12-18 48.

Snyder: Brown 1 0-0 5, McGrew 0 1-2 1, Kidd 2 0-0 4, Hess 1 1-2 3, Blackwell 1 0-1 2, Garvin 7 5-10 22, White 1 2-2 10, Totals 13 9-17 47.

3-Point goals: SA Central 2 (DelaCruz, Dunbar), Snyder 4 (Brown, Garvin, White 2).



REBOUND—Melanie Kidd (35) and Brooke McGuire (21) go up for the rebound against a player from San Angelo Central. After only scoring eight first-half points, Snyder came back and made its presences known in the second half, just missing a come from-behind-victory. Central won the game, 48-47. (SDN Staff Photo by Brent Taylor)

Cowboys healing more important to Jay Novacek

IRVING (AP) — The way Jay Novacek sees it, there's plenty of time for healing his body. Healing the Dallas Cowboys is much more important.

Add Novacek to the roll call of Cowboys who'd rather play all out Monday night against the Arizona Cardinals no matter what is on the line as opposed to resting up for the postseason.

"Personally, I think I'll be feeling pretty good physically after about six months off in the offseason," Novacek said Wednesday. "A week is not going to matter a whole lot. The momentum is much more important."

Dallas will know the importance of Monday night's game long before kickoff.

The Cowboys would be in a must-win situation if:

a) Philadelphia beats Chicago on Sunday, or

b) Philadelphia loses and San Francisco falls to Atlanta.

Situation "a" means the Cowboys need a victory to seal the NFC East title and a first-round bye. The "b" scenario means a Dallas victory would give the Cowboys homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

But should the Eagles lose and 49ers win, then Dallas' finale is moot to the standings.

Yet, the Cowboys say there's something more important on the line: building for the playoffs.

It's not that easy, though, as coach Barry Switzer could be forced into another of those fourth-and-1 type decisions.

The conservative approach would be to rest his top players to avoid new injuries or the chance of aggravating old ones (and there are plenty of those). The aggressive attitude would be to dance with who brung ya to make sure everyone will be in synch in January.

Dallas definitely has been a bit out of whack lately. Although 11-4, the Cowboys barely ended a two-game losing streak Sunday as they needed a last-second field goal to beat the New York Giants.

Safety Darren Woodson has come up with a solution to make everyone happy.

"I'd like to see it like this: we get up real fast on them, we play well and get guys like Troy, Emmitt, Michael and Deion out of the game. Then everybody else can rest up, too," said Woodson, one of the many other walking wounded also needing time to rest.

Woodson figures it should take only one or two quarters to get things clicking again.

"We can build momentum (that quickly) as long as those guys have that good feeling when they come out of the game," he said.

Permian High teachers help slain student

ODESSA (AP) — Teachers at Permian High School pitched in to buy a new suit for star sprinter Todaryl Culver.

And the Permian Basin Track Club raised $1,800 for the concrete vault for the athlete's burial Friday.

"I said there's no way I'm going to let him have a pauper's funeral, a county funeral," said Regina Woods, co-founder of the track club, which bought the vault.

"We went the whole nine yards," Ms. Woods said. "We put him away in a way we felt he deserved."

Authorities say Betty Culver fired the single shot that killed her 18-year-old son. She says it was an accident that occurred during an argument over house cleaning.

Ms. Culver, 38, was charged with murder and remains in jail on $25,000 bond.

"I accidentally shot my son," Ms. Culver told The Odessa American in today's editions. "I tried to shoot past him and it hit him. I was trying to scare him."

Adela Vasquez, supervisor for student assistant services with the Ector County Independent School District, said the incident has left officials numb.

"Here we are trying to involve the parents in supporting their child, and to see a situation like this is devastating to all of us in education," she said.

Culver died shortly after 5 p.m. Saturday at his home of a gunshot wound to the back. A small-caliber handgun was found at the scene, police said.

Authorities believe the mother and son were arguing over his needing a ride, District Attorney John W. Smith said.

"We become jaded when we deal with so many homicides," Smith said Wednesday. "And then you get a case like this that jumps up and really invades your mind, and you say why in the world would this thing happen?

Cardinals close to sale

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Anheuser-Busch is close to announcing the sale of the St. Louis Cardinals, KMOX Radio reported today.

The brewery will sell the team to a group led by William DeWitt, a Cincinnati businessman who has owned interests in the Baltimore Orioles, Texas Rangers and other teams, and Andrew Baur, chairman of Southwest Bank in St. Louis, sources told KMOX. Other St. Louis investors are in the group.

There are still some details that have to be worked out but the sale is expected to be announced by Friday, KMOX said.

Anheuser-Busch announced in October it wanted to sell the team, which it has owned since 1953. The brewery said it wanted to focus more on its core businesses of beer and theme parks.

Anheuser-Busch is the world's largest brewer and maker of the world's leading beer, Budweiser. It also owns Busch Gardens, a theme park in Tampa, Fla., as well as the Sea World chain.

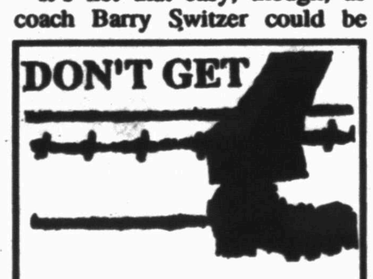
In addition to the baseball club, Anheuser-Busch owns Busch Stadium in St. Louis and several parking garages, which it has said it wanted to sell in a package with the team.

The company said the baseball team lost $12 million in 1995.

Neither Baur nor DeWitt immediately returned a phone call from The Associated Press this morning. A spokeswoman for Anheuser-Busch said, "The word we have right now is that that's just a rumor and we're not confirming or denying it."

DeWitt is chairman of Reynolds Dewitt Securities, a Cincinnati brokerage and investment-banking firm. He also has acted as a venture capitalist involved in a number of businesses, including oil and gas exploration, radio stations and bottling companies.

DON'T GET



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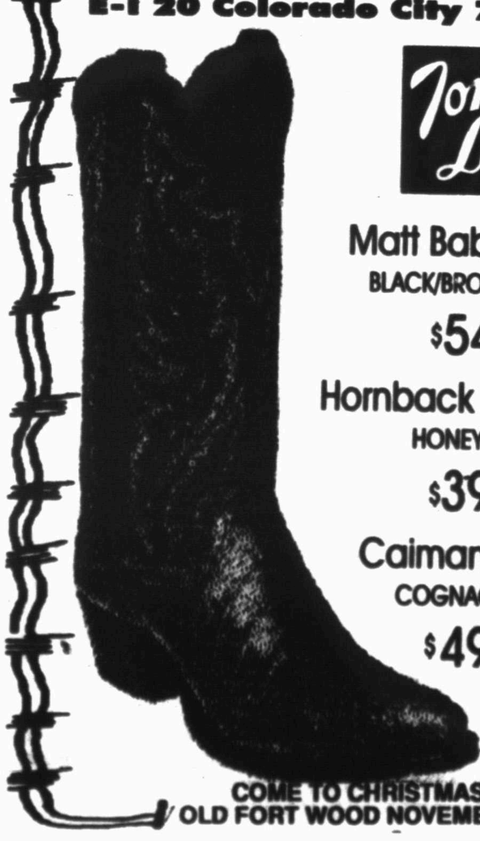

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Mountain lovers decorate for Christmas

By LOUISE POPPLEWELL
The Victoria Advocate

BEEVILLE — First came the mountain and then seasonal decorations which have become a Gray family tradition since the first scene of a man and a huge, round bale of hay went up for Halloween in 1991.

Traveling state Highway 202 between Beeville and Refugio, a stranger might be surprised to see an eight-foot bunny or turkey, in the proper season, perched high up on the 30-foot manmade mountain.

People who travel the road frequently are not surprised. They have come to expect the art work of Joyce and Norman Gray, their four children and their spouses, and seven grandchildren.

The mountain has been there a long time.

"Because we love Colorado and we love the mountains, one year my husband said I'll just build us our own little mountain," Joyce Gray said.

And he did, using dirt dug out for ponds. The final touch was to add two pine trees ... or so they thought.

Then the idea came to add the huge, round bale of hay and a man.

That went up on a smaller hill near the highway. When that scene disappeared — mysteriously on the night of the Refugio High School bonfire — and then a second one vanished, the Grays were disillusioned. So the next holiday they commemorated with larger figures on a taller hill and put a spotlight on it.

Joyce remembers that first effort with affection. The man was dressed in new boots that pinched Norman's toes and an old, old ragged pair of jeans. People teased; "Norman, those must be your jeans ... they look just like you," Joyce remembers with a chuckle.

During the year, the holidays they celebrate are Easter, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. But between holidays, Norman tries to provide some kind of entertainment for motorists. Just recently, the hill was aflutter with decorative flags.

"If there is nothing up there, people will stop and ask us why not," Joyce said. "It has gotten to be quite a tradition. We enjoy it so much and the people and kids of the area do too." While some of the scenes are not lighted, the Christmas one will be.

This year's display is an eight-foot Santa waving to passersby and a four-foot toy bag, and all sizes and shapes of colorful toys tumbling down the mountainside.

The main figures are cut from eight-foot sheets of plywood, hence the eight-foot everything. Toys, Joyce explained, come into being when Norman and son-in-law Kevin Shreckengost twirl a scrap piece of plywood around until something appears.

One of the men might exclaim, "Oh, look this has become a sailboat."

Joyce said everyone helps decide what will go up. The men do the sawing, and she the painting.

Norman Gray might go to bed thinking all the work is done, only to get up the next morning and find Joyce has painted over everything during the night and started over.

"I'm very, very picky about what goes up there," she explained.

Each season sees new additions to last year's scene and each season brings a lot of new visitors from far and near. And there is a lot of picture taking.

Joyce remembers opening a big-city newspaper one day and seeing a bunny. "My, that looks familiar," she thought before realizing it was hers.

The mountain has become a familiar landmark. When people ask directions, Joyce will tell them to stay on the highway until they see an eight-foot witch or whatever is there at the time.

The frequent response, she said is, "Oh. We know where that is."

Joyce said putting up and taking down the decorations is a lot of work and time consuming, but "It's a very interesting thing to do."

The Grays' mountain, which is slowly evolving into several mountains, is on state Highway 202, 12 miles west of Refugio and 20 miles east of Beeville, in Bee County.

Distributed by The Associated Press

Bombing victims' survivors intend to observe Christmas

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Six stockings hang by the chimney in Ted Allen's home, testament to his widow's determination to see that the bombing that killed him doesn't spoil Christmas.

"If I do something different, then I have let whoever supposedly did the bombing ... I've let them win," said Caye Allen, whose husband was among the 169 victims of the April 19 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building.

"I'm not going to let them ruin our Christmas or our lives. Ted would never forgive me. His attitude about things was that you just suck it up and go on."

For those who lost loved ones in the bombing, the first Christmas since the attack has brought painful memories.

Most of the Allens' living room looks like many other Christmas households. Christmas presents are piled under the tree.

But one wall holds a sort of shrine to Allen. A letter of condolence from President Clinton is framed by photographs of the federal building before and after the bombing. Two plaques signed by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros praise the memory of Ted Allen, who was community development director for the agency.

"I still have all his clothes, everything. I go in the closet and smell his coat, stuff like that because it still smells like him," Mrs. Allen said.

The Allens had six children between them, four from his previous marriage, one from her previous marriage and a 5-year-old son of their own.

"If I hadn't had these kids, I don't know how I would have done it," Mrs. Allen said as she watched the 5-year-old, Austin, shoot baskets on the patio. "When you've got six kids, particularly one this small, then what else can you do? You pick yourself up and brush off your knees and go on."

Allen used to hang the Christmas lights outdoors. He assembled toys on Christmas Eve, handled the video camera while the children opened their gifts, and carved the turkey, always burning his fingers.

This year, Mrs. Allen hung the lights, and Allen's son Spencer will stand in for his father with the carving knife and the video camera.

Every year the family takes a group picture at Thanksgiving and tucks it into Christmas cards. In this year's photo, Mrs. Allen stands with the children under a picture of her husband.

Mrs. Allen said she discussed going away for the holidays with her children, but the family rejected the idea.

"It wouldn't matter if we did it right now or for five years, we'd still have that first Christmas where we were at the house and Ted wasn't sitting over there in that chair to open his gifts like he did every year," Mrs. Allen said.

Kathleen Treanor's 4-year-old daughter, Ashley, and her father-in-law and mother-in-law were killed in the blast.

"Today was pretty raw," Mrs. Treanor said recently. "I went Christmas shopping and it seemed like every time I turned a corner there was another pretty little blond-haired, blue-eyed girl."

Jim Kreymborg lost both his wife, Ann, and his daughter, Michelle Reeder. Kreymborg and his son, Pat, "basically tried to ignore Thanksgiving."

"It really didn't work. When it was all over, there was just a real feeling of emptiness," Kreymborg said.

They plan their usual Christmas trip to visit his late wife's parents.

"It won't be pleasant," Kreymborg said. "This whole week has been something I've been dreading."

Kreymborg put lights on his house like his neighbors, but when he unpacked the ornaments that his wife once used to decorate the house, a friend of the family had to put them on the tree.

Dole files for Republican Primary

AUSTIN (AP) — GOP presidential front-runner Bob Dole has filed for Texas' primary election.

Dole, a Kansas Republican who is the U.S. Senate majority leader, filed Wednesday.

His presidential bid has the support of 20 of the 30 sitting Republican governors. Not among them is Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who is backing the presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

Also filing for next year's primary were Jon Newton, seeking the GOP nomination for U.S. House District 4; and Brian Pardo, seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. House District 11.

Holdup foiled as hapless hoods blunder into party for retiring policeman

CHICAGO (AP) — So many police were in the downtown bar for a party that some didn't even realize two people were trying to rob the place.

The two would-be robbers — "our two rocket scientists" said police spokesman Pat Camden — couldn't have picked a worse place than Z's Sports Tap for their holdup attempt Tuesday night.

"Much to the chagrin of the two stickup people, there was a retirement party going on," Camden said.

Now the two suspects are in jail. The cops are still chuckling.

Camden said the would-be robbers told owner Tammy Bertucci, who was tending bar, that they were delivering a food order to the retirement party. He said the would-be robbers lured Bertucci into an adjoining restaurant to collect the order.

"They had lured the bartender out under the pretense of picking up a catering order," Camden said. "They demanded money and brandished a knife."

John Tolley, a retired policeman who was among the party guests, said that easily 100 officers were in the bar. So when Bertucci scrambled away from the assailants and called for help, there was plenty available.

"It got taken care of quite quickly," said Pat Hickey, a bartender who was working during the incident. "It was the wrong place at the wrong time for those people."

Several partygoers chased and caught the two would-be robbers, then called for on-duty patrol officers.

Clarisse Wynn, 20, and Darvie Sutton, 43, both of Chicago, were due in court Thursday on charges of attempted armed robbery.

"It's pretty dumb. How much money are you going to get from the bartender outside of the bar? Usually you want to go into the bar," Camden said.

"That's what makes this job so interesting," Tolley said. "Dumb people."

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Stephanie Highfield, 2405 35th; Donald Lawler, P.O. Box 1319; Dean Robertson, 699 SCR 221; Angela Steelman, 1805 39th; Ylia Pavlovsky, Gail; Alec Rodriquez, 700 E. 37th #202.

DISMISSALS: Robert Early, Cecil Gray Sr., Stephanie Highfield, Soledad Morales, Bruce Nelson, Norma Shaw, Ramsey Castillo.

CENSUS: 55 (Med., Surg.-14, Long-term Care-38, CCU-1, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Births

Gary and Jennie Sorrells of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Brett William Sorrells, on Dec. 5 in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. He weighed seven pounds, nine ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Jimmie and Norma Sorrells of Dunn. Maternal grandparents are Calvin and Catherine Griffith of Trent.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	76¼	75¼	75¼	— ¼
AT&T Corp	65¼	64¾	65	— ⅛
AirTouch	27	26¾	26¾	+ ⅛
Albertsons	33¾	32¾	33¾	— ¼
Alldsignal	48¼	47⅞	48⅛	+ ¼
Alltel	28¼	27¾	28	— ⅛
AmStores	26¾	25¾	26	— ⅛
Ameritech		58¾	58⅝	58⅝
Amoco	71¼	70⅝	71⅛	+ ¼
AndarkPtr	52¾	51⅝	52⅝	+1⅜
ArmcoInc	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛	+ ⅛
AtlRichfld		110⅝	109⅝	110
ATMOS Egy	23	22¾	22¾	— ⅛
Aviall	9⅛	8⅛	9⅛	+1
BakerHughes	24¼	24	24¼	— ⅛
BellAtl	66¼	66	66¼	—1
BellSouth s	42⅛	41⅞	42	— ⅛
BethSteel	14	13¾	13¾	+ ⅛
BritPet	99⅛	99⅛	99⅛	+ ¼
BurlNoSFe	77	76¾	76¾	+ ⅜
Caterpillar	61⅜	60⅝	61⅛	+1¼
CenSoWst	27⅞	27⅞	27⅞	+ ⅛
Chevron	51⅜	51⅜	51⅜	+ ⅛
Chrysler	54¼	54	54⅛	+ ¼
Coastal	37	36¾	36¾	+ ⅜
CocaCola	76	74⅞	75⅛	+ ⅜
ColgatePalm	71⅜	71⅛	71⅛	+ ¼
ComclMetals		24⅜	24⅛	24⅜
Cooperin	35⅜	34¾	35⅜	+1
CyprusAmax	26¼	26⅛	26⅛	+ ¼
DallSemicn	21⅜	21⅛	21⅜	— ⅛
DeltaAirl	77⅞	76¼	76¾	— ⅜
DigitalEq	63	61¼	63	+ ⅜
Dillard	28¼	27⅞	28⅛	+ ⅜
DowChem	70½	69⅞	70½	+ ¼
DresserInd	24¼	23⅜	24⅛	+ ⅜
DuPont	68¼	68	68⅜	+ ⅜
EastmanChem	62½	61⅞	61⅞	+ ¼
EstKodak	66¼	65⅞	66⅛	+ ⅜
EljerInd	11⅛	11	11⅛	+ ⅜
Enserch	15⅞	15⅛	15⅞	+ ⅜
Entergy	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜	+ ¼
Exxon	80¼	80⅛	80⅛	+ ¼
FstBkxAm s		12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Flowers s	12⅞	12⅝	12⅞	+ ⅛
FordMotor	29⅝	29⅝	29⅞	+ ⅜
GTE Cp	44⅜	44⅛	44⅛	+ ¼
GenDynam	61¼	60⅝	61¼	+ ¼
GenElec	70½	70	70½	+ ½
GenMills	58	57¼	57½	+ ¼
GenMotors	51⅜	51	51⅛	+ ⅜
GenMotors E		50⅛	49⅞	50⅛
GePacif	68⅜	68	68⅛	+ ¼
GlobalMar	8⅜	8⅛	8⅜	+ ¼
Goodrich	67⅞	67¼	67⅞	+ ⅜
Goodyear s	45	44⅝	45	+ ⅜
GtAtlPac	24⅛	23⅝	24⅛	+ ⅛
Halliburtn	49½	48⅜	49⅛	+ ⅜
Hasbro ADS	15	14⅝	14⅝	— ⅛
HartleHanks s	20⅛	20⅛	20⅛	— ⅛
HoustonInd s	24¼	24	24⅛	+ ¼
IBM	91⅛	89⅝	91	+1⅜
IntlPapers	37⅛	36⅜	37	+ ⅜
JohnsnJns	87⅞	87	87⅛	+ ⅜
K mart	7⅜	6⅞	7⅛	+1⅛
Kroger	37⅞	37⅞	37⅞	+ ¼
Litton		43⅜	43⅜	43⅜
Lowes Cos	34	33¾	34	+ ⅜
Lubys	22	21⅞	22	+ ⅛
MayDeptStrs	42⅛	42⅛	42⅛	— ⅛
Medtronics	56¼	55⅜	56⅛	+ ¼
Mobil	111⅜	110⅝	110⅞	+ ¼
Monsanto	121⅜	118⅝	121⅛	+2⅛
Motorola	58⅛	58	58¼	+ ¼
Nationsbk	71	70¼	70⅝	+ ⅜
Navistar	11⅛	10⅝	11⅛	+ ⅜
NoramEngy	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜	+ ¼
Norwest	33⅜	33⅛	33⅛	+ ¼
Nynex	51¼	50⅝	50⅝	— ⅛
OryxEngy	13⅞	13⅛	13⅜	+ ¼
PacTelesis	33⅜	33⅛	33⅜	+ ¼
PanhECp	27⅜	27⅛	27⅜	+ ¼
Penney JC	45⅛	45⅛	45⅜	+ ⅜
Pennzoil	43	42⅛	42⅛	— ⅜
PepBoys	25⅞	25⅛	25⅞	+ ⅜
PepsiCo	55⅛	54⅝	55⅛	+ ⅛
PhelpDodge	63⅜	62⅝	63⅛	+ ⅞
PhilipPet		33⅛	33¼	33¼
PilgrmPrd	6¼	6⅛	6¼	— ¼
Polaroid	47	46½	46⅝	+ ⅛
Praxair		31⅜	31⅜	31⅜
ProctGamble	83⅜	82⅝	83⅝	+ ⅜
PubSNwMx		17⅞	17⅞	17⅞
RoyalDutch	137⅛	136⅜	136⅞	+ ¼
SBC Comm	57⅞	56¼	57⅛	+1
SaraLee		32⅛	31⅞	32
SearsRoebs	39⅜	39⅛	39⅛	+ ⅛
SherwinW		40	39⅝	39⅞
SmthBchADS	52⅜	52⅛	52⅜	+ ¼
SmthBc eqt	52⅜	52	52⅜	+ ⅜
SouthernCo	24⅛	24⅛	24⅛	+ ¼
SwstAirlines	24⅜	24⅛	24⅜	— ⅛
Sprint	40⅛	40	40⅛	+ ⅛
SterlingChm	8⅜	8⅛	8⅜	— ¼
SunCo	26⅜	26⅛	26⅜	+ ¼
TNP Ent		18⅜	18⅜	18⅜
Tandy	40	39⅝	39⅞	+ ⅜
TempIni	43	42⅛	42⅜	— ⅛
Tenneco	47⅞	47¼	47⅞	+ ⅛
Texaco	77⅞	76¼	77⅞	+ ⅜
TexasInd	52⅜	52⅛	52⅝	+ ¼
TexasInsts	49⅞	48⅜	49⅞	+1⅛
TexUtil	40⅛	40⅛	40⅛	+ ⅜
Textron	72⅛	71¼	71⅜	— ¼
Travelers		58⅛	57⅞	57⅞
TrinityInds	29⅜	29⅛	29⅜	+ ⅜
TritonEngy		54⅜	54⅛	54⅜
Tyler		3	3	3
US WestCm s	35⅜	34¼	34⅜	— ⅛
USWstMdia n	19⅜	18⅞	19	— ⅛
USX Delhi	10⅛	10	10	— ⅛
USX-Marathn		19⅜	19⅛	19⅜
USX-USS	30⅜	30⅛	30⅜	— ¼
UnCarbde	38⅜	38	38⅛	+ ⅛
UnPac	65⅜	64⅝	65⅛	+ ¼
UnitedTech	95⅜	94⅝	95⅛	+2⅛
Unocal	29⅜	29	29⅛	+ ⅜
WalMart	22⅜	22⅛	22⅜	+ ¼
WstnGasRs	16⅜	16⅛	16⅛	— ⅛
WestghEl	16⅜	15⅞	16⅛	+ ⅜
WinnDixie s	36⅛	36⅜	36⅛	+ ⅛
Woolworth	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	— ⅛
XeroxCp	140⅜	140	140⅛	+ ⅜
ZenithE	7⅛	7	7	— ⅛

BIG NATE'S SECRET SANTA by Lincoln Peirce

PUC delays action on adding Houston, Dallas area codes

AUSTIN (AP) — State regulators say they want to make sure the public knows what's going on before they consider area-code proposals for Houston and Dallas that would require people to dial 10 digits to make local calls.

They also want the customers' input.

"Folks out there just don't have any idea what's going to hit them," said Pat Wood III, Texas Public Utility Commission chairman.

While people could make the adjustment if required, he said, "We've got some educating to do."

The PUC Wednesday decided to delay action on the new area codes until Jan. 10, allowing them to conduct public hearings Jan. 8 in Houston and Jan. 9 in Dallas.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. is proposing new area codes because of increasing demands for new phone numbers, due to such technologies as cellular phones, fax machines and computers.

The telephone company, in an unusual approach, wants to assign people a new area code if they get a new phone number — a 972 area code in Dallas (currently 214) and 281 in Houston (currently 713).

That means people would have to dial the area code to make all calls. Callers would not be subject to long distance charges for local calls.

Southwestern Bell already has started assigning the 281 area code in Houston. If approved by the PUC, Houston as early as March could become the first city in the country in which 10-digit dialing would be needed for all calls.

The company also wants to phase in the system in Dallas.

But the Office of Public Utility Counsel, which represents residential and small business customers, has joined with companies that might compete against Southwestern Bell in urging a more traditional plan for implementing the new area codes.

They want the PUC to require Dallas and Houston to be divided geographically, allowing one section to keep the old area code and the other to use the new code. That would allow local calls within the same area code to still be made using just seven digits. Ten digits would be required for local calls from one area code to another.

Opponents say Southwestern Bell's plan would give it a competitive edge since its customers could continue using the old, familiar area codes.

Southwestern Bell said it isn't trying to stifle competition but wants to make the change easy for customers.

Rick Guzman, a PUC administrative law judge who presided over hearings on the issue, has recommended that Southwestern Bell's so-called overlay plan be allowed to proceed in Houston.

For Dallas, Guzman recommended the more traditional geographic split.

Under his recommendation, the central metropolitan area of Dallas would retain the 214 area code, while the suburban area would get the new 972 area code, according to the PUC.

Officials estimate that about 1.6 million residents and businesses would have to change to the 972 area code under Guzman's proposal. They wouldn't have to change their seven-digit numbers.

Commissioners said before they make a decision, they want to ensure the public is informed.

"I think Houston is more concerned about losing the Houston Oilers than they are about 10-digit dialing," said Commissioner Robert Gee.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Does herbal remedy cure tinnitus?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My friends have bought ginkgo biloba because they claim it stops ringing in the ears. Is this another farce? What, if any, are the side effects?

DEAR READER: This herbal remedy has been shown, in some studies, to improve blood circulation to the brain. Therefore, if a person were to have tinnitus (ringing in the ears) due to a deficient blood supply, ginkgo could — in theory, at least — reduce this symptom. However, no manufacturer of ginkgo has obtained approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market such a product in the United States or to make any health claims.

Nonetheless, ginkgo is readily available in most health food stores. I am not aware of any health problems stemming from its use. Tinnitus, a common and troublesome disorder, is basically untreatable, but patients can be helped by a variety of techniques, including the use of special audio tapes that mask the noise of the affliction.

To give you more information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Fads II: Herbs and Healing Fads." 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, N.Y. 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: In 1994 I was diagnosed with a moderate to large central and right lateralizing disc herniation, resulting in numbness in my right calf and foot. Before I could get to an orthopedic doctor, the pain and numbness disappeared. No physical therapy was necessary and no surgery was performed. Will the herniated disc heal itself without surgery or will I have to give up activities I enjoy, such as bowling?

DEAR READER: For reasons that are unclear to most authorities, herniated discs can slip back into place, with complete resolution of symptoms.

Each disc is a gel-filled washer that separates the vertebrae (spinal bones). At times — probably because of inherited weaknesses in the disc structure — portions of the disc can rupture, causing the gel to herniate out of position and press on spinal nerves, leading to pain, numbness — even weakness — involving the lower extremities.

Before considering surgery, most responsible physicians urge patients with herniated discs to undergo physical therapy. This therapy may relieve pressure on the nerve, and reduce symptoms.

However, such improvement can also occur spontaneously without specific therapy. The reason for this is unknown, but it probably reflects the body's amazing ability to heal itself if given the chance.

As long as you are symptom-free, I advise you to engage in normal activities. Obviously, you'll want to run this by your family physician but — in my experience — most "ex-discers" can enjoy sports, providing these patients show common sense and good judgment. For example, you could bowl after suitable warm-up, but if your back begins to bother you, sit down and rest. Don't push it — or you'll risk re-herniating the disc and experiencing another bout of pain.

Of course, once a disc has ruptured, it is more likely to do so again in the future. So, be careful. Listen to your back. Avoid heavy lifting, especially with twisting. Seek immediate medical attention if symptoms recur. Finally, consider yourself fortunate; most herniated discs don't cooperate the way yours did.

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28 injured in aborted jumbo jet takeoff

NEW YORK (AP) — Edy Solomon braced himself as the jet on which he was a passenger skidded off an icy runway and struck a concrete tower.

"I said, 'We are going to die,'" said Solomon, one of 452 passengers aboard the Miami-bound Tower Air Flight 41, which aborted takeoff from Kennedy Airport Wednesday.

"It felt like the plane was vibrating a little" as it rolled down the runway, said Solomon, who was going to Florida for his daughter's wedding. "Then it veered to the left, and everything collapsed."

Twenty-eight passengers were injured in the accident, which closed Kennedy Airport, one of the nation's busiest, for four hours Wednesday afternoon and delayed, canceled or diverted at least 200 other flights.

The jet — with 467 people aboard — was 1,200 feet down the runway when it suddenly turned left, said a federal investigator at the scene.

Six hundred feet later, the plane skidded off the runway and struck a concrete electrical tower, tearing off one of the plane's right engines.

The Boeing 747's nose gear and right wing gear then gave way as the plane hit terrain softened by two days of snow, said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Chuck Leonard.

He said it was too soon to cite a cause, but Tower Air Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Morris Nachtomi said a sheet of ice on the runway forced the pilot to abort the takeoff. Officials at the Port Authority, which operates the airport, disputed that charge.

"Other planes were coming in and out without any problems," said authority spokeswoman Gwen Williams. The airport was fully operational when the accident occurred, with visibility at 1½ miles.

The crash was under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and NTSB.

About 7 inches of snow had fallen at the airport since Tuesday, and it was still snowing when the accident occurred at 11:36 a.m. Both LaGuardia Airport in the city's Queens borough and Newark International Airport in New Jersey were open on Wednesday.

"I haven't seen anything that would have indicated to me that the airport should have been closed," Leonard said. Nineteen other planes used the same runway in the hour before Flight 41.

As the jet lurched to a halt, luggage began flying around the cabin. The 452 passengers and 15 crew members were safely evacuated — after some anxious moments.

The airport was closed — standard procedure in such accidents — at 12:05 p.m., and reopened at 4 p.m.

Berry's World

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"My wife has a thing about saving empty boxes that 'we may need someday.'"

Date Book

Dec. 21, 1995

Today is the 355th day of 1995 and the 90th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1914, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," the first feature-length silent film, premiered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Stalin (1879-1953), Soviet political leader-dictator; Heinrich Boll (1917-1985), novelist-poet; Kurt Waldheim (1918-), former U.N. secretary general, is 77; Joseph Paterno (1926-), football coach, is 69; Jane Fonda (1937-), actress-activist-fitness instructor, is 58; Frank Zappa (1940-1993), singer; Chris Evert (1954-), tennis player, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1969, legendary coach Vince Lombardi coached his last football game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is." — Vince Lombardi

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1892, a four-day snowstorm began that dropped nearly 28 inches of snow on Portland, Ore.

SOURCE: 1995 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day before new moon.

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Great Stocking Stuffers For Christmas

A QUICK REFERENCE TO DINING ETIQUETTE

by Sheila M. Long

- Who orders food first at a restaurant?
- Where do you put a used tea bag?
- What should you do if you spill a drink on the table?
- How do you get rid of a mouthful of fish bone?
- What should you do if you are running late for a business lunch?

A Quick Reference to Dining Etiquette answers these questions and many more. At last you can easily learn the secrets of how to dine correctly. Designed for quick and easy reading, you can take it in your briefcase or purse. Now you will be able to dine anywhere with total confidence.

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Royal divorce approved

LONDON (AP) — Fed up with the bickering and fearing harm to the monarchy and the royal couple's two sons, Queen Elizabeth II has urged — some reports say ordered — Prince Charles and Diana to divorce soon.

"The queen wrote to both the prince and princess earlier this week and gave them her view ... that an early divorce is desirable," said a Buckingham Palace statement Wednesday night.

It said Charles has told Diana he agrees with his mother's plea, which the statement said is backed by his father, Prince Philip.

"The queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (Philip) will continue to do all they can to help and support the Prince and Princess of Wales, and most particularly their children (William, 13, and Harry, 11) in this difficult period," the statement said.

Diana was reportedly in no rush to reply to her mother-in-law.

Under the headline "Diana keeping her options open," the Daily Mail tabloid today quoted an unnamed friend of the princess as saying that because her lawyers were on vacation for two weeks, "there is nothing she can do."

Diana said in a BBC television interview Nov. 20 that she did not want a divorce, indicating concern for her sons was the main reason. However, she added: "I await my husband's decision of which way we are all going to go."

There was no indication how soon a divorce could take place, the palace said.

But the London tabloid The Sun said Wednesday that the queen's move leaves Charles and Diana no choice but to begin legal proceedings for a final split. It predicted that if lawyers' negotiations went smoothly, a divorce could be finalized in four months.

Charles and Diana separated in 1992 after 11 years of marriage. Both had affairs while still together.

In a BBC interview last June, Charles acknowledged being unfaithful after the marriage had broken down. Interviewer Jonathan Dimbleby later identified the other woman as Charles' old flame, Camilla Parker Bowles.

Diana admitted in her interview last month to having an affair with her former riding instructor, James Hewitt.

The Sun quoted an unnamed government source as saying the queen was reacting to the public, "tit-for-tat kind of warfare" between Diana and Charles.

It also reported that the queen was concerned over the effect of the standoff on the couple's two young sons.

The Sun said a divorce from Diana would not stop Charles, 47, succeeding to the throne when his 69-year-old mother dies but it said he would never marry Camilla Parker Bowles. It quoted unnamed friends of Charles as saying he insists it's his destiny to be king but realizes the British people would never accept Camilla, who was divorced from her husband in March, as queen.

A constitutional expert, Vernon Bogdanor, said a divorce would have no constitutional implications, and that there had been divorced kings in the past.

Diana would not become queen if there were a divorce but, Bogdanor told BBC-TV, "as long as they are not divorced she would become queen as soon as Charles becomes king."

Teen picks jail over holiday trip

VICTORIA (AP) — A teenager who refused to take a Christmas trip to Mexico with his family will spend the holidays in jail instead.

The 14-year-old boy, who is on probation for burglary, insisted that his parents go to Mexico without him, Victoria County Court-at-Law Judge Laura Weiser said Wednesday.

The family lives in Bloomington, about 10 miles south of Victoria. The boy's mother contacted the Juvenile Services Department in Victoria.

His probation officer warned him three times that he would be placed in detention if he refused to accompany his family, but he refused to change his stance.

Stanfield names outstanding students

Stanfield Elementary School announces its Students of the Week for the fall semester. October recipients were "Great Ghosts Galore;" "Terrific Turkeys" were November winners; and "Fantastic Frosties" earned the honor for December. Recipients received a decal like the one pictured below.

OCTOBER HONOREES

Great Ghosts Galore include: Cody Alaniz, Yuliana Arellano, Casey Arnold, Jamie Arnold, Ashley Bailey, Kimberly Bell, Dondi Brock, Austin Brunson, Jessica Calvert, Jason Cave, Bryan Clifton, Tish Day, Elizabeth Dominquez, Will Floyd, Lisa Fonseca, Danni Garcia, Heather Garza, William Greenwood, Kimberly Harlan, Kyler Hatley, Kim Henkle, Niki Hernandez, Rachel Herrera and Amber Hildreth.

Others are: Erin Hogan, Tyler Hogan, Nikki Howell, Kendra Inglehart, Zachary Jacquez, Tabitha Jones, Kaylee Lacik, Richi Laurens, Brittany Leatherwood, Nicholas Lentz, Amanda Leverett, Kimberly Leverett, Jana Lewis, Kayla Liccardi, Erica Little, Chase Luft, Austin Lyle, Michael Mann, Juan Martinez, Victoria Martinez, Matthew Massey, Megan McCormick, Sirena Medrano, Ashton Minyard and Brady Murphy.

Also named were: Tatum Norwood, Garrett Pinson, Kelbi Pitner, Jameie Putnam, Terann Ragland, Wendy Reed, Amanda River, Jessica Robbins, Richie Rodriguez, Cheyene Roemisch, Noe Ruiz, Natasha Schwoerer, Jacob Scifres, Blake Seale, Carl Self, Carolyn Shaw, Tina Speedon, Breanna Talavera, Jessica Taylor, Kendra Tidwell, Lauren Turley, Rebekah Turley, Christi Williams, Dustyn Williams, Glyn Wright, Alex Zamarripa and Lauren Zamora.

NOVEMBER RECIPIENTS

Terrific Turkeys include: Jake Alaniz, Michael Alaniz, Barrett Bowlin, Michelle Cave, Ted Cerda, Seth Cooper, Gena Dooley, Marcy Doty, Chelsey Drummond, Abel Estrada, Stanley Forbes, Taylor Gibbs, Joshua Gutierrez, Kayla Hartzog, Bradley Henderson, Eddie Hernandez, Kalyn Hildreth, Travis Hill, Whitney Kinney, Tara Kubena, Cale Lancaster, Amelia Lopez, Joe Luis, Stephen Luna and Eric Martinez.

Others were: Nicholas Martinez, Steven Martinez, Brett McClure, Joey Mendonca, Ruben Molinar, Preston Munson, Derek Murphy, Calvin Nobles, Ashley Pace, Kendra Pace, Samantha Pena, Pedro Perez, Josi Presley, Wesley Price and Tara Robertson.

Also named were: Chris Rodriquez, Serfio Rodriquez, Amanda Sanchez, Kyle Sanchez, Serfio Sarabia, Allison Sharrock, Tye Stone, Nita Swan, Ross Taylor, Temi Thompson, Stephen Tippens, Casey Toland, Dalesa Traylor, Matt Vanderpool, Celina Wilson, Leslie Wright, Sydney Wright and Tyler Zalman.

DECEMBER WINNERS

Fantastic Frosties include: B.J. Alonzo, Jeremy Alvarado, Manny Aparricio, Ashley Barrera, Chelsea Bengel, Kaden Billingsley, Hector Campos, Kelton Clayton, Alex Crawford, Alex Flannigan, Brooks Gafford, Raven Gist, Cartavious Groage, Trey Hollis, Adam Hopper, Kenetra James, Allen Jones, Blane Knipe, Valarie Lopez, Domingo Luera, Stephen Luna, Christina Martinez, Curtis Mason, Johnathan McClure and Ruben Molinar.

Also named: Aeryal Peoples, Hunter Perez, Sequoya Powell, Tyler Price, Beau Reves, Nathan Ricosso, Mariah Robbins, Jeremy Ruiz, Corbin Smith, Ryan Thompson, Christian Tippens, Marshall Tomlinson, Heather Torres, Khristian Torres, Abel Vasquez, Chris Vera, Ashton Wall, Chad Watts, Vivi Weaver, Bryce Westmoreland, Kikki Wofford, Kelsea Wood and Ofelia Zamora.

STANFIELD ELEMENTARY STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate

Bride Shuns Wedding Excess By Riding Away From It All

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, I have noticed a great many letters about weddings in your column. I have attended dozens of weddings and was maid of honor for each of my older sisters.

My parents set aside a generous sum of money for each of my sisters' weddings. In both cases, the pre-wedding months were a trying time for my mother, baffling for my father, and just plain unpleasant for everyone else in the house. It rained on the garden wedding, and it was hot at the indoor wedding.

Now it's my turn. When I announced I was getting married, Mom paled and Dad groaned and said, "I'll give you an extra $500 to elope."

This was music to my ears because I had already decided I didn't want the muss, fuss and expense of a fancy wedding. We plan to be married by a justice of the peace and take a three-week bicycle trip for our honeymoon. We're thrilled with the extra money and my parents are relieved.

Can you believe my sisters think we are being hateful about the whole thing? My middle sister said, "I didn't get any money," and my oldest sister thinks it is dishonorable to marry without an elaborate ceremony. My fiance, my dad and I laugh off their comments, but my mom is hurt. Abby, what do you think?

WEDDING-FREE BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR WEDDING-FREE: Follow your heart. Your sisters had the kind of wedding they wanted, and your mom should support you in your choice of a simple ceremony — regardless of what your sisters think.

Please accept my best wishes for a long and fulfilling marriage.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to those who were disturbed by the outcome of the Simpson trial. Many people say they are upset with "the system" now and have lost faith in it. Many of those who complain are the very ones who routinely dodge jury duty — and therefore have no firsthand knowledge of how the system works.

In most cases, the defendants do get a fair trial. I know, because I perform my jury duty. So, if you have a complaint, take yours to the jury box.

BEEN IN THE JURY BOX IN L.A.

DEAR BEEN THERE: You are correct. If any system is going to work, it is because all citizens do their part. I don't know if it's happening nationwide, but in Los Angeles there is an official crackdown on citizens who ignore their obligation to perform jury duty.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: Recently I was in my car waiting for the light to change, and a guy next to me leaned out of his car window and asked me if I was "Wags." My personalized Wisconsin license plate reads, "I'M WAGS," which is my nickname.

He explained that his name was Wagenheim, and that he, too, was nicknamed "Wags." He may have been kidding, but he asked if I had ever attended the "Wags" convention — a conclave for anyone with that nickname. Before I could get any more information, the light changed and he drove off.

Perhaps one of your readers has some information concerning "Wags." If he was indeed serious, I'd love to attend their convention.

TOM WEGNER (WAGS), WHITEFISH BAY, WIS.

DEAR WAGS: My Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition) defines "wag" as a "wit, joker — or a young man." So perhaps the man at the signal light was pulling your leg. However, on the chance that he was serious, I am asking my readers: Is there a "Wags" convention? And if so, when and where is it? (Stay tuned.)

* * *

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

FFA okays Santa's flight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The right jolly old elf will make his annual trip on schedule after the Federal Aviation Administration, usually sticklers for the rules, decided to wink and look the other way.

Announcing approval of Santa Claus' Christmas flight plan Wednesday, FAA Deputy Administrator Linda Hall Daschle was asked if Santa might be in violation of the rule that pilots must retire at age 60.

The technical specifications from the official FAA flight plan:

—Aircraft identification: Santa 1.

—Pilot: S. Claus, North Pole.

—Flight type: Visual flight rules.

—Aircraft type: Sleigh.

—True airspeed: 350 knots.

—Cruising altitude: Rooftop height.

—Proposed departure time: When kids are asleep.

—Actual departure time: When all eyes are closed.

—Fuel on board: Oats, carrots, hay.

—Remarks: Reindeer equipped with woolen neck warmers; one reindeer with lighted nose, color red.

Eagles soared in '95 earnings

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The Eagles soared in 1995, earning $63.3 million — more than all other touring acts on the concert circuit.

The top 50 touring acts grossed $742 million this year, down from $1 billion in 1994 but still the third biggest year ever for the industry, the trade publication Pollstar reported Wednesday.

Boyz II Men finished second with $43.2 million, and R.E.M. was third, earning $38.7 million.

The Grateful Dead was fourth, earning $33.5 million even though the band didn't perform following the death Aug. 9 of leader Jerry Garcia. Surviving band members recently called it quits.

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant were the No. 5 act, earning $33.4 million.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Van Halen ($32.7 million); Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers ($27.5 million); Reba McEntire ($27.4 million); Elton John ($22.5 million); and Elton John & Billy Joel ($22 million).

Man collects $1 million lotto

AUSTIN (AP) — What would you do with $1 million?

San Antonio veterinarian Richard Meadows and his wife splurged on a new pair of eye glasses for him, a new vacuum cleaner for her and a set of radial tires.

"I've been wanting new glasses since 1987, and my wife has wanted to throw our vacuum cleaner over a cliff for some time now. We both got our wish," Meadows said Wednesday after being presented with a check for his share of the winnings from the Dec. 2 Lotto Texas jackpot.

He and his wife, fellow veterinarian Jackie Kleypas, also say they'll start a college fund for their two children.

Meadows, one of two winners of the jackpot, was presented with a lump-sum payment for $1,045,795. Lotto winners are paid in lump sums rather than installments when their share of the jackpot is less than $2 million.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bède Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 22, 1995

In the year ahead, do everything in your power to improve your management and executive skills. Something beneficial will be stirring, and you'll want to take advantage of any changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your current cycle may enable you to turn certain events to your advantage. Take charge of developments instead of letting them take charge of you. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The restrictive conditions that have impeded your progress could be noticeably lessened in the near future. Some of these changes might happen slowly.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not lose hope when considering your future prospects. If your attitude is positive, you will be more likely to make the right moves.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Fresh ambitions and objectives might awaken in you today. You may realize that you can achieve what you thought was beyond your reach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not limit your imagination today. If you can visualize doing something, you can accomplish anything. Test this theory for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Financial trends will move in your favor at this time, so remain alert for new ways to add to your resources through a second or third channel.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In this cycle, competent help or assistance will enable you to do collectively what you can't do alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The possibility of increased earnings or greater success in regard to your career will be strong, so continue to operate along your present course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do what you think is best today, especially if you're organizing a new endeavor. With your guidance, the finished product will resemble the blueprint.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not procrastinate when making changes to bring your efforts to fruition. The sooner you get things in order, the sooner you can enjoy the holidays.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) This will be a good time to press forward with new plans or projects you feel will better your lot in life. It will be imperative to act as well as think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) As of today, you may begin to see improvements in conditions affecting your material security. It will be your responsibility to capitalize on these trends.

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He's the kind of person who needs a half hour to pick an entree on a two-item menu.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Flight from Miami crashes in Columbia

Rescuers use chain saws to free trapped girl

BUGA, Colombia (AP) — An American Airlines jetliner carrying 164 people from Miami crashed into a mountain in the Andes and burst into a fireball. Four people survived, the Red Cross said today.

Red Cross worker Luis Caiceolo said two children, a man and a woman had been rescued. He did not say what condition they were in. Gen. Dobais Duran of the Colombian national police said rescuers were using chain saws to free one of the survivors, a girl who was trapped under a fallen tree.

Colombian authorities and American Airlines had earlier said everyone on board was killed.

The cause of the crash, which happened Wednesday evening in an active rebel area in southwestern Colombia, was not known. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said FBI agents were headed to the site, but there was no indication that the crash was anything more than an accident.

Alvaro Cala, director of Colombian civil aviation, told RCN radio that the plane was 13 miles east of its flight plan. American Airlines Chief Executive Officer Bob Crandall confirmed that "the flight path was somewhat to the east," but did not elaborate.

The airline said the Boeing 757 was carrying 156 passengers — including four infants — and eight crew members.

It was not clear how many Americans were on board, but American Airlines said the crew included Capt. Nicholas Tafuri, 57, of Marco Island, Fla., and 1st Officer Don Williams, 39, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. The cabin crew was based in Bogota, the airline said.

Among those booked on the flight were Paris Kanellakis, a Brown University computer science professor, his wife, Maria-Teresa Otoya, their daughter Alexandra, 7, and son Stephanos, 4, said a spokesman for the Providence, R.I., school.

Also believed to be aboard were the son, daughter-in-law and grandchild of former Miami Mayor Maurice Ferre. The son, Francisco, was in his 30s. The other names were not available.

It was not known if any of them were among the survivors.

A farmer who walked for three hours to the site Wednesday night described a picture of devastation.

"I saw only pieces where the plane crashed and clothing hanging from the trees. There were no bodies left at all," Pedro Rosano told RCN Radio. "The largest piece of plane remaining was only two meters (yards) long."

Flight 965 lost radio contact at about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday while flying over Buga, a town 40 miles north of Cali, where the plane was headed. Cala said the plane was four minutes from touching down when it crashed. Police said they received telephone calls from people in the area reporting an explosion.

"We saw when the plane crashed against a mountain and then a huge fireball erupted," witness Carlos Buitrago told Radio Caracol.

There were no local reports of bad weather, and Crandall told employees at American Airlines' Fort Worth, Texas, headquarters, that conditions were good.

"There was neither wind nor rain," he said over a loudspeaker. "Visibility was excellent. The crew was very experienced and fully familiar with the terrain and approach to Cali."

"We are both horrified by the event and mystified as to its cause," he said.

Crandall later told a press conference that the airplane, which had Rolls-Royce engines, was delivered new in August 1991. It had an extensive maintenance check in January, and a less complete one in November.

Even if there were some survivors, the crash could be the deadliest involving a U.S. airliner since Pan Am Flight 103 went down over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 259 people from the plane and 11 on the ground. A terrorist bomb was blamed for that crash, which occurred seven years ago today.

It could also be the deadliest plane crash in the world this year.

The arrival of rescue officials at the crash site, 185 miles southwest of Bogota, was delayed by darkness and the mountainous terrain.

What's Up?

'Living Nativity' cancelled

The "Living Nativity" scheduled for tonight and Friday night at Colonial Hill Baptist Church has been cancelled due to weather conditions, according to Jerald Garner, minister of music.

Communion service set

Colonial Hill Baptist Church, 37th Street and El Paso, will hold a candlelight communion service Sunday at 6 p.m.

Pick 3

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

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth $19 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 2, 7, 16, 36, 38 and 41.

A number matching five of six paid $1,602, with 150 winners. Four of six was worth $110, with 7,849 winners. The payoff for matching three of six was $3, with 149,197 winners.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Saturday night's game will be $25 million.

Library to be closed

Scurry County Library will be closed Saturday through Tuesday.

Landfill to be closed

The city landfill will be closed Saturday through Monday.

Two NATO soldiers killed in accidents

MRKONJIC GRAD, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Many of the foreign soldiers here aren't new to Bosnia. But their mission as NATO troops is fresh — police the peace instead of often watching, hands tied, as people are slaughtered.

Here and elsewhere, some of the soldiers who will be serving under NATO are former U.N. peacekeepers. They switched helmets Wednesday — from the United Nations' baby blue to the green and brown of their own armies under NATO — as the U.N. peacekeeping mission wound down and NATO's began.

They soon embarked on no-nonsense actions meant to show that they won't be pushed around, as U.N. peacekeepers frequently were.

"This is more like it. This is what we're used to," said British Staff Sgt. Ken Saxon as he ordered a huge bulldozer to plow over a Bosnian Croat barrier at the Black Dog checkpoint near this northern Bosnian town.

U.N. forces in Bosnia, numbering 24,000 at their peak, were at best able to help deliver humanitarian aid to the besieged and needy. At worst, they were harassed, shot at, taken hostage and accused of failing to protect Bosnian civilians from nearly four years of war that left 200,000 dead and 2 million homeless.

Unlike the lightly armed U.N. peacekeepers, NATO soldiers now setting up in Bosnia have a clear mandate, heavy weapons and a peace plan signed by all sides.

Their goal is to enforce a U.S.-brokered peace plan signed in Paris on Dec. 14 that essentially splits the country into a Serb republic and a Muslim-Croat federation. The mission aims to keep the combatants separated by heavily patrolled zones, while the country tries to rebuild.

Operation Joint Endeavor, the largest Western military operation in Europe since World War II, will be charged with forcing peace on a nation sharply divided along ethnic, nationalist and religious lines.

NATO troops "have the authority to take whatever action" is necessary, said Adm. Leighton Smith, the American commander of the 60,000-strong force, underlining a key difference between his army and the U.N. peacekeeping force preceding it.

Smith came to Sarajevo to take part in Wednesday's formal transfer of power at the city's battered, sand-bagged and fog-shrouded airport.

Even as he formally launched the mission, NATO units were already deep in territory still torn by the hatreds of almost four years of war.

By afternoon, the road between Sarajevo and Kiseljak, 20 miles to the west, was cleared of the Muslim, Croat and Serb checkpoints that made free passage impossible for much of the war. NATO control posts replaced them.

In an operation that carried great symbolism, French forces bulldozed a Serb post known as Sierra Four, which had controlled access to the Sarajevo airport and where deputy Bosnian prime minister was shot and killed by Serb gunmen in full view of U.N. peacekeepers in January 1993.

"No More Sierra," exulted the Sarajevo newspaper Vecernje Novine.

The NATO mission also saw its first casualties today. A German soldier was killed during an exercise on a frigate in the Adriatic Sea and a Croat civilian died after his car collided with a NATO vehicle driven by French soldiers in southern Croatia.

Smith met commanders from all three sides — Muslim, Serb and Croat — at the Sarajevo airport today. Talking to CNN, he acknowledged there would be "bumps in the road" in implementing the peace accord, but said: "we'll take those bumps as we come to them."

"Hmmm, we're quicker than that after four years of war," said Capt. Boban Zelkovic.

Hamas will not agree to halt Israeli attacks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Winding up four days of negotiations today, the militant Hamas movement refused to give PLO leaders a clear-cut pledge it would halt attacks on Israelis and participate in Palestinian elections.

Sources said Hamas consented to a "gentlemen's agreement" to suspend attacks, which was reached earlier in the Gaza Strip. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agreement was open-ended.

Mohammed Nazal, a spokesman for Hamas, said his delegation declined a request to join Yasser Arafat's self-rule government and take part in Jan. 20 elections for the council to administer the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We told them our position clear and loud, that we cannot join the authority nor participate in the elections," he told The Associated Press.

He said the group also refused to promise to halt attacks on the Israelis, a demand urgently sought by Arafat. "They know our position and there is no change in it," said Nazal, a member of the Hamas politburo.

The two sides were expected to issue a statement later today outlining an agreement to avoid fighting between Hamas and Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

After five hours of discussion, the two sides were unable to agree on the wording, said Osama Abu Hamdan, the Hamas representative from Tehran.

Arafat, who arrived in Cairo today, had been expected to meet with the Hamas leaders. He left immediately after meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. Sources said his abrupt departure was prompted by Hamas' refusal to enter the elections.

Nazal said Hamas would pledge in the statement to "defend and work to strengthen Palestinian national unity and to avoid any fighting with Fatah," the mainstream faction of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

Obituaries

Gene Emerson

1941-1995

COLORADO CITY — Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel for Gene Emerson who died Friday, Dec. 15, in a Lubbock Hospital. He was 54.

Officiating will be the Revs. Earl Shelton and Robert Bracy, and burial will follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery.

Mr. Emerson was the brother of Martha Louise Emerson of Snyder.

Born in Wortham, Mr. Emerson was a life-long resident of Colorado City and was employed by Hutchins Ford for many years. A member of the King Solomon Baptist Church, he married Linda McNight in 1987 in Colorado City. She survives.

Survivors also include five daughters, Barbara McNight, Freda McNight, Veronica Emerson, LaKisha Emerson and Jennifer Emerson, all of Colorado City; a son, Gene Emerson of Colorado City; his mother, Oletha Gibson of Colorado City; four other sisters, Frances Emerson, Caroline Salinas and Burnell Gibson, all of Colorado City, and Edie Garrett of Oklahoma City; four brothers, Thomas Emerson of Colorado City, Daniel Emerson of Big Spring, William Emerson of Oklahoma City and Donald Emerson of San Diego.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Accidents, complaints investigated by officers

Snyder area law enforcement officers investigated a couple of accidents and responded to complaints of theft and criminal mischief Wednesday.

Police investigated a one-vehicle accident at 10:06 a.m. at 23rd Street and Avenue Q. A 1985 Chevrolet pickup driven by Steven Wayne Kitchen of 241 N. Highway 84 struck a water faucet and curbing owned by Bill Devers of 1609 23rd St.

At 3:59 p.m., officers investigated a two-vehicle accident in the 3800 block of College Avenue. Involved were a 1982 Chevrolet Camero driven by Michael Ross Hill of 6307 Mountain View and a 1994 Chevrolet van driven by William Don Brock of 3209 Lubbock St. A traffic sign was also damaged in the mishap.

Police were contacted at 4:01 p.m. in reference to items stolen from a residence. A report for Class A theft was filed.

At 4:42 p.m., police were advised of a shoplifter in custody at Movies 'n Video. A juvenile was taken to the police station and later released to parents. No charges were filed.

Officers also field a report for Class C assault early this morning.

Researchers discover second breast cancer causing gene

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have captured a second major gene that causes a high inherited risk of breast cancer, a finding that may help researchers find clues for treatment and prevention.

In families with a strong history of breast cancer, women who inherit a defective version of the gene run about an 80 percent lifetime risk of the disease.

The gene is called BRCA2, and the new work follows the identification of BRCA1 just last year. Together, the genes account for perhaps 90 percent of breast cancers from inherited susceptibility, with BRCA2 responsible for maybe 40 percent.

Last year, scientists narrowed the search for BRCA2 to a small area of chromosome 13. In today's issue of the journal Nature, an international research team says it has captured part of BRCA2 itself.

And on Wednesday, Myriad Genetics Inc. of Salt Lake City announced that its scientists had recovered the entire BRCA2 gene. The company plans to use it in combination with BRCA1 to develop a test for predisposition to hereditary breast cancer, the announcement said.

Only about 5 percent to 10 percent of breast cancer cases are thought to come from inheriting a faulty gene. The cause of the vast majority of breast cancers is not known, although scientists are investigating possible hormonal and other triggers.

Scientists hope studying inherited breast cancer genes will teach them about the basic biology of breast cancer, which could someday pay off with new treatments and ways to prevent the disease.

More immediately, the new finding will let members of the relatively few families affected by BRCA2 find out if they carry a flawed version of the gene, which also raises the risk of breast cancer in men. But the researchers who reported their finding in Nature said it's too soon to start testing the general population for the presence of a defective BRCA2 gene.

The Nature report is by Dr. Michael Stratton of the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, England; P. Andrew Futreal of the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.; and others. The paper has 38 authors from six countries.

"I think it's very exciting," said Dr. Barbara Weber, an expert on breast cancer genetics at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

"I think it's going to be a major step forward in terms of understanding breast cancer and in offering susceptibility testing for women at risk of cancer," Weber said.

BRCA2 seems to suppress cancer when it is working normally. When it is defective, this brake is lost.

Everybody inherits two copies of BRCA2, one from each parent. If one copy is defective when inherited, then "every cell in your breast is already primed" for cancer because the single remaining copy can be damaged within the woman's own body, Futreal said.

He also said scientists are working "at a rather feverish pace" to see if such damage to BRCA2 also plays a role in non-inherited breast cancer.

While BRCA2 has the effect of suppressing cancer, scientists don't know what its normal job is, Stratton said.

Travel

Continued From Page 1

tion program."

Thomas also urged motorists to wear safety belts and use child restraints.

Also, the DPS is encouraging motorists to call its toll-free number, 1-800 525-5555, if automotive problems leave them stranded on the roadside this holiday season.

"Not only is breaking down on the highway inconvenient to travelers, it also can be dangerous," Thomas said.

Thomas encouraged motorists to check over their vehicles before traveling during the holidays. Travelers should take blankets and water with them in case they become stranded.

In the event of a breakdown, motorists should leave emergency lights on, stay with the vehicle and call the DPS if they have a cellular phone. Don't take rides from strangers, but ask them to help contact authorities.

To report traffic accidents, erratic drivers or other police emergencies, travelers should call 911. When dialing either number, travelers should try to pinpoint their location by using mile markers or cross streets.

Injury minor as car strikes deer

A Snyder woman escaped serious injury when a deer ran in front of a car she was driving.

Pam Zeck was taken to Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City were she was treated and released. The one-vehicle accident occurred just south of Silver in Coke County about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Zeck's vehicle sustained extensive damage.