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INSIDE
MIT, Quaker Oats Settle Suit 2
N.M. Livestock Fed From Sky 3
Lady Tiger's Rally Falls Short 5
Midday Stocks 7
Scurry County Country 8

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Dec. 31, 1997
Vol. 49 No. 207
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Ricky & Lee Ann Chaidez

Chief says smoking, helmet laws will be enforced

New laws target teens, go into effect Thursday

The majority of Scurry County teen-agers and their counterparts across the state have had two new laws to live under since September, but penalties for disobeying them won't go into effect until Jan. 1.

Which is tomorrow.

Teen-agers under the age of 18 now face fines for using tobacco products and for not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle.

Texas's tough anti-smoking law aimed at teen-agers can find those who break the law in municipal court.

Minors caught smoking the first time and who are ticketed for the offense can take an education course. If the class is successfully completed, the ticket can be wiped from their record.

Those caught a second time, or who don't attend the class, will have to pay a $125-$250 fine or lose their driver's license.

The third time a minor is caught with tobacco, a Class C misdemeanor will be filed. A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by a fine up to $500.

Snyder Police Chief Lannie Lee said his department will be enforcing the penalties from the start.

"We're going to be pretty strict off the bat," said Lee. "Whether a juvenile gets a warning or a citation will depend on the situation."

Lee said most of the department's involvment with underage smoking involves students on and around school property.

"We will continue to work hand-in-hand with the schools on this problem," said Lee.

Lee also said his department will be targeting businesses who sell cigarettes to minors.

"I think we can limit the amount of tobacco in their hands," the chief said.

Lee also said retailers who sell tobacco products to underage Texans face fines or suspended permits. Retailers are responsible for posting warning signs about penalties for violations.

The law also prohibits posting tobacco advertisements within 1,000 feet of a school or church.

Riders and passengers on a bicycle face a $25 fine for not wearing helmets. Repeat offenders could find that amount doubled.

The law requires riders under 18 to wear a properly fitted protective bicycle helmet with a strap. Parents or guardians who knowingly let persons under 18 ride a bicycle without a helmet can also be fined.

This law also requires retailers to inform their customers about the helmet requirements. Also, a bicycle cannot be rented to a person under 18 unless the person possesses a bicycle helmet or is furnished with one.

"We'll be consistent in enforcing penalties for no helmets, also," said Lee. "We won't be selective. "If its law, we'll enforce it."



REQUIRED — A law requiring bicyle riders under the age of 18 to wear a helmet while on public streets, sidewalks, bicycle paths and other areas accessible to the public goes into effect Thursday. Amanda Williams, left, and Lynnette Trevino look at one of the styles available at Western Auto. (SDN Staff Photo)

Mattox seeks old job back

AUSTIN (AP) — Jim Mattox says his ideas have changed but that his commitment to fighting for consumers as a former two-term attorney general of Texas remains steadfast.

Mattox, who held the job of attorney general from 1983 to 1990, on Tuesday officially filed to be on the ballot in the Democratic primary of the attorney general's race.

"I'm older and wiser now," Mattox said. "Times have changed. I will run the attorney general's office so Texas is attractive to business, especially new business.

"We have to reach out to new industries while keeping a close eye on the need for strong anti-trust enforcement."

Mattox, 54, got in the race after incumbent Attorney General Dan Morales, a Democrat, said he would not seek re-election.

Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Morris Overstreet is also seeking the Democratic nomination. On the Republican side, hopefuls are Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson, former state GOP chairman Tom Pauken and former Texas Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn.

Mattox, who referred to himself as "the people's lawyer" while attorney general, cites litigation on behalf of senior citizens, children, small businesses, consumers and the environment as the benchmarks of his administration.

Mattox — a former Dallas County assistant district attorney, state representative and congressman — unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1990 and for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in 1994.

"My 10 years of experience as a prosecutor and as the chief law enforcement officer for our state gives me the best background and credentials for attorney general," Mattox said.

Texas Republican Party Chairwoman Susan Weddington called Mattox recycled goods and "a twice defeated, unabashed liberal."

"The cupboard must really be bare if the Democrats are relying on Jim Mattox and his liberal ideas to resuscitate their statewide ticket."

Hostage situation drags into 2nd day

McKINNEY (AP) — A man ~~Sherissa Lipscomb~~ and 7-year-old Jama Lipscomb, Lipscomb let his 9-year-old son, James II, leave on Monday night.

remained holed up with his estranged common-law wife and two daughters today as police began to worry that the family may be siding increasingly with their captor.

James Riccardo Lipscomb, 43, began the siege on Monday night after he found another man in the apartment of Denise Roach and threatened her with a knife.

Early today, he continued to hold Ms. Roach, along with two of their three children, 12-year-old

Special-weapons crews and other police remained on the sunlit but chilly scene this morning, including an officer covering the back door of the apartment. Some wore camouflage. Otherwise, the scene was quiet, cold and sparsely attended as early morning temperatures dipped into the lower 30s.

Police negotiators have talked with Ms. Roach and Lipscomb Tuesday night and early today, but not with the children.

"She's wanting to be with the kids," Assistant Police Chief Ray Simmons said today.

At times, police have become uncertain as to whose side Ms. Roach is on, her estranged husband's or police's. Occasionally, she has urged police to leave them alone, assuring them that the family will be all right.

"It's kind of like a teeter-totter," Simmons said. "You'd think, 'Let's just pack this thing up and go home,' and then five minutes later you've got the opposite. It's very volatile, and if we pack up and go home, it could get worse."

He added as the ordeal entered its 38th hour: "The longer you go, the family is going to be more drawn in on his side."

Police said the children's release was their first priority today, followed by Ms. Roach's release and Lipscomb's surrender.

Negotiations have been hampered by the man's failure to follow through on his promises, Simmons said.

"He won't make a commitment. What's he's asked for, we've done," he said.

Electricity to the apartment had been shut off Tuesday afternoon. Despite overnight temperatures that dropped into the lower 30s, Police Chief Larry Robinson said the children's safety was not at risk.

"We're being very careful to protect them," he said. Police are promising to feed and care for the children in hopes of inducing their release.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Folks who eat their midnight snacks at 10:30 ought to be able to celebrate the new year at the same time."

Looking back on 1997 — we have to conclude it was a pretty darn good year.

Every year has some individual disappointments and frustrations, but on the whole, we have to rate the past year as positive for Snyder and Scurry County.

It all started with timely rains, breaking a drought that had held a hammer-lock on both farmers and ranchers. The moisture allowed for timely planting, resulting in the best cotton crop since 1989.

A little ag money floating around the community makes a difference — just ask any retail merchant. Good cotton yields resulted in a crop of almost 50,000 bales.

The rains did much more. Needed water found its way to Lake Thomas and put on hold — at least for 1997 — the intake of more salty water from Lake Spence.

There were other highlights. Despite a heated election on the lease of Cogdell Hospital, local citizens were able to accept the decision of the majority and remain friends.

In terms of the hospital, it received its Joint Commission re-accreditation, and St. Mary opened a new family health clinic.

Western Texas College saw the downward trend in enrollment reversed, and in November, the community college completed its 10-year re-accreditation requirements.

After years of planning and fundraising, the much-needed Noah Project shelter will have a spacious new home. Also, the senior center housing corporation received word of grant approval for additional units.

Scurry County United Way saw improved contributions, and for the first time in several years, exceeded its fund goal. There are other positive economic indicators. Sales tax rebates are up, as are local bank deposits.

Local tax values increased for the first time in seven years. This represents some good news in the local petroleum industry. Pennzoil and Snyder Gas Plant came to an operating agreement, saving some 60 jobs.

Pennzoil continues to work to keep production up, which again retains jobs. Exxon is planning a Co2 injection project in the Diamond M field. Another local company, Patterson Petroleum, is showing unprecedented growth and needed additional office

See SDN, Page 9

Thursday...

New year brings holiday

Thursday is New Year's and a holiday for financial institutions and county and city employees in Scurry County.

All of the banks and savings and loans will be closed for Thursday only. Snyder Post Office will also be closed and no mail will be delivered.

City employees will take a one-day holiday and return to work Friday. County employees get both Thursday and Friday off.

The county library, health unit and Senior Center will be closed Thursday, too. The library and health unit will remain closed through the weekend but the Senior Center will open again on Friday.

Madison offenders must advertise guilt

MADISONVILLE (AP) — Some people who used hot checks for their Christmas shopping sprees in Madison County are soon going to get a rude awakening, a judge says.

Convicted shoplifters and hot-check writers will have some new attire as they will be required to advertise their guilt in a very public way.

Madison County Judge Cecil N. Neely said Tuesday he plans to start ordering offenders to wear large signs that state, "I'm a thief." accompanied by either, "I wrote hot checks" or "I stole from this store."

"On top of that, they're going to have to spend two or three hours at a time marching in front of the store where they did the crime," the judge said. "It's not going to be a fun time for them, I assure you. But something has got to be done."

The signs, in bold black-and-red letters, are ready and posted near the district clerk's office and in the county's probation department.

Jade Martin-Bracewell, a Madison County probation officer, said the stack of hot checks at the district clerk's office is growing daily.

"We're seeing the results of some Christmas shopping sprees," she said, "and we're going to have to help these stores get their money back.

"They're calling this new plan the 'shame factor,' which I think is appropriate," she said, adding that other stores in town long have posted prominently the names of hot-check offenders.

"I like the idea of these 'sandwich boards,'" she said. "I'll tell you, seeing somebody walking around with that sign on would be deterrent enough for me if I even were thinking about doing something wrong.

"All you have to do is drive by the Wal-Mart in Huntsville anytime after 2 in the afternoon and you'll see it in action," she said.

ASK US

Q—After the Christmas holidays are over, when is the next school holiday?

A—On Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 61 degrees; low, 27; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 28; no precipitation; total for 1997, 25.69 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, fair evening; then mostly cloudy. Low 35-40. Wind S 5-15 mph. New Year's: Mostly cloudy, breezy. High 60-65. Wind S 15-25 mph. Dry Friday. Rain chance weekend. Lows, 40s. Highs, 60s.



Monica Benavidez
Mostly cloudy

Sunset: 5:51 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:43 a.m.
Of 364 days in 1997, the sun has shone 348 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Do not follow where the path may lead — go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Unknown

DEC 31 1997

MIT, Quaker Oats settle suit about radioactive cereal tests

BOSTON (AP) — A group of former students who ate radioactive oatmeal as unwitting participants in a food experiment will share a $1.85 million settlement from Quaker Oats and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

More than 100 boys at the Fernald School in Waltham were fed cereal containing radioactive iron and calcium in the 1940s and 1950s. The diet was part of an experiment to prove the nutrients in Quaker oatmeal travel throughout the body.

Quaker and MIT agreed last week to pay to settle the class action lawsuit. A hearing is scheduled April 6 to finalize the settlement.

Quaker Oats officials wanted to match the advertising claims of their competitor, farina-based Cream of Wheat, said Alexander Bok, one of the plaintiffs' 15 lawyers.

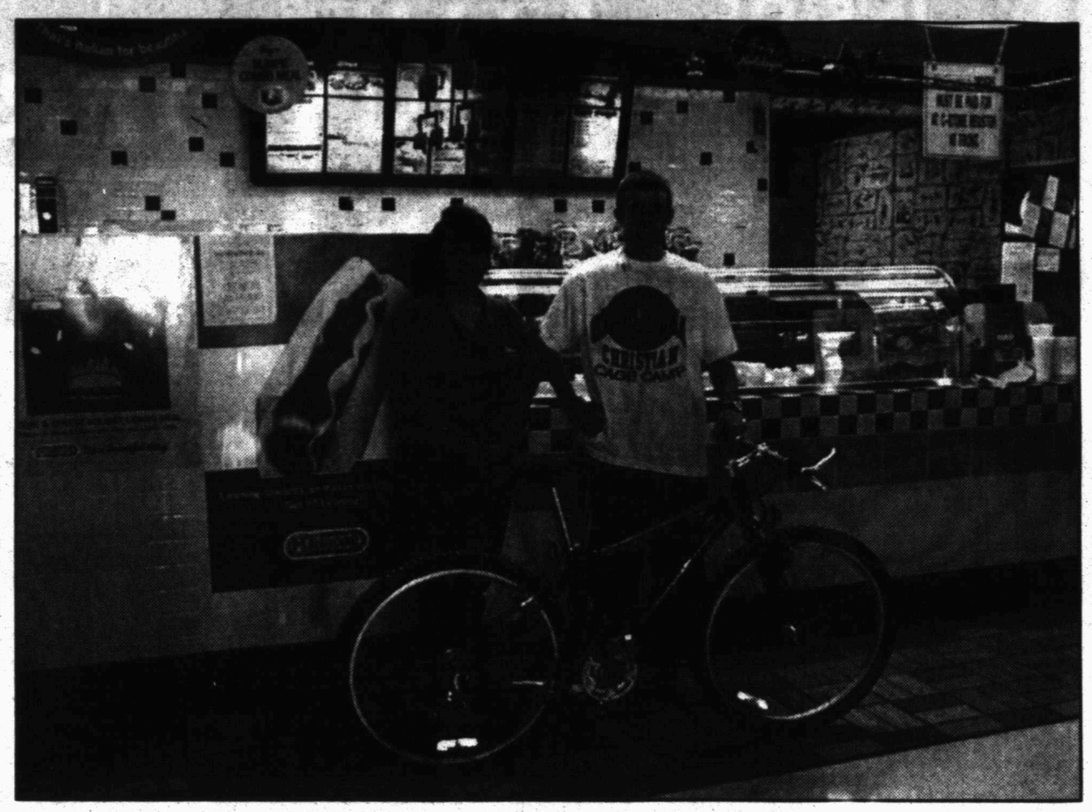
"It's a violation of your civil rights, which is why they're paying $1.8 million to treat a minor as a guinea pig and to feed them radiation," Bok said Tuesday.

The boys — many of whom were wards of the state and inaccurately classified as mentally retarded — joined the "Fernald Science Club" in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

A $60 million lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court two years ago alleging the children were tricked into joining the science club in order to participate in the nutritional tracer experiments. The suit claims some were exposed to more radiation than allowed under federal limits.

"They put out a consent form that neglects to mention that there's radioactivity (in the oatmeal)," said Bok. "If the radiation was okay, why didn't they disclose it?"

MIT said in a statement Tuesday that the exposure to radiation was about equal to the natural background radiation people are exposed to from the environment every year.



BIKE WINNER — During the holidays, Greg McAnaw won the drawing for the bicycle given away by Blimpie's Subs and Salads, located in Plaza Truck Stop on Highway 84 and Huffman Ave. Manager Margaret Munoz presented the Schwinn Moab Mountain Bike to McAnaw. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Endangered species policy put on hold

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under pressure from environmentalists, the government has put on hold a policy that exempts landowners from the Endangered Species Act if they voluntarily protect fish and wildlife.

The Clinton administration agreed to stop issuing permits under the policy for two months after missing a court-ordered deadline Monday in a lawsuit brought by eight environmental groups against the "no surprises" strategy. Interior Department spokeswoman Stephanie Hanna said existing protection agreements would remain in place despite the moratorium on new permits.

"It is a victory for us but it's only temporary," said Leona Klippstein, conservation director for one of the plaintiffs, the Spirit of the Sage based in Pasadena, Calif.

The policy, informally in effect since 1994, promises private land owners that if they meet certain habitat conservation requirements, they won't be subject to more rigid prohibitions in the future on land uses such as logging, mining and livestock grazing.

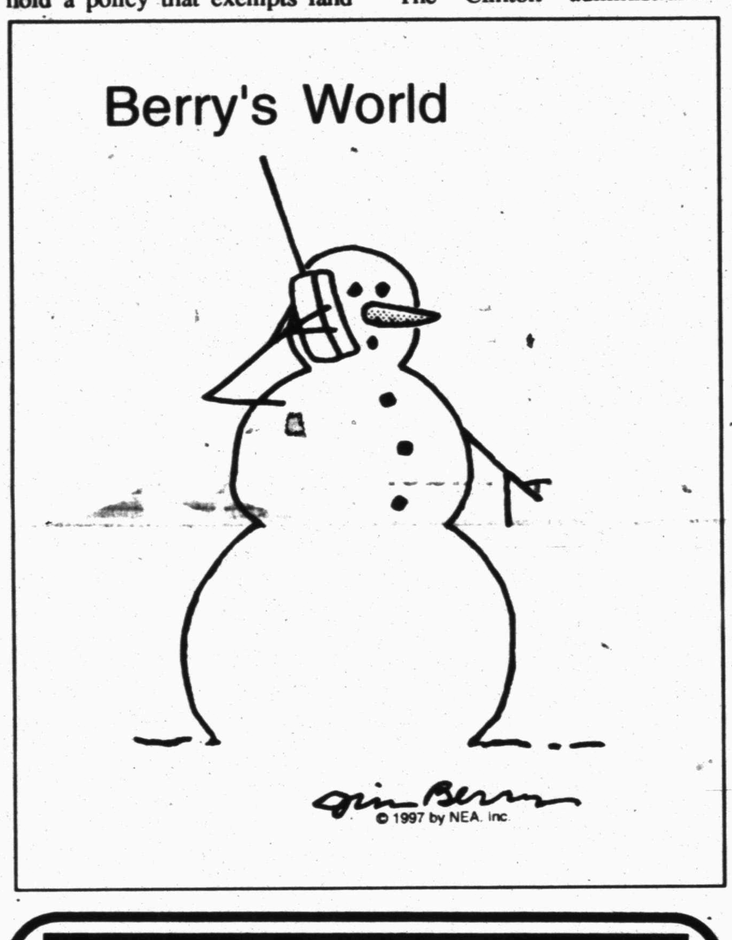
The policy has won President Clinton and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt rare praise from those industries as well as private property defenders in Congress, and has emerged as a key element of Senate legislation that would rewrite the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Critics say, however, that the voluntary agreements don't adequately protect endangered fish and wildlife from extinction, especially if circumstances change due to natural disasters or further loss of habitat.

"Making century-long assurances to developers and timber companies ... is ecologically unrealistic," Klippstein said Tuesday.

The lawsuit filed in November 1996 says the Interior Department never formally adopted the policy, subject to public comment, and therefore can't legally enforce it.

The department was supposed to issue its final rules on Monday, but instead asked U.S. District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin of the District of Columbia for another extension until Feb. 17.



911 system down for nearly two hours in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A failed switch caused the 911 emergency telephone system to go down for nearly two hours in the nation's second largest city.

No unusual levels of crime or fire were reported during the failure Tuesday night as police scrambled to divert calls to local stations and the fire department sent helicopters aloft to scout for any signs of trouble.

Police routed calls through a backup system that uses short-wave radio. The city Fire Department apparently experienced a systemwide 911 breakdown and used alternative local telephone numbers that were broadcast over local media.

"The system failed, but the people behind the system ... immediately placed backup plans into effect, similar to what they would do after an earthquake," said fire spokesman Brian Humphrey.

Pacific Bell technicians determined the breakdown was caused by a switch failure in a number of circuits that all converge at the downtown dispatch center.

The Sheriff's Department's 911 system was operating, but people who heard about the problems clogged agency lines, Deputy Henry Garza said.

Police Capt. Mike Downing, who commands the city's Central Dispatch Center, said calls were rerouted to 18 local police divisions. The downtown dispatch center handles between 5,000 and 10,000 calls per day.

A similar breakdown occurred last month.

In the early hours of Nov. 10, hundreds of police officers lost normal radio communications with the city's 911 dispatchers for several hours due to a technical malfunction, possibly in a battery-charging system.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1997

In the year ahead, you could make an important friend in your chosen field of endeavor. This alliance will grow in strength and each party will derive benefits in special ways.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be aware that your abilities supersede the faith you have in yourself. You do not need the approval of others before doing what you need to do. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper. P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The aspects indicate that spontaneous developments will offer you the greatest promise today. Try to balance your agenda against new events.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Shifting conditions could develop in a manner that will enable you to tie up an important matter today. Make this your top priority assignment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will not inconvenience anyone if you drop in on an old friend uninvited. Your pal might be happier to see you than you are to see him or her.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Good things could come in pairs today. You might have two opportunities, but one will be materially based, while the other will pertain to intangibles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can set a positive example today that will uplift the spirits and courage of those who emulate you. Do not hide your light under a bushel.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Something of special importance might undergo a favorable transformation today. This shifting condition could result in benefits for everyone involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Project yourself into events or activities today that could provide you with opportunities to meet new people. Valuable associations could ensue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Matters that have a direct affect upon your career should not be treated with indifference today. You are on a lucky roll, so make the most of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Enterprises that are a tad daring and innovative are likely to be the most successful ones for you today. Use your imagination!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you've been anxious to get your mate's consent on a critical change you want to make, this is a good day to put the issue on the table.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have some big pluses going for you today that will become evident once you are challenged. You are a fast thinker with profound judgment.

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N.M. livestock getting fed, some from sky

VAUGHN, N.M. (AP) — Tens of thousands of livestock stranded on snow-covered range land in eastern New Mexico are finally getting fed — some from the heavens.

Ranchers broke through snowdrifts on Tuesday in an attempt to reach their scattered herds, feed them, and assess the damage.

Two Air National Guard C-130 cargo planes dropped the first 24 tons of hay on ranches in hard-hit Chaves County. Twelve drops were done Tuesday and more were planned for today.

"The air drop has gone pretty well," said Bob Redden, a spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Management. "They've been able to deliver bales of hay within 50 to 70 yards of a herd."

"What we're trying to do right now is get calories into the cattle, to keep their body heat up so they don't subject themselves to hypothermia," said Lou Gallegos, chief of staff to Gov. Gary Johnson.

Johnson and Gallegos toured some affected counties by helicopter and Gallegos said they saw no dead or downed livestock.

"I saw a whole lot of cattle that were standing up and moving toward water, which is a very good sign," Gallegos said.

Herds of sheep as well as cattle were the targets of the hay, Redden said.

The C-130s from Texas and Oklahoma that flew on Tuesday were to be joined today by three more planes, two from Oklahoma and one from Wyoming.

Civil Air Patrol planes were to begin spotting herds in Lincoln and Guadalupe counties so the drops could begin there once Chaves was completed, Redden said.

Despite the effort, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association estimated Tuesday that as many as 35,000 head of cattle and 60,000 head of sheep could die in a nine-county area. No precise figures were available.

"These animals aren't prepared for this kind of cold," said Caren Cowan, executive secretary of the association. "They're already stressed with the cold, then they have no feed or water on top of that. It makes it really tough."

Eastern New Mexico was battered by a series of snow storms last week, and high winds blew the few feet of fallen snow into drifts that ranged from 8 feet to 14 feet.

Crusted snow prevented livestock from grazing and ice covered their water tanks.

"We've already got some dead, especially among young cattle," said Leo Larranaga, ranch manager of the 260,000-acre Lobo Ranch near Vaughn.

Larranaga, driving a truck piled with hay bales and food pellets, followed a front-end loader that was clearing a path on a snowy pasture. Larranaga and his crew wanted to drive the cattle — which they hadn't seen since Christmas Day — closer to the ranch house.

"A cow gives up awful, awful easy ... they just won't move. It's a real dire situation," said Norm Plank, executive vice president of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau.

Cattle will crowd together along a fence and stand still, tails to the wind, while snow drifts over them, Plank said. They freeze to death.

"The first and most major thing is to get them food," he said. "The cattle are isolated back in the pastures with heavy snowdrifts. We can't get into them with any equipment right now. They've tried horseback, but the horses play out."

The livestock industry — cattle, dairy cows and sheep — is a $1.1 billion business in New Mexico. As of Jan. 1, 1997, there were nearly 1.5 million beef cattle, 197,000 milk cows, and 235,000 sheep in the state, according to the New Mexico Livestock Board.

Small town busy after snow closes roads

VAUGHN, N.M. (AP) — Tiny Vaughn — with its six motels completely booked and as many as 100 semi trucks stuck in a traffic jam at the center of town — has been overwhelmed by snow.

Gov. Gary Johnson visited Tuesday and his chief of staff, Lou Gallegos, estimated the number of trucks lined up through Vaughn.

"There is a tremendous amount of snow over there and it's clear the winds have been ferocious," Gallegos said.

The traffic jam began to clear Tuesday evening with the reopening of N.M. 54, which remained icy and slick.

"I was supposed to be at work Friday morning. It doesn't look like I'll make it," said Tom Dodds, an accountant for a foundry in Douglassville, Pa. "I've got 2,000 miles to go."

Dodds, on his way home from a visit to his daughter in Nogales, Ariz., got stranded in Vaughn on Monday afternoon by the closure of N.M. 54. He spent the night in his pickup truck outside a convenience store.

Clobbered by a series of storms during the Christmas holidays, this crossroads town of 600 became a haven for stranded motorists after winds whipped 2 feet of snow into 8-foot drifts, closing nearby highways.

"It's been the North Pole in the middle of New Mexico," said Peggy Gallegos, a high school teacher and coordinator of the local ambulance service.

There were sleeping bags piled on the wooden floor of the town hall's auditorium Tuesday, remnants of a snowy siege.

Urns of coffee, stacks of sandwich bread and jars of peanut butter awaited any stray traveler who might still wander through.

The town's six small motels quickly filled up, and Gallegos estimated that up to 600 people had spent a night in the town hall in the last week.

At its peak, on Saturday night, there were 300 people in the large auditorium, Gallegos said. And there were still a few people on Monday night.

Versace case closed; however some questions unanswered

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — In the days after Gianni Versace was gunned down, police learned much about the lifestyle of the fashion designer and the man who killed him.

But as they closed the investigation, police couldn't say whether the two men knew each other or what motivated Andrew Cunanan to kill Versace on July 15 outside the designer's mansion.

Cunanan, 27, shot himself a week later on a houseboat he was using as a hideout 40 blocks from the murder scene. Investigators believe Cunanan killed four others before Versace in a cross-country spree that began in March.

Police released more than 900 pages of documents and 1,000 photos Tuesday detailing dozens of real and false leads generated by the intense manhunt for Versace's killer. None of the photos were of the autopsy; Versace family members filed a lawsuit to keep the photos private, and police withheld them until the matter goes before a judge.

Police learned that Cunanan's reading tastes ranged from the scholarly — copies of "How the Irish Saved Civilization" and "The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art" were found in his hotel room — to gay pornography.

Cunanan also had expensive and extravagant tastes in clothing and night life, probably beyond his means. Credit card records showed Cunanan spent nearly $1,200 at a Japanese restaurant in Beverly Hills $1,200 at a Nieman Marcus store and more than $1,300 on food at a San Francisco hotel.

Cunanan crossed the country with guides to gay night life in several cities — New York, New Orleans, Key West. Police allege Cunanan killed two acquaintances in Minneapolis, a millionaire developer in Chicago, and another man in New Jersey.

Police also learned Versace and his companion, Antonio D'Amico, sometimes hired male escorts.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

Bilingual AA meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 8 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.

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 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.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

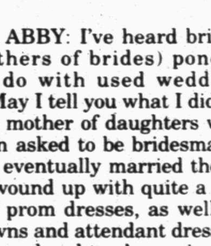
ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

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

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Careful Planning Is Crucial Before Battered Wife Flees

DEAR ABBY: It appears to me that "Living a Nightmare" is ready to leave her abusive husband. The booklet you suggested may be helpful, but she may not have time to wait for its arrival, or her husband may beat her if he discovers it in the mail.

She needs someone to tell her, "Leave *now*; you are ready!" She should decide where to go and what to take with her. She should pack lightly, and take nothing that would reveal her whereabouts. She should enlist the support of a few trustworthy friends and family members, as well as the law. Above all, her plans and her location should *not* be revealed to her husband, for he will resort to extreme violence to try to stop her. You can count on that.

"Living a Nightmare," my prayers are with you. I used to think the only way I'd survive my situation would be if my abuser died. I was wrong. I left, and it was easier than I'd ever imagined. That was 12 years ago. I am now married to a man who treasures my physical and emotional well-being. You deserve the same.

BEEN THERE IN STOCKTON

DEAR BEEN THERE: The most dangerous time for the victim is when she decides to leave. Her batterer's mental state can run the gamut from disturbed to downright psychotic. It is essential that the victim have a well-thought-out plan of action ready. That is what the booklet I recommended in my column was designed to provide.

Please note that I also said it should be purchased by someone close to the victim, so that it will not be discovered on the premises or in the mail by the batterer.

Many times over the years I have urged battery victims to leave their batterer. However, the decision when to make that move is a very delicate and personal one. The timing cannot be decided "for" someone, no matter how well meaning one is.

DEAR ABBY: My husband stops and picks up the local newspaper every morning from a vending machine on our way to work. The other morning, a girl who appeared to be about 6 was in front of him in line, buying the paper for her mother, who was sitting in the car. The child put the money for one paper in the slot and took *two* newspapers!

My husband said to her, "Oh, is this two-for-one day?" The child did not reply. She just took the two newspapers to her mother.

Abby, this is stealing, pure and simple. I wonder what this mother is going to think when her daughter becomes a teen and gets arrested for shoplifting at the mall? I suppose she'll wonder where her daughter got the idea that it is OK to take something without paying for it. I hope she reads this and recognizes herself.

DISGUSTED IN DELMAR, N.Y.

DEAR DISGUSTED: The mother missed an opportunity to teach her child right from wrong. (No wonder many of our newspapers are worried about declining circulation dollars.) If the child took the extra newspaper in error, the mother should have instructed her to put it back. However, if she put the child up to it — shame on her.

DEAR ABBY: I've heard brides (and mothers of brides) ponder what to do with used wedding dresses. May I tell you what I did?

As the mother of daughters who were often asked to be bridesmaids and were eventually married themselves, I wound up with quite a collection of prom dresses, as well as bridal gowns and attendant dresses.

With my daughters' permission, I called the local Little Theater, and they were thrilled to pick up the gowns to add to their costume wardrobe! I was delighted that they would be useful to someone. In addition, I gained valuable storage space — so everybody benefited.

MRS. C.D. DAVIS, SAND SPRINGS, OKLA.

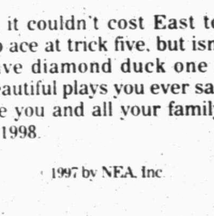
DEAR MRS. DAVIS: For those who are not emotionally attached to their special-occasion gowns, that's an excellent suggestion. I'm sure many readers will be inspired by it.

DEAR READERS: Have a happy, healthy and prosperous 1998. And remember, if you're driving, don't drink; and if you're drinking, don't drive.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 12-31-97
♠ 10 6 2
♥ 9 5 2
♦ 9 7 6 5 3
♣ 5 4

West
♠ K
♥ A K 8 7 3
♦ Q 10 8
♣ K J 9 2

East
♠ 7 4
♥ Q J 6 4
♦ J 4
♣ A Q 8 7 3

South
♠ A Q J 9 8 5 3
♥ 10
♦ A K 2
♣ 10 6

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	4 NT
Dbl.	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	5 ♠	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♥ K

My favorite

In "Tom Jones," Henry Fielding wrote, "Every physician almost hath his favorite disease." Well, every bridge writer hath — sorry, has — his favorite deal. Modesty forbids my showing you mine. However, on this, the last day of the year, I will present my favorite play of 1997. It occurred during the European Women's Pairs Championship. The defending champions were Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim from Germany (though Sabine now lives in Denmark with her husband, Jens). Is it surprising that they won again if they can play like this?

After West started with her two top hearts, do you see any way to hoodwink the opponents into allowing five spades to make?

East's four no-trump showed length in two suits. When Auken (South) doubled, she announced a strong hand for her four-spade opening. Von Arnim (North) could have passed out five clubs doubled and collected 200, but she was afraid that West was void of spades.

After ruffing the second heart, Auken cashed the spade ace, dropping the king. Now, in tempo, she continued with the diamond *two*.

East was completely taken in. She won with the jack and returned her remaining diamond. Declarer won with the ace, drew the last trump, unblocked her diamond king, played a spade to dummy's 10, and discarded her club losers on the diamond winners.

True, it couldn't cost East to cash the club ace at trick five, but isn't that deceptive diamond duck one of the most beautiful plays you ever saw?

I hope you and all your family have a great 1998.

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NOTICE!!

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

NO CHARGE

Dec. 27, 1997 thru Jan. 5, 1998

Trees may be taken to the collection site at 30th and Ave. Q (south side of 30th) for chipping.

Please be sure all spikes, nails, etc. have been removed. No flocked or artificial trees.

After Jan. 5 all trees must be carried to the landfill.

Mulch may be picked up anytime it is available at no charge. Please bring your own container, shovel, etc.

City of Snyder

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107 Portraits
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25 Wallets
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Subject fee of $4.95 per person photographed, payable when portraits are taken. Pose for advertised portraits our selection. Your favorite props welcome. No limit on the number of advertised collections per family, but only one advertised collection per subject, please. Additional poses taken for optional collection with no obligation to purchase. All ages welcome (minors under 18 must be accompanied by a parent). Groups limited to six or fewer. Sorry, no pets. Sizes approximate.

WAL★MART
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(Or Store Opening if Later)
7 p.m. (or Store Closing, if Earlier)
Snyder, (College Ave.)

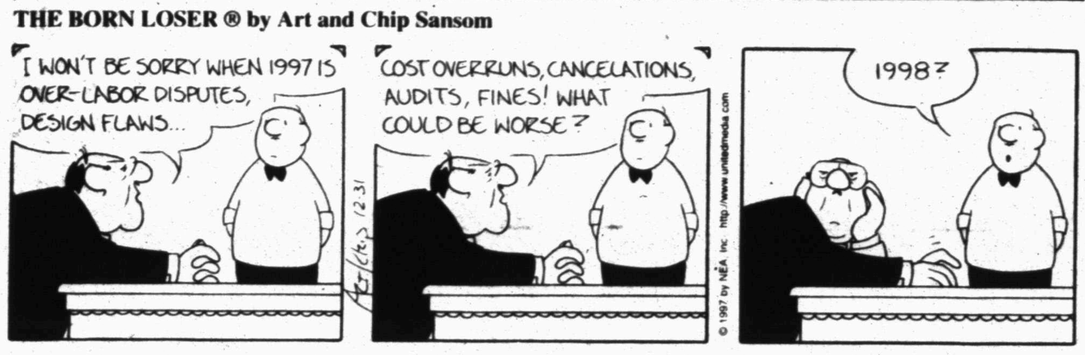
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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



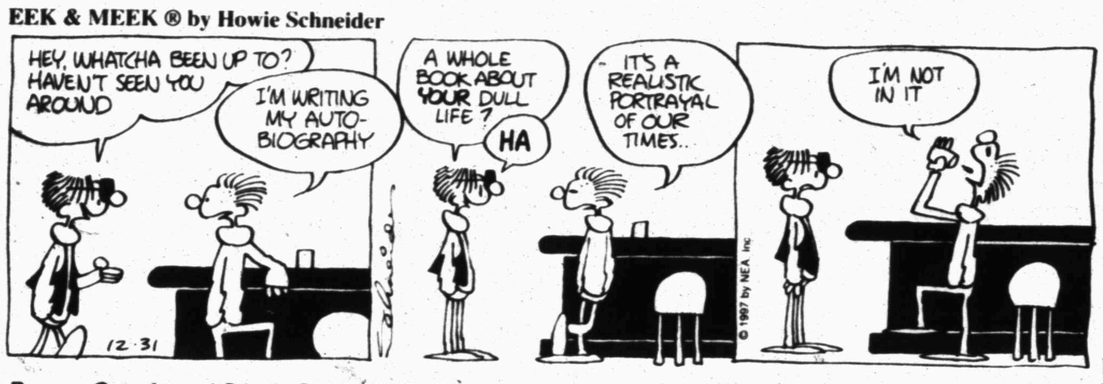
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



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

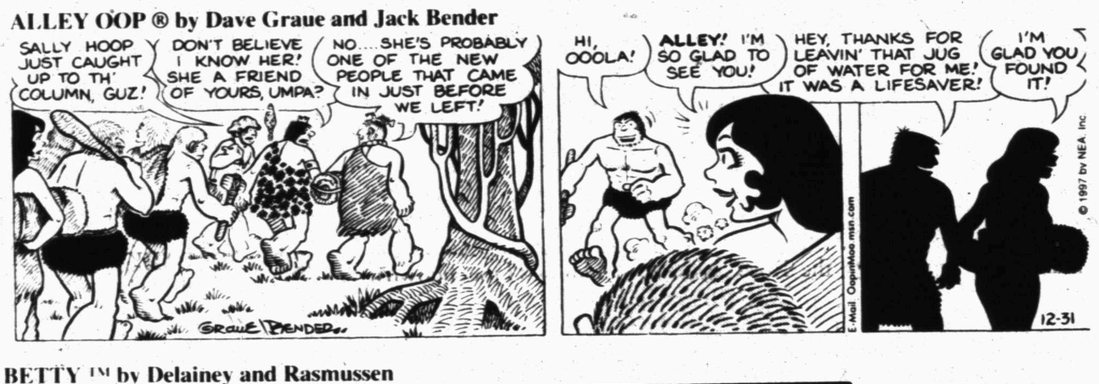
E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



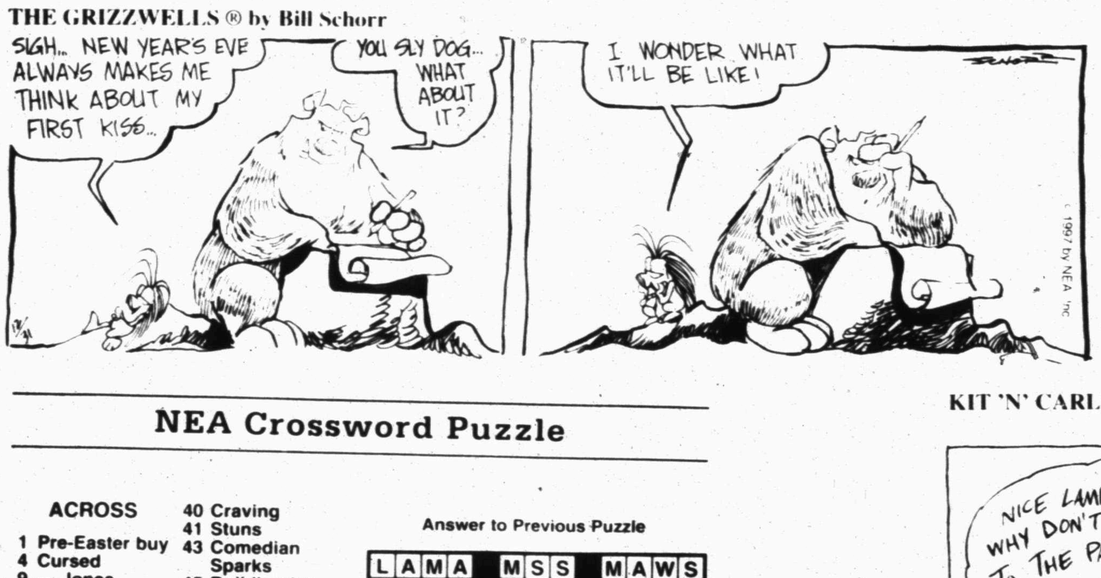
BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



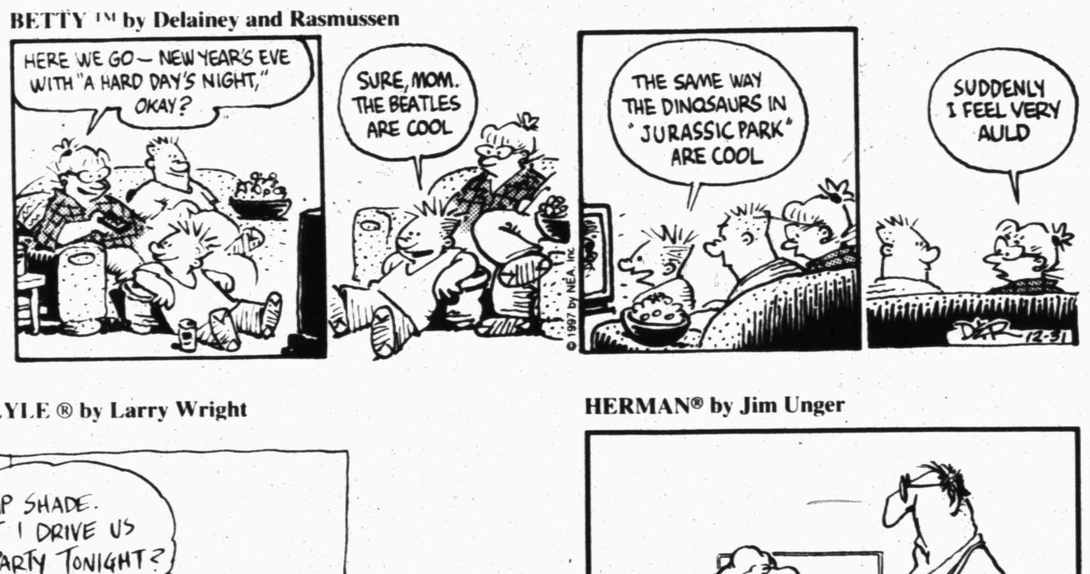
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Pre-Easter buy
4 Cursed
9 — Jones averages
12 Actor Johnson
13 Skeleton part
14 — out (stretch)
15 Struggling (over decisions)
17 Old age
18 — Arafat
19 Eastern priests
21 Bikini part
23 Ending for auction
24 Appealing to sight, etc.
28 Thatch palm
32 Language suffix
33 Motor noise
34 Served perfectly
35 Tardy
37 Singer Martin
39 Individual
40 Craving
41 Stuns
43 Comedian Sparks
45 Building lot
46 Cheers!
49 Now
53 Pt. of ESL
54 Grant as a privilege
58 Long fish
59 Follow
60 Congressional output
61 Poor mark
62 More sensible
63 Hesitation sounds

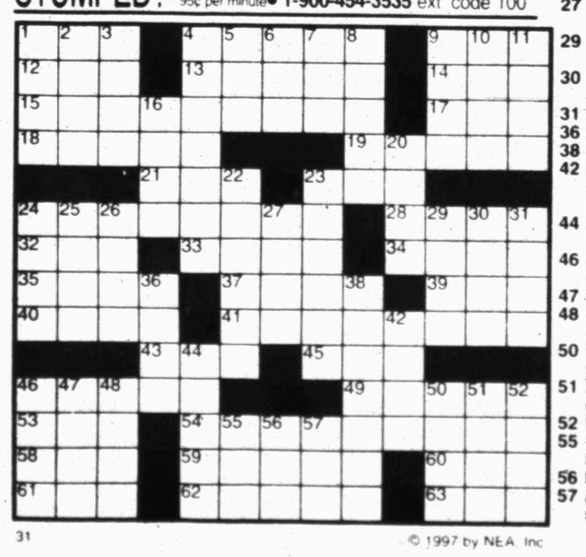
DOWN

1 1944 invasion date
2 Exercise system
3 Adam's grandson
4 Rider's gear
5 Gifted person
6 Kimono sash
7 — Tin Tin
8 Golf score
9 Judge
10 South of Kans.
11 Marries
16 Pen tips
20 Wild buffalo
22 Wild sheep
23 Real — agent
24 Broker's advice
25 Jacob's twin
26 Fishing aids
27 Southwestern Indians
29 Computer-screen image
30 Remain undecided
31 Fruity drinks
36 Alcohol lamp
38 Strong wind
42 Flying saucers (abbr.)
44 Santa's helpers
46 Future plant
47 Type of jerk
48 Amorous look
50 Cowgirl Evans
51 At a distance
52 Evergreens
55 — — Clear Day
56 Naval abbr.
57 Actor's signal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for Answers ● Touch-tone or Rotary Phones 95¢ per minute● 1-900-454-3535 ext. code 100



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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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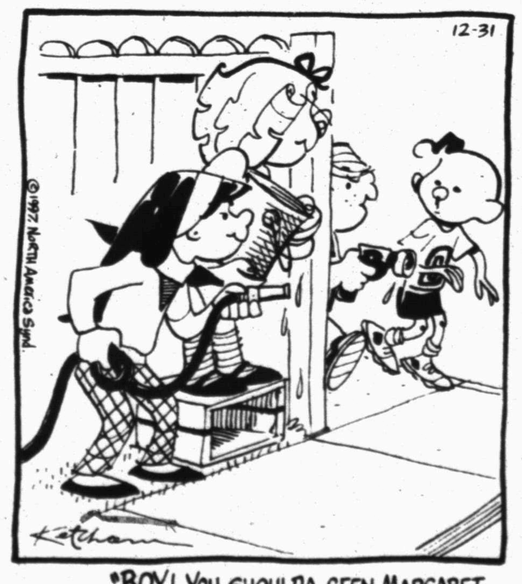


"For heaven's sake, man, *turn him around*!"

HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"I think I'll sell all my jewelry. I need the five dollars."



"BOY! YOU SHOULDA SEEN MARGARET AND GINA RUN WHEN I SQUIRTED 'EM!"



Lad rall

LUBBOCK the biggest co memory for th
Almost.
After trailing final quarter clawed its way of the lead befo Brownfield.
The loss k Tigers out of th ment and leave season, ente contest at Big
Tuesday in Lady Cubs ea
Brownfield with a 6-0 r margin to 13-4 first quarter halftime.
But the Lady ed by as many third, got thin second half.

Rose Davi

PASADENA Ryan Leaf a receivers of have undermi Price's carefull mystique. One image will be
Price, once Cougars, revel team as David f ball's Goliaths. Cougars aim No. 1 Michigan
Michigan (1 its first natio since 1948. (10-1), with a N the highest in making its firs Bowl in 67 y
"We're a m not all a bunch blue chips," Pr like turning ov finding the guy has recruited."
The contras schools' traditi
The Wolve wins (775) than football team a their 29th bowl State will be in i son game in 10
Michigan h Trophy winner son, a cornerba receiver and als punt returner. quarterback, Br



EASTERN Atlant

NewJersey
Philadelphia
Washington
N.Y.Rangers
N.Y.Islanders
Florida
TampaBay

Northe

Pittsburgh
Montreal
Ottawa
Boston
Carolina
Buffalo

WESTERN Centr

Dallas
Detroit
St.Louis
Phoenix
Chicago
Toronto

Pacif

Colorado
LosAngeles
SanJose
Anaheim
Edmonton
Calgary
Vancouver

Tuesda
Carolina 2, Anah
Chicago 6, New
San Jose 2, Flori
Philadelphia 3, E

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Carolina at Pittsb
Ottawa at Buffal
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Boston at Toront
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Montreal at Calg
Los Angeles at
N.Y. Islanders at
Philadelphia at V

Thursd
New Jersey at Fl
Anaheim at Wash
Ottawa at Boston
Toronto at Chica
Los Angeles at

SPORTS

Lady Tigers make furious rally before falling, 44-41

LUBBOCK — It was almost the biggest comeback in recent memory for the Lady Tigers.

Almost.

After trailing by 15 points in the final quarter Tuesday, Snyder clawed its way back to within one of the lead before falling, 44-41, to Brownfield.

The loss knocked the Lady Tigers out of the Caprock Tournament and leaves them at 9-7 on the season, entering Saturday's contest at Big Spring.

Tuesday in Lubbock, it was all Lady Cubs early on.

Brownfield opened the game with a 6-0 run, extending the margin to 13-4 at the end of the first quarter and 28-15 by halftime.

But the Lady Tigers, who trailed by as many as 19 points in the third, got things rolling in the second half.

Powered by buckets from Ashley Delce and Kameron Kallemeyn, and a three-pointer from Shannon Hall, Snyder went on an 8-2 run in the third period.

The Lady Tigers were on the bottom end of a 38-23 tally heading into the final quarter, but began the final eight minutes with another scoring streak.

Alicia Peoples began dominating on the inside, pouring in nine unanswered points to cap a 13-0 Snyder run.

With the Lady Tigers down by only a duece, Brownfield's Jenny Andrews connected on two free throws at the 3:53 mark to put the deficit back to four points.

Trailing, 40-36, senior Melanie Kidd took over for Snyder.

Kidd, who posted the Lady Tigers' final five points, cut the margin to two with a layup.

Following a pair of Brownfield free throws, Snyder was once again down by four with only 1½ minutes remaining on the clock.

Kidd was true on one of two foul shots, then following a Lady Cub turnover, the Snyder senior was fouled hauling in an offensive rebound.

With the clock showing only 34 seconds left, Kidd calmy drained both free throws to trim the deficit to a single point.

Unable to steal the inbounds pass, Snyder was forced to foul.

Brownfield's Victoria Cummings made both shots, bringing the score to 44-41.

The Lady Tigers had one last chance, but could not find the mark as time expired.

Peoples led Snyder with 11 points, while Hall poured in three long-range baskets for 10 more.

The Lady Tigers' 6 p.m. contest with Big Spring will be their last tune-up before district play begins.

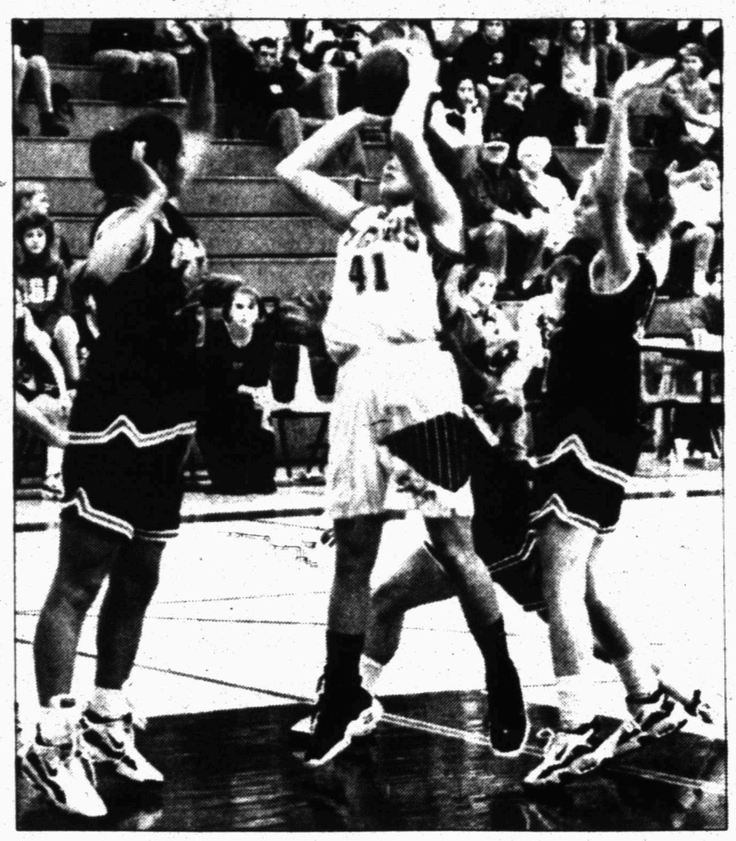
Snyder tips off 2-4A competition at 6:30 Tuesday in Lamesa.

BROWNFIELD — Andrews 2 2-4 6, Cummings 4 8-8 17, Gonzales 3 4-6 10, Evans 0 1-2 1, Caswell 1 2-2 4, Owen 2 1-1 5, Isaacs 0 1-1 1. Totals 12 19-24 44.

SNYDER — Hall 3 1-6 10, Delce 2 0-0 4, Peoples 5 1-1 11, Burleson 0 1-2 1, Kidd 3 3-4 9, Kallemeyn 2 1-2 5, Murray 0 1-2 1, Kidd 3 3-4 9. Totals 15 8-17 41.

Brownfield	**13**	**15**	**10**	**6 — 44**
Snyder	**4**	**11**	**8**	**18 — 41**

Three-point goals: Brownfield 1 (Cummings), Snyder 3 (Hall). Total fouls: Brownfield 18, Snyder 22. Fouled out: Brownfield — Caswell; Snyder — Peoples.



UNDER DURESS — Snyder junior Mandy Hess puts up a shot in traffic Tuesday during the Lady Tigers' contest with Brownfield. Snyder cut a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to one, before falling, 44-41. (SDN Photo by Eric Drennan)

Eagle press cuffs Tigers

Abilene 56, Snyder 45

LUBBOCK — At times, it might have seemed to the Tigers like there were six Abilene High Eagles on the court.

Facing a suffocating press Tuesday from Abilene, Snyder committed 10 second-half turnovers as it fell, 56-45, at the Caprock Tournament.

The Tigers were to have played their final tourney contest this afternoon against district foe Lubbock Estacado.

After discarding Dimmitt and Lubbock Coronado in the opening two rounds, Snyder struggled with the pressure applied by the Eagles.

The Tigers could muster only 15 points in the first half to trail, 23-15, entering the third quarter.

After trading baskets for much of the period, Snyder put together its first small rally to close out the third.

Jimmy Taylor and Chad Carter connected on two buckets apiece, capping an 8-3 Tiger streak.

Trailing by seven points to start the final quarter, Taylor grabbed an offensive rebound and was fouled on the putback.

The 6-6 senior drained the free throw to complete the three-point play and bring Snyder to within four of the lead.

But the Eagles kept the pressure on, sinking a trio of three-pointers over the final six minutes.

The Tigers would get within four once more on a short Cory Mandrell jumper, but Abilene answered again with five straight points.

The loss leaves the Tigers at 10-8 on the season.

Following today's contest with Estacado, Snyder will be on the court again Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock when it visits San Angelo Central.

The Tigers begin district play Jan. 13 at Frenship.

ABILENE — Busch 4 0-1 10, Perkins 0 1-3 1, Crisp 2 1-2 5, Massey 4 2-3 11, Acree 4 2-3 10, Dolton 2 2-2 6, Eckert 3 4-4 11, Blake 1 0-0 2. Totals 20 12-20 56.

SNYDER — Riggins 4 3-5 11, Taylor 7 1-6 15, Carter 4 4-6 12, Durham 1 1-1 3, Mandrell 2 0-0 4. Totals 18 9-18 45.

Abilene	**12**	**11**	**11**	**21 — 56**
Snyder	**9**	**6**	**12**	**18 — 45**

Three-point goals: Abilene 4 (Busch 2, Massey, Eckert). Total fouls: Abilene 22, Snyder 17. Fouled out: Snyder — Riggins, Taylor.

Rose Bowl to resemble David vs Goliath battle

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Ryan Leaf and the Fab Five receivers of Washington State have undermined coach Mike Price's carefully crafted underdog mystique. One more win, and that image will be gone forever.

Price, once a walk-on for the Cougars, revels in portraying his team as David facing college football's Goliaths. On Thursday, the Cougars aim their slingshots at No. 1 Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

Michigan (11-0) will be seeking its first national championship since 1948. Washington State (10-1), with a No. 8 ranking that's the highest in school history, is making its first trip to the Rose Bowl in 67 years.

"We're a mixed breed. We're not all a bunch of All-Americans, blue chips," Price said. "I kind of like turning over the rocks and finding the guy that no one else has recruited."

The contrasts between the schools' traditions are stark.

The Wolverines have more wins (775) than any other college football team and are playing in their 29th bowl game. Washington State will be in its seventh postseason game in 102 years of football.

Michigan has the Heisman Trophy winner in Charles Woodson, a cornerback who doubles as receiver and also is dangerous as a punt returner. The Wolverines' quarterback, Brian Griese, is the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese.

The Cougars' starting lineup includes five players who were walk-ons, and several more rejected by other schools, including running back Michael Black — who served 26 months in juvenile centers after convictions for armed robbery and auto theft as a teen-ager.

The matchup that has drawn the most attention is Leaf vs. Woodson, especially since the Washington State quarterback has vowed to go right after the Wolverines' best defender.

Leaf threw for 3,637 yards this season, including 33 touchdowns, in leading the Cougars to an average of 42.5 points and 502 yards of total offense per game — both marks that ranked second in the nation.

"There isn't a team that we're going to have as much trouble matching up with as Washington State, and it all starts with the guy throwing the ball," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "If we don't get pressure on Ryan Leaf, it's going to be a long day."

The self-christened Fab Five — Shawn McWashington, Shawn Tims, Chris Jackson, Kevin McKenzie and Nian Taylor — have combined for 186 receptions and 30 TDs this season. McKenzie leads the Cougars with 50 catches.

Levy's reign in Buffalo might be over

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — An expected shakeup among Buffalo Bills' offensive assistants intensified Tuesday, and now could include the retirement of head coach Marv Levy.

Bills owner Ralph Wilson was expected to meet with Levy on Wednesday — for the second time in less than a week. Wilson flew in from his home in West Palm Beach, Fla. Traveling to Buffalo at this time of year is unusual for the owner unless a major change was being made.

The Bills would not confirm speculation that Levy, 72, would step down as coach after taking the team to four Super Bowls to start the 1990s. No news conference was scheduled.

Buffalo general manager John Butler refused to confirm or deny whether Levy would retire when reached at home late Tuesday.

'There is nothing to report," team spokesman Scott Berchtold said.

Team sources said Levy mentioned nothing about retirement when he met with the coaching staff on Monday. Levy and Wilson have not returned telephone calls seeking comment.

A day after Buffalo finished 6-10 this season, Levy refused to say whether he would return for another season and become the oldest coach in NFL history. He met with Wilson last weekend.

Aggies sidestep NCAA to honor injured alum

DALLAS (AP) — Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen, who has made the all-Big 12 teams the last two years, said injured Detroit linebacker Reggie Brown taught him how to compete and be humble.

"He's one of the greatest all-around persons I've ever known," Nguyen said. "He was fun to be around. He taught me a lot about intensity and giving your best."

So it was no wonder the Aggies wanted to honor their former teammate, who suffered a probably career-ending neck injury late in the Lions' 13-10 victory Dec. 21 over the New York Jets. Doctors say he is responding to treatment after neck surgery.

The Aggies were going to wear a decal with the No. 59 on it in the Cotton Bowl game on Thursday against No. 5-ranked UCLA, but the NCAA ruled against it. The NCAA cited a statute that limits honorary helmet displays to college players who died during the season.

Now, the Aggies plan to wear a T-shirt with the No. 59 on it under their jerseys.

Nguyen said some players will also honor Brown, who has spinal cord damage, in other ways.

"We'll have his number on socks and sweat bands," Nguyen said. "We just want him to know we're thinking of him in case he watches on television. We've always known him as a fighter and a battler. He won't let this get him down for long. All his teammates from A&M think about him every day."

As for the game itself, Nguyen said the A&M defense will have to play its best game of the year to slow down the high-powered Bruins attack.

Boilermakers steamroll Cowboys

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Billy Dicken passed for 325 yards, and No. 17 Purdue scored three touchdowns in the third quarter on the way to a 33-20 victory over No. 24 Oklahoma State on Tuesday night in the Alamo Bowl.

After a low-scoring first half, Purdue pulled away from underdog Oklahoma State in the lively third quarter, extending a 10-6 lead to 30-13 with 3:52 left in the period.

Dicken completed 18 of 34 passes, including two touchdown passes and three interceptions. His 325 passing yards set a record for the 5-year-old Alamo Bowl, which is sponsored by Builders Square.

It also was the highest-scoring game in Alamo Bowl history.

Purdue opened the second half with a touchdown after gaining control of the ball when Adrian Beasley intercepted Tony Lindsay's pass and ran 36 yards to the Oklahoma State 6.

Dicken ran in from the 1 for a touchdown, and the Boilermakers led 16-6 with 12:02 left. Shane Ryan's point-after kick missed after the ball was moved back 15 yards because of a personal foul.

Oklahoma State sent backup quarterback Chris Chaloupka into the game on the next drive, and the Cowboys answered with a touchdown of their own with 9:01 left in the quarter. Jamaal Fobbs ran the ball in from 21 yards, capping an 80-yard drive and closing the Cowboys to 16-13.

As Oklahoma State was kicking the extra point, a man clad only in skimpy blue underwear dashed onto the field and was tackled by two police officers in the opposite end zone. The Alamodome crowd of 55,552 cheered as he was led away in handcuffs.

The Boilermakers then responded with a 60-yard pass play from Dicken to Ed Watson, who moved the ball to the Oklahoma State 16. Vinny Sutherland's 16-yard run gave Purdue a 23-13 lead with 7:34 left in the third period.

The Boilermakers upped their lead to 33-13 early in the fourth with a 37-yard field goal by Ryan.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NewJersey	25	11	2	52	116	78
Philadelphia	22	10	7	51	110	86
Washington	17	15	8	42	109	108
N.Y.Rangers	12	17	12	36	104	112
N.Y.Islanders	15	19	5	35	104	111
Florida	14	20	6	34	103	117
TampaBay	8	23	7	23	68	115

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	20	12	8	48	109	91
Montreal	20	15	6	46	115	98
Ottawa	18	17	4	40	99	90
Boston	17	16	6	40	99	101
Carolina	15	20	5	35	102	111
Buffalo	13	19	6	32	89	103

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	25	9	6	56	126	83
Detroit	24	9	8	56	139	98
St.Louis	22	14	6	50	122	103
Phoenix	17	16	7	41	112	109
Chicago	14	18	7	35	89	90
Toronto	13	19	5	31	85	109

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	20	8	12	52	121	96
LosAngeles	16	16	6	38	110	108
SanJose	14	20	5	33	94	108
Anaheim	13	20	7	33	93	122
Edmonton	11	20	9	31	92	119
Calgary	11	22	8	30	104	125
Vancouver	11	22	6	28	109	133

Tuesday's Games

Carolina 2, Anaheim 1
Chicago 6, New Jersey 2
San Jose 2, Florida 2, tie
Philadelphia 3, Edmonton 1

Wednesday's Games

Carolina at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Thursday's Games

New Jersey at Florida, 11 a.m.
Anahcim at Washington, 12:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Phoenix, 8 p.m.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	20	9	.690	-
NewYork	17	12	.586	3
Orlando	17	13	.567	3½
NewJersey	16	13	.552	4
Boston	14	14	.500	5½
Washington	15	16	.484	6
Philadelphia	7	21	.250	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	20	10	.667	-
Atlanta	19	10	.655	½
Indiana	19	10	.655	½
Charlotte	18	11	.621	1½
Cleveland	17	11	.607	2
Milwaukee	14	15	.483	5½
Detroit	14	17	.452	6½
Toronto	4	25	.138	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	19	11	.633	-
SanAntonio	18	11	.621	½
Houston	15	11	.577	2
Minnesota	15	14	.517	3½
Vancouver	10	20	.333	9
Dallas	5	25	.167	14
Denver	2	26	.071	16

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	24	6	.800	-
L.A.Lakers	23	7	.767	1
Phoenix	18	9	.667	4½
Portland	18	10	.643	5
Sacramento	11	20	.355	13½
GoldenState	7	21	.250	16
L.A.Clippers	6	24	.200	18

Monday's Games

New Jersey 99, Washington 91
Charlotte 120, Houston 101
Chicago 111, Dallas 105

Tuesday's Games

Indiana 109, New Jersey 91
Miami 90, Cleveland 78
Detroit 100, Toronto 95
Minnesota 99, Chicago 95
New York 84, Orlando 79
Milwaukee 105, Dallas 98, OT
Phoenix 100, Boston 90
Utah 132, Denver 99
San Antonio 124, Vancouver 115
Portland 96, Philadelphia 86
L.A. Lakers 93, Sacramento 80
Seattle 101, Golden State 87

Wednesday's Game

Toronto at Washington, 8 p.m.

Thursday's Game

Philadelphia at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Arizona State (8-3) vs. Iowa (7-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Pittsburgh (6-5) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State (10-1) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 6 p.m. (CBS)

Thursday, Jan. 1

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Georgia (9-2), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
North Carolina (10-1) vs. Virginia Tech (7-4), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)

Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Penn State (9-2) vs. Florida (9-2), noon. (ABC)

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Texas A&M (9-3) vs. UCLA (9-2), 12:30 p.m. (CBS)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Michigan (11-0) vs. Washington State (10-1), 4 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Florida State (10-1) vs. Ohio State (10-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Friday, Jan. 2

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Clemson (7-4) vs. Auburn (9-3), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Orange Bowl
At Miami
Nebraska (12-0) vs. Tennessee (11-1), 7 p.m. (CBS)

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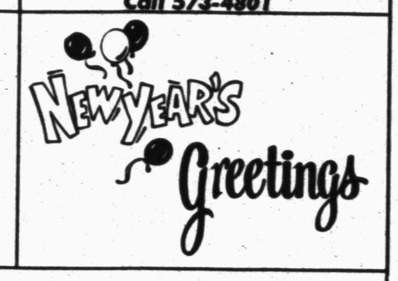
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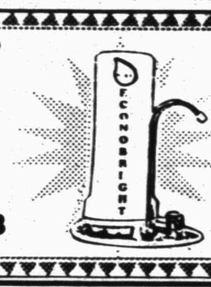
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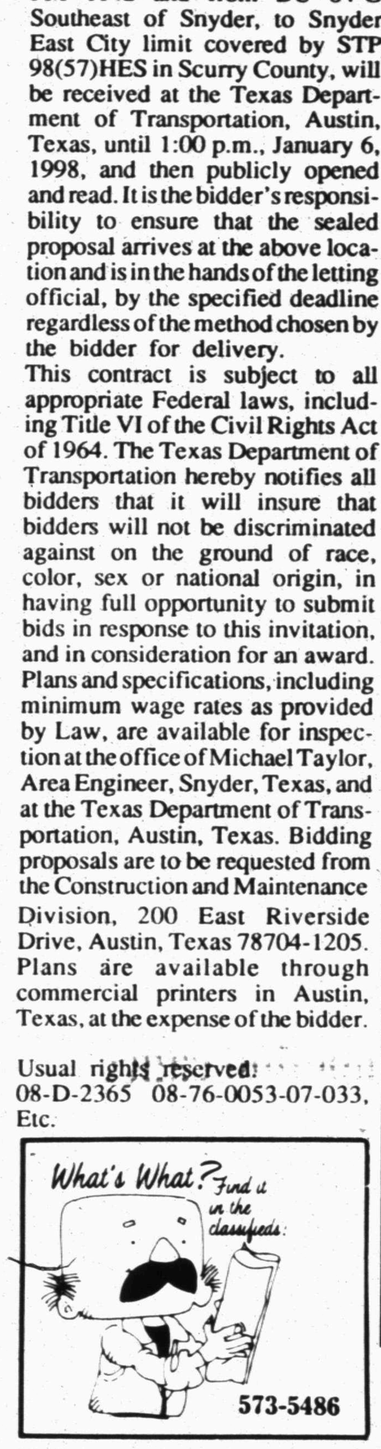


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010 LEGAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR BIDS
ON TEXAS HIGHWAY
CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for 39.242 km of embankment, safety end treatment culverts, metal beam guard fence and single guardrail terminals on US 84 from 0.8 km Southeast of FM 1142 and from BU 84-G Southeast of Snyder, to Snyder East City limit covered by STP 98(57)HES in Scurry County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 p.m., January 6, 1998, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

This contract is subject to all appropriate Federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Michael Taylor, Area Engineer, Snyder, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction and Maintenance Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder.

Usual rights reserved.
08-D-2365 08-76-0053-07-033, Etc.

020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FURS WANTED: Elmdale Fur Co. will be in your town (Snyder) Thursday at Ezell-Key and Feed on 26th Street, 10:30-11:00 a.m. Guaranteed Best Prices Paid. 915-677-6052.

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090 VEHICLES

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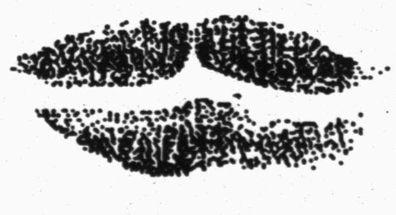
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360 REAL ESTATE

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2 bedroom home for rent. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Deposit required. No Pets allowed. 573-9047.

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 bedroom 1 bath 1 car garage, CH/A, storage building. 3507 Irving. $200/deposit $400/month. Call after 6:00, 573-9567.

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 bedroom 2 bath w/appliances furnished & 2 car garage (automated). $550/month $200/deposit. 4111 Eastridge. 573-0590 leave message.

Large Prestigeous House. 3 bedroom. $800/month. 2212 Towle Park Rd. Call 573-2649 before 6 pm.

Lease 2-2-2, utility room, fenced yard, large and clean. 1803 38th. 573-0712.

Several Rent Houses Available
3733 Avondale
3916 Eastridge
2806 Ave. E
Elizabeth Potts Realtor573-8505

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Break-in, mischief being probed

A break-in at Durell's House of Beauty in the 2200 block of 42nd Street is currently under investigation by Snyder police officers.

The burglary of the business was reported at 8:23 p.m. Tuesday and an undetermined amount of currency was reported missing.

Officers were requested in the 2800 block of Westridge and the 3000 block of Beaumont Tuesday afternoon as residents in the area reported someone had been taking their mail. Some of the missing mail was found in the area after somone tried to burn it. The incident is still under investigation.

Reports of criminal mischief continue to be reported in and around Snyder.

Deputies are investigating a report filed around 10 a.m. Tuesday of a window being broken out of a residence in the 1700 block of Voss Lane. An offense report for criminal mischief was submitted.

A BB gun figured in another act of criminal mischief as a window on a vehicle was shot while it was parked in the 2400 block of 40th Street. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted by officers.

A report of a gas drive-off was made at 5:44 p.m. from Allsup's in Hermleigh as a person failed to pay for $19.99 worth of gas.

In other activity Tuesday, an officer was requested in the 2400 block of Avenue L at 1:20 p.m. in reference to problems with juveniles. An offense report for assault by threat was submitted.

A bicycle which was turned in to police on Christmas day was released to its owner and another person reported finding a bicycle in his yard in the 2400 block of Sunset.

Two people were arrested Tuesday, both on outstanding warrants.

DPS troopers arrested a 32-year-old male on FM 2763 at 8:23 p.m. on an outstanding warrant from Howard County for the issuance of a bad check and two warrants from Taylor County for bad checks.

Troopers arrested a 61-year-old male on Highway 208 at 10 p.m. on outstanding warrants for Class C assault/family violence and failure to appear.

One person was taken into custody early today. Officers arrested a 22-year-old male in the 2500 block of Avenue I at 12:54 a.m. for public intoxication.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last
AMR Corp	127⅞	125⅜	126 13-16+ 1⅛
AT&T Corp	62⅞	62	1-16 62⅛— ⅛
AirTouch	41 7-16	40¾	41 5-16+ 1-16
Albertsons	47¾	47⅛	47 11-16+ 3-16
AlldSignal s	38⅜	38⅛	38⅜+ 1-16
Alltel	41 7-16	41⅛	41⅛— ⅛
AmerOnline	89⅜	88	9-16 88 15-16+ ⅜
AmStoreas	20⅝	20	7-16 20⅝+ 3-16
Ameritech	83 7-16	82⅜	82⅜— ⅛
Ameritech wi		41⅛	41⅛ 41⅛
Amoco	85 5-16	84¾	85⅛— ⅜
AndarkPtr	60⅝	59⅝	60 + 5-16
AmcoInc	4⅞	4¾	4 13-16+ 1-16
AtlRichfld s	80⅝	79	7-16 80⅛+ ⅜
ATMOS Egy	30 3-16	29	15-16 30 — 7-16
Aviall	15	14¾	14⅜— ⅛
BakerHughes	43 11-16	42	7-16 43 11-16+1 5-16
BellAtl	91	90⅜	90 15-16— 1-16
BellSouth	57⅜	57⅛	57⅛— 7-16
BethSteel	8⅜	8⅛	8 11-16+ 3-16
BritPet s	79⅛	79⅛	79⅜— 5-16
BurlNoSFe	93⅛	92⅝	92 9-16— 1-16
CBS Corp	29 1-16	28⅝	29 + 1-16
Caterpillar s	48⅛	47⅝	47 15-16— ⅜
CenSoWst	27 3-16	27	1-16 27 1-16
Chevron	78 11-16	77	15-16 78 9-16+ ⅛
Chrysler	35 5-16	34	13-16 35⅛
Coastal	60 15-16	60⅜	60 13-16+ 3-16
CocaCola	66 15-16	66	7-16 66⅛— 7-16
ColgatePalm s	74¼	73⅛	73⅛+ ⅜
ComclMetals	32¼	32	32 — ⅛
CooperIn	48¾	48¼	48 9-16+ ¼
CyprusAmax	15 7-16	15¼	15 5-16
DallSemicn	40¾	39	9-16 40⅝+ 1
DeltaAirl	117	115¾	116⅞+ 1⅜
DigitalEq	37½	37	37¼
Dillards Inc	35⅜	34	15-16 34 15-16— 1-16
DowChem	102⅛	100¾	102 +13-16
DresserInd	42¾	41	3-16 42 1-16+ ⅜
DuPont s	60 5-16	59¾	60⅛+ ¼
EastmanChem	59 9-16	59⅜	59 7-16+ 1-16
EstKodak	60⅞	60¼	60¼+ ⅛
EDS Corp	43¾	43¼	43¼+ ⅛
Entergy	30 3-16	29	15-16 30⅛+ 3-16
Exxon s	61⅜	61¼	61 5-16— 1
Flowers s	20 5-16	20	3-16 20 5-16+ 1-16
FordMotor	48¾	48¼	48⅜— ⅛
GTE Cp	52	51	5-16 51 13-16+ 9-16
GenDynam	86⅛	86	86¼+15-16
GenElecs	74⅛	73	11-16 73 15-16— 7-16
GenMills	73⅛	72	13-16 72 13-16— ⅛
GenMotors	61	13-16	60⅞ 61½+ ¼
GaPacGP s	60⅝	59	15-16 60¼
GlobalMar	25	23⅞	24 15-16+13-16
Goodrich	41¼	41	7-16 41 7-16— 7-16
Goodyear s	63	62⅝	62⅜— 1-16
GtAtlPac	30	29¼	29¼+ ½
Halliburtn s	51 3-16	49⅞	51¼+1 11-16
Hanson ADS	23¼	22	13-16 22⅞— ⅛
HarteHanks	37¼	37	37¼
HomeDepot s	57⅜	56	11-16 57¼+ 5-16
HoustonInds	26⅜	26⅛	26⅛— ⅛
IBM s	105	103	3-16 104 9-16+1 7-16
IntlPaper	44¼	43½	44 + 5-16
JohnsonJn	66¼	65	11-16 66 — ¼
K mart	11⅜	11	11 5-16+ 3-16
Kroger s	35⅞	35	1-16 35 1-16— ⅛
Litton	58	57	3-16 58 [illegible]-16
LockhdMart	98¼	96¼	98½+ 1⅜
Lowes Cos	47 13-16	47	7-16 47 11-16+ ⅜
Lubys	17⅜	17⅛	17⅜+ ⅛
LucentTech	80¾	79¾	80¼— 7-16
MayDeptStrs	52¾	51	9-16 52 + ⅜
Medtronic s	52¼	51	1-16 52⅛+1 3-16
Mobils	73¼	72¾	72 15-16— ⅛
Monsanto	42 7-16	41	9-16 41 15-16— ½
MorganJP	115	113¾	114¾+11-16
Motorola	57¾	56	15-16 57½+ ⅜
NCR Corp	27¾	27	11-16 27⅞+ ¼
NationsBk s	61 13-16	61⅛	61⅜
Navistar	24 1-16	23¾	24
Norwests	37 15-16	37¼	37 11-16— 3-16
OryxEngy	25½	24¾	25 7-16+ 7-16
Penney JC	60¼	59⅛	60 — ½
Pennzoil	66 15-16	66	11-16 66 13-16+ 1-16
PepBoys	24	23	7-16 23 15-16+ ¼
PepsiCo	36 13-16	36½	36⅜— 1-16
PhelpDodge	62½	62	3-16 62 5-16— 7-16
PhilipPet	48 7-16	47	11-16 48 5-16+ ½
PilgrimPrd	15½	15⅜	15½+ 1-16
Polaroid	49¼	48¾	48¾— ⅛
Praxair	45 7-16	45	45 — ⅛
ProctGamb s	80 11-16	80	80¼— ½
PubSNwMx	23⅜	23	9-16 23 9-16— 1-16
RoyalDut s	55	54	5-16 54½— ⅛
SBC Comm	74 5-16	73	7-16 74 1-16+ 1-16
SaraLee	57⅞	56	15-32 56⅜— 9-16
Scripps EW	48¼	48⅛	48 9-16+ 1-16
SearsRoeb	45⅜	44¾	44 15-16+ ¼
SherwinW s	27¾	27	1-16 27⅝+ ⅜
SmthBc ADS s	51¼	51	5-16 51⅛— 1-16
SouthernCo	26	25⅜	25 13-16— 3-16
SwstAirl s	24¼	23	15-16 24¼+ ¼
Sprint	57¼	57⅛	57⅜— ⅛
SunCo	42¼	41	13-16 41⅛— 3-16
TNP Ent	33 7-16	33¼	33⅜+ ¼
Tandy s	38⅜	37¾	38 7-16+13-16
TempleInland	52¼	51	15-16 52 + 1-16
Tenneco	39 15-16	39	7-16 39 13-16+ ⅜
Texaco s	54⅞	54	1-16 54 9-16+ 5-16
TexInd s	44¾	44	7-16 44 11-16+ 1-16
TexasInst s	45 7-16	43	7-16 45⅛+ 1
TexUtil	41 7-16	41	3-16 41 5-16— ⅛
Textron s	63	62¼	62⅝+ ⅜
Travelers s	53⅞	53⅛	53 5-16— 7-16
TriconGlbR n	29¼	28¼	28 15-16— ⅛
TrinityInds	45	44¼	44⅞+ ⅛
TritonEngy	29 15-16	29¼	29⅞+ ⅛
Tyler	5 7-16	5	7-16 5 7-16— 1-16
US WestCm	45 9-16	45¼	45½— ⅛
USWstMda	28 13-16	28	1-16 28⅛+ 7-16
USX Delhi	20 9-16	20¼	20½— 1-16
USX-Marathn	33 7-16	33	1-16 33⅛+ ⅛
USX-USS	30⅜	29½	30⅜+ 1¼
UnCarbde	43 7-16	42	15-16 43 5-16— 1-16
UnionPacif	62¾	62	5-16 62½— 1-16
UnitedTech	72¾	71	15-16 72¼
Unocal	38 15-16	38½	38 15-16+ ¼
WalMart	39 7-16	38	15-16 39 1-16+ 7-16
WstnGasRs	22½	22¼	22½+ ⅜
WinnDixie	44	43	11-16 44 + 5-16
Woolworth	20 9-16	20	7-16 20 7-16— ⅛
Xerox Corp	73¾	71	15-16 73⅜+1 9-16
ZenithE	5⅜	5	7-16 5½+ 1-16

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Carolyn House, Shanna Porter, Gerald Springer of Mineral Wells, A'Kasha Barber, Kelby Roemisch.

DISMISSALS: Ida Chitsey, Stanley Green.

CENSUS: 48 (Med., Surg.-11, Long-term Care-29, OB-4, Nursery-4).

Births

Michael and Shanna Porter of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter at 4 p.m. on Dec. 30 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed eight pounds.

Man sent to jail in cat cruelty case

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — A man was sentenced to 30 days in jail for breaking the jaw of his daughter's cat, Boots, because it meowed too much.

William Painter, 38, pleaded no contest to an animal cruelty charge and was also ordered to undergo counseling, pay $300 to an animal shelter and perform 80 hours of community service.

Painter was arrested Sunday after he struck the male tabby belonging to his 6-year-old daughter. He told police he was watching television when he became enraged by the cries of Boots, who was locked in the bathroom.

Painter told police he hit the animal twice, but lightly and "with an open hand." Painter's wife said she heard "crashing, the cat hissing and screaming and him yelling."

Painter apparently did not believe he had done something illegal at the time. "What was wrong with hitting a cat?" police said he asked.

Boots was treated for the jaw injury and both a broken and chipped tooth.

Rainfall recorded

An SDN reader who lives seven miles south of Hermleigh reported 27.7 inches of rain in 1997, compared to 16.8 inches the previous year.

The sun did not shine for 17 days this year, compared to only four days in 1996.

Autopsy does not find cancer

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — An autopsy showed that a man who apparently committed suicide in the presence of Dr. Jack Kevorkian was not in danger of dying from bladder cancer, and a relative said the man was mentally ill.

The inside of Franz-Johann Long's bladder was inflamed, but Oakland County Medical Examiner L.J. Dragovic said he had not determined whether Long, who died last weekend, had cancer or just an inflammation.

"It's not a condition that put his life in jeopardy," Dragovic told The Express-Times of Easton, Pa., on Tuesday. "He would've been in pain from that, there's no question about that, but this is not something that is remedied by killing a patient."

Long, 53, of Bethlehem, Pa., had tried to kill himself before, said a niece, Jane McDonough of Wildwood Crest, N.J. Long, who often told people he was a secret agent, had virtually no contact with his family after the mid 1980s, she said.

Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

Prednisone can have side effects

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Although I have always been a healthy woman, I suffered a bout of rheumatoid arthritis two years ago. The pain didn't respond to the usual remedies, so my doctor prescribed prednisone, which I took for about a year. Now I am left with muscle weakness. I cannot rise from a chair without pushing with my arms. I have had many tests to discover the cause of my weakness, to no avail. My doctor is stumped. Is my weakness due to the rheumatoid problem?

DEAR READER: Active rheumatoid arthritis can certainly cause muscle weakness, in conjunction with painful and swollen joints. However, I gather from your question that your arthritis has "burned out": It has become inactive. Therefore, I suspect that your symptom is a consequence of the prednisone therapy.

This cortisone steroid is a truly miraculous drug. Because it combats inflammation and reduces immune reactions, it can be literally lifesaving for patients afflicted with asthma, lupus, various forms of shock, and a host of other diseases marked by an immune overreaction.

However, as I have written before, it does have its dangers, and these dangers (which usually occur only after prolonged use) are substantial. The list of side effects from prednisone is endless and includes: weight gain, hypertension, diabetes, emotional disturbances, euphoria, insomnia, mood and personality changes, severe depression, osteoporosis, glaucoma, convulsions, increased pressure within the brain, inflammation of the pancreas, irregular menstruation, peptic ulcer, poor wound healing, vertigo — and a common complication known as "steroid myopathy." This is what I believe you are experiencing.

In the presence of steroid myopathy, patients suffer from muscular weakness of varying severity. The degree of myopathy is usually related to the duration of prednisone therapy. Patients who take it only for several weeks or months are far less likely to experience weakness than are patients who require the medicine for years — even at relatively low doses. Unfortunately, steroid myopathy is untreatable. Obviously, the drug is discontinued as soon as possible. Even so, some residual weakness may continue to cause problems.

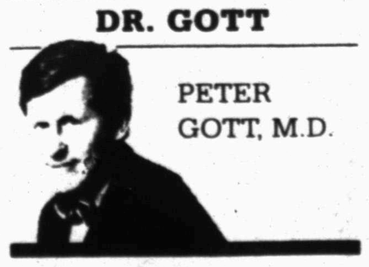
Nevertheless, you can be helped if your symptoms are prednisone-related. Your physician should enroll you in a program of active physical rehabilitation. Under the guidance of a physiatrist (rehab specialist), you should be able to regain most of your strength by following a program of weight-training and resistance exercises.

Ask your doctor about this. I think that doing SOMETHING certainly beats doing NOTHING, and I am certain that a rehab program would help you.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

1997 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

Scurry County Country



Town & Country Topics

By Katherine Roberts
County Extension Agent

COLLEGE STATION — 'Tis the season for celebration, long days and winter colds. Passenger safety educators at Texas A&M University warn that these events can contribute to impaired driving.

Any driver can be impaired, said Martha Kingston, passenger safety educator with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Things like alcohol, attitude, stress level, drowsiness and medication can impair driving," Kingston said.

Janie Harris, Extension passenger safety specialist, noted that alcohol affects each person differently. Things such as physical condition, food levels and weight all play an important role.

"You don't have to be legally intoxicated to be an impaired driver," Harris said.

Even though an adult isn't legally intoxicated in Texas until he has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .10, there is a steady decline in driving ability as BAC increases. In an experiement conducted at Texas A&M, at .06-.08 BAC, there was a 14.8 percent drop in driver performance compared to the sober level. At .10-.12 BAC, there was a 25 percent drop in performance.

The risk of a crash also increases as BAC increases, Harris said, At a BAC of .05-.09, the chance of being involved in a fatal single vehicle crash is eleven times greater than the sober level. A .10-.14 BAC level produces a 48 times greater chance of death.

Simple things like cold medications can make drivers feel drowsy or disconnected. Kingston and Harris both advised drivers to try a medication at home first — see how it affects you before you hit the road, they said.

Another factor in impaired driving is fatigue. Safety experts suggest drivers take frequent rest stops, have a taveling partner to stay alert up front with the driver, find snacks or drinks that keep minds alert, switch off driving or break up long trips into two days.

In fact, many behaviors that can lead to auto crashes can be avoided, said Harris. "Pull over to use the car phone, be alert to the behavior of other drivers, avoid medications that can make you drowsy, don't drive when you are tired, give driving your undivided attention, don't drive if you have been drinking alcohol."

If possible, avoid traveling during the evening. Seventy-five percent of all drunk driving crashes in Texas occur between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m., according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Harris also cautioned all drivers to drive defensively and to buckle up. Adults should wear safety belts and children under 4 should ride in safety seats.

"You may not be an imparied driver, but that other driver may be."

TIGA opens new office near Tahoka

LUBBOCK — The Texas Independent Ginners Association (TIGA) has opened an office to better serve its members. The new office will be used as the headquarters for the association. All member gins and associate members will be able to contact the office should any need arise.

Tommy Chapman, TIGA president, said that the office should help the association move forward. "We felt that it was time to move forward with the association in order to help the independent gins in Texas," stated Champman.

To staff the office, TIGA hired Vannessa (Vann) Stewart as the executive vice president. Stewart's main objectives for the position will be to visit gins throughout the year, increase membership in the association and keep an eye on legislation relating to agriculture and ginning.

"I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to serving the needs of the independent gins," said Stewart.

If you need to contact TIGA, they are located in the Tahoka Gin Co., at Route 4, Box 27, Tahoka, TX 79373. The telephone number is 806-998-5563 and the fax number is 806-998-5412.

Travelers warned about swine products from Dominican Republic

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department is asking travelers to refrain from bringing swine products from the Dominican Republic into the United States.

The Dominican Republic has recently experienced an outbreak of hog cholera, a highly contagious viral disease of swine not present in the United States.

To protect U.S. livestock, the USDA does not allow the entry of meat or meat products from countries known to have this disease.

"Our inspectors at international airports are having to confiscate a lot of swine products from the Dominican Republic that we are finding in travelers' baggage," said Alfred Elder.

In Amarillo...

Irrigation conference next week

AMARILLO — New state regulations require all water users to develop plans for both application and conservation. On Jan. 7 at the High Plains Irrigation Conference, C.E. Williams, manager of the Panhandle Groundwater District from White Deer will address many of the key issues that affect area growers regarding rules compliance, conservation strategies, and future need versus supply in accordance with Senate Bill 1.

"We're offering new ideas and tested technologies to help growers make informed decisions about water use and irrigation scheduling," said Leon New, agricultural engineer with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and conference organizer.

The event will be held at the Amarillo Civic Center and also features an industry trade show. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program's first hour to include show tours and free coffee and donuts. The $7 registration fee includes a catered lunch.

The opening session will begin by 9:30 a.m. Two and one-half continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to private, commerical and non-commercial chemical applicators completing the day's program. The event has been conducted annually for more than two decades by the Extension Service.

Timely topics featuring well and pump performance will be addressed. A presentation using micro-videography will offer growers a bird's eye view of what's good or bad inside a well.

"This demonstration will show how this technology is helping to pin-point problems never before seen, making solutions easier to define," said New.

Other topics will include precision production using yield monitors and site mapping. Growers already using the new site specific farming technology will be part of a mid-morning discussion where "real world" issues will be addressed. Panelists include Clay Cogburn, Cogburn Brothers of Happy, Tom and Ellis Moore of Sunray and Karl Johnson of Morse.

Two Extension agronomists, Travis Miller from College Station, and Brent Bean of Amarillo, will discuss irrigated soybean production in the region, and the suitability of Roundup Ready crops for weed contol, respectively.

Carl Patrick, Extension agronomist of Amarillo will provide an update on the latest insect control techniques. Patrick will present comparisons derived from three years of field tests for 23 corn hybrids, showing that all Bt corn doesn't perform the same. He'll also update growers on issues related to Gaucho seed treated sorghums.

Moderators for the day-long program segments include county Extension agents, Jim Allison of Amarillo, Robert Harris from Dumas, Dennis Newton of Hereford and Seth Ralston from Hatley.

For more information, contact Leon New, Extension agricultural engineer and irrigation specialist, or Regina Linder at 806-359-5401, or any county agricultural agent.

Wheat futures prices drop sharply Tuesday

Disappointing export news and technicals sent wheat futures prices sharply lower Tuesday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Elsewhere, corn, silver, gold and meat were lower, while soybeans, palladium, platinum went higher.

Wheat for delivery in March sagged 6 cents to a contract low after traders found the credit package for South Korea didn't contain enough money to buy U.S. grain, Dale Gustafson, grains analyst in Chicago with Smith Barney Inc., said.

On the technical side, Prudential Securities sold 2 million bushels of March wheat.

Soybeans were supported by a record high weekly domestic crush report released early in the session, he said.

Wheat for March delivery fell 6 cents to $3.27¼ a bushel; March corn fell ½ cent to $2.66¾ a bushel; March oats fell 2 cents to $1.49¾ bushel; January soybeans rose ½ cent to $6.81¼ bushel.

Palladium was sharply higher and silver slid significantly lower on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Both palladium and platinum prices were supported by reports that the Russians had not made any sales in those commodities in some time, said James Steel, a metals analyst in New York with Refco Inc.

Silver's decline was due to profit-taking after a hefty move upward over past few months, Steel said.

He said the stock market rally was hurting gold.

Palladium for March rose $6 to $203.75 a troy ounce, January silver fell 16 cents to $6.13 a troy ounce, January platinum rose $1.50 to $367 a troy ounce, January gold fell 90 cents to $291.60 a troy ounce,.

Most meat futures prices sagged on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The pork complex was depressed by Monday's quarterly hogs report that showed ample inventories, while beef prices were held down by news of reduced packer demand, analysts said.

February live cattle fell 0.20 cent at 66.35 cents a pound; January feeder cattle fell 0.32 cent to 75.85 cents a pound; February lean hogs fell 0.40 cent to 57.85 cents a pound; February pork bellies fell 1.8 cent to 51.95 cents a pound.

New gene for potatoes

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newly-discovered gene could help scientists produce potatoes that better resist disease and insects, research suggests.

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service say the gene, found in wild potatoes, could help breeders sidestep problems that often frustrate production of the crop.

But sometimes those wild potatoes contain high levels of unwanted, bitter-tasting compounds called glycoalkaloids.

When breeders cross a wild potato with a commercial variety, they discard offspring with a high glycoalkaloid level. The high-glycoalkaloid offspring are useless — no matter what valuable traits they also possess.

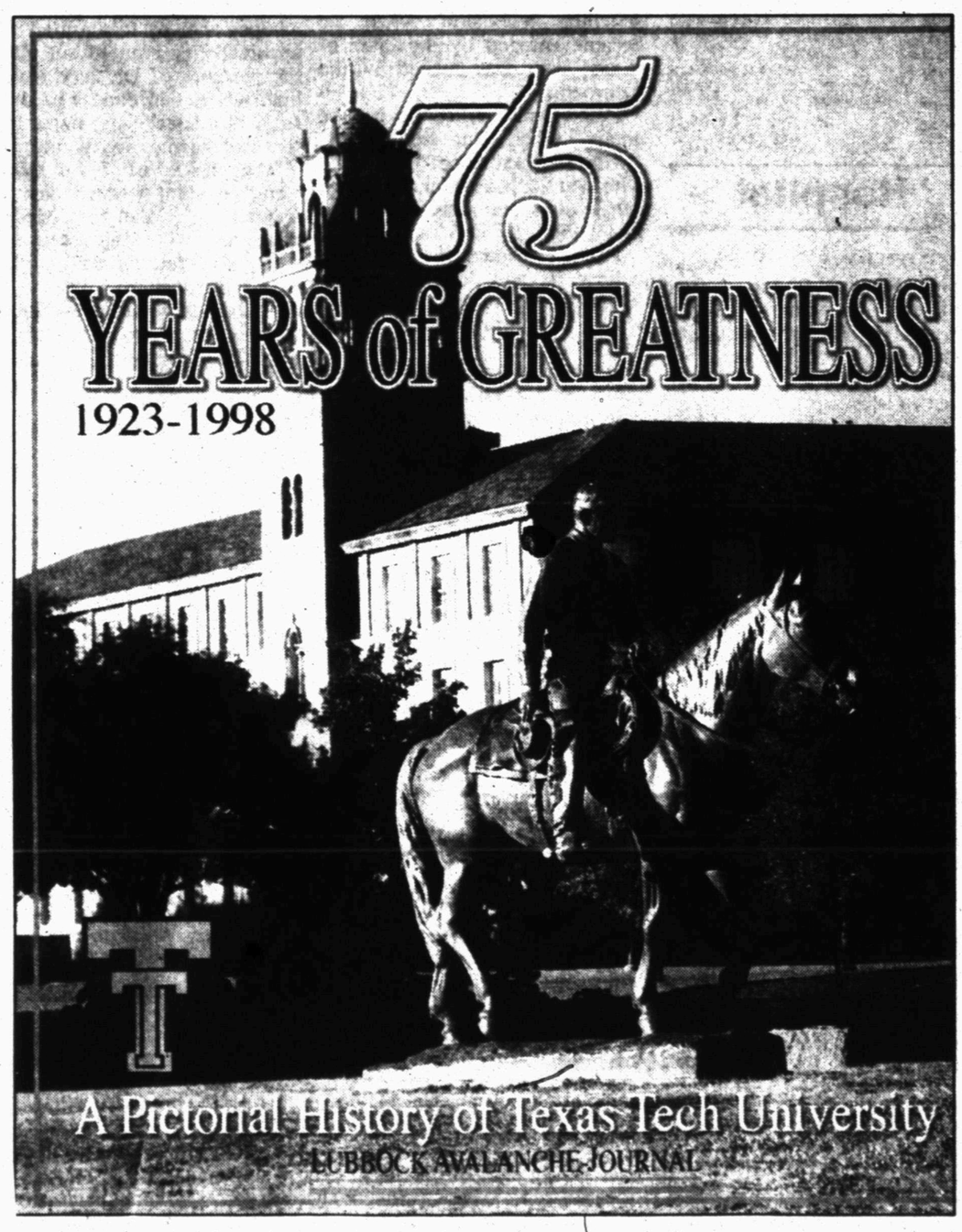
Researchers are hoping this problem disappears with the help of the newly-discovered gene.

Big Country Show planned Feb. 10-11

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The 6th Annual Big Country Farm and Ranch Show is scheduled for February 10-11, at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Abilene. The show will feature the latest in agricultural equipment and offer area producers a two-day educational conference.

The exhibit floor will showcase over 350 booths of national manufacturers, dealers and suppliers, Exhibits will range from large hp tractors to seed and chemical companies. National companies include: American Cyanamid, Bigham Brothers, Caterpillar, Dekalb, Flexi-Coil, Ford Trucks, Melroe and New Holland. Educational seminars are organized by the Taylor County Agricultural Extension Service and offer CEUs for Pesticide Applicators during several meetings. The Rolling Plains Cotton Growers will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The 1998 Big Country Farm and Ranch Show is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the Taylor County Fairgrounds. Sponsors for this year's event include the Abilene Reporter News, KTAB-TV, Taylor County Ag Extension Service and the Rolling Plains Cotton Growers. Admission is free. For more information, please call 800-827-8007.



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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Agreement to release hostages hits snag

SOROCABA, Brazil (AP) — Despite promises to free 638 hostages and end a bloody three-day uprising, inmates at a Brazilian prison let a deadline pass today and police sent riot troops into the compound.

Prisoners agreed Tuesday night to release the 17 guards today — some of whom reportedly were tortured with knives and iron bars — along with 621 visitors. About two hours after the appointed time passed, negotiators accused prisoners of not keeping their word.

"Although things are absolutely calm, unfortunately the prisoners have not met their part of the bargain in keeping their promise of releasing all the hostages," said Joao Benedito de Azevedo Marques, head of negotiations for the Sao Paulo state prison agency.

Prisoners did, however, release one of the 17 guards who fell ill and was said to suffer from a heart condition, Marques said. The guard was rushed out of the compound in an ambulance.

"As of this moment the full responsibility for whatever happens inside is the exclusive responsibility of inmates," a visibly angry Marques said shortly after leaving the compound.

Marques said he gave the prisoners an hour from the end of negotiations today to release the hostages but declined to say what he would do if they failed to meet the deadline.

About 150 riot police entered the prison compound shortly after the scheduled release time, as police vans waited to carry out the transfer.

Another 100 or so riot troopers armed with machine guns and police dogs entered the facility shortly after Marques left.

"They are going in to accompany prison workers who are going to make sure none of the prisoners are mixed in with the hostages when they're released," said Sao Paulo state policeman Rui Cesar.

Inmates' friends and relatives who have been keeping vigil outside the facility feared that once the hostages were freed, police would disregard the agreement and storm Sorocaba Prison, located 50 miles west of Brazil's largest city, Sao Paulo.

"I'm sure that as soon as the hostages are safely away, the riot troopers are going to come in and massacre everyone," Maria Cleuza Santos, whose son Marcelo is serving a six-year sentence for robbery.

The standoff began Sunday, apparently after several inmates dressed in wigs and women's clothing tried to sneak out during a busy day of visits. Guards recognized the inmates and a shootout ensued that radio reports said killed an inmate and a woman who had smuggled in five guns and several hand grenades. Authorities would not confirm the reports.

The prisoners took 17 guards and all 699 visiting relatives, including more than 200 children, hostage. They later released 78 relatives. Monday passed with no negotiations, and inmates apparently beat a guard on the prison roof Tuesday.

Source: police report yields new details on mystery Fiat

PARIS (AP) — In one of the more tantalizing leads in the Princess Diana investigation, a new police report quotes witnesses seeing a Fiat Uno "zigzagging" out of the tunnel where her Mercedes crashed and describing the Fiat's driver, a judicial source said today.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, is privy to all documents in the case, including the 400-page report police submitted this week to investigating judge Herve Stephan.

The confidential report, coming a full four months after the crash, appears not to contain any earth-shattering revelations. Yet the witness accounts revealed today — but known to police since Sept. 18 — are the most detailed so far concerning the mysterious second car long believed to have played a role in the crash.

Investigators have been trying to find a small white car, probably a Fiat Uno, that Diana's car is believed to have sideswiped just before losing control and crashing into a pillar in the Pont de l'Alma traffic tunnel.

The Aug. 31 accident killed Diana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul. Key factors in the crash are still believed to be alcohol — Paul was legally drunk — and excessive speed.

At the tunnel today, tourists in town for the New Year's holiday streamed to the crash site, continuing the steady procession of onlookers that has been a fixture at the tunnel ever since the accident.

People filled the pedestal of the Liberty Flame monument above the tunnel with flowers and hand-written messages. The monument is dedicated to French-American friendship, but has become a makeshift memorial to Diana.

"Diana we miss you enormously — we think of you a lot," said one message, accompanied by wilted daffodils in a glass jar. Others offered theories about the crash: "It was not an accident!" one read.

Just beyond the tunnel exit, they were passed by a white Fiat Uno, the report said, according to the source. The man said he recognized the car model because his mother-in-law had the same one.

Heavy snow socks northern New York

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Streets and the airport were reopened for stranded travelers today as the city dug out from nearly 2 feet of snow — just in time for the next wintry accumulation.

The mayor lifted a snow emergency order this morning, allowing residents to drive and park on city streets for the first time since a nor'easter arrived Tuesday.

That didn't mean every street was open.

"I hear the roads are clear in town, but I can't get out of my apartment complex," said Kenneth Dominski. "It takes more than just regular snow plows to clear this mess."

And more snow was on the way. Bands of lake effect squalls fed by moist air blowing in from Lake Ontario were expected to drop an additional 6 to 12 inches on central New York state today.

In addition to closing streets on Tuesday, the nor'easter shut down the city's Hancock Airport, stalling hundreds of travelers.

The airport was reopened today and 90 percent of scheduled flights were taking off, said airport spokesman David Aitkin.

The airport shutdown had especially frustrated Syracuse University football fans waiting for flights to Phoenix and their team's contest tonight with Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl.

"We haven't had a storm all year and all of a sudden one comes on a day we were to take off," said Ralph Torrillo, 17, dawdling in the airport lobby with his parents and sister.

Emergency officials had issued a public plea Tuesday for snowmobile owners to help carry doctors and nurses to their hospital jobs, and to help elderly shut-ins in need of medicine or groceries.

A section of the New York state Thruway at Syracuse was closed for more than two hours.

State denies Ray's request to die at home

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The state has denied James Earl Ray's request to move in with his brother so he won't die behind bars. The convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has terminal liver disease.

Ray asked in October for a medical furlough, granted to inmates who are in "imminent danger of death." His request was denied on Dec. 5, department spokeswoman Pam Hobbins said on Tuesday.

She cited "security reasons and concerns" for the denial, but declined to elaborate or say whether Ray is in immediate danger of dying.

Ray's brother, Jerry Ray, said from his trailer in Smartt, a rural community about 60 miles southeast of Nashville, that his brother expected the request to be denied.

"I've got a two-rooms space for him at my house, furnished with cable TV and everything, for his final days to enjoy himself," Jerry Ray said. "If he got outside, there's always the possibility he could get a liver transplant and save his life."

Ray, who is serving his 99-year sentence at a medical prison, has been in and out of a local hospital over the last year. It's been a few weeks since his last hospital visit and he's feeling better, his brother said.

"He's eating on his own, but it's just a matter of time before he dies," Jerry Ray said.

The state earlier this year denied Ray's request to go to Pittsburgh to be evaluated for a liver transplant. An evaluation was performed locally instead, and Jerry Ray says doctors found his brother to be a good transplant candidate.

But Ray hasn't asked the state to allow him to go to Pittsburgh for the transplant because he needs to raise at least $250,000 first, enough for a deposit to place him on a national waiting list for a new liver.

Ray confessed and was convicted shortly after King's assassination on April 4, 1968. He quickly recanted and has been fighting for a new trial ever since.

Obituaries

Mrs. Wilson

1901-1997

Gertie Wilson, a longtime resident of Scurry County, died Tuesday, Dec. 30, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Wilson, 96, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Jim Mosley, pastor of Westbrook Baptist Church, and Dr. Marty Akins, pastor of First Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Nov. 1, 1901 in Texas, she had lived in Snyder since 1912. She married Jack Jenkins Wilson on Aug. 22, 1916 in Scurry County. He died in 1978.

Mrs. Wilson was a homemaker and a member of the Union Baptist Church, and also attended Snyder's First Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Jean McCommas and Louise Woolever, both of Snyder; two sons, Aubrey Wilson and Billy Jack Wilson, both of Snyder; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Continued From Page 1

space.

And after months of anticipation, Lorber Industries has started work on its new plant. Also, the industrial park infrastructure is almost complete — a cooperative effort of the DCOS, City of Snyder and Scurry County.

There's another example of cooperation paying dividends. The STAR program at the high school is an effort to address a growing juvenile crime problem. City, county and school districts are working together.

Also, after years of dreaming, the Ritz Theatre renovation is complete, and a grand opening was held last month.

Snyder continues to put its youth first — summer programs, school activities, churches, scouts, etc. Athletic teams, band, drama, and choir excelled — capped by a Class 4A state championship in girls golf.

And there's another example of community pride in the many improvements made at Moffett Field. There's been lots of donated time and resources that makes this youth baseball park one of the showplaces in West Texas.

We wish all an even better New Year!

Datebook

Dec. 31, 1997

Today is the 365th day of 1997 and the 11th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1946, the end of World War II was officially proclaimed by President Truman.

On this day in 1970, Paul McCartney sued the other three Beatles to dissolve their partnership.

On this day in 1991, Lee Iacocca stepped down as chairman of Chrysler Corp.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805), British general; George C. Marshall (1880-1959), U.S. Army general-statesman; Anthony Hopkins (1937-), actor, is 60; John Denver (1943-1997), singer-songwriter; Ben Kingsley (1943-), actor, is 54; Diane von Furstenberg (1946-), designer, is 51; Patti Smith (1946-), singer-poet, is 51; Donna Summer (1948-), singer, is 49; Paul Westerberg (1959-), singer, is 38; Val Kilmer (1959-), actor, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1973, Notre Dame defeated Alabama, 24-23, to win the Sugar Bowl and the national football championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There is no wide road which leads to the Muses." — Propertius

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1963, an unusual snowstorm brought 4.5 inches of snow to New Orleans.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 29) and first quarter (Jan. 5).

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events WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

County library

Scurry County Library will be closed Thursday through Sunday and reopen Monday.

Road to Recovery program

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

Tiger banners for sale

Snyder Girls Hoops Club is selling Tiger banners for $25. Call 573-1769 or 573-4283. They will deliver.

Adult basic education

Adult basic education classes are underway at Western Texas College for those seeking their GEDs.

Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are held from 8-11 a.m.

ESL (English as a Second Language) and GED courses are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8:30 p.m. ESL classes are only offered at night. For more information, call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Volleyball team fund-raiser

Snyder High School Lady Tigers volleyball team is selling 'Win Win Discount Cards' good through Nov. 30, 1998. The cards are $5 each and can be obtained from players, boosters or at the school office. The cards entitle the bearer to discounts at a number of local businesses.

College information Hotline '98

The Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) and the Greater East Texas Servicing Corporation will co-sponsor a toll-free HOTLINE. 1-800-347-3475 will be available on Jan. 17-18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., to all Texans who desire to find out more about post-secondary educational opportunities and financial aid options.

Students and their parents will be able to ask questions about college selection, admission, testing and financial aid.

Spanish speaking counselors will also be available.

Bible study video tapes

Mike Tackett of Merkel appears on the Key to the Kingdom series, airing weekly on Cable Channel 2. Robert Oglesby of Richardson narrates The Story of the Bible. The next video, "Attitude of Obedience," airs at 7 p.m. Monday, followed by Lesson 5 of The Story of the Bible.

Driver's license office

The Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license office will be closed Monday.

Pick 3

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

2-1-0

(two, one, zero)

Cash Five

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

5-6-11-12-23

(five, six, eleven, twelve, twenty-three)

Judge putting Detroit racial police beating case back in spotlight

DETROIT (AP) — A former police officer imprisoned four years ago in a motorist's beating death could be freed as early as today because a federal judge ruled his jury was tainted by watching the film "Malcolm X."

Larry Nevers was sentenced to 12 years in prison in October 1993 after being convicted of second-degree murder in the 1992 death of Malice Green.

But U.S. District Judge Lawrence Zatkoff ruled Tuesday that Nevers should be released immediately because the jury was prejudiced by watching the film during a break. "Malcolm X" includes a clip of the videotape of Rodney King being beaten by Los Angeles police.

"A great work of art can become political propaganda if taken out of context," said Nevers' lawyer, Neil H. Fink.

Zatkoff also said deliberations were tainted by media speculation that rioting would occur if Nevers and another white officer were acquitted.

It was not immediately clear when Nevers would be freed from the Texas prison where he is serving his sentence. Fink said the process to free his client is under way.

"We found justice today," Nevers' wife, Nancy, said through tears Tuesday. "I'm just so thrilled that finally we found some justice here."

Although Fink said he was open to plea bargain discussions, Mrs. Nevers said her husband likely would not plead guilty to a lesser offense in exchange for time served.

"Larry wants to clear his name," she said. "He's wanted to do that for four years. That's what he lives for."

Nevers and his former partner, Walter Budzyn, who are white, were convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Green, who was black. Prosecutors said the officers beat Green with flashlights as he sat in a car outside a suspected crack house after he refused to show them what he was holding in his hand.

Green, 35, died a short time later. Prosecutors said severe blows to the head caused his death, while defense attorneys maintained he died from cocaine intoxication.

Households with many phone lines to see new charges during 1998

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans with multiple telephone lines in their homes — perhaps for a computer or for a teen-ager — will see some charges go up on their January phone bills.

For most of these customers, total bills are supposed to go down, since government regulators also are ordering reductions in long-distance phone fees. But customers who make few long-distance calls could see their total bills increase.

The changes are coming about under a Federal Communications Commission plan, adopted in May, that revamps a labyrinth of "access" payments local phone companies receive for routing long-distance calls and for subsidizing local phone service.

These payments also help subsidize new discounted telecommunications services for schools and libraries as Congress and the Clinton administration required in a 1996 law.

Beginning Jan. 1, most residential customers with multiple lines will pay an additional $1.50 a month for each line beyond the first one. The average "subscriber line" residential charge that now appears on monthly bills is $3.50. It is used to pay for the cost of the line from the customer's home or business to the local phone company's switching equipment.

But some multiline residential customers served by Bell Atlantic won't get as big an increase depending on where they live, said Frank Gumper, a company vice president. He couldn't identify all those areas, but said Washington, D.C., is among them. There the monthly charge for multiline homes will increase from $2.49 per line to $3.67, he said.

Most multiline businesses also will be paying a higher subscriber line charge each month starting Jan. 1. The charge varies, based upon where the business is located. BellSouth started charging a higher fee July 1.

In addition, multiple-line homes and businesses will pay a new charge that will come from replacing some access fees that are based on minutes of long-distance use with flat monthly rates.

Most multiline homes will pay $1.50 per month for each line and multiline businesses will pay $2.75 per month per line. Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, Ameritech, and SBC Communications will start the new charge Jan. 1. US West said it will start charging Feb. 1.

It's up to phone companies to decide whether to break out these charges on customers' bills. AT&T spokesman Wayne Jackson said the charges will appear as a separate item. US West, Bell Atlantic and Ameritech also said they'll spell out the charges in customers' bills. BellSouth won't, and SBC didn't have an answer.

MCI said it can't distinguish between homes with multiple lines or with just one. For that reason, MCI will charge all residential customers $1.07 per line per month starting Jan. 1. MCI will break out that charge on bills along with the $2.75 charge for multiline businesses.

For the most part, though, residential customers with one telephone line won't see any new charges or increases in existing ones. One exception: the few, single-line residential customers who have not selected one company to be their primary long-distance provider. They'll be charged 53 cents a month.

The FCC has said that the increased charges should be more than offset by reductions it has ordered in access fees. The fees, paid by long-distance companies and passed on to their customers, make up about 45 percent of the average residential long-distance bill of $22.50.

Hermleigh Christmas play





Hermleigh elementary students presented a Christmas play. Kindargarten students, top photo, who played the traditional eleves are from left, front row, Jacob Sanchez, Jose Rangel, Vincent Mireles, Jaron Perry; second row, Dustin Dacus, Jordan Williamson, Naomi Arellano, Dax Moyer; third row, Timothy Arellano, J.P. Smith, Brailee Sanchez, Melanie Kariainen. Gloria Ramirez is not pictured. First and third graders, second photo, who were the 1950s elves are from left, front row, Daniel Peterson, Sean McClure, Tony Perales, Rustin Webb, Jeremy Eaton; middle row, Casey Williamson, Ashley Luna, Marissa Davis, Erissa Sanchez, Shaye Williams, Megan Kariainen; back row, Robert Ritch, Brian Teague, Cesilie Torres, Stephen Hembree, Nick Eaton, Oscar Turrubiates. Students in the play were portrayed by, third photo, from left, Brian Molina, Ben Harrington, Jonathan Hernandez, Brett McClure, Charles Peterson, Brittany Kelley, J.D. Mireles. Other characters, last picture, from left, were Kelvin Doggett, K'Leigh Jackson, Jeff Bilbrey, Michael Barrera, Alicia Culp. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)





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