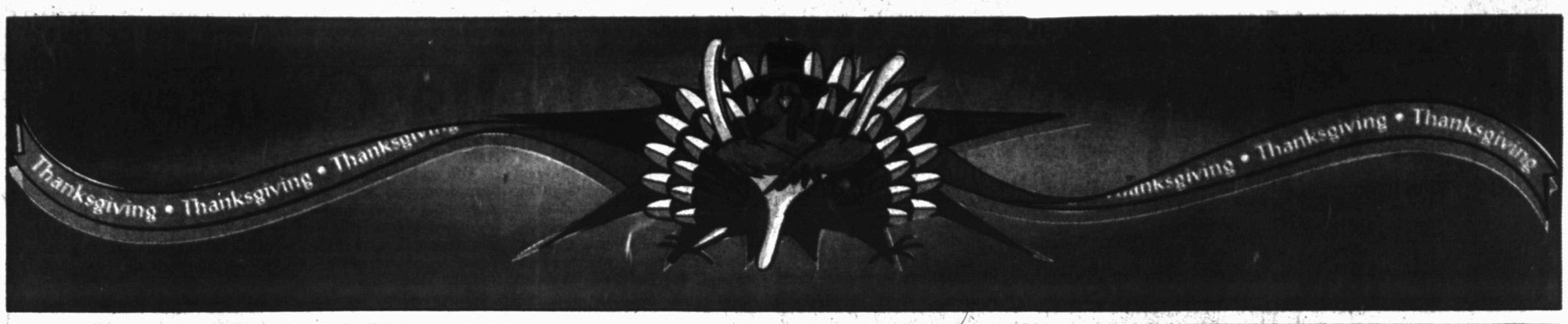
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Natural Gas - $2.791

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Nov. 22, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 176
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Lee Presswood

Time to shop 'til you drop

Christmas shopping season underway in Snyder

Friday and Saturday are traditionally the two biggest Christmas shopping days of the year and Snyder merchants will offer local shoppers bargains to kick off the holiday season.

In today's edition, shoppers can find two-day sale bargains from Snyder Lumber, Klassy Kids, Pleasure's Mine, Hackfeld's, Classic Interiors, Snyder Drug, Rest Stop, WTC Pro Shop and Friendly Flowers.

In addition, Bealls and Wal-Mart have Christmas shopping inserts full of Christmas gifts.

Also, Mapes Electrolux will have a two-day sale and Warehouse Furniture will be offering special holiday prices as well.

Wal-Mart gets an early start Friday as they will open at 6 a.m., while Bealls' doors swing open at 8 a.m.

All other businesses will observe regular hours.

The courthouse lights will be turned on for the holidays beginning Friday, and Santa Claus makes his appearance in Snyder on Saturday, Dec. 1, sponsored by the chamber of commerce.

Santa will be at the gazebo on the courthouse square from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and then ride in the annual lighted Christmas parade.

The parade will start at 7 p.m. and entries are still needed.

"Let's make this the best lighted parade we've ever had," said Donna Fowler, chamber executive director.

Lake Thomas gains much needed water

Last weekend's rainfall produced some 12,500 acre-feet in water in three of the Colorado River Municipal Water District's lakes.

John Grant, general manager of the CRMWD, said Lake Thomas caught some 6,004 acre-feet that produced a 3.16-foot rise in the lake.

"The water shed in Borden County got varying amounts of rainfall as we had water coming in from Bull Creek and from the southern portion of the county, as well," said Grant.

Lake resident Ottus Boyd reported a total of 7.75 inches of rain on the north side of the lake that added to the total.

As a result, Lake Thomas is now at 10.72 percent of its capacity, as compared to 7.78 percent before the rains came.

Grant said Lake Spence at Robert Lee came up about a foot with some water still flowing into it.

Ivie Reservoir came up about a half-foot, and Moss Creek near Big Spring gained 81/2 vertical feet, Grant said.

"Ivie caught about 2,800 acre-feet and Moss Creek, being a small lake, came up quite a bit but only gained about 800 acre-feet."

Rainfall varied in Scurry County, as well, as gauges caught anywhere from 2½ to 6 inches.

Joe Landrum reported a total of six inches of rain at Fluvanna, while Jessie Lindsey had 4.85 inches in his gauge over three days at Ira.

Shirley Pate received 3.5 inches near Union and reported a neighbor had measured 4.5 inches.

At Dermott, Modena Sullenger reported 3.33 inches, while Blakely Fargason at Dunn reported 3.7 inches.

Camp Springs received 3.25 as reported by Ann Barrett, and Carl Burleson recorded 2.5 at Loyd Mountain. Trellice Perry recorded 3.5 east of Snyder and Doris Steadman had 3.3 inches near Hermleigh.

At the Coyote Café in Gail, Bertie Copeland said four inches of rain fell there over the three-day period.

The Snyder water treatment plant, the city's official measurement station, recorded 2.72 inches during the rainy spell.

To date, the water plant has recorded 18.70 inches as compared to 20.30 at this time last year.

Star at Gail to be lit Friday

The lighting of the star on Gail Mountain will be held at 7 p.m. Friday.

Other events will be held at the Borden County Museum and in the courtyard of the courthouse.

The courthouse will be open at 5 p.m. as refreshments will be served and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be on hand for pictures.



Thanksgiving turkey by Avery Wright, first grade

Be thankful

Thanksgiving is a time of year we shod be thankful for our werld bekus it is speshle to all of us. And all of us shod clene it up. We eat terke, pumpkin pie, and get to see our famile! We have a lot of fun all together. It is real fun together.

Alisha Guzman
2nd Grade

I am thankful

I am thankful for my body
I am thankful for turkey
I am thankful for my mom
I am thankful for my dog
I am thankful for my self
I am thankful for Thanksgiving
I am thankful for you.
I am thankful for everybody

Alexis Kirkland
First Grade

We are thankful

It means a time to get together and eat tarky with yor family and have fun and talk obot things and brake the wish bone and play with cosans and visit with uncls and ants Now let us see some things we are thankful for like bikes skatebords and skate but most inportant of all God.

Chase Price
2nd Grade



Cornucopia by Kayla Scott, second grade

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Folks who aren't thankful other days, probably aren't today either."

Thanksgiving is celebrated in many ways. Some folks see that the needy have food. Those that don't really need food eat too much, and those that need exercise watch healthy guys run up and down the field.

While pondering a diet, here's a few random things for which one ole news hound is grateful:

—The Texas Aggies don't have to play Ira or Roscoe.

—Most football fans don't hit other fans wearing their own school colors.

—Tech grid coach Mike Leach is not gonna be our after-dinner speaker.

—Neither is our brother-in-law.

—Mike Leach makes Gerald Myers look good on TV.

—Al Gore isn't directing the war effort in Afghanistan.

—Ole what's-her-name ain't cooking.

—Jack Denman's not playing after-dinner music.

—Our city council doesn't – like Lubbock's - pay some family $750,000 for having a domestic dispute.

—Ole what's-her-name has discovered there's very little differences in husbands – so we can stay.

—We don't have to go hunting.

—We don't have to get off the pavement.

—The First Lady isn't like the last First Lady.

—That no lady is like the former First Lady.

—That we know a few ladies who are actually ladies.

—That there are still girls who are proud to look like girls and a few guys who still want to look like guys.

—We've never had the urge to wear an earring.

—Sources of good laugh – like some elected officials.

—Speakers that know how to start – and when to finish.

—37th Street is almost finished.

—We don't have to fly very often.

—Not all generals have decided to become TV commentators.

—So far, we can still pay the bills.

—We likely won't get a telemarketing call today.

—You don't have to talk to or vote for politicians who call you with a pre-recorded message.

—We've bought our last lottery ticket (unless the pot gets really big).

—We don't have to understand deregulation of electricity.

—You can actually survive without a cell phone.

—We can't understand the words to rap "music."

—The mute and the off switch on the TV set.

—The newspaper is the original laptop.

—Nachos – even though they're not on any known diet.

—Our Christmas shopping is already done.

ASK US

Q—Does the courthouse have cable TV and if so, what does it cost and why is it needed?

A—It is equipped with one basic cable line at a cost of $8 a month. It serves as an emergency disaster relief site and it is required to have cable access.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Area Forecast: Thanksgiving Day, mostly sunny; high upper 60s; W winds 10-20 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy; low 40-45. Friday, partly cloudy; high near 70. Saturday through Tuesday, partly cloudy; low upper 30s.



Taylor Freeman
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:43 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:19 a.m.
Of 325 days in 2001, the sun has shone 313 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Give thanks!

NOV 22 2001

Perry reopens Queen Isabella Causeway

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday celebrated the reopening of the Queen Isabella Causeway with thousands of residents by cutting the ceremonial ribbon that draped the reconstructed bridge and promptly drove across it.

The $4.3 million project was completed a month ahead of schedule, allowing vehicles to once again travel the only roadway linking South Padre Island to the Texas mainland.

"Not a greater Thanksgiving could we have in Texas," Perry said before cutting the ribbon.

After cutting the ribbon about 10 a.m., Perry and other community leaders got into a van and drove across the four-lane bridge.

The bridge opening was greeted enthusiastically by residents who have been forced to take ferries to get to the mainland.

Port Isabel resident Fidel Garza said, "I wish I could be the first one to cross in my motorcycle."

While no one at the ceremony expressed concern about driving over the newly completed span, Toribio Garza, with the Texas Department of Transportation, said ferry service will continue through the weekend "because of some apprehension that people may feel crossing the causeway."

The midsection of the bridge was destroyed Sept. 15 when a tug boat with four barges slammed into a bridge support. Eight people were killed when their cars plummeted 85 feet into Laguna Madre below.

The accident was caused in part by an unusually strong current that swept the barges off course, according to testimony last month at a Coast Guard hearing in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Perry's office has estimated that 5,600 employees and 2,378 businesses were affected by the disaster, with the economic impact estimated at $45 million to $55 million if the causeway reopening had been Dec. 23 as originally scheduled.

A televised concert by country music singer Garth Brooks is scheduled for Nov. 28, which could help rejuvenate the economy in Port Isabel and South Padre Island.

Perry has asked President Bush to reconsider his administration's decision not to provide federal disaster unemployment assistance to the area affected by the bridge collapse.

The governor wrote a letter to Bush after a request from Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa, asking that the Federal Emergency Management Agency take another look at the effects of the bridge collapse was denied.

The collapse caused thousands of job losses and cost millions to the tourism-dependent economy.

In the letter sent Monday, Perry challenged FEMA's claim that state and local governments can meet the needs of all citizens who lost jobs because of the collapse.

"The Disaster Unemployment Assistance program could provide assistance for individuals not currently eligible for unemployment assistance," Perry wrote in his appeal. "This assistance would address the unmet needs of the sole-proprietors and other self-employed small business people, and provide assistance to those whose unemployment benefits have been exhausted."

Meanwhile, the National Highway Administration has announced it will reimburse the state and local governments $10 million for ferries, shuttle buses and other transportation services employed while the causeway was out of service.

Illinois high court nixes racist group's challenge

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The Illinois Supreme Court dealt a legal blow to a white supremacist on Wednesday, upholding a state law that requires charities to register and report their finances to the government.

The court rejected Matt Hale's argument that the law is unconstitutionally vague.

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan sued Hale's World Church of the Creator in 1999 for failing to register as a charity and disclose its finances. The lawsuit was filed just days after former member Benjamin Smith went on a shooting rampage that targeted minorities. Smith killed two people and injured nine before killing himself.

Ryan is trying to fine the East Peoria-based racist group $1,000, freeze its assets and ban it from soliciting funds in Illinois.

Ryan contends Hale's organization is a charity, not a church. Illinois requires charities to register so it can protect people from fraudulent fund raising, while the First Amendment keeps government's hands off churches.

Hale argued that the law is so vague no one can tell which groups it covers. A Cook County circuit judge agreed and overturned the law.

The Supreme Court's unanimous decision, which sends the case back to the lower court, said the state's Solicitation Act describes "charitable organizations" as being formed for "benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic," or other purposes.

"Although the terms at issue in this case are broad in scope, we fail to see how they could be more precisely defined," wrote Justice Rita Garman.

Hale had claimed Ryan was using the law to shut down his organization because of Smith's crimes. He has contended that while his group preaches white supremacy, he did not encourage Smith to kill minorities.

After Wednesday's decision, Hale said Ryan, a Republican candidate for governor, was trying to score political points.

"We are a body of religious adherents. We raise money in order to print our literature and distribute it," Hale said. "We have a collection plate, just as most churches, and I don't see them being hauled into court by Jim Ryan."

However, Hale based his lawsuit on the constitutional vagueness question.

Ryan argued that Hale's group qualifies as a charity because it sells items such as "The White Man's Bible."

Garman said the group's solicitation on a Web site for membership dues and advertisements for books and merchandise gave "the appearance of a charitable organization."

On the Net Illinois Supreme Court: http://www.state.il.us/court/Opinions/Search.htm

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Glove soft vinyl. Choice of colors. Reg. $999.95 SALE $688

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5 PC. GLASS TOP DINETTE
Includes table with 4 chairs. Special purchase!
Reg. $179.95
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Choice of black, white or green.
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4 DRAWER CHEST
Nice woodgrain finish, brass finish handles.
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SALE $39.88

SLIDER ROCKER W/MATCHING OTTOMAN
Choice of Colors
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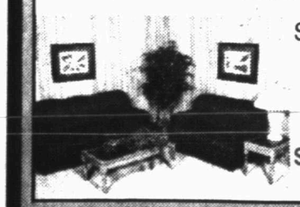
MATTRESS MANIA!
SLEEPCARE MATTRESSES
2 PC.TWIN SET .....SALE $78
2 PC FULL SET .....SALE $98
MARKET SPECIAL SET
15 YR WARRANTY
TWIN SET Reg. $269.95 ...SALE $138
FULL SET Reg. $349.95 ...SALE $178
QUEEN SET Reg. $449.95 .SALE $228
KING SET Reg. $599.95 ...SALE $278
CYBER REST PILLOWTOP
15 YR WARRANTY
FULL SET Reg. $499.95 ...SALE $248
QUEEN SET Reg. $599.95 .SALE $298
KING SET Reg. $799.95 ...SALE $398

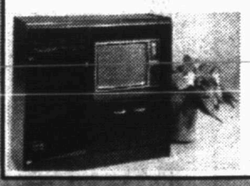
1 ONLY BEAUTIFUL LOVESEAT
Rich blue tone cover
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SALE $199

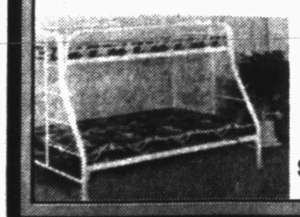
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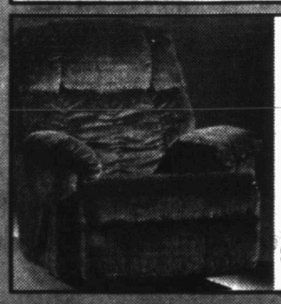
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LARGE SIZE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

In choice of oak or black oak finish.
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TWIN OVER FULL IRON BUNK BED

Sturdy built, choice of colors, includes bedding.
Reg. $399.95
SALE $288

5 PC. CONVERSATION PIT GROUP

Includes 2 sofas, love seat and 2 ottomans, nice cover
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SALE $588


ROCKER/ RECLINER
In rich velvet cover. Hurry for these!
Reg. $299.95
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Datebook

Thursday, Nov. 22, 2001

Today is THANKSGIVING; it is the 326th day of 2001 and the 62nd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1910, Arthur Knight was granted a patent for his design of a golf club with a steel shaft.

On this day in 1961, "Blue Hawaii," starring Elvis Presley, Joan Blackman and Angela Lansbury, opened in movie theaters.

On this day in 1965, singer Bob Dylan and model Sara Lowndes were wed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: George Eliot (1819-1880), novelist; Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970), French statesman; Wiley Post (1899-1935), aviator; Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981), composer-pianist; Rodney Dangerfield (1921-), comedian, is 80; Robert Vaughn (1932-), actor, is 69; Billie Jean King (1943-), tennis star, is 58; Jamie Lee Curtis (1958-), actress, is 43; Boris Becker (1967-), tennis player, is 34.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, in a game with the Green Bay Packers, Jack Christiansen of the Detroit Lions returned two punts for two touchdowns.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "How can you expect to govern a country that has 246 kinds of cheese?" — Charles De Gaulle

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Lifestyles



SOIL CARE PR
Resource Soil
Snyder Garden

Share s

AMAZIN
SWEET
MINI L

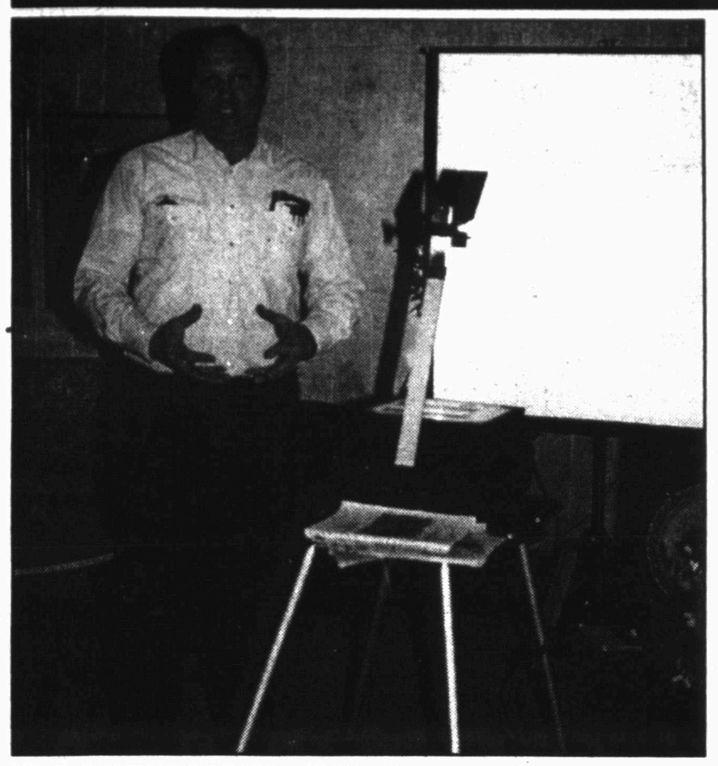
½ cup cooked
peeled and puree
1 cup brown su
1 cup apple juic
¾ cup raisins
1½ tablespoons
2 teaspoons pur
2 cups all-purpo
1 teaspoon baki
½ teaspoon bak
½ cup chopped
Preheat oven t
large saucepan,
nine ingredients.
over high heat. L
simmer for 2 min
to cool.
Sift together dr
Add to the cooled
mixture; stir well
nuts. Spoon batt
greased mini loaf
mately 3 x 6-inch.
rack for 60 minu
wooden pick inser
comes out clean.
10 minutes. Remo

Comm
Calen

THURS
New Horizons A
ing; for information
573-4048 or 573-114
Nuestra Nueva
Park Club; for in
573-8494 or 573-114
FRID
Free blood pre
Senior Citizens Cen
a.m.
Blood pressures
Cogdell Hospital
Services, 1800 C
Suite B; 1-2 p.m.
ABCL Open Pa
Bridge; Snyder C
1:30 p.m.
Cornelius-Dodso
by appointment, ca
573-0770.
Scurry County A
ing; Park Club in
for information ca
573-9458; 8 p.m.
Al-Anon open m
Club; 573-3733, 573

ALL
ALL
SAL
SUNDAY
Come in a

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



SOIL CARE PROGRAM — Willie Crenwelge, from the Lubbock Resource Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS, gave the program for Snyder Garden Club members on Nov. 1. (Contributed Photo)

Share sweet potato mini loaves

AMAZING SPICED SWEET POTATO MINI LOAVES

½ cup cooked sweet potatoes, peeled and pureed
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1 cup apple juice
¾ cup raisins
1½ tablespoons vegetable oil
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 325 F. In a large saucepan, combine first nine ingredients. Bring to a boil over high heat. Lower heat and simmer for 2 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Sift together dry ingredients. Add to the cooled sweet potato mixture; stir well. Fold in walnuts. Spoon batter into three greased mini loaf pans, approximately 3 x 6-inch. Bake on lowest rack for 60 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Remove from pans and cool on wire rack. Makes three mini loaves or 18 servings.

Note: If baked in a 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan, increase baking powder by ½ teaspoon and increase baking time by 30 minutes.

Aside from its fantastic flavor, the amazing thing about this moist, quick bread is that it uses only 1½ tablespoons of oil in the whole recipe.

'Candlelight at the Ranch' set Dec. 7-8

The 23rd Annual Candlelight at the Ranch will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 7-8 at the National Ranching Heritage Center both evenings.

More than 100 volunteers in period clothing re-enact holiday activities of the late 1700s to early 1900s in the National Ranching Heritage Center's historic structures during this annual community tradition.

Luminaria-lighted pathways lead visitors to scenes depicting cowboys playing traditional music, a quiet cavalry camp, chuck wagons and historic buildings.

In the Devitt-Mallet museum building, a Cowboy Santa greets children while carolers sing. Cogdell's General Store will be open for holiday shoppers. Hot cider is served in the 6666 Barn, where visitors can experience traditional ranch music and dances.

On Saturday, Candlelight begins one hour earlier to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers and those with special needs. There is no admission charge.

The National Ranching Heritage Center is located east of Indiana Avenue on Fourth Street in Lubbock.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-4048 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8494 or 573-1141; 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 appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-

Bridge

North 11-22-01
♠ K J 10 2
♥ K J 6 4 2
♦ A 9
♣ 7 2

West
♠ 6
♥ A Q 7
♦ 8 7 6 5 3
♣ K Q 6 3

East
♠ Q 9 8
♥ 10 9
♦ 10 4 2
♣ A 9 8 5 4

South
♠ A 7 5 4 3
♥ 8 5 3
♦ K Q J
♣ J 10

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Dbl.	2 ♠	3 ♣
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

The best value among the reprints

By Phillip Alder

Several good books have been reprinted recently. But for most of my readers, I am confident that the best is "Guide to Better Card Play" by Ron Klinger (Cassell). First published in 1990, it won the 1991 Book of the Year award from the American Bridge Teachers' Association. In 200 large pages, you get lots of instruction, many example deals, and copious quizzes. There are 16 chapters of basic instruction on both declarer-play and defense, then 16 chapters of more-advanced material.

In this deal, you are in four spades. West leads the club king: two, nine (high to encourage), 10. Next, West cashes the club queen: seven, five, jack. Then West shifts to a diamond. How would you play the trumps? Why?

East's three clubs is debatable, and South's four spades an overbid: He should try for game with three hearts.

You have lost two clubs and must lose one heart. And if you are not to concede two heart tricks, you need West to have both the ace and queen. (If East had a singleton honor, probably he would have discouraged in clubs at trick one, hoping his partner would find the telling shift.) Yet that gives West 11 high-card points: the ace-queen of hearts and king-queen of clubs. If he had the spade queen as well, he would have opened the bidding. So, win with dummy's diamond ace, cash the spade king, then call for the spade jack and play low from hand when East doesn't cover with the queen.

The book is $18.95 postpaid from Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies. Call (800) 274-2221 to order.

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FCCLA PARTICIPATES IN PROJECT — Snyder High School FCCLA, Family Consumer, Community Leaders of American (formerly FHA) members participated in the annual Great American Smokeout in high school. They hung posters in the hallways and handed out anti-tobacco stickers to students during the day. From left are, back row, Leslie NeSmith, Marcie Rodriquez, Felicia Ibarra, Marina Barrera, Denise Thomas, Dawn Thomas; front row, Megan Langham, Adrienne Garcia, Stacy Garcia, Kim Walker and Tammy Walker. Not pictured are advisors Carolyn Limmer and Carolyn Derouen. (Contributed Photo)



SHOWER HONORS BRIDE — A bridal shower was held Nov. 10 for Mrs. David Digby, nee Daniell Sharp, in the home of Lois Bartels. The couple married Monday. From left are April Digby, sister of the groom; Cierra Digby, niece of the groom; Sherene Digby, mother of the groom; the honoree; Lillyan Digby, daughter of Daniell and David; Margie Sharp, mother of the bride; and Shelley Shields, sister of the bride. (Contributed Photo)



16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16
From Go Cart To Pickup Truck
Everybody Watch Out!
HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY MARCUS
Love, Grandad Jackie & Grandmother Beth
16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
5:00-9:00 p.m.
ALL YOU CAN EAT Sirloin... $7.95
ALL YOU CAN EAT New York Strip... $8.95
ALL YOU CAN EAT Rib Eye Steak... $9.95
All of the above served with
SALAD BAR, CHOICE OF POTATOES and COBBLER
SUNDAY BARBECUE BUFFET - 11:00-2:00 p.m. $7.95
Come in and see all the new additions to our menu and take advantage of our lower prices.
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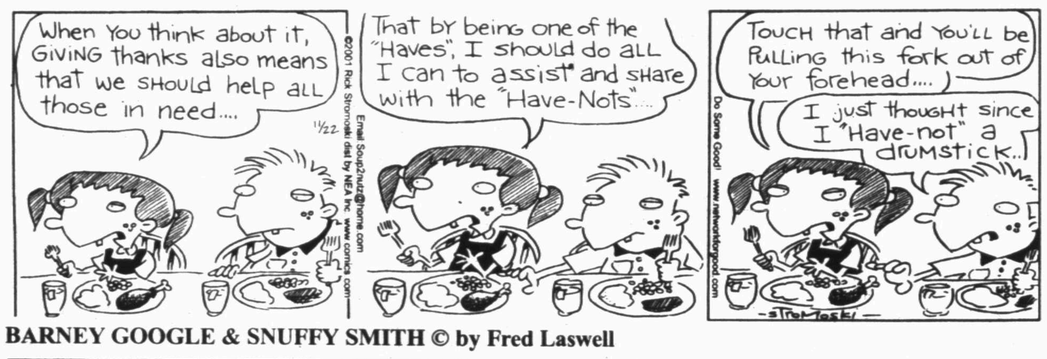
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



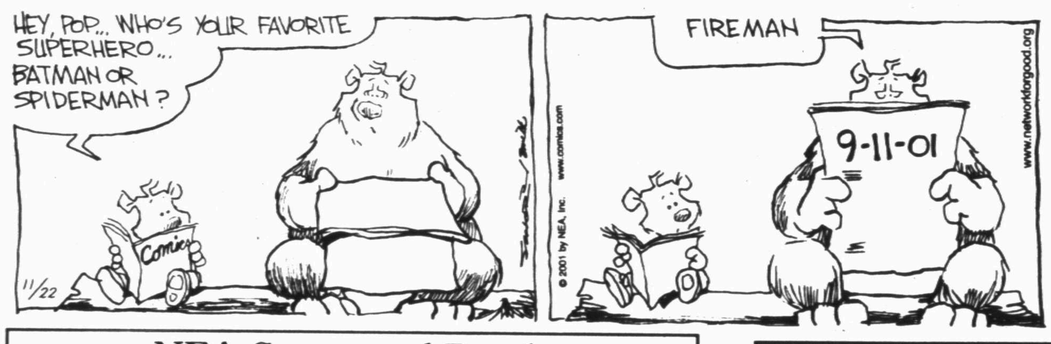
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



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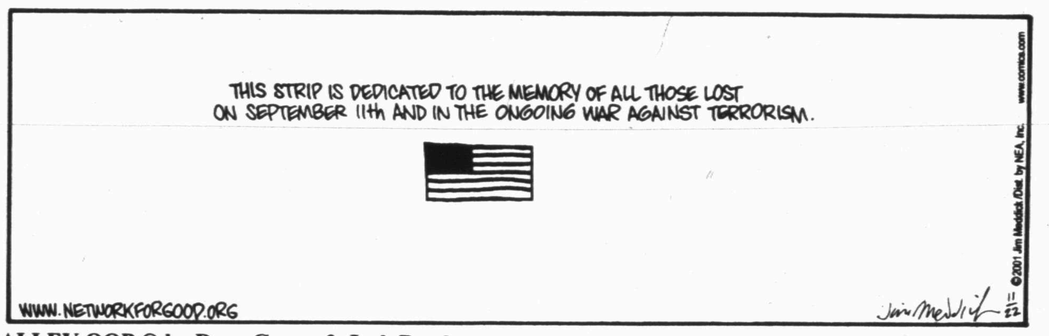
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

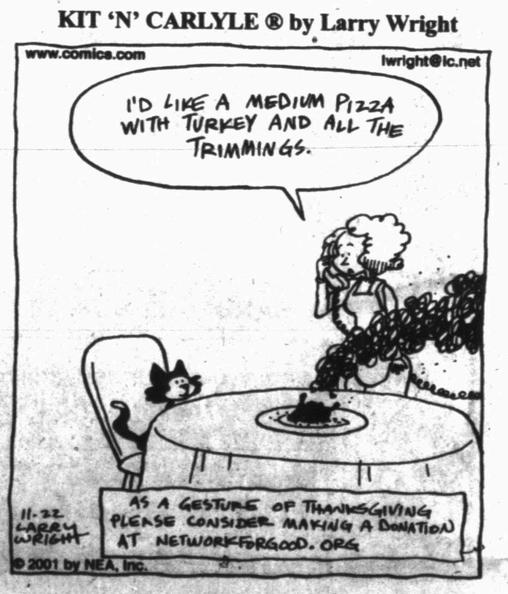


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"We haven't seen a duck for two hours!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 False witness
5 Twice DI
8 Dingbat
12 Still
13 Belief
14 Hawkeye state
15 Apple skin
16 Fabled long-haired beauty
18 Center of rotation
20 —- -relief
21 Compass dir.
22 Included
25 Urban people-movers
28 Knife handle
29 Bring to a boil
33 Church official
35 Mayberry kid
36 Strong wind
37 Diamonds and rubies
39 Genesis locale
40 Tabloid topics
42 Snake shape
43 Occupants
46 A Thai language
49 Sushi-bar selection
50 Molecule part
53 Theoretical
56 Andy's sidekick of old radio
58 Cold-cuts seller
59 Worthless coin
60 Shop-class gripper
61 Gin flavoring
62 MIT grad
63 Sundance Kid's girl

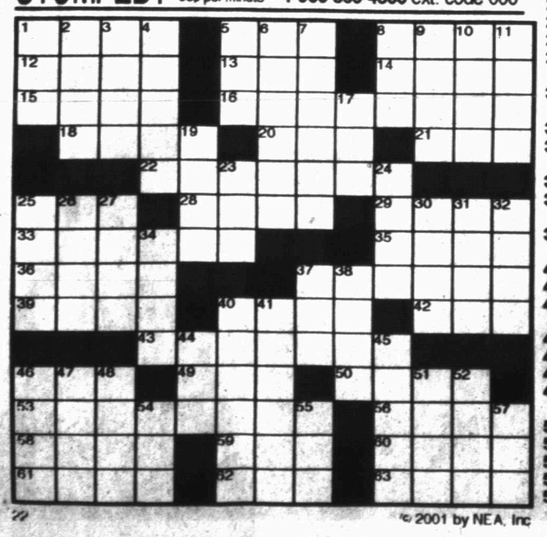
DOWN

1 Teacup rim
2 Light bulb, in the comics
3 Ex-footballer Karras
4 Old keepsake
5 Cosmonaut space lab
6 Signora Peron
7 Communicate
8 Aunts and uncles
9 Seep
10 Gets in debt
11 Cabbagelike plant
17 Function
19 Big Apple neighborhood
23 Monsieur's wine
24 Arab vessel
25 Brink
26 Soft metal
27 Mall attraction
30 Fencing sword
31 Feels ill
32 D'Urberville girl
34 Bronze coin
37 Voight of film
38 This, to Jose
40 Disquiet
41 Hunting hawk
44 Always, to poets
45 Barrel part
46 Youngsters
47 Cain's victim
48 Peace Prize city
51 Not do
52 Majority
54 Stalemate
55 Yank
57 Coral habitat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"WE GIVE THANKS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, HEROES AND FREEDOM."

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Cheap gas making holiday driving even more attractive

TUCKER, Ga. (AP) — The excuses for taking to the roads this week rather than the skies have been plentiful: airport security delays, terrorism fears, a struggling economy.

But Fred Lutz says he found the best reason at the local gas pump: He filled up his Cadillac for just 88 cents per gallon.

"I haven't seen that in a long time," the retired airline employee said Tuesday. "It's astounding."

Just in time for the Thanksgiving travel rush, gas pumps in some spots across the nation are charging less than a dollar a gallon. Some suburban Atlanta stations are offering prices as low as 79 cents.

AAA Auto Club estimates that a record 87 percent of Americans who travel this Thanksgiving holiday will drive.

The shift away from flying is due in part to lingering fears from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But with an average retail gas price for all grades of $1.23 per gallon nationwide, driving also is becoming more attractive in its own right.

Average gas prices have fallen by 32 cents a gallon since Sept. 7, according to the two-week Lundberg Survey of nearly 8,000 stations.

"Isn't it incredible?" asked Brad Proctor, president and chief executive of GasPriceWatch, Inc., which tracks fuel prices. Even in California, where air-quality issues have led to cleaner-burning "boutique blends," the average price of basic unleaded was $1.40 Tuesday.

A steep drop in Americans' travel and a supply glut have depressed oil prices, with producers reluctant to cut back, at least temporarily, experts said.

In Georgia, drivers also get a break on gas prices because the state's excise tax on gas, 7.5 cents per gallon, is the nation's lowest. Montana's, at 27 cents per gallon, is highest.

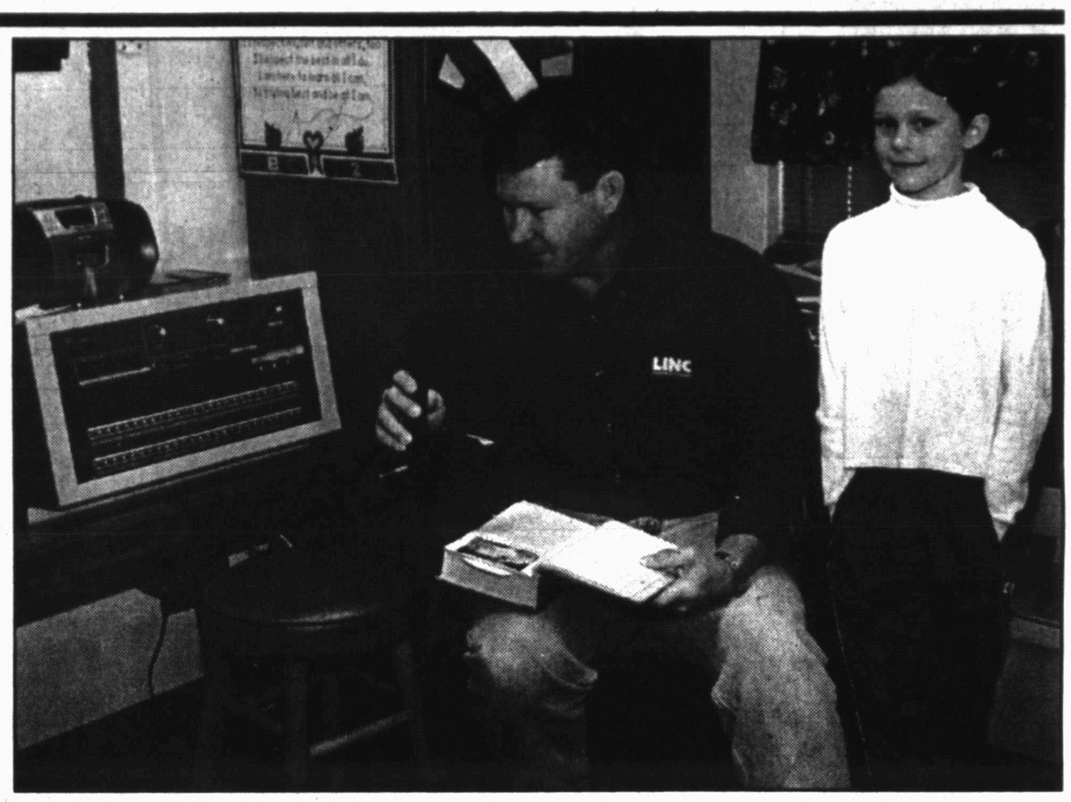
Georgians also benefit from their proximity to a major pipeline that carries petroleum through Atlanta, said Dale Shuirman, motor fuel tax administrator at Georgia's Department of Revenue.

"The longer you have to haul the product, the more transport costs you get in there," he said.

Shuirman said he plans to "buy as much fuel in Georgia as I can" for his 750-mile round trip this week to Raleigh, N.C., to visit his son.

Bridgette Orren, a fourth-grade teacher at Dacula Elementary School, was heading to her parents' home in Pensacola, Fla., Tuesday night. She decided that airport hassles — plus the $100 fee for carrying her Yorkshire terrier Maggie — made driving a better option.

"I did think about flying, but I prefer to drive," said Orren, 24. "I just feel safer driving. I know it's dangerous to drive, too, but I feel safer in my car because I'm in control."



FIRST "DODAD" — Stanfield Elementary has started a new program, "Do-Dads," designed to get students' dads more involved with the school. During announcements on Monday mornings, a different dad will read a story or poem over the PA system. Sadye Naizer, introduced her dad, David as he kicked off the program by reading a story called *Grandpa and Me*. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Prince Charles treated for eye injury

LONDON (AP) — Laughing off an injury that has left him wearing a white eye bandage, Prince Charles joked that it all happened because of his talking to trees.

He got sawdust in his eye while cutting a branch off a tree at his country home, and was treated Sunday at a hospital.

Opening an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the prince explained it all to an audience of about 1,000 museum supporters.

"I must apologize for this evening looking like someone who has been discharged prematurely from hospital," he said Tuesday. "But during a long career of talking to trees you inevitably come across the odd argumentative Arbutus or a cantankerous Quercus" — otherwise known as a strawberry tree and an oak.

"In my present uniocular condition I regret to tell you that I only saw the Victoria half of the gallery. I will have to come back and see the Albert bit later."

The new display in the British Galleries contains thousands of items reflecting the cultural history of the country. It is the biggest new exhibition in half a century.

Grades at Harvard analyzed

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Nearly half of all grades at Harvard University last year were A or A-minus, a steep increase from just 10 years earlier, according to a university study that follows reports of grade inflation at the Ivy League school.

The report, issued Tuesday, charted grades for the past 15 years and found that A's and A-minuses grew from 33.2 percent of all grades in 1985 to 48.5 percent last year. Failing grades, D's and C's accounted for less than 6 percent.

"With such a narrow range of grades available, faculty find it difficult to distinguish adequately between work of differing quality; they may also be unable to make such distinctions clear to students," wrote Susan Pedersen, dean of undergraduate education.

The dean's office has no official power over the faculty. However, the dean can direct the departments to study the issue and push for change.

The highest rate of A's was in small humanities classes, making up almost two-thirds of all grades given. Social science classes with 75 students or more were the toughest, with a third of all students receiving A's or A-minuses.

Some of the factors driving professors' generosity with grades were pressure to grade similarly to colleagues, fear of becoming known as a "tough grader," and pressure from students accustomed to higher grades, the Harvard study said.

The higher grades may also be deserved, as students work harder and are better prepared, it said.

In October, The Boston Globe reported that nine in 10 Harvard students graduated with honors, which takes at least a B-minus average in the student's major.

By comparison, honors went to 51 percent of graduates at Yale and 44 percent at Princeton. Other Ivy League universities also had a much lower rate of honors students than Harvard.

Sky Harbor International Terminal closing only temporary

PHOENIX (AP) — The largest passenger terminal at Sky Harbor International Airport was temporarily evacuated because of a security lapse, an airport spokeswoman said.

Federal Aviation Administration officials observing the security checkpoint at Terminal 4, used by America West and Southwest airlines, said passenger screeners failed to follow a new security rule for about 15 minutes Tuesday evening, said airport spokeswoman Suzanne Luber.

Luber would not say what the rule was.

FAA officials evacuated and closed the terminal. It was reopened after police and National Guard soldiers searched and found nothing abnormal, Luber said.

Passengers already on planes were forced to exit and go back through security, Luber said.

The breach caused delays of at least an hour, she said. Thousands of passengers were affected, officials said.

Worldwide Security was handling passenger screening at the terminal, Luber said. The company has worked at Terminal 4 for at least a year, Luber said, and was recently hired by airlines using Sky Harbor's other two passenger terminals.

On the Net:
Sky Harbor: http://www.phxskyharbor.com

Kiwanis/Goodfellows



Scurry County families may apply for Kiwanis/Goodfellow food donations by filling out this form. The deadline to apply is November 30th. Applications should be mailed to Kiwanis/Goodfellows, P.O. Drawer 112, Snyder, Texas, 79550

Home's Monthly Income $

Do You Receive Food Stamps AFDC SS/SSI

Father of Home

Age

Last or Present Employer

Work Phone

Mother of Home

Age

Last or Present Employer

Work Phone

Home Address

Mailing Address

Another Telephone Where You Can Be Reached

List Ages of Children at Home

Boys:

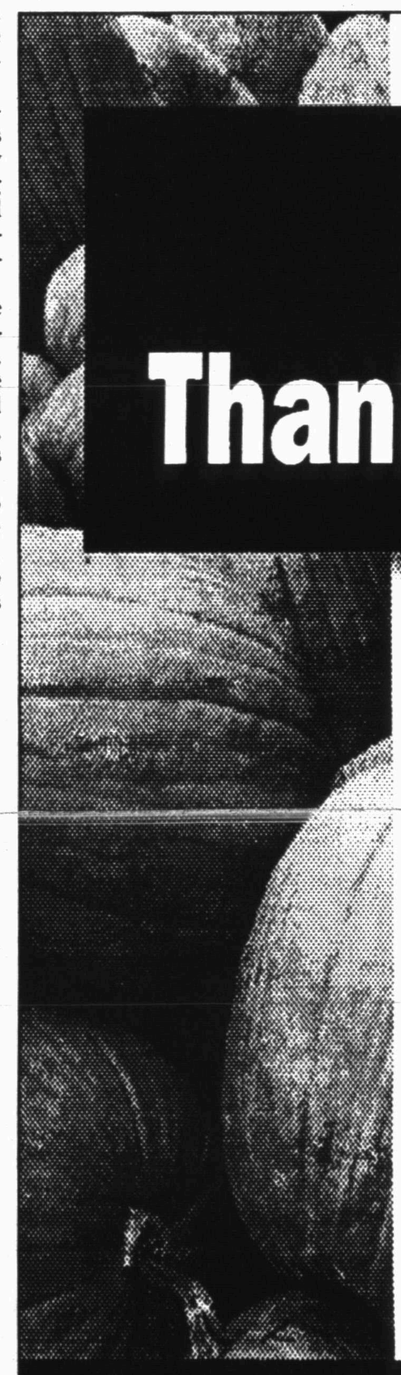
Girls:

Total Number of People at Home

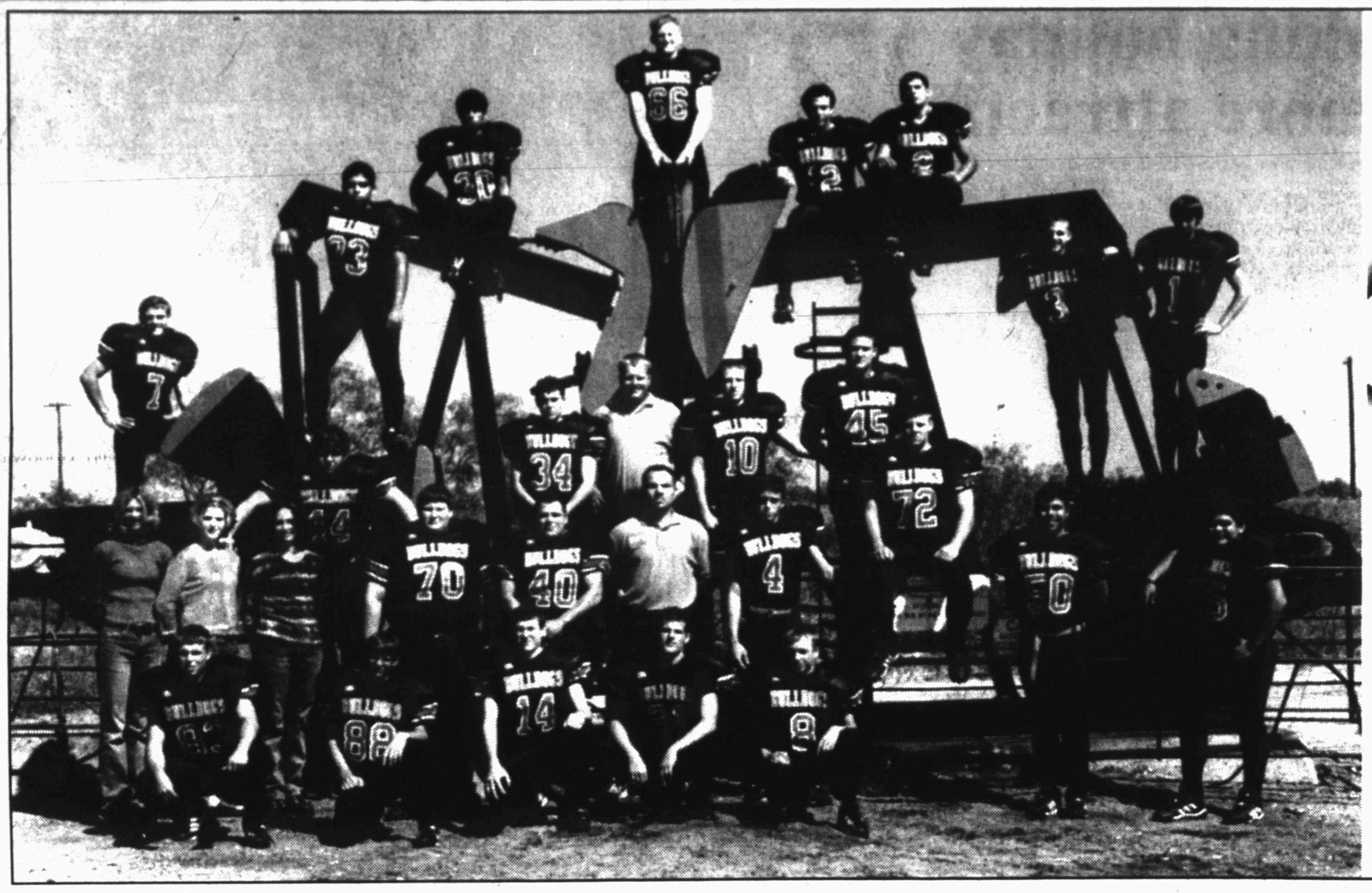
Acceptance Cards will be mailed to only qualified applicants at their address.

Pre-Christmas
Sale
Friday & Saturday, November 23rd and 24th
Save 10%
On Total Purchases - Up to $150
Save 15%
When Purchases Total Over - $150
(excludes ornaments, Counter Cards, Special Orders and Lay-a-ways
Free Printing with purchase of Boxed Christmas Cards
The Pleasures Mine
2502 Ave. R Snyder, Texas
915/573-6536 • Layaways
Virginia Bloom, Owner
Hallmark

Friday Only
Holiday Sidewalk Sale
Cute - Neat Christmas Gifts
50% - 75% off
Patriotic Shirts
Candles
Books
Christian CDs
Jewelry
BOOKS & GIFTS
The Real Stop
3203 College Ave.
573-1517
Silk Arrangements
Potpourri
Candles, Gifts
Inside Storewide Sale
including
ALL NEW CHRISTMAS
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. 25% Off
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. 20% Off
10:00 - Close 10% Off
Friendly Flower Shop
3203 College Ave.
573-3851, 573-5260


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NOV 22 2001





Ira Bulldogs
(11-0)
vs
Sanderson Eagles
(11-0)

GO BULLDOGS!!!

Six -Man Regional Playoff
7:30 p.m. Friday at Rankin

Way To Go
Sterling Grocery & Hardware
Ira, Texas 573-5075

Go Get 'Em!
Ira Independent School District

You Make Us Proud!
Ira Booster Club

Go Get 'Em Bulldogs
Wall Insurance Agency
2517 College Ave. 573-1941

You Are #1
Jerry & Phyllis Tucker
Andrea, T.C. & Chance, Jeff & Jeri Lynn

You Make Us Proud!
Mark, Sheila & Kristen Harless
Amy & Kile Vickers

All The Way Bulldogs!
Caprock Securities, Inc.
2517 College Ave. 574-6818

Go Bulldogs!
Buddy, Amy
& Emily Hardy

Bulldogs #1
Ira Testers
9500 Hwy. 350 Ira, Texas
573-1591

Way To Go Dogs!
Barbee Medical Supply
3801 College Ave. 573-3399

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Darryl, Teena, Amanda, Aryn & Austin Calley

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Barry Cribbs Ira, Texas 79549 (915) 573-4242

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Ira, Texas 573-4004

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Drive-In Hours
8:00 am-5:00 pm
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Snyder, Texas79549
(915) 573-9305
1-800-725-9305



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IRVING (AP)
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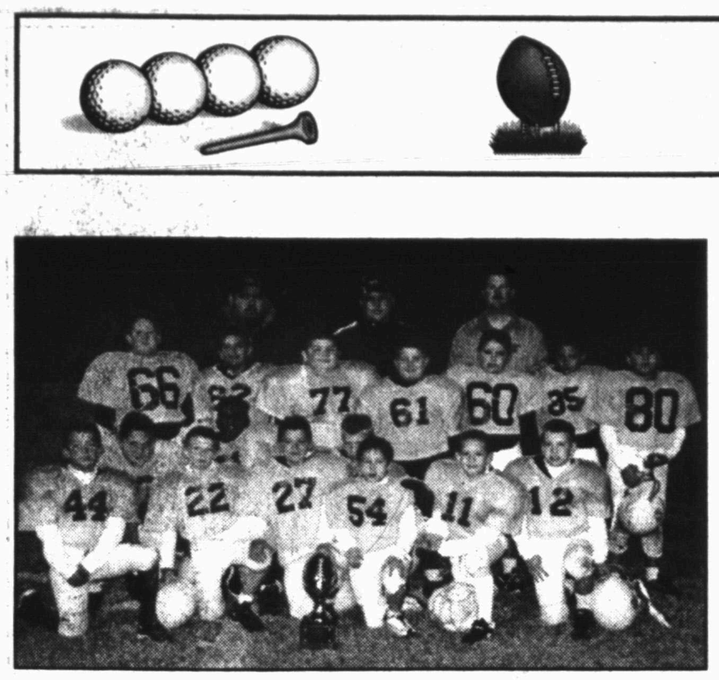
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A week earlier

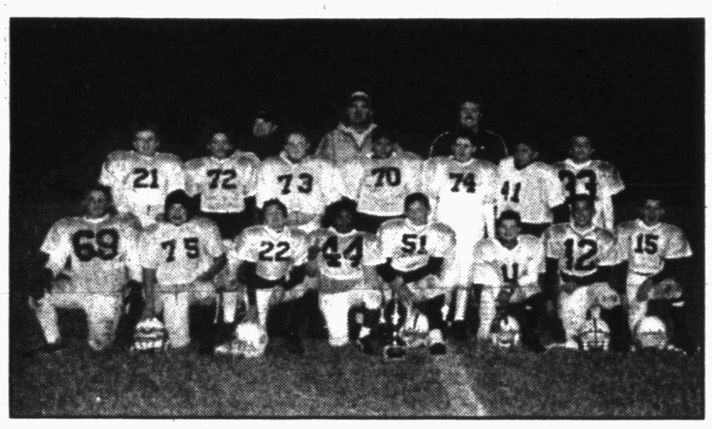
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Denver 5
San Diego 5
Kansas City 2
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N.Y. Giants 5
Washington 4
Arizona 3
Dallas 2

SPORTS



CO-CHAMPIONS — Members of the Snyder Boys and Girls Club third and fourth grade all-star football team are, front from left, Kelton Garcia, Stephen Carey, Shade Roemisch, Jody Pittman, Ty Burton and Clint Wall. On the middle row are Colby Barrera, Bradley Emerson and Dakota Carroll. On the third row are Kenyon Gafford, Alex Hernandez, Steven Juarez, Brandon Lunsford, Daniel Escobar, Tom Davis and L.A. Jaramillo. Coaches are Michael Alonzo, Troy Burton and Jimmy Pittman. Snyder was co-champions of the Youth Football League. (Contributed Photo)



GRIDIRON CHAMPS — The Snyder Boys and Girls Club fifth and sixth grade all-stars were champions of this year's Youth Football League. Members of the team are, front from left, James Simmons, Levi Mayfield, Brent Bollinger, Brandon Jones, Chad Franks, Jesse Conner, Ryan Claxton and Dustin Murdock. On the second row are Lance Day, Amanda Martinez, Riley Davis, Joe Garza, Brooks Gafford, Paul Garcia and Blane Knipe. Coaches are Brad Hinton, Dewayne Murdock and Russell Gafford. (Contributed Photo)

Undefeated Bulldogs set for battle with unbeaten Eagles

Ira has a top-notch running game, but so does Sanderson. The Eagles field a stellar defensive unit, but so do the Bulldogs.

It seems the only certainty regarding Friday's playoff is that the winner will remain undefeated.

Ira (11-0) squares off with Sanderson (11-0) at 7:30 Friday night in a six-man regional playoff at Rankin.

The game is one of only four around the state featuring two undefeated teams, so Ira coach Toby Goodwin has done his best to minimize the hype of Friday's match-up.

"We've had a good week of practice. We haven't tried to highlight the importance of the game, and the kids are preparing for it just like it was any other game," said Goodwin. "I think having scrimmaged them earlier this year helps us, because the kids have an idea of what to expect going in."

Neither squad dominated the preseason scrimmage, and Goodwin expects Friday's postseason meeting to be the same.

"When two teams are 11-0 at this stage of the season, they're pretty good in all three phases of the game," the Ira coach remarked. "When that's the case, it usually makes for a great game."

Both teams face tough tasks in stopping the run. Ira's I-formation features Nathan Smith who rushed for 1,514 yards and 24 touchdowns in the regular season. Sanderson's triple-option attack is fueled by Josh Benavidez who tallied 1,218 yards and 23 touchdowns through the first 10 games.

The Bulldogs won't make wholesale defensive changes to slow down the Eagles' running game, instead relying on the speed of their defenders to make the plays.

"We're going with our base defense," Goodwin stated. "We'll make a few adjustments like we do every game, but if you concentrate solely on the option, then they'll kill you with the sweep and inside lead."

Conversely, Sanderson's defense is predicated on clogging up the middle to force teams outside where the Eagles' speed can run down ball carriers.

"Once the game starts, we're going to take a look at what's working, but we do want to establish the run," said Goodwin. "I think if we can stop their penetration in the middle, then we'll have some room to run."

Both teams won their bi-district games on the 45-point mercy rule, and with two potent offenses on the field, it seems a high-scoring game would be in order. But Goodwin thinks otherwise.

"I don't believe it's going to be as high scoring as some people think," the coach said. "I think it will be a close, defensive ballgame and whoever makes the fewest mistakes will win.

"We told our kids in practice that it could come down to the little things. It might be the team that executes best on extra points is the winner. When you have two good teams, the whole ballgame could hinge on just about anything."

Friday's winner draws the winner of the game between second-ranked Groom and Patton Springs in next week's state quarterfinals.

UT tries to forget last trip to College Station

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' last game at archrival Texas A&M was one the Longhorns will never forget — for all the wrong reasons.

The No. 5 Longhorns (9-1, 6-1 Big 12) just hope they don't experience the same kinds of problems against the Aggies (7-3, 4-3) when they return to Kyle Field on Friday.

The problems started before Texas ever got to the 1999 game. The bonfire collapse that killed 12 people a week earlier shook both campuses.

By the time Texas was on the road to College Station, starting cornerback Rod Babers had a seizure on the bus ride. He would be OK to play.

"I have never seen a situation where people were treated as poorly as our team was treated."

—Mack Brown

That night, starting quarterback Major Applewhite was throwing up with a stomach virus. Freshman Chris Simms would start the game the next day.

By 4 a.m., coach Mack Brown's phone at the Ramada Inn was ringing off the hook with obscene calls although the coaching staff requested all calls be blocked at the front desk.

Come daybreak, the hotel cook didn't show up to prepare the pregame breakfast of steak and eggs. Eventually, waitresses brought pancakes but no plates and cereal but no milk.

A few players went to a nearby Jack-in-the Box for a quick bite, but most went to the game for the 10 a.m. kickoff without eating anything.

And the game? A&M rallied from a 10-point deficit for an emotional 20-16 victory dedicated to the victims of the bonfire collapse.

Longhorns linebacker D.D. Lewis summed it up as "bizarre."

"It was like everything was going wrong," Lewis said. "Major got sick, we couldn't eat; it was crazy."

Simms, who got his first start that day, was Applewhite's roommate and could hear Applewhite throwing up all night. Simms didn't learn he would start until a few minutes before the game.

"He was moaning and I was trying to get some sleep," Simms said. "It wasn't much fun at all."

Brown was furious after the game.

"I have never seen a situation where people were treated as poorly as our team was treated at that hotel, " Brown said then. "If I'm driving through College Station and there's room at that hotel, I'm going to stay in my car."

Brown won't have to do that. The team made arrangements to stay elsewhere this year, 50 miles away in Montgomery.

Brown prefers now not to talk about the problems of 1999. But asked recently where he would eat breakfast in College Station, he replied, "I've never had breakfast in College Station."

Some of the pre-game shenanigans can be expected in a rivalry as intense as this one. Texas junior defensive end Cory Redding said he always get phone calls from Aggie fans warning the Longhorns of impending doom.

Some callers have said they were going to "cook Bevo," the Longhorns mascot, Redding said. Not surprisingly, none leave the 6-foot-5, 260-pounder a number where he can call them back.

"That's stuff you just expect out of A&M. That's been going on since I've been here. Last year when we played A&M, on my room answering machine alone I had at least nine calls from Aggies, it was just crazy," Redding said.

Dallas defense steady despite losing record

IRVING (AP) — Overshadowed by Dallas' 2-7 record is a defense that has performed above expectations.

The defense that last year was the first in NFL history to allow three 200-yard rushers in the same season hasn't even had a team run for more than 155 yards this year. And the Cowboys rank sixth in the NFL in total defense, allowing just 300 yards a game — 56 less than the same point a year ago.

"We've been playing pretty good defensively, but it's still not enough," defensive end Greg Ellis said Tuesday. "If we were doing our part truly, we would win. That's when we can say we're doing our part."

The Cowboys are coming off a 36-3 loss to Philadelphia, their worst loss since 1988 — a year before Jerry Jones bought the team. But the defense can't even be blamed for that.

Philadelphia managed just 227 total yards and one offensive touchdown. The Eagles returned two interceptions for touchdowns, and had to settle for five field goals even after an average starting position at their 49 for 10 possessions.

A week earlier, Atlanta had just 201 yards but still beat the Cowboys 20-13.

"It's tough," said defensive tackle Brandon Noble. "All we can do is go out and try and keep them from scoring. All we can control is what we do.

"The defense is playing well, and that does get overshadowed by the record a little bit," he said. "But that doesn't matter at this point. We are all 2-7."

This week, the Cowboys only had three days to prepare for today's game against Denver (5-5).

"I'm tired, but it hurts more to lose," Ellis said. "I encourage the guys and myself to go out there and just fight through it ... no matter where they get the ball and no matter how long you're on the field."

While the defense has vastly improved, the Cowboys are on their fourth starting quarterback. They are also on pace to set franchise lows in such offensive categories as first downs, touchdowns and pass completions.

Veteran safety Darren Woodson admits it's a tough situation. But he and other defensive players have avoided publicly blaming the offense for the team's problems.

National Football League

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	7	3	0	.700	208	182
Miami	6	3	0	.667	180	185
New England	5	5	0	.500	223	195
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	244	258
Buffalo	1	8	0	.111	153	239
Central						
Pittsburgh	7	2	0	.778	155	97
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	174	166
Cleveland	5	4	0	.556	171	150
Cincinnati	4	5	0	.444	140	186
Tennessee	4	5	0	.444	159	203
Jacksonville	3	6	0	.333	151	148
West						
Oakland	7	2	0	.778	250	191
Seattle	5	4	0	.556	175	205
Denver	5	5	0	.500	228	215
San Diego	5	5	0	.500	246	206
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	171	199

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	6	3	0	.667	229	118
N.Y. Giants	5	5	0	.500	181	178
Washington	4	5	0	.444	128	203
Arizona	3	6	0	.333	154	221
Dallas	2	7	0	.222	132	203
Central						
Chicago	7	2	0	.778	201	139
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	208	140
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	183	229
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	183	163
Detroit	0	9	0	.000	165	262
West						
St. Louis	8	1	0	.889	279	146
San Francisco	7	2	0	.778	227	204
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	178	184
New Orleans	5	4	0	.556	209	182
Carolina	1	9	0	.100	154	242

Thursday's Games
Green Bay at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 4:05 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 25
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at New England, 4:05 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Jacksonville, 4:15 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Open: N.Y. Jets

Monday, Nov. 26
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 9 p.m.

Sports Whirl

By SDN Sports Editor Eric Drennan

After knocking off Ropes last week in the six-man bi-district round, the Ira Bulldogs are now one of only 36 undefeated teams left in the state.

There were 46 teams that put their perfect records to the test in the opening round of the playoffs, with 10 of them bowing out.

The unbeatens victimized by upsets were:

Class 5A — Fort Bend Kempner fell to Alief Hastings (7-2).

Class 4A — Medina Valley lost to New Braunfels (7-3).

Class 3A — Abilene Wylie was beat by Vernon (8-2). Graham was toppled by Sweetwater (8-2). Lake Worth was knocked off by Hillsboro (6-4), and Zapata was downed by La Feria (7-3).

Class 2A — Farmersville was ousted by Van Alstyne (7-3), and Como-Pickton bowed to Kerens (7-3).

Six-Man — Guthrie lost to Gordon (9-1), and Trent fell to Richland Springs (9-1).

Only two teams with losing records advanced out of the first round and they're both in the 2A classification. Omaha Paul Pewitt (4-6) knocked off New Diana (6-4), and Mason (3-7) upset McCamey (9-1).

For their efforts, Pewitt draws Alto (10-1) in the second round and Mason draws Coahoma (10-1).

When the Bulldogs hit the field for Friday's regional playoff, they'll face another undefeated team in the Sanderson Eagles.

The Ira-Sanderson match-up is one of only four battles featuring two unbeaten squads. The other three are Groom vs. Patton Springs (six-man), Hamilton vs. Celina (2A) and Everman vs. Forney (3A).

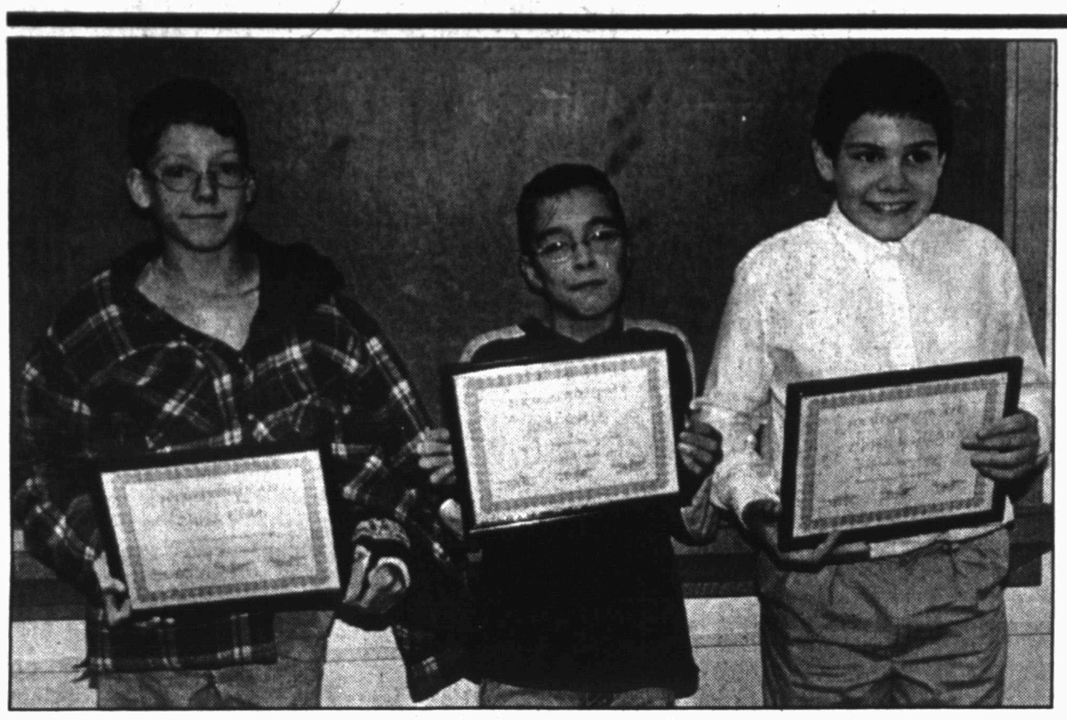
And finally, Friday's collegiate sports menu features the annual gridiron match-up between the Longhorns and Aggies. So it's only appropriate to take a few parting jabs at each school.

Q—What do most A&M players get on their SAT?
A—Drool.
Q—How many UT freshmen does it take to change a light bulb?
A—None. Light bulbs are a sophomore-level course in Austin.
Q—How do you get a UT grad off your porch?
A—Pay him for the pizza.
Q—What does an Aggie call a Longhorn after graduation?
A—Boss.

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FOCUS — Three Snyder Junior High School students received awards in the Focus program last week. From left are Chris Elder, Josh Keller, Chris Kuliga. Focus empowers troubled students. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Thieving birds watch their backs more than honest ones

By The Associated Press

British scientists say thieving birds watch their backs more than honest birds do.

Experiments by animal-behavior researchers at the University of Cambridge show that scrub jays that have been previously observed stealing food from others tend to move their own food to different locations to hide it from other sneaky predators.

The researchers say it is the first demonstration that a non-human animal can remember the social context of specific past events and adjust its behavior accordingly. This form of episodic memory — known to scientists as "mental time travel" — was assumed to be primarily a human trait.

"The jays seem to have transferred their previous experience of being a pilferer to the current situation in which their own caches might be stolen," reported N.J. Emery and N.S. Clayton. "They can recall specific past events, and the results raise the possibility that they can plan for the future."

Emery and Clayton's study appears in this week's issue of the journal Nature.

In the study, 21 birds were hand-raised in the laboratory. The birds were kept in cages separated by plexiglass so they could observe each other as they took worms from a tray and buried them in different trays with sand-filled compartments.

Some of the birds had experience in pilfering worms in previous experiments, while others had none. The experienced thieves quickly dug up buried worms when given access to their neighbors' trays.

Also, the experienced thieves that knew they were being observed by other birds through the plexiglass repeatedly reburied their own worms in different sand compartments in an apparent effort to find new hiding places that their competitors might not have noticed.

The experienced thieves did not rebury their food if the plexiglass was covered by a towel and their food caches were not observed by other birds.

Birds that were not experienced thieves also did not re-hide their worms.

Scrub jays are bold, noisy birds that grow to be about a foot long. In nature, they hide seeds and nuts by hammering them into the ground or into the crevices of trees with their sturdy black beaks. A single scrub jay will gather and bury as many as 8,000 acorns and other seeds each year, sometimes by spying on other birds and pilfering their food when it is left unguarded.

—

The basic monetary unit of Qatar is the riyal, and its chief fractional unit is the dirham.

—

Vermont is the 14th state. It was admitted to the Union in 1791.

Some anti-inflamatory drugs cut the risk of Alzheimer's

By The Associated Press

Dutch researchers have found the strongest evidence yet that pain relievers like Advil, Aleve and Motrin may ward off Alzheimer's disease.

A large study of people 55 or older concluded that those who took certain nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines every day for at least two years were 80 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer's.

Scientists first noticed in the mid-1990s that regular use of these drugs for aches and pains may protect against Alzheimer's. Studies in the late 1990s found no such effect, but had flaws such as asking people with Alzheimer's to recall their past medication use.

The Dutch study appears to solve that problem because it drew information on the patients' drug use from a national database in Holland.

Still, the lead author, Bruno Stricker, said researchers must confirm the results with controlled experiments in which patients are randomly assigned to take either anti-inflammatory drugs or dummy pills.

Stricker and other experts warned people not to start taking NSAIDs on their own. Anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and naproxen can cause serious, sometimes fatal side effects such as gastrointestinal bleeding and kidney damage.

"Whatever you do, go to your doctor first," said Stricker, a professor of clinical epidemiology at Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam.

The research was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Doctors studied 6,989 people, many of whom had been prescribed anti-inflammatory medications for joint problems. The patients were evaluated in the early 1990s to be sure they did not have Alzheimer's.

They were followed on average for seven years to see which ones developed the incurable mind-robbing disease. Checking Holland's national pharmacy database, the researchers determined which patients took NSAIDs and for how long.

Altogether, 293 patients were diagnosed with Alzheimer's and 101 others developed other types of dementia.

For people who already have Alzheimer's, Stricker said, "There's no reason to believe that treatment with these drugs would improve symptoms."

The Dutch researchers believe NSAIDS work against Alzheimer's by relieving minor brain inflammation. However, other researchers reported last week that NSAIDS appear to work by inhibiting production of a protein found in the buildups that clog brain cells.

In the Dutch study, one of the most commonly used NSAIDs, aspirin, did not reduce Alzheimer's risk at all. Likewise, none of the 17 anti-inflammatory drugs used by patients in the study cut the risk of vascular dementia, in which repeated, undetected minor strokes damage the brain.

Alzheimer's causes about two-thirds of all dementia cases; other causes include heavy drinking. Roughly 4 million Americans have the disease.

Because the Dutch government provides medicines free with a prescription, the extensive pharmacy records provided much better data than was available in prior studies, said Neil Buckholtz, chief of the Dimensions of Aging Branch at the U.S. National Institute on Aging.

The institute is enrolling 2,500 patients in a new study comparing the potential protective effects of two widely used drugs — naproxen, also known as Aleve, and the newer Celebrex — with dummy pills. Results are expected around 2008.

Dr. John C.S. Breitner and Peter P. Zandi of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore wrote in an accompanying editorial that the Dutch study appears to resolve puzzling conflicts among previous studies on the topic.

—

On the Net:
http://www.nejm.com
National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's site:
http://www.alzheimers.org/
Alzheimer's Disease Anti-inflammatory Prevention Trial:
http://www.2stopad.org



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Parents Name
Street Address
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Child Name
Age Sex
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2
3

Child Name
Age Sex
1
2
3

Child Name
Age Sex
1
2
3

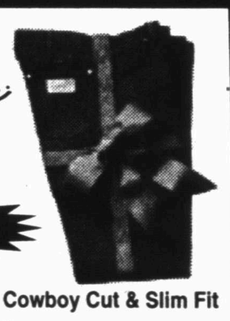
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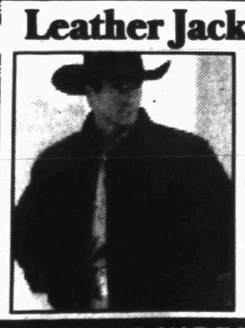
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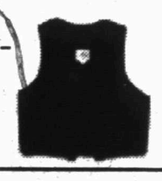
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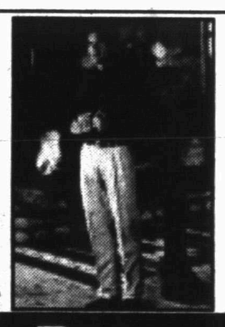
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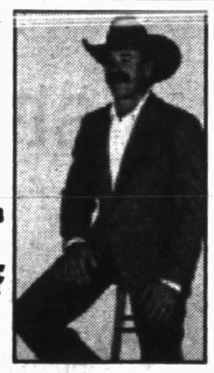

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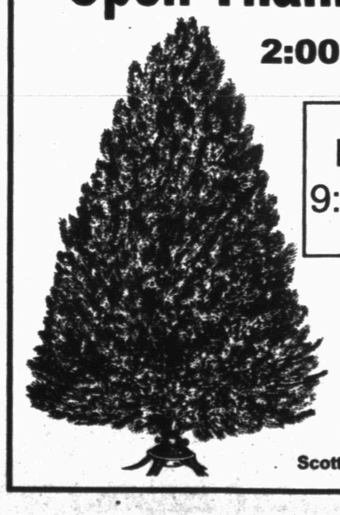

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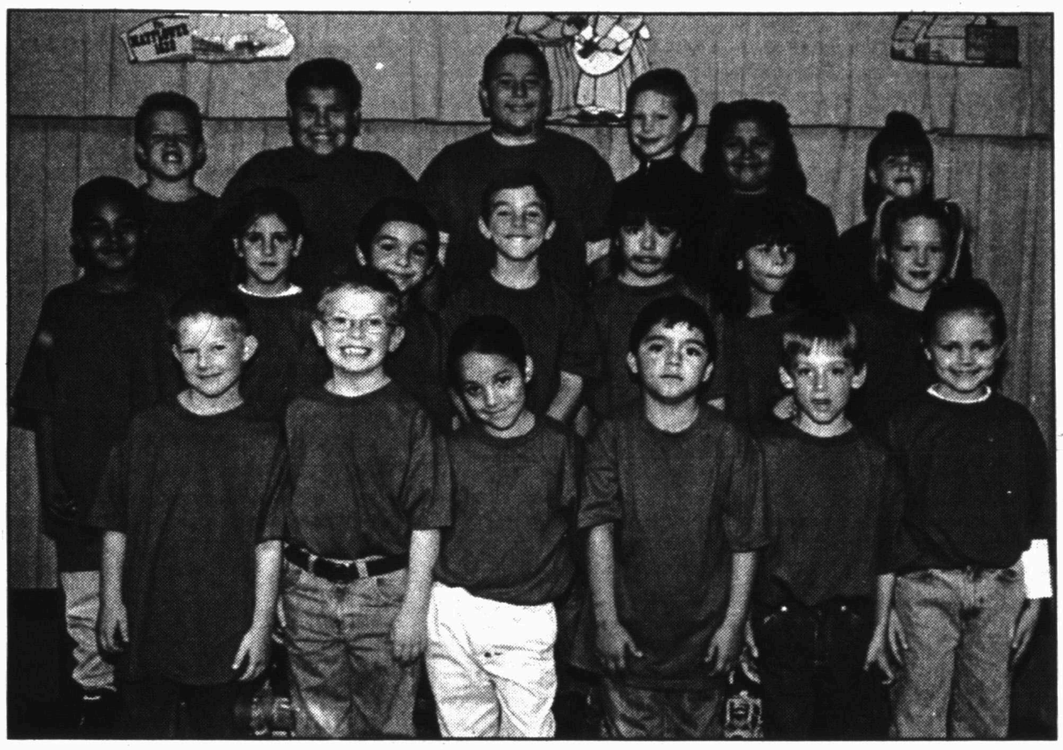
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THANKSGIVING PROGRAM — Carolyn Torres' and Sherry Patterson's students at Stanfield recently presented a Thanksgiving program. Torres' students (top photo) are from left, top row Desiray Molinar, Bridget Davis, Kayla Scott, Juan Benitez, Damian Donaldson and Adam Moncevais; middle row, Dominique Diaz, Jazmyn Moore, Tony Moreno, Alex Hernandez, Beto Arellano and Lorin Martin; bottom row, Melissa Whitehead, Kendall Alarcon, Slade Birkenfeld, Micah Henson and Zachary Ewing. Patterson's students (bottom photo) are from left, top row, Canaan Eubanks, Rudy Perez, C.J. Casas, Sadye Naizer, Donica Flores and Mallorie Warren; second row, Chris Rose, Daniel Shlezinger, Joshua Sandoval, Cole Etheredge, Randi Sanchez, Miranda Benitez and Jentri Driggers; first row, Kyler Billingsley, Caleb Hester, Devin Molinar, Hermelando Aguirre, Steven Seale and Samantha Rogers. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Study: Protease inhibitors cut death rate, boost health

By The Associated Press

The AIDS drug cocktails that have saved the lives of countless adults have proved powerfully effective in children, too.

A four-year study of 1,028 HIV-infected children and teen-agers found that combining protease inhibitors with standard AIDS drugs cut the risk of death by two-thirds, to less than 1 percent annually. Some children improved dramatically.

"The children are acting as if they didn't have AIDS," said study leader Dr. James M. Oleske, director of pediatric infectious diseases at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark. "They started growing, they started gaining weight, they started enjoying life. They didn't develop infections as much."

Since 1996, most adult AIDS patients have taken cocktails consisting of protease inhibitors along with older medicines. The combination has greatly suppressed the virus and cut deaths. For many patients, AIDS — once regarded as a death sentence — has been reduced to a chronic disease.

Because of protease inhibitors and other advances, some children infected with the AIDS virus around the time of birth are now in college; doctors once worried they would not live to finish grammar school.

Until recently, however, many doctors were not sure if children would get the same benefit from protease inhibitors as adults do. Some doctors hesitated to prescribe the drugs because of side effects such as bone loss.

The latest study looked at children treated for HIV at 40 pediatric AIDS clinics around the country. Their doctors and their parents decided on the course of treatment for each child.

The findings were reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

In 1996, when doctors had to guess at children's doses of protease inhibitors and there were no liquid forms for the very young, only 7 percent in the study were taking them along with standard AIDS drugs. Those problems were soon solved, and by 1999, 73 percent of the children in the study were taking protease inhibitors.

Arson destroys NY Sikh temple

PALERMO, N.Y. (AP) — A fire that destroyed a Sikh temple in upstate New York was set deliberately but investigators say they don't know why.

The temple, Gobind Sadan USA, was set ablaze Sunday.

"We're handling it as an arson," Oswego County Undersheriff Bob Lighthall said Tuesday. "I don't know if it's kids in the area that just happened to pick that property ... or if it's because of their religion."

The temple, the Guru Granth Sahib, was housed in a former farmhouse about 25 miles north of Syracuse.

Sikhs have been mistakenly associated with Arabs or Muslims because they wear turbans and have beards.

Florida Supreme Courts bars Bailey from practicing law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Citing his handling of funds in a drug case, the state Supreme Court on Wednesday barred defense attorney F. Lee Bailey from practicing law in Florida.

Bailey, who has represented such high-profile clients as Dr. Sam Sheppard, Patricia Hearst and O.J. Simpson, was disbarred for the way he handled 600,000 shares of stock owned by a former client now serving life in prison for drug smuggling.

The unanimous order gives the 68-year-old Bailey 30 days to close his practice in Florida.

Bailey's office said he was unavailable for comment. Bailey's lawyer Bruce Rogow also was unavailable.

Bailey represented Claude Duboc in a 1994 drug smuggling case and worked out a deal with prosecutors under which his client would plead guilty and forfeit his assets to the federal government.

Bailey said he took control of Duboc stock that was worth nearly $6 million as payment for his services. But federal prosecutors claimed that the stock was supposed to be part of the forfeiture and that Bailey had only been given control over it only for limited purposes.

Bailey initially refused to relinquish control over the stock but changed his mind after almost six weeks in a federal prison in 1996.

The Supreme Court said Bailey committed "the most serious and basic trust account violations."

"From the day it was transferred to him, Bailey treated the money as his own," the court said in the unsigned opinion. It said he sold some of the stock, obtained a line of credit on it and mixed the money with money in his own bank account.

Under the order, Bailey can't reapply for admission to the bar for five years. After that, if he did reapply, he would have to retake the bar exam and undergo a background and character examination.

Bailey is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar. Officials in Massachusetts did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

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Flu shots are safe for people with asthma, study reports

By The Associated Press

Contrary to widespread fears among patients and some doctors, flu shots are safe even for those with severe asthma, a study found.

Many people with asthma believe getting the vaccine — as health officials recommend — can cause dangerous asthma attacks.

Because of that misconception, only about 10 percent of asthma patients get a flu shot each year, said the study's lead author, Dr. Mario Castro of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Castro and researchers at 18 other sites around the country put those fears to the test by studying 2,032 children and adults with asthma.

Half got a flu vaccination and the other half an inactive shot. They were checked for symptoms for two weeks. After another week, the groups were switched, so everyone got the vaccine at some point.

After both the real and dummy shots, about three in 10 people had an asthma flare-up, with breathing difficulty. Asthma patients often suffer flare-ups because of colds, exercise or exposure to irritants such as pollen, animal dander, smoke, dust mites and cold air.

"Now we know for the first time that this is safe to use in all asthmatics," Castro said.

Linda C. Lambert, influenza program officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the study sends a strong message that the vaccine is safe for asthmatics. "I hope physicians will take notice of this and recommend that their patients get flu shots," she said.

The research was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all asthma patients — plus those with other chronic respiratory conditions or weak immune systems — get an annual flu shot.

Each year, flu kills 20,000 to 40,000 Americans and sends many more to the hospital or bed.

The prevalence of asthma has been rising in this country, and deaths jumped 109 percent from 1979 to 1998, when asthma killed 5,438 people.

On the Net:
http://www.nejm.com
American Lung Association:
http://www.lungusa.org

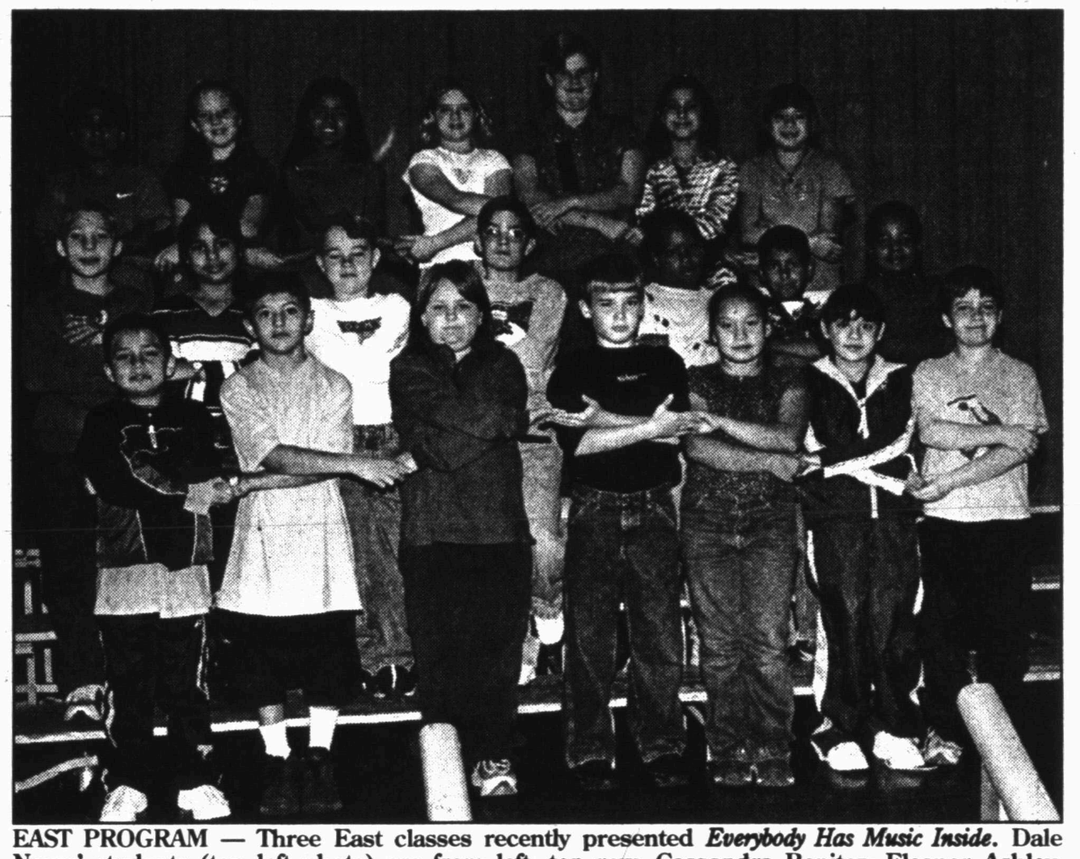
Song, video pay tribute to father

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — John Michael Montgomery did not have to obtain permission from his late father's estate to make his hit "I Miss You a Little," the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The country singer pays tribute to Harold Montgomery with the 1997 song and music video, including snippets from his father's own modest musical career before he died of cancer in 1994.

The video features Harold Montgomery's likeness, the elder Montgomery singing an original song titled "Let Me Be Young Again," and other remembrances of his father, including his gravestone.

Barbara Montgomery — Harold's widow and John Michael's stepmother — sued, claiming that the use of Harold's likeness violated a "right of publicity."



EAST PROGRAM — Three East classes recently presented ***Everybody Has Music Inside.*** Dale Neves' students (top left photo) are from left, top row, Cassandra Benitez, Eleanor Ashley, Quintin Bass, Monica Escarena, Cody Lee and Avery Ware; middle row, Javiel Rowe, Averie Pearcy, Brandon Porter, Anthony Segura, Amber Gutierrez, Taylor Tyrrell; bottom row, John Buchanan, Kim Nolan, Matthew Velasquez, Jose Espinosa, Kanaan Short, Aryn May, Michael Guardado, Samana Arizmendi. Lorinda Hardin's students (top right photo) include from left, top row, Jonathan Kerr, Stacey Clifton, Meghan Cooley, Kenyon Gafford, Rachael Dupree, L.A. Jaramillo, Samuel Vasquez; middle row, Seth Naizer, Toby Lopez, Larissa Arellano, Juan Estrada, Ben Alfara, Laura Ortega; bottom row, Jessica Hibbitt, Raven Luna, Lindsey Urias, Melanie Jones, Regina Alarcon, Brittni Chaidez, Jacob Van Winkle, Sergia Guajardo. Cinthia Putnam's students (bottom right photo) are from left, top row, Gus Gonzales, Jodi Hamilton, Natasha Garcia, Rainie Moore, Jacie Eveland, Chelcea Roemisch, Alex Walters; middle row, Mitchell Marcon, Gabby Arrendondo, Jake Strickland, Michael Strong, Letekka Richardson, Ricky Garcia, Jerard Delce; bottom row, Dilland Almanza, Joe Depaz, Shaela Essery, Coleton Mitchell, Monique Torres, Alexandra Rios, Lee McGinty. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Blockbuster cancels awards show

DALLAS (AP) — Video-rental giant Blockbuster Inc. has canceled its annual awards show next spring because it was uncertain how many viewers would watch such an event in the post-Sept. 11 climate.

The event was planned for next spring in Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium.

Blockbuster spokeswoman Liz Greene said Wednesday that the Dallas-based company soon would have had to make significant financial commitments to book the auditorium and gear up for in-store voting on the awards by customers.

Blockbuster did not disclose how much it planned to spend on the show.

"Due to the uncertainty of the times, we were unable to predict consumer response to an awards show — what people's viewing habits are going to be," Greene said.

Greene said Blockbuster's decision to cancel was based partly on the experience of television's Emmy Awards, which were postponed twice after Sept. 11 before taking place this month in Los Angeles.

"We wouldn't want to have to cancel the show, and the issue of celebrities in attendance is also an issue," Greene said.

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SCURRY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

This survey is being distributed to the citizens of Scurry County for the purpose of gathering information on public opinion about our Parks and Recreation Facilities. The information will be used to make recommendations for improvements and additional facilities.

The facilities that come under the Parks and Recreation Department include, but are not limited to the following:
Boys and Girls Club, Coliseum, Community Centers, Towle Park, North Park, Winston Park, Sports Fields (Soccer, Baseball, Softball), Swimming Pool, Kiddie Park, Senior Center, Park Pond

Suggested additional facilities:
Walking Paths, Skate Park, Sand Volleyball, Pool Enclosure/Water Slides, Additional Pond, Golf Courses

1) Which facilities do you use the most?
A)_____ B)_____ C)_____

2) How often do you use them?
____Daily ____Weekly ____Monthly ____Yearly ____Do not use

3) Rate the condition of the Parks and Recreation areas.
____Excellent ____Good ____Fair ____Poor

4) How interested are you in seeing improvements/additions to the Parks Department?
____Very ____Some ____No Opinion

5) Which new facility would you like to see added? List your suggestion here that may not be listed above.
_____

6) Are you a resident of Scurry County? ____Yes ____No If yes, how long?_____yrs.

7) Age Group ____18 or under ____19-25 ____26-45 ____46-60 ____60+

8) Would you attend a town meeting and support the decisions made? ____Yes ____No

9) Name (Optional)_____

Thank you for your participation, please drop off the completed form at any of the following locations by November 30th.

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Travelers line up in airports and trains for the holiday

By The Associated Press

Travelers lined up in airports and crowded trains and highways Wednesday, many saying they felt confident and safe while others admitted being nervous as they began the first major holiday travel period since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I was afraid to fly before, but now I'm really afraid," said Amanda Mrowca, 18, of Chicago, as she and her family waited at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to board a flight to Miami.

But a Los Angeles college student said he had no worries as he prepared to fly for the first time since the attacks.

"It's no sweat," said Sean Wolfson, 25, who was headed to Chicago. "I think there are precautions they have to take so everyone feels safer. But I don't feel the doom hanging over my head," he said.

Traffic was heavy along Interstate 64 in West Virginia.

"It has been busy all week here since last Friday, but it's normal holiday traffic," said Leon Ross of Hamlin, W.Va., who works as a rest stop attendant near Winfield. "More people have said they are driving instead of flying or taking buses. That is probably why people started traveling last week."

The AAA predicted 34.6 million Americans would travel at least 50 miles from home during the Thanksgiving holiday, a 6 percent decline from last year. A record 87 percent were expected to drive, largely due to a decrease in air travel, the automobile association said.

Some travelers shifted from airlines to rails.

"Our train was packed, and every seat was taken," said Dan Morrisson, 34, who traveled from New York to Toledo, Ohio, on a train that arrived Wednesday morning. "We just wanted to avoid the hassle of the airports."

Greyhound Bus Lines reports a 20 percent surge in advance-purchase tickets for the Thanksgiving period and an increase in trips longer than 1,000 miles.

Chicago Aviation Department officials expected 198,000 people to use O'Hare on Wednesday, and about 1.2 million people were expected to use O'Hare and Midway airports by Sunday night. Both numbers were down about 20 percent from last year's.

In Miami, the Bayne family waited at the airport to take off for Dallas.

"Right after Sept. 11, we decided to buy the tickets," said Joseph Bayne, 51, who was traveling with wife Judith, 47, and son Nick, 14, to visit his sister. "We normally don't fly on Thanksgiving. We usually go to Tampa to visit another sister, but it's our way of helping out the airline. We're doing the opposite of everyone else."

Amid the new emphasis on security, United Airlines had several volunteer customer service representatives assisting travelers early Wednesday in Chicago.

"We're all just kind of pitching in," said Bob Barba, a national account manager for United, as he helped people navigate the maze of security checkpoints and ticketing lines.

On the Net:
Air Transport Association: http://www.air-transport.org
AAA: http://www.aaa.com



Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Garlic treatment for plantar warts

DEAR DR. GOTT: I read with interest your recent article about the treatment of plantar warts, and I'd like to add my two cents. Three years ago, I had a terrible problem with warts on my left foot, unresponsive to acid patches, liquid nitrogen, scraping and excision. I had given up hope. Then a friend suggested an unconventional therapy using a slice of fresh garlic covered by tape. I regularly applied the garlic to my warts and within four months they had disappeared. Now I've been wart-free for more than a year.

DEAR READER: Your testimonial is compelling, so I'm printing it for other readers. Let me know how the garlic therapy works, those of you who try it.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 80-year-old grandfather suffers from dizziness and loss of balance. He has been fully checked by his personal physician and an otolaryngologist. No answers have been found. Dramamine doesn't help. Do you have any suggestions?

DEAR READER: Elderly people often suffer from lightheadedness and poor balance. There are many causes for this, especially bad circulation. Since an ear-nose-and-throat specialist examined your grandfather, I assume that the problem is not vertigo, a balance disturbance arising from problems in the inner ear.

Therefore, to complete the picture, a neurologist should examine your grandfather. Silent strokes or other circulatory disturbances may be to blame, some of which may be treatable. Your grandfather might also be aided by a program to improve his balance. Such outpatient resources are generally available in most hospitals. The main issue here is, it seems to me, to find a condition — or conditions — that can be treated to improve the quality of his life. I would be reluctant to pin his symptoms merely on old age, without first investigating other, treatable causes. The neurologist is the logical next step.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 70 and have had repeated prostate infections. For the past few years my sex drive has deteriorated. My sex life is now at a standstill. I am in good health. I've tried to talk to my doctor, without satisfaction. He vetoes the idea of hormone supplements because of the risk of prostate cancer. Our town is so small that I don't have the luxury of changing physicians. Am I doomed to a non-existent sex life?

DEAR READER: Loss of libido (sex drive) and ability (erectile dysfunction) may be related to medical problems, such as chronic prostatic infection, poor circulation, diabetes, vascular disease and many other factors. I believe that you would be best served by a referral to a urologist, even though this may require the inconvenience of traveling to another community. The specialist will examine and test you. Once he has diagnosed your problem, he can suggest treatment, which may range from prolonged antibiotic therapy and hormone replacement to medication, such as Viagra. In my opinion, you do not have to mourn the loss of your sexual functioning.

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Nevada daycare worker will plead guilty to molestations

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A man accused of molesting nine toddlers and infants at the daycare center where he worked has agreed to plead guilty to sexually abusing children, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Gary Hanneman, 33, was expected to enter a formal plea later Wednesday, lawyer David Houston told District Court Judge Connie Steinheimer. Hanneman will face up to life in prison.

The plea decision was made after the judge denied a defense motion to bar Hanneman's confessions from trial. Houston said her client confessed because he was convinced police would subject the children to traumatic interviews and examinations if he didn't.

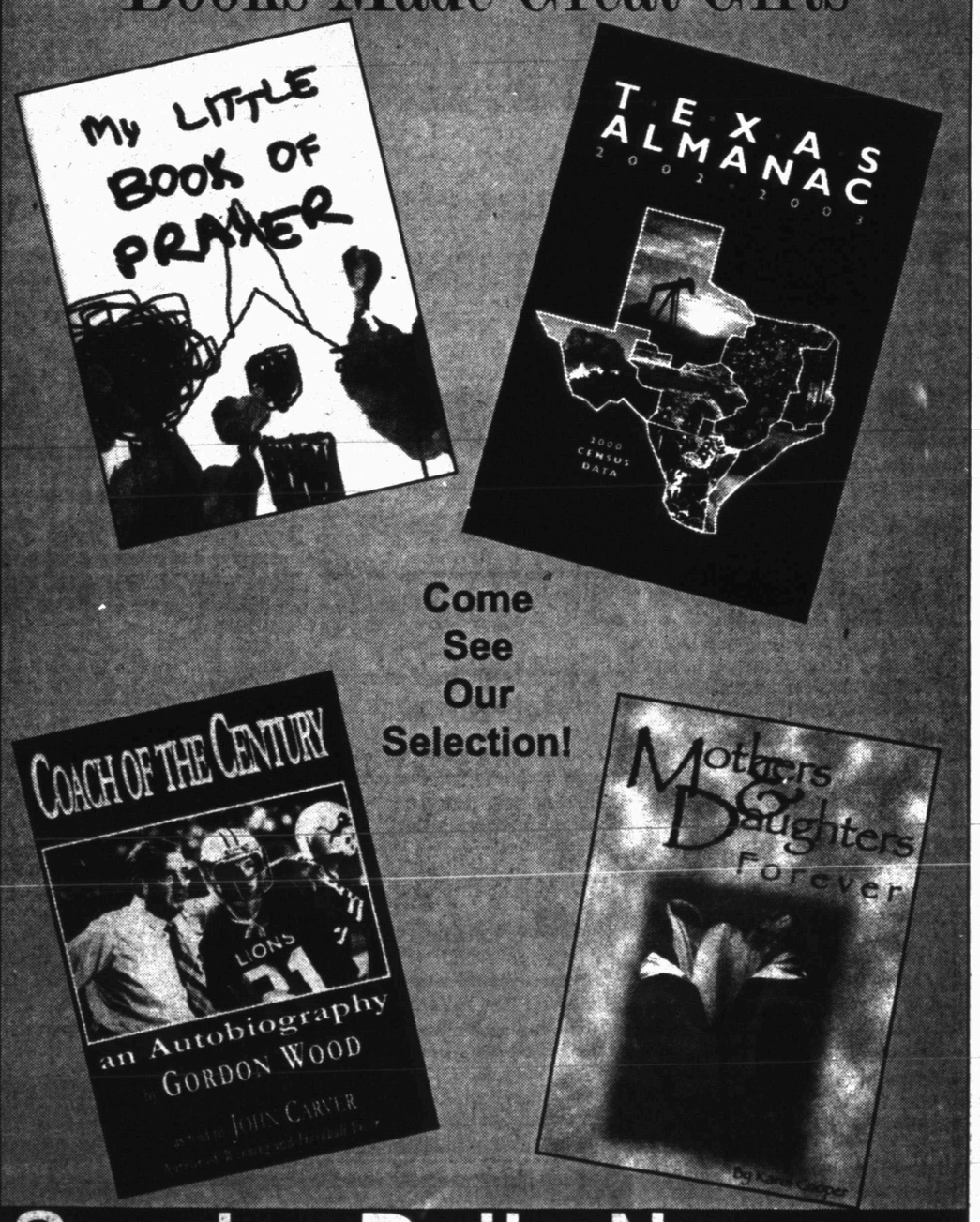
Prosecutor Cheryl Hier-Johnson said the plea would spare the children and families the "time and hassle" of a trial.

Hanneman allegedly videotaped assaults on children at the Children City Learning Center, where he began work in 1999. Prosecutors say one of the tapes seized from his home shows him committing hundreds of sex acts with one toddler.

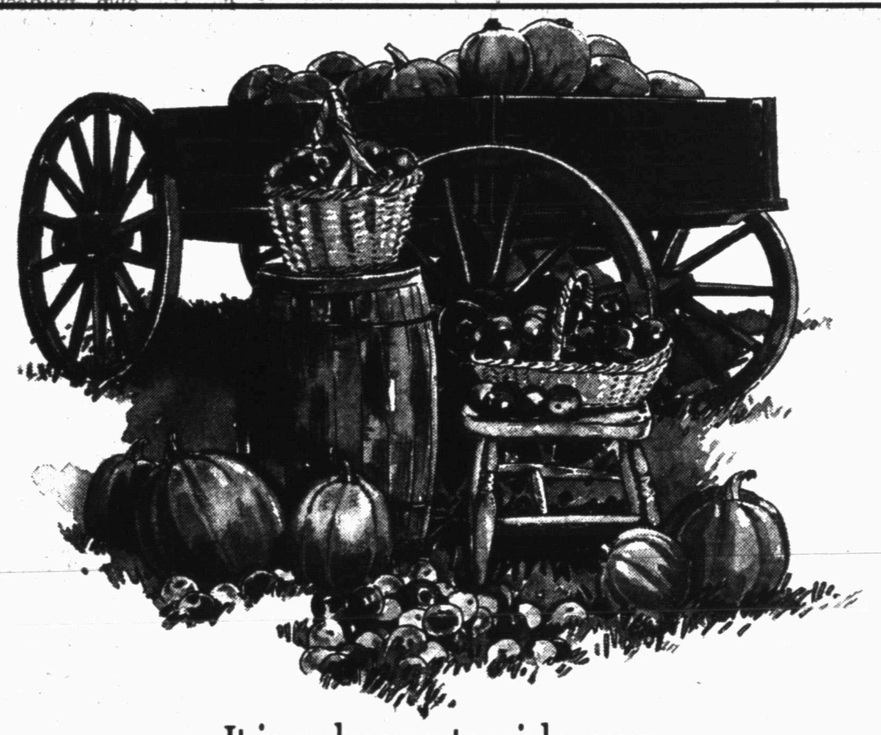
Hier-Johnson said Hanneman suffers from a form of pedophilia that involves a fetish with human excrement.

Hanneman was arrested in February and charged with 10 counts of sexual assault on a child under 14, three counts of lewdness with a child under 14 and one count of possession of child pornography.

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200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
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District Office (s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79601
Phone: 915-676-6800

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Kevorkian's conviction upheld by court

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the murder conviction of assisted suicide proponent Jack Kevorkian in the death of a 52-year-old man that was shown on television.

The decision, handed down Tuesday and announced Wednesday, said finding euthanasia legal would be a first step down a "slippery slope."

Kevorkian, 73, who says he has assisted in more than 130 deaths, is serving a 10- to 25-year sentence for the September 1998 death of Thomas Youk, who was terminally ill with Lou Gehrig's disease.

"But for defendant's self-described zealotry, Thomas Youk's death would, in all probability, not have been the subject of national attention, much less a murder trial," the court said.

"Defendant, in what is now apparently something of an afterthought, asks us to conclude that euthanasia is legal and, therefore, to reverse his conviction on constitutional grounds. We refuse. Such a holding would be the first step down a very steep and slippery slope."

Kevorkian had videotaped himself injecting Youk with a lethal dose of potassium chloride and gave the tape to CBS' "60 Minutes." The tape was televised in November 1998, and prosecutors quickly responded with a murder charge.

Kevorkian was convicted of second-degree murder in March 1999. He acted as his own attorney for most of the trial, telling the court his actions were "a medical service for an agonized human being."

The jury could have convicted Kevorkian of first-degree murder, which would have sent him to prison to life without possibility of parole.

Kevorkian's attorney Mayer Morganroth said Wednesday he planned to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court and to federal courts, if necessary.

Before the appeals court, Morganroth argued that Kevorkian deserved a new trial, saying, "I don't think (his conviction) would have occurred had he had effective counsel."

But Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Anica Letica said Kevorkian knowingly chose to represent himself, with attorney David Gorosh advising him.

"He's guilty of murder," she said Wednesday. "He knew exactly what he was going to do. It was to further his own political agenda."

The court found Kevorkian did not prove that Gorosh did an inadequate job, or that he was responsible for Kevorkian's conviction.

Media can't contact jurors, district judge ruled Tuesday

HOUSTON (AP) — A state district judge Tuesday upheld her order barring the media from interviewing jurors who found Andrea Pia Yates competent to stand trial for drowning her five children.

The Houston Chronicle asked Judge Belinda Hill to reconsider the order in October. The order barred members of the media from attempting to interview jurors from the competency hearing until after the conclusion of Yates' trial, scheduled to begin Jan. 7.

The Chronicle's challenge asked Hill to lift her gag order, which prevents witnesses and attorneys from publicly discussing the case. The newspaper argued it was beyond Hill's control to bar media from interviewing jurors until Yates is convicted or acquitted.

Hill said she decided to issue the order because of the extensive media attention on Yates' case and that the woman's right to a fair trial must be considered.

"Ensuring that Mrs. Yates receives a fair trial has to be this court's priority," Hill said.

"The essence of it is the judge has eliminated the right of the people to know what these competency jurors were thinking," he said following Tuesday's hearing.

Yates, 37, is charged with two counts of capital murder for the deaths of three of her children. Police say when officers arrived at her home June 20, she told them she had drowned her five young children in the family's bathtub.

Thanksgiving editorial

Giving thanks to our farmers and ranchers

The following is an editorial commentary by John Fuston, State Executive Director for the Texas Farm Service Agency

"Oh beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains' majesty above the fruited plains, America..."

The ode to our nation celebrates the strength, natural beauty and cherished freedoms that symbolize the United States of America. Embedded in that celebration of our nation is an appreciation for this country's agricultural abilities. This is especially true as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is truly an American holiday, a tradition that began when our nation's ancestors joined together to celebrate the bounty of the land. I would ask that all Texans join me in remembering and thanking those who preserve the beauty and bounty of American agriculture.

In recent months, Texans have been reminded how important it is for this nation to be strong. One of the keys to this country's strength and security is the ability of its farmers to produce a plentiful and safe food supply. We, as Americans, tend to take for granted that the shelves at the local grocery are full ... that fresh, safe food is available for their children and families.

Farmers and ranchers comprise less than 2 percent of our population, yet grow enough food to feed 200-million U.S. citizens, with generous amounts of food exported annually. In Texas, with a population of more than 20.8 million, only 14 percent of jobs are in farming or farm-related activities. Seventy-eight percent of the state's land is farmland, while the majority of the farms in Texas, more than 87 percent, operate on less than 1,000 acres.

The efficiency and productivity of Texas producers contribute greatly to the quality of life most Texans enjoy. National support provided to the agricultural sector is critical to maintaining that quality of life. Tax dollars that support farmers also support consumers' comfort.

Most of us don't know what it means to be hungry, but for much of the world, a safe and plentiful food supply is an unheard of luxury. In 1999, Americans spent $618 billion for foods originating from U.S. farms. Of that, only 20 percent was paid to farmers, the rest covered expenses for transportation, processing and distribution.

Farms and farm families are a valuable part of Texas culture. They embody a way of life based on wholesome values ... hard work and self-sufficiency, with emphasis on family and community.

As family and friends gather for your Thanksgiving feast, remember those who helped make this holiday fulfilling and those who help keep America strong. We in the Texas Farm Service Agency offer a heart-felt thanks to our Texas producers for all they do and all they represent.

J.K. Rowling buys home in Scotland

LONDON (AP) — J.K. Rowling has used some of the fortune from her phenomenally successful Harry Potter books to buy a secluded Scottish mansion.

Rowling has bought Killiechassie House, built by a Scottish general in 1865 on the picturesque banks of the River Tay near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, central Scotland, according to William Jackson of realtors CKD Finlayson Hughes in Perth.

"Killiechassie House is a most attractive family home," Jackson said Wednesday. "This area of Perthshire is most highly sought after with the most attractive countryside all around."

Rowling, who wrote her first book in coffee shops while struggling alone to bring up her daughter, now owns a mansion complete with two halls, a drawing room, morning room, dining room and library.

In the grounds is a sycamore tree said to have sheltered Prince Charles Edward Stuart, known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, during the Jacobite Rising of 1745, a failed bid to restore a Scottish Catholic to the British throne.

News reports said contractors working on the house have been asked to sign contracts that include clauses banning them from speaking to the media.

A spokeswoman for Rowling declined comment.

Rowling's four Potter books, which follow the adventures of an English boy who discovers he's inherited magical powers from his parents, have sold millions of copies.

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CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU

The family of Ola Chaney would like to thank all the friends and loved ones who share in their loss. Everyone who sent beautiful flowers, cards, delicious meals, desserts, and especially all who attended the gracious service at Calvary Baptist Church and the Snyder Cemetery. All of you were of great help at our time of need. The shared stories, memories and love have endured our precious Ola even deeper into our hearts. She will truly be missed.

Thank you to Snyder EMS and to Cogdell Memorial Hospital for doing all they could do.

A very special thank you to Rev. Larry McAden and to Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home, your kindness will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
The Chaney Families

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NOV 22 2001

Mexico faces growing drug abuse problem

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — With a vial of crack cocaine teetering between her fingers, a glassy-eyed woman pauses while rummaging through a pile of trash near the U.S.-Mexico border, mesmerized by the morning traffic.

Nearby, a man in his 20s sits on the curb behind a parked pickup and lights a vial with a tiny white rock inside. A police car passes as he inhales. A forgotten hypodermic needle rests on the truck's tire.

Others shuffle by, their clothes and faces dirty as they awaken on a recent midmorning from sidewalks, abandoned houses and cars. Several approach an American reporter and photographer, wondering if they are potential customers for their goods — crack cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines.

"Looking for anything special?" they ask in broken English.

This is the heart of Tijuana's drug district — the street called Ninos Heroes, or Child Heroes, a noble name for a place where Mexico's youth waste away smoking and shooting up on the curbs as traffic passes by.

Long a transit country where drugs passed through to an insatiable U.S. market, Mexico has seen addictions to hard drugs skyrocket over the past decade.

Now, officials fear tightened U.S. border security in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks may exacerbate the problem as smugglers try to sell their undelivered loads locally.

Mexican cities along the U.S. border already lead the country's drug use as traffickers pay their transporters in drugs rather than money.

Tijuana has the highest consumption of illegal drugs in the country — three times the national average, according to the government. The border cities of Ciudad Juarez and Matamoros are close behind.

"We are watching what's happening on the border very carefully," said Edward Jurith, the U.S. drug czar, during his visit to Mexico last week.

Recovered heroin addict Jose Luis Avalos, who runs a drug rehabilitation center in Tijuana, said the longer the U.S. government seals the border, the more dealers will be looking to the domestic market as an alternative.

"We already have the problem but it can get worse," he said.

Experts say Mexican border cities can't handle the problem as it is.

Drug rehabilitation centers have grown rapidly in Tijuana over the past five years, with more than 70 centers housing some 3,500 addicts. Another 2,500 are outpatients.

Avalos' group, the Integral Recovery Center for Alcoholic and Drug Addicts, is considered among the best. State human rights prosecutor Raul Ramirez said abuses abound at some other centers. There have been cases of addicts being beaten to death, chained to walls and denied food in the name of discipline.

Several people have died while in rehabilitation in the past few years, including some who did not receive appropriate medical care after overdosing, Ramirez said

"A lot of the people running these centers are former drug addicts who have little education or training," he said. "Addicts have entered these centers against their will, brought by their families who don't want to deal with them any longer. They've been tortured, put into isolation — and this is just what we know of those who have managed to escape."

Ramirez blames the government for not doing enough for addicts. The failure to clean up corruption has fueled the problem, he said.

"The police know where the drugs are being produced, where the heroin, the cocaine are being distributed. They go by each week and get paid themselves," Ramirez said. "The problem is extraordinarily complex."

Police deny involvement, but users say they pay officers to leave them alone.

Ninos Heroes is only a few blocks from a police station and the city's tourist zone. Most addicts congregate where the street runs into the International Highway along the border.

Fernando Enriquez sits on the curb, dazed and smiling. The 22-year-old lives in an abandoned house with a skinny dog that he hugs while it nips at its mottled coat.

"I learned my English selling crack to Americans," Enriquez said, sitting next to a blond, blue-eyed woman from Oceanside, Calif. She said she had been living on Tijuana's streets for five years.

Among Enriquez's customers are tourists from California who cross the border for the lower prices on crack, heroin and methamphetamines, which sell for less than $5 a hit.

When Enriquez hasn't got drugs to sell, he works as a prostitute. At the worst times, he eats trash and begs.

He has been living on the streets for six years but said he believes he will give it all up someday.

"Yeah, I can give this up," he said. "I'd give it up if I had a reason to, like if I had a son. Yeah, if I had a baby boy I'd leave this. I definitely would because I would want what's best for my son."

Julio Arellano, 25, wanted the same for his 4-month-old daughter, but he soon found himself spending his money on methamphetamines rather than buying her milk and hitting his wife for the first time in his life.

"You can be such a fool," said Arellano, who checked into one of Avalos' centers a week ago. "I can't wait to see my wife again to ask her forgiveness."

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



New challenges give greater meaning to this Thanksgiving

DEAR READERS: Today is Thanksgiving Day. It is an unusual Thanksgiving because some of the things we Americans have always assumed are no longer true. For the first time in the history of this country, the sense of personal security that the majority of us have taken for granted has been shaken.

And yet, if we look around we still have much for which to be thankful.

Let us offer thanks for the men and women in our armed forces who are separated from their families during this holiday season, who put their lives on the line to defend freedom and democracy and to preserve our American dream.

Let us offer thanks for our police and firefighters who put themselves at risk for us day and night in order to safeguard our lives and property.

Let us offer thanks for our medical personnel and healthcare workers who go above and beyond the call of duty to preserve our health and well-being during these stressful times.

Let us offer thanks to our postal workers — ever faithful, making sure the mail goes through in "rain, or hail, or sleet or snow" — in spite of their concerns for their own health and safety. At a time when saboteurs have put dangerous toxins into the mails, these courageous men and women persevere every day to keep our citizens connected.

I am personally thankful to you, Dear Readers and fellow patriots, for sending me thousands of letters, poems, prayers and essays expressing your heartfelt thoughts about the events of Sept. 11. Thay are much appreciated.

Let us all be thankful that we live in a country where we worship as we choose, vote according to our consciences and publish our opinions without fear of reprisal.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." We are being tested, but we will prevail and emerge stronger in spite of the battles ahead — on the home front as well as on foreign soil. Already we have forged international alliances that were never before possible.

And now, I'll repeat my Thanksgiving prayer. Perhaps you will want to use it at your table today:

Oh, heavenly Father,

We thank thee for food and remember the hungry.

We thank thee for health and remember the sick.

We thank thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,

That thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

P.S. An afterthought: Remember, the surest cure for the holiday blues is to do something nice for someone else. Why not call someone who lives alone and invite him or her to share a meal? If your guest doesn't drive or doesn't like to go out alone after dark, offer to provide the transportation. Try it. And let me know the results. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

***

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Anthrax claims 94-year-old woman

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 94-year-old woman from rural Connecticut died of inhalation anthrax Wednesday, while the source of her infection remained a mystery.

Meanwhile, the Education Department reported Wednesday that small amounts of anthrax were discovered in the agency's mailroom, and officials awaited results of testing done on a large supply of deadly spores found in a letter addressed to Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Connecticut Gov. John Rowland said early Wednesday the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed the Connecticut case after five sophisticated tests at the hospital and state health laboratory had indicated anthrax.

Rowland said the Connecticut victim, Ottilie Lundgren, lived in Oxford, a rural community of 9,800 people. Asked if she could have contracted anthrax in a letter or birthday greeting from the office of Sen. Christopher Dodd, Rowland said, "Pretty much anything is possible."

Trace amounts of the bacteria were detected in the mailrooms of Dodd, D-Conn., and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., but officials said they were so minute they did not pose a health risk.

Education Department officials said the results of the testing there "are consistent with the findings in other federal mail rooms that received mail from" the central Brentwood facility that processes mail for the city.

"The findings are low-level and secondary indicators and are not considered dangerous to the mailroom staff or to other" employees, the agency said. The mail facility was sealed and its ventilation system shut down.

In Washington, an FBI microbiologist, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said there were easily billions of anthrax spores in the letter addressed to Leahy, a Vermont Democrat. Scientists have said it could take 8,000 to 10,000 to infect a person with inhalation anthrax, the most serious form.

An investigator who found the Leahy letter in a trash bag of unopened congressional mail last Friday night could feel powder inside the envelope and 23,000 anthrax spores were detected in a two-minute scientific test of the plastic garbage bag being used to hold the Leahy letter, the FBI microbiologist said.

The Leahy letter was postmarked Oct. 9, the same date as a similar anthrax-tainted letter sent to Daschle, which contained a little less than two teaspoons of anthrax.

The Leahy letter still has not been opened as investigators, who already are convinced it contains anthrax, consider the best way to examine its contents without compromising possible evidence on the outside of the letter.

FBI officials believe the letters were sent by the same person, and U.S. Postal Inspectors say they believe that Leahy's simply was quarantined at an offsite facility near Capitol Hill when Congress suspended mail delivery.

Asked if the Leahy and Daschle letters are the only two with anthrax, Capitol Police spokesman Lt. Dan Nichols said, "That's what we know right now."

U.S. Postal Inspector Dan Mihalko said there is an "extremely high probability" that the Leahy letter initially was misrouted on Oct. 12 to a State Department mail facility in Sterling, Va., where a worker came down with inhalation anthrax. The misrouting could explain why the letter never reached Leahy's office, said Mihalko.

The Leahy letter was found Friday by the FBI and investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency in one of some 630 trash bags of unopened mail intended for Capitol Hill and held since the discovery last month of the letter to Daschle. About 50 of the bags had at least trace amounts of anthrax spores.

The outside of the Leahy letter appears virtually identical to the Daschle letter and bears the same fictitious "Greendale School" return address.

Price Daniel Unit inmates will be served Thanksgiving meal

No matter how overwhelming preparing a proper Thanksgiving meal for a hungry family can be, few people have to worry about feeding 1,500 people.

But that's the task Price Daniel Unit food service Capt. Venson Stewart and his crew of cooking staff and inmates faced today.

The menu for today's special meal consists of traditional holiday fare, like turkey and dressing, but also includes a not-so-common helping of meat loaf in place of the usual slices of ham on the plate. Stewart said many of the inmates aren't allowed pork, so meat loaf was a better option.

Other menu items are baked chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans, corn, vegetable blend salad and coleslaw. And for everyone's sweet tooth, the food staff is including sweet pickles, carrot cake, peach cobbler and sweet potato pie.

On top of all that, the crew is also preparing 3,500 dinner rolls from scratch.

While the menu is fairly traditional, the proportions are anything but.

The 45-plus food crew comprised of staff and inmates will serve up about 1,500 pounds of turkey and roughly 150 gallons of giblet gravy.

Some 1,250 pounds of chicken will be dished out and about 700 pounds – almost 30 pans – of meat loaf will be offered.

To accompany that, there will be 900 pounds of creamed potatoes and 400 pounds of the vegetable blend.

As for the other vegetables, 60 gallons each of green beans and corn will be prepared and about 350 pounds of coleslaw.

The crew also is preparing 38 pans of carrot cake, 38 pans of peach cobbler and another 38 pans of sweet potato pie.

Five sergeants are on duty today to make sure everything is finished and everyone is served, Stewart said. The inmates will be allowed a little more time than normal to eat .

To allow the staff to go home early for the holiday, after the meal, each inmate will be given a sack lunch.

The sack lunch is to include two chicken sandwiches, an apple, an orange, graham crackers and raisins.

"They should be pretty full," Stewart said.

Attempted breakin reported in Snyder

The Snyder Police Department's Wednesday morning blotter included the following entries:

•Close patrol

Andrea Powell requested an officer at her residence in the 2500 block of Ave. Z in reference to someone trying to break into the home sometime Tuesday night. An officer responded and advised a close patrol will be initiated for the remainder of the week.

•Officer requested

A woman phoned the police department requesting to speak with an officer in reference to her boss refusing to turn over her paycheck. An officer spoke with the woman and advised her of the proper steps to take.

•Minor accident

A minor accident was reported in the parking lot of United Supermarket Wednesday morning. Officers responded, but the motorists did not wish to file a police report and insurance information was exchanged.

Holiday closings announced

Today is a holiday for most businesses in Snyder.

City and county offices will be closed today and Friday.

The exception is the city landfill, which will be closed today and Saturday, but open Friday.

The Scurry County Library will be closed today and for the remainder of the weekend to reopen Monday. The Scurry County Museum is also closed for the weekend, to resume regular hours with the Western Texas College campus Monday.

The WTC dorms will reopen at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Local banks are closed today.

In addition, West Texas State Bank, Snyder National Bank and Texas Savings Bank will close at noon on Friday.

American State Bank and First American Bank will conduct regular business hours Friday.

The Snyder Post Office also is closed today. Mail will not be delivered nor placed in post office boxes. Regular delivery resumes Friday.

Obituaries

Gilbert Richter

1906-2001

Funeral service for Gilbert O. Richter, longtime Scurry County resident, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Chaplain Bary Moynihan of Lubbock will officiate. Burial will follow in the Ira Cemetery.



Gilbert Richter

Mr. Richter, 95, died Tuesday, Nov. 20, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Born Nov. 17, 1906 in Lockhart, he married Sue Ricketts on Dec. 1, 1962 in Mexico.

Mr. Richter, a resident of Snyder, had lived and farmed in the Knapp community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Ella Richter; a brother, Rudy Richter; and a sister, Melba Ohlendorf.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Richter of Snyder; four daughters, Gloria Wood of Lubbock, Pat Vineyard of Snyder, Connie Glasscock of Midland and Kathy Beall of San Angelo; two nephews, Curtis Ohlendorf of Austin and Norbert Ohlendorf of Dickens; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

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D.C. Worley

1915-2001

WICHITA FALLS – D.C. Worley, a native of Snyder and former owner of the bowling alley in Snyder, died Friday, Nov. 16, in Waycross, Ga.

Funeral service for Mr. Worley, 86, is set for 3 p.m. Saturday in the Mitchell Chapel at Baptist Village in Waycross. Burial will follow in Crestview Memorial Park in Wichita Falls. Arrangements are under the direction of Music Funeral Home in Waycross and Lunns Colonial Funeral Home in Wichita Falls.

Born April 26, 1915 in Snyder, he was reared in Snyder and graduated from Snyder High School in 1933. He married Melba Clark of Snyder while attending Texas Tech.

Mr. Worley, a resident of Wichita Falls, was a business owner in Brunswick, Ga., and in Wichita Falls. He was a Rotarian and a deacon in the Baptist Church. He was also active in Boy Scouts of America, serving in council leadership positions in both Texas and Georgia.

Survivors include his wife, Melba Worley of Waycross; three sons, Gary Worley of Brunswick, Ken Worley of Wichita Falls and Randy Worley of Asheville, N.C.; a sister, Evelyn Duff of Dallas; two brothers, Cecil Worley of Beaumont and L.B. Worley of Carlsbad, N.M.; and four grandchildren, Chris Worley of Wichita Falls, Mikael and Samuel Worley of Asheville and Belinda Brown of San Antonio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lloyd Reed

1926-2001

DALLAS — Lloyd Eugene (Gene) Reed, brother of Etta Wilson of Snyder, died Saturday, Nov. 10, in Pilot Point, Tex.

Following cremation, graveside service for Mr. Reed, 75, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery with Dr. David Mosser, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Graham, officiating.

Born March 4, 1926 in Gail, he married Mervine Thurman on Oct. 15, 1946 in Lamesa. He served in the 201st Army Air Forces Base Unit from 1944 to 1946. Mr. Reed was retired as drilling superintendent and owner operator of Nu-Mex Drilling Co. in New Mexico and Oklahoma. He was a member of the Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Giles and Rosa Bolch Reed; and a brother, J.T. (Tommy) Reed.

Survivors also include his wife, Mervine Reed of Ruidoso, N.M.; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronnie and Mary Reed of Los Alamos, N.M.; a daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and David Maddy of Graham; five grandchildren, Trevor Maddy of Dallas, Jason Maddy of Hyde Park, N.Y., Nick Reed of Los Alamos, N.M., Wendy Eddy of Tulsa, Okla., and Sandy Crain of Tulsa; and two great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Ira Bulldogs send-off

There will be a send-off for the Ira football team at 2:15 p.m. Friday in front of the gym. The Bulldogs face Sanderson at 7:30 p.m. in Rankin.

Head Start registration

Registration for Scurry County Head Start continues from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekdays during November. Children must be three years old and meet income guidelines or have a disability. Bring a certified birth certificate, immunization record, child's social security card and proof of income.

Holy Ghost Revival

The Lord's Supper Organization will hold a Holy Ghost Revival at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday at the Union community center on the Lamesa Highway. Speakers will be Manuel Granado and Randy Asebedo. For more information, call 574-2672.

American Cancer Society

The Scurry Unit of the American Cancer Society will have a board meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room.

Genealogical Society meeting

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Scurry County Library. Robert Adams, WTC professor, will present a program on the French Indian War as a root cause of the American Revolution. The public is invited.

SHS Madrigal Dinners

SHS' annual Madrigal Dinners are set at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3-4 at the high school student center. Tickets are $15 per person per performance and are available at the high school office. No refunds will be given for unused tickets. Reserve tickets will be held until the day of the performance. Wednesday is the deadline to purchase tickets.

Home for the holidays

Scurry County Home for the Holidays, sponsored by the Scurry County extension service, will be held at 6 p.m. next Thursday at the First United Methodist Church. Theme is Tex-Mex, featuring food, decorations, entertainment and door prizes. Admission is $5.

His Joy Ministries

His Joy Ministries, 904 26th, will host the 8th annual conference Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Speakers will be Keith Miller from Amarillo and Moses Akitwine from Uganda. Music will be provided by Mercy and Truth from Dallas. Call 573-8401 for registration.

Korean War display

The Scurry County Museum is honoring veterans of the Korean War with displays of memorabilia through Dec. 4.

"Married for Life" information

"Marriage for Life" information night will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at The Word of Life Church, 312 Coliseum Dr. Home Bible study groups will soon start. For information, call Doug or Donna Nehring at 573-7471.

Head Start fundraiser

Early Head Start and Head Start programs are selling raffle tickets for a drawing to be held Dec. 13. There will be a drawing for $100 worth of groceries from Davidson's Supermarket and another drawing for a $50 gift certificate from Wal-Mart. Proceeds will be used to buy Christmas gifts for students. Come by 2800 2nd St. or call 573-7403. Last ticket sales day is Monday, Dec. 3.

VFW membership drive

The VFW is currently conducting its annual membership drive. Membership is restricted to veterans who served overseas in times of conflict or war. For more information, contact the post commander Jim Bailey at 573-5338.

GED testing dates

GED testing for the first time or retesting will be held Tuesday from 5-9 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Dec. 4, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 6, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112.

Red Cross volunteers needed

Red Cross volunteers are needed for Snyder and Scurry County. Please contact Sherry Faulkenbery at 573-1974 after 5 p.m.

Noon prayer service

The First Presbyterian Church hosts a prayer service from noon until 12:30 p.m. each weekday. Everyone is invited.

Senior yearbook dedications

Senior dedications for the Tiger's Lair yearbook are due Dec. 1. Cost is $45 for message and color photo. Orders are still being taken for the yearbook. Cost is $45 for which a deposit of $20 is required. Balance is due Feb. 1. If additional options are purchased, the deposit is $30. For information call 573-6301, ext. 35.

FBC support groups

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

Mesquite Country Writers Guild

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild is now accepting submissions for the winter issue of *Bards of a Feather.* The deadline is Dec. 15. The theme is open. Mail submissions to Pam Mauldin, Box 237, Ira, 79527 or e-mail to upside@nwol.net.

Military support group

Family members, volunteers, friends, and active or inactive soldiers of Scurry County interested in forming a local Military Support Group are asked to contact Dale or Elaine Byrd at 573-8088 after 4 p.m., or e-mail dbyrd@nwol.net. The purpose of this group is to provide an avenue of mutual support, assistance, community resources, and a network of communication.

WTC adult basic education

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

NOV 22 2001

Consumers need access to credit history

WASHINGTON (AP) — A young couple recently showed mortgage broker George Duarte a long, problem-ridden credit report that seemed to sink their dream of buying a home in the pricey San Francisco Bay region.

But Duarte discovered the summation of their credit history contained plenty of errors. And a new California law required access for the couple to a once-secret score now all-important as lenders decide whether to grant mortgages and how high to set interest rates.

With that information, Duarte could show the couple their score needed to rise just a little to enter what lenders would consider acceptable territory — a level they just might reach by merely having the mistakes in their credit report fixed.

"It is absolutely integral to have the consumer see their credit score," said Duarte, owner of Horizon Financial Associates in Fremont, Calif.

Consumer advocates want to see the California requirement, which took effect in July, expanded nationally. They are urging passage of federal legislation introduced this year that would do just that.

Skeptics include trade associations for mortgage bankers and large credit reporting agencies.

They say a federal law is unnecessary because the scores already are widely available; many in the industry began selling them online this spring. They also worry that adding paperwork to the already daunting mortgage process could do more harm than good.

"Our general position is we want to be careful that the transaction isn't any more complicated than it already is, or that it doesn't increase costs for anybody," said Bud Carter, senior director for residential housing at the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

But supporters argue that requiring lenders to hand the score to every home loan applicant is important in an age when many still do not even know the scores exist — much less how critical they are to lenders' decisions.

"Anything that affects your credit you should have full access to," said Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., author of the bill. "It's kind of a mother-and-apple-pie thing. I don't see why anybody would be against it."

Consumers have long been able to buy a copy of their credit report. But since the mid-1990s, those long credit narratives have been largely replaced by a single three-digit number as the key to mortgage lenders' decisions.

The rating is now used in three-fourths of mortgage lending decisions.

Scores can range from about 375 to 900, based on a still little-understood weighting of factors such as a borrower's bill-paying history and debt profile that is compared to millions of other consumers.

The use of a single number is cheaper and faster for the lenders, and provides consistency and objectivity that can cut down on lending bias. Still, the system works best when the consumer — not just the lender — knows the score because just a few blemishes can be damaging, supporters of the legislation say.

Another couple who came to see Duarte had scores between 586 and 591, depending on the credit reporting agency. That low score made them candidates for a much higher interest rate than someone with even a slightly higher score.

The pair paid off several loans and about two months later their score had improved by 15 points — enough to qualify them for a lower-cost loan, Duarte said.

The information also turns applicants, especially those with moderate incomes or a spate of late payments in their history, into savvy shoppers who can make sure a lender is giving them best terms.

"The issue here is whether consumers have all the information that they need," said George Griffin, managing director for policy at the National Association of Realtors, which supports the bill along with several consumer groups.

The legislation, modeled after California's law, would require credit reporting agencies to supply lenders with the most recent scores and the top four factors that went into it. Lenders would be required to pass that information to anyone applying for a mortgage, without interpreting it or assuming legal liability.

The bill is S. 1242

On the Net:

Congress: http://thomas.loc.gov/

Associated Credit Bureaus Inc.: http://www.acb-credit.com/consumers.cfm

To obtain your score: http//www.myfico.com, www.equifax.com, http://www.tuc.com, http://www.eloan.com

Credit scoring information on the Federal Trade Commission's site at http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menu-credit.htm

Teens charged with terrorizing bingo players enter plea

HOUMA, La. (AP) — Three teen-agers charged with terrorizing bingo players with squirt guns have struck a plea bargain requiring them to write an essay titled "Why I'm Proud to Be an American."

Under the deal, the terrorizing charges were dropped and the three 18-year-olds pleaded guilty Tuesday to simple battery.

Each must write a 3,500-word essay, perform 48 hours of community service, speak to an eighth-grade class about their experiences in jail and write a letter of apology to the bingo players.

Chad Leblanc, Woodrow Straley and Clint Walker burst into a bingo hall on Oct. 15 and sprayed 10 players with large squirt guns.

Police said the teen-agers created "a near panic" among 175 players who feared the prank was connected to the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks or anthrax scares.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Nov. 23, 2001

There's a great possibility that you will be able to expand upon a promising situation in the year ahead that has not yet reached its full potential. When it does, it'll be extremely rewarding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Regardless of what transpires today, you've got Lady Luck working steadfastly on your behalf to make certain things tilt favorably in your direction. Be hopeful. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. **The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — The day might start out seeming as if everyone is uncooperative and self-involved, but, even if this is true, Lady Luck will cover your tracks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Do not shirk your duties and responsibilities today no matter how distasteful they might be. Your industriousness will result in larger than usual rewards.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although your social plans might fall through today, don't allow yourself to get down in the dumps. Someone quite nice will come along and make up for your disappointment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Keep faith in yourself for being able to handle critical or difficult situations as they arise today, because your abilities to deal constructively with them are excellent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Things might not come easy for you today, but that doesn't mean they aren't worth doing. You won't want to look back later and wonder why you didn't make the most of things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Although things could start out looking like a financial bust, as the day continues, events could turn around in an extremely lucky fashion. Stay the course.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Your greatest asset today is to take ideas or plans that didn't work out well and apply practical applications, turning them around and making them serviceable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — People who aren't directly involved in your affairs aren't entitled to a running account of your operations, so don't be bullied into it today just to get them off your back.

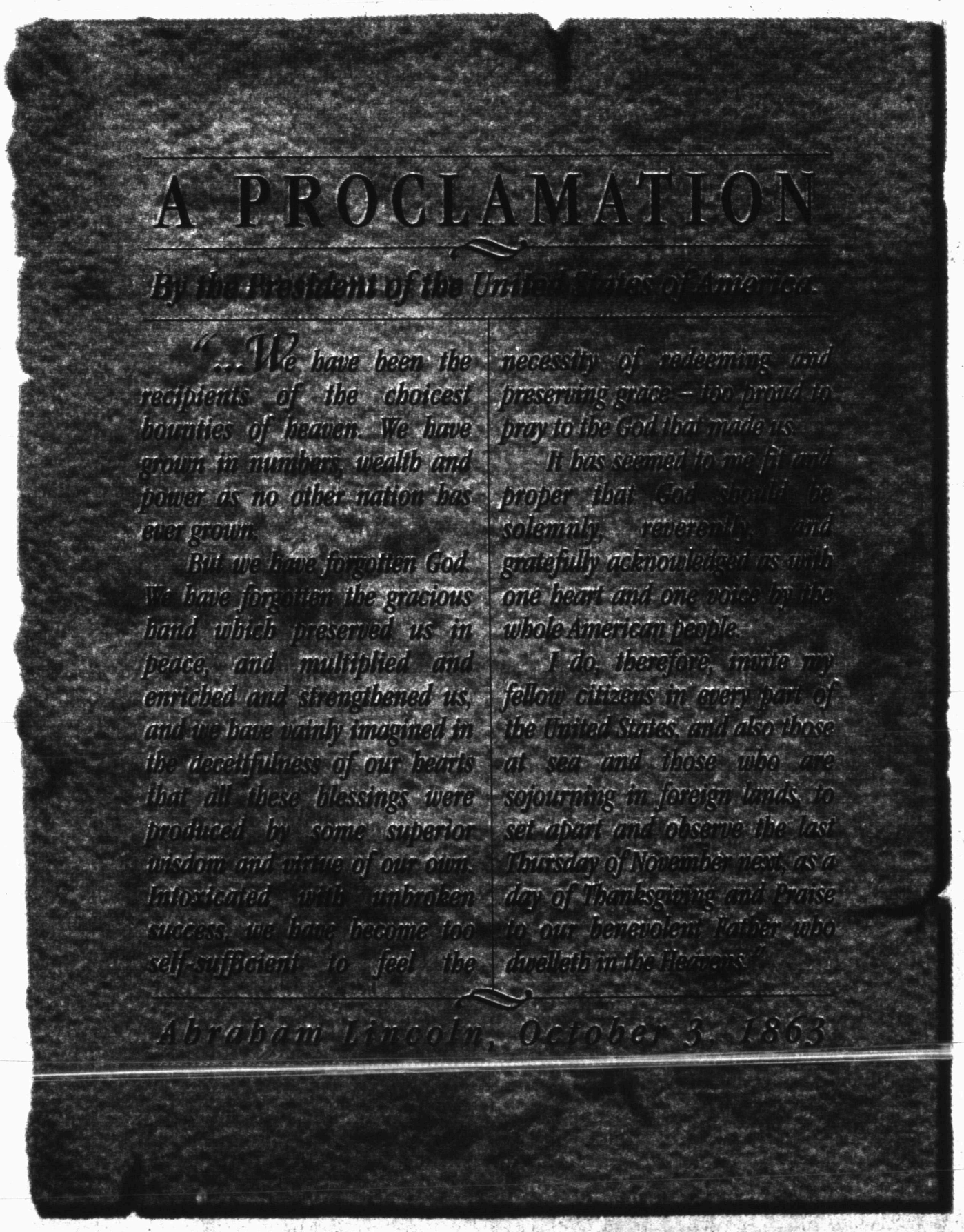
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your probabilities for realizing something for which you've been hoping are now threatened. Stand firm in your intent, and you'll win in the long run today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — An objective that might not have been attainable for others doesn't necessary mean you can't achieve it. You've got the wherewithal to get past the difficulties.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you treat today's events philosophically instead of emotionally, your logic will prevail and you'll be able to handle whatever transpires. If your feelings dominate, you won't.

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Times may change, but the reasons to be thankful stay the same.



United Supermarkets

God bless you and your family.

All United Supermarkets locations will be closed Thanksgiving Day so our employees may spend the day with their families.