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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 1, 1997
Vol. 49 No. 182
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Danny Williams

Annexation tops city council's list

Snyder City Council will consider four ordinances — including voluntary annexation of Rip Griffin Truck/Travel Center — when it convenes at 6:30 this evening at City Hall.

The truck stop is included in a four-acre tract that will be considered on first reading for annexation into the city.

The other three ordinances are up for approval on their second reading, including two to replat lots within the city limits and one to amend last year's budget appropriations made necessary by line-item transfers.

The council will also enter into executive session for the evaluation of City Manager John Gayle. The evaluation process was begun last month.

Also, bids are expected to be approved for a motor grader for use at the city's landfill and for a pickup for the water department. The council will also conduct a public hearing on the use of funds from a law enforcement grant.

The city will also be presented an award of achievement from the Government Finance Officer's Association.

Izzard expected to announce here

Rudy Izzard is scheduled to make an appearance at the Scurry County Courthouse at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday to announce he is again seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Representative of the 17th District.

Izzard, an Abilene resident who has a dentistry practice in Ballinger, won the nomination in 1996 and was narrowly defeated in the general election that year by long-time Democratic incumbent Charles Stenholm of Stamford.

The filing period for the March 10 primaries begins Wednesday and runs through Jan. 2.

SPECTACULAR — Scurry County Courthouse and the white buffalo statue make an impressive scene during the holidays. The courthouse lights were turned on Friday night during ceremonies which also heralded the arrival of Santa Claus. (SDN Staff Photo)

Tree lighting slated at WTC

Western Texas College holds its traditional tree lighting ceremony this evening at 7 o'clock.

The public is invited to enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and special Christmas music sung by Cindy Nix.

There is no admission charge for the ceremony, which will be held in the central courtyard.

Buy back OK'd on split vote

On a split vote this morning, Scurry County commissioners decided to allow employees to "buy back" within the county's retirement system after once withdrawing their money from it.

The court also voted to drop the time it takes to become vested in the retirement program from 10 to eight years.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom voted against both proposals.

Idom said he voted against lowering the vested period to eight years because he is approaching eight years employment with the county.

"I have never voted for anything that would benefit me directly," said Idom.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Howard Limmer also voted against lowering the vested period. Limmer is in his first term as a commissioner.

As for opposing the buy-back, Idom said it would cost the county about $1,800.

"I feel only two or three people will be able to buy back into the retirement program and that's too much county money for just that many," said Idom.

"The people withdrew their money voluntarily when they quit."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey made the motion to allow the buy-back, while Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Gannaway made the motion to lower the vested time period. Each seconded the other's motion.

In other action this morning, the court approved the county's building insurance audit with few changes and approved going out for bids for inmate telephone service at the county jail.

The present contract for telephone service expires in February. The court will open bids on Jan. 5 for the telephone service.

Commissioners also approved a $25,561 budget amendment for the sheriff's department as $15,000 is needed for inmate food and $10,561 is needed for overtime pay.

A request for a budget amendment for $14,888.82 to pay for increased costs for workman's compensation and unemployment insurance was also approved.

Line-item transfers were approved for the sheriff's department, county clerk's office, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, parks department, health unit, tax office, extension office and the county treasurer's office.

Haggard is named assistant principal

Dixie Haggard, counselor at Snyder High School, will be recommended as the new assistant principal at Snyder Junior High School.

Her hiring is contingent upon approval by the board of trustees, an action described as a formality.

She replaces Roy Rosson, who resigned to accept a post with the Windham School System. The announcement of Haggard's appointment was made to the junior high faculty this morning.

Ms. Haggard is in her second year as special education and vocational counselor at Snyder High School.

She came to Snyder from Sweetwater ISD, where she was a high school counselor for three years.

Previously, she was counselor/coordinator for the Pregnancy Education Parenting Program, a cooperative program through 16 school districts, including Snyder ISD, for three years. The program was recognized by the Texas Education Agency as one of the best of its kind in the state.

Prior to that, she was a counselor at the Sweetwater Middle School for five and a half years and taught biology for Sweetwater ISD for 17½ years.

Ms. Haggard received her bachelor's degree from Tarleton State and her master's from Sul Ross State.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to work at Snyder Junior High School. Moving to Snyder has been a great experience for me and my family. I think they have a wonderful educational system and am proud to be a part of it," said Ms. Haggard, who has two daughters — Randi, a junior at Snyder High, and Katie, a West Elementary student.

Dixie Haggard

Inmates lose court bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal by Texas inmates who say their chances for parole shouldn't suffer if they have sued prison officials or if the victim of their crime opposes parole.

The court, without comment, turned away the inmates' argument that they should not be penalized for exercising their right to sue. The inmates also said crime victims' letters to parole boards often include false information.

The class-action lawsuit, originally filed in 1985, sought an order barring parole officials from considering whether inmates filed lawsuits while in prison. Many prisoners are denied parole at least partly because they have filed legal claims over prison conditions, the inmates said.

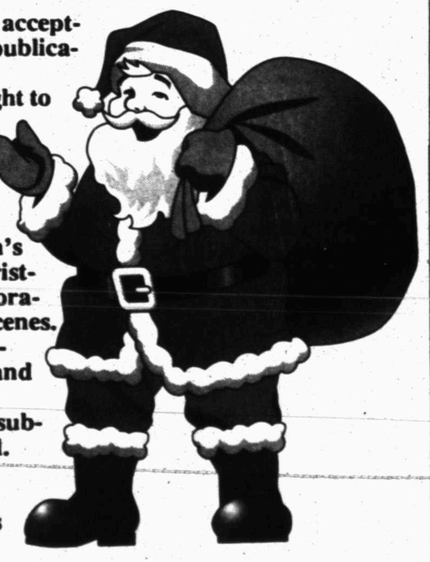
The inmates also sought to bar parole officials from considering letters written by crime victims or their relatives' opposition to parole. Texas law requires parole boards to consider such "victim impact statements," which are not disclosed to the inmate.

A federal magistrate judge in Austin barred parole officials from considering crime victims' statements or inmates' activities in filing lawsuits.

The use of victim statements violates inmates' equal-protection rights because those who are the targets of such letters tend to be denied parole, the judge said in 1995. The judge also said bias against inmates considered overly litigious has harmed their access to the courts.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed. The policy allowing victim impact statements aims to protect victims' rights, and it applies equally to all inmates, the appeals court said.

Santa's mailbox open



Snyder Daily News is accepting letters to Santa for publication in its Dec. 24 issue.

Letters may be brought to the newspaper office at 3600 College Avenue or mailed to P.O. Box 949.

This year, the SDN will also accept children's drawings depicting Christmas, such as Santa, decorated trees and Nativity scenes. The drawings should include the child's name and age. Because of limited space, not all drawings submitted can be published.

Drawings will not be returned.

Letters and drawings must be received by 5 p.m. Dec. 17 in order for them to be forwarded to the North Pole in time for Christmas.

14-year-old opens fire on classmates at school

WEST PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — A 14-year-old freshman took a gun and earplugs out of his backpack and opened fire on classmates in a high school lobby today as they took part in an informal prayer service, authorities said. Two students were killed and six others wounded.

The student was detained just after the shooting at Heath High School, said Karen McCuiston, a spokeswoman for the McCracken County school district. No charges were immediately filed.

The only words the boy had to say afterward were "I'm sorry," Principal Bill Bond said. "He acted just like he had been caught with some minor offense," Bond said.

"I hear gunshots, about 10 in a row, just bang, bang, bang, bang, bang," said Ben Heady, a 17-year-old senior. "People were just laying on the ground. People were screaming, running out of the hall."

The shooter "was just standing there like he didn't care what happened," Heady said.

The leader of the prayer group, a pastor's son, walked up to the boy as he was still firing, imploring him to stop, Bond said. The boy kept firing but finally stopped and lay down the gun, one bullet left in it. Bond arrived about that time and picked up the gun.

The boy had spare ammunition and two other guns in his backpack, Bond said. He said the boy was small in stature and emotionally immature; beyond that, the motive was unclear.

A 15-year-old girl died later at Lourdes Hospital in nearby Paducah about 45 minutes after the shooting, said the hospital's chief operating officer, Rick Carter.

Parade, contest deadlines poised

Deadlines to enter the Lighted Christmas Parade and the merchants' decorating contest are coming up quickly.

Wednesday is the final day to enter a float in the lighted parade, which is scheduled for Saturday evening around the courthouse square.

Prizes are to be awarded for most unique and best use of lights.

Thursday is the last day to enter the window decorating contest for chamber member businesses. Five prizes of $25 each will be awarded.

Window judging will be held Friday.

To enter either the parade or decorating contest, call the chamber as soon as possible at 573-3558.

ASK US

Q—Were the "Taste of Scurry County" and the inmate art displays sponsored by the county museum annual events?

A—This was the first year for both. "Taste of Scurry County" has already been scheduled again for Sept. 10, 1998 and the museum is looking into an inmate show again next year.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 61 degrees; low, 38; high Sunday, 62; low, 38; 7 a.m. Monday, 40; no precipitation; total for 1997, 23.56 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy; 20% rain chance. Low around 40 E-SE wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, cloudy; 50% rain chance. High 50-55. SE wind 5-15 mph.

Jada Bilano
Rain chance

Sunset: 5:40 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:26 a.m.
Of 334 days in 1997, the sun has shone 319 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed.

Cavett Robert

DEC 01 1997

Shoppers jam stores; many looking only for cheap prices

NEW YORK (AP) — Stores offering deep discounts and low prices fared best over the Thanksgiving weekend as budget-conscious consumers looked for bargains in the first days of the holiday shopping season.

Crowds packed the nation's stores and malls, but many shoppers went straight for sale racks and bought only when the price was right, retailers said Sunday.

"Christmas time is no different than the rest of the year," said Kurt Barnard, a retail consultant and president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report. "Shoppers want to get more for their money so they favor stores that offer the best prices."

Despite mediocre sales for much of this year, retailers are optimistic about this Christmas season. But many are finding they must go to great lengths to entice shoppers.

Many stores unlocked their doors before dawn Friday, while others stayed open 24 hours. Some offered extra discounts to early morning arrivals — as much as 50 percent.

Discounters and moderately priced department stores like Wal-Mart, Target and Sears drew in flocks of consumers with special promotions, low prices and wide selections of merchandise.

"The big deals offered early Friday drove in shoppers," said Ken Volk, marketing director for mall developer Simon DeBartolo Group in the New York City area. "We had hundreds of people in line at many of our malls before 7 a.m."

But, he added, malls "didn't see that same early rush on Saturday."

Many stores reported slower sales as the weekend progressed, with more people browsing than buying. Shoppers used to make most of their holiday purchases over Thanksgiving weekend, but now more favor the days before Christmas, when stores slash prices to clear inventories.

"The stores were crowded, but we didn't see people carrying two or three shopping bags," said John Konarksi, vice president of research at the International Council of Shopping Centers, a New York-based trade group. "Many shoppers use this weekend to look for gifts and wait to buy until right before Christmas."

For many stores, the trend toward a later shopping season is worrisome, following disappointments the last two holiday seasons and a less-than-stellar 1997 so far. Retailers count on the holidays for about half their annual sales and profits.

The slow weekend was especially damaging to apparel merchants that also had a disappointing fall season, like Ann Taylor and Talbots.

And while buyers were seen streaming out of stores with bags stuffed full of goodies, many had taken advantage of discounts — meaning smaller receipts for the stores.

While apparel sales were generally weak, some products did particularly well. Fleece jackets and accessories were big sellers at catalog retailer Lands' End and Target discount stores.

After the Tickle Me Elmo mania a year ago, many parents wanted to fill their children's wish lists early. Sesame Street dolls, including Sing & Snore Ernie, were selling well, as were Barbie dolls, Microsoft's Actimates Barney and virtual pets.

Also popular with buyers were jewelry, perfume and cosmetics. After a slow season a year ago, there was some buying of electronics, like big-screen televisions, stereos and camcorders.

Some retailers reported many purchases for the home. Dayton Hudson said bread makers were popular, while Pier One Imports said shoppers bought lots of holiday decorations and bath accessories.

"People use to the holidays now to stock up on important purchases for themselves," said John Costello, senior executive vice president at Sears, which saw strong sales in tools, refrigerators and dishwashers.

For many stores, the post-Thanksgiving pilgrimage is just the first taste of the Christmas season and many warn that anything can happen in the remaining 24 days.

There are, however, a few people who say that they are done with their holiday shopping.

"I'm finished, done, complete," said Joseph Smith, after making his last purchase at the Gap in New York on Saturday afternoon. "Unlike anyone else I know, I do everything in one day, and then I get to actually enjoy the holidays."

Nixon favored antitrust threat against networks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon reportedly had a plan in 1971 to ensure positive coverage of his administration from the three major television networks: intimidate them with the constant threat of an antitrust suit.

"If the threat of screwing them is going to help us more with their programming than doing it, then keep the threat," Nixon said in a tape-recorded Oval Office conversation with aide Charles W. Colson published today in The Washington Post.

"Don't screw them now. (Otherwise) they'll figure that we're done," Nixon said on the tape, which the Post said was transcribed for the first time, only recently following its release by the National Archives.

In the June 21, 1971 conversation, Colson told Nixon that whether filing an antitrust case against NBC, CBS and ABC "is good or not is perhaps not the major political consideration. But keeping this case in a pending status gives us one hell of a club on an economic issue that means a great deal to those three networks ... something of a sword of Damocles."

Nixon replied: "Our gain is more important than the economic gain. We don't give a goddam about the economic gain. Our game here is solely political ... As far as screwing them is concerned, I'm very glad to do it."

The Post said Attorney General John N. Mitchell wanted to file an antitrust suit against the television networks because of their monopoly over prime-time programming.

But according to the tape, Nixon decided to have Mitchell "hold it for a while, because I'm trying to get something out of the networks."

A TIME-TRAVELING CHRISTMAS by Jack & Carole Bender

Defense panel calls for faster closure of U.S. military bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon must move faster to prepare for the likely security challenges of the 21st century by closing military bases sooner and putting more emphasis on experimentation, a panel of private experts urged Defense Secretary William Cohen today.

"Unless we are willing to pursue a new course, we are likely to have forces that are ill-suited to protect our security 20 years in the future," the congressionally chartered National Defense Panel said in a report.

A key conclusion of the 94-page report, "Transforming Defense," is that the Pentagon should move away from its familiar assumption that the armed forces must be able to fight two major regional wars at the same time.

This two-war strategy is still relevant to planning for the 1990s, the panel said, but it is becoming an obstacle to long-term change. It has become a means of justifying existing force levels, "especially for those searching for the certainties of the Cold War era," it said.

The report did not recommend any specific troop reductions but said Cohen was right to press Congress for further reductions in military bases.

The panel said the base-closing decisions should come sooner than 2001 and 2005, as Cohen proposed, but did not mention specific dates. It also said the military services should reconsider the traditional concept of bases. For example, it suggested that rather than using on-base housing, commissaries and other support services, troops could receive extra pay.

Four rounds of base closings since 1988 have earmarked 97 major bases for closure. Many other installations at home and abroad have been realigned or reduced to account for a one-third cut in troop strength since the end of the Cold War.

The last round of base closings was in 1995.

The defense panel maintains that to realize the financial benefits projected by the Pentagon, base closures must come faster than Cohen has proposed. The defense secretary is counting on the closures to free money to pay for weapons modernization put off for several years because of budget cutbacks.

The panel also recommended sharing of bases by the military services as a cost-cutting move.

Among the report's other conclusions:

—The Defense Department needs a "transformation strategy" for the 21st century — a blueprint for further adapting U.S. forces from the Cold War era to the security threats that are likely to face America and its allies 20 years from now.

—The Pentagon should devote $5 billion to $10 billion a year to developing that strategy through experimentation with new weapons and warfighting concepts. This would provide the nation with a hedge against unforeseen changes in global security.

—The Army National Guard's role should be refocused. One possibility would be to develop an expertise in responding to domestic crises such as limited attacks with chemical or biological weapons. This implies reducing the size of the Guard, a move favored by the Pentagon but strongly opposed by many in Congress.

—The Pentagon is right to structure its forces for the possibility of having to fight two major regional wars at the same time. The panel describes this as a "low-probability scenario" that soon will be outdated. Scrapping the two-war scenario would imply reducing the overall size of the U.S. military, although the panel does not recommend any specific troop-cut number.

Congress created the National Defense Panel last year at the same time it instructed the Pentagon to make a top-to-bottom review of military programs through 2005. The panel was told to provide an alternative view to the Pentagon's internal study and to take a longer-range look at defense needs.

Four of the panel's nine members are retired generals and admirals; the five others are civilians with defense expertise.

Man's body found

JUNCTION (AP) — The body of a Louisiana man was found in a field behind a restaurant parking lot, officers say.

District Attorney Ronald Sutton said the man is believed to be a truck driver. He is about 38 years old and is a Louisiana resident, Sutton said. He could not provide additional information.

Officials believe the man was slain in the parking lot of the restaurant with a shotgun between 9 p.m. Friday and the time he was found Sunday morning.

"The body was found in a field over a fence behind a truck parked in the parking lot and was covered up by some brush," Sutton said.

About 30 investigators, including Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab officers, Kimble County deputies and Junction police were investigating the slaying, Sutton said.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Grandma's Role as Sitter Is Clouded by Her Smoke

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DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child soon and are concerned about what effect secondhand smoke will have on our baby.

My mother smokes — a lot! I know I'm probably ultrasensitive right now since I'm pregnant, but it's very hard to be around her. She smells, her house smells, her car smells.

Apart from her cigarettes she'd be a terrific grandmother. She's wonderful with her other grandchildren. We've talked about having her come to our house to visit and care for the baby, but she doesn't want to come because she can't smoke here.

Am I being too sensitive to this issue? She's not going to quit smoking. We've tried for years to get her to quit, but we have been unsuccessful.

I can't very well keep her grandchild away from her, and we'd love to have her help, but ... What do you suggest?

ANTI-SMOKER IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR ANTI-SMOKER: You are not being too sensitive. I am also an anti-smoker. In fact, I'm a "nut" on the subject!

Even the most hooked smoker can quit if he or she has an incentive. Everything has its price. Make the reward for not smoking sufficiently attractive — and you will see a miracle occur before your eyes. Trust me.

***

DEAR ABBY: I need your help to resolve an ongoing fight in our home. My husband reads during every meal. Whether it's a newspaper, magazine or cereal box, he props it up in front of him and reads. I find this rude and asked him to stop — but he sees nothing wrong with it.

Even more bothersome is his giving me a summary of everything he reads. He doesn't make conversation — he simply tells me what he reads.

Other than that, and the fact that he refuses to help me teach our young children table manners, our marriage is great. Perhaps I shouldn't complain. However, friends of mine also complain about this same fault, so your advice could help others as well.

Abby, please help me convince my husband that mealtime should be family time and the reading material should be put aside for another time. My husband will listen to you.

KATHLEEN, SAN PEDRO, CALIF.

DEAR KATHLEEN: If this is the only flaw in an otherwise perfect husband, thank your lucky stars. Compromise. Offer to keep quiet about breakfast table reading if he will make dinnertime a family affair. He owes you one of the two, and dinnertime is preferable.

***

DEAR ABBY: At our card parties and after-church services, some of our friends come over and kiss us on the cheeks. My husband and I would much rather say "Hello," and put a hand on their arms or shoulders and talk.

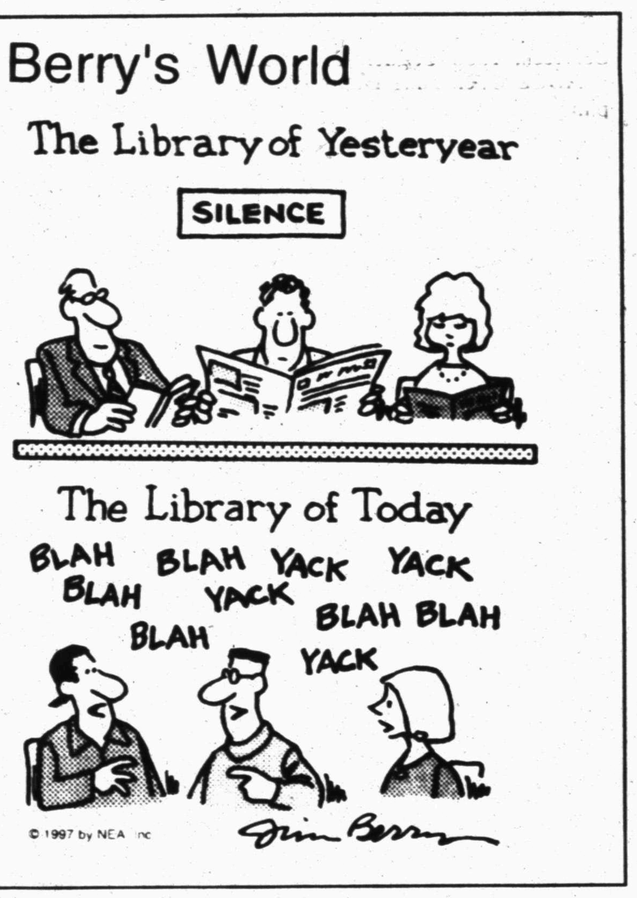
How can a person gracefully get out of kissing acquaintances hello and goodbye?

MARIE IN CHERRY HILL, N.J.

DEAR MARIE: It may require some fancy footwork. When your friends approach, say "Hello" as you step to the side and put your hand on their arm, giving it a gentle squeeze, or give them a quick sideways shoulder hug. Or, turn your face from the kiss as you softly say, "Sorry, I don't want to spread my germs."

***

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



Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Pennzoil Exploration and Production will drill the No. 2436 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, nine miles west of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,100 feet, location is in Section 244, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Pennzoil will drill the No. 2435 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, nine miles west of Snyder. Contracted for 7,100 feet, location is in Section 244, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Pennzoil will drill the No. 2437 SACROC unit in the Kelly Snyder field, nine miles west of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,100 feet, and location is in Section 244, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Pennzoil will drill the No. 2431-A SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, nine miles west of Snyder. The venture will be drilled to a depth of 7,100 feet, and location is in Section 244, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Oryx Energy has completed the No. 12-A KLOH in the Howard-Glasscock field, five miles east of Forsan. The well was finaled to produce 36 barrels of oil and 1,023 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,136-448 feet, and location is in Section 13, Block 33, W&NW survey.

Nolan Countu

Hallwood Petroleum will drill the No. 3 Guthrie, a 5,600-foot wildcat located 15 miles southeast of Sweetwater. Drill site is in Section 73, Block 5, T&P survey.

Sinclair Oil Corp. will drill the No. 1 George, a 7,000-foot wildcat located 18 miles south of Sweetwater. Drill site is in Section 143, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Sampson Long Star LP has completed the No. 1 McRory Heirs in the Lazarus field, three miles northwest of Blackwell. The venture was finaled to produce 22 barrels of oil and 229 barrels of water. Perforations were from 5,800-825 feet, and location is in Section 249, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

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IRS, tax overhaul on Congress' agenda

By ROB WELLS
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)— When it comes to the tax agenda for Congress in 1998, bank on one thing: Lawmakers will pick up where the Senate left off this year, arguing about the scope of restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

Less clear, however, is other tax cut legislation and whether Republicans can muster the unity to begin work on fundamental overhaul of the tax system.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said the House even may vote to abolish the complicated income tax code by 2001, clearing the way for a new, simplified system. "I think it's very likely we will be voting on that sometime next year," the Georgia Republican said as the House adjourned in November. The idea is backed by the National Federation of Independent Business, a powerful lobbying group that has launched a national petition drive.

The White House is another wild card. Aides say President Clinton would like to offer a tax-relief initiative in his State of the Union address, but details are still being discussed.

Amid speculation about the tax initiatives, the Senate Finance Committee plans to put its own imprint on IRS restructuring. Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., tried to push his bill through in the hectic week before the Senate adjourned in November, arguing that taxpayers deserved the service improvements the legislation sought to deliver.

But his effort failed because of objections by committee Chairman William V. Roth, R-Del., who refused to rush a bill he said suffered from "very, very serious weaknesses."

"The simple truth is that I am not willing to compromise on real reform," Roth said. For example, he wants a proposed IRS oversight board to have authority to examine audit and collection activities.

Meanwhile, Gingrich and other House leaders concluded the session by debating the scope of a tax cut for 1998, which would come on the heels of the $152 billion tax cut Clinton signed into law in August.

High on the agenda are these tax items, none of them cheap:

—"Marriage penalty" tax: A House bill would eliminate the increased tax bill that some 21 million newlyweds experienced in 1996. The penalty refers to the higher marginal tax rates that hit two-earner couples when they combine their previously separate incomes. The fix is expensive, costing the Treasury about $18 billion in annual revenue.

—Alternative minimum tax: This was designed to make sure that rich individuals and big corporations paid at least some tax after deductions. But because the tax has not been indexed for inflation, it increasingly will affect the middle class — some 8.4 million taxpayers by 2007. The cost to fix this is estimated in the billions.

—Child care: Clinton has promised that expanding child care will be a top priority next year, with one option being an increase in the tax credit for child care expenses.

—Estate taxes: This tax on assets after death, which can range as high as 55 percent, has long been targeted by Republicans, but it also is gaining support from conservative Democrats. Abolishing the "death tax" is now a staple in Gingrich's stump speech on taxes: "We do not believe it's right for you to have to visit the IRS and the undertaker the same week."

The size of any tax cut will depend on the economy, the size of the budget deficit and whether Congress can muster the power to close loopholes.

"It's all nice to hear about these things, but it's all another thing to figure out a strategy to pay for them," said Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif., a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

After a hiatus for most of the year, fundamental tax changes moved back to the GOP agenda and are expected to be a major defining issue for the party with the midterm elections in November 1998.

In a bid to achieve consensus, Republicans held a series of debates last fall featuring flat-tax proponent Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, and Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., cheerleader for a national sales tax.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., was not invited to the debates, but his proposal to give 70 percent of workers a flat tax rate of 10 percent has captured the attention of some prominent conservative economists.

As the 1997 congressional session wound to a close, Gephardt said he would support tax overhaul in 1998, so long as it "eliminates all the loopholes and gimmicks" that benefit the rich.

Powell favors Clinton choice for civil rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying that minorities in America are living with a legacy of discrimination, retired Gen. Colin Powell endorsed a Justice Department nominee opposed by Senate Republicans because of what they call his support of racial preferences.

Bill Lann Lee, President Clinton's choice to head Justice's civil rights division, "certainly has the qualifications for the job and if I was in the Senate I would vote for him," Powell said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

Powell, a Republican, has been at odds with the GOP's conservative wing over his relatively liberal views on social issues, particularly affirmative action.

"I believe in affirmative action because I believe it is one of the tools available to us to right the wrongs of the past," said Powell, who was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

America "should be a colorblind society. I pray for it. I dream for it. I've worked for it, but I've also lived in it, and for most of the first part of my life it was not a colorblind society," Powell said.

Republicans in the Senate Judiciary Committee have blocked Lee's confirmation, arguing that as a lawyer for the NAACP in Los Angeles, he effectively promoted racial quotas by forcing companies into consent decrees — out-of-court settlements reached to avoid costly trials.

Lee, in testimony before the committee, said he opposed racial quotas, which are against the law. Powell noted that Lee said "he would obey the law and he would execute the law."

But committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that while "it's no fun to scuttle Bill Lann Lee," the nominee "was not committed to the enforcement of the law as the law is written."

"It's this unjustified, impermissible, unconstitutional use and thrust to use preferences in violation of the law," Hatch said on "Fox News Sunday."

Community Calendar

MONDAY

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

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

Al-Anon meeting (smoke Free), brown bag lunch; Park Club in Winston Park. For more information, call 573-1579 or 573-5525; noon to 1 p.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies' Golf Association; Snyder Country Club; 9 a.m.

Scurry County Chapter of American Heart Association; The Shack; noon.

Alpha Study Club; MAWC; 3 p.m.

The Rolling Plains Texas A&M Mother's Club; at 210 Skelly Lane in Sweetwater; 6 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

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

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

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

First Presbyterian Women's Group; MAWC; 12:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; 11:30 Christmas Luncheon; MAWC; "Christmas Traditions and Flowers, " program by Sue Travis; hospitality committee hostesses.

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

"Company of Women International" Prophetic Voice to the Nations, for mature Christian women, Union Community Center; pot luck supper at 6 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 6:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Chapter of ABWA; The Shack; 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

12-01-97

North
♠ A Q 10 8 6
♥ 9 8
♦ Q J 8
♣ Q 4 2

West
♠ 7 3
♥ A J 6 5 3 2
♦ 6 3
♣ 10 7 3

East
♠ K J 5
♥ Q 4
♦ K 4 2
♣ J 9 8 6 5

South
♠ 9 4 2
♥ K 10 7
♦ A 10 9 7 5
♣ A K

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 5

Another busman's run

By Phillip Alder

Presumably you know about a "busman's holiday": Your vacation is comprised of activities that mirror your work. Well, I felt a bit like that when I came across another playing card — the spade jack — during a jog with my wife. Once back home, I dived into "Right Through the Pack" by Robert Darvas and Norman de Villiers Hart, finding this super deal. How should the play go in three no-trump after West has led a heart to the queen and king?

South did well not to continue with three spades, because game there would surely lose four major-suit tricks.

After winning the first trick with the heart king, South saw six top tricks: one spade, one heart, one diamond and three clubs. However, with the heart suit wide open, presumably he couldn't afford to lose a trick before having nine safely in the bank. The logical move was to take the diamond finesse, which just required finding one card onside. Going after spades would need two cards to be favorably placed.

So, South played a spade to dummy's ace and ran the diamond queen, getting home easily — right? Well, not quite. Seeing what was coming, East smoothly dropped the spade king under dummy's ace!

Now look at matters from South's point of view. Suddenly he didn't need the diamond finesse. He could take the marked spade finesse against West's jack. Declarer played a club to his king, cashed the club ace, and ran the spade nine.

Imagine South's shock when East produced the spade jack and returned a heart for two down.

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No-show bridegroom says his marriage worries were known

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who stranded his would-be bride at the altar only to have her go public with the story says it wasn't exactly a last-minute decision.

Tasos Michael, 35, said he told Nicole Contos, 27, about his concerns a few months ago, during the summer.

"Nicole was confident that we could go ahead with the wedding, but I asked for the wedding to be postponed," he said. "I should have been more forceful. I felt things had to be sorted out before the wedding."

Ms. Contos was at the Manhattan church Nov. 22 when Michael's best man informed her the groom would not show. She held the reception anyway with the 250 guests and told her story to the media.

Michael said he has explained his decision to Ms. Contos, but he's not sharing the reasons with the public.

"I did tell her that nothing could ever excuse my leaving her at the altar," Michael told Daily News from the Tahiti hotel where the couple was to have spent the honeymoon. "I did hope that she would be informed of my action before she got to the church. The timing was unfortunate."

Michael has Tahiti on a 12-day Pacific cruise, the News reported Sunday. He told Ms. Contos of his plans, but wasn't sure if she would join him.

Asked why he fled to Tahiti, Michael said, "I had the ticket in my hand."

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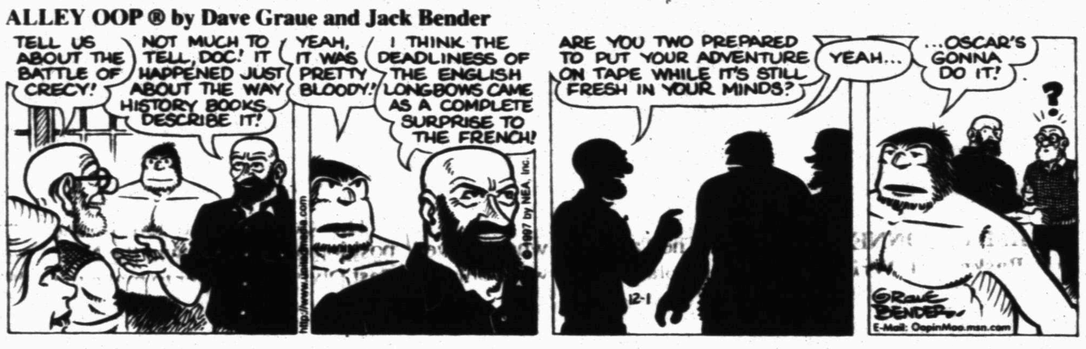

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Stir
4 Relief-carved gem
9 Dawn goddess
12 Important age
13 Part of a bird's wing
14 New Deal prog.
15 11th mo.
16 Large trucks
17 Call — — day
18 Come together
20 Entire
22 Fortuneteller
23 Zsa Zsa's sister
26 Stray
27 One who indulges in fantasy
29 Compass pt.
30 Loss of reason
32 Liveliest
33 Actress Joanne —
35 Article of clothing
38 Possessive
39 Actor Ron —
40 Ponce de —
42 Synthetic fabric
44 Pedal
45 Cover
46 Sordid
50 Koppel or Kennedy
51 — Aviv
52 Another name
53 Put 2 and 2 together
54 Enzyme: suff.
55 Card for 22-Across
56 Cowboy Rogers

DOWN

1 Restaurant lists
2 Pressed
3 Musician Cugat
4 Lawyer's job
5 Bar brew
6 Silent
7 Mr. Whitney
8 Tobacco kiln
9 Genus of ants
10 Musical interval
11 Weighing device
19 Cherish
21 Elaborately
23 Become manifest
24 Excusable
25 Blood vessel
28 Electrical unit
31 Doctrine
33 Flat-bottomed boats
34 Ladder part
36 Fruit drink
37 Ohio city
38 Conference site, 1945
41 Donkey
43 Future LL.Bs.' exam
44 Sac
47 Guido's high note
48 Atmosphere
49 Chairman —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	O	L	K		Y	O	W	L		A	F	T
U	L	U	A		U	N	A	U		N	I	A
M	I	R	O		L	U	G	S		T	N	T
A	D	E	L	A		S	E	T	L	I	N	E
			I	S	M		R	E	E			
R	A	I	N	I	E	R		D	W	A	R	F
A	J	O		S	A	U	L		D	E	E	R
Y	A	W	L		N	E	A	R		O	D	E
E	R	A	S	E		S	K	I	N	N	E	D
			A	E	S		E	L	I			
R	A	T	T	L	E	D		L	E	P	U	S
I	E	R		P	L	O	W		L	I	R	A
N	R	A		O	M	N	I		L	E	G	S
G	O	P		T	A	S	S		O	R	E	S

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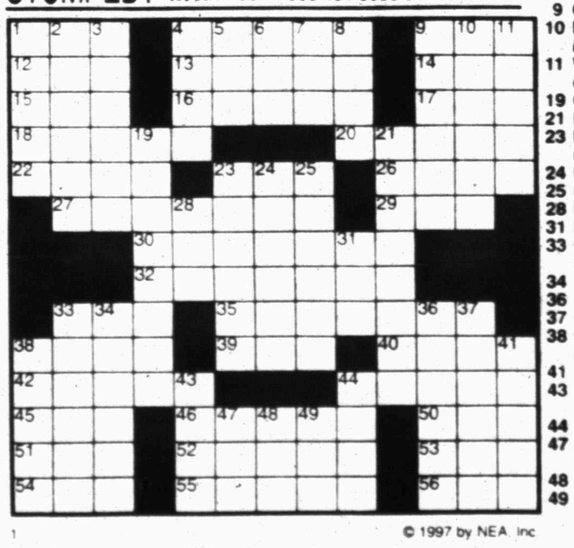

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

"You want recognition? Okay. Hi!"

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Don't look at me like that. He chose it!"

"BUT WHY DIDN'T LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD JUST USE HER CELL PHONE AND DIAL 911?"

SPORTS

Coyotes advance to six-man semifinals

IDALOU — It wasn't just the wind that the Silverton Owls heard howling.

It was also the Borden County Coyotes.

Borden County (13-0) withstood the 30-mph winds and the Owls (9-4), capturing a 34-19 victory in the six-man state quarterfinals Saturday in Idalou.

The win earns the Coyotes a berth in the semifinals, where they'll square off with the Lazbuddie Longhorns at 7:30 Friday in Frenship.

"This was a tough, physical ballgame," Borden County coach Bobby Avery said. "We won the war again, but we might have lost the battle. We're going to have some guys that are pretty sore.

"And Lazbuddie is a lot like Silverton. We're just going to have to regroup, get tough and prepare ourselves for next week."

The Coyotes won the war thanks to physical defense, timely passing and five touchdowns from Fernando Baeza.

The junior running back posted the game's first points with a 1-yard plunge in the opening quarter.

The extra point attempt came up short against the wind for a 6-0 tally.

The Coyote defense, led by Oscar Baeza's 14 tackles and Bryce Dye's 10, kept the Silverton offense off balance the entire first half.

Baeza would widen the margin, finding the endzone twice in the final two minutes of the second quarter.

The first came on a 9-yard run at the 2:18 mark.

Then following an Owl fumble, Coyote QB Colt McCook threw a 7-yard scoring strike to Baeza. Oscar Baeza booted the PAT for a 20-0 shutout at halftime.

In the third period, the Borden County defense once again came up big, turning the Owls away on fourth down at the Coyote 15.

Two series later, Baeza added his fourth TD from three yards out and brother Oscar booted the extra points for a 28-0 advantage.

"That one touchdown in the third quarter was big for us," Avery said. "They (Silverton) were going to have the wind in the fourth, so we needed some points in the third."

With the wind at their backs, the Owls did post three touchdowns in the fourth.

The first came with 9:19 remaining in the contest, as Jeremy Holt dove in from the 2. Holt's drop-kick for two-points was unsuccessfull, leaving the score at 28-6.

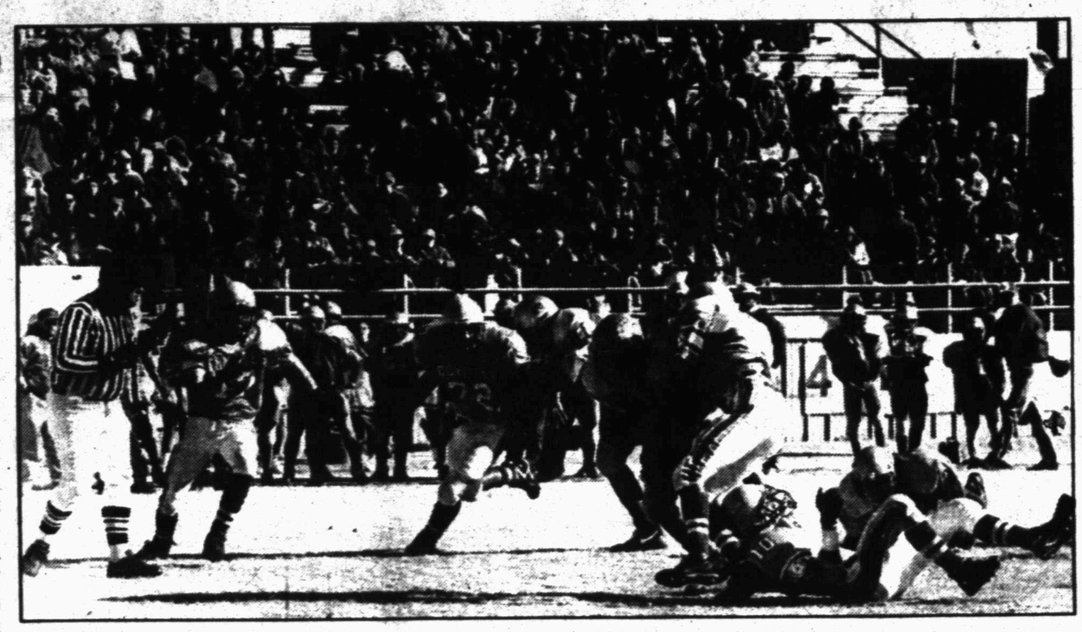
However, Baeza got the points right back on a 5-yard scamper to push the lead to 34-6.

Holt added a 4-yard TD run and Jack Cherry hooked up with Trey Zeigler on a 14-yard scoring toss, but it wasn't enough to outlast the Coyotes.

Baeza finished the day with 94 yards on 22 carries, while McCook toted the ball eight times for 70 yards.

Through the air, McCook completed 14 of 20 attempts for 147 yards, one interception and a touchdown.

The Coyotes' next opponent, Lazbuddie (12-1), knocked off Sands Friday night, 52-44.



BRAVING THE ELEMENTS — A near capacity crowd looks on as Silverton's Jeremy Holt (11) is hauled down by a Coyote defender during Saturday's six-man quarterfinal contest in Idalou. Borden County's Bryce Dye (72) and Colt Miller (17) move in to assist on the play. Despite wind gusts over 30 miles per hour, a large number of spectators saw the Coyotes top the Owls, 34-19, to earn a berth in the state semifinals. (SDN Staff Photo By Eric Drennan)

Tigers top Big Spring

BIG SPRING — The Snyder Tigers might have learned something about themselves Saturday — they don't panic.

With their leading scorer in foul trouble and with Big Spring making a run, the Tigers remained calm to pull out a 67-55 victory.

"We stayed calm when things started to go wrong," Snyder coach Bud Birks said. "We didn't panic when they (Big Spring) made a run. We held our own until we could get everybody back on the court and that was the difference in the game."

Jimmy Taylor, who finished with a game high 33 points, picked up his fourth foul at the 3:13 mark of the third quarter.

The Steers managed to put together a run, trimming the Snyder lead to a single point.

But the Tigers battled back, thanks in part to an opportunistic defense which tallied 17 steals.

Snyder out-rebounded Big Spring, 22-13, and shot 57 percent from three-point range.

Taylor drained two baskets from longe range, while Chris Riggins and Tyler Warren added a bucket apiece from behind the arc.

The win levels Snyder's mark at 2-2 on the season entering Tuesday's contest with Seminole.

The Indians, considered among the best teams in the state, feature one of the nation's top players.

Seminole junior Chris Ogden, a 6'6" forward, is already being recruited by Division I colleges Michigan and Duke.

Tuesday's match-up will tipoff at 7:30 in the Snyder High School gymnasium.

Snyder (67)
Taylor 13 5-8 33, Riggins 3 2-4 9, Warren 1 4-6 7, Delce 3 2-6 8, Cobb 2 1-2 5, Durham 1 0-1 2, Mandrell 1 0-0 2, Hodges 0 1-2 1. Totals 24 15-29 67.

Big Spring (55)
Myers 5 7-9 20, Womack 4 0-1 8, Hall 2 3-4 7, Wollentzien 1 5-6 7, Ford 3 0-0 6, Mitchell 1 3-6 5, Williams 0 2-2 2. Totals 16 20-28 55.

Three-point goals: Snyder 4 (Taylor 2, Riggins, Warren) Big Spring 3 (Myers).

Rebounds: Snyder 22, Big Spring 13. Total Fouls: Snyder 24, Big Spring 22. Fouled out: Big Spring — Wollenzien.

Dallas still has playoff shot

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys, considered to be out of the running for a playoff berth following their Thanksgiving Day loss to the Tennessee Oilers, are back in the running following a series of upsets.

Their chances were aided Sunday when the New York Giants, Washington Redskins and Carolina Panthers all lost on Sunday.

But the Cowboys will still need some help to qualify for the playoffs.

"We're still in the race," said Cowboys linebacker Randall Godfrey. "Anything can happen."

At 6-7 and riding a two-game losing streak, the Cowboys are on the verge of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1990.

The Cowboys are left in the position of having to win the NFC East Division in order to make the playoffs because a 4-6 conference record will make it nearly impossible to make it as a wild-card team.

The chance of winning the NFC East was helped by the Giants' 20-8 loss at home to Tampa Bay on Sunday. New York is 7-5-1 and closes the season Dec. 21 at Dallas.

Also Sunday, wild-card hopeful Washington (6-6-1) lost 23-20 to St. Louis, while Carolina (6-7) lost to New Orleans 16-13.

The Cowboys must sweep their final three games against Carolina, Cincinnati and the Giants.

After Dallas' 27-14 loss to Tennessee on Thanksgiving Day, quarterback Troy Aikman called the Cowboys' playoff chances "a real long shot right now."

The Giants will have to lose two games, the Redskins will have to lose one and the Philadelphia Eagles will also have to lose one game for the Cowboys to keep on playing after Christmas.

Defensive tackle Leon Lett may be able to give the Cowboys a boost as he will return from a year-long drug suspension in time to play against the Carolina Panthers next Monday night.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
NewEngland	8	5	0	.615	308	233
Miami	8	5	0	.615	294	242
N.Y.Jets	8	5	0	.615	293	252
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	217	296
Indianapolis	1	12	0	.077	222	348
Central						
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	307	246
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	334	269
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	284	242
Baltimore	4	8	1	.346	260	286
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	267	353
West						
Denver	11	2	0	.846	393	215
KansasCity	10	3	0	.769	291	212
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	281	301
SanDiego	4	9	0	.308	253	344
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	294	347

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
N.Y.Giants	7	5	1	.577	226	227
Philadelphia	6	6	1	.500	247	286
Washington	6	6	1	.500	244	199
Dallas	6	7	0	.462	260	240
Arizona	3	10	0	.231	216	288
Central						
GreenBay	9	3	0	.750	316	234
TampaBay	9	4	0	.692	262	200
Minnesota	8	4	0	.667	274	262
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	322	250
Chicago	2	11	0	.154	215	377
West						
SanFrancisco	11	2	0	.846	304	193
Carolina	6	7	0	.462	214	240
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	260	312
NewOrleans	5	8	0	.385	170	258
St.Louis	3	10	0	.231	225	301

Thursday's Games
Detroit 55, Chicago 20
Tennessee 27, Dallas 14

Sunday's Games
Jacksonville 29, Baltimore 27
Philadelphia 44, Cincinnati 42
New England 20, Indianapolis 17
New Orleans 16, Carolina 13
Buffalo 20, New York Jets 10
St. Louis 23, Washington 20
Kansas City 44, San Francisco 9
Atlanta 24, Seattle 17
Miami 34, Oakland 16
Pittsburgh 26, Arizona 20, OT
Tampa Bay 20, New York Giants 8
Denver 38, San Diego 28

Monday's Game
Green Bay at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Duke vaults KU for No. 1

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

The Duke Blue Devils, who looked so impressive in their run through the Maui Invitational, vaulted over Kansas today and into the No. 1 spot in the AP college basketball poll.

Duke (5-0), which beat then top-ranked Arizona handily in the title game at Maui on Wednesday, is No. 1 for the first time since January 1994 and for the fourth season in the last seven.

The Blue Devils received 31 first-place votes and 1,695 points from the media panel, while Kansas (6-0), which won the Preseason NIT, held second with 28 No. 1 votes and 1,678 points.

North Carolina (6-0), the champions of the Great Alaska Shootout, moved up one spot to third. The Tar Heels, who received 11 first-place votes, were only 21 points behind the Jayhawks.

Arizona (4-1) dropped from the top spot to fourth, and was followed by South Carolina, Purdue, Kentucky, New Mexico, Xavier and Iowa.

Utah jumped five spots to lead the Second Ten and was followed by Stanford, Connecticut, Mississippi, UCLA, Fresno State, Clemson, Arkansas, Florida State and Temple.

The last five teams in the poll were Georgia, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Wake Forest and Princeton.

The five newcomers to the rankings were Arkansas, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Wake Forest and Princeton.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	10	5	.667	-
NewYork	10	5	.667	-
NewJersey	10	5	.667	-
Orlando	10	6	.625	½
Boston	7	9	.438	3½
Philadelphia	4	9	.308	5
Washington	5	11	.313	5½
Central Division				
Atlanta	14	2	.875	-
Charlotte	9	5	.643	4
Cleveland	9	6	.600	4½
Milwaukee	9	6	.600	4½
Indiana	8	6	.571	5
Chicago	9	7	.563	5
Detroit	6	11	.353	8½
Toronto	1	15	.063	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
Houston	8	5	.615	-
Utah	9	6	.600	-
SanAntonio	9	7	.563	½
Minnesota	7	8	.467	2
Vancouver	7	11	.389	3½
Dallas	4	11	.267	5
Denver	1	12	.077	7
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	13	2	.867	-
Seattle	13	3	.813	½
Phoenix	9	3	.750	2½
Portland	10	5	.667	3
Sacramento	5	11	.313	8½
L.A.Clippers	2	14	.125	11½
GoldenState	1	13	.071	11½

Saturday's Games
New York 102, Phoenix 80
Atlanta 98, Charlotte 80
Chicago 88, Washington 83
Milwaukee 93, Miami 87
Cleveland 103, Boston 97
Minnesota 106, Vancouver 87
San Antonio 96, Dallas 87
Utah 94, L.A. Clippers 91
Houston 107, Golden State 100

Sunday's Games
Indiana 101, Philadelphia 89
Atlanta 108, San Antonio 96
Vancouver 97, Detroit 95
Seattle 103, Orlando 81
New Jersey 87, Sacramento 73
L.A. Lakers 105, Toronto 99

Monday's Game
New Jersey at Utah, 8 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Sacramento at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Portland, 9 p.m.

LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today

Snyder 7th, 8th & 9th boys at Levelland, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30.

Levelland at Snyder 7th & 8th girls, SJHS gym, 5:00, 6:15.

Levelland at Snyder 9th girls, SHS gym, 6:15.

Ira Jr. High at Hermleigh, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Seminole at Snyder JV boys, SJHS gym, 6 p.m.

Lubbock High at Snyder JV & varsity girls, 4:30, 6 p.m.

Seminole at Snyder varsity boys, 7:30.

Roby at Hermleigh varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.

Highland at Ira varsity girls & boys, 6:30, 8 p.m.

Thursday

Snyder varsity boys vs. Seminole, Frenship tourney, 12:15.

Snyder 9th girls at Colorado City tourney.

Snyder JV girls at Sweetwater tourney.

Hermleigh varsity boys & girls at Wilson tourney.

Ira varsity boys & girls at Highland tourney.

Lady Tigers hang on to edge Clyde, 57-54

The Lady Tigers notched their fourth win of the season Saturday, but it took all 32 minutes to do it.

Snyder saw a 12-point lead dwindle into a one-point deficit, before making a 4-0 run in the final minute and a half to grab a 57-54 victory over Clyde.

After Snyder led by as many 12 points, Clyde began its comeback to seize a 54-53 advantage with 1:40 remaining in the contest.

Melanie Kidd then connected on a short jumper, giving the Lady Tigers a 55-54 lead.

Snyder kept the pressure on, forcing a Clyde turnover which turned into a Kameron Kallemeyn layup for the Lady Tigers' second of only two field goals in the fourth quarter.

From there the Snyder defense stepped up, allowing only a desperation shot at the buzzer, which was off the mark.

Freshman Ashley Delce led all scorers with 17 points, with Kidd adding 13.

The victory moves Snyder's record to 4-2.

Next up for the Lady Tigers is a home game against Lubbock High at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Clyde (54)
Simoneau 1 4-7 6, Lehman 0 2-2 2, Frankie 1 0-2 2, Stephenson 3 8-9 14, Vinson 7 2-2 16, Varner 1 5-8 8, Nigar 2 2-2 6. Totals 15 23-32 54.

Snyder (57)
McGuire 1 3-4 5, Delce 7 3-3 17, Kidd 4 5-7 13, Hess 4 0-0 9, Kallemeyn 4 2-2 10, Hall 1 0-0 3. Totals 21 13-16 57.

Three-point goal: Clyde 1 (Varner) Snyder 2 (Hall, Hess). Total fouls: Clyde 16, Snyder 25. Fouled out — none.

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

CLASS 5A
Division I
Region I/II
Semifinals
Duncanville (12-1) vs. Longview (13-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Region III/IV
Semifinals
Katy (12-1) vs. SA Taft (6-6), 5 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome

DIVISION II
Region I Final
Flower Mound Marcus (11-2) vs. Abilene Cooper (12-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

Region II Final
Richardson Lake Highlands (11-2) vs. Tyler John Tyler (11-2), 8 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Region III Final
Beaumont West Brook (11-2) vs. Alief Hastings (12-1), 2 p.m., Saturday, Astrodome

Region IV Final
SA MacArthur (11-2) vs. New Braunfels (12-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Alamo Stadium

CLASS 4A
Division I
Region I/II
Semifinal
Canyon Randall (10-3) vs. Corsicana (11-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Wichita Falls' Memorial Stadium

Region III/IV
Semifinal
Texas City (12-1) vs. Waco Midway (12-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome

DIVISION II
Region I Final
Denison (13-0) vs. Sweetwater (13-0), 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Wichita Falls' Memorial Stadium

Region II Final
Mount Pleasant (8-5) vs. Terrell (13-0), 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Region III Final
LC-Mauriceville (11-2) vs. La Marque (10-3), 6 p.m. Friday, Astrodome

Region IV Final
CC Calallen (13-0) vs. Edcouch-Elsa (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, McAllen

CLASS 3A
Region I Final
Aledo (13-0) vs. Breckenridge (13-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Bedford's Pennington Field

Region II Final
Linden-Kildare (12-1) vs. Commerce (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium

Region III Final
Columbus (10-3) vs. La Grange (11-2), 11 a.m., Saturday, Astrodome

Region IV Final
Cuero (11-2) vs. Sealy (13-0), 8:30 p.m. Friday, Astrodome

CLASS 2A
Region I Final
Lockney (12-1) vs. Stanton (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Shotwell Stadium, Abilene

Region II Final
Celina (11-2) vs. Italy (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bedford's Pennington Field

Region III Final
Alto (13-0) vs. Elysian Fields (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Kilgore's R.E. St. John Stadium

Region IV Final
Rogers (12-1) vs. Refugio (11-2), 8 p.m. Friday, Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos

CLASS 1A
Region I/II
Semifinal
Wheeler (10-3) vs. Munday (10-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Childress

Region III/IV
Semifinal
Celeste (13-0) vs. Granger (10-3), TBA

SIXMAN
Region I/II
Semifinal
Lazbuddie (12-1) vs. Borden County (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wolfforth-Frenship

Region III/IV
Semifinal
Panther Creek (12-1) vs. Trinidad (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Glen Rose

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Washington retreats in 1997 from some immigration provisions OK'd in 1996

WASHINGTON (AP) — Determined to crack down on illegal immigration and end a welfare policy attractive to less-fortunate newcomers, the Republican-led Congress last year enacted the toughest immigration policies in decades, perhaps ever.

A scant year later, lawmakers in 1997 watered down several of their strictest mandates.

Some ascribe the hasty retreat to a political motivation, noting that Republicans suffered their worst electoral showing yet among Latinos in 1996.

"Last year's immigration bill is starting to bite the Republicans in the foot," said Cecilia Munoz of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Latino advocacy group.

Others cite a sophisticated lobbying effort by immigrant advocates, who successfully put a human face on Washington's policies.

"Last year, Congress made a show of being tough on illegal immigration because there was an election coming up," said Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies, which contends immigration levels are too high. "This year, the election having passed and the special-interest groups concerned having mounted a very large and very effective lobbying campaign, Congress pulled back."

The Republican Party also is split on immigration: leadership is increasingly perturbed by the party's anti-immigrant image while rank-and-file conservatives remain determined to reduce illegal immigration flows and limit noncitizens' access to benefits.

Political considerations aside, this year's legislative tinkering exacted a heavy emotional toll on immigrants, both legal and illegal:

—The first wave of anxiety hit in February and March as hundreds of thousands of low-income elderly and disabled legal immigrants received notices that their Supplemental Security Income would end under terms of the 1996 welfare law. Amid a huge outcry, reports of several suicides by anguished immigrants, and a drumbeat of hard-luck stories in the news media, lawmakers in July restored benefits for elderly and disabled legal immigrants here as of August 1996. New arrivals remain ineligible for aid.

—Turmoil washed over the legal immigrant community anew in April as the first of the 935,000 noncitizens receiving federal food stamps were removed from the rolls in a process that continued through the fall. Congress has not considered restoration but some states have stepped in to offer limited food stamp aid.

—Alarm hit the illegal immigrant population in the late summer and fall as undocumented aliens contemplated whether to leave the country to avoid triggering new sanctions. As of Sept. 27, anyone found to have lived here unlawfully for more than six months faces up to 10 years of exclusion if caught trying to reenter the country.

George W. Bush to begin campaigning Wednesday

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush will formally begin his re-election campaign Wednesday with stops to Midland, El Paso, Dallas and Austin.

He plans to tout accomplishments on the topics that served as centerpiece of his 1994 campaign: reforms in education, civil justice, juvenile justice and welfare.

"It's not so much earning the trust of Texans by doing what I said I'd do in office ... but more importantly is I know where I want to go," Bush told the American-Statesman. "That's exactly what I'm going to talk about in the course of the campaign."

Bush hasn't yet announced any of the particulars about his campaign platform. He's likely to skirt the big question of his re-election campaign: whether he'll run for president in 2000.

Bush is vying to become the state's first governor to win re-election since the Texas began having four-year terms in 1975.

The early polls give him a good shot, even if history doesn't. While he's very popular now, several other recent governors who were well-received ended up being voted out of office.

Bush doesn't even have to look far to find an example. In 1994, he made Ann Richards eligible for the Texas Capitol's portrait gallery before she was ready.

Bush believes he knows where she went wrong — she was too intent on becoming a star in Hollywood and Washington and did not offer a clear vision of what she wanted to accomplish here if re-elected.

"People should give me a chance to be governor again because I have a vision of a more compassionate, decent tomorrow," he said. "I know exactly where I want to lead. I see, clearly, a way to achieve educational excellence, a better welfare system that helps people who truly need to be helped, that encourages others who don't."

Bush's toughest foe is expected to be Democrat Garry Mauro, the state's land commissioner. Neither Bush nor Mauro is expected to face serious challenge in their primaries next year.

Mauro's bid was dealt a blow last week when Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, the state's top elected Democrat, endorsed Bush.

"I'm confident that the differences between the two of us will emerge. This is a big, big government thinker," Bush said of Mauro. "He has been in Austin for 16 years."

Mauro is campaigning on a theme of putting Texas families first. He wants to eliminate Texas' motor sales tax and he hopes to increase options for people in HMOs.

"No matter what kind of family you have, when your families win, Texas wins," Mauro said.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Nov. 28-Belinda Tavarez; Nov. 29-Willard Gladson; Nov. 30-None.

DISMISSALS: Nov. 28-Don L. King Jr., L.B. Taylor; Nov. 29-Bryant Marshall, of Hermleigh, William Love; Nov. 30-Belinda Tavarez and baby.

Births

Isreal and Belinda Tavarez are parents of a daughter, weighing six pounds, 6¾ ounces. She was born at 7:12 p.m. on Nov. 28 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Three arrested during otherwise quiet weekend

Three people were arrested over the weekend, but activity was relatively quiet for local law enforcement personnel.

Officers arrested a 36-year-old male at 1:11 p.m. Saturday in the 2300 block of Avenue E for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 12:48 a.m. Sunday, DPS troopers arrested a 22-year-old male south of Snyder on U.S. Highway 84 for driving while license suspended and a Travis County warrant for driving while license suspended.

A report of a suspicious vehicle in the 2900 block of Avenue F at 2:17 a.m. Sunday resulted in the arrest of a 19-year-old male for driving while license suspended.

Jerry Etheridge requested to speak to a deputy at 10 p.m. Saturday at a residence on CR 1121 in reference to the theft of some jewelry. An offense report for Class A theft was submitted.

Ann Cody told officers at 6:05 p.m. Saturday that someone had taken cash from her wallet in the 300 block of 30th Street. An offense report for Class C theft was submitted.

John Boren requested an officer at 4011 Avondale at 12:09 p.m. Sunday to report a trampoline had been cut. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

In other activity over the weekend, deputies were notified at 9:04 a.m. Saturday of an oil spill in the 1700 block of Keller. The company was notified and the oil was cleaned up.

Timothy Gutierrez reported to officers at 4:47 p.m. Saturday that someone had stolen a bicycle from 1907 Ave. Q. An offense report was Class B theft was to be submitted, but the bicycle was found at a relative's house at 9:38 p.m. No report was filed.

At 3:49 a.m. Sunday, a person reported a 13-year-old male juvenile had run away from home. Officers later located the boy at 11:55 p.m. Sunday. He was first taken to the police department and later released to his mother.

Frank Miller told officers at 8:52 a.m. Sunday that someone had taken a cordless drill from the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

A report for a gas drive-off from Century Fuels was made at 10:43 a.m. in reference to a person not paying for $30 worth of gas. The person returned later and paid for the gas.

Reports of prowlers were made at 11:31 p.m. Sunday from the 3000 block of Avenue W and at 1:31 a.m. Monday from the 3100 block of Crockett.

Officers were advised of possible gun shots in the area of the 100 block of Avenue R at 9:07 p.m. Saturday, but no one with a gun was located.

Reports of loud music were made at 11:01 p.m. Saturday and 12:20 a.m. Sunday at the Field Crest Apartments.

A person complained at 7:04 a.m. Sunday that the Christmas music on the square was too loud.

Correction

An error in the Scurry County public records was contained in Sunday's edition. Listed is the action, as corrected:

In the marriage of Paul Rocha Jaramillo Jr. and Adriana Elisha Jaramillo, divorce granted.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Consider risks before surgery

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 73-year-old father has terrible arthritis in his right knee, for which several doctors have urged total knee replacement. However, despite several prescription medications, his blood pressure remains at the 210/110 level. Should he undergo surgery with such hypertension?

DEAR READER: In the course of my duties, I am often asked by surgeons to give pre-operative medical clearance to elderly patients who are facing major surgery. The reason for this is that anesthesia and surgery are major stresses on the body and my surgical colleagues want to avoid a preventable tragedy.

Foremost in my mind when I perform a consultation is the possibility of a heart attack or stroke in a senior citizen. It's my job to identify the potential for problems, prevent such problems as best I can, and give the surgeons a clear appraisal of the probable risks.

Hypertension is such a problem — and a risk. It can cause heart attack, heart failure or stroke in an older person during or after surgery. Therefore, my rule of thumb is that high blood pressure must be controlled before surgery is considered.

I don't doubt that your father needs a knee replacement. Such an operation would improve his independence and general life pattern. However, in my view, the surgery should be postponed until he has been "fine-tuned."

If his blood pressure remains high (above 150/90), his medicine should be increased, adjusted or changed. Although when I started practicing there were pitifully few effective anti-hypertensive drugs available, today there are dozens: beta-blockers, calcium-channel blockers, ACE inhibitors, and many other medications. In your father's case, it's just a matter of discovering which drug (or combination) will do the job.

Therefore, I would refer this problem back to his family doctor, who — with the help of cardiovascular specialists as needed — should be able to stabilize your father's blood pressure. Once this is accomplished, the surgery should proceed smoothly.

This is the way the system should work — problems are identified and solved before a patient goes under the knife. Let me know how this situation plays out.

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

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	126¼	122	15-16	126¼+5 1-16
AT&T Corp	56	11-16	55⅞	56⅛+ ⅛
AirTouch	39⅝	38⅞	39⅝+ ⅛	
Albertsons	45⅞	43⅝	44	11-16+ 5-16
AlldSignal s	38⅝	37	5-16	38 5-16+1 3-16
Alltel	40	39⅝	39	15-16+ 3-16
AmerOnline	77	7-16	75	15-16 77⅛+ 2⅛
AmStores	20	5-16	19	13-16 20⅛+ 7-16
Ameritech	77⅝	76⅝	77⅝+	9-16
Amoco	90	88	1-16	88⅛— 1⅞
AndarkPtr	65	64⅛	64⅝—	⅛
Amoolnc	5⅝	5⅛	5	5-16
AtlRichfld s	81⅛	79	23-32	80⅛— 1⅛
ATMOS Egy	26	15-16	26	7-16 26⅞+ 5-16
Aviall	14⅛	14	3-16	14⅛+ 1-16
BakerHughes	41⅞	40⅝	40⅞—	1⅜
BellAtl	89⅝	87⅞	89	7-16+ 3-16
BellSouth	55	11-16	53⅞	55⅜+ ⅜
BethSteel	10⅝	10⅛	10	5-16+ 1-16
BritPet s	82	3-16	81⅞	81⅞— 1⅛
BurlNoSFe	92⅛	91⅛	92	3-16+11-16
CBS Corp	30⅝	30	3-16	30⅝+ ⅜
Caterpillar s	48⅝	48	1-16	48⅝+11-16
CenSoWst	25	24	7-16	24 7-16— 9-16
Chevron	80⅝	78⅝	78⅝—	1 7-16
Chrysler	35	5-16	34	9-16 34⅞+ 9-16
Coastal	59	58	5-16	58⅝— 3-16
CocaCola	63⅝	62	9-16	63⅝+ 1⅜
ColgatePalm s	68	67	67⅝+15-16	
ComclMetals	33	9-16	33	33 9-16+ ⅜
CooperIn	52⅝	51	11-16	52⅝+ ⅜
CyprusAmax	18	7-16	17⅝	17 15-16— ⅜
DallSemicn	50	5-16	49⅝	50⅛+ 1⅜
DeltaAirl	114	15-16	112⅝	114 11-16+ 3⅛
DigitalEq	49	15-16	49	3-16 49⅝+ ⅛
Dillards Inc	37	13-16	36⅝	37 9-16+ 1
DowChem	99⅝	98⅛	99	7-16+11-16
DresserInd	37	5-16	36⅛	36 5-16—1 1-16
DuPont s	62⅝	60	13-16	62 7-16+ 1⅞
EastmanChem	60⅞	60	7-16	60 11-16+ 5-16
EstKodak	61⅝	60⅝	61	7-16+13-16
EDS Corp	39⅝	38⅛	39⅝+	1⅛
Entergy	26	3-16	26	1-32 26 3-16+ 3-16
Exxon s	61	60	60	11-16— 5-16
FstBksAm	17⅞	17⅝	17⅝+	⅛
Flowers s	20	3-16	19	15-16 20 1-16+ ⅛
FordMotor	44	5-16	43	7-16 44⅛+ 1⅜
GTE Cp	51⅝	50⅝	51⅜+	9-16
GenDynam	87	3-16	86⅝	87
GenElecs	75⅝	74⅝	74⅝+	⅜
GenMills	74⅝	74	1-16	74 9-16+ 9-16
GenMotors	62⅝	61	5-16	62 1-16+ 1⅛
GaPacif	86	9-16	85⅞	86⅝+ 1
GlobalMar	26⅛	24⅛	24⅛—	1 13-16
Goodrich	44	11-16	44⅛	44⅝+ ⅛
Goodyear s	61	13-16	60	11-16 61⅝+1 1-16
GtAtlPac	31⅝	30	11-16	30 13-16— 1-16
Halliburtn s	54⅝	52	5-16	52⅝— 1 9-16
Hanson ADS	25⅝	25	7-16	25 9-16— 7-16
HomeDepot s	57	15-16	56	11-16 57⅝+1 13-16
HoustonInds	23	13-16	23	9-16 23⅝+ 1-16
IBM s	112⅝	109⅝	111	13-16+2 5-16
IntlPaper	48	7-16	47	9-16 48⅝+ ⅜
JohnsonJn	64⅝	63⅝	64	3-16+ 1⅜
K mart	12	11-16	12⅝	12 11-16+ ⅜
Kroger s	35	34⅝	34⅝+	7-16
Litton	50⅝	50⅛	50⅝+	⅛
LockhdMart	98	3-16	97⅞	97⅞
Lowes Cos	46⅝	45	15-16	46⅝+ 7-16
Lubys	19	11-16	19	7-16 19 7-16— 5-16
LucentTech	82	9-16	80⅝	82⅝+ 2⅜
MayDptStrs	54⅛	53⅝	54	3-16+ 7-16
Medtronic s	49⅝	47⅞	48⅝+	1⅜
Mobils	71⅞	70	15-16	71 —15-16
Monsanto	43	15-16	43	5-16 43⅝— 3-16
MorganJP	118⅝	114⅝	118	7-16+ 4⅜
Motorola	65⅛	63⅝	65	+ 2⅜
NCR Corp n	30	29⅝	30	+ ⅛
NationsBk s	60⅛	59	13-16	60⅝+ 7-16
Nevistar	22⅝	22⅛	22	5-16+ 5-16
Norwestn	38⅛	37	7-16	38 7-16+ 1
OryxEngy	26⅛	25⅝	26	— 1
Penney JC	65⅛	64	5-16	65⅛+ ⅞
Pennzoil	67⅞	66⅝	66⅝—	⅛
PepBoys	25	7-16	25⅝	25⅝+ ⅛
PepsiCo	37⅝	37⅛	37⅝+	⅜
PhelpDodge	66⅛	66	1-16	66⅝+ ⅛
PhilipPet	48	11-16	48	48 7-16
PilgrimPrd	16⅝	15	15-16	16⅝+ ⅜
Polaroid	43⅝	42⅝	43⅝+	⅛
Praxair	44⅛	43⅝	44	3-16+ ⅛
ProctGamb s	77	15-16	76	9-16 77⅝+1 11-16
PubSNwMx	20⅝	20	7-16	20⅝+ 3-16
RoyalDut s	52⅝	52	5-16	52 13-16+ ⅛
SBC Comm	74⅛	72⅝	74	+ 1⅜
SaraLee	53	3-16	52	11-16 53 3-16+ 5-16
Scripps EW	42⅛	42	3-16	42⅛+ 3-16
SearsRoeb	47⅝	46	47⅛+1	7-16
SherwinW s	28	15-16	28	9-16 28⅝+ 3-16
SouthBc ADS s	55	0	7-16	49 13-16 50 5-16+11-16
SouthernCo	24⅛	23	15-16	24 3-16+ 3-16
SwstAirl s	24⅛	23	13-16	23 15-16— ⅛
Sprint	60⅝	58⅝	60	7-16+ 1⅞
SunCo	40	15-16	40⅝	40⅝+ 7-16
TNP Ent	27	11-16	27	5-16 27⅝+ ⅛
Tandy s	44	43⅝	43	15-16+13-16
Tenneco	43	42	43	— 5-16
Texaco s	56⅝	55⅝	56	3-16— 5-16
TexInd s	47⅝	46	11-16	47⅝+13-16
TexasInst s	51	7-16	49⅝	51 + 1⅜
TexUtil	40⅝	40	1-16	40 3-16+ 3-16
Textron s	60	7-16	59⅝	60 7-16+1 5-16
Travelers s	53	50	15-16	52 15-16+2 1-16
TriconGlbR s	34⅝	33	13-16	33 15-16+ ⅜
TrinityInds	45⅝	45	3-16	45⅝+ ⅜
TritonEngy	34	13-16	33	13-16 33⅝— 1⅜
Tyler	5	1-16	4	15-16 5 —1⅛
US WestCm	45	13-16	45	3-16 45⅝+ 9-16
USWstMds	27	1-16	26	9-16 27 + 7-16
USX Delhi	19	11-16	19	9-16 19 11-16+ 1-16
USX-Marathn	34⅝	34	34⅝+	⅛
USX-USS	31⅝	31	5-16	31 9-16+ ⅜
UnCarbide	45	44⅝	44	15-16+13-16
UnionPacif	61	60⅝	61	+ 1⅜
UnitedTech s	76⅝	74⅝	76⅝+1	9-16
Unocal	39⅝	39	39	5-16— ⅛
WalMart	40⅝	40	40	7-16+ ⅛
WstDisIlls	22⅝	22	7-16	22⅛— ⅛
WstnDigin	40	11-16	40⅝	40 11-16+ ⅛
Woolworth	22⅝	21	9-16	22 + ⅜
Xerox Corp	80	77	11-16	79⅝+2 1-16
ZenithE	7⅝	7⅝	7⅝—	1-16

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DEC 01 1997

After decades of inflation worry, what about deflation?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Raldo Capitani's father sold Italian bread door-to-door during the Depression in Highland Park, Ill., near Chicago: 10 cents for a one-pound loaf, 12 cents for a pound and a half.

His earnings didn't amount to much, but they fed a family of four. And the one thing the family didn't have to worry about during those hardest of hard times was rising prices. Prices, in fact, were falling.

Economists call the phenomenon deflation — inflation's opposite — and they're debating whether it's on the verge of reappearing after a six-decade absence.

Deflation may sound good to consumers with memories of skyrocketing prices during the 1970s and early 1980s. But, as Capitani, a 77-year-old retiree in Port St. Lucie, Fla., explained, there was a downside: declining wages and high unemployment.

"Everything was relative. If you paid a dime for a loaf of bread, you had to work hard for that dime," he said. "There were a lot of people ... who got their salary slashed and they had to take it or leave it. There was always someone waiting in the wings who was ready and willing to take your job."

Why are economists thinking about deflation when the unemployment rate, at 4.7 percent, is at a 24-year low and consumer confidence is near a 28-year high?

The answer, in a word, is Asia. Financial crises are braking once red-hot economies in Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea. Sharp currency devaluations mean affected countries will be hard-pressed to buy U.S. goods. Their own goods will sell cheaply when purchased with strong dollars.

That, in turn, puts pressure on U.S. manufacturers to cut prices or lose sales. Computer makers have coped with deflation for years. But the pressure is spreading. New car prices were down 0.6 percent last month from a year earlier.

"If this situation is allowed to spread and worsen and fester, then the consequences will be very dire," said economist Richard Berner of Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

Just how close to deflation is the U.S. economy? Inflation, after hitting a post-World War II high of 13 percent in 1979, is running at a 32-year low of around 2 percent this year. So, it wouldn't take much to transform disinflation — progressively smaller price increases — into declining prices.

Also, U.S. factories' capacity to produce goods is growing rapidly. Last month, it was 4.3 percent higher than a year earlier. That means output has to grow more than 4 percent a year just to keep unused capacity from increasing.

Add to that the aging of the Baby Boom generation. Over time, that's damping Americans' propensity to borrow and spend, said Jim Paulsen, chief investment manager of Norwest Investment Management Inc. in Minneapolis.

"We're moving from a shop-til-you-drop to a save-for-retirement culture. It's really caused demand to grow much more slowly," he said.

Even the nation's premier worrier about inflation — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan — last month called the deflation argument "a respectable position." Though, he added, "Most of us at the Federal Reserve disagree with the position."

Like Greenspan, Clinton administration officials don't foresee deflation.

"We have an economy that is growing strongly. The greater risk has been a pickup in inflation," said Janet Yellen, chairwoman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. "We may see ... further declines in our import prices. But, on balance, this is a situation of disinflation rather than deflation."

Many private economists are forecasting a modest acceleration in inflation next year, even with the Asian turmoil. Some temporary factors, such as decelerating health care costs and falling energy prices, aren't likely to repeat in 1998.

Director no screamer

NEW YORK (AP) — James Cameron says he's not a screamer. A yeller, maybe. But not a screamer.

"Working with hundreds of extras day after day for months makes yelling a way of life," said the director, who was criticized for driving the crew of the upcoming "Titanic" too hard. "Almost never was there anger in it.

"In the darkest depths of the shoot, when responsibility for the budget overruns was a crushing burden, I was prone to some frustrated outbursts."

At $200 million, "Titanic" is the most expensive film ever made, Cameron admitted in Time magazine's Dec. 8 edition. Cameron added that the same was said about his last four films, including the successful "True Lies" and "Terminator 2: Judgment Day."

"In any event, many of our favorite epics from the '30s, '40s and '50s would cost more than 'Titanic' if made today."

2 killed en route to visit grave

CLAUDE (AP) — Tragedy struck a family for the second time in three days when two family members were killed and a third was critically injured as they drove to the grave of a loved one buried only hours earlier.

Peggy Kennedy, 68, died on Wednesday after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Only a few hours after her funeral on Saturday, her husband, 69-year-old John Kennedy, and his sisters, Earline Ivy, 64, of Seminole, and Maxine Hodges, 66, of Mullin, were driving to the Claude cemetery when their car was struck by a train.

John was pronounced dead about two hours later at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. Maxine Hodges died in surgery late Saturday night and Earline Ivy was in critical condition Sunday at the Amarillo hospital.

"Everybody was just sitting around talking. (John) got up, put his cap on and said, 'I'm going out to the cemetery,'" recalled Bill Kennedy, John's brother.

Kennedy asked his sisters to accompany him.

"They started to the cemetery and didn't get there," Bill Kennedy said. "It's about as hard a thing as I've ever had to go through, to lose them like this."

Earline Ivy suffered numerous broken bones, internal injuries and cuts and bruises, family members said.

Dot Bernstein, John Kennedy's sister, said faith helps her get through the loss of her brother, sister and sister-in-law.

"I pray a lot, but it's hard. It is so hard," she said through tears. "We will all miss them. I don't think it's hit me yet how much I'll miss them."

The fatal accident drew quick reaction from a county official.

Armstrong County Judge Hugh Reed said Sunday he is considering legal action to force the Texas Department of Transportation to put a crossing guard at the intersection where the two siblings were killed.

The crossing is now marked only by a sign, he told the Amarillo Globe-News.

Reed said he has spent nine years lobbying various state agencies, including TxDOT, the Railroad Commission, state legislators and the Texas Department of Public Safety, to put a crossing guard at the intersection.

District Railroad Coordinator Tracy Tellman of TxDOT said crossings are prioritized each year and about 100 guards are installed annually. But, she said, there are more than 7,000 public crossings in the state that lack guards.

Crossings are ranked through such criteria as traffic density, train traffic density, whether school buses regularly cross the tracks and crashes in the past, she said.

"It's hard to know whether or not an accident like this would move the crossing up (on the priority list)," she said.

GTECH won't rebid on lottery business

AUSTIN (AP) — GTECH Corp., the Texas Lottery's primary contractor, is not interested in rebidding for the work it currently performs, the company announced Saturday.

"We have officially informed the Texas Lottery Commission that the company will decline to submit a proposal in response to the commission's request for proposals for a new lottery system and services," GTECH spokesman Marc Palazzo said Saturday.

Rhode Island-based GTECH informed senior lottery staff members and lottery commissioners Harriet Miers, Anthony Sedberry and John Hill of its decision by letters delivered Saturday, Palazzo said. The bid deadline is next week.

Ms. Miers said GTECH "should have embraced, not feared, the bidding process that has been full and fair and open."

GTECH stated in its letter that lottery commissioners opted to issue a request for a proposal that would award a new contract prior to the expiration of GTECH's contract.

The company also argued the lottery commission is prejudiced in its bidding process because its former executive director, Lawrence Littwin, had worked for GTECH-competitor Automated Wagering International.

Ms. Miers denied the allegation, as did Linda Cloud, Littwin's successor. Ms. Cloud said that many on the lottery staff had a hand in formulating the process besides Littwin.

Ms. Miers questioned the company's motives behind its public withdrawal, considering the narrow field of companies that would compete for the contract.

"The lottery industry is dominated by very few companies, and Texas is seeing why such conditions are always undesireable."

GTECH makes about $137 million a year from the Texas lottery contract and has collected more than $500 million to date to run the on-line system for games such as Lotto Texas and Cash 5 and warehouse and distribute scratch-off instant games.

Its decision not to bid is the latest volley in a long-running battle between the agency and company that has been its prime contractor since the lottery started five years ago.

The commission opted to seek new bids earlier this year after months of investigation into the way GTECH does business. Members of the three-member commission said rebidding the contract could save the state money.

GTECH and 10 other companies submitted the required "letter of intent" that begins the bidding process.

On The Farm Tire Service
Goodyear Tires available:
Lang Tire Co.
1701 25th Street
Snyder, Texas
Auto-Truck-Farm
573-4031

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1997

In the year ahead you might be more fortunate in joint endeavors than you will be working on your own. You are likely to have a knack for making proper choices. Trust your judgment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) In order to gratify extravagant urges, you might spend more than you can afford. Later you are likely to regret anything foolish you do today. Astro-Graph year-ahead predictions make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all signs of the zodiac. Mail $2 for each to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state the zodiac signs you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will not be effective at flexing your muscles in order to get what you want today, but cooperation and compassion will work wonders.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Do not pass on gossip about someone that is based on partial facts. You will feel guilty later if your misinformation hurts someone.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) An unusual development might transpire today when a friend does something that puts you in an awkward position. Stay alert to prevent this from happening.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) In order to cushion your ego today, you might take a position that is unpopular with your peers. When defending your stance, do not let vanity interfere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Avoid becoming foolishly adventurous today. Your usual abilities for judging the odds and assessing opposition might not be up to par.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your intuitive evaluations, which are usually justified, might be out to lunch today when needed the most. Take care not to be taken in by a manipulator.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In order to have a successful day you may have to depend more upon yourself and less upon others. Companions could be a hindrance rather than a help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Guard against impulses today to postpone doing things that should receive immediate attention. Do not let responsibilities pile up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Counting on things that are not yet actualities could cause serious miscalculations. Do not take gambles in dubious areas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Keep promises today, even if it's inconvenient for you to do so. People you disappoint won't forget your broken pledges so readily.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Co-workers might have to be handled with kid gloves today, so be careful of what you say and how you say it. Try not to be drawn into something petty.

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'Flubber' tops Thanksgiving weekend box office totals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Flubber" bounced to the top of the box office and the fourth "Alien" movie scared up some strong numbers as both made their debuts over the five-day Thanksgiving weekend.

The Robin Williams film about the rubbery green goo earned $36.4 million, according to estimates Sunday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. "Alien Resurrection," starring Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder, was the only other film to open in wide release. It grossed $27.2 million.

"Flubber," Disney's remake of its 1961 comedy "The Absent Minded Professor," didn't beat last year's record Thanksgiving opening of $45.1 million for another Disney remake, the live-action version of "101 Dalmatians." However, "Dalmatians" was the only wide-release premiere that weekend.

Phil Barlow, president of distribution for Disney's Buena Vista Pictures, said the popularity of "Flubber" was "fantastic, terrific and all those others words I wished I had saved up."

"We were expecting a very big gross. I don't think anyone could logically expect this gross," he said. "It's fun to know the public likes to watch good old-fashioned fun."

A PG-13 comedy, the British import "Bean," was No. 9 but had the lowest audience drop-off of any top 10 film. Its take of $4.1 million was off just 4 percent from a week earlier.

Family-oriented movies often do better during holiday weekends, said industry analyst David Davis, a vice president at the investment banking firm of Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin.

Davis noted that Fox's animated musical "Anastasia" also performed well in its second week against Disney's re-release of "The Little Mermaid."

"Anastasia" fell from No. 2 to No. 3 with $16.7 million. "The Little Mermaid" was No. 8 with $4.7 million in ticket sales.

"It's put Fox on the map and establishes them as the leading competitor to Disney," Davis said.

Moviegoers should prepare for a busy holiday movie season, with a slew of releases every weekend for the rest of the year. Davis said the competition among studios will be brutal.

"If you're not in that elite pack, if you don't finish one, two, you're going to get lost," he said.

Estimates for Wednesday through Sunday for movies released in North America:

1. "Flubber," $36.4 million.
2. "Alien Resurrection," $27.2 million.
3. "Anastasia," $16.7 million.
4. "John Grisham's The Rainmaker," $14.5 million.
5. "The Jackal," $10.3 million.
6. "Mortal Kombat Annihilation," $9.25 million.
7. "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," $7.3 million.
8. "The Little Mermaid," $4.7 million.
9. "Bean," $4.1 million.
10. "Starship Troopers," $4 million.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the application of Exxon Corporation for a Sour Gas Pipeline Facility Construction Permit; Sharon Ridge Canyon Unit, Scurry County, Texas.

Applicant: Exxon Corporation, P.O. Box 4358, Houston, Texas 77210-4358 For Information, Contact Mr. John Lane at (713) 431-1227.

Facility Description: The project involves the construction of pipelines to gather natural gas produced from wells in Sharon Ridge Canyon Unit and the construction of pipelines to supply CO2 injection gas to wells in the Sharon Ridge Canyon Unit.

Gas Gathering Pipeline

Type: Gas Gathering **Diameter:** 14" and 16" **Length:** Approximately 2.5 miles **Description:** API 5L, Grade B, Schedule 20, Cement lined internally and externally coated.
Operating Pressure: 350 to 400 psi. **Expected H2S concentration:** 1725 ppm **Description:** The pipeline is comprised of two sections, each running from a meter site in the field (Site #'s 14 & 16) to Central Tank Battery #5.

CO2 Injection Pipeline

Type: CO2 Injection **Diameter:** 6" and 8" **Length:** Approximately 2.5 miles **Description:** API 5L X-52, Wall thickness .332(16") and .375 (8") Cement lined internally and externally coated.
Operating Pressure: 2000 to 2500 psi. **Expected H2S concentration:** 1725 ppm **Description:** The pipeline is comprised of two sections, each running from Central Tank Battery #5 to a meter in the field (Site #'s 14 & 16).

Geographic Boundaries of the Radius of H2S Exposure: The H2S Radius of Exposure extends 2285 feet on either side of the pipelines which are located approximately 14 miles southwest of Snyder, Texas and approximately 2 miles northwest of Knapp, Texas.

Land Use and Habitation: The land within the radius of exposure is used primarily for agriculture and for oil and gas production operations. There are no inhabitants of the area comprising the radius of exposure.

A copy of this application is available for public inspection at the offices of the County Clerk, located at the following address: County Clerk, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas, 79549. Any owner or occupant of land within 100 ppm radius of exposure of the proposed sour gas pipeline facility desiring to protest this application can do so by mailing or otherwise delivering a letter referring to Gas Utilities Docket (GUD) No. 8825 and stating their desire to protest to: Assistant Director, Pipeline Safety Section, Gas Services Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967. Protests must be received not later than the 30th day after the date this notice of application is published. It is recommended that a copy of this notice be included with the letter. Additional information concerning the protest procedure can be obtained by calling (512) 463-7017.

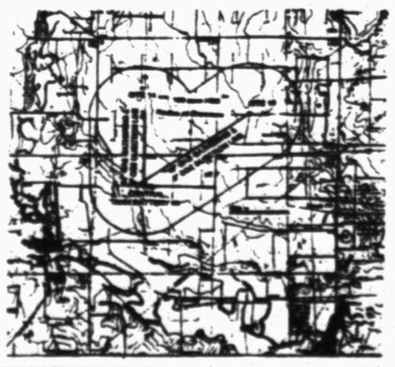

EXHIBIT #1
APPLICATION FOR SOUR GAS PIPELINE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PERMIT
100 ppm H2S RADIUS OF EXPOSURE - 2285'

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BLOCK 25, H&T RR CO.
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Survey reveals growing use of youth curfews

WASHINGTON (AP) — Using curfews to keep youths off the streets and at home is a growing option for U.S. cities seeking to cut crime and truancy and encourage parental discipline, a new survey finds.

A report being released today by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 276 of 347 responding cities had a nighttime curfew. Seventy-six had a daytime curfew as well.

That is an improvement over a similar survey the mayors group did in 1995 when more cities responded, but fewer said they were using curfews. In that survey, 270 of 387 cities had a nightly curfew.

"Curfews are not the end-all. It's just one tool in the toolbox," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, chairman of the mayors' conference task force on youth violence.

Abramson said curfews should be just one part of a juvenile crime prevention. He cited survey results that showed officials in 247, or 90 percent, of the cities that had curfews, thought it was a good use of a police officer's time. The rest of the cities thought curfew enforcement wasted police time.

In Tulsa, Okla., officials surveyed said there is generally no useful purpose for children to be out late at night. In Charlotte, N.C., officials said the curfew could stop teen-agers from getting into trouble and that many parents did not even know their children were outside the home. Officials in Claremont, Calif., said the city's day and nighttime curfews free up police officers for other work.

Officials in Billings, Mont. complained there was no where to take curfew offenders because parents often aren't home. City officials in Freeport, Ill. said curfew enforcement turns officers into baby-sitters. Richmond, Calif. officials said curfews treat all youth as if they were delinquents, giving law enforcement a bad image in the eyes of young people who are not troublemakers.

According to the survey, 56 percent, or 154, of the surveyed cities have had a youth curfew for at least 10 years. Officials in half these cities say juvenile crime has dropped since the curfew was imposed; 11 percent say the number of juvenile crimes has remained steady; and 10 percent have had an increase in juvenile-related crime.

Because most of the remaining cities have had curfews for only a short time, no data on the impact on juvenile crime were available.

The most important reason for a daytime curfew is to ensure teens go to school, but Abramson said there are financial incentives as well. State education funding typically is based on attendance, he noted, and truancy can cost a school system millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Twenty-three percent, or 61, of the cities said there were increased costs to enforce curfews. Officials in Chandler, Ariz., cited more paperwork, court appearances and time officers spent dealing with youths.

Buyer can keep Cabot from scrap pile

PORT ISABEL (AP) — A light aircraft carrier dubbed the "Iron Woman" for surviving numerous hits during World War II may soon become a pile of scrap metal.

Unless another buyer comes forward by Monday, Global Maritime plans to have the USS Cabot scrapped at a Brownsville shipyard by mid-December.

The Fredericksburg, Va., company already has financed the Cabot's move from New Orleans to Brownsville and paid for docking in Port Isabel. It's proposed purchase price hasn't been disclosed.

"We cannot wait any longer," said P.K. Patel, one of the partners with Global Maritime. "I have to finish the job. I'm trying to recoup my money."

Some Brownsville residents are trying to convince the city council to make a floating museum out of the ship, which already has been made a National Historic Landmark and is believed to be the last survivor in its class of aircraft carriers.

Former crew members also are searching to hoping the Cabot can be saved.

"What would Texans say if you tried to destroy the Alamo?" said Howard Skidmore of Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., who served on the carrier from 1944-45. "These are landmark historical objects."

Journalist Ernie Pyle gave the Cabot its nickname after it took repeated poundings, including two kamikaze attacks, without having to pull into port for repairs.

The ship's post-war journey began in 1943 when it was commissioned out of the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

After serving in most major battles off the Pacific, the ship returned to the United States and served in the Navy's fleet until the early 1960s.

It was loaned to the Spanish Navy in 1967, then bought by Spain in 1973 for use as a training ship and renamed the Dedalo.

In 1987, the Louisiana-based Cabot-Dedalo Museum Foundation acquired the ship from Spain under the condition that it be preserved as a floating museum.

The foundation struggled to find money, piling up $2 million in debt, and couldn't live up to its promise, eventually causing the ship to sit and deteriorate in a condemned New Orleans dock for eight years.

In 1994, the foundation tried selling it for $1.4 million to a Singapore ship broker, but the deal fell through after the U.S. State Department did not grant the export license.

Several organizations have expressed interest in buying the Cabot, but haven't followed through.

"We'd really like to see it saved, but there's not much more we can do," said Dan Hecker, president of the American Academy of Industry in Chicago. "We'd like to see it saved anywhere."

Shoplifting suspect hurls firebomb in Macy's store

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Frightened holiday shoppers fled a crowded Macy's department store after a shoplifting suspect hurled a crude firebomb into the men's department, starting a smoky fire. No one was seriously hurt.

Devon Andrede, 36, of Los Angeles was arrested after Sunday afternoon's attack with a so-called Molotov cocktail, police Sgt. James Bosch said.

"It was kind of scary," Macy's employee Marco Perez said. "Everybody started running, security came and called the police. Luckily, he didn't end up bombing the building."

Security guards said they saw Andrede shoplifting and alerted police. Bosch said guards then saw him take out a piece of paper, light it on fire, pour a flammable liquid on it and throw it.

The firebomb ignited a curtain and filled much of the first floor with smoke before it was extinguished. The first floor was cleared of customers.

A security guard tackled Andrede moments after the fire started, police said. Two guards reportedly received minor injuries.

The fire caused little damage. The store reopened within 90 minutes.

Datebook

Dec. 1, 1997

Today is the 335th day of 1997 and the 72nd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1921, the game of Bingo made its debut.

On this day in 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.

On this day in 1982, Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album was released.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Martin (1913-1990), actress; Woody Allen (1935-), director-writer, is 62; Lou Rawls (1936-), singer, is 61; Lee Trevino (1939-), golfer, is 58; Richard Pryor (1940-), comedian, is 57; Bette Midler (1945-), singer-actress, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, "Showboat" Boykin scored all seven touchdowns as Mississippi beat Mississippi State, 49-7.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Hope in reality is the worst of all evils, because it prolongs the torments of man." — Friedrich Nietzsche

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1831, due to extremely cold temperatures, the Erie Canal was closed, as it was for the entire month.

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

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Nov. 29) and first quarter (Dec. 7).

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Business and Industrial News

Bobby Nolan at Nolan Electric: master electrician with 30 years of experience

"We strive to provide a quality service to the people of Snyder," say Bobby and Kim Nolan, "and we want everyone to know we're thankful for their patronage through these past years."

Are you thinking about doing some remodeling or adding on to your home or place of business?

Please be aware that the City of Snyder requires a bonded, city licensed electrician working under a master electrician to do electrical wiring inside the city limits.

Many people do not realize that a building contractor may not have a licensed electrician doing his electrical work. This leaves you wide open to get someone who may not do you a SAFE, outstanding job.

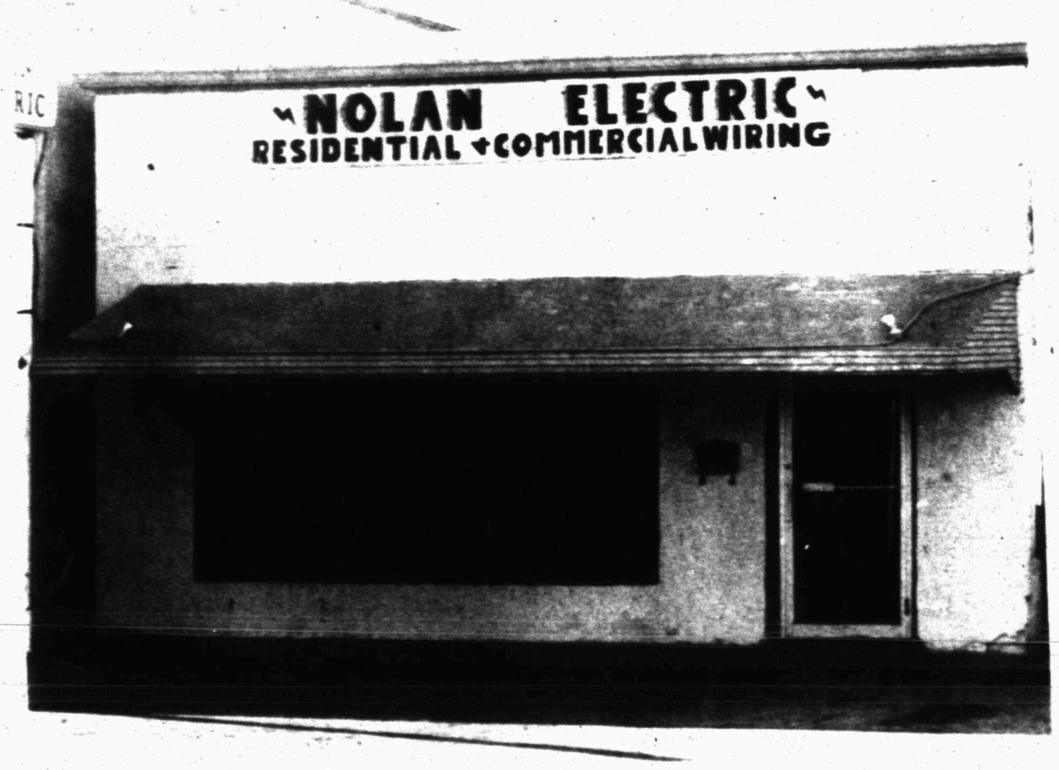
Whether you hire your own electrician or use your building contractor's electrician, you should check with the Permit Department at City Hall at 573-4959 to see if they are listed as a licensed and bonded electrician for the City of Snyder.

Nolan Electric does commercial and residential wiring. They also work on roadway sign lighting and commercial sign lighting up to about 25 feet. During the week, the office at 1010 25th St. is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or you can reach them by phone at 915-573-5117. Their phone is answered after hours and on the weekends by an answering service.

The Nolans sell electrical supplies and have a large stock including all types of lamps, ballasts, wire, panels, breakers, conduit, conduit fittings, wiring devices, fuses, boxes, etc. Their list of suppliers from all over the state provide them with a very adequate source for any items they don't keep in stock. Also, they have suppliers who call on them every day of the week.

Need your lamps repaired? Besides the office work, Kim repairs lamps: touch, table, floor, and some antique. She has lamp parts in stock for sale also.

For all your electrical needs give Nolan Electric a call at 573-5117 or go by 1010 25th St.



NOLAN ELECTRIC — Located at 1010 25th St., Nolan Electric specializes in residential and commercial wiring. (SDN Staff Photo)

New blocking software...

Online companies pushing voluntary curbs on Internet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Children would have a tougher time getting material from adult-oriented sites on the Internet under voluntary curbs being offered by some of the nation's largest computer-related companies.

The companies, which include America Online Inc. and Walt Disney Co., were set to begin a campaign today to educate parents on the use of software that blocks access to such sites, The Washington Post reported today.

The companies, hoping to stave off more government regulation, also have agreed to work more closely with law enforcement agencies fighting child pornography, the newspaper said.

"We want to show that the interactive world is being proactive in building a medium we can all be proud of," America Online Chief Executive Steve Case said.

The voluntary curbs were to be announced at a summit of industry executives and government officials today.

The industry also plans to broadcast television advertisements and sponsor school-based programs to encourage parents to supervise young children surfing the Internet more closely.

The effort already has drawn criticism from both conservative groups and organizations concerned about restriction of free speech.

New laws are needed to criminalize the transmission of adult content to minors, according to Enough is Enough, a Fairfax, Va.-based group.

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DEC 01 1997 7

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Agent: piece of truck not contaminated

DENVER (AP) — FBI lab procedures did not contaminate a Ryder truck panel piece containing ammonium nitrate crystals that was found at the Oklahoma City bombing scene, an FBI chemist told Terry Nichols' jurors today.

Steven Burmeister said the crystals he found on the truck fragment were in a single swath, rather than individual particles that would be more consistent with contamination.

FBI tests "would not have contributed to any contamination on that item," he said.

The chemist said he used several different tests to identify the crystals, which resembled sugar or table salt crystals, as ammonium nitrate.

Prosecutors have contended Nichols and Timothy McVeigh built a 4,000-pound bomb of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and fuel oil, which was detonated outside the Oklahoma City federal building on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people.

The defense has argued that the fragment may have been contaminated in FBI lab tests, and that it is impossible to determine who may have handled it because of the way the evidence was stored.

Burmeister took the stand as Nichols' trial entered the 10th week. Prosecutors were expected to conclude their case early this week.

Prosecutors say the truck fragment contained the only trace of ammonium nitrate left from the bomb. They hope to link Nichols to the truck by association, since the same type of fertilizer and other potential bomb components were found in his Kansas home two days after the blast.

Nichols, 42, could be sentenced to die if convicted of murder and conspiracy in the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history. McVeigh, 29, his former Army buddy, was sentenced to death after being convicted of identical charges in June.

That the fragment survived at all was remarkable, scientists said. A strong thunderstorm rolled through Oklahoma City the night of the bombing, but the piece of the Ryder truck panel was covered by other debris.

A Justice Department report earlier this year criticized the FBI explosives lab because of the way evidence in the case was handled.

Tensions with Iraq easing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The threat of conflict with Iraq is showing signs of easing as top U.S. and U.N. officials say they are seeking diplomatic solutions and expanded humanitarian aid for hungry Iraqis.

In separate comments, the Clinton administration's U.N. ambassador and the top official at the United Nations said the possibility of military conflict with Iraq remains in the background while diplomats play the lead role.

"I think Saddam Hussein is losing," Bill Richardson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said today. "The Security Council is united in pushing Saddam ... I think President Clinton's diplomacy, backed with a robust military presence in the Persian Gulf, has produced a little bit of an easing of tensions," he said on NBC's "Today" show.

Richardson called "unacceptable" Saddam's refusal to allow the international inspectors to examine some of the dozens of palaces that U.N. officials suspect may contain evidence of Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs.

"We think the U.N. inspectors should get access to all the sensitive sites that so far the Iraqis have deemed unacceptable to visit," he said today on ABC's "Good Morning America."

In Baghdad today, about 100 Iraqis angry over shortages of food and medicine surrounded two U.N. inspectors checking food supplies. As the inspectors left the scene, someone threw a brick at the rear window of their car, smashing it, said Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N.-supervised oil-for-food program. No one was hurt, he said.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan struck a patient tone on access to Saddam's palaces, saying that negotiations later this week between Iraqi officials and chief U.N. inspector Richard Butler may break the impasse...

Obituaries

Ellis Sumerlin

Ellis Sumerlin

1905-1997

Ellis E. Sumerlin, a resident of Snyder since 1978, died at 4:50 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Sumerlin, 92, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Faith Baptist Church with the Rev. Larry White, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow at 4 p.m. in the Roby Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 11, 1905 in Fisher County, he married Willie Gruben on July 27, 1931 in Clovis, N.M.

A retired farmer and rancher, Mr. Sumerlin moved to Snyder from Roby. He was a member of the Fisher County Sheriff's Posse, Fisher County Polo Team, the Fisher County Rodeo Association and Snyder's Faith Baptist Church.

Mr. Sumerlin was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Christy Hudnall; four brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Willie Sumerlin of Snyder; four daughters, Peggy Koonsman and Becky Rasbury, both of Snyder; Jackie Rowling of Corpus Christi, and Patsy Stuart of Roby; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Travis Sawyer

1939-1997

Funeral service for Travis Wesley Sawyer, 58, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. C.J. Smith, retired Baptist minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mr. Sawyer, a native of Snyder, died Saturday, Nov. 29, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born April 14, 1939 in Snyder, Mr. Sawyer was a longtime resident of Snyder. He received his pilot's license in the early 1960s and later flew mail out of Lincoln, Neb., and later from Dallas to Midland.

He was also a rancher and a self-employed construction contractor, working in Alaska where he operated the largest backhoe at the time there. He also worked on drilling rigs in the North Slope and later worked on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline in Prudoe Bay.

A U.S. Army veteran, he married Billie Newnham on Dec. 21, 1958 in Snyder. He was a Baptist.

Mr. Sawyer was preceded in death by his mother, Cleo Sawyer, in 1983.

Survivors include his wife, Billie Sawyer of Snyder; a daughter, Holly Jo Sawyer of Snyder; three sons, Tommy Sawyer of Beaumont, Clint Sawyer of Snyder and Travis Sawyer Jr. of Childress; his father, Paul Sawyer of Snyder; three sisters, Janice Cates of Midland and Dorothy Faye Newton of Odessa and Kay Wardlow of Canyon; two brothers, Douglas Sawyer of Snyder and James Sawyer of Kerrville; and one granddaughter, Jessica Danielle Sawyer.

Mrs. Crum

1905-1997

BROWNSVILLE — Lena Mae Crum, 92, died Saturday, Nov. 29, at her son's home in Brownsville.

Graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in Castro Memorial Gardens in Dimmitt. The Rev. Rusty Dickerson, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, will officiate.

Born Jan. 4, 1905 in Snyder, she married H.L. Crum in 1927. He died in 1978.

Survivors include a son, Leon Crum of Brownsville; and four grandchildren.

'Buddy' Sharp

1914-1997

GAIL — S.C. "Buddy" Sharp, a longtime Borden County resident, died at 1:12 a.m. today in Lubbock's St. Mary Hospital after a brief illness.

Services for Mr. Sharp, 83, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 14, 1914 in Swertner in Williamson County, he married Margaret Hallmark on July 2, 1936 in Killeen.

Mr. Sharp moved to Gail in 1943 from Florence, Tex. He was a retired farmer and construction worker, having worked for Dewey Everett doing soil conservation work for some 34 years. He was a member of the Gail First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Sharp of Gail; three daughters, Helen Kay Warden of Waverly, Tenn., Beverly Ann Beatty of Abilene and Doris Renee Hobson of Lamesa; three sons, Hollie Leon Sharp of Granbury and Ross David Sharp and Toby Kelton Sharp, both of Gail; a sister, Bernice Henderson of Snyder; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

John Valdez

1939-1997

ABILENE — Juan "John" Valdez, 58, died Friday, Nov. 28, in an Abilene hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Valdez is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Sam Matta will officiate and burial will follow in Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories.

Born in Hutto, he graduated from high school there and married Simona Perez in Dunn in 1959.

Mr. Valdez was employed by Joe T. Smith Trucking in Hawley and for PLOOF Trucking. He also was groundskeeper at the Hawley Cemetery. Mr. Valdez was a member of the Colorado City Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Simona Valdez of Abilene; two sons, Johnny Valdez of Abilene and Jerry Valdez of Breckenridge; four daughters, Dolores Valdez, Margie Medina, Rosie Hermosillo and Denise Valdez, all of Abilene; and seven grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

FFA Booster Club

Snyder FFA Booster Club meets at 7 this evening at the Connie Huddleston residence. For directions, call 573-8806.

Bible study tapes on TV

Bible study video tapes run weekly on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. The next tape, "The Generation That Seeks a Miracle," will air at 7 this evening.

VFW meets tonight

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 7 this evening at the post home.

Christmas lights for sale

Hermleigh Class of 2000 has Christmas lights for sale through Sunday at $8 a set, $10 installed. The class will also install your lights for $5 per 100 lights. Call 863-2720. If there is no answer, someone will call back.

LVN pre-entrance exam

Students wishing to enroll in the March class for licensed vocational nursing at Western Texas College must contact the counseling office to arrange to take the pre-entrance exam. Tests will be given through Friday, and interviews may be scheduled through the first week in January.

Call the counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313.

Historic Scurry County

Historic Scurry County is asking the public to share their ornaments, cookie cutters, cookie jars and nativity scenes for display at the Cornelius-Dodson House and Dermott School during the holidays. Call Jean Everett at 573-2763 or drop them by CountryPlace anytime or the Dodson House today after 9:30 a.m.

Blood pressure clinic

Total Home Health of Post will hold a free blood pressure clinic from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday at the Fluvanna Cafe.

Scurry County 4-H

Scurry County 4-H will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Scurry Masonic Lodge to meet

The Scurry Masonic Lodge #706 will have its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

'Robin Hood'

Snyder High School drama department will present "Robin Hood" Thursday through Saturday at Worsham Auditorium. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. for the final two performances. General admission is $3; orchestra seating $5.

Married For Life

Marriage Ministries International presents Married For Life, an outreach program, at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Union Community Center.

Attendance at an Outreach Night is a prerequisite to participation in a Married for Life group. For more information, call 573-7471.

Chili-Frito Pie supper

First United Methodist Church youth will sponsor a Chili-Frito Pie Supper Saturday from 5-7:30 p.m. at the church, 2700 College Ave. Cost is $4 per person. Cinnamon rolls will be served for dessert.

Christmas tour of homes

A holiday tour of homes will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The event is hosted by Historic Scurry County Inc. and the Scurry County Historical Commission. Tickets for the tour are $10 and are available at Eddie's Pharmacy, Countryplace and Bar H Bar Family Outfitters.

Shelled pecan halves

Snyder High School Technology Student Association (TSA Club) is selling shelled pecan halves at $6 per pound. Contact a club member to purchase.

Poinsettia sale

Snyder High School choir members are taking orders for their poinsettia sale. The plants will arrive at the high school today and students will begin delivery. The plants come in three colors: white, red and red with white spots. They are $10 each, to be paid at the time of delivery.

Dunn Baptist holiday dinner

Dunn Baptist Church is planning a holiday dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Dunn Community Center. Turkey and dressing will be provided, but those attending are asked to bring covered dishes. Families new to Dunn are especially urged to attend.

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 11-14-20-21-36-48.
Estimated jackpot: $18 million.
Number matching six of six: None
Matching five of six: 87. Prize: $2,352.
Matching four of six: 6,509. Prize: $113.
Matching three of six: 127,336. Prize: $3.
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
Estimated jackpot: $25 million.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
0-4-2