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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY
Jan. 31, 1997
Vol. 47 No. 232
10 Pages 50¢
Home of C. N. Cummings

Routier case...

Murder trial goes to the jury

KERRVILLE (AP) — Telling jurors they may never understand Darlie Routier's motive for killing her children, prosecutors began tying together their case this morning with closing arguments in her capital murder trial.

"We cannot always get into the mind of the defendant. The motive may be locked away in there," Assistant District Attorney Toby Shook said.

Shook sketched out the state's version of physical and circumstantial evidence and described what prosecutors believe are implausible inconsistencies.

Shook questioned why the screen was cut rather than pulled off; he reminded jurors that Mrs. Routier didn't ask about her children on her way to the hospital; and he reiterated prosecution testimony that the crime scene was staged.

An intruder wouldn't have left a witness, Shook said. And few household items were out of place after a supposed struggle, as if the intruder "wanted to be careful with all those dainty little things that were in that house," he added.

He ended his remarks by reminding jurors that 5-year-old Damon didn't die immediately.

"That's the most horrible part of this case. ... He opens his eyes and he saw who was murdering him. He saw her. He saw his mother," he said.

Damon and 6-year-old Devon Routier were killed in the June 6, 1996, knife attack at their Rowlett home. Mrs. Routier's 8-month-old baby, Drake, was in another part of the home with his father and wasn't injured.

Mrs. Routier, now 27, who'd been sleeping on a couch a few feet from her two oldest sons, has said she awoke and saw a man dressed in dark clothing who fled toward the garage and along the way dropped a knife.

She picked up the knife then realized she and the boys had been attacked, Mrs. Routier contends.

If convicted of the capital murder charge against her, she could face death by lethal injection.

'The Hobbit' debuts tonight

"The Hobbit," a Snyder High School drama department production, debuts tonight at Worsham Auditorium.

The children's classic will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday. Tickets, available at the door, are $3 each.

The cast includes L.S. McClain as Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit; Ryan Landes as Gandalf, a great wizard; and Mac McCraw as Thorin, leader of the dwarfs.

Cole Jackson plays the grocery boy while Corey Knipe, Amy Brooks and Matt Billings play trolls Bert, Essie and Tom. Reid Johnson plays Gollum, a slimy creature.

Others are Joey Steakley and Christina Bullard as dwarfs Kili and Fili; Colby Stoker and Scott Love as dwarfs Oin and Bofur; Andy Parker and Mark Rodriguez as dwarfs Dwalin and Balin; Kade Kubena as the dwarf Bombur; and Kevin Taylor as Gloin, an intellectual dwarf.

Melanie Gibson plays the elfin queen. Elf guards are Tara Kincaid, Brandi Handcock and Shala Gilliland. And Reid Johnson plays Smaug, the dragon.

Play director is Jerry Worsham, assisted by Eldon Scott.



THEY ADD UP — Stanfield second-grader Gabriel Aguilar adds to the playground fund at the school as students are tryng to collect a million pennies for new equipment. Some $4,000 has been raised towards a goal of $10,000. (SDN Staff Photo)

Simpson trial takes new turn; black female juror is dismissed

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The only black woman on the O.J. Simpson wrongful death trial jury was dismissed today and deliberations were ordered to begin anew with a new juror, an Asian man in his 30s.

Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki gave no reason for the dismissal, which came after a 90-minute closed-door meeting with attorneys.

It was unknown if the juror's ouster was linked to an investigation into two jurors from the criminal trial who allegedly tried to contact two jurors from this trial with a letter.

Before the dismissal was announced, the remaining 11 jurors and four alternates were brought into the courtroom and seated in the jury box.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, a juror has been excused for legal cause," Fujisaki told them.

A new juror was then selected by lottery. It was Juror No. 369, an Asian-American computer programmer.

The new panel consists of six women and six men and includes nine whites, one Hispanic, one Asian and a Jamaican-born man of black and Asian parentage.

The judge then told the newly constituted panel to start over again with deliberations.

"You are ... instructed to disregard and put out of your mind all past deliberations and begin deliberating anew, he said.

Fujisaki told the jurors to act as if they had not deliberated at all.

Before jurors were brought to the courtroom, plaintiff's attorney Daniel Petrocelli argued the jury should be sequestered for the remainder of deliberations but the judge rejected it.

"This being a civil case, the court doesn't know what authority the court has to do that," Fujisaki said. He noted it would involve public funds.

A grim-faced Petrocelli told him, "These jurors are going to be subjected to an extraordinary blast of publicity about their deliberations. I'm very concerned about this. We don't want a mistrial."

The judge then announced he was sealing the records of all conversations that have been held in his chambers and he declared "I am not going to sequester the jury."

Earlier in the trial, when a juror was dismissed for sleeping, lawyers noted that juror No. 7, the woman dismissed today, also had been nodding off.

Controversial surgery may save sight

CHICAGO (AP) — Surgeons have transplanted retinal cells from an aborted fetus into the left eye of an 80-year-old woman in hopes of curing the leading cause of blindness among older Americans.

Pearl Van Vliet's left eye had 20/400 vision, which means she must be within 20 feet to see something people with good vision can see at 400 feet; she is legally blind in her right eye.

Tissue the size of a pinhead was placed under a damaged area of her left retina in an operation performed Wednesday by University of Chicago surgeon Samir Patel.

The roughly 250,000 cells were collected from the eyes of a fetus donated by a woman who underwent an abortion to save her life.

Scientists say cells from such second-trimester abortions are the only ones that might help cure age-related macular degeneration, a painless deterioration of vision caused by a breakdown of nerve cells at the back of the eye. Millions of Americans are afflicted with the disorder, but the government estimates that only 1.7 million have their vision impaired by it.

The procedure is not new. Patients at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore and Washington University in St. Louis have received fetal cells for macular degeneration, said Dr. Eugene de Juan, a Johns Hopkins ophthalmologist who performed the surgery.

Sufficient evidence to establish the medical potential for such transplantation "will be years in coming," de Juan said this morning.

The procedure was tried two years ago in Sweden by a Columbia University ophthalmologist. The Swedish patients did not show improved vision but also showed no deterioration.

Anti-abortion groups oppose the use of fetal tissue in medical procedures, saying it may encourage abortions. Ms. Van Vliet, a devout Christian, said she discussed the operation with her minister before proceeding.

"He said I had nothing to do with the abortion, and it would just compound the tragedy if the cells went to waste," she said Thursday.

Scientists have reported early positive results from using fetal tissue in researching diabetes, leukemia, immune disorders and neurological diseases, including Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

Dr. Mark Siegler of the university's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics said he doubted successful procedures would encourage abortions.

City sales tax rebates up

Snyder's sales tax rebates for January were up slightly compared to last year, according to information released by the State Comptroller's Office.

In contrast, rebates for the county were down slightly.

The City of Snyder received $111,463.41 this month, a figure just 1.21 percent higher than in January of 1996, when the city took in $110,126.03.

The payments include sales taxes collected by monthly filers in Novermber at the start of the holiday shopping season and reported to the Comptroller in December.

Scurry County received $62,449.63 this month. That is 4.02 percent less than the $65,067.40 the county received in January of 1996.

Sales tax rebates for the month varied throughout the area. They were up slightly in Abilene, Lubbock and Lamesa and down slightly in Sweetwater and Big Spring.

City	January'97	January'96	+/-	Year'97	Year'96	+/-
Abilene	$1,486,885.69	$1,475,981.94	0.73%	$1,486,885.69	$1,475,981.94	0.73%
Big Spring	$240,941.09	$251,708.46	-4.27%	$240,941.09	$251,708.46	-4.27%
Colorado City	$25,353.85	$28,753.58	-5.23%	$25,353.85	$28,753.58	-5.23%
Lamesa	$60,646.94	$59,140.87	2.54%	$60,646.94	$59,140.87	2.54%
Lubbock	$1,740,693.90	$1,735,180.74	0.31%	$1,740,693.90	$1,735,180.74	0.31%
Post	$15,377.41	$13,716.83	12.10%	$15,377.41	$13,716.83	12.10%
Roby	$1,505.64	$909.05	65.62%	$1,505.64	$909.05	65.62%
Rotan	$7,114.54	$8,045.49	-11.57%	$7,114.54	$8,045.49	-11.57%
Snyder	$111,463.41	$110,126.03	1.21%	$111,463.41	$110,126.03	1.21%
Sweetwater	$115,976.87	$119,523.28	-2.96%	$115,976.87	$119,523.28	-2.96%

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A small town is a place where a haircut changes the whole appearance of the community."

Keeping tabs on our neighbors:

The Odessa American reports that a national hospital giant, Tenet, has made an offer of $75 million to purchase or long-term lease Odessa's Medical Center Hospital.

Medical Center is a 396-bed facility, and Tenet already owns the 100-bed Odessa Regional Hospital.

Letters to the editor in Granbury's Hood County News are running 3-1 in protest of the decision to lease the county-owned hospital there.

The conventional wisdom in Hood County: it was a mistake.

The Seminole Sentinel reports that a new industry may soon be coming to Gaines County.

A local businessman has revealed plans to establish a tire recycling plant, using a process developed by a Canadian firm whereby old tires are shredded and remanufactured into other products.

Among the products are mobile home flooring, walkway tiles, playground safety mats and kick walls. Such a plant would cost $2.5 million.

The Post Dispatch reports that Garza County last Tuesday held a ground-breaking ceremony for a new juvenile detention center.

Anticipated cost of the 45-bed facility is $3.5 to $4 million. The county will contract with a private company for the daily operations of the facility. Construction could take up to 10 months.

It was a sobering decision.

The Lamesa Press-Reporter said Dawson County commissioners court decided it needed to take no action on a proposal for a beer manufacturing facility.

County Attorney Steve Payson, who once practiced law in Snyder, told commissioners they should wait and see what the state's alcoholic beverage commission decides before taking any action.

Dawson County, except for a tiny incorporated city southeast of town, is dry.

JAN 31 1997

ASK US

Q—What is going to be built in the 400 block of 37th Street, just east of Skinny's.

A—Storage buildings.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 64 degrees low, 23; 7 a.m. Friday, 35; no precipition; total for 1997, .42 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear. Low, lower 40s. Light wind. Saturday, partly cloudy. High around 80. SW wind 5-15 mph.



Tommy Garza
Partly Cloudy
Warmer

Sunset: 6:18 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:36 a.m.

Of 30 days in 1997, the sun has shone 27 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.

- Japanese Proverb

Ex-director of Texas Lottery wants job back

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Texas Lottery director Nora Linares wants her job back.

Ms. Linares was fired Jan. 7 after nearly two months of questions about a contract between a longtime friend and the lottery's main contractor.

Ms. Linares said she knew nothing about the five-month, $30,000 contract between friend Mike Moeller and GTECH Corp. until she was asked about it by a newspaper reporter in November.

Other questions also arose at the end of ner tenure, including the whereabouts or state of numerous investigation files about lottery- and bingo-related complaints and her friendship with a lobbyist for another lottery contractor.

No allegations of wrongdoing were ever directly leveled against Ms. Linares, but the three-member Texas Lottery Commission said she had been so damaged by the questions that she could no longer be effective as executive director.

Ms. Linares' attorneys said it was the questions raised by commission chairwoman Hariett Miers that hurt Ms. Linares. They said the questions inferred that Ms. Linares had misused her position in the agency and could no longer be trusted.

Before being fired, Ms. Linares sued the commission for interfering with her day-to-day work and for ordering her not to speak to the media without commission approval.

In an amended lawsuit filed Thursday in a state court in Austin, Ms. Linares said her firing, the alleged gag order and many of the commission's actions were illegal and politically motivated.

Ms. Linares is a Democrat first hired by Comptroller John Sharp.

Ms. Miers is a Republican appointed by Gov. George W. Bush. The two other commissioners are Democrats, one appointed by former Gov. Ann Richards, the other by Bush.

The commission oversees the agency, which is run by the executive director who answers to the board.

"Never in her five years as executive director did she receive anything but the respect and admiration of her peers, employers, the public and legislative oversight committees," the lawsuit says of Ms. Linares. "There existed no reason whatsoever for the commission to terminate Ms. Linares."

Ms. Linares was an at-will employee, meaning she could be fired for no reason.

But Buck Wood, one of Ms. Linares' attorneys, has said Ms. Miers and the commission fired her for political reasons. He said that's not legal.

"Despite her exemplary record, Nora Linares, the highest ranking Hispanic female appointed executive director in Texas, was subjected to an inquisition by the commission where rumor, innuendoes and trumped up charges were publicly aired ...," the lawsuit says. "These charges are false and without any basis in fact."

Ms. Miers said there's nothing new in the amended lawsuit and no truth to the allegations in it.

"She knows that she served at will and she knows that she was dismissed as an at-will employee," Ms. Miers said of the former director. "I think the facts speak for themselves."

Ms. Linares' amended lawsuit seeks her reinstatement as executive director and back pay. No hearings have been scheduled in the case.

Congressman Frank Tejeda dead at 51

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — U.S. Rep. Frank Tejeda, a decorated Vietnam veteran who dedicated much of his congressional tenure to assisting the military and its veterans, has died. He was 51.

The San Antonio Democrat, who first came to Congress in 1993, died Thursday night at his home, surrounded by family. He had battled a malignant brain tumor since September 1995, undergoing surgery, radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

He died of pneumonia, a complication from treatments that made him vulnerable to infection, his Washington office said.

While most of the tumor was removed during surgery in 1995, it reappeared a year later. Although the disease had robbed him of much of his speaking ability by late 1996, Tejeda refused to bow to the illness.

"I'll do my best to recuperate quickly and join my colleagues in the House chamber," he said earlier this month when he revealed the tumor's recurrence. "The Marine in me intends to attack this thing with full vigor."

Colleagues mourned his death.

"Texas has lost a patriot and I have lost a friend," said U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who teamed frequently with Tejeda on behalf of San Antonio defense interests.

Raised in San Antonio's hard-scrabble South Side, Tejeda enlisted in the Marines in 1963 after dropping out of high school at 17. One of the youngest staff non-commissioned officers in Corps history, Tejeda earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart during his four-year tour of duty in Vietnam.

"I was a grunt, and proud of it," he once told Roll Call, a publication that covers Congress.

It was while serving in the military that Tejeda earned a high school equivalency certificate, paving the way for later academic successes.

He graduated in 1970 from St. Mary's University in San Antonio with a bachelor's degree in government. He received his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974, a master's in public administration from Harvard in 1980, and a master of law from Yale in 1989.

A lawyer, he served in the Texas House for a decade until 1987, when he moved to the Texas Senate. The leader of the influential South Side political coalition in San Antonio, Tejeda remained in the Senate through 1992, leaving his mark in worker's compensation reform and initiatives for minorities.

Having set his sights on Congress, Tejeda helped map the new majority-Hispanic congressional district that Texas gained because of population growth. He breezed to victory in 1992, becoming the first congressman to represent the new 28th District running from San Antonio south to the Rio Grande.

In Congress, the moderate-to-conservative Democrat established a reputation as a staunch defender of veterans, active-duty personnel and the military installations that are tightly woven into the fabric of San Antonio life.

Unable to stave off the loss of Kelly Air Force Base during the 1995 round of base closings, Tejeda joined with other Texans in Congress and community leaders to salvage jobs at the base.

Man indicted in tot's death

LUBBOCK (AP) — The man once entrusted to care for a 2-year-old girl has been charged with her death.

Bobby Wayne Willard, 32, was indicted on charges of capital murder and injury to a child on Wednesday. Police arrested him after he reported on Jan. 22 that Laquinda Dawnyale Calicuitt had an accident in the bathtub.

Police documents indicate the girl, who is not his daughter, suffered sexual abuse. The indictment alleges she died of severe head injuries.

Willard remained jailed Thursday on $1 million bond.

Gloria Calicuitt, a 39-year-old Fort Worth woman, testified last week in a family court hearing that she allowed Willard and his wife to take Laquinda to relatives in Lamesa, south of Lubbock.

Ms. Calicuitt, who said she couldn't afford to care for the toddler, accused Willard of refusing to give up the girl and demanding permanent custody.

State law allows a possible death penalty for killings of children 6 years old or younger.

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Man leaves video confession after slaying wife and baby

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — A truck driver who feared the loss of disability payments left a videotaped confession for police, detailing in a calm whisper the problems that drove him to kill his wife, baby and himself.

Billy Ray Grimes, 50, called 911 early Wednesday and told dispatchers to "send the coroner and the police," said sheriff's Maj. Bill Chapman.

Grimes called back a minute later and said two people were dead and the video would be in his mailbox. Police found the bodies of Grimes, his wife, Brenda Lee, 38, and their 8-month-old daughter, Crystal, as well as the hour-long tape.

"He talked about medical problems he was having, he talked about financial problems and family problems he was having," Chapman said. "He said that he had enough and he was going to take his wife and daughter out and then himself."

Police say Grimes used two shotguns to kill his wife and child before turning the second gun on himself. The video stopped taping eight minutes before he called police.

"He was whispering," Chapman said. "He was calm, cool and collected. He didn't raise his voice. He talks in a very rational manner about irrational things like killing his wife and baby."

Neighbor Morris Floyd said Grimes told him that he was a truck driver on disability due to seizures and that his benefits were being cut. Chapman said investigators were trying to determine if Grimes was mentally ill.

Tink Griggs, a family friend, said he last saw Grimes on Monday doing what he often did — riding an all-terrain vehicle and collecting discarded aluminum cans.

"I couldn't believe it, as happy as they seemed," he said. "They were the nicest people I'd ever want to meet, and they loved that baby to death."

Berry's World



Marines investigate brutal hazing reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Marine Corps has opened an investigation of two hazing incidents known as "blood pinnings" in which elite paratroopers have golden jump pins beaten into their chests.

The incidents, in 1991 and 1993, were videotaped by participants. The service says the hazing was brought to its attention by NBC's "Dateline NBC," which was planning to broadcast portions of the tapes tonight. CNN broadcast portions Thursday night.

However, news of the incidents leaked out Thursday at the Pentagon.

The events involve an elite unit of Marine Corps paratroopers, who primarily are trained for reconnaissance and scouting duty.

The paratroopers earn golden pins upon completion of 10 training jumps, and such individuals evidently were the ones taped in the incidents.

Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Scott Campbell said the Marine Corps has viewed the tapes. About 30 Marines are seen in the 1991 tape, and most have been identified.

Campbell said about 10 have been interviewed by investigators. About nine of the Marines involved remain on active duty, he said.

Because the Marines prohibit such hazing activities, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm has been put in charge of the investigation, Campbell said. Wilhelm is the commander of U.S. Marine Corps operations in the Atlantic, located at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The 1991 incident involved the 2nd Air Delivery Platoon from the 2nd Landing Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group from Lejeune. The individuals in the 1993 video have not yet been identified, he said.

Wilhelm has the authority to bring both active-duty Marines and recently retired Marines back to Lejeune "for action he deems appropriate," Campbell said.

Campbell said no disciplinary action has been taken because the investigation was only opened early this month.

A military source who viewed the tapes called them "sickening" and said, "They just keep beating those pins things into them."

Campbell, asked about the tapes, said "There are victims in the tapes, and there are perpetrators."

Campbell said none of the Marines involved in the investigation apparently required medical attention after the incidents occurred.

Fifty-two Marines have been sent to trial by court-martial and at least 34 others have received nonjudicial, or administrative, punishment for hazing or improper initiation-type activity in the past several years, Campbell said. The punishments in those cases ranged from reduction in rank to forfeiture of pay to bad conduct discharges, he said.

Campbell said Gen. Charles Krulak, the commandant of the Marine Corps, has issued a statement saying he is "outraged" by the tapes. "There is absolutely no excuse for this type of behavior," the statement said.

Date Book

Jan. 31, 1997

Today is the 31st day of 1997 and the 42nd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1851, the invention of evaporated milk was announced.

On this day in 1874, Jesse James and his gang robbed a train near Gadshill, Mo.

On this day in 1958, Explorer I, the first successful American satellite, was launched.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Franz Schubert (1797-1828), composer; Anna Pavlova (1882-1931), ballerina; Eddie Cantor (1892-1964), comedian; Tallulah Bankhead (1903-1968), actress; Jackie Robinson (1919-1972), baseball great; Carol Channing (1923-), actress, is 74; Ernie Banks (1931-), baseball great, is 66; Philip Glass (1937-), composer, is 60; Nolan Ryan (1947-), baseball great, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1992, Howard Cosell retired from broadcasting.

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

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1996, the temperature at Winnipeg, Manitoba, dipped to 40 below zero.

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

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter.

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Jason Warren

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3 die, 7 injured when wall collapses at mall

HOUSTON (AP) — Robert Delaney was making his regular walk through Northline Mall when he heard someone say a rock had fallen through the ceiling. Then everything started collapsing around him.

"You couldn't see nothing but dust. ... It was just dust, dust, dust," Delaney, 67, a retired utility worker, said Thursday after he managed to escape the torrent of concrete as a wall along a mall walkway collapsed.

Assistant Fire Chief H.G. Torres said early today that authorities found the bodies of three victims and they do not expect to find any others.

Earlier, it had been feared that as many as six people were missing.

But Torres said all six were accounted for.

The Harris County Medical Examiner's Office early today identified three of the victims whose bodies have been found.

They were Leola Edwards, 59, Ema Curtis, 62 and Thelma Loraine Jolly, 53, all of Houston.

"I was about two feet from the last beam that fell in," said Delaney, who was among a couple dozen elderly "mall walkers" who use the indoor shopping area about five miles north of downtown for early morning exercise.

Other survivors told of hearing screams for help, of diving through plate glass windows to escape or just being lucky when a 150-foot section of the 20-foot-high wall being torn down to make room for a Magic Johnson theater complex collapsed about 9 a.m.

Heavy cranes were brought in to lift fallen concrete roof supports and chunks of debris while rescuers used police tracking dogs and fiber optic devices to hunt for bodies or possible survivors.

"That's always a possibility," Fire Chief Eddie Corral said of someone surviving, perhaps in an air pocket in the fallen tons of concrete and steel. "A lot of miraculous things happen."

The hunt was slowed by the danger that moving any of the fallen debris could cause another collapse.

Six of the injured were "mall walkers," most of them in their 60s and 70s. Also hurt was a firefighter who suffered a twisted ankle. The only person requiring an overnight hospital stay was a 67-year-old woman who underwent surgery for a broken ankle.

No cause was immediately determined.

"What we're trying to do first of all is very carefully remove any debris to get to any bodies," said Jimmie Schindewolf, Houston's public works director.

"Then we will try to analyze the situation."

Demolition crews working at Northline's south end were removing the last sections of an old Joske's department store when a wall common to the old store and mall caved in.

"I looked once behind my shoulder and it looked like waves coming down," said Elizabeth Lingold, one of the six mall walkers taken to area hospitals. "We were not lucky, we were blessed."

The mall is one of Houston's oldest, opening in 1963.

The vacant store was being razed so construction could start on a movie theater project being built by former pro basketball star Magic Johnson. The movie complex is part of a chain Johnson has touted as providing jobs and good service to minority urban areas.

"This is a tragic moment," Ken Lombard, Magic Johnson Theatres' president, said. "We would like to extend our sincere sympathies, to the injured and the families of the victims."

City officials granted a permit Nov. 12 to Demolition Services Inc. to tear down the old store. They said Thursday they were not aware of problems with the firm at the site. A telephone call to the company Thursday was not returned.

Suspicious device detonated

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A bomb squad blew up a package suspected to be a mail bomb that was sent to FBI headquarters, forcing the evacuation of 200 employees.

Three sharp blasts sounded Thursday night as city bomb experts disarmed the shoe box-sized package in the building's parking lot, said Grant D. Ashley, assistant special agent in charge of San Diego.

The device's components will be sent back to the FBI laboratory in Washington to determine whether it was actually a bomb.

"As a matter of course, the package was X-rayed and it was determined that it was indeed suspicious," said FBI spokeswoman Jan Caldwell.

Ms. Caldwell said she was not aware of any threats.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

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Donations Made for Others Create Uncharitable Thoughts

DEAR ABBY: Is there a kind and tactful way to tell a distant relative to stop making donations to his favorite charities in our names? He's a very nice man and we know he means well. Obviously, he has the right to donate to any organization he wants, but he should do it in his own name — not ours.

People who perform this act of kindness may not realize the uneasy position in which they place "fake donors." We feel hypocritical for the beneficiaries thinking we did the good deed, when the money didn't come from us.

Another undesirable side effect of vicarious giving is the glut of requests and junk mail that hound us for months (or years) after the donation. We have our own preferred charities and do not wish to receive requests from organizations we do not support, however worthwhile they may be.

On one occasion when a family member died, a self-appointed philanthropist made a very generous donation to his favorite charity in memory of the deceased, and indicated it came from us. Abby, you can imagine our embarrassment and discomfort when his widow thanked us heartily for our generous gift.

Perhaps a comment in your column to people who give this kind of gift, suggesting that they first ask the donors if they would like to have their names on a donation, would help to curb this practice. Some people may not want to be identified with a particular organization. And I'm sure even fewer will want the junk mail that follows.

Thank you for any suggestions you and your readers might offer.

NO NAME OR LOCATION, PLEASE

DEAR NO NAME: Tell your relative that you are being inundated with pleas from charities to which he has donated in your name. Stress that you would prefer that he make donations to charities which *you* support. (That should put a stop to it!) Also, advise the charities that are soliciting you that you want your name removed from their donor lists.

The reason that many people make charitable donations as "gifts" is that such donations are tax-deductible for the giver who has written the check.

***

DEAR ABBY: This has been bothering me for quite a while. Either I am being too sensitive, or my relatives are totally insensitive. I'll let you decide:

My husband and I recently adopted a child, and so far none of my relatives have acknowledged the child's arrival. However, a few years ago when we had our first child, gifts were brought and cards were sent. I know that the second, third and fourth children of other family members have been acknowledged, so it's not that this is our second child and nothing should be done.

It's not that I am looking for gifts, but a card would have been nice. Do they feel that just because this child is adopted or older that it isn't necessary to do anything? Maybe someday they'll realize the hurt they caused by their failure to acknowledge this child's arrival.

Meanwhile, my mother-in-law buys gifts for all of her sister's, brother's and in-laws' many grandchildren. Abby, is this what should be expected when you adopt a child?

HEARTBROKEN

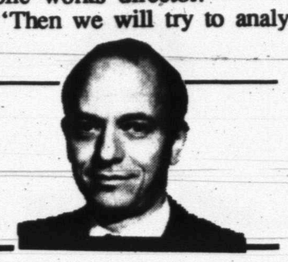
DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Did you send announcements that were ignored? When the adoption was official, did you have a small family gathering to introduce your relatives to the newest member of the family? If you did and this blessed event was ignored, then your relatives are ignorant of the social graces and do not realize that the arrival of a child — by birth or adoption — is an occasion to be acknowledged and celebrated, and shame on them.

***

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-31-97
♠ Q
♥ A Q 4
♦ K J
♣ J 10 8 6 5 3 2

West
♠ K J 10 9 6 3
♥ K 6 2
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ ---

East
♠ A 8 7 5 4 2
♥ J 9
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ 7

South
♠ ---
♥ 10 8 7 5 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ A K Q 9 4

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	2 ♠	4 ♠	Dbl.
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ??

In the pressure cooker

By Phillip Alder

Frans Jenner, the non-playing captain of the Belgian team in the 1996 European Junior Championship, ruled that if any player made a small mistake, he would be fined 100 Belgian francs (about $3.22). But if he made a bad mistake, he would be fined 200 francs. And as Jenner was the sole arbiter, you might have expected him to return home a wealthy man. The only snag was that none of the team wanted to play under such pressure!

On this deal, West found a great pressure lead. But first, how would you play in six clubs on a spade lead?

South's one-club opening wouldn't meet with universal approval. West made a weak jump overcall that wouldn't please a purist — but there are few of those left. North's four-spade splinter bid showed game values in clubs with at most one spade. After two cue-bids, South settled for six clubs.

On a spade lead, South ruffs, draws the trump, and plays three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the last in the dummy. He cashes dummy's heart ace, returns to hand with a trump, and leads a heart toward dummy's queen. He makes when West has the heart king or the singleton or doubleton jack, or when East has the singleton or doubleton king.

Here, though, Marilyn Lescher, from New Zealand, hit on a telling lead: the heart six. And as she did it without noticeable pause for thought, South was convinced it was a singleton. If it was, he had only one chance. He won with dummy's ace, played a trump to hand, and finessed dummy's diamond jack. However, East won with the queen, and the heart king in a moment spelt one down.

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Kung Fool! Chris Farley in
Beverly Hill Ninja
Showtimes: 7:15, 9:00 Rated PG13

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Comic Page

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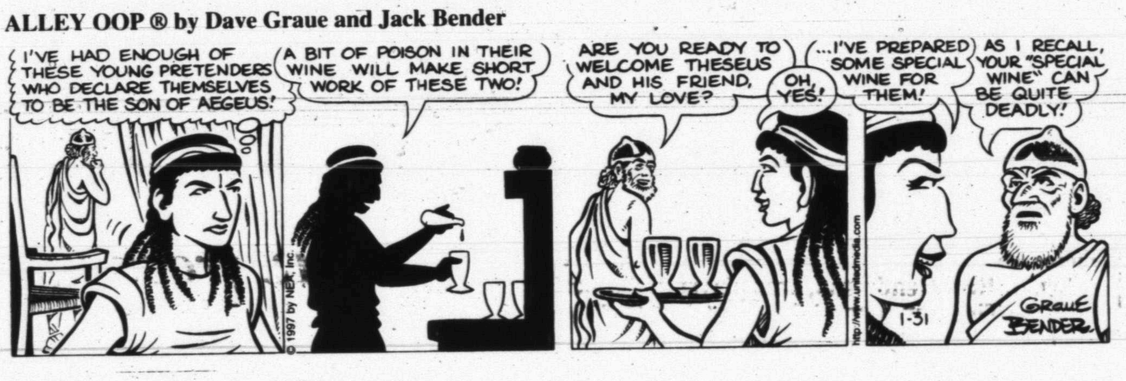


ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Kind of bee
7 Wedding attendant
12 Sounded
13 Whole
14 — down the law (acting like a parent?)
15 Kind of gasoline
16 Roman 102
17 — Hammarskjold
18 Unit of light
21 More modern
23 Non-profit TV
26 Regretted
28 Remainder
29 F. — Bailey
30 Fencer's sword
31 In opposition to
33 Cable patches.
36 Coup d' —
37 Ascot, e.g.
38 Individuals
40 — noire
41 Above (poet.)
42 Take it easy
44 Regard
45 Layer of soil
46 Bog
48 Dye
51 Type of computer
55 Grain for beer
56 Bony fish
57 Coat of arms
58 Foot part

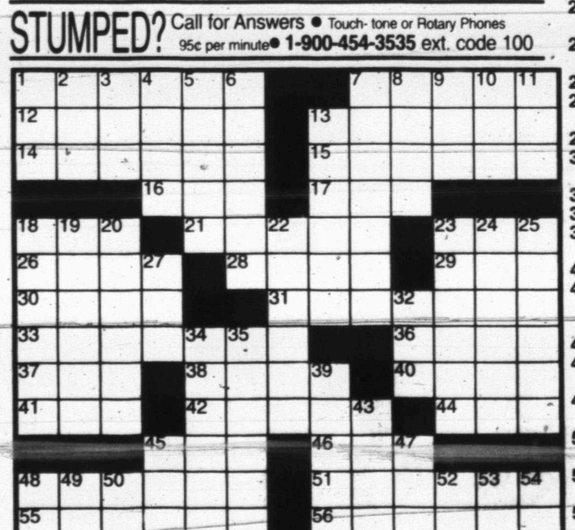
DOWN

1 Staved container (abbr.)
2 Gums
3 Fifth month
4 — -a-brac
5 Former Soviet leader
6 Less relaxed
7 Dig up
8 For men only
9 Put out of sight
10 Rather than (poet.)
11 Crimson
13 Earliest born
18 Magician's word
19 Certain city resident
20 Thread-winding machine
22 Minklike animal
23 Auto tags
24 Scold
25 Kind of couch
27 Agnus —
32 Worldwide area?
34 Tiara
35 Vigor
39 Hunting expedition
43 Rare gas
45 Small measurements
47 Grabs
48 UK broadcasters
49 Guardian spirit
50 Yorkshire river
52 Map abbr.
53 Bullfight cheer
54 Reps., familiarly

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





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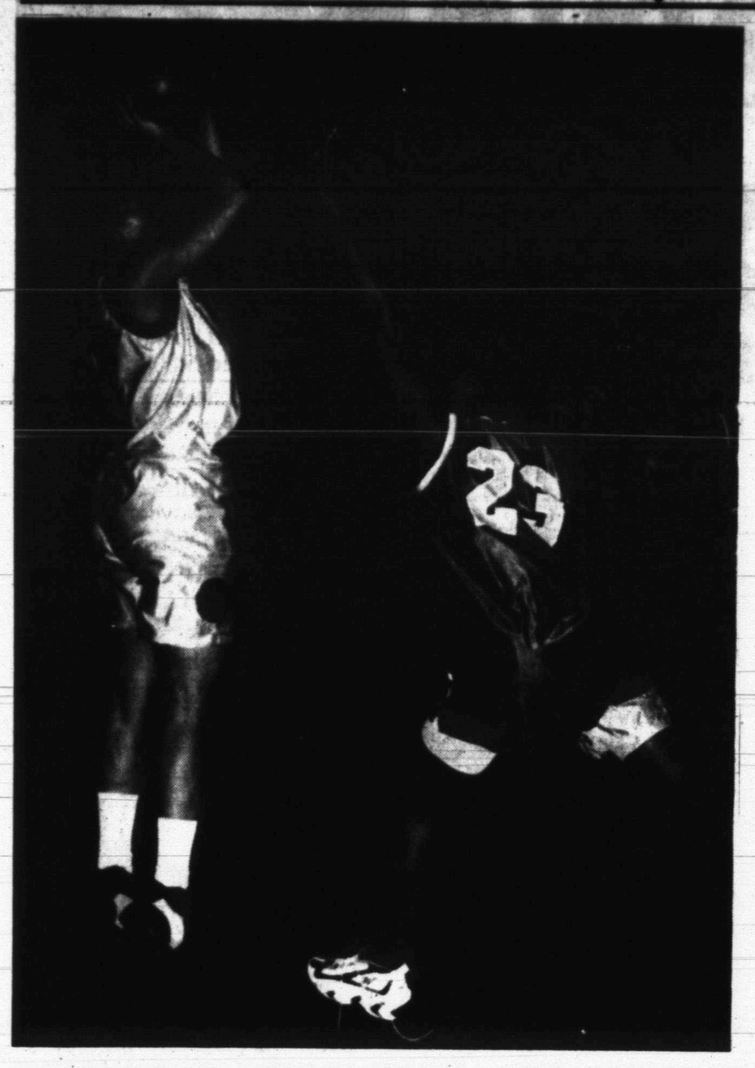
BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie





"YOU KNOW WHAT, MRS. MITCHELL? DENNIS CALLED ME A TATTLETALE!"

SPORTS



CONCENTRATE AND NAIL THE 'J' — SHS's Alicia Peoples drains a jumper with an Estacado defender's hand in her face. The Tigers are looking for revenge aganst the Plainview Bulldogs for earlier losses that both the Tigers and the Lady Tigers received. Tip-off is slated for 6:30 p.m. for the girls and 8 for the boys. (Photo by Stephanie Whittenburg)

Tigers ready for rematch with Plainview Bulldogs

The SHS varsity and junior varsity cagers travel to Plainview tonight to face off with the Bulldogs.

The boys are fresh off a 69-49 upset win over Estacado Tuesday night. The win put the Tigers in a three way tie for first place in the District 2-4A race with Estacado and Plainview.

Senior Rick Henderson, area player of the week, will look to lead the Tigers in a crucial contest against Plainview. Either Snyder or Plainview will drop out of first place with a loss. The Bulldogs dropped the Tigers, 61-44 in their previous meeting this season.

Both the Tigers and the Bulldogs are 5-2 in loop play, while Snyder's season mark is 19-10, and Plainview's stands at 15-12.

The girls will be looking for two district wins in a row, after their 68-54 victory over Estacado Tuesday night. The Tigers will also be looking for revenge for the 89-51 whipping they received at the hands of the 10th ranked Lady Bulldogs.

Snyder is 4-5 in loop play, and 17-12 for the season. Plainview is 7-2 in loop action, and 22-7 for the season.

The girls will tip-off at 6:30, and the boys will get underway at 8.

Jordan to return next year; scores 32 against Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Michael Jordan spent a few minutes talking about his future, then took care of more immediate business.

After reiterating that he plans to play next season, Jordan scored 32 points — including nine during a 13-4 run down the stretch — as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Sacramento Kings 111-93 Thursday night.

Scottie Pippen added 22 points as the Bulls, who trailed by one at halftime but dominated the final two periods, won their fifth straight game.

Jordan said before the game that he hopes to win another NBA title this season and then "go right into next year."

"Nobody can put a time frame, or a time limit, on something you love. Right now I love the game," he said. "I hope to fulfill all those expectations of winning a championship and go right into next year."

Jordan has a one-year contract for $30 million this season. It's unclear if he expects a raise in 1997-98, or if Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf will pay another $30 million or more for another year from his marquee player.

Asked whether making his comments Thursday would take away some of his bargaining advantages in discussions with Reinsdorf, Jordan said he wasn't concerned.

"I'm too old for leverage," said Jordan, who leads the NBA in scoring this season with 31 points per game.

The Bulls got a scare when Jordan hobbled off the court midway through the third period with what appeared to be a turned right ankle. But Jordan returned 87 seconds later, and the Bulls controlled the rest of the game.

"They have the ability to turn it up, which they did in the second half," Kings coach Garry St. Jean said. "(Our) defense was good until the third period, when they just took control."

Toni Kukoc added 16 points, while Jason Caffey and Randy Brown had 11 apiece for Chicago, which has won 14 of 15. Luc Longley had a season-high 11 rebounds for the Bulls.

Mitch Richmond had 28 points and nine rebounds for the Kings, but was held by Jordan to just five points in the final quarter — a period he often dominates. Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf added 19 for Sacramento.

"He tried to deny me the ball in the fourth quarter," Richmond said of Jordan. "He did a great job of that and created a couple of turnovers that they turned into baskets."

As Richmond tired, Jordan took advantage.

"I thought Michael tired Richmond in the third quarter and was able to get away with a couple of steals and some open court situations that helped us out," Chicago coach Phil Jackson said.

Jordan, who had three steals, said the Bulls expect to dominate the second half against teams such as Sacramento.

"In the first half, that's what we do against teams we haven't seen before," Jordan said. "In the first half we tried to figure them out. In the second half we made the adjustments and took control of the game."

The Kings hurt themselves by missing seven of their 14 free throws, while the Bulls were 22-for-28 at the foul line.

Sacramento activated Lionel Simmons from the injured list before the game and placed Billy Owens on the injured list with a sprained right ankle. The Kings also signed Jeff Grayer to a second 10-day contract.

Snyder golfer snags hole-in-one

Snyder golfer Joe Williamson bagged a hole-in-one last Saturday at the Snyder Country Club.

Williamson used a driver on the par three, 150 yard, number five. Witnesses were Russell Yorgesen, Marshall Erwin, Joe Michie, David Prather, and Terry Juarez.

SHS frosh up streak to 22

The SHS freshman A-team continued their winning ways Thursday, notching a 22nd straight victory.

The Tigers edged Lamesa, 49-44, to add to already-impressive winning streak. The Golden Tors were ahead by two points at the half, but the Tigers outscored them 18-13 in the final stanza to take home the victory.

Sonny Cumbie knocked down 21 points, while Jared Hester hit for 9. Paul Camp added 7 and Trey Gorman bagged 6. Greg McAnaw nailed 5 and Josh Ward rounded out the night with 1.

The freshman Tigers will continue to try and add to their streak this weekend when they host Abilene Cooper at noon Saturday.

College scores

By The Associated Press

EAST
Duquesne 80, Dayton 72
Hartford 71, New Hampshire 61
Massachusetts 68, George Washington 63
Temple 68, St. Joseph's 59
Vermont 79, Maine 76

SOUTH
Campbell 80, Stetson 66
Centenary 95, Mercer 61
Charleston Southern 76, Winthrop 65
Clemson 70, Georgia Tech 57
Coastal Carolina 70, N.C.-Asheville 60
Coll. of Charleston 87, Cent. Florida 63
Coppin St. 93, Howard U. 79
Florida Atlantic 91, Fla. International 88
Louisiana Tech 57, SW Louisiana 52
Louisville 81, Cincinnati 70
Marquette 71, South Florida 36
Memphis 68, Southern Miss. 54
Middle Tenn. 98, Morehead St. 86
Morgan St. 69, Md.-E. Shore 63
N. Carolina A&T 82, Hampton U. 75
New Orleans 58, South Alabama 51
SE Louisiana 74, Georgia St. 71
Samford 98, Jacksonville St. 77
Virginia 83, Richmond 66
W. Kentucky 97, Jacksonville 87

MIDWEST
Butler 84, Cleveland St. 47
Detroit 65, Wright St. 63
Evansville 59, Drake 54
Indiana St. 69, Wichita St. 61
Loyola, Ill. 47, Wis.-Green Bay 45
N. Illinois 76, Ill.-Chicago 74
Ohio St. 73, Indiana 67
SW Missouri St. 77, Creighton 71
Tenn.-Martin 71, E. Illinois 68

SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Little Rock 61, Texas-Pan American 46
Lamar 76, Arkansas St. 67
NE Louisiana 84, Texas-San Antonio 81
Pacific 55, North Texas 52
Rice 82, Texas Christian 80
SW Texas St. 87, NW Louisiana 77
Sam Houston St. 87, Stephen F.Austin 73
Texas-Arlington 69, McNeese St. 67, OT
Tulsa 69, Southern Meth. 49
Utah 74, Texas-El Paso 51

FAR WEST
Arizona 87, Washington St. 78
Boise St. 67, UC Irvine 46
Colorado St. 78, UNLV 68
Fresno St. 87, San Diego St. 71
Hawaii 87, San Jose St. 74
Idaho 73, Cal St.-Fullerton 65
Montana St. 83, Sacramento St. 66

NBA at glance

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	32	12	.727	—
NewYork	32	13	.711	½
Washington	22	21	.512	9½
Orlando	20	20	.500	10
NewJersey	12	30	.286	19
Philadelphia	10	33	.233	21½
Boston	9	32	.220	21½
Central Division				
Chicago	39	5	.886	—
Detroit	32	11	.744	6½
Atlanta	29	13	.690	9
Charlotte	25	19	.568	14
Cleveland	24	19	.558	14½
Milwaukee	21	22	.488	17½
Indiana	20	22	.476	18
Toronto	15	28	.349	23½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Houston	32	12	.727	—
Utah	31	13	.705	1
Minnesota	20	24	.455	12
Dallas	14	28	.333	17
Denver	14	31	.311	18½
SanAntonio	11	30	.268	19½
Vancouver	8	39	.170	25½
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	33	12	.733	—
Seattle	31	13	.705	1½
Portland	25	20	.556	8
Sacramento	19	26	.422	14
L.A.Clippers	17	25	.405	14½
GoldenState	17	26	.395	15
Phoenix	15	30	.333	18

Wednesday's Games
Philadelphia 101, Toronto 99
Orlando 112, Phoenix 105
Miami 103, Boston 83
Indiana 106, Charlotte 95
New York 75, Cleveland 65
Detroit 98, Portland 89
L.A. Lakers 99, San Antonio 92
Seattle 111, Golden State 86

Thursday's Games
New Jersey 113, Phoenix 101
Minnesota 92, Dallas 82
Denver 113, Houston 109
Utah 102, Atlanta 96
L.A. Clippers 100, Vancouver 94
Chicago 111, Sacramento 93

Friday's Games
Portland at Boston, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Atlanta at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Chicago at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Detroit at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Charlotte at New York, 1 p.m.
Houston at Orlando, 1 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 2:30 p.m.
Portland at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 3:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at Boston, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Denver, 9 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Sanders returns to Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (AP) — Deion Sanders will resume his dual baseball-football career, agreeing to return to the Cincinnati Reds this season.

It marks Sanders' second tour of duty with the Reds, and a resumption of his baseball career. Cincinnati traded the centerfielder to the San Francisco Giants in 1995.

Sanders said he will continue playing for the Dallas Cowboys, with whom he signed a $35 million deal in 1995.

"I plan on playing the full season with the Cincinnati Reds," he said.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones agreed to allow Sanders to play baseball again, Reds general manager Jim Bowden said.

Kelly announces retirement

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — With his voice cracking and tears in his eyes, Jim Kelly retired today as quarterback of the Buffalo Bills after 11 seasons and four Super Bowls.

"This hasn't been easy. I've had to make one of the most difficult decisions of my life," Kelly said to a small crowd that included teammates Bruce Smith, Thurman Thomas and Andre Reed. "I've been playing football for over 28 years, many dreams have been fulfilled and many goals achieved."

The quarterback's future had been in doubt since the end of the season, and questions about his future intensified last week before the Super Bowl. Kelly had reserved comment until reaching a settlement reportedly worth $1 million with Bills owner Ralph Wilson.

"It's really difficult for me today to be here," Wilson said. "There's no player who has done so much for the Buffalo Bills as Jim Kelly."

Raiders assign new head coach

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Joe Bugel remembers walking off the field with his defeated Washington Redskins following the 1984 Super Bowl and wondering what it felt like to be part of the winning Raiders team.

Now he's responsible for trying to get the Oakland Raiders back to the NFL championship game for the first time since then.

Bugel, who spent the past two seasons as the Raiders' assistant head coach for offense, was elevated to the head coaching job Thursday.

"I suffered for 13 years waiting for this head coaching job," he said, thinking back to the Super Bowl in which the Los Angeles Raiders defeated Washington 38-9. "I wanted to be part of the silver and black."

Bugel was an assistant coach with Washington in 1981-89, during which time the Redskins won two Super Bowls. In 1990-93, he was 20-44 at Phoenix in his only previous head coaching job.

Parcells steps down as coach of Patriots

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Bill Parcells stepped down as coach of the New England Patriots today, ending his four-year run with the team.

Parcells said at a news conference that he had informed Patriots owner Robert Kraft that he would not renew his contract for another year.

"I do not desire to continue as an NFL coach," Parcells said at a news conference.

Asked whether he could coach another team, Parcells said: "I don't know what I'm going to do. If I want to coach, I have to coach here. It's as simple as that."

Parcells' resignation came two days after NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue ruled that the coach's contract with the Patriots prohibits him from working for another NFL team next season unless the Patriots give permission.

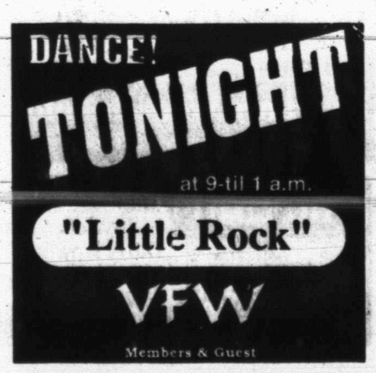
The New York Jets, who want Parcells to succeed Rich Kotite as their coach next season, talked with Patriots officials on Thursday. The Patriots would like a compensation package for Parcells to include the top pick in the draft, although it's highly unlikely that will happen.

representatives. Carroll did not return a phone call seeking comment Thursday.

The Boston Herald reported Thursday that Seifert will be the first potential candidate contacted by the Patriots once Parcells leaves. He resigned as the 49ers coach after the season and has rejected a five-year, $10 million offer from the St. Louis Rams. He is now a 49ers consultant earning $1.5 million this year.

The impact of Joe Bugel's appointment Thursday as coach of the Oakland Raiders was felt all the way on the East Coast. Belichick, the Patriots' assistant head coach, was considered a contender for the Oakland job, but now he's free to succeed Parcells.

Lewis is the coordinator of the Packers offense that led the NFL in scoring and hurt the Patriots with big plays in the Super Bowl. That victory earned him his third Super Bowl ring as an assistant after winning two with the 49ers. Parcells has two, both as coach of the Giants.

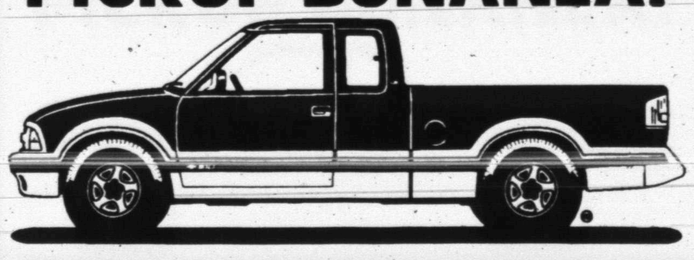




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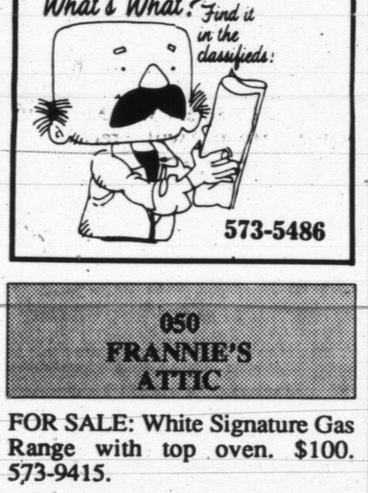
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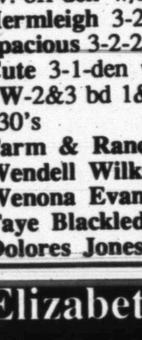
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Managed care plans seeking to adopt their own guidelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Managed care plans are getting encouragement from a trade group to cover emergency room visits for all patients who reasonably believe they need urgent care.

The recommended guidelines come as some lawmakers want Congress to consider new regulations on the industry.

"If a patient believes that his or her health is seriously in jeopardy, they should go to the emergency room," Karen Ignagni, president of the American Association of Health Plans, said Thursday.

The association also wants its health plans to explain clearly how patients may appeal decisions denying treatment and to expedite appeals if a patient's health is in jeopardy.

Health maintenance organizations have come under fire for refusing to cover emergency room visits that turn out to be false alarms. A typical example: A middle-aged man feels chest pains and goes to the emergency room fearing a heart attack, but it turns out he just had indigestion.

Under the association's guidelines, coverage would be based on symptoms, not diagnosis, and that man's visit would be covered. The emergency room would have to consult the health plan or primary care doctor after the patient was stabilized to discuss further treatment.

Association officials say most plans already cover emergency room treatment in reasonable situations and said the new policy is meant to encourage the rest.

But state and federal legislators, pushing for legal mandates, have collected stories from people who were denied payments. Rep. Ben Cardin, D-Md., plans to reintroduce legislation next month writing similar guidelines into law. Last year's bill had 154 cosponsors.

Advocates say legislation is needed because the association's recommendations are just that — recommendations.

"This is their effort to try to deal with it the best they can," Cardin said. "But they're not a Congress, they're not a legislature. Obviously, the organization cannot enforce it."

Ignagni said the association is considering new membership standards that could bar health plans that do not follow guidelines. That would be a new role for the group, which lobbies for about 1,000 managed care plans but does not accredit them in any way.

In August, Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest HMO, and the American College of Emergency Physicians jointly called for federal mandates on emergency room coverage. Kaiser said the mandatory consulting has saved it money by avoiding some unnecessary hospitalizations.

Now dominating the private health insurance market, managed care has helped hold down health care costs. But some have complained that it goes too far. Hundreds of state and federal bills have been introduced to regulate its policies, including last year's successful effort to require minimum hospital stays after childbirth.

In reaction, last fall the association launched a "Patients First" initiative to encourage plans to voluntarily strengthen coverage and address complaints.

In November, it recommended that plans cover overnight mastectomy stays if doctors recommend them — another issue to be addressed in federal legislation. In December, it launched an effort to better communicate with patients about a health care plan's policies.

The industry argues health care should not be regulated, body-part by body-part on the floor of Congress. These issues should be addressed by an upcoming presidential advisory commission to study the quality of managed care, Ignagni said.

In the meantime, managed care providers are trying to stay ahead of the curve, addressing problems before more requirements are written into law.

New head named

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A physician-administrator known for helping the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas reduce costs has been named the new president of Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Dr. David C. Hohn, 54, vice president for patient care and professor of surgery at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas in Houston, will assume his new duties Feb. 15.

New York state Health Commissioner Dr. Barbara DeBuono announced Hohn's appointment Thursday. He replaces Dr. Thomas B. Tomasi, who retired at the end of 1996 after heading the institute since 1986.

Tomasi's salary was $211,356, while Hohn will receive a compensation package worth about $485,000 a year, about what he now earns in Houston.

Hohn takes over Roswell Park at a time when the state and the cancer institute are trying to sever their ties, allowing Roswell more freedom to compete in a health care market that is turning increasingly to managed care.

State officials said Hohn helped the M.D. Anderson center streamline operations and devise new ways to gain revenue — skills that will be needed at Roswell.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	83	82⅝	82⅝+ ⅛	
AT&T Corps	39⅝	39⅛	39⅜	
AirTouch	26⅛	25⅞	26⅛+ ⅛	
Albertsons	35⅛	34⅜	34⅝	
AlldSignal	72⅛	71⅛	72 +1⅜	
Alltel	32⅛	31⅝	32⅛+ ⅛	
AmerOnline	38⅜	38⅛	38⅛+ ⅛	
AmStores	42⅝	42⅝	42⅝	
Ameritech	59⅛	58⅝	59⅛+ ⅛	
Amoco	88⅛	87⅞	87⅞+ ⅛	
AndarkPtr	66	65⅝	65⅝+ ⅜	
AmocoInc	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛— ⅛	
AtlRichfld	133⅜	132⅛	133⅛+ ⅜	
ATMOS Egy	22⅜	22⅛	22⅛	
Aviall	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛+ ⅛	
BakerHughes	40⅛	39⅛	39⅝+ ⅛	
BellAtl	66⅝	66⅛	66⅝	
BellSouth	44⅜	44⅛	44⅛+ ⅛	
BethSteel	8⅝	8⅛	8⅛— ⅛	
BritPet	141¼	140⅞	140⅞	
BurlNoSFe	89	88⅜	88⅜+ ⅛	
Caterpillar	78	77⅞	77⅞+ ⅛	
CenSoWst	25⅛	25⅛	25⅛	
Chevron	67⅞	66⅝	66⅝— ⅛	
Chrysler s	35⅜	35⅛	35⅛+ ⅛	
Coastal	49	48⅜	48⅜— ⅛	
CocaColas	58⅛	57⅞	58⅛+ ⅛	
ColgatePalm	95	94⅛	94⅝— ⅛	
ComclMetals	29⅛	29	29 + ⅛	
CooperIn	43⅞	43⅜	43⅜+ ⅛	
CyprusAmax	22⅜	22⅛	22⅜— ⅛	
DallSemicn	27	26½	26½— ½	
DeltaAirl	80⅜	79⅝	80⅛+ ⅜	
DigitalEq	38⅛	37⅞	37⅞— ⅛	
Dillard	30	29⅛	29⅛+ ⅛	
DowChem	77⅞	75⅛	76⅛—2	
DresserInd	34⅛	33⅞	34⅛+ ⅛	
DuPont	111⅛	110⅝	111⅛+1⅛	
EastmanChem	55	54⅛	54⅜	
EstKodak	87⅛	87⅛	87⅛+ ⅛	
EDS Corp	47⅞	46½	46½— ⅜	
Enserch	22⅜	22⅛	22⅜— ⅛	
Entergy	26⅝	26½	26½	
Exxon	104⅞	104	104 — ⅛	
FstBksAm	10⅝	10⅜	10⅜	
Flowers	21½	21⅜	21⅜	
FordMotor	32⅜	32⅛	32⅛+ ⅛	
GTE Cp	46⅛	45⅞	46⅛+ ⅜	
GenDynam	71	70⅛	70⅝+ ⅛	
GenElec	106⅝	106⅛	106⅝+1	
GenMills	68⅜	67⅞	68 + ⅛	
GenMotors	60⅜	60⅛	60⅜+ ⅛	
GaPacif	74⅝	73⅞	74⅛	
GlobalMar	22⅜	22⅛	22⅜+ ⅛	
Goodrichs	41⅞	40⅞	41⅝+1	
Goodyear s	54⅜	54⅛	54⅜+ ⅛	
GtAtlPac	31⅝	31⅛	31⅝+ ⅛	
Haliburtn	72⅜	71⅞	72⅛+1⅛	
Hanson ADSs	7⅝	7⅛	7 5-16—1-16	
HarteHanks	27⅛	26⅞	27⅛+ ⅛	
HomeDepot	50⅜	49⅞	50⅜+ ⅜	
HoustonInds	22⅜	22⅛	22⅜— ⅛	
IBM	157⅞	156⅜	157⅛+ ⅛	
IntlPaper	41⅛	40⅝	40⅝— ⅛	
JohnsnJn s	57⅛	57	57⅛+ ⅛	
K mart	11⅜	11	11⅛	
Kroger	48⅛	47⅞	47⅞	
Litton	44	43⅞	44	
LockhdMart	92⅜	91⅜	91⅞+ ⅜	
Lowes Cos	33⅜	33⅛	33⅜+ ⅛	
Lubys	20⅛	20⅛	20⅛— ⅛	
LucentTech n	55⅛	55	55⅛+1	
MayDeptStrs	45⅞	45⅛	45⅞+1⅛	
Medtronic	69⅛	68⅛	69⅛+ ⅜	
Mobil	132	131	131⅜— ⅜	
Monsanto s	37⅛	37	37⅛+ ⅛	
Motorola	68⅜	66⅝	68⅛+1⅝	
NCR Corp n	38⅛	38⅛	38⅛+ ⅛	
Nationsbk	108⅝	107⅞	108⅛+ ⅜	
Navistar	10⅛	10	10 — ⅛	
NoramEngy	15⅛	15⅛	15⅜+ ⅛	
Norwest	48⅛	47⅞	47⅞— ⅛	
Nynex	50⅛	50⅛	50⅛+ ⅛	
OryxEngy	24	15-16	24⅛ 24⅜	
PacTelesis	39	38⅝	38⅝+ ⅛	
PanEnergy	46⅜	46⅛	46⅛— ⅛	
Penney JC	47⅞	47⅞	47⅞+ ⅜	
Pennzoil	63	62⅝	62⅝— ⅛	
PepBoys	32	30⅞	31⅛+1⅛	
PepsiCo s	34⅜	34⅛	34⅜+ ⅛	
PhelpDodge	71⅞	70⅝	71⅛+ ⅛	
PhilipPet	44⅜	44⅛	44⅜+ ⅛	
Polaroid	44	43⅞	43⅞	
Praxair	47⅛	46⅜	47	
ProctGamble	115⅝	114⅜	115⅝— ⅛	
PubSNwMx	19⅝	19⅛	19⅛+ ⅛	
RoyalDutch	175⅜	174⅛	175⅜— ⅜	
SBC Comm	54⅛	54⅛	54⅛+ ⅛	
SaraLee	39⅛	39	39	
SearsRoeb	49⅛	48⅜	48⅜+ ⅜	
SherwinW	56⅜	56⅛	56⅜+ ⅛	
SmthBchADS	71⅜	70⅝	71⅛+ ⅛	
SouthernCo	22	21⅞	21⅞	
SwstAirlines	22⅛	22⅛	22⅛+ ⅛	
Sprint	40⅛	39⅝	40⅛+ ⅛	
SunCo	26⅜	26⅛	26⅛	
TNP Ent	27⅛	27⅛	27⅛+ ⅛	
Tandy	45⅛	45	45⅛+ ⅛	
TempInl	56⅛	55⅝	55⅝— ⅛	
Tenneco	40⅜	39⅝	39⅝— ⅛	
Texaco	107⅝	106⅛	106⅝— ⅛	
TexasInd	54⅛	54⅛	54⅛+ ⅛	
TexasInst	78⅜	75⅜	78⅛+3⅛	
TexUtil	40⅜	40⅛	40⅛+ ⅛	
Textron	97⅛	97⅛	97⅝— ⅛	
Travelers s	53⅜	53⅛	53⅛+1	
TrinityInds	33⅜	33⅜	33⅛+ ⅛	
TritonEngy	50⅛	49⅝	49⅝— ⅛	
Tyler	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	
US WestCm	33	32⅝	32⅝+ ⅛	
USWstMda	18⅛	18⅜	18⅛+ ⅛	
USX Delhi	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛+ ⅛	
USX-Marathn	27⅛	27⅛	27⅛+ ⅛	
USX-USS	32⅛	31⅛	32⅛+ ⅛	
UnCarbde	45⅜	45	45⅜+ ⅜	
UnPac s	61⅛	60⅝	60⅞— ⅛	
UnitedTech s	71⅛	70	71⅛+1⅛	
Unocal	41⅞	41⅛	41⅜— ⅛	
WalMart	23⅛	23⅛	23⅛+ ⅛	
WstnGasRs	19⅝	19⅛	19⅝+ ⅛	
WestghEl	18⅜	18⅛	18⅜+ ⅛	
WinnDixie	30⅜	30⅛	30⅜	
Woolworth	20⅜	20⅛	20⅜+ ⅛	
XeroxCp s	59⅝	59⅜	59⅝— ⅛	
ZenithE	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛+ ⅛	

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Saturday, Feb. 1, 1997

Something you've always wanted but never thought you could afford may be within your reach in the year ahead. This opportunity might be brought about by an unusual set of circumstances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) There are strong indications today that something that has concerned you might be resolved to your satisfaction. Continue to visualize a positive outcome. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not hesitate to use terms of endearment in your conversations with people you love today. It will elevate their spirits.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Focus your attention on what you want to achieve today. You will come across a remarkable opportunity if you keep your eyes open.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might feel more assertive than usual today. This will be fine, provided you mask your motives with gratitude.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The probability of fulfilling your expectations will be enhanced today. Do not discuss your intentions with people who could impede your progress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Conditions are starting to look more encouraging, especially in regard to something you want for yourself and your mate. Do not doubt yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not even think about dodging responsibilities today. Assignments that appear to be difficult could turn out to be the easier ones for you to complete.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you could profit by studying the modus operandi of a role model. The lessons you'll learn might be applicable to your life sooner than you think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today, your greatest benefits are apt to come from endeavors initiated by people other than you. Try to mingle with as many people as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In a development that affects both you and your mate, your mate will exercise better judgment than you will today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Situations that require imagination or artistic talent should be your cup of tea today. Use these gifts to beautify your surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you are flirtatious today, someone who admires you might take your behavior seriously. Make sure to think before you act.

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Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Melton Barry, 3601 Irving; Margie Ellis, 2407 40th; Sid Miller, Fluvanna; Carmen Sanchez, Hermleigh; Gertie Wilson, 3602 Ave. B; Jimmie Cooper, 1841 Smith Ave.; A.C. Kellams, 217 29th; Steven Shrode, Colorado City; Agnes Sorrells, Ira.

DISMISSALS: Mary Purswell.

CENSUS: 61 (Med., Surg.-16, Long-term Care-37, CCU-4, OB-2, Nursery-2).

JAN 31 1997

Power struggle said coming to head at NRA

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief executive of the National Rifle Association is in a power struggle over his job with a board member who accuses him of leading the gun lobby into financial trouble.

Wayne R. LaPierre Jr. will defend his six-year record as executive vice president and CEO at a Feb. 7-8 board meeting that could determine whether he stays in the $190,000-a-year job.

LaPierre is being targeted by supporters of Neal Knox, a gun writer and first vice president of the NRA who slowly has been lining up support for his views among board members since 1992.

Knox, a former chief lobbyist for the NRA, denies he is running for LaPierre's job. At the same time, he suggests he would take it "with great reluctance" if asked by the board.

He accuses LaPierre of draining $85 million from the NRA's reserve of assets over the past six years — a charge that LaPierre hotly denies.

"Where he gets his figures is beyond me," LaPierre said Thursday in a telephone interview. "The picture is 180 degrees opposite what Mr. Knox and his supporters are trying to paint."

LaPierre said he is prepared to defend the NRA's financial record against the reports being prepared by what he called "Neal's henchmen" on the finance committee. "If our board of directors look at the facts, the truth will set us free," LaPierre said. "That's all I can count on at this time."

LaPierre generated controversy in a 1993 fund-raising letter by referring to federal agents as "jack-booted government thugs," causing at least one prominent NRA member, former President George Bush, to resign. But LaPierre nevertheless is regarded as a polished political operator.

Knox says he has no political differences with LaPierre, but disagrees over how the organization is being run. He predicted the board will side with him when it sees management audits and a report prepared by the finance committee, which is headed by his ally Richard Carone.

"Those are not favorable to Wayne," Knox said. "I think this independent-minded board is going to look at those numbers and make up its own decision, and Wayne is not going to like the results."

"The NRA is on a down hill as far as its total assets," Knox said. "We have managed to have a balanced budget for the last 2½ years but only at the expense of members just being covered up with junk fund-raising letters."

LaPierre dismisses the management studies, which he said are political documents produced by "assassination operations designed to pave the way for Neal."

LaPierre says he has turned around the NRA's finances since taking over in 1991, and that the large expenditures since then were for badly needed capital improvements.

In 1992, the NRA had $80 million in the bank and it finished 1996 with about $45 million, he said. Expenditures included a new computer system and the purchase of a $41 million office headquarters just outside Washington in northern Virginia.

Gene may lead to sight-saving glaucoma treatment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of Americans may soon be able to learn if they are at risk of glaucoma in time to save their eyesight, thanks to a new gene discovery that also points toward new therapies for the blinding disease.

The gene causes a particularly virulent form of glaucoma that strikes young people, often under age 20, Iowa scientists report today in the journal Science. But it also appears to cause at least 3 percent of the most common form of glaucoma, which blinds Americans after age 40.

The first application of this discovery will be to test relatives of juvenile glaucoma patients, and eventually others at risk, so the disease could be diagnosed early enough to provide sight-saving treatment.

"If someone comes into my office who's 15 years old and ... has glaucoma, I immediately will want to examine all their siblings, cousins," explained Dr. Carl Kupfer, director of the National Eye Institute. Treating those with the gene means "they would never go blind."

Unlike many gene discoveries that will not affect the public for decades, "this is a case where there's today a practical application," agreed University of Iowa molecular geneticist Val Sheffield, who co-discovered the gene and expects to develop a test for it within a year.

Glaucoma occurs when fluid builds inside the eyeball, causing dangerous pressure that over time destroys the delicate optic nerve. By the time people notice vision loss, the damage is irreversible.

About 100,000 Americans today are blind from glaucoma, Kupfer said.

An estimated 3 million Americans have the disease. Because it causes no early symptoms, however, the government says only half have been diagnosed so they could get medication or surgery required to stall the disease's progress and save their remaining eyesight.

Scientists knew one of several genes thought to cause glaucoma was in a certain region of chromosome 1. Sheffield and colleagues narrowed the hunt to three possible candidates, then tested 100 juvenile glaucoma patients from eight families to pinpoint that a mutated form of the gene called TIGR was to blame.

Sheffield said TIGR does not cause only juvenile glaucoma. When he tested several hundred patients with the most common adult form, he found TIGR mutations in about 3 percent.

That means "about 100,000 people are out there who are at risk" of blindness from this genetic type of glaucoma and don't know they should be getting eye examinations or treatment, Sheffield said.

"This isn't the type of disease you get early warning signs about," he said. "The good news is it's a treatable disease if you diagnose and treat before there's vision loss."

In addition, scientists now can begin figuring out just how glaucoma occurs.

"In that sense, the discovery is very, very important because it relates to the biology of glaucoma," said the National Eye Institute's Kupfer.

One theory comes from the University of California, San Francisco, where researchers Jon Polansky and Thai Nguyen have discovered that the protein the TIGR gene produces can gum up a mesh of cells responsible for filtering fluids out of the eye.

Cronkite said steamed over 'spitting' image on Internet

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Walter Cronkite to Tim Hughes: That's NOT the way it was.

The former CBS anchor says he considered suing when he found a fabricated tale and "spitting" image of himself on Hughes' "Walter Cronkite Spit in My Food" Internet homepage.

Hughes pulled the page on Thursday, posting in its place a notice saying, "It was never my intention to hurt anyone."

The newsman once dubbed "the most trusted man in America" said in a telephone interview from Chicago on Thursday that he was stunned several months ago when he spotted the page and an accompanying fable about a tipsy, cussing Cronkite accosting Hughes and his wife at a Florida restaurant.

"I punched up Cronkite just to see what was on the Internet and stumbled on this scurrilous article," Cronkite said. "The whole thing is just so outlandish. ... I don't think I've ever spit in my life."

It was a joke, Hughes said Wednesday.

The 28-year-old Internet applications developer from suburban West Carrollton admits he made the whole thing up, doctored a photo of Cronkite to make it appear he was spitting, and altered another shot that showed a smiling Cronkite standing next to several Ku Klux Klansmen in full regalia.

The story on the page he posted last spring claimed Cronkite became enraged when the couple took a photo of him at a Moroccan restaurant at Disney World, and began yelling at them, spewing obscenities and boasting he had once slept with a colleague's wife, then spit into their dessert — spice cake.

Hughes, who described himself on the page as a "crack-smoking, devil-worshipper who lives with his wife and 47 children in a cardboard box," also attached a tiny disclaimer that said "actual events may differ substantially from those depicted here."

He said he wrote the story as a satire "in the most ludicrous light possible," so there would be no chance anyone would believe it.

"If someone takes it seriously, they've missed the whole point," he said.

But on Thursday, after fielding calls from reporters, Hughes withdrew the page.

"Walter didn't get the joke so the page is gone," Hughes wrote on the page he posted announcing the departure.

Hughes said the only truth in the tale was that Cronkite was at the restaurant that night in 1994. The couple caught him in profile in a photo they shot there.

Cronkite, 80, was a fixture in America's living rooms during the 1960s and '70s, signing off his CBS news broadcasts with the words, "And that's the way it is."

The state flower of Kansas is the sunflower.

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.



Is increased sex drive normal?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: This letter is not a joke. I'm afraid that I have a terrible problem with sexual urges. I'm a 30-year-old married woman in a loving relationship. But my satisfaction is short-lived. I need sexual release and I need it often. My husband says that I expect more from him than he is capable of supplying. As a result, I find that I have to pleasure myself, sometimes as often as 20 times a day. Even so, I experience almost continuous sexual urges, a problem that I have struggled with for many years. I am extremely embarrassed to discuss this with my doctor and fear that I may be a nymphomaniac.

DEAR READER: There are many causes for increased libido (the desire to have sex). As you can imagine, there is tremendous variability in how often women (and, sometimes, men) feel sexual urges. Some people need sex only once a month; for others, two or three times a day isn't enough.

You appear to have a healthy sexual appetite, which makes me wonder if your orgasms are complete or if you remain "on the edge," despite your self-pleasuring. I honestly believe that you should discuss this with your family physician. It is conceivable that you could have a physical problem — such as an adrenal tumor — that may be over-stimulating you.

However, it's more likely that you are using sex as a method of relaxing and dealing with tension. Many "oversexed" individuals engage in sexual activity in order to relieve stress. Once the stress-provoking issues have been addressed, the urges ordinarily dissipate. Your physician can guide and advise you.

I'd like to add that "nymphomania" is an archaic term that was once used to describe women who repeatedly engaged in sex but did not achieve orgasm. In a very real sense, they were using sex merely as a substitute for intimacy. Your pattern seems different, inasmuch as you appear to crave sexual release.

Remember that the medical concept of sexuality has drastically changed over the past few years. Your sexual behavior would be judged today only in terms of how it interferes with your normal life pattern.

For example, frequent masturbation is not harmful, providing it doesn't detract from your responsibilities and goals. In your case, I gather that your libido may be affecting you adversely; hence, my recommendation is that you take a deep breath and discuss the issue with your physician. I congratulate you for having the courage to write me and share such a personal concern.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been swallowing a tablespoon of cod liver oil each morning for many years. Any problems with this?

DEAR READER: Not if you can abide the taste.

Cod liver oil possesses no proven health benefits. It is a rich source of vitamins A and D, but these supplements can more palatably be supplied by any multi-vitamin pill.

Cod liver oil is an old-fashioned remedy that has been largely superseded by more modern vitamin preparations. However, it is not harmful when taken according to the manufacturer's directions.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Fads I: Vitamins and Minerals." 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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Psalm 31:24

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THE KING WAS "LONGHANDED"!

ARTAXERXES WAS THE 3RD SON OF XERXES AND HIS SUCCESSOR TO THE PERSIAN THRONE (CIR. 465 B.C.). HE WAS CALLED "LONGHANDED." SOME TOOK THIS EXPRESSION QUITE LITERALLY, BUT OTHER AUTHORITIES TAKE IT FIGURATIVELY, AS MEANING ONLY THAT ARTAXERXES HAD A WIDELY EXTENDED EMPIRE WHICH HE HAD TO RULE FROM A GREAT DISTANCE — THEREFORE HIS HAND, WHICH HELD THE LAW, HAD TO BE "LONGHANDED." HE WAS THE RULER WHO WAS LED TO FORBID THE REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM (EZRA 4:7) BUT AFTERWARD PERMITTED IT (CH. 6:14). IN FACT, IN THE 7TH YEAR OF HIS REIGN (458 B.C.), HE LET THE PROPHET EZRA LEAD VAST NUMBERS OF EXILES BACK TO JERUSALEM (EZRA 7:11,12,21; 8:1). THEN, IN THE 20TH YEAR OF HIS REIGN, HE PERMITTED NEHEMIAH TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND REBUILD THE WALLS OF THE CITY (NEH. 2:1) AND TO BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF THE RESTORED CITY! ARTAXERXES DIED IN THE YEAR 424 B.C.



248 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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312 26th St. 573-3170

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2613 Ave. Z
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AVENUE D BAPTIST
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Teodoro Castañeda

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Ira, Texas
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Auto Insurance - Monthly Payments

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.
Hebrews 2:18

CIRCLE "IN" GROCERY
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Gene & Peggy Vernon

JAN 31 1997

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Economy accelerated 2.5 percent in '96

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy accelerated 2.5 percent last year, fueled by a sizzling 4.7 percent growth rate in the final three months from demand by American consumers and foreign customers for U.S. goods.

The increase in the gross domestic product topped the 2 percent advance in 1995 that had been the slowest since a 1 percent drop in 1991 when the last recession ended. The GDP figures were announced today by the Commerce Department.

The surprisingly strong 4.7 percent annual rate of growth in the October-December quarter helped drive last year's expansion and matched the 4.7 percent second-quarter pace. Before that, the economy had not grown so fast in one quarter since the spring of 1994.

Analysts had expected a fourth-quarter rate of 3.8 percent.

Vice President Al Gore told reporters that the growth rate is "further evidence that the American economy is growing at a strong and steady pace with inflation remaining at historic low levels."

The stock market continued to surge. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 41 points by late morning.

The inflation-sensitive bond market gave up some of its early gains this morning after the GDP figures came out but still was up from Thursday's late prices. Yields on 30-year Treasury bonds, which move in the opposite direction of prices, fell to 6.85 percent this morning from 6.87 percent late Thursday.

"All in all, it's a number that's too strong for comfort for the longer view. But it almost certainly won't be matched in the first quarter this year," said Robert G. Dederick, economic consultant for Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

Dederick predicted that, since inflation remains benign, the strong growth would not result in higher interest rates when Federal Reserve officials meet next week.

"When we had the same thing in the second quarter, the Federal Open Market Committee decided to hold firm," he noted. "Based on that experience, one would think they will hold again."

The fourth-quarter surge was paced by large increases in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The GDP is the total output of goods and services within the United States. It had grown at a 2.1 percent rate in the third quarter and 2 percent in the first three months of the year.

Peru's president assures hostages' relatives before Hashimoto meet

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Before leaving Peru today for a summit with his Japanese counterpart, President Alberto Fujimori assured relatives of the 72 men held by leftist rebels that he shared their anguish and pledged to end the hostage standoff peacefully.

Fujimori consoled 43 relatives at the government palace Thursday night, on the eve of a trip to Canada to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"I wanted to call you together to share moments of anguish, anxiety and suffering, which you have lived through," said Fujimori, whose younger brother Pedro is among the captives

Fujimori flew to Toronto early today for Saturday's summit with Hashimoto. The meeting is an effort to convince Japan and others he is doing everything possible to find a peaceful solution to the standoff at the Japanese ambassador's residence.

Lima's Radio Programas said Fujimori was accompanied by Education Minister Domingo Palermo, Canadian Ambassador Anthony Vincent and Catholic Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani. All three played key roles in dealings with the rebels.

Fujimori asked for the summit after Hashimoto twice this week questioned Peru's handling of the hostage situation.

Tupac Amaru leader Nestor Cerpa and about 20 followers stormed the mansion on Dec. 17, initially taking more than 500 hostages. They released most within two weeks.

Hashimoto was concerned about increased police maneuvers outside the diplomatic residence that led to shots being fired by the rebels several times, most recently Monday.

Obituaries

Mary Olive Smith

1910-1997

Graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie for Mary Olive Smith, 86.

Mrs. Smith died Wednesday at her Snyder residence after a lengthy illness.

Born on Feb. 17, 1910 in Bowie, she married R.R. Smith on Jan. 1, 1937 in Grandfield, Okla. He died on Nov. 11, 1975.

Mrs. Smith, a homemaker, was reared in Bowie and moved to Snyder from Cisco in 1950.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Glenda Valentine of Snyder; and five grandchildren, Don Valentine of Fort Worth, Mark Valentine of Abilene, Mike Valentine of Fluvanna, Vic Valentine of Abilene and Valerie Young of Florida.

Doug Gibson

1928-1997

LAMESA — Service for Snyder native Doug Gibson will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in the First Assembly of God Church. Burial will follow in the Brownfield Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Home. Mr. Gibson, 68, was a resident of Lamesa.

He died Thursday, Jan. 30, in Methodist Hosptial in Lubbock.

Born on April 22, 1928 in Snyder, he married Flo Moore on June 1, 1946 in Brownfield. He was a past president of the Seagraves Chamber of Commerce and the Seagraves Lions Club. He served on the museum board at Seagraves and Loop, and was a member of the First Assembly of God Church.

Mr. Gibson worked for Gordon Waldrop at the Country Store and previously for Trinity Compress and West Texas Industries in Seagraves, Brownfield, Slaton and O'Donnell.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Judy Gibson, on May 18, 1995.

Survivors include his wife, Flo Gibson of Lamesa; and two sisters, Bersa Harris of Graham and Jean Alexander of Ada, Okla.

Galen Prather

1942-1997

PLAINVIEW — Service for former Snyder resident Galen Wade Prather, 54, of Plainview was set for 2 p.m. today at Wood-Dunning Funeral Home Colonial Chapel. Burial was to follow in Plainview Memorial Park.

Mr. Prather died Wedesday, Jan. 29, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M.

Born on Oct. 3, 1942 in Hobbs, N.M., he married Jo Thomason on Feb. 16, 1990 in Plainview. He graduated from Snyder High School in 1960 and moved to Plainview in 1962. He was a U.S. veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a past member of the Kiwanis Club and a past commander of the American Legion. He was an officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 5399 and American Legion 260. Mr. Prather was an employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Prather of Plainview; a daughter, Belinda Prather-Martin of Clyde; a son, Shawn Prather of Clyde; a stepson, Bobby Gaskin of Plainview; his parents, Raymond and Tommie Prather of Plainview; a brother, Kelton Prather of Mabank; and five grandchildren.

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Yeltsin opposes any constitution changes

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin opposes any changes in the Russian constitution that would make it easier to replace him, his spokesman said Friday.

Several of Yeltsin's political foes have recently called for amendments to the 1993 constitution. The document provides no mechanism for replacing a president unable to carry out his duties, nor does it give Russia a vice president.

Presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky flatly rejected those ideas at a briefing today on behalf of Yeltsin, who is recovering from pneumonia at his country home outside Moscow.

"The president cannot agree to such proposals," he said. "In the opinion of Boris Nikolayevich, the constitution, which is merely three years old, has proven its workability and played the stabilizing role."

Yeltsin thinks Russia should get used to the constitution before considering any amendments, Yastrzhembsky said. "And then, probably, without haste and with a cool head," amendments might be in order, he said.

One of the Communist Party's top ideologists, Anatoly Lukyanov, called this week for a constitutional amendment to create the post of vice president. Alexander Lebed, Yeltsin's ousted security chief and political rival, also complained that the constitution doesn't give Russia a way to deal with an ailing president.

Yastrzhembsky said Yeltsin met with two top officials today: Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and presidential chief of staff Anatoly Chubais.

Yeltsin, who turns 66 on Saturday, is preparing for a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday.

Peace officers handle variety of complaints

Snyder area peace officers filed a report for attempted suicide and made one unrelated arrest Thursday.

Officers also identified the owner of a vehicle involved in an accident Tuesday night.

Snyder EMS responded to a report of an unconscious person at a residence at 5:40 p.m. Thursday. A 29-year-old male was transported to Cogdell Hospital where he was admitted. His condition was listed as good this morning.

An offense report for attempted suicide was submitted.

A 48-year-old male was arrested at 6:40 p.m. at the sheriff's office on two warrants for the issuance of bad checks.

A 1986 Chevrolet Camaro involved in a one-vehicle accident Tuesday night at the intersection of County Road 127 and 1137 has been identified as being registered to Kevin Lacik of Box 271. A Snyder police officer who was trying to locate the vehicle for speeding inside the city limits was also involved in an accident at the same intersection shortly after the Camero wrecked.

Sgt. Brian Haggard was driving a 1996 Ford which overturned. Haggard saw the driver of the Camaro flee into a field, but he has not been located as of this morning and no offense reports have been filed as of yet.

DPS trooper Marquis Cantu said Thursday that the driver could be ticketed for speeding, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to report an accident.

In other activity, a 16-year-old female was listed as a runaway at 9:44 a.m. Thursday. An offense report was submitted.

Jan Curry notified deputies at 4 p.m. that 13 head of cattle had been stolen. An offense report for theft was submitted.

The fire department responded to a report of a grass fire at 5:45 p.m. in FM 1606 and CR 2085.

Officers investigated a minor two-vehicle accident at 3:37 p.m. Thursday in the 3000 block of 37th Street. Involved were a 1988 Ford driven by Lucia Delapaz of 220 31st St. and a 1994 Chevrolet van driven by Carole Haynes, Box 82, Hermleigh.

At 12:40 this morning, officers investigated a one-vehicle accident at 26th Street and Avenue X. Involved were a 1976 Chevrolet pickup belonging to Brad Runnels of 2602 26th St. and a yield sign belonging to the City of Snyder.

What's Up?

Cogdell/county video to air

A video of the commissioners court meeting to discuss a lease proposal concerning Cogdell Memorial Hospital will air at noon Saturday on Channel 2.

Valentine's dance planned

Hermleigh freshman class will sponsor a Valentine's dance from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Towle Park Barn. Admission is $5 per couple, $3 per person. Children K through 6th grade can get in for $1.50.

Order WTC curb logos now

Phi Beta Kappa students from Western Texas College will be painting the WTC logo on curbs Saturday, weather permitting. Donations go to help students attend the state meeting in March. Call Carolyn Osborn at 573-8511, ext. 313, for information.

Grand jury to convene Monday

The Scurry County grand jury will convene at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court. Some six or seven cases will be considered.

Weather alert sirens

Snyder Fire Department will be testing the weather alert sirens at noon Monday, weather permitting.

Bible study video tapes

Bible study video tapes are airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. They are followed by a new series titled The Story of the Bible. The program continues at 7 p.m. Monday. The next tape is "Why I Know Christianity Is True," followed by lesson three in The Story of the Bible: "The Son."

Fair board meets Monday

Scurry County Fair board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the chamber of commerce.

DPS cites new regulations

Effective Monday, persons applying for or renewing driver's licenses will have to show proof of their Social Security numbers. Proof required is the card issued by the Social Security Administration, payroll or employment records and income tax documents. Facsimilies and metal flea market-type identification cards will not be accepted.

Grief support group

The grief support group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Chili supper planned

New York bound choir students are selling tickets for a chili supper to be held Tuesday in the high school cafeteria. Tickets for the all-you-can-eat meal are $5.

Senior Swimnastics

Senior Swimnastics is held each Tuesday and Thursday at the Western Texas College pool from 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Circus tickets being sold

Representatives from Circus Gatti will be contacting local residents offering tickets to the circus, which will held at Scurry County Coliseum on Feb. 18. Scurry County Sheriff's Posse is sponsoring the event.

Scurry Youth Center

Scurry Youth Center, located at the Boys & Girls Club, is open Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 until 11. To participate, you must have a current Boys & Girls Club membership or pay $1 admission.

SNS needs financial help

Snyder Neighbors Sharing, which repairs homes of persons over 65 or disabled, is in need of donations for the April 26 workday. Donations can be mailed to SNS, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, or dropped off at Sam Robertson's Insurance or the West Elementary School office.

Central Elementary yearbooks

Central Elementary is selling yearbooks for $6. Orders will be taken until Monday.

Adult education classes

GED and ESL classes are available at Western Texas College. Times are 8-11 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact the college continuing education department for more information.

Tiger baseball fund-raiser

Chances for a $500 trip certificate from Premier Travel will be sold for $2 each by Snyder baseball players, with a drawing set for 1 p.m. March 1. Proceeds will be used to purchase baseball equipment and help with travel expenses. Contact any high school baseball player for tickets, or call 573-3155, 573-7145, 573-7437 or 573-3298.

Pick 3

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

8-3-0

(eight, three, zero)

Cash 5

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-31-35-39.

Number matching five of five: one.

Prize per winnner: $158,320.

Winning ticket sold in: Andrews.

Matching four of five: 376. Prize: $632.

Matching three of five: 14,372. Prize: $27.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.