Whitewater...

GOP urges Senate to challenge Clinton in court

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a single roadblock keeping the White House from releasing disputed Whitewater notes, Republicans urged the Senate today to challenge President Clinton in court, saying his claims of attorney-client privilege are "very, very doubtful."

"We have made every reasonable effort to settle this matter," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., Clinton's chief antagonist, told his colleagues in the Senate. "I find the conduct of the White House to be absolutely one based upon delay and obfuscation."

If the Senate, which Republicans control 53-46, approves the Whitewater Committee's request for legal action, Senate lawyers could initiate civil action against Clinton in federal court, dramatically escalating the dispute.

Before the debate started, the White House dropped another of its conditions for turning over the notes and pleaded with D'Amato, the Senate Whitewater committee chairman, to help it remove the final roadblock.

In a last-minute letter, presidential lawyers asked D'Amato to help it secure an agreement with House Republicans to ensure they would recognize Clinton was not waiving his attorney-client privilege if he turned over the notes.

Whitewater prosecutors and the Senate panel, which both have subpoenaed the notes, have accepted those terms. But key House Republicans rejected the offer Tuesday and showed no sign of budging.

The White House agreed to drop a second condition blocking release of the notes, saying it would no longer insist that senators would have to acknowledge Clinton has asserted a "reasonable claim of privilege" before getting the notes.

D'Amato this morning contacted House Banking Committee Chairman Jim Leach, who again reiterated his refusal to agree to the White House terms.

"If we are given documents at any time, we will cease and suspend" the march toward a court battle, D'Amato said. But otherwise, D'Amato said, a court challenge would likely show Clinton's claim of privilege was "very, very doubtful."

The escalating dispute began earlier this month when Clinton refused to allow former White House aide William Kennedy to turn over notes Kennedy took during a Nov. 5, 1993, meeting on Whitewater between the Clinton's private lawyers and White House aides. The president claimed the notes were protected by attorney-client privilege.

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WT-Int. Crude - $19.13

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 20, 1995
Vol. 46 No. 196
12 Pages 50¢

Home Of Missy Doty

2 men indicted in arson death

ROTAN — The operator of a store consumed by an October fire and the nephew of a man killed while attempting to put it out were indicted Tuesday by a 32nd District Court grand jury.

Henry Livingston "Hank" Day, operator of the former H.L. Davis & Co. department store, and Dale Wayne Eaton, were indicted for "arson resulting in death."

Eaton 33, is the nephew of Louis Earl Eaton, who was killed while trying to help firemen fight the fire, which occurred in the early morning hours of Oct. 17 in downtown Rotan.

Also destroyed were two adjoining businesses, Hometown Cleaners and the Casa Morales Restaurant.

Investigators said the fire started in the department store at about 1:30 a.m.

The H.L. Davis & Co. store was opened in 1937 and owned by the founder's daughter and her husband, Elaine and Bill Day. Their son, Hank Day, was the store's operator at the time of the fire, officials said.

Day, 42, was arrested in Fisher County Tuesday afternoon by Texas Ranger John Billings of Snyder and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Jamie Lopez of Lubbock. Day is being held in Fisher County Jail.

Eaton is the Lubbock County Jail, where he was already in custody for failure to appear in court on federal drug and weapons charges.

Bond for each man was set at $100,000.

Frank Conard, district attorney for the 32nd District, said additional indictments may be filed, but noted that Day and Eaton are the key suspects in the case. Conard said it is possible the fire was set to obtain insurance money.

A federal grand jury was meeting today in Amarillo to consider indictments against the two men, and perhaps others. The grand jury reportedly is looking into drug conspiracy charges and mail fraud. However, neither Conard nor officials with Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Mateja's office in Lubbock would comment on the possible indictments this morning,

See Arson, Page 12

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - Doug Foster, Hermleigh area committeeman for the Farm Service Agency, serves Cleon Fulford during open house at the FSA Tuesday. Also shown are Ray Fulford and Joe Hefner, right, county executive of the agency. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A confident husband is one who didn't give her a present because he gave her such a fine past."

Better enjoy the holiday season. Even grumpy people are pleasant this week.

Before long, TV will be lousy again and we'll be bombarded with weight-loss and diet commercials. And don't forget about Ed McMahon and his promise of million dollar prizes.

Just as soon as the Christmas decorations are back in storage, you can count on the mail box being filled with contest offers.

We've watched Christmas advertising this season, and we're certain about one thing — many consumers will either have to win a sweepstakes or the lottery by March.

In the past everyone dreaded April because of income tax deadline. The way we figure it, some folks will need lots of cash by March. It's those who bought on those "no payment 'til March" plans.

In a local store the other day, a kid about five was running up and down the aisles yelling, "Shirley, Shirley, Shirley."

About that time, a woman grabbed the kid and said, "Don't you know it's not polite to call your mother by her first name?"

The kid explained, "I tried screaming 'mommy' and every woman in the store came and stared at me."

Some kids believe Santa can do anything.

We recall the story about a little girl who told Santa she was getting a baby brother for Christmas. Mom had used the approaching event to do a little teaching about the birds and the bees. To everyone's delight, mom came home from the hospital on Christmas Eve with a baby boy in her arms.

A little later, the father asked his daughter, "And next Christmas, what would you like?"

After some thought the little girl said, "If it wouldn't be too uncomfortable for Mom, I'd like a pony."

Lighting contest winners selected

Some 13 entrants in the annual Chamber of Commerce Goldcoats' Christmas lighting contest were judged Tuesday night and the home of Frank Ortegon, 1203 Ave. O, received the first place award.

Second place went to the home of Jim and Carrie Richardson, 5402 Cedar Creek.

There was a tie for third place between the home of Joe and Diane Arnold, 4501 Galveston, and the home of James and Joni Wenetschlaeger, 5502 Cedar Creek.

CMH board set to convene

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday to consider routine business.

Agenda items include:

—Medical staff report;

—November financial report

—Approval of accounts payable;

—Nursing report;

—Department report;

—And approval of previous minutes.

Trucking delay upsets Mexican officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government's decision to delay implementation of North American Free Trade Agreement rules giving Mexican cargo trucks new access to the U.S. interior is being protested by the Mexican government.

The tensions over trucking mark the first substantive NAFTA-related flare-up between the two countries since the trade pact took effect in 1994.

Mexico's secretary of communications and transportation, Carlos Ruiz Sacristan, said Tuesday he would ask the United States to comply with the NAFTA provisions.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena on Monday announced a delay in rules due to take effect that day allowing certified Mexican trucks access to the interior of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Mexican carriers retain their ability to travel freely in a narrow commercial zone ranging up to 20 miles from the border.

Ruiz disputed Pena's explanation that delay is necessary to allow both governments to work out unresolved issues over trucking safety and inspections.

"In the case of Mexico, all of the required work on standards and regulations has been done and we are ready for this opening," Ruiz told reporters in Hidalgo state, where he accompanied President Ernesto Zedillo.

Pena said Monday that the delay would remain in effect pending completion of new talks between both governments. Those talks reportedly began today in Dallas.

Commissioners to take up three items tabled Monday

Scurry County commissioners will take another look at three items that were tabled from their Monday meeting when they meet Thursday at 10 a.m.

Faced with a dramatic increase in liability limits in the county's self-insurance program, the court is looking at full insurance coverage from an outside source for the first time in 10 years.

This year, the maximum the county is liable for is $760,000 while the figures presented Monday indicated the county's liabilty could go as high as $1.1 million next year.

The cost of a fully-insured program would be around $800,000, said County Judge Ricky Fritz.

The court will also consider appointments to several county boards, including two vacancies which will occur on the Cogdell Hospital board of managers.

The terms of Bill Wilson III and G.A. Parks Jr. are expiring.

On the Board of County Development, the terms of Max von Roeder, Pete Hester and Mark McCormick are expiring.

Also, the terms of Roger Blackard and Dub Buchanan are expiring on the airport board. Blackard resigned from the board earlier in the year.

The term of Daisy Lewis is expiring on the county welfare board.

Three positions expire on the library board. They are Eleanor M. O'Banion, Nona Williams and Jean Smith.

Dale Stuard's position on the veterans land board is also expiring.

ASK US

Q—Why didn't the college board take up the question of bonuses for clerical staff this month? A request was made at the November meeting.

A—The college board is not meeting this month. However, the request is expected to appear on the January agenda.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 49 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. reading Wednesday, 27; no precipitation; total for 1995, 19.22 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, fair. Low, lower 30s. Light wind. Thursday, becoming mostly cloudy. High, upper 40s. S wind 5-15 mph.

Sunset: 5:44 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.

Of 353 days in 1995, the sun has shone 337 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

A truthful witness saves lives, but he who speaks lies is treacherous.

Proverbs 14:25

days until Christmas

DEC 20 1995

Hutchison suggests perfect Christmas gift for Gramm

AUSTIN (AP) — Ho! Ho! Ho! Send Phil Gramm some dough!

That's the cheery holiday message from U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who has mailed thousands of Christmas-themed fund-raising letters to constituents, friends and contributors on behalf of fellow Texas Republican U.S. Sen. Gramm.

He's running simultaneously for re-election and for president.

Mrs. Hutchison's letter includes a holiday card and a stamped envelope for contributors to relay their greetings and their cash to help send Gramm to the White House.

"The holiday season is a special time for families and I know Wendy (Gramm) and Phil are looking forward to their sons, Marshall and Jeff, coming home from college for the holidays and spending some precious time together away from the campaign trail," the letter says, according to a story in the Austin American-Statesman. "I hope you will let them know your prayers are with them this holiday season by signing and sending back your personal holiday greeting card today.

"A check for $500 would be great. But $750 would be even better," the letter adds.

Gramm's campaign office, which came up with the idea and the letter, says it has generated a lot of response.

"It has been extremely successful," said Gramm spokesman Gary Koops, who declined to say how successful.

Missi Tessier, Mrs. Hutchison's spokeswoman, said her boss was happy to help Gramm's effort.

"The senator did not think there was anything unusual about the cards and she was happy to do it," Ms. Tessier said.

But veteran Texas political consultant Bill Miller, who works for Democratic and Republican candidates, says it's the first time he's heard of a Christmas card approach to fund raising.

"I have heard of the wife making a pitch, the end-of-campaign pitch, the we-need-to-buy-TV-time pitch, but I have never heard of a Christmas pitch," he said. "If she does this for Christmas, God knows what she is going to do for Easter."

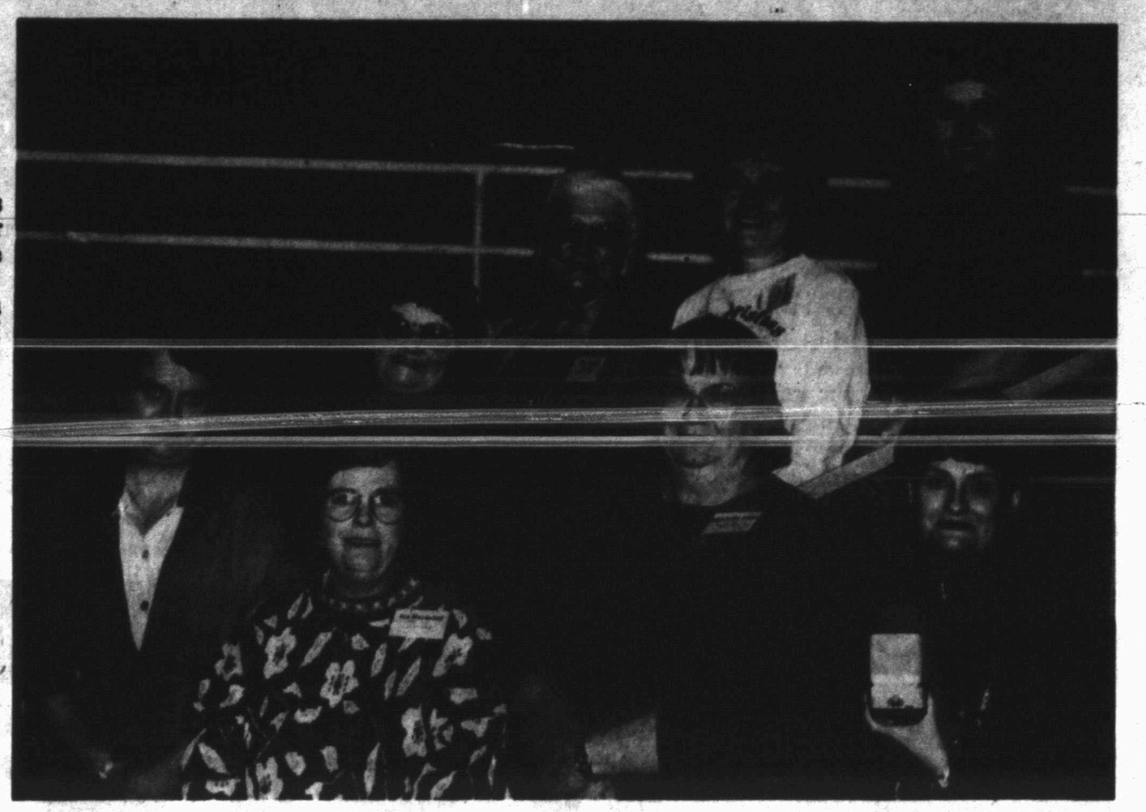
While the idea backs a Republican candidate, Democratic consultant George Christian says it's fair tactics.

"The name of the games is to attract attention, and that means finding new angles," he said.

Republican consultant Randy Erben adds: "If it works, more power to them."

"There's no place like Home for the Holidays"
COUNTRYPLACE
Invites to Attend
a Book Signing of
Baxter Badger's Home
By Doris McClellan
of Colorado City
Saturday, December 23,
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
While You're Christmas Shopping
Come In An Meet Doris McClellan and See
Her New Recently Published Book
1213 College Ave. Snyder, Texas 915 573-1817

Pizza Inn
Buffet Special
Saturday 11:00-2:00
3.75 Includes Drink
Saturday Night - 5-10 p.m.
Family Special
Large 2 Topping, 4 Drinks
Only 10.99 Dine In Only
Free Delivery
908 East Hwy. 573-3542



SERVICE AWARDS — Receiving service awards at the recent Cogdell Memorial Hospital's annual Christmas awards banquet were, from left, front row, Iva Haywood, manager CS/purchasing, 10 years; Charlotte Erwin, RN, hospital education coordinator, 10 years; Bonnie Carroll, RN, Long-term Care, 15 years; back row, Sherry Early, LVN, ICU/CCU, 5 years; Melba McNeil, LVN, home health, 5 years; Mae Cole, , PBX operator/relief admitting clerk, 10 years; Nelda Colvin, cashier, general accounting, 10 years; and Teresa Graves, RN, director of nursing services, 10 years. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

CLASS OFFICERS — Snyder High School freshmen elected officers recently. They include, from left, Brett Gibson, president; K.K. McClain, vice president; Alicia Peoples, secretary; and Staria Davis, treasurer. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Remember how
her eyes lit up when
she unwrapped
her new
bathroom scale
last year?
No?
This year will be different.
$19 or two months free!
Choose either a great price on a great phone or two months of free service access.
CELLULARONE®
Wherever you go, there you are. And so are we.
235-0300
Service offer valid for two months' free service access. Airtime not included. Ends soon and some restrictions apply, so call now for details.

Man sentenced to 9½ years

MIAMI (AP) — A man who killed a puppy because its barking woke him up was sentenced Tuesday to 9½ years in prison.

Allan Laboy "showed total disregard for life" when he slammed the 2-month-old puppy's head on a sidewalk on Aug. 4, 1994, Circuit Judge Stanford Blake said.

Laboy, 37, was deemed an habitual offender and sentenced to five years for cruelty to animals, a third-degree felony. He must also serve 4½ years for violating his probation for burglary and other crimes. He was ordered to serve the sentences consecutively.

Laboy was convicted last month. Blake said he had received letters from around the country urging a stiff sentence for Laboy. He faced up to 14½ years.

Laboy blamed cocaine and alcohol for his actions.

"I would like you to forgive me for what I did. I was sick and I was smoking," he told the judge.

His attorney, Alejandro Zamora, said Laboy needed drug treatment, not a lengthy prison term. He said he would appeal.

A man who can rightly and truly enjoy his existence is absolutely and almost divinely perfect.

—Montaigne

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Lizard Ropers
Black * Cognac
$209.95

Date Book

Dec. 20, 1995

Today is the 354th day of 1995 and the 89th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1879, inventor Thomas Edison first demonstrated the incandescent lamp.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harvey S. Firestone (1868-1938), industrialist; George Roy Hill (1922-), director, is 73; Bo Diddley (1928-), singer-guitarist, is 67; Billy Bragg (1957-), singer, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1946, Sugar Ray Robinson won the world welterweight boxing title.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." — Thomas Edison

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1942, the temperature in Boston dropped to minus 11.

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

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 15) and new moon (Dec. 22).

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Earth Tip: Twenty-seven million acres of tropical rainforest are destroyed every year. Despite the fact that the rainforests are home to about 1/4 of modern pharmaceuticals and 1/2 of the world's plant, animal and insect species, they are being depleted for the short term gains sought by ranchers and others. Support organizations such as the Rainforest Action Network and avoid tropical hardwoods.

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BIG NATE'S SECRET SANTA by Lincoln Peirce

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Pacemaker treats irregular heartbeat

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is sick sinus syndrome? Why does it cause rapid heartbeat? Is there a cure?

DEAR READER: The heartbeat is initiated, maintained and regulated by the sino-atrial node, a tiny bundle of nerves that lies buried in cardiac muscle. The SA node is responsible for a slow pulse (when we are resting) or a rapid pulse (when we exercise or are upset).

Often, as a person ages and circulation to cardiac muscle diminishes, the SA node is deprived of oxygen. As a consequence, it malfunctions, leading to a pulse variation that alternates between being too slow (in the 30s and 40s) and too fast (above 120).

This common situation often leads to fainting, heart attack, heart failure, and other complications, known to doctors as "sick sinus syndrome." The abnormality is usually diagnosed by an electrocardiogram (heart wave test).

Although some cases of sick sinus syndrome respond to cardiac drugs, such as nitroglycerine, the majority are usually treated with an implantable pacemaker. This electronic device consists of a lead wire (inserted into the heart through a vein), connected to a small computer powered by a battery (which is implanted beneath the skin of the chest).

The computer is programmed to fire a small electrical charge if the pulse rate drops below a certain limit, thereby stimulating the heart muscle to contract, which prevents a dangerously slow pulse.

To counteract the tendency to an overly rapid pulse, physicians usually prescribe drugs, such as calcium channel blockers. Thus, the heart rate is maintained in a more natural, physiological range — and the complications I mentioned are avoided.

Patients with sick sinus syndrome should be under the care of cardiologists, because the pacemaker computer and battery need periodic checking, and close attention must be paid to the dose of cardiac drugs.

To give you more information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Understanding Heart Disease." 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.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Will six to eight glasses of juice or Kool Aid per day do the same thing for you as six to eight glasses of water?

DEAR READER: No, Kool Aid and juice will do more because they contain sugar and minerals.

If you're simply thirsty, drink water. If you're overweight, avoid the extra calories in Kool Aid. If you exercise strenuously and sweat profusely, you may need the additional nutrients in Kool Aid or juice.

The bottom line is: Juice is good — it's natural; Kool Aid is basically flavored sugar water with few healthful benefits; use water for routine fluid replacement.

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Mistakes win lotto millions

AUSTIN (AP) — Don't try telling Allen Williams of Baytown two wrongs don't make a right.

He made two mistakes while picking his numbers for the Nov. 11 Lotto Texas drawing. They made him a millionaire.

Two numbers he picked were — he thought — the ages of two of his five children.

"I didn't have my glasses on, so I penciled in the numbers I thought were the ages of my kids," said Williams, who on Tuesday claimed the first installment of his $9.5 million winnings. "Thank God I made a mistake."

Williams, who works at a chemical plant, said he saw the winning numbers written on a co-workers' napkin — 5, 13, 19, 21, 44 and 49.

"I knew what my numbers were, or so I thought, but then when I saw that some of the ones on the napkin were off from mine by just one, I thought maybe I'd won four of six," Williams said.

"When I pulled the ticket out of my wallet, I realized I'd won, but I didn't say anything to anyone until I got home and told my wife," he said.

Williams, one of two winners for the $19 million jackpot, said he waited weeks to claim it because he carefully selected a lawyer and other professionals to advise him. Mark Jacobi of Bedford claimed his half Nov. 17.

The first installment picked up by Williams and his family amounted to $476,673.72. The remaining 19 installment payments of $475,500 each will be paid every Nov. 15 for 19 years.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; Country Club; noon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Happy 20th Anniversary
Tom & Joni Gonzales
1975-1995
Ira, Josh, and Bianca

Movie stunt ends in tragedy: one killed and four injured

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — A boat used in the filming of a crash scene in a Disney comedy missed its mark and sent two boats smashing into a crowd of extras, killing a stuntwoman.

Janet Wilder, 29, of Los Angeles died at the scene. Four other people, including her husband, Scott, were injured.

Lar Gregory, a spokesman for the Florida Marine Patrol, said Mrs. Wilder "tried to dive out of the way, but the boat struck her."

Scott Wilder, who was holding his wife's hand at the time of the Tuesday's accident, was among the four who were treated at a hospital and released. Also injured were Scott's father, Glenn Wilder; Tony Brubaker, who was Danny Glover's stunt double; and Roy Farfel, all of Los Angeles.

The boats crashed onto the swampy, southwestern Florida set of "Gone Fishin'," which stars Joe Pesci and Danny Glover. Neither actor was injured.

A day earlier, the crew had filmed the aftermath of the boat scene, in which the boat cleared the mangroves and crashed into a bandstand area where a bathing suit contest was being held, said Gary Beyrent, a movie extra.

Director Christopher Kane had said Monday that he didn't like the way the stunt came out: that the boat wasn't going fast enough, "so tomorrow it will probably go too fast and go further than we expected."

"It's not an exact science," he said after Monday's filming.

Jorge Aguilera, spokesman for Collier County emergency medical services, said he thought "a gust of wind blew it (the boat) off course and that's hard to predict."

Judge eases order

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The judge who ordered a teenager shackled to her mother for a month to keep her out of trouble decided to make the arrangement more comfortable for both.

Family Court Judge Wayne Creech ruled that 15-year-old Tonya Kline may be connected to her mother by a nylon belt around her waist that is attached to a strap instead of by the traditional prisoner's shackles. And he said the girl's mother, Deborah Harter, may opt to share the 24-hour responsibility of watching Tonya with Mrs. Harter's husband, Richard.

Tonya's attorney, Kevin Kearse, said he filed a motion Friday asking Creech to reconsider his Dec. 7 sentence.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

NORTH 12-20-95
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ 7 5 4 3
♣ A 10 3

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

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ A K J 8
♦ J 10 9
♣ 7 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 9 8 7
♥ 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ J 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Don't misstep early

By Phillip Alder

In a letter written in 1763, Marie de Vichy-Chamrond, Marquise du Defland, claimed, "The first step is the hardest." Obviously she never ran a marathon, when the first step is the easiest. But in bridge it is true that more mistakes are made at the first trick than at any other single trick.

With that big hint, you should find today's deal easy. How would you plan the play in four spades after West leads the club king?

I never know when it is better to raise to three no-trump with a South hand like that. If the major were a minor, it would be automatic. But when you have that good a major, you worry about looking silly watching the opponents run the hearts or clubs when you had 10 tricks in spades. Here, three no-trump cruises home and four spades needs careful handling.

Assuming the missing spades aren't breaking 4-0, you have nine top tricks: seven spades, one diamond and one club. The simple approach is to win the first trick with dummy's club ace and take the diamond finesse. However, finesses work much less than 50 percent of the time in bridge columns.

It is preferable to assume that West has the club queen to back up his king lead. Play low from the dummy and unblock your jack. Either now or later, depending on West's lead at trick two, finesse dummy's club 10 and cash the ace as your 10th trick.

Actually, the last step of a marathon normally isn't the hardest. That comes some paces earlier.

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

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By Charles Anderson
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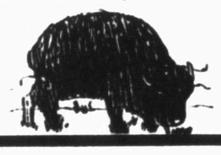
By Charles Anderson
From Buffalo to Oil, A History of Scurry County
Texas Historical Award Best Book Of 1984 By Hooper Shelton
1973 Billionth Barrel of Oil Collector Plates

All are limited in number...Other books available

Write: Scurry County Books
2903 32nd Street, Snyder, Texas 79549



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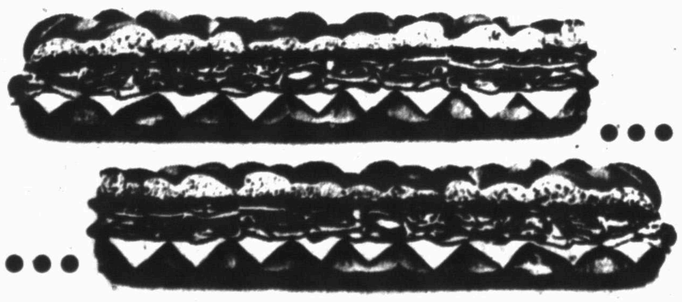

Holiday time is party time. With a Subway Party Sub or Party Platter. You tell us how long you want your Party Sub — and we'll make it. And we'll stuff your Party Platter with your favorite subs — sliced in tasty 4" portions. Call today. And start your holiday off on the right foot.

3903 College Ave. 573-9782
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SUBWAY

During this week just 'fore Christmas

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

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

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

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

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK

Comics Page

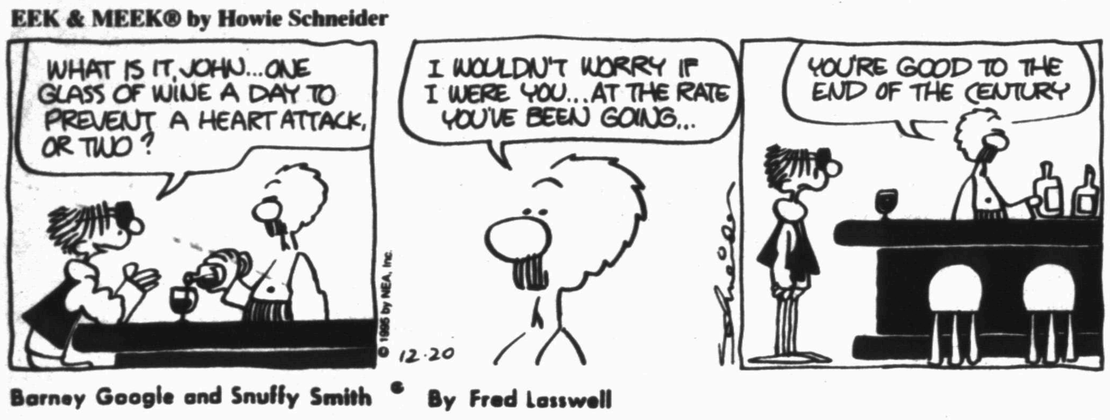
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRANK & ERNEST by Bob Thaves

THE BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom

ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Composed
7 Sounds
13 Not performed
14 Not ready for eating
15 Accountant, at times
16 Spruce up
17 Fem. holy ones
18 Roman 2,100
20 Necessity
21 City on the Seine
23 Cone-shaped shelter
27 High-protein food
32 — — ease
33 Feudal subject
34 Not firm
35 Low-lying areas
36 Became a contestant
39 Up to this point (2 wds.)
40 Mark
42 Fictional captain
46 Brit. Navy abbr.
47 At the drop of — —
51 Not at all
53 Rounded lump
55 Pottery clay
56 Birth
57 Actress Dahl
58 Past and future

DOWN

1 Taverns
2 Step — —! (move)
3 Unused
4 Hurok and namesakes
5 Chemical suffix
6 Skin layer
7 Pope's representative
8 First number
9 Oil exporter
10 Location
11 Fencing sword
12 Mall
19 Woman's title
21 Actress Bernadette —
22 Wooded
23 Vinyl square
24 N. C. college
25 Story line
26 Facilitate
28 Slant
29 Slippery
30 To one side
31 Robin's home
37 Fruit ripener
38 Beavers' construction
41 ... — — love a Hercules
42 Singer Paul —
43 White frost
44 M.P.'s problem
45 Liver fluid
47 Tennis term (2 wds.)
48 Clasps
49 I cannot tell — —
50 Playing cards
52 Offense
54 Crude metal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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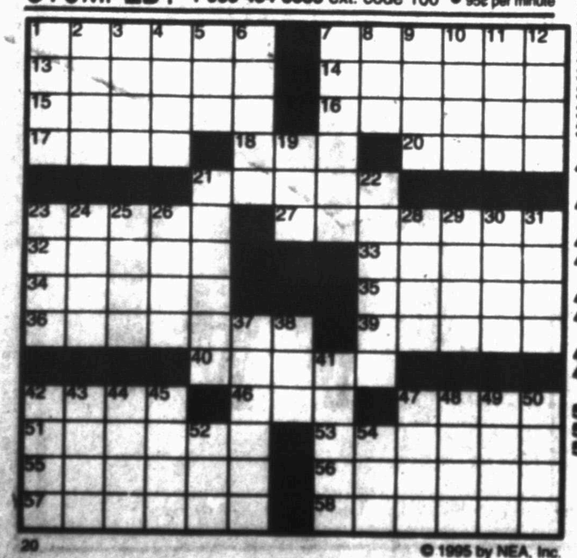

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

"Anything except clothes."

BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie

"We had to get a new car anyway. Let's make the neighbors jealous thinking it's a Christmas present!"

"I DON'T HAVE TO BE A GOOD BOY FOR THE TOOTH FAIRY, AND HE STILL COMES THROUGH!"

SPORTS

NBA AT A GLANCE

By The Associated Press
National Basketball Association
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
NewYork	18	6	.750	—
Orlando	18	6	.750	—
Miami	12	10	.545	5
Washington	12	10	.545	5
Boston	11	11	.500	6
NewJersey	9	12	.429	7½
Philadelphia	4	17	.190	12½
Central Division				
Chicago	21	2	.913	—
Indiana	11	10	.524	9
Cleveland	12	11	.522	9
Atlanta	11	12	.478	10
Charlotte	11	14	.440	11
Detroit	10	13	.435	11
Milwaukee	7	14	.333	13
Toronto	8	18	.308	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	18	6	.750	—
Utah	16	7	.696	1½
SanAntonio	14	7	.667	2½
Denver	10	12	.455	7
Dallas	7	15	.318	10
Minnesota	6	15	.286	10½
Vancouver	4	21	.160	14½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	15	7	.682	—
Seattle	15	8	.652	½
L.A.Lakers	13	12	.520	3½
Portland	11	12	.478	4½
Phoenix	9	12	.429	5½
GoldenState	9	14	.391	6½
L.A.Clippers	8	16	.333	8

Monday's Games
Chicago 123, Boston 114
Utah 110, New Jersey 103
Sacramento 92, Vancouver 85

Tuesday's Games
Detroit 94, Toronto 82
New York 89, Miami 70
Cleveland 100, Minnesota 95
Houston 103, Phoenix 96
Chicago 114, Dallas 101
San Antonio 111, Portland 103
L.A. Lakers 109, Milwaukee 105
Vancouver 94, Seattle 93
Washington 108, L.A. Clippers 104
Golden State 102, Charlotte 99

Wednesday's Games
Miami at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.
Washington at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

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

BOWLING NEWS

Wishball
League Standings as of 12/14/95

Team	Won	Losts
J.W.W.	112½	70½
Snyder Golf Shop	99	83
Superiors	91	91
The Shack	89½	92½
Blue Sunoco	78½	103½
Melco	75½	107½

High Series Scratch: David Carroll 563.
High Series Handicap: Jimmy Wilson 223.
High Game Scratch: Rick Mammolite 203.
High Game Handicap: Mark Glasscock 613.
200 Games: David Carroll 200, Rick Mammolite 203.
500 Series: David Carroll 563, Rick Mammolite 503, Mark Glasscock 511.

Jack-N-Jill
League Standings as of 12/13/95

Team	Won	Lost
M.B.'s Beauty Shop	37	19
"The Rose" Barber Shop	34	22
Arrow Construction	33½	22½
First American	32	24
E.S.P.	30½	25½
Holcomb	29	19
KSNY	28	28
Western Auto	27	29
Misfits	27	29
Larry's Service Center	26	26
VFW	25	31
The Sweet's Shop	20	36
Farmers Helper(Rotan)	20	36
Mesquite Oil	19	37

Team High Series: E.S.P. 2515, Farmers Helpers 2357, Misfits 2333.
Team High Game: E.S.P. 877, Farmers Helpers 842, "The Rose" Barber Shop 830.
Individual High Series (Men): Lynn Smith 548, Bo Lowrance 528, Billy Hicks 517.
Individual High Game (Men): Lynn Smith 214, Billy Hicks 211, Aubrey Jones 202..
Individual High Series (Women): Grace Beauchamp 560, Bernie Sealy 546, Jenny Rainwater 534.
Individual High Game (Women): Bernie Sealy 199, Grace Beauchamp 191, Jenny Rainwater & Dot Matthews 189.
500 Series: Grace Beauchamp 560, Lynn Smith 548, Bernie Sealy 546, Jenny Rainwater 534, Bo Lowrance 528, Billy Hicks 517, Dot Matthews 516, Dana Stone 501.
200 Games: Lynn Smith 214, Billy Hicks 211, Dana Stone 208, Aubrey Jones 202.
Splits Converted: Bernie Sealy 2-7, Mark Thompson 2-7, Grace Beauchamp 3-10, Lynn Smith 5-6-10, Kary Moses 5-8-10, Helem Kellner 3-6-7-8-10 & 3-10, Setsoko Jones 4-7-9, Debra Beall 2-5, Roger Batchelor 2-7-8 & 3-10.

Men's Commercial
League Standings as of 12/12/95

Team	Won	Losts
Bar H Bar	175½	125½
Stephen's Office	170½	130½
Eddins-Walcher	164½	135½
Sonic	153	147
Levens Gas & Oil	151½	149½
McDonald's	149½	150½
WTP Energy	146½	154½
Forfeit	91	209

High Series Scratch: Lynn Smith 568.
High Series Handicap: J.C. Harrison 634.
High Game Scratch: Gary Kinder 216.
High Game Handicap: Jerry Jackson 234.
Splits: Mike McLeod 4-5, J.C. Harrison 3-10.

FISHIN' REPORT

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear; 2 feet low; 45 degrees; black bass are fair on minnows and various jigs; white bass are fair on slabs and live bait; catfish are fair to good on live and cut bait.

BAYLOR: Water clear; lake full; 45 degrees; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky; 5 feet low; 51 degrees; very few fishermen out.

FRYER: Water clear; 3 feet low; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 4 inches low; 58 degrees; black bass to 3½ pounds are fair on worms and spinner baits fished in 2 to 12 feet of water; striped bass are fair on slabs fished in 30 feet of water; white bass are fair on small jigs fished under the lights at night; crappie are fair on minnows fished over brush piles; catfish are good over baited holes.

GREENBELT: Water clear; low; 52 degrees; black bass are slow to fair; white bass are fair on spoons; walleye are fair on live bait and Bottom Bouncers.

KEMP: Water clear; lake full; 53 degrees; very few fishermen out.

MEREDITH: Water fairly clear; normal level; 50 degrees; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

OAK CREEK: Water clear; 6½ feet low; 53 degrees; black bass to 5 pounds are fair on worms; white bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish to 2 pounds are good on chicken liver and shrimp.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear on main lake, murky in upper end and tributaries; 50 degrees; black bass are fair on crank baits, spinners and dark worms; smallmouth are fair to good on crank baits fished in rocky areas; white bass are slow to fair on slabs; crappie are fair on minnows fished in 20 to 40 feet of water over brush; channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp, worms and cut bait fished in the rivers; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 1 foot low; 52 degrees; black bass are slow and small on Power Worms; striped bass are fair on Sassy Shads on a lead-headed jigs and on live bait fished under the gulls on the upper part of the lake; white bass are running with the stripers; crappie are slow on minnows; catfish are fair on cut and live bait on trotline fished on the upper part of the lake.

PROCTOR: Water clear; lake full; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

SPENCE: Water clear; low; cold; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear; low; cold; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear; low; cold; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

Unbeaten Red Raiders off to best basketball start in 38 years

LUBBOCK (AP) — Koy Smith and three fellow seniors on the Texas Tech starting lineup have brought the Red Raider basketball team its best start in 38 years.

Smith leads Tech in scoring at 18.3 points per game. The 6-5 guard from Hale Center leads the Southwest Conference in 3-pointers, hitting 23 of 62 attempts (37.1 percent).

"We can play with just about anybody in the country if we just come out and play every game," Smith said Tuesday. "The Top 25, it means something to get up in there, but if we don't get up in there it makes us work even harder."

The Red Raiders (6-0) are averaging a SWC-best 89 points and 48.2 rebounds.

Yet they point out that the duration of their winning streak hinges on better shooting percentages, free throws and turnovers.

"It's tough. Everyone sees the six wins and no losses and so automatically they think everything's going hunky-dory," said Darvin Ham, a 6-7 senior forward.

"But that's not the case," Ham said. "As a team, we know what we have to do and we know there's a lot of ground we need to make up before conference starts."

Koy Smith

Ham had 15 points and 10 rebounds Monday in Tech's 89-84 victory over Old Dominion. Smith added 16 points.

Other than Oklahoma, the schedule hasn't been fearsome. The other victories came against Prairie View, Arkansas-Little Rock, Southwest Missouri State and Nicholls State.

But the 6-0 start gives the Red Raiders momentum going into their matchup Friday at home against Brigham Young (5-2). Tech has won 21 straight games on its home court at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

"We just aim to go out, have fun, play a good game, play up to our capability ... things have been working out for us so far," Ham said.

Other seniors on the starting lineup are forward Jason Sasser and guard Jason Martin. Sophomore Tony Battie also starts.

Coach James Dickey said his team is more mature than the group that tied Texas for the SWC title last year but failed to draw a bid to the NCAA tournament. Players need to work on managing time and momentum, he said.

"We're going to make mistakes simply because our guys are going to run hard. We're going to give them some freedom to create," Dickey said. "But we've got to eliminate the careless turnover."

Texas NBA roundup

San Antonio wins

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs got back to work against the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Spurs used a methodical attack to claim a 111-103 victory Tuesday night at the Alamodome.

"We just rolled up our sleeves and went at it," San Antonio coach Bob Hill said. "It wasn't a pretty game, but it was a good one because of the way we came back. We struggled early, but made some big plays when we needed them."

David Robinson scored 31 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, to direct the Spurs to their third straight victory.

"I'm proud of the way we played in the fourth quarter," Hill said. "We toughed it out. It was a big win for us."

The Trail Blazers' continuing woes from the foul line played a big part in their third straight loss.

Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo has seen his team struggle from the foul line all season long. The Trail Blazers are on a pace to set a league record for worst foul shooting by a team.

Mavricks lose

CHICAGO (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks were without Jason Kidd, without Jamal Mashburn and without any real chance of beating basketball's best team.

And yet there they were Tuesday night, within a point of the mighty Chicago Bulls at the five-minute mark of the third quarter.

Then the Bulls turned their full-court press up a notch and Michael Jordan scored six points in 1½ minutes. By the end of the period, Chicago was cruising toward a 114-101 victory, its 11th win in a row.

"We knew that without Jason, they were going to come after us," Dallas coach Dick Motta said, "but we just didn't follow directions very well, didn't follow the game plan."

Jordan finished with 32 points, the first time in three games that Scottie Pippen didn't lead the Bulls in scoring. Pippen had only 13 points in 29 minutes and didn't play the final 13:35.

"He deserved a night off," Jordan said after the Bulls improved to 21-2 overall and 11-0 at home.

Is "Buddy Ball" in trouble?

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Even if the Arizona Cardinals pull out a Christmas miracle for their dwindling group of fans by beating Dallas, coach Buddy Ryan will be saddled with the worst record of his coaching career.

Ryan said he isn't worrying about getting fired, though.

He said Tuesday he's only looked beyond the Cowboys long enough to make out his 1996 wish list for free agency and the draft.

"I know the players I'd like to have, and I hope to get them," Ryan said. "I don't know about the draft yet, but I will by the time it gets here. The main thing we've got to do is get Swannie (Eric Swann) signed, get Aeneas Williams signed, then go to the draft."

The Cowboys make their annual visit to Sun Devil Stadium for a Monday night game, the Cardinals' first since their Sept. 12, 1988, home opener after moving from St. Louis to Arizona. The Cowboys were the opponent that game, too.

Ryan hoped to change the allegiance of fans who turn the stadium into a sea of silver and blue when the Cowboys play in Arizona, and it looked as if he could his first season — season-ticket sales doubled to over 50,000, and the eight regular-season games drew an average of 62,166 fans.

But the Cardinals missed the playoffs with an 8-8 record.

This year, they have lost six of their last seven, are 4-11 overall, and home attendance has fallen to 43,989 — a drop of nearly 18,000.

NFL's top geezers

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

Football is a young man's sport, unless you're Marcus Allen or Marv Levy.

So while the NFL mostly honors younger guys by sending them to the Pro Bowl, it's time to honor those headed to the seniors league.

Herewith, the first annual Geezer of the Year awards, based on the complicated Mills-Tasker-Levy system that awards points on age plus achievement plus age multiplied by year of birth.

Here goes:

WR — Jerry Rice doesn't play like he's 33. He is 33. Steve Tasker, 33, Buffalo, who's been so good at receiver the last half of the season that he's finally made it off special teams.

TE — Pete Metzelaars, 35, Carolina. Geezers, the Buffalo Bills and ex-Bills like Metzelaars seem to be a common denominator.

T — Offensive line is an old man's position. Jackie Slater, 40, Rams, for surviving through 20 seasons before retiring; John Alt, 33, Kansas City, who's a steady survivor.

G— Guy McIntyre, 34, who's rejuvenated himself in Philadelphia; Bruce Matthews, 34, Houston, who deserves it even though (like Rice) he's still in top form.

C — Any number of choices here. Kent Hull, 34, Buffalo over Bart Oates, 36, San Francisco and Ray Donaldson, 37, Dallas. Donaldson is hurt and Oates made the Pro Bowl although he's been on the bench for half the season.

QB — Thirty-five and under doesn't count. Warren Moon, 39, Minnesota is the last of the geezers.

RB — Marcus Allen, 35, Kansas City. By acclamation. He thanks Al Davis for letting him rest a couple of years. Name another productive running back over 30? Ronnie Harmon, 31, San Diego. Honorable Mention: Earnest Byner, 33, Cleveland. No. Thurman Thomas isn't 30, just 29.

Forget punters and kickers. They're all over 30.

KICK AND PUNT RETURNER: Mel Gray, 34, Houston. He keeps going and going and going, although he's slowed a bit since he took the money and headed south. Tasker, even though he doesn't do it much.

DE — Reggie White, Green Bay, who turned 34 on Tuesday. What surgery? Simon Fletcher, 33, Denver. The best player who never made the Pro Bowl and, besides John Elway, the last of the old Dan Reeves Super Bowl guys. Right with them: William Fuller, 33, Philadelphia and Sean Jones, Green Bay, shares a birthday with teammate Reggie but is a year younger.

DT — No more Steve McMichael. Ray Childress, 33, Houston; Dan Saleaumua, Kansas City, having one of his best years at 31. His running mate, Joe Phillips, is 32 but ...

OLB — This one's fun. Atlanta alone could supply both — Clay Matthews, 39, and Darryl Talley, 35. But you have to knock out one for Rickey Jackson, 37, San Francisco, who also plays defensive end.

MLB — No contest. Sam Mills, 36, Carolina.

CB — Albert Lewis, 35, Oakland. Who plays cornerback at that age? Albert Lewis and Darrell Green, 35, Washington. Tim McKyer, 32, Carolina is a loose cannon, but he can still cover (usually).

S — Ronnie Lott and Dennis Smith are gone. Eugene Daniel, 34, Indianapolis; Terry Hoage, 33, Arizona; Mike Zordich, 32, Philadelphia. Yes, it is a young man's game — Vencie Glenn, 31, New York Giants is probably the best geezer safety.

AND ...

Coach of the Year — Marv Levy, 70, Buffalo. By acclamation.
MVP — Marcus Allen, 35, Kansas City.
Defensive Player — Sam Mills, 36, Carolina.
Offensive Player — Steve Tasker, 33, Buffalo
Rookie Geezer of the Year — Steve Tasker, 33, Buffalo
Executive of the Year — William Clay Ford, Detroit, son of Edsel Ford. Age unpublished.

High blood pressure in mid-life said linked to thinking problems

CHICAGO (AP) — Men with high blood pressure in mid-life are much more likely to have trouble thinking and remembering things when they are old, a study found.

The finding adds yet another reason to control high blood pressure, already known to be a risk factor for stroke and heart disease.

The study involved 3,735 Japanese-American men who were enrolled in a heart study in the 1960s and tracked through the early 1990s. Their cognitive function — which includes remembering, thinking abstractly, making judgments and concentrating — was measured when the men were 78 on average.

Men with high systolic blood pressure — the higher of the two numbers in a blood-pressure reading — during mid-life were almost 2½ times more likely to have poor cognitive function in old age than men with low systolic blood pressure.

In fact, the higher the blood pressure in mid-life, the greater the likelihood of trouble thinking and remembering in old age. For every 10-point increase in systolic blood pressure, there was a 9 percent increase in the risk of poor cognitive function later.

The study's lead author was Lenore J. Launer, a neuro-epidemiologist and senior researcher with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands. It was co-written by researchers at the University of Hawaii and the U.S. National Institute on Aging, and was published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Kamal Masaki, a co-author, said brain scans performed on the patients since the study was written indicate many of them suffered tiny "silent" strokes that cause no symptoms but can permanently impair thinking.

High blood pressure may also damage the brain in some ways that aren't clear to doctors, she said.

The study did not explore whether high blood pressure has any role in dementia-causing diseases such as Alzheimer's, she said. Dementia is a decline in all areas of mental ability.

A neuropsychologist who was not involved in the work, Sandra Weintraub, an associate professor at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicagom, said the study confirms what clinicians have suspected.

Cognitive function was measured on a 100-point scale using a standardized test that gauges abilities to perform tasks that require thinking.

High systolic blood pressure was defined as 160 or more. Low was defined as less than 110. A normal systolic reading is typically 120.

Though the study involved only men, the findings are likely to apply to women, Launer said.

But it's not clear whether the findings apply to other races, she said.

Rate increase reported for some policies

NEW YORK (AP) — The largest suppliers of private health insurance supplements to Medicare are boosting rates an average of 30 percent, making it costlier for the elderly to be fully insured, The New York Times reported today.

Other companies reportedly also are raising costs for the so-called Medigap insurance premiums. The coverage fills gaps in Medicare by paying hospital charges, doctors' bills and other expenses not covered by the government insurance program for the elderly.

Word of the change was provided to the newspaper by the American Association of Retired Persons and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, which provides supplemental coverage to 3.1 million members of the association.

The higher charges come on top of rate increases that Republicans in Congress and President Clinton already have proposed for Medicare itself.

More than two-thirds of the 37 million Americans covered by Medicare have Medigap insurance. Average premiums for the Prudential policies range from $51 to $151.75 a month, depending on how much the policies cover, the Times said.

The higher premiums are linked to increased use of outpatient services. Medicare pays the full cost of much in-hospital care, but beneficiaries pay at least 20 percent of the cost of outpatient services.

"Our premiums are dictated by our claims experience," said Jerry Carey, a spokesman for Prudential. "The biggest reason for the higher premiums is that we saw a big increase in claims volume nationwide, especially outpatient claims."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 21, 1995

Instead of sowing new fields in the year ahead, cultivate your present ones. A greater financial yield can be expected from previously established channels.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Something beneficial might develop for you today, but may be screened from view. When this good fortune is revealed, it may pertain to an interesting career opportunity. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today could mark the beginning of a favorable change for you in regard to your personal relationships. Bonds with several special friends may tighten.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You will be in an interesting cycle for promoting new projects or endeavors, especially those which involve one or more friends of long standing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) An important objective you've hoped to achieve shouldn't be as difficult as you anticipated. A helpful associate's intervention might smooth your path.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Plans worked out in detail shouldn't be altered at this time. If your original concept is sound, the parts will merge together satisfactorily.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The present situation might be subjected to some changes today. Even though you won't call the shots, the project will turn out well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today, you could be luckier than usual when establishing alliances to further your personal ambitions. If your attitude is positive, you'll attract winners.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Co-workers will respond to your thoughtfulness today. If you show concern for them, they'll help you accomplish things without being asked.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today will be a good day to mix business with pleasure, especially if your clients or prospects are on the same team. The event will provide a strong bond.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Associates will respect your views today. You can enlist the support of colleagues who share your views in regard to certain causes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not procrastinate because measures taken today can advance your present plans. You will be on a successful roll now and you should utilize the good fortune.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Unsolicited rewards might come to you today because of your concern for others. People you've helped might try to respond with material compensation.

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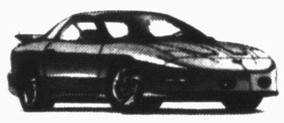

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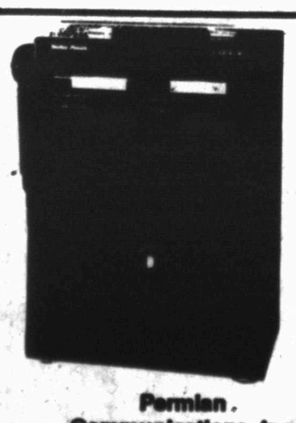
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Financial records to be examined

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — O.J. Simpson's financial records can be scrutinized by the families suing him in a wrongful death lawsuit, a judge ruled.

"The whole purpose of this area of discovery is to find out what his net worth is and how much money he has made as a result of these deaths," Daniel Petrocelli, attorney for Fred Goldman, said after Tuesday's ruling.

He declined to estimate the former football star's worth.

The wrongful death suit filed by the estate of Nicole Brown Simpson and family of Ronald Goldman seeks damages from Simpson through civil law.

Also Tuesday, Superior Court Judge Alan B. Haber turned down a defense request for a 30-day stay of the order to allow time for an appeal.

Simpson's attorney, Robert Baker, did not speak to reporters after the closed court session.

Simpson was acquitted Oct. 3 of killing his ex-wife and Goldman in June 1994, but he could still be found liable in the civil case because the standard of proof is not as high.

Simpson, who did not testify at his murder trial, is scheduled to give a deposition next month. He did not attend Tuesday's session.

The lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial April 2. A status conference is set for Feb. 15.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Dad of Ring-Bearing Son Must Deal With Ex-Wife Bearing Ire

by Abigail Van Buren

© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: I am a serviceman stationed in Georgia. Three years ago, my wife of 13 years and I were having marital problems. Without letting me know, she moved out of the house and went back to California, taking our 3-year-old son ("Jordan") with her.

We recently divorced, and I was granted Christmas and summer visitation with Jordan, who is now 6 years old.

Last summer, while Jordan was visiting me, I remarried and included him in the wedding as the ring-bearer. My "ex" said if she had known I had this in mind, she never would have allowed Jordan to come. (Actually, that's why I never told her.)

Abby, should I have told her and risked not getting my son for the summer? And do you see anything wrong with children being in their divorced parents' wedding?

EX-WIFE BLUES

DEAR E.W. BLUES: I see nothing wrong with children being in the wedding of their divorced parent. But I can understand your "ex" being ticked off when she learned you had made an "end run" in order to have Jordan serve as ring-bearer.

Although your wife told you that she would not have allowed Jordan to visit had she known your plans, when the court gave you visitation rights for Christmas and summer vacation, that canceled her right to decide when he could or could not visit you, so there was no need for subterfuge. Next time, be honest with her, and if you must, remind her that you have legal rights to have Jordan visit you.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: Help! I'm getting married next summer and have a problem I don't know how to deal with.

My father, who will be giving me away and also hosting the reception, has a terrible-looking mouth. He is missing several teeth in front. They have rotted away, leaving only stubby brown roots.

He has a beard and mustache and thinks these "hide" the missing teeth. They don't. Every time he talks, laughs or eats, it's disgusting to watch.

Abby, I love my father, but I want my wedding to be perfect. I dread the thought of our wedding pictures. Also, the people I work with will be meeting my dad for the first time.

We have tried talking to him about this, but he cuts us off. When Mom mentions it, she winds up in an argument.

Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE: Perhaps your father still harbors the memories of pain and horror he experienced in a dentist's chair when he was a boy. However, dentistry has come a long way in recent years, and there is little to fear — but your father would need an expert to convince him. Some dentists specialize in phobic patients. Your father is fortunate that his poor dental health hasn't resulted in poor general health.

If he continues to refuse to have his mouth looked into, there is little you can do about it. Console yourself with the thought that those who are truly important to us judge us on who we are, and not the condition of our parents' teeth. Since your father is paying for the reception, try not to look a gift horse in the mouth.

* * *

WORTH QUOTING: "Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake."

VICTOR HUGO

* * *

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Berry's World

"How about a coffee table book?"

Nixon's family and Disney's daughter attack Stone's film

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP) — Oliver Stone's film "Nixon" opens today amid blistering criticism from the Nixon family and Walt Disney's daughter, who said she was "ashamed" her family's studio was associated with the movie.

In a letter to President Nixon's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Walt Disney's daughter Diane Disney Miller said Stone "has committed a grave disservice to your family, to the Presidency, and to American history."

There was no indication in the letter that Miller had seen the movie.

"My father was a great admirer of your parents and our families enjoyed a special friendship for many years," said Miller's letter, released Tuesday by the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda.

"I am ashamed that the Walt Disney Co. — the company my father created — is associated with this disturbing distortion of history," Miller said.

"Nixon" is being released by Hollywood Pictures, a division of the Walt Disney Co. The screenplay was published by Hyperion, also Disney-owned.

Disney officials said they would not comment on the letter.

Nixon's daughters and their husbands also hadn't seen "Nixon" when they denounced the screenplay Monday, calling the script a "character assassination."

The family also quoted from a 1987 interview with Stone in Film Comment, in which the director described his 1960s and 1970s attitude toward Nixon. "I said, 'If you want to protest, let's get a sniperscope and do Nixon,'" the journal quoted Stone as saying.

With "Nixon," the family said, Stone "makes good on his threat."

Stone denied any malicious intent, saying his purpose "was to attempt a fuller understanding of the life and career of Richard Nixon — the good and the bad, the triumphs and the tragedies and the legacy he left his nation and the world."

The movie was set for release in 500 theaters today and for expanded release on Friday.

SHS OFFICERS — Senior class officers elected recently at Snyder High School are, from left, David Kerr, president; Kayla Drain, vice president; Jeremy House, secretary; Paige Bell, treasurer. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

SOPHOMORE LEADERS — Elected sophomore officers for 1995-95 were, from left, Traci Eicke, president; and James Wesley, vice president. Not pictured are John Guiterrez, secretary; and Kevin Kerr, treasurer. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

And then there's the fellow who went into the sausage business and prospered. For him, the wurst of times were the best of times.

Kwik clerk defends actions

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A convenience-store clerk accused of chasing down and fatally shooting a teen-ager after he and his friend allegedly ran out of the store with stolen beer said he was trying to make a citizen's arrest.

"I had given these people four warnings to stop or I'll shoot, and they were just ignoring me," David Johnson told the Omaha World-Herald in a copyright story Tuesday.

Johnson was charged Monday with second-degree murder, second-degree assault and use of a weapon to commit a felony in the death of 15-year-old Joseph Knudsen and the wounding of Hosie Ealy, 23, on Saturday.

Knudsen was shot in the back. Ealy was wounded in one arm and one leg. Police said they were stealing beer from the Kwik Shop when the altercation occurred. Neither was armed.

Johnson, 33, was being held in lieu of $2,500 bail pending a preliminary hearing Jan. 9. No charges had been filed Tuesday against Ealy.

Johnson said he was only trying to wound Knudsen and Ealy. He also said that just before he started shooting he saw the doors of a car open and he believed someone inside was going to shoot him. Police said it was Knudsen and Ealy's getaway car.

Johnson said he would kill himself if he is sent to prison.

"If they give me jail time, I'd rather they executed me," he said.

JUNIOR OFFICERS — The Snyder High School junior class recently elected officers. President L.S. McClain is not pictured. Others, from left, include Christy Garner, vice president; Keri Kemp, secretary; and Zeb Alexander, treasurer. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Dole reportedly backs away from pledge to end gun ban

BOSTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole appears to be backing away from an earlier call for the quick repeal of a 1994 ban on assault weapons.

The Boston Globe reported in today's editions that it asked Dole recently whether he would vote to lift the ban. Dole issued a statement to the Globe calling the ban "ineffective" but declining to say whether he would vote to lift it. "This isn't a 'yes' or 'no' issue," Dole said.

"The assault weapons issue is not currently scheduled in the Senate," he added in the statement.

Dole had promised last March to make a vote on repealing the assault weapon ban a top legislative priority this summer.

But since then, both Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich have said such a vote is unlikely because of the crowded congressional calendar.

The ban prohibits the manufacture and import of 19 assault weapons.

Most of the leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination, except for Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar, have recently opposed the ban, despite its popularity in the polls. Only Dole has expressed an ambiguous position.

That wasn't the case in March, when Dole wrote to the National Rifle Association's lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action, expressing unequivocal support for the NRA's broad anti-gun control agenda and its drive to repeal the assault weapon ban.

"Repealing the ill-conceived gun ban passed as part of President Clinton's crime bill last year is one of my legislative priorities," Dole wrote to Tanya Metaksa, the institute's executive director.

At the time, the movement to repeal the weapon ban appeared to enjoy majority support in both the House and the Senate. A month later, however, the deadly bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City caused many legislators to reconsider their drive to lift the ban.

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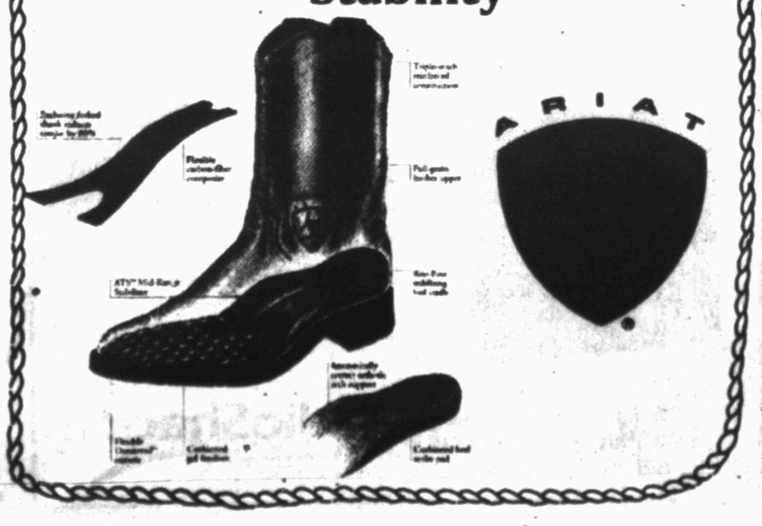

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Scurry County Country

The Emu Report

By Shirley Pate, Pate Emu Farm

The following question is one that is asked each year by some, as their eggs begin to hatch. Tommy and I have been lucky so far to never have had this problem. Dixie Fitzgerald gave the answer in the Ratite Journal. I was so impressed with her answer that I am running it just as she wrote it.

Question: Some of my newly hatched emu chicks are ducking their head under their body, I guess this is called rollers. Do you have a solution for this?

Answer: "There are several theories about what causes this problem. Some say a vitamin or mineral is lacking in the breeders and thus the chicks are suffering because of this. I have heard different stories about which vitamin is lacking, it could be either E or B and others say it is a Selenium deficiency. Some people inject their chicks with Co-Se which is a vitamin E and Selenium vaccine. I cringe when I hear this because what little I know about vitamins and minerals, one thing is for certain is that too much Selenium is toxic and potentially lethal. These chicks are very small and it is easy to overdose them. I try to never give drug dosages or advice which should come from a veterinarian in the column, but the advice I have to give for the situation is completely natural and has worked every time for me.

"Sugar Water! It's that simple. About four or five tablespoons of sterile water with one teaspoon of sugar dissolved in it, set this aside to cool and give about 1cc, by mouth, of this mixture every 4 to 6 hours until the chick is better. It usually takes about a day and a half for this miracle to take place.

Keep in mind when you open the chick's mouth that the most obvious hole you see is its breathing hole, the one in the back is his throat. Anything put into mouths must go behind the tongue. I use a very complete vitamin and mineral dry powdered mixture called "Veernaton" and I add a tiny bit of this to sugar water. Just for good measure I also add a couple of drops of Pedialyte. I'm sure the sugar water alone would work but these other things added can't hurt. Veernaton is put out by Canyon Global Ranch and contains every vitamin and mineral known to man so if the chick is vitamin deficient this should take care of it.

"A drop of children's liquid multiple vitamin would also work. If it's safe for infants it's probably also safe for animals, at least a whole lot safer than giving shots without knowing the correct dosage."

The Rolling Plains Ratite Association will meet Jan. 13 at Rudy's Restaurant at 7 p.m. Al Jodoin, board member of United Emu Cooperative, will be guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

For further information call, Pate Emu Farm, 573-5340.

Cotton...

Subsidy program investigated

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Possible abuses of a taxpayer-funded cotton subsidy program are being investigated by a federal grand jury, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The grand jury's work comes a month after federal agents raided offices of the world's two largest cotton merchandising firms, Allenberg Cotton Co. and Dunavant Enterprises Inc. in Memphis.

The raids were conducted by agents of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Internal Revenue Service, who followed with a raid at the Yazoo City, Miss., home of cotton trader Perry Galloway.

The Commercial Appeal reported that the cotton concerns involved in the investigation include those that signed contracts with the USDA to participate in a multimillion dollar federal subsidy program. The subsidy program paid cotton shippers who exported U.S.-grown cotton.

Federal authorities have declined to discuss the probe.

On Monday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Newsom accompanied Dunavant Enterprises general counsel William H. Stubblefield to the grand jury proceedings with Memphis lawyer Jim Raines.

Neither Stubblefield nor Raines would talk about what was discussed.

Document boxes labeled "W.G. Ripley" and "Suncot" were carted into the grand jury room, The Commercial Appeal reported. They had red evidence stickers attached when they were removed later.

Grand jury proceedings are secret, and the contents of those boxes as well as the subjects discussed during the proceedings were not disclosed.

Galloway told the newspaper in a separate interview that he had been a business associate of Bill Ripley and Ripley's Lubbock, Texas-based cotton firms, W.G. Ripley Inc. and Suncot.

W.G. Ripley Inc. was incorporated in 1974 and serves as the registered agent for Suncot Inc.

For licensed pesticide applicators...

Self-certification process to begin

AUSTIN — In a continuing effort to cut unnecessary paperwork and save taxpayers' dollars, licensed pesticide applicators will be responsible beginning Jan. 1 for maintaining their own records of continuing education units through a self-certification process.

"Self-certification means that individual Texas pesticide applicators — instead of the Texas Department of Agriculture — will now keep track of the coninuing education courses they complete, just like attorneys, nurses, accountants and many other professionals already do," Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said. "Most pesticide applicators already maintain their own education records, and after Jan. 1 TDA will no longer duplicate these efforts by also keeping records for each individual.

"However, the department will randomly audit records year-round to ensure that individuals have course certificates for classes taken."

Under the new system, TDA will continue to issue license renewal forms, and on these forms, applicators will be asked to list their continuing education units. Applicators should keep certificates of completion, which are distributed after attendance at TDA-accredited courses.

In Texas, individuals who use pesticides classified as restricted or state-limited use must be licensed or certified as commercial, noncommercial or private applicators. Commercial and non commercial applicators must renew their licenses by completing five hours of continuing education units every year. Private applicators must renew their license or certificate by completing 15 hours of continuing education units every five years.

Lubbock cattle auction

The market at Lubbock had a run of 1,117 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 14, sale. Cows were $2 to $3 better, yearlings and calves were $2 to $3 cheaper. Trading and demand were fair.

Slaughter cows High dressing, cutters, utility 31 to 38.50; Canner and low cutters 25 to 30; Slaughter bulls 40.50 to 48.50.

Feeder steers choice: 300 to 400, 60 to 65; 400 to 500, 59.50 to 65; 500 to 600, 55 to 60; 600 to 700, 55 to 61; 700 to 800, 57.50 to 61.

Feeder heifers choice: 300 to 400, 52.50 to 60; 400 to 500, 50.50 to 55; 500 to 600, 50.50 to 55; 600 to 700, 50 to 54.50; 700 to 800, 48.50 to 53.

Feeder bulls good and choice: 500 to 600, 52.50 to 55.50; 700 to 800, 45 to 52.50.

Cow and calf pairs: good 475 to 610 grade 350 to 450

Springers 200 to 475 baby calves 55 to 150; doodlers 85 to 150.

Sweetwater cattle auction

The market at Sweetwater had a run of 814 head of cattle for the Wed., Dec. 13, sale. All classes of stocker and feeders steady to weak with packer cows and bulls 2 to 3 cwt higher. Pairs and bred cows were steady to lower. No sale Dec. 27.

STEERS
300-400: 65-72
400-500: 60-67
500-600: 55-64
600-700: 54-63

HEIFERS
300-400: 54-64
400-500: 51-59
500-600: 50-56
600-700: 45-58

BRED COWS
Good: 400-475
Older and plainer: 300-400

PAIRS
Good: 500-600
Older and plainer: 400-500

PACKER COWS
Good: 31-36
Low yielding: 26-31.

PACKER BULLS
Good: 43-47
Low yielding: 38-43.

Colorado City Livestock Auction

COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 983 head of cattle at the Sat. Dec. 16, sale. Feeder heifers were $1 to $2 higher. Light heifers were steady to stronger. Packer cows and bulls were $2 to $4 higher. Springer cows and pairs were steady. We will be closed Dec. 23 for Christmas. Our nex sale will be Sat. Dec. 30.

Steer calves and yearlings — 200 to 300 62 to 74; 300 to 400 60 to 69.50; 400 to 500 55 to 69; 500 to 600 57 to 69; 600 to 750 52 to 62.75.

Heifers calves and yearlings: 200 to 300 52 to 65; 300 to 400 48 to 64; 400 to 500 47.50 to 63; 500 to 600 52 to 62.75; 600 to 750 52 to 62.75.

Slaughter cows 25 to 37.50; Slaughter bulls: 43 to 48; Springer cows: 380 to 650; Pairs 450 to 770.

Farm Bill appears headed for flexibility

LUBBOCK — The new federal farm bill appears to be heading toward more flexibility for farmers to respond to the market as they decide what crops to plant, says an agricultural economist and management specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. But that means farmers must become more skilled in using available marketing tools, he says.

"This new flexibility will likely result in more price variability," sais Dr. Jackie Smith, professor and Extension Service economist at Lubbock.

To help farmers be prepared to evaluate alternative pricing opportunities, the Extension Service will hold a series of one-day, in-depth, introductory cotton marketing workshops in January. The workshops will be held at four sites: Jan. 23, Post; Jan. 24, Big Spring; Jan. 25, Plainview and Jan. 26, Levelland.

Dr. Carl Anderson, professor and extension cotton marketing specialist from College Station, and Smith will be the instructors. topics will include introduction to futures, localizing the futures basis, introduction to options, estimating costs of production, comparison of pricing alternatives, developing a marketing plan. Cotton situation and outlook and an overiew of current farm bill provision.

Each workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The registration fee is $30 and includes an extensive set of materials. Spouses are encouraged to attend; each husband and wife will pay only one $30 fee. Registration should be made in advance with local county extension agents. A workshop at any site will be cancelled if 10 paid registrations haven't been made by Jan. 12. Additional information may be obtained from county extension agents or by telephoning Smith at Lubbock 806-746-6101.

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LOST: Border Collie/Kelpie mix, black-white male. Last seen south of Fluvanna on CR 2126/2173. Call Scott Key 573-1505.

LOST! LOST! LOST!
"Trixie": Part Lab, female, light blonde w/curled-up tail, faded orange collar.
"Pup": Blue Heeler puppy, male, approx. 5 mo. old, 2 black eyes, tail is half black w/white end, southwest collar. Child's pets, very friendly, probably traveling together. Last seen 9 miles out on East Hwy. 180. Please call 573-1679, leave message.

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1990 GMC Suburban, running boards, new tires, new front brakes, good condition, $9,800. 573-7143 nights.

1993 ½-ton Chev., ext. cab, 350 V-8, 47K. 573-7327 after 8 p.m.

1994 Mercury Cougar, take up payments. See at 610 26th St. or call 573-5164.

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Holiday lights pull neighbors together

By DAVID FLICK
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Only a few neighborhoods are as intensely decorated with holiday lights as Hamilton Park, and none glow with more fidelity to the Christmas spirit.

"We've always been very close — all the neighbors here have been very, very close," said Bettye Towns.

As Ms. Towns spoke, her son wrapped a string of Christmas lights around the base of her front-yard tree. She pointed with pride to her neighbors' yards.

"That man over on Ellery never used to do anything, but this year he put up some lights and some candy canes," she said.

Even neighbors such as LaVerne Brown, who could not participate without the goodwill of other residents on Rialto Drive, have houses outlined in tiny white bulbs.

Last year, Mrs. Brown feared that she would have to abandon her practice of decorating the outside of her house with lights. Mrs. Brown's husband had fallen ill, and she had neither the money nor the physical ability to continue the tradition.

To her delight, her neighbors bought outdoor decorations and installed them for her, she said.

Lee Burks, one of those neighbors, is paid by some Hamilton Park residents to install lights, but he donates his services to those, such as Mrs. Brown, who can't afford it.

In her case, though, he doesn't always get the chance. He installed her lights last year and intended to repeat the offer this year, "but when I got to her house, two ladies were already putting up the arch (full of lights) in front of her driveway," he said.

"I just thank the Lord, I do," Mrs. Brown said. "It's a mean world out there, and I'm just thankful that I've got good neighbors."

Hamilton Park, which lies just southeast of the Central Expressway-LBJ Freeway interchange, was developed as a black, middle-class subdivision in the mid-1950s. Soon after, its residents organized an annual Christmas lighting competition.

But it was Ada Hansford's idea three years ago to give the award to entire streets, rather than to individual households. She remains the prime organizer of the competition.

"We were zeroing in on particular houses, and it was one or two people on just one or two streets winning it every year," she said.

"The advantage, by doing it this way, is they're having fun with neighbors. Everybody's out there working. They're learning each other's names."

Planning begins early in the year, when a captain is selected for each street. Theoretically, this is done by election. But on recalcitrant streets, Mrs. Hansford has been known to recruit.

Each street captain picks a holiday theme. Three judges are selected from outside Hamilton Park, and they base their verdict on three criteria: lighting effect, creativity and evidence of group participation.

"When the winner's announced, there's a victory party on that street," Mrs. Hansford said. "They get so excited, I don't think anybody gets any sleep that night."

Rialto Drive, on which Mrs. Hansford lives, is the reigning champion, and as such its name is memorialized on a bronze plaque in the community center. That, of course, is not the point.

"The main thing is to get involved, not just the winning, but the fun," Mrs. Hansford said. "It's more than just competition — we're putting out some other things, like sharing."

Sheree and Roderick Bullard became co-captains of Glen Regal Drive after a visit last year from Mrs. Hansford. At that time, theirs was one of only five households on the street with outdoor decorations.

The Bullards talked to every person on their street and found ways to help decorate the homes of elderly residents, as well as people who are younger, but otherwise preoccupied.

Their efforts have born fruit. Fifteen houses on Glen Regal are decorated with lights this year in keeping with "Candyland," the street's chosen theme.

"It was a lot of work, but it made everybody excited about it," Mrs. Bullard said. "A lot of people who may not see each other because they have to work are out there in their yards talking to each other."

Lola Freeman, who this year added angels and a star to her outdoor decorations on Ellery Drive, said Hamilton Park's streets are sometimes crowded at night — often with local people admiring their own handiwork.

"People get in their cars and ride around, just to see how their neighbors decorated this year," she said. "It gives you a nice feeling. It gets you in the spirit."

Distributed by The Associated Press

FBI chief seeks better training, less use of hostage rescue team

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Louis J. Freeh has ordered more and better training for the bureau's hostage rescue team in an effort to prevent the kind of mistakes made at the deadly 1992 standoff at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, Freeh said he has ordered all members of the FBI's hostage rescue team to receive training in hostage negotiations, behavioral science and crisis management. Coordinators of the FBI's regional SWAT teams also will be trained in those skills, he added.

"I believe this will ensure that every member of the team fully understands the importance and priority I place in negotiated solutions," Freeh said. The team "should only be used sparingly and only in situations that, I am convinced, warrant their deployment," he added.

Freeh has previously acknowledged that the FBI made serious mistakes at Ruby Ridge and said he had made changes after the failed siege, including the revamping and expansion of the bureau's crisis management teams.

In October, amid stinging criticism in Senate hearings of the role played by law enforcement agencies in the debacle, the Clinton administration laid down new rules of engagement for federal agents. Under those rules, agents should shoot only in cases of "imminent danger" — and then only to kill.

The FBI was sharply admonished for its use of special orders at Ruby Ridge that said snipers "could and should" fire at any armed adult male spotted outside white separatist Randy Weaver's mountaintop cabin. The customary FBI shooting rule, by contrast, restricted the use of lethal force to protecting oneself or others from imminent harm.

The rescue team, which originally operated only abroad, is a particular sore point for critics, who assert it's too militarized, duplicates functions of SWAT teams and works at cross-purposes with FBI negotiators.

A rescue team sniper shot Weaver's wife, Vicki, as she stood behind the cabin door holding her infant daughter, on Aug. 22, 1992. A day earlier, the Weavers' 14-year-old son, Sam, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan died in a gunfight as federal agents scouted Weaver's property in anticipation of arresting him on a weapons charge.

A draft report by the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on terrorism was highly critical of the shot by the sniper, Lon Horiuchi, who killed Vicki Weaver, but did not address whether to prosecute him.

The report criticized both the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which also was involved in the standoff, but also praised some of the corrective actions taken by the FBI.

A final version of the report is expected to be released this week. It is expected to reaffirm and expand on the conclusions of the draft, a congressional source said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the subcommittee's chairman, had no immediate comment on Freeh's announcement, according to a spokesman.

Company takes blame for deadly explosion

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It began with an odor in the house and calls to the gas company to come check it out.

By the time a technician finally arrived — two hours later — he was 25 minutes too late. The house had already exploded in flames, two people burned to death in their beds and another was critically burned.

The long delay in responding to what is normally treated as an emergency led the company immediately to accept full responsibility and apologize for a natural gas leak that turned deadly.

"This is unacceptable and regrettable," Corbin McNeill Jr., PECO Energy Co.'s president and chief executive, said after Tuesday's blast. "Clearly, there were breakdowns in the system somewhere."

Nunzio LaPenta, 63, died in the early morning explosion and fire along with his 75-year-old sister Margie Cognato. Her husband, Benjamin Cognato, 76, escaped the collapsed structure with second- and third-degree burns. He remained hospitalized in critical condition.

The source of the blast was traced to a ruptured underground gas main near the sidewalk outside the home. The gas migrated through the ground, entering openings to the basement such as drain lines and piping holes.

All three in the home were apparently sleeping in an upstairs bedroom, and the explosion and fire caused them to fall through two burning floors into the basement.

As rescue workers arrived at the scene, Cognato emerged waist-deep in bricks and mortar.

"This man must be on a first-name basis with God," said Deputy Fire Chief James Hetrick. "He just stood up. ... I said, 'My God, there's someone in there.' He was dazed and had no idea he had just dropped through two floors of a burning building."

Norristown police Detective George DiPetrillo said it was obvious the house was filled with gas because it was totally in flames. He also noticed flames were coming out of the sidewalk on the opposite side of street.

A Red Cross shelter was set up at a nearby church for about a hundred residents ordered to leave the surrounding square block until later in the day.

James Gallagher, 23, who lives three doors down, was napping on the living room floor during a break in a wall-spackling project.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	75⅛	74⅛	75⅛	+1⅛
AT&T Corp	66⅛	66	66	
AirTouch	27⅛	26⅞	27⅛	+ ⅛
Albertsons	33⅛	33⅛	33⅛	— ⅛
Alldsignal	47⅞	47⅞	47⅞	+ ⅛
Alltel	28⅝	28⅛	28⅝	— ⅛
AmStores	26⅝	26⅛	26⅝	+ ⅛
Ameritech	59⅛	58⅞	59	
Amoco	70⅞	70	70⅞	+ ⅛
AndarkPtr	50⅝	49⅝	50⅝	+ ⅛
Armcolnc	5⅝	5⅛	5⅝	
AtlRichfld	111⅛	110⅝	111⅛	+ ⅛
ATMOS Egy	22⅛	22⅛	22⅛	+ ⅛
Avialll	8⅝	8⅛	8⅝	— ⅛
BakerHughes	24⅛	24	24⅛	+ ⅛
BellAtl	68	67⅞	68	+ ⅛
BellSouth s	43⅝	43⅛	43⅝	— ⅛
BethSteel	14⅛	14	14	— ⅛
BritPet	98⅝	98⅛	98⅝	+ ⅛
BurlNoSFe	77	75⅛	77	+2
Caterpillar	61	60⅝	60⅝	— ⅛
CenSoWst	28⅝	28	28	— ⅛
Chevron	51⅛	51	51⅛	+ ⅛
Chrysler	55	54⅛	54⅝	+ ⅛
Coastal	36⅝	36⅛	36⅝	+ ⅛
CocaCola	77⅛	75⅞	76⅝	—1⅛
ColgatePalm	72⅝	71⅞	71⅞	— ⅛
ComclMetals	24⅝	24⅛	24⅝	+ ⅛
Cooperin	35⅛	34⅞	35	+ ⅛
CyprusAmax	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	— ⅛
DallSemicn	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	+ ⅛
DeltaAirl	77⅛	76⅛	76⅞	+1⅛
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DowChem	70⅞	69⅞	70⅞	+ ⅛
DresserInd	24⅛	23⅞	24	+ ⅛
DuPont	68⅝	68	68⅝	+ ⅛
EastmanChem	63	61⅞	61⅞	+ ⅛
EstKodak	67⅛	66⅛	66⅝	
Eljerlnd	10⅝	10⅛	10⅝	+ ⅛
Enserch	15⅝	15⅛	15⅝	— ⅛
Entergy	28⅝	28⅛	28⅝	+ ⅛
Exxon	82⅛	82⅛	82⅝	+ ⅛
Flowers s	13⅛	12⅞	12⅞	+ ⅛
FordMotor	29⅝	28⅞	29	+ ⅛
GTE Cp	44⅝	44⅛	44⅛	
GenDynam	62⅛	61⅛	61⅝	+ ⅛
GenElec	72⅛	71⅛	71⅝	— ⅛
GenMills	58	57⅞	58	— ⅛
GenMotors	51⅛	50⅝	51	+ ⅛
GenMotors E	50⅛	49⅛	49⅝	— ⅛
GaPacif	68	67⅛	67⅞	+ ⅛
GlobalMar	8⅛	8	8⅛	
Goodrich	67⅛	66⅛	67	— ⅛
Goodyear s	44⅛	44⅛	44⅝	+ ⅛
GtAtlPac	23⅝	23⅛	23⅝	+ ⅛
Halliburts	49	48⅛	48⅝	+ ⅛
Hasbro ADS	14⅛	14⅛	14⅝	+ ⅛
HoustonInd s	24⅛	23⅞	24	— ⅛
IBM	92	90⅝	91	— ⅛
IntlPapers	37⅝	36⅝	37⅛	+ ⅛
JohnsnJn	87⅞	86⅛	87⅛	+ ⅛
K mart	6	5⅞	6	
Kroger	37⅛	36⅝	37	— ⅛
Litton	43⅛	42⅛	42⅛	+ ⅛
Lowes Cos	33⅛	32⅛	33⅛	+ ⅛
Lubys	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	+ ⅛
MayDeptStrs	43⅛	42⅞	43	— ⅛
Medtronics	56⅛	55⅝	56	+ ⅛
Mobil	111⅛	109⅝	111⅛	+1⅛
Monsanto	120⅝	119⅝	120⅝	+2⅝
Motorola	58⅝	58⅛	58⅝	+ ⅛
Nationsbk	69⅞	69⅝	69⅝	+ ⅛
Navistar	10⅝	10⅝	10⅝	
NoramEngy	8⅝	8⅝	8⅝	
Norwest	34⅛	34⅛	34⅛	+ ⅛
Nynex	50⅝	50⅛	50⅝	+ ⅛
OryxEngy	13⅝	13⅛	13⅝	+ ⅛
PacTelesis	33⅛	33⅛	33⅝	— ⅛
PanhECp	27⅞	27⅛	27⅞	+ ⅛
Penney JC	46⅛	45⅛	46	— ⅛
Pennzoil	43⅛	42⅞	42⅞	+ ⅛
PepBoys	25⅝	25⅛	25⅝	— ⅛
PepsiCo	57⅞	56⅛	56⅝	— ⅛
PhelpDodge	63⅛	62	62⅝	— ⅛
PhilipPet	33⅝	33⅛	33⅝	+ ⅛
PilgrmPrd	6⅝	6⅛	6⅝	
Polaroid	47⅞	46⅛	46⅝	—2⅛
Praxair	31⅝	31⅛	31⅝	+ ⅛
ProctGamble	84⅛	83⅝	84⅛	+ ⅛
PubSNwMx	17⅛	17⅛	17⅛	
RoyalDutch	136⅛	136	136⅝	+ ⅛
SBC Comm	57⅞	57⅛	57⅞	+ ⅛
SaraLee	33	32⅝	32⅝	— ⅛
SearsRoebs	40⅛	39⅝	40	+ ⅛
SherwinW	39⅞	39⅝	39⅞	+ ⅛
SmthBchADS	51⅛	51⅛	51⅝	+ ⅛
SmthBc eqt	51⅛	51⅛	51⅝	+ ⅛
SouthernCo	24⅝	24⅝	24⅝	— ⅛
SwstAirlines	24⅛	23⅞	24⅛	+ ⅛
Sprint	40⅞	40⅛	40⅝	+ ⅛
SterlingChm	8⅝	8⅛	8⅝	
SunCo	26⅝	26⅛	26⅝	
TNP Ent	18⅝	18⅝	18⅝	— ⅛
Tandy	39⅝	38⅛	38⅝	— ⅛
Templlnl	43⅝	42⅝	43	— ⅛
Tenneco	47⅞	47⅛	47⅞	+ ⅛
Texaco	78⅛	77⅞	77⅞	+ ⅛
TexasInd	52⅛	51⅛	52⅝	+ ⅛
TexasInstr	50⅛	49⅛	49⅝	— ⅛
TexUtil	40⅛	40	40⅛	+ ⅛
Textron	72⅞	71⅞	72⅝	+ ⅛
Travelers	59⅛	58⅝	59⅛	+ ⅛
TrinityInds	29⅝	29⅝	29⅝	— ⅛
TritonEngy	54⅛	54⅛	54⅛	+ ⅛
US WestCm s	35⅛	34⅞	35	+ ⅛
USWstMda s	19⅝	19	19⅛	+ ⅛
USX Delhi	9⅝	9⅝	9⅝	— ⅛
USX-Marathn	19⅝	19⅛	19⅝	+ ⅛
USX-USS	30⅝	30⅛	30⅝	— ⅛
UnCarbde	37⅞	37⅛	37⅞	+ ⅛
UnPac	65⅝	64⅞	65⅝	+ ⅛
UnitedTech	93⅝	93	93⅝	+1
Unocal	29⅛	29	29⅛	+ ⅛
WalMart	23⅛	23	23⅛	— ⅛
WstnGasRs	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛	+ ⅛
WestghE	16⅝	16⅛	16⅝	
WisnDixie s	37	36⅛	36⅝	— ⅛
Woolworth	13⅝	13⅛	13⅝	— ⅛
XerosCp	142⅝	139	140⅝	+1⅝
ZenithE	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛	+ ⅛

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

5 killed by lone gunman in shoe store

NEW YORK (AP) — A heavy snow was falling and Christmas lights glittered outside as the young man walked into a shoe store and asked for a pair of Nikes.

A handful of customers were browsing in the cramped store as a clerk told him they were out of stock.

That's when, police say, 22-year-old Michael Vernon suddenly pulled out a 9 mm pistol and fired at the heads of anyone in sight.

Five people were killed, including a woman and her 12- and 13-year-old sons. One of the boys died with a shoe off as he prepared to try on sneakers.

Three others were critically wounded inside Little Chester Shoes in the Bronx, and Vernon himself was critically wounded during a shootout with police as he fled.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called Tuesday's shooting a "horrendous start to the holiday season. ... Some of these people were Christmas shopping."

Vernon's brother, Christopher Simmons, said Vernon was an outpatient at a psychiatric clinic, on medication for mental disorders and a violent man.

"My mother was thinking maybe this would happen," Simmons told the New York Post. "I'm sorry for the people who got killed. He has a psychiatric problem. He's schizophrenic."

Police said Vernon, who has previously been arrested for assault, had intended to rob the store, only feigning interest in the brown Nike hiking boots.

Deputy Chief Charles Kammerdener said Vernon had been in the store previously "casing the place, on the ruse of looking for a certain kind of sneaker."

"You should have given me those sneakers," the gunman said as he opened fire, an investigator told The New York Times.

Kammerdener said the dead included Kwong Bae, 41, the wife of the store owner. It was the couple's second anniversary. Also killed were 38-year-old shopper Maria Carrasquillo and her sons, Rafael Gonzalez, 12, and Ricardo Gonzalez, 13. The fifth victim, a 27-year-old man, was not immediately identified.

Both incidents came at the end of a year that saw a marked drop in the city's crime rate, including murders.

Vernon underwent surgery and was in critical but stable condition early today. The three injured people were in critical condition.

It was the city's second deadly store attack in two weeks. On Dec. 8, a gunman angered by a racially charged eviction dispute opened fire in Freddy's Fashion Mart on 125th Street in Harlem, then set fire to the store. Seven people and the gunman died in the blaze.

Obituaries

J.D. Doucette

1924-1995

ANDREWS — Graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Andrews Cemetery for J.D. Doucette, 71, who died Tuesday, Dec. 19, in Permian General Hospital.

The Rev. Alan Speed, minister of the Jal, N.M., First Baptist Church, was to officiate, assisted by the Rev. G.I. Norris, retired minister from Wink.

Mr. Doucette, a retired oilfield worker, was the father of Billy Doucette of Snyder.

Born in Batson, Tex., Mr. Doucette had lived in Wink for 13 years, having moved from Kermit. He was a member of the Wink Baptist Church.

His first wife, Annie Belle, died in 1955. He married Willie Mae Smith on Aug. 26, 1974, and she died in 1994.

Survivors also include two daughters, Sharon Lloyd of Odessa and Beverly Pilkington of Good Hope, Ala.; a brother, Jimmy Doucette of Villa Platte, La.; three stepsons, Tommy Smith of Chester, Johnny Smith of Waco and Emory Smithy of Forney; a stepdaughter, Sally Carruth of Andrews; two sisters, Melba Heck of Robert Lee and Evelyn Griffith of Blessings; 13 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; 14 step-grandchildren; and 17 step-great-grandchildren.

Thelma Bowlin

1906-1995

AMARILLO — Graveside service was held Tuesday in the Llano Cemetery for Thelma Bowlin, 89, of Amarillo, sister of Montie Booth and Bonita Moore, both of Snyder. Mrs Bowlin died Sunday, Dec. 17, in Amarillo.

Born Nov. 21, 1906, in San Saba County, she had lived in Amarillo for several years.

Other survivors include her husband, James D. Bowlin of Amarillo; four daughters, Corinne Bowlin of Corpus Christi, Kathryn Sharp of Wylie, Dorothy Sheets of Austin and Judie Booth of Amarillo; another sister, Captola Rice of Lubbock; and two brothers, Dean Smith of Zephyr and Bernard Smith of Kingsland.

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House overrides Clinton veto

Bill to restrict security fraud lawsuits now bound for Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joined by 89 Democrats, House Republicans for the first time successfully overrode a President Clinton veto today, countering his attempt to block a bill restricting class action security fraud lawsuits.

With the 319-100 vote in the House, 29 above the two-thirds needed, the legislation now moves to the Senate. With a two-thirds vote there, the bill aimed at protecting investors from fraudulent and abusive lawsuits would become law.

The veto override came only hours after Clinton's late-night announcement that he was rejecting the bill because it did not adequately protect those with legitimate legal claims.

It was the first time the House has tried to override a veto. Clinton has vetoed 10 bills this year, including four in the past two days.

Many Democrats who had stuck with Clinton in his vetoes of spending bills said the president had made a bad decision this time.

"Much of his objections are of a nitpicking nature," said Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va. "It's legalistic."

"As the representative from Silicon Valley, I know that businesses in my region can't wait for an answer," said Anna Eshoo, D-Calif. "The legislation provides companies with relief, but not a blank check."

Shortly after the vote, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, "We obviously will faithfully execute laws if the veto is overridden, but the president has concerns about the securities litigation." He said the White House would try to address those concerns in the Senate, but said some also could be handled through the Securities and Exchange Commission's rule-making process.

White House aides privately seemed resigned to a veto override. One noted that quick action could ease Clinton's political concerns: He pleased liberals and trial attorneys with the veto but supporters in the high-tech industry will get what they want with an override.

Small plane crashes in Tennessee

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A small airplane crashed in a heavily-populated Shelby County neighborhood, killing the two people aboard but luckily missing homes and residents.

Officials said a single-engine Piper Saratoga nose-dived at about 1 p.m. CST Tuesday, killing the pilot and another occupant. The Cincinnati Post reported today that Dennis and Wayne Betz were uncle and nephew.

There were no other injuries.

FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the pilot had filed a flight plane in Wichita Falls, Texas, for Memphis and was about eight minutes away from the runway when the tower at Memphis International Airport lost contact.

"I was in the house reading a book at the kitchen table when I heard a loud boom outside," said Katie Arnold, who lives across the street from the yard of the house where the plane crashed.

"I thought a car had hit a tree. But then a woman came to my door and told me a plane had crashed and to call 911."

Arnold, 63, said when she went outside she saw a large portion of the plane splattered in the yard across from her and other parts of the plane scattered about. She considered herself fortunate.

Since she lives near the airport, Arnold said she is used to planes flying over.

Police note one arrest

One person was arrested and three offense reports for theft were filed Tuesday. Another offense report for theft was filed early this morning.

Officers arrested a 27-year-old male for public intoxication at 10:05 p.m. Tuesday in the 1300 block of 25th.

In other activity, a one-vehicle accident was reported at 8:06 a.m. Tuesday in the parking lot of Dee's Burritos. Involved were a 1990 Dodge pickup driven by Mary Soucek of 413 36th Place and a guard rail.

A report for felony theft was submitted at 1:05 p.m. Tuesday in reference to a theft from a residence at 2511 Ave. Z. Taken was an undetermined amount of cash, according to sheriff's deputies.

An offense report for Class B theft was submitted at 2:08 p.m. from 2611 El Paso in reference to the theft of a bicycle.

A gas drive off was reported at 3:38 p.m. from Allsup's in Hermleigh.

At 11:41 p.m., an offense report for Class A assault was submitted.

At 12:15 a.m. today, a clerk at Town and Country notified officers that three subjects were stealing beef jerky from the store.

Condition said serious

A 26-year-old Snyder woman is listed in serious condition today at Lubbock's University Medical Center following a suicide attempt early Tuesday morning.

Immediately following surgery Tuesday, her condition had been listed as critical.

The woman shot herself in the mouth around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday with a .22 caliber pistol loaded with rat-shot.

She was taken to Cogdell Hospital following the shooting by Snyder EMS and later transported to Lubbock by Flight for Life.

Arson

Continued From Page 1

pending action by the grand jury.

Conard said that if convicted of the first degree felony charges against them, Day and Eaton already face from five to 99 years, or life.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Cinia Cabrera, 602 N. Ave. T; Corey Jaramillo, 806 23rd Apt. 2; C.D. Gray Sr., Rt. 3 Box 36; Humberto Molina, 900 27th; Ramsey Castillo, 3200 40th; Willie Smith, 200 34th.

DISMISSALS: Baby Krueger, Michael Maguire, Mellennie Rodriguez.

CENSUS: 57 (Med., Surg.-15, Long-term Care-38, CCU-2, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Births

Hilario and Cinia Cabrera of Snyder announce the birth of their son weighing seven pounds, eight ounces born at 10:50 p.m. on Dec. 19 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Powell won't accept veep nomination

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Colin Powell has said again that he won't become a Republican vice presidential candidate in 1996, denying speculation by GOP presidential frontrunner Bob Dole that he might run if called upon.

"I'm enormously flattered," Powell told about 800 people at a speech Tuesday night in Florida. "I have great respect for Senator Dole."

Powell said he had not changed his mind since November, when he ended months of speculation by announcing he would not run for president or vice president in 1996.

"We have never discussed this issue, but at this point in my life I am still of the view that for me and my family I should make my contribution in private life," Powell said Tuesday.

On Sunday, Dole said he understood Powell had disavowed interest but predicted the retired general might change his mind if called by the GOP nominee.

Powell did not flatly rule out accepting such an offer, but he said, "I don't sense myself wavering." However, he added: "I don't know what the future will hold."

In his speech Tuesday night as part of the Gulf Coast Speaker Series, a town-hall style program, Powell discussed his decision not to run for president.

"It's a heck of a job choice when you are entering, not at the apprentice level, but at the top level," he said.

What's Up?

SNS accepting applications

Snyder Neighbors Sharing is accepting applications for its 1996 workday. Applications may be picked up at Sam Robertson's Insurance Agency, the chamber of commerce or West Elementary and returned to Snyder Neighbors Sharing, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

Applications are due by Jan. 15, 1996. To be considered, applicants must own and be living in the house, be current on taxes and be age 65 or older or disabled.

Gift wrapping done

The European Travel Group of Snyder will be wrapping Christmas presents Thursday for a small fee. Call 573-2670 to have your gifts picked up and delivered.

Pick 3

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

9-2-8

(nine, two, eight)

Cash 5

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

21-9-6-2-8

(twenty-one, nine, six, two, eight)

Postal workers brace for holiday mailings

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's D-day at the post office. Workers were braced to carry more than 725 million pieces of mail on Wednesday, the busiest delivery day of the postal year.

That's a 25 percent increase over a normal weekday.

Mail pouches will be bulging with Christmas cards, letters and packages dropped off at post offices around the country on Monday, the busiest mailing day.

A record 285 million cards and letters were postmarked Monday, compared with 280 million on last year's busiest day, the Postal Service said.

Those figures don't include packages, which are also at their peak, or advertising mail.

"Over the weekend, everybody gets busy wrapping their gifts and writing their cards, and Monday is the day they all run into the post office to mail them," said spokeswoman Sandra Harding.

The Postal Service hired almost 40,000 seasonal workers to deal with the holiday crush, she said, and leased 116 airplanes.

The Postal Service entered the holiday season with its best-ever record for on-time delivery of first-class mail. An independent audit found that 88 percent of overnight letters arrived on time, the highest score since the mail tests began in 1990. For the same period last year, the score was 84 percent on time.

Abandoned twins are placed in foster home

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Only hours old, they were stuffed in a duffel bag and abandoned in a cold public restroom.

Now the newborn twins, who have been named Mary and Joseph, have been placed in a warm foster home for the holidays.

"They've got clothes, blankets, rattles and washcloths. Everything they've got is Christmas," the children's new foster mother said Tuesday. "I've got their stockings hung."

So nicknamed because they were found so close to Christmas, the twins somebody didn't want now seem to be wanted by everybody.

Since news broke of their discovery last week, more than 650 people from as far away as Canada have offered to take care of the babies.

But the couple finally selected by state social services officials was not among them. They have been foster parent for six years and often care for infants. They also have two grown children and three grandchildren of their own.

"I was elated," said the foster mother, who asked not to be identified. "We don't have any small ones right now. Christmas without children is just not any fun. ... Usually in our family, we just hang out at the house and eat cookies and sing Christmas carols."

The couple brought Mary and Joseph to their two-bedroom home in the Panama City suburbs Saturday.

"We were up with Mary from 1:30 to 5 a.m. She's a little fussy. The night before last we were up with Joey. They take turns, I guess," the foster mother said. "They're already smiling. You can talk to them and they just smile."

Before adoption is considered for the twins, police are trying to find their parents or whoever left them in a duffel bag in a boat-ramp restroom at the Lake Powell Recreation Area, about 20 miles west of Panama City.

Used in summer by fishermen and as a lovers' lane, the park is largely deserted at this time of year, said Panama City Police Lt. Jerry Girvin.

Girvin called it a "Christmas miracle" that Debby Brewer and boyfriend Scott Price stopped to use the restroom Dec. 12 and found the day-and-a-half-old twins. The officer said they probably would have died of exposure if left overnight in the 50-degree temperatures.

New study finds more caffeine problems

BALTIMORE (AP) — Women trying to get pregnant may be able to improve their chances by cutting back on the coffee, a study suggests.

The Johns Hopkins University study found that women who consume more than 300 milligrams of caffeine a day — roughly three cups of coffee or eight sodas — reduce their monthly chance of conception by 26 percent.

No effect was seen in women consuming less than 300 milligrams.

"On average, a couple has a 20 percent chance of getting a viable pregnancy each month," said Dr. Ronald Gray, one of the researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. "The high caffeine drinkers would reduce that by a quarter. It would be around 15 percent."

The study was published in the latest issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Several previous studies also have indicated a link between caffeine and lower fertility.

Pregnant women already are warned to avoid or cut back on caffeine because there is some biological evidence that caffeine disrupts the menstrual cycle and may lead to early pregnancy loss.