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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Dec. 10, 1997
Vol. 49 No. 190
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Justin Taylor

# County cracking down on 8-liners

### *Businesses given 10 day grace period to eliminate machines*

**By Wade Warren**
*Staff Writer*

Governor George W. Bush says, "If it looks like a slot machine, plays like a slot machine, and pays like a slot machine, then it's illegal in Texas."

Bush was referring to casino-type slot machines that have become popular thoughout Texas, and are at some locations in Scurry County.

The machines have caught the eye of some residents who feel they should not be in the county, and they have made complaints to County Attorney Mike Hartman.

"My office has received some complaints about the machines in various businesses and that one business had opened up in Snyder with nothing in it but these casino-type machines," said Hartman.

"As a result, we conducted an investigation that included members of the special crimes division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, our sheriff's office and police department, plus the district attorney's office."

Hartman said the investigation indicated to him that several of the machines are illegal as they violated the gambling statutes.

The county attorney responded by notifying the businesses of that fact by letter, and gave them a 10-day grace period to eliminate any illegal machines from their businesses.

"We wanted to be fair to the businesses and give them time to remove the illegal machines before any charges are filed," said Hartman.

"Our letter was sent to the businesses where we know the machines were located," said Hartman. "The fact that a business did not receive a letter does not eliminate them from possible prosecution if they continue to keep the machines on their premises.

"I hope everyone abides by the law voluntarily," said the county attorney.

Hartman said the continued operation of the machines would put the business owner, operator, manager and premises owner at risk.

The machines, commonly known at eight-liners, awards the winners by emitting coupons. The coupons are then redeemed for gift certificates from local businesses, said Hartman.

"The problem lies in the fact that the machines pay out more than the statutes allow," said Hartman.

The statutes say it is against the law to award players with more than 10 times the value charged to play a game, or more than $5, said Hartman.

Hartman said today a business which opened on North College Avenue and contained only the casino-type machines has closed, and that the businesses he has contacted by letter are complying.

"That's is what we were hoping for," said Hartman.

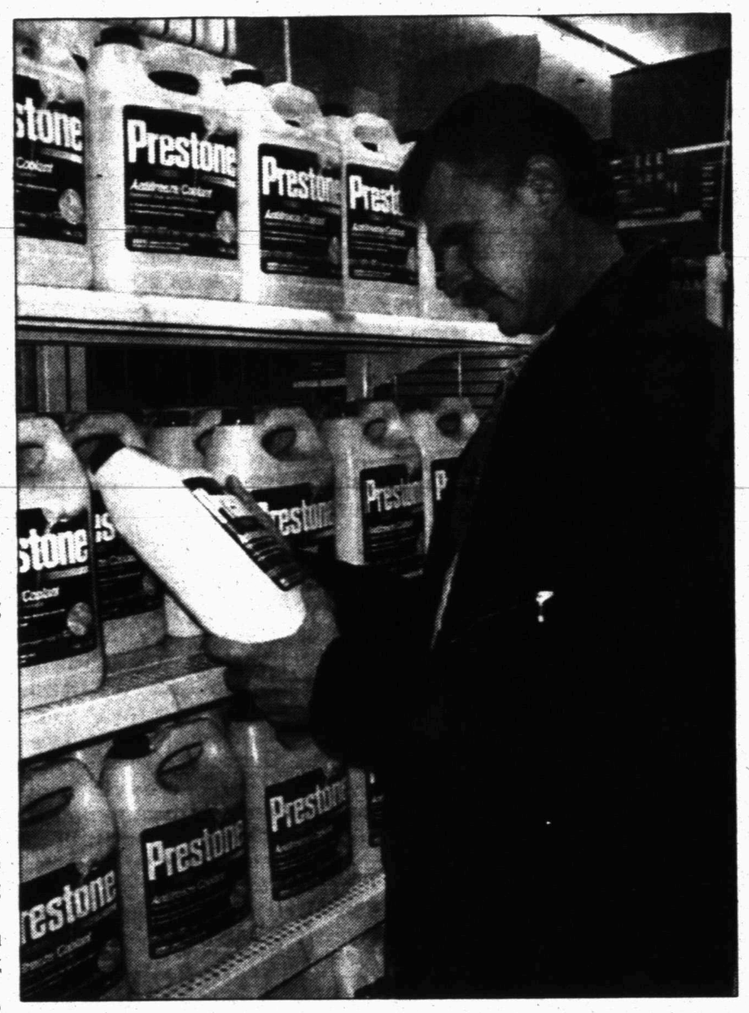
## Fall semester ends at WTC

Western Texas College concluded finals for the fall semester today and will close the campus Friday for a month-long break.

The campus will not reopen until Jan. 5. Faculty will report back on Jan. 14.

Registration for the spring 1998 semester will begin Jan. 19 for sophomore students. Freshmen will register Jan. 20.

The first day of classes will be Jan. 21.




**TIME TO ANTI-UP — With night-time temperatures predicted to be well below freezing for the next few nights, David West checks on how many gallons of anti-freeze it takes to protect his vehicle. Temperatures in the mid-20s are predicted for tonight and in the teens Thursday and Friday nights. (SDN Staff Photo)**

# Meeting set Tuesday on jet training range

U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm will be in Snyder on Tuesday for a public meeting on the Air Force's Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI).

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the chamber of commerce.

The Air Force has announced that it is putting together a RBTI range for use by B-1s from Dyess and B-52s from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

According to the military, the range will be a mapped route which will include about a dozen sites of a few acres each. There will be radar, emitters or other electronic equipment on the sites which will allow the pilots' performance to be scored.

The flights will be both high level, or non-disruptive, and low-level, which can be very disruptive with the B-1, which flies at supersonic speeds.

"In order to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible, the Air Force will work with local property owners to map the best possible route once a site is chosen," according to a memorandum, released by a Stenholm district representative. "At this point, the Air Force is holding community meetings to talk with local folks about the RBTI and how it might potentially affect them."

Most of the potential sites are in far West Texas and New Mexico, and most of the other meetings on the range will be held in those areas.

"This is very important to Dyess in the base closure process because having a training route close to the base saves time and fuel as bomber crews train and maintain their skills," the memorandum stated.

Rep. Stenholm will not be representing the Air Force at the meeting, but plans to join with his constituents in discussing the issue.

## THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

**The feller on Deep Creek says, "Perhaps the truest test of faith is to find yourself in church with only a $100 bill in your pocket."**

---

Christmas gifts are important all year long, especially if you plan to have a garage sale this summer.

Guess we've still got a way to go to get into the spirit of the holiday season.

We're sort of like the dad in the coffee shop who was lamenting about his family's woes.

He said he heard that Christmas song about you better not shout, you better not cry, you better not pout.

He asked, "How's my teen-age daughter going to get along?"

---

This story may show just how unimportant dad is during the holiday season.

The youngster asked, "Mommy is is true that the stork brings babies?"

"Yes."

"The police protect us and the firemen put out fires?"

"Yes."

"The doctor makes us well?"

"Yes."

"And Santa Claus brings us presents?"

"That's right."

"Well, what do we need Daddy for?"

---

Santa always comes out on top in the end...

There has long been a debate about the red-suited gentleman from the North Pole. Those of little faith say Santa is only a massive conspiracy perpetuated by greedy and insecure adults.

Jinglebells! Kids may be getting more savvy about St. Nick, but we have a hard time getting uptight about harmless kid fantasies. Most adults like the concept, too.

We sort of like the answer given by a seven-year-old from New Jersey who recently confessed to his mom: "I definitely believe in Santa Claus. You and dad couldn't possibly pay for all those presents."

# More jobs than candidates to fill 'em

### It's still early, but only a handful have filed for March party primaries

One week into the filing period for the March party primaries, Scurry County finds itself with fewer candidates than jobs available.

No one has filed as a candidate for county commissioner of Precinct 4 or peace justice in Precinct 2. Both precincts include the Hermleigh area.

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Jerry Gannaway, a Democrat, announced last week that he would return to farming full-time instead of seeking a third term. So far, no one has sought party nomination for the post.

John Williamson is the Precinct 2 peace justice. He has not filed for another term, but has not formally announced that he will not, either. That job, however, has limited duties and in fact, has been without an office holder several times over the past 20 years.

Like Gannaway, Williamson ran on the Democratic ticket in the last election.

This far, the Scurry County Democratic Party currently has only one candidate in the March primary — incumbent County Treasurer Charlie Bell.

Just before the filing period began, District Clerk Elois Pruitt, another Democrat, said she wouldn't seek re-election. A long-time clerk in that office, Trina Rodgers, filed to seek the Republican Party nomination following Mrs. Pruitt's announcement. Mrs. Rodgers is currently unopposed.

None of the other candidates — all incumbents — are opposed, either. All Republicans, they are County Judge Ricky Fritz, Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom, County Clerk Joan Bunch and Precinct 1 Peace Justice Charlie Reynolds.

Reynolds ran on the Democratic ticket in the last election.

Democratic Party Chairman Billy Haynes said he has been approached by someone considering the Precinct 4 commissioner's post, but no one has officially filed.

There is plenty of time left, however. The deadline to file is Jan. 2. Anyone interested should contact the county chairman: Haynes or Republican Party Chairman Drew Bullard.

Early voting is Feb. 23 through March 6.

# *Shooting suspect takes children hostage*

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Relatives of two preschoolers pleaded today for a murder suspect to release the children a day after he barged into the home and took them hostage.

"Malcolm and Teddy, I love you," said Karen Priest, the children's aunt. "Please let the babies go. We miss them, we need them."

Their mother, Adrian Phillips, cried and said, "I love you Malcolm."

Malcolm is 4 and his sister, Teddy, is 2.

They are being held by John Edward Armstrong, 39, who negotiated with police through the night.

"He is still awake and he is still communicating with us, which is a great sign," Lt. Cheryl DeGroff-Berry said. "He had to stop negotiating at one point to take one of the kids to the bathroom, so we know they're being taken care of."

On the run from police, Armstrong broke into the house Tuesday and released the two women, but he threatened to kill the children if his demands were not met.

"As long as he's not going to hurt those kids, we don't care how long it takes," Sgt. Bill Mulloy said today. "We don't care about the time or the money."

Armstrong, a career criminal released early from armed robbery charges in March, is suspected of shooting a man to death and wounding a woman earlier Tuesday in nearby Winter Park. Police did not have a motive, but they said Armstrong went to the house looking for his girlfriend, who wasn't there.

## Board vacancy on trustees' list

Hermleigh ISD trustees will consider filling a board vacancy when they meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the high school building.

Last month, the board accepted Chip Roemisch's resignation as a school trustee. Roemisch has moved from the district.

Trustees have several options. They can leave the post vacant until May, when the next school board election will be held, appoint someone to fill the seat until the May election or call a special election.

Current board members are David Higgins, Tony Lambaren, Tim Dacus, John Williamson, Burton Sandefur and Sherene Digby.

In other business, the board will review the annual school report card, consider policy updates and begin the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

# Boeing Co. may redesign its fuel tanks

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Boeing Co. has acknowledged that it may have to redesign aircraft fuel systems to prevent explosions like the one in a center fuel tank that brought down TWA Flight 800.

The comments came during the second day of hearings on trying to pinpoint the cause of the disaster that killed 230 people.

The National Transportation Safety Board hearings are reviewing what is known about the July 17, 1996, crash of the Paris-bound plane off New York's Long Island. In Investigators have been trying to determine what ignited the fuel vapor in the jumbo jet's mostly empty center tank.

A design change, one of many solutions being explored by the airplane giant, would be a shift in the company's focus on eliminating all possible ignition sources from fuel tanks and not just the flammability of the fuel and fuel vapor in the tanks.

"Now we've shifted gears and we have to look at flammability," Ivor Thomas, chief engineer of fuel systems for Boeing, said Tuesday.

## ASK US

**Q—Is there any place in Snyder where you can obtain a map for Sweetwater's 'Trail of Lights?'**

**A—The local chamber of commerce has maps of the 'Trail of Lights.'**

## FORECAST - ALMANAC

**Snyder Temps:** High Tuesday, 59 degrees; low, 30; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 30; no precipitation; total for 1997, 24.26 inches.

**Area Forecast:** Tonight, mostly cloudy with few flurries. Low 20-25. N wind 5-15 mph. Thursday, mostly cloudy; with few flurries. High around 35. North wind 10-20 mph, gusty.

Laura Culwell
**Mostly cloudy**

**Sunset:** 5:41 p.m.
**Sunrise:** 7:33 a.m.
**Of 343 days in 1997, the sun has shone 328 days in Snyder.**

## TODAY'S THOUGHT

**People who fight fire with fire usually end up with ashes.**

**Abigail Van Buren**

DEC 10 1997

# Churches must post own signs forbidding concealed weapons

AUSTIN (AP) — There are many places you can't carry a concealed weapon into, but a church no longer is one of them.

The Texas Legislature revised the state's concealed gun law during its session earlier this year.

The concealed handgun law passed in 1995 prohibited people with handgun permits from taking the weapons "on the premises of a church, synagogue or other established place of religious worship."

The language of the law was changed earlier this year, and churches now are required to follow the same rules as businesses that don't want weapons in their buildings.

They must post a conspicuous sign or hand out cards to everyone coming onto church property, and both cards and signs must meet state specifications to the letter.

"It's really nice aesthetically to have that sign stuck in your face as you're on your way into church to worship," quipped the Rev. John Wright, pastor of Oak Hill United Methodist Church in Austin.

Sen. Jerry R. Patterson, R-Pasadena, who sponsored the statute change, jokingly says the new law "enhances the quality of the sermons and shortens the length of the services."

Some pastors support the change.

"If it's against the law for law-abiding people to be wearing guns inside of church, guess who will be wearing them inside of church? Lawbreakers," said the Rev. Rick Scarborough, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearland, a Houston suburb.

"I'd feel more comfortable if a few more God-fearing people were carrying guns to protect us," Scarborough said.

Patterson said the government shouldn't tread on private property.

"Private property always has the lawful ability to eliminate anyone whether they are carrying a gun or not carrying a gun," he said. "It's not the business of any government entity, be it federal, state or local, to tell a church who can or can't come on their property."

Patterson says the change "did not allow guns in churches; it allowed churches to make the decision."

One minister complained that his church's adult education program wanted to offer the training course for concealed handgun permits but couldn't because the law barred bringing a handgun into the church classroom, Patterson said.

The legislator also noted that some churches provide their ministers with a house on church grounds and the law made it illegal for them to carry a concealed handgun even if they had a permit.

Patterson quoted an angry minister as saying, "I live in a parsonage on the church property, and, by law, I can't go home."

But others contend that a place of worship is no place for a gun.

"Church is such a dangerous place," the Rev. Tim Roberts, an associate pastor of New Hope First Baptist Church in Cedar Park, said sarcastically. "I saw the need for the exemption, and I don't understand why the Legislature would make that change."

The Rev. Doris Davis, who with her husband pastors Faith Christian Chruch in northeast Austin, says nothing good can come from guns in churches.

"I would think that God would protect you," she said.

# *Roby lottery organizer battling brain tumors*

ROBY (AP) — Peggy Terry Dickson is battling brain cancer, one year after organizing a lottery pool that netted $46.7 million for 43 people in and around her little town of Roby.

Mrs. Dickson, 49, learned the day before Thanksgiving that two weeks of headaches were the result of two tumors. One was surgically removed Dec. 2, the other will be treated with radiation therapy, said her husband, Thomas Dickson.

The mother of two and bookkeeper at the Terry Gin in Roby was listed in stable condition Tuesday at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Several members of last year's lottery pool, 21 of whom are her relatives, have kept vigil at the hospital over the past two weeks.

Thomas Dickson said his wife had attributed her severe headaches to the scores of telephone calls related to their windfall's first anniversary, which was Thanksgiving Day this year.

On Nov. 26, exactly a year after she bought the winning Lotto Texas ticket in nearby Sweetwater, Mrs. Dickson underwent a CT scan on the advice of her local doctor. The procedure revealed the tumors.

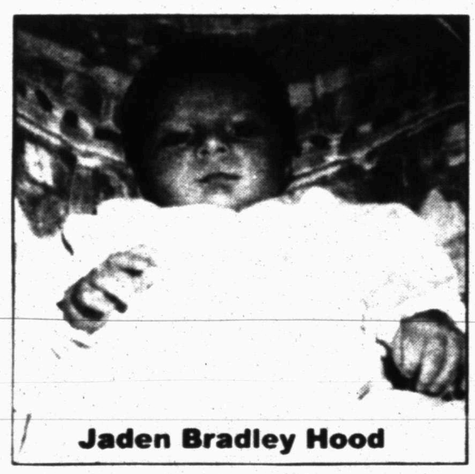
## Russia launches military satellite

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia launched a military Kosmos satellite Tuesday, one designed to monitor international arms agreements.

The 6½-ton satellite, launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakstan and put into orbit by a Tsiklon booster, carries photographic equipment and two landing capsules to send film to earth, the Strategic Missile Forces said, according to Interfax news agency.


Baby's First Christmas

Make their First Christmas One To Remember!



Jaden Bradley Hood

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NEW BABY

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Bring Us A Cute Picture Of Your Child Or Grandchild Right Away

The Cost Is Only $15 Per Ad

The Deadline Is 5:00 p.m. December 19


A TIME-TRAVELING CHRISTMAS by Jack & Carole Bender

# Adult literacy problems bedevil industrialized countries in West

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half of American adults have trouble with such common mental demands of life as reading newspapers, filling out job applications or balancing a checkbook, a survey found.

And Americans aren't alone, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reported today in its annual look at education. "Low literacy is a problem everywhere," the report said.

Among 12 Western industrialized nations, Swedes scored best and Poles worst in the International Adult Literacy Survey that was cited in the report. There was no statistically significant difference among Americans, Australians, Belgians, Britons, Canadians, Dutch, Germans, Irish, New Zealanders and the Swiss.

Another researcher cautioned, however, that such surveys tend to overstate the problem by confronting test-takers with unfamiliar documents. Police aren't reporting people lost because they "couldn't find their way to Main Street," said Richard L. Venezky, an educational psychologist at the University of Delaware.

Although the OECD report found high levels of college among Americans, it also found some disturbing signs. High-school dropout rates were high. And education wasn't always a guarantee of literacy, defined by the researchers as ability to read texts, understand documents such as charts, graphs and schedules, or perform arithmetic.

Moreover, the report suggests that workers who don't use their mental skills lose them, perhaps suggesting diminished mental capacity for all the Dilberts who stay on the job too long.

"The No. 1 thing, we believe, for literacy is the workplace," said Albert Tuijnman, the OECD's education analyst, in a briefing in Washington on Tuesday. "It's use it or lose it."

"What we're discovering now is that skills are not fixed for life."

The report said blue-collar workers and others have an untapped pool of talent that could be lost if not better used. It urged employers and governments to promote "a literacy-rich work culture."

The report hardly surprised Steve Sayler, in charge of personnel at Gear for Sports, a maker of custom-printed and embroidered sweatshirts and other sportswear in Lenexa, Kan. Four-page job applications come fraught with errors.

A question about dates employed is answered with the time of the shift — 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., for example. A former stock clerk describes the job as "stalker."

"There are questions on there that they do not answer simply because, I think, they do not understand the question," he said.

Statistics Canada and the U.S. Educational Testing Service, a private firm, did the research in 1994 and 1995, measuring people on three scales that comprise literacy: reading prose, reading documents and doing mathematics. Depending on the country, between one-quarter and three-quarters of the adults 16 to 65 who were surveyed failed to attain "Level 3."

That level is considered "a suitable minimum skill level for coping with the demands of modern life and work."

# Galveston man sentenced to 25 years for 1996 slaying

GALVESTON (AP) — Paul Landry Jr., 36, of Galveston has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for the 1996 fatal shooting of Isreal Martin III, 31, a former football player at Galveston Ball High School and the University of Houston.

Landry was convicted last April, but attempts by his attorneys to have State District Judge Frank Carmona removed from the case delayed sentencing.

Martin died from two gunshot wounds to the head at a Galveston bar on Jan. 29, 1996.

Martin, a running back, played for Houston in the 1985 Cotton Bowl against Boston College.

Prosecutors said the two men had a run-in at another Galveston bar earlier in the evening. Assistant District Attorney Joe Maida IV said Landry owed Martin some money.

Landry admitted shooting Martin, but said he acted in self defense. Landry's attorney, Brent Liedtke, said Martin was bullying Landry and trying to take money from him at both bars that night.

"Our theory was he was a bad guy who was out of control," Liedtke said. "I think the sentence might have been harsh."

Liedtke said he tried to have Carmona recused from the case not because he couldn't be fair or impartial but because he had become a witness.

Liedtke said the judge discovered a transcription error that led to the defense not being informed that a man ultimately picked as a juror had family members employed in law enforcement.

# Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 11, 1997

Knowledge you have acquired through personal experience will be put to constructive use in the year ahead. Your new approach will offer better results and greater recognition at work.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** An interesting project might not be as easy to execute as it appears on the drawing board, but do not use this as an excuse to call it quits. Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Extravagant urges could overwhelm you today if you lack financial discipline. Be prudent in money matters and restrict your purchases to essentials.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** In order to promote good will among your peers today, you might promise more than you are able to deliver. Be generous but also be practical.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** It is imperative that you distinguish between positive thinking and wishful expectations today. The former enhances success, the latter courts failure.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Material trends could be very whimsical today and nothing of value is likely to be gained if you take opportunities for granted. Capitalize on your advantages.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Objectives you can normally achieve with relative ease could prove to be rather difficult today. In competitions, don't underestimate dissenters.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** You are not easily deceived, but today you might be taken in by accepting at face value something told to you by one who is not too trustworthy.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** It is best not to take financial risks today in areas in which you are unfamiliar. You won't like it if you have to pay for another's mistakes.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Not all your associates will abide by your lofty standards. Keep this in mind if you have to negotiate a matter with someone you don't know too well.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You will have a sharp eye for details today, but your vision could be blurred when it comes to seeing the big picture. Wear your bifocals.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Schedule your time today so that your duties are given priority over pleasurable pursuits. Without an agenda, productive hours might be squandered.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Beware, you might base your judgments upon a faulty premise today. Instead of making impulsive agreements, go on a fact-finding mission first.

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Berry's World

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# Higher prices only part of anti-smoking drive

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress should raise the price of cigarettes by $1.50 a pack, restrict access to tobacco and stress the dangers of teen-age smoking, witnesses told a House subcommittee.

But a price increase alone would do little to reduce youth smoking, two of three expert witnesses testified Tuesday to the House Commerce subcommittee on health and environment.

"There is no single magic bullet," said Leonard Jason, a DePaul University psychology professor. "The best approach is a combination of tools, including restricting access and advertising, school-based programs and price increases."

Economic studies estimate that a 10 percent price increase would reduce adult smoking by about 4 percent and teen smoking by 7 percent, said Michael P. Eriksen, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's office on smoking and health.

A third witness — Howard Beals, a George Washington University professor who has worked as a consultant for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. — disagreed. He said the most effective approach would be educating teen-agers about the consequences of smoking and imposing penalties for tobacco use.

Several members of Congress have introduced bills that would raise prices by $1.50 a pack, and anti-smoking groups have taken up the call in hopes that Congress will act next year on a proposed settlement reached between tobacco companies and state attorneys general in June.

Under the deal, tobacco companies would pay $368 billion over 25 years, curb their advertising and pay fines of up to $2 billion if teen smoking, which has increased through the 1990s, doesn't drop 30 percent in five years. In return, they would be protected against future lawsuits and win limits on government control of nicotine.

The $1.50 increase was not part of the settlement. President Clinton has called for raising prices gradually if teen smoking doesn't drop significantly over 10 years.

The tobacco industry has said the June agreement by itself would cause cigarette prices to rise by at least $1.50 a pack over 10 years.

Beals said the single most important factor in teens' decision to begin smoking is the behavior of their closest friends.

"The odds that a teen whose best friends of the same sex all smoke are more than six times higher than for a teen with no smoking friends," he said. "Teen-agers smoke because, judged by their own preferences, the benefits of smoking exceed the costs. To discourage teen-age smoking, policies must seek to reduce the benefits that teens derive from smoking or they must seek to increase the costs that teens who smoke must bear."

Beals said his research also shows that cigarette advertising may influence a teen-ager's choice of brands, but it doesn't appear to entice them to begin smoking.

But Eriksen said advertising plays an important rule by affecting young people's perceptions of the pervasiveness, image and function of smoking.

CDC data show that teen-agers are nearly three times as likely as adults to smoke the most heavily advertised brands of cigarettes, and the glamorization of tobacco use in the media also appears to be a substantial influence, he said.

## Hasbro cutting some 2,500 jobs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The nation's second-largest toymaker, Hasbro Inc., plans to eliminate 2,500 jobs, close several factories and scrap some of its products in a restructuring aimed at challenging rival Mattel.

The five-year plan, which will get rid of 20 percent of Hasbro's global work force, will save $350 million, the company said Tuesday. Hasbro is not planning to discontinue any American products.

Hasbro also said it will buy up to $500 million worth of its stock over the next two to three years. Companies use buybacks to boost stock value by reducing the shares available on the open market.

The company said it will close a factory in New Zealand, eliminating 100 jobs, along with other "under-utilized facilities" in the coming months. It had previously announced the closing of plants in El Paso, Texas, and in the British city of Waddington.

The job cuts include nearly 700 employees who worked at the El Paso plant. The company declined to release other specifics.

*Xena's best friend:*

# Renee O'Connor is sidekick Gabrielle

NEW YORK (AP) — There's no accounting for taste. Just ask Renee O'Connor, who plays plucky sidekick Gabrielle on "Xena: Warrior Princess."

"The first season, I was getting these letters from men in prison," O'Connor reports. "I'm thinking, 'Hang on! It's Lucy who plays a barbarian who's exotic and sexy and dresses in leather!' "

Her co-star, Lucy Lawless, stands tall as the title character on this syndicated action hour (check local listings for time and station). But O'Connor, as Xena's best friend and travel companion, has conquered fans of her own. And — defying expectations — these admirers include jailbirds less enamored of a lusty Amazon than O'Connor's 5-foot-4-inch prissy missy.

The fact that Renee is admired by anyone still catches her off-guard, she confesses during an interview. For instance, when she appeared at her first "Xena" fans' convention, she faced an adoring crowd of 1,500.

"I walked out on stage and I didn't know what to do," she recalls. "I'm not a stand-up comedian. But I just started chatting with them and they started asking me questions. They knew the show inside and out.

"It's still too profound for me to absorb right now, because I'm in it," O'Connor says of the "Xena" phenomenon. "Maybe later on, I'll be shocked."

Well, anyone might be startled at the following "Xena" has won since its launch three seasons ago. A spinoff of "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys," it's a fancifully feminist romp enlivened by derring-do, special effects and, with some frequency, a sly wink.

In between righting wrongs, "Xena" never hesitates to laugh at itself. After all, where else could you hear in the space of one hour "Round up those virgins!" and "We've got to talk"; "I dropped my prayer scroll" and "You wuss!" Stylistically, "Xena" touches all bases.

Indeed, this is a series that, along with its idiot-proof themes of good and evil, carries a whiff of cheeky ambiguity for those inclined to give the question a moment's thought: Exactly what IS the nature of this friendship?

Especially in the age of "Ellen," some members of the audience love to read into "Xena" certain Sapphic overtones. Let them, says Renee.

"We've had a good time with that, actually," she allows. "Not that Xena and Gabrielle are necessarily companions sexually. We just decided to add a new dimension to our relationship: Before, we were like sisters. This is something a little more flirtatious and playful."

Born in Houston, the 26-year-old O'Connor made her professional debut starring in the "Teen Angel" serial featured on the Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club."

She journeyed half-a-world away to New Zealand to appear in the pilot of "Hercules." Then, back home in Los Angeles, she was cast in "Xena." She had four days to stash her belongings and race to Auckland, where filming was about to begin.

Initially the character of Gabrielle was meant to be a sort of daughter figure in her late teens.

"When she first started following Xena around, no one watching the show wanted this little pesky person bothering her," says O'Connor. "But since Gabrielle started holding her own ground, people respect her more, which is great for me: I used to have to cry in every episode. Now the producers let me fight."

Gabrielle has grown up in another respect. Her earliest costume, which O'Connor describes as a dress "that made me look like a Laura Ingalls reject," has gone through several modifications en route to her current sporty ensemble: wraparound skirt, laced-front halter top and boots.

"Oh, boy, is it better!" she laughs with grateful relief. "Before, the skirt would ride up, and that would be embarrassing."

Suffice it to say Gabrielle's garb is a fine complement to Xena's bad-mama leather sunsuit. But the two mythological hotties are a grand fit, too, especially from the standpoint of the junior partner.

"We're sort of like opposites that balance each other, aren't we?" says O'Connor happily.

Ice and concrete have a similar hardness.

## Bridge

**By Phillip Alder**

12-10-97

North
♠ 5 2
♥ 9 5 3
♦ Q 7 6 4 3
♣ A 9 3

West
♠ 4 3
♥ K 7 6 4
♦ A 10 5
♣ J 10 8 6

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

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

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: ♣ J

### Up after dawn

**By Phillip Alder**

Are you at your best first thing in the morning? Or does it take you until midday or early afternoon — or evening! — to move into top gear?

I agree with Peter de Vries, an American writer, who said, "I write when I'm inspired, and I see to it that I'm inspired at nine o'clock every morning." Yes, all right, I might wait until 9:30 if there's something particularly interesting in the paper.

Because no one plays bridge at nine in the morning (except New Zealanders), how does that relate to this deal? Well, one word points toward the key card. How would you play in four spades after West leads the club jack?

You or I — well, you — would reach three no-trump, but South opened four spades because he didn't think he could make a slam opposite a passed partner and he wanted to shut out the opposition.

After West leads the club jack, declarer plays low from the dummy. If West led from the king-jack-10, South would have had only three losers: two hearts and one diamond. However, here East wins with the king.

Did you see the necessary play? You must unblock the queen! As West's lead marks him with the jack and 10 of clubs, you must be in a position to finesse dummy's nine on the second round. In this way, you can get one of your heart losers away. (Alternatively, count your winners: seven spades, one heart and *two* clubs.)

Finally, what if East decides to switch to a heart at trick two (a reasonable choice)? He should be careful to lead the 10, the so-called surrounding play.

If you are a new reader of this column, you might like to buy Phillip's book, "Get Smarter at Bridge," which was published in 1994 and reprinted this year. To order (autographed on request), send a check for $14.95 payable to Phillip Alder to P.O. Box 149, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577-0149.

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## Dear Abby

**By Abigail Van Buren**

### Family Friend's Stalking Is Good Reason for Girl to Fear

© 1997 Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from a scared 15-year-old girl who was being pestered by a family friend, and whose parents did not take her fear seriously.

To "Quaking in California," I would like to say: "If Sam has taken photos of you at the mall and is leaving suggestive notes on your door, he is already stalking you! Do something about it now. Go to the police and let them know your fears."

I am a convicted sex offender, and I see it as only a matter of time before this man comes after this young lady and rapes her. The police should be notified immediately. She is in my prayers.

'TREATED' IN MONROE, WASH.

**DEAR TREATED: The girl's letter brought a flood of mail from readers who identified with it and offered advice. Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: Your advice fell a little short. She is worried that "Sam" might start stalking her. I've got news for you: He already is! California stalking laws are very specific, and Sam's activities would definitely qualify as such. Sam is 34 and trying to start a relationship with a 15-year-old. Last time I checked, that was illegal — consensual or not. Being drunk is no excuse. She would be best advised to talk to the police and seek a restraining order. When looking for friends, maybe her parents should look somewhere other than the local bar.

BRYAN IN CALIFORNIA

***

DEAR ABBY: I'm 32, but when I was 15, a friend of my brother's (who is 10 years older than me) started making passes at me. This went on for about two months. It ended with my being raped. The emotional scars I have dealt with; the physical scars I cover up.

Abby, "Quaking in California" has reason to be afraid. "Sam" is stalking her, and if her parents won't listen, she should take copies of the notes from her father's friend to the police.

K.H. IN FRESNO, CALIF.

***

DEAR ABBY: I knew I had to write when I read the letter from "Quaking." That was me 20 years ago. I spent several years of my life afraid to attend any family gatherings. If I went, I would be afraid even to go to the bathroom for fear "Uncle Pete" would follow me. My parents thought I was an overimaginative child, too young to know what was going on.

Well, one night Uncle Pete passed out on our couch, and I woke up to find him all over me! He ripped off my clothes and I thought he was going to rape me. I managed to push him off me and scream. Uncle Pete ran out of the house and I never saw him again. My dad made sure of it!

Abby, too many parents think their children are too young to know what sexual harassment is, but they're not. Children know the feelings of shame and fear when someone makes sexual moves on them, even if they don't know what to call those feelings. But there is a name for it: sexual abuse of children.

Her instincts should be applauded, but she needs help fast. Most rapes are committed by a family friend or member, not by an unknown. Parents must teach their children not to succumb to the child predator.

"Quaking," go to your counselor or teachers, or the police. If you can't do that, find an adult you can trust — maybe the mother of a friend. If you came to me, I would help, and there are many other good people who would, too. Good luck, and may the Lord keep you safe.

SURVIVOR IN SIMPSONVILLE, S.C.

**DEAR READERS: I regret that space limitations prevent me from printing all of the excellent letters I have received offering support and direction for "Quaking in California." However, tomorrow I will print two more — from professionals who work with children. Stay tuned.**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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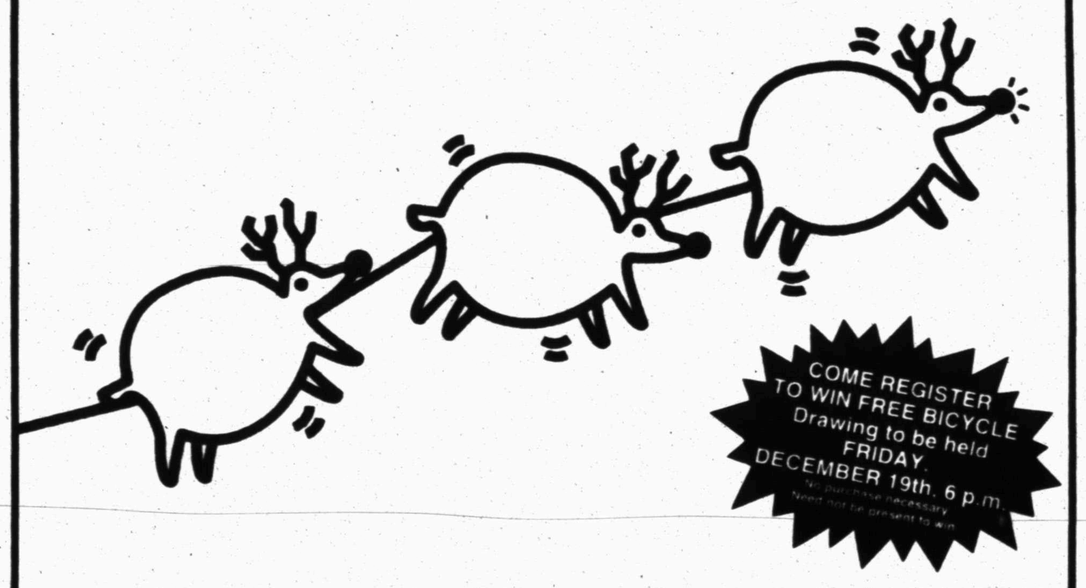
WHAT'S A BLIMPIE?




No, it's not Santa's team packing on pounds for the big night! It's a scrumptious Blimpie sub sandwich, made only with quality meats, real dairy cheese, fresh baked bread and crisp vegetable. Something to celebrate all year long!

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Blimpie It's a beautiful thing.

DEC 10 1997

# Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

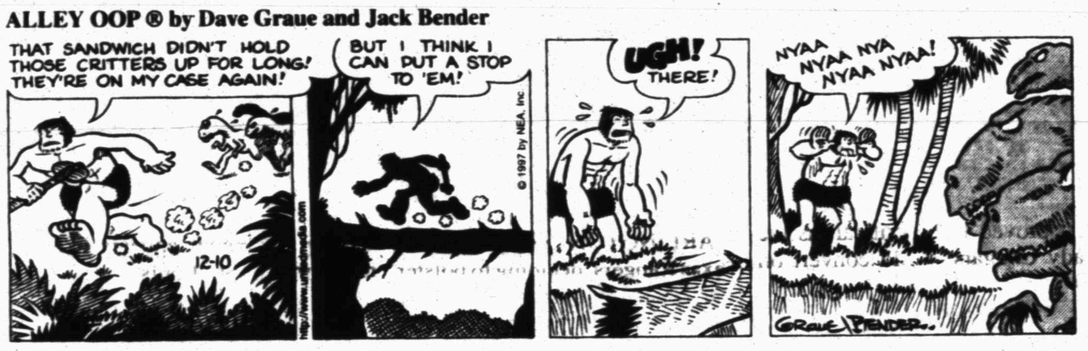
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® By Fred Lasswell

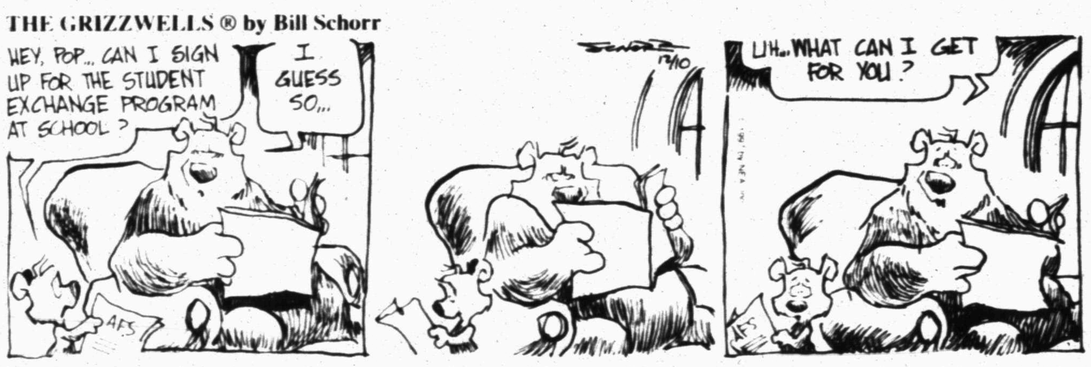
ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

BLONDIE by Dean Young and Stan Drake

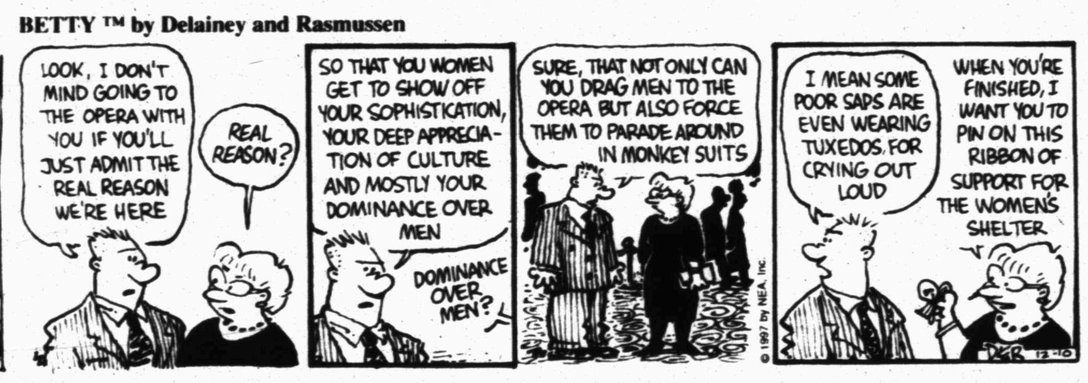
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender




THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr




BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen




## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Of the lower back
7 Type of serf
13 Each
14 Resembling wool
15 River in India
16 Prayer
17 JFK sight
18 Type of wave
20 British Navy abbr.
21 Famed quarterback Johnny —
23 Twilight (obs.)
27 Draws off
31 Cut of meat
32 Type of pal?
33 Plaintiff
34 Individuals
35 Dust cloth
36 Diligence
37 Sober
39 Ohio city
40 Most painful
42 Actress Francis
45 Dancing spot
46 Sty resident
49 Actor Peter —
51 Long-haired cat
53 Actress Bacall
54 Rented
55 Not moving (2 wds.)
56 Tax

**DOWN**

1 Falls behind
2 Arrow poison
3 After-dinner candy
4 Entreat
5 Vinegar
6 Tree exudation
7 — island (custard dessert)
8 Hat part
9 Prefix for corn
10 Hurry
11 Tiny particle
12 Camera part
19 Mumps and measles
22 Corn covering
23 Silk fabric
24 Crescent shape
25 Biblical measure
26 Point of orbit, in astronomy
28 Gravel ridges
29 Roman emperor
30 Observed
32 Lewd
38 Lots
39 Makes amends
41 Opera house, La —
42 Tropical nut
43 Rat- — - —
44 Thy
46 Sit for a portrait
47 Angers
48 Roams (about)
50 Mineral
52 Auto fuel

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | O | L | L | O | W | | | Y | A | P | S | |
| E | V | O | L | V | E | | T | O | I | L | E | R |
| T | E | N | D | O | N | | A | U | R | O | R | A |
| A | R | G | | I | C | E | R | | E | D | E | N |
| | | | A | D | H | E | R | E | D | | | |
| Y | A | L | E | | | R | E | T | | S | E | A |
| U | S | U | R | P | | I | D | A | H | O | A | N |
| L | A | N | O | L | I | N | | T | E | N | S | E |
| E | N | G | | I | N | E | | | I | G | E | T |
| | | | T | E | L | S | T | A | R | | | |
| M | A | G | I | | A | S | H | E | | T | I | A |
| E | L | L | E | R | Y | | E | R | V | I | N | G |
| T | A | U | R | U | S | | F | I | A | N | C | E |
| | N | E | S | T | | | T | E | N | T | H | S |

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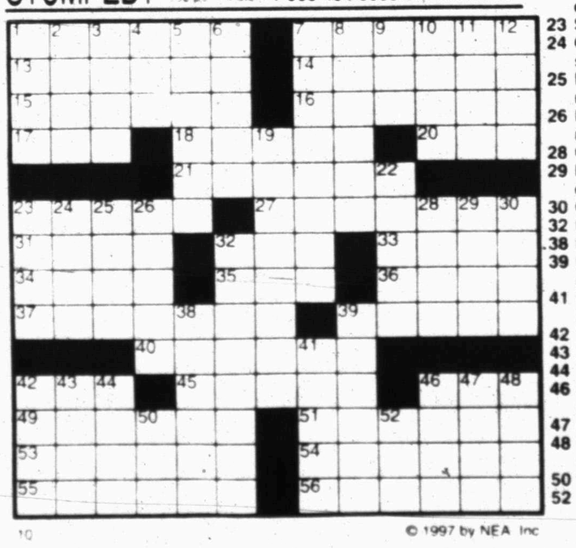

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

"I know we all have group insurance, but this is ridiculous."

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"I can always tell when they're wearing 'elevator shoes.'"

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CHICKEN SOUP?"

# SPORTS

# Lady Tiger rally falls short, 57-54

Abilene Cooper must be wondering if they played two different teams Tuesday night.

After being dominated by Cooper in the first half, the Snyder Lady Tigers clawed their way back, before falling, 57-54.

"The girls learned that they have to play well in the first half," Snyder coach Rick Archer said. "The first half just killed us, but I'm really proud of the way our girls played in the second half."

The first two quarters belonged to the Lady Cougars, who opened the contest with a 10-2 run.

Cooper had pushed the margin to 26-15 with :33 left in the second period.

But Snyder's Melanie Kidd drained a three-pointer and Shannon Hall connected on a 10-foot jumper, trimming the deficit to 28-20 at the half.

"At halftime we talked about defense," Archer stated. "I told the girls that this wasn't the Snyder team that I have been coaching.

"But they came out in the second half and played like the Snyder team I know."

The Lady Tigers got off to a fast start in the third.

Freshman Kameron Kallemeyn stole the inbounds pass, dribbling the lenghth of the floor for a layup.

The Lady Tigers kept their frantic pace, chipping away at the lead.

At the 3:40 mark, Hall faked a shot then drove along the baseline for a layup. The bucket capped a 10-4 Snyder run, cutting the Cooper advantage to 32-30.

Trailing 39-36 entering the final eight minutes of play, Snyder would commit its 10th team foul to put Cooper into the double-bonus.

It proved to be critical, as the Lady Cougars would convert on 70 percent of their free throws.

After falling behind by four with just over four minutes remaining, Kidd came through from long range again.

The 5'10" senior swished her second three-pointer, bringing the Lady Tigers within a point.

But Snyder was still forced to make one more run.

Facing a six-point deficit with 1:34 left on the clock, the Lady Tigers made their final rally.

Alicia Peoples cut the margin to four with layup for two of her team-high 15 points.

Freshman Ashley Delce then stole a Lady Cougar pass at mid-court and converted on a basket for a 53-51 tally.

But Coopers free throws began to pay off.

The Lady Cougars were four for four in the final 25 seconds and held a three-point lead with only :12 showing on the game clock.

Following a Snyder timeout, the Lady Tigers had one last chance.

But Mandy Hess' three-pointer bounced off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

"We're still alright," Archer said. "Hopefully the girls can learn from this and it will help us through district to get into the playoffs."

The loss drops Snyder to 5-4 on the season, while Abilene Cooper improves to 8-5.

Next up for the Lady Tigers is the Wylie Tournament.

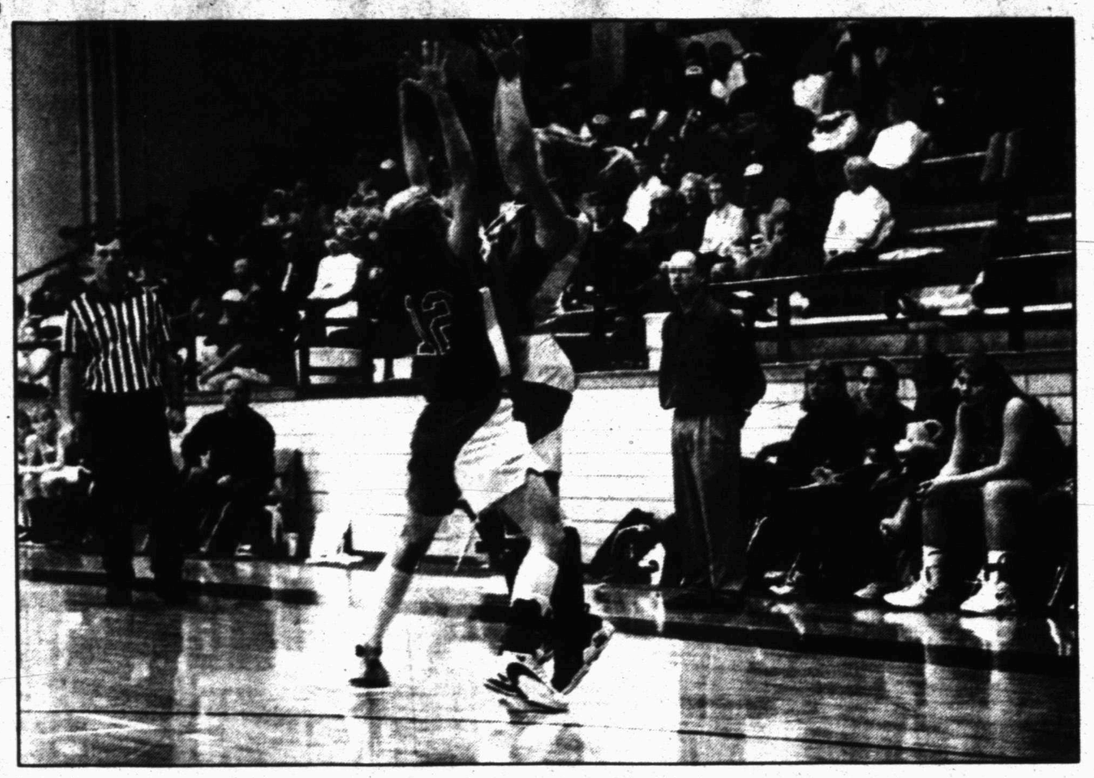
Snyder faces Eldorado at 12:30 Thursday in first-round action.

ABILENE COOPER — Ames 0 4-4 4, Varner 8 5-6 21, Wallace 1 0-2 2, Padgett 4 2-3 10, Weir 6 8-12 20. Totals 19 19-27 57.

SNYDER — Delce 4 0-3 8, Hess 1 0-0 2, Hall 3 1-4 7, Kidd 5 0-2 12, Peoples 7 1-2 15, Scott 1 0-0 2, Daniell 0 4-4 4, Kallemeyn 2 0-0 4. Totals 23 6-15 54.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cooper | 14 | 14 | 11 | 18 | — 57 |
| Snyder | 6 | 14 | 16 | 18 | — 54 |

Three-point goals: Snyder 2 (Kidd 2). Total fouls: Cooper 14, Snyder 23. Fouled out: none.



FACE-TO-FACE — Snyder's Brooke McGuire looks to pass over Abilene Cooper's Melissa Ames during action Tuesday night at the SHS gymnasium. Despite a late rally, the Lady Tigers fell to Abilene, 57-54. (SDN Staff Photo By Eric Drennan)

# Tigers drop shootout to Westerners

LUBBOCK — The Snyder Tigers learned Tuesday night that you don't want to get into a shooting match with Lubbock High.

In a non-district game where the two teams combined for 30 points from three-point range, Snyder fell to the Westerners, 70-63.

"They (Lubbock High) are very quick and athletic," Snyder coach Bud Birks said. "They were able to beat us off the dribble more than any other team and they can shoot the ball extremely well.

"But overall, I thought we played pretty well. Lubbock just has a very good basketball team."

The Tigers held their only lead of the game, 16-12, at the close of the first quarter.

But the Westerners erased the Snyder advantage in the second, outscoring the Tigers, 24-14, for a 36-30 halftime margin.

Snyder battled Lubbock for the entire second half, playing the Westerners to a 34-33 score over the final two quarters.

The Tigers took the floor Tuesday night without one of its starters.

Senior Toby Delce suffered his second concussion of the season Saturday during the Frenship tournament.

Delce was to have been examined by a physician this afternoon. A decision on when Delce might return to the line-up will be made following the examination.

"Delce gives us a lot of rebounds and good defensive effort," Birks stated. "It hurts our rebounding and we're not quite as good a defensive team, when he's not playing."

Tuesday's loss drops the Tigers' record to 4-5 on the season.

Next on the Snyder schedule is the Seminole Tournament.

The Tigers face the host Indians at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in first-round action.

It will be the third time the two teams have met in the last 10 days.

Snyder topped the Indians, 66-59, in the first match-up, before losing the second contest, 48-45.

SNYDER — Fabre 1 0-0 2, Warren 3 0-0 7, Riggins 7 2-3 18, Taylor 7 3-3 17, Carter 3 0-0 6, Cobb 1 0-0 3, McNair 2 0-0 6, Durham 1 0-0 2, Mandrell 1 0-0 2. Totals 26 5-6 63.

LUBBOCK HIGH — Chaves 9 2-4 22, Randle 8 8-9 24, Hernandez 1 0-0 2, Loden 1 0-2 2, Thompson 2 0-0 4, Young 3 1-2 9, Boyd 1 0-0 2, Chapman 2 1-1 5. Totals 27 12-18 70.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Snyder | 16 | 14 | 20 | 13 | — 63 |
| Lubbock | 12 | 24 | 21 | 13 | — 70 |

Three-point goals: Snyder 6 (McNair 2, Riggins 2, Warren, Cobb); Lubbock 4 (Chaves 2, Young 2). Total fouls: Snyder 16, Lubbock 12. Fouled out: none.

# Jones wants a change of direction for 1998 squad

IRVING (AP) — Barry Switzer wants to come back as the Dallas Cowboys coach. So far, he hasn't received a second on his self-nomination.

Troy Aikman is looking for big changes in the Cowboys next year. Owner Jerry Jones says they will come after the season.

"It's hard to watch," Aikman said. "Something has to be done."

The Cowboys, winners of three Super Bowls in the 1990s, won't win their sixth consecutive NFC East title. For that matter, they won't even make the playoffs — the first time in seven years that has happened.

The NFL office says there is still a distant possibility Dallas can qualify for the postseason, but there are so many scenarios the league hasn't bothered to figure out exactly how the Cowboys could stay alive.

In any case, everyone on the Cowboys knows it's over.

"We'll look at all the issues, but we'll wait until way after the season is over," a crestfallen Jones said. "I know we can't keep having a direction like this."

Unable to respond under Switzer, the Cowboys have tumbled to 6-8 following Monday night's 23-13 loss to Carolina, the same team that knocked Dallas out of the playoffs in January.

Rumors sweep Valley Ranch daily that Switzer will retire after the final two games and take a $2 million pat-on-the-back check for winning a Super Bowl in four seasons as a replacement for Jimmy Johnson.

"I expect to be back next year," Switzer said Tuesday. "But only Jerry can answer that. I have a loyalty to Jerry and this football team. We'll discuss the job candidly and honestly. I'm a team guy. I want nothing but the best for this football team."

# Ritchey hands over the reins at Sweetwater

SWEETWATER — The winningest football coach in the history of Sweetwater High School has retired.

Tom Ritchey, who compiled a 120-24-2 mark in 12 seasons with the Mustangs, retired on Monday.

This season, Ritchey's team went 13-1 before bowing out to Denison in the Class 4A quarterfinals.

Ritchey's Mustangs have posted a remarkable 36 victories against only three losses in the past three years.

The 53-year-old said he had decided two years ago that this would be his final season.

Ritchey plans to remain at the school for the rest of the school year.

Sweetwater School Board will meet next Tuesday to decide on a replacement.

# Rangers sign free agents

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers, deciding to bolster their bench instead of their starting rotation, signed free agents Luis Alicea and Roberto Kelly to two-year contracts.

Rangers general manager Doug Melvin filled in his starting lineup Monday by giving shortstop Kevin Elster a one-year, $1.65 million deal.

A day later, Melvin spent another $5.425 million on veteran players who can back up several positions.

Melvin said he had been interested in Darryl Kile, Wilson Alvarez and Andy Benes, but Kile went to Colorado, Alvarez to [illegible] and Benes appears likely to return to St. Louis.

Once Melvin scanned the next tier of pitchers, he suddenly felt better about his current lot of John Burkett, Darren Oliver, Aaron Sele, Rick Helling and Roger Pavlik. Bobby Witt has been offered arbitration, but is expected to sign elsewhere.

"We looked at our staff and what was available and decided we'd just as soon go with our pitchers than get into multi-year deals with other pitchers," Melvin said.

Alicea is a switch-hitter who has played second base, shortstop, third base and the outfield in his 10-year career. Kelly is a power threat who can start at all three outfield positions and who didn't make an error last season in 156 total chances.

Both players also offer speed and playoff experience, and could be full-time starters should the usually injury plagued Rangers need to plug any positions.

## SDN Sports Week

### Thursday

***Basketball***

**Snyder varsity boys vs. Seminole, Seminole tourney, 7:30.**

**Snyder varsity girls vs. Eldorado, Wylie tourney, 12:30.**

**Ira varsity girls & boys vs. Blackwell, Blackwell tourney, 6 p.m., 7:30.**

**Hermleigh varsity girls & boys at Roby tourney.**

**Snyder JV girls at Colorado City tourney.**

**Snyder 9th boys at Andrews tourney.**

### Friday

***Basketball***

**WTC vs. Seward County, Pizza Hut Classic in Liberal, Kan., 6 p.m.**

**Snyder varsity boys vs. Clint/Andrews, Seminole tourney, 1:30 or 4:30.**

**Snyder varsity girls vs. Hawley/Haskell, Wylie tourney, 9:30 a.m. or 12:30.**

**Ira varsity girls & boys at Blackwell tourney.**

**Hermleigh varsity girls & boys at Roby tourney.**

**Snyder JV girls at C-City tourney.**

**Snyder 9th boys at Andrews tourney.**

**Snyder 7th & 8th boys at Lamesa tourney.**

### Saturday

***Football***

**Borden County vs. Panther Creek, six-man state championship at Abilene Wylie Stadium, 2 p.m.**

***Basketball***

**WTC vs. Dodge City, Pizza Hut Classic in Liberal, Kan., 2 p.m.**

**Snyder varsity boys at Seminole tourney.**

**Snyder varsity girls at Wylie tourney.**

**Ira varsity girls & boys at Blackwell tourney.**

**Hermleigh varsity girls & boys at Roby tourney.**

**Snyder JV girls at C-City tourney.**

**Snyder 9th boys at Andrews tourney.**

**Snyder 7th & 8th boys at Lamesa tourney.**

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 14 | 5 | .737 | - |
| Orlando | 14 | 7 | .667 | 1 |
| NewJersey | 11 | 9 | .550 | 3½ |
| NewYork | 11 | 9 | .550 | 3½ |
| Washington | 9 | 11 | .450 | 5½ |
| Boston | 7 | 11 | .389 | 6½ |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 12 | .294 | 8 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Atlanta | 15 | 4 | .789 | - |
| Cleveland | 12 | 6 | .667 | 2½ |
| Chicago | 12 | 7 | .632 | 3 |
| Charlotte | 11 | 7 | .611 | 3½ |
| Indiana | 11 | 7 | .611 | 3½ |
| Milwaukee | 11 | 8 | .579 | 4 |
| Detroit | 9 | 12 | .429 | 7 |
| Toronto | 1 | 19 | .050 | 14½ |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Midwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 12 | 5 | .705 | - |
| Utah | 12 | 8 | .600 | 1½ |
| SanAntonio | 10 | 10 | .500 | 3½ |
| Minnesota | 8 | 11 | .421 | 5 |
| Vancouver | 7 | 14 | .333 | 7 |
| Dallas | 5 | 14 | .263 | 8 |
| Denver | 2 | 16 | .111 | 10½ |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | |
| L.A.Lakers | 15 | 4 | .789 | - |
| Seattle | 16 | 5 | .762 | - |
| Phoenix | 12 | 5 | .706 | 2 |
| Portland | 12 | 6 | .667 | 2½ |
| Sacramento | 7 | 14 | 333 | 9 |
| L.A.Clippers | 4 | 16 | .200 | 11½ |
| GoldenState | 2 | 15 | .118 | 12 |

**Tuesday's Games**

Washington 120, New Jersey 99
Charlotte 95, Toronto 82
Miami 97, Atlanta 81
Detroit 92, Denver 83
Chicago 100, New York 82
Seattle 108, Minnesota 99
Houston 108, San Antonio 78
L.A. Clippers 99, Dallas 92
Phoenix 107, Vancouver 85
Sacramento 113, Utah 101

**Wednesday's Games**

Milwaukee at Boston, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Denver at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Portland, 9 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**

Minnesota at New York, 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 8 p.m.

## NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NewJersey | 19 | 9 | 0 | 38 | 82 | 51 |
| Philadelphia | 15 | 9 | 6 | 36 | 84 | 70 |
| Washington | 15 | 11 | 4 | 34 | 90 | 80 |
| N.Y.Rangers | 9 | 12 | 11 | 29 | 83 | 87 |
| N.Y.Islanders | 12 | 14 | 4 | 28 | 80 | 82 |
| Florida | 9 | 15 | 5 | 23 | 70 | 87 |
| TampaBay | 5 | 19 | 4 | 14 | 54 | 95 |
| **Northeast Division** | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 17 | 10 | 5 | 39 | 90 | 78 |
| Montreal | 17 | 10 | 4 | 38 | 94 | 73 |
| Boston | 13 | 12 | 5 | 31 | 74 | 79 |
| Ottawa | 13 | 13 | 4 | 30 | 78 | 72 |
| Carolina | 12 | 14 | 5 | 29 | 83 | 86 |
| Buffalo | 9 | 13 | 6 | 24 | 72 | 77 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Central Division | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 20 | 8 | 4 | 44 | 103 | 70 |
| Detroit | 19 | 7 | 5 | 43 | 105 | 74 |
| St.Louis | 19 | 9 | 3 | 41 | 94 | 69 |
| Phoenix | 13 | 14 | 3 | 29 | 80 | 84 |
| Chicago | 10 | 14 | 5 | 25 | 63 | 74 |
| Toronto | 10 | 14 | 4 | 24 | 63 | 76 |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | | | |
| Colorado | 16 | 7 | 8 | 40 | 94 | 79 |
| LosAngeles | 12 | 13 | 5 | 29 | 90 | 85 |
| Anaheim | 11 | 14 | 6 | 28 | 70 | 88 |
| Edmonton | 9 | 15 | 7 | 25 | 73 | 94 |
| SanJose | 10 | 18 | 2 | 22 | 76 | 93 |
| Vancouver | 9 | 18 | 4 | 22 | 89 | 111 |
| Calgary | 7 | 18 | 7 | 21 | 80 | 100 |

**Tuesday's Games**

Calgary 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Detroit 7, Vancouver 5
Pittsburgh 2, Los Angeles 1

**Wednesday's Games**

Florida at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Rangers, 6:30 p.m.
Edmonton at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Colorado at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 9:30 p.m.

# No. 3 Kansas is pride of the Big 12

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — At this point in the season, there seem to be three kinds of teams in the Big 12:

Those who have played some tough games and have bad records, those who've played a soft schedule and have good records, and No. 3 Kansas, which has played good teams and has a good record.

The Jayhawks lost to Maryland last week in Washington, but they're about the only team in the Big 12 with many "quality wins."

Oklahoma State went into the week 6-0, but with home games. Kansas State is 5-0 but has not exactly been mowing down Final Four candidates.

Oklahoma and Missouri, on the other hand, have played some quality opponents and gotten their noses bloodied. The Tigers are 2-4 for the first time since anybody can remember.

Big 12 coaches, like their c[illegible]erparts around the country, h[illegible] more on their minds these days than winning and losing. The point-shaving scandal that has embarrassed Arizona State could, if repeated a few times, seriously reduce public credibility in the industry of college basketball.

How many more Arizona State-type hits could college basketball stand?

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said a few more such scandals could rob the sport of its biggest selling point.

## Sports Briefs

### Little dribblers' sign-up

Sign-ups for boys' Little Dribblers ages 9-12 will held through Friday at Scurry County Boys & Girls Club.

Registration fee is $20. For more information contact the Boys & Girls Club at 573-3344.

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| P195/70R14 | $67.45 |
| P205/70R15 | $74.27 |
| P215/70R15 | $76.83 |
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Nix Auto @snydertex.com
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## 090 VEHICLES

1979 MERCURY Monarch, call 573-3555, M-F, 9-5, or see at 4500 Denison.

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'93 GRAND AM, LOW MILEAGE. 573-8394.

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## 160 EMPLOYMENT

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NEEDED NURSES AIDES: Prefer Certified. All Shifts. Call Debbie Collier R.N., D.O.N. or Nancy Messenger R.N., Assistant D.O.N. 573-9377.

Master Journeyman and beginning machinists wanted. Training provided. Send application/resume to Shop Foreman, YZ Industries, Box 890, Snyder, Tx. 79550.

OILFIELD PUMP MECHANIC: Must be experienced and have own tools. Excellent benefits. Apply at: TEC, 1902 37th. EOE.

WANTED: Individuals with painting, dry wall & minor carpentry skills. Call 573-8015.

Midwest Tax Service is accepting applications for Tax Preparer, for computerized tax refund office, to be opened in Snyder. Need to have experience in preparing income tax returns and data entry. Send resume to 102 W. Ave. B Street, Sweetwater, TX 79556 or call Johnny Castereno at 915-235-8511.

NEED TITLE CLERK: Computer experience helpful, Apply in person at Wilson Motors. No Phone Calls.

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We offer a pleasant work environment, competitive salary and excellent benefit package.
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Fax: 915-235-1783
EOE

## 180 INSTRUCTIONS

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of Defensive Driving Course. Saturday, December 13th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Snyder Savings & loan, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

## 190 FINANCIAL

FREE CASH GRANTS! College Scholarships, Business, Medical bills. Never Repay. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. G-2441.

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386 SX Computer with SVGA Color Monitor, CD Rom, Stereo Speakers, Epson Printer, Enhanced Keyboard, and Software included. $350 Call 573-7878.

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### 340 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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| 3602 Jacksboro 3-2-2 | | $53T |
| 3113 Ave T 3-2-2 | | $49.5T |
| 3006 El Paso 3-3-2 | | $115T |
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| 3741 Sunset 3-1-Apt. | | $45T |
| New List 3002 38th 3-2-1 | | $28T |
| Northside of Square! | | Call! |
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### 010 LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital is accepting bids for emergency department physician services. Bids will be received in the Administration Office of Cogdell Memorial Hospital until Tuesday, December 23, 1997 at 12 noon. A copy of the request for proposals can be obtained from the Administration Office of Cogdell Memorial Hospital, 1700 Cogdell Blvd., Snyder, Texas 79549. D.M.Cogdell Memorial Hospital reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

*Customs...*

# Agent makes 'Miami Vice' style stop of drug boat at sea

MIAMI (AP) — Crockett and Tubbs of "Miami Vice" couldn't have done it any better.

A Customs agent, chasing a suspected drug smuggler off the coast of Miami on Monday night, managed to stop the boat — with one leg aboard his own vessel and one leg aboard the other — as they bounced through the choppy seas at 20 mph.

The agent — whose identity the Customs Service wants kept secret — had to make the straddling stop because the smuggling suspect dived into the ocean after he was rammed by the smaller Customs boat.

After stopping the smuggler's boat in "Miami Vice" style, the agent had to dive back aboard his own vessel before it sped away.

"It's one of the most spectacular chases I remember, and I've been here a long time," Keith Prager, Customs' acting special agent in charge, said Tuesday.

It also was productive. Customs agents seized cocaine worth more than $17 million from the boat abandoned by the smuggler and a smaller boat that was also allegedly involved in the operation.

The suspect hadn't been found Tuesday. Prager said he could have swam about a mile to shallow flats and walked to shore.

The episode began when a Coast Guard plane spotted a boat with no lights speeding toward the Florida coast from the Bahamas.

The Coast Guard notified Customs, and agents began following the boat. They watched as it met up with another vessel with no lights, a 30-foot boat coming from Miami.

A short time later, the smugglers made a second transfer, onto a 19-foot single-engine skiff.

That's when Customs agents decided to move in. The smaller boat was caught, and two men aboard arrested.

But the larger vessel sped away and the agent — a 20-year Customs veteran — gave chase, sometimes at 55 mph.

# Earth First! denies getting letter from suspected bomber

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — As jury selection winds down at Theodore Kaczynski's trial, members of an environmental group denied receiving an incriminating letter the Unabomber suspect allegedly wrote to them.

The full text of the letter has not been released. But government evidence made public in October quoted from a copy of the letter, which was found in Kaczynski's Montana cabin after his April 1996 arrest.

"This is a message from FC. The FBI calls us 'unabom.' We are the people who recently assassinated the president of the California Forestry Association," said the excerpt, apparently referring to the bombing death of Gilbert Murray in Sacramento on April 24, 1995.

The letter was addressed to Earth First!, a militant environmental group which opposes forest logging, the government said. A spokeswoman for the group, Alicia Littletree, said the letter didn't end up at Earth First!

"Earth First! never received anything like that," she said Tuesday. "If it exists, we'd like to see it."

The government contends Kaczynski, 55, spent 18 years sending bombs to people he perceived as symbols of the technological world he abhorred. Three people were killed and 29 injured between 1978 and 1995.

Kaczynski is charged here with killing Hugh Scrutton and Murray and maiming two scientists. If convicted of Murray's death — the only one to occur after the federal death penalty was reinstated — he could be executed.

The federal indictment identifies Kaczynski as "FC," the initials the Unabomber used to sign his letters and diatribes. The government contends that the initials stood for an underground organization called the Freedom Club. FBI agents discount the existence of any such group, however, saying the Unabomber was a loner.

Jury selection was scheduled to resume today. Attorneys said they are one or two days from picking the initial pool, from which the final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates will be chosen. Opening statements were scheduled for Dec. 29.

By the end of Tuesday, 79 candidates were tentatively approved. Most of 159 prospects questioned have said they believe Kaczynski is guilty. His lawyers have focused their inquiries on prospective jurors' attitudes toward the death penalty.

One jury candidate was dismissed after she said she could not bear to see pictures of the Unabomber killings without being haunted forever.

"I have some concern about the long-term effects," said the woman, who said she is a writer of children's books and has a vivid imagination.

# CPR class set Dec. 20

ABILENE — The American Red Cross has set a class, "CPR for the Professional Rescuer," for Dec. 20 at the Red Cross Building, 1610 N. 2nd.

The class which begins at 9 a.m. is especially designed for persons entering nurse training, EMT training and lifeguarding. This course includes one and two rescuer CPR, adult/infant/child CPR.

Cost of the course is $50 which includes training books. Preregistration is required. For more information call 915-677-2622 or 1-800-927-6771.

# Local attends conference

ABILENE — Anthony Martinez of Snyder was one of 18 Hardin-Simmons University students who participated in the 12th annual West Texas Model United Nations Conference at McMurry University Dec. 4-5.

Martinez, a sophomore business major, represented the Republic of South Africa in the Model U.N. conference.

Twenty-four nations were represented by 10 colleges and high schools from the Big Country area. Approximately 175 students attended the two-day conference.

## Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Kelsey Guerra, Frances Black; Wilma Scott.

DISMISSALS: Kathleen Ballard, Willard Gladson, Teresa Kariainen, Rosa Saling.

CENSUS: 44 (Med., Surg.-18, Long-term Care-26).

## Arrest, burglary among complaints

Activity continues to be light for local law enforcement personnel as less than two dozen complaints were received by dispatchers.

A 19-year-old male was arrested at 9:52 p.m. Tuesday at the Fieldcrest Apartments on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant to revoke his probation.

Sharon Martinez requested to speak to an officer at 7:57 p.m. at 1917 Coleman to report items missing from her residence. An offense report for burglary of a building was submitted.

A woman told officers at 8:04 p.m. that a person had taken her vehicle from the 2500 block of Avenue C and had not returned it. She requested an attempt to locate on a 1993 Plymouth before filing charges.

A person requested to speak to a deputy in the area of Roadrunner Road around 5 p.m. in reference to litter in the area.

The fire department responded to a report of a chair on fire on a porch at 1800 28th Street at 5:48 p.m. The only damage was to the chair.

Officers responded at 6:19 this morning of a report of grafitti on Northeast Elementary. An offense report was submitted.

A report of a reckless driver was made at 3:53 p.m. Tuesday in the area of Northeast Elementary.

## Markets — Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)-

| High Low Last | |
|---|---|
| AMR Corp | 130⅝ 129 11-16 130¼— 1 |
| AT&T Corp | 58 7-16 57⅞ 58⅜+ ⅜ |
| AirTouch | 41¼ 40⅝ 40 13-16— ⅛ |
| Albertsons | 45 5-16 45 45 —11-16 |
| AlldSignal s | 38 5-16 37⅞ 37⅞—15-16 |
| Alltel | 39 7-16 39⅛ 39 7-16+ ⅛ |
| AmerOnline | 86¼ 84⅛ 86 — ⅛ |
| AmStores | 20 5-16 20 20⅛— ⅛ |
| Ameritech | 77 3-16 76 7-16 76¾+ 1 |
| Amoco | 87 3-16 86 9-16 87 1-16+ ¼ |
| AndarkPtr | 63⅞ 63 63⅛— 5-16 |
| Armcolnc | 5⅜ 5 3-16 5 3-16— 3-16 |
| AtlRichfld s | 77 5-16 76 15-16 77 — 5-16 |
| ATMOS Egy | 27⅞ 27⅞ 27⅞— 1-16 |
| Aviall | 14⅛ 14⅜ 14 7-16— 1-16 |
| BakerHughes | 45⅛ 44 9-16 44⅝— 1-16 |
| BellAtl | 89⅝ 89 7-16 89½— ⅛ |
| BellSouth | 55 5-16 54⅛ 54⅜— 5-16 |
| BethSteel | 9⅛ 8 13-16 8⅞— 5-16 |
| BritPet s | 83 82 5-16 82 15-16+ 1-16 |
| BurlNoSFe | 95 3-16 94⅝ 95 1-16+ 3-16 |
| CBS Corp | 30⅞ 30 30 5-16+ ¼ |
| Caterpillar s | 50 9-16 49⅝ 49⅝—15-16 |
| CenSoWst | 25 5-16 25 25 3-16— 1-16 |
| Chevron | 79 1-16 78⅝ 78 7-16— 1-16 |
| Chrysler | 35⅞ 35⅝ 35 13-16+ ¼ |
| Coastal | 60 3-16 60 60 1-16— 3-16 |
| CocaCola | 63 11-16 63⅛ 63⅛— ⅛ |
| ColgatePalm s | 70 15-16 70 70 7-16+ ⅛ |
| ComclMetals | 32⅞ 32¼ 32¼— 7-16 |
| CooperIn | 50⅞ 50½ 50 13-16+ ¼ |
| CyprusAmax | 17⅞ 17 1-16 17⅛ |
| DallSemicn | 41⅞ 41⅛ 41⅛— ⅛ |
| DeltaAirl | 120⅞ 118⅝ 120 5-16+ 5-16 |
| DigitalEq | 42⅞ 40 40⅛— 1⅞ |
| Dillards Inc | 36 5-16 35⅞ 36 1-16+ ¼ |
| DowChem | 99 11-16 98⅞ 99½— ½ |
| DresserInd | 42 15-16 42⅛ 42 13-16— 1-16 |
| DuPont s | 64 5-16 63 13-16 64 — 1-16 |
| EastmanChem | 59 1-16 58⅞ 59 1-16+ 1-16 |
| EstKodak | 57⅞ 56 13-16 57 —1 1-16 |
| EDS Corp | 40 1-16 39⅝ 39⅝— ⅛ |
| Entergy | 26 11-16 26 7-16 26 9-16+ ⅛ |
| Exxon s | 62⅞ 62 1-16 62⅞ |
| FstBksAm | 19 13-16 19 9-16 19 13-16+ ⅛ |
| Flowers s | 19 15-16 19⅝ 19 15-16+ ⅛ |
| FordMotor | 46 9-16 46 5-16 46 9-16+ 5-16 |
| GTE Cp | 50⅞ 49⅞ 50 + ⅛ |
| GenDynam | 87⅞ 86⅝ 86⅞— ⅛ |
| GenElecs | 74 7-16 74 74 5-16— 5-16 |
| GenMills | 77 13-16 77 3-16 77⅞+ ⅛ |
| GenMotors | 64⅞ 63 1-16 64 +11-16 |
| GaPacif | 86 7-16 85⅞ 86 1-16 |
| GlobalMar | 28⅞ 28⅛ 28⅛— 3-16 |
| Goodrich | 44⅛ 43⅞ 44⅛ |
| Goodyear s | 65⅞ 64⅞ 65 — 3-16 |
| GtAtlPac | 29⅛ 29 29 1-16— 3-16 |
| Halliburtn s | 56 11-16 55 7-16 56 1-16— ⅛ |
| Hanson ADS | 24 5-16 24 24⅛+ 3-16 |
| HarteHanks | 34 7-16 34⅛ 34⅛— ⅛ |
| HomeDepot s | 59 9-16 59 59 1-16— ¼ |
| HoustonInds | 24 7-16 23⅞ 24⅛+11-16 |
| IBM s | 109⅞ 107⅞ 108⅞— 2 |
| IntlPaper | 44 3-16 43⅞ 43⅞— ⅛ |
| JohnsonJn | 66 64⅞ 65⅞+ ⅛ |
| K mart | 12⅞ 12⅛ 12 5-16— 3-16 |
| Kroger s | 36 35⅛ 35 11-16— 7-16 |
| Litton | 53¾ 53 53⅞+ 1-16 |
| LockhdMart | 97⅛ 96⅝ 97 + 9-16 |
| Lowes Cos | 46⅛ 45 15-16 46 1-16— 5-16 |
| Lubys | 19⅛ 19 19 — ⅛ |
| LucentTech | 81 79 5-16 79⅝— ⅛ |
| MayDeptStrs | 55 5-16 54⅞ 55 1-16— 3-16 |
| Medtronic s | 51 5-16 50 15-16 51 5-16— ¼ |
| Mobils | 74 73⅝ 73 11-16+ 3-16 |
| Monsanto | 43⅝ 42 13-16 43 —11-16 |
| MorganJP | 124 122 5-16 123 + ⅛ |
| Motorola | 61¼ 59⅞ 60⅛— 1⅞ |
| NCR Corp | 28 7-16 28 3-16 28⅛— ⅛ |
| NationsBk s | 63¼ 62⅝ 62⅞+ ⅛ |
| Navistar | 25 15-16 25⅛ 25⅛—15-16 |
| Norwests | 37 7-16 36⅞ 37 7-16 |
| OryxEngy | 26⅛ 26 1-16 26 1-16— 5-16 |
| Penney JC | 64⅞ 64 9-16 64 11-16 |
| Pennzoil | 68 66⅞ 67⅞+ ½ |
| PepBoys | 25 3-16 25 25 1-16— 3-16 |
| PepsiCo | 35 15-16 35⅛ 35⅛— 1-16 |
| PhelpDodge | 66 11-16 65½ 65 15-16 |
| PhilipPet | 49 15-16 49⅛ 49 13-16+ 1-16 |
| PilgrmPrd | 15 15-16 15⅞ 15⅞— 1-16 |
| Polaroid | 46 5-16 45 13-16 45 13-16— ½ |
| Praxair | 45½ 45 45 — 5-16 |
| ProctGamb s | 80⅝ 79¼ 79⅞— 1-16 |
| PubSNwMx | 20⅞ 20 11-16 20⅞— 3-16 |
| RoyalDut s | 53 15-16 53 9-16 53⅞— ¼ |
| SBC Comm | 72 11-32 71⅞ 71⅞— ¼ |
| SaraLee | 53⅝ 52 9-16 52 9-16— 3-16 |
| Scripps EW | 43⅛ 42⅞ 43⅛+ ⅛ |
| SearsRoeb | 46 9-16 46⅛ 46 7-16— 1-16 |
| SherwinW s | 29 9-16 29 29⅛— 1-16 |
| SmthBc ADS s | 51¼ 50⅞ 51 3-16+11-16 |
| SouthernCo | 23 5-16 23 1-16 23 3-16— ⅛ |
| SwstAirl s | 24 11-16 24 5-16 24 7-16— 3-16 |
| Sprint | 57⅞ 56⅝ 57⅝+ ½ |
| SunCo | 42⅞ 41⅞ 42 |
| TNP Ent | 28⅞ 28½ 28½— ⅛ |
| Tandy s | 42⅞ 41 41 —2 7-16 |
| TempleInland | 54⅞ 53 13-16 54½— ⅛ |
| Tenneco | 40⅞ 39 40⅛—4 3-16 |
| Texaco s | 55⅞ 55⅛ 55⅛+ ⅛ |
| TexInd s | 47⅞ 47⅛ 47 11-16+ ⅛ |
| TexasInst s | 45⅛ 44 44 — 1⅛ |
| TexUtil | 40 7-16 40⅛ 40⅛+ ⅛ |
| Textron s | 64⅛ 63 3-16 63⅛— ⅛ |
| Travelers s | 54 53⅛ 53⅞— 9-16 |
| TriconGlbR n | 34 32 13-16 33 1-16— 1⅛ |
| TrinityInds | 43⅛ 42 11-16 42⅞— ⅛ |
| TritonEngy | 33½ 33 33 — ½ |
| Tyler | 5½ 5 7-16 5 7-16— 1-16 |
| US WestCm | 45⅛ 44 13-16 45 1-16+ 9-16 |
| USWstMda | 28 15-16 27⅞ 28⅛+ ⅛ |
| USX Delhi | 19⅝ 19⅝ 19⅝+ 1-16 |
| USX-Marathn | 35 3-16 34⅞ 34 13-16— ¼ |
| USX-USS | 31⅞ 31 31 —13-16 |
| UnCarbide | 46⅛ 46 7-16 46 7-16— 5-16 |
| UnionPacif | 62⅞ 61 5-16 61⅞— 5-16 |
| UnitedTech s | 75 3-16 74⅝ 75⅛—11-16 |
| Unocal | 38 11-16 38 1-16 38⅛— 3-16 |
| WalMart | 40 3-16 39 9-16 40 1-16 |
| WstnGasRs | 22 21⅞ 21⅞— ⅛ |
| WinnDixie | 41 3-16 40 13-16 40⅞— 9-16 |
| Woolworth | 22⅝ 22⅛ 22⅛— ⅛ |
| Xerox Corp | 76⅛ 74 9-16 75 3-16— 3-16 |
| ZenithE | 7 7-16 7 5-16 7 5-16— ⅛ |

# Scurry County Country

## DIVERSIFIED

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

LUBBOCK — While the High Plains agricultural community is celebrating another year of near record cotton yields, many producers are not so happy in having to share their profits with insect pests.

According to a recent survey of cotton insect losses, insects teamed up to reduce yields by 18.4 percent. So while yields were good this year, they could have been better.

The survey is conducted each year for the National Cotton Council Beltwide Cotton Conferences. It found that yield losses by pest were 13.6 percent for boll weevils; 1.5 percent for bollworms; 1.5 percent for cotton fleahoppers; with aphids, Lygus bugs, beet armyworms, thrips, spider mites, grasshoppers, European corn borers and saltmarsh caterpillars contributing to the remaining 1.8 percent loss.

"The boll wevil accounted for 74 percent of this yield loss, with over 50 percent of this loss occurring late in the growing season," said Dr. James Leser, extension entomologist at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Lubbock.

This late loss caught many growers by surprise when they defoliated and harvested their fields. When unseasonably warm September temperatures continued to pump heat units into the crop, many fields made an addiitonal 20 percent yield, where moisture was adequate and cotton had not already cut out.

When boll weevils were present, producers failed to take this bonus yield to the gin. Most growers had stopped spraying, which left this late crop virtually unprotected from the feeding damage inflicted by the high numbers of boll weevils, fanning out across the area looking for squares and soft bolls.

"Boll weevil numbers were not high in all area fields although infestations could be found in over 2.8 million acres, with 1.5 million acres receiving one or more applications," Leser said. "This compares to last year when weevils infested 1.9 million acres and ½ million of these were sprayed."

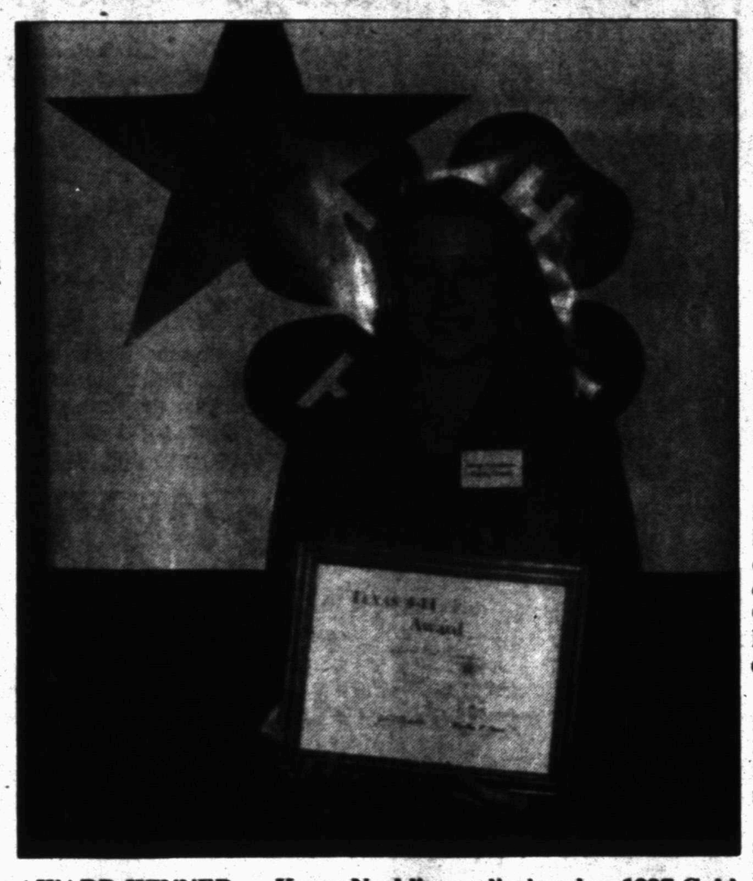
In spite of spending over $36 million to control the boll weevil, producers still lost yield valued at $148 million. This is up from last year's almost $28 million loss in yield.

These loss estimates are rapidly approaching those projected by the 18-member Boll Weevil Task Force in a report released earlier this year on the assessment of the economic impact of the boll weevil in the Texas High Plains.

"With record numbers of boll weevils overwintering in the area this year, only the harshest of winters can prevent our worst fears from being realized," said Leser. "Producers should prepare for the potential weevil threat in 1998 while hoping for the best." Leser suggests that growers will need to closely follow extension's boll weevil management guidelines and target for an early crop if they hope to dodge another bad boll weevil year. More detailed information will be available soon from county Extension agents and Plains Cotton Growers as an updated version of the publication, "Boll Weevil Management in the Texas High Plains."

Some difficult to reach lakes are stocked by dropping fish from airplanes.

At top speed, a jackrabbit's bound is about 15 feet long.



AWARD WINNER — Kerry Nachlinger displays her 1997 Gold Star Award. Kerry represented Scurry County 4-H at the annual banquet held in Lubbock.

## Nachlinger receives 4-H Gold Star Award

LUBBOCK — Forty outstanding youth from across the South Plains were honored recently at the 40th annual South Plains District Gold Star Banquet.

The Gold Star Award is the highest honor which can be earned by 4-H Club members at the county level. 4-H is the youth development program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Receiving the Gold Star award from Scurry County was Kerry Nachlinger.

The district banquet has been sponsored each year by 11 area electric cooperatives: Bailey, Caprock, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Lamb, Lea counties, Lighthouse, Lyntegar, Midwest, South Plains and Swisher County.

In those 40 annual banquets, 1,560 winners have been honored with the Gold Star Award in the presence of more than 14,300 guests.

Joining the youth at the event at the Koko Palace were parents, government officials, Extension Service faculty, fellow 4-Hers, educators and other community leaders.

In a special presentation, the Texas 4-H Foundation presented its Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H to Speaker of the House James E. "Pete" Laney and his wife Nelda, of Hale Center, for their many years as 4-H volunteer leaders and supporters. Presenting the award was Dr. Chester Fehlis, executive associate director of the Extension Service, and David Hicks, executive director of the foundation.

This years' audience was welcomed by Jim Roberts of South Plains Electric Cooperative.

The awards were presented by Dr. Kathy Volanty and Jett Major, Extension Service District Directors.

## Town & Country Topics

By Katherine Roberts, County Extension Agent

Berries and bird nests and boughs — oh my! This year, holiday decorating has gone natural.

Holiday decorating can be as simple as stepping outside and gathering some of Ma Nature's winter ornaments, says Linda Mzck, a Montgomery County extension agent who has organized holiday decorating workshops for the past two years.

Pine cones, yaupon berries, hickory nuts, cedar branches, holly leaves, Chinese tallow seed clusters — all are being used in decorations for Christmas, a Christian observance celebrated Dec. 25 to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

"You can use natural things that grow in the yard or grown in nature," Mock says. "You don't have to go out and spend a lot of money."

The back-to-nature trend can be seen everywhere this year. Magnolia branches and seed pods are strung together and accented with a red bow for a door swag; bird nests found on the ground decorate trees or mantels; grasses tied with a ribbon bedeck a front door.

Herbs also are finding places in holiday decor, says Mary Claire Becker, a volunteer in the extension family and consumer science program in Montgomery County. Dolls made of herbs tied together and topped with doll hats make fragrant tree ornaments, she says. And rosemary plants bedecked with small bows are just the right size for a patio tree.

Other natural decorations include fruits such as limes, lemons and apples used with greenery to dress up a door; bay leaves, citrus slices and ornamental corn bobs strung in a garland; and even prickly pear cactus pads fashioned into a wreath and decorated with red bows.

"People need to look around them and use their imagination and don't be afraid to experiment," Becker says. "Put pine cones in a basket with a big red bow on top. Spray-paint sweetgum balls and sprinkle them with glitter."

Also popular this season are handmade and recycled items that families dress up and reuse. Becker suggests painting a coffee can, punching holes in it to make a design and inserting a candle for an easy porch decoration. Or, for a table centerpiece, anchor a candle in some sand in a glass canning jar and tie a raffia bow around the rim.

Jewish families decorating for Hanukkah also are using handmade decorations, such as menorahs made out of egg cartons, says Michelle Buckley, a spokesperson for Hallmark Cards Inc. Hannukkah, also known as the "Festival of Lights," is an eight-day celebration commemorating a successfuly Jewish rebellion against the Syrians. It usually falls in December.

Many African-American households are connecting the holidays with their culture and heritage, Buckley says. Items imported from Africa are used on the Christmas tree and then carried over into the celebration of Kwanzaa, a seven-day celebration beginning Dec. 26 that focuses on strengthening the African-American culture.

Other holiday decorating trends include the use of themes throughout the house, says Michelle L. Keller, also a Hallmark spokesperson. The country theme is returning; silver is gaining on gold; and snowmen are the most popular motif of the season, she says.

Baby boomers' decorations feature pop-culture icons such as Mr. Potato Head, Howdy Doody and the Lone Ranger, Keller says.

"We're also seeing a lot of movie figures — Star Wars, Star Trek, Disney," she says.

Many people who collect items are using them in their holiday decor as well. Angels remain a strong influence, she says, as America's revived interest in religion prompts many to decorate with religious figures.

"More and more people are returning to their spirituality," Keller says. "People are reevaluating their lives."

She also says families are using ornaments throughout the house, and decorating more than one tree, sometimes adding a smaller one in a child's room to start building a collection for them.

## Lubbock cattle auction

The market at Lubbock had a run of 768 head of cattle for the Thursday, Dec. 4, Sale. Cows were steady. Calves and yearlings were $1 to $2 better. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows: 32 to 40; canners and low cutters: 26 to 31; slaughter bulls 40 to 48.

Feeder steers choice: 300 to 400, 85 to 110; 400 to 500; 80 to 95; 500 to 600, 75 to 85; 600 to 700, 72.50 to 77.50; 700 to 800, 68 to 75.

Feeder heifers choice: 300 to 400, 75 to 85.50; 400 to 500, 70 to 77.50; 500 to 600, 70 to 76.50; 600 to 700, 65 to 72.50; 700 to 800, 60 to 68.

Feeder bulls good and choice: 500 to 600, 75 to 85; 700 to 800, 64 to 72.50.

Cow and calf pairs, good: 525 to 725; grade, 450 to 550.

Springers: 300 to 600; baby calves: 50 to 200; doodlers: 100 to 210.

## Colorado City cattle auction

COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 957 head of cattle for the Saturday, Dec. 6 Sale. The market was very active and demand was good. Steers and heifers, 200 lbs. to 300 lbs. was higher with heavier weight steady. Packer cows and bulls were steady. Bred cows were steady to $25 higher. Pairs were steady.

Steers:
200 to 400: 88 to 104
400 to 500: 85 to 94.50
500 to 600: 78 to 85.50
600 to 800: 72 to 77.50
Heifers:
300 to 400: 76 to 92
400 to 500: 72 to 85.50
500 to 600: 69 to 76.50
600 to 800: 66.50 to 76.50
Young bred cows: 495 to 590.
Medium age to older bred cows: 345 to 475.
Young cows and calves: 345 to 725.
Medium age to older cows and calves: 410 to 610
Packer cows: 26 to 38.25.
Packer bulls: 40.50 to 50.25

## Cotton futures

NEW YORK (AP) — Cotton futures No. 2 were mixed in midday dealings today.

The average price for strict low middling 1 & 1-16 inch spot cotton declined 68 points to 64.41 cents a pound Tuesday for the seven markets, according to the New York Cotton Exchange.

Midday prices were $1.00 a bale lower to $1.30 higher than the previous close. Mar 67.93, May 69.30, Jul 70.50, Oct 72.50, Dec 73.70, Mar 74.50, May 75.10, Jul 75.50 and Oct b74.75.

n.a.- not available; n.q.-not quoted; a-asked; b-bid.

If you know a 3-year-old who never gets into mischief, a trip to the doctor is in order.

## SWCD Report

Mark Sides, Range Management Specialist

It's time to be thinking about colder weather, and the high West Texas winds that go along with it.

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning sales of seedlings for its 1997 annual windbreak tree program.

A good windbreak goes a long way toward lowering utility bills, and making life easier on both people and animals. But don't be fooled by the name, these trees do more than block the wind. Properly sited and spaced, they work well as sound barriers and/or privacy screens. Wildlife benefit from food and cover provided by windbreaks. Studies have shown that by softening rainfall, blocking high winds, and holding soil in place windbreak plantings reduce erosion by as much as 25 percent.

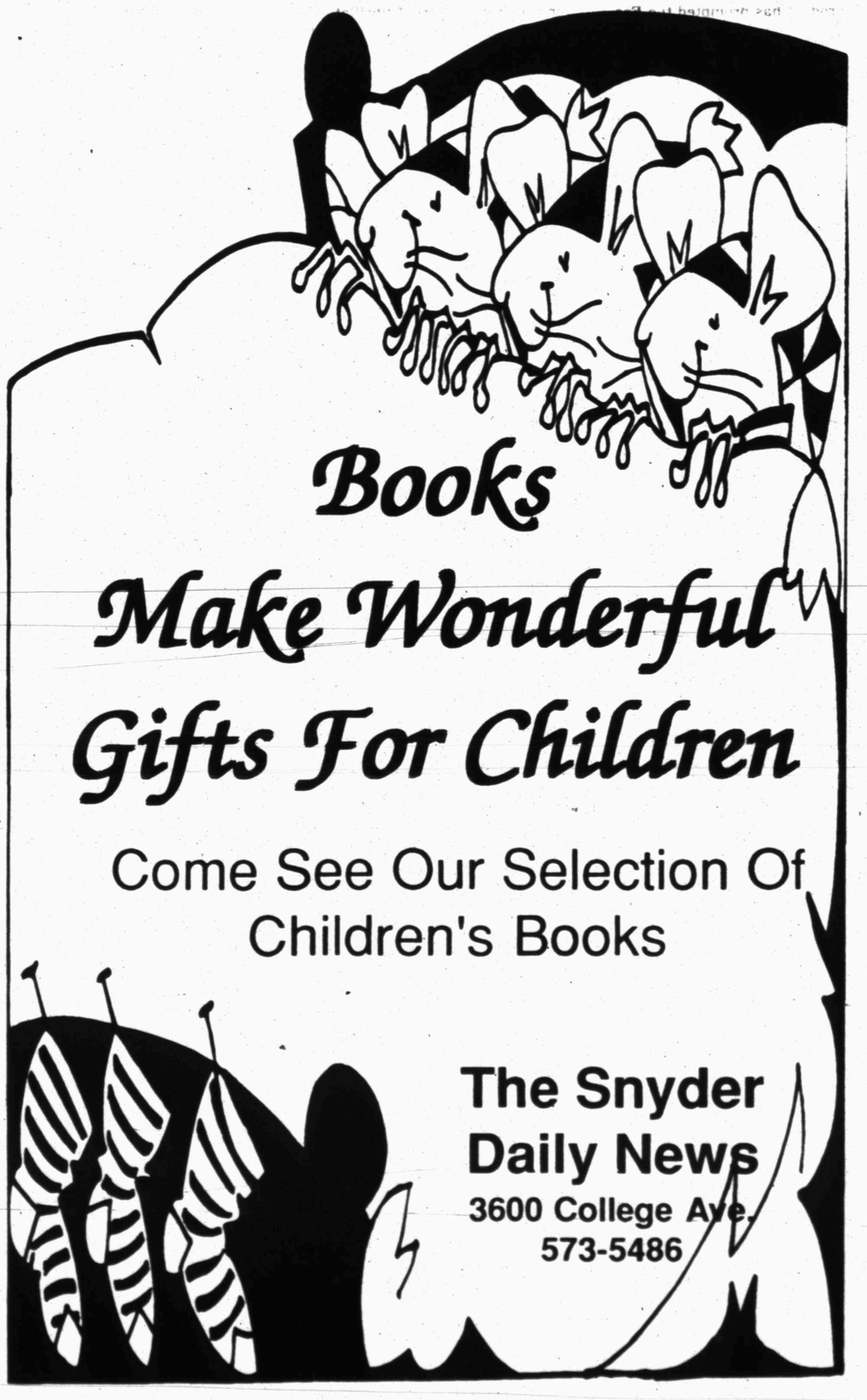
Evergreen and hardwood varieties are offered again this year, along with four wildlife packets. Evergreen species include: Afghanistan Pine, Austrian Pine, Eastern Red Cedar, and Pinyon Pine. Evergreens seedlings are shipped in tarpaper tubes, and are priced at $2 each. This year we also offer 1 gallon container size evergreens at 4.75 each.

Hardwood species include: Catalpa, Desert Willow, Green Ash, Shumard Oak (Red Oak), Hackberry, Little Walnut, Bur Oak, Fruiting Mulberry, Russian Olive and Aromatic Sumac. New additions this year are Lacebark Elm and American (native) Plum. The hardwoods are bare root seedlings, and are $1 each. Little Walnut is very limited, so if you are interested, please get your order in soon.

Wildlife packets contain a total of 100 bare root hardwood seedlings (25 each of 4 varities) individually tailored for quail and pheasant, deer, turkey or squirrel. Wildlife packet are $67 each.

Order forms can be obtained at the Upper Colorado SWCD office in Snyder or the Agricultural Annex in Gail. Payment must accompany all orders, and checks can be made out to Upper Colorado SWCD. Cut-off date for all orders is Jan. 31, 1998. Please be sure to put a phone number on your order form so that we can contact you when the trees arrive.

Delivery should be on or about Feb. 5. Teh Upper Colorado SWCD office is located at 5389 Big Spring Hwy. in the USDA office complex.



# Texas Briefs

## Man kills mother, commits suicide

EL PASO (AP) — The investigation of the apparent suicide of a man who jumped off the El Paso County parking garage has broadened after the body of his mother was found.

Francisco Colorbio, 41, apparently killed himself Monday by leaping from the sixth floor of the downtown El Paso garage. Minutes earlier, he called police and told them he killed his mother across the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

The body of Julia Mauricio de Colorbio, 77, was discovered Monday night at her Juarez home. Police say she apparently died of blows to the head. A broken hammer was found near her body.

Police say a note from her son was found at the scene, indicating he killed her.

Officials are not sure what caused the murder.

## Two killed, Good Samaritan injured

DALLAS (AP) — Two people were killed in a traffic accident involving a suspected drunken driver and a man who stopped to help the victims was struck and critically injured by a second motorist suspected of driving while intoxicated, police say.

Officers said Marie Chorlette Medenilla, 20, of Dallas and a 32-year-old Mesquite man whose identity was not disclosed pending notification of relatives, were killed in the accident in northwest Dallas early Tuesday.

Officers said a car driven by Salvador Ortiz, 36, of Dallas, jumped a curb and crossed the median strip and collided head-on with a car driven by Ms. Medenilla.

Ortiz, who was charged with intoxication manslaughter, was in fair condition at Parkland Hospital with two broken legs late Tuesday. He served 30 days in jail and was placed on 24 months' probation on a driving while intoxicated charge in 1987, according to court records.

Kevin Horton of Dallas was struck and critically injured after he stopped to help Ms. Medenilla and her friend minutes after the accident. He was in critical condition at Parkland Hospital late Tuesday.

Mary Lisa Soriano, 36, of Dallas, the driver of the car that struck Horton, was charged with driving while intoxicated. She was released after posing $500 bail Tuesday afternoon.

Both accidents were unfortunate, but not unusual, according to Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Jim Chandler.

"Tragically, we had a good Samaritan here stop to offer some assistance and who himself becomes a victim of drunk driving," he said.

## Escapee again receives life sentence

BEAUMONT (AP) — A convicted killer who said he escaped from a Southeast Texas prison because he was harassed and threatened by prison guards has been sentenced — again — to life in prison.

A prosecutor says the life prison term means that James Miller Keith IV will probably never live to see freedom again.

He was already serving two concurrent life sentences for killing a Port Arthur man in 1991 and for shooting at a police officer while fleeing the scene.

Prosecutor Mark Mullin said Keith will serve the life sentence for escape after completing the two concurrent life sentences. Prior to his escape on June 24, he would have been eligible for parole in 2007.

Jurors had a choice of sentencing Keith to a sentence ranging from as short as five years to life in prison.

When he was captured in Mississippi after 30 hours of freedom, Keith told authorities he escaped because he feared guards at the Mark Stiles Unit.

Keith fought extradition back to Texas on grounds he was harassed and threatened by prison guards.

"He didn't give himself up, he was caught in Mississippi. That's what hurt his defense," Mullin said.

Keith scaled three fences and then stole a truck from a Clark Refinery yard about 4 a.m. on June 24. He was caught at 9:45 a.m. the next day while trying to sell some of the tools in the truck at a salvage yard owned by a Mississippi reserve sheriff's deputy.

Mullin said he isn't sure where Keith will end up serving his prison term, but said it probably won't be at a maximum-security prison rather than at the Stiles Unit again.

## Attorney faces possible disbarment

BEAUMONT (AP) — After failing to keep his client out of jail, Beaumont attorney Michael LeJune began living with the man's wife and forged the man's signature to gain temporary custody of the couple's child.

A jury found LeJune guilty Tuesday of tampering with evidence, and he'll be sentenced on Jan. 26. He faces up to 10 years in prison, a $10,000 fine and possible disbarment.

Prosecutors said LeJune forged the signature of Tory Keith Lewis, 30, in October 1993, after Lewis went to jail. LeJune had defended Lewis in a parole revocation hearing and lost, prosecutor Ramone Rodriguez said.

Lewis was on parole for a drug trafficking conviction.

Lewis' wife, Dorothy Gregg Lewis, 36, then moved in with LeJune, officials said. When Child Protective Services began an investigation, the attorney suggested he take temporary custody of the couple's child, Ms. Rodriguez said.

When Lewis refused to sign the temporary custody order, LeJune forged the signature, the prosecutor added.

LeJune's lawyer, Tom Burbank, said Lewis was bitter over LeJune's failure to keep him out of jail and threatened to get even with him.

Burbank said he and LeJune were stunned by the jury's decision Tuesday and would appeal.

LeJune, a former private investigator, bail bondsman and 1972 Beaumont City Council candidate, has had problems with the State Bar of Texas in the past.

## DART expansion plans to speed up

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Area Rapid Transit board has OK'd more than $200 million in expenditures to speed up and expand rail service to the suburbs of Garland, Plano and Richardson.

The agency said its goal is to double the number of DART riders within five years.

"We've seen some success and so we are upping the ante," said Roger Snoble, president and executive director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

"We will put meaningful service out there because we know the ridership is there," he said.

The most expensive changes approved by the DART board involve light rail extensions to Plano and Garland.

The board approved money to build double tracks instead of a single track and to open the stations in phases instead of waiting until they were all completed.

That will allow more than twice as many people to ride the trains when they start running, and some people will be able to use the trains six months to 18 months earlier than planned.

The board also voted to buy more buses and a fleet of mock trolley cars for short trips.

By this summer, 20 new, small, trolley-type buses, at more than $300,000 apiece, will start running in downtown Dallas, along Lancaster Road in Oak Cliff and possibly in Irving and Addison, officials said.

The look of the trollies, which will be finished in wood and leather and sport-brass bells, will attract riders, officials said.

# Harmful bacteria on rise in food system

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a month after eating a salmonella-tainted dish, Martha McNeely is 10 pounds lighter and just beginning to feel like herself again.

"This bout of food poisoning has really been a jolt to my system," said Ms. McNeely, a 51-year-old Washington lawyer who also copes with multiple sclerosis. "It has set me back a lot."

The salmonella that sickened Ms. McNeely, her 15-year-old son and her son's friend came from a ready-made lasagna dish they ate for dinner in late October, hospital officials eventually learned.

The culprit? Unpasteurized eggs used in preparing the lasagna at a local deli were tainted with a virulent salmonella strain that survived baking in the oven. "It was a real shocker," Ms. McNeely said.

The bacteria that caused this isolated case and other dangerous microbes in food kill 9,000 people every year and sicken millions more, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of salmonella illnesses alone has doubled over the past 20 years.

Doctors are getting better at diagnosing and reporting food illnesses. Other factors in increased cases of food poisoning cited by the CDC include: more people eating out, consumer ignorance about safe handling of food, and an increased chance of illness among the growing numbers of the elderly and people with suppressed immune systems, such as AIDS sufferers.

Increasingly, experts say the efficient global food system that gives grocery shoppers more choices and lower prices carries the troubling cost of an upsurge in food poisoning.

The way outbreaks occur also is changing.

In the past, most cases originated in restaurants or at events like church suppers — caused by mistakes in the kitchen. Such cases still happen — one person died and 750 were sickened by salmonella at a Maryland church outing last month.

But now there is a bigger problem: Food sometimes is tainted during processing at the growing number of huge food factories and is widely distributed before anyone gets sick.

"Industry consolidation and mass distribution of foods may lead to large outbreaks of foodborne disease," Dr. Sean F. Altekruse, a veterinary epidemiologist with the Food and Drug Administration, said in a new CDC report on emerging microbes.

For example, about 224,000 people in many states were sickened by salmonella in 1994 because tanker trucks used to haul thousands of gallons of ice cream previously had been used to transport contaminated liquid eggs, according to the CDC.

"The huge epidemic was the result of a basic failure on an industrial scale to separate the raw from the cooked," said CDC researcher Robert Tauxe.

A single day's production at a modern ground beef plant can turn out hundreds of thousands of pounds of hamburger, which is then quickly trucked all over the country.

"That means any single problem that happens can be spread very quickly and cause massive illness before we even know about it," said Caroline Smith DeWaal, food safety director at the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Along with the industrial food processing system, Altekruse said the trend toward large-scale livestock operations in which thousands of animals are crowded together is another reason for increased problems with bacteria.

In 1945, for example, about 500 birds were in a typical henhouse. By 1995, houses contained as many as 100,000 hens, which can spread salmonella through their eggs and in which microbes can quickly move from animal to animal.

Food poisoning from imported and domestic produce such as cantaloupes, strawberries, raspberries and tomatoes also has increased recently. The CDC report identified several causes, including use of contaminated water to spray the produce and animal manure containing E. coli touching fruit during picking.

One disturbing trend is that some microbes are developing resistance to antibiotics used to treat ill people, partly because antibiotics are frequently given to livestock to prevent disease, serving as an unintended inoculation for the bacteria that live with the animals.

In Britain, a strain of salmonella called DT104 has proven resistant to many antibiotics, triggering a jump in human illnesses, said E.M. Foster of the Food Research Institute in Madison, Wis. More than one-third of the people infected with DT104 were hospitalized and 3 percent died, Foster said.

"These figures are very unusual for ordinary salmonella infections and indicate serious problems ahead," Foster said. The strain is emerging in the United States.

Food safety experts say the world's governments and private industry must spend more on research into the causes and prevention of food poisoning, from the farm to the dinner table, and on identifying how the bacteria are getting into the food system.

In the United States, a new surveillance system called FoodNet is being set up to monitor outbreaks. Also, scientists are able to use DNA to trace microbes that sicken people in many places back to a single source.

## Graham heading home

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Rev. Billy Graham is heading home for the holidays after a bout with pneumonia.

About two dozen well-wishers greeted the 79-year-old evangelist as he walked out of a hospital on his own Tuesday. He said he felt "excellent" and was going home to Montreat, N.C.

"We've been very encouraged by Dr. Graham's quick recovery," said Dr. Charles Burger, who treated Graham.

# Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What does the herb ephedra do?

DEAR READER: This is the ninth in my series on herbal remedies.

Ephedra is one of the most active herbal medicines; this makes it one of the most dangerous. Often marketed as "ma huang," ephedra contains ephedrine, which — although useful in treating acute asthma — can cause marked stimulation of the nervous system. In fact, it has been used in place of methamphetamine, an illegal drug, by addicts. Complications of ephedra include runaway heart rhythm, stoke and nerve damage.

To date, more than 800 cases of adverse effects — including about 30 deaths — have been reported. Ephedra is particularly dangerous when taken by patients with hypertension, glaucoma, heart disorders, or diabetes.

The negative press stemming from this product has prompted the Food and Drug Administration to promulgate regulations limiting the sale and use of ephedra. Although promoted as a treatment for weight loss and lassitude, this herb should be avoided: The risks of its use are substantial. (Next time: potentially toxic herbs.)

DEAR DR. GOTT: Because of atrial fibrillation, my doctor prescribed Coumadin. This led to bleeding into the urine. The drug was stopped for several days. Now my doctor wants to start it again, but I refuse because it is rat poison. What is your opinion?

DEAR READER: Coumadin is indeed the potent ingredient in many rodenticides. But this is no reason to avoid the drug. In fact, you need it.

Atrial fibrillation, an uneven heartbeat, is statistically associated with an increased risk of stroke, because blood clots can form in the heart chambers. From time to time, pieces of these clots may break off, be carried to the brain and cause strokes. Therefore, most cardiologists urge their colleagues to treat fibrillation with anticoagulants such as Coumadin.

Obviously, no one wants to take medicine unnecessarily, especially drugs as powerful as Coumadin. But the medication could well save you from a nasty complication in the future. Your doctor will insist on monitoring your Coumadin dosage with a blood test called the "prothrombin time." If your gums bleed or you detect blood in your urine, the dose must be reduced. Please follow your physician's advice and guidance with respect to this important issue.

To give you more information, I am sending you a 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.

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# Datebook

Dec. 10, 1997

*Today is the 344th day of 1997 and the 81st day of fall.*

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** On this day in 1896, Swedish chemist and creator of the Nobel Prize, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, died.

On this day in 1927, the WSM Barn Dance was renamed the Grand Ole Opry.

On this day in 1950, Ralph C. Bunche became the first African-American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Emily Dickinson (1830-1866), poet; Melvil Dewey (1851-1931), librarian; Dorothy Lamour (1914-1996), actress; Susan Dey (1952-), actress, is 45; Sinbad (1956-), comedian, is 41; Kenneth Branagh (1960-), actor-director, is 37.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** On this day in 1939, the Green Bay Packers shut out the New York Giants, 27-0, in the NFL championship game.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "A little Madness in the Spring / Is wholesome even for the King." — Emily Dickinson

**TODAY'S WEATHER:** On this day in 1991, heavy, freezing fog in West Yorkshire, England, caused six deaths and many car accidents.

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

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between first quarter (Dec. 7) and full moon (Dec. 13).

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Freeh seeks compromise to end dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Louis Freeh told lawmakers today he'd like to avert a dispute with Congress over a memo he wrote urging appointment of a fund-raising independent counsel. The Justice Department has refused to turn over the subpoenaed memo.

Freeh told the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee that Attorney General Janet Reno had asked him to relay word "that her lawyers would be pleased" to discuss the issue with the panel's chief counsel, Richard Bennett.

"I think for the good of the process and because I wrote the memo. it's much more preferable for us to work that out," Freeh said of the dispute over the document, which the panel had subpoenaed from the Justice Department.

Reno, who went against Freeh's recommendation that she seek an independent counsel to investigate fund-raising calls by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, testily defended her decision at hearings Tuesday.

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., who today repeated his threat to seek contempt citations against Reno and Freeh for disobeying the subpoena, told Freeh, "I was glad to hear your statement this morning" signaling a willingness to work out the dispute.

Freeh did not give details of how the Justice Department might seek to resolve the issue. But the FBI director said the agency hoped to avoid circumstances that "impact adversely on what you expect to get from us" while allowing the Justice Department "to protect some critical parts of an ongoing case."

Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., the panel's chairman, said a contempt citation was moot at because of "the negotiations that will be taking place."

He declined to give details saying "members of the committee will be informed before we contemplate taking any action."

Despite their disagreements over an independent counsel, Reno and Freeh agreed that the FBI director's memo explaining his recommendation should remain under wraps as they pursue investigative leads in high places.

Freeh said his agents had never been turned down in requesting to interview top Clinton administration officials, but he complained there have been many delays in getting documents from the White House. "I'm not confident we have all the documents yet," he said.

Information in Freeh's memo could be helpful to potential targets, said the attorney general and the FBI director.

The committee is focusing attention on the Justice Department in another probe as well, that of a former Agriculture Department chief of staff who was convicted in a case brought by independent counsel Donald Smaltz.

Smaltz — who testifies today after Freeh completes his appearance — complained that the Justice Department decided not to prosecute Ronald Blackley.

# Defense witnesses say Nichols is a sympathetic family man

DENVER (AP) — With the defense of Terry Nichols nearing an end, attorneys for the Oklahoma City bombing suspect are turning to witnesses to provide an alibi of sorts for jurors to consider.

Hammering at a theme defense attorney Michael Tigar repeated again and again when Nichols' trial opened — "he was not there" — witnesses on Tuesday placed the suspect at his Herington, Kan., home soon after the blast.

Next door neighbor Etta Mae Hartke said Nichols came over that day to borrow a ladder so he could fix a vent on his home. She said he was sympathetic when he learned of her husband's terminal illness.

"If there's anything I can help you with, let me know," she recalled Nichols telling her.

More testimony was scheduled for today. U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch also was expected to announce the schedule for the rest of the trial.

The defense is also hoping to suggest that Nichols, 42, was selling military surplus material in the weeks before the bombing to provide for his family, echoing Tigar's theme that his client was "building a life, not a bomb."

But one defense witness testified that just weeks before the April, 19, 1995, bombing Nichols was selling guns, shovels and small jars of the same kind of explosive fertilizer that was used in the blast.

"He was selling mayonnaise-sized jars of fertilizer for personal use," Sheila Nicholas said of Nichols, who visited her farm in Vassar, Mich.

## Obituaries

Jack Dorsett

### Jack Dorsett

**1953-1997**

MERKEL — Jack Wayman Dorsett, former assistant varsity football coach at Snyder High School, died at 2:50 a.m. this morning of an apparent heart attack while on a deer lease in Nolan County.

Funeral service for Mr. Dorsett, 44, is set for 3 p.m. Friday in the Merkel High School Gymnasium. Mark Whitmire will officiate and burial will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Starbuck Funeral Home.

For the past three years, Mr. Dorsett has been head football coach and athletic director at Merkel High School.

Born Jan. 21, 1953 in Childress, he graduated from Childress High School and from Panhandle State College in Goodwill, Okla., where he was a scholarship football player.

Mr. Dorsett was a teacher and coach at McLean for five years and at Big Spring for six years before moving to Snyder for seven years, serving on David Baugh's varsity staff.

A member of the Merkel Church of Christ, he was also a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association. An avid hunter and fisherman, he was a member of the American Heart Association board while in Big Spring.

He married Trena Bayes on Jan. 7, 1984 in Big Spring.

Survivors include his wife, Trena Dorsett of Merkel; a son, Riki Dorsett of Merkel; a daughter, Krista Dorsett of Merkel; a brother, Eddie Griffin of Childress; a sister, Kimbra Adair of Gatesville; his father, Don Dorsett of Amarillo; his mother Juanita Dorsett of Childress; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

### Virginia Thomas

**1919-1997**

RANGER — Virginia Thomas, a former Snyder resident, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, in a Ranger nursing home.

Funeral service for Mrs. Thomas, 79, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Eastside Baptist Church. The Rev. Jerry Speer was to officiate, and burial was to follow in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Born in Mexia, she grew up in Ennis and married Chester Thomas in 1932 in Archer.

Mrs. Thomas had worked for Cates Grocery in Snyder before moving to Ranger in 1977. She was retired from Ranger General Hospital, and was a member of the Eastside Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Charlie Thomas of Snyder and Jim Thomas of Hermleigh; three daughters, Pauline Neville of Ranger, Polly Neville of Plano and Margaret Bradley of Amarillo; two sisters, Julie Morris of Dallas and Alice Kelly of Fort Worth; 15 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

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# Double jeopardy protection reduced by Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today scaled back double-jeopardy protections for people who face both civil fines and criminal prosecutions for the same conduct.

The justices said three Oklahoma men can be prosecuted in a bank failure case even though they already paid civil fines for their actions.

All nine justices agreed that prosecuting the three on charges of conspiracy and misusing bank funds would not violate their constitutional protection against double punishment for the same crime.

Five justices, in an opinion by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, went further. They used the case to narrow the standard for deciding when civil and criminal penalties for the same conduct are unlawful.

In 1989, the court ruled that civil fines sometimes may be a form of unconstitutional double jeopardy, if the fine is so disproportionate to the harm caused that it becomes a form of punishment.

Since then, the court in 1994 barred states from forcing drug offenders to pay a tax in addition to their criminal penalties. But in 1996, the justices decided the government can prosecute people while simultaneously suing them to confiscate drug-connected property.

Rehnquist wrote that the court decided to hear the Oklahoma case "because of concerns about the wide variety of novel double jeopardy claims" following the 1989 ruling.

Among the cases the chief justice cited was the double-jeopardy challenge to the New Jersey "Megan's Law" requiring community notification of sex offenders' whereabouts.

In the Oklahoma case, John Hudson, Larry Baresel and Jack Rackley paid a total of $44,000 in fines over the failure of two banks in Tipton and Hammon. Hudson was the majority owner of both banks, while Baresel was a member of both banks' board of directors and Rackley was president of the Tipton bank.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency cited the men for acts that contributed to the banks' failures. The three agreed in 1989 to pay the fines and not to participate in any banking activities without federal authorization.

In 1992, all three men were charged with conspiracy, misusing bank funds and making false entries, based on the same conduct for which they were fined three years earlier.

# Elton John gives charity large check from sales of Diana song

LONDON (AP) -- Elton John gave a $32 million check to Princess Diana's memorial fund today — the first installment from the sale of "Candle in the Wind," the hit song he reworked in her honor.

Diana's sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, a trustee of the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, accepted the check. She said it more than doubled the amount now in the fund.

"We are both touched and overwhelmed by the scale of the response to Elton John's single from the very many people around the world who have bought it," she said in a statement.

The fund, set up after Diana's death in a Paris car crash on Aug. 31, will channel the money to her favorite charities.

John moved many mourners to tears when he sang "Candle in the Wind" at Diana's funeral in Westminster Abbey on Sept. 6. It went on to become the world's biggest-selling single recording with more than 35 million copies purchased.

News reports said the single ultimately could raise more than $160 million.

## Caring for those terminally ill topic of session

The second in a series of three presentations profiling caring for the elderly is scheduled at 7 tonight at Snyder Healthcare Center, 5311 Big Spring Highway.

Steve Caulley of Hospice will discuss caring for the terminally ill. The programs are jointly sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa of Western Texas College and Snyder Healthcare Center.

In January, "Occupational and Speech Therapy for the Elderly" will be presented by Kay Zeitman, speech pathologist.

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### Ministerial alliance

The Ministerial Alliance will have a meeting and luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the home of Nan Swanson, 2801 35th St.

### Snyder Healthcare Center

Snyder Healthcare Center will have its Christmas Party for residents at 7 p.m. Thursday. Santa Claus will be there.

### Snyder JH band program

Snyder Junior High School band will have a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Thursday at Worsham Auditorium. Admission is free.

### Legion/VFW Christmas party

The American Legion and VFW will hold a Christmas party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion. Ladies are asked to bring a dessert. Men and women need to bring a $10 gift.

### 'A Christmas Story'

The Western Texas College planetarium will present "A Christmas Story" this Sunday and next Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. There is no charge for admission.

### Heritage Village open house

Heritage Village will be open from 2 until 4 p.m. Sunday. Visitors can see the nativity scenes in the Dodson House and cookie jar collection in the Dermott School.

### Bible study video tapes

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

### Blood pressure clinic

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

### Safety awareness program

Total Home Health of Post will host a free safety awareness program and Christmas tea from 3-4 p.m. next Wednesday in the Golden Terrace Apartments meeting room. Everyone is welcome.

### Support group ministry

Three support groups for divorce recovery, cancer/grief and caring for aging parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 18, in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. For more information, call the church office at 573-2631. Anyone is welcome to attend and child care will be provided.

### Volleyball team fund-raiser

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

### 'Does Santa Really Care?'

Snyder First Church of the Nazarene, 2462 S. 208, will present "Does Santa Really Care?" at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 21. Everyone is invited to the service. Santa will be there.

### Shelled pecan halves

Snyder High School Technology Student Association (TSA Club) is selling shelled pecan halves at $6 per pound. Contact a club member or call 573-6301 to purchase.

### Tiger banners for sale

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

### Driver's license office

The Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license office will be closed each Monday through Jan. 9.

### Adult basic education

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

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

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

### Snyder High yearbooks

Snyder High School yearbook staff is still taking orders for the 1998 Tigers Lair. Books are $35 through Dec. 19 and may be ordered with a $15 deposit. Mail orders to Student Publications, Snyder High School, 2901 37th St. Call 573-6301 for more information.

### Cash Five

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

3-7-10-11-15

(three, seven, ten, eleven, fifteen)

### Pick 3

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

2-6-1

(two, six, one)