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WT-Int. Crude - $XX.XX
WTIC Posted - $XX.XX
Natural Gas - $X.XXX

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Jan. 8, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 215
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Josie Hernandez

WTC board to meet

Will hear president's plans for retirement

Western Texas College board of trustees will convene at 7 this evening for its first meeting of the new year.

Among items of business is a scheduled executive session in which the trustees will discuss with WTC President Harry Krenek the possibility of his retirement.

Dr. Krenek announced his possible retirement in a memo to the board, saying it was "an appropriate time to discuss a change of leadership."

A native of Elgin, Dr. Krenek went to work at WTC in 1972 as a history professor. He taught in that position until 1982 when he became dean of instruction.

He served as dean from 1982 until 1986, at which time he was named president, replacing Don Newbury who became president of Howard Payne University in Brownwood.

Krenek is only the third president in the history of the community college. Dr. Robert Clinton served as the first president.

In other business for tonight's meeting, trustees will consider hiring William Edwards as a speech instructor and Kimberly Merket as a counselor.

The board will also consider bids on a dishwasher for the cafeteria and discuss an agreement with Snyder ISD regarding the mass communication program.

In a routine item, trustees are expected to give administration approval to seek bids for the depository of college funds.

Other items of information and discussion include:

—Consideration of a board planning session.

—Report on service contract with Johnson Controls Inc.

Council will consider bids, citizen requests

Snyder's city council will have a varied agenda when it meets this evening at 6:30.

The council will review bids on a new fire truck and water line replacement materials, and hear a request from a citizen to close a portion of a street and part of another.

Cloyce Talbott is asking the city to close a portion of 45th Street, adjacent to Towle Park, and to pave a portion of Avenue Z in the same area.

The council also has been asked to close a portion of 29th Street, south of the Boys and Girls Club, so that athletic fields can be realigned and expanded.

Also on the agenda is the designation of crosswalks on Cogdell Blvd. in the area of Cogdell Memorial Hospital, and the establishment of new speed limits.

A new personnel manual for the city will be presented for approval, as will the quarterly investment report. The council will also begin preliminary discussions on the city's 2001-02 budget. Council members also will meet in executive session to begin the yearly evaluation of City Manager John Gayle. The evaluation process has been changed this year in order that it be concluded prior to approval of the city's budget.

PUZZLED — Marie Walton, a volunteer at the Scurry County Senior Citizens Center, admitted this jigsaw puzzle was a bit difficult. When not performing volunteer work, Walton keeps busy with a game of dominoes or by putting a puzzle together. (SDN Staff Photo)

Windham School official...

Martin ends career with prison schools

After 34 years in education, Bob Martin is leaving the working world behind to spend more time with his family, his church and one of his favorite pastimes — fishing.

"I like to fish. I will be doing a lot of fishing," Martin said from behind his desk at the Windham School Region V office.

He has served as district assistant superintendent for Windham, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's school system, since 1995.

He says he came into the prison education field "by accident."

"At the time, my son-in-law in Palestine was a correctional officer at Beto I. We went to Palestine to visit, and he took me to the school," Martin related. "It was the first time I knew there was a school in prison."

He said the principal then offered him a job.

Martin worked at Beto I from 1983 until 1989 when the Price Daniel Unit opened. He then transferred to Snyder and went to work as principal at the local unit.

In 1992, Martin was named assistant regional administrator for the Windham school district, and then in 1995, he was appointed to his current position.

Martin was a full-time minister for five years before he began teaching.

"I felt like I could have the same impact by going into education and still continue my ministry on a part-time basis," he said of his switch to education.

He graduated from Abilene Christian College in 1967 with a bachelor's degree. In 1980, he received his master's degree in school administration.

"I've enjoy education. I enjoy the classroom," he said. "I went into administration because I felt like I could have a better impact on the classroom by helping teachers become better teachers."

Martin taught in Dallas for Christian Schools Inc. from 1967 to 1970 before moving to Abilene. There, he taught in three elementary schools — Anson Jones, Ben Milan and Austin — over a 10-year period.

He served as superintendent of Hawley schools from 1980 to 1983 before entering the prison education field.

Martin said that he has found that Windham helps inmates not to return to prison.

"It gives them an education and self-esteem," he said.

Martin and his wife, Rachel, have two daughters and sons-in-law.

Melody and Lane Martin live in Snyder and have a son, Logan. Jennifer and Johnny Poe live in Palestine and have two sons, Ben and Daniel.

Rachel is a local watercolor artist and member of the Snyder Palette Club.

An elder at 37th Street Church of Christ, Martin plans on spending more time with church activities.

"We also plan on traveling and seeing the United States," he said. "We plan on hooking up the trailer pretty soon and heading south."

Martin's last day is Friday.

Bob Martin

Texas legislature ready to start session Tuesday

AUSTIN (AP) — When lawmakers return to the Texas Capitol for the start of their legislative session Tuesday, it'll be without the pressure of having a governor running for president.

George W. Bush's presidential aspirations and supporting efforts from some state lawmakers dominated in 1999, the last time the legislators convened.

With the world watching, there was pressure to have a successful session, said acting Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff, a Republican senator from Mount Pleasant who also will preside over the Senate chamber.

"Mainly because we didn't want it reported in the media that we had stumbled somehow," Ratliff said.

Reporters from all over the world "were just crawling all over the Capitol, so I think we all felt a little pressure from that. So it may return to more normalcy," Ratliff said.

Now that Bush has left the governor's mansion for the White House, state workers who kept quiet during the presidential campaign have again begun freely discussing state problems with legislators.

"There was somewhat of a hesitation, in some cases a fear" from state agencies during the campaign, said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin. "Now that cloud has been lifted."

In the halls of the Capitol these days, there is talk of a smaller budget surplus, a slowing Texas economy and the resurrection of controversial proposals like an expanded hate crimes bill that failed two years ago.

One thing that won't be discussed this year is a tax cut.

In 1999, when he was already a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, Bush pushed for a larger cut but settled for $1.85 billion in cuts to property, business and sales taxes.

For the upcoming two-year budget cycle, the state predicts it will have a $2.9 billion surplus, half of what was projected at the start of the last legislative session.

After making up for current overruns in the state's Medicaid and prison programs, lawmakers say they won't have enough of the surplus left to spread among the many requests from state agencies and interest groups — let alone to slash taxes. No increases are expected either.

Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff

Fellow Republican Gov. Rick Perry defended tax cuts, a balanced budget, a parental notification bill, education reforms and other issues Bush promoted during his presidential run as important state issues, not campaign material ordered by Bush.

Perry ascended to the state's top post when Bush resigned to prepare for his presidency.

"I think they were passed because they were good legislation," Perry said Friday before abruptly ending a news conference at which the topic came up.

Not everyone agrees with the new governor.

"There were so many activities going on last session simply because Bush was running for president," said Barrientos.

An example, he said, was the creation last session of a sales tax holiday. In 1997, Barrientos unsuccessfully sponsored a bill proposing the same once-a-year sales tax exemption on children's clothing, school supplies and certain prescriptions.

"Every single Republican voted against me," Barrientos said. "Now last session, on the contrary. Every single Republican voted for it. Why would we delay helping low-income children and families?

Terrell asks how inmates escaped

DALLAS (AP) — Citing a host of unanswered questions, a former board chairman of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice continued his criticism of the department following the escape of seven inmates from the Connally Unit near Kenedy.

The seven men who escaped Dec. 13 are the subjects of a nationwide manhunt. They are accused of killing Irving police Officer Aubrey Hawkins on Christmas Eve at a sporting goods store in Irving.

In Sunday's editions of The Dallas Morning News, Charles Terrell, former board chairman, wrote in a letter to the editor: "Almost a month now after the escape, the questions I asked as a private citizen of Texas ... are still unanswered. I believe any Texas citizen has the right to ask these questions."

In his letter, Terrell wanted to know how the inmates stole the weapons, how the inmates were able to drive out of the unit in a prison van without being checked, and how long they were missing before outside authorities were notified.

Terrell was the board chairman of the TDCJ when the Price Daniel Unit was located in Snyder, and is the chairman of the board of Snyder Brick and Tile.

The letter is the latest in an exchange between Terrell and TDCJ spokesman Glen Castlebury that has played out on the editorial pages of the newspaper.

ASK US

Q—When is the Scurry County stock show?
A—Jan. 18-20.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 72 degrees; low, 30; high Sunday, 54 degrees, low 25, 7 a.m. Monday, 25; no precipitation; total for 2001, .03 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low 25-30, S wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy, high lower to mid 50s, light, variable wind, becoming SE 20 mph.

Josephine Ornelas
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 5:59 p.m.
Sunset: 7:44 a.m.

Of 7 days in 2001, the sun has shone 5 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If football taught me anything about business, it is that you win the game one play at a time.
—Fran Tarkenton

JAN 08 2001

Congress certifies Bush as winner of election

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the vanquished Vice President Al Gore presiding, Congress formally anointed George W. Bush on Saturday as the victor in last year's achingly close and bitterly contested presidential election.

In a hoary constitutional ritual that made up with political irony and shouted objections what it lacked in suspense, four members of Congress read aloud documents certifying the electoral votes of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, all in alphabetical order.

When they finished an alternately raucous and humorous 92 minutes later, the Republican Bush had won by 271-266 — just as when the electoral votes were counted in every state capital on Dec. 18. To prevail, the winner needed 270 of the 538 electoral votes nationwide.

Reading from a sheaf of papers, and showing no apparent emotion, Gore intoned:

"George W. Bush of the state of Texas has received for president of the United States 271 votes. Al Gore of the state of Tennessee has received 266 votes. ... This announcement of the state of the vote by the president of the senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected president and vice president of the United States, each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January 2001, and shall be entered, together with a list the votes, on the journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives."

After announcing the results, Gore, a Democrat, said, "May God bless our new president and our new vice president, and may God bless the United States of America." At that, he shook the outstretched hand of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, and a number of others, and it was over.

Gore was presiding because it is one of the duties of the vice president. The last vice president defeated in a presidential race to oversee Congress' counting of the electoral votes was Richard Nixon in 1961. Vice President Hubert Humphrey did not do so in 1969, following his defeat by Nixon.

The joint session of Congress drew extraordinary attention because it was the final vote tally in a disputed presidential race that did not end until five weeks after the Nov. 7 election. Gore did not concede until Dec. 13, a day after the U.S. Supreme Court forced a halt to vote-counting in Florida.

Even so, House Democrats — mostly blacks — raised 20 objections during the session aimed at blocking Florida's pivotal 25 electoral votes from being counted. Many Democrats have asserted that Bush won Florida unfairly because some votes were not counted and because of a disproportionate number of irregularities in largely black, mostly Democratic areas.

"It was the Supreme Court and not the people of the United States who decided this election," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., over shouts from Republicans.

But time and again, Gore — blending wit and formality — disallowed the objections because they were not also signed by a senator, as required by law. That shortcoming underlined the judgment by many Democrats that the public had no patience to resume battling over the election outcome.

"The chair thanks the gentleman from Illinois, but, hey," a grinning Gore told Rep. Jesse Jackson, D-Ill., who raised one of the challenges.

When an angry Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said she did not care that a senator had not signed her objection, Gore responded, "The chair will advise that the rules do care."

The rules also forbade lawmakers to explain their objections. Many tried but were quickly silenced by Gore amid grumbling from Republicans.

At one point, Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., among the complaining lawmakers, cried out to Gore, "We did all we could."

"The chair thanks the gentleman from Florida," Gore responded with a smile.

After their objections failed, at least 16 House Democrats filed out of the chamber en masse.

Before the voting began, several Republicans took to the House floor to offer conciliatory words.

"Let us put the bitterness and rancor behind us, and let us move forward to do the job we were sworn to do," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

Gore pumped his right fist when California's 54 votes, the biggest electoral prize, were awarded to him. But he showed no emotion when the 11 votes from Tennessee, his home state, went to his rival.

At one point, Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., one of the four lawmakers who read the votes aloud, held Delaware's certificate up to the light and squinted. "This one is different than all the others," he said with a smile.

His act, which provoked laughter, was a joking reference to the repeated televised recounts of Florida's votes.

With the outcome beyond doubt, only about one-third of the members of Congress attended the session in the House chamber. Most left well before it ended.

Not attending were House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who was Gore's running mate.

Gore could have won an additional electoral vote. But in the Dec. 18 voting, District of Columbia elector Barbara Lett-Simmons left her ballot blank to protest the district's lack of a voting representative in Congress.

Out of more than 100 million popular votes cast nationally, Gore won by nearly 540,000 votes, according to a count of the final state tallies by The Associated Press.

It was the first time since Republican Benjamin Harrison's 1888 victory over Democrat Grover Cleveland that the loser of the popular vote had won the White House by capturing a majority of the Electoral College.

Subway series one of darkest moments

NEW YORK (AP) — The Subway Series was one of Darryl Strawberry's darkest moments.

The Mets and Yankees opened the World Series on Oct. 22 and Strawberry says watching the game prompted him to leave his rehab center in Tampa, Fla., and use crack cocaine — a violation of his probation.

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events

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RESULTS

Lotto Texas

(AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $40 million.

The ticket was sold in Clint.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 14, 17, 35, 38, 40, 54

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3

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

4, 0, 6

Berry's World

Date Book

Monday, Jan. 8, 2001

Today is the eighth day of 2001 and the 19th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1889, Dr. Herman Hollerith of New York City received a patent for the first electric tabulating machine.

On this day in 1918, Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, which prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States.

On this day in 1993, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp depicting Elvis Presley.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Carroll (1735-1815), clergyman; Jose Ferrer (1912-1992), actor; Soupy Sales (1926-), comedian, is 75; Bill Graham (1931-1991), rock music entrepreneur; Elvis Presley (1935-1977), singer; Shirley Bassey (1937-), singer, is 64; David Bowie (1947-), musician, is 54.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1962, at the Los Angeles Open, golfer Jack Niklaus played professionally for the first time.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There is no disguise which can hide love for long where it exists, or simulate it where it does not." — La Rochefoucauld

TODAY'S MOON: Day before full moon (Jan. 9).

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Enter

Lots of changes since Bush team held power

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Koreas are talking to each other. Washington speaks of its "partnership" with Belgrade less than two years after bombing it. Cyberspace, capable of little more than juvenile delinquency a decade ago, now is feared as a terrorist vehicle.

In many ways, it is a new world for the old crowd of Republican foreign policy practitioners coming back into office.

They were taking a formal look at that world on Monday, gathering in Austin, Texas, with President-elect Bush and members of Congress to discuss his plans to strengthen the military and promote a national missile defense program.

The last time Donald Rumsfeld was defense secretary, America was muddling through the dispiriting aftermath of the Vietnam War, not to mention Watergate, and preoccupied still with communist containment. Now Hanoi has welcomed a U.S. president's visit.

Although a much newer face in government, Condoleezza Rice, Bush's incoming national security adviser, made her name as a Soviet expert in the Soviet Union's final years.

Vice President-elect Dick Cheney and Colin Powell, nominated as secretary of state, were steeped in Cold War doctrine, too. Theirs was a world of the evil empire, an unknowable China and Sandinistas, capped by war against Iraq.

As commander of 75,000 U.S. soldiers in Germany in the mid-1980s, Powell kept a photo on his desk of the Soviet general leading a larger opposing force an hour's drive away — a constant reminder of the man he would battle if a misstep turned the superpower struggle into a war.

"The discipline of the Cold War era in which you had to husband your resources for the big one, that's what's changed," said Gideon Rose, a national security official in the first Clinton administration. "These are people who grew up in a world of severely constrained resources — and one false step and you can blow up the entire world.

"The chief difference some of these people might find is that they don't have to look over their shoulder as much as they once did."

The Bush team has acknowledged that much is different, even if Iraq's Saddam Hussein is still around.

Powell said "the old world map as we knew it of a red side and a blue side, that competed for something called the Third World, is gone."

"We are in a new national security environment," Rumsfeld said when Bush nominated him to reprise the Pentagon role he held under President Ford. "We do need to be arranged to deal with the new threats, not the old ones."

Although out of government for a quarter century, Rumsfeld is very much a man of the moment, as far as Bush is concerned.

Rumsfeld led national commissions that examined the risk of missile attack on the United and threats to U.S. satellites. Information warfare also is high on his list of concerns.

His group's 1998 report told Congress that North Korea and Iran could field a missile capable of striking U.S. territory within five years; his report on military assets in space is expected this month.

Talk of globalization was just stirring when Powell, Cheney and Rice were last in government. Economic integration, spurred in part by trade agreements pushed by Bush's father and then President Clinton, has proceeded apace. Now it is a given that when markets sneeze in one part of the world, markets elsewhere wipe their noses, too.

The officials coming from President Bush's administration into his son's were in on the earliest months of the Soviet Union's disintegration.

They were out before the implications were close to being fully formed.

"With the end of the Cold War, there was a brief period of wondering what will happen next," says Rose, managing editor of the journal Foreign Affairs. "Now it's pretty clear what has happened next — continued U.S. hegemony for the foreseeable future."

Yet this is a national security team expected to be more reluctant than the Clinton administration to get involved in crises not strongly tied to U.S. strategic interests.

California Legislature eyes energy issue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The battle over who should foot California's staggering electricity bill is becoming a political showdown pitting Wall Street financiers against Main Street consumers.

The tensions are likely to be reflected in Gov. Gray Davis's State of the State address tonight as he seeks to send a reassuring message to the financial community without incensing the public.

"We are redoubling our efforts to approve a significant amount of new (power) generation," Davis said in a statement Sunday.

California's Independent System Operator and two major utilities reported no significant power problems over the weekend.

Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric officials are looking to Davis, state lawmakers and the federal government to provide long-term assistance to the companies and their customers this week.

"We're waiting like everybody else," PG&E spokesman Jonathan Franks said Sunday. "We're just waiting to see what the governor and the Legislature are going to do."

"We're certainly hopeful something may transpire this week," agreed SoCal spokesman Steven Conroy.

Investors and lenders want Davis and the Legislature to protect their interests by forcing California's utility customers to absorb the huge losses suffered by PG&E and SoCal Edison.

Wholesale electricity rates have skyrocketed since May — a period when the two utilities' combined power costs have exceeded revenues by more than $10 billion.

The utilities want to pass on those costs to customers by raising rates more than 25 percent this year, with additional hikes later.

The California Public Utilities Commission last week approved temporary rate hikes ranging from 7 percent to 15 percent that sorely disappointed the utilities' financiers.

Also last week, Wall Street essentially issued an ultimatum to Davis and the Legislature: find a way to bail out PG&E and SoCal Edison or the utilities will likely wind up in bankruptcy court.

"The Legislature has to take the bull by the horns," said Richard Cortright, an analyst for Standard & Poor's in New York.

"It is our contention that the Legislature has all the tools to resolve this crisis. The only question is whether they have the political will."

Meanwhile, lawmakers face a possible backlash from constituents if they raise electricity prices too much.

"Everyone should be concerned that Wall Street is using financial threats to extract a bailout from the Legislature," said Doug Heller, consumer advocate for the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights. "The only thing that can counteract Wall Street now is an angry voting public."

Stiff rate increases also could sap the spending power of households and businesses — and further slow California's economy.

"We don't want to solve one financial crisis by creating another," said state Sen. Debra Bowen.

The utilities say they have enough cash to buy electricity for their customers for another three to seven weeks.

But PG&E says it will be declared in default on an $850 million credit line unless it improve its credit rating by early April.

SoCal Edison is in even worse shape than PG&E, according to S&P officials. Barring a legislative solution, SoCal Edison would probably be the first utility to file bankruptcy, S&P said. has included the suspension of its quarterly shareholder dividend and plans to eliminate 1,850 jobs, including contractors and temporary workers.

On The Net:
http://www.pgecorp.com
http://www.edison.com
http://www.standardandpoors.com

New federal rules to protect salmon will take effect today

SEATTLE (AP) — New federal rules to protect salmon threatened with extinction on the West Coast go into effect today.

The new regulations, to be enforced by the National Marine Fisheries Service, prohibit acts that could kill or harm the fish.

"It's the teeth of salmon recovery," said Bill Sullivan, environmental director for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in Washington state.

Puget Sound chinook and 13 other West Coast salmon and steelhead populations were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act nearly two years ago. The fish have suffered from development, logging, dams, overfishing and other habitat changes.

Already in place are rules that require any federal-related project that could harm threatened fish to be approved by the fisheries service.

The new rules expand that shield, making it illegal for individuals, businesses or local and state governments to kill or harm salmon or destroy important habitat.

Violators face fines up to $20,000. Criminal charges could also apply, although only "egregious actions" are expected to be targeted, said Rosemary Furfey, a natural resource management specialist with the fisheries service.

Lawsuits from both sides are pending. Builders challenge the rationale for the rules, while environmentalists say the regulations do too little to protect fish.

A major change under the new rules is that third parties — anyone who believes salmon are being harmed — can sue alleged violators. Businesses are concerned that will provoke lawsuits and increase costs.

"Our members are worried," said Tom McCabe of the Building Industry Association in Olympia. "It puts an indecisiveness in the marketplace."

Jacques White, a biologist who works for People for Puget Sound, said his group and others have started listing potential legal targets.

"We are going to be looking at things we can stop," he said. "We have a short list of flagrant violators."

Gov. Gary Locke's top fish adviser said the rules give new urgency to salmon recovery — if only through the potential threat of lawsuits and enforcement.

"We've done all the easy things," Curt Smitch said. "Now we are to the hard stuff. Deciding what we will do with buffers along streams. Modifying people's behavior in how they treat areas around streams and wetlands."

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-08-01
♠ 9 2
♥ 7 5 3 2
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 8 5 4 2

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

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

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

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Through the gorge, not to gorge

By Phillip Alder

After doing the two classes in Thames, I was driven to Te Puke (pronounced with very short syllables, ta-poo-kee). Despite my following a two-session pair tournament, we had 11 tables. I covered managing the trump suit and ruffing losers in the dummy. This deal caught out most declarers. How would you try to land four spades after West leads the heart queen? Did West have a more effective opening lead?

After one opens with a strong, artificial and forcing two clubs, jumping to three spades shows a solid suit, sets trumps, and asks partner to control-bid (cue-bid). The responder immediately shows an ace, or bids three no-trump with at least one king, or — as here — raises to game with no aces or kings.

All declarers saw that they had nine top tricks: six spades, two hearts and one diamond. All except one entered dummy with that tempting spade nine and took the diamond finesse. However, when it lost, every West correctly returned a trump, killing both a diamond ruff in the dummy and the contract.

Neil Dravitzki, who was my coordinator in Te Puke and Rotorua, spotted the right play. Realizing that the diamond queen was a red-card herring, he continued with the diamond four at trick two. East won with the seven, cashed the club king, and switched to a trump. But Dravitzki won in hand, cashed the diamond ace, and ruffed the diamond queen with dummy's spade nine.

A ruff in the shorter trump hand is always an extra trick and almost always the right line of play. And, yes, a trump lead at trick one is lethal.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Dad's two-month visit is no vacation for his family

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were born and raised in the Midwest and now live in Florida. Our families are still up north and frequently vacation in our home. We're happy to see them and encourage them to visit — with one exception.

Like many "snowbirds," my father-in-law comes every winter to spend in excess of two months. However, instead of his own home, he resides at our house. Dad is a very nice and generous man and my wife looks forward to his visit. Nonetheless, the amount of time he spends here is getting to be too much, even for her. Our home has become his "Florida home" where he entertains, gives tours of the premises and includes us (with and without prior notice) for luncheons, dinners, etc., with people his own age whom we have never met.

I work from home, so I never get a break. Even after numerous requests, instead of allowing the machine to answer when I'm out, Dad picks up the phone and proceeds to discuss his vacation plans with my clients. As I stated before, he's not a bad person, but frankly, I'm no longer able to enjoy his visits. I dread Dad's visits as the time draws near, and I'm miserable the entire time — counting down to the day he leaves. I wish I didn't feel this way, but enough is enough.

My wife would never admit to her father that his visits are an inconvenience, but perhaps if he reads this in your column, he — and many others — will realize that a vacation spent in someone else's home should be two weeks at the longest. Staying long enough to have your mail forwarded is an imposition. — **HAD ENOUGH IN FLORIDA**

DEAR HAD ENOUGH: I'm printing your letter, but hoping that your father-in-law sees it and recognizes himself will not be enough. The solution to your problem lies in you and your wife behaving like adults, stiffening your backbones and discussing this issue openly with him. If Dad plans to remain longer than two weeks, he really should consider renting a nearby apartment so he can entertain to his heart's content, conduct tours of his own place — and you can have peace of mind, privacy and sanctuary in your home, plus a businesslike environment in your office.

**

DEAR ABBY: I broke my hand playing high school football early in the season and had to get a cast. The doctor said I couldn't play football again until the cast was off or I'd run the risk of it never healing properly.

The cast was removed before the season was over, but I had already decided not to play again, even though the doctor said I could play. Now my coach and friends are angry at me. Do you think I was right to quit? — **BROKEN IN KANSAS**

DEAR BROKEN: You made the right decision. Football is an aggressive and violent sport. It's normal not to want to subject yourself to another injury.

See how you feel about playing next fall. Do not allow yourself to be talked into anything you don't feel comfortable doing.

**

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

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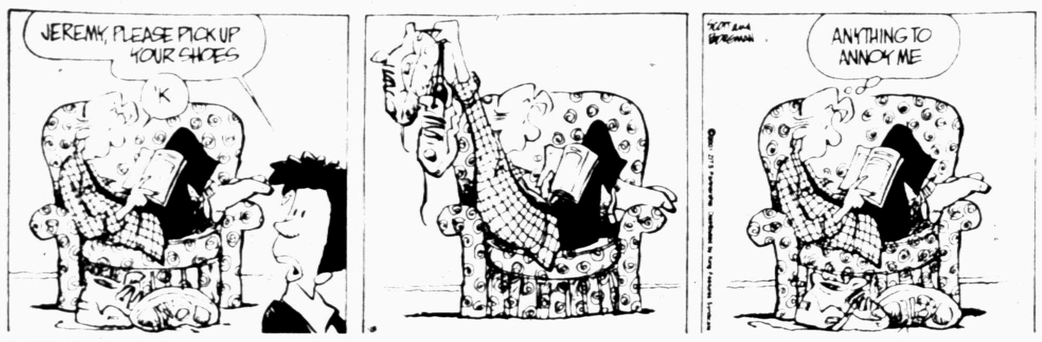

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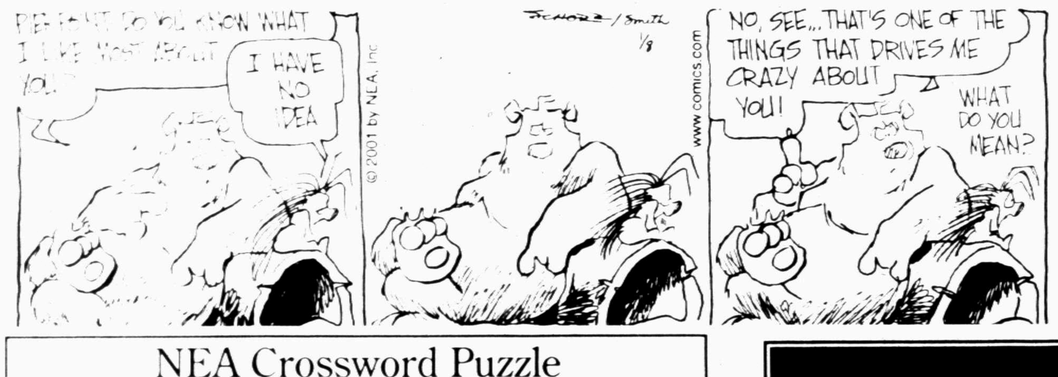

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Lethargy
7 Bullfighter
13 Large lizard
14 Habituated
15 Established a cost for
16 Obstructed
17 Transmitted
18 Roman three
20 Chums
21 Skunklike animal
23 Hole — —
27 Author Caldwell
32 Cowboy movie
33 Stage direction
34 Combine
35 Lhasa's place
36 Antelope with curved horns
39 Metric unit
40 Sierra —
42 Aspirin, e.g.
46 Comic Philips
47 Leaning Tower city
51 Help
53 Large-beaked bird
55 Prickly herb
56 Metal for chair frames
57 Sofa
58 Stinging insect

DOWN

1 Waiters' rewards
2 Hideous giant
3 Bankrupt
4 Treaty
5 Dollar bill
6 Circle measures
7 More orderly
8 "— — Clear Day"
9 Type of roast
10 Columnist Bombeck
11 Stagger
12 Betting factor
19 "— Got a Secret"
21 Oatmeal, e.g.
22 Sleeping-sickness fly
23 Debt letters
24 Zola heroine
25 Cornelia — Skinner
26 Butterfly-catchers' needs
28 Make a sweater
29 "Let — —" (Beatles' song)
30 — -do-well
31 Art deco illustrator
37 VW model
38 — Kippur
41 V-shaped cut
42 Benatar and Boone
43 "Understood" (2 wds.)
44 Future attys.' hurdle
45 Itemize
47 Feline sound
48 PC image
49 Identical
50 Dillseed
52 Look at
54 Exclamation of surprise

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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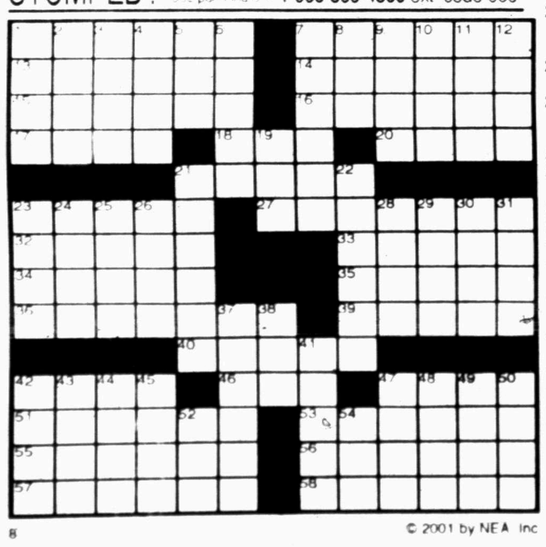

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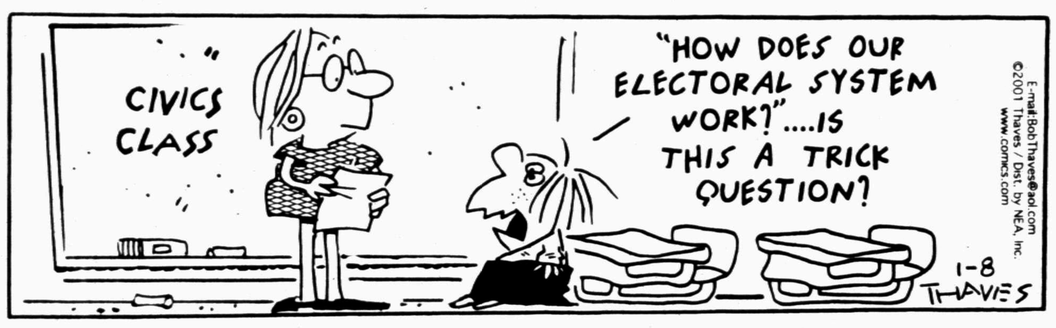

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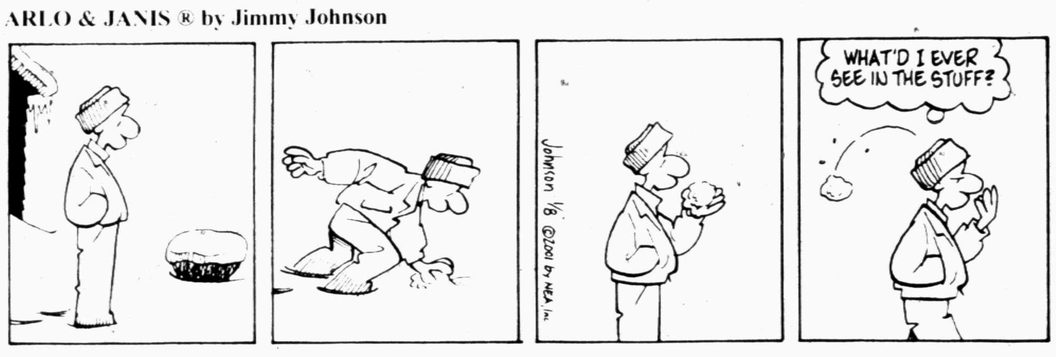

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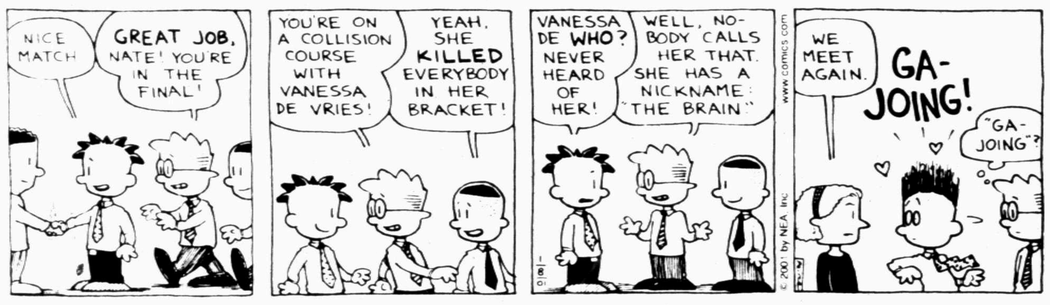

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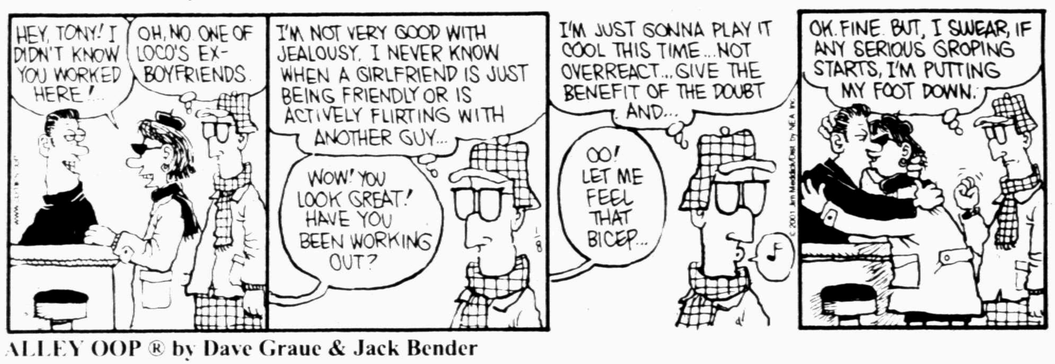

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Why didn't you say you wanted them both the same size?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

SPORTS

Match-ups set for conference titles

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

The last Super Bowl the Raiders won was in Tampa. The last Super Bowl the Giants won also was in Tampa.

In three weeks, the Super Bowl will be played in Tampa.

Raiders and Giants?

The way this season is going, who knows? But the trend in this postseason is clear: home teams are 7-1 and defense wins. The Giants are home to the Vikings and are playing their best defense of the season; the Raiders are home to the Ravens and shut out the Dolphins 27-0 on Saturday.

On the other hand, the Ravens are the best defensive team in the NFL. And the Vikings can score in bunches.

A look at next Sunday's title games.

Minnesota (12-5) at New York Giants (13-4)

If the Vikings lose this game, they have no one to blame but themselves. By losing their final three games, they blew home-field advantage in the NFC and will have to play outdoors for the first time since Thanksgiving.

And this isn't just any outdoors. It was tame Sunday at the Meadowlands, when the Giants beat the Eagles 20-10. It usually isn't that way in January. The last time the Giants played a title game at home, they won the coin toss, took the 40 mph wind, went up 14-0 over Washington in the first quarter and won 17-0.

Of note: The Vikings played just five games outdoors this year. They lost in Tampa and Green Bay, won in New England, Chicago and Dallas. The first two teams had regular-season records of 19-13, the last three all finished 5-11.

Of further note: Most teams the Giants have beaten say they could have beaten them, but they played badly. "It's fortunate that everybody plays badly when we play against them. We're not a very good football team," said Jason Sehorn, whose acrobatic interception he returned for a touchdown Sunday has to remind the Vikings of the catch Green Bay's Antonio Freeman made to beat them in overtime (outdoors, of course).

But there's another key besides the weather: The Giants have played poorly at times against vertical offenses such as Minnesota's. Sehorn may be assigned to Randy Moss, but the other New York cornerbacks are adequate at best, perhaps not enough to shut down Cris Carter.

And while the Giants have one of the top run defenses in the NFL, Robert Smith gives the Vikings the kind of balance the Giants saw only against St. Louis, which beat them 38-24 in the Meadowlands without Kurt Warner and Marshall Faulk.

But the best advice for those interested in projecting the outcome remains: Watch the Weather Channel.

Baltimore (14-4) at Oakland (13-4)

The Raiders have loud and crazy fans and are 7-1 at home. Will that bother the Ravens? Their win in Nashville was their second at Adelphia Coliseum, the only times the Titans have lost in their 18 games there.

"When you go into the lion's den, you don't tiptoe in. You go in screaming like a banshee," Ravens coach Brian Billick said after the 24-10 victory.

But Oakland is a different proposition from Tennessee, because it can score touchdowns. That's a relatively new challenge for a Baltimore defense that during the regular season faced only six teams ranked in the top half of the NFL in yards gained. Like Minnesota, the Raiders' offense is balanced — as long as running backs Tyrone Wheatley and Napoleon Kaufman are healthy.

So if Oakland scores, it might force Trent Dilfer into taking risks. His success — 9-1 as a starting quarterback — is based on his not making mistakes and letting the defense do the work. That might not be enough against the Raiders, whose 479 points were the third most in the league — behind only St. Louis and Denver.

But the Ravens have one of the NFL's few defensive game-turners, Ray Lewis, who has an impact on offenses that approaches the impact Lawrence Taylor had (see the 1986 Giants and wind, above). If he and the rest of the Baltimore defense can force turnovers, the Ravens have a chance.

Pitino steps down as Celtics' coach

BOSTON (AP) — Rick Pitino resigned as coach and president of the Boston Celtics on Monday, unable to restore the NBA's most successful franchise to its former glory.

Assistant coach Jim O'Brien was hired as interim head coach, the Celtics said Monday.

O'Brien started his new job by leading practice on Sunday, when Pitino said he was taking the day off to mull his options. Pitino told owner Paul Gaston he was through, and he reportedly gave up the remaining 61/2 years and $27 million on his contract.

The Celtics were to play the Portland Trail Blazers at the FleetCenter on Monday night.

Pitino had hinted since the end of last season that he would leave if the team did not improve this season, his fourth as coach and president. The tone of his comments became more immediate as the Celtics stumbled to a 12-22 record, leaving Pitino 102-146 overall.

Pitino said in November he would meet with Gaston in mid-January to discuss the team. If there wasn't any progress, Pitino promised to finish the season and then leave.

On Saturday night, though, it became clear Pitino had changed his mind. He hugged Paul Pierce as he came out of the game, and spoke afterward as if his mind were made up. Newspaper reports said he would step down as early as Sunday.

"Sometimes change is good just for the sake of change when things aren't going well," he told the Boston Herald after the 112-86 loss to Miami. "It's heartbreaking to me, what's happened here. I love the Boston Celtics and I'll always be a fan.

"This organization has treated me like royalty since I came here. But you know, I've been going at this pretty hard now for 31/2 years and I haven't seen many results. It hurts, but life goes on and it will for the players and for the people in this organization."

Underwood's latest suicide attempt baffles teammates

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — Teammates saw Dimitrius Underwood as a young defensive end with great promise. His latest suicide attempt has left them shocked and saddened.

Police said Underwood, 23, tried to end his life by twice running into traffic. One motorist said the Dallas Cowboys' lineman told him he "wanted to go to Jesus."

"It's very shocking to me," said defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban, Underwood's roommate on the road this season. "I called him, but obviously he didn't call me back. I just wanted to make sure that he was well.

"I feel bad for his family because they're the ones who have known him his whole life and they're the ones it affects the most."

Two motorists told police that Underwood ran into traffic on a busy suburban highway Wednesday. A Coral Springs woman told police that Underwood ran in front of her car, causing her to screech to a halt.

Another motorist, a Pompano Beach man, said Underwood kicked and dented his car and told him he "wanted to go to Jesus," police said.

Underwood cut his knee and was placed in custody at Sunrise Regional Medical Center's psychiatric unit. A Sunrise Regional official Sunday refused comment.

JV girls rally past Frenship

Snyder's junior varsity girls rebounded from their setback to Plainview with a 43-39 victory over Frenship.

Snyder and Frenship were tied at halftime, before the Lady Tigers limited Frenship to only five points in the third quarter to pull ahead for good.

Amber Russell poured in 20 points to pace Snyder, while Zipporah Peoples added 10. Hailey Putnam netted six points. Chasity Perales drained four, and Dara Chambers finished with three.

The victory came on the heels of a 56-17 setback to Plainview.

Against the Lady Bulldogs, Peoples and Perales scored four points each to pace Snyder.

Putnam, Russell, Patricia Vargas and Tamara Norman tallied two points apiece, and Kentara McDonald chipped in one.

Hoosiers upset top-ranked Spartans

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Kirk Haston seemed the unlikeliest of Indiana's options.

He had attempted just 12 3-pointers in his career, yet was being asked to beat the nation's top-ranked team with — what else? — a 3-pointer.

Haston didn't fret. He took the ball, stepped behind the 3-point line and hit the shot that beat No. 1 Michigan State 59-58, the Hoosiers' biggest win in the post-Bob Knight era, like it was no big deal.

"Well, my grandad and I worked on it a lot this offseason and I put up a lot of shots," said Haston, who had made just four 3-pointers in his career — all this season — before Sunday. "I wanted to expand my game a little bit. I've been working on that, my outside shot, a lot more. Practice pays off."

Nobody would quibble with that after Sunday.

Haston's third 3-pointer of the game set off a wild scene, in which nine teammates tackled him in front of the Michigan State bench and fans streamed onto the court.

Nearly lost in the celebration, however, were two questions: How close was Haston's shot to the buzzer? And how close were his feet to the 3-point line?

It was close enough the officials needed a second look. They huddled in front of a television to check their orginial ruling, which they upheld, and then the frenzy started all over again.

Indiana (10-6, 1-1 Big Ten) hadn't witnessed anything quite like this before — at least not inside Assembly Hall.

Indiana hadn't beaten a top-ranked team since 1987, when it upset UNLV, and had never beaten a top-ranked team in Assembly Hall — until Sunday.

"I told them remember why we won because we fought the entire game," said coach Mike Davis, who earned his most significant victory since taking over when Knight was fired in September. "There's no reason not to play like that every night. We beat the No. 1 team in the country. But we're still 10-6."

In the only other games involving ranked teams Sunday, it was: No. 3 Duke 115, Clemson 74 and South Carolina 69, No. 5 Florida 68.

Haston's 27 points did a lot to change a lot about Michigan State.

Gone is the nation's longest winning streak, 23 games. The Spartans' last loss was on Feb. 26, 2000, and it also came inside Assembly Hall on a buzzer-beater.

Gone is the defending national champions' unbeaten record.

Gone, too, is the No. 1 ranking as Stanford moved up one place to the top of the AP poll.

Freshman boys capture third

SWEETWATER — Snyder's freshman boys captured third place at the Sweetwater tournament with a 47-37 victory over Grape Creek JV.

Blake Grimmett poured in 20 points to pace the Tigers, while Justin Boyd and Tucker Early added six apiece.

Lee Scott tallied five points, and Jacob Rodriguez netted four. Israel Sosa finished with two points, and Marcus Villarreal and Tye Collier chipped in one apiece.

Snyder knocked off Merkel in opening round, before falling to Ballinger, 60-56, in the second round.

Against Ballinger, Grimmett posted 28 points, and Boyd added 10 more.

Villarreal totaled eight points. Scott and Collier drained four apiece, and Sosa registered two.

Snyder Black falls to Tors

Snyder Black came up two points short of Lamesa recently during seventh grade basketball action at the SJHS gym.

The Tigers fell to the Tors, 36-34, despite nine points from Joel Tarin.

Stephen Martinez and Chris Lopez added seven points apiece. Keenan Garcia dropped in four points, and Marcus Williams netted three. Tyler Hogan and Chase Ashworth chipped in two each.

JV boys fall to Frenship

Frenship made a fourth-quarter rally to slip past Snyder JV, 40-37, in Friday's junior varsity boys action at the SJHS gym.

Snyder held a three-point lead entering the fourth quarter, before Frenship closed out the game with a 12-6 run.

Colby Driggers poured in 14 points to pace the Tigers, while T.J. Jones added seven more.

Corey Clay and Clay Williams netted six points apiece, and Jay Scott drained four.

The setback came on the heels of a 50-42 loss to Plainview.

Against the Bulldogs, Driggers and Clay led the Tigers' effort with 12 points apiece.

Brad Spells dropped in six points, and Williams tallied five. Jones posted four points. Scott notched two points, and Brady Reed chipped in one.

Sports Briefs

Knicks match record

NEW YORK (AP) — Matching an NBA record that stood for more than 46 years, the New York Knicks held their opponent under 100 points for the 28th straight time as they routed the Washington Wizards 103-87.

Playing with their regular starting lineup for the first time since Nov. 17, the Knicks tied the sub-100 record set by the Fort Wayne Pistons at the start of the 1954-55 season when the NBA had just introduced the 24-second shot clock.

Stricker wins Match Play title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Not even eligible for Match Play Championship three weeks ago, Steve Stricker completed an unlikely journey with a gutsy performance to defeat Pierre Fulke of Sweden and win the $1 million prize.

Stricker, No. 90 in the world ranking and the 55th seed in a 64-man field missing Tiger Woods and a slew of other top names, never trailed in the 36-hole match.

Stricker closed out the match on the 35th hole, 2 and 1, when the 29-year-old Swede failed to save par from the bunker.

It was Stricker's first victory in four years, and $1 million prize might be enough to get him into the Masters.

Lightning fire head coach

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Lightning, who have the third fewest points in the NHL, fired head coach Steve Ludzik on Saturday, replacing him with associate coach John Tortorella.

Tortorella becomes the team's fifth coach in nine seasons.

Ludzik was hired in July 1999 and compiled a 31-74-2 record in one-plus years. His dismissal came two days after an embarrassing 8-3 loss at Ottawa dropped the Lightning to 12-20-5-2 with 31 points — fourth fewest in the league this season.

Belfour bickers with Stars

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Stars goalie Ed Belfour left the team in Boston on Saturday, flying back to Dallas after arguing with coach Ken Hitchcock over participation in an optional pregame practice. The Stars suspended Belfour indefinitely.

Coming off a 4-2 loss in Detroit, Hitchcock decided to give Belfour a break and let Marty Turco start Saturday night against the Bruins. Tradition dictated that, as the backup for the day, Belfour be in goal for the morning skate so Turco could save himself for the game. He refused, triggering the blowup.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	24	8	.750	—
New York	22	12	.647	3
Miami	20	15	.571	5½
Orlando	14	19	.424	10½
Boston	12	22	.353	13
New Jersey	11	22	.333	13½
Washington	7	28	.200	18½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	21	14	.600	—
Milwaukee	18	15	.545	2
Cleveland	16	15	.516	3
Toronto	16	17	.485	4
Indiana	15	19	.441	5½
Detroit	14	20	.412	6½
Atlanta	12	21	.364	8
Chicago	6	26	.188	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	11	.656	—
Dallas	22	13	.629	½
Utah	21	13	.618	1
Minnesota	20	15	.571	2½
Denver	19	15	.559	3
Houston	16	17	.485	5½
Vancouver	10	23	.303	11½
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	24	10	.706	—
Sacramento	21	9	.700	1
L.A. Lakers	23	11	.676	1
Phoenix	20	12	.625	3
Seattle	17	18	.486	7½
L.A. Clippers	12	23	.343	12½
Golden State	11	22	.333	12½

Saturday's Games
Dallas 103, Washington 85
Atlanta 83, Orlando 82
Miami 112, Boston 86
Philadelphia 107, Cleveland 103
New Jersey 97, Golden State 92
Utah 99, Houston 97
San Antonio 108, Detroit 101

Sunday's Games
Toronto 94, Seattle 92
Vancouver 120, Milwaukee 117
New York 103, Washington 87
Minnesota 108, Phoenix 88
Denver 94, Charlotte 87
L.A. Clippers 118, L.A. Lakers 95

Monday's Games
Portland at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Indiana at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Houston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Utah, 9 p.m.
Denver at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Miami at Boston, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Local Schedule

TODAY
Basketball
Snyder 7th, 8th and 9th grade girls at Lubbock Wilson
Lubbock Wilson at Snyder 7th, 8th and 9th grade boys

TUESDAY
Basketball
Andrews at Snyder girls, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30
Andrews at Snyder boys, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30
Ira at Borden County, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

NFL Postseason

All Times EST

Saturday, Dec. 30
Wild-card Playoffs
Miami 23, Indianapolis 17, OT
New Orleans 31, St. Louis 28

Sunday, Dec. 31
Baltimore 21, Denver 3
Philadelphia 21, Tampa Bay 3

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
Minnesota 34, New Orleans 16
Oakland 27, Miami 0

Sunday, Jan. 7
Baltimore 24, Tennessee 10
New York Giants 20, Philadelphia 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 14
NFC Championship
Minnesota at New York Giants, 12:30 p.m. (FOX)

AFC Championship
Baltimore at Oakland, 4 p.m. (CBS)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
At Tampa, Fla.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6 p.m. (CBS)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
NFC vs. AFC, 5:30 p.m. at Honolulu (ABC)

JAN 8 2001

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Committee assignments handed out

WASHINGTON (AP) — Late on an already long day, Dennis Hastert had a difficult call to make. The House speaker had decided against an old friend and Illinois Republican colleague for a powerful post — the House's chief tax law writer — that he was in line for and long had coveted, and Hastert needed to let him know.

To cushion the blow, Hastert was offering Rep. Philip Crane the chance to remain chairman of the House Ways and Means trade subcommittee or head the largely ceremonial Joint Committee on Taxation, said a source familiar with the talks. By day's end and after several more telephone conversations, Hastert essentially rescinded the offer, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Primarily deciding Crane's future would be Rep. Bill Thomas of California, who had leapfrogged over the more senior Crane for the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee.

The speaker, nominally the most powerful person in Congress and second in the line of succession to the presidency, had deferred to the bright but often abrasive Thomas.

Hastert's aides characterize Hastert's first call to Crane on Thursday as more of an inquiry than a promise. Later, Hastert was only making clear to Crane that normal House procedures — in other words, going though Thomas — would have to be followed for Crane to get any consolation posts, Hastert spokesman John Feehery said.

But they acknowledge that the day, mostly because of the Ways and Means decision as well as an equally difficult one involving a second Illinois lawmaker, Rep. Henry Hyde, was one of the speaker's most emotional. Hastert appeared grim and exhausted by nightfall.

"You have to choose between your friends — it's very hard," Feehery said.

House Republicans were forced to settle on 13 new committee chiefs under rules set when they came to power in 1995 that limited chairmen to six years. This was the first real test of those rules and Hastert set up a 25-member steering committee to pick the replacements for shoved aside chairmen.

Seekers engaged in months of campaigning that involved millions of dollars in campaign contributions, slick self-promotional booklets and aggressive lobbying. The battle between Crane and Thomas was one of the most intense.

Crane, a favorite of conservatives and the House's most senior Republican, was in line to succeed the retired Ways and Means chairman, Texas' Bill Archer.

Hastert also was under pressure from back home to help Illinois increase its Capitol Hill clout by awarding Crane the gavel once powerfully wielded by former Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, a Chicago Democrat.

But Crane, 70, faced questions about his level of involvement in committee action. And in March, he admitted to alcoholism and entered a monthlong treatment program.

Thomas, 59, marketed his reputation as a skilled if occasionally temperamental legislator and an expert on health care and entitlement programs as chairman of Ways and Means' health subcommittee.

The steering committee's vote, expected to be close, ended up being unanimous for Thomas, according to several sources, all speaking on condition of anonymity.

Hastert then rang Crane with the news and his offer about 3:30 p.m., one source said. They talked again and Crane made it clear he wanted both the trade subcommittee and the Joint Taxation panel. By the conference vote near 6 p.m., he had been assured nothing.

Instead, Crane had to ask Thomas' permission at a Friday morning Ways and Means organizational meeting to continue leading the panel's work on trade issues. It was granted, with only the logistical details of a waiver left to be worked out.

Crane refused to discuss the two day's events, only issuing a statement acknowledging his disappointment and wishing Thomas well.

What to do about Hyde, who led the impeachment trial against President Clinton and is, like Crane, a conservative icon, was equally vexing for Hastert and the rest of the steering committee.

Some House leaders wanted to give Hyde an exception to the term-limit rule and allow him to remain chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, according to people familiar with the proceedings. His likely and later approved successor, Wisconsin Rep. James Sensenbrenner, had rankled some conservatives over the years.

But others saw a waiver for Hyde as unworkable. Several prominent chairmen had retired because of term limits, making an exception after the November election would have rankled them as well as the many 1995-era reformers still around.

As a compromise, Hyde, 76, had asked to lead the International Relations Committee despite his inactive role on it for several years. That idea was hard to swallow for supporters of Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., an aggressive member of the panel who passed up a Senate race to seek its chairmanship.

But the prospect of someone with Hyde's anti-abortion credentials and eloquence leading that panel pleased right-to-life groups. House leaders finally settled on passing over Bereuter, as well as Banking Chairman Jim Leach of Iowa, to grant Hyde's request.

17 injured as propane tank explodes

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N.M. (AP) — An unoccupied pickup truck crashed into a propane tank, triggering explosions that sent fireballs 100 feet into the sky, destroyed nearby mobile homes and shook buildings miles away.

No one was killed but 17 people suffered minor injuries, said police Officer Willy Kerin.

"We were just very lucky," Kerin said. "We take it for granted, but (God) was on our side this evening."

The pickup had been parked at a gas station but rolled across the street to the Cortez Gas Co. and struck an 18,000-gallon propane tank Sunday evening, State Police spokeswoman Royleen Ross-Weaver said.

Investigators were still trying to determine why the pickup rolled across the street on its own, Ross-Weaver said Monday. The driver had been located but authorities would not release a name; no charges had been filed.

The pickup struck an 18,000-gallon propane tank that was 85 percent full, causing a leak of the highly flammable fuel and igniting it in an explosion, Ross-Weaver said.

That explosion then set off a second tank holding 2,000 gallons of propane, police said.

Kerin said several minutes elapsed from the time the pickup struck the tank and the first blast, and several more minutes elapsed before the second explosion, giving some 200 residents time to flee.

"It was just an instinct to get people out," said Kerin, one of the first officers on the scene. "Once I got there, there was a very large cloud of gas and the propane was coming out of the tank, and, seeing it, I just put it in reverse and started calling for help. I never backed up so fast in my life."

Kerin said the two blasts destroyed everything in an area covering three city blocks, including storage trailers, recreational trailers and four or five mobile homes. Windows were broken throughout the community.

Firefighter Rudy Flores, 20, was rushing to the scene when the first tank blew up.

"When we turned the corner, they told us to hold back and all of a sudden it goes boom, a big old explosion. It was crazy," Flores said.

Today smoke rose from the area, which was scattered with debris and surrounded by charred trees in an industrial section about a half mile northeast of downtown.

The injured mostly suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns, and one man had a back injury, said Domenica Rush, administrator at Sierra Vista Hospital.

"A lot of the injuries were due to the debris and windows crashing in some of the apartments and homes in the surrounding area," Kerin said. "We also had people falling trying to get away."

The town, 150 miles south of Albuquerque, has about 6,200 residents.

Review will focus on lack of security

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Performance reviews of the nation's second largest prison system are focusing on lax security in the wake of a breakout by seven heavily armed inmates, accused in a police officer's slaying and the subject of an international manhunt.

In the fifth week of the search for escapees, members of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice were to get a full explanation of the escape. Results of an internal Texas Department of Criminal Justice review were also expected to be released.

But in advance of Thursday's board meeting in Austin, the agency's chairman was already placing some blame for the Connally Unit breakout Dec. 13 near Kenedy.

"The problem at the Connally Unit, I certainly don't believe is systemic," Mac Stringfellow, board chairman, told the San Antonio Express-News in a copyright report for Monday's editions, "but prudence requires that we take a look at the operation in all our prisons."

In the escape, the inmates took 14 revolvers, a 12-gauge shotgun, a rifle and more than 200 rounds of ammunition after overpowering guards. They later amassed dozens more weapons in a sporting goods store robbery on Christmas Eve during which an Irving police officer was shot to death.

Charles Terrell, a former board chairman, wrote Sunday that Texans have a right to know how inmates in a maximum security facility can steal weapons and drive away in a prison van without being checked.

"Obviously policies and procedures were not followed," Stringfellow said. "If those procedures are followed, an escape cannot occur, but when you get lax, get complacent, this is what can result."

A leaked agency memo described the fugitives' "picnic" outside the inmates' dining room that preceded their overpowering of a supervisor and guard and the taking of 13 hostages as each returned from their lunches.

"Almost a month now after the escape, the questions I asked as a private citizen of Texas ... are still unanswered," Terrell wrote in a letter to the editor of The Dallas Morning News' Sunday editions.

A "serious incident review" expected to be released this week was addressing questions about how the inmates were able to mastermind their escape and pull it off.

"A serious incident review is a no holds-barred review that names names and affixes responsibility. It makes recommendations to needed changes if any at the unit, or systemwide, if applicable," TDCJ spokesman Glen Castlebury said.

Meanwhile, Texas law officers continued Monday to sift through 132 tips received from a nationwide appeal on "America's Most Wanted" program over the weekend. None appeared to provide information that would lead to a quick capture, said Avery Mann, a FOX network program spokesman in Washington, D.C.

But the number of leads was a "high volume for our show," said Mann. "The calls came in from all over the country. Most of them were from Texas."

More than 1,000 leads were received earlier, with some callers reporting they saw the fugitives, but the TDCJ said Monday that they had confirmed no sightings.

"We've received a significant number of calls, but it takes time to sift through them — to separate the useful information from the superfluous tips," said TDCJ spokesman Larry Todd in Austin. "We've had everything from honest and realistic information to calls from weirdoes and psychics."

Reward money for the fugitives doubled from $100,000 Saturday when Bond Jumper, an online bail-bond pursuit listing company based in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite, offered an additional $100,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Irving police Officer Aubrey Hawkins' killer.

Woman who reports fight later arrested

• ***Fight***

At 2:18 p.m. Saturday, a woman requested officers in the 100 block of East 37th Street in reference to a fight. Authorities responded and a 33-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Police were called back to the same address at 3:22 p.m. after the woman's husband called police and said that she had assaulted him. The 35-year-old woman was taken into custody for assault and family violence.

• ***Runaways***

A mother called police at 10:33 a.m. Saturday to report that her 16-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son had not returned home since Friday evening.

A report for runaway was filed. The woman called back at 2:56 p.m. Sunday to report that the two had returned home.

• ***Family violence***

In unrelated incidents, offense reports for family violence were taken at 9:30 p.m. Saturday and at 12:57 p.m. Sunday.

• ***Burglary***

Alejandro Ornelas contacted authorities at 12:20 a.m. Sunday to report the theft of stereo equipment from 3105 Avenue I.

• ***Vehicle burglary***

At 12:34 p.m. Sunday, David Miller notified police of the theft of five computer software compact discs. The items were taken from his 1988 Toyota while it was parked at the East Side Church of Christ.

• ***Tiller stolen***

A report for Class B theft was taken at 1:15 p.m. Sunday in the 1600 block of College Avenue in reference to a tiller that was stolen from Robert Lomax.

• ***Credit card abuse***

Delia Valdez contacted officers at 4:35 p.m. Sunday to report that someone had made unauthorized charges on her credit card.

• ***Minors arrested***

A report of loud music in the 100 block of 24th Street at 2:39 a.m. Sunday led to the arrest of six minors for consuming alcoholic beverages. Taken into custody were three 17-year-old males, one 18-year-old male and a 20-year-old male.

• ***Other arrests***

Two men, ages 34 and 35, were arrested for public intoxication at 1:16 p.m. Sunday in the 200 block of Birch.

At 11:43 p.m. Sunday, a 36-year-old man was taken into custody for possession of a suspended item — his suspended driver's license. The offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

• ***Accident***

Officers investigated a two-vehicle mishap at 2:58 p.m. Sunday in the 3400 block of College. Involved were a 1972 Chevrolet pickup driven by Joe Botts Jr., 58, of 204 29th Street and a 2000 Saturn driven by Kale Aaron Grimes, 20, of 1869 Huffman.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan. 7 – Veronica Block and Alton Barfoot.

DISMISSALS: Stella Jones and Robbie White.

CENSUS: 45 (Med./Surg.-16, Long-term Care-23, OB-3 and Nursery-3)

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	Chg
AMR Corp s	43.13	41.31	41.44	—2.31
AT&T Corp	20.50	19.94	20.00	—.19
Albertsons	25.00	24.50	24.75	+.19
Alltel	66.00	64.94	65.06	—.44
AmerOnline	41.15	39.10	39.16	—2.13
AmEl Pw	41.25	40.31	41.13	+.31
AndarkPtr	65.85	64.05	65.00	+1.25
ATMOS Egy	24.13	23.81	24.00	—.06
Availl	5.31	5.00	5.25	+.25
BP Amoco	49.31	48.88	48.94	+.25
BakerHughes	40.75	40.00	40.44	+.81
Bank of Amer	48.00	46.31	48.00	
BellSouth	42.88	41.94	41.94	—.63
Beth Steel	1.81	1.75	1.81	+.06
BurlNoSFe	30.00	29.25	29.94	+.44
Caterpillar	46.00	45.19	45.81	—.06
Chevron	82.38	81.38	81.69	+.19
Citigroup s	53.88	52.75	53.38	—.31
Coastal	80.00	77.44	77.81	—.25
CocaCola	59.13	57.81	58.94	+1.25
ColgatePal	58.70	57.61	58.61	+1.31
ComclMetals	22.38	21.81	21.81	—.56
CooperIn	46.44	45.88	45.94	—.31
DaimlrChry	44.56	43.65	44.43	+.47
DallSemicn s	26.00	24.81	25.81	—.13
DeltaAirl	51.94	50.63	51.44	—1.31
Dillards Inc	13.94	13.56	13.88	+.38
DowChem s	35.44	34.50	35.19	+.44
DuPont	49.00	47.56	48.63	+.69
EastmanChem	48.38	46.44	48.06	+1.06
EstKodak	42.19	41.31	41.44	—.56
EDS Corp	55.00	53.25	53.75	—1.31
Entergy	38.06	37.31	37.63	+.19
ExxonMobil	84.13	83.50	83.81	+.56
Flowers	15.50	15.38	15.44	
GenDynam	69.94	69.00	69.81	+.63
GenElec's	47.25	45.81	46.38	—.94
GenMills	42.94	42.19	42.75	+.22
GenMotors	53.19	52.44	52.44	—1.56
GaPacGP	33.19	31.31	31.32	—.69
GlobalMar	27.38	26.13	27.06	+1.50
Goodrich	34.94	34.13	34.88	+.50
Goodyear s	24.59	24.12	24.38	—.40
GtAtlPac	7.44	7.06	7.44	+.19
Halliburtn	37.13	36.50	36.88	+.81
Hanson ADS	36.75	36.63	36.69	—.06
HarteHanks	22.69	22.50	22.56	+.19
HomeDepot	49.50	47.63	48.75	—1.00
Honeywellintl	46.63	45.56	46.31	—.63
IBM	93.94	92.38	93.00	—1.00
IntlPaper	41.81	40.38	41.13	—.38
Johnson,Jn	99.50	97.19	97.69	—.19
K mart	6.56	6.44	6.44	—.06
Kroger Co	24.25	23.31	24.06	+.88
Lifton	79.25	79.06	79.19	+.25
LockheedM	33.65	32.60	32.98	+.13
Lowes Cos	51.81	49.38	49.44	—2.38
Lubys	5.56	5.50	5.56	
LucentTech	14.69	14.06	14.63	+.13
MayDeptStr	35.13	34.25	34.88	+.44
Medtronic	54.44	52.94	53.56	—.13
Motorola s	21.13	20.56	21.06	—.13
NCR Corp	45.25	44.31	44.81	+.13
Navistar	28.38	27.88	28.13	—.25
Penney JC	12.00	11.44	11.94	+.38
PepBoys	4.63	4.25	4.44	+.19
PepsiCo	46.25	45.25	46.00	+.69
Pharmacia	56.31	55.56	55.88	—.50
PhelpDodge	55.19	53.56	54.50	+.44
PhilipPet	56.97	55.94	56.63	+.75
PilgrmPrd B	8.06	8.00	8.00	—.06
Polaroid	5.94	5.75	5.88	+.06
Praxair	46.31	44.94	45.56	+.25
ProctGamb	76.63	74.25	76.31	+1.38
PubS NwMx	24.44	24.06	24.38	+.25
RadioShack	48.56	46.75	47.25	—.50
ReliantEngy	37.88	36.69	37.25	+.63
RoyalDut	62.44	61.63	61.69	—.19
SBC Comm	50.69	49.25	49.25	—.49
SaraLee	22.69	22.25	22.25	—.25
Scripps EW	62.13	61.69	61.81	+.06
SearsRoeb	36.50	35.56	36.50	+.75
SherwinW	26.75	26.13	26.69	+.25
SouthernCo	29.31	28.50	28.94	+.44
SwstAirl	34.88	34.25	34.75	—.15
SprintFON	25.94	24.75	25.88	—.13
SprintPCS	25.38	24.00	24.38	+.44
Sunoco Inc	30.81	30.19	30.44	+.31
TXU Corp	38.19	37.50	37.56	—.06
Templeinland	56.13	54.00	55.81	+.44
Texaco	66.50	66.88	66.88	+.31
Textron	29.81	28.81	29.31	—.38
TexasInst s	47.31	44.94	46.25	—1.06
Textron	48.69	48.00	48.25	—.13
TriconGlbR	32.50	32.00	32.06	—.69
TrinityInds	23.88	23.63	23.75	+.13
TritonEngy	30.38	28.69	30.38	+1.56
TylerTech	1.88	1.75	1.75	
USX Marathn	29.44	28.31	28.69	+.44
USX USS	17.75	17.19	17.63	+.50
UnCarbide	52.31	50.88	52.00	+.75
UnionPacif	52.94	51.94	52.94	+1.44
UnitedTech	73.13	71.13	72.63	+1.50
Unocal	36.44	35.88	36.38	+.64
Venator Grp	14.81	14.63	14.69	+.06
VerizonComm	54.56	53.75	53.75	—.42
WalMart	54.81	52.88	54.69	+.75
WellsFargo	52.63	51.56	52.06	—.31
WstnGasRs	31.00	30.19	30.19	
WinnDixie	18.50	17.94	18.44	+.50
Xerox Cp	6.06	5.75	5.81	—.13

JAN 08 2001

Bright future envisioned for online dark rooms

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ron Hurst doesn't own a digital camera. But he plans to use a computer to process, view and perhaps even touch up all the family photos he took over the holidays.

Even as he continued to rely on old-fashioned film over the past year, Hurst was able to improve his pictures courtesy of a digital photography Web site.

"I love it. It's like having your own digital darkroom," said Hurst, 53, of Vallejo, Calif. "For an old guy like me, this was a great vehicle to break into the digital age."

Sites like Shutterfly.com, Snapfish.com and Ofoto.com convert traditional film into a digital format for little or no charge. Hurst uses Shutterfly, mailing his negatives to the Redwood City, Calif.-based company in a postage-paid pouch.

The sites notify photographers when their images are posted online, where the shutterbugs can crop or clean them up. It's a good way, for example, to remove that annoying red-eye effect.

The pictures can be sorted into online photo albums, which site operators say can't be viewed by uninvited guests, and most sites also offer emailing services to pass along the digital images.

"We can make even lousy pictures look good," boasts Jayne Spiegelman, Shutterfly's CEO. "People who try our service usually become evangelical about it."

The sites also give photographers, as well as their family and friends, the option of selectively ordering prints instead of paying for an entire roll of prints.

Initially, most also offer free prints and processing to lure new customers.

Snapfish, for instance, will develop up to 24 rolls of film annually for a $1.69 shipping and handling charge per roll. After introductory promotions, the cost of prints at Shutterfly and Ofoto range from 49 cents per 4-by-6 to $2.99 per 8-by-10.

"The end game is to get all the people still using film to go online and then have them eventually migrate over to digital cameras," said Raj Kapoor, CEO of San Francisco-based Snapfish.

This month shapes up as a prime time for digital photography sites to win converts, because digital cameras landed under a lot of Christmas trees last month.

Digital camera sales nationwide rose 26 percent in December from the year before, said CS First Boston photo industry analyst Gibboney Huske — not as much as the industry hoped, but a decent gain.

About 7 million digital cameras were shipped in 2000, according to IDC, a Framingham, Mass., research firm. IDC expects digital camera sales to rise 40 percent annually during the next four years.

"Digital cameras are like an oncoming tidal wave and we are going to float with the rising tide," said James Joaquin, CEO of Berkeley-based Ofoto.

Still, analysts aren't convinced the digital photography sites are going to survive to capitalize on the trend.

"It's a neat idea, but I'm not real optimistic about their prospects," said Chris Chute, an IDC analyst. "There is going to be some tough competition and a lot of these sites have pretty kooky business models."

They also have some well-known financial backers.

Jim Clark, the co-founder of Netscape, is chairman of Shutterfly and contributed a chunk of the $25 million in the company's venture capital. James Barksdale, Netscape's former CEO, invested part of the $16 million behind Ofoto.

Besides Shutterfly, Snapfish and Ofoto, other high-profile sites include Photopoint.com, Ememories.com and Zing.com. The sites are privately held and don't disclose financial information.

Posting digital pictures is already immensely popular. About 15 million people have displayed pictures online, according to InfoTrends, a Boston research firm.

Few people are spending money to have pictures developed and printed by the Web.

DVDs helped 2000 home video market

LAS VEGAS (AP) — While music sales lagged last year, video and DVD sales finished strongly, and video rentals hit record highs, industry experts say.

"Consumer spending for home video is at an all-time high," said Bo Anderson, president of the Video Software Dealers Association, crediting digital video discs, or DVDs, for the increase.

"DVD rental is a boom market," Anderson said Sunday at the association's 20th annual meeting, with video rentals finishing 2000 at a record $8.25 billion in sales, up 2.2 percent.

And while DVDs are being credited for energizing brick-and-mortar video stores, opportunities for e-commerce in the home video market are even greater, according to Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive officer of online store Amazon.com.

In addition to giving customers the opportunity to preorder a DVD of a film like "Traffic" while it is still in theaters, Bezos' Web site allows retailers to sell hard-to-come-by classic movie titles.

"We believe DVD video sales are always going to be a big part of our sales," said Bezos, who added DVD purchases are outnumbering VHS 4-to-1.

As vendors hawked different flavors of popcorn amid studio displays, including from Universal and New Line, a number of celebrities were on hand to promote films available on video. Actor Kevin Bacon accepted the "Video Man of the Year Award" as part of the association's Home Entertainment Awards.

Also signing autographs were newcomer Ashton Kutcher, from Fox's "That '70's Show," who received the association's rising star award, and actress Ellen Burstyn, nominated for her starring role in "Requiem for a Dream," who earned the career achievement award.

The convention is promoting a Filmmakers of Tomorrow series that brings independent filmmakers together with video store owners. "We're teaching them how to get into the home video market," association spokeswoman Sue Procko said.

The association is a not-for-profit international trade association for the $17 billion home entertainment industry.

Approximately 10,000 people will attend the convention being held at the Sands Expo and Convention Center, at the same time an estimated 130,000 people are attending the 2001 International Consumer Electronics Show at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

"It's a place where the mediums merge," Procko said. "The DVD hardware is sold at CES and the DVD software is sold over here."

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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Fax: 915/573-5132
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Spotlight

The Smell of Spring
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by
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The Creator of Decorative Fragrance

The Smell of Spring...a luscious array of colorful spring blossoms combined with the alluring fragrance of hyacinth brings a refreshing breath of a new spring into your home.

Friendly Flower Shop
3203 College Ave. Snyder, Texas 79549
Phone: 915/573-3851, 915/573-5260

Coming soon to Friendly Flower Shop, 3203 College Avenue, are Aroma Rocks by Aromatique. These new fragrance carriers are featured in "The Smell of Spring" decorative fragrance.

Each bag of "The Smell of Spring" contains the new Aroma Rocks. These rocks are in addition to the flowers and wood curls that are the original Spring fragrance carriers. These natural rocks are very porous in nature and are scented with "The Smell of Spring" refresher oil. They will hold the fragrance for extended periods.

The fragrance is easily renewed by removing the botanical rocks and sprinkling with refresher oil. The Aroma Rocks are placed in the bottom of each fragrance bag. Carefully place the rocks in the bottom of your container to prevent breaking it.

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Historians take Clinton's measure

WASHINGTON (AP) — After eight years in the Oval Office, Bill Clinton will soon belong to the historians, a cautious breed but one prone to revising reputations and opinions that were once set in stone.

Historical assessments of recent presidents have been subject to interpretation, reinterpretation and challenge. Like the stock market, their standing can move both up and down.

Robert Dallek, author of a two-volume biography of President Lyndon B. Johnson, noted it has been said that writing history is "like pressing your nose to the mirror" and discovering you don't have much perspective on what the rest of your body looks like.

That doesn't stop Dallek or many other historians from beginning the job of assessing Clinton.

The White House sex scandal and Clinton's subsequent impeachment is "definitely a black mark," Dallek said in an interview.

"But Clinton is a very effective politician," he added. "Historians will not ignore the fact that he got elected twice and repositioned the Democratic Party. I think he will be seen as a strong and reasonably good president."

"I would place Clinton definitely above average; I'm very comfortable with that," said Herbert Parmet, professor emeritus at City University of New York and biographer of Dwight D. Eisenhower and the first President Bush. "My preliminary conclusion is that Bill Clinton will be a fascinating subject for historians because one can view the 20th century through his career."

Parmet said that as far as he is concerned historians will balance Clinton's White House impeachment by also assessing the motives of Republican leaders determined to remove the president from office.

Clinton automatically will get a somewhat higher place at the table, if only because he is one of only 12 presidents to win a second term.

But some historians place him low on the list of the second termers, perhaps no higher than just above Ulysses S. Grant, whose eight years in the White House were marred by widespread corruption.

"The strong economy during his presidency won't be as big a factor as you might think because economic good times come and go," Dallek said. "The economy doesn't have that kind of durability" when historic assessments are made.

Historians will note Clinton's dismantling of the welfare system — an achievement also claimed by congressional Republicans — and eight years of peace, he said, but they will also note Clinton did not usher in a defining era in foreign policy.

Historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., interviewed recently in The New York Times Book Review, spoke of Clinton's high intelligence and technical command of the issues.

But Schlesinger added: "He's not a fighter. He lacks self-discipline. He is sometimes too clever by half and he dislikes making enemies ... Bill Clinton, for all his intellectual and magnetic qualities, hates making enemies."

Parmet said Clinton's opponents on the Republican right gave him an active roster of enemies, whether he wanted them or not.

"He brought out the furies of groups that had been chomping to reverse the course of the 20th century," Parmet said. "He was a political genius in the sense that he was able to restrain and constrain the right wing of the Republican Party."

"He frustrated many on the left in his party and totally exasperated the right wing," Parmet said. "But by manipulating the middle ground he kept moderation afloat. He kept the Democratic Party afloat."

Referring to Clinton's "Comeback Kid" political image, Parmet added: "He came out of every crisis still alive. But in the process he also contained the more radical forces and kept the Democratic Party alive as a viable force."

Noting that Clinton's embrace of welfare reform alienated many of Clinton's liberal friends, Parmet said he considers the failure to enact a national health reform policy "a blot on the administration."

Dallek said that while it is not yet clear how Clinton's role in history will be viewed a few decades from now, it is clear that it will be shaped in part "by what comes next."

Couture may not be as haute at the inauguration for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican women attending President-elect Bush's inauguration have had so little time for ballgown fittings that dressmakers say 2001 may be the year of — perish the thought — off-the-rack fashions.

The rush, of course, has been prompted by the weeks-long uncertainty surrounding the election and the fact that it can take anywhere between two and eight weeks for a dressmaker to complete a custom ballgown.

With less than two weeks before Bush is inaugurated as the 43rd president, there simply isn't enough time to finish most fancy evening gowns, seamstresses say.

"This year, I think people have given up. Most of the dresses will be off the rack because we have no time, and I don't think people will dare to have custom-made because of the rush," said Diana Tran of Diana's Couture & Bridal in Washington.

Most customers attending inaugural balls have asked Tran simply to perform new alterations of old dresses lingering in closets or frocks picked off department store racks.

The other reason business may be slow, Tran speculated, is that many of the women already have commissioned dressmakers elsewhere.

One of those women is Laura Bush, the new first lady, who worked with Dallas designer Michael Faircloth. For the swearing-in ceremony, Faircloth designed a peacock blue tunic, skirt and matching wool single-breasted coat. Mrs. Bush's inaugural gown is red Chantilly lace, hand-beaded with Austrian crystals. The formfitting dress has long sleeves, a modestly scooped neck and full skirt.

But for many women attending the Republican parties who don't have their own designer, the department stores are the place to be. Nancy Henry, for example, shopped for her outfit at Hecht's in Washington.

Henry, who will attend the inaugural ball sponsored by South Carolina Republicans, said she prefers a simpler look, something that she'll be able to wear again. That's why she picked out a long black taffeta skirt with a gauze sheath and a black sleeveless top with gold overlay.

"I want separates that I can mix and match so I can wear them again," said Henry, 60, whose husband works at the Energy Department. "I just want to be appropriate."

Her friend, Jolly Jaeger, said she's not buying a new dress for the ball. She's recycling the royal blue gown wbe able to wear it again, so why not?" asked Jaeger, 55, whose husband works at the Pentagon. "I do need shoes, though."

The two, along with other fashion-conscious invitees, got instructions last week from Hollywood stylist Philip Bloch at an inaugural fashion show and seminar at Hecht's.

"Since Laura (Bush) is wearing red, we're going to have to talk about red," said Bloch, whipping out two billowy red sheaths. "You want to be able to move on the dance floor, so you're looking for flow. It's all about flow. It's a new decade. We've got a new president, so you want something fresh, not so predictable."

Bloch said this year's fashions are trending toward gold and bronzy tones, or bold colors with beading and other embellishments such as rhinestones. He also said many women will be wearing elegant wraps over their dresses. Salespeople say an off-the-rack dress can cost as little as $150, plus the cost of shoes, while a designer gown can cost thousands.

For men, buying a designer tuxedo can cost from $450 to $3,000, while a one-night rental can range from roughly $75 to $150. At men's shops here, tuxedo sales and rentals haven't exactly been brisk lately, store managers say.

"Most Republicans have their own tuxedos, but those who come from out of town will rent them," said Baytok Irfan, owner of Baytok's Custom Tailor and Georgetown Formal Wear.

Irfan is hoping that the men — as men often do — are simply waiting until the last possible moment to order their tuxedos. Usually, only a couple of days are needed to fit a tuxedo, he said.

He has also noted an unusually strong demand for top hats. He has received several calls asking for them, but his shop no longer carries them.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001

Your keys to success in the year ahead are in preparation and careful planning. Be better equipped than your competition in all things having to do with your work or career.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Avoid discussions with your mate or partner today concerning issues in which you're diametrically opposed to one another. It'll only fan the flames with nothing getting decided. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If there is something you know you shouldn't be eating, drinking or doing, muster up the self-discipline needed to avoid it. Common sense must prevail today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It may be all too easy today for you to get caught up in a situation involving two friends. Excuse yourself and let them battle things out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) There's a chance today that a crafty associate might attempt to impede your progress for his or her own selfish means. Be especially on guard so you can nip him in the bud.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Should you be forced to associate today with an individual who loves to play one-upsmanship games, be prepared to skillfully dodge this person's webs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It is always important to manage your resources carefully, but today this is mandatory. The slightest slip-up and you could blow a bundle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Review your procedures and ways of doing things if you find that most people with whom you're involved today are disagreeing with you. It may well be that you're the one off track.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be cooperative and do your part today, but don't go so far as to be a doormat for someone who is too lazy to do his or her own job.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Trying to make a competitive sport or an activity more exciting by betting on the outcome could be a big mistake today. It doesn't look like you'll be on the winning end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Life is tough enough without adding self-imposed penalties on yourself. Take the lines of least resistance today instead of insisting on doing everything the hard way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It isn't likely that any exchanges you have with another today concerning a disagreement are apt to yield a solution. Neither you nor your challenger will be listening to the other.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Regardless of how good a business proposal sounds to you today, don't act on it without first checking out every detail. This is not one of your better days.

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Oil Patch News

Mitchell County

Crownquest Operating will drill the No. 19 Brennand in the Iatan East Howard field, seven miles southwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,000 feet, location is in Section 47, Block 29, T1N, T&P survey.

Garza County

Brothers Producing Co. Inc. will drill the No. 6-41 PLK in the Tejas field, 10 miles south of Post. Planned for a depth of 8,100 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 2, T&NO survey.

Howard County

Autry Stephens will drill the No. 2 Goodman in the B.C. field, fivemiles north of Big Spring. Planned depth is 9,200 feet, and location is in Section 11, block 33, T1N, T&P survey.

Fisher County

Bettis, Boyle and Stovall will drill the No. 1-A Cochran in the Que field, 15 miles west of Roby. Planned for a depth of 4,700 feet, drill site is in Section 47, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Nolan County

Enrich Oil Corporation will drill the No. 1 Tantrum Texaco Fee in the Mulberry Canyon field, four miles northeast of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 4,500 feet, location is in Section 47, Block 5, T&P survey.

Sham-Jam Operating will drill the No. 1-60 Fox in the Estaban field, five miles southwest of Sweetwater. Planned for a depth of 7,000 feet, location is in Section 60, Block 23, T&P survey.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Hypertension and prevention

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have treated hypertension. Under my previous physician's care, I underwent annual examinations that included an EKG and chest X-rays. Now that I belong to an HMO, my new doctor suggests an exam every three years, and an EKG and chest film are not included in the procedure. Should a person with high blood pressure be checked more frequently than every three years?

DEAR READER: You've just discovered a disquieting new medical fact, a reality that is discouraging to old practitioners (like me) who believe patient follow-up should be a function of health needs, not the wallet.

The Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) physician has chosen to check you every three years, probably because he is not paid for the visit, but is on salary. Consequently, it's easier for him NOT to see you.

Contrast this to the previous doctor, who collected a fee for every visit and was, therefore, financially motivated to examine you at more frequent intervals.

I object to both practices, because money - not health - is both practitioners' main concern.

Now, to answer your question without further editorial comment: The interval between your exams depends on your age and state of health.

As a general rule, healthy adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s should have examinations about every 10 years. (The major exception to this rule-of-thumb is annual Pap tests for women.) In their 50s, every five years is recommended. People in their 60s and beyond need examinations every year or two. Remember that women over 45 should have annual mammograms and men over 55 need to have periodic PSA blood tests for prostate cancer.

Your care is complicated by high blood pressure. Therefore, the schedule of doctor visits should be modified. If your hypertension is well controlled with medication, I believe that your blood pressure should be monitored twice a year.

Depending on your age, you should, in my opinion, have a complete exam under the schedule I outlined above. If your hypertension is not controlled, you should be checked regularly until it is.

The issue of periodic lab tests, such as EKGs and chest X-rays, can be considered on an individual basis. An EKG will give an early indication of heart strain from hypertension; therefore, this test should be performed regularly if your blood pressure is abnormal, so that any cardiac condition can be treated early before serious complications develop again. A normal blood pressure means that EKGs need not be frequently obtained.

Most experts advise against routine chest X-rays for healthy people because it's best to avoid unnecessary exposure to radiation. Chest films are important primarily in assessing or confirming the presence of heart or lung disease.

In summary, you have a medical condition that should be monitored more frequently than once every three years. I suggest that you change to another HMO doctor who will be more willing to commit himself or herself to your health.

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

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Actor nominated

NEW YORK (AP) — Benicio Del Toro is hoping his latest traffic-stopping film role will shift his career into overdrive.

"I hope it opens some doors for me," Del Toro, a star of "Traffic," told the New York Daily News for Sunday's editions. "Talk to me in a year and a half, and we'll see!"

Del Toro was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in the movie directed by Steven Soderbergh. He earned a best supporting actor honors from the New York Film Critics.

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News

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

American Airlines eyes TWA purchase

ST. LOUIS (AP) — American Airlines will announce plans this week to buy financially troubled Trans World Airlines Inc., a proposal that would mean the end of TWA, the oldest continuous line in American commercial aviation, according to published reports Monday.

Spokesmen for the carriers and other interests involved declined to comment on reports in The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal of a complex deal that could clear the way for antitrust approval of United Airlines' pending takeover of US Airways.

According to the Post, TWA plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Wednesday, the third time it has done so, as a precursor of the takeover by AMR Corp.'s American Airlines. The takeover would be announced that day.

In a brief statement Monday, TWA said the airline "is always receptive to legitimate business overtures and is open to consideration of business combinations that will be beneficial." The statement said TWA does not comment on discussions unless an agreement is reached.

American spokesman Tim Doke said American also doesn't comment on rumor or speculation. "We are talking to lots of folks about lots of different things all the time," he said.

TWA was founded July 13, 1925, as Western Air Express, and merged five years later with Transcontinental Air Transport to form to Transcontinental and Western Air, or TWA. The company changed the name without changing the initials in 1950, when then-owner Howard Hughes made it Trans World Airlines.

In early trading Monday, TWA was unchanged at $1.32 a share on the American Stock Exchange while AMR shares fell $1 to $42.75 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The deal, whose price was not disclosed, also reportedly involves AMR buying a 49 percent stake in DC Air, a new carrier that is being crafted from United Airlines parent UAL Corp.'s planned $4.3 billion takeover of the Arlington, Va.-based US Airways Group Inc.

Cole suspect points finger at bin Laden

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — A key suspect facing trial in connection with the October attack on the USS Cole told authorities he believes the suicide bombers were acting on the orders of Osama bin Laden, Yemeni sources close to the investigation said Monday.

The sources did not identify which suspect, but described him as one of the three chief suspects in custody. He and up to seven others are expected to be tried, perhaps as early as this month, in the Oct. 12 bombing of the American destroyer that killed 17 U.S. sailors and wounded 39 during a refueling stop at Aden harbor in this Arabian Gulf nation.

Prosecutors in Aden and police ministry officials refused comment on what the sources described as the suspect's confession.

Yemen's prime minister has said that authorities have identified one of the bombers and were close to identifying the second.

No firm relation to bin Laden has been established, but U.S. law enforcement officials have said previously that several threads link the suspects now held by the Yemenis to the bin Laden organization. Bin Laden, a Saudi dissident living in Afghanistan, has virtually declared war on what he sees as the anti-Islamic United States, and U.S. officials consider him their No. 1 terrorism suspect.

The jailed Yemeni man's brother was described as a prominent Arab Afghan, as Islamic fighters who helped push Soviet forces out of Afghanistan in the 1980s are known. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the suspect confessed that he helped his brother run one of two "hosting houses" where visiting fellow Arab Afghans would meet.

Authorities were searching for the brother, the officials said.

The brother's "hosting house," they said, was in Sa'da province, near the Saudi border, and the other hosting house is in Saudi Arabia, though the sources did not say precisely where. The two brothers' home is elsewhere in Sa'da province, they said.

The suspect in custody told authorities that an unidentified Syrian man supervises bin Laden's activities in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Syrian, he told police, is among 12 to 20 Saudis, Yemenis, Egyptians, Syrians and other Arabs who are close to bin Laden and live with him in Afghanistan.

According to the sources, the suspect said all the Afghan Arabs who came to his brother's hosting house worked for the Syrian.

Obituaries

Leslie McBeth

1912-2001

Funeral service for Leslie E. McBeth, longtime Scurry County resident, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Colonial Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired minister, will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Leslie McBeth

Mr. McBeth, 88, died Friday, Jan. 5, in St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan.

Born April 27, 1912, Mr. McBeth had lived in Snyder since 1950 and was the owner of McBeth Egg Farm and McBeth Pecan Farm, located east of Snyder on the Roby highway.

Mr. McBeth was a member of Colonial Hill Baptist Church and the Masonic Lodge.

He was preceded in death by three brothers and a sister.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Janie and Walter Romine and Kay and Ricky Hopper, all of Snyder; four sons, John McBeth of Bryan, Carlos McBeth of Crystal River, Fla., Paul McBeth of La Porte and Dick McBeth of Mary Esther, Fla.; and eight grandsons.

Julia Huffman

1913-2001

Julia Mae Huffman, a former resident of Snyder, died Saturday, Jan. 6, at her daughter's home in Mesquite following a lengthy illness.

Graveside service for Mrs. Huffman, 88, is set for 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Snyder Cemetery. The Rev. Charles Day, pastor of the Ave. D Baptist Church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 3, 1913 in Kentucky, she married Vic Huffman on June 3, 1929 in Drumwright, Okla. He died May 20, 1986.

A homemaker, Mrs. Huffman had lived in Snyder since the 1950s, moving to Mesquite in 1988. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Joe Parsons of Mesquite; a son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Betty Huffman of Duncan, Okla.; a stepdaughter, Jewel Townsley of Florida; three sisters, Nellie Tomblin of Apple Valley, Calif., Marie Warsh of Garden Grove, Calif., and Norma Bell of Torrance, Calif.; two brothers, Eldon Stephens of Van Buren, Ark., and Johnny Stephens of Malvern, Ark.; nine grandchildren; and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Joe Michie

1925-2001

Joe Michie, retired manager of Oilwell Supply in Snyder, died Sunday, Jan. 7, at his home in Snyder.

Services for Mr. Michie, 75, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 13, 1925 in Childress, he was reared in Wichita Falls where he graduated from high school and attended Midwestern State University for two years.

Joe Michie

He married Sophie Zeck on May 11, 1980 in Quanah. A resident of Snyder since 1966, Mr. Michie worked for Oilwell Supply for 37 years and had also managed stores in Abilene and Anson. He also was active in the Men's Golf Association at Snyder Country Club. Mr. Michie served in the Merchant Marines in World War II. He was a Shriner, a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Scurry Masonic Lodge 706

He was preceded in death by his parents, T.B. and Eulalie Michie; and a brother, Earl Michie.

Survivors include his wife, Sophie Michie of Snyder; a daughter, Jan Michie of Austin; a son, Rodney Glen Michie of Austin; two stepdaughters, Elizabeth Eveland of Snyder and Judy Harrell of Troy, Mo.; a stepson, Ted Allen Bueneman of Troy, Mo.; a sister, Joy Dorsey of Roswell, N.M.; a brother, Ted Michie of Tulsa; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three step grandchildren.

Aurora Garcia

1920-2001

LUBBOCK –Aurora G. Garcia, the mother of Dolores Aguayo of Snyder, died, Friday, Jan. 5.

Mass for Mrs. Garcia, 80, was set for 10:30 a.m. today in Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Burial was to follow in Peaceful Memorial Park in Woodrow.

Born Nov. 20, 1920 in Cuero, she married Felix Garcia in 1967 in Susampaco.

She was a homemaker and a nurse and had moved to Lubbock from Chicago in 1980. She also was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Felix Garcia of Lubbock; a son, Joe Gonzales of Corpus Christi; two other daughters, Beatrice Kraft of Rialto, Calif., and Monica Garcia of Lubbock; her stepmother, Helen Guajardo of San Antonio; three bothers, Willie and Genaro Guajardo, both of Susampaco, and Felix Guajardo of San Antonio; two sisters, Helen and Rose Guajardo, both of San Antonio; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Don Halpain

1937-2001

LUBBOCK – Don Halpain, a native of Snyder, died Sunday, Jan. 7, at his home in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mr. Halpain, 63, is set for 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Sanders Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born June 8, 1937 in Snyder, Mr. Halpain was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was retired from the Lubbock Fire Department and was part owner of I-27 Speedworld and a manager for United Supermarkets.

Mr. Halpain was a past president of both the Lubbock and Plainview Jaycees and he was named Outstanding Young Man of America by the Jaycees in 1970.

Survivors include his mother, Vivian Fikes of Snyder; five sons, Tom, Steve, Donnie and Danny Halpain, all of Lubbock, and David Halpain of Amarillo; two brothers, Joe Lee Halpain of Kemp and Jack Halpain of Lubbock; a sister, Debra Cheyne of Snyder; and four grandchildren.

Alton Doan

1925-2001

TUSCOLA – Alton Durwood Doan, the bother of Joe Doan of Snyder, died Sunday, Jan. 7, at his home in Tuscola.

Funeral service for Mr. Doan, 75, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church in Buffalo Gap with the Rev. T.C. Melton officiating. Burial will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born at Blair, near Merkel, he was a graduate of Merkel High School and married Ruby Bland in Merkel. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was awarded two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Doan worked for Irvine Radiotelephone Company prior to becoming owner of Doan's Television Repair.

A resident of Tuscola since 1995, he was a member of the Buffalo Gap First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby Doan of Tuscola; a son, Randy Doan of Ovalo; a daughter, Wynona Hutcheson of Tuscola; three other brothers, Jack Doan of Salinas, Jimmy Doan of Merkel and Alan Doan of Kansas City, Mo.; four sisters, Otilla Mays of Merkel, Maxine Makovich of Friendswood, Beth Cobaugh of Knob Noster, Mo., and Frances Hardy of Kissimee, Fla.; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Jesus' Teaching on Civil Government," followed by "The Apostle's Teaching."

Social Security reps

Representatives of the Big Spring Social Security office will be at the Senior Center Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1-2 p.m.

Lions Club meeting

Snyder Lions Club will resume its regular noon weekly meetings Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Snyder FFA booster club

The Snyder FFA booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the high school ag building.

Softball board meeting

The Snyder Girls Softball Association will have a board meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the basement of Texas Savings Bank. All board members are urged to attend.

1981 class reunion

The SHS class of 1981 reunion committee is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion scheduled June 29-30. Submit names, addresses and e-mail addresses at shsclassof81@hotmail.com, or by calling Beth Bowen (573-2670), or Charlotte Clifton (573-2430).

Relay for Life meeting

A meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday in the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board room to begin planning for the April Relay for Life event.

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 313.

American Cancer Society

The Scurry County Unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 p.m. Thursday at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

Country and gospel music program

The next country and gospel music program at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday. For additional information, call 573-3996.

Adult basic education classes

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

Ira annual deadline

Thursday, Jan. 25, is the last day to purchase a 2001 Ira Bulldog yearbook with your name on the cover. Cost is $26. Price without name is $22.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado SWCD will take orders for windbreak trees until Jan. 31. Evergreens are $2 and hardwoods are $1 for 12 to 18 inches tall. Come by 5309 Big Spring Hwy or call 573-6317.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.

GOP senator says Bush should pardon Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush should pardon President Clinton, whether indicted or not, to put the scandals of the last eight years behind the nation, says the Republican head of the Senate committee that oversees the federal criminal justice system.

The independent counsel investigating Clinton's conduct in the Monica Lewinsky matter has said a decision about whether to pursue the case against Clinton will come "very shortly" after he leaves office Jan. 20.

"I would pardon him," Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, replied when asked on "Fox News Sunday" if he would do so whether Clinton was indicted or not.

"I think it's time to put this to bed. It's time to let President Clinton fade into whatever he's going to fade into, and I just don't see keeping it alive any longer, and I don't think there's a jury in America that is going to convict President Clinton," Hatch said.

"I can't tell President-elect Bush what to do and he has every reason not to do that, but I think it would end a problem in America that needs to be ended," he added.