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INSIDE
What's up 2A
Top news story 4A
Sports 6-7A
Faith in action 1B
Letters to the editor 8B

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Dec. 20-21, 2003
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Home of Carol Miller

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Anybody who knows the second verse to *Jingle Bells* should not be required to assemble toys that come with directions on Christmas Eve."

If you haven't finished shopping, here are some tips when picking out something for that special someone.

—Don't spend too much, it will make her suspicious.

—Buy her something personal, but we don't recommend a vacuum cleaner with her initials on it.

—Never, never, ever consider buying her something to cook with.

—A gift certificate will not win brownie points.

—Money is better, but not much. She's already on the signature card and is custodian of the checkbook.

—Promise of a nice dinner out is too late. That was supposed to happen before Christmas.

—She'll appreciate you cleaning up after Christmas dinner, but it ain't the same as a gift you picked out yourself.

—If you buy clothes, beware of the pitfalls. Either always buy 'em in a smaller size so she can return them or buy those designer vanity brands that come in the right size, but with a smaller size printed on the label.

(What do you mean, you don't know her size. You've been together for 40 years! Bet you don't know her ring size either.)

—A ring is good, even though you just finished paying for the one you bought her years ago.

—If she tells you to spend it on the kids and grandkids – don't believe it for a second.

—"I just want a hug" is a true statement. Right after she opens your specially-selected gift in the right size and color.

—Just because she always wears a sweat suit around the house is not a hint for you to buy her another one.

—A house coat is tacky, literally.

—A large, formal portrait of yourself for her to hang over the fireplace is a no-no.

—The only picture that's okay is one of the grandkid. But you know she already has plenty of those.

—A gift subscription to a woman's magazine is risky. There are too many self-help articles, and she'll think you've got a motive. A subscription to the Snyder Daily News, however, may be okay.

—"I really don't need anything" is code for "You had better get busy, Buster."

Heard a story about a woman who had so many grandkids and great-grandkids, that she couldn't keep an accurate count.

Over the years, it had become tradition to give grandma knick-knacks at Christmas.

This year, Granny hopefully got the jump on her young clan. She sent out Christmas cards early and announced what she wanted most.

"Just give me a kiss or a hug, so I won't have to dust it."



CORRECTING THE COLISEUM — Scott Crenwelge, county parks and recreation director, inspects a portion of the aging air conditioning system that has been used to cool the complex since 1968. (SDN Staff Photo)

Improvements bring changes to coliseum use

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

Since it's construction in 1968, Scurry County Coliseum has been home to a number of rodeos, livestock shows, dinners and dances. But as with so many similar facilities, time and the elements are beginning to take a toll.

"The building is well over 30 years old," said Scott Crenwelge, county parks and recreation director. "It just was not designed to keep up with the kind of demand that these events put on it. When you take that and combine it with the age of the facility, the present equipment is simply not going to last."

Recently, the parks and recreation department had been forced to make some difficult decisions concerning changes in events for the main coliseum. Scurry County commissioners approved $150,068 to replace part of the air conditioning system at the coliseum.

Although this will improve the climate in the building, the cooling coils in the facility are still the same ones that were installed when the building was completed in 1968. They will be used with the new equipment because replacing the entire system, including the coils, is cost prohibitive right now.

Over the years, the filtration system coils have become clogged with hair, oil and dirt. This has caused the working potential of the coils to shrink to roughly 50 to 70 percent of capacity. In light of this, and faced with budget limitations, the parks and recreation department had to make some decisions that will change the usage of the coliseum in some areas.

For instance, only two livestock-related events will be held in the coliseum yearly.

"The WTC Rodeo will still be held here and the ranch rodeo will also continue," said Crenwelge.

Crenwelge said these two shows are held near the same time, and dirt will have to be moved into the coliseum only once.

"We'll move the dirt in only once next year, as compared to seven times this year," said Crenwelge, noting that process is time consuming and costly.

The Best of Texas Livestock Show came into issue at the county commissioners' meeting on Dec. 15. The stock show, sponsored by the Scurry County Junior Livestock Association (SCJLA), is held in July and November. With the installation of the new system, holding the stock show in the main coliseum portion of the complex would be detrimental to the unit. At that time, officers of the association were considering canceling future shows in Snyder.

In light of the changes, the county offered the usage of coliseum annex to the SCJLA at no charge, which they accepted.

The next Best of Texas show will be held in July. Crenwelge stated that some kind of cooling system should be in place in the annex in time for the show. The idea for the system, a "water wall" design, should keep cooler air circulating through the building.

"We'll see how everything goes, and we're hopeful that everyone will be comfortable," said Crenwelge

Residents warned of asphalt paving scams

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

You're at home one day and there's a knock at the door. You answer to find a friendly person who appears to be an honest laborer.

He explains that he and his crew has been at work pouring asphalt for a business not far away. He tells you that his boss has authorized him to dispose of some left over asphalt and he is in the position to make you a "great deal" on a new asphalt driveway.

The man makes "the deal" sound so good, you agree to it right away. They pour the hot asphalt and say that they will return to make sure it has set correctly.

Upon the crew's return, you are presented with a bill, but the bill is for a huge sum. You argue, but the crew leader says you owe it. He threatens to sue.

You've just been had.

This is not a fabricated story. The sad truth is, it has been happening in the Snyder area for many years. Just this week, scammers have taken advantage of at least one individual in the area.

"It's a very touchy thing that these people do. It's one of those situations that is very hard to prosecute," said Snyder Police Chief Steve Warren.

An individual was approached by a group of four men who told him that they could lay him an asphalt pad for his vehicles. They gave the impression that the price would be very inexpensive. He accepted and when the job was completed, the bill was in excess of $5,000.

Chief Warren wants residents of Snyder to know that scam artists are working in the area.

Warren has learned so far that these scam artists are from Oklahoma and are part of a group of "gypsies" who have been working this way for a number of years.

"Primarily they are unsolicited salesmen. Basically they just show up at a home and begin to make their pitch to the homeowner for the asphalt or for a new roof. They most often prey on the elderly," said Warren.



"They most often prey on the elderly."

Steve Warren
Chief of Police

Darrell Barham, who is the police chief in an Oklahoma town where some companies operate from, is aware that the scam artists are in his area, but is unable to prosecute them.

"They never do anything in this area. People like them tend not to work near their homes. They can be found too easily. They have been in this area for over 30 years. I've had complaints from Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and other states," said Barham.

In Oklahoma, consumers are protected by what is known as the Home Repair Fraud Law. When someone perpetrates a scam such as this one, it is a felony offense.

"These people know that they can't get away with doing something like that here, but they are experts at ripping people off, especially the elderly," said the Oklahoma police chief.

In Texas, complaints such as these are a civil matter.

Chief Warren has advice for people who may be approached by asphalt or roofing scam artists. He advises anyone who wants work done to use local companies. A local company can be contacted easily if a customer is not satisfied with the work.

During the negotiation phase of having work done, ask for references, and find out about other jobs that they have done, said Warren.

"Request estimates for the project and make price comparisons," added Warren.

"The more questions a consumer asks, the better. If you ask someone for references, phone numbers or former employers, if they're honest they will provide this information. If they're dishonest, they'll back away. Above all, if they name a price, get it in writing, and don't sign anything without reading it thoroughly," said Snyder's police chief.

Chief Warren said that if any area residents feel they have been contacted by scam artists to contact the Snyder Police Department or the Scurry County Sheriff's Department.

Chamber to hold open house

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce staff and board of directors will hold an open house from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday at the chamber office.

"We invite everyone to come and visit with us," said Vicki Shroyer, executive director.

Shroyer said non-members of the chamber are urged to attend.

"We'll be happy to explain what being a member of the chamber does for the community and for businesses," said Shroyer.

At 10 a.m., Patterson UTI will be recognized for their recent award from the West Central Texas Workforce Center System.

Hospital committees to meet

The Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of manager's finance committee will meet at noon Monday in the hospital boardroom.

Interim chief financial officer, Ron Hunt, will review the financial report for the committee and also review the accounts payable.

Cheryl Chance, director of nurses and acting administrator, will also meet with the committee.

At 1 p.m. Monday, the transition committee will meet to discuss the ongoing recruiting process for a chief executive officer.

The entire board will meet at 7:30 Tuesday morning.



FLU FIGHTERS — Avanell Keller, 80 receives her flu shot from Tammy Tyrrell, R.N. in an effort to dodge this year's flu virus. Keller was among a large number of residents who chose to be vaccinated at Cogdell Memorial Hospital Friday. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—Will the city's landfill have special hours during Christmas week?

A—The landfill will be open Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. It will reopen on Friday and will close on Saturday.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Jerry Ashley...

....is the son of Priscella and Jack Ashley, he has one brother, Gary, 19, and a sister, Pam, 24. His favorite hobbies are playing drums, deejaying, Technology Students Association and making videos.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The first duty of love is to listen.

—Paul Tillich



4
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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

FBC to present Christmas musical

First Baptist Church will present *A Family Christmas* at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, featuring more than 150 people. All are invited.

Holy Child

Holy Child, a celebration of the majesty, the mystery and the miracle of Christmas by Marty Parks, will be performed by the Trinity United Methodist praise and worship team at the 11 a.m. service Sunday.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "God Has Spoken of His Enemies," followed by "Chief of Sinners Saved by Grace."

Lions meetings cancelled

Snyder Lions Club will not meet Tuesday, Dec. 23 or Dec. 30, but will start meeting again Jan. 6 at noon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Candlelight service

First United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. at the church, 2700 College Ave.

First Baptist support group

First Baptist Church sponsors a support group for persons facing difficulties — including cancer, divorce, grief, etc. It meets on the first floor Adult 6 Department at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

LVN testing dates

LVN testing dates are Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

Doodle Bug writers club

Members of the Doodle Bug writers club invite all writers to meet at 1 p.m. every other Tuesday at the Golden Village Terrace community room. For more information call 574-1817, 573-7369, or 573-5819.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Jan. 31 for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

'Justice' backs congressional redistricting

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice approved a Republican-backed congressional redistricting map Friday, disappointing Democrats who staged two legislative boycotts over redistricting and have sued over the new plan.

A federal court panel considering legal challenges to the new map also gave Republicans a victory Friday, ruling that that mid-decade redistricting is permissible under state law.

The Justice Department evaluated the map to see if it adhered to the federal Voting Rights Act, a law that protects minority voting rights.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry said the department's decision "validated our efforts to draw fairer districts that reflect the voting patterns of Texas."

Republicans hold every statewide-elected post and rule both the state Senate and House, but have 15 U.S. representatives to Democrats' 17. The new map is expected to give the GOP several more seats.

Gerry Hebert, a Democratic attorney challenging the map lawmakers adopted in October, said the map "disenfranchises over 3.5 million Hispanics and African Americans just so Republicans can get seven more seats in Congress."

Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP and a plaintiff in the federal trial, also blasted the decision, saying Justice Department officials are "rewriting the law to suit their political purposes."

Earlier Friday, attorneys for the state and Democrats wrapped up their cases before a three-judge federal panel. Closing arguments are set for Tuesday.

Democrats say the plan to put more Republicans in Congress illegally dilutes minority and rural voting power in Texas and is a partisan gerrymander.

The court Friday rejected Democrats' argument that the state Constitution allows redistricting only after U.S. Census information is released, every 10 years.

Hebert said the Democrats' case against Texas redistricting does not hinge on the mid-decade argument, but his team will appeal the panel's decision on that issue to the U.S. Supreme Court.



WINNER — John Martini, a sixth grader at Ira ISD, was the winner of a raffled picture autographed by the Ira Bulldog Bi-District Champion Football Team. The drawing was held Thursday and was organized by the Ira National Honor Society, sponsor Mrs. Carol Scott, the journalism class and junior student Amanda Cink. (Contributed Photo)

Cobra bites pet shop employee

HOUSTON (AP) — A pet shop worker is recovering from a cobra bite that occurred while he was cleaning out a display case at the business.

The employee of Pets-A-Plenty/The Ultimate Reptile Shop was bitten Friday by an African red spitting cobra as he used forceps to clean out the case.

Pet shop owner Eric Haug said the unidentified employee was doing well because the bite was "dry," meaning that the snake did not discharge any venom.

"Normally, they don't bite. They spit venom in the eyes of the attacker or prey," Haug told the Houston Chronicle in Saturday's editions. "He got popped on the finger. We were very lucky here."

The burgundy-scaled snake, native to the savannas and dry grasslands of Africa, was not for sale. It was part of a menagerie of 80 to 90 exotic reptiles and amphibians that customers of the pet shop along Texas 6 can view for a fee.

Haug said the 26-year-old victim had worked at the shop for about a year and kept nonpoisonous reptiles at home.

The victim was taken to an area hospital. An ambulance later transported to the hospital 10 vials of antivenin from the Houston Zoo, which stocks antidotes for each species of poisonous snake it exhibits. Pain in the victim's swollen finger later decreased and the anti-venom did not need to be administered, said Haug.

The attack was the third bite delivered by a poisonous snake this year in Harris County. The other two bites were inflicted by snakes in the wild.

events

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RESULTS

Friday's Lottery Numbers

Mega Millions

ATLANTA (AP) — The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to $100 million Saturday.

None of the tickets sold for Friday's $85 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Tuesday.

There were 11 second-prize winners from Friday night's drawing, winning $175,000 each. Also, 46 players matched four of the five lotto numbers, plus the Mega Ball number. Those tickets are each worth $5,000.

The winning numbers from Friday's drawing were: 5, 10, 17, 35, and 39. The Mega Ball number was 38.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 21-20-6-19-10

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: $22,129

Matching four of five: 168. Prize: $119.

Matching three of five: 4,959. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 45,859. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Texas Two Step

25-12-32-31 Bonus Ball: 16

Match 4 + Bonus Ball: 1

Prize per winner: $250,000

Match 4 numbers: 10, prize, $1,231

Match 3 + bonus ball: 14, prize, $107

Match 3 numbers: 949, prize, $22.

Match 2 + bonus ball: 535, prize, $25.

Match 1 + bonus ball: 3,906, prize, $7

Match bonus ball: 7,068, prize $5.

The estimated jackpot for Tuesday's Texas Two Step drawing is $200,000.

Pick 3

(Day) 2-6-4

(Night) 9-9-5

Judge in Kobe Bryant case tells potential witnesses to go home

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — Putting off testimony at a key hearing in the Kobe Bryant case, the trial judge sent witnesses home Friday and met privately with attorneys arguing over whether the medical history of the woman accusing the NBA star of rape should be allowed as evidence.

Attorneys for both sides left the courthouse without comment after the closed-door session ended Friday evening.

The outcome of the issue before state District Judge Terry Ruckriegle could play a huge role at trial: The defense hopes to argue the woman had mental problems that could have clouded her perception of what happened between the two in a Colorado hotel room last June.

Bryant, 25, has insisted they had consensual sex.

Ruckriegle asked attorneys on both sides to spell out in briefs due Jan. 9 whether the medical history should be allowed. The issue will be taken up again at a Jan. 23 hearing.

"I want the opportunity to reflect on it," he said.

David Lugert, a defense attorney and former prosecutor, said the trial's slow pace suggested a long paper fight was coming.

"The case is going sideways," Lugert said.

Prosecutors and attorneys for the woman say her medical history should remain out of public view. They urged the judge to hold any arguments about the issue behind closed doors, and he agreed.

Among those subpoenaed by the defense to appear Friday were the accuser's mother and a former friend, Lindsey McKinney, who has said the woman tried to kill herself twice this year.

The woman's father, who was not subpoenaed, spent the day sitting in the gallery, 20 feet away from Bryant.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of sexual assault. He returned to Los Angeles in time for the second quarter of the Lakers' game Friday against the Denver Nuggets.

In Colorado, medical records must remain sealed unless the patient consents or gives up their privacy rights. Bryant's lawyers contend the woman waived those rights because she spoke with others about her medical condition.

Specifically, the defense wants access to documents from the North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley, where authorities brought the woman in February after determining she was a "danger to herself." She was a college student in that city at the time.

Prosecutor Ingrid Bakke said allowing the medical details to be brought up before a national media audience would prevent other alleged sexual assault victims from coming forward.

"When the bell is re-rung, it revictimizes the victim," she said.

But Tom Kelley, an attorney representing media organizations, told the judge that a significant amount of information about the woman's medical and psychological history already has been reported.

"Unless someone gives graphic detail of what's in a medical record, I don't think it could be seriously argued" that the hearing should be closed, Kelley said.

John Clune, an attorney representing the woman, said her rights should be protected just as much as Bryant's were during a preliminary hearing in which his statement to investigators was played behind closed doors.

Any testimony on the medical issues should be kept secret unless the judge decides it can be used at trial, he said.

Sitting out the argument was Bryant's defense team. Attorney Hal Haddon said Bryant would like the entire hearing closed to the public, but he didn't weigh in on the woman's medical history.

Earlier Friday, the hearing began with the judge rejecting a prosecution request for an investigation into media leaks, saying it would be a waste of time.



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States cut health spending on poor to close gaps in budgets

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 1.2 million low-income Americans, including 500,000 children, have lost health coverage as a result of state cutbacks in programs for the poor, according to a new study by a liberal Washington think tank.

Thirty-four states have cut health insurance programs for the poor and children because of deep budget deficits over the past two years, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said.

Further cuts are likely next year, when a temporary federal government increase in its share of Medicaid expires, the group said. Medicaid is the joint federal-state health insurance program for the poor.

"Cuts of this magnitude in health coverage for low-income families are unprecedented," said Leighton Ku, a senior fellow at the think tank.

The report is being released Monday with a state-by-state survey of cuts and restrictions in coverage. The center provided a copy to The Associated Press.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid has no data that suggests so many people are losing benefits, a spokesman said.

The cuts have come primarily in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Programs, or SCHIP, created in 1997 to cover those in poor families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. Government and private studies have found that SCHIP helped reduce the percentage of American children without health insurance.

But now, states are restricting eligibility for Medicaid and SCHIP. For example, Missouri tightened the Medicaid eligibility limit from 100 percent of the federal poverty level to 77 percent, the report found.

Six states, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Montana and Utah, have stopped enrolling children in their SCHIP programs, the report said.

One of those children is Zion Brown, 3, of Orlando, who has been on a waiting list to enter Florida's Medi-Kids program for four months, said his mother, Jeanane Frank.

Frank said she signed her son up for the program after getting a letter from state officials saying he was eligible. Then she received another saying he was on a waiting list.

In the meantime, Frank said she can't afford a doctor's visit for Brown and so can't get him his immunizations.

"If he can't get his shots, he can't go to daycare and I'm afraid that's going to put me out of a job," she said. Frank lost her eligibility for Medicaid when she took a full-time job at a resort, she said.

Other states required participants to reapply for their health benefits more frequently — every 6 months instead of annually — the report said.

National Rail Car announces improvements

ROSCOE — National Rail Car, Inc. had a groundbreaking ceremony this week for additions and improvements to its rail car repair facility at Roscoe.

Charles W. Wolcott, president and CEO of National Rail Car, Inc. stated, "On behalf of National Rail Car, we wish to express our appreciation to Governor Rick Perry and the State of Texas, Mayor Pete Porter and the City of Roscoe and to the staff of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"With Texas Capital Fund resources we will modernize and revitalize our rail car repair facility, thus holding onto and adding well-paying industrial jobs in the Big Country. With this ground breaking, we express our confidence in a brighter future for National Rail Car and the Roscoe community."

According to Albert J. Weldon, vice-president and Chief Operating Officer of the company, "These resources allow us to diversify our business activity, adding stability to what has been a cyclical industry. We greatly appreciate the Roscoe community and their support for National Rail Car. With the ongoing efforts of our valued employees, we look forward to continued growth."

National Rail Car, Inc., established in 1982, has historically been a provider of railcar repair and maintenance services for the rail industry. The company has diversified into work on over the road trailers, trucks and providing trans-loading capacity for fuels, aggregate and other bulk commodities shipped by truck or rail.



GROUNDBREAKING — National Rail Car in Roscoe had a groundbreaking ceremony this week for additions and improvements to its facilities. Shown at the event are, front from left, Jack Weldon, chief operating officer, Roscoe Mayor Pete Porter and Charles Wolcott, CEO of the company. Shown in back, from left, are John Jay, Jerry Riggs, Dale Martin, Jack Brown, Mike Hatley, Bryan Studdard and Tim Fambro, Nolan County Judge. (Contributed Photo)

Former congressman Gary Condit sues tabloids

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Former California Rep. Gary Condit is seeking $209 million from three tabloids, saying they published several "false and defamatory articles" linking him to the 2001 murder of federal intern Chandra Levy.

Condit, a Democrat, sued The National Enquirer, Globe and Star Magazine tabloids along with their parent company, American Media Inc., seeking $19 million in actual damages and $190 million in punitive damages.

In a statement, Boca Raton, Fla.-based AMI said it stands behind "the editorial integrity of what we have published." AMI attorney Michael Kahane said he expects the lawsuit to be dismissed.

"Many of the false and defamatory articles, their headlines and the statements contained therein conveyed that Plaintiff Condit was involved in deviant and perverted sexual conduct which directly or indirectly led to the kidnapping and/or murder of Ms. Levy," according to the lawsuit filed Friday in Palm Beach County Circuit Court.

The court document details 45 pages of headlines Condit alleges defamed him, such as "Congressman & the intern. Chandra killed in kinky sex game!"

The lawsuit claims the tabloids failed to reasonably investigate the stories and paid sources for the false statements "in a calculated effort" to boost profits.

During the yearlong investigation into Levy's disappearance, Condit told police he had a romance with Levy but knew nothing of her disappearance.

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Senior Center News

The Scurry County Senior Citizens Center at 2603 Ave. M will be open Monday Tuesday and Friday, but will be closed Wednesday and Thursday for the Christmas holiday.

On Tuesday, the recipients of meals-on-wheels will receive their hot meal and two box lunches for the days the center is closed.

Joyful tidings for Christmas and the New Year to everyone from the staff.

The December monthly dance has been canceled. The next dance will be Jan. 27, with the Prowlers providing the music.

Monday

Party bridge begins at 9:30 a.m. and continues through the morning. Skip-Bo players may begin at 10 a.m. in the eighty-eight room. Seniors may play dominoes, pool and quilt during all business hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Senior citizens may play eighty-eight beginning at 10 a.m.

Wednesday

The center will be closed for the Christmas holidays. See you Friday.

Friday

Blood pressure readings and bridge begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue throughout the morning. Eighty-eight begins at 10 a.m.

Newcomers and new retirees are invited to join the center, a non-profit organization supported by the city, county, college, federal nutrition programs, businesses and individuals.

Out goal is to add quality to the lives of senior citizens in the community. A variety of games and entertainment is available.

The center offers personal parties and holiday dinners. Dominoes, bridge, eighty-eight, Skip-Bo, snooker and pool are available. There is also a quilting program, fabric painting group, and a monthly craft project.

The center also has treadmills, exercise bikes and access to a gym for walking. There is a small library and jigsaw puzzles for senior citizens to borrow and return at their convenience.

The AARP meets in the conference room on the third Monday of each month. The Aubrey Wilson Country Band performs twice a month and the Sunshine Choir performs for the nursing homes.

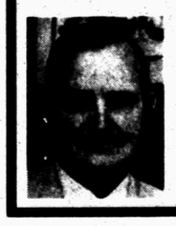
A noon meal is available Monday through Friday either congregate or through meals on wheels. Local transportation is available Monday through Friday mornings. The small center staff relies on an army of volunteers to help make the center successful. Whether you need assistance or would like to help us serve others, contact the center at 573-4035.

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DEC 21 2003

War in Iraq overwhelming pick as top news story of the year

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

The "major combat" phase was over in six weeks, but the war in Iraq — from its tumultuous prelude to a still-active insurgency — was in the global spotlight throughout the year.

By an overwhelming margin, the U.S.-led invasion and occupation was voted the top story of 2003 in The Associated Press' annual survey of American editors and news directors. Even with voting ending the day before Saddam Hussein's capture, the Iraq story received first-place votes from 280 of the 287 AP newspaper and broadcast members who cast ballots.

The clear runner-up, with five first-place votes and most of the second-place votes, was the Columbia space shuttle disaster, the explosion that killed seven astronauts during their descent on Feb. 1.

It marked the second straight year that Iraq was judged the dominant story — the threat of war and demands for disarmament directed at Saddam ranked No. 1 in the poll for 2002.

Here are 2003's top 10 stories, as voted by AP members:

1. WAR IN IRAQ: After months of ultimatums and military buildup, President Bush announced the start of the war against Iraq on March 19. U.S. and British forces quickly seized huge swaths of territory, and by April 7 much of Baghdad was overtaken. Bush declared major combat over on May 1, but shadowy insurgents killed more than 200 coalition soldiers in the often difficult occupation that followed. Saddam was captured Dec. 13.

2. COLUMBIA DISASTER: The shuttle crew's 16-day research mission ended 16 minutes short of touchdown on Feb. 1 when the Columbia disintegrated into fiery debris over Texas. Investigators later said the cause was a chunk of foam insulation that broke off the fuel tank and pierced the left wing on launch day.

3. CALIFORNIA RECALL: Initially, it seemed a long shot perhaps suited to a Hollywood script. But Californians defied expectations by signing enough petitions to set up an attempt to recall unpopular Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, then — after a unique, 135-candidate race — ousted Davis on Oct. 7 and replaced him with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Austrian-born body builder turned action film star.

4. SARS: The first unsettling reports emerged from Asia in February of a new, unnamed disease. Within a few weeks, SARS was a household name.

Cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome spread to more than 25 countries in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. About 8,000 people were infected; roughly 780 died, though health experts generally were pleased with efforts to control the outbreak.

5. NORTHEAST BLACKOUT: A computer malfunctioned at an Ohio utility on Aug. 14, and North America's worst-ever blackout swiftly spread through eight states and part of Canada. Millions of people lost power, including all of New York City, Cleveland and Detroit.

6. IMPROVING ECONOMY: After a couple of trying years, the U.S. economy showed signs of revival — the Dow Jones industrials closed above 10,000 for the first time in 18 months; the third-quarter growth rate was 8.2 percent, the best performance in 19 years. But there was little headway in restoring more than 2 million lost manufacturing jobs, and projections of a record federal deficit kept rising through the year, to $500 billion.

7. CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: Raging wildfires across much of southern California killed 22 people, scorched nearly 1 million acres and destroyed 4,800 homes and other buildings in October and early November — the most damaging wave of fires in state history.

8. BUSH TAX CUT: In May, Congress handed Bush a major victory by approving $330 billion in tax cuts through 2013 — the thirdlargest tax cut in history. The measure passed by only one vote in the Senate, after Republican leaders prodded some of their hesitant colleagues.

9. ELIZABETH SMART: Nine months after she was abducted from her bedroom in Salt Lake City, 15-year-old Elizabeth Smart was found in March in a nearby suburb in the company of a homeless couple who now face kidnapping and sexual assault charges. By autumn, Elizabeth was back in school, and the subject of a made-for-TV movie.

10. DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN: The field grew steadily to 10, then dropped back to nine, but it was the man leading in the polls — former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean — who became the focal point of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. He won the endorsement of former Vice President Al Gore and become the target of choice for his Democratic rivals in debates and increasingly barbed TV ads.





MRS. CLAUS VISITS IRA — Since Santa was busy getting ready for Christmas Eve, Mrs. Claus visited Ira students last week. In the top photo, she is demonstrating something with the help of Ty Fontenot, Ira first grader. In the bottom photo, students raised their hands to the question, "Have you been naughty or nice" Mrs. Claus is actually Tricia Gregory, a Snyder High School graduate who is a professional clown in Dallas. She is the daughter of Clinton and Shirley Gregory of Snyder, and the niece of Sandy Holmes, kindergarten teacher. (Contributed Photos)

Seized boat may be first hard evidence of al-Qaida drug link

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy has seized a boat carrying nearly two tons of hashish in the Persian Gulf, U.S. officials said Friday, in what could be some of the first hard evidence of al-Qaida links to drug smuggling.

The guided missile destroyer USS Decatur intercepted the 40-foot boat on Monday. Aboard were a dozen men, three of them believed to have al-Qaida connections, and 3,780 pounds of hashish, the Navy said Friday.

"This is the first empirical evidence I've seen that conclusively links al-Qaida with the drug trade," said Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at RAND, a think tank that often does work for the Pentagon.

The Decatur seized the boat, a wooden vessel called a dhow, near the Straits of Hormuz, a narrow part of the Persian Gulf where it opens into the Arabian Sea. The area is a known smuggling route for al-Qaida, the Navy said.

The drugs are worth between $8 million and $10 million, the Navy said.

Military officials would not say Friday why they believed the boat, its cargo and some of its crew were linked to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network. The boat remained under the Decatur's control and it had not been determined what to do with the men on board, the Navy said.

Terrorism experts and government officials long have said they believe that al-Qaida makes money through criminal enterprises including the drug trade. A United Nations panel reported last month, for example, that al-Qaida had financed some of its operations through drug trafficking.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, bin Laden had been sheltered in Afghanistan by the Taliban, which had clear links to the heroin trade through Afghanistan's huge opium poppy crops.

Songwriter wants to retrace Crockett's steps

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A country songwriter from Tennessee wants to retrace some of the route taken by a native of the state who became a hero at the Alamo.

But musician Phil Thomas' quest is different from Davy Crockett's fight for Texas freedom. Thomas decided to help his grandson Van Warden, a 14-year-old victim of Down syndrome from Austin, to raise awareness and respect for people with the chromosomal disorder.

Between night shifts as a security coordinator for a Travis County jail, Ruth Sanchez came out to the Bastrop area Thursday morning to take part in the ride as it passed through Central Texas.

"It's a very, very good cause," she told the San Antonio Express-News. "My heart goes out to these kids. It's a great way to bring awareness."

A handmade coonskin cap atop his head, Thomas set off with two friends on Nov. 1 upon a slow journey to the Alamo. The three are stopping in 31 counties or parishes along the way and leading trail rides in each community, encouraging riders to donate $1 per mile for the cause.

The riders are scheduled to arrive at the Alamo around noon. Other riders are encouraged to join them in the morning, and supporters, especially those with Down syndrome, are urged to join in the celebration at the Alamo.

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT — Paige Shaw's fifth graders at Northeast Elementary recently went shopping at Wal-Mart for needy children. They raised $104 and an additional $50 was donated by Southern Electric. The fifth graders selected four names from Wal-Mart's tree for needy children and purchased presents for them. The girls in the top photo are clockwise from center (in back) Marissa Medrano, Mary Quintano, Shanerica McGaha, Melissa Rodriguez, Michelle Vasquez, Brooke Wood, Taylor Reed, Samantha Hermosillo, Leslie Rosas and Brook Bollinger. The boys are clockwise from center, Jordon Tippens, Kevin Bowers, Freddy Lopez, Roman Romero, Jonathan Black, Kaden McCarter, Jeffrey Stewart, Justin Gonzales and Jordan Rodriguez. Rita Hagins is pictured in back. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Arrest of Saddam Hussein sparks debate among Arab newspapers

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Was he an Arab hero or a dictator? This is the question being debated in newspapers in the Middle East and by Arab intellectuals faced with the image of a bearded, bedraggled Saddam Hussein in the hands of American captors.

Many are asking, too, if Saddam's downfall was a humiliation to the entire Arab world, not just to the ousted Iraqi leader. Others say that with Saddam's capture, it's time to drop any expectation that a great hero will unite the Arab world.

"A new humiliation to Arabs" was the headline on a column this week by Abdel Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based Arabic daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

"It was a shock for us, and a humiliation to millions of Arabs who saw the TV shots of the Iraqi president being subjected to the humiliating medical checkup. We hoped that he would have fought until the end, and fallen as a martyr like his two sons and grandson or chose Hitler's end," Atwan wrote, referring to the Nazi leader's suicide.

But Atwan was quick to find excuses for Saddam's succumbing to U.S. forces without a shot being fired after he was found in a spider-hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

"We only heard the American version of the story. Maybe they drugged him because if Saddam wanted to surrender this way, he would have ... accepted the many offers to leave power," Atwan wrote.

Instead, he added, Saddam had chosen "to stand up to American arrogance."

Apparently, many Arabs shared Atwan's view of Saddam's arrest on Saturday as a collective humiliation — and an intentional one.

In a telephone poll, the popular Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera asked viewers if showing Saddam being probed by U.S. military doctors was meant to humiliate Arabs. Al-Jazeera said that of the 1,500 people who called in, 97 percent said it was.

Kuwaiti columnist Ahmed al-Robei expressed anger at such talk of a hurt afflicting all Arabs. He wrote in the pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat that the worst thing on Middle East satellite channels since Saddam's arrest was the idea of "humiliation to Arab dignity"

He added that Arabs were continuing to ignore that the Iraqi leader was a villain. "The mass graves are not enough to wake the minds of some of us. Are we people who adore despots? It is a sad question," he wrote.

He said he wondered how long Arabs would go on "glorifying oppressors and despots and portraying them as the saviors and leaders of this (Arab) nation, which is handed over from one executioner to another."

Some writers have described an Arab need for heroes and said it stems from an education that glorifies the past — when Arab armies conquered much of the known world — leaving people today looking with discouragement at a world where the West, and particularly the United States, has all the power.

Fouad Ajami, director of Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins University, said in his 1998 book "The Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation's Odyssey" that too many Arab intellectuals prefer invoking Arab unity and anti-Western defiance to dealing with real problems in the Middle East.

"The political culture of (Arab) nationalism reserved its approval for those who led ruinous campaigns in pursuit of impossible quests," Ajami wrote.

The argument over whether Saddam should be praised or criticized has spread across the Arab world, from pan-Arab dailies published in London to newspapers in the Gulf nations.

Sayed Nassar, an Egyptian journalist who had close ties to Saddam, wrote in the British-based Asharq Al-Awsat that the question of whether Saddam was a dictator "deserves a lot of research."

Nassar praised Saddam for building a large army to defend his country and said that without harsh policies Saddam wouldn't have been able to rule Iraq's different ethnic and religious groups. Saddam's only mistake was invading Kuwait in 1990, Nassar wrote.

In Saudi Arabia, Abdallah Nasser Al-Fawzan, expressed quite another view in the Saudi daily Al-Watan: "We all saw the pictures ... Saddam was miserable, and I, as an Arab, felt humiliation. But my other feelings against Saddam were stronger. He was a paper knight."

Bahraini columnist Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari wrote Thursday in the London-based daily Al-Hayat that Saddam's arrest posed a challenge to all Arabs.

"Saddam is out of the hole," he wrote, "but we have to get him out of the corners of our political psychology, which is still draining us with its nightmares.

"This is the test," he added, "and it's one the Americans can't take for us."

Death penalty vacated for retarded killer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A man convicted of murdering seven women and leaving their decomposed bodies in his apartment cannot be executed because he is mentally retarded, a judge ruled.

Citing a landmark Supreme Court ruling last year that banned the execution of the mentally retarded, Common Pleas Judge William J. Manfredi vacated Harrison "Marty" Graham's death penalty and ordered him to spend the rest of his life in prison.

In the opinion filed Thursday, Manfredi said Harrison "Marty" Graham met several criteria of mental retardation established by the American Psychiatric Association and acknowledged by the Supreme Court.

Jackson to gather with family, friends at Neverland

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 300 relatives and close friends of Michael Jackson are heading to his Neverland Ranch to show their support for the singer, who is facing multiple child molestation charges.

Saturday's event at the ranch, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles, is being described by a Jackson representative as a homecoming. The entertainer has been in Las Vegas and various undisclosed locations since surrendering to authorities last month and being released on $3 million bail.

"There will be a goodly chunk of people including celebrities," spokesman Stuart Backerman said Friday, adding he did not have any names yet of famous people who might attend.

Backerman said the guest list originally included about 300 names but predicted twice that many people could show up.

Jackson was charged Thursday with seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent.

The entertainer, who has proclaimed his innocence, is looking forward to thanking those people who have stood by him, said Brian Oxman, a lawyer and Jackson friend who planned to attend the gathering.

"It's for family and friends to say thank you from Michael to people he loves and who have supported him," Oxman said.

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DEC 21 2003

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

Lady Tigers hold off Wylie challenge, 58-43

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Lady Tigers were not particularly precise or spectacular Friday.

They didn't need to be.

Snyder (10-2) overcame an early deficit and a furious third quarter surge by Wylie to run away with a 58-43 win and to head into the Post Tournament on a winning note.

The Lady Tigers trailed, 11-8, after a turnover-filled first period, but stormed back to outscore the Lady Bulldogs by 14 in the second.

Senior Erin Burleson tied the game at 15 after hitting a transition lay-up early in the quarter. Fouled on the play, Burleson converted the free throw attempt to give the Lady Tigers their first lead of the game.

They would not lose it again.

Sophomore Sirena Medrano hit back-to-back field goals to make it a six-point game, which the Lady Tigers stretched to an 11-point lead at halftime.

Medrano had a game-high 19, while Burleson and freshman Terann Ragland each connected for 13. Burleson also pulled down eight boards.

Snyder hit 10 of 15 free throw attempts in the first half, but were just 50 percent from the charity stripe over the final 16 minutes.

"We started off slow and they started off fast," head coach Mike Martin said. "Early on the free throws kept us in it, but late they hurt us. We could have put the game away, but we didn't make free throws."

Burleson nailed two treys and Ragland canned a three-pointer to start the second half, pushing the lead to 41-24, before Wylie went on an 8-0 run in just over 30 seconds to cut the lead to 41-32.

Medrano stopped the bleeding with a lay-up, and the Lady Tigers regained their balance to keep the lead and retake control of the contest.

"The kids responded well and we got our feet back under us," Martin said.

Snyder managed to keep the lead at 11 heading into the final stanza, and Medrano and Ragland scored back-to-back field goals to open the quarter, giving the Lady Tigers their eventual margin of victory.

Powell had five points and four rebounds, while Sarah Henson had four points.

Anna Henson hit a pair of free throws, and Jordan Stansell grabbed six boards and hit a two-point field goal.

Burleson said that Martin told the team after the game that as long as they win, the method doesn't matter.

"He told us that sometimes you win pretty, sometimes you win ugly," Burleson, one of just three seniors on the squad, said.

She said the team began the season with a concerted effort to forge bonds both on and off the court.

"We have two freshmen, six sophomores, a junior and three seniors, and that's a pretty diverse group," she said. "When you have it off the court, you don't have to try and find it on the court. It makes it easier. We work hard at practice and we get pumped up before games together."

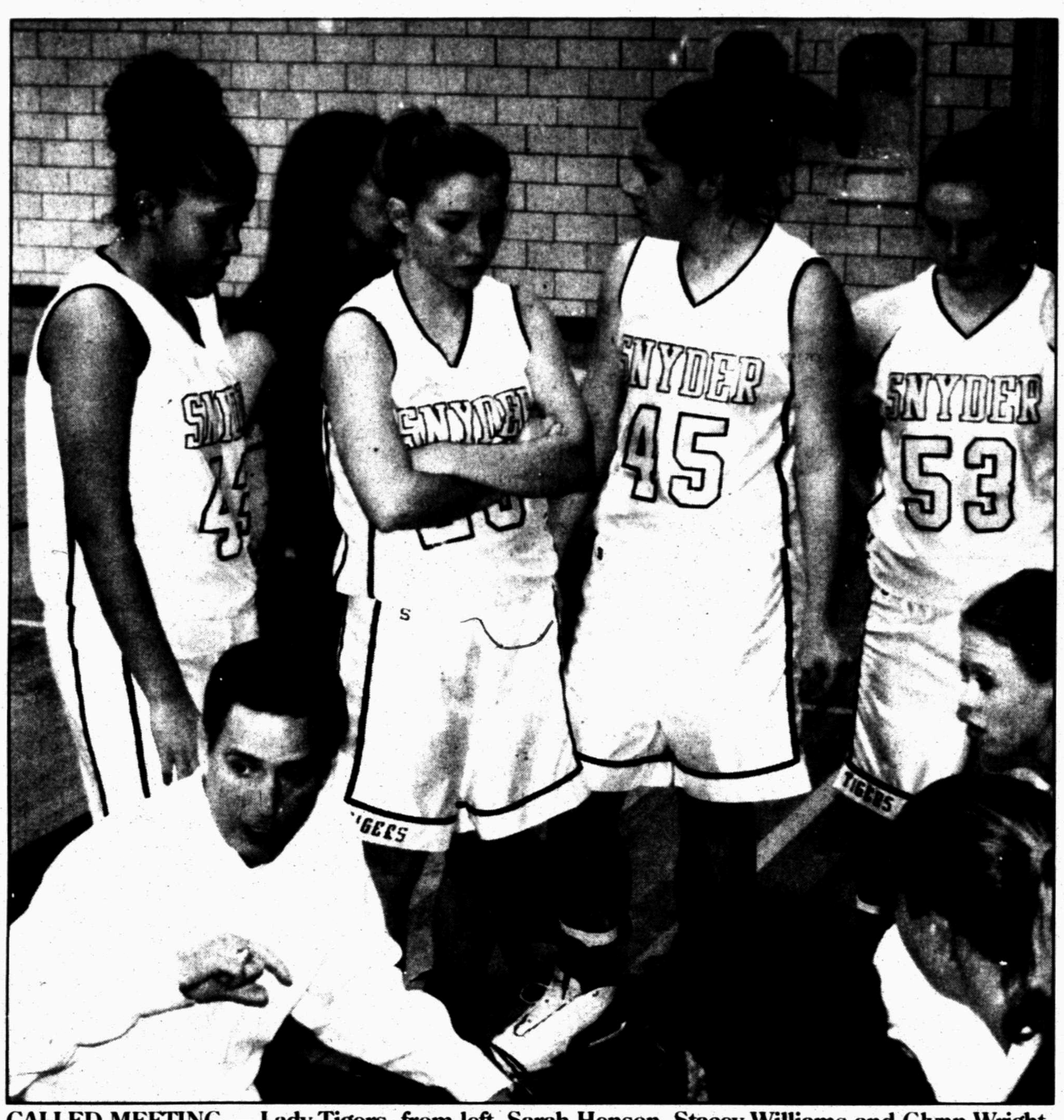
Martin said the process of earning wins — even on nights when the team doesn't play its best —is all part of the learning process.

"We try to teach the kids how to find a way to win. Slowly but surely we are getting there," Martin said.

The junior varsity topped Wylie, 54-50.

The freshmen got 16 points from Candace Chandler, but fell to Wylie, 48-34.

"We played hard, we just had too many turnovers," frosh coach Todd Pollard said.



CALLED MEETING — Lady Tigers, from left, Sarah Henson, Stacey Williams and Glynn Wright (53) listen to head coach Mike Martin, while Teddi Crenwelge (45) gets instructions from coach Holly Potts. (SDN Staff Photo)

Cowboys have more to play for in rematch with Giants

IRVING (AP) — The New York Giants will always be special to Bill Parcells because of the eight years he spent as their head coach. Less than a season into his tenure with the Dallas Cowboys, the Giants could be the source of more great memories.

He got one in September with a wild, overtime victory that was his first win with the Cowboys. Another win against the Giants on Sunday would clinch a playoff berth, something Parcells has never earned in his first year with a team.

Dallas (9-5) is an overwhelming favorite. The Giants (4-10) have lost six straight and are coming off their worst regular-season loss in 30 years. They've been so bad that coach Jim Fassel learned this week he won't be back next season.

Parcells insists this game is anything but a gimme.

He stresses how well New York played in the first meeting, way back when the Giants were 1-0 and still had playoff expectations. He says recent game films show New York is still trying hard, despite its longest losing streak since 1994. And now there's the motivation of giving Fassel a great going-away gift.

"I think we're all on edge," Parcells said. "Just like a German shepherd with their ears up, that's the way I am. ... There's more on the line. There's more to play for. This is your whole year's work right here. You can accomplish something that's important and I want to try to do it."

Parcells told players that anyone who doesn't go all out in this game won't be around next season.

"We've just got to get ourselves in gear," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said. "You've got to realize the opportunity that you have in front of you and don't be the guy to give it up. It's as simple as that."

The Cowboys actually have a chance of making the playoffs even if they lose their last two games.

Lady Bulldogs fall under rain of threes

STANTON — Stanton drilled four consecutive three-pointers to start the fourth quarter, sprinting past the Lady Bulldogs down the stretch to win, 48-43.

Ira led 22-16 at halftime, but was outscored 19-6 in the third quarter.

"They got up on us by 11 in the second half, and we had to start fouling them and sending them to the line to try and claw back in it," head coach Brent Parr said.

Stanton hit 11 of 16 second-half free throws to put the game away.

Lindsey Wilson paced Ira with 15 points, and Kelbi Pitner added 12 for Ira (4-7), which will take an extended break for the holidays, returning Jan. 2 at Westbrook.

Amanda Calley contributed eight, and Kate Wall and Shae Allen added four each.

The Lady Bulldogs have not played a home game since Nov. 18, and will not play in front of the home crowd until Jan. 13.

"This road stuff is hurting us. We need to play at home," Parr said.

Bulldogs roll over Tigers behind 40 from Langford

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

One terrific post player was one too many for the Tigers Friday.

Fifth-ranked Abilene Wylie's Scott Langford scored 40 points, shooting 100 percent from both the field and the foul line, helping the Bulldogs roll past the Tigers, 67-39.

"He kicked our tail," head coach Bud Birks said. "He wore out everybody I put on him."

Langford gave a preview in a tight first quarter, draining 13 of Wylie's 15 first-quarter points, while Lico Castillo drilled a pair of three-pointers to keep the Tigers close early, trailing 15-8 after one quarter.

Castillo hit another bomb and Lee Scott scored six of his seven points in the second quarter, but Langford connected for 11 more in the period, mostly on easy lay-ups inside, as Wylie increased its lead to 33-18 at the break.

Case Keenum knocked in 12 for the Bulldogs to help put the game away.

No Tiger scored in double figures, with Castillo and Isaac Ramon, leading the team with nine each.

Garret Pinson, playing his first varsity game, added five, as did Austin Hatfield. Tucker Early and Zack Garcia contributed two points each.

Birks said he was disappointed in the lesser intensity from his team in the second half.

"In the first half, I thought we got after it and battled harder than we did in the second half," he said. "We have got to play hard the whole game."

Birks said he felt the team played well in certain aspects, but could not get all the pieces to fit together against a stout opponent.

"We did a good job against the press and attacked the zone more, but we have to put a whole game together," he said.

He said the team also had good looks to the basket, but inaccuracy plagued it throughout the game.

"We have got to play tougher," said Scott. "If we had played tougher, it would have been a lot closer."

Langford continued his assault in the third quarter, tallying 11 points in the period, again on mostly uncontested lay-ups against the interior of the Tiger defense.

"Our big people have to get tougher," Birks said. "They are a good opponent, but we can and must play better. We need to play more games together, play better and keep improving."

The junior varsity fell to Wylie, 58-54, improving immensely since losing to the JV Bulldogs by 30 at the Catclaw tournament.

"We played as good as we've played all year," JV coach Zach Williams said. "We are going to be tough in district. We are starting to execute — I'm proud of them."

The freshmen also garnered praise from their coach after a 55-42 loss to a tall Wylie club.

Tagaba Kyei scored 10 and Jeremy Rodriguez added nine for Snyder.

"It was the best defensive game we've played all year," frosh coach Joe Anaya said. "They got after it against a real good Wylie team. It was a good effort and I'm really proud of them."

Titans face must-win in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — As much as Titans owner Bud Adams might relish earning a Super Bowl ring in his hometown, coach Jeff Fisher insists there's been no such pressure.

"He didn't say 'Two games in Houston or else,'" Fisher joked this week.

The former Oilers make their second return to Houston since heading for Tennessee after the 1996 season, and for the second time there's a lot on the line. Where last year they needed to beat the Texans to secure home-field advantage in the postseason, on Sunday the Titans (10-4) need a win just to guarantee a playoff spot and a chance to return for the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

"This is our biggest game of the year without a question," Fisher said.

Adding to the degree of difficulty will be Tennessee's problems at quarterback. Backup Billy Volek shined in a 28-26 victory over Buffalo as star Steve McNair's 43-game streak ended with injuries to his left ankle and right calf. But Volek was lost for the season with a lacerated spleen.

The Texans won't get too confident if McNair starts, as expected, despite missing practice during the week. He was 5-0 at the end of last season despite not practicing because of injuries, and he's renowned for excelling in pain.

Plus, the injury-depleted Texans' defense ranks 31st overall and against the pass, and a healthy McNair had his finest game as pro in Tennessee's 38-17 victory in Nashville two months ago. He threw for 421 yards and had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 in the first half.

"We have our work cut out for us," Texans linebacker Jamie Sharper. "We have some young guys on defense playing for us right now and we've had to go in here and practice and focus on what it's going to take to beat Steve and his wide receivers."

Texas High School Championships

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Southlake Carroll (15-0) vs. Katy (14-1), 11 a.m., Saturday at the Alamodome.
CLASS 4A
DIVISION II Finals
Denton Ryan (14-1) vs. La Marque (15-0), 3 p.m., Saturday at the Alamodome.
CLASS 3A
DIVISION II Finals
Atlanta (11-4) vs. Marlin (11-4), 5 p.m. Saturday at Rose Stadium, Tyler.
CLASS 2A
DIVISION II Finals
Bangs (11-4) vs. Garrison (15-0), noon Saturday at Waco ISD Stadium.
CLASS 1A
Finals
Windthorst (14-1) vs. Shiner (14-1), 6 p.m., Saturday at Waco ISD Stadium.

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SPORTS

Spurs win 9th straight; Rockets pound Clippers

SEATTLE (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs are suddenly playing like the team that won the NBA championship last season.

Following a four-game losing streak, with three of those coming on the road, the Spurs have reeled off nine straight victories, including five on the road.

Tim Duncan had 27 points and 20 rebounds as the Spurs improved their record to 18-10, including 7-7 on the road.

They can tie the Los Angeles Lakers for the longest winning streak in the NBA this season with a win at Portland on Saturday night.

Duncan, who also had four blocked shots in 40 minutes, got help from his backcourt of Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, with Parker scoring 16 points and Ginobili adding 14.

The Spurs limited the Sonics to a season-low nine points on 3-for-21 shooting in the first quarter.

The Sonics, who lost their third straight, got 15 points from Ronald Murray, but he shot 6-for-26. As a team, the Sonics shot 34.1 percent (28-for-82), including 2-for-15 from 3-point range.

Seattle's leading scorer this season, Rashard Lewis, played only 24 minutes and fouled out with 8:23 to go. Lewis had seven points and 10 rebounds.

San Antonio beat Seattle for the fourth straight time. The teams played a close five-game first-round playoff series two years ago, with the Spurs winning Game 5 in San Antonio. They're not close now.

The Spurs' defense sets them apart. They've held their opponents to 73 points or less in six games on their streak.

Rockets 99, Clippers 85

HOUSTON (AP) — Mike Dunleavy rates Yao Ming among the best post players in the world, not just the NBA.

"He's definitely one of the best. He's in the top five in the world, no matter what league," the Los Angeles Clippers coach said after Yao recorded his 12th double-double of the season with 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 99-85 victory Friday night.

"He's 7-6 and he does it all. He rebounds, shoots the jumper and follows his shots. He was very aggressive tonight," the Clippers' Elton Brand said.

Bryant attorneys request accuser's medical history

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — Putting off testimony at a key hearing in the Kobe Bryant case, the trial judge sent witnesses home Friday and met privately with attorneys arguing over whether the medical history of the woman accusing the NBA star of rape should be allowed as evidence.

Attorneys for both sides left the courthouse without comment after the closed-door session ended Friday night.

The outcome of the issue before state District Judge Terry Ruckriegle could play a huge role at trial: The defense hopes to argue the woman had mental problems that could have clouded her perception of what happened between the two in a Colorado hotel room last June.

Bryant, 25, has insisted they had consensual sex.

Ruckriegle asked attorneys on both sides to spell out in briefs due Jan. 9 whether the medical history should be allowed. The issue will be taken up again at a Jan. 23 hearing.

"I want the opportunity to reflect on it," he said.

David Lugert, a defense attorney and former prosecutor, said the trial's slow pace suggested a long paper fight was coming.

"The case is going sideways," Lugert said.

Prosecutors and attorneys for the woman say her medical history should remain out of public view. They urged the judge to hold any arguments about the issue behind closed doors, and he agreed.

Among those subpoenaed by the defense to appear Friday were the accuser's mother and a former friend, Lindsey McKinney, who has said the woman tried to kill herself twice this year.

The woman's father, who was not subpoenaed, spent the day sitting in the gallery, 20 feet away from Bryant.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of sexual assault. The Lakers had a home game Friday night, but it was unclear whether the NBA star would be able to return to California in time.

In Colorado, medical records must remain sealed unless the patient consents or gives up their privacy rights. Bryant's lawyers contend the woman waived those rights because she spoke with others about her medical condition.

Specifically, the defense wants access to documents from the North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley, where authorities brought the woman in February after determining she was a "danger to herself." She was a college student in that city at the time.

Prosecutor Ingrid Bakke said allowing the medical details to be brought up before a national media audience would prevent other alleged sexual assault victims from coming forward.

"When the bell is re-rung, it revictimizes the victim," she said.

But Tom Kelley, an attorney representing media organizations, told the judge that a significant amount of information about the woman's medical and psychological history already has been reported.

"Unless someone gives graphic detail of what's in a medical record, I don't think it could be seriously argued" that the hearing should be closed, Kelley said.

John Clune, an attorney representing the woman, said her rights should be protected just as much as Bryant's were during a preliminary hearing in which his statement to investigators was played behind closed doors.

Any testimony on the medical issues should be kept secret unless the judge decides it can be used at trial, he said.



FIRST DEER — J.P. Wilson, 11, shot his first deer, a six-point buck, Nov. 28 in Scurry County. The animal was taken down with a .22 Hornet. J.P. is the son off Trey and Kara Wilson. (Contributed Photo)

St. John's fires head coach after 2-4 start

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Jarvis was fired by St. John's six games into his sixth season, the first in-season firing of a basketball coach in the 25-year history of the Big East Conference.

"Truly, after a great deal of reflection and consideration, the conclusion we came to after the overall review was to do it now as the best thing for all parties," St. John's athletic director Dave Wegrzyn said Friday, adding there was no single event or won-loss record as the catalyst.

"In an athletic department you systematically review programs and at this time we feel it is in the best interest of everyone to make this decision."

The Red Storm started this season with a 1-4 mark, the program's worst since 1922-23. There also were the arrests of two players in the last two seasons and fans at home games this season started chanting "Fire Jarvis!" earlier at each game.

Bulldogs edge Stanton

STANTON — The Ira Bulldogs squeaked past Stanton Friday, getting 26 points from Jake Barnes in a 42-41 nail-biter against Stanton.

The Bulldogs (3-6) scored just two points in the second quarter before going on a 13-5 third-quarter run.

Jess Wall pumped in six, Justin Taylor scored four points and Caleb Gutierrez and Corbin Clements hit for three each.

"We're getting a little better all the time, but we are still making too many mistakes," head coach Randy Jones said. "We are getting good experience against bigger clubs, and that will pay off in the long run."

The Bulldogs, who have not played a home date this season, will return Jan. 2 at Westbrook. They will play at home for the first time Jan. 13 against Dawson.

Hermleigh drops district openers to Blackwell

The Hermleigh Cardinals could not overcome a slow start in a 67-45 loss to Blackwell Friday in a rare, pre-Christmas district match-up.

The game was played prior to the holidays because of conflicting events at Blackwell.

The Cardinals came on late, outscoring Blackwell 14-9 in the fourth quarter, but could not recover from a 36-16 first-half deficit.

"We played well, it was just not enough," head coach Don Jones said. "We stayed with man-to-man when maybe we shouldn't have, but we are trying to learn and that's the way I'm looking at it. We have played several pretty good games lately."

Jonathan McClure led the team with 14 points, Edward Arellano knocked in 12 and Keenon Garcia contributed 11.

Dustin Williamson, Shane Berry, Robby Anderson and Justin Kelly each added two for Hermleigh.

The Lady Cards also got out of the gate slowly, falling 51-40 after trailing 26-14 at halftime.

Alana Culp scored a game-high 18 for Hermleigh, while Alicia Culp added 12.

Brittany Jones hit for six, and Brittany Kelly and Valerie West added two apiece.

Hermleigh will next suit up at Jan. 6 at Loraine.

Sports Briefs

Twilight time change

The twilight time at the WTC golf course will begin at 1 p.m. from December through February.

Mourning undergoes successful transplant

NEW YORK (AP) — Former NBA All-Star center Alonzo Mourning underwent kidney transplant surgery and was in good condition.

The surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia hospital came less than a month after Mourning retired from the New Jersey Nets because of a kidney disease. The kidney donor, a family member, also was in good condition.

Mourning, 33, retired on Nov. 24 because of complications from the disease, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis.

White returning to Oklahoma

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Heisman Trophy winner Jason White has been granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA and will return to Oklahoma next season.

White, whose previous two seasons were cut short by knee injuries, surprised his team with the announcement during a team huddle at the end of practice.

Natinoal Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
New Jersey	13	12	.520	—
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	½
Boston	13	14	.481	1
Miami	9	17	.346	4½
New York	9	18	.333	5
Washington	8	17	.320	5
Orlando	6	21	.222	8
Central Division				
Indiana	20	7	.741	—
New Orleans	17	10	.630	3
Detroit	15	11	.577	4½
Toronto	14	12	.538	5½
Milwaukee	12	14	.462	7½
Chicago	7	17	.292	11½
Cleveland	7	19	.269	12½
Atlanta	7	21	.250	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	18	10	.643	—
Minnesota	16	9	.640	½
Denver	16	10	.615	1
Dallas	15	10	.600	1½
Houston	15	10	.600	1½
Memphis	15	10	.600	1½
Utah	14	12	.538	3
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	19	5	.792	—
Sacramento	18	6	.750	1
Portland	12	11	.522	6½
Golden State	12	12	.500	7
Seattle	11	13	.458	8
L.A. Clippers	10	12	.455	8
Phoenix	9	17	.346	11

Friday's Games

Toronto 105, New York 99, OT
Cleveland 88, Philadelphia 81
Orlando 119, Golden State 93
Utah 99, Boston 96
Sacramento 98, Atlanta 86
New Jersey 97, Washington 87
Memphis 97, Miami 83
Indiana 80, Detroit 75
Houston 99, L.A. Clippers 85
San Antonio 87, Seattle 73
L.A. Lakers 101, Denver 99

Saturday's Games

Atlanta at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Indiana at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 8 p.m.
Houston at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Orlando at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Utah at Detroit, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 5 p.m.
Golden State at Miami, 5 p.m.
Portland at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
y-New England	12	2	0	.857	296	222
Miami	8	6	0	.571	268	237
Buffalo	6	8	0	.429	240	228
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	246	255
South						
x-Indianapolis	11	3	0	.786	410	288
Tennessee	10	4	0	.714	375	287
Houston	5	9	0	.357	214	333
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	242	291
North						
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	322	335
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	343	271
Pittsburgh	5	9	0	.357	250	290
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	232	273
West						
y-Kansas City	12	2	0	.857	433	284
Denver	9	5	0	.643	347	253
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	249	317
San Diego	3	11	0	.214	268	387
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
x-Philadelphia	11	3	0	.786	315	249
Dallas	9	5	0	.643	263	244
Washington	5	9	0	.357	256	314
N.Y. Giants	4	10	0	.286	216	331
South						
y-Carolina	9	5	0	.643	268	266
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	308	299
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	260	201
Atlanta	3	11	0	.214	248	380
North						
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	370	297
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	354	315
Chicago	6	8	0	.429	253	291
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	226	339
West						
y-St. Louis	11	3	0	.786	400	288
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	352	300
San Francisco	6	8	0	.429	336	285
Arizona	3	11	0	.214	197	407

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Games

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 12:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota, 4 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Jets, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Miami at Buffalo, noon
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, noon
Detroit at Carolina, noon
Washington at Chicago, noon
Tennessee at Houston, noon
Cincinnati at St. Louis, noon
Baltimore at Cleveland, noon
New Orleans at Jacksonville, noon
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 3:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
San Francisco at Philadelphia, 3:15 p.m.
Denver at Indianapolis, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

Green Bay at Oakland, 8 p.m.



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To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of SUSAN ELAINE ROGERS, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,862:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of SUSAN ELAINE ROGERS, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by ROD WALLER, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 18th day of December, 2003, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to: JOHN PAUL ROGERS, 5514 Royal Court Drive, Snyder, Texas 79549, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 18th day of December, 2003.

(s)JOHN PAUL ROGERS
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
SUSAN ELAINE ROGERS,
deceased

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

KINDER MORGAN PRODUCTION COMPANY LP, 4632 W. Hwy. 180, Snyder, Texas 79549, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject water, CO2 with H2S & hydrocarbon gas into the Canyon Reef formation, SACROC Unit Lease, Well No(s). 225-8, 225-10 & 228-6. Proposed injection wells are located approximately 5.5 to 6.0 Miles NW from Snyder, Texas in the Kelly-Snyder Field, in Scurry County. Water, CO2 with H2S & Hydrocarbon gas will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 6350' to 7250'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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Medium build part Cocker Spaniel, black & white, collar, brass bell, tags w/home phone. REWARD! 573-8649, 573-0060, 868-0381, 719-252-8894

Personal

Make my Christmas.
Need pen-pal. 41 year old white male seeks white female.
Robert Marshall
#1088362
938 S FM 1673
Snyder, TX 79549

Vehicles

1987 Cadillac D'Elegance
4-dr sedan. Great condition! Runs perfect. Safe, plush ride! $2,000 Snyder 832-656-4415

1993 5-speed Ford Ranger. Good work car. Heat & air. $2,500 573-5542

2000 Ford Eddie Bauer Expedition 21,000 miles, under warranty. Like new! 573-2053

Business Services

Duke and Son
Concrete, Masonry, House Leveling, Patchwork (brick & concrete). 573-5911, 573-2477

Housecleaning
For the holidays or on regular basis. Responsible, mature, and dependable. References.
573-0722

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•Brush control
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Clean your garage or house.
Will move furniture.
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Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 325-573-8264

Employment

-Full-time Secretary
First Baptist Church. Looking for a multi-tasked person with strong organizational skills and strong computer skills. Pick up application at 1701 27th St.

JOB VACANCY
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE
SNYDER, TEXAS 79549

POSITION: PART-TIME COMPUTERIZED BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTORS DEPARTMENT: Vocational **SALARY:** College Scale **DUTIES:** Teaching Computerized Business Technology courses offered both day and evening on campus. Courses include but may not be limited to Computerized Accounting, Keyboarding, and Word Processing. **EMPLOYMENT:** Part-time, 1 to 3 classes taught during Spring 2004 semester. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's Degree preferred in related field. Associates Degree required. Teaching experience preferred. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Positions open till filled. Review of applications will begin on January 05, 2004. Applications are available in the Admin Bldg on campus or on the WTC website: www.wtc.edu **SEND APPLICATION/RESUME TO:** Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549-9502. **DATE OF EMPLOYMENT:** January 13, 2004

WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERAN'S STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

Best Available Copy

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Employment

Full-charge Bookkeeper Needed Monday–Friday
Only experienced & qualified need apply. References required.
84 Truck & Trailer
207 Hwy 84 Bypass

CHURCH ORGANIST
wanted to play for Sunday morning services, special evening services, & Wednesday evening choir practice.
First Presbyterian Church, Snyder. Call church office at 573-6915, leave message.

Full-time secretarial position. Apply at Texas Workforce Commission, order #1240620. EOE Employer paid ad.

Need babysitter for mornings til mid afternoon, 3/4 days a week, in my home. 573-0370

NEEDED
OTR flatbed truck driver. Minimum 4 years experience, clean driving record. Come by 3707 College Ave. or call 573-3032, ask for Rudy.

Employment

Openings for CNA's full-time, LVN's full-time, & PRN/RN coverage. Apply in person, **Snyder Healthcare Center**, 5311 Big Spring Hwy.

NOW HIRING
Lone Star Industries is now taking applications for permanent employees at our cement plant in Maryneal, Texas. High school diploma or GED is required. Mechanical skills or mobile equipment experience would be helpful. Starting salary is $13.18/hr. Excellent benefits include Group Medical and Life Insurance, Vacations, Holidays, Retirement, and 401K.
To receive an application, please contact Judy Hill at (325) 288-4221 between 9:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. You may also contact her by email at **jhill@lonestarind.com**
Applications will be taken until January 7, 2004.
Lone Star Industries is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

West Texas Centers for MHMR
Quality Service for Quality Life

Human Resource Department
409 Runnels Street
Big Spring, TX 79720

West Texas Centers for MHMR has opening for a Rehabilitation Provider. Provides direct care rehabilitative services to meet the needs of consumers. High school diploma or GED. Preferred (1) year experience in human services. Salary $10.59. Part time only up to 35 hrs a week.
Applications can be obtained at 909 25th Suite 102 or by calling **JOBLINE at 800-687-2769** or Website www.wtcmhmr.org
EOE

Trojan Pipeline GP, Inc. Job Opportunities

Trojan Pipeline GP, Inc., an affiliate of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, is looking for highly qualified individuals to work in the following positions in Texas. The positions may be located from Levelland to Midland/Odessa, with the majority of the work in the Midland/Odessa area. Some relocation assistance may be offered depending upon the position and actual job site if necessary.

If you are interested in applying for one or more of these positions, please submit your resume via e-mail or fax to the numbers below. Please be clear in your cover letter which position(s) you are applying for and why you believe you are qualified for that position, and make sure to include your contact information.

The company offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package. Salaries for each position will be dependent upon education, training, skills and experience.

Operations Manager

Responsible for the safe, efficient and profitable field operations management of the crude oil transportation assets owned by pipeline. Responsibilities include the area management of operations, commercial, administrative, technical and compliance functions required for the crude oil gathering and pipeline system. Requirements include BS degree in engineering or equivalent oil and gas industry experience with accounting and office management experience. Minimum of 15 years experience in pipeline operations and maintenance with a thorough knowledge of operations, measurement, hydraulics, oil movements, construction, maintenance of facilities.

Pipeline Technician

Perform relief duties as Measurement Specialist and responsible for the accurate measurement, sampling, and custody transfer operations of various crude oil types being gathered and transported through the gathering and pipeline system. Responsible for the running of pigs and scrappers through the pipeline system. Perform duties and be responsible for the "One Call" Response System for pipeline. Duties performed include identifying and locating company's pipelines including probing, marking, and flagging and maintaining liaison and coordination with third parties and company personnel for excavations, crossings and digs of company's pipelines. high school diploma. Minimum of 5 years of experience in pipeline, measurement, tank farm and pump station operations. Strong computer skills (MS Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Internet).

All positions require a minimum of a valid driver's license, and 5 years of directly applicable experience in the specific area/discipline. You must be capable of obtaining DOT qualification and prior demonstrated ability to do so will be considered a plus.

Please send your resume to:

E-mail: OOGC_HR_staffing@oxy.com
Fax: 713-985-1253
Attn: Kristie Broadaway
Please indicate Job Title in the reference line.

EOE M/F/D/V

OXY

Oxy Permian

Maintenance and Reliability Specialist

(Mechanical Focus)

Oxy Permian, an affiliate of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, has an excellent opportunity available for a Maintenance and Reliability Specialist with Mechanical Focus.

Responsibilities of position include repair, preventive/predictive maintenance, and troubleshooting of pipeline and oilfield surface equipment. These duties will consist of mechanical repair of centrifugal and positive displacement pumps as well as other equipment. Individual must be able to assist with development and implementation of preventive/predictive programs, perform root cause failure analysis, and repair equipment with a focus on lowering the total operating cost of all equipment while maintaining the highest standards for HES performance. Additional duties include supervising contract mechanical labor when appropriate.

Position requires demonstrated knowledge of equipment best practices (specification, inspection, installation, repair, & etc.), and a thorough knowledge of piping systems and surface equipment to include tanks, valves, P-D & centrifugal pumps, compressors, motors, engines, etc. Minimum requirements: high school diploma/GED, valid driver's license, 5-10 years of pipeline/oilfield experience required. Individual must be capable of obtaining DOT qualification and prior demonstrated ability to do so will be considered a plus.

Please send a resume to:

E-mail: OOGC_HR_staffing@oxy.com
Fax: 713-985-1253
Attn: Kristie Broadaway
Please indicate Job Title in the reference line.

EOE M/F/D/V

Employment

ATTN: SNYDER
Postal positions. Clerks/carriers/sorters. No exp. required. Benefits. For exam, salary, and testing information call (630)393-3032 ext. 2158
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. 7 days

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MARY KAY COSMETICS
Complimentary Facial or Reorders!
Call Geraldine Thames
915-573-9433, 1812 38th Snyder

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$1000 REWARD
for information on 7 stolen calves. I will not prosecute the informer. George Maule

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2 used pianos, $30 each today. $5 dropped daily until sold. Pioneer Furniture, 2310 College

All Jewelry
Buy 1, get 2nd for 1/2 price!
SuZs Candles
1907 40th St.

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BABY...and Before
!!Christmas Wear!!
(infant & toddler)
1/2 Price!
1809 25th 573-0990

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Check availability on any item.
573-8354
Avon Independent Representative

Chrome grill guards (Chevy). JR 50 Suzuki dirt bike. Great starter bike, great shape. 573-4118

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Good working used computers. Complete video, sound/speakers, modem, internet ready, monitor, keyboard & mouse. STARTING at $45. Call 432-263-0700, BIG SPRING.

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Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

Firewood!! Mesquite & Oak
Local cutter. Part seasoned. 24"-22"-20"-18". Some split. Delivered
573-1216, leave message

Great Holiday Gifts
Shelled pecans for sale.
573-2505

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Builder's Special - Truckload Trees
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Decker's Farm Supply & Nursery
Stanton, TX 432-756-3444

Merchandise

Kid's battery operated riding toys – Harley Davidson cycle & Eliminator dune buggy. $100/ea. 573-5525

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Gift Baskets
SuZs Candles
1907 40th St.

Mesquite Firewood
1/2 cord, cord. Custom cut any size. Split & delivered.
573-7683 after 7p.m.

Saddle
beautiful, heavy tooled, 16" padded seat, Yoakum circle Y. Very nice, super comfortable. $950 Snyder 832-656-4415

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Metal detectors by White's Electronics.
325-728-2494 Colorado City

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1 bedroom apartment, bills paid, furnished, new paint, carpet. Good location. 573-5525 573-0990

College Park Apartments
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2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex.
Locally owned.
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Fieldcrest Apartments
1 bedroom/1 bath - $325
(very big bedroom)
2 bedroom/1+ bath - $350
***We pay water**
***You pay electricity**
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(ac coliseum)
57. **573-1681**

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3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
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1 Bedroom. 1 Bath. Pool
2 Bedrooms. 2 bath
W/D Connections. Pool & Playground

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3741 Highland 2-1-1
$375/mo., plus deposit
Call Shirley Drum
573-5056 207-0506

Mobile Homes For Rent

3B-2B, CH/A, covered deck, storage, HUD approved. $450/mo., $300/dep. 2010 Merrill 573-2251

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Dee Kemp
573-1152


Annette Waller
573-9467


Keith Hackfeld
573-2873

2803 El Paso 4-2-office, lrg CP Nice $109.5T
New! 2701 47th 4-2½-2 + shop $150T
3004 42nd 3-1-1, brick SOLD $37T
2205 42nd 3-1-1 + big bldg $34T
513 34th 2-1, Clean, Nice! $17T
2609 37th 3-2¾-2, Nice, Lrg $107.5T
3401 Houston 3-1¾, lrg living, w/FP $62T
3311 Ave. U 3-2-2, FP Very nice! $82.5T
3201 Houston 3-2-2, very nice $92T
Colonial Hill CONTRACT PENDING 110T
2605 33rd 3-4½-3, plus office CALL
SUPER NICE! 4021 Eastridge 3-2-1 Red $47T
403 36th 3-2-2, fireplace, CH/A $49.5T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2¾-2 huge kitchen $87.5T
2415 O'Neil 4-2 mobile home $50T
Building & 1½ lots 1310 25th $13T
900 25th Call
Comm. Bldg. 1802 College $16T
Shop w/2 offices & waiting room,fenced yard, 87 A's 23rd St. "Old Gail Rd" Call
Reduced 3311 College Ave. $38T
Established local restaurant, Good location
1701 25th St. $90T
2309 25th Call
1801 22nd Reduced Commercial office/yd
1706 25th St. CALL
2005 26th St. $45T
3-2-2 brick home - 50 acres, 40 acres pasture, 8 acres orchard, NE of Snyder on CR 1105 Reduced $98T

105 acres pasture & cult., mobile home, SW Hermleigh $55T
5 acres, Mobile Home 2-1-shop, 4 mi. West of Hermleigh Reduced $16T
For Sale or Rent: 378 CR 251 2-1-1 with 2 acres $35T
320 Acres, CRP & hunting IRA
6 to 22 acres tracts Owner Finance
Corner Lot: 17th & Ave. T $3,200
960 Acres Ira - 480 A's CRP & 480 A's shinnery, brick 4-3, shop. Excellent quail hunting
196 Acre blackland farm NE Dunn on FM 1606, good cotton yield Call
7.5 Acres - Round Top Acres - Tank stocked w/fish, dock, windmill, water well – Great Home Site **Call**
480 A's Fisher Co., Great hunting place - water, turkey, deer, quail, doublewide, bunk house, D6 Cat & tractor Call!
Camp Springs - 147 Acres, windmill, concrete water storage, earth tank, 44 acres cropland Call
620 Acres pasture & 152 cultivation, hunting, quail & dove, SW Hermleigh
160 Acres - Farm - East of Dunn on CR 4136 $475/acre
152 Acres - East of Dunn - Farm on CR 4136 $475/acre
109 Acres, South City Limits, native grass, great country location, close in! $325/acre Call

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★ ★ RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS ★ ★

2803 El Paso new carpet, flooring & paint, 4-2¼-2cp, plus office Call
Large Family Home -- 2807 Westridge 6 bdrms, 4 baths, 4-car garage Reduced $175T
2609 37th 3-3-2 $107.5T
New! 3001 Beaumont 3-2-2, 2 LA's $97.5T
4517 Galveston 3-2-2-2 living areas Call
3201 Houston 3-2-2, lrg den Red. $92T
2904 34th 2-2½, 2 living areas $89.5T
Great Location 4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2 $87.5T
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 Reduced $55T
4109 Eastridge 3-2-2, new carpet & tile $41.5T
Edge of Town - 1601 Hilltop Lane - Brick 3-1-2cp plus storm cellar $49.5T
3749 Avondale 3-1¾ $39T
Investors - 2609 Ave. U Brick Duplex $35T
Edge of Town CONTRACT PENDING $31.5T
224 33rd St. 2-1-2 living areas $25T
3005 Ave. T 3-1 Reduced $7,500
Small Cabin C-City Lake 1-1 $14T
Trailer to be moved 2-2 $12.5T
Several residential lots, East 35th St. Call

★ ★ COUNTRY LIVING ★ ★

McBeth Pecan Farm 3 bedroom house with 15+ acres Reduced!
1745 Keller 3-1½-2, barn plus 15 acres Move right in! Call for details
150 Acres + 3-2, 2 LA's Call for details Will sell house + 8 acres $37.5T
CR 243 5 acres, 3-2-2, 2 SOLD $66.5T

★ ★ COMMERCIAL LISTINGS ★ ★

Great Location - Apx. 4 acres - 10,000 sq.ft. + or -, 600 37th St. Reduced $100's
Need Several Offices? 2515 College Ave. Living Quarters in back Call!
Car Lot - 709 Hwy 180 $40T
Houston & 37th - Apx. 28.6 acres $75T
Downtown - 1818 26th $35T
North College Ave $15T
1100 25th St. $25T
East 37th - Bldg. with 1½ acres $35T
Westerner Golfland Call for details
1822 26th St. $44.5T

★ ★ LAND ★ ★

13 lots South of Northeast Elementary $15T
South of W. Hwy 180 81.39 Acres $32.4T
190 Acres SW of Hermleigh, approx. 150 acres cult., approx. 40 pasture 425/ acre
Several lots in Round Top Acres area Call
160 acres east - Cult & pasture $375/acre
Several lots with Mobile Home hook-ups -- shop & water well $15T
Lot at 25th & Y $12.5T
Lot at 28th & Y $6,500
New! Approx 158 acres cult. $375/acre

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Wenona Evans
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Kayla Moreland
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Broker/Owner
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Mobile Homes

3B-2B-3CP, CH/A, 6 lots, water well, fenced, large shop, 959 N Ave. R., $5,000/dwn, $500/mo. 573-2251

Cemetery Plots

For Sale
(5) cemetery lots in Hillside Gardens. Sell each or multiple. $600/each. 866-854-3952

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

Business building for rent. 1900 37th St. 573-5285

Real Estate

Snyder 1½ miles
3-2-2 brick home, new carpet and paint. 160 acres cotton, 510 yield. 806-780-6399

COUNTRY HOME
4B-2B-2CG, panel-ray heat, room AC's, own septic system. $5,000/dwn., $600/mo. 1811 Huffman 573-2251

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down, low monthly. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 133 Milburn. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living areas, fenced backyard, close to schools. 418 29th St. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

Lake Thomas house for sale. 2-story w/balcony, 1½ bath. Call 325-207-3372.

Owner Finance
2-1, fenced, large rooms, remodeled bath & kitchen. 218 29th St. $1,000/dwn., $350/mo. 12 yrs Call **207-0508**

Owner Will Finance
*2811 Ave. X 3-1
*3115 Ave. T Large 2-1, w/attached 1-1 apartment
Low down payment, low monthly payment.
Call Milton, 806-790-0827.

Redecorate for down payment. 3-2-2 luxury brick, Colonial Hills, fenced, trees. $78,500 573-4425 573-1550

Rent To Own
3-2-1, CH/A. $500/dwn, $525/mo. for 10 years. Call 432-524-4327.

3718 Ave. V
3B-1B-1CG, CH/A, cellar, fenced yard. Good condition. $37,500 $2,500/dwn., $550/mo. 573-2251

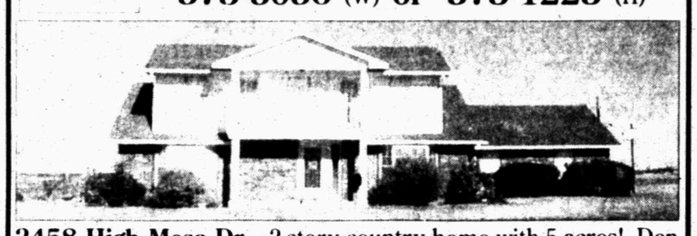
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573-8571 573-3452

REDUCED! Lrg 2 story 4-3-2, pool, 6.44 Acres
3-1¾-2cp, 2 storage areas, 220 35th...$35T
Fluvanna 3-2, den on .34 A's water well Bargain
REDUCED! 600 29th 2-1-1, office, den...$18T
Owner Finance Lrg. Mobile Home 2-2, 302 24th Nice.....$20T
3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining...$35T
REDUCED! 17 UNDER CONTRACT $65T
111 Peach 2 or 3-1.....$9.5T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
Good Shop Bldg. or Garage 1802 College $16T
Commercial Property for Sale or Lease
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call
We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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IN THE CLASSIFIEDS
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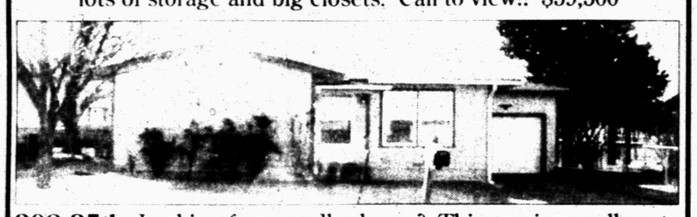
Call **Faye Blackledge** for an appointment to view today!
Heritage Homes Realtors
573-5056 (W) **or 573-1223** (H)



2458 High Mesa Dr. 2-story country home with 5 acres! Den with cozy fireplace, formal dining, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, large game room or 4th bedroom. The floor space and storage are great and also has a nice covered patio and deck. Priced in the $100's.



2411 27th St. This roomy older home has so much potential!!! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen with bar, 2 living areas, lots of storage and big closets. Call to view!! $59,500



208 35th Looking for a smaller home? This one is a really cute and clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath w/dining room plus a one car garage. Priced to sell at $23,000.

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Happy Holidays From Our Homes To Yours!

EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

New Listing 2104 41st 4-1-1 .....Call
208 35th Neat 2-1, dining $23T
Round Top Acres Wonderful family home! 3-2, game room, small office, 5 acres $100's
3501 Houston - 3-1¾-1, fenced, storage bldg., close to Jr. High & West Elem. .....$50's
3115 Ave. T w/Contract Pending $26T
208 Chestnut on 4 lots, 3-2 Very cute $55T
3750 Sunset - 3-1½-2 .....$55.5T
2411 27th - Extra nice older home - 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, carport .....$50's
2801 34th 3-1¾-2 .....A Steal at $78T
2901 Westridge - Wonderful Area & Great Home - 3-2, 2 LA's, 2 car garage .....$100's
4507 Galveston - You will love this! - 3-2-2, with pool .....Call for more details
109 34th - First Home! - 3-1 .....$20's
Charming 3110 Ave. U 3-2-cp $49,500
Bank Acquired! Beautiful 3-3½, office 1613 Augusta
4003 Midland - Nearly new 4-2-2, open concept $90's
3606 Hill Ave. 3-2-1 .....$44,900
2501 36th - Bed/Contract Pending/**tom Home** Very spacious 4-3½-3 .....Call to view!
3002 37th - Updated & Cute, brick 2-1 .$51T
Hermleigh 3 bedroom house w/4 apts $100T
835 Dunn - Hermleigh 3-2½, living, den $25T
Like New! 4-2 doublewide $39.5T
New Listing! 8709 48rd 2-2, corner lot, beautiful yard $47.5T
2306 29th Contract Pending $13,590

COMMERCIAL

3311 College - Building & 2 lots $40T
Antiques/Flea Market Bldg & Inventory $69.5T Terms
N. College - 1 plus acres Excellent bldg. site $70T
1601 College - Shop w/office, fenced $30's
Large 2 story - several office spaces $40's
5109 College Comm. Lot 2 acres ...$90's
College Ave. Frontage, over 7 acres ..Call
S. College - Excellent bldg. site, 1.61 A's $80T
Golf Land - Great buy & extra income ..$50's
N. of Town - Excellent shop w/storage bldgs $100's
3 Commercial Lots 610 26th St. ...$6,500

OTHER LISTINGS

3201 Houston - Walk to school - Immaculate 3-2-2 .....$90's
2803 El Paso - Open Concept - Updated 4-2 plus office .....$100's
2609 37th 3-3-2, 3 LA's, hobby room REDUCED
513 34th Updated 2-1, Great rental prop. $17T
One of a kind! Custom, 2605 33rd ...Call
2274 McMullan - Mobile home site, has well $5T
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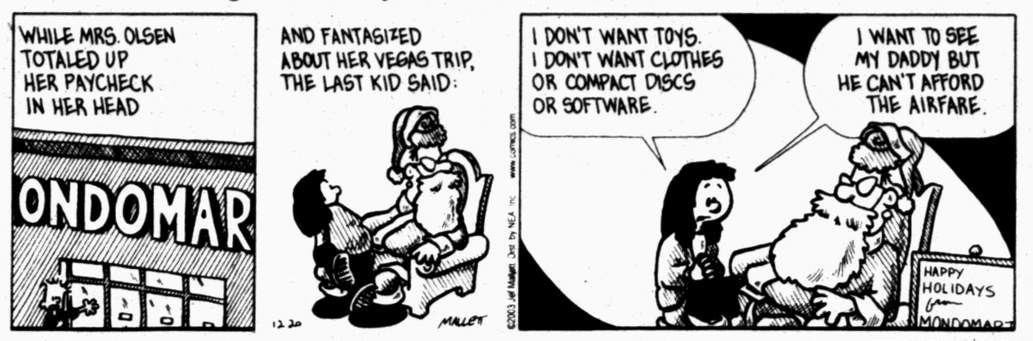
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A mall and the right visitor by Jef Mallett



Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The use of calcium for osteoporosis

DEAR DR. GOTT: The women in my family tend to have problems with osteoporosis. My sister and I are in our early 40s and worry that we are predisposed to the "dowager's hump" that other family members have.

We've begun taking calcium tablets and my sister insists that the mineral must be taken at bedtime because so many foods interfere with its absorption. Is this correct? What else can we do to maintain healthy bones?

DEAR READER: Some forms of osteoporosis do seem to run in families. The reason for this is not understood; it may be genetic or secondary to poor nutritional practices. In any case, I strongly advise you and your sister to have bone density examinations, first as a baseline, then at regular intervals thereafter. If the testing reveals that your bones are deficient in calcium, you (and/or your sister) will have to consider more aggressive anti-osteoporosis therapy with Fosamax or Actonel.

If, on the other hand, your bones are normal, the calcium supplements alone may be a suitable preventive.

Many authorities recommend that calcium pills be taken in the evening because of supposed negative interaction with food. However, I have found that this is unnecessary. After all, high-calcium foods, such as milk and cheese, are consumed at mealtime and, as far as I know, are not inactivated or handicapped by what a person is eating. So, I think it's OK for you to take your calcium supplements (plus vitamin D, which aids calcium absorption) at any convenient time.

Remember, too, that an active exercise program will help retard the development of osteoporosis. And, for obvious reasons, you and your family members must make a consistent effort to stand straight and not slouch; such a practice should help reduce the possibility of dowager's hump.

In summary, you and your sister should continue your calcium/vitamin D pills, have bone densities, and follow your doctor's advice from that point on.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Osteoporosis." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Your recent response to a reader who wanted to store water in preparation for a terrorist attack was incomplete. Those of us in coastal areas that are at risk for hurricane damage routinely store water as a sensible precaution.

DEAR READER: I agree. But hurricane damage is usually short-lived and is correctable, unlike a major terrorist attack that could literally wipe out a source of water for an indefinite time. I see no useful purpose to be served by storing drinking water in preparation for an attack because you will eventually exhaust your supply. Then what?

DEAR DR. GOTT: Over the years, I've had frequent bouts of cystitis, despite taking precautions. I'm reluctant to take the repeated courses of antibiotics prescribed by my physician. I'm on the pill, but recently read that the use of a condom could possibly prevent the problem. Could I be reacting to my husband in an adverse way? Your good advice is refreshing, especially when it is spiced with a wonderful sense of humor.

DEAR READER: Thanks for the compliment. However, it's darned difficult to be funny about something as annoying as cystitis, a common bladder infection in women that causes painful and frequent urination, often with blood in the urine.

Marriage is tough enough without the burden of spousal allergy. To relieve your concerns, you are not reacting adversely to your husband; rather, you may be plagued with cystitis as a result of the sex act. While having intercourse, with or without a condom, you may be the victim of bacteria that are introduced into the bladder via the urethra, the short tube through which women expel urine.

The current dogma is that the bacteria, which normally populate the female's external genitals, enter the bladder during sexual arousal. Once inside — where the warm, moist and dark environment favors bacterial growth — the germs reproduce like crazy, causing cystitis. In my practice, I've found a helpful and easy strategy to avoid this infection. To begin with, you have to wipe yourself meticulously, from behind, after a bowel movement. Be very careful not to contaminate your genitals during the procedure.

Then, after relations, empty your bladder. In this way, you'll be washing out any bacteria that may have entered the bladder. More important, you'll deprive the microorganisms of a suitable environment in which to multiply. Try this post-coital urinating trick and let me know how it works.

In any case, since I've absolved your husband of any responsibility, I hope he is grateful enough to send me a gift. Money will do fine (or his 1966 Mustang convertible). Just kidding.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Bladder and Urinary Tract Infections." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a perplexing situation.

About a month ago, I went to my allergist for a routine visit. He alerted me that the lymph glands in my neck were swollen. I had no symptoms. He suggested I see my family physician. I took his advice and my doctor gave me a 10-day course of antibiotics. The nodes remained enlarged, so I went to see an otolaryngologist who has treated me for chronic sinus infections in the past.

The specialist ordered a CT scan that showed sinusitis, nasal polyps and no unusual nodes. Upon returning to my family physician, his feeling was that this was a non-issue. But I am worried about lymphoma. Where do I go from here?

DEAR READER: Stay where you are. I do not view your concerns as a "perplexing issue." To help you understand why, let me explain.

Lymph nodes perform at least two major functions in the body.

First, they act as filters to prevent localized infection from spreading. For example, in the presence of foot infection, the lymph glands in the groin enlarge just doing their job; a hand infection often leads to swollen lymph glands in the armpits; infection in the head and neck area cause lymph glands in the neck to swell. More on that in a moment.

The second important function of these tissues is to produce blood cells (lymphocytes) to fight infection. In the process of shifting into high gear, the glands will understandably enlarge and often become tender.

Based on the CT scan finding, I believe there is ample evidence that your swollen glands are reacting normally to a sinus infection by filtering and producing more infection-fighters.

If you had lymphoma, a form of lymph-node cancer, you would have symptoms of lassitude and fever, other lymph nodes in your body would (inappropriately) enlarge and the CT scan would have shown an abnormal pattern. This was not the case. Consequently, I feel confident in assuring you that your condition, called physiological lymphadenopathy, is normal and harmless. Having said that, I want to cover all the bases; therefore, I recommend that you meet with your ear, nose and throat specialist to determine what he advises can be done about your sinusitis and nasal polyps. Do you need an extended course of antibiotics? A nasal steroid spray? Surgery? I don't know.

Finally, if your nodes remain enlarged for several weeks despite therapy, I suppose a cautious physician might consider biopsy. But I do not view that to be a viable option at this point.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude and appreciation for the outpouring of heartfelt support and prayers extended to us in the loss of our loved one, Joe.

Each act of kindness and understanding, whether a card, flowers, phone call, letter, food, donations, condolences, items of need or a personal visit, touched each of us deeply and will never be forgotten.

The family asks that the Lord bless you and keep you.
That the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you in your going out and your coming in,
in your lying down and in your rising up,
in your labor and in your leisure,
in your laughter and in your tears,
until you come to stand before Jesus in that day
in which there is no sunset and no dawning.

The Family of Joe Simmons

Two airmen buried 31 years after crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-one years to the day their Air Force B-52 bomber was shot down over communist North Vietnam, the remains of two U.S. airmen were buried Friday at Arlington National Cemetery.

Maj. Richard W. Cooper, Jr., of Salisbury, Md., and Chief Master Sgt. Charlie S. Poole, of Gibsland, La., were crew members aboard the bomber when it was struck by a surface-to-air missile on Dec. 19, 1972 after completing an attack mission over Hanoi. The plane crashed about six miles southwest of Hanoi.

Cooper was the navigator, and Poole was the aerial gunner.

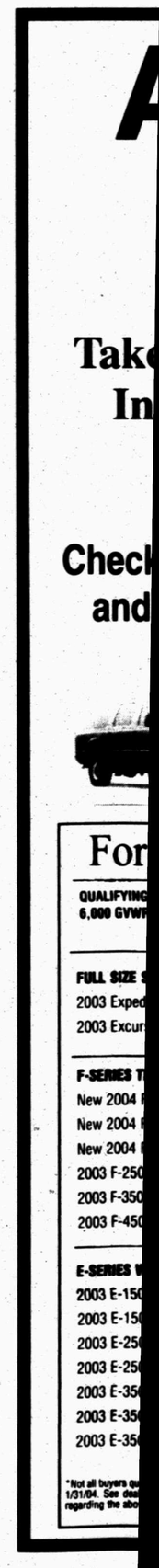
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CHRISTMAS FUN — Snyder ISD Family Literacy and HIPPY families enjoyed *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* Tuesday night. Santa Claus even visited the children. The event was a parent and child time (PACT) activity for the two groups. More than 100 people attended. PACT activities are an initiative of the Texas Head Start Educational Component Grant Initiative and Title I programs. (Contributed Photos)

Texas military troops experience both highs and lows in 2003

FORT HOOD (AP) — From the tragedy of a convoy ambush in the opening days of the Iraq war to the elation of this month's capture of Saddam Hussein, troops from Texas have been in the thick of the action.

And that won't change any time soon.

Roughly 20,000 soldiers from this Central Texas post will head to Iraq early in 2004 to replace troops currently deployed. About the same number of troops from Fort Hood's 4th Infantry Division on duty there now are scheduled to return home in the spring.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, Fort Hood's commander, will be among those shipping out.

"I anticipate the fight will continue to be tough," Metz said. "Our troops are constantly getting more ready. We're continuing to ramp up and are getting better every day."

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Gonzales, who grew up in Lubbock, divides his life between a barrage of last-minute training and cramming in as much time as possible with his wife and four children.

"I'm eager to serve my country — this is what I came into the military for," said Gonzales, an 18-year veteran who previously served in the Persian Gulf War. "It's the opportunity to show the people of the United States that we're here for a purpose. It's about honor."

It will be the first war zone for Spc. Sara Ruiz, a 22-year-old X-ray technician with the 27th Main Support Battalion. The mother of a 20-month-old boy named Aiden, she says she's more eager to get going than she is nervous about what she'll encounter in Iraq.

"It concerns me but I have a lot of confidence in my company and my battalion," said Ruiz, a native of Gillett, Pa. "We've been training on how to handle ambushes, how to protect ourselves, how to protect other people."

The war was only a few days old when members of the 507th Maintenance Company, stationed at Fort Bliss near El Paso, were trying to protect themselves and each other after being ambushed outside the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah.

The March 23 attack left nine soldiers dead, among them Chief Warrant Office Johnny Villarreal Mata and Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, both of El Paso; Spc. Edward Anguiano of Los Fresnos; and Spc. James Kiehl of Comfort.

Texans were also among a group of five prisoners from the 507th released in mid-April — Spc. Edgar Hernandez of Alton and Spc. Shosanna Johnson from Houston.

"I feel that my heart wants to burst out of my chest," an exulted Maria de la Luz Hernandez said on the day she heard her son, Edgar, had been freed. "I'm going to have a heart attack here with so much happiness."

Jill Kiehl, then seven months pregnant, endured nearly two weeks of anxiety waiting for word from Iraq about her missing husband of nearly two years.

When it came, the news was not good: he was among those found buried outside the hospital where Pvt. Jessica Lynch, also a member of the 507th, was rescued by Marines.

"When I first heard about this, I just screamed, 'We're over there to help you! 'Why are you doing this?'" Jill Kiehl said.

In all, 22 Texans have been killed in action, according to military reports. The latest was Staff Sgt. Gary Collins of Hardin, who died Nov. 8 while riding in a Bradley fighting vehicle that ran over a homemade bomb.

"I figured his odds of surviving were way better than the average person that hadn't had the training he had," Don Collins said of his son, a 12-year veteran. "His spirit will live with me — even though it's a big hole in my heart."

Five of those Texas soldiers killed were based at Fort Hood, which has seen a total of 14 soldiers killed in action. Another nine soldiers from the state have died in accidents and other non-combat incidents in Iraq.

As the number of casualties has grown, some family members of deployed soldiers have become increasingly critical of the war. Some two dozen Texans with relatives in Iraq held a public protest in San Antonio in November.

"If my husband got killed and I hadn't done everything I could to bring him home, I'd never forgive myself," said Candance Robison, a 27-year-old mother of two from suburban Dallas. Her husband, Army 1st Lt. Mike Robison, is serving with the 82nd Airborne Division.

A number of families at Fort Hood were swept up in the jubilation felt by their soldiers, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team that on Dec. 13 unearthed Saddam Hussein in a hiding hole near the former dictator's hometown of Tikrit.

Kelly Wommack says her husband, Staff Sgt. Joey Wommack, was bubbling over with enthusiasm when he called home a couple of days after the capture.

"It was just like he had won the lottery or something," she said. "I was just ecstatic for him. ... I don't know how you can top your career (after this). He's on Cloud Nine."

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2003 E-250 Cargo Van Commercial	$27,040	$3,000	0%	$300	$27,040
2003 E-250 Extended Cargo Van Commercial	$28,845	$3,000	0%	$300	$28,845
2003 E-350 Super Duty Cargo Van Commercial	$28,440	$3,000	0%	$300	$28,440
2003 E-350 SD Extended Cargo Van Commercial	$29,875	$3,000	0%	$300	$29,875
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

U.S., Japan to send more troops to Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The Spanish prime minister paid a surprise visit to his country's soldiers in Iraq on Saturday, affirming his support for the occupation as the United States said it was deploying more troops.

In a trip reminiscent of President Bush's Thanksgiving Day visit to Iraq, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar left Friday night with a 16-members delegation to meet with member of the 1,300-strong Spanish contingent in Iraq, based in the southern town of Diwaniyah.

"He is there now. He will have lunch and come home," an official said at Aznar's Moncloa Palace office in Madrid.

The visit comes as the United States and its allies struggle to keep order in Iraq. In an apparent revenge campaign, gunmen fired on two former officials of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party in separate attacks, officials said Saturday. One was killed; the other was critically wounded and her 5-year-old son slain.

Aznar has staunchly supported the United States despite widespread opposition at home. Ten Spaniards have died in Iraq since August, and the worst attack — an ambush in late November — left seven Spanish intelligence agents dead.

The visit came as senior military officials in Washington said the Pentagon is sending an additional 2,000 troops to Iraq and extending the deployment of another unit.

Japan also said it was dispatching 1,000 troops on a humanitarian mission to southern Iraq — the country's first deployment to a conflict zone since World War II.

On Saturday, an Iraqi police officer said U.S. troops mistakenly shot and killed three Iraqi police and wounded two others, thinking they were bandits.

The policemen were manning a checkpoint on a road in the Sleiman Beg area, 55 miles south of Kirkuk in northeast Iraq, when U.S. troops opened fire on them around midnight Friday, said Lt. Salam Zangana of the Kirkuk police force. He said two other policemen were wounded.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military.

Sustained terrorist threat talk baffles analysts in nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials are telling holiday travelers to be vigilant about the threat of terrorist attacks, a warning prompted in part by a raised level of ominous intercepted communications that hasn't quieted for months.

The significance of the sustained level of intelligence "chatter" is unclear, the officials said.

Homeland Security officials said they did not expect the national threat warning to be raised from yellow — the midpoint on its five-color scale — to orange unless more specific intelligence was received.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, analysts have observed a pattern of spikes in the chatter and other threat intelligence suggesting possible new assaults. Those spikes were always followed by periods of relative calm.

But since late summer, that pattern has been broken. The threat intelligence has poured in at a sustained rate, officials said, but it has been frustratingly short of specifics — no credible information to suggest a time, target or method of attack.

"The Department of Homeland Security remains very concerned about the volume of reporting of threats against U.S. interests both here and abroad," said spokesman Brian Roehrkasse. "We continue to encourage our homeland security professionals to be on a heightened state of alert, especially as we enter this busy holiday travel period."

Intelligence officials said they don't know what to make of the new pattern in threat chatter — a shorthand term that describes intercepted communications and other intelligence.

The change could mean an attack is in the offing, officials acknowledged.

But it could, instead, be the product of terrorists' efforts to scare people and fool the warning system by making false threats over communications channels, on the assumption that U.S. intelligence will hear them.

Or it could mean nothing at all, the officials said. Some increases in chatter have not been associated with attempted terrorist strikes.

Much of the threat information suggests attacks directed at U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, officials said. The State Department recommended this week that its nonessential diplomatic personnel as well as diplomatic families leave the Saudi kingdom.

No police blotter

Due to computer problems at the Law Enforcement Center, the blotter will not be available until Monday.

Bush urges other nations to give up weapons of mass destruction

WASHINGTON (AP) — After winning concessions from Libya, President Bush urged other nations to recognize that the pursuit of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons brings not influence or prestige, but "isolation and otherwise unwelcome consequences."

Bush's remarks alluded to the Iraq war that toppled Saddam Hussein over his alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction and were apparently aimed at North Korea and Iran, still suspected of seeking and developing banned weapons.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Bush, in back-to-back appearances late Friday in Britain and at the White House, announced that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi had agreed after nine months of secret talks to halt his nation's drive for such weapons and the long-range missiles to deliver them.

The series of negotiations and onsite inspections by U.S. and British experts were initiated by the long-reviled Gadhafi in March, shortly after he agreed to a settlement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The result, Bush and Blair said, was that Libya agreed to disclose all its weapons of mass destruction and related programs and to open the North African country to international weapons inspectors to oversee their elimination.

Libya's most significant acknowledgment was that it had a program intended to enrich uranium for use in nuclear weapons, a senior Bush administration official said.

Bush visits wounded U.S. soldiers at Walter Reed medical facility

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush visited the war-wounded Thursday at a local military hospital and said those who tend to soldiers' injuries are "helping to protect America" just as much as troops on the battlefield.

"All of you here today are engaged in a great cause, a noble cause, an important cause for our country, and for freedom and peace," Bush told some 200 cheering doctors, nurses and other staff of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "By your good work, you're helping to protect America."

Before speaking to the hospital staff, Bush met privately with a few dozen soldiers who have served in U.S. missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, some still unable to move out of their rooms and others in rehabilitation as outpatients in the facility's physical and occupational therapy unit.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush awarded 21 Purple Hearts, the military award for wounded service members, during his visit.

Of the 220 admitted patients now at Walter Reed, about 40 inpatients are battle casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obituaries

Pat Bills

1918-2003

Pat W. Bills of Snyder died Friday, Dec. 19, in Medical Center Hospital in Odessa.

Graveside service for Mr. Bills, 85, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Loving Cemetery in Loving. The Rev. Hubert Foust, retired Methodist minister, will officiate. Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born Nov. 13, 1918, he married Nelda Rice on March 18, 1938 in Loving. She died March 8, 1995.

Mr. Bills moved to Snyder in 1949 and retired as maintenance superintendent from Monsanto in 1983.

A Baptist, Mr. Bills was a member of the Loving Masonic Lodge.

He also was preceded in death by his parents, John and Clemmie Cook Bills; one brother, J.R. Bills; and one sister, Leota Bills Miller.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Sonya and Orville Watson of Lafayette, La., and Patsy and Bill Dubose of Odessa; two brothers, Donald Bills of Amarillo and Jack Bills of Kerrville; two sisters, Mary Glen Mayes of Grandview and Dorothy Ligon of Loving; two grandsons, Jim Watson and wife Sabrina of Houston, and Bill Dubose Jr. and wife Rebecca of Odessa; three granddaughters, Lori Charnell Brownlow and husband David of Odessa, Kelly R. Watson of Lafayette, and Shana Michelle Dubose of Odessa; and seven great-grandchildren.

Family visitation was scheduled from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Friends are contributing to the Loving Cemetery Fund in Loving, 76062.

Wilbert Sneed

1938-2003

FONTANA, Calif. — Wilbert Sneed, brother of Red Sneed of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, in Fontana. Service for Mr. Sneed is set for 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27, in the Inguld Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in a Fontana Cemetery.

Mr. Sneed was born in Gauze, Texas, and had lived in California many years.

He also is survived by one daughter, Linda; and three sons, Wilbert Sneed Jr., Pappy Sneed and Tony Sneed, all of California.

Joyce Boyd

1939-2003

SWEETWATER — Joyce Geron Boyd, the mother of Sherry Harbin of Snyder, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Funeral service for Mrs. Boyd, 64, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Broadway Baptist Church. The Revs. Lyndel Mix, Ervin Lehrman and James Baker will officiate. Burial will follow in the Garden of Memories under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 8, 1939 in Shallowater, she was a 1957 graduate of Sweetwater High School and married Arthur Ray Boyd on Feb. 9, 1957 in Sweetwater.

Mrs. Boyd, a homemaker, was a lifelong resident of Sweetwater and had been a member of the Broadway Baptist Church for more than 40 years.

She was preceded in death by her father, Arthur Dee Geron, on Sept. 26, 1989.

Survivors include her husband, Arthur Ray Boyd of Sweetwater; a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and De'Ann Boyd of Sweetwater; a son-in-law, Kenny Harbin of Snyder; a brother Jackie Geron of Sweetwater; her mother, Irene Geron of Sweetwater; five grandchildren, Sydnie Gossett, Amanda Boyd, Bryan Boyd, Britt Harbin and BranDee Harbin; and two great-grandchildren, Avery and Drake Gossett.

The family suggests memorials to the Hendrick Hospice Care, 1682 Hickory in Abilene; or to the Broadway Baptist Church, 710 East 3rd in Sweetwater.

Visitation will be from 6-8 Saturday night at McCoy Funeral Home in Sweetwater.

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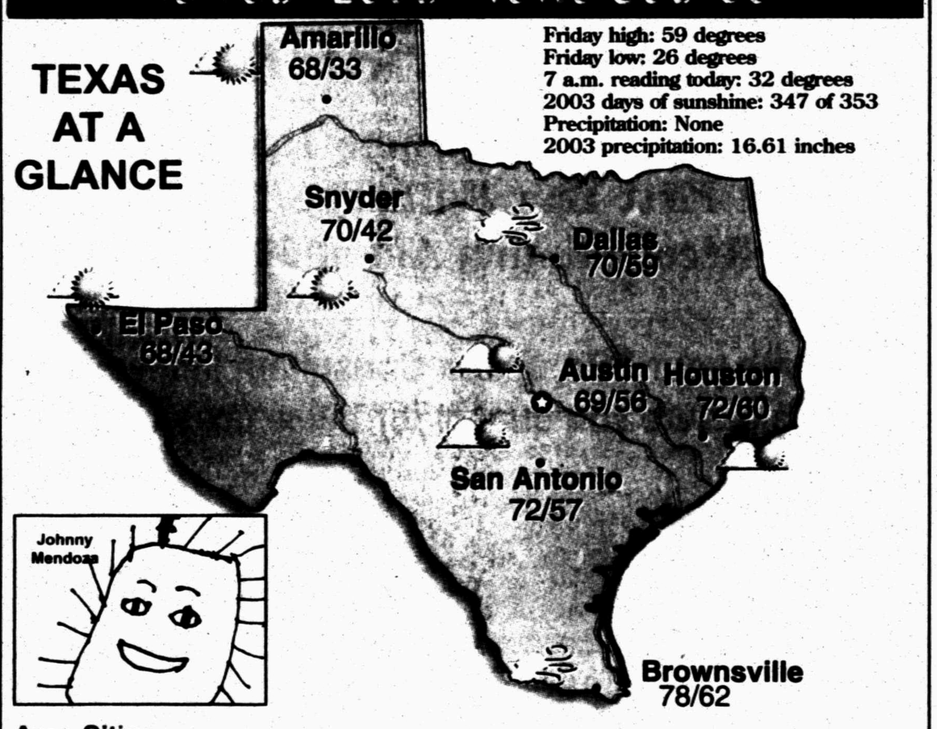
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200 East 37th St.
Snyder, Texas
325-573-6200

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 12/21	Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23
70/42	59/36	49/31
Sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds. High around 70F.	Windy with times of sun and clouds.	Few showers. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:42 AM Sunset 5:42 PM	Sunrise 7:42 AM Sunset 5:42 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM Sunset 5:43 PM

—Come Rain or Snow—
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS
Is Your Local News Source



Friday high: 59 degrees
Friday low: 26 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 32 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 347 of 353
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	71	51	windy	El Paso	68	43	mst sunny	Midland	73	42	mst sunny
Amarillo	68	33	mst sunny	Fort Stockton	76	45	mst sunny	Raymondville	78	59	windy
Austin	69	56	pt sunny	Gainesville	69	53	windy	Rosenberg	72	60	pt sunny
Beaumont	71	58	pt sunny	Greenville	69	55	windy	San Antonio	72	57	pt sunny
Brownsville	78	62	windy	Houston	72	60	pt sunny	San Marcos	70	57	windy
Brownwood	74	54	windy	Kingsville	77	61	windy	Sulphur Springs	68	56	windy
Corpus Christi	75	62	windy	Livingston	71	56	pt sunny	Sweetwater	71	48	windy
Corsicana	72	58	windy	Longview	69	56	pt sunny	Tyler	71	56	windy
Dallas	70	59	windy	Lubbock	72	39	mst sunny	Weatherford	70	54	windy
Del Rio	71	50	mst sunny	Lufkin	72	57	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	71	48	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	50	28	sunny	Houston	72	60	pt sunny	Phoenix	69	45	pt sunny
Boston	34	22	mst sunny	Los Angeles	65	52	mst sunny	San Francisco	58	47	pt sunny
Chicago	46	38	pt sunny	Miami	66	62	pt sunny	Seattle	49	39	pt sunny
Dallas	70	59	windy	Minneapolis	39	23	cloudy	St. Louis	58	44	mst sunny
Denver	48	23	pt sunny	New York	37	30	pt sunny	Washington, DC	42	31	pt sunny

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	New
Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 21

UV Index

Sun 12/21	Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23
Low	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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Europeans send Mars probe on final approach

DARMSTADT, Germany (AP) — European space controllers sent the Beagle 2 probe on its final approach to Mars on Friday, a critical step in Europe's first mission to explore the Red Planet for signs of life.

The British-built unmanned probe separated from the Mars Express spacecraft, heading for a scheduled Christmas morning landing on the planet's surface.

"I'm very proud to say we have made a big step toward getting to Mars, but this is really only the beginning," said David Southwood, the European Space Agency's director of science.

In the control room, screens flashed to red to confirm the lander was on its way after separating from the Mars Express, which was launched June 2 from the former Soviet space port in Kazakhstan.

"It was a relief, absolutely, we have all been waiting for this moment for a long time and when our screens lit up, we were ecstatic," Mars Express mission official Zeina Mounzer said.

The mission is the first to try to determine if there is life on Mars since the United States sent the Viking I landing craft to Mars' surface in 1976.

"It's not looking for little green men, but it is looking for matter that might provide evidence of life. It is looking for clues," Southwood had said earlier.

Two NASA rovers are right behind, scheduled to land on Mars in early January. The $400 million, camera- and instrument-laden rovers are designed to analyze Martian rocks and soil for additional clues that could reveal whether the planet was ever a warmer, wetter place capable of sustaining life.

Friday's maneuver was the first in a series of critical navigational moves on which the success of the Mars Express mission depends. The spacecraft gently pushes the probe away, setting it spinning to maintain stability as it heads toward Mars.

From The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation...

$35,000 grant awarded to Snyder's Helping Diabetics Faith in Action

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded a $35,000 Faith in Action grant to Helping Diabetics Faith in Action.

The Faith in Action Grant will be administered and utilized by Cogdell Memorial Foundation and the Scurry County Ministerial Alliance, and will be used for general operating expenses and regional volunteer training.

Helping Diabetics Faith in Action volunteers will come from churches and the community at large. They will help diabetics in need with many everyday activities, such as telephone reassurance, visiting, shopping, respite care, picking up groceries or prescriptions, or providing a ride to the doctor.

With this volunteer assistance, diabetic members of the community can maintain their independence for as long as possible.

Helping Diabetics Faith in Action is seeking to find potential care recipients and caring volunteers. Care recipients need to be diabetics, currently struggling to maintain their independence.

The program will prioritize recipients by health and the status of the family and church support they currently have.

Leeann McCreery, program director, said "If you feel that these services apply to your needs now, or will in the near future contact our office.

"If you feel that these services apply to your needs now, or will in the near future contact our office."- Leeann McCreery, program director.

"Volunteers will be able to donate as little or as much time as they would like in meeting the needs of their neighbors and friends.

"We are looking for caring individuals who are seeking to serve the community this way. Training is offered for volunteers, and training sessions will begin soon."

Helping Diabetics Faith in Action is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of diabetic individuals through supportive one-on-one relationships with caring volunteer people.

McCreery added, "I believe that all love requires is action. There are people in our community in need of time and care from their neighbors in order to maintain the independence so many of us take for granted.

"Helping Diabetics Faith in Action is about putting your love and your faith into action and helping those in our community that need it the most. I believe that all of us can spare one hour a week to put our love and faith into action."

Contact McCreery at 325-573-1804 for more information and materials, or to find out more about how you can help serve in the community.

Faith in Action is located at the Baptist Student Center at Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue.

Nearly 12 million Americans currently have long-term health conditions that prevent them from carrying out many daily activities for themselves. As the nation's population ages, the number of people who may develop these conditions will increase.

In addition, with more Americans living longer lives, many are faced with the challenge of helping a family member, neighbor or friend who has diabetes, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, or other long-term health needs.

Starting in 1983 with the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, and continuing in 1993 with the introduction of Faith in Action, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has supported faith-based community efforts to help meet these challenges through volunteer caregivers.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, N.J., is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care.

Currently, the Faith in Action network consists of nearly 1,000 programs nationwide.



CHRISTMAS TREE — Snyder High School organizations and departments made handmade ornaments for this Christmas tree. (SDN Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

DEC 21 2003

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DECEMBER NUPTIALS SET — Jamie Burleson of Franklin, Tenn., daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James Burleson of Snyder, and Kyle Evan Mittendorf also of Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mittendorf of Paola, Kan., will marry Dec. 28 in the First Presbyterian Church in Snyder. (Contributed Photo)



CELEBRATES 92ND BIRTHDAY — Red Trevey celebrated his 92nd birthday Dec. 4 at a surprise party at the Senior Citizens Center hosted by his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Dr. Carl Dillaha, and a son, Ralph Trevey. Pictured from left are Ralph Trevey; Dr. Dillaha; the honored guest; and Margaret Dillaha. (Contributed Photo)

Bridal Registry

Christina Holder and Mark Cave
Paige Bell and Jim Culp
Shannon Hall and Sam Robinson
Becky Eaton and Mark Cypert
KK McClain and Andrew Vinson
Natalie Hill and Beau Blair
Jamie Burleson and Kyle Mittendorf
Jennifer Hall and Todd Hall

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Recipe

CITRUS TWIST PUNCH

21 to 28 servings
½ gallon orange juice
½ gallon lemonade, chilled
1 container (32 oz.) cranberry-raspberry juice, chilled
1 liter ginger ale, chilled
1 quart rainbow sherbet

In a punch bowl, combine the orange juice, lemonade, and cranberry-raspberry juice: stir until well mixed. Add the ginger ale and sherbet. Serve immediately.

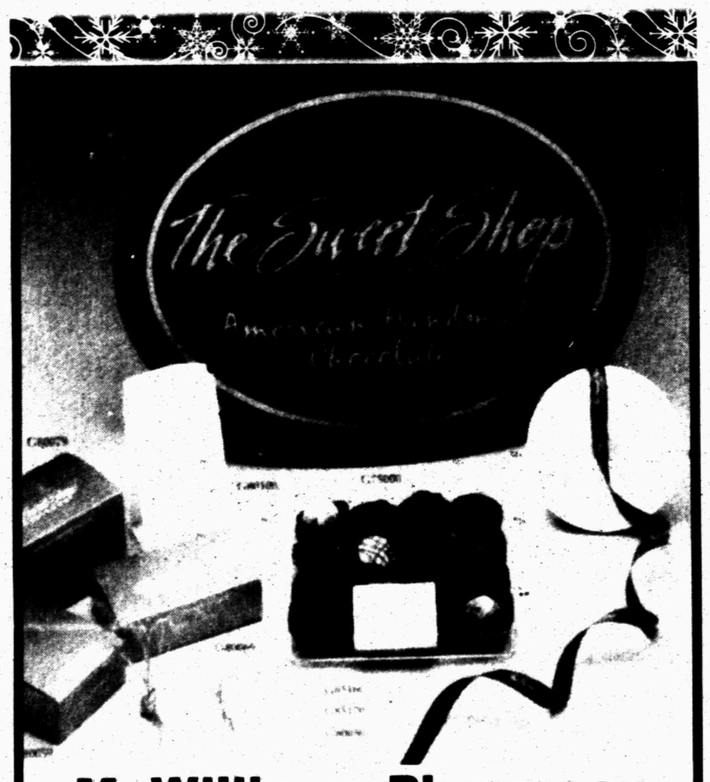
Tip: For a festive look, add some orange slices as garnish.

By Beth Dannheim,
County Extension Agent

Pleads guilty to charges

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP) — Eminem's ex-wife, Kimberly Mathers, has pleaded guilty to a drug charge and a driving offense as part of an agreement to resolve two drug cases, the prosecutor's office said.

Mathers, who's been the subject of some of the rapper's songs, appeared Thursday before Circuit Court Judge Edward A. Servitto and entered the pleas to a charge of possessing 25 grams or less of cocaine and failing to give adequate space to an emergency vehicle. The charges came from a June traffic stop in St. Clair Shores.



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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-20-03
♠ J
♥ 9 5 2
♦ A Q 10 9 8
♣ 8 5 3 2

West
♠ 7 4
♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ K J
♣ A Q 10 4

East
♠ 10 3 2
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ 7 6 4 3 2
♣ J

South
♠ A K Q 9 8 6 5
♥ K
♦ 5
♣ K 9 7 6

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
4 ♠	1 ♥ Pass	Pass Pass	2 ♥ Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003

Do not assume what you expect

By Phillip Alder

Who wrote this verse?

"If, with the literate, I am / Impelled to try an epigram, / I never seek to take the credit; / We all assume that Oscar said it."

At the bridge table, one often makes assumptions, some valid, others less so. However, if one can find the winning play without needing to make any assumptions, all the better.

How should the play go in this four-spade contract after West leads the heart queen?

East is right to raise to two hearts — that singleton is worth three points. (When nonvulnerable and brave, East might bid four hearts!) And it is sensible for South to shoot out four spades. First, the contract might be easy to make; second, it might be a good sacrifice; and third, it makes life as hard as possible for the opponents.

West has no reason to look beyond the heart queen for his opening lead. East goes up with his ace, dropping South's king. Now East shifts to the club jack, declarer playing low.

At the table, West encouraged a club continuation by signaling with his 10. However, he is still waiting for that continuation. East tried a trump, but South took three rounds and led his diamond. When West proved to have king-jack-doubleton, the defenders were impelled to credit declarer with an overtrick.

West did not need to assume that East had a doubleton club. He should have overtaken with his queen and cashed the club ace. Then he would have given East a club ruff to defeat the contract.

Dorothy Parker wrote that verse in "A Pig's-Eye View of Literature: Oscar Wilde."

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Library News

Sharon Sumruld, librarian

The Scurry County Library will open at 9 a.m. Wednesday and close at noon. We will be closed Dec. 25-28 and open again on Dec. 29.

The staff wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season.

BOOK FEATURE

Boundries Face to Face, by Dr. Henry Cloud.

Have you ever had trouble confronting someone about a problem that needed to be solved? Have you felt puzzled over how to approach a certain person about troublesome behavior? Have you been putting off a conversation you know you should have?

Many of us do have a problem about confronting others. We see this as scary or adversarial — something to be done only for really difficult problems. But in reality, this is something we should do regularly.

In this book, you will discover the essentials of a good conversation, and how to be an agent for positive change. Specific chapters have sample conversations to help you effectively confront the people in your life, and to communicate your needs productively.

NEW NON-FICTION

Achieving Energy Independence — One Step at a Time, by Jeffrey Yago.

Death's Acre: Inside the Legendary Forensic Lab, the Body Farm, by William Bass.

Small Engine Care and Repair..., by Briggs & Stratton.

NEW FICTION

The Touch, by Colleen McCullough.

Conspiracy Club, by Jonathan Kellerman.

Naughty or Nice, by Eric Dickey.

A Christmas Journey, by Anne Perry.

In the Presence of Mine Enemies, by Harry Turtledove.

Toward the Sunrise, by Judith Pella.

Books may be placed in the outside book drop when the library is closed. We ask that videotapes and audiotapes *not* be placed in the book drop, as they could be damaged.

Portugal became a republic in 1910 when King Manuel II was forced to flee as the result of a revolution.

Roman emperor Julius Caesar was born in 100 B.C.

Congress authorized the Medal of Honor in 1862.

The Peace of Copenhagen ended the war between Sweden and Denmark in 1660.

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TO OBSERVE 50 ANNIVERSARY — The children of Clint and Frances McCowen announce their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Clint and Frances were married in a double wedding ceremony in Snyder on Dec. 23, 1953 with Venita Harris Terral and the late Kenneth Terral. Clint and Frances raised three children in Snyder, Clinta and her husband Darrel Lester of Midland; Shawn and his wife Carol (Hill) McCowen of Ira; and Neika and her husband Joel Smith of San Angelo. Their grandchildren are Jeremee and Jordan of Midland; Blair, Raven and Emily of Ira; and Jadon and Jasmine of San Angelo. (Contributed Photo)





TUNE STUDENTS IN RECITAL — Piano students of Barbara Tune presented a recital "Christmas Time's A' Comin" on Dec. 8 at the Martha Ann Woman's Club for family and friends. A reception followed. The elementary group included (from left) top photo, standing, Morgan DeLeora, Fernando Ramirez, Mekayla Duzan; seated, Malak Wills, Jacoree Brooks, Kirstie Leuck, Ashley Kincheloe, Jentri Driggers. Below are junior high and high school students, standing, Andie Martinez, Amanda Midwell, Aurelie Lemillon, Kristen Miller; seated, Rachael Dupree, Casey Arnold and Brittany Scott. Not pictured are Gretchen Hollis and Corey Jaramillo. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge Scores

Monte West directed bridge at the Snyder Country Club.

Friday, Dec. 12
North-South

1. Anita Talbott, Suzy Reed.
2. Mary Bast, Johnye Van Dever.
3. Anne Spitler, Frances Stevenson.
4. Bette Byrd, Coleen Palmer.

East-West

1. Gwen Riggs, Carol Williams.
2. Artie Harris, Bill Harris.
3. Gracie Craig, Dorothy King tied with Dora Blakey, Nina Nesbit.

Dionne Warwick gives presents to school

EAST ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — She knows the way to San Jose — and East Orange as well.

Dionne Warwick, an East Orange, N.J., native, dropped by her old school Thursday to give presents to every one of the 561 students and 77 staff members.

The singer said she stayed up most of the night before wrapping the gifts for those at the former Lincoln School, which since has been renamed Dionne Warwick Institute of Economics and Entrepreneurship.

"You will never know how proud I am to be associated with you," said Warwick, 63, who now lives in Brazil. "You have done magnificently."

Her hits include "Walk on By," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" and "That's What Friends Are For."



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SHS CLASS OF '58 — Snyder High School 1958 classmates gathered at the Wagon Wheel Ranch on Nov. 7-8. On the first row, from left, are James Vincent, Bob Pollard, Larry Williams, Doug Jones, Isrreal Hinojos, Skipper Moore, Jerry Springer, Gary Vice; row 2, Barbara McCormick, Janelle Pollard, Wanda Lowrance, Kay McCord, Mary Lou Crawford, Dana Whitson, Jo Ann Christy, Pauline Wimmer, Barbara Callaway, Velma Lear, Belinda Foster, Joy Ficus, Ed Dyer; row 3, Hubert Starnes, Billy Wilkinson, Mollie Kattes, Mary Williams, Jo Ann Ham, Sandy Jones, Nell Haynes, Joy Free, Deanne Sims, Joyce Tolbert, Viola Hinojos, Doris Blackard, Carolyn Derouen, Sharon Bruns, Dick Martin; row 4, Hollis Chandler, John Ward, Wallace Vernon, Clyde Reed, Neil Boyd, Dean Staton, Jerry Hatfield, Larry Page, Doyle Chandler and Dwayne Overman. (Photo by Wadleigh Studio)



HORSE CLUB MAKES DONATION — At their December meeting, members of the Scurry County 4-H Horse Club assembled money trees to benefit Gateway Family Services. The club has presented money trees to Gateway for the last few years. From left are Anita Goodger, mother of SCHC members Jessica and Heather; Sherry Autry, children's caseworker; Vikki Langham, financial administrator. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Kid's attraction is biologically based on gender

Santa might know what every little boy and girl wants for Christmas, but why they want the toys they want is a question better left to Texas A&M University psychologist Gerianne Alexander, whose research shows that toy preference might be based on the early roles of males and females.

It's commonly believed that boys and girls learn what types of toys they should like based solely on society's expectations, but Alexander's work with vervet monkeys is challenging that notion.

Based on her work, she believes boys' and girls' differing tastes in toys may be the result of a biological pre-wiring that influences their preferences based on the early roles of males and females.

Alexander, whose research focuses on sex differences in behavior and the biological factors that influence them, examined the vervet monkeys as they interacted with toys. She and her collaborator, Melissa Hines of the University of London, found that the monkeys' toy preferences were consistent along gender lines with those of human children. The study was published earlier this year in "Evolution and Human Behavior."

Though the monkeys had no concept of a "boy" toy and a "girl" toy, they still showed the same gender preferences in playing with the toys, Alexander says. That is, compared to female monkeys, male monkeys spent more time with "boy" toys, and the female monkeys, compared to their male counterparts, spent more time with "girl" toys, she notes.

"Masculine toys and feminine toys," Alexander says, "are clearly categories constructed by people. However, our finding that male and female vervet monkeys show similar preferences for these toys as boys and girls do, suggests that what makes a 'boy toy' and a 'girl toy' is more than just what society dictates — it suggests that there may be perceptual cues that attract males or females to particular objects such as toys."

In the experiment, Alexander says, male monkeys spent more time playing with traditional male toys such as a car and a ball than did female monkeys. The female monkeys, however, spent more time playing with a doll and pot than did the males.

The implication is that what makes a "girl toy" and what makes a "boy toy" isn't just human society or stereotypes but rather something innate that draws boys and girls to different types of toys, she explains.

Alexander believes her findings suggest that there are certain aspects of objects that appeal to the specific sexes and that these aspects may relate to traditional male and female functions dating back to the dawn of the species.

She says the toys preferred by boys — the ball and the car — are described as objects with the ability to be used actively and be propelled through space. Though the specific reasons behind the monkeys' preferences have yet to be determined, she says, the preferences for these objects might exist because they afford greater opportunities for rough and active play — something characteristic of male play. Also, the motion capabilities of the object could be related to the navigating abilities that are useful for hunting, locating food or finding a mate.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2383 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

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

NA-Just for Today; Park Club at Winston Park; 573-1438.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Gateway Family Services parenting discussion group, focuses on a variety of parenting issues and special challenges; no charge; call 573-1822 for more information; 10:30 a.m.

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

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

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

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Special Occasions

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Tammy Ejem & Matthew Cunningham
Becky Eaton and Mark Cypert
Kimberly McClain and Andrew Vinson
Beth Hillje & Dow Mathis
Shawna Huddleston & Tommy Pinkerton

Infant Registry
Tiffany Stanley
Laurie & Joey Roland

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Bridal Registry
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Jami Brown & Heath Harrick
Mesha Pate & B.K. Boy
Lia King & Dale Beard
Julie Proctor & Caleb Wilson
Shana Lynn Backard & Jody Rae Hill
Becky Eaton & Mark Cypert
Kimberly McClain & Andrew Vinson
Jessica Emmon & Nathan Zahner

Infant Registry

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Public Records

Marriage License

Shannon Dale Weir and Amanda Michelle Nobles, both of Hamlin.

Andrew Erwin Vinson and Kimberly Kaye McClain, both of Snyder.

Action in District Court

James H. Coventry, dba Coventry Plumbing, vs. Ruth Kerry, individually and dba Kerry's Pit and Grill, default judgment.

Felipe A. and Yvonne C. Amarillas vs. Cobb Carpet Supply Co., agreed order of dismissal.

In the marriage of Linda Sue Scott and Rufus Lee Scott, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Ronald Marc Girard and Amelinda Girard, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Wayne E. and Cheryl Winkles to Jack L. West, Lot 2 and the south 10 feet of Lot 1, both in Block K of the Replat of the Towle Place Addition.

Douglas G. and Belinda Foster to Rodney G. Foster, the north 201.3 acres in the west one-half of Section 236, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Kevin Bollinger to Steve and Renee Moore, 18.232 acres in the north one-half of Section 245, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Robert Earl Payne to Swartz and Brough Inc., Lot 6 in Block 3 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Dennis A. and Debbie I. Atkinson to David and Kathy Payne, the west one-half of the southeast one-quarter of Section 25, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Tommy Robert Hickman and Shirley Hickman Halligan, co-independent executors of the estate of W.A. Hickman, to Jeraldine Jordan Hickman, 50 percent to Jeraldine Jordan Hickman and 50 percent to Tommy Robert Hickman and Shirley Hickman Halligan, co-Trustees of the Jeraldine Jordan Hickman Marital Trust, a one-half undivided interest in 3,435.60 acres in the H&TC survey in Scurry County.

Robert Forrest Pendleton to Barbara F. Pendleton, the east 80 feet of Lot 9 in Block 27 of the Winston Co. replat of the Colonial Hill Addition.

Johnny and Deann Mendoza to Benjamin and Lucia T. Hermosillo, Lot 12 in Block 1 of the Helms Subdivision.

Patricia Irene Manilief to Neil R. Manilief, the south 61 feet of Lot 18 and the north 39 feet of Lot 19, both in Block 4 of the Park Place Addition.

Helen Gean Grinslade to Chloanne Lindsey, Dewey Grinslade and Henry A. Grinslade, tract one being the north 140 feet of the east 80 feet of Lot 1, Block 9 of the West Side Heights Addition; tract two being the south 20 feet of the east 80 feet of Lot 1 and a 20x-80 foot parcel of alley south of Lot 1, Block 9, West Side Heights Addition.





EAST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM — East Elementary students in Dale Neves' and Lorinda Hardin's classes presented "Twas One Crazy Night Before Christmas," an all school holiday revue, last Friday. Neves' students (top photo) are front row from left, Kaitlin Stewart, Zerick Gutierrez, Michael Contreras, Kendall Alarcon, Alex Pesina and Jentri Driggers. Middle row from left are Donald McVey, Kelsey Davis, Samantha Rogers, Regan Head and Caleb Hester. Back row from left are Carson Covey, Chase Price, Rosanna Silva, Fernando Ramirez and John Muniz. Hardin's students (bottom photo) are top row from left, Mariah Cearley, Harley Collins, Jason Mendoza, Samuel Ashley and Staci Kenner. Middle row from left are Timothy Iglehart, Amber Steelman, Tessa Aguilar, Glorianna Medrano, Paul Benitez and Minnie Guerra. Bottom row from left, Tyson Sullenger, Randy Vera, Beto Jaimes, Mario Ortega and Jordan Peoples. Tony Moreno is the mouse. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

How schools, day care centers cope with littlest flu victims

By The Associated Press

With the flu sweeping through schools, teachers and day care aides are finding themselves washing down desks and toys and reminding children to wipe their noses — with a tissue, please — and wash their hands — with soap, young man.

For reasons no one fully understands, the outbreak has struck much earlier and seems to have hit children hard. At least 36 have died most of them in states west of the Mississippi, including Colorado, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Across the country, schools and day care centers are using more bleach and Lysol, wiping down desks, floors, counters, doorknobs, drinking fountains and rubber balls.

Even under the best of conditions, day care centers and kindergartens are hothouses for germs. Now instructors have to remind their pint-size charges not to put toys in their mouths and to use Kleenex instead of their sleeves, or someone else's sleeve.

"Our pre-kindergarten teachers sanitize their classrooms every night," said principal Karen Curtis of Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School in Arizona, where at least two children have died. "But there's only so much you can do. What's a tissue to a little kid? They use their hands."

Day care operators are holding firm to existing rules that prohibit children running a fever of more than 101 degrees from attending class.

"We have some parents who still try to bring in their kids," said Sumi Jeong of Academic Play in Denver. "I understand they have to work, but I have to send them home."

Walking amid squalling babies, Jeong cooed and soothed, stopping to pick up a crying child, who then tried to eat the telephone she was speaking into.

The current flu outbreak may be the nation's worst for young children in several years, some experts say. They are predicting deaths among infants and toddlers will be higher than the estimated 92 who die in an average flu year.

In states such as Ohio, West Virginia, Connecticut, Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana, schools closed for one or more days last week, with absentee rates as high as 50 percent.

"They were dropping like flies," said Cathy Buckley, principal of Louisiana's Spearsville High School, where 65 students out of 291 were sick last week.

"It is scary, and you really don't know what to do," said Laurie Wright of Malad, Idaho, who coordinates the elementary school's after-school program and is the mother of an 8-year-old boy. "I don't want to shelter him too much and I don't want him left behind in school."

Teachers, too, have taken ill. In Nevada, school districts have been scrambling to find substitutes.

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Jennifer Aniston acknowledged for top tresses

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Polished fashionistas like Jennifer Aniston — who plays a Ralph Lauren staffer on "Friends" — and the makeover crew on "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" were singled out for having top tresses in a recent celebrity hair survey.

To determine the year's best and worst in hair, Wella conducted unscientific surveys after the MTV Video Music Awards, the Emmys and the American Music Awards.

Aniston won best overall hair and best highlights, while other TV stars won some other categories: "Miss Match" star Alicia Silverstone's golden locks earned top honors, Jennifer Garner of "Alias" was named best brilliant brunette and "Will & Grace's" Debra Messing was called the most ravishing redhead.

The only pop star to rate a "best" rating was Britney Spears, who was named best blond bombshell along with Pamela Anderson. Christina Aguilera and Pink made Wella's list, but in a "worst" category.

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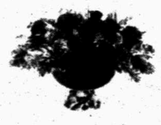


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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Single mom can't break with boyfriend's family

DEAR ABBY: I have been hopelessly in love with the father of my baby, "Alan," for three years. I know Alan loves me even though he can't commit. I am also very close to his parents.

I have reached the point where I accept that it's time for me to move on, even though I would prefer to spend the rest of my life with him.

The problem is, Alan's parents think of me as family. They are very religious. I know they must have picked up on some of the friction that's happening between us. They keep saying that things will work out if we just stay in prayer.

I desperately want to have a heart-to-heart talk with Alan's mom so she understands that it's no one's fault and there should be no hard feelings.

How can I explain without hurting them that maybe it's best for everyone if I don't come around during family gatherings? Please help. — **CONFUSED AND IN LOVE IN TEXAS**

DEAR CONFUSED: I, too, believe in the power of prayer, but in your case it's time to move on. Do not allow yourself to be made to feel guilty and accept the status quo.

Have the heart-to-heart talk with Alan's mother. Say sweetly but directly, "I love you and I love your son. You will always be this child's grandparents. But I need a husband who will help me to raise your grandchild, and Alan is unable to commit."

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old guy, and I'm involved with an older woman I'll call Carmen.

Carmen has three daughters from previous relationships. I have no authority over them, and they show me no respect. Even though they talk rudely to me, I'm supposed to accept it. Carmen demands everything be done her way, and I have no voice in anything that happens in my home.

Carmen's youngest daughter, "Talia," recently got a kitten. We agreed it would not be kept in the house because I am allergic to cats. I make my living as a singer, and if I can't breathe, I can't earn money to support us. I've explained this to all the girls, but no one seems to care as long as they get what they want. Talia whines, and the cat is inside. What should I do? — **DESPERATE IN INDIANA**

DEAR DESPERATE: If the house belongs to you, lay down the law. The cat goes, or they all go. If the house belongs to Carmen, read the handwriting on the wall of "your" home, and make other living arrangements pronto. Your health and your career depend on it.

**

DEAR ABBY: I broke my engagement to my fiancee, "Shirley," recently. I am sad, but I know it's better to have ended it now, rather than have a divorce down the road.

The engagement ring and wedding bands are back in my possession, and I would like to "dispose" of them because they are painful reminders of our failed relationship. How can I salvage some of my investment? It is no longer possible to return them to the jeweler, and a pawn shop will never give me their full value. Any suggestions? — **TRYING TO MOVE ON IN CHICAGO**

DEAR TRYING TO MOVE ON: Have the rings appraised. Get the appraisal in writing. Take it to your accountant and discuss donating them to a charity. You may take a loss, but consider it "tuition" in the school of experience.

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

DEAR ABBY: Oh, what a wonderful time of year! The air is filled with Christmas songs — from "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby to "Jingle Bells" by the Barking Dogs.

In my neighborhood, we've had a problem with one neighbor's dog barking all night. Several of us tried to ask the owner to please do something about it. Our pleas fell on deaf ears.

We tolerated it until recently. After hearing "Jingle Bells" by the Barking Dogs, four of us neighbors had an idea.

During our weekly card game, I made the comment, "If I had an outside sound system, I'd play the Barking Dogs' 'Jingle Bells' each night when the dog barks." I was making a joke, but my card buddies took me up on it. "Rick" has outdoor speakers, "Barney" has an old PA system, "Art" volunteered to set it up, and I was to get the record or tape of "Jingle Bells."

Three days later, everything was set up and ready. When the dog started its barking around 1 a.m., I reached over, turned on the PA system and played "Jingle Bells." The dog shut up! Two hours later, the barking resumed. Again I turned on the PA system. I know my neighbors were rolling over laughing as much as I was.

The next day, I took my daily jog around the neighborhood. The dog owner was outside and I stopped to say hello. He asked me if I had heard the dogs barking "Jingle Bells." I told him, yes, and I was happy to hear them do it in harmony. Then I added, "I wonder if they'll keep it up during the year — say, New Year's and Easter." He said, "I hope not!"

Needless to say, it took only two more nights before he got the message. Yesterday, when I stopped by his place, he told me he had found a better home for his dog, with a loving child to play with.

Our poker game has the record of the Barking Dogs framed on the wall to remind us of the miracles of Christmas. Woof, woof — and a Merry Christmas to you and yours. — **SANTA'S HELPERS IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR SANTA'S HELPERS: Ho! Ho! Ho! I particularly like the fact that there is a happy ending for all concerned, including the dog — and I'll bet your letter stimulates record sales.

P.S. Now that the neighborhood is quiet again, why not send the former dog owner a CD of "Silent Night"?

**

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Claudine," and I have been married for 25 years, and two of our four children still live at home with us. In the past, Claudine has complained to me that I am not very romantic. She said that romance needs to start way before we close the bedroom door. In the last year, she has stopped saying anything about this to me, but our love life has been affected.

I hold Claudine's hand when we go places and I always kiss her before I leave for work. What more can I do to get her interested in me again? — **WANTS MORE IN SANTA ANA, CALIF.**

DEAR WANTS: There is more to romance than holding a woman's hand when you go places and kissing her when you leave for work.

Try this: Compliment her on her appearance. Thank her when she does something special for you. Call her just to say "I love you." Take her to a hotel or motel for the weekend so you can be alone. Buy her a little gift or send flowers "because she's the most beautiful woman in the world." And if that doesn't do it — have her hormones checked.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com)

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RETIREMENT RECEPTION — Kathye Parker, left, and Barbara Shipp, Snyder High School secretaries, are pictured at their retirement reception Tuesday in the library. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Law firms awarded millions in tobacco fees

BOSTON (AP) — A jury on Friday awarded nearly $100 million in additional fees to law firms that represented Massachusetts in the 1998 tobacco settlement, but rejected the firms' claim to billions more.

The jury agreed with the firms that they deserved more than the $775 million they are already slated to receive, but rejected a claim that they are due the amount owed under their original contract, which would have amounted to a total of $2 billion through 2025 and $6.4 billion through 2050.

Under the jury's decision, the firms were awarded 10.5 percent of the money the state will receive from the settlement through 2025, up from the 9.33 percent they are currently getting. The difference adds up to an extra $96.5 million, according to the law firms' calculation.

Robert Popeo, an attorney for the law firms, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The jury deliberated for nearly two days following a six-week trial that detailed the intricacies of contract law and rehashed the history of the 1998 national settlement between the states and the tobacco industry.

While the legal fees for the private attorneys involved in the case were controversial across the country, only in Massachusetts did it result in a lawsuit. It was the only state in which the fees remained unresolved five years after the settlement.

Only two of the five firms filed the lawsuit, but all will benefit from the jury award.

During the trial, attorneys for Brown Rudnick Perlack & Israel and Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein argued that the firms were entitled to a full 25 percent of the state's proceeds, which could total $8.3 billion through 2025.

Because they were willing to take on the enormous risk of suing an industry that had never previously lost a lawsuit, the firms were entitled to full payment, the attorneys argued. They also argued that the state of Massachusetts must live up to its word and be stopped from changing rules midstream.

Connecticut governor acknowledges land deal

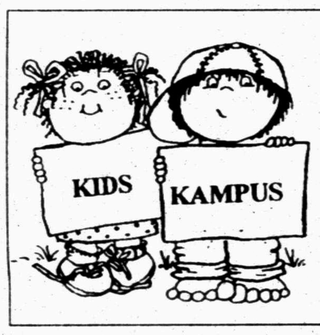
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Gov. John G. Rowland, under fire for financial dealings, invested in a real estate project with a state contractor who did work on his summer cottage, documents released by the governor show.

The contractor, Anthony Cocchiola, owner of Cocchiola Paving Inc. of Watertown, performed work in 1997 at Rowland's lakeside summer cottage in Litchfield County. Rowland did not pay the bill until September.

Rowland, a three-term Republican, touched off a political storm last week when he admitted that improvements to the cottage were paid for by friends, state employees and state contractors, some of whom have been subpoenaed as part of a federal corruption investigation. Rowland had previously insisted he paid for all the work himself.

Rowland aides said Thursday night that the governor and three friends — Cocchiola; Rowland's former attorney, Michael Cicchetti; and the late Robert Capanna — created a partnership called First Development Group LLC. The partnership bought land and developed 24 single-family building lots in Naugatuck and Prospect.

The deal was begun in 1996, the year after Rowland took office, and was dissolved in 2001. Rowland said he reported his part in the project in financial disclosure forms filed with the state Ethics Commission, and on his income tax returns.



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HOLMES RETIRES — Mike Holmes has retired as a history teacher at Snyder Junior High School. Pictured at the retirement reception are from left, Amy and Jeff James (daughter and son-in-law); John Martini, grandson; Mike Holmes, Michelle Martini, daughter; Sandy Holmes, wife; and Leslie Martini, granddaughter. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Fords get top marks in high-speed crash tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ford Motor Co.'s new F-150 pickup and Freestar minivan earned top ratings in high-speed crash tests by the insurance industry, a big improvement for the redesigned pickup.

Ford had asked the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety to test both vehicles, which were redesigned for the 2004 model year. The Forester is replacing the Windstar minivan. Besides the top crash ratings, the institute gave both vehicles a "best pick" designation.

Other current pickups that have the institute's top rating are 2000-2004 models of the Toyota Tundra and 2002-2004 models of the Dodge Ram. Among minivans, the 2004 Toyota Sienna also is a best pick. Other minivans with top ratings are the 1999-2004 Honda Odyssey and the 2004 Nissan Quest.

In results announced Friday, the institute said the F-150 performed significantly better than its 2001 predecessor, which earned the institute's lowest rating in the 40 mph crash test.

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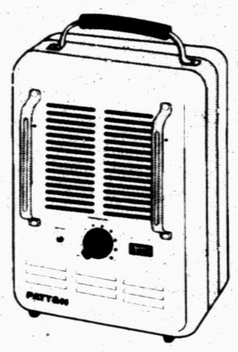
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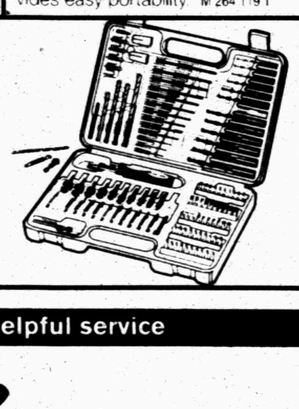
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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003

The year ahead isn't likely to remain in the status quo for you. Interesting people and situations may figure, and take you on new paths that you'll both enjoy and use to find more productive ways to better your lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Because you might not be in the mood to be too self-disciplined today, you may deliberately look to change things that have become too static or orderly in your life just to liven things up a bit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Under no circumstance should you place any limitations or restrictions on yourself today. Make plans to do something, but keep everything open-ended so you can make revisions at a moment's notice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — It isn't always that you enjoy being in large group situations, but today you could thrive on this type of activity. People will be more intriguing than usual to you and you'll like chatting with them.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Much to your surprise, you could be more ingenious and resourceful than usual today, so don't be afraid to take on challenging situations or projects. You'll be clever and versatile.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You'll be at your best today in situations or circumstances where quick decisions are required. You won't have to wipe off your spectacles or take a second look; answers will be instantaneous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't hesitate to speak up today if you feel you have a last-minute idea that could benefit a joint endeavor arrangement. It's not too late to point out any improvements or additions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — One of the reasons you can get along with everybody today is your flexible nature and willingness to try anything at least once. People don't have to adjust to you, you'll adjust to them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Important objectives or projects can be achieved today, because you'll know how to make those sudden U-turns should you run into a dead-end street, and you'll be willing to do so.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Although you might find yourself a bit restless today, you won't have any trouble finding a number of fun activities in which to participate that'll ease the tension you'd otherwise feel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Things should be pretty lively around your house today, breaking up your usual routine day. Fun disruptions, such as good friends dropping by, could turn your house into a party atmosphere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — It isn't unusual for you to be quick-witted or a very lively person, but today you're likely to latch onto ideas even quicker than usual, stimulating the intellect of all those around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You could find it relatively easy today to not place restrictions on your thoughts for gift-giving ideas. So, with the holidays just around the corner, finish your holiday shopping now.

Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

Monday, Dec. 22, 2003

You can expect your fair share of opportunities in the year ahead. Whether you treat your promising situations casually or with the seriousness they deserve will determine if you are successful or not.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you put yourself in a position today where others can use you, then only you will be to blame when you feel taken advantage of by another. Don't point the finger at anyone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Instead of merely hoping that everything will take care of itself today, assume personal control over your affairs. Without navigation, your chances of ending up on the rocks are good.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Talk is cheap and boasting about what you haven't yet accomplished makes you look inferior. Words without action will count for nothing both in terms of production and recognition.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Try not to get off to a sluggish start today and keep pace with your duties and responsibilities. If you fall behind this early in the week, it'll be awhile before you get caught up again.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A lazy tendency today could encourage a lack of self-discipline, and your usual resolve to get rolling could go by the boards. If you give into it, your good intentions will count for nil.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It behooves you to politely listen to those who want to offer you advice and suggestions today. By turning a deaf ear, you could miss recommendations that would benefit you greatly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — There is a good chance today that you could be far better at issuing orders than taking them. If you expect others to follow your dictates, you must first show a willingness to respect their wishes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It's a mistake to think you have to spend a lot of money in order to be satisfied today. Select friends who know how to have a good time and your wallet will thank you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The sound of your own voice might be awe-inspiring to you today, but your thoughts and opinions may not be stimulating to others. If you see your listeners yawning, zip up your lips.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Trust only your good judgment today and let it take precedence over what you think is instinct. Unfortunately, your intuition might be contrived by wishful thinking and not pure insight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's always recommended to be optimistic, but only when it is based upon realistic premises. Don't expect grandiose returns in situations where chance is the primary ingredient.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Although you might like to believe them, people who promise a lot should be taken with a grain of salt today. Don't put yourself in a position where you're solely dependent upon another.

Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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FOOD DRIVE WINNERS — Hermleigh students collected 680 cans for the annual Kiwanis-Goodfellows food drive. First graders brought in 346 to win the pizza party. Others are kindergarten, 44; second grade, 84; third grade, 71; fourth grade, 17; fifth grade, 61 and sixth grade, 57. First graders pictured around the Christmas tree include Austin Belcher, Douglas Gilbert, Michael Portillo, MaryAnn Portillo, Chelsea Lambaren, Danielle Lambaren, Alex Martinez, Lauren McQuirk, Brock Vasquez, Jessica Jernigan, Jaden Zamora, Austin Merrick, Ramona Rodriguez, Gage Gray, Christian Harty, Jesse Martin and Parker Garmer. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



SJHS CANNED GOODS WINNERS — Snyder Junior High School collected a total for 2,161 canned goods for the annual Kiwanis-Goodlfellows food drive which benefits the Food Cupboard. Lynn Price's seventh grade homeroom brought in the most can — 447. Robert Bailey's eighth grade homeroom collected 114 cans. Price's students pictured are from left in front, Kenneth Turner, Josh Sorrells, David Guzman, Jessie Deavers and Daniela Allen. Pictured on left side, front to back, are Zane Berryhill, Robert Castenada, Carson Matthies and Gage West. Pictured on the right side, front to back, are Mrs. Price, Ruben Molinar, Stephen Luna and Wolfie Garcia. Daniel Samia is not pictured. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

World Almanac

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003

Today is the 354th day of 2003 and the 89th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1790, Samuel Slater's cotton mill, the first in the United States, began operations in Pawtucket, R.I.

In 1892, Alexander Brown and George Stillman patented the inflatable automobile tire.

In 1941, with his army under pressure on the Russian front, Adolf Hitler ordered "no retreat."

In 1989, the United States invaded Panama to overthrow dictator Manuel Noriega.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harvey Firestone (1868-1938), tire manufacturer; Branch Rickey (1881-1965), baseball executive; Irene Dunne (1898-1990), actress; John Hillerman (1932-), actor, is 71.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1946, boxer Sugar Ray Robinson won the welterweight crown by a unanimous decision over Tommy Bell.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Baseball is a game of inches." — Branch Rickey.

TODAY'S FACT: The cathode ray tube, used in computer monitors and TV sets, was patented 55 years ago today by Russian immigrant Vladimir Zworkin.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 2 — price of a first-class U.S. stamp from 1919 to 1932 (when it rose to 3 cents).

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 16) and new moon (Dec. 23).

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003

Today is the 355th day of 2003 and the 90th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1620, the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.

In 1937, Walt Disney's animated movie "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened.

In 1945, General George S. Patton died after being injured in an auto accident.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected first president of France's Fifth Republic.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), British prime minister; Joseph Stalin (1875-1953), Soviet leader; Phil Donahue (1935-), TV talk show host, is 68; Jane Fonda (1937-), actress, is 66; Samuel L. Jackson (1948-), actor, is 55; Ray Romano (1957-), actor, comedian, is 46; Kiefer Sutherland (1966-), actor, is 37.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1975, George Blanda, 48, kicked four extra points to raise his career total points to 2,002, an NFL record.

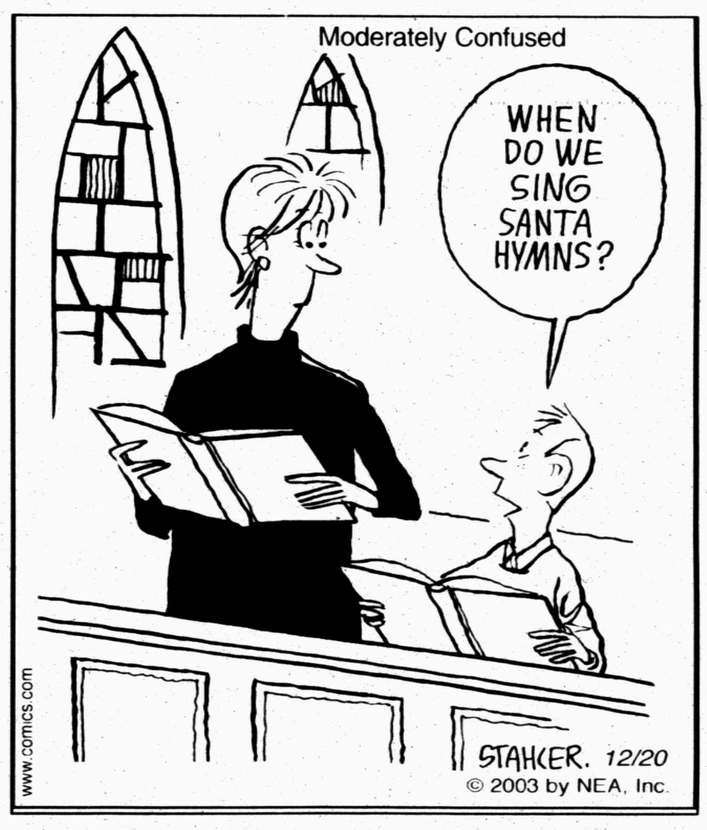
TODAY'S QUOTE: "Nature has given us two ears but only one mouth." — Benjamin Disraeli.

TODAY'S FACT: The first person to visit both poles was Dr. Albert Paddock Crary, who flew to the North Pole in 1952 and traveled to the South Pole in 1961.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 70 — age of the oldest person to climb Mount Everest (Yuichiro Miura of Japan in May 2003).

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 16) and new moon (Dec. 23).

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Capturing bin Laden may be harder than finding Saddam

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al-Qaida suspects are being interrogated. Afghan and Pakistani villagers are being courted. Troops and unmanned aircraft are poised to strike.

But finding Osama bin Laden remains enormously difficult, much more so than capturing Saddam Hussein, say American intelligence officials, lawmakers and analysts. More than two years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, there is little indication that U.S. forces are about to capture bin Laden.

Bin Laden is believed to be hiding in the vast, rugged mountains that separate Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the population is largely sympathetic and U.S. forces have limited access and mobility.

"As opposed to finding the needle in the haystack, now the needle is in a mountain chain," said Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

For all the United States' sophisticated spy satellites and powerful weapons, the key to finding bin Laden will likely boil down to having the right tip passed on to the right analyst at the right time — much as U.S. officials say was the case in last weekend's successful capture of Saddam in Iraq.

"The lesson that we learn and relearn constantly is that you need good human intelligence," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a Senate Armed Services Committee member who recently traveled to Afghanistan. "You need sources on the ground that are willing to tell us where bin Laden is located. That's the hardest type of intelligence to get."

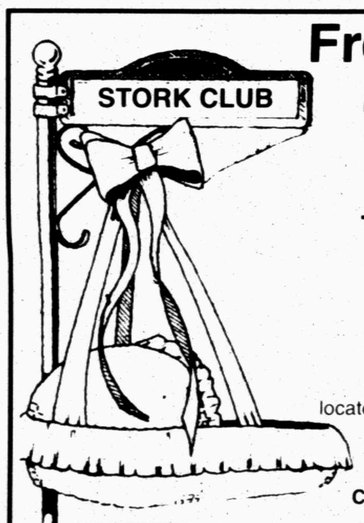
U.S. authorities "have to win over the confidence of people, or pay them, or get lucky and pick up somebody up and get them to talk," said Reed, a West Point graduate and former company commander with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Officials have tried to pry information from al-Qaida suspects seized in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere. After Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, believed to be al-Qaida's No. 3 figure, was arrested in March, information from his interrogation led to raids along the southwestern stretch of the Pakistani border with Afghanistan. But those didn't lead to any arrests.

"I'm not sure if there have been any close calls. I'm skeptical," said one U.S. intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some critics have said the United States should devote more resources — including military and special operations forces — to the hunt for bin Laden.

"The United States does not have unlimited military resources," said Larry Johnson, a former State Department deputy chief of counterterrorism.



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Letters to the Editor

Reunion memories

Dear Editor:

Recently, the Snyder High School Class of 1958 returned for a reunion. We graduated 45 years ago and continue to return every five years, thanks to the members of the class that still live in Snyder and graciously spend many hours of their time planning and preparing wonderful activities.

We could not help noticing that you are changing and growing older, but the wonderful memories we have of growing up in your charge will never be forgotten.

Thank you for providing the very best schools and teachers. Our campus was beautiful. Our auditorium was better than any other school in the district. Everything was perfect.

The A cappella choir was directed by Robert Clinton and we loved performing for the student body, concert, on tour, contests and in plays (Oklahoma and The King and I).

Snyder Tiger football, basketball and baseball games; the Black and Gold Marching Band, pep rallies, the Junior- Senior banquet, dances and drive-in movies where we sometimes watched the show; the old rodeo grounds, hanging out at the Highlander and the Sweet Shop, driving around the square with the windows down and the radio blaring (before boom boxes) dancing to car radios at the pavilion in the park and our senior trip to Kerrville, are just a few of the things that made the '50s the greatest time to be in high school in Snyder. Oh, how could we forget Rock and Roll music?

Most precious in our memory are the wonderful friends we had and still have in Snyder, including those scattered around Texas and a few other states. When we get together it's like no time has passed.

Snyder will always be home to us. See you again in 2008. Until then ... we love ya!

Joy Richardson Free
Deanne Devers Sims

Exceptional employees

Dear Editor:

I hear Paul Harvey talking about exceptional Wal-Mart employees on the radio all the time, but I never though that some of the employees he speaks of could be found right her in Snyder. We recently went to Wal-Mart looking for a specific gift to give our kids for Christmas.

We had seen what we were looking for several times before, but the kids were always with us. When we went back, you guessed it, it was already gone. We tried looking for the gift at different Wal-Marts in our area, but to no avail.

Finally, the day after Thanksgiving it was again at our Wal-Mart her in Snyder. We dropped the kids off with grandpa, but by the time we got back, it was gone. When I asked if someone could go in back to look and see if one was available, no one could go.

I also asked a lady in sporting goods if she could take my name so that I could be reached if another one became available, but she stated that wasn't normally done.

Finally, as I was explaining my situation to her, a young man named Mark Fields agreed to go in the back and take a look. He searched, but what we were looking for was nowhere to be found. He agreed to take my name, when no one else would, just in case one came in before Christmas.

A few hours later the manager, R.J. Youngclaus, called to tell me that he had found one and that I could come by and pick it up later in the afternoon. When we went to pick it up, we inquired where he had found it, since we had looked from Dallas to Abilene, to Big Spring and so on. He informed us that he found it in San Angelo, and had it brought to Snyder that very day.

In our opinion, he went above and beyond what you would expect of a Wal-Mart employee. He could have told us there was one in San Angelo and we could go and pick it up ourselves, but he went that extra mile for us. Our family, especially our four children, will have a wonderful Christmas thanks to those two caring and generous employees.

Our family would like to thank them, and wish them a very Merry Christmas.

Amber Lyle

Open Government Barometer

Number of Executive Sessions held by public entities in 2003.

Snyder ISD	11
Hermleigh ISD	7
Ira ISD	7
City of Snyder	5
DCOS	4
Cogdell Hospital	3
WTC	1
Scurry County	0



Emergency

Dear Editor:

Please pass on a big thank you from my husband and me, Mark and Terri O'Hair to your police department's dispatchers and sheriff's department officers that were on duty the night of Thursday, Dec. 4 for their assistance in the incident which details follow.

On Dec. 4 at approximately 8 p.m., Mark had to make an emergency landing in his airplane at the Snyder Airport due to engine problems. He had left Lubbock and was en route to our home in Lampasas.

There was no one at the Snyder Airport when he landed. My husband worked on the plane and got it to a point that he thought he could complete his trip, if he could just get some WD-40 to oil the part that was not working. We did not have anyone to call in either Snyder or Lubbock for assistance, and it was beginning to look as if I was going to have to load up my two small children and drive from Lampasas to Snyder to buy a can of WD-40 and deliver to the airport. If I had made this trip, it would have meant that I would miss a day of work and my boys would miss a day of school.

Luckily, I got the idea to call the local police dept. to see if they might offer some assistance. I called and the dispatcher on duty that night was wonderful. He didn't laugh at our rather unusual request for assistance; he was very professional and helpful. I gave him my husband's cell phone number and he hung up from me, and in a matter of a few short minutes, had dispatched a sheriff's officer and called my husband to let him know that someone would be at the airport shortly. The sheriff's officer who came to the airport was also wonderful. He had bought the WD-40 and would not let my husband reimburse him. He made sure that my husband got the plane running and air worthy. He even told my husband that he would hang around the airport and make sure that my husband was headed east again, just in case Mark had to land the plane again. He told my husband that if he had to land the plane again that he would take him to a hotel and make arrangements for Mark to be brought back to the airport the next morning.

We realize that these men were just performing their jobs, but in our opinion, these men performed their jobs at a level exceeding 100%. Mark and I both appreciate the concern and professionalism shown by both of these men. These days in our world everyone is quick to point out the negative about everything, including cops. We wanted to take this opportunity to point out that these men showed nothing but positive efforts in order to assist us. They were there to help. I also used this experience as a teaching aid for my two children. They didn't understand why I was calling the police, I explained that the police were the good guys and they were there to help whatever the need.

Again, express our thanks to these two gentlemen and also to their superiors. We realize that the guidance and examples exhibited by the ones in charge established the tone for the level of job performance and professionalism shown by these men.

Thank you again and happy holidays,

Terri and Mark O'Hair
Lampasas, TX

Thanks Snyder

Dear Editor:

We the offenders/students of the Cognitive Intervention class at the Price Daniel Unit would like to say how much your care and love warmed our hearts and souls. We so do appreciate the bag of goodies that we received from your caring citizens here in Snyder.

We would like to say "Thank You," and also wish each and everyone that took part in the goodie bags a very Merry Christmas and may the Lord and Savior bless each and every one of you.

Cognitive/Intervention Class 2003

No help

Dear Editor:

Where are the friendly, helpful people of Snyder?

We had a friend who went out to feed the ducks at the park and he fell. Three cars passed him by, with him lyin in the street and never stopped to help.

He finally pulled himself over to his tailgate and pulled himself up.

Wonder why anyone would pass a man up when he was in need.

Thank you,
Virginia Fulks

For Christ's sake, cut some slack

by Joe Klock, Sr.

You've been there and done that, I'm sure: You're in a nice restaurant, scarfing down a dinner-to-die-for, including goodies that would make your cardiologist moan and your bathroom scale groan.

The waiter, whose eye you were trying to catch to order an extra measure of a life-threatening sauce, is joining a procession of his colleagues toward a nearby table, occupied in part by a very young and very happy little kid.

Their leader is carrying a candle-topped cake and, not necessarily in a common key, they're chanting a song as familiar to you as your name and your favorite pair of shoes.

It's the little kid's birthday, and even though you had just been ticked off by the eruption of a nearby cell phone, you didn't mind this noisy intrusion; in fact (in a key of your own choosing), you might have joined in the singing.

On a similar occasion, the honoree might not have been of tender age, but an old geezer who appeared to be one small step short of the boneyard, but you sang along anyway.

Hey, what's the big deal? You always cut some slack for birthdays - even those of people you don't know, and you wish them well, albeit there's no place set for you at their table.

Know where I'm going? If not, here's a clue, also from a well-known tune: "It's beginning to look a lot like Holiday."

Sorry about that deliberate mutation, but it brings us to the point of this column - the slow-but-sure dismemberment of Christmas as an American religious tradition.

When I was blowing out my first birthday candles, shortly after the discovery of topsoil, the "season to be jolly" was always called Christmas, and was enjoyed by all but a few humbuggardly members of the Scrooge sect.

It was also so-called by people who saw Jesus Christ as nothing more than an historical figure or a harmless myth. No matter...its roots were in the bittersweet story of a frightened teen-age wife who gave birth to her first child in a smelly stable. because there was a hostile "no vacancy" sign displayed on every hostelry in town.

Did it happen right on December 25? Almost certainly not, according to the scholars. Did it happen at all? Ditto, according to non-believers.

By definition, though, dating back to its Old English origin (Cristes maesse), Christmas has always meant a Christ-centered observation of Jesus' birthday.

(Militant Atheists might find comfort in knowing that the precise calendar date was fixed by the Church on December 25 in 440 A.D., that being the day of the winter solstice, traditionally observed as a time of unbridled revelry by heathens.)

Anyway, whatever the reason, the season was thereafter called Christmas, and "Merry Christmas" was de rigueur as the appropriate greeting, in person, in print, in advertising, and even displayed on public buildings - i.e., until the dawn of political correctness.

Then, God (or whoever) knows exactly when, a subtle campaign began to take the "Christ" out of the celebration, first by introducing "Xmas," which apologists claimed was merely substituting "chi," the first letter in the Greek spelling of Christ. (Yeah...right!). Happily, it never caught on; neither did Yuletide, another bland substitute.

Over time, though, the religious origin of Christmas has been shoved into the shadows by a combination of aggressive litigation, militant atheism and creative interpretation of the Constitution (whose writers can almost be heard shouting from their graves, "Hey folks, that AIN'T what we had in mind!").

Here's the straight skinny, gang, at least from Joeland: Those who recognize this time of year as a season to be jolly and/or a reason to be especially nice to everyone around them should see no threat to these pleasures in a recognition that the tradition is steeped in remembrance of a long-ago birthday.

Neither should it be harmful, illegal or uncomfortable for anyone to cut some slack for those of us who choose to preserve "Merry Christmas" as an appropriate seasonal greeting.

Through most of my life, I heard it from and offered it to just about everyone, including guys in the neighborhood who wore yarmulkes and people who never saw the inside of a church.

Yet "Happy Holidays" is rapidly becoming pervasive as the greeting du jour, between both friends and strangers, as though the "C" word were to be regarded as offensive and/or Un-American.

To those so inclined - or, perhaps, so warped - this advice: Lighten up, y'all...it's His birthday party to some folks, so why not either grin and bear it or just sing along?

I'm reasonably sure you wouldn't like it if, the next time you sneezed, somebody sneered, "Go bless yourself!"

Merry Christmas to all...and to some, a good fight!

Joe Klock, Sr. is a freelance writer in Key Largo, FL. E-mail joeklock@aol.com or call (305) 451-0079



Speaker for all seasons

by Don Newbury

Strange isn't it, that we attribute all manner of chuckles and laughter to various ages?

In elementary grades, we hear "tee-hee, hee-hee" and later "ha-ha." For added emphasis — perhaps in junior high —sometimes it is just one "HA!" (all caps, and fittingly punctuated).

As we grope our way toward adulthood, sometimes laughter is gussied up to include "hardy-har-har." Little old men offer some "heh-heh's," and there are assorted gaggles of giggles, chortles, chuckles and such.

Only one individual among the six billion people on the planet has his own special laugh. It comes from deep inside the ample padding of Santa Claus!

He is the only guy I know whose name seems always to be followed by "ho-ho-ho" in the next sentence or two. Reckon how this happened?

* * * * *

As you may guess, I have a theory. At some long ago Christmas time, Santa hitched his reindeer to the sleigh, checked the battery in Rudolph's nose and performed the routine flight checks during a brief spin above the North Pole. Returning home around midnight Dec. 23, he urged his charges to get some grub, take a long rest and hang out at the barn until he called. When it was time for the Christmas Eve flight around the world at dusk, he would summons them with a single word: HOSANNA! Upon hearing this invocation dressed up in a code word, they should all come running.

When the time neared, they heard a faint "ho-ho-ho," but nothing more. They cocked their heads at each other — as deer do — thinking, "That's not Hosanna." Time and again, they heard "ho-ho-ho." Finally, Santa appeared, about an hour late. He was steamed. He knew the code word was "Hosanna" and the deer knew it was "Hosanna."

What the deer didn't know was that Santa had come down with a cold, and all he could get out between sneezes was "ho-ho-ho." Be not afraid. They stayed on schedule because Santa declared night dark savings time and put on his night vision goggles for maximum visibility.

* * * * *

Another individual very nearly as unique as the bearded one is the heralded Dame Edna, who swoops into the USofA from the land down under, frequenting major evening talk shows with constant kibitzing about many personal acquaintances with presidents, kings, queens and other world-renowned personalities. The dame is armed to the teeth (dentures, actually) with opinions about everything.

Oh, you'll recall Dame Edna—henceforth, we'll label her DEF—"Dame Edna Forever." DEF's hair looks like it was spun from a cotton candy machine. Maybe it is. She is never under her hair when it is being done.

The rhinestone glasses are plenty big enough for a chorus line to peer through — all at once. The jewelry tonnage would tether a fishing trotline across Lake Michigan, and the dress—well, it appears to have been blown on with a paint gun.

Finally, the make-up. Lipstick is apparently applied with a paint roller. Eyeshadow is thicker than cake frosting. Overall, DEF's facial accouterments provide colorful proof of a second-place finish in a paint ball fight. If one were to see Santa Claus and DEF for the first time, the latter would draw the longer stare.

* * * * *

Ah, now you remember Dame Edna, don't you? Well, during a recent appearance in Dallas. Dame Edna —The Show That Cares, DEF was typically topical, spending time kidding about many personalities in today's news, including Governor Swarzenegger. The Dame claimed that some years ago, Arnold proposed marriage. "Not in those exact words," DEF said, "But he was groping for them."

DEF is from Melbourne, but is every bit as popular in America. Guiding the star, as DEF puts it, is "Sitting Horse, Native American Spirit Guide." Jubilant always, DEF takes a serious turn when mentioning agent Barry Humphries, whom "she" accused of ripping "her" off. Oh, did I mention the alter ego thing?

Actually, DEF is Mr. Humphries, a decorated actor and artist in his own right who has done really well assuming the "Dame Edna" role most evenings since the 1950s. Barry—or Edna—or DEF, if you prefer—is almost 70. He's a husband and the father of four children. Take your pick —Barry or Edna, neither fish, nor fowl.*

*No, silly, Edna is not Barry's wife. They are one and the same. His wife is back in Australia — spending Edna's money.

See Web site www.speakerdoc.com, e-mail at newbury@speakerdoc.com or call 817-447-3872.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Houston Chronicle

Big Bend woes

Big Bend National Park is in trouble. The as-far-as-the-eye-can-see scenic vistas for which it is so famous are now often obscured by haze. The storied Rio Grande, which separates the park from Mexico, ran dry this summer, the first time since the big drought of the 1950s, its waters sucked up by agricultural irrigation and the demands of people and cities upstream.

A $6 million budget shortfall this year hampered park stewards from doing all that should be done to protect and maintain Big Bend's cultural resources that record our state's earliest people and history.

But with all of that said, the 800,000-acre Big Bend is still one of the absolute gems of this country's national park system and a great place to visit, according to Jim Nations, vice president of the National Parks Conservation Association's State of the Parks Program, which recently issued a report on Big Bend's health following a yearlong study.

The nonpartisan park group, founded in 1919 to serve as a citizen-run watchdog over the National Park Service and the nation's 388 park units, makes several recommendations that would not only save Big Bend for future generations, but enhance all that it has to offer. Among them are:

— Congress and the state of Texas must aggressively enforce air quality regulations. Studies have found that two-thirds of air pollutants adversely affecting Big Bend's air and soil originate from coal-fired power plants east of the Mississippi. Mexico should also be encouraged to reduce pollution emissions.

— Congress and Texas should examine the Rio Grande watershed with the goal of finding ways to improve the water flow quality and quantity of the once-mighty river.

— A joint U.S.-Mexico International Commission should be set up to address air and water problems. It should go forward with plans to establish an international park, which would include at least 1.2 million acres of land in Mexico across the river from Big Bend. The idea of an International Park sprawling along both sides of the Rio Grande has been generally supported in both countries for decades but never ironed out. Obviously, U.S. security concerns in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks complicate the matter.

The Dallas Morning News

Cashing in on teachers' deaths

A tip of the hat to former Sen. Phil Gramm and Gov. Rick Perry for some outside-the-box thinking when it comes to the death-benefit idea for funding the state's retirement system for teachers pun intended. It's going to take bold ideas to assure that the system stays in the black.

Still, we have reservations about the state buying life insurance policies on thousands of retired teachers and then reinvesting the benefits from those policies into the retirement system when the retirees ultimately die. Chief among them:

The plan is way complicated. Even retirement experts puzzle over its intricacies, and wonder whether it will work.

The health care portion of the teacher retirement fund needs big money to stay solvent, at least $1 billion in the next few years.

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Scurry County Anti-drug Connection

The best things in life are drug free

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

How To Plan a Safe Party

Party the safe way

The basic ingredients of a good party haven't changed much over the years. Delicious food, interesting guests, tasty beverages, and plenty of fun are all essential parts of the recipe for a successful gathering of friends, relatives, or business associates.

But lately, caring hosts and hostesses have added another important element — safety. Today, most people realize that they have a responsibility to protect their guests from the dangers of drinking and driving.

In fact, in many states, social hosts can be held legally and financially liable for serving alcohol to guests who are intoxicated or to minors who then cause crashes that result in fatalities or serious injuries.

Serving a wide variety of delicious foods is just one way to make sure that your guests will not drive home under the influence of alcohol.

But there's so much more that you can do to make your next party, picnic, or business meeting a memorable and safe occasion for everyone.

Be a responsible host

As a host, your role is to plan a party that is enjoyable for all your guests. But you also have a responsibility to prevent your guests from being injured or killed in an alcohol-related crash — or causing one. Here are a few tips you can follow — before the party even starts:

Invite guests who are compatible. People who feel left out of the action at a party may have a tendency to drink too much.

Plan lots of group activities, games or sports. Keep your guest occupied, so that they spend more time participating in activities other than excessive drinking.

Be honest. If you're inviting guests who sometimes drink to excess, tell them that you will not permit them to drive home under the influence of alcohol.

A very special guest — the designated driver

The Designated Driver is an important guest at any party — because he or she volunteers to provide a safe and sober ride home for the people with him or her.

It's easy to be a Designated Driver. All it takes is a promise not to drink any alcohol before or during the outing.

As your guests arrive, ask if they've made arrangements for a safe and sober ride home. If not, help them pick someone in their group to be the Designated Driver for the party. You can even volunteer to be a Designated Driver, if necessary.

Treat the Designated Driver with respect. He or she is doing you a favor by helping your guests arrive at their homes safe and sound.

Once the party starts:

Mingle with your guests during the party. Take a few moments to chat with everyone you've invited. It's a good way to show your guests that you're happy to see them — and to notice if anyone should stop drinking alcohol.

You can also:

Make eating — instead of drinking — the focus of attention. Set up a buffet. Let your guests create their own dishes with an array of appetizers, salads, and entrees. Chocolates, pastries, and other goodies are a great way to divert people away from alcoholic beverages.

Limit the amount of salty snacks you serve. Salted chips, pretzels, nuts, and other highly salted foods can build up a thirst and lead guests to drink more alcohol.

Prepare a variety of nonalcoholic beverages and encourage your guests to try them. Let them know that you'll share your recipes the next time they have a party.

Don't let guests serve themselves alcohol. Prepare all alcoholic drinks yourself or use a bartender. Stick to exact measurements for all mixed drinks. And **never serve alcohol to any guest who is under 21 years old** or who had had too much to drink.

Close the bar early. Stop serving alcohol at least 90 minutes before the end of the party. Offer your guests coffee, tea, and other nonalcoholic beverages instead.

The party's over

As your guests prepare to leave, remind them not to drive if they have had too much to drink. Tell them you'll call a cab, drive them home yourself, or even invite them to stay at your place until they're completely sober. But never let anyone drive while under the influence of alcohol.

As you start planning your holiday party's keep these tips in mind and your party should be a success. The tips were provided with permission from MADD. If you would like more information on MADD or how to get involved, contact: MADD National Office, 511 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700, Irving, TX 75062.

Next week — more holiday tips and ideas for a safe Holiday Season!

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.





On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Nutrient loss in cooking has variables

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have been cooking vegetables in the microwave, which I thought was nutritionally sound, since I don't have to add any water. I have recently read of a study done in Spain that found that cooking broccoli in the microwave destroyed 97 percent of the antioxidants it contained. If that is really what happens to broccoli, I wonder about other foods as well. And does reheating food in the microwave also have a deleterious effect on nutritional value? If you have any information on this topic, or know where I might find it, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. — **E.C., Amherst, Mass.**

DEAR E.C.: What you are doing is fine and is reflective of a healthful method of preparation. There have, however, been some confusing reports in the media from the research you cite. The study was published in the November 2003 issue of the Journal of The Science of Food and Agriculture. The article did provide information, but, as is often the case, we need to examine the details to get the full story.

The study involved 150 grams of broccoli, which is just under 2 cups, and 150 milliliters of water, which is about 10 tablespoons (5 ounces). The broccoli-water combination was cooked four different ways: in a pressure cooker for 3 minutes, boiled for 5 minutes, steamed above (not in) the water for 3.5 minutes, and microwaved on high power for 5 minutes in a 1,000 watt oven. The scientists then measured how certain food components had been affected by the cooking process.

It was found that steaming for 3.5 minutes (where there was no direct water contact) resulted in the least amount of loss in the components measured (11 percent). Next came pressure-cooking for 3 minutes, where there was a 53 percent loss. Boiling for 5 minutes resulted in an 81 percent loss, and microwaving for 5 minutes resulted in the reported 97 percent loss of the measured nutrients.

Reading this information alone gives one the distinct impression that microwaving is not a good way to cook broccoli. I advise you not to toss out your ovens just yet, though, as there are a few more ingredients needed to complete this recipe.

The essential issues to consider are temperature, cooking time and contact with water. The temperature and time element relates to the fact that sufficient heat can destroy some vitamins, most notably vitamin C, thiamine and folic acid, as well as certain phytochemicals. Contact with water is important because a number of beneficial components in foods are water soluble. These get pulled into the cooking water; if the water is discarded, so too are those compounds. As a general rule, the greater the amount of cooking water and the higher the temperature, the greater the potential loss.

If they had pressure-cooked the broccoli for 5 minutes (instead of 3 minutes) the nutrient loss would probably have been similar to those found with microwaving in water for 5 minutes. Likewise, I would predict that if they had microwaved the broccoli above the water rather than in the water, the loss would have been significantly less. Again, the key is water contact and heat. The key data that was missing is what happens when you microwave broccoli above water, with only enough water in the container to steam the vegetable.

A more reasonable recipe might be to cook the broccoli in 2 tablespoons of water, not the 10 used in the study. That greater volume of water meant more time to bring the water to a boil and cook the broccoli. Less water would translate to less extraction of water-soluble compounds. Cooking time in a covered, microwave-safe container would be closer to 3 minutes, because it takes less time to make the necessary steam with the smaller volume of water.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Administration releases funds for some home heating help

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration is releasing $598 million to a federal program that helps millions of low-income people pay their heating bills, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said Friday.

The funds are the second installment of payments this fiscal year under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which is a frequent flashpoint for budget battles between cold-state lawmakers, who say the program is underfunded, and Republican leaders who have sought to keep spending increases down.

LIHEAP provides block grants to states for distribution to some 4.5 million poorer households. In October, the first month of fiscal 2004, HHS, which oversees the program, released $844 million.

"During these cold months, we must keep people warm and safe, Thompson said in a statement. "By releasing these funds, the states can meet their obligations to citizens."

He said $273 million is to be released immediately for first quarter allocations and another $325 million on Jan. 1 for second quarter allocations.

The 2004 federal budget, which has yet to be finally approved, allocates $1.8 billion for grants and another $100 million for a contingency fund, up from about $1.7 billion in the 2003 budget year.

The bipartisan Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition says at least $3 billion is needed to keep pace with the growing needs of low income families and rising fuel prices.

Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, co-chairs of the coalition, and 33 other senators wrote Thompson earlier this week urging the release of additional funds. "Many states are receiving an increased number of LIHEAP applications this winter due to arrears from last winter's high energy prices and slow economic recovery in parts of our country," they wrote.

Natural gas prices have surged in recent weeks, raising concerns that residential heating costs will be significantly higher this winter than last and create a drag on the economic recovery.

Federal funding for LIHEAP has ranged from a high of $2.1 billion in 1985 to $1 billion in 1997.



First Baptist Church would like to invite you and your family to our

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

Bible Study ~ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship
8:15, 10:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday ~ 6:00 p.m.

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SNYDER CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2003

Data Control Codes		General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	REVENUES			
5700	Local and intermediate sources	$ 10,578,193	$ 419,641	$ 10,997,834
5800	State program revenues	7,188,056	543,056	7,731,112
5900	Federal program revenues	84,836	2,340,867	2,425,703
5020	Total revenues	17,851,085	3,303,564	21,154,649
	EXPENDITURES			
	Current:			
0011	Instruction	9,007,246	1,641,810	10,649,056
0012	Instructional resources and media services	392,278	15,488	407,766
0013	Curriculum and staff development	55,473	68,605	124,078
0021	Instructional leadership	170,881	19,911	190,792
0023	School leadership	907,892	45,842	953,734
0031	Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	612,617	67,021	679,638
0033	Health services	105,588	-	105,588
0034	Student transportation	490,838	12,364	503,202
0035	Food service	-	972,538	972,538
0036	Extracurricular activities	694,181	111,244	805,425
0041	General administration	1,105,320	366,091	1,471,411
0051	Plant maintenance and operations	3,550,653	2,994	3,553,647
0052	Security and monitoring services	35,024	-	35,024
0053	Data processing services	43,832	-	43,832
0061	Community services	82,203	8,793	90,996
0071	Principal and interest on long-term debt	559,765	-	559,765
0081	Capital outlay	2,438	-	2,438
0093	Payments related to shared services arrangements	197,959	-	197,959
6030	Total expenditures	18,014,188	3,332,701	21,346,889
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(163,103)	(29,137)	(192,240)
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
7020	Other resources	1,595,000	29,137	1,624,137
8030	Other uses	(29,137)	-	(29,137)
	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	1,565,863	29,137	1,595,000
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	1,402,760	-	1,402,760
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	3,560,453	80,720	3,641,173
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	$ 4,963,213	$ 80,720	$ 5,043,933

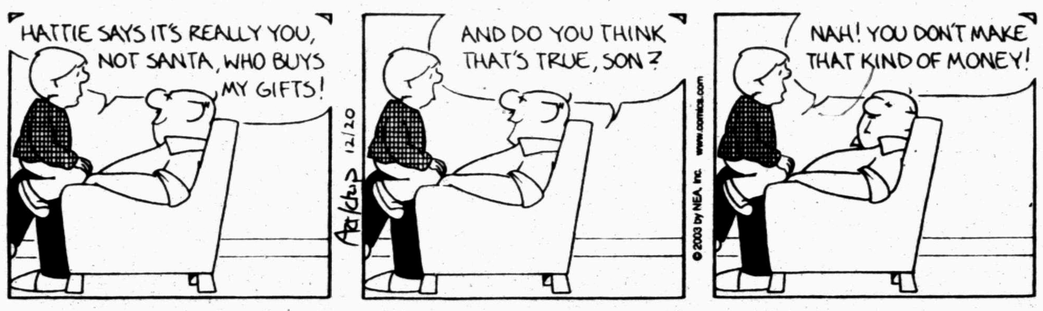
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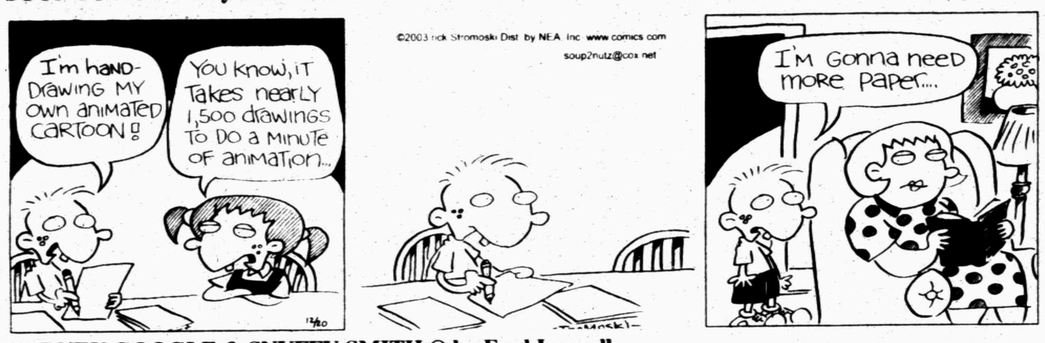
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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



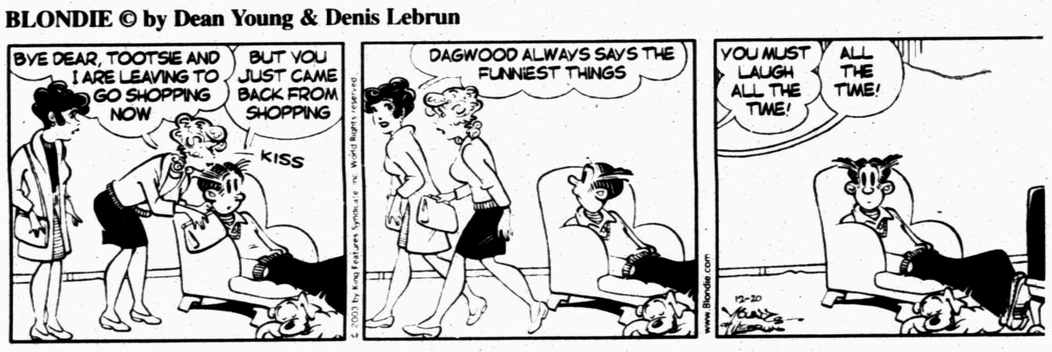
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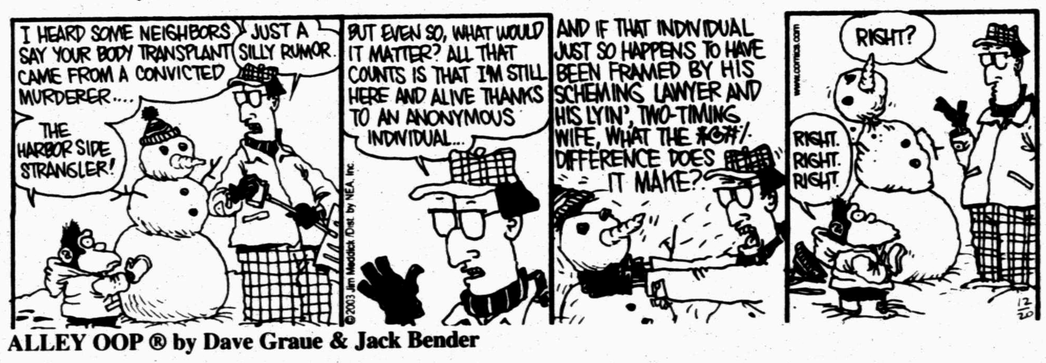
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MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Irk
5 Physique
8 Smile broadly
12 Big continent
13 Humorist George —
14 Inactive
15 Aquarium
16 Lawyer
18 — over (capsize)
20 Make a note
21 Witty remark
22 Cannoli filling
25 Kennel sound
28 Intuition
29 Pine cousins
33 Gave an address
35 Fulminate
36 Take a cab
37 ASAP
39 Latin I verb
40 Pace
42 Give in the middle
43 Lamented
46 Mind-reader's letters
49 1914 headline
50 Look like
53 Prom "sentry"
56 Ta-ta in Turin
58 Sock flaw
59 Recolor
60 Bo Derek film
61 Receptive
62 Weep
63 Take a nap

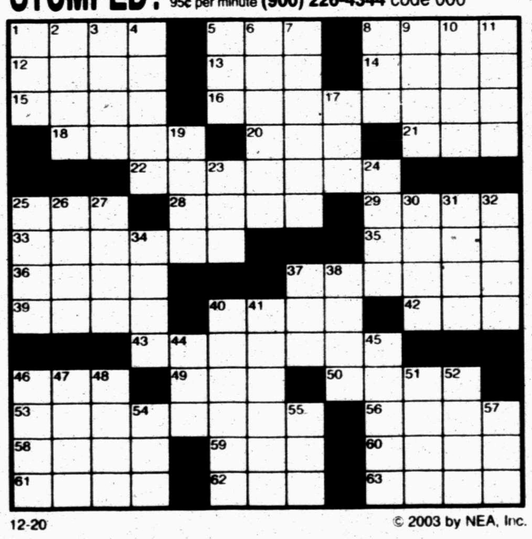
DOWN

1 Bathroom item
2 Danish writer — Dinesen
3 Like some china
4 Impostor
5 Ewe's plaint
6 007 foe (2 wds.)
7 Set aside for
8 Desk item
9 Mild cheese
10 Kind of sax
11 Athletic competition
17 Baseball great Mel —
19 Breathe
23 England's FBI
24 Frizzy hairdo
25 Long ago
26 Tall flower
27 Walks softly
30 Fleming and Smith
31 Moreno or Rudner
32 Tramp
34 Swarm with
37 Wrestler's coup
38 AAA suggestions
40 Some cagers
41 Gulch
44 Have bills to pay
45 Style of a room
46 Canyon comeback
47 Boutique
48 Faded
51 Dublin's land
52 Rain slickers
54 Ink partner
55 Kan. neighbor
57 Cereal grain

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

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"You wouldn't even have that job if my Grandpa hadn't gotten the flu."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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a super-cooled
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NASA unveils the first views from space infrared telescope

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA unveiled the first views Thursday from its space infrared telescope, a super-cooled orbiting observatory that can look through obscuring dust to capture images never before seen.

The telescope, a $670 million project launched in August, can detect extremely faint waves of infrared radiation, or heat. Astronomers for the first time are able to peer into the heart of stellar fields that had been blocked from the view of conventional telescopes by dense clouds of dust and gas.

"This gives us a powerful new capability that will enable us to see things not seen before and to answer questions we couldn't even ask before. This is a very powerful new tool for astronomy," Michael Werner, an astrophysicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., said at a news conference. He is the project scientist for the Spitzer Space Telescope, named in honor of the famed astronomer Lyman Spitzer Jr.

Added Giovanni Fazio, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a Spitzer researcher: "We are now able for the first time to lift the cosmic veil that has blocked out view and see the universe in all of its components."

Some of the first views from the Spitzer included:

—a galaxy that was mostly blurred in the view of other telescopes. In the Spitzer image, there are vast fields of stars in a spiral necklace surrounding the galaxy. The image also detects clouds of glowing carbon dust.

—a patch of sky that appears black and empty in visible light telescopes is revealed by the Spitzer to be a stellar nursery, a large cloud of dust wherein stars and other bodies are forming,

"That's what the solar system looked like in the beginning," said Fazio.

—an object 3.25 billion light years away that is almost invisible to other instruments is seen as a highly energetic galaxy, glowing with an energy 1,000 times that of the Milky Way, the home galaxy of the sun and Earth. Embedded within the clouds of the galaxy are organic molecules, such as carbon dioxide and cyanide, that are thought to be the chemical building blocks of life.

—a comet streaking through the solar system some 550,000 million miles from the sun. It is surrounded by a cloud about 20 times bigger than Jupiter; the Spitzer sees to the comets glowing core.

John N. Bahcall of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., said the Spitzer will enable astronomers to study the birth pangs of stars and the formation of planets out to the very edge of the universe.

"We will be able to see things that human beings have never before seen," he said. "This will change the way astronomers do astronomy."

The telescope completes NASA's original plan to orbit telescopes to study segments of the electromagnetic spectrum, the visible and invisible radiation that fills the universe, which is partially or completely blocked by the Earth's atmosphere.

The Hubble, launched in 1990, gathers images in visible, ultraviolet and near-infrared waves. The Compton, launched in 1991, studied gamma rays, a high energy form of radiation. Its mission ended in 1999. The Chandra Observatory, launched in 1999, studies X-ray radiation from supernovas and black holes.

Now the Spitzer collects infrared radiation which is invisible to the naked eye, but which is able to penetrate dust and gas.

Virtually all objects in the universe emit some infrared, or heat, radiation. To detect it, the Spitzer is rather like a telescope within a vacuum jug. All the instruments detecting infrared are cooled by liquid helium and shielded from the heat-producing parts of the craft.



TOP SELLERS — Ira elementary students sold $5,000 worth of a variety of items to benefit the Accelerated Reader program. Top sellers are from left, J.P. Wilson, fifth grade; Brandee Pinkerton, fourth grade; Elizabeth Brunson, third grade; Dax Stokes, first grade; Kaleb Derryberry, second grade; and Kaci Archer, kindergarten. Brunson brought in the most money — $814. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Today's chuckle

Woman turns tables on would-be rapist



BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — A 140-pound rapist met his match in an angry, 275-pound prostitute, police said.

Adrian Castillo Ramirez allegedly tried to sexually assault a 24-year-old Bakersfield prostitute who was nearly twice his weight.

But she took his knife, stripped him naked and paraded him in front of other prostitutes, after asking how many of them had ever been forced into sex at knifepoint. Then she tried to take him — still naked — to the police station, reports said.

Castillo was charged with failing to register as a sex offender, and with committing forcible sex acts on the 24-year-old and on a 37-year-old woman in a previous incident. He was convicted of four counts of rape in 1988.

Castillo pleaded innocent Wednesday, and is being held on $250,000 bail, police said.

Saddam capture boosts poll numbers for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans think the war in Iraq was the right decision by a 2-1 margin and are more inclined to approve of the job done by President Bush in foreign policy and terrorism following the capture of Saddam Hussein, an Associated Press poll found.

They remain wary, however, of the continuing deadly conflict in Iraq.

Saddam's capture appears to have given Bush's re-election prospects a boost: The poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs found that nearly half of respondents, 45 percent, said they would definitely support Bush's re-election, while 31 percent said they would definitely vote against him.

A month ago, people were evenly divided on that question, at 37 percent definitely for and 37 percent definitely against.

Two-thirds in the poll said they were confident the United States would capture or kill Osama bin Laden, who is believed to have orchestrated the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. That's up from about half who felt that way in a poll in September.

"I'm confident we'll capture Osama bin Laden," said Jill Chicchino, a surgical technician from Wilmington, Del. "I still don't feel that will solve terrorism, but it may help."

More than six in 10 registered voters, 63 percent, said they approved of Bush's handling of foreign policy and terrorism, up from 54 percent who felt that way in early December in an AP-Ipsos poll. Bush's overall job approval among voters was 59 percent, up from 53 percent in early December but still far below his mid-70s war ratings from earlier this year.

Asked whether they thought Saddam's capture last weekend would cause violence against U.S. troops to increase, decrease or stay about the same, the biggest group, 47 percent, said they expected no change.

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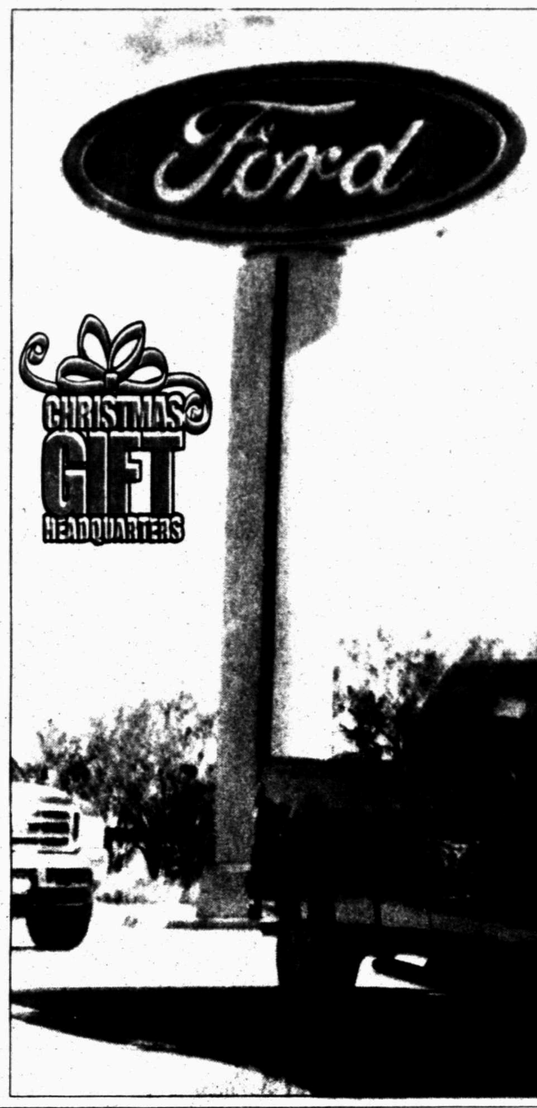
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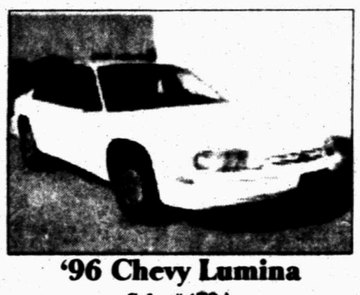
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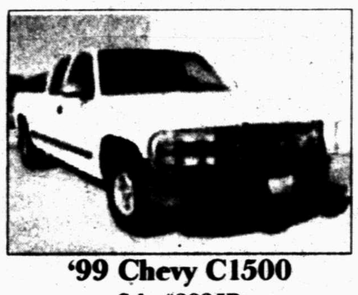


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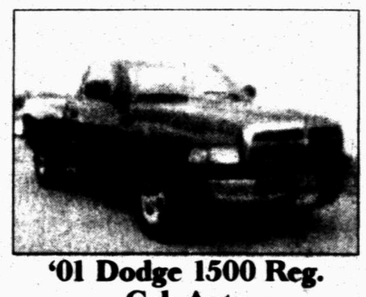
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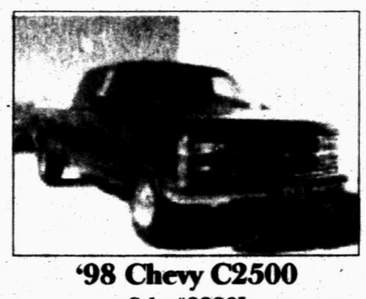
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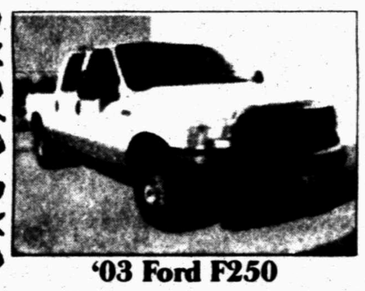
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$179/mo
*$9,497



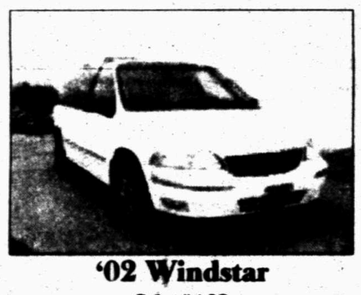
'98 Chevy C2500
Stk. #3990I
Only $6,997!



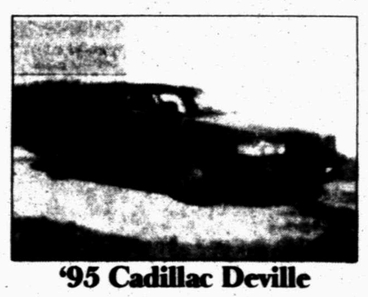
'03 Ford F250
Stk. #3884A
Only $26,997!



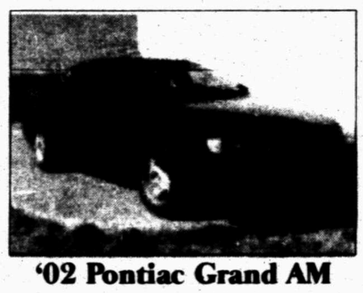
'02 F150 s/c XLT
Stk. #476
$389/mo
*$18,997



'02 Windstar
Stk. #469
$289/mo
*$15,497



'95 Cadillac Deville
Stk. #356A
$59/wkly
**$6,997



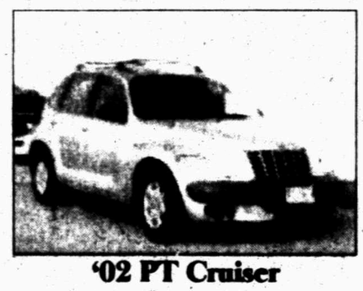
'02 Pontiac Grand AM
Stk. #460
$189/mo
*$9,997



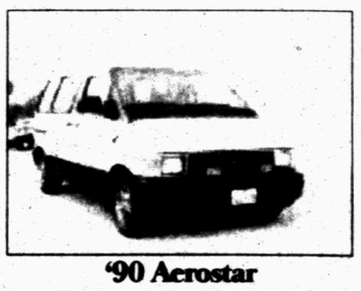
'02 Pontiac Sunfire
Stk. #450
$139/mo
*$6,997



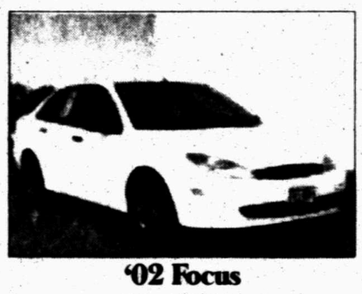
'96 Grand Marquis
Stk. #3893B
$49/wkly
**$5,997



'02 PT Cruiser
Stk. #470
$219/mo
*$11,497



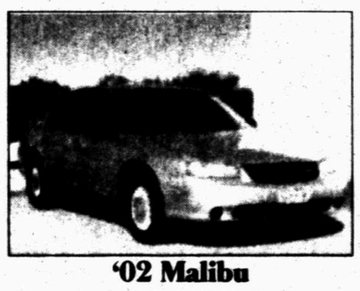
'90 Aerostar
Stk. #475A
$49/wkly
**$5,997



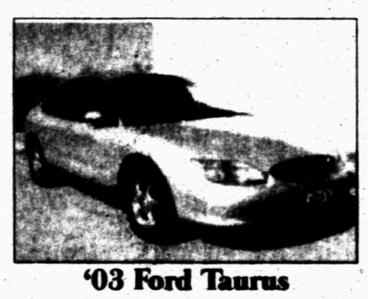
'02 Focus
Stk. #3928A
$139/mo
*$6,997



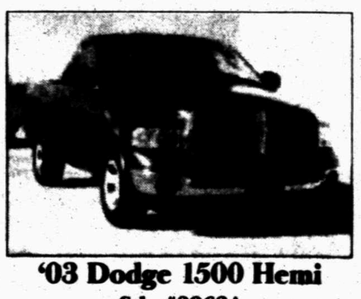
'92 Tempo
Stk. #466
$39/wkly
**$3,997



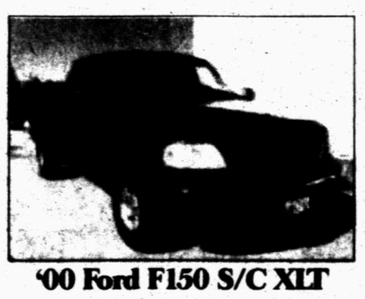
'02 Malibu
Stk. #461
$169/mo
*$8,997



'03 Ford Taurus
Stk. #484
$229/mo
*$11,997



'03 Dodge 1500 Hemi
Stk. #3962A
$339/mo
*$17,997



'00 Ford F150 S/C XLT
Stk. #473
$267/mo
*$13,997

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** 20% Down & TTL, 130 weeks, 23.95% WAC
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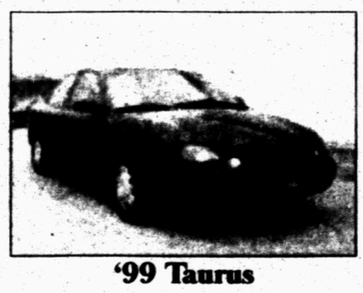
One trade towards purchase of vehicle. One trade per purchase. Some Restrictions Apply.



'01 Dodge Quad Cab SLT
Stk. #485
$276/wkly
*$14,497



'96 Chevy Monte Carlo
Stk. #345
$49/wkly
**$5,997



'99 Taurus
Stk. #465A
$169/mo
***$6,497

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