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WT-Int. Crude - $26.28
WTIC Posted - $22.75

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

Dec. 31, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 208
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Ricky & Lee Ann Chaidez

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Both wealth and poverty have failed to ensure happiness, so it must come from somewhere else. Here's wishing all find happiness from within as we begin the next 100 years."

Trying to determine what events and which persons had the greatest impact on Snyder and Scurry County the past century is highly subjective.

Recognizing the risks of omissions, still such an endeavor seems appropriate on the final day of 1999.

1. The discovery of oil in Scurry County in 1923, but the real boom came with the development of the Canyon Reef field starting in 1949.

Oil money - new found individual wealth, creation of job opportunities and tax dollars to build schools, coliseums, hospitals and to pave streets - is still being felt even as production declines in the aging fields.

2. A reliable water supply. Long an ag community, Scurry County citizens know the value of rainfall and has repeatedly experienced the devastation of prolonged droughts.

Creation of the Colorado River Municipal Water District in 1951 and construction of Lake Thomas as the first of three reservoirs has been vital to the growth and stability of the community.

3. Electricity and other utilities, something often taken for granted by current generations. The first local electric company was established in 1909, evolved into Snyder Utility Company then sold in 1929 to West Texas Electric, a forerunner of TXU Electric.

Until 1939, only city dwellers enjoyed the benefits of electrical power. Creation of the REA and formation of Midwest Electric, now Big Country Electric, brought power to 132 rural families in October, 1939.

4. Highways. The first, Highway 7 running from Mitchell to Garza County opened in 1935. A paved highway from Colorado to Snyder opened in 1937, and in 1939 an east-west highway (now U.S. 180) launched a transportation system in and out of the county.

Paved highways were an improvement, but concrete bridges proved to be the finishing touches, allowing travelers to cross Deep Creek and other water ways on those rare occasions when it does rain.

5. The Roscoe, Snyder and Pacific Railroad extended from Roscoe to Hermleigh in 1907 and on to Snyder in 1908. RS&P owners then sold right-of-way to the Santa Fe which laid tracks and reached Snyder in 1911, providing the county with transcontinental shipping and travel.

6. The Sparkle City Award in 1968 and the All-American City designation that followed in 1969, provided a community facelift, especially in the central business district. The pride lasted for years, but 30 years later, a repeat of that beautification effort is in order.

7. Medical facilities have long been important to citizens. D.M. Cogdell, a beneficiary of the oil boom, donated land on the northeast corner of his ranch, along with $200,000, to help construct a modern 50-bed hospital that still bears his name.

8. Creation and establishment of Western Texas College in 1969, donation of land from the Cogdell family and opening of the community college in 1972.

9. Location of the Price Daniel Unit in Snyder in 1989, ultimately creating more than 400 jobs to help fill the void created by the decline in the petroleum industry.

10. Location of Lorber Industries of Texas in the new industrial park, continuation of a community-effort to diversify the economy.

With sincere apologies for overlooking anyone, here are some important names in the history of Snyder and Scurry County:

Pete Snyder, J. Wright Mooar, Dr. A. O. Scarborough, Edith Whatley McKannan, Tom Nunn, A.C. Wilmeth, Joe Stinson, Fred Graham, Lee Stinson, Maurice Brownfield, Willard Jones, Renal Rosson, Bill Wilson II, Forrest Sears, Henry Clark, Hubert Cargile, Ted Zeck, Miller Robinson, Bill Seale, Cloyce Talbott, Mal Stevenson, Joe Stinson, Claude McCormick, Bob Clinton, Elizabeth Potts.

Also R.C. Patton, Bill Eiland, the Joyce brothers, Dan Gibson, Judge Edgar Taylor, Nolan von Roeder, Bentley Baize, James Rosser, John Sentell, Dr. Harry Ward, Bob Dupree, Marvin Key, Dan Cotton, John Jarrell, Keith Collier, Carl Herod, Wacil McNair, Harry Reed, G.B. Clark, Bob McCormick, Ernest Sears.

Sue Mize, Wayne Boren, Mickey Nunley, Ted Crenwelge, Myron Roe, Clyde Hall, Rick Hall, Charles Anderson, Ralph Miller, G.A. Parks, Horace Fowler, Bill Calley, Ted Crenwelge, John Boren, N.R. Clements, Harold Lacik, Bill Wilson III, Paul Zeck, Jack Denman, Paul Sizemore, Hassie Sneed, Si Steinberg.

Dr. Bob Hargrove, Gene Best, Max von Roeder, C.O. Holder, Harold Bennett, Jack Greene Sr., Mel and Paula Gilbert, Frank Taylor, E.D. Walton, Buster Anderson, Russell Yorgesen, Bill Atwood, Bill Jones, Lyle Deffebach, A.L. Martin, Jim Wadleigh, R. Virgil Mott, M.L. Broman, Jimmy Thompson. M.L. Duke, Leon Autry, Wayland Holt, Bill Vestal, Jack Smartt, David Holt.

And our list of the top 10 individuals who made a difference:

Roger B. Mize, C.T. McLaughlin, D.M. Cogdell, M.A. Fuller, Horace Eiland, Harrie Winston, H.G. Towle, Brud Boren, Roy Baze – and our personal favorite, you, the loyal reader of the Snyder Daily News.

Local officials ward off Y2K bugs by long-range planning

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Santa wasn't the only one with a list to check twice this year.

Many folks are checking their Y2K-ready lists to make sure they have food, water and emergency items just in case more than the New Year is ushered in at midnight.

Locally, preparations have been underway for months as the days ticked off to 2000.

Both the county and the city have upgraded computer systems throughout the year.

"Department by department we have reviewed our needs and upgraded our hardware and software for our computers," Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz said.

Cabling was also replaced throughout the courthouse and other county entities such as the hospital and sheriff's office have made the necessary Y2K preparations.

"I feel confident going into the New Year and I believe we have made preparations for most contingencies so anything that does happen will be handled," Fritz said.

County crews will be on stand by tonight in the event that something does happen.

The city will have personnel checking all city functions including the water and sewer plant, pump stations and lift stations between midnight and 1 a.m.

The central dispatch number to report any disruptions in service is 573-2611. This is a non-emergency number.

"We don't expect any interruptions. We feel we have everything covered," City Manager John Gayle said.

Local law enforcement will also be stepped up tonight.

Snyder Police Lt. Jerry Parker said extra city patrolmen will be on duty, which is normal for New Year's Eve.

"We will have extra people from the evening to the early morning hours," he said.

Sheriff Darren Jackson and all five deputies will also be working tonight as a precaution.

"We don't expect any problems, but deputies will be patrolling each precinct," Chief Deputy Delwyn Davis said.

All four Department of Public Safety troopers stationed in the Snyder area will work today.

This includes two on the day shift and two at night.

"Statewide, all troopers will be working," trooper Rick Campos said. "No one will be off these two days."

Local Texas Department of Transportation workers will also be on call this evening.

"We are going to work at 10 p.m. and we will be there until we see what happens. When we see that everything is fine we will go home," Jack Talley, local TxDOT maintenance supervisor, said.

Talley said the local office will be manned and the department will have workers patrolling to make sure traffic signals are working.

In addition, a worker will be positioned at each railroad crossing that intersects with a state highway to ensure that the arms and lights are working properly after midnight.

"The hospital began preparing for Y2K in the summer of 1998."
Jeff Reecer, Cogdell Hospital CEO

There are seven such crossings in Scurry County.

Snyder Fire Department will also be ready to respond to any emergencies.

"We are going to be on standby down here," firefighter Cy Posey said. "We have the emergency operations center in the basement of the fire center and we have communications with all emergency services. We're ready for anything that happens."

The emergency crews will also be monitoring news programming.

Posey said the department didn't look for anything major to occur, but it was prepared if it did.

"The only thing we can foresee, heaven forbid, is an accident or someone hitting a power pole."

As for TXU Electric & Gas, local manager Daryl Thomas says the company is prepared.

"TXU Electric & Gas is 100 percent Y2K ready. We do not anticipate any Y2K problems but we will be available to respond in case any occur," Thomas said.

The company will be staffing the service center at 3201 Avenue M from 8 o'clock this evening until 6 a.m. Saturday.

"The Snyder service center will be one of several centers that will be staffed monitoring different ports of the TXU Electric & Gas systems," Thomas said.

Approximately 1,600 employees will be working tonight at centers across the company's service area and critical electrical substations around the system will be monitored.

"We expect a normal evening, however, in the late hours we cannot prevent cars from running into poles or wildlife possibly causing transformer fuses to blow," Thomas said. "In case of that, we will be available as we are throughout the year to restore power quickly in those situations."

He added that the weather is forecasted to be mild across the state, so the company will have nearly double the capacity to serve normal load requirements.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital CEO Jeff Reecer said department heads will be at the hospital tonight checking all priority items and validating equipment.

"We will check anything connected to a patient as well as other high priority items," he said.

The hospital began preparing for Y2K in the summer of 1998. Reecer said all equipment has been inventoried, prioritized and upgraded as needed.

"We think we are as ready as we can be," he said. "We are confident that we are ready."

The Snyder Independent School District is also prepared.

Dale Byrd, the district's technology director, told the school

See Y2K, Page 7

Pct. 1 commissioners' race gets Republican candidate

As Monday's filing deadline for the March 14 primaries approaches, one new candidate has filed on the Republican ticket, while another candidate has filed the necessary papers to be listed as an independent candidate on the November ballot.

Carl Burleson, director of the respiratory therapy department at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, has filed for Precinct 1 commissioner on the Republican ticket, while Price Daniel safety officer Pam Bryant will be seeking the now-vacant Precinct 2 justice of the peace office as an independent.

Burleson is seeking the post currently held by Ralph Trevey.

Trevey, a Democrat, is being challenged in his party's primary by Bill Baldwin and Cloyce Scarberry.

Burleson is a 1959 graduate of Hermleigh High School who later earned a degree in biology and psychology from Southeastern State University in Oklahoma. He later attended the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center and received a degree in respiratory therapy. He has served as director of the respiratory therapy department here for the past 22 years.

"I am looking forward to help oversee county activities, and working with the concerns of the citizens," said Burleson.

Also, he and his wife, Gayle, formerly owned and operated a medical rental business.

Presently, Burleson is also engaged in stock farming, a member of the Snyder Lions Club, the Gold Coaters and the Chamber of Commerce and the Scurry County Library Board.

He and his wife attend Colonial Hill Baptist Church. They have been married 34 years and have two children, Kyle of Plainview and Angela of Wichita Falls.

Bryant has filed the necessary paperwork to run as an independent candidate to fill the un-expired term of John Williamson who has moved from the county.

She has been the safety officer at the Price Daniel Unit since it opened, and also teaches for the Windham School District locally and at the Smith Unit in Lamesa.

Prior to working with TDCJ, she worked in civil service at Fort Hood in contract compliance, and also taught photography at Central Texas College where she has a degree.

She resides in Hermleigh and said she is running for the office in order to give back to the Hermleigh community.

"Since moving to Hermleigh, the people have been a great help to me and I want to give something back to them," said Bryant.

Bryant will collect signatures in order to be listed as an independent candidate in November.

So far, voters are looking at four other contested races in the primaries.

Former Department of Public Safety trooper Kirby McCravey filed this week for the Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace position on the Republican ticket.

McCravey joined Deborah Boyd, a clerk in the JP office; Ben Smith, Snyder municipal court judge; and Dwaine Merritt, a former DPS trooper and Chevron retiree to fill the spot currently held by Charlie Reynolds.

The filings of the four were prompted by Reynolds' resignation, effective Jan. 31.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Howard Limmer has drawn Joe Bass as an opponent in the Republican primary, while Pat Alexander and Kirk Taylor are running on the Republican ticket for Precinct 1 constable.

Others who have filed, and who are currently unopposed, are District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, County Attorney Mike Hartman and Jeff Duck for Precinct 2 constable – all on the Republican ticket.

Sheriff Darren Jackson is unopposed on the Demo ballot as is Diana Williamson who is running for the tax assessor-collector post.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm is unopposed on the Demo ticket, but he has two Republican challengers.

Darrell Clements of Dallas has filed on the GOP ticket, and Shane Hunt of Granbury is seeking signatures in lieu of a filing fee to be included on the ballot.



Carl Burleson



Pam Bryant

ASK US

Q—Is Cogdell Hospital using the A-Plus-S collection agency for past due bills?

A—No. Any concerns about hospital collections should be directed to Selina McGuire, hospital controller, at 574-7439.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 70 degrees; low, 31; 7 a.m. Friday, 31; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear. Low, near 40. S wind 5-15 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy, breezy, high, the 70s; SW wind 15-25 mph.



Charley Stewart
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:51 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:43 a.m.
Of 364 days in 1999, the sun has shone 357 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Tomorrow's life is too late. Live today.

—Martial

Efforts continue to avoid missile mistake

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AP) — Side by side, Russian and American military officers are monitoring the skies today to ensure that the millennium doesn't end with a nuclear missile launch accidentally sent because of the Y2K bug.

The cooperation was a long way from decades of Cold War paranoia and movies such as "Fail Safe," which ended when miscommunication between the two superpowers caused the missiles to launch.

In real life, the former enemies created the joint unit at Peterson to make sure there were no accidental missile launches. They wanted to ensure, for example, that their systems didn't mistake a radar failure as a threat, or misidentify a commercial aircraft as a bomber. They also are on guard in case a terrorist tries to manipulate their computers.

The team was agreed upon by President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Early today, Yeltsin announced he was resigning and turning power over to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Through mid-January, six-person crews — two Russians, two Americans and two translators — are working eight-hour shifts around the clock, watching computer screens in a 1,200-square-foot, $4.5 million center in Building 1040.

Deputy U.S. Defense Secretary John Hamre, speaking on the PBS NewsHour, said, "They will see, frankly, nothing on the screens because we know that Russia won't be doing anything crazy that night, and we won't be doing anything ourselves. So I think they won't be seeing much of anything."

After they quickly repaired a telephone hotline to Moscow, things went well on the first shift on Thursday, the officers said.

The building is adjacent to U.S. Space Command, which controls all military space programs, and a few miles across Colorado Springs from the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a joint U.S. and Canadian operation that monitors man-made objects in space from deep inside Cheyenne Mountain.

Senior U.S. commanders planned to be on duty at Cheyenne Mountain throughout the period, as were their Russian counterparts, thousands of miles away.

No U.S. officers were allowed in the Russian missile center, and the Russians will not be permitted in the NORAD facilities. Data from Cheyenne Mountain was passed on to the Y2K Strategic Stability Center at Peterson to be shared with the Russians.

Taiwan also took steps to avoid the possible misfiring of missiles or other weapons that might be triggered by Y2K glitches, the state-run news agency reported.

Vigilance redoubled for Y2K bugs

By The Associated Press

The New Year's Eve vigil began in earnest today across Texas, with Y2K hotlines open at high-tech companies, utilities and government agencies preparing for a long overnight watch into 2000.

Computer engineers began their anxious wait at corporate command centers, where executives also planned to help fix any problems caused by the time change.

Billions of dollars in technology upgrades and software patches have poured into Y2K preparedness. Texas-based companies such as Electronic Data Systems Corp. and GTE Corp. are monitoring their global systems for any glitches.

Reports today from the South Pacific island nation of Tonga, where the new century first dawned today, to EDS' millennium management center showed no problems.

"As we go around the world, and we'll go to Australia next — we'll go to Sydney and we'll go to Perth three hours later," said EDS' chairman and chief executive, Dick Brown, "the first checks we do when a major center goes Y2K is we'll check for power, water, gas and electric."

The first report was from a computer server operating at Tonga's immigration service. It's the first location where EDS, which operates ATM and other systems worldwide, has facilities.

"So far, so good," EDS spokesman Darren Ballegeer said. "The report came from there that all systems are OK and no problems are reported."

From the New Zealand monitors, where EDS manages telecommunications, immigration services and correctional facilities, all systems also reported OK with no problems.

"We were laughingly saying that a test of the correctional institution is that the doors stay closed at midnight in Auckland, New Zealand — and they certainly did," Brown said from EDS' worldwide command center in the Dallas suburb of Plano. "So a big cheer went up."

Software engineers hoped for a slow weekend, with little to do during their extended shifts because preparedness has been so thorough.

"The work done over the last two years has been tremendous," Matthew Hotle, a vice president of technology research firm Gartner Group, said.

Irving-based GTE handed out special Y2K badges for employees working the New Year's shift. In GTE's network operations center at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, "we're in the hurry-up-and-wait mode," company spokesman Bill Kula told The Dallas Morning News.

Executives of Dallas-based TXU Corp., which provides electricity and natural gas service, have almost tripled staffing at their call centers in Dallas and Waco for a five-hour period starting at 10 p.m.

At the Port of Houston, the Coast Guard has barred foreign-flagged vessels that failed to respond to queries about their Y2K compliance from entering U.S. ports during the Year 2000 rollover.

"That in itself may not bar the vessel," Rear Adm. George Nacarra told the Houston Chronicle. "It depends upon the type of cargo they're carrying, and the weather conditions, and the port, and its congestion."

Coast Guard officials at the Port of Houston red-flagged four vessels that were scheduled to arrive at the Houston Ship Channel between 6 p.m. Thursday and midnight Saturday.

Along the Southeast Texas energy corridor, some oil and petrochemical companies say they plan to scale back or shut down operations during the rollover.

Executives of Houston-based Conoco planned to boost staffing levels at its refineries and natural gas processing plants over the New Year's holiday and suspend petroleum product flows through its pipelines for a few hours near the rollover.

Berry's World



www.comics.com © 1999 by NEA, Inc.

"Here's to higher HDL, the GOOD cholesterol, in 2000."

Texans to take part in on-line voting project

DALLAS (AP) — Texas soldiers are expected to be among hundreds participating in an on-line experiment for Internet voting by military forces overseas in November.

Aboard a destroyer in the Persian Gulf or at a radar post in Greenland, Dallas residents may be among those in the Pentagon test of a system to let 350 sailors and soldiers from five states cast presidential ballots via the Internet.

Fifty slots are set aside for Dallas County voters.

"Some form of this is going to be something we see at some time in our lives," Dallas County elections administrator Bruce Sherbet told The Dallas Morning News. "So being pioneers is pretty exciting."

About $1.9 million will be spent installing equipment at test sites and adapting military encryption technology to prevent fraud and ensure that votes cast over the Internet are kept confidential.

The program could eventually expand to include millions of troops and civilians working overseas if the e-votes arrive securely and in time to be counted along with absentee ballots.

"It'll be pretty much handled the way the absentee process is handled now, except it's an electronic version," said Polli Brunelli, director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

Date Book

Friday, Dec. 31, 1999

Today is NEW YEAR'S EVE; it is the 365th day of 1999 and the 10th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1929, on the CBS radio network, Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians broadcast their first New Year's Eve concert.

On this day in 1946, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed that World War II was officially over.

On this day in 1953, jockey Willie Shoemaker set a horse-racing record by winning 485 races in a single year.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805), British general; George C. Marshall (1880-1959), U.S. Army general-statesman; Anthony Hopkins (1937-), actor, is 62; John Denver (1943-1997), singer-songwriter; Ben Kingsley (1943-), actor, is 56; Diane von Furstenberg (1946-), designer, is 53; Patti Smith (1946-), singer-poet, is 53; Donna Summer (1948-), singer, is 51; Paul Westerberg (1959-), singer, is 40; Val Kilmer (1959-), actor, is 39.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1961, the Green Bay Packers defeated the New York Giants 37-0, winning the NFL championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To be proud of knowledge is to be blind with light." — Benjamin Franklin

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 29) and new moon (Jan. 6).

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Name of Applicant:_____ Birthdate:_____
Address:_____ Phone Number:_____
Spouse:_____ Birthdate:_____
How Long at this Address:_____
( ) Own Home ( ) Buying
( ) Renting $_____Monthly Amount
Are You:
( ) Widowed ( ) Divorced
( ) Handicapped How:_____

Number of People living in this Household:_____
( ) Adults ( ) Children Ages:_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Income:
( ) Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) Spouse Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) No One Employed
Other Income:
( ) Social Security: Amount $_____
( ) Public Welfare: Amount $_____
( ) Supplemental Income: Amount $_____
( ) Other:_____

Additional Comments - Repairs Needed:
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Mail to: P.O. Box 541, Snyder, Tx. 79550
Applications Need To Be Returned By January 15, 2000

New Year's Day

SALE

WAREHOUSE FURNITURE will be open SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st - Final Day Of Annual 13th MONTH SALE.

Save Up To 57%! Last Day Special Terms - No Money Down - No Interest Or Payment Til June 2000.

Special Sale Hours - Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Two Whataburgers for $2.50

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6 a.m. to Midnight

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Please present this coupon when ordering.

We Will Be Open New Year's Day

SUBWAY

3903 College 573-9782

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

TV starting New Year's coverage early

NEW YORK (AP) — Years of planning for millennium telecasts prepared TV executives to expect the unexpected — and right away they were tested.

News of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's resignation and the agreement to free Indian Airlines hostages interrupted initial coverage of the first year 2000 celebrations in remote Pacific islands.

"Boris Yeltsin stole the headlines right out of the old and new millennium," ABC's Morton Dean said in a live report from Moscow shortly before 5 a.m. today.

ABC, PBS and the three cable networks opened extensive millennium coverage shortly before that hour, pegged to the South Pacific island nation of Kiribati, the first land mass to welcome the New Year.

Television became an electronic travelogue, with cameras darting across time zones to show dancers in grass skirts on a Kiribati beach, anticipatory fireworks in Sydney and preparations on the rainy streets of Paris.

"We begin, as you could imagine, with a tremendous sense of awe — awe at what is behind us and what is ahead of us," said ABC's Peter Jennings, opening what he hoped was a 25-hour marathon anchoring ABC's coverage.

Jennings spoke from a studio in New York's Times Square, where a newly-constructed crystal ball was hoisted shortly before 7 a.m. in front of merrymakers already gathering in rain-splattered streets.

CNN, trumpeting it as an exclusive, interrupted the celebrations before 7 a.m. EST to show pictures from an airport runway in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of the Indian Airlines hijackers leaving the plane.

The pictures were herky-jerky and occasionally fuzzy, because CNN said it was transmitting them by satellite telephone — a new technology. None of its rivals had pictures from Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, MSNBC stationed reporter John Palmer outside of the White House in the pre-dawn hours, where he was asked to get President Clinton's reaction to Yeltsin's resignation.

NBC opened its "Today" show by showing the preparations in Times Square, while CBS's "Early Show" was halfway across the world. Jane Clayson, her hair buffetted by wind, was in Sydney, Australia, where midnight would come at 8 a.m. EST.

The first countdown clocks appeared quickly on TV screens: counting the minutes to the millennium in Kiribati on CNN and ABC, and pegged to the eastern United States on MSNBC.

Television swept across the sea to a rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus" in Tonga and to Pitt Island in New Zealand, which celebrated the New Year at 5:15 a.m. EST.

Right away, PBS's coverage proved more leisurely and intent on capturing the event's pageantry. Its cameras followed a man and boy in an outrigger canoe offering a gift of fire to the gods of the sea in Kiribati, after other networks had already left the island behind.

ABC and CNN, in particular, are intent on using the millennium celebration to show off the depth of their news organizations and entice viewers who may have drifted away in recent years.

"It's just a great opportunity for people to learn a lot about what is going on on the planet," said Richard Kaplan, president of CNN USA.

CNN's nonstop coverage stretches to at least 100 hours. After the celebrations are over, CNN will use its time to examine issues like papal succession, the Internet, fitness and prophesies for the future.

One network's plans for a millennium celebration fell through this week. Pax TV and 179 other broadcasters across the world had contracted to show a 24-hour millennium musical special from the producers of Live Aid. But organizers backed out this week for lack of funds, said Nancy Udell, Pax TV spokeswoman.

The network scrambled to fill its New Year's Eve schedule with movies such as "His Girl Friday" and "Royal Wedding."

'Unusual event' declared at nuke plant

LIMERICK, Pa. (AP) — One of the two nuclear reactors at PECO Energy Co.'s Limerick Generating Station was shut down this morning after a piece of equipment failed.

Company spokesman Neil McDermott said the problem was not Y2K-related.

It was declared an "unusual event," the least serious emergency classification at a nuclear power plant.

The 2:55 a.m. shutdown occurred when an insulator on the main generator transformer for Limerick Unit 2 failed, McDermott said. The transformer is non-nuclear equipment used to increase the voltage of the unit's output before sending electricity out to the power distribution system.

The 1,100-megawatt generating unit will be out of service until the insulator can be repaired, he said.

PECO Energy is a private utility that serves the Philadelphia area.

Texan files lawsuit against Burger King over Pokemon balls

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas woman has filed a class-action lawsuit against Burger King Corp., claiming the Miami-based fast food chain knew its Pokemon toys were hazardous.

Jennifer Winder of Dallas filed the lawsuit Wednesday in Dallas County court. Her attorney, Jeff Rasansky, said Ms. Winder wants a mandatory toy recall and reimbursement to consumers.

Burger King issued a voluntary recall Monday for millions of the balls given away in children's meals. The recall followed the Dec. 11 suffocation of a Sonora, Calif., girl, who was found in her playpen with half a ball over her nose and mouth.

Ms. Winder, who has a 7-year-old son, bought at least five meals solely for the toys, Rasansky said.

Rasansky accuses Burger King of knowing the toys were unsafe but delaying the recall until a second incident was reported, in which an 18-month-old Kansas girl also had a half-ball stuck over her face. Her father pulled it off before she was injured.

The balls were used to pack several types of Pokemon toys and can be opened by pulling their two halves apart.

Rasansky said Ms. Winder never would have bought the toys if she had known they were hazardous.

"She wants to prevent any further deaths from occurring. She wants to make sure they (Burger King) don't go unpunished."

A spokesperson for Burger King did not return phone calls Thursday afternoon. Company leaders have said consumers should take the balls away from children younger than 3 and discard them or return them to a Burger King restaurant for a free small order of fries.

Burger King is recalling about 25 million toys. A spokesman for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has said Burger King should recall millions more of the balls.

Sprint reaches accord with union locals in five states

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Sprint Corp. reached tentative 3-year contract agreements with union locals in five states but failed to reach agreement with a Florida local by a midnight strike deadline, the company said early Friday.

The union agreed to extend a working agreement with Sprint until midnight Monday to continue negotiations.

"There will not be a strike anywhere tomorrow (Friday)," said Steve Dykes, a spokesman for Sprint headquarters in Overland Park, Kan.

Sprint reached tentative contract agreements Thursday with Communications Workers of America locals representing about 2,830 workers in North Carolina, Indiana, Oregon, Tennessee and Virginia.

Dykes said the agreements will be voted on by local union members in January.

Dykes said 3,500 workers are represented by the contracts, primarily installers, repairmen, technicians and customer service representatives.

CWA negotiators have been in talks with Sprint Corp. representatives for months. The CWA has complained that the company wants to cut the number of annual paid holidays by one, reduce regular wage increases for newer employees, deny existing employees hiring preferences and trim severance pay.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Young sons fight for life after father drives drunk

DEAR ABBY: My good friend experienced a tragedy last night. Her ex-husband had their two little boys with him for a weekend visit. He got drunk, took them for a ride and got into a wreck.

The boys are 5 and 7, and the most precious, sweet and funny children. Now the youngest is paralyzed from the waist down, and there's a chance neither will make it.

It breaks my heart to see two such sweet little boys hooked up to machines, and not know if they'll be here for Santa to visit or not. We are praying for them.

Please, Abby, remind your readers that if they drive, they shouldn't drink — and if they drink, to hand their keys to a sober friend or take a cab. — DEVASTATED IN TRUSSVILLE, ALA.

DEAR DEVASTATED: Your letter is a chilling reminder of the innocent lives that can be snuffed out or irreversibly changed because of people driving under the influence. During this last holiday season of the century, let's all resolve to act maturely and responsibly while celebrating — and maybe we'll all be here to welcome the year 2000.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband dislikes my family and friends. He never wants to be around them for social gatherings — and when he does go, he acts as if he's suffering. His attitude is starting to affect the relationship between our children and my parents. It's as if he doesn't want our kids to spend any time with them.

If I say something about his family or friends, he goes ballistic. If I don't want to be around them, I'm "stupid" and "anti-social." His family talks badly about me and treats me like dirt. When I say anything to my husband about it, he says I'm too sensitive or that I'm overreacting.

Abby, I'm tired of suffering, and my children deserve to spend as much time with my family as they do with his. Please help! — FED UP IN PIEDMONT, S.C.

DEAR FED UP: Under normal circumstances, spouses are willing to extend themselves in the interest of family unity — even if it means sometimes socializing with relatives they don't particularly enjoy. Had you given any indication why your husband dislikes your parents and friends, and why his family dislikes you, your question would have been easier to answer.

Name-calling and isolating someone from family and friends are considered abusive behaviors. If you and your husband cannot reach an agreement about this, enlist the assistance of a clergyperson or professional counselor.

**

DEAR ABBY: We get an awful lot of catalogs that we never requested. I don't know how we got on so many mailing lists. Is there a way to call or write someone to stop getting so many catalogs? — ALAN W. IN TUCSON, ARIZ.

DEAR ALAN: There certainly is. To have your name deleted from these lists, write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735. The lists are purged only once every quarter, so it may take some time to notice a change in the volume of unsolicited mail you're receiving.

P.S. There is no charge for this service.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: HAPPY NEW YEAR! Many of you will participate in special celebrations as we enter the year 2000. While enjoying the festivities, please remember the first letter in my column today. The writer's plea — one which I have been making for years — bears repeating! If you drink, don't drive; if you drive, don't drink!

**

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

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 12-31-99
♠ J 10 7 5 4
♥ 5 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 10 6 4

West
♠ ---
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ K 10 8 5 2
♣ Q 8 7 3

East
♠ A 9 8 2
♥ K J 9 4
♦ J 3
♣ K J 5

South
♠ K Q 6 3
♥ A 10 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ A 9 2

Vulnerable: North-South game and 60
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 5

The expert's expert

Howard Schenken, who died in 1979, was known as the expert's expert. He won more national team titles than anyone, including the Spingold and Vanderbilt 10 times each. Schenken was a founder of the Four Aces, which won numerous events, including the first official world championship in 1935 against France. He also won the Bermuda Bowl in 1950, '51 and '53. Schenken made major contributions to bidding theory, inter alia devising his own Big Club system and inventing the weak two-bid.

In card-play, he was renowned for deception, finding ways to hoodwink even experts. This deal is a good example, taken from a rubber-bridge game. How would you try to make two no-trump after West leads a diamond to East's jack and your queen?

The bidding was colored by the score, where North-South was 60 on toward the second game.

Normally, one would expect to win eight easy tricks via four spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club. However, given East's opening bid, Schenken knew that the spades were splitting 4-0. Also, as East was a top player, he would know enough to duck his spade ace for three rounds to kill the dummy. What could Schenken do?

Well, at trick two, Schenken returned his low diamond. West won with the 10 and, expecting to get in with one of his queens, returned a diamond. East had to make a discard now. What should he throw? Not wishing to release a heart or club, he understandably discarded the spade two. Curtains! Schenken drove out the spade ace and had those eight tricks.

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STUART LITTLE
PG 7:10, 9:00

ROBIN WILLIAMS
BICENTENNIAL MAN
PG 7:00, 9:20

MATINEES EVERY DAY
THRU JAN 2 2:00 P.M.

Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



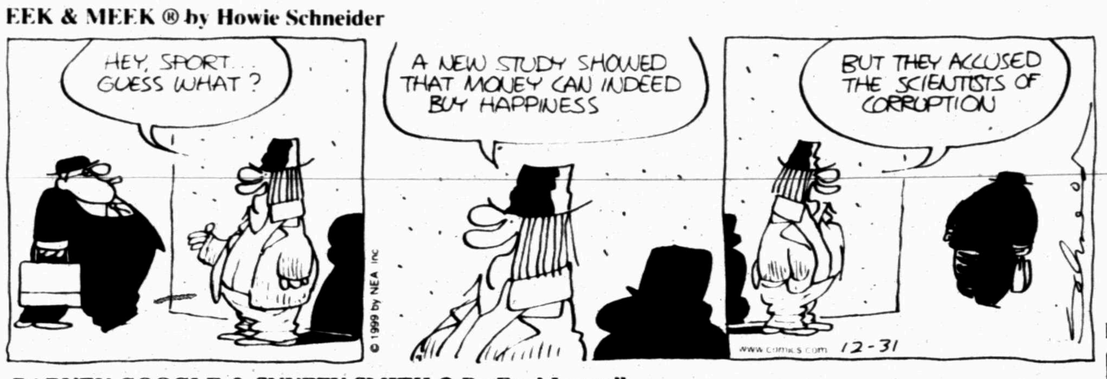
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



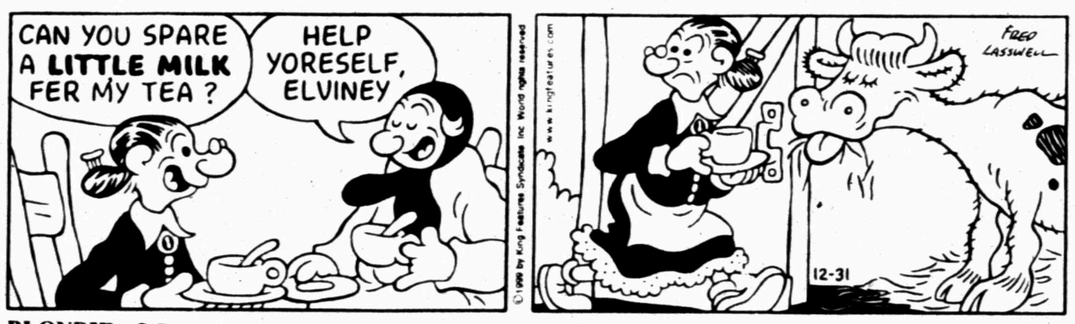
EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

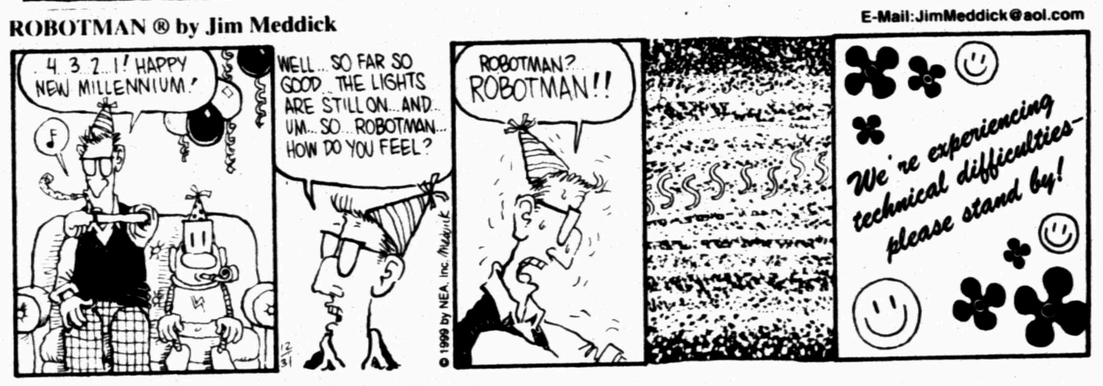


BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



BLONDIE © By Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Detour, e.g.
7 Yale vines
12 Blazer ornament
13 Scoffs
14 Actress Bloom
15 Desire for liquid
16 RR depot
17 Raced
18 Altar words
21 "Cheers!"
23 Actress Lupino
26 Type of lily
28 Location
29 Oui's opposite
30 Allot
31 Brightly colored beetle
33 Equilibrium
36 Scottish-Gaelic
37 "Cyan" ending
38 Rowing tools
40 Pare
41 Okla. time
42 Stale
44 Orthodontist's deg.
45 Towel word
46 Actor Ziering of "90210"
48 Reporter's credit
51 Rosebush parts
55 Pretty women
56 Trig term
57 Dish out soup
58 High-spirited girl

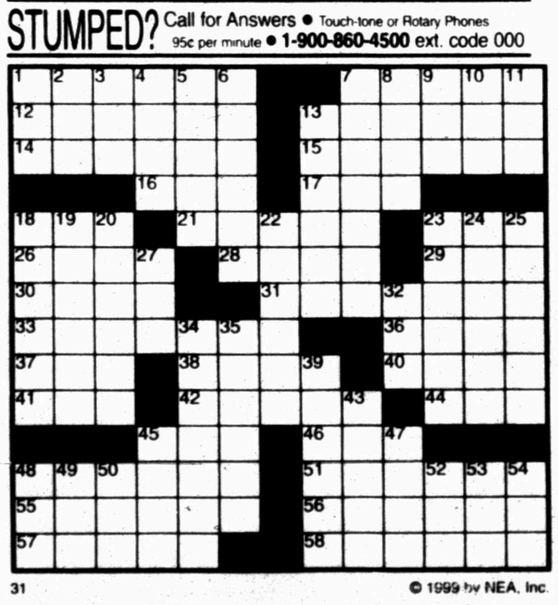
DOWN

1 UK radio inits.
2 Actor Brynner
3 School org.
4 Poisonous plant
5 Kinds
6 Sly ones
7 Took a breath
8 Artery's kin
9 Comparative suffix
10 Ums' kin
11 JFK lander
13 Layers
18 — pentameter (poetry term)
19 Is afraid of
20 Vent
22 Edmonton team
23 Innate
24 Immersed
25 Heavenly beings
27 — culpa
32 Slangy affirmative
34 Candidate
35 Makes happen
39 Sew
43 Web search engine
45 Mound
47 Inquisitive
48 Lge. container
49 Nay's opposite
50 Atty.'s deg.
52 Disencumber
53 Compass pt.
54 Member of Cong.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"We implant this behind your left ear and you won't even know it's there."



"IS THIS THE NIGHT WHEN ALL THE MILLENNIUM BUGS COME OUT?"

SPORTS

Lady Tigers close out century with 55-43 win

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

ABILENE — In its final athletic competition of the millennium, Snyder High School went out a winner.

With an inspired defensive performance in the second half, and a gutsy performance from Kristen Murray, the Snyder Lady Tigers knocked off Breckenridge, 55-43, Thursday at the Abilene High Lady Eagle Tournament.

The win snaps a four-game skid and will give the Lady Tigers confidence, heading into Tuesday's home date with Levelland.

"When you haven't had a win in awhile, the hardest game to win is the next one you're playing," said Snyder coach Sam Tipton. "It's hard to break a streak, but the girls played hard and executed like they needed to."

Owning a slim two-point advantage at the break, the Lady Tigers shut down the Lady Buckaroos in the third quarter. After Breckenridge hit the first bucket of the period to knot the tally, Snyder posted eight unanswered points as part of an 11-2 run to take control.

A big part of the Lady Tigers' second half success was the play of Murray. Despite flu-like symptoms, which almost kept her out of the tournament, the junior poured in 11 points and grabbed a team-high six rebounds. When Breckenridge threatened to make a run in the fourth quarter, Murray stepped up with five points and four rebounds.

"Kristen has really picked up her game in the last couple of weeks," Tipton said. "She played great today, even though she didn't feel great. We had to move her inside to play post, because of some injuries, and she still made big contributions."

After Snyder ran to a 44-33 lead in the third quarter, the Lady Buckaroos continued to hang around in the final period. Breckenridge cut the lead to nine points with 1:20 left in the game, before Snyder closed the door. Three free throws from Cameron Mackey, along with one from Murray and one from Amber Haarmeyer, sealed the win for the Lady Tigers.

"Our effort was great today, but then again the effort has always been there," Tipton remarked. "The difference today was that the girls played with the same effort, while also executing the game plan. In other games, the girls have played hard, but not always done things the right way. Today, their level of execution matched their effort."

Snyder got off to a slow start and fell behind, 9-4, in the opening quarter, before answering with a 12-4 run that extended into the second period.

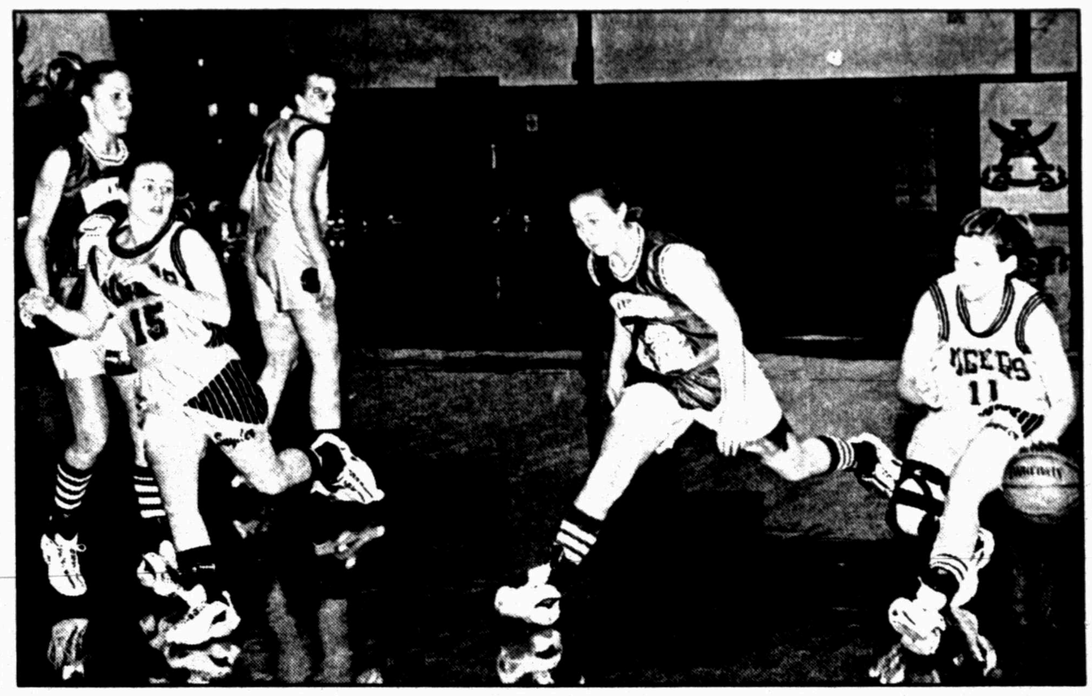
Four straight points by T'Leah Eicke midway through the second gave the Lady Tigers the lead for good. Eicke finished with 13 points to lead Snyder.

Breckenridge	11	14	08	10	— 43
Snyder	12	15	17	11	— 55

Breckenridge
Brewster 6 3-7 15, Dempsey 4 1-1 9, Campbell 1 2-4 4, Potts 1 0-0 2, Glover 3 0-0 7, McIntire 2 0-0 4, Atkinson 1 0-0 2. **Totals 18 6-12 43.**

Snyder
Eicke 3 5-6 13, Murray 5 1-4 11, Kallemeyn 3 4-5 10, Mackey 2 3-4 9, Voss 1 2-2 4, Bane 2 1-2 5, Haarmeyer 1 1-2 3. **Totals 17 17-25 55.**

Three-point goals: Breckenridge 1 (Glover), Snyder 4 (Eicke 2, Mackey 2). Rebounds: Breckenridge 33 (Dempsey 8), Snyder 23 (Murray 6). Total fouls: Breckenridge 21, Snyder 16. Fouled out — Dempsey; Voss.



DRIVING PAST A DEFENDER — Snyder's Callie Bane dribbles past a Breckenridge player, while teammate Cameron Mackey (15) cuts toward the basket during tournament action Thursday in Abilene. The Lady Tigers knocked off the Lady Buckaroos, 55-43. (SDN Staff Photo)

Hermleigh grabs pair of victories over Klondike

KLONDIKE — Hermleigh High School closed out the century with a pair of hoop victories Thursday night over Klondike.

The Lady cardinals rallied from a 10-point fourth quarter deficit to top the Lady Cougars, 44-41, while the Hermleigh boys put the clamps on Klondike's offense to grab a 52-38 win.

In the girls' match-up, Hermleigh netted just four points in the second quarter, and only six in the third.

But in the final period, the Lady Cards erupted for 20 points to rescue the victory.

Kendra Dacus paced Hermleigh with 16 points, while Brandy Wood, Sheena Callaway and Randi Herrington added eight apiece, and Crystal Jackson chipped in four.

Wood also hauled in nine rebounds, with Herrington grabbing seven boards, dishing out four assists and registering four steals.

In boys' action, Hermleigh's stingy defensive play, coupled with steady offensive output, allowed the Cardinals to steadily pull away from the Cougars.

Billy Lambaren's 14 points led the Cards, while Joey Garza poured in 12 more. Caleb Callaway and Andy Luna added 11 points apiece, and Tony Garza chipped in four.

Lambaren, Callaway and Tony Garza snagged 10 rebounds each, with Luna handing out six assists.

College Bowl Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 30
Humanitarian Bowl
Boise State 34, Louisville 31
Micronpc.com Bowl
Illinois 63, Virginia 21
Peach Bowl
Mississippi State 17, Clemson 7

Friday, Dec. 31
Insight.com Bowl
Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
Oregon (8-3) vs. Minnesota (8-3), 2:15 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
Colorado State (8-3) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Independence Bowl
Mississippi (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Georgia (7-4) vs. Purdue (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
Texas (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-4), 11 a.m. (FOX)
Gator Bowl
Georgia Tech (8-3) vs. Miami (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
Stanford (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-2), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Orange Bowl
Michigan (9-2) vs. Alabama (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 2
Fiesta Bowl
Nebraska (11-1) vs. Tennessee (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
Florida State (11-0) vs. Virginia Tech (11-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Sports Briefs

Hawks suspend Rider

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — The Atlanta Hawks suspended guard Isaiah Rider indefinitely after he missed a team flight and a shootaround prior to their game against the Pistons.

Rider showed up at the Palace of Auburn Hills about an hour before the game and was involved in a players-only meeting in Atlanta's locker room. The Hawks said Rider hadn't contacted the team all day.

A day earlier, Rider ripped his teammates following their 116-89 loss to Indiana in Atlanta. He then missed the team's 6 p.m. charter flight to Detroit. Rider said he arrived at the airport five minutes late and drove to the plane, only to have it pull away.

Carruth's assets frozen

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Rae Carruth's assets were frozen after it was determined the former Carolina Panthers receiver is the father of his slain girlfriend's child.

Judge Yvonne Mims Evans said Carruth's assets would be frozen with the exception of $35,000 to pay for lawyers. Carruth and four other men are being held without bail on first-degree murder and related charges in the slaying of Cherica Adams.

Prosecutors said Carruth instigated a murder plot, and plan to seek the death penalty.

Chargers place Leaf on IR

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Quarterback Ryan Leaf, bothered by pain in his surgically repaired right shoulder, was placed on injured reserve by the Chargers.

Leaf, the second pick in the 1998 draft, didn't take a snap this season, which began with him rehabbing his shoulder and was interrupted by a four-week suspension for insubordination. The Chargers thought Leaf would get a few snaps late in the season, but he was bothered by soreness in his shoulder.

Longhorn coach suspends four players from Saturday's bowl

DALLAS (AP) — With tears in his eyes, Texas coach Mack Brown announced that his top receiver, a star defensive lineman and two reserves will be suspended from Saturday's Cotton Bowl against Arkansas for breaking team rules.

"This was the hardest thing I have ever had to do," Brown said.

Kwame Cavil, a record-setting junior receiver, and Aaron Humphrey, a senior who led the Big 12 in sacks the last two seasons, are being punished for undisclosed violations, Brown announced shortly before midnight.

Brown said backup defensive end J.J. Kelly, a junior, and reserve linebacker Jamal Joyner, a redshirt freshman, also will miss Saturday's game between the No. 14 Longhorns (9-4) and the No. 24 Razorbacks (7-4).

"The team is hurt, shocked and disappointed," Brown said.

Brown spoke to the team about the suspensions Thursday night. Cavil and Humphrey arrived about 20 minutes after the meeting began. All four suspended players addressed the team, but Brown would not disclose what they said.

Brown called the team meeting "one of the most emotional I've ever been a part of."

"The four men involved are great young men and have done a tremendous job for our football team and The University of Texas," Brown said. "We all love and care about them very much."

As a senior, Humphrey's college career is over. Brown said he couldn't say whether the others will be allowed back. He said he expected all four to leave the hotel and return to their homes.

"The team will support them in any way that they can," Brown said.

Kelly, Humphrey and Joyner missed practice Thursday; coaches said Humphrey and Joyner had the flu. Cavil, who missed several practices earlier this week following the death of his grandmother, was there.

The suspensions provided a serious end to what had been a light-hearted day featuring former coaches Darrell Royal of Texas and Frank Broyles of Arkansas. The pair reminisced about the once-heated rivalry that began in 1894 and has been on hold since 1991.

Bulldogs drop second straight contest...

Ira splits hardwood match-ups

The Lady Bulldogs returned to action in impressive form Thursday night, while the Ira boys suffered their second setback of the season, after starting out 16-0.

The Lady Bulldogs used a fourth-quarter outburst to put away Jayton, 51-42, while the Ira boys fell to Brock, 61-55, in the Fort Worth High School Holiday Classic.

In the girls' battle, Jayton made it difficult for Ira to pull away through the first three quarters. After a 21-21 tally at halftime, the Lady Bulldogs owned only a one-point advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

But in the final period, the Lady Dogs erupted for 21 points.

Morgan Clements' 27 points paced Ira. Korby Calley added nine points, with Jamie Goolsby dropping in seven. Celeigh Sterling finished with six points, and Tara Allen chipped in two.

In Fort Worth, the Ira boys dropped their second consecutive game to run their mark to 16-2.

The Bulldogs owned a 34-28 lead at the midway point, before Brock took over in the second half.

Brock outscored the Bulldogs, 33-21, over the final two quarters to take the win.

Logan Daves poured in 17 points to lead Ira, with Jerek Brown adding 13. Richard Wilkins drained 11 points, while Jose Juarez tallied six. Drew Wall posted five points, and Jase Olvera registered three.

Men's College Basketball Scores

EAST
Air Force 70, Dartmouth 62
Cornell 69, Lehigh 65
Duquesne 67, Delaware St. 63
Georgetown 85, Coastal Carolina 57
Iona 71, Boston College 63
Navy 70, Belmont 62
Providence 61, Massachusetts 60, OT
Richmond 76, Marist 63
Rider 78, Fairleigh Dickinson 73
Robert Morris 81, Brown 77, OT
Seton Hall 92, Wagner 77
St. Bonaventure 71, Cleveland St. 69
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 112, Tenn. Wesleyan 48
Arkansas 73, Centenary 55
Auburn 56, Southern Miss. 50
Campbell 73, Middle Tennessee 66
ETSU 84, Morehead St. 77
Florida 82, South Alabama 61
Florida St. 77, The Citadel 51
High Point 62, Yale 60
Jacksonville 92, Florida Tech 65
Jacksonville St. 72, Clayton St. 63
Louisiana-Monroe 73, Nicholls St. 59
Marshall 87, Cent. Michigan 63
Maryland 82, UMBC 52
N.C. State 79, W. Carolina 53
South Carolina 75, S. Carolina St. 49
Stephen F.Austin 55, SE Louisiana 52
Troy St. 74, Cent. Florida 73
Va. Commonwealth 78, N. Carolina A&T 61
MIDWEST
Akron 97, Oakland, Mich. 72
DePaul 80, Elon 56
E. Michigan 82, Detroit 80, OT
Evansville 92, E. Illinois 69
Ill.-Chicago 61, Illinois St. 59
Illinois 107, Loyola, Ill. 71
Indiana St. 58, Wichita St. 53
Kansas 71, Saint Louis 60
Kentucky 70, Missouri 53
S. Illinois 69, Tenn.-Martin 48
Wright St. 53, Michigan St. 49
Xavier 84, Toledo 55
SOUTHWEST
Bowling Green 66, Ark.-Little Rock 53
Connecticut 82, Houston 76
LSU 63, Oklahoma St. 53
Lamar 70, Northwestern St. 58
Sam Houston St. 84, SW Texas 79, 2OT
Southern U. 79, Texas Southern 75
St. Edward's 83, Texas-Pan American 75
TCU 143, Grambling St. 110
Texas-San Antonio 75, Texas-Arlington 73
Tulsa 113, North Texas 77
FAR WEST
CS Northridge 71, San Jose St. 53
Cal St.-Fullerton 98, E. Kentucky 83
Cincinnati 78, Boise St. 46
Colorado St. 74, Washington St. 61
Montana 65, St. Mary's, Cal. 62
N. Arizona 74, Jamestown 67
New Mexico St. 79, Washington 75, OT
Pacific 64, Pepperdine 58
Sacramento St. 62, Portland 59
San Diego St. 70, Loyola Marymount 63
San Francisco 76, Cal Poly-SLO 71
UC Irvine 67, St. Francis, NY 57
UCLA 55, Purdue 53
Utah 71, Wis.-Milwaukee 57
Wyoming 80, Samford 73
TOURNAMENT
All-College Tournament Championship
Oklahoma 64, Arkansas St. 51
Third Place
Valparaiso 68, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 48
Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic Championship
Arizona 89, Delaware 77
Third Place
Alabama 62, N.C.-Wilmington 45
Cable Car Classic Championship
Santa Clara 57, Butler 56
Third Place
Texas A&M 70, La Salle 69
Dr Pepper Classic Championship
Tennessee St. 60, Radford 58
Third Place
Youngstown St. 62, Chattanooga 58
Furrs Supermarkets Lobo Classic Championship
St. Joseph's 81, New Mexico 76
Third Place
Lafayette 88, Alabama St. 54
Holiday Inn Express Tournament Championship
Maine 67, Stony Brook 55
Third Place
Long Island U. 72, Army 56
Holiday Stores/Touch America Bobcat Championship
Montana St. 74, Mississippi St. 70
Third Place
Idaho 93, Alaska-Fairbanks 68
Oneida Bin & Casino Classic Championship
Austin Peay 58, Wis.-Green Bay 56
Third Place
Drexel 66, W. Kentucky 61
Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic Championship
Hawaii 66, Oregon 63
Third Place
Colorado 81, Gonzaga 77
Fifth Place
Villanova 70, Wake Forest 57
Seventh Place
Ohio 63, Bradley 52
Stanford Invitational Championship
Stanford 87, Davidson 61
Third Place
Columbia 72, New Hampshire 57

National Basketball Association

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	19	9	.679	—
New York	18	12	.600	2
Philadelphia	17	15	.531	4
Orlando	15	14	.517	4½
Boston	12	16	.429	7
New Jersey	12	18	.400	8
Washington	10	20	.333	10
Central Division				
Indiana	20	9	.690	—
Charlotte	18	11	.621	2
Toronto	17	12	.586	3
Milwaukee	17	13	.567	3½
Detroit	15	14	.517	5
Cleveland	12	17	.414	8
Atlanta	11	18	.379	9
Chicago	2	25	.074	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Midwest Division				
San Antonio	21	10	.677	—
Utah	18	10	.643	1½
Denver	15	13	.536	4½
Minnesota	13	14	.482	6
Houston	10	20	.333	10½
Dallas	9	21	.300	11½
Vancouver	6	23	.207	14
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	25	5	.833	—
Portland	22	7	.759	2½
Sacramento	17	10	.630	6½
Phoenix	18	11	.621	6½
Seattle	18	12	.600	7
L.A. Clippers	9	20	.310	15½
Golden State	6	23	.207	18½

Wednesday's Games
Indiana 116, Atlanta 89
Charlotte 109, Milwaukee 105
Cleveland 96, Washington 94
Miami 109, Orlando 106
Detroit 91, Chicago 77
Utah 101, Vancouver 90
Sacramento 113, Seattle 104
L.A. Lakers 103, Phoenix 87
Philadelphia 97, Golden State 94
Thursday's Games
Indiana 109, Charlotte 99
New York 89, Washington 86
New Jersey 102, Orlando 92
Minnesota 94, Chicago 76
Detroit 106, Atlanta 105, OT
Milwaukee 91, Cleveland 90
Houston 122, L.A. Clippers 100
Toronto 109, Dallas 104
San Antonio 98, Vancouver 88
Boston 102, Denver 94
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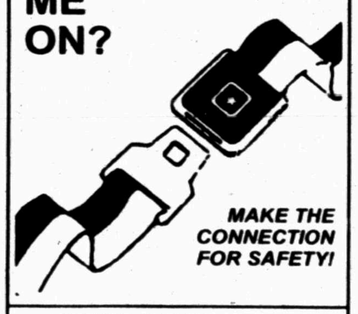
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Citizens express views about Y2K

With New Year's Eve upon us, 10 local residents gave their thoughts on the Y2K bug, their ideas as to what the next century holds, and their feelings about witnessing the changing of the millennium.



Regina Selmon

"I have no apprehension at all about Y2K. I don't believe there will be widespread problems, so we didn't hoard any water or other materials. We have family members visiting, and I told them that if they had to, they could help themselves to the water in the swimming pool.



Gayle Lomax

"I do believe that in the coming years there will be a continued emphasis on advanced technology. I think the advances will be so large that we can't comprehend or predict them right now. People who were born in the early part of this century have witnessed so many changes in so many different fields, and in the next 100 years those changes will be even greater.

"What makes this New Year's holiday wonderful for us is having our family together. That's the most enjoyable thing."



Rusty Carter

"I don't think there are going to be massive Y2K problems. But I think people are ready, just in case.

"Computers play such an important role these days, and I believe their role will continue to grow in the next century, especially in the workplace. That could be good or bad. If you get to a point to where computers have taken over the work force, then that will cause even more problems.

"But overall, it's pretty exciting to the changing of the century. You only get to see it once in a lifetime, so people should enjoy it."

"As far as Y2K problems go, I think everything will be fine. Some people are stocking up on things, but we're just buying the same things we always do.

"I think it will be good thing to look back on, a few years from now. We'll be able to tell kids about the turn of the century when a lot of people were running around scared, not knowing what to expect."

"I hope there aren't a lot of Y2K problems, but I'm afraid it's going to be bad. We're prepared for the worst, but hoping for the best. We have some extra stuff like 50 gallons of water, extra baby food, some powdered food, and flashlights and things.



Sylvia Hernandez

"There are a lot of people who are really scared. You hear some people saying that the world is going to end and things. I don't believe that, but as far as other problems go, we're not taking any chances on New Year's Eve. We're going to a dance, but we're all going to be home by 11:30."

"I don't think there going to be huge problems, but there will probably be some small ones. My family got a few extra things, like water and batteries for the flashlights.



Jennifer Perez

"I think it's all pretty neat. I think in the future we'll all be more like the Jetsons, with computerized things that help us at home and at work.

"Like a lot of people, I have to be at work New Year's Eve in case there are any problems. I guess if there are that many people who are going to have to be at work at different places, then there are a lot of others who believe something is going to happen.

"I'm excited about it. We'll be able to tell people that we saw the millennium change, and there were a lot of crazy people, but that it was a neat experience to go through."

"There will probably be some scattered Y2K problems. Now I'm no computer expert, but I personally don't foresee there being a tremendous lockdown of services.

"I think in the years to come, things will continue to change and advance, but at a faster rate. In my lifetime, the curve of change has been very steep, and I believe it will keep tilting upward with changes coming more rapidly.



Bud Birks

"Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, which will only increase as we evolve into a more automated society. Hopefully we'll able to use those advances for the betterment of society. And I think for the most part we will. I think we will continue to see advances made in the field of medicine, so much that during the next century the average life span could increase by as much as 7-10 years."

"My husband said we should build a fence around our land, so people don't get in to steal our food. I don't think anything that major is going to happen, but I guess you never know.

"But I do believe in the next 100 years you'll see more technology doing more things. Like here in the hospital, I think there will come a day when only one person will be needed to look after a floor, and there will be computers taking care of all the patients.



Carlene Webster

"As far as how I'll remember the changing of the millennium, I'll have to wait and see what happens first."

"There's a lot of tension right now, towards the Y2K problem. And I think that makes it worse, because small problems will get blown out of proportion and then that will create bigger problems. I don't think there will be any long-term problems, but we prepared in case there are any lapses for a few days. We have a generator and some water and things, just in case.



Jeronimo Ruiz

"I also think we'll see the country slump into a small depression. The economy is so shaky right now, and people aren't sure what the new technology is going to do, and that just makes it worse."

"I don't think there will be big Y2K problems here in Snyder. If there are any, they will be minor.

"I think most of the advances of the next century will be made in the computer industry. Almost everything you see now is 'dot.com' something. Hopefully there will be big strides made in the research of illnesses and diseases. Any advances that are made need to improve the quality and longevity of peoples' lives, not just make things easier at work.



Katie Henson

"I'm looking forward to New Year's. It's a momentous event, and it's neat to see everybody all excited about something."

"I guess there could be a few Y2K problems here and there, because you never know. I just hope it doesn't mess up the televisions and cable reception for the bowl games.



Chris Henson

"I've already seen a lot of advances in science and technology, just in my lifetime. But the changes made over the next few hundred years, will be astronomical. And I think the changing of the millennium is great. I think it's great that we'll be able to tell kids how things were in the last century."



Y2K

Continued from Page 1

board at its December meeting that testing had been done on all computer systems and upgrading was done where necessary.

Local stores have noticed increased sales for items such as water, batteries and candles.

Wal-Mart assistant manager Charly Mann said the store is currently out of gallon jugs of water.

"Water is something we carry a bunch of in the back and over the past week sales have really picked up. We haven't been able to replace it through our warehouse," Mann said.

He said he expects more in some time next week. The store does have smaller individual size bottles of water still in stock.

"We are seeing a rush on the same things everybody is worrying about — candles, batteries, water."

Lawrence IGA manager C.R. Perez said the store has seen about a 50 percent increase in business in the past two days.

"Everybody is scared," Perez said. "Everybody is saying it is the end of the world, but they want to be well stocked. I wish it was the end of the world everyday," he added jokingly.

Perez said there has been a marked increase in water sales.

"We are selling a lot more water. Our outside water machine has run out of water everyday this week."

He said people were buying the water faster than the machine could make it.

"I have to put an out of order sign for about 2 to 3 hours everyday to let it build up at least halfway full."

Other items selling fast include batteries and flashlights. Perez said the store was already out of candles.

"Other than that we're ready," he said. "We should be here tomorrow if the Good Lord's willing and the creek don't rise!"

Banks are cautioning citizens about making large withdrawals and about criminals looking to cash in on citizens' Y2K worries.

West Texas State Bank's lobby will remain open from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday. President Bill Parker said the reason was to allow people the opportunity to deposit their money in a safe place.

"In the event that people have made unusual withdrawals, it will give them a place to put the money back where it is safe and insured by the FDIC," Parker said.

He said there are a number of scam artists out there and that an increase in muggings, purse snatchings and robberies is predicted in the larger cities.

"Criminals know that some people will have more cash on them than usual," Parker said.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks:

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	67 7-16	67	67 5-16	+ 5-16
AT&T Corp s	50⅜	49⅞	50 1-16	— ¼
Albertsons	32 5-16	31¾	31⅞	— 5-16
Alltel	82⅜	81 5-16	82	— ⅜
AmerOnline s	78½	75¼	75 9-16	—15-16
AndarkPtr	34 5-16	33 15-16	34 1-16	+ ⅛
AtlRichfld	85 7-16	84¾	84 13-16	— ⅝
ATMOS Egy	20 1-16	19¾	19 13-16	— 3-16
Aviall	8 3-16	8 1-16	8⅛	— 1-16
BP Amoco s	59 3-16	58¾	59	— ½
BakerHughes	20⅜	19½	20⅜	+ ⅜
Bank of Amer	50 15-16	50 5-16	50 7-16	— ¼
BellAtl	62 3-16	61 9-16	61¾	+ ¼
BellSouth s	47	46 9-16	46 13-16	
Beth Steel	8⅜	8¼	8⅜	+ 1-16
BurlNoSFe	24 7-16	24⅛	24⅛	— 1-16
CBS Corp	62 11-16	62	62⅜	+ ⅜
Caterpillar	46 7-16	45 11-16	46⅛	+ ⅛
CenSoWst	20¼	20 1-16	20 1-16	— ¼
Chevron	85 11-16	84¾	84 13-16	—11-16
Citigroup s	56 7-16	55	55 1-16	— ¼
Coastal	35⅜	34 15-16	35 5-16	+ 7-16
CocaCola	58⅞	58 1-16	58¼	— 9-16
ColgatePal s	62 15-16	62 9-16	62 11-16	+ 3-16
ComclMetals	33⅝	33 9-16	33 9-16	+ ⅛
CooperIn	40⅜	40	40⅛	— 1-16
DaimlrChry	77 9-16	76 1-16	77⅜	+ ⅝
DallSemicn	63 11-16	62 1-16	63 11-16	+ 1 11-16
DeltaAirl	50⅝	49⅝	50	—11-16
Dillards Inc	20⅜	20⅛	20 5-16	— 3-16
DowChem	134 3-16	130¾	134 3-16	+ 2 15-16
DuPont	66½	65 1-16	66 5-16	+ 1 3-16
EastmanChem	47 11-16	47⅜	47½	— ⅛
EstKodak	66 7-16	65 11-16	65¾	+ ¼
EDS Corp	66¾	65 15-16	66 9-16	+ 11-16
Entergy	25 15-16	25 11-16	25¾	+ 1-16
ExxonMobil	80⅞	80 3-16	80 3-16	— ¼
Flowers	15⅞	15¾	15⅞	— 1-16
FordMotor	53⅝	53¼	53 7-16	— ⅛
GTE Cp	71⅛	70	70⅝	+ ¼
GenDynam	52 9-16	52 1-16	52 5-16	— ⅛
GenlElec	155⅛	153 13-16	153 15-16	—1 1-16
GenMills s	35⅝	35 3-16	35 9-16	+ ¼
GenMotors	73	72 5-16	72¾	+ ⅛
GaPacGP s	50 5-16	49 5-16	50 3-16	+ 11-16
GlobalMar	16 5-16	15 15-16	16 5-16	+ 3-16
Goodrich	25 15-16	25 5-16	25 13-16	+ 7-16
Goodyear s	27⅜	27	27¼	— 3-16
GtAtlPac	28 3-16	27 11-16	27 11-16	— 5-16
Halliburtn	39¾	38 13-16	39¾	+ 1
Hanson ADS	40⅝	40⅜	40⅜	— ⅛
HarteHanks	21 11-16	21⅝	21 11-16	
HomeDepot s	68 15-16	67¼	68⅞	+ 2¼
Honeywellintl	58 1-16	56¾	57⅝	+ ⅞
IBM s	109½	107 1-16	107⅛	— 1⅝
IntlPaper	55 9-16	53½	55½	+ 1
JohnsonJn	94⅜	93 7-16	93⅜	+ ⅜
K mart	10⅛	9 15-16	10	— 3-16
Kroger Co s	19 1-16	18¾	18⅞	— ¼
Litton	49⅝	49 7-16	49½	— ⅛
LockheedM	21½	21	21 5-16	+ 1
Lowes Cos	59¾	59 1-16	59¾	+ ⅝
Lubys	11 11-16	10⅞	11⅛	+ 7-16
LucentTech s	75⅜	74½	74 15-16	+ ⅛
MayDeptStr s	31 15-16	31¼	31 11-16	— 5-16
MediaOne	76 7-16	76⅛	76⅛	— 5-16
Medtronic s	37 3-16	36⅜	36⅜	— 5-16
Monsanto	35⅝	35¼	35 5-16	— ⅜
MorganJP	127	125¼	125 5-16	— 1¼
Motorola	148⅜	147⅛	148¼	+ ⅜
NCR Corp	37½	36½	37⅛	+ 11-16
Navistar	46 7-16	45¾	46 5-16	— 5-16
Penney JC	20 7-16	20 1-16	20 1-16	+ ⅛
PepBoys	9⅛	8 15-16	9 1-16	— 1-16
PepsiCo	35 11-16	35 5-16	35⅝	+ ⅛
PhelpDodge	66½	64 7-16	66½	+ 2⅛
PhilipPet	47 9-16	46¾	47 1-16	
PilgrmPrd B	8 7-16	8⅜	8⅜	— 1-16
Polaroid	19	18 11-16	18⅞	+ 1-16
Praxair	50 9-16	50 3-16	50 7-16	— 3-16
ProctGamb	109⅞	108¾	108⅞	— ¾
PubS NwMx	16⅝	16¼	16¼	— 5-16
ReliantEngy	22⅞	22 13-16	22⅞	
RoyalDut	60 3-16	59⅝	60	— ⅜
SBC Comm	48½	48	48 7-16	+ ¾
SaraLee	22¼	21 13-16	21⅞	— ⅜
Scripps EW	45⅜	44 15-16	44 15-16	— 1-16
SearsRoeb	31	30 1-16	30⅛	— ⅝
SherwinW	20 15-16	20¼	20⅞	+ 11-16
SmithklBchm	63	62½	62½	— ½
SouthernCo	23 11-16	23½	23½	— 3-16
SwstAirl s	16 7-16	16⅛	16¼	— ¼
SprintFON s	67¼	66⅜	66 13-16	— ⅜
SprintPCS	100¼	99	99⅞	—2 11-16
Sunoco Inc	23 9-16	23 5-16	23 5-16	— 5-16
TNP Ent	41 5-16	41 3-16	41 3-16	
Tandy s	50 1-16	48¼	49½	+ 1
TempleInland	65 13-16	64	65 13-16	+ 1 9-16
Texaco	53 15-16	53¼	53⅜	— ½
TexInd	41¾	41 1-16	41 11-16	+ ⅜
TexasInst s	98 9-16	97	97¼	— 2⅛
Tex Util	35¾	35⅛	35¾	+ 11-16
Textron	76 5-16	74¾	76 5-16	+ 1
TriconGlbR	38¼	38⅛	38 3-16	— ¼
TrinityInds	28 9-16	28 3-16	28⅜	+ 3-16
TritonEngy	21 1-16	20¾	20⅞	— 3-16
TylerTech	5⅜	4⅞	5⅛	— ⅜
US West Inc	71	70¼	71	+ 13-16
USX-Marathn	25 3-16	24⅞	24⅞	— 1-16
USX-USS	32 1-16	31 11-16	31⅞	— ⅛
UnCarbde	66½	63¾	66 5-16	+ 2 9-16
UnionPacif	43 1-16	42 9-16	42 9-16	— ½
UnitedTech s	64⅜	63 1-16	64 3-16	+ 1-16
Unocal	33 13-16	33	33¼	— 9-16
Venator Grp	7 1-16	6 15-16	7	— 1-16
WalMart s	70¼	68¼	69 13-16	+ 2
WellsFargo	40 11-16	40⅛	40½	— ⅛
WstnGasRs	12 5-16	12 3-16	12 5-16	+ 1-16
WinnDixie	23 13-16	23½	23 11-16	— ½
Xerox Cp s	23⅛	22⅝	22 13-16	— 1-16

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	13	+1/4
Dell	51	-1 1/16
Wal Mart	69 1/16	+1 1/4
Compac	27 1/16	+1/16
Dol. Gen.	22 3/4	+1/16
GTE	70 5/8	+1/4
SBC Comm.	48 3/4	+1 1/16
Tx Instr.	96 7/8	-2 1/2
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BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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ALTHOUGH SAMUEL HAS WARNED THE ISRAELITES OF THE MANY HARDSHIPS THEY WILL ENDURE UNDER A KING, STILL THEY INSIST UPON HAVING A RULER...



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Matthew 6:33

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Sarah Knauss, world oldest person, dies at 119

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Throughout her 119 years, Sarah Knauss never stopped being amazed by mankind's genius in conceiving new ways to hurt, heal, explore and survive.

She wept gently when told how the Titanic was swallowed by the sea, and cheered when the boys came home from two world wars. Her jaw dropped as she watched the first moonwalk.

On Thursday, Knauss slipped peacefully away in her favorite chair, less than 33 hours before she would have entered another century.

Older than the Eiffel Tower and the Brooklyn Bridge, Knauss lived through 100 years of heroes, heartache, triumph and change.

And she did it all with grace, never seeming to bear the weight of what she had seen, her family members said.

"She was one of the most generous, well-meaning people you could ever meet," said 28-year-old Kristina Patton, Knauss' great-great granddaughter. "She was very humorous and always smiled when you came to visit her."

The centenarian's advice on longevity: "Keep busy, work hard and don't worry about how old you are," Knauss said during a 1998 interview.

Knauss, who was 20 when the 20th century began, apparently died of natural causes at about 3 p.m., said Marcella Moyer Schick, executive director of the Pheobe-Devitt Homes Foundation, where Knauss lived.

"She died quietly in her room. She was not ill," she said. "(Visitors) had stopped in to see her just less than an hour before, and when the nurse went back, she had passed away."

Knauss was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's oldest living person. It wasn't immediately known who now is the world's oldest living person. Officials with the Stamford, Ct.-based Guinness Media Inc. did not immediately return telephone messages Thursday.

Knauss was born Sept. 24, 1880, in the coal town of Hollywood, Pa., and lived a quiet life as a homemaker and insurance office manager. She loved the rolling countryside of Pennsylvania with a passion and enjoyed living in Allentown, which treated her as a town treasure in her later years.

Knauss also witnessed the tides of history change. She lived through seven U.S. wars and Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic.

She was 28 when Henry Ford introduced the Model T, and 88 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

But she always seemed more interested in her family. History was just the backdrop for the birth of her daughter, grandson, three great-granddaughters, five great-great-grandchildren and a great-great-great grandson.

"She would talk about it, the places she had been and the things she had seen happen," Patton said. "But it all came in stride. She remembered being a little girl when the Statue of Liberty was being erected, but that kind of thing wasn't as important to her as the personal events like the birth of her children."

Knauss found herself in the international spotlight after the Guinness Book of Records declared her the world's oldest person in 1998 upon the death of Marie-Louise Febronie Meilleur of Quebec, who was 117.

There was also a funny side to living more than a century: Knauss made good on 53 years of Social Security checks and discount movie tickets.

"She always thought it was humorous that she lived so long," Kathryn Sullivan, Knauss' 96-year-old daughter, said in a 1997 interview. "She always would tell jokes and laugh at how long she would be around."

Family members say they believe she most enjoyed being able to do things for her family.

"She was a competent seamstress who made all of her own clothes and hemmed the clothes of her family members right up until Thursday," Patton said. "She loved to take care of us."

New millennium arrives in Kiribati

MILLENNIUM ISLAND, Kiribati (AP) — The new millennium arrived at the stroke of midnight today in the Pacific. The colorful pageant on this typically uninhabited atoll set off celebrations across the world.

Dancers on Kiribati's Millennium Island in swaying grass skirts and headdress welcomed the millennium with a traditional call for good luck after chanting farewell to the pain of the past and heralding a new time of unity.

"Let all the world be joined with us to greet the new millennium," they sang on a tropical beach in their Micronesian language, called Kiribati. "Let us put aside all divisions — let us unite in love and peace."

The marking of midnight on Millennium Island and the nation of Tonga started a rapid succession of millennial celebrations in the South Pacific. The Chatham Islands — the easternmost part of New Zealand — hit midnight a few minutes later, followed by mainland New Zealand and the Pacific island nation of Fiji.

The millennial bashes on the islands were a showcase of the region's cultural diversity and rich heritage: A ritual fish catch and feast on Fiji; indigenous Moriori dances on the Chathams; a performance of Handel's "Messiah" for 300,000 people in Auckland, New Zealand.

The first dawn over land was to break near remote Dibble Glacier in Antarctica at 12:08 local time (10:08 EST). Kiribati was to be the first country to witness the sunrise of the new millennium at 5:43 a.m. local time (10:43 a.m. EST).

"I feel very, very proud that this is the first island to see the new year," said Kiribati islander Pwepwa Tokia, one of the dancers performing centuries-old songs and dances to mark the milestone.

After Tonga, the Chatham Islands, the easternmost part of New Zealand, hit midnight a few minutes later, followed by mainland New Zealand and the Pacific island nation of Fiji.

The millennium's first dawn over land was to break near Dibble Glacier in Antarctica at 12:08 local time (10:08 a.m. EST). Kiribati is the first country to witness the sunrise of the new millennium at 5:43 a.m. local time (10:43 a.m. EST), followed 26 minutes by New Zealand's Pitt Island.

As the largest — and the richest — nation in the group, New Zealand planned the most elaborate celebrations in the area: fireworks, concerts, and several Maori "haka" war dances — including one with a cast of 2,000.

The celebrations follow a fierce race in the region to clinch a millennial "first" — and worldwide publicity.

Kiribati, for instance, moved the international date line in 1995 so it no longer bisected the country. The move positioned Caroline Island to be among the first to see the new year. It was renamed Millennium Island in 1997. No one lives here and today's celebration had been planned for months.

Kiribati's neighbor to the west, Tonga, went on daylight-saving time in October, putting it in the same zone with Millennium Island.

Other countries of the region have staked their own claims to millennial firsts. Pitt Island, for example, will be the first "permanently inhabited" land to see the millennium dawn. And Wellington will be the first capital city.

The competition was expected to continue into the new millennium: A couple in the Chatham Islands, for example, were aiming to win the title of first wedding by timing their ceremony so the words "I do" come immediately after the tick of midnight.

Will free shipping hurt online retailers?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Online retailers that promised free shipping to lure holiday shoppers to Web sites may have a hard time turning back.

Promotional offers of free shipping helped drive record sales for e-commerce during the Christmas season. But the trend is an expensive one that could create problems for Web-based retailers, a study found.

"Free shipping is a costly promotion for snagging customers," according to a Forrester Research study released Thursday. "But since retailers have started down this path, they will have a tough time turning back because consumers take shipping costs seriously."

Holiday shopping on the Internet grew 300 percent this year, generating an estimated $10 billion to $11 billion in sales. And for many shoppers, the prospect of free delivery apparently was a factor. In a separate Forrester survey of 5,831 online shoppers, 82 percent said they took shipping costs into consideration when deciding whether to buy online.

They may think about it even more in the future.

So far, e-commerce has been dominated by small, relatively light products such as books and CDs. That will begin to change in 2000, when computers and other bulky consumer electronics products will account for 55 percent of sales, or $21 billion. For these products, shipping costs will be higher, and of greater concern to buyers.

And as the number of online shoppers grows, it will include more value-conscious shoppers from lower income groups, the study said.

No company seems to be banking more on the appeal of free delivery than freeshipping.com, an online mall that directs customers to companies that deliver products for free.

Freeshipping doesn't sell products, but features thousands of items sold by others. When customers indicate they are ready to buy, they are transferred to the Web site of the actual retailer.

Freeshipping.com earns a commission on each sale, and also makes money from advertising.

"The research we have done consistently supports the idea that free shipping is the number one incentive for online shoppers," said D.J. Vallauri, the company's chief executive officer.

Vallauri, however, doesn't expect free shipping to become universal for e-commerce sites because of the cost.

"We've seen a few Web sites that we had listed pull back the free shipping offers, I'm assuming because of the cost of having that promotion," he said.

Companies will try to beat the cost in a variety of ways, the study said.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2000

In the year ahead, some interesting conditions might develop for you in a favorable way. One might be an internal discord between principals that could put you in an advantageous position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Owing to a misplaced confidence in a proponent today, you could be tempted to take a gamble on something that may backfire. Wisely access the person, situation and possible results. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your behavior may be scrutinized by more people than you realize. Unfortunately, there might be someone watching who is hoping you'll stub your toe, so she or he can talk about it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Rather than trying to bluff your way through anything today, be completely honest if you're not prepared. It would be far more embarrassing than fouling up.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Keep your nose out of where it doesn't belong, because it could get caught up in something you would wish you had avoided. Just keep to yourself, even when something sudden springs up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't let a manipulator maneuver you into a corner today where you might be forced to make an unwise decision under duress. Use your tenacity to stand your ground.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you're more tired than normal today, be particularly cognizant of safety precautions when performing a task you don't especially like. Stay alert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Should a pal do something you find objectionable while at a gathering today, avoid admonishing him or her, especially in front of others. Turn the other cheek.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Little issues could quickly get blown out of proportion today, especially with those exhausted from all the holiday fanfare. Don't let things get off on the wrong foot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Have a feather touch and not a heavy hand while performing your tasks today and you'll avoid a heap of additional trouble caused by carelessness. Rushing jobs will only make things worse.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll be angry with yourself later if you let pals come up with excuses instead of forking over their share of today's expenses. Make sure everyone understands his or her obligations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Although you're full of good ideas today, make sure your directives and thoughts are practical or you won't have any followers in your parade.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Let sleeping dogs lie today. This is not the way to start a new year by rehashing old matters regarding something someone did in the past. Lay the old year to rest.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



A schedule for annual exams

DEAR DR. GOTT: You were way off base when you stated that people should avoid physical exams until they approach 50, that postmenopausal women don't need annual Pap tests and that routine mammograms are not necessary for women under 50. You are really stupid!

DEAR READER: I agree that I'm stupid some of the time, but not about the issues for which you called me on the carpet.

First, I never advised people under 50 to avoid physical exams. On the contrary, I have repeatedly urged healthy adults to follow the current authoritative guidelines, namely: one exam in your 20s, one in your 30s, one in your 40s, two in your 50s, and then — after 60 — a routine yearly exam.

Although women in their reproductive years should have annual Pap tests, many experts have concurred that after menopause, a yearly Pap is not needed — especially if the preceding two or three smears were negative.

With respect to routine mammograms, the recommendations are changing. However, as yet, no one has suggested annual breast X-rays in all healthy women in their 40s, unless there is an abnormality that needs further definition or there is a family history of breast cancer. At present, women in their 40s should have mammograms at their doctors' discretion. This guideline may well change in the future. When it does, I'll let my readers know. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Breast Cancer and Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I love chocolate and consume a portion every day as a treat. I'm active, trim and fit. Is my habit harming me?

DEAR READER: Chocolate often receives bad press. This may be unfair, according to a recent study from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. As reported in the journal "Patient Care" (Oct. 30, 1999, p. 14), researchers discovered that chocolate is rich in antioxidant compounds called polyphenols. For example, a single 40-gram bar of milk chocolate contains more than 300 milligrams of polyphenols, equivalent to the amount in a day's worth of fruits and vegetables. The news gets better: dark chocolate provides twice as much. Therefore, chocolate may actually promote health. Of course, patients with obesity or diabetes should avoid candy and chocolate, because of unwanted sugar. Still, it's a relief to know that, for most of us, a modest consumption of a tasty treat could actually be beneficial.

DEAR DR. GOTT: On two occasions, following Novocain for dental work, I've suffered temporary Bell's palsy. Is there a connection?

DEAR READER: Bell's palsy is a paralysis of the facial nerve, the branches of which are present in the cheeks near the gums. Although most cases of Bell's palsy are caused by Lyme disease or presumed viral infections, your dentist may be inadvertently numbing parts of the facial nerve when he or she injects Novocain. Share your concerns with the dentist so that the injection will be placed especially carefully in the future.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Boris Yeltsin resigns president position

MOSCOW (AP) — Asking forgiveness for his mistakes, Boris Yeltsin stunned Russia today by announcing his resignation and saying elections will be held in 90 days for a new president to lead the nation into the new century.

Yeltsin said he was stepping down immediately because he wanted Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to succeed him. Putin, the country's most popular politician, immediately took control of the government and will serve as acting president until the elections.

Looking pale and grim in a speech on national television, the 68-year-old Yeltsin said it was time for him to go. He asked Russians to forgive him for his mistakes and for failing to realize their dreams after the fall of the Soviet Union.

"Today, on the last day of the outgoing century, I resign," said Yeltsin, speaking in front of a gaily decorated New Year's tree and a blue, red and white Russian flag with a golden Russian eagle

"I am stepping down ahead of term. I understand that I must do it and Russia must enter the new millennium with new politicians, with new faces, with new intelligent, strong, energetic people, and we who have been in power for many years must go," Yeltsin said.

Obituaries



Verna Roe

Verna Lee Roe

1916-1999

Funeral service for Verna Lee Roe, 83, is set for 4 p.m. Sunday in the Colonial Hill Baptist Church where she was a charter member.

The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired minister, and Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Roe, a resident of Odessa and a longtime Snyder resident, died Thursday, Dec. 30, in Odessa Medical Center following a lengthy illness.

Born March 25, 1916 in New Mexico, she married Myron Roe on Feb. 24, 1939 in Melrose, N.M. The Roes moved to Snyder from Clovis, N.M., in 1941 and established Roe Home and Auto Supply.

The oil boom of 1950 prompted them to build a new store across the street and a half block south of the original location on what is now South College Ave. In 1959, they moved to Highland Shopping Center and changed the store name to Roe's Furniture and Appliance.

Mrs. Roe was active in church, a youth leader for many years, president of WMU and served on many committees. She also served as president of Martha Ann Woman's Club and was an active member of the Art Guild Study Club. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Rosie Floyd, in 1991; a son, Jerry Lee Roe, in 1999; and by three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include her husband, Myron Roe of Odessa; a daughter-in-law, Dorothy Roe of Irving; a son-in-law, A.C. Floyd of Snyder; six grandchildren, Jason and Jennifer Roe of Austin, Sharon Brooks of Odessa, Walt Floyd of Snyder, Cindy Vera of Boston, Mass., and Deana Jeffcoat of Flower Mound; and six great-grandchildren.

Bonita Floyd

1934-1999

Bonita Joy Floyd of Onalaska, mother of Kelli McCright of Snyder, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, at a daughter's home in Houston after a sudden illness.

Graveside service for Mrs. Floyd, 65, is set for noon Tuesday in the Snyder Cemetery.

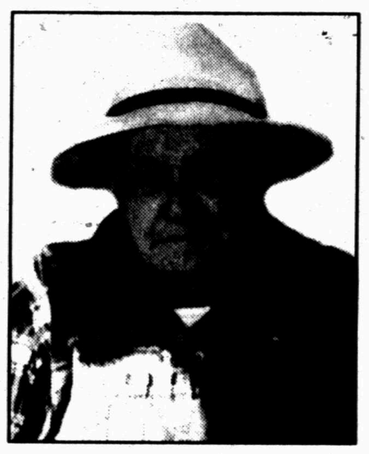
Born on Feb. 14, 1934 in Polar, she married Clint Eldon Floyd on June 11, 1954 in Snyder. He died in 1985. She was a homemaker.

She also was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Bonnie Lyons.

Survivors include two other daughters, Dawn Beane of Odessa and Tanya Isenburg and her husband, Alan, of Houston; one son, Guy Brandon Floyd of Houston; one brother and his wife, Charles Ray and Betty Lyons of Onalaska; three granddaughters, Jessica, Lacy and Jacey; and one great-granddaughter, Asypen.

The family suggests memorials to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 120 Wall Street in New York City, 10005.

Family visitation will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Red Phillips

'Red' Phillips

1911-1999

Raymond R. "Red" Phillips, a former resident of Snyder, died Thursday, Dec. 30, in Lufkin's Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Phillips, 88, is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. James Merrell, retired Methodist minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born April 13, 1911 in Eldorado, he married Beatrice R. Athey on May 6, 1936 in Robert Lee. She died in 1995.

Mr. Phillips, a farmer and rancher, moved to Snyder from Blackwell in 1980. He moved to Lufkin in 1995. Mr. Phillips was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church.

He also was preceded in death by seven sisters and three brothers.

Survivors include four daughters and sons-in-law, Ester Lee and Mario Coronado of Early, Billie Jo and Robert Huffman of Willis, Kathryn and Sam Martin of Graham and Vetta and Hazel Underwood of Snyder; two sons, Carl McDaniel of Midland and Bobby Phillips and his wife, Sharon, of Nachogdoches; 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Hubert Urdy Jr.

1956-1999

FORT WORTH – Hubert James Urdy Jr., a former resident of Snyder, died Sunday, Dec. 26, in Fort Worth.

Funeral service for Mr. Urdy, 43, was set for 11 a.m. today in the Friendship Baptist Church.

Born March 12, 1956 in Colorado City, Mr. Urdy grew up in Snyder and attended Lincoln School.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Urdy Sr.; his mother, Doris Urdy James; his grandmother, Mrs. Golden Brandon; two uncles, Earnest Brandon and James "Preacher" Brandon.

Survivors include one daughter; three sons; four grandchildren; three sisters, Mary Urdy, Lois Urdy and Jacqueline Urdy, all of Fort Worth; an aunt, Mary Brandon of Snyder; cousins, Mary (Mollie) Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ray Brandon, James and Cleora Sneed, and Buford and Jo Thompson, all of Snyder.

Etheline Schwartz

1930-1999

HAWLEY — Etheline Schwartz, mother of Marilyn Lockhart of Snyder, died Friday, Dec. 31, at her home.

Graveside service for Mr. Schwartz, 69, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at New Hope Cemetery. The Rev. Roland Gregory will officiate and Lawrence-Adams Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born in Kaufman County, she was a daughter of the late Sam and Nora Lee (Harris) Smith. Mrs. Schwartz, reared in Stamford, lived in Snyder for many years. She married Cecil Schwartz on May 13, 1950 in Abilene. A homemaker, Mrs. Schwartz moved to Hawley in 1984.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, one sister and one son.

Survivors include her husband, Cecil Schwartz of Hawley; another daughter, Norma Jane Story and her husband, Bill, of Abilene; another son-in-law, Bill Lockhart of Snyder; one brother, Tommy Ray Smith of Stamford; one sister, Pauline Goss of Mountain Grove, Mo.; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Visitation will from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

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First Christian to dedicate new organ on Jan. 9

The sound of organ music is once again filling the sanctuary of First Christian Church, which lost its organ this past summer during a seasonal thunderstorm.

The organ was struck by lightning, according to Robert Bailey, minister of music.

The church then contacted its insurance company to determine how extensive the damage was to the instrument. Following numerous inspections and examinations, the organ was rendered a total loss.

In dismay, the church's board awaited the insurance company's determination of the replacement value of the organ. Since the model of the lightning-struck organ is no longer available, the company chose to replace the damaged model with one of equal value as it would be purchased today.

So, the church was able to purchase a new $20,000 Rodgers 751E unit complete with midi from the insurance settlement. Volunteer carpenters and craftsmen built the two additional chambers required for the installation.

Bailey said, "Once again, the sanctuary of First Christian is filled with the majestic beauty and eloquence of the organ, deemed the 'king of the orchestra' by music historians."

Reba Bailey, church organist, will present a recital of dedication at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9.

Hijackers flee as crisis ends

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Brandishing pistols, five hijackers walked off an Indian Airlines plane today, ending an eight-day hostage crisis after India released three prominent militants, including a Muslim cleric who is a leader of a group seeking independence for Indian-held Kashmir.

The hijackers sped off in four-wheel drive vehicles, taking with them the three released rebels and a soldier of the Taliban movement, the Muslim fundamentalist group that rules most of Afghanistan.

Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil said the hijackers were given 10 hours to get out of the country. They could try to make a run for the border with either Pakistan or Iran — though neither country is likely to grant them sanctuary.

They will have a tough time hiding in Afghanistan because they are being followed by a heavily armed group of Taliban soldiers, Muttawakil told a news conference.

He didn't say what the Taliban would do if the hijackers remained in Afghanistan after 10 hours, a period that will elapse before dawn Saturday.

Probation given for felony theft

A 20-year-old Snyder man was given probation with deferred adjudication following a guilty plea entered Wednesday in 132nd District Court.

Steven Neil Pownell of 4005 Houston Avenue pleaded guilty to theft of a firearm on Dec. 7.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong sentenced Pownell to serve two years in a state jail facility, probated for five years with deferred adjudication. Pownell was also fined $500 and ordered to make $180 in restitution.

Officers arrest two subjects Thursday

Two subjects were taken into custody late Thursday night on alcohol-related charges.

A 27-year-old male was jailed for public intoxication while a 23-year-old male was arrested for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers picked the two up at 11:48 p.m. in the 500 block of East Coliseum Drive.

An offense report for Class B theft was filed at 7:12 p.m. at the Plaza Truck Stop in reference to a subject leaving without paying for $70 worth of diesel fuel.

At 8:46 p.m., an incident report for a dog bite was filed at Cogdell Memorial Hospital by officers.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Library holiday closings

The Scurry County Library will be closed today through Monday for the New Year's holiday. Regular hours will resume Tuesday.

Guest speaker

Northside Missionary Baptist Church, 1909 16th Street, will host Larry Chalker, American Baptist Association missionary to Michigan, on Sunday. He will present a slide presentation at 6:45 prior to preaching at the 7 p.m. worship service.

Decidation recital

Reba Bailey, organist for First Christian Church, will present a recital of dedication at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9. The performance will feature the church's new Rodgers 751E organ plus midi.

Chili, beans, corn bread supper

The Lady Tigers Softball Booster Club is sponsoring an "all you can eat" chili, beans, and corn bread supper Friday, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Tickets are $5 each.

Fund established

Employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Price Daniel unit have established an account at West Texas State Bank to benefit the wife and three young children of correctional officer Daniel Nagle, killed while on duty at the McConnell unit at Beeville. Donations may be made in his name at West Texas State Bank.

TSA selling pecans

The Technology Student Association of Snyder High School is selling an assortment of pecans and peanuts as a fundraiser to help finance a trip to the state contest. Call 573-8961 for further information.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "The Scheme of Redemption," followed by "Getting to Know God's Presence."

Grand jury

The Scurry County grand jury will convene at 9 a.m. Tuesday in 132nd District Court. Some 12 felony cases are expected to be presented.

Cancer Society to meet

The Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room to make plans for the Relay for Life.

Cash Five

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

5-19-26-29-30

(five, nineteen, twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty)

Pick 3

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

3-3-3

(three, three, three)

Activities varied here for New Year's Eve

The turn of the century will be celebrated in many ways in the community. 2000 will be welcomed in large groups, small parties, and those who sleep through it and hear about it the next morning — Y2K permitting.

Along with several church celebrations, the country club, VFW and American Legion appear to be the largest get-togethers planned in the community.

For those favoring church fellowship, Northside Baptist Church will provide a watchnight service from 9-12 for families where they will be fellowship, games and food and then "pray in the New Year."

A similar event will be held at Colonial Hill Baptist. At 11:30 p.m., members will have the Lord's Supper and afterwards will go the fellowship hall for black-eyed peas and corn bread.

Hermleigh Central Baptist plans an evening of sharing, fun and games and will have an 11 o'clock devotional service and "pray in the New Year" according to their pastor, Alan Lee.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church will have an 11 to midnight service, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament prayer service thanking God for his grace and the good things that happed in 1999. At 12 a.m. sharp, there will be mass, a Holy Eucharistic celebration to bring in the new year with a prayerful atmosphere and ask the Lord's blessings for the new year.

At First Baptist Church, the youth will hold a Y2K bash in the family life center.

Also, East Side Church of Christ youth will have a fellowship time at their building, Fire Escape. And at 11 p.m., a family event will be held to be in praise as 2000 comes in.

Along the same order, 37th Street Church of Christ will have a party at the Family Center from 8-12 p.m.

Five are killed in hotel shooting

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Without saying a word, a housekeeper opened fire inside a hotel crowded with football fans in town for a bowl game, killing four co-workers before fatally shooting a fifth person as he tried to escape, authorities said.

Three others were wounded in the 3 p.m. Thursday spree. One remained in critical condition early today, while the other was in serious condition. The third was treated and released on Thursday.

Silvio Izquierdo-Leyva, 36, was formally charged today with five counts of first-degree murder and three counts of armed carjacking during an initial hearing before Hillsborough County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Holloway. Izquierdo-Leyva, who is of Cuban descent, was informed of the charges through an interpreter.