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INSIDE

What's up 2
Dear Abby 3
Sports 4-5
Dr. Gott 9
Weather 10

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Monday
Dec. 1, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 184
10 Pages 50¢
Home of A. C. Floyd

County employees to get three percent raise

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

A three percent across-the-board pay hike for all county employees was unanimously approved today by the Scurry County commissioners' court.

The pay hike, which is effective Jan. 1, does not include elected officials.

The clerks in the courthouse will see an increase ranging from a $14,997 base to a cap of $17,899.79. The chief clerk base will be $18,087 and capped at $20,541.59.

The sheriff's department will also see increases. Deputies and jailers with no certification will have a base of $20,347.65 to a cap of $20,958.07. Base certification will be from $22,608.50 to $23,286.75. Salaries for deputies with an intermediate certification range from $23,286.75 to a cap of 23,965. The advanced certification will have a base salary of $25,897.66 to a cap of $26,674.58.

The new base salary for chief deputy sheriff will be $24,411.03 to a cap of $25,143.36.

The salary increase for jail administrator will increase to $24,411.03 base to $25,143.36 for a cap.

The road and bridge department's new salary schedules for a laborer will be a base of $16,895.01 to a high of $19,335.40. For a foreman the base will start at $19,902.39 with a peak of $21,487. 91.

Coliseum and parks salaries also will increase. The coliseum and parks manager will have a base salary of $30,900 with a cap of $33,990. Coliseum foreman will range from $19,902.39 to $21,487.46.

The base for airport manager will be a base of $18,086.76 to a cap of $20,699.30.

Salary for a librarian will start at $19,339.11 for a base to $21,488.44 for a cap.

The new range for a welfare department clerk is $16,480 to $20,541.59.

The court approved the appointment of Bobby Goodwin, a former county judge, to be the new Texas Veteran's Affairs officer. The part-time position became vacant due to the death of former officer Dan Dever.

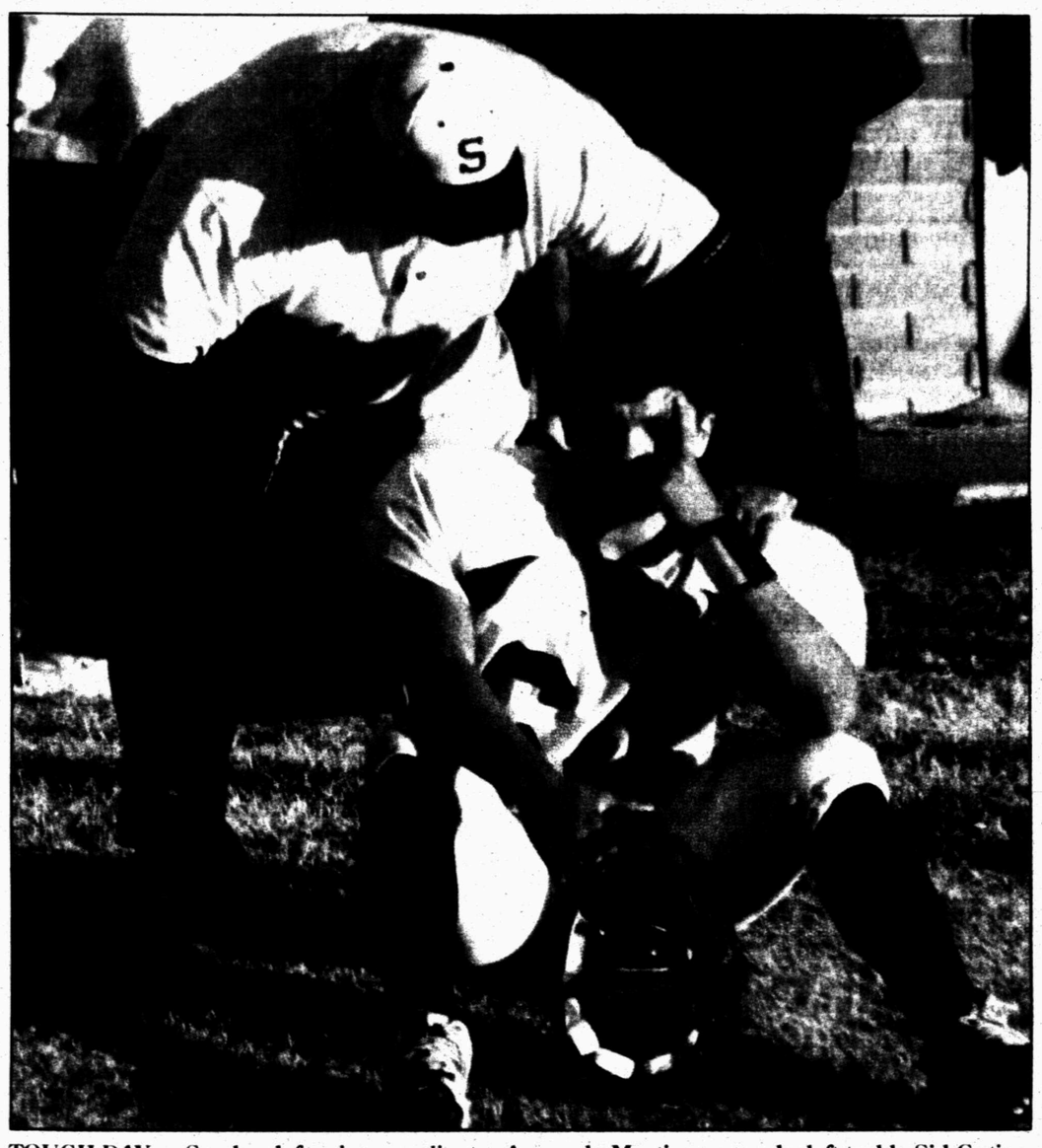
Budget amendments were approved for several offices, including $2,000 for the district attorney's office for law books.

Winston Field made a request for $9,460 to meet general payroll and benefits. The library requested $550 for retirement, and parks and recreation made a request for $2,750 to make a remaining payment to Schrickel, Rollins and Assoc. for professional services.

A number of line-item transfers were approved, with the exception of a request from parks and recreation. The item was tabled due to a discrepancy in the totals, which will be corrected and presented at the next meeting.

In other business, the court approved a motion to seek bids for two new cars for the sheriff's department. The court also approved a change in the schedule for the Christmas holidays. County offices will begin the holiday at noon on Dec. 24 and will remain closed Dec. 25 and 26.

Judge Rod Waller presided and commissioners present were Chloanne Lindsey, Ralph Treavey, Jerry House and Howard Limmer.



TOUGH DAY — Snyder defensive coordinator Armando Martinez consolesleft tackle Sid Gutierrez following the Tigers' loss to Abilene Wylie Saturday afternoon in San Angelo. The Tigers fell in the quarterfinals to the Bulldogs by 18-6. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Santa Claus reminds everyone that there is **24** days until Christmas

Rebel attacks turns into massive firefight in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — In the deadliest reported firefight since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, U.S. soldiers fought back coordinated attacks Sunday using tanks, cannons and small arms in running battles throughout the northern city of Samarra. The troops killed 46 Iraqi fighters, and five Americans were wounded.

Minutes later, two South Korean contractors were killed nearby in a roadside ambush in what U.S. officials called a new campaign aimed at undermining international support for the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. Attacks on Saturday killed seven Spaniards, two Japanese diplomats and a Colombian oil worker.

Lt. Col. William MacDonald of the 4th Infantry Division said attackers, many wearing uniforms of Saddam's Fedayeen militia, opened fire simultaneously on two U.S. supply convoys on opposite sides of Samarra.

After barricading a road, the attackers opened fire from rooftops and alleyways with bombs, small arms, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, he said. U.S. troops responded with rifles and 120mm tank rounds.

City to hear park grant report

Parks committee chairman Dayton Robertson will update the Snyder city council on the matching grant for Towle Park improvements when the council meets at 6:30 this evening.

Scurry County is the recipient of the $500,000 matching grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the city has pledged in-kind work as its contribution to the matching funds.

Robertson said this morning that he would address utility lines and such that will have to be relocated as part of the park project.

The council also will consider an ordinance allowing the Development Corporation of Snyder employees to participate in the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS).

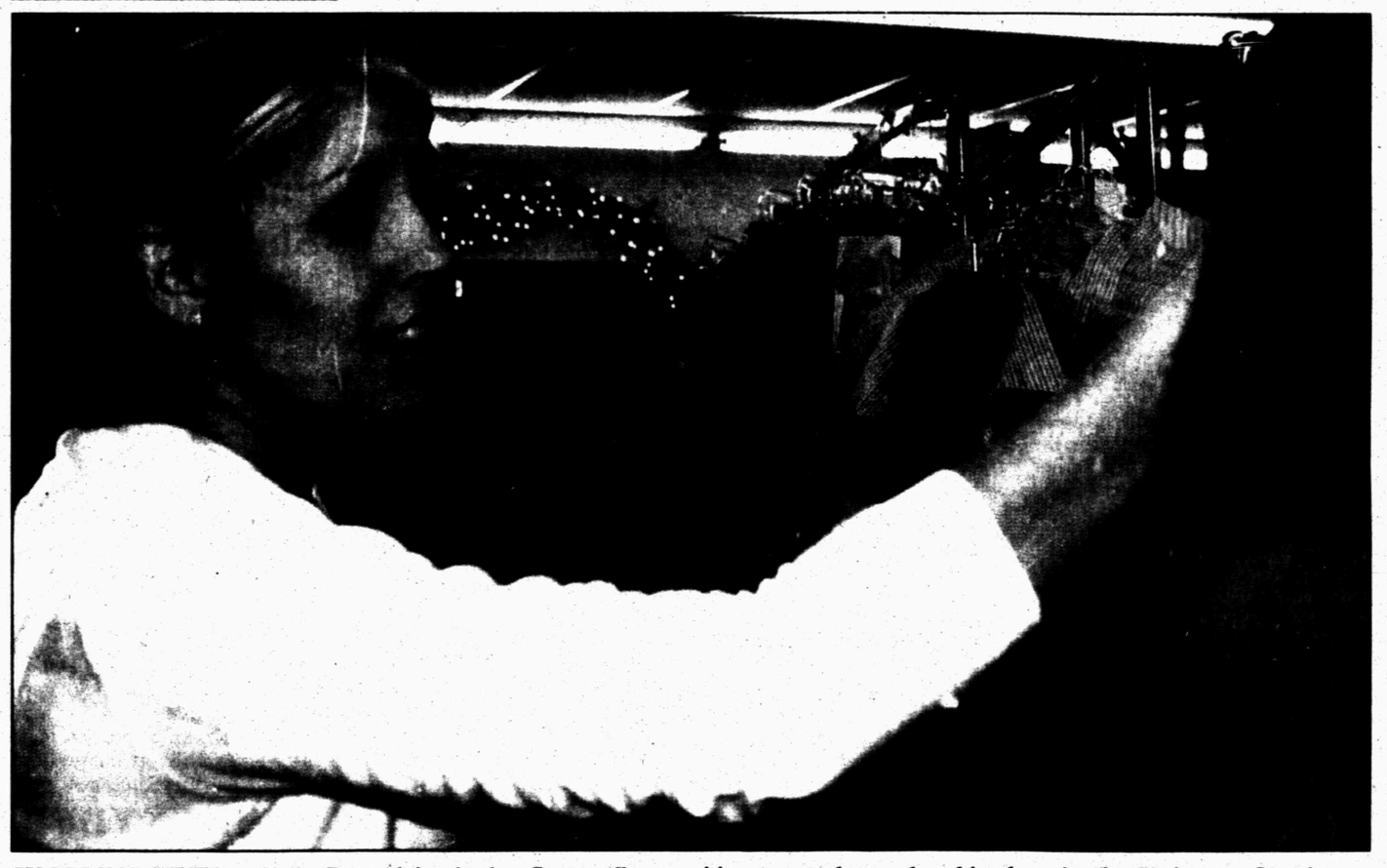
Other matters related to the TMRS includes revoking an ordinance preventing employees from becoming vested in the retirement system in five years, and adopting an ordinance that changes retirement eligibility from 25 years of service at any age to 20 years of service at any age.

A public hearing also will be held on this proposed ordinance.

Other new business includes discussion on the city's allocation of votes for the Scurry County Appraisal District, and appointment of a member to the zoning board of adjustment.

One item of old business is the second reading of an ordinance amending the city's 2002-2003 budget.

The meeting will be held in council chambers at city hall.



SHOPPING FEVER — Kelby Drum joined other Scurry County citizens over the weekend in shopping for Christmas. Local merchants have reported good crowds since the shopping season officially began the day after Thanksgiving. (SDN Staff Photo)

Commuters wary of highway shooter

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — At least a dozen times a day, Edward Sparks drives his tractor-trailer along the stretch of beltway where authorities are investigating the shootings of 11 vehicles.

"You're constantly looking," he said.

After the long holiday weekend, commuters returned today to the five-mile stretch of Interstate 270 where the shootings began earlier this year, most in the past two months.

Terry Daugherty, of Pikeville, Ky., passed through the stretch of highway today on his way home from visiting family for Thanksgiving. The shootings were a topic of discussion during the holiday, and relatives told him to be careful during his drive.

"Life goes on. You've still got to live, travel and visit," he said while buying coffee and candy at a gas station. "You don't want to go through the heart of the city. You can't shut down the freeway for a couple of shootings."

Authorities did not connect the cases until a 62-year-old woman was killed Tuesday while riding in a car driven by a friend; she was the only person hit in any of the shootings.

Many living and traveling along the stretch of roadway said they don't intend to avoid the beltway that circles Columbus. Often there's no better route.

Traffic hasn't dropped visibly since news of the shootings broke, said Sparks, 53, who makes deliveries between two book manufacturer warehouses. But he has noticed the extra squad cars, which makes him feel safer.

"You don't go through there now that you don't see one sitting in the middle, or driving by," Sparks said.

Authorities did not connect the cases until Gail Knisley's death on Tuesday; many shootings were first reported afterward. The bullet that killed her came from the same gun as a bullet in one other shooting, but authorities won't say which.

The Franklin County sheriff's office has contacted law enforcement in other cities with similar unsolved shootings to compare the cases, but no matches have been found, Chief Deputy Steve Martin said. He would not say what other shootings investigators have examined.

ASK US

Q—Will the Snyder Daily News wait on the hospital district vote before printing Saturday?

A—No. The results will be posted on the web site, snyderdailynew.com, as soon as they are available.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Kasey Walker...

...has lived in Snyder for three years and works at Wal-Mart. Her daughter is Baylee Garcia and she is one year old. Kasey's parents are Juan and Liz Rodriquez, and her brother is Marcus and sister is Brandy. Kasey says caring for her one-year-old is a full time job in itself.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The most difficult challenge to overcome, and the most important, is the fear of failure.

—Bette Graham

DEC 01 2003

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

VFW auxiliary meeting

The VFW Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 tonight at the post home. Members are urged to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Making the Most of It," followed by "The King Who Played the Fool."

Ira School photos

The following Ira students will be photographed Tuesday: K-11 retakes and new students. Also, class favorites 6-12; junior and high school basketball. Group pictures (and officers): Junior and high school FFA, FCA, NHS, Student Council. Envelopes for basketball pictures and retakes will be passed out today.

Drama booster club

The Drama Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the foyer of the SHS auditorium.

Ira 2004 calendars

Ira's junior class is selling 2004 calendars featuring students from K-12. Cost is $10. Contact sponsors Vicki Flowers or Ron Baker at 573-2628 for orders. Deadline is Thursday for Christmas delivery.

GED test registration

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED test will be from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the GED testing center on the campus of Western Texas College, Building 7B. The math segment of the GED will begin at 8 a.m. Friday. For more information about the GED test, call Betty Thompson, 573-2310, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112.

Sophomore family night out

Sophomore family night out will be Thursday at the Spanish Inn. You must present your coupon with your receipt. For more information, call Lynette Cooper at 573-1558.

G/T parents meeting

A meeting for parents of gifted and talented students will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at West Elementary auditorium.

Annual Christmas parade

Snyder's annual lighted Christmas parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Line-up begins at 6 p.m. at Moffett Field. For parade entries call 573-3558 for more information. Also, Santa will be at Towle Park from 4-6 p.m. Saturday. Anyone interested in having a booth in the park may call 573-9811.

Turkey Shoot

The Scurry County Rodeo Association will hold a Turkey Shoot from 10 a.m. until dark Saturday. All proceeds benefit the rodeo club. The cost is $4 per round. For more information contact L.J. Mueller at 573-3712.

Child welfare board fundraiser

The Scurry County child welfare board is offering tickets for $1,000 worth of merchandise. A donation of $10 per ticket is requested for a drawing to be held Saturday. Tickets are available from any board member or by calling 573-7053 or 573-2376.

Choir Christmas program

"The Christmas Suite" will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Worsham Auditorium by the combined choirs of Snyder High School, Snyder Junior High and West Elementary. The concert will follow a Christmas dessert buffet in the student center. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased from any choir member.

Early Head Start's new building

Scurry Community Services invite you to the grand opening of Scurry County Early Head Start's new building at 2802 Second St. from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Smokey Bear posters

Smokey Bear posters for a contest sponsored by Snyder Garden Club must be turned in by Dec. 18 to classroom teachers or by calling Sandra Browning at 573-7277. Local winners will be announced in January and top posters will advance to the state contest.

LVN testing dates

Testing dates at WTC for LVN ASSET will be 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

WTC spring pre-registration

Pre-registration at WTC continues through Dec. 12. Students should call or go by the counseling center to make an appointment. The number is 573-8511, ext. 313. Students who have not passed THEA (formerly TASP) and are in DRE, DMT and DEN classes must wait until grades are posted.

Madrigal Christmas dinners

The annual Madrigal Christmas dinners presented by the SHS choral department will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15-16 at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Tickets are $15 and can be obtained by calling 573-6301.

Extra cookbooks available

Extra Home for the Holidays cookbooks can be purchased at the Scurry County Extension Office for $5 each.

2004 Tiger's Lair yearbook

2004 Tiger's Lair yearbooks can still be ordered for $45 for the book only with additional options available for an extra costs. For more information, call 574-6138.

First Baptist support group

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

WTC Lions Club raffle

WTC Lions Club is selling chances for two spring season passes for either baseball or softball. Tickets are $1 each or six for $5. Tickets are available from any WTC Lions Club member. The drawing will be held Dec. 10.

First suspect in border city ambush faces trial

EDINBURG (AP) — More than a year ago, four women died when a shower of gunfire ripped through their car as they returned to the trailer they shared near the small border town of Donna

The first trial in the ambush, believed to be gang-related, was set to begin today.

Robert Gene "Bones" Garza has pleaded innocent to being the triggerman in the Sept. 5, 2002 shootings, which investigators say claimed the wrong victims.

A jury of seven men and five women will decide whether Garza is guilty of capital murder and should be sentenced to death.

Killed were Celina Linares Sanchez, 21; Lourdes Yesenia Araujo Torres, 20; Danitzene Lizeth Vasquez Beltran, 21; and Maria De La Luz Bazaldua Cobarrubias, 31. Two others were in the car but survived.

The women, all illegal Mexican immigrants, were returning home from their jobs as "ficheras," or drink sellers, in a rundown cantina known as Garcia's Place in Donna.

Investigators found more than 50 rifle and bullet casings near the bodies and said the women were shot with semiautomatic pistols or assault-type rifles. They say at least nine rounds tore through the Grand Am and about ten others hit nearby trailers.

A woman who lives in a nearby trailer said she heard rounds of rapid fire interrupted by pauses she imagined were for reloading.

Police affidavits say the assailants were members of the Tri-City Bombers, a local gang named for the cities of Pharr, San Juan and Alamo.

Like Garza, Guadalupe Guerra, 20, and Mark Anthony Reyna, 24, and Rodolfo Alvarez Medrano, 23, were each charged with one count of capital murder, two counts of attempted capital murder, and one count of engaging in organized criminal activity. They remain in the Hidalgo County Jail in lieu of $2 million bond, awaiting trial.

Today's chuckle

Maggot larvae fall through school ceiling

FAIRFIELD, Calif. (AP) — Maggots turn into flies — but flying maggots?

Students in a Fairfield High School literature class got a scare earlier this month when a half-dozen of the larvae fell through ceiling tiles onto their heads.

It was the "grossest experience" in the 17 years of David Day, who heard a little "boop" and looked down and an inch-long maggot wriggling on the floor.

"Then one fell on a student on the back of his sweatshirt," Day told the Fairfield Daily Republic. "And one fell on his book."

The students crowded to one side of the room before fleeing.

Pigeons were to blame.

Several birds that roosted under the portable building's roof died, and flies laid eggs in their corpses, said Bill Luna, director of administrative services.

Somehow, the maggots fell through the tiles.

Maintenance has since condemned the portable building, which will be torn down during the Christmas break, said Rob Pierce, director of facilities and construction.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Permian Resources Inc. will drill the No. 1 Holt in the Diamond M field, eight miles west of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 3,400 feet, location is in Section 209, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Permian Resources will drill the No. 3 Holt in the Diamond M field, eight miles west of Snyder. Contracted for 3,400 feet, drill site is in Section 213, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 267-01 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles west of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 209, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 148-9 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 293, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 120-4 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 1,948 feet, and location is in Section 295, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 118-20 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. The venture will be drilled to 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 196, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Garza County

Stelzer Drilling Co. has completed No. 9-A Kirkpatrick in the Garza field, three miles southeast of Post. The well was completed to produce 19 barrels of oil and 45 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,681-887 feet, and location is in Section 31, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Stelzer Drilling has completed the No. 11-K Stoker in the Garza field, three miles southeast of Post. The well was finaled to produce 20 barrels of oil and 75 barrels of water. Perforations were from 2,661-895 feet, and location is in Section 31, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2003

In the year ahead, you are likely to be far luckier with ventures or enterprises initiated by others than you will be with those originated by yourself. Team up with individuals who have a history of being successful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Although you have a tendency to pamper your extravagant whims, you also possess a great deal of discipline when necessary. This is one of those days when you need to exercise restraint.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Unrealistically, you could credit yourself with greater leadership qualities than you actually possess today and fail to properly handle a matter that personally affects your self-interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't be a "softie" and allow emotions to dominate your thinking today when the issues at hand are of a serious nature. If your feelings cloud your judgment, a poor decision is likely.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your judgment concerning friends could be questionable today. There's a strong possibility that you might cater to the undeserving and ignore those who truly should be recognized.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — In order to achieve an important objective today, you may have to act tougher and press harder than you desire to do. If you don't have the stomach or heart for it, you'll miss your mark.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It will be smart, as well as necessary, to keep all of your dealings out in the open today. If you try to pull off something coy, it could have deleterious repercussions — no matter how harmless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It will be your own fault that your feelings get hurt today if you expect more from loved ones than they are able to deliver. You could set yourself up by being demanding or possessive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — In collective endeavors today, don't try to hog the limelight and take full credit for things others had a hand in bringing about. There's room on stage for everybody, so don't make yourself look bad.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — No matter how much you like someone, if this person's abilities are questionable, do not assign any critical task to him or her. Should a mistake be made, it will make your judgment look bad.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Watch yourself regarding romantic involvements today. If you tread down forbidden paths, you could end up on a treacherous trail full of pitfalls and heartaches for everyone involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — In order to placate someone who means a lot to you, you could obligate yourself today to a commitment that serves neither your best interests nor the person you're trying to assist.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Stop looking for excuses to get out of your duties today and get down to work. If you fail to shift into full gear, your time will be wasted and you'll regret what's awaiting you tomorrow.

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Date Book

Monday, Dec. 1, 2003

Today is the 335th day of 2003 and the 70th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1881, a court in Arizona cleared Wyatt Earp and two Earp brothers of murder in connection with the gunfight at the OK Corral.

In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of a Montgomery, Ala., bus, opening up an era in the civil rights movement.

In 1969, the United States instituted its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1990, tunnelers from both sides working on the "Chunnel" underneath the English Channel met, thus linking Great Britain and the continent.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Martin (1913-1990), musical comedy star; Woody Allen (1935-), director, actor, is 68; Richard Pryor (1940-), actor, comedian, is 63; Bette Midler (1945-), singer, actress, is 58.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1924, Brooklyn pitcher Dazzy Vance (28 wins, 2.16 ERA, 262 strikeouts) won the MVP award in the National League — over Rogers Hornsby, who batted .424.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it by not dying." — Woody Allen

TODAY'S FACT: The $100,000 note, with a portrait of Woodrow Wilson, was the largest U.S. currency bill ever printed. It's not made anymore, but is still legal tender.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 865,000 — diameter of the Sun in miles, which makes it more than 100 times larger than the Earth.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Nov. 30) and full moon (Dec. 8).

All information from The World Almanac.

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events

LOTTO TEXAS — TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-23-26-30-38. Bonus Ball: 37.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 8. Prize: $4,348.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 15. Prize: $2,105.

Number matching four of five: 656. Prize: $103.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 519. Prize: $115.

Number matching three of five: 25,493. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 6,781. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 31,836. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $15 million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-9-16-34.

Number matching five of five: 3.

Prize per winner: $14,883.

Winning tickets sold in: Irving, La Marque and Eagle Pass.

Matching four of five: 114. Prize: $177.

Matching three of five: 4,036. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 42,574. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-4-0
(Night) 4-8-4

Microphones found outside Santa Barbara Sheriff's Dept.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Sheriff's officials said several wireless microphones discovered outside their headquarters could be the latest of several attempts by journalists to surreptitiously get information on the Michael Jackson molestation case.

The devices were found in a brushy area where Sheriff's Department employees frequently take breaks and where reporters are not normally allowed. Officials did not say when they discovered the microphones.

"It is being interpreted by the department as an attempt by somebody within the media to garner information that otherwise would not be available," Sgt. Chris Pappas of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, said Saturday.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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National/

Dear

By Abigail

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Think practical when buying gifts for seniors

DEAR READERS: If you haven't already started, it's time to compile those Christmas lists. Every year I am asked to suggest thoughtful gifts for seniors — especially those living on a fixed income.

First, a gentle warning: Unless you are sure it is welcome, do NOT send cologne, aftershave or scented bath powder. Scents are highly personal; not every perfume works on every person.

Never give a pet to anyone unless you have made absolutely certain the person wants one and is able to properly care for it.

Unless you're sure they imbibe, refrain from giving alcoholic beverages to people. Also, while candy, nuts and holiday confections make beautiful gifts for those who are not counting calories, show compassion for those who must, and lead them not into temptation.

Many folks on fixed incomes would welcome a gift basket of goodies. Include small cans of tuna, chicken or stew; assorted flavored instant coffee and herbal teas; soup mixes, crackers, cookies, nuts, dried fruit and hot breakfast cereal. Or, fill their freezer with frozen home-cooked meals that can be microwaved in minutes.

Gift certificates can be a godsend. Give them certificates for groceries, haircuts, manicures, pedicures, massages, dry cleaning, restaurant meals, video rentals and department stores. Tickets make great gifts — to movies, concerts, the opera, a play (could be at a local community theater) and sporting events.

Homemade coupons for "Honey-do's" ("Honey, do this — and honey, do that") make thoughtful presents. Create some that are redeemable for chores such as window washing, painting, gardening, washing, waxing and car detailing, replacing light bulbs, cleaning ceiling fans, changing air-conditioning filters, moving heavy furniture for spring and fall cleaning, and transportation for shopping or doctors' visits, etc.

Because not all seniors drive, bus passes and coupons for senior transportation or taxis can come in handy.

Prepayment of utilities for a month or two can be sent directly to the utility. Then let the recipients know they have that "extra" money to spend as they wish. We all know medications are notoriously expensive. A gift certificate to the neighborhood pharmacy would also be much appreciated. (Trust me on that!)

For pet owners, remember their furry, four-legged family member with a treat — a can of dog or cat food or a rawhide chewstick or catnip toy. (They'll lap it up!)

A subscription to a magazine or newspaper you know the person will enjoy is a gift that keeps on giving. Large-print calendars with family birthdays, anniversaries, etc., marked and personalized with family photographs, are welcome, as are large-print address books with information transferred from the recipient's records.

Give a small radio or remote-control television, if finances permit. A cordless phone or answering machine makes a practical gift as well.

Other suggestions: a cuddly robe, slippers or socks with nonskid soles; sweatpants, sweatshirts and jogging shoes; stationery — and be sure to include felt-tipped pens and lots of stamps.

And remember, the holidays can be a sad time for people who are alone. If you know someone who could use an outing, give that person the most thoughtful gift of all — an invitation to have a meal with you and your family. Loneliness is the ultimate poverty. The greatest gift is a gift of self.

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Screenwriter Edmund Hartmann dies at 92

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Screenwriter Edmund L. Hartmann, who wrote zany comedies for Bob Hope, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis and the Three Stooges, died at his home in Santa Fe. He was 92.

Hartmann, who died Friday, also wrote comedies for Abbott and Costello and Lucille Ball, and penned film noir mysteries in a career that spanned more than 60 years.

He once said: "I think the unexpected is the key to comedy," the Santa Fe New Mexican reported.

Abducted teen escapes from kidnapper

FERTILE, Minn. (AP) — A teenager told police she was kidnapped while leaving work at a store 45 miles from where a North Dakota college student recently disappeared, but authorities said Saturday the two apparent abductions were not related.

The latest reported kidnapping, outside a grocery store as the girl was leaving work Friday, had raised speculation about a connection to Nov. 22 disappearance of Dru Sjodin, a University of North Dakota student who was last heard from outside the Grand Forks, N.D., mall where she worked.

Grand Forks police had spoken with authorities investigating the teenager's report and released a statement Saturday saying: "Law enforcement officials have determined that this case is not related to the Dru Sjodin case and are handling it as a completely separate investigation."

The statement did not elaborate, and authorities in Fertile would not immediately say why a connection was ruled out.

The girl told authorities she was able to escape when her attacker's car slowed down, and she ran to a nearby house for help. She said the vehicle smelled of cigarette smoke, but she apparently was not able to give a further description of the man or the car.

"She just ran," Polk County Sheriff Mark LeTexier said. "She didn't look back."

The sheriff said the girl received medical attention, but he did not say how she was injured. Her name was not released, but people who know her gave her age as 16 or 17.

In North Dakota on Saturday, search teams continued following leads in the search for Sjodin, but authorities still had no suspects in her disappearance, said Grand Forks police Sgt. Michael Hedlund.

Sjodin, of Pequot Lakes, Minn., had finished her shift at Victoria's Secret at the Columbia Mall in Grand Forks and had gone shopping just before she disappeared. Her boyfriend told authorities he was talking to her on her cell phone when the conversation abruptly ended after she said "Oh my God" or "Oh no."

Sjodin's car was found in the mall parking lot, and police have said there was no sign of a struggle.

The search for Sjodin has been centered on Fisher, Minn., about 10 miles east of Grand Forks, where a call was traced to her cell phone. It was widened to the area of Crookston, Minn., midway between Grand Forks and Fertile, because the cell phone signal could have carried that far, officials said.

On the Net:
http://www.finddru.com

Soldier wanted career in law enforcement

EL PASO (AP) — A West Texas soldier who died in a mortar attack in Iraq had planned to return to his West Texas home and pursue a law enforcement career, his widow says.

The last time Army Sgt. Ariel Rico communicated with his wife Jessica was by e-mail. She said she still can't believe her husband won't be coming home to her and the couple's 7-year-old daughter, Jadelyn, in March with the rest of his unit.

"I just pray for other people, that (the soldiers) all come home safely," Jessica Rico told the Clarksville, Tenn. Leaf-Chronicle.

She said she hopes her husband, a 1996 Del Valle High School graduate, will be buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery in their hometown.

Rico, who was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, Ky., died Friday from injuries sustained when four mortar shells pounded the division's base in Mosul, Iraq.

Richard Lucero of Mesa, Ariz., said he grew up with the soldier and his older brother by five years, Staff Sgt. Jose "Bobby" Rico, in the Lower Valley.

"He was in every sport you can think of, a great athlete just like his brother. He was always following in Jose's footsteps," Lucero told the El Paso Times. "After Jose went into the Army, Ariel followed him."

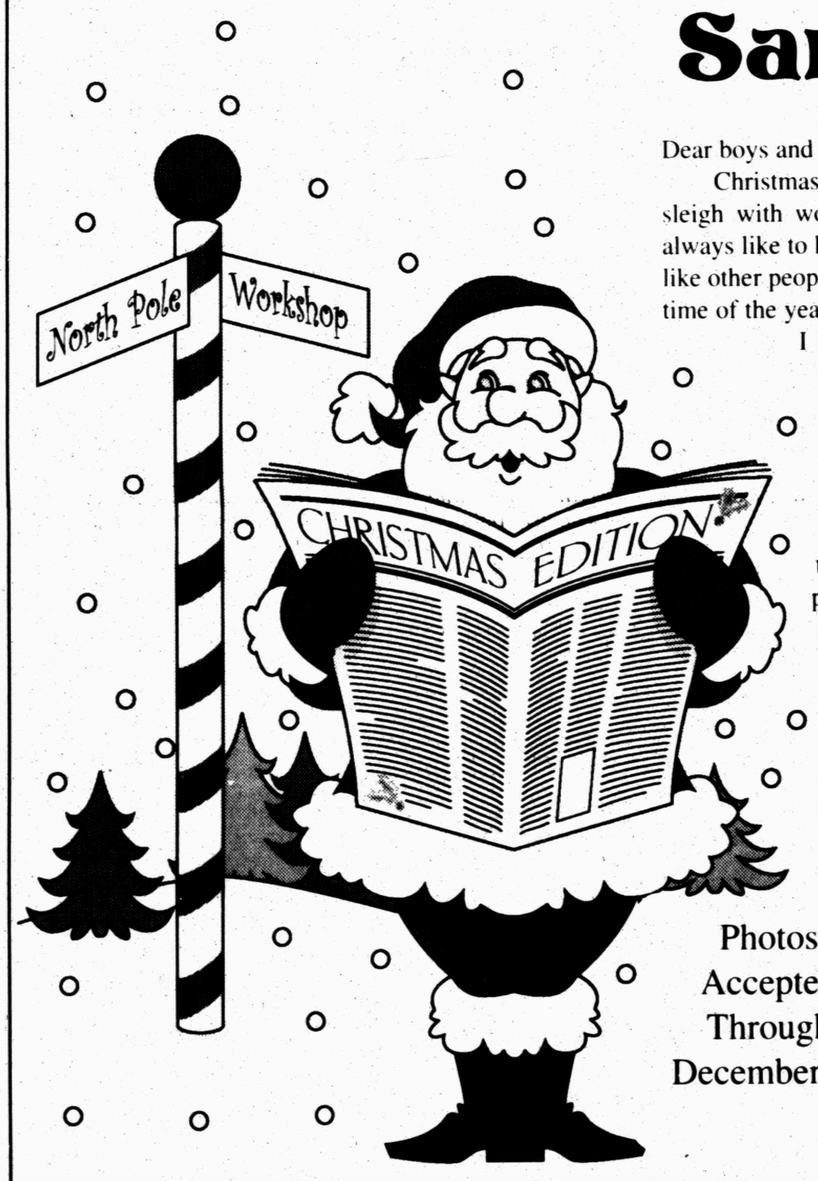
Ariel Rico was the third El Paso native known to have been killed in Iraq since the war began.

Jessica Rico and her husband were high school sweethearts who had been married six years.

In his last e-mail, she said, he had just mastered using a chat room to communicate.

"He was saying that he really missed us," she said.

Santa Photos



Dear boys and girls,

Christmas is only a few days away. I am already loading my sleigh with wonderful toys and many good things for you. I always like to know what good children want for Christmas, and like other people I enjoy seeing pictures of children at this happy time of the year.

I have made arrangements with the Snyder Daily News to publish photos of children in your area. Just have your mom or dad bring a photo of you to the Snyder Daily News office and make arrangements to have it published in the Christmas Edition.

You will need to provide your own photo for this special edition. After the photo has been processed your mom or dad can pick up the photo at the Snyder Daily News.

I hope to see your photo in the Snyder Daily News and wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas
Santa

Photos Accepted Through December 13

Trent and Trevor, 3-year-old twins of Bobby and Korie Allen, wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Trent would like Santa to bring him a new tricycle while Trevor is asking for a riding tractor.

Bring your favorite photograph of your child, grandchild or other children to the Snyder Daily News so that it may be included in the special "Christmas Edition". The photo will appear in the special edition along with the child's message to Santa for only $12.50. The Snyder Daily News reserves the right to reject photos not suitable for reproduction in the newspaper.

HAVE YOUR CHILD'S PHOTO AND MESSAGE TO SANTA PUBLISHED IN THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CHRISTMAS EDITION , DECEMBER 24.

QUALITY PHOTOS:

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PHOTO RETURN:

For your convenience you may want to provide the Snyder Daily News with a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that your Santa Photo can be returned. Or you may wish to stop back by the Snyder Daily News office after Christmas and pick-up your photo. Photos not claimed by March 1, will be discarded.

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Kiwanis/Goodfellows

Scurry County families may apply for Kiwanis/Goodfellow food donations by filling out this form. The deadline to apply is December 6th. Applications should be mailed to Kiwanis/Goodfellows, P.O. Drawer 112, Snyder, Texas, 79550

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Father of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Mother of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Another Telephone Where You Can Be Reached _____

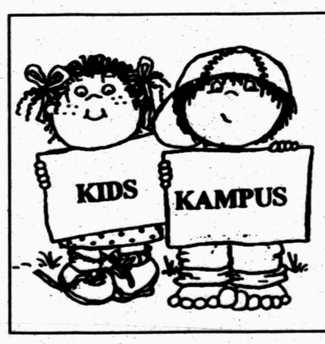
List Ages of Children at Home _____

Boys: _____

Girls: _____

Total Number of People at Home _____

Acceptance Cards will be mailed to only qualified applicants at their address.



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SPORTS

Stellar season comes to an end

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Tigers were this close to December.

Snyder's stellar season came to an end on Saturday with an 18-6 loss to nemesis Abilene Wylie at San Angelo Stadium. And even the departing seniors could not help but look to the future with anticipation and confidence.

"The seniors told the underclassmen that they showed them what it takes to get here, and now they know what it takes to get past it," head coach Chad Rogers said.

"The program is way up," said quarterback Boicy Martinez. "I think we got a lot more respect for the football program."

The Tigers did so by advancing to their farthest point since 1990, making it to the quarterfinals for only the second time in school history.

But with a chance to take the next step and join the state final four for the first time ever, the Tigers stumbled out of the blocks and never recovered offensively.

In what would prove to be a sign of things to come, the Tigers fumbled the opening snap, before punting two plays later.

Rogers said the team never found its groove on offense.

"We just never got untracked. I thought our defense played well and got better and better, but offensively we couldn't find a rhythm," Rogers said.

The Tigers mustered just 72 yards on the ground on 30 carries, as the Bulldogs kept both Wells and Martinez in check. Wells was held to a season-low 23 yards, and Martinez picked up 33.

LINE OF SIGHT — Snyder quarterback Boicy Martinez throws a pass to Isaac Ramon early in the Tigers' quarterfinal playoff game against Abilene Wylie. The Bulldogs won, 18-6, and will meet Gainesville in the seminfinals. (Contributed Photo by Ronny Collins)

Quarterback Case Keenum got Wylie on the board first with a 1-yard dive midway through the first quarter. The touchdown capped a seven-play drive that covered 61-yards, with Keenum connecting with wide out Aaron Philpot in a 17-yard pass on third down to take Wylie to the Snyder 1-yard line.

Things went south on the next possession for Snyder, when Martinez was hit on a second down throw, causing an interception and an ankle injury to Martinez that knocked him out of the game for the remainder of the first half.

"I've never felt pain like that before," he said. "But it shows that it took all of us to get here. (Back-up quarterback) Matt Reigh came in and did a great job."

Martinez would return to play the entire second half, while sophomore Reigh — who is expected to be the starter for the varsity next season — completed one of three attempts.

Wylie scored a second touchdown before the close of the first quarter when Keenum hit running back Cody Lawson on a three-yard touchdown to make it 12-0.

Lawson rushed for 144 yards, and added three catches for 34 yards. Keenum was 9 of 16 for 107 yards and the score to Lawson.

Neither team converted an extra point, as gusting 35-mph winds wreaked havoc on the kicking games.

Snyder responded with its only score on the ensuing kickoff on a drive that showcased Wells.

After Brad English ripped off a 12-yard run from the Snyder 20 to start the drive, Wells took a pitch and threw a deep floater that wide out Justin Boyd pulled down in front of two defenders for a 43-yard gain.

Wells then added a signature run on the next play, breaking a trio of tackles while slicing his way for a seven-yard gain.

Wells took the next hand-off 11 yards down to the Wylie seven, and punched it in on the next play to pull the Tigers to within six.

Lawson added Wylie's final score on a five-yard run near the close of the third period, and the defenses battled to a scoreless fourth quarter.

The Tigers had three turnovers and eight penalties — many of which killed drives or sapped momentum from the team — for 58 yards, and to a man, the Tigers said the small mistakes gave Wylie just the crack they needed to slip in and take the victory.

"We came ready to play, but we made mistakes, and Wylie is a good team —they'll take advantage of those mistakes," Martinez said. Still, the quarterback, limping long after the game ended, said he will always remember his senior campaign.

"It was a great season — I wouldn't trade it for anything. We bonded and overcame a lot of adversity during the year," he said.

"We had our ups and downs, but we stuck together," tight end Demetrius Brandon said.

"They played hard and gave it everything they had," Rogers added. "I'm extremely proud of these kids for the way they responded all year. I would be more disappointed (with the loss) if they didn't put their heart and soul into it."

Game Summary

Snyder	00	06	00	00—06
Wylie	12	00	06	00—18

First Quarter

Wylie — Case Keenum 1-yard run (kick failed), 7:46.

Wylie — Cody Lawson 3-yard pass from Keenum (conversion failed), :06.

Second Quarter

Snyder — Malcom Wells 7-yard run (kick failed), 10:04.

Third Quarter

Wylie — Lawson 5-yard run (conversion failed), 1:23.

	Sny	Wyl
First Downs	10	14
Rushes-yards	30-72	39-158
Passing yards	95	107
Comp-Att-Int	6-14-2	9-16-1
Punts	7-27	6-28
Fumbles-lost	3-1	4-2
Penalties-yards	8-58	6-45

RUSHING — Snyder: Martinez, 10-33; Wells, 11-23; Chad Brown, 2-6; Brad English, 2-15; Isaac Ramon, 3-7; Matt Reigh, 2 (-12). **Wylie:** Lawson, 23-144; Keenum, 7-8.

PASSING — Snyder: Martinez 4 of 9 for 49 yards, 2 int.; Wells 1 of 1 for 43 yards; Reigh 1 of 3 for 3 yards; Marcus Villarreal 0 of 1 for 0 yards. **Wylie:** Keenum 9 of 16 for 107 yards, 1 int.

RECEIVING — Snyder: Justin Boyd, 2-59; Lico Castillo, 1-16; Chad Brown, 2-5. **Wylie:** Aaron Philpot, 3-52; Lawson, 3-34; Lance Miller, 1-15.

AD expects heat for firing Solich

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska athletic director Steve Pederson says he knows he'll be criticized for firing a head coach who just finished a nine-win regular season.

He also knows he's taking a calculated risk by removing Frank Solich, who was hired six years ago on the recommendation of Tom Osborne.

"I am accountable for the decisions I make, and I'm accountable for the success of this program," Pederson said. "I take full responsibility."

Pederson said he's confident he's making the right move. Though the Huskers rebounded from last year's 7-7 season, they were beaten by a total of 70 points in the three games they lost this year.

Pederson said he saw growing disparity in talent between the Huskers and Big 12 powers such as Oklahoma and Texas.

Solich finished 58-19 in six seasons, but he was 16-12 in his last 28 games.

"I refuse to let the program gravitate into mediocrity," Pederson said. "We won't surrender the Big 12 to Oklahoma and Texas."

Despite firing a coach with a 9-3 record this season, Pederson said he is not running a "win at all costs" program.

"The byproduct of excellence in every area of your program is winning, and I don't apologize for having high expectations," Pederson said.

Pederson named defensive coordinator Bo Pelini interim head coach for the bowl game. The Huskers' bowl destination has not been determined.

Pederson said he would open a nationwide search for a head coach and hoped to have a successor to Solich named quickly.

Pelini said he would be a candidate for the permanent position.

"This is the best job in the country, and anyone who doesn't want to win the national championship shouldn't bother applying for this job," Pederson said. "I understand we aren't going to win the championship every year, but I believe we should be playing for or gaining on the championship on a consistent basis.

"I don't feel that currently we are playing for or gaining on the championship."

About a dozen players stood in the back of the room as Pederson spoke to the media Sunday.

Defensive end Benard Thomas stood alongside reporters in front, glaring at Pederson with his arms folded across his chest.

Thomas interjected with his own questions, about Pederson's expectations for next year and how Pederson can expect recruits to want to come to Nebraska if they're not sure about who their coaches will be.

Teammates eventually tugged at Thomas' arm and led him to an outside hallway.

"This decision was not an easy one, and I'm certain with a 9-3 season there will be questions," Pederson said. "But this was not a decision that would be determined by wins and losses. It was a decision based on the overall direction of our program and where I see our program headed in the next five to 10 years."

Solich took over a program that won national titles three of Osborne's last four years.

Pederson called Solich's record "solid."

"He deserves the admiration and support from all of us who care about Nebraska football," Pederson said.

Solich's team played Miami in the national championship Rose Bowl game after the 2001 season despite a 26-point loss to Colorado in the previous game.

In 2002, the Huskers had their first non-winning season since 1961. This season they blew a 10-point fourth-quarter lead in losing 41-24 at Missouri, they lost 31-7 at Texas and then suffered a 38-9 loss to Kansas State that was their worst at home since 1958.

Chancellor Harvey Perlman said that although Solich is a man of high integrity who made many contributions to the university, he fully supported Pederson's decision.

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Couples wins 4th Skins

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Annika Sorenstam earned another $50,000 on Sunday but finished second to Fred Couples, the grand master of the Skins Game who won his record fourth championship.

Couples won all but $25,000 of his $605,000 on the final day of the 18-hole, made-for-television event.

Sorenstam, the first woman to compete in the 21-year history of the game, earned $225,000. Phil Mickelson was third with $170,000. Mark O'Meara won nothing, one year after earning $405,000 to take the title.

Couples birdied the 17th three times.

Four playoff holes were needed to award the $200,000 "Super Skin," which initially was at stake on the par-5, 575-yard 18th. Couples clinched the title when he and Mickelson birdied the second playoff hole, the par-3 17th, and Sorenstam didn't.

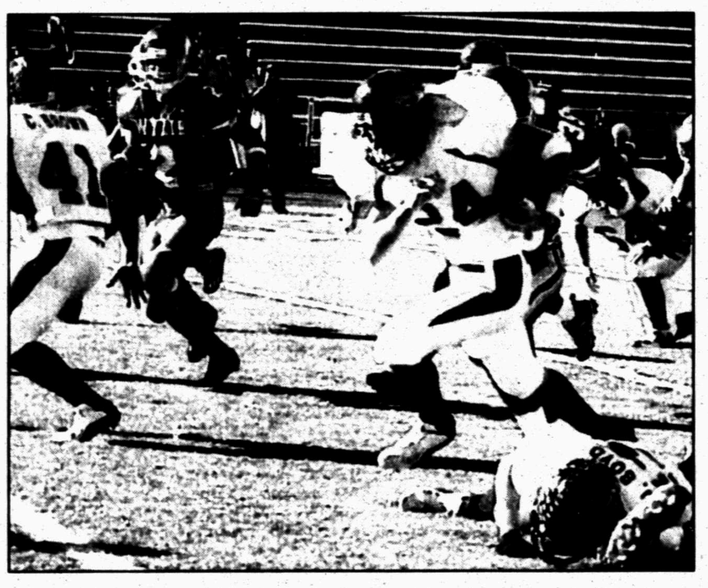
But Couples and Mickelson needed two more playoff holes to end it. Couples' 20-footer for birdie, again on the 17th, added $200,000 to his day. His first time on the 17th, Couples won a $140,000 skin by sinking a 55-footer for birdie.

Couples, in his 10th Skins Game, ran his record career earnings in the event to $2.875 million.

Sorenstam was the first-day leader with $175,000, thanks to one of the most spectacular shots ever in the game — a breathtaking, 39-yard eagle out of the bunker on the par-5 ninth hole.

She made it two skins in a row by knocking in a 15-foot birdie putt on the first hole Sunday, the par-4, 378-yard 10th.

Sorenstam was the obvious favorite of the big gallery at the Trilogy Golf Club, which opened in February.



A CLEAR PATH — Brad English breaks through the line for a 12-yard gain on Snyder's only scoring drive, with a little help from blocks by Justin Boyd (14) and Chad Brown (41. (Contributed Photo by Ronny Collins)

Texans overcome Vick's debut, top Falcons 17-13

HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Vick got his first playing time of the season and even received some cheers from the Houston Texans crowd.

The Atlanta Falcons lost anyway.

Texans quarterback David Carr was forced to play despite a shoulder injury and Domanick Davis scored two quick third-quarter touchdowns Sunday for a 17-13 victory over the Falcons.

Vick got into the game late in the third quarter and led the Falcons to a pair of field goals that kept the game close. It was his first action of the season after breaking his right leg in preseason.

"I didn't have butterflies," Vick said. "I stepped out there like I'd been there all year. I was just happy to be back out there. I thank God for putting me back into this position and giving me a chance to play."

Vick made his season debut with 2:14 left in the third. A noticeable roar went up from the crowd. He finished 8-of-11 for 60 yards and ran three times for 16 yards in just over a quarter of action.

"It was nice to know I have love and support all across the world, even in Houston," Vick said. "I take my hat off to them. It's exciting to me to know that people appreciate what I've been able to do."

Carr has a sprained right shoulder and didn't play in the first half, but started the third quarter when Tony Banks broke his right hand on his final pass of the second quarter.

Carr scrambled 36 yards on his first series — the longest run of his career — to set up a 7-yard go-ahead touchdown run by Davis to make it 10-7.

"They put me in and then they put their guy in," Carr said. "It was neat. He's a good player and I hope he's healthy and he's back."

Doug Johnson started at quarterback for the Falcons and on the first play after Davis' touchdown, threw an interception to Texans cornerback Marcus Coleman, who returned it 22 yards to the Falcons 13.

Davis got his second touchdown on a 2-yard run to make it 17-7. That was enough to hold off the Falcons and Vick.

"There was some divine strength going on today," Carr said. "I didn't think I was going to be on the field. It was rough and it was ugly, but we got it done."

Carr's long run caused a scare when he went to the ground head first instead of taking a slide.

Chad Rogers

Ricky McNatt

Matthew Vasquez

Isaac Ramon

Zach Garcia

NFL

Be

By The Asso

The Patriots that champions the Bengals.

The Bengals

Cincinnati straight with a rally Sunday at Kitna's third t an 18-yarder t with 13 seconds a last-minute victory. The Be won six of sev first-place show in Baltimore.

"In years pas the tough ga back Corey Di we're winning t I've been here, just December, too much. This

But it's the sa New England, eight in a row a anapolis 38-34. left, Willie Mc Edgerrin James fourth-and-goal Patriots to 10-2 in franchise hist

"We got a lot o locker room," "We're not goi thing away."

Philadelphia i

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SPORTS

NFL roundup...

Bengals use late surge to stun Steelers

By The Associated Press

The Patriots and Eagles have that championship look. So do the Bengals.

The Bengals?

Cincinnati won its fourth straight with a scintillating late rally Sunday at Pittsburgh. Jon Kitna's third touchdown pass, an 18-yarder to Matt Schobel with 13 seconds left, completed a last-minute drive for a 24-20 victory. The Bengals (7-5) have won six of seven to set up a first-place showdown next week in Baltimore.

"In years past, we didn't win the tough games," running back Corey Dillon said. "Now we're winning them. As long as I've been here, December was just December, it doesn't mean too much. This is different."

But it's the same old thing for New England, which has won eight in a row after edging Indianapolis 38-34. With 14 seconds left, Willie McGinest stopped Edgerrin James from the 1 on fourth-and-goal to boost the Patriots to 10-2 for the first time in franchise history.

"We got a lot of fighters in our locker room," McGinest said. "We're not going to give anything away."

Philadelphia isn't giving away a thing, either. The Eagles (9-3) took sole possession of the top spot in the NFC East with their seventh successive victory, 25-16 at Carolina. David Akers kicked four field goals, while John Kasay missed three and an extra point.

"This is no time to go wild, you only go wild in February," quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "Everybody counted us out early and nobody went crazy in here. We knew what we had to do to get this ship righted."

Bengals 24, Steelers 20

At Pittsburgh, the Bengals all but eliminated the Steelers (4-8), who had won six of the last nine division titles in the AFC North or Central. Chad Johnson had six catches for 117 yards.

Hines Ward had 13 catches for 149 yards and gave Pittsburgh a 20-17 lead with a 16-yard touchdown reception with 1:05 remaining, but Kitna rallied Cincinnati.

Patriots 38, Colts 34

At Indianapolis, the Colts (9-3) dropped out of first place in the AFC South, at least momentarily — Tennessee plays Monday night at the Jets.

Peyton Manning brought the Colts back from a 21-point second-half deficit for the second time this season. He completed 29 of 48 passes for 278 yards and four touchdowns, and moved the Colts 47 yards on their final drive before it fizzled at the 1.

Rookie Bethel Johnson had a 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to end the first half, then broke free again in the fourth quarter, going 67 yards to set up the winning drive.

Eagles 25, Panthers 16

At Charlotte, McNabb overcame his first interception in six games and Philadelphia snapped a streak of four consecutive games without a giveaway. McNabb connected with nine receivers on his 18 completions.

Stephen Davis ran for 115 yards, the seventh straight game the Eagles have given up 100 or more yards. But the loss stalled Carolina's (8-4) attempt to wrap up the NFC South.

Broncos 22, Raiders 8

At Oakland, Clinton Portis carried 34 times for 170 yards and two touchdowns and the Broncos (7-5) held Oakland without a touchdown for the first time this season.

That prompted Oakland coach Bill Callahan to call his team "the dumbest in America."

The Raiders (3-9) were penalized 11 times for 89 yards and lost three fumbles.

Chiefs 28, Chargers 24

At San Diego, the Chiefs (11-1) improved the league's best record as Priest Holmes ran 31 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns, and Tony Gonzalez caught two touchdown passes from Trent Green. Kansas City capitalized on two turnovers by Doug Flutie in the final 11 minutes.

LaDainian Tomlinson had 106 yards and one TD for San Diego (2-10).

Ravens 44, 49ers 6

At Baltimore, Ray Lewis returned an interception 29 yards for a touchdown to cap a 17-point flurry in the second quarter.

One week after the Ravens trailed Seattle by 17 in the fourth quarter before rallying to win, they took a far easier path against the 49ers. Baltimore (7-5) built a 24-6 halftime lead before coasting to the most lopsided victory in franchise history.

The 49ers (5-7) are 0-6 on the road.

Rams 48, Vikings 17

At St. Louis, Marshall Faulk moved into fifth place on the career touchdowns list with 127, scoring three times. He gained 108 yards, his third straight 100-yard game after going 10 without one.

The Rams (9-3) and won their 12th straight home game and lead the NFC West by one game over Seattle. The North Division-leading Vikings (7-5) are sinking fast after a 6-0 start.

Seahawks 34, Browns 7

At Seattle, the Seahawks (8-4) moved to 7-0 at home. Matt Hasselbeck threw for 328 yards and three touchdowns, while Shaun Alexander rushed for 127 yards and another TD. Darrell Jackson had eight receptions for 102 yards and two touchdowns, while Koren Robinson caught six passes for 122 yards.

It was the first game in franchise history that the Seahawks (8-4) had a 300-yard passer, a 100-yard rusher and two 100-yard receivers.

It was the most lopsided loss for Cleveland (4-8) in three seasons under coach Butch Davis.

Jaguars 17, Buccaneers 10

At Jacksonville, Jimmy Smith reached 700 career receptions a little before former teammate Keenan McCardell did it.

Smith also made a diving 48-yard touchdown catch late in the game for Jacksonville (3-9) and sent Tampa Bay reeling toward playoff elimination. Smith caught a season-high 10 passes for 136 yards.

Tampa Bay's McCardell caught eight passes to go over 700.

Defending NFL champion Tampa Bay (5-7) fell three games behind NFC South leader Carolina, and three behind Seattle for the last wild-card spot.

Saints 24, Redskins 20

At Landover, Md., Deuce McAllister had his ninth consecutive 100-yard rushing game, running for 165 yards on 30 carries and catching four passes for 31 more. His 100-yard game streak ties him for third all-time with Walter Payton and Fred Taylor. Barry Sanders holds the record with 14.

Aaron Brooks ran for two scores and passed for another for New Orleans (6-6).

The Redskins (4-8) have lost three straight and seven of eight.

Bears 28, Cardinals 3

At Chicago, Kordell Stewart threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score. Brock Forsey, a rookie from Boise State, started for Chicago (5-7) in place of leading rusher Anthony Thomas (viral pneumonia), and gained 134 yards. He scored on a 9-yard run.

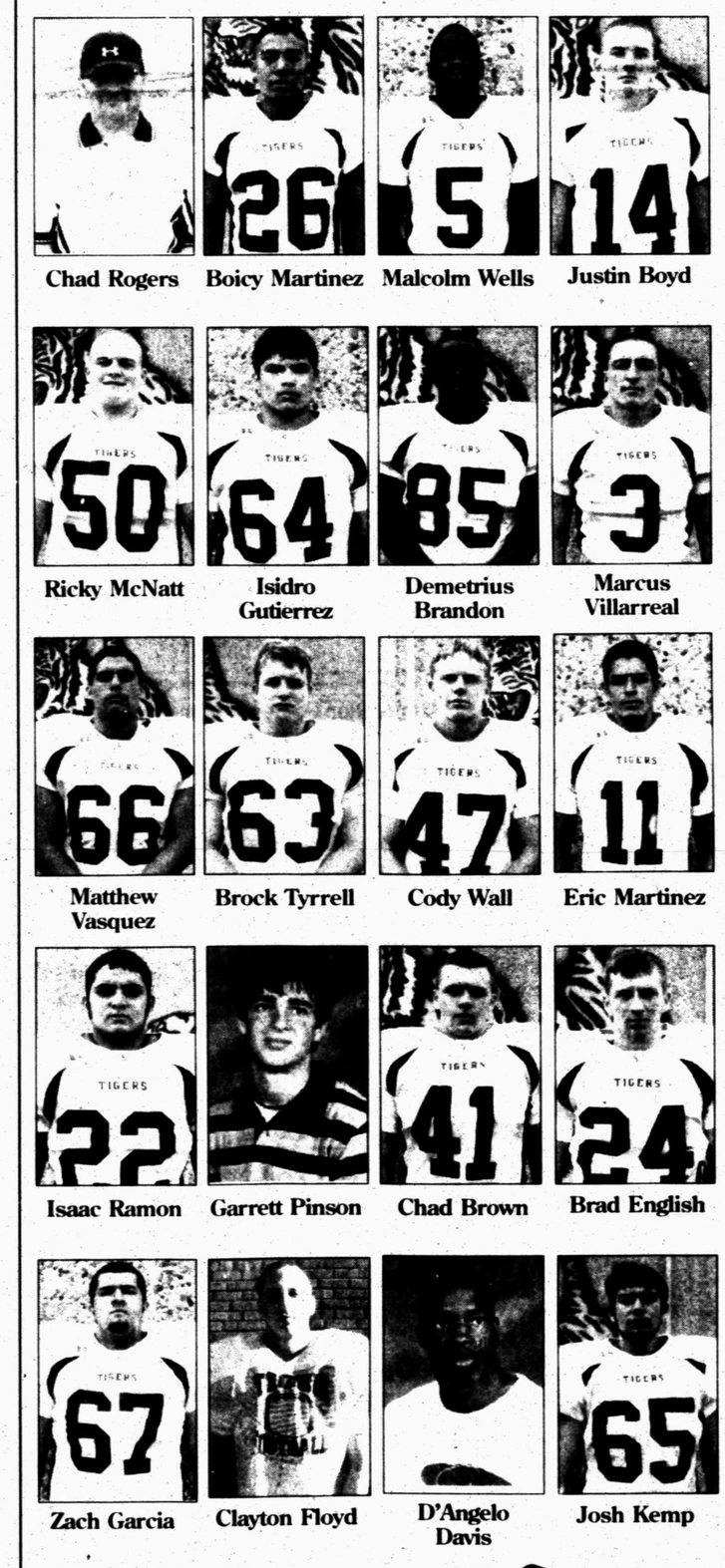
The road woes continued for Arizona (3-9), which is 0-6 away from home and has been outscored 203-68 in those games.

Bills 24, Giants 7

At East Rutherford, N.J., Drew Bledsoe shook off the effects of a concussion and threw for 252 yards and two touchdowns. Buffalo (5-7), which snapped a four-game slide, hadn't scored an offensive road TD since Week 2, but Bledsoe threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Dave Moore and a 22-yarder to Bobby Shaw in a 17-point second quarter. Travis Henry finished with 113 yards rushing.

The Giants (4-8) have lost four straight for the first time in Jim Fassel's six-plus years as coach.

Tigers earn seven spots on All-District 1st team; Ramon named defensive MVP



Chad Rogers | Boicy Martinez | Malcolm Wells | Justin Boyd

Ricky McNatt | Isidro Gutierrez | Demetrius Brandon | Marcus Villarreal

Matthew Vasquez | Brock Tyrrell | Cody Wall | Eric Martinez

Isaac Ramon | Garrett Pinson | Chad Brown | Brad English

Zach Garcia | Clayton Floyd | D'Angelo Davis | Josh Kemp

District 3-3A All-District Football Team

Co-Coaches of the Year
Kent Jackson - Sweetwater,
Chad Rogers - Snyder,
David Flowers - Merkel

Most Valuable Player — Riley Lambert, Jr., Merkel

Offensive MVP — Jeremy Thompson, Jr., Sweetwater

Offensive Newcomer of the Year — Zack Maxey, So., Merkel

Defensive MVP — **Isaac Ramon, Sr., Snyder**

Defensive Newcomer of the Year — **Garrett Pinson, So., Snyder**

First Team Offense

Quarterback — **Boicy Martinez, Sr., Snyder**

Fullback — Christopher Hart, Sr., Merkel; Alan Copeland, Jr., Sweetwater

Running Backs — Josh Jackson, Sr., Sweetwater; **Malcom Wells, Sr., Snyder**

Flanker - Robert Ramirez, Sr., Seminole

Receivers — Sam Griffen, Sr., Denver City; **Justin Boyd, Sr., Snyder**

Tight End — Giles Montgomery, Sr., Sweetwater

Center — Bryson Oliver, Sr., Sweetwater

Guards — **Ricky McNatt, Jr., Snyder**; Weylond Cooley, Sr., Merkel; Zack Gilbert, Jr., Sweetwater

Tackles - Ty Palmer, Jr., Sweetwater; **Isidro Guiterrez, Sr., Snyder**; Justin Head, Sr., Merkel

First Team Defense

Noseguard — **Demetrius Brandon, Sr., Snyder**

Tackle - Brandon Head, Sr., Merkel; Justin Head, Sr., Merkel

End — Giles Montgomery, Sr., Sweetwater; Chris Cobb, Sr., Merkel

Linebacker —Pedie Guerra, Sr., Seminole; Michael Straley, Sr., Sweetwater; Sammy Prieto, Sr., Seminole; Christopher Hart, Sr., Merkel

Corner — Seth Hatley, Sr., Sweetwater; **Marcus Villarreal, Sr., Snyder**; Jerrod Knight, Sr., Merkel

Strong Safety — Brendan Pittman, Sr., Sweetwater

Free Safety — Kelsey Hinson, Sr., Denver City

Kicker — Roger DeLeon, Sr., Seminole

Punter — Kelsey Hinson, Sr., Denver City

Second Team Offense

Quarterback — Kelsey Hinson, Sr., Denver City

Fullback — Clyde Delao, Sr., Sweetwater

Running Backs — Jeremy Hill, Jr., Seminole; Randy Valadez, Sr., Sweetwater

Flanker — Rowdy Warren, Jr., Denver City

Receivers — Chris Sambrano, Sr., Lamesa; Aaron Walla, Sr., Merkel

Tight End — **Demetrius Brandon, Sr., Snyder**; Chris Browne, Sr., Seminole

Center — **Matthew Vasquez, Sr., Snyder**; Daniel McDuff, Sr., Merkel

Guards - Brandon Head, Sr., Merkel; Neil Loeppke, Sr., Seminole; Elizar Ybanez, Sr., Denver City

Tackles — Kevin Jones, Sr., Sweetwater; **Brock Tyrrell, Sr., Snyder**; Roger DeLeon, Sr., Seminole

Second Team Defense

Noseguard — Clyde Delao, Sr., Sweetwater

Tackle — **Ricky McNatt, Jr., Snyder**; Josh Garza, Sr., Sweetwater

End — **Cody Wall, Sr., Snyder**; Rito Villegas, Sr., Denver City; Steven Reed, Sr., Sweetwater

Linebacker — Austin Kite, Sr., Sweetwater; Steven Suarez, Jr., Seminole; **Eric Martinez, So., Snyder**; Santos Garcia, Jr. - Denver City

Corner — Sam Griffen, Sr., Denver City; Chris Sambrano, Sr., Lamesa

Strong Safety — Phillip Suarez, Jr., Seminole; Justin Boyd, Sr., Snyder

Free Safety — Ryan Warren, Sr., Seminole

Kicker — Chris Cobb, Sr., Merkel

Punter — Ty Caffey, Sr., Seminole; Kurt Hale, Sr., Sweetwater; Chris Cobb. Sr. - Merkel

Honorable Mention Offense

Chad Brown
Brad English
Marcus Villarreal
Zach Garcia

Honorable Mention Defense

Clayton Floyd
Chad Brown
D'Angelo Davis
Josh Kemp

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Popularity of obesity surgery makes gains

BOSTON (AP) — Ken Powers knew the potential dangers of having his stomach stapled, but to a man who had tipped the scales at 475 pounds, those risks didn't much matter.

"I had this thought: If I die on the operating table, having the surgery to try to better my life, I thought it was a better thing to do than to live the way I was living, which, in my opinion, I was kind of waiting to die anyway," he said.

By the tens of thousands, morbidly obese people who have failed at diets, support groups and exercise programs are turning to surgery to lose weight.

In 1998, there were 25,800 obesity-related operations, most of them gastric bypass procedures commonly known as stomach stapling. This year, the American Society for Bariatric Surgery estimates 103,200 operations.

Questions about the risks and growing use of the procedures surfaced in recent weeks after two patients in New England died during stomach-stapling surgeries. However, obesity specialists say the procedure is safer than it has ever been — and that is contributing to the growing popularity.

And for most patients, the risk of not having the surgery is greater.

"It's an operation that helps cure people of this disease which is life-threatening. People see it as some type of cosmetic surgery, when it's not. More patients die waiting for surgery than die after surgery," said Dr. Janey Pratt, a surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital Weight Center in Boston, which does about 300 gastric bypasses a year.

The operation involves using staples or stitches to close off part of the stomach to form a small pouch about the size of an egg, which limits how much food the person can eat. A part of the small intestine also is bypassed to reduce nutrient absorption.

Risks include wound infections, stomach leaks and occasionally life-threatening blood clots.

The International Bariatric Surgery Registry estimates one in 1,000 patients will die within four weeks of the surgery, and three in 1,000 will die within three months. Some surgeons in the field put the fatality rate as high as one in 100 who have the surgery.

Powers, 42, of Worcester, was lucky. Even carrying more than 400 pounds on his 5-foot-11 frame, he had not developed many of the common ailments associated with obesity. Still, sleep was fitful, and walking, particularly upstairs, was exhausting. And he lived in a fourth-floor apartment.

Powers underwent laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery in May 2001 and now weighs 280 pounds. He believes the surgery likely staved off the onset of diabetes, and he has had no complications.

Surgery is not used to treat minor obesity. Candidates must be 100 pounds above their ideal body weight and have failed at other attempts at weight loss.

Still, an estimated 15 million people would qualify for the surgery, said Dr. Scott Shikora, head of bariatric surgery at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. Tufts, which has the city's largest obesity surgery program, closed to new patients for nearly six months earlier this year to catch up with its backlog of patients. At one point, there was a waiting list of 500 patients, Shikora said.

"It's no longer considered snake oil or some out there treatment that doesn't work," Shikora said.

Many insurance carriers have started to cover the procedures, finding it cheaper to pay for the surgery than treating obesity-related health problems such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Companies continue to feel pressure to cover more obesity surgeries, but are cautious because of the risks, said Susan Pisano, spokeswoman for the combined American Association of Health Plans, Health Insurance Association of America.

"When we do read about people who do have complications, I think that only serves to reinforce the caution," she said.

Powers agrees. He worries that the growing popularity and the success of celebrities such as NBC "Today" weatherman Al Roker and singer Carnie Wilson may make it look like a simple, convenient option, especially for young people. "I don't think you see all the pain involved. You see the finished product," he said. "Carnie Wilson looks great and Al Roker looks like a million bucks, but you don't see the post-op stuff. You eat half an English muffin and you throw up. There's certain foods it takes you a year to eat again. It's not a diet. You have to be ready to abandon the way that you've lived with food for the rest of your life."

On the Net:
American Society for Bariatric Surgery: www.asbs.org

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Child #5 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
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age _____ circle: male female
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age _____ circle: male female
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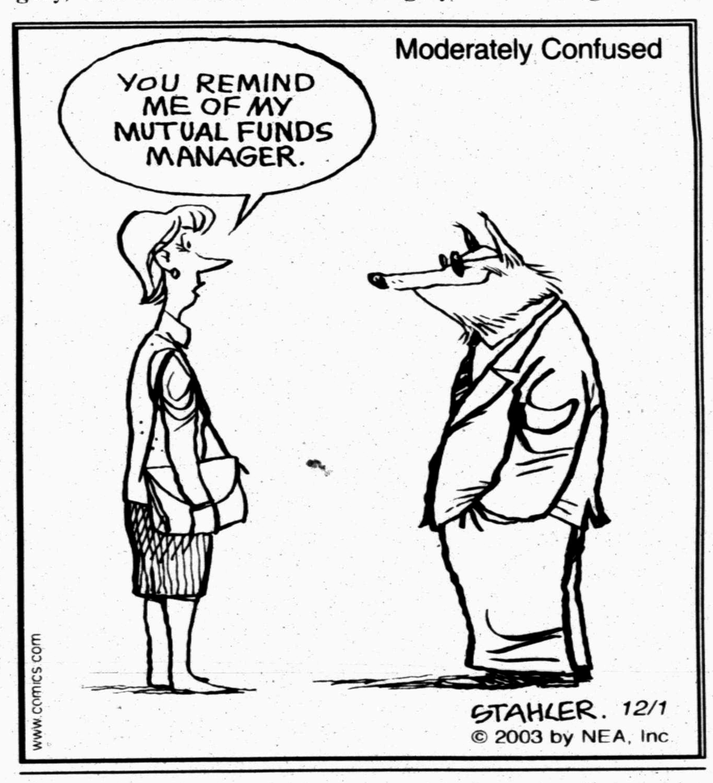

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-01-03
♠ J 8 5
♥ J 10 3
♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ 8 6 4

West
♠ A 7 6
♥ 8 6 5
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ 9 3

East
♠ K Q 10 9 4 3 2
♥ 9 7 2
♦ A
♣ 10 5

South
♠ —
♥ A K Q 4
♦ K 9 5
♣ A K Q J 7 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
			3 ♠
??			

Opening lead: ♠ A

Monday, Dec. 1, 2003

Using a computer for guidance

By Phillip Alder

Look at the South hand in the diagram. Your right-hand opponent opens three spades, showing a decent seven-card suit and some 5-10 high-card points. What would you do?

When the deal arose in a major knockout team event, both players jumped to six clubs. (To double, planning to bid six clubs over four diamonds by partner, is sensible too, but it risks partner's passing with a balanced hand.)

Next problem: This was the layout at the table. Against six clubs, West leads the spade ace. What would be your plan?

Wondering if six clubs was a percentage action, I fed the known information into Ed Marzo's Dealmaster Pro (DMP). Once DMP had generated 40 deals, it called upon Deep Finesse (DF) to double-dummy analyze them. This simulation made it clear that six clubs is the percentage action, even occasionally allowing North to raise to seven.

Both declarers played perfectly. Each ruffed at trick one and drew trumps in two rounds. Next came a heart to dummy's jack and a spade ruff in hand. The three top hearts were cashed, dummy's spade jack being discarded on the last one. Now South exited with a low diamond. East won with the ace and had to return a spade, permitting declarer to discard his remaining low diamond and to ruff in the dummy.

Lucky — the declarers "only" needed to find trumps 2-2 and East with a singleton diamond ace. Note also that if East discards his diamond ace on the fourth heart, South counters by leading a low diamond toward dummy to endplay West.

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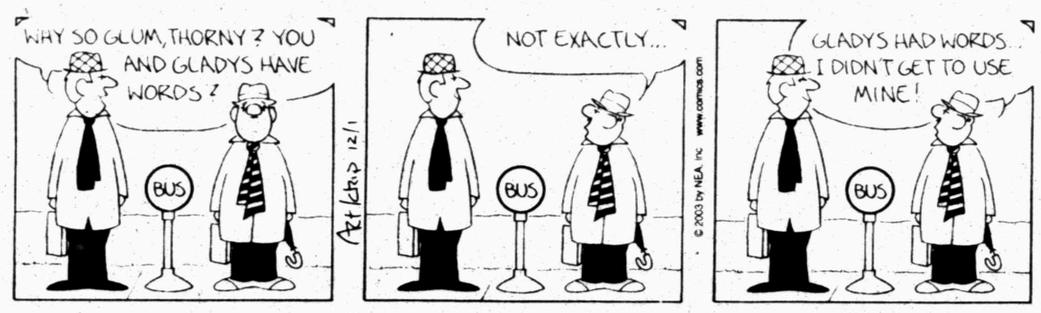
NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.19	12.80	12.96	+ .13
AT&T Corp	19.99	19.77	19.92	+ .09
Albertsons	21.16	20.86	20.88	—.40
Alltel	45.66	45.27	45.30	—.11
AmEl Pw	27.80	27.55	27.74	+ .05
AndarkPtr	45.40	44.85	45.24	+ .31
ATMOS Egy	24.82	24.66	24.77	+ .12
Availl	15.88	15.76	15.85	—.15
BP PLC	43.16	42.78	42.99	+ .30
BakerHughes	29.21	28.75	29.05	+ .19
Bank of Amer	75.89	74.65	75.85	+ .42
BellSouth	26.30	26.00	26.27	+ .24
BurlNoSFe	29.95	29.64	29.89	+ .12
Caterpillar	76.59	75.33	75.90	—.15
CenterPoint	9.85	9.71	9.81	+ .11
ChevronTex	76.62	75.25	75.45	+ .35
Citigroup	47.59	47.15	47.39	+ .35
CocaCola	46.86	46.39	46.54	+ .04
ColgatePal	52.95	52.59	52.95	+ .45
CmclMetals	26.51	25.80	26.34	+ .60
ConocoPhill	57.55	57.06	57.38	+ .64
Cooper Inds	54.96	53.70	54.89	+ 1.24
DaimlrChry	38.90	38.45	38.74	+ .70
DeltaAirl	12.74	12.51	12.57	+ .03
Dillards Inc	17.13	16.81	16.85	
DowChem	38.00	37.71	37.95	+ .40
DuPont	42.45	41.80	41.96	+ .50
EastmanChem	36.55	35.91	36.55	+ .88
EstKodak	24.37	24.00	24.06	—.30
EDS Corp	21.97	21.50	21.86	+ .24
Entergy	53.15	52.88	53.07	+ .21
ExxonMobil	36.70	36.34	36.44	+ .27
FootLocker	22.75	22.39	22.66	+ .56
GenDynam	81.52	80.51	81.28	+ .41
GenElec	29.21	28.90	28.96	+ .29
GenMills	45.35	44.99	45.29	+ .28
GenMotors	43.23	42.92	43.04	+ .26
GaPacific	28.09	27.46	27.90	+ .61
Goodrich	27.63	27.33	27.39	—.12
Goodyear	6.84	6.75	6.76	+ .01
GtAtlPac	7.68	7.33	7.41	—.19
Halliburtn	23.64	23.40	23.49	+ .14
Hanson PLC	35.16	35.06	35.09	+ .03
HarteHanks	21.73	21.54	21.63	+ .10
HomeDepot	36.98	36.29	36.29	—.47
HoneywellIntl	30.32	29.68	30.31	+ .62
IBM	91.19	90.65	91.02	+ .48
IntlPaper	38.20	37.64	38.19	+ .98
JohnsonJn	50.30	49.37	49.48	+ .19
KinderMorg	55.22	54.37	55.21	+ .71
Kroger Co	18.79	18.36	18.44	—.42
LockheedM	46.25	45.80	46.07	+ .13
Lowes Cos	58.49	57.57	57.80	—.50
Lubys	3.90	3.77	3.90	+ .14
LucentTech	3.26	3.22	3.23	+ .03
MarathonOil	29.94	29.60	29.82	+ .21
MayDeptStr	29.87	29.16	29.32	—.33
Medtronic	45.60	45.32	45.52	+ .32
Motorola	14.19	13.99	14.04	
NCR Corp	35.01	34.85	34.98	+ .06
Navistar	43.48	43.05	43.08	—.02
PNM Rescs	28.65	27.76	27.95	—.06
Penney JC	25.38	25.00	25.14	+ .26
PepBoys	20.86	20.55	20.79	+ .29
PepsiCo	48.35	47.90	48.12	
PhelpDodge	64.88	63.95	64.15	+ .47
PilgrimsPride	15.40	15.00	15.27	+ .32
Praxair	73.29	71.93	73.07	+ 1.29
ProctGamb	96.88	96.30	96.71	+ .47
RadioShack	31.49	30.79	30.87	—.28
RoyalDut	45.68	45.38	45.41	+ .51
SBC Comm	23.53	23.10	23.15	—.13
SaraLee	20.59	20.41	20.57	+ .02
Scripps EW	92.38	92.13	92.26	+ .20
SearsRoeb	55.37	54.48	54.67	—.49
SherwinW	32.65	32.40	32.64	+ .21
SouthernCo	29.30	29.10	29.26	—.01
SwstAirl	18.38	18.00	18.38	+ .40
SprintFON	15.21	14.99	15.05	+ .06
SprintPCS	4.57	4.40	4.40	—.19
Sunoco Inc	48.93	48.15	48.84	+ .83
TXU Corp	22.20	21.95	22.19	+ .05
TempleInland	58.07	56.83	57.98	+ 1.45
TexInd	30.28	29.46	30.17	+ .96
TexasInst	30.61	30.11	30.20	+ .44
Textron	50.21	49.60	50.10	+ .26
TimeWarner	16.48	16.31	16.41	+ .13
TrinityInds	26.46	26.09	26.36	+ .41
TylerTech	8.60	8.41	8.55	+ .15
UnionPacif	64.21	63.71	64.01	+ .33
USSteel	26.38	24.74	26.06	+ 1.21
UnitedTech	87.00	86.40	86.91	+ 1.21
Unocal	32.00	31.65	31.95	+ .17
VerizonComm	32.79	32.56	32.61	—.23
WalMart	55.80	53.95	54.61	—1.03
WellsFargo	57.82	57.30	57.55	+ .22
WstnGasRs	44.47	44.20	44.44	+ .14
WinnDixie	9.05	8.76	8.76	—.27
Xerox Cp	12.37	12.11	12.34	+ .16
YumBrands	34.88	34.52	34.62	+ .13

DEC 01 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



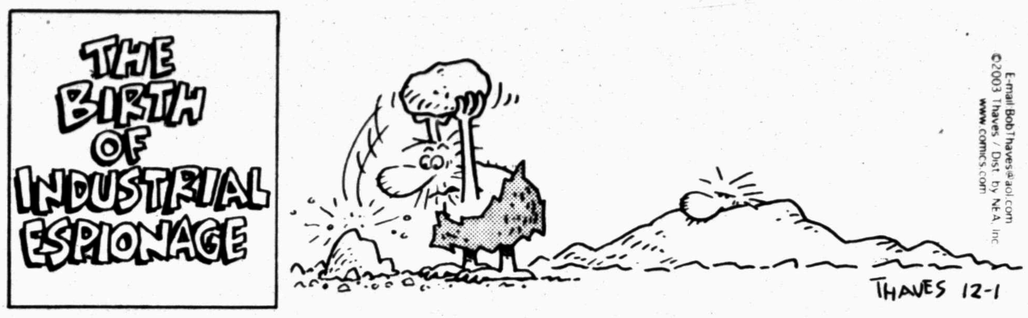
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

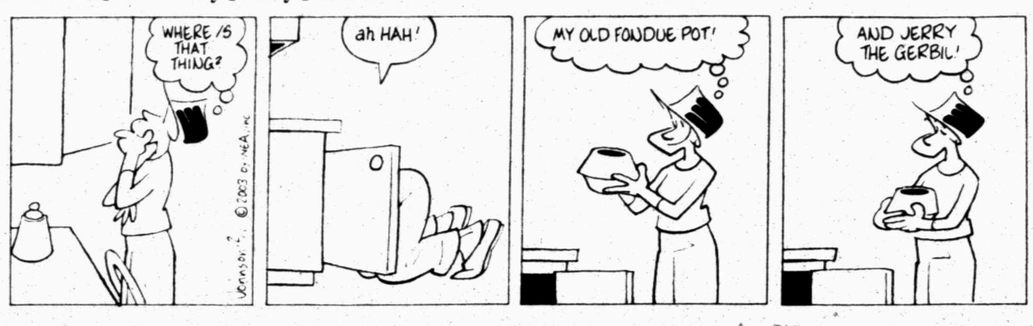
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Where did you put my book on archaeology?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"GRANDPA SAYS HE SPOILED YOU, MOM, SO HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOIL ME, TOO."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Hang open
5 Large tank
8 Greet, as a dog
11 Keep away from
12 Goddess's statue
14 Citrus drink
15 Helper, briefly
16 Long story
17 In favor of
18 "My Friend Flicka" author
20 Stick
22 "— too late now!"
23 Legend
24 Long gun
27 Brief farewells
29 Web addr.
30 Good judgment
34 To do with ships
37 Poet's word
38 Pink
39 Impede
41 Forehead
43 Coffee dispenser
44 Cowboy's strings
46 Damascus locale
49 Zodiac sign
50 Warmhearted
52 At leisure
54 Thunder Bay's prov.
55 Mumble
56 Monk's quarters
57 Yr. fractions
58 Bradley and Asner
59 Makes bales

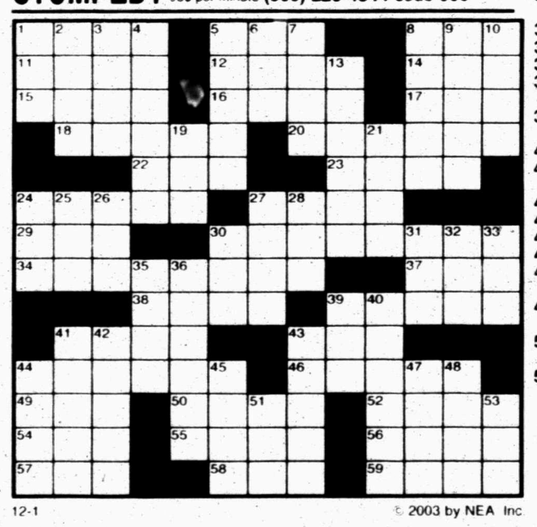
DOWN

1 Brownie's org.
2 Chan rejoinder (2 wds.)
3 Shove
4 Necessitate
5 Travel documents
6 Oklahoma town
7 Caesar's garment
8 Thin cookie
9 Honor greatly
10 Actor Richard —
13 Dished out
19 St. or ave.
21 Some legwear
24 Compete in a 10K
25 A Gershwin
26 Winter woe
27 Mule's sound
28 Actor — Brynner
30 Mac rivals
31 Badminton need
32 Average grade
33 Blow it
35 Pony's gait
36 Dubuque denizens
39 Without moisture
40 Make wealthy
41 Good, to Pedro
42 Uprisings
43 Exploiters
44 — onto (seize)
45 Bother
47 Inventor's spark
48 Treaty member
51 Cow's mouthful
53 Urban people-movers

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95c per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000



12-1 © 2003 by NEA Inc.

Ferry passenger: Embarking on 'second chance' after losing legs

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Esposito lost both legs in the deadly crash last month of a Staten Island ferry, but he is determined to walk again — on limbs programmed by computer to take him into his new life.

Since his above-the-knee amputations, he's discovered much about himself.

"I had no idea I was this strong," the 24-year-old said in an interview with The Associated Press.

A New York-based firm, Arimed, will design his new legs, constructed from titanium — a strong, light metal developed for space travel — and a high-strength material called carbon acrylic.

This so-called C-Leg system "reads" a person's spontaneous motions 50 times a second and responds accordingly, activating the limbs. The hydraulic knees flex or stiffen, switching when a human hand taps the leg and following a gait programmed for, say, walking up and down stairs or on rough outdoor terrain.

The company is donating the limbs, which cost about $100,000.

Esposito expects to be fitted with a training set of the legs in February, returning to Staten Island University Hospital for at least a month to learn to use them before he gets his custom-designed pair.

The young man was returning home to Staten Island Oct. 15 from his Manhattan job as a waiter when the ferry crashed into a concrete maintenance pier, killing 10 people and wounding dozens of passengers. Investigators have identified human error as the likely cause of the crash; a criminal probe is looking into whether the crew acted properly.

As Esposito lay with both legs crushed beneath a metal pole, British tourist Kerry Griffiths, a nurse, tied a belt around his legs to try to stop the bleeding. Minutes later, Esposito was rushed to a hospital for surgery that saved his life.

Since then, Esposito has received medical care costing thousands of dollars a day.

His restaurant job did not provide health insurance, but his family is being spared the huge bills thanks to contributions from the public.

Next Thursday, he plans to leave the hospital and move back into the home he shared with his parents and siblings before the accident. His bedroom has been moved to the ground floor and the hallways enlarged so he can wheel himself around until he's fitted for the computerized prosthetic legs.

The last 20 of 200 staples have been removed from his amputated legs, putting his recovery ahead of schedule. But he has no illusions about the long, difficult road he faces.

Hours of daily therapy include exercises to strengthen his pelvis and thigh muscles.

"That will help me stand up. But it's hard to get the lower body in shape when you don't have legs," he said.

Esposito can now lift himself out of a wheelchair and slide onto regular chairs. Therapy includes moments of throbbing pain and muscle fatigue, Esposito said, "but I'm not going to give up."

Much of his resilience is derived from the support of his parents, brothers and sister. Said his father, Michael Esposito: "He knows that he's not alone in this. No matter what, we're going to be there for him."

In his hospital room, Paul Esposito has been busy sketching plans to further restructure their home for his new life. The Atlas Foundation and the Kiwanis Club have come forward to finance an architect and contractors.

Students: College loan program unfair

FORT WORTH (AP) — A tuition incentive program that forgives college loans for those who maintain high enough grades is unfair because it benefits those enrolled at private institutions which do not contribute to the plan, some students say.

The students at Texas public universities are angry that part of their tuition will go toward the no-interest loan program. Although any state resident attending a public or private university or community college in Texas is eligible, only students at public universities are scheduled to help defray costs, with part of their tuition added to the fund.

"I like the concept, but I don't like the way they are paying for it — it's not just," said Bryan Shaner, a 21-year-old senior majoring in accounting and a member of the University of Texas at Arlington's Student Congress.

The B-On-Time loan program will receive 5 percent of the recently instituted tuition increases at public universities as well as 5 percent of any future increases, officials say. The interest-free program, to begin in January, will forgive debt for students graduating in four years with a B average.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will manage the program.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Ways to overcome insomnia

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is a good sleeping pill for insomnia?

DEAR READER: As a general rule, it's better not to rely on sleeping pills, which can affect judgment and mental functioning. Also, many are habit-forming.

Insomniacs often have success by modifying their lives rather than taking pills. Here are some suggestions.

Go to bed at the same time each night in a room that is quiet and dark. Listen to your biological clock. If you're a night owl, stay up longer and sleep later.

Avoid stimulating activity, such as certain TV programs, at bedtime. (Sex doesn't count; it's OK.)

Disdain caffeine and other stimulants in the evening. Drink a glass of warm milk before retiring.

Try over-the-counter Benadryl (100 milligrams at bedtime) to make you sleepy.

If these strategies don't work, see your family physician. Depression can cause insomnia, so if that is a problem, it should be addressed. Also, the doctor may choose to prescribe limited quantities of prescription sleeping pills — such as Ambien or Sonata, both of which are safe in the recommended dosage.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My blood pressure is in the high range of normal. A friend told me that she heard "experts" warn against eating celery, which will raise blood pressure. Is this true?

DEAR READER: Not to my knowledge. All adults should avoid obesity and moderate their salt intake, but I am unaware of any other dietary restrictions.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've lived alone since my husband's unexpected death two years ago. I find myself crying a lot. What's happened to me and what can I do about it?

DEAR READER: Extended grief following the loss of a loved one is often worsened by loneliness and isolation. In such a situation, sadness, hopelessness and depression will sharpen the sense of loss, leading to uncontrollable weeping, insomnia and withdrawal. I'm sure you grieved after your husband's death — and you continue to do so. Now you must meet the next great challenge: getting on with your life. You may not be able to do this on your own, so I recommend that you reach out to those around you — family, friends and clergy. You may need counseling or other professional help — such as antidepressants prescribed by your physician. As part of your "getting well" strategy, try some volunteer work in your community. Consider taking that trip you've always wanted. Attempt to become involved in a hobby that could take your mind off your grief during your free time.

The human mind has an amazing ability to adapt, but you need to refocus your attention on positive goals, preferably with medical assistance and the support of those people around you.

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

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Fires put Houston Hindus on edge

HOUSTON (AP) — Almost a dozen fires have destroyed homes of Hindus and others, with a two-county task force investigating the suspected arson spree and members of the religious community nervous about future attacks.

Federal, county and city investigators are reviewing evidence in the blazes that have occurred over the past six months.

The fact that victims have included Hindus suggests that the community is being targeted, said Natubhai Patel, a leading member of a Hindu temple.

"We don't know really who would be behind it," he told the Houston Chronicle. "It's anybody's guess."

Patel and other members of the Hindu community believe the victims of all 11 fires under investigation by the task force were Hindus.

"People are concerned and we would like to have the responsible leaders look into this," Patel, a member of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, said on Sunday.

Sudhan Patel, no relation to Natubhai, was the latest victim. His house burned to the ground Friday. One of Patel's neighbors, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared retaliation by the arsonist, said her back yard was doused with a flammable liquid and set ablaze about two months ago.

The woman, who is acquainted with six other Hindu victims, said there is deep concern among members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Temple, which she attends.

DEC 01 2003

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

Here's My Card...

MARY KAY

Jean Godair, Independent Beauty Consultant
3411 Ave U Snyder, Texas
(325)573-5136
godair@snydertex.com
wwwmarykay.com/jgodair

nsa Independent Distributor
WATER & AIR FILTERS
Tom's Marine and Chemical Pump Sales & Service, Inc.
315 E. Highway • Snyder, Texas 79549
Tom Machen (325) 573-6562 Home 573-5219

Snyder Oaks Care Center
210 E. 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
79549
Office: 325-573-9377
Fax: 325-573-8306
Home: 325-573-3132

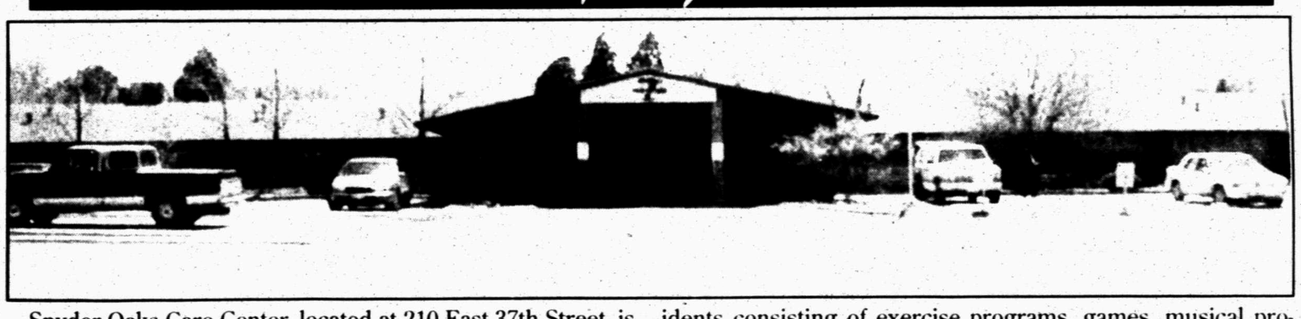
Texas Treasures
Concrete Benches *Concrete Birdbaths* *Other Yard Decorations*
Old Fashion Recipes, Jellies, Preserves, Pickles, Peppers and other vegetables
573-7567

Friendly Flower Shop
Rodney & Theresa Dupree
3203 College Ave.
Snyder, Texas 79549
Phone: 325/573-3851, 325/573-5260

Hillside Monument
Next Door To
Hillside Memorial Gardens
Specializing in Pre-Need Family Memorial Estates
Colorado City Hwy.
573-5251 Night 573-5536

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



Snyder Oaks Care Center, located at 210 East 37th Street, is proud to have provided the best in long term care for the senior citizens of Snyder and the surrounding areas since 1977.

The facility is licensed to house 97 residents and is Medicare and Medicaid approved. Twenty-four hour nursing care is provided along with an in-house rehabilitation team specializing in physical, occupational and speech therapy. Respiratory therapy is a special service offered along with diabetes and oxygen therapy.

Dietary specialists insure that special diet needs are met and optional menu items are available. Residents dine in a large, open dining room.

A Social Service Director serves as a resident advocate, oversees advanced directives and provides a link to community services.

Daily activities are provided for the residents consisting of exercise programs, games, musical programs and church services.

The Special Care Unit is certified to address the needs of residents with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. This unit provides a secure, stable environment where residents are encouraged to maintain or reach their maximum level of independence through programs that are supportive and therapeutic.

At Snyder Oaks they believe that every resident should be provided the opportunity to reach their highest level of independence and their goal is to exceed the resident's and family's expectations for a care center.

Feel free to stop by for a tour or call 325-573-9377 for more information.

Snyder Oaks Care Center
210 E. 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
79549
Office: 325-573-9377
Fax: 325-573-8306
Home: 325-573-3132

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

16 arrests keep law enforcement busy

• Arrests

Law enforcement personnel stayed busy, making 16 arrests in Snyder and Scurry County over the weekend and early today.

Eight subjects were taken into custody at 12:24 a.m. today on U.S. 84 by DPS troopers. The men, ranging in age from 19 to 43, are being held for the U.S. Border Patrol.

A 35-year-old man was arrested in the 1100 block of 27th at 3:45 p.m. Saturday on a warrant for no driver's license. At the same time, a 31-year-old man was taken into custody for public intoxication.

Two people were arrested for Class A assault family violence at 8:59 p.m. Saturday. The altercation occurred between a 23-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman in the 2800 block of Ave. Y.

A 39-year-old man was taken into custody at 11:29 p.m. Saturday in the area of Ennis Creek Rd. and Hwy. 84 for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 36-year-old man was apprehended by state troopers at 1:16 a.m. Monday four miles north of Snyder on Hwy. 84. The man was arrested for outstanding warrants from Garza County for speeding and a Childress warrant for speeding.

At 12:34 a.m. Sunday a 37-year-old man was arrested for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated in the area of 1069 CR 1606.

Officers arrested a 19-year-old male in the 3000 block of 37th at 1:35 a.m. Sunday for consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• Burglary

A Snyder resident returned home at 3 p.m. Sunday to find her home in the 400 block of 32nd had been broken into while she was out of town. Entry into the home had been made by breaking a back door window. Officers reported that the house had been rummaged through, but the homeowner had not had time to assess what, if any, items had been taken.

Sniper won't testify

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — Convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad will refuse to testify at fellow suspect Lee Boyd Malvo's trial, an attorney for Malvo said today, and the judge refused to bring Muhammad into court for a silent appearance.

Attorney Craig Cooley told the judge as Malvo's capital murder trial resumed after the holiday break that Muhammad's lawyers would resist a subpoena issued to Muhammad by Malvo's attorneys.

Cooley said he accepted that Muhammad, as a result, will be unable to testify as Malvo's lawyers had hoped.

In spite of that, Cooley said he wanted Muhammad to appear in court so the jury could see him, but Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush refused to approve such a move.

Asked last week what information he wanted from Muhammad, Cooley had said: "We'd like to hear the truth." Malvo's lawyers are presenting an insanity defense, claiming Muhammad brainwashed their teenage client and molded him into a killer.

Roy Disney resigns from Disney Co., criticizes M. Eisner

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a sign of tension at the top of one of the nation's media giants, Walt Disney Co. vice chairman Roy E. Disney stepped down from the board of directors and called on chairman and chief executive Michael Eisner to resign in a scathing letter.

"It is my sincere belief that it is you that should be leaving and not me," Disney wrote to Eisner.

Disney, 73, is the last family member active in the company, founded in the 1920s by his uncle Walt and his father, Roy O. Disney, who was the business manager. He said he also is quitting as chairman of the company's animation division.

His departure may have been a pre-emptive move to avoid being forced from the board. Its governance and nominating committee decided against recommending him for another term because he is over the mandated retirement age of 72, the company said Sunday.

Board membership is on the agenda for the full board's scheduled meetings today and Tuesday in New York.

Disney has called for Eisner's resignation in the past, but the idea was rejected by the board. On Sunday, he sent a three-page letter to Eisner that criticized the chairman's leadership over the past seven years, according to The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the story.

He accused Eisner of "muzzling" his voice on the board.

"Michael, I believe your conduct has resulted from my clear and unambiguous statements to you and the Board of Directors that after 19 years at the helm, you are no longer the best person to run the Walt Disney Company," Disney wrote.

The board's presiding director, former Sen. George Mitchell, said in a statement Sunday he regretted Disney's actions and confirmed that the governance and nominating committee recently informed Disney that the age-limit rule, instituted last year, should apply.

A call to Roy Disney on Sunday was not immediately returned. A message also was left for Eisner.

Births

Mikie Salazar and Diana Aguinaga are parents of a son, Mikie Zane Salazar, born at 4:42 p.m. on Nov. 28 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Mikie Zane weighed seven pounds, 8½ ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Chirstina Salazar and Paul Salazar of Colorado City and maternal grandparents are Simona Gonzalez and Felipe Aguinaga of Colorado City.

Obituaries

Inez Wells

1914-2003

Inez Wells, a resident of Snyder since 1950, died Friday, Nov. 28, in Carlsbad, N.M., after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Wells, 89, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with Ken Spoor officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Inez Wells

Born May 27, 1914 in Dublin, she married William M. Wells on Oct. 8, 1935 in Stephenville. He died in 1974.

Mrs. Wells worked for the Snyder ISD for 25 years, serving the last seven as cafeteria manager. She also worked as a greeter for Wal-Mart and was active in the Senior Citizens Center.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Patsy Carol Wells in 1973; a granddaughter, Candice Ann Wells in 1973; and a daughter-in-law, Marolyn F. Wells in 2002.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Wilma Wells of Carlsbad; four granddaughters and their spouses, Sheila Carol and Brad Bradford, Melissa Gail and Jimmy Delvin and Aleshia Ann and Thomas Edgell, all of Carlsbard; a grandson, Jason William Wells of Carlsbad; seven great-grandchildren; three cousins, Hazel Marx, Helen Warner and Kenneth Wells; and a nephew, Marvin Salyer.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Bill Morrison

1923-2003

ANDREWS — Bill Morrison, the brother of Sybil Reynolds of Snyder, died Friday, Nov. 28, in Permian General Hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Morrison, 80, was set for 2 p.m. today in the McNett Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Rick Doyle officiating. Burial was to follow in the Andrews West Cemetery.

Born Nov. 23, 1923 in Weir, he was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He married Pat Reid on Sept. 7, 1946 in Albany.

The Morrisons moved from Odessa to Andrews in 1974 and he retired as a production foreman for Texaco after 34 years. He was a past member of the Andrews Booster Club and a past president of the Andrews Little League Baseball Association. He was a member of the American Legion, Albany Masonic Lodge and the Means Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Pat Morrison of Andrews; a son, Bill Morrison of Amarillo; a daughter, Linda McCown of Lake Ivie; three brothers, Robert Morrison of Odessa, Freddy Morrison of Christoval and Bennie Morrison of Crane; two other sisters, Myrtle Cogburn of Sweetwater and Mary Lou Hearn of Lubbock; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Mossie Self

1908-2003

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Mossie Lee Self, the mother of Judy Barkowsky of Snyder, died Saturday, Nov. 29, in a Los Alamos care center.

Graveside service for Mrs. Self, 95, is tentatively set for 11 a.m. Tuesday in the City of Lubbock Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of DeVargas Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 28, 1908 in Hamilton County, she was a member of the Richland Hills Church of Christ in Fort Worth.

Her husband, Allie W. Self, preceded her in death.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters-in-law, Raymond and Virginia Self of Louisiana, Joe and Bonnie Self of Albuquerque and W.C. Self of Hurst; two other daughters, Marjean Holleman of White Rock, Alene Crawford and husband Robert of Scottsdale, Ariz.; a son-in-law, Ed Barkowsky of Snyder; 12 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Edith Blair

1916-2003

Edith Clair Blair, longtime Scurry County resident, died Monday, Dec. 1, in Snyder Oaks Care Center after a lengthy illness.

Service for Mrs. Blair, 87, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Walter McCall, Odyssey Hospice chaplain, will officiate. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery.

Born on Nov. 19, 1916 in Polar, she married Ray Blair on Dec. 27, 1935 in Rotan. He died April 8, 1967. Mrs. Blair was reared in Polar and had lived in Scurry County most of her life. A homemaker, Mrs. Blair also had lived in Rotan for a time.

She was also preceded in death by a grandchild, Kelly Everton; her parents; three brothers; and three sisters.

Survivors include a daughter, Ray Williams of Snyder; one son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Liz Blair of Hermleigh; three grandchildren, Sonja Hanks and her husband Bobby of Snyder, April Blair and her finacé Matt of Lubbock, Brendan Blair and his wife Brooke of Lubbock; two great-grandchildren, Kara Bailey Romero and Braxton Chase Blair, both of Lubbock; a special nephew, Tom Crawley of Snyder; and many other nieces and nephews.

Dolly Hollis

1931-2003

Dolly Rebecca Hollis, a long time Snyder resident, died Sunday, Nov. 16, in Seaburg Nursing Home in Odessa after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Hollis, 72, was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Larry Lakey, retired Assembly of God minister, officiated. Burial followed at Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Sept. 25, 1931 in Weatherford, she married Milton F. Hollis on April 7, 1949 in Electra. She was preceded in death by her husband, Milton, in 1999; her son Larry Wayne Hollis, in 1980; and her daughter, Cheri Hollis-Hood, in 2000, each after lengthy illnesses from congestive heart failure. After her husband's death in 1999, she moved to Odessa.

Mrs. Hollis was a former bookkeeper for D&D Automotive, and was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Snyder, the Snyder Garden Club, and Martha Ann Women's Club.

Survivors include her son, Randel Hollis of Odessa; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/2	Wed 12/3	Thu 12/4
62/46	**58/32**	**60/33**
Cloudy skies early, followed by partial clearing. High 62F.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:28 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM	Sunrise 7:29 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM	Sunrise 7:30 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–

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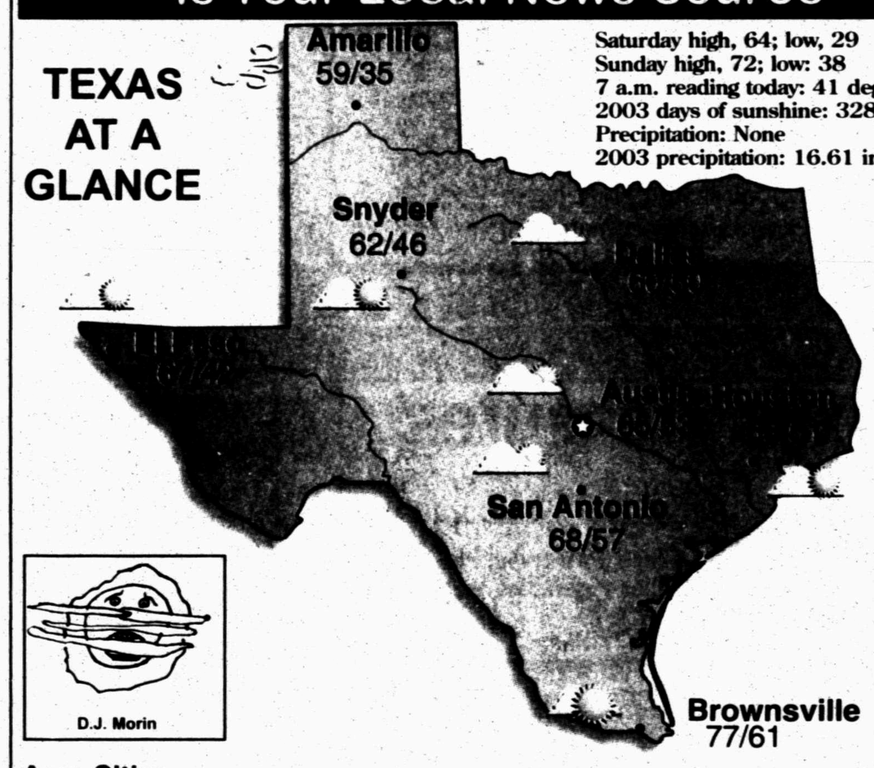
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 64; low, 29
Sunday high, 72; low: 38
7 a.m. reading today: 41 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 328 of 334
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches

D.J. Morin

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	61	51	pt sunny	El Paso	67	42	pt sunny	Midland	65	45	pt sunny
Amarillo	59	35	windy	Fort Stockton	69	47	mst sunny	Raymondville	77	59	pt sunny
Austin	65	53	cloudy	Gainesville	57	45	cloudy	Rosenberg	68	51	pt sunny
Beaumont	66	49	mst sunny	Greenville	57	45	cloudy	San Antonio	68	57	cloudy
Brownsville	77	61	mst sunny	Houston	68	51	pt sunny	San Marcos	66	53	cloudy
Brownwood	62	51	cloudy	Kingsville	76	60	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	59	45	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	73	61	pt sunny	Livingston	64	45	pt sunny	Sweetwater	62	50	pt sunny
Corsicana	61	49	pt sunny	Longview	60	44	pt sunny	Tyler	60	46	pt sunny
Dallas	60	50	cloudy	Lubbock	62	40	pt sunny	Weatherford	59	46	cloudy
Del Rio	66	57	cloudy	Lufkin	64	45	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	59	47	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	56	33	sunny	Houston	68	51	pt sunny	Phoenix	75	50	pt sunny
Boston	29	19	windy	Los Angeles	71	53	sunny	San Francisco	59	49	pt sunny
Chicago	37	25	pt sunny	Miami	77	70	pt sunny	Seattle	52	44	rain
Dallas	60	50	cloudy	Minneapolis	32	25	cloudy	St. Louis	44	35	pt sunny
Denver	52	26	pt sunny	New York	36	23	windy	Washington, DC	43	25	mst sunny

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Nov 30	Dec 8	Dec 16	Dec 23

UV Index

Tue 12/2	Wed 12/3	Thu 12/4
Low	Low	Low

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

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