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WT-Int. Crude - $32.52
WTIC Posted - $29.25
Natural Gas - $6.50

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Jan. 1, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 211
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Teddi Crenwelge

FULL STEAM INTO 2004 — The RS&P locomotive at Scurry County Coliseum is leading the charge into the new year. If 2004 follows the lead of previous years, a number of changes will occur locally with some being anticipated, while others might come as a complete surprise. (SDN Staff Photo)

Friday is candidate deadline

Only two contested races loom so far

The filing deadline for the March 9 primary elections is Friday, and neither county chairman is aware of additional potential candidates.

Two filings occurred on Monday when two deputy clerks in the courthouse announced that they will see to replace Diana Williamson as county tax-assessor collector. Mrs. Williamson has said she will not seek re-election.

Magali Bernal, a chief deputy county clerk, and Jana Young, a deputy in tax office, each filed Monday afternoon as candidates on the Republican ballot.

The only other contested race thus far is for county commissioner, precinct one. That contest will not be decided until November since incumbent Ralph Trevey is a Democrat and challenger Terry Williams, a current member of the Cogdell Hospital board of managers, has filed as a GOP candidate.

Incumbents who have filed for re-election on the Republican primary ballot include District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, County Attorney Mike Hartman and Precinct 3 county commissioner Howard Limmer.

The only other candidate to file for a spot on the Democratic ballot is Sheriff Darren Jackson.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Annie Rowe

I've never been a big New Year's Eve celebrant, but this year I've been even more boring than usual.

Oh, don't get me wrong. I'm big on tradition. I love my ham and black-eyed peas, but I love them at home with Dick Clark.

The last day of 2003 just didn't have the feel that the past Dec. 31's have. The idea of that has started me thinking about our last most significant New Year's Eve.

Do y'all remember Y2K?

I do and as I think back it all seemed like such a good time.

Think about it, the anticipation, that dab of fear as we went to sleep that night. It was sort of like an Armageddon Christmas. We were a little afraid, but we really couldn't wait to see what we were going to get.

I remember going to Wal-Mart on Dec. 31, 1999. There was no bottled water to be had and there were enough Energizer bunny batteries being sold the little pink rodent could have dumped the drum and bought its very own Hummer.

My girlfriends had divided attitudes about Y2K. My friend Amy was is such fear she just wished she could spend the night in church. She thought that it couldn't hurt to be completely right with God when things went haywire.

My other friend Janie or "Mad Jane" as we call her, was so convinced that the bank's computers were going to lose her life's savings that she closed her CD's (when CD's were actually worth something) and was charged a penalty for doing so. She also made a purchase of two cases of deviled ham, 12 boxes of Ritz crackers and $122 worth of Evian.

But my bestest bud Shelly and I just hung out at my house enjoying distilled spirits and did not worry about a thing.

Our thinking was simple. We had no money for the bank to lose so there was no need to wonder if we'd be broke on 01-01-00, because we were already broke.

We weren't worried about whether or not our vehicles would get us from point A to point B because the trucks we had were "vintage." At least that was the term I preferred.

In other words when you're the proud owner of a 1981 Chevrolet pickup in 1999, with brakes that squeal in the key of C minor and burns three quarts of oil per week, you're on borrowed time anyway.

Finally, we did not fret at all about how we would survive the Y2K Holocaust because we could both fish, we could shoot squirrels, we'd both eaten rattlesnake in Sweetwater (which will make you VERY tough) and we had horses. In other words, we figured that if the earth's biggest downfall was going to happen that night, we were rednecks and therefore would be the rulers of the New World.

Lastly was the credit card. To go into a store on Jan. 1 only to have the clerk swipe that piece of plastic in the little gray box and have it produce a message saying "Don't sell her nothin'. This card's so full she could start a fish farm" would be no different from 1999.

Aaaahhh, the memories. So here I am with a smoked ham and three cans of peas. Get ready, Dick Clark. Here I come!!

Residents say...

I resolve to...

As Scurry County residents anticipated 2004, many were planning to greet the first day with a number of traditions.

Among the hearty servings of black-eyed peas, ham and cabbage, will be the making of the New Year's resolutions. The most popular resolutions made by modern Americans is to lose weight, quit smoking, exercise more and earn more money. The percentage of the resolutions that are actually kept is not known, but it does afford the opportunity to make a new start.

The tradition of the New Year's resolution began in ancient Babylon as a means for "cleaning house" or returning any borrowed goods. The most popular resolution in Babylon four thousand years ago was to return borrowed farm equipment.

In Snyder, a number of people made their 2004 resolutions and, like millions of other Americans, are seizing the chance to make a change in their lives or "turn over a new leaf".

Little

Dora Little
13-year Wal-Mart Associate

"My resolution is much the same as it is every year. I want to eat healthier, save some money and maybe lose weight."

Knipe

Kim Knipe
Cutting Edge Hair Salon

"My biggest resolution is just trying to make it through next year. I'd also like to work out more, get fit just make it a better year."

Castillo

Frankie Castillo
O'Reilly Auto Parts

"My resolution is to become an auditor for O'Reilly Auto Parts. I'm making plans to visit the main headquarters in Tulsa, Okla., for an interview. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that will turn out."

French

Missy French
county dispatcher

"The most important resolution that I would like to make is not to stick my foot in my mouth for the whole year."

Cattle producers take wait and see attitude

Recent reports of the discovery of mad cow disease in Washington state has not done much to faze Scurry County beef producers or consumers.

Local cattlemen have a bigger challenge in fighting the drought than struggling with what many believe is an isolated case.

Jim Calvert, manager of Colorado City Livestock, believes the cattle market may make a slow start, but will recover.

"We haven't had a sale since the mad cow disease was reported. I don't believe we're in any danger and I think that once things settle down, we'll have a strong market."

Colorado City Livestock will hold it's first cow sale of 2004 on Wednesday. Calvert predicts that the markets will open 15 to 20 percent under what producers closed with in late December.

"I think that in six to eight weeks this will be all over. In West Texas, we've faced a lot harder times with the drought. Cattle prices may open a bit lower, but it will make a recovery," said Calvert.

Bob Potter, general manager of Ezell-Key Feeds, believes that beef producers will proceed, albeit with caution.

"I think that people are taking a wait-and-see attitude. They're just waiting for the market to reopen and then they will just see how it goes."

Beef is a staple menu item in Snyder, much as it is through the Southwest. If customers are concerned, they are not showing it when placing an order.

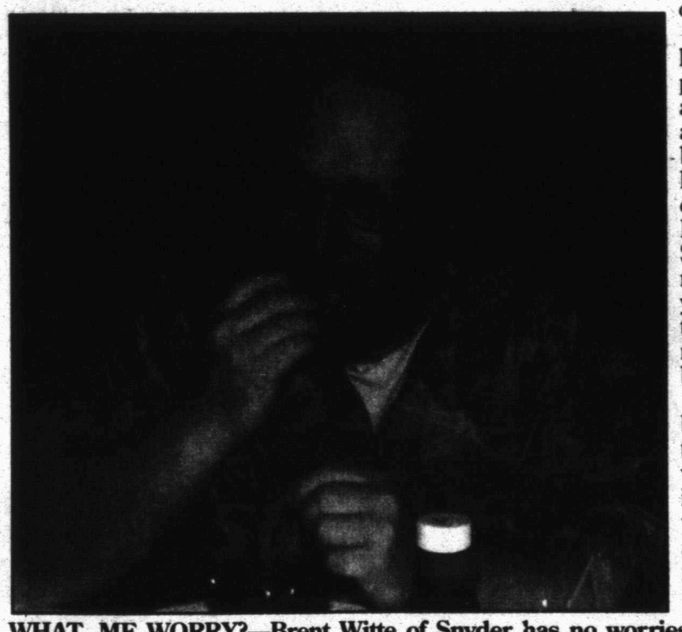
"We have not had a single person express any concern about our beef," said Carlene Webster, co-owner of Plaza Truck Stop. "As a matter of fact, you could say that our business has never been better."

Webster believes that if the past few weeks are any indication, she will still order as much, if not more, beef as she has in the past.

"No body seems worried about it. We sell a lot of steak and hamburgers and people who like beef are still eating beef, including me."

Jim Calvert agrees.

"People are not going to stop eating beef," he said. "Beef is an important product for families and it will continue to be."



WHAT, ME WORRY?—Brent Witte of Snyder has no worries about mad cow disease as he enjoys a hamburger at Plaza Truck Stop. "The way I see it, when it's your time it's your time, so enjoy your hamburger." (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—Cox Cable TV didn't increase prices last year because of poor reception. What has changed?

A—Certainly not the quality of service.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sedalia Malone...

...came to Snyder about 50 years ago. She loves children, works with the Safe Child program at Central Elementary and is active at New Hope Baptist Church and AARP. Her other love is cooking and watching TV. Sedalia's parents are the Rev. Otis and Blanche Archie of Midland. Her son and daughter-in-law are Herman and Anita Silmon Malone of Lubbock.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Happy New Year!

JAN 01 2004

Best Available Copy

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Turkey shoot

The Scurry County Rodeo Association is hosting a turkey shoot until dark today at the rodeo grounds. Proceeds will benefit SCRA. Call L.J. Mueller at 573-3712 for more information.

Fajita lunch

The Ira junior class will host a fajita lunch from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday in the ag barn prior to the Ira livestock show. Cost is $6 per plate.

Grand jury

The Scurry County grand jury is expected to consider at least 10 felony cases when it convenes at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "God Has Spoken of Mercy," followed by "Where is My Honor?"

Lions meet Tuesday

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

Stanfield Parent Council

The Stanfield Paent Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the teachers' lounge.

First Baptist support group

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

LVN testing dates

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

Doodle Bug writers club

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

Windbreak trees

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Wall Street closes remarkable year

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street closed a remarkable year on a quiet note Wednesday as investors collected some of the solid gains from the stock market's first winning year since 1999.

Stocks barely budged, but that didn't take away from their recovery from the grueling three-year bear market. In 2003, the Dow Jones industrials closed up 25.3 percent, the Nasdaq composite surged 50 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 gained 26.4 percent.

"You can't help but be impressed how much stocks moved this year," said John Caldwell, chief equity strategist for McDonald Financial Group. "It was in response to a stronger-than-expected economy and earnings growth. We're seeing the fruits of companies' labor as they scaled back operations."

"The question is how much of the stock market gains already account for that" as investors look to 2004, he said.

The Dow closed up 28.88, or 0.3 percent, at 10,453.92, its highest level since March 21, 2002.

The broader market finished mixed. The Nasdaq declined 6.51, or 0.3 percent, to 2,003.37. The S&P 500 rose 2.28, or 0.2 percent, to 1,111.92.

In the end, the three main gauges had their best annual performance in years, with the Dow notching its strongest gain since 1996 and the S&P seeing its best since 1998. The Nasdaq had its third best performance ever, behind a 57 percent rise in 1991 and an 86 percent gain in 1999.

For the month, the three main indexes posted a gain, with the Dow up 6.9 percent, the Nasdaq higher 2.2 percent and the S&P up 5.1 percent.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that new jobless claims fell last week by a seasonally adjusted 15,000 to 339,000. It was the third straight week of declines that left claims at their lowest level in nearly three years.

Stocks gained in recent weeks on investor optimism for the strong earnings growth in 2004. But with the main gauges trading at their highest levels in nearly two years, analysts say valuations might be getting a bit high.

"It should be encouraging that folks aren't heading for the doors in terms of a lot of selling pressure," Caldwell said. "That was one of our concerns going into the end of the year. But what happens in January remains to be seen."

It's a contrast from one year ago. Investors began 2003 with trepidation, stung by three years of bitter declines after the bursting of the tech bubble in early 2000 and uncertain about the economy as the United States headed toward a war with Iraq.

The end of active Mideast combat in March, however, boosted investor sentiment. Fiscal tax cuts and yet another interest rate cut later that year also contributed to a strong rally that lifted the Dow above 10,000 for the first time since May 2002 and the Nasdaq above 2,000, last seen in January 2002.

"Investors were really surprised that the economy has seen as much growth as it has," Caldwell said. "With the S&P up more than 20 percent, ... it gets us back to the heady days of the late 1990s."

"On the one hand, it's great, but on the other hand, it makes me a little bit nervous," he said.

In 2004, many analysts are expecting more modest market growth of about 10 percent as the risk of rising interest rates grows and the effect of fiscal tax cuts loses effect over time.

"The market is in very good fundamental condition with a low-inflation, low interest-rate environment," said Joseph V. Battipaglia, chief investment officer at Ryan Beck & Co. "The next part of the story has to be job creation. If you create jobs in this environment, you have economic growth that can sustain itself beyond '04 and '05."

On Wednesday, Murphy Oil Corp. dropped $2.71 to $65.31 after the oil company lowered its 2004 earnings outlook below Wall Street's estimates.

Gainers included Dow component Merck & Co., which rose 70 cents to $46.20, after the drug company filed a new application with the Food and Drug Administration for its Arcoxia pain reliever.

US Airways edged up 3 cents to $6.22 after the airline said it would lay off more than 550 flight attendants next month to help cut costs.

Declining issues narrowly outnumbered advancers on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was very light.

The Russell 2000 index, which tracks smaller company stocks, fell 8.56, or 1.5 percent, to 556.91.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.2 percent and France's CAC-40 gained 0.8 percent. Financial markets in Japan and Germany were closed Wednesday for the New Year holidays.

Today's chuckle

Fleeing suspect drops job application form

HOUSTON (AP) — It wasn't so much what the robber took from a Houston fast-food restaurant, but what he left behind.

Police say a robbery suspect fleeing the Whataburger restaurant Tuesday night dropped a job application with all of his personal information.

Police say the suspect, whose name was not immediately released, walked into the eatery with a gun and demanded money from about five employees and three customers.

As he was running away, one of the victims saw something fall from his back pocket.

It was a job application.

"Not for Whataburger, but for another place of employment," said Officer B. Ells. "And we got the information from that and sent a tact team down and found him near the house."

Some of the victims said it wasn't the first time they saw the man Tuesday evening. He showed up earlier at the restaurant, asked someone for the time, then left, apparently spotting a couple of police officers eating. He came a second time, and another officer was there.

Charges were pending.

Cattle producers plan to fight bad publicity about mad cow

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Cattle producers in South Dakota plan to give away discount coupons and talk with grocery store shoppers to encourage them to keep eating beef despite the first U.S. case of mad cow disease.

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association president Brian Brockel said producers hope to convince people that beef is safe and persuade nations that have banned imports of American beef to reverse their stand. Otherwise, prices will fall from recent highs, and that will hurt farmers and ranchers, he said.

"We'll have to go through this initial scare to see what the reactions of the public is," Brockel said. "We're trying to do as much as we can."

A sick cow slaughtered in Washington state on Dec. 9 was discovered to have mad cow disease, but federal officials have said they believe the case poses no threat to public safety.

Humans who eat brain or spinal matter from an infected cow can develop a brain-wasting illness, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. During a mad cow outbreak in the 1980s, about 150 people died of it in Britain.

But Brockel said Americans do not eat those parts of cattle.

His group plans to give away $5 coupons, called Beef Bucks, next week that can be used to buy beef products at Kessler's Grocery in Aberdeen, 200 miles northwest of Sioux Falls.

Farmers, ranchers and businesses had donated $1,500 as of Tuesday to pay for the coupons, said Maria Tussing, communications director for the Cattlemen's Association.

Members of the group also will try to reassure shoppers that beef is safe.

Endangered Species Act turns 30 as president seeks reforms

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Now at the ripe old age of 30, the Endangered Species Act is still a vigorous source of debate, although there are signs that the government and environmentalists are beginning to agree that its future lies in cooperation instead of confrontation.

Instead of relying on a federal regulatory hammer, both sides are shifting toward incentives for landowners who participate in protection programs.

"I think 30 years hence, it's going to be the standard way of operating," said Crain Manson, assistant interior secretary for wildlife.

William Robert Irvin, of the World Wildlife Fund, said there is a shared interest in promoting incentives.

"I think it is the future," Irvin said. "You can get a lot farther with carrots than sticks."

Despite the talk of cooperation, a strong debate still is taking place between the government and environmentalists over the future of the act, which was signed into law on Dec. 28, 1973.

Conservation groups accuse the Bush administration and Republican Congress of launching assaults on the act, including easing protections on military bases and national forests, and seeking to repeal a provision requiring the Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for endangered species.

The critical-habitat portion of the law has sparked numerous lawsuits from environmental groups pushing protective designations and the development groups that oppose them.

As recently as May, Manson joined Fish and Wildlife officials in blaming the court battles for eating up funding and forcing them to miss countless legally mandated deadlines.

Although Congress and the Bush administration have been criticized for underfunding the agency, Manson and House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Calif., discounted that argument.

Manson said the service is reluctant to make legally required designations because it doesn't add a great deal of environmental benefit — not because it lacks money.

Pombo has targeted the act for revision next year after a series of nationwide hearings.

"It has not been successful in terms of recovering endangered species, and it's caused a lot of conflict with property owners," Pombo said.

Congress has not reauthorized the act since 1988. It's funded instead on a year-to-year basis as critics and supporters spar over its future.

Yet Pombo, who has fought a running battle with environmental groups, said he thinks Congress could finally reauthorize the act based on a consensus that promotes more use of tools like Habitat Conservation Plans.

Such plans can shift the emphasis to managing large swaths of property to benefit an entire ecosystem, minimizing critics' complaints that the act micromanages landowners to benefit a single endangered species sometimes to the detriment of other wildlife, Pombo said.

"Everybody sees the need to have an Endangered Species Act, Pombo said. "As long as we stick to the areas where there is general consensus, I think we can move forward."

Environmental Defense and the World Wildlife Fund tout similar measures like Safe Harbor Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements, which also promise property owners some regulatory freedom so long as they take steps to protect endangered species.

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers

Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-5-34-39. Bonus Ball: 33.

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

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: $42,658.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 18. Prize: $2,150.

Number matching four of five: 805. Prize: $103.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 665. Prize: $110.

Number matching three of five: 30,207. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 8,511. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 39,109. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $39 million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 12-20-21-27-31.

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: $21,928.

Winning tickets sold in: Van Alstyne, Seven Points.

Matching four of five: 131. Prize: $150.

Matching three of five: 4,577. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 44,951. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 7-3-9

(Night) 2-5-3

World Almanac

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004

Today is the first day of 2004 and the 11th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing Confederate slaves.

In 1892, the Ellis Island immigration station opened in New York.

In 1959, Fidel Castro took power in Cuba.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Paul Revere (1735-1818), American patriot; E.M. Forster (1879-1970), novelist; J. Edgar Hoover (1895-1972), FBI chief; J.D. Salinger (1919-), writer, is 85; Frank Langella (1940-), actor, is 64.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1925, unbeaten Notre Dame, led by the legendary "Four Horsemen," defeated Stanford in the Rose Bowl, 27-10.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The historian must have some conception of how men who are not historians behave." — E.M. Forster

TODAY'S FACT: Kathleen Casey Wilkins, considered the first of some 78 million postwar baby boomers, was born in Philadelphia, a minute after midnight Jan. 1, in 1946, the first baby boom year.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 170,000,000 — Number of people in the world whose native language is Portuguese.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 30) and full moon (Jan. 7)

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor

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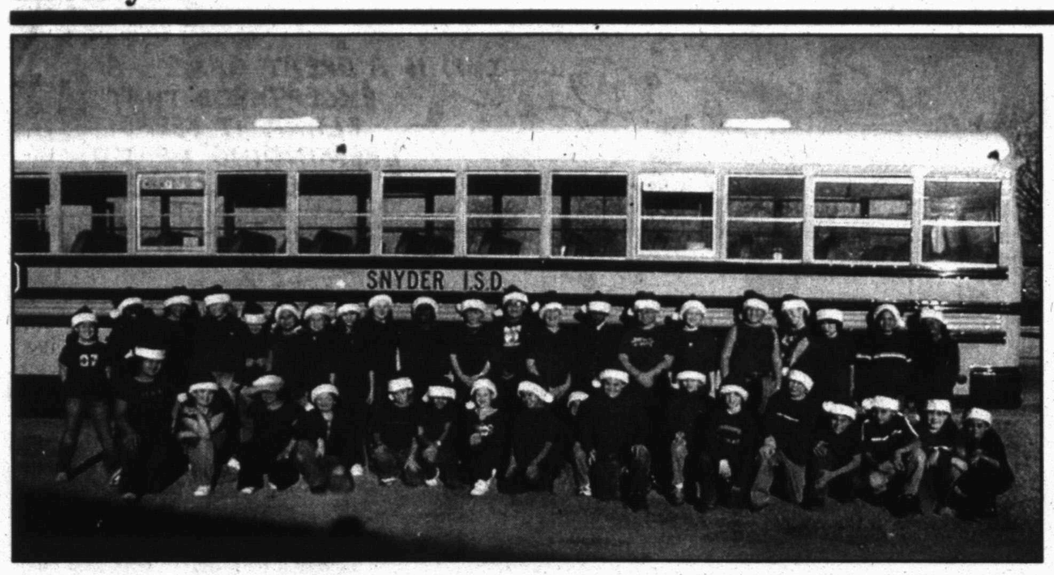


COSMORAMA MUSIC PROGRAM — Sharlot Sparlin's fourth grade music students from East Elementary performed for members of Cosmorama Study Club on Dec. 17 at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Hostesses were Bobbie Taylor, JoAn Stewart and Pat Floyd. Cosmorama will meet at 7 p.m. on Jan. 19 at MAWC for a dinner and business. Hostesses will be Carol Miller and Charlotte Smith. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

GOING AWAY RECEPTION HELD — Marilyn Chauncy, long-time employee of State Farm Insurance, is moving to the Brownwood office after 20 years with the company in Snyder. Pictured from left are Kara Wood, Chauncy and Joe LaRoux, owner. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

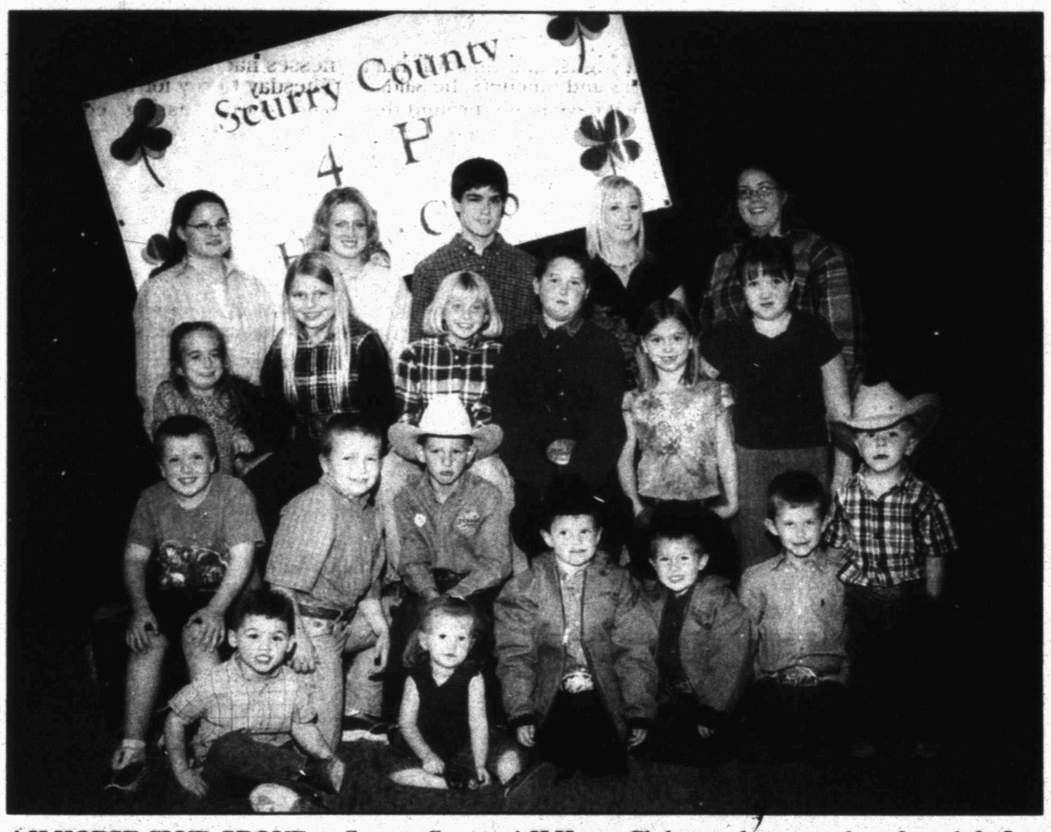
Chauncy was honored with reception

Marilyn Chauncy, 20-year State Farm employee, was honoree at a "going-away" reception Tuesday at the local office, 1707 30th Street.

She first went to work for the late Roy McCloskey who retired in December 1995 and she started working for Joe LaRoux on Jan. 1, 1996. "I'll be moving to Brownwood and will continue working for State Farm Ins. there," she said. "I will miss everyone but I've lived in Snyder some 60 years and Snyder will always be my hometown."

Marilyn has three children, all Snyder High School graduates, Kelly Burton and his wife Jessica who live in Lake Granbury, Guy Kerrick and his wife of Fort Worth, and Kimberly Price of Brownwood.

Marilyn has five grandchildren; four step grandchildren; and six great-step-grandchildren.



4-H HORSE CLUB GROUP — Scurry County 4-H Horse Club members are show from left, first row, Kelton Shook, Mattie Martin, Rand Martin, Dylan Murphy, Cooper Hatley, Cole Hatley; second row, Tyler Nachlinger, Clancey Gruben, Ethan Head; third row, Lauren Dennis, Jessica Goodger, Kelissa Craig, Dakotah Neff, Kelee Glass, Larissa Nachlinger; fourth row, Amanda Cink, Shea Allen, Joseph Hefner, Cindy Nachlinger and Allison Canon. (Photo by Wadleigh Studio)

Scurry County 4-H holds awards dinner

Scurry County 4-H Horse Club's 2002-2003 year had a membership of 21 children.

In addition to their summer fun nights and point nights, the participants took time to raise funds and provide community services.

The group presented a money tree to Gateway Family Services, canned goods to The Cupboard and gently worn items to the Scurry County Retarded Citizens' garage sale.

Fundraisers included a gas raffle, brisket sale and bake sales hosted in the Wal-Mart parking lot that were matched with a $1,000 donation from the store.

Other club sponsors for the year were Texas Savings Bank, Snyder National Bank, West Texas State Bank, WSI Cased Hole Specialist, Snyder Brick & Tile Co., and the White Buffalo Committee, all of which donated a high point buckle.

The following club members were recognized at the annual awards dinner:

•8 and under age group: member recognition — Larissa Nachlinger, Tyler Nachlinger, Kelee Glass, Mattie Martin and Cole Hatley; participation award — Lauren Dennis, Kelton Shook; year end qualifiers — Dakotah Neff, Rand Martin, Clancey Gruben, Dylan Murphy and Cooper Hatley; high point award — Cooper Hatley, first; Dylan Murphy, second; and Dakotah Neff, third.

•9-12 age group: year end qualifiers — Kelissa Craig, Ethan Head and Jessica Goodger; high point award — Ethan Head, first; Jessica Goodger, second; and Kelissa Craig, third.

•13-19 age group: member recognition — Allison Canon; participation award — Amanda Cink and Chris Elder; year end qualifiers — Shea Allen, Joseph Hefner and Cindy Nachlinger; high point award — Cindy Nachlinger, first; Shea Allen, second; and Joseph Hefner, third.

Club members expressed their appreciation to Jane Jones, Greg Rhodes and Danny Williams for volunteering their judging services as well as the Texas Cooperative Extension office and all the parents who volunteered their time.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

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♥ J 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A K 8 7 6 4

East
♠ Q J 6
♥ K Q 4 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ Q 10 3

South
♠ A K 10 9 8 7 4
♥ —
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ 9 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1 ♠	2 ♠	3 ♠	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004

The nose can outplay the book

By Phillip Alder

First, I wish all of my readers and their families a very happy New Year.

Experts fall into one of two categories: theorists and seat-of-the-panters. Jeff Meckstroth, of Tampa, Fla., is one of the greatest exponents who fall into the latter bracket. He has won the Bermuda Bowl, World Team Olympiad, World Open Pairs and World Mixed Pairs. If he could also collect a World Mixed Teams title, he would set a record.

This deal is a good example of his table presence. It occurred during last year's Grand National Teams final between squads representing Florida and San Francisco.

West's two-spade overcall, a Michaels Cue-Bid, showed at least 5-5 in hearts and a minor.

Against four spades, West cashed his two top clubs, then shifted to a heart.

Did declarer lose one spade, one diamond and two clubs? No. Meckstroth won trick three with dummy's heart ace and immediately played a trump to his 10! Now he had no spade loser and wrapped up the contract.

How did Meckstroth find this "anti-percentage" play? West had hesitated over four spades. Presumably he was thinking of bidding, which suggested extra distribution. Also, West had not shifted to a diamond, which he might have done with 1-5-1-6 shape. So, 0-3 spades seemed likely.

Did this produce a nice gain? No. At the other table, West began with three rounds of clubs. Declarer ruffed in the dummy and discarded one diamond loser. The other evaporated on the heart ace, and the contract made. Perhaps that helps to explain why Florida lost.

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OUTGOING DIRECTORS — Chamber of commerce executive director Vicki Shroyer, right in the top photo, presented Mike Thornton his past president's plaque at the December meeting. Thornton will remain on the board one year. She also presented plaques to outgoing directors, bottom photo, from left, Elliott Cox, Paula McWilliams and Darren Jackson. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

Three earrings per earlobe is sufficient

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Adding that seventh earring before going to work for the county could get you into piercing trouble.

Administrators have decided that three earrings per earlobe is the maximum amount of "facial jewelry" employees will be allowed to wear in Orange County offices, and that all other facial piercing will be forbidden.

Loops through eyebrows, nose rings and studs through tongues will have no future place for county employees.

"They can't even speak well when they have their tongues pierced," said Commissioner Mary I. Johnson, 70.

Even the earring policy comes with a caveat: none of the three rings are to be worn on the top half.

Births

Jason Hernandez and Isabel Luera of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Mikaela Deanne Hernandez, at 10:56 a.m. on Dec. 31 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Mikaela weighed five pounds, 15 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Joe and Tina Luera of Lubbock and Odie Hudnall of Rotan. Maternal grandparents are Domingo and Lydia Luera of Snyder.

A Word of Thanks

A toast to all of you that made the National American Miss 2003 such a great experience and pleasure for our daughter, Larissa Early. Thank you for your sponsorship. May your New Year bring you many blessings, joys and peace throughout the New Year and those to follow.

God Bless You All

Connie Key
Liz Blair
Nicholas Schwartz
Marida and Bob Watlington
Pauline Davis
Randall Martin
Barbara Stinnitt
Jimmy and Linda Roemisch
Wanda and Bill Early
John Reed
Teresa Kerianen
Joan Treadway
Francene Noah
Ginny and David Griffith
Mike and Carolyn Robbins
Jay and Jennifer Roemisch
Travis and Susan Goswick
Elene and Noah Reeves
Allibeth Beauchamp
Betty Wood
Earlenen Brooks
Shirley Gorman
Sherry Harbin
Norma Clements

Evelyn McDaniels
Oudia and Dav Haywood
Annabelle Schattel
Merlyn Jones
Mr. Geez Photography
Karen Wadleigh Studios
Pattersons
Snyder Lanes
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Texas Savings
D.S.A. Construction Management
Barbee Medical Supply
Bell Cypert Seale Funeral Home
Friendly Flowers
KinderMorgan
American State Bank
SunTrax
Richco
Taylor's Beauty Supply - Big Spring
Henry's Auto Sales
McClurg Auto Parts
Leatherwood's Paint and Body
J & S Glass

JAN 01 2004

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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

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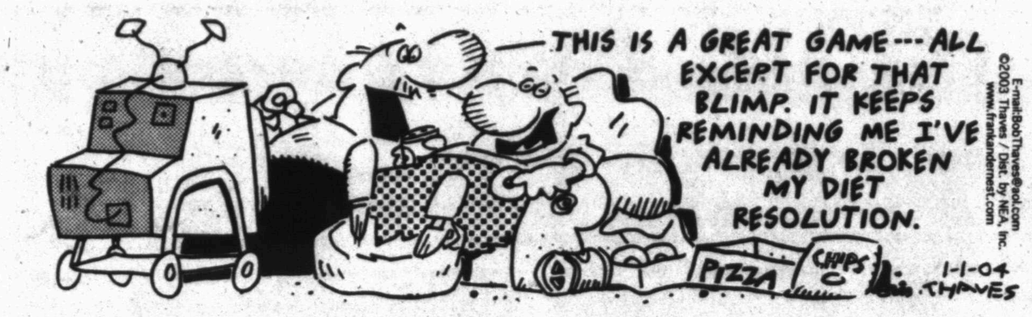
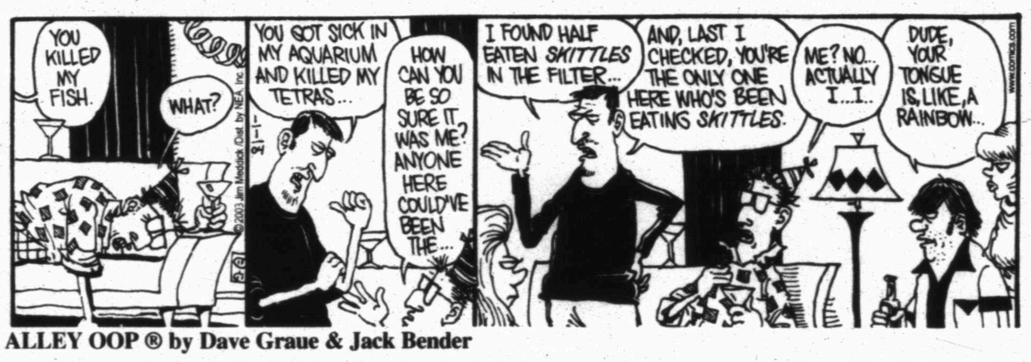
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



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

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Perch
6 Make illegible
11 Feasible
12 Delphi's god
13 A piece of the —
14 Sped
15 Muzzles
16 Envelope abbr.
17 Cod kin
19 Go hang-gliding
23 Pledge
26 Confront
28 Friar's title
29 Divide in two
31 Consumed
33 Playing marble
34 Critical
35 — choy
36 Recedes
39 Windsor's prov.
40 Sheik, usually
42 Gave the once-over
44 Poker stake
46 Wedding
51 Houston team
54 Snobbish
55 Lampoon
56 Vinegar's acid
57 String
58 Butte cousins

DOWN

1 Wealthy, in Madrid
2 Dobbin's dinner
3 Play prize
4 Walk through a puddle
5 First-down yardage
6 What X marks
7 Gazes dreamily
8 Shade tree
9 Brewery product
10 Lightning —
11 Cargo hauler
12 Montezuma's empire
16 Rap-sheet letters
18 Toward the stern
20 Frequently
21 "You — serious!"
22 Declaim violently
23 Staying power
24 Japanese port
25 Freshly painted
27 Poet's always
29 Rum-soaked cake
30 Mediocre grade
32 Back when
34 Wear and tear
37 Flagmaker — Ross
38 Casual farewell
41 Powerful industrialist
43 Numskull
45 Swelling
47 Refusals
48 Minimal amount
49 Elevator inventor
50 Wall St. locale
51 Likely
52 Observed
53 Part of TNT
54 Well-known uncle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	S	O	P	H				S	T	O	R	Y
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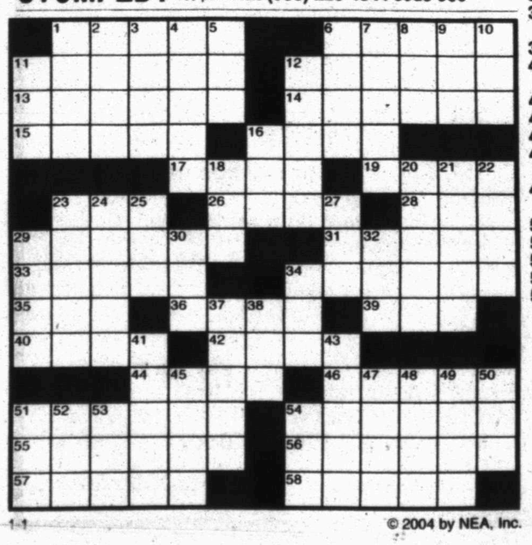
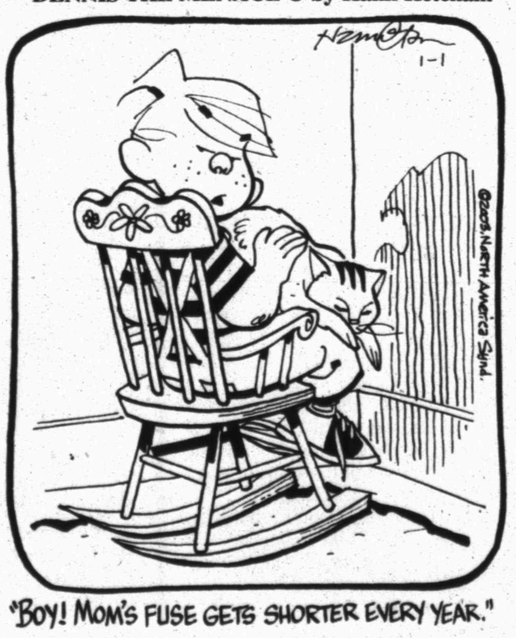


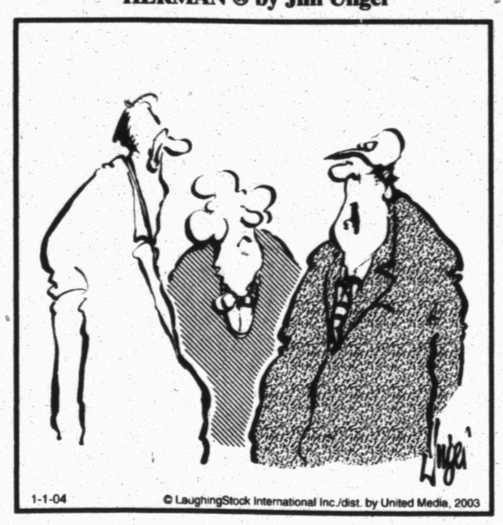
1-1 © 2004 by NEA, Inc.

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



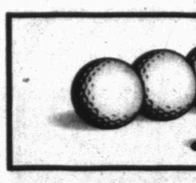
"BOY! MOM'S FUSE GETS SHORTER EVERY YEAR."



"We've been happily married for two years – 1957 and 1959."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Best Availab



SETTING IT UP
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By The Assoc

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National

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Midwest

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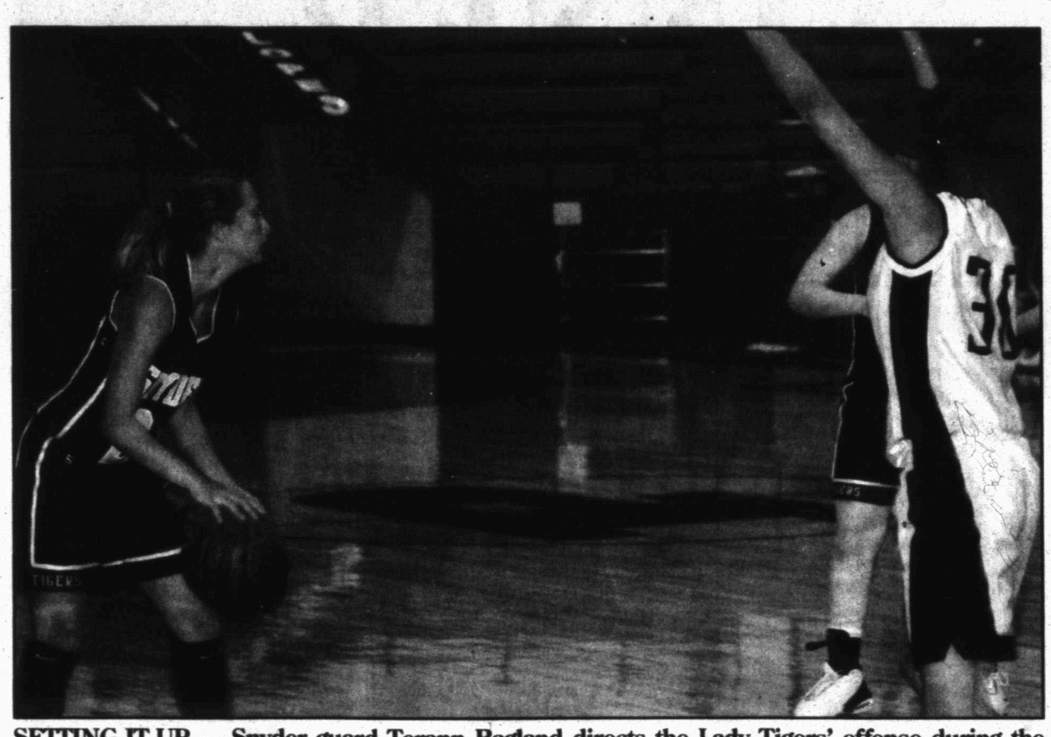
SPORTS



SETTING IT UP — Snyder guard Terann Ragland directs the Lady Tigers' offense during the second quarter of Wednesday's championship game against Petersburg in the Post Tournament. The Lady Tigers won the third tournament of the season with 50-44 victory. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Tigers add another tournament championship

POST — The Lady Tigers added another piece of hardware to an already stuffed trophy case.

Snyder (15-2) completed a perfect sweep of the tournament schedule Wednesday, outlasting Petersburg, 50-44, to hoist the Post Tournament trophy.

"It's awesome," said Erin Burleson, who was named tournament MVP. "Coach (Mike) Martin told us he wasn't sure if any girls team had won three tournaments in the same year before. Now we only have two more — regional and state."

The Lady Tigers also won the Lamesa and Wylie Catclaw tournaments this season, with Burleson earning MVP honors at Wylie as well.

"There are four seasons — non-conference, tournament, district and playoffs. In the first two seasons we have played pretty well," said Martin.

Sirena Medrano, selected to the all-tournament team, nailed a pair of clutch free throws with just over a minute left to give the Lady Tigers a 46-42 lead in a game that, early on, looked like it would be a blowout for Snyder.

"We made our free throws, which we haven't been doing," Martin said.

The Lady Tigers held Petersburg to two first-quarter points in taking a 12-2 lead, but inaccurate shooting kept both teams scoreless through the first 4:38 of the second period.

Snyder kept the lead at 10 before Petersburg closed out the first half on a 7-0 run, narrowing the gap to 16-11 heading into the second half.

Martin said he felt the team handled the press from Petersburg well.

"We got more off their press than they did," he said. "We just didn't shoot as well as we have. Some of the shots we've been making weren't falling."

Petersburg tied the game at 20-20 midway through the third, before Terann Ragland made one of two on an intentional foul call before draining a three and helping launch Snyder on an 11-0 run and close out the third quarter with a 12-point advantage, 36-24.

Petersburg closed it to 44-42 before Medrano's free throws sealed the victory.

Medrano scored a game-high 18, Jordan Stansell knocked in 13 for the Lady Tigers, while Ragland contributed 12 points in the win.

Burleson, who finished with five points before fouling out late in the fourth, said having other options offensively helps keep continuity on the court.

"It helps run the offense," Burleson said. "We can wait for a good shot, and any of us can make it."

She added that the pre-district and tournament schedules have boosted the confidence of the young team.

"We have built up our chemistry, and with a young team, that helps when it comes to crunch time," Burleson added.

Gophers stun Ducks in El Paso

By The Associated Press

Englishman Rhys Lloyd kicked a 42-yard field goal with 23 seconds left to give No. 24 Minnesota a 31-30 victory over Oregon on Wednesday in El Paso. The Golden Gophers finished the year 10-3, their first 10-win season since 1905.

Oregon took a 30-28 lead on Jared Siegel's 47-yard field goal with 4:16 left before Asad Abdul-Khaliq drove the Gophers 55 yards to set up Lloyd's winning kick.

"I never get nervous for some reason," Lloyd said. "I'm kind of a laid-back person. I just clear my mind and kick the ball."

The Ducks (8-5) had one last chance, but Kellen Clemens' pass was intercepted by Justin Isom with 10 seconds left.

Laurence Maroney ran for 135 yards and a touchdown for Minnesota, Thomas Tapeh added three TDs and the Gophers outrushed the Ducks 241-77. Gophers quarterback Abdul-Khaliq was 12-for-21 for 172 yards, and Aaron Hosack caught six passes for 107 yards.

"Oregon's defense is one of the toughest we faced all year," Hosack said.

Clemens completed 32 of 43 passes for 363 yards and three touchdowns. Samie Parker had 16 catches for 200 yards and two TDs.

"It's tough right now," Parker said. "I can't really rejoice in what I did if my team loses the game."

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn., Morgan Scalley returned a fumble for a touchdown and set up the game's other TD by causing a turnover, leading No. 25 Utah to a 17-0 victory over Southern Mississippi.

Scalley sealed the win by scooping up a fumble and racing 74 yards for a score with 1:36 left.

The Mountain West champion Utes (10-2) finished the season with consecutive shutouts and tied a school record for victories.

Southern Miss finished 9-4.

Music City Bowl

At Nashville, Tenn., Cadillac Williams and Ronnie Brown scored in the last four minutes and each finished with two touchdowns, leading Auburn to a 28-14 victory over Wisconsin.

Jason Campbell added a season-high 67 yards on nine carries, and completed 10 of 22 passes for 138 yards. The Tigers (8-5) also had six sacks and forced two turnovers.

Independence Bowl

At Shreveport, La., Cedric Cobbs set a school record with his seventh 100-yard rushing game, finishing with 141 yards in Arkansas' 27-14 victory over Missouri.

Arkansas' defense made two key fourth-and-1 stops, one of them at the goal line, to help snap a three-game bowl losing streak.

Brad Smith of Missouri (8-5) had 155 yards passing and 96 yards rushing to set the school career total yardage record in just his second season.

San Francisco Bowl

At San Francisco, Derrick Knight ran for 122 yards and three touchdowns and Larry Lester caught two TD passes in Boston College's fourth straight bowl victory, 35-21 over Colorado State.

Paul Peterson passed for 224 yards and T.J. Stancil had three interceptions for the Eagles (8-5).

Tigers upset by Antelopes

POST — The Snyder Tigers played just well enough to keep it close, and just poorly enough to let it slip away.

The Tigers (6-11) fell in the tournament championship tilt to the Antelopes, as Post secured a 43-39 win on its home court.

"We just played bad," head coach Bud Birks said, adding that he expected his team to win the tournament. "We made mistakes and we don't correct them."

Snyder plagued by defensive lapses throughout the contest, but stayed even with Post through the first half, keeping it a 23-23 stalemate through the first 16 minutes.

Neither team lit up the scoreboard in the second half, as the Tigers went scoreless through the first four minutes of the third quarter before Isaac Ramon connected on a lay-up.

Fortunately for the Tigers, Post had its own offensive struggles, and Ramon's shot made it 26-25 game in favor of the Antelopes.

Snyder turned up the defensive intensity through a three-minute stretch to close out the quarter, with Austin Hatfield collecting a big offensive rebound and put-back to keep the deficit at one.

After Post hit a three, Lee Scott, picked for the all-tournament team, grabbed a steal and took it coast to coast for a lay-up at the buzzer to make 32-30 Post after three quarters.

The Tigers then opened the final quarter with another scoring drought, watching the lead balloon to eight while failing to hit a shot for the first 4:40 of the period.

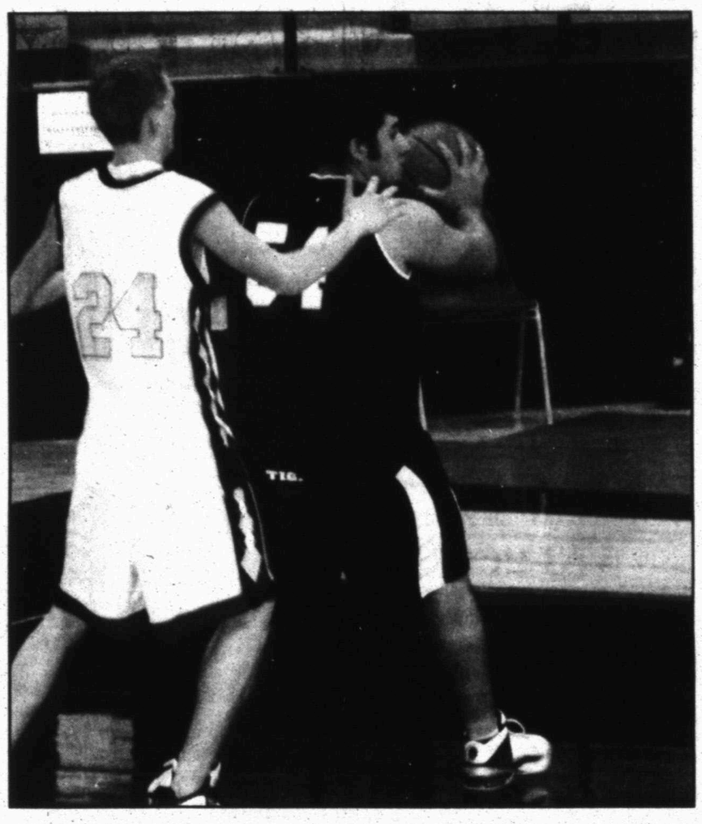
Snyder clawed back to close the gap within two with 20 seconds left before Post's Jerrad Grisman — who hit a game-high 18 — drilled a pair of free throws to give the Antelopes the tournament.

Scott finished with 14 points, Tucker Early added 10 and Hatfield contributed seven.

Lico Castillo, also named to the all-tournament team, scored three.

Birks said he was frustrated with his team's regression during the game.

"We don't do the things we work on, and we don't recover on defense," he said. "Right now, our biggest problem is we aren't tough enough, mentally."



POST UP — Zack Garcia tries to back down a Post defender during Wednesday's tournament championship against the Antelopes. Snyder fell, 43-39. (SDN Staff Photo)

Sports Briefs

Baseball/softball booster clubs

The baseball and softball booster clubs will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the film room.

Lewis named top defensive player

Ray Lewis is as fearsome and dependable as anyone in football, and that earned him his second Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year award.

The Ravens' inside linebacker and leader is Baltimore's third player honored in 2003, joining Offensive Player of the Year Jamal Lewis and Defensive Rookie of the Year Terrell Suggs.

Lewis also was the NFL's top defender in the 2000 season, when he led a dominant defense that carried the Ravens to the Super Bowl title.

Lewis is the fifth player to win the award more than once. Only Lawrence Taylor won it three times.

Raiders axe Callahan

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Bill Callahan was fired by the Oakland Raiders just one year after taking them to the Super Bowl as a rookie coach.

The team announced the move a day after telling Callahan, who went 15-17 overall. He asked the Raiders to delay the official word because his son Brian's college team, UCLA, played in a bowl game Tuesday night.

Openly criticized by his players, Callahan went 4-12 this season, the Raiders' worst record since 1997.

Malone headed to injured list

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Karl Malone is probably headed to the injured list for the first time in his outstanding 19-year career.

Malone, the NBA's second-leading career scorer behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, sprained the medial collateral ligament in his right knee Dec. 21 in the first quarter of a game against Phoenix and hasn't played since.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	17	14	.548	—
Boston	16	17	.485	2
Philadelphia	14	18	.438	3½
New York	14	19	.424	4
Miami	13	19	.406	4½
Washington	8	21	.276	8
Orlando	8	24	.250	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	23	10	.697	—
New Orleans	20	12	.625	2½
Detroit	19	13	.594	3½
Toronto	16	14	.533	5½
Milwaukee	15	16	.484	7
Cleveland	10	22	.313	12½
Chicago	9	22	.290	13
Atlanta	9	24	.273	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	10	.688	—
Minnesota	20	10	.667	1
Dallas	18	12	.600	3
Denver	19	13	.594	3
Houston	17	14	.548	4½
Utah	17	14	.548	4½
Memphis	15	17	.469	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	—
Sacramento	21	8	.724	½
Seattle	15	14	.517	6½
Portland	15	15	.500	7
Golden State	14	16	.467	8
L.A. Clippers	13	15	.464	8
Phoenix	12	20	.375	11

Wednesday's Games

New Orleans 96, Boston 94
Detroit 78, Portland 71
New Jersey 88, Golden State 70
L.A. Clippers 120, Denver 104
Houston 80, Philadelphia 72

Today's Games

No games scheduled

NCAA Bowl Schedule

Bowl Glance
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$950,000
Auburn 28, Wisconsin 14
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
$1.45 million
Minnesota 31, Oregon 30
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
$1.35 million
Utah 17, Southern Mississippi 0
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
$1.2 million
Arkansas 27, Missouri 14
San Francisco Bowl
$825,000
Boston College 35, Colorado State 21

Thursday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
$2.65 million
Iowa (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
$1.825 million
Maryland (9-3) vs. West Virginia (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$5.1 million
Purdue (9-3) vs. Georgia (10-3), noon (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
$14-17 million
Michigan (10-2) vs. Southern Cal (11-1), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Orange Bowl
At Miami
$14-17 million
Florida State (10-2) vs. Miami (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

Friday, Jan. 2
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
$3 million
Mississippi (9-3) vs. Oklahoma State (9-3), 1 p.m. (FOX)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
$2.1 million
Clemson (8-4) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
$14-17 million
Kansas State (11-3) vs. Ohio State (10-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 3
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
$750,000
Tulsa (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (6-6), 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
$14-17 million
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. LSU (12-1), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys at Lubbock Cooper, 5 p.m.

Snyder JV boys at Lubbock Cooper, 3:30 p.m.

Snyder varsity girls at Lubbock Cooper, 6 p.m.

Snyder JV girls at Lubbock Cooper, 5 p.m.

Ira varsity girls at Westbrook, 6:30 p.m.

Ira varsity boys at Westbrook, 8 p.m.

Ira JV boys at Westbrook, 5 p.m.

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Texas had wild political year in 2003

AUSTIN (AP) — Dominance was the magic word for Texas politics in 2003.

Republicans dominated the political landscape as they made deep budget cuts, placed limits on civil lawsuits and pushed through a GOP congressional redistricting plan despite the protests and road trips of Democrats.

"Texas politics? Year of the elephant," summed up Tony Proffitt, a veteran political consultant who was an aide to the late Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

The GOP already held all the statewide offices and had the edge in the Texas Senate before the 2002 elections. With a sweeping victory, Republicans took control of the Texas House for the first time since Reconstruction and proceeded to remake state government.

"We had the first Republican majority in both houses of the Legislature in the last 130 years, and they delivered real results on some issues that are very important to the people of Texas," said Ted Royer, spokesman for the Republican Party of Texas.

Democrats, on the other hand, waged headline-grabbing fights but in the end were rolled over by the Republican parade.

All the nation watched as 51 House Democrats fled to Ardmore, Okla., for four days in May to break a quorum and kill a congressional redistricting bill.

Redistricting was the subject of three subsequent special sessions called by Republican Gov. Rick Perry, with 11 Senate Democrats blocking a redistricting bill in the second special session by jetting off to Albuquerque, N.M., for six weeks to bust a quorum.

"I am both excited and proud about the resurgence of enthusiasm in the Texas Democratic Party, which was fueled by our state reps and senators who had the courage to stand up and use whatever means necessary to block the partisan redistricting power grab," state party chairman Charles Soechting said.

The senators' boycott was broken when one of their own, Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, defected and returned to the Capitol. With the quorum they needed to do business, Republicans passed a redistricting bill that aims to give the GOP up to 22 seats in the 32-member Texas congressional delegation.

Democrats hold a 17-15 advantage in the delegation and don't want to relinquish it.

U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas pressed the redistricting effort, saying Republicans wanted more Texans from their party in Congress to reflect the state's conservative voting patterns.

Democrats accused DeLay of strong-arming state leaders and inflicting Washington-style partisanship on a state where President Bush, the former Texas governor, had championed its tradition of bipartisanship.

By December, the two parties were still fighting over redistricting, this time in a federal courtroom. A three-judge panel will decide, perhaps by the start of the new year, whether the new map violates the federal Voting Rights Act, which seeks to provide minorities fair representation in government.

The year also gave Texans a new crop of state political leaders.

Republican Tom Craddick of Midland was chosen House speaker after spending years in the Legislature's minority party. He ruled the House his way, and there were few cracks in the GOP armor on major votes.

Newly elected GOP Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst led the Senate and emerged as a surprisingly bipartisan leader early in the year. Then came the nasty feuding over redistricting between the two parties. Republicans even battled among themselves over the drawing of a congressional district in West Texas.

"He got caught up in the maelstrom of congressional redistricting and maybe got bumped around a little bit," Proffitt said.

By the time the 140-day regular legislative session ended in June, lawmakers had overcome a $9.9 billion shortfall and written a $117 billion two-year budget that cut health and human services and assorted other programs. Legislators didn't raise taxes, though they increased certain state fees and fines.

Republican forces won passage of a bill that capped noneconomic damages, like pain and suffering, in medical malpractice lawsuits and placed strict limits on the waging of other civil lawsuits. Voters validated the caps by approving a constitutional amendment in September.

Left hanging was an overhaul of school finance.

The Senate and House quarreled over how best to replace the state's share-the-wealth education funding system, nicknamed Robin Hood. Legislators left that massive undertaking for another year, with a special session likely next spring.

When lawmakers do tackle school finance, they won't have two veteran Republican state senators around to help them.

Sen. Bill Ratliff of Mount Pleasant, the former acting lieutenant governor, and Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo, nominated by Bush to be ambassador to Sweden, both announced they are resigning from the Legislature in early January.

Through options, Neil Bush makes hefty one-day profit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential brother Neil Bush made at least $798,218 on three stock trades in a small U.S. high-tech company where he had been a consultant, according to his tax returns, including $171,370 buying and selling the company's shares in a single day.

Bush's big paydays in the stock of Kopin Corp. of Taunton, Mass., included the July 19, 1999, purchase and quick sale of stock as the company announced good news about a new Asian client that sent its stock value soaring.

Bush said he did not have any inside information from Kopin, and simply acted on a recommendation from his financial adviser.

"Any increase in the price of the stock on that day was purely coincidental, meaning that I did not have any improper information," Bush said in e-mails to The Associated Press. "My timing on this transaction was very fortunate."

The AP obtained Bush's tax returns for the years 1997 through 2001 from a source familiar with his finances.

Bush noted that he lost $287,722 on Kopin stock after the market in high-tech stocks crashed.

Unlike the ordinary investor who buys at the market price, however, Bush benefited from the fact that his stock purchase costs in some cases were minimal because he got a bargain, paying $13 a share when he exercised stock options that were part of his consulting compensation from Kopin. The company's stock price was selling for many times that amount during much of the time Bush was trading. The company granted him 20,000 stock options.

Bush's returns, as well as records that have come to light in Bush's divorce case with his wife, Sharon, show that since his controversial tenure with the failed Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association of Denver, more than a decade ago, he has become a globe-trotting businessman with a variety of consulting deals.

Bush says he first came in contact with Kopin when he was a consultant for an Asian company, Telecom Holdings, a telecommunications company whose executives wanted to invest in the United States. "We searched for a viable fit and found Kopin Corp.," Bush said. "The bulk of our equity compensation for the transaction came from" the Asian company, which took Kopin stock in exchange for its investment.

"Neil helped put together an approximately $27 million deal and was awarded stock options for his efforts. Stock options can range from anywhere to being utterly worthless to very valuable," Bush lawyer John Spalding said in an interview.

After the 1995 deal, Kopin snapped Bush up as a consultant for two years "to see what other doors he could open up for us" in Asia, according to Kopin's chief financial officer, Richard Sneider.

"Neil Bush was a matchmaker and he was given stock options in Kopin as part of his compensation," Sneider explained. "Our executives were pleased with his hard work on the Asian investment."

Kopin's CFO said, "I don't know whether Neil made any introductions to anybody" during his two years of consulting, but "there were no further equity investments" like the $27 million deal Bush arranged in 1995.

Nutrition by Ed blonz, Ph.D.

The fat is in the fire

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a question about burning fat. I have always heard that when doing aerobic exercise, the first 20 minutes is burning glucose and glycogen, then after that the body turns to its fat stores for energy. If the body stores about 2,000 calories of glucose and glycogen in the muscles, liver and blood, there must be a point at which the body says "OK, enough of this, it is time to burn the fat stores." If not, do we exhaust our carbohydrates before we dip into the fat stores? Where is the point when the body says "enough" and turns to burning fat? Finally, what happens when we "hit the wall," and what causes exhaustion cramps? — **C.S., SSG, U.S. Army Medicine**

DEAR SGT. C.S.: The answer to your question requires a good deal of biochemistry. I will attempt to tell the story in a way that makes some practical sense. First, it must be appreciated that fat is an aerobic fuel, which means that oxygen must also be present to access its energy. The body's other fuels are glucose and its storage form, glycogen. These are anaerobic fuels, meaning that they can provide energy without oxygen. This is an important distinction. Our muscles are primed to burn fat, and it is our most concentrated form of energy. When we begin to exercise, we burn glucose and glycogen, but it only takes a matter of minutes to shift to fat. It is not an abrupt switch, more like a smooth transition that works better as the body becomes more fit.

Think about what is going on when we are at rest. A minimum amount of fats are in the blood stream, and our breathing and heartbeat are relaxed, taking in just enough oxygen and pumping blood at a rate that fuels the needs of the moment.

Now think about what happens if we were to start to exercise. The muscles respond instantly, but soon after, the pace of our heartbeat picks up and our breathing gets deeper and more rapid. If, by chance, we happen to be out of shape and push too hard, we become "out of breath" and have to pause.

Now lets go behind the scenes to discuss what is actually happening. If you think about it, it is essential that our muscles can respond even when there is insufficient fat or oxygen to fuel the effort. Otherwise, we would be unable to confront or escape danger. At first, glucose and glycogen are the main energy sources. The brain immediately sends a signal to the fat storage areas to send some fuel, and to the lungs to start breathing faster and deeper to supply more oxygen and start removing carbon dioxide, the exhaust gas from muscular work. If the muscles are worked too hard, the available glucose is used up before the fats and oxygen arrive on the scene, and the muscle runs out of gas. The actual speed and ease of the shift from anaerobic to aerobic reflects the level of fitness. Warming up or starting slowly also helps the process, because it gets the signal sent earlier and helps shunt blood flow to the working muscles. Even after we have made the shift to fat burning, we continue to burn some glucose. This causes lactic acid to be produced in the muscles, which then goes to the liver where it can be recycled back into glucose. "Hitting the wall" occurs when we ask our working muscles to work beyond their abilities. Glucose attempts to fill the energy gap, but eventually lactic acid builds up and causes painful cramps and exhaustion, and the muscles can no longer work. All things considered, the human body is an amazing machine.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Ceramic collectibles may be radioactive

DEAR DR. GOTT: My friend claims that certain radioactive dishes, cups and plates constitute a potential public health crisis. This sounds too outrageous to be true.

DEAR READER: But it is true.

The product your friend referred to is called Fiestaware. The ceramic portion of these dishes and cups is harmless. It is the orange and red glazes that are so dangerous, because they contained uranium. My consultant tells me that orange Fiestaware made in the 1930s, '40s and '60s is the most affected and is, unfortunately, the most collectible. People display Fiestaware in their homes and, in many cases, eat and drink from the dishware, without a clue that the products are radioactive. With the high incidence of cancer in this country, one might well wonder whether this radioactive exposure could be playing a role. Those people who own Fiestaware dating back to the '30s, '40s and '60s should have the products checked with a Geiger counter.

Also, Vaseline glass (another collectable) that is colored chartreuse may be contaminated by uranium. These products should also be checked for radiation hazard.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What are your recommendations for a patient with a hiatal hernia who has occasional intestinal bleeding?

DEAR READER: Where the esophagus joins the stomach, there is normally a ring of muscle that prevents the stomach from sliding through the diaphragm up into the chest cavity. This muscular valve also stops reflux, the backwash of irritating gastric acid into the lower esophagus.

In patients with hiatal hernia, this ring doesn't function properly and allows the upper stomach and lower esophagus to become irritated and inflamed, sometimes leading to intestinal bleeding.

The goal of therapy is to reduce the concentration of gastric acid. While antacids may help, most people need more than acid neutralization; they need prescription drugs — such as Prilosec, Protonix, Prevacid or Nexium — to shut down the stomach's production of excess acid. Although such medications control symptoms, they do not cure the problem. Therefore, in some instances surgery may be necessary to tighten the muscular ring and prevent the consequences of the hernia, especially if the weakness is pronounced or if persistent bleeding occurs.

In my opinion, patients with reflux and bleeding should be under the care of gastroenterologists, who can diagnose the actual source of bleeding and identify appropriate methods to control symptoms, such as heartburn, bloating and bleeding. In virtually all cases, most specialists prefer a trial of medication before recommending surgery.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hiatal Hernia." 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.

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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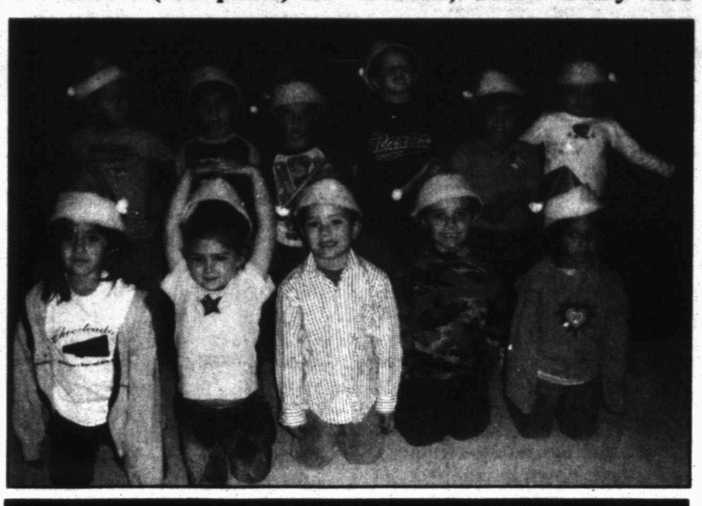

PREHISTORIC CHRISTMAS — Hermleigh Elementary students recently presented *Prehistoric Christmas*. Third graders in Joyce Lionberger's classes (first photo) are back row from left, Karsten Morrell-T-Rex, Catherine Witte, Aaron Lane, Felix Martinez, Barney Ramirez, Ricky Williams, Kendall Benitez, Jacob Beaty and Spencer Williams. Front row from left are Krystin House, Rita Coronado, Larissa Nachlinger, Ray Grice, Jessica Sawyer, Ethan Head, Jesse Alaniz, Matthew Jones and Armando Martinez. First graders in Lori Williamson's class (second photo) are back row from left, Austin Belcher, Douglas Gilbert, Michael Portillo, MaryAnn Portillo, Chelsea Lambaren, Danielle Lambaren, Alex Martinez and Lauren McQuirk. Front row from left, Jessica Jernigan, Jaden Zamora, Austin Merrick, Ramona Rodriguez, Gage Gray, Christian Harty, Jesse Martinez and Parker Graham. Brock Vasquez is not pictured. Second graders in Leticia McJimsey's class (third photo) are back row from left, Aaron Williamson as Santa; Angela Hernandez as a dinosaur; and reindeers played by Walker Barrett, Cari Berry, Trey Ford, Nathan Mayo and Tyler Nachlinger. Other reindeers in the front row from left are Johnathon Nixon, Betty Sanchez, Kaylee Hernandez, Andrew Pace and Charlsea Jones. Kindergarten students in Karen Whittenburg's class (fourth photo) are back row from left, Jacob Guzman, Andres Rodriguez, Bradley Smith, Jacob Gilbert, Debra Coronado and Veronica Arellano. Front row from left are Sydney Ramos, Megan Mcelroy, Nathan Souder, Kyler Nachlinger and Rebecca Martinez. Aleta Mireles and Adrianna Vasquez are absent. Fourth graders in Brenda Kuss' class (fifth photo) are back row from left, Delinda Dacus, Fabian Fuentes, Santos Reynoza, Aaron Jernigan, and Gavin Gray. Front row from left are Garret Gray, Miranda Sanchez and Susan Lee. Carly Gill and Catie Anderson are not pictured. Cathy Beckman's fifth graders (last photo) are back row from left, Jacob Nachlinger, Gloria Ramirez, Duncan Sorrells, Matt Williams and Jordan Williamson. Front row from left, Kelton Garcia, Samantha Coronado, Daniel Hernandez and Brelenn Scott. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

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Nelson pens anti-war ballad

AUSTIN (AP) — Willie Nelson plans to debut an anti-war ballad he wrote Christmas Day at a fund-raising concert Saturday for Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich at Austin Music Hall.

Nelson said he planned to record "What Ever Happened to Peace on Earth" this week in Nashville, Tenn., and rush-release it as a single.

"Now, I haven't played it for Toby (Keith) yet," a laughing Nelson told the Austin American-Statesman. Although the two are close friends, the sentiments of Nelson's song are the polar opposite of Keith's angry-American anthem "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue," with its call to arms.

"Toby wrote that song in reaction to 9/11, which was a totally different thing than watching U.S. soldiers die in Iraq," Nelson said. "Toby's said he's not a Republican or a Democrat; he's a Christian. So we're coming from the same place."

The song asks questions such as "How much oil is a human life worth?"

Asked if the song might anger conservative country music fans, he said, "I sure hope so. I don't care if people say, 'Who the hell does he think he is?' I know who I am."

Nelson said he supports Kucinich, an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq, because of the four-term Ohio congressman's support of family farmers.

New York adopts safe cigarette rules

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — To prevent house fires set by careless smokers, New York state has adopted the nation's first rules mandating that cigarettes sold in the state must be rolled with lower-ignition paper.

The so-called "fire-safe" cigarettes will extinguish by themselves if not puffed on, and advocates say they will prevent many of the fires now triggered by smokers who leave cigarettes unattended.

The regulations, first unveiled in December 2002 and later modified, were adopted Wednesday by the Department of State. They were developed by the department's Office of Fire Prevention and Control under a mandate from Gov. George Pataki and the state Legislature. The new rules will be implemented this summer.

"This could be the beginning of a global standard for cigarettes," said Blair Horner, legislative director for the New York Public Interest Research Group. "If New York goes ahead, it will drive a national debate because tobacco companies are not going to make one set of cigarettes for New York and one for the rest of the U.S. And if the U.S. sets standards, those will be standards for the entire globe."

The New York regulations call for cigarettes to be wrapped in banded paper. The bands essentially serve as speed bumps to inhibit the burning down of paper on cigarettes that are not being puffed on.

All cigarette brands offered for sale in New York must be tested to determine if they self-extinguish at least 75 percent of the time. Only those brands that meet the states performance standard will be certified and permitted to be sold in New York. Those cigarettes must be marketed in New York starting June 28.

Manufacturers who falsely certify that their cigarettes have met the standard face fines of up to $10,000. Retailers who sell uncertified brands face fines of up to $500 per sale for sales under 1,000 cigarettes and up to $1,000 per sale for sales over 1,000 cigarettes.

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By Abigail

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Santa Barbara sheriff: Officers never manhandled M. Jackson

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department has denied manhandling Michael Jackson during his arrest and asked prosecutors to investigate the pop star's complaint, threatening to charge Jackson if the accusation is deemed false.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Wednesday he would investigate the matter, the same day Sheriff Jim Anderson asked for a probe and defended his deputies' actions during Jackson's Nov. 20 arrest.

"He was in no way manhandled or abused," Anderson said, adding he would seek to have Jackson charged with filing a false police report if the entertainer's allegations aren't substantiated.

Anderson also released audio and videotapes indicating Jackson was treated respectfully by deputies. One video showed Jackson shaking hands with the officers who met him at Santa Barbara Airport when he arrived from Las Vegas on Nov. 20.

The deputies then handcuffed Jackson and put him in a car for a trip to the county jail, where he was booked for investigation of child molestation. He has declared his innocence.

In an audio recording from the car, Jackson could be heard complaining that the handcuffs hurt. An officer advised him to "scoot forward a little bit," and later asked him, "Is that OK for you, Mr. Jackson?"

"It's wonderful, thank you. Thank you very much," Jackson replies.

Jackson's parents expressed skepticism about the tapes in a statement issued Wednesday night.

"The tapes do not address any of the allegations that Michael made but only paint a portrait of what the sheriff's men did when the cameras were on them, not what they did when no one was looking," Joseph and Katherine Jackson said. "We look forward to a further investigation when all the facts come out in due course."

In a "60 Minutes" interview broadcast Sunday on CBS, Jackson said he was manhandled while in custody and locked in a feces-smeared restroom for 45 minutes after he asked to use the facilities. He showed what he said was a bruise on his right arm and said his shoulder was dislocated.

Anderson said Jackson was not put in a restroom, but a cell designed to hold seven prisoners and equipped with a toilet. He said it had been cleaned just before Jackson arrived and the singer was there for 15 to 20 minutes.

"At no time during this process did Mr. Jackson complain of any injury incurred during the course of the arrest or mistreatment by jail staff," the sheriff said.

TV news cameras also recorded Jackson waving with both arms to fans as he left the jail. "I think Mr. Jackson has seriously hurt his credibility," Anderson said.

Jackson attorney Mark Geragos said his client "absolutely" stands by his allegations.

"We not only welcome an investigation by the attorney general of California, but will ask that the entire case from the inception be investigated by that office," he said.

One legal expert praised the attorney general's decision to investigate.

"It's the only way to clear up what happened and I'm not sure they can ever really clear up what happened. They don't have the entire time on videotape," said Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson.

She also questioned whether Jackson could be charged with making a false report even if his accusations aren't substantiated.

"I think it's a stretch to say that his verbal complaints in an interview are the same as a formally filed complaint that would expose him to criminal liability," said Levenson, a former federal prosecutor.

AP Special Correspondent Linda Deutsch in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

On the Net:
Sheriff: http://www.sbsheriff.org
Jackson: http://www.mjnews.us

Police chase ends with death of suspect in carjacking case

ARLINGTON (AP) — A man suspected of beating a man in a carjacking in Forest Hill was killed in a shootout with police after a chase that rambled through Fort Worth before ending at an Arlington apartment complex, police said.

Arlington police Sgt. Will Johnson identified the man killed Wednesday as Don Henry Burns, 41.

Police were continuing to piece together the details of the pursuit, which included the carjacking and at least two other attempts to take people's vehicles.

Johnson said that Burns began shooting at officers as soon as they became involved in the chase.

Police said the man beaten in Forest Hill suffered a serious head injury but was expected to survive.

Pete Doughty of Arlington said in a story in The Dallas Morning News that a man in a sport utility vehicle sped into his driveway and garage. He said the man told him he wanted his car and Doughty said he would have to go inside for the keys.

"I saw he was holding a gun. I told him he could have anything he wanted," Doughty said. He heard a noise as he turned to go inside. "It was a big bang," he said. "The bullet went through the wall about 18 inches from me. It hit my refrigerator."

Doughty said he ran into the house and told his daughters, ages 21 and 18, to grab his 5-month-old granddaughter and get out of the house. But while Doughty called 911 the Bronco left. Police received several reports of a Bronco driving recklessly.

About 10 minutes later Matt Gruver said he heard shots from his home in the 500 block of Norwood Circle. He looked out the window and saw a man waving a silver handgun and shooting in the air toward a pickup truck.

The gunman apparently had thrown a suitcase into the truck and demanded the keys, but police say the people in the truck apparently threw him the wrong set of keys and ran. The gunman drove off in the Bronco.

A suitcase full of what appeared to be stolen items was found in the truck, police said. Arlington officers spotted Burns a few minutes later and began chasing him when he did not pull over.

"As soon as we got into this chase, he started shooting," said Sgt. Will Johnson, an Arlington police spokesman.

Officers said they could see Burns reloading an assault rifle during the chase. Bullets struck police cars, as well as civilian cars, but there were no injuries, police said.

The chase ended when Burns pulled into Rivercrest Village Apartments in North Arlington.

Burns jumped out of the Bronco and ran to a stairwell, firing at police with a semiautomatic weapon, police said. Police officers returned fire and Burns was shot to death.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 2, 2004

It's quite possible that in the year ahead, you will be operating on a grander scale than you have in the past. Circumstances will now allow you to make good things you already have going for you bigger and better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A caring friend could be behind a most fortuitous gesture of good will that comes your way today. What occurs will be most gratifying, but nothing will equal the value of good friendship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Something you've been anxious to change but haven't been able to could actually occur today without your input. It will come about through another who initiates the transformation.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Paint your canvas with bright, bold strokes today, because your more daring ideas and innovations have greater chances of being successful now than any of your prudent ones.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't faint, but Lady Luck has singled you out for special attention today. She'll treat you rather generously in many different ways, but especially in areas that may affect your material security.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be cooperative, of course, but stick to your way of doing things today instead of letting others try to run the show or push you around, because that will be when you're apt to be the luckiest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Trust your intuitive inclinations today, because it will be Mother Nature's way of trying to get through to you to let you know where your best interests lie. She won't let you down.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If you're on a campaign to influence an entire aggregation on a new idea, you'll have better luck today playing to the majority instead of trying to get a couple of nods from a few select members.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Chances are you will fare far better in your material dealings today than you will tomorrow, so if you have anything big or important you are working on, make your moves now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Keep the broader picture foremost in your mind today and success won't elude you. You can smuggle in the bits and pieces later after the general outline is perceived and in place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Confidential information offered to you from time to time isn't always reliable, but today it is likely to be quite accurate. However, if secrecy is part of the contract, don't break the covenant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Being with the right people at the right time will be your ticket to success today. However, your part will be to act in accordance with society's rules and propriety to take advantage of what it offers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If it's back to work for you today, you couldn't get a better start. You're capable of major achievements today, so establish and promote your most meaningful objectives.

Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Welcome this new year with goals you can reach

DEAR READERS: Rise and shine, and welcome to the New Year! This is our chance for a new beginning, the day we discard destructive habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I'm printing Dear Abby's oft-requested list of New Year's resolutions — adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I will not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily — if only for today. And just for today, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me last year, too late to print for New Year's. It was sent by a reader, I.J. Bhatia, who lives in New Delhi, India, with the following message:

DEAR ABBY: Every year we make New Year's resolutions — only to break them. This year no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say, "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature." The following Prayer of Saint Francis contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May we find peace and joy in this new year.

To one and all, a happy, healthy 2004! — Love, ABBY

**

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

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To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1912	*	1.90	.77	.72	1.68	2.54	1.30	.76	.80	2.80	*	1.12	14.39
1913	.25	.58	1.57	2.48	1.52	2.44	2.58	.24	2.44	3.45	3.79	3.05	24.39
1914	.22	.04	1.04	4.06	2.59	4.78	3.03	5.54	1.22	3.58	1.59	1.27	28.96
1915	.22	.83	1.00	8.03	2.25	2.70	.50	4.48	5.40	3.77	**	.82	30.09
1916	.15	*	.34	3.58	1.67	.65	1.40	.49	1.52	2.00	.76	.05	12.61
1917	.34	*	.34	.88	.99	.83	1.04	2.18	1.53	**	.02	*	08.15
1918	.32	.57	.21	.45	2.46	1.14	**	.34	1.20	3.73	.62	1.28	12.32
1919	.99	.21	3.43	3.45	2.19	3.72	1.82	2.93	3.20	5.63	1.13	**	28.70
1920	1.08	.25	**	**	4.66	4.01	.50	11.27	2.37	1.55	.22	*	25.91
1921	.13	.96	1.05	.30	.87	7.05	.70	.40	3.15	.70	*	.03	15.34
1922	.58	.02	1.20	7.43	5.19	4.48	.05	1.75	**	.93	1.65	**	23.28
1923	.40	2.25	2.05	4.28	.75	2.40	.93	2.10	2.00	6.88	3.15	1.30	28.55
1924	**	.05	1.15	4.34	4.27	.45	.57	1.55	1.40	2.00	**	*	15.78
1925	.40	**	**	2.75	4.26	.25	1.13	2.47	5.00	3.55	**	**	19.81
1926	.75	*	1.98	4.20	3.10	1.47	1.91	4.35	2.59	3.60	1.10	3.30	28.35
1927	1.25	1.20	.90	1.83	.70	3.05	6.35	3.85	5.30	.05	*	.50	25.85
1928	.40	.80	.40	.27	5.35	1.17	5.87	2.82	.98	.35	1.52	.28	20.21
1929	.60	*	1.99	1.05	3.97	.50	2.76	.61	2.51	1.61	.52	.10	16.22
1930	1.02	*	.27	4.05	5.00	2.52	.10	1.67	.25	4.95	1.85	1.25	22.95
1931	1.40	1.15	.57	1.62	1.30	1.10	1.74	.18	.13	5.35	1.80	1.80	18.14
1932	1.78	3.01	.05	2.25	3.57	3.12	1.12	5.79	10.60	.43	*	4.10	35.82
1933	.20	1.63	.70	.10	2.30	.02	3.60	1.90	**	2.63	1.20	1.13	15.46
1934	.35	.22	2.70	.56	.65	.30	.21	1.25	1.58	.24	2.69	.03	10.78
1935	.05	1.03	1.61	.42	4.07	4.09	4.58	.21	2.54	1.79	2.11	.67	23.13
1936	.64	1.12	.44	1.03	2.40	.33	.92	**	9.01	1.79	.77	.67	18.06
1937	.17	.25	1.36	.06	4.25	1.55	1.45	2.38	1.76	.44	.68	1.03	15.40
1938	1.55	3.51	1.73	1.00	3.35	2.76	3.51	.12	.94	1.22	.84	.06	20.59
1939	2.42	.20	1.00	.29	6.38	7.46	.65	2.28	*	1.66	1.09	.71	24.14
1940	.22	1.50	.32	1.44	1.37	2.81	.30	3.51	.78	.49	2.63	.29	15.66
1941	.91	2.04	2.20	4.85	5.97	5.39	6.70	2.66	2.37	9.81	.21	.91	44.02
1942	.14	.09	.54	1.50	1.10	1.48	2.56	6.35	3.59	3.61	1.80	1.50	24.26
1943	.15	**	1.30	.60	4.37	2.17	.19	.05	.37	.25	1.31	1.49	12.25
1944	.83	1.84	.20	.69	7.34	1.11	6.04	1.13	2.22	1.05	2.49	2.41	27.35
1945	1.20	.36	1.25	1.03	1.45	2.51	5.44	3.00	2.60	4.02	.34	.48	23.68
1946	1.53	*	.53	.41	3.49	2.42	.04	1.52	.97	2.71	.75	2.60	16.97
1947	.30	*	.92	.36	6.64	2.13	.80	1.06	1.77	.37	1.81	1.60	17.76
1948	.21	1.98	.06	.29	4.38	1.67	7.30	*	*	2.55	*	*	18.44
1949	2.30	.47	.23	3.22	3.69	3.70	1.04	1.94	2.32	1.82	*	.55	21.28
1950	.40	.66	*	2.55	7.37	2.00	3.03	.98	4.20	**	*	**	21.19
1951	.14	.67	.30	1.06	1.42	1.57	.80	1.42	2.36	.48	**	.04	10.26
1952	.12	.18	.80	2.19	1.60	*	3.18	1.85	2.42	*	1.89	.90	15.13
1953	.15	.48	1.17	1.75	.66	.08	1.73	3.30	.98	3.70	.10	.15	14.25
1954	.30	.03	.10	2.93	3.55	1.20	.18	.81	**	.64	.55	.07	10.36
1955	.46	.18	.39	.21	6.21	1.40	3.21	.61	1.59	3.39	.10	*	17.75
1956	.19	.11	*	2.97	2.50	.45	1.88	.24	*	1.77	.28	1.01	11.40
1957	.53	2.80	.16	3.61	7.13	2.29	2.93	.82	1.38	1.52	2.83	.04	26.04
1958	1.01	1.11	.94	3.72	2.73	2.32	.55	2.06	1.44	2.41	.55	*	18.84
1959	**	.21	1.03	.97	2.46	6.95	5.05	.37	.57	2.23	.20	1.22	21.22
1960	1.40	.28	.02	.28	.97	.47	6.28	2.56	.35	3.40	*	1.18	17.16
1961	1.87	.54	.66	.71	2.12	5.90	3.63	.26	2.95	2.22	3.36	.56	24.79
1962	.01	*	.60	1.16	.22	5.16	2.23	1.36	6.47	2.30	.69	.81	21.01
1963	**	.23	.43	1.16	3.05	2.46	.17	.47	1.63	1.15	2.21	1.13	14.09
1964	1.15	.25	.57	.04	2.07	2.72	.94	.88	1.70	1.34	.71	.57	12.94
1965	.15	.46	.03	.29	7.21	3.20	1.21	3.14	1.05	2.11	.40	.41	19.66
1966	.72	.55	.47	4.51	.91	3.32	.68	5.20	1.98	1.04	.15	*	19.48
1967	*	.14	1.59	.47	.10	8.44	1.58	.94	3.19	1.91	.91	.57	19.64
1968	2.19	1.68	2.02	3.39	2.90	1.60	1.44	.87	.74	.37	3.30	.19	20.63
1969	*	.40	1.24	1.01	5.72	2.46	.70	.55	2.95	3.65	.62	1.98	21.28
1970	*	1.15	2.25	1.31	3.30	1.40	*	.50	2.11	2.42	*	.26	14.70
1971	*	.49	*	.56	3.77	2.02	1.78	16.7	4.0	3.62	.27	.45	33.66
1972	*	.05	*	3.35	2.95	1.03	1.07	7.60	7.59	6.25	.29	.03	30.21
1973	2.09	2.47	3.19	1.25	1.12	2.07	.87	*	4.14	.29	*	*	17.49
1974	.19	.35	.50	2.32	.62	2.37	.10	6.41	8.24	5.80	.63	1.08	28.61
1975	.33	2.04	.15	.31	3.33	1.14	6.24	2.43	5.38	.58	2.36	1.01	25.30
1976	.02	*	.31	4.79	1.09	.56	6.16	.45	5.30	6.69	.12	*	25.49
1977	.58	.63	1.77	3.81	1.35	4.03	4.71	5.38	.07	.37	.30	.09	23.09
1978	.46	1.28	.11	.15	7.37	2.70	1.01	1.79	5.68	1.84	.86	*	23.25
1979	.62	.68	1.26	.17	3.88	3.02	4.05	2.73	.02	.44	1.19	2.40	20.46
1980	.50	.53	.48	.59	5.77	1.94	.96	.60	11.91	.44	.55	1.43	25.70
1981	.56	.70	.59	6.60	1.51	3.08	1.53	.81	.58	3.27	.70	.16	20.09
1982	.68	.35	.81	2.25	8.04	6.59	2.71	1.19	.52	.28	1.48	1.72	26.62
1983	2.91	.43	.47	1.17	3.11	1.37	.42	1.22	.20	4.33	1.06	.10	16.79
1984	.52	.01	.30	*	.81	1.75	1.76	2.0	2.70	4.15	1.78	2.40	18.19
1985	.10	1.06	2.71	4.55	5.28	2.30	3.16	.18	2.96	4.79	.36	*	27.45
1986	.19	.35	.29	1.19	3.73	3.98	3.58	3.89	3.88	6.53	.71	1.88	30.20
1987	.18	2.82	.15	.71	7.76	3.17	1.35	*	1.96	.06	.05	.92	19.13
1988	.25	.55	.77	1.06	1.61	1.20	3.81	4.51	1.02	5.52	.22	.72	21.24
1989	.76	1.72	.19	.53	.48	2.95	.11	2.71	1.21	.82	.03	.16	11.67
1990	1.14	1.90	3.11	4.20	.19	.21	5.69	4.16	5.30	1.60	1.57	1.42	30.49
1991	1.64	*	*	.19	3.68	5.83	4.10	1.90	5.16	2.21	.93	4.27	29.91
1992	1.81	4.48	.56	1.61	6.04	3.87	2.43	2.07	.95	*	2.10	1.79	27.71
1993	.96	.80	1.25	1.83	1.25	3.32	1.58	1.27	1.55	1.83	.46	.19	16.29
1994	.53	.47	.11	.81	3.40	*	.54	.23	2.76	2.16	.41	.79	12.21
1995	.81	.90	1.29	.48	6.40	1.93	.88	1.23	5.11	.64	.12	.19	19.98
1996	.21	*	.39	1.33	.29	2.75	1.22	3.33	2.82	1.10	4.80	*	18.24
1997	.42	4.48	.18	5.55	2.07	6.74	.31	1.52	.68	1.25	0.36	2.13	25.69
1998	1.20	1.56	2.03	.21	.31	.26	.18	.76	.02	1.43	2.28	0.26	10.50
1999	.95	0	1.74	2.12	1.55	7.23	3.68	2.04	1.83	.66	.00	.06	21.86
2000	.73	.75	5.83	.11	.84	5.55	.97	*	*	4.05	2.07	.30	21.20
2001	1.36	2.11	1.74	.19	3.29	.57	.19	1.99	3.51	1.02	3.73	1.07	20.77
2002	.39	1.09	3.89	3.13	2.95	2.24	2.80	0.77	1.22	5.82	0.31	0.98	25.59
2003	.02	.83	.56	.58	2.41	4.86	.10	1.32	1.57	2.18	2.33	0	16.76
Avg.	**.65**	**.85**	**.97**	**1.85**	**3.09**	**2.61**	**2.09**	**2.15**	**2.46**	**2.32**	**1.02**	**0.82**	**20.86**

JAN 01 2004

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Under heavy guard, U.S rings in New Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Amid continuing conflict overseas and a dark mood of apprehension at home, revelers across the nation greeted the dawn of 2004 under an orange terrorism alert and the watchful eye of police officers.

Nearly 1 million revelers rang in the new year with the dropping of the traditional crystal ball in Times Square — a joyous, confetti-filled bash against the backdrop of some of the tightest security measures in U.S. history.

With police snipers posted on rooftops and helicopters patrolling overhead, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and guest of honor, former Iraq prisoner of war Shoshana Johnson, sent the 1,070-pound crystal ball on a 60-second drop that culminated at the stroke of midnight.

"It was brilliant," said Tanya Starkin, a 23-year-old waitress from Ireland, as fireworks lighted up the sky. "Everyone was so worried about everything, and now everything is good."

The raising of the national terrorism alert to orange, its second-highest level, prompted cities across the country to step up police patrols, plan aerial surveillance and install equipment to detect chemical, biological or radiological contamination.

"Everything went off very well," New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said after the ball dropped. He called 2003 a good year: "Another year where we haven't had a terrorist attack here."

In a sea of glitter and confetti outside the MGM Mirage hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip, sixth-grade teacher Bob Kelly cheered the new year and his newly won $1,000 from a video poker machine.

"What better way to end 2003?" asked Kelly, of Newport Beach, Calif. "I'm going to go back in there and win another one. What better way to start 2004!"

An estimated 270,000 revelers jamming the Strip and downtown's Fremont Street, watched over by about 2,600 police officers, more than 100 FBI agents and 4,000 hotel security guards, authorities said.

The festivities in Boston drew about 1.5 million visitors, reaching the same levels of the previous year. Boston's "First Night" is the oldest and largest New Year's Eve arts festival in the country.

In San Francisco, about 30,000 people gathered along the city's waterfront to watch the fireworks display against the backdrop of the Bay Bridge, which was the focus of stepped up security. Coast Guard boats trolled San Francisco Bay on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Thousands gathered in Seattle to enjoy the city's 7½-minute firework show.

Car bomb destroys Baghad restaurant; eight people killed

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The death toll rose to eight in a car bomb attack that destroyed a Baghdad restaurant crowded with New Year's Eve revelers, officials said today. Three Los Angeles Times reporters were among the 35 wounded.

No group has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing, which came despite tightened security amid warnings of possible holiday terror attacks.

"The glass came flying. Everything else blew up. People were blown apart," said Basam Sarhan, a 25-year-old baker working in the kitchen at the back of the Nabil restaurant, located in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood.

The Los Angeles Times said three of its reporters and five local staff members suffered cuts and other wounds that did not appear life-threatening.

The reporters were Chris Kraul, from the newspaper's Mexico City bureau; Tracy Wilkinson, the paper's Rome bureau chief; and correspondent Ann Simmons, who formerly was the Times' bureau chief in Nairobi, Kenya. Also suffering minor injuries were three Iraqi drivers, a translator and a computer technician employed by the Times.

Salar Jaff, the Times' Baghdad bureau office manager, was driving to the restaurant behind three cars carrying his colleagues when the blast hit.

"I heard the screams. I saw two people putting their hands on their faces all covered with blood and their bodies were bleeding severely," Jaff told the Times. "The glass was everywhere. People were just lying there. The cars were smoking, they were on fire."

Lt. Col. Peter Jones of the 1st Armored Division, said he pulled four bodies from the rubble and Iraqi police later found another four. At least five of the dead were Iraqis, said Lt. Gen. Ahmed Kadhem, the deputy interior minister and Baghdad chief of police.

The blast was caused by a car booby-trapped with about 500 pounds of explosives, said Col. Ralph Baker, division commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division.

After the evening explosion, helicopters buzzed overhead as ambulances and U.S. soldiers converged on the Nabil, a popular spot with foreigners that advertised a New Year's Eve party with live music and belly dancing.

An American soldier leaned into the rubble after discovering a victim.

"She's got a pulse! She's got a pulse!" he screamed.

Several cars outside the restaurant were wrecked and in flames. Gunfire was heard after the explosion, which left a large crater on a side street near the building.

Passengers are questioned after British Airways jet lands in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — With U.S. authorities taking an increasingly aggressive security stance on international flights headed for the United States, a British Airways jet was isolated shortly after it landed at Washington Dulles International Airport and some of its 247 passengers questioned.

Homeland Security spokeswoman Rachel Sunbarger said intelligence led the agencies to detain the flight Wednesday night, but an FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the incident did not involve terrorism.

Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Jennifer Marty said passengers aboard Flight 223 from London's Heathrow Airport to Dulles were questioned aboard the plane, which landed at 7:06 p.m. EST. Officials began allowing passengers off the plane around 10:30 p.m.

Sunbarger said the baggage on board the flight underwent additional screening.

The plane was kept several hundred feet from the terminal during the questioning.

Passenger David Litwick told WJLA-TV in Washington that he and his wife were not questioned, but at least one other passenger was. Litwick said four FBI agents spoke to a woman who appeared to be from the Middle East, repeatedly asking her why she was not traveling with her husband.

Earlier this week, a U.S.-bound flight from Mexico reversed course in midair because of concerns about improper screening of passengers and another Mexican flight was reported delayed on New Year's Eve because of U.S. security concerns.

A Homeland Security official, asking not to be identified, said Mexican authorities made the decision to turn the first plane around earlier this week after the United States informed them it did not feel the airline had taken adequate security measures.

Agustine Gutierrez Canet, Mexico's presidential spokesman, told the Los Angeles Times that U.S. officials told Aeromexico that for security reasons, Flight 490 would be denied landing rights in Los Angeles on Wednesday night.

Criminal mischief under investigation

• Criminal mischief

Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of criminal mischief at Blockline Road and FM 1606 at 4:15 a.m. Wednesday. A number of signs had been knocked down and several mailboxes in the area had been damaged. It was later reported at 8:28 a.m. that there had been some severe damage to a number of water wells on Blockline Rd.

An employee of Gill's Fried Chicken on College Avenue reported at 10:48 a.m. Wednesday that a window at the business had been broken.

• Unattended death

A caller requested an officer to the 1900 block of Martha Ann Blvd. at 10:47 a.m. Wednesday reporting a subject that was unconscious and possibly deceased. Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd ruled death due to natural causes.

• Arrest

One arrest was made early today in Snyder. A 30-year-old woman was taken into custody in the 5000 block of College Avenue at 1:09 a.m. and charged with misdemeanor DWI and resisting arrest.

• Minor accident

Two minor accidents are under investigation.

A two-vehicle accident was reported at 37th and College Ave. at 1:28 p.m. Wednesday.

A caller contacted dispatchers at 6:59 p.m. Wednesday from the 6000 block of Hwy. 208 reporting a hit-and-run mishap. A pickup truck had been involved in a minor accident with a trash truck and had left the scene. There were no injuries.

• Theft

Officers responded to a report of a shoplifter at United Supermarket at 5:35 p.m. Wednesday. An offense report for Class C theft was submitted.

A caller reported at 12:24 p.m. Wednesday that a purse with an unknown amount of money had been stolen from her residence at 1713 8th Street. The purse was later recovered with the contents intact and returned to the owner.

• Disturbance

A dispatcher from Nolan County reported a disturbance at 19th and College Ave. Officers made contact with several subjects and discovered it was a verbal disagreement only.

A caller at a home in the 2500 block of Ave. Z contacted authorities at 12:15 a.m. today to report a disturbance that had occurred across from the airport. The incident involved the caller's daughter and two subjects. He said that his daughter had been injured in the altercation and would report to the law enforcement center to submit a statement.

• Family disturbance

Officers responded to a call from a home on 19th Street at 1:51 a.m. today reporting a family disturbance. One person was transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Obituaries

Farris Pollard

1928-2003

Farris Pollard, 75, died Wednesday, Dec. 31, at his home in Snyder after a sudden illness.

Memorial service for Mr. Pollard is set 10 a.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of First Baptist Church, will officiate. Mr. Pollard will be cremated.

He was born Oct. 2, 1928 in Sudan and moved to Snyder in 1949. Mr. Pollard served in the U.S. Army Air Corp and worked in the oilfield as a pulling unit operator.

Survivors include two sons, David Pollard and Richard Pollard; three brothers, Bob Pollard and Ken Pollard, both of Snyder, and Ray Pollard of Abilene.

Jerry Wood

1934-2003

CROSS PLAINS — Jerry L. Wood, the brother of Jean Talley of Snyder, died Monday, Dec. 29, in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Graveside service for Mr. Wood, 69, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Pioneer Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home.

Born April 21, 1934 in Post, he married Nelda Joy Weiss on Feb. 29, 1996 in Hope, Ark.

Mr. Wood was a grocery store manager most of his life and was the manger of Village Market in Cross Plains for several years. He was a member of Living Waters Ministries.

Survivors include his wife, Nelda Wood of Sonora; three sons, Jerry Lee Wood Jr. of Hamby, James Wood of Abilene and Jason Wood of Hawley; a daughter, Christy Goodman of Clyde; two stepsons, Kevin Weiss of Sonora and Chuck Weiss of Azle; a stepdaughter, Beverly Graves of Arlington; two other sisters, Mary Byrd of Denison and Sharon Morris of Post; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3
70/47	**71/41**	**67/29**
A few showers early with mostly cloudy conditions later in the day.	Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:49 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:49 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:50 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS
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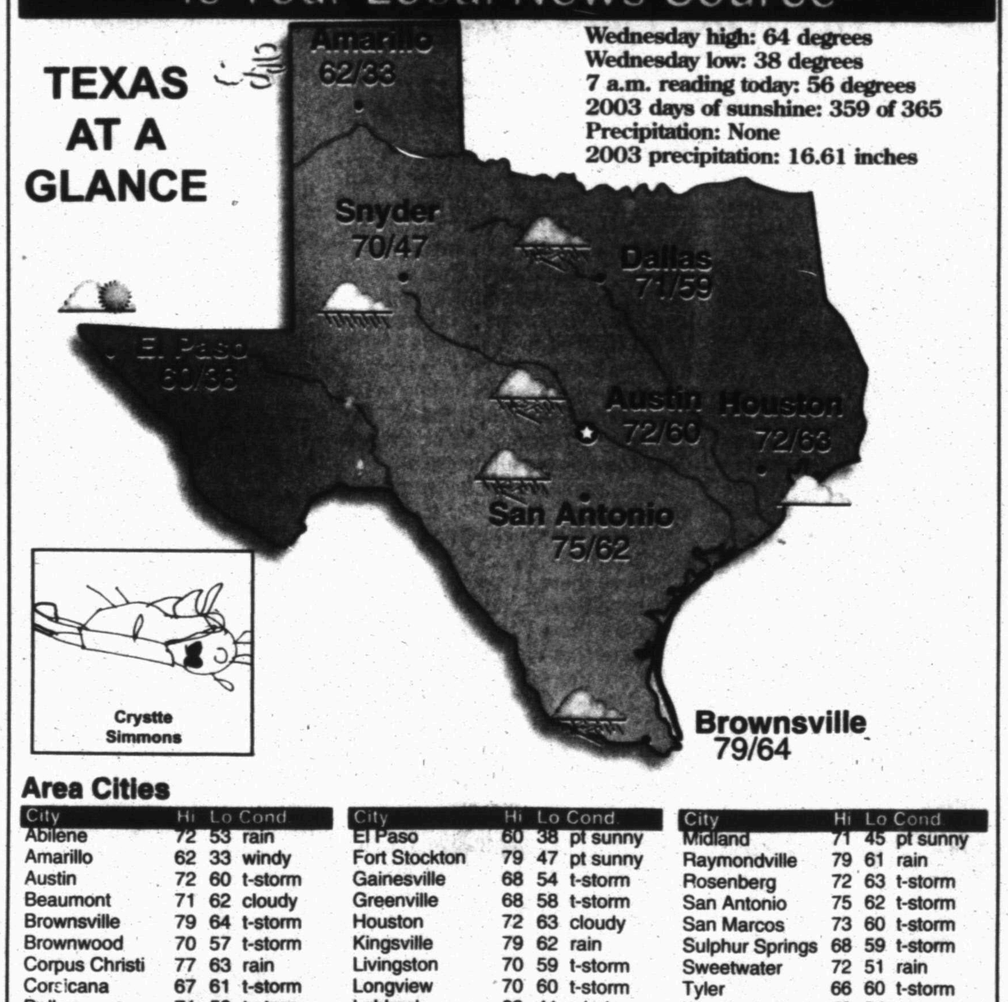
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Wednesday high: 64 degrees
Wednesday low: 38 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 56 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 359 of 365
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	72	53	rain	El Paso	60	38	pt sunny	Midland	71	45	pt sunny
Amarillo	62	33	windy	Fort Stockton	79	47	pt sunny	Raymondville	79	61	rain
Austin	72	60	t-storm	Gainesville	68	54	t-storm	Rosenberg	72	63	t-storm
Beaumont	71	62	cloudy	Greenville	68	58	t-storm	San Antonio	75	62	t-storm
Brownsville	79	64	t-storm	Houston	72	63	cloudy	San Marcos	73	60	t-storm
Brownwood	70	57	t-storm	Kingsville	79	62	rain	Sulphur Springs	68	59	t-storm
Corpus Christi	77	63	rain	Livingston	70	59	t-storm	Sweetwater	72	51	rain
Corsicana	67	61	t-storm	Longview	70	60	t-storm	Tyler	66	60	t-storm
Dallas	71	59	t-storm	Lubbock	69	41	windy	Weatherford	70	54	t-storm
Del Rio	78	57	rain	Lufkin	70	61	t-storm	Wichita Falls	70	48	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	64	41	sunny	Houston	72	63	cloudy	Phoenix	65	47	pt sunny
Boston	47	28	sunny	Los Angeles	64	49	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	45	rain
Chicago	44	42	rain	Miami	78	67	pt sunny	Seattle	38	30	mixed
Dallas	71	59	t-storm	Minneapolis	36	24	cloudy	St. Louis	59	50	rain
Denver	50	32	pt sunny	New York	50	34	sunny	Washington, DC	55	37	mst sunny

Moon Phases

First	New	First	Full
Dec 30	Jan 21	Jan 29	Feb 6

UV Index

Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3
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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