Best Available Copy

**********FIRM 79903
2410 02-01-10 33P 26S
SOUTHWEST MICRO **C041
2627 E YANDELL DR
EL PASO TX 79903-3724

INSIDE

What's up 2
Dear Abby 3
Sports 5
Classified ads 6-7
Weather 10

WT-Int. Crude - $33.02
WTIC Posted - $29.75
Natural Gas - $6.875

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 22, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 202
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Wesley Price

DEC 22 2003

HOLIDAY HELPERS — Volunteers helped load boxes of food and other goods for several hundred Scurry County families on Saturday as part of the Kiwanis Goodfellows food drive held at the coliseum annex. (SDN Staff Photo)

At airports, border crossings...

Due to terrorism update, travel delays expected

Snyder police chief sees no changes locally

From local, wire reports

With the terrorism threat alert at the second-highest level, travelers crossing into Texas from Mexico for the holidays face more intense inspections, border officials say.

Heightened security elsewhere in the state may not be evident to Texans during the Christmas and New Year's holiday periods. But emergency officials say they're redoubling efforts to keep residents safe.

"The governor urges Texans to continue to be vigilant, and to report any suspicious activity to local police," Kathy Walt, spokeswoman for Texas Gov. Rick Perry, said today. "Beyond that, he encourages people to go about their daily lives and their holiday plans."

Warnings from homeland security officials that al-Qaida militants may be plotting attacks on America during the holidays prompted the upgrade Sunday to "Code Orange," indicating a high risk.

The upgrade from "Code Yellow," or "elevated" status, was expected to cause delays at many of the nation's airports and border crossings. It also prompted heavier security at buildings ranging from nuclear plants to shopping malls.

Locally, not much will be changed according to Snyder Police Chief Steve Warren.

"We're certainly aware of the update in the security level," said Warren. "But we will not be doing much different."

"We don't have any major modes of transportation such as buses, or airlines that might be targeted, so life will go on in West Texas," said Warren.

That is not the case on Texas' border.

"The combination of historically increased holiday traffic with the more thorough and intensive inspection process could result in a slightly longer crossing time," said Roger Maier, spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in El Paso.

The heightened security will mean some changes for travelers in Texas, airport officials said.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the one-hour parking lot located near terminals will probably be closed and random searches of vehicles entering the airport grounds would be conducted, DFW spokesman Ken Capps said. He said the airport has not seen significant slowdowns during the other times when the terror level was at orange.

A Houston Airport System spokesman, Ernie DeSoto, said people driving to terminals will only be allowed to drop off passengers and quickly keep on moving.

But DeSoto said most passengers wouldn't notice much difference other than extra security personnel on duty and restrictions on waiting to pick up arriving passengers. He said airport officials had been in contact with homeland security personnel and had activated certain procedures.

At Bush Intercontinental Airport's Terminal C, where Houston-based carrier Continental Airlines is based, cars were not being searched Sunday as they approached terminal parking areas and lines at security checkpoints appeared no longer than usual.

Officials with Fort Worth-based American Airlines and Dallas-based Southwest Airlines said they would continue to do business as usual and that safety would remain their No. 1 priority.

Walt said the state's Emergency Operations Center already was working 24 hours a day, even before the terror alert level was raised. The federal government, in announcing the heightened security, said threat indicators are "perhaps greater now than at any point" since Sept. 11, 2001, with strikes possible during the holidays.

The alert level had stood at yellow, in the middle of the five-color scale, since May.

U.S. Coast Guard officials had no information about any direct threats to Houston, Galveston or other areas along the Texas shoreline, said Adam Wine, a chief warrant officer.

"Our actions have been in a heightened state ever since 9-11," Wine said. "We'll have more patrols on the waterways, whether it be with helicopters, boats or vehicles. We will continue on with our job."

Santa Claus reminds everyone there are
3
days until Christmas

Attorney questions redistricting decisions

By the Associated Press

An attorney representing Texas congressional Democrats in a federal redistricting trial has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to explain how it arrived at its decision to uphold a Republican redistricting plan.

Attorney Gerry Hebert sent a letter to the Justice Department on Saturday saying he has heard from people within the agency that Civil Rights Division lawyers investigating the Texas map had recommended it not be allowed. But he said political appointees at the department overruled them.

A Justice Department spokeswoman on Saturday declined to comment and could not confirm that the agency had received the letter.

The Justice Department cleared the Republican-backed map of violating the Voting Rights Act on Friday. The federal trial in the case is continuing in Austin, and a three-judge panel is expected to rule after closing arguments Tuesday.

Democrats and minority groups challenged the map in court, saying it violates the Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting strength of minorities. Republicans say the map is only intended to more accurately reflect voting trends in Texas, where the GOP holds all statewide elected offices and controls the Legislature.

Democrats lead the delegation 17-15, but the new map could mean as many as seven more seats for the GOP.

Hebert, who worked for the agency's Civil Rights Division for more than 20 years, said in an interview Saturday that it's extremely rare for a recommendation to be rejected.

"It is often a rubber stamp," he said. "I would say in 80 to 90 percent of the cases the recommendation is read and by and large the recommendations made are followed."

Hebert in his letter said a gag order is in place on Justice Department employees who dealt with the case.

"I believe these restrictions were imposed to hide from public scrutiny the decision that political appointees made early on that pre-clearance would be granted to the proposed map, regardless of the recommendation from the Voting Section," he wrote.

Hebert said six staff attorneys and a paralegal within the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section — none of them political appointees — worked on the case.

To find that the map violated the Voting Rights Act, they had to find that the map "as a whole is going to make black and Hispanic voters worse off than they were before," he said.

Cogdell board meets Tuesday

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers will consider one new contract and the renewal of another in a 7:30 meeting Tuesday morning.

The board will consider a new contract between the hospital and MedAssets for supplies.

MedAssets was the hospital's supplier when Cogdell was associated with Covenant Health Systems, and the contract was through Covenant.

The new contract will be between Cogdell and the supplier.

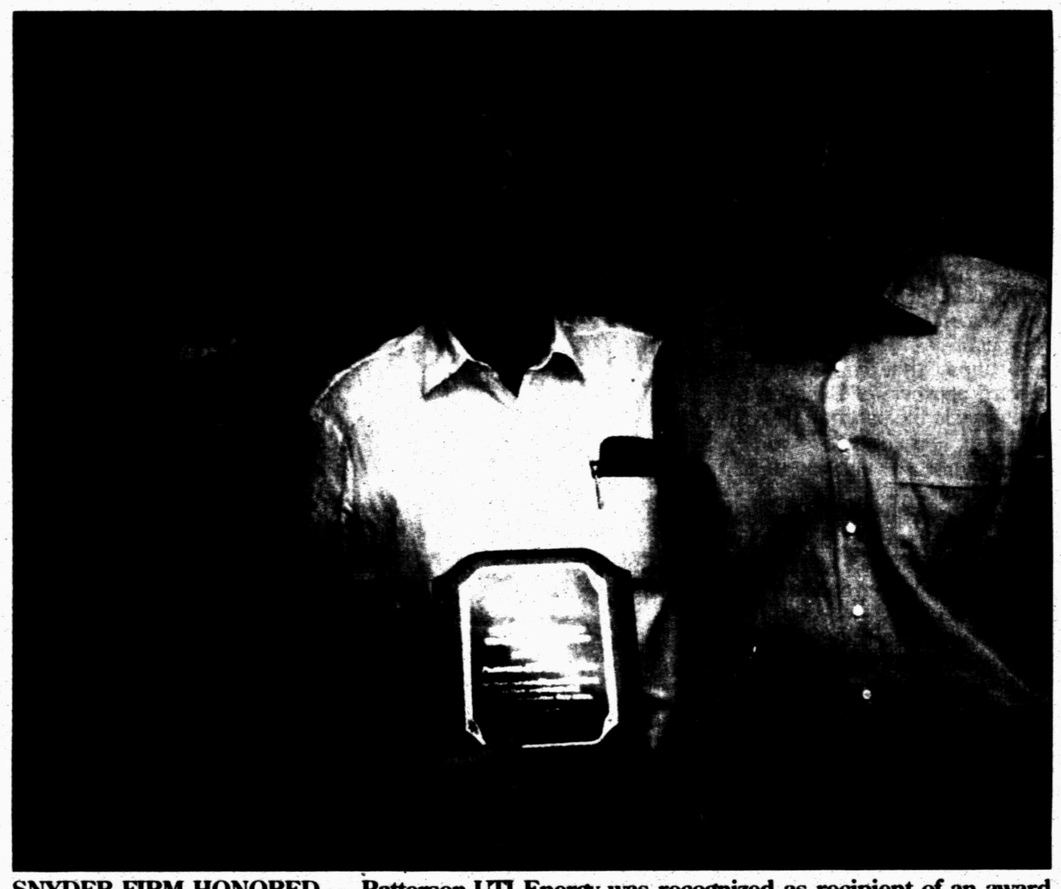
The board also will consider renewal of a contract with Byers and Green, CRNA, for anesthesia services.

In other business, Dr. Bid Cooper, chief of staff, will present the medical staff report, and interim financial officer Ron Hunt will review the financial report.

Chuck Hurst, director of human resources, will recommend changes in the hospital's sick leave and family medical leave policies for approval.

Cheryl Chance, director of nurses and the acting administrator, will give the nursing report as well as the monthly administrative report.

The meeting will be in the hospital boardroom.



SNYDER FIRM HONORED — Patterson-UTI Energy was recognized as recipient of an award from the West Central Texas Workforce Center. Chamber manager Vicki Shroyer, along with Cloyce Talbott (center) and Glenn Patterson, displayed the award at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce open house this morning. (SDN Staff Photo)

SDN holiday delivery times will change

The Christmas Eve edition of the Snyder Daily News will be delivered early Wednesday morning.

The Christmas Eve edition contains holiday greetings from area businesses as well as the traditional Letters to Santa at the North Pole.

There will be no newspaper on Christmas Day, and regular publication will resume on Friday.

Animal shelter land on city's agenda tonight

Snyder's city council will hold a special session beginning at 6:30 this evening to discuss location of an animal shelter.

The agenda calls for the council to hold an executive session to deliberate the purchase of property for the proposed animal shelter.

The city now contracts with the West Texas Animal Clinic for shelter services. While the council has not expressed dissatisfaction with the services provided at the clinic, council members feel the community could be better served in some areas by a city-owned facility. One area is in the adoption of stray animals.

The meeting will be in council chambers at city hall.

ASK US

Q—What is the minimum blood alcohol content in Texas to be charged with DWI?
A—It is .08 percent.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Ann Casebolt...

...has been a resident of Snyder for 32 years and has been an employee at United Supermarket since last August. She and her husband, Ed, have a dog, "Prissy." Ann's favorite hobby is fishing.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.
—Florida Scott Maxwell

Best Available Copy

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

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

Lions meetings cancelled

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

Candlelight service

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

First Baptist support group

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

LVN testing dates

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

Doodle Bug writers club

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

Windbreak trees

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

American soldier Time's Person of Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2003 is actually many people — the 1.4 million men and women in the U.S. military, which invaded Iraq and captured deposed leader Saddam Hussein.

The troops were singled out as the top newsmakers of the year because "the very messy aftermath of the war made it clear that the mission had changed, that the mission had not been completed and that this would be a story that would be with us for months, if not years, to come," Time Managing Editor Jim Kelly said Sunday.

The 2003 Person of the Year package, on newsstands today, features an artillery survey unit from the 1st Armored Division to tell the story of the American soldier.

The magazine's cover shows three of them — Sgt. Marquette Whiteside, of Pine Bluff, Ark.; Sgt. Ronald Buxton, of Lake Ozark, Mo.; and Spc. Billie Grimes, of Lebanon, Ind., all members of Survey Platoon, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion in the 1st Armored's 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, based in Giessen, Germany.

The magazine glorifies the soldiers but not the Bush administration for putting them in Iraq, calling troops "the bright sharp instrument of a blunt policy," and leaving it to scholars to debate "whether the Bush doctrine is the most muscular expression of national interest in a half-century."

Buxton, one of those who graced the magazine's cover, called his stepmother Sunday afternoon to discuss the big news. Though the connection was bad, it was clear the soldier was proud, Dana Buxton said.

"He felt it was an honor for the troops," she said, "and he was very pleased the troops were being honored on the cover."

The selection echoes 1950, the year the Korean War began, when the magazine's editors picked the American GI for the cover, writing that "it was not a role the American had sought, either as an individual or as a nation. The U.S. fighting-man was not civilization's crusader, but destiny's draftee."

Time magazine knows the risks that the soldiers face first hand. On the evening of Dec. 10, Time writer Michael Weisskopf's right hand was blown off and photographer James Nachtwey was hit with shrapnel when a grenade landed on their humvee as the same soldiers honored by Time were stuck in Baghdad traffic.

Grimes, the platoon's medic, treated the two journalists along with injured members of her unit. Weisskopf is recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and Nachtwey is back in New York.

Kelly said Saddam Hussein was not considered for Person of the Year in 2003 because "he was on the losing side of this conflict," and it was unclear how much he was leading the insurgency.

This Christmas, it is lights out at Goliad's Mission Espiritu

GOLIAD (AP) — The Mission Espiritu Santo, ablaze in white lights, has thrilled visitors at Christmas for more than two decades. But this holiday season, the lights are out.

Officials say the decorations have damaged buildings of the mission, constructed hundreds of years ago. They first noticed scarring of plaster caused by strands of lights pulled loose by the wind. Water then penetrated through plaster to the stone and mortar underneath.

"Each tiny light acted as a knife to scrape the plaster. They are sharp little critters," said Beth Ellis, an exhibit technician with Goliad State Park.

She said the tradition of outlining the mission buildings with lights that rose above the treetops was a way for the staff at the state park to contribute to Goliad's annual Christmas festivities.

"The white lights glimmering in the darkness drew people from miles around, and the image of the old mission walls outlined in lights became a fixture in the minds of many when thinking of Christmastime in the old town of Goliad," Ellis told the Victoria Advocate.

Damage to walls from the lights' placement was insignificant and easy to overlook at first, "but it eventually became apparent that the Christmas lights were no friends when it came to the old mission buildings," said Ellis.

Silicone used to attach strands of lights to buildings was also pulling off plaster, allowing more water to seep in.

"Water is a terrible enemy of a building," Ellis said.

Then, the worst damage was found last year.

"Chapel walls that previously had not leaked or exhibited signs of water damage began to do so. Known leaks expanded. Splotches of mold and discoloration began to spread along the walls — all dire indications of trouble," said Ellis.

She said specialists brought in to identify the problem's source found that roof damage was caused by the weight of people walking on it.

"The only time this activity has been allowed is in direct association with the hanging of the Christmas lights," she said.

Christmas visitors, in lieu of the lights, are invited to stroll the candle-lighted path to the front of the mission and enjoy a display in which stages of history come alive in light and shadow.

"The people miss seeing the lights. What they remember is a vision and they have less vision of the damage," Ellis said, and added, "but our goal is to manage the mission as much as we can to preserve its rich historical legacy."

After its construction in 1700, the mission was moved 49 years later to its fourth location on the banks of the San Antonio River at Goliad, about 290 miles southwest of Dallas. It was restored in the 1930s and is now managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

World Almanac

Monday, Dec. 22, 2003

Today is the 356th day of 2003 and the first day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1894, French army captain Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason.

In 1971, Kurt Waldheim of Austria was elected secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1973, a federally mandated speed limit of 55 miles per hour went into effect in the United States.

In 1989, anti-Communist demonstrators forced the ouster of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Peggy Ashcroft (1907-1991), actress; Lady Bird Johnson (1912-), former first lady, is 91; Barbara Billingsley (1922-), actress, is 81; Steve Carlton (1944-), baseball pitcher, is 59; Diane Sawyer (1945-), broadcaster, is 58; Ralph Fiennes (1962-), actor, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1971, the Los Angeles Lakers won their 27th straight game, a record for major-league professional sports.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing that all of us share." — Lady Bird Johnson.

TODAY'S FACT: The five Great Lakes hold nearly one-fifth of all the fresh water on Earth.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 148 — number of tornadoes that crossed southern and midwestern United States on Apr. 3 to Apr. 4, 1974, a record for a 24-hour period.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 16) and new moon (Dec. 23).

Copyright 2003, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

AP Poll: Public approval of Bush on economy increases

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Bush is getting good marks on the economy from a clear majority of the public at a time when consumer confidence has risen to its highest levels since early 2002, an Associated Press poll finds.

People are increasingly optimistic about the economy in the next six months and feeling more secure about their jobs, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs. The uptick in Bush's rating comes on an issue certain to be central to the 2004 presidential campaign.

In all, 55 percent of registered voters said they approve of Bush's handling of the economy and 43 percent disapproved, according to the survey. That is Bush's best number on this measure in Ipsos polls since the third quarter of 2002, though he briefly came close to this level — at 52 percent — last July.

A month ago, 46 percent approved and 51 percent disapproved of Bush on the economy.

In the new survey, 23 percent said they strongly approve of Bush's handling of the economy, 19 percent said they somewhat approve and 13 percent initially reported mixed feelings but leaned toward approval.

The public's overall feelings on the economy have risen steadily over the past few months.

"Confidence has improved sharply since the spring, when we were all worried about the war with Iraq," said Mark Zandi, chief economist with Economy.com.

The economy, primed by low interest rates and tax cuts, is showing mixed signs of recovery.

There are projections of rapid growth for 2004, signs of an improving job picture and a rebound in the stock market. But the nation has lost more than 2 million jobs, economists are uncertain about the turnaround in employment and states are reeling from revenue losses.

The AP-Ipsos index of consumer attitudes, a composite measure of opinions about the economy generally and consumers' own personal finances, reached 100 in December.

That is the same level as the baseline number at the start of 2002, when Ipsos' index of consumer attitudes and spending by household, known as the CASH index, was set up. It stayed close to that level through May 2002.

At that time, the economy was starting to bounce back from the shock of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. In the months preceding the attacks, the economy was faltering and other surveys found that consumer confidence was down, too.

According to the Ipsos consumer index, confidence dipped sharply into the 60s in early 2003 leading up to the Iraq war and rallied in April during the war.

Since October, consumers have grown increasingly optimistic. They are more upbeat about their local economy in the next six months, more comfortable making a major purchase and more confident about their job security, according to the poll.

"There is a general sense that some of the geopolitical uncertainties in the world are abating," Zandi said. "Those concerns are not as much on our minds as a year ago."

Groups that have shifted toward approval of Bush on the economy in the past month in the poll are less-educated women, suburbanites, swing voters and Republicans.

Bush's overall job approval rating was 59 percent, boosted by the rising confidence and the capture of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on Dec. 13.

"I'm optimistic, things are starting to turn around a little bit," said Jan Polendey, a mother of four from Canby, Ore. "Gas prices have gone down a little bit."

While some people are gaining confidence the economy will grow stronger, many are not convinced.

Nearly four in 10 respondents, or 37 percent, said they expect their local economy to get stronger in the next six months. But half, 51 percent, said they think it will stay the same.

"Here in this part of the state of Kentucky, the economy's about the same as it was," said Steve Abner, an electronics plant worker who lives in Annville in the southern part of the state. "But as a whole, I think the economy might be coming around."

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,001 adults was taken Dec. 15-17. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, slightly larger for subgroups like registered voters.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 9006 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 338, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 1167 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Also contrcted for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 296, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Aethon will drill the No. 27-A Dora Roberts, a 3,450-foot wildcat located 14 miles southeast of Big Spring. Location is in Section 137, Block 29, W&NW survey.

The Following
Financial Institutions
Will Be Closed In Observance Of
Christmas
Thursday, December 25th

And Will Have The
Following Holiday Business Hours

Please Transact Your Business Accordingly

Texas Savings Bank
Close at Noon on December 24th -
Open All Day Friday 26th

West Texas State Bank
Close at Noon on December 24th-
Open All Day Friday 26th

Snyder National Bank
Open All Day December 24th -
Close at Noon Friday 26th

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 20-42-23-22-27. Bonus Ball: 32.

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

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: $33,731.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 16. Prize: $2,049.

Number matching four of five: 622. Prize: $113.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 562. Prize: $110.

Number matching three of five: 24,524. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,027. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 32,228. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $29 million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 5-29-16-8-35.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $41,396.

Matching four of five: 161. Prize: $116.

Matching three of five: 4,142. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 43,103. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 0-3-5
(Night) 5-9-8

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

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

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

Best Available Copy

PERFECT ATTENDANCE — Twelve Central Elementary students were not absent during the first semester. Front row from left are Ivan Robles, Briana Torres, Alma Cabrera, Kendra Carrillo, Rebecca Chacon and Jennifer Facio. Back row from left are Kelly Jones, Orlando Murillo, Rasjha Rabon, Deseray Rivera, Mike Rodriguez and Anthony Zamarripa. Kendra Carrillo won the drawing for the portable CD Stereo player. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Send some holiday cheer to our military overseas

DEAR READERS: Carols fill the air, our halls have been decked with boughs of holly and the Christmas trees are decorated. Yule logs have been kindled, and Santa's on his way. In Jewish homes, Hanukkah candles burn brightly, and Kwanzaa begins in less than a week. 'Tis the season to be jolly — a time when thoughts turn homeward to loved ones and holidays past.

This is also the time of year that's hardest for our young men and women in the military, stationed far from home — many for the first time. Most of them are between the ages of 18 and 22, and while we folks back home are fighting the crowds in shopping centers, they are dodging bullets and car bombs.

So, please, dear readers, you are the most generous people in the world. Remember our troops. They need our support. Go to your computer, type in www.OperationDearAbby.net, and send these brave, dedicated young people heartfelt holiday greetings today. They deserve our thanks, our prayers ... and much more.

**

DEAR ABBY: After 30 years of marriage, my husband, "Allan," began an affair with a young woman in his office. I was devastated, and our three children and two grandchildren were all affected.

I made up my mind not to become revengeful or bitter. I realized that Allan no longer loved me or he wouldn't have left. I returned to school, got a part-time job, and did the best I could to keep things smooth for my youngest daughter, who still lived at home.

I am now working full time and loving it. I have met some nice men at church, but I now have serious trust issues, so I prefer to go it alone.

The children's relationship with Allan is still strained. He now has Alzheimer's and needs them, but they cannot forgive him for destroying our family.

Abby, do people who have affairs with married men or women ever consider the pain that is left in their wake? — **STILL RECOVERING IN HOUSTON**

DEAR STILL RECOVERING: Rarely. I think it's safe to say that there's a distinct lack of empathy. They justify or rationalize their behavior by convincing themselves that the injured party somehow deserves the pain.

**

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine, "Robert," recently returned from a three-week vacation. When he left, he had hardly any hair. When he returned, he had a full head of hair. It is blatantly obvious that he got a hairpiece.

Would it be rude to compliment him on his "new" hair? If he had gotten new glasses we would all compliment him on those. But how do you go about complimenting someone's new hair? — **TRYING TO BE A GOOD FRIEND IN AKRON, OHIO**

DEAR FRIEND: It is an extremely delicate subject. You might want to approach it as if you're hugging a porcupine — very gently. Say, "Gee, you look rested. You look great." And leave it at that. He'll get the message, and you won't ruffle his feathers or anything else.

**

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

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

COPYRIGHT 2003 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Central Texas man looked for weapons

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Central Texas researcher who was sent to Iraq to perform chemical sampling says if weapons of mass destruction were the premise for the war, there shouldn't have been one.

Daniel Fiorito, an analytical chemist at the Southwest Research Institute, went to Iraq as a United Nations weapons inspector in the hopes of preventing war.

"We were going to verify the existence or nonexistence of certain chemicals to lift sanctions off the Iraqi people," he told the San Antonio Express-News. "The Iraqi people are just like us. They have families and concerns. They had a war (with Iran), then sanctions. They didn't need another war."

Fiorito arrived in Baghdad in December 2002 as part of a 37-member chemical inspection team, and one of four teams on the ground in Iraq.

Holiday celebrations are giving coalition troops taste of home

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — It's not home, but international members of the coalition helping in the Iraq war say MacDill Air Force Base isn't such a bad place to spend the holidays.

"America is always a nice country," said Army Lt. Col. Mohamed Robleh from the East African nation of Djibouti. "Even though we're away from our home countries, we're OK here."

Nearly 300 troops from 68 countries act as liaisons between their armed forces and U.S. Central Command, which controls ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and is headquartered at MacDill.

Robleh misses his family and talks to his wife in Djibouti City by phone each day. Still, like many of his foreign colleagues, he enjoys the cultural exchange the unique situation offers.

On a recent day, some 500 U.S. and coalition soldiers flocked to a Nordic Christmas celebration hosted by the contingents from Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

While Frank Sinatra and the Beach Boys crooned Christmas tunes in the background, troops in fatigues filled their plates with salted leg of lamb, salt- and sugar-cured salmon, Swedish Christmas ham and flat bread. They washed it all down with cans of Norway-brewed Mack beer.

Maj. Geza Boros, a Hungarian Air Force officer, said his stay has allowed him for the first time to meet people from Far East and Arab cultures. Although the flags on their uniforms differ, their sentiments this time of year match.

"We all miss our families. We all want to go home," said Boros, 31. "And when we are home, we all want to go somewhere else."

For two years in a row, Pakistani Army Col. Muhammad Sardar has celebrated the Muslim holy month of Ramadan without his loves ones. Last year, he was at the India-Pakistan border.

"For soldiers, we are prepared to be away from our family," Sardar, 45, said. "For them, it is more difficult."

On Nov. 25, Sardar joined fellow coalition soldiers in prayer for Eid al-Fitr, a day Muslims give thanks to Allah for allowing them to enjoy the blessing of Ramadan. That same week, he gathered with U.S. and coalition troops in downtown Tampa to share a Thanksgiving meal of turkey.

"It's good to see the various cultures," he said.

On Dec. 1, Romanian Army Cols. Dan Grecu and Catalin Marius Tarnacop threw a party for Romanian National Day, which commemorates the unification of Moldavia, Wallachia, Transylvania, Bukovina, Bessarabia and Dobrudja.

"It's our Fourth of July," said Grecu, 45.

Instead of beer, though, the drink was Romanian wine. But American fare replaced the traditional dish of meat rolls in sour cabbage.

"We cannot find here the right chef to prepare it," he said.

A week later, troops were at it again — for Finland Independence Day.

"It is like that throughout the year," said Norway Maj. Brede Hertzenberg. "You have so many nations and they all celebrate their national holidays."

Hertzenberg has been the coalition's public information officer since October 2002 and is preparing to return home soon to take a civilian position. Officers typically spend four to six months in Tampa, although many have been stationed much longer.

Air Force drops three counts against man who translated at Guantanamo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force has dropped three counts in an espionage case against a Syrian-born airman who worked as a translator at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison camp for terrorism suspects.

The lawyer for Senior Airman Ahmad I. al-Halabi, a supply clerk detailed to the prison, said Saturday that once those charges were removed, "simply the gut of the case was gone."

Dropped was the single count in the charge that accused al-Halabi of "aiding the enemy," a capital offense.

Also dropped were counts that dealt with e-mailing information about Guantanamo detainees and committing espionage by transmitting information to unauthorized recipients.

Al-Halabi still faces 17 of the 30 charges filed against him following his arrest in July after nine months as an Arabic translator at the prison. They include other espionage counts, disobeying an order, making false official statements, mishandling classified documents and lying on a credit application.

He is being held at Travis Air Force Base in California, his home base, where his court-martial will be held.

Air Force Lt. Gen. William Welser III, commander of the 18th Air Force at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., convening authority for al-Halabi's general court-martial, gave no rationale for his decision to drop the charges Friday.

"A convening authority has the discretion to withdraw charges after a case is referred for trial," Master Sgt. Scott King, a spokesman at Travis, said Saturday in an e-mailed statement.

He said such decisions can follow a commander's decision that, "based on additional evidence or a change in circumstances, pursuing certain charges may no longer serve to promote justice, assist in the good order and discipline of the armed forces or be consistent with national security."

Pizza Inn
The Best Pizza You Remember!
$3.99 Lunch Buffet
Mon.-Sat. 11 am - 2 pm

Clear The Way,
Wesley Turns "16"
Today!
Love, Mom, Dad,
Tara & Bradley

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Warehouse Furniture
Varsity Square next to Eckerd Drug Snyder

All Christmas
50% Off
We Will Close Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.
Great Selections for last minute gifts Stocking Stuffers
Open Friday December 26th
Special Occasions
Wedding Registry
Shannon Hall & Sam Robinson
Tammy Ejem & Matthew Cunningham
Becky Eaton and Mark Cypert
Kimberly McClain and Andrew Vinson
Beth Hillje & Dow Mathis
Shawna Huddleston & Tommy Pinkerton
Infant Registry
Tiffany Stanley
Laurie & Joey Roland
507 Coliseum Drive
574-2004

HOME
Medical Equipment
Nebulizer medications delivered to your door!
oxygen
Nebulizers
Equipment maintenance monthly by licensed and experienced personnel
Locally Operated by:
Darci Eaton
Becky Buchanan, R.M.A.
Dana Eaton, LVN, PSGT
325-573-3050
3014 Varsity Square
Snyder, Texas

Spread the Cheer!
Waterford Heirlooms Bouquet $49.99
Christmas Cheer Bouquet $34.99
Holiday Delights Set $35.00
Holly Bowl Bouquet $50.00
Golden Sleigh Bouquet $35.00
Holiday Ornament Bouquet $35.00
Friendly Flower Shop
3203 1/2 College Ave 325-573-5260, 325-573-3851

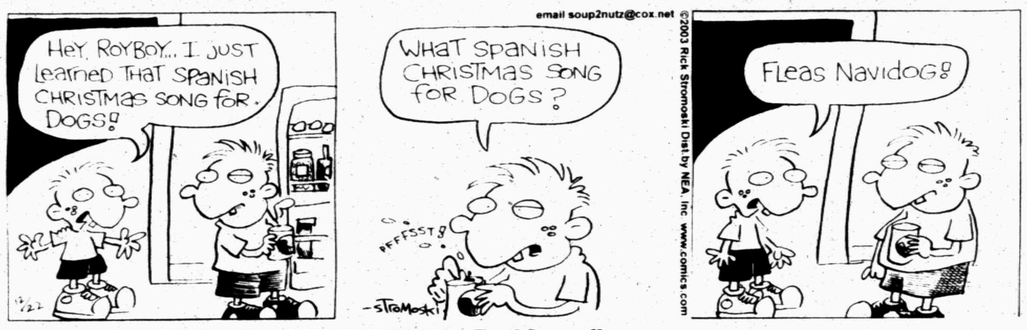
DEC 22 2003

Best Available Copy

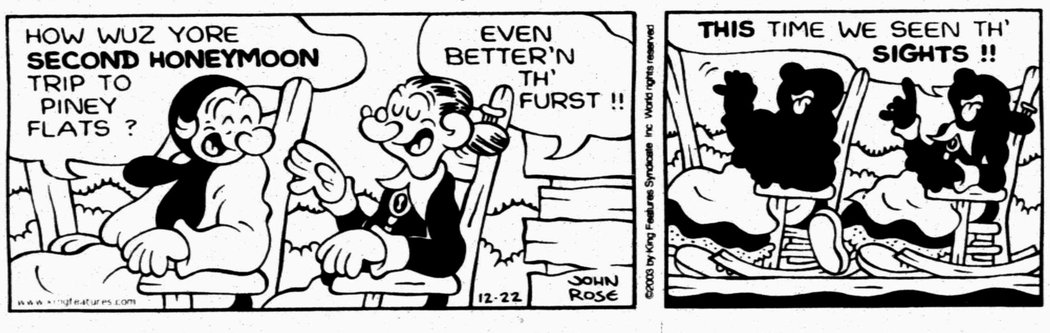
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

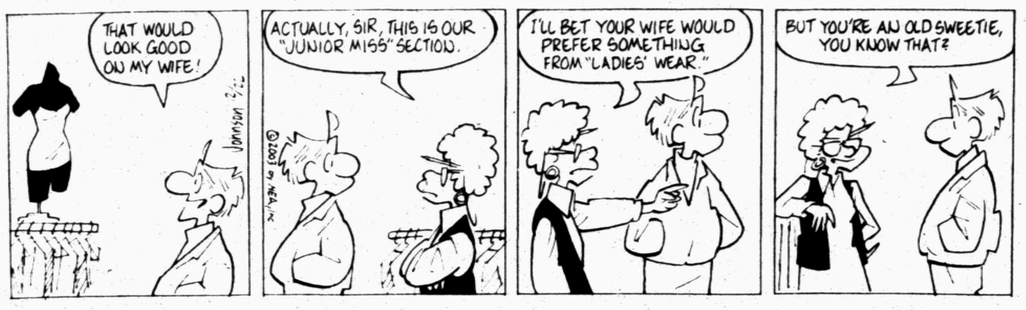


BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

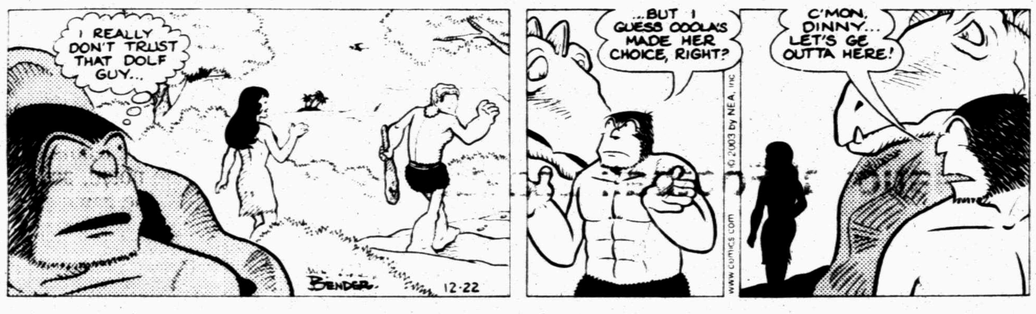
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

HERMAN®

by Jim Unger

"You don't look a day over 30!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Park with animals
4 Little kid
7 Wyatt's cohort
10 Bedouin garment
11 Gem surface
13 Yes, in Paris
14 Deep hole
15 Ballroom number
16 Coffee maker
17 Getaway
19 Put a hex on
21 Tint
22 Chunk of wood
23 Was an omen of
26 Orchard units
30 PC owner
31 Catch a crook
32 Kind of reaction
33 Marlins' loc.
34 Pindar forte
35 Comet head
36 Greenery
39 Hoarse
40 Psyche parts
41 Kindled
42 Smith's need
45 Not cook (2 wds.)
48 Owing
49 Taj Mahal site
51 Bog
53 Approves
54 Defeats
55 Off — — tangent
56 Harden, as cement
57 Singer — Grant
58 Fast plane

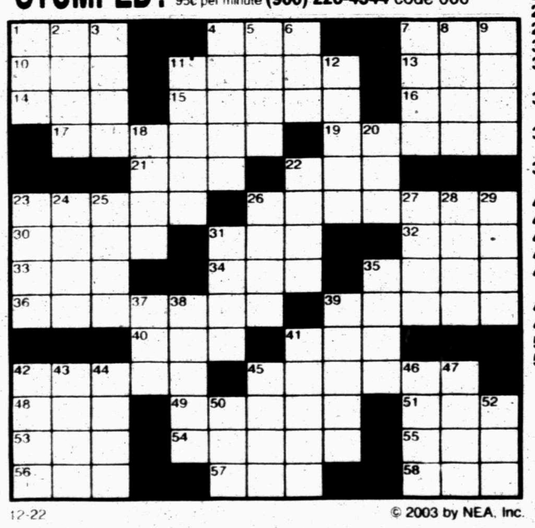
DOWN

1 Jolt of electricity
2 Emmy's relative
3 Feedbag morsels
4 Pantyhose choice
5 Summit
6 Rookie socialite
7 Sullen
8 Yours and mine
9 Film
11 Swindler
12 Burrito cousins
18 "Moonstruck" star
20 Snort of disgust
22 Grease job
23 Polish
24 Nobel Prize city
25 Contract
26 Ordered
27 Self-images
28 Swelling
29 Don't go
31 Holiday quaffs
35 "Elder" statesman
37 Clock numeral
38 Improvise (hyph.)
39 Hayworth et al.
41 Priest's flock
42 Fusses
43 Microwave
44 Jerkin
45 Red-waxed cheese
46 Allen craft
47 Sawbucks
50 Teachers' org.
52 "Unforgettable" singer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



12-22 © 2003 by NEA, Inc.

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"GEORGE, DENNIS CAME OVER TO SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER."

"I'LL DO MY CHEERING WHEN HE LEAVES."

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

Cowboys clinch 1st playoff berth since 1999

IRVING (AP) — There were no victory cigars or uncorked champagne bottles, even though the Dallas Cowboys had reason to celebrate.

Just coach Bill Parcells getting doused with a bucket of ice water.

The Cowboys, after three straight 5-11 seasons before Parcells, made the playoffs with a 19-3 win over the New York Giants on Sunday.

"Guys have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. We came out, we handled our business and we're in," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said. "We still have to finish the season strong."

After Philadelphia's overtime loss Sunday at San Francisco, Dallas (10-5) can still win the NFC East. If the Eagles (11-4) lose again next weekend at Washington and the Cowboys win at New Orleans, Dallas will go from a wild-card spot to a first-round playoff bye.

Behind an efficient game from Quincy Carter and another big performance against the Giants by kicker Billy Cundiff, Dallas handed New York (4-11) its seventh straight loss.

Parcells is the first coach to earn playoff berths with four franchises, but he had never done it in his first season with a team until Sunday.

"I'm not shocked," Parcells said. "You have to earn your way in ... and we won some big games when it counted. I was probably more nervous today than anytime since there was so much on the line."

Since following an emotional win over Carolina by giving up 76 points in consecutive losses to Miami and Philadelphia, the Cowboys have allowed just three points in two games.

"We have a chance to do something special," tight end Dan Campbell said. "Our season has just begun."

Besides the dousing of Parcells, and a few joyful shouts going off the field and into the locker room, the celebration was somewhat mundane.

"That's a good sign that we're not overly excited," defensive end Greg Ellis said. "If we were popping open champagne, it would be like all we wanted to accomplish was to get into the playoffs."

The 10 wins in his debut year is another first for Parcells, and it's the most for Dallas since 1998, when they won their last division title. This is the Cowboys' 27th playoff berth.

The playoff-clinching win came a year to the day after Cowboys owner Jerry Jones admitted he'd talked to Parcells.

"This season is beyond expectations," Jones said. "A day like today ... it covers up a bunch of the bumps we've had."

The Giants are hoping a new coach will provide them the same kind of turnaround. They've still got one more game under Jim Fassel, who stayed to coach the rest of the season after being told Wednesday he won't be back next season.

New York broke a streak of six straight games with just one touchdown, although not the way it would've liked. In matching their longest losing streak since 1994, the Giants scored a season-low three points.

"I don't care what the circumstances are or where in the season we are," Fassel said. "We have to get better."

Carter connected with Joey Galloway on a 64-yard pass on the game's first play, but the Cowboys managed only Cundiff's 24-yard field goal. The Giants answered with their only score, but a 36-yard pass to Jason Witten midway through the first quarter put Dallas ahead to stay.

Cundiff added kicks of 21, 42 and 49 yards. It was his most field goals since tying an NFL record with seven against New York in September.

Carter had a turnover-free performance while completing 17 of 25 passes for 240 yards. With 3,012 yards, he's Dallas' first 3,000-yard passer since Troy Aikman in 1997.

About the only highlight for New York was three sacks by Michael Strahan, who has 17 this season. Quarterback Jesse Palmer, making his second career start, was 18-of-32 for 190 yards and was sacked five times.

Teacher, pupil square off in Tech-Iowa contest tonight

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Iowa coach Steve Alford won 92 games with Bob Knight during his playing career at Indiana. What he'd like to do now is finally beat his college coach.

Alford will face Knight for the third time when Iowa plays Texas Tech in Dallas tonight. He went 0-2 against Knight's Indiana teams, losing 78-66 while he was at Southwest Missouri State in the 1997-98 season and 74-71 with Iowa on Jan. 18, 2000.

As a player, Alford helped Indiana win the 1987 NCAA championship. He also played for Knight on the 1984 U.S. Olympic team, which won the gold medal in Los Angeles.

"I just greatly respect the man that has been in the business this long, has been highly successful and has done it the right way," Alford said Thursday. "His programs haven't cheated and he's done it with incredible ethics and integrity."

When Knight and Alford met in that 2000 game in Bloomington, there was a lot of anticipation and speculation about how they would react to each other. Alford said the media blew things out of proportion and the two have a solid relationship.

Alford said today's game will be a good measuring stick for his team, which is 6-1 and hasn't played since losing at Northern Iowa on Dec. 9. The teams have similar styles, he noted, and his staff will analyze the game closely to help them prepare for the rest of the season.

UTEP gives Price another shot

EL PASO (AP) — Mike Price has been waiting seven months to try to rebuild his coaching career. Texas-El Paso is happy to give him a chance.

The Miners hired Price on Sunday despite a reputation tarnished by a night of partying at a strip club months after being hired at Alabama. The longtime Washington State coach never coached a game for the Crimson Tide and has been trying to clear his image ever since.

"I feel reborn," Price said. "When something you love has been taken away it really hurts. It hurt me so much that now I know that coaching was my true calling."

Price, who maintains that the events that led to his departure were reported inaccurately, vows to be on his best behavior.

UTEP athletic director Bob Stull cited a relationship with Price that dates more than 20 years as part of his reason for giving him this opportunity. His coaching credentials made him a strong candidate to lead a team that's long been an also-ran in the Western Athletic Conference. The Miners have gone 14-34 the last four seasons under Gary Nord, who was fired Dec. 1.

Katy, La Marque come back to win state championships

By The Associated Press

CLASS 5A Division II
Katy 16,
Southlake Carroll 15

Katy coach Mike Johnston knew his team would have to control the tempo and establish the running game early to beat Southlake Carroll.

Katy (15-1) did just that and won the Class 5A Division II state title with a 16-15 win over reigning champion Carroll (15-1) Saturday.

James Aston rushed 21 times for 125 yards and the Tigers ran more than three times the number of plays Southlake Carroll managed in the first half.

Aston finished with 31 carries for 163 yards. A fake to the junior, who brought his rushing total to more than 2,000 yards in this game, allowed Katy to score the winning touchdown.

Katy was behind 15-9 when Ryan Mouton's 51-yard touchdown reception with 2:30 remaining gave Katy the lead.

The win gives Katy its first title since 2000 and breaks Southlake Carroll's 5A record 31-game winning streak.

Katy won its fourth state title, its first coming as a Class 1A school in 1959.

CLASS 4A Division II
La Marque 43,
Denton Ryan 35

Larry Kerlegan threw four touchdown passes and Russell Ball ran for an 11-yard touchdown in triple overtime as La Marque rallied to beat Denton Ryan 43-35 for the Class 4A Division II title Saturday.

Justin Willis fumbled near the 3-yard line on fourth down on Ryan's ensuing possession, ending the first UIL state championship ever decided in triple overtime.

La Marque (16-0), which had never trailed this season, fell behind 21-10 late in the third quarter before scoring on three straight possessions to take a 28-21 lead.

Ryan (14-2) forced overtime on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Justin Willis to Justin Fenty with six seconds remaining in the fourth quarter to tie the score 28-28.

CLASS 3A Division II
Atlanta 34, Marlin 0

Dallas Washington returned two punts for touchdowns and Curtis Burns rushed for 150 yards and two touchdowns as the Rabbits beat Bulldogs at Tyler.

It's the first state title for Atlanta (12-4), which won its 11th straight after a 1-4 start.

Washington, who returned five punts for scores this season, had a 90-yarder for Atlanta's first score and a 79-yarder for the final score.

"The second punt return will be with me forever. It seemed like I made everybody miss," he said. "I thought I wasn't going to make it on the second return."

Marlin (11-5) was held to minus-3 yards rushing and 56 passing. The Bulldogs had no second-half drive lasting more than four plays.

CLASS 2A Division II
Garrison 27, Bangs 0

Wes Chandler completed only three passes for 84 yards, but two went for touchdowns to lead the Bulldogs to a win over the Dragons for their first state title.

Chandler's second scoring toss of the day, an 11-yarder to Marcus Soloman with 6:14 left in the fourth quarter, clinched the championship.

Garrison's (16-0) defense frustrated Bangs (11-5) all afternoon, stopping the Dragons six times on fourth down and deflecting four Chris Tilton passes.

Garrison set the tone for the state championship early. On the game's second play, Bradley Barton nailed Bangs running back Bobby Evers at his own 11, popping the ball loose. Defensive tackle Clayton Norman recovered it in mid-air and rambled untouched into the end zone, putting the Bulldogs ahead 7-0 following Chandler's extra point.

CLASS A
Windthorst 28,
Shiner 27

Shiner's Ryan Kloesel missed an extra point with 32 seconds left and Windthorst hung on 28-27 for the Class A state championship Saturday night.

Windthorst (15-1) had taken a 28-21 lead early in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard run by Chad Green. Then Shiner (14-2) scored in the closing seconds when Garet Pustka ran in from 3 yards out for the score.

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	13	2	0	.867	317	238
Miami	9	6	0	.600	288	240
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	243	248
N.Y. Jets	6	9	0	.400	262	276
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Indianapolis	11	4	0	.733	427	319
x-Tennessee	11	4	0	.733	402	311
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	262	310
Houston	5	10	0	.333	238	360
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	378	271
Cincinnati	8	7	0	.533	332	362
Pittsburgh	6	9	0	.400	290	314
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	232	308
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Kansas City	12	3	0	.800	453	329
x-Denver	10	5	0	.667	378	270
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	249	317
San Diego	3	12	0	.200	292	427

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	11	4	0	.733	343	280
x-Dallas	10	5	0	.667	282	247
Washington	5	10	0	.333	280	341
N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267	219	350
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Carolina	10	5	0	.667	288	280
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	327	319
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467	288	231
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	278	408
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	399	335
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	370	297
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	280	315
Detroit	4	11	0	.267	240	359
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-St. Louis	12	3	0	.800	427	298
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	380	310
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	367	313
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	207	435

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Games
Atlanta 30, Tampa Bay 28
Minnesota 45, Kansas City 20
New England 21, N.Y. Jets 16

Sunday's Games
Miami 20, Buffalo 3
Dallas 19, N.Y. Giants 3
Carolina 20, Detroit 14
Chicago 27, Washington 24
Tennessee 27, Houston 24
St. Louis 27, Cincinnati 10
Baltimore 35, Cleveland 0
Jacksonville 20, New Orleans 19
Pittsburgh 40, San Diego 24
Seattle 28, Arizona 10
San Francisco 31, Philadelphia 28, OT
Denver 31, Indianapolis 17

Today's Game
Green Bay at Oakland, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 27
Buffalo at New England, 12:30 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28
St. Louis at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon
Chicago at Kansas City, noon
Jacksonville at Atlanta, noon
Indianapolis at Houston, noon
Tampa Bay at Tennessee, noon
Dallas at New Orleans, noon
Cleveland at Cincinnati, noon
Carolina at N.Y. Giants, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Denver at Green Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	18	5	8	3	47	97	70
New Jersey	18	6	8	0	44	80	52
N.Y. Islanders	14	15	2	1	31	90	87
N.Y. Rangers	12	13	5	2	31	84	82
Pittsburgh	8	17	4	3	23	69	117
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Toronto	19	6	6	3	47	94	78
Boston	13	8	8	4	38	83	83
Ottawa	15	10	3	3	36	97	67
Montreal	15	14	4	1	35	78	81
Buffalo	12	18	2	1	27	71	93
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Atlanta	18	14	3	1	40	109	107
Tampa Bay	14	11	4	1	33	71	67
Carolina	10	12	8	2	30	60	73
Florida	11	15	7	1	30	71	89
Washington	10	20	3	1	24	90	108

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	21	11	3	1	46	122	84
St. Louis	20	6	3	1	44	82	62
Nashville	15	12	2	2	34	76	79
Chicago	7	17	7	3	24	63	97
Columbus	8	17	4	3	23	64	92
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	18	8	5	2	43	96	72
Calgary	17	9	2	3	39	76	64
Colorado	16	9	6	1	39	93	72
Minnesota	14	14	6	0	34	74	71
Edmonton	12	15	6	0	30	84	97
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles	16	11	3	3	38	91	79
San Jose	11	9	10	3	35	77	78
Dallas	14	16	4	0	32	67	76
Phoenix	10	11	10	1	31	80	95
Anaheim	11	13	4	5	31	69	86

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Islanders 5, Washington 4
New Jersey 2, Chicago 2, tie
Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 1
San Jose 2, Anaheim 1

Today's Games
Dallas at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	14	.500	—
New Jersey	13	13	.500	—
Philadelphia	13	14	.481	½
Miami	10	17	.370	3½
New York	10	18	.357	4
Washington	8	17	.320	4½
Orlando	7	21	.250	7
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	20	8	.714	—
New Orleans	18	[illegible]	.643	2
Detroit	16	11	.593	3½
Toronto	14	13	.519	5½
Milwaukee	13	14	.481	6½
Cleveland	8	19	.296	11½
Chicago	7	18	.280	11½
Atlanta	7	22	.241	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	10	.655	—
Minnesota	17	9	.654	½
Denver	16	11	.593	2
Dallas	15	11	.577	2½
Houston	15	11	.577	2½
Memphis	15	11	.577	2½
Utah	14	13	.519	4
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
L.A. Lakers	20	5	.800	—
Sacramento	19	6	.760	1
Golden State	12	13	.480	8
Portland	12	13	.480	8
Seattle	12	13	.480	8
L.A. Clippers	11	12	.478	8
Phoenix	10	18	.357	11½

Sunday's Games
Orlando 104, Toronto 93
Detroit 96, Utah 75
Boston 87, Philadelphia 84
Miami 104, Golden State 93
Sacramento 117, Portland 98
L.A. Lakers 107, Phoenix 101

Today's Games
Orlando at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Utah at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Denver, 8 p.m.

DEC 22 2003

Joe's Pizza
Philadelphia Style
573-8555

Holiday Money
LOANS
$50 - $495
Home Phone Service Starting at $42 Month
DELTA LOANS
See Brandi or Rosie
We pay $10 Referral Fee
1908 37th Street
573-7779

Driver Acce$$ Cash Card
Give The Gift of Convenience
An Easy Way To Pay
No applications, no waiting, no hassles. It's that simple
McCormick Marketing, Inc.
2401 Ave. Q 573-6365

CHILD CARE
Open 7 Days A Week
5 a.m. - Midnight
Birth to 12 Years Old
Transportation Provided
111 37th Street 573-4848
KIDS KAMPUS

Two For Tuesday
Buy Any Regular 6" Sub and Med. Drink and Get A 6" Sub of Equal or Lesser Value
FREE
www.subway.com
THE SUBWAY A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
Good Only On Tuesdays During The Month of December 2003
3903 College Ave., Snyder 573-9782

Best Available Copy

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

ALWAYS A WINNER

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Air Duct Cleaning

Our Service Provides
CLEAN AIR!!
10 years experience
CARPET CLEANING *EXPRESS*
573-2661

Auto Service/ Oil Changes

AUTO CLINIC
We Do All Major & Minor Repairs & Complete Custom Exhaust Systems
Let us save you money!!
405 26th St. (Behind Skinny's on E. Hwy.)
(W) 325-573-0495 (H) 325-573-4028
Robbie & Sarah Jamison, Owners

JOHN'S
MACHINE & RADIATOR
1604 College Ave, Snyder
(325) 573-9710
Your complete automotive machine shop!!
• Radiator Service: repair & rebuild
• New Radiator Sales • Rebuilt Engines
• Engine Kits & Parts
• Machine Work: blocks, heads, etc...
Your business is greatly appreciated.
New Owners: Randy & Christy James

Beauty/Salons

Rose Ann's Holiday Specials
Permanent Cosmetics
•$10 off touch up •$20 off for new clients
Mineral Body Wraps
•$10 off a body wrap. Receive 2 wraps the same day & get $30 off
Photo Rejuvenation
Call for great prices!!
Nancy's Art Style
(325)573-0109 (325)242-0036

Carpet/Cleaning

KING CARPET
•Cleaning •Floor Coverings & Air Duct Cleaning
24-HR Fire & Water Restoration
Free Estimates On All Jobs
Carpet - Tile - Laminate - Linoleum
Residential & Commercial Installation
Minor Remodeling & Repairs
3707 COLLEGE AVE.
325-573-3032

CARPET CLEANING *EXPRESS*
Your Local Carpet Cleaning Specialist
*Water, *Fire & *Smoke Damage
24 Hour Emergency Services
573-2661

Hotshots

Roland Hotshot Services
"Need anything hauled anywhere?"
25,000 lbs & below
40' flat deck trailer, 12,000 lb wench
•Commercial •Oilfield
•Farm & Ranch •Residential
Low Rates
Joey Roland
325-207-2137

Christmas Decorating

Christmas Lights & Decorations
Installation & Removal
Free Estimates
References Available
CALL
574-1463 or **436-9019**

Carpet Cleaning

Superior Carpet Cleaning
SPECIAL
$15 per room
Using state of the art equipment
Leaves carpet cleaner & dryer!!
573-1780

Catering

DUNN-RIGHT BBQ
CATERING
Specializing in Briskets & Ribs
Homemade Sauce
•Weddings •Anniversaries
•Reunions • Private Parties
Call Kerry Clay
(325) 573-8349
(325) 207-2934 (mobile)

Construction

NEED A CARPENTER?
Repair - Remodel
Paint - Build
James Mills
573-0081

Lee's Construction
"No Job Too Small"
Residential
Remodeling & Repair
STEVE LEE
Snyder, Texas
79549
325/573-2709
Mobile
325/207-1879

SPARLIN CONSTRUCTION
Welding *Metal Buildings*
Fabrication *Carpentry*
Fencing *Painting*
Bud Sparlin
574-2206 573-9752
or 575-4182
2701 48th St.
Snyder, TX
79549

CIRCLE M WELDING & Services Inc.
• Welding • Fabrication
• Residential • Roustabout • Concrete Work
• Backhoe Services
Office: **325-573-8005**
Fax: **325-573-8047**
7393 West Hwy 180 Snyder, TX 79549

A & J Construction
•Farm •Ranch &
•General Welding
•Metal Fences •Metal Buildings
•Carports
207-0911 575-2996
573-7961

Electric

DALE'S ELECTRIC
403 33rd St.
Commercial or Residential
573-5330
James c# 207-1228
Dale c# 207-1227

Let SDN help keep your business in the public eye!
Advertise Your Business Right Here!!

Fitness

Tiger Health & Fitness
3409B Snyder Shopping Center
573-3414
Membership includes:
*24 hr access 7 days/wk *Group classes
*Over 5000 lbs of free weights *Circuit weights
*Cardio equip. *6000 sq.ft. facility
Also available:
*Certified personal trainers
*Supplements *Sports drinks
*Wolff sunbeds *Lotions *Herbal body wraps

Elite Fitness
912 25th St.
• Nautilus • Cybex
• Precor • Tuff-Stuff
Health -
It's your best investment.
575-2942

Insurance

Stewart Insurance Services
• GREAT RATES
• GREAT SERVICE
All Lines of Insurance
904 26th St. Snyder, TX
573-8401

A PROUD PAST WITH A SOLID FUTURE
GERMANIA SINCE 1896
Property • Auto • Life Insurance
KUBENA INSURANCE AGENCY
325-863-2754
Marsha Kubena, Agent

ALLSTATE INSURANCE
•Best Rates In Town•
All Lines of Insurance
Yo vendo Seguros para México
3201 College Ave.
573-4076

Masonry

Straight Line Masonry
*Brick *Block *Stone
*Custom Fireplaces
Residential/Commercial
Repairs - Houses
Retaining Walls
Free Estimates
Paul Dickerhoff
573-0258 436-9143 (c#)

Plumbing

Plumbing Repair Service
Telephone
(325) 573-3085
Coventry Plumbing
M-19955
1311 College Ave.
Snyder, Texas 79549
Jim Coventry
Owner

Real Estate

DeLoera Realty
"The Spouses That Sell Houses"
Abel & Sherry DeLoera
"Se Habla Español"
2709 35th St.
Snyder, TX
79549
Hm: (325) 573-9353
Cell: 575-2575/2578
saluteguns@aol.com

Advertising Pays
Call 573-5486 Today!!!

Roofing

CARDINAL BUILDERS
Snyder, Texas
For All Your Roofing Needs
COMPOSITION & WOOD
FREE ESTIMATES
GARY BURT, Owner
573-1562

Storage Rentals

North Ave. E Storage Buildings
10' x 20'
Fenced Boat & Trailer Storage
DAVID HOLT
573-3255

Tree & Lawn Service

TREEMASTERS
• Tree & Shrub Trimming, Pruning & Shaping
• Deep Root Fertilization Injection
• Bucket Truck for those high to reach spots
• Trees & Shrubs Planted & more
21 yrs. experience. References available.
325-573-4937

Complete Field, Lawn & Irrigation Service
** Fertilizer Available **
Foliar feed or Granular
For a healthy lawn call
HINTON C & S
(325) 573-0878
TX Commercial Lic. #284642 Floral Certificate #298929
TX Irrigation Lic. #6312

Internet Service

Dell Computer Dealer
Local support if you buy from us
Internet Business Consulting
Now affiliated with
#1 Internet Consulting Corp.
Free Internet Business Analysis
Internet Access Provider
Dialup and Broadband Wireless
If you have Internet problems, we fix them for free.
Networking, Repairs, Upgrades
In house technician.
Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc.
3405 College Ave.
573-4801
dbullard@snydertex.com

FOR AS LOW AS $2.50 PER DAY
($65 per month)
You Can Advertise Your Services In The
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Call
573-5486

Lost & Found

LOST
female grey cat. **$500 reward**
1-888-254-2097
http://www.ellenmarquez.com/lostcatphotos/

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

Personal

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

Vehicles

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

Business Services

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

COMPUTER REPAIR
Home & Business
Networking Software & Hardware upgrades. Complete new systems at very competitive prices. **574-1885** after 6p.m.

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

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

BAR-R-DOZER
-Raygene Shipp-
•Brush control
•Road blading & repair
•Cleaning & building tanks
Free Estimates
No charge for road time!
325-338-5656 325-962-2416

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 325-573-8264

Employment

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

COGDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Activities Director for Assisted Living/Full-time Position
Must be eligible for certification as an Activities Coordinator. Must have Skilled Unit knowledge.
We offer an outstanding compensation and benefits package including medical insurance, dental insurance, retirement program, participation with a credit union, paid holidays, vacation, sick time, and recognition program.
EOE Applicants may contact
Charles Hurst
Human Resources office
Cogdell Memorial Hospital
1700 Cogdell Blvd.
Snyder, Texas 79549
325-574-7185
by FAX 325-574-7136
or email:
churst@cogdellhospital.com

Employment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farmer's Column

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

Merchandise

2 used pianos, $25 each today. $5 dropped daily until sold. Pioneer Furniture, 2310 College

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

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

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

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

Great Holiday Gifts
Shelled pecans for sale.
573-2505

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

HOMEOWNERS LOOK!!
Builder's Special - Truckload Trees
Red Oak & Live Oak
We Deliver, We Plant, We Guarantee
Decker's Farm Supply & Nursery
Stanton, TX 432-756-3444

Last Minute Shopping!!!
Gift Baskets
SuZs Candles
1907 40th St.

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

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

Used color TVs, $25/each.
See at Purple Sage Motel,
1501 E. Coliseum Dr.

Best Available Copy

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

Merchandise

You pick up pecans.
Raked & piled. 75¢ lb.
Call 573-1477

Newspaper End Rolls
$1.00 & Up
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News today!

PALLETS FOR SALE
2 For A $1.00
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE
Association for Retarded Citizens open each Tuesday and Thursday, 8a.m.-3:30p.m., 2504 Ave. W. Good used children's clothes. Donations of useable & sellable items accepted. For local pickup on items, call 573-4186, 573-5374 or 573-3729.

Apartments For Rent

College Park Apartments
4503 College
2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex.
Locally owned.
575-3084 573-0340

January Move In Special
Call For Details
Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2 bath
W/D Connections, Pool & Playground

Houses For Rent

***2-1 212** 35th St.
$250/mo, $100/dep.
References required.
1-888-596-6218 1-325-669-1501

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

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

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

Real Estate

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

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

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

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

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

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

JACK & JACK
Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

REDUCED! Lrg 2 story 4-3-2, pool, 6.44 Acres
3-1¾-2cp, 2 storage areas, 220 35th...$35T
Fluvanna 3-2, den on .34 A's water well Bargain
REDUCED! 600 29th 2-1-1, office, den...$18T
Owner Finance Lrg. Mobile Home 2-2, 302 24th Nice $20T
3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining...$35T
REDUCED! 1.7[redacted] $65T
111 Peach 2 or 3-1 ....$9.5T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building....Call
Good Shop Bldg. or Garage 1802 College $16T
Commercial Property for Sale or Lease
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs....Call
We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

THIS IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS! The Snyder Daily News
573-5486

1/2 Price Book Sale
Great for Stocking Stuffers
Reg. $6.95 *now only $3.50!!*

Come by Snyder Daily News & check out these & many other great books.

- *God Can Handle It*
- *God Can Handle It For Kids*
- *The Golfers Book of Wisdom*
- *The Teacher's Book of Wisdom*
- *The Book of Christmas Wisdom*
- *The Book of Texas Wisdom*
- *Wisdom Made In America*
- *Mothers Are Forever*
- *Mother's & Daughters Are Forever*
- *Friends Are Forever*
- *Sisters Are Forever*
- *Fathers Are Forever*
- *Best Friends Last A Lifetime*

& many more!

Come by SDN
Mon. – Fri. 8a.m. – 5:30p.m.

Dean appeals for attack politics to end

MAQUOKETA, Iowa (AP) — Howard Dean appealed to fellow Democratic presidential candidates Saturday to stop the bitter attack politics that have come to dominate the race for the party's nomination. The race needs "a little character transplant," he said.

"It's not necessary to tear down the other opponents," said Dean, whose front-running campaign has come increasingly under fire from Democratic rivals.

In his latest swing through Iowa, where the nominating process starts with caucuses next month, Dean pushed hard at his claim to being an outsider running against Washington-based candidates with no record of accomplishment.

"There are five or six people running for president right now who have a chance at winning," Dean said. "I'm the only person who has done anything about trying to get health care."

Dean is bunched with Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt in Iowa, but he has developed a wide lead in other early states such as New Hampshire. As his campaign has developed momentum, he's come under fire with regularity.

"This campaign needs a little character transplant," Dean said. "You shouldn't believe what other people say."

Dean argues that his Internet-based campaign is broadening the Democratic Party and offers the most realistic chance of ousting President Bush. He urged backers to commit not only to supporting him but also to changing the party.

"It has to be about rebuilding the Democratic party," said Dean.

Dean argued that his 12 years as governor of Vermont give him experience unmatched by his rivals and a record that draws the sharpest contrast with President Bush.

Illinois governor to launch pilot program on buying prescriptions from Canada

CHICAGO (AP) — To save the state money on prescription drugs, Gov. Rod Blagojevich wants the federal government to give Illinois the right to bend the law by shopping for medications in Canada.

Blagojevich on Monday plans to ask the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to let the state buy drugs at lower prices in Canada for its 230,000 state employees and retirees, a spokeswoman said.

Blagojevich is seeking approval from Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson for a pilot program through the new Medicare bill, spokeswoman Abby Ottenhoff said Sunday.

The bill grants Thompson the power to tell Congress that — for the purpose of a pilot program — reimportation of drugs poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety, Ottenhoff said. Illinois is asking him for a waiver authorizing the reimportation of an agreed list of prescription drugs, she said.

"The benefit of doing it that way is they can work with us and figure out how best to set up a regulatory process and be a part of the process rather than watch some states move forward on their own," Ottenhoff said.

New Hampshire and Boston have announced plans to buy prescription drugs from Canada as a way to cut costs, and Springfield, Mass., is already allowing its employees to do so. But Blagojevich, while continuing to push to overturn the federal ban on importing lower-priced drugs from Canada, has said he will not break the law.

Bill Pierce, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said previous laws have included similar language but Thompson and Donna Shalala, his predecessor, were never able to guarantee the safety of reimported drugs.

"Nothing changes," Pierce said. "The bottom line is, twice there have been similar laws to allow reimported drugs but only if they have been certified as safe. Donna Shalala and Secretary Thompson have said they could not do that. That's the key part."

Blagojevich also plans to announce that he and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty have scheduled a prescription drug summit for the nation's governors on Feb. 24, 2004, in Washington, D.C.

"Illinois, like other states around the country, is dealing with limited resources at a time when we're trying to keep up with increased health care costs," Ottenhoff said.

Texas sees decline in number of flu cases

DALLAS (AP) — At hospitals across Texas, the fierce influenza outbreak that struck unusually early this year appears to be loosening its grip.

For instance, Parkland Hospital in Dallas reached a flu milestone on Wednesday when it had its first day without a diagnosis since early November.

Parkland, a large public hospital, saw an average of 38 flu cases each week between Nov. 1 and the first week of December, said Shirley Shores, the facility's director of infection control.

"We have dropped dramatically this week," Shores said in a statement.

Along with Dallas, health department officials in El Paso, Houston and San Antonio said they also saw declining numbers.

Publicity about the outbreak motivated many people to get vaccinated, shrinking the pool of people susceptible to the virus, said Kathy Barton, spokeswoman for the Houston Department of Health and Human Services. But she and other health officials pointed out that the flu season is far from over.

"People have to remember there's just as much disease in the downward curve as there was in the upward curve," said Dr. W. Paul Glezen, head epidemiologist at Baylor College of Medicine's Influenza Research Center. "It's not as intense as it was before, but it's still around and people have to be aware of that."

Health officials said they aren't sure what effect the holidays will have on the outbreak. While holiday travel could spark a flare-up of the illness, empty classrooms will mean fewer infections among children, they said.

"It's really just hard to say," said Amanda McKeen Simpson, a spokeswoman for Dallas County's Health and Human Services Department. "It's hard to predict the future and see what will happen, but we hope we continue to see the decline."

Dallas County's flu activity appears to have peaked in mid-November, Simpson said. About 148 cases were reported last week, half as many as the county saw in its peak week.

"We see it as a positive sign," she said. "It's too early to say that the flu season is over, obviously, but we're happy that it's declining."

Texas was the first state this season where the flu was considered widespread, the most severe ranking by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency says 35 other states now have widespread flu activity.

Doug McBride, spokesman for the Texas Department of Health, said he expects Texas to retain the widespread designation for a while.

Film star Hope Lange dies at age 70

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Actress Hope Lange, who earned an Oscar nomination for her supporting role in the 1957 film "Peyton Place" and won two Emmys for playing the lead in TV's "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," has died at age 70.

Lange died Friday at Saint John's Health Center after suffering an infection caused by an intestinal inflammation known as ischemic colitis, said her husband, Charles Hollerith, a former theatrical producer and vice president of the Actors' Fund of America.

Lange starred in dozens of films and television shows over a decades-long career and appeared with some of Hollywood's top actors.

Her big screen credits included "The Best of Everything" in 1959 with Joan Crawford; "The Young Lions" in 1958 with Marlon Brando, "Wild in the Country" in 1961 with Elvis Presley, and "Peyton Place" with Lana Turner.

In the risque "Peyton Place," Lange had second billing to Turner, portraying a teen from the wrong side of the tracks who is raped by her stepfather and then is accused of murdering him.

Lange combined good looks and acting prowess, said actor Don Murray, who was married to her for several years in the 1950s

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).

Copyright 2003, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.61	12.32	12.52	—.28
AT&T Corp	19.50	19.30	19.43	+.02
Albertsons	22.08	21.65	21.97	+.04
Alltel	46.28	45.95	46.25	+.06
AmEl Pw	29.95	29.75	29.90	+.02
AndarkPtr	50.68	50.00	50.65	—.13
ATMOS Egy	24.30	24.01	24.03	—.12
Availl	15.90	15.79	15.88	+.13
BP PLC	48.64	48.43	48.57	+.14
BakerHughes	31.76	31.45	31.48	—.22
Bank of Amer	79.29	78.66	79.01	+.01
BellSouth	27.89	27.64	27.83	+.12
BurlNoSFe	32.49	31.86	32.34	+.33
Caterpillar	84.95	84.27	84.50	—.25
CenterPoint	9.45	9.36	9.43	+.05
ChevronTex	83.36	83.02	83.24	—.03
Citigroup	48.34	48.08	48.28	+.01
CocaCola	50.17	49.80	50.02	—.08
ColgatePal	49.89	49.18	49.50	+.31
CmclMetals	30.99	30.35	30.72	+.42
ConocoPhill	63.85	63.40	63.69	+.26
Cooper Inds	58.14	57.51	58.01	+.21
DaimlrChry	45.62	45.29	45.46	+.46
DeltaAirLines	11.32	11.06	11.11	—.26
Dillards Inc	15.80	15.63	15.69	—.06
DowChem	40.67	40.42	40.61	+.06
DuPont	45.00	44.72	45.00	+.20
EastmanChem	38.35	37.90	38.16	+.10
EstKodak	24.69	24.23	24.65	+.09
EDS Corp	23.55	23.05	23.48	+.12
Entergy	56.64	56.05	56.60	+.20
ExxonMobil	39.52	39.30	39.44	—.16
FootLocker	23.46	22.83	22.95	—.21
GenDynam	88.95	88.36	88.36	—.42
GenElec	30.96	30.73	30.87	—.02
GenMills	45.57	45.01	45.38	+.36
GenMotors	51.51	50.00	51.35	+.99
GaPacific	29.94	29.49	29.78	+.08
Goodrich	29.70	29.32	29.45	—.07
Goodyear	7.09	6.94	7.01	+.07
GtAtlPac	7.40	7.24	7.36	+.13
Halliburtn	27.64	26.29	26.61	—.19
Hanson PLC	35.40	35.32	35.33	+.17
HarteHanks	21.99	21.68	21.91	+.16
HomeDepot	35.46	34.91	34.92	—.58
HoneywellIntl	32.20	31.85	32.19	+.37
IBM	93.50	92.58	93.35	+.21
IntlPaper	42.45	42.10	42.30	+.04
JohnsonJn	50.44	49.89	50.43	+.33
KinderMorg	57.93	57.52	57.69	—.17
Kroger Co	17.65	17.44	17.53	—.16
LockheedM	50.49	50.11	50.32	+.07
Lowes Cos	55.63	54.87	55.07	—.26
Lubys	3.72	3.60	3.72	+.12
LucentTech	2.91	2.83	2.87	—.03
MarathonOil	32.32	32.12	32.20	+.05
MayDeptStr	28.24	27.85	28.08	+.02
Medtronic	48.55	47.90	48.10	—.56
Motorola	13.22	13.08	13.21	—.01
NCR Corp	39.47	38.20	38.88	+2.47
Navistar	48.22	47.71	47.71	—.20
PNM Rescs	27.95	27.74	27.86	—.13
Penney JC	24.87	24.60	24.79	+.14
PepBoys	22.60	22.23	22.30	—.30
PepsiCo	47.24	46.90	46.95	—.22
PhelpDodge	75.60	74.85	75.10	—.30
PilgrimsPride	15.10	14.83	14.85	—.15
Praxair s	37.69	36.84	37.61	+.67
ProctGamb	97.90	97.37	97.54	+.02
RadioShack	30.98	30.48	30.59	+.09
RoyalDut	51.10	50.85	50.91	+.08
SBC Comm	25.28	25.08	25.12	—.12
SaraLee	20.88	20.79	20.80	—.02
Scripps EW	94.42	93.43	94.36	+.70
SearsRoeb	45.10	44.15	44.39	—.45
SherwinW	34.02	33.92	34.02	+.02
SouthernCo	29.98	29.84	29.97	+.05
SwstAirl	15.96	15.65	15.85	—.11
SprintFON	15.97	15.82	15.95	+.11
SprintPCS	5.28	5.03	5.27	+.21
Sunoco Inc	51.40	50.82	51.27	—.68
TXU Corp	23.58	23.36	23.54	+.04
TempleInland	61.43	60.95	61.21	+.40
TexInd	36.70	35.70	35.87	—.32
TexasInst	28.97	28.00	28.90	+.56
Textron	56.93	56.05	56.84	—.14
TimeWarner	18.10	17.94	18.01	—.09
TrinityInds	31.84	31.49	31.50	—.25
TylerTech	9.32	9.10	9.30	+.20
UnionPacif	68.67	67.80	68.51	+.65
USSteel	34.70	33.42	34.30	+.98
UnitedTech	94.82	93.72	94.09	—.01
Unocal	36.38	36.08	36.20	—.04
VerizonComm	34.41	34.04	34.33	+.18
WalMart	53.20	51.70	53.01	+.66
WellsFargo	58.15	57.76	57.95	—.13
WstnGasRs	46.70	46.35	46.50	—.22
WinnDixie	9.24	9.06	9.23	+.05
Xerox Cp	13.09	13.00	13.06	+.06
YumBrands	33.16	32.54	33.08	+.28

DEC 22 2003

Best Available Copy

Program seeks ways to improve the agriculture in Afghanistan

URBANA, Ill. (AP) — Farmers in Afghanistan, left idle after 25 years of war and the repressive rule of the Muslim fundamentalist Taliban regime, are getting lessons from Illinois on how to use the latest farming techniques and technology.

Among the goals of the training program, developed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, is to develop native teachers and researchers, restoring Afghanistan's once-respected agriculture education system.

"If we expect Afghanistan to ultimately walk alone, it has got to have its educational system built back up," said Oval Myers Jr., a retired professor at SIUC who is leading the program with John Santas of the University of Illinois.

So far, three monthlong courses have been taught to 43 Afghans. But Santas and Myers are confident the program will go on for at least four more years with the potential to reach hundreds, if not thousands, of Afghan farmers.

Myers and Santas, who heads the new program from the University of Illinois' College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, were among the leaders of a 15-year project that began in 1983 to build Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University in Peshawar, Pakistan, using the same model as American land-grant universities.

The project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, ended in 1994 because of legislation that stopped aid to Pakistan if it persisted in building nuclear weapons. But over 11 years, more than 100 teachers and researchers were trained in the United States and returned to the Pakistani school, which continued to develop and prosper on its own, Santas said.

So it was logical that U.S. officials wanted to incorporate the school, which is near the Afghan border, with attempts to retrain farmers as part of Afghanistan's postwar reconstruction. And it was logical to return to Santas and Myers for guidance, said Earl D. Kellogg, the associate provost for international affairs at the University of Illinois' Urbana-Champaign campus.

"That institution is a collegial affiliate of ours, and we feel strongly that it is a part of who we are," Kellogg said. "We are taking our strengths and their strengths and adding them to make a contribution."

The training program for the Afghans began at the school earlier this year.

"It was mostly a matter of getting them in touch with some of the science and developments and technology that's come on the scene in the past 25 years," he said.

The farmers in those first seminars learned such things as how to manage water resources and the latest irrigation techniques — about 85 percent of the 22 million crop acres in Afghanistan need to be irrigated — farm management skills and how to market their crops.

"The feedback was almost entirely positive and very constructive," Santas said.

The Afghan-Pakistan program is similar to others USAID sponsors in nations where it is important to improve farm technology and production, said Harry Edwards, a spokesman for USAID in Washington.

Seminars are planned in the coming year to teach preservation of fruits and vegetables and effective management of orchards, among others. Eventually, Santas and Myers say they would like to see the program expand to give Afghans a chance to earn advanced degrees.

Santas and Myers also expect further relationships to develop between the university in Peshawar and universities in Afghanistan.

Today's chuckle

Chicago panhandlers to receive $99,000

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge has approved a $99,000 settlement for people who have been arrested or ticketed for panhandling in Chicago.

The city also must pay $375,000 to cover attorneys' fees and the cost of distributing the money, said plaintiffs' lawyer Mark Weinberg, who filed suit over the matter in 2001.

Judge Nan R. Nolan approved the settlement Friday. Under its terms, those arrested for panhandling in the past four years can file a claim of $400, while those ticketed can receive $50.

A tentative settlement was reached in October, as part of a battle over a 1991 ordinance that classified panhandling as disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500.

The ordinance was repealed last year. City officials have said such a blanket ban on panhandling is considered a limit on commercial speech.

Because of a two-year statute of limitations on civil cases, only those arrested or ticketed after Sept. 6, 1999, are eligible to receive money.

Claims can be made through Feb. 10.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003

It is quite likely that you will develop a number of new associations in the year ahead who could introduce you to several fresh interests that will be intriguing. However, don't be so quick to abandon your old activities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Others might have you doubting your decisions today and changing your mind about things. They may be right, but they could just as easily be wrong, so before you back out, do another review.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Expecting more than you're entitled to today could: 1) Arouse the ill will of your associates; 2) Cause major complications for yourself; and 3) Invite great disappointment.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It will be very important for you to remain totally impartial when dealing with friends today or you could get blamed for displaying favoritism, as well as greatly hurt another's feelings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — When going after accomplishing your objectives today, you are apt to have to hold on tight with both hands with each step you take or you could lose your footing. Success could be elusive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Usually you're quite a good sport, but today you might have a tendency to take competitive games far too seriously. Be a humble winner, or, if you lose, do so with grace and style.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take absolutely nothing for granted today, especially in your commercial affairs. Although from time to time you may think you have the upper hand, chances are that the opposite will be true.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Under no circumstances must you hastily enter into any agreement today. Should the possibility arise that things don't go well, it might be quite difficult for you to squirm out of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There's an old saying that goes, "More tears have been shed over prayers answered." So count your blessings today instead of what you can't have. What you want may not be meant for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Spend your hours today with real pals who mean a lot to you rather than with groups or cliques that contain individuals who you truly don't like, no matter how great others think they are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Anything vital that you must conclude today should be put first on your agenda of things to do. Unfortunately, too many disruptions could occur and more time might be needed to complete it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Just because some of your friends aren't in complete agreement with your ideas today doesn't mean they don't like you. It merely means that they have a different way of looking at things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's always possible to develop material opportunities as they arise, but not all of them are easy to accomplish. If you're looking for an easy "kill" today, you may have to pick another time.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

Copyright 2003, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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

Here's My Card...

Advertise Your Business Here.
Call Carolyn 573-5486

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

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

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

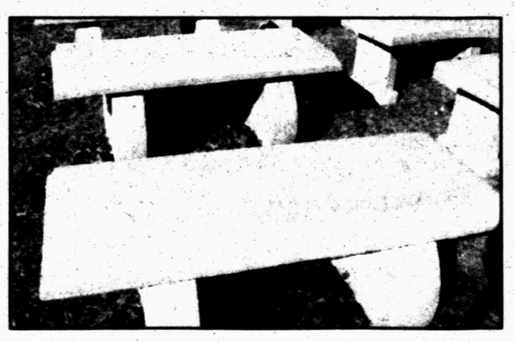
BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight

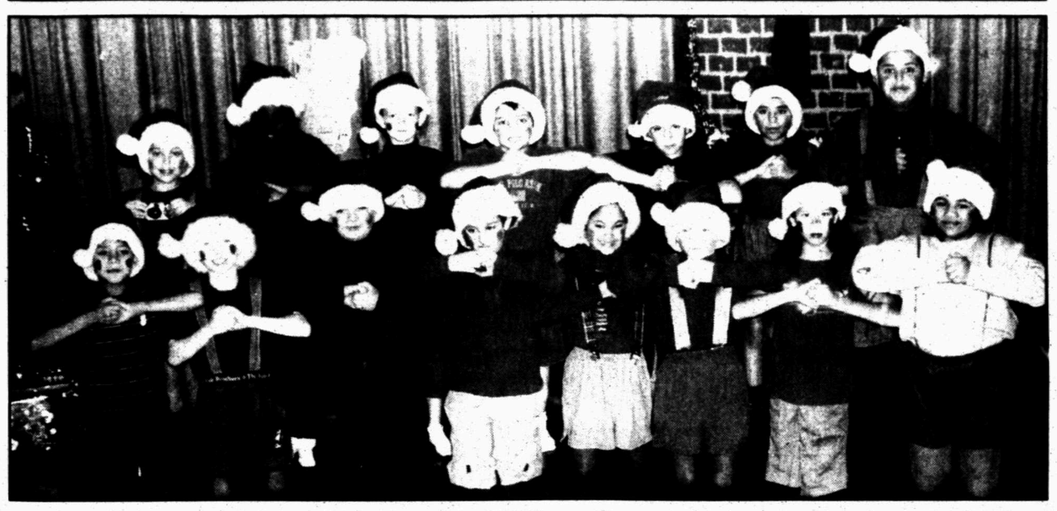
Tommy & Mary Williams

Texas Treasures
573-7567

TEXAS TREASURES is a mom and pop business run by Tommy and Mary Williams of Snyder. There are two locations - a booth at Whistle Stop and a home location on U.S. Highway 84. There are several operations under the umbrella of Texas Treasures. **YOU STAR VIDEO** ships tapes and CDs worldwide and does local and special productions. Currently Texas Treasures is featuring **CONCRETE YARD DECORATIONS** and **GRANDMA RECIPES** of jellies, vegetables, salsas, etc. All canned products are delicious and taste very fresh. The concrete decorations include benches, birdbaths, stepping stones, western figures and smaller items. **Call 573-7567** to learn more about what is available for viewing.



Best Available Copy



THE LITTLE BELL THAT COULD NOT RING — Central Elementary students in Melissa McNeill's and Shana Robbin's classes *presented The Little Bell That Could Not Ring* last week. (Top photo) Back row from left, Victor Ruiz, Stephanie Hart, Marlayna Silva, Bianca Silva, Uriel Neito, Angelica Juarez, Mallorie Warren and Leslie Avila. Front row from left, Brenon Rhodes, Robyn Thompson, Anthony Zamarripa, Mindy Warren, Alex Steelman, Mark Sosa, Jaque Rubio, Sabrina Castillo, Kimberly Hagins, Courtney Pollard, Canaan Eubanks, Joe Iglehart and Kodee Simpson. (Bottom picture) Back row from left, Logan Perry, Bresharre Davis, Chase Toland, Orlando Murillo, Danny Rodriguez, Ector Gonzales, Joe Hernandez. Front row from left, Ajay Garcia, Dakota Frazier, Joseph Hernandez, Cade Towery, Ivana Valadez, Zachary Harris, Miranda Benitez and Katie Perales. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Years late, billions over budget, Boston's Big Dig opens to traffic

BOSTON (AP) — The hulking elevated Central Artery highway that has marred the city's landscape for more than four decades carried its last car Saturday as it was replaced — five years late and billions over budget — by a tunnel routing Interstate 93 under downtown Boston.

In a simple morning ceremony, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority chairman Matthew Amorello cut a ribbon to open a two-mile stretch of highway that allows traffic to soar over the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge and then sweep through four southbound lanes of underground Interstate 93.

"This changes the face of Boston forever," Menino said.

The first motorist to travel the new stretch of highway was Elaine Cronin, returning home to Boston after visiting a sister in Woburn. She was met on the bridge by Menino and Amorello and given a Big Dig baseball cap and map of the project autographed by the two men.

"It's part of history," Cronin said. "I live in the West End and I've watched this being built."

Moments earlier, officials had greeted Anne and Nick Najjar of Stoneham in the last vehicle to drive across the crumbling Central Artery.

The elevated road was hailed as a "highway in the sky" when it opened in 1959 but it became clogged by more than double the number of cars it was designed to carry.

Its matte green paint prompted Menino to call it Boston's "other Green Monster." The original Green Monster is Fenway Park's left field wall.

The opening of the new southbound lanes of I-93, expected to handle about 91,000 cars per day, was the last major milestone of the $14.6 billion Big Dig, officially known as the Central Artery/Tunnel Project.

"This is the beginning of the end," said Big Dig project director Michael Lewis, who has spent 12 years on the project.

There is still about $1 billion to be spent and 18 months of work to be completed, including the dismantling of the elevated highway, Lewis said. The 30 acres of downtown land to be opened up by the demolition is already being called the Rose Kennedy Greenway, after the mother of President Kennedy and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Saturday's event was the third major opening for the project this year. A tunnel connecting Interstate 90 to Logan International Airport was opened in January, and the I-93 northbound lanes opened to traffic in March.

"The sooner we finish, the sooner the project stops costing money," Amorello said.

Since planning started, the cost estimate for the project has ballooned from $2.6 billion to $14.6 billion. It was supposed to have been completed five years ago.

Officials had planned to celebrate the opening of the tunnel with an underground concert by the Boston Pops. That was scrapped after critics, including Gov. Mitt Romney, said the event would be too flamboyant and demeaning to taxpayers.

The project never would have won the support of federal or state officials — or the public — if the true cost had been known in advance, said David Luberoff, co-author of "Mega-Projects," which looks at the politics of projects like the Big Dig.

"I don't think people lied, but there are incredible incentives to be at the low end of the estimate," he said.

House Speaker Thomas Finneran, speaking at a recent meeting of newspaper publishers, was more blunt.

"You'd be much, much better off saying up front, factually, 'Hey, it's going to take umpteen years likely and umpteen billions dollars' rather than sell it as a kind of smoke and mirrors thing about 'Oh, it's two billion and a couple of years work,'" Finneran said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Cortisone allergy is unusual

Cortisone allergy is unusual

DEAR DR. GOTT: I appear to be allergic to cortisone. I've been given this medicine for allergies and developed headaches at the base of my skull. Following a cortisone shot for a sinus infection, my face turned red and my ears burned. One physician diagnosed me with asthma, which I don't have, and insisted that I use a steroid inhaler that gave me chest pains. Is there any documentation of people being allergic to cortisone or am I unique?

DEAR READER: An allergy to cortisone, although not impossible, is certainly rare, because all of us manufacture cortisone in our adrenal glands; also, the drug is universally used to block allergic reactions.

From your brief description, I cannot conclude that you are allergic to cortisone. Perhaps you are having adverse reactions to the vehicle in which the drug is marketed — for example, the preservative in liquid cortisone or the stabilizer in the inhaled product.

The use of steroid injections for a sinus infection is not standard therapy; antibiotics are preferable. Perhaps you misunderstood your physician, who may have diagnosed an acute allergic reaction as a cause of your sinus congestion. Moreover, allergies of various sorts can cause headaches. Finally, chest discomfort often accompanies asthma, which may have an allergic basis in some individuals.

Because the nature of your allergies and your presumed reaction to cortisone remain a mystery, I urge you to see an allergist, who will test you to discover the cause(s) of your symptoms. Then, based on that definitive information, you will finally be able to deal effectively with the issues that concern you. You may be unique, but let's find out in what ways!

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My son, in his early 40s, is gradually losing the use of his arms and legs because of progressive weakness. Tests for Lyme disease and multiple sclerosis have come back negative. His doctors are unable to slow down or stop this disorder. Where can we turn?

DEAR READER: Your son appears to have a neurological affliction that defies diagnosis. In such an instance, an examination and testing should be performed by super-specialized neurologists.

Ask his doctor to refer him to a university hospital or teaching center. In such a setting, specialists are particularly trained to diagnose puzzling ailments and should be able to clarify and treat your son's progressive weakness.

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.

Copyright 2003, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Agencies lack tools to track problem nurses

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A nurse suspected of killing patients in two states was able to keep his license, even after he was fired from several jobs, because hospitals, prosecutors and state regulators didn't share information.

Charles Cullen told authorities this month that he gave lethal injections to 30 to 40 critically ill patients during his 16-year career in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

His public defender, Johnnie Mask, has since said Cullen — charged with one count of murder and one count of attempted murder in New Jersey — would not cooperate unless prosecutors guaranteed they would not seek the death penalty. Prosecutors haven't said what punishment they intend to seek.

Cullen, who told authorities he gave the fatal overdoses of heart medication to put seriously ill patients out of their misery, had a history of work troubles.

He had been fired from two of the four New Jersey hospitals where he worked before moving to Pennsylvania in the late 1990s. At a third, he was one of several nurses questioned in the suspicious death of a 91-year-old patient.

In Pennsylvania, Cullen was fired from a nursing home for allegedly medicating patients at unscheduled times. A co-worker accused him in a lawsuit of giving a patient a dangerous, unprescribed shot of insulin.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North 12-22-03 ♠ A J 3 ♥ K 4 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ A Q 10 8 2	
West ♠ Q 7 4 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ J ♣ K J 9 7 6 4		**East** ♠ 5 ♥ J 9 8 7 2 ♦ K 7 6 5 3 2 ♣ 3
	South ♠ K 10 9 8 6 2 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ Q 9 8 ♣ 5	

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
	3 ♣	3 NT	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ J

Monday, Dec. 22, 2003

Wild men sometimes lose

By Phillip Alder

These days, it is almost de rigueur to pre-empt with 13 cards and some length in a suit. Also, successful crazy leaps receive lots of publicity in bridge columns and articles. But no one mentions the pre-empts that backfire, telling declarers how to make their contracts — until now.

Look at the North-South hands. You are in six spades after West opened three clubs. West leads the diamond jack. Reading this as a singleton, you win with dummy's ace and draw two rounds of trumps, but East discards a diamond on the second spade. How would you continue?

This deal was sent to me by Mel Hochster, from Ann Arbor, Mich. It occurred during a friendly lunchtime rubber-bridge game.

West is a modern bidder, needing only a six-card suit to open at the three-level. North wished he could have made a penalty double, but settled for the practical three no-trump. South took an optimistic shot at slam.

With a spade loser, you must collect these 12 tricks: five spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. But to get those club tricks, you need an endplay. At trick four, finesse dummy's club 10. When East follows, you can be confident that West started with 3-3-1-6 distribution. Continue by cashing your three heart tricks, then exit with a spade. West, after winning with his queen, must lead a club. This allows you to win with dummy's queen and cash the ace, discarding your two diamond losers.

Now to come clean. West is probably still making wild pre-empts because South missed this line and went one down. Gnash!

Copyright 2003, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Homemade Gourmet
"Bringing Families Back to the Dinner Table"
To schedule a home show, order mixes or find out about the business opportunity,
contact: Michelle McMillan
Independent Distributor
(325) 574-1776 / whatscookintonight@yahoo.com

Present This Coupon at
Classic Interiors
for
Storewide Holiday Sale
Monday & Tuesday
35% Off Storewide (including retired Snow Village)
50% Off Christmas
(Excludes Bridal Selections, Arthur Court Pewter, Old World Christmas and selected items)
No charges on sale items please. Small charge for gift wrap on sale items.
Classic Interiors
2520 Ave R 573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri., 10:00-5:00, Sat. 10:00 - 4:00

L&L Antiques & Ceramics
"ON THE SQUARE"
FEATURING
Antiques & Collectibles including Nippon & Fenton
Large Selection of Older Barbie Dolls (NFRB)
OFFERING
Glassware, Bisque, Painting Supplies
~Classes in Ceramics~
Hand painted ceramic crosses, plates and many other unique pieces
(Will take orders for personalized items)
LARGE SELECTION OF DREAMER CANDLES
L&L Antiques & Ceramics
2526 Ave. R (former Thompson Shoe Store Bldg.)
Downtown Snyder across from Courthouse
Open Daily 10-6
thru Christmas Eve
Open This Sunday

GIVE THE GIFT TO AMAZE
The most important part of the holiday season is giving, and we've got the perfect present for you. Give the most amazing gift of all this holiday season. Give the Gift to Amaze.
2 Month Membership $99*
www.curvesinternational.com
Curves
The power to amaze yourself.™
325-573-3131 • 4107 College Avenue Snyder, Texas 79549
*New members only.

First Baptist Church would like to invite you and your family to our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 pm
"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11
Bible Study ~ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship
8:15, 10:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday ~ 6:00 p.m.
1701 27th Street
325-573-2631
fbcsny@snydertex.com
Mike Henson, Sr. Pastor

DEC 22 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Terror attacks possible during holidays

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Department of Homeland Security today urged people to "just go about your business" despite the decision to raise the national terror-attack warning to its second-highest level.

"I think it's very, very important to send a message to the terrorists of goodwill and resolve," said Tom Ridge, making the rounds of nationally broadcast morning news shows. He said the Bush administration wants people to "be vigilant and have a good communications plan under way."

Ridge's comments came a day after he announced that the government was elevating the national terror alert warning to "Code Orange." The upgrade from "Code Yellow," or "elevated" status, followed warnings that the terrorist organization al-Qaida may be plotting attacks against the United States during the holidays. The new designation indicates a high risk.

"The information we have indicates that extremists abroad are anticipating near-term attacks that they believe will either rival or exceed" the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Ridge had said in announcing the upgraded alert status on Sunday.

Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," Ridge was asked if the host of warnings and changes in warning status over the past two years had made the public somewhat nonchalant about such alerts.

He replied that it has been six months since the terror alert was changed, saying "I don't think we've got to worry about threat fatigue. We need to be on the alert and America needs to know that those who need to do things are doing them, that their government is working 24-7 to protect them against terrorist attack."

Some of the intelligence information gathered indicates that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, al-Qaida, is seeking again to use planes as weapons, he said.

Defense rests case in sentencing phase of Lee Boyd Malvo's trial

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — The defense rested its case today in the sentencing phase of teenage sniper Lee Boyd Malvo's trial after Malvo's father described his son's early wish to become a pilot.

Leslie Malvo testified for less than 15 minutes and over the objections of prosecutors, who unsuccessfully sought to bar all of Leslie Malvo's testimony.

After his testimony, defense and prosecutors started conferring with the judge on the instructions that would be given to jurors before they begin deliberating on whether to recommend the death penalty or life in prison.

Malvo was found guilty Thursday of killing FBI analyst Linda Franklin on Oct. 14, 2002, during the three-week series of sniper attacks in the Washington area in which 10 people were killed and three others were wounded.

During the guilt phase, Malvo's lawyers mounted an insanity defense, claiming indoctrination by John Allen Muhammad had left Malvo incapable of telling right from wrong.

A jury in Virginia Beach last month recommended the death penalty for Muhammad, 42, after convicting him of capital murder.

Leslie Malvo lived with his son in Jamaica until Lee Malvo turned 5, when the boy's mother, Una James, moved away and took Lee with her. The father and son saw each other only a few times after that.

From the age of 3, Lee Malvo wanted to be a pilot, Leslie Malvo said.

"The two of us would watch the planes coming down," he said. "Lee loved it very much."

Prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. said Leslie Malvo's testimony should not be allowed because he also testified in the trial's guilt phase and had little to offer.

"He sat on the witness stand and sobbed and cried for 20 minutes about the precious son he hadn't seen in 10 years," Horan said.

Five people arrested in Snyder

• Arrests

Law enforcement officers arrested a 21-year-old man at the adult probation office on a capias warrant for probation violation Friday morning.

A 29-year-old man was taken into custody on Hwy. 84, one mile north of FM 1611 at 7:46 p.m. Friday for possession of a controlled substance.

State troopers arrested a 28-year-old man on Hwy 84 at 10:14 p.m. Saturday for driving while license suspended.

A woman was taken into custody at 10:01 p.m. Sunday in the 1000 block of 37th and charged with driving while intoxicated.

A caller reporting a disturbance in the 200 block of 36th Street at 10:58 p.m. Sunday resulted in the arrest of one individual. A 30-year-old man was taken into custody and charged with public intoxication.

• Burglary

Officers responded to a reported burglary at 4400 Ave. U #6B2 at 12:02 p.m. on Sunday. A number of DVD movies were reported stolen.

• Assault

A family violence assault was reported Friday afternoon at a county residence. A report for family violence was made.

• Minor accident

A minor accident was reported at 5:11 p.m. Friday in the United Supermarket parking lot. The mishap involved a 1997 Chevrolet driven by Elena Alvarez Chaidez, 34 of 101 Birch and a 1999 Ford pickup driven by Charles Scott Williams, 29 of 3003 40th. No injuries were reported.

• Disturbance

A clerk at Allsup's, 3911 College Ave., reported a disturbance between an employee and another individual in the parking lot at 1:24 a.m. Saturday. The subjects were involved in a verbal altercation only.

Births

Loren Ray Simanton was born to Bannar and Nichole Simanton at 5:23 p.m. on Dec. 19 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Loren weighed seven pounds, eight ounces.

His grandparents are Barb Simanton of Burnsville, Minn., and Connie and Loren Delaware of Edgewood, N.M.

Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers in Iraq today

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. military convoy today, killing two American soldiers and an Iraqi translator, the military said. U.S. troops overnight arrested a former Iraqi intelligence officer suspected of directing anti-American attacks and raided a Baghdad mosque.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator of Iraq, told NBC's "Today" show that "there's been a suggestion of high terror threats" in Iraq in the last weeks unrelated to Saddam Hussein's capture on Dec. 13.

Two other soldiers from the 1st Armored Division were wounded in the attack at about 11:45 a.m. in Baghdad. The soldiers' names were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Three American soldiers have now been killed in combat in the past week, raising the toll to 317 soldiers killed in combat since military operations began in March.

Also today, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski paid an unannounced visit to the headquarters of Polish-led peacekeepers in Iraq, the PAP news agency reported.

Kwasniewski, accompanied by Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski and presidential defense aide Marek Siwiec, landed at the Camp Babylon Base on today afternoon, the Polish news agency said.

On Sunday night, U.S. troops detained ex-army Gen. Mumtaz al-Taji at a house in Baqouba, about 30 miles north of Baghdad.

"Tonight, we were on a mission to capture a former Iraqi intelligence service general who we believe is recruiting former military members of the Iraqi army to conduct attacks against U.S. forces," Maj. Paul Owen of the 588th Engineer Battalion told Associated Press Television News.

"He runs a very active cell in our sector, and hopefully, what we have done tonight is to stall some of his efforts," Owen said.

More than 30 soldiers took part in the raid, in which a rifle, pistol and ammunition were seized.

Al-Taji is not on the U.S. list of the 55 most wanted Iraqis. Thirteen fugitives from that list remain at large.

Burglary at McDonald's investigated

A burglary was reported at McDonald's restaurant, 3414 College Ave. early Sunday morning. Employees arrived at the restaurant to find that the safe had been opened and a bank deposit along with an undisclosed amount of money had been taken.

The burglary is under investigation by the Snyder Police Department.

Today's Weather

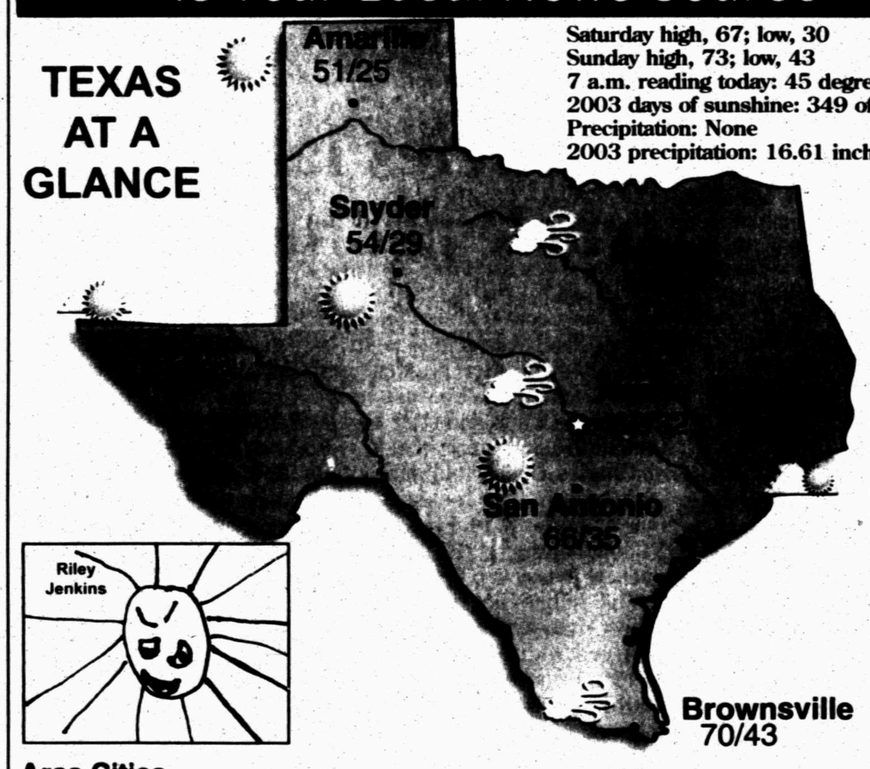
Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25
54/29	**57/34**	**62/38**
Mainly sunny. High 54F. Winds NNW at 10 to 20 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Fair. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:43 AM, Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM, Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:44 AM, Sunset 5:44 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS
Is Your Local News Source

TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Saturday high, 67; low, 30
Sunday high, 73; low, 43
7 a.m. reading today: 45 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 349 of 355
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	55	32	windy	El Paso	56	32	mst sunny	Midland	55	30	sunny
Amarillo	51	25	sunny	Fort Stockton	56	33	sunny	Raymondville	69	40	windy
Austin	62	32	windy	Gainesville	54	29	windy	Rosenberg	62	35	pt sunny
Beaumont	62	36	pt sunny	Greenville	55	30	windy	San Antonio	66	35	sunny
Brownsville	70	43	windy	Houston	62	35	pt sunny	San Marcos	63	32	windy
Brownwood	59	30	windy	Kingsville	69	40	windy	Sulphur Springs	56	31	windy
Corpus Christi	67	40	windy	Livingston	59	31	pt sunny	Sweetwater	55	32	sunny
Corsicana	58	33	windy	Longview	57	31	pt sunny	Tyler	56	31	windy
Dallas	56	34	windy	Lubbock	54	26	sunny	Weatherford	56	29	windy
Del Rio	64	36	sunny	Lufkin	59	32	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	56	27	windy

National Cities

Atlanta	61	42	cloudy	Houston	62	35	pt sunny	Phoenix	70	50	pt sunny
Boston	49	40	cloudy	Los Angeles	67	50	pt sunny	San Francisco	56	52	rain
Chicago	35	25	pt sunny	Miami	77	66	pt sunny	Seattle	51	44	rain
Dallas	56	34	windy	Minneapolis	24	10	pt sunny	St. Louis	39	26	mixed
Denver	46	24	sunny	New York	53	45	cloudy	Washington, DC	56	48	cloudy

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25
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

©2003 American Profile Hometown Content Service

Obituaries

Freida Dever

1932-2003

Freida Dever, a native of Scurry County, died Saturday, Dec. 20, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Dever, 70, is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday in the 37th Street Church of Christ with Dale Huff, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Freida Dever

Born Dec. 22, 1932 in Snyder, she married E.H. "Dan" Dever Jr. on Oct. 6, 1953 in Snyder. He died Sept. 23, 2003.

Mrs. Dever had lived in Snyder most of her life, excluding the years she traveled with her husband in the military. A homemaker, she was a member of the Home Demonstration Club and the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include three daughters, Sharon Wemken of Snyder, Kathy Kelley of Ranger and Terri Williams of Snyder; two sons, Henry Dever of Andrews and Jerry Dever of Temple; two nephews, Jack Lambert of Amarillo and Donald Ray Rhoades of Abilene; a niece, Pam Sue Hataway of Austin; 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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

Friends are contributing to the Sonshine School Fund at the 37th Street Church of Christ; American Diabetes Association, Box 2680 in North Canton, Ohio, 44720; or to the Hermleigh First Baptist Church Youth Camp Scholarship Fund.

Junior Camp

1926-2003

COLORADO CITY — Junior Camp, 77, died Saturday, Dec. 20, in Mitchell County Hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Camp was set for 10:30 a.m. today in the 22nd and Austin Church of Christ with Royce Clay officiating. Burial was to follow at 3 p.m. in the Rule Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Born July 10, 1926 in Lipan, he married Sallie Oliphant on Jan. 14, 1946 in Abilene.

A resident of Mitchell County since 1958, Mr. Camp retired as office manager and safety engineer for Dowell after 24 years. He was a member of the 22nd and Austin Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Clinton and Mary Delaney Camp; a sister, Odessa Hatfield; a brother, Donald Camp; and a son-in-law, Robert Whitney.

Survivors include his wife, Sallie Camp of Colorado City; a son, Donnie Camp of Colorado City; two daughters, Becky Whitney of Marlow, Okla., and Tonia Apperson and husband Mike of Murphy, Texas; eight grandchildren, Yvette Haynes, Dondi Camp, Cade Camp, Kelly Goswick, Shannon Young, Rebecca Blevins, Justin Apperson and Jarred Apperson; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Comfort Keepers
325-573-9999
Matt & Becky Cross, owners
www.comfortkeepers.com
Non-Medical, In-Home Care
• In-home Companionship
• Meal Preparation
• Grocery shopping
• Transportation
• Light Housekeeping & more
Screened, Bonded & Insured

WCFH
Independently Owned & Operated
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th St.
Snyder, Texas
325-573-6200