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WT-Int. Crude - $31.85
WTIC Posted - $28.50
Natural Gas - $4.585

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

Jan. 3, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 212
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Susan Scott

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Wade Warren



Those of us who make our living directly or indirectly from the oilfields might want to be in Midland in April to pay homage to the person who discovered the Diamond M field here in 1949.

The late Francis Henry "Mac" McGuigan will be honored on April 3 along with four other pioneering West Texas oilmen, Todd Aaron, Ben Alexander, Tom Brown and the late Joe Roper.

The five will be inducted into the Petroleum Museum's Hall of Fame.

McGuigan was district geologist for Lion Oil Company when he discovered the giant oil field that has produced over 220 million barrels of oil.

McGuigan grew up in the business, having landed his first job in the oilfields with Roxana Oil Co. in Tulsa while still in high school. After graduating from Oklahoma University, he worked for Shell Oil Co. in San Angelo, Midland and Houston. In 1937, he went to work for Lion Oil and had assignments in Kentucky and Arkansas before being transferred to Midland in 1941.

Years before he discovered oil in Scurry County, McGuigan's company – at his urging – purchased an oil and gas lease covering the Diamond-M Ranch.

The feeling at the time was that Scurry County was "dry hole country".

However, McGuigan had detected the presence of a large limestone reef of Pennsylvania age that he thought contained a major oil accumulation.

How right he was.

And what made his finding unique was that no fields of that type had ever been found near Scurry County.

McGuigan's company finally agreed to have a gravimetric survey done along with a limited seismic survey made of the ranch.

On Jan. 6, 1949, the No. 2 J.T. McLaughlin discovery well was completed.

The company eventually produced more than 40 million barrels of oil from 143 wells.

Eventually, McGuigan left Lion Oil for a position as independent operator and executor of the P.D. Moore estate.

McGuigan died in 1996.

Those of you who receive paychecks and benefits from oil field service companies might want to salute Ben Alexander at the induction.

Alexander started his business career in family-owned grocery stores in New Mexico in the communities of Eunice, Hobbs and Jal, and later expanding into Seminole.

He got into the oil business in 1952 when he founded DA&S Oil Well Servicing with only two rigs.

When he retired in 1986, it was the largest independent well servicing company in the area.

Alexander's company was among the first to offer insurance, savings plans and retirement to oilfield hands.

Starting Jan. 14...

Budget takes top billing in legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — When the Legislature meets, arguments about education, abortion or the death penalty often grab headlines, but it's the budget that really comes first.

By state law, the budget is the only bill that must be passed.

"The rest," former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby once said, "is just poetry."

There's nothing poetic about the budget. But what it lacks in style, it makes up for in importance and size — $114 billion over two years.

Lawmakers arriving for the legislative session that begins Jan. 14 will confront a budget shortfall of $5 billion, maybe more. How the Legislature deals with that shortage will mean something to every one of Texas' 21 million people.

Legislators will be asked to write a 2004-05 state budget while finding ways to cover more needs with less money for roads, schools, prisons, police, health care, courts and more.

For Sherri Simmons, a 39-year-old single mother of three from Houston, the budget means money for medical treatments that help her asthmatic children breathe.

"I work hard. I try to do what I need to do, and it's not my intent to bleed the system," said Simmons, who works part time while attending graduate school. "It's just to have the freedom to do things for my children so they can eat; to have the same opportunities that other children have."

Simmons' boys, ages 4, 5 and 17, are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program, the federal-state program for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but can't afford private coverage. She fears the money will be spent elsewhere.

CHIP is one of several programs that cost the state more than expected in the existing budget, creating the estimated $5 billion shortfall. Because the state constitution requires a balanced budget, lawmakers must use money that would be spent in the next budget to cover overruns in the current spending plan.

That means less money will be available for the new budget, leaving lawmakers with a choice between raising taxes or cutting programs.

Republicans will control the House and Senate — and the budget process — for the first time in 130 years. Many candidates promised no new taxes, leading many to believe deep spending cuts are coming.

Republican leaders promise to rein in spending and use taxpayer money wisely.

"This problem is not a revenue shortfall," said Rep. Carl Isett, R-Lubbock.

Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Addison, says the new leaders will look to eliminate programs they believe are unnecessary. She offered no specifics, but asked for trust.

"Everybody just assumes that if you're going to make cuts they are going to be Draconian cuts in the services that are the most heartfelt," Shapiro said.

"We are not here to tell you that we're going to throw your grandmother out of the nursing home, for heaven's sake, but we're going to find a way to treat her in a more efficient, more effective way that's better for her as well."

As a state representative in 1987, Gov. Rick Perry was among a group of young legislators known as the "Pit Bulls" for their fierce budget cuts when money was tight.

Now, Perry is poised to take a larger role in crafting the state budget than past governors.

State law requires the governor to submit a budget proposal and vision for the state, but legislators have usually ignored those plans in favor of their own.

This session, the Republican Perry plans to work with the GOP's new legislative leaders to offer one budget proposal as a starting point.

"Why have three or four competing budgets if we can come together and agree what the baseline should be and then go from there?" Perry said.

Perry has already asked state agencies what cuts of 3 percent to 5 percent would do to their operations. It prompted some angry responses from department heads, who predicted consequences such as closing the Capitol to the public, removing phones from courts and eliminating services for abused children.

Texas cannot afford to cut social services that serve the needy, said Rep. Craig Eiland, a Galveston Democrat.

"I am a Christian, and I know this, if this was Judgment Day, and God came to Texas, and he judged us on the way that we treat our mentally retarded and mentally ill, disabled, blind, and elderly," Eiland said, "He would send us straight to hell."



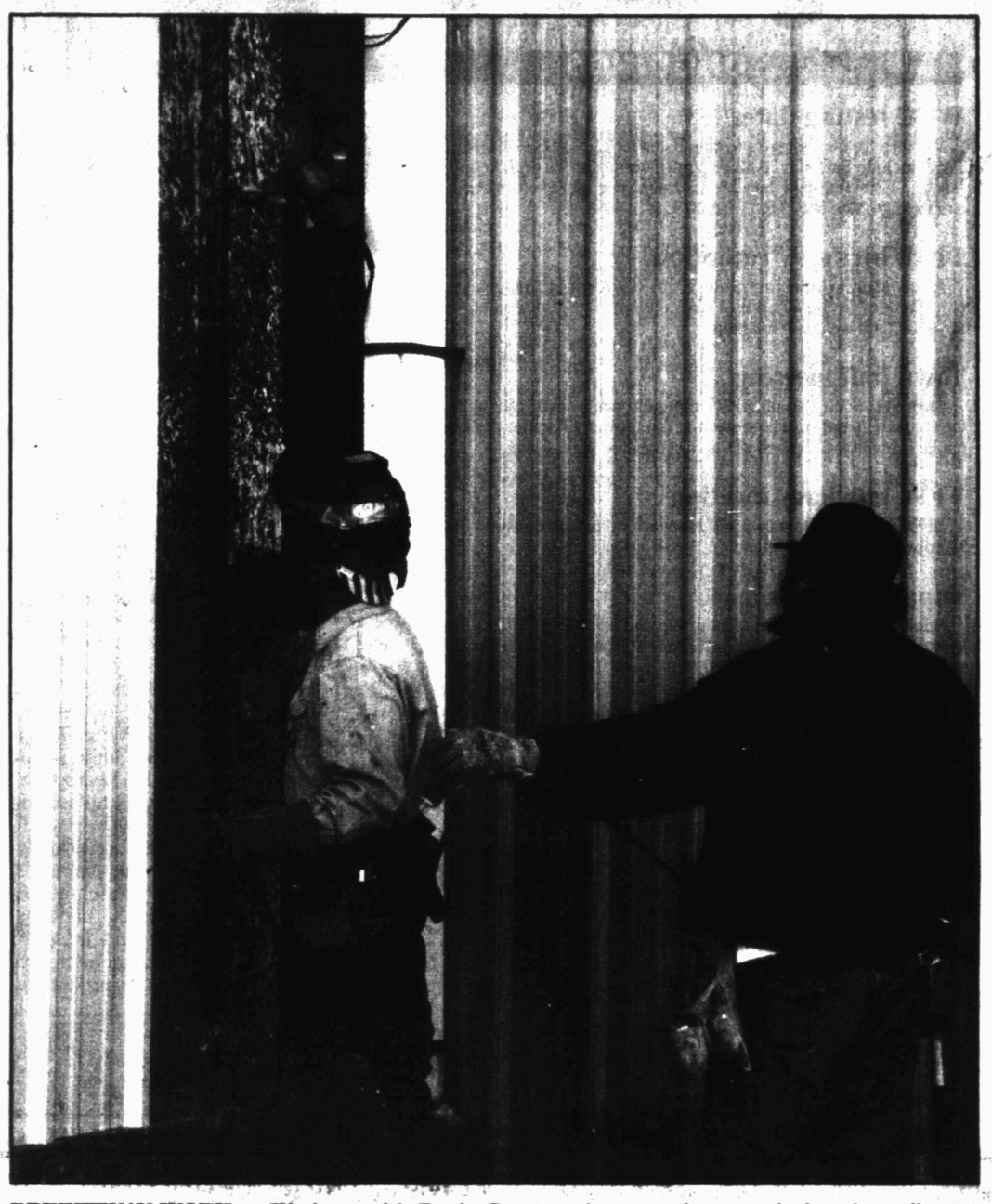
Scott Campbell

Campbell to visit on Monday

State representative-elect Scott Campbell will be in Snyder at 2 p.m. Monday at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce office.

Campbell will host a question-and-answer session for local residents.

Campbell will take office Jan. 14 in Austin.



BREEZEWAY WORK — Workers with Davis Construction were busy enclosing the coliseum breezeway to make the facility one large facility. Working from left are Ruben Silva, Paul Garcia and Felipe Garcia. Large doors will be included to allow access. (SDN Staff Photo)

Martin returns to Texas Savings Bank as president, CEO

Jeffrey Martin, a Scurry County native, will return to Texas Savings Bank on Monday as its new president.

Martin, who started his banking career at the former Snyder Savings and Loan in 1987, is replacing J. B. Tate Jr. who retired at the end of the year.



Jeffrey Martin

The action selecting Martin as president came in a board meeting of the bank Thursday, according to David Cotton, chairman of TSB's board of directors. Martin also will serve as one of the bank's directors.

"The board is excited to have Jeffrey leading the institution and look forward to a long relationship," Cotton said.

Martin, a 1982 graduate of Borden County High School, has been president of the Snyder branch of American State Bank in Snyder since January 1996.

American State Bank's Scott Wade, who was Martin's immediate supervisor, said he hated to see Martin leave ASB, but wished him well.

"Jeffrey Martin has been a big asset for American State Bank," said Wade. "He will be greatly missed within our organization.

"We wish Jeffrey the best of luck with his new endeavor," said Wade.

"Jeffrey and the Martin family are tremendous assets for the Snyder community," added Wade.

Wade said ASB would be seeking a replacement for Martin over the next couple of months.

Martin, a 1987 graduate of Texas Tech with a degree in agriculture economics, is active in a number of Snyder organizations including the Snyder Chamber of Commerce where he served as president in 1997 and is presently on its board of directors.

He serves as vice president of the Western Texas College Foundation Board, and as the treasurer of the Ritz Theatre organization.

He is a member of the Snyder Lions Club, the Snyder Gold Coats and the First Baptist Church.

His parents, Jeff and Sally Martin, live north of Snyder.

Three officers shot in San Antonio fight

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Three San Antonio police officers were wounded — two critically — after a man grabbed guns from two of the officers while they were trying to break up a fight at a Denny's restaurant, authorities said.

Police say one of the wounded officers later shot the man to death.

Two of the wounded officers were in critical condition and undergoing surgery at Brooke Army Medical Center. The other wounded officer was in stable condition at University Hospital with less serious injuries.

A fourth officer was punched in the face by the attacker and was also being treated at University Hospital.

None of the wounded officers nor the dead man were identified by police.

Officers were called to the restaurant in the northeast section of the city about 3:30 a.m. because of an altercation between two men, said Sgt. Gabe Trevino, a San Antonio police spokesman.

Trevino said the man who was shot by police was angry because his girlfriend had been in the restaurant earlier with the other man, who was not injured in the incident.

The woman, who was not identified, went to the boyfriend's home after he called on her cell phone.

"When she shows up there, he's got a shotgun and says, 'I'm going to shoot you. I'm going to kill you. Who were you with?'" Trevino said.

The couple drove back to the restaurant, and the other man was still there. When the altercation started, the woman told a worker at Denny's to call police .

ASK US

Q—Where else in Texas has Bill Parcells coached?

A—Up the road in Lubbock. He was Texas Tech's defensive coordinator for the 1975-77 seasons under head coach Steve Sloan.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Vanessa DePaz...

...is a lifelong resident of Snyder and has worked at Barbee Medical Supply for two years. The daughter of Manuel and Evelia DePaz and a 2000 graduate of Snyder High, Vanessa is now a student at Western Texas College and has aspirations of moving to a big city. She likes to watch OU football and recently began Yoga.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.
—New England saying

JAN 03 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP include Saturday at 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday at 9 a.m.,1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m.; and Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

100th birthday reception

A reception to celebrate Sadie Shifflett's 100th birthday is set from 1-3:30 p.m. Monday in the Church of God fellowship hall, located at Ave.0 and 21st Street. All are welcome to attend.

Town hall meeting

State Rep. Scott Campbell, R-San Angelo, will be in Snyder at 2 p.m. Monday for a question-and-answer session at the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited. Campbell will take office Jan. 14 in Austin.

VFW auxiliary meeting

VFW Post 8231 Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the post home. Members are urged to attend.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Overcoming Temptation by Understanding Temptation," followed by "Gambling is Evil."

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will resume Tuesday and will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S. L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Bass Club meeting

The Snyder Bass Club will hold its first monthly meeting of 2003 at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Kinder Morgan offices on U.S. 180.

FFA booster club

The Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the ag building. Officers will meet at 6:30.

Lions Club meetings

Snyder Lions Club meetings Tuesday and Jan. 14 will be held at Snyder Country Club while repairs are being made at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Trinity Bible study

A 10-week study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," begins Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church. Melissa Petty will lead the study and all women are invited to attend. To order a book or for more information call 573-3988.

Retired teachers meeting

Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon on Monday, Jan. 13, at The Shack. Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president, will be the guest speaker."

Benefit enchilada dinner

There will be a benefit enchilada dinner for liver transplant patient Carol Carrasco Garza from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19, at West Elementary Cafeteria. For advance tickets for a $5 donation, call Mickey Carrasco at 573-3343.

SHS booster club fund raiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

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.

Actor found dead in mansion

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A body found in a burning Hollywood Hills mansion on New Year's Day was identified as veteran film and TV character actor Royce Applegate, a co-star of the 1990s sci-fi series "SeaQuest DSV."

An autopsy was performed but a finding on the cause of death was deferred until the results of toxicology tests were known, coroner's spokesman David Campbell said.

Two firefighters injured in the blaze were in stable condition Thursday after undergoing surgery on their arms, hands and legs.

Applegate, 64, was found dead after flames swept through the three-story home atop the Hollywood Hills. The cause was under investigation, Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

A couple who lived on a lower floor of the house escaped without injury, Humphrey said.

Applegate's entertainment career spanned more than 30 years. He made guest appearances on various TV shows such as "Charlie's Angels," "Dallas" "Little House on the Prairie" and "Home Improvement."

He played Chief Manilow Crocker in the 1993-96 TV series "SeaQuest DSV," which followed a crew trying to keep underwater peace as mankind colonized the oceans. The series also starred Roy Scheider and Michael Ironside.



READ FOR 2003 — The Scholastic Book Club recently hosted READ for 2003. At noon on Dec. 6, classrooms all over the world were supposed to read for 2,003 seconds (about 33 minutes). Stanfield participated in this annual event. Students holding reading certificates include from left, Allison Downing, Nathan Burney and Nolan Duzan. (Contributed Photo)

State senator will prepare plans for South Texas water authority

HARLINGEN (AP) — Is a quasi-governmental corporation representing irrigators from Brownsville to Laredo the answer to water shortages threatening farms and cities within the next 50 years?

Proponents of the Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Authority say it is, and Sen. Eddie Lucio says as soon as he hears consensus on the details he'll draft the final bill.

Essentially, the authority would leverage the region's clout to secure financing for conservation projects, banking on the river. It would be governed by a nine-member board of directors comprising irrigators and municipal representatives, all appointed by the governor.

Farmers and irrigation managers initially balked at what appeared to be another layer of bureaucracy threatening their system of water and water drilling rights.

"It was a big misconception," Bill Summers of the Rio Grande Partnership said Thursday. "We don't want to control the river."

The water itself is already controlled by the binational International Boundary and Water Commission. The authority would be concerned with the pipes and pumps that deliver the water, as well as regional systems for solid waste and drainage.

Rather than or in addition to pursuing state or federal funding, the proposed authority would be able to issue revenue bonds to fund specific projects, such as replacing a resaca with underground piping.

The bonds would be paid with revenues attributed to the project, in this case, sale of the 30 percent to 40 percent of water no longer lost to evaporation.

By presenting a unified front for a region of 1.2 million people, Summers said, disappointments such as coming in third place for a state-funded desalinization pilot program would be avoided. The proposed entity will have no taxing authority and will develop its own credit rating based on the soundness of its bonds.

"The market takes care of the validity or viability of these bonds," said David Mendez, an attorney for the partnership. "You can't use taxpayer credit ... the investors that buy them know that they are only as good as the contracts that are being made by the authority."

Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa made creating the authority one of his top goals for the year, saying it would complement a smaller authority being activated Jan. 8, more than 50 years since it was created.

Still, those irrigators who might most benefit from the new borrowing power say they are skeptical, even disturbed at the apparent rush. Maverick and Jim Hogg counties already have pulled out of any deal, saying it would do nothing to help them.

"It just seemed all of a sudden," said Mary Lou Campbell, who is the Rio Grande Valley representative of the Sierra Club and is the environmental voice among Region M board members. "It was like all of a sudden someone got the idea and started to run with it."

Today's chuckle

Forgetful thief leaves wallet behind

LANTANA, Fla. (AP) — It didn't take long to crack this case.

Detectives say a forgetful thief left his wallet behind when he pulled a gas station stickup.



Authorities said Alfonso Valbuena, 22, opened his wallet and asked a gas station clerk for change. He then allegedly set his wallet on the counter and pulled a gun.

Valbuena robbed the store of about $200 and fled, deputies said. The clerk wasn't hurt.

When deputies arrived on the scene, they found the wallet still on the counter. They used several traffic citations inside to find the owner's car, along with Valbuena, in an apartment complex.

Deputies recovered the weapon used in the robbery and the money. He was being held in the county jail without bond on an armed robbery charge.

Environmentalists sue government over revised 'dolphin safe' labeling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Environmentalists have sued the federal government to prevent it from labeling tuna "dolphin safe" if fishermen encircled the dolphins to make the catch.

The Earth Island Institute and other groups filed a lawsuit in federal court late Tuesday, hours after the Commerce Department revised labeling standards.

The government said tuna that fishermen catch by encircling dolphins may immediately be imported into the United States and bear the dolphin-safe label if observers certify no dolphins were killed or seriously injured in the process.

Under the old definition, any tuna caught using dolphins as targets were automatically barred from bearing the consumer-friendly label on cans sold in the United States.

Dolphin commonly swim with schools of tuna. Various reports have said between 2,000 and 3,000 dolphins are killed annually in connection with tuna fishing in the eastern Pacific. Dolphin fatalities numbered in the hundreds of thousands decades ago, prompting new international efforts — and the emergence of the dolphin-safe label — to better protect the mammals.

Opening January 4th

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First new smallpox shots go to airmen

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Eight officers and six enlistees at Lackland Air Force Base have become the first people in San Antonio to be inoculated against smallpox since the Pentagon ended the practice more than a decade ago.

The vaccine was given to medical personnel at Lackland's Wilford Hall Medical Center. The 14 airmen, including one general, were selected after being screened for medical conditions that would disqualify them from getting vaccinated.

The Air Force didn't identify those taking the vaccine, citing Pentagon policy.

They'll now administer the vaccine to others, or in the case of an outbreak care for those infected with smallpox.

"If there was a case of smallpox identified, it would be assumed that this was a biowarfare or terrorist event," said Col. (Dr.) Larry Hagan, educational director for Wilford Hall's Department of Allergy and Immunology.

An undisclosed number of military installations have started vaccinating volunteers as a first step toward preparing for a terror attack involving smallpox.

Hagan said as many as 200 specialists and other personnel at Wilford Hall will be vaccinated when the Pentagon issues the order. Hagan said he expects that order to come soon.

A little more than 10 million public health workers in communities around the country also will be given the vaccinations under a plan recently unveiled by President Bush, who himself was vaccinated just before Christmas. The president has shown no adverse effects, a White House spokesman said.

Though the federal government is offering the vaccine to volunteer smallpox response teams, it's not recommending that residents get inoculations.

Provisions, however, are being made for those who want the vaccine. Civilian vaccinations won't begin until after Jan. 24, the date when the Homeland Security Act of 2002 takes effect.

Bill Pierce, a spokesman with the Department of Health and Human Services, said he believes that, so far, only the military has been given the vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will send about 40,000 doses of vaccine to the Texas Department of Health, which will distribute them to hospitals and public health departments.

Pentagon spokesman Jim Turner said more than 500,000 troops would receive the smallpox vaccine.

"Our program basically reflects in many ways the public health program, but for our designated personnel it is mandatory for certain people in the military who would be deploying to certain high-risk areas," he said.

Date Book

Friday, Jan. 3, 2003

Today is the third day of 2003 and the 14th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1959, Alaska became the 49th state of the Union.

On this day in 1969, a shipment of 30,000 John Lennon and Yoko Ono "Two Virgins" albums, which featured the couple posing nude on the cover, were confiscated by police in Newark, N.J., as a violation of the pornography statutes.

On this day in 1989, "The Arsenio Hall Show" made its television debut.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Lucretia Mott (1793-1880), antislavery leader and one of the founders of the women's rights movement; J.R.R. Tolkein (1892-1973), writer; Marion Davies (1897-1961), actress; Joseph Rauh (1911-1992), civil rights leader.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1983, Dallas Cowboy running back Tony Dorsett became the only player in NFL history to run 99 yards for a touchdown.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Not all who wander are lost." — J.R.R. Tolkein

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Jan. 2) and first quarter (Jan. 10).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Thursday's Lottery Numbers
Pick 3
(Day) 1-8-7
(Night) 6-0-1
Cash Five
9-10-13-20-33

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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New bill eyes retardation, capital murder

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge or jury would decide whether a capital murder defendant is mentally retarded before a trial even starts, under a bill filed late Thursday seeking to clarify Texas law under a U.S. Supreme Court ban on executing such inmates.

The court banned the execution of mentally retarded inmates in June and called the practice unconstitutionally cruel.

The bill filed by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, seeks to make mental retardation a pre-trial issue. A defendant found to be mentally retarded would be ineligible for the death penalty.

The bill also sets an IQ of 70 or less as a legal standard for retardation.

Current Texas law takes into account whether a defendant is competent to stand trial, including whether he can aid his own defense, and whether a defendant was insane or unable to distinguish right from wrong when the crime was committed. Plus, a jury can consider retardation as a mitigating circumstance during sentencing.

The Legislature in 2001 passed a bill to ban executing the mentally retarded. It was vetoed by Gov. Rick Perry, who said the state already has safeguards in place.

After the Supreme Court ruling Perry said Texas law satisfies the standards set by the Supreme Court.

Ellis was unavailable Thursday for comment but had previously warned he would file the bill.

"We can't allow anybody, even the Lone Star State, to try to subvert the rule of law from the Supreme Court," Ellis told The Associated Press in December.

"You could avoid people going through the mindless expense of having a capital trial if you know capital punishment is not an option," Ellis said.

The bill Perry vetoed in 2001 would have left the mental retardation question until after a conviction.

Ellis' bill would allow a defendant to request a hearing on his mental condition at any time before trial. The judge would determine whether there was evidence to support it.

The defendant could have either the judge or a jury hear the case. It would be the defendant's job to prove mental retardation when the crime was committed.

If the jury can't reach an unanimous verdict, it would be dismissed and another jury seated to take its place. If the defendant is found to not be mentally retarded, the case goes to trial with a different jury.

If not mentally retarded, the death penalty would still be an option. The criminal trial jury would not be allowed to know that a judge or jury had found the defendant not mentally retarded.

Perry's office did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

The mental retardation bill is SB163.

Environmentalists urge shift from diesel generators

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of Texas environmental groups on Thursday called on the state to tighten restrictions on the use of stationary diesel generators and pointed to a city of Austin fuel cell as an example of an alternative energy source.

Diesel generators commonly are used as back-up energy sources for buildings such as offices and hospitals in case of power outages. In a report released Thursday, Public Citizen and the Texas Public Interest Research Group said the generators could emit enough nitrogen oxide, a smog-forming chemical, to potentially derail the state's attempts to meet federal air-quality standards.

"Diesel generators are the forgotten smokestacks of electricity production," said Luke Metzger, advocate for the Texas Public Interest Research Group.

Representatives of the two groups gathered at the Rebekah Baines Johnson Health Center in Austin to present their report. The hospital is home to a diesel generator and a city of Austin fuel cell.

Larry Alford, manager of distributed generation for Austin Energy, said the fuel cell generates electricity by combining hydrogen fuel and oxygen from the air in an electrochemical process. The fuel cell's only byproducts are water and heat. Alford said he knows of three other such fuel cells in the state.

The fuel cell is clean but expensive. The Austin cell cost $1.2 million to install, which equals $6,000 per kilowatt, Alford said. By comparison, the diesel generators cost $250 to $300 per kilowatt to install, he said.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality does not track all diesel power generators in the state, according to the report that estimates there could be more than 33,000 units emitting four tons of nitrogen oxide each day. The report also cites cancer risks associated with diesel exhaust.

"What we're basically trying to communicate is (stationary diesel generators) are everywhere and they're very hazardous to human health, and we want to get them cleaned up through regulation and legislation," said Amanda Buehler, clean energy coordinator with Public Citizen's Texas office.

The groups called for the commission to limit the use of emergency back-up units to 100 hours a year, prohibit running the units for maintenance in the morning — the time when most smog forms — and require the use of low-sulfur fuels.

David Schanbacher, chief engineer for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, said the commission already has implemented the 100-hour limit and restricted maintenance to the mornings in the Houston-Galveston area. The generators are not required to use low-sulfur diesel, but federal and state agencies will implement that requirement in the next few years, he said.

While the commission does not have a complete tally of the number of diesel generators, it has required permits for buildings with new or modified generators since 2001.

Schanbacher said that the tighter restrictions that apply to Houston and Galveston are not being considered on a statewide basis now, but they could be in the future.

Commission spokesman Patrick Crimmins said the Dallas-Fort Worth area might be the logical next location for tighter restrictions.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-03-03
♠ Q 8 5
♥ A 6 2
♦ K 10
♣ A Q 9 5 4

West
♠ 6 3
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 10 7 6 3

East
♠ A K 10 4 2
♥ K Q 4
♦ J
♣ K J 8 2

South
♠ J 9 7
♥ J 9 7
♦ A Q 8 7 6 4 3
♣ —

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
		1 NT	Dbl.
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 6

Friday, Jan. 3, 2003

More from the imagination file

By Phillip Alder

First, look only at the South hand. Your partner opens one strong no-trump. Your right-hand opponent doubles for penalties. What would you do?

This is an interesting problem. You could pass, hoping partner can net seven tricks, and that East doesn't have either seven solid clubs, or six winning clubs and a major-suit ace. You might redouble, expressing even more confidence. Or you could run to some number of diamonds. The best call is not obvious.

Sitting South was Roman Smolski, a former British international, but here he was playing for Bermuda in last year's inaugural Commonwealth Championships. He jumped to three no-trump, which wouldn't even occur to most of us.

East, who thought he could defeat one no-trump, felt certain that he could down three no-trump — he doubled again.

If only Smolski had had the courage to pass, his partner would have had no trouble winning at least nine tricks. However, Smolski ran to the "safety" of four diamonds.

The defense began with two top spades and a spade ruff. Then West shifted to the misleading heart 10, declarer winning with dummy's ace and dropping his jack, the card he was known to hold.

Now came an avalanche of trumps, bringing everyone down to two cards. Looking at dummy's ace-queen of clubs and not guessing that declarer had abandoned them, East kept his king-jack. And West, who did not realize the importance of his heart eight, discarded two hearts. So, Smolski won the last two tricks with his nine and seven of hearts!

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Man gets visit from cops not an autograph

OREM, Utah (AP)— He could have had a nice meal and free ski-lift passes. But a man who tried to get autographed memorabilia for finding Robert Redford's lost credit card got a visit from the cops instead.

Police in Orem, a city close to Redford's home and his Sundance resort, say the man found the card Saturday near a convenience store and called the resort to report the find.

But after being offered free ski-lift passes and dinner for two if he would bring the card to the resort, the man reportedly insisted on some signed Redford memorabilia.

When a resort representative responded that Redford "does not do that kind of thing," the man said Redford wouldn't get his card back and hung up, Orem Police Lt. Doug Edwards said.

Police then called the man, who refused to give his address and told an officer that he threw Redford's card in a trash bin. Police traced the call and went to the man's apartment, where they recovered the card.

The man did not get the free ski passes, a free dinner or an autograph. But he also didn't get charged with a crime.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Family worries about divorced woman living happily alone

DEAR ABBY: I am 32 years old and have been divorced for about three years. My five-year marriage was a disaster. When my husband wasn't cheating, he was putting me down, telling me how fat and stupid I was, and that nobody liked me.

My life is 100 percent better now. I moved away and found a good job, and am once again at peace with myself. At the end of each workday, I enjoy going home, watching TV, turning in early — then getting up for work in the morning and doing it all over again. The problem is that my family is worried about me.

On weekends, I go home on Friday night and don't leave my apartment until Monday morning. I am content with my routine, but my family disapproves. I don't usually worry about what others think, but I know they love me and are genuinely concerned. What do you think, Abby? — **PEACEFUL IN ARIZONA**

DEAR PEACEFUL: That your family may have a point. There's an old saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and it also applies to men and women.

Before you completely cloister yourself in your routine, please make absolutely certain that you are not confusing an absence of pain and abuse with happiness. It is important to have a balance in life, and by that I mean there's far more satisfaction to be found than just work and television.

A step in the right direction would be to sign up for a lecture series, or volunteer one or two days a month at a hospital, library or shelter.

**

DEAR ABBY: We have a close family friend of nearly 40 years. I'll call her Becky. She is nearly 80 years old and has no living relatives. Becky considers us her "family," and the feeling is mutual.

The problem we've run into is that Becky still lives by herself and continues to drive — which she shouldn't be doing. She has had 10 wrecks that we know of in the past seven years. The most recent one totaled her car, and she promptly bought a new one. Becky has bad hips and legs, which has reduced her ability to walk or climb stairs. Also, last month there was a knock at her door late one night and she opened it without first looking through the peephole. Becky was robbed at gunpoint.

We have spoken with her several times over the past few years about moving into an assisted-living facility. However, Becky is one stubborn lady and doesn't think "those places" are for her. We disagree.

Becky depends on our family for everything, as though we are blood relatives. Since we're not, we cannot legally do anything to improve her situation. I speak for everyone in my family when I say we fear if Becky continues on the path she's on, she will not live much longer. Is there any advice you can offer on this sad situation, Abby? — **AFRAID FOR OUR FAMILY FRIEND IN DALLAS**

DEAR AFRAID: Only this. Although Becky seems to have financial resources, she appears to be slowing down mentally as well as physically. Her physician should be made aware of her condition, because it's possible she should be supervised by a geriatric specialist or social worker. She appears to be a very vulnerable senior.

**

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

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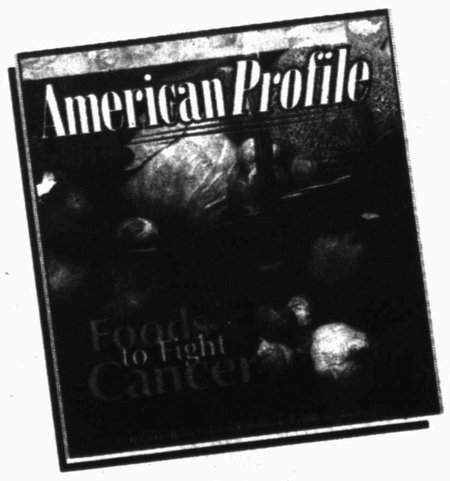
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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In Next Week's American Profile...

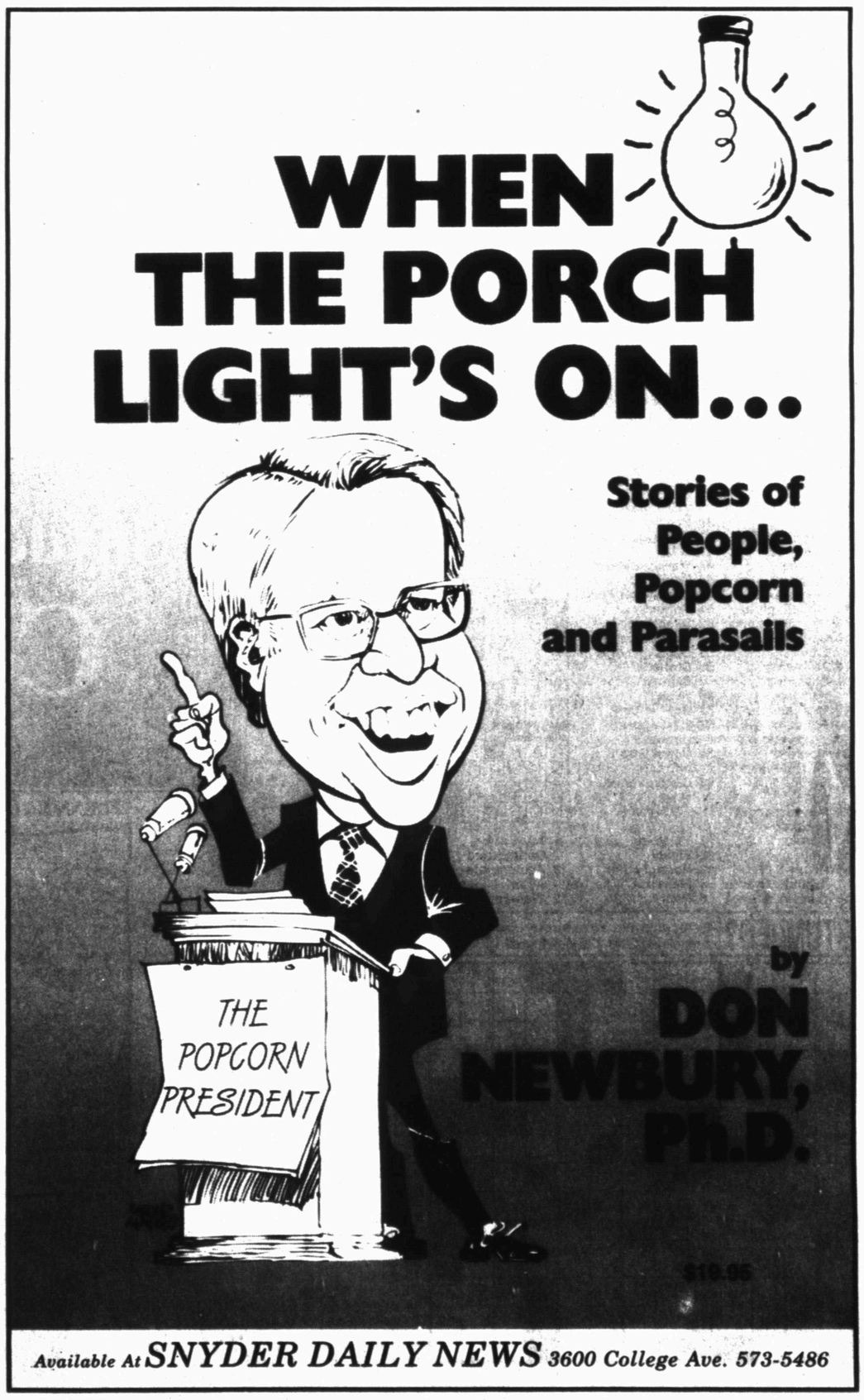
Eating right to fight cancer

How many times were you reminded as a child to eat your fruits and vergetables? Doctors now agree that many of those same foods can help your body fend off cancer.



In Addition...
- Eggplant casserole
- Make your own cleaning solutions

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Citrus drink
4 Deli order
7 Chatter
10 Varnish ingredient
11 Fibbed, plus
13 Play charades
14 Sable or ermine
15 Land unit
16 Zero-shaped
17 Signaling devices
19 High plateau
20 Poetic contraction
21 Mourns
23 Eggy dessert
26 Sarandon of films
28 Insult, slangily
29 Director — Brooks
30 Lieu
34 Ralph Kramden's wife
36 Dundee refusal
38 Veldt grazer
39 Nearby
41 Voice quality
42 Snarl
44 Workout place
46 Songbird
47 Conciliatory act
51 Robust
52 Successor to Claudius
53 Dog days mo.
55 Cornelia — Skinner
56 "Now!"
57 Bout ender
58 NYC opera house
59 Coast Guard off.
60 Clairvoyance

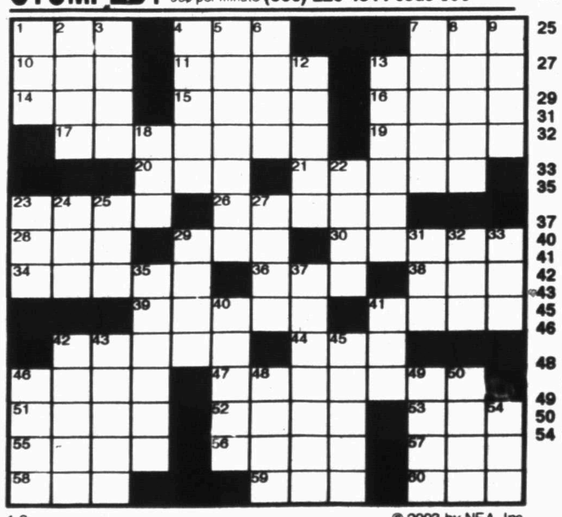
DOWN

1 TV alien
2 Smear
3 Neutral color
4 Flare up
5 Permit
6 Atlas abbr.
7 Contributed
8 Accumulate
9 Actor — Lugosi
12 Classroom fixtures
13 Jiffy
18 Meditation method
22 Alleviate
23 Pharm. watchdog
24 Like Capp's Abner
25 "Just — — thought!"
27 Humerus neighbor
29 Pet plea
31 Freud topic
32 Fay's role in "King Kong"
33 Expected
35 High-tech replicas
37 Loser (hyph.)
40 Plaid wearers
41 "— Te Ching"
42 Log holder
43 Kindled again
45 Conspires
46 Often-misused pronoun
48 Seeger or Sampras
49 Portal
50 Hearty laughs
54 Bush's org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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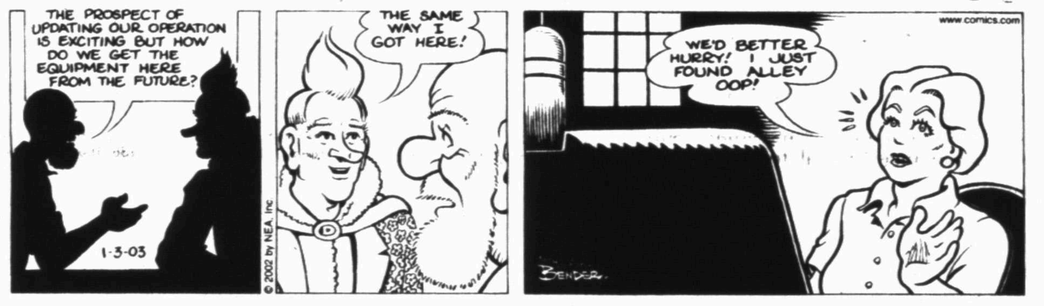
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"Where did you get these eggs?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

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"YOU GAVE DENNIS A DOLLAR TO LEAVE?"

"IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR MY SANITY."

SPORTS

Parcells promises: 'It won't be status quo'

IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells is the unyielding taskmaster and demanding coach. Jerry Jones is the meddling owner and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys.

They insist they can work — and succeed — together.

Parcells returned to the NFL on Thursday when he was introduced as the head coach of the Cowboys by Jones, who after three straight 5-11 seasons is willing to do anything he can to win again.

"We are both kind of at the same place, we both want to go to the same place," said the 61-year-old Parcells, a year older than Jones. "I'm hopeful that we can provide each other the mutual vehicle to get there."

The hiring came after more than a week of speculation and conflicting reports about a coach with a history of walking away from deals, and one who said more than once that he'd never coach again.

No matter how unlikely the pairing, the two men need each other.

Jones needed a proven coach who might be able to return the Cowboys to prominence. Dallas won the last of its five Super Bowls — three under Jones — in 1996 and hasn't had a winning record since 1998.

Parcells, who took the New York Giants, New England Patriots and New York Jets from losing records to the playoffs in two seasons, wanted a chance to coach again.

"I know the window of opportunity was definitely closing on me. This opportunity, this situation has a nice appeal to me," Parcells said.

Parcells, who got a four-year contract worth about $17.1 million, is the first Cowboys coach with prior experience as an NFL head coach.

Jones described Parcells as the "most qualified coach in our sport that you could draw up if you were drawing your own Rembrandt."

Parcells coached the last of his 15 NFL seasons for the Jets in 1999, and is 138-100-1 in regular-season games. He's 11-6 in the playoffs, with only four coaches having more postseason wins.

The Giants won their only two Super Bowls (1987 and 1991) under Parcells, who also took the Patriots to the championship game in 1997 and the Jets from a 1-15 record before he arrived to the AFC title game two years later.

Parcells said he agreed to a "partnership" with Jones and that he accepted that the owner would have the final say in many decisions — although neither gave exact details of how they will work together.

"There will be changes here, there's no doubt about that," Parcells said. "It won't be status quo."

But Jones said he already has given Parcells "prior approval" on any changes he wants to make with the coaching staff.

Parcells said only that the coaching staff would be "moderately reduced" from its current 15 assistants and that he planned to "talk to some of them, but probably not all."

That alone gives Parcells more authority than anyone since Jimmy Johnson, the first coach Jones hired after buying the team in 1989. Parcells also will be the first Dallas coach to make more than $1 million a season.

Jones is even willing to concede some of the power in personnel and roster decisions that he has been so heavily involved in under the three coaches since Johnson left after two Super Bowl victories.

"I've made a lot of mistakes, you know I have," Jones said. "I am not going to grow careless with this relationship."

After leaving the Jets, Parcells said he never wanted to coach again. He even wrote a book: "The Final Season: My Last Year as Head Coach in the NFL."

That was seven years after he took the New England job, saying that would be his "last coaching job, without question."

Still, he signed a contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers last year only to change his mind. He also backed out of an agreement with the Bucs in 1992, but isn't walking away from the Cowboys.

"This is a situation that just hit me. Once we started talking, we kept going forward and forward and forward," Parcells said.

Parcells replaced Dave Campo, fired Monday after being the first Dallas coach with three straight seasons of at least 10 losses. He also became the first coach to leave with a losing record, and the only one never to lead the Cowboys to the playoffs.

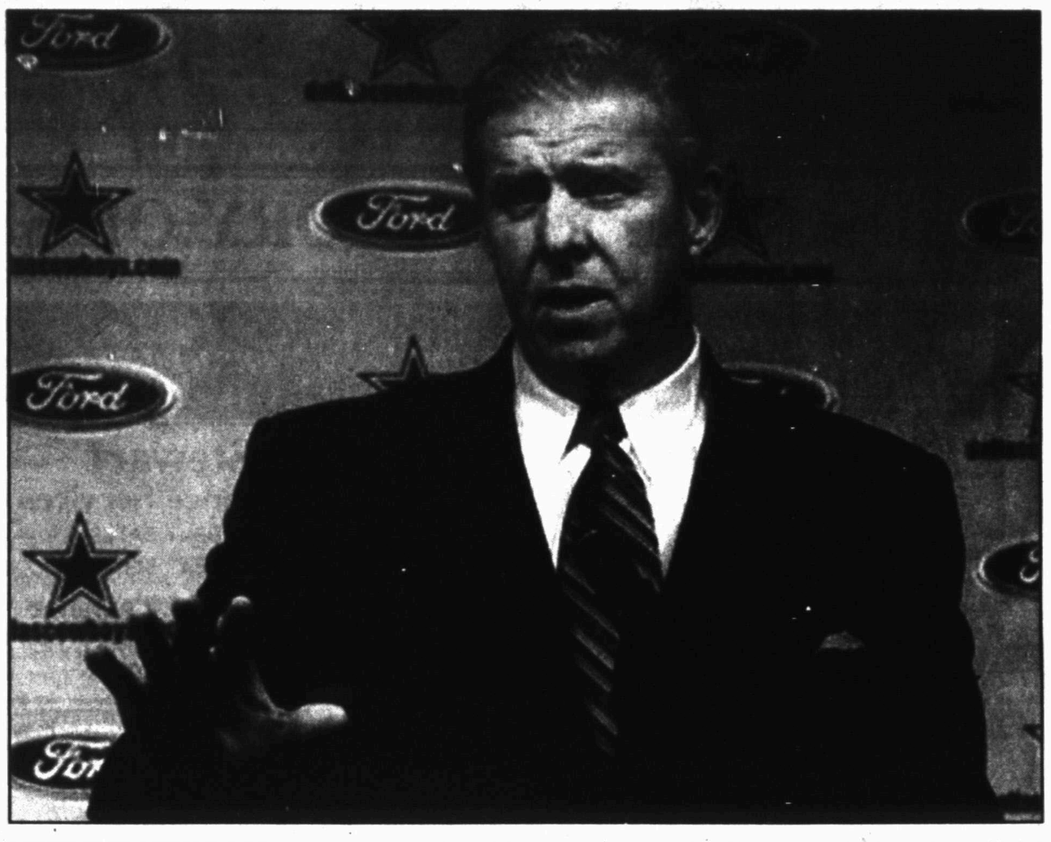
Bill Parcells coaching record

Regular Season

		W	L	T	Pct
1983	N.Y. Giants	3	12	1	.219
1984	N.Y. Giants	9	7	0	.563
1985	N.Y. Giants	10	6	0	.625
1986	N.Y. Giants	14	2	0	.875
1987	N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400
1988	N.Y. Giants	10	6	0	.625
1989	N.Y. Giants	12	4	0	.750
1990	N.Y. Giants	13	3	0	.813
1993	New England	5	11	0	.313
1994	New England	10	6	0	.625
1995	New England	6	10	0	.375
1996	New England	11	5	0	.688
1997	N.Y. Jets	9	7	0	.563
1998	N.Y. Jets	12	4	0	.750
1999	N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500
Totals		138	100	1	.579

Post-Season

		W	L	T	Pct
1984	N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500
1985	N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500
1986	N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000
1989	N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000
1990	N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000
1994	New England	0	1	0	.000
1996	New England	2	1	0	.667
1998	N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500
Totals		11	6	0	.647



MEET THE NEW BOSS — Bill Parcells addresses the media Thursday during the official announcement of his hiring. Parcells, the sixth coach in Dallas Cowboys history, is the focal point of sweeping changes taking place on America's Team. (AP Photo)

Miami's dynasty on the line

TEMPE (AP) — More than two years after Miami's last loss, the memory is still clearly implanted in Ken Dorsey's head.

One more win will help secure Dorsey's place as one of college football's greatest winning quarterbacks and prolong Miami's dynasty.

A loss will leave the Hurricanes one win shy of a historic repeat and give a bitter end to Dorsey's brilliant career.

"The worst feeling I have ever had is when I felt like I let my teammates down," Dorsey said about his only loss in 39 career starts, a 34-29 defeat at Washington on Sept. 9, 2000. "I don't want to repeat that feeling."

Much is at stake tonight when No. 1 Miami (12-0) takes on No. 2 Ohio State (13-0) in the Fiesta Bowl.

The Hurricanes put their 34-game winning streak on the line and try to join Nebraska as the only teams to repeat since 1978-79. A win would leave Miami 12 shy of Oklahoma's record 47-game streak from 1953-57.

The Buckeyes try to complete a perfect season and win their fourth national title. It would be their first national title in 34 years and just the second for the Big Ten in that span.

"There's no question it's going to be the greatest challenge we've faced all year," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said.

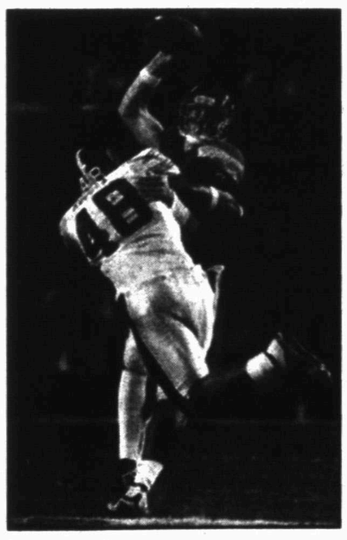
Unlike the past two seasons when there was much debate about who would play for the title, the Hurricanes and Buckeyes were the only unbeaten teams among 117 I-A schools.

This is the stage Miami players expect to play on when they sign up with the team. None of the Buckeyes have ever experienced anything like it.

"Our players are not overwhelmed by the magnitude of the game," Hurricanes coach Larry Coker said. "They're not overwhelmed by playing for a national championship."

Tressel said the only overwhelming part of Fiesta Bowl week was watching Miami on film.

Palmer, USC school Iowa



ORANGE CRUSH — USC's Carson Palmer avoids a sack by Iowa's Howard Hodges in the first half of the Orange Bowl, which USC dominated, 38-17. Palmer, who won the Heisman Trophy this season, was named the game's MVP. (AP Photo)

MIAMI (AP) — Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer played keepaway from Brad Banks, and Southern California looked right at home playing in the Orange Bowl for the first time.

Palmer dominated his duel with Heisman runner-up Banks, helping the No. 5 Trojans to a 16-minute advantage in time of possession as they beat third-ranked Iowa 38-17 Thursday night.

Palmer led scoring drives of 79, 80, 99, 85 and 61 yards, helping USC blow open a game that was 10-10 at halftime. He threw for 303 yards and a touchdown and was chosen the game's most valuable player.

Banks was limited to 204 yards passing and failed to lead Iowa's normally high-powered offense into the end zone until the final minute.

The Hawkeyes' biggest play came when C.J. Jones returned the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown.

Southern California (11-2) beat a top 25 team for the seventh time this season. USC won its final eight games and snapped a nine-game winning streak by Iowa (11-2).

The Trojans outscored UCLA, Notre Dame and Iowa 134-51 in their final three games, a finish that may be impressive enough to vault them to second in the final rankings behind the Fiesta Bowl winner. It would be USC's highest finish since 1979.

Palmer completed 21 of 31 passes, feasting on a defense that ranked last in the Big Ten against the pass. His 65-yard bomb to Kareem Kelly set up Southern Cal's first score, but mostly Palmer made short throws to keep drives alive.

Banks, a Florida native playing with dozens of relatives in the stands, went 15-for-36 and threw his first interception since Oct. 19.

Iowa's muscle was a concern for Southern California coming into the game, but instead the speedy Trojans wore down the Hawkeyes. USC mounted long touchdown drives on each of its first three possessions in the second half and totaled 363 yards in the second half.

The matchup was dubbed the Rose Bowl of the East because Pasadena is the more traditional postseason reward for both teams, but Southern California thrived in the unfamiliar setting.

Sports Briefs

District play begins tonight for Lady Tigers, Ira

The Snyder High School Lady Tigers open their district season tonight when they travel to Denver City to take on the Lady Mustangs at 6:30.

The Ira varsity boys and girls also kick off their 2003 district schedule tonight when they host Grady. The Lady Bulldogs will tip off at 6:30, with the boys getting underway at 8.

Hermleigh plays its second district tilt tonight when both varsity squads travel to Trent.

Baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet Monday night at 7 in the film room.

Maddox named comeback player of year

NEW YORK (AP) — Some good came out of the XFL, after all. Just ask the Pittsburgh Steelers, who found their quarterback and The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year: Tommy Maddox.

McNabb plans to play in playoffs

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb plans to play in the Philadelphia Eagles' first playoff game.

McNabb practiced for the first time since breaking his right ankle 1½ months ago. Reid said his star quarterback took all the reps with the first-team offense in a short practice closed to reporters.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
New Jersey	23	9	.719	—
Boston	19	12	.613	3½
Philadelphia	19	13	.594	4
Orlando	18	15	.545	5½
Washington	16	17	.485	7½
New York	11	17	.393	10
Miami	12	19	.387	10½
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	23	8	.742	—
Detroit	20	10	.667	2½
New Orleans	18	15	.545	6
Milwaukee	13	18	.419	10
Atlanta	12	19	.387	11
Chicago	11	22	.333	13
Toronto	8	24	.250	15½
Cleveland	6	27	.182	18
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Dallas	26	5	.839	—
San Antonio	19	13	.594	7½
Houston	17	13	.567	8½
Utah	17	13	.567	8½
Minnesota	17	14	.548	9
Memphis	9	22	.290	17
Denver	6	24	.200	19½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Sacramento	23	9	.719	—
Phoenix	20	12	.625	3
Portland	18	12	.600	4
Seattle	16	15	.516	6½
L.A. Lakers	13	19	.406	10
Golden State	12	18	.400	10
L.A. Clippers	12	20	.375	11

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Miami, 8 p.m.
Indiana at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Philadelphia at Dallas, 1:30 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games

New Orleans at Toronto, 3:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Portland at New York, 7 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
New Jersey	20	11	2	3	45	86	75
Philadelphia	18	10	8	1	45	86	78
Pittsburgh	15	15	3	5	38	109	115
N.Y. Islanders	16	16	5	0	37	98	106
N.Y. Rangers	15	20	5	1	36	99	129
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Ottawa	24	9	5	0	53	128	84
Boston	21	11	4	1	47	115	92
Toronto	19	14	4	1	43	111	93
Montreal	16	15	5	3	40	106	117
Buffalo	8	22	5	2	23	79	106
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Tampa Bay	17	14	5	3	42	114	111
Washington	18	16	3	2	41	103	109
Florida	12	11	9	7	40	92	111
Carolina	15	15	5	3	38	84	95
Atlanta	10	22	1	4	25	91	138
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Detroit	22	8	7	1	52	118	88
St. Louis	20	12	5	2	47	126	101
Chicago	19	13	6	0	44	90	83
Columbus	13	19	3	2	31	104	115
Nashville	10	18	6	4	30	79	106
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	23	11	5	0	51	124	99
Minnesota	21	11	7	1	50	106	90
Colorado	15	10	9	5	44	110	99
Edmonton	17	13	4	5	43	102	101
Calgary	12	18	6	3	33	82	106
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	21	10	9	1	52	122	80
Los Angeles	16	15	4	3	39	98	104
Anaheim	15	14	6	3	39	97	100
San Jose	15	16	4	3	37	104	115
Phoenix	14	16	6	3	37	100	117

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

Thursday's Games

Ottawa 8, Atlanta 1
Chicago 4, St. Louis 1
Florida 4, Colorado 1
Minnesota 2, Edmonton 1, OT
Calgary 4, Tampa Bay 1
Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 1
Vancouver 3, Montreal 2
Dallas 3, San Jose 1

Friday's Games

Carolina at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.

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Familiar with separation, families prepare for departure of sailors

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Navy spouse Heather Mauk has been through separations before, and each time is painful — but this time even more so, with newborn twins at home.

Mauk's husband, Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Mauk, is preparing to depart on the Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, for a possible war in Iraq, just two months after the birth of Cole and Kyle.

"I really wish this wasn't happening. We've done sea time before, but I've never done sea time with twins," Heather Mauk said, her eyes swelling with tears. "He may come home and they could be 1. They could be talking and saying I don't know who my father is."

As the hospital ship readies in Baltimore Harbor for duty at the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, the Navy met Thursday with family members at the National Naval Medical Center to help steel them for separation during the ship's still uncertain mission.

The 1,000-bed ship and a crew of 225 Navy personnel and 61 civilian medical staffers could set sail within a week, said Charles Blankenship, commanding officer of the ship's Medical Treatment Facility. More doctors would be flown in if there is war, he said.

Most of the medical crew will come from the Navy hospital at the Bethesda base.

Comfort is part of a broad mobilization of air, land and sea forces for a possible invasion of Iraq. There are already 50,000 American personnel in the region.

The ship's two operating rooms would be used during combat, and Comfort is equipped to handle troops injured in biological and chemical attacks.

The ship last deployed for a war during Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991, meaning a possible showdown in Iraq could be the first combat support mission for many of the crew members. The ship sailed to New York after the collapse of the World Trade Center, serving as a floating barracks for many rescue workers.

About 120 medical staff, sailors and their families sat in an auditorium for a question and answer session about what to expect. Many had toddlers that crawled in the aisles and babies in strollers. One child held tight to a Winnie the Pooh doll.

Blankenship, a psychologist, family liaison and other Navy staff fielded questions about how to send mail to the ship, how they would get paid and how to get medical care for children while their parents were away. One family member asked how the ship would be protected.

Navy staff steered families toward support networks, like the Red Cross, fleet services and the Oakleaf Club, a social organization for spouses of Navy medical personnel.

"Any time you have a deployment, especially one that is unplanned, there is a lot of uncertainty with the families," Blankenship said.

Many families said they had faith in whatever decision is made on Iraq, even if that includes a war. The crowd broke into applause when the Naval Center's deputy commander, Michael J. Krentz, said the mission could "be the defining moment for Navy medicine."

Some in Comfort's crew are also looking for a diplomatic solution to the Iraq standoff. Lt. Cmdr. David McMindes, a nurse anesthesiologist, says he's bringing lots of books to prepare for what could be an uneventful deployment.

But he and his family also know from watching the news that the Comfort may see action. He's had to be careful what he tells his 15- and 19-year-old sons about his mission, but says they understand the potential danger of his job.

"I let them know what I knew without saying too much," he said. "They know when I joined the Navy that this was always a possibility."

Troubled cities look to NYPD veterans for help fighting crime

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's former police commissioner is talking tough on gangs by day and chatting up the A-list by night as Los Angeles' new chief. His former deputy is taking over Miami's troubled department this week.

From homicide-plagued Baltimore to suburban Newton, Mass., several cities have hired former NYPD brass in recent years to duplicate New York's fight against crime. The New Yorkers have met with qualified success — clashing, at times, with the culture of their transplanted homes, but helping drive down crime in many cases.

"They just like to take the players from a winning team," said Edward Norris, an NYPD veteran who was named Baltimore's police commissioner two years ago.

Recruiting from the NYPD is nothing new. But as violence and poor discipline bedevil large departments, politicians are turning from homegrown leaders to the small circle of cops who helped reduce crime in New York.

"It's politically expedient to bring in somebody from the outside," said Edward Tully, former executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, who noted the intense pressure big-city mayors face over crime. "To relieve some of the heat, they bring in somebody who has a reputation for doing well in that kind of environment."

Along with NYPD veterans, cities such as New Orleans, Philadelphia and Baltimore also have imported versions of Compstat, New York's innovative crime-mapping system that analyzes reams of data to focus enforcement on high-crime areas. Former NYPD Commissioner William Bratton is putting it in place in Los Angeles.

The system was conceived by New York transit police Lt. Jack Maple, who rose to deputy commissioner under Bratton.

Maple, Bratton and deputy John Timoney left after a fight with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani over credit for New York's remarkable battle against crime, which has declined for more than a decade.

"If I were running a police department, I'd certainly look to these kind of folks," said Michael Jacobson, a former New York corrections commissioner and a criminology professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "They come from a very disciplined, data-driven department. The level of their sophistication is pretty unusual."

Maple took his show on the road as a highly paid consultant for cities such as New Orleans, where he got credit for a headline-grabbing drop in crime. He died in 2001.

Bratton took over the LAPD in October. He's pledged to change everything from gang enforcement to the high number of police chases, a staple of TV news. But gang violence remains high and some are skeptical Bratton's tough talk will change that.

Bratton may have won praise in New York for his zero-tolerance approach to minor crimes, and intense focus on troubled neighborhoods, but such an approach is ill-suited to Los Angeles, said City Councilman Nate Holden.

"What he did in New York he cannot do here," Holden said. "Angelenos have more compassion for the disadvantaged."

Timoney, after serving four years as Philadelphia's police commissioner, takes the reins in Miami on Thursday. The Miami department has been rocked by scandals: Eleven officers face trial on charges of planting guns, manipulating evidence or covering up crimes in a series of questionable shootings.

Many in Florida are optimistic about Timoney, who won praise in Philadelphia for a deft political touch and a steady drop in homicides.

Civil libertarians had fought previous Philadelphia police commissioners over discipline and racial profiling. Timoney trained officers not to question suspects on the basis of race, and he computerized police records, allowing better public scrutiny of the department.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.90	6.70	6.84	+.18
AOL TimeWrn	13.55	13.20	13.52	+.21
AT&T Corp rs	27.50	27.19	27.48	+.48
Albertsons	23.45	23.15	23.15	—.40
Alltel	53.30	52.89	53.05	—.10
AmEl Pw	29.50	28.11	28.23	+.05
AndarkPtr	49.09	48.40	48.43	—.44
ATMOS Egy	23.59	23.33	23.59	+.05
Aviall	8.25	8.00	8.25	+.21
BP PLC	41.25	40.85	41.03	—.27
BakerHughes	33.59	33.01	33.03	—.35
Bank of Amer	70.56	70.00	70.29	—.39
BellSouth	27.35	26.90	27.10	—.02
BurlNoSFe	27.00	26.50	26.65	—.25
Caterpillar	47.70	47.13	47.25	—.50
CenterPoint	8.65	8.50	8.52	+.02
ChevronTex	68.20	67.60	68.04	+.22
Citigroup	36.40	36.00	36.15	—.20
CocaCola	44.92	44.25	44.40	—.45
ColgatePal	53.65	53.20	53.30	—.50
CmclMetals s	16.32	16.25	16.30	
ConocoPhill	49.69	49.25	49.41	+.08
Cooper Inds	37.58	37.02	37.23	—.35
DaimlrChry	32.20	31.74	31.95	—1.02
DeltaAirl	12.84	12.53	12.78	+.29
Dillards Inc	16.47	15.92	15.94	—.52
DowChem	30.38	29.79	29.83	—.63
DuPont	43.60	43.13	43.30	—.14
EastmanChem	37.73	37.18	37.44	—.29
EstKodak	37.35	36.58	37.23	+1.39
EDS Corp	19.33	18.90	19.04	+.05
Entergy	47.08	46.62	46.64	—.06
ExxonMobil	35.63	35.20	35.43	—.04
FootLocker	11.04	10.82	10.88	—.22
GenDynam	81.79	81.04	81.55	+.65
GenElec	25.56	25.02	25.17	—.31
GenMills	47.64	47.12	47.37	—.28
GenMotors	39.01	38.25	38.46	—.49
GaPacific	16.76	16.28	16.62	—.12
Goodrich	19.11	18.90	18.91	—.19
Goodyear	7.03	6.79	6.84	—.18
GtAtlPac	8.12	7.85	7.93	—.19
Halliburtn	19.37	18.96	19.03	—.15
Hanson ADS	23.46	23.23	23.42	+.74
HarteHanks s	19.50	19.22	19.32	—.10
HomeDepot	22.88	21.50	21.58	—3.30
HoneywellIntl	25.25	24.70	24.90	—.08
IBM	81.56	80.21	80.99	+.42
IntlPaper	35.53	35.00	35.35	—.18
JohnsonJn	56.99	56.00	56.62	+1.29
KinderMorg	43.67	42.95	43.35	—.25
Kroger Co	16.07	15.85	15.93	—.05
LockheedM	58.88	58.25	58.64	—.21
Lowes Cos	39.35	37.00	37.20	—2.15
Lubys	2.95	2.90	2.94	—.05
LucentTech	1.47	1.42	1.44	+.02
MarathonOil	21.81	21.54	21.58	—.15
MayDeptStr	23.72	23.25	23.47	—.24
Medtronic	47.12	46.71	46.95	+.27
Motorola	9.35	9.06	9.25	+.05
NCR Corp	24.90	24.30	24.44	—.20
Navistar	25.35	24.85	25.04	—.18
PNM Rescs	23.54	23.43	23.50	
Penney JC	23.51	23.16	23.33	—.17
PepBoys	12.00	11.84	11.95	—.11
PepsiCo	43.49	42.78	42.97	—.13
Pharmacia	43.55	42.90	43.24	—.02
PhelpDodge	33.20	32.80	32.96	—.24
PilgrmPrd B	8.44	8.15	8.20	—.20
Praxair	59.31	58.55	58.69	—.61
ProctGamb	87.93	87.06	87.31	—.50
RadioShack	19.88	18.18	19.55	+.22
RoyalDut	45.04	44.66	44.79	—.39
SBC Comm	29.00	28.54	28.68	—.23
SaraLee	23.00	22.78	22.86	—.09
Scripps EW	79.80	79.10	79.70	+.30
SearsRoeb	24.59	23.62	23.94	—.64
SherwinW	28.95	28.45	28.76	—.26
SouthernCo	29.25	28.98	29.12	+.14
SwstAirl	14.42	14.12	14.35	+.15
SprintFON	15.49	15.16	15.17	—.27
SprintPCS	4.70	4.45	4.48	—.31
Sunoco Inc	33.91	33.50	33.75	—.17
TXU Corp	19.20	19.02	19.17	+.07
TempleInland	47.50	46.03	46.32	—.06
TexInd	25.45	25.00	25.09	—.25
TexasInst	16.51	15.68	16.19	+.15
Textron	44.88	44.13	44.42	—.48
TrinityInds	19.34	19.04	19.11	—.16
TylerTech	4.09	3.96	3.96	—.10
UnionPacif	61.00	60.29	60.45	—.74
USSteel	13.72	13.42	13.63	—.02
UnitedTech	63.90	63.00	63.75	+.34
Unocal	31.45	31.17	31.22	—.25
VerizonComm	40.23	39.86	40.05	—.12
WalMart	51.61	50.86	50.93	—.67
WellsFargo	48.63	48.05	48.19	—.38
WstnGasRs	37.75	37.34	37.71	+.31
WinnDixie	15.95	15.75	15.88	+.02
Xerox Cp	8.26	8.14	8.22	+.06
YumBrands s	25.07	24.66	24.71	—.41

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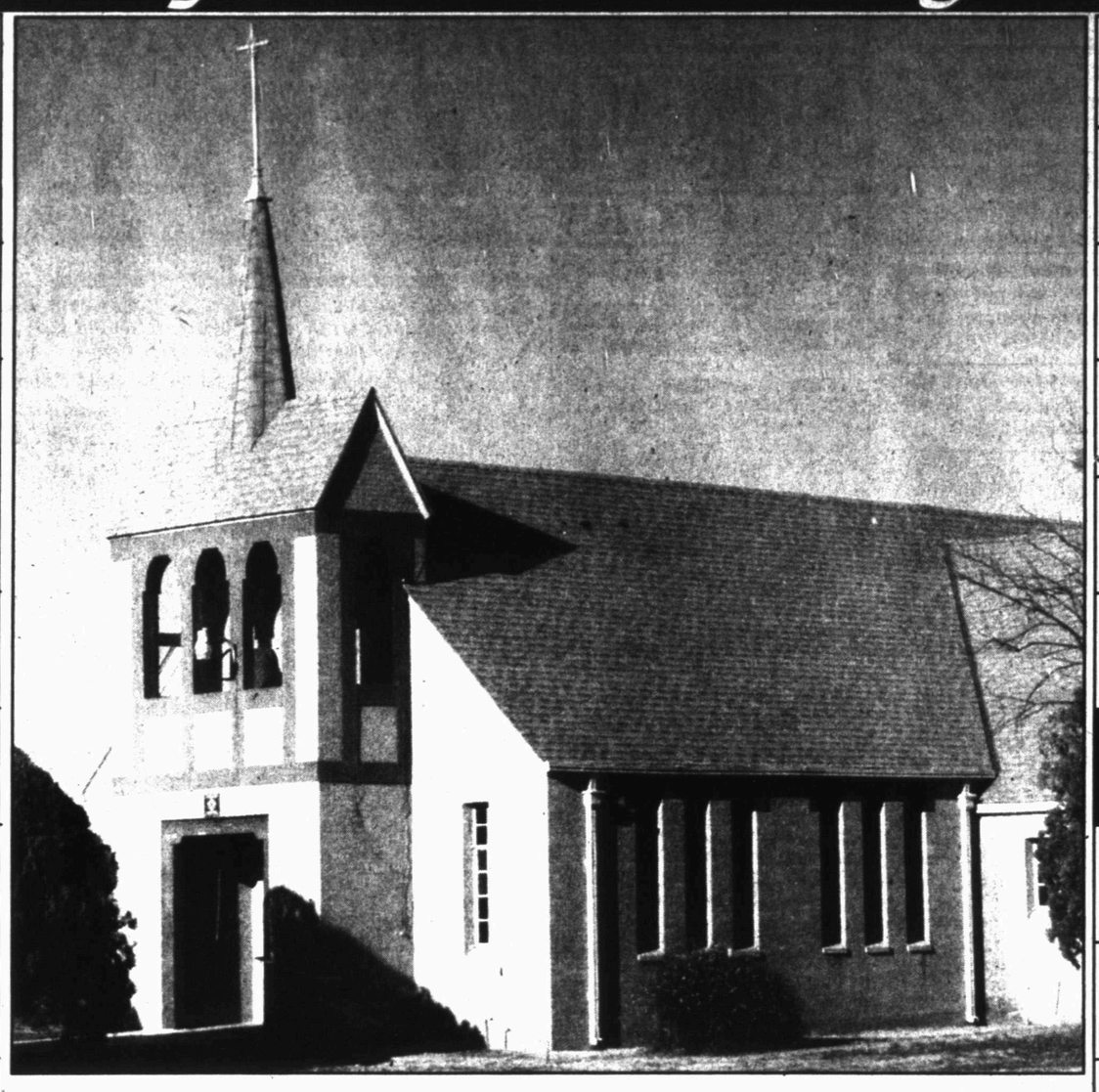
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Texaco name falling victim to oil merger

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texaco star is dimming on many corners, as the effects of the rash of oil mergers in recent years trickle down to the service station level.

The megadeals that created industry giants such as Exxon Mobil Corp., ChevronTexaco Corp., BP plc, and ConocoPhillips resulted in the quick combining of the exploration and refining businesses of different companies. While those shifts occurred largely out of the public view, the latest changes are more noticeable.

In one of the most high-profile examples, the Shell logo is replacing thousands of black-and-red Texaco stars across the country.

As name-brand changes go, "We're not sure whether we can find another in any industry that's this size," said Russell Caplan, vice president of Shell Oil Products U.S. "We can say confidently it's the biggest thing we've attempted."

The makeovers of many Texaco stations can be traced to Texaco's 2001 merger with Chevron.

Antitrust regulators forced Texaco to sell its U.S. gas stations, which it owned through a stake in a joint venture with Shell and another partnership with Shell and Saudi Refining Inc.

Overnight, Houston-based Shell Oil became the supplier for 21,000 Shell and Texaco stations in the United States, but Shell wanted to supply only 15,000 stations.

As a result, Shell, a subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch oil company Royal/Dutch Shell, is selling some company-owned locations and telling some independent Texaco operators it doesn't want them to fly the Shell flag. At the same time, some Texaco operators are turning down Shell.

The surviving Texaco stations can move under the Chevron-Texaco umbrella as early as June 2004. Two years later in 2006, the San Francisco-based company will regain exclusive use of the Texaco name from Shell.

By then, however, the once-proud Texaco name that grew from the Spindletop oil strike in southeast Texas a century ago may have lost some of its value. In addition to the fact that there will be fewer Texaco stations, the number of loyal customers may also have declined. Shell is in the process of converting Texaco credit cards users to Shell credit cards.

ChevronTexaco officials say the Texaco brand will still have value in 2006, but have not said what they plan to do with the name.

"The Texaco brand has a worldwide reputation as a symbol of quality products and customer service, and it has been one of the most recognized brands in the U.S. for more than 90 years," said Dave Reeves, ChevronTexaco's president of North America Products.

Shell and the Texaco stations it is taking over control about 14.3 percent of the U.S. gasoline market, according to a national survey by the Lundberg Letter, an industry publication. Exxon Mobil is next at 11.8 percent, then BP — formerly BP Amoco— at 11.7 percent, and ConocoPhillips at 11.3 percent.

Scott Swan, who stopped recently at a Texaco in west Houston to refuel his sport utility vehicle, didn't notice a small sign announcing that the station would soon become a Shell. Swan said he is a "mostly Texaco" customer, but he wasn't concerned by the name change.

"It sounds like everybody is going to be under one umbrella," he said.

If some consumers are blase about the change, it's a big deal to some longtime station operators, said veteran gasoline industry observer Trilby Lundberg, author of the newsletter that bears his name.

"It's almost sacrilegious for a longtime brand observer like me to see that," Lundberg said. "There is some dismay about being at Texaco for many years and facing being turned into a Shell."

Groups are still opposed to naming Owen judge

AUSTIN (AP) — Several groups that opposed President Bush's nomination of Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen to a federal judgeship last year sent a letter Thursday to Bush asking him not to renominate her when Republicans take control of Congress this year.

The Democrat-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee voted along party lines in September in rejecting Owen's nomination to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals amid criticism that she was anti-abortion and anti-consumer.

When Congress reconvenes Tuesday, however, the GOP will control the Senate, which will have 51 Republicans, 48 Democrats and one independent, who votes with Democrats.

A White House spokesman did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press, but U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, has said that Bush will renominate her this year.

She also has said both she and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, would vote for Owen. Cornyn supported Owen's nomination during his fall campaign.

In their letter, the groups said that resubmitting Owen's name for a federal judgeship would be "highly controversial and divisive."

"Her rulings have been extreme and often directly at odds with established rights and protections enjoyed by all Texans," they said.

The Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, the Texas AFL-CIO and the consumer group Texas Watch were among the nearly 20 groups that signed the letter.

Owen's office would not comment on the issue, directing calls to a U.S. Justice Department spokeswoman who would not comment.

Kelly Shackelford, chief counsel of the Liberty Legal Institute, which says it specializes in the defense of religious freedoms and First Amendment rights, defended Owen as a well-qualified judge who received the highest rating by the American Bar Association and received 84 percent of the vote in her 2000 election.

"The only basis for the far left attack on her is that she won't legislate their political agenda from the bench," Shackelford said.

The groups that wrote the letter said that in Owen's eight years on the Texas Supreme Court, her opinions "stray well beyond the American mainstream."

"Justice Owen's opinions reveal a troubling hostility to discrimination and employee rights, reproductive rights, public information rights, environmental protection and consumer and citizen rights," the groups said in the letter.

Berry's World



Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003

In the year ahead you are likely to assume a more active role in your social affiliations and activities. The more you mingle with others, the more new contacts you'll make that will prove beneficial in other areas of your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There may be quite a vigorous tussle over your wallet today between your extravagant impulses and your prudent instincts. Try to help the former win the battle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Whatever you do today, don't bring up any old, unresolved family issues, especially if they have produced volatile conditions in the past. Put it to bed immediately if one should arise.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Nurturing old grudges is a self-defeating process. Should you run into someone today who has displeased you in the past, try to make a fresh start by being pleasant.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Watch your bank account today, because this could be a very tricky day for you money-wise. Prudent management is essential if you hope to come out in the black.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Find the middle ground today when going after your ambitious aims. Either being too aggressive or too laid-back about things could trip you up and deprive you of success,

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Don't just stand back and find fault with the way everybody else is doing things. If you don't like their methods, pitch in and help to get things running your way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Subdue inclinations to take financial gambles today no matter how exciting and enticing they may be. Follow your better judgment, so you won't have the blues later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Strive to be both wise and fair when in the position of handling others today. Things won't go well for you if you favor or excuse one person while being tough on another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be careful that you don't start any trouble today and end up pitting one person against another because of something you say. Phrase your comments wisely and without prejudice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You could be inclined to be possessive of someone important to you today and not be too polite about disguising your feelings. Be your usual diplomatic self when dealing with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be careful about extending any impromptu invitations to friends to come to your place today without first checking with the family. They could already have conflicting plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec.21) — Pace yourself wisely today and don't get yourself involved in any large project that you can't handle properly. The bigger the endeavor and the more you hurry, the greater your chance for error.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

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Joe Namath thinks the Jets are back

NEW YORK (AP) — Over 30 years ago, Joe Namath led the New York Jets to their only Super Bowl title. Now he thinks his counterpart on the current team is ready to bring the Jets back to the championship game.

"I haven't seen him have a misstep yet," Namath said of quarterback Chad Pennington in Wednesday's New York Post. "It looks like he's getting better and better. I am very impressed with his timing, reading coverages and going from one receiver to the next and getting it done."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Muscle pain needs diagnosis

DEAR DR. GOTT: Recently, one of your columns caught my attention. It concerned the dangerous effects of fat-lowering drugs.

In March of last year, I went to a new doctor for an exam. He took a blood test and said he would report to me in a few days. A week later, the telephone rang, and I was advised by the doctor's nurse that I was "dying" and should see the doctor immediately.

The next day, after being ushered into his office, I was told that my tests were normal, except for a cholesterol of 327 and a fasting blood sugar of 205. The physician immediately ordered medicine to reduce both levels: Lipitor for the cholesterol, Glyburide for diabetes.

As you might expect, this frightened me, and I decided to obtain a second opinion from another practitioner. Two days before my appointment, my muscles began to ache. The pain was intense.

When I saw the second doctor, he repeated my blood tests, which were "normal." He took me off Lipitor, notified the company of my muscle pain, but continued my diabetes medication.

Now three months later, I am still in pain — more than I experienced following a wound in Vietnam. What's going on? Am I just falling apart?

DEAR READER: Your initial blood tests showed a high cholesterol (above the 200 milligrams experts advise) and an elevated sugar-level (above 120 mg). Although out of normal range, these levels did not mean that you were dying. Your decision to seek a second opinion was, in my view, appropriate. Rather than prescribe drugs so quickly, I would have preferred to put you on a low-fat, low-sugar diet and monitor the situation closely.

It is very possible that you had an untoward reaction to Lipitor, which — along with other "statin" drugs — can cause muscle breakdown and pain in a small percentage of patients. Your second physician responded appropriately by stopping the Lipitor.

However, you continue to have muscle pain several months after the event. This is not typical for statin-induced muscle damage. Therefore, you and your doctor now need to sit down and agree on a strategy. In my opinion, you should have more blood tests to define what is going wrong. And you may require a consultation with a diabetes specialist (endocrinologist), as well as a meeting with a rheumatologist.

Not knowing the details of your medical history and examination, I won't hazard a guess about the cause of your symptom. But I certainly share your concern and encourage you to follow through on the medical issues of diabetes and excess cholesterol. From your brief description, I conclude that you may have a significant health problem that needs to be addressed. Please don't hesitate to review the situation with appropriate medical professionals.

To give you further information, I am sending you copies of my Health Reports "Diabetes Mellitus" and "Hypertension." Other readers who would like copies should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 for each to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the titles.

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THE WILD THORNBERRYS PG
Fri. 2:15, 7:15; Sat. 2:15, 7:15; Sun. 2:15; Wed. 7:15

MAID IN MANHATTAN PG13
Fri. 9:10; Sat 9:10; Sun. 7:15; Tues. 7:15; Thurs. 7:15

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN PG13
Fri. 2, 7, 9:45; Sat 2, 7, 9:45
Sun. 2, 7; Tues.-Thurs. 7:00

*Closed Mondays - *Tuesday $3 "Poor Boy Night"

MOVIES

MAID IN MANHATTEN PG13

Marisa works in a first class Manhattan hotel. Christopher is in New York for a week party big shots and is staying in the hotel where Marisa works. By a twist of fate and mistaken identity, the two meet.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN PG13

Frank Abagnale, Jr. worked as a doctor, a lawyer and as a co-pilot for a major airline - all before his 18th birthday. At the age of 17, Frank became the most successful bank robber in the history of the United States.

THE WILD THORNBERRYS PG

12-year-old Eliza is in Africa where she meets a mysterious shaman who grants her the power to talk to animals. But there's a catch - if she reveals her gift, she will lose it forever. One day, Eliza discovers that poachers plan to kill an elephant herd with an electrified fence and she and Darwin, her pet chimp, must stop them.

JAN 03 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush economic plan draws objections

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush won't unveil his latest economic stimulus proposal until next week but already it is drawing fire from Democrats who say they are putting together a rival proposal that will be fairer and do less harm to the government's budget.

House Democratic leaders met today to work on their alternative to Bush's plan and promised to unveil the measure soon.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the new Democratic leader in the House, called their discussions an "emergency meeting" because of the fact that 800,000 laid-off workers lost their unemployment benefits on Dec. 28 because of an impasse between the administration and Congress over the best approach to extend federal unemployment assistance.

Pelosi told reporters the Democratic alternative to Bush's proposal would be "fair to the American people and will be fiscally responsible."

In an effort to pre-empt those arguments, Bush on Thursday had branded the objections of critics as a false effort by opponents to pit different income classes against each other.

"Some would like to turn this into class warfare," he said after giving reporters a tour of his Crawford, Texas, ranch. "That's not how I think. I think about the overall economy and how best to help those folks who are looking for work."

While Bush refused to disclose any details of the plan he will unveil in a speech in Chicago next Tuesday, the plan is expected to have three major components — an acceleration of tax relief already included in the massive 2001 tax act but not scheduled to take effect until later years, a reduction by possibly half in the current tax on corporate dividends paid to investors and an increase in tax breaks for businesses investing in new plants and equipment.

Rep. James Oberstar of Minnesota, the top Democrat on the Transportation Committee, said the House Democratic alternative may well include an acceleration in government spending on aviation and highway projects as a way to create jobs. Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina, the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, said the Democratic plan would be front-loaded, with Democrats pushing for a quick vote on extending unemployment benefits for workers who have exhausted current benefits.

SA police find little humor in fake bomb

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 72-year-old San Antonio man placed a fake bomb on the steps of the First Presbyterian Church — and even painted "FAKE BOMB" on it.

Police weren't amused, and Don Culwell was booked into the Bexar County Jail on Thursday in lieu of $2,000 bond on a charge of manufacturing a fake explosive.

The Rev. Louis Zbinden said Culwell came into the church in downtown San Antonio about 4 p.m. Thursday to talk to him about how much longer Lowell "Duke" Embs, who was once part of the congregation, would be in jail.

Embs was arrested in June for a hoax bomb at the same church.

"He told me what he had done," Zbinden said, referring to a Freon tank that was left on the church steps. "He wondered what would happen."

Zbinden said that he told Culwell it "was not a smart thing to do" but wouldn't press charges.

Culwell left to retrieve his contraption, the pastor said. But police had already shut off a block of downtown San Antonio, and they took the gray-haired man in custody when he tried to pick up the tank.

Culwell is director of Reclamation Inc., a service for the homeless that offers shelter and transitional housing. He made a failed bid in November for the District 123 seat in the Texas House, running as the Libertarian candidate.

Thursday night, after he was formally charged, Culwell gave a list of motivations for his behavior that ran the gamut from an interest in prison ministry to frustrations with the criminal justice system to being a "peacemaker" between Embs and Zbinden.

"I kind of wanted to see if I could help the guy out by doing the same thing at the same place," Culwell said. "I thought I would see what would happen if I placed something not a bomb but labeled fake."

Meanwhile, Embs, 73, remained in the Bexar County Jail on Thursday without bond, charged with manufacturing and possessing the hoax bomb in June. A trial date in the misdemeanor case has not been set.

Embs, occasionally seen trolling San Antonio streets in his Cadillac with a Christmas tree or U.S. flag mounted to it, has been arrested at least 50 times.

A previous vice president of the San Antonio Mensa Group, the local chapter of the international society whose members have among the highest IQs in the nation, Embs was deemed incompetent to stand trial at a court hearing last July.

But after a stay at a state mental hospital, Embs was returned to court Nov. 8 and found competent to face the charges. He was released from custody on a personal recognizance bond Nov. 22, but was returned to jail Nov. 25.

State Department seeks boost to advance wars on terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is seeking substantial budget increases to fight the global AIDS epidemic and to counter terrorism, including more than $1 billion in new funds to tighten security at embassies, officials say.

High on the department's wish list is $100 million to hire an additional 399 officers for Secretary of State Colin Powell's initiative to promote U.S. foreign policy, said the officials, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

The battles against terrorism and AIDS, a more quiet foe that claimed 3.1 million lives around the world in 2002, have helped shape the department's request to the White House budget office for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

President Bush is to submit his budget for fiscal 2004 to Congress early next month. In the meantime, Congress has not completed action on the department's spending requests for the current fiscal year, which include more than $16 billion to combat terrorism.

The 2004 budget will aim to sustain a broad effort against terrorism that involves economic assistance, foreign military training and economic development.

A wave of anti-American and anti-Western sentiment has translated into attacks and spurred increased security at U.S. embassies.

Powell's initiative is designed to fill vacancies in the foreign service and to place new emphasis on teaching foreign audiences what the United States is trying to accomplish.

A senior department official declined to provide the precise amount that department would seek in counterterrorism spending.

Powell, meanwhile, has given high priority to the struggle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Man injured in one-vehicle rollover

•Accident

Howard County dispatchers reported a one-vehicle rollover two miles south of Ira at 10 p.m. Thursday and advised one subject was thrown from the vehicle.

Catarino Guerrero Jr., 32, of Snyder was ejected from an older model Chevrolet Camaro that he was driving on Texas Hwy. 350.

Guerrero was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital, then transferred to University Medical Center in Lubbock, where he remained this morning in surgical ICU, according to a UMC spokesperson.

DPS trooper Jeremy Usener of Mitchell County is investigating the accident, but was unavailable this morning. The vehicle was towed.

•Arrests

Deputies arrested Jesse Medrano, 38, of 1206 Ave. R Thursday on a warrant for parole violation.

An 18-year-old man was taken into custody at 9:42 a.m. Thursday on a city warrant for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to appear before a judge.

At 2:15 p.m. deputies arrested a 31-year-old woman in the 1300 block of 26th Street on warrants from Travis, Andrews and Taylor counties for bail jumping, larceny and Class B theft by check.

Officers arrested a 19-year-old man in the 2300 block of Ave. I at 4:20 p.m. Thursday on Sweetwater warrants for failure to maintain liability insurance and failure to appear before a judge.

A 22-year-old man was arrested in the 1800 block of 28th Street just after 5 a.m. today for possession of marijuana, less than two ounces.

•Thefts

Snyder officers were notified Thursday of numerous vehicle break-ins that occurred Wednesday night.

Sgt. Keith Ward said today it is unclear if the burglaries are linked, but the cases remain under investigation.

At 8:33 a.m. James Wesson reported items stolen from his car parked at 2201 45th Street and an offense report for burglary of a vehicle was submitted.

Karie House reported at 12:51 p.m. Thursday that her vehicle was broken into while parked at 2212 45th Street and a report was filed.

Officers submitted another report at 1:38 p.m. after John Bane reported items stolen from his car at 2212 41st Street.

At 4:24 p.m. Thursday, Judy Holmes reported the theft of items from her daughter's vehicle parked at 2214 41st Street.

A.C. Floyd reported the theft of car keys from 2206 45th Street and advised the keys were taken during the night.

•Criminal mischief

A woman in the 2800 block of 32nd Street reported damage to her mailbox Thursday morning, but requested no report be made.

A man in the 300 block of 34th Street reported criminal mischief to his mailbox and requested a close patrol.

A woman in the 3100 block of Austin also reported damage to her mailbox Thursday, but requested no report.

•Disturbances

A woman requested a deputy at her residence just before 3 p.m. Thursday and reported that her brother assaulted her. An offense report for family violence was submitted.

Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1800 block of 28th Street at 4:50 a.m. today and contacted two subjects who advised no assault had occurred, only a verbal disagreement.

•Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported that a woman paid for some gas, but not the entire amount and requested officers contact her and make her return to pay the balance.

Obituaries

George Crabb

1911-2003

COLORADO CITY — George E. Crabb, 91, died Wednesday, Jan. 1, in a Sweetwater hospital.

Graveside service for Mr. Crabb is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in the Capital Parks Cemetery in Austin. Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 23, 1911 in Hamilton County, he married Alpha Carter on Dec. 27, 1937. She preceded him in death.

A U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II, Mr. Crabb had been a resident of Colorado City since 1963. He was a Baptist and was retired from Sun Oil Co.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Hester Palmer

1910-2003

CLEBURNE — Hester M. Palmer, a former Snyder resident, died Thursday, Jan. 2, in a Cleburne hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Palmer, 92, is set for 10 a.m. Monday in the Rose Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Mark Ely officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Crosier-Pearson-Mayfield Funeral Home.

Born April 29, 1910 in Nemo, Tex., she married Cecil E. Palmer on May 20, 1934. He died April 15, 1966.

Before moving to Cleburne, Mrs. Palmer had resided in Snyder from 1963-67 and was a member of the Ave. D Baptist Church and Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Mrs. Palmer was a homemaker and a retired nurses' aide.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Patti Palmer of Snyder, Charles and Nancy Palmer of Marshall and A.E. and Carole Palmer of Munice, Ind.; a daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Jerry Ward of Cleburne; two sisters, Lilly Chaffin of Sanford and Judy Archer of Riverton, Wyo.; five grandchildren, J.K. Palmer of Los Angeles and Josh Palmer of Denver, Colo., Justin Ward, Steve Whiteside and Shara Wellborn, all of Cleburne; and five great-grandchildren.

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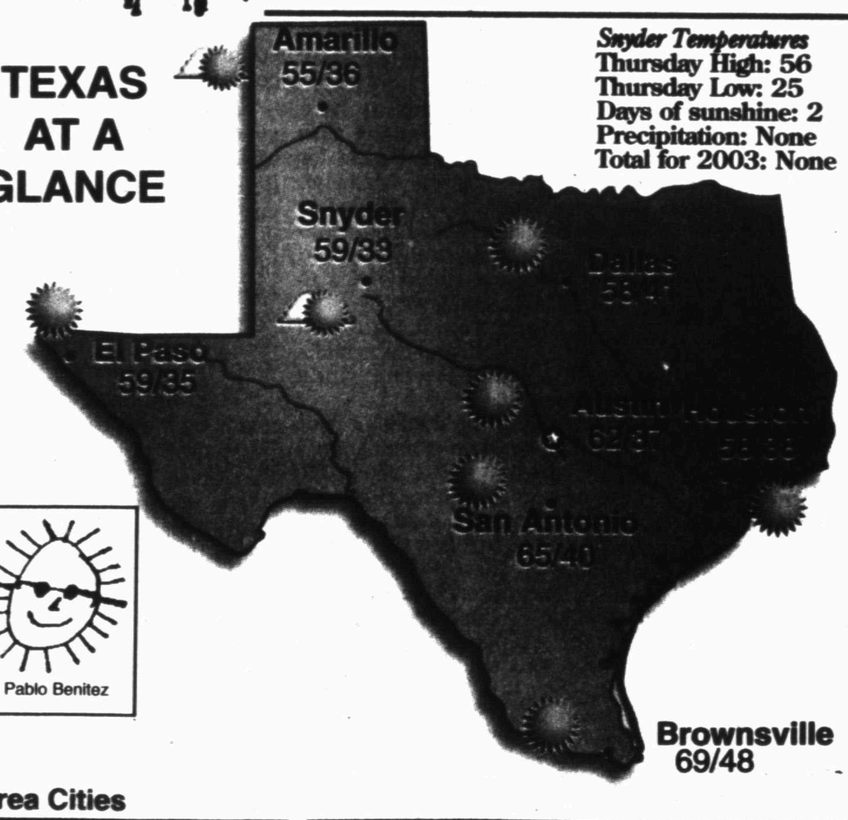
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 1/4	Sun 1/5	Mon 1/6
59/33	61/31	64/34
Generally sunny. High 59F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:50 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM, Sunset 5:51 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM, Sunset 5:52 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Thursday High: 56
Thursday Low: 25
Days of sunshine: 2
Precipitation: None
Total for 2003: None

Pablo Benitez

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	61	39	sunny
Amarillo	55	36	mst sunny
Austin	62	37	sunny
Beaumont	56	36	sunny
Brownsville	69	48	sunny
Brownwood	62	36	sunny
Corpus Christi	64	44	sunny
Corsicana	57	38	sunny
Dallas	58	41	sunny
Del Rio	67	42	sunny
El Paso	59	35	sunny
Fort Stockton	64	39	sunny
Gainesville	55	33	sunny
Greenville	54	34	sunny
Houston	58	38	sunny
Kingsville	67	43	sunny
Livingston	56	33	sunny
Longview	54	32	sunny
Lubbock	60	34	sunny
Lufkin	56	35	sunny
Midland	60	36	sunny
Raymondville	67	43	sunny
Rosenberg	58	38	sunny
San Antonio	65	40	sunny
San Marcos	63	38	sunny
Sulphur Springs	55	34	sunny
Sweetwater	61	36	mst sunny
Tyler	56	38	sunny
Weatherford	57	33	sunny
Wichita Falls	59	37	mst sunny

National Cities

Atlanta	38	23	windy
Boston	35	32	snow
Chicago	33	23	pt sunny
Dallas	58	41	sunny
Denver	60	32	pt sunny
Houston	58	38	sunny
Los Angeles	75	53	pt sunny
Miami	74	49	rain
Minneapolis	33	28	pt sunny
New York	36	34	mixed
Phoenix	74	50	mst sunny
San Francisco	59	52	cloudy
Seattle	49	46	rain
St. Louis	34	25	pt sunny
Washington, DC	42	37	rain

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 2	Jan 10	Jan 18	Jan 25

UV Index

Sat 1/4	Sun 1/5	Mon 1/6
Low	Low	Low

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

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