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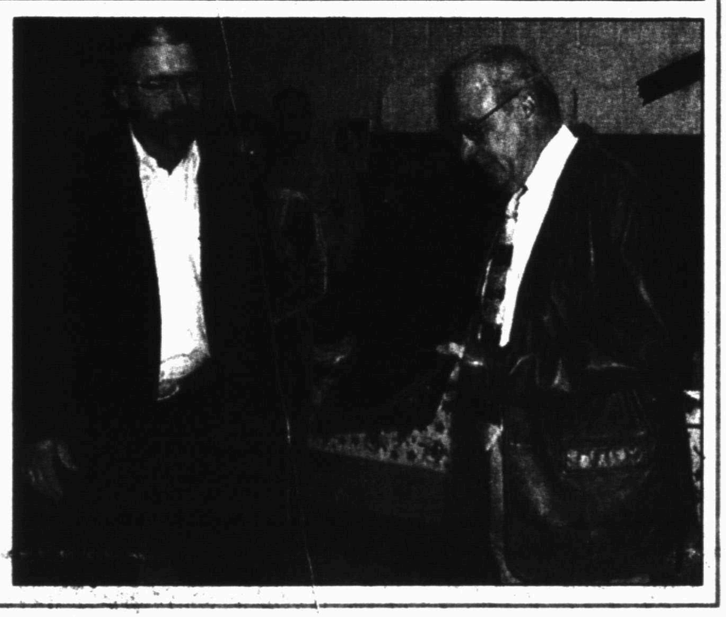
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 30, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 208
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Ricky & Lee Ann Chaidez





CHURCH HONORED — Retiring Hermleigh superintendent Jerry Church was honored Sunday with a reception at the school. Shown in the top picture, from left, are Church, his wife, Nelda, his mother, Marie Church, and his sister, Joyce Harkey. Shown at right is school board president Alan Culp presenting Church with a plaque. (SDN Staff Photos)

Muslim extremist kills American missionaries

JIBLA, Yemen (AP) — A suspected Muslim extremist, hiding his gun cradled like a baby, slipped into a Southern Baptist hospital in Yemen today and opened fire, killing three American missionaries and seriously wounding a fourth, officials said.

The suspected attacker, a Yemeni, was arrested, and a Yemeni official said security forces were searching for a militant cell that may be targeting foreigners and secular figures in the country.

Americans have been repeatedly warned by the U.S. State Department to be cautious in Yemen, a country where the central government authority is weak in tribal areas and where Muslim militants have found refuge. Yemen, the ancestral homeland of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, has been a key front in the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

The gunman entered the complex of Jibla Baptist Hospital in the town of Jibla hiding a semi-automatic rifle under his jacket to make it resemble a child, Yemeni officials and the Baptist organization said.

The attacker entered a room where hospital director William E. Koehn was holding a meeting and opened fire, said a statement from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, based in Richmond, Va.

Three people were killed instantly with shots to the head, Yemeni officials said. The gunman then headed to the hospital's pharmacy and shot and wounded the pharmacist, Donald W. Caswell.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board identified the dead as Koehn, 60, of Arlington, who had planned to retire next year after 28 years of service; purchasing agent Kathleen A. Gariety, 53, of Wauwatosa, Wis.; and Dr. Martha C. Myers, 57, of Montgomery, Ala.

Caswell, 49, of Levelland, was shot in the abdomen and hospital officials said he was in critical condition. His father, 71-year-old D.C. Caswell, said his son was recovering after surgery.

"We just thank the Lord that he is alive," the elder Caswell said. "He's alert and talking and everything's going to be all right, they're thinking."

The killings are "a crime unacceptable in any religion. This contradicts Islam," said a Jibla woman who gave only her first name, Fatima, and said she used the hospital. "They cared for us and looked after us. I can't even count the number of children they treated and saved."

Mission Board spokesman Larry Cox said the organization was "devastated by this news" of the attack. "We are moving quickly to minister to family members" in Yemen and the United States, he said.

Board president Jerry Rankin said his organization would continue to operate in Yemen as long as the government allows.

Carrying weapons is common in Yemen, where people often take them openly into offices and public buildings. At the Jibla hospital, 125 miles south of the capital, San'a, guns were supposed to be checked at the door and all those entering are supposed to be searched.

"The man brought in a rifle under his coat as if cradling a baby bringing him into the clinic," Rankin told reporters in Richmond.

He said there had been threats against his group's missionaries, but would not elaborate. "They are taken seriously," he said. "It goes with being a Christian missionary now, but also with being an American that we would be susceptible to threats in many places in the world."

It was the second recent attack on American missionaries in the region. On November 21, a gunman shot and killed an American missionary nurse in the Lebanese city of Sidon. Lebanese authorities have yet to determine who was behind that shooting.

A Yemeni Interior Ministry official identified the 30-year-old assailant in today's attack as Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, the official news agency Saba reported. Officials said they believed he was a Muslim extremist.

Second quarter busy time in Snyder

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

April

The commissioners' court hired Arlington firm Schrickel Rollins and Associates to develop a master plan for revamping the county's aging parks and recreation facilities.

City council incumbents Vernest Tippens and James Ashley and former councilman Ron Shaw each were reelected to the council without an election as no one opposed them for the seats.

Western Texas College put plans for a new dormitory on hold for at least a year because of low reserves.

Former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk garnered the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate. He would later lose in the November election to Republican John Cornyn.

Snyder ISD began steps to seek $130,000 in back taxes owed by Lorber Industries after the company closed its spinning mill in the industrial park.

WTC vice president Bettie McQueen announced plans to retire before the fall term, after 25 years of service.

The commissioners' court voted to notify Lorber Industries of its non-compliance on a tax abatement agreement, but stopped short of pursuing back taxes for the time.

Snyder ISD, in an effort to reduce costs, eliminated 16 teachers' aide positions. The savings were projected at $200,000 annually.

Debate surfaced over a proposed assisted-living facility to possibly be located on Cogdell Hospital's grounds, but the project never came to fruition.

The Snyder High drama program earned a berth at state competition in Austin. The department's production of *Julius Caesar* fell short of the top three places at the state level, but several individual performers garnered awards.

The Development Corporation of Snyder issued a formal statement urging local taxing entities not to seek reimbursement of back taxes from Lorber Industries, calling the company "a good neighbor."

Snyder and surrounding communities to the south and east received a new area code — 325 — to take affect April 5, 2003.

Kinder Morgan CO2 Company announced plans to invest $185 million in the SACROC unit within two years to increase the field's production by some 200 million barrels.

Ira superintendent Jim Rumage announced plans to leave the district for the top post at Ozona.

Horrible scenes played out in the halls of Snyder High as local law enforcement agencies performed a mock terrorist attack during school hours. Drama students played the parts of injured or dead students as officers searched the school for the staged gunman.

Jennifer Freeland and Paul Wilson were honored as the outstanding male and female students at WTC at the annual awards ceremony.

May

Cogdell Hospital's financial statements showed steady growth with an increase in cash receipts of more than $500,000 over the previous year.

Snyder athletes Andra Lancaster and Riki Dorsett were honored as athletes of the year at the SHS sports banquet.

By a single-vote margin, WTC math instructor Stephanie Ducheneaux was elected to the city council to represent District 2. Ducheneaux tallied 42 votes to triumph over incumbent David Harrell, who garnered 41 votes.

The FBI issued an all-points bulletin in West Texas for 22-year-old pipe-bombing suspect Luke John Helder. The college student had Americans fearful of opening their mailboxes, as six people were injured when the homemade devices exploded as they opened the mailboxes.

A 12-year-old crime resulted in murder charges for a former Snyder resident. Donny Carroll McClain was charged with murdering his father, L.S. McClain on Dec. 10, 1990 by beating him with a piece of pipe.

He was later found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Longtime Snyder educator Lee Presswood announced plans to retire as principal of Northeast Elementary.

Sabrina Terry and Julie Rodriguez were named Hermleigh High School's honor graduates.

Lorber Industries of Texas filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, delaying collection of back taxes by SISD.

The body of kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was found in Pakistan, dashing hopes that the American journalist might still be alive.

Kendra Krop and Nathan Smith were announced as Ira's top graduates for 2002.

Missing Washington D.C. intern Chandra Levy's body was discovered in a park in the capital city. The controversy over her disappearance led to the political

See Year-end, Page 9

County keeps 2003 meetings on 3rd Monday

Following tradition, Scurry County commissioners' court will convene on the third Monday of each month in 2003.

The court voted to set the meeting times in a brief session this morning.

Precinct 1 commissioner Ralph Trevey said the third Monday suits the court because bills payable and board reports are completed.

County Auditor Charlie Bell agreed with Trevey.

"Sometimes the way the first Monday falls, we haven't had time to get all our bills in," Bell said. "And the board reports considered by the court normally come in later than that also."

No other new or old business was included on the agenda.

Line item transfers and one budget amendment were approved.

The $1,600 amendment was to cover costs for permanent improvements to enclose the breezeway at the coliseum, Bell said.

Bills were paid and minutes from a previous meeting also were approved.

Ralph Trevey presided and other commissioners present were Howard Limmer and Chloanne Lindsey.

Outgoing County Judge Ricky Fritz and Precinct 2 commissioner Roy Idom were absent from the final meeting of the year.

Newly elected judge Rod Waller and commissioner Jerry House will be sworn in at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the District Courtroom on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

KTAB-TV may soon be off the air on COX

Snyder subscribers of Cox Communications may have one less channel to view after Tuesday as the cable provider and KTAB-TV of Abilene are at odds over the TV station wanting Cox to pay 10 cents for each of the company's subscribers who receive the station.

If the TV station and Cox don't settle their differences, the station also will be dropped in the Cox lineup in Abilene, Sweetwater, Winters and Ballinger.

The cable company ran a full-page ad in the Sunday Abilene Reporter-News stating KTAB had denied permission to Cox to air their CBS programming.

Currently, Snyder subscribers receive CBS on KTAB and KLBK out of Lubbock.

The ad stated that Cox had made a reasonable offer to continue carrying KTAB, and added the TV station was asking for terms that no other broadcast station in this market has asked for.

The ad further stated that Cox would not agree to terms that are not in your (the subscriber's) best interest.

It also listed KTAB's telephone number and urged readers to call the station's management.

The TV station ran a crawler across the bottom of their programming Sunday calling the ad false and misleading and encouraged viewers to call Cox's office to voice the opinion that KTAB was worth a dime a month.

Cable companies are forbidden to retransmit programming from commercial stations without permission.

Persons wanting to voice their opinion to KTAB's management can call 1-915-695-2777.

Charlie Moore, Cox's vice president of operations for West Texas, said KMID-TV in Midland was using the same tactic in the Permian Basin.

"It's all about money, their markets are down so they are looking to get money from us," said Moore. "They say they provide a value to us, well, we also provide a value to them."

ASK US

Q—Where is the city's Christmas tree drop-off site this year?
A—30th Street and Ave. Q.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Rhonda Welch...

...has lived in Snyder for almost three years and is a supervisor with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. Rhonda's son, Cole, is a junior at Snyder High and a daughter, Kristi, attends Texas Tech. When she's not working, she enjoys reading and playing on her computer and also watching mystery movies.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The giving of love is an education in itself.
—Eleanor Roosevelt

DEC 30 2002

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. today and 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 this evening are "Why Did God Separate the Jews from the Gentiles?" followed by "What's In It for Me?"

Lions Club meetings

Snyder Lions Club will not meet Tuesday. Meetings on Jan. 7 and Jan. 14 will be held at Snyder Country Club while repairs are being made at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

Trinity Bible study

A 10-week study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," begins Wednesday, Jan. 8, 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.

Windbreak trees

Orders for windbreak trees and drip irrigation are being taken at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office through Tuesday. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Highway. Call 573-6317, ext. 2.

100th birthday reception

A reception to celebrate Sadie Shifflett's 100th birthday is set from 1-3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the Church of God Fellowship Hall, located at Ave.0 and 21st Street. All are welcome to attend.

Bass Club meeting

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

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.

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP include Jan. 4, 12:30 p.m.; Jan. 7, 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.

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.

Tigers Lair yearbook

Orders for 2002 Tigers Lair yearbooks are still being taken. The cost is $50 with additional options available. Call 574-6138 for information.

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.

Houston-area residents survive plane crash

HOUSTON (AP) — Eight Houston-area residents survived a plane crash in the Caribbean Sea by clinging for 90 minutes to fuselage during a driving rainstorm.

Everyone aboard the 14-seat Cessna Caravan survived the impact Friday with only minor injuries. The Tropic Air flight from Belize City to San Pedro went down 2.5 miles south of Ambergris Caye, a resort island in the Caribbean Sea popular with American vacationers.

Lance Dreyer, 62, and wife, Sharon, 56, of Houston were aboard the plane with two of their children, Chase, 25, and Chelsea, 22. The family said couples from Sugar Land and The Woodlands were also on the flight, though but their names were not available Sunday evening.

The Dreyers were en route Friday to San Pedro for a five-day New Year's vacation, returning to the island for the sixth time in seven years to "just lay out on the beach, go fishing and snorkeling or scuba diving."

They have flown Tropic Air, a Belizean airline founded in 1979 by a Texas A&M graduate, each time for the 15-minute hop from Belize City. All prior flights were uneventful, they said.

It was dark and raining as the plane took off for San Pedro. Lance Dreyer, a former pilot, said the plane started weaving about 10 minutes out.

"I became concerned because the pilot is looking out the window," he said. "At night in a rainstorm, you watch your instruments, you don't look out the window.

"He started wiggling around. He was looking out the window and then with no warning, he didn't cut back on the power or anything, he hit (the water)."

As dust and smoke filled the cabin, Lance Dreyer opened the rear door.

"Water just went whoosh into the plane," he said. "Everybody was screaming. I got out of the plane and started pushing everyone up on top."

Once on top of the fuselage, the passengers could see the lights of San Pedro in the distance.

After ensuring everyone was out of the plane, Lance Dreyer dove down and quickly reached the bottom, where the aircraft was lodged in the sand.

"We kind of all laughed about it," he said. "At that point we knew: a) we survived the crash, b) the plane ain't going to sink any further, and c) the worst thing that's going to happen to us is we'll sit here all night but at least we're going to live."

One man from The Woodlands happened to have a radio and global-positioning system and radioed for help. Rescue boats arrived about 30 minutes later and took everyone to San Pedro.

The Dreyers lost most of their money and other carry-on items but would later discover a lucky break: Their luggage failed to make the flight and was still in Belize City.

They spent Friday night in San Pedro, then returned home.

G. Michael Reid, Belize Police Department spokesman, said his country's Transportation Ministry is investigating the incident, which he described as "an emergency landing."

Dreyer family members, in an interview Sunday evening in their Houston home, said they are concerned Tropic Air provided no safety briefing during the flight and that the pilot did nothing to help pull passengers to safety.

The family said it hasn't decided whether to pursue legal action against the airline.

There was no answer Sunday evening at Tropic Air's U.S. reservations number or its office in San Pedro.

Berry's World



In campaign to thwart drunken driving, free burials are offered

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — A funeral home director is adopting a strategy to shock motorists into staying sober — free burial for anyone who signs a pledge to drink and drive on New Year's Eve.

"If I can make one person stop and think, then our effort's not in vain," said Grand Strand Funeral Home and Crematory director Chris Burroughs.

Burroughs, who conducts about 11 funerals every year for people who die in drunken-driving crashes, said he got the idea for the unusual offer from an anti-drunken driving campaign started four years ago.

Then, funeral director Barry Miller initiated Operation Stop and Think after he lost a family member in a drunken-driving accident. Miller, who is from Georgia and owns a funeral home in Tennessee, and said about 10 funeral homes in the Southeast are now offering the contract.

Anyone with a driver's license can sign the pledge on New Year's Eve — though no one does.

"Nobody's ever signed it, nor do we intend for anyone to sign it," Miller said. "Sometimes, you've got to go to extremes for people to take notice."

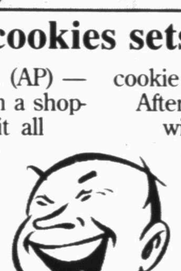
If the program has any impact at all, it could help reduce drunken-driving fatalities, said Trooper First Class Ashley Mew of the state Highway Patrol.

"Any campaign to deter drinking and driving and educating the public on the consequences will help," Mew said.

Today's chuckle

Shortage of cookies sets customer off

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — A woman charged with a shopping-mall assault did it all for the cookie, police said.



The unidentified Belleville woman allegedly attacked a cookie-stand clerk at the Briarwood Mall last week after she was told the particular treat she wanted was unavailable.

"She became enraged that they didn't have the cookie she wanted to consume," said Ann Arbor police Sgt. Andrew Zazula, adding that he didn't know what kind of cookie she demanded.

After she "exchanged words" with the clerk, the 25-year-old woman hit her in the face with a two-pound box of tissue wrappers, breaking the worker's glasses, Zazula said.

Police said the woman then went around the counter and punched the clerk, causing no major injuries.

The woman spent Thursday night in jail, where Zazula said there probably were some leftover Christmas cookies.

"I'm sure they'll give some to her," he said. "Hopefully it's the kind she wanted."

State begins new campaign to get men to quit smoking

AUSTIN (AP) — Hoping to capitalize on the optimism of New Year's resolutions, the Texas Department of Health today will unveil a new statewide anti-smoking campaign aimed at men.

The "Yes You Can" campaign — "Si Se Puede" in Spanish — features televised public-service announcements that portray a young father telling his friends that he quit smoking, said Dr. Phil Huang, head of tobacco prevention for the health department.

While the father claims to have given up smoking on his own, the viewer is privy to scenes in which his children bury his cigarettes in the yard, flush them down the drain and leave him notes about smoking.

"It talks about how there is help all around you, and how you do need your family and friends to help you quit," Huang said.

About 25 percent of adult men in Texas smoke cigarettes, the highest rate of any group in the state, Huang said.

"We also know that a lot of them have tried to quit before at some point," he said. "The message is that they can quit, and there is help all around them."

Baytown resident Alan Lopez, 31, said the family-themed ads would catch his attention because his family doesn't like his smoking.

"My kids and my wife have asked me to quit. My wife doesn't really like it," he said.

Tony Adams, 30, of Cleburne said he's tried quitting during the 10 years he's been a smoker, but has never been successful.

"I would watch the ad. I care about my health and I care about my kids' heath, so I want to quit," he said.

The health department distributed the TV spots, in Spanish and English, across the state. But the state is only paying for the public service announcements to be broadcast in Houston and the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, said Ted Burton of EnviroMedia, an advertising agency working for the health department.

Huang said the health department has focused on Houston and the Beaumont-Port Arthur area in a tobacco prevention program funded by $12.5 million of Texas' $17.3 billion settlement with the tobacco industry.

"We're trying to concentrate on those areas to be able to demonstrate results," Huang said.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Raw Oil and Gas Inc. will drill the No. 1 Sally Walton, an 8,200-foot wildcat located four miles north of Snyder. Location is in Section 159, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Patriot Resources Inc. will drill the No. 1 Emerald, an 8,000-foot wildcat located 11 miles southwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 197, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy Inc. will drill the No. 1-41 South Lake Thomas, a 6,600-foot wildcat located 22 miles southwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 41, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Southwest Royalties Inc. will drill the No. 1 Bull Creek, a 5,000-foot wildcat located 23 miles west of Snyder. Location is in Section 153, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1-42 South Lake Thomas, a 7,500-foot wildcat located 22 miles southwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 42, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Boyd and McWilliams Energy will drill the No. 3 A.J. Hobbs in the Howard-Glasscock field, six miles southeast of Forsan. The reentry project is planned for a depth of 3,288 feet, location is in Section 140, Block 29, W&NW survey.

L.C.S. Production will drill the No. 1-XF Guitar in the Varel field, seven miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 8,000 feet, location is in Section 22, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell survey.

Date Book

Monday, Dec. 30, 2002

Today is the 364th day of 2002 and the 10th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1862, the Union ironclad ship USS Monitor started sinking during a storm.

On this day in 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was founded. It was the first state in the world to be based on Marxist communism.

On this day in 1963, "Let's Make a Deal" made its television debut.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), writer; Bo Diddley (1928-) signer and songwriter, is 74; Sandy Koufax (1935-), baseball great, is 67; Patti Smith (1946-), singer-poet, is 56; Matt Lauer (1957-), television personality, is 45; Tiger (Eldrick) Woods (1975-), golfer, is 27.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1936, Stanford ended Long Island University's 43-game winning streak.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Borrow trouble for yourself, if that's your nature, but don't lend it to your neighbors." — Rudyard Kipling

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 26) and new moon (Jan. 2).

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events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

A winning ticket would have been worth an estimated $9 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 2-4-6-19-21-48.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $12 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 0-1-0
(Night) 5-6-4
Cash Five
8-20-30-33-36

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Fledgling meat program helping small farmers

MELROSE, Minn. (AP) — Jim and Helen Poepping have been raising hogs and selling pork products for more than 20 years, relying on heavy word-of-mouth to lure customers down the long gravel road that leads to their farm.

But their good reputation and the quality of their sausages, spare ribs and bacon wasn't always enough for people to forego the convenience of their local grocer and drive 30 or 40 miles to the Poepping farm.

"The gravel road was a drawback for some people," Jim Poepping joked. "If you don't get repeat customers, you don't have a business."

The Poeppings solved their location problem three years ago by joining a startup state meat inspection program. The program lets small and medium-sized farmers get their meat approved and onto the shelves of grocery stores — an opportunity previously only available to larger, USDA-inspected plants.

Now products from the family's label, Pep's Porks, can be found in about a dozen stores throughout Stearns County. Jim Poepping says his hog farm is processing twice as much meat as before — 1,200 hogs a year — and profit has grown by nearly 30 percent.

"It's expanded our business, but it's also made it a little more convenient for our customers to get ahold of our product," Poepping said. "The time was just right to do it."

When the state program kicked off in January 1999, only one meat processor signed up, putting out about 100 pounds of meat a month. Today, there are 67 processors statewide, churning out nearly 9 million pounds, or $40 million in product, a year.

That's less than 5 percent of all the meat processed in Minnesota each year. But, for farmers like the Poeppings, a little is a lot.

"They chew off as big a bite as they can handle," said Willis Wesley, a state supervisory inspector, as he inspected a slaughtered hog recently at the Poepping farm.

Wesley, who worked for the USDA for 30 years, says the program is good for smaller operations because of flexible scheduling of slaughter days and more daily interaction.

Prior to state inspections, small farms would be inspected by the USDA about four times a year. Because smaller operations couldn't sell product in stores — federal regulations stipulated that only meat processed at USDA-inspected facilities could be sold in stores — there wasn't a need for intense inspections. Smaller plants could only sell directly from their facilities or process meat for other farmers.

The inspection program came from a desire to improve food safety and help family farmers compete, said Kevin Elfering, the program's director. USDA funds 50 percent of the program, while nominal license fees and state funding pays for the rest.

"From a standpoint of keeping a small-town business viable, that's what's been really helpful," Elfering said. "Some of these companies needed something to keep them as an active business."

That's because many plants depended on processing animals for other farmers, but the number of livestock farmers in the state has steadily declined in the past decade, Elfering said.

Despite the program's apparent success — a recent study showed 450 jobs and $100 million in economic activity for the state — a looming state budget deficit could stifle its growth.

Winner of Powerball prize starts handing out the cash

HURRICANE, W.Va. (AP) — At the beginning of Sunday's service at the Tabernacle of Praise, Senior Pastor C.T. Mathews asked his parishioners for donations to the church's food pantry.

Afterward, one member of his congregation — record Powerball lottery winner Andrew "Jack" Whittaker — said he was making good on a promise to go way beyond boxes of macaroni and cheese.

Whittaker said that later in the day he would give Mathews a $334,000 check, the first installment on the church's share — the traditional 10 percent tithe — of Whittaker's $170 million gross winnings.

"My first priority is helping West Virginia," Whittaker in the vestibule of the modest church along U.S. 60.

Whittaker held the only winning ticket in Wednesday's record $314.9 million Powerball drawing. He chose to take a one-time payment of $170 million instead of the full amount over 30 years. After taxes, he will receive $113.4 million, but he said he would tithe a full $17 million to three Church of God pastors.

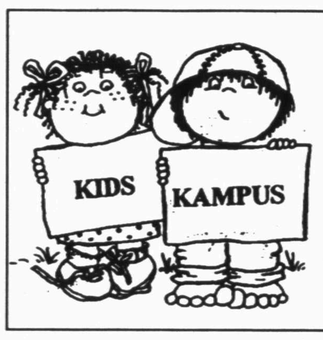
The churches' money will be divided between Mathews, who leads Whittaker's parish in Hurricane; Bishop Cecil Welch, who leads a parish in Hinton near where Whittaker grew up; and Gerald Abreu, pastor for 12 years in Hurricane and now in Torrance, Calif.

Whittaker said it will be up to the clergymen to decide how they use the money.

"That's a blessing to have that kind of backing," Mathews said with a beaming smile of his church's share. "I'd like to get down and set down and think about it."

Whittaker estimated that since claiming the prize he had fielded around 2,000 calls from people looking for money. Only four of the callers seemed in true need, he said; he asked them to send letters explaining their problems.

All the other requests were from people who hoped to use his cash to "put them on a pedestal," Whittaker said.



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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Sibling rivals now find family bond as gay adults

DEAR ABBY: My two brothers, two sisters and I are not close. Our parents did everything possible to foster sibling rivalry, and as a result, we speak only a few times a year and rarely visit.

During the last few years, however, I have discovered quite a bit in common with my younger brother, "Randy." Among other things, we are both gay.

Randy recently asked me if I thought anyone from our family would show up if he and his live-in partner, "Jeff," were to hold a commitment ceremony. (Many members of our family belong to the Reformed and Christian Reformed churches, both well-known for being unfriendly to gays.)

I am excited and happy for my brother. Would it be tacky of me to ask him if I could be his best man? He may have friends he feels closer to, who have played a bigger part in his life, and I wouldn't want to make him feel pressured to include me. Should I mention it to Jeff — a fantastic guy, by the way — and see what he thinks? Or should I keep quiet? **— EXCITED OVER MY BROTHER'S BIG FAT GAY WEDDING**

DEAR EXCITED: If I were you, I would take no chances on a miscommunication. Tell your brother how excited and happy you are for him and his partner, and that you would love to be a part of his commitment ceremony in any capacity he and Jeff see fit. (If he already has a best man in mind, perhaps you could do a reading.) Considering the dynamics in your family, your brother should be pleased by your gesture of solidarity.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am an 18-year-old girl with a problem. I think I'm going crazy. For a couple of years now, I have been having strange thoughts. For instance, I believe there are people who can see me. I talk to them. (My family has overheard me talking to these "people." They can be acquaintances, famous celebrities or anyone.)

I don't hear their voices or hallucinate, but for some reason I just can't shake these "feelings." I do not use drugs of any kind. I have told my parents about this, but they tell me I need to get out more, to serve others and take my mind off it.

I have done research on mental illnesses like schizophrenia and personality disorders, but I can't identify what's wrong with me. I want to see someone about this, but my parents think it's a bad idea. I love them and I know they care about me, but when it comes to my problem, it seems like they want to ignore it and hope I'll grow out of it. Please help me. I am ... **DESPERATE IN PARK CITY, UTAH**

DEAR DESPERATE: You appear to be a very intelligent young woman. Although your parents might wish it, you and I both know that talking to people who aren't there and thinking they can see you is not behavior that will go away if you "get out more and serve others" to distract yourself. I urge you to contact your physician and ask for a referral to a mental health professional — preferably a psychiatrist. You need more help than I can give you in a letter or newspaper column. Please don't wait.

**

ODE TO MYOPIA

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.

My house isn't dirty — the cobwebs are gone.

My garden looks lovely, and so does my lawn.

I think I might NEVER put my glasses back on.

(Author unknown; submitted by Willis A. Sterner, Madison, Wis.)

**

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.

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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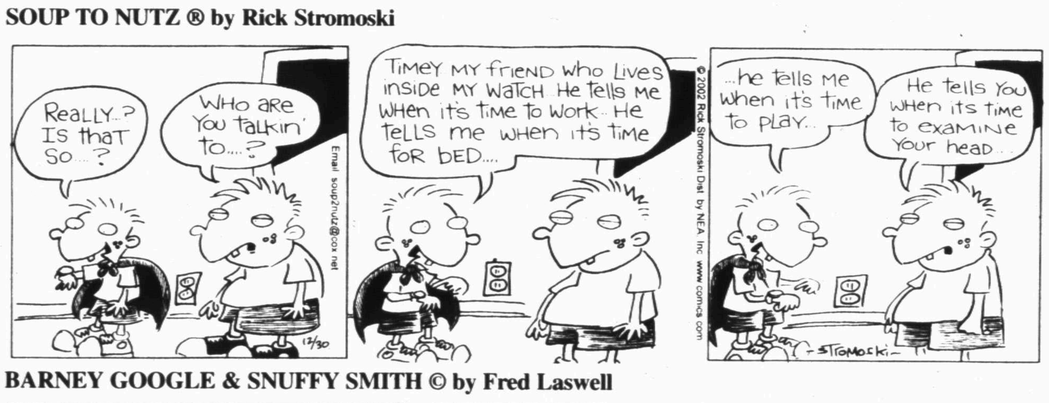
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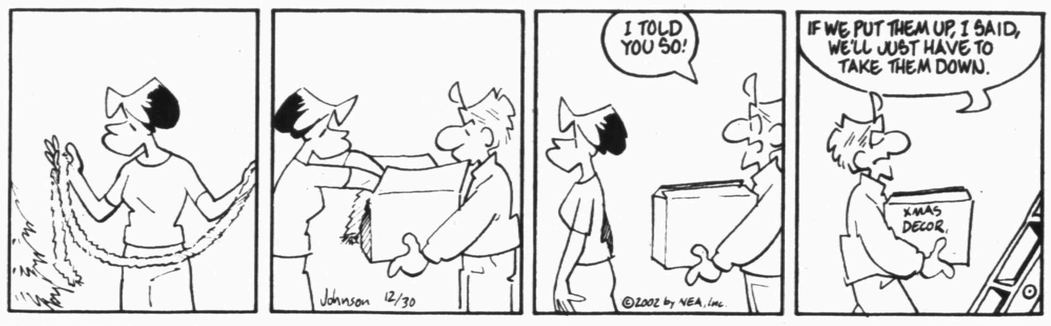
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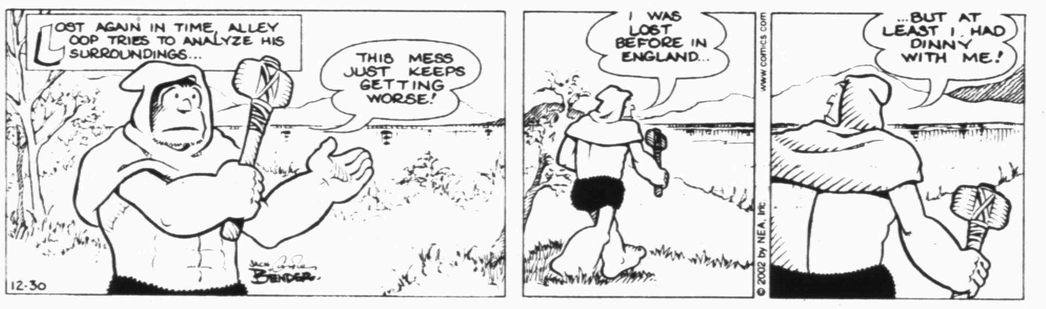
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Bend
5 "— Doubtfire"
8 Swiss mountains
12 Bluffer
13 — burner (horse)
14 Pace
15 Terrier of filmdom
16 Mew
17 Long walk
18 Mind
20 Loan figure
21 — — flash
22 "— So Shy"
23 Ms. Close
26 Well-maintained (2 wds.)
29 Masculine principle
30 Processes cotton
31 Greedy one
33 Food additive
34 Coffee makers
35 Rum mixer
36 Followed
38 Jet routes
39 Run away
40 Catch a crook
41 Opera tune
43 Irritating
46 Willow or birch
47 Apple seed
48 Shortfall
50 Cure
51 Compilation
52 Samms of "General Hospital"
53 Fabric unit
54 Director — Brooks
55 Throw

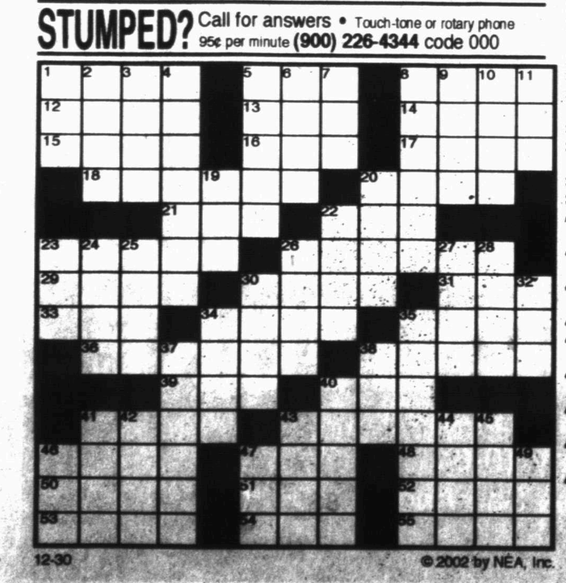
DOWN

1 Gator Bowl st.
2 Not speak clearly
3 Noshes
4 Radiologist's job (hyph.)
5 Brown color
6 Steakhouse order
7 Dirty place
8 Horrified
9 Cafe au —
10 Explorer Zebulon —
11 Fr. holy woman
19 News channel
20 Agents
22 Egg layers
23 Locker locale
24 Survive
25 Cal Tech grad
26 Merciful
27 Savvy about (2 wds.)
28 Carpet feature
30 Lady Jane —
32 Service station buy
34 Bruins sch.
35 Advisory group
37 Off the mark
38 Careless
40 Sherpa's home
41 General vicinity
42 Caboose's spot
43 Grape plant
44 "Nautilus" captain
45 Opal and topaz
46 Quaker pronoun
47 Actress — Dawber
49 Courtroom VIPs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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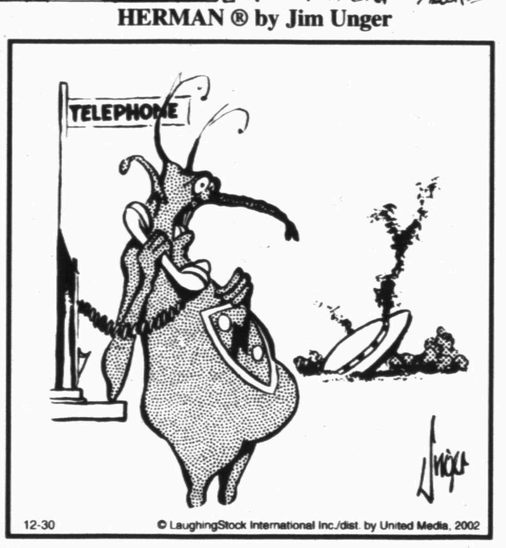


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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham





"Operator, how do I make a long-distance call from here?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Cowboys end season with a thud

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Darrell Green did a 55-minute farewell lap around the field. Dave Campo and Emmitt Smith settled for a quick tap dance.

Green's retirement after 20 years and 295 games was one of the few certainties after the Washington Redskins ended the season Sunday with a 20-14 victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

Even as the 42-year-old cornerback lingered and cried among the fans, Campo and Smith were inside the locker room dancing around questions about their futures with the Cowboys.

"You ask me to answer a question that I don't even know the answer to," Smith said. "Whether or not I'm going to be here next year, how do I know?"

The one person with the answers wasn't giving any. Owner Jerry Jones said he would make a decision "immediately" about Campo's future, but he then clarified that "immediately" would have to wait until he got back to Dallas.

"Not here in the dressing room, but when I'm away from the stadium and as we go into tomorrow and the next day," said Jones, who has twice in the last week met with coaching candidate Bill Parcells and also has spoken to former Minnesota coach Dennis Green.

An announcement could come as early as Campo's scheduled weekly news conference Monday afternoon.

The Cowboys have finished 5-11 in each of Campo's three seasons. He did not address his status with the players or reporters after the game.

"I'm not going to comment on that," Campo said. "That's Jerry's decision."

As for Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader will have to take a pay cut to return to the Cowboys. If this was his last game, he went out on a very sour note: 13 yards on 18 carries to finish with 975 yards on the season, short of 1,000 for the first time since his rookie year.

"I do want to play next year. I don't care if it's in a Dallas Cowboys uniform or anywhere else," Smith said.

"I still want to play the game of football because I still feel like I can. Once the evaluation process goes on with the Cowboys and so on, they're going to find out that I'm not the problem. I'm not the problem. We have a lot more problems than just a 33-year-old running back."

Aside from Green's emotional moments, the Redskins (7-9) were hardly euphoric after a sloppy victory that ended a 10-game losing streak to their fiercest rival. Coach Steve Spurrier gave Dan Snyder a promised game ball to commemorate the owner's first victory over the Cowboys since buying the team three years ago, but the players said the moment was nothing special.

"Everybody knew he was getting it, so it's not like it was some secret or surprise," guard Tre Johnson said.

That's probably because the Redskins won ugly, committing five of the game's nine turnovers. Spurrier was beside himself that the game wasn't a rout.

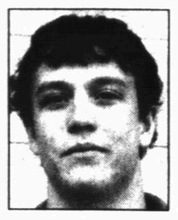
"Obviously their coach is probably going to be canned tomorrow," Spurrier said. "He knows it, and so it's hard to get his team really riled up to play. We had a chance to beat them pretty good, but we allowed them to stay in the game.

"It's hard for me to get excited. I know they've beaten us a lot, so don't get me wrong. They're still a 5-11 team three years in a row. Sometimes we maybe give Dallas too much credit, you know what I mean?"

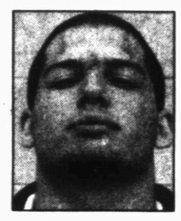
Two of the game's four touchdowns were scored on defense.

Bulldog seniors garner All-South Plains honors

The anchors of the bi-district champion Ira Bulldogs, senior standouts Eric Dickerhoff and Josh Gutierrez, were honored for their defensive efforts on the 2002 *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal's* prestigious All-South Plains team.



Dickerhoff



Guttierrez

Dickerhoff was honored for his work in the secondary. He led the state with nine interceptions, and recovered five fumbles in racking up 127 tackles. He also knocked down 12 passes.

Dickerhoff was named Most Valuable Player for District 8, and was one of five finalists for Dave Campbell's Six-Man Player of the Year award.

Gutierrez earned accolades for his efforts at linebacker. In an outstanding all-around senior campaign, Gutierrez led the Bulldogs with 153 tackles. He also recorded an interception and forced a dozen fumbles.

He was named to the first team All-District 8 squad, as well as the first team for All-Region I.

Titans get bye with victory over Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — The Tennessee Titans got what they came for in their game in Houston in six years: a victory for owner Bud Adams and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Joe Nedney kicked two field goals, the special teams blocked a punt and field goal, and Eddie George scored the decisive touchdown with 5:14 to play as the former Houston Oilers beat the Houston Texans 13-3 Sunday.

The Titans (11-5) already had wrapped up the AFC South title, so all they had to gain was a week off before entering postseason play. The Texans (4-12) closed out their first NFL season with three straight losses.

Adams was festive following the game despite being mocked by tailgaters, who used his likeness on a dartboard and a pinata. Adams visited both teams' locker rooms.

"I did see a few Oilers jerseys in the stands, but two of them the police were taking out," Adams joked. "Maybe it was to protect them."

Adams said it was only the second time in 42 seasons as Oilers-Titans owner that he entered a visiting locker room after a game. The other was after a playoff victory over San Diego in 1979. Adams said he went into the Chargers' locker room by mistake.

"I was watching you guys (Texans) at the half, and it had me worried," Adams said.

Lady Tigers come up just short in Post championship

The Lady Tigers came up a point short in the Post championship game, finishing in second place after a hard-fought, 38-37, defeat at the hands of tournament host Post.

"The girls played very hard. It was a very intense game," assistant coach Stephanie McKnight said. "We had opportunities, we just couldn't get the ball to fall."

Snyder held a two-point lead at halftime, but were blown out, 14-3, in the third quarter.

The Lady Tigers shot 25 percent from the floor and 50 percent from the charity stripe.

McKnight said the girls got into foul trouble early, with Zipporah Peoples and Erin Burleson sitting for long stretches in the first half.

Hailey Putnam led the way for the ladies with 10 points, and April Lollar pumped in eight points.

Peoples and Putnam were named to the All-Tournament team, and McKnight said they were both deserving of the honor, adding that the entire team had an outstanding tournament.

The Snyder girls travel to Greenwood tomorrow to square off against the Lady Rangers, with a 2:30 p.m. tip off slated.

Playoff picture clear in NFL

By the Associated Press

Entering this weekend, the AFC playoff possibilities seemed to confuse almost everyone.

Except, apparently, Herman Edwards and Tony Dungy.

"I was talking to Herm Edwards on Friday and we talked about the possibilities," Dungy said after his Indianapolis Colts beat Jacksonville 20-13 Sunday. "I said, 'We'll go win, you guys go win, and we'll see you next week.' And that's the way it turned out."

Indeed, the Colts and the Jets will open the first round of the playoffs Saturday in East Rutherford, N.J.

Although the two were longtime AFC East rivals until realignment this season, this is their first postseason meeting since the 1969 Super Bowl, when Joe Namath and the Jets stunned the team that was then based in Baltimore.

The Colts (10-6) actually made it in before they played, qualifying when Kansas City lost Saturday in Oakland. The Jets (9-7) got in by beating Green Bay 42-17 after New England had come from behind for a 27-24 overtime victory over Miami to set up a three-way tie for first in the AFC East.

New York won the division because of a superior division record to Miami and a better record against common opponents than New England.

When New York won, it knocked out both the defending champion Patriots and the Dolphins. Denver, another 9-7 team, was eliminated after the early AFC games.

Oakland (11-5) earned home-field advantage in the AFC on Saturday, and Tennessee (11-5) got a first-round bye by beating Houston 13-3 on Sunday. In the other AFC first-round matchup, Cleveland (9-7) will be at Pittsburgh (10-5-1) on Sunday.

In the NFC, Philadelphia (12-4) got the top seeding when the Packers lost. Tampa Bay (12-4) is seeded second and has the other first-round bye.

Atlanta (9-6-1) will be at Green Bay (12-4) on Saturday night, a frostbite game the NFL apparently has decided it likes after New England's win over Oakland in the snow last season. On Sunday the New York Giants (10-6) will be at San Francisco (10-5 going into Monday night's game in St. Louis.)

The Colts-Jets game is the only one next week that isn't a reprise of a regular-season game or games.

Tigers finish rough tourney with double overtime loss

The Snyder Tigers were blanked at the Brownwood tournament, dropping the final game in double overtime to Comanche, 50-46.

Snyder used a 20-point outburst in the third quarter to take control of the game, but were outscored 11-4 in the final period to send the game into overtime, where they were bested, 12-8.

Assistant coach Zack Williams said the Tigers had opportunities at the end of regulation and the first overtime to take the game, but could not put it away.

Lee Scott paced the Tigers (4-11) with 14, and Colby Driggers put up 13 in his third game back from a broken leg.

Logan Hill added 11, and T.J. Jones notched six for Snyder, which will host the Midland Greenwood Rangers Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at the high school gym.

Ira girls pound Jayton JV for seventh-place

The Lady Bulldogs finished up a rough stretch at the Jayton tournament, pounding Jayton JV 43-16 in the seventh-place game.

Head Coach Brent Parr said the ladies, who gave up 62 Munday and 63 to Paducah, need to shore up their defense if they want to continue to be successful this season.

"It is a good tournament, we knew it would be tough," he said. "We need to make corrections on defense. Offensively, we have been pretty consistent, but we have to hold teams to under 40 points to win."

Lindsey Wilson and Celeigh Sterling each scored 12 in the win.

Ira will have its hands full Tuesday, as Roby comes to town for a 2 p.m. game.

"They are a very good team, and we will have to play well," he said. "With it being the holidays, we don't know who is going to be here, but we will do our best."

Richardson's son...
Ex-SHS player ousted from TSU head coach slot

From local, wire reports

Tennessee State has suspended basketball coach Nolan Richardson III indefinitely for an undisclosed violation of university policy.

Richardson, the son of former Arkansas and Western Texas College coach Nolan Richardson, was suspended Friday and did not travel with the team to Ohio State for Saturday's game.

Richardson is a native of El Paso, and graduated from Tulsa (Okla.) Washington in 1983.

He attended Snyder High School as a freshman in 1979-1980, and was a member of the junior varsity basketball team that was coached by current SHS principal Larry Scott.

Assistant Hosea Lewis was to fill in as coach for the Tigers (2-5).

The NCAA is investigating the program for rules violations under Richardson. The inquiry involves allegations of impermissible practice out of season, providing extra benefits to recruits and unethical conduct by a coach.

Richardson is 23-41 since he was hired at Tennessee State in April 2000. He played two seasons at Oklahoma State and was an assistant under his father at Arkansas from 1991 to 2000.

Sports Briefs

Coughlin era likely over

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tom Coughlin, who is the only coach in Jacksonville Jaguars' eight-year history, and has been rumored to be on his way out, said he expected to talk today with owner Wayne Weaver.

ESPN.com reported Sunday that Coughlin would be fired and that former NFL coach Dennis Green, LSU coach Nick Saban and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops were possible replacements.

Former Rams coach heading to Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky will introduce its new football coach Monday, amid reports that former Oregon and St. Louis Rams head coach Rich Brooks was hired.

BoSox sign Yankee reliever

BOSTON (AP) — Free agent reliever Ramiro Mendoza, a key member of the New York Yankees' staff for the last seven seasons, agreed to a two-year deal with the Boston Red Sox.

McGee moving up dubious list

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Dallas Cowboys tight end Tony McGee played in his 152nd game without a playoff appearance, the longest active streak in the NFL.

McGee passed former quarterback Archie Manning for 26th place on the career list. Kicker Sam Baker, who played in the 1950s and 1960s, holds the record of 195 games.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	22	9	.710	—
Philadelphia	18	11	.621	3
Boston	18	12	.600	3½
Orlando	17	15	.531	5½
Washington	13	16	.448	8
New York	9	17	.346	10½
Miami	10	19	.345	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	22	8	.733	—
Detroit	20	9	.690	1½
New Orleans	18	14	.563	5
Atlanta	12	17	.414	9½
Milwaukee	12	17	.414	9½
Chicago	10	20	.333	12
Toronto	8	22	.267	14
Cleveland	6	26	.188	17

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	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	25	4	.862	—
San Antonio	19	11	.633	6½
Houston	16	13	.552	9
Utah	16	13	.552	9
Minnesota	16	14	.533	9½
Memphis	9	21	.300	16½
Denver	6	23	.207	19

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	23	9	.719	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	3
Portland	17	11	.607	4
Seattle	15	15	.500	7
L.A. Lakers	13	19	.406	10
L.A. Clippers	12	18	.400	10
Golden State	11	18	.379	10½

Saturday's Games

Washington 84, Atlanta 76
Indiana 91, New Orleans 84
Orlando 101, Boston 95
Detroit 106, Minnesota 82
Dallas 107, New York 82
New Jersey 104, Milwaukee 96
San Antonio 109, Chicago 95
Utah 98, Philadelphia 69
L.A. Lakers 112, Denver 93
Portland 119, Sacramento 113, OT
Golden State 99, L.A. Clippers 92

Sunday's Games

Phoenix 103, Cleveland 84
Houston 97, New Orleans 85
L.A. Lakers 104, Toronto 88

Monday's Games

Washington at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Memphis at Boston, 2 p.m.
Portland at Chicago, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Washington, 8 p.m.
Indiana at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.


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Apply in person, 711 N. Ave. X.
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THE LITTLE BELL THAT COULD NOT RING — Central students in Judy Moss' and Edilyn Smith's classes presented *The Little Bell That Could Not Ring*. Students in the top photo include back row from left, Harley Collins, Patrick Ramos, Mystery Thurman, Ashton Messenger, Natalie Kerry, Minnie Guerra, Stephan Gunderson; front row from left, Chase Price, Mariah Cearley, Heraclio Juarez, Brianna Small, Robby Luna, Monica Glover, Sadee Bernal and Audrey Miller. Students in the bottom photo include back row from left, Regan Head, Veronica Arriega, Jessica Villa, Taylor Garcia, Evan Tedder, Taylor Boland and Timothy Iglehart; front row, Teenwolf Gomez, Hunter Cox, Aaron Garza, Caitlin Anderson, Beto Jaimes, Dakota Owens and Travis Hagins. Not pictured are Chris Garza, Christina Herrera, Joshua Sandoval, Katie Perales, Juan Ruiz, Carson Covey and Larry Settles. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Premarital AIDS testing?

DEAR DR. GOTT: In a recent column, you bemoaned the fact that HIV/AIDS blood tests are not required for marriage licenses. I'm an HIV/AIDS educator and offer the following rationale.

HIV blood tests will only tell if an individual is free of disease (negative) at the time the blood was drawn. It will not tell if the testing was performed too soon after exposure, before sero-conversion could take place. Such a test can be counted on only if the person has had total abstinence for six months or more and has had no intimate contact with body fluids.

DEAR READER: I have believed (and still believe) that AIDS testing should be part and parcel of premarital blood testing. While I am aware of the factors and time intervals that affect these blood tests, I think that they should be performed anyway. The only blood test required in most states is that for syphilis, a serious health problem, but one that is relatively rare and easy to treat. In contrast, HIV/AIDS is far more common, unarguably more serious and essentially incurable.

So, I don't give a hoot about the timing of the blood test — after all, a person could get syphilis, too, after a negative blood analysis. All of your objections are purely political correctness. What we need to know — actually, not even "we," rather, the applicant — is does this man or woman have a serious sexually transmitted disease? No medical testing is infallible. But, it seems to me, HIV testing (along with syphilis) should be the minimal requirement for a marriage license, if for no other reason that the identification of HIV carriers would enable them to receive treatment and — perhaps — avoid infecting their partners.

I would also like to add a personal observation. In my practice, I am seeing more and more young couples who wish to be intimate but fear the consequences. They request HIV testing, as well as other examinations, to make sure that they are entering a relation in tiptop shape. I encourage this. Ninety-nine percent of the blood tests are normal. Isn't this justification for insisting on premarital testing for AIDS in certain situations? There is no harm or danger, but state officials, who are often stodgy and conservative, seem to be uninterested in this serious problem.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please provide information about injections of dexamethasone. My doctor gave me this for a pinched nerve in my back.

DEAR READER: Dexamethasone is a steroid, a high-powered cortisone. It reduces inflammation and swelling and is often injected to alleviate certain types of backache caused by inflamed, swollen and pinched spinal nerves.

The steroid is a useful drug, although it shares the side effects of cortisone — such as brittle bones, diabetes, cataracts and so forth — if used repeatedly and for long periods. Therefore, short-term therapy, such as limited injections, is more appropriate than continued use.

Your doctor appears to be following a reasonable and customary approach to your back problem.

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Site of deadly hotel fire had a history of fire, safety violations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The drab San Bernardino residential hotel where four people were killed in a trash can fire had a history of fire and safety code violations, City Attorney James Penman said Sunday.

Penman said the batteries had been replaced on numerous smoke detectors after an August fire inspection at the Sunset Hotel. Those repairs, he said, probably saved a number of lives. Fire doors also were installed last month.

More than 90 people lived in the beige stucco hotel, where rooms rent for $425 a month. Many occupants have alcohol and drug problems, and some had been placed there by the San Bernardino County mental health department, Penman said.

Battalion Chief Mike Alder of the San Bernardino City Fire Department said the hotel has been closed in the wake of the blaze and residents, many on Social Security or disability pensions, have been housed temporarily by the Red Cross.

Fire spread through the hotel's top floor in the darkness of early Saturday morning, killing four people and injuring 17 more. Firefighters rescued 30 people, including infants and children, many of whom were screaming for help from hotel windows, Alder said.

A day later, two unidentified victims remained in critical condition with burns and respiratory problems. Two other victims, 73-year-old George Vonos and 44-year old Dusty Allison, both of San Bernardino, were upgraded from critical to serious condition at Loma Linda University Medical Center, said Julie Smith, a hospital spokeswoman.

The dead were identified as Michael Stevens, 50; Gregory A. Abdun-Nur, 34; Harold M. Turman, 41; and Robert Downs, 49, the hotel's night manager. All were residents of San Bernardino, Alder said. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Downs was found in the landing near the third floor elevator with a fire extinguisher beside him. He had apparently taken the elevator, something fire officials had warned him against after an earlier fire, Alder said.

"Our fire captain warned him then, 'don't get in the elevator during a fire,' but that's what he did," Alder said.

The fire started in a 32-gallon trash can on the top floor, where residents said trash had piled up periodically. Firefighters in the past few months had doused two previous trash can fires at the hotel, including a Nov. 8 fire in the same third-floor container.

The hotel had no sprinkler system, but it passed the August fire inspection, Alder said.

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'Two Towers' tops weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Catch Me If You Can" couldn't catch up with "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

The "Lord of the Rings" sequel took in $48.9 million during its second weekend for a 12-day gross of $200.1 million, becoming one of the speediest films ever to cross the $200 million mark, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Its weekend average of $13,508 per theater had "Two Towers" fulfilling predictions that it would outperform its predecessor, last year's "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."

Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," starring Leonardo DiCaprio as real-life '60s con man Frank Abagnale Jr., debuted at No. 2, capturing $30 million in its first weekend and $48.6 million since opening Wednesday.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co., Inc. Final figures will be released today.

1. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," $48.9 million.
2. "Catch Me If You Can," $30 million.
3. "Two Weeks Notice," $16.1 million.
4. "Maid in Manhattan," $13 million.
5. "Gangs of New York," $11.2 million.
6. "Drumline," $8.4 million.
7. "The Wild Thornberrys Movie," $7.4 million.
8. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," $6.5 million.
9. "The Hot Chick," $4.8 million.
10. "Die Another Day," $4.5 million.

Bridge By Phillip Alder



	North	
	♠ Q J	12-30-02
	♥ 8 7 5 3	
	♦ J 10 2	
	♣ K Q 6 4	
West		**East**
♠ A 10 8 4		♠ 5
♥ K 4		♥ J 10 9
♦ K 6		♦ Q 9 8 7 4 3
♣ A J 8 7 2		♣ 10 9 5
	South	
	♠ K 9 7 6 3 2	
	♥ A Q 6 2	
	♦ A 5	
	♣ 3	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	1 NT	Dbl.	2 ♦
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ??

Two opening leads from the netherworld

By Phillip Alder

To finish this year, I am going to show you two of the most unsuccessful opening leads, not just of 2002, but of all time. First, though, look at the declarer's diamond suit. In the dummy is J-10-2, and South holds A-5. Playing in four hearts, how did the declarer score three — yes, three — diamond tricks? (There were no penalty cards or revokes.)

The deal arose during the New Zealand National Congress last July.

What should West lead against the pushy four hearts? There is a case for the spade ace, hoping partner is short. The club ace is possible; perhaps seeing the dummy would help. The diamond king, high from a doubleton in partner's suit, is conceivable — and successful. But West chose the imaginative diamond six!

After declarer covered with dummy's jack, East played low, thinking South had the doubleton ace-king.

Best now is a heart to the ace and another heart (not that that makes the contract). However, South led a trump to his queen. West won with the king, cashed the spade ace, and gave his partner a spade ruff.

East "knew" his partner had led a singleton diamond. And after giving West his ruff, East wanted a second ruff. So, as a suit-preference signal for spades, East led the highest diamond he could find — the queen! Declarer's ace collected West's king, the heart ace drew trumps, a spade ruff got South into the dummy, and the club three disappeared on the diamond 10 — contract made!

What was the flaw in East's analysis? If West had led a singleton, he had overcalled one no-trump with 10 black-suit cards.

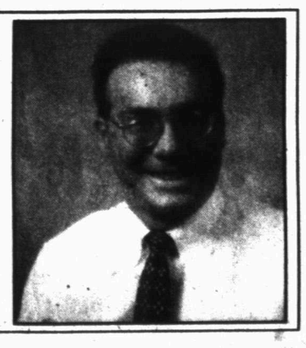
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Markets Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks:

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.46	6.23	6.25	—.14
AOL TimeWrn	12.65	12.30	12.39	—.05
AT&T Corp rs	27.00	26.70	26.74	—.01
Albertsons	22.17	21.89	22.17	+.28
Alltel	51.39	50.52	50.52	—.87
AmEl Pw	27.48	27.12	27.27	—.14
AndarkPtr	48.69	48.10	48.31	+.21
ATMOS Egy	23.25	23.10	23.14	+.03
Aviall	8.10	7.99	8.00	—.05
BP PLC	41.03	40.47	40.49	+.79
BakerHughes	32.88	32.15	32.22	
Bank of Amer	69.50	68.65	69.25	+.08
BellSouth	26.30	25.68	25.70	—.45
BurlNoSFe	25.92	25.62	25.69	—.05
Caterpillar	45.42	44.68	45.14	+.08
CenterPoint	8.60	8.36	8.47	—.08
ChevronTex	66.85	66.30	66.43	+.53
Citigroup	35.50	34.90	35.15	—.02
CocaCola	43.77	42.91	43.05	—.42
ColgatePal	52.40	51.90	52.33	+.18
CmclMetals s	16.25	16.21	16.21	+.04
ConocoPhill	48.31	47.90	48.06	+.24
Cooper Inds	35.60	35.30	35.38	—.05
DaimlrChry	30.47	30.08	30.19	+.31
DeltaAirl	11.53	11.20	11.37	—.09
Dillards Inc	15.36	15.07	15.18	—.10
DowChem	29.39	28.87	29.26	+.15
DuPont	42.81	41.82	42.01	—.30
EastmanChem	36.47	35.66	36.16	—.14
EstKodak	35.76	34.47	34.59	—1.05
EDS Corp	17.84	17.05	17.47	—.53
Entergy	46.02	45.60	45.89	+.34
ExxonMobil	35.10	34.36	34.96	+.32
FstBksAm	40.47	40.47	40.47	—.08
FootLocker	10.75	10.46	10.50	—.02
GenDynam	79.80	78.66	78.86	—.24
GenlElec	25.10	24.37	24.37	—.33
GenMills	46.95	46.36	46.82	+.46
GenMotors	36.91	36.50	36.73	+.19
GaPacific	15.95	15.35	15.86	+.06
Goodrich	18.04	17.84	17.85	—.03
Goodyear	6.72	6.58	6.58	—.02
GtAtlPac	7.65	7.42	7.50	—.02
Halliburtn	18.66	18.40	18.50	+.10
Hanson ADS	22.11	21.74	21.88	+.33
HarteHanks s	18.34	18.20	18.31	+.02
HomeDepot	24.00	23.18	23.19	—.58
HoneywellIntl	22.46	22.00	22.05	—.14
IBM	77.66	75.60	76.42	—.94
IntlPaper	34.95	34.26	34.86	+.29
JohnsonJn	53.76	53.10	53.50	+.39
KinderMorg	42.25	41.84	42.04	+.03
Kroger Co	15.40	15.10	15.37	+.18
LockheedM	58.11	56.46	56.57	—1.13
Lowes Cos	37.20	36.75	37.13	+.33
Lubys	2.95	2.86	2.90	—.05
LucentTech	1.32	1.26	1.26	—.03
MarathonOil	21.52	21.32	21.36	+.18
MayDeptStr	22.42	22.25	22.29	—.04
Medtronic	45.70	45.20	45.50	—.23
Motorola	9.07	8.55	8.56	—.44
NCR Corp	23.93	23.42	23.50	—.39
Navistar	24.20	23.77	23.92	—.09
PNM Rescs	23.55	23.30	23.50	+.02
Penney JC	22.36	21.70	21.80	—.27
PepBoys	11.47	11.25	11.25	—.16
PepsiCo	41.98	41.52	41.75	+.08
Pharmacia	41.40	40.33	41.33	+.83
PhelpDodge	31.75	31.21	31.43	+.07
PilgrmPrd B	8.58	8.40	8.41	
Praxair	57.92	57.01	57.83	+.39
ProctGamb	87.20	86.00	87.05	+.50
RadioShack	18.70	18.05	18.30	—.31
RoyalDut	44.28	43.86	43.94	+.53
SBC Comm	27.35	26.94	27.05	—.23
SaraLee	22.40	22.21	22.22	+.07
Scripps EW	75.74	75.38	75.38	—.24
SearsRoeb	23.33	22.77	23.05	—.10
SherwinW	28.15	27.82	28.00	+.07
SouthernCo	28.53	28.15	28.30	—.16
SwstAirl	14.03	13.65	13.75	—.24
SprintFON	14.48	13.98	14.22	+.24
SprintPCS	4.60	4.15	4.27	—.25
Sunoco Inc	33.40	33.20	33.37	+.05
TXU Corp	18.39	18.00	18.31	+.15
TempleInland	44.06	43.09	44.01	+.48
TexInd	24.20	23.95	24.10	+.10
TexasInst	15.50	14.86	14.93	—.36
Textron	42.32	41.71	42.03	—.13
TrinityInds	20.04	19.82	19.85	—.01
TylerTech	3.95	3.80	3.94	
UnionPacif	59.74	59.07	59.15	—.60
USSteel	13.02	12.85	13.00	+.01
UnitedTech	61.15	60.69	60.82	—.16
Unocal	30.56	30.18	30.38	+.26
VerizonComm	39.19	38.53	38.57	—.33
WalMart	49.80	49.15	49.52	+.36
WellsFargo	46.78	46.37	46.46	+.16
WstnGasRs	37.10	36.39	36.39	—.07
WinnDixie	15.30	15.08	15.27	+.11
Xerox Cp	7.89	7.75	7.81	—.18
YumBrands s	24.31	23.90	24.02	—.10

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DEC 30 2002

Saudi government says U.S. can use its airspace, bases in Iraq war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saudi Arabia has privately assured U.S. officials they could launch air support missions from Saudi bases in the event of a war with Iraq and could coordinate the air war from a central command post near the Saudi capital, Pentagon officials said Saturday.

Saudi Arabia is a long-standing American ally, but its willingness to permit U.S. forces to operate from the kingdom's soil for attacks on Iraq has been in serious doubt for many months. Saudi Arabia was the most important staging area for U.S. forces during the 1991 Gulf War against Iraq.

Victoria Clarke, spokeswoman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said Saturday she could not comment on specific arrangements the Pentagon has made with Saudi Arabia or any other ally. She said it is U.S. policy not to discuss basing arrangements.

Even so, she indicated that the Bush administration has reason to believe the Saudis will do as much as they can to support the United States.

"We are confident they will be an important ally going forward," she said.

Other officials said Saturday on condition of anonymity that the Saudis have given private assurances that U.S. support aircraft, such as cargo, surveillance and refueling planes, could operate from Saudi bases.

These officials said the Saudis also are willing to allow the United States to coordinate and direct an air campaign against Iraq from the Combined Air Operations Center, a state-of-the-art command center at Prince Sultan Air Base, south of Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

It remains unclear whether the Saudis would agree to allow U.S. strike aircraft to use Saudi air bases or fly through Saudi airspace en route to targets in Iraq. One U.S. official said it seemed unlikely the Saudis would allow that, although discussions apparently are expected to continue.

The Saudis' willingness to allow use of the Prince Sultan command center and other air bases for support missions was first reported by The New York Times in a story posted on the Internet for Sunday editions.

Federal government paying victims slowly

NEW YORK (AP) — The federal government has paid out less than a quarter of the $21.4 billion it pledged to New York City in the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to a published report.

The New York Times, which examined the spending of the promised aid, reported Monday that the government has delivered between $4.5 billion and $5 billion and has intentionally delayed payments in some cases.

Some government agencies, plagued by bureaucratic blunders, have been slow in allocating their funds, while other aid has been held up because local and state officials have not decided how it should be spent.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, charged with distributing nearly $9 billion, has paid out some $2.3 billion but has yet to decide how to spend roughly $366 million.

"FEMA will spend the $8.8 billion on this disaster, no question about it," said Brad Gair, the agency's federal recovery officer in New York.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002

The tides are more likely to keep you in good balance in the year ahead than they are to throw you off. If you steer a steady ship, life should go well for you, both materially and socially.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — The biggest problem facing you today is that you might have a tendency to misread the intentions of others. This could either falsely encourage you or wrongly discourage you. Be discerning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Steer clear of persons today who measure another's worth in proportion to their status symbol. Limit your associations to only those who like you for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You're on the right course, so if you run into a little snag, reason things out instead of jumping ship. It will prove wise to re-evaluate things and start over again, if need be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you're very careful not to let your emotions influence your thinking today, you'll prevail in all that you do. Make logic, not feelings, be your dominant force.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It won't be who you know, but what you know that makes for successful accomplishments today. If you can't cut the mustard on your own, having big-shot friends won't help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — There is nothing wrong with playing to win, but you must keep your objectives and methods within reasonable bounds. Don't kid yourself into believing that the ends justify the means.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The important thing for you to remember today is not to change horses in midstream. Something good could get off to an early start, but then you might be tempted to reverse yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Just because your social circle may think you're great today doesn't mean the commercial world will be as enamored. Be prepared to deal with some hard-nosed types and you won't be caught off guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Without discounting your own judgment today, listen to the suggestions of your friends and associates. But keep in mind that they may not see everything from your perspective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Instead of finding fault or blaming others for what goes wrong today, devote the same energy to making corrections. You'll get a lot further, and quicker, with productive thinking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Chances are you could experience the two extremes of your spending habits today. You might be extravagant one minute and then turn around and display unbecoming stinginess the next.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you feel you've been too closed in lately and are starting to feel smothered, a change of pace may do you more good than keeping your nose to the grindstone. Seek out a carefree activity.

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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Two are killed in shooting at apartment in College Station

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A Texas A&M University student is dead after police say her ex-boyfriend shot her in the chest and then fatally shot himself in the parking lot of her apartment.

Jacqueline Roquemore, 18, of Sugar Land, died shortly after arriving at the College Station Medical Center, Lt. Rodney Sigler said. Roquemore was a freshman education major, according to the school's Web site.

Police say Christopher Thomas Young, 23, shot her after an argument and then shot himself in the head. Young, a resident of Missouri City, was pronounced dead at the scene.

College Station Police were called to the Spring Heights Apartments at 12:48 p.m. Sunday by a woman reporting a disturbance in the parking lot.

A neighbor said the woman calling police was Roquemore's sister and roommate. While she was on the phone with dispatchers, a pair of shots rang out in the background.

Victor Allen, who lives across the street, said he ran over after he heard the shots.

When he arrived at the scene, Allen said he saw two bodies laying in the parking lot and then tried to help Roquemore's roommate talk to emergency responders.

"I saw a young lady run upstairs and she was on the phone," he said in The Bryan-College Station Eagle. "She was crying and was frantic. I took the phone and talked to the dispatcher."

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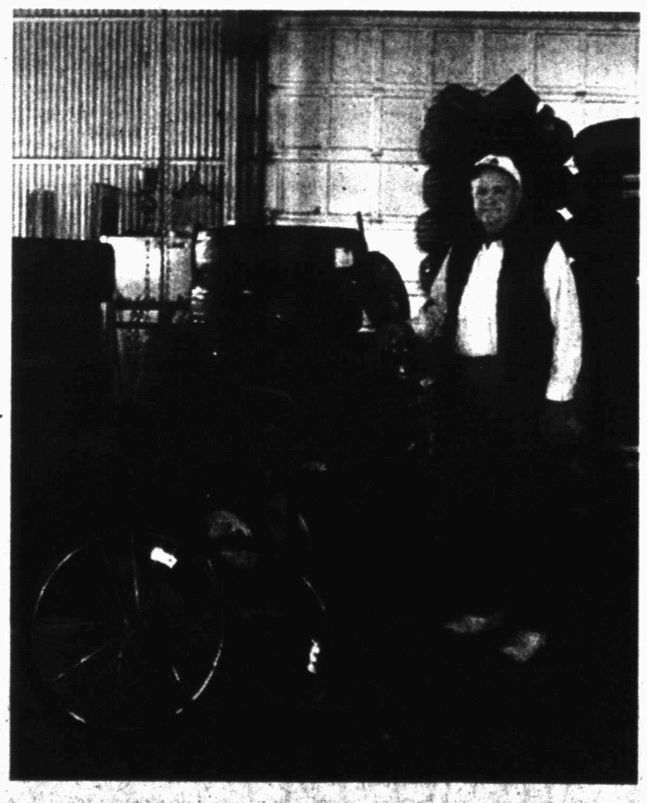
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Snyder, Texas
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Fax: 915-573-8306
Home: 915-573-3132

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Spotlight



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FBI

WASHINGTO
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•Arrests

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Raymond

1935-

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Bell-Cypert-Sea



Mr. Stansell

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and attended the
in Snyder.

He was prece
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Luke Stansell
Stansell.

Survivors inc
Vera Stansell of
sons, Raymond
Dunn and Bar
Canyon City, Co
Rebecca Irwin
brother, Bill Sta
na; a sister, V
Wichita Falls; a
children.

Col. Hube

1922-

NEW BRAU
Hubert Edell "E
(Ret.), age 80 of
Texas died Fri
27, 2002 at Wilfo

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3101 College A

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FBI seeking five illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the New Year's holiday approaching, the FBI is searching for several men of Arab ancestry after receiving intelligence they crossed illegally into the United States from Canada and may have connections to others under watch in terrorism investigations, law enforcement officials said today.

The FBI has no specific information the men are plotting a terrorist attack, but they want to question them about possible connections to individuals who are involved in terrorism, the officials said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

New York is among the locations where authorities were focusing their search, based on information received from at least one intelligence source, the officials said.

Because of the large gathering of Americans in New York City on New Year's Eve, authorities were taking the information seriously and pursuing the men even though there is no specific information that they are planning any activities, the officials said.

On Sunday, the FBI enlisted the public's help by putting out photos and names of five of the men they are seeking: Abid Noraiz Ali, Iftikhar Khozmai Ali, Mustafa Khan Owasi, Adil Pervez and Akbar Jamal, all born between 1969 and 1983.

The FBI warned that the names and birth dates may be false.

The FBI said it had "no specific information that these individuals are connected to any potential terrorist activities, but based upon information developed in the course of on-going investigations, the FBI would like to locate and question these persons." It also said the men are believed to have entered the United States illegally on or around Christmas Eve.

Snyder Man arrested for felony DWI

Arrests

Snyder officers arrested Barry Jon Farquhar, 41, of 206 36th Street at 11:42 p.m. Saturday near 27th Street and Ave. E for felony driving while intoxicated.

Jesus Humberto Guzman, 36, of Dallas, was taken into custody on U.S. 84 on a warrant for a deported felon from the INS. He was placed in the Scurry County jail with a hold from the INS.

At 11:20 p.m. Saturday, DPS troopers arrested a 23-year-old woman on Hwy. 180 for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 21-year-old man was taken into custody in the 1100 block of 21st Street at 1:30 a.m. Sunday for public intoxication and on outstanding warrants for driving without a license and failure to appear before a judge.

Two subjects were arrested in the 3900 block of Ave. O at 3:30 a.m. Sunday. Taken into custody were a 40-year-old woman and a 21-year-old man for public intoxication.

A 23-year-old man was arrested in the 3900 block of Ave. O at 4:42 a.m. Sunday for verbal assault.

Troopers took a 40-year-old man into custody south of Dunn on Hwy. 208 Sunday night for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Accidents

Snyder officers responded to two accidents over the weekend.

A one-vehicle accident occurred just before midnight Saturday at 27th Street and Ave. E involving a 1998 Chevrolet pickup driven by Barry Farquhar, 41, of 206 36th Street.

At 4:45 p.m. Sunday, officers responded to Coliseum Dr. and Ave. B to an accident involving a 1980 Ford pickup driven by Harold Hazelwood, 33, of 2701 Ave. B and a 2000 Chevrolet Malibu driven by Delfina Ramos, 69, of 1500 Ave. I.

No injuries were reported.

Thefts

Bealls manager Kathleen Huddleston reported a shoplifter ran from the department store just before 3 p.m. Saturday. An offense report for Class C theft was filed.

Debra Fernandez reported items stolen from her car parked at 2204 43rd Street and a report for burglary of a motor vehicle was filed.

Kim Hughitt called police at 11:52 a.m. Sunday to report stolen property out of her car while parked at 2404 42nd Street and a report was submitted for burglary of a motor vehicle.

At 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Amy Webster reported her car stereo stolen in the 3900 block of Ave. O, but she requested no report be filed.

Disturbances

Officers submitted a report for family violence at 1:30 p.m. Saturday after responding to a call from a residence on 34th Street. The caller reported a child custody issue and officers advised it was a civil matter.

At 5:25 p.m. Saturday, officers ere dispatched to a home on 41st Street and advised a report for Class A assault and family violence would be submitted.

A fight was reported in the 1200 block of Ave. M at 1 a.m. Sunday and officers contacted a man and woman involved in a verbal disturbance. The subjects separated for the night and all was in order upon the officers' departure.

A woman reported at 3 a.m. Saturday that a man pushed her in their home and left in her minivan. Officers filed a report for family violence.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country North reported a drive off worth $28.95 at 10:40 a.m. Saturday.

Obituaries

Raymond Stansell

1935-2002

Raymond D. Stansell Sr., longtime Scurry County resident, died Sunday, Dec. 29, at his home in the Dunn community after a sudden illness.

Service for Mr. Stansell, 67, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Vernon Groce, pastor of the Church of God, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.



Mr. Stansell

Born on Aug. 10, 1935 in Wheeler County, he married Vera Shifflett on Dec. 7, 1956 in Snyder. He was a truck driver for Ashland Oil Co. and attended the Church of God in Snyder.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, James Stansell, Luke Stansell and Glen Ray Stansell.

Survivors include his wife, Vera Stansell of Hermleigh; two sons, Raymond D. Stansell Jr. of Dunn and Barney Stansell of Canyon City, Colo.; a daughter, Rebecca Irwin of Lubbock; a brother, Bill Stansell of Fluvanna; a sister, Velda Padilla of Wichita Falls; and seven grandchildren.

Col. Hubert Hall

1922-2002

NEW BRAUNFELS — Col. Hubert Edell "Easy" Hall, USAF (Ret.), age 80 of New Braunfels, Texas died Friday, December 27, 2002 at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Col. Hall was born on July 6, 1922 in Dawson, Texas to James Hickman Hall and Nina May (nee Walker) Hall. He graduated from Colorado City, Texas high school. He married the former Lila Louise Mannering on August 6, 1941. Col. Hall was inducted into the Army Air Corps on October 30, 1940, and during World War II, he served on Guadalcanal, Solomons, New Guinea and The Phillipines where he received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lt. He also served in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. He retired from the 6970 Support Group USAFSS-National Security Agency in 1967.

Following his retirement, he became a real estate broker and had his own office in New Braunfels, "Easy Hall Realty," which he kept for several years. He was a member of the New Braunfels Presbyterian Church since 1960; New Braunfels Fair Association; life member of Comal County Sheriff's Posse; life member of V.F.W. Post; American Legion; New Braunfels Board of Realtors; Elks Lodge; Masonic Lodge; Grand Lodge of Sons of Hermann; Alamo Kountry Kickers (AKK); the Trailriders of the Bandera Hill Country; TETRA (Texas Equestrian Trailriders Association); founding member of the Heritage Trailriders Association (formerly the New Braunfels Founders Day Trail Ride).

Col. Hall was preceded in death by his wife, Lila L. Hall, his parents, three brothers—Jabus, Ernest and Emmett and one sister, Dorothy Hall Benton.

Survivors include his wife of three years, Barbara Hall and her daughters: Deanna Fling and Andrea Spanley and her husband, Jeff Spanley; his children: Ronda "Roni" and husband Albert "Dickey" Laubach of Karnes City, TX, Lester James Hall and wife, Carole of San Antonio, TX and Heather Lea Hall of Seguin, TX; 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 2, 2003 at 12:30 P.M. at the New Braunfels Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Peters officiating.

Interment will follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. Visitation will be Wednesday, January 1, 2003 from 5 to 9:00 P.M. at Doeppenschmidt Funeral Home. Pallbearers will be Jack Borchers, James Broz, Tim Laubach, John Doster, Curtis Kelly and Herman Sabrsula.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dennis Clark, David Holmes, Monroe Henk and Werner Kiesling.

In lieu of flowers, Col. Hall requested memorials be made to the New Braunfels Presbyterian Church Building Fund, Walter Fellers Scholarship Fund, Comal County Sheriff's Posse or the Heritage Trailriders Association of New Braunfels, Inc., 408 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, TX. 78130.

Paid Notice

Russell Loveall

1924-2002

MOUNT VERNON — Russell Loveall, former Snyder resident, died Sunday, Dec. 29.

Service is pending at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home in Mount Vernon.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1924 in Missouri and was preceded in death by a daughter, Belinda Loveall on Feb. 10, 1990.

Local survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Donny and Edie Loveall; his sister and brother-in-law, Dorris and Jack Martin; six grandchildren, Lexi, Ralston, Caycee and Randy Loveall, and Zach and Zane Green.

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Year-end review

Continued From Page 1

demise of California congressman Gary Condit.

Snyder High's top graduates in 2002 were Charlie Gorman and Kate Wright.

A highway bridge in Oklahoma collapsed sending 12 cars plunging into the murky waters of the Arkansas River.

June

Western Swing music fans arrived in Snyder for the annual event at the coliseum.

Indiana firm Senior Living Properties, parent company of Snyder Healthcare Center, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy to reorganize, but the action did not affect the local nursing home.

WTC trustees okayed a baseball and softball complex to be located on the southwest corner of campus. The colleges new sports programs are playing in Towle Park until the campus fields are complete.

Snyder citizens packed the local cinema to get a sneak peak at *Grand Champion*. The film was produced largely in Snyder included big-name stars such as Julia Roberts and George Strait and featured many locals as extras. It has yet to be released.

Wild fires continued to rage across many places in the western United States.

A record crowd and more than 100 airplanes converged on Winston Field for the annual fly-in breakfast.

Snyder received considerable name recognition thanks to a cornfield north of town. Greg Gafford carved a Sept. 11 memorial into his corn and invited the public to wind their way through the maze.

United Supermarkets donated $100,000 to WTC — the largest gift in the school's history.

The assisted-living facility planned for the hospital grounds was put on hold for the time being.

A three-year old girl was discovered left in a Snyder Head Start van for some eight hours. Cloud cover and unusually mild temperatures that day helped to avert disaster and the girl was unharmed other than mild dehydration. Two employees were terminated.

Bush spends holiday at ranch

CRAWFORD (AP) — On a cool and foggy winter day, President Bush enjoyed the seclusion of his 1,600-acre ranch on Sunday, taking a morning run, cutting cedar brush and dipping a line in his man-made lake.

"He has been clearing brush, running and fishing," said deputy White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

The president also has kept his eye on official business, following events in Iraq and monitoring efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its attempts to resume the production of weapons-grade nuclear material.

On Sunday Bush welcomed the peaceful presidential elections in Kenya as a step toward institutionalizing democracy in that African nation.

Bush opened the holiday season with a family gathering at Camp David.

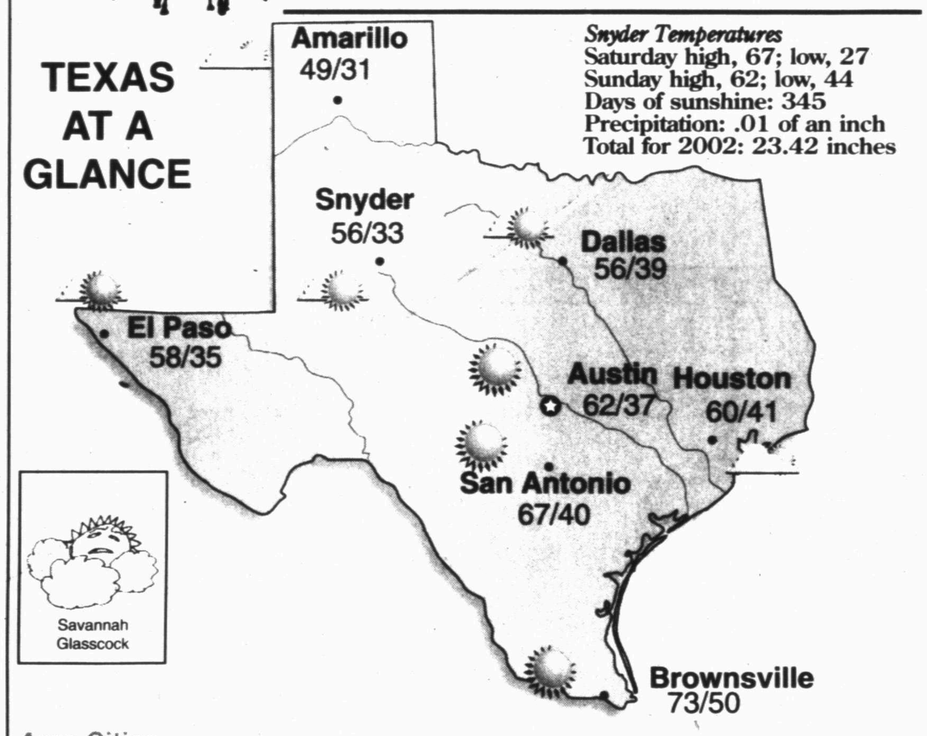
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/31	Wed 1/1	Thu 1/2
56/33	59/25	54/23
A few clouds from time to time. High 56F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph.	Windy with times of sun and clouds.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 20s.
Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:48 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:49 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:49 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Saturday high, 67; low, 27
Sunday high, 62; low, 44
Days of sunshine: 345
Precipitation: .01 of an inch
Total for 2002: 23.42 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	58	39	sunny	El Paso	58	35	mst sunny	Midland	59	38	sunny
Amarillo	49	31	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	65	38	sunny	Raymondville	71	45	sunny
Austin	62	37	sunny	Gainesville	53	31	sunny	Rosenberg	60	41	pt sunny
Beaumont	59	40	pt sunny	Greenville	53	33	mst sunny	San Antonio	67	40	sunny
Brownsville	73	50	sunny	Houston	60	41	pt sunny	San Marcos	62	38	sunny
Brownwood	60	36	sunny	Kingsville	69	45	sunny	Sulphur Springs	54	33	rain
Corpus Christi	66	46	sunny	Livingston	57	36	pt sunny	Sweetwater	59	35	mst sunny
Corsicana	57	37	rain	Longview	54	34	rain	Tyler	55	39	rain
Dallas	56	39	mst sunny	Lubbock	56	34	mst sunny	Weatherford	55	32	sunny
Del Rio	68	43	sunny	Lufkin	57	39	rain	Wichita Falls	57	34	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	53	43	rain	Houston	60	41	pt sunny	Phoenix	64	42	pt sunny
Boston	45	39	rain	Los Angeles	63	48	pt sunny	San Francisco	55	46	rain
Chicago	36	27	pt sunny	Miami	81	70	pt sunny	Seattle	46	41	rain
Dallas	56	39	mst sunny	Minneapolis	29	23	mst sunny	St. Louis	42	30	pt sunny
Denver	52	22	pt sunny	New York	49	40	rain	Washington, DC	58	47	cloudy

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Dec 27	Jan 2	Jan 10	Jan 18

UV Index

Tue 12/31	Wed 1/1	Thu 1/2
3 Low	3 Low	3 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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DEC 30 2002 2

DAVIDSON'S SUPERMARKETS

BEGINNING OUR 3RD YEAR IN SNYDER

IGA

2912 COLLEGE SNYDER

READY FOR A GREAT 2003

OPEN DAILY 6:30 AM UNTIL 9:00 PM

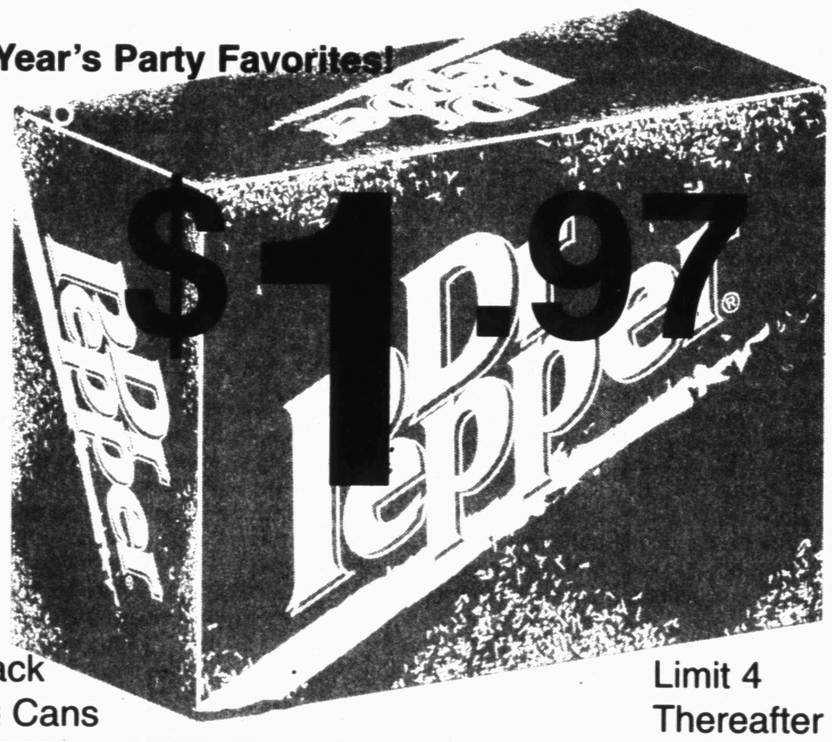
NEW YEAR'S THREE DAY DOORBUSTERS

OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY Reg. Hours

PRICES GOOD MONDAY DEC. 30TH THRU WED. JAN. 1ST, 2003

Pepsi, 7-UP, or Dr. Pepper

New Year's Party Favorites!

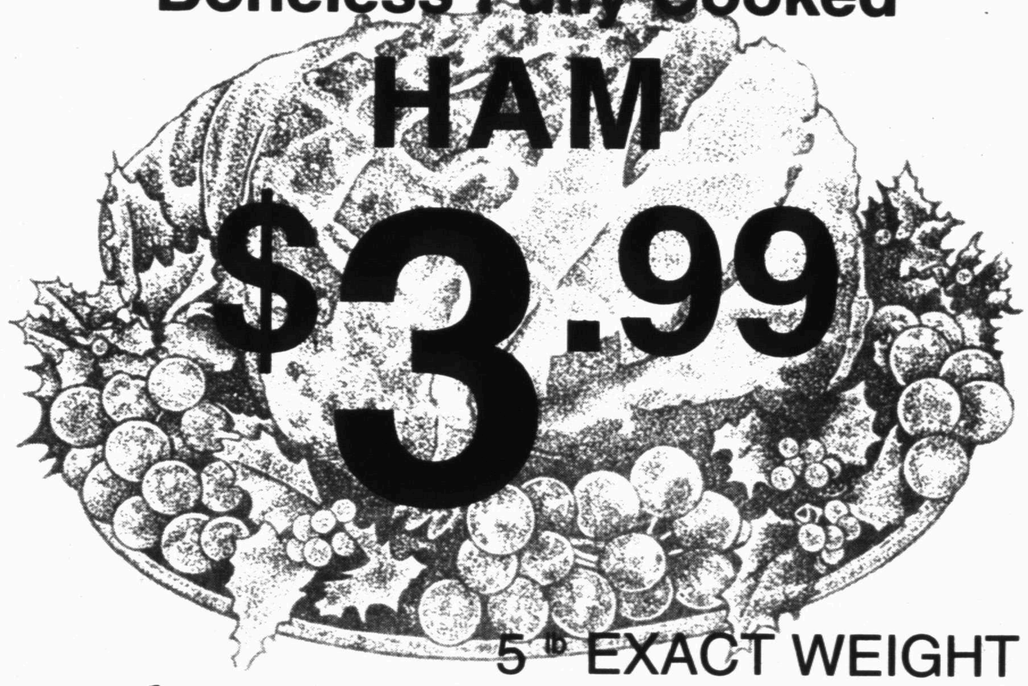


$1.97

12 Pack
12 oz Cans

Limit 4
Thereafter 2 - $5.00

John Morrell Boneless Fully Cooked HAM



$3.99

5 LB EXACT WEIGHT

Poinsettia Milk

Homogenized, 2%, 1% or Fat Free



Gal.

$1.69

FRITO LAY Potato Chips

Asst. Varieties 11½ oz to 12 oz
(Prepriced $2.99)



2 FOR $3.00

Original Kraft
VELVEETA CHEESE

$2.99

2LB BOX LIMIT 1
THEREAFTER $3.99

Bush's Blackeyed Peas
Reg. or with Snaps

15 oz CANS

4 for $1.00

Limit 12
Thereafter 39¢ ea.

BEST YET DRIED 1LB. BAG

BLACKEYED PEAS

FREE

WITH $25.00 or MORE PURCHASE

Ro-Tel TOMATOES
AND GREEN CHILIES

ASST. 10oz CANS

68¢

BOSTON BUTT
TWIN PACK
PORK ROAST

69¢ LB

A NEW YEAR'S TRADITION!

SALT JOWLS

69¢ LB