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WT-Int. Crude - $33.08
WTIC Posted - $29.75
Natural Gas - $4.585

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Jan. 6, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 214
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Kerrington Biggers

County court creates parks advisory board

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County commissioners' court made its annual appointments to various boards this morning and voted 3-1 to create a new board to oversee county parks.

The Scurry County parks advisory board was established with Precinct 1 commissioner Ralph Trevey casting the dissenting vote.

Trevey said he would rather wait until the county received the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant before naming the board.

"I have a problem with this," Trevey said. "We have not received the grant yet and I think when we do, that would be the appropriate time to do this.

"If for some reason we don't get the grant, then we have a county board in place of no avail."

The nine-member board could assist in obtaining the grant, said County Judge Rod Waller.

"I think if having a board already in place could aid us in getting the grant, then we should go ahead and do this," he said. "This will give them a little more teeth as an official advisory board rather than the ad hoc committee it is now."

Precinct 4 commissioner Chloanne Lindsey said having the board in place could "be to the county's advantage when we are considered for the grant."

Precinct 3 commissioner Howard Limmer made the motion for creation of the board and added that the current committee members "have done an outstanding job in getting us to this point."

Members appointed to the new board include Cloyce Talbott, Kevin Wright and David Harrell to serve three-year terms and Trent Driggers, Mike Dennis and Karla Clements to serve for two years each.

Serving on the board for one year will be Dayton Robertson, Jerry Webb and Tony Wofford.

In other action, farmer Bo Robinson was appointed to the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board to replace E.D. Walton whose term expired at the close of 2002. Robinson is a former Ira ISD trustee.

Precinct 2 commissioner Jerry House nominated Robinson and said he will "do an outstanding job."

Dink Foree also was re-nominated to the board to complete his third two-year term.

On the Library Board, Ed McAnally was chosen to replace Penny Perry who reached her term limit and Penny Cochran was appointed to the County Welfare Board.

Joe Hefner was named to the Board of County Development to replace Tony Scott.

Two new members were approved for the Child Welfare Board. Bob Barbee and Donna Zalman were appointed as replacements for Bill Dickinsen and Dennis Ball, who resigned last month.

The court also received a letter from the Child Welfare Board asking for action to remove Jean McMillon from the board for non-participation.

Trevey made a motion to remove McMillon, but changed his motion after some discussion to table any action by the court.

The court will consider McMillon's removal and a possible replacement at a future meeting.

Names also were drawn randomly from a pool of grand jurors to serve on the county grievance committee. Names drawn were Wesley Mills, Albert DeLoera and Kathy Peoples. An alternate, Fred Castillo, also was selected.

In other business, the court accepted a bid from McCormick Marketing for the county's fuel, oil and grease for the year.

McCormick's bid of $18 per drum came in lower than the only other bid received. Eddins Walcher submitted a bid for $40 per drum.

The court also approved a request for bids for road materials to be opened and considered at its Feb. 3 meeting.

Two budget amendments were approved. An amendment for $12,968 was accepted for completion of the breezeway enclosure project at the coliseum as was one for $2,800 for flu vaccine at the county health unit.

Waller presided over the 45-minute meeting and all members of the court were present to include Trevey, House, Limmer and Lindsey.



NEW MEMBERS — County Clerk Joan Bunch, left, looks on as Precinct 2 commissioner Jerry House and County Judge Rod Waller consider board appointments at their first meeting with the court. (SDN Staff Photo)

$3.5 million...

Bank deposits up slightly

A slight increase in local bank deposits were reflected at the year's end when compared to both a year ago and also evaluated against the third period in 2002.

Combined deposits at four reporting financial institutions were $227 million – an increase of $9.3 million since the third quarter and a jump of $3.5 million compared to the close of 2001.

Snyder National Bank reported year-end deposits of $90.9 million, an increase of $6.3 million in three months, but a drop of $100,000 when compared to the close of the final quarter of 2001.

Deposits at West Texas State Bank were $74.6 million, an increase of $800,000 since the third quarter of 2002 and a jump of $300,000 compared to the same time last year.

Texas Savings Bank revealed total deposits of $34.4 million, an increase of $1.1 million since third-quarter call reports and an increase of $300,000 compared to a year ago.

American State Bank total deposits were $27.1 million, an increase of $1.1 million compared to 2002's third quarter and an increase of $3 million based on 2001's year-end comparison.

Total loans at reporting institutions were $100 million, a reduction of $500,000 when compared to 12 months ago.

Loans at West Texas State Bank totaled $38 million, a decrease of $5.6 million compared to the same time last year and a drop of $1.1 million since the end of 2002's third quarter.

Snyder National Bank had total loans of $29.3 million, an increase of $3 million when compared to 2002's third quarter and an increase of $4.4 million compared to the close of 2001.

Texas Savings Bank reported total loans of $32.7 million, the same figure reported at the end of the third quarter and an increase of $700,000 compared 12 months ago.

First American Bank, with an office in Snyder, does not report individual branch data.

WTC theatre department seeking funds

From occupancy tax

Snyder city council convenes at 6:30 tonight for its first meeting of the year with several items to consider.

The council will hear a request for financial assistance from the Western Texas College theater department from the local hotel occupancy tax fund. WTC drama instructor Ray Newton will present the request.

Mike Post will present a report from Cox Communications on the problems with the cable system, and the council also will consider a request from Sharp Image Energy Inc. for a permit to drill within city limits.

Other items of new business include consideration of bids for disposal of scrap metal and acceptance of the investment report for the quarter ending Dec. 31.

Information items include a water distribution main improvement status report and the monthly cash disbursement and personnel reports.

An election calendar for the May 3 general election will be discussed as will a letter from city attorney Dana Cooley regarding guidelines for local purchases.

The council meets in the city chambers at city hall.

New superintendent contract on SISD agenda

Final action on the contract for the lone finalist for the Snyder ISD superintendent's post is expected today when the school board convenes in a called meeting at 6 p.m.

In December, the trustees named Dr. Ronny Collins as their choice to succeed Gayle Lomax.

Since Lomax's resignation, former Perryton superintendent Jim Kirkland has been serving as interim superintendent.

Dr. Collins, 48, has been the superintendent at Class 2A Jacksboro since 1997.

Prior to moving to Jacksboro, Collins was superintendent in Wellington for seven years. He also was an elementary principal in Wellington for one year.

A 1972 graduate of Joshua High School, Collins earned his bachelor of science degree from Tarleton State University in 1977 and his master's degree from Tarleton in 1978.

He earned his doctorate in education from Oklahoma State University in 1982.

He was also an assistant professor at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Collins also served as director of vocational education at San Marcos, and taught ag at Rio Vista High School and Grandview High School.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard for three years and the Army National Guard for 11 years.

He and his wife, Terri, who is a secretary and aide at Jacksboro Elementary, have two college-age children.

Trustees also will consider the contract of Sally Miller for the pre-school program for children with disabilities at West Elementary.

Miller, a graduate of Abilene Christian University in 1985, has taught in the Abilene school district and served as the director of the East Side Church of Christ Joy School.



BUSY MONDAY — Librarian Linda Jones, right, checks out books for Janell Davis today at the Scurry County Library. Following the holidays, regular hours for the library resumed, opening Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday it will close at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at 9, and Saturday at 5. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

South Korea has plan to help ease tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House affirmed a U.S. commitment today to "work shoulder to shoulder" with South Korea as the two nations stepped up work on a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis.

"We will continue to consult and cooperate closely with South Korea, especially. We view this as an issue that we need to work together on, and work shoulder to shoulder on," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said. "South Korea's offers are always appreciated and we work together."

South Korean diplomats were expected to unveil in meetings today and Tuesday a proposal involving North Korean concessions on nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees. Details remained unknown, and the Bush administration has already said it won't talk to North Korea until it abides by a 1994 agreement to end its nuclear weapons program.

The South Korean officials were meeting with their U.S. and Japanese counterparts in Washington.

Talks continue later this week with a visit from Yim Sung-joon, South Korea's national security adviser and a trip to Seoul by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly.

South Korea is making its pitch to a Bush administration that rejects direct negotiations with the North.

"We are not going to enter into negotiations in response to threats or broken commitments, and we are not going to bargain or offer inducements to North Korea to live up to the treaties and agreements that it has signed," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said last week.

Snyder classes start Tuesday after holiday

Snyder students will end a long Christmas holiday Tuesday as they return to classes for the spring semeter.

Administration and staff reported today, as did students at Hermleigh.

Ira students ended their holidays last Thursday.

Western Texas College in-service for the faculty begins Wednesday with classes set to start Jan. 15.

ASK US

Q—What number do we call for an appointment at Cogdell Hospital's new rural health clinic?

A—Call 574-7288.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Shelley Mobley...

...is secretary for the county attorney and moved here two years ago from Andrews. She and her husband, Jerry, have three daughters. Chassidy Mobley, 25, is in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. Jayna Reid, 23, lives in Midland and Nikki Mobley, 21, works for a pharmaceutical company in Colorado. Hobbies include chasing her two grandkids, painting and sewing.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

No matter how trifling the matter at hand, do it with a feeling that it demands the best that is in you.
—Sir William Osler

JAN 06 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

VFW auxiliary meeting

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

Support groups

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

Bible study tapes

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

Topics on aging

The Area Agency on Aging will present programs for the elderly and how to qualify for Medicaid at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder Healthcare Center.

Drama booster club

The SHS drama booster club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the meeting room of Texas Savings Bank.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Masonic Lodge. All master Masons are welcome.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Bass Club meeting

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

FFA booster club

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

Lions Club meetings

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

WTC testing dates

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

AARP board meeting

A breakfast meeting of AARP board of directors will be held at 8 a.m. Wednesday at Rudy's.

Trinity Bible study

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

Scurry County welfare board

The Scurry County welfare board will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center.

FBC services televised

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

Country and gospel music

Country and gospel music will be played at the senior center beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Retired teachers meeting

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

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.

Benefit enchilada dinner

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

SHS booster club fund raiser

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

Tiger's Lair Yearbook

Orders for the 2003 Tiger's Lair Yearbook are still being taken at Snyder High School. Cost is $50 each, with additional options available. Call 574-6138.

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.

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.

Few passengers complain of new rules

CHICAGO (AP) — Marni and Roger Burlingame, a retired couple from Sun City West, Ariz., have waited in a lot of long lines at airports.

So when they got to O'Hare International Airport on Sunday — the day the country's new airport baggage-screening system was put to its first big test — they were prepared for another one.

They didn't get it.

"A piece of cake," said Marni Burlingame, after a security worker wiped the couple's bags with a small sheet of material designed to pick up traces of explosive chemicals for analysis in a detector device.

"It wasn't nearly as bad as we were led to believe it was going to be," said her husband, after standing in line for no more than 10 minutes.

Air travelers across the country had similar reactions to what was expected to be the heaviest travel day since Jan. 1, when a congressional order went into effect requiring that every checked bag at more than 400 of the nation's commercial airports be screened for explosives.

The Transportation Security Administration, in charge of the screening process, said it was braced for a busy day, which helped things to run smoothly.

"We were prepared for it. We have been getting prepared for it for several months," TSA director of communications Robert Johnson said. "The work all came together."

The TSA hired 23,000 baggage screeners and 33,000 passenger screeners to man the airports, Johnson said.

"It's about the same as before," said Richard Blackwell of Gainesville, Ga., who watched as screeners at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport opened and inspected a sealed box of stereo equipment before a flight to Florida.

At the international terminal for Northwest Airlines at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, passengers waited up to 30 minutes longer than usual while their bags were sent through giant screening machines and workers ripped open taped boxes and rifled through their contents before closing them up again.

At Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Nevada, the wait was about 35 minutes.

"It adds a lot of stress," said Jeff Colyar of Glendale, Ariz., who was flying home with his family after a ski vacation. "I have to fly a lot and I'm not looking forward to it."

Most travelers didn't much mind the intensified screening, developed since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Everybody's life has changed since then," said Linda Johnson, 53, of La Habra, Ca., who was flying from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Before the attacks, only 5 percent of the roughly 2 million bags checked each day were screened for bombs. The federal government put additional screeners into airports to implement the new order requiring all checked bags to be examined for explosives.

"It may add a few minutes, but I think it's worth it," said Trina Frandsen, who checked a cardboard box and large suitcase at Kennedy for a flight home to Salt Lake City.

"Maybe they could send me through that and I could get rid of that MRI appointment I have," Johnson joked as she watched her luggage roll slowly into the bomb-detection machine at O'Hare. The machine checks the density and chemical makeup of items inside each bag and alerts to anything unusual.

Jack Dunnigan, of Natick, Mass., watched his daughter check in for a flight from Boston's Logan Airport to Florida.

"The more they (inspectors) do," he said, "the better I feel."

'Weapons of mass destruction' voted word of year for 2002

ATLANTA (AP) — A long-winded phrase whose meaning reflects a nation's worry about war with Iraq has been voted 2002's word of the year.

The American Dialect Society selected "weapons of mass destruction" as its annual choice at a meeting in Atlanta.

"The term goes back 50 years, but you can't turn on the radio or television without hearing about 'weapons of mass destruction,'" said Wayne Glowka, an English professor at Georgia College & State University who is also chairman of the society's new words committee.

The society made its selection Friday.

Most of the words nominated by members of the society reflected the looming threat of war with Iraq or the suffering economy, Glowka said.

"All these words — Iraqnaphobia, regime change, weapons of mass destruction — they all have to do with worry about war with Iraq. So it hasn't been a very good year," he said. "Not as bad as last year, but certainly not an 'up' year."

Last year's word was "9-11" — pronounced "nine-eleven," not "nine-one-one" — for the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

The American Dialect Society, founded in 1889, has been choosing words of the year since 1990.

"There is no scientific method of determining which words or phrases will be named words-of-the-year," said Allan Metcalf, executive secretary of the group. "It's kind of like Time magazine determining the whistle-blowers were the person-of-the-year. There is no objective way of determining it. It's all done with a show of hands."

The phrase "regime change" was voted most euphemistic, not so much for its connotations to Iraq, but because people started using it to describe other changes of leadership.

"Like when a team fires a coach, they call it 'regime change,'" Glowka said.

There was only one nomination for 2002's most inspirational word: "embetterment," coined by President Bush. But even though it was the only candidate in that category, it was voted down because "people didn't want to encourage it," Glowka said.

Other words won superlatives from the American Dialect Society:

— Wombanization, a synonym for feminization, won most unnecessary because it's hard to pronounce.

— Neuticles, a brand name for fake testicles for neutered pets, was named the most outrageous word.

— Blog, a log of personal events posted on the Web, was voted most likely to succeed.

— Iraqnaphobia, meaning a strong fear of war with Iraq, won most creative.

Today's chuckle

Police follow trail of wrappers

MARKED TREE, Ark. (AP) — A suspect's love for Dum-Dum lollipops led police right to his front door.



Michael Brown, 33, pleaded innocent Friday in Poinsett County Circuit Court to burglary charges involving break-ins at the Marked Tree Bank and Crafts Jewelry.

A trail of Dum-Dum wrappers led police to his home.

Brown allegedly broke into the downtown bank after hours on Nov. 16, police said. The bank's security cameras showed the intruder got away with a clock radio, a compact disc player and a handful of Dum-Dums, the hard candy the bank gives to patrons' children.

The next morning, police followed a trail of the candy wrappers down the street, across railroad tracks and to a mobile home park where Brown lives.

"The trail didn't lead right up to his door like the bread crumbs in Hansel and Gretel," detective Mark Robinson said. "But they led to where we knew he was living."

Brown has also been charged in a Nov. 10 jewelry store burglary, during which a suspect took plastic imitation jewelry from the display cases.

'Media jackals' banned from farewell bash

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Celebrities and politicians were among the 500 people who attended Gov. Jesse Ventura's farewell bash at a downtown hotel.

Several wore feather boas to honor the former professional wrestler before he exits public office this week. The Saturday night party was an invitation-only event and reporters, or "media jackals" as Ventura calls them, weren't allowed inside.

Ventura spokesman John Woedele would not divulge the names of any celebrities in attendance but several were seen walking in, including former basketball star Charles Barkley and "Young and the Restless" actor Eric Braeden.

A number of Ventura administration mainstays, including interim U.S. Sen. Dean Barkley, Independence Party Chairman Jack Uldrich and Steve Bosacker, the governor's chief of staff, also attended.

Other Minnesota notables included pianist Lorie Line and businessman Harvey Mackay as well as Ventura's son, Tyrel.

The party, organized by first lady Terry Ventura, doubled as a fund-raiser for a scholarship fund at Minneapolis Roosevelt High School and the Jade Foundation.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Anadarko Petroleum has completed the No. 8 W.R. Sterling in the Sharon Ridge field, nine miles southwest of Snyder. The venture was finaled to produce 40 barrels of oil and 101 barrels of water. Perforations were from 1,706-750 feet, and location is in Section 130, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Garza County

Texland Petroleum Inc. will drill the No. 603 Canyon Valley unit in the Forbes field, 13 miles west of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,800 feet, drill site is in Section 1115, T&T Railroad Company survey.

Date Book

Monday, Jan. 6, 2003

Today is the sixth day of 2003 and the 17th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state of the Union.

On this day in 1975, "Wheel of Fortune" made its television debut.

On this day in 1998, NASA sent a spacecraft, Lunar Prospector, back to the moon for the first time since the Apollo 17 flight 25 years before (on Dec. 7, 1972). The probe found evidence of ice later in the year.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joan of Arc (1412-1431), soldier; Carl Sandburg (1878-1967), poet; Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931), poet; Loretta Young (1913-2000), actress; E.L. Doctorow (1931-), writer, is 72; John Singleton (1968-), director and screenwriter, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1994, ice skater Nancy Kerrigan was attacked by a former husband of skating rival Tonya Harding in an attempt to disable her.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Anger is the most impotent of passions. It effects nothing it goes about, and hurts the one who is possessed by it more than the one against whom it is directed." - Carl Sandburg.

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

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™

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.

The ticket was worth an estimated $15 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 9-10-13-27-39-48.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $20 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 0-9-5
(Night) 4-6-3
Cash Five
18-21-23-27-35

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Soldiers, sailors, med staff ready for deployment

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — As soldiers and their families around the nation prepare for a possible war with Iraq, a hospital ship and an Army unit thought to be a key component of any potential invasion are being sent to the region.

Over 300 military and civilian crew members boarded the Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort in Baltimore on Sunday as it prepared to head overseas. And in Georgia, two combat brigades from Army's 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) were about to join the unit's other combat brigade in the Persian Gulf region.

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry have been training for months near Iraq, maneuvering their Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles in the Kuwaiti desert. If the area becomes a war zone, military analysts say, the unit will play a leading role.

"The decisive element here, I think, is going to be the 3rd Mech.," said John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org, a nonprofit defense policy group. "All those Abrams and Bradleys showing up on the outskirts of Baghdad, that is going to convince the Iraqi people that Saddam's end is at hand."

In Baltimore, snow bathed the docks in white as sailors and medical staffers boarded the USNS Comfort, a massive, whitewashed ship painted with red crosses.

"More than anything, just being gone is going to be hardest," said Jason Sully, 30, a father of three who said a tearful goodbye to his wife before boarding. "The only thing I can do is expect the worst and hope for the best."

The electronics technician from Chesapeake, Va., and his wife both cried as they hugged outside the ship.

"I'm proud of him," said his wife, Melanie Sully. "It's just hard."

Since Christmas, the Pentagon has begun alerting units around the United States and overseas to prepare for deployment as possible war with Iraq looms. The Navy has been ordered to prepare two aircraft carrier battle groups and two amphibious assault groups to be ready to head to the region sometime in January.

Last week, soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division donned desert camouflage and packed their bags after the Pentagon alerted the entire division for deployment, though no dates have been announced. One of the division's combat brigades had been sent to Kuwait in September.

The 3rd Infantry, which will have up to 17,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region, specializes in desert warfare and has a special focus on the Middle East. Many of its senior soldiers are veterans of the Gulf War, which included 6,000 of the division's troops.

This would be a far different war for ground troops than Operation Desert Storm 12 years ago. Then, the objective was to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. Now, the goal would be invading Iraq to topple Saddam.

That would require sending armored forces into Baghdad, Pike said.

"You have to have somebody on the ground there, pointing big guns at them to persuade them that it's time to surrender," Pike said. "I think that's basically what it's going to look like if we're lucky. If we're unlucky, I don't want to think about it."

The greatest threat, analysts say, would be Saddam's troops using chemical or biological weapons against U.S. soldiers.

But Washington military analyst Bill Taylor, a retired Army colonel and former senior executive of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said he doesn't think that's likely.

"A major part of the psychological warfare campaign has been to tell (Saddam's) military leadership not to obey an order to use weapons of mass destruction," Taylor said. "Because if you do, you're dead. Or if we get you, you will go before an international war crimes tribunal."

At the 3rd Infantry Division, soldiers were not surprised when word came that they'd be shipping out. Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, the division's commanding officer, has said for the past year that his troops would likely be called if President Bush decides to invade Iraq.

"They're going to be the tip of the spear," said Col. David G. Perkins, commander of the division's 2nd Brigade, before his troops left for Kuwait in September.

At Fort Bragg in North Carolina, soldiers preparing to go overseas were doing some post-holiday shopping — for boots, knives, warm-weather gear and anything else that might come in handy on the battlefield.

"I really need cold-weather socks," said Spc. Lee Tibbetts, 28, who leaves for Afghanistan this week with the 2nd Battalion of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Gloves, flashlights, goggles, binoculars and compasses have been selling rapidly in recent weeks at General Jackson's, a store that sells military gear. So have "big knives," said Helen Thompson, a cashier at the store.

Tibbetts, who was shopping at General Jackson's, said he hopes he's in town long enough for one more paycheck to arrive so he can buy more equipment. Among other items, he was picking up some knee pads, which come in handy when kneeling and crawling around in the rocks.

Some soldiers are excited about the deployments, Thompson said. "Others are going broke trying to go," she said.

Six shot to death in Valley home invasion

EDINBURG (AP) — Police in this border town searched the site of two ramshackle homes for details in a home invasion that left six young men dead and the mother of two of them bound in electrical cord.

Aside from a rental car that had been ransacked at the scene and a missing pickup truck that belonged to one of the victims, investigators reported little in the way of leads in the 1 a.m. Sunday killing.

Police tape surrounded the property, which includes a small white frame house and a smaller structure where most of the victims were found.

"It was a horrific crime scene," Sgt. Rey Ramirez said, describing how bodies, some bullet-ridden beyond recognition, were found in different rooms of the smaller house. He summarized the killing style as "overkill."

"A mess ... like maybe some had tried to get away," he said.

The mother, who wrested herself free within 10 minutes of the massacre, told police at least one assailant was wearing garb with "police" written on it. She said she had been forced to look at a wall as one of her sons was shot in another room.

The victims were aged 20 to 32. One was found in the larger home, in a different room from the witness. Another was found outside the smaller house. Four more were found within. All had multiple shots to the head and body.

The four to five invaders were clearly after drugs, guns or money, Ramirez said. He said police hoped to find fingerprints or other evidence in the rental car.

The homes shared a lot fronting acres of vacant land in this semirural city just east of McAllen and about 15 miles from the Mexican border. Just across the road is a development of more upscale homes, a sign of the region's growing affluence.

The past year has been a rash of "pseudo cop" incidents and home invasions, Ramirez said, but this was different because none of the previous victims had been killed.

Ramirez stopped short of calling the murders gang-related and said it was premature to report whether drugs or drug paraphernalia had been found.

Neighbors reported hearing gunshots but had little other information, Ramirez said.

"All I heard was shots ... about six or seven or eight," said Carlos Lopez, a 59-year-old who lives about 20 yards away from the crime scene. "Then I came out walking to see what happened."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Watchful dad keeps daughter under virtual house arrest

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Becky," is a sophomore in high school. She's an honor roll student, well-mannered and a good girl. My problem is her father. He's too strict with her.

Becky has always been open and honest with me. This year she's discovered boys, and I know that's the reason her dad is being so overprotective. He rarely allows our daughter to talk on the phone, and when she does, it must be in our presence. He won't let her go anywhere without us. She's not allowed to go to supervised parties or attend any group activity other than cheerleading practice. My poor daughter has no social life.

Becky's lifelong friends no longer call her to invite her to go places with them, because they know her dad won't allow it. They've stopped coming over because they know that the limit of their activity is going to be sitting on the couch watching TV with my husband and me.

I think Becky deserves some privacy and a social life that does not include us. After she told us a 17-year-old senior boy had a crush on her, my husband refused to allow her to go to the movies with him and his parents. My husband won't even let the boy ride to the store with us. How can I get him to ease up, Abby? — **CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS**

DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: Start by telling your husband that you love him and know he is trying to be a protective parent, but he has gone off the deep end. In the name of love, he is crippling his daughter — and if it continues, she will eventually withdraw from both of you.

By preventing Becky from having normal social relationships that are appropriate for a girl her age, her father is preventing her from learning to make wise decisions and develop healthy relationships.

If your husband is not willing to listen to you, please schedule some sessions for the two of you with a psychotherapist who can explain it to him.

**

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Felt Up in Philly," who attended a friend's wedding and was hit on by the groom who now refuses to stop e-mailing her, I thought I'd share my experience. (By the way, your advice to forward his e-mails to his wife was on target.)

A few years ago, a friend of mine was engaged. Her fiance called me one night "just to talk." During the conversation he said he had feelings for me. Mind you, I was supposed to be a bridesmaid in their wedding and had met him only once.

I told him he was crazy and the feeling was NOT mutual. Then I said if he didn't tell my friend, I would. Time went on; he never told her. One day, my friend called me to talk about the wedding plans, and I told her I couldn't be in her wedding. When she asked why, I told her what her fiance had told me (at the risk of possibly losing a good friend). She said she'd call me back but she never did.

That was almost three years ago. About a month ago, she called me out of the blue. She had broken off the engagement shortly after our last conversation, and we've become good friends again.

It's unfortunate that "Felt Up's" experience happened at the wedding, but I hope she follows your advice. Her friend needs to know what kind of person she married. — **JACKIE IN COLUMBIA, MD.**

DEAR JACKIE: I agree. Unless a cheater comes to terms with his (or her) behavior and sincerely wants to change, it will happen again and again.

**

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.

**

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

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North	01-06-03
	♠ A 7	
	♥ A J 3 2	
	♦ Q 10 2	
	♣ A J 7 3	
West		East
♠ K 8 5		♠ J 10 9 6 2
♥ 10 9 8 7		♥ Q
♦ J 9 8		♦ 4 3
♣ 9 8 6		♣ Q 10 5 4 2
	South	
	♠ Q 4 3	
	♥ K 6 5 4	
	♦ A K 7 6 5	
	♣ K	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 10

The start of Bridge Week

By Phillip Alder

Today sees the start of Bridge Week, an initiative by the American Contract Bridge League to promote and publicize our game. Call your local bridge club or community center and ask what is planned. Then, strap on your skis (if you live that far north) and get over there to meet and compete with other players. Bridge is one of the most sociable games, but few non-tournament players take advantage of it.

Why this week? Because the famous rubber-bridge match between Ely Culbertson and Sidney Lenz ended in this week in 1932.

Here is probably the best-played deal of that match.

Today, North would respond one heart, but Culbertson always made a jump shift with a strong hand.

Oswald Jacoby (West) led the heart 10, thinking that his partner might be able to ruff it. The declarer, Waldemar von Zedtwitz, took Lenz's queen with his king, cashed the club king, drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand, played a heart to dummy's ace, discarded a spade on the club ace, ruffed a club in hand, and returned to dummy with a heart.

West still held three spades and the heart nine. Declarer had two spades, the heart six and one trump. Dummy retained two spades, one heart and one club. Reading the position correctly, declarer called for the heart three. West won, but had to lead away from the spade king — six diamonds bid and made.

Culbertson won the 150-rubber match by 8,980 points.

If Bridge Week gives the game as much impetus as did the Culbertson-Lenz match, it will be wonderful — and surprising!

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Cogdell Rural Health Clinic
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PROVIDER
Christine Heady, RN, FNP-BC

PHONE
915-574-7288

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January 7, 2003

Snyder Healthcare
5311 Big Spring Hwy
573-6332

7:00 p.m.
Area Agency on Aging

Topics:
Programs for the elderly
How to qualify for Medicaid

JAN 06 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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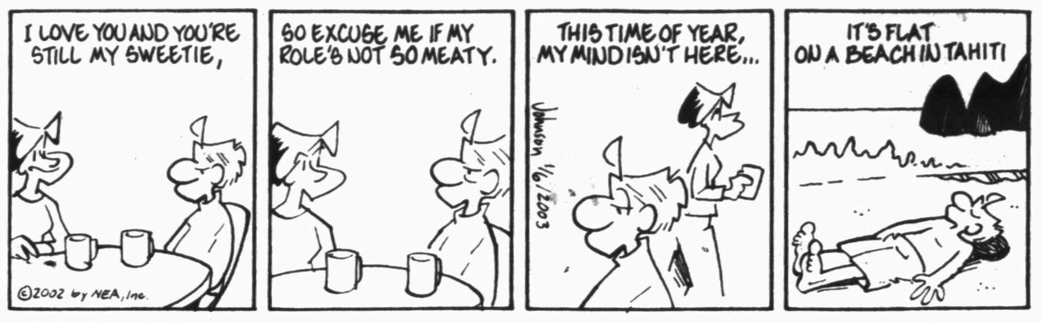
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



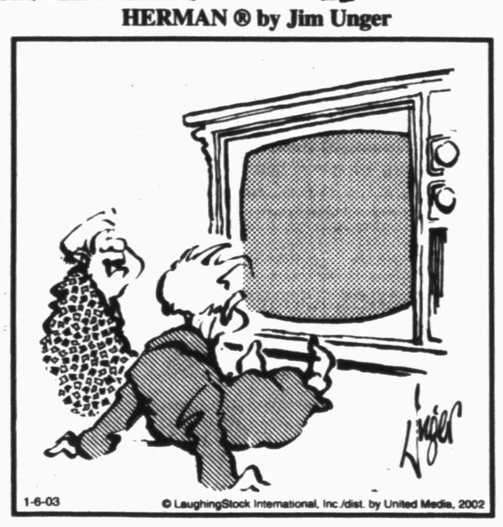
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Corporate abbr.
4 Take a spill
8 Shaggy flower
11 Nope (hyph.)
13 Theater award
14 Juliette Low's org.
15 Green vegetable
16 Tear down
17 GPs
18 Join up
20 Provo's state
21 Opponent
22 Yang opposite
24 Bounded
27 Snapshot taker
30 Constantly
31 Diva — Gluck
32 Orbit part
34 Neon or ozone
35 Mournful cry
36 Levee
37 Rich
39 Nervous
40 French article
41 Boor
42 Upgrade
45 Boxed
49 Common pronoun
50 Region
53 Appealing
54 Excavated
55 Glimmering
56 Fish-eating bird
57 Capt.'s heading
58 Laborer
59 Brief craze

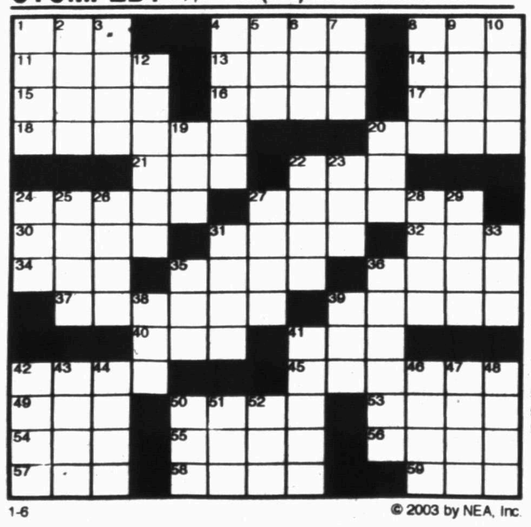
DOWN

1 Darth Vader's son
2 Compared to
3 Monotonous
4 Specialty
5 Bedouin attire
6 Ms. Taylor, briefly
7 Civil War general
8 Execs
9 Fed. inspectors
10 Pulverize
12 Young cow
19 Turf
20 Half of "deux"
22 Sweet potatoes
23 "— — little teapot ..."
24 Chair part
25 Egg-shaped
26 Mexican dollar
27 Wearing clothes
28 Picnic spoiler
29 Clumsy vessels
31 Frothy brews
33 High note
35 Fruit cooler
36 Mar
38 Each and every
39 Roofer's goo
41 Bounding main
42 London park
43 Promises to pay
44 Racing sled
46 Domain
47 Still-active volcano
48 Legal document
50 Go fast
51 Lyric poem
52 Recent (pref.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

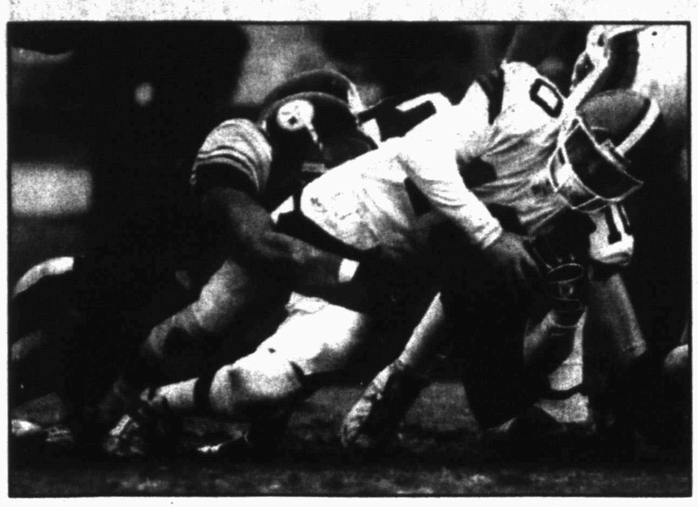


"I can watch as much crime and violence as I like as long as they all keep their clothes on."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS



SHATTERED DREAM — Steeler linebacker James Farrior sacks QB Kelly Holcomb in the fourth quarter of Sunday's wildcard game. The Steelers scored four touchdowns in the final 19 minutes to win, 36-33. (AP PHOTO)

Classic comebacks, upsets highlight wildcard weekend

By the Associated Press

So this is why they call it wildcard weekend. It can't get much wilder than this.

One of the great comebacks in NFL history, followed by an even greater one. A 41-point rout. And, perhaps most difficult to believe, the Packers losing a playoff game at home.

If the rest of the NFL's postseason is anything like the last two days, well, get it on.

Of course, with all the weird stuff that happened during the regular season, did anyone expect a normal postseason?

"As long as you live, you might never see a game better than that," said 49ers coach Steve Mariucci after his team staged the second-biggest comeback in playoff history, rallying from 24 points down in the second half to beat the New York Giants 39-38 Sunday.

Hours earlier, in Pittsburgh, the Steelers came from 17 points down and scored four touchdowns in the final 19 minutes for a stunning 36-33 victory over archrival Cleveland in the greatest playoff comeback in team history.

"It's one of those wins you can't see happening, but you just keep hoping it will keep going the way it's going," coach Bill Cowher said.

Those two incredible comebacks followed two lopsided games on Saturday. The New York Jets, playing perfectly on offense, defense and special teams, romped past the Indianapolis Colts 41-0 in their first playoff meeting since the Jets beat the Baltimore Colts in the 1969 Super Bowl.

"This is more than what we could ask for," said linebacker Marvin Jones, whose team was 1-4 and 2-5 before starting its turnaround. "I didn't imagine we could win it like this."

And hardly anyone imagined what would happen that night, in the cold and the snow of Lambeau Field. Michael Vick looked like a seasoned pro and Brett Favre was ordinary. Vick guided the Atlanta Falcons to a 27-7 victory that was Green Bay's first home defeat in the playoffs. Ever.

"I think we all believed in our hearts that we were going to go in and accomplish what we did," linebacker Keith Brooking said. "A lot of teams go into Lambeau beat before they even step on the field. I think 90 percent of it is going in with belief and without any doubt. We had that."

What was beyond belief were Sunday's comebacks.

Only the Buffalo Bills surpassed the rally San Francisco staged. The Bills were down 35-3 in the third quarter against Houston and won 41-38 in overtime in 1993.

The Niners didn't even need the extra period to dig out of a 38-14 hole and win. While the Giants suddenly stopped moving the ball and lost their composure on defense, Jeff Garcia and Terrell Owens brought to mind Joe Montana, Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

San Francisco scored 25 straight points, with Garcia throwing for two scores and running for one. He hit Owens with a TD pass and a pair of 2-point conversions during the surge.

Garcia's 13-yard touchdown pass to Tai Streets with a minute left won it, but not before a bad snap with 6 seconds to go messed up a 41-yard field-goal attempt for the Giants.

Houston blows it for Knicks; Shaq pushes Lakers past Suns

By The Associated Press

Allan Houston's mental meltdown gave the Portland Trail Blazers their 10th victory in 11 games.

With New York needing a 3-pointer to tie, Houston drove in from the 3-point line and missed a 14-footer with 3 seconds left as Portland beat the Knicks 92-89 on Sunday night.

The Blazers returned home with a record of 20-12, leaving them 3½ games behind first-place Sacramento in the Pacific Division. The Blazers' lone loss in their last 11 games was a 15-point defeat by Chicago on New Year's Eve.

"For four out of five games we played pretty good defense. That one game in Chicago hurt us, but it opened our eyes," Wells said.

Houston scored 29, and Sprewell had 16 for the Knicks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

In other NBA games, it was: New Orleans 99, Toronto 84; San Antonio 94, Los Angeles Clippers 86; Sacramento 96, Miami 70; and Los Angeles Lakers 109, Phoenix 97.

Portland and New York were tied at 55 midway through the third quarter when the Blazers went on a 12-0 run. Wells ended the spurt with a steal and dunk that made it 67-55.

The Blazers stifled the Knicks defensively, forcing Howard Eisley into a pair of 8-second violations and holding New York without a field goal for a 5½-minute stretch of the fourth quarter.

A 7-0 run during that defensive stand gave Portland an 85-76 lead with 5:20 remaining, and the Blazers were still ahead 90-83 after Ruben Patterson made two free throws with 1:41 left.

Lakers 109, Suns 97

At Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal had 36 points, 16 rebounds and four blocked shots as the Lakers rebounded from a loss in Phoenix on Saturday night.

Kobe Bryant had 31 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and Rick Fox added 11 points and eight assists for Lakers.

The three-time defending NBA champion Lakers shot 52.4 percent and outrebounded the Suns 53-37 in winning for the third time in four games.

Kings 96, Heat 70

At Sacramento, Calif., Keon Clark had 12 points, 10 rebounds and eight blocks for the Kings.

Clark was playing in place of Chris Webber, Sacramento's leading scorer, who was out with a bruised left knee.

Mike Bibby led the Kings with 22 points.

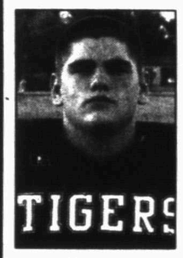
Hornets 99, Raptors 84

At Toronto, Jamal Mashburn scored 22 points and New Orleans handed the Raptors their 10th loss in a row.

David Wesley added 20 points, and P.J. Brown had 16 for the Hornets, who have won two straight after losing their previous five. Toronto has lost 14 of 15.

Knox named center on A-J Super Team

Josh Knox's standout senior campaign has been rewarded again.



Josh Knox

Knox was named as the center on the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal's* 2002 High School Super Team, which was released Sunday.

The Super Team consists of the best players in all five classifications in West Texas high school football.

Knox provided senior leadership to a young offensive line that paved the way for the Tiger offense to grind out 240 rushing per game.

Spurs top poor-shooting Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Turns out the Lakers don't have a hold on mediocrity among NBA teams in Los Angeles.

The Clippers are stuck in last place in the Pacific Division, just percentage points below the struggling Lakers.

The latest indignity was a 94-86 loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday, in which the Clippers shot 33 percent and went three minutes without a basket in the fourth quarter to lose their sixth straight.

Center Michael Olowokandi called the Clippers' shooting "dismal" and said it's critical they turn things around before the All-Star break.

"In the past, we were successful with not really having a structure per se, and we've often gotten away with that. It's not working this time around," Olowokandi said.

"I know we're an exciting team, a fast-breaking team, but sometimes you have to be smart about what we do, and think about running more set plays now."

Corey Maggette, who had 19 points, including all eight of his free throws, said coach Alvin Gentry isn't to blame for the eight losses in nine games.

"We're really trying to get better, but things aren't happening for us. We really have to play a lot better," he said. "We're a very talented team and we're not getting it done. It's our fault. We're not hitting the shots."

Injuries have plagued the Clippers this season.

Lady Cards rusty in loss at Trent Friday

The Lady Cardinals had difficulty shaking off the holiday rust Friday, dropping a district tilt to the Lady Gorillas at Trent, 43-27.

"They played okay considering it was over holiday," head coach Rebecca Ponder said. "We were a little out of shape, but we'll get there."

Alana Culp powered the Hermleigh attack with 22 points, and Misty McClure and Brittany Jones contributed the other five.

Hermleigh hosts Blackwell Tuesday night, with the girls getting underway at 6:30.

Sports Briefs

Baseball booster club

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

McGahee has knee surgery

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Miami running back Willis McGahee had surgery on two torn ligaments in his left knee following a crushing hit during a Fiesta Bowl loss to Ohio State.

Doctors found torn anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments but no tear to the posterior collateral ligament.

Ottawa players waiting for checks

OTTAWA (AP) — The NHL Players' Association is willing to be patient with Ottawa Senators majority owner Rod Bryden regarding the financial problems plaguing the team.

The Senators are reportedly $360 million in debt and missed their team payroll Wednesday after a deal to restructure the club's finances fell through.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Basketball: Ira jr. high boys and girls vs. Borden Co., 6 p.m.
Hermleigh jr. high boys and girls at Loraine, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity vs. Andrews, 8 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls at Seminole, 6:30 p.m.
Ira varsity boys at Dawson, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls at Dawson, 6:30 p.m.
Ira JV boys at Dawson, 5 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Andrews, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV girls at Seminole, 5 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls vs. Blackwell, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Basketball: Snyder frosh boys vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls at Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder jr. high boys vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Ira jr. high boys and girls at Roscoe tournament.

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys vs. Sweetwater, district opener, 8 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls vs. Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Ira varsity boys vs. Klondike, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls vs. Klondike, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
Ira JV boys vs. Klondike, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh boys vs. Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls vs. Sweetwater, 8 p.m.

NFL Playoff Glance

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4
AFC
N.Y. Jets 41, Indianapolis 0
NFC
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7
Sunday, Jan. 5
AFC
Pittsburgh 36, Cleveland 33
NFC
San Francisco 39, N.Y. Giants 38

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
AFC
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 12
NFC
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. (FOX)
AFC
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
AFC Championship and NFC Championship
2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At San Diego
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 5:18.

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National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
New Jersey	25	9	.735	—
Boston	19	13	.594	5
Philadelphia	19	14	.576	5½
Orlando	18	17	.514	7½
Washington	16	17	.485	8½
New York	12	18	.400	11
Miami	12	21	.364	12½
Central Division				
Indiana	23	10	.697	—
Detroit	21	10	.677	1
New Orleans	20	15	.571	4
Milwaukee	13	19	.406	9½
Atlanta	12	20	.375	10½
Chicago	12	21	.364	11
Toronto	8	26	.235	15½
Cleveland	7	28	.200	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Dallas	27	5	.844	—
San Antonio	21	13	.618	7
Utah	19	13	.594	8
Houston	17	14	.548	9½
Minnesota	17	15	.531	10
Memphis	10	22	.313	17
Denver	7	25	.219	20
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	25	9	.735	—
Portland	20	12	.625	4
Phoenix	21	13	.618	4
Seattle	16	16	.500	8
L.A. Lakers	14	20	.412	11
Golden State	13	19	.406	11
L.A. Clippers	12	22	.353	13

Saturday's Games
Dallas 102, Philadelphia 83
Detroit 90, Atlanta 86
Washington 107, Indiana 104, 2OT
New Jersey 88, Orlando 83
Utah 105, Minnesota 97
Chicago 85, Cleveland 79
Golden State 86, Houston 84
Sacramento 87, Denver 76
Phoenix 107, L.A. Lakers 93

Sunday's Games
New Orleans 99, Toronto 84
San Antonio 94, L.A. Clippers 86
Portland 92, New York 89
Sacramento 96, Miami 70
L.A. Lakers 109, Phoenix 97

Monday's Games
Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Philadelphia	20	10	8	1	49	92	82
New Jersey	21	12	2	3	47	89	77
Pittsburgh	17	15	3	5	42	116	118
N.Y. Islanders	17	16	5	1	40	108	113
N.Y. Rangers	15	20	6	1	37	101	131
Northeast Division							
Ottawa	24	9	5	1	54	129	86
Boston	21	13	4	1	47	121	104
Toronto	20	15	4	1	45	113	96
Montreal	16	15	5	4	41	110	122
Buffalo	10	22	5	2	27	87	110
Southeast Division							
Washington	18	16	5	2	43	107	113
Tampa Bay	17	15	5	3	42	115	116
Carolina	16	16	5	3	40	91	103
Florida	12	12	9	7	40	94	114
Atlanta	10	24	1	4	25	96	147
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
Detroit	23	9	7	1	54	123	95
St. Louis	21	12	5	2	49	131	102
Chicago	19	13	7	1	46	96	90
Columbus	14	19	4	2	34	108	117
Nashville	10	18	7	4	31	82	109
Northwest Division							
Vancouver	24	11	5	0	53	127	101
Minnesota	21	12	7	1	50	108	93
Colorado	16	10	9	5	46	116	100
Edmonton	18	13	4	5	45	107	105
Calgary	13	18	6	3	35	85	108
Pacific Division							
Dallas	22	10	10	1	55	126	83
Anaheim	15	15	7	3	40	98	102
Los Angeles	16	16	4	3	39	100	107
Phoenix	15	17	6	3	39	104	120
San Jose	15	17	4	3	37	105	121

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

Saturday's Games
Buffalo 2, Ottawa 1, OT
Carolina 4, Boston 2
Columbus 2, Phoenix 0
Toronto 2, New Jersey 1
Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers 2, tie
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT
St. Louis 5, Tampa Bay 1
Chicago 3, Nashville 3, tie
Calgary 3, Minnesota 2
Edmonton 5, Montreal 4, OT
Vancouver 3, Florida 2
Dallas 3, Los Angeles 2
Colorado 6, San Jose 1

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 4
Dallas 1, Anaheim 1, tie
Detroit 4, Chicago 3, OT

Monday's Games
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.

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(Excluding Garage Sales & Displays)

Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is receiving sealed bids for the purchase of a new 2003 half ton pickup. The specifications may be picked up at the City Hall in the accounting department. The bids will be received until Monday, January 20th, 2003 at 3:30 P.M. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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LOST
Black, female,
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Call Mrs. A.M. Boyd, 573-9801.

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KITCHEN HOSTESS
First Baptist Church
Responsible for planning, total preparation and serving of a meal for approximately 100 people on Wednesday nights. This also includes purchasing supplies and the cleaning and sanitation of the kitchen. Experienced in food service a plus. Training in food safety and sanitation rules preferred. Pick up application in church office at 1701 27th and return by January 31st.

Now taking applications for LVNs and CNAs at Snyder Healthcare Center, 5311 Big Spring Hwy., Snyder, Texas. EOE

The Snyder Independent School District is accepting applications for Substitute Teaching Positions. Minimum requirements: 21 years of age, 60 college hours. Applications may be secured by contacting the personnel office, Snyder Independent School District, 2901 37th Street, Snyder, TX 79549 or call Dr. Melissa Jones, Assistant Superintendent, or Janet Davis, Personnel Secretary at 915-573-5401. Snyder ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

Farmer's Column

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

Apartments For Rent

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex. Locally owned. 573-0340 or 575-4934

Furnished 1 bedroom apartment for rent. Nice & clean. Located in Hermleigh. Call 863-2700.

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Quality Living At An Affordable Price
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2409 28th
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Lake C-City waterfront, 2 or 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $475 month. Contact Fleeta at 915-728-3982.

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Houses For Rent

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Mobile Homes

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Cemetery Plots

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915-944-1284 915-949-9318

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FOR SALE
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2bd, 1bth, carport. Re-done. Very clean. 1701 39th
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3bdrm-2bth plus office or 4th bdrm, 1-car garage. Re-done, very clean. 4021 Eastridge 573-1667 or 573-7547.

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1.89 Acres 2-1-2cp South of Hermleigh. ...$20T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
20 Acres 4-1¾-2 Beautiful Pool & Yard
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call
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Large jury verdict awards peaked in 2002

BOSTON (AP) — Large jury verdict awards to individual plaintiffs lagged in the year after Sept. 11, 2001, but the lull vanished in the last months of 2002 with some record-breaking verdicts, according to the newspaper Lawyers Weekly USA.

While only one of the top 10 jury verdict awards in 2001 was granted after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C., seven of 2002's top 10 were awarded after September, said Paul Martinek, editor-in-chief of the Boston-based publication that compiles the annual Top Ten Jury Awards list.

Normally, the higher-paying verdicts are spread out over the year, Martinek said.

"There was an obvious change in U.S. courtrooms following Sept. 11 — big-money cases were either settled or their trials were delayed," Martinek said.

"The general consensus was that there was a less likelihood of awarding large verdicts," because juries could feel plaintiffs' injuries or complaints paled in comparison to the deaths of thousands on Sept. 11, Martinek said.

The lull continued into the next year, as only four of the year's top 10 verdicts — which had 11 listings because of a 10th-place tie — were awarded before September 2002.

However, plaintiffs' prospects brightened with 2002 ending with record-breaking jury awards, Martinek said.

At the top of the list, published today, is a $28 billion award to a smoker in California in October 2002 — more than nine times the previous record award of $3 billion against a tobacco company.

The largest personal injury award against an auto manufacturer — a $225 million verdict against Ford Motor Co. awarded to a plaintiff from San Diego, Texas — was also given at the end of last year.

Other cases on the list are a $2.2 billion verdict against a Kansas City, Mo., pharmacist and his pharmacy, where the plaintiff claimed her cancer medication had been diluted; and a $270 million verdict where a Pikeville, Ky., coal miner sued his gas company for physical and emotional injuries after a gas explosion at his home.

But plaintiffs in these high-award cases rarely receive the full amount, Martinek said. In the case of the California smoker who claimed that Philip Morris was responsible for her lung cancer that spread to her liver, a judge reduced the jury award to $28 million.

"What's happened to the Philip Morris verdict is typical of what happens to these eye-popping awards. Usually the award is either reduced by the court or the parties settle for much less," Martinek said.

He said that all the awards on the 2001 list were either reduced, under appeal or awaiting a new trial, and he expects a similar fate for all the top 2002 verdicts.

Six people arrested in Snyder

Arrests

Officers arrested a 21-year-old man in the 1500 block of 39th Street at 11 p.m. Saturday and charged him with public intoxication.

A 17-year-old male was arrested in the 2800 block of Ave. X at 1 a.m. Sunday for public intoxication.

At 2 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 68-year-old man in the 1800 block of 40th Street for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

DPS troopers arrested a 19-year-old man at Cogdell Hospital emergency room for driving under the influence.

A 35-year-old man was taken into custody from a residence on 35th Street at 11:30 p.m. Sunday for assault, family violence.

At 1 a.m. today, officers arrested a 38-year-old man in the 2200 block of Huffman Ave. on warrants for theft.

Accident

DPS troopers responded to a one-vehicle rollover on U.S. 84 west of Allsup's in Hermleigh at 7:11 a.m. Sunday. Involved was a 2002 Dodge pickup driven by Patrick Vantine, 19, of 2400 27th Street in Snyder.

Burglary

Steven Jackson reported at 1 p.m. Sunday that an amplifier and speakers were stolen from his Pontiac Firebird at 1610 27th Street. An offense report was submitted for burglary of a vehicle.

Disturbance

A woman reported at 7:15 p.m. Sunday her mother had assaulted her sister in a residence on Ave. R and officers were dispatched. Two females were involved in a disturbance, but neither wished to file charges. An offense report was filed for family violence.

Juveniles

A Pizza Hut employee reported juveniles throwing rocks at passing cars Saturday evening on College Ave. Officers contacted the minors and advised them of the complaint.

Dog bite

A Cogdell Hospital employee reported a dog bite victim in the emergency room at 2:20 p.m. Saturday.

Another dog bite was reported at 8:50 p.m. Saturday.

Criminal mischief

A man in the 900 block of N. College Ave. reported damage to his pickup Sunday morning and officers submitted a report for criminal mischief.

Criminal trespass

Officers issued a criminal trespass warning to a 19-year-old man ordering him to stay away from the Western Crest Apartments.

Two customers were causing problems at the White Buffalo Café Sunday evening and officers issued the women criminal trespass warnings to stay away from the restaurant.

Close patrol

A man requested a close patrol of his vehicle Saturday night after two subjects threatened to damage the car. Officer then issued him a citation for consuming alcohol as a minor and escorted him back to his residence.

A woman in the 600 block of 29th Street reported a prowler in her back yard and requested a close patrol.

Just before 11 p.m. Sunday, a woman reported problems with a man and requested a close patrol of her residence on 34th Street.

Noise complaint

Officers contacted a resident in the 300 block of 26th Street in reference to complaints of loud music and advised the subject that a citation would be issued if they had to return.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a $10 gas drive off at 10:15 p.m. Sunday.

A $28 drive off was reported from the same location at 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

At 1:20 a.m. today, a clerk at Town and Country North reported a drive off in the amount of $19.

Panel looking into inflated figures for Boy Scout roster

DALLAS (AP) — Almost three years after federal agents raided the offices of the Boy Scouts of America's large Dallas franchise, a federal grand jury is examining evidence and hearing testimony from government witnesses.

The raid came after whistleblower information that to boost charitable donations some of the organization's salaried recruiters — with their boss's knowledge — fraudulently inflated membership rosters for a minority Scout program.

Scouting officials have repeatedly denied criminal wrongdoing. They have said faulty membership accounting procedures led to some irregularities and have since been changed.

Past and present Scout employees and volunteers said at the time of the April 7, 2000, raid that senior Scout executives ignored repeated complaints that long-expired "ghost troops" padded membership rolls by as much as 30 percent, mostly in an inner-city program geared to serve poor minority children.

They said ranking Circle Ten executives, under pressure from the national headquarters in Irving, pressured them to keep the expired troops to continue showing membership growth each year. The numbers were then used to justify higher financing requests from parents and from major charitable organizations, such as the United Way.

In 2000, the Scouts' Circle Ten franchise in Dallas was considered the fifth-largest of 324 Scout franchises nationwide, serving 70,000 North Texas children.

An attorney for the organization told The Dallas Morning News in Sunday editions that the grand jury has made contact, and that Circle Ten responded to its requests in an appropriate and timely manner.

"We're not in a position to discuss what's happening," Circle Ten's attorney, Bob Davis, told the newspaper.

Federal prosecutors declined to comment, citing federal laws that forbid disclosing the activities of grand juries.

A former Circle Ten Scout recruiter and one of the original whistle-blowers whose testimony the government has requested told the newspaper that authorities who contacted him recently said they were working to obtain criminal charges.

Dale Draper, now a volunteer scoutmaster working as a commercial drafter near Salt Lake City, declined to describe other details of his discussions with government authorities.

"I'm glad to hear it because it needs to be cleaned up for the good of the Scouts and for the good of those who want the Scouting organization to operate cleanly and honestly," Draper said. "It's been so long, I feel like some people may think they've gotten away with it."

In the raid 32 months ago, U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigators seized boxes of documents and computer hard drive data from the Circle Ten headquarters.

A review of some Circle Ten rosters from 1999 and 2000 found that several troops listed as active had never formed, in some cases years after recruiters came to south Dallas schools and gathered the names of prospective members.

One troop had not existed for 12 years, while some children listed in membership rosters had grown up and had children of their own. The members of one expired Scout troop were shown as living at the address of an apartment complex that had been bulldozed years earlier.

Former New Mexico mining town for sale

PLAYAS, N.M. (AP) — A community center, an airstrip, 259 homes and over 1,000 acres of nearby land? $3.2 million. Owning a once-humming mining town in a remote corner of New Mexico? Priceless.

Playas, a virtual ghost town since Phelps Dodge Corp. halted operations at a nearby copper smelter in September 1999, has been put up for sale by the mining giant.

The 640-acre town was built between 1974 and 1977 to house smelter workers. Now it's home to a few renters and a small crew kept on at the smelter.

"It's really a beautiful place to live, beautiful panoramic views," Phelps Dodge spokesman Richard Peterson said.

But Playas, west of the tiny village of Hachita in southwestern New Mexico, is far from just about everything. Groceries can be bought in Lordsburg, 35 minutes away by car. The nearest movie theaters are in Silver City, a 75-minute drive, and Deming, about an hour away. The nearest mall is in Las Cruces, a two-hour drive.

"I think it will be a hard sell," said smelter superintendent Tommy Townsend, who oversees the town's maintenance. "We're a long way from anything."

There are a few amenities: a community center, airstrip, fitness center, a bank that opens on Fridays, a post office, fire station and medical clinic with its own ambulance. Playas has a rodeo arena, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, baseball diamonds, a bowling alley and two churches. The sale includes 1,200 acres of surrounding land.

"We're looking at it from the standpoint of here's what's here. You can do what you like with it," said broker Nick Balich of Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Russ Lyon Realty Co., which is marketing the property.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.82	6.60	6.67	—.05
AOL TimeWrn	13.90	13.51	13.86	+.26
AT&T Corp rs	27.61	26.80	27.44	—.22
Albertsons	23.64	23.45	23.57	+.11
Alltel	55.19	53.77	55.05	+1.86
AmEl Pw	29.73	29.25	29.49	+.74
AndarkPtr	48.94	48.27	48.71	+.28
ATMOS Egy	23.80	23.55	23.79	+.29
Aviall	8.22	8.01	8.12	+.06
BP PLC	41.45	40.66	41.28	+.14
BakerHughes	32.55	32.26	32.41	—.14
Bank of Amer	71.00	69.01	71.00	+.76
BellSouth	29.69	27.77	29.40	+2.28
BurlNoSFe	27.25	26.76	27.07	+.36
Caterpillar	48.29	47.55	48.17	+.74
CenterPoint	8.68	8.42	8.44	—.11
ChevronTex	69.70	68.20	69.64	+1.30
Citigroup	37.01	36.27	37.00	+.89
CocaCola	44.80	44.34	44.64	—.10
ColgatePal	53.90	53.11	53.78	+.62
CmclMetals s	16.30	16.19	16.28	+.08
ConocoPhill	49.99	49.25	49.82	+.42
Cooper Inds	38.45	37.75	38.32	+.53
DaimlrChry	32.32	31.43	32.07	—.07
DeltaAirl	12.98	12.71	12.95	+.25
Dillards Inc	15.97	15.70	15.78	+.03
DowChem	30.48	30.25	30.41	+.06
DuPont	44.19	43.40	44.12	+.46
EastmanChem	37.93	37.32	37.92	+.35
EstKodak	38.00	37.30	37.77	+.34
EDS Corp	19.85	19.46	19.80	+.30
Entergy	47.41	46.83	47.24	+.51
ExxonMobil	36.23	35.41	36.11	+.61
FootLocker	10.79	10.66	10.70	—.07
GenDynam	81.55	81.05	81.08	—.12
GenlElec	25.75	25.25	25.70	+.30
GenMills	47.67	47.14	47.19	—.31
GenMotors	39.20	38.27	39.17	+.63
GaPacific	17.04	16.70	16.99	+.19
Goodrich	19.19	18.91	19.15	+.27
Goodyear	7.11	6.78	7.02	+.24
GtAtlPac	7.98	7.80	7.94	+.01
Halliburtn	19.05	18.84	18.87	—.11
Hanson ADS	23.90	23.65	23.70	+.38
HarteHanks s	19.46	18.50	19.37	+.12
HomeDepot	21.94	21.40	21.91	+.53
HoneywellIntl	25.40	24.89	25.37	+.62
IBM	83.32	81.81	83.00	+1.35
IntlPaper	36.00	35.16	35.96	+.74
JohnsonJn	56.99	56.36	56.80	—.01
KinderMorg	44.12	43.90	44.03	+.28
Kroger Co	16.00	15.88	15.97	—.03
LockheedM	58.69	58.25	58.32	—.39
Lowes Cos	37.48	37.05	37.20	+.28
Lubys	2.93	2.85	2.85	
LucentTech	1.50	1.45	1.49	+.04
MarathonOil	22.10	21.63	22.10	+.58
MayDeptStr	23.75	23.37	23.52	—.01
Medtronic	47.15	46.78	47.05	+.25
Motorola	9.59	9.20	9.53	+.36
NCR Corp	25.34	24.55	25.28	+.73
Navistar	25.88	25.40	25.57	+.09
PNM Rescs	23.79	23.55	23.67	+.12
Penney JC	23.60	23.15	23.20	—.28
PepBoys	12.14	11.79	12.02	+.26
PepsiCo	43.45	42.98	43.20	—.20
Pharmacia	43.86	43.50	43.80	+.28
PhelpDodge	33.42	33.05	33.30	+.20
PilgrmPrd B	8.49	8.25	8.49	+.11
Praxair	59.56	58.86	59.35	+.49
ProctGamb	87.99	86.97	87.70	+.85
RadioShack	20.13	19.55	20.04	+.30
RoyalDut	46.22	45.17	46.12	+1.34
SBC Comm	31.29	29.50	31.15	+2.27
SaraLee	23.03	22.90	22.95	—.05
Scripps EW	79.50	79.10	79.23	—.07
SearsRoeb	24.68	24.15	24.46	+.47
SherwinW	28.87	28.45	28.84	+.54
SouthernCo	30.02	29.15	29.97	+.86
SwstAirl	14.45	14.14	14.41	+.06
SprintFON	16.05	15.15	16.05	+.63
SprintPCS	4.66	4.45	4.54	+.17
Sunoco Inc	34.22	33.69	34.16	+.39
TXU Corp	19.68	19.31	19.51	+.03
TempleInland	47.47	46.70	47.45	+.72
TexInd	25.42	25.05	25.27	+.17
TexasInst	16.56	16.18	16.43	+.30
Textron	45.18	44.10	45.18	+1.16
TrinityInds	19.50	19.37	19.49	—.01
TylerTech	4.03	3.97	4.00	
UnionPacif	61.67	60.65	61.50	+.71
USSteel	13.60	13.42	13.57	—.06
UnitedTech	65.85	64.75	65.46	+1.05
Unocal	31.71	31.23	31.66	+.36
VerizonComm	43.35	41.18	43.22	+2.77
WalMart	50.55	49.90	50.06	+.06
WellsFargo	48.60	47.80	48.47	+.58
WstnGasRs	37.77	37.48	37.48	—.02
WinnDixie	16.00	15.88	15.98	+.02
Xerox Cp	8.31	8.23	8.31	+.03
YumBrands s	24.99	24.44	24.99	+.44

Ask Hollywood by Holly Wood

Let Sonya solve your pet dilemas

Q: Where can I get the address for the pet psychic on Animal Planet? Can you give me the spelling of her name? — **K.B., Lawrence, Mass.**

A: Sonya Fitzpatrick is host of the Animal Planet series "The Pet Psychic," and you can write to her at The Pet Psychic, Building 22A, 1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, FL 32819.

Q: Was the Liza Minnelli-Robert De Niro movie "New York, New York" based on a true story? And what became of Rusty from "The Danny Thomas Show"? — **J.B., Cedar Falls, Iowa**

A: The movie isn't based on any particular story, but the plot echoes many people's lives: Man and woman meet. Man and woman fall in love and get married. Man and woman realize they would have been happier buying pet rock and decide to separate. Sad, very sad.

On a more serious note, Rusty Hamer from "The Danny Thomas Show" (also known as "Make Room for Daddy") committed suicide in 1990 at the age of 42.

Q: I was wondering if they need someone to play Violet Baudelaires in the movie based on the Lemony Snicket book "The Bad Beginning." I think the movie comes out next Christmas. Could you help me? I'm 12 years old and 5 feet, 3 inches tall. I have dark brown hair and blue eyes. — **S.B., Little Rock, Ark.**

A: The film "Lemony Snicket" was slated for release in 2003, but production delays have made a 2004 release more likely. The only cast member who has been announced is Jim Carrey, so you might still have a shot at it. Write to Nickelodeon Studios, 231 West Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91502 for information about auditions. If you don't make it in time for this one, keep trying. There are lots of roles out there.

Q: In the classic movie "The Third Man," which starred Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten, what is the name of the actress who played the female lead? What other films did she make after this movie, and is she still living? — **A.E., Frankenmuth, Mich.**

A: Alida Valli played Anna Schmidt in that 1949 movie. She has had a prolific film career, and it would take me a whole page to list all the films she has appeared in since "The Third Man." Most of them are European films, with the most recent being "Semana Santa," "L'amore probabilmente" and the TV movie "Vino Santo." She is very much alive.

Q: Could you please tell me whom to contact to find out if there are tapes of "The Wonder Years," a series made in the 1980s starring Fred Savage? I would like to buy them. — **J.A., Arcadia, Calif.**

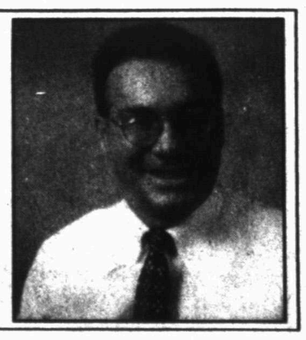
A: You can find some of the episodes on VHS at Amazon.com (www.amazon.com) for $6.99. Most of the episodes have not yet been released on video, however.

TRIVIA: Fred Savage is the brother of Kala Savage, who starred in MTV's "Undressed," and "Ben Savage, who starred in "Boy Meets World." The three of them worked together in the movie "Little Monsters."

(Send your questions to Ask Holly Wood, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, or write to HollyWood85@hotmail.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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JAN 06 2003

Morales' brother investigated in extortion claim

DALLAS (AP) — An attorney for the brother of former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales continues to meet with federal prosecutors amid allegations his client tried to extort between $200,000 and $300,000 from Laredo millionaire Tony Sanchez.

Citing anonymous sources, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday that federal agents have identified Michael Morales as the person who called Sanchez's gubernatorial campaign and threatened to make public an allegation that Sanchez committed a felony more than 30 years ago.

"I have been meeting and cooperating with the U.S. attorney's office on the matter. I will meet with them again later this week and believe that this matter will be completely resolved at that time," Michael Morales' attorney John Pinckney said. "I feel that my statement speaks for itself."

Sanchez lost to Gov. Rick Perry in the November election. Dan Morales lost to Sanchez in the Democratic primary and ended up endorsing Perry's bid.

Dan Morales said his brother and Pinckney disclosed to him Sunday the existence of the federal investigation and that there were discussions under way with prosecutors.

"I've had no discussion regarding any of the facts," Dan Morales said. "I believe that if the allegations are accurate, they are serious. I think Mike recognizes in that instance he will have to deal with those."

"Hopefully the matter can be resolved as soon as possible for all individuals involved," he said.

Michael Morales, 40, lives in San Antonio and along with brother Ron Morales has won numerous Grammys for producing recordings, including Freddie Fender's 2002 album "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" and Flaco Jimenez's "Said and Done" in 1998.

Michael and Ron Morales also developed campaign ads for their brother's bid against Sanchez in the gubernatorial Democratic primary last year. They worked previously on Dan Morales' races for the Legislature and attorney general.

According to The News, someone called Sanchez's campaign manager and threatened to make public an allegation that Sanchez committed a felony in the 1960s while a law student at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

About six weeks after Dan Morales lost his bitter primary bout with Sanchez, Perry's campaign received a letter dated April 25 offering to sell the information pertaining to Sanchez.

The Perry campaign declined the offer because it had no interest in the information, campaign manager Diedre Delisi said.

The letter was followed up by numerous telephone calls from an anonymous caller wanting to make a deal, Delisi said.

A spokesman for the Sanchez campaign said the campaign got a call attempting to extort money during the week of an Oct. 9 debate between Sanchez and Perry in Houston.

Sanchez campaign spokesman Mark Sanders said the Sanchez campaign called law enforcement immediately after the call came in.

The alleged illegal activity involving Sanchez was never reported to the police. The matter could not be corroborated adequately to make it public, Dan Morales said.

"At times, family members engage in activity that makes you want to ring their neck," he said. "Even when they do so, they are still your family members and you still are willing to love them and support them and wish the best for them. That certainly would be the case here if indeed the assertions prove to be accurate."

Berry's World



Teen's mother haunted by plane crash death

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — One year after 15-year-old Charles Bishop crashed a stolen airplane into a Tampa skyscraper, his mother and best friend said they are still haunted by death and struggling with the public attention it has drawn.

Julia Bishop, who has filed a $70 million lawsuit against the maker of the acne medication Accutane that her son was taking before the crash, has made few public statements since her son's death Jan. 5, 2002.

"This is a news story for the rest of the world," she told the St. Petersburg Times in a story for Sunday's edition. "But for me, he was my life and my son and it's extremely difficult to have this thrown into my face all the time."

Bishop is limited in what she can talk about because of the lawsuit, which contends Accutane caused the boy to develop severe psychosis and led him to commit suicide. A trial is set for March 2004 in U.S. District Court in Tampa.

Julia Bishop remembers her son, a high school freshman who dreamed of becoming an Air Force Pilot, excitedly talking about an upcoming trip to Australia and New Zealand as a student ambassador.

Days later, he left a two-page note, expressing sympathy for Osama bin Laden and supporting the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He also claimed he had resisted recruiting attempts by al-Qaida terrorists.

"When you see a pattern and then suddenly for somebody to snap and think they are working for Osama bin Laden ... I'm sure you've seen the note," Julia Bishop said. "That's really sick."

Julia Bishop said she meets about once a month with her son's best friend, Emerson Favreau, who says he still feels guilty he didn't notice any suicide warning signs in his friend.

Two days before the crash, Charles sent Favreau an e-mail saying he was going to be on the news. Charles ended the online conversation by saying: "See you today."

"That's what made me mad," Favreau said. "Because he knew he wasn't going to see me today."

Favreau has re-created his friend's final flight along Tampa's skyline on an airplane computer simulator.

"I was trying to figure out maybe if there was something going on," Favreau said. "I still couldn't believe that he did it on purpose."

Emerson said he was finally convinced by a federal report in November that said Bishop flew dangerously close to the MacDill Air Force Base control tower before crashing into the 42-story Bank of America Plaza in downtown Tampa.

"Before, there was nothing concrete that he had done it on purpose," Favreau said. "But you can't accidentally (buzz a control tower) with a Cessna."

Now a junior at East Lake High School, Favreau said students don't talk much about Charles Bishop anymore, but that he is still haunted by the suicide.

"It's just something that you can't get off your head," Favreau said.

Tony Dorsett donates winnings to home

NEW BRIGHTON, Pa. (AP) — A home for disabled people is $10,000 richer thanks to a stroke of fortune — the Wheel of Fortune — and Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett.

Dorsett, a former Dallas Cowboys and University of Pittsburgh star, has raised about $1.7 million for the McGuire Memorial Home in Daugherty Township through his annual golf tournament. It is the second year in a row Dorsett has augmented donations with $10,000 from Wheel of Fortune.

Dorsett was one of 15 former National Football League players who taped a weeklong series of NFL-themed Wheel of Fortune episodes in November that will air in Pittsburgh on WPXI this week.

The home cares for 89 severely disabled adults and children.

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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Owner Richard Dupree
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Mobile (915) 725-9001 Fax (915)573-0056
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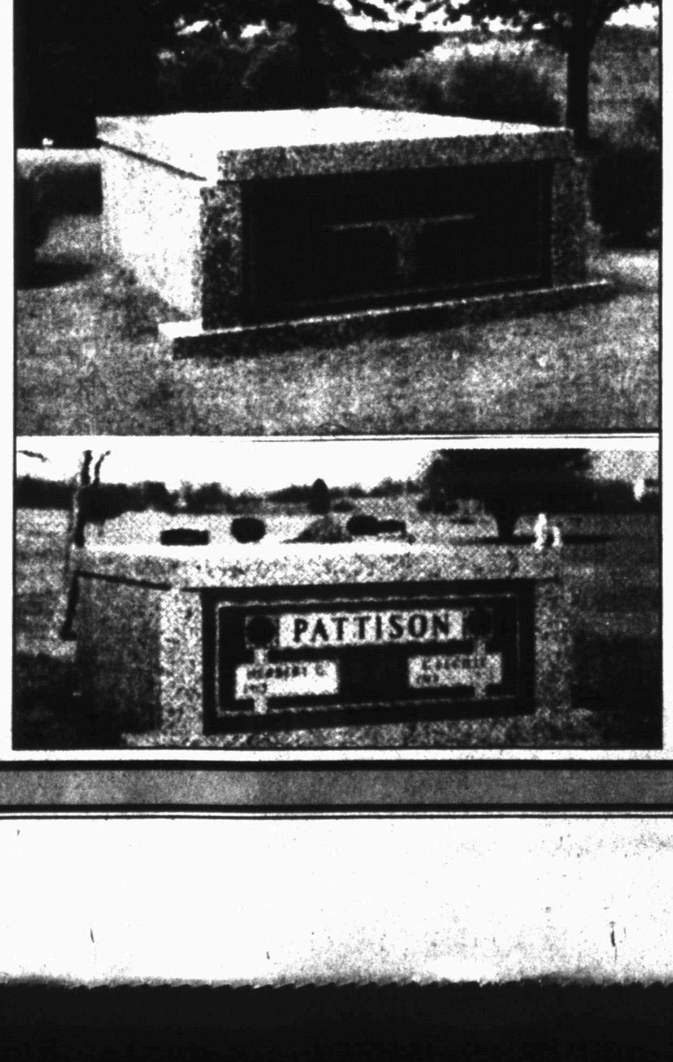
Snyder Oaks Care Center
210 E. 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
79549
Office: 915-573-9377
Fax: 915-573-8306
Home: 915-573-3132

Friendly Flower Shop
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Snyder, Texas 79549
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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



Hillside Monument
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Hillside Memorial Gardens
Colorado City Hwy.
573-5251 Night 573-5536

Hillside Memorial Gardens, located on the Colorado City Highway, has been serving Snyder and the Scurry County area for many years.

Hillside Memorial Gardens is a perpetual care cemetery governed by the State Banking Department. The one price you pay for perpetual care is the only one you ever have to pay.

Lots at Hillside Memorial Gardens are reasonably priced and they offer a Pre-Need Financial Plan of only 20 percent down and small monthly payments without interest or carrying charges.

Granite and bronze memorials are available at Hillside Monument Works and Greg Graves goes to great lengths to see that the finished product is one that reflects the individualism of the loved one for whom it is created.

W.C. and Greg Graves realize they provide an important service to the community and work hard to maintain the trust and confidence of the people. Give them a call at 573-5251 and they will be happy to counsel with you concerning your present or future needs.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2003

There are strong indications that in the year ahead you could partake in more of the good things that life has to offer than you have for quite some time. Greater earnings may be responsible for making this possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You could have some larger-than-usual successes today. Consider working in the realm of finances, where you are under especially good aspects.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — An alliance you make at this time could help make your hopes and dreams a reality. In fact, all partnership arrangements may have considerable significance for you today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — If there is something important you'd like to accomplish that pertains to your career, try to do it today. Lady Luck is playing an active role in your affairs at this time and will tilt the odds your way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Matters of the heart may be the most important thing on your mind today. If you haven't been too lucky in love lately, this could be the day that things change to your liking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It'll pay to associate today with persons with whom you have much in common. Everyone could reap substantial benefits by pulling their talents together for a collective cause.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You shouldn't have any trouble gaining the support of others today, even if it is financial. It won't matter if what you need is for personal matters or commercial ones. Make your pleas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — There are larger-than-usual opportunities around you today, so be constantly alert. Things look especially good for you in the financial department or where your resources are concerned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Interests that are of great importance to you personally can be substantially advanced at this time. It behooves you to give these types of matters top priority today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There could be an unusual turn of events today where you can profit from a situation that was previously a failure. Hang on tight to your four-leaf clover.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't be afraid to think in expansive terms today. It's time to give way to your imagination, while hopeful developments are stirring that will fuel your creative juices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Roll up your sleeves and get to work on your biggest projects. You are in an extremely favorable achievement cycle where your finances and career are concerned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You could have an exhilarating effect upon others today because of the positive manner in which you present yourself at this time. This will be true regardless of the circle you move in.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



A possible alternative to treating high cholesterol

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've had success in lowering my cholesterol — not with expensive "statin" drugs, but by using a combination of other foods and a dietary supplement.

At age 65, my cholesterol was 288 despite an alteration in my diet. My doctor prescribed Lipitor, but after 90 days stopped it because of adverse liver enzyme readings. So, we agreed to try an alternative therapy.

I now use a dietary supplement called red yeast rice, a staple for centuries in the traditional Chinese diet. Instead of using margarine, I've substituted Take Control, a soybean extract that contains sterol plant esters. Also, I sprinkle a packet of instant oatmeal over my usual bowl of breakfast cereal. Within two months, my cholesterol level dropped to 195, my "bad" LDL level to 120; my "good" cholesterol has remained normal.

There are no side effects and these products are much less expensive than prescription drugs.

I wanted to share this with you and your readers.

DEAR READER: Your response to alternative therapy is certainly significant, and I agree with you that "natural" products are preferable to expensive medications that carry the risk of side effects, such as liver inflammation. However, your experience is not universal; your program does not work for everyone.

Nonetheless, it is certainly worth trying, and I am publishing it for general public interest. I endorse any safe diet plan that can reduce serum cholesterol levels below 200 milligrams per deciliter, and drop LDL levels below 130mg/dL.

I would appreciate follow-up comments, both pro and con, from readers who choose to try your suggestions.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: When I fail to get enough sleep during the week, I will occasionally sleep more than 12 hours a night on weekends. Why do I have difficulty waking up and then feeling groggy all day? I would think I should awake rested, refreshed and feeling great. I don't.

DEAR READER: Your experience is not unique. "Catching-up" on sleep can often lead to the very symptoms you mention, which are normal. The reason for this is that each of us has a biological clock that is more or less set to accommodate our individual daily schedules.

When we don't sleep enough — or on the occasion when we obtain more sleep than usual — the biological clock becomes de-synchronized. This is the basis of jet lag, when we cross from one time zone to another and have to re-adapt. Also, changing work shifts can cause grogginess, irritability, insomnia and headache until the biological clock becomes adjusted to the changed sleep pattern.

Try sleeping no more than 10 hours at a time on weekends. This may be enough, and you should feel more refreshed.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Your advice to people with extreme dry-skin conditions is good. However, some folks with persistent dry skin should be alert to the fact that moisturizing creams may contain the very compounds that are causing an allergic reaction. Therefore, if the skin condition persists despite the use of a particular product, the consumer should change brands.

DEAR READER: Excellent advice. Thank you for your suggestion.

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Kin of man killed at LAX files $30M claim

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The family of a man killed by a gunman at Los Angeles International Airport has filed a claim seeking $30 million from the city, the family's attorney said.

The claim, filed Friday on behalf of 46-year-old Yaakov "Jacob" Aminov's widow and eight children, asked the city to compensate for economic and emotional losses, said attorney Richard Fine. Such claims are required as a precursor to a formal lawsuit.

Claims totaling $8.5 million from four others, including a 6-year-old witness and a man credited with helping disarm the gunman, also were filed Friday against the city.

Aminov was at the El Al ticket counter when he was shot and killed by Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, an Egyptian immigrant. Hadayet also killed Victoria Hen, 25, of Chatsworth, who worked behind the Israeli airlines ticket counter. An El Al security guard shot and killed Hadayet.

The FBI has investigated the July 4 shooting as a possible terrorist act even though no evidence has linked Hadayet to any terrorist group.

Iraq war could bring changes to oil market

WASHINGTON (AP) — What price war with Iraq?

If the war goes well, gasoline prices might settle as low as $1.10 a gallon on average, by some estimates. If the oil fields burn, look for prices as high as $4.84, others say. Also possible: The market will simply adjust and prices will stay at today's $1.40-$1.60 range.

The wide variance illustrates how much is at stake any decision to attack a country holding at least one-tenth of the world's oil reserves.

But the subject of war and oil is a sensitive one, and the Bush administration has said little about the promise and peril for consumers from the gathering conflict.

"There are enormous ramifications for consumers, given that Iraq's reserves are second behind Saudi Arabia," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who serves on the Senate energy committee. "Now is the time to find out how the administration is going to address this issue."

The frustration crosses the political spectrum.

"This needs to be done in an orderly fashion," said Ariel Cohen, an oil economist with the conservative Heritage Foundation who favors ousting Saddam Hussein — and then, a quick and open sale of Iraqi oil assets to private interests.

"If it's about oil, make the case," said Phyllis Bennis of the antiwar Institute for Policy Studies. "They haven't yet."

President Bush's then-chief economic adviser, Larry Lindsey, made part of the case in September.

"When there is a regime change in Iraq, you could add 3 million to 5 million barrels of production to world supply," he said. "The successful prosecution of the war would be good for the economy."

But those comments helped cost Lindsey his job. Bush advisers quickly backpedaled, and a couple of months later he was shown the door.

The problem with sizing up the economic and oil consequences is that much of the evidence is shifting. The length and cost of war would depend on support from regional allies — decisions not likely to come until the last minute — and oil payoffs would be easier to predict with accurate statistics, notably absent from Iraq's chaotic government.

Iraq now produces 2 million to 2.5 million barrels a day, with unknown additional amounts smuggled out.

In a world market producing 75 million barrels daily, an extra 3 million to 5 million barrels from a friendly postwar Iraq could bring pump prices in the United States down to $1.10, some economists say.

Once Iraq is producing, "someone else will have to give up something to keep prices at $25 a barrel, the OPEC ideal," said Tom Drennen, an economist at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y. "That means someone will probably cheat, and gas prices will drop to the $1-$1.20 range."

Then there is the worst-case scenario — actually two of them: Saddam levels his oil fields as a final vengeful act, a prediction with a 1991 precedent in Kuwait; and Iraq's fractious population makes governance next to impossible, plunging the entire region into instability.

George Perry, a Brookings Institution economist, recently analyzed bad, worse and worst-case oil disruption scenarios, drawing his conclusions in part from the "price shock" engendered by the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. His worst-case prediction, which factors in the collapse of neighboring governments friendly to America: gasoline at $4.84 a gallon.

Others see too many unknowables to venture a guess.

"It's premature to say we're heading for any price spiral, up or down," said Yasser Elguindi, an analyst with Medley Global Advisors in New York.

A functioning Iraqi government with friendly Western companies pumping wells at capacity is not likely to happen soon, said John Felmy of the American Petroleum Institute, an oil industry group.

Lacking the most modern equipment for a dozen years, Iraq probably has been using "aggressive production techniques, which can damage wells," Felmy said.

"We haven't been in the country for years," he said, "We don't know what the geology is," especially in the western Desert, where the optimists speculate new wells would allow Iraq to overtake Saudi Arabia as the country with the largest reserves.

Such predictions also assume a world exactly as it is today — something belied by current unrest in Venezuela.

"The loss of Venezuelan oil is beginning to hurt," said Robert Ebel of the private Center for Strategic and International Studies.

A defeated Iraq would be expected to make good on outstanding debts to former enemies and allies — Russia alone is expecting a $7 billion payment. The payoffs that would inhibit the rapid development of a free-market economy.

'Two Towers' tops box office for 3rd week

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Two Towers" has scored a triple.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" was the top film for a third weekend, taking in $25.65 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The middle chapter of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic, "The Two Towers" pushed its 19-day total to $261.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

With no big new films, box-office rankings shaped up much the same as last weekend. Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks in a cat-and-mouse chase between a con man and an FBI agent, remained in second place with $21.3 million, lifting its 12-day total to $97.6 million.

Romantic comedies again held the No. 3 and 4 spots, with "Two Weeks Notice" grossing $11.6 million and "Maid in Manhattan" taking in $9 million.

In its first weekend of wide release after debuting in a handful of theaters last month, Jack Nicholson's acclaimed black comedy "About Schmidt" climbed to No. 5 with $8.75 million. Nicholson plays a retired insurance actuary reassessing his life after his wife dies.

Also expanding was the musical "Chicago," with Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere, which came in at No. 9 with $5 million.

Playing in relatively narrow release at 816 theaters, "About Schmidt" averaged a healthy $10,723, while "Chicago" averaged $16,500 in 304 theaters. "The Two Towers" averaged $7,082 in 3,622 theaters, while "Catch Me If You Can" averaged $6,719 in 3,170 theaters.

"The Two Towers" has passed "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," which came out a month earlier and has reached a total gross of $252 million.

Worldwide, "Two Towers" has hit $560 million, and distributor New Line hopes it will top $1 billion and become the No. 2 film behind "Titanic," which climbed to $1.8 billion.

"Two Towers" picks up where "Fellowship of the Ring" left off and leaves viewers hanging, awaiting the conclusion next December with "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

"This is a movie without a beginning and an end. It's not a sequel but a continuation of a story," said David Tuckerman, New Line head of distribution.

Several films that opened over the holidays to qualify for the Academy Awards continued to do well in limited release. "The Hours," starring Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman and Julianne Moore, grossed $326,000 in 11 theaters for a $29,636 average.

Spike Lee's "The 25th Hour," starring Edward Norton as a drug dealer on his last day of freedom before going to prison, earned $131,000 at five theaters to average $26,281.

George Clooney's directing debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," with Sam Rockwell as game-show host Chuck Barris in a fictionalized thriller, took in $91,789 at four theaters for a $22,947 average.

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," $25.65 million.
2. "Catch Me If You Can," $21.3 million.
3. "Two Weeks Notice," $11.6 million.
4. "Maid in Manhattan," $9 million.
5. "About Schmidt," $8.75 million.
6. "Gangs of New York," $7.4 million.
7. "Drumline," $5.6 million.
8. "The Wild Thornberrys Movie," $5.5 million.
9. "Chicago," $5 million.
10. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," $4.5 million.

Millions watch premiere of 'Osbournes'

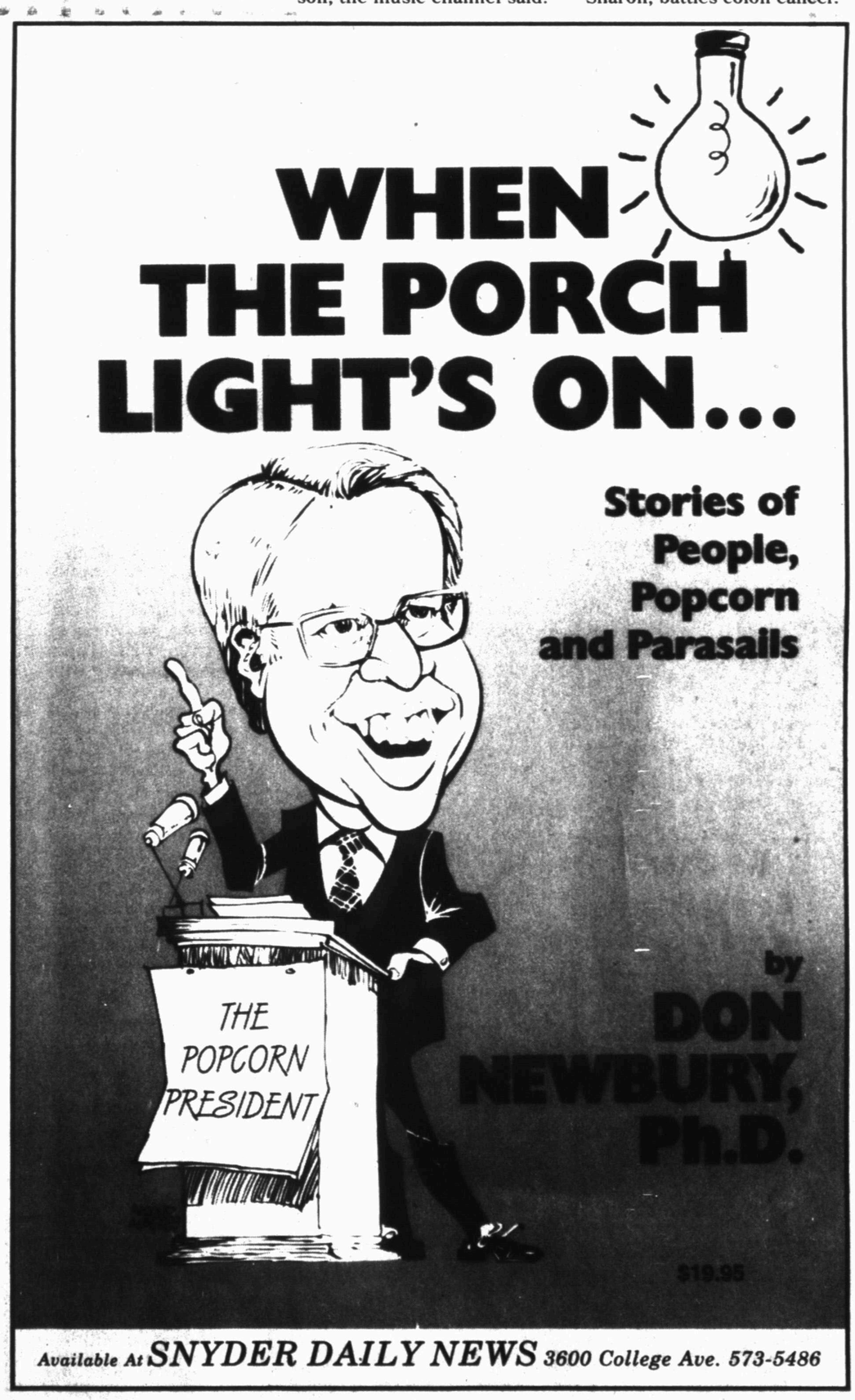
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Osbournes," the reality series about rocker Ozzy Osbourne's unorthodox family and home life, drew 6.6 million viewers in its second-season premiere, MTV said Wednesday.

Tuesday's ratings were up 84 percent compared to the first season's premiere, and viewership rivaled that of the highest-rated episode last season, the music channel said.

"'The Osbournes' juggernaut shows little signs of slowing down," MTV programming president Brian Graden said in a statement.

Last year, the show became an unexpected hit and the highest-rated show in MTV's 21-year history.

This season's content is decidedly different, as the family copes with its newfound celebrity and Ozzy's wife, Sharon, battles colon cancer.



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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Snow closes schools in three states

BALTIMORE (AP) — Snow fell for a second day today, closing schools in parts of the central Appalachians and mid-Atlantic states and making highways treacherous.

Up to 4 inches of snow had fallen by midmorning in West Virginia, and parts of Virginia and Maryland collected up to 4 inches on Sunday. Snow also fell today across parts of the Ohio Valley, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and southeastern New York.

Schools were closed today in Maryland and West Virginia.

Sunday's snowfall contributed to a 34-vehicle pileup on the Baltimore Beltway in which 27 people were injured. Other accidents around the state were blamed for three deaths.

"It was nerve-racking," said Gayle Colonna of Clairton, Pa., who was driving in the area of Beckley, W.Va. "People were getting hung up, and when I saw an 18-wheeler going down a hill sideways, I knew I shouldn't travel any further."

Culpeper County, Va., Sheriff Lee Hart said that when he arrived at his office Sunday morning, he found a shaken 80-year-old woman waiting for him.

"She was all dressed up and heading to church when she banged her car into a wall," Hart said. "She was scared to death and just walked to the sheriff's office and waited for someone to show up."

In Maryland's Frederick County, a fire truck slid down a steep, snowy road Sunday in Braddock Heights, striking and injuring a pedestrian before rolling over and injuring three firefighters, police said.

Saddam accuses inspectors of performing 'intelligence work'

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein accused U.N. inspectors of engaging in "intelligence work" instead of searching for suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

The inspectors were interested in collecting names of Iraqi scientists, putting questions to them that indicate "hidden agendas" and gathering information about military facilities, the Iraqi president said in a televised speech today marking Iraq's Army Day.

"All or most" of such activities "constitute purely intelligence work," Saddam said.

In Vienna, Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, denied the charges and said that if inspectors are gathering intelligence, "it's intelligence for the United Nations."

"We certainly flatly reject any accusation that we work for any government or provide direct information to any single government," Fleming said today. Experts from the Austria-based U.N. nuclear watchdog are on the inspection team.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer rejected Saddam's claims, saying the United Nations had sanctioned the mission of the inspectors.

"These are unfortunate remarks and the work of the inspectors needs to continue," Fleischer said.

Under a Security Council resolution passed in November, weapons inspectors are in the country to establish whether Iraq still has chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or the means to deliver them. Iraq has denied it has such weapons, but the United States and Britain have accused it of hiding banned arms.

President Bush and other U.S. officials have threatened to attack Iraq and topple Saddam's regime if it does not eliminate all weapons of mass destruction as required by U.N. resolutions adopted after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw today said that war with Iraq had become less likely. But he wouldn't say why he thought the chances of war had diminished.

"I've repeated that war is not inevitable and that the preference of the international community is for (the situation) to be resolved peacefully," Straw said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

In his speech, Saddam accused the United States of trying to push the U.N. inspectors to go beyond the declared objective of the Security Council, specifically mentioning American efforts to persuade the inspection teams to be more aggressive about questioning Iraqi scientists about the country's arms programs.

House Democrats prepare economic stimulus package

WASHINGTON (AP) — As House Democrats prepare to unveil their economic stimulus package, their Senate counterparts are intensifying criticism of President Bush's own plan, setting up a likely battle in Congress over how best to revive the economy.

House Democrats and their new leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, planned to announce their proposals today, the day before Bush was to formally unveil his plan at a speech in Chicago. The White House says Bush is assembling a blueprint to strengthen growth, create jobs and help people who are in need.

Pelosi said last week the Democrats' plan would focus on job creation and would not cost as much as Bush's proposal, which administration officials say could cost $600 billion over 10 years.

Senate Democrats on Sunday continued to assail the president's plan as giving too much help to corporations and the wealthy, and not enough to the middle class.

Bush's plan likely will include an extension of unemployment benefits; an acceleration of tax cuts Congress approved in 2001; a cut in dividend taxes by 50 percent or more; and tax incentives to prompt more spending by businesses.

The Senate's second-ranking Democrat, Harry Reid of Nevada, said elements like the dividend tax cut largely ignore the poor and middle class.

Bush's economic plan to eliminate taxes on dividends

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the centerpiece of his economic growth package, President Bush will propose wiping out the taxes shareholders pay on dividends, a step that would cost the Treasury more than $300 billion over a decade, a senior administration official said today.

Bush was leading a series of policy briefings, capped by an afternoon meeting with his Cabinet to discuss advancing his 2003 agenda amid a changing political landscape in Washington: Republicans are taking over the Senate after 19 months of Democratic control.

Aides to Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said they expected him to attend today's Cabinet meeting, even though he has been hospitalized for most of the last three weeks with back trouble. Hospital officials said he remained at Walter Reed Army Medical Center today morning.

White House officials had said in recent days that Bush was considering cutting the dividend tax by 50 percent or more. But the senior administration aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush will propose eliminating it when he offers his stimulus package Tuesday in Chicago. That plan could cost $600 billion over 10 years.

Bush's growth package probably will also include an acceleration of tax cuts Congress approved in 2001; tax incentives to prompt more spending by businesses; aid to financially strapped states; and extended unemployment benefits.

A half-dozen Democratic lawmakers are jockeying for the right to challenge Bush in 2004, and several have already pledged to fight Bush's plan.

The White House anticipates that the GOP takeover when the 108th Congress convenes Tuesday will help Bush's initiatives on Capitol Hill, where they often have died at the hands of the Democratic-led Senate. The House remains under Republican control.

The president arrived back in Washington from two weeks at Camp David, Md., and his Texas ranch on Sunday.

On Wednesday, Bush marks the one-year anniversary of his signing of sweeping education reforms with a White House speech.

Hanging over those domestically focused events will be the prospect of war with Iraq and growing tensions over North Korea's resumption of a nuclear weapons program.

South Korea was sending diplomats to Washington to present a compromise solution to the United States and Japan today and Tuesday.

Obituaries

Butch Prichard

1940-2003

Robert Allen "Butch" Prichard died Friday, Jan. 3, at his home in Snyder after a sudden illness.

Graveside service for Mr. Prichard, 62, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Snyder Cemetery. Tommy Davis of Snyder, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Oct. 3, 1940, Mr. Prichard was an oilfield foreman and had moved to Snyder from Hobbs, N.M.

Survivors include a son, Chris Prichard, a daughter, Melanie Prather of Snyder; a stepdaughter, Christy Gilbert of Odessa; two sisters, Charlesea Motley of Tennessee and Elaine Tyson of Denver, Colo.; and two grandsons, Kelbyn and Keaton Prather of Snyder.

Family visitation will be from 6:30 to 7:30 this evening at the funeral home.

Fred Robison

1918-2003

ABILENE – Fred Woodrow Robison, the father of Jerry Robison of Snyder, died Friday, Jan. 3, in Rowlett.

Graveside service for Mr. Robison, 84, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Born Sept. 21, 1918 in Aleck, Okla., he was a retired civil servant, having been employed by Dyess AFB for 35 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Clarine Robison; his parents, John and Josephine Robison; two brothers, Homer and John Robison; two sisters, Lorraine Hoing and Nellie Glasgow; and a granddaughter, Tiffany.

Survivors include a daughter, Karen Gathright of Rowlett; three other sons, Clifton Robison of Allen, Johnny Robison of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Bill Robison of Orlando, Fla.; two brothers, Wallace Robison of Burkburnett and Wilson Robison of Galveston; three sisters, Jolene Barnes of Dallas, Jewel Kraatz of Winters and Alice Chapman of Abilene; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Marlin Leech

1917-2003

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Joseph Marlin Leech, former Hermleigh resident, died Wednesday, Jan. 1, in Alvarado Hospital in San Diego.

Service for Mr. Leech, 85, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday at College Ave. Baptist Church in San Diego. Interment will be in the Bible Mausoleum of Greenwood Memorial Park in San Diego.

Born on Oct. 6, 1917 south of Roscoe, his family moved to Hermleigh about 1923. He graduated from Hermleigh High School in 1936.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Oliver and Martha Elizabeth Dyer Leech.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Leech of San Diego; his son, Robert (Bob) Leech and his wife Kathy of San Marcos, Calif.; a stepdaughter, Janice Sanchez of San Diego; a sister-in-law, Lois Leech of Snyder; a niece, Sandra Browning of Snyder; a nephew, Gene Bowlin of Snyder; two granddaughters; and six great-grandchildren.

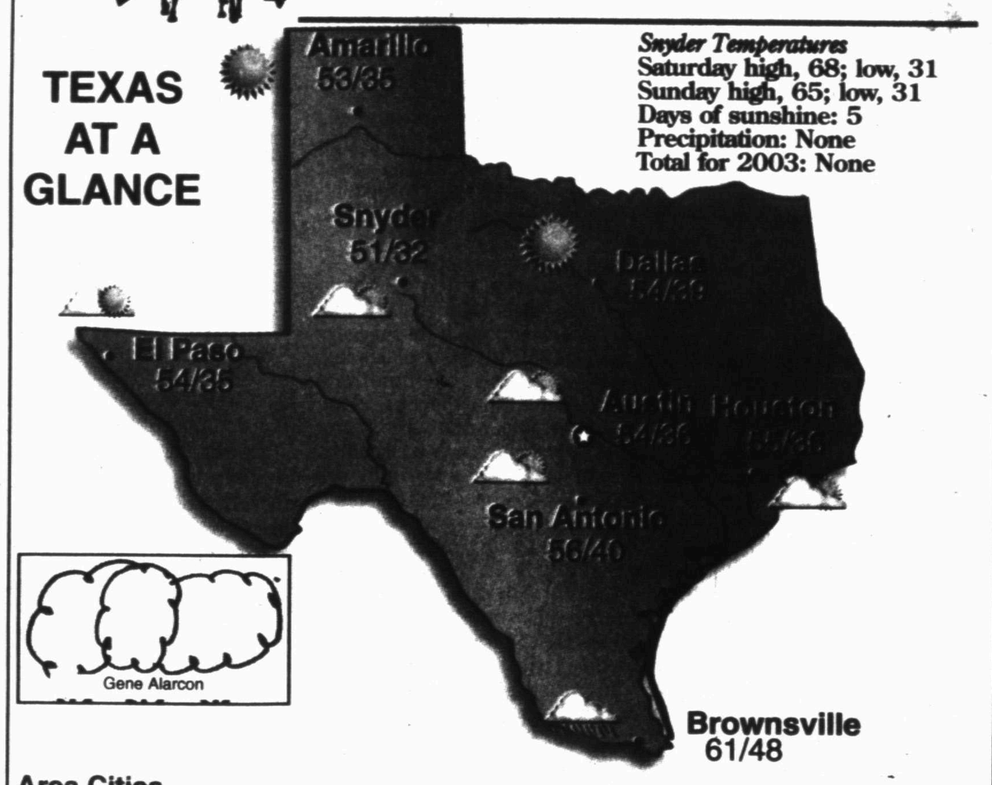
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 1/7	Wed 1/8	Thu 1/9
51/32	62/34	68/31
Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High 51F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows IH the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:53 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:54 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM Sunset 5:55 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Saturday high, 68; low, 31
Sunday high, 65; low, 31
Days of sunshine: 5
Precipitation: None
Total for 2003: None

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	54	38	sunny
Amarillo	53	35	sunny
Austin	54	36	pt sunny
Beaumont	54	34	mst sunny
Brownsville	61	48	rain
Brownwood	55	35	sunny
Corpus Christi	56	42	cloudy
Corsicana	54	36	sunny
Dallas	54	39	sunny
Del Rio	57	44	pt sunny
El Paso	54	35	cloudy
Fort Stockton	53	39	pt sunny
Gainesville	51	31	sunny
Greenville	51	32	sunny
Houston	55	36	pt sunny
Kingsville	58	42	cloudy
Livingston	54	31	pt sunny
Longview	53	32	sunny
Lubbock	54	34	mst sunny
Lufkin	55	34	pt sunny
Midland	52	36	mst sunny
Raymondville	58	42	rain
Rosenberg	55	36	pt sunny
San Antonio	56	40	pt sunny
San Marcos	55	38	pt sunny
Sulphur Springs	52	33	sunny
Sweetwater	54	34	pt sunny
Tyler	55	37	sunny
Weatherford	53	32	sunny
Wichita Falls	55	36	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	48	28	sunny
Boston	29	24	flurries
Chicago	45	39	cloudy
Dallas	54	39	sunny
Denver	58	33	mst sunny
Houston	55	36	pt sunny
Los Angeles	81	56	sunny
Miami	66	48	pt sunny
Minneapolis	47	31	pt sunny
New York	31	28	flurries
Phoenix	75	55	pt sunny
San Francisco	63	50	mst sunny
Seattle	50	39	pt sunny
St. Louis	49	42	mst sunny
Washington, DC	39	33	pt sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Tue 1/7	Wed 1/8	Thu 1/9
Low	Low	Low

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

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2.88%	3 Yr.	$1,000
3.03%	4 Yr.	$1,000
3.55%	5 Yr.	$1,000

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