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WTIC Posted - $17.25
Natural Gas - $2.670

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Dec. 31, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 208
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Ricky & Lee Ann Chaidez



ONE LAST SUNSET IN 2001 — With cloudy skies forecast today, the last day of 2001, the final visible sunset of the year was likely this dazling one Sunday in Snyder. Cold weather is expected to greet the new year. (SDN Staff Photo)

Electric deregulation starts Tuesday in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The new year brings a new way to buy electricity.

Barring last-minute complications, Texas consumers will get to shop around beginning Tuesday and choose what company supplies their power.

Sen. David Sibley, who co-wrote the 1999 legislation to restructure the market, is urging consumers to be greedy and find the best prices.

But getting customers to switch may be challenging.

A pilot program that allowed for up to 5 percent of the state's residential customers to switch power providers yielded about 103,000 participants. About 267,000 were eligible.

Computer glitches kept the June program from getting started until July 31.

Public Utility Commission Chairman Max Yzaguirre said the pilot program's goals were met, despite ho-hum turnout. Not only did the program give people a chance to check out new electric providers, but it also proved the state's electric grid could handle the load, he said.

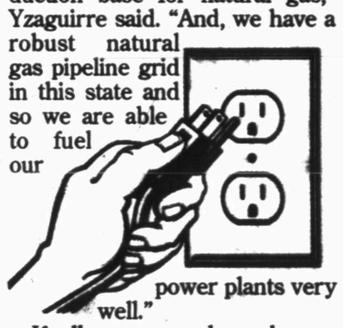
The pilot started as concerns lingered over how well deregulation was working in other states, and because of the program's limited nature, many companies skipped huge advertising efforts, he said.

State officials promised that Texas will avoid the deregulation woes that hit California, and utilities mailed brochures outlining the differences between the deregulation models for both states.

One of California's many problems was its existing shortage of power, while Texas has enough power plants for its needs, economist Ray Perryman said.

Texas also made it easier for power generators and resellers to negotiate long-term contracts, which could help lock in lower prices, observers say.

"Another component that is important here is we are sitting in the middle of a very large production base for natural gas," Yzaguirre said. "And, we have a robust natural gas pipeline grid in this state and so we are able to fuel our



power plants very well."

If all goes as planned, customers will see no change Tuesday. They will continue to receive power from their provider and may either call or sign up online to switch providers at any time.

Valerie Smith, spokeswoman for Texas-New Mexico Power Co., said that after a customer notifies an electricity provider that he wants to switch, the provider notifies the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. ERCOT in turn sends a notice to the customer's home stating that the change will take place unless he says otherwise within 14 days.

Then the switch will be made after the customer's next scheduled date for a meter reading. So customers will be phased in throughout January and the rest of the year, Smith said.

"We may not really have a good sense of how vibrant the marketplace is until later in the year because customers can switch throughout the year," Smith said. "I don't think we'll be able to look at Jan. 1 and say, 'Yep, it's a success' or 'No, it's not.'"

Customers are not required to switch, and changing may not be as enticing as some of the new companies originally had hoped.

The PUC this month approved rates that traditional companies, such as TXU or Reliant, will offer customers who stick with them. The 1999 law mandated a 6 percent rate cut for customers who did not switch companies when the market opened in 2002. Because natural gas prices have fallen, many of the older companies were able to offer double-digit rate cuts in their current service area. Texas-New Mexico Power Co. rates, for example, will drop 18 percent.

New companies, such as Green Mountain Energy Co. and The New Power Co., have said those rates are too low for them to cover their costs.

Green Mountain said it will watch to see what kind of competition moves into the market before actively recruiting new customers.

Holiday prompts closings

All local financial institutions will observe the New Year's holiday by closing their doors Tuesday.

West Texas State Bank, American State Bank, First American Bank, Snyder National Bank and Texas Savings Bank all are to resume regular hours Wednesday.

Also closing for the holiday are city and county offices, the Scurry County Library and museum and the city landfill.

Snyder Postmaster Dale Lipsett said no mail will be delivered or placed in boxes Tuesday.

Snyder's 2001 review continues...

Spring sees the invasion of the black bugs

April

Daylight Savings Time began on the first day of April and the 37th Street Church of Christ welcomed a new minister, Dale Huff who moved from Haskell.

The City of Snyder held its annual rabies vaccination clinic and right at 300 dogs were vaccinated.

Western Texas College hosted its annual collegiate rodeo at Scurry County Coliseum, and as usual, took top honors in both the men and women's divisions.

The college also hosted a career fair for public safety jobs. Representatives from various law enforcement agencies and EMS services visited with students on the WTC campus.

Airport manager Rodger Sullenger and various other county officials were in Austin this month to receive honors naming Winston Field as the Airport of the Year. The honors were given by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Four SHS students received recognition for their work in the school's one-act play entry in the zone competition. Honored were Matt Coronado, Brandon McCraw, Hayli Henderson and Mark Haines.

Four finalists were named for the top job at Western Texas College to replace Dr. Harry Krenek. Dr. Greg Williams of Midland College was one of the finalists and he was eventually chosen by the WTC board to serve as the new president.

David Baugh, retiring head football coach and athletic director at SHS, was honored with an appreciation banquet.

A 48-year-old Snyder man, Gary Sharp, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Lubbock.

Scurry County's Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey confirmed that he wanted to look at the management of the county coliseum by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce and to see what other options might be available in managing the facility.

The chamber was ultimately dropped as the manager of the facility and effective Jan. 1, will be operated by the new county parks department.

The City of Snyder held its annual clean-up campaign as city trucks picked up items that citizens had discarded.

Western Texas College held its spring formal and Jason Campbell of Sweetwater was named Mr. WTC, while Kristi Bond of Roby was named Miss WTC.

Warrants were issued for Alvin "Smokey" Ollison when he failed to show up for trial on drug charges stemming from a December drug raid.

Ollison was eventually tried and is serving time in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Scurry County's Relay for Life was held at Tiger Stadium with a large number of citizens participating in the American Cancer Society event.

Eddie's Pharmacy, owned by Eddie Peterson - a second-generation pharmacist - was sold to Eckerds.

Karen Waller, a Snyder High School graduate with advance accounting degrees from Texas Tech, was named the assistant superintendent for business and finances with the local district.

Grand Champion began filming in Snyder and a call for extras went out. Among those appearing in the movie by Barry Tubb was Julia Roberts. The award-winning actress was the center of attention in Snyder for awhile, drawing representatives from People Magazine and other national media hoping to find out more about her latest flame.

Big Country Electric Co-Op re-elected James Seidenberger, Carl Thompson and Mickey Sterling to its board of directors.

May

Reid Johnson was named the top male student at Western Texas College and Lina Alvarez took the same honor for females in ceremonies at the college.

Numerous other students were recognized by various campus departments.

The Price Daniel Unit had 23 students graduate from college courses at WTC, while six from the Smith Unit in Lamesa graduated.

WTC held its own graduation and 91 students received diplomas at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. The threat of stormy weather forced the ceremony to be moved from the campus courtyard to the church.

The Senior Citizens Center held its annual Mayday festivities at Scurry County Coliseum.

Calvary Baptist Church announced it would build a 7,000 square foot sanctuary adjacent to its present building.

Snyder High School's accounting team won first place in the state UIL competition. Team members were Tyler Kerr, Leslye Starnes and Kate Wright. Phyllis Smith was their sponsor.

As the school year wound down, Snyder High School named its outstanding teachers for 2000-2001. Receiving the honors were Becky Johnson and Ronda Haire.

The merger of Patterson Energy Inc. and UTI Energy Corp. was approved by the shareholders of the two companies.

Honor graduates were announced by county schools. Valery Haines took top honors as the valedictorian at Snyder High School while Claire Cotton was named salutatorian. At Hermleigh, Billy Lambaren was named valedictorian while Lori Eckert was named salutatorian, and at Ira, Morgan Clements was the valedictorian and Mikanna Herring the salutatorian.

A total of 185 seniors graduated from SHS, while Ira had 13 graduates and Hermleigh had 10.

A meeting was held by the Texas Department of Transportation to brief citizens on the planned improvements on College Avenue that are to start this spring.

There were a lot of newsworthy events in May, but probably the most memorable was the invasion of the black bugs. They were everywhere.

June

A 31-year-old Big Spring man died at the construction site of the Air Force's transmitter station as he was caught between the doors of a belly dump truck. The death was later ruled an accident by Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd.

Snyder Chamber of Commerce hosted its second annual West Texas Western Swing Music Festival at Scurry County Coliseum.

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce honored local citizens during the organization's banquet as several awards were presented.

Elois Pruitt received the Sizemore Award for her work with the Gold Coaters, and Frank Miller received the Vestal Award for his civic work.

Ted Crenwelge received the Winston Award for his work in agriculture, and the McLaughlin Award for contributions to the petroleum industry went to Treva Hawthorne.

The Excellence in Education Award went to Margaret Corkran, and the Chamber's Choice Award went to Jim and Jean Summers.

Patterson-UTI was awarded the Business of the Year Award.

Two Snyder Methodist churches announced the arrival of new pastors.

Rev. Tom Woodward is the new pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church, while Rev. Buddy Payne is the new pastor at First United Methodist Church.

Snyder's City Council began work on the city's annual budget and held a marathon seven-hour meeting.

Place 3 councilman James Jenkins resigned from the city council. Jenkins had served since his election in 1999 and cited time constraints as the reason for his resignation.

A request for financial assistance from the producer of *Grand Champion* was turned down by the Development Corporation of Snyder.

The DCOS board said the movie company did not meet the board's criteria for creating full time jobs.

LaWayne Fagan and Jody Ashley reaffirmed their plans to build a housing development on Lake Alan Henry despite legal haggling in Lubbock.

A report from the Scurry County Appraisal Board indicated taxable mineral values had increased 30 percent over 2000 values.

Despite a 24 percent cut in state funding, Snyder Alcohol and Drug Abuse program vowed to remain open and it has done so.

George Strait came to Snyder for a part in *Grand Champion* and the highlight of many a female's summer in Snyder was doing the hokeypokey with the popular singer.

ASK US

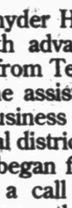
Q—I receive child support payments and I have heard that payments can now be made by direct deposit. How can I find more information about this?

A—Call the Texas AG office at 1-800-252-8014, or go on line at www.oag.state.tx.us.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 41 degrees; low, 27; high Sunday, 33; low 24; 7 a.m. Monday, 25; trace precipitation; total for 2001, 20.77 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, 50% chance of snow, sleet, low lower 20s. Tuesday, 60% snow chance, high upper 20s, SE winds 5-15 mph.



Brittany Miller
Chance of Snow

Sunset: 5:52 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:43 a.m.
Of 364 days in 2001, the sun has shone 351 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you have plans for 2001, you'd better hurry.

DEC 31 2001



Woman cannot sue Slaton over dogs

SLATON (AP) — A woman who breeds Siberian Huskies for a living has spent the last six months trying in vain to sue the city of Slaton.

Rita Mitchell of Slaton has been stopped dead in her tracks by a legal principle called "sovereign immunity."

Her dogs, Princess Nanook and Wolfgang Amadaus Mitchell, were the kind that always came home when they got out, she said.

One Friday night last June, they didn't. Mitchell and her husband spent all night searching for them.

Slaton animal control officers picked up the dogs Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, Mitchell said, she called to find out if her dogs were there.

The person who answered the phone wasn't sure. However, Mitchell said, she was assured that if they were picked up, her dogs would be kept safe until Mitchell returned to Slaton from a weeklong church camp.

The dogs were killed at the animal control center the Thursday before Mitchell returned from her trip. Princess Nanook was pregnant.

Mitchell learned of the deaths several days later.

"I was so stunned," she told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "I felt so sick to my stomach to think about it."

Mitchell estimates the financial loss at about $5,000, considering that she and her husband breed and sell Siberian Huskies.

She sought a remedy from City Hall.

"If they had tried to make it right ... that would have been the very end of it," Mitchell said.

She pursued the matter in court. She showed up for court in December, and the judge threw out her case because of sovereign immunity.

Sovereign immunity has its roots in English law and was based on the premise that "the king could do no wrong," said Brian Shannon, associate dean for academic affairs at the Texas Tech School of Law.

The law, originally intended to protect the English crown, was incorporated into American law during the country's infancy, he said. At the federal level, the Tort Claims Act limits liability for government, especially in discretionary functions, Shannon said.

For example, that law protects the federal government from liability if the National Weather Service were to issue a bad forecast.

The state has the Texas Tort Claims Act, which parallels the federal law. According to the state statute, government entities in Texas can be liable if the claim results from a vehicular wreck or the use of tangible property. School districts have even less exposure to liability.

For the most part, reasonable actions by government officials are not subject to lawsuits, Shannon said.

"If a government official, not the county or the state, deprives an individual of their constitutional rights and is acting very outside reasonable discretion, there is a potential for liability," he said.

One of the biggest arguments for sovereign immunity is that taxpayers are not left to foot the bill of misdeeds by government officials, Shannon said.

Effective governance also depends upon it, he said.

"Sometimes poor decisions are made, but I think as a society the remedy is the individual can be replaced and not necessarily have issues fought out in the court. At the same time, we want our officials acting within the law so it's good that we should have some checks on egregious conduct," Shannon said.

"They (government officials) should not always have to live in fear of making decisions that need to be made," he said.

Penatagon unable to verify predeployment med exams

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon says it cannot verify that soldiers in the anti-terrorism campaign are undergoing medical exams before and after deployment as required by law.

Such information about predeployment screenings are kept at the soldier's own base; the Department of Defense lacks a central system in which to verify compliance, said Austin Camacho, a spokesman for the department's Deployment Health Support Directorate.

"Our office doesn't have the power to enforce that policy," Camacho said.

Steve Robinson spent the past three years in the defense department's Gulf War illness office, which has become part of the Health Affairs office. A Gulf War veteran, Robinson briefed military personnel on the law, known as "force health protection."

"After these meetings, I would have people come up to me and say we just got back from Saudi Arabia and there was not any of that," said Robinson, who retired in October after a 20-year career that included time in Special Forces.

Congress passed the law in 1998 as part of the defense authorization bill at a time when Gulf War veterans were experiencing various ailments known collectively as Gulf War syndrome: joint pain, headaches, memory loss, rashes, balance problems and loss of motor skills.

The screenings were meant to provide epidemiologists and doctors a baseline snapshot of every soldier's health. Then, physicians could monitor changes over time, particularly during and after deployment. The law also called for an examination of the soldier's mental health, drawing of blood samples and significant medical record-keeping.

The law required the Secretary of Defense to create a quality assurance program to evaluate success in ensuring pre- and post-deployment medical exams and record-keeping of any events during deployment that could affect the soldiers' health.

The law applied to all members of the armed forces and reservists deployed outside the United States and its territories and possessions for contingency or combat operations.

Pat Eddington, government relations director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, said figures recently released by Veterans Affairs show that of the 696,667 people who served in the Gulf between Aug. 2, 1990, and July 31, 1991, 28 percent have filed claims with the VA.

"Are we going to wind up sending another group of people off to a contaminated environment and be dealing with so-called mystery illnesses five or 10 years down the road?" Eddington asked.

On Oct. 25, the DOD issued a memo to the Surgeon Generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force and the Joint Chiefs of Staff stating that health assessments and blood samples are required for all reservists deployed for at least 30 days.

The 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland Air Force Base was called to active duty Oct. 16. Other Texas reservists were activated earlier.

"All of our guys who have been activated, which is about 1,100 reservists at the wing, have had totally updated medical records, physicals and shot records," said Randy Henry, a spokesman for the 433rd.

Dr. Michael Kilpatrick is director of the Deployment Health Support Office, which is implementing lessons learned from the Gulf War. In the past, Kilpatrick said, the defense department has focused on short-term health consequences of military service and deployment. Today, government officials have taken steps to learn more about health issues or exposures the troops might face.

The failure during the Gulf War to record troop movement and possible exposures carefully has made diagnosing the veterans' illnesses even more confounding.

"Certainly from the Gulf War we've come to recognize the need to have equal emphasis on long-term health and long-term consequences of being deployed," he said.

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 $4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 4-24-32-41-45-50

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

3-7-4

Date Book

Monday, Dec. 31, 2001

Today is the 365th day of 2001 and the 11th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1862, the USS Monitor sank in a gale off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

On this day in 1948, Russell Long was sworn in as a U.S. senator. He was the first American to be elected to a seat in the Senate that had previously been held by his father and his mother.

On this day in 1991, Robert Eaton succeeded Lee Iacocca as chairman of the Chrysler Corporation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805), British general; George C. Marshall (1880-1959), U.S. Army general-statesman; Anthony Hopkins (1937-), actor, is 64; John Denver (1943-1997), singer-songwriter; Ben Kingsley (1943-), actor, is 58; Diane von Furstenberg (1946-), designer, is 55; Patti Smith (1946-), singer-poet, is 55; Donna Summer (1948-), singer, is 53; Paul Westerberg (1959-), singer, is 42; Val Kilmer (1959-), actor, is 42.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1972, the Notre Dame football team won the Sugar Bowl by defeating Alabama 24-23.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Morale is a state of mind. It is steadfastness and courage and hope." — George C. Marshall

TODAY'S MOON: Day after full moon (Dec. 30).

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Kentucky fights over Ten Commandments

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Those who want the Ten Commandments posted in Kentucky courthouses say history is on their side. A civil liberties group that wants the displays taken down makes the same claim.

In one corner of the legal fight — which has been waged from courthouses and schools in rural Kentucky to federal courtrooms — is the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky. It cites a fundamental principle from the nation's founding fathers — separation of church and state.

On the opposite side are county officials, backed by a conservative legal group, who claim the commandments played a historic role in the nation's development.

As such, they contend, posting the commandments in public buildings is permissible as part of educational or comparative religion displays. Most of the Kentucky displays are surrounded by such historic documents as the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact.

"They are presenting them in a historical way to show what impact the Ten Commandments played in the foundation of our system of law and government, and that's perfectly permissible for them to do so," said Erik Stanley, an attorney for Liberty Counsel of Orlando, Fla., a rival civil-liberties group representing some of the counties being sued.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that posting the commandments in schools amounted to an unconstitutional government promotion of religion.

Jeff Vessels, executive director of the ACLU of Kentucky, said the displays in the counties being sued don't meet the court standard of separation of church and state.

So far, the ACLU has sued seven Kentucky counties in two rounds of federal lawsuits. The displays are in courthouses, schools and a county-owned hospital.

The ACLU has prevailed in the initial judgments in the latest dispute, but more rulings will come.

In November, the ACLU sued four rural counties, seeking to have the displays removed from courthouses. All four counties kept the commandments posted and intend to fight the suits.

At least 20 other Kentucky counties post the commandments in public buildings, including courtrooms, and each could be the next target for litigation, said Vessels.

In a preliminary ruling, a federal judge ordered Ten Commandments displays taken down in two county courthouses and a school district. The counties complied but are seeking court consent to repost the displays.

Another judge struck down state legislation to erect a monument to the commandments on the state Capitol lawn in Frankfort, saying the display was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. The ruling is being appealed.

Some critics have branded the ACLU as un-American or un-Christian in calls and letters to its Louisville office.

"It is the ultimate patriotic act to defend what makes this country unique, and that is freedom and equality that are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights," Vessels said.

Individuals can exercise their free speech and religious rights by displaying the commandments any way they wish, with the ACLU's blessing, Vessels said. However, he said: "When government endorses religion, it is violating the religious freedom guaranteed to all of us."

"I think what the ACLU is trying to do is to rip away from public life every shred of religion that has impacted our country," said Stanley.

After Rowan County was sued, people rallied around the display posted more than two years ago in the chambers of the little-used Fiscal Court.

When county magistrates met to decide whether to keep the display, a larger meeting room was needed and the crowd spilled into the hallway.

"It was the largest crowd that we've ever had for anything since I've been in office," said Rowan County Judge-Executive Clyde A. Thomas.

There was almost unanimous support to keep the displays, so the county decided to fight the suit, he said. The Fiscal Court added some historical documents to its display.

After the ACLU filed its second round of suits, some callers to its office noted the dangers of government endorsing religion, citing the Taliban in Afghanistan, Vessels said.

"They pointed out the irony of having governments in Kentucky wanting to impose religious views on citizens at the same time the nation is fighting on the other side of the world against those who would impose their religious views on others," he said. "That irony is not lost on many people."

Longview firefighters are reprimanded

LONGVIEW (AP) — Five on-duty firefighters who used a ladder truck to help an off-duty colleague propose to his sweetheart on Christmas Eve have been reprimanded.

Fire Chief Richard Lazarus said the crew did not have permission to use the rig.

"The equipment belongs to the citizens," Lazarus said. "They shouldn't use city property for their own use."

Adam Deary's friends helped him climbed to the top of a fire truck ladder and reach the balcony of his girlfriend's apartment to propose. Andrea Jones accepted.

The lovebirds drew media attention and complaints from some residents who said the truck shouldn't have been used for personal reasons.

Deary was not reprimanded because he was off-duty.

The chief said the firefighters had not asked for permission and if they had, he likely would have said no.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



On this day, as on every day, don't tolerate drunk driving

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading "Still Shaking's" letter to you about drunk driving. I am a 20-year-old college student. I hope you will print my letter as well, because teens and young adults can't hear this enough: **DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. YOU ARE NOT INVINCIBLE.**

Although I'm ashamed to admit it, I have been a passenger in a car with a drunk driver. Never again. Sometimes it takes hearing a horror story to make an impression on young people, so here goes:

My best childhood friend drove home drunk from a party last Saturday night. She had a 17-year-old passenger with her. My friend crashed into two utility poles three blocks from her house. Her passenger was killed. At 20 years of age, my bright and funny friend is facing charges of manslaughter drunk driving. Worse, she must face the grief she has inflicted on the girl's family and live with the guilt of killing her friend long past any prison time she may serve.

Please to my peers: As that lucky girl, "Still Shaking," begged you before, don't drive drunk, **AND DON'T GET INTO A CAR WITH A DRUNK DRIVER.** "Only one time" can kill you. "It's just down the street" can kill you. Or worse, it may kill a friend. — **SHOCKED AND SOBERED, AUSTIN, TEXAS**

DEAR SHOCKED AND SOBERED: Your letter is timely because today is a holiday when even those who rarely drink are sometimes tempted or coerced into "having a little nip" — and maybe two or three — to welcome the new year and toast the passing of the last one. It's also an occasion when people who are not used to drinking tend to binge. The result is intoxicated drivers on the road — a menace to themselves and everyone around them, I hope that this year, party-goers of every age will pay attention to your important warning. Drunk driving is not limited only to younger people.

**

DEAR ABBY: The story in your column about people having themselves paged in a hotel lobby for recognition reminded me of the time I was a patient in our local hospital. I happened to be chairman of the board of trustees of the hospital as well.

My room was in a normally quiet wing of the post-surgical floor when I became aware of the pages being broadcast over the hospital intercom system. One doctor in particular seemed to be in great demand. When I did a little investigating, I learned that he had himself paged on an ongoing basis — sometimes even when he wasn't in the hospital — as "free advertising." (He thought that if people heard his name being broadcast often, they would think he must be a great doctor.)

Needless to say, the audio paging was soon stopped. Now doctors are paged only on their personal systems. — **A READER IN PALM BEACH, FLA.**

DEAR READER: I'll bet the patients are grateful for the peace and quiet. When someone is ill and trying to recover, incessant pages such as you have described are about as welcome as telemarketing calls while you're taking your Saturday night bath.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Farewell to 2001 — what a year this has been! Let's all say a prayer for world peace, for the health and safety of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, and for our members of the military who are far from their loved ones today. It takes only a minute to send greetings to our troops around the globe. Simply e-mail them at www.OperationDearAbby.net and wish them Happy New Year. And to all of you, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2002.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips both share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. 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



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♠ Q J 10 6 5 4 3 2
♥ J
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ —

South
♠ A K 9 8
♥ A 6 3
♦ 9 3
♣ A 10 8 6

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠	4 ♠
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 ♣	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 7

The night for partying and staying up late

By Phillip Alder

Let's end 2001 with the Deal of the Year winner from the International Bridge Press Association. The hero was David Berkowitz, of Old Tappan, N.J., playing with Larry Cohen, of Boca Raton, Fla., in the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Birmingham, Ala., Fall Nationals.

Two spades was a transfer to clubs. Then, over four spades, Berkowitz (South), knowing his partner to be very short in the majors, judged that his hand had great potential for play in clubs. (If he had doubled four spades and North had passed, best defense collects an 1,100-point penalty.) Five diamonds and five hearts were control-bids (cue-bids) showing aces and grand-slam interest.

At trick one, Berkowitz pitched a heart from the dummy and won with the spade ace. Then he carefully played a club to dummy's king. (If he had cashed the club ace, he would have failed with this layout. West would have got a trump trick.) Berkowitz cashed dummy's diamond ace-king and ruffed a diamond with his club 10; West discarded a heart.

Now came the spade king. If West had ruffed, declarer would have overruffed in the dummy, trumped a diamond high, drawn trumps, and claimed. So West threw another heart. After pitching a diamond from the dummy, Berkowitz ruffed a spade, cashed the heart king, and ruffed dummy's last diamond with the club ace. Now came the club eight: nine, jack. Back to hand with a heart to the ace, it was trick 12. Dummy had the Q-5 of clubs left and West held the 7-4. South had brought off a trump coup for plus 2,140.

Have fun tonight!

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Daddy, Kell
Mamaw & Popaw



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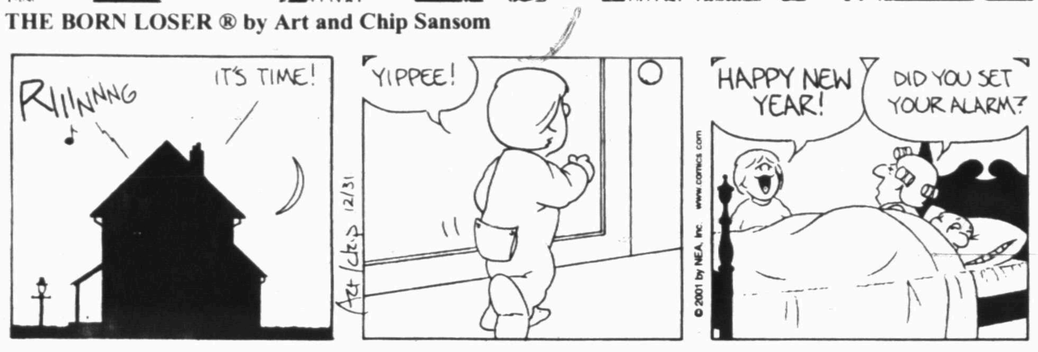
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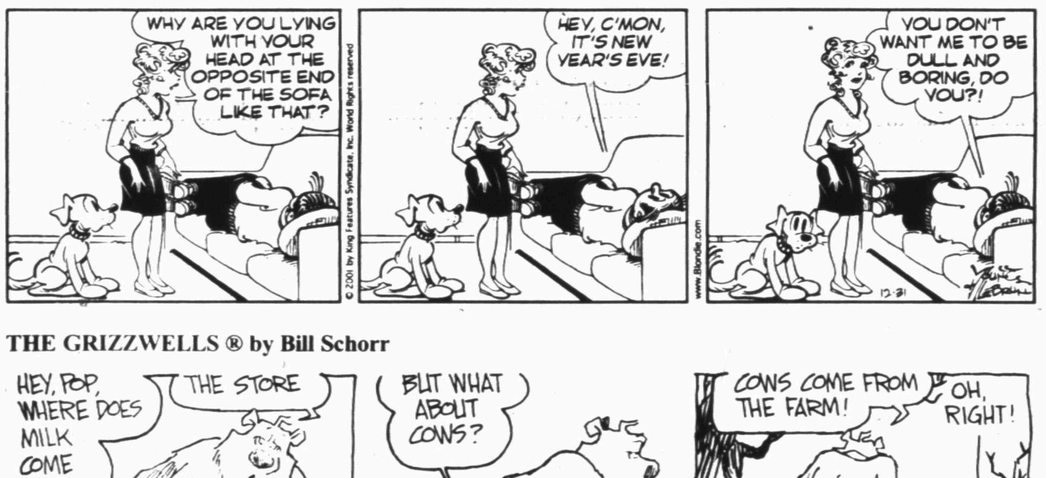
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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Door frame
5 Tricky
8 Fine spray
12 Implore
13 Garden tool
14 Not busy
15 Lawn
16 Actor Holm
17 Heavy metal
18 Import tax
20 Thailand, once
21 Kitchen pest
22 Copy
23 Bridges
26 Disobedient
29 Praise
30 Linger on
31 Ms. Thurman
33 Still
34 Fix a manuscript
35 Eyebrow shapes
36 Not a god
38 Vegan's taboo
39 Pen contents
40 Social insect
41 Moon goddess
43 Phonies
46 Free electrons
47 Tote
48 DC figures
50 By heart
51 Lubricate
52 Bo Derek film
53 Andy's radio pal
54 Comanche kin
55 Bubble —

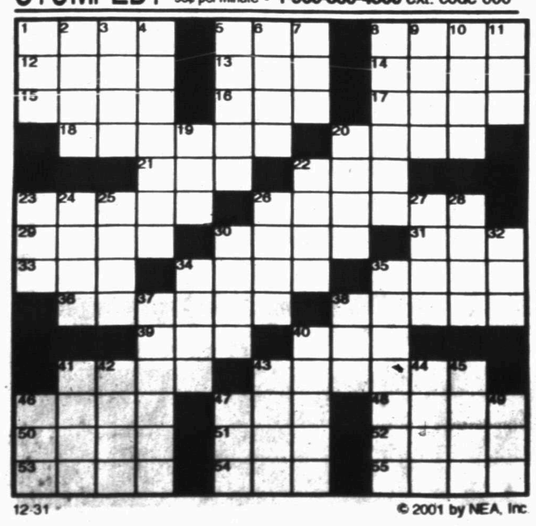
DOWN

1 Mole, maybe
2 What Hamlet smelled (2 wds.)
3 Lee of cakedom
4 Water source
5 PC key
6 Laze around
7 Urge
8 Environment
9 Concept
10 Loud noise
11 Mr. Koppel
19 Office holders
20 Agile
22 Pre-med course
23 Animal shelter
24 Ode or sonnet
25 Commuter vehicle
26 Elec. or water
27 Bait
28 Gym org.
30 Rapid City's st.
32 Inquire
34 Active volcano
35 Was humbled (2 wds.)
37 Gets the suds out
38 Dolphins' home
40 Tube-shaped bead
41 Weaving machine
42 Till
43 Cease
44 Deborah of films
45 Pet lovers' grp.
46 Novelist Levin
47 Comic Costello
49 Maple-sugar base

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"One of these hot dogs fell on the floor. You'll have to toss a coin."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Lady Tigers topple Maidens at tourney

ABILENE — After splitting its final two tournament games over the weekend, the Snyder Lady Tigers can turn their attention to the defending state champions.

Snyder fell to Smyer, 57-30, before knocking off San Angelo Lake View, 54-35, at the Abilene tournament.

The win over the Maidens pushed the Lady Tigers' mark to 6-11 heading into Thursday's District 4-4A match-up with the state champion Lady Bulldogs of Plainview. Action Thursday is slated for 6 p.m. at the SHS gym.

Against Smyer, the Lady Tigers fell behind early, trailing 30-10 by halftime. Erin Burleson dropped in 10 points to pace Snyder.

Against the Maidens, the Lady Tigers used a second-quarter outburst to grab a 25-22 halftime lead. Snyder extended its advantage in the second half with stingy defense. The Lady Tigers surrendered only 13 points over the final two quarters.

Zipporah Peoples poured in 15 points, and Afton Schwertner added 14 to lead Snyder's effort.

Following Thursday's meeting with Plainview, the Lady Tigers are on the court again Saturday at Frenship.

Cowboys trip Owens, 49ers

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys made sure Terrell Owens had no reason to dance on their midfield logo this time.

Quincy Carter threw for a season-best 241 yards and two touchdowns, Emmitt Smith ran for 126 yards and the Cowboys held Owens without a touchdown in a 27-21 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

The victory was the perfect revenge for Owens' antics last season, when he twice ran to the Cowboys' famed star logo to celebrate his TD catches in a 41-24 victory.

"He was probably the sole reason we played the way we did. For what he did last year, it was a respect thing," Dallas safety George Teague said. "This was our playoff game, our Super Bowl."

One Cowboys fan held up a sign that read, "No matter what, defend the star."

Dallas (5-10) did that best by beating the 49ers (11-4) and likely sending them on the road for the NFC wild card game.

After the 49ers reached the 5-yard line in the fourth quarter Sunday, Teague knocked a ball from Owens' hands in the end zone on a third-and-goal play.

"Getting to make a play like that is pretty much 'in your face,'" said Teague, who was ejected from last year's game for tackling Owens after the second 50-yard-line celebration.

On Sunday, Joey Galloway had six catches for a career-high 146 yards, including a 47-yard TD reception, and Smith finished just two yards short of his season-high, set one week ago.

Dallas, which has lost six of seven to the 49ers, reached a season high in points against a San Francisco defense that had allowed just 30 points — 27 to St. Louis — in its last four games.

The Cowboys erased a 14-10 halftime deficit by scoring on their first three drives of the second half. Carter scored on a 1-yard run and threw a scoring pass to Galloway, and Jon Hilbert kicked a 20-yard field goal. The 49ers had just two first downs in the same stretch.

Owens didn't get his first catch until the final minute of the second quarter and finished with 93 yards and five receptions.

"I'm a valuable part of the offense, and I can't get the ball. That's a problem," he said. "I got open. For whatever reason, the ball didn't come my way."

San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci said the Cowboys did a good job covering Owens and forcing Jeff Garcia to look for other receivers.

"We never really seemed to get on track," said Garcia, who was 21-of-36 for 229 yards with two TDs and a 6-yard scoring run.

The Cowboys had tried to downplay Owens' return to Texas Stadium.

Owens, while refusing to talk to reporters during the week, kept the issue prominent. He wore two different T-shirts — one with pictures of his two celebrations and another with the hand-printed words "They Hate Me" surrounded by two stars.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say it was some motivation," Cowboys safety Darren Woodson said.

Garcia's 6-yard scoring run gave the 49ers a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter. Garcia threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to J.J. Stokes just before halftime.

Following a blocked punt, Stokes caught a 3-yard TD pass with just 39 seconds left in the game, but the 49ers failed to recover the onside kick.

Tigers earn third place

After chalking up a victory in the district opener, the Snyder Tigers used the Brownwood tournament to maintain their momentum.

Snyder won two out of three at the Brownwood event, including an overtime victory over Wichita Falls that earned the Tigers third place.

Snyder opened the event by knocking off Winters, before falling to the host Lions.

Against Wichita Falls, junior Colby Driggers hit a three-pointer with 20 seconds left to send the game into overtime. The Tigers never trailed in the extra session.

Snyder resumes District 4-4A competition at 7:30 p.m. Thursday when it hosts Plainview. The Tigers travel to Frenship on Saturday.

Ira bounces Aspermont

JAYTON — The Ira Bulldogs continued their winning streak, and captured the Jayton tournament title along the way.

Ira won its eighth consecutive game Saturday by notching a 53-45 victory over Aspermont in the final of the Jayton tourney.

The Bulldogs held a slim 22-21 lead at halftime, but grabbed control with a 19-9 run in the third quarter.

Jake Barnes led all scorers with 28 points. Nathan Smith added nine points, and Todd Wall and Eric Dickerhoff chipped in five apiece. Jess Wall, Cade Tucker and Jase Olvera finished with two each.

Tech stumbles against Iowa

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— Nate Kaeding kicked a 47-yard field goal with 44 seconds left to give Iowa a 19-16 victory over Texas Tech in the Alamo Bowl Saturday

Texas Tech had tied the game on Robert Treece's 37-yard field goal with 2:05 left to play.

Iowa (7-5) then drove from its own 17 on six plays to set up Kaeding's winning kick, his fourth field goal of the game after making only eight during the regular season. The winner also tied his season long. His others were from 36, 31 and 46.

Texas Tech (7-5) started one last drive at its own 10 with no timeouts and made it to midfield before Kliff Kingsbury's desperation throw to the end zone was intercepted by Iowa's Bob Sanders.

Tailback Aaron Greving, subbing for injured starter Ladell Betts, ran for 115 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries in Iowa's first bowl appearance since 1997.

Betts, who rushed for over 1,000 yards during the season, had been bothered by a hamstring injury and left the game in the first quarter.

Kingsbury led Texas Tech with 309 yards on 29-of-49 passing and a 20-yard touchdown pass to Wes Welker, but also threw three interceptions.

Kingsbury led the Big 12 in passing this year but Iowa kept Tech's offense off balance for much the game by keeping it off the field.

The Hawkeyes opened with a methodical 16-play, 70-yard drive to Kaeding's first field goal for a 3-0 lead. No play covered more than 14 yards and the drive chewed up the first 9:15 of the game.

Greving put Iowa up 10-0 on his 1-yard TD run in the second quarter. Greving, whose previous high this season was 77 yards, had 82 by halftime on 13 carries.

But it was Iowa's own clock mismanagement that set up Tech's only points of the first half.

After quarterback Kyle McCann was sacked on the Tech 21, Iowa called a timeout with 36 seconds left to set up a field goal instead of letting the clock run down. Kaeding missed the 38-yarder, giving Tech the ball on the 20 with 30 seconds left.

Kingsbury then hit Nehemiah Glover on a crossing route for 35 yards to set up Clinton Greenhouse's line-drive 50-yard field goal as time expired in the half.

Tech tied it at 10 in the third when Welker slipped behind the Iowa defense for an easy TD catch. But it was the only time Tech's vaunted passing game would get into the end zone. The Red Raiders averaged 35.1 points during the season.

Spurs snap three-game skid

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — San Antonio had to hold off a late Memphis rally to snap its three-game losing streak.

Tim Duncan had 27 points and 18 rebounds and David Robinson added 21 points and 12 boards as the Spurs used their inside strength to beat the Grizzlies 83-79 Sunday night.

San Antonio outscored Memphis 50-36 in the paint, and Duncan had seven of the Spurs' nine blocks.

The victory marked the Spurs 16th straight over the Grizzlies, San Antonio's longest streak against an NBA opponent.

Sports Briefs

Strahan nears sack record

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan broke Lawrence Taylor's team record for sacks in a season against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Strahan's 31/2 sacks in the first half against the Eagles gave him 211/2 on the year — a half-sack away from Mark Gastineau's NFL record.

Notre Dame to name new coach

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Notre Dame was expected to hire Stanford's Tyrone Willingham as its football coach, possibly as early as Monday, The Associated Press has learned.

Wells returns to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Lunch with New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was enough to persuade David Wells to return to pinstripes.

Just days after Wells was set to sign with the World Series champion Arizona Diamondbacks, Wells has agreed to a $7 million, two-year incentive-laden contract with the Yankees, pending a physical next week, according to his agent, Gregg Clifton.

Finley's streak ends

NEW YORK (AP) — With Michael Finley and Ray Allen having missed games because of injuries, the NBA's longest consecutive games streak now belongs to Shandon Anderson of the New York Knicks.

Anderson extended his streak to 365 games as the Knicks played the Orlando Magic.

Finley's streak of 490 games ended Saturday when he was held out of Dallas' game against the Atlanta Hawks because of a sore left hamstring. A knee injury ended Allen's streak of 388 games earlier this month.

College Bowl Schedule

All Times EST

Tuesday, Dec. 18
New Orleans Bowl
$750,000
Colorado State 45, North Texas 20

Wednesday, Dec. 19
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
$750,000
Marshall 64, East Carolina 61, 2OT

Thursday, Dec. 20
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$750,000
Pittsburgh 34, N.C. State 19

Tuesday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue 28, Gray 10
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
$800,000
Utah 10, Southern California 6

Thursday, Dec. 27
Seattle Bowl
$750,000
Georgia Tech 24, Stanford 14
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
$1 million
Alabama 14, Iowa State 13

Friday, Dec. 28
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
$750,000
Texas A&M 28, TCU 9
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$750,000
Boston College 20, Georgia 16
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
$2 million
Texas 47, Washington 43

Saturday, Dec. 29
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
$750,000
Toledo 23, Cincinnati 16
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
$1.2 million
Iowa 19, Texas Tech 16
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
$750,000
Syracuse 26, Kansas State 3

Monday, Dec. 31
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
$750,000
Louisiana Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
$1 million
Washington State (9-2) vs. Purdue (6-5), 2:15 p.m. (CBS)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
$750,000
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 3 p.m. (FOXSN)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
$1.3 million
Brigham Young (12-1) vs. Louisville (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
$1.8 million
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
$2.2 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. South Carolina (8-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
$2 million
Arkansas (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
$1.4 million
Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Florida State (7-4), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$4.25 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
$11-13 million
Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
$11-13 million
Illinois (10-1) vs. Louisiana State (9-3), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
$11-13 million
Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
$11-13 million
Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

National Football League

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	10	5	0	.667	333	266
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	310	283
N.Y. Jets	9	6	0	.600	284	273
Indianapolis	5	10	0	.333	384	476
Buffalo	3	12	0	.200	258	386
Central						
y-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	324	205
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	284	262
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	278	291
Tennessee	7	8	0	.467	315	365
Jacksonville	6	9	0	.400	281	253
Cincinnati	5	10	0	.333	203	288
West						
y-Oakland	10	5	0	.667	377	303
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	280	306
Denver	8	7	0	.533	330	310
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	302	323
San Diego	5	11	0	.312	332	321

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	10	5	0	.667	326	195
N.Y. Giants	7	8	0	.467	269	287
Washington	7	8	0	.467	236	286
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	278	323
Dallas	5	10	0	.333	236	323
Central						
x-Chicago	12	3	0	.800	305	190
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	356	241
x-Tampa Bay	9	6	0	.600	311	263
Minnesota	5	10	0	.333	287	371
Detroit	1	14	0	.067	255	414
West						
y-St. Louis	13	2	0	.867	472	260
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	371	282
Atlanta	7	8	0	.467	278	346
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	333	371
Carolina	1	14	0	.067	247	372

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Game
Tampa Bay 22, Baltimore 10

Sunday's Games
Buffalo 14, N.Y. Jets 9
Miami 21, Atlanta 14
Chicago 24, Detroit 0
Arizona 30, Carolina 7
Dallas 27, San Francisco 21
Green Bay 24, Minnesota 13
Cleveland 41, Tennessee 38
Kansas City 30, Jacksonville 26
St. Louis 42, Indianapolis 17
Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 23, OT
Philadelphia 24, N.Y. Giants 21
Seattle 25, San Diego 22
Denver 23, Oakland 17
Washington 40, New Orleans 10
Open: New England

Sunday, Jan. 6
Denver at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
New England at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 4:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 8:30 p.m.
Open: San Diego

Monday's Game
Minnesota at Baltimore, 9 p.m.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	19	9	.679	—
Boston	18	11	.621	1½
Washington	15	14	.517	4½
Orlando	15	17	.469	6
New York	13	17	.433	7
Philadelphia	12	18	.400	8
Miami	5	23	.179	14
Central Division				
Milwaukee	18	9	.667	—
Indiana	18	14	.562	2½
Detroit	15	13	.536	3½
Toronto	16	14	.533	3½
Charlotte	13	17	.433	6½
Cleveland	12	18	.400	7½
Atlanta	11	19	.367	8½
Chicago	5	23	.179	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	7	.750	—
Dallas	21	9	.700	1
Minnesota	20	9	.690	1½
Utah	16	15	.516	6½
Denver	10	19	.345	11½
Memphis	9	21	.300	13
Houston	9	22	.290	13½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	21	6	.778	—
Sacramento	23	9	.719	½
Phoenix	18	13	.581	5
L.A. Clippers	15	14	.517	7
Seattle	16	15	.516	7
Portland	13	16	.448	9
Golden State	12	18	.400	10½

Saturday's Games
Boston 105, L.A. Clippers 103, OT
Washington 107, Charlotte 90
New Jersey 98, Indiana 93, OT
Chicago 103, Cleveland 80
Dallas 113, Atlanta 97
Milwaukee 102, San Antonio 99, OT
Utah 89, Philadelphia 81
Phoenix 109, Denver 92
Seattle 101, Toronto 75

Sunday's Games
Detroit 86, Miami 80
San Antonio 83, Memphis 79
Orlando 94, New York 90
Sacramento 109, Boston 94
L.A. Lakers 114, Houston 90
Minnesota 95, Portland 93

Monday's Games
Milwaukee at Chicago, 3:30 p.m.
Miami at Indiana, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Game
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

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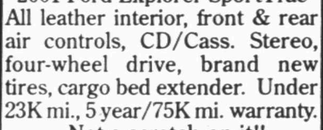
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Rights of patients and Medicare drug coverage loom as big issues in 2002

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adding a prescription drug benefit for seniors again tops Congress' new year's wish list. But with billions of dollars already earmarked for the war against terrorism and with dwindling surpluses, lawmakers say they'll have to pinch pennies elsewhere to pass the benefit or any other health initiative when they return in late January.

"We want to do a prescription drug bill," said Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "A lot of those plans were kind of sidetracked since the Sept. 11 business, but we will have a full plate as soon as we get back."

House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri agreed, saying, "Even if we're going to have budget problems we want to figure out how to get that going."

Before Sept. 11, lawmakers had a number of popular health issues they wanted to pass. The biggest two were adding prescription drug coverage as a Medicare benefit and making health insurers more accountable in legislation popularly known as the patients' bill of rights.

Both parties promised during the 2000 political campaign to act on the two measures, so there is a big incentive for lawmakers to get at least one signed into law before the November elections.

The House and Senate have passed versions of the patients' rights legislation. But anti-terrorism legislation became a much higher priority in the fall and no effort was made to resolve the biggest difference between them — how much standing patients should have for suing insurers.

Congress in May agreed to set aside $300 billion over the next 10 years to add prescription drug coverage to the annual $250 billion Medicare program. But the government then was still awash in surplus revenues that have dried up with the recession and the cost of responding to the terrorist attacks.

Despite the financial constraints, the lawmaker charged with crafting prescription drug legislation in the House vowed to pass a bill.

"We absolutely have to do it," said Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn. "Seniors need prescription drug coverage."

"There's obviously a tougher budget climate," said John Rother, director of policy and strategy for AARP, which represents people 50 and over. But he said, "I think the pressure is on for them to find a way to pay for a drug benefit. I do believe voters will be very interested in the fall election cycle."

Other health issues likely to come up next year will be just as thorny. Among them:

—Cloning. The House passed a ban on all human cloning. Democrats and many Republicans in the Senate favor a ban that exempts cloning for research purposes. Debate is likely to center on a Massachusetts company's recent claim that it has cloned the first human embryo.

—Stem cells. President Bush in August authorized stem cell research, but only on 64 existing stem cell lines. Some lawmakers want to expand that to include surplus embryos donated by fertility clinics — much to the chagrin of abortion critics. Scientists hope to use stem cells — which can grow into any type of human tissue — to treat Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases.

—Mental health. Senators made an unsuccessful attempt to force insurers to cover mental illness at the same level as other medical problems. House Republicans complained the measure would lead to higher insurance costs and more uninsured people. Bush urged lawmakers to hold off until the new year.

Debate emerges over fairness of using boycotts to win concessions

By The Associated Press

When Jamie Morrison stayed at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Daytona Beach, Fla., for a 1999 black college reunion, he says he was told to wear an orange plastic wristband at all times and couldn't bring friends into the hotel.

Outraged, Morrison and four other blacks filed a class-action lawsuit alleging discrimination. But there was no resolution until two years later, when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called for a national boycott of all 24 Adam's Mark hotels.

Within weeks, Procter & Gamble and others put business with the chain on hold, according to court documents filed by the hotel. This month, Adam's Mark agreed to a $2 million settlement, attorneys say.

It was the latest example in the long tradition of advocacy groups using economic boycotts to win concessions from companies or the government. But critics have complained recently that the boycotts by the NAACP and other groups amount to economic intimidation.

"White Americans must stop being afraid of these so-called civil rights leaders, the NAACP, Jesse Jackson and others," said Jesse Lee Peterson, founder of Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny, a conservative black group in Los Angeles.

"They have been intimidating white Americans by saying if you don't go along with us, if you disagree with us, then you are racist."

NAACP president Kweisi Mfume defends the practice as a legitimate tool to bring about change.

"In a capitalistic society, one of the real pressure points is the vulnerability to a boycott," Mfume said. "Governments and corporations are vulnerable to public pressure, public perception and organized consumer activity."

Critics counter that boycotts can have detrimental effects on the very people they are trying to help. For instance, a long-running boycott of the state of South Carolina hurts blacks working there, Peterson said.

With that boycott, which began Jan. 1, 2000, the NAACP hopes to stop the state from flying the Confederate battle flag — which it sees as a symbol of slavery — on Statehouse grounds. It's asking people to hold meetings and vacations elsewhere, and is planning a rally at the Statehouse in late January.

Others charge that the goals of the boycotts — like enacting a Martin Luther King Jr. state holiday in Arizona — ignore other social ills affecting blacks.

"Are they really substantive victories in improving the lives of the largest number of African-Americans, especially poor and working class African-Americans?" asked Earl Ofari Hutchinson, a Los Angeles-based black political analyst and commentator.

Substantive or not, there's a long history of successful boycotts, starting with the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycotts of the 1950s.

Twelve countries in Europe will switch to the new euro

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — For the last time, Europeans in 12 countries used only their old familiar money to catch the train, get breakfast or shop on today, with the midnight arrival of euro cash — the largest currency changeover in history — just hours away.

Signs of the impending changeover were visible all over, as many vending machines and other coin-operated services were already equipped to take euros, although the currency would not become legal tender in 12 of the 15 European Union countries until the stroke of midnight.

A one-euro coin (88 U.S. cents) dropped into a vending machine in Frankfurt, Germany, produced a bottle of Evian mineral water. Airport luggage carts in Austria, shopping carts in France, and cigarette machines in Germany were also equipped to take both national currencies and euros.

"I like the Deutsche mark well enough, but I think it's super that they're introducing the euro, that you can go to any country in Europe and pay with the same currency," said Dagmar Gruber, an optician's technician in Frankfurt.

Manfred Obels, a district manager for Burger King, said his restaurants were ready. "We ran some tests last night, no problem," he said.

His personal view was more skeptical. "There is a lot of show when they say this is of economic benefit," he said.

Banks might find it easier with one currency, but Obels pointed to his experience buying a croissant: the price in marks was 1.75, but the bakery converted that to one even euro, or 1.96 marks.

European Central Bank officials say as many people will lower prices as raise them when they round figures to euros during the transition, but consumer groups and many ordinary people are skeptical.

ECB and European Commission officials have staked their hopes for a rapid, hassle-free transition on two key measures.

First, almost all of the euro zone's 170,000 automatic teller machines should give only euros on New Year's Day or a day or two after. And second, most merchants will be giving change only in euros, under agreements between governments and major retail associations.

That should vacuum most of the old currency out of the economy within two weeks, if all goes as planned.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 2167 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 249, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 1728 SACRO unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Also planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 252, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 1716 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Contracted for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 252, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 2143 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 249, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 2178 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 249, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kent County

Gaea Services Inc. will drill the No. 2 Wallace in the Clairemont east field, nine miles southwest of Jayton. Planned for a depth of 6,900 feet, location is in Section 19, Block 96, H&TC survey.

Patten Exploration Inc. will drill the No. 2 Nichols-Zenker, a 4,400-foot wildcat located 17 miles south of Jayton. Drill site is in Section 358, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy Inc. will drill the No. 3-B Eicke, an 8,900-foot wildcat located 15 miles northeast of Cain. Planned for a depth of 8,900 feet, location is in Section 2, Block 2, T&N) survey.

Howard County

Walsh & Watts Inc. will drill the No. 8-C Snyder in the Snyder field, seven miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,950 feet, location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 2820-C Snyder in the Snyder field, six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,700 feet, location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 2815W-C Snyder in the Snyder field, six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,680 feet, location is in Section 28,k Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 2813W-C in the Snyder field six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned depth is 3,700 feet, and location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 2839-B Snyder in the same field, six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,692 feet, location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 2845W-C Snyder in the Snyder field, six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned depth is 3,655 feet, and location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 2814W-C Snyder in the Snyder field, six miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,630 feet, location is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	22.45	22.00	22.45	+ .45
AOL TimeWrn	33.10	32.41	32.44	—.66
AT&T Corp s	18.20	18.03	18.12	—.06
Albertsons	31.98	31.60	31.86	—.26
Alltel	62.39	61.63	61.90	—.23
AmEl Pw	43.86	43.21	43.32	+ .04
AndarkPtr	57.58	56.79	56.92	—.51
ATMOS Egy	21.12	21.00	21.09	+ .05
Aviall	7.64	7.52	7.59	+ .05
BP PLC	46.95	46.61	46.72	+ .02
BakerHughes	37.34	36.80	37.11	+ .17
Bank of Amer	63.75	63.30	63.65	+ .12
BellSouth	38.79	38.40	38.45	—.30
vjBeth Steel	.45	.40	.43	—.03
BurlNoSFe	29.18	28.97	29.07	+ .09
Caterpillar	53.10	52.51	52.62	—.57
ChevronTex	90.70	90.00	90.10	—.34
Citigroup	51.31	50.60	51.29	+ .10
CocaCola	47.29	46.95	47.20	+ .03
ColgatePal	58.00	57.69	57.82	—.32
ComclMetals	35.40	34.79	34.87	+ .06
CooperIn	35.93	35.62	35.85	+ .23
DaimlrChry	42.20	41.51	41.86	—.20
DeltaAirl	29.27	28.75	29.18	+ .66
Dillards Inc	16.40	16.05	16.31	+ .01
DowChem	34.38	33.80	34.37	+ .62
DuPont	43.20	42.32	43.17	+ .53
EastmanChem	39.68	38.99	39.55	+ .55
EstKodak	30.40	29.11	29.44	—1.04
EDS Corp	69.45	68.85	69.01	+ .01
Entergy	39.50	38.81	38.89	—.01
ExxonMobil s	40.00	39.61	39.72	—.06
FstBksAm	31.25	31.22	31.25	—.05
FootLocker	15.95	15.75	15.75	—.04
GenDynam	79.48	79.03	79.45	+ .48
GenElec	40.80	40.39	40.57	—.16
GenMills	52.30	51.79	51.92	—.44
GenMotors	49.12	48.60	49.03	+ .11
GaPacGP	28.20	27.75	28.14	+ .16
Goodrich	26.70	26.40	26.51	—.02
Goodyear s	24.13	23.90	24.00	—.13
GtAtlPac	24.39	23.75	23.83	—.05
Halliburtn	13.17	13.05	13.10	—.09
Hanson ADS	34.10	34.00	34.00	+ .05
HarteHanks	28.29	28.02	28.29	+ .17
HomeDepot	51.21	51.01	51.11	—.39
Honeywellntl	33.90	33.61	33.74	—.06
IBM	123.24	122.11	122.51	—.39
IntlPaper	41.06	40.5	41.04	+ .37
JohnsonJn s	59.82	58.86	58.95	—.91
K mart	5.50	5.39	5.49	+ .11
KinderMorg	56.99	55.90	56.33	—.19
Kroger Co	21.05	20.65	20.88	—.12
LockheedM	47.15	46.76	46.84	+ .05
Lowes Cos s	46.73	46.15	46.29	—.45
Lubys	5.90	5.67	5.70	—.24
LucentTech	6.35	6.10	6.28	+ .10
MayDeptStr	37.38	36.63	37.37	+ .02
Medtronic	51.40	51.08	51.30	+ .07
Motorola	14.99	14.72	14.98	+ .08
NCR Corp	37.30	36.00	37.20	—.05
Navistar	40.75	40.29	40.49	—.26
PNM Rescs	28.68	28.10	28.35	—.03
Penney JC	26.95	26.45	26.76	—.09
PepBoys	17.94	17.65	17.71	+ .21
PepsiCo	49.24	48.66	49.10	+ .05
Pharmacia	42.99	42.57	42.68	—.38
PhelpDodge	32.58	32.30	32.58	—.03
PhilipPet	60.95	60.21	60.39	—.10
PilgrmPrd B	13.75	13.65	13.70	—.10
Praxair	55.65	54.75	55.65	+ .80
ProctGamb	79.69	78.89	79.69	+ .18
RadioShack	30.50	30.13	30.21	—.19
ReliantEngy	27.25	26.63	26.90	+ .09
RoyalDut	49.73	49.22	49.32	—.47
SBC Comm	39.40	39.09	39.29	—.20
SaraLee	22.23	22.01	22.16	—.14
Scripps EW	68.05	67.71	68.05	+ .33
SearsRoeb	48.11	47.65	48.11	+ .11
SherwinW	27.99	27.80	27.99	+ .03
SouthernCo s	25.69	25.30	25.48	+ .08
SwstAirl s	18.97	18.65	18.90	+ .15
SprintFON	20.10	19.56	20.09	+ .23
SprintPCS	24.90	24.35	24.76	+ .30
Sunoco Inc	38.20	37.50	37.83	+ .13
TXU Corp	47.64	46.84	47.10	+ .06
TempleInland	57.50	56.55	57.46	+ .74
Textind	37.10	36.70	36.79	—.27
TexasInst	28.65	27.75	28.02	—.64
Textron	43.00	42.26	42.76	+ .38
TriconGlbR	49.25	48.20	48.34	—.90
TrinityInds	27.77	27.05	27.24	—.63
TylerTech	4.46	4.30	4.45	+ .05
USX-Marathn	29.97	29.80	29.86	—.25
USX-USS	18.02	17.81	18.01	+ .05
UnionPacif	57.19	56.93	56.97	—.21
UnitedTech	65.48	64.84	64.99	+ .14
Unocal	36.10	35.70	35.79	
VerizonComm	48.19	47.59	47.87	—.40
WalMart	58.28	57.81	58.07	—.28
WellsFargo	43.79	43.53	43.75	+ .15
WstnGasRs	33.12	32.47	32.50	—.81
WinnDixie	14.59	14.28	14.37	—.09
Xerox Cp	10.47	10.20	10.29	+ .07

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Snyder Daily News

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DEC 31 2001

2 sisters restore Taoist temple in 12 years

MENDOCINO, Calif. (AP) — Amid the quiet pastels of the coastal village of Mendocino, the brilliantly red and green Kwan Tai Temple is startling as a shout.

Growing up next door to the temple, Loretta Hee McCoard used to feel her feet dragging as she neared it — a gaudy reminder that the Hees were different, the last remnant of a once-bustling rural Chinatown.

As an adult, she sees the temple with new eyes.

"There is this pride," she says.

Recently, McCoard and sister Lorraine Hee-Chorley celebrated their 12-year campaign to restore the Taoist temple. It was a family promise fulfilled, a vanished community honored: the Chinese who built railroads and chopped timber before being driven out by discrimination and unemployment.

"We're survivors," says Hee-Chorley. "Our family has always had to struggle, to fight for what we believe in. We just have never sat down and died. And we've never let the community forget."

Hee family history indicates the Kwan Tai Temple was built sometime in the 19th century, and one of the founders was the sisters' great-grandfather. But all the other families from that time left, leaving only the Hees to look after the simple, two-room structure dedicated to the Taoist military god Kwan Tai.

The family patriarch charged his daughter, Yip Lee, with taking care of the temple, a duty she fulfilled even after her husband went back to China, leaving her with 10 children.

Yip Lee passed the obligation on to son George Hee, father of Hee-Chorley and McCoard.

The family faced prejudice on two fronts. Hee had defied convention by marrying a white woman in the early 1940s; the couple had to go out of state to find a judge to perform the marriage. Hee-Chorley and McCoard remember classmates taunting them with racist chants. Meanwhile, their Chinese relatives were less than accepting.

At times, the sisters wished they were anywhere but Mendocino.

A blufftop collection of graceful Victorians used as a backdrop for TV's "Murder She Wrote," Mendocino isn't known as an outpost of early Asian immigration. But the Chinese had a presence here, as they did throughout the state.

"The Chinese didn't just come to San Francisco," says Wendy Roberts, a temple trustee who has researched the history of the North Coast Chinese while raising money for the restoration.

"They affected virtually every industry that helped to build this state. They were involved in agriculture, railroads — customs that have just gotten woven into the fabric of the state. You find evidence of their presence in irrigation ditches up in Gold Country and then on the redwood coast where there was logging and fishing."

In boom times, the Chinese were tolerated as hard workers willing to take on dangerous jobs. (A 1913 story in the Mendocino Beacon about exhuming Chinese remains in a local cemetery for shipment back to China notes, "It is a significant fact that all of the Chinese recently exhumed have been victims of accidents, not one having died a natural death.")

But when the economy soured, the Chinese proved convenient scapegoats, says Lorraine Dong, professor of Asian-American studies at San Francisco State University and past president of the Chinese Historical Society of America.

"Chinese people were seen as unchristian, immoral and unassimilable," says Dong.

Official records make little reference to the Chinese population, but insurance maps from 1890 show Chinese herb shops, a laundry and "Chinese shanties" in Mendocino.

Only now do Chinese railroad workers get credit. "If it wasn't for the experience of the Chinese, when it came time to building Tunnel No. 1, this railroad line would have only been about four miles in length instead of 40," says Robert Jason Pinoli, who works for a train tourist attraction.

Pinched by discriminatory laws and unemployment, the Chinese left, some going to China, some to big-city Chinatowns.

Today, census data show 380 Chinese-Americans living in Mendocino County, less than half of 1 percent of the county population. Chinese-Americans make up about 3 percent of the statewide population and account for about 20 percent of San Francisco residents.

Roberts is sometimes stunned at how invisible the Chinese were when they lived in Mendocino — and how quickly they were forgotten.

"The temple is a way of making us look those Chinese in the eye for the first time," says Roberts. "After all these years we're finally seeing it, seeing them."

While other Chinese left Mendocino, the Hee family remained.

About a dozen years ago, the Hee sisters turned to the job of protecting the family legacy in earnest and got nonprofit status for the temple.

By then, it was showing its age. The foundation was going, a wall was leaning.

With the help of their brother, Wes Hee, and others in the community, including Roberts, the sisters got a $5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and an $85,000 grant from the California Coastal Resources Agency.

O'Donnell stumps for Reno

MIAMI (AP) — Talk show host Rosie O'Donnell hosted a $250 per person fund-raiser Sunday for Janet Reno, the former U.S. attorney general and a Democratic candidate for governor.

"When I heard that she was running I called up her office and told her I would do any and everything I can," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell was hoping to raise $50,000 for Reno, one of five Democrats attempting to unseat Gov. Jeb Bush.

Asked about her chances of defeating Bush, Reno said bluntly: "I'm going to win."

Both Reno and O'Donnell, a foster parent, said they shared a commitment to helping children.

"It's a big problem in the state of Florida. There are over 3,000 children today available for adoption, free for adoption in the state, in foster custody," O'Donnell said.

"Chances are they will age out of the system, they will go right into welfare and into prison, so we need to do better for this generation of kids."

The comedian owns a home on Miami Beach's Star Island, a gated community of mansions along Biscayne Bay. The closed event was held at a private home.

O'Donnell, an outspoken critic of the National Rifle Association, has become politically active in Democratic causes.

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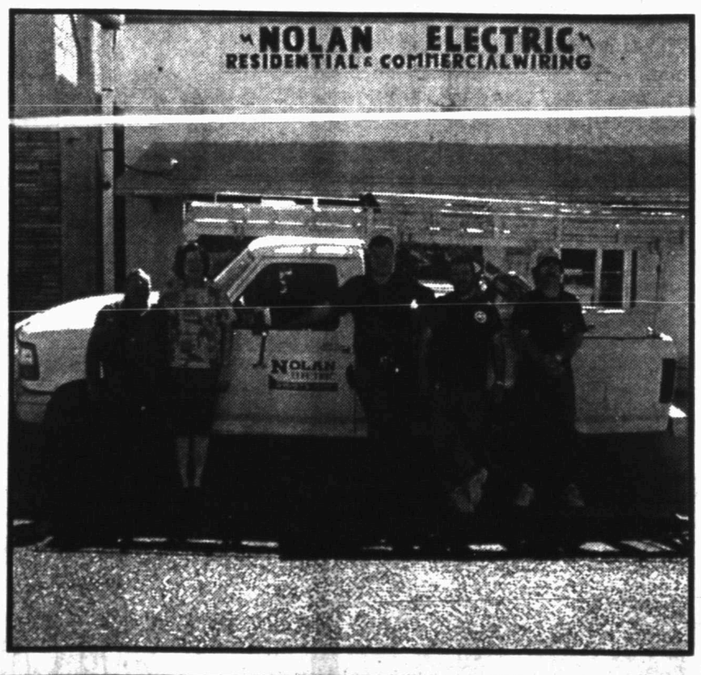
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7. Repair lighting on signs

Office hours at 1010 25th Street are Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can contact them at 915-573-5117. After hours and on weekends the phone is answered by an answering service in case of emergency calls.

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U.S. Senate battles energize West Virginian

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 84 years, half spent as a U.S. senator, Robert Byrd has no qualms about taking on a president from the other party or fellow senators from his own.

The West Virginia Democrat went head-to-head with President Bush this month over the size of an anti-terrorism package that Byrd chairs.

Gregg recalls it was the same in the late 1980s when Byrd gave the majority leader's job to George Mitchell of Maine so he could take over the Senate Appropriations Committee and steer more federal money to West Virginia.

When Byrd wields his power, it's like "dropping a huge boulder in a small puddle," Gregg said.

Daschle, asked about possible problems with Byrd, said he "couldn't be happier with the relationship." Republicans, he said, "are just jealous they don't have a Senator Byrd in their caucus."

Throughout his career, the man renowned for his knowledge and love of Senate history and procedures has carried a common theme — that Congress must not cede its constitutional authorities to the president, regardless of who he is.

"I am sorry that the Senate apparently is willing to just lie down, be quiet and not ask any questions," Byrd said in Senate speech sharply criticizing Bush's decision to withdraw from the ABM treaty without properly consulting Congress.

Exceeded in age in the Senate only by 99-year-old Republican Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, Byrd has shown little sign of slowing down. As president pro tem of the Senate — and third in line to succeed the president — he gavels the Senate to order every morning. Often, he says he works late into the night after going home.

As chairman of the Appropriations Committee, which controls about one-third of all federal spending, Byrd vigorously battled the administration over the size of an anti-terrorism package.

The White House, supported by GOP senators, eventually prevailed in keeping the package to $20 billion, rather than the $35 billion Byrd sought. But during the week preceding Christmas, Byrd won out on how the money was distributed — with more going to domestic security and less to defense as Bush wanted.

The administration, meanwhile, has already indicated that the other $15 billion will be part of the fiscal 2003 budget request it will submit to Congress early next year.

In leading the fight over the package, the white-maned Byrd took a public role rarely seen since his two stints, in the 1970s and 1980s, as Senate majority leader. "God may strike me dead right on this spot if I were offering this (anti-terrorism) amendment for political purposes," he told reporters outside the Senate chamber.

Democrats also are not beyond having their feathers ruffled by Byrd. He used his famed knowledge of parliamentary procedures this month to force a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee to break up before it could finish a bill backed by its chairman, Max Baucus, D-Mont., giving the president broad authority to negotiate new trade agreements.

Byrd strongly opposes what is called trade promotion authority, again because he says it cedes to the executive branch a power the Founding Fathers reserved for Congress in the Constitution, a copy of which he carries always.

"It is now up to the Senate — always a bastion of defense for the Constitution — to turn back the tide of this ill-considered legislation," he said.

Byrd's recent prominence highlights a career in which he has cast more votes than any senator in history, written a four-volume history of the Senate and brought so many public works projects to his state that more than two dozen roads, bridges and buildings have been named in his honor. He was re-elected to an eighth term last year with 78 percent of the vote.

He's fond of reciting poetry by memory on the Senate floor, and recently began a briefing with reporters by taking eight minutes to list every signer of the Constitution. He missed two, but it had been a busy week.

Saddam's rivals plan his overthrow

WASHINGTON (AP) — To hear officials from Iraq's main resistance group describe it, opposition to Saddam Hussein inside the country is such that not much will be needed to dislodge him.

They believe it could be done with 3,000 U.S.-trained Iraqi rebels, an Afghanistan-style bombing campaign, the insertion of several thousand U.S. special forces and a big assist from Iran. A show of American resolve would cause mass defections, they say, crumbling Saddam's regime.

The plan is being circulated by the Iraqi National Congress, a London-based confederation of Iraqi opposition groups that enjoys considerable backing on Capitol Hill but is seen as largely ineffectual by many in the administration.

The Bush administration hasn't said what military options, if any, it has in mind for Iraq.

"What happened in Afghanistan is basically what we want to do in Iraq," says Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the INC.

Richard Perle, a former Pentagon aide who maintains close ties with administration officials, says he is unaware of any serious new U.S. military plan to get rid of Saddam.

Says Secretary of State Colin Powell: "With respect to what is sometimes characterized as taking out Saddam, I never saw a plan that was going to take him out."

Officials also are concerned about unintended consequences from a U.S.-backed attempt to oust Saddam. One is the possible fragmentation and disintegration of Iraq.

President Bush recently suggested his concerns about Iraq would be eased if Saddam were to allow the return of U.N. weapons inspectors, whom the Iraqi leader expelled three years ago.

Asked what would happen if Saddam refuses, Bush said, "He'll find out."

One of the more controversial aspects of the INC plan involves Iran, Iraq's eastern neighbor and longtime enemy of Saddam. The two countries fought a devastating war from 1980-1988.

Chalabi says the Iranians are prepared to help the United States remove Saddam.

"They will do nothing without U.S. support," he said.

Specifically, INC officials say Iran would provide transit, staging and logistical support for Iraqi rebel troops if the United States commits fully to the operation's success.

Perle says any role for Iran would be a mistake. "We should be encouraging the collapse of the Iranian regime," he says. "If the U.S. were to step in and cooperate with Iran in going after Iraq, this would undermine the mounting opposition to the regime."

David Mack, a former Iraqi officer at the State Department now with the private Middle East Institute, says the United States should seek other Iraqi neighbors — Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia — for support roles.

Whether Turkey would allow the United States to use bases in that country in an operation against Iraq is unclear. Of particular concern to Turkey is that upheaval in Iraq could lead to the creation of an independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq. This, in turn, could energize Kurds in neighboring Turkey to seek independence as well.

Alluding to this concern, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said that during a mid-January visit to Washington "we will make it clear that we are opposed to any developments that threaten Turkey's integrity."

The INC has been lobbying official Washington for years. Its success in Congress is largely attributed to the efforts of Chalabi, born 56 years ago into a wealthy Iraqi Shiite family.

In 1997, Congress allocated $97 million to the INC for military training and equipment. That rankled Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni, who commanded U.S. forces in the Middle East.

Before retiring from the military last year, Zinni, now the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, criticized Congress' efforts to "let some silk-suited, Rolex-wearing guys in London gin up an expedition."

He said equipping a thousand fighters with $97 million worth of AK-47's and sending them into Iraq could end in failure like the 1961 attempt to overthrow Cuba's Fidel Castro at the Bay of Pigs.

"What will we have? A Bay of Goats, most likely," Zinni wrote in the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings.

Perle believes action against Iraq must be taken sooner, not later.

"Do we wait and hope that he doesn't do what we know he is capable of, which is distributing weapons of mass destruction to anonymous terrorists, or do we take pre-emptive action?" he asked.

"What is essential here is not to look at the opposition to Saddam as it is today, without any external support, without realistic hope of removing that awful regime, but to look at what could be created."

Calendar pics may bother passengers

IMPERIAL, Pa. (AP) — Passengers trying to get their air legs back after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks might not want to peek at the Allegheny County Airport Authority's new calendar.

The October page includes a picture of firefighters douse a flaming jetliner. February features a bomb-sniffing dog inspecting luggage at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Airport authority spokeswoman JoAnn Jenny said the calendar is issued to airport and authority workers and to journalists — not to the general public.

"This is for the airport family. People who walk around the airport love it. The construction guys are going nuts over it," she said.

The flaming jetliner photo was taken during a simulated crash drill and was included because the airport's Federal Aviation Administration Fire Training Facility "is one of the things that makes us one of the leading airports in the country," Jenny said.

Of the bomb-sniffing dog, Jenny said: "I thought it was warm and fuzzy."

Jackson honored

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Peter Jackson, director of "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," was honored by his native New Zealand on Monday.

Jackson, who was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, said his award was a "great thing" for New Zealand creativity.

Jackson shot the movie and two other yet-to-be released parts of a film trilogy based on the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien in New Zealand.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2002

The breaks for which you've been hoping could be within the realm of possibility in the year ahead. Be prepared to make the needed adjustments when you see the openings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Through a second party, something you've wanted to change but lacked the power to do so could be facilitated today. This person has been waiting for the opportunity. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Pull together with your mate today to bring about the fulfillment of a shared hope or expectation. It's possible that collectively you can pull it off now.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — If a worthy objective of yours has been well thought out, this might be the day to do what is necessary to achieve it. Victory is closer than you think.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You'll get a fresh start today, not only on a new year, but by getting an opportunity to vindicate yourself with someone you unwittingly offended in the past. Take it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Handling the affairs of others may come easier to you today than taking care of your own concerns, especially if they pertain to finances. You'll be detached and thus realistic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Very helpful information might come your way today through persons with whom you'll be involved. What you learn could cause you to totally reverse a position you've been holding.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may use this holiday to be very productive with some kind of work you choose to take on at this time. It might lead to an adjustment that'll prove very advantageous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Search your memory today for answers you need to handle a social situation that has had you stymied. Bank on knowledge and experience you've acquired, because they are your best allies.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Valuable insights might be gleaned today through sitting down with a close friend in whom you have great respect and discussing in depth some issues that have been on your mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Gossip you've heard about a friend concerning information that you know is far from the truth should be publicly denounced today. You're the one to do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Lay out your plans for the week today, because you'll be gifted with the insight to reorganize your affairs in a manner that is capable of overcoming obstacles of the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Interwoven with your philosophy of life lies the secrets to success today. And that is simply to want others to do as well as you'd like to do. Remarkable things can happen.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Can diabetic with normal blood sugar get neuropathy?

DEAR DR. GOTT: Three years ago, I was diagnosed with diabetes on the basis of a fasting blood sugar of 117. I have successfully followed a diet and lost about 20 unwanted pounds. I take no medication, and my sugars have not exceeded 140. Now, however, I have developed what my doctor calls neuropathy in my legs that he attributes to high blood sugars. How can I have this problem with such glucose levels?

DEAR READER: This is, indeed, a puzzle.

Neuropathy means nerve malfunction. I assume that you have developed numbness, tingling — even some weakness - in your legs, indicating that the nerves to your lower extremities are being somehow affected.

Judging from your brief description, your blood sugar levels have been consistently normal. (I take for granted that your 140 level was after eating. If not, you need to tighten your glucose control.) Although diabetes is a common cause of neuropathy, such a complication is unusual in the presence of normal blood sugars. Therefore, I believe that you have to search for alternative explanations.

If I were you, I'd start with a neurologist. Such a specialist will examine and test you to discover not only the extent of the neuropathy, but also its basis. For example, could you have a herniated disc in your back that could contribute to your problem? You also need a nerve conduction study, in my opinion, to delineate the severity of the nerve damage, if any.

If the neurologist is unable to shed light on your disorder, you will have to return to square one: Careful monitoring of your blood sugar levels, medication as needed for your diabetes and — perhaps — medicine to reduce the discomfort in your legs.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Diabetes Mellitus." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have had low blood sugar for 25 years. About 10 months ago, I came down with colitis, which gives me up to 12 loose bowel movements a day. As if this isn't enough for a 69-year-old, I am having trouble keeping my blood sugar under control. I can't eat milk products or flour. I'm down to 78 pounds. Do you have a diet I could follow?

DEAR READER: Before dealing with your symptom of diarrhea, I'd first want to establish the cause of it. While you may have lactose intolerance (sensitivity to milk sugar) or celiac disease (sensitivity to the gluten in flour), something else may be going on. Sudden diarrhea and weight loss in a 69-year-old suggests the possibility of intestinal inflammation that should itself be treated - or, at least, diagnosed.

Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), which may be unrelated to your present problem, should not cause significant symptoms unless you are malnourished, a distinct possibility.

I recommend that you seek a consultation with a gastroenterologist, who will test your stool and perform an intestinal examination to define what is wrong. Then the specialist can advise or treat you. A particular diet may be in order but, I suspect, you are more in need of a therapeutic program that would include medication.

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The Public Records of the Snyder Daily News (Sunday, December 30, 2001) has a listing of delinquent tax suits that is, to me, VERY disturbing and emotionally hurtful and injurious!

"Lavelle Eicke, Trustee of Mumse Trust" DOES NOT NOW nor has ever owned certain property as some SCURRY COUNTY agents allege!

The listing in the Public Records in 12-30-01 Snyder Daily News is hereby REFUSED and REJECTED!

Lavelle Eicke

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HEART VALVE REPLACEMENT?

If you had heart valve replacement surgery during the period 1997 to 2000, you should know that on January 21, 2000, **St. Jude Medical, Inc.** recalled all of its **Silzone®** coated mechanical heart valves and valve rings due to paravalvular leaking that can require **surgery to replace the defective valve**, and can cause **fatigue, strokes, blood clots** and **heart failure**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO FIND OUT IF YOUR ST. JUDE HEART VALVE HAS BEEN RECALLED, PLEASE CALL US:

713-963-0400 or 800-859-9009

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573-3542 3907 College

DEC 31 2001

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Extremist leader arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pushed by India and the United States, Pakistan said today it has arrested a longtime leader of an Islamic militant group accused of an attack on the Indian Parliament that nudged the rivals toward war. India called the arrest "a step forward."

Scattered violence and military action left at least three soldiers and nine militants, including three Pakistanis, dead in the disputed region of Kashmir, Indian security officials said.

Hafiz Saeed, until last week the leader of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba organization, was arrested Sunday night in Islamabad while attending a meeting, Interior Ministry officials said. He was charged with making inflammatory speeches and inciting people to violence.

It was Pakistan's most significant arrest of a militant since fresh tension with India began earlier this month and came at a pivotal moment, with thousands of troops from both nations massed at their shared border, poised for conflict.

The two countries tested nuclear weapons in 1998, raising the stakes in their long-standing rivalry, but both have said there is no possibility that the current squabble will escalate into a nuclear war.

After a Dec. 13 suicide attack on India's Parliament killed 14 people, India blamed Pakistan's intelligence agency and two Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Pakistan says India has offered no evidence and is fabricating the charges to malign the secessionist movement in its disputed Kashmir region, but that if India presents credible evidence, it will take action to rein in any militants involved.

Intelligence indicates bin Laden still alive

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. forces in Afghanistan have taken custody of 30 more suspected Taliban or al-Qaida prisoners, a Pentagon spokeswoman said today.

Twenty-five more prisoners were taken to the U.S. base at the southern city of Kandahar, bringing the total there to 164, Maj. Cynthia Colin said. Another five joined the two being held at the air base in Bagram, north of Kabul.

The additions bring the total number of prisoners held by the United States to 180. Another prisoner is being held in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif. Eight others, including American John Walker Lindh, are held aboard the USS Peleliu in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Pakistan.

Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar probably is in the mountains northwest of Kandahar, his hometown and the radical Islamic militia's last major stronghold, a U.S. intelligence official said today. Omar fled Kandahar as it fell to anti-Taliban forces Dec. 7.

If anti-Taliban fighters were to try to attack Omar's hide-out or capture him, the U.S. military probably would help with airstrikes and advice from special forces.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said information given him indicates that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is alive but his whereabouts remains a mystery.

"The latest intelligence we had indicates that the high probabilities are that bin Laden is still alive," Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

"Where he is, is a question mark. The trail has gone cold as to whether he's still in the caves of Tora Bora or, in fact, has slipped out into Pakistan" from Afghanistan.

Graham offered no further details and said he could not say why he believes bin Laden is still alive.

U.S. officials believe bin Laden was in the mountainous Tora Bora area of eastern Afghanistan at least until mid-December.

Births

Mariah Renee Chavez was born at 9:54 p.m. on Dec. 27 to Gilbert S. Chavez and Abigail Garcia of Snyder in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Mariah weighed seven pounds, eight ounces.

Grandparents include Bibiana Salazar Chavez of Odessa and Joe Garcia of Snyder.

Obituaries

Ennis Floyd

1906-2001

Ennis Floyd, longtime Snyder resident, died Sunday, Dec. 30, in Snyder Oaks Care Center after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Floyd, 95, is set for 1 p.m. Tuesday in the 37th Street Church of Christ. Bill Looney and Dale Huff, ministers, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.



Ennis Floyd

Born Dec. 16, 1906 in Gustine, he moved to Scurry County in 1913 with his parents, Andrew Walker and Millie Ann Floyd.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Floyd served in New Guinea and in the Philippines.

He married Annie Bell Galyean on July 2, 1931 in a double wedding ceremony with Odell and Nell Graham. Mrs. Floyd died Sept. 5, 1998.

The Floyds farmed for several years before operating Gulf, Shell and Phillips 66 service stations at various times. Mr. Floyd also was a barber, and in 1977 the Floyds opened Photo Kwik in Varsity Square Shopping Center.

A member of the 37th Street Church of Christ, Mr. Floyd served as an elder from 1955 to 1982. He also was a Bible class teacher and song leader.

Survivors include two sons, Robbie Floyd of Snyder and Davy Floyd of Mesquite; one daughter, Doris Beard of Snyder; one sister, Nell Graham of Snyder; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 8 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Personal, Professional Service

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Wayne Pruitt

1934-2001

Graveside service for Boyd Wayne Pruitt of Snyder was set for 2 p.m. today in the Colorado City Cemetery. The Rev. Tony Wofford, pastor of Word Is Life Deliverance Church in Snyder, was to officiate. Arrangements were under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Mr. Boyd, 67, died Friday, Dec. 28, in Codgell Memorial Hospital.

Born Oct. 15, 1934 in Danville, Ark., he married Brenda Joyce Putman on March 2, 1963 in Westbrook.

Mr. Pruitt was a retired oilfield engineer, working for Dowell for 21 years. He also was a former employee of Top Acidizers and Preferred Packers.

A member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Colorado City, he served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Pruitt, and one daughter, Andra Layne Pruitt.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Pruitt of Snyder; three daughters, Tracy Velasquez of Snyder, Stacey Pruitt of Abilene and Darla Pruitt of Talpa; his mother, Faye Bloomer of Snyder; nine grandchildren, Kaleb Olsen of Clifton, Ark., Dustin Olsen, Robert Velasquez II, Matthew Velasquez, Erica Arispe and Ami Foreman, all of Snyder, Nikolas Foreman of Abilene, Jaden Coy and Cailey Coy, both of Talpa; two great-grandchildren, Regan Arispe and Joseph Arispe Jr., both of Snyder; a stepsister, Melba Hemphill of Abilene; and special friends, David and Lee Ann [illegible] of Colorado City.

D.L. Hammit

1914-2001

David Leroy "D.L." Hammit, 87, died Saturday, Dec. 29, in Snyder Oaks Care Center after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Hammit was set for 2 p.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. F.R. "Bear" Williams officiating. Burial was to follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born Sept. 12, 1914 in Erath County, he married Sarah Catherine Bishop on Oct. 21, 1934 in Avoca. She died Aug. 8, 1998. He also was preceded in death by two brothers.

A member of the North College Avenue Baptist Church, Mr. Hammit was a retired feed store clerk.

Survivors include three daughters, Carol Schattel and Kathy Block of Snyder and Patsy Eaker of Tahoka; two sons, David Hammit of Weatherford and Lonnie Hammit of Snyder; a sister, Lois Tatum of Snyder; 14 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Alma Pylant

1909-2001

Alma Ophelia Pylant of Colorado City and formerly of Snyder, died Sunday, Dec. 30, in Kristi Lee Manor in Colorado City after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Pylant, 92, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Fluvanna Baptist Church. The Rev. Cecil Foster, pastor of the Fluvanna Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Fluvanna Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Born Oct. 20, 1909 in Wingate, she married J.F. Pylant on July 20, 1935 in Sweetwater. He died Feb. 20, 1976.

Mrs. Pylant moved to Snyder in 1977 from Ackerly where she had been engaged in farming and ranching.

She also was preceded in death by a son, Jessie Don Pylant in 1937; and two brothers, Jessie and H.B. Lemons.

Survivors include a brother, Bob Lemons of Midland.

Edna Lancaster

1912-2001

THOMAS, Okla. – Edna Lancaster, [illegible] of Snyder, died Saturday, Dec. 29, at her home in Thomas.

Funeral service for Mrs. Lancaster, 89, was set for 10 a.m. today in the First United Methodist Church in Thomas with the Rev. Larry Harlin officiating. Burial was to follow in the Mound Valley Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 23, 1912 in Byars, Okla., she was reared in Eastern Oklahoma and graduated at Greenfield in 1933.

She married Weldon Lancaster on Nov. 25, 1933 in Watonga, Okla., and they made their home in Greenfield, Geary and Fay before moving to Thomas in 1972.

Mrs. Lancaster worked in several places while helping rear her family, retiring in 1987 at the age of 75.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elbert and Myrtle Higgins; five brothers; two sisters; a son-in-law, Gary Humphreys; and one grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Weldon Lancaster of Thomas; two other sons, Jim Lancaster and his wife, Kay, and Warren Lancaster of Oklahoma City; three daughters, Pat Humphreys of Thomas, Sybil Hart of Thomas and Sue Taylor and her husband, Norman, of Watonga; another daughter-in-law, Lyn Lancaster of Snyder; four sisters, Lois Houtz of Broken Arrow, Blanche Lawrence of Fayetteville, Ark., Betty Smith of Tulsa and Janette Wiley of Brownfield; a special nephew, Roy Arthur of Watonga; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Fay United Methodist Church in Fay, Okla.

Dorothy Gowin

1926-2001

CLYDE – Dorothy Honea Gowin, the mother of Bill Gowin of Snyder, died Friday, Dec. 28, in an Abilene hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Gowin, 75, was held Sunday in the Clyde Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Matta officiating.

Born May 26, 1926 in Loraine, she had lived in Clyde before moving to Anson in 1999. She retired from the Abilene State School after 25 years as a supervisor and was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, W.E. and Alice King Honea.

Survivors include another son, Bob Gowin of Abilene; two daughters, Dee Murad of Tomball and Mary Clark of Clyde; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

CADA holiday schedule

The Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be closed for the holidays through Wednesday.

New Year's Eve celebration

Far Above & One Generation will provide music and Doorkeeper of His Glory dance troupe will perform at 8 this evening at Thee Place, 904 26th. Call 573-9799 for more information.

Masonic Lodge meeting

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will have a slated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with work in the E.A. degree.

Weigh Down workshop

Registration remains open for the Weigh Down workshop that begins at 7 p.m. Thursday at His Joy Ministries, 904 26th. Call 573-9615 for further information or to sign up.

Lions Club meetings

The Snyder Lions Club will resume regular meetings at noon Tuesday, Jan. 8, with a program about the Texas Boys Ranch.

Funeral expense account

An account has been opened at West Texas State Bank for donations to assist in funeral expenses for accident victim Stacy Copeland. Contact Lisa Williams at 573-2980 or Beth Bowen at 573-2670, for additional information.

Windbreak trees

Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for windbreak trees, both evergreen and hardwoods. Call 573-6317.

VFW membership drive

The VFW is conducting its annual membership drive. Membership is restricted to veterans who served overseas in times of conflict or war. For more information, contact the post commander Jim Bailey at 573-5338.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meets 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.

Nurse testing dates

Testing for the next class of the Vocational Nursing program at Western Texas College will be Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, with the last day to interview set for Feb. 2. Classes are scheduled to begin March 4. Potential students must bring a photo ID. To schedule an appointment, call the Counseling Center at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Military support group

Family members, volunteers, friends, and active or inactive soldiers of Scurry County interested in forming a local Military Support Group are asked to contact Dale or Elaine Byrd at 573-8088 after 4 p.m., or e-mail the byrds@ntsonline.net. The purpose of this group is to provide an avenue of mutual support, assistance, community resources, and a network of communication.

Woman arrested Sunday for second DWI offense

Arrests

Snyder officers arrested a 31-year-old woman early Sunday morning in the 2600 block of Ave. O for driving while intoxicated, her second such offense.

Two men were taken into custody in the 2800 block of Ave. U Sunday morning on alcohol-related charges. Arrested were a 21-year-old for driving while intoxicated and a 20-year-old for public intoxication.

DPS troopers arrested a 20-year-old man on U.S. 84 Sunday afternoon for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Accidents

A two-vehicle accident was reported at 6:37 p.m. Sunday at the intersection of 42nd Street and Ave. U. Involved were a 1995 Nissan Maxima driven by Christina Gutierrez, 18, of 2601 Ave. U and a 2000 Chevrolet Impala driven by Gary Barreron, 55, of 8314 Road Runner Path.

Officers were dispatched to 3400 College Ave. to a two-car accident at 8:17 p.m. Sunday. Involved in the mishap were a 1987 Nissan Pathfinder driven by James Justiss, 20, of 1451 CR 424 in Fluvanna and a 2000 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Randy Romero, 19, of 907 30th Street.

Theft

A woman requested an officer at her residence in reference to a camera being stolen. Officers responded and contacted another woman who arranged for the camera to be returned.

Criminal mischief

Officers responded to Whataburger at 5:25 a.m. Sunday in reference to damage done to the drive-through window. A report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

Three reports of criminal mischief to vehicles came from the Willow Park Inn Sunday morning. Officers were dispatched to the hotel's parking lot and submitted offense reports.

Criminal trespass

C.R. Perez requested an officer at Davidson IGA after a woman attempted to pass a check that didn't belong to her. He also requested officers issue a criminal trespass warning to the woman, advising her to stay away from the grocery store.

9-1-1 dispatchers received a call from the VFW Saturday night reporting an assault. A warning was requested advising a man to stay away from two individuals at the club.

Dog bite

A representative of Cogdell Hospital reported a dog bite victim in the emergency room Saturday afternoon. Officers contacted the victim and filed a report.

Close patrol

Richard Payne requested a close patrol in the 3100 block of Ave. T Sunday night after seeing several juveniles walking in the area. Officers initiated the patrol for the remainder of the night.

Gas drive offs

A clerk at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop reported a gas drive-off of $20 Saturday morning, but did not have a description of the vehicle. Another drive-off was reported from the station Sunday afternoon for $5.

A drive-off was reported at Town and Country North Sunday morning in the amount of $13.35.