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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 3, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 186
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Landon Gambol

DEC 03 2003

WARM WELCOME — Vicki Shroyer, the new executive director for the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, was honored with a reception today hosted by the Development Corporation of Snyder and the City of Snyder. Ellie Dryden, left, is shown visiting with Shroyer. (SDN Staff Photo)

For March primary...

Today marks beginning of filing period

Today is the first day to file to be listed on either the Republican or Democratic March primary election ballots. The filing period continues until Jan. 2.

In Scurry County, the terms of Sheriff Darren Jackson, County Attorney Mike Hartman and tax assessor-collector Diana Williamson are expiring.

Also expiring are the terms of Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey and Precinct 3 Commissioner Howard Limmer.

The term of Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd also is expiring.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong's term also is up for election as is the term of District Attorney Dana Cooley.

The primary is March 9.

Those wishing to file as Democrats should contact county party chairman Jerry Gannaway, while Republican hopefuls should contact Drew Bullard.

County Clerk Joan Bunch reminds candidates that after filing with the county chairman, they should come by her office and pick up the proper paperwork for filing campaign donations, expenditures and other information.

Nationwide, the terms of President George W. Bush will expire, as will the terms of all U.S. Representatives.

In Scurry County, the name of Rep. Charlie Stenholm will not be on a local ballot since redistricting has moved the county out of his district.

The long-time representative will be pitted against freshman representative Randy Neugebauer of Lubbock.

Candidates to represent Scurry County in congress are expected to come from the Midland-Odessa and San Angelo areas.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Shirley A. Gorman

The Christmas holiday can be extremely hectic.

Renée King, time-management and organizing expert with At-A-Glance, and a member of the board of National Association of Professional Organizers, offers the following tips for reducing stress.

• **Stay ahead of the game:** Shop early for holiday gifts rather than cramming all your shopping into a short time before the holidays.

By shopping early, you will have a better selection to choose from. Also, make a list of what you are planning to purchase and for whom.

• **Avoid the cash crunch:** Start a separate savings account just for holiday spending. This helps avoid a last-minute cash crunch or credit card overload.

• **Makin'a list, checkin' it twice:** Use an address book or planner to keep a running list of those you plan to send holiday cards to.

By keeping track each year, you avoid having to start the list from scratch each year.

• **Hey Mr. Postman:** Buy plenty of stamps early to avoid waiting in long lines at the post office. Also, be sure to mail any gifts or packages early, at least 2-3 weeks in advance of the holidays.

Save time on your holiday cards by using self-adhesive return address labels.

• **On the road again:** Make travel plans well in advance to take advantage of early booking discounts and seat availability. If driving, have your vehicle serviced well in advance of your trip to avoid unfortunate breakdowns.

• **Holiday feast:** Prepare some of the holiday foods in advance and store them in your freezer. In addition, plan your holiday meal in advance and make a list of all the supplies that you will need to shop for to avoid multiple trips to the store. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help, or to accept a hand in preparing the holiday meal.

• **Get the kids involved:** Children love to know that they are important, so give them some responsibility. Allow them to set the table before the meal, clear the table after the meal, and dry and put away the dishes.

****

How much will people spend on Christmas gifts? Here are key findings from Paymentech's 2003 Holiday Spending Survey.

Fourteen percent of Americans want to receive something to wear; 7 percent want a car or motorcycle; 7 percent would prefer jewelry.

Forty-one percent play to spend less than $500 for gifts this season.

Forty-one percent will spend about the same on gifts as they did in 2002; 22 percent will spend more.

By age group, 18-34 year-olds are more likely to spend more money than in 2002.

Thirty-five percent will likely purchase three or more gift cards; 15 percent will purchase six more gift cards.

The more money people tend to spend on gifts, the more likely they are to buy gift cards.

Department and specialty store gift cards are the choice gift for 52 percent of Americans.

Thirty percent of seniors 75 and older are more likely to give a food item this holiday season.

Joint hospital meeting covers variety of topics

A number of items were discussed during this morning's joint conference meeting between three hospital board members and Dr. Bid Cooper, hospital chief of staff, and Dr. Tom Kerr.

Hospital board members present were Carl Williams, chairman, Dink Foree and Charles Church.

Also participating in the discussion were acting CEO Cheryl Chance and interim chief financial officer, Ron Hunt.

Both Dr. Cooper and Dr. Kerr were complimentary of the job both Chance and department heads have done in recent days in the absence of a permanent CEO.

But Dr. Cooper did say the medical staff was anxious to have a permanent CEO on board.

"We're anxious to move from an interim to a permanent CEO with all due haste," said Dr. Cooper, adding that Chance and the department heads are keeping things on an even keel.

Church said the transition committee charged with the CEO search is to meet Monday and perhaps formalize the agreement with the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) for a permanent CEO.

The time period for finding a CEO was discussed and it was noted that the upcoming holidays might slow the search somewhat.

Hunt, who is associated with TORCH, said as much work as possible would be done prior to the holidays by the search firm in obtaining resumes.

He also noted that the outcome of Saturday's hospital district election could have a lot to say about what candidates would be proposed for the permanent position.

"Some of the candidates could be familiar with hospital districts, while others might be more familiar with county-owned hospitals," said Hunt.

On the subject of the hospital district election, Foree asked those in attendance how the hospital district would be financed if it passed since tax money would not be available until November 2004.

"The hospital district would have enough collateral to get a loan," said Dr. Cooper.

Foree then added if the election passes, the hospital would not get any more support from the county.

This brought a response from Williams as he stated the county commissioners had publicly pledged support for the hospital and had included $700,000 in next year's budget.

"It's all tax money, I can't see why the county would bail out if the hospital district vote passes," said Williams.

Although Hunt has only been at the hospital since Tuesday, he did say that there were a couple of areas he would be focusing on initially.

"I'll be looking at the expense structure, and the contracts," said Hunt.

"There is room for improvement," he added.

Early voting ended Tuesday afternoon in the hospital district election with 792 votes cast.

The election is Saturday.

Santa Claus reminds everyone that there are **22** days until Christmas

Natural causes ruled in death

Preliminary autopsy results on George Jones, who was found dead at his residence Monday, indicate he died of natural causes.

"We're still waiting on toxicology results, but we know he did not die of foul play," said Sgt. Keith Ward.

Not Snyder...

Cox selling some Cable TV systems

The ownership of several Cable TV systems in some small Texas markets will switch from Cox Communications to other cable companies, but Snyder is not among them.

Action is pending with the Federal Communications Commission and other governmental agencies as Cox has entered into an agreement to sell the cable franchises in Winters, Miles, Ballinger, Dalhart, Perryton and Guymon, Okla., and to have Buford Cable Systems operate them.

"Cox is selling some other systems in smaller markets in Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Missouri," said Vickie Bennett of Lubbock, public affairs manager for the West Texas region of Cox.

FOOD FOR FINES – The Scurry County Library is in the spirit of giving by providing those who owe fines the chance to pay them off. For every dollar owed, the library will accept two cans of food to clear it. Pictured from left are Christy Wilson, library page and library director Janie Romine. (SDN Staff Photo)

ASK US

Q—How much did it cost to rent Grande Communications Stadium in Midland?

A—The cost was $500 per school, with the money coming from gate receipts.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Jessie Martinez Jr....

...is an employee of Kinder Morgan, and has lived in Snyder since 1996. He has two children, Ashley Nichole, 5 and Jessie Alexander, 3. Jessie takes pleasure in traveling, camping and just enjoying life.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Be bold. If you're going to make an error, make a doozy, and don't be afraid to hit the ball.

—Billie Jean King

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Ira 2004 calendars

Ira's junior class is selling 2004 calendars featuring students from K-12. Cost is $10. Contact sponsors Vicki Flowers or Ron Baker at 573-2628 for orders. Deadline is Thursday for Christmas delivery.

GED test registration

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED test will be from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the GED testing center on the campus of Western Texas College, Building 7B. The math segment of the GED will begin at 8 a.m. Friday. For more information about the GED test, call Betty Thompson, 573-2310, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112.

Sophomore family night out

Sophomore family night out will be Thursday at the Spanish Inn. You must present your coupon with your receipt. For more information, call Lynette Cooper at 573-1558.

G/T parents meeting

A meeting for parents of gifted and talented students will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at West Elementary auditorium.

Annual Christmas parade

Snyder's annual lighted Christmas parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Line-up begins at 6 p.m. at Moffett Field. For parade entries call 573-3558 for more information. Also, Santa will be at Towle Park from 4-6 p.m. Saturday. Anyone interested in having a booth in the park may call 573-9811.

Christmas kisses and family fun

The Anti-Drug Connection will have a hot chocolate and homemade cookie booth in Towle Park during Saturday's Santa's visit and parade. Sprigs of mistletoe will be sold to encourage Christmas kisses. Families are invited.

Landfill to close on Dec. 6

The Landfill will close Saturday, Dec. 6.

Food Cupboard donations

Snyder Ministerial Alliance seeks donations to the Food Cupboard, non-perishable items only. Contributions can be dropped off at the Food Cupboard on Tuesday between 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Food may also be taken to your home church or to First United Methodist Church from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., where it will be picked up.

Turkey Shoot

The Scurry County Rodeo Association will hold a Turkey Shoot from 10 a.m. until dark Saturday. All proceeds benefit the rodeo club. The cost is $4 per round. For more information contact L.J. Mueller at 573-3712.

Child welfare board fundraiser

The Scurry County child welfare board is offering tickets for $1,000 worth of merchandise. A donation of $10 per ticket is requested for a drawing to be held Saturday. Tickets are available from any board member or by calling 573-7053 or 573-2376.

Choir Christmas program

"The Christmas Suite" will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Worsham Auditorium by the combined choirs of Snyder High School, Snyder Junior High and West Elementary. The concert will follow a Christmas dessert buffet in the student center. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased from any choir member.

SHS volleyball boosters

The SHS volleyball boosters will meet at 4 p.m. Sunday in the girls gym to plan the volleyball banquet set for Dec. 18.

Snyder Lions Club

Snyder Lions Club will not meet at its regular time Tuesday but will have a Partner-In-Service meeting at 6:30 that evening at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. WTC drama students will present *Crappie, Texas Christmas.*

Early Head Start's new building

Scurry Community Services invite you to the grand opening of Scurry County Early Head Start's new building at 2802 Second St. from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday.

Doodle Bug writers club

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

LVN testing dates

Testing dates at WTC for LVN ASSET will be 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and also on Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

WTC spring pre-registration

Pre-registration at WTC continues through Dec. 12. Students should call or go by the counseling center to make an appointment. The number is 573-8511, ext. 313. Students who have not passed THEA (formerly TASP) and are in DRE, DMT and DEN classes must wait until grades are posted.

Madrigal Christmas dinners

The annual Madrigal Christmas dinners presented by the SHS choral department will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15-16 at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Tickets are $15 and can be obtained by calling 573-6301.

House decorating contest

The house decorating contest will be judged from 6:30-10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. To enter your home, contact the chamber at 573-3558.

Smokey Bear posters

Smokey Bear posters for a contest sponsored by Snyder Garden Club must be turned in by Dec. 18 to classroom teachers or by calling Sandra Browning at 573-7277. Local winners will be announced in January and top posters will advance to the state contest.

Extra cookbooks available

Extra Home for the Holidays cookbooks can be purchased at the Scurry County Extension Office for $5 each.

New game may hurt Lotto sales

AUSTIN (AP) — There's a new buzzword these days at the Texas Lottery Commission: cannibalization.

It's being used to describe how much the new Mega Millions multi-state lottery will eat away at the sales of the 11-year-old favorite, Lotto Texas.

For the first time today, people will be able to buy a chance at the Mega Millions jackpot in Texas.

"There are people out there ready to step up first thing in the morning, people that are motivated by high jackpots," said Reagan Greer, executive director of the commission.

The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery grew to an estimated $44 million today. None of the tickets sold for Tuesday night's $33 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. That enables Texans to compete in an even greater jackpot Friday.

But, Greer is concerned that Texans will be so excited by the new lavish jackpots, Lotto Texas could suffer.

"For a lot of people, Lotto Texas is the Texas lottery," Greer said.

Initial estimates have predicted a 21 percent shift away from Lotto Texas and into Mega Millions. But Greer said he's committed to watching the numbers and maintaining the health of Lotto Texas.

"Mega Millions is going to kill (Lotto Texas)," said Dawn Nettles, publisher of the lottery watchdog Lottoreport.com. "It's already dying, this is going to absolutely kill it completely and totally. And it's going to hurt the other games."

Nettles said that lottery players in Texas just want a "reasonable chance to win" rather than huge jackpots.

"There is no reasonable chance to win in Lotto Texas now, nor is there a reasonable chance to win Mega Millions," Nettles said.

The odds of winning in Mega Millions are 1 in 43, with jackpot odds 1 in about 135 million.

If Lotto Texas sales begin to dwindle much more than 21 percent, Greer said he is prepared to take "proactive" steps to protect the flagship game. Some of those steps could include changing the bonus ball feature, changing the way the game is played or possible changes to the newer Texas Two Step game, which is played on the same night.

GIFTED AND TALENTED — Dixie Haggard, director of special programs, and Thomas Fogleman, West Elementary principal, discuss the gifted and talented parent meeting set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. An interpreter will be provided. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Study: Lower survival rate in diabetics with pancreas transplants

CHICAGO (AP) — Diabetics who stick with insulin injections and blood-sugar monitoring have better odds of survival than those who choose to undergo a pancreas transplant, a drastic but increasingly common option, a study suggests.

Diabetes occurs when the body cannot produce or properly use insulin, a blood sugar-regulating hormone produced in the pancreas. In most caseas, a pancreas transplant can essentially cure diabetes.

Patients who received pancreas-only transplants had a one-year survival rate of 97 percent and a four-year rate of 85 percent, compared with 98 percent and 92 percent of those who tried to control their diabetes by conventional means while awaiting a transplant, according to a government study in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

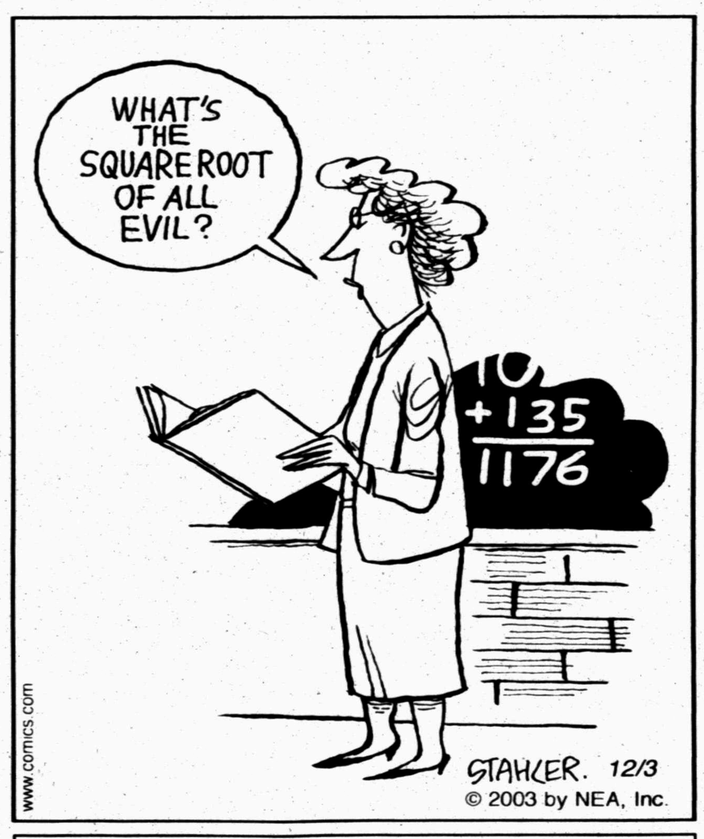
Many doctors reserve pancreas transplants for patients who also need a kidney transplant because of kidney failure, a common life-threatening complication of diabetes. Those patients get both organs in one operation.

Transplantation of a pancreas alone is less common and more hotly debated because diabetes without kidney problems can often be controlled with measures far less drastic than surgery and lifelong anti-rejection drugs. Such drugs leave patients prone to infections and often have other serious side effects, including high blood pressure and osteoporosis.

While the number of pancreas-kidney transplants in the United States remained stable at around 900 a year from 1995 to 2000, pancreas-alone transplants nearly quadrupled from 37 in 1995 to 141 in 2002, the study said.

The findings, based on U.S. transplant data on 11,572 diabetes patients, raise important concerns, said Dr. David Harlan, the lead author and a researcher at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

If additional studies reach the same conclusions, doctors might need to more effectively identify transplant candidates or improve anti-rejection treatments, he said.



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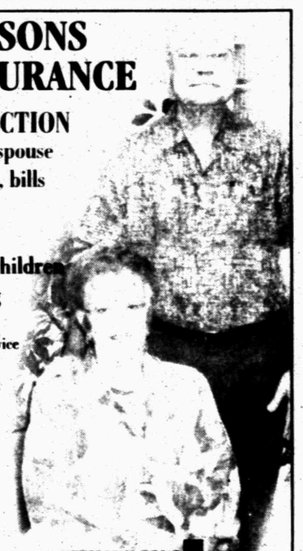

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers

Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-16-20-24. Bonus Ball: 6.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Prize: $200,000.

Number matching four of four: 13. Prize: $1,088.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 34. Prize: $51.

Number matching three of four: 1,265. Prize: $18.

Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 747. Prize: $21.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 4,712. Prize: $7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 8,193. Prize: $5.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: $250,000.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 03-04-15-32-37.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: $0.

Matching four of five: 116. Prize: $561.

Matching three of five: 4,187. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 46,197. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 9-7-4

(Night) 3-0-8

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SISD sets G/T meeting for Thursday night

The gifted and talented services provided by Snyder Independent School District are varied to meet the needs of students at different developmental stages.

An informational meeting for parents is planned at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the cafeteria at West Elementary.

Students in grades K-1 are served through a "pull out" program. Students leave their regular classrooms for approximately three hours of enrichment activities once a week.

The second, third and fourth grade G/T program at Stanfield, Central and East elementary schools are inclusion programs.

Fifth grade students are served through a self-contained setting at Northeast Elementary. Gifted and talented classes at West Elementary are provided a combination of self-contained and inclusion programs.

Students participate in math, language arts and reading with other G/T students and then they are included with honor students for the remainder of the curriculum.

Snyder Junior High School students are pulled out of their regular classes twice a month to participate in "The Cutting Edge." They also have advanced classes in language arts and math.

Eighth grade G/T students may also opt to receive high school credit for algebra I.

Snyder High School students enroll in advanced placement classes or concurrent classes through Western Texas College.

SHS/GT students may also participate in independent study, early graduation, credit by exam or participate in an accelerated curriculum.

Students may be nominated for SISD/GT program at any time during the year. Parents wishing to nominate their child should contact Dixie Haggard, director of special programs.

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003

Today is the 337th day of 2003 and the 72nd day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st U.S. state.

In 1967, in Cape Town, South Africa, Lewis Washkansky became the first person to receive a human heart transplant.

In 1979, 11 people were killed during a mad rush at a concert by The Who in Cincinnati.

In 1984, a gas leak at a Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal, India, killed more than 3,000 people within hours.

In 1989, U.S. President George H. W. Bush and Russian Premier Mikhail Gorbachev met in Malta for talks that many take as marking the end of the Cold War.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Conrad (1857-1924), novelist; Carlos Montoya (1903-1993), guitarist, composer; Ozzy Osbourne (1948-), musician, is 55; Julianne Moore (1960-), actress, is 43; Katarina Witt (1965-), figure skater, is 38; Brendan Fraser (1968-), actor, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1950, the Cleveland Browns defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, 13-7, without completing a single pass.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "You shall judge of a man by his foes as well as by his friends." — Joseph Conrad

TODAY'S FACT: The smallest U.S. state capital is Montpelier, Vt., with an estimated 2002 population of 8,026.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 1,045 — land area in square miles of Rhode Island (compared to 571,851 for Alaska).

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Nov. 30) and full moon (Dec. 8).

All information from The World Almanac.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Teens who threaten suicide sometimes do more than talk

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Sean," is only 13, but he will be attending his best friend's funeral. "Frank" died by his own hand. Apparently he had told many of his friends that he was going to kill himself, but no one took him seriously.

I am writing in the hope that my letter will alert children and adults that children and adolescents sometimes mean it when they threaten suicide. I pray parents will instruct their children to ALWAYS tell an adult if one of their friends talks about suicide. I have done that now, but unfortunately it is too late to help Frank. — **GRIEF-STRICKEN IN MARYLAND**

DEAR GRIEF-STRICKEN: Please extend my deepest sympathy to the parents of your son's friend. And thank you for giving me the chance to point out that threats of suicide, and repeated comments about suicide, can be symptoms of serious illness and should be taken seriously. Many young people are reluctant to "rat" on their friends, but when it comes to talk of suicide, experts say that keeping a secret can result in losing a friend. Skilled professional help is needed for intervention.

Professional counseling should also be made available to the survivors of the suicide — and that includes family members and friends — to help them cope with their own feelings of guilt and depression.

**

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I retired from my teaching job so I could travel with my husband, "Bill," on his international business trips. At the time, Bill earned a very high salary. Since then, Bill has been laid off and has taken an early retirement. He now putters around the house, painting the shutters, working in the yard and thoroughly enjoying himself.

This is not the life I expected, and I am becoming increasingly depressed. I was never much of a housewife and wouldn't have left my job had I known this would be the outcome. I have a part-time job in a dress shop, but it's hardly a challenging career. I want to travel. I want to have fun.

We have a net worth in excess of $1 million, but Bill has always been concerned about our finances and wants to manage them so that we can set up college funds for our grandchildren, leave a substantial amount to our children, and budget $7,500 a year for vacations, including trips to visit family. This doesn't leave much.

If I tell my husband how I feel it will hurt him terribly. What should I do? — **RELUCTANTLY RETIRED IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR RETIRED: Before you become more depressed, have a frank talk with your husband. Explain that you were not prepared for his early retirement. It may be time for you to return to teaching on a part-time basis or to find another job that will enable you to earn the kind of money you need to travel more extensively. If your husband doesn't want to go, there are travel clubs and tours for "singles."

You and Bill also need to reach a meeting of the minds about how money should be allocated. If you can't manage to agree, then the two of you should seek professional counseling. Please, don't put it off. Disagreements about money have destroyed marriages.

**

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

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS 2003
TOY APPLICATION

Family Name _____
Street Address _____
Phone# _____
Total Monthly Family Income $ _____ Work $ _____
SS/SSI $ _____ AFDC $ _____
Food Stamps $ _____ Child Support _____

Please only list toys for each child from birth through age 17 (3 toys per child). **DO NOT list clothes and shoe sizes.** If you have more children than space allows, use an additional sheet of paper.

Child #1 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #2 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #3 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #4 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #5 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #6 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____
Child #7 Name _____
age _____ circle: male female
1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____

Please mail the above application to: **Christmas For Kids** P.O. Box 1202 Snyder, TX 79550-1202 by Friday, Dec. 12. Keep this lower part for your information. Appointment cards with date and time will be mailed out to the address you listed on your application. Bring the following items to your appointment: each child's birth certificate and SS card, proof of total family income (for example: a pay stub), and the appointment card we mailed to you. Toys will be distributed Dec. 18th - 20th at 2501 35th Street. For more information, please call Judi Martin and Alicia Graves at 573-7556.

State House chamber tree is artificial fir

AUSTIN (AP) — The Christmas tree decorating the Texas House chamber this year doesn't shed needles, touch off sneezing fits or create a potential fire hazard.

The artificial tree, made in China of polyvinyl chloride, is 10 feet shorter than the homegrown tree put up last year.

"Oh no, oh no," reacted Lanny Dreesen, spokesman for the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, whose members annually produce 200,000 Christmas trees.

"I wonder if they ate plastic turkey for Thanksgiving last week," Dreesen was quoted as saying in the San Antonio Express-News.

"We didn't kill any trees," responded Bob Richter, spokesman for House Speaker Tom Craddick. "This tree could be useful in the Texas House for 100 years."

Nadine Craddick, wife of the House speaker, accepted the donated tree from The Market, an Austin store, where a model of the tree with 3,500 lights retails for $3,395. Nadine Craddick said she accepted the tree for several reasons, adding: "We didn't say this would be forever. It was just for this year."

On Monday, workers on the House floor hung new decorations on the 15-foot flame-resistant, synthetic Oregon fir.

A mall and the right visitor by Jef Mallett

NASA braces for dangers of landing twin rovers on Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — After seven routine months of spaceflight, NASA is bracing for six minutes of high anxiety in January, when the twin rovers it launched earlier this year punch through the Martian atmosphere to land on the Red Planet.

Each of the unmanned, $400 million rovers must be slowed from 12,000 mph to a complete stop within minutes after first plunging into the planet's tenuous atmosphere.

"Just getting to Mars is hard, but landing is more so," Ed Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for space science said Tuesday during a news briefing from Washington, D.C., that was broadcast to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Landing the rovers safely requires the elaborately choreographed and fast-paced use of heat shields, parachutes, rockets and air bags. A strong gust of wind, or a single sharp rock, could destroy either or both rovers.

Two-thirds of all previous Martian missions have failed, including the last lander NASA launched, 1999's Polar Lander. A second mission, the Climate Orbiter satellite, also failed that year.

Just eight seconds before landing, the rovers will inflate enormous air bags, similar to those successfully used by 1997's Pathfinder spacecraft and the small Sojourner rover it carried, to cushion their arrival on the planet's surface.

"We could bounce about as high as a four-story building," project manager Peter Theisinger said.

The first of the rovers, Spirit, is scheduled to land Jan. 3 in Gusev Crater, a Connecticut-sized basin that may have held a brimming lake after it formed 4 billion years ago.

The second six-wheeled robot, Opportunity, should land Jan. 24, on the far side of the planet in Meridiani Planum, where mineralogical evidence indicates water once was present.

The camera- and instrument-laden rovers are designed to analyze Martian rocks and soil for additional clues that could reveal whether the planet was ever a warmer, wetter place capable of sustaining life.

"The easy parts of these missions are over. Now the tough part comes. Mars has been a most daunting destination. Some, including myself, call it 'the death planet,'" said Weiler.

Once the roving robotic field geologists have landed, NASA may not hear from them again for nearly 24 hours. In the meantime, the rovers should begin surveying their surroundings.

Even after the first pictures and data are received on Earth, it will take each rover at least nine days to become ready to roll off its lander and begin exploratory work in earnest, project scientist Joy Crisp said.

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2003 FUNDRAISER
DRAWING DECEMBER 6,2003
DONATION-$10

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A-l Heating/Air Conditioning	Stuffed animals and caps
Auto Zone	Tool set
Barbee Medical Supply	$20 gift certificate
Bealls Department Store	Gift basket
Big Country Autoland	Two gift certificates for oil changes
Bobby Anderson	Mosaic cross
Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc.	$20 gift certificate
Carlos Imports	White angel
Carol's Baby & Before	One infant gown
Carol's Book Nook	One book
Carol's Critter Corner	Critter carrier
Chicken Express	Meal tickets
Classic Interiors	Candle
Connections	Two candles
Countryplace Floral & Gifts	Potpourri
Donna's Cake Shop	$20 gift certificate for cake
Dupree Automotive	Front brake job for passenger car
Fast Oil Change	Green candle
Friendly Flower Shop	$10 gift certificate
G&G Glass Co.	Beveled mirror
Hackfeld's Quality Clothing	Brighton earrings
Health Food Center	$50 gift certificate
Higginbotham-Bartlett/Radio Shack	One remote control toy car and One Swiffer
McCormick Marketing	$50 gas gift certificate
McWilliams Pharmacy	Meredith Baxter Hand Care
Nix's Auto Tire Service	Gift certificate
O'Neal's Interiors & The Pleasure's Mine	Bag of Beanie Babies
PizzaHut	Gift certificate - dinner for four
Roe's Furniture & Appliance	Microwave oven
Snyder Electronics	TV remote control
Snyder Lumber Company	Screwdriver set
Southern Electric	$100 gift certificate
Spanish Inn	$50 gift certificate
Special Occasions & Gifts	Lighted snowman
Stephens Office Supply	Rolling file cabinet
Stone Welding Services	Jewelry
Subway of Snyder	Six meal tickets
The Shack	$15 gift certificate
United Supermarket	$10 gift certificate
W R Whistlestop	$20 gift certificate
Wal-Mart	$100 gift certificate
Western Auto Store	Four-piece plier set
Warehouse Furniture	Shoe chair
Wilson Motors	Gift certificate for oil change
Wadleigh Studios	$100 gift certificate

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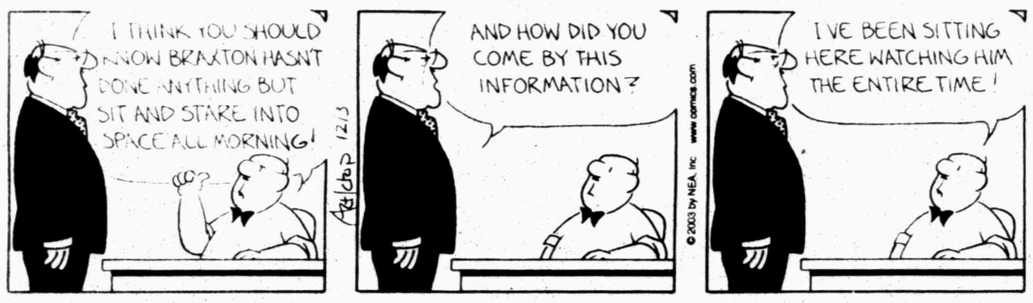
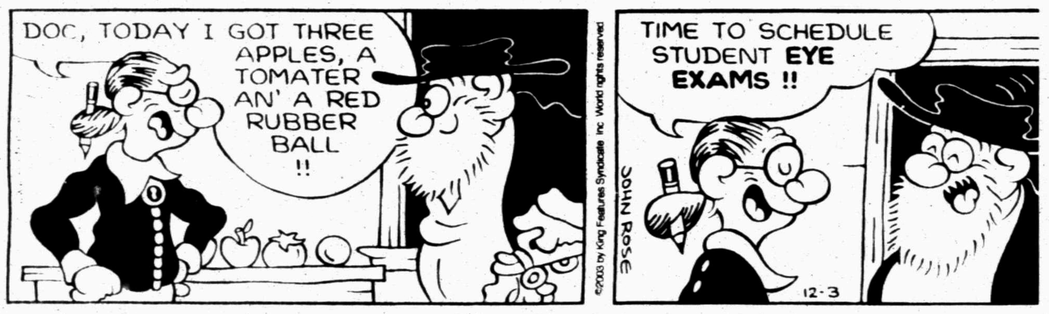
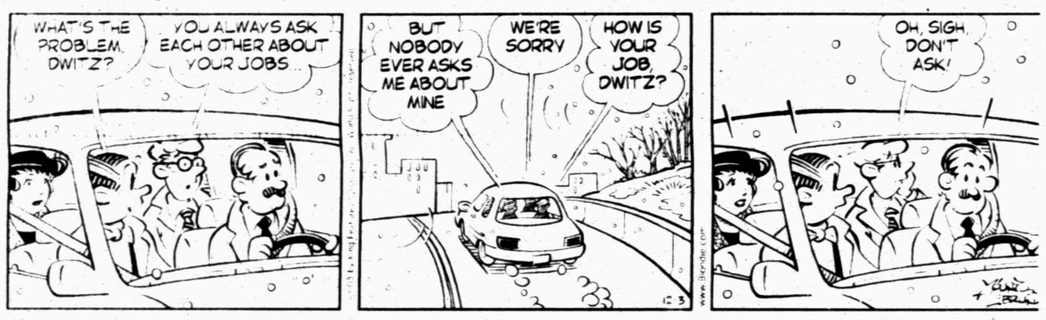


SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



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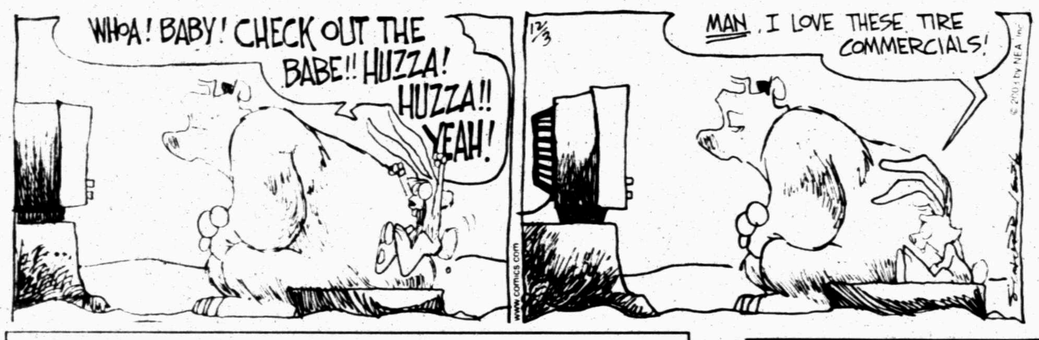

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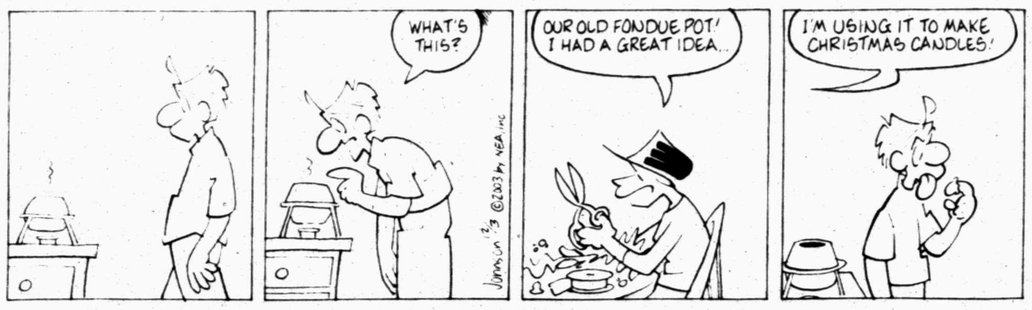
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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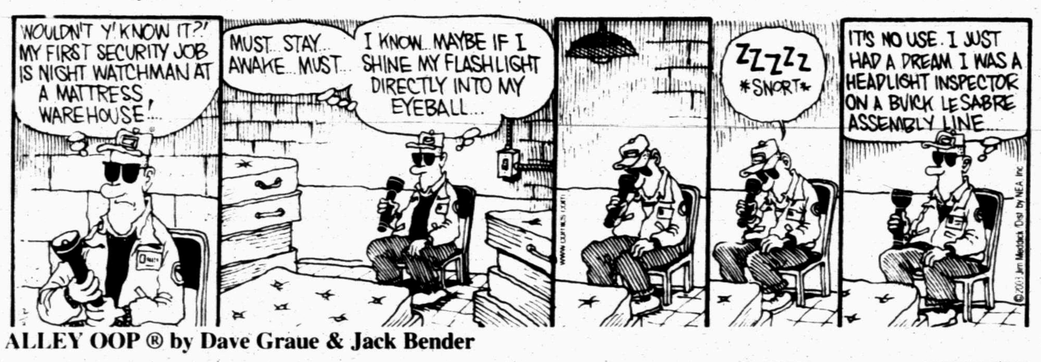

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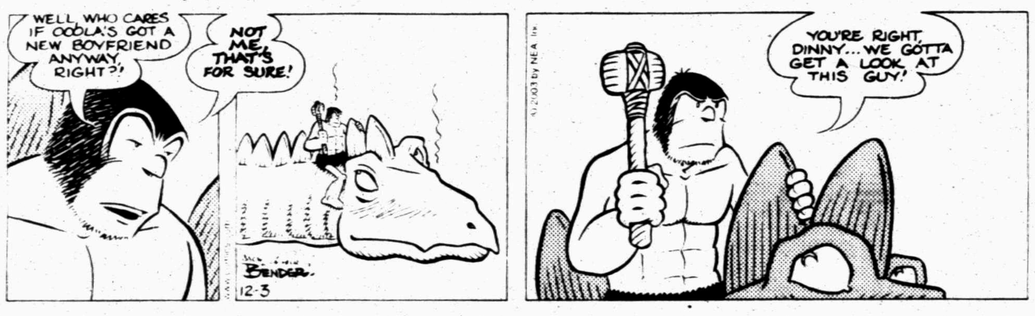
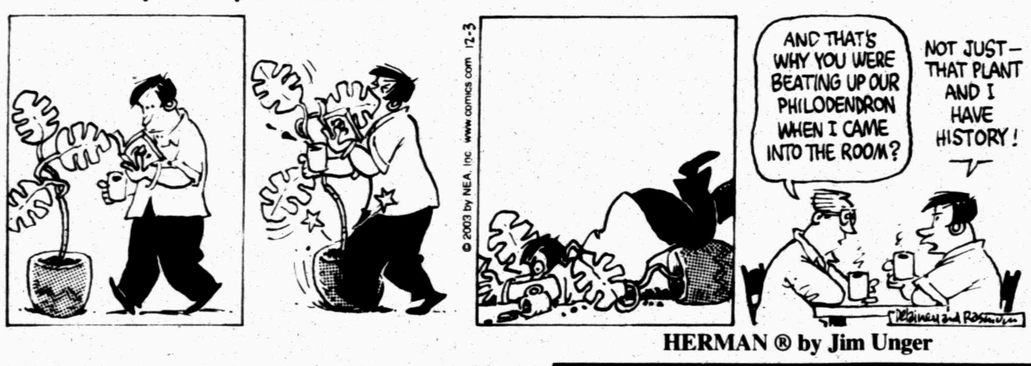


BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Money owed
5 Dinette piece
10 Paddock
12 Soup or salad
13 Respect
14 Improvises (hyph.)
15 Oil exporter
16 Bratty kid
18 Colo. neighbor
19 Bustling about
21 Trophy
25 Island off Manhattan
29 Speaker's platform
31 Works by Puccini
33 Diviner
34 Curbs
35 Hammed it up
37 Disney site
38 Longhorn
40 Haui
43 Corporate ending
44 Fabric measure
48 "Cabaret" setting
50 Dorm sharer
52 Forgotten
53 Silly
54 Applies paint
55 "You're something —!"

DOWN

1 Entrance
2 Columnist — Bombeck
3 Fiber source
4 Price ticket
5 New England cape
6 Rusted-out ship
7 Diva's rendition
8 Book ID
9 Legal matter
10 T'ai — ch'uan
11 Flower garlands
12 DC landmark
17 Map abbr.
19 Former teens
20 Light sword
21 GI's address
22 As time — on
23 Eden man
24 "Miami Vice" cop
26 Short-term worker
27 Viking name
28 Pact letters
30 Convention
32 Mach 1 exceeder
36 Lair
39 Pantyhose shade
40 Late-night host
41 Cato's bear
42 Oversupply
44 Caterwaul
45 French friends
46 Swell, as a river
47 Fiddle-de- —
48 Tampa Bay footballer
49 Those elected
51 Small number

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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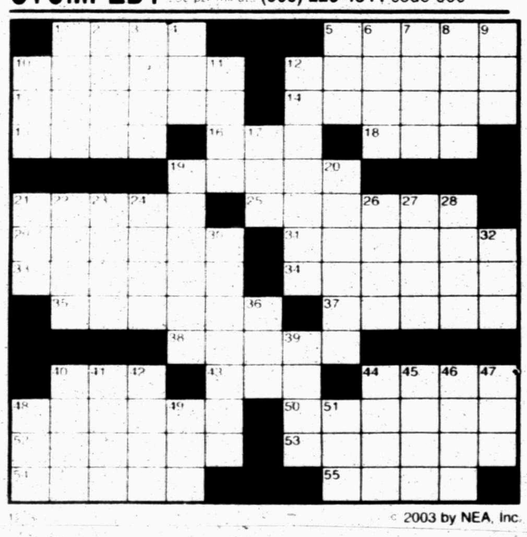

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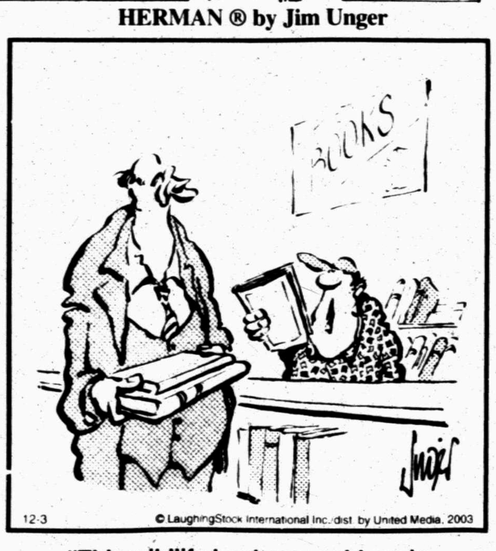
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"I THINK I GET BETTER MILEAGE THAN GRANDPA DOES."



"This wildlife book you sold me is nothing but pictures of animals!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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SPORTS

Tigers get roughed up; Lady Tigers stifle LHS

LUBBOCK — The Snyder Tigers got in one workout with their recently arrived players from the football team, but needed more than two hours to prepare for the Westerners.

Lubbock High pressed Snyder from the start Tuesday, holding the Tigers to single-digit scoring in the second quarter and taking a 47-20 halftime lead en route to a 95-52 win.

"It was the toughest team we could have played off the bat — a big 5A school that plays the press aggressively and is quick," head coach Bud Birks said. "They ran the press from the start and it gave us trouble. Those defenses take a while — you need three or four workouts to get ready."

Birks said Lubbock High's entire roster consists of basketball-only athletes, giving Snyder another disadvantage.

"We're talking 12 months of offseason and straight basketball, versus two hours," he said. "This is their best team in years. We need more time to work out."

Lee Scott again led the Tigers with 16 points, the only Snyder player in double figures.

Isaac Ramon scored nine in his first game, and Marcus Villarreal added eight in his season debut.

Zach Cain and Lico Castillo combined for 10 points.

Lubbock High had four players in double figures, led by Raul Juarez, who pumped in a game-high 26.

The Tigers are scheduled to open the Gym Bice Memorial Tournament in Andrews at 5:30 p.m. Thursday against Fort Stockton.

Other teams competing in the tournament are Presidio, Fabens, Pecos, Trinity Christian, Lamesa and host Andrews.

The tournament is scheduled to run through Saturday.

The Snyder Lady Tigers limited Lubbock High to four points in the opening quarter of each half to cruise to a 61-35 triumph Tuesday.

The Lady Tigers had four players reach double-digit scoring, while hitting 11 of 16 free throw attempts.

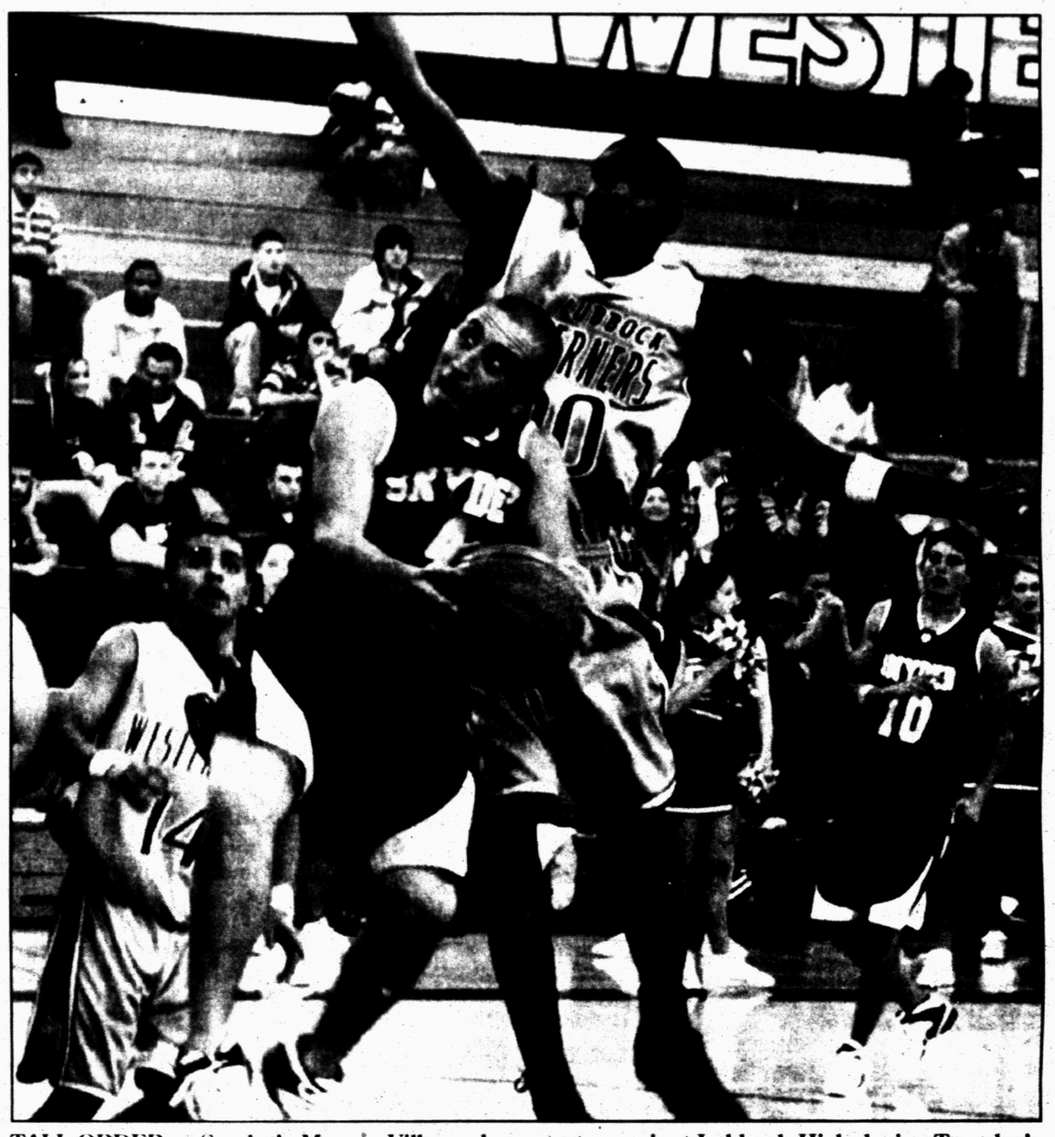
Jordan Stansell scored nine of her 14 points in the fourth quarter, while Sirena Medrano, Teddi Crenwelge and Glyn Wright each added 10.

Sarah Henson cashed in with nine points, as she helped Snyder race to a 14-4 edge at the end of the first quarter, scoring four points in the period.

The Lady Tigers led by nine at the half, extending the margin to a comfortable, 23-point advantage after outscoring Lubbock 18-4 in the third quarter.

Erin Burleson, Terann Ragland, Emily Jones and Anna Henson each had two points.

The Lady Tigers open the Lamesa tournament at 10 a.m. Thursday against Lubbock Roosevelt. The JV girls will play Big Spring at 2:30 p.m., while the freshmen will battle at 11 a.m. against Odessa Permian.



TALL ORDER — Snyder's Marcus Villarreal penetrates against Lubbock High during Tuesday's contest. Villarreal and the rest of the football players got their first action of the season, but Snyder struggled with the Westerners' pressure defense in the 95-52 loss. (Contributed Photo by Ronny Collins)

Frosh rip Andrews, 72-42

The Snyder freshman cagers got contributions from virtually everyone Monday, as three players scored in double figures in a 72-42 rout of Andrews.

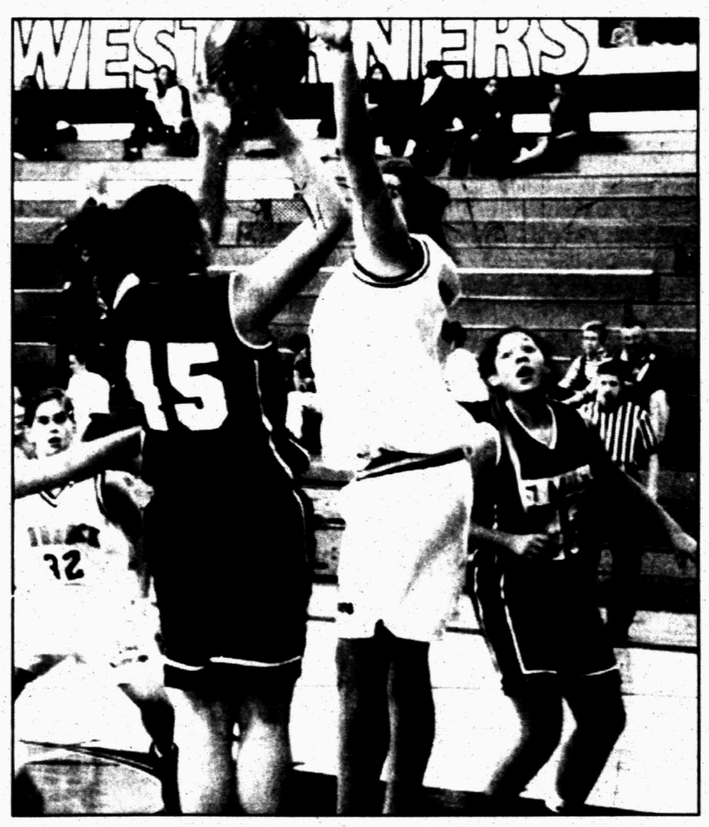
Donald Jeffery led the way for the frosh with 14 points, Ryan Mitchell connected for 13 and Tagaba Kyei chipped in with 10 in the victory.

Tyler Driggers had eight points, while Ricky Sanchez hit for seven.

"I was really pleased with their progress," coach Joe Anaya said. "Everybody played well. We've got a long way to go, but I'm pleased with the effort and the outcome."

Kyle Sanchez and Jamie Arnold each scored five, while Brandon Robbins and Stetson Kincheloe had four apiece.

Jeremy Rodriguez added two for the frosh, who will travel to Merkel Monday for a 6:30 p.m. tip-off with the Badgers.



UP AND OVER — Snyder sophomore Teddi Crenwelge takes a shot during the Lady Tigers' 61-35 win over Lubbock High. The Lady Tigers held LHS to four points in the first and third quarters. (Contributed Photo by Ronny Collins)

Mavs light up Wizards, wait for Lakers

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks know they need a better all-around effort in their next game, especially since their opponent is the Los Angeles Lakers.

Antawn Jamison scored 21 points and Michael Finley had 16 points and a season-high 12 rebounds in the Mavericks' lackluster 97-72 victory over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

The Lakers are coming to town Thursday night, a team that's beaten the Mavericks in 45 of the last 50 meetings.

"They're really jelling right now," Dallas' Antoine Walker said of the Lakers. "We're looking for that kind of consistency right now. We have to come out with a lot more energy than we had tonight."

On Oct. 28, the Lakers routed the Mavericks 109-93 in the regular-season opener for both teams. Thursday night is the second of four meetings between the teams.

While the Mavericks didn't need to be on top of their game to ease past the Wizards, Thursday night will present a much stiffer test for Dallas.

"Sometimes you play as poor as the team you're playing, and I thought that was the case tonight," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said. "Some things may have led to that. We know the Lakers are coming in. We have to play better than that if we are going to beat the Lakers."

Dallas won Tuesday night despite shooting only 41.7 percent from the field, 2-for-13 from 3-point range. The Mavericks had a season-high 63 rebounds, 19 more than the Wizards.

Steve Nash added 14 points and Eduardo Najera had 11 points and 11 rebounds, both season highs, to help Dallas improve to 10-0 at home.

"It was a win," Nash said. "None of us will claim brilliance on this one, but we did enough things right to keep our home record."

Larry Hughes had 12 points and Brendan Haywood grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds for Wizards, who have lost five of six after their most lopsided defeat of the season.

The Wizards were unable to cope with the Mavericks' deep rotation and up-tempo offensive style.

"I really admire the way the Mavericks play," Washington coach Eddie Jordan said. "It's a fun style to watch. They know how to pick out matchups. We were just out of bullets tonight."

The Mavericks were without leading scorer Dirk Nowitzki, sidelined by a sprained right ankle. Nowitzki said it's doubtful he'll be available against the Lakers.

"I want to play Thursday, but I don't think I'll be ready to go," Nowitzki said.

Dallas also played without forward Danny Fortson, serving the final game of a three-game suspension.

Wizards forward Etan Thomas missed the game due to the flu. Scoring threats Gilbert Arenas and Jerry Stackhouse are also out for Washington.

Lady Cardinals outlast Lueders

Brittany Kelly dropped in 14 points, including eight in the final quarter, as the Hermleigh Lady Cards topped Lueders-Avoca Tuesday, 52-51.

Hermleigh led 21-17 at halftime in a contest that went back-and-forth from the opening tip-off.

Alana and Alicia Culp each hit for 13 points, and the Lady Cards made 12 free throws in 21 attempts.

Brittany Jones added five and Amy Botts scored four points for Hermleigh, which will was scheduled to start play in the Wilson tournament today.

Showalter, A-Rod finally talk

DALLAS (AP) — After talking to Alex Rodriguez by telephone for the first time since the season ended, Texas Rangers manager Buck Showalter wasn't aware of any problems in his relationship with his star shortstop.

Rodriguez called Showalter on Sunday night, and they spoke for about 15 minutes.

"Alex and I haven't discussed any issues," Showalter said Tuesday. "If there is something he is unhappy with, I'm certain at some point he'll tell me."

On the day Rodriguez won the AL MVP award last month, he confirmed that the Rangers had talked to him about a possible trade. A-Rod has a no-trade clause in his record $252 million, 10-year contract, which has seven seasons remaining.

During that conference call with reporters, Rodriguez praised owner Tom Hicks, but refused comment several times when asked about his relationship with general manager John Hart and Showalter.

A couple of weeks later, Rodriguez told reporters in the Dominican Republic that the Rangers were considering trading him to two different teams. He wouldn't say which ones, though they were believed to be Boston and the New York Yankees.

Showalter, who wouldn't discuss the specifics of Sunday's conversation, said he didn't take it personally that Rodriguez hadn't returned several calls before then. Rodriguez was out of the country on vacation much of last month.

Snyder Bowling Leagues

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
Timely Pawn	118	86
Culligan	115	89
The Shack	111.5	92.5
WTP Energy	110	94
Circle M Welding	110	94
Robert Early's Weld	110	94
Good Guys	109	95
Anadarko	98	106
BJ Services	89	115
Ghost	52.5	151.5

High series: Barney Tate, scratch, 615; Stanley Maresch, handicap, 678.
High game: Lynn Smith, scratch, 279; Lynn Smith, handicap, 301.

Jack-N-Jill

Team	W	L
Team 10	33	15
Outcasts	31	17
Snyder Brick & Tile	28	20
Turkey Hunters	28	20
WTP Energy	26	22
Team 8	24	24
Timely Finance	23.5	24.5
JB's	23	25
Snyder Iron & Metal	22.5	25.5
Moments Captured	19	29
Snyder Lanes	16	32
Phantom Team	31	9

High series: Scratch: Cory Maxfield, 598, Dana Stone, 472; **Handicap:** Cory Maxfield, 685, Jackie Green, 609.
High game: Scratch: Mark Glasscock, 245, Dana Stone, 145; **Handicap:** Buddy Adams, 261, Joanna Browning, 238.

Area Sports Calendar

THURSDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys at Andrews tourney
Snyder varsity girls at Lamesa tourney
Ira varsity boys and girls in Oak Creek Classic, Blackwell

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys at Andrews tourney
Snyder varsity girls at Lamesa tourney
Snyder JV boys in Snyder JV tournament
Ira varsity boys and girls in Oak Creek Classic, Blackwel.
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls in Wilson tourney
Golf: Snyder varsity girls at San Antonio

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity boys at Andrews tourney
Snyder varsity girls at Lamesa tourney
Snyder JV boys in Snyder JV tournament
Ira varsity boys and girls in Oak Creek Classic, Blackwell
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls in Wilson tourney.
Golf: Snyder varsity girls at San Antonio

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	—
Boston	7	10	.412	1
New Jersey	7	10	.412	1
New York	7	11	.389	1½
Washington	6	11	.353	2
Miami	5	12	.294	3
Orlando	1	16	.059	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	15	3	.833	—
Detroit	13	6	.684	2½
New Orleans	12	6	.667	3
Toronto	9	8	.529	5½
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	6
Atlanta	6	13	.316	9½
Chicago	5	12	.294	9½
Cleveland	4	14	.222	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	12	6	.667	—
Denver	11	6	.647	½
Utah	10	6	.625	1
Houston	9	7	.563	2
Minnesota	9	8	.529	2½
San Antonio	9	9	.500	3
Memphis	8	8	.500	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	14	3	.824	—
Sacramento	12	4	.750	1½
Seattle	8	6	.571	4½
Golden State	8	7	.533	5
Portland	8	7	.533	5
Phoenix	7	9	.438	6½
L.A. Clippers	5	8	.385	7

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 95, Philadelphia 88
New Orleans 100, Orlando 91
Milwaukee 106, Atlanta 94
Dallas 97, Washington 72
Denver 115, Cleveland 103

Today's Games

Boston at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Miami at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Memphis at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
New York at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Portland, 9 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

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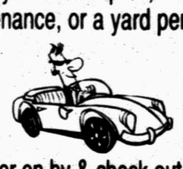
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A MESSAGE FROM THIS NEWSPAPER AND THE DPS TROOPERS

Scientists: Government pursuit overzealous

LUBBOCK (AP) — The researcher acquitted of most of the serious charges he faced after reporting plague samples missing from his lab was a victim of an overzealous prosecution, several scientists said.

Thomas C. Butler was convicted Monday on 47 of the 69 charges stemming from a federal investigation into his work with the deadly bacteria. He was acquitted on charges of lying to the FBI, smuggling plague samples into the United States and illegally transporting samples.

"There's a lesson in there for the Justice Department," Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists said Tuesday. "They overreached. The jury's verdict suggests clearly that the government was overzealous in this case."

Peter Agre, this year's Nobel Prize winner for chemistry who has worked with Butler and has known him for more than 25 years, also said the Texas Tech University professor was unfairly targeted.

"They are determined to find him guilty of something," said Agre, who is contributing some of the money he won from the Nobel prize to Butler's defense. "He's not a criminal. He's not a dangerous or reckless person."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dick Baker vehemently denied that contention.

"This was not a post 9-11 overreaction," he said. "This was not an overzealous prosecution. The defendant was charged with and convicted under statutes that have long been on the books that are there to protect the public."

Butler, 62, could be sentenced to 240 years in prison, though he faces fewer years under federal sentencing guidelines. He also faces fines up to $11.7 million. Sentencing probably will take place in mid-February.

Defense attorney Jonathan Turley said the convictions would be appealed.

On Jan. 14, Butler reported 30 vials of plague bacteria missing and possibly stolen. That report sparked a bioterrorism scare in west Texas, during which the director of the FBI and President Bush were apprised of the situation. Butler later admitted to accidentally destroying the vials.

Only three of the counts on which he was convicted stemmed from the original 15-count indictment. In September, prosecutors added 54 counts alleging he had illegal shadow contracts with pharmaceutical companies with which he also had clinical studies contracts. He was convicted of 44 of those counts.

Baker said the three convictions from the first indictment were the most serious.

Butler was convicted of exporting plague samples to Tanzania without required paperwork from the Department of Commerce, which carries a 10-year sentence. He also was convicted of mislabeling the package the samples were shipped in and illegally transporting hazardous materials.

Referring to the samples sent to Tanzania, Agre said: "No one was harmed and it wasn't an issue of bioterrorism."

On the shadow contracts, which also violated university policy, Agre and others said they are unaware of criminal cases ever being pursued based on disputes between researchers and institutions. Prosecutors alleged that Butler's contracts defrauded Texas Tech out of more than $1 million.

Long before the trial, the school attempted to negotiate the shadow contract issues with Butler, said M. Roy Wilson, president of Tech's Health Sciences Center.

Crucial oral arguments to be heard in Moussaoui's appeal

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — In a case with far-reaching implications for the war on terror, an appeals court is hearing arguments on whether the government should be barred from seeking the death penalty for Zacarias Moussaoui because it refused a judge's order to produce al-Qaida witnesses for his defense.

Three judges from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals today will conduct separate open and closed proceedings, the latter to discuss classified matters concerning al-Qaida prisoners the defense wants to question.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema has sided with Moussaoui, accused of conspiring in the Sept. 11 attacks, on several crucial pretrial rulings. Those rulings are the basis for to the government's appeal.

First, Brinkema issued two separate orders that would allow the Moroccan-born French citizen access to three al-Qaida prisoners held abroad.

The government refused to make the captives available, citing national security. To punish the prosecutors, Brinkema eliminated any evidence that could link Moussaoui to the suicide hijackings and barred the death penalty in his case.

The outcome of these pretrial disputes could determine the government's ability to prosecute terrorist suspects in civilian courts. If Moussaoui should win access to al-Qaida captives, future terrorism defendants could ask for the same consideration and probably force the government to drop some prosecutions or move them to military courts, where national security would be paramount.

The government says Moussaoui, 35, who admits to being a member of Osama bin Laden's network, is trying to injure national security indelibly by questioning al-Qaida captives, who may reveal classified information that could help other terrorists. The defense contends the government is preventing Moussaoui from exercising his Sixth Amendment right to call favorable witnesses, who might back up his contention that he was not part of the Sept. 11, 2001, conspiracy.

"The appeal is not just about trying a noncitizen who is an admitted member of al-Qaida," said Timothy Lynch, director of the project on criminal justice at the Cato Institute, a Washington think tank.

"This case is about, more broadly, the rights of any person who is accused of being involved in terrorism and whether that person, even if an American citizen, will be able to call witnesses he thinks can establish his innocence," Lynch said.

Legal observers expect a monumental legal battle that could reach the Supreme Court.

"This is Gettysburg," Vermont Law School professor Michael Mello said, comparing the Civil War battle that turned the tide for the North to a case that might determine the government's success in the legal war on terror.

"The whole point of the prosecution is to demonstrate to the world that Zacarias Moussaoui was implicated in Sept. 11," Mello said. "It was to put all the hijackers on trial, to put Osama bin Laden on trial. "Telling (Attorney General) John Ashcroft that he can't kill Zacarias Moussaoui is worse than telling him you can't try him at all."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Does this therapy help leg cramps?

DEAR DR. GOTT: In my local newspaper, a doctor extolled an unusual remedy for leg cramps: a bar of soap placed where the cramp occurs. What gives?

DEAR READER: This is a new remedy to me. Apparently, the doctor you mentioned has had great success with the technique of placing a bar of soap on the area that is cramping. Or, I am told, the soap can be placed under the bottom sheet near the legs.

I have had no experience with this therapy and cannot fathom why it would be effective, but I am passing it on to my readers as a potentially harmless and successful treatment for nocturnal leg cramps, a common annoyance. I would appreciate hearing from readers who have tried this technique. I'll write a follow-up when I get more information.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am concerned about my husband, who hasn't seen a doctor in years. Since his retirement, my husband has been chronically hot all the time, winter and summer, night and day. He sleeps with a fan blowing on him, lives a sedentary life, is overweight and refuses to exercise. What do you think his problem is?

DEAR READER: Overweight people are frequently quite tolerant of environmental cold; this is a normal physiological response. However, I'm concerned that your husband's preference could reflect a metabolic abnormality, such as an overactive thyroid gland. Therefore, I believe that he should see a doctor and be tested. In addition, that testing should also check for diabetes and high cholesterol, neither of which affects the perception of cold but could represent a hidden problem that should be addressed.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Losing Weight," which includes my "no flour, no sugar" diet. Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: How does a person age gracefully and successfully? Any guidelines?

DEAR READER: This is a very real and important challenge that has been addressed in several publications, most of which offer suggestions about how the elderly can look younger than they really are. In my opinion, trying to cover up the consequences of the aging process is a useless and unnecessary waste of time and money. Growing old gracefully is an attitude of acceptance, compromise and perspective. It is also a function of class, honesty and self-confidence. My advice is: be proud to look your age, give in but don't give up, carefully pick your role model. And, of course, aggressively treat any health problems.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-03-03
♠ A 9 6 4 3
♥ 6 4
♦ A 6 5 3 2
♣ 6

West
♠ K J 8
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q J 7
♣ J 9 5 3

East
♠ 10 5 2
♥ Q 9 7 5 2
♦ K 10 8
♣ 10 8

South
♠ Q 7
♥ A J 10
♦ 9 4
♣ A K Q 7 4 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 3

by feel, using their table presence to choose the winning move.

In this column, which would you be? Yes, you may hide your answer behind your breakfast!

You are South, the declarer in three no-trump. West leads the heart three: four, queen, ace. How would you continue?

There are two possible lines of play. One is clear-cut: You play clubs from the top, hoping for a friendly — but unlikely — 3-3 split. However, at the table, West won the fourth club and shifted to the diamond queen. When he was allowed to win the trick, West led his diamond seven. Declarer called for dummy's ace and played another diamond. But East continued the excellent defense by switching to a spade. Now South had to finish one down.

One declarer had an imaginative idea. At trick two, he led a low club! As South hoped, East won the trick and returned the heart five, his original fourth-highest. After South covered with the jack, West won with the king and returned his last heart. Suddenly South's hand was back in the sunshine. He got one spade, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs.

Away from the table, it is easy to say that the defenders should have played differently. But I think South deserved success for his enterprising effort.

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Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003

Seeing in your mind what they will think

y Phillip Alder

Willem de Kooning, a Dutch-born U.S. artist who died in 1997, said, "Style is a fraud. I always felt the Greeks were hiding behind their columns."

Bridge players have different styles. Some are technicians, always trying to find the theoretically best action. Others play much more

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.69	12.20	12.55	+ .09
AT&T Corp	20.39	20.11	20.36	+ .09
Albertsons	21.18	20.88	21.13	+ .15
Alltel	45.07	44.70	44.93	+ .04
AmEl Pw	28.03	27.85	28.03	+ .23
AndarkPtr	47.00	46.27	46.37	+ .30
ATMOS Egy	24.86	24.79	24.79	— .07
Aviall	15.96	15.75	15.85	— .11
BP PLC	43.39	43.16	43.22	+ .24
BakerHughes	30.12	28.74	28.96	— .54
Bank of Amer	76.40	75.59	75.72	— .09
BellSouth	26.94	26.73	26.90	+ .05
BurlNrSFe	30.17	29.79	30.13	+ .13
Caterpillar	76.33	75.61	76.32	+ .74
CenterPoint	9.90	9.85	9.86	
ChevronTex	76.73	76.07	76.69	+ 1.05
Citigroup	47.49	46.95	47.18	— .04
CocaCola	47.40	47.00	47.37	+ .36
ColgatePal	53.10	52.67	52.86	— .18
CmclMetals	26.40	26.23	26.25	+ .03
ConocoPhill	59.01	58.78	58.89	+ .19
Cooper Inds	55.09	54.77	55.06	+ .29
DaimlrChry	39.69	39.24	39.63	+ 1.09
DeltaAirl	12.29	11.90	12.03	+ .06
Dillards Inc	16.84	16.33	16.37	— .23
DowChem	38.92	38.40	38.83	+ .37
DuPont	42.91	42.44	42.82	+ .48
EastmanChem	37.22	36.98	37.14	+ .15
EstKodak	24.00	23.86	23.98	+ .04
EDS Corp	23.08	22.65	22.76	— .12
Entergy	54.50	54.25	54.47	+ .27
ExxonMobil	36.65	36.45	36.54	+ .04
FootLocker	22.55	22.27	22.51	+ .09
GenDynam	84.50	82.05	82.58	+ 1.63
GenIElec	29.70	29.49	29.51	+ .03
GenMills	45.88	45.44	45.80	+ .35
GenMotors	45.80	43.70	45.57	+ 2.29
GaPacific	28.95	28.43	28.47	+ .02
Goodrich	27.65	27.37	27.50	+ .05
Goodyear	7.20	6.95	7.20	+ .41
GtAtlPac	7.63	7.28	7.55	+ .18
Halliburtn	23.64	23.32	23.45	— .09
Hanson PLC	35.88	35.62	35.69	+ .94
HarteHanks	21.78	21.62	21.70	+ .11
HomeDepot	36.32	35.80	36.01	+ .14
HoneywellIntl	29.66	29.30	29.36	+ .11
IBM	91.44	90.81	91.01	+ .26
IntlPaper	39.44	39.02	39.10	
JohnsonJn	49.40	49.01	49.30	+ .35
KinderMorg	55.70	55.28	55.62	+ .45
Kroger Co	18.34	18.05	18.18	— .09
LockheedM	46.35	45.87	45.98	— .15
Lowes Cos	58.10	57.40	57.72	+ .17
Lubys	3.94	3.80	3.81	— .04
LucentTech	3.15	3.09	3.10	— .04
MarathonOil	30.45	30.00	30.00	— .19
MayDeptStr	29.50	29.22	29.44	+ .13
Medtronic	46.47	46.26	46.32	+ .10
Motorola	14.14	13.93	13.97	— .08
NCR Corp	35.25	34.88	35.02	— .01
Navistar	43.60	42.82	42.97	+ .07
PNM Rescs	28.30	28.14	28.21	— .20
Penney JC	25.49	25.20	25.33	+ .05
PepBoys	21.61	21.35	21.46	+ .21
PepsiCo	48.27	47.69	47.72	— .42
PhelpDodge	65.71	64.50	65.01	— .50
PilgrimsPride	15.19	15.00	15.10	+ .03
Praxair	73.76	73.30	73.61	+ .38
ProctGamb	97.10	96.18	96.50	— .43
RadioShack	30.26	29.45	29.53	— .79
RoyalDut	46.53	46.23	46.43	+ .47
SBC Comm	23.24	23.00	23.18	
SaraLee	20.81	20.41	20.79	+ .37
Scripps EW	92.80	92.20	92.29	+ .14
SearsRoeb	55.15	54.89	55.00	+ .06
SherwinW	33.27	32.85	33.27	+ .43
SouthernCo	29.89	29.60	29.86	+ .30
SwstAirl	18.22	17.91	18.17	+ .25
SprintFON	15.30	14.97	14.99	— .33
SprintPCS	4.55	4.40	4.51	+ .14
Sunoco Inc	49.00	48.73	48.83	— .19
TXU Corp	22.44	22.18	22.27	+ .03
TempleInland	59.95	59.42	59.90	+ .51
TexInd	29.98	29.80	29.84	+ .06
TexasInst	30.50	30.05	30.14	+ .03
Textron	50.99	50.64	50.74	+ .16
TimeWarner	16.73	16.50	16.53	— .16
TrinityInds	26.50	26.35	26.43	— .01
TylerTech	9.25	8.92	9.01	+ .04
UnionPacif	64.69	64.30	64.56	+ .02
USSteel	26.21	25.37	25.73	— .26
UnitedTech	88.32	87.26	87.66	+ .10
Unocal	32.29	32.00	32.07	+ .08
VerizonComm	32.69	32.30	32.43	— .14
WalMart	53.72	52.90	53.39	+ .37
WellsFargo	57.28	56.63	56.73	— .44
WstnGasRs	45.40	45.25	45.27	+ .16
WinnDixie	8.70	8.43	8.49	— .13
Xerox Cp	12.25	12.03	12.23	+ .23
YumBrands	35.41	35.10	35.34	+ .34

DEC 03 2003

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

HOW TO CARE FOR POINSETTIAS AT HOME
Ecke poinsettia 'Snowcap'
Encinitas, California

The Paul Ecke Ranch offers tips on caring for poinsettias — the traditional red and green flowering plant synonymous with the Christmas holiday season.

Location and Temperature: The poinsettia thrives on indirect, natural daylight.

Exposure to at least six hours daily is recommended. If direct sun cannot be avoided, diffuse with a light shade or sheer curtain. To prolong the bright color of the poinsettia bracts, daytime temperatures should not exceed 70F.

Avoid placing the plants near drafts, excess heat or the dry air from appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.

Water and Fertilizer: Poinsettias require moderately moist soil. Water the plants thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry to the touch. Remove the plant from decorative pots or covers, and water enough to completely saturate the soil.

Do not allow the poinsettia to sit in any standing water; root rot could result which could kill the plant. It is not necessary to fertilize the poinsettia when it is in bloom.

Outside placement: Since poinsettias are sensitive to cold weather, frost and rain, outside placement during the winter months should be avoided.

However, in mild climates, an enclosed patio or entryway may be suitable provided the night temperatures do not drop below 55 degrees F. Make certain the delicate bracts are wellprotected from wind and cold rain.

After the Holidays: When the bracts age and lose their aesthetic appeal, usually by late March or early April, cut the poinsettia back to about 8 inches in height.

By the end of May you should see vigorous new growth. Pruning may be required during the summer to keep plants bushy and compact, but do not prune after Sept. 1. Keep the plants in indirect sun and water regularly.

Place your plants outdoors: Where they can bask in the warmth of spring and summer — after outside night temperatures average 55F or above. Continue regular watering during the growth period. Fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks throughout the spring, summer and fall months with a well-balanced, complete fertilizer.

Around June 1, you may transplant your poinsettias into larger pots. Select pots no more than 4 inches larger than the original inner pot. A soil mix with a considerable amount of organic matter, such as peat moss or leaf mold, is highly recommended. If you wish, you may transplant the poinsettias into a well-prepared garden bed. Be sure the planting bed is rich in organic matter and has good drainage.

Reflowering: The poinsettia is a photoperiodic plant, meaning that it sets bud and produces flowers as the Autumn nights lengthen. The plants will naturally come into full bloom during November or December, depending upon the flowering response time of the individual cultivar.

Timing the bloom to coincide closely with the Christmas holiday can be difficult without the controlled environment of a greenhouse. Stray light of any kind, such as from outside street lights or household lamps, could delay or entirely halt the reflowering process.

Starting Oct. 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a totally dark room, or by covering them with a large box overnight.

During October, November and early December, the plants require 6-8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with nighttime temperatures between 60-70F.

Temperatures outside this range may delay flowering. Continue the normal watering and fertilizer program. Following this regime for 8 to 10 weeks should result in a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season.

Continued next week with caring for Christmas Trees

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Dansherm, CEA - Family and Consumer Sciences 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

Healthy Holidays Lighten Up

Holiday meals don't have to pack such a high calorie punch. Simple makeover tips can lighten a meal and keep the taste good:

- **Baked Turkey** — choose a plain bird over a self-basting bird to lower the sodium content. To ensure a moist bird, leave the skin on while roasting, don't over bake the bird, and pour gray on the meat after carving.
- **Gravy** — use a fat-skimmer cup or freeze the juices in a shallow pan so you can remove the fat. Save around 56 grams of fat per cup.
- **Dressing** — use a low-sodium boxed stuffing mix and add sauteed onions, celery, apples and cooked rice. Add a little more broth and bake for a half-hour.
- **Candied Yams** — Sweeten with apple or orange juice and add ground cinnamon. Omit the margarine or butter and marshmallows.
- **Green Bean Casserole** — cook fresh green beans with chunks of potatoes and fat-free half-n-half instead of cream soup. Top with almonds instead of fried onion rings.
- **Mashed Potatoes** — use skim milk, garlic powder and a little parmesan cheese instead of whole milk and butter. Use low-cal margarine instead of butter.

The Best Light Pumpkin Pie

This pumpkin pie saves 151 calories and 12 grams of fat per slice from the traditional version and it tastes identical!

1 cup ginger snaps
16 oz can pumpkin
½ cup egg whites (about 4)
½ cup sugar
2 tsp pumpkin pie spice (cinnamon, ginger, cloves)
12 oz can evaporated skim milk

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grind the cookies in a food processor. Lightly spray a 9" glass pie pan with vegetable cooking spray.

Pat the cookie crumbs into the pan evenly. Mix the rest of the ingredients in a medium-sized mixing bowl. Pour into the crust and bake until knife inserted in center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Store in the refrigerator.

Allow to cool and slice in 8 wedges. Optional: serve each wedge with fat free whipped cream.

Serves 8. Each slice:165 calories, 1.5 g fat, .5 g saturated fat, 1.5 mg cholesterol, 170 mg sodium, 32 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 6 g protein. Diabetic Exchange: 2 bread.

Fat Facts: 3.5 ounce servings contains fat g: turkey skin, 39; roast beef, 15; turkey wing with skin, 12.3; dark turkey meat with skin, 11.5; roasted ham, 9.0; turkey breast with skin, 7.3; turkey breast without skin, 0.7.

?Weather Whys?

Topic: Sleet

Q: What is sleet?

A: Sleet is rain that freezes into ice pellets before it reaches the ground, says Andrew Odins of Texas A&M University. "Rain will drop from upper warm air and then falls through a layer of freezing air relatively near the ground," Odins explains.

"Further cooling produces ice pellets, which we usually call sleet. 'Sleet' is usually a term used in America, and other countries refer to it in different ways, but it's the same thing: water that starts out as rain and becomes frozen into ice pellets."

Q: What happens when sleet hits the ground?

A: It tends to accumulate like snow and can form a dangerous glaze, says Odins. "Sleet frequently mixes with freezing rain.

"Sleet forms typically toward the north of a warm front, or in the cool sector, and is often sandwiched in or mixed with areas of snow and freezing rain. All of it tends to stick to the ground, car windshields, trees and just about anything it touches.

"For years, salt was used — and sometimes still is — to keep roads clear from sleet and ice because it melts the ice and keeps it from refreezing.

"But salt makes cars rust and over time, can destroy bridges and streets and also can cause damage to trees and water supplies.

"Sand is now used in many areas to clear away sleet and ice, but in heavy snow, salt is still the best, despite its many drawbacks."

ABOUT WEATHER WHYS....

"Weather Whys" is a service of Texas A&M University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Past and current topics can be viewed via the web at http://rev.tamu.edu/weather-whys/.

For more information, please contact Keith Randall at (979) 845-4644 or kr@univrel.tamu.edu. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to news@univrel.tamu.edu.

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1995 Chevy Corsica 4cyl, auto, a/c, 60k $2995
1997 Lincoln Towncar Signature, leather, alum., wheels, 57K $9995

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Prosecutors give first hint of slaying theory

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Scott Peterson, charged with killing his pregnant wife Laci, bled inside the truck he allegedly used to haul away the corpse of his slain wife, prosecutors contend.

In court papers filed Tuesday, prosecutors gave the first hint of their theory of the slaying, arguing to keep the pickup truck as crime evidence.

Prosecutors have never previously said Scott Peterson was wounded in the killing — saying he was injured either during or after the alleged attack on his wife — and have never publicly revealed where Laci Peterson was killed.

The mention that her body was trucked to Scott Peterson's nearby warehouse indicates prosecutors believe she was killed at home. It also explains why lawyers sparred at the preliminary hearing over a mop and bucket used to clean the couple's kitchen.

Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton said he wants jurors to view the pickup truck as part of the crime scene.

For their part, defense attorneys want the truck returned to Peterson's family because he faces mounting legal bills and continues to pay $643 in monthly auto payments.

Lawyers will argue the matter today when Peterson, 31, is scheduled to be arraigned in Stanislaus County Superior Court on two counts of first-degree murder in the killings of his wife and unborn son nearly a year ago.

Peterson, a former fertilizer salesman, previously pleaded innocent but faces a second arraignment after a judge ruled last month there was enough evidence to go to trial.

The arraignment marks the beginning of the next phase of the case as the defense seeks to move the trial out of Modesto, lawyers argue over the admissibility of evidence and the news media ask the judge to consider unsealing court documents and lifting a gag order in the case.

Laci Peterson, 27, a substitute teacher who was eight months pregnant with the couple's first child, was reported missing Christmas Eve after her husband said he'd returned from a fishing trip at the Berkeley Marina. Her remains and those of the fetus washed ashore in April.

Kiwanis/Goodfellows

Scurry County families may apply for Kiwanis/Goodfellow food donations by filling out this form. The deadline to apply is December 6th. Applications should be mailed to Kiwanis/Goodfellows, P.O. Drawer 112, Snyder, Texas, 79550

Home's Monthly Income $ _____

Do You Receive Food Stamps _____ AFDC _____ SS/SSI _____

Father of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Mother of Home _____

Age _____

Last or Present Employer _____

Work Phone _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Another Telephone Where You Can Be Reached _____

List Ages of Children at Home _____

Boys: _____

Girls: _____

Total Number of People at Home _____

Acceptance Cards will be mailed to only qualified applicants at their address.

Today's chuckle

Orangutans getting daily aromatherapy

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Zoo's four orangutans are smelling pretty good these days — they're getting daily aromatherapy treatments.

That means the 20-year-old ape Mias gets chamomile on his right ear, basil and angelica on his nose, and fennel, eucalyptus and frankincense on his forehead.

Keepers says the treatment has helped alleviate symptoms from allergies and an upset stomach.

In Allie's case, the 8-year-old primate became depressed when her mother died two years ago. She stopped acting like the silly adolescent she was before her mother's death, but that changed when she started receiving daily aromatherapy.

"When you see how goofy they are, this is how it should be," keeper Rhonda Pietsch said as Allie played in her cage after an oil treatment.

Practitioners of aromatherapy say their oils extracted from plants promote physical, spiritual and emotional health.

The Denver Zoo is believed to be one of the first to try it out on animals.

Geena Davis is expecting twins next spring

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar-winning actress Geena Davis is pregnant with twins, her publicist said Tuesday.

Davis is healthy and looking forward to the twins' birth next spring, said publicist Samantha Mast.

The 46-year-old actress and her husband, Dr. Reza Jarrahy, have a daughter, Alizeh, who was born last year.

She has been "concentrating on being a mom," but is scheduled to shoot a guest appearance on "Will & Grace" soon, Mast said.

Davis won a supporting actress Oscar in 1989 for playing the kooky dog trainer in "The Accidental Tourist."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003

The year ahead could turn out to be a unique one that will enable you to tap several new sources of opportunities to further your interests. They might be in areas you never thought to explore previously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Do not discount any clever ideas you get today on ways to increase your earnings or add to your resources just because they came to you out of the blue. You're tuned into the money line.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Rather than structure your day too tightly today, throw away your schedule and play things by ear. Spontaneous activities are likely to be the ones that turn out to be the most fun for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Circumstances may unfurl in such a manner today that you'll be able to conclude a matter which, up until now, has been impossible to settle. When it occurs, pounce on it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — This could be an exciting day for you. You will be able to see and understand several facets of life that were never apparent before and give you tremendous opportunities for growth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A couple of once-in-awhile opportunities of unique natures could be in the offing today. One of them might relate to finances, but the other has to do with advancing your ambitions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Although you may be the last person to realize it, you'll have a marvelous ability today for saying all the right things that will uplift those with whom you share your day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Those who are fond of you will sense your needs today and do nice little things for you to make your life easier — without being asked. You may not even know about it until you feel the effects.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — An answer to a dilemma for which you've been searching may fall into your lap today just when you're not looking. It could be a chance remark or something you stumble upon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You are blessed today with marvelous imaginative abilities, and this is the very thing that could give you an edge over your competitors. Let your mind run unfettered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Chances are the ideas and attitudes of others could easily rub off on you today, so stay away from the negative types and spend your time only with associates who view life optimistically.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You might hear about an interesting program today that has possibilities of benefiting your family. Research it well and think through how its pieces could fit into your family's situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Chances are that any important decisions you might have to make at this time will turn out quite advantageously. You're a fast thinker as well as the possessor of excellent judgment today.

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Auto companies adopt side-impact safety standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The auto industry is adopting standards to improve the safety of vehicles in side-impact crashes over the next five years.

The Washington-based Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents 10 automakers, plans to announce the commitment Thursday. The standards are voluntary, but automakers are expected to implement them by 2009.

Alliance spokesman Eron Shosteck said Tuesday that automakers adopted a set of performance standards that can be met through a variety of safety devices, including side-impact air bags and improved door beams and bumpers.

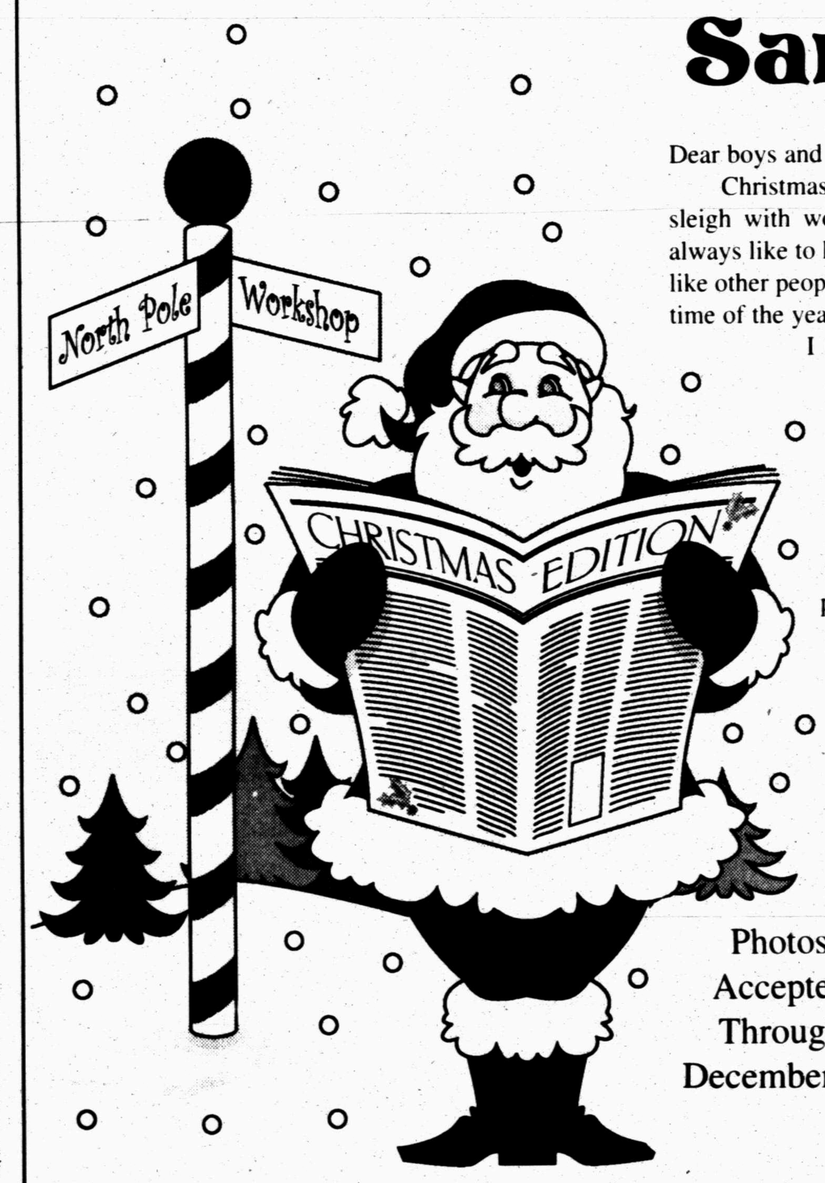
Shosteck said most automakers will be able to meet the new standards by adopting side- and head-protecting air bags. Automakers also may make design changes to the front of sport utility vehicles so there is a lesser height difference in collisions with passenger cars.

The Alliance and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which is funded by insurers, promised to develop the voluntary standards in February in a letter to Dr. Jeffrey Runge, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Some safety groups have argued against voluntary standards, saying they hold no weight because automakers can choose not to adopt them.

Runge has said voluntary standards can bring safety enhancements to the market more quickly, since the government's regulatory process can require years. Shosteck said the Alliance planned to send the automakers' offer to Runge on Tuesday.

Santa Photos



Dear boys and girls,

Christmas is only a few days away. I am already loading my sleigh with wonderful toys and many good things for you. I always like to know what good children want for Christmas, and like other people I enjoy seeing pictures of children at this happy time of the year.

I have made arrangements with the Snyder Daily News to publish photos of children in your area. Just have your mom or dad bring a photo of you to the Snyder Daily News office and make arrangements to have it published in the Christmas Edition.

You will need to provide your own photo for this special edition. After the photo has been processed your mom or dad can pick up the photo at the Snyder Daily News.

I hope to see your photo in the Snyder Daily News and wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas
Santa

Photos Accepted Through December 13

Trent and Trevor, 3-year-old twins of Bobby and Korie Allen, wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Trent would like Santa to bring him a new tricycle while Trevor is asking for a riding tractor.

Bring your favorite photograph of your child, grandchild or other children to the Snyder Daily News so that it may be included in the special "Christmas Edition". The photo will appear in the special edition along with the child's message to Santa for only $12.50. The Snyder Daily News reserves the right to reject photos not suitable for reproduction in the newspaper.

HAVE YOUR CHILD'S PHOTO AND MESSAGE TO SANTA PUBLISHED IN THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CHRISTMAS EDITION , DECEMBER 24.

QUALITY PHOTOS:

Due to reproduction requirements, photos submitted should be glossy prints. Pre-scanned, digital reproductions or digital discs cannot be accepted.

PHOTO RETURN:

For your convenience you may want to provide the Snyder Daily News with a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that your Santa Photo can be returned. Or you may wish to stop back by the Snyder Daily News office after Christmas and pick-up your photo. Photos not claimed by March 1, will be discarded.

For Only
$12.50
$3.50 extra for each additional person in the same photo

SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

DEC 03 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Direct vote for new legislature sought

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The head of the Iraqi Governing Council renewed his demand today that a proposed transitional legislature be elected by Iraqi voters, a move opposed by U.S. occupation officials.

Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a Shiite Muslim cleric who has recently been a vocal critic of American plans for restoring sovereignty to Iraqis, holds the rotating presidency of the U.S.-appointed council for the month of December.

His assumption of the post could point to rockier relations with American administrators. It also highlights the transformation of Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. Iraq's Shiite majority were oppressed under Saddam's regime, particularly religious leaders. Al-Hakim holds clerical status — unlike Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite who held the presidency earlier this year.

A Nov. 15 agreement between the council and L. Paul Bremer, the chief U.S. administrator calls for caucuses in Iraq's 18 provinces to select the transitional legislature.

Al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has insisted on a vote.

"The assembly will be elected by the Iraqi people. This is what we are trying to achieve and that's what, God willing, will happen," he said today.

Under the U.S. plan agreed to by the 25-member council, the legislature will elect a transitional government with full sovereign powers by July 1. Iraqis voters would then elect members of a constituent assembly in elections that would be held by March 15, 2005. They go back to ballot boxes before the end of that year to ratify a new constitution and elect a government that would take over from the transitional administration.

The coalition believes that a rushed general election could hurt Iraq's democratization process and may be hijacked by extremist Muslim groups.

From barns to museums, bill aims money at local projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — A $373 billion measure that finances the bulk of the government's domestic agencies also has money to boost Medicare payments to 21 Pennsylvania hospitals, help an oil museum in Texas and build a model of a mule barn in Illinois.

And the mule barn was sponsored by a Republican — whose party symbol is the elephant, not the donkey.

Following a long tradition, billions of dollars for thousands of such local projects, called earmarks, are sprinkled throughout the wide-ranging spending package. The measure combines seven unfinished spending bills for the budget year that started Oct. 1.

When lawmakers return Monday for what is expected to be a brief end-of-year session, the House will probably approve the legislation, which took up 423 pages of fine print in The Congressional Record. But disputes over gun control, overtime pay rules and other issues give it an uphill climb in the Senate, which might have to revisit it when legislators return in January.

Neither party has provided definitive figures on the number of earmarks. But one table alone lists 902 economic development projects worth $278 million, up slightly from the 882 items that cost $261 million in the same section a year ago.

Man arrested on theft by check warrant

• ***Arrest***

A 24-year-old man was arrested Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. on a warrant for theft by check.

Also on Tuesday, a 26-year-old man was arrested at 11:19 a.m. on a warrant for allowing an unrestrained child under four years in an automobile and failure to appear.

• ***Missing child***

A woman reported to authorities at 1:49 p.m. Tuesday that she was unable to find her four-year-old son. Officers responded and were able to locate the child who was transported to her aunt's place of employment. The child was later released to the custody of the father.

• ***Minor accident***

A minor one-vehicle accident occurred Tuesday 3:48 p.m. at the intersection of College Ave. and 27th St. involving a 1997 Ford pickup driven by Abigale Ruth Levens, 17, of Snyder. Levens was not injured in the accident.

• ***Burglary***

A caller reported at 9 p.m. Tuesday that a window in his house in the 2100 block of KSNY Drive was open. Officers responded to find that the home had been burglarized. A television and an air-conditioning unit were reported missing.

Five kids die in fire

ALVIN (AP) — With his apartment in flames, Salim Charina escaped, threw his arms up and screamed in his native Pakistani language as smoke wafted from his still burning body.

"He was burnt up and he was telling me: 'Go get my kids! Go get my kids! Go get my kids!" neighbor Michael Donald recalled. "The staircase was burning up real bad and there was no way you could get in to get the kids."

Charina's five young children died in Tuesday's blaze: Zain, 4; Zohaib, 3; Shafna, 2; and 2-month-old twins Amann, a boy, and Cyra, a girl. All were found upstairs in the two-story unit, authorities said.

Neighbors said Charina went back into his burning apartment twice. On one trip he pushed his wife from their second floor window in an effort to save her, apartment manager Carla Hernandez said. He went back in a second time to try and save the five children, including his newborn twins.

"He couldn't find any of the kids," Hernandez said.

Firefighters later found the bodies of the children.

Alvin Police Chief Mike Merkel said the fire struck the apartment unit rented by Charina and his wife, Candace Town, shortly before midday. The family had moved into the apartment about a month ago, Hernandez said.

The father was in critical condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital in nearby Houston with severe burns Tuesday night. His wife suffered possible vertebrae damage in the fall, Merkel said. A hospital spokeswoman said she was in fair condition.

Hernandez said she was talking to a resident next door to the family's unit when she heard a noise and went outside to see Charina already badly burned with smoke coming from his skin.

"I freaked out," she said. "I was like in a different world when I saw that. I have never seen that before in my life and then to know that those babies burned. It's just very sad. I just can't believe it."

Officials would not speculate on the fire's cause.

The complex manager said she had been encouraging residents to document instances of maintenance problems, including recent reports of electrical malfunctions at the $600-a-month units. She said she had informed the complex's owner of electrical and plumbing problems.

A representative of the complex's owner, who declined to be identified, told The Associated Press that management had not been formally notified of any electrical dangers.

Family friend Kasi McCarty said to support his family Charina worked long hours at a convenience store near Alvin, which has about 23,000 residents and is located about 25 miles south of downtown Houston, but made sure to spend each morning with his children.

The kids enjoyed picking out which breakfast cereal they would eat each morning and loved outings to Chuck E. Cheese.

Obituaries

George Jones Jr.

1946-2003

George I. Jones Jr. died at his home in Snyder on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Graveside service for Mr. Jones, 57, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Christian Church in Snyder. The Rev. Jim Hall, minister of the church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.

George Jones

Born on March 13, 1946 in Lubbock, Mr. Jones was postmaster at Colorado City and was to retire in March. He had served as an elder and a music director in the Snyder First Christian Church.

He had coached girls basketball and boys soccer in Lubbock several years.

His son, Chet, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Pam Jones of Snyder; his mother and father, Ava and G.I. Jones of Lubbock; and a brother, Don Jones of Lubbock.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the Lubbock Children's Home, P.O. Box 2824 in Lubbock, 70408.

R.L. Deere

1922-2003

LAMESA — Richard Leon Deere Jr., a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Dec. 1, at the Veteran's Hospital in Big Spring.

Funeral service for Mr. Deere, 81, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the Crestview Baptist Church with the Rev. Pat Githens, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the Fluvanna Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Home.

Born April 1, 1922 in Fluvanna to Richard Leon and Dephaine Hollabough Deere, he married Ruth Williams on July 14, 1962 in Lamesa.

Mr. Deere was a retired oilfield driller and also ran Deere's Phillips 66 Service Station for many years. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Deere of Lamesa; three sons, L.R. Deere of Dallas, James Yocom and Alan Yocom, both of Lamesa; five daughters, Mary Evans of Hobbs, N.M., Alice Brantley of Grand Prairie, Carla Turner, Debra Browne and Mendi Nelson, all of Lamesa; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

George McCoy

1922-2003

HAMLIN — George M. McCoy, a former resident of Snyder, died Sunday, Nov. 30, in a Hamlin hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. McCoy, 81, was set for 3 p.m. today in the First Baptist Church in Santo. Burial was to follow in the New Gordon Cemetery under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home in Strawn.

Born March 21, 1922 in Hillsboro, he attended school in Strawn and was a U.S Army Veteran of World War II. For his efforts in the Asiatic Pacific Campaign and Philippine Liberation, he was awarded five Bronze Stars.

He was employed by Shell Oil Company, then Getty Oil and finally Texaco/Shell for 35 years as a lease operator. During that time he lived in Snyder, Knox City, Aspermont, Boyd, Decatur and Paradise.

While in Snyder, Mr. McCoy became a member of the Masonic Lodge. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Santo and a member of the Texas Baptist Men's Retired Church Builders.

Survivors include two daughters, Cynthia Haynes of Odessa and Deborah Perry of Abilene; three sisters, Lela Olson of Stephenville, Mildred Choate of Abilene and Hilda Rucker of Denver City; and three granddaughters.

Tommy McMahon

1920-2003

BROWNWOOD — Tommy McMahon, stepfather of two Snyder residents, died early today in Brownwood.

Services for Mr. McMahon, 87, are pending at Hartland Funeral Home in Brownwood.

He was born on May 31, 1920 and was a former Snyder resident.

Survivors include his wife, Juanell McMahon of Brownwood; and stepchildren, Dawn Fish and Claude Smith, both of Snyder.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 12/4	Fri 12/5	Sat 12/6
61/33	49/18	52/29
Sunny skies. High 61F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper teens.	Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:30 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM	Sunrise 7:31 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM	Sunrise 7:32 AM, Sunset 5:37 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
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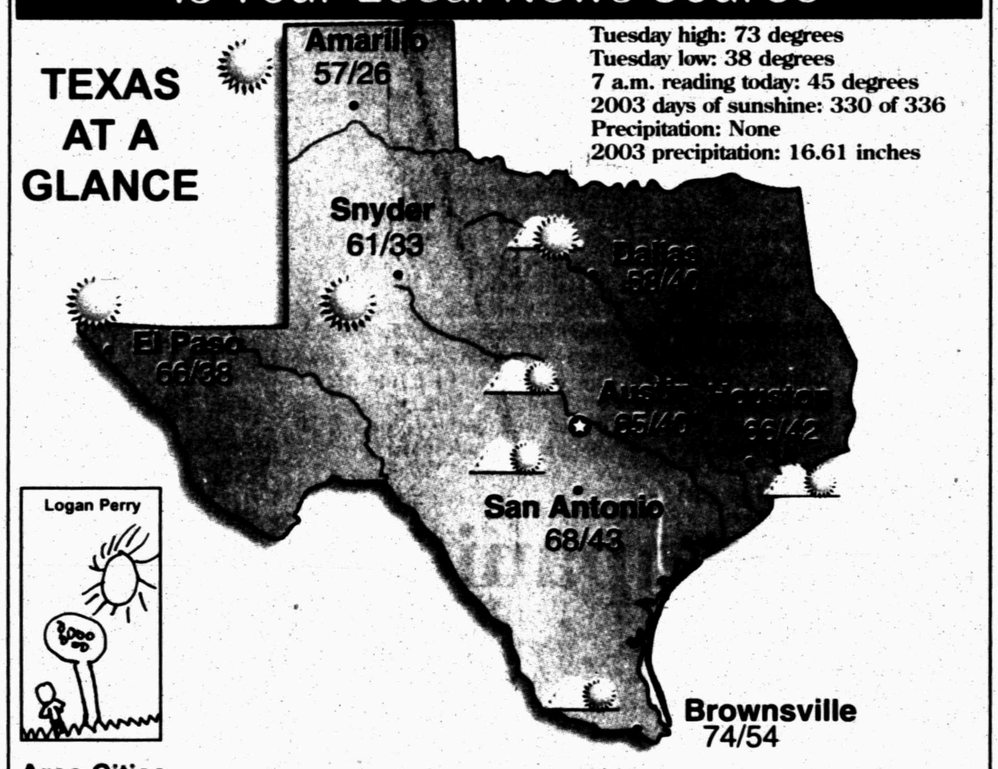
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Tuesday high: 73 degrees
Tuesday low: 38 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 45 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 330 of 336
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	36	sunny	El Paso	66	38	sunny	Midland	63	35	sunny
Amarillo	57	26	sunny	Fort Stockton	66	38	sunny	Raymondville	73	51	pt sunny
Austin	65	40	pt sunny	Gainesville	57	35	mst sunny	Rosenberg	66	42	pt sunny
Beaumont	65	42	pt sunny	Greenville	56	36	mst sunny	San Antonio	68	43	pt sunny
Brownsville	74	54	pt sunny	Houston	66	42	pt sunny	San Marcos	66	40	pt sunny
Brownwood	62	37	sunny	Kingsville	72	47	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	57	36	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	70	48	pt sunny	Livingston	63	38	pt sunny	Sweetwater	61	36	sunny
Corsicana	59	38	sunny	Longview	58	38	pt sunny	Tyler	58	37	pt sunny
Dallas	58	40	mst sunny	Lubbock	61	30	sunny	Weatherford	58	35	sunny
Del Rio	66	44	mst sunny	Lufkin	62	39	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	60	34	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	44	39	rain	Houston	66	42	pt sunny	Phoenix	76	52	sunny
Boston	35	24	mst sunny	Los Angeles	72	54	mst sunny	San Francisco	60	52	cloudy
Chicago	40	30	mixed	Miami	78	71	cloudy	Seattle	52	46	rain
Dallas	58	40	mst sunny	Minneapolis	33	29	sn shower	St. Louis	43	34	cloudy
Denver	44	20	mst sunny	New York	40	32	pt sunny	Washington, DC	42	30	cloudy

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Nov 30	Dec 8	Dec 16	Dec 23

UV Index

Thu 12/4	Fri 12/5	Sat 12/6
Low	Low	Low

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

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