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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

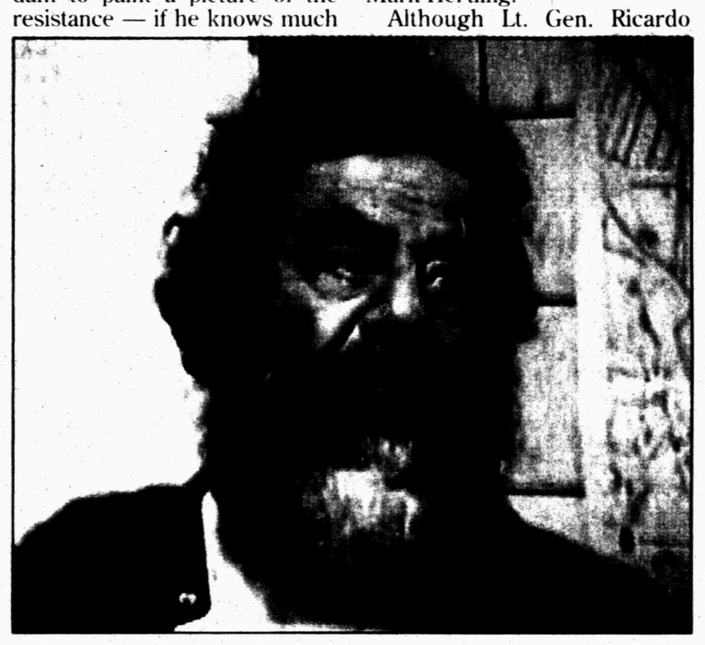
Dec. 15, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 196
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Leroy Brown

U.S. officials lay out priorities with Saddam

WASHINGTON (AP)— First, find out whether Saddam Hussein knows of any impending guerrilla attacks planned against U.S. troops or Iraqis.

Then ask where Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri and other remaining senior regime officials and insurgent leaders are hiding. Get Saddam to paint a picture of the resistance — if he knows much about it, which some U.S. officials doubt.



Saddam Hussein

Down the road, when his interrogators have perhaps established a rapport with him, or perhaps even broken his will to resist questions, try to answer the many unresolved questions about Iraq's efforts to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and ties to terrorists.

U.S. intelligence and military officials laid out these priorities Sunday for their interrogation of the ousted Iraqi president, believed to be under way already.

Today, a U.S. general said Saddam's capture is already providing intelligence that allowed U.S. soldiers to capture several top regime figures and uncover rebel cells in the capital.

The intelligence that led the military to the men came from the first transcript of Saddam's initial interrogation, and a briefcase of documents Saddam carried with him at the time of his arrest, said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling.

Although Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, described Saddam as talkative and cooperative, other officials shied away from suggesting that he has provided any useful intelligence in the hours since his capture.

"He has not been cooperative in terms of talking or anything like that," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told CBS' "60 Minutes."

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described Saddam's demeanor as sullen, not overtly defiant but sarcastic.

The immediate hope of American officials is that Saddam will have a wealth of knowledge on the guerrilla war being waged against the U.S.-led occupation force and their Iraqi allies, officials said.

It's a race against the clock since his information grows more outdated by the hour, and other regime leaders and cells change locations or take other security precautions to avoid capture.

It is unclear what evidence, if any, troops uncovered of Saddam's possible operational control over the resistance. Officials announced they found no communications equipment, maps or other evidence of a guerrilla command center at Saddam's hiding place.

"Given the location and circumstances of his capture, it makes it clear that Saddam was not managing the insurgency, and that he had very little control or influence," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "That is significant and disturbing because it means the insurgents are not fighting for Saddam, they're fighting against the United States."

The troops that caught Saddam found $750,000 in U.S. currency nearby, military officials said. It was unclear whether that money was to be used to finance the resistance.

In the longer term, intelligence officials hope Saddam will put to rest questions about the Bush administration's stated reason going to war — weapons of mass destruction and ties to terrorists.

Thus far, the hunt has not come up with much that would validate the prewar assertions by Bush and the U.S. intelligence community that Saddam had such weapons ready to unleash on short notice.

Perhaps Saddam could point to a hidden stockpile of weapons, if any exist. He may say what many of his former underlings have stated: Iraq didn't have any weapons and only low-level research and development programs.

His information may even be inaccurate. Some Iraqi scientists have said Saddam was misled by fearful minions into believing that Iraq's weapons programs were more advanced than they actually were.

The success of the interrogation depends on the skills and methods of the interrogators, who must divine aspects of Saddam's psychology and figure out the best way to keep him talking.

"They're going to use every interrogation method in the book, short of torture," said Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism chief. "What are they going to get from him? He's not going to admit he has done all these horrible things. He's going to say he was firm and fair."

Interrogators might initially appeal to him simply by making him comfortable, Cannistraro said.

"The guy's been hiding out for eight months. He must be completely depressed. Look at the way the guy's living. He was in palaces. Now he's living in a hole."

Council to hold callled meeting this evening

Snyder city council will meet in special session at 6:30 this evening and will council will consider the second reading of ordinances related to employee retirement benefits.

It will include allowing Development Corporation of Snyder (DCOS) employees to participate in the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

Other ordinances, if passed on second reading, will change the vesting period for retirement from 10 to five years, and change retirement eligibility from 25 years of service at any age to 20 years of service at any age for city employees.

Following the meeting, the city's animal shelter committee will meet.

Agenda items for the committee includes reviewing current ordinances related to animal control, plus review of proposed locations and developing drawings for a city-owned animal shelter.

Both meetings will be in council chambers at city hall.

Tuesday...

Chamber board will recognize new members

The board of directors of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Snyder Country Club.

Agenda items include board president David Harrell making appointments to the 2004 executive board, and the recognition of incoming members board members Dayton Robertson and Nancy Wilson.

Elliott Cox, Darren Jackson and Paula McWilliams, outgoing board members, will be recognized.

Four new chamber members will be recognized. New members are O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Doug and Susie White, Chicken Express and Cash and Pay.

SPREADING CHEER — Members of Snyder High School's "Students Helping Seniors" program put up lights at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins on 33rd Street. Ashley Martinez, Meagan Langham, April Lollar and Sara Thornhill are among a number of student volunteers who help senior citizens decorate for the holidays. (SDN Staff Photo)

Second wind farm for county still on target

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

The future of a proposed wind farm project in northeast Scurry County came into question last month when congress failed to pass an energy production tax credit.

However representatives of Wind-Tex, a turbine construction firm based in Abilene, has assured the commissioners court that the project will progress.

Steve DeWolfe, a Wind-Tex attorney, told the court that while the failure of the tax credit was problematic, he believed it would not be permanent.

"I've been assured that congress will pass the tax credit, but it's not known if it will be in January, February or March."

DeWolfe said May 1 had been set to finalize the contract and a target date of June 30, 2005 to begin operations.

DeWolfe expressed his interest in a discussion of possible tax abatements for Wind-Tex, who will be working in partnership with Windkraft Nord USA, a company that has developed more than 40 similar wind farms in Germany.

The court decided to wait until after congressional action before discussing the tax abatements.

In other action, the court unanimously approved a request to consider a joint Democratic and Republican primary for Scurry County.

Both party chairmen supported the suggestion of having all polling places combined in an effort to simplify the voting process and increase voter participation.

In other business, a bid for two sheriff's department patrol cars was unanimously approved from Wilson Motors for the purchase price of $18,517 each.

Additionally, a bid from A-1 Air Conditioning in the amount of $150,068 was accepted to replace the air conditioning unit at the Scurry County Coliseum.

The bid included the cost of two rotary-compressed units and new cement slab.

Just before lunch, the court met with representatives of the Scurry County Junior Livestock Association and the Best of Texas Livestock Show concerning utilization of of the coliseum annex for their shows rather than the main coliseum.

The county had made the suggestion in view of the planned installation of a new air conditioning system.

The county wants to protect the new system from dirt and other contaminants, and offered use of the annex free of charge.

The court recessed at 12:15 p.m. for lunch and were to reconvene at 1:30 to consider line-item transfers and budget amendments.

County Judge Rod Waller presided. Commissioners present were Chloanne Lindsey, Howard Limmer, Jerry House and Ralph Trevey.

Wind farm on HISD agenda

Hermleigh school trustees will hold a called session at 7 this evening to meet with representatives of Wind-Texas wind farms.

The company has announced plans to construct a wind farm in northeast Scurry County and part of the wind farm will be in the Hermleigh ISD school district.

The meeting will be in the high school library.

Santa Claus reminds everyone that there are
10
days until Christmas

Ira trustees to hold final 2003 meeting

Ira's school board will meet in a closed session Tuesday morning with attorneys to consider possible legal action against some petroleum companies concerning the possible underpayment of ad valorem taxes.

The trustees are expected to meet with representatives of the law firms of Perry & Kellogg of San Antonio, and the Helwig Law Firm of Denver City at their 7 a.m. meeting.

The same two law firms met with the Snyder ISD trustees last Thursday.

While in closed session, the trustees also will conduct Supt. Larry Devitt's annual evaluation.

New business items include the appointment of the 2003-2004 textbook committee, the consideration of the campus improvement plans, and a covering for the school's gym floor.

The meeting will be in the Ira community center.

ASK US

Q-What is the city's contribution to the employee retirement system?
A-The city matches an employee's contribution 2-1.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Janie Rodriguez...

...has lived in Snyder all of her life. She is a 1985 graduate of Snyder High School and now works for United Supermarket. She is the daughter of Mike and Mary Lou Rodriguez. She is single and when not working she enjoys spending time with her two dogs.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you want to be enthusiastic, act enthusiastic. Inner enthusiasm follows.
—William Ellis

DEC 15 2003

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

TSA booster club

The TSA booster club will meet at 7:15 tonight in the SHS shop building.

Coat drive underway

SISD, local businesses and organizations are sponsoring a coat drive through today to assist children and families in need. New or slightly used clean coats, hats, gloves and scarves of all sizes are needed. Collection sites are Humble Smith, Snyder CADA, chamber, WTSB, ASB, FAB, Texas Savings and SNB. If necessary, call 574-6012 or 573-1141 to schedule a collection. Coats will be distributed Dec. 17-18 at 1904 37th St. Schools will get coats prior to Christmas holidays. School principals may call above numbers to request a coat, etc.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "God Has Spoken Through His Writings," followed by "Don't Pay Too Much for Your Whistle."

Retirement reception

A retirement reception for Kathye Parker and Barbara Shipp will be from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday at the Snyder High School library.

Emmaus community meeting

The Mesquite Country Emmaus Christmas community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Bring desserts. Monetary donations will be accepted for the orphanage in Mexico.

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 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.

Hospice caregivers dinner

An appreciation dinner for past and present Odyssey Hospice caregivers will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist church fellowship hall. Harold and Zola Kornegy will furnish the fish.

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.

Mike Holmes retirement reception

A retirement reception for Snyder Junior High teacher Mike Holmes will be from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday in the junior high library.

Surprising Christmas Pageant

The Surprising Christmas Pageant will be performed by the children and youth departments of Trinity United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend.

House decorating contest

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

SHS volleyball banquet

Snyder High School volleyball awards banquet will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in Towle Park Barn. Tickets for parents and family are $5 and are available at the athletic office. There is no charge for players.

Smokey Bear posters

Smokey Bear posters for a contest sponsored by Snyder Garden Club must be turned in by Thursday 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.

FBC to present Christmas program

First Baptist Church will preset *A Family Christmas* at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, featuring more than 150 people. All are invited.

Goodfellows drive underway

Canned goods may be brought to any school campus and monetary contributions can be made at any financial institution for the Goodfellows Food Drive.

2004 Tiger's Lair yearbook

2004 Tiger's Lair yearbooks can still be ordered for $50 for the book only with additional options available for an extra costs. For more information, call 574-6138.

First Baptist support group

First Baptist Church sponsors a support group for persons facing difficulties — including cancer, divorce, grief, etc. It meets on the first floor Adult 6 Department at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

LVN testing dates

LVN testing dates are 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.

B-2 stealth bombers flying for decade

KNOB NOSTER, Mo. (AP) — To motorists enjoying the peaceful, rural scenery along meandering U.S. 50 in western Missouri, a stealth bomber's sudden appearance can be startling.

Knob Noster Police Lt. Jane Logan just chuckles.

"You always know the visitors and tourists, because they are pulled over on the highway shoulder to get a good look at it. But folks around here have gotten used to seeing that plane, and we like it," Logan said.

The plane is the B-2 Spirit, the world's most expensive aircraft at more than $1.3 billion apiece. All 21 of the United States' batwing-shaped B-2 bombers are based next door to Knob Noster at Whiteman Air Force Base.

On Wednesday, the town and the base will mark the 10th anniversary of the B-2's arrival at its Missouri headquarters, a mission that re-energized Whiteman, where the end of the Cold War also concluded its role as home of nuclear-tipped missiles.

The B-2 was untested in combat when the first one eased down to its new home in 1993. And there were doubts — about its cost, its versatility, even whether heralded radar-evading technology would work in rainy weather.

Then came combat missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan and, this year, Iraq, all providing endurance tests of the machine and its corps of two-person flying teams and support personnel. In October 2001, a B-2 flew the longest nonstop combat mission in history — 44 hours — making a round-trip from Missouri to strike targets in Afghanistan.

"The B-2 10th anniversary is a very exciting time because it's going to mark a maturation of the B-2. We have now sent this aircraft and its folks to war three times ... in all three of those conflicts, the B-2 has yet to be detected," said Col. Doug Raaberg, commander of the B-2s at Whiteman.

Raaberg likes to say that the B-2's main role is "kicking in the door" of targets with a combination of swiftness, stealth and precision munitions. The B-2 is now equipped to carry 80 precision-guided bombs, including the 5,000-pound "bunker busters" that laid siege to Saddam Hussein's fortified hideouts.

In an interview at his base office, Raaberg said the B-2 "is to always be at the leading edge of somebody's plan, and as part of that, we have demonstrated a capability to deploy, employ — which means do combat operations — and then be able to redeploy. We've done that now over 10 years."

Because of that record, Raaberg said the Air Force is ready to declare the B-2 "fully operational" as a weapon, "which sends a signal to combatant commanders that they can rely on the B-2, as they have already, anytime, anywhere, to do anything."

Missouri Rep. Ike Skelton, senior Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, landed the B-2 mission for Whiteman.

Pantex pays $60,000 in whistleblower case

AMARILLO (AP) — A former Pantex employee was awarded $60,000 in damages and attorney fees in a whistleblower case that ensued after he reported nuclear safety concerns at the nuclear weapons facility.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently ordered contractor BWXT Pantex and former Pantex contractor Mason & Hanger Corp. to pay restitution to Robert Burd. The federal agency found that the companies violated federal regulations that bar contractors from retaliating against whistleblowers who report nuclear safety problems.

Burd was fired from his job in Pantex's radiation safety division in September 2000 after an argument with his supervisor over a complaint Burd filed against Mason & Hanger Silas-Mason Co.

Burd had complained that another radiation technician had worked in the nuclear weapons facility for 24 hours straight.

George B. Brezny, director of DOE's Office of Hearings and Appeals, ruled on March 28 that Burd's complaint was a protected disclosure under federal whistleblower laws. He ordered BWXT to reinstate Burd, provide him with back pay and reimburse his attorney fees.

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6:30 p.m.

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World Almanac

Monday, Dec. 15, 2003

Today is the 349th day of 2003 and the 84th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1791, the Bill of Rights officially became law in the United States. In 1890, the great Sioux chief Sitting Bull was shot and killed at his cabin in South Dakota.

In 1961, former Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by a court in Jerusalem.

In 1964, Canada adopted a new national flag with a maple leaf design.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959), playwright; Tim Conway (1933-), actor, comedian, is 70; Dave Clark (1942-), musician, is 61; Don Johnson (1949-), actor, is 54.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1982, Bill Parcells became the 12th coach of the New York Giants.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "When a government takes over a people's economic life it becomes absolute, and when it has become absolute it destroys the arts, the minds, the liberties and the meaning of the people it governs." — Maxwell Anderson

TODAY'S FACT: The world's fastest insect is the dragonfly, which can hit a speed of 36 miles per hour.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 44.2 — average points scored per game by basketball star Pete Maravich while playing at Louisiana State University.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 8) and last quarter (Dec. 16).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-12-14-26-40. Bonus Ball: 6.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $8,604.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 19. Prize: $1,644.

Number matching four of five: 658. Prize: $102.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 573. Prize: $103.

Number matching three of five: 25,885. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,461. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 32,095. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $24 million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-7-20-21.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $40,036.

Winning tickets sold in: Houston.

Matching four of five: 137. Prize: $132.

Matching three of five: 4,520. Prize: $9.

Matching two of five: 44,922. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3
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High court to review lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said today it will settle a fight stemming from Vice President Dick Cheney's contacts with the energy industry as the Bush administration was drafting its energy policy.

The court agreed to hear an appeal from the administration, which is fighting a lawsuit over the relationships between industry and the panel Cheney assembled.

The watchdog group Judicial Watch and an environmental organization, the Sierra Club, had won permission from a lower court to gather records related to the energy task force.

The interest groups claim the task force's dealings should be open to the public.

The task force met for several months in 2001, and issued a report that favored opening more public lands to oil and gas drilling and proposes a wide range of other steps supported by industry.

The interest groups allege the industry representatives functioned as members of the government panel, which included Cabinet secretaries and lower-level government employees.

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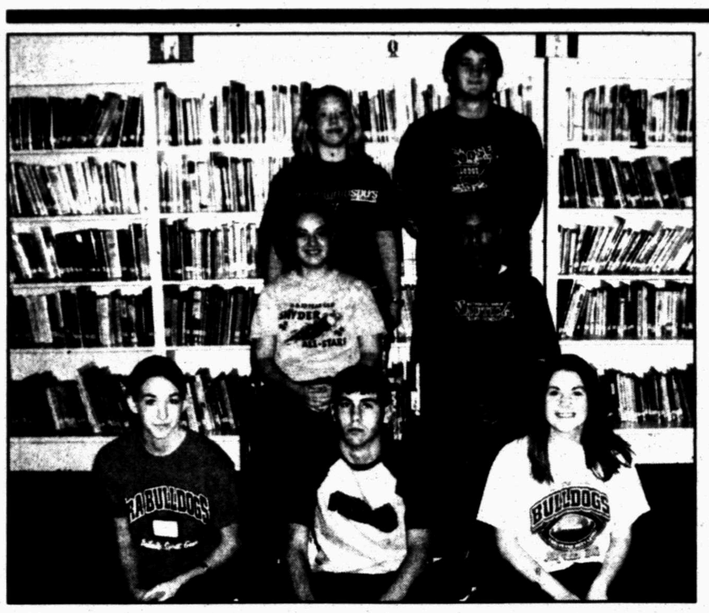
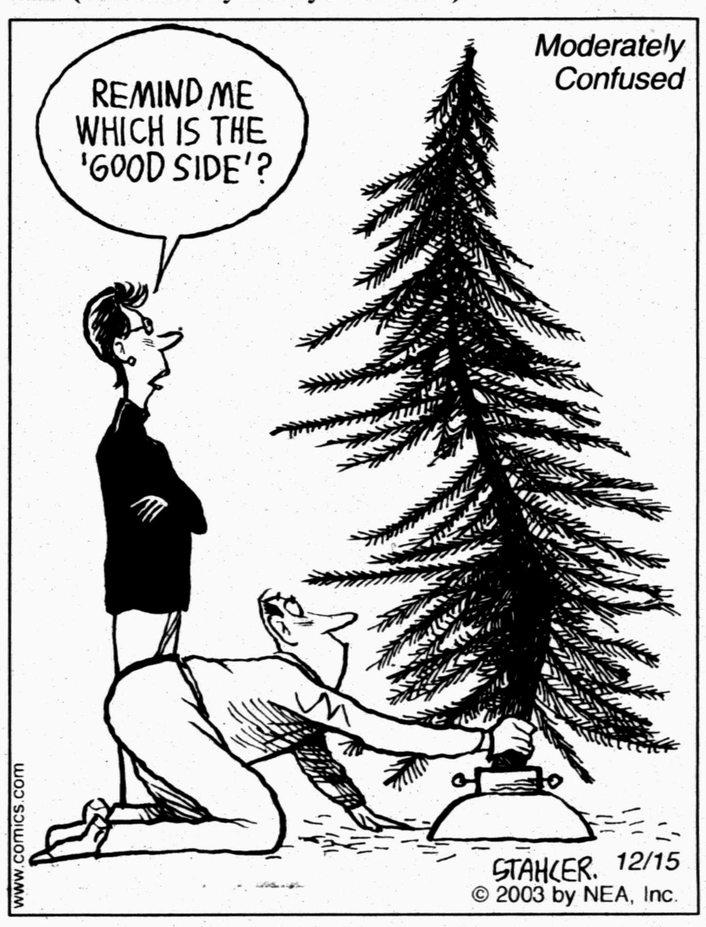


FAVORITES — Ira High School favorites for 2003-2004 are standing, Lacie Thompson and Jake Barnes, seniors; seated on chairs, Amber Sanchez and Jason Ramos, juniors; seated on floor, Whitney Payne and Jordan Lollar, sophomores; and Jessica Odom, freshman. Not pictured: Corbin Clements, freshman. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

MORE FAVORITES — Other favorites at Ira School for 2003-2004 are standing, Tony Martini, 8th grade; seated on chairs, Shandy McMullen and Austin Calley, 7th grade; and seated on the floor, Olivia Juarez and John Martini, 6th grade. Not pictured: Kaci Waller, 8th grade. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



Texas among top states in sales of poinsettias

McKINNEY (AP) — As Christmas Day nears, the sea of poinsettias brightening the greenhouses at Crump's Garden slowly shrinks.

"By the 19th, everything will be empty," said Bill Crump as he gazes at a seemingly never-ending blanket of bright red poinsettias.

Crump's Garden Inc., a family business just north of Dallas, grew about 75,000 poinsettias this year. About 5 percent of the crop was sold at Crump's retail store. The rest went to wholesalers who sell them to flower shops.

Crump is one of a number of Texas growers who has turned to poinsettias as a cash crop. Last year Texas ranked third in the nation in wholesale poinsettia sales. With a value of $14.6 million, the state came in behind No. 1 California ($38 million) and North Carolina ($17 million), according to the Society of American Florists.

"Poinsettias are the biggest single crop we do," Crump said, noting the flowers account for about 20 percent of the business' annual profits.

Poinsettias are part of the greenhouse and nursery industry, which ranks second in Texas for agricultural income. In 2002, the growers contributed $1.3 billion, or 10.6 percent, to the state's agricultural economy, ag department statistics show.

Cattle, which accounts for almost half of the agriculture income in Texas, is No. 1 with $6 billion. Cotton contributed $974 million, or 7.7 percent, last year to come in at No. 3, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"Overall, poinsettias are the number one potted flowering plant in the nation," said Jenny Stromann, manager of consumer marketing with the Society of American Florists.

Poinsettias were introduced to the United States in the 1820s by Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico. He brought the Mexican and Central American plant to the United States and they have grown in popularity since then as a holiday decoration.

"I think it's just become a tradition for a lot of people," Crump said. "That red is just so pretty."

Red is the most popular color, representing 76 percent of poinsettias sold in 2002, according to the Society of American Florists. Coming in a distant second was pink (7 percent), followed by white, purple, peach and yellow.

Today's chuckle

Early Christmas gift: Son home from Iraq

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) - There are still plenty of shopping days left until the holiday, but Debbie Touchette's Christmas wish has already come true.

She found her gift - almost 6 feet tall and wrapped in a desert camouflage uniform - among the holiday decorations at a local shopping mall.

Touchette and her sister, Nancy Thiel, were at the mall Saturday telling Santa what they wanted. In addition to diamonds - an annual request - Touchette said she wanted her son safely home from Iraq.

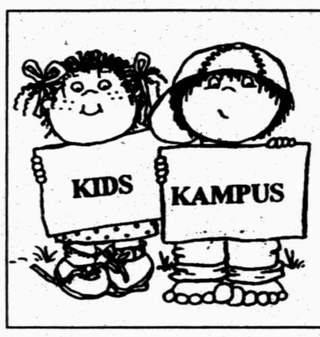
Then she found Pfc. Bobby Touchette, 20, in among the Christmas ornaments.

"Oh, my God," the Prosser woman said, reaching out to hug the young man she had not seen in more than a year.

"What better Christmas present could I give than coming home and surprising her?" he said.

Touchette's son has been in the Army for about two years and in Iraq for the past nine months. When he learned two months ago he'd be home for the holidays, he told Thiel and his father, Bob Touchette, that he wanted to surprise his mom.

"It's been a tough secret to keep," his father said. "She's been so down and out about him not being here, and it's been tough not to break down and tell her."



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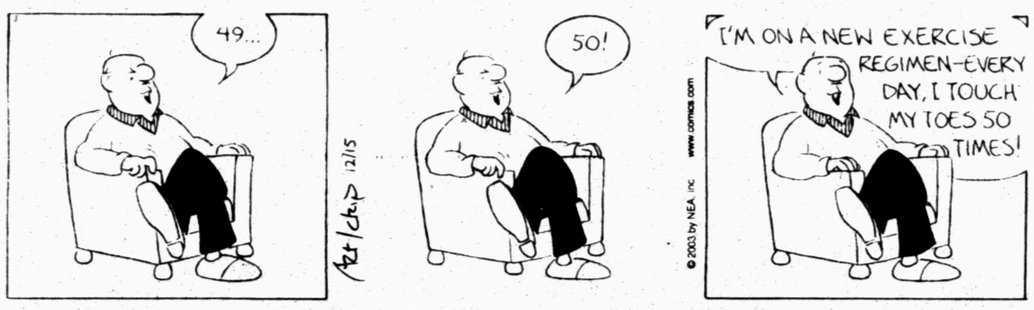

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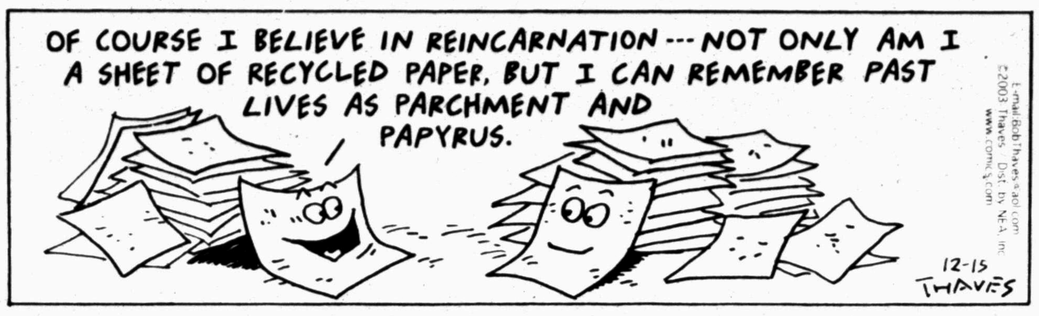
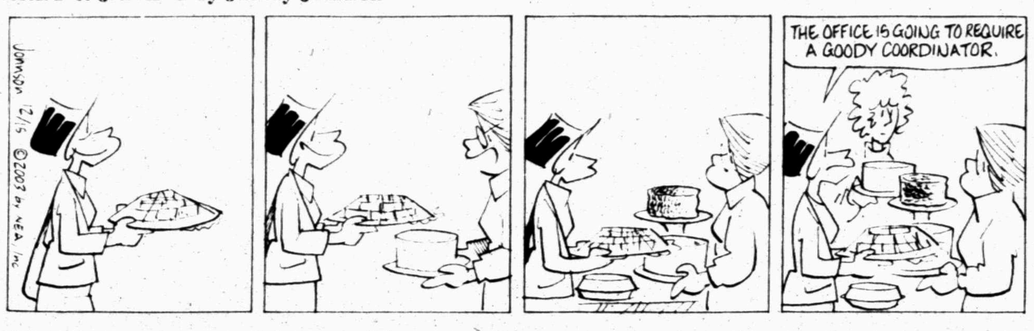


ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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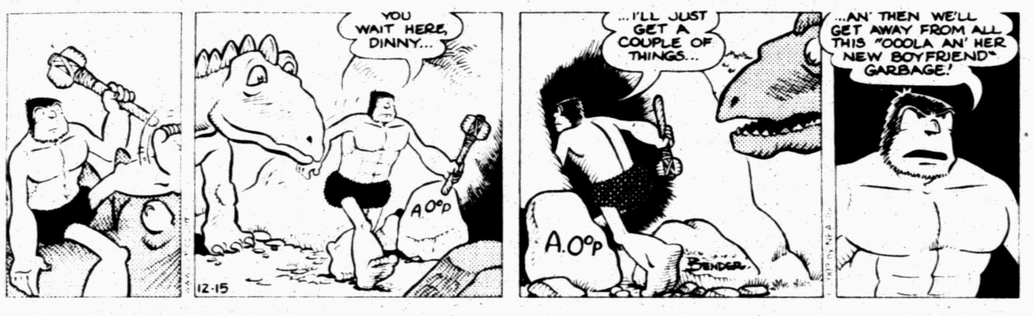

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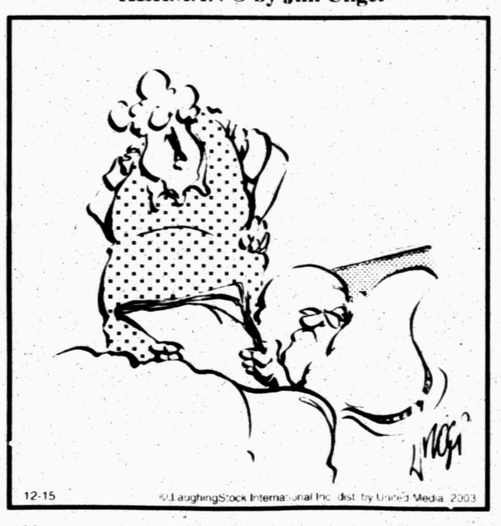

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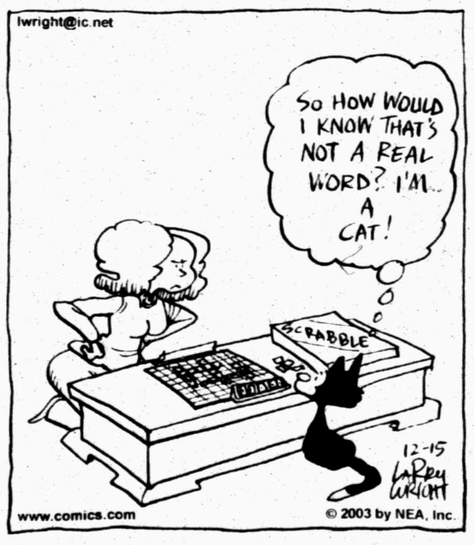

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Scale meas.
4 Avoid
8 Throw slowly
11 — vera
13 Steelmaker's fuel
14 Knot-tying words (2 wds.)
15 Bottle
16 Copied
17 Lions' spot
18 Dismay
20 Hairdo feature
21 Crest
22 HBO receivers
24 Rodents
27 More frilly
30 Woe is me!
31 Contented sound
32 Immeasurable time
34 Cager — Holman
35 — -finding mission
36 Swit co-star
37 Vassal's oath
39 Rumpled
40 Entitled to
41 Fallen tree
42 Highway
45 Seizes the throne
49 Acorn bearer
50 Plug up
53 Disorder
54 Herr in Madras
55 Candy-striper
56 Wild plum
57 Worker's ID
58 Deep-dish desserts
59 Horror-film street

DOWN

1 Volcanic flow
2 Radar object
3 Cleanser
4 Cut too short
5 Short flight
6 Luau strings
7 Writer — Buntline
8 A Minnelli
9 Nose stimulus
10 Car-wheel lock
12 Makes glad
19 — Angeles
20 Pressure meas.
22 Lemony
23 Movie rental need
24 Cargo hauler
25 Norse king
26 Recent
27 "Peanuts" kid
28 Morays
29 Closet needs
31 Liver paste
33 Voice vote
35 Winter ailment
36 Bodes
38 Supplement
39 Calendar divs.
41 Fast sleds
42 MacDonald of whodunits
43 Bireme movers
44 Quite similar
46 Rub the wrong way
47 Summer hangout
48 Stalk
50 Twist-off —
51 Twice XXVI
52 Byron work

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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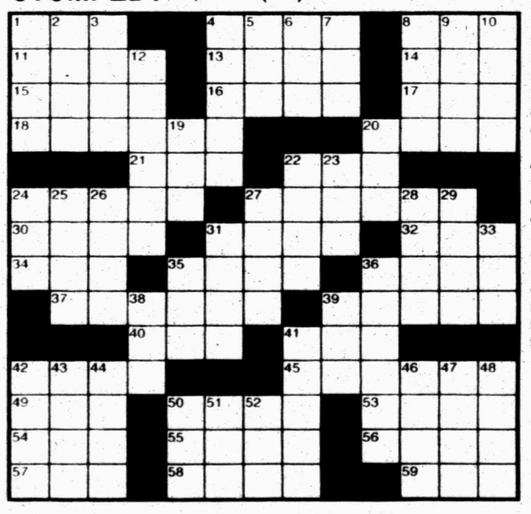

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"EE-YUK! MARGARET JUST SHOWED ME WHAT MISTLETOE IS FOR!"

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SPORTS

Cowboys pick apart Washington offense

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Tim Hasselbeck's quarterback rating at halftime was 1.7.

At the end of the game, it was 0.0.

And that's only because it couldn't be negative.

Capitalizing on a miserable game from a quarterback making his third NFL start, the Dallas Cowboys had four interceptions and allowed just 161 yards of total offense in Sunday's 27-0 victory over the Washington Redskins.

"We really wanted to leave that goose egg on the board," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said. "We just kept reinforcing it to each other: Let's not let them score."

Rookie Terence Newman tied a team record with three interceptions, picking off two bad throws and getting the third off a deflection. Even accounting for Hasselbeck's unforced errors, the Dallas defense was solid once again after struggling in back-to-back losses to Miami and Philadelphia.

Players credited the turnaround to a Friday night steak dinner, suggested by linebacker Al Singleton and attended by the entire defense.

"It was just a night out, a good break after two weeks of getting slammed the way we have defensively," safety Darren Woodson said. "I'm not saying we've been going at each other, but I think there's been some tension amongst ourselves because we haven't been playing that well. There was a lot of pressure on us. Al just wanted us to get way and relax, because it has been pressure-filled at practice."

Coach Bill Parcells applied the pressure, and it seemed to have worked. The Cowboys (9-5) remain in good position for a wild-card berth in his first season with the team.

"I kind of put their backs against the wall a little bit," Parcells said. "And they responded well."

In driving rain and mud, Troy Hambrick ran for a career-high 189 yards in the first shutout in the Cowboys-Redskins rivalry in 32 years. The loss eliminated Washington (5-9) from playoff contention and guaranteed a second straight losing season. They have lost 12 of 13 to Dallas.

"We got embarrassed today, and it had to be Dallas who did it to us," cornerback Fred Smoot said. "We should have had a different passion to this game. I'm going to carry this loss into the offseason and next year, because I never want to feel like this again."

The Redskins hadn't been shut out at home in 10 years. Coach Steve Spurrier was held scoreless in a regular-season game for the first time since he was with Duke in 1987, and he opened his news conference with tongue-in-cheek references to his punter and kicker.

"Bryan Barker punted well. John Hall didn't get a chance to do too much. I don't know what else to say," Spurrier said. "They kicked our tails pretty good."

Hasselbeck was 6-for-26 for 56 yards and had numerous batted balls at the line of scrimmage in his third NFL start. Most of the offense came from Rock Cartwright's career-high 94 yards rushing.

Hambrick ran through gaping holes for 12 and 15 yards on Dallas' opening drive and had 13 carries out of 15 plays over three drives to put the game away in the fourth quarter. His last run was a 42-yard scamper.

Lady Tigers down Wylie to capture Catclaw tournament

ABILENE — The Snyder Lady Tigers won their second tournament in as many weeks, downing host Wylie, 52-47, in a wild championship game to hoist the Catclaw Tournament trophy.

Terann Ragland scored eight points in a crucial 60-second span late in the fourth quarter to help Snyder retake a lead they held from the outset but lost with just over three minutes left in the game.

"This was pretty big — all three games we played were pretty tough," Snyder head coach Mike Martin said. He said he was proud of the way the Lady Tigers reacted to losing the lead, but was unhappy with the way the team squandered the advantage.

"We weren't pleased with the things that led up to them getting lead," he said. "We made mistakes, but once they got the lead, our kids responded."

Senior Erin Burleson was named tournament MVP after drilling five threes and scoring 19 against Jim Ned. She hit for nine against Wylie in the title game.

Ragland finished with 20 points, nailing three attempts from behind the arc and hitting 3 of 5 free throw attempts, earning her a spot on the all-tournament team.

Jordan Stansell helped the Tigers reach the championship game with 11 points against Jim Ned in the semifinals, and added six against Wylie.

Snyder continues to get solid contributions from its freshmen, but also from sophomores Sequoya Powell, Sirena Medrano and Teddi Crenwelge.

Powell scored a season-high 14 against Jim Ned and contributed two points in the championship game. Medrano had 17 over the last two games of the tournament.

Crenwelge scored seven of her eight points against the Lady Bulldogs in the first period, as Snyder jumped out to 12-2 lead, a margin it held throughout much of the first half.

Martin said he is getting solid play from his young team, but would like to see everyone play well at the same time.

"Not any doubt they are playing well, but they're taking turns," he said. "If we get everybody playing at the same time we'll be a pretty good team."

The Lady Tigers host Brownfield at 6:30 tonight at Tiger Gym.

Lake View 59, Snyder 44

Lake View topped the Tigers for the second time this season, outlasting Snyder to claim the consolation bracket at the Catclaw Tournament.

The Chiefs pounced on the Tigers early, opening up a 17-6 lead at the end of the first, expanding it to 31-11 at halftime.

Austin Hatfield led the Tigers with 11, and Lee Scott pumped in 10 for the Tigers.

Marcus Villarreal added nine, and Lico Castillo and Isaac Ramon contributed four apiece.

The Tigers travel to Big Spring Tuesday for a 7:30 p.m. tilt.

SJHS 8th Gold boys win Post tournament

POST — The Snyder eighth-grade Gold boys remained undefeated on the season, claiming the Post Tournament with a 44-27 victory over previously undeaten Lubbock Roosevelt.

Lance Day led the way with 23 points for the junior high Tigers, who blasted through the competition after a relatively close battle with Slaton in the tournament opener.

Ryan Claxton and Brooks Gafford each added six, and Brent Bollinger knocked in three for the victors.

Blane Knipe, Dustin Murdock and Allen Jones each scored two.

The team reached the finals with a 47-18 shellacking of Tahoka.

Day again paced the squad with 11, Claxton hit for nine and Bollinger pumped in eight for Snyder.

Knipe scored five against Tahoka, while Murdock and Colton Brewster recorded four each.

Travis Hatfield, Gafford and Jones each contributed two.

The team topped Slaton, 28-20, in the first round behind nine points from Day and six each from Claxton and Gafford.

The seventh-grade Gold boys were the runners-up at the Post tourney, falling to Post in a hard-fought, 37-32, championship game.

Snyder beat Slaton, 38-26, in the first round before slipping past Colorado City, 16-10, in the second.

The team improved to 5-1 on the season.

"I thought we grew up as a team in the tournament, especially in the final game against Roosevelt," coach Reagan Key said. "I'm super proud of each kid. However, we can't become complacent. We have to continue to work hard and get better at some things."

Girls Gold teams third

LAMESA — Both Snyder Junior High girls Gold teams earned third place at the Lamesa tournament over the weekend.

The eighth-graders got 15 points and nine boards from Audrey Jones, and Devin Davidson added 10 points in a 30-17 win over Big Spring for the third-place crown.

Jordan Derryberry and Allison Sharrock each tallied four points, and Caylea Rhodes added two points and swiped six steals in the win.

The team crushed Sweetwater, 34-10, in the opening round.

Jones scored 15, Davidson hit for 10 and Rhodes and Derryberry each added two.

The team fell to Denver City, 27-20, in the second round.

The seventh-grade Gold squad demolished Big Spring, 58-9, to capture the third-place game.

Brittney Mitchell knocked in a game-high 25 and Brittney Webb tallied 14 points in the victory.

The squad pounded Sweetwater, 43-19, in the opener as Briana Bryant cashed in for eight, while Mitchell added 13.

A close, 37-33, loss to Greenwood knocked the junior high ladies from the championship bracket.

Jessica Sandoval and Mitchell each scored 11 for the team.

All the girls junior high clubs will battle Sweetwater Jan. 8.

Ira clubs improve at Ozona

OZONA — The Ira girls put together a complete game in the ninth-place contest at the Ozona Tournament Saturday, with three players scoring in double figures in a 56-27 rout of Christoval.

"We played extremely well the entire game, and everyone got extensive playing time," head coach Brent Parr said. "It was the best execution, overall, for the season."

Amanda Calley tallied 19, Kelbi Pitner connected for 17 and Lindsey Wilson added 13, as the Lady Bulldogs jumped out to a 28-8 first-half lead and never looked back.

Wilson was named to the all-tournament team.

"We are beginning to play better," Parr said. "We still have a lot of room for improvement, but I'm proud of the way we are maturing as a team."

Whitney Payne scored three and Amber Sanchez and Brittany Dickerhoff added two each.

Ira was in the ninth-place game after a near miss against Ft. Stockton in the previous round.

After allowing the Lady Panthers to run up a 30-16 halftime lead, the Lady Bulldogs roared back, limiting Ft. Stockton to two fourth-quarter points in a 44-43 loss.

Ft. Stockton's only fourth-quarter basket was the game winner, coming with :16 left in the game.

Ira had an opportunity to get the win, but the final shot rimmed out.

Wilson led all players with 23 points, and Pitner collected 10.

Amanda Calley and Kate Wall each had seven, and Dickerhoff added a field goal.

The Lady Bulldogs travel to Rotan Tuesday, with the game being rescheduled for 4 p.m.

The Bulldogs went 1-3 in the Ozona tourney, falling to McCamey, 48-43, on Saturday.

"We got better and got experience against quality teams," head coach Randy Jones said.

The Bulldogs got 17 points from Jess Wall and 15 from Jake Barnes in the final game, and Jones said the Ira offense is currently run through those two players.

Barnes was named to the All-Tournament roster.

After losing to Ozona in the opener, the Bullogs beat Brooksmith in the second round, using 24 points from Barnes and 13 from Wall for the victory.

Ira then fell to Christoval, 64-43, in the third round of the tourney, despite 17 points from Barnes and 15 from Wall.

Ira travels to Rotan Tuesday for a 5:30 showdown with the Yellowhammers.

Men's League Basketball

West Texas State Bank held on to its one-game lead in men's league basketball with a 72-71 win over Big Country Sunday.

WTSB's Ryan Braziel led all players with 49 points, and Brady Cobb added 26 for the winners. Jeremiah Roden paced Big Country with 23.

Snyder National Bank thumped Rotan, 99-69, behind 37 from Greg Greer and 26 from Marquise Lenard.

Jason Wishert led Rotan with 29.

WTSB	9-2
ASB	8-3
SNB	7-4
Rotan	2-9
Big Country	2-10

Sports Briefs

Players move during busy weekend

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Former American League MVP Miguel Tejada agreed to a $72 million, six-year contract with the Baltimore Orioles — the longest and richest deal of the offseason so far.

Tejada, 27, hit .308 with 34 home runs and 131 RBIs in 2002 to help the A's win 103 games and the AL West. After the season, he won the MVP honor.

But last year he slumped to a .278 average with 27 homers and 106 RBIs.

The World Series champion Florida Marlins traded outfielder Juan Encarnacion to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday for a player to be named.

Free-agent closer Keith Foulke reached agreement with the Boston Red Sox on a deal that guarantees him $24 million, choosing Saturday to join the escalating arms race in the AL East rather than re-sign with Oakland.

Foulke has incentives that would pay him up to $26.5 million if he is the regular Red Sox closer for the next four years.

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Home & Business
Networking Software & Hardware upgrades. Complete new systems at very competitive prices. **574-1885** after 6p.m.

Duke and Son
Concrete, Masonry, House Leveling, Patchwork (brick & concrete). 573-5911, 573-2477

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

BAR-R-DOZER
-Raygene Shipp-
•Brush control
•Road blading & repair
•Cleaning & building tanks
Free Estimates
No charge for road time!
325-338-5656 325-962-2416

Housecleaning
For the holidays or on regular basis. Responsible, mature, and dependable. References.
573-0722

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 325-573-8264

Employment

Full-time secretarial position. Apply at Texas Workforce Commission, order #1240620. EOE Employer paid ad.

Full-time Secretary
First Baptist Church. Looking for a multi-tasked person with strong organizational skills and strong computer skills. Pick up application at 1701 27th St.

Housekeeper
needed part-time at Purple Sage Motel, weekdays and some weekends. Needs phone. Must be non-smoker & hard working. Training & uniforms provided. Apply in person.

NEEDED
OTR flatbed truck driver. Minimum 4 years experience, clean driving record. Come by 3707 College Ave. or call 573-3032, ask for Rudy.

Night clerk, Friday & Saturday, 11p.m.–7a.m. Smoke free office. Computer skills helpful but will train. Apply in person, **Purple Sage Motel**.

Personal Care Attendants
needed immediately in Snyder area. Call 325-677-2047 or 1-800-671-2369, ask for Tonya.

CHURCH ORGANIST
wanted to play for Sunday morning services, special evening services, & Wednesday evening choir practice. First Presbyterian Church, Snyder. Call church office at 573-6915, leave message.

Employment

Opportunity for experienced auto parts counter person. Benefits include: paid medical insurance, profit sharing/401k, paid vacations. Send resume to:
1905 35th St.
Snyder, TX 79549
or call 432-528-0169 for interview.

SUBWAY
Applications now being accepted.
Apply in person only,
3903 College Ave.

Weaver Pipeline Services
Roustabout Crewmen, & Welder's Helper
Requirements:
21 years of age and older
Driving record must meet insurance requirements
Benefits:
100% Employee Health/Dental Ins.
401K Retirement Plan
Physical/Drug Screen
4668 FM 1607
Applications will be accepted for 1 week only
(Apply In Person, NO CALLS)

Farmer's Column

$1000 REWARD
for information on 7 stolen calves. I will not prosecute the informer. George Maule

Farm Equipment

8400 Tractor, MFWD, 4700 hours. Clean! $64,000
325-868-0139 325-573-0878

Recreational Vehicles

1997 Coleman Bayport fold down camper, sleeps 6, AC. Extra clean! $3,900
Financing available.
See at Dupree Automotive
1212 25th St. 573-9001

ATC 200X Yamaha 3 wheeler. Runs good. $300 574-1885 after 6p.m.

Merchandise

COMPUTERS FOR SALE
Good working used computers. Complete video, sound/speakers, modem, internet ready, monitor, keyboard & mouse.
STARTING at $45.
Call 432-263-0700, BIG SPRING .

Firewood!! Mesquite & Oak
Local cutter. Part seasoned. 24"-22"-20"-18". Some split. Delivered
573-1216, leave message

FOR SALE
black, medium duty, 2 axle utility trailer w/ramps, 2003 model.
817-825-1129 or 573-4882

Great Holiday Gifts
Shelled pecans for sale.
573-2505

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

HOMEOWNERS LOOK!!
Builder's Special - Truckload Trees
Red Oak & Live Oak
We Deliver, We Plant, We Guarantee
Decker's Farm Supply & Nursery
Stanton, TX 432-756-3444

Mesquite Firewood
$80 cord $15 extra for delivery & setup. Call 573-4949.

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

Merchandise

Mesquite Firewood
½ cord, cord. Custom cut any size. Split & delivered.
573-7683 after 7p.m.

SANTA SPECIAL
Metal detectors by White's Electronics.
325-728-2494 Colorado City

Unique Christmas Gifts
Metal windmills, 11"–18", all colors. Come by 303 36th St.
573-5291

Garage Sales

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

Apartments For Rent

College Park Apartments
4503 College
2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex.
Locally owned.
575-3084 573-0340

January Move In Special
Call For Details
Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2 bath
W/D Connections, Pool & Playground

Houses For Rent

***2-1-1** 118 Browning
$200/mo., $100/dep.
***2-1** 212 35th St.
$250/mo, $100/dep.
References required.
1-888-596-6218 1-325-669-1501

Heritage Homes Realtors
3741 Highland 2-1-1
$375/mo., plus deposit
Call Shirley Drum
573-5056 207-0506

Wonderful luxury town home. Spacious master suite downstairs, guest room & bath upstairs, double garage, patio, maintained yard.
No Pets. $300/dep., $600/mo.
References required.
Dupree Rentals 573-9001
Mon.–Fri., 8a.m.–6p.m.

For results, use Snyder Daily News Classified ads. 573-5486

Houses For Rent

Brick, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, single car garage, CH/A. Very nice! 2805 37th $400/mo., $200/dep. 573-9433

Want To Rent

3 bedroom, 2 bath, prefer in the country. 325-573-7919 Cliff 903-935-0860

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

Business building for rent.
1900 37th St.
573-5285

Real Estate

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down, low monthly. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 133 Milburn. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided.
Low down payment, low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living areas, fenced backyard, close to schools. 418 29th St. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

I BUY HOUSES
(325) 207-2122

Lake Thomas house for sale.
2-story w/balcony, 1½ bath.
Call 325-207-3372.

LAND/HOME FORECLOSURE
DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
#5516 Call 1-800-955-0021 x1406

Owner Finance
2-1, fenced, large rooms, remodeled bath & kitchen. 218 29th St.
$1,000/dwn., $350/mo. 12 yrs
Call **207-0508**

Redecorate for down payment.
3-2-2 luxury brick, Colonial Hills, fenced, trees. $78,500
573-4425 573-1550

Owner Will Finance
3 bedroom, 1 bath.
Low down payment, low monthly payment. 2811 Ave. X
Call Milton, 806-790-0827.

JACK & JACK
Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr.
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

REDUCED! Lrg 2 story 4-3-2, pool, 6.44 Acres
3-1¾-2cp, 2 storage areas, 220 35th...$35T
Fluvanna 3-2, den on .34 A's water well Bargain
REDUCED! 600 29th 2-1-1, office, den...$18T
Owner Finance Lrg. Mobile Home 2-2, 302 24th Nice $20T
3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining...$35T
REDUCED! 1.7[redacted] $65T
111 Peach 2 or 3-1 ....$9.5T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building....Call
Good Shop Bldg. or Garage 1802 College $16T
Commercial Property for Sale or Lease
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs....Call
We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

1/2 Price Book Sale
Great for Stocking Stuffers
Reg. $6.95 *now only $3.50!!*
Come by Snyder Daily News & check out these & many other great books.
• *God Can Handle It* • *God Can Handle It For Kids*
• *The Golfers Book of Wisdom* • *The Teacher's Book of Wisdom*
• *The Book of Christmas Wisdom* • *The Book of Texas Wisdom*
• *Wisdom Made In America*
• *Mothers Are Forever* • *Mother's & Daughters Are Forever*
• *Friends Are Forever* • *Sisters Are Forever*
• *Fathers Are Forever*
• *Best Friends Last A Lifetime*
& many more!
Come by SDN
Mon. – Fri. 8a.m. – 5:30p.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

Not impossible, just improbable

North 12-15-03
♠ K 9 4 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ J 4
♣ A Q 10 8

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

East
♠ Q 8
♥ J 9 8
♦ A K Q 9 7 3
♣ 3 2

South
♠ A 5 3
♥ A K 7 4
♦ 2
♣ K J 9 5 4

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 2

Monday, Dec. 15, 2003

How does that expression go? The possible takes a while, the impossible takes a little longer — or something along those lines.

Sometimes you, the declarer, will think that the contract is impossible to make. But do not immediately concede — look for any chance, however remote.

On today's deal, look at the North-South hands. You reach six clubs, and West leads a heart. How would you plan the play?

North's opening showed 12-14 points. South used Stayman, then made a game-forcing rebid in his long suit. Both three hearts and three spades showed three-card holdings. (North would have bid two hearts, not two spades, with 4-4 in the majors. South would have raised immediately with four-card spade support.) South's jump to six clubs was an overbid.

West should have led a diamond, the unbid suit. But even after a heart start, the contract looked hopeless, with a spade and a diamond to lose. However, Englishman David Burn suddenly spotted a chance. After winning trick one, he drew trumps and cashed his other five major-suit winners, discarding dummy's diamond four on the 13th heart. Then South exited with his diamond.

Yes, East had to win the trick and, yes, he had to return a diamond. Declarer discarded his spade loser and ruffed in the dummy.

After a non-diamond lead, South had to find East with at most two spades, exactly three hearts, the A-K-Q of diamonds and at most three trumps — it was almost laydown!

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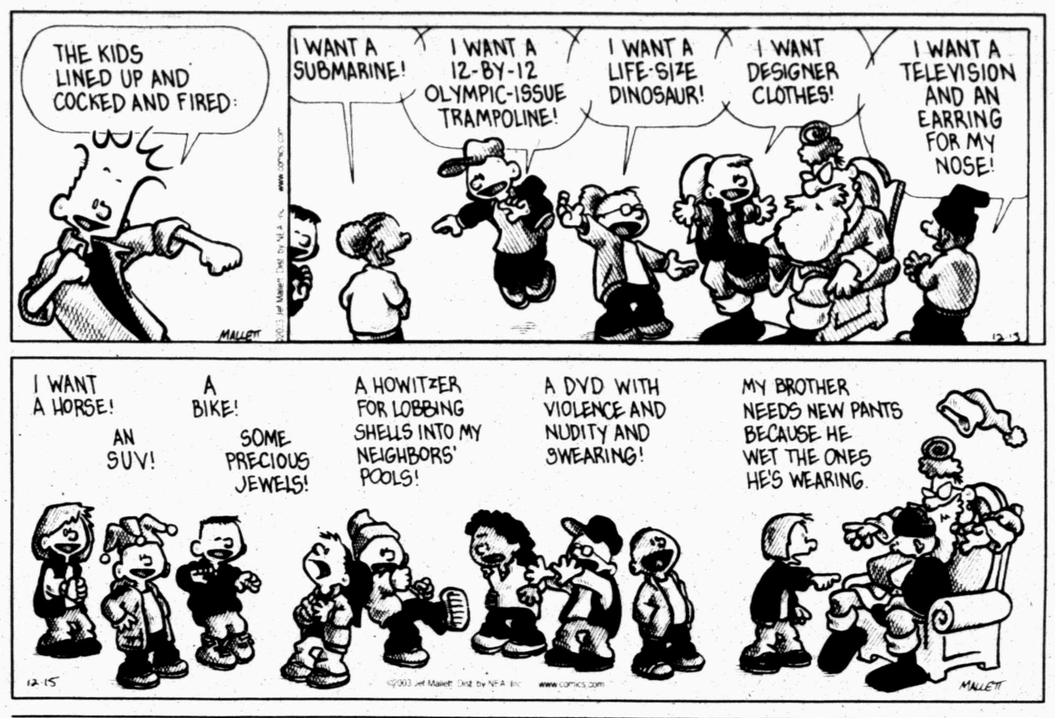
A mall and the right visitor *By Jef Mallett*



Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

News on IBS

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suffer from irritable bowel syndrome. Years ago, a country doctor advised I take a single Alka-Seltzer pill in water each day. Would you recommend that as well?

DEAR READER: IBS causes gas, bloating, abdominal cramping, diarrhea, constipation or a combination thereof. The cause is unknown. Such patients have no demonstrable abnormalities in the colon; rather, the difficulties arise — especially during times of stress — when the intestine is over-stimulated.

One old-fashioned (but effective) remedy for the gas of IBS was rhubarb and soda. This harmless liquid was standard stock in pharmacies years ago. Now there are several successful treatments, including drug therapy, for IBS.

Although one Alka-Seltzer a day will probably not harm you, it could cause internal bleeding and is not considered to be particularly effective in alleviating the symptoms of IBS. I am sending you a free copy of my updated Health Report, "Irritable Bowel Syndrome," which I am sure will give you more useful information.

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: I have had acid reflux for more than a year, despite the use of several anti-reflux medications that have not helped. My symptoms include a burning sensation in my abdomen, throat, mouth and nose.

An upper gastrointestinal X-ray study showed multiple ulcers in my duodenum, but my doctor is not certain that these are the root of my problem. Do you have any suggestions?

DEAR READER: My standard philosophy is to ask for help when I am unable to diagnose a challenging problem. Therefore, I urge you to be seen by a gastroenterologist.

Your pattern of burning pain is not typical of ulcers or reflux — especially since it wasn't eliminated by appropriate medication. In my opinion, you need an endoscopy, a procedure that allows a specialist to examine (with a fiberoptic tube) the lining of your esophagus, stomach and duodenum. I believe that such an examination is vital, one reason being that your possible reflux may have led to premalignant changes in your esophagus, so-called Barrett's esophagus. Also, the specialist can obtain biopsy specimens at the time of the endoscopy.

Ask your primary care physician to refer you to an appropriate specialist.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have read that partially hydrogenated trans-fats are best avoided, yet they are found in most junk foods. What should I do? I'm diabetic.

DEAR READER: The excessive consumption of partially hydrogenated trans-fats can raise the serum cholesterol levels in people with high cholesterol. Like any dietary supplement, moderation is key. For specific advice, see your doctor.

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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GOP congressman calls for hearings

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A Republican congressman Saturday joined Democratic calls for hearings on allegations that Halliburton Co. charged up to $61 million too much for delivering gasoline to Iraqi citizens under a no-bid contract.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., called the allegations "an absolute outrage" and said he wants the House Armed Services Committee to hold hearings early next year on Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney's former company.

"If these allegations which were found in a Pentagon audit of government contracts is true, then it's time for Halliburton to break out its checkbook and refund American taxpayers," Gibbons said.

Gibbons, a committee member, said he's the first Republican member of Congress to call for congressional hearings of the company.

Library News

By Janie Romine, director

If you have kept track of the holiday movies, you will find that many have either already played in theatres, or some that will be coming out soon. Did you know that many of these movies are based on books? Did you also know that the Scurry County Library has many of those books?

Some may have seen "Master and Commander" at the theatres already. This movie is based on a series of naval tales by Patrick O'Brian. The library has many of this author's books and have displayed them on shelves next to the microfilm viewers. Look through them, check a couple out, and take them home to read.

What happens Dec. 17? The third installment of the Lord of the Rings, the Return of the King, arrives at a theatre near you. Have you forgotten in a year's time what happened in the first and second movies?

The Scurry County Library not only has J.R.R. Tolkien's books in the Lord of the Rings series, we also have the first two movies on video. If you cannot remember where all the members of the Fellowship of the Ring were at the end of the last movie, come refresh your memory by checking out a book or video at the library.

Dec. 17 is known for another important reason. We will celebrate 100 years of flight, thanks to Orville and Wilbur Wright.

All children who check out a book on Wednesday will receive a special gift until we give away all the gifts. They must check out a book, but it does not have to be about airplanes.

This week the library will not be open on Tuesday evening. The library will close at 6 p.m. in order to enable the staff to attend the Scurry County Employee Christmas dinner.

Regular hours will be observed the remainder of the week.

Remember that we are accepting canned food to pay off video fines until Dec. 31. To all of you who have used cans to pay off fines, you will be happy to know that just this last week, we delivered 95 cans to the Food Cupboard.

We hope to see you soon at the Scurry County Library.

Four killed when SUV hit 18-wheeler

JENNINGS, La. (AP) — Four people were killed when their vehicle slammed into the rear of an 18-wheeler on Sunday afternoon on Interstate 10, authorities said.

The unidentified victims — three men and one woman — were in a sport utility vehicle with Texas license plates, said Capt. Winston Guillory of the Jennings Police Department.

At about 4:20 p.m. the vehicle crashed into an 18-wheeler that had slowed down in a construction zone in the eastbound lanes, Guillory said.

No one else was injured in the accident, Guillory said.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.18	12.91	13.01	+ .37
AT&T Corp	19.42	18.52	18.82	— .16
Albertsons	20.25	20.11	20.19	+ .02
Alltel	46.00	45.50	45.73	+ .44
AmEl Pw	28.74	28.37	28.37	+ .07
AndarkPtr	48.38	47.65	48.26	+ .18
ATMOS Egy	24.85	24.53	24.69	+ .11
Availl	15.95	15.81	15.89	— .03
BP PLC	46.25	45.80	45.80	— .55
BakerHughes	31.03	30.67	30.74	— .24
Bank of Amer	76.75	76.29	76.47	+ .62
BellSouth	27.50	27.36	27.41	+ .01
BurlNoSFe	32.00	31.50	31.77	+ .08
Caterpillar	79.61	78.50	79.19	+ 1.17
CenterPoint	9.37	9.29	9.29	— .06
ChevronTex	80.75	79.55	79.63	— .62
Citigroup	48.49	47.88	48.18	+ .63
CocaCola	50.00	49.54	49.61	+ .24
ColgatePal	53.80	53.33	53.52	— .09
CmclMetals	27.54	27.30	27.31	— .07
ConocoPhill	61.10	60.54	60.80	— .18
Cooper Inds	56.24	55.87	56.05	+ .44
DaimlrChry	43.83	43.42	43.43	— .18
DeltaAirl	12.26	11.97	12.05	+ .30
Dillards Inc	15.71	15.20	15.34	— .10
DowChem	40.74	39.70	39.94	+ .08
DuPont	45.41	44.20	44.26	— .17
EastmanChem	39.20	38.58	38.69	— .07
EstKodak	23.95	23.75	23.89	+ .23
EDS Corp	22.97	22.70	22.70	— .06
Entergy	55.35	54.73	54.92	+ .12
ExxonMobil	38.39	37.60	37.82	— .24
FootLocker	22.50	22.01	22.04	+ .26
GenDynam	85.65	84.74	85.44	+ .91
GenElec	31.00	30.16	30.16	+ .05
GenMills	46.20	45.76	46.05	+ .25
GenMotors	51.00	49.55	49.64	— .15
GaPacific,	29.80	29.05	29.06	— .25
Goodrich	29.99	29.73	29.95	+ .3[illegible]
Goodyear	7.05	6.86	6.92	+ .05
GtAtlPac	7.75	7.45	7.54	— .10
Halliburtn	25.75	25.00	25.00	— .46
Hanson PLC	34.90	34.60	34.61	— .29
HarteHanks	21.91	21.63	21.72	+ .02
HomeDepot	35.79	34.72	34.78	+ .13
HoneywellIntl	31.58	31.33	31.40	+ .11
IBM	93.90	93.11	93.49	+ .78
IntlPaper	42.04	40.81	41.11	+ .01
JohnsonJn	50.20	49.25	49.44	+ .05
KinderMorg	55.92	55.35	55.43	+ .43
Kroger Co	17.40	17.26	17.36	+ .03
LockheedM	49.18	48.61	48.81	— .09
Lowes Cos	56.40	55.30	55.57	+ .52
Lubys	3.70	3.60	3.67	+ .05
LucentTech	3.12	2.94	2.95	+ .04
MarathonOil	3[illegible].00	30.27	30.72	— .17
MayDeptStr	28.88	27.94	28.05	— .15
Medtronic	48.39	48.10	48.22	+ .1[illegible]
Motorola	13.52	12.92	12.93	— .15
NCR Corp	36.20	35.75	36.03	+ .57
Navistar	45.94	45.00	45.62	+ 1.84
PNM Rescs	28.04	27.69	27.82	— .16
Penney JC	24.51	23.95	24.00	— .05
PepBoys	21.42	21.16	21.19	+ .17
PepsiCo	47.20	46.94	47.07	+ .19
PhelpDodge	70.10	68.60	69.03	+ .43
PilgrimsPride	15.14	14.87	14.98	— .01
Praxair	75.10	74.60	74.82	+ .42
ProctGamb	97.97	97.12	97.85	+ 1.03
RadioShack	29.94	29.50	29.87	+ .86
RoyalDut	48.50	48.05	48.05	— .40
SBC Comm	24.83	24.51	24.65	+ .09
SaraLee	21.49	21.13	21.32	+ .37
Scripps EW	94.10	93.73	93.97	+ .60
SearsRoeb	46.86	45.36	45.36	— .69
SherwinW	34.27	33.98	33.98	— .06
SouthernCo	29.93	29.70	29.75	+ .10
SwstAirl	16.59	16.06	16.14	+ .25
SprintFON	15.12	14.95	15.00	+ .07
SprintPCS	4.81	4.61	4.63	— .04
Sunoco Inc	49.00	48.66	48.91	+ .08
TXU Corp	22.86	22.61	22.73	+ .12
TempleInland	61.61	60.88	60.89	— .04
TexInd	31.75	31.35	31.35	— .19
TexasInst	29.85	29.30	29.43	+ .71
Textron	55.22	54.42	54.88	+ .79
TimeWarner	18.00	17.57	17.77	+ .30
TrinityInds	32.00	30.80	30.96	— .40
TylerTech	9.36	9.06	9.29	+ .25
UnionPacif	67.55	67.10	67.10	— .21
USSteel	31.68	30.75	31.44	+ 1.02
UnitedTech	92.75	91.83	92.35	+ .75
Unocal	35.01	34.51	34.70	— .30
VerizonComm	33.73	33.26	33.34	— .09
WalMart	53.25	51.80	51.81	— .69
WellsFargo	57.25	56.55	56.58	— .43
WstnGasRs	46.21	45.65	45.72	— .48
WinnDixie	9.05	8.92	9.03	+ .16
Xerox Cp	12.24	12.05	12.21	+ .23
YumBrands	34.05	33.65	33.94	+ .40

DEC 15 2003

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Girl complains that boys don't see beyond her bust

DEAR ABBY: I am 12, and people say I am cute. My problem is, I want boys to like me for who I am, not because I have a big bust. I hate it. How can I make boys realize that I am much more than that? — **DARLENE IN DALLAS**

DEAR DARLENE: It may not be easy, because in our society it is normal for boys your age — and older — to fixate on a woman's "physical assets." However, one way to accomplish it is by dressing to make your bust size less noticeable. Another way is to impress them with attributes you want them to notice — your intelligence, your personality, or some other talent or special quality.

Please consider this: Your bust size may seem like a curse now, but it can also be an advantage because it will be obvious which men care only about that, and it will help you to weed out the undesirables.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a part-time server at a nice restaurant. Recently a woman came in to have lunch with "Vic," the owner. Vic paid for the woman's lunch and tipped me before he left. The woman stayed longer and talked to me for a while. When she left, she handed me a small tip. I hesitated but felt she'd be offended if I refused.

Two weeks later, this woman saw me at my other job and said Vic told her he had tipped me. She then demanded her money back. I was horrified. I didn't have cash on me so I told her to stop by the restaurant later in the week. I said I would apologize to Vic, but she said she didn't want him to know.

I feel awful about taking her tip. I mentioned it to another employee, and she said I shouldn't feel bad because what this woman did was appalling. Was I wrong in taking the tip? — **SHOCKED SERVER IN AMERICA**

DEAR SHOCKED: When the woman offered you the tip, you should have told her Vic had already taken care of it. However, for her to demand the money back was rude. Return the money and steer clear of her in the future.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Curtis" for 10 years. His wife recently found out about us and blocked my number from his telephone. (As though that's going to stop us from talking!)

I see Curtis every day. Everyone knows, and some people think we're married. Curtis has been part of my life and my family for so long I can't imagine life without him.

I love Curtis and he loves me. It just seems like he doesn't want anything to change. I have tried to end the relationship, but Curtis keeps coming back. He says he is not in love with his wife and that he will leave if she runs him off. I'm so confused.

I love Curtis. I don't want to be without him. But I don't want to spend the rest of my life as the "other woman" either. If Curtis' wife is willing to put up with knowing the truth about us, should I stay with him? — **SECOND PLACE IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR SECOND PLACE: Why should Curtis change anything? He has a wife who tolerates his straying and a honey on the side who believes anything he tells her. Do you really want someone who will be with you only by default?

You have already thrown away 10 years of your life on this addiction. Regardless of what his wife does, you should quit cold turkey.

**

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

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com)

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Texas fugitive caught in Ontario, Canada

DUNNVILLE, Ontario (AP) — A Texas fugitive featured on the TV show America's Most Wanted is in Canadian custody after more than four years on the run.

Lyndon Hale, 45, is charged in the United States with aggravated sexual assault dating to 1998. He was arrested Friday in this community, southeast of Hamilton.

It is not clear how long Hale had been in the area.

Authorities made the arrest after spotting the fugitive's pickup truck, which still bore Texas license plates.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Defense rests in Malvo trial

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — Lawyers for sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo rested their case today, clearing the way for prosecutors to present their mental health experts who disagree that Malvo was insane during last year's shooting spree.

The defense rested after both sides agreed about the relative sizes of Malvo and sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad. Prosecutors and defense lawyers agreed that at the time they were arrested last year Malvo was 5 feet 5 inches tall and 125 pounds, while Muhammad was 6 feet 1 inch and 180 pounds.

Defense lawyers had hoped to bring Muhammad into the courtroom so the jury could see the size discrepancy between the two, which they said was a factor in Muhammad's ability to dominate and brainwash Malvo. The judge barred Muhammad from testifying because of security concerns.

Defense lawyers contend the brainwashing was so severe that Malvo was legally insane and unable to tell right from wrong.

Prosecutors plan to let jurors hear from survivors of shootings linked to Malvo as they present witnesses this week to support their argument that the teen told police the truth and lied to the psychiatrists.

Although police said he confessed to the shootings after his capture, Malvo changed his story months later in interviews with defense mental health experts, saying Muhammad was the shooter in all but one of the 10 killings.

"We're trying to prove the defendant is lying to them," prosecutor Raymond Morrogh told the judge Thursday before court adjourned for a long weekend.

Supreme Court to intervene in fight over Mexican trucks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed today to intervene in a two-decade-old fight over allowing Mexican trucks and buses on U.S. roadways.

The court said it will hear an appeal from the Bush administration, which wants to open the border to Mexican trucks without a court-ordered environmental study.

The $1.8 million study is expected to take a year or more, further delaying the border opening President Bush ordered last fall over long-standing opposition from U.S. labor, consumer and environmental organizations.

The consumer group Public Citizen, the Teamsters and others sued on safety and environmental grounds, and a federal appeals court ruled earlier this year that the government must perform the lengthy study.

The Bush administration has said it will comply with that order, but also appealed to the Supreme Court in September.

"The court of appeals misapplied the nation's environmental laws and constrained the president's discretion to conduct foreign affairs," Solicitor General Theodore Olson wrote.

The ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "prevents the president's action form taking effect and thereby hampers commerce," Olson told the court.

The ruling also needlessly prolongs a trade dispute with Mexico over the requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Olson wrote.

The San Francisco-based 9th Circuit handles appeals from the Mexican border states of California and Arizona, as well as other western states.

In response, Public Citizen said the government's appeal, or petition, overplayed the notion that the president's foreign affairs power was crimped.

"This is a petition in search of a problem," the group's lawyers wrote. "Despite petitioners' attempt to turn this case into a foreign policy challenge, it concerns only the routine application of domestic environmental laws to federal agency action."

Public Citizen also noted that the study is under way and would be well along by the time the Supreme Court heard and decided the case.

"The issue will soon resolve itself and there is no need for the court to intervene," the group argued.

The environmental study will analyze short- and long-term environmental effects of opening U.S. roads to Mexican trucks.

Fight lead to arrest for PI

• Arrests

A fight was reported at 11:59 p.m. Saturday in the 2100 block of Ave. Z., resulting in the arrest of a 27-year-old man who was charged with public intoxication.

At 4:48 p.m. Sunday, a 43-year-old woman was arrested in the 3400 block of Ave. L for public intoxication.

• Accident

An accident was reported to the sheriff's department at 11:11 p.m. Sunday. Pace Millhollon advised dispatchers that he had been injured while driving his motorcycle on Blockline Road. The man was taken to Cogdell Memorial Hospital where he was treated and then transferred to University Medical Center in Lubbock where he was listed in stable condition.

• Disturbance

An officer was requested at 9:50 a.m. Saturday to a residence in the 3700 block of Highland where two men were reportedly were involved in a fight. Officers arrived and were informed that the disagreement was verbal only.

• Criminal trespass

An officer was requested at Wal-Mart at 7:46 p.m. Saturday in reference to two juveniles attempting to shoplift some items from the store. Officers served a criminal trespass warning and the juveniles were released to a parent.

• Criminal Mischief

A representative of the Sweet's Shop at 2505 Ave. G reported at 7:21 p.m. Saturday that a window in to the business had been broken with a rock.

A caller reported at 4:13 a.m. Sunday that some lights were on at the Lord's Supper Church, 119 36th. Officers arrived to find that a window had been broken, but no entry was gained.

A report was made to police at 10:43 a.m. Saturday from O'Reilly Auto Parts at 3607 College Ave. that a door to the building has been pried open. However, nothing appeared to have been taken.

• Recovered stolen gun

Snyder law enforcement personnel were notified at 12:16 p.m. Friday that a gun that had been reported stolen in a burglary in 1992 had been recovered in Fairborn, Ohio.

Obituaries

Raymond Wood

1917-2003

Raymond D. Wood died Saturday, Dec. 13, at his home in Snyder.

Service for Mr. Wood, 86, was set for 11 a.m. today in the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Danny Williams officiating.

Burial will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Hiwasse, Ark., with the Rev. Jack Austin officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born April 11, 1917 in Quay, N.M., he married Elizabeth Smith in 1941 and she died in December 1974. He married Christine Burnett Van Dyke on July 29, 1975 in Lubbock.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Ruby Beatrice Mathews in 1989.

Survivors include his wife, Christine Wood of Snyder; a son, Johnie G. Wood of Bentonville, Ark., a daughter, Carol Adams of Cuba, N.M.; eight grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; two nieces; and nine nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church building fund.

Blackie Clawson

1925-2003

ROTAN – B.F. "Blackie" Clawson, died Saturday, Dec. 13, in Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Funeral service for Mr. Clawson, 78, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church with the Revs. James and Dale Clawson officiating. A private burial will follow in the Belvieu Cemetery under the direction of Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home.

Born Mach 31, 1925 in Comanche, County, he married Ellen Irene Gruben on Jan. 18, 1944 in Gustine. She preceded him in death as did his parents, Louie Edgar and Ruby Susie Harris Clawson; a grandson, Donnie Clawson; and a brother, L.E. Clawson.

A resident of Hobbs the past 25 years, Mr. Clawson was a maintenance supervisor for the Hobbs School and was a member of the Crossroads Baptist Church.

Survivors include six sons, Dale Clawson of Wheeler, Ronnie Clawson of Snyder, Jerry Clawson and Danny Clawson of Rotan, Gary Clawson and James Clawson of Hamlin; four daughters, Linda Wright of Snyder, Cindy Porter of Hobbs, Sandy Williams of Abilene and Shelia Anderson of Bennington, Okla.; 34 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 5 to 7 Tuesday evening at the funeral home.

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Scientists agonized over vaccine for flu

By Daniel Q. Haney
AP Medical Editor

Late last winter, a committee of vaccine experts designing this season's flu shot considered their choices. They had two, and both seemed bad.

Should they stick with last year's formula, even though a new strain of the bug was ominously building strength? Or should they try to make a new vaccine and risk complications or delays that could result in a shortage or maybe even no vaccine at all?

In the end, the committee voted 17-1 to bring back last year's version, even though they feared they were telling millions of Americans to roll up their sleeves for shots that might not work very well.

Many of them probably agreed with Dr. Theodore Eickhoff of the University of Colorado, who said: "For the first time in many years of participating in these deliberations, I must add I am very uncomfortable with the recommendation."

What Eickhoff and the others dreaded is exactly what happened. That new strain of flu became the dominant variety, accounting for three-quarters of all cases as the disease got an unusually early start this fall.

About 83 million doses of vaccine were made, but no one really knows how much protection from illness it gives. It almost certainly will not be the usual 70 percent to 90 percent, and some experts fear it is below 50 percent.

"We agonized. We asked repeatedly 'Is there another choice?'" remembered Dr. David Stephens, who chaired the panel and heads infectious diseases at Emory University. "The bottom line is, we weren't really given a choice."

Their experience shows the frustrating and often imprecise nature of humanity's labor to stay ahead of this perennial nuisance and sometime killer.

The flu virus mutates constantly. The Food and Drug Administration, with the help of its expert committee, must decide in late winter what varieties will be the biggest threats. Picking the best combination is a mixture of science, luck and seat-of-the-pants instinct.

"By the time you know what's the right strain, you can't do anything about it," said Dr. Michael Decker, head of scientific affairs at Aventis, one of the three U.S. vaccine makers.

The first inkling of something worrisome dawned on flu experts at the end of January. Just two weeks before committees were scheduled to meet at the World Health Organization in Geneva and the FDA in Rockville, Md., to settle on the makeup of this fall's vaccine, scientists who track the flu noticed a new strain was gathering mass.

The vaccine could theoretically protect against several strains of the virus, but because production is slow, the shot is limited to just three.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thu 12/18
50/24	**56/29**	**59/33**
Mainly sunny. Cooler. High around 50F. Winds NNW at 15 to 25 mph.	Fair. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:39 AM, Sunset 5:39 PM	Sunrise 7:39 AM, Sunset 5:40 PM	Sunrise 7:40 AM, Sunset 5:40 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
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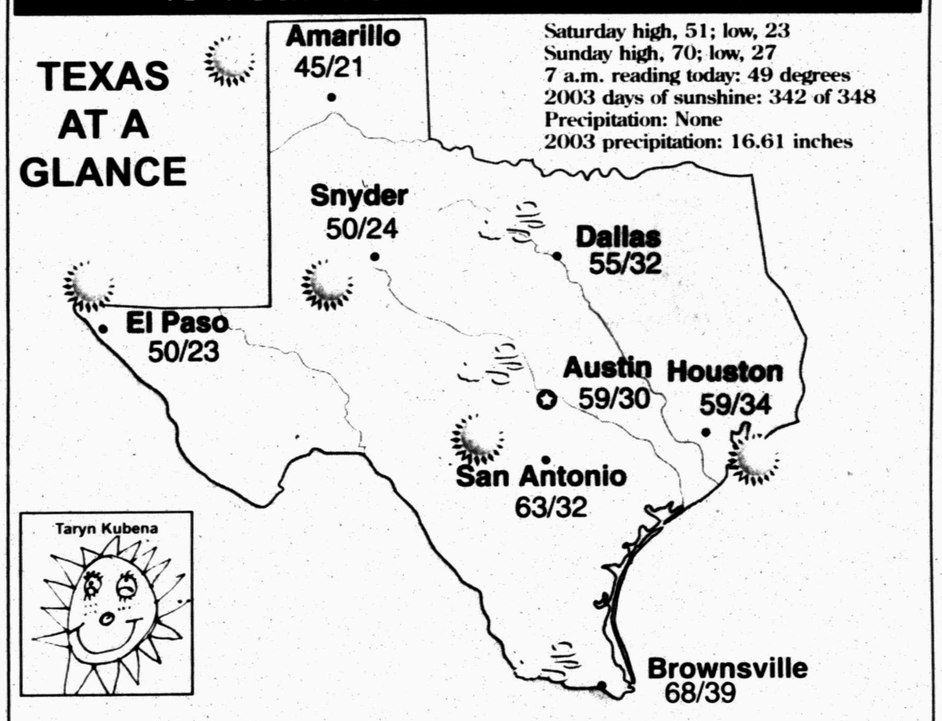
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Saturday high, 51; low, 23
Sunday high, 70; low, 27
7 a.m. reading today: 49 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 342 of 348
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	51	27	windy	El Paso	50	23	sunny	Midland	50	24	sunny
Amarillo	45	21	sunny	Fort Stockton	51	26	sunny	Raymondville	68	36	windy
Austin	59	30	windy	Gainesville	53	27	windy	Rosenberg	59	34	windy
Beaumont	58	36	mst sunny	Greenville	53	29	windy	San Antonio	63	32	sunny
Brownsville	68	39	windy	Houston	59	34	sunny	San Marcos	60	30	windy
Brownwood	55	28	windy	Kingsville	66	35	windy	Sulphur Springs	54	29	windy
Corpus Christi	64	36	windy	Livingston	56	32	sunny	Sweetwater	51	27	sunny
Corsicana	55	31	windy	Longview	54	32	sunny	Tyler	53	32	sunny
Dallas	55	32	windy	Lubbock	49	22	sunny	Weatherford	54	27	windy
Del Rio	59	32	sunny	Lufkin	56	33	sunny	Wichita Falls	53	25	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	57	35	rain	Houston	59	34	sunny	Phoenix	64	43	sunny
Boston	40	35	mst sunny	Los Angeles	74	51	sunny	San Francisco	57	44	pt sunny
Chicago	43	29	mixed	Miami	78	71	pt sunny	Seattle	49	42	rain
Dallas	55	32	windy	Minneapolis	27	11	sn shower	St. Louis	44	29	windy
Denver	36	22	sunny	New York	46	41	mst sunny	Washington, DC	48	43	mst sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thu 12/18
3	3	3
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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DEC 15 2003

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Tuesday, Dec. 16 2003

Your Birthday

No matter how slow your initial output might appear, stick to your carefully laid-out game plan in the year ahead. Your goals are closer than you think; a little more time is needed to build up the necessary momentum.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — There is nothing wrong with being ambitious, but how you go about it will be important today. If you don't soft-pedal it, people could misconstrue your aggressiveness as self-serving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Humility is a virtue, but not when it is carried to extremes. If you're too meek or docile today, selfish people could step all over you and dominate your rightful place in the scheme of things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — This might not be a good day to present your ideas to others who are not in the best of moods today, because if you strike an unresponsive chord, they'll not give you another opportunity.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Don't allow a bad mood to cause you to behave poorly today when dealing with valuable allies. Instead of helping you, they're apt to withdraw the support on which you've been counting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You don't have to attempt a major project today, but you don't have to coast either. Use your time to take care of neglected little tasks. With them gone, you can run at full steam again.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't think it's your instinctive inner voice telling you to take a flyer on something about which you know little; it might be your fanciful wishful thinking that is doing all the talking and urging.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It'll be a lot easier to give a little now than it will be trying to make amends later with someone dear to you. If concessions are called for today, do your part to give that inch.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — How you treat others will have a fast boomerang effect on you. For example, if you try to browbeat people, look for an authority figure to nail you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Catering to your whims and forsaking your budget today may put you in a momentary good mood, but chances are it will turn foul real quick once you realize you are broke.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Unless you resolve domestic squabbles immediately as they arise, expect things to go from bad to worse. Abandon your stubbornness and obstinacy, not those who are important to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Your vivid imagination can help your creative juices, but if you allow them to visualize roadblocks larger than those in reality, you'll be defeated today before you even get started.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Keep your cool today if you find yourself in a situation where someone else is getting all the attention for something good you did. If you blow your top, others could add insult to injury.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Keiko, of "Free Willy" fame, buried in secret ceremony

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Keiko, the killer whale star of the "Free Willy" movies, was buried today in a snow-bound pasture during the deep darkness of Nordic winter in a ceremony kept secret from the public.

"We wanted to let him be at peace," said Dane Richards, one of his caretakers. "He's free now and in the wild."

The roughly six-ton whale died Friday in a Norwegian bay where his team was trying to reintroduce him to the wild. His trainers said the likely cause of death was pneumonia.

Richards said the burial in a pasture just yards from where Keiko, about 26, died was done in secret to avoid a media circus.

Despite the whale's size, the burial went smoothly, Richards said. Machines dug a hole near the waterline, under cover of darkness, and then slid Keiko slowly a few yards across the snow into his grave, he said.

"It was beautiful. He went to the grave quietly, quickly and peacefully, just like he died," said Richards. Only seven people were present.

Keiko, which mean's "Lucky One" in Japanese, became a darling of children through his stardom in "Free Willy," a film in which a young boy befriends a captive killer whale and coaxes him to jump over a sea park wall to freedom.

The fame prompted a $20 million program to free Keiko from a Mexico city aquarium where he was languishing.

He was brought to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in 1996, then to Iceland, near where he was born in 1977 or 1978, for preparation for his return to the wild. When he was released in 2002, he swam 870 miles to the waterss near the village of Halsa, on Norway's west coast.

He became an instant hit, with so many people swimming with him and even crawling on his back, that animal protection authorities imposed a ban on approaching him.

His team coaxed him to the more remote Taknes bay, still in Halsa, where they tried to coax him into a life completely in the wild. He was free to leave the bay, and sometimes did, but appeared to prefer human company.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Stephens and Johnson Operating Co. will drill the No. 10-579 Jordan in the Fluvanna field, three miles northwest of Fluvanna. The re-entry project is planned for a depth of 9,000 feet, and location is in Section 579, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Permian Resources Inc. will drill the No. 5 M.A. Boyd in the Diamond M field, nine miles west of Snyder. Contracted for a depth of 3,400 feet, location is in Section 213, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

RUWCO Oil and Gas Corp. will drill the No. 1 Lengua, an 8,300-foot wildcat located four miles west of Fluvanna. Drill site is in Section 465, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kent County

Bettis Boyle and Stovall will drill the No. 1 Baldridge, a 4,600-foot wildcat located 11 miles south of Jayton. Location is in Section 12, Block A, PSL/Hancock survey.

Garza County

Three R. Oil Co. will drill the No. 1-A Davis in the Post field, 13 miles east of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,550 feet, drill site is in Section 56, Block 2, T&NO survey.

Three R. Oil Co. will drill the No. 2 George Beggs in the Post field, 13 miles east of Post. Planned depth is 2,900 feet, and location is in Section 41, Block 2, T&NO survey.

Howard County

Marshall and Winston Inc. will drill the No. 1 Anderson, a 10,500-foot wildcat located five miles north of Luther. Location is in Section 38, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

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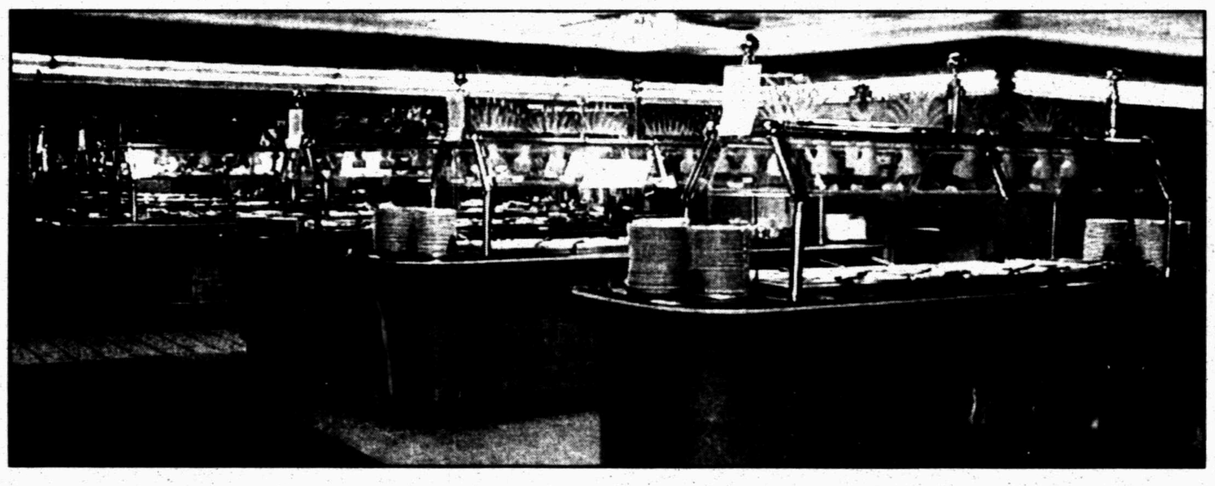

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