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INSIDE

Lottery results 2
Lifestyles 3
Sports 5
Midday stocks 7
What's Up 10

WT-Int. Crude - $19.23
WTIC Posted - $16.00
Natural Gas - $2.686

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

Dec. 18, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 198
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Kallie Billingsley

Afghan fighters leave Tora Bora

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Tribal Afghan fighters withdrew artillery and heavy weapons today from the mountain stronghold of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in eastern Afghanistan, signaling the worst of the fighting was over.

U.S. special forces were remaining in the area of Tora Bora — though they may also leave soon — a leading tribal commander, Hazrat Ali, said.

The American and Afghan forces have been going cave to cave in the mountainous region, looking for stragglers and sifting through piles of abandoned documents, passports and other evidence left behind when al-Qaida fighters fled.

They were also searching for bin Laden, who some had said was present during at least part of the battle, when hundreds of bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters withstood an assault from American bombers and the tribal eastern alliance for days until their hasty retreat.

Ali declared the operation completed. He was quoted by the Afghan Islamic Press agency as saying there was no information that more al-Qaida fighters remained in the caves.

As his forces withdrew, a tank crawled along a dusty, narrow valley road, followed by troops in pickup trucks. Villagers came out and waved.

"Al-Qaida is finished. I am now going to go home," one soldier said.

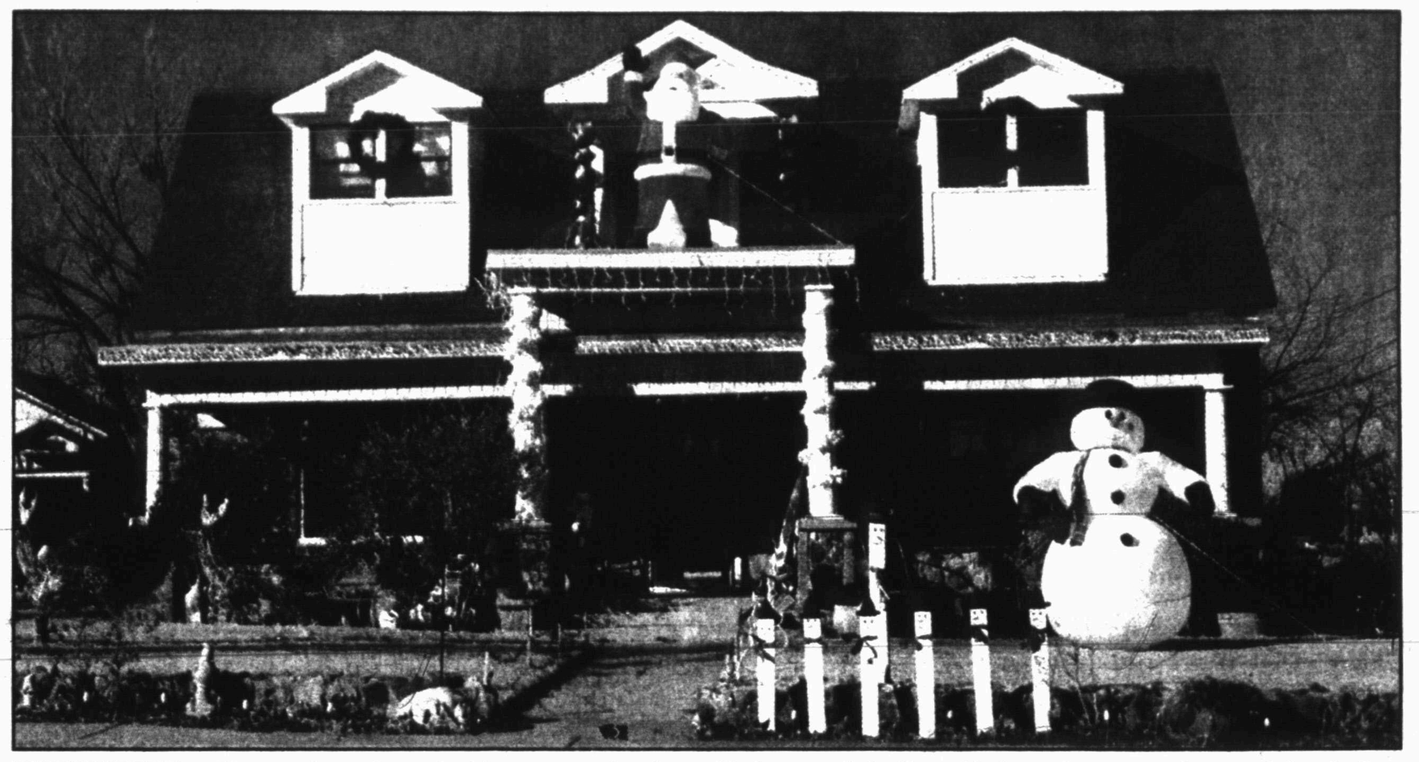
Mohammed Aman Khiari, another commander, said he doubted bin Laden was still in the area — if he had been there at all.

"If Osama is here, they would be fighting us, but in this case I don't think Osama is in Tora Bora because they are not fighting. Now maybe he has gone somewhere else, or maybe he is dead," Khiari told reporters.

At a U.S. base in southern Afghanistan, Marines raised an American flag bearing scrawled messages of vengeance and anguish, which flew briefly at the World Trade Center ruins in New York.

It was a gift from the New York Police Department, which lost 23 officers in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and will be returned to them.

"They took 23 great cops. Pay back time," read one unsigned note.



IN THE SPIRIT — Homes throughout the city are sporting festive holiday attire as the number of shopping days before Christmas dwindle, with less than a week remaining before Santa Claus arrives in town. (SDN Staff Photo)

Jurors selected in assault trial here

Jury selection was made Monday afternoon in the aggravated assault trial of Jesus Alfredo Dominguez, 40, of 624 CR 137.

A jury of seven men and five women is hearing the case against Dominguez who is charged with five counts of aggravated assault on local law enforcement personnel stemming from a domestic disturbance on June 10.

Police reports said that Dominguez was intoxicated at the time a 911 call sent deputies and DPS troopers to his county residence. Dominguez allegedly tried to run over them with a vehicle.

He was indicted by a Scurry County grand jury in July.

District Attorney Dana Cooley is prosecuting the case, and defense attorney is Jeanie Fuller of Sweetwater.

Congress passes landmark education legislation today

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a triumph for President Bush, Congress cleared landmark education legislation today requiring annual math and reading tests for millions of students as part of an ambitious effort to boost class performance.

The 87-10 Senate vote came less than a week after the House bestowed its blessing on the measure, 381-41. Bush, who placed education legislation atop his first-year list of legislative priorities, is expected to sign the bill into law within days.

"This legislation before us today is a blueprint for progress in all of the nation's schools," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., one of four key lawmakers who shaped the measure. "It proclaims that every child matters — every child in every school in every community in America."

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., added, "What we're doing is creating opportunities for local school districts, states and especially parents, to take advantage of using their federal dollars in a more effective way of educating the low-income child."

The measure represents a political compromise — providing billions more in federal funds sought by Democrats, while granting GOP demands to give local officials increased flexibility in spending the money.

Pupils in the third through eighth grades would be tested in reading and math annually, and the results used to judge the performance of their schools. Failing schools would receive increased funds, although if scores did not improve after six years the schools could be restaffed.

For the first time, students in failing schools would be able to use federal funds to pay for independent tutoring or transportation to another public school — but not to pay tuition at private schools.

Since its introduction last winter, the bill has enjoyed bipartisan support. But a few lawmakers have complained that the $26.5 billion plan falls short by not giving enough money to schools.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "This holiday, if we only have crowds to complain about, then things are pretty good."

We never knew the old gal could be so patriotic.

If it were the 4th of July instead of the Christmas season, then we could nominate her for Firecracker Queen.

President Bush has suggested that Americans get out and shop – spend money — and help get the U.S. economy back on track.

Well, ole what's-her-name is a real trooper in the President's shopping-bag brigade. She's a willing volunteer. We're just grateful that there's only six more shopping days 'til Christmas.

According to folks who track such stuff, the average American will spend close to $1,500 on gifts this holiday season.

While the tender gender is gleefully running around making "last-minute" selections, the average male believes they have a better chance of standing under the mistletoe with Julia Roberts than choosing the perfect gift for that significant other.

Those retailer experts say that men outspend women by more than $300, but we'll have to chew on that statistic for a while.

How can the ole boy spend, when it's already spent?

At least the gals are wearing red, white, and sometimes blue.

Speaking of patriotic gifts, we've read about the woman in California who is selling antenna balls with U.S. Flag designs.

Selling on-line for about three bucks, the patriotic antenna ball is one of the hottest items this holiday season. A news release said they are now available in some stores.

There's always the dilemma on what to give Santa. Of course, there's that TV commercial that suggests that leaving cheese instead of milk will result in a bounty under the tree.

Here's some elementary school kids' suggestions for Santa.

—I would give Santa a bigger chimney so he wouldn't get stuck.

—I would give him a lot more help and a big tub to soak his feet in on Christmas day.

—I'd give him some hot sauce and chips.

—I'd give Santa a new cushion for his sleigh, extra help and lots of hot coffee.

—I'd give Santa a membership to the fitness center. I want him to be around next year.

But what Santa needs most is an easy-payment plan.

BCD will meet on Wednesday

The Board of County Development meets at noon Wednesday with a brief agenda.

The only item of new business is a request for funding from the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District.

Also on the agenda is the review and approval of minutes from the board's Sept. 19 meeting, review of financial statements and consideration of bills for payment.

Officers, directors are introduced at chamber meeting

New directors and officers were introduced and one hotel-motel tax fund request was granted at the monthly chamber of commerce board meeting Monday.

Anita Talbott, Billy Ray Grimmett, David Harrell and Joni Gonzales were elected to fill the expired terms of Missy Jones, Mike Rodriquez, Mike Thornton and Mark Cypert. Thornton remains on the board as president-elect.

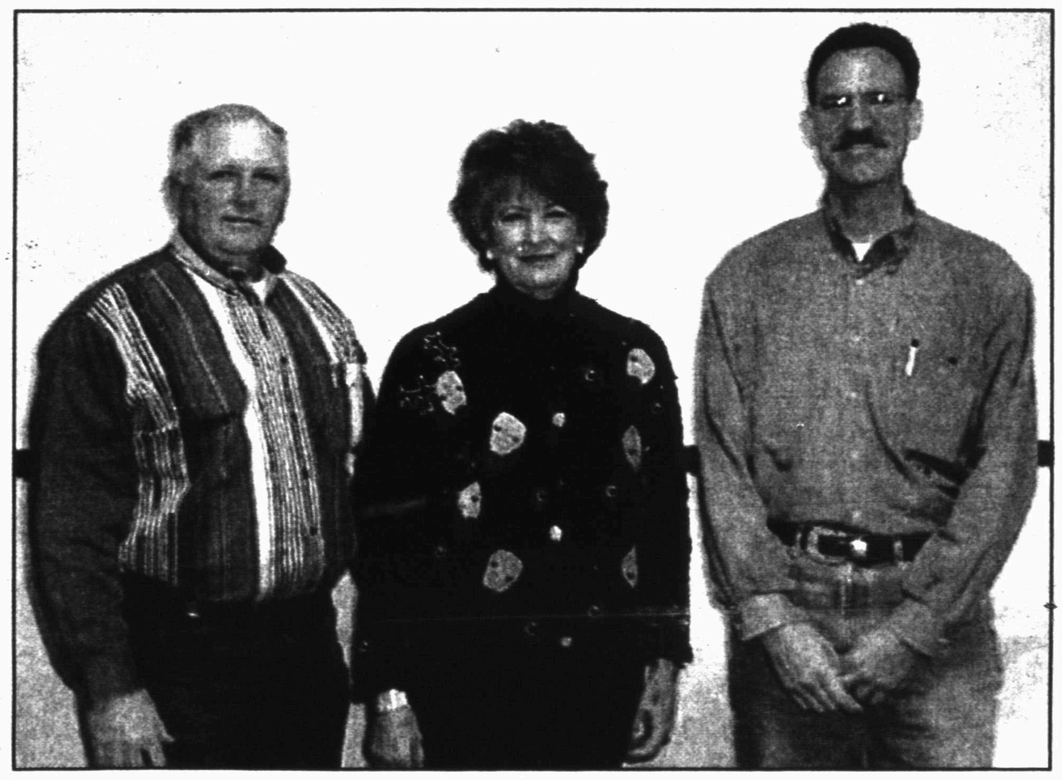
Other officers include Darren Jackson, president; Jeffrey Martin, vice president; Paula McWilliams, secretary-treasurer; and Jack Whitworth, immediate past president.

A $5,000 request from chamber of commerce executive director Donna Fowler to promote the Western Swing to be held this summer was unanimously approved.

After discussion about new carpet for the chamber office, the board asked Fowler to obtain bids in time for the January meeting. She said inmates from the Price Daniel Unit have painted the walls and plan to groom the yard at the chamber office.

A holiday open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

Attending were Elliott Cox, Carl Burleson, Elois, Pruitt, Wilhelmenia Howard, Jackson, McWilliams, Thornton, Talbott, Grimmett, Harrell, Jones, and staff members Tracie McDowell and Gaynel Cline.



NEW CHAMBER DIRECTORS — Billy Ray Grimmett, Anita Talbott and David Harrell (from left) are new members of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Not pictured is director Joni Gonzalez. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

ASK US

Q—What is the date when the UIL will release the re-alignment?

A—The new alignments will be released Feb. 4.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 58 degrees; low, 33; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 33; no precipitation; total for 2001, 20.77 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear; low near 30; winds becoming N 10-20 mph. Wednesday, mostly sunny, cooler; high mid 50s; light, variable winds.

Brennen Baze
Cooler

Sunset: 5:45 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.
Of 351 days in 2001, the sun has shone 338 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't just grab the first thing that comes by, know what to turn down.
—Will Rogers

DEC 18 2001 1

A Fairy Merry Christmas by Brooke McEldowney

Airport has security lapses

AUSTIN (AP) — A dozen possible security infractions at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, including one worker falling asleep on the job and another stealing money from an elderly passenger, have been reported by Texas National Guard soldiers assigned to anti-terrorism duty.

National Guard soldiers say that they have run through a terminal on at least five occasions, frantically looking for passengers who had bypassed the scrutiny of the security checkpoints.

Also, soldiers say they watched passengers avert pat-downs because an elderly screener was too feeble to bend down to wave a metal detector around their feet.

All the alleged infractions and incidents reported to the Federal Aviation Administration in the three months soldiers were assigned to the airport involved Argenbright Security Inc., a company criticized at other airports for alleged violations of federal safety rules.

Soldiers say some security workers haven't stopped X-ray conveyor belts long enough to properly inspect carry-on luggage and another slept on the job.

"It's good we are there," Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Turner, supervising the Texas National Guard's patrol duties at the airport, told the Austin American-Statesman in Tuesday's online edition. "Our second set of eyes has made a difference."

He said as Argenbright has hired new employees, the number of problems at the airport has dropped.

Brian Lott, Argenbright spokesman, and officials of Dallas-based Southwest Airlines, who supervise the security company's Austin-Bergstrom contract, defended Argenbright's 100 local workers and security practices Monday.

Missile contract ended

Behind schedule, exceeded estimates

BOSTON (AP) — The Department of Defense has terminated a multibillion contract with defense contractor Raytheon, saying the naval missile defense project was too far behind schedule and exceeded cost estimates.

The Navy Area Theater Ballistic Missile Defense system was designed to protect naval forces, ports and bases against medium-range air and missile threats.

"We are still assessing the impact across the business," Raytheon spokeswoman Sara Hammond told The Boston Globe for today's editions. She said it was unclear how many jobs would be affected.

Pentagon acquisitions chief Edward "Pete" Aldrige told The Wall Street Journal the program was canceled due to poor performance and a 67 percent increase in the average procurement cost of the system. The Pentagon is required to cancel programs once they exceed certain cost estimates, he said.

The Pentagon did not disclose the actual cost of the system, originally due in 2003. But the Globe reported the government had already spent $2 billion on the program, worth an estimated $9.1 billion.

It was considered the least technologically challenging of the Pentagon's missile-based defense systems.

Former assistant warden at PDU named director of Region IV

A former assistant warden at the Price Daniel Unit in Snyder recently was named Region IV Director for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Robert Parker, 51, this month took over as director of TDCJ's Region IV headquarters at the Chase Field Criminal Justice Center in Beeville.

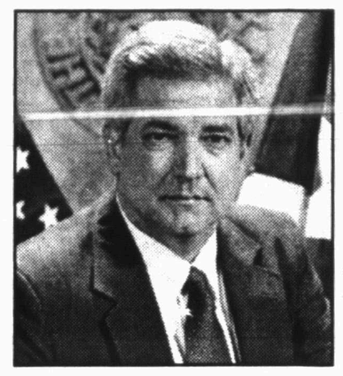
He was assistant warden in Snyder from 1992 to 1993, at which time he transferred to a maximum-security facility in Palestine.

Parker's career in the department has kept him on the move for 30 years. He began with the TDCJ in 1971 at the agency's Diagnostic Center in Huntsville while attending Sam Houston State University.

In 1981 Parker became a captain at the Goree Unit in Huntsville and then in 1984 he transferred to the Ramsey II Unit. He was assigned to the Eastham Unit in 1987, then came to Snyder in 1992.

By 1995, Parker was assistant warden at the Ellis Unit, which at the time housed Texas' death row inmates. In January 1998, Parker was promoted to senior warden and sent to the Cotulla Unit. By July of that year he moved to the James Lynaugh Unit in Fort Stockton.

In February 2000, the prison system needed a new senior warden at the Allred Unit at Wichita Falls. He took the job and stayed there until February 2001.



Robert Parker

Just weeks after the infamous Texas Seven had broken out of the Karnes County maximum-security unit and had killed an Irving police officer, Parker took the job as senior warden at that facility.

As Region IV Director, Parker said he plans to focus on recruitment and officer retention.

Parker was born in Cleveland and grew up in Spring Branch in the Houston area and graduated from Spring Branch High School in 1968.

Parker and his wife have been married 31 years and the couple have two grown children, a son in Huntsville and a daughter, Christi Woodard of Snyder.

Ag secretary reflects on her first year

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced more than $260 million in grants and loans for bioenergy production and rural community development in 24 states and also reflected on her first year in office during a speech to farmers.

The past year has been challenging for the USDA, with both the threat of foot-and-mouth disease and bioterrorism, but it has also been productive, Veneman told those attending a Minnesota Agri-Growth Council conference Monday.

Food and livestock have become safer, emergency funds are distributed faster and tax relief is better, Veneman said.

"We're continuing to work hard to break down barriers that hurt our producers," she said.

She also said the government is continuing to promote renewable energy resources, such as ethanol fuel, which is corn-based, and methane, from manure. The $260 million in grants and loans are meant to promote renewable fuel sources as well as rural development.

Illinois will receive the largest share, $103.7 million, followed by Minnesota, $22.6 million; Georgia, $21.6 million; Iowa, $15.2 million; Colorado, $13.2 million; Texas, $12 million; and Florida and Missouri, both $11.4 million. Oklahoma, South Dakota, South Carolina, Kentucky and Louisiana will each receive more than $5 million.

In Iowa, part of the money will go into construction of an ethanol fuel plant, but the largest chunk, $13.5 million, will be a guaranteed loan to help Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative extend electric service to 1,200 new customers.

In Minnesota, about half of the money will be in a similar loan to the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

The grants and loans are a chance for agriculture to help solve energy problems, Veneman said.

Defends project

MONTEZUMA, Kan. (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves dedicated his state's first major wind power project — a four-mile stretch of fields covered by 170 wind turbines designed to produce 110 megawatts of energy.

"There are obvious long-term advantages to investing in renewable energy technologies," Graves said during dedication ceremonies near Montezuma in southwest Kansas.

Berry's World

events

TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:
2-9-13-21-39

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
1-3-7

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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AARP INSTALLATION DINNER — Val Cervantes of Wichita Falls, associate state coordinator for community operations, installed officers and presented awards at the AARP annual installation dinner last Monday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Officers include Marie Armstrong, president; Velma Lunsford, vice president; and Carolyn Cox, secretary. Not pictured is Peggy Eubanks, treasurer. Cindy Nix presented a musical program. The local AARP received a gold state award for the overall program from 2000, and an award for Texas AARP Day. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Scurry County Library News & Views

By Janie Romine, Librarian

Happy Holidays! The "Food for Fines" is continuing at the Scurry County Library. We have delivered a full box of food to the food cupboard, and we are hoping that others pay their fines in this way so that we can deliver more food. If you still have video fines that are restricting your checkout privileges, come by the library and give two cans of food for every dollar you owe and your record will be cleared!

Help yourself and someone else at the same time. This only lasts for two more weeks so come to the library and clear up your fines.

Are you looking for a last minute present? Are you wondering what to give that elderly person? How about giving a gift of your time? Are they having trouble reading? Give them coupons to redeem, which entitle them to ask you to read to them. Perhaps they need a ride to the library, while they are awaiting the eye surgery that will allow them to get behind the wheel again. Be that person who drives them to the library.

Look to books for giving. These are gifts that can be enjoyed again and again. During this hectic time, take time to sit with your child and read some of the wonderful children's Christmas books. We have an abundance at the library. You will derive great pleasure and relaxation by taking a few moments and sharing the joy of reading with a young person.

The library will be closed for the holidays during Dec. 22-25 and again Dec. 29-Jan. 1.

Happy holidays from the Scurry County Library staff!

Bovine waterbed is ultimate in comfort

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Here's the ultimate in cow comfort: a bovine waterbed.

Cow waterbeds are designed much like human waterbeds — the bed surrounds the cow in cushy softness while supporting it when it lies down. The idea is based on the belief that comfortable cows produce more milk.

"The stalls with the water beds fill up faster than the other stalls," said John Marshman of Chenango County, who has installed 75 waterbeds in his barn. "Cows are just like everybody else. When they figure out something is more comfortable, that's where they'll go."

Doug Ford, a sales representative at Fisher Farms in Lenox, said that when a cow gets up from a waterbed, another cow immediately gets in and lies down.

"Sometimes, they'll stand there waiting for a cow to leave so they can get in on the water bed," he said last week.

The waterbeds are made by a company called Georgia Duck and sold through Relative Products LLC in Reedsburg, Wis. They have been sold in the United States for about three years.

Births

Kendall Benitez announces the birth of her sister, Ryleigh Lanette, on Dec. 12 in Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City. Ryleigh weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces. Parents are Micky and Amy Benitez.

Grandparents are Gracie Benitez of Snyder, and Larry and Glenda Anderson of Hermleigh. Great-grandparents are Glen and Marilyn Chauncy of Snyder.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-18-01
♠ A 5 4
♥ A Q 2
♦ K 10 9 8 5 4
♣ 6

West
♠ 9 2
♥ J 9 8 7 6 4
♦ 3
♣ Q 10 3 2

East
♠ K J 10 8 6
♥ 10
♦ Q J 6
♣ K J 8 5

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 9

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2001

An echo from around the corner

By Phillip Alder

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote something apposite for today's deal, especially when it is considered in tandem with yesterday's. "The same man will, indeed, often see and judge the same things differently on different occasions: early convictions must give way to more mature ones."

Yesterday, we learned that if the defenders wish to establish and run a suit against a no-trump contract, they must try to dislodge declarer's stoppers in that suit as quickly as possible. Today's deal looks similar — but is it?

North's two-spade cue-bid forced to game. If you would have doubled one spade and collected a 500-point penalty, well done!

When declarer called for the spade four at trick one, East stopped to think. He knew the principle about burning up declarer's stoppers as quickly as possible. But that diamond suit in the dummy was threatening. East worked through the play: Spade ducked to South's queen, diamond trick to East, spade king to dummy's ace, deluge of diamonds. South would surely make his contract.

Was a more promising defense available? How about clubs? If the defenders could capture three club tricks to go with a spade and a diamond, that would work. So, East won with the spade king and shifted to the club five. Victory!

East and West were happy, but North wasn't. He pointed out that if declarer had won the first trick with dummy's spade ace and established the diamond suit, he would have had 10 top tricks: one spade, three hearts, five diamonds and one club.

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Holiday sweet treats get doctor's OK

There may be sweet news for parents and children this holiday season.

You don't have to worry that visions of sugarplums dancing in your youngsters' heads will affect their brains. That is, scientific studies confirm that sugar consumption is in no way a cause of hyperactivity or Attention Deficit Disorder.

While sugar, like any other nutrient, should be consumed in moderation, researchers now say that it has no effect on a child's mood or ability to pay attention.

Explains Dr. Dean Edell, "Sugar doesn't cause any disease, doesn't make kids 'hyper'; it doesn't make adults 'hyper'. During holiday time kids are eating lots of sugar, and they seem 'hyper' because of the holiday. We've done the double blind studies. It does not affect moods."

The American Psychiatric Association agrees. Its members say no aspect of diet contributes to ADHD symptoms. Those symptoms can include:

- Fidgeting with hands or feet, squirming in a chair.
- Difficulty remaining seated.
- Running about or climbing excessively.
- Difficulty engaging in activities quietly.
- Acting as if driven by a motor.
- Talking excessively.
- Blurting out answers before questions have been completed.
- Difficulty waiting or taking turns.
- Interrupting or intruding upon others.

Any child who exhibits the majority of these symptoms, especially after the age of seven, should be seen by a doctor. A number of treatments are available. Avoiding sugar, however, is not generally considered among them.

So let your youngsters enjoy those holiday cookies, candy canes and chocolate coins-just be sure they brush their teeth afterwards.

You can learn more online from the Sugar Association, at www.sugar.org.

—

The 10,000-mile long Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an underwater chain of mountains that extends southward from Iceland, is the longest mountain range in the world.

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During this week just 'fore Christmas
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To show to you our thanks.
It's the Wassail time of year
And time for Cookies too.
We've cooked up some special recipes.
We're serving them just for you.
Noel
So finish up the shopping,
And tying up those loose ends.
And be sure to drop by the Bank this week,
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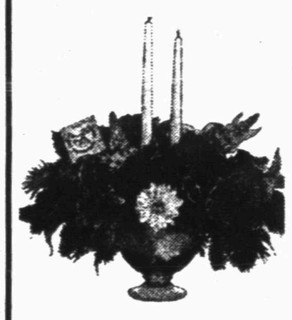
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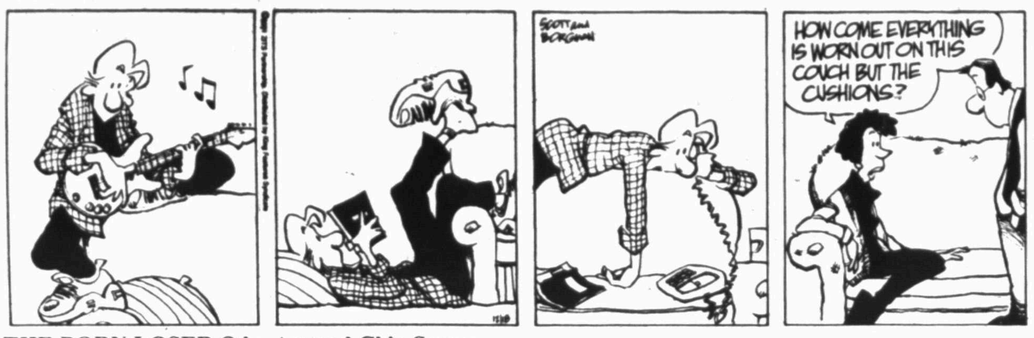
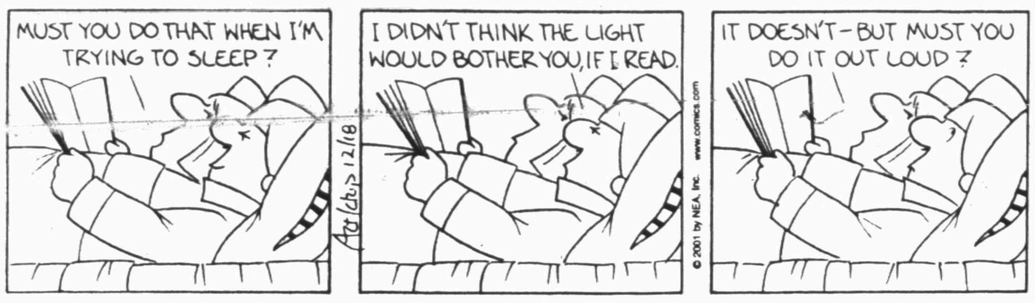
DEC 18 2001

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



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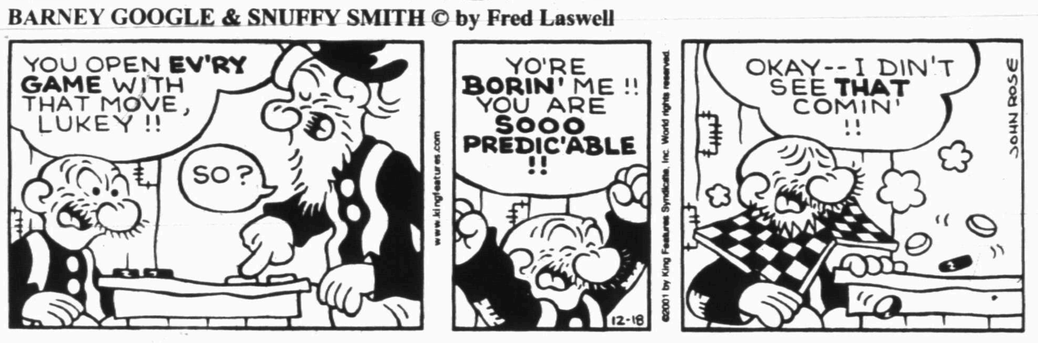

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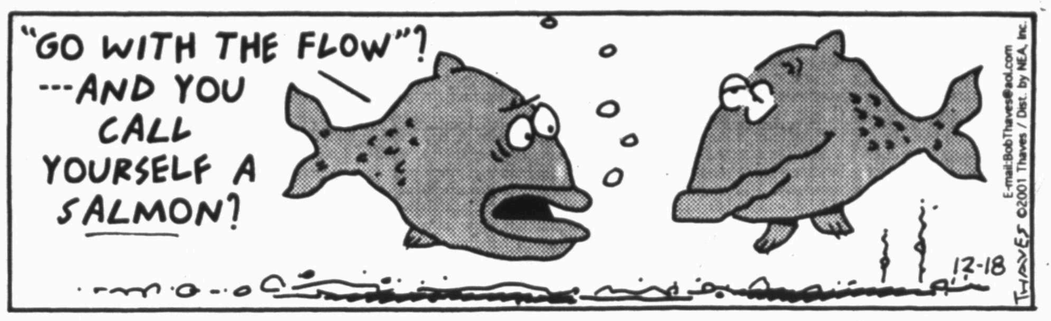
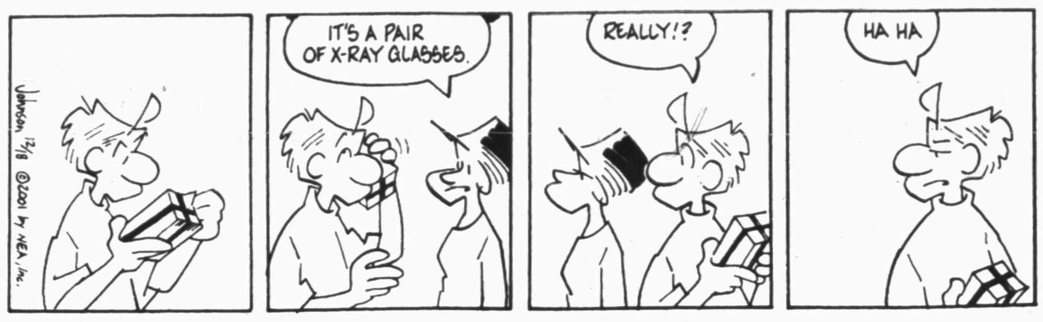


ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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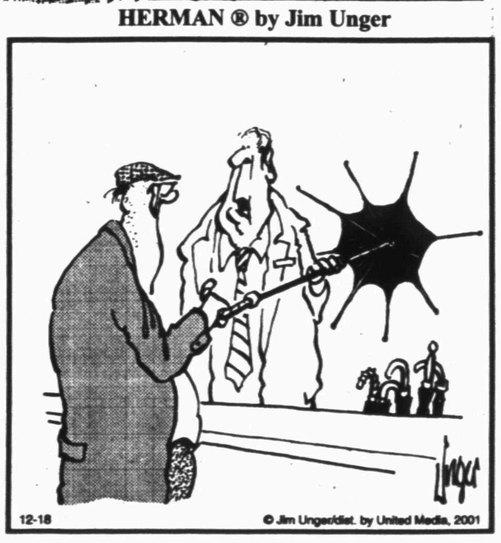

"You must have got it wet!"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Electrical unit
4 Devour
7 Sulk
11 "— — doll and . . ."
12 Tall flower
14 Lhasa —
15 Class
16 Paste
17 Skirt style
18 Hagar, to Helga
20 Charm
22 Chaney of films
23 Air-safety org.
24 Actor Ford
27 Stickups
30 PBS series
31 Make one's way
32 Clean a fish
34 Wield
35 Listerer's need
36 Wharf
37 Refreshments
39 Golden Anniversary years
40 Great anger
41 Coffee dispenser
42 Kind of monkey
45 Nobler
49 Go yachting
50 Europe-Asia border range
52 Salt Lake City athlete
53 Honeysuckle, e.g.
54 Radio's Harvey
55 HMO staffers
56 Corporate VIP
57 Layer
58 Edge a dolly

DOWN

1 Kyoto sashes
2 Backing
3 Shark
4 Encourages (2 wds.)
5 Gracie or Woody
6 Upsilon preceder
7 Gaucho's prairies
8 Sheriff Andy's son
9 Meat-grading grp.
10 Elbow grease
13 Stuns with noise
19 Arm bone
21 Forked out
24 Wildebeest
25 Sports setback
26 Uniform
27 His and —
28 Week-ending cheer
29 Bird-feeder treat
31 Rouses from sleep (2 wds.)
33 Undertake
35 Pale tan
36 Metallic sound
38 Walkways
39 With ruffles
41 Orange-and-white rental
42 Party-thrower's plea
43 Tresses
44 Berlin single
46 Ache
47 Volcano in Sicily
48 Stop working
51 Hip-hop music

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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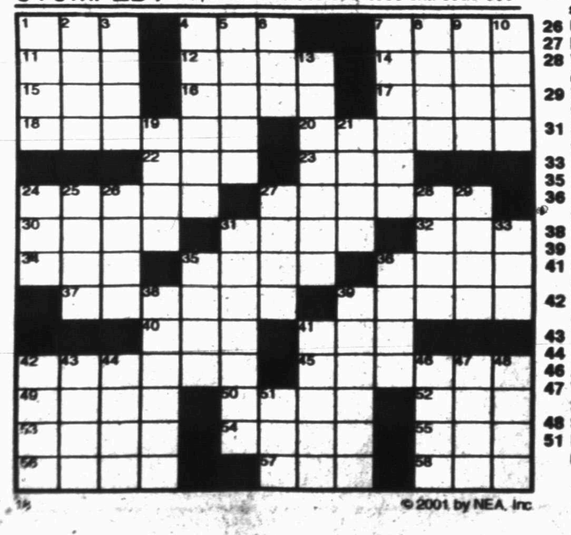

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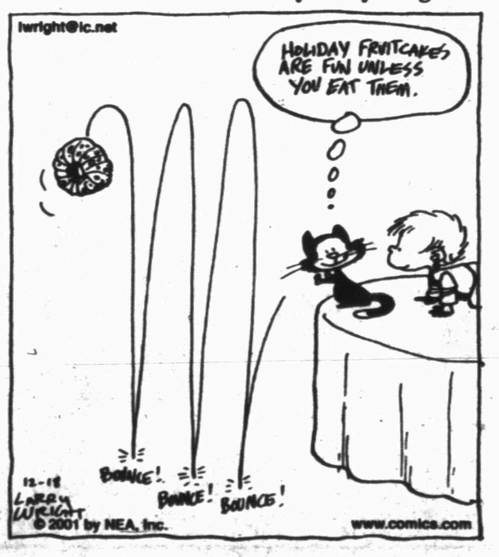
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"WELL, I TOOK A BATH... ATE MY CARROTS... AND I HAVEN'T BUGGED MARGARET ALL DAY."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Tigers host Steers in district opener

With tonight's opening of District 4-4A competition, all eight teams get a fresh start. The Snyder Tigers couldn't be happier.

Snyder, coming off its second victory of the season, tips off district play at 7:30 this evening against Big Spring at the SHS gym.

The Tigers enter the opener with an overall record of 2-10, but the only thing that counts is what happens from here on out.

"We played a lot better Friday against Wylie, and hopefully it carries over into district," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "Everybody is 0-0 going into tonight, so you control your own destiny from now on."

Big Spring is much improved from a year ago and sports a mark of 5-7. The Steers favor an extremely up-tempo style in which they'll press full court in hopes of forcing turnovers.

Snyder must take care of the ball, and not get caught up in the Steers' style of play to have a chance to win.

"Big Spring's games are kind of wild at times, because they are always pressuring and trying to run the floor," Birks stated. "We have to remain calm. We also have to limit our number of turnovers, and force them to play our style of basketball.

"We can't get caught up trying to beat them at their own game."

The Tigers won their final non-district tilt over Wylie despite the absence of Josh Mendoza. The junior post sat out Friday's game with an injured ankle, but is probable for action tonight.

Prior to the boys game, the Snyder Lady Tigers (1-1, 5-8) look to bounce back from their loss to Levelland when they host the Big Spring Lady Steers at 6 o'clock.

Big Spring (0-2, 8-6) employs a very physical style, and Snyder coach Mike Martin knows his squad must be ready for a battle in the paint.

"Big Spring is probably one of the most physical teams in our district," said Martin. "We can't back down in the middle. We have to hold our ground and get after them."

Tonight's contests are the final district match-ups before the Christmas break. Both Snyder squads resume league play Jan. 3 against Plainview.

In other local action tonight, Ira hosts Trent with the girls game getting underway at 6:30, followed by the boys.

Hermleigh has the night off in preparation for Friday's district opener against Loraine.

District 4-4A Boys Basketball

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Estacado	0	0	11	3
Frenship	0	0	10	3
Plainview	0	0	7	4
Andrews	0	0	7	5
Big Spring	0	0	5	7
Levelland	0	0	5	10
Lake View	0	0	4	8
Snyder	0	0	2	10

Tonight's games: Big Spring at Snyder; Lake View at Andrews; Plainview at Levelland; Frenship at Estacado.

District 4-4A Girls Basketball

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Plainview	2	0	13	1
Levelland	2	0	13	2
Estacado	2	0	11	2
Snyder	1	1	5	8
Frenship	1	1	10	5
Andrews	0	2	9	4
Big Spring	0	2	8	6
Lake View	0	2	2	11

Tonight's games: Big Spring at Snyder; Lake View at Andrews; Plainview at Levelland; Frenship at Estacado.

National Football League

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	9	4	0	.692	276	249
New England	9	5	0	.643	313	253
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	246	231
Indianapolis	5	8	0	.385	339	405
Buffalo	2	11	0	.154	214	344
Central	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	254	165
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	258	240
Cleveland	6	7	0	.461	230	223
Tennessee	6	7	0	.461	264	314
Jacksonville	5	8	0	.385	222	220
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	177	249
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Oakland	10	3	0	.769	350	267
Seattle	7	6	0	.539	231	257
Denver	7	7	0	.500	307	293
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	293	276
Kansas City	4	9	0	.308	252	280
NATIONAL CONFERENCE East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	299	161
N.Y. Giants	6	7	0	.461	221	239
Washington	6	7	0	.461	181	256
Arizona	5	8	0	.385	231	306
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	199	285
Central	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Chicago	10	3	0	.769	261	175
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	302	221
Tampa Bay	7	6	0	.539	241	232
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	271	314
Detroit	1	12	0	.077	241	343
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-St. Louis	11	2	0	.846	392	211
x-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	337	252
New Orleans	7	6	0	.539	302	283
Atlanta	6	7	0	.461	231	295
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	208	304

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Monday's Game
St. Louis 34, New Orleans 21
Saturday, Dec. 22
Miami at New England, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 5 p.m.
Tennessee at Oakland, 9 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23
Buffalo at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 1 p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.
Open: Denver

Red Raiders notch eighth win

LUBBOCK (AP) — Bob Knight's Texas Tech team handed him his fifth straight victory Monday night but the Red Raiders still couldn't maintain a strong lead going into the game's final minutes.

In its 89-72 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette, Tech (8-1) saw a 24-point second half lead dwindle to 11. Several times this season, Tech has built leads only to see them disappear.

"That's the part of the game we can't have," Knight said. "They didn't put themselves in a position where they were in a real bind until very late when the lead was cut to an 11-point lead. I was very disappointed with that."

Andy Ellis scored 25 points and Kasib Powell added 18 in Tech's win.

Ellis scored nine straight points for the Raiders in a three-minute stretch in the second half. The Rajun' Cajuns cut the lead to 11 with less than two minutes to play.

Pawel Storozynski had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Red Raiders.

Four players on Tech's bench, including Nick Valdez, combined for 24 points, nine assists and only one turnover.

But Knight didn't find satisfaction with that.

"We don't have the kind of steadiness in our bench that we need to have," he said.

Valdez said the team needs to buckle down to prepare for Big 12 conference opponents.

"We did a good job coming out and extending the lead in the second half," said Valdez who scored 11 points. "But then we didn't hold it, and that won't be good enough in the Big 12. It's a matter of concentration."

Antoine Landry and Brad Boyd scored 11 points each and Shea Whiting added 10 for the Rajun' Cajuns.

Louisiana-Lafayette (5-4) played sloppy during much of the game, committing 23 turnovers and sending Tech players to the foul line often. Tech shot 34-of-44 from the line.

"I was disappointed we didn't play a little better and disappointed we fouled so much," said Rajun' Cajun coach Jessie Evans. "They get after you on defense and make you do things at a hurried pace."

Both teams started sluggishly but Tech went on a 20-6 run midway through the first half after trailing briefly early in the game. The Rajun' Cajuns struggled on offense, often just running down the court and taking quick shots from the corners.

The Red Raiders, whose sole loss was to Sam Houston in late November, led 39-24 at halftime.

Knight said Evans complimented him on the facilities at United Spirit Arena.

"His first comment to me was they really liked the locker room," said Knight, an obvious reference to an incident that led to a confrontation with Compaq Center general manager Jerry MacDonald after Tech's win over Houston on Friday night.

Smith wishes for Cowboys' devotion to running game

IRVING (AP) — Emmitt Smith's eyes danced and he grew animated as he recalled the Christmas present that made him happiest.

"It was this electric football game," Smith said Monday, making noises to show reporters in the Dallas Cowboys dressing room the sounds it made.

"Couldn't get enough, huh?" someone asked him.

"Oh, that was the start," Smith said. "That was the start. I think the two teams I had were the Minnesota Vikings and the Steelers. We ran the ball a lot. I don't think you COULD pass in that game."

Smith wished out loud that the Cowboys had the same devotion to the running game. After averaging 23 carries in the previous two games — victories over the Washington Redskins and the New York Giants — Smith expected the same against Seattle.

Instead, Smith had just 12 carries for 39 yards and fullback Troy Hambrick had one carry for 3 yards in a 29-3 Seattle victory. Quarterback Quincy Carter was the leading rusher with 40 yards on 6 carries. The Cowboys went to the air 33 times and rushed the ball only 21 times.

"I don't know why we had to abandon the run right away. The score was 10-3, then 12-3, then 15-3. But, you just try to do the best you can when your number is called, and that's what I'm trying to do. If my number isn't called, there's nothing I can do about it," Smith said.

Cowboys coach Dave Campo said he would have liked to have gone with a strategy of running Emmitt, Emmitt, Emmitt at Seattle, "but the circumstances forced us out of it."

"We were just too inconsistent. We just weren't able to move the chain. We had a number of three plays and out, instead of going 4 yards, 3 yards, 3 yards. I bet we were third-and-7, third-and-8 a bunch," Campo said. "In every area, we lacked focus. Some of our guys were pulling off their blocks early."

The Cowboys penetrated Seattle territory only four times — three in the first half and once at the very end with the Cowboys trailing by 26.

As late as the fourth quarter, Campo said, he thought the Cowboys would pull the game out as they changed to a strategy of trying to throw to wide receivers Rocket Ismail or Joey Galloway.

"Part of it is a learning thing for the quarterback. Quincy threw the ball well, and that was a positive. A few times, he was a little bit late getting the ball off, and one time, we almost had what would have been a completion to Rocket for 50 or 60 yards. Quincy was throwing it into the wind and needed to throw it harder. It's a learning thing," Campo said.

"No question we took a step backward with this game. For the second straight week, we had some crucial penalties. I don't question anybody's effort, but we have to play with more focus," Campo said.

Eleven games into the season, Smith has only 690 yards. He must average 104 yards a game over the Cowboys' final three games if he is to achieve his 11th straight 1,000-yard season. He is in a tie with Barry Sanders for the NFL record of 10 in a row.

Not since his rookie season in 1990 has Smith gained fewer than 1,000 yards.

"Sure, getting a thousand means a lot," Smith said. "Getting 100 yards in a game is the mark you strive to get in a game, and 1,000 yards is the mark you strive to get in a season."

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	15	7	.682	—
Boston	14	8	.636	1
Washington	11	12	.478	4½
Orlando	12	14	.461	5
New York	11	13	.458	5
Philadelphia	10	14	.417	6
Miami	5	17	.227	10
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Detroit	14	7	.667	—
Milwaukee	13	7	.650	½
Indiana	13	12	.520	3
Toronto	12	12	.500	3½
Charlotte	11	12	.478	4
Atlanta	9	14	.391	6
Cleveland	9	14	.391	6
Chicago	4	18	.182	10½
WESTERN CONFERENCE Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
San Antonio	17	4	.809	—
Minnesota	16	6	.727	1½
Dallas	15	9	.625	3½
Utah	11	13	.458	7½
Denver	9	14	.391	9
Houston	7	18	.280	12
Memphis	5	18	.217	13
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
L.A. Lakers	18	3	.857	—
Sacramento	18	7	.720	2
Phoenix	14	11	.560	6
L.A. Clippers	13	11	.542	6½
Portland	11	11	.500	7½
Seattle	11	15	.423	9½
Golden State	9	16	.360	11

Monday's Game
Philadelphia 99, Boston 83
Tuesday's Games
Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Utah at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Portland at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Detroit at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

SHS freshmen fall to Maidens

SAN ANGELO — Snyder's bid for victory came up one point short in a 28-27 setback to San Angelo Lake View in freshman girls basketball action.

Stacey Williamson poured in six points to pace the Lady Tigers.

Courtney Cox, J.J. Farmer and Briana Burk tallied four points apiece. Kayla Guerrero added three points, and Heather Holmes, Jacie Beccue and Heather Zajicek chipped in two each.

7th grade girls trounce Wilson

LUBBOCK — A quick start and some stingy defense helped the Snyder seventh grade girls record another pair of victories Monday night against Lubbock Wilson.

Snyder Gold tallied a 40-21 victory, and Snyder Black won by a 33-2 margin.

Jordan Stansell's paced the Gold squad, which raced to a 14-1 lead in the opening quarter.

Kaitlyn Greenlee dropped in nine points. Katy Crenwelge added six and Terann Ragland posted five. Courtney Tyrrell finished with four points, and LaCree Tippens and Kendra Burns chipped in two each.

Snyder Black took care of business on the defensive end, holding Wilson scoreless until the final frame.

Briana Bernal poured in 20 points to lead the Lady Tigers' offensive effort.

Tana Sullenger, Teisha McGlouthin and Jaedi Baze drained four points apiece, and Amber Luecke registered one.

Bowling Leagues

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
The Shack	149.5	88.5
Blue Sunoco	141.5	96.5
Rogers Backhoe	138	100
YZ Systems	128	110
Anadarko	123	115
Snyder Iron	122	116
Timely Finance	110	128
Patterson	107	131
WTP Energy	106	132
NAPA	103.5	134.5
Snyder Brick	103	135
Cutting Edge	96.5	141.5

High series: Jeff Smith, scratch, 595; Ray Jasso, handicap, 647.
High game: Butch Evans and Roger Pavlik, scratch, 191; Toby Roemer, handicap, 251.
Splits and special mentions: Jeff Smith, Elbert Klein and Roger Batchelor, 3-10; Stacey Browning, 2-7; Kevin Jones, 6-7-10.

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$16.95 for 5 days, get 6th day FREE! 15 words or less

Employment

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Send resume to theatre or e-mail Snydercinema@aol.com

Need part-time home care providers in Snyder area to assist the elderly & disabled. 915-676-2281/800-669-2291

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Security Finance is now looking for an Assistant Manager. We offer competitive pay, good benefits and the opportunity for advancement. Send resume or apply in person to Security Finance, 511 Coliseum Dr., Snyder, TX 79549.

Everyone reads classifieds!

Farmer's Column

SEED WHEAT, CLEAN
94% Germination, 0% Weed
$5.50 per bag
Greg Gafford, (915) 338-8719

Tim Collier is looking for good land to cash lease east of Snyder, $30 to $40 per acre per year. 573-7014

Merchandise

25% off 1 item w/this ad. Bring to Klassy Kids, 1806-26th. Newborn through Teens. 11-27-01/12-24-01

Big Screen TV for sale. Take on small payments. Good credit required. 1-800-398-3970

CAROL'S CRITTER CORNER
!HOLIDAY SPECIALS!
Hermit crab & set up.....$19.99
Goldfish set + fish.....$11.99
20% Off All Bird Cages
Eclipse 5 gal. Hex.....$59.99
Also: Guinea pigs, Hamsters & Mice
1809 25th St. 11–5:30
573-0990

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads. Call today!

Merchandise

Computer System: Windows 98 SE, 3.1GB hard drive, CD-ROM and 3.5 drives, 200MHZ Pentium CPU, 15" color VGA monitor, internal modem, microphone, keyboard, speakers, Word 2000, Office 97, Canon BJC-5000 color bubble jet printer, $600. 574-2128 or 721-2178.

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

Disney vacation, 7 days, 6 nights at Ramada. Good for 1 year. Sacrifice, $199. Call 915-620-1617.

Firewood for sale, delivered. Split Oak $170/cord; Mesquite $155/cord. 573-1535, leave message.

FOR SALE
Used 55 gallon drums
Metal $3.50 each; Plastic $4 each
National Fuel, 2208 Ave. R

FRESH SHELLED PECANS
$5.00 lb shelled; $1.50 lb in shell.
915-735-3468

Fridgedaire freezer, new, never been used, $325. Laser cut 14 ct gold ring, $25. Free Pit Bull puppies. 573-5272, 573-8076

Little ads get big results!

Merchandise

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

NEW CROP PECANS
Shelled $5, Unshelled $2
Free delivery. Also Formica table w/4 chairs. 573-9853

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DO THE MATH.
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Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
Val Trammell - Apartment Mgr.
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Quality Living At An Affordable Price

Merchandise

What's new at the **Whistle Stop?** Christmas door hangings, Quillos, and the ***Excitement of Attracting and Caring for Hummingbirds*** video.

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES

Whirlpool Washer	$195
Kenmore Dryer (elec. or gas)	$95
G.E. Washer & Dryer	$299
18 cu.ft. Refrig.	$95
5 cu.ft. Freezer	$120
20 cu.ft. Freezer	$225
Electric Range	$95
Gas Range	$150
Dishwasher	$150
Gas Heater	$40

USED FURNITURE

Sofa	$50
Recliner	$95
Rocker w/ottoman	$125
Sofa-Love Recliner	$250
4pc. BR Suite w/Bedding	$275

REPO MERCHANDISE

Recliner reg. $399.99	$150
Sofa reg. $599.99	$299.95
Sleeper reg. $699.99	$395
36" Range w/griddle reg. $599.99	$299.99
Whirlpool Elec. Range reg. $799.99	$399.99
27 in. RCA TV reg. $449.99	$150

Lowrance Western Auto
Snyder, Texas
2510 Ave. R 573-1911
East Side of Square

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

Small 3 month old registered Pug for sale, $200. Call 573-1092.

Apartments For Rent

1 bedroom furnished apartment w/bills & cable paid. 573-5879 or 573-1902. No answer call 915-728-8482.

2-bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. All bills & cable paid. Weekly/Bi-weekly/monthly rates. For more information, **573-5773.**

Houses For Rent

3-2 house in Hermleigh. $175/dep., $325/mo. Call 915-949-3608 after 6p.m. Available Jan. 1st.

3702 Sunset, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, den, 1-garage, CH/A, fenced yard. $475/mo. 573-6193

RENT HOUSES AVAILABLE
3906 Eastridge
4019 Houston
Elizabeth Potts Realtors.....573-8505
Suzan Pinkerton.....573-0004

Rent or Sale
2BR, 1Bth, 1GA, fenced yard, CA, gas heat. $290/mo. + deposit. 707 27th. Call 573-0899 to view.

Mobile Homes

$500 Move-In
Owner Finance
Call Juan **915-725-4133**

Beautiful Doublewide
In Country
Call Laura, **915-665-3544**

Cute Little House
Very Affordable.
Call 915-673-7353

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ALWAYS A WINNER

Mobile Homes

Double-wide w/6 lots, water well, shop building, 3-car carport, 3 space RV storage, small storage building, nice trees, fenced. Owner finance, call for terms, 573-2251.

Cemetery Plots

Single lot in Hillside Memorial Gardens. 806-273-2647

Real Estate

2-1-2, new A/C, new tile floors, brick. Call Sonic @ 573-7620 or 574-1253 to view. $29,900

3-1½ house in Dunn, CH, (3) window units, shed. Assumable loan. Call 863-2723 after 5p.m.

3 bedroom, 2 bath house, CH/A. 573-8015

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided.
Low down, low monthly.
2bd,-1bth, 608 33rd
Call Kelly, 915-425-9994

Good location, 4-2-1, office, central heat, new paint & carpet, fenced. On Sunset. $28,000 573-7480

HOUSE - 3-1, CH/A, fresh paint, good carpet, fenced yard. 10% down. 111 Browning 573-2251

House for sale, owner will finance. Call 806-893-5553 or 512-431-4110

REDUCED!
Brick home, 9.02 acres. 105 East 23rd, 3bdr-2bth, fireplace, large dining, large den, basement, 2-carport, RV parking, storage building, water well & city water. 573-6629, 573-5885, 573-8273

Any time is the right time to use the classified ads in The Snyder Daily News. Call 573-5486 now!

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Realtors
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Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

Nice Beginner for a Family 308 33rd.....$36T
1 of Snyder's newest homes 3-2-2 3309 Irving
Great Neighborhood 3-2½-2+1cp.....$65T
321 35th St. 3-1-1 Detached.....$25T
1.89 A's w/2-1-2cp Neat country Near Hermleigh $25T
160 A's 3-2-cp & shop 5.2 mi. NE of Hermleigh
REDUCED 2805 Ave. V 3-1¾-1cp.....$39,750
14 .49 Acres 3-2-Hot Tub, Sprinkler System...$95T
Attractive 3-1¾-2 4014 Irving.....$65T
Economical mobile home 3-1 $9T 2209 Gilmore
Near City 160 acres w/2-1-1cp.....$100T
3202 40th 3-1-1 Nice Kitchen & Carpeting $29.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
3-2½-2+4+RV Gar., Pool, Hot Tub, 2501 48th
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2+2 Living Areas $92.5T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th.....$42T
4-1¾-2cp Det. $28.5T w/$4000 Repair. Allow.
Great Home 4-2-4cp, office....2803 El Paso
1 Acre with 3-1 & 4-2 cp detached E. 23rd St.
Lovely Home 2-1, ¾, 1½-2 + Office + Sunroom
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

Fire contained to main cathedral area

NEW YORK (AP) — Fire broke out this morning at the historic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, with flames shooting from the Episcopal church that has been under construction for more than a century.

Part of the roof of an adjoining three-story gift shop caved in but no injuries were reported.

The Christmastime fire, which was brought under control within 21/2 hours, was largely contained in the main cathedral area, according to fire officials, who said they expected widespread smoke and water damage. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

Up to 200 firefighters were called to the scene at about 7 a.m., an hour before the first Mass of the day at the world's largest gothic cathedral. Smoke poured from the gift shop, and scores of onlookers stood by.

"There were clouds of black smoke 40 feet high. The winds were blowing it all over the place," said Juan Cruz, a mechanic who saw the fire on his way to work at nearby Columbia University.

On the church grounds two blocks from the blaze, about a dozen members of the Cathedral School's basketball team were led to safety by staff, said Cindy Arlia, the school's business manager. Arriving parents were told to return home with their children.

Among them was, Margaret Hurwitz, who was with her 12-year-old son, Nicholas.

"We were just crying all the way down here," she said.

"You know, after the World Trade towers, you want something to be secure," Hurwitz said. "This is where we came that day."

Thousands of people visit the cathedral every day, and a half million a year, cathedral spokesman Jere Farrah said. Two Masses are traditionally held on Christmas, each of which typically attracts as many as 5,000 people.

The cathedral is home to many priceless artifacts, according to Farrah, including a collection known as the Barberini tapestries, which date to the 17th and 18th centuries. The tapestries, woven on the pope's official looms, depict the life of Christ. It was uncertain of the tapestries were damaged in the fire.

The cathedral is on Manhattan's Upper West Side in the Morningside Heights neighborhood. The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia says the church is the world's largest gothic cathedral.

The first stone was laid in 1892, but construction has never been completed, and work has continued until World War II. When construction resumed in 1982 after a 41-year break, jobless local youths were trained in old-fashioned stone-cutting methods.

Cathedral organist Dorothy Papadakos said the organ was the city's fourth largest and dates to 1910.

"We were going to do 'The Messiah' in two days," she said, "but I don't think it's going to happen."

IMF forecasting slower world growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world economy is headed for its weakest growth in a decade and its most dramatic simultaneous slowdown in 20 years, the International Monetary Fund predicted today.

The 183-nation lending agency released an updated "World Economic Outlook" to take into account the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The new forecast sharply lowered growth estimates for the world and the U.S. economy below its October report, which had been prepared in advance of the terrorist attacks.

For the global economy, the IMF predicted growth would slow to 2.4 percent next year, same as this year.

That would be down from a torrid 4.7 percent pace in 2000 and would be the weakest performance since a 2.3 percent increase in the world economy in 1993. The IMF said next year would probably see the most marked simultaneous slowdown among all regions of the world in at least two decades.

It blamed similar shocks hitting many regions, including a big jump in oil prices in 2000 and the bursting of the bubble in the price of many high-tech stocks.

"The tragic events of Sept. 11 exacerbated an already very difficult situation in the global economy," the IMF said. "As a result, prospects for global recovery have been set back significantly."

The forecast for 2.4 percent growth for both this year and 2002 marked downward revisions from the IMF's October forecast of 2.6 percent growth this year and 3.5 percent growth in 2002.

For the United States, the IMF projected the gross domestic product would increase by just 1.1 percent this year and an even more meager 0.8 percent next year. In October, the IMF had put U.S. growth at 1.3 percent this year and 2.2 percent next year.

The National Bureau of Economic Research declared last month that the United States' first recession in a decade had begun in March. Many private forecasters say the downturn will be relatively mild and will be over by March.

The IMF also expressed optimism that a U.S. recovery will begin next year, propelled by aggressive credit easing by the Federal Reserve and additional economic stimulus in the form of tax cuts and increased government spending.

But the IMF economists cautioned there are significant downside risks that could prevent even its scaled-back growth forecast from being realized.

"While there are good reasons to expect a recovery to get under way in 2002, the outlook remains highly uncertain and there is a significant possibility of a worse outcome," the IMF said.

Among the threats to its forecast, the IMF cited the possibility that consumer confidence will return more slowly in the United States because of lingering fears of new terrorist attacks.

The IMF's updated economic projections, while sharply lower than the official October forecast, came close to preliminary numbers previewed last month by IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler.

The IMF forecast that the Japanese economy, the world's second-largest, would shrink by 0.4 percent this year and 1.0 percent next year.

For the 15-nation European Union, the IMF forecast growth of 1.7 percent this year and 1.3 percent next year. Germany, the biggest economy in Europe, was projected to grow by just 0.5 percent this year and 0.7 percent next year.

For developing nations, the IMF projected growth of 4.0 percent this year and 4.4 percent next year, led by strong growth of 7.3 percent in China this year and 6.8 percent next year.

Study shows freedom gap between Islamic countries and the rest of the world

NEW YORK (AP) — An annual study of world freedom released today highlights a gap between predominantly Islamic nations and other countries, rating only one majority Islamic country, the African nation Mali, as "free."

The Freedom House study rated 192 nations based on the civil liberties and political rights enjoyed by their citizens.

Of those nations, 86 were given the highest rating of "free."

Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, Sudan and Iraq were among 48 countries — 28 of them Islamic — that received the organization's lowest rating, "not free."

Fifty-eight countries — 18 of them Islamic — were rated "partly free."

"In the wake of the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, it is imperative that policy-makers around the globe give serious attention to the democracy gap in the Islamic world," said Bill Richardson, chairman of Freedom House, a nonpartisan, nonprofit group founded nearly 60 years ago by Americans concerned about democracy, including Eleanor Roosevelt.

By population, the ratings showed 41 percent of the world's people living in "free" countries, 23 percent in "not free" countries, and 35 percent in "partly free" countries.

The overall breakdown in the ratings was similar to last year's results because 17 countries registered significant gains in freedom and 17 registered setbacks.

The report listed 17 states with significant setbacks in freedom, including Liberia, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Egypt, Haiti, Jordan, Yemen, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

The study also cites progress: Peru re-entered the ranks of the free countries; the countries of Gambia and Mauritania improved from not free to partly free; and gains were recorded for Croatia, Yugoslavia, Bahrain and Congo, among others.

The Freedom House study was conducted by a team of 14 people who met with advisers and groups from around the world including political parties and associations, human rights monitors, religious figures, academics and journalists.

The group rated the countries on a scale based on the countries' records in granting citizens political rights, such as allowing them to form political parties that compete for positions of power, and civil liberties.

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Is new supplement a scam?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What do you know about coral calcium? I attended a meeting about this product, and I was alarmed at the salespeople's claims. They are claiming they have the cure for cancer, and it is a coral calcium product. I just sat and shook my head but was unable to argue because I didn't know much about the product. I am very suspicious, but I wanted to ask you if there is any substance here. — **C.B., Portland, Ore.**

Dear C.B.: You are right to be suspicious. I have checked on products made with coral calcium and have found nothing unique or miraculous. Amid a background touting the long life of people on the island of Okinawa, there were a number of unscientific statements and unsupported claims saying how this product can prevent or cure a veritable laundry list of diseases. There is talk of how coral calcium can neutralize toxic materials and that it is an alkaline (opposite to an acid) that can bring the body into balance. Woven together with all this "information" is the sales pitch on how you can make money selling the products.

We need calcium, as we do all essential minerals. No surprise there. We have learned how an adequate calcium intake is associated with a decreased risk of many diseases. No surprise there, either. Calcium carbonate, the most common form of calcium supplement, is alkaline, which is why it's the principle ingredient in many antacids. That means that there is nothing special about a calcium supplement being alkaline. As for the ability to neutralize toxins, I ask, "Where's the evidence?" Until I see something of substance, I must conclude that this product does not possess the curative properties it claims to have.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have just quit smoking and feel as if I need to flush my system of these terrible toxic materials I have been putting into my body. I am drinking a tremendous amount of water and have been eating very lightly. Is a weeklong liquid diet a good idea to help my body not work so hard to digest my food and concentrate on healing? I am also trying to rest a great deal. Any other ideas on how to get through this in the best way? — **D.B., Charlotte, N.C.**

Dear D.B.: Way to go! Your body will soon gain the upper hand in kicking those toxins slowly, but surely, out of your system. Water is one of our main conduits for elimination, so you are on target there. As for food, people usually have an urge to eat more after quitting smoking, so you should have some low-calorie foods around. Eat normally at mealtime, but be alert to the quality of your snacking. Good between-meal foods include fresh fruits, cut vegetables, pretzels (whole wheat if palatable), and even sugar-free gums and candy. Other suggestions include rice cakes, popcorn (air-popped), whole-grain dry cereals, raisins, etc. These foods can fill you up without contributing too many calories

You note that you are resting, but if you have the OK from your doctor, it might help to go on walks, or do some other exercise, such as riding a bicycle, dancing or any other activity you enjoy. Not only will it help control potential weight gain, but it will be an important first step in telling your lungs and muscles to get in step with your new plane of existence.

Don't give up if you gain a few pounds. They can be lost later. The key is to get over the proverbial "hump" of four or so weeks, after which the worst of the withdrawal symptoms will be history. There are many programs and support groups that can help.

Finally, you definitely need to give yourself a good pat on the back. I congratulate you and wish you luck and determination as you continue down this road.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		22.86	22.40	22.57 + .07
AOL TimeWrn		34.25	33.79	33.95 + .40
AT&T Corp s		16.97	16.65	16.80—.22
Albertsons		30.76	30.17	30.65 + .20
Alltel		64.08	63.35	63.52—.33
AmEl Pw		41.72	41.25	41.33—.21
AndrkPtr		51.35	50.57	51.00
ATMOS Egy		21.00	20.84	20.85
[illegible]		8.05	7.44	7.65 + .03
BP PLC		45.38	45.00	45.09 + .69
BakerHughes		34.60	33.95	34.07—.01
Bank of Amer		63.65	62.97	63.13—.12
BellSouth		39.39	39.01	39.30 + .32
vjBeth Steel		.67	.51	.55—.09
BurlNoSFe		28.59	28.10	28.57 + .17
Caterpillar		51.20	50.46	51.13 + 1.23
ChevronTex		86.10	85.28	85.69 + .05
Citigroup		47.95	47.52	47.67 + .30
CocaCola		46.55	46.31	46.42 + .27
ColgatePal		57.58	56.42	57.29 + .94
ComclMetals		34.00	33.30	33.68 + .33
CooperIn		35.96	35.71	35.82 + .32
DaimlrChry		41.68	41.09	41.22 + .41
DeltaAirl		29.66	29.05	29.15—.31
Dillards Inc		15.61	14.99	15.30 + .28
DowChem		36.25	35.71	36.18 + 1.28
DuPont		43.76	43.20	43.42 + 1.30
EastmanChem		38.78	38.20	38.70 + .84
EstKodak		30.98	30.45	30.87 + .03
EDS Corp		70.20	69.40	69.97 + .39
Entergy		37.58	37.04	37.05 + .05
ExxonMobil s		37.75	37.56	37.69 + .22
FstBksAm		31.20	31.20	31.20 + .05
FootLocker		15.50	15.25	15.25—.21
GenDynam		80.42	79.63	79.82—.10
GenElec		40.10	39.35	39.93 + 1.63
GenMills		50.00	49.55	49.68 + .18
GenMotors		47.69	47.38	47.67 + .39
GaPacGP		28.30	27.84	27.95 + .03
Goodrich		24.51	24.10	24.51 + .61
Goodyear s		24.70	24.40	24.68 + .13
GtAtlPac		24.25	23.55	23.75 + .20
Halliburtn		13.09	12.51	13.03 + .20
Hanson ADS		35.67	35.00	35.67 + 1.64
HartelHanks		26.71	26.30	26.50 + .26
HomeDepot		51.05	50.18	50.25 + .25
Honeywellntl		31.98	31.55	31.88 + .37
IBM		122.97	121.51	121.85 + .51
IntlPaper		40.39	40.00	40.20 + .20
JohnsonJn s		57.24	56.90	57.11 + .66
K mart		5.35	5.20	5.27 + .12
KinderMorg		52.00	51.21	51.95 + .55
Kroger Co		20.45	20.26	20.30 + .15
LockheedM		46.70	45.75	45.96—.58
Lowes Cos s		46.85	45.50	45.85
Lubys		5.99	5.82	5.90 + .10
LucentTech		6.54	6.36	6.38 + .10
MayDeptStr		35.92	35.40	35.72 + .14
Medtronic		50.00	48.51	48.55—1.57
Motorola		16.70	16.43	16.55 + .28
NCR Corp		38.16	36.95	37.48 + 1.14
[illegible]		39.75	38.30	38.74 + .74
Penney JC		25.24	24.78	25.01 + .27
PepBoys		17.93	17.50	17.77 + .27
PepsiCo		47.56	47.40	47.48 + .08
Pharmacia		43.25	42.72	42.85 + .05
PhelpDodge		33.20	32.02	33.02 + 1.00
PhilipPet		56.50	55.62	56.43 + .51
PilgrmPrd B		14.15	13.95	13.98—.07
Praxair		54.30	53.10	54.25 + 1.21
ProctGamb		81.00	80.00	80.81 + 1.01
PubS NwMx		26.93	26.29	26.75 + .31
RadioShack		29.97	29.64	29.81 + .67
ReliantEngy		24.10	23.70	23.70 + .06
RoyalDut		48.46	47.85	47.88 + .01
SBC Comm		40.23	39.85	40.06 + .13
SaraLee		22.20	21.72	21.92 + .07
Scripps EW		66.36	64.29	65.38 + 1.31
SearsRoeb		47.67	46.85	46.97—.01
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SouthernCo s		23.55	23.37	23.41 + .11
SwstAirl s		19.09	18.53	18.59—.25
SprintFON		19.94	19.40	19.56
SprintPCS		24.25	23.41	24.18 + .50
Sunoco Inc		36.10	35.66	36.05 + .46
TXU Corp		44.70	44.50	44.54 + .03
TempleInland		55.92	55.15	55.78 + .67
Texlnd		36.90	35.90	36.20 + .37
TexasInst		30.79	30.07	30.16—.01
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TriconGlbR		53.30	52.90	53.01—.07
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TylerTech		4.05	4.02	4.04—.02
USX-Marathn		27.97	27.77	27.88 + .31
USX-USS		16.60	16.45	16.47 + .10
UnionPacif		56.50	55.52	56.45 + .58
UnitedTech		63.71	62.76	63.44 + .59
Unocal		33.65	33.25	33.47 + .08
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DEC 18 2001

Enron to auction majority of energy trading operation

HOUSTON (AP) — Executives of Enron Corp. reportedly plan to auction off 51 percent of the embattled energy company's trading operations that once generated most of its profits.

Lawyers for the Houston-based company have asked the judge presiding over its Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding to allow it to hold an auction Jan. 10 to sell off a majority stake in the business. Sources following the deal told the Houston Chronicle in today's editions that stake is expected to fetch about $1 billion.

The auction is an attempt to salvage the business before it loses all its customers. Enron has been scrambling to put together a joint venture that will enable it to revive its oil, natural gas and power trading business following the company's financial meltdown.

"It is imperative that the customers of the wholesale business are swiftly provided with the mechanism to continue trading activities and each day that the wholesale business is not acting at full capacity is another day for a competitor to lure customers," Enron attorneys said in a court filing.

Enron's rivals such as El Paso Corp. and Dynegy Inc. say Enron's collapse has not left a large void in the commodities market. But they say they won't attempt to fill Enron's shoes by trying to make markets outside energy.

Enron has reportedly been talking to 14 interested parties about the energy trading business with three banks — J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup and Swiss bank UBS — considered the front-runners to form a joint venture to recapitalize the trading business.

But they have chosen the auction to consider as many possible buyers in short order. All bidders must have grade A creditworthiness.

"The sooner the better," Enron she energy trading business once generated 80 percent of Enron's profits.

The Intercontinental Exchange, an online trading platform formed by many of Enron's rivals, has picked up much of Enron's online trading business.

Sequent Energy Management, a Houston-based energy trading and marketing arm of Atlanta based AGL Resources, has watched its volumes grow by some 300 percent since Enron filed for bankruptcy protection.

"The industry is adapting to a world with no Enron," Jay Lukens, a Houston energy consultant, told the Houston Chronicle for today's editions. "I don't think there is any hope of ever recreating the old Enron through some alliance."

Before its downfall, Enron traded a broad range of commodities including oil, natural gas, power, broadband, metals and paper, as well as financial instruments and hedges.

The company once centered around being a market maker is now expected to focus mainly on energy products with lower risk and lower margins.

Enron once had about 800 trading desks throughout the country that were backed by experts in areas such as mathematics and statistics trading a wide range of products. Since filing for bankruptcy, the company has laid off some 4,500 workers, but it won't say how many traders are still on the payroll.

For now, Enron's trading desk is open but doing little, if any, business.

Station men return to changed nation

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — An American and two Russians returned from their four-month space station mission with "smiles on their faces" and a bounce in their steps, despite all the changes in the world around them.

"We're very grateful to be home for Christmas," astronaut Frank Culbertson said shortly after space shuttle Endeavour brought him back to Earth amid heightened security on Monday.

Culbertson and his international space station crewmates walked off Endeavour, ending an expedition that began in August and persevered through one of America's darkest days.

"To be able to walk off on your own two feet is a testament to what those guys did on orbit on their exercise program and their determination to come back in great shape," said shuttle commander Dominic Gorie.

Culbertson and cosmonauts Vladimir Dezhurov and Mikhail Tyurin also were aboard the international space station on Sept. 11 and watched the horrifying smoky scenes from 250 miles up. The space station's cameras captured images of the World Trade Center that were relayed by NASA to news agencies around the world.

A retired 52-year-old Navy captain, Culbertson expressed frustration and feelings of isolation in the days after Sept. 11. Over the weekend, he said: "It was a very difficult day to try to understand and realize what really was going on and the magnitude of the tragedy involved. You think: How could somebody do something like this and what happens next?"

As a high-flying show of patriotism, Endeavour carried more than 6,000 American flags to the space station and back. The flags will be mounted on certificates and distributed to families of those killed on Sept. 11, as well as to some survivors of the tragedy.

Gorie said Endeavour's flight hopefully was a source of strength for those who suffered — "and I think we all have suffered in some respects since Sept. 11."

"I have to think that every person who was here and watched the shuttle take off — anytime, ever — has to feel a sense of pride and strength and certainly patriotism if they are an American," he said. "That has to have some curing effect on our psyche, individually and nationally."

Only about 100 guests lined the runway for Endeavour's afternoon return, namely family members and top NASA officials. The crowd was one-tenth the usual size because of stepped-up security; most Kennedy Space Center employees were turned away.

The shuttle's launch 12 days earlier also was surrounded by heavy security to guard against a terrorist attack.

Culbertson was welcomed back to the planet by his wife, Rebecca, and five children. The cosmonauts' wives also were present for the homecoming. All three men had "smiles on their faces," Gorie said.

Culbertson, Dezhurov and Tyurin spent 129 days in orbit, circled Earth more than 2,000 times and logged 53 million miles — more than half the distance between the Earth and the sun. They face weeks of rehabilitation to strengthen their space-weakened bones and muscles.

Replacing them at the space station were Russian cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko, the new commander, and American astronauts Daniel Bursch and Carl Walz. They will stay on board until Endeavour returns for them in May.

Liberty Island will soon reopen to visitors

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time since Sept. 11, Liberty Island will soon reopen to tourists, but the home of the Statue of Liberty will be under extremely tight security.

Liberty Island, which is just across the harbor from the World Trade Center site, will begin accepting visitors Thursday, park spokesman Brian Feeney said.

However, visitors won't be able to go inside of Lady Liberty until next year due to security reasons, the park service said. The Ellis Island immigration museum, part of the same tour as Liberty Island, will also accept visitors beginning Thursday.

"For over a century now, the statue has represented the ideal of America and liberty," Feeney said. "After Sept. 11, people want to reconnect."

Tightened security means tourists will have to go through screening long before they get near the statue, Feeney said.

"We're going to engage in offsite screening, before the people even get on the boats," Feeney said. "It's going to be similar to airport screening in that anything you're carrying goes through an X-ray machine and you go through a magnetometer."

Before Sept. 11, visitors were screened on the island before entering the statue.

Feeney said final approval to reopen the island came from Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2001

You could be the participant in some rather extraordinary developments from time to time in the year ahead. Some could produce benefits that otherwise wouldn't have happened.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — The power of your personality could be overwhelming today. The dynamic impression you make on others will be reflected in your popularity at this time. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — An ingenious flash of inspiration could overwhelm you today to move forward on it. Do not take it lightly, especially if it involves your financial well-being.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Today you might get the opportunity to get to know someone better who is also eager to learn more about you. Do something constructive about developing this relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Through a unique chain of events today success is likely to be had for the taking. Although this may come about as a surprise, don't leave things totally up to chance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There are some indications that some exciting new people may enter your life at this time. Be open-minded and receptive in making new acquaintances today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone in a high place who likes you a lot may have an interesting proposition for you today that could produce advantages for you career-wise. Be receptive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A pal with whom you're presently involved is as eager as your are to team up with you today for the purposes of a pleasant arrangement. Make the overtures.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The peripheral benefits you may derive today from a working arrangement could turn out to be of a friendship nature. What occurs could be exciting for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It might be wise to leave your calendar open today, because a spontaneous event that pops up is what is likely to prove to be the most exciting and fun for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — An improvement in your working conditions, both at the office and in the home, can be expected at this time. What you couldn't do yesterday is very possible today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — A strange pipeline might be the source that transmits a surprise interest in you from someone you'd least expect. It may result in something social or even romantic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Pronounced highs and lows always lurk about when it comes to financial affairs. Today may be one of those times when it is your turn to cash in.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Cute puppy grows up to get dumped on a country road

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter concerning the cruelty of abandoning pets. The following is a true story of what can happen:

My sister-in-law's family acquired a darling black-and-white fuzzy puppy that grew into a big, shaggy mess. I'm sorry to say the poor dog was taken into the country and dumped by the side of the road. Our little niece loved that dog and mourned for her "Bootsie" for some time.

Several months later, my sister-in-law overheard her daughter on the front porch asking excitedly, "Bootsie! Where have you been all this time?" Yes, it took a few months, but Bootsie found his way back home. I like to think my sister-in-law and her husband learned their lesson.

The kindest thing you can do for a pet you can no longer keep is to take it to your local humane society or animal shelter. In this case, Bootsie beat the odds — many pets don't. Dumping an animal at the side of the road is almost always a sure and painful death. — **AUNT IN SONOMA, CALIF.**

DEAR AUNT: Dumping animals is also against the law in the state of California. Please inform your sister-in-law. It could mean the difference between life and death for Bootsie, should the parents repeat their "solution" for getting rid of Bootsie. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for the letter from "Pet Lover in Tenino, Wash.," regarding the tragedy of abandoned pets. The senseless act of disposing of a pet by throwing it into the street creates many victims, including thousands of drivers who are involved in accidents because they strike an animal or swerve to avoid one, those who must remove the injured or dead bodies from busy highways and freeways, those who give up much of their personal lives to become "rescuers," and those who find these terrified and starving creatures in their yard or neighborhood and must take them to the shelter. In the meantime, the owner goes merrily on, without remorse or regret.

Your readers may be pleased to know about S.B. 237, which became law in California in September 2001 and provides for road signs to be placed at the state line on all major highways entering California, warning of the misdemeanor and penalty of up to six months in jail and a $1,000 fine for abandoning any animal — including reptiles and exotic animals.

S.B. 237 also provides that this information will be printed in the California Department of Motor Vehicles "Handbook for Drivers" in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog) and will be included as a question in at least 20 percent of California drivers' tests.

We hope that S.B. 237 will serve as model legislation for other states; and, as sponsor of the bill, I would be pleased to work with anyone who wants to pass similar legislation. — **PHYLLIS M. DAUGHTERY, DIRECTOR, ANIMAL ISSUES MOVEMENT, LOS ANGELES**

DEAR PHYLLIS: My heartfelt congratulations for a job well done, one that's just beginning. Thank you very much for your letter and for offering to help animal activists nationwide to draft similar legislation in the other 49 states. Although it may be difficult to enforce, I hope it serves as a deterrent.

Readers interested in more information should write the Animal Issues Movement, 420 N. Bonnie Brae, Los Angeles, CA 90026, or write via e-mail to animalissu(at)aol.com.

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

**

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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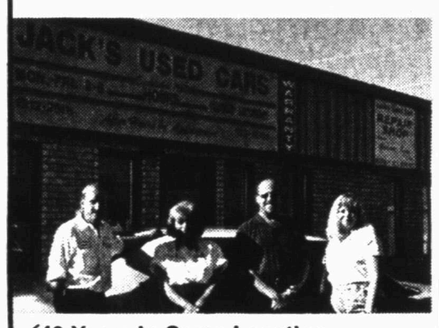

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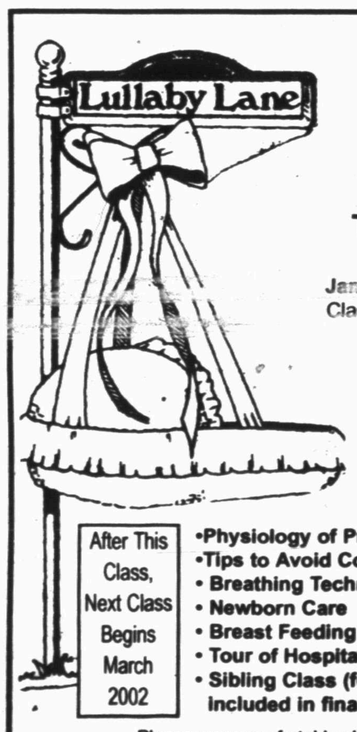

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Church sues New York City; homeless 'guests' arrested

NEW YORK (AP) — A church is suing the city, saying police are using nightsticks and threats of arrest to chase the homeless off its property at night even though the church invited them to stay there.

In a federal lawsuit filed Monday, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church accused the city of violating the Constitution and the civil rights of the homeless men and women whom the church considers its guests.

City officials say the church is the one violating the law by running an outdoor shelter with no heat or beds.

"The church's solution is to have these people lie on the sidewalk. The city's solution is to find these people shelter. Which is keeping more in the spirit of the season?" asked Daniel Connolly, special counsel to the city's law department.

The church, a few blocks from Rockefeller Center, has a formal shelter inside, but it only sleeps 10, so 30 to 40 homeless men and women have slept on the stairs and sidewalks along the church's walls. According to the lawsuit, headed for court Wednesday, the city allowed it for years.

The church started a formal policy of hospitality in 1999 and its program, designed to reintegrate the homeless into society, has helped at least 77 people off the street, according to the lawsuit.

But shortly after Thanksgiving, the city told the church it could no longer invite the homeless to stay outdoors. Since then, police officers have shooed homeless people away from the church at night, the lawsuit said. On Wednesday, officers came with nightsticks and handcuffs to persuade those sleeping there to move on, the suit said.

"If the new policy is allowed to continue for even another week substantial harm will occur to the church's hospitality program," the lawsuit said.

Connolly argues that the church is violating state laws because it is in essence running an outdoor shelter without providing food, heat, beds or toilets as required.

"What the police department is doing is enforcing those laws. Imagine the worst kind of landlord in a slum neighborhood providing this type of service," Connolly said.

"I think their heart's in the right place but their conduct is outrageous," he said. "We're talking about a sidewalk."

Two years ago, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani drew criticism when he initiated a crackdown on homeless people sleeping on public sidewalks, having police move them along in the direction of homeless shelters.

Recent estimates put the number of homeless adults and children in New York shelters at nearly 30,000, an all-time high, according to the Coalition for the Homeless. There is no accurate count of how many are living on the streets.

On the Net:
Coalition for the Homeless: http://www.coalitionforhomeless.org/
City's homeless services: http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dhs/home.html
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian: http://www.fapc.org/outreach/housing.html

West Texas Marine one of three injured by land mine

EL PASO (AP) — After two years at the Marine barracks in Washington, D.C., Adrian Aranda asked to transfer out to a line company. The West Texan wanted to get into action.

The switch led the El Pasoan to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and to Afghanistan where the 22-year-old, by now a sergeant, was one of three Marines wounded Sunday when a land mine exploded at the Kandahar airport.

"We felt ugly when we heard, but now I feel it's beautiful that he did this for our country," Aranda's father, Andres, told the El Paso Times in Tuesday's editions.

Andres Aranda Jr. said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday night that his brother was in good spirits. "He's motivated. He's in good health. He's in very good spirits. We are very strong."

"He was lucky," Andres Aranda Jr. said. His brother stepped over the hidden mine. His friend Cpl. Chris Chandler, 21, of Aurora, Colo, lost his foot when the mine went off. Lance Cpl. Nicholas Sovereign, 20, of Battle Creek, Neb., suffered minor injuries in the explosion.

All three men were assigned to the same battalion with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Aranda's girlfriend, Amber Stillwell, told the newspaper Aranda said he heard a loud noise and felt burning on his back after the explosion. The blast threw him 5 feet. He landed on his left arm.

"He heard, 'Man down,' and that was Chandler. They had to wait something like 65 minutes for them to clear the mines and rescue them. They were just laying there together," Stillwell said.

He injured his left hand and suffered shrapnel wounds to his arm and leg. His brother said surgery on his hand is planned once Aranda arrives at a hospital in Germany.

The image of Aranda walking under his own power down the runway helped ease the worry for his family. They already knew from a phone call he made to his girlfriend that he was injured.

"We knew based on the phone call and seeing him on CNN, he was alive, and since he was walking under his own power and not on a stretcher, that was even better," Andres Aranda Jr., an El Paso firefighter and former Marine, said Monday night.

Andres Aranda said his brother somehow got a satellite telephone and was able to call his girlfriend Sunday morning to ask her to get his brother and sister to go and break the news of his injuries to his mother, Guadalupe.

"He didn't want my mother to find out first from him," Andres Aranda said.

Flights stopped

ABILENE (AP) — Military officials say B-1 bomber flights from Dyess Air Force Base have been temporarily halted because of runway repairs.

Dyess has been home to 40 of the nation's 93 B-1 bombers. Some personnel were deployed following the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center and were assigned to various duties in the battle against terrorism.

Flights from Dyess stopped when repairs on the 15,000-foot runway began Friday, base spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Saje Park told the Abilene Reporter-News.

She said B-1 flights will resume after New Year's Day.

Repairs at Dyess will not affect C-130 cargo plane flights from the base.

Park said the repairs include producing a texture on the runway that increases friction and reduces hydroplaning on wet, slippery concrete.

Grooves will be cut into the runway to also avoid slipping during wet weather.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Help for neuropathy

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have diabetes. My feet burn, hurt and are so sore that I cannot wear shoes. Is there something to help me?

DEAR READER: Diabetics often suffer from neuropathy, the malfunction of nerves in the legs and feet, leading to burning, painful extremities. This occurs because diabetes is associated with arterial blockages that deprive healthy tissue (and nerves) of vital oxygen and nutrients.

Therefore, the first issue to address is how well your blood sugar is controlled by diet and medicine. Good diabetic control is essential to retarding arteriosclerotic buildup.

In the past, the treatment for diabetic neuropathy was far from effective; pain medicine and drugs to enhance circulation just didn't do the trick.

Recently, however, two relatively new medications have shown promise. The first, Neurontin, is a prescription pill that often reduces the discomfort of diabetic neuropathy.

The second, a more intriguing drug called capsaicin, is derived from hot peppers. This is a cream, which — when applied four times a day — interferes with a chemical (substance P) that enables us to perceive pain. Capsaicin may also provide pain relief from shingles and arthritis. About one month of continuous therapy may be needed before the full benefits become obvious.

If these medicines are ineffective, I suggest that you consult with a neurologist to learn what other avenues you could explore.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I was diagnosed with EBV six years ago by my internist, who retired. My new doctor doesn't know enough about EBV to treat me, so I continue to suffer frequent bouts of sore throat, generalized aching, cold sores and a rash. Do you have any recommendations?

DEAR READER: Chronic Epstein-Barr virus infection is believed by some people to cause a syndrome of cyclic fatigue, malaise, sore throat and swollen glands. The virus is the cause of acute mononucleosis, but experts now confirm that long-standing infection — if such an entity exists — is a rare cause of chronic fatigue syndrome. Many healthy persons have positive blood tests for EBV (indicating past infection), and some chronic-fatigue sufferers have negative EBV tests. Thus, the relation between EBV and chronic fatigue is speculative at best.

Moreover, being a virus, EBV is untreatable. Therefore, I'm sorry to say that I side with your new physician, who is probably skeptical (not misinformed) about your presumed EBV infection.

The fact that you have repeated attacks of "cold sores" may be the clue to your malady, however. Non-EBV herpes viruses can cause the symptoms you describe. Marked by recurring crops of painful blisters in the mouth or genital area, herpes is associated with sore throat, fever, malaise, exhaustion and swollen glands. The diagnosis can be established by a virus culture of the active lesions.

If, indeed, you do have herpes, the affliction can be controlled or prevented by using a prescription anti-viral medication, such as Zovirax or Famvir. Bring this to your doctor's attention. I suspect that he or she will confirm what I've said and will initiate the appropriate testing and therapy.

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Date Book

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2001

Today is the 352nd day of 2001 and the 88th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1865, Congress banned the importation of diseased cattle.

On this day in 1965, the U.S. Navy's River Patrol Force was established in Vietnam.

On this day in 1975, singer Rod Stewart left The Faces to begin a solo career.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph J. Thomson (1856-1940), physicist; Paul Klee (1879-1940), artist; Ty Cobb (1886-1961), baseball great; Christopher Fry (1907-), dramatist, is 94; Ossie Davis (1917-), actor, is 84; Ramsey Clark (1927-), U.S. attorney general, is 74; Keith Richards (1943-), musician, is 58; Steven Spielberg (1947-), director-producer, is 54; Leonard Maltin (1950-), movie reviewer, is 51.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1943, Triple Crown-winner Count Fleet was named Horse of the Year.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Satire must not be a kind of superfluous ill will, but ill will from a higher point of view." — Paul Klee

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 14) and first quarter (Dec. 22).

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Dale Huff
Minister

37th Street Church of Christ

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Snyder, Texas 79549

The Will Of God

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," Matthew 6:10. It is a request of God and it is a commitment as it is prayed. The truth is that the will of God is often not done. Many things happen in the world that are not the will of God. Murder, deceit, theft, immorality are among some of the things that are definitely not what God wants to happen in our lives. He can bring good out of evil and He continually works for the good of those who love Him, Romans 8:28. But not everything that happens is His will.

Jesus taught that those who entered the kingdom of heaven would be those who not only talked about Him, but also did His will:

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

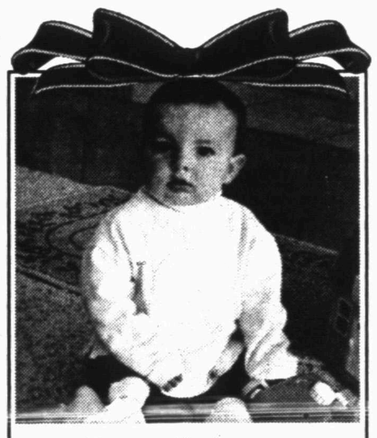
How do we learn God's will? Read, listen and pay attention to His Word. What has God said? What does Jesus teach? What does the Bible say? Romans 12:1, 2 points to a key element in knowing God's will. Commitment to God and to serve Him is crucial in knowing God's will. We are to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of our mind. *Then* we will be able to test and approve the will of God. That will is good, pleasing and perfect. If we commit ourselves to that will, good things will always follow!

Dale Huff

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Many bundles of joy
Be they girl or boy,
Have been delivered since last year
Bringing loads of holiday cheer.

To the families they've blessed,
We're wishing all the best.
May glad tidings come your way
On baby's first Christmas Day!



Merry Christmas

If you have had a baby during 2001 you can be part of this special "Baby's First Christmas" to run December 24th in the Snyder Daily News.

Deadline:
Thursday, December 20
at 5:00 p.m.

Submit your child's photo, a short message and $15 to:
SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave
573-5486

DEC 18 2001

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Search for bin Laden, others continues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finding and dealing with Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants will take "tough, dirty, hard work," even with recent battlefield successes against the al-Qaida and Taliban forces, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

At a news conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, Rumsfeld said bin Laden and other al-Qaida and Taliban senior leaders remain on the loose, although more prisoners were taken today.

"We have reduced the number of areas within Afghanistan where they are likely to be," Rumsfeld said, and attacks continue.

"The task is still ahead of us and it should not be considered that it will be accomplished in a short period of time," he said. "It's going to be tough, dirty, hard work."

At the Pentagon, officials said three al-Qaida fighters have been taken into custody in Afghanistan, and more than a dozen more prisoners captured by Afghan allies were being handed over to American forces today.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told reporters that five detainees held aboard the USS Peleliu in the Arabian Sea include three Taliban or al-Qaida figures, whom he did not identify by name.

"We think we know who they are," he said. "If they are who we think they are, they're fairly important people."

Wolfowitz said interrogations of detainees so far has not produced much reliable information about bin Laden.

Meanwhile, a second American soldier was injured while trying to clear land mines in Afghanistan.

In Brussels, Rumsfeld cautioned NATO defense ministers: "We need to face the reality that the attacks of Sept. 11 — horrific as they were — may in fact be a dim preview of what is to come if we do not prepare today to defend our people from adversaries with weapons of increasing power and range."

According to the written text of his remarks, Rumsfeld added: "It should be of particular concern to all of us that the list of countries which today support global terrorism overlaps significantly with the list of countries that have weaponized chemical and biological agents, and which are seeking nuclear, chemical and biological weapons — and the means to deliver them."

Militants and Arab press criticize Arafat

JERUSALEM (AP) — After calling for an end to Palestinian attacks, Yasser Arafat found himself under criticism today from both Palestinian militants at home and some quarters of the Arab press abroad.

Moreover, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the speech by the Palestinian leader has not produced any let up in attacks against Israelis, and the United States is calling on Arafat to act against militants.

In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, Israeli security forces arrested 10 Palestinians in two separate incidents, the Palestinians said.

The Israelis stopped three cars and detained six Palestinians at a checkpoint near a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza, both sides said. At the northern end of Gaza, Israeli troops fired on a group of Palestinian men, injuring one and arresting four, the Palestinians said.

Arafat demanded an end to shootings, suicide bombings and mortar attacks against Israel in a speech Sunday, and pledged to arrest Palestinians who carried out violence.

But two militant groups, Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, issued statements rejecting Arafat's call to stop attacks and suicide bombings.

Arafat also faced unusually strong criticism from some of the Arab press.

The Saudi Arabian newspaper al-Watan belittled Arafat's call to stop attacks. "Is there a name for all of this other than surrender?" the newspaper asked in an editorial.

Abdel Bari Atwan, editor of al-Quds al-Arabi, a London-based Arabic newspaper, said it was time for Arafat to retire as the Palestinian leader.

"There is one honorable exit for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat: it is to declare to his people in another television speech the dismantling of the (Palestinian Authority) and for him to return back to live respectably in his home."

Despite Arafat's speech, the violence has not slowed.

Three Palestinians were shot to death by Israeli troops Monday, including a 12-year-old boy, and Arafat accused Israel of stepping up its military actions.

Also, four Israelis were shot and wounded, including a 3-year-old boy, in a trio of roadside shootings carried out by Palestinian gunmen Monday and today.

Officers investigate theft of horse Monday

Theft

Steven Bates reported the theft of a horse from his yard at 11:30 p.m. Monday. Bates told a sheriff's deputy the paint pony was taken from his residence around 8 p.m. A report for Class B theft was submitted.

Peggy Byrom reported the theft of her doghouse Monday from her 909 24th Street residence. A theft report was filed.

Gunshots

9-1-1 dispatchers received a call from J. V. Bishop at 7:30 p.m. Monday reporting gunshots fired near the 3700 block of Austin Ave. Bishop also advised a gun had been left by two subjects who fled the scene. Several patrol units responded and an offense report was submitted for found property.

Criminal mischief

Debbie Miller requested an officer at Home Pro Realtors just after 8 a.m. Monday. Someone shot the business' front door and windows with a BB gun.

An offense report for criminal mischief was filed and a close patrol was ordered.

Accident

Officers were called to the Snyder Post Office Monday morning due to an accident in the parking lot. Involved were a 1996 Chevrolet pickup driven by Raymond Wood, 84, of 305 36th Street and Chevrolet pickup driven by William Bowlin, 78, of 2931 Waco. No injuries were reported.

Prowler

Cory Rogers contacted officers at the law enforcement center Monday night in reference to prowlers in his back yard. A close patrol of his 26th Street residence was initiated.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Skinny's reported a gas drive off Monday afternoon in the amount of $25.86. Officers were provided a description of the vehicle.

Obituaries

Dell Clayton

1944-2001

Dell Clayton, a longtime Snyder resident, died Monday, Dec. 17, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Clayton, 57, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Danny Williams, pastor of Lighthouse Assembly of God Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Ackerly Cemetery.

Born March 7, 1944 in Flower Grove, Tex., she married Billy Clayton on May 16, 1980 in Las Vegas, Nev. She was a retired licensed vocational nurse and a member of the Assembly of God Church.

One son, Wayne White, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Billy Clayton of Snyder; her father, Elmer Oaks of Flower Grove; three daughters and a son-in-law, Teena Clayton of Leesburg, Va., Cindy Jenkins of Katy and Carlla and Rawleigh McCullough of Big Spring; six sons and three daughters-in-law, Carlos and Sharon White of Houston, Don and Beverly White of LaGrange, Tracy and Monique Burks of Houston, Charlie Burks of Big Spring, Billy Clayton Jr. of Katy and James and Angie White of LaGrange; three brothers, Leon Oaks of Water Valley, Rodney Oaks of Flower Grove and Jerry Oaks of Celina; three sisters, June Ritchie of Big Lake, Patsy Painter of Midland and Naomi Williamson of Westbrook; 15 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held 7-8:30 this evening at the funeral home.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
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Mae Brush

1910-2001

Mae R. Brush, a Snyder native, died Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Specialty Hospital in Houston after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Brush, 91, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Charles Day, pastor of the Avenue D Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born May 20, 1910 in Snyder, she married Clarence H. Brush on Aug. 29, 1933 in Snyder. He died Feb. 22, 1959. She and her husband farmed south of Snyder.

Mrs. Brush, a member of the Avenue D Baptist Church, worked in the cafeteria for the Snyder ISD for 13 years and in food service at Cogdell Memorial Hospital for 14 years.

She also was preceded in death by a son, Carroll Brush.

Survivors include a daughter, Ann Horton of Katy; a granddaughter and her husband, Susan and Lacy Whitcomb of Crosby; and two great-grandchildren, Daniel and Kristen Whitcomb of Crosby.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 7 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Eber Suarez

1974-2001

Funeral service for Eberardo "Eber" Hernandez Suarez is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Eber Suarez

Mr. Suarez, 27, died Friday, Dec. 14, in a two-vehicle accident two miles north of Kerrville.

Born May 25, 1974 in Snyder, he was a 1993 graduate of Snyder High School and attended Western Texas College before graduating from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in art. He was employed by IHS Studios in Kerrville.

Survivors include his parents, Alejo and Silvina Suarez of Snyder; a son, Ethan Nakamura Suarez of Germany; a brother, Alejo "Alex" Suarez of Snyder; and a sister, Angelica Murillo of Snyder.

Kennith Hardin

1933-2001

ROTAN - Kennith W. Hardin, a native of Scurry County, died Sunday, Dec. 16, at his home in Rotan.

Funeral service for Mr. Hardin, 68, was set for 2:30 p.m. today in the Rotan First Baptist Church with the Rev. Werth Mayes and Jerry Vincent officiating. Burial will follow in the Cottonwood Cemetery under the direction of Weathersbee Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 2, 1933 in the Rough Creek area of Scurry County, he was a 1951 graduate of Hobbs High School. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Mr. Hardin served in the 11th Airborn Rangers Division of the Army Air Corp.

He married Barbara Tankersley in Lovington, N.M. on Aug. 11, 1956. Mr. Hardin served as chief of police in Rotan for 13 years, and he also worked as a carpenter, contractor and rancher.

A member of the First Baptist Church, Mr. Hardin was active in the Rotan Little League and Pony League programs, was a former fire chief, was a master Mason and served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1992.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Hardin of Rotan; a daughter, Kimmia Johnson of Roscoe; a son, Wes Hardin of Childress; five brothers, Joe Hardin of Abilene, Jimmy Hardin of Petronelia, Ralph Hardin of College Station, Morris Hardin of Lubbock and Doc Hardin of Victoria; and three grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Toy distribution

Christmas for Kids volunteers will continue distribution of toys today. Those who are eligible will be contacted by telephone. For more information, call 573-7556, or 573-9238 and ask for Judi.

Emmaus Christmas celebration

Mesquite Country Emmaus Christmas celebration will be at 7 this evening at the Colorado City Calvary Baptist Church.

Chamber open house

Snyder Chamber of Commerce will host a Christmas open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

Home for the Holidays

Home for the Holidays has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the First United Methodist Church. Anyone attending is asked to bring a pair of scissors for a take home craft. If you have already reserved a spot, you do not have to call again, For more information call the Scurry County Cooperative Extension office at 573-5423.

CADA Christmas schedule

The Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be closed for the holidays starting Friday through Jan. 2.

American Legion Christmas appreciation

The American Legion Christmas appreciation for members and customers will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Birthday party for Jesus

Northside Baptist Church will have a birthday party for Jesus from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday in the fellowship, 1909 16th St. For van pick up, call 573-7105.

Northside Baptist cantata

The Northside Baptist Church Christmas cantata, "When Christmas Comes to Me," will be at 11 a.m. Sunday. There will be interpretation for the hearing-impaired. Call 573-7105 for transportation.

Seniors helping seniors

Snyder High School's senior class would like to help senior citizens decorate for Christmas. Students will provide the labor by putting up lights or decorating Christmas trees, etc. Call 573-6301 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday to make arrangements.

Candlelight service

First United Methodist Church will hold a candlelight service at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve service

Trinity United Methodist Church, located at the entrance to Cogdell Medical Center, will have a Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Windbreak trees

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

VFW membership drive

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

Noon prayer service

The First Presbyterian Church hosts a prayer service from noon until 12:30 p.m. each weekday. Everyone is invited.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Nurse testing dates

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

Military support group

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

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Passenger might face petty theft charge for taking bag

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Authorities said Monday a passenger might face a petty theft charge for walking off with an airport security screener's bag, which contained a dummy hand grenade that fell out and rolled down the aisle of a jet.

Lolita Austria, 57, of Rochester, N.Y., carried the bag away from a security checkpoint at the San Diego airport on Sunday moments after the fake grenade had been used in a security test. She told The San Diego Union-Tribune she picked up the bag by mistake.

Sgt. Chuck Marks of the San Diego Harbor Police had said there was no evidence Austria knew the grenade was in the bag, which also contained a sweater. But later Monday night, Harbor police Sgt. John Forsythe said she could be charged for taking the bag.

"We'll look at the merits of case," Forsythe said.

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach Austria on Monday were unsuccessful.