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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY
Dec. 23, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 203
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Max & Anne von Roeder

Says interim financial officer...

Bad debt is big problem at Cogdell

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's interim chief financial officer left little doubt this morning as to one of the main contributors to the hospital's current financial crisis.

"We have to get people to pay their bills," said Ron Hunt, the interim CFO.

"Our current bad debt expense is now over 15 percent of our net revenue and it should be less.

"If we dropped it from 15.9 percent to 10 percent, that would mean over $900,000 for the hospital," added Hunt. "We have to let people know they have to pay us just like they pay the grocery store."

Hunt tossed out several suggestions during his financial report to improve the hospital's financial picture.

"We need to collect as much money up front as possible with cash customers, and let those with insurance know we expect the co-payment and the deductible before they're admitted."

Hunt also suggested a discount program for persons making prompt payments with cash. He also suggested old self-pay accounts could be offered discounts to encourage payments.

The board did not act on any of his recommendations, but they could be on future agendas.

"We have some hard decisions to make," said Hunt.

Board member Bill Voss said that people's attitude about paying the hospital has to be changed. "And we have to collect the money we've been letting slide."

"If you (the board) make these changes, you'll be getting telephone calls," said Hunt.

"I hope they do call me," interjected Voss.

Hunt summed up his presentation by stating the hospital's expenses are not far out of line. "The bad debt is the big problem."

Board members unanimously approved a minor change to the hospital's sick leave policy to allow an employee time off based on available sick leave for a member of the employee's immediate family.

Board member Terry Williams first made a motion to table action on the recommendation until the financial impact could be determined.

Human Resource Director Chuck Hurst and acting administrator and director of nurses Cheryl Chance both said they felt the impact would be negligible.

Hunt agreed that the economic impact would be small, if any.

Before the vote was taken, Hurst added that he felt the present policy put employees in a difficult situation, especially those with small children who sometimes get sick.

"Approving this will let the employees know we are concerned about them," said Hurst.

Williams added that he did imply that the employees were not valuable, but he just wanted to be cautious about changing the policy before a new CEO is on board. However, after hearing the comments from the staff, Williams withdrew the motion to table.

The board approved a new contract with MedAssets for hospital supplies under the same terms as when the hospital was associated with Covenant Health Systems.

"Basically, it is the same contract only between us and MedAssets," said Chance. "There is no change in pricing."

The board also approved a one-year extension with Byers and Green, CRNA, who provide anesthesia services to the hospital.

This contract was at a lower rate as it dropped from a monthly cost of $28,000 to $22,500.

In the absence of Dr. Bid Cooper, Dr. Robert Rakov presented the medical staff report. Dr. Rakov said the only thing he had to report was that the slate of officers for the medical staff were re-elected for the coming year.

Dr. Cooper will continue as the chief of staff and Dr. Tom Kerr will continue as the vice chief of staff. Dr. Rakov again will serve as secretary.

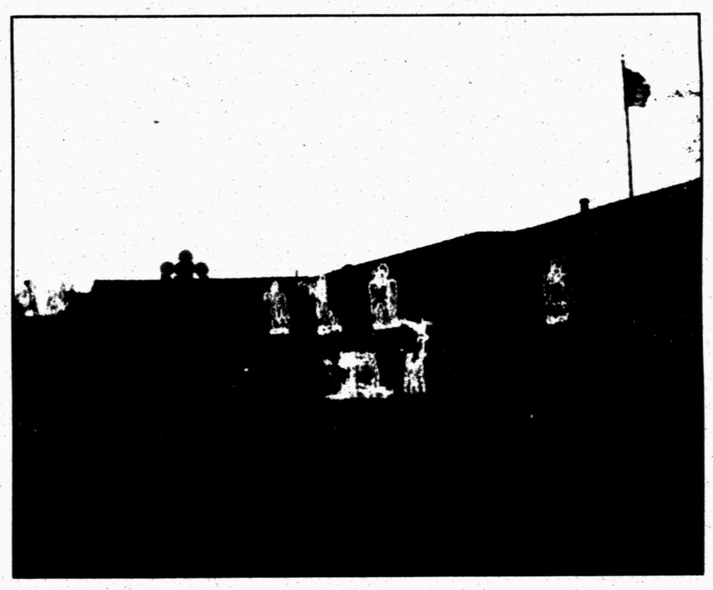
Larry Krupala, president of TORCH Management Service, who is leading the search for a new CEO, also met briefly with the board and covered items from a Monday transition committee meeting.

"I need to know everything about your organization as possible," said Krupala. "As I talk to candidates, I need to be as honest with them as possible about everything here."

Krupala said he expects to be taking applications for another 20 days or so, with a list of applicants forwarded to the board within 30 days. "This isn't going to happen overnight (getting a new CEO)."

Board president Carl Williams presided at the two-hour meeting and members present were Voss, Terry Williams, Bo Robinson and Charles Church. Dink Foree was absent.







LIGHTS GLISTEN — Winning homes were selected in the Christmas lighting contest. First place was awarded to the home of Red and Pat Faver, 4107 Midland, (top). Second place went to Lanny and Patsy Covey, 3101 El Paso (bottom left) and third place went to Hollis and Darlene Chandler, 210 36th Place. (SDN Staff Photos)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Merry Christmas."

A repeat of Night Before Christmas, Snyder Style...

T'was the night before Christmas, in Snyder you know.
Way out in the west, where it seldom snows.
Asleep in their bunks were Bubba and Bobbie Sue,
A dreamin' of Christmas, just like me and you.

Not stockings, but boots, at the foot of the bed,
For this is West Texas, what more need be said.
When all of a sudden, from the dark of the night,
There came such a ruckus, thought it was a fight.

I saw from the sky, as fast as a buck,
A loaded up red Ford truck, packed with great stuff.
The driver was grinnin' and whistlin' at will,
The jolly ole driver maneuvered with amazing skill.

"Come on there Buddy, Bobby and Jack,
We've got plenty of work left for tonight."
The pusher was in Levis and a shirt that was red,
Had a 10-gallon hat on top of his head.

As he stepped from the truck, he was really a sight,
With his beard and moustache so curly and white.
As he burst in the bunkhouse, the kids there awoke.
And were so astonished, that nobody spoke.

And he filled up their boots with presents galore,
That nobody could think of anything more.
When Bubba recovered the use of his jaws,
He asked in a whisper, "Are you really Santa Claus?"

"Well, what do you think?"
And the smiles grew wider as he gave them a wink.
Santa and helpers went back to his red truck
And they sped away Santa and wished all good luck:
"Merry Christmas, ya'll"

Times are varied...

Holiday closings are noted

A number of Snyder and Scurry County offices and local businesses will be closed in observance of the Christmas holidays.

The courthouse offices will close at noon on Wednesday and will reopen for regular business hours on Monday.

Snyder city offices will be closed both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Regular business hours will resume on Friday.

The city's landfill will be open on Christmas Eve and closed on Thursday. It will reopen on Friday but will be closed on Saturday.

All financial institutions will be closed Christmas Day.

West Texas State Bank, American State Bank and Texas Savings Bank will close at noon on Christmas Eve but will be open all day on Friday.

Snyder National Bank will be open all day on Christmas Eve, and will open Friday morning, but will close at noon.

First American Bank will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve, then reopen on Friday.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh post offices will be open until noon on Wednesday, with the mail delivery running as usual that day. Offices will close on Christmas Day and will reopen on Friday.

SDN delivered early morning Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve edition of the Snyder Daily News will be delivered early Wednesday morning.

The Christmas Eve edition contains holiday greetings from area businesses as well as the traditional Letters to Santa at the North Pole.

There will be no newspaper on Christmas Day, and regular publication will resume on Friday.

Tigers receive football honors

Four members of the Snyder Tigers football team were named to the All-South Plains team today.

See story on Page 5.



Santa Claus reminds everyone that there are

2

days until Christmas

Council takes no action on buying land

Snyder city council met in executive session for some 90 minutes Monday evening, discussing the purchase of land for a proposed animal shelter.

Following the closed meeting, Mayor Francene Noah announced that no action would be taken.

Snyder Police Chief Steve Warren, whose department includes animal control, presented information about proposed sites.

Mayor Noah presided at the meeting and council members present were David Harrell, Vernest Tippens, Stephanie Deaucheneaux, Ron Shaw and Terry Martin. James Ashley was absent.

ASK US

Q—Why has the county discontinued decorating the courthouse building with Christmas lights?

A— Walking on the roof of the courthouse caused it to leak. When the new roof was installed, the decision was made not to hang the lights anymore.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Mattie Smith...

...is a 17-year-old senior at Snyder High School. Her parents are James and Jeannie Smith. She has twin brothers, James and Jermaine Smith. Her favorite hobbies are attending Mt. Olive Baptist Church and being involved in school activities.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Everytime we love, everytime we give, it's Christmas.
—Dale Evans

DEC 23 2003

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Candlelight service

First United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. at the church, 2700 College Ave.

Christmas Eve service

Trinity United Methodist Church will hold a candlelight service at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Candlelight service

Colonial Hill Baptist Church will have a 6 p.m. candlelight service Christmas Eve.

Grace Lutheran service

Grace Lutheran Church will hold a candlelight service at 8 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "God Has Spoken of Judgment," followed by "Handling Aright the Word of God."

Lions meetings cancelled

Snyder Lions Club will not meet next Tuesday, but will start meeting again Jan. 6 at noon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

First Baptist support group

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

LVN testing dates

LVN testing dates are Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. To reserve a time, you must contact the WTC counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313. Limited seating is available.

Doodle Bug writers club

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

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conversation District is taking orders through Jan. 31 for windbreak trees. Large trees available are Oaks, Pines, Desert Willows, Golden Raintree, Texas Redbud and Chinese Pistache and more. To place orders, call 573-6317.

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.

Anthrax shots cannot be forced on troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — A court ruling against forcing soldiers to take anthrax vaccinations raises the question of whether officials should reconsider the punishments given those who refused the shots.

Ruling that some use of the vaccine is experimental, a federal judge said today that servicemen and women should not have to take the vaccine unless they consent.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan said he was convinced by plaintiffs in a class action suit that the vaccine is being "used for an unapproved purpose" — that is, for exposure to airborne anthrax as well as exposure through the skin.

More than 900,000 servicemen and women have received the shots, among the millions of doses of various vaccines administered annually to protect troops against disease and bioterror threats. Hundreds of service members have been punished or discharged for refusing them, according to the Pentagon.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said he will ask the Defense Department to begin an immediate review of disciplinary actions taken against service members who refused the vaccines.

Shays, who conducted hearings on the issue in his House Government Reform national security subcommittee, said the program "should have been voluntary from the start."

Some 500 active-duty service members have refused the vaccine, close to 200 have been court-martialed and more than 500 pilots and flight crew members have quit, resigned or transferred from the Air National Guard or Reserves rather than take the vaccine, said Mark S. Zaid, a lawyer for the plantiffs.

Officials at the Defense Department and the Food and Drug Administration said they had not seen the ruling and had no immediate comment. The government has maintained that the licensed vaccine is safe, is not experimental and can protect against anthrax inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

"The women and men of our armed forces put their lives on the line every day to preserve and safeguard the freedoms that all Americans cherish and enjoy," Sullivan said in today's 34-page ruling.

"Absent an informed consent or presidential waiver, the United States cannot demand that members of the armed forces also serve as guinea pigs for experimental drugs."

In granting the preliminary injunction, Sullivan ordered the government to respond by Jan. 30.

Anthrax is a naturally occurring bacterium that typically affects sheep and cattle. When inhaled, dry anthrax spores can be deadly to humans.

The government approved the vaccine three decades ago, and it is used to protect veterinarians and scientists who work with anthrax. Plaintiffs in the case before Sullivan, unidentified active duty, National Guard and civilian defense employees, say the license covered only exposure through the skin. Other uses might not be safe, they contend.

Bell graduates from special ops school

U.S. Navy O.S. Johnathan L'Wayne Bell, a 2003 Colorado High School graduate, graduated basic training in Chicago, Ill., on Aug. 15. He recently graduated from Operations Specialist School Nov. 7 in Norfolk, Va.

He will be stationed in San Diego, Calif., serving on the USS Bon Homme Richard LHD6, amphibious carrier, for three years.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. David Bell of Colorado City. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Reeves of Colorado City and his great-grandmother is Mrs. Tom Reeves of Colorado City.

Mayer graduates

ABILENE — Hardin-Simmons University announces that Snyder resident Jennifer Mayer was among approximately 200 students that received degrees during the fall commencement exercises on Dec. 13,

Mayer received a bachelor of business administration degree in computer science.

Two from Snyder on UNT dean's list

DENTON — University of North Texas students were named to the dean's list for fall semester 2003.

To be named to the dean's list, students must complete at least 12 academic hours during the semester with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9.

Students from Snyder include Bonnie Marie Cleveland and Erin Brooke Fry.

One from UNT on President's List

DENTON — University of North Texas students were named to the president's honor roll for fall semester 2003.

To be named to the president's honor roll, undergraduates must complete at least 12 academic hours during the semester with a perfect grade point average of 4.0.

Students from Snyder include Kate Ellen Wright.

Joe's Pizza
Philadelphia Style
573-8555

Today's chuckle

Christmas tree glut forces prices down

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii is well-known for its high cost of living, but this year sprucing up the living room for the holidays only takes $1 — even less in some cases.



A glut of Christmas trees has some merchants offering them for as little as a buck, with other overstocked sellers even looking to give them away free.

Sellers attribute the surplus of trees to overcompensation for last year, when there was a shortage.

"Everyone and their mother was selling Christmas trees this year," said Ray Griego, assistant manager at Wal-Mart in Mililani.

Griego brought in 5,600 trees and still had 1,000 left on Sunday. He planned to call charities that might be interested in taking some free trees off his hands.

Among the big retailers, Home Depot ordered about 16,200 trees this year and had sold all but about 100, said general manager Shawn Troup.

Most of Hawaii's Christmas trees are shipped in from Washington and Oregon.

World Almanac

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003

Today is the 357th day of 2003 and the second day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1620, settlers began building Plymouth, the first European settlement in New England.

In 1912, the French magazine Nouvelle Revue Francaise rejected an excerpt from Marcel Proust's now-classic "Remembrance of Things Past."

In 1986, the mostly plastic and paper aircraft Voyager completed the first nonstop flight around the globe without refueling.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Smith (1805-1844), founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons); Samuel Smiles (1812-1904), self-help author; Emperor Akihito of Japan (1933-), is 70; Wesley Clark (1944-), retired general, presidential candidate, is 59; Susan Lucci (1948-), actress, is 55; Eddie Vedder (1964-), rock singer, is 39.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1972, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Oakland Raiders, 13-7, on a bizarre last-second touchdown that became known as the "Immaculate Reception."

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is a mistake to suppose that men succeed through success; they much oftener succeed through failures." — Samuel Smiles

TODAY'S FACT: The Eiffel Tower in Paris, built in 1889, was the world's tallest structure for 41 years, until it was eclipsed by the Chrysler Building in New York City.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 46.87 — area in acres covered by the Shah Faisal mosque complex in Islamabad, Pakistan, world's largest mosque complex.

TODAY'S MOON: New moon (Dec. 23)

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Prosecutors to get Limbaugh's records, judge rules today

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Prosecutors can examine Rush Limbaugh's medical records to determine whether he should be charged with "doctor shopping" for prescription painkillers, a judge ruled today..

Palm Beach Circuit Judge Jeffrey A. Winikoff denied the conservative commentator's request to keep the records sealed.

Limbaugh's attorneys had argued that the seizure of the records from doctors in Florida and California violated the radio host's privacy. Investigators had obtained the records last month after discovering that Limbaugh received more than 2,000 painkillers, prescribed by four doctors, at a pharmacy near his $24 million Palm Beach mansion.

Doctor shopping refers to looking for a doctor willing to prescribe drugs illegally, or getting prescriptions for a single drug from more than one doctor at the same time.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office began investigating Limbaugh last year, after his former maid told them she had been supplying him prescription painkillers for years.

Limbaugh recently admitted his addiction, stemming from severe back pain, and took a five-week leave from his afternoon radio show to enter a rehabilitation program. He returned to the show in mid-November.

Roy Black, Limbaugh's lawyer, said his client suffered from a degenerative disc disease with "pain so great at one point doctors thought he had bone cancer," and that Limbaugh chose to take addictive painkillers rather than have surgery.

Surgery would have meant doctors would have gone through Limbaugh's throat to operate on his spine, which could threaten his career as a commentator, Black said during a Monday hearing.

Limbaugh's former maid, Wilma Cline, learned of his addiction and threatened to sell the story to The National Enquirer. She and her husband, David Cline, demanded millions and were "paid substantial amounts of money," the lawyer said.

Limbaugh allegedly withdrew cash 30 to 40 times at amounts just under the $10,000 limit that requires a bank to report the transaction to the federal government.

The action drew suspicion because it can be a federal crime to structure financial transactions below the $10,000 limit.

Black said Limbaugh paid money to the Clines because they were blackmailing him — not because he was laundering money.

He said Limbaugh could not complain to authorities about the maid's demand because they would use the information against him, though the maid and her husband eventually went public anyway.

Ed Shohat, the attorney for the Clines, denied Black's allegation.

"Rush Limbaugh confessed and admitted that he bought the pills. ... I know of no facts that my clients demanded money from Rush Limbaugh in any way," he said.

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events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 6-13-14-29-34.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $48,978.

Winning tickets sold in: Dallas.

Matching four of five: 125. Prize: $176.

Matching three of five: 4,417. Prize: $12.

Matching two of five: 44,520. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 8-6-2

(Night) 1-4-0

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Clark gave program on American Revolution to Genealogical society

Virginia Clark gave a program, "The American Revolutionary War — the Battle of King's Mountain," to members of the Scurry County Genealogical Society on Nov. 25.

Wearing a coonskin cap and displaying the old rifle belonging to her ancestor, she told of her Revolutionary ancestor, Martin Preuitt's battle experiences.

Eight years after the start of the American Revolutionary war, the Battle of King's Mountain was fought in South Carolina. The men of King's Mountain came from the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and the present Tennessee.

Most of the loyalists, or the Tories, were from the lowlands and Piedmont areas, while many of the patriots were from the upcountry, with a highly fierce and visible nucleus from the remotest corners of Virginia and North Carolina — the region known as the over-mountain country. In the final count, the over-mountain men made up less than half of the tota' patriot force that finally faced the British Major Richard Ferguson at Long's Mountain.



GENEALOGY PROGRAM — Virginia Clark presented the program for genealogy members at their recent meeting at the Scurry County Library. (Contributed Photo)

This army would be properly described as "composed of patriot riflemen of the farmer, hunter and Indian fighting classes from the frontiers of the two Carolinas and Virginia."

But it was the over-mountain leaders who had kindled the spirit, initiated the plans and raised the funds for the march against Ferguson. Their image would dominate the popular memory of that western response that began with the assembly at Sycamore Shoals.

The battle story began when the British had vanquished the patriots in several skirmishes earlier in the year of 1780. The British intended to recruit some more men from the interior known as the backcountry — reaching from the lowlands and Piedmont up into the rugged mountains of southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina and the area that would become East Tennessee. Major Ferguson was to lead this Southern frontier affront.

From his headquarters at Gilbert Town, Ferguson issued an ultimatum to the people and their leaders in this wild mountain country. He paroled one of his prisoners, Samuel Phillips, who had been captured at the Musgrove's Mill engagement, and sent them to Col. Isaac Shelby with a message. Shelby and his fellow mountain men were to "desist from opposition to the British arms, and take protection under his standard" and if they did not, Ferguson would "march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders and lay their country waste with fire and sword."

No strategy could have been better devised to unify the patriots scattered along the frontier and set them on the long march across the mountains.

Immediately after receiving this ultimatum, Col. Shelby met with Cols. John Sevier, William Campbell and Charles McDowell. They decided to send out a call on Sept. 25 for a general rendezvous at the Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River, near the present Elizabethan, Tenn. To go into action, the first pressing needs had to be met — first for the men, an expedition for funds, and supplies. Word of the call to arms spread like a leaf-fire among the settlements. On the appointed meeting date the flats of Sycamore Shoals filled with rough-skinned, sharp-eyed, resolute men accompanied by women whose hands were calloused and whose courage was likewise evident. That evening saw campfires and preparations being put together for the long ride to find Ferguson and confront the British threat to their freedom.

Clark is a sixth generation of Martin Preuitt, who was an enlisted soldier that fought in the Battle of King's Mountain on Oct. 7, 1780. The following is a recorded statement from Mr. Preuitt describing the battle:

"Before that attack was made a council was held, in which it was decided that all should return but one thousand picked men who were led on by the brave Cols. Campbell, Sevier Shelby and Williams. They ascended the hill and commenced the attack. Like Sinai of old, the top of the mountain was wrapped in smoke and flame as the hailing lead came whizzing from every quarter.

In 40 minutes Ferguson was slain, and his entire command destroyed, either by death, wounds or prisoners."

At a cost of only 28 dead and 62 wounded, the patriot's were victorious.

George Washington did not hear of Kings Mountain until Oct. 26, 1780 and then the report was garbled. But when the result was finally clear, he spoke in his General orders of that "important object gained" as a "proof of the spirit and resources of the country."

Kings Mountain was the greatest victory of the Southern militia.

The Martin Preuitt Jr. Chapter, Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Snyder on April 16, 1977.

The present list of chapter officers are Ann Smartt, regent; Jo Flynn, vice regent; Tizzy Hall, chaplain; Maribeth Vestal, recording secretary; Helen Hatter, corresponding secretary; Lois Bartels, treasurer; Virginia Clark, registrar; Joanne Sterling, historian; and Maggie Barnes, librarian.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-23-03
♠ Q 7 5
♥ —
♦ K 8 7 3
♣ A 10 8 7 6 4

West
♠ K 8 4
♥ K J 5 3 2
♦ Q 6 5
♣ 3 2

East
♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q 7 6 4
♦ A J 2
♣ J 9 5

South
♠ A J 3 2
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ 10 9 4
♣ K Q

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
		3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 3

It might be partner who is caught

Yesterday, I gave a deal on which an opponent's wild pre-empt steered declarer into the winning line of play. On today's deal, partner is the one who suffers at the hands of a wild pre-emptor.

When South bid three no-trump, he hoped that his partner had ace-jack-seventh of clubs and that the opponents wouldn't take the first five tricks in diamonds. However, North, because he couldn't open with a weak two-bid in clubs, had lied a little. Still, North knew the ropes: When he put down his dummy, he had the spade five in among his clubs! (But after a few moments, he "came clean.")

South took East's heart queen with his ace, then cashed the king and queen of clubs. How should he have continued?

Declarer needs to get into the dummy to cash those beautiful clubs. He should play a diamond because if East has the diamond ace, the contract is probably unmakable.

Instead, though, South led the spade jack from his hand. West fumbled revealingly, then won with his king. West cashed the heart king, continued with the heart jack, and shifted to a diamond to defeat the contract.

Or, that is what one might expect. But declarer cleverly dropped the nine and 10 of hearts. Taken in, West continued with a fourth round of hearts, so South collected an overtrick!

How could West know? East's second heart told the story. With 7-6-4 left, he dropped the four, low from an odd number. With 8-7-6-4 remaining, he would have played first the six and followed with the four, high-low from an even number. But West wasn't watching.

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Limousine ride to view Christmas lights

DALLAS (AP) — Forget loading up the kids in the minivan to maneuver around the masses of other motorists taking in the glittering displays of Christmas lights in Dallas.

Limousine companies think they have a better idea: Cruise through neighborhoods sipping your choice of beverages in the back of a limo as Christmas carols play on the stereo.

"That way you can really be free to enjoy the lights and not have to worry about your driving tasks," said Charlotte Badgett, owner of Big Country Limousine in Dallas.

Of course that luxury will probably cost a couple hundred dollars for a three-hour tour.

It's a cost that Amy Zepeda, 36, of Dallas, says is well worth the expense.

Zepeda, her husband and their two young children piled into a limo with another couple and their two children to tour lights in the Dallas area.



THEMED CHRISTMAS TREE — A Christmas tree with "Cat In the Hat" memorabilia was decorated by Becky Robinson, seated left, Teresa Aguilar, standing right, both employees at in the Justice of the Peace office. Deborah Boyd, JP, is seated right. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

—

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

—Mignon McLaughlin

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THE SUBWAY A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
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BABY SHOWER — A baby shower honoring Mary and Ramsey Castillo was held Dec. 6 in the home of Elouise Lambert. Also hosting were Janette Allen, Vanessa Arnwine, Margaret Beaver, Lauren Collier, Kara Gowin, Ashley and Gini Grimmett, Misty Hinton, Marci Irvine, Whitney Owen, Neika Porter and Brandi Wolf. From left are Ninette and Blake Arena, Mary's cousins; Carolyn Greene, her aunt; Jennifer Hollis, her stepmother; the honoree; D'Ann Beck, her mother; Alice Townes, her aunt; and Stefani & Kaylei Beck, her sister and niece. Unable to attend were Mildred Hollis, her grandmother; Kelli Bradbury, her aunt; Judy and Tosha Castillo, Ramsey's mother and sister; and Gloria Tercero, his grandmother. (Contributed Photo)


Happy Sweet 16th, Teddi
Love,
Mom, Dad
Katy and Jake

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Dale Huff, Minister
37th Street Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549

The Lesson

Seasons come and go in all of our lives. Opportunities appear and then are gone. There are times when we can really learn important lessons. Sometimes we get it, but often we confess that we really do not. There were some really good lessons, and we missed them. Each year many of us go through the routine of Christmas. Presents are thought about, bought and exchanged. Gifts are given to the special people in our lives. It is a unique time in all of the year and we usually feel different around this time of year.

When we have a good Christmas, it is usually because of one thing. We gave well. That is it. The lesson that we could learn is one of the big lessons that Christ came to teach us. Life is about giving, helping and doing good for others. That is really where we find joy and fulfillment. It is the way God made us. It is the way God is Himself. The apostle Paul wrote this:

> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.
>
> Philippians 2: 3-5

Looking outward at how we can help others is so basic to Christian living. What can I do to serve others? How can I be of service? Those are the things that God really notices, and those are the things that really make a difference in life.

Dale Huff

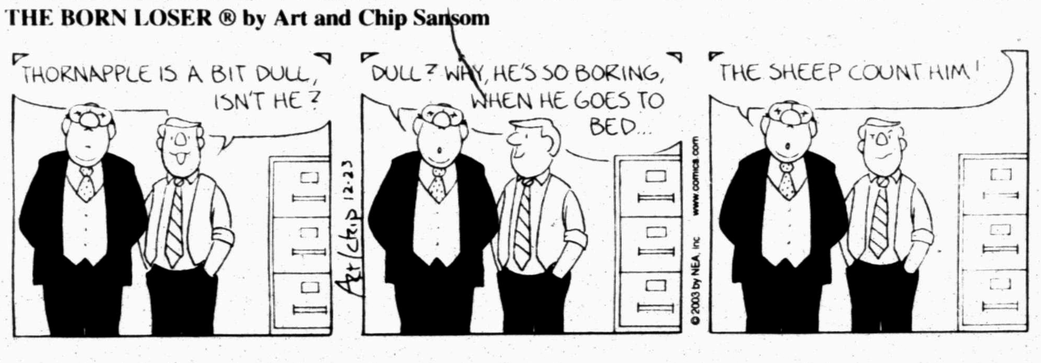
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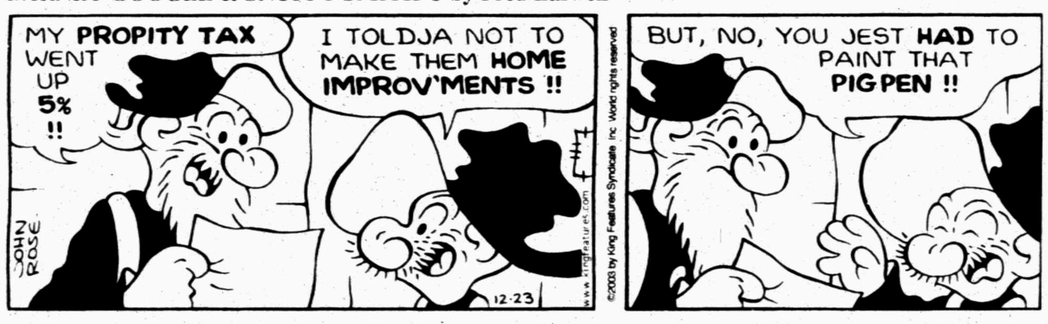
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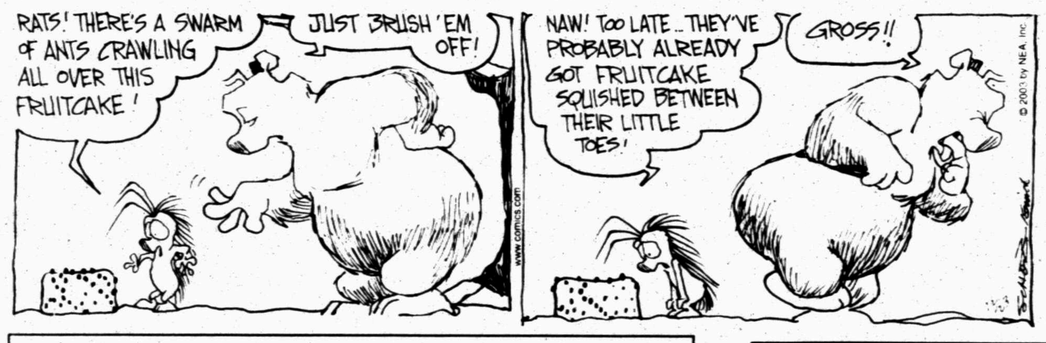
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Hired vehicle
4 Food fish
8 Awful
11 Olive —
12 Navaho foes
13 Tabriz locale
15 Stein filler
16 Sports figure
17 Farm structure
18 Giggle
20 Slept fitfully
21 Have the flu
23 Na+ or OH-
24 Dry, as champagne
27 Many years
29 Mr. Craven
32 Mezzanine
33 Band booking
34 Choose
35 Everything
36 Notre Dame sight
37 Hudson Bay tribe
38 "You, there!"
39 Gain's opposite
40 Tweet
41 Peccadillo
42 Upsilon preceder
44 Dazed, with "out"
47 Astronaut's wear (hyph.)
51 Wife of Geraint
52 Safekeeping
55 Curly's friend
56 Wilcox or Raines
57 Receptive
58 Groaner, maybe
59 Ginza money
60 "You — be sorry!"
61 123-45-6789, e.g.

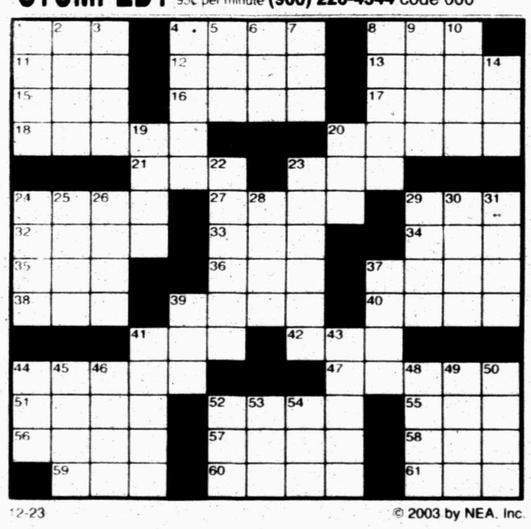
DOWN

1 Fossil fuel
2 Auel heroine
3 Aged cheese
4 Raw-fish delicacy
5 Slugger Mel —
6 Pasture
7 Approx.
8 Plains roamers
9 Desert st.
10 Hill's opposite
14 Doze (off)
19 Turnstile
20 John — Passos
22 Multitude
23 Eat
24 Ho-hum
25 Part
26 Not pretty
28 Rembrandt paintings
29 Showed use
30 Fencing weapon
31 Pace
37 PC "brains"
39 Pan cover
41 Roomy car
43 Spy
44 Mark of Zorro
45 Merely
46 Pharaoh's river
48 Refs
49 Promises to pay
50 Dollywood loc.
52 Dairy unit
53 Military addr.
54 Stimpy's buddy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	O	O			T	A	D			D	O	C
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SPORTS

Red Raiders win sixth straight

DALLAS (AP) — Steve Alford still hasn't beaten his former coach.

That doesn't mean Texas Tech's Bob Knight is satisfied with being undefeated against the best player from the last of his three national championship teams at Indiana.

"There's never been a time that I've played these kids that played for me or coached with me that I haven't wanted our kids to win," Knight said. "I don't like to see our guys lose, and I don't like to see Steve lose this game."

But Andre Emmett, Knight's current star player at Tech, scored 23 points — including the last six in a 10-0 first-half run that snapped an early tie — and the Red Raiders beat Iowa 65-59 Monday night.

Alford was part of 92 of Knight's wins at Indiana, including the 1987 national championship. They also shared an Olympic gold medal in 1984.

But as a coach, Alford is 0-3 against Knight.

"If I have to lose a game, I'd want to lose it to him," Alford said.

Texas Tech (10-2) has won six straight games since losing 62-59 in another Dallas appearance three weeks ago at SMU. Pierre Pierce had 18 points for the Hawkeyes (6-2), who have lost their last two games.

Despite their mutual respect for each other, Alford didn't speak at length with Knight after taking the Iowa job in 1999 until calling his former coach in January when his own team was struggling and he needed to talk to somebody about it.

Still, both coaches insisted in the week leading up to the game that there are no problems with their relationship.

"This is somebody that since I was in the third grade I've been following and watching and dreaming about playing for," Alford said. "And then all that takes place and I end up getting into coaching and coaching against him. It's always tough to go up against him."

Before Monday night's game, their first against each other since Alford's first year at Iowa, the former player walked over to meet Knight. The two embraced lightly near midcourt and had an extended conversation, Alford smiling widely while Knight talked with his arm draped over the shoulder of his former player.

Once the game started, Emmett took over and Alford's smile was gone.

Darryl Dora's tip-in broke a 6-6 tie five minutes in to put the Red Raiders ahead to stay. He then followed an Iowa turnover with a jumper.

Emmett's scored three straight baskets after that, starting with a 15-foot jumper and a tip-in after another turnover. Emmett then had a steal and drove for a layup to give Tech a 16-6 lead.

Iowa didn't get closer than eight points before halftime, when Emmett already had 16 points and the Red Raiders led 39-27.

The Hawkeyes opened the second half with a 8-2 run, getting to 41-35 after 3-pointers by Jeff Horner and Pierce.

But even when Texas Tech went more than six minutes without scoring midway through the second half, Iowa scored just nine points to make it 52-48. With a chance to cut the deficit to two, the Hawkeyes missed three shots on the same possession and then made just two of their last six free throw attempts.

Josh Washington's two free throws with 5:35 left broke Tech's scoring drought and Iowa never got closer.

Knight was still at Indiana the first two times he went against Alford. Southwest Missouri lost 78-66 to the Hoosiers in 1997-98, and Alford's first Iowa team lost 74-71 four years ago.

Unless there is an Iowa-Texas Tech matchup in the NCAA tournament, Alford won't get another shot against Knight until they play in a planned game next December in Chicago.

Each time there is such a game, Knight is reminded of the times he had to face his former coach at Ohio State, Fred Taylor.

"I hated that. I don't know how many times we won or they won," Knight said. "If we got beat, I didn't like that. If we win, I didn't like that either, and I mean really disliked it, probably more so than even with the kids now like Steve."

Favre delivers gem after father's death

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — With the same sure hands that caught a touchdown pass moments earlier, Wesley Walls caught Brett Favre in mid-leap. He held the quarterback high above the turf, celebrating the start of the Green Bay Packers' blowout win.

That kind of support from his teammates kept Favre with the Packers a day after his father's death — and his spectacular performance lessened the pain for at least an evening.

Favre passed for 399 yards and four touchdowns, moving into second place in NFL history for career TD passes while leading the Packers to a 41-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Monday night.

On one of the longest days of his life, Favre had one of the most prolific games of his 13-season career. Irvin Favre died of a heart attack Sunday night while driving near his son's hometown of Kiln, Miss.

After speaking at an emotional team meeting hours later, Brett decided to stay for the game.

"I knew that my dad would have wanted me to play," Favre said. "I didn't expect this kind of performance, but I know he was watching tonight."

None of Favre's teammates showed any surprise in the performance by one of the league's most inspirational leaders.

"I've never seen a leader or a player like Brett in my career, and I'm pretty sure that nobody else in this locker room has," Walls said. "I think we wanted to make him proud. ... Just getting up in front of the team at such a horrible and difficult time in his life really showed he cared about us. That was something I'll never forget."

With a series of spectacular long passes that somehow found his energized teammates, Favre decimated the Raiders' patchwork defense. He finished just 3 yards shy of his career high while keeping the Packers (9-6) in a tie with Minnesota atop the NFC North.

Favre, who went 22-of-30, threw for a personal-best 311 yards and all four TDs in the first half alone, quickly turning a crucial game for the Packers' playoff hopes into a blowout victory.

Favre just smiled. On the sideline in the fourth quarter, he embraced wife Deanna before they headed home to Mississippi.

"I do not wish this on anyone," Favre said. "My dad has been to every game from fifth grade, and he coached me in high school. You never expect it to happen like that. I'm going to miss him. He was so instrumental not only in football, but in life."

Though the formula is complicated, Green Bay can all but clinch a playoff berth with a victory over Denver on Sunday.

Villarreal is top defender...

Tigers earn 4 spots on All-South Plains team

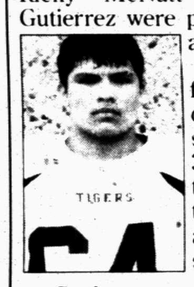
By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The postseason accolades continue to pour in for the bi-district and area football champion Snyder Tigers after an historic season and a berth in the Division I quarterfinals.



Villarreal

Marcus Villarreal today was named to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* All-South Plains Defensive Player of the Year for 2003, while quarterback Boicy Martinez and offensive linemen Ricky McNatt and Isidro Gutierrez were picked for the annual award.



Gutierrez

Villarreal, a first-team, all-district defensive back in 3-3A, hauled in three interceptions and allowed just six completions in 13 games at cornerback. He made 19 tackles and deflected seven passes, not allowing a touchdown to his side for the second season in a row.

Villarreal was an all-state honorable mention each of the past two seasons.

He anchored a secondary that set a single-game record for passing yards allowed, stuffing Merkel for –4 yards on Oct. 17. The Tiger defense also limited opponents to 890 passing yards during the regular season.

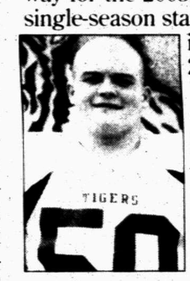


Martinez

Martinez, in his first year as starter, set a Snyder High School tandem yardage record with 1,773 yards. He passed for over 1,000 yards with nine touchdowns, and accumulated 688 yards on the ground.

He was named the first-team quarterback on the 3-3A all-district team.

Right guard McNatt and left tackle Gutierrez solidified an offensive line that paved the way for the 2003 Tigers to set a single-season standard for rushing yards with 2,749.



McNatt

Gutierrez earned first-team all-district honors for the second straight season, and was an all-state honorable mention last year.

He was named lineman of the week three times by the Snyder coaching staff, recording seven pins while helping the Tigers gain 4,038 total yards, including the playoffs. He graded out over 80 percent three times this season.

McNatt also was tabbed a first-team all-district offensive lineman. He was dubbed lineman of the week five times, and graded out at 80 percent four times.

Prairie View hires coach

PRAIRIE VIEW (AP) — Prairie View A&M on Monday hired Henry Frazier as the 22nd football coach in school history.

Frazier, who built a 26-24 record in five years at Bowie State University in Maryland, takes over a downtrodden program that just recently began offering full scholarships again.

Prairie View went 1-9 overall and 0-7 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference last season. The school fired first-year coach C.L. Whittington afterward, later revealing that an internal investigation concluded he had hit two players during summer workouts.

Hicks sets deadline; O's sign Lopez to 3-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) — A day before Boston and Texas apparently will decide whether to make the long-discussed Alex Rodriguez trade, Javy Lopez became the latest star to join a team in the AL East.

There was little indication Monday whether the Red Sox and Rangers were still discussing the trade that would send Rodriguez, the AL MVP, to Boston for outfielder Manny Ramirez.

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino proclaimed the trade "dead" Thursday, blaming the players' association for rejecting the changes to A-Rod's contract that Boston had proposed. On Sunday, Rangers owner Tom Hicks set a 4 p.m. deadline today for the deal.

On Monday, in response to an e-mail from The Associated Press, Red Sox owner John Henry did not alter his team's position or say that his club would contact the Rangers before the deadline.

If the transaction is to be revived, Henry said, "I don't believe there are any public statements I could make that would be helpful to the process other than to say that although there have been disagreements, I believe the principals involved on all sides have had good intentions thus far."

Rodriguez' agent, Scott Boras, thinks today's deadline is the final one.

"Tom Hicks told me he's setting forth his plan for 2004 beginning Wednesday," Boras said. "He said the team needed to make moves and put their marketing plan together."

Lopez agreed to sign with Baltimore a week after shortstop Miguel Tejada, the 2002 AL Most Valuable Player, got a $72 million, six-year contract from the Orioles. Baltimore also had been talking with Ivan Rodriguez, another free-agent catcher, but opted to go with Lopez, who hit .328 last season for Atlanta last season with 43 homers and 109 RBIs, both career highs

"Javy was the targeted guy that we were looking at in the process, and he's thrilled to be aboard," Orioles vice president Mike Flanagan said.

Flanagan said negotiations will continue through the holidays with the agent of outfielder Vladimir Guerrero. Flanagan called Guerrero "an important piece we want to consider."

Knicks replace GM

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee has had a front-row seat to watch the decline of his favorite team.

In 4½ years, the New York Knicks have deteriorated from NBA finalists into an overmatched, overpaid, underachieving failure — boring to watch and hopeless to cheer for.

But the famous filmmaker and the Knicks' most visible fan had a smile on his face Monday after Scott Layden, the architect of the current roster, was fired.

In a leadership change that almost no one at Madison Square Garden saw coming, Isiah Thomas was hired as the Knicks' president of basketball operations.

"Look, I'm 46, I was at Game 7 (in 1973 when the Knicks won their last title), I was 13 years old, so I live and breathe the Knicks," Lee told The Associated Press. "It got to be painful coming to games, seeing that we have probably the least athletic team, the oldest team, the highest payroll, the most expensive seats in sports."

More changes undoubtedly lie ahead for the Knicks, who bring a record of 10-18 into Tuesday night's game against the Minnesota Timberwolves. It will be the first game at the Garden for Sprewell since Layden traded him over the summer for Keith Van Horn to New York.

Dolan now turns the team over to Thomas, who was fired over the summer as coach of Indiana after one of his old rivals, Larry Bird, became the Pacers' team president.



MULE DEER — Josh Molter, 7, took down this eight-point mule deer Dec. 13 in Brewster County. Josh is the son of Mike and Liffin Molter of Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

TCU center suspended for Forth Worth Bowl

FORT WORTH (AP) — Starting center Chase Johnson is among five TCU players that have been suspended and won't play in the inaugural Fort Worth Bowl against No. 18 Boise State tonight.

Johnson, a junior, missed curfew at the team hotel Saturday night. Four freshmen players were suspended for violating unspecified team rules that same night, TCU spokesman Steve Fink said Monday.

None of the four freshmen, fullbacks Marcus Draper and Reggie La'Mothe, and cornerbacks Gerrad Wilson and Derek Ferry, had extended playing time this season.

The 19th-ranked Frogs last week suspended defensive tackle Terrence James, who played in all 12 games, for violating unspecified team rules.

On Sunday, six Boise State players were ruled academically ineligible, knocking them out of the game. The only starter was offensive left tackle Tyrone Tutogi.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	14	.500	—
Philadelphia	14	14	.500	—
New Jersey	13	13	.500	—
Miami	10	17	.370	3½
New York	10	18	.357	4
Washington	8	17	.320	4½
Orlando	7	22	.241	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	20	8	.714	—
New Orleans	18	10	.643	2
Detroit	16	11	.593	3½
Toronto	14	13	.519	5½
Milwaukee	13	14	.481	6½
Cleveland	8	19	.296	11½
Chicago	7	19	.269	12
Atlanta	7	22	.241	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	10	.655	—
Minnesota	17	9	.654	½
Denver	17	11	.607	1½
Dallas	15	11	.577	2½
Houston	15	11	.577	2½
Memphis	15	12	.556	3
Utah	15	13	.536	3½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	20	5	.800	—
Sacramento	19	6	.760	1
Golden State	12	13	.480	8
Portland	12	13	.480	8
Seattle	12	13	.480	8
L.A. Clippers	11	12	.478	8
Phoenix	10	18	.357	11½

Today's Games

New Orleans at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at Orlando, 1:30 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 5 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

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Human Resources office
Cogdell Memorial Hospital
1700 Cogdell Blvd.
Snyder, Texas 79549
325-574-7185
by FAX 325-574-7136
or email:
churst@cogdellhospital.com

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

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

Need babysitter for mornings til mid afternoon, 3/4 days a week in my home. 573-0370

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

Openings for CNA's full-time, LVN's full-time, & PRN/RN coverage. Apply in person, Snyder Healthcare Center, 5311 Big Spring Hwy.

Taking applications for housekeeping. Experience preferred. Apply in person at Days Inn, 800 E. Coliseum Dr.

WANTED
Laborer for the Landfill
Must be able to perform manual, unskilled and limited semi-skilled duties. Must be able to meet and work with the public. A valid drivers license required. Applications may be picked up at the Personnel Office at City Hall, 1925 24th St., Snyder, TX, EOE, Employer paid ad.

Wanted: Part-time Laborer at Landfill
Must be able to bend and stoop as well as walk over rough, uneven terrain. Hours will be approximately 20 hours per week, and will be Monday thru Friday. Must provide own transportation to landfill. An application can be picked up at City Hall, 1925 24th Street, Snyder, TX. EOE, Employer paid ad.

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Merchandise

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Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
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Mobile Homes For Rent

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

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2-story w/balcony, 1 1/2 bath.
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Call **207-0508**

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3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining...$35T
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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Problems secondary to pancreatic inflammation

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is there a diet for patients with chronic pancreatitis? My husband underwent gallbladder surgery two years ago and since then has been in intractable pain. He has had a CT scan to rule out cancer and is presently on a complete liquid diet. Even rice is no longer tolerated. His weight has dropped and he's weak and despondent.

DEAR READER: Chronic inflammation of the pancreas has many causes, ranging from alcohol abuse and gallstones to over-active parathyroid glands and obstruction of the pancreatic duct. Regardless of cause, however, the symptoms are the same: abdominal pain, poor digestion, diarrhea and — eventually — diabetes.

The diagnosis, which can be very challenging, is usually made by blood tests and special examinations that are not available except in teaching centers. In general, patients with the disorder are helped by diets low in fat and protein that are given in small, multiple feedings. Alcohol is prohibited. Enzyme supplements (to aid digestion) are often useful, as are drugs to reduce the formation of gastric acid. Vitamin supplements are necessary. Diabetes, if present, will require additional therapy with pills or insulin.

Because your husband continues to have serious complications of pancreatitis, he should be under the care of a gastroenterologist. Such a specialist will test your husband for a treatable cause and suggest an appropriate diet that he can tolerate without being malnourished.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a frozen shoulder. I've had cortisone shots, ibuprofen drugs, prednisone pills and physical therapy — and still suffer from the immobility. What's left to try?

DEAR READER: Surgery. You appear to have run the gamut of medicine and physical therapy; therefore, surgical release and repair may be your only remaining option. But this is not a big deal. The operation is simple (for trained surgeons, not me!) and will provide permanent benefit.

Frozen shoulder has many causes, ranging from tendon inflammation to serious injury. The common component is pain on motion. Thus, for comfort, patients stop moving their shoulders, which gradually become more and more immobile, as scar tissue forms and tissues around the joint contract. Eventually, the shoulder cannot be moved, even passively; it has become "frozen."

In most cases, anti-inflammatory medication (ibuprofen and various prescription drugs), coupled with cortisone injections and physical therapy (hot packs, massage, gentle range-of-motion exercises, ultrasound) suffice to limber up the shoulder and prevent ongoing disability.

When this "conservative" therapy fails, reparative surgery may be necessary. Ask your doctor to refer you to an orthopedic surgeon for an opinion and what I am certain will be a recommendation for surgical repair.

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

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

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Sanctions against Libya eyed

HOUSTON (AP) — Executives of two Texas oil companies are already making plans to take advantage of a possible end to an embargo with Libya.

Representatives of ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil Corp. haven't made a trip to Libya since 1986, when President Reagan imposed sanctions on Libya because of terrorist activity.

But company officials say that could change. The Bush administration on Monday dangled the prospect of improved economic relations with Libya. The country agreed Friday to dispose of its weapons of mass destruction and open the door for inspections.

"The events that took place on Friday are very encouraging, but we are still held to U.S. sanctions," Susan Richardson, spokeswoman for Marathon Oil, said in Tuesday's editions of the Houston Chronicle.

Before the sanctions ConocoPhillips, Marathon Oil and New York City-based Amerada Hess, part of the Oasis Group, produced about 850,000 barrels of oil a day in Libya.

Fadel Gheit, senior energy analyst with Oppenheimer & Co., in New York City said without the sanctions Libya could produce up to 3 million barrels per day.

"That would make Libya among the largest oil-exporting countries," Gheit said.

He said President Bush could lift sanctions in early 2004.

Richard Boucher, U.S. State Department spokesman, said the United States is looking at Libya's changes.

"As Libya's policy changes, Libya's circumstances change, we'll be willing to look at those things," Boucher said. "And at some point, we may be in a position to make some changes."

The oil companies are eager to start doing business with Libya because concessions they hold with the country expire in 2005 and Libya could transfer the leases to Europe.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.08	12.50	12.84	+ .12
AT&T Corp	19.59	19.46	19.51	— .01
Albertsons	22.50	22.15	22.40	+ .11
Alltel	46.33	46.00	46.01	— .19
AmEl Pw	30.14	29.96	30.08	+ .15
AndarkPtr	50.60	49.91	50.08	— .58
ATMOS Egy	24.48	24.28	24.42	+ .14
Aviall	15.84	15.57	15.65	— .15
BP PLC	47.98	47.78	47.90	— .50
BakerHughes	32.18	31.36	31.43	— .75
Bank of Amer	79.10	78.55	79.02	— .04
BellSouth	27.95	27.73	27.93	+ .03
BurlNoSFe	32.22	31.77	31.80	— .42
Caterpillar	84.15	82.94	83.82	+ .04
CenterPoint	9.48	9.40	9.46	+ .07
ChevronTex	83.50	82.88	83.00	— .35
Citigroup	48.64	48.35	48.56	+ .06
CocaCola	50.35	49.93	49.96	— .20
ColgatePal	49.35	49.02	49.16	+ .03
CmclMetals	30.95	30.43	30.95	+ .31
ConocoPhill	63.50	62.67	62.77	— .68
Cooper Inds	58.10	57.74	58.02	+ .24
DaimlrChry	45.76	45.29	45.76	— .02
DeltaAirLines	11.75	11.47	11.70	+ .30
Dillards Inc	15.79	15.63	15.77	+ .01
DowChem	41.31	41.02	41.10	— .12
DuPont	45.75	45.32	45.62	+ .28
EastmanChem	38.83	38.47	38.70	+ .38
EstKodak	25.22	24.69	25.09	+ .54
EDS Corp	24.31	23.55	24.09	+ .39
Entergy	56.87	56.45	56.68	— .25
ExxonMobil	39.43	39.20	39.35	— .12
FootLocker	23.19	22.61	23.17	+ .20
GenDynam	89.98	89.10	89.63	+ .97
GenlElec	31.29	30.91	31.17	+ .17
GenMills	45.38	45.07	45.11	— .09
GenMotors	54.39	51.99	52.94	+ .53
GaPacific	30.00	29.59	29.88	+ .18
Goodrich	29.91	29.64	29.66	+ .18
Goodyear	7.36	7.16	7.31	+ .21
GtAtlPac	7.85	7.66	7.74	— .16
Halliburtn	26.77	26.31	26.34	— .65
Hanson PLC	35.81	35.74	35.75	+ .20
HarteHanks	21.92	21.63	21.63	— .50
HomeDepot	35.00	34.55	34.72	— .11
Honeywellintl	32.94	32.69	32.73	— .08
IBM	93.44	92.86	92.96	— .43
IntlPaper	42.44	42.05	42.14	— .22
JohnsonJn	50.67	50.20	50.59	+ .11
KinderMorg	57.80	57.47	57.60	— .11
Kroger Co	18.10	17.92	18.00	— .11
LockheedM	50.10	49.67	49.79	— .16
Lowes Cos	54.85	54.10	54.37	+ .19
Lubys	3.67	3.60	3.64	+ .01
LucentTech	2.89	2.84	2.86	— .02
MarathonOil	32.30	31.94	32.03	— .20
MayDeptStr	29.23	28.48	29.17	+ .67
Medtronic	48.09	47.66	48.02	— .04
Motorola	13.61	13.46	13.57	+ .10
NCR Corp	38.90	38.30	38.69	— .58
Navistar	48.10	47.70	47.73	— .23
PNM Rescs	28.00	27.83	27.96	+ .01
Penney JC	26.10	24.93	25.90	+ 1.14
PepBoys	22.51	22.30	22.34	— .01
PepsiCo	46.96	46.50	46.62	— .37
PhelpDodge	77.40	75.60	77.19	+ 1.39
PilgrimsPride	15.10	14.98	15.08	
Praxair s	37.77	37.50	37.61	— .35
ProctGamb	98.47	98.05	98.15	
RadioShack	30.29	30.10	30.10	— .17
RoyalDut	50.58	50.41	50.44	— .50
SBC Comm	25.61	23.35	25.34	— .11
SaraLee	21.05	20.95	21.02	+ .01
Scripps EW	94.56	94.00	94.40	+ .22
SearsRoeb	45.08	44.11	44.80	+ .41
SherwinW	34.27	34.12	34.15	— .08
SouthernCo	30.20	30.00	30.16	
SwstAirl	16.25	15.85	16.08	— .09
SprintFON	15.99	15.79	15.86	— .11
SprintPCS	5.42	5.29	5.34	+ .05
Sunoco Inc	50.68	50.07	50.08	— 1.21
TXU Corp	23.82	23.56	23.59	— .13
TempleInland	61.48	61.22	61.34	
TexInd	35.87	35.35	35.75	— .21
TexasInst	29.07	27.72	28.95	+ .23
Textron	57.99	57.13	57.17	+ .28
TimeWarner	17.93	17.70	17.90	— .02
TrinityInds	31.06	30.60	30.90	— .05
TylerTech	9.65	9.48	9.58	
UnionPacif	68.75	68.15	68.59	— .04
USSteel	35.00	34.05	34.62	+ .22
UnitedTech	96.75	95.20	95.57	+ .52
Unocal	36.25	35.61	35.63	— .62
VerizonComm	34.48	34.00	34.41	+ .28
WalMart	53.32	52.55	53.18	+ .11
WellsFargo	58.35	57.92	58.26	+ .27
WstnGasRs	47.50	46.87	46.96	— .27
WinnDixie	9.32	9.20	9.26	— .06
Xerox Cp	13.48	13.27	13.41	+ .23
YumBrands	33.54	33.20	33.30	+ .01

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TexSCAN Week of December 21, 2003

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Central

Central Elementary has named the following third graders Super Kids for the third six weeks.

They include Shane Robbins, Mike Rodriguez, Hunter Wickline, Andrew Velasquez, Misael Arellano, Gerardo Robles, Meagan McWilliams, Averey Wright, Sabrina Castillo, Jaquelin Rubio, Faith Overton, Rosie Park, Brenon Rhodes, Ivana Valadez, Valerie Rodriguez, Mekayla Duzan, Johnny Mendoza, Christian Perez, Ashley Elizondo and Loran Perry.

Kindergarten Super Kids are Lucas Fuentes, Melynda Gooslby, Nicole Cabrera and Yanira Garcia.

First grade Super Kids are Alicia Juarez, Gabrielle Torres, Ana Karin Islas and Liliana Juarez.

Texas A&M clones deer with white tail

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University is fawning over its latest clone: a white-tailed deer named Dewey.

The university's College of Veterinary Medicine announced on Monday that Dewey was born in May, and is believed to be the world's first successfully cloned deer.

"Dewey is developing normally for a fawn his age and appears healthy," said Dr. Mark Westhusin, who heads the project. "He has been bottle-fed and spoiled rotten his whole life."

Westhusin said the school didn't disclose the news until it performed tests that confirmed Dewey was a genetic copy of his donor, a south Texas buck considered a huge trophy.

Researchers say the breakthrough could help conserve endangered deer species.

To create the clone, cells were isolated from skin samples from the buck.

A&M has now cloned five species, including cattle, goats, pigs and a cat.



NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS — David Miller read *The Night Before Christmas* to several Stanfield classes. Carolyn Martin's class enjoys this reading. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Woman questions future in light of parents' past

DEAR ABBY: "Kirk" and I have been together for more than three years, and last year he asked me to marry him. We have yet to set a date because we don't want to rush into anything. I am 25; he's 24.

Ninety-five percent of the time, we are happy. He calls out of the blue just to say he loves me. I write him love letters. He blows me kisses from across the room.

My only concern is, we have had two fights that became mildly physical, and I'm afraid of repeating my parents' mistakes. When I was a child, Dad hit Mom more than once. (My brother and I would hide in our rooms and hear her scream for us.) They finally divorced when I was in high school.

My last fight with Kirk was over a pregnancy scare. I had missed a couple of birth control pills, so I got the "morning-after" pill and took it. Kirk refused to believe I had taken it. At the breakfast table, he became furious and smashed the TV remote control.

It's not the first time he's thrown a temper tantrum. When he does, I always cringe. Then he gets over it and I clean up the mess. But this time, I was mad, too, so I smashed my cereal bowl on the floor. Well, it bounced and landed on his head! Blood poured everywhere. He was so frightened he called 911. They wanted to arrest me, but Kirk told them it was an accident.

I didn't mean to hit him, although my mom says maybe I did.

Kirk took all his things with him when he went to the hospital for stitches, then went to stay at his brother's. The next day when I saw him, he hugged me and said, "You have a sick baby to take care of." He said he had been in so much pain he hadn't had time to get mad.

I feel terrible. If he'd done this to me, I would never see him again. (Although once he did hit my head against the car window while he was driving.)

In my heart I know I didn't mean to hurt him, but nobody believes me. I should not have lost my temper. I know if I control myself and don't get mad over petty things, he will also be OK.

If he decides we should keep seeing each other, do you think it will work? — **LOST MY TEMPER IN CHULA VISTA**

DEAR LOST: Your mother has spoken with the voice of experience, so pay attention. Young love may be tempestuous, but it is not supposed to leave you black-and-blue or with stitches. There are healthier, more constructive ways to deal with anger.

Unless you and Kirk learn to control your tempers in an adult and civilized fashion, you will repeat your parents' mistakes. As much as you may care for each other, it is vital you both get anger management counseling before you live together again. Please don't wait. Your problems will escalate if you ignore this issue.

**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "If a diplomat says yes, he means maybe. "If a diplomat says maybe, he means no.

"If a diplomat says no, he ain't no diplomat!" — Andre Gabor

**

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

**

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

amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2003

In all circumstances where you endeavor to improve the quality of life not only for yourself but for those you love as well, you'll be extremely fortunate in the year ahead. Dame Fortune will be sanctioning your efforts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Somewhere far removed from where you are presently located, good things could be happening that would ultimately benefit you personally. You may get an inkling of it today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — A positive gesture you made in the past to an associate may be repaid at this time in far greater measure than you were able to give. Your good deeds could be coming home to roost today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A friend who is in the position to do so will happily help you achieve something today that you can't do on your own. It may be getting you an invitation or performing a service of some kind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — What a difference a day makes. You are now likely to experience success in areas where your plans were thwarted yesterday. Roll up your sleeves, regroup your forces and try again today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't turn down any invitations you might receive today. One is likely to give you opportunities to meet new people, and someone among them could turn out to be quite important to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Instead of being upset by changing conditions today, embrace them. There could be a shift in circumstances that would ultimately benefit you, even if you didn't instigate the alterations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Today holds far more promise for you than early signals might have indicated. Much of this is due to your own positive thinking and believing in yourself and what you are doing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your competent, happy-go-lucky attitude will win you the admiration and popularity of all those you encounter today. It will serve to buoy up their spirits and enhance your acceptance.

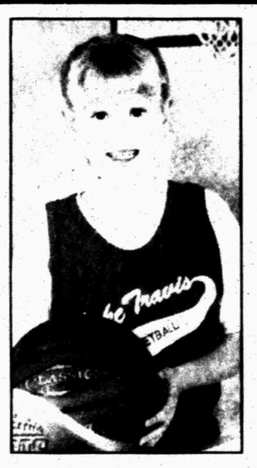
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Think in terms of being helpful and of service to others today and this could turn out to be a very successful day for you. What you give at this time will return to you tenfold.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Your innermost feelings will dictate the outcome of your affairs today, so it behooves you to adopt a winning attitude when it comes to the more important issues in your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Strive to be optimistic regarding the outcome of your relationships today with friends and associates alike. Get in touch with anyone with whom you need to engage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You couldn't pick a better day to focus your total efforts on career objectives that are truly meaningful to you. Lady Luck is apt to pull off something big for you today.

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By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Feral Hogs: The Good, The Bad or The Ugly

The early Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto didn't realize the impact feral hogs would have on Texas when he dropped off the first few way back in 1539. Things haven't been quite the same since, according to Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist here.

"When it comes to feral hogs, one thing's for sure, there's no middle ground — Texans either love 'em or hate 'em," said Higginbotham.

Hog numbers today range between 1 and 2 million in the Lone Star State alone. That figure gives Texas the dubious honor of being America's feral hog capital, easily surpassing any of the 30 states where wild hogs roam.

There are 23 recognized feral hog subspecies worldwide. In Texas, feral hogs are descendants of domesticated hogs gone wild, Eurasian wild boars, or a cross between the two. Feral hogs now inhabit every county in the state, with the exceptions of the extreme western Trans-Pecos and western Panhandle. It's safe to say there are just two kinds of landowners — those with feral hogs and those who are about to have them!

The Texas feral hog invasion has occurred due to range expansion of this prolific critter and indiscriminate stockings. Hog releases in one area quickly result in moves to adjoining properties. The resultant damage usually ends in hard feelings between neighbors. It is illegal to catch and re-release feral swine onto another property unless they test negative for swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.

Many landowners hate the thought of feral hogs on their properties because of crop and ranch facility damage, livestock depredation, disease transmission and competition for food with livestock and wildlife. On the flip-side, Higginbotham said, many hunters see feral hogs as an extremely popular game species.

A Texas Cooperative Extension survey indicated hog hunters paid in a range of $25-$1,000 for a hog hunt with the average price paid being $169. "This represents a real opportunity for those landowners already locked in a battle to reduce hog population," said Higginbotham.

Along with the hunting dollar, commercial hunters using dogs and trappers often sell live hogs to buyers across the state who process the animals for the restaurant trade.

Prices are over 50 cents per pound for large hogs in some parts of Texas. Hunting activity is concentrated in the state's most heavily hog-populated areas, according to Higginbotham. These include the Pineywoods, northern Post Oak Savannah, Hill Country, South Texas and the Rolling Plains.

Hog hunting is especially popular among bow hunters and black powder enthusiasts, although most are still taken with deer rifles of 25 caliber or larger.

Feral hogs do reach weights in excess of 300 pounds, but more commonly, weights average 100-150 pounds.

The specialist said a bit of knowledge about the biology and habits of feral hogs can improve hunting success.

He said hogs are an extremely intelligent animal with a keen sense of smell. Whenever possible hunt into the wind to avoid detection. Many deer hunters are amazed at just how hard they can be to outwit.

Feral boars are solitary animals. They generally don't associate with other hogs except during breeding seasons. The females and their offspring usually travel together in groups called 'sounders.'

Hogs usually prefer moist areas in extremely dense cover during daylight hours. They are usually nocturnal during summer's heat. During the winter though, hogs may become more active during the daytime as they search for food. Hunting pressure can result in a hog population that is rarely seen during daylight hours, regardless of the season.

Hunters can stack the odds in their favor by learning to identify hog sign. Fresh wallows in wet areas say hogs are in the area.

Hog rubs that leave mud against power lines, fence posts or trees are another tip-off that hogs are nearby. Like white tails, hogs are creatures of habit. Crossings under fences can be located by looking for the coarse hog-hair left on fence wires.

Higginbotham said the increasing popularity of using infrared-triggered cameras near feeders or on game trails also provides proof-positive evidence of recent hog activity. He said most hogs are hunted from a stand placed near a corn feeder.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

By Jim Lionberger, Wildlife Biologist

Now is the time for landowners and land managers to begin planning their quail management practices. Practices such as discing and spot grazing can stimulate the growth of forbs that quail and other wildlife species prefer as food. This is achieved by creating a soil disturbance, resulting in a backward swing of the plant succession process.

In addition to providing food in the form of seeds and greens, forbs production is also advantageous by attracting insects that are very important in the diet for nesting hens and quail chicks.

Quail chicks depend heavily upon insects as food during their first eight to ten weeks of life. Practices such as half-cutting can provide quality loafing cover for quail by increasing the cover value of mesquite.

Discing should be performed by mid-March prior to the beginning of the growing season. The soil disturbance caused by discing can stimulate the growth of forbs or "weeds" that are preferred food items for quail and other wildlife species.

Disc in strips near existing woody cover such as a brushy field border or timber creek. Using a tandem disc at a depth of three to six inches should work well. Different soil types will result in different forb response to discing.

Forbs such as annual sunflower and giant ragweed may be produced by discing on bottomland soils. Discing on upland soils may produce croton, partridge pea, western ragweed and broomweed.

"Spot" or flash grazing is another practice that can stimulate forb growth. This practice involves heavy, short duration grazing of small enclosures such as waste areas or traps. Forb growth is stimulated as a result of soil disturbance created by the hoof action of the grazing animals. "Spot" grazing should be completed and cattle removed by mid-March, prior to the growing season.

Half-cutting is best performed on smooth barked, multi-trunked mesquites. A "living brush pile" is created by cutting halfway through the topside of the of the outer trunks approximately 3 feet above the ground. The trunks or limbs should be pulled outward, away from the center, allowing the tops to lie on the ground forming a wagon wheel pattern.

Half-cutting should be performed in late spring or early summer when the sap is flowing. Half-cut mesquites should be spaced approximately 50 to 75 yards apart.

Free technical assistance with your wildlife management efforts is available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Private Land Enhancement Program. For technical assistance in the Snyder area, contact Jim Lionberger, wildlife biologist at 325-863-2755.

For technical assistance in the Panhandle, contact Danny Swepston, district wildlife biologist at 806-655-3782, for the wildlife biologist in your area.

?Weather Whys?

Topic: Ice on bridges

Q: Why does ice seem to form on bridges and overpasses first?

A: The main reason is heat — or lack of it, says Andrew Odins of Texas A&M University. "Roads and highways, even though they are made of asphalt and concrete, are protected by the ability of the soil underneath to absorb heat.

"But bridges and overpasses are suspended in the air, which means they do not have the means to absorb heat," Odins explains.

"So when temperatures start dropping to below freezing, it takes a while for the ground temperature to reach freezing. But bridges and overpasses, with freezing air on top and below the structures, will cool down and freeze much quicker."

Q: So bridges are affected more than roads by the outside temperature?

A: "True," adds Odins. "Bridges don't have any way to trap heat, so they lose heat quickly and this allows them to freeze up quicker than roads," Odins says. "The simple explanation is that bridges tend to follow the outside air temperature very closely.

"So if the temperatures drop below freezing and it starts to sleet or snow, the bridge's surface will also fall below freezing and snow and sleet will stick to it very quickly. Ice can form on bridges and combined with a layer of snow, makes driving conditions very dangerous. That's why bridges and overpasses are the first to be sanded when icing is about to occur."

ABOUT WEATHER WHYS

"Weather Whys" is a service of Texas A&M University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Past and current topics can be viewed via the web at http://rev.tamu.edu/weather-whys/.For more information, please contact Keith Randall at (979) 845-4644 or kr@univrel.tamu.edu. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to news@univrel.tamu.edu.

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Dannheim, CEA – Family and Consumer Sciences 2605 Avenue M, Snyder Texas 79549

What To Do When Your Recipe Calls for Raw Eggs?

Many older classic holiday recipes call for raw eggs. This cooking practice is not considered safe because of possible Salmonella infection. Check out these recipes from the American Egg Board for updated versions of several classic recipes.

Chocolate Almond Mousse

8 servings
¾ cup milk
4 eggs
¼ cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ teaspoon almond extract
2 to 3 tablespoons slivered almonds

In medium saucepan, stir together milk, eggs and sugar until thoroughly blended. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film and reaches at least 160 degrees F. Remove from heat. Stir in chocolate and flavorings until chocolate is melted. Spoon into 8 pot de creme cups or ¼-cup dessert dishes. Sprinkle with almonds. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Microwave: In small bowl, stir together eggs and sugar until thoroughly blended. In 1-cup liquid measure, cook milk on full power until bubbles form at edges, about ½ minutes. Stir into egg mixture. Cook on 50 degrees power, stirring every minute, until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film and reaches at least 160 degrees F., about 3 to 4 minutes. Continue as above.

Note: All microwave cooking times are based on a full power output of 600 to 700 watts. For a lower wattage oven allow more time.

Classic Cooked Egg Nog

(1 ½ or 12 (½ cup) servings)
6 eggs
¼ cup sugar
¼ teaspoon salt, optional
1 quart milk? divided
1 teaspoon vanilla,

Garnishes or Stir-Ins, optional

In large saucepan, beat together eggs, sugar and salt, if desired. Stir in 2 cups of the milk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film and reaches at least 160 degrees F. Remove from heat. Stir in remaining 2 cups milk and vanilla.

Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled, several hours or overnight. Just before serving, pour into bowl or pitcher. Garnish or add stir-ins, if desired. Serve immediately.

For faster preparation heat milk until very warm before stirring milk into eggs and sugar.

Microwave: In 2-quart liquid measure or bowl, beat together eggs, sugar and salt, if desired, until thoroughly blended. Set aside. In 1-quart liquid measure or bowl, cook 2 cups of the milk on full power until bubbles form at edges, about 5 to 6 minutes. Stir into egg mixture. Cook on 50 degrees power until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film and reaches at least 160 degrees F, about 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in remaining 2 cups milk and vanilla. Continue as above.

Garnishes and Stir-Ins

Choose 1 or several: Chocolate curls, Maraschino cherries, cinnamon sticks, orange slices, extracts or flavorings, peppermint sticks or candy canes, flavored brandy or liqueur, plain brandy, rum or whiskey, fruit juice or nectar, Sherbet or ice cream, ground nutmeg whipping cream, whipped

Note: All microwave cooking times are based on a full power output of 600 to 700 watts. For a lower wattage oven allow more time.

Cooked Butter Cream Frosting

about 2 cups
4 to 5 tablespoons water, divided
1 lb. confectioners' sugar, divided
1 egg yolk
¼ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla

In small saucepan, stir together 2 tablespoons of the water, 3 tablespoons of the sugar and the egg yolk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture bubbles. Set aside. Allow to cool about 15 minutes.

In small mixing bowl, beat butter at high speed until smooth and creamy. Add 1 cup of the sugar, 2 tablespoons of the remaining water and the cooled yolk mixture. At medium speed, beat until smooth. Beat in remaining sugar, adding some of the remaining 1 tablespoon water, 1 teaspoon at a time, until of spreading consistency. Beat in vanilla. Beat at high speed until smooth, adding remaining water, if necessary.

Microwave: In small bowl, stir together 2 tablespoons of the water, 3 tablespoons of the sugar and the egg yolk. Cook on full power stirring every 15 seconds, until bubbly, about 45 seconds to 1 minute. Set aside. Allow to cool about 15 minutes. Continue as above.

Note: All microwave cooking times are based on a full power output of 600 to 700 watts. For a lower wattage oven allow more time.

***For addition classic holiday recipes calling for raw eggs, call the County Extension Ofice at 573-5423.**

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WEEKLY LAKE AND WATER DELIVERY REPORT

LAKE J. B. THOMAS (200,604 ACRE FEET AT ELEVATION 2258.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	12-22-02	12-15-03	12-22-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	17.41	17.53	17.43
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	18,522	18,761	18,562
PERCENT FULL	9.23	9.35	9.25
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00
IVIE TO LAKE THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0
SPENCE TO THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT BIG SPRING/ODESSA INTAKE.

E.V. SPENCE RESERVOIR (517,262 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1898.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	12-22-02	12-15-03	12-22-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	37.71	39.39	39.15
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	35,327	39,940	39,255
PERCENT FULL	6.83	7.72	7.59
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT SPENCE PUMP STATION

O.H. IVIE RESERVOIR (554,340 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1551.50 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	12-22-02	12-15-03	12-22-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	27.92	26.18	26.10
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	215,304	198,476	197,717
PERCENT FULL	38.84	35.80	35.67
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT DAM.

INFORMATION BASED ON NEW AREA CAPACITY CURVE DATA

MUNICIPAL WATER DELIVERIES IN GALLONS

	LAST WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE	THIS WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE	THIS WEEKS PEAK DAY
	12-15-02	12-22-03	12-22-03
	12-9-03	12-16-03	12-16-03
BIG SPRING	3,345,714	3,617,143	4,130,000
ODESSA	13,336,143	13,369,143	14,140,400
SNYDER	1,594,286	1,800,857	2,192,000
MIDLAND	16,256,529	16,457,986	17,629,300
SAN ANGELO	12,394,286	7,184,000	13,000,000
STANTON	242,143	270,143	321,000


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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Two killed in California earthquake

PASO ROBLES, Calif. (AP) — More aftershocks rattled the area today following a magnitude-6.5 earthquake that jolted the central California coast, killing two people, injuring dozens and wrecking a landmark clock tower.

Residents from San Francisco to Los Angeles were shaken by Monday's quake, the first to cause fatalities in the state since a magnitude-6.7 temblor hit Northridge in 1994.

The bodies of two women were pulled from under the roof of Paso Robles' 1892 clock tower, which pitched into the street and crushed a row of parked cars in this San Luis Obispo County community of 25,000, some 20 miles east of the epicenter.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger planned to tour downtown Paso Robles today.

The main shock was centered in a sparsely populated area about 11 miles north of the coastal town of Cambria. It was followed Monday and early today by more than 90 aftershocks larger than 3.0, the biggest of which was estimated at 4.7, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The state Office of Emergency Services said there was a 90 percent or greater probability that aftershocks of 5.0 magnitude or greater would follow in the next week.

By Monday night, search and rescue crews in Paso Robles had combed all seriously damaged buildings and were confident they had found all the quake's victims, though the owner of one car crushed in the rubble still had not been located.

"We're out of rescue mode and now it's just going to be general debris removal," said Battalion Chief Scott Hall of the Ventura County Fire Department.

Earlier in the day, the bodies of Jennifer Myrick, 20, of Atascadero, and Marilyn Zafuto, 55, of Paso Robles, were found on the street outside a dress shop, police Sgt. Bob Adams said.

"It appeared as though they were trying to get away," he said.

A young boy suffered a broken arm and another person received minor injuries when a bakery collapsed, while citywide there were reports of about 40 minor injuries, said Adams.

Officials inspected more than 80 downtown buildings and all remained off-limits Monday night.

Redistricting fight continues in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Democrats are continuing to press the U.S. Justice Department to release documents they contend will show that a GOP congressional redistricting plan was approved by political appointees who overruled the agency's staff.

Members of Texas' Democratic congressional delegation want a copy of a memorandum written by the Voting Section of the department's Civil Rights Division in time to present it today in an Austin federal court. A three-judge panel was expected to rule after closing arguments today in the lawsuit challenging the new congressional plan that Republicans want to use in the 2004 elections.

"It is vital that the public and the three-judge panel have access to the Voting Section's recommendation before the start of closing arguments," the delegation said in a prepared statement on Monday.

A lawyer representing the congressional Democrats has said sources within the department told him the agency's career professional staff found that the Texas map violated minority protections in the Voting Rights Act. J. Gerald Hebert said he was told the staff was overruled by Republican political appointees.

Hebert has demanded a copy of the staff recommendation under the Freedom of Information Act.

"We urge the Justice Department to immediately release the Voting Section's memorandum so that the public and the judges will know what illegalities led career Justice Department employees to recommend against pre-clearing the Texas plan," the congressional statement said.

Jorge Martinez, a Justice Department spokesman, declined comment Monday.

Minority groups and Democrats contend the congressional redistricting plan passed in October by the Legislature illegally dilutes minority voting strength.

Among those issuing the statement were Democratic U.S. Reps. Shelia Jackson Lee, Chris Bell and Gene Green of Houston; Lloyd Doggett of Austin; Chet Edwards of Waco; Martin Frost and Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas; Charlie Gonzalez and Ciro Rodriguez of San Antonio; Ruben Hinojosa of Mercedes; and Nick Lampson of Beaumont.

Others were Solomon Ortiz of Corpus Christi; Max Sandlin of Marshall; Charlie Stenholm of Abilene; and Jim Turner of Crockett.

Demcrats now lead Texas' congressional delegation 17-15. But the new map could give Republicans, who already hold an overall majority in Congress, as many as seven additional seats.

The Justice Department clearance of the GOP redistricting plan eliminates the existing districts. But if the federal court finds violations, it could restore the old plan or make modifications to the legislative plan to make it legal.

Two treated following accident

• Accidents

A one-vehicle major accident was reported at 12:13 p.m. Monday on U.S. 84, 20 miles north of Snyder.

Sarah Ruth Sims, 19, of Amarillo was driving a 2001 Ford Explorer. The driver and passenger Josh Sims, 16, of Amarillo were treated and released at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Three minor accidents with no injuries were reported Monday. The first occurred at the intersection of 30th and Ave. E at 9:24 a.m. Edie Anjanette Parrish, 38, 1913 30th was the driver of a 1991 Cadillac Deville and Juan Salinas Garcia, 53, FM 1604 of Hermleigh was driving a 1985 Isuzu.

A second mishap occurred at 4:54 p.m. at the intersection of 28th and Ave. L. Involved were a 1995 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Maria Antonia Martinez, 20, of 200 E. Wheat in Hermleigh and Angel Marie Sosa, 23, of 1873 Chambers, driving a 1991 Chevrolet Lumina.

The third mishap occurred at the intersection of College Ave. and Trinity Blvd. at 4:06 p.m. The accident involved Fielda Wall Blair, 53, of Colorado City, driver of a 1997 Saturn, and a 1975 Chevrolet pickup driven by Kerry John Johnson, 17, 10228 Blockline Rd.

• Arrests

A 28-year-old man was arrested at 7:58 a.m. Monday on a DPS warrant from Midland for speeding.

• Criminal mischief

An oil pump located at CR 394 and FM 3105 belonging to Lynx Energy was reported damaged at 11:19 a.m. Monday. The incident is still under investigation by Scurry County sheriff's department

A caller reported that some Christmas lights and a deer had been broken in a yard at 1810 39th.

A man from Lubbock reported that his vehicle had been scratched and the tires slashed while parked at 1812 38th.

• Theft

A number of tools were reported stolen from a yard at 2903 23rd at 3:55 p.m. Monday.

Obituaries

Freida Dever

1932-2003

Freida Dever, a native of Scurry County, died Saturday, Dec. 20, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Dever, 70, is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday in the 37th Street Church of Christ with Dale Huff, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Freida Devers

Born Dec. 22, 1932 in Snyder, she married E.H. "Dan" Dever Jr. on Oct. 6, 1953 in Snyder. He died Sept. 23, 2003.

Mrs. Dever had lived in Snyder most of her life, excluding the years she traveled with her husband in the military. A homemaker, she was a member of the Home Demonstration Club and the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include three daughters, Sharon Wemken of Snyder, Kathy Kelley of Ranger and Terri Williams of Snyder; two sons, Henry Dever of Andrews and Jerry Dever of Temple; two nephews, Jack Lambert of Amarillo and Donald Ray Rhoades of Abilene; a niece, Pam Sue Hataway of Austin; 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Friends are contributing to the Sonshine School Fund at the 37th Street Church of Christ; American Diabetes Association, Box 2680 in North Canton, Ohio, 44720; or to the Hermleigh First Baptist Church Youth Camp Scholarship Fund.

Wilbert Varner

1921-2003

BURKBURNETT — Wilbert "Snooks" Varner, the brother of Modena Sullenger of Snyder, died Sunday, Dec. 21, in Wichita Falls.

Graveside service for Mr. Varner, 82, is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Burkburnett Cemetery with the Rev. Anthony West, pastor of Abundant Life Church of God, officiating.

Mr. Varner was a heavy equipment operator and a member of the Abundant Life Church of God.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline Varner of Burkburnett; two sons, DeWayne Varner of Wichita Falls and Mike Varner of Burkburnett; three daughters, Kathy Irwin and Connie Martin of Burkburnett and Debbie Varner of Wichita Falls; a brother, Roy Varner of Arlington; another sister, Melba Buchanan of Fort Worth; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

J.B. Claiborne

1908-2003

LAMESA — Services for J.B. Claiborne, 95, of Lamesa, TX, will be Wednesday, December 24, 2003, at 11:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Jordan Grooms of Amarillo and Rev. Tom Fuller, pastor, officiating. He passed away Saturday, December 20, at his home. Burial will be in the Lamesa Memorial Park.

J.B. was born August 9, 1908, in Denton, Texas, to B.F. & Nan Taylor Claiborne. He married Jesse Mae Wood November 1, 1934. She preceded him in death January 28, 1992.

He grew up in Quanah, Texas, and started working for Davis & Humphrey Grocery Store at age 16. He worked there for 19 years. He bought a Piggly Wiggly Grocery in Haskell, Texas, and operated it for three years before selling it and moving to Lamesa. In 1947 he opened a Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store in Lamesa, and later added Piggly Wiggly #2 store, which became Claiborne's Thriftway.

He was president of the Rotary Club, and on the Rotary Administrative Board where he chaired all the committees. He served as president of Piggly Wiggly Operators Association of America. He was charter member of the Lubbock Scottish Rite and Lamesa Masonic Lodge 109, where he was a 32nd Degree Mason. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church for 56 years. He was president and board member of the Lamesa Independent School Board, a founding member of Associated Grocers of the South Plains, and a member of Affiliated Foods Grocery Warehouse of Amarillo, Texas.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Jess & Carolyn Claiborne of Lamesa, and Jay & Zee Claiborne of Berkley, CA.

Granddaughter, Jessica & Randy Bade of New Braunfels, TX.

3 Grandsons: Justin & Robin Claiborne of Lamesa, TX, Jason & Pilar Claiborne of Berkley, CA and Gavin Claiborne of Berkley, CA.

2 Great Grandchildren, Cole Claiborne of Lamesa, Tx, and Carla Claiborne of Berkley, CA.

Pallbearers will be Ronnie Payton, Bob Brown, Norris Barron, Jake Broyles, Don Bethel, Elwood Freeman, John Hegi, George Norman, Denny Porter, Dale Carter, Roger Lowe, Bobby Warren, Jay White & Steve Thompson.

The family requests memorials be given to the First United Methodist Church of Lamesa.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 Tuesday at Branon Funeral Home, 403 N. Austin in Lamesa.

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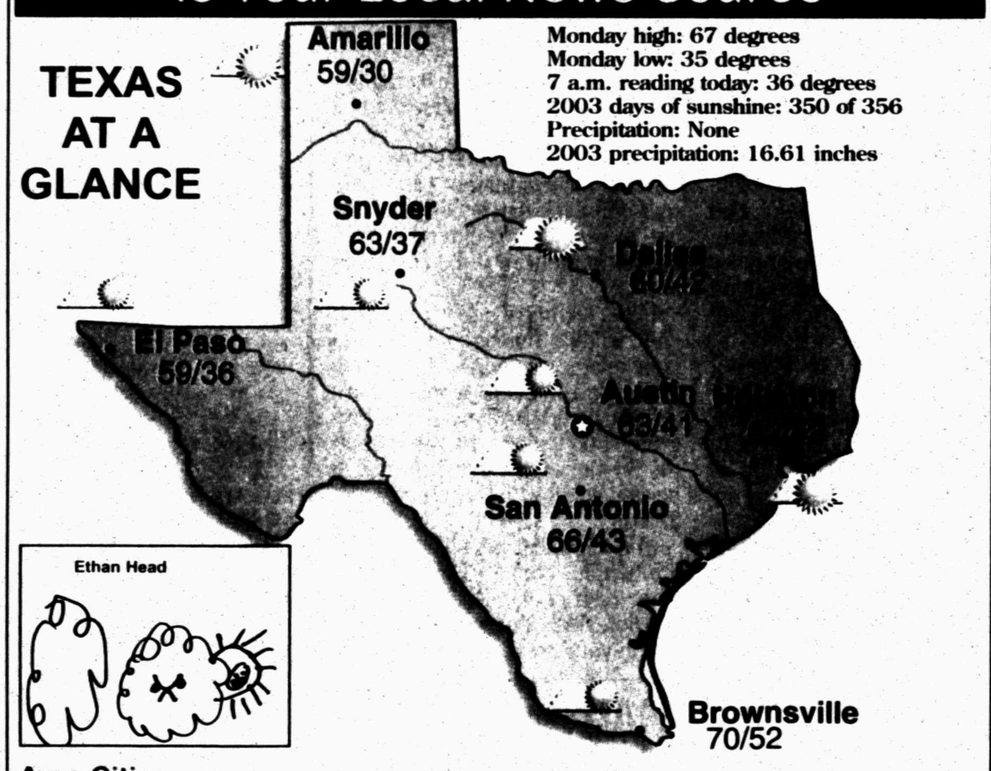
Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26
63/37	64/40	72/47
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 63F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise 7:43 AM / Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:44 AM / Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 7:44 AM / Sunset 5:44 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Monday high: 67 degrees
Monday low: 35 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 36 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 350 of 356
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	65	43	mst sunny	El Paso	59	36	pt sunny	Midland	62	35	pt sunny
Amarillo	59	30	mst sunny	Fort Stockton	61	38	pt sunny	Raymondville	69	49	pt sunny
Austin	63	41	pt sunny	Gainesville	59	39	mst sunny	Rosenberg	62	42	mst sunny
Beaumont	61	40	mst sunny	Greenville	59	37	mst sunny	San Antonio	66	43	pt sunny
Brownsville	70	52	pt sunny	Houston	62	42	mst sunny	San Marcos	64	41	mst sunny
Brownwood	66	41	mst sunny	Kingsville	68	48	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	59	37	sunny
Corpus Christi	66	49	pt sunny	Livingston	60	36	mst sunny	Sweetwater	64	42	pt sunny
Corsicana	60	40	mst sunny	Longview	59	36	sunny	Tyler	59	37	sunny
Dallas	60	42	mst sunny	Lubbock	62	32	mst sunny	Weatherford	64	39	mst sunny
Del Rio	63	42	pt sunny	Lufkin	61	36	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	66	40	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	26	pt sunny	Houston	62	42	mst sunny	Phoenix	71	47	pt sunny
Boston	53	43	rain	Los Angeles	67	54	rain	San Francisco	57	52	rain
Chicago	30	19	pt sunny	Miami	76	63	rain	Seattle	49	41	rain
Dallas	60	42	mst sunny	Minneapolis	23	10	pt sunny	St. Louis	39	26	sunny
Denver	51	27	mst sunny	New York	54	36	rain	Washington, DC	53	30	rain

Moon Phases

New	First	New	First
Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 21	Jan 29

UV Index

Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26
Low	Low	Low

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

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