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WT-Int. Crude - $27.20
WTIC Posted - $24.50
Natural Gas - $4.390

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 11, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 193
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Zane Green

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jo Ann Nunley



We think the most beautiful music belongs to Christmas with the most important message ever, lyrics are easy to remember and most are in octaves that are easy to sing along with.

Among the boxes of holiday decorations, we again unwrapped our favorite set of glasses to display, each labeled with a picture representing the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

I always put this song in the whimsical category with tunes like Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Here Comes Santa Claus but they have a story to tell.

The words to the Twelve Days of Christmas are totally baffling. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

The answer came through e-mail:

The writer said she found out at a luncheon at church that from 1558 until 1829, Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly.

Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember.

–The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

–Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.

–Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

–The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

–The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

–The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

–Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit — wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

–The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

–Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit — Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

–The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

–The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

–The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with us and we found it interesting and enlightening.

Now we know how that strange song became a Christmas carol... so pass it on if you wish.

Postal service gets ready for holiday rush

While Santa Claus waits until Christmas Eve to deliver his packages, the U.S. Postal Service is already hard at it — preparing for its busiest weeks of the year.

Snyder Postmaster Dale Lipsett said the best way to ensure your packages reach their destination on time is to mail them early.

"If you're sending anything overseas and you want it there by Christmas, you need to have it to us by no later than Friday," Lipsett said. "We're getting real busy."

With the postal service processing an estimated 20 billion pieces of holiday mail, early packages stand a better chance of making their way through the system before Christmas.

Lipsett said packages being sent inside the United States should be mailed by Dec. 15 via priority mail to get to the recipient by Christmas. "If you wait until the 20th, express mail is your only way out."

Timeliness in mailing for Christmas isn't limited only to large packages though, Lipsett said. Christmas cards should be mailed as early as possible and the postmaster had another tip for getting the letters through the system.

"Try not to use red or green envelopes if at all possible," he said. "Our optical readers on our machines have a hard time reading the black or blue ink on the colored cards."

Lipsett suggested printing addresses on white labels. "Then you can use any color of envelope you want."

The local post office sees "more than its fair share" of packages, according to Lipsett, who called Snyder a "heavy mail-order town."

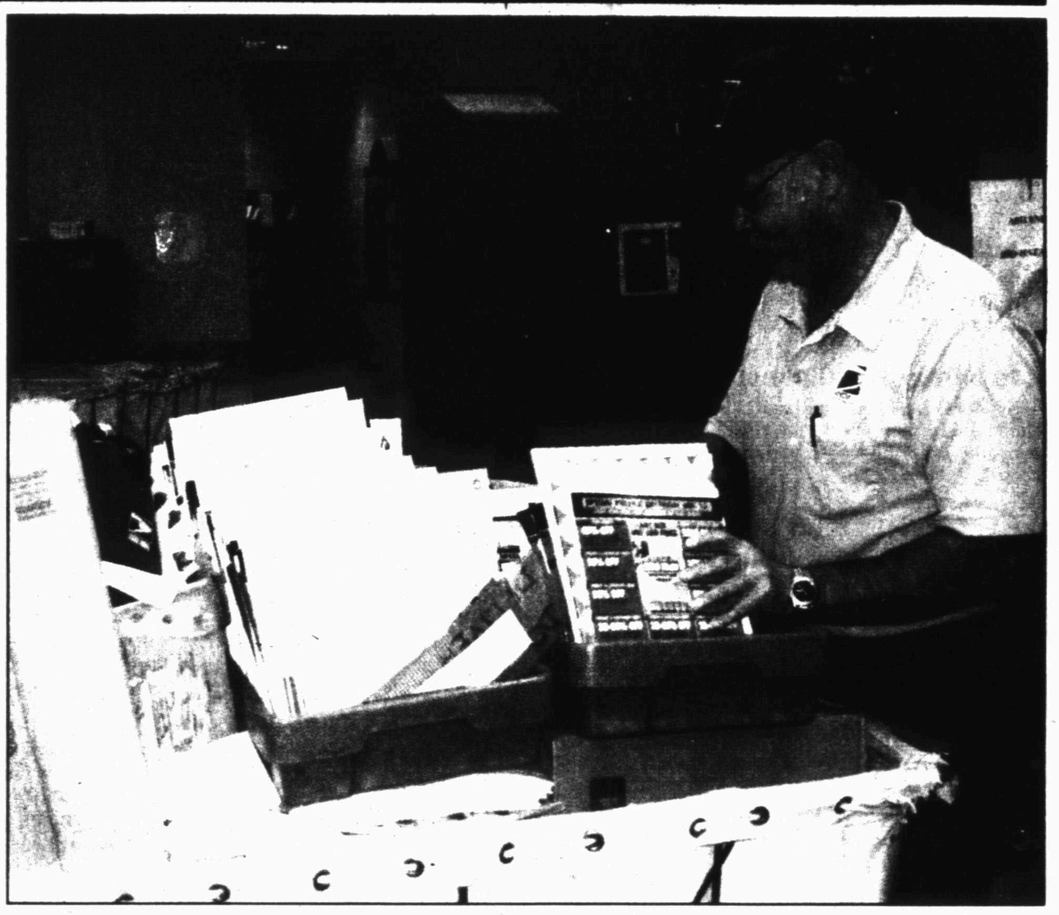
"People in Snyder seem to order a lot of stuff through catalogs and Internet shopping," he said. "And now those things are beginning to arrive and keeping us very busy."

Adding to the local post office's problems with the increased workload is a decreased staff.

"We're still experiencing staffing problems locally," he said. "But the problem extends throughout the national system. We're doing the best we can, but some days we do better than others. And unfortunately we're also in the middle of flu season, which doesn't help the problem."

But regardless of the obstacles facing the post office locally and nationally, Lipsett promises one thing.

"We will get your packages and your letters delivered," he said. "One way or another, you'll get them."



COME RAIN OR SHINE — Snyder letter carrier O.C. Colvin arranges hundreds of pieces of mail in a cart this morning, preparing for delivery. The local post office has seen its traffic increase some 40 percent this week, as the nation inundates the postal system with Christmas cards and gift packages. (SDN Staff Photo)

Flu cancels Hermleigh classes

A flu-like illness has forced Hermleigh schools to dismiss classes today and Thursday.

The illnesses also forced the cancellation of Tuesday night's boys and girls basketball games against Southland.

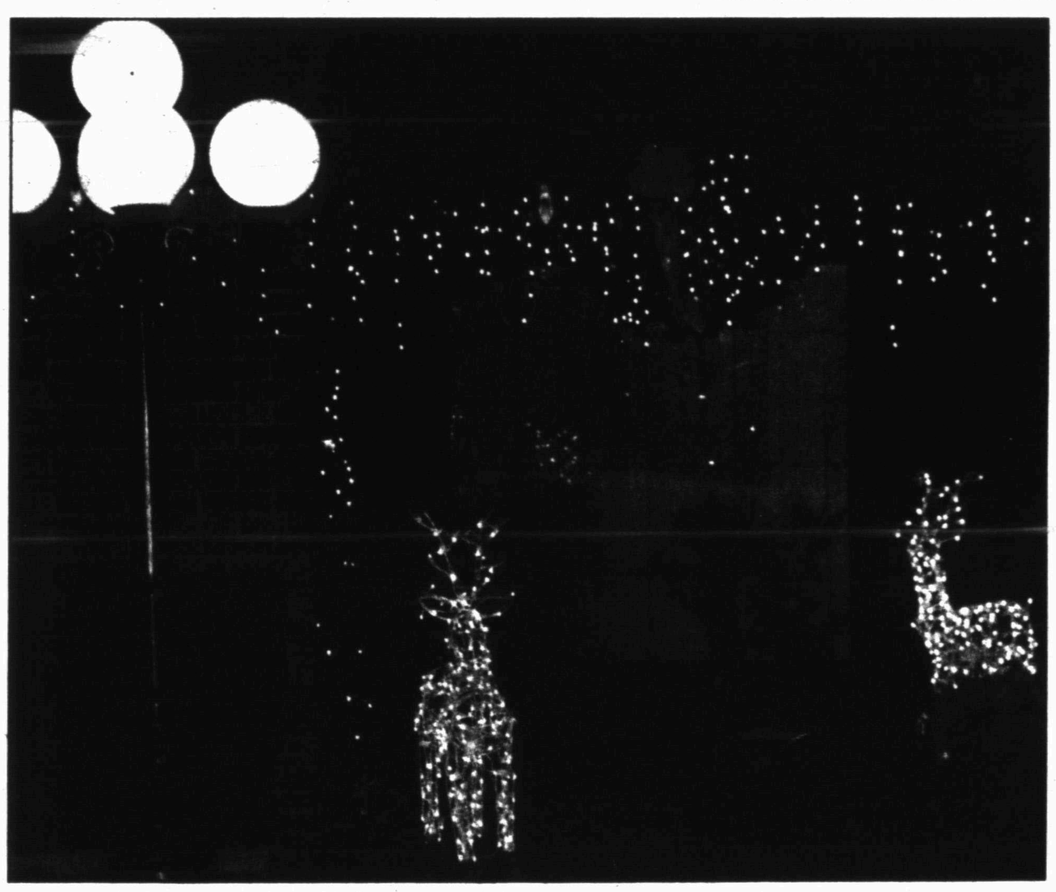
Supt. Jerry Church said he hopes the two days off will break the illness cycle and allow students to recover from their sickness.

Lorber hearing set Thursday

A hearing is set for 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the federal courthouse in Lubbock on the Lorber Industries of Texas bankruptcy case.

The hearing could have several outcomes, including the payment of back taxes to the Snyder Independent School District.

It also could pave the way for UCO Textiles to purchase the assets of Lorber, including the real estate.



HOLIDAY DISPLAY — This festive scene was put up recently by Sid and Jo Beth Hardegree, 3308 Irving. Homes all over Snyder are beginning to glow with Christmas lights as the holiday grows near. (SDN Staff Photo)

In Arabian Sea...

Naval forces seize missile shipment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Yemen appeared headed for a showdown today as American naval forces held a missile shipment seized aboard a ship and the Yemeni government demanded the missiles be turned over.

The shipment seized in the Arabian Sea violates an agreement Yemen made with the United States not to buy such equipment from North Korea, defense officials said today, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A Yemeni official told The Associated Press in San'a that Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Kerbi summoned U.S. Ambassador Edmund J. Hull to protest the seizure and ask for the return of the equipment, which was planned for "defensive purposes."

The United States may have no choice but to release the missiles to Yemen, one defense official said.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan, asked if the United States objects to such a missile transaction between Yemen and North Korea, said only that "we are now discussing with Yemen what the next steps to take are."

"I don't want to get into jumping into conclusions at this point," McClellan said. He added, "Yemen has been a friend and partner in the global war on terrorism."

The Spanish military stopped the ship Monday, sailing without a flag designating its country of origin but with what appeared to be a North Korean crew. The move came after intelligence officials watched the vessel for weeks as part of an interdiction operation that is part of the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

The Bush administration in August imposed sanctions on the North Korean company Changgwang Sinyong Corp. for selling Scud missile parts to Yemen. At that time, U.S. authorities asked Yemen why it bought the parts, and that country apologized and promised not to do so again, two defense officials said today.

For sponsors...

Ira trustees set concession stand policy

Ira's school board met Tuesday and covered a number of items, including a revision of the responsibilities of a class sponsor as related to the operation of concession stands.

Interim superintendent James Bible said the new policy requires a sponsor to set up the concession stand, but not to operate it.

"Parents and students will operate the concession stand after the sponsor gets it set up," said Bible. "The teachers will not be required to come back to the campus and run it after teaching all day."

The trustees also held a board training session with the new school attorney, Andy Chance of Fort Worth, and hired JR-3 Company as part of the hiring process of the district's new superintendent, Dr. Larry Devitt.

"Basically, the district will not pay Dr. Devitt directly," said Bible. "Current state law allows an administrator to retire, but to work for another district if the salary is paid to a third party."

"JR-3 will, in turn, pay Dr. Devitt," said Bible.

In other business, the board set Jan. 30 as an in-service day, approved a property and casualty insurance policy as presented by Texas Association of School Boards, and heard the TAAS test report as part of the campus improvement plan.

An executive session was held to discuss personnel evaluations, but no action was taken by trustees following the session, said Bible.

The board also set the date for the faculty and board Christmas party for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Ira Community Building.

ASK US

Q—How many football playoff games have been played at Sweetwater's Mustang Bowl?

A—The new artificial surface has attracted 12 playoff games, with another set Saturday.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Bertha Lambaren...

...is in her 21st year at Hermleigh School, where she works as a data entry clerk. She had been a teacher's aide for 19 years. Her husband, Tony, is the supervisor at Walton Construction. They have three sons: Chris graduated from Angelo State University in May. Larry, is a senior at ASU and Billy, is a sophomore at Western Texas College. Bertha enjoys family activities and she likes to read.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Love is the highest, purest, most precious of all spiritual things. It will draw out from men their magnificent potential.

—Zig Ziglar

DEC 11 2002

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Angel project

The angel project done for Carole Haynes is a continuing effort and anyone who has a decorated angel may drop it off at Stanfield Elementary.

Community Services raffle

Scurry County Community Services is holding a drawing for a $75 gift certificate to United and $75 to Wal-Mart. Tickets are $1 and all proceeds will be used to buy Christmas gifts for children.

Christmas band concert

Snyder ISD's Christmas band concert is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at Worsham Auditorium. Performers will include the sixth grade beginning band, the junior high band and the high school band. The concert will last about an hour.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

FBC support groups

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

Hospice open house

Odyssey Healthcare Hospice staff and volunteers will have an open house from 4-6 p.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church garden room. Everyone is invited.

ARC garage sale

ARC will have a pre-Christmas garage sale from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Thursday at 2504 Ave. W.

Cookie dough delivery

Cookie dough ordered from SHS student publications will arrive Thursday and will be then be delivered as quickly as possible.

Madrigal dinners

Christmas Madrigal dinners are set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the high school student center. Tickets are $15 each. Call 573-6301 to make reservations. Today is the deadline to buy tickets.

Church of God

Ira Church of God's young adults are taking orders for smoked turkeys, 11-12 pounds. To order call 573-8148.

WTC PE building to close

The PE building at Western Texas College will close at 1 p.m. Friday for the fall semester and will reopen for the spring semester on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6:30 a.m.

Drama booster club garage sale

The SHS drama booster club garage sale will be from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at Worsham Auditorium. All proceeds go to the varsity drama's trip to London in March.

SHS booster club fund raiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Please drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Snyder Wheels' toy drive

Snyder Wheels will have a toy drive for Christmas for Kids from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the Sonic Drive In. Everyone is encouraged to bring a toy.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Softball board meeting

The Snyder Girls Softball Association will have a board meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the BP Pipeline office at 2311 Ave. K.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception for Shirley Fritz will be held from 2-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Snyder Day Care.

Retirement reception

There will be a retirement reception for Mary Brandon and Julia Juarez at East Elementary from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19, in Room 13.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

Trinity Bible study

A 10-week study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," begins Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Melissa Petty will lead the study and all women are invited to attend. To order a book or for more information call 573-3988.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at Western Texas College will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

WTC pool, gym hours

The WTC pool and gym are now open Monday through Thursday. The gym is open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The pool is available from 6:30 to 8 a.m., noon to 1 p.m. and 7 to 8:50 p.m. The gym closes at 4 p.m. on Friday and the pool is open only in the morning and at noon on Fridays. Memberships are $50 per semester or visits are $2. Contact Christy Cerecedes for information at 573-8511, ext. 290.



FORMER PROFESSOR HONORED — The sons of Professor Ayers and four former crops judging team members were present for the unveiling of the Hall of Honor plaque. Left to right are Ronnie Ayers, B.L. Allen, Mike McDonald, Ray Joe Riley, Max von Roeder and Al Ayers. (Contributed Photo)

Former Tech professor honored

Professor Cecil Ayers, faculty member at Texas Tech University's plant and soil science department from 1942 to 1977, was memorialized at a recent ceremony on the Tech campus for his outstanding success as the coach of Tech's crop judging team.

Dr. Auld, chair of the department, pointed out that Ayers is the first inducted into the newly established Plant and Soil Science Department Hall of Honor. The hall of honor recognizes past faculty members who have distinguished themselves while contributing significantly to both the education of students and to the agricultural industry.

Professor Ayers' coaching career started in 1947 and ended in 1977. During that 24-year period, his teams consistently placed first and second in national crops judging contests. In 50 contests, his team placed first 35 times, second in 12 contests and third in three contests.

Dr. Dick Auld indicated that Professor Ayers' record will probably never be broken and that his efforts helped Tech intercollegiate teams develop a tradition of excellence that continues to this day.

Auld further pointed out that "Ayers was not only a great coach. He was a man who demonstrated a great interest in students who often went above and beyond the call of duty to aid the many students he advised. Professor Cecil Ayers had a most beneficial impact on his students and Texas Tech University."

Those in attendance at the ceremony included Ronnie and Al Ayers, Professor Ayers' sons, and members of their families. Four former members of his judging teams including Max von Roeder of Snyder, Ray Joe Riley of Dimmitt, Mike McDonald of Lubbock and B.L. Allen of Lubbock attended the ceremony memorial.

Gang bloodshed surges in U.S.

By The Associated Press

With law enforcement focused on terrorism, gang-related bloodshed on America's streets is rising to levels not seen since the mid-1990s, when the crack epidemic was still raging, authorities say.

Homicides are up sharply this year in cities such as Los Angeles, Oakland, Calif., and Little Rock, Ark., a surge attributed largely to gang members killing each other or those caught in the crossfire.

"We had a stranglehold on it and we allowed them to breathe. We relaxed our grip and now they're back," said Wes McBride, president of the California Gang Investigators Association. The now-retired McBride spent 28 years on gang detail with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Other major cities, including Philadelphia, New York and Miami, are seeing a decline or little change in homicides this year. And bloodshed in the cities with rising death tolls is still considerably lower than it was during the very peak of the crack trade in the early 1990s.

But many fear the cycle is only beginning.

"It's too easy given today's terrorism and other security issues to ignore a continuing problem in places like Los Angeles, but it could become worse than it's been in the last six years," said John Moore, director of the Tallahassee, Fla.-based National Youth Gang Center. "It's gotten more violent and more intense."

Many cities had record homicide numbers in the early 1990s, then saw a dramatic decline over the second half of the decade, credited in part to police pressure on gangs, the strong economy and a waning crack trade.

The resurgence over the past two years is being blamed on a number of factors, including the weak economy and gang members getting out of prison. Also, law enforcement has been devoting more attention to terrorism and some police departments let down their guard against gangs because the problem seemed under control.

"All of these big cities had gang units but abolished them as if to say the gang problem went away," said George Knox, director of the National Gang Crime Research Center in Peotone, Ill. "We definitely left a lot of hotspots out there."

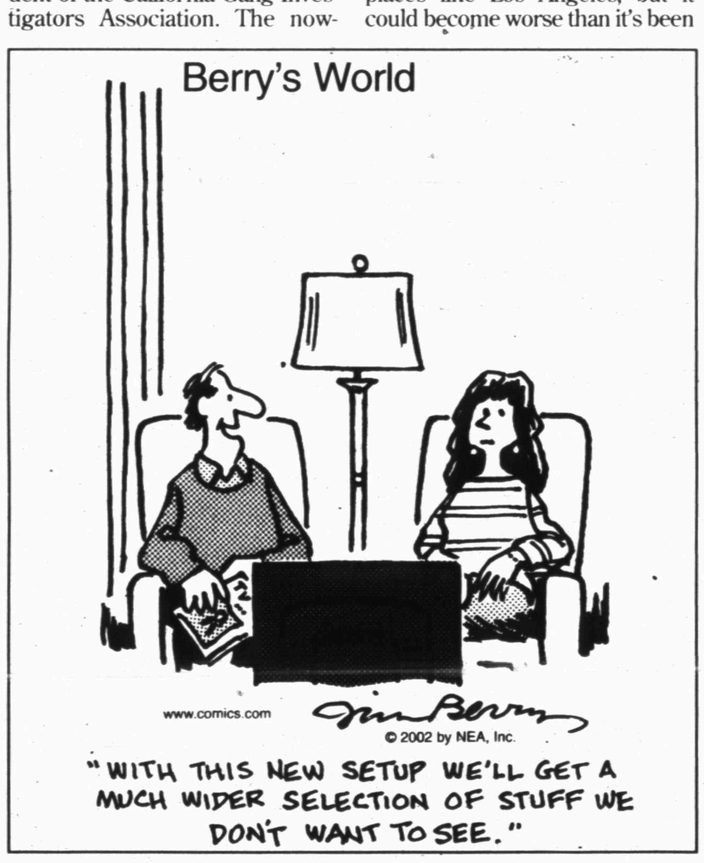
Los Angeles had the nation's highest death toll as of Dec. 1, with 617 homicides. The last time the city had that many slayings was in 1996, when the year-end total was 707. The city saw 35 people killed during the last two weeks of November in a spasm of mostly gang-related violence.

Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton is looking to federal prosecutors for help in fighting gangs with some of the same weapons used against the Mafia: racketeering and tax evasion laws.

Oakland, Calif., had 102 homicides as of Dec. 1. The city had not broken the 100 mark for homicides since 1997, when there were 111.

Little Rock had 42 homicides as of Dec. 1, the highest 11-month total since 1995. And through the first 10 months of this year, there were 119 homicides in Atlanta — on pace to surpass the 134 homicides in 2000 that marked the lowest level since 1966.

In Atlanta, 51 reputed members of five gangs were charged with racketeering in federal indictments unsealed last week. They were also accused of murder, robbery, kidnapping and drug trafficking.



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Central Stars to go caroling on Thursday

Central Elementary Stars, under the direction of Sheila Sorrells, music teacher, will sing Christmas carols Thursday at five adopt-a-school partners.

The Stars will begin singing carols at 9 a.m. at the Snyder ISD administration building. As soon as they finish that performance, they will go on to the next stop. So times for the following locations are tentative.

Central Stars also will perform at 9:40 a.m. at Snyder Oaks Care Center; 10:20 a.m. at West Texas State Bank; 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church Chapel and 11:50 a.m. at Burger King.

Sorrells said, "Singing carols for Central's adopt-a-school partners is our way of showing appreciation to them."

Date Book

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002

Today is the 345th day of 2002 and the 81st day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1946, the General Assembly of the United Nations established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide relief and support for children living in war-torn areas.

On this day in 1994, Russian forces invaded Chechnya in what was the largest Russian military offensive since the country's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan.

On this day in 1997, delegates from the European Union, the United States and Japan attended a conference in Kyoto, Japan, on global warming, where they agreed to enact measures that would lower the emissions of greenhouse gases. The United States later backed out of the agreement.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Koch (1843-1910), scientist; Annie Jump Cannon (1863-1941), astronomer; Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-), writer, is 84; Teri Garr (1949-), actress, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1977, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the New Orleans Saints 33-14. It was the first victory for the Buccaneers after 26 losses in a row.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "You only have power over people so long as you don't take everything away from them. But when you've robbed a man of everything, he's no longer in your power — he's free again." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (Dec. 11).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

4-16-22-33
Bonus number 10
Estimated jackpot: $200,000
Pick 3
(Day) 5-4-5
(Night) 1-8-1
Cash Five
15-19-21-25-35

—

At the turn of the century, the U.S. Census determined that about 25 percent of male Amricans between the ages of 10 and 15 were "gainfully employed."

—

The basic monetary unit of Nigeria is the naira, and its chief fractional unit is the kobo.

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Duncan's Christmas





Mormons meet with Jewish group

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mormon and Jewish leaders met Tuesday in New York City to discuss the Mormon church's apparent breach of its agreement not to posthumously baptize Holocaust victims and other deceased Jews.

Mormon leaders requested the meeting with Ernest Michel, chairman of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors who helped broker the 1995 agreement with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said church spokesman Dale Bills.

Before the meeting, Michel said the discussion would be preliminary. Numerous calls to his office were not returned Tuesday.

In a statement, the Mormon church said the meeting with Michel was "positive and productive" but did not elaborate on the outcome.

Mormons believe proxy baptisms give those in the afterlife the option of joining the religion. It's primarily intended to offer salvation to the ancestors of Mormons, but many others are included.

Baptisms for the dead are performed inside Mormon temples, with a church member immersed in water in place of the deceased person. Names of the deceased are gathered by church members from genealogy records as well as death and governmental documents from around the world.

"For Latter-day Saints, the practice of proxy baptism is a means of expressing love and concern for those who have preceded us. It is a freewill offering," Bills said.

At Tuesday's meeting, Michel met with Mormon leaders Monte Brough and D. Todd Christofferson.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Co-worker's stares make it hard to focus at work

DEAR ABBY: I work with a pleasant woman, "Kim," who appears to be distracted by my figure. Kim keeps making comments and staring at my large breasts. It makes me very uncomfortable. I've tried to ignore her and have told her that her comments bother me.

Kim has now started trying to see me outside the office, asking me out for lunches and dinners. I've always made an excuse. Last Friday when I was assigned the responsibility of picking out a gift basket for a co-worker who is retiring, Kim volunteered to go shopping with me over the weekend. I simply never called her, and on Monday explained that my weekend was busy. She acted very hurt, but I couldn't think of a more diplomatic way to handle it.

Spending time with someone who cannot stop staring at my chest does not appeal to me. It gives me the creeps. How can I tell Kim she's making me uneasy without causing problems? I have to work with her. — **BUSTY IN TOLEDO**

DEAR BUSTY: Tell her once again that her staring and comments are not appreciated — and if it doesn't stop, you will have to tell your boss or Human Resources about the problem. There is no reason why you should have to tolerate it, or see anyone outside the workplace unless you wish to.

**

DEAR ABBY: A friend (I'll call her Tanisha) asked me to be matron of honor at her wedding. The event was supposed to take place next month. Even though the thought of flying to a wedding in the middle of winter was not appealing, I did agree to it.

Due to personal circumstances, Tanisha pushed back the date of her wedding to next June. When she notified me, I told her I could not commit to being there. I am expecting a baby in April and don't want to travel so far with an infant. Tanisha has also changed the location of her wedding, so flying is no longer the best option, and the only way to get there is a two-day drive.

She said she understood, but still talks about the wedding as if I'm an integral part of it. For example, she recently informed me she'll be sending me swatches so that I can buy my dress. How do I explain to Tanisha that I cannot be in her wedding? She is a somewhat volatile person, and I'm afraid she'll be very upset and hurt. — **STUCK IN ST. LOUIS, MO.**

DEAR STUCK: Your reasons for bowing out make good sense to me, and beating around the bush because you're afraid she'll throw a tantrum is not the best course of action. Tell Tanisha immediately, in plain English, that because you will be caring for an infant, you will be unable to be matron of honor. That way, she will be able to find a replacement ASAP.

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm almost 32 years old. My life is going nowhere, with two divorces and no kids; the only education I have is a G.E.D.

I'm back on my own again, and I feel like a failure. I've wasted so much time. I have no career to sustain me. By nature, I'm a jack-of-all-trades, but I struggle to master only one. I have little or no family support. I feel that life is getting harder for me to deal with.

Is it time for me to seek therapy? — **JACK**

DEAR JACK: I believe you already know the answer to that question. I commend you for making such an insightful assessment of your situation. It's the first step toward a positive change. Now ... make that phone call!

**

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

**

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Stem cell project set at SU

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Stanford University reignited the debate over the use of stem cells when a top scientist said the school intended to experiment with nuclear transfer technology, an effort many consider to be cloning.

"Our avowed goal is to advance science," said Stanford medical professor Dr. Irving Weissman, who will direct the school's stem cell effort. "For any group to stay out of the action and wait for someone else to do it because of political reasons is wrong."

Weissman said he intends to recruit the "very best" experts in nuclear transfer research to Stanford. He said there are five or six acknowledged leaders in the world and he wants "to put them on notice that we are after them."

Weissman — and Stanford — emphatically denied that the project involves cloning embryos. He said that the university's work would involve taking DNA from diseased adult human cells and transferring them into eggs, then growing them in the lab for a few days.

"Creating human stem cell lines is not equivalent to reproductive cloning," the school said in a statement released at a news conference Tuesday night.

"The first step in the process of creating a stem cell line involves transferring the nucleus from a cell to an egg and allowing the egg to divide. This is the same first step as in reproductive cloning. However, in creating a stem cell line, cells are removed from the developing cluster. These cells can go on to form many types of tissue, but cannot on their own develop into a human."

Many other researchers say this is a distinction without a difference — that this kind of nuclear transfer — which would create an exact genetic replica of the adult cell donor if allowed to grow — is in fact cloning.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS 2002
TOY APPLICATION

Family Name _____
Street Address _____
Phone# (required) _____
Total Monthly Family Income $ _____
(work) ___SSI ___TANF ___SS ___VA ___

For each child in your home, please list 3 toys that they would like for Christmas. We do not give clothes and shoes, so please do not list these. We ask that you only list children (through age 16) that physically live in your household in Scurry County.

Child #1 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #2 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #3 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #4 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #5 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #6 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____
Child #7 Name _____
age _____circle: male female
1 _____2 _____
3 _____

Keep this bottom portion for your information. Please send the above application to: **Christmas For Kids P.O. Box 1202 Snyder, TX 79550-1202.** Toys will be distributed on Saturday, December 21st and Monday, December 23rd. If your application is accepted, you will receive a phone call informing you of the date and time to pick up your children's toys. **You will ONLY be contacted by phone.** Please list a phone # above even if it is only for us to leave a message. **The last day to accept applications will be Wednesday, December 11, 2002.** When toys are picked up, please bring the following: driver's license or ID card, proof of income for each person, proof of address, each child's SS card and birth certificate. For more information, contact: Judi Martin at 573-7556

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-11-02
♠ K J 10
♥ J 2
♦ K 9 8 5 4
♣ K 7 4

West
♠ 9 7 6
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q 7 2
♣ Q 10 5 2

East
♠ 8 5 4 3
♥ A Q 10 7 3
♦ —
♣ J 9 8 6

South
♠ A Q 2
♥ 8 6 5
♦ A J 10 6 3
♣ A 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ 2

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002

The clues are there, if you see them

By Phillip Alder

On the back cover of a book, I read, "Murder visited a peaceful campus in the sun-warmed green of June." I started reading and after some 40 pages realized that murder mysteries fall into one of two camps: The dastardly deed is done immediately, then one meets the suspects; or the cast is introduced before the corpse puts in its appearance. As you have gathered, the book I was reading fell into the latter category, but I think it set new standards because no one died until page 193 of 217!

During card-play, the three active players should be picking up the clues that are available and trying to use them to find the key moves.

In this deal, you are sitting South, the declarer in three no-trump. West leads the club two. How would you plan the play?

Even if you still use a 16-18 no-trump, that South hand is easily worth the bid. You have three aces, which are undervalued at four points each, and a good five-card suit.

You start with seven top tricks: three spades, two diamonds and two clubs. If the missing diamonds are splitting 2-1, you can take the first 10 tricks. But what if the diamonds are 3-0? Who will have the three?

West's lead supplies the clue. He has led the lowest club spot. So you know that West started with exactly four clubs. If he is also void of diamonds, he would have a five-card (or longer) major, which he surely would have led in preference to a club. So, only East can be void in diamonds. At trick two, cash the diamond ace.

Always read the lead.

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Includes slip joint and Arc Joint® pliers with flush rivet design. #45400 Reg. 39.99

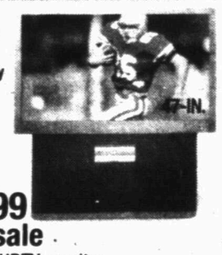


CRAFTSMAN
50% off
14.4-volt drill/ driver, sale 44.99
#11424 Reg. 89.99

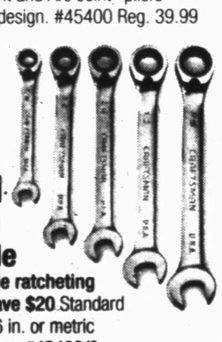


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1/2-HP. Includes two 3-function remotes. Billion code security. #53970 Reg. 168.99

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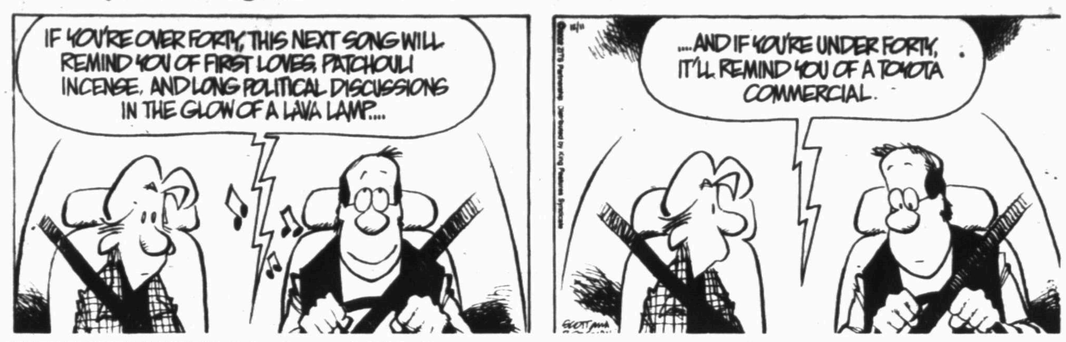
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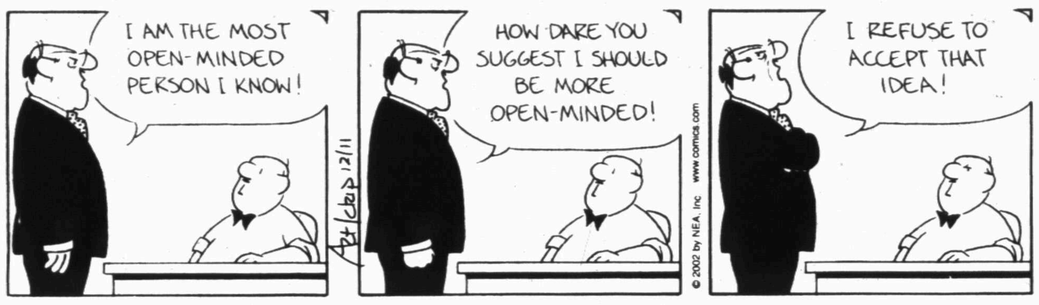
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Sound equipment
6 Like city real estate
11 Kind of envelope
12 Bother
13 Cold place
14 Hastily
15 Furious
16 "Soft Watches" painter
17 Wall St. inst.
18 Goal
19 Screw up
23 Zilch
25 Dress part
26 Ally's opposite
29 Showed fright
32 Kind of neckline
33 Jungfrau, e.g.
34 Sci-fi flick "The — Man"
35 Parapsychology topic
36 Garlands
38 Ears of corn
40 Highland lake
41 A mind of — own
42 Chore
46 Soldiers in gray
48 Garbo of old films
49 Zodiac sign
52 Kind of arrangement
53 Tines
54 Antiseptic
55 Kind of rat
56 Wool fabric

DOWN

1 Tie the knot
2 Pizarro foes
3 Small feline
4 Nobelist — Wiesel
5 Kangaroo pouch
6 Fervor
7 Turn into bone
8 Highest degree
9 Electric fish
10 Shriveled up
11 Foremost
12 Tot's transport
16 Language varieties
18 Sandler of "Big Daddy"
20 Ardor
21 Hawaiian strings
22 Electronic reminder
24 Military addr.
26 Collapse
27 Dairy-case item
28 DeMille genre
30 Self-images
31 Pat on
37 Pilgrim's goal
39 Walked purposefully
41 Heron kin
43 Condor's nest
44 Tolerate
45 Green vegetable
47 Cal Tech grad
48 Warmth
49 Family MDs
50 Before, in melodrama
51 Tend the lawn
52 Tailor's concern

Answer to Previous Puzzle

U	R	L		R	E	D			Q	T	I	P
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STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000



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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



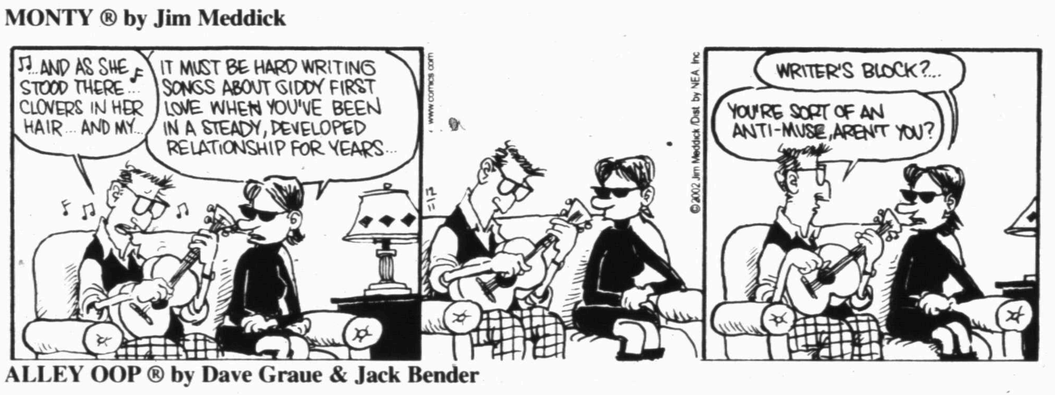
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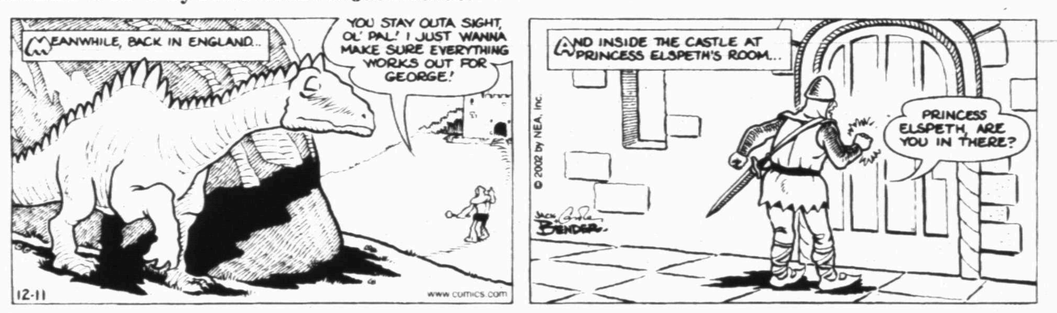
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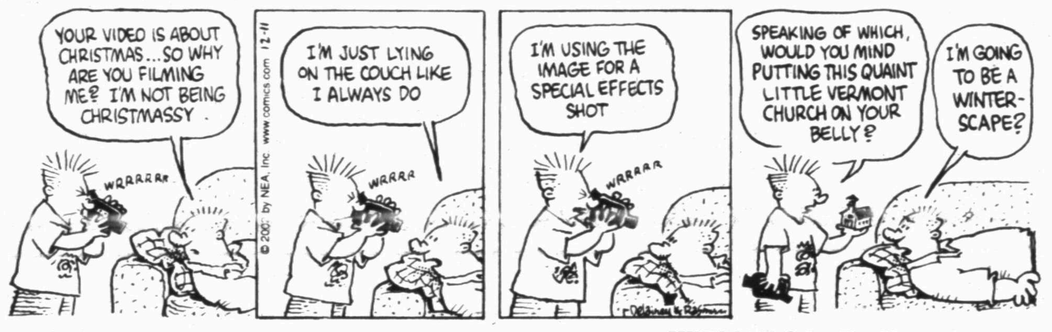
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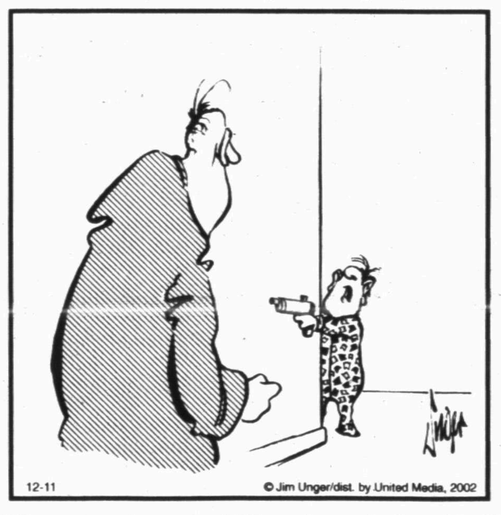
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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"One step closer and I'll soak you to the skin."

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"ALL I DID WAS TAKE A COUPLE UNDERWATER PICTURES."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



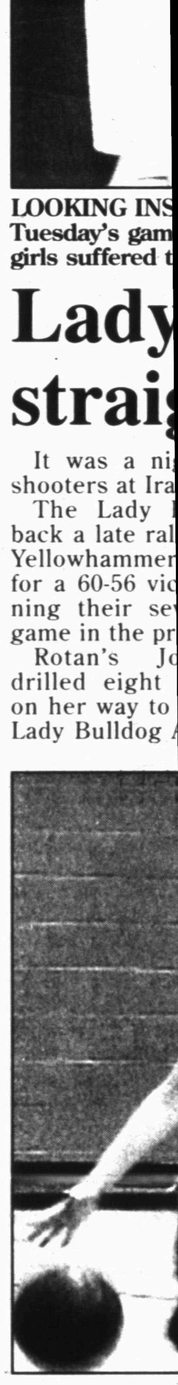




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SPORTS



LOOKING INSIDE —Erin Burleson looks to pass the ball inside during the third quarter of Tuesday's game against Andrews as Dara Chambers (31) looks on after dishing the ball. The girls suffered their first defeat on the season, falling, 47-41. (SDN Staff Photo)

Cold shooting results in first loss for ladies

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Despite a furious rally that tied the game with less than two minutes to play, the Lady Tigers could not overcome a poor shooting night in dropping their first game of the season to Andrews, 47-41.

"We didn't hit anything," said Head Coach Mike Martin. "We had good looks, but not enough to beat the zone."

A rebound and quick put back by Hailey Putnam pulled the Lady Tigers within two at 2:28 of the fourth quarter, as the ladies drew closer as time ran down.

Sirena Medrano brought the crowd to its feet when she hit both free throws with 1:53 remaining to tie the game at 38-38, then again a few seconds later when she penetrated and laid the ball in response to an Andrews bucket.

Andrews knocked in six of eight from the free throw line in the fourth quarter to pull away.

"In the second half I thought we played better," Martin said. "I was not pleased with the effort in the first half."

The Lady Tigers fell behind early, getting their first score with just over four minutes left in the first quarter.

Snyder trailed by eight points at the half, before Putnam drilled a three at the start of the third quarter to get the team untracked offensively.

Putnam was the high scorers for the Lady Tigers with 14 points, and April Lollar added 11, including two field goals in the final period.

Zipporah Peoples was shut out before fouling out.

"Zipporah has been one of our most consistent players," Martin said. "She picked up some quick fouls early, but we never got her the ball in position for her to get good looks."

Medrano and Erin Burleson each added five points, and Sequoya Powell and Dar Chambers scored three apiece.

The JV girls thumped Andrews, 38-22, behind 11 points from guard Dominique Braziel and nine from post player Kayla Guerrero.

The team held a 23-9 halftime edge, and coach Scott Pollard said the team has played better early in the last couple of ballgames.

"We started off more intense," he said. "We started playing harder right off the bat the last two games."

Stacey Williamson sank both her free throws in the first quarter and ended up with six points, while Heather Homes and Brianna Burk scored four each.

Kelsey Shaw and Rebecca Aguirre also scored.

The JV is off until Tuesday, when they host Frenship at 5 o'clock at the high school gym.

Lady Bulldogs capture seventh straight in high-scoring affair

It was a night for sharpshooters at Ira Tuesday.

The Lady Bulldogs beat back a late rally by the Lady Yellowhammers to hang on for a 60-56 victory, and winning their seventh straight game in the process.

Rotan's Jodi Granado drilled eight three-pointers on her way to 30 points, and Lady Bulldog Amanda Calley hit five threes in scoring 21 points.

Ira held a nine-point lead at halftime, before Rotan began dropping long-range bombs, with Lady Yellow Hammer Lakeisha Reese getting key baskets in the third quarter. She finished with 12 points.

"We knew it would be a difficult game," Head Coach Brent Parr said. "We were battling a little illness, so our defense wasn't as intense, but we picked up the intensity in the fourth quarter."

Rotan took a 53-50 lead early in the fourth, but the Lady Bulldogs roared back to seize control of the game with their second-highest scoring total of the season.

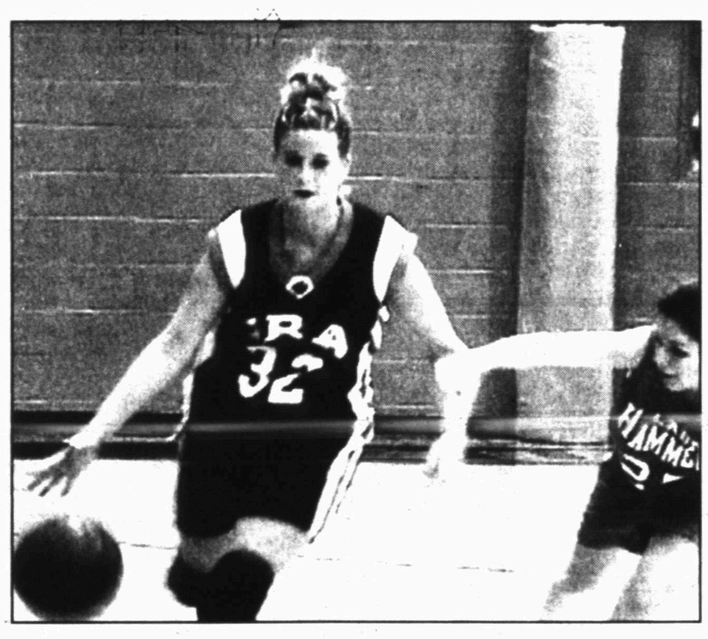
"Our offense did a great job," Parr said. "We made good plays down the stretch."

Every Ira player lit up the scoreboard, as Kali Clements — who swished in two treys — Lindsey Wilson and Celeigh Sterling all contributed 10 points, and Michelle Nettles scored four.

Brittany Dickerhoff hit a big three-point bucket, and Shea Allen had a field goal to round out the scoring.

Ira will try to get healthy this evening before heading out to the Highland tournament Thursday.

The Lady Bulldogs will take on Trent in the first game, with a 4 o'clock starting time scheduled.



CLOSING IT OUT — Lady Bulldog Celeigh Sterling takes a foul from a Rotan player as the game winds down Tuesday. The Ira ladies won their seventh straight game in beating Rotan, 60-56. (Contributed Photo by Becky Hudgins)

Tigers upended by Pecos, 46-43

The Snyder Tigers led, 25-19, at the end of the first half, before an epidemic of missed shots killed their chances in a 46-43 loss to Pecos Tuesday.

"We missed a lot of lay ups," Head Coach Bud Birks said. "We just didn't make easy shots."

Snyder corrected some of the problems that have plagued them on the season, but Birks said the team needs to be more aggressive under the basket.

"We cut our fouls in half, but we're not going up strong inside," he said. "We need to go up strong and get fouled and not worry about the shot getting blocked."

Birks said the team played well in the first half, but was outscored by 10 in the second half, mainly because of turnovers.

Snyder scored 18 in the second half, as good looks under the basket turned into possessions for Pecos.

"We didn't execute offensively in the second half," he said. "We are going to be in a lot of close games this year. We need to take care of the ball late in the game."

Josh Mendoza drained eight field goals, including a trey, to lead all scorers with 22.

Lee Scott added six, Logan Hill pumped in five, and T.J. Jones and Josh McGaha had four each.

The Tigers will travel to Wylie for the Catclaw tournament Thursday through Saturday. The first game for Snyder will be at 8 Thursday night against host Wylie.

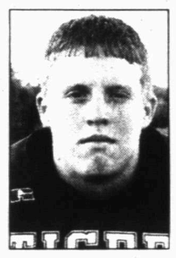
The JV boys held on to a 44-38 victory over Pecos after heading into the final quarter with a 35-15 advantage.

After being held by the Snyder defense to one second quarter field goal, the JV Eagles exploded for 23 points in the fourth.

Zack Garcia paced the junior Tigers with nine points, and Lico Castillio and Isreal Sosa added eight points each.

The junior varsity also will travel to Wylie for the weekend tourney.

Second Team All-District 3-3A senior defensive lineman Randal Rich was named in Tuesday's all-district list, but his picture was inadvertently omitted.



Randal Rich

Snyder All-District selections:

First Team:
Sid Gutierrez, Jr., OL
TJ. Jones, Sr., QB
Josh Mendoza, Sr., TE
Michael Murphrey, Sr., DL
Chris Sorrells, Sr., DL
Marcus Villarreal, Jr., DV
Clay Williams, Sr., DB

Second Team:
Josh Knox, Sr., C
Ricky McNatt, So., OL
Isaac Ramon, Jr., K
Randal Rich, Sr., DL

Honorable Mentions
Jonathan Garza, WR
Jason Guynes, WR
Tyler Kerr, FS
Josh Mendoz, DT
Josh Montoya, RB, LB
Cody Wall, DE

Seventh grade boys Black squad upends Merkel, 27-17, Monday

The seventh grade Black squad upended the jr. high Badgers from Merkel Monday, 27-17, as Chad Franks' game-high 10 points were the difference in the contest.

"The team did a great job," said coach Justin Rumfield. "It was a great win for us."

The team was in control of the game from the opening whistle, never trailing in the contest.

Travis Hatfield knocked in seven points, James Simmons contributed four, and Craig Robertson, Wes Richardson and Kaden Billingsley each drained a basket.

Coliseum to be the site of varsity games

The Snyder varsity boys and girls basketball teams will play in a doubleheader Tuesday at Scurry County Coliseum in an effort to determine the feasibility of moving the games back over to the arena.

"We want to see how many people we draw," said Scurry County Parks Director Scott Crenwelge. "We'd like to see folks come out."

Crenwelge said negotiations are taking place with Coca-Cola for sponsorship.

The girls will start at 6:30 that evening, and the boys will tip off at 8.

Sports Briefs

Rose must admit guilt to be reinstated

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose has to say "I did it" before baseball ends his lifetime ban.

Rose and commissioner Bud Selig met secretly in Milwaukee on Nov. 25 and their lawyers have been exchanging draft proposals that could end the ban, a baseball executive said on the condition he not be identified.

Morriss takes over Baylor

WACO(AP) — Guy Morriss is leaving one rebuilding job for another.

After turning around Kentucky this season, Morriss is set to take over as head coach of a Baylor football program that fields one of the worst teams in the Big 12 Conference.

The 51-year-old Morriss resigned from Kentucky and will be formally introduced at Baylor during a new conference today.

Rams to start Bulger again

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Marc Bulger received medical clearance to play as the St. Louis Rams' quarterback carousel turned again.

Marino, Lott, Winslow inducted in college hall

NEW YORK (AP) — George "Sonny" Franck, the former All-America tailback at Minnesota from 1938-40, was one of 15 former greats inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The other players are Auburn split end Terry Beasley, Princeton running back Cosmo Iacavazzi, Arizona State receiver John Jefferson, Southern California safety Ronnie Lott, Pittsburgh quarterback Dan Marino, Navy tailback Napoleon McCallum, Michigan offensive guard Reggie McKenzie, Georgia Tech defensive back Randy Rhino, Texas offensive tackle Jerry Sisemore, Kansas State linebacker Gary Spani, Tennessee defensive tackle Reggie White and Missouri tight end Kellen Winslow.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Philadelphia	15	6	.714	—
Boston	14	6	.700	½
New Jersey	14	7	.667	1
Orlando	12	11	.522	4
Washington	9	12	.429	6
New York	6	13	.316	8
Miami	5	16	.238	10
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	15	5	.750	—
New Orleans	15	7	.682	1
Detroit	12	7	.632	2½
Atlanta	10	10	.500	5
Milwaukee	9	11	.450	6
Toronto	7	13	.350	8
Chicago	6	15	.286	9½
Cleveland	3	19	.136	13
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Dallas	19	2	.905	—
Houston	12	8	.600	6½
San Antonio	12	9	.571	7
Utah	12	9	.571	7
Minnesota	12	10	.545	7½
Denver	6	15	.286	13
Memphis	4	18	.182	15½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Sacramento	18	6	.750	—
Portland	10	9	.526	5½
Seattle	11	10	.524	5½
Phoenix	10	10	.500	6
L.A. Clippers	9	13	.409	8
L.A. Lakers	9	14	.391	8½
Golden State	8	13	.381	8½

Tuesday's Games
Portland 98, Washington 79
Memphis 107, Miami 96
New York 97, Seattle 80
Chicago 107, Orlando 87
Houston 103, Sacramento 96
Dallas 122, L.A. Clippers 95
Golden State 106, L.A. Lakers 102

Wednesday's Games
Phoenix at Boston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Portland at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Detroit at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Utah, 10 p.m.

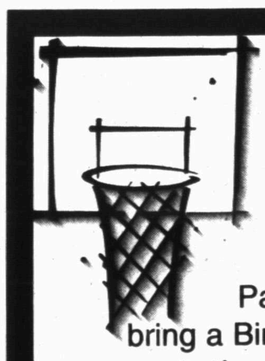
Men's League Basketball

The Snyder men's basketball league continued action Monday evening, and Snyder National Bank improved to 10-1 with an 86-71 win over Rotan. Matt Fambro and Shane Christiansen led SNB with 25 points, and Jeremy Griffith had 24 for Rotan.

American State Bank crushed Big Country Autoland, 91-64, behind 37 points from Bryan Cave. Adrian Nino hit 14 for Big Country, which remains winless on the season.

West Texas State Bank was idle.

Snyder National Bank	10-1
American State Bank	7-3
West Texas State Bank	7-4
Rotan	2-9
Big Country Autoland	0-10



Boys Little Dribbler Sign-Ups
will begin
December 9th thru 13th
From 5:30 to 8:00 each night

Parents need to bring a Birth Certificate and $35 to the Boys Club to sign their child up for basketball.

The child has to be 8-12 years of age by August 1, 2003

ANYONE INTERESTED IN COACHING OR REFEREEING PLEASE NOTIFY SOMEONE AT SIGN-UPS!

DEC 11 2002

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The Snyder Daily News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within 5 days from date of first publication. No allowance can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement. All ads are cash unless customer has an established advertising account with The Snyder Daily News.
The Publisher is not responsible for copy omissions, typographical errors, or any unintentional error that may occur further than to correct it in the next issue after it is brought to his attention.

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REWARD!
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REWARD!
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REWARD!! Lost 12/5/02
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Backhoe Operator Needed. Must have at least 5yrs. experience. References needed. Apply in person at Circle M Welding, 7365 W. Hwy 180.

LVN Needed
Competitive hourly rate and benefits, including mileage. Apply in person to Terri Owens, at Kristi Lee Manor, 1941 Chestnut St., Colorado City.

Midwestern Services, Inc. is currently accepting applications for Tank Cleaners. 70% travel is required. For more information call (915) 573-6666. Hourly wage + bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:
Experienced Roustabout Pusher w/Crew to work on company owned leases in the Big Spring & Coahoma area. CDL required to operate 3-5 ton winch truck. Full time. **GOOD $$$**. Send resume to P.O. Box 949 X, Snyder, TX 79550.

Night clerk needed to work Sunday thru Thursday at Purple Sage Motel. Non-smoker. Computer experience helpful, but will train. Need references. Apply in person only.

Snyder Oaks Care Center
is now taking applications for LVN's. All shifts, part-time, and full-time. We offer a competitive benefits package & pay 2/3 of health insurance. Call Vicky, Darla, or Kellie at 573-9377 or come by & apply in person at 210 37th St.

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Men and women 18 and older with insured vehicles are needed to deliver in Post, Snyder, and surrounding areas. Delivery is in progress – start to work immediately. Work a minimum of 4 daylight hours per day. Get paid within 24 hours upon successful completion of your route. **Call 806-495-1387** between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. M - F. EOE

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Fast paced environment. Computer skills necessary and ability to work well with others. Send resume to: Teller
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Snyder, TX 79550

Instructions

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course**. Saturday Dec. 14th, 8a.m.–3p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

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FIREWOOD!! Mesquite!
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8a.m. – ??
Go 6 mi. east on Hwy 180, then right on FM 644, 1st house on right
Household collection.
Everything must go!!

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

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For Sale Or Rent

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CLASSIFIEDS

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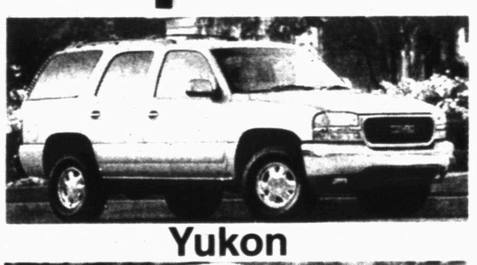
Prices As Low AS
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Automatic Transmission

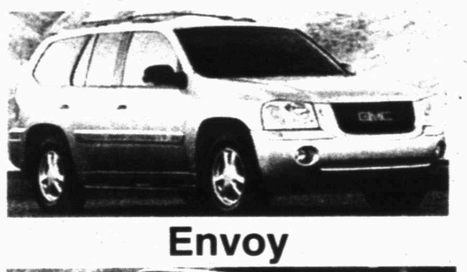


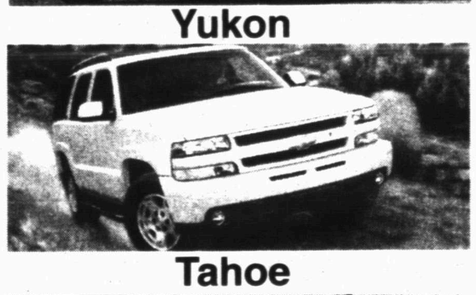
Sale Ends December 17th
Prices After All Rebates & Discounts

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $

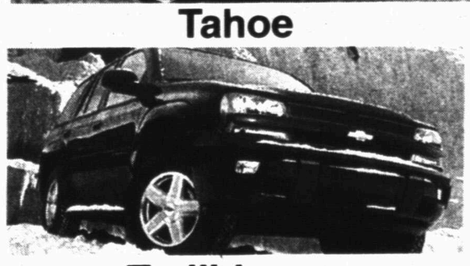
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Scurry County Country

Scurrying Around Snyder

Scurry County CEA Family and Consumer Sciences, 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

Freezing Specific Foods
Quick Breads (coffeecake, fruit, nut breads)

(Note: Traditional low-fat muffins and biscuits are of maximum quality right out of the oven. Quality decreases when they are frozen.)

Prepare and bake as usual. Cool. Package and freeze. Thaw at room temperature in original wrapping. Slice fruit and nut breads while partially frozen to prevent crumbling. Foil-wrapped coffeecakes may be reheated in foil in a 325 to 350 F oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until hot.

Suggested freezer storage time: 2-3 months.

Yeast Breads (Rolls, sweet rolls, bread, coffee cake)

Make as usual. Cool. Package and freeze. Thaw in original wrapping at room temperature. To serve warm, reheat in foil-covered container or in foil wrapping at 300 F for 15 to 20 minutes; 5 to 10 minutes for rolls.

Suggested freezer **storage time: 3-6 months.**

Cakes

General Information —To prevent crushing, place wrapped or bagged cakes in sturdy containers in the freezer. If you freeze slices of cake, put a double layer of freezer wrapping between slices. Avoid cream-type fillings as these often decline in quality when frozen. Cakes may be frozen unfrosted or frosted.

Unfrosted — Wrap UNFROSTED cakes BEFORE freezing. Frost AFTER cake is thawed. Thaw UNFROSTED cakes in their original wrapping at room temperature.

Frosted — The best frostings for freezing are fudge frostings and uncooked powdered or confectioner's sugar frostings made with fat. Cooked frostings, seven minute frostings and other egg-white-based frostings don't freeze well. Freeze FROSTED cakes BEFORE packaging to prevent the wrapping from sticking to the frosting.

Thaw FROSTED cakes in the refrigerator. Remove the immediate wrapping so it won't stick to the frosting as the cake thaws. Thaw the unwrapped caked on a serving plate in its protective container or a cake keeper. This prevents possible cross-contamination from other foods and accidental damage to the delicate frosted surface as you add and remove refrigerated items.

If space limitations force you to thaw a frosted cake completely uncovered, place it on the TOP shelf of the refrigerator. Choose a location where cross-contamination and bumping, etc. will be avoided.

Angel Food, Chiffon, Sponge, Layer, Loaf, Cupcakes – Prepare and bake as usual. Cool. Wrap tightly and then store in a sturdy container. Angel, chiffon, and sponge cakes are very delicate; store on top of other foods as an added precaution to prevent crushing.

Suggested freezer storage time: varies, about 2-3 months should be satisfactory for most cakes.

Cookies

Prepare and bake as usual. (NOTE: Meringue-based cookies and cookies containing beaten egg whites, such as macaroons, don't freeze well. Also, fragile cookies don't freeze well.) Cool thoroughly. Pack in a rigid container to help keep them from breaking. Place moisture-vapor-resistant freezer wrapping between layers.

Remember, too much air in a container can lower the quality of a food. If you don't have enough cookies to fill the container, you might place the separated layers of cookies inside a large plastic freezer bag or surround them with freezer wrapping within the container. Thaw in original wrapping at room temperature.

Suggested freezer storage time: 3 to 6 months.

Pies

General Information – Meringue toppings toughen in the freezer. Custard and cream pies get watery after thawing and aren't recommended for freezing.

Choose a pan suitable for the freezer, such as the disposable aluminum foil pie plates found in many supermarkets, or rust-proof metal pie pans. Freezer/oven-proof glass also might work but needs to be handled with more care.

If you're using an aluminum foil pie plate, compare its capacity to that of your regular pie pan. An easy way to obtain a general idea of differing volumes is to fill your regular pie pan with water. Then pour the water into the foil pan. Measure the amount of liquid left in your regular pan; reduce the amount of filling by about that much.

A soggy crust can be a problem with frozen filled pies. Brush the inside of the bottom crust lightly with melted butter or margarine before adding the filling to help prevent a soggy crust.

As filled pies are higher in moisture content and take longer to cool/heat/reheat than many baked goods, pies can be trickier to freeze than many foods. The best advice: Do a trial run with freezing a favorite pie BEFORE you freeze it for a special event. Here are an assortment of tips that may help you decide how to most successfully freeze your favorite pies.

Unbaked Pie Crust– Prepare your regular crust recipe. Place in a freezer-suitable pie plate. If the pastry will be baked unfilled, prick the bottom of the crust in several places. Stack the pie pans, separating them with two layers of freezer paper. Put in a freezer bag or overwrap with aluminum foil. To use, while still frozen, bake at 475 F until light brown (about 8 to 10 minutes) or add filling to the frozen crust and bake as usual.

Suggested freezer storage time: 6 to 8 weeks.

Fruit, Mince, Nut Pies, Unbaked – Prepare as usual. The flavor of a pie is fresher when it's frozen before baking. Some sources suggest using quick-cooking tapioca to thicken pie filling instead of your usual thickener. Cornstarch and flour are more likely to separate when the pie is thawed.

Here are some general guidelines if you'd like to adapt your recipe for quick- cooking tapioca: Approximately 1 tablespoon of quick-cooking tapioca is equal to 1 ½ teaspoons cornstarch or 1 tablespoon flour. Mix the fruit, tapioca, sugar and flavorings and let stand in a bowl for 15 minutes before placing in your pie shell. This helps the tapioca hydrate and absorb the fruit juice. If you find that juicier pies tend to boil over more when baked from the frozen state, add an extra tablespoon of tapioca next time.

When freezing unbaked pies with light-colored fruits — such as apples, peaches, pears and apricots – be aware these fruits may turn dark. The quickest way to prevent this is to treat them with a commercial anti-browning product for fruit, such as Ever-Fresh (TM) or Fruit-Fresh (R). These are found in most supermarkets in the food preservation supplies section. Follow package directions.

Do not cut vents in the top crust before freezing. When ready to bake, cut vents in the upper crust. Place pan on a foil-covered cookie sheet and bake without thawing at 450 F for 15 to 20 minutes. Placing a cookie sheet under the pie helps it bake more evenly and protects your oven should any juices bubble over. Then bake for 20-30 minutes at 375 F until the top crust is brown. As pies, pie plates and ovens vary, adjust time and temperature as needed.

One method to help to determine doneness is to check the tenderness of the fruit by cutting into the pie through a steam vent with a sharp knife. If the edges of your pie crust are browning too quickly, crimp strips of foil, shiny side up, around the rim of your crust. About a 2-inch wide strip should be sufficient for covering your crust edges.

Suggested freezer storage time: 3- 4 months.

Fruit, Mince, Nut Pies, Baked – Make as usual. Cool as rapidly as possible on a wire cooling rack. (Note: Pies baked in metal rather than glass pie plates will cool faster.) Freeze and then wrap. It's easier to wrap a pie after freezing.

To serve, thaw in the refrigerator and serve chilled or reheat in a 325 F oven until warm. As a test of when your pie has warmed, "Joy of Cooking" (Scribner) suggests heating until a knife inserted through a steam vent on top of your pie comes out warm. As recommended for unbaked pies, cover edges with foil if they start browning too rapidly during reheating.

Suggested freezer storage time: 3-4 months.

Pumpkin Pie – If you'd like to prepare pumpkin pie ahead, it's easiest and safest to freeze just the crust. Add the filling to the frozen crust just before baking and bake as usual. It takes just a few minutes to mix together the ingredients. As pumpkin pie is a perishable food and shouldn't be left at room temperature more than two hours, your pie is safer to eat when you bake it the day of your meal. Also, the quality of a freshly baked homemade pumpkin pie is usually higher than a frozen one.

Cheesecake, Baked

Make as usual, bake and cool as rapidly as possible on a wire cooling rack. As cheesecake is a perishable food, it shouldn't be left at room temperature more than 2 hours. After the first hour of cooling, transfer to the top shelf of your refrigerator to complete the cooling. Place in a location where cross-contamination won't occur. Freeze unwrapped, then wrap and place in a rigid container to protect from crushing. Thaw wrapped cheesecake in refrigerator.

Suggested freezer storage time: 4 weeks.

Candy

Make as usual and freeze. Most candies freeze well. One notable exception is chocolate covered cherries. The filling may expand during freezing and break open the candy. Wrap candies individually in freezer plastic wrap and place in a rigid container to prevent crushing. Thaw, wrapped, at room temperature. A whitish fat "bloom" may appear on the surface of chocolate during freezing. This should disappear after candy is thawed.

Suggested freezer storage time: 6 to 8 months.

A Holiday Wish

So, mark your calendar for B-Day (Bake Day), buy your ingredients, play some holiday music, and enjoy.

—

If you dig gardening, you may be glad to know it's a great way to exercise. Doctors say vigorous gardening consumes 140 calories every 20 minutes.

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesi) is a favorite holiday season house plant, but one which needs careful attention to details if it is to live and flower again the next year. It is closely related to Easter Cactus (Schlumbergera gaetneri) and Thanksgiving Cactus (Schlumbergera truncatus), all with fleshy, flattened, segmented joints and showy flowers ranging in color from white through pink, red and purple. These are cacti which in nature live in the crotches of jungle trees, and benefit from light, porous soil mixed with leafmold and sand.

When the flowering period is finished, an active growth period will commence. Keep the plant in a sheltered place until danger of freezing is over. Water carefully, keeping in mind that overwatering is the major cause of failure with Christmas cactus. Soak the potting medium when watering, then allow the plant to become almost dry before watering again. (When the plant is put outside during warmer weather, it will be easier to keep if placed on the porch, or in a situation where it will not be soaked with rainwater over a period of several days). Fertilize with a water-soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer with trace elements while in an active growth stage. Occasionally, leach out excess fertilizer salts with plain water.

Christmas Cactus will thrive in a well-drained, sterile potting medium high in organic material. A little sand may be mixed with the medium to provide weight, important as the cactus increases in size. A pH of 5.5 to 6.2 is considered optimum for growth.

Although a temperature of 70-80 degrees F during the growing season is considered ideal, plants will tolerate Texas-type temperatures in the 90 to 100 degrees F range, although growth may be slower. Reduce water and fertilizer in August in preparation for the beginning of bud development, which is regulated by the shortening of fall days, along with cooler night temperatures. By late October and early November buds should be in evidence. Help to maintain bud set by adequate watering, taking care not to expose the plant to cold drafts, unvented heaters, or rough handling. Night temperatures above 70 degrees F may inhibit bud development.

As the cactus becomes larger, shorter tip portions may be broken off and rooted in loose, sandy medium with very little trouble. Mealy bugs, scale and aphids may be rubbed away with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Use stronger controls such as houseplant insecticides only if the infestation appears to be gaining the upper hand. With good tending, Christmas Cactus may live for many years.

—

Only one First Lady was born outside the United States: Louisa Johnson was born in London and married John Quincy Adams in 1797.

NRCS Report

Windbreak and other trees/shrub plantings can be a large investment. Increased property values, healthier livestock, reduced energy bills and enhanced wildlife habitats are just a few of the returns on the investments. Here are a few tips to maintain and improve the returns.

Protect young seedlings from animal damage. Rodents and rabbits can easily kill young trees by girdling (removal of a narrow strip of bark from around the trunk). Repeated defoliation by deer and/or domestic livestock can be just as detrimental. A small investment in posts and wire can save your plantings.

Weeds and grass steal valuable moisture and nutrients from young trees and shrubs. Maintain a weed-free area at least 3-feet around the tree or down on each side of the row until the trees have developed at 6-foot drip (canopy) line. This can be done mechanically or by the use of herbicides. If you use herbicides, be careful and follow label directions.

Mulches and plastic weed barriers are less labor-intensive methods to control weeds and grass around plantings. Both help conserve moisture by cutting down on evaporation. Plastic weed barriers can also harvest moisture if properly installed.

Rainfall in West Texas, during average years, doesn't provide enough moisture for young trees and shrubs. Regular watering should be done from March through November and the soil should not be allowed to dry out during the winter. Young trees and shrubs need 5-8 gallons per week the first year, 10-15 gallons per week the second year and 20-gallons per week the third year. Application should be throughout the week rather than all at once. Trickle or drip irrigation is a labor few and cost effective way to do this.

Early detection of damage caused by insects or disease can make treatment more effective and less costly. Make a habit of inspecting your trees and shrubs anytime you're around them.

We are now accepting orders for trees and drip irrigation through Jan. 31. For further information, call or come by the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District office. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA Office complex at 5309 Big Spring Hwy in Snyder 915-573-6317 ext. 2.

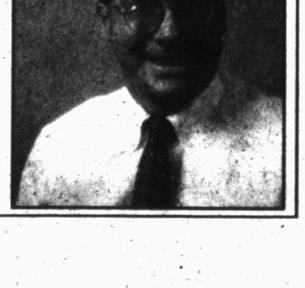
Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	7.94	7.53	7.73	—.02
AOL TimeWar	13.85	13.55	13.76	+.01
AT&T Corp rs	26.97	26.61	26.95	+.31
Abercrom s	22.16	21.87	22.05	+.04
Aetna	51.04	50.46	50.85	—.10
AmElPwr	26.80	26.24	26.53	+.12
Anadarko	48.66	47.60	48.01	—.64
ATMOS Engy	22.90	22.80	22.84	+.07
Avaya	9.18	8.74	9.18	+.44
BP PLC	39.82	39.35	39.57	—.03
BakerHughes	33.14	31.96	32.95	+.34
Bank of Amer	69.15	68.59	68.75	—.63
BellSouth	25.91	25.35	25.82	—.16
BurlNoSFe	26.10	25.80	26.01	—.09
Caterpillar	45.55	44.76	45.12	—.43
CenterPoint	7.20	6.90	7.10	—.12
ChevronTex	68.11	67.21	67.92	—.53
Citigroup	37.04	36.50	36.51	—.28
CocaCola	46.45	46.02	46.22	—.28
ColgatePal	54.11	53.18	53.32	—.78
ConAgra s	16.36	16.21	16.27	—.11
ConocoPhil	50.30	49.50	50.09	—.20
CooperInds	36.85	36.00	36.71	+.14
DaimlrChry	33.46	32.90	33.35	—.25
DeltaAirl	12.75	12.50	12.71	—.08
Dillards Inc	16.60	16.25	16.34	—.25
DowChem	29.75	29.15	29.72	+.30
DuPont	43.50	42.63	43.37	+.37
EastmanChem	36.59	36.10	36.56	+.02
EstKodak	37.58	36.92	37.55	+.58
EDS Corp	19.24	16.78	18.70	+1.67
Entergy	44.70	44.06	44.53	+.28
ExxonMobil	35.23	34.65	35.13	+.09
FstBksAm	40.54	40.54	40.54	+.03
FootLocker	12.60	12.37	12.46	—.06
GenDynam	81.71	80.10	81.40	+1.04
GenElec	26.55	25.55	26.50	+.57
GenMills	44.35	43.41	43.55	—.79
GenMotors	36.93	36.42	36.87	—.08
GaPacific	17.16	16.10	17.08	+.65
Goodrich	17.64	17.09	17.60	+.27
Goodyear	7.45	7.28	7.43	—.04
GtAtlPac	7.22	7.05	7.22	—.02
Halliburtn	21.10	19.78	20.95	+1.12
Hanson ADS	22.70	22.45	22.62	—.30
HarteHanks s	18.50	18.19	18.21	—.09
HomeDepot	26.79	26.20	26.45	—.45
HoneywellIntl	24.70	23.82	24.70	+.48
IBM	81.49	79.100	81.30	+.50
IntlPaper	36.13	35.50	36.00	—.05
JohnsonJn	56.35	55.40	56.13	+.27
KerrMcGee	41.55	41.05	41.55	+.36
Kroger Co	15.46	15.06	15.32	+.02
LockheedM	51.95	51.15	51.90	+.30
Lowes Cos	40.40	39.59	39.61	—.99
Lubys	3.40	3.20	3.23	—.16
LucentTech	1.60	1.41	1.55	+.13
MarathonOil	21.22	20.80	21.07	—.14
MayDeptStr	23.40	23.12	23.30	—.20
Medtronic	46.45	45.52	46.38	+.26
Motorola	9.45	8.99	9.39	+.17
NCR Corp	24.92	24.02	24.82	+.16
Navistar	26.71	24.93	25.47	—1.23
PNM Rescs	22.95	22.70	22.93	+.33
Penney JC	23.26	22.85	23.18	+.08
PepBoys	11.45	11.30	11.30	—.20
PepsiCo	43.49	42.99	43.08	—.67
Pharmacia	43.46	42.96	43.34	—.01
PhelpDodge	30.75	30.17	30.51	—.12
PilgrmPrd B	8.23	8.00	8.11	—.01
Praxair	56.59	56.05	56.21	—.79
ProctGamb	87.66	86.42	86.51	—1.14
RadioShack	20.50	20.03	20.20	—.35
RoyalDut	42.48	41.98	42.35	—.25
SBC Comm	25.49	24.85	25.26	—.44
SaraLee	23.06	21.80	21.92	—1.13
Scripps EW	78.57	77.60	78.20	+.60
SearsRoeb	25.17	24.70	25.05	—.05
SherwinW	28.59	28.01	28.53	—.21
SouthernCo	27.77	27.15	27.67	+.10
SwstAirl	16.01	15.79	15.81	—.39
SprintFON	14.06	13.55	13.84	—.32
SprintPCS	5.10	4.71	4.83	—.22
Sunoco Inc	33.50	31.80	31.95	—.45
TXU Corp	14.85	14.68	14.85	+.06
TempleInland	44.64	43.72	44.45	—.07
TexInd	26.28	26.00	26.20	—.16
TexasInst	17.40	16.69	17.36	+.25
Textron	41.57	40.93	41.55	+.13
TrinityInds	19.55	19.29	19.32	—.28
TylerTech	4.74	4.60	4.70	+.01
UnionPacif	59.47	59.00	59.32	—.27
USSteel	13.65	13.30	13.43	—.19
UnitedTech	60.59	59.65	60.46	—.44
Unocal	31.10	30.69	31.08	—.12
VerizonComm	38.50	37.81	38.31	—.04
WalMart	52.40	51.75	52.30	—.19
WellsFargo	46.86	46.30	46.74	—.09
WstnGasHs	36.33	35.85	36.28	+.13
WinnDixie	14.30	14.11	14.22	—.10
Xerox Cp	8.06	7.86	8.04	—.02
YumBrands s	22.82	22.02	2.42	—.08

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Christmas Angels

Whether your angels be large or small,
Young or old, toothless or bald,
Whether they live far away or near,
Thoughts of them remain oh so dear.
So send us their pictures, to print in the News,
And let everyone know

"They're Angels" *to you.*

The SDN will be taking Christmas Angel messages until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20.



The Christmas Angels will be in the December 24th edition of Snyder Daily News.

Submit your angel's photo, a short message and $15 (Group Pictures $20) to:

SNYDER DAILY NEWS

3600 College Ave 573-5486

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002

There is a strong chance that a number of goals you had last year will be replaced with new ones that could take you off in a different direction in the year ahead. It may lead to successes in untested waters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — For your own sake, you must keep a tight reign on your finances today. There are indications you could be totally oblivious to your expenditures and shockingly spend out of control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You're known for being a perfectionist and at times fuzzy about preposterous things. Today you could drive everybody crazy making demands that are totally unreasonable. Don't be obsessive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — People are more on edge today, so take extra pains to weigh your every word with considerable care should you find yourself in the company of a sensitive friend. Caustic remarks leave scars.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — People have little respect for those who try to lean on another's credit card. Today, when out with friends, make certain everybody understands that each will pay his/her own tab.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be extremely careful what you say today to individuals who potentially could have some kind of influence over your affairs. Your comments may be more critically evaluated than usual.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone who is quite nosy and doesn't have anybody else's best interests at heart could try to pump you today for dirt or gossip about mutual acquaintances. Don't respond to the questions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Rather than rely on the recommendations today of friends about things that involve money or investments, check things out for yourself. The facts could have been misinterpreted.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Even if you should disagree with your mate's evaluation or opinion on something, do not take the side of an outsider's position, especially when out in public today. Keep mum.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Be careful that you do not size up someone with whom you're involved today purely on wishful thinking. If you don't use logical assessments, you may attribute qualities to this person s/he doesn't possess.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Neglected details could turn out to be those little thorns in the lion's paw that eventually fester. Today, be especially cognizant of all the intricacies involved in a business matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Harmony in your household could be disrupted today if you find more reasons to criticize family members than to praise them. If you can't be tolerant, at least be quiet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Take the time to acknowledge the gesture of someone who goes out of his/her way to be helpful to you today. Nobody is too busy to take the time to say, "Thank you."

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

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N. Hampshire diocese permits state oversight

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Faced with the threat of a criminal indictment, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester has avoided charges by allowing state oversight and admitting it failed to protect children from predatory priests.

The move came as one of the priests at the center of a sex scandal in neighboring Massachusetts prepared to be released on bail and pressure continued to mount for the Catholic leader of that state to resign.

Under terms of the deal announced Tuesday in New Hampshire, the diocese agreed to the rare step of giving state prosecutors oversight of its policies, including an annual audit. The diocese also must beef up training and education.

Priests and other employees must strictly follow the state's mandatory reporting law for suspected child abuse and must immediately report suspicions even if the victim is no longer a minor.

The state was pursuing misdemeanors under its child endangerment law, which experts believed would have been the first criminal charges ever against a U.S. diocese. Violations carry fines of up to $20,000 for institutions.

"The church in New Hampshire fully acknowledges and accepts responsibility for failures in our system that contributed to the endangerment of children," Bishop John B. McCormack said. "We commit ourselves in a public and binding way to address every weakness in our structure."

Grand juries have indicted individual priests and a grand jury in New York issued a report accusing church officials of sheltering molesters. But the New Hampshire settlement is the only one reached so far under the imminent threat of criminal indictment of a diocese.

County prosecutors have been working for months on possible criminal charges against individual priests, but virtually all are barred because many years — often decades — have passed since the alleged incidents. Dozens of victims have reached civil settlements totaling about $6 million this year.

Convicted man could get life for abusing girl

DALLAS (AP) — Lawyers for a man convicted of locking his malnourished 8-year-old stepdaughter in a filthy closet will attempt to spare him the life sentence handed down to his former wife.

Kenneth Atkinson was convicted Tuesday of causing serious bodily injury to a child, a charge that carries a penalty of five years to life in prison. A jury sentenced the girl's mother to life in prison in January.

The trial's punishment phase was to start today and defense attorneys hoped to introduce results of psychological testing indicating Atkinson suffered depression, had a dependent personality and avoided humiliation and criticism at all costs.

Psychologist Thomas Cook testified outside of the jury's presence that Atkinson was intimidated and manipulated by ex-wife Barbara Atkinson, with whom he lived in a Hutchins mobile home.

"He was under her control and she knew it," Cook said.

State District Judge Cliff Stricklin ruled Cook's testimony inadmissible during the first phase of the trial, but may allow it during punishment testimony.

Atkinson could face five years to life in prison.

Police rescued the girl, now 9, in June 2001 after Atkinson told a neighbor about the girl. She weighed only 25 pounds and would have died without treatment, prosecutors said.

Atkinson is also charged with sexual assault of a child, but the trial did not cover that charge.

In closing arguments Tuesday, defense attorney Malcolm Dade said the girl's abuse was orchestrated by Barbara Atkinson.

"Except for what this man did ... that child would be dead," he said.

Prosecutors argued that Kenneth Atkinson should have acted earlier to end the abuse.

Today's chuckle

Burglary suspect steals squad car

LAPORTE, Ind. (AP) — A burglary suspect eluded police in northern Indiana by stealing the squad car of one of the officers pursuing him.



Police later found the car in the garage of a LaPorte County home, but there was no one in the house.

"We're just trying to regroup and find out where this guy went," said Police Chief Walter Brath.

Authorities said a North Liberty police officer was pursuing the man's van Monday following a reported burglary in St. Joseph County when the man bailed out near a church.

When the officer left his car to chase the man on foot, the suspect circled around the church and stole the squad car, authorities said.

The officer had left the keys in the ignition and the engine was running, said North Liberty police Chief Steve Michael.

The man fled into LaPorte County at speeds over 100 mph and again eluded pursuit.

Investigators believe the man then broke into a home in LaPorte and called for a cab, but the dispatcher became suspicious and called police.

Police went to the home and surrounded it after finding the squad car in the garage, but the man was no longer there when officers entered the house.

Authorities said they knew the man's name and would seek an arrest warrant.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Store drugs in a sensible manner

DEAR DR. GOTT: Recently, a friend who visited me at home admonished me for keeping my medicine containers on top of my microwave oven. He indicated that this practice is dangerous because the microwaves could affect the medication. Is this correct?

DEAR READER: Properly functioning microwave ovens do not leak significant microwaves. (Older models, with defective seals, may leak energy but this is not usually an issue.) Therefore, if your appliance is in tip-top shape, your medicine will not be harmed.

I have other concerns, however. Most drugs deteriorate more rapidly when exposed to heat and dampness, such as in warm kitchen environments. Other medicines — notably nitroglycerine — are inactivated by light and oxygen. For these reasons, I advise against storing medications in areas that are not dark, dry and cool. In my opinion, your medicines are much more likely to be affected by a kitchen environment than by microwaves. So I suggest storing the drugs in a cabinet.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 72-year-old man in pretty good health who belongs to a Health Maintenance Organization. During my annual examination, the HMO doctor checks my vital signs, listens to my heart and lungs, pokes my abdomen, performs a prostate exam and orders blood/urine tests. Since I had to leave my pre-HMO doctor five years ago, I haven't had an electrocardiogram, a stress test, x-rays, or a sigmoid exam. Is the HMO short-changing me?

DEAR READER: Perhaps. Many HMO members are concerned that this type of medical practice does not meet their needs.

Depending on specific aspects of your medical history and exam, you may need further testing. For example, a family history of bowel cancer or polyps places you at high risk for these conditions. But even without this history, you should have a full colon exam every five to 10 years. Also were you to have occasional mild chest discomfort or shortness-of-breath, the doctor should order a cardiogram (or stress test) and a chest x-ray. Finally an annual prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test should be regularly performed in any man over the age of 65.

In all likelihood, your HMO doctor asked the right questions, did what he was supposed to do and satisfied himself that nothing more needed to be done this year. And he's probably right. Medical authorities now recommend far less annual testing for all healthy persons, especially those over 65. A lot of things doctors used to do were not only cost-ineffective but were downright dangerous. Consequently, today's practitioners — whether or not in HMOs — are far more likely to individualize and minimize, attempting to test sensibly, responsibly and with restraint. Sounds like your doctor is behaving appropriately.

However, I think you should discuss this important issue with him. Next year, as part of your exam when he's asking you questions, say: "Now, Doc, I don't like testing any more than the next fella, but should we be thinking about checking my cholesterol, heart, lungs and colon?" His answer may supply the answers you seek regarding whether the HMO is short-changing you, an issue that I sidestepped you'll notice, because I'm not really in a position to judge your specific case.

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

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Donation made for autographed jersey

DALLAS (AP) — Lee Roy Mitchell was willing to donate $50,000 to charity to get a Tour de France yellow jersey autographed by Lance Armstrong.

He wound up spending double that — once he got Armstrong to agree to appear at a camp for sick children.

With that $100,000 donation, the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center raised more than $675,000 for Armstrong's appearance at its annual "Conversation With a Living Legend" series event Monday.

Most of the money came from ticket sales to hear Armstrong talk about how he overcame cancer to become a four-time Tour de France winner.

From an opening bid of $5,000, the stakes were at $50,000 when Mitchell, chairman and chief executive of Cinemark movie theaters, said he'd go to $100,000 if Armstrong would commit to visiting The Peaceable Kingdom, a camp for chronically ill and special-needs children.

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$5,700



1998 Ford Escort
2 Dr., A/C, 63K mi.
$4,800

- 1998 Buick Regal — 4 dr., Maroon, Grey Leather, 32K miles ... $8,000
- 1998 Buick Century — White, One Owner, Runs Great $6,500
- 1994 Buick Century — White, Custom, Power Windows/ Locks ... $4,500
- 1996 Olds Cierra — White, V-6, Great Transportation $3,800
- 1994 Mercury Cougar — White, 2 Dr., Great Kid's Car $5,800
- 1996 Buick Park Ave. — Red, Red Leather, Must See $4,850
- 1994 Chevy Caprice — 4 Dr., Red, Loaded $4,800
- 1996 Dodge Intrepid — Automatic $1,500

SEE BIG COUNTRY For Used Trucks!



1999 Chevy Blazer
Pewter, Bucket Seats
$10,850

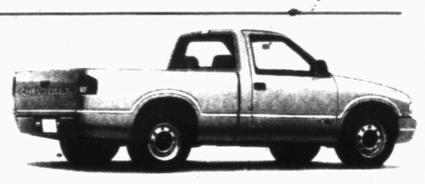
2000 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab
Long Bed 4X4
$14,750





2001 Chevy 1500 HD Crew Cab
4X4
$26,000

2000 S10 Reg Cab
auto
$11,500



- 1994 Ford Crew Cab 4X4 Diesel — White, Runs Great $8,000
- 1994 Chevy 1500 ExCab Silverado — 68K Miles $9,500
- 1996 Chevy Suburban — Leather, Runs Great $7,500
- 1995 Chevy 2500 4X4 — Ranch Truck $4,500
- 1990 GMC Jimmy — 2 Dr., 4X4 ..... $3,500
- 2001 Chevy Suburban LS — Black, Tan Cloth $24,000

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Death row inmate slated for execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — James Paul Collier insisted on defending himself in his capital murder trial for the 1995 shooting deaths of a woman and her son even though his court-appointed defense attorney, prosecutors and the judge tried to dissuade him.

"He is one of the more difficult individuals I have ever dealt with largely because he is so stubborn," defense attorney John Curry said of Collier, whose execution is set for today. "He wanted what he wanted and wouldn't listen to anything else."

After Collier was deemed competent to represent himself in the 1996 trial, Curry said he could only sit and watch along with jurors as Collier questioned witnesses, fell victim to legal snafus and made the daughter he had gone to kidnap on the day of the shootings recoil in the witness chair as he approached her.

"It was horrible," Curry recalled. "He couldn't have done anything more to get himself on death row than he did, short of threatening the judge and the jury."

Jurors in Wichita Falls took 12 minutes to sentence Collier to death for the fatal shootings of Gwendolyn Joy Reed, 51, and her son, Timothy Don Reed, 31. Collier didn't know either of the victims he confessed to killing after police caught up with him in New Mexico.

On March 14, 1995, Collier took a shotgun to the home Timothy Reed shared with Phillip Hoepfner after seeing his 13-year-old biological daughter standing outside.

Supreme Court to rule on Virginia's cross-burning law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is considering whether cross burning is illegal intimidation or a free-speech right in a First Amendment case that could overturn state laws passed to discourage the Ku Klux Klan from targeting blacks.

The justices have been protective of the free-speech rights of the most controversial of groups, including flag-burners, adult entertainers, people who display swastikas and those who set crosses ablaze.

Virginia is defending its cross-burning law, passed 50 years ago in reaction to Klan intimidation of blacks. In separate cases, three white men were prosecuted for lighting crosses during a Klan rally and in the yard of a black family in Virginia Beach, Va.

The Virginia Supreme Court overturned the convictions of the men, ruling that the burnings were symbolic speech.

The state court relied on a high court decision a decade ago in another cross-burning case. The Supreme Court struck down a city hate crimes ordinance in St. Paul, Minn., that criminalized cross-burning aimed at frightening or angering others "on the basis of race, color, creed or gender." Virginia's law prohibits the activity when done to intimidate a person or group.

Justices were to hear arguments in the case today.

More than a dozen states have cross-burning laws. A ruling against Virginia could block most of them.

The arguments come four years after two white neighbors in Virginia Beach tried to burn a 4-foot cross in the yard of James Jubilee, who is black. Jubilee moved his family out of the neighborhood.

In the other case, a Pennsylvania man was convicted of burning a 30-foot cross on private land in rural southern Virginia during a 1998 rally.

The Virginia law applies to cross burning on public or private land.

"Government needs to be able to protect people from those kinds of threats," said Kent Scheidegger, attorney for the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, one of a number of groups that have taken sides in the case. That group backs Virginia.

John Whitehead, president of the generally conservative Rutherford Institute in Charlottesville, Va., said in court filings that states may not limit controversial speech just because of concerns about the public reaction to that speech.

The Bush administration, siding with Virginia, argued that cross burning "has a particularly strong association with acts of vigilantism and violence."

Lott apologizes for Thurmond comments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Trent Lott, facing fierce criticism for remarks seeming to endorse the segregationist positions once held by Sen. Strom Thurmond, made nearly identical comments at a Mississippi rally with Thurmond more than two decades ago.

The furor over Lott's comment that the nation might have been better off if the then pro-segregationist Thurmond had been elected president in 1948, comes just weeks before he is to return to the position of Senate majority leader with the GOP's takeover of the Senate.

The Mississippi senator has since apologized, but some black leaders have demanded he give up his leadership position and even a leading conservative group questioned Lott's qualification to head the party.

The remarks were made last week at a birthday party for 100-year-old Thurmond, R-S.C., who is retiring after a record 48 years in the Senate.

Lott said Mississippians were proud to have voted for Thurmond, the Dixiecrat presidential candidate in 1948, "and if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either."

The Jackson Clarion-Ledger reported today that his statement echoed Lott's words at a Nov. 2, 1980, rally he attended in Jackson with Thurmond. After Thurmond spoke against federal pre-emption of state laws, Lott said, "you know, if we had elected this man 30 years ago, we wouldn't be in the mess we are today."

Commission created to study future of U.S. Postal Service

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush signed an order today creating a commission to explore the U.S. Postal Service's mission and operations during a time of increasing competition from private companies and challenges from new technology, including electronic commerce over the Internet.

The commission, which would include members of the business community, would make recommendations to President Bush sometime next year.

"Because the Postal Service touches every American and plays a crucial role in a $900 billion domestic mail industry, we cannot afford to ignore these challenges," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in a written statement.

The panel's recommendations — depending on their magnitude — could result in the first major overhaul of the Postal Service since the early 1970s, the official said.

One of the biggest challenges for the service currently is how to balance providing affordable mail service to communities across the country, something known as "universal service" and trying to be financially sound.

The universal service requirement calls on the agency to provide First Class mail delivery to everyone in the country at a uniform price.

Of the service's 30,000 offices around the country, about half of them are not profitable, according to the Postal Service official.

Congress limits the post office's ability to close local offices, which are often seen as community hubs and gathering places.

Obituaries

Sadie Skains

1915-2002

MIDLAND — Sadie Skains, former Snyder resident, died Friday, Dec. 6, in a Midland hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Skains, 87, was held at 2 p.m. Monday in Carlisle with Pipkin Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Born Oct. 21, 1915 in Marlin, she married Currie A. Skains in Onalaska on Sept. 10, 1970. He preceded her in death. Mrs. Skains was a member of First Baptist Church in Olney and had worked as a vocational nurse at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder for 20 years. An avid seamstress, Mrs. Skains was a 4-H leader for 15 years and active in other school functions.

Her parents, Benjamin Franklin and Maude Bell Barnett Manning, and two great-grandchildren, Heidi and Cameron Kunkel, also preceded her in death.

Survivors include two sons, Billie Skains of Llano and Eddie Skains of Sherwood, Ark.; three daughters, Joyce Reaves of Midland, Shirley Gamblin of Llano and Mary Alice Kunkel of Olney; 18 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Kunkel/Clark Scholarship Fund in care of First National Bank of Ryan, Okla., or Trinity Towers in Midland.

Professional Service
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3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Man threatens woman and brother with a gun Tuesday

Arrests

Three Snyder officers and a DPS trooper responded to an apartment in the 3000 block of Ave. N Tuesday evening after a 40-year-old woman reported that a man threatened her and her brother with a gun.

Officers arrested Landrey Keith Gilford, 22, of 3009 Ave. N, Apt. 4 on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon and family violence.

Gilford was arrested without incident and remains in Scurry County jail.

Two guns — a .22 caliber pistol and a .410 caliber shotgun — were seized for evidence and the case remains under investigation.

Officers arrested an 18-year-old man at 12:26 p.m. Tuesday in the 3100 block of 39th Street on city warrants for driving without a license, failure to appear before a judge, failure to maintain liability insurance and expired tags. He also had a justice of the peace warrant for failure to attend school.

DPS troopers arrested a 53-year-old woman on Hwy 350 south of Snyder Tuesday afternoon for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Accidents

Snyder officers responded to four accidents around town Tuesday.

The first mishap occurred at 9:20 a.m. in the 1900 block of 26th Street and involved a 1999 GMC Sierra pickup driven by Douglas Arnold, 47, of 5863 W. U.S. 84 and a 2001 Ford Mustang driven by Todd Wall, 17, of 8323 CR 3115.

At 2:08 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 800 block of 30th Street. Involved were a 2000 Ford Taurus driven by Esmerelda Jaurez, 26, of 410 28th Street and a 1989 Buick LeSabre driven by Bettye Thompson, 65, of 214 36th Street.

A 3:24 p.m. wreck in the 1800 block of 9th Street involved a 1991 Ford pickup driven by Simon Quiros, 72, of 936 N. Ave. Q and a parked 2000 Chevrolet pickup owned by Tommy Wilson of Box 337.

Officers responded at 4:02 p.m. to an accident in the 3800 block of College Ave. The mishap involved a 1997 Saturn driven by Ashley Jenkins, 16, of 4302 Lubbock Ave. and a 1997 Nissan Sentra driven by Monica Ramirez, 24, of 4400 Ave. U.

Fire report

Snyder firefighters responded to a report of a gas hose on fire in a residence some 10 miles north of Snyder on CR 1142.

A gas heater in the home was connected to a rubber hose, which had deteriorated and created a leak. Fire marshal Cy Posey said rubber should never be used for gas.

A sheriff's deputy reached the rural home first and shut the gas off, "narrowly diverting a disaster," Posey said.

Six firefighters responded with three fire trucks and there was no damage to the house.

Close patrol

A man reported someone driving through his field and tearing it up Tuesday and requested a close patrol.

A woman in the 3800 block of Muriel reported a prowler knocking on her windows at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday and requested a close patrol of her residence.

Criminal trespass

A woman reported a man was following her and requested officers serve him with a criminal trespass warning.

Dog bite

Jimmy Simpson reported at 11:50 a.m. Tuesday that a dog in the 2200 block of 41st Street bit him. Officers advised that a report would be submitted.

Gas drive offs

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off in the amount of $20.01 at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday.

A drive off worth $17.34 was reported from the same location at 9:15 p.m. Tuesday.

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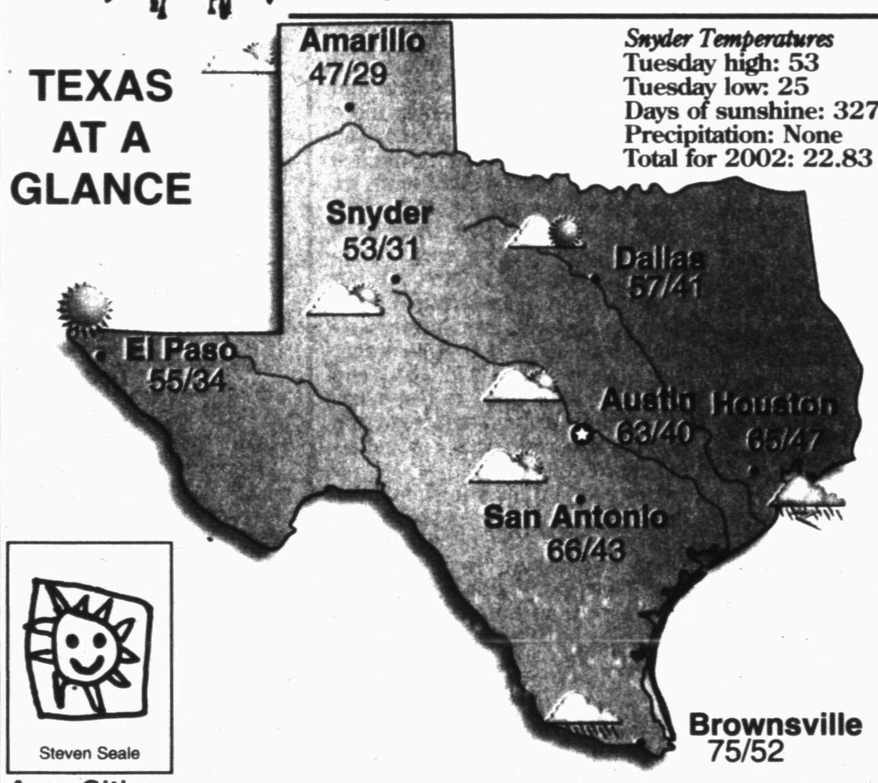
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 12/12	Fri 12/13	Sat 12/14
53/31	57/27	54/30
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 53F. Winds NW at 10 to 15 mph.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:36 AM Sunset 5:38 PM	Sunrise 7:37 AM Sunset 5:39 PM	Sunrise 7:38 AM Sunset 5:39 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Tuesday high: 53
Tuesday low: 25
Days of sunshine: 327
Precipitation: None
Total for 2002: 22.83 inches

Steven Seale

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	54	36	pt sunny	El Paso	55	34	sunny	Midland	56	34	sunny
Amarillo	47	29	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	60	36	sunny	Raymondville	73	47	rain
Austin	63	40	pt sunny	Gainesville	54	34	pt sunny	Rosenberg	65	46	t-storm
Beaumont	64	47	t-storm	Greenville	55	36	cloudy	San Antonio	66	43	pt sunny
Brownsville	75	52	rain	Houston	65	47	t-storm	San Marcos	65	41	pt sunny
Brownwood	59	36	pt sunny	Kingsville	72	46	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	55	37	cloudy
Corpus Christi	71	47	t-storm	Livingston	61	42	t-storm	Sweetwater	55	34	pt sunny
Corsicana	58	40	cloudy	Longview	55	40	rain	Tyler	57	43	cloudy
Dallas	57	41	cloudy	Lubbock	52	31	pt sunny	Weatherford	56	34	pt sunny
Del Rio	66	44	pt sunny	Lufkin	60	46	t-storm	Wichita Falls	53	35	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	39	pt sunny	Houston	65	47	t-storm	Phoenix	68	46	sunny
Boston	41	34	rain	Los Angeles	70	52	mst sunny	San Francisco	59	50	cloudy
Chicago	44	35	cloudy	Miami	80	73	t-storm	Seattle	52	43	rain
Dallas	57	41	cloudy	Minneapolis	40	24	flurries	St. Louis	50	37	cloudy
Denver	47	25	pt sunny	New York	44	34	cloudy	Washington, DC	46	34	pt sunny

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 11	Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 2

UV Index

Thu 12/12	Fri 12/13	Sat 12/14
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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PRICES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 12-18, 2002

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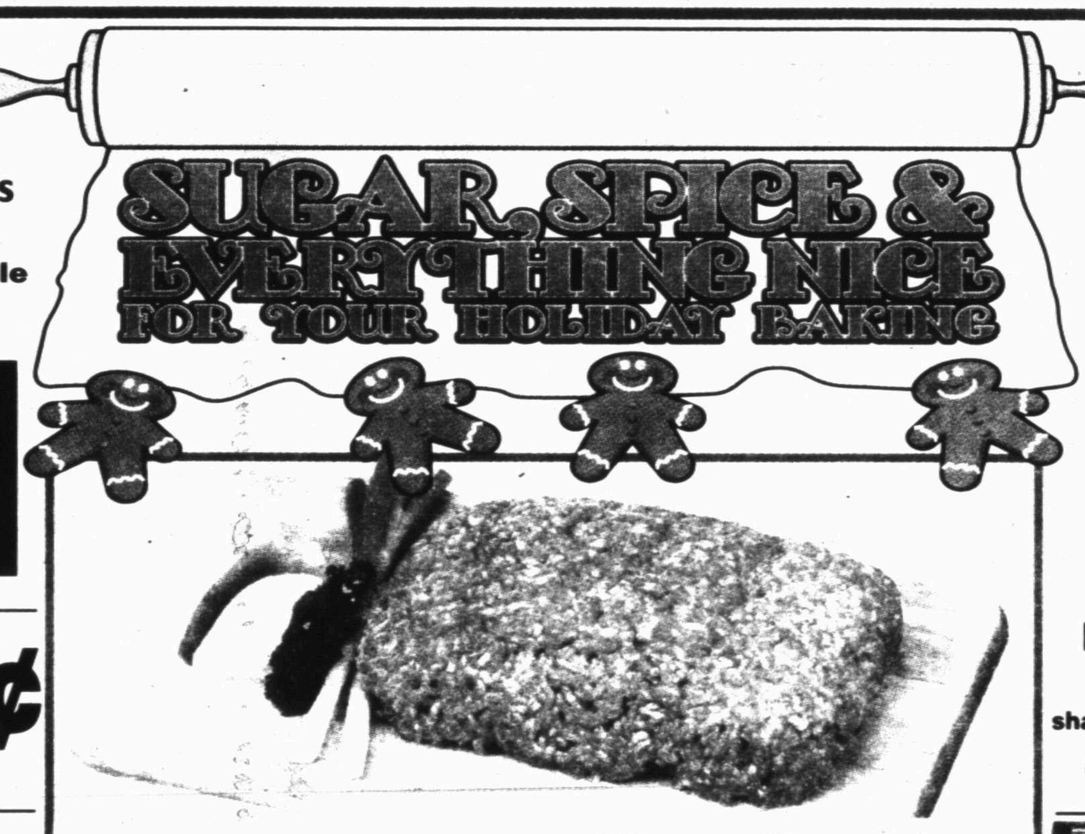
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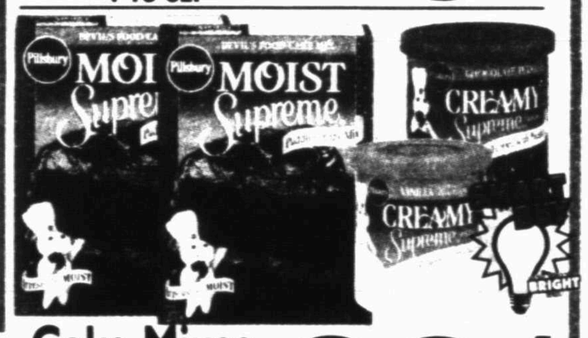


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White Rain
all varieties of shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, gel, mousse or spritz
4-15 oz.
79¢

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Saltine Crackers
Shurfine assorted
15-16 oz.
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family pack
99¢ lb.
Small Package $1.19 lb.



Cake Mixes
Pillsbury
select group
18.2 oz.
99¢



Minute Maid Orange Juice
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96 oz.
2.99

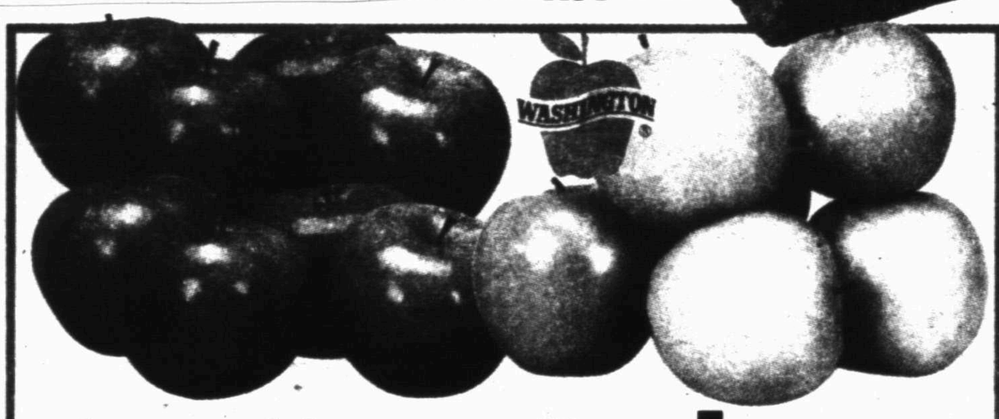
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79¢ lb.



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16 oz.
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Shurfine Chili
no beans
19 oz.
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Jonagold or Granny Smith Apples
Washington
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Bathroom Tissue
Angel Soft
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79¢