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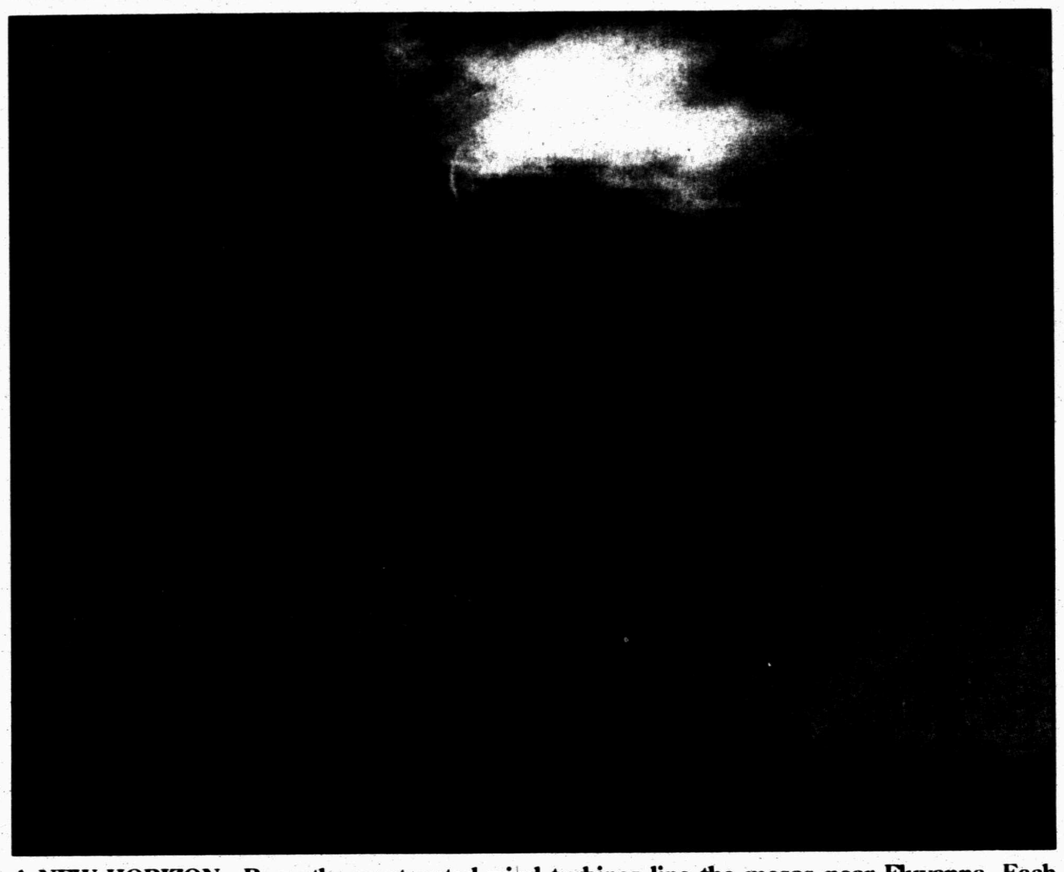
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

Dec. 30, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 210
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Debra Davis



A NEW HORIZON—Recently constructed wind turbines line the mesas near Fluvanna. Each turbine will produce enough energy to power up to 350 households. (SDN Staff Photo)

Wind turbines begin operation

West Texans have tolerated and have often battled high winds for centuries. Today, technology has provided a means to harness the wind and develop it as a clean and renewable source for providing electricity to thousands of households.

Many Scurry County residents have witnessed the construction of a number of wind generators along a path at Fluvanna through Scurry County while driving on U.S. 84.

And despite wind delays, the construction project has met its year-end deadline to be in operations.

Cielo Wind Energy, in partnership with Texas Wind Energy, began construction on the project in July. Each of the turbines, at a tower height of 226 feet and weighing between 208 and 250 tons, now stand like sentinels along the horizon of the ranch country.

Scurry County Judge Rod Waller, who was instrumental in early negotiations of the proposal, is looking forward to seeing the benefits for the county that should result from such an undertaking.

"I think the wind project will have a positive impact on the county," he said. "But the real results will come once we have a chance to see the outcome of the funds from the tax abatements."

Cielo Wind Energy has developed a number of wind projects in Texas and the southwest. The Sept. 23 issue of The Wall Street Journal featured Cielo's Texas projects.

Initial reports from Scott Rowland, project manager for Texas Wind Energy, have been positive.

"We have indeed started the turbines," he said. "They are in operation at this time and everything is running smoothly. We are still running some tests, but everything looks good."

Scurry County is set to begin see the influx of the tax abatement funds starting in January.

Two file for tax office

With the filing deadline only three days away, all offices on the primary ballot in Scurry County now have at least one candidate.

The most recent political filings came Monday when two announced as Republican candidates for Scurry County tax assessor-collector.

Magali Bernal, a chief deputy county clerk, and Jana Young, a deputy in the tax office, each filed Monday afternoon with the GOP county chairman.

The two political newcomers are seeking to replace Democrat Diana Williamson who said Monday afternoon she would not be a candidate for re-election.



Magali Bernal

Mrs. Williamson is serving her first term as tax assessor-collector, however she has worked in the tax office since March of 1976.

Mrs. Williamson said Monday that she has enjoyed working for the people of Scurry County and added that her decision to retire was a difficult one.

Mrs. Bernal, 32, was born and reared in Fort Stockton and is a 1989 graduate of Monahans High School. She moved to Snyder with her husband, James, to work for the Mobil Salt Creek Plant under a contract with Cooper/Camron. He currently is employed by Cynara.

Mrs. Bernal has served as chief deputy clerk in the county clerk's office since January, 2000. She also has six years banking experience.

"I have had the privilege and opportunity to have met many people through our office who have given me encouragement and support in my decision to run Republican for county tax-assessor-collector."

Mrs. Bernal has been a coach and assistant coach for Little Dribblers and summer softball for seven years. Her family, which includes 15-year-old Brianna, 9-year-old Sadee and 7-year-old Kaitlin, attends St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Mrs. Young has been a resident of Snyder for 35 years and is a 1985 graduate of Snyder High School and attended Western Texas College. Mrs. Young has worked in the tax office for five years.



Jana Young

Mrs. Young said, "I am a hard worker and I feel like my experience in the tax office qualifies me for to do the job."

A member of the First Baptist Church, Mrs. Young serves as vice president of the Girls Softball Association. She is married to Dennis Young, a Snyder police officer, and they have three children, Chelsea, Chance and Cailey.

So far, there is only one other contested race brewing, that for precinct one county commissioner. However, that race will not be decided until November since incumbent Ralph Trevey is a Democrat and challenger Terry Williams, a current member of the Cogdell Hospital board of managers, has filed as a GOP candidate.

Incumbents who have filed for re-election on the Republican primary ballot include District Judge Ernie Armstrong, District Attorney Dana Cooley, County Attorney Mike Hartman and Precinct 3 county commissioner Howard Limmer.

The only other candidate to file for a spot on the Democratic ballot is Sheriff Darren Jackson.

Republican candidates must filed with Drew Bullard while Demo hopefuls file with Jerry Gannaway.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A man who has everything needs a kid to show him how to work it."

Some might question 2003 as a banner year — but nearly everyone agrees it was pretty darn good one.

When petroleum prices are stable, then the oilfield is busy. And when the oilfields are busy, and there's a cotton crop and cattle prices rise, the local economy putts along pretty good.

And one local company is bringing national attention to Snyder and Scurry County.

Patterson-UTI is featured in the January, 2004 edition of Money magazine. The article reads:

"Our excitement over Patterson-UTI Energy stems from one simple fact:

"Demand for clean-burning natural gas is rising, yet existing wells aren't productive enough to meet the demand.

"The rising prices that result from the supply-demand imbalance will spur production and the search for new wells. That in turn means more business for firms like Patterson-UTI, which owns 343 drilling rigs in North America.

"Patterson-UTI's roots dig deep in the heart of energy country — its headquarters are in Snyder, Texas (pop. 10,783), not far from where CEO Cloyce Talbott grew up.

"At 67, Talbott has been in the gas business for more than 45 years and can rattle off reams of data on natural gas pricing and production. Chairman Mark Siegel is the city boy who has brought financial discipline.

"That combination has paid off in improved efficiency and earnings growth. Patterson-UTI's top rigs drill more, better and faster than others in the county. That's partly because the company has its own fleet of trucks that can move rigs quickly to wherever they're needed most and get them working — and earning day rates — faster.

"How quickly? They can get a rig capable of drilling 10,000 feet moved and ready to go in under seven hours, compared with two days for competitors.

"This efficiency means that when demand for natural gas drilling rises, profit margins shoot up. Just look at the first nine months of 2003, which saw production turn up as the economy strengthened:

"Patterson-UTI achieved a 10 percent operating margin on $568 million in revenue compared with a measly 1.3 percent in the first three quarters of 2002…

"Because of its strong balance sheet, Patterson-UTI can still buy rigs to ensure that it meets increased market demand as that happens."

Earlier this month, citizens gathered at the chamber to recognize Patterson-UTI as an exemplary employer in Scurry County.

Perhaps the best tribute came from Anita Talbott, wife of the CEO and sister of Glenn Patterson, the chief operating officer.

Mrs. Talbott mused, "I'm glad the two boys finally made it. I was their accountant when they couldn't afford to pay one."

Patterson-UTI is just one of the many things good about Snyder and Scurry County.

We hope all have a great New Year!

2003's third quarter in review...

Early July rainfall gave farmers hope

The third quarter of 2003 began with Snyder and Scurry County residents hoping for more rain, much as West Texas residents have for numerous summers before. Here's a look back at the months of July, August and September.

July

Rain increased slightly in the first days of July, leaving Scurry County farmer hopeful for a good cotton crop. Official rain totals were 9.26 inches thus far for the year.

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce granted a portion of the hotel and motel tax fund to the Scurry County Junior Livestock Association for the Best of Texas Show.

Snyder Chamber of Commerce Manager Donna Fowler was honored with July Fourth being declared Donna Fowler Day in Snyder.

July Fourth festivities at Towle Memorial Park kicked off with a prayer breakfast and a flag raising ceremony at the Towle Park barn. The day progressed with a number of fun games and activities such as great food, craft booths and a drawing for a Harley Davidson. Many people took part in a washer pitching contest and a volleyball tournament among other activities.

The day's events wound up with a huge fireworks display at the park later that evening.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representative Joel Seffet visited Towle Park to discuss the planned renovations.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital mammography unit received high marks from the Food and Drug Administration and the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

The first of many months of reconstruction began on College Avenue on July 21.

Ira ISD chose a new school principal. Dale Pectol was named K-12 principal by the Ira board of trustees. He replaced Mike Duke who moved to accept a position with the Iraan school district.

A number of patients were displaced when the decision was made to downsize Cogdell Memorial Hospital from a 99-bed facility to a 50-bed facility. Five patients were displaced as a result of the decision to close the fourth floor long-term care facility which had been in operation since 1989. The floor has been changed to assisted living.

Western Texas College opted to privatize the maintenance of the campus, transferring the position of maintaining the buildings to Johnson Controls.

Vicenta Valdez felt lucky to be alive after a wheel from a 18-wheeler flew off a truck and crashed through her bedroom window, landing on her bed. Mrs. Valdez said she had been sitting on the bed in the spot where the wheel landed just moments before.

Hurricane Claudette reached the Texas gulf coast bringing wind and damage to Surfside Beach where the eye of the storm hit. Surfside Beach is near Freeport.

Scurry county commissioners court made a number of budget cut and discussed ways to improve fiscal management during a budget workshop.

Cielo Wind Power began construction of 95 wind turbines located in Scurry County.

August

Quorum-busting Democratic senators exited the state in an effort to derail the redistricting vote for the second legislative session. The senators traveled to a hotel in Albuquerque, N.M. for an extended stay. This was only a portion of what would become one of the deepest divisions in Texas political history.

The Scurry County Anti-Drug Coalition hosted the All-American Back-to-School Bash in the Towle Park Barn.

The Rowena branch of West Texas State Bank was the target of an armed robbery. The robber confronted the bank teller at 7:30 a.m. as she arrived for work. He forced her into the building, stole more than $200,000-, then made off with the teller's car. The vehicle was later recovered at the Rowena Gin.

The robber, 28-year-old Darin Heath West, was arrested the next day during a routine traffic check in Dickinson, near Houston.

In December, he would be found guilty. He will be sentenced in February, and the offense carries a maximum of 30 years in prison.

Snyder city council and Scurry County commissioners court approved an interlocal agreement with the goal of providing shared services to the city and county residents with the goal of improved benefit to citizens.

After months of haggling, the agreement turned out almost identical to the one drafted 10 years ago.

The lone exception had to do with EMS services. In the end, the city of Snyder agreed to pay Scurry County $50,000 to keep oversight of the ambulance service.

Scurry County students said goodbye to summer as they headed back to school on Aug. 18.

Snyder Broadcasting Company expanded its holdings with the addition of another station. KSNY, the country music station was joined by KLYD, an alternative rock station.

September

Labor Day weekend found a number of kids and adults enjoying the beautiful weather, fishing and football in Towle Park.

James King, head baseball coach for Western Texas College, abruptly left his position in August. Assistant Coach Billy Heflinger was named interim head coach.

A robbery was reported at Allsup's in Snyder. Angel Southern, a clerk at the store, initially said that a man had entered the store and asked for the money in a "forceful way". In less than a week, police officers arrested Southern along with

See REVIEW Page 7

ASK US

Q-What is the deadline to pay local taxes?

A-Taxes are considered delinquent after Jan. 31. However, that is a Saturday, so the last day to pay at the courthouse is Jan. 30.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Martiza Aguirre...

...has lived in Snyder all her life. She is the mother of Isaac, 2, and is engaged to Victor Terrazas. Her parents are Albino and Eva Aguirre and she has two older brothers, Marcilino and Salvador. Martiza enjoys basketball and taking care of her son.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Industry is a better horse to ride than genius.

—Walter Lippmann

DEC 30 2003

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Farewell party

There will be a farewell party for Marilyn Chauncey until 4 p.m. today at the State Farm Insurance office at 1707 30th St., Suite B. Refreshments will be served.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "God Has Spoken of Mercy," followed by "Where is My Honor?"

Lions meetings cancelled

Snyder Lions Club will resume regular meetings next Tuesday at noon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Turkey shoot

The Scurry County Rodeo Association will host a turkey shoot from 10 a.m. until dark Thursday at the rodeo grounds. Proceeds will benefit SCRA. Call L.J. Mueller at 573-3712 for more information.

First Baptist support group

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

LVN testing dates

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

Doodle Bug writers club

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

Windbreak trees

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Will holiday break stop spread of flu?

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Optimists might say the holiday break gives the nation's schools a chance to snap the flu cycle by allowing students to recover from the sniffles and for custodians to sanitize classrooms.

But does it?

Family gatherings, shopping malls and airports also may be crowded with people carrying the flu and other bugs. That creates the potential for viruses to erupt anew in schools that hoped they had seen the worst of the flu.

"It offers an opportunity for them not being in school here, but where will they be over the Christmas break?" asked Phyllis Lewis, school health coordinator for the Indiana Department of Education.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not done any studies to see if there is a decline in flu cases after school holidays, said spokesman Dave Daigle.

"We hope to see a downturn," he said, but there also is the possibility that heavy travel could generate more flu cases.

At least 45 states have reported widespread influenza cases so far this year, and at least 42 children have died from it, mostly in Western states, according to the CDC.

Closing individual schools has not proven effective in stopping the flu, the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., reports on its Web site.

The center recommends that school staffers clean commonly used surfaces such as handrails and eating surfaces and desks frequently with disinfectants or bleach solutions.

Three people killed in Dallas house fire

DALLAS (AP) — Police say a man may have stabbed his wife and daughter to death before killing himself and setting their house on fire.

The bodies of Paraskevi Gomez Voutos, 40, her husband and their 7-year-old daughter, Vannia Santiago, were found Monday morning in their burning house, police said. The man's name was not released pending notification of relatives in Puerto Rico.

Police said the fire appears to have started near the man's body in the living room, officials were awaiting test results on what they think were traces of a fire accelerant. The man's cause of death was still being investigated, The Dallas Morning News reported.

A gun was found near the man's body, said Sgt. Larry Lewis, a homicide unit supervisor. A knife was found near the bodies of Voutos and her daughter in a hallway of the small one-story home.

Police say the family had emigrated from Puerto Rico about a year to 18 months ago. Records show Voutos bought the house in October 2002.

The man had lived on and off with his wife and daughter and had returned from Puerto Rico around Thanksgiving, Lewis said. The couple had been having marital problems.

"Recently, she told him that she wanted a divorce," he said.

Neighbors told police they heard a commotion in the house Monday morning about three house before the blaze broke out.

Juan Guerrero, who was looking for a friend's house, knocked on Voutos' door shortly before the fire started. He said he heard a television on in the background but no voices. After he knocked on the door a third time, he heard an explosion.

"I heard a loud thump and saw the windows shatter," he said.

Guerrero said he ran across the street and called for help. He and a neighbor, Lynn Heeter, broke down the back door of the burning house, but the smoke was too thick for them to enter.

"We hollered and yelled, but there was no (human) sound at all — just the smoke and crackling," Heeter said. "There was nothing we could do."

Neighbors and a co-worker said Voutos was a cafeteria manager at Bonham Elementary.

"She was friendly," said Ilsee Morales, who teaches at the school and lives near Voutos. "She always had a joke and a smile."

Man is arrested in crash that killed 6

BENBROOK (AP) — Police arrested a 22-year-old Tarrant County man on suspicion of driving while intoxicated and expect to file more serious charges in a weekend crash that killed six people, police said.

Police said witnesses reported Tyrel J. Irwin, who was injured in the late Saturday crash, was driving erratically before his car struck another on rain-slickened Loop 820. The impact knocked the other car into an oncoming lane and into the path of a sport utility vehicle.

Four people in a 1996 Lincoln and two people in a Mitsubishi Montero Sport were killed in the wreck, police said.

Irwin was released from the hospital on Monday and was free on his own recognizance, Benbrook police Cmdr. U.D. Simonds told The Dallas Morning New.

World Almanac

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003

Today is the 364th day of 2003 and the ninth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1853, the United States completed the Gadsden Purchase, establishing the border with Mexico.

In 1916, Rasputin, the Russian monk and adviser to the czar, was murdered.

In 1922, the U.S.S.R was officially established.

In 1985, entertainer Ricky Nelson was killed in a plane crash.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), writer; Matt Lauer (1957-), TV broadcaster, is 46; Tracey Ullman (1959-), actress and comedian, is 44; Julianne Moore (1960-), actress, is 43; Tiger Woods (1975-), pro golfer, is 28.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1936, Long Island University's 43-game winning streak in basketball came to an end with a 44-31 defeat at the hands of Stanford.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet." — Rudyard Kipling

TODAY'S FACT: The geographical center of North America lies six miles west of the town of Balta in North Dakota.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 7 — number of people who have served as secretary-general of the United Nations since it began operations in 1946.

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (Dec. 30)

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Mega Millions pot stands at $155,000,000

AUSTIN — Today, the 11-member group of *Mega Millions*™ announced tonight's jackpot would be worth an estimated $155 million, up $5 million from the previous estimated amount. No ticket matched all five numbers plus the Mega Ball for Friday's drawing worth $125 million.

There were two tickets sold in Texas that matched five numbers in Friday's drawing. One ticket, sold in McAllen, was purchased with the Megaplier™ feature and is actually worth $350,000. The other ticket was sold in El Paso.

There have been seven tickets sold in Texas matching five numbers for the $175,000 prize. Of those, two were purchased with the Megaplier feature.

"Contrary to popular belief, not all the significant prizes are won in the major metropolitan areas, such as Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex," said Greer. "In fact, four of the $175,000 prizes have been sold in cities along the Texas/Mexico border."

Wednesday's *Lotto Texas*™ jackpot is worth an estimated $35 million.

Saddam could try same defense maneuvers as previous dictators

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even Saddam Hussein has legal options.

The deposed Iraqi leader could harken back to the trials of Nazi leaders and Japanese commanders after World War II to fight expected charges of genocide and war crimes, claiming he never personally killed anyone or that he had no control over atrocities committed in his name, U.S. defense lawyers and scholars say.

Saddam also might look to the present, and adopt the tactics of deposed Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. On trial now before a U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Milosevic has essentially thumbed his nose at the prosecutors and judges and uses the sessions to make windy speeches.

Any trial for Saddam may be a long time off, and it is not clear where or how he will be called to answer for alleged crimes dating back decades. But when the expected trial comes, Saddam can choose from a few basic legal strategies.

The first step for Saddam's defense team will be a challenge to the authority of whatever body puts him on trial, lawyers say. That attack will be easier to make if Americans are involved in organizing or underwriting the trial, but a smart defense lawyer would use the same tactic to challenge even a trial conducted wholly by Iraqis, lawyers say.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said last week that he would be willing to provide legal counsel to the ousted Iraqi leader if he requested assistance. Clark was attorney general under President Johnson and is a staunch anti-war advocate who has met with Saddam on several occasions in the past decade.

Another strategy would be for Saddam to plead insanity or infirmity to try to head off a trial altogether, although lawyers say that seems unlikely.

Assuming there is a trial, Saddam could claim he committed no crimes, or that his actions were justified to put down insurrection or defend his country.

Or, as in the trials arising from World War II, Saddam could try to shift the blame or turn the tables on his accusers.

Adm. Karl Doenitz, commander of the German U-boat campaign, received a relatively light sentence of 10 years at the Nuremberg war crimes trial after claiming that he used the same warfighting tactics as the Allies, including failing to pick up survivors after a submarine attack. Doenitz' lawyers produced an affidavit from U.S. Adm. Chester Nimitz to back up this claim.

In Saddam's case, he could claim Western countries including the United States willingly sold him weaponry and chemicals, and turned a blind eye to the consequences.

"He could try to leverage that, saying, 'You gave me the weapons, did you expect I wouldn't use them?'" University of Denver law professor Robert Hardaway, who favors a Nuremberg-style tribunal for Saddam, said in one of several recent interviews with legal experts.

Saddam might head off some charges, or at least make pursuing them uncomfortable, by pointing fingers at U.S. government figures or companies that had dealings with Iraq, said Douglass Cassel, director of the Center for International Human Rights at Northwestern University School of Law.

"His lawyer could say, 'We were the U.S. ally against Iran, and Secretary Rumsfeld himself came here to make friends,'" Cassel said, referring to meetings in 1983 and 1984 between then-White House Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld and Iraqi officials. "'We're going to have to subpoena Rumsfeld,'"

Saddam also could challenge the evidence against him, arguing that the paper trail showing his culpability is weak and witnesses unreliable, lawyers said. He could exploit any forensic lapses in the documentation of mass graves or other evidence of murder.

"Then, there is everything from denial that these things happened to 'I didn't know my underlings were performing these atrocities,'" said Donna E. Arzt, a Syracuse University law professor who assisted the prosecutor in a special war crimes court in Sierra Leone.

Today's chuckle

Father and daughter will serve in Iraq



POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. (AP) — If West Virginia National Guard Sgt. Shari Wright gets homesick while serving in Iraq, she won't have to look far for support.

Her father, Sgt. James Gheen, also serves in her unit, which will be deployed in January.

"I think it will bring us closer together," said Wright. "Whenever we get lonely or miss home, we can talk to each other."

Gheen, 40, and Wright, 23, both of Middleport, Ohio, are members of the 3664th West Virginia Army National Guard maintenance unit and are undergoing training at Fort Dix, N.J. In Iraq, Gheen will help repair vehicles while Wright will serve as an administrative clerk.

Gheen spent 10 years in the Army before joining the National Guard eight years ago. Wright, a student at Marshall University, joined the guard in 2001.

"It was just something that she said she wanted to do," Gheen said about his daughter's enlistment. "I didn't want her to think that she had to join because of me or anything. She said she wanted to do it and serve her country."

The Following
Financial Institutions
Will Be Closed
Thursday, Jan. 1
In Observance Of The
New Year

Please Transact Your Business Accordingly

Texas Savings Bank
West Texas State Bank
Snyder National Bank

events

TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 12-25-33-34-36.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: $0.

Matching four of five: 131. Prize: $504.

Matching three of five: 4,485. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 43,830. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 7-2-8
(Night) 9-4-2

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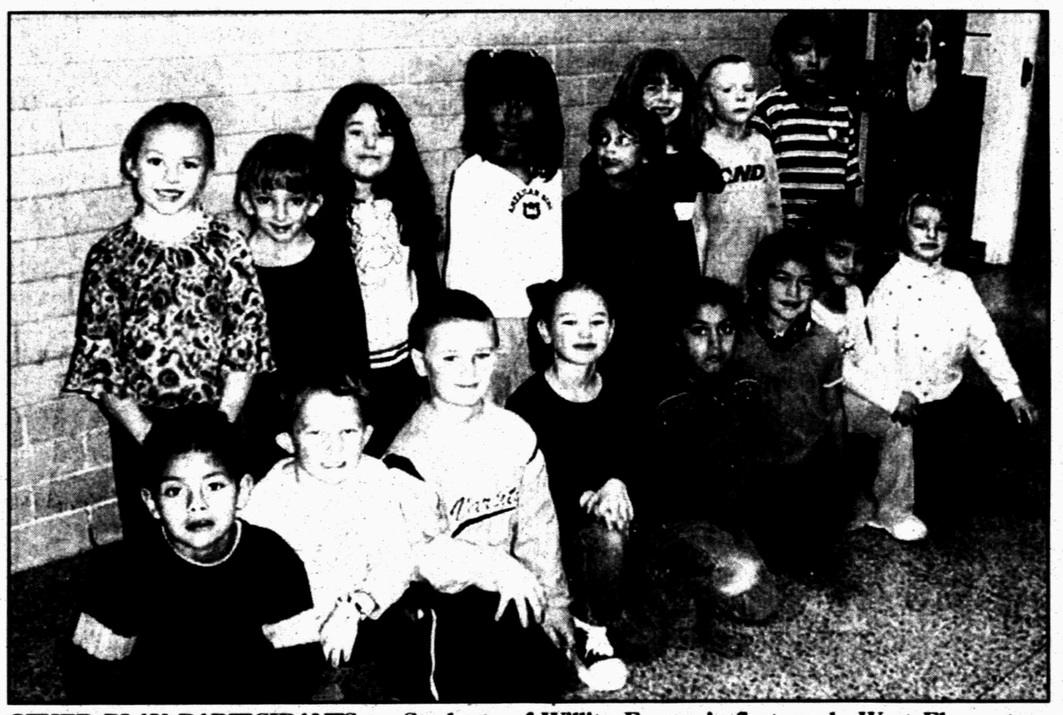
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PRE-CHRISTMAS PLAY — First graders at West Elementary presented a play for classmates and parents before the Christmas holidays. In the top photo are students of Brenda Billings. From left, top row, are Priscilla Guzman, Alex Rodriguez, Maria Contreras, Robert Martinez; third row from the bottom, Bryce Jones; Kevin Sanders, James Baze, Julia Trejo; second row from the bottom, Alyssa Sosa, Ashley Casarez, Matthew Garza, Erica Romero; bottom row, Allison Highfield, Lauren Levens and Jaci Hawthorne. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)



MORE PLAY CHARACTERS — West Elementary first grade students of Kay Hensley are pictured in the middle photo. On the bottom row, from left, are Alondra Rodarte, Hayden Taylor, Ashlee Rub, Marley Spill; second row, Marlena Seyler, Ricardo Morin, Julissa Esparza, Robert Maldonado, Zane Morin, Dakon Tindol; top row, Austin Elliott, Noemi Benitez, Destiny Salinas, Damien Vera, Baylee Ritchey and Ryan Martinez.



OTHER PLAY PARTICIPANTS — Students of Willita Farmer's first grade West Elementary class participating in the pre-Christmas play were, first row, Jason Alvarez, Colby Anderson, Kutter Derryberry, Lauren Floyd, Austin Garza, Savannah Guzman, Marissa Hernandez and Taylor Head; top row, Regan Lindsey, Sarah McWilliams, Criselda Salinas, Caitlyn Sanchez, Alichia Simmons, April Slaughter, Cody Stewart and Raymond Vera.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 12-30-03
♠ A 10 8 5 2
♥ Q
♦ A J 8 7 6 5 4
♣ —

West
♠
♥ A 10 8 4 3
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ A 4 3 2

East
♠ J 7 3
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ —
♣ Q J 8 7 6 5

South
♠ K Q 9 6 4
♥ K J 9
♦ K Q
♣ K 10 9

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ??

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003

Dreadful bidding, even worse lead

By Phillip Alder

Do you think that experts never make mistakes? I hope not. Do you think experts never make really expensive mistakes? If you do, read on.

First, look at the West hand. In the auction, North's four-club response was a splinter bid, showing a singleton or void in clubs with at least four-card spade support and game-going values. His five-club rebid guaranteed a club void. South's four diamonds and five hearts promised first- or second-round controls in those suits. What would you lead?

This deal occurred during the 1996 China Cup, held in Beijing.

Have you decided yet? If so, would you change your lead if your partner had doubled the final contract?

Look at the full deal. North and South were two Polish world champions, but surely when North rebid five clubs, not four hearts, South should have known that the heart ace was missing and settled for five or six spades. (North would raise five to six.)

Now let's turn to West. He knew the club ace would be ruffed. He thought there was a risk the heart ace would be trumped too. So, did he lead a diamond? No way! He selected a "clever" low club. Declarer ruffed in the dummy and immediately claimed 12 more tricks: five spades and seven diamonds.

At another table, South opened with one club, promising just 16 points or more. North responded two diamonds, natural. When they also reached seven spades, East doubled (as our first East might have done). West knew what that meant. The defense went diamond ruff, heart to the ace, diamond ruff.

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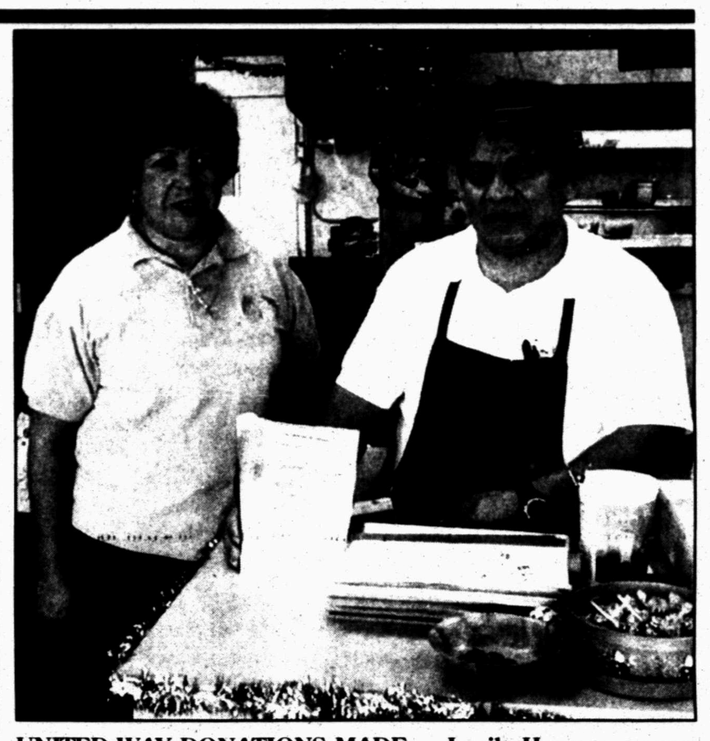
Births

Nevaeh Angel Sanchez was born to Matt Sanchez and Karey Carr of Snyder. Nevaeh was born at 8:53 a.m. on Dec. 26, weighing six pounds, 12 ounces, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Helbera Sanchez of Snyder and Richard Sanchez Sr. of Littlefield. Maternal grandparents are Jack and Gloria Carr of Fort Worth.

Junior and Sandra Salinas of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandrea Elise Salinas. Alexandrea was born, weighing seven pounds, three ounces, on Dec. 19 in Lubbock.

Maternal grandparents are Lupe Junior and Maggie Morin of Snyder. Paternal grandparents are Prudencio and Janie Salinas also of Snyder.



UNITED WAY DONATIONS MADE — Lucila Herrera, owner, and Jessie Herrera represent the employees at the Dolphin Restaurant who have asked to keep their donation packet a few more days to be able to contribute more money from their tips to the United Way. As of Monday, the United Way had received $73,357.10 in donations and pledges. The goal is $85,000 to aid 10 local agencies for 2004. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Joe's Pizza
Philadelphia Style
573-8555

Special Occasions
YEAR END SALE
Tuesday & Wednesday
10 am-5 pm
Tuesday, Dec., 30...
30% Off Storewide
Wednesday, Dec., 31...
40% Off Storewide
(excludes selections and infant department)
Closed Thursday & Friday, January 1st & 2nd
No Charges on Sale Items
507 Coliseum Drive
574-2004



Dale Huff, Minister

37th Street Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549

A Growing Attitude

Growth is the law of life in the kingdom of God. Perfection in love and in righteousness is the goal and end of the Christian life, but growth is the principle that is all important in Christian living. II Peter: 5-9 describes virtues important to every Christian. Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love are virtues that all Christians are to pursue in their lives. In verse 8, Peter tells us what is really important:

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 9 Peter goes on to tell us that if we do not possess these qualities at all, we are nearsighted and blind. We have forgotten that we have been cleansed from our past sins.

But if we pursue growth in the Christian life, victory is assured. If we seek to please God, we will. In verses 10 and 11 Peter goes on in talking about this life of growth:

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Growth is not an option in the Christian life, but we can be certain of this. If we will seek obedience in our lives, we will grow!

Dale Huff

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1-800-854-8412
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Deadline 12/31/03

January Clearance Sale
Lots of Christmas items and other items on sale
Thank you Snyder for all your great support!
SuZs Candles Crafts and More
1907 40th behind Allsups 325-575-2398
HOURS: Tues-Fri, 10-5:30, Sat. 10-4

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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



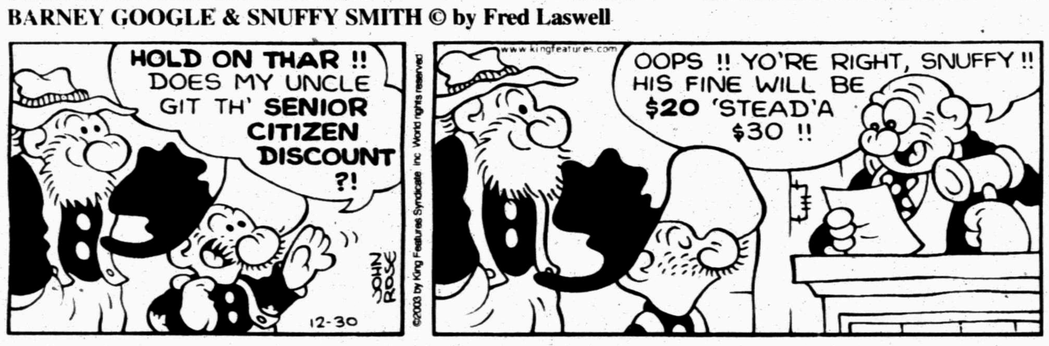
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



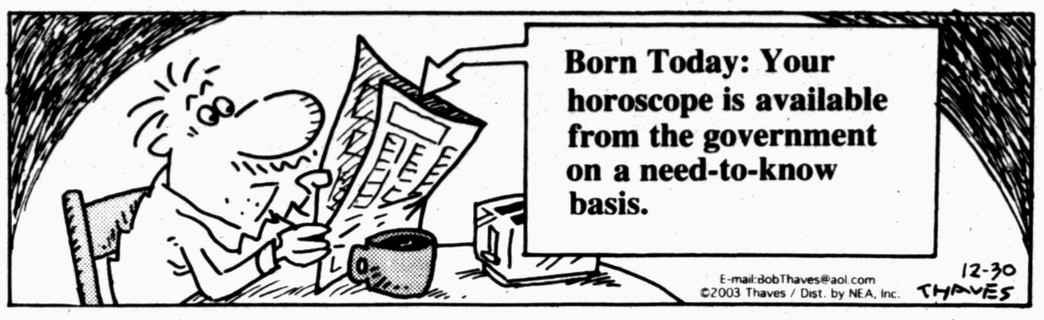
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



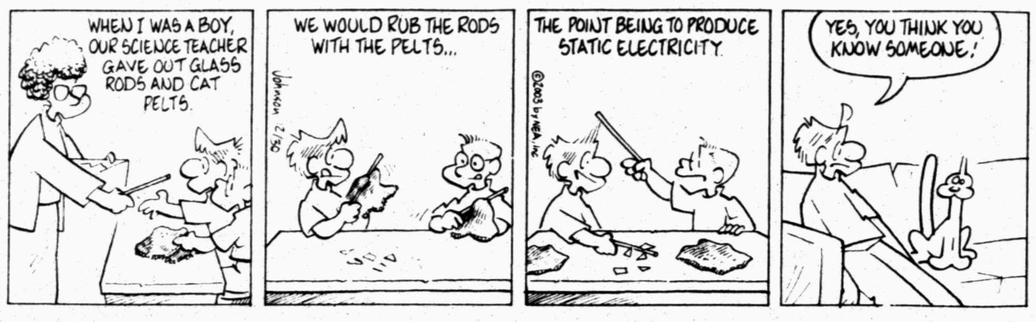
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



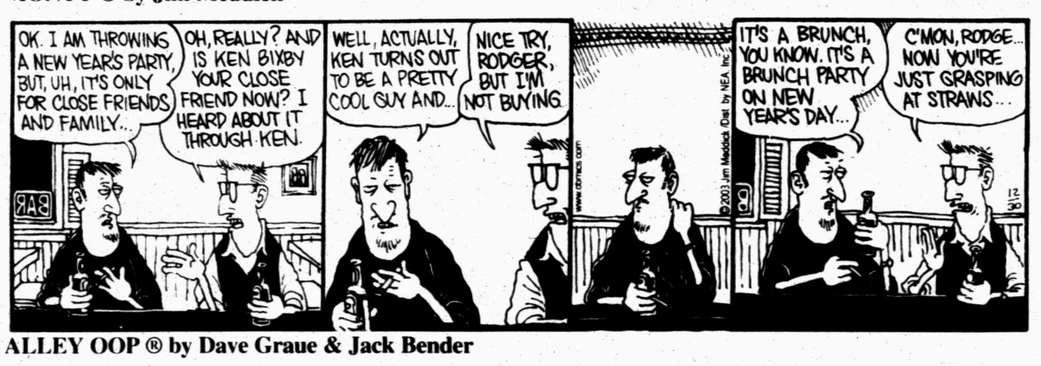
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



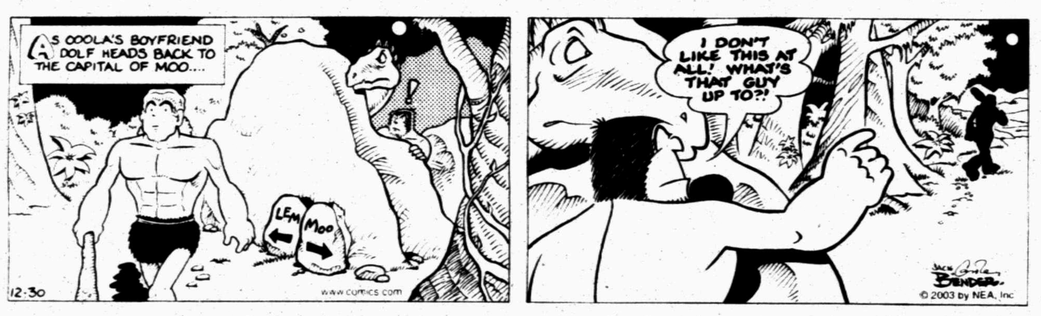
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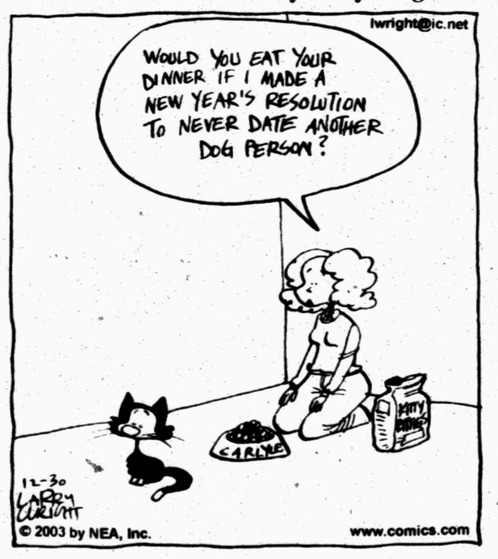


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I knew he was really sick. He hasn't complained about anything for three days."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Actor — Parker
5 Kind of pool
8 "The Raven" poet
11 "— the Mystic"
12 Cheer
13 Pact member
15 Exigency
16 Wire measure
17 Arizona river
18 Soldier's addr.
20 Bumpy
22 Large deer
25 Frozen surface
26 UK part
27 Holy terror
28 Apartment, sometimes
31 Judge
33 — — rule
34 Barely scraped by
38 Hostels
39 Major no-no
40 Little
41 Rendezvous
44 Soap ingredient
45 Dog tags
48 Fall mo.
49 Arm bones
51 Ditch
53 Hoover's org.
54 Fictional governess
55 Saudi garb
57 Outfits
61 Home furnishings
62 Charged atom
63 Declare
64 Caress
65 Hosp. workers
66 Freight hauler

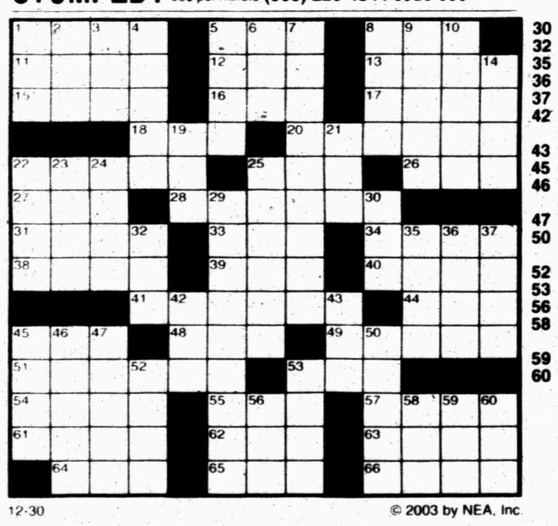
DOWN

1 Shark part
2 Vane dir.
3 Sault — Marie, Mich.
4 Carbonated drinks
5 1950s crooner
6 "Aladdin" prince
7 Not eager
8 Airport summons
9 Martini extra
10 Ms. Burstyn
14 Masculine
19 Each
21 Teachers' org.
22 Hemline
23 Foretelling
24 Store sign
25 Demand
29 Sofa companion (2 wds.)
30 Authorize
32 Denver hrs.
35 Brick oven
36 Irish singer
37 Changes color
42 Legendary bird
43 Stand-in
45 Cato's highway
46 Wither (2 wds.)
47 Twilled cloth
50 Old Italian currency
52 Cozy abode
53 Strikes out
56 — Jovi
58 "— been robbed!"
59 Rare mineral
60 Hindu Mr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

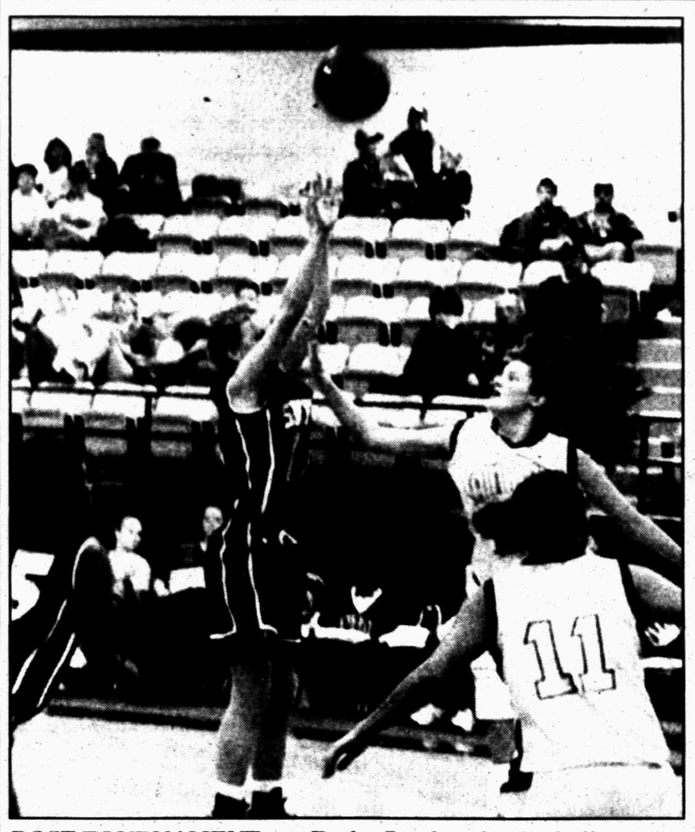
DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

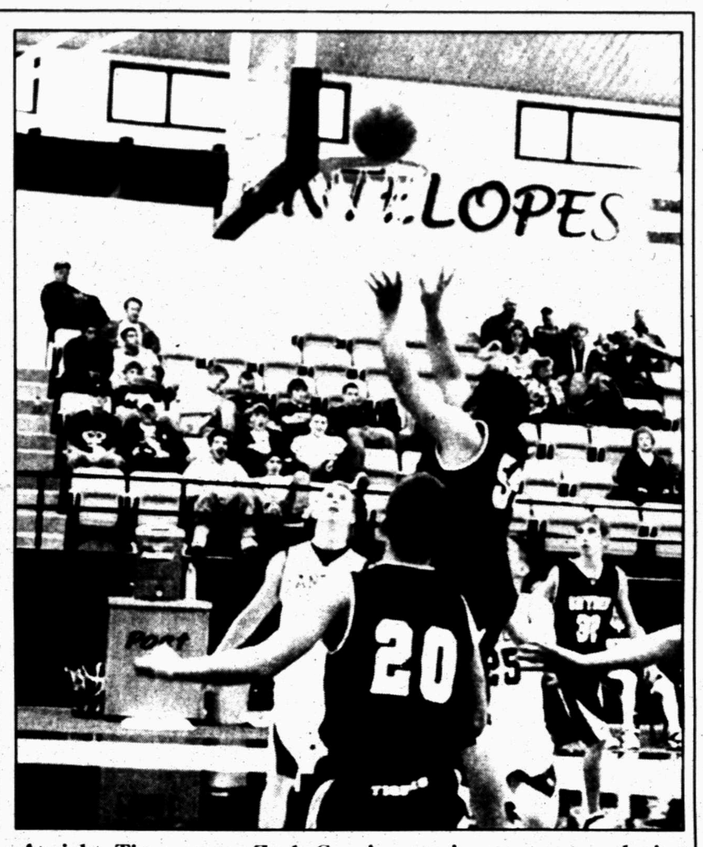


"WHADDYA MEAN, 'BEFORE YOU HAD ME'? I THOUGHT YOU'D ALWAYS HAD ME."

Best Available Copy

SPORTS





POST TOURNAMENT — Both Snyder basketball teams moved on to the championship bracket after each squad toppped its Anton counterparts in the first round of the Post Tournament. Left, Snyder guard Erin Burleson arcs a shot over a pair of Anton defenders. The Lady Tigers won, 54-40.

At right, Tiger center Zach Garcia puts in an easy two during Snyder's 51-39 victory over Anton. The Lady Tigers were scheduled to play Brownfield at 3:30 today, while the Tigers were set to square off with Lubbock Christian at 4:30.(Contributed Photos by Ronny Collins)

SHS advances to championship brackets

POST — The Snyder cagers took care of their first round opponents from Anton Monday, with both the boys and the girls advancing in the championship bracket at the Post Tournament.

The Tigers got 19 points from Lee Scott and held Anton to six points in the first and third period to claim a 51-39 win.

Snyder was scheduled today to play Lubbock Christian, which dismantled Post's JV team, 82-28.

"They were big, but we did a little bit better inside," head coach Bud Birks said. "We got good looks, and (Anton) had a hard time offensively against our defense."

Snyder and LCHS were slated for a 4:30 p.m. tip-off.

The Lady Tigers easily dispatched Anton, 54-40, after racing out to a 31-15 halftime lead.

Erin Burleson and Sirena Medrano each knocked in 13 points to send Snyder to a showdown with Brownfield, which was slated for a 3:30 start today.

Terann Ragland contributed nine points, Jordan Stansell added six and Sarah Henson scored four for Snyder.

Brownfield beat Lubbock Christian, 48-43, Monday.

Today's game will be a rematch of the Dec. 15 game, which the Lady Tigers dominated, 60-26.

Cardinals fire Dave McGinnis

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Cardinals are planning a very public search for a new coach.

Just hours after coach Dave McGinnis was fired Monday, Cardinals vice president and general counsel Michael Bidwill scheduled interviews this week with Dennis Green and Jim Fassel.

Green, the former Minnesota Vikings' coach, will be in town for an interview on Wednesday. Fassel, just fired by the New York Giants, will be in Tempe on Saturday.

Bidwill also identified New England Patriots defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel and Philadelphia Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Johnson as candidates. Under NFL rules, both would have to be interviewed by Friday, in their home cities, because their teams have byes in the first round of the playoffs.

More candidates will be identified, Bidwill and Rod Graves promised, including some college coaches. The search could continue past the Super Bowl, Graves said.

Graves, vice president for football operations, praised McGinnis' hard work and outgoing personality.

"But now it's time for our organization to more forward, to see if we can get a staff in place that can create a level of discipline and consistency and help us build a winner," Graves said.

Buffalo's Gregg Williams and Chicago's Dick Jauron also were fired Monday. The three firings Monday meant five head coaches are out of work: Dan Reeves was fired by Atlanta and Jim Fassel by the New York Giants during the season.

Miami's Dave Wannstedt gave up some responsibility over personnel decisions in exchange for a two-year contract extension through 2006. The Dolphins will hire a general manager who will have final authority over the draft and free-agent signings.

Consistency was a big problem in the McGinnis era. The team was 4-4 at home this season, but 0-8 on the road. The Cardinals had to be competitive for McGinnis to keep his job, and away from Sun Devil Stadium, they often weren't.

"We had eight losses by 17 points or more," Bidwill said. "We had five losses by 24 points or more."

McGinnis went out in his usual accommodating style. He spoke with reporters for a half-hour, and bought them pizza, as he always did after a victory.

"I need you guys to chip in," he said, "because I'm unemployed."

He thanked owner Bill Bidwill for the opportunity to be a head coach and said he would always be a Cardinals fan. He believes his successor will find the pieces in place to succeed.

"This organization is on great footing, cap-wise, as far as young players under contract, guys that have gotten experience," McGinnis said. "To me they're sitting right now in pretty good shape."

McGinnis said that he had worked to clear cap room in his first full season as head coach, when the team went 7-9. Then in 2002, Arizona got off to a 4-2 start, then the team was ravaged by injuries and staggered home 5-11.

This year, with Graves overseeing wholesale changes in personnel, the team sagged to 4-12. Arizona was the first NFL team since 1987 to finish last in the NFL in both points scored and points allowed.

Even the season-ending 18-17 stunner over Minnesota had a sour aspect. It cost Arizona the No. 1 pick in the draft.

In all three of McGinnis' full seasons as coach, the Cardinals had the youngest team in the NFL.

Michael Bidwill said the team will be about $8 million under the salary cap next season and expects to use the money on free agents. The team also has the No. 3 pick in next year's draft, and has the attraction of moving into a new stadium in 2006.

The new coach will be expected to lead the team into that new building, now going up in Glendale, in the west Phoenix suburbs.

Longhorns ready for shootout

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A matchup between No. 5 Texas and No. 15 Washington State would seem to make for a classic Holiday Bowl.

Which is precisely what Washington State coach Bill Doba hopes doesn't happen tonight at Qualcomm Stadium.

"I'd like to see a 3-0 game, when both teams are playing hard, and of course we got the three," Doba said.

Sorry Coach, but odds are against a snoozefest in this game. The Holiday Bowl has built a reputation of high-scoring games with white-knuckle finishes, with 17 of the previous 25 being decided in the final 2 minutes.

The Longhorns (10-2) are led by exciting redshirt freshman quarterback Vince Young, whose promotion coincided with a six-game winning streak. Matt Kegel, quarterback for the Cougars (9-3) and cousin of former NFL bad-boy quarterback Ryan Leaf, is determined not to let a sore throwing shoulder stop him. So both teams are capable of providing a wild finish.

"Yes, we could," Doba said. "And so could they. They're averaging 42 points a game. That's why I don't want it to be wild and wacky, because we don't average that."

With the Longhorns becoming Holiday Bowl regulars — they're here for the third time in four years — coach Mack Brown knows all about the game's lore, since Texas has helped contribute to it.

In 2000, the Longhorns lost 35-30 to Joey Harrington and the Oregon Ducks when a desperation pass from Chris Simms fell incomplete in the end zone as time ran out.

A year later, the Longhorns beat Washington 47-43 after Major Applewhite led a thrilling fourth-quarter comeback in his final college game.

Huskers rout Spartans

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Bo Pelini, auditioning to replace Frank Solich, helped his cause Monday night by leading the No. 22 Nebraska Cornhuskers to a 17-3 win over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl.

"I was asked to do a job and I did it," said Pelini, who moved up from defensive coordinator after Solich was fired Nov. 29 with a 9-3 record.

Jammal Lord threw for a career-best 160 yards and ran for 79 more for the Cornhuskers (10-3). Running back Cory Ross also had a career night by rushing for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

Lord said much of the credit for the team's 10th win goes to the man who led them to the first nine.

"Coach Solich was just on us all season to finish things. Finish big," he said. "This trophy was for him."

The win was the Cornhuskers' second in the Alamo Bowl in four years. They rolled over Northwestern 66-17 in 2000.

While Nebraska's offense amassed 389 total yards, its defense limited the Spartans' potent passing attack to 156 yards to go with 18 yards on the ground.

Quarterback Jeff Smoker was sacked five times, twice on Michigan State's first possession, and he threw three interceptions.

NCAA Bowl Schedule

Today

Houston Bowl
$1 million
Navy (8-4) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
$2 million
Washington State (9-3) vs. Texas (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
$750,000
Fresno St. (8-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$950,000
Wisconsin (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
$1.45 million
Minnesota (9-3) vs. Oregon (8-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
$1.35 million
Utah (9-2) vs. Southern Mississippi (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
$1.2 million
Missouri (8-4) vs. Arkansas (8-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

San Francisco Bowl
$825,000
Colorado State (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

AP Top 25

Men's Top 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (37)	9-1	1,711	1
2. Duke (5)	8-1	1,623	3
3. Georgia Tech (21)	11-0	1,606	4
4. Arizona (4)	7-1	1,442	5
5. Stanford (3)	9-0	1,427	6
6. Wake Forest (1)	7-0	1,389	8
7. Oklahoma	8-0	1,359	7
8. Kentucky	7-1	1,300	2
9. North Carolina	7-1	1,192	9
10. Saint Joseph's	9-0	1,183	10
11. Louisville	7-1	985	20
12. Cincinnati	8-0	940	14
13. Kansas	6-2	868	12
14. Florida	8-2	815	13
15. Pittsburgh	12-0	763	16
16. Gonzaga	8-2	758	15
17. Syracuse	7-1	665	17
18. Wisconsin	8-1	625	19
19. Texas	5-2	511	18
20. Illinois	7-2	460	21
21. Purdue	9-2	320	22
22. Vanderbilt	9-0	238	25
23. Missouri	4-3	178	11
24. Mississippi St.	10-0	139	—
25. Marquette	8-2	135	—

Others receiving votes: Florida St. 106, Providence 60, Dayton 54, Creighton 35, Maryland 31, LSU 27, Texas Tech 26, Memphis 21, Michigan 16, Oklahoma St. 10, BYU 9, Boston College 9, South Carolina 9, Colorado 8, Utah 6, Michigan St. 3, Iowa 2, Iowa St. 2, Rhode Island 2, SMU 2, UTEP 2, Virginia 2, Utah St. 1.

Women's Top 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (46)	8-0	1,173	1
2. Texas Tech	12-0	1,082	3
3. Texas (1)	11-1	1,075	5
4. Duke	8-1	1,057	4
5. Tennessee	7-1	1,008	2
6. Minnesota	9-0	892	7
7. Purdue	8-1	884	6
8. Louisiana Tech	7-1	816	8
9. Stanford	8-2	800	9
10. Penn St.	7-2	772	10
11. Kansas St.	7-2	684	11
12. Georgia	8-2	644	12
13. Colorado	9-1	551	13
14. North Carolina	9-1	538	14
15. Oklahoma	9-1	495	15
16. Virginia Tech	9-0	457	16
17. LSU	10-2	423	17
18. Ohio St.	8-1	401	18
19. TCU	8-1	252	19
20. DePaul	11-1	226	22
21. Auburn	9-2	173	20
22. Boston College	9-1	137	25
23. Michigan St.	8-1	120	24
24. Vanderbilt	10-0	109	—
25. Utah	8-3	90	23

Others receiving votes: UC Santa Barbara 62, Baylor 61, Villanova 50, Rutgers 45, Arizona 40, Oregon 38, George Washington 23, Miami 21, Florida 15, Clemson 14, Nebraska 8, Notre Dame 8, Virginia 6, Old Dominion 5, SW Missouri St. 5, Washington 5, South Carolina 4, Montana 3, California 2, Idaho 1.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	16	14	.533	—
Boston	16	16	.500	1
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	2½
Miami	13	18	.419	3½
New York	13	19	.406	4
Washington	8	20	.286	7
Orlando	8	24	.250	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	22	10	.688	—
New Orleans	19	12	.613	2½
Detroit	18	13	.581	3½
Toronto	15	14	.517	5½
Milwaukee	15	15	.500	6
Cleveland	10	21	.323	11½
Chicago	9	21	.300	12
Atlanta	8	24	.250	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	10	.688	—
Minnesota	19	10	.655	1½
Denver	19	11	.633	2
Dallas	17	12	.586	3½
Utah	17	14	.548	4½
Houston	16	14	.533	5
Memphis	15	16	.484	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	—
Sacramento	21	8	.724	½
Portland	15	14	.517	6½
Seattle	14	14	.500	7
Golden State	14	15	.483	7½
L.A. Clippers	12	15	.444	8½
Phoenix	12	20	.375	11

Monday's Games

Indiana 94, Memphis 86
New York 114, Orlando 86
Detroit 108, New Orleans 99
Portland 91, New Jersey 87
Miami 90, Chicago 83
Seattle 87, Houston 86
Utah 106, Philadelphia 97
Phoenix 113, L.A. Clippers 105
Boston 100, Golden State 91

Tuesday's Games

Indiana at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 6 p.m.
Miami at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Denver, 8 p.m.

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American Mix
Karaoke
American Legion
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NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE
with CONJUNTO MI GUSTO
Wednesday, Dec. 31st
8:00 pm - 12:00 midnight
$8.00 per person (before 9 pm)
Ring in the New Year
at the Snyder VFW
573-5338

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Employment

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Mobile Homes For Rent

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Mobile Homes

3B-2B-3CP, CH/A, 6 lots, water well, fenced, large shop, 959 N Ave. R., $5,000/dwn, $500/mo. 573-2251

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3B-1B-1CG, CH/A, cellar, fenced yard. Good condition. $37,500 $2,500/dwn., $550/mo. 573-2251

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Real Estate

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Bush administration to ban dietary supplement ephedra

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration has decided to ban the herbal weight-loss supplement ephedra from the marketplace because of concerns about its effects on health, government officials said today.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Food and Drug Administration chief Mark McClellan were to announce the ban at a midday news conference, the officials said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

Critics called the federal crackdown too late. Sales nationwide already have plummeted because of publicity about roughly 155 deaths blamed on the amphetamine-like stimulant, including Baltimore Orioles baseball player Steve Bechler earlier this year. Ephedra is linked to heart attacks and strokes, even when used by outwardly healthy people at recommended doses, because it speeds heart rate and constricts blood vessels.

Three states — New York, Illinois and California — have passed their own ephedra bans; use has been banned in professional football, college athletics and minor-league baseball, and several retail chains, including supplement giant General Nutrition Centers, recently quit selling it, too.

"It's a dead product and unfortunately it has become a dead product over the backs of a lot of dead people when the FDA could have acted before," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen, which petitioned the government for a ban in 2001.

Wolfe urged remaining manufacturers to recall all ephedra-containing products still on store shelves. For any future ephedra-linked injuries, "there's going to be hell to pay in terms of increased liability on the part of the companies that are allowing it to be sold," he said.

The supplement industry's Council for Responsible Nutrition said it didn't oppose a ban, noting that very few companies still make the stimulant — its members who once did no longer do so.

"We think the reputable players have found so much controversy and difficulty in this marketplace that they've decided to get out of it," said CRN's John Hathcock. "We recognize the controversy is a cloud over our whole industry."

Remaining ephedra manufacturers didn't immediately comment today, but have insisted that studies prove their products safe when used properly.

"Anyone who has read our label knows that we go to great lengths to inform our customers about the proper use of our products," Metabolife International chief executive Russell Schreck said over the summer. "We make it quite clear on our label that the ephedra products are not to be sold or used by minors and that customers with certain pre-existing medical conditions should 'consult a physician before product use'."

But several scientists said that it was impossible to prove whether ephedra was safe because studies screen out participants who have health problems — the people most likely to be hurt by the product.

The General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, looked into the issue and found many people who reported problems had followed the label's instructions.

The government ban, one of the first involving a dietary supplement, comes after Thompson this summer urged Congress to rewrite a law that rolled back dietary-supplement regulations and to require manufacturers to acknowledge potential side effects.

Because ephedra is an herb, U.S. law let it sell over-the-counter with little oversight unless the FDA could prove a clear danger to public health. Manufacturers blocked a 1997 FDA attempt to restrict sales of certain dosages and to put warning labels on the herb by arguing the agency lacked enough proof of danger.

In March, FDA again proposed those warnings and said it would re-examine a ban.

FedEx buying Kinko's copy shop for $2.4 billion

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Shipping giant FedEx Corp. agreed to buy the Kinko's copy shop chain for $2.4 billion in cash, the companies announced today.

The seller is buyout firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Inc., which owns approximately 75 percent of privately held Kinko's outstanding shares. FedEx already does business with Kinko's and has counters in many of its shops.

"The FedEx and Kinko's combination will substantially increase our retail presence worldwide and will enable both companies to take advantage of growth opportunities in the fast-moving digital economy," said Frederick W. Smith, FedEx chairman, president and chief executive officer.

The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2004.

Memphis-based FedEx runs the world's largest express transportation company. Kinko's is a leading provider of copying and other business services.

Smith told The Associated Press this morning that the acquisition is a "good fit" for the package delivery company because it will improve access to FedEx services.

FedEx has been Kinko's exclusive shipping provider since 1988 and already staffs counters in 134 of Kinko's 1,200 stores. After the purchase, FedEx will have full-service counters in all Kinko's stores.

"It will be an important channel for small and medium customers," Smith said.

The Kinko's management team is expected to remain in place, and company headquarters will continue to be located in Dallas.

Kinko's CEO Gary Kusin said the FedEx brand and deep financial reserves will bring a boost for his company.

"We currently are the 'back office' for hundreds of thousands of midsize businesses in copying, printing and computer services," he said. The acquisition will turn Kinko's into a "a one-stop back office," Kusin said.

Review

Continued from Page 1

Misti Reeder, Quinton Traylor, Darla Traylor for the staged robbery. An accomplice, Bradley George was later arrested.

September brought plans to call an election to form a hospital district for Scurry County. Seven Snyder doctors signed a resolution in favor of the district. The Scurry county clerk certified a petition with 393 names calling for the election.

Full-time enrollment for the WTC fall semester was up by some 20 students. Dr. Greg Williams, president, reported the total enrollment was 1,649.

Tomorrow, the final quarter of 2003.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.93	12.75	12.85	+ .07
AT&T Corp	19.97	19.80	19.93	— .03
Albertsons	22.57	22.41	22.45	— .09
Alltel	45.96	45.44	45.89	+ .34
AmElPw	30.42	30.13	30.38	+ .12
AndarkPtr	51.59	51.14	51.45	+ .16
ATMOS Egy	25.00	24.80	24.97	+ .06
Avaya	16.32	16.20	16.26	— .05
BP PLC	49.20	48.94	49.03	+ .06
BakerHughes	33.08	32.44	32.99	+ .50
Bank of Amer	80.45	80.00	80.30	
BellSouth	28.23	28.00	28.22	+ .05
BurlNoSFe	32.39	32.13	32.16	— .28
Caterpillar	84.77	84.21	84.62	+ .02
CenterPoint	9.74	9.62	9.69	— .02
ChevronTex	86.73	85.43	86.65	+ 1.15
Citigroup	48.44	48.15	48.41	+ .04
CocaCola	50.47	49.96	50.35	+ .19
ColgatePal	50.20	49.85	50.01	+ .03
CmclMetals	31.67	31.43	31.48	— .04
ConocoPhill	65.42	64.69	65.42	+ .56
Cooper Inds	57.90	57.57	57.89	+ .39
DaimlrChry	46.62	46.26	46.27	— .56
DeltaAirLines	11.94	11.75	11.91	+ .09
Dillards Inc	16.59	16.25	16.50	+ .15
DowChem	41.95	41.10	41.11	— .89
DuPont	45.97	45.53	45.73	— .21
EastmanChem	39.35	38.91	38.96	— .42
EstKodak	25.60	25.27	25.36	+ .09
EDS Corp	24.60	24.20	24.57	+ .33
Entergy	57.20	56.90	57.09	+ .03
ExxonMobil	40.94	40.53	40.91	+ .33
FootLocker	23.70	23.25	23.32	— .11
GenDynam	90.80	89.87	90.27	+ .01
GenElec	30.86	30.58	30.62	— .21
GenMills	45.41	45.16	45.40	— .02
GenMotors	54.20	53.42	53.46	— .24
GaPacific	31.11	30.64	30.96	+ .36
Goodrich	30.30	29.95	29.99	— .10
Goodyear	7.85	7.70	7.79	— .09
GtAtlPac	8.46	8.03	8.40	+ .37
Halliburtn	26.57	26.24	26.53	+ .36
Hanson PLC	36.56	36.15	36.19	+ .09
HarteHanks	21.90	21.55	21.75	+ .02
HomeDepot	35.66	35.20	35.35	— .23
HoneywellIntl	33.44	33.05	33.10	— .05
IBM	93.64	92.96	93.15	— .37
IntlPaper	43.24	42.94	43.00	— .12
JohnsonJn	51.62	51.00	51.15	— .10
KinderMorg	59.02	58.67	59.02	
Kroger Co	18.40	18.23	18.38	— .01
LockheedM	51.00	50.61	50.98	+ .22
Lowes Cos	55.17	54.32	54.80	— .20
Lubys	3.84	3.65	3.70	— .04
LucentTech	2.91	2.85	2.87	+ .01
MarathonOil	33.51	33.16	33.49	+ .29
MayDeptStr	28.85	28.50	28.64	— .01
Medtronic	48.73	48.35	48.64	+ .03
Motorola	14.07	13.92	13.94	— .10
NCR Corp	39.10	38.63	39.07	+ .02
Navistar	48.71	48.28	48.35	— .30
PNM Rescs	28.38	28.10	28.36	+ .35
Penney JC	26.21	25.76	26.19	+ .11
PepBoys	23.25	22.83	22.84	— .15
PepsiCo	46.70	46.30	46.54	— .22
PhelpDodge	79.95	78.60	78.80	— .60
PilgrimsPride	16.92	16.16	16.91	+ .23
Praxair s	38.18	37.70	37.81	— .32
ProctGamb	99.39	99.04	99.30	+ .10
RadioShack	31.17	30.84	31.02	— .15
RoyalDut	52.13	51.88	52.03	+ .25
SBC Comm	26.10	25.90	26.09	+ .20
SaraLee	21.50	21.30	21.46	
Scripps EW	94.18	93.98	94.02	+ .04
SearsRoeb	45.82	44.84	45.05	— .70
SherwinW	34.17	34.00	34.16	— .07
SouthernCo	30.41	30.12	30.34	+ .24
SwstAirl	16.04	15.88	16.00	— .02
SprintFON	16.21	16.03	16.17	— .03
SprintPCS	5.63	5.36	5.59	+ .23
Sunoco Inc	52.28	51.77	51.77	— .40
TXU Corp	23.79	23.40	23.52	— .21
TempleInland	62.81	62.43	62.44	— .17
TexInd	38.40	37.80	38.23	+ .23
TexasInst	29.54	29.11	29.47	+ .05
Textron	57.80	57.40	57.60	— .10
TimeWarner	18.11	17.87	17.93	— .05
TrinityInds	31.57	31.10	31.55	+ .50
TylerTech	10.00	9.90	10.00	+ .11
UnionPacif	69.34	69.08	69.09	— .40
USSteel	36.87	36.18	36.30	— .53
UnitedTech	95.50	94.60	94.93	— .61
Unocal	37.08	36.66	37.01	+ .15
VerizonComm	34.83	34.35	34.75	+ .43
WalMart	53.12	52.52	52.78	— .12
WellsFargo	58.76	58.53	58.76	— .02
WstnGasRs	47.50	47.20	47.49	— .01
WinnDixie	9.88	9.65	9.80	— .02
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U.S. mulls changes in mad cow testing

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. agriculture officials so far are standing by their detection system for mad cow disease, despite complaints from consumer groups that testing is inadequate.

Monday was the first regular business day since the Agriculture Department last week announced the nation's first case of mad cow disease in a Washington state dairy cow. Dr. Kenneth Petersen of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service said no additional inspections had been ordered and meat from cows that were too sick or injured to stand or walk unassisted would continue to be allowed to be sold for human consumption, provided there was no evidence of neurological problems.

However, Petersen said, "The department is looking at what additional testing we need to do." Under consideration are increased testing and expansion of a ban on animal feed, officials said.

U.S. agriculture officials in Tokyo trying to persuade the Japanese to lift that country's ban on American beef said the United States soon would announce more stringent safety measures, a Japanese official said on condition of anonymity.

The diseased cow's meat was allowed to be sold for human consumption because a USDA inspector saw only signs of a physical injury to the cow.

USDA ordered a recall of more than 10,000 pounds of meat from 20 cows slaughtered on the same day at the same Washington state company. The recalled meat was distributed to eight states and Guam, although officials said 80 percent of it went to Oregon and Washington.

USDA officials have said they ordered the recall as a precaution, insisting there was no threat to the safety of the U.S. food supply.

Matt Baun, a USDA spokesman, said about 100 callers, mostly from Oregon and Washington, had called to say they had consumed recalled meat and were worried.

Baun said they were being told the meat was safe since it was muscle meat and not affected.

Consumers Union said the government was being too optimistic about the situation. "This incident only serves to underscore the urgent need for the U.S. to immediately undertake a massive mad-cow disease-testing program on beef," the group said in a statement.

Democrats were carefully watching how the Bush administration handles what could turn into a crisis for consumers and the beef industry.

The United States and Canada have banned brain and spinal cord tissue from use in cattle feed. Those tissues are the primary means by which the mad cow diseased is transmitted. The ban, which took effect in August 1997, prohibits feeding cattle to other cattle, sheep and goats.

The prion that causes mad cow disease is not found in muscle tissue, the source of roasts, steaks and other beef cuts. Dr. Ron DeHaven, USDA's chief veterinary officer, said studies have shown the prion is found only in the central nervous system tissue, the brain and spinal cord.

He said the bans on American beef products in more than 30 countries in response to the current case — the first known incidence of mad cow in the United States — have been based on perceptions of the disease and not on scientific facts.

Still, Japan said the United States should first establish the facts surrounding the infection before asking the ban be lifted, the Japanese official said.

Similarly, Canadian officials said their U.S. counterparts were too quick to say that the sick Holstein came from Canada, since genetic testing is not complete and the tainted feed that is the most likely source of infection could have come from either country.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein said USDA's announcement angered him because the North American beef market was too integrated for that distinction to matter.

Authorities are looking for links between the Holstein infected with mad cow disease and a Canadian cow that was diagnosed with the deadly illness in May.

They also said they are searching for 81 Canadian-born cows from the same herd as the sick Holstein that records indicate entered the United States in late 2001.



Seven teens killed during N. Carolina police chase

TROUTMAN, N.C. (AP) — Eugene Arnold refused to let his 14-year-old son go joyriding with friends last weekend, a "fatherly instinct" that may have spared the teen from a horrific crash that killed seven of his peers following a police chase.

To be sure the message got across, Arnold brought his son, Nellow Brown, to the scene of the crash Monday.

"I wanted to let him see first-hand the loss of five, six or seven of your best friends," Arnold said.

Arnold said he refused his son's pleas to join companions on Sunday night. "I told him he was too young," Arnold said. "Call it fatherly instinct."

Arnold is among those in this rural North Carolina town who believe too much speed and too little driving experience caused the deadly crash. But some residents questioned whether a police officer may have chased them to their deaths.

The officer began chasing a 2001 Dodge Intrepid after he saw it weaving in its lane on U.S. Highway 21. The chase ended just after midnight when the car hit an embankment, flipped and landed in a creek.

The Highway Patrol said none of the victims had driver's licenses or wore seat belts. The car had a spare tire on the right rear and was traveling at between 80 and 100 mph at the time of the accident.

Troutman police Chief Eric Henderson said Monday that Officer Keith Bills followed proper policy during the short chase and will take off a couple of days before returning to duty.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003

Although the year ahead could start out a bit slowly and be problematic for you, as time gradually progresses, big changes could start to occur and those things that were dull or troublesome may be replaced with excitement and success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Usually you're a person who always thinks for yourself, but today another could have an undue amount of influence over you and convince you to take action that would be detrimental to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Be helpful whenever possible today, but don't let a lazy dolt saddle you with a nasty responsibility that this person should have taken care of themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your status in the eyes of your peers can be affected today by the company you keep — so be careful who you're seen with. Don't associate with anyone who could tarnish your image.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Without having to be told, you know what the proper course of action today is. Nevertheless, you might ignore your better judgment and do things that would be detrimental to your best interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone you know who tends to be argumentative to begin with might be spoiling for a heated exchange today. Give this individual a wide berth so you don't end up being his or her victim.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take pains to carefully check any lengthy itemized Christmas bills you get today, so that you don't end up paying for something that you never purchased. Financial mistakes are possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Place a limit on the assistance you offer a friend today. This person may initially come to you for advice and then expect you to carry out the plan that you suggested for him or her.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Although you may be instilled with industriousness today, the same may not be true of your co-workers. Unfortunately, their indolent ways could dominate and reflect on your work as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Should two friends of yours be at odds with each other today, it is best not to butt in. No matter how hard you try, you'll not function well in the role of peacemaker if they don't want peace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Usually you're the type of person who is the first to praise another for something well done. However, the green-eyed monster may uncharacteristically suppress this noble quality today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Stand firm on any arrangement that you've worked out with another in the past. Make certain this person keeps things fair and don't let any selfish interest prevail on your part either.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You might want to make an excuse not to do so if a friend asks you to purchase something for him or her while you're out shopping today. Chances are, no matter what you get, it won't be acceptable.

Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Wife too tired to tango with husband hot to trot

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "John" for 11 years. We have four beautiful children. John earns enough money so I can be a stay-at-home mom to our little ones.

My problem is, John's sexual appetite is insatiable. It's driving me crazy. He demands sex twice a day and more often on weekends. If I tell him I'm tired or stressed, he threatens to find a girlfriend or a hooker. I don't know how much longer I can go on like this. Please help me. — **SEX SLAVE IN WICHITA**

DEAR SEX SLAVE: With four children under the age of 10, it's no wonder you're feeling tired and stressed. Has your husband always been this way? If this is new behavior, he may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated by a physician. If it is not new behavior, then I hope you realize your problem isn't about sex as much as it is about dominance. Your husband is using sex as a bludgeon to keep you in line and show you who's boss.

Marriage is supposed to be a union, a partnership. Marriage counseling could help you both bring your real issues out into the open and improve the level of communication between you. If John refuses, go without him so you can learn assertiveness skills. If you continue to tolerate the status quo, well, your signature says it all.

**

DEAR ABBY: Recently I began a wonderful relationship with "Arnie," the man of my dreams.

My problem is, he is hiding our relationship from certain members of his family. He told his youngest daughter about me, and she likes me so much she calls me Mom.

Arnie and his daughter tell me to remain silent when other family members call on the phone. If one of them comes to the door, they tell me to hide in another room.

Should I be concerned about this? Or should I let Arnie decide when it's time to tell the rest of his family? — **STRESSED-OUT IN LAS VEGAS**

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: Something is not kosher here. Could Arnie be ashamed of you? Could he still be married? By all means, you should be concerned. If you continue to tolerate this behavior, you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother with an 11-year-old daughter. We live in a small two-bedroom apartment.

My sister, her husband and their three kids moved in with us from out of state because they didn't like it where they were. When they arrived, my sister said they would only stay for two weeks. That was three months ago.

In addition, they are broke. My brother-in-law lost his job and is not looking for another one. I work but make just enough for my daughter and me.

They're costing me a fortune. My electricity bill has doubled, plus there is no privacy. Please help! — **DAMSEL IN DISTRESS**

DEAR DAMSEL: You've been a supportive sister. Now it's time to draw the line. Set a date for them to move out and stick to it. Enough is enough.

**

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

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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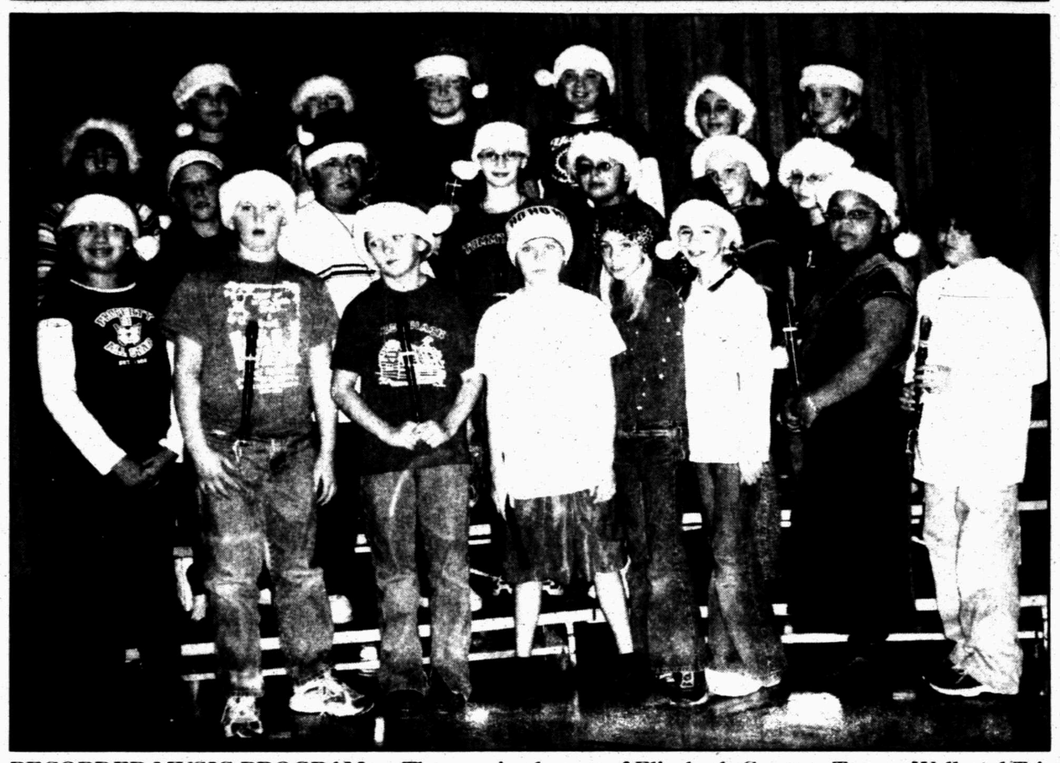
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RECORDER MUSIC PROGRAM — The music classes of Elizabeth Conger, Teresa Wall and Triesta Lilly presented a Recorder Karate concert. Mrs. Conger's students (top photo) include first row left to right, Matthew Daniell, Chad Pechacek, Bridget Garcia, Devin Blackwell, Savannah Valdez, Isaac White and Heather Crawford. Second row from left are Ana Cabrera, Brayden Culwell, Abby Infante, Tyler Sawyer, Xalee Northcutt and Scott Smith. Third row from left are Samantha Morin, Caitlin Caffey, Cassie Gunset, Clayton Eubank, Alexia Hernandez, Roy Mojica, Coree Brooks, Rebecca Silva and Rudy Perez. Mrs. Wall's students (bottom photo) are first row from left, Daniella Jaquez, Chad Greene, Dillon West, Troy Henry, Sky Morris, Baylee Lewis, Tai Dean and Donnie Medrano. Second row from left, Jessica Elizondo, Chance Young, Alex Yanes, Baily Jones, Lupe Garza, Kaylee Lord and Jessica Jones. Third row from left, Marcus Berniard, Tiffany Stack, Brandon Scott, Madison Guzman, Trent Ruiz and Kendra Peterson. Not pictured are Chelsea Alarcon ad Ariel Villazana. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Houston man to rebuild homes in native Iran following quake

HOUSTON (AP) — Mahmoud Olya is taking a hands-on approach to helping earthquake victims in his native Iran.

He plans to build two new homes "brick by brick" for families displaced by the earthquake that devastated the city of Bam.

More than 25,000 bodies have been retrieved since Friday's 6.6-magnitude quake shook the ancient city and its surrounding region in southeast Iran, officials said. At least 10,000 people were believed injured.

Olya, 52, said he will spend $30,000 of his own money to build two one-bedroom houses. The Tehran native said he hopes to begin construction by March, when warmer weather reaches the region, and to finish the homes in two or three months.

His wife, Samineh Olya, who lives in Tehran with the couple's 19-month-old daughter, Eleena, will help determine which displaced families will move into the new homes.

"I will choose the neediest ones," he told the Houston Chronicle.

Mahmoud Olya, who immigrated to the United States in 1975, owns Nations' Property and Management in Houston. A plumber and an electrician, he said he will help workers pour foundations, lay bricks, place pipes and string wires for the homes he builds.

He said he would rather build homes than send money to organizations.

"I feel better to spend my money when I know where it goes, brick by brick on top of each other," Mahmoud Olya said.

Many structures in Bam are made from mud bricks and tree trunks and are plastered with mud and twigs, with little roof support, Mahmoud Olya said. He said he will build homes with brick and steel-reinforced concrete.

"I would like to make them earthquake-proof," he said. "I'd like them to be a symbol of how to do it."

Other Iranians in Houston plan to donate money to the general relief effort. But care must be taken when sending donations to the Iranian people because U.S. sanctions prohibit donating funds that might go to the Iranian government. The United States considers the government a sponsor of terrorism.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Better options than malpractice litigation

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm considering suing a local physician for malpractice. In your opinion, would the other doctors in my community treat me unfairly if I have to visit them in the future?

DEAR READER: I don't know. This is a complex issue, and the answer to your question depends on your community.

If the doctor you're going to sue is a reputable, "beloved" practitioner who is reliable, competent and caring, you may take a lot of heat and criticism from his colleagues and your neighbors. At the very least you'll be labeled a troublemaker.

Some doctors may even be unwilling to treat you, because they won't want to place themselves at risk. This could make life difficult for you in a small town. (It would be less of a problem in a city or suburb.)

Having said this, I should add that most doctors would not treat you unfairly, regardless of the circumstances. Once a doctor accepts you as a patient, he is ethically bound to treat you as he would anyone else. But, as I said, they may not be willing to take responsibility for your health care.

On the other hand, if the potential defendant has been a party in other malpractice suits, provides generally substandard care, is disliked by the community and is not popular among his colleagues, you probably don't have to worry about the consequences.

I recommend that you don't sue, however, unless you have really suffered from bad care. Malpractice litigations are messy, stressful and time-consuming; everybody (except the attorneys) suffers. Legal action is not an appropriate method of dealing with disagreements, anger and frustration.

I suggest that you make a formal complaint to the doctor's county or state medical society. Upon receipt of the complaint, appropriate authorities will investigate your claims and act on them. The process will not be public, but the outcome — which may range from reprimand to loss of medical license — may satisfy you.

Moreover, if the grievance committee determines that malpractice may, indeed, have been committed, this finding will greatly help your case in court. Should your disagreement with your doctor stem from problems regarding fees and similar issues, the medical society may force the physician to make restitution. At the very least, you'll get a fair hearing with little or no inconvenience, embarrassment or bad publicity.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband, 38, has puffy eyelids. This has developed over the last several years. What do you recommend?

DEAR READER: Puffy, swollen eyelids are related to a variety of health conditions, ranging from obesity and stress to excess fluid retention due to heart failure or kidney disease. Your husband should have a thorough examination, blood tests and imaging studies by his family physician.

Once the diagnosis has been established, the doctor can recommend appropriate therapy, such as diuretic medicine or plastic surgery. Remember also that heredity may play a role in how your husband looks; if his father or mother has puffy eyelids, he, too, may develop them as he ages.

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

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

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Tiger gives birth at new home in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — One of the two dozen tigers formerly housed at a New Jersey animal preserve has given birth to four cubs, but officials say one of them was stillborn.

The approximately 4-year-old tiger gave birth on Christmas Eve at the Wild Animal Orphanage, the Texas facility where the tigers were moved in November. A judge had ordered them removed from the Tigers Only Preservation Society in Ocean County, New Jersey.

The move ended nearly five years of legal wrangling between New Jersey officials and Joan Byron-Marasek, who owns the 12-acre compound. The tiger's pregnancy was not discovered until the sanctuary took ownership of the tigers Nov. 11, and it was not expected to give birth for about six weeks.

The tiger had two males and two females, but one of the latter cubs was stillborn. Carol Asvestas, owner of the San Antonio sanctuary, said the three surviving cubs appear healthy and are doing well, but they have been removed from their mother because of concerns about her health.

Controllers reposition European orbiter to help search for lander

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Mission controllers today redirected Europe's Mars Express orbiter closer to the Red Planet's poles, taking a crucial first step to push it into a lower orbit where it will be able to listen for its missing Beagle 2 surface probe.

Officials at the European Space Agency's mission control center in Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt, adjusted the orbit by firing the main engine of Mars Express for five minutes at about 3 a.m. EST, spokesman Bernhard von Weyhe said.

The maneuver "has been completed very successfully," he said.

The British-built Beagle 2 is believed to have reached the Martian surface early on Christmas Day, its impact softened by gas bags and parachutes. But several attempts to hear its signal have not been successful.

NASA's orbiting Mars Odyssey searched again today after five successive days of silence, but there was no immediate word on the results. Efforts by researchers using powerful radio telescopes at the Jodrell Bank observatory in England and Stanford University in California have also come up empty.

Today's maneuver allowed controllers to move Mars Express, launched into orbit around Mars on Dec. 25, from some 117,000 miles over Mars' equator to roughly the same height, but over the planet's poles.

NASA spacecraft to collect samples from distant comet

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A spacecraft is on track to catch a comet by its tail later this week, capturing hundreds of specks of dust from the shimmering cloud that envelops the dirty ball of ice and rock, according to NASA.

The Stardust spacecraft is expected to fly within 186 miles of comet Wild 2 on Friday, collecting samples and snapping photographs. At the time, the comet and probe will be 242 million miles from Earth.

During the flyby, Stardust should capture roughly 1,000 particles of dust ripped from Wild 2 (pronounced vilt-two) by streams of gases boiled from the comet's surface by the warming rays of the sun. Scientists are eager to study the dust since it represents pristine examples of the building blocks of our solar system, preserved for billions of years by the cold of space.

They also believe the dust contains many of the organic compounds necessary for life. Comets that pelted the Earth long ago could have delivered those molecules to our planet.

"This could prove to be a pivotal time for science, a remarkable opportunity to gather evidence that might actually tell us how the planets formed and give us clues about how life on Earth began," said Donald Brownlee, a University of Washington astronomer.

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DEC 30 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Dem presidential race lopsided brawl

WASHINGTON (AP) — Infighting between Howard Dean and some of his rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination has gotten so nasty of late that Dean called on party chairman Terry McAuliffe to step in and tone things down. In the process, Dean managed to insult McAuliffe.

Republican strategists, meanwhile, are watching it all with barely contained glee.

"They are beginning to really gouge this guy," Republican pollster Bill McInturff said about Dean, chuckling. "Look at Howard Dean and, as a Republican, think about the advertising we're going to run."

McInturff said Republicans could use John Kerry's quotes about Dean wanting to tax the middle class, or the "wonderful attack" from Wesley Clark about Dean's draft status or the "terrific comments" from Joe Lieberman about Dean's stance on Saddam Hussein's capture.

Kerry has criticized Dean's plan to roll back all of President Bush's tax cuts, including those for the middle class. Clark has assailed Dean for heading to the ski slopes after getting a medical deferment to avoid military service in Vietnam. Lieberman has ridiculed Dean's assertion that Saddam's capture did not make Americans safer.

For now, Republicans don't have to worry about beating up on Dean, who is ahead of his fellow Democrats in the polls nationally and in states with early nominating contests. His Democratic rivals are taking care of the job.

Security is stepped up for international flights over U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge today hailed the response of other nations so far in the U.S. quest to get air marshals deployed, if necessary, to protect commercial airplanes against terrorist attack.

"I'd put the family on the plane," Ridges said when asked about how strongly he felt about new safety measures the Bush administration has undertaken.

Ridge made the rounds of morning news shows a day after the Department of Homeland Security issued a new directive giving the government the option of denying access to U.S. airspace to airlines which do not cooperate.

"Working with our partners around the world, I think we have made great progress in this area," said Ridge. Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America" show, he called the move "an added level of security."

"People travel. People must travel," Ridge said. "We cannot submit to the fear associated with the continuous scream that they (terrorists) would use aviation as a means of attack."

Under the new policy, foreign airlines risk being denied access to American airspace if they don't obey the new directive that some international flights crossing over or headed to the United States must carry an armed law enforcement officer to thwart terrorists, Homeland Secretary officials said earlier.

"Any sovereign government retains the right to revoke the privilege of flying to and from a country or even over their airspace," Ridge told a news conference Monday. "So ultimately a denial of access is the leverage that you have."

There has been no indication so far that any country will refuse U.S. demands to place guards on designated flights.

Ridge also said the nation would remain at the "Code Orange" high alert through the New Year's holiday and perhaps beyond. "We are as concerned today as we were yesterday," he said Monday. "We'll be concerned as much this week as we were last week."

The new directive requires selected international flights that enter U.S. airspace to carry an armed law enforcement officer aboard. The Homeland Security Department will require such officers on airplanes where intelligence information leads to a specific concern about that flight.

For months, U.S. security officials have feared that al-Qaida operatives would again hijack planes to use them as missiles. The most recent concerns centered not on domestic passenger flights, but on airliners or cargo planes that take off from overseas and cross over U.S. airspace.

Three arrested in city, county

Arrests

Two arrests were made in Snyder and Scurry County on Monday and this morning.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody in the 900 block of Coliseum Dr. at 5:16 a.m. today for minor in consumption of alcohol, unlawful carrying a weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia. A female juvenile, also in the vehicle, was charged with minor in consumption of alcohol and released to her mother.

At 2:58 p.m. Monday a 19-year-old woman was taken into custody on U.S. 84 near the Snyder city limits and charged with possession of marijuana.

Burglary

Two vehicles were reported burglarized on Tuesday.

A caller reported at 3:05 p.m. that her purse, along with a number of miscellaneous items, were stolen from 2800 Ave. T.

Officers responded to a call from a home at 1901 Ave. O at 12:18 p.m. Tuesday where it was reported that a purse had been stolen.

Disturbance

An officer was requested to a home on Ave. L at 3:43 p.m. Tuesday in reference to an assault by a family member. A subject was transported to the Law Enforcement Center to meet with a representative of MHMR.

Monday evening a caller reported a family disturbance at Trailertopia on the Lamesa Hwy. An officer made contact with both subjects and was advised the argument was verbal only.

Gas drive off

A caller Monday from Phillips 66 Super Station on Coliseum Drive reported that a subject had driven away from the pump without paying for $19.52 worth of gas.

A clerk at McD's 66 on College Ave. reported at 6:01 p.m. Monday that a subject left the business without paying for $31.97 in gas.

Obituaries

Jose Madera

1916-2003

Jose G. Madera, longtime Snyder resident, died Saturday, Dec. 27, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Rosary for Mr. Madera, 87, is set for 7 this evening in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with Deacon Frank Ortegon officiating.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Fr. Roy Badilles officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Jose Medera

Born Nov. 17, 1916 in Minillas, Jalisco Mexico, he married Guadalupe Bonilla in 1957 in Coleman. She preceded him in death.

A member of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mr. Madera was groundskeeper at Snyder County Club for 16 years.

Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca Fernandez of Chicago; two brothers, Antonio Madera of Mexico and Alejandro Madera of Snyder; a nephew and his wife, Ricardo and Erma Madera of Snyder; two great-nephews, Ricardo and Omar Madera, both of Snyder; two great-nieces, Erma and Brijida Madera, both of Snyder; and two grandchildren.

Rufus Scott

1945-2003

Rufus Lee Scott of Snyder died Friday, Dec. 26, in Snyder.

Graveside service for Mr. Scott, 58, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in Hillside Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Tony Wofford officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Mr. Scott was born Nov. 1, 1945 in Brookshire, Texas.

Survivors include a daughter, Rachel Deann Scott of Snyder; his mother, Eva Mae Scott of Snyder; four sisters, Dorothy Evans and Eddie Scott, both of Brookshire, Annie Lee of Las Vegas, Nev., and Virginia Callins of Houston; five brothers, Robert Scott of Midland, Thomas Scott of Brookshire, Arthur Scott of Washington, D.C., and Carl Scott and Benny Scott, both of Snyder; a stepson, Anthony Wortham of San Jose, Calif.

M.L. Broman

1904-2003

MALAKOFF — M.L. Broman, a former Snyder resident who was active in civic affairs, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, in East Texas Medical Center.

Funeral service for Mr. Broman, 99, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Tomlinson Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be in the Fairway Crematory in Van.



Browman

Born Oct 13, 1904 in Portland, Ore., he was married to Eleanor Broman who died in 1989. He also was preceded in death by his parents, Olaf and Jenny Andersen Broman.

A 1928 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in geological engineering, Mr. Broman was superintendent for Chevron Oil Company's SACROC unit in Snyder. He retired in 1969 and moved to Star Harbor.

While in Snyder, Mr. Broman served as mayor from January 1965 to April 1968 and he was on the founding board and first board president of Western Texas College.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Jim and Judy Suggs of Ovilla; three grandchildren, Michael Suggs, Molly Zartman and Alexander Suggs; and two great-grandchildren, Preston and Ashley Zartman.

Linda Garza

1970-2003

PATTERSON, Calif. — Linda Bernal Garza, a native of Snyder, died in an automobile accident Saturday, Dec. 27, in Stockton, Calif.

Funeral Mass for Mrs. Garza, 33, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Patterson. Burial will follow in the Patterson District Cemetery.

Born Nov. 27, 1970 in Snyder, she moved to Patterson with her family seven years later. She currently resided in Stockton, Calif.

Survivors include her husband, Jesse Garza of Stockton; two sons, Jesse Jr. and Joey Garza, both of the home; two daughters, Erika and Aliza Garza, both of the home; her mother, Melinda Bernal of Newman, Calif.; two brothers, Lupe Bernal Jr. and Rudy Bernal, both of Newman, Calif.; one sister, Francis Rodriquez of Modesta, Calif.; an aunt, Mary Bernal of Hermleigh; two uncles, Juan Bernal of Sweetwater and Roalio Bernal of Quanah; and numerous cousins.

Jean Howell

1937-2003

Graveside service for Margaret Jean Howell, retired owner of the Beauty Pub in Snyder, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Double Mountain Cemetery in Peacock. Roland Bruns was to officiate and arrangements were under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Mrs. Howell, 66, died Monday, Dec. 29, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Born Jan. 26, 1937 in Hamlin, Mrs. Howell was a hairdresser for 30 years and owned the Beauty Pub until 1998.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Julia Perry Williams; and three brothers, Raymond, Alvin and Otis Perry.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters-in-law, Ricky Howell and Mike and Toni Howell, all of Snyder, and Robert and Kim Stoneman of Bertram; a daughter, Angela Elledge of Snyder; a sister, Lorene Pitcock of Lubbock; five grandchildren, Sam Elledge and wife Victoria of San Antonio, Derek Howell of Merkel, Jacob Thomas and Sam Thomas, both of Bertram, and Crystal Babb and husband Jake of Snyder; three great-granddaughters, Jasmine Elledge, Taylor Babb and Andrea Elledge, all of Snyder; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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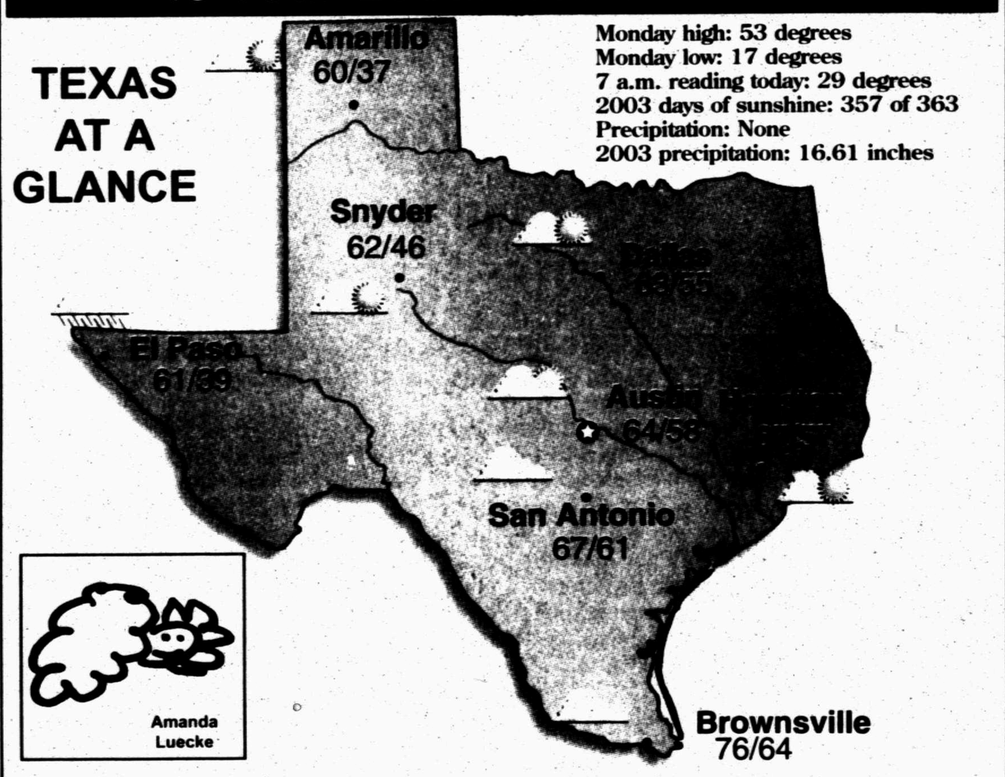
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2
62/46	66/44	66/41
Partly cloudy. High 62F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.	Morning showers. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:48 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:49 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 5:49 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS
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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high: 53 degrees
Monday low: 17 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 29 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 357 of 363
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	65	51	mst sunny	El Paso	61	39	rain	Midland	64	46	pt sunny
Amarillo	60	37	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	68	48	pt sunny	Raymondville	75	63	cloudy
Austin	64	58	cloudy	Gainesville	61	50	mst sunny	Rosenberg	67	57	pt sunny
Beaumont	67	55	pt sunny	Greenville	61	50	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	61	cloudy
Brownsville	76	64	cloudy	Houston	67	57	pt sunny	San Marcos	65	59	cloudy
Brownwood	66	53	pt sunny	Kingsville	74	64	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	62	50	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	71	64	cloudy	Livingston	65	52	pt sunny	Sweetwater	64	50	pt sunny
Corsicana	63	54	pt sunny	Longview	63	51	mst sunny	Tyler	63	51	mst sunny
Dallas	63	55	pt sunny	Lubbock	63	39	pt sunny	Weatherford	63	50	pt sunny
Del Rio	63	55	cloudy	Lufkin	65	52	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	64	48	mst sunny

National Cities

Atlanta	58	32	sunny	Houston	67	57	pt sunny	Phoenix	66	47	cloudy
Boston	44	33	mst sunny	Los Angeles	64	49	pt sunny	San Francisco	57	48	rain
Chicago	47	26	windy	Miami	77	65	pt sunny	Seattle	41	34	mixed
Dallas	63	55	pt sunny	Minneapolis	26	17	pt sunny	St. Louis	50	36	sunny
Denver	51	28	pt sunny	New York	47	35	mst sunny	Washington, DC	50	34	mst sunny

Moon Phases

First	New	First	Full
Dec 30	Jan 21	Jan 29	Feb 6

UV Index

Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2
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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