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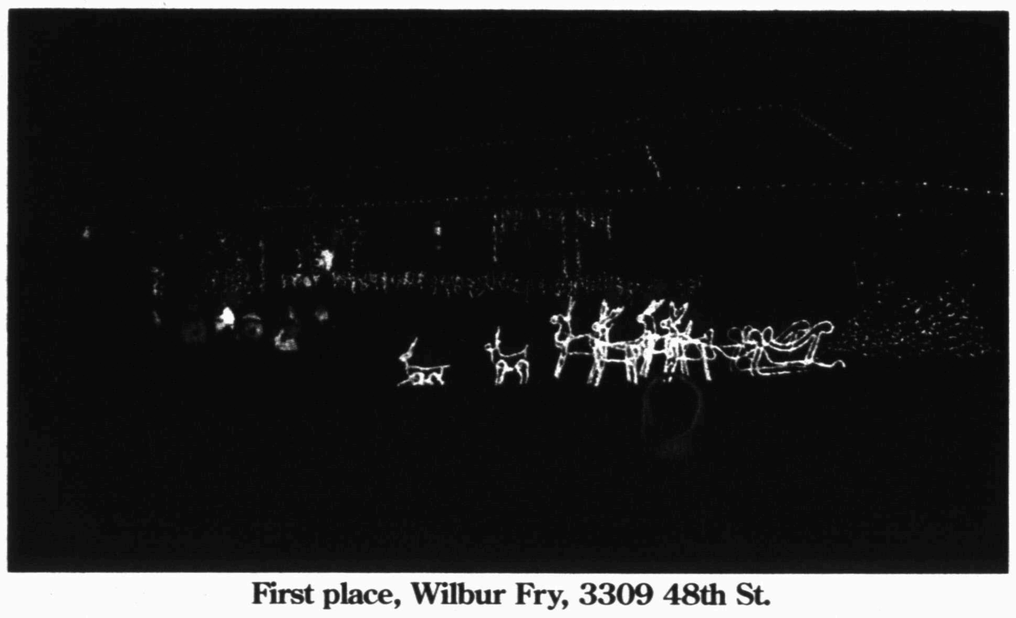
WT-Int. Crude - $30.30
WTIC Posted - $27.00
Natural Gas - $4.995

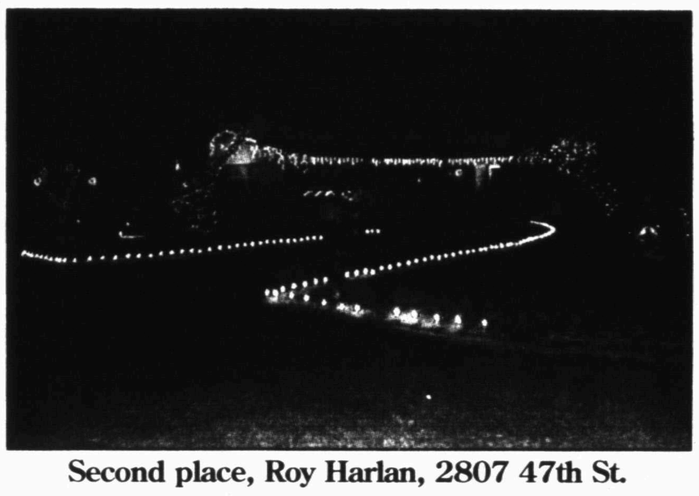
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Dec. 23, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 203
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Teddi Crenwelge

Christmas lighting winners...



First place, Wilbur Fry, 3309 48th St.



Second place, Roy Harlan, 2807 47th St.

Third place, Jeanie Jackson, 94 CR 112

The Snyder Gold Coats announced the Wilbur Fry home, 3309 48th Street, first place winner in the home decorating and lighting contest. The Roy Harlan home at 2807 47th Street was second and the Jeanie Jackson home at 94 CR 112 took third place. Honorable mention went to Red and Pat Faver at 4107 Midland. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

Holiday closings

The Christmas holiday will prompt local financial institutions to close early Tuesday — Christmas Eve.

Snyder National Bank, West Texas State Bank, American State Bank and Texas Savings Bank will close at noon for the holiday and are to reopen at regular time Thursday.

First American Bank will shut its doors at 2 p.m. tomorrow and also will resume normal hours Thursday.

Scurry County Library will close for Christmas at 6 p.m. today. The library will reopen Thursday and will close at 6 p.m. that day also.

City and county offices will close Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular hours will resume Thursday.

The city landfill will remain open today and Christmas Eve, but will close Christmas Day and Saturday.

The postal service will not deliver mail Christmas Day and none will be put in boxes.

Regular delivery resumes Thursday.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.58
North of city	.30
East of city	.50
West of city	1.00
Lake Thomas	.30
Hermleigh	.30
Fluvanna	1.00
Polar	.80
Loyd Mountain	.60
Camp Springs	.50
Dunn	.30
Ira	.60
Dermott	1.50
Union	.44
Gail	.50
Gins	
Farmers Co-Op (E)	.40
Sc. County (W)	.50

Totals as reported by area residents for Monday morning.

DEC 23 2002

Snow to tornadoes...

Texas records a mixture of weather

From staff, wire reports

Snow and thunderstorms mark the beginning of the holiday week, with as much as 7 inches of snow expected in areas of the Panhandle and South Plains and thunderstorms likely throughout North and South Texas.

Forecasters issued heavy snow warnings for much of the Panhandle area as well as some areas of the South Plains through tonight. Winds from the north and northeast were expected to range from 5 to 20 mph with temperatures ranging from lows around 15 to highs in the mid 30s.

Areas along the Texas-Oklahoma border were under snow advisories and other areas of the South Plains were under winter storm watches.

Hereford reported five inches of snow on the ground this morning while Scurry County residents awoke early this morning to a thunder and lightning show.

Snyder's fire department responded to two fires at tank batteries caused by lightning. At 3 a.m., firemen responded to a fire west of Snyder near the magnesium plant, and at 6 a.m., a fire was reported 13 miles north on Hwy. 208.

The official rain gauge at the city water treatment plant recorded over a half-inch of moisture.

Showers and thunderstorms were expected through most of North Texas and some areas of South Texas today. Some thunderstorms may be severe, with winds coming mostly from the north and northeast at 5 to 20 mph. Temperatures will range from the upper 30s to lower 70s in the South and the upper 20s to the upper 50s in the North.

Deep South Texas was expected to be spared the thunderstorms, with cloudy and breezy weather and a slight chance of showers.

Some parts of West Texas may have thunderstorms, with chances of rain throughout much of the region. Temperatures are expected to range from 25 in the Permian Basin to 60 along the Rio Grande.

And near Elgin, a doublewide trailer was destroyed and one woman was treated for minor injuries after severe weather ripped through Central Texas this morning.

The storm, reported at 6:45 a.m., damaged a half-mile swath of land for two to three miles between Manor and Elgin, said Lt. Mike Liesman of the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

The National Weather Service had not immediately determined if a tornado touched down in the area about 20 miles east of Austin.

Neighbors reported that the inhabitants of the doublewide had left the area either Sunday night or early Monday morning, before the storm hit, Liesman said.

Television station News 8 Austin reported that strong winds damaged a taco stand, bent trees and ripped metal fences from the ground.

Liesman said there were three wrecks on U.S. Highway 290, and one woman was treated for minor injuries.

Cristy Mitchell of the National Weather Service said the storm caused a car to flip over and tore a roof off of a gas station.

Sen. Graham may run for 2004 presidency

MIAMI (AP) — Sen. Bob Graham said today he is seriously considering running for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, because he is not satisfied with President Bush's leadership as the country faces unprecedented economic and military problems.

Graham, 66, is a 16-year senator who also served as Florida's governor from 1978-86 and was recently the chairman of the Senate's Intelligence Committee. He spoke today after he appeared on a Haitian-American radio talk show, where he received several calls asking if he intended to run.

"I'm thinking seriously about options, including the option of running for president," Graham told reporters. "This is a very difficult time for America. We're facing unprecedented problems in terms of our domestic economy, in terms of our international relations, particularly the war on terrorism and Iraq."

Anti-Iraq military coalition building slowly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has slowly and quietly begun building momentum for an international military coalition to challenge Iraq's Saddam Hussein as wavering allies have gotten on board in recent weeks.

Nations such as Canada that had expressed doubts about joining a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq a few months ago have changed course since the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution last month ordering Saddam to disarm. As U.N. weapons inspectors resumed their work in Iraq for the first time in four years, more countries began talking openly of their support for military action should the inspections fail.

Besides staunch allies like Britain and Australia, the list of countries agreeing to aid a military campaign against Iraq now includes Iraq's northern neighbor, Turkey; other NATO allies such as Italy, Spain, Denmark and Portugal; and Arab states including Kuwait and Qatar.

"When the (Bush) administration invested in the inspections process and decided to go the route of the United Nations, that's what a lot of these countries needed to hear," said Michael Donovan, an analyst at the private Center for Defense Information.

"It's not so much because they necessarily felt Saddam was worthy of one more chance. The inspections process was the political cover they required for even quiet support of an operation like this."

Some countries, especially new or aspiring NATO members such as Romania and Bulgaria, have been eager to offer help. Despite reservations by Germany and France, NATO itself is considering aiding any Iraq campaign, albeit mainly in a supporting role.

Going to the United Nations showed reluctant countries that President Bush was willing to make the fight against Saddam an international one, analysts said.

"What it means is, even if we don't get a second Security Council resolution (authorizing force), we'll still be in a better place," said Michael O'Hanlon of the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution. "I think we'll get a decent coalition."

Bush and other officials have said they welcome military and other assistance from abroad, pointing to the more than 90 nations helping in the global war on terrorism. But they have said repeatedly they will not let coalition partners change U.S. plans or keep America out of the fray.

The administration has approached about 50 countries to ask if they would be willing to help in any military action against Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said last month.

Donald Rumsfeld

"Some have said they will help a lot, some have said a little," Rumsfeld said. "Some have asked that what they are prepared to do be kept confidential."

Another reason the coalition is growing is that countries realize the United States has the military power to make Saddam's ouster virtually certain.

"There is a growing acceptance internationally that a war is unavoidable against Iraq," said Nile Gardiner, a visiting scholar at the conservative Heritage Foundation. "Most countries will want to be seen supporting the winning side."

That motive could prompt more Arab countries to join the anti-Iraq coalition, at least quietly, to be in a better position to protect their interests after Saddam's ouster.

SDN delivered early on Christmas Eve

Letters to Santa Claus will be featured in the annual Christmas Eve edition of the Snyder Daily News that will be delivered early Tuesday morning.

It will also contain Christmas greetings from the Snyder business community.

The SDN will not publish Christmas Day and will return to the regular publication schedule Thursday.

ASK US

Q—When was Snyder's last white Christmas?

A—Christmas 2000 saw heavy snows that closed U.S. 84 and stranded motorists in Snyder.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Shane Christensen...

...is a ceramics and art instructor at Western Texas College. He and wife, Lisa, have lived in Snyder almost five years. The couple and their daughter, Nicole, 19 months, received an early Christmas present as the newest member of the family, Parker, is one week old. Shane's favorite hobby is working on his 1969 Chevy.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Wisdom is knowing what to overlook.
—William James

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Support groups

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

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will not have its monthly stated meeting today due to the holidays. The next stated meeting will be held Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Esther, a Woman of Destiny," followed by "What On Earth Am I Doing Here?"

Christmas Eve service

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

Candlelight Christmas Eve service

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

Christmas Eve candlelight service

The First United Methodist Church will have a candle light service on Christmas Eve beginning at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve service

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 11 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2712 Ave. R. The public is invited.

Landfill closed Wednesday

The City of Snyder landfill will be open Tuesday but closed Christmas Day and also Saturday.

FBC services televised

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

Tate retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of J.B. Tate Jr., president of Texas Savings Bank, will be held from 9 a.m. until noon Friday at the bank.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of Supt. Jerry Church will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Hermleigh High School cafeteria.

Windbreak trees

Orders for windbreak trees and drip irrigation are being taken at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office through Jan. 31. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Highway. Call 573-6317, ext. 2.

SHS booster club fund raiser

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

Choir trip planned

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

Trinity Bible study

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

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICK-TASP include Jan. 4, 12:30 p.m.; Jan. 7, 9 a.m.,1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m.; and Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Tigers Lair yearbook

Orders for 2002 Tigers Lair yearbooks are still being taken. The cost is $50 with additional options available. Call 574-6138 for information.

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.

FBC support groups

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

Colorful Miami judge dies at 73

MIAMI (AP) — Judge Ellen "Maximum" Morphonios, who prosecuted rock star Jim Morrison for allegedly exposing himself, took her pet chimpanzee to the office and was known as "Time Machine" for her long sentences, has died at the age of 73.

Morris died Sunday of stomach cancer.

"It's just not like her to die," said Anne Cates, a former assistant. "She was always a fighter."

She got her nickname "Maximum" for the 1,000-year sentences she gave robbers and rapists.

"Even the criminals had a lot of respect — they nicknamed her 'Time Machine' because they knew if they went before her and were found guilty, they were going to do a lot of time," said Lloyd Hough, a retired Miami-Dade County police detective.

Morphonios was known for her idiosyncrasies: decorating her chambers in lavender, moonlighting as talk-radio personality "Lady Ellen," and taking Toto, her chimpanzee, to work.

Morphonios sentenced one robber to 1,197 years in prison after he urinated on the courtroom floor. She made him leave without his pants.

When another defendant's mother passed out on the floor, Morphonios continued with her business.

Brian Dennehy to star in Enron movie

HOUSTON (AP) — A movie that purports to tell the Enron story will premier Jan. 5, when CBS airs "The Crooked E: the Unshredded Truth about Enron."

Enron's corporate scandal is used as only a backdrop to a story about a few characters caught up in the debacle.

Brian Dennehy will play Mr. Blue, a composite character based on several Enron executives, who introduces a young executive to the company's arrogant ways.

The scandal certainly has the stuff of which a great movie can be made, said Jim Ragan, director of the University of Southern California's professional writing program.

"Many of the great movies are about backdrop. Doctor Zhivago had the Russian Revolution. Gone with the Wind had the Civil War," Ragan said in today's Houston Chronicle.

"Enron has greed, deals in Washington, a company trying to show profits at all costs. That's the approach I would take. That would be the backdrop. The right film could win an Academy Award."

Robert Greenwald, executive producer of The Crooked E said as he read and followed the Enron debacle in the news, he didn't think a good movie could be made of it. People approached him about doing the movie and he turned them down. He didn't feel there was enough drama.

His attitude changed when an agent sent him two chapters from Brian Cruver's book "Anatomy of Greed: The Unshredded Truth from an Enron Insider."

The book is Cruver's take on the nine months he spent at Enron before it cratered. Upon getting his MBA, he writes, he became a willing novitiate at Enron, immersing himself in a culture that valued only deal-making and money. By the time he is laid off, he has heroically undergone a lot of change.

The Crooked E turns a building in Winnipeg, Canada, where the movie was filmed, into Enron's headquarters. Instead of the real crooked E logo, producers have forged a faux E.

In his book, Cruver writes of Mr. Blue, a composite character based on several Enron executives who introduced him to Enron's arrogant ways.

The movie includes a plot line that never happened in real life. The Cruver character's fiance leaves him when he loses his bearings in Enron's soulless culture.

Former first lady Lady Bird Johnson turns 90 years old

AUSTIN (AP) — A small group of friends and relatives gathered Sunday to celebrate the 90th birthday of former first lady Lady Bird Johnson, who suffered a stroke earlier this year.

The widow of former President Lyndon B. Johnson has undergone speech and physical therapy since she was rushed to an Austin hospital in May.

Now, she communicates at times with family members and close friends, using hand gestures and by repeating herself. But she spends more time observing and listening.

"For so long everyone went to her for words because her words were so pretty and she was so well-spoken," Austinite Nicole Nugent Covert, a granddaughter who regularly spends several hours a week with her, said. "Now, it's more like she's here to listen to you."

After she left the White House in 1969 and President Johnson died in 1973, Lady Bird Johnson was a University of Texas regent and founded the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She also served as honorary chairman of the Town Lake Beautification Committee, actively supported the LBJ Library Center and worked for education, conservation and other charitable causes.

She meets faithfully on Tuesday at her West Lake Hills home with another granddaughter, 32-year-old Catherine Robb, an Austin attorney.

"We are all making greater efforts to see her," said Robb, whose mother, Lynda Johnson Robb, lives in Virginia. "We realize what a treasure she is to all of us, and we want to soak up every little bit we can."

In a celebration earlier this month at the LBJ Library, granddaughters read excerpts from their grandmother's letters, journals and interviews, describing her childhood in the East Texas town of Karnack, her marriage to LBJ, the years in Washington and their departure from the White House.

Date Book

Monday, Dec. 23, 2002

Today is the 357th day of 2002 and the third day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1947, the transistor radio was invented by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley. The invention earned them a Nobel Prize.

On this day in 1975, Congress passed the Metric Conversion Act, declaring that the International System of units would be the basic system of measurement in the United States.

On this day in 1986, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager established a new world record of 216 hours of continuous flight by completing a nonstop 24,986-mile flight around the world without refueling.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Smith (1805-1844), religious leader; Robert Bly (1926-), poet, is 76; Paul Hornung (1935-), football player and announcer, is 67.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1972, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Oakland Raiders due to a last-minute touchdown resulting from a play dubbed the "Immaculate Reception."

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There is a privacy I love in this snowy night. / Driving around, I will waste more time." — Robert Bly

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Dec. 19) and last quarter (Dec. 26).

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THE SUBWAY A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
Holiday Gift Certificates
Call 573-9782

Today's chuckle

Some of Santa's helpers wear prison stripes

ELLSWORTH, Kan. (AP) — Some of Santa's helpers wear prison stripes.

Inmates at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Kansas are helping to make the holidays a little brighter for needy kids. The inmates are making old bikes as good as new for youngsters whose families can't afford to buy them.

Prison officials say by Christmas Eve, the inmates will have rebuilt about 275 bikes. Since 1999, more than 500 used bicycles have been given makeovers. The bikes are donated to service and nonprofit groups for distribution to the kids.

And at the Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, Conn., about a dozen inmates use scraps of fabric from the prison's clothing shop to make rag dolls for needy children.

They are learning to sew for a program that makes mattresses and other items for private industry like prisons, hotels and hospitals. With the leftover material, they make the dolls.

"We have no use for the scraps," said Michael A. Kiczuk, industries supervisor.

Central

Central Elementary students received awards during Thursday's assembly.

Positive action awards went to:

Third graders: Caleb Hester, Keenon Ward, Micah Henson, Andrea Miranda, Samuel Ashley, Ryanna Martinez, Beto Jaimes, Heraclio Juarez, Matthew Martinez and Tyson Sullenger.

First graders: Adrian Chavarria and Flor Garcia.

Kindergartners: Eric Highfield and Sweatal Bhakta.

The following students also received most improvement awards.

Third graders: Adam Moncibais, Samantha Edwards, Susan Lee, Ana Munoz, Randi Sanchez, Brianna Small, Robby Luna, Amy Baker and Jeffrey Dossey.

First graders: Chloe Glasscock and Eddie Torres.

Kindergartners: Maria Torres and Ana Yanez.

Students were also recognized for the Accelerated Reader appoints they have earned.

Country Life is the Only Life

When we say country life is the only life, it's because we understand the importance of the land and everything connected to it.

For over eighty years, Lone Star Land Bank has been helping people purchase land, finance farms and ranches or buy that country home they've always wanted.

Lone Star Land Bank is a network of local banking offices, and we are one of the largest providers of agricultural financing for Rural America. We have the strength to offer you competitive flexible rates and terms.

LONE STAR LAND BANK, ACA
Agricultural Credit Association
www.lonestarlandbank.com

events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $5 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 5-28-46-48-51-53.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 6-3-1
(Night) 1-1-4
Cash Five
8-13-21-21-37

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Duncan's Christmas

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Airport lines move faster once you follow the rules

DEAR ABBY: I am a newly hired airport security screener with the Transportation Security Administration. Since many of your readers will travel by air this holiday season, I would like to encourage all of them to visit the TSA's Web site at: www.TSA.gov. This site provides a complete list of what passengers are NOT allowed to take on board in their carry-on luggage. It is important to know that many items that cannot be brought into the cabin ARE allowed in the cargo hold.

One of my favorite travel tips comes from frequent fliers. They have stopped using traditional shaving kits and cosmetic bags and instead put their toiletries in clear, resealable freezer bags. When searching a suitcase, the transparent baggies allow me to easily determine if someone has any prohibited items — and it means I don't have to handle the traveler's possessions. One woman even packed her nylons and underwear in plastic bags. It enabled me to adequately "crush and feel" for security purposes without having to paw through her undergarments.

Thanks for getting the word out, Abby. Airline passengers can save themselves (and us) a lot of time by "packing smart." — **MARGARET MEYERS, MERION STATION, PA.**

DEAR MARGARET: Excellent advice. The quicker and more efficiently travelers can pass through airport security, the safer we'll all be.

**

DEAR ABBY: Last December you ran a letter in your column from "Feeling Like the Grinch." The writer complained about an elderly neighbor coming over on Christmas morning as gifts were being opened. Let me tell you what happened to us.

When the first grandchild in our family was about 3, my brother reluctantly informed my husband and me that he and his wife wanted to keep Christmas morning "private," and we should discontinue the family tradition of being together at their home for Santa Claus, etc.

At the crack of dawn on Christmas morning, we received an S.O.S. phone call asking us to please forgive them and to get over there FAST! They said when their little boy woke up and walked into the living room, he plopped himself down on the sofa, crying, "Some Christmas — nobody's HERE!"

Abby, from a child's perspective, sharing can be the whole enchilada. — **DOTING AUNT IN GEORGIA**

DEAR DOTING AUNT: From the mouths of babes ... The spirit of Christmas is all about sharing. How nice that someone in that family understood it before it was too late.

**

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away recently. A few years back, my daughter gave both her grandparents a personal planning guide to record their individual wishes in making final arrangements. Dad listed exactly how he wanted to be dressed (including wearing his glasses), the hymns he would like sung, the people he had chosen as his pallbearers and the designated stipend for each. He also stated where he kept the deed to the cemetery lots, as well as other important documents we needed after his death.

Abby, it was a blessing to be able to give my father exactly what he wanted. I hope every person reading this will follow suit. It is by far the wisest way one can best serve his or her loved ones. — **CAROLYN SALVITTI, AUSTIN, TEXAS**

DEAR CAROLYN: Your letter carries an important reminder. The only way to be sure your end-of-life wishes are carried out is to spell them out, orally and in writing. Your father was a wise man.

**

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

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Woman and three children found dead

TILLAMOOK, Ore. (AP) — Police were searching for a man whose wife and three young children were found dead in the snowy woods, but they weren't sure whether the man they are seeking is a victim or a suspect.

The case was being investigated as a homicide, though the causes of death had not been determined and authorities had not ruled out a murder-suicide, Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson said Sunday.

Rene'E Morris, 31, and her children, Bryant, 10, Alexis, 8, and 4-year-old Jonathan had been reported missing Saturday from their Portland home, Anderson said. Their bodies were found Saturday.

Police are looking for Edward Morris, 37, and the family's gray 1993 Dodge Caravan. Neighbors of the victims said the husband was a landscaper who had recently begun a job at a Target store.

Anderson said hunters found the first body in Tillamook State Forest, and called authorities from a convenience store.

THE SUBWAY
A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
Holiday Party Platters
Call
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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

12-23-02

North
♠ A 8 2
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q J 7 5 4
♣ 6 3

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

East
♠ J 7 4
♥ K 9 4
♦ A 9
♣ A K Q 4 2

South
♠ K Q 9 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ 6 3
♣ J 9 8 5

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	1 NT
Dbl.	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

Monday, Dec. 23, 2002

Another look at great plays

By Phillip Alder

To start the week, here is a super deal from the match between England and Norway at the 2000 World Team Olympiad in Maastricht, the Netherlands. How do you think the play went in three notrump?

The English North-South pair stopped in two diamonds, winning 10 tricks.

Tor Helness (North for Norway) opened with a thin one diamond. Brian Callaghan (East) overcalled one no-trump. Geir Helgemo (South) doubled for penalties. David Burn ran into hearts by using a transfer bid. (Most pairs use transfers only after a pass on their right.) When East completed the transfer, South made a forcing pass. And when North could only rebid his suit, South took a shot at three no-trump.

South won the first trick and played on diamonds, East taking the second round and noting that his partner signaled an odd number of diamonds.

One might expect Callaghan to have taken his top clubs, after which South would have claimed nine tricks. However, Callaghan knew that South had started with (two or) three hearts and two diamonds. So, he couldn't have only three clubs. Therefore, at trick four, Callaghan shifted to a low club.

This would have killed the contract if West had begun with jack-doubleton of clubs, and it gave the defense its only chance with the actual layout. However, Helgemo knew that East had overcalled one no-trump with only two diamonds. Therefore, East rated to be near the top of his range; otherwise he might have doubled. So, Helgemo went up with the club jack and won 12 tricks. Terrific!

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Dance On Broadway
2415 Ave. R
Swing Dance Lessons
Saturdays, January 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8
Class Times: 5:45-6:45 - Children's Swing 8-12 years
7-8 p.m. - Beginners (Swing)
8-9 p.m. - Fast Swing/Jitterbug
Cost: $25 per person
Call To Register 574-1595 or 725-1010

Rangers are ready to fight

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP) — For two months, they were on the move constantly, ate little and slept less — learning what it took to become a member of one of the most storied military units in U.S. history.

Yet if the recent past for 119 of the newest Army Rangers was grueling, their immediate future — possible combat in Iraq — is no less difficult.

"No one wants to go, but if we're called up we'll do it to the best of our ability," said Marine Staff Sgt. James Slife, 28, his wife by his side at the Rangers' graduation ceremony Friday.

Many of the latest Army Rangers will return to their military units. Others are members of the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment based at Fort Benning along with the training school led by the 4th Army Ranger Training Brigade.

During their two-month training, Iraq was constantly in the back of their minds, but seldom discussed.

"Just focus on your training," the soldiers were told when they asked about the situation in Iraq.

They became antsy when word leaked in that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was going to let in weapons inspectors, Slife said. "We knew something was about to start going down," he said.

Without newspapers or television, and only an occasional letter to link them with the world, the trainees wondered what was going on — and when they might become involved.

"If we have to go, we have to go," said Army Capt. Jason Glemser, 30, of Colmar, Penn. "If we do go in, we go in to do the job we didn't finish the last time."

Army Spc. Daniel Zimmer, 31, of St. Louis Park, Minn., said he learned to rely on his fellow soldiers: "They will keep you alive in a combat situation," he said.

Officers and enlisted personnel became equals, each facing a peer review.

"It doesn't matter," said Lt. Col. Dave Pound. "You're both there to get through the course."

Zimmer said he lost 37 pounds during the training because some days they were only given about 2,000 to 3,000 calories. The men often moved many miles for days at a time. They were only allowed to sleep a few hours per night.

"It was 62 days of hell, and now it's finally over," Zimmer said.

Rangers are light infantry soldiers trained to move in small units to ambush the enemy or conduct reconnaissance missions. They are often used for missions that require lightning strikes.

The Rangers were the first soldiers to scale the cliffs at Omaha Beach on D-Day during World War II. They parachuted into Panama in 1989 and went to Somalia in 1992-93. During that mission, 18 Americans — including six Rangers from Fort Benning — were killed in a failed attempt to capture a Somali warlord.

Rangers are put through punishing training that includes five-mile runs at six to seven minutes per mile, 15- to 30-mile marches with 90-pound rucksacks and at least one parachute jump each week. They practice urban warfare in mock villages.

"If you want to go with a known quantity, go with the Rangers," said Retired Maj. Gen. Kenneth Leuer, the graduation speaker.

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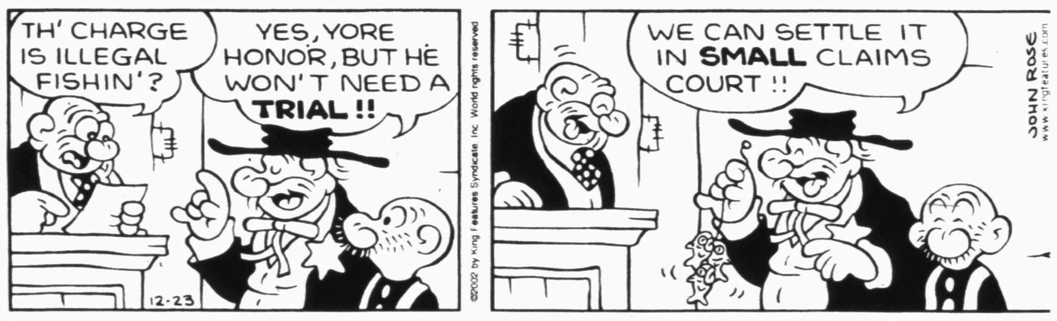

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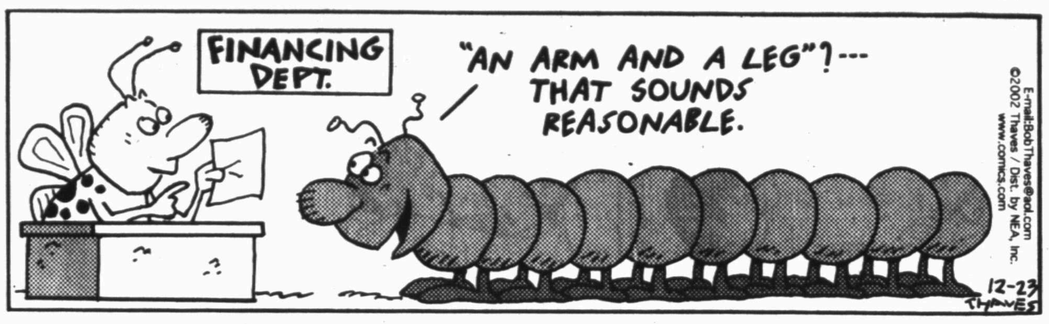

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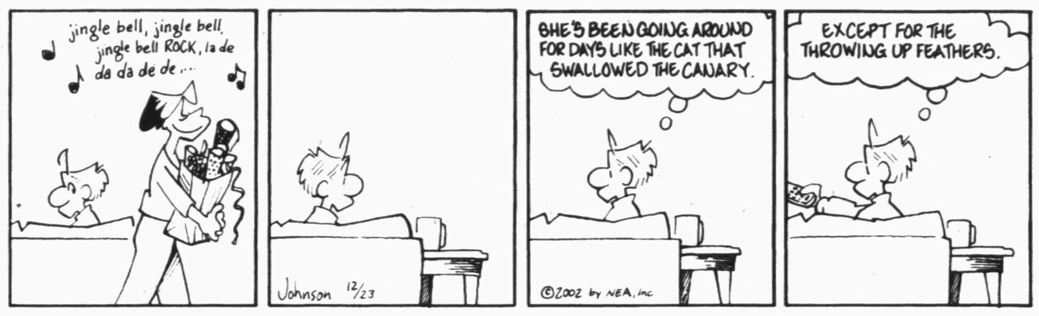

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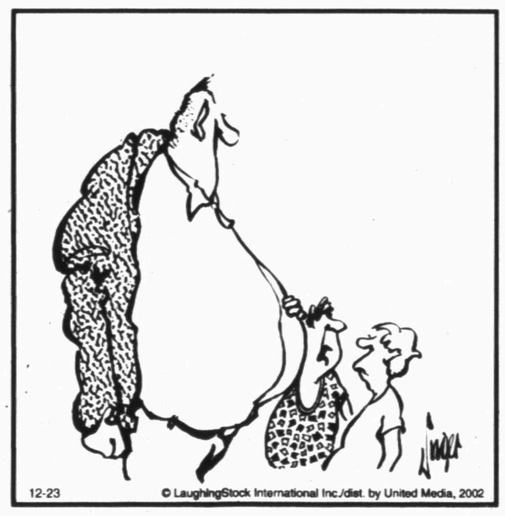

"He's been filling it with food for 47 years!"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Place
5 Tote
8 Chatter
11 Walt Kelly comic strip
12 Gill alternative
14 Not I
15 Sharp bark
16 On the horizon
17 Ski lodge instructor
18 Abounds
20 Warm and cozy
22 Tool set
23 Novelist — Seton
24 Up, in baseball (2 wds.)
27 Gaunt
29 Indent key
30 Rubbed down
34 Long-reigning queen
37 Baba
38 Sunrise locale
39 Not burning
41 Nearly all
43 Flightless bird
44 Hang around
46 Jack who ate no fat
49 Wise bird
50 Is sorry about
52 Union pariah
54 Flying formation
55 Team
56 Pantyhose shade
57 Slip up
58 Rebuffs
59 Dateless

DOWN

1 Undercover agent
2 Frost or Poe
3 Stare rudely
4 Kansas capital
5 Explosion
6 — Wiedersehen
7 Tiny insect
8 Kind of cab
9 Ventricle neighbor
10 Channel marker
13 Creaks
19 Cal Tech rival
21 "Diana" singer
24 Off-road conveyance
25 Mai —
26 PBS supplier
27 Milk, to Yves
28 Sharp — — tack
30 Bride's new title
31 Liquid meas.
32 Yale alumnus
33 Telegraph signal
35 Pop quiz
36 Horse operas
39 Game official
40 TLC providers
41 Yard tool
42 Fuel carrier
43 Double curves
44 Feel great affection
45 Archeologist's find
47 Part of CPA
48 Fictional plantation
51 Ancient Tokyo
53 Insect

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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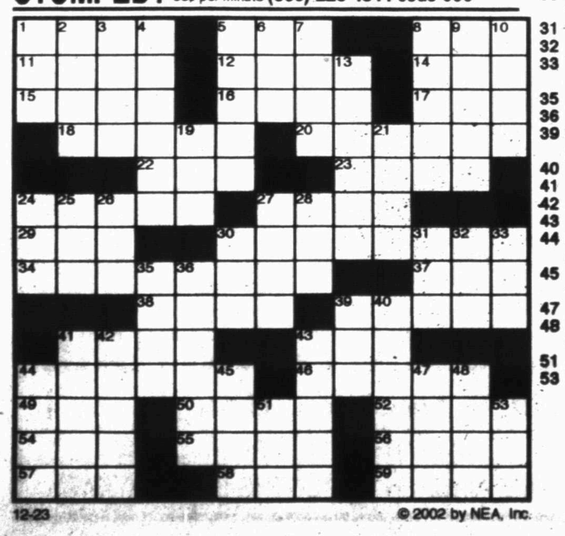

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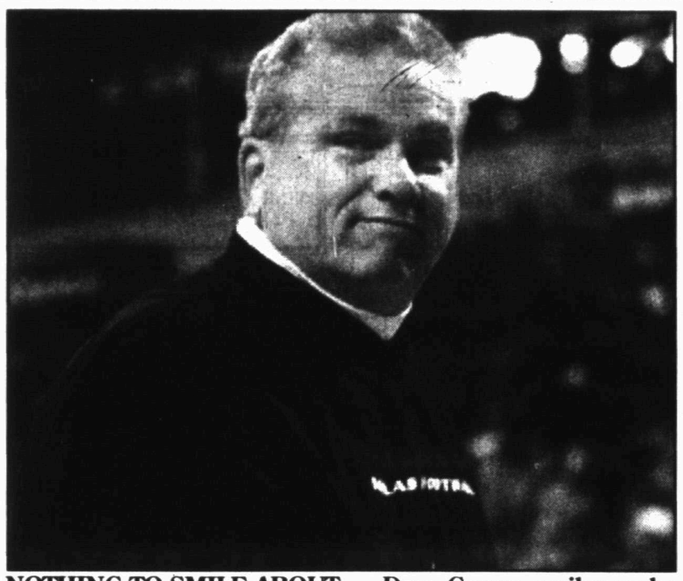

NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT — Dave Campo smiles as he walks off the field Saturday prior to Dallas' loss to Philly. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones met with Bill Parcells for five hours last week, fueling speculation that Campo would be fired at season's end. (AP Photo)

Jones meets with Parcells

IRVING (AP) — Jerry Jones has always taken pride in his complete control of the Dallas Cowboys.

Judging by his possible interest in hiring Bill Parcells, Jones might be willing to make big changes if that's what it takes to end the Cowboys' losing ways.

"I think you're touching on issues that are legitimate things I've got to consider," Jones said Sunday.

Dave Campo is still the team's coach and Jones said he'll likely remain in charge through the season finale Sunday in Washington.

Beyond that, it's tough to say. All Jones would promise is that a decision "is going to be very quick."

Tech hopes to up bowl record

ORLANDO (AP) — Texas Tech coach Mike Leach insists he isn't worried about his bowl record, even though he's winless in two previous games.

"One of the most artificial things in all of sports is Division I bowls," Leach said.

The Red Raiders (8-5) have a slightly more dismal mark in the postseason; they're 0-4 since beating Air Force in the 1995 Copper Bowl. They get a chance to snap that streak Monday against Clemson (7-5) in the Tangerine Bowl.

"In every other team sport, every other level of football, you go through a season and you might have a week off and then play the next week," Leach said. "But in the case of bowls you're off a month or two before you play again.

"So staying sharp and staying focused with a tremendous lapse presents a different set of challenges."

The Tigers overcame their own challenges last year in the Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho, beating Louisiana Tech despite a driving snowstorm during the first three quarters.

"We're Southern boys," Clemson center Tommy Sharpe said. "We don't like to go up in the cold."

They won't have that problem this year. The forecast in Orlando calls for sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s.

Wide receiver Jackie Robinson, Sharpe's teammate, didn't want to be anywhere else. Before the Tigers defeated South Carolina 27-20 on Nov. 23 to end the regular season, Robinson explained to his teammates that they would go to either the Tangerine Bowl or the new Continental Tire Bowl in Charlotte, N.C.

Robinson said the difference between the two games was like sitting poolside on a warm day versus changing a flat tire on a cold December morning. When he found out Clemson was heading to Orlando, he was ecstatic.

"As soon as I got the news, I got on my phone and started calling all the players' numbers that I had," he said. "I was extremely happy, and they felt the same way."

Robinson can afford to feel that way, since he won't have to try to stop Red Raiders quarterback Kliff Kingsbury.

Kingsbury led Division I-A with 4,642 yards passing, and he threw 42 touchdown passes while running coach Mike Leach's wide-open offense.

It's a system Leach developed from watching other teams over the years, ranging from the Green Bay Packers to Valdosta High School in southern Georgia, when he was an assistant at nearby Division II Valdosta State.

"It's like most offenses; it's all been borrowed from other places," Leach said. There's not a lot of original things in football. There's just old ideas that are packaged."

Still, the scheme was good enough for Texas Tech to upset then-No. 4 Texas 42-38 on Nov. 16. Kingsbury threw for 473 yards and six touchdowns, and he probably will need another big game to give the Red Raiders their first bowl victory in seven years.

Clemson won three of its last four games after switching quarterbacks, as redshirt freshman Charlie Whitehurst replaced junior Willie Simmons. Whitehurst completed 63 percent of his passes in those four games, throwing eight touchdown passes and one interception. He also ran for a TD.

Titans and Raiders clinch divisions; AFC playoff picture remains murky

By The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans clinched the AFC South by beating Jacksonville 28-10 Sunday, becoming the first AFC team to earn a playoff berth.

The Titans (10-5) were helped when the New York Giants moved ahead of New Orleans for the final NFC wild-card spot by beating Indianapolis 44-27, while the Saints lost in Cincinnati 20-13. The Colts' loss handed Tennessee the division crown.

Oakland also won its division, the AFC West, when it beat Denver 28-16.

Otherwise, the playoff picture remained muddled in the next-to-last week of the season, particularly in the AFC. Miami's 20-17 loss in Minnesota on Saturday left 14 of the 16 AFC teams technically alive for the playoffs entering Sunday's games.

Jacksonville (6-9) was eliminated by its loss to the Titans, and Buffalo (7-8) was knocked out by losing in Green Bay on Sunday, leaving 12 teams alive — some of them barely.

In the NFC, Philadelphia (12-3), which beat Dallas 27-3 Saturday to stay ahead for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, Green Bay (12-3), Tampa Bay (11-3) and San Francisco (10-5) all have clinched berths. The 49ers beat Arizona 17-14 Saturday.

Atlanta (9-5-1), the Giants (9-6) and New Orleans (9-6) are competing for the two wild-card spots, in that order.

Eddie George ran for two scores and Peter Sirmon returned an interception for a touchdown for Tennessee.

Giants 44, Colts 27

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kerry Collins threw for 366 yards and four touchdowns, three to Amani Toomer, as the Giants won their third straight. If the Giants (9-6) beat Philadelphia next Saturday they get a wild-card spot.

Toomer had 10 catches for 204 yards, while tight end Jeremy Shockey had seven catches for 116 yards.

Raiders 28, Broncos 16

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Rich Gannon set the NFL single-season record for completions and passed for 201 yards as the Raiders surged into the playoffs, clinching their third straight division title.

Gannon broke Warren Moon's 11-year-old record for completions in the second quarter on a 5-yard pass to Charlie Garner. His 405th completion surpassed the mark set in 1991 by Moon, who was at the game as a radio commentator. Gannon has 411 completions this season.

Jets 30, Patriots 17

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Chad Pennington threw three touchdown passes as the Jets avoided playoff elimination and improved to 7-4 since he became the starter.

New England had cut a 17-10 halftime deficit to 20-17 before the Jets took over at their 25-yard line. Pennington led a 75-yard drive that iced the game on his 15-yard scoring pass to Wayne Chrebet with 8:45 left in the game.

New England (8-7) will win the division if it beats Miami and New York loses to Green Bay because the Patriots will xhave a better division record than the Dolphins.

Bengals 20, Saints 13

CINCINNATI (AP) — Nick Luchey's 3-yard touchdown run with 1:46 to play gave Cincinnati its second victory.

The Bengals (2-13) hadn't won at home this year. Playing in a half-empty stadium, they fell behind 13-7. But Luchey, who changed his name from Nick Williams in September and hadn't carried the ball all season, scored on a 1-yard run with 10:42 left, but the extra point was blocked, leaving it tied at 13. Luchey was filling in for Corey Dillon, who bruised his left elbow in the third quarter.

Falcons 36, Lions 15

ATLANTA (AP) — Quentin McCord, signed off the practice squad earlier this season, caught seven passes for 182 yards and scored the first touchdown of his career as Atlanta moved to the front of the three-team battle for two NFC wild-card spots.

Michael Vick had a career-high 338 yards passing, even though he didn't look sharp much of the game. The Falcons (9-5-1) can make the postseason for the first time since 1998 with a victory at Cleveland next Sunday.

Vick threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to McCord and a late 44-yarder to Brian Finneran. Jay Feely had five field goals as the Falcons ran up 533 yards of offense.

Browns 14, Ravens 13

BALTIMORE (AP) — Forced to cover 92 yards in just over two minutes, the Cleveland Browns came up with another amazing finish to keep alive their playoff hopes. As a bonus, the Browns practically eliminated their most-hated rivals in the process.

Tim Couch capped a frantic drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Mark Campbell with 29 seconds left, and Phil Dawson's conversion gave Cleveland victory.

Chiefs 24, Chargers 22

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Michael Husted, who became Kansas City's placekicker this week when Morten Andersen went on injured reserve, kicked a 38-yard field goal with 1:08 left.

Playing without star running back Priest Holmes, the Chiefs (8-7) clinched their first non-losing season in three years. Two Chiefs scoring drives covered 98 and 99 yards. The game-winner, started at their 1-yard line. The first time, Trent Green connected with Mark Boerigter on a 99-yard touchdown pass, tying the NFL record for longest completion.

Packers 10, Bills 0

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Vonnie Holliday sacked Drew Bledsoe five times, forcing fumbles on three, as two foul-weather teams played a foul-weather game.

Holliday's first forced fumble led to Green Bay's only touchdown and his last ended Buffalo's hopes with 1:13 left.

The Packers (12-3) are the only NFL team to win all their home games this season, but they'll need losses by Philadelphia and Tampa Bay to get anything more than a first-round playoff game at Lambeau Field, where they've never lost in the postseason.

The Bills (7-8) were eliminated from the playoffs.

Swirling 25 mph winds gusted to 30 mph and kept both offenses in check.

Panthers 24, Bears 14

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina, 0-8 at home during last year's 1-15 season, improved to .500 at Ericsson Stadium by turning a rash of Chicago fumbles into a victory.

Chicago (4-11) lost its seventh straight road game, extending a season-long slide from last year's 13-3 record and the NFC Central title.

Dee Brown scored two touchdowns for Carolina and Rodney Peete threw for another to lead the Panthers (6-9).

Seahawks 30, Rams 10

SEATTLE (AP) — Matt Hasselbeck threw for 303 yards and one touchdown, and Seattle's porous run defense tightened against Marshall Faulk.

Hasselbeck completed 20 of 32 passes without an interception, his third 300-yard passing game since replacing the injured Trent Dilfer eight weeks ago. Seattle (6-9) is 5-4 since then and won for the second straight week.

Marc Bulger, 6-0 as the Rams' starting quarterback entering the game, wasn't around for long. He injured his back on the team's fourth play from scrimmage.

'Skins focus on Dallas after thumping Houston, 26-10

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Barely off the field from Sunday's 26-10 victory over the Houston Texans, the Washington Redskins were already talking about ending a 10-game losing streak to the Cowboys in the season finale.

"Sunday, we've got to end it," receiver Rod Gardner said. "It's done."

Beating the Cowboys would be the best consolation possible for the Redskins (6-9), who had lost three straight before thumping the expansion Texans. That skid started with a 27-20 road loss to Dallas on Thanksgiving Day.

"We all know who's coming in," said coach Steve Spurrier, who has promised a game ball to owner Dan Snyder the first time he beats Dallas. "We all know they kicked our butts."

The victory over Houston was hardly a monumental feat, but the Redskins were so down in the dumps that a win over a bad NFL Europe team would've felt good. They accomplished things unseen in Washington in a while: two 100-yard rushers, 166 total yards allowed and a safety on special teams.

"When you've lost three in a row, certainly it means a little more," Spurrier said. "Basically, that was our battle cry this week. Let's try to have a victory party Sunday night. It's been a long time since we've tasted a win. It was important to play well. I thought the effort was a lot better."

The Redskins sacked David Carr three times, giving the Houston quarterback a dubious NFL record of 73 times sacked in a single season. Carr surpassed the record held by Randall Cunningham, sacked 72 times with Philadelphia in 1986. Bruce Smith got two of the sacks, leaving him four behind Reggie White's record.

"I was trying to break some NFL records when I came into the league, but hopefully not that one," Carr said.

Patrick Ramsey threw two touchdown passes and got his first victory as a starter.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	9	.667	—
New Jersey	18	9	.667	—
Philadelphia	18	10	.643	½
Orlando	15	13	.536	3½
Washington	12	14	.462	5½
New York	8	16	.333	8½
Miami	9	18	.333	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	19	8	.704	—
Detroit	18	8	.692	½
New Orleans	18	10	.643	1½
Atlanta	11	15	.423	7½
Milwaukee	11	15	.423	7½
Chicago	10	17	.370	9
Toronto	8	19	.296	11
Cleveland	5	24	.172	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	22	4	.846	—
San Antonio	17	10	.630	5½
Houston	15	11	.577	7
Utah	14	12	.538	8
Minnesota	15	13	.536	8
Memphis	8	21	.276	15½
Denver	6	22	.214	17

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	22	8	.733	—
Phoenix	16	11	.593	4½
Portland	15	11	.577	5
Seattle	14	14	.500	7
L.A. Clippers	12	16	.429	9
L.A. Lakers	11	18	.379	10½
Golden State	9	18	.333	11½

Sunday's Games

Utah 103, Memphis 74
L.A. Lakers 109, Toronto 107, OT
Miami 92, New York 84
Sacramento 103, Golden State 88

Monday's Games

Miami at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Chicago at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

No games scheduled

Wednesday's Games

Detroit at Orlando, 2 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	18	9	1	3	40	78	67
Philadelphia	16	8	7	1	40	77	68
N.Y. Rangers	13	18	4	1	31	89	115
Pittsburgh	12	14	3	4	31	91	102
N.Y. Islanders	12	16	5	0	29	89	104

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	20	8	4	0	44	104	71
Boston	19	9	4	1	43	107	84
Montreal	16	12	4	2	38	98	104
Toronto	16	14	4	0	36	95	83
Buffalo	8	18	5	1	22	69	89

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	15	11	5	3	38	100	93
Carolina	15	12	5	3	38	81	85
Washington	15	16	3	0	33	91	100
Florida	10	10	9	4	33	82	98
Atlanta	8	19	1	4	21	81	119

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	18	8	6	1	43	102	81
St. Louis	16	10	5	2	39	105	87
Chicago	17	13	4	0	38	79	77
Columbus	12	15	3	2	29	94	97
Nashville	7	16	6	4	24	65	90

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	20	9	5	0	45	104	82
Minnesota	18	10	6	1	43	92	80
Edmonton	16	11	4	3	39	92	85
Colorado	12	8	9	4	37	88	83
Calgary	9	17	5	3	26	67	96

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	18	9	8	1	45	108	73
Anaheim	15	10	6	3	39	90	81
Los Angeles	15	11	4	3	37	92	84
San Jose	13	14	3	3	32	92	102
Phoenix	11	16	6	2	30	87	109

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Sunday's Games

Carolina 1, Dallas 0
Chicago 3, Los Angeles 1
Anaheim 4, Phoenix 0

Monday's Games

San Jose at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Colorado, 9 p.m.

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Missouri man plays Santa to his neighbors

MONETT, Mo. (AP) — His workshop is in rural southwest Missouri. His sleigh is a horse trailer pulled by a 1994 Chevrolet pickup. And he likes wearing denim jeans and a cowboy hat.

But Linn Thornton is Santa in the eyes of many Monett residents.

Thornton, 68, makes it his business to see that every child in Barry County has a toy and a full belly on Christmas.

About 600 people are expected to feast on turkey, ham, fish, elk, antelope and all the trimmings at the town's American Legion hall on Christmas Day. He also will be handing out toys for his 24th year.

"He's quite a guy here in our town," Sue Updike said. "I moved to Monett with my two kids on December 3, 1993. We didn't know anyone, and we didn't have much money. So we went to the American Legion for dinner."

Thornton continues to be a man of modest means. He was forced to retire from loading trucks in 1999. After delivering gifts to 111 families that Christmas Eve, he stopped to wash his pickup, slipped on ice and broke his leg.

"I'm running on a leg that's a half-inch shorter, but we're still doing Christmas," Thornton said with a jolly laugh.

Now he asks families to stop by his shop to pick up their bags filled with dolls, stuffed animals and games. Thornton tries to give three toys, an item of clothing and a candy cane for each child.

"I'm country, and I'm poor," said Thornton, who was raised in neighboring Stone County. "We didn't have running water or electricity. Our bathroom was an old outhouse. We didn't have much, but we always managed to get by."

Gift giving to struggling families started in 1978 when Thornton helped his barber, who cut off two fingers while remodeling his house.

"You can't be a barber with just one hand, and he had a boy and girl and wife to support," Thornton said. "So I got some things together for them. It's been an adventure ever since."

For Thornton, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a good meal. He got the idea to branch out into serving meals after finishing his holiday dinner at his sister's house.

"We had so much food left over. There was no way we were ever going to eat it," he said. "I told her that we should give it to people who needed it."

He had 42 people come to eat that first year. Thornton will serve his 18th Christmas dinner on Dec. 25.

"If they can't get here and they want something to eat, we'll deliver it to them," said Thornton, who also dons a Santa suit and visits schools and nursing homes.

Updike and her new husband Gary organized a toy drive this year to help Thornton. They collected two truck loads — including a Nintendo video game — and $75.

"We really wanted to help him out, and we know they'll go to families who need them," she said.

Many residents said the only thing bigger than Thornton's heart is his desire to help those in need. Thornton works independently and therefore concentrates on families within a 30-mile radius of Monett.

"It hurts him to have to turn anyone away," said Mable Garoutte, who is engaged to Thornton. "But he has to cut it off somewhere. He can only do so much."

Garoutte is a true Santa's helper. She and Thornton hunt for toys at area garage sales. They load them into Thornton's horse trailer and take them to his shop — H&L Pawn and Tack Shop — where they are cleaned and repaired.

A number of area businesses and restaurants also give him donations. The 1,500 workers at EFCO Corp. make collecting toys part of their annual festivities.

"We all love him," said Melissa Beckwith, chief financial officer at EFCO. "It's a pretty big deal for us to help him."

'Two Towers' tops $100 million in 5 days

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The "Lord of the Rings" sequel dominated in its debut weekend, taking in $61.5 million — 30 percent better than its predecessor did last year, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Altogether, "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" has grossed $101.5 million since opening Wednesday, compared to $75.1 million by "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" in the same period and $47.2 million in its first weekend.

"The Two Towers" opened in 3,622 theaters, an 8 percent increase over "Fellowship," and averaged a whopping $16,980 a cinema over the weekend, compared with $14,055 for the first film.

Debuting at No. 2 was the Sandra Bullock-Hugh Grant romance "Two Weeks Notice," which took in $14.4 million in 2,755 theaters for a $5,229 average. Last weekend's top movie, Jennifer Lopez's "Maid in Manhattan," slipped to third place with $11 million.

Playing in narrower release, Martin Scorsese's long-delayed epic "Gangs of New York" debuted with $9.1 million in 1,504 theaters, for a $6,064 average. The movie expands to about 2,150 theaters on Christmas.

Director Peter Jackson's middle chapter in his mammoth adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy trilogy, "The Two Towers" also took in about $85 million overseas in the 26 countries where it has opened since Wednesday.

With nearly $190 million in the bank in just five days, distributor New Line Cinema expects "The Two Towers" to surpass the $860 million total worldwide gross of "Fellowship of the Ring" by 20 to 25 percent, said Rolf Mittweg, the studio's head of worldwide marketing and distribution.

If that comes to pass, it would be only the second movie after "Titanic" to top $1 billion at the box office. "Titanic" leads the worldwide charts with $1.8 billion, with "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at No. 2 with $968 million.

"When all is said and done, we want to be the No. 2 film worldwide after 'Titanic,'" Mittweg said. "We think we're on track to do that."

"Gangs of New York" — yanked off distributor Miramax's schedule a year ago amid bickering over the final cut between Scorsese and Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein — stars Leonard DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz in a vengeance tale in 1860s Manhattan.

Miramax is counting on good word of mouth and attention through Hollywood's awards season to build the film's audience. "Gangs of New York" has scored solidly with early film honors, especially for Day-Lewis' performance.

"The critical stamp of approval we've gotten has really overcome any questions about the film," Rick Sands, Miramax's chief operating officer, said of the feud between Scorsese and Weinstein. "I honestly don't think the public takes any of that stuff that seriously, and Marty and Harvey have a relationship which is extremely positive."

Miramax is co-financing Scorsese's next film, the Howard Hughes film biography "The Aviator," which also will star DiCaprio.

In limited release, Spike Lee's "The 25th Hour" grossed $109,811 in five theaters for a $21,962 average. The film stars Edward Norton as a drug dealer on his last day before beginning a seven-year prison sentence.

Denzel Washington's directing debut, "Antwone Fisher," took in $217,500 in 15 theaters for a $14,500 average. Derek Luke stars as the real-life title character, a violent Navy sailor coming to grips with his traumatic childhood.

The police thriller "Narc," starring Ray Liotta and Jason Patric, grossed $66,000 in six theaters, averaging $11,000.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Final figures will be released today.

1. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," $61.5 million.
2. "Two Weeks Notice," $14.4 million.
3. "Maid in Manhattan," $11 million.
4. "Gangs of New York," $9.1 million.
5. "Drumline," $7.6 million.
6. "The Wild Thornberrys Movie," $6.1 million.
7. "The Hot Chick," $4.5 million.
8. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," $4.46 million.
9. "Star Trek: Nemesis," $4.4 million.
10. "Die Another Day," $4 million.

Seven new varieties of sweet Vidalia added

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — Chilly temperatures and plant diseases have delayed the planting of Georgia's sweet Vidalia onion crop, but there's also been some good news about the ballyhooed bulbs.

Growers had the option of choosing from seven new varieties during the current planting season, which runs from November through December.

"These are brand new in the marketplace," said Reid Torrance, the county Extension coordinator in southeastern Georgia's Tattnall County, where many of the state's Vidalias are grown. "That gives a total of 24 legal varieties. However, there are five that are no longer available, so there are only 19 varieties for planting."

It takes a special onion to meet the sweet Vidalia standards.

The new ones survived years of testing. They were grown experimentally, subjected to chemical analysis, poked and measured, and had to pass the ultimate test — a panel of scientifically trained taste testers.

"If these Vidalia onions get any better, we're concerned about deciding who we're going to let have them," said Vidalia grower Delbert Bland, owner of Bland Farms in Tattnall County. "There won't be enough to go around."

University of Georgia scientists and crop specialists test about 30 onions a year at the 25-acre Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center, straddling the line between Tattnall and Toombs counties in the heart of onion country.

Once an onion survives the preliminaries, a panel of experts makes recommendations to Gale Buchanan, dean and director of the university's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Buchanan, in turn, makes his recommendations to Tommy Irvin, Georgia's commissioner of agriculture. Irvin approved the new varieties in time for the 2003 crop year.

Torrance said the industry's new standard is an onion known as the "Savannah Sweet." It replaced the "Sweet Vidalia," which had been used to set the standard for years.

"Savannah Sweets have been around a long time and are consistently one of our mildest," Torrance said. "Sweet Vidalias are not necessarily our mildest onions, but they are pretty hardy. They survive the cold pretty well."

Vidalia onions became popular in the late 1980s thanks to a marketing campaign that said you could "eat 'em like an apple." Growers claim the low-sulfur soil and mild climate in the 20-county southeastern Georgia growing area make them one of the world's sweetest onions.

Vidalias represent about 10 percent of the U.S. onion market and are one of Georgia's most valuable crops, worth about $80 million a year.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.32	6.06	6.18	—.20
AOL TimeWrn	13.39	13.05	13.27	—.12
AT&T Corp rs	27.13	26.47	27.10	+.52
Albertsons	22.08	21.52	22.08	+.19
Alltel	53.02	52.39	52.96	+.24
AmEl Pw	27.67	27.42	27.54	—.24
AndarkPtr	49.12	48.59	49.00	+.47
ATMOS Egy	23.63	23.02	23.52	+.36
Aviall	8.18	7.92	8.18	+.16
BP PLC	40.75	40.37	40.49	+.35
BakerHughes	33.53	32.90	33.29	—.31
Bank of Amer	70.89	69.55	70.68	+.38
BellSouth	26.94	26.21	26.93	+.19
BurlNoSFe	25.92	25.53	25.85	—.21
Caterpillar	46.51	46.00	46.30	—.20
CenterPoint	8.40	8.29	8.33	—.03
ChevronTex	67.43	66.70	67.33	+.68
Citigroup	38.01	37.50	37.80	—.34
CocaCola	44.29	43.88	44.24	+.16
ColgatePal	52.70	52.19	52.69	+.29
CmclMetals s	16.50	16.33	16.37	—.12
ConocoPhill	50.00	49.43	49.74	—.19
Cooper Inds	36.58	36.15	36.40	+.10
DaimlrChry	30.77	30.25	30.57	—.32
DeltaAirl	11.61	11.00	11.59	+.19
Dillards Inc	16.22	15.83	15.95	—.25
DowChem	29.81	29.36	29.40	—.50
DuPont	43.02	42.54	42.91	—.05
EastmanChem	37.22	36.76	37.22	+.02
EstKodak	36.46	35.89	36.30	—.11
EDS Corp	18.38	17.90	18.19	—.19
Entergy	46.42	45.90	45.99	—.28
ExxonMobil	36.50	35.75	36.02	+.32
FstBksAm	40.52	40.46	40.46	—.09
FootLocker	10.44	10.31	10.39	—.09
GenDynam	79.42	78.30	78.58	—.29
GenElec	25.95	25.52	25.94	—.01
GenMills	47.03	46.62	46.91	+.25
GenMotors	37.20	36.75	37.13	+.07
GaPacific	16.09	15.87	16.07	+.17
Goodrich	18.01	17.65	17.93	—.21
Goodyear	6.80	6.63	6.68	—.12
GtAtlPac	7.67	7.40	7.58	+.18
Halliburtn	19.35	18.75	19.22	+.14
Hanson ADS	22.00	21.88	21.92	+.07
HarteHanks s	18.72	18.33	18.60	—.22
HomeDepot	25.50	24.30	24.51	—.32
HoneywellIntl	23.30	22.90	23.01	—.52
IBM	81.19	79.44	81.16	+1.37
IntlPaper	35.55	34.81	35.44	+.11
JohnsonJn	54.89	54.20	54.51	—.01
KinderMorg	41.35	41.10	41.20	+.19
Kroger Co	15.45	14.90	15.43	+.53
LockheedM	56.61	55.00	56.40	+1.78
Lowes Cos	38.40	37.50	37.61	—.75
Lubys	3.04	2.95	3.03	+.06
LucentTech	1.42	1.36	1.41	+.02
MarathonOil	21.75	21.44	21.51	—.04
MayDeptStr	22.90	22.53	22.77	—.47
Medtronic	47.41	46.88	47.30	—.10
Motorola	9.03	8.71	8.96	
NCR Corp	24.24	23.50	24.10	+.14
Navistar	24.25	23.95	24.06	—.19
PNM Rescs	24.30	23.95	24.20	
Penney JC	23.83	22.30	22.55	—1.27
PepBoys	11.47	11.34	11.40	—.15
PepsiCo	42.00	41.19	41.99	+.73
Pharmacia	42.78	41.75	42.72	+1.07
PhelpDodge	31.98	31.55	31.81	+.01
PilgrmPrd B	8.24	8.15	8.15	—.25
Praxair	59.50	57.89	58.49	+.49
ProctGamb	88.00	87.62	88.00	+.32
RadioShack	19.58	18.83	18.94	—.64
RoyalDut	44.40	43.96	44.05	+.84
SBC Comm	28.25	27.75	28.24	+.03
SaraLee	22.73	22.46	22.73	+.06
Scripps EW	76.63	75.80	76.63	+.73
SearsRoeb	23.15	22.70	22.98	—.72
SherwinW	28.42	28.01	28.40	+.14
SouthernCo	29.04	28.42	28.93	+.08
SwstAirl	14.43	14.25	14.36	—.21
SprintFON	14.68	14.15	14.62	+.22
SprintPCS	4.67	4.52	4.64	+.10
Sunoco Inc	33.43	33.12	33.28	+.28
TXU Corp	18.43	17.87	18.20	+.33
TempleInland	45.18	44.40	45.03	—.14
TexInd	24.19	23.60	23.82	—.38
TexasInst	16.03	15.50	15.86	+.12
Textron	43.20	42.70	43.14	+.56
TrinityInds	20.00	19.75	19.89	—.07
TylerTech	4.15	4.00	4.10	+.14
UnionPacif	60.50	59.61	59.96	—.93
USSteel	13.35	13.10	13.32	+.17
UnitedTech	61.90	61.08	61.85	—.26
Unocal	32.40	31.97	32.03	—.03
VerizonComm	40.21	39.43	40.15	+.15
WalMart	50.54	49.95	50.12	—.67
WellsFargo	47.22	46.72	47.20	+.13
WstnGasRs	36.82	36.43	36.70	+.20
WinnDixie	15.25	15.04	15.20	+.10
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Ask Hollywood by Holly Wood

Snail-mail smackdown!

Q: Could you please let me know where I can send a letter to WWE owner Vince McMahon? I am a big fan of the WWE and have been for 30 years, back when it was the WWWF and the WWF. — **K.D., North Andover, Mass.**

A: The WWE's address is 1241 E. Main St., Stamford, CT 06902-3521.

Q: On the TV show "Third Watch," they refer to their cars as RMP's. What does this stand for? — **M.S., Conway, Ark.**

A: RMP stands for Roving Motorized Patrol, better known as the squad car.

Q: I saw the TV remake of "Carrie," but tell me, who is Patricia Clarkson? I've seen her in films with several Hollywood leading men, specifically Kevin Costner and Clint Eastwood. Where is she from? Do you have a bio of her? — **No name given, Bakersfield, Calif.**

A: Clarkson was born in New Orleans in 1959, and she studied drama at Yale. Her film debut was in "The Untouchables," in which she appeared with Costner. She was in the 1988 movie "The Dead Pool" with Eastwood, and has appeared in "The Green Mile," "Welcome to Collinwood," "Far From Heaven" and episodes of "Six Feet Under," for which her role of Sarah O'Connor earned her an Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series. Next year, you can see her in "All the Real Girls," "Dogville," "Pieces of April" and "The Station Agent."

Q: I am helping our local private Catholic middle and high school with a fund-raiser. I want to contact certain celebrities who are either Catholic or have done charitable work for schools. So, my main questions are:

— Do you know of Catholic celebrities who are active in charity work with schools?

— Do you know of other celebrities (non-Catholic) who are active in charity work with schools?

— How many celebrity addresses can you provide me with? I have a large list of celebrities (20 to 30), but I don't know if you have a maximum number of people for whom I can request addresses.

— Is there a source online or in print to which I can go for celebrity addresses and find out which ones do specific types of charity work?

Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. - **R.C., Grand Island, Neb.**

A: I don't know of any definitive list of Catholic celebrities, but I can help you get started. The Web site at www.peoplejustlikeus.org has a lengthy list of Christian celebrities and their addresses, which includes many Catholics. Many celebrities are active in charity work of all kinds, so it doesn't hurt to ask your top choices if they're interested. Twenty to 30 addresses is a lot to list here, but there are many good address books on the market. One such book is "Alan Gottlieb's Celebrity Address Book" (Merril Press, 2001). Another is "The Celebrity Address Handbook" (Americana Group, 1999). Visit the reference section of your local library or bookstore, or check out an online bookstore such as Amazon.com.

TRIVIA: Martin Sheen, who stars on "The West Wing," is Catholic.

(Send your questions to Ask Holly Wood, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, or write to HollyWood85@hotmail.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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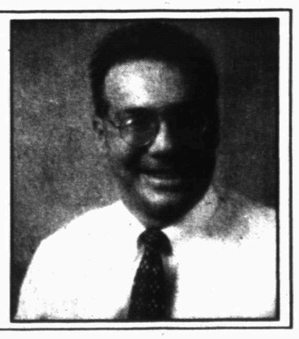

DEC 23 2002

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002

Splendid opportunities might be offered to you in the year ahead that could bring in some needed extra dollars, but you must first utilize them properly and to the fullest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you are caught having to do some last-minute shopping today, don't forego common sense and purchase things beyond your means just because you're in too big of a hurry to shop for cheaper prices.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Be careful whom you try to foist your opinions on today. Your thinking might not be as popular with others as you allow yourself to believe.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Even though you might be very anxious to get your work over with and get on your way today, continue to do the very best you can. You will be responsible for how things turn out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Chances are, you're not going to be in any mood for socializing today. If duty obligates you to attend a function, make the best of it and don't let others know how you feel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't give someone the silent treatment today just because she or he thinks differently than you. You may think you're punishing this person, but it'll be you who ends up being hurt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Making a commitment to help someone out on a job, and then failing to follow through on it, will not be taken lightly by this person. You could permanently lose a cohort who you'll later need.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Others cannot be counted on today to bail you out of your financial problems. Unfortunately, it looks like you're going to have to find your own solutions to handling your obligations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Try not to let a family member who has questionable judgment to begin with make any important decisions that affect you. Regrets can be avoided if you make your own calls.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Don't take Lady Luck for granted today, because she's not apt to be around when you need her the most. Things will manifest themselves only if you make them happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be extra mindful of your behavior when participating in a group involvement today. Moodiness or sulking will not go over too well. Smile and the world will smile with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If there is any touting to be made today, let others toot your horn for you. Singing your own praises makes you look like a braggart and a windbag. Keep your dignity intact.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — What might be idle chatter to you today could be taken as gospel by others. Things could get so blown out of proportion that they may cause you either anxiety or embarrassment.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

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Lott accepts blame for remarks, but alludes to political enemies

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — In his first public remarks since resigning as Senate GOP leader, Sen. Trent Lott confessed he had "only myself to blame" for the racially charged scandal that brought him down.

But the senator also alluded to unnamed political enemies who have been lying in wait for a chance to pounce — and found it 2½ weeks ago, when Lott's praise of Sen. Strom Thurmond's 1948 segregationist run for president ignited a firestorm of criticism.

"A lot of people in Washington have been trying to nail me for a long time," Lott said in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press. "When you're from Mississippi, when you're conservative and when you're a Christian, there are a lot of people that don't like that. But I fell into their trap and so I have only myself to blame."

Talking outside his home here, Lott reiterated his insistence that comments at Thurmond's 100th birthday party were not malicious, and repeated his pledge to turn the experience into positive action as he finishes his term in the Senate.

"I have a job to do," he said. "I believe that my experience, my knowledge of having been in the leadership will allow me to work in the future to do some more good things for our state. And I hope that I can turn this very bad experience into a positive for a lot of innocent people of all races, backgrounds and help my poor state."

In an interview with MSNBC later, Lott elaborated on his controversial remarks.

"I don't feel like I'm a victim of anything other than a bad choice of words and a lot of misunderstandings that I ... have to assume responsibility for. I'm a big boy," he said.

Lott also told the AP that he regretted how his comments — and their fallout — have negatively affected his home state, and his family and friends.

At Thurmond's party Dec. 5, Lott said Mississippians were proud to have voted for the then-segregationist platform of Thurmond in 1948. "And if the rest of the country had followed our lead," he said, "we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either."

At first, Lott tried to deflect criticism, saying his speech was only meant as lighthearted praise of the retiring Thurmond. He later apologized, saying "a poor choice of words conveyed to some the impression that I embraced the discarded policies of the past. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Lott resigned his leadership post Friday after President Bush publicly called the remarks offensive and wrong, and senators in his own party scheduled a Jan. 6 meeting to decide if Lott should continue as their leader after six years in the role.

The man expected to replace him is Sen. Bill Frist, a wealthy heart surgeon from Tennessee, who is seen by many Republicans as cautious but ambitious and considering a possible 2008 run for the White House. Senate Republicans planned to elevate Frist in a conference call today, making him majority leader when the GOP retakes Senate control next month.

Lott said he welcomed what he felt was support from most voters in his state.

"The people of Mississippi have been wonderful, of all kinds of backgrounds and races and political parties have been great and I really appreciate it," he said.

Officers search for truck involved in deadly accident

EL PASO (AP) — It was one of the most awful accident scenes in recent memory, a law enforcement officer said.

A man driving a white 1994 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck east on Interstate 10 lost control of the vehicle about 3 a.m. Sunday near Fabens, about 25 miles southeast of El Paso.

The pickup veered across the median, rolled and came to rest in the far right-hand lane of the eastbound lanes, officials said. The driver was ejected, his body coming to rest on the roadway.

Just after the accident, a tractor-trailer rig drove over the body, crushing it, said Rick Glancey, spokesman for the El Paso County sheriff's department.

"This is one of the most gruesome traffic accidents we've seen in some time," Glancey said.

Interstate 10 was shut down for hours in both directions while investigators worked.

"We are still looking for the 18-wheeler, and we don't have a complete description of it," Glancey said Sunday night.

Slayings of jeweler, four others in family stuns suburb residents

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP) — The bodies of a jeweler, his mother and his three children were discovered by police in the businessman's suburban Detroit home.

Police and city officials identified the victims as Marco Pesce, 38; his mother, who was visiting from Italy; and the jeweler's three school-age children. Pesce's 36-year-old wife Diane was not at the house, and her whereabouts were unknown.

"This is the worst crime that's ever happened in Livonia," Mayor Jack Kirksey told The Detroit News. "I feel physically sick."

At a news conference Sunday night, Police Chief Peter Kunst gave little information on the slayings, and would not discuss the number of victims, their relationships or any possible motive. Police discovered the bodies after receiving a call from someone asking that authorities check on the house, Kunst said.

"It's still a fresh investigation and because of the circumstances around it, we do not want to release any information regarding the motive or method at this time," Kunst said.

Police in the city about 20 miles west of Detroit planned a news conference today.

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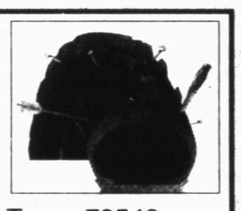

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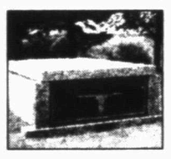

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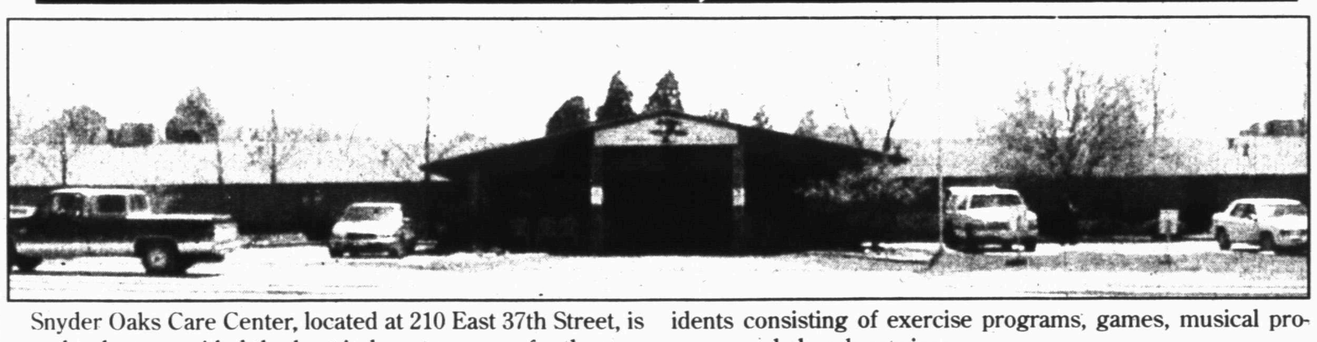

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GOP looks to new Senate leader to help repair Sen. Lott's damage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican senators are gathering by telephone to elect a new leader they hope will help repair the damage that Trent Lott's racially charged remarks have had on GOP efforts to court minority voters.

Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, a White House favorite, emerged last week as the clear choice to replace Lott, who resigned from the leadership under pressure Friday.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., said Frist would be elected — "I suspect unanimously" — by the 51 GOP senators in a conference call this afternoon. Frist would become majority leader when Republicans take control in the new Congress that convenes Jan. 7.

Lott's praise on Dec. 5 of Strom Thurmond's 1948 pro-segregation presidential campaign had put the GOP on the defensive.

In his first public remarks since resigning, Lott told The Associated Press on Sunday that he had fallen into a trap set by his political enemies and had "only myself to blame."

"There are some people in Washington who have been trying to nail me for a long time," Lott said in an interview outside his home in Pascagoula, Miss. "When you're from Mississippi and you're a conservative and you're a Christian, there are a lot of people that don't like that. I fell into their trap and so I have only myself to blame."

Republicans are looking to Frist, a wealthy heart surgeon with relatively little national exposure, to represent a fresh face of the party, particularly in efforts to attract minorities.

"He personifies not just the rhetoric about idealism but as a life that has been lived," Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition." "There are actually hands-on examples of how he will make a difference. And I think it's a very exciting prospect."

Frist, 50, is considered an authority on health issues in the Senate. He still keeps his starched white lab coat in the trunk of his car, makes monthly visits to hospitals and clinics and goes on occasional overseas medical missions. When the anthrax scare surfaced on Capitol Hill last year, he worked to calm his colleagues.

Frist will "be a different face than what we've had," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, told ABC's "This Week." "I'm not criticizing what we've had, but I think Bill has a kind of a more moderate record and a more moderate approach toward things, and I think that it's going to be very difficult to criticize him."

Hatch, the incoming Judiciary Committee chairman, praised President Bush — as the party's top leader — for reaching out to all people and dismissed the attitude "that only Democrats care about minorities."

Time magazine selects three whistleblowers Persons of Year

NEW YORK (AP) — The year's biggest scandals — the intelligence failures before the Sept. 11 attacks and the collapses of Enron Corp. and WorldCom Inc. — earned three whistleblowers the honor of Time magazine Persons of the Year.

In its issue reaching newsstands today, Time called Coleen Rowley, Cynthia Cooper and Sherron Watkins "ordinary people who did not wait for higher authorities to do what needed to be done."

Time's 2002 picks are unusual in that most people cited by the magazine in the past have been well-known public figures. Last year's selection was New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, for his conduct in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Rowley, Cooper and Watkins were selected "for believing — really believing — that the truth is one thing that must not be moved off the books, and for stepping in to make sure that it wasn't."

Rowley, 48, was the FBI agent based in Minneapolis whose scathing memorandum to FBI Director Robert Mueller last May said agency headquarters ignored her pleas in the weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks to aggressively investigate Zacarias Moussaoui, now charged as an accomplice. In later Senate testimony, Rowley charged that the FBI was plagued by "careerism" and bureaucracy.

Cooper, 38, was an internal auditor at WorldCom who alerted the telecommunications firm's board of directors to $3.8 billion in accounting irregularities. A month later, WorldCom declared the biggest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history. Investigators have since uncovered more than $9 billion in accounting fraud at WorldCom.

Watkins, 43, was a vice president of Enron, who warned company chairman Kenneth Lay in 2001 that the firm could collapse as a result of extensive false accounting.

Wealthy few financed most campaigns in GOP's sweep

HOUSTON (AP) — More than half the cost of key campaigns that convinced 2.6 million voters to solidify the Republican hold on state government in last month's elections was paid by 48 wealthy Texas families, a study shows.

The review of campaign records by the Houston Chronicle found these wealthy few donated $34 million of the $64 million used to finance top GOP state campaigns. Donors include oil and gas producers, petrochemical industrialists, telecommunications executives and developers.

Houston homebuilder Bob Perry, the top Republican donor and no relation to Gov. Rick Perry, said he and others who contribute the most to campaigns form just one cog in the machinery of politics and government.

"It is my view that government is not owned by anyone, least of all wealthy contributors," Perry, who donated $3.8 million to GOP funds, told the Chronicle.

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Biotech project off to plodding start in Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Two years ago, excitement filled the air as Houston politicians, scientists and business elite announced the formation of the Southeast BioTechnology Park.

It was to be a massive $633 million project next to the Texas Medical Center that would cover 64 acres, sprout 15 buildings, and employ thousands of people over the next two decades.

The plans to inject life into Houston's life sciences community fell apart. Part of the problem was funding difficulties, and part was overly ambitious planning.

"I guess we had the shortsighted view that if we built this park it would stimulate the development of (the biotech industry)," said John E. Walsh Jr., the former president of BioHouston, the nonprofit organization that evolved from the project.

Some say proponents tried to do too much too quickly.

We need to do more to foster the growth of this industry in Houston before we call this a real estate project," said Jacqueline Northcut, a former Arthur Andersen partner who recently replaced Walsh as president of BioHouston.

"It's kind of like: Walk before you run," she said. When the biotech park project was unveiled in February 2001, state Sen. Rodney Ellis hailed the project as one that "would enable Houston and all of Texas to capitalize on a vast, untapped economic resource."

But the Houston Democrat also warned that persuading Austin lawmakers to fund $20 million in state infrastructure improvements for the park wouldn't be easy, especially in times of a potential budget shortfall.

He was right. The state offered a $20 million loan instead of a grant, changing the economics of the project drastically. Laid aside were plans to lay the network of sewers, roadways and drainage the biotech park needed to get started.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Lead levels should be addressed

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 4-year-old son had a blood test to determine his lead level. The count was 14, a figure the pediatrician feels is too high. When reporting this information to the state, they indicated that 25 is too high. Now we're torn between the conflicting opinions, and I'd value your advice.

DEAR READER: If your pediatrician believes that 14 is too high a level for your son, follow the doctor's advice and disregard the state's recommendation. The physician is much more familiar with your son than a bureaucrat looking only at a chart of lead levels.

Lead poisoning in children is a serious public health concern because it is associated with illness, anemia, seizures, mental retardation and other consequences. Youngsters usually develop lead toxicity from ingesting the chips or dust of lead paint, eating from lead-glazed ceramic ware (most of which is prohibited in the United States) or absorbing traces of the metal from contaminated soil. In your son's case, I'd worry that he may be experiencing chronic exposure to lead that, if not corrected, could progress to higher blood levels in the future. In my view, this problem should be addressed now, not at a later stage when lead toxicity has caused irreparable harm.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please comment on persistent urinary tract infections. I am 25, female and have had about 12 UTIs in the past two years. My urologist has put me on a prophylactic dose of Bactrim but I continue to have burning and frequency. A kidney x-ray was negative. Could stress or environmental factors dispose me to UTIs?

DEAR READER: Some women are inexplicably prone to repeated urinary tract infections. In many cases, the cause for this cannot be discovered and patients must simply remain on antibiotics indefinitely.

You seem to be receiving appropriate therapy and attention. Obviously, no one can predict whether you might develop a new infection that could be resistant to your current antibiotic. This is precisely why your urologist will probably alter your antibiotic from time to time, after obtaining bacterial cultures of your urine.

Stress does not cause UTIs. However, environmental factors could. These include tight panty hose, certain problems during intercourse and hygienic difficulties relating to bowel movements. Ask your urologist about these considerations.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please comment on L-lysine, which is supposed to treat fever blisters. I want to make sure it's safe before I try it.

DEAR READER: L-lysine is an amino acid essential for normal growth and development. Because it is so plentiful in many foods, deficiencies don't occur.

The use of the product for fever blisters is largely anecdotal, meaning that it's reputation exceeds its abilities: It's no more effective than the standard over-the-counter remedies, such as Blistex. Because L-lysine is a natural compound, it is not harmful for adults and children.

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Oil Patch News

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Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 5407 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 19, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

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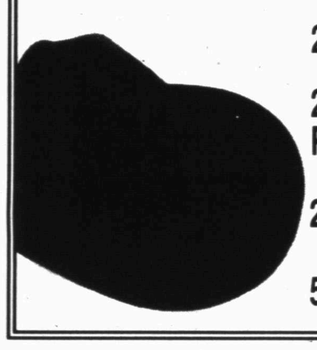

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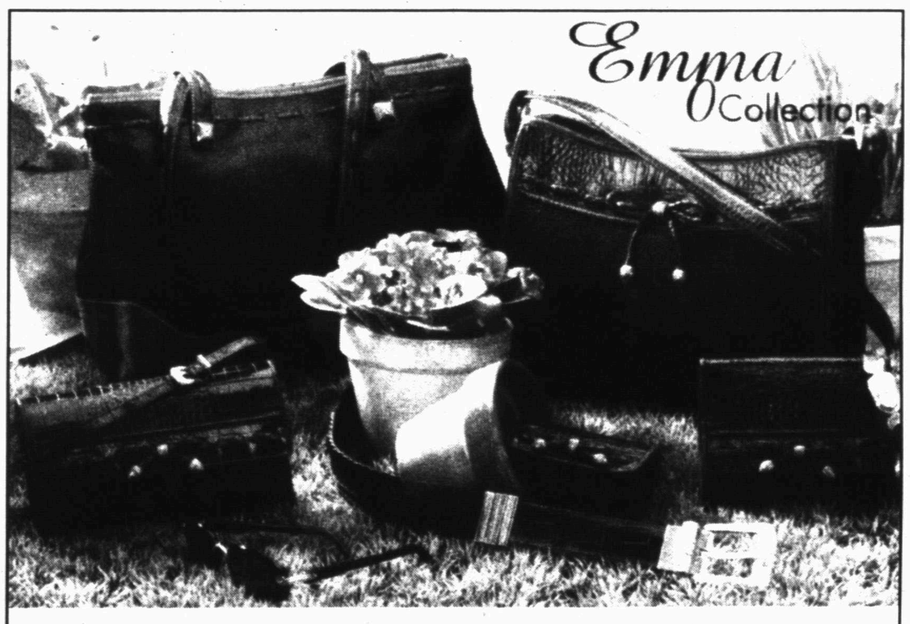

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

North Korea to remove U.N. nuke seals

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.N. nuclear watchdog said it deplores North Korea's decision to remove U.N. seals and surveillance cameras from nuclear facilities that U.S. officials say could yield weapons within months. Washington and its allies urged Pyongyang to rescind its decision.

North Korea today began removing U.N. seals and "disrupting" cameras at a laboratory used to extract weapons-grade plutonium from spent fuel rods, said the U.N. agency acting as the world's nuclear watchdog.

"There isn't any legitimate purpose for the facility other than separating plutonium from spent fuel," a step in the process of making nuclear weapons, said Mark Gwozdecky, spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA.

North Korea indicated today the "nuclear issue" could be settled if the United States agrees to a longstanding demand for a nonaggression treaty.

"The U.S. should stop posing a nuclear threat to the DPRK and accept the DPRK's proposal for the conclusion of a nonaggression treaty between the two countries," the North's official newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in an editorial. DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States, which is South Korea's chief ally, says it wants a diplomatic solution, but opposes talks unless North Korea first abandons nuclear weapons development.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions also dominated a previously arranged today meeting between South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and successor Roh Moo-hyun, who won last week's election. Roh, who takes office in February, has advocated dialogue to resolve the nuclear problem.

Palestinians postpone voting; Sharon seeks election reforms

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said today he has "a lot of reservations" about a revised U.S.-backed peace plan, while visiting Sen. Joseph Lieberman expressed support for Palestinian statehood.

Lieberman, a likely candidate for the Democratic Party's 2004 presidential nomination and a leading supporter of Israel, said conditions he encountered in Ramallah, the Palestinians' commercial center, were "desperate."

Also today, a top Hamas fugitive, Shaman Sobih, and an accomplice were shot by Israeli troops in what Palestinian security officials said was a targeted killing. The two were riding a tractor when they were ambushed near the West Bank town of Jenin, the officials said. The army declined comment.

Israel's government, meanwhile, confirmed it has approved plans to build 232 more homes in the Jewish settlement of Emmanuel in the West Bank, and that it will invest $2.6 million in tourism projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The projects were approved even as the so-called Quartet of Mideast mediators — the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia — pressed ahead with winning Israeli and Palestinian support for a three-phase plan that would culminate with Palestinian statehood by 2005. Among other things, the plan calls for a freeze in Jewish construction in the West Bank and Gaza.

The plan has been circulating for several weeks.

Iraqi aircraft shoots down unmanned American drone

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraqi aircraft shot down a U.S. unmanned surveillance drone over southern Iraq today, American military officials said.

The Predator drone was conducting a reconnaissance mission, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers told a Pentagon news conference. The plane is presumed a total loss, he said.

"They got a lucky shot today, and they brought down the predator," Myers said.

Iraqi fighter aircraft penetrated the southern no-fly zone over the country and fired on the Predator, and its controllers then lost contact with the $3.7 million plane, U.S. officials said.

"This action is the latest chapter in a lengthy list of hostile acts by the Iraqi regime," said Jim Wilkinson, a Central Command spokesman. Central Command is the U.S. military command that oversees operations in Iraq and the surrounding countries.

Iraqi air defenses have fired on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the no-fly zones over Iraq almost 500 times in 2002, officials said. American and British aircraft have come under attack on 32 days since Nov. 8, when the United Nations' Security Council agreed on a new weapons' inspection regime for Iraq.

The no-fly zones were set up after the 1991 Gulf War to prevent Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from using his military aircraft over northern and southern Iraq.

Woman arrested for assault and family violence Saturday

•Arrests

A 17-year-old woman was taken into custody in the 2000 block of Ave. N Saturday for assault, family violence.

DPS troopers arrested a 23-year-old man Saturday morning on outstanding Lubbock warrants.

At 1:44 p.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 19-year-old woman in the 3100 block of Ave. M for driving without a valid license, no liability insurance and expired registration.

Two subjects were arrested in the 300 block of 35th Street just before 9 p.m. Saturday.

Taken into custody were a 32-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman, both for outstanding city warrants.

A 20-year-old man was arrested for city warrants at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

•Disturbances

Officers responded to a home on Ave. N at 11:12 a.m. Saturday after a woman reported her daughter assaulted her. A report was submitted for family violence.

At 8:26 p.m. Saturday, officers were requested by a woman who reported a man refusing to leave her residence on 35th Street and an offense report for family violence was filed.

A woman reported her daughter assaulted her and was out of control Sunday night and officers filed a report for family violence.

At 9:15 p.m. Sunday, a man reported that a woman came to his door to report a disturbance. Officers responded and submitted an offense report for family violence.

•Criminal mischief

An employee at College Park Apartments requested an officer Saturday morning and reported someone trying to kick in a tenant's door. A report for criminal mischief was filed.

Officers submitted an offense report for criminal mischief for damage done at the Junior High Sunday afternoon.

•Threats

Officers responded to a home at 4:11 p.m. Saturday and transported a juvenile subject to the Big Spring State Hospital. A report for suicide threat was submitted.

At 4:30 p.m. Sunday, officers were requested at a house and transported a subject to meet with MHMR officials. An offense report was filed for threatening self-mutilation.

•Gas drive off

A clerk at Plaza Truck Stop reported a gas drive off worth $18.98 at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Obituaries

Vicente Barrientez

1931-2002

Vicente Barrientez of Lubbock died Friday, Dec. 20, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Service for Mr. Barrientez, 71, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. David Savage, pastor of Trinity Church, was to officiate. Interment was to follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born Dec. 13, 1931 in Snyder, he was reared in Snyder and was married to Stella Rodriguez for 40 years. Mr. Barrientez worked for Paymaster Seed Co. in Lubbock for 25 years.

Survivors include his wife, Stella Barrientez of Irving; two daughters, Gloria Nava of Amarillo and Teresa Bravo of Nashville, Tenn.; two sons, Sammy Romero of Irving and Joe Romero of Lubbock; three sisters, Margarita Barrientez, Carolina Ybarra and Nellie Martinez, all of Snyder; four brothers, Ernesto Barrientez of Midland, George Barrientez, Nicholas Barrientez and Samuel Barrientez, all of Snyder; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Pakistan to hold 2 al-Qaida suspects for three more days

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistani doctor suspected of links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network made his first appearance in a special anti-terrorism court today along with his brother, and both were ordered held for another three days, police said.

Dr. Javed Ahmad, a naturalized American citizen, and his brother Ahmad Naveed Khawaja, a naturalized Canadian, were arrested Thursday by Pakistani police and FBI agents along with seven other family members in a raid on their home in the eastern city of Lahore.

Five of the men are still being held on suspicion of having links to al-Qaida. The court set another hearing for the men on Dec. 26.

Police have released four members of Ahmad's family arrested in the raid. The other three in custody were not present at today's court hearing.

Under an anti-terror law that went into effect in November, authorities can detain suspects for up to a year without charge with court approval.

The arrest of Ahmad — the second physician detained this year on suspicion of having links to al-Qaida — has sparked protests among some who object to the FBI's presence in Pakistan.

Ahmad's lawyer, Inayat Pervez Malik, said he will challenge the detentions.

"I have filed a motion before the judge asking for the release of all the detained members of Ahmad's family," Malik said. He said anti-terrorism judge Mahmud Maqbool Bajwa would rule on the motion at the Dec. 26 hearing.

Pakistani investigators say they need more time to determine whether the five have links to al-Qaida or to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime.

Births

James Von Jones was born at 3:56 a.m. on Dec. 20 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital to Danny and Patricia Jones of Hermleigh. He weighed seven pounds, six ounces.

Maternal grandparents are James Homer and Paula Jones of Hermleigh.

—

Chad and Laurie Etheredge of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Connor Thomas, at 8 a.m. on Dec. 21 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Connor, weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces, was also welcomed by a brother, Cole, and a sister, Karly.

Paternal grandparents are Dub and Paulette Etheredge of Morton and maternal grandparents are Tom and Iva Stinson of Snyder.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/24	Wed 12/25	Thu 12/26
34/19	44/24	45/22
Cloudy with scattered snow showers mainly during the morning. High 34F.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	Partial sunshine. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.
Sunrise 7:43 AM, Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:44 AM, Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 7:44 AM, Sunset 5:44 PM

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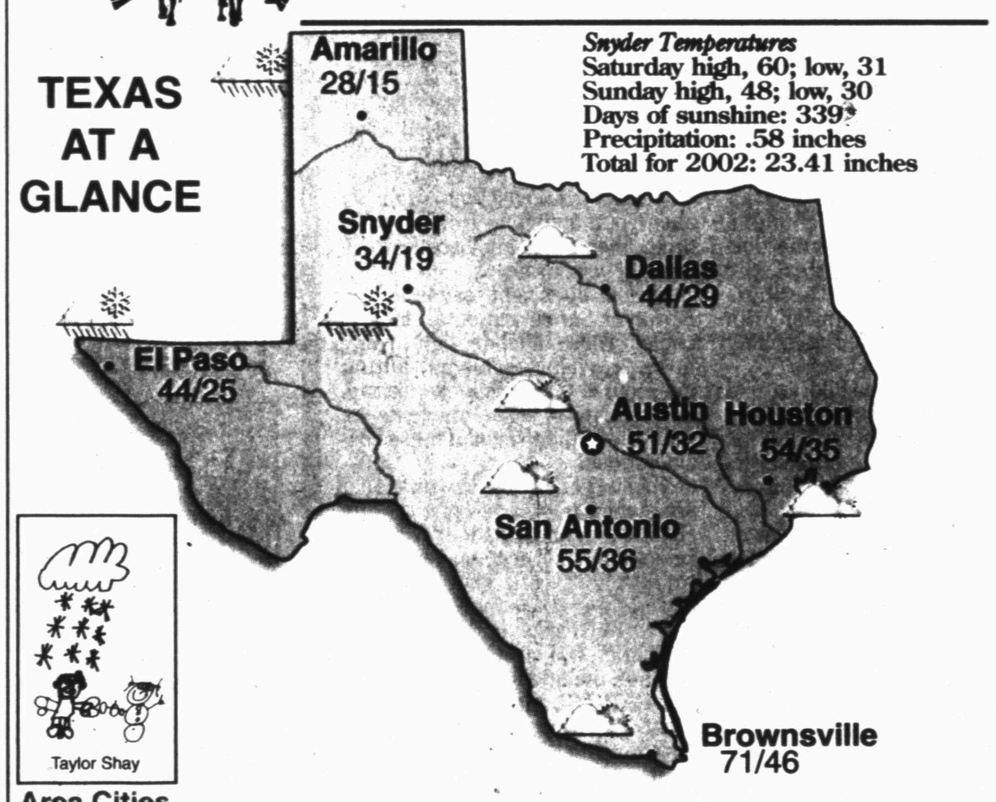
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Saturday high, 60; low, 31
Sunday high, 48; low, 30
Days of sunshine: 339*
Precipitation: .58 inches
Total for 2002: 23.41 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	37	25	cloudy	El Paso	44	25	mixed	Midland	37	23	sn shower
Amarillo	28	15	sn shower	Fort Stockton	44	26	pt sunny	Raymondville	68	40	pt sunny
Austin	51	32	pt sunny	Gainesville	39	21	cloudy	Rosenberg	55	35	pt sunny
Beaumont	55	35	pt sunny	Greenville	41	23	cloudy	San Antonio	55	36	pt sunny
Brownsville	71	46	pt sunny	Houston	54	35	pt sunny	San Marcos	52	33	pt sunny
Brownwood	45	24	pt sunny	Kingsville	64	38	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	42	24	cloudy
Corpus Christi	61	39	pt sunny	Livingston	50	30	pt sunny	Sweetwater	38	22	cloudy
Corsicana	45	29	cloudy	Longview	45	27	pt sunny	Tyler	46	31	pt sunny
Dallas	44	29	cloudy	Lubbock	33	19	sn shower	Weatherford	42	22	cloudy
Del Rio	57	37	pt sunny	Lufkin	50	33	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	38	23	sn shower

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	36	rain	Houston	54	35	pt sunny	Phoenix	57	40	pt sunny
Boston	39	28	pt sunny	Los Angeles	62	48	cloudy	San Francisco	50	44	rain
Chicago	30	21	cloudy	Miami	82	71	cloudy	Seattle	51	37	pt sunny
Dallas	44	29	cloudy	Minneapolis	25	9	cloudy	St. Louis	32	22	snow
Denver	29	12	sn shower	New York	39	31	pt sunny	Washington, DC	40	35	cloudy

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 2	Jan 10

UV Index

Tue 12/24	Wed 12/25	Thu 12/26
Minimal	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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