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Natural Gas - $5.010

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Dec. 26, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 205
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Krista Bre'Anne Chaidez

Retailers pleased with holiday sales

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

While some giant retailers across the country have been singing the blues about holiday shopping, many Snyder businesses reported an increase over last year, or at lease comparable sales figures.

"We have to call our Christmas season a success," said R. J. Youngclaus, Snyder Wal-Mart manager. "Our business was very comparable to last year."

Youngclaus said the store sold more of its large items this year as compared to Christmas 2001.

"Our layaway sales were up and that is how many people bought the large items," said Youngclaus.

Wal-Mart also saw a lot of last-minute gift buyers.

"We were busy until we closed Christmas Eve and a lot of people were buying our gift cards," said Youngclaus.

Today is traditionally a busy day for department stores for exchanges, but the rush hadn't materialized at mid-morning at Wal-Mart.

"Exchanges have been steady, but not heavy," added Youngclaus.

Bealls was also experiencing a slow morning for exchanges.

"I think everyone must have slept in," laughed manager Kitty Huddleston. "Our exchanges have been real slow but they might pick up when people start moving around.

"We've got sales going on so we may see some pick up in exchanges when people come back to look at our sale items," said Huddleston.

Jewelry and fragrances were among the top sellers at Bealls.

"Those two items sold very well," said Huddleston.

Both Wal-Mart and Bealls added extra help for the holidays.

Wal-Mart added 10 percent more employees for the seasonal rush, while Bealls had five additional sales people.

Virginia Bloom, owner of Pleasure's Mine, said holiday business started off slow, but picked up closer to Christmas.

"It got okay the last week," said Bloom.

Being right in the middle of an after-Christmas sale, Bloom said she had not yet compared holiday sales figures from last year.

Snyder's two grocery stores also did a good holiday business.

"We had a fantastic business," said United manager Gary Shifflett, who said shoppers bought the traditional holiday items, but just more of it.

"We had a lot of people in from Jayton, Roby, Rotan, Spur and even Sweetwater," added Shifflett.

Davidson's IGA also had a good holiday business.

"Our Christmas business was good," said store manager Joe Thompson. "Shoppers bought the traditional items, including a lot more baking goods."

Davidson's was the only one of the two grocery stores open Christmas Day.

"We sold a lot of last-minute items beginning around 10 in the morning, and business continued steady until we closed at 1 p.m.," said Thompson.

STILL SHOPPING — Pleasure's Mine owner Virginia Bloom assists customer Wanda Allen at the checkout counter this morning, as shoppers looked high and low for after-Christmas bargains. (SDN Staff Photo)

IF THE SHOE FITS — Nada Cotton, left, helps shoppers Murray Anne Anderson, center, and Connie Alarcon find a pair of shoes today at Bealls as part of their after-holiday sale shopping. (SDN Staff Photo)

Iraqi military targets bombed by warplanes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warplanes from the U.S.-British coalition bombed Iraqi military command and communication targets today near Talil in southern Iraq, the U.S. military announced.

The strike, which took place about 8 a.m. Baghdad time, was a "self-defense" measure in response to the Iraqi military's downing of an American unmanned surveillance drone on Monday, according to a statement from U.S. Central Command, the military command that oversees operations in Iraq.

Defense officials said the targets are believed to have directed the attack on the drone.

The warplanes used precision bombs, the statement said. An assessment of how much damage was done to the targets was ongoing, it said. No defensive fire from the Iraqis was detected, and all the coalition warplanes returned safely, defense officials said.

On Monday, an Iraqi MiG-25 fighter shot down a Predator drone conducting reconnaissance near Al Kut in eastern Iraq, U.S. military officials said. U.S. military officials said the MiG crossed into the "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq, which U.S. and British warplanes patrol to prevent Iraqi military planes from flying.

However, Iraqi state-run television appeared to say that ground-based air defenses shot it down.

Iraq says the patrols violate its sovereignty and its forces frequently shoot at allied pilots both in the northern zone set up "to protect the anti-Saddam Kurdish minority and the southern zone to protect Shiites." Iraq has never shot down a manned coalition warplane patrolling either no-fly zone.

The previous coalition strike in southern Iraq was Dec. 20, when warplanes bombed air defense sites near An Nasiriyah and Basra.

THE SDN COLUMN
MY TURN
by Brian Briscendine

We imagine there were lots of disappointed folks around the country this morning. Not because they didn't get the Christmas gift they wanted from their spouse, but because their Powerball numbers didn't match the winning six.

The multi-state lottery was worth $315 million by Wednesday night and drew hoards of people to convenience stores with dreams of the easy life.

One ticket sold in West Virginia matched the winning numbers, making it the largest single jackpot in lottery history. Somebody's probably drinking his or her New Year's champagne a few days early.

That someone's life is about to change dramatically — probably for the better, but not entirely.

We've always heard stories of the newly rich discovering family members they never knew about. Every organization and individual seeking charity starts knocking at the winner's door.

We know a fellow personally who won Texas' lottery a few years back. He's the dad of a schoolmate of ours, a nice guy and a hard worker.

But when news broke of his fortune, the family discovered all those myths of greedy fortune seekers were true.

This guy planned to continue with his job, but was forced to retire when people seeking help, in the form of donations and even loans, constantly hounded him at work.

Last night's Powerball winner will most likely experience the same, only on a much grander scale.

The guy we know won a few million dollars and made the local news.

This West Virginian has all-of-the-sudden become one of America's richest residents and everyone in the country is reading about it this morning.

And don't think for a second that the lottery folks will let the winner stay anonymous. Shaking the winner's hand while holding an oversized cardboard check is part of the hoopla and some of the best free advertising they could wish for.

What they don't want any of us to see is the guy who blew his paycheck and now holds a handful of worthless tickets. That's the more common lottery story, but the one you'll not hear from proponents.

Lotteries are often described as a "tax on poor people."

We have a brother-in-law that lives in Oklahoma, a state that doesn't have a lottery. Any time he ventures to Texas, he likes to drop a few bucks on our state's game.

While waiting in line with him last weekend, we watched a woman pull wadded bills from a pair of worn-out jeans and ask the attendant for "one of each" of the many scratch tickets available.

She spent more than $50 on the tickets, then fingered through a handful of loose change to buy less than $3 worth of gasoline, probably just enough to get her home.

This, we were told by the clerk, "happens every day."

And Texas' lottery is even struggling for its own survival. The brainiacs who run the operation hope to make the game more successful by — get this — making it harder to win. Go figure.

That means more people will spend more money and end up with more worthless tickets.

Lotteries, as it turns out, aren't all fun and games.

Austin fires claim four lives Tuesday

AUSTIN (AP) — Christmas Eve fires claimed four lives, including three children who were caught in a blaze in a two-story house.

A father who frantically tried to rescue his children from the second story of their northwest Austin home remained hospitalized in critical condition on Wednesday. He was overcome by smoke before he could save his two sons, 8 and 13, and a 12-year-old neighbor.

The dead were identified by fire investigator Tracey Suire as 8-year-old Cole LaGrone, 13-year-old Frank LaGrone and 12-year-old John Overbee.

The fire, which gutted the limestone and wood home and caused part of the roof to collapse, was caused by electrical equipment related to computers in a front room of the house, fire authorities said.

Another son, 9-year-old Samuel LaGrone, had been sleeping downstairs and escaped unharmed. The father, 41-year-old Paul LaGrone, was also downstairs when the fire started. He was transferred to the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

In another fire believed to have been started by electrical equipment, a man died when flames swept through an apartment above a tattoo parlor in the downtown nightclub district on Sixth Street. The victim suffered smoke inhalation and died at the hospital.

Officials declined to release the victim's name, pending notification of relatives.

In the northwest Austin fire, Overbee and Frank LaGrone were found dead in the house, fire officials said. Cole LaGrone died later at a hospital. The three child victims were upstairs when the fire broke out.

The elder LaGrone had climbed a ladder outside the house and severely cut his arm while breaking a second-story window, Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Baum said.

"The man who lived there was also very heroic in his personal efforts to save the kids upstairs before we arrived on scene," said Baum.

A neighbor noticed the flames and called 911 about 4 a.m., authorities said. Firefighters arrived less than four minutes after receiving the call. They climbed up the same ladder the father had used, but were forced to evacuate the second story when part of the ceiling collapsed, Baum said.

"I woke up about a quarter to four and heard a man screaming," said next-door neighbor Cindy Isaacson. "I couldn't quite tell what was going on. I heard (the father) calling his boys' names. He was just frantic ... He wouldn't give up — very heroic."

Firefighters extinguished the fire within 20 minutes of their arrival, said Lt. Dawn Clopton of the Austin Fire Department.

ASK US

Q—When is the college football national championship game?

A—The Fiesta Bowl between Miami and Ohio State, will be played next Friday at 7 p.m. in Tempe, Ariz. and will be broadcast on ABC.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sara Cantu...

...is a senior at Snyder High and has lived in Snyder all her life. She is the only child of Ray and Yolanda Cantu, but is quick to point out that doesn't make her spoiled. Sara is a member of the SHS drama program and plans to attend college to study theater. In her spare time, she enjoys shopping and reading. Sara also works as a clerk at Bealls.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Peace is always beautiful.
—Walt Whitman

DEC 26 2002

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

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.

Landfill closed Wednesday

The City of Snyder landfill will be closed Saturday.

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.

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.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday Why Did God Separate the Jews from the Gentiles?" followed by "What's In It for Me?"

Lions Club meetings

Snyder Lions Club will not meet Tuesday. Meetings on Jan. 7 and Jan. 14 will be held at Snyder Country Club while repairs are being made at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

FBC services televised

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

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.

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.

White Buffalo Festival T-shirts

White Buffalo T-shirts featuring a train are on sale at the Whistle Stop or the coliseum office for $7 each.

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP 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.

White Christmas hits northeast

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — More than two feet of snow fell Wednesday in parts of upstate New York as a powerful Nor'easter moved up the Atlantic Coast, setting Christmas snowfall records, closing airports and bringing an unexpected holiday spectacle of lightning and thunder.

The Mohawk Valley was blanketed with up to 30 inches of snow Wednesday that fell as fast as 5 inches per hour, said Evan Heller, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Albany.

The New York State Thruway closed off more than 100 miles Wednesday evening because plows couldn't keep up. "The snow is coming down so hard that we're struggling to clear it," said spokesman Terry O'Brien. Also closed were parts of three interstates in Pennsylvania, which got up to 20 inches in some areas.

For Albany, it was the first snowy Dec. 25 since 1985, and more than a half-foot above the 1978 record of 11.8 inches. Cleveland also broke its 1944 Christmas record of 5.8 inches of snow, reporting more than 10 inches.

"Everybody's ready for it," said Jamie Georgelos, a manager at Alpin Haus ski shop in Amsterdam, about 30 miles northwest of Albany. "I think a lot of people have been missing the snow for the past few years, and they're really glad it's finally here."

The snowstorm, blowing out of the Plains, was blamed for at least 18 deaths since Monday, mostly related to traffic accidents. It moved east Tuesday night, from the Midwest into Pennsylvania, New York and New England, then re-formed Wednesday off the East Coast as a nor'easter.

Maine was expected to see up to 18 inches of snow in places and wind gusts up to 45 mph, the weather service said.

The storm was punctuated in Connecticut with lightning and thunder. "Anytime you have anything as strong as this, a lot of precipitation and wind, you're going to get these anomalies," Heller said.

All three of New York City's airports were affected, with John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia airports closing Wednesday evening and flights delayed at Newark Liberty International Airport. Flights were also canceled or delayed at airports in Albany, Hartford and Boston.

To the south, Baltimore saw a morning mix of rain and sleet replaced later with cottonball-sized flakes of swirling snow that turned to thick slush as it hit the ground. Slush forced officials at Baltimore-Washington International Airport to close the two major runways temporarily. Six inches fell on parts of western Maryland.

Virginia was spared the brunt, but strong winds blew between 40 and 50 mph in some areas. In Roanoke, Va., convenience store employee Bessie Bates finally brought in a wrought iron sidewalk sign after the wind knocked it down four times.

"It's very, very windy, and I finally just got tired of putting it back up," said Bates.

The storm brought snow Monday to Texas and Oklahoma, which got more than a foot in some areas; Oklahoma City had its first white Christmas in 27 years. It brought 15 inches of snow to parts of Kansas by Tuesday morning and parts of southwest Missouri in the Ozarks had 14 inches.

Michigan caught the northwest fringe of the storm Wednesday, reporting as much as 9 inches of snow in the southern part of the state.

Snow was expected to fall in parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire on Wednesday at the rate of 3 inches an hour for several hours, bringing near whiteout conditions, said National Weather Service meteorologist Walter Drag.

"If you're safe inside and not on the roads ... then it's going to be a winter wonderland," Drag said. "If you're out traveling about, you're not going to be happy."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Resentful stepmom needs to adjust her attitude

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "Feeling Used in Cleveland," who resents her husband's little boy being dumped off by his mother every time she needs a free baby sitter. Your answer was good but not harsh enough.

"Feeling Used" knew the man she married had a child. What makes her think that that little 8-year-old is any less deserving of his father's love, time and attention than the two children she and her husband brought into the world?

She complained about the ex-wife dropping off the boy when he's sick. Instead of complaining, she should give him the TLC he deserves. That child has to watch his dad live with and raise two other kids while he gets shuffled back and forth — and his STEPMOTHER is resentful? Boy, does she have it backward.

I am a married mother of four, and wish all prospective stepparents would reach down deep to see if they have what it takes. There are many wonderful stepparents out there, but "Feeling Used" has a lot of work to do straightening out her priorities. Sign me ... **SICK OF SELFISH STEPPARENTS**

DEAR S.S.S.: I agree that the woman needs a quick attitude adjustment. When two people with children marry, there should no longer be "his," "hers" or "mine." Only OURS. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My mother has a stepgrandson who is her responsibility nearly every weekend. "Sean" was left for my mother to care for three weeks after his birth, while his parents took off to join the circus.

While Mom has her share of trials with Sean, she is the only stable and constant element in his life. Instead of bemoaning the situation, she dutifully picked up where Sean's mother and father left off — and is the most important influence in his life.

I implore "Feeling Used" to dwell less on herself and her needs and to concentrate on caring for her 8-year-old stepson. I guarantee the result — and the feeling she'll enjoy — will more than compensate for her time. — **MATTHEW IN LAS VEGAS**

DEAR MATTHEW: I admire your mother's love, commitment and wellspring of energy. Today millions of grandparents are raising their grandchildren — with all of the challenges and rewards that go with it. For those who find it overwhelming, the AARP Grandparent Information Center offers information and referral to local support groups for grandparent caregivers through its national database. To contact the center, write to: AARP Grandparent Information Center, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049. Call (800) 424-3410; the Web site is www.aarp.org/grandparents.

**

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to the resentful stepmom was right on. At the age of 8, I was the resented stepchild, and didn't know why.

When I became a stepmother and was used as the dumping ground by my husband's ex, I received some excellent advice from a close friend: "Forget the reasons why the child is there, just know he needs you. Change your attitude, because you are what you think, and your actions will show it — good or bad."

Twenty years later, my stepson handed me his newborn and whispered, "I love you for loving me like your own. Here's your grandson, Mom." I sent up a prayer of thanks for her excellent advice, because love is thicker than blood. — **THE LUCKY ONE**

DEAR LUCKY ONE: Regardless of your biological relationship to your stepson, you were the parent who counted the most. It is the job of parents — regardless of blood ties — to nurture and protect the children given into their keeping.

**

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

**

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

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$314.9 million is record jackpot win

HURRICANE, W.Va. (AP) — Christmas is over for the rest of us, but for the winner of the $314.9 million Powerball jackpot it just may go on forever.

The winning ticket in the Christmas night drawing — the third-largest lottery jackpot in U.S. history — was purchased at the C&L Super Serve in Hurricane, 25 miles west of Charleston, said Multi-State Lottery Association spokesman Joe Mahoney.

The prize was the largest ever won with a single ticket.

An unexpected Christmas Day run on Powerball tickets pushed the already whopping $280 million jackpot to $314.9 million just before numbers were drawn, making it the multistate lottery's largest prize ever.

The numbers in Wednesday night's drawing were 5-14-16-29-53 and the Powerball was 7.

The winning ticket was purchased Monday, the West Virginia Lottery Commission said. The winner has an option of taking a cash payout of $170 million before taxes or get the entire jackpot in 30 payments over 29 years.

Super Serve clerk Aaron Gillispie said the store was in a frenzy Thursday.

"It's a mad house," he said in an Associated Press Radio interview. "Every camera crew, every news crew, every person that has anything to do with anything wants to talk to us."

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 32-3-33-38-14-16.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $9 million.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

33-25-26-30-14

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

6-2-7

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Grant writing workshop is set for Jan. 22 in Spur

A grant writing workshop will be held in Spur on Jan. 22-23. The workshop is sponsored by the Big Country, Four Winds RC&D and Wes-Tex RC&D areas. The two-day workshop will carry participants through general grant writing basics all the way to writing, editing and submitting applications for grant funds.

The two-day training program will be instructed by Al Cogburn, a 29-year veteran in public education. Cogburn has hands on experience in managing block grants for amounts ranging from $250,000 to $1,000,000.

Since 1990 he has written 43 successful competitive federal, state and foundation applications totaling more than $17 million. Cogburn is currently under contract with 15 school districts and charter schools for special programs planning, implementation and evaluation which includes grant writing. He is also currently working with two Texas counties on special programs and project-ing planning, implementation, management, and evaluation. Each of these contracts includes grant planning writing, facilitation, management and evaluation.

The workshop will be held at the South Plains Electric Cooperative just west of Spur on FM 836. The two-day program will begin each day at 9 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m.

Pre-registration is $100,000, after Jan 15 it is $115. The registration fee covers only the course content. Each participant will be on his or her own for meals and lodging. The workshop is limited to the first 25 registered applicants.

Lodging is available at the Spur Inn Bed & Breakfast in Spur at 806-271-3940 or the Double H Motel in Dickens at 806-623-5512.

Interested individuals should contact the 4-Winds RC&D at 940-658-3680 or the Andrew Kent Soil and Water Conservation District in Jayton at 806-237-2624.

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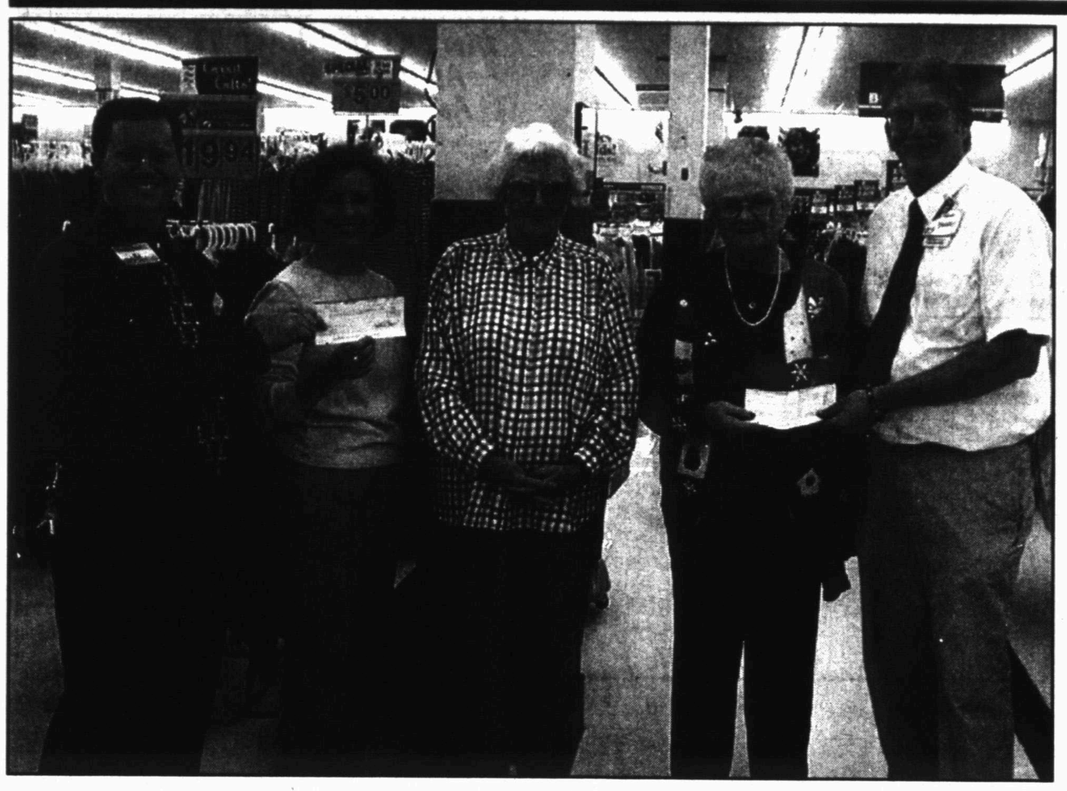


WAL-MART DONATION — Wal-Mart made a contribution to Meals on Wheels and the Food Cupboard on Monday. R.J. Youngclaus, manager, is left, and Charly Mann, assistant manager, is right. Others from left are Valerie Drum, representing Meals on Wheels, Marie Armstrong and Mabel Covey, representing the Food Cupboard. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Weight-loss resolutions don't work

Looking for a better way to drop those holiday pounds without starving yourself? Here are 10 unusual New Year's resolutions for diet hoppers and yo-yo dieters from weight-loss coach Linda Spangle, RN,MA, author of *Life is Hard, Food is Easy.*

Spangle says you will lose weight and keep it off forever once you stop blaming the food you eat or your willpower, and focus instead on why you eat.

Spangle, a leading authority on the psychological aspects of eating, is founder and director of Winner for Life Inc., a Denver-based weight management program specializing in emotional eating. Serving as a referral source for more than 350 physicians, her clinic has a success rate that far exceeds the national average.

In the book, Spangle shows how we all engage in non-hunger eating at one time or another, and use food to deal with boredom, stress and other emotions. She presents her successful five-step program that addresses the underlying eating behaviors and emotional issues most dieters ignore.

If your resolutions for 2003 include "Start New Diet, Lose Weight," Spangle suggests your commit to the following instead:

1. Eat when hungry, stop when full. Too hard? You are not alone. Try the next one.

2. Whenever you have a food thought or craving, ask yourself, Am I physically hungry?

3. If you are not physically hungry, ask yourself what you really want. Will food fix it?

4. Make a list of what you need in your life. Begin to address these needs and food will lose its power.

5. Figure out how foods got linked to emotions in your life. Write down childhood memories and associations about eating and your favorite foods. This will be an eye-opener.

6. When you eat, eat very, very slowly: Set a timer for 20 minutes, and make your meal last that long. Even if it is just one cookie. Savor every single bite. Appreciate food to the fullest.

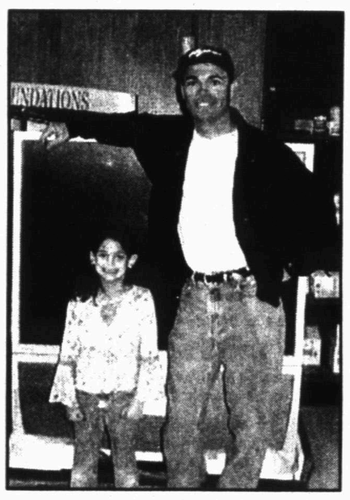
7. Keep a list of activities handy, such as drinking ice water, stretching, walking or calling a friend, that you can do the instant you want food for a reason other than hunger.

8. Ask yourself what is causing you to give up, cheat, slip or lose motivation. Dig deeply until you get to that very last excuse, then work on changing it.

9. Eat regular meals and snacks to avoid getting too hungry or overeating at night.

10. Identify the people and situations in your life that stress you out. Pounds will drop and self-esteem will rise as you begin to deal with these.

Remember resolution number 1? Your ultimate goal for 2003 is to end non-hunger, or emotional eating. "Once you learn to separate eating and food from how you cope with life," says Spangle, "losing weight on any sensible diet is easy."



AND THE WINNER IS — Samantha Bloom, 7, stands with golf coach Ricky Hunter in front of the 52" television she won from the Snyder Junior Golf Association. Donations were accepted for a chance to win the big screen TV, and the SJGA raised $1,502 from the donations. (SDN Staff Photo)

4.5 million people...

Health awareness: Alzheimer's disease

Today in the U.S., approximately 4.5 million people are living with Alzheimer's — a debilitating disease that robs people of their memory — and 70 percent of these people live with their caregiver.

After 65 years old, it is estimated that one in 10 Americans are afflicted with Alzheimer's, but after the age of 85, the incidence rate jumps dramatically to 50 percent.

"First I cried and then I took control," said Mary P., who has been caring for her mother with Alzheimer's for the last five years.

Her sentiment is shared by thousands of caregivers across the country.

As part of taking control, Mary P. sought out information about a clinical research study.

"I wanted to get Mom into possible treatment and I wanted information and support for myself," said Mary P., who enrolled her mother in a clinical research study. "It's an added benefit to know that you are helping others, too."

Physicians across the U.S. are involved in a clinical research study designed to determine the effectiveness of an investigational medication for the treatment of the more advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease.

To move this research forward, many Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers are needed to volunteer for this clinical study.

To qualify, the person must be in the more advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease, living at home or in an assisted-living facility. They must be 50 years or older and have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's and have not taken medications for Alzheimer's in the past three months. The study also requires the support of a caregiver who is willing to accompany the Alzheimer's patient to each visit.

Clinical studies offer some benefits, such as study-related medical tests, medical care, lab work and close monitoring at no cost. If you or someone you know is caring for a person with advanced Alzheimer's, consider calling for more information.

The need for patients is great and patients can make a difference. Call toll free 1-877-336-8167 or visit MemoryLossStudies.com.

A nationwide clinical research trial seeks Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

The clinical study is available to people in the Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia Washington and Wisconsin.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-8015, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 5731141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Births

Carrie Pharris and Junior Villegas of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Krisy Eve Villegas, at 8:02 a.m. on Dec. 24 at Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Krisy Eve weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was also welcomed by a sister, Victoria Villegas.

Paternal grandparents are Richard and Marie Munden of Riverside, Tex. Maternal grandparents are Johnny and Claudette Fuentez of Snyder.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North 12-26-02 ♠ 8 7 5 4 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ 8 6 5 2 ♣ Q 7	
West ♠ Q 9 ♥ A 5 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A J 8 5 3 2		East ♠ 10 6 2 ♥ 9 8 7 3 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ 10 6 4
	South ♠ A K J 3 ♥ Q J 6 4 ♦ A K Q ♣ K 9	

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

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

Opening lead: ♣ 5

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002

The fear is exaggerated

By Phillip Alder

You have king-empty-doubleton or king-empty-third in a suit bid on your left. How often is that king worthless?

In my experience, the king carries its full weight more often than not. Sometimes your left-hand opponent doesn't have the ace; occasionally your partner has the queen.

This deal occurred during the Forbo Team Tournament, held last February in the Netherlands.

At both tables in a match between Italy and the host nation, East made that crazy one-diamond response, hoping to talk vulnerable opponents out of game.

For Italy, Alfredo Versace (North) bid a voluntary two spades, but Lorenzo Lauria (South) didn't raise despite his A-K-J-3.

In three no-trump, Lauria, after winning the first trick with dummy's club queen and assuming that West had all the missing points, started by cashing the ace-king of spades. When the queen dropped, South played off his three top diamonds. Bingo! They broke 3-3, so Lauria took the spade jack, entered dummy with a spade, and cashed the diamond eight for his ninth trick.

At the other table, the Dutch North passed over West's two-club rebid. Then, when South doubled a second time, North bid two spades. Now South continued with two no-trump, again not supporting spades. North, who had promised nothing, raised to three no-trump.

The Dutch declarer, after winning with the club queen, played a heart to his queen. West won with the ace and ran off five club tricks for two down.

Both Souths were trying to protect their club king, but notice that four spades is laydown, the club king being safe.

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*See below for important 0% financing details. Offer good thru Dec. 28. Excludes outlet stores.

free delivery with mail-in rebate on all home appliances over $399

Free standard local delivery. Outside local delivery area, customer pays an additional charge. Rebate values, local areas, and additional charges vary. See your Sears store for details. Excludes outlet stores and KitchenAid built-in refrigerators. Offer good through Dec. 28

all home appliances on sale

Excludes Maytag, Neptune, Gemini and Wide-by-Side™ appliances, Exceptional Values and closeouts.

Kenmore sale 377.00

Super Capacity Plus washer, save $82

White porcelain-on-steel wash basket. Triple Action Agitator, 3-speed motor. #23812 Reg. 459.99

Kenmore Extra Large Capacity dryer #64202 Reg. 299.99, sale 289.99 Gas dryer priced higher

Kenmore closeout 999.88

25.2-cu. ft.† refrigerator, save $300

Acceler-Ice™ icemaker, water filtration. Deluxe Quiet Pak. #52572 Was 1299.99

While quantities last

Kenmore closeout 588.88

20.8 cu. ft.† refrigerator with icemaker, save $6

Spill-proof glass shelves. #71192 Was 749.99

While quantities last.

MAYTAG sale 449.99

Oversized Capacity Plus washer, save $80 #37652 (Mfr. #PAV5158AWW) Reg. 529.99

Maytag® Oversized Capacity Plus dryer, #47642 (Mfr. #PYE 4558AYW) Reg. 429.99, sale 399.99 Gas dryer priced higher

Kenmore sale 399.99

Ultra Wash® tall tub dishwasher, save $70

5-level wash. NSF-certified. Quietguard 3. #16502 Reg. 469.99

CRAFTSMAN sale 77.00

5-drawer premium tool storage, save $22

Includes bulk riser for storing large items. #59975 Reg. 99.99

CRAFTSMAN sale 99.99

19.2-volt drill kit, save $40 Includes cordless screwdriver, work-light, Speed-Lok™ set. #11417 Reg. 139.99

All Cordless Drills On Sale

††Rebate offer good thru Jan. 4. See store for details. In CT, rebate given at register.

CRAFTSMAN final 899.88

42-in. lawn tractor, after $100 savings & $50 mail-in rebate†† #27155. Was 1049.99, closeout 999.88, sale 949.88 While quantities last.

PRO-FORM sale 599.99

Crosswalk treadmill, save $200

Upper-body workout. 2.5-HP motor. #29325 Reg. 799.99

Exercise equipment requires some assembly.

BIG SPRING: 1801 East FM 700-C6, Big Spring TX., Phone: 915-267-1127, Owner: Jody & Terri Swinney, Mon. - Sat. 10-7, Sun. 1-6

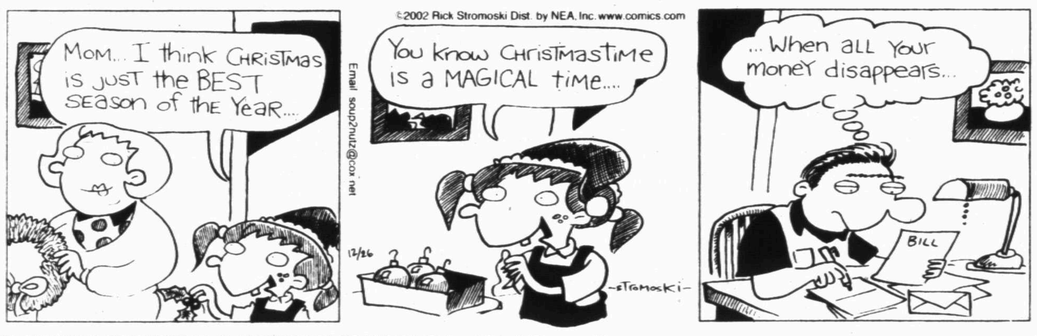
SWEETWATER: 604 East Broadway, Sweetwater, TX., Phone: 915-235-8099, Owner: Shawn & Pam Chittum, Mon. - Sat. 9-6, Sun. 12-5

DEC 26 2002

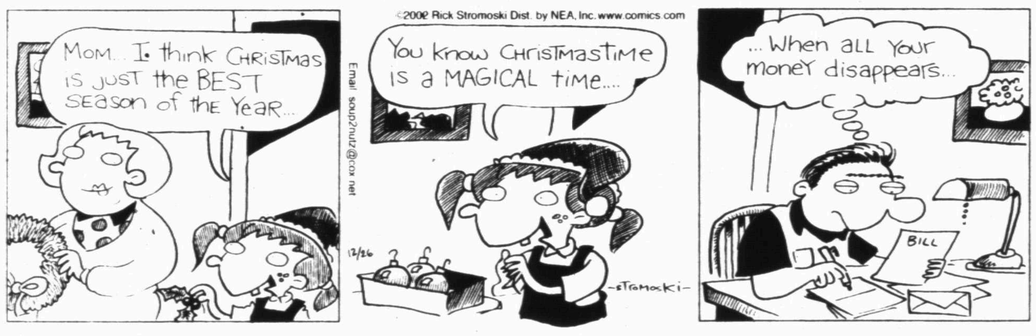
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Mountaineer's refrain
6 Pooh's creator
11 Siamese or tabby
12 Dark red
13 Rations
14 Changes, as a law
15 Din
16 Plaid wearers
17 Chase away
19 Sushi fish
23 Cram
26 Table extender
28 Super Bowl roar
29 Cheated a bit
31 Hazard a guess
33 Put on guard
34 Added cinnamon
35 Good disguise
36 Willow or birch
39 Balloon filler
40 Not e'en once
42 Prickly sensation
44 One, to Helmut
46 Squirrel food
51 Doctrines
54 Milk-carton phrase (2 wds.)
55 Scribble
56 Agree
57 Good judgment
58 — out (discontinue)

DOWN

1 Cheer
2 Earthen jar
3 Designer label name
4 Register for
5 "— Girls"
6 Nursery word
7 Dunne of films
8 "Wolf Man" — Chaney
9 Gesture
10 Naval off.
11 Marvy
12 Where Valletta is
16 Stage prompt
18 Prehistoric
20 Feminist — Jong
21 Narrow streets
22 Lean-to
23 Actress — Christie
24 Maxim
25 Dugout VIP
27 Dandy
29 Spotted animal
30 CPR giver
32 "Babe" star
34 Jiffy
37 Washer cycle
38 Monsieur's summer
41 Cattails
43 Ruthless
45 Like some chatter
47 Pedro's house
48 Verse forms
49 Lalique or Rueso
50 Styron's — Turner
51 Computer data media
52 Canape topper
53 Many millennia
54 Mountain pass

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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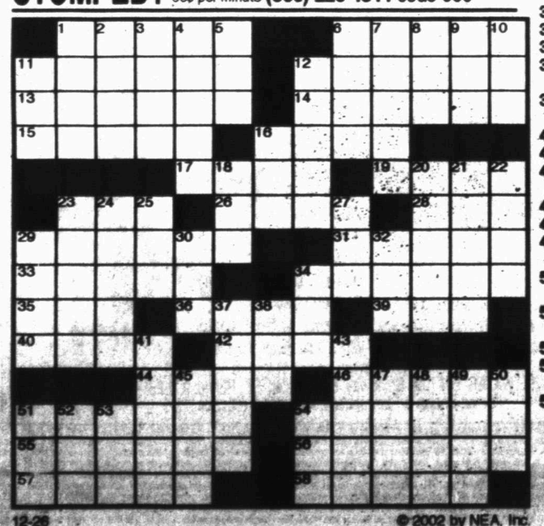

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

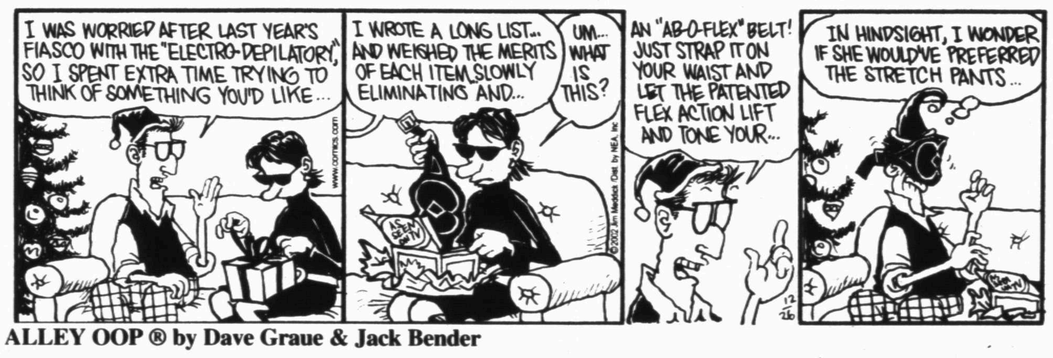
"I'M CHECKING TO BE SURE SANTA DIDN'T LEAVE ANY TOYS STUCK IN THE CHIMNEY."

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

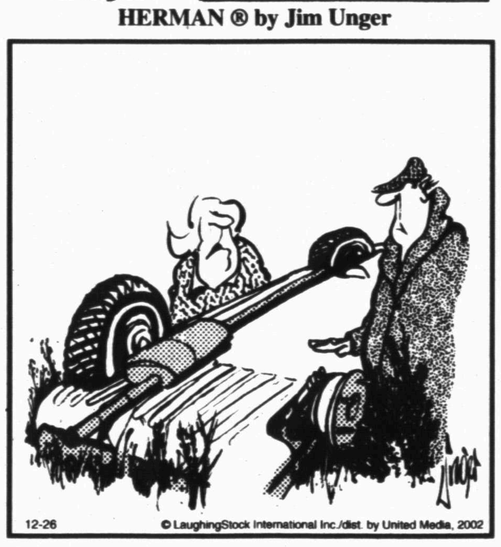
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Do you want to drive now?"

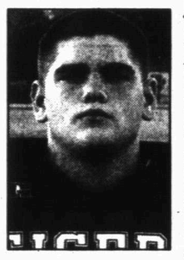
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

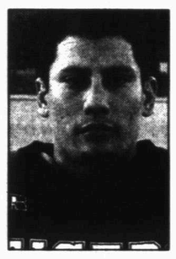
Tigers claim spots on All-South Plains team

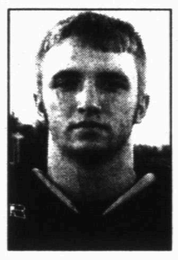
The accolades continue to come in for the 2002 Snyder gridders.

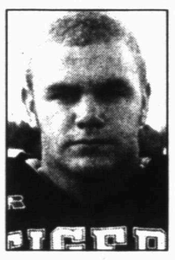
Six Tigers were named to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal's prestigious All-South Plains team 3A football team, which names the best players in the region in each classification.

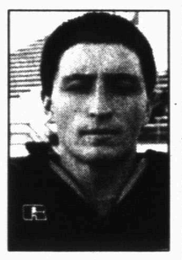

Knox

Mendoza


Montoya


Murphrey


Sorrells


Villarreal

Seniors Josh Knox, Josh Montoya and Josh Mendoza headline the offense.

Knox was recognized in the All-State honorable mention category and named to 3-3A All-District first team. Mendoza adds this award to his 3-3A All-District first team honors.

The inclusion of Montoya corrects his curious omission from the All-District team.

The senior fullback rushed for 721 yards and 10 touchdowns in just eight games.

On defense, junior Villarreal was an honorable mention on the All-State defense, and secured first team All-District honors with four interceptions, including one for a touchdown, three forced fumbles and 12 pass breakups.

Seniors Chris Sorrells and Michael Murphrey — both 6'3" — book-ended the Snyder defensive line, with Sorrells recording 29 stops, three sacks, forcing four fumbles and recovering one.

Murphrey had 59 tackles, four sacks and three pass deflections.

Senior quarterback T.J. Jones was named as an honorable mention, and junior offensive lineman Sid Gutierrez, an honorable mention on the All-State team, earned the same honor on the All-South Plains squad.

Senior Clay Williams, a standout on both sides of the ball, earned honorable mention as a defensive back.

Sacramento humbles reeling Lakers, 105-99

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Sacramento Kings are the new rulers of California — at least for now.

Peja Stojakovic equaled a season high with 26 points, and Chris Webber had 25 points, 15 rebounds and six assists as the Kings beat the slumping three-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers 105-99 Wednesday night.

Mike Bibby added 14 points, and Bobby Jackson had 11 for the Kings (23-8), who won for the 11th time in 14 games.

The Kings learned after the game that Jackson, averaging 19.8 points per game, broke his left hand late in the game in a collision with Shaquille O'Neal.

Jackson, who wore a splint afterward, will be re-examined Thursday in Sacramento.

The stumbling Lakers (11-19) have lost four of five and are 8-10 since O'Neal returned after missing the season's first 12 games while recuperating from surgery on his right big toe.

O'Neal had 27 points, a season-high 17 rebounds and five assists, but shot just 8-of-19 and made 2-of-8 after halftime — both after the outcome had been decided.

Kobe Bryant also had 27 points for the Lakers along with 15 rebounds and six assists, but he made only 7 of 24 shots and went 2-for-12 in the second half.

The Lakers outrebounded the Kings 61-42, but shot 36.7 percent to 46.3 percent for the Kings.

Baskets by Jackson and Webber triggered a 10-2 run that gave the Kings a 92-84 lead.

Bryant's 3-pointer and a jumper by Derek Fisher drew the Lakers within three points with 3½ minutes to play, but that's as close as they would get.

Bryant committed a turnover that led to a basket by Jimmy Jackson, making it 95-89, and Webber skipped downcourt after making a jumper with 2:12 left, giving the Kings an eight-point lead that proved insurmountable.

The game was the first that counted between the rivals since the Lakers beat the Kings in the Western Conference finals last June, winning the seventh and deciding game in overtime at Arco Arena.

It marked the third straight spring the Lakers eliminated the Kings on their way to their three-peat.

The teams bickered through the media during the offseason, with O'Neal saying in early October he "wasn't worried about the Sacramento Queens."

Buffalo players sent home after arrests

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Colorado has sent home one of two football players arrested on public intoxication charges along the River Walk.

Starting senior linebacker Drew Wahlroos and freshman defensive tackle Will Down were arrested early Tuesday. The Buffaloes are in San Antonio for the Alamo Bowl.

Wahlroos, 22, practiced with the Buffaloes later in the day Tuesday and was seen running extra wind sprints after the team's afternoon workout at Alamo Heights High School. But he ignored reporters as he boarded the team bus.

The 6-3, 280-pound Down, who is from Escondido, Calif., also was charged with failure to identify himself to police after the 2 a.m. arrests Tuesday.

Dave Plati, Colorado sports information director, said Down, 18, was sent home later in the morning on Tuesday.

"There were different, varying stages of what they did," Plati said of why Down was sent home and Wahlroos remained with the team. Plati would not elaborate.

Colorado coach Gary Barnett said Down and Wahlroos will be disciplined "within the program." But he declined to comment whether the punishments would resonate into Saturday's Alamo Bowl against Wisconsin.

The coach said he was "disappointed that our guys didn't show some self-control.

"This is an incident that will be handled internally," said Barnett. "The consequences will be kept internal as well."

Colorado offensive lineman Justin Bates said he expects Wahlroos to play in the Alamo Bowl, adding the arrests likely will have a big impact on the way players spend the rest of their week. Barnett earlier said he wouldn't give his players a curfew until Thursday.

"It's a wake-up call," said Bates. "We've got to police ourselves."

Barnett said he had yet to decide on whether to take disciplinary action.

"I've always had a record of being very tough in these matters," the coach said, "and I'll probably follow that record."

Wahlroos, a 6-foot-3, 230-pounder from Poway, Calif., was an honorable mention on the Associated Press All-Big 12 team this season. He was third in tackles among Buffalo defensive players with 85 and he had one interception.

Down did not play for Colorado during the regular season and was listed as inactive for the Alamo Bowl due to a back injury.

Both players were released from custody about 8:20 a.m., according to the city magistrate's office. They were both ordered to appear in city court to face charges on Jan. 7.

Bear market for baseball free agents

NEW YORK (AP) — The bear market isn't just on Wall Street anymore. Just ask baseball's free agents.

In a sport where prices have skyrocketed since 1976 — except for the collusion years and the fallout of the 1994-95 strike — players have seen prices stagnate, then drop since Alex Rodriguez signed his record $252 million, 10-year contract with the Texas Rangers in December 2000.

"It comes as no surprise, and for a variety of reasons, that it is some kind of a buyer's market," agent Tom Reich said Wednesday, 50 days before the start of spring training.

Among the 157 players who filed for free agency following the World Series, 61 have agreed to new contracts, ahead of last year's pace on Christmas Day (50 of 154) but behind two years ago (75 of 136).

Here's the telling sign: Just 18 players have gotten deals for $5 million or more total, down from 25 last year and 35 two years ago. Only six players have gotten $20 million and higher, down from nine last year and way below the 15 at this point following the 2000 season.

And among the stars?

Jim Thome is the only player to top $40 million, agreeing to an $85 million, six-year contract with Philadelphia. Last year, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi ($120 million for seven years) and Texas pitcher Chan Ho Park ($65 million for five years) topped that level.

And in 2000, one of the most talented free-agent classes ever, seven players were over $40 million, a group that included Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez ($160 million for eight years), Mike Hampton ($121 million for eight years), Mike Mussina ($88.5 million for six years), Darren Dreifort ($55 million for five years), Denny Neagle ($51 million for five years) and Kevin Appier ($42 million for four years).

"There's a heightened awareness on the part of teams about player compensation issues," agent Jeff Moorad said. "Some of that awareness comes from the new labor agreement, some of it comes from I believe, better coaching and guidance from central baseball. For the first time in years, it seems teams have learned restraint, and some of which is positive for the industry as a whole."

Tom Glavine, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, wanted a guaranteed four-year deal but settled for $35 million over three years from the New York Mets. Jeff Kent, the 2000 NL MVP, got $18.2 million over two years with Houston.

No teams publicly pursued Greg Maddux, a four-time Cy Young winner, and he accepted Atlanta's offer of salary arbitration.

UCLA pounds New Mexico; first woman plays Div. 1-A football

LAS VEGAS (AP) — UCLA spoiled Katie Hnida's historic moment, and gave the Bruins' new coach something to build on.

Hnida became the first woman to play in a Division I-A game Wednesday, kicking an extra point that was blocked in New Mexico's 27-13 loss to UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl.

"I can replay in my mind seeing that hand block the kick, and that's going to be what I think about before I go to bed tonight," Hnida said of her low kick.

Lobos coach Rocky Long defended his decision to use Hnida.

"Katie is a valuable member of our team," Long said. "I think it's a very unusual situation, and she's put in a position a lot of times that's very uncomfortable. I made the decision before the game that we were going to let her kick the first extra point."

Hnida, with her hair in a ponytail, attempted the kick after the Lobos took a 6-3 lead on Desmar Black's 55-yard interception return with 8:20 left in the first quarter.

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound Hnida was on the Colorado roster in 1999 and suited up for the Buffaloes in the Insight.com Bowl. She walked on to the New Mexico team before this season.

"The only way that I've been able to handle this so well is because of the program that I am in," Hnida said. "The players and the coaches are absolutely phenomenal. This isn't common. It isn't going on anywhere else in the country."

UCLA interim coach Ed Kezirian's brief time in the spotlight went much better than Hnida's.

Kezirian, UCLA's director of academic services, filled in as coach after Bob Toledo was fired at the end of the regular season.

"This game isn't really about me, it's about the players," Kezirian said.

Karl Dorrell, a former UCLA receiver and more recently an assistant with the Denver Broncos, was hired last week to replace Toledo, but has not yet taken over the team.

Dorrell is inheriting a team loaded with talented underclassmen, led by sophomore receiver Craig Bragg.

Men's League Basketball

Snyder National Bank's team took the men's basketball league title Monday night, topping American State Bank, 79-51, to close out the season.

Gene Stroman paced the SNB crew with 18, while teammate Shane Christensen notched 17 points in the victory.

Bryan Cave and Robby Huestiss led the way for the ASB squad, posting 16 points each.

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Sports Briefs

Griese to sit against Cardinals

DENVER (AP) — Quarterback Brian Griese questioned his future with the Denver Broncos after learning he will not start against Arizona even if his sprained left knee is healthy.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Steve Beuerlein will start against the Cardinals on Sunday as Denver clings to slim playoff hopes

Holmes out for Chiefs' finale

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Priest Holmes is out for Kansas City's regular-season finale against Oakland on Saturday.

Holmes is just two touchdowns away from the NFL single-season record of 26.

Woodson has surgery

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson had surgery to repair his fractured right fibula and will miss the regular-season finale against Kansas City.

Sanders won't play for Raiders — or anyone else

NEW YORK (AP) — Deion Sanders will not become a member of the Oakland Raiders. Nor will he return to the NFL this season.

The San Diego Chargers, one of five AFC teams to put in claims, were awarded the former All-Pro cornerback.

He will not play for the Chargers because he will have to be placed on its reserve-retired list, the same list he was on with Washington, which released him Monday.

Yankees to sign Cuban defector

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox in the race to sign Cuban defector Jose Contreras, reaching a preliminary agreement with the right-hander.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	20	9	.690	—
Boston	18	10	.643	1½
Philadelphia	18	10	.643	1½
Orlando	16	14	.533	4½
Washington	12	15	.444	7
New York	8	16	.333	9½
Miami	9	19	.321	10½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	20	8	.714	—
Detroit	18	9	.667	1½
New Orleans	18	11	.621	2½
Milwaukee	12	15	.444	7½
Atlanta	11	16	.407	8½
Chicago	10	18	.357	10
Toronto	8	19	.296	11½
Cleveland	6	24	.200	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	23	4	.852	—
San Antonio	18	10	.643	5½
Houston	15	12	.556	8
Utah	15	12	.556	8
Minnesota	15	13	.536	8½
Memphis	8	21	.276	16
Denver	6	22	.214	17½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	22	8	.733	—
Phoenix	17	11	.607	4
Portland	15	11	.577	5
Seattle	14	15	.483	7½
L.A. Clippers	12	16	.429	9
L.A. Lakers	11	18	.379	10½
Golden State	9	18	.333	11½

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 104, Detroit 99
New Jersey 117, Boston 81
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Boston at Miami, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
New York at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Toronto at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

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1997 Ford F350 crew cab, 4-wheel drive, gasoline or propane. Excellent condition. New motor & clutch. Will wholesale. 915-737-2403 or 338-4949.

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Snyder Oaks Care Center
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Local Title Insurance Company needs secretary for preparation of title policies, real estate closings, general secretarial duties. Title company experience preferred. Please send resume to:
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Great Pyrenees puppies for sale. Out of working parents. Call 728-2825, Colorado City.

Precious Christmas puppies. Miniature Dachshunds, shots.
573-4448

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE
The Association for Retarded Citizens will close Dec. 24th & will reopen Jan. 7th.
For local pickups on items call 573-6310, 573-5374 or 573-3729.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to our donators & customers.

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2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex. Locally owned. 573-0340 or 575-4934

Furnished 1 bedroom apartment for rent. Nice & clean. Located in Hermleigh. Call 863-2700.

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Jobless rate shows sharp decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — New claims for unemployment benefits plunged last week by the largest amount in more than a year, offering a dose of encouraging news for a job market that has stayed sluggish this year as companies cope with an uneven economic recovery.

The Labor Department reported today that new claims for jobless benefits fell by a seasonally adjusted 60,000 to 378,000 for the work week ending Dec. 21.

The drop — the largest decline since Oct. 6, 2001, when claims fell by the same amount — left claims at their lowest level since Nov. 30.

Still, a Labor Department analyst said that claims can swing widely — in either direction — during the holiday season. Private economists say difficulties adjusting for seasonal factors can distort the weekly claims figures this time of year.

The more-stable four-week moving average of new claims edged up last week, rising by 2,500 to 404,500, the highest level since the week ending Oct. 19.

For two weeks straight, the four-week moving average has been above the 400,000 mark — a level associated with a lackluster job market. But before that, claims hovered below the 400,000 level for four weeks in a row.

Even with weekly jobless benefit claims figures bouncing around, many economists believe that the worst of the layoffs seen earlier this year are over.

However, economists say even if companies reduce the speed at which they lay off workers, they won't be in a rush to hire. That means the nation's unemployment rate — now at 6 percent — will probably stay in the range for months to come, economists say.

Companies are wary of making big commitments in capital investment and in hiring people, forces that are putting the biggest strain on the economic recovery. Companies are reluctant to make such investments because profits, which took a hit during last year's recession, are still hurting and economic uncertainties, including a possible war with Iraq, complicate planning and business decisions.

The Federal Reserve earlier this month decided to keep a key interest rate at a 41-year low of 1.25 percent. Fed policy-makers hope low rates will motivate businesses to boost investment and keep consumers spending. That would help economic growth.

President Bush wants Congress soon after it convenes next month to extend unemployment benefits for jobless workers. Extended federal aid for the jobless runs out Dec. 28.

Congress last March approved a 13-week extension in federal unemployment benefits. That extension is to run out for people who have exhausted the 26 weeks of payments they typically receive through states.

Millions ignore warnings and don't stop smoking

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite suffering from chronic lung and other ailments, millions of Americans ignore warnings from their physicians and continue smoking.

A study by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that nearly 38 percent of people with the chronic lung disease emphysema still smoke, as do almost 25 percent of those with asthma.

And the agency said Tuesday that the patients continued smoking even though at least 60 percent of them said they had been told by a doctor to stop within the last year.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 15 million Americans suffer from asthma. The American Lung Association estimates the number may be as high as 17.7 million, with an additional 2.8 million suffering from emphysema.

The agency's Dr. Steven B. Cohen said the data will allow researchers to detect trends and determine whether people with chronic illnesses continue to smoke in large numbers in coming years. AHRQ is the government's lead agency for research on health care quality, costs, outcomes and patient safety.

"We're trying to assess the individuals who are current smokers and get a sense of whether, in the past 12 months, they have been advised to quit," Cohen said.

The findings were no surprise to Dr. Norman H. Edelman. "We see people like that all the time," the Long Island physician said.

"What it points out is nicotine is a true addiction, just like being addicted to heroin or cocaine or other narcotics. You are perfectly aware of deleterious effects but it's hard to break an addiction," said Edelman, who teaches at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The findings, part of a statistical brief on smoking, were issued without discussion by the Health and Human Services agency.

The report also noted that 20 percent of people with high blood pressure or heart problems continue to smoke, as do 18.5 percent of people with diabetes, diseases that affect millions more Americans.

Cohen said that the overall statistics on the number of adults who smoke are similar to other studies, but those studies haven't looked specifically at people with chronic illnesses.

Edelman, who serves as a spokesman for the American Lung Association, said that in addition to the problems of quitting smoking, some people who develop disease take the attitude that the damage is already done so they may as well continue to enjoy cigarettes.

But, he stressed, research has shown that it's always beneficial to stop smoking.

"Physicians have to be much more active in helping people quit," he said. "They have to recommend programs, they have to monitor programs, make sure patients are using pharmaceutical aids to quit. In general, we believe physicians should play a more active role" in helping people quit.

The new findings are based on a self-administered questionnaire given to 15,661 adults in late 2000 and early 2001 as part of an effort to evaluate their health care.

Overall, the report found that 23.1 percent of adult Americans smoke. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported earlier that 23.3 percent were smokers in 2000, down from 25 percent in 1993.

Two airlines in bankruptcy puts added stress on federal agency

WASHINGTON (AP) — When an airline is in financial distress, the Federal Aviation Administration, increases vigilance to ensure maintenance isn't compromised. But with two huge airlines in Chapter 11 and the FAA facing criticism for not doing enough to monitor a third, some lawmakers question whether the agency is up to the task.

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla. and chairman of the House aviation subcommittee, said the FAA needs more money to do the job. He also said he may write legislation ordering that FAA personnel be shifted to that task.

"There have been many more people killed due to maintenance defects and lack of inspection and oversight than in all the terrorist acts combined in this country," Mica said. "We do have some airlines in deep financial trouble, and it's important we have inspections to make certain they're operating safe aircraft and that proper maintenance is adhered to."

The FAA has 3,300 aviation safety inspectors to monitor 139 airlines, 637,000 active pilots, 273,000 mechanics, 7,600 commercial aircraft, 11,000 charter aircraft and 220,000 private planes, according to an April audit by the Transportation Department's inspector general.

FAA inspectors analyze data, review paperwork and conduct spot checks of airlines' maintenance programs. Labor unrest, financial problems and rapid growth are among the things that prompt increased supervision.

Many U.S. air carriers have struggled financially since the Sept. 11 attacks. Major airlines expect to lose about $10 billion this year, according to Leo Mullin, Delta Air Lines' chief executive. And they have cut about 100,000 jobs since the attacks.

United Airlines, the second-largest U.S. airline, and US Airways, the fifth-biggest, declared bankruptcy this year.

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WEEKLY LAKE AND WATER DELIVERY REPORT

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

	ONE YEAR AGO 12/23/01	LAST WEEK 12/16/02	THIS WEEK 12/23/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	17.68	17.49	17.39
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	19,038	18,681	18,482
PERCENT FULL	9.49	9.31	9.21
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.50
IVIE TO LAKE THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0
SPENCE TO THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT BIG SPRING/ODESSA INTAKE.

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

	ONE YEAR AGO 12/23/01	LAST WEEK 12/16/02	THIS WEEK 12/23/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	44.11	37.86	37.71
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	54,976	35,723	35,327
PERCENT FULL	10.63	6.91	6.83
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT SPENCE PUMP STATION.

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

	ONE YEAR AGO 12/23/01	LAST WEEK 12/16/02	THIS WEEK 12/23/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	31.84	27.99	27.88
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	256,999	215,992	214,910
PERCENT FULL	46.36	38.96	38.77
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT DAM.

2002 INFORMATION BASED ON NEW AREA CAPACITY CURVE DATA

MUNICIPAL WATER DELIVERIES IN GALLONS

	LAST WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 12/16/02 12/10/02	THIS WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 12/23/02 12/17/02	THIS WEEKS PEAK DAY 12/23/02 12/17/02
BIG SPRING	3,423,286	3,713,857	4,107,000
ODESSA	11,995,714	11,484,714	12,237,000
SNYDER	1,643,857	1,556,571	1,824,000
MIDLAND	11,983,429	14,043,143	16,002,000
SAN ANGELO	8,147,857	8,120,000	8,593,000
STANTON	100,143	103,571	125,000

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.67	6.21	6.65	+ .45
AOL TimeWrn	13.33	13.11	13.14	—.04
AT&T Corp rs	27.10	26.77	26.98	—.01
Albertsons	22.15	21.83	22.10	+ .28
Alltel	53.19	52.35	53.10	+ .71
AmEl Pw	27.76	27.41	27.70	+ .46
AndarkPtr	49.40	49.04	49.16	+ .01
ATMOS Egy	23.65	23.55	23.64	+ .14
Aviall	8.35	8.06	8.28	+ .27
BP PLC	40.55	40.05	40.41	+ .36
BakerHughes	33.87	33.17	33.64	+ .14
Bank of Amer	70.64	69.95	70.46	+ .71
BellSouth	27.09	26.42	26.86	+ .60
BurlNoSFe	26.35	25.85	26.33	+ .52
Caterpillar	46.98	46.41	46.85	+ .45
CenterPoint	8.65	8.49	8.65	+ .06
ChevronTex	67.49	66.55	67.39	+ .74
Citigroup	37.07	36.50	36.75	+ .25
CocaCola	44.70	44.20	44.54	+ .31
ColgatePal	53.05	52.53	52.99	+ .55
CmclMetals s	16.32	16.16	16.30	+ .19
ConocoPhill	49.70	49.01	49.70	+ .56
Cooper Inds	36.97	36.02	36.81	+ .77
DaimlrChry	31.40	30.64	31.31	+ .67
DeltaAirl	11.72	11.28	11.70	+ .46
Dillards Inc	15.93	15.57	15.79	+ .14
DowChem	30.65	30.06	30.53	+ .54
DuPont	43.08	42.51	42.97	+ .32
EastmanChem	37.38	36.64	37.25	+ .52
EstKodak	36.49	35.85	36.45	+ .65
EDS Corp	18.79	18.43	18.70	+ .22
Entergy	46.18	45.86	46.11	+ .26
ExxonMobil	35.96	35.52	35.90	+ .48
FstBksAm	40.50	40.49	40.50	+ .05
FootLocker	10.49	10.38	10.49	+ .06
GenDynam	79.52	78.80	79.30	+ .48
GenElec	25.98	25.28	25.87	+ .54
GenMills	47.23	46.90	47.07	+ .19
GenMotors	37.86	36.83	37.74	+ .93
GaPacific	16.09	15.80	16.02	+ .34
Goodrich	18.10	17.89	18.00	+ .11
Goodyear	6.86	6.64	6.84	+ .21
GtAtlPac	7.69	7.47	7.59	+ .06
Halliburtn	19.54	19.15	19.22	—.10
Hanson ADS	21.82	21.52	21.82	+ .20
HarteHanks s	18.90	18.50	18.79	+ .24
HomeDepot	24.59	24.10	24.44	+ .24
HoneywellIntl	23.34	22.79	23.24	+ .63
IBM	80.70	79.56	80.23	+ .47
IntlPaper	35.52	35.00	35.45	+ .52
JohnsonJn	55.15	54.54	54.78	—.12
KinderMorg	42.13	41.66	42.13	+ .47
Kroger Co	15.67	15.21	15.64	+ .44
LockheedM	57.50	56.91	57.06	+ .22
Lowes Cos	37.98	36.85	37.91	+ 1.06
Lubys	3.07	3.00	3.00	—.07
LucentTech	1.45	1.38	1.40	—.02
MarathonOil	21.80	21.49	21.76	+ .18
MayDeptStr	22.87	22.18	22.74	+ .24
Medtronic	47.12	46.70	46.97	—.09
Motorola	9.14	8.93	9.10	+ .36
NCR Corp	24.35	23.71	24.29	+ .59
Navistar	24.74	24.01	24.74	+ .45
PNM Rescs	24.25	24.00	24.25	+ .30
Penney JC	22.50	22.05	22.40	+ .15
PepBoys	11.67	11.43	11.67	+ .27
PepsiCo	42.55	42.01	42.38	+ .38
Pharmacia	42.76	41.82	41.87	—1.13
PhelpDodge	32.20	31.68	32.15	+ .39
PilgrmPrd B	8.45	8.39	8.44	—.03
Praxair	58.98	58.15	58.88	+ .80
ProctGamb	88.06	87.54	88.03	+ .50
RadioShack	19.01	18.18	18.81	+ .64
RoyalDut	44.26	43.96	44.20	+ .14
SBC Comm	28.73	27.75	28.62	+ .82
SaraLee	22.74	22.35	22.70	+ .28
Scripps EW	77.10	76.54	77.10	+ .66
SearsRoeb	23.30	22.49	23.17	+ .38
SherwinW	28.74	27.85	28.70	+ .71
SouthernCo	29.11	28.65	29.07	+ .27
SwstAirl	14.74	14.28	14.68	+ .47
SprintFON	14.70	14.56	14.62	
SprintPCS	4.70	4.51	4.67	+ .12
Sunoco Inc	33.36	32.87	33.30	+ .22
TXU Corp	18.35	18.10	18.26	+ .11
TempleInland	44.98	44.53	44.91	+ .31
TexInd	24.65	24.25	24.59	+ .31
TexasInst	16.25	15.87	16.19	+ .41
Textron	43.26	42.58	43.23	+ .94
TrinityInds	20.38	20.10	20.37	+ .37
TylerTech	4.05	3.92	3.96	—.14
UnionPacif	60.57	59.75	60.52	+ .77
USSteel	13.20	12.98	13.17	+ .21
UnitedTech	62.55	61.20	62.46	+ .96
Unocal	32.10	31.84	32.05	+ .13
VerizonComm	40.23	39.42	40.02	+ .52
WalMart	50.65	49.20	50.40	+ .70
WellsFargo	47.74	47.13	47.62	+ .70
WstnGasRs	37.20	36.75	37.17	+ .46
WinnDixie	15.46	15.20	15.38	+ .28
Xerox Cp	8.28	8.11	8.27	+ .19
YumBrands s	24.49	23.64	24.31	+ .56

NRCS report

The Pinyon Pine is an evergreen with a pyramid shape, and will branch to the ground. It can reach heights of 25 to 35 feet at maturity. Its leaf color ranges from bluish-green for new growth to yellowish-green for maturity.

This evergreen has many advantages. For starters, it grows well in a broad range of soils. Pinyon Pine is resistant to pine tip moth, a big plus in this area. The tree's growth pattern provides good escape and nesting cover for several species of birds and other wildlife.

This evergreen was a popular selection last year. Like last year, quantities are limited so please place your orders early.

For more information about the Pinyon Pine or any of the other varieties, call or come by the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District office located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Hwy. Or call 915-573-6317.

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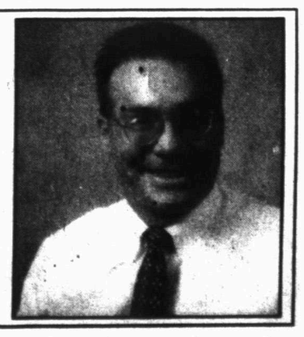

DEC 26 2002

Electric degregulation marks year

AUSTIN (AP) — Donald Lee should be singing the praises of electric deregulation, but he is not — at least not yet.

Lee heads Public Power Pool, a group of 100 school and hospital districts that joined together to negotiate with electric companies. The group expected to save $40 million a year on electricity.

But problems in the state's new deregulated electric market short-circuited some of those savings, and that makes Lee angry.

"If you compare Texas to any other state that has implemented deregulation, we have done it better here, but it doesn't mean that we couldn't do better than we did," Lee said.

Rebecca Klein, chairwoman of the Public Utility Commission agrees there have been problems, but said there were none of the blackouts and brownouts that plagued California in 2000-01, and several companies are vying for customers in Texas.

"On a scale of one to 10, I would give it an eight," Klein said. "All the trends have been positive. We have realized significant savings in the marketplace. All classes of customers are continuing to switch to competitive providers."

A year ago, on Jan. 1, electric deregulation began, letting customers in many parts of the state pick their electric provider the same way they pick a long-distance phone company.

The law temporarily regulates the rates that former monopolies such as TXU Energy in Dallas and Reliant in Houston can charge customers in their home markets. New companies can charge whatever they want.

Those regulated rates fell 6 percent when deregulation began. Klein said that decline has saved customers about $900 million this year.

But Tim Morstad of the Texas office of Consumers Union argued that the savings were made possible by a drop in fuel prices, not deregulation.

Homeless in Dallas enjoy luxury accommodations for Christmas

DALLAS (AP) — For some of North Texas' homeless, there was room at the inn this Christmas.

It's a downtown hotel room where they took hot showers, watched TV and slept on beds instead of the streets.

And the charity for about 150 homeless people came from just one self-employed Dallas resident.

"All through the year, these people are treated like second- or third- or fourth-rate citizens. But not tonight," said Mark Pfeiffer. "For one day, they're going to get first-class treatment."

It was the sixth year that Pfeiffer, 50, and his unincorporated charity, the Homey Syndicate, has paid to provide lodging to homeless people on Christmas Eve. He has booked rooms at the downtown Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion for at least three years.

For Dutch Hancock, R.J. Reneau, Sakandra Young and the others, it's a welcome break from the homeless shelters.

Pfeiffer began handing out invitations Sunday. His guests converged on the hotel Tuesday morning, some wheeling their shopping carts before them. Most of the 70 rooms were filled by 9 a.m., though Pfeiffer was still scouring soup kitchens and streets a few hours later, trying to fill the last dozen rooms.

Date Book

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002

Today is the 360th day of 2002 and the sixth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1865, James Nason, a resident of Franklin, Mass., invented the coffee percolator.

On this day in 1898, French scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the element radium. They later won a Nobel Prize for their discovery.

On this day in 1935, Shenandoah National Park was established in Virginia.

On this day in 1966, the first day of the first Kwanzaa was celebrated in Los Angeles. Kwanzaa, which was founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga, means "first fruits of the harvest" in Swahili.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henry Miller (1891-1980), writer; Mao Tse-tung (1893-1976), Chinese communist leader; Steve Allen (1921-2000), humorist and composer; Alan King (1927-), comedian, is 75; Phil Spector (1940-), recording executive, is 62; Ozzie Smith (1954-), baseball star, is 48.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1908, boxer Jack Johnson became the first African-American to gain the heavyweight championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Ours is a government of checks and balances. The Mafia and crooked businessmen make out the checks, and the politicians and other compromised officials improve their bank balances." — Steve Allen

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter (Dec. 26).

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Today's chuckle

People tried to save dummy

GIBBON, Neb. (AP) — A sheriff's officer and other residents tried to save a man falling off a ladder as he hung Christmas lights — only to be politely told not to bother.

After all, Cathy Pierce explained, it's only a dummy she dressed up in her husband's coveralls, boots and gloves.

"It is really neat to see so many good people wanting to do the right thing," she said. "He really does look real."

Cathy and George Pierce have hung the dummy up every year for 10 years. He appears to be hanging from the roof with half a string of lights up and the other half trailing to the ground. A ladder looks as if it has fallen to the side.

Buffalo County Community Service Officer Clint Kirschner was on patrol when he saw what he thought was a man falling and ran to save him.

"I feel so bad for him," Pierce said. "We used to call the sheriff's department every year when we put him up so they would know what was happening if they got a 911 call, but we figured after 10 years, they would know."

Kirschner wasn't the only person who has tried to save the dummy. Pierce said almost two or three times a day, there is a knock on her door telling her that the man hanging lights needs help. Sometimes someone will just set the ladder back up.

Pierce said if it gets really icy they take the dummy down so no one gets hurt trying to help him.

"Some people get mad and shake their fist at the house if they've been fooled," she said. "Others sit down in the yard laughing so hard."

She said sometimes youngsters are so worried their parents stop and show them that it is not a real person.

Most neighbors enjoy the joke and start asking about the dummy at about Halloween.

"My husband says he doesn't dare fall in the yard. No one would stop to help, they'd all think it was the dummy," Pierce said.

Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

What is biliary cirrhosis

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please discuss biliary cirrhosis, a relatively rare liver disorder that isn't caused by alcohol abuse, but is definitely the basis of abnormal liver tests. Is there a research program in some medical school that studies this disorder?

DEAR READER: Biliary cirrhosis, a serious disease of unknown cause, is marked by a low-grade inflammation of the bile ducts (the tubes that drain bile out of the liver), leading to extensive scarring. The affliction is usually diagnosed by liver biopsy. Many experts consider the condition to be an autoimmune disorder. Several medical centers are conducting research into this puzzling disease, which is not related to hepatitis or alcohol consumption.

The course of biliary cirrhosis varies. Some patients may not know they have it and can lead normal lives. However, most patients sooner or later are discovered to have the disorder (usually because of jaundice) and experience slow progression of liver malfunction.

Despite this, the prognosis is generally favorable. Although there is no cure for biliary cirrhosis, symptoms of itching and jaundice can be controlled with appropriate prescription drugs.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've suffered neck and head pain for about a year. The intensity is increasing, and I am now requiring narcotic analgesia. A CT scan showed a protruding disc. Could this be putting pressure on a nerve? Although I get relief from treatment, I wonder if I should be looking at other options for therapy.

DEAR READER: The herniated disc could well be the cause of your chronic pain. In this situation, however, pain relief is not the sole goal of therapy. You need to see an orthopedic specialist or a neurosurgeon, because surgical repair of the disc may be the most effective cure. I advise you to seek such specialty care before the disc disease progresses to the point of irreversible weakness or other handicap.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Managing Chronic Pain." 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: What causes rectal itching? Is there treatment other than hydrocortisone cream?

DEAR READER: Rectal — more properly, anal — itching has a host of causes, most of which are simply annoying nuisances. Hemorrhoids, fissures and antibiotic-induced yeast irritation head the list.

Some forms of anal itching respond to alteration in diet, such as prohibition of citrus, coffee, beer and cola. Other forms may be successfully treated with anti-yeast products such as Mycostatin cream. Frequently, anal itching may be a consequence of suboptimal hygiene; therefore remember that the area should be washed with soap and water (or cleaned with a moist towelette) after each bowel movement, to avoid further irritation.

Recurring or persisting anal itching should be addressed by a physician, because the condition may be associated with diseases, such as diabetes and liver disorders, or intestinal parasites, such as pinworms. To get to the bottom (no pun intended) of the problem, laboratory testing may be necessary.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

N. Korean defiance continues

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said today that his nation would never tolerate North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, as U.N. monitors accused the North of engaging in "nuclear brinkmanship."

Pyongyang has moved 1,000 fresh fuel rods to a storage facility at its main nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, 50 miles north of the capital — its latest step toward reactivating the facility in defiance of the U.N. nuclear watchdog and the United States.

The North insisted that it was a "peace-loving" nation and is restarting the plant only to generate electricity, a claim rejected by the U.S. Experts say that with plutonium from the facility, the North could produce nuclear weapons within months.

The new fuel rods have not yet been loaded into the reactor core at Yongbyon, said Mark Gwozdecky, spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency. He estimated that it would take "at least a month and maybe several months" to restart the 5-megawatt reactor, which has been mothballed since 1994.

In the past week, North Korea removed U.N. monitoring seals and cameras from its nuclear facilities, ignoring IAEA warnings. Among the facilities stripped of surveillance equipment was a plant for reprocessing spent fuel rods — a process that produces plutonium — and a storage room with 8,000 such rods.

Officials say the 8,000 spent rods hold enough weapons-grade plutonium to make several nuclear bombs.

The director of the Vienna-based IAEA, said the North is moving to restart the reprocessing facility.

Six arrests made during holidays

Arrest

Officers arrested a 33-year-old man Monday evening in the 2600 block of Towle Park Road for driving without a valid license.

DPS troopers took a 47-year-old man into custody on U.S. 84 at 9:57 p.m. Tuesday for driving without a valid license.

A 21-year-old man was arrested on FM 1606 just before 1 a.m. Wednesday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, officers arrested a 33-year-old man in the 4400 block of Ave. U for public intoxication.

Officers arrested a 22-year-old man for public intoxication at 9:15 p.m. Wednesday in the 900 block of 28th Street.

A 40-year-man was taken into custody in the 1400 block of 26th Street on outstanding city warrants for driving without a license and failure to appear before a judge.

Assault

A man reported that he was assaulted by another subject in the 3200 block of Ave. U Tuesday evening and a report was filed.

A woman reported a man trying to break down her door at a residence on Ave. U Wednesday morning. Officers were dispatched and advised an offense report for assault would be submitted.

Forgery

A woman contacted officers at the police department Monday afternoon to report a possible forgery at Davidson's IGA. Officers advised an offense report for forgery would be submitted.

Criminal mischief

A man reported damage to his vehicle Wednesday morning in the 3100 block of Ave. T. Officers responded and found vehicles at four other residences on the street also were damaged. Five reports were filed for Class B criminal mischief.

A man in the 1300 block of 19th Street reported a window at his house was shattered at 10:44 p.m. Wednesday. Officers submitted a report for Class C criminal mischief.

Criminal trespass

A man requested officers at a home on Avondale at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday because a woman refused to leave the residence. The man provided a statement for officers and the woman was issued a criminal trespass warning.

Close patrol

A woman at the Western Crest Apartments reported loud music from one of the tenants and requested a close patrol.

Islamic cleric detained after attack at church

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Mourners buried three girls killed in a Christmas Day grenade attack on a tiny church in eastern Pakistan, and police detained an Islamic cleric who allegedly called on followers to kill Christians days before the bombing.

Police also detained five other people today for questioning in the attack, which injured 13 people in Chianwala, about 40 miles northwest of Lahore.

Two assailants covered in burqas — the all-encompassing garment worn by women in some Islamic countries — tossed a grenade into a crowd of about 40 worshippers at a Christmas Day service Wednesday.

"I saw people running in panic. I too ran toward the church and there ... I saw children, girls and men bleeding, and crying in pain," said Iris Aslam, who lives near the church.

Aslam also saw her husband lying wounded on the ground, writhing in pain. "He said that two youngsters had thrown a grenade into the church."

Today about 2,500 people, several times the number of the church's normal congregation, gathered for a memorial service for the girls killed in the attack.

The coffins of the victims — aged 6, 10 and 15 — were carried on the shoulders of mourners to a cemetery for burial.

Pakistani leaders denounced the latest in a series of attacks on Christians that have left more than two dozen people dead and at least 100 injured since Pakistan lent its support to the U.S.-led military campaign to oust Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban last year.

In a statement, newly elected Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali described the attack as "dastardly" and designed to "foment religious and sectarian strife" in Pakistan.

The detained cleric — who uses only the one name, Afzar — allegedly made anti-Christian remarks three days before the attack in a sermon at a mosque in Daska district, not far from the attack site. But there was no evidence to link him directly to the blast.

Afzar reportedly told his congregation that "it is the duty of every good Muslim to kill Christians," according to Nazir Yaqub, a police officer in Daska.

"Afzar told people 'you should attack Christians and not even have food until you have seen their dead bodies,'" Yaqub told The Associated Press by telephone.

Afzar's son, Attaullah, was also detained for questioning. The two are open supporters of the banned group Jaish-e-Mohammed, a violent anti-India organization with ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network, said a police officer in Chianwala, Mohammed Riaz.

The group, outlawed by Pakistan in January, told The Associated Press it did not carry out the attack.

Obituaries

Ann Pendleton

1947-2002

Ann M. Pendleton, a registered nurse and resident of Snyder since 1987, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Pendleton, 55, was set for 2 p.m. today in the First United Methodist Church with Dr. Tom McGovern officiating. Burial was to follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born May 4, 1947 in Auburn, N.Y., she married Forrest Pendleton on Oct. 26, 1973 in Dallas.

Mrs. Pendleton moved to Snyder from Clear Lake and worked at Cogdell Memorial Hospital as a labor and delivery specialist nurse.

Survivors include her husband, Forrest Pendleton of Snyder; a daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Cody Williams of Denver City; a son, Michael Pendleton of Snyder; a sister, Patricia Voss of Arlington; a brother, Michael McCarthy of Phoenix; and two grandchildren, Caitlin Corbin Williams and Tanner Robert Lee Williams, both of Denver City.

Memorials may be made to the Ann Pendleton Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund, Box 1396 in Snyder; or to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund, 2700 College in Snyder.

Basil Boatwright

1930-2002

KERMIT — Basil Boatwright Sr., a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Dec. 23, in an Odessa hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Boatwright, 72, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Grace Temple Baptist Church with the Rev. Gordon Oglesby officiating. Burial will follow in the Kermit Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 8, 1930 in Camp Springs, he married Maxine Savage on Jan. 2, 1954 in Lovington, N.M.

A U.S. Army veteran, he had lived in Kermit for 52 years and was a retired plant operator for Chevron.

He was preceded in death by a son, Nathan Boatwright; and a brother, Doyle Boatwright.

Survivors include his wife, Maxine Boatwright of Kermit; a son, Basil Boatwright Jr. of Midland; a daughter, Della King of Kermit; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ysidro Estrada

1929-2002

Ysidro Estrada of Snyder died Wednesday, Dec. 25, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Rosary for Mr. Estrada, 73, is set for 7 p.m. Friday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in St. John's Catholic Church in Hermleigh with Fr. Roy Badilles officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born March 23, 1929 in Floresville, he married Paula Sanchez on Jan. 23, 1952. A World War II veteran, Mr. Estrada was a farmer and a member of St. John's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Paula Estrada of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Angel and Pauline Estrada of Snyder; his mother, Fedilia Estrada of Snyder; three sisters; four brothers; and a grandchild, Melinda Estrada of Austin.

Teckla Flores

1925-2002

SAN SABA — Teckla Flores, the mother of Adolfo Flores Jr. of Snyder, died Monday, Dec. 23, in Lampasas.

Funeral service for Mrs. Flores, 77, was set for 2 p.m. today in the St. Mary's Catholic Church with Fr. Gregory McLaughin officiating. Interment was to follow in the San Saba City Cemetery under the direction of Howell-Doran Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 23, 1925 in Staples, Tex., she was a homemaker, a lifelong resident of San Saba and a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Flores

Survivors include her husband, Adolfo Flores of San Saba; six other sons, Gliberto Flores, Ruben Flores, Jose Alfredo Flores, Gonzalo Flores, Sam Flores, all of San Saba, and Louis Flores of Huntsville, Ala.; six daughters, Oralia Huron, Susana Coronado, Sylvia Juarez, Emma Stewart, Delia Kruger, all of San Saba, and Ester Pena of San Angelo; three sisters, Ruth Hernandez and Agapito Cantu, both of Abernathy, and Trinidad Montana of Salinas, Calif.; 37 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Andres and Margarita Morin Ramos; three grandchildren, Susana Coronado, Gregory Flores and Denise Juarez; two brothers, Andres Ramos Jr. and Jose Ramos; and three sisters, Juanita Delgado, Maria Casias and Margarita Almaguer.

The family requests memorials be made to the American Heart Association.

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Sunrise 7:44 AM Sunset 5:45 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 5:46 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 5:46 PM

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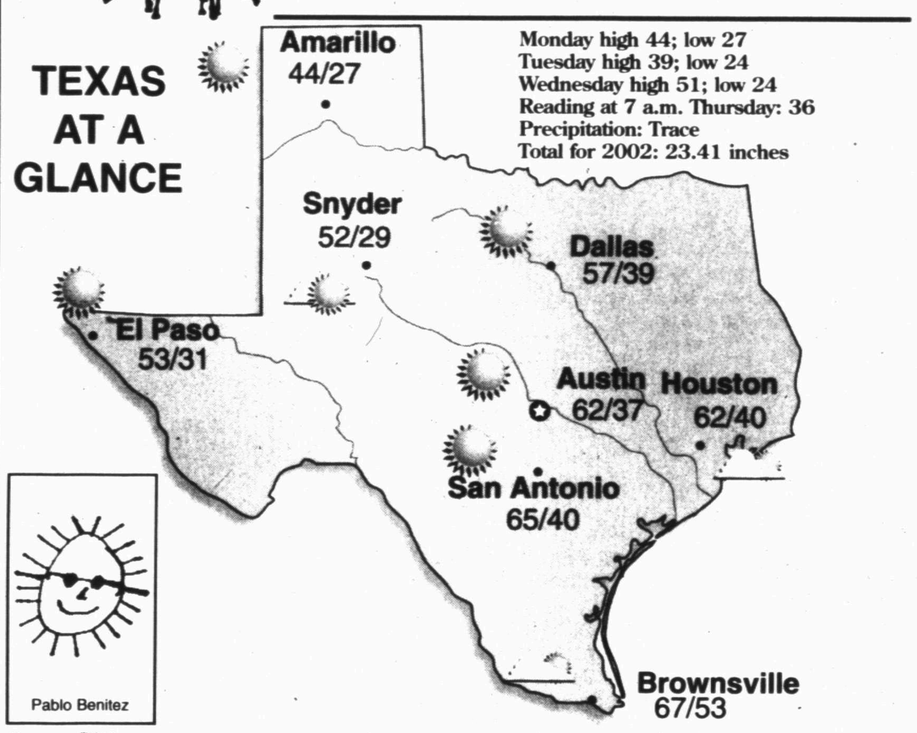
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high 44; low 27
Tuesday high 39; low 24
Wednesday high 51; low 24
Reading at 7 a.m. Thursday: 36
Precipitation: Trace
Total for 2002: 23.41 inches

Pablo Benitez

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	55	35	sunny	El Paso	53	31	sunny	Midland	56	33	sunny
Amarillo	44	27	sunny	Fort Stockton	58	36	sunny	Raymondville	65	47	pt sunny
Austin	62	37	sunny	Gainesville	54	31	sunny	Rosenberg	62	40	pt sunny
Beaumont	61	39	pt sunny	Greenville	55	33	sunny	San Antonio	65	40	sunny
Brownsville	67	53	pt sunny	Houston	62	40	pt sunny	San Marcos	63	38	sunny
Brownwood	59	34	sunny	Kingsville	66	45	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	56	33	sunny
Corpus Christi	64	46	pt sunny	Livingston	60	34	pt sunny	Sweetwater	56	31	mst sunny
Corsicana	58	37	sunny	Longview	57	33	sunny	Tyler	58	39	sunny
Dallas	57	39	sunny	Lubbock	49	30	sunny	Weatherford	56	32	sunny
Del Rio	64	41	sunny	Lufkin	60	37	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	53	33	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	46	27	pt sunny	Houston	62	40	pt sunny	Phoenix	65	47	mst sunny
Boston	35	25	mst sunny	Los Angeles	67	51	mst sunny	San Francisco	57	53	rain
Chicago	36	28	pt sunny	Miami	72	55	cloudy	Seattle	47	41	rain
Dallas	57	39	sunny	Minneapolis	35	25	mst sunny	St. Louis	41	29	cloudy
Denver	49	29	pt sunny	New York	38	26	mst sunny	Washington, DC	42	31	pt sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Fri 12/27	Sat 12/28	Sun 12/29
3 Low	3 Low	3 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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DEC 26 2002

Year of heavy rains brings record levels to ailing Edwards Aquifer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A year of heavy rains has filled San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer near historic levels, a relief after low levels in June prompted water restrictions.

"It was a truly remarkable year for the aquifer," said Greg Ellis, general manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

The aquifer has been hovering at 695 feet above sea level for two weeks, only about 8 feet lower than the historic high of 703 feet reached in 1992, Ellis said.

The city's main source for drinking water was not as secure on June 26, when the water level dipped to 650 feet, triggering stage one water restrictions.

But the low point was short-lived.

From June 29 to July 5, it rained more than 16 inches in San Antonio and more than 40 inches in parts of the Hill Country, causing massive flooding in South Central Texas that left nine people dead and about $250 million in damages.

A fall deluge followed, leaving the aquifer at its highest in a decade.

So far this year the city has been hit with more than 46 inches of rain, which could make 2002 the city's fifth wettest year since 1871. It rained one out of every three days in 2002, said meteorologist Larry Eblen of the National Weather Service in New Braunfels. During the second half of the year, it rained one out of almost every two days.

While a typical autumn has fronts that don't produce rainfall, Eblen said that a familiar culprit caused all the fronts to bring rain.

"The two words that go with this are El and NiIno," Eblen said in a story in Wednesday's online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

But while heavy rains have boosted the aquifer for now, Ellis cautioned against San Antonians letting their faucets flow freely.

At around the same time last year the aquifer was at a healthy 685 feet, but the city was restricting water use by the end of June.

"It's almost impossible to say what it means for next year," Ellis said of 2002's high levels. "Even though the aquifer seems like it's full, it can hold much more water and it can drain very quickly."

Rain predictions for early 2003 bode well for the aquifer, according to the Climate Prediction Center of the National Weather Service.

"The forecast says above normal precipitation, wetter and colder than normal through April/May," Eblen said. "The bad news is the temperature goes above normal for summer." Typical conditions are expected for fall, and the winter forecast calls for above normal temperatures and rainfall.

77-year-old Imperial plant in Sugar Land is shutting down

SUGAR LAND (AP) — The 158-year-old company that gave this Houston suburb its sweet name stopped growing sugar cane around here decades ago, and now it is shutting down its 77-year-old refinery.

The refinery processed up to 3 million pounds of granulated, brown and powdered sugar each day.

Closing it will mean the elimination of more than 300 jobs, the end of refining in Sugar Land, and the end of an era at Imperial Sugar, one of the state's oldest corporations still operating at its original site.

"This was truly a business decision," said Duffy Smith, executive vice president of operations. "It's an industry that's fraught with overcapacity. We, as a member of the industry, had the same problem."

Imperial refined its last bit of raw sugar last week. The company is consolidating refining operations at facilities in Gramercy, La., and Savannah, Ga.

Imperial's Sugar Land operation is now strictly a packaging and shipping facility, with about 100 workers. The 300 employees who lost their jobs when the refinery shut down will be paid through the end of January.

Gloria Nunez, a 51-year-old machine operator at the refinery, is a third-generation Imperial worker. Her grandmother, both parents, and four uncles either work or have worked there. One of her uncles, 81-year-old George Morales, is in his 61st year as an Imperial security guard.

"We're more like family than co-workers there," she said. "I've worked there since I was 19, and this really hurts because something like this affects everybody. But I have faith. I know God's going to have something for me — if it's not Imperial, it will be something else."

The company, which has 2,200 employees nationwide, will keep its headquarters in Sugar Land.

Closing the refinery won't make much of a dent in Sugar Land's economy, which has seen a 158 percent jump in population to more than 63,000 since 1990.

That boom brought with it an influx of jobs as other companies moved in, including oil company Unocal; Fluor Daniel, a unit of engineering and construction giant Fluor Corp.; and K-Tec Electronics.

"There's definitely a shift from a cultural perspective," said Joe Esch, Sugar Land's economic development director. "For more than 100 years, sugar has been refined here."

Walter McMeans, 73, and his wife, Jane, moved to Sugar Land in 1965 when Imperial was still the town's singular industry.

"It was the godfather of the city," McMeans said. "I would say today the town does not look upon the sugar company as they did in the beginning. They know it was here in the beginning, and it helped Sugar Land in its development stage, but now a lot of other companies are in the city that produce jobs."

The refinery shutdown was necessary to survive a U.S. sugar industry that struggles with low sugar prices in a market glutted with imports. Trade agreements forced the United States to accept guaranteed amounts of imported sugar despite rising production from American farmers, and the resulting oversupply has caused prices to drop.

Baby is victim of Christmas shooting

HOUSTON (AP) — An 8-month-old baby was shot and killed Christmas morning during a fight between her parents. Police were searching for the child's father, who was charged with capital murder.

Houston police spokesman Martin DeLeon said Nayeli Navarro was shot as her mother, who was holding the baby, turned to protect the baby from her common-law husband.

DeLeon said Eladio Camacho Navarro had threatened the woman with a .38-caliber revolver. The woman's name was not released.

Police said Navarro, 38, fled the home in northeast Houston. His sport utility vehicle was found abandoned in a supermarket parking lot less than 10 miles away about 3½ hours after the 6:20 a.m. shooting. Authorities believe Navarro was trying to escape to Mexico.

Police described Navarro as a 5-foot-5, 220-pound Hispanic man with short, neatly combed dark hair and a mustache. He was wearing a black, red and aqua cowboy shirt with jeans.

The woman's 2-year-old son from a previous relationship was in the house during the shooting, DeLeon said.

Neighbor Dawn Hickman said in an online story in the Houston Chronicle that she baby-sat the two children but knew little about the family. She said she called police earlier this year after hearing what she believed to be Navarro physically abusing his wife.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Dec. 27, 2002

In the year ahead your social interests could be expanded, considerably widening your circle of friends and acquaintances. Through your new involvements several fortunate windows will be opened in other areas of your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Due to a change for which neither you nor your partner is responsible, a joint endeavor arrangement you're involved in looks more promising than you thought. It could happen today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — A relationship that is presently significant to you is going to take on even greater importance. A favorable happening today will draw you closer together.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Something fortuitous is developing at this time that could provide you with greater opportunities where your work or career is concerned. Be alert and watch for the signals.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Beginning today, start taking some positive measures to firm up an alliance that is important to you. It's an extremely fortunate time for you to shore up relationships of all kinds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Lady Luck tends to favor you today in ways that could give you greater material security. However, although she'll open the door for you, you'll still have to do your part.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Others could start paying a bit more attention to you today than usual, giving your ego quite a boost. Savor every minute of this pleasant happening.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If you are starting to feel a bit more optimistic about your financial conditions, your instincts aren't sending you any erroneous signals. Improvements are on the way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It's quite possible that you're going to become involved in some type of project today that could be rather grand in scope. It might be part of a joint endeavor of which you'll want to partake.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your financial picture could get a shot in the arm today from Lady Luck. With the Grand Dame herself involved, the improvements she introduces could be substantial.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Something exciting may take place today where your social life is concerned. You could meet someone who is part of a group that is known for its lively affairs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Something you need to take care of today, which you thought would be difficult to manage, looks like it will come off rather smoothly. It proves you shouldn't envision problems where none exist.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's an excellent day to dis-associate yourself from material endeavors and focus on the lighter issues that life has to offer. Something quite fortuitous could develop for you.

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Students plead guilty to theft of moon rocks

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Three student employees at the Johnson Space Center in Houston have pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to steal moon rocks collected by Apollo astronauts.

Tiffany Fowler, Thad Roberts and Shae Saur pleaded guilty in federal court in Orlando last week to conspiracy to commit theft and interstate transportation of stolen property.

Undercover FBI agents arrested Roberts, 25, Fowler, 22, and a fourth defendant, Gordon McWhorter, 26, in Orlando in July. Saur, 19, was arrested in Houston the same day. The student workers were fired after the arrests.

McWhorter, a college friend of Roberts, is scheduled for trial in February.

Investigators say the group placed an ad in May on the Web site of the Mineralogy Club of Antwerp, Belgium, offering to sell "priceless moon rocks" collected by Apollo astronauts in 1969 and the early 1970s for $1,000 to $5,000 a gram.

Two months later, a safe containing moon rocks from every Apollo mission was discovered missing from the space center. Officials said the inventory offered by the suspects came from the safe.

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5 PC DYNAMIC OAK BEDROOM — Door dresser & chest, mirror, headboard, nite stand Reg. $699.95 — SALE $399

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GOOD SELECTION CURIO CABINETS — Several styles and finishes — SALE $117 Up

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FUTON SOFA — Sofa by day and sleeps 2 by night. Super buy. Reg. $249.95 — SALE $158

SWIVEL ROCKER — In a rich decorator velvet cover Reg. $239.95 — SALE $148

5 PC. DINETTE & 4 LADDER BACK CHAIRS — Reg. $179.95 — SALE $99

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Full Set .....Reg. $349.95 ...Sale $168
Queen Set ..Reg. $449.95 ...Sale $198
King Set ....Reg. $599.95 ...Sale $268

BACK BEAUTY SETS — OUR BEST SELLER
Twin Set ....Reg. $399.95 ...Sale $178
Full Set .....Reg. $449.95 ...Sale $218
Queen Set ..Reg. $549.95 ...Sale $268
King Set ....Reg. $699.95 ...Sale $348

DELUXE PILLOW TOP SETS — CYBER REST
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Queen Set ..Reg. $599.95 ...Sale $298
King Set ....Reg. $799.95 ...Sale $388

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Disc. Cover. Reg. $199.95 Sale $99

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4 PC LIVINGROOM GROUP — By Ashley - sofa, loveseat, chair & ottoman, nice cover. Reg. $1099.95 — SALE $599

COMPLETE OAK WALL BED — Headboard, mirror, bridge, 2 pier units Reg. $1199.95 — SALE $588

QUEEN SIZE PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SETS — Great value - while 5 sets last. Reg. $499.95 — SALE $248

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER — In black oak finish- 1 only Reg. $199.95 — SALE $127

KIDS VIDEO ROCKER — Choice of colors. Clouseout Priced Reg. 99.95 — SALE $55

GLIDER ROCKER W/MATCHING OTTOMAN — Choice of Colors.Reg. $199.95 — SALE $99

8 PC. LIVINGROOM GROUP — Includes sofa, loveseat, chair, 3 tables, 2 lamps. Reg. $899.95 — SALE $588

DECORATOR WING BACK CHAIRS — Choice of colors. Reg. $199.95 — SALE $148

3PC GLASS TOP COFFEE AND END TABLES SET — Choice of colors.Reg. $99.95 — SALE $47

4 DRAWER CHEST — Nice wood grain finish - hurry for these. Reg. $69.95 — SALE $44

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5 PC CONVERSATION PIT GROUP — Includes 2 sofas, loveseat and 2 ottomans, nice cover. Reg. $899.95 — SALE $548

6 PC. FAMILY ROOM GROUP — Includes sofa, chair, rocker and 3 all wood tables. Reg. $699.95 — SALE $377

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