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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY
Dec. 26, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 206
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Krista Bre'Anne Chaidez

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Wade Warren

As we've all grazed on holiday snacks for the past week or so and enjoyed a great Christmas dinner, food should probably not be the topic for today's column.

But with the year-end wrap-ups coming up, (we'll start a review of the first quarter of Scurry County happenings this weekend), we'll just toss out the top ten food stories of 2003 as compiled by one New York City public relations firm.

We participated in the survey on-line and each category had a blank for "other".

None of my "others" made the top 10 list as we listed the addition of three new eating establishments in Snyder as perhaps the top food stories for 2003.

Folks in the city thought America's increasing waistline was the top story so "obesity" is at the top of their list.

Judging by the number of diets that are promoted almost daily on TV and in magazines, they are probably right.

Second on the list is the resurgence of the Atkins Diet.

Over the last year, it seemed that if you were having a conversation with at least three other people, this topic would somehow enter into the conversation.

We've tried to avoid the details of any diet, but now we're curious about how one angry cow in Washington is going to affect those on Dr. Atkins' plan.

Third on the list is trans fatty acid.

Avoiding this, says the federal government, is wise.

We agree. You should be just as aware of trans fatty acid in food as you are aware of whom you're going to sit next to on a long airplane trip.

The fourth topic on the Top 10 list was French fries.

If France would not join us in Iraq, we weren't going to eat their potatoes or their toast. Or drink their wine.

We showed those guys didn't we?

Another diet is on the list and we think it's there just for its trendy name – The South Beach diet: The Delicious, Doctor-Designed, Foolproof Plan for Fast and Health Weight Loss.

We also can see why it would be popular since it promises dieters the opportunity of losing between eight and 14 pounds in the first two weeks.

Yet still another formula for losing weight was the Mediterranean diet that is rich in olive oil, vegetables and fruit.

This one probably works the best because in all of 2003, we did not see a fat camel that we can remember.

Another topic on the list was on the subject of homemade.

It seems that a boxed cake mix can now be called homemade if a couple of ingredients out of your cupboard are added.

This is not related, but over the past year or so, SDN employees have enjoyed some pretty darn good homemade items from a retired college veep.

Ya'll know her, she's married to ole' what's his name.

Happy New Year!

Toll could go much higher...

Iran earthquake kills at least 4,000

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An earthquake devastated the southeastern Iranian city of Bam today, leveling more than half the city's houses and its historic mud-brick fortress. More than 4,000 people were killed and 30,000 injured, Iranian state television said.

Legislator Hasan Khoshrou said the death toll could rise as high as 10,000, an estimate based on a helicopter flights showing about 60 percent of Bam's houses had been destroyed.

"The quake hit the city when most of the people were in bed, raising fears that the death toll may go higher," he said.

The 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck at about 5:30 a.m., collapsing buildings, severing power lines and shutting down water service.

President Mohammad Khatami urged the entire country to help the victims of the quake, calling it a "national tragedy."

Footage shot from a helicopter and aired on Iranian state television showed widespread devastation in Bam, with rows and rows of collapsed or damaged buildings next to others that appeared to be intact. The television report said 4,000 people had died, but it did not say where the information had come from.

Images shot from a moving car, accompanied by somber music, showed some houses had been reduced to nothing more than piles of brick, while men near one builidng embraced each other, shaking and sobbing. Other footage showed dead and injured being brought into hospitals with crowds of people outside.

Reports said the earthquake destroyed Bam's medieval fortress, a massive, 2,000-year-old structure that sits on a cliff near the city and attracts thousands of tourists each year. The fortress includes scores of ancient mud huts.

"The historic quarter of the city has been completely destroyed and caused great human loss," said Mehran Nourbakhsh, chief spokesman for Iran's Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported the quake's magnitude was 6.7, capable of causing severe damage. It reported an aftershock of magnitude 5.4 about two hours later.

Authorities in Bam, 630 miles southeast of the capital Tehran, put out a call for blood donations.

"Many people have died," Kerman province Gov. Mohammad Ali Karimi told state media. "Many people are buried under the rubble."

Relief teams set up their headquarters in a public square in Bam because their offices in the governor's building had been ruined, Karimi told state radio.

Karimi said worried relatives from surrounding areas were heading to Bam and causing massive traffic jams that were slowing rescue efforts. He urged them to stay home and wait until phone service was restored to try to find relatives.

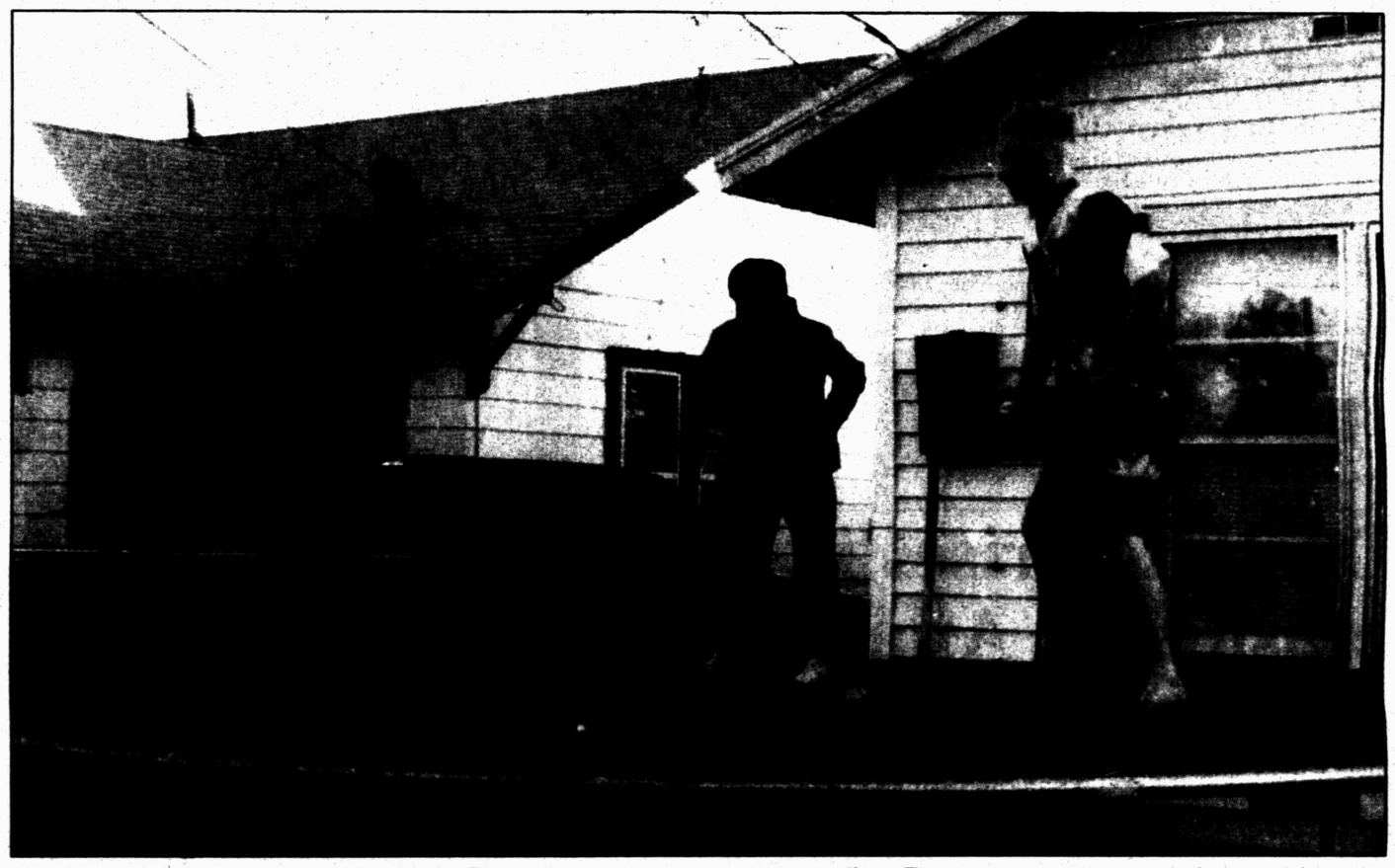
Authorities have sent numerous rescue workers with helicopters to the area, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"We are doing everything we can to rescue the injured and unearth the dead," television quoted Karimi as saying.

Turkey's NTV television channel said people were streaming out of Bam for the city of Kerman, 120 miles away, and had complained they had not gotten any aid.

About 500 people have been evacuated to hospitals in Kerman, where they are in critical condition, Iranian state television reported, quoting local authorities.

The United Nations disaster management team in Tehran has asked the Iranian government if it needs help and was to meet later today to assess the situation, said Elizabeth Byrs, Geneva spokeswoman for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.



WINTER-TIME FUN — Unusually warm December temperatures provide Cody Day, Dylan Pauchet, Jose Estrada and Michael Pauchet (from left) plenty of chances for outdoor play on a trampoline. Temperatures are expected to cool into the 50s on Saturday and Sunday. All public schools will be out of class through next week. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bloodiest day since Hussein captured...

Three U.S. soldiers killed today

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An American soldier died in a rebel ambush and two others were killed in bomb explosions today, one of the bloodiest days for the U.S. military since the Dec. 13 capture of Saddam Hussein.

Two of the deaths occurred in Baqouba, a center of guerrilla activity northeast of Baghdad in a Sunni Muslim area that served as a power base for Saddam, the former Iraqi dictator. U.S. forces, who have a base in the town, often conduct raids and arrest suspected insurgents.

One of the U.S. soldiers killed today was in a U.S. convoy that came under attack, said Capt. Jefferson Wolfe of the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Another soldier was injured, but troops fired back, killing two attackers, he said.

In a separate incident in the same area, a soldier tried to defuse a homemade bomb, but it blew up and killed him, Wolfe said. Such bombs are a favored weapon of rebels, who leave them on roadsides and detonate them as military convoys pass.

The guerrillas used that tactic today in Balad, north of Baghdad, setting off a bomb that killed one soldier, the U.S. military said.

In the capital, a car exploded on the road to the airport, killing its two occupants. U.S. soldiers at the scene said they suspected the two men were bombers whose bomb exploded prematurely.

Further north, three soldiers from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division were wounded in an ambush in Mosul when their convoy came under small arms fire, said Maj. Trey Cate, the division spokesman.

The soldiers, who were searching the city's streets for bombs, returned fire but did not catch their attackers, Cate said. Witnesses claimed a taxi driver was killed in the firefight, but the spokesman could not confirm the report.

On Thursday, Iraqi insurgents shelled an American base in Baqouba, 30 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing two U.S. soldiers, the military said.

Four other soldiers were wounded in the attack, Maj. Josslyn Aberle of the 4th Infantry Division said.

A total of 11 U.S. soldiers have died from hostile action since Monday.

Two soldiers from Poland, which has about 2,400 troops in Iraq, were wounded Thursday when assailants struck their convoy with a remote-controlled mine, Col. Zdzislaw Gnatowski told the Polish news agency PAP.

Also on Christmas Day, rocket and mortar attacks hit a hotel housing foreigners and targeted two banks, the Iranian and Turkish embassies and a U.S. Army base. The strikes had more symbolic than military impact; two civilians — a woman and her daughter sleeping in an apartment — were hurt, and damage was limited.

Oklahoma trooper shot

WALTERS, Okla. (AP) — An Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper was shot and killed this morning after pulling over a car just north of the Texas border, and authorities were searching for a suspect, a sheriff's dispatcher said.

The trooper had informed his dispatcher about 7 a.m. that he was pulling over a suspicious vehicle on the north side of Devol, about five miles north of the state line.

The Highway Patrol then lost radio contact with the trooper and asked the Cotton County Sheriff's Office to investigate.

A sheriff's deputy found the trooper dead, said the dispatcher, who asked that her name not be used.

Highway Patrol spokesman Chris West said the trooper, whose name was not immediately released, was apparently alone at the time of the shooting.

West described the suspect in the shooting as being in his mid-20s to early 30s, 6-foot-3, 210 pounds to 230 pounds, short dark hair and wearing glasses and a black leather, waist-length jacket. He was believed to be driving a white Nissan or Toyota four-door car.

At least 30 other Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers have died in the line of duty since 1941.

The last trooper to die in the line of duty was Chris Van Krevelen who was killed on Thanksgiving Day 2002.

Bootleg copies...

Movies sold on the street before release

HOUSTON (AP) — Police in Houston say bootleg movies are being sold on Houston's black market at the same time they are being shown on movie screens — sometimes before the official release.

Experts say the movies are downloaded from the Internet, in the same way music has been available for years. But advancing technology is allowing full-length movies to be accessed and reproduced cheaply.

Those in the film industry fear the illegal videos will cause theater attendance and sales of authorized videos to drop.

"I don't know where they are getting these," said Houston police Sgt. Doug Osterberg said Friday.

For years bootleg movies have been sold on the street at the same time they appeared in local video stores. The videos are poorer in quality, but sell for less money than authorized copies. Investigators believe they were produced using tape-to-tape recording devices.

But in October police arrested two men who allegedly sold undercover agents a DVD copy of "Mindhunters," a science fiction movie starring rap singer LL Cool J that is not due for release until Jan. 23.

ASK US

Q—How many registered sex offenders are living in Snyder and Scurry County?

A—According to the DPS sex offender web site, there are 42 registered in Snyder and one registered in Hermleigh.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

David Noyola...

...moved to Snyder three years ago from Stanton. Noyola is a 2003 graduate of Snyder High School and his parents are Martha Noyola and Mario Gonzales. He has three brothers, Joey and Adrian Noyola and Michael Prado. David enjoys working out to stay in shape.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Speak little, do much.
—Ben Franklin

DEC 26 2003

Best Available Copy

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

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

Lions meetings cancelled

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

First Baptist support group

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

LVN testing dates

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

Doodle Bug writers club

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

Windbreak trees

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Search on for mudslide victims

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Rescue crews slogged past fallen trees and boulders in an overnight search for at least 10 people trapped when a mudslide triggered by heavy rains swept over a foothill forest recently scorched by wildfire.

Traveling by foot because a road bridge was washed out, one team climbed up the steep terrain Friday and another descended it in an effort to reach the Saint Sophia Camp in Waterman Canyon, just north of San Bernardino.

Fourteen other people staying at the Greek Orthodox youth camp had been rescued by late Thursday, and ten victims covered in mud were treated at a hospital for minor injuries, authorities said.

"One man was there with his 3-year-old child and said he grabbed the child and watched his wife and his other child wash away," said Kimberly Vanden-Bosch, spokeswoman for St. Bernadine Medical Center in San Bernardino.

Streets and homes flooded in San Bernardino and elsewhere, while power outages and other mudslides were also reported after a storm dumped more than 31/2 inches of rain on some of the areas hit hardest by a series of massive Southern California wildfires that started two months ago.

Wildfires make the region's mountains much more prone to mudslides because they burn off vegetation that normally would help shore up steep terrain. The blazes in October and November were the most severe in state history, burning more than 750,000 acres.

Much of Waterman Canyon was scorched in the weeklong Old Fire, which burned more than 91,000 acres, destroyed 993 homes, and killed four people.

On Thursday, authorities evacuated residents who live in the canyon and closed off the road leading there. A surging stream of water rushed through the canyon, which looked like a sea of gray mud.

Temperatures had dropped into the 40s, and county Fire Marshall Peter Brierty said rescuers faced "incredibly mushy, muddy, slippery" conditions.

He said some debris flows contained logs and branches and were more than six feet high.

"Even a foot or two feet of this will knock you down," Brierty said.

One man was buried waist-deep in mud and debris and trapped underneath a log, county fire Capt. Rick McClintock said. Rescue crews were able to cut the log free and carried the man across a creek, he said.

No one answered the phone at the Saint Sophia Camp on Thursday. Messages left with camp officials were not immediately returned. The camp hosts summer religious retreats for children and other events year-round, according to its Web site.

It wasn't immediately known whether the people at the camp were affiliated with the Greek Orthodox parishes that run the facility or were holiday visitors.

Elsewhere in the county, a mudslide damaged and toppled trailers at a campground in Devore. Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Beavers said 30 to 50 people suffered minor injuries, some requiring hospital treatment. Several people were unaccounted for, but authorities said they were not believed to be in danger.

Emergency crews spent much of Christmas Day setting sand bags outside homes and along waterways to contain flood water and diverting traffic from washed out roads.

In Lytle Creek Canyon, the rain caused several mudslides, including a 4-foot-high flow across a road that trapped a car. The driver was not hurt, and the road was closed.

Sections of Lytle Creek overflowed, flooding roads, and prompting emergency officials to order an undetermined number of residents along the creek and streams to evacuate.

The Pacific storm began moving into Southern California on Wednesday evening, bringing Los Angeles its first rainy Christmas Day in two decades. Forecasters were not optimistic it would relent anytime soon.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Death toll rises in crash over Atlantic

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — Rescue teams searched waters off the West African nation of Benin today in a desperate hunt for survivors of a plane crash that killed at least 111 people, the health minister said.

The Boeing 727 crashed on takeoff Thursday, scattering debris into the Atlantic Ocean just 500 yards from the airport. This morning, the bulk of the destroyed aircraft still lay in the water.

Most of the casualties were Lebanese headed home for the Christmas holidays. Thousands of Lebanese immigrants work in West African countries.

Benin Health Minister Celine Seignon Kandissounon told reporters 111 were now confirmed dead. At least 20 people survived, said Transport Minister Ahmed Akobi.

It was unclear exactly how many people were aboard the chartered aircraft. Akobi said the plane's manifest listed 156 passengers and an unknown number of crew.

With spotlights perched on the beach and flashlights in hand, divers and fishermen searched for survivors overnight, swimming through scattered pieces of luggage, clothes and gift-wrapped presents. Workers tied chains to parts of the wreckage and dragged them out of the surf with tractors.

About 50 Lebanese nationals gathered along the shore before dawn, crowding around bodies — pulled from the water one by one — to identify friends or relatives.

"This is all too much for me to handle," said Akim Toufik.

There was no word on what caused the tragedy. Akobi said rescue teams were searching for the aircraft's flight data recorder.

The Boeing lifted off on a sunny Thursday at 2:55 p.m. from the airport in Cotonou, and troubles began right away, said Jerome Dandjinou, a senior airport security official.

"The back of the plane hit a building at the end of the runway. There was a fire and an explosion was heard," Dandjinou told The Associated Press. "The plane exploded and the debris fell into the water."

The flight originated in the Guinean capital, Conakry, and stopped in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It was bound for Beirut, Lebanese Transportation Minister Najib Mikati said.

Authorities shut down Cotonou airport for 24 hours after the crash as a security precaution, Akobi said. Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid said it closed because the plane apparently damaged part of the airport's guidance system.

On Friday, Obeid arrived in Cotonou on a flight from Beirut that was given special permission to land despite the airport's closure.

"This is a catastrophe that touches every house in Lebanon and every Lebanese," Obeid said earlier at Beirut airport.

Ten Lebanese army divers headed to the crash scene to gather remains, while a six-man Lebanese medical team was sent to Benin hospitals to help treat the wounded, Obeid told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp.

A Lebanese survivor, Nabil Hashem, told Al Manar television in Beirut that he was in the back of the plane and was able to swim to safety.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-6

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 9-17-33-35-37

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery: 10 - 13 - 25 - 29 - 32

Mega Millions drawing Tuesday night:

2-13-21-22-49. Mega Ball: 52. Megaplier: 4.

No jackpot winner.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: $125 million.

Texas Two Step Tuesday: 6-9-21-32. Bonus Ball: 20.

No jackpot winner.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: $250,000.

Pick 3 Tuesday night: 8-0-8

Pick 3 drawn Tuesday afternoon: 2-2-5

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4 Drawer Chest — Lots of Storage. Nice Finish. Values to $69.95 — SALE $33

All Bean Bags — Choice of Colors & sizes — SALE 1/2 Price

Large Wing Back Chair & Matching Ottoman — by Ashley. Nice cover. Reg. $449.95 — Closeout Price Sale $217

All Wood 6 Piece Dining Set — Cherry finish, floor sample. Slight scratch. Reg. 499.95 — SALE $298

All Wood Bar Stools — with padded seats. 24 & 30" Reg. $99.95 — Closeout Price $47 While they last

Beautiful Sofa & Loveseat — Ashley Traditional. Rich decorative cover. Reg. $1499.95 Closeout Price $688 While they last

5 PC BEDROOM — Country style, dresser-hutch-mirror-chest-nightstand bookcase headboard. Reg. $699.95 — SALE $398

All Leather Ashley Club Chair — Rich hunter green. Reg. $349.95 Closeout Price — SALE $147

5 Pc. Glass Top Dinette Table — and 4 Sturdy Chairs. Reg. $169.95 — SALE $88

1 Sealy Queen Size Posture Premier Set — Closeout Price. Reg. $599.95 — SALE $337

Decorative Cheval Mirrors — Choice of oak or cherry finish. Reg. $59.95 — SALE $28

All Lamps on Sale — Choice of styles and colors — SALE $17 & Up

1 Only Black Leather Chair & 1/2 — Great value by Ashley. Closeout. Reg. $449.95 — SALE $188

Futon Sofa — Sturdy metal frame-sofa by day-sleeps 2 people by night- Includes pad. Reg. $249.95 — SALE $149

BEDDING BLOWOUT — Over 100 Pieces of Bedding on Sale

SLEEP CARE SETS
Twin Set .... Reg. $169.95 .... Sale $78
Full Set .... Reg. $219.95 .... Sale $98

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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
Full Set .... Reg. $499.95 .... Sale $248
Queen Set .... Reg. $599.95 .... Sale $298
King Set .... Reg. $799.95 .... Sale $388

KING SIZE PILLOWTOP
Disc. Cover. Reg. $799.95 Sale $347

Benchcraft Sofa & Chair — In rich plaid cover - 1 only - Closeout. Reg. $1,299.95 — SALE $648

Decorator White Metal Daybed — Complete with pads and bedding. Reg. $149.95 — SALE $88

Glider Rockers — With matching ottoman. Great value. Reg. $169.95 — SALE $99

7 Pc. Dinette — Sturdy table with 6 chairs-metal construction Reg. $349.95 — SALE $237

Ashley Rocker Recliner — With matching loveseat in a rich camel color. Closeout price Reg. $799.95 — SALE $388

Beautiful Cedar Chests — Choice of finishes - while they last. Reg. $299.95 — SALE $188 up

Wrought Iron Vanity Chairs — In choice of decorator covers. Reg. $89.95 — SALE $47

Suede Sofa & Loveseat — Beautiful Hunter Green, large size, Closeout Price. Reg. $1299.95 — SALE $548

Twin Over Full Iron Bunk Bed — In choice of colors - complete with bedding. Reg. $399.95 — SALE $278

High Back Wing Back Chair — With Queen Anne legs - choice of colors. Reg. $239.95 — SALE $148

Large Group of Recliners & Rocker Recliners — Values to $399.95. All On Sale — SALE $199

1 Only Cobblestone Vinyl Chaise — Closeout Price. Reg. $349.95 — SALE $188

Several Curios — In choice of styles and finishes - All on Sale — SALE $127 Up

5 PC Glass Top Dinette — In rich pewter finish - 1 only Closeout. Reg. $199.95 — SALE $99

1 Only 15 Year Warranty Queen Size Pillowtop Mattress & Box Spring — Discontinued Cover - Closeout Reg. $449.95 — SALE $278

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Best Available Copy

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	12-26-03
	♠ A K Q	
	♥ A J 4	
	♦ 7 6 5	
	♣ K Q 10 9	
West		**East**
♠ J		♠ 8 5
♥ K Q 10 8 7		♥ 9 5 3 2
♦ A Q J 9		♦ 10 4
♣ 5 4 3		♣ A 8 7 6 2
	South	
	♠ 10 9 7 6 4 3 2	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K 8 3 2	
	♣ J	

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Neither

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

Opening lead: ♥ K

word — which one?

The correct play on today's deal is not easy to spot. If you do not see it immediately, with patience and tenacity of purpose, you should come up with the clever move.

You are South, in four spades after the given auction. West leads the heart king. You win with dummy's ace and cash the spade ace, West dropping the jack. How would you continue from there?

This deal is based on one reported by Australian Denis Priest.

At the table, declarer drew a second round of trumps, then called for the club king. But East won with the ace and shifted to the diamond 10, giving the defenders three tricks in that suit for one down.

You must keep East off the lead. The correct play comes at trick three, not trick four. Before drawing a second round of trumps, lead dummy's heart jack and discard your club jack!

If West shifts to a diamond, you lose only one heart and two diamonds. If he switches to a club, you are fine. And if he exits with a heart, you ruff in hand, cross to dummy with a trump, and run the club king, discarding a diamond. When East covers with the club ace, ruff, return to dummy with another spade, and cash the clubs, pitching diamonds.

I had no idea that Huxley coined "agnostic" (from the Greek "agnostos," meaning "unknown" or "unknowable").

Copyright 2003, NEA

Friday, Dec. 26, 2003

If at first you don't, please persevere

By Phillip Alder

In a lecture at my alma mater, University College, London, Thomas Henry Huxley said, "Patience and tenacity of purpose are worth more than twice their weight of cleverness."

Huxley (1825-95) was a famous biologist who became an ardent supporter of Darwinism and coined a

Air in 30 cities monitored for security

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security officials have enhanced their ability to monitor the air for biological warfare agents in 30 cities, one of several ways the government is preparing for possible terrorist strikes during a high, Code Orange alert.

The alert also has activated special disaster response teams, while federal officials have been conferring with foreign governments to prevent terrorists from boarding international flights bound for the United States.

"People have their antennas up," said Brian Roehrkasse, a spokesman for the Homeland Security Department.

President Bush kept abreast of terrorism threats from the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland as he celebrated Christmas Day with his family.

The department previously modified air pollution monitoring equipment in the 30 cities to pick up any harmful biological agents and provide test results in 12 to 24 hours.

After the national threat alert was raised to orange on Sunday, officials took several dozen additional monitors and installed them in the same cities. The locations were not identified for security reasons.

The emergency response units that have been activated are divided up by areas of expertise.

Separate teams would:

—Provide expert advice and support to the on-scene commander if there was a threat or an incident involving weapons of mass destruction.

—Respond to any release of radiation with advice and air monitoring equipment.

—Provide medical personnel to assist state and local medical authorities.

Discussions between U.S. and French officials led to the cancellation of six Air France flights between Paris and Los Angeles on Wednesday and Thursday. U.S. officials also were talking to counterparts in other countries.

"We're concerned about flights originating from countries including Mexico and others," a national security official said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

CHRISTMAS CHEER — Paige Shaw's fifth graders at Northeast Elementary decorated bags and filled them with things like crayons, which they donated to the local Christmas For Kids drive. Students include Jeffrey Stewart, Kaden McCarter, Jonathan Black, Justin Gonzales, Jordan Rodriguez, Jordon Tippens, Kevin Bowers, Freddy Lopez, Roman Romero, Brooke Wood, Taylor Reed, Samantha Hermosillo, Leslie Rosas, Marissa Medrano, Brook Bollinger, Mary Quintano, Shanerica McGaha, Mellissa Rodriguez and Michelle Vasquez. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Joe's Pizza
Philadelphia Style
573-8555

Retailers lure with discounts

By The Associated Press

In a bid to lure consumers back to the stores for post-holiday shopping, the nation's retailers are set to step up discounting today in hopes of recouping lost sales. But the season is winding up to be only modestly better than a year ago.

Macy's is offering discounts of up to 50 percent to 75 percent on many items throughout the store on Friday, while AnnTaylor Stores Corp. is featuring reductions of up to 50 percent.

But C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, based in Charleston, S.C., said post-holiday sales will only help stores that are close to meeting their goals.

"If they're far behind, you can't have one week making up for the rest of the season," he said.

This holiday season, luxury stores such as Neiman Marcus have enjoyed robust sales, while mid-priced department stores have fared the worst. Even discounters like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. have struggled with muted sales gains, as low-income consumers still haven't benefited from the economic recovery.

Michael P. Niemira, chief economist and director of research at the International Council of Shopping Centers, said that same-store sales growth for the combined November-December period is currently tracking a little bit below his reduced 4 percent forecast.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Teen hesitates before telling parents she's sexually active

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering if you had any advice for a teenager (who is 16) about telling her parents that she and her boyfriend (of nine months) have become sexually active?

Both of her parents are really protective, and she is not sure how to break it to them. She knows they have the right to know, and I want to tell them — but how? — **AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, IN LAFAYETTE, LA.**

DEAR AT A LOSS: "She" should ask her mother to make an appointment for her with a gynecologist because she needs to be put on birth control and also to learn what she needs to know about sexually transmitted diseases. It will be a shocker, but it is also the truth. If you are mature enough to be having sex, you must be mature enough to handle the consequences.

Anyone who is sexually active must have regular gynecological and/or urological examinations to ensure that she (or he) hasn't unknowingly picked up an STD. (To ignore an STD is to risk becoming sterile, and can be fatal.) Please don't put this off.

**

DEAR ABBY: Before he met me, my husband, "Stan," was involved with a crazy, alcoholic, self-centered woman. "Evelyn" has never been married, but she acts like she is Stan's ex-wife. She has never accepted the fact that he married me and not her.

She began making frequent crank calls to me at work shortly after the wedding. She follows me when I am alone. She has told everyone that Stan is impotent and has slandered my children. She even stole our family portrait from a studio that displayed it.

How can I get this crazy woman to leave me alone? I need help. — **STALKED IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR STALKED: You have my sympathy. She appears to be unbalanced. Notify the police that you are being stalked and obtain a restraining order. Then notify the phone company about the unwanted calls. If they can be traced to her, it is further proof of her harassment — and there is a way to block them.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Dale" for nearly two years. I am 32, he is 29, and he is everything my husband wasn't. Dale is wonderful to me and even more so to my two young daughters. He comforts us when we're sad. He takes care of us when we're sick. He even handles our finances and is always there for me regardless of the situation. He is a very romantic person who always makes me feel special.

My problem? He cannot carry on an intellectual conversation. He also lacks some language skills and doesn't always make "adult" decisions. In other words, although he's perfect in every other way, he lacks the mentality of a man his age.

Should I let him go? Sometimes I feel he may not be the one for me because he's not as smart as I think he should be. — **SECOND THOUGHTS IN TEXAS**

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: Ideally, when people "couple up" they do it with individuals whose strengths compensate for their weaknesses. For many women, Dale's positive qualities would be enough, and he would be considered a prize. However, because intellectual accomplishment ranks high on your list of priorities, by all means let Dale go so he can find a woman who will love him for who he is, and you can find a partner who is more intellectually stimulating. You do not appear to be in love with him.

**

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

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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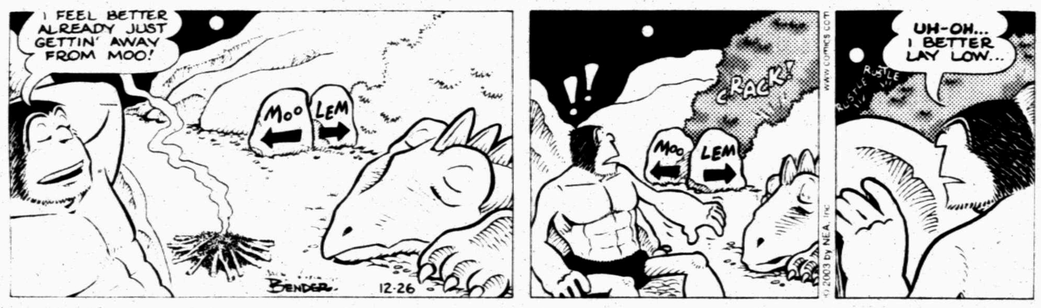
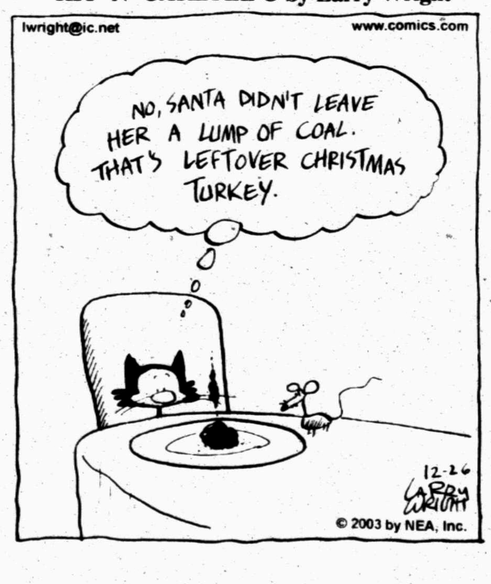


BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"They dropped the speeding charge, but I've got to pay for the three storefronts and the railway station."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Stretchy fabric
5 Facilitate
8 Do pull-ups
12 Made a basket
13 Kids' card game
14 Elis' home
15 Major prank
16 — day now
17 Devoted following
18 Hang of it
20 Oasis features
22 Lassie's refusal
23 Chop
24 Bright flower
27 Red Cross supply
30 Yvette's boyfriend
31 "Nightmare" street
32 Forensic science tool
34 Operate
35 Fast transport
37 Weep loudly
38 Four-baggers
40 They're almost grown
42 Row
43 Earth orbiter
44 — Kea
46 Squirrel food
49 Apple computers
50 "Recent" prefix
52 Clock's front
54 Barely scrapes by
55 "The," to Wolfgang
56 Austen novel
57 Mine find
58 Do christies
59 Regard as

DOWN

1 Elec. unit
2 Corner
3 Director — Reitman
4 Bush et al.
5 Not sleeping
6 John, in Aberdeen
7 Gypsum board (2 wds.)
8 Phases
9 Tote
10 Maladies
11 Soccer goal
19 Islet
21 Midterm or final
24 Shriver of tennis
25 Asian nanny
26 Barcelona boy
27 Favorites
28 Store stock (abbr.)
29 By and by
33 Pumper's pride
35 Ms. Harlow
36 Quick trips
39 Stylist's goop
40 Twitch
41 Wore away
43 New Zealander
44 Shark
45 Made an "A"
47 Coating of frost
48 Title
49 "Mad Max" — Gibson
51 Reaction to a mouse
53 Flee hastily

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	M	A	S	K			F	R	O	N	D	
T	A	U	T	E	R		P	O	U	T	E	R
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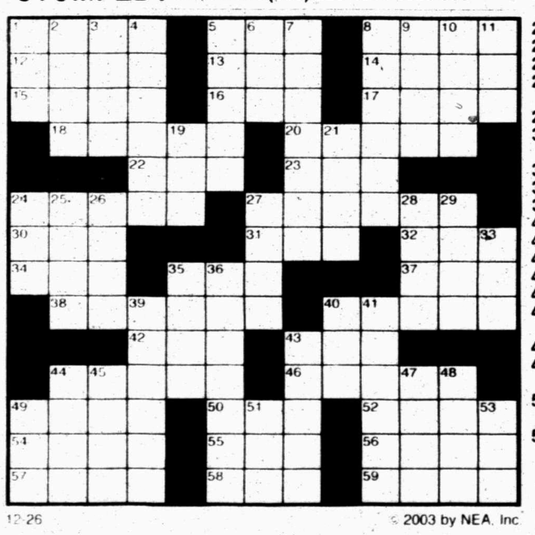

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W
y-Carolina
New Orleans

Bowling Green (10
6), 4 p.m. (ESP
California (7-6) vs.
p.m. (ESPN)
Pittsburgh (8-4) vs
(ESPN2)
Michigan State (8-
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Navy (8-4) vs. Tex
(ESPN)
Washington State
p.m. (ESPN)
Fresno St. (8-5) v
(ESPN2)

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SPORTS

At Hawaii Bowl...

Brawl mars Hawaii's triple overtime win

HONOLULU (AP) — Benched and booed in the final two regular-season games, Timmy Chang found redemption in the Hawaii Bowl.

Chang came off the bench and threw for 475 yards and five touchdowns to lead Hawaii to a wild 54-48 triple-overtime victory over Houston in a Hawaii Bowl that ended with a nasty brawl Thursday night.

Two of Chang's scores came in OT as he completed 26 of 42 passes and was selected the game's MVP. The junior also moved into third place on the NCAA career passing list with 12,814 yards.

But it was Michael Brewster's 8-yard touchdown run in the third overtime that gave the Warriors (9-5) the victory.

Shortly after Hawaii stopped Houston on fourth down in the third OT, the Warriors poured onto the field and several scuffles broke out.

Players were swinging helmets, throwing punches and kicks. No major injuries were reported.

"You don't want a game to end like that, but emotions are so high like that when people lose, they're going to want to fight," said Hawaii's Kelvin Millhouse, who intercepted two passes. "They were talking with us, messing with us the whole game. I don't think they liked us. I don't think we liked them very much either."

Coaches and police broke up the brawl after several minutes, and Houston was escorted to its locker room.

"The referees let it get out of control during the game by not taking control of some of the taunting and some of the things that were going on," Hawaii coach June Jones said. "I told them in the middle of the third quarter, 'If you don't get control of this game we've got a problem.'"

Houston (7-6) took advantage of a clock management mistake by Hawaii to tie it at 34 with 22 seconds left in regulation.

Fans were filing out of Aloha Stadium late in the fourth, but the Warriors failed to run out the clock.

Houston used its last timeout with 1:07 left, but the Warriors passed on third down from the Cougars 12 instead of running the ball and the clock.

Chang's pass fell incomplete and Nolan Miranda missed a 29-yard field goal, giving the Cougars one last shot.

Vincent Marshall caught a short pass in stride from Kevin Kolb and burst up the middle, racing 81 yards for the touchdown that sent the game into overtime.

"I probably should have gone for two right at the end, because we had momentum and we were an underdog and I made a coaching mistake in my opinion," first-year Houston coach Art Briles said. "I should have tried to finish it right there, get on the plane and go home happy."

Kolb, the Conference USA freshman of the year, was 19-of-34 for 332 yards and two TDs. He threw two interceptions in the second half.

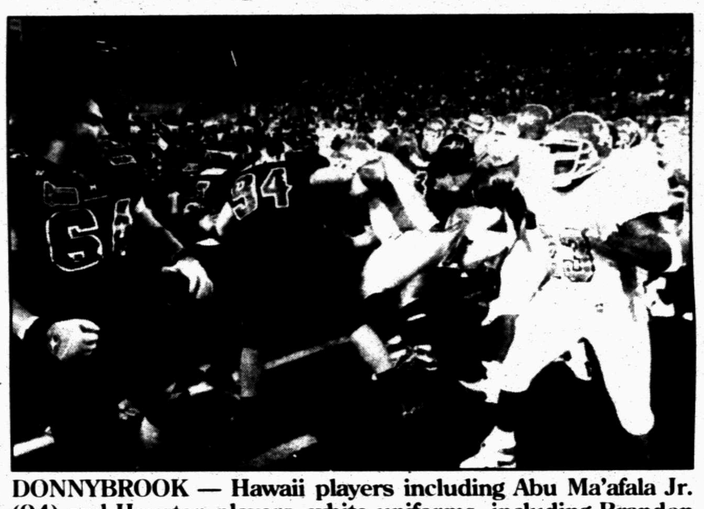
In the first overtime, Chang completed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Britton Komine, and Houston tied it on Anthony Evans' 6-yard run.

Houston went up 48-41 in the second overtime on a 4-yard run by Jackie Battle, but Hawaii answered with an 18-yard pass from Chang to Jason Rivers.

The Cougars nearly got the victory when they partially blocked Hawaii's extra point, but the ball still went through.

It was the fifth straight bowl loss for the Cougars. Houston, making its first bowl appearance since 1996, hasn't won in the postseason since defeating Navy in the 1980 Garden State Bowl.

"It was a good effort all night, just came up short," Briles said.



DONNYBROOK — Hawaii players including Abu Ma'afala Jr. (94) and Houston players, white uniforms, including Brandon Evans (68) fight at midfield following Hawaii's 54-48 win in the third overtime of the Hawaii Bowl in Honolulu. (AP Photo)

Mavs stop depleted Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Don Nelson bellowed a greeting to the 7-foot German soaking his feet in an ice bath.

"Nowitzki is alive and well!" the Dallas coach said. "I haven't seen him for a while!"

Yes, that was the real Dirk Nowitzki scoring 22 of his 31 points in the fantastic second half of the Mavericks' 111-103 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Thursday — and the real Antoine Walker, Steve Nash and Antawn Jamison.

The Mavericks haven't resembled themselves much this season, but they're hoping 24 outstanding minutes can help them get their identity back.

After stumbling to a 16-point deficit at halftime, Dallas outscored the short-handed Kings 67-43 — and four players combined for 10 3-pointers that secured the Mavs' fifth win in Sacramento in their last six regular-season games.

"It was fun to watch us finally come through," Nowitzki said. "It's good to see that we can still execute."

Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak by abandoning any set plays until the final moments of the second half. The Mavericks' stars were allowed to create their own shots — and for the first time in weeks, they did it splendidly.

Walker had 23 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, hitting five 3-pointers — including the go-ahead basket with 1:04 left as Dallas scored the game's final eight points. Nash added 14 points and 11 assists, and Michael Finley emerged from a rough outing to hit a 3-pointer with 37 seconds left.

In just their second home loss of the season, the Kings played without suspended All-Star Peja Stojakovic and injured forward Chris Webber, who hasn't played since blowing out his knee early in the teams' second-round playoff series last spring, won in seven games by Dallas.

Rockets shut down LA in fourth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Defense made the difference for the Houston Rockets.

A lack of defense did in the Los Angeles Lakers.

So, what's new?

"We're the No. 1 team in the league defensively, so that's our niche," Cuttino Mobley said after the Rockets limited the Lakers to one basket in a span of more than eight minutes in the fourth quarter during a 99-87 victory Thursday night.

The Rockets entered having held their opponents to an NBA-best 39.4 percent field goal percentage. The Lakers, who entered shooting 47.0 percent to rank third in the league, made 32-of-85 shots (37.6 percent) including 6-of-21 in the final period.

"The fourth quarter, it just seemed like the ball wouldn't go in for any of us," said Kobe Bryant, who led the Lakers with 23 points, eight rebounds and six assists, but shot just 9-of-26 including 1-of-7 in the final period.

The Rockets, meanwhile, shot 36-of-81 (44.4 percent) including 8-of-16 in the fourth quarter.

Shaquille O'Neal's matchup with Yao Ming was a push, but O'Neal was held without a field goal in the second half, missing all four shots he attempted.

"I think what hurt them is they didn't get the ball inside to Shaq enough," said Steve Francis, who led the Rockets (16-12) with 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

O'Neal had 22 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots. Yao had 18 points, eight rebounds and two blocks.

Yao didn't play after committing his fifth foul with the game tied 77-all. The Rockets outscored the Lakers 22-10 after that.

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	13	2	0	.867	317	238
Miami	9	6	0	.600	288	240
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	243	248
N.Y. Jets	6	9	0	.400	262	276

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Indianapolis	11	4	0	.733	427	319
x-Tennessee	11	4	0	.733	402	311
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	262	310
Houston	5	10	0	.333	238	360

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	378	271
Cincinnati	8	7	0	.533	332	362
Pittsburgh	6	9	0	.400	290	314
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	232	308

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	12	3	0	.800	453	329
x-Denver	10	5	0	.667	378	270
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	256	358
San Diego	3	12	0	.200	292	427

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	11	4	0	.733	343	280
x-Dallas	10	5	0	.667	282	247
Washington	5	10	0	.333	280	341
N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267	219	350

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Carolina	10	5	0	.667	288	280
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	327	319
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467	288	231
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	278	408

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	6	0	.600	411	304
Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	399	335
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	280	315
Detroit	4	11	0	.267	240	359

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-St. Louis	12	3	0	.800	427	298
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	380	310
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	367	313
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	207	435

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday
Buffalo at New England, 12:30 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
St. Louis at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon
Chicago at Kansas City, noon
Jacksonville at Atlanta, noon
Indianapolis at Houston, noon
Tampa Bay at Tennessee, noon
Dallas at New Orleans, noon
Cleveland at Cincinnati, noon
Carolina at N.Y. Giants, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Denver at Green Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
End Regular Season

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	18	6	8	3	47	99	74
New Jersey	18	6	8	0	44	80	52
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	2	1	33	94	89
N.Y. Rangers	13	13	5	2	33	88	84
Pittsburgh	8	18	4	3	23	70	121

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	20	6	6	3	49	99	80
Ottawa	16	10	4	3	39	102	71
Boston	13	9	9	4	39	86	88
Montreal	16	15	4	1	37	84	85
Buffalo	12	18	3	1	28	73	95

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	18	14	3	1	40	109	107
Tampa Bay	14	11	5	1	34	72	68
Florida	11	16	7	2	31	75	97
Carolina	10	13	8	2	30	61	76
Washington	11	20	3	1	26	93	110

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	22	11	3	1	48	124	85
St. Louis	20	8	3	1	44	83	67
Nashville	15	12	4	2	36	82	85
Chicago	8	17	7	3	26	66	97
Columbus	8	18	4	3	23	65	94

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	18	8	6	2	44	100	76
Calgary	18	9	2	3	41	78	65
Colorado	16	9	6	1	39	93	72
Minnesota	14	14	7	0	35	77	74
Edmonton	12	16	6	0	30	85	99

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	16	11	4	3	39	95	83
San Jose	12	9	10	3	37	79	79
Phoenix	11	11	11	1	34	85	99
Dallas	15	16	4	0	34	70	77
Anaheim	11	14	4	5	31	70	88

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

Today's Games
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Carolina at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	14	13	.519	—
Philadelphia	14	14	.500	½
Boston	14	15	.483	1
Miami	11	17	.393	3½
New York	10	19	.345	5
Washington	8	18	.308	5½
Orlando	8	22	.267	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	21	8	.724	—
New Orleans	18	11	.621	3
Detroit	16	12	.571	4½
Toronto	14	13	.519	6
Milwaukee	14	14	.500	6½
Cleveland	9	20	.310	12
Atlanta	8	22	.267	13½
Chicago	7	20	.259	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	10	.667	—
Minnesota	18	9	.667	½
Denver	17	11	.607	2
Dallas	16	12	.571	3
Houston	16	12	.571	3
Memphis	15	13	.536	4
Utah	15	13	.536	4

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	20	7	.741	—
Sacramento	20	7	.741	—
Golden State	13	13	.500	6½
Portland	13	13	.500	6½
Seattle	13	13	.500	6½
L.A. Clippers	11	13	.458	7½
Phoenix	10	19	.345	11

Thursday's Games
Orlando 113, Cleveland 101, OT
Dallas 111, Sacramento 103
Houston 99, L.A. Lakers 87

Today's Games
Miami at Washington, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
New York at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Orlando at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 8 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 8 p.m.
Boston at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Portland, 9:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

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Today
Motor City Bowl
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Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Northwestern (6-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Insight Bowl
At Phoenix
$750,000
California (7-6) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 27
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
$750,000
Pittsburgh (8-4) vs. Virginia (7-5), 10 a.m. (ESPN2)

Monday, Dec. 29
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
$1.45 million
Michigan State (8-4) vs. Nebraska (9-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

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

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
$950,000
Wisconsin (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
$2.65 million
Iowa (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
$1.825 million
Maryland (9-3) vs. West Virginia (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
$5.1 million
Purdue (9-3) vs. Georgia (10-3), noon (ABC)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
$14-17 million
Michigan (10-2) vs. Southern Cal (11-1), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Orange Bowl
At Miami
$14-17 million
Florida State (10-2) vs. Miami (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

Friday, Jan. 2
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
$3 million
Mississippi (9-3) vs. Oklahoma State (9-3), 1 p.m. (FOX)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
$2.1 million
Clemson (8-4) vs. Tennessee (10-2), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
$14-17 million
Kansas State (11-3) vs. Ohio State (10-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 3
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
$750,000
Tulsa (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN or ESPN2)

Sunday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
$14-17 million
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. LSU (12-1), 7 p.m.

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Cheaper by the Dozen PG
Fri. 2:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sat. 2:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sun. 2:15, 7:15
Tues. 7:15, 9:15
Wed. 2:15, 7:15
Thurs. 2:15, 7:15

Peter Pan PG
Fri. 2:00, 7:00, 9:25
Sat. 2:00, 7:00, 9:25
Sun. 2:00, 7:00
Tues. 7:00, 9:25
Wed. 2:00, 7:00
Thurs. 2:00, 7:00

Tuesday Poor Boy Night $3 "Peter Pan" ONLY
Wed. buy drink-get free popcorn *
Matinees - Fri., Sat., Sun., Wed., Thurs.
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MOVIES

Cheaper by the Dozen PG

When Tom Baker (Martin) gets a job offer to coach football at Northwestern University in Chicago, he and his wife, Mary (Hunt), move to the big city, which is a big change for them and their 12 children, who range from preschool-age twins Kyle and Nigel all the way up to 22-year-old Anne (Perabo) who has already left home.

Peter Pan PG

Peter Pan is the boy who won't age, who lives in Neverland with other ageless kids, the Lost Boys. Tinkerbelle, a fairy, gives three children: Wendy, John, and Michael Darling the ability to fly; and soon they're off to Neverland, where they're soon in battle with the evil Captain Hook and his band of pirates.

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Beginning on February 1, 2004, the following monthly service rate charges will be in effect for Snyder residential customers: Limited Basic will change from $7.60 to $8.75 and Expanded Basic will change from $30.13 to $31.24. Converter rental charges (analog and digital) will change from $3.70 to $3.99. In addition, the Channel Guide Magazine monthly purchase amount will change from $1.99 to $2.50. All prices quoted do not include franchise fees and/or sales tax. Inquires concerning these changes or any other cable-related issue can be made at Cox Communications, 2211 Ave. R, Snyder, TX 79549 or by calling 573-3536.

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

WANTED
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Wanted: Part-time Laborer at Landfill
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2609 37th 3-2¾-2 .....$107.5T
3201 Houston 3-2-2, very nice.....$92T
4021 Eastridge 3 or 4-2-2, Nice..Red. $47T
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Political junkies get experience in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Clare Gannon works in a tiny, dark room crammed with desks and cluttered with maps, televisions and signs reading "Howard Dean for President."

Dressed in sweat shirt and blue jeans with pink highlights in her hair, she takes phone calls every few minutes from reporters who want to talk about Dean's chances of winning the Iowa caucuses Jan. 19. The 23-year-old said she hopes a stint in the press office here will help launch a public relations career.

"There's a general respect for people who have worked the Iowa caucuses," Gannon said. "Politically, people know it's hard work here. I'm really young, and the fact that I've had so much hands-on training, that's really, really great."

Twentysomething campaign staffers eager for a taste of grassroots politics have flocked to Iowa, the place Gannon calls "the center of the political universe." In exchange for long hours, little pay and an occasional bout of homesickness, they are handed significant responsibilities. They become adept at handling the media, make contacts that could last decades and learn how to be politically competitive at the highest level.

"It gives a certain amount of sort of cachet to the rising young staffer to have worked a caucus campaign," said David Redlawsk, a University of Iowa political science professor and a Democratic county chairman. "It gives you that grassroots, on-the-ground experience that you just can't get very easily any other way."

Gannon, an Iowa native, graduated from Northwestern University with a communications degree. She works nearly 90 hours a week on "Campaign Row," an area of downtown Des Moines where about half of the candidates' Iowa headquarters are clustered in old storefronts and office space emblazoned with campaign signs.

She predicted many young campaign workers will leave Iowa with the same feeling: "If I got through that, I can get through anything."

From Dick Gephardt headquarters on Campaign Row, spokesman Bill Burton has helped push the Missouri congressman into the top of the field in Iowa. Burton, 26, already has worked in politics for four years, including stints with Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin and former Minnesota Rep. Bill Luther.

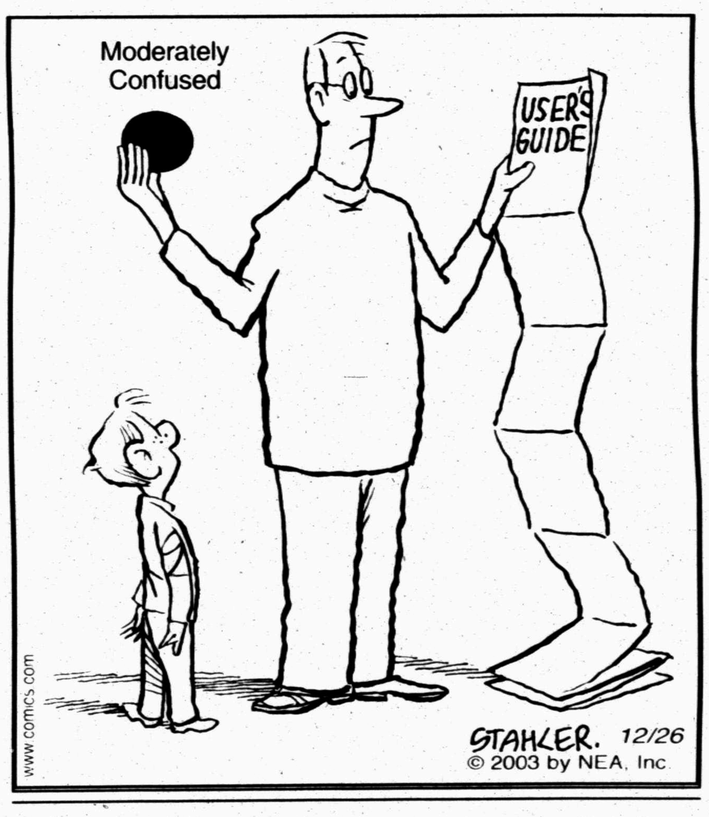
"You learn so much every day because there is just so much more going on than there is in a Capitol Hill job or other campaign jobs," said Burton, a University of Minnesota graduate. The difference, he said, is the direct contact with voters.

"It's much less insulated from the actual folks who make our country go," Burton said. "People here really understand the issues. They really understand how their leaders and government are responsible to them."

This winter, the Iowa caucuses have been more exciting for staffers scattered throughout the state because of the intense competition among nine campaigns. Staffers have been known to spread damaging information about the other side as fast as a rumor whips through a high school locker room.

"Anything happens when you are under intense pressure with a small group of people," Redlawsk said. "There's a real sense of team, a sense of us versus them."

Few staffers talk publicly about the darker side of campaigning. Instead, they can be found toasting each other with rounds of drinks at Wellman's, a pub close to Campaign Row.



Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.92	12.77	12.79	+ .03
AT&T Corp	19.83	19.61	19.72	+ .03
Albertsons	22.33	22.15	22.26	— .04
Alltel	45.50	45.16	45.38	— .05
AmEl Pw	30.22	30.07	30.09	
AndarkPtr	50.70	50.25	50.39	— .06
ATMOS Egy	24.85	24.75	24.84	+ .18
Aviall	15.65	15.64	15.64	— .01
BP PLC	48.70	48.38	48.48	+ .02
BakerHughes	32.30	32.10	32.22	— .04
Bank of Amer	79.29	79.00	79.15	— .10
BellSouth	27.80	27.52	27.65	— .03
BurlNoSFe	32.16	31.79	32.04	+ .25
Caterpillar	83.96	83.06	83.96	+ .45
CenterPoint	9.63	9.52	9.56	— .01
ChevronTex	84.25	83.85	84.02	+ .67
Citigroup	47.98	47.84	47.87	+ .02
CocaCola	50.04	49.90	49.93	+ .03
ColgatePal	49.23	49.03	49.17	
CmclMetals	30.56	30.24	30.29	
ConocoPhill	64.41	63.95	64.30	+ .40
Cooper Inds	57.70	57.22	57.23	— .19
DaimlrChry	45.91	45.65	45.83	+ .18
DeltaAirLines	11.83	11.64	11.68	+ .05
Dillards Inc	16.17	15.90	16.10	+ .22
DowChem	41.70	41.36	41.64	+ .15
DuPont	45.65	45.38	45.42	— .03
EastmanChem	38.97	38.70	38.89	+ .33
EstKodak	25.22	24.93	24.96	— .01
EDS Corp	24.25	24.05	24.20	
Entergy	56.46	56.22	56.28	— .19
ExxonMobil	40.10	39.81	39.98	+ .15
FootLocker	23.10	22.85	23.10	+ .22
GenDynam	89.92	89.38	89.55	— .37
GenElec	31.00	30.88	30.88	— .02
GenMills	45.24	44.90	45.17	+ .13
GenMotors	53.90	52.35	53.08	— .27
GaPacific	30.25	29.81	30.22	+ .27
Goodrich	29.75	29.51	29.58	+ .10
Goodyear	7.88	7.63	7.79	+ .15
GtAtlPac	7.92	7.55	7.88	+ .33
Halliburtn	26.45	26.17	26.20	— .01
Hanson PLC	36.20	36.20	36.20	+ .25
HarteHanks	21.73	21.54	21.70	+ .06
HomeDepot	35.04	34.69	35.00	+ .31
HoneywellIntl	32.76	32.50	32.75	+ .02
IBM	92.94	92.30	92.84	+ .57
IntlPaper	42.61	42.18	42.38	+ .19
JohnsonJn	50.71	50.50	50.67	— .06
KinderMorg	58.70	58.30	58.47	+ .03
Kroger Co	18.19	18.03	18.04	— .05
LockheedM	50.75	50.50	50.72	+ .06
Lowes Cos	54.90	54.00	54.79	+ .79
Lubys	3.62	3.60	3.60	— .01
LucentTech	2.87	2.82	2.85	+ .02
MarathonOil	32.84	32.55	32.57	+ .02
MayDeptStr	28.68	28.48	28.57	+ .18
Medtronic	48.18	47.86	48.07	+ .15
Motorola	13.80	13.63	13.74	+ .05
NCR Corp	39.05	38.84	38.99	+ .19
Navistar	48.38	47.78	48.30	+ .54
PNM Rescs	28.07	27.95	28.02	
Penney JC	25.88	25.49	25.85	+ .35
PepBoys	22.49	22.24	22.47	+ .34
PepsiCo	46.44	46.30	46.37	+ .18
PhelpDodge	78.19	77.00	77.81	+ .81
PilgrimsPride	18.00	17.50	18.00	+ 1.15
Praxair s	37.80	37.40	37.55	+ .10
ProctGamb	98.29	97.91	98.19	— .15
RadioShack	30.92	30.04	30.90	+ .96
RoyalDut	51.18	50.93	51.03	+ .06
SBC Comm	25.24	25.10	25.23	+ .11
SaraLee	21.01	20.90	20.97	— .03
Scripps EW	94.43	93.65	94.02	+ .52
SearsRoeb	44.91	44.53	44.91	+ .60
SherwinW	34.23	34.00	34.11	— .03
SouthernCo	30.17	30.02	30.06	
SwstAirl	15.93	15.77	15.87	+ .04
SprintFON	15.99	15.84	15.96	+ .06
SprintPCS	5.38	5.30	5.31	— .08
Sunoco Inc	51.68	51.20	51.45	+ .28
TXU Corp	23.69	23.41	23.64	+ .05
TempleInland	61.67	61.39	61.60	+ .22
TexInd	37.54	36.74	37.27	+ .54
TexasInst	29.20	28.86	29.01	+ .03
Textron	56.73	56.57	56.60	+ .12
TimeWarner	18.03	17.80	17.96	+ .13
TrinityInds	31.12	30.90	31.01	+ .15
TylerTech	9.94	9.70	9.83	+ .13
UnionPacif	68.96	68.48	68.95	+ .39
USSteel	35.71	34.75	35.47	+ .99
UnitedTech	95.04	94.27	94.74	+ .68
Unocal	36.31	36.05	36.26	+ .07
VerizonComm	33.96	33.90	33.92	— .04
WalMart	52.70	52.32	52.70	+ .26
WellsFargo	58.59	58.22	58.47	+ .20
WstnGasRs	47.26	46.99	47.05	— .04
WinnDixie	9.32	9.23	9.27	+ .02
Xerox Cp	13.83	13.67	13.68	— .12
YumBrands	34.05	33.40	33.75	+ .04

DEC 26 2003

Christmas bittersweet for many in U.S.

By The Associated Press

Terror threats on the home front and troops risking their lives in Iraq made it a bittersweet Christmas for many Americans.

Army Reserves Spc. Gregg Bly, 34, sat in the Philadelphia airport Thursday waiting for the next leg of his flight home from Iraq to Columbus, Ohio. The 15-day visit would be his first with his 5-year-old daughter since January, and he said he was "kind of shaky, kind of nervous."

"I'm just happy to be able to see her," he said. "She doesn't know I'm coming."

Bly was one of the lucky ones. Many of the 130,000 U.S. troops stationed in Iraq were away from home during Christmas for the first time.

A dozen Massachusetts National Guard families took advantage of a video-conferencing system to wish their loved ones about 8,000 miles away a merry Christmas.

Sgt. Marc L'Italien, 24, spoke to his parents by video conference for the second time in a week. His absence was particularly tough on Christmas morning, said his mother, Pauline.

"He's the one that usually wakes us up and wants to open his gifts," she said from a base in Milford, Mass. "We miss that an awful lot."

Elsewhere, travelers struggled to make their way home for Christmas as airports tightened security following reports that terrorists could be planning a jetliner attack on a U.S. target.

Jean-Marie Buchet, 54, of Paris, was traveling to Los Angeles to spend the holidays with family when her Air France flight was canceled — one of six flights between Paris and Los Angeles that were canceled Wednesday and Thursday because of terrorist concerns.

"We had to wait nearly six hours without any explanation as to what was going on," she said.

Others got into the spirit of the season by giving gifts.

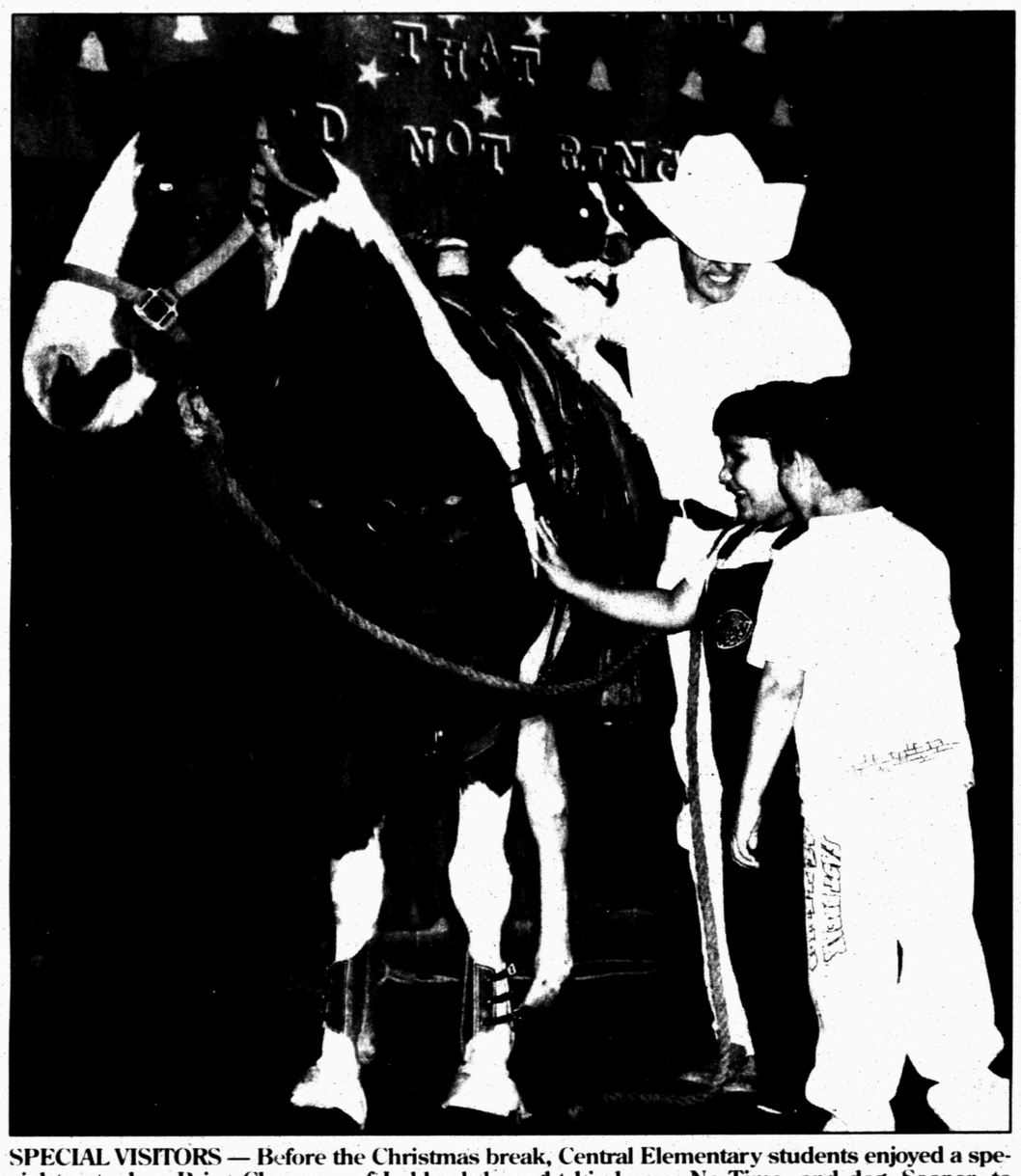
In New York, volunteers for God's Love We Deliver prepared and delivered a Christmas feast: 2,500 full meals of corn chowder, cornish game hens stuffed with wild rice and mushroom sauce, mixed vegetables and gingerbread cake.

Roz Gilbert has volunteered for the group delivering food to seriously ill New Yorkers — mostly with HIV/AIDS or cancer — since her own son, Fred, died of AIDS in 1991.

"So many people don't have much, and to be able to bring them all this — it's very rewarding," Gilbert said Thursday.

At the National Guard base in Milford, Wasic and her son's wife, Wendy, got to see him for the first time since he shipped out in March — via video cameras and an 8-foot by 8-foot screen.

On his first Christmas away from home, he told them, he had Spaghetti-O's for dinner because he didn't like the military food available.



SPECIAL VISITORS — Before the Christmas break, Central Elementary students enjoyed a special treat when Brice Chapman of Lubbock brought his horse, No Time, and dog, Sooner, to school. Kindergarten students pictured are Alondra Garza and Adrian Murillo. They are in Celia Barrera's class. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003

Being more active and on the go than usual in the year ahead may offer you many pleasant experiences, but more importantly you could gain fresh opportunities to expand your horizons and scope of knowledge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A positive attitude always works wonders, especially if you've been down lately. Do not put any limitations on your thinking, because what you visualize can successfully materialize.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You can strengthen your position considerably today if you do not reveal too much information about your stance to those with whom you have dealings. Ask more questions than you answer.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although you may not realize it, your words and opinions could have a great impact on others today. You possess the ability to sway others both on an individual and group basis.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Act promptly on situations or conditions that can enhance your goals today. There isn't anything you can't accomplish if you trust yourself enough to do what needs doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Conversations today with some of your more progressive friends could prove helpful in refurbishing your thinking. Clever pals can help you come up with some clever ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Strive to fulfill your ambitions today, but see if you can find a cohort to team up with who is interested in the same thing. Resources can be jointly solidified to lay a solid foundation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Putting your head together with another person today concerning something you're trying to work out can be beneficial for you. What one doesn't think of, the other one will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — This is a good day to implement some changes concerning your everyday routine that you've been thinking about doing. Conditions can be improved upon that'll support your aims.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — One way of dealing with touchy companions today is to let them think that your ideas are inspired by their suggestions, even if they aren't. It'll render them impotent in emotional upheavals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Assistance to tackle a project around the house (that you're unable to do unaided) will be available today if you take the time to ask someone competent. This person will be happy to lend a hand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't wait for others to contact you about doing something social today. Get on the phone yourself and call those who enjoy your company. You won't have any trouble getting favorable responses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — There's a strong possibility that you haven't received all your holiday gifts yet, because you're likely to get another one today. You must have been very good this year.

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

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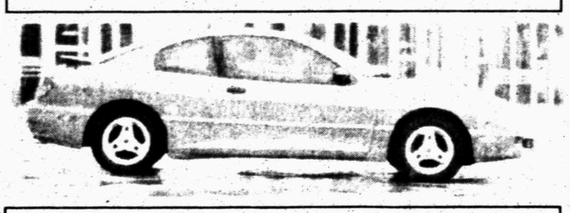

2003 Pontiac Sunfire, 2 Door A2447
$10,750 or $212.99* mo.
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GM CERTIFIED

2003 Chevy Cavalier, 2 Door A2332
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Black, CD, auto, must see
GM CERTIFIED

2003 GMC Sonoma A8877
$10,095 or $199.99* mo.
Pewter, auto, A/C, 4 cyl, 14K miles
GM CERTIFIED

2003 Chevy Cavalier LS, 4 Door A7437
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1999 Chevy Suburban C6127A, 58K $13,000
2000 Chevy Reg. Cab TxOk. C6134A, auto $10,500
2001 Ford F150 4x4 C6318A $9,750
2002 Chevy 1500 ExCab TC6547A, 23K $16,850
2001 Chevy Suburban C6278A, 63K $18,850
2001 Ford Expedition C6450B Eddie Bauer 4x4 $23,500
2001 Chevy Blazer A7092 2 dr. sport $8,900
1993 Ford F150 ExCab TC6624B $4,500
1989 Ford F250 P1569C Long Bed Supercab $2,750
2000 Chevy Suburban 4x4 TC6655A $18,000
1987 Chevy Suburban TC6625A $1,850
1999 Chevy 2500 Reg. Cab TC6600A $5,000
2001 Mitsubishi Montero Sport C6604A, 44K $12,000

CARS

1996 Cadillac Deville C6126A, 88K $6,100
2001 Chevy Impala LS A6654 ..... $12,850
1994 GEO Prism TC6369A, Chrome Wheels $4,500
1996 Cadillac Deville TC6625B, 76K $6,600

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Dick Nor

1940-

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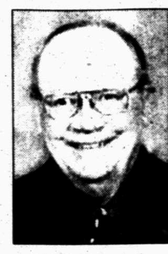

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Lee Gill

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Obituaries

Dick Norris

1940-2003

Richard H. "Dick" Norris, a resident of Snyder since 1970, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, at his home in Snyder after a long battle with cancer.

Funeral service for Mr. Norris, 63, is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Buddy Payne, pastor, officiating. Graveside service is set for 3:30 p.m. Saturday in Lamesa Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born July 27, 1940 in Lamesa, he married Sandra K. Orr on Aug. 25, 1962 in Lamesa. A graduate of Lamesa High School, he attended Texas Tech.

Dick Norris

Mr. Norris was manager of Forrest Lumber Co. in Snyder for 20 years before becoming a self-employed building contractor.

He served on the board of directors of the Snyder Jaycees and was active in helping build Kiddie Park. A member of the First United Methodist Church, Mr. Norris helped organize the Optimist Club and served many years on the City of Snyder's planning and zoning board.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1991.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra K. Norris of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Christy Norris of Springtown; a daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Joe Bauer of Houston; his mother, Margaret Norris of Lamesa; a brother, James Norris of Lamesa; and three grandchildren, Spencer Norris, Emily Bauer and Ethan Bauer.

Pallbearers will be Bryan Norris, Joe Bauer, Stanley Baize, Bill Gilliland, Jackie Simpson, Jimmy Simpson, Bobby Goodwin, David Cooper and Larry Henderson.

Lee Gill

1926-2003

Lee Edward Gill, longtime Scurry County employee, died Thursday, Dec. 25, in Lubbock after a long illness.

Lee Gill

Service for Mr. Gill, 77, is set for 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Dan Crawford, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Hermleigh Cemetery.

Born Nov. 17, 1926 in Bell County, he married Dorothy Green on Aug. 20, 1949 in Colorado City.

Mr. Gill was a heavy equipment operator for precinct 3 in Scurry County for 43½ years and at the time of his retirement had the longest tenure with the county.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Leslie and James Gill; a sister, Bessie McCalley; and two grandsons, Rocky Gill and Cody Botts.

Survivors include three daughters, Margie Williams and husband Larry of Colorado City, Vickie Arrendale and husband Mark, and Sharon Gill, all of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Roy and Cindy Gill of Hermleigh; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Louise and Harvey Stevenson and Cherry and Clint Hembree, all of Snyder; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

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

Victor Beinhauer

1914-2003

Victor Joe Beinhauer, a resident of Scurry County since 1938, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, in Rolling Plains Hospital in Sweetwater.

Funeral service for Mr. Beinhauer, 89, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was to follow in the Roscoe Cemetery.

Born May 16, 1914 in Roscoe, he married Irene Lucille Sauer on Dec. 3, 1938 in Roscoe. She died March 16, 2003.

Mr. Beinhauer was a retired farmer and drove a school bus for the Hermleigh ISD for more than 20 years. He was a member and past master of the Hermleigh Masonic Lodge and had been a member of the First Salem Lutheran Church in Roscoe for more than 70 years, serving on the church council.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Roy W. and Elton Beinhauer.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Rex Mitchell of San Angelo; a son and daughter-in-law, Travis and Camille Beinhauer of Hamilton; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

C.D. Calvert

1941-2003

C.D. Calvert, a former resident of Snyder, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, in Big Spring.

Funeral service for Mr. Calvert, 62, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Faith Baptist Church with the Rev. Larry White, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 4, 1941 in Littlefield, he was a member of Faith Baptist Church and the Hermleigh Masonic Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his father, C.M. Calvert; a brother, Larry Calvert; and a close friend, Dyann Davis.

Survivors include his mother, Marie Calvert of Big Spring; two daughters and sons-in-law, Denece and Don Pruett of Murchison and Cathy and Al Aikin of Genoa, Ark.; three brothers, Donald Calvert of Sweetwater, Gary Calvert of Sand Springs and Jack Calvert of Haslet; six grandchildren, Jeremy Brown, Christy Harvin, Britney Redfearn, Leeann Hensley, Courtney and Austin Aikin; and one great-grandson, Wesley Harvin.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge members will be pallbearers.

Slim Prescott

1915-2003

ASPERMONT — Eldon Harrison "Slim" Prescott, the uncle of Robert Potter of Snyder, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, in a Hamlin hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Prescott, 88, was set for 2 p.m. today in the First Baptist Church in Aspermont. Burial was to follow in the Aspermont Cemetery under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

Born in Abilene, he was a World War II Navy veteran and married Dorothy McDowell on March 3, 1942. She died April 15, 2003.

Survivors also include a sister, Jessie Lee Gladden of Morton; and several other nieces and nephews.

Josephine Morris

1914-2003

PARIS, Texas — Josephine Morris , mother of Joan Dryden of Snyder, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Southwood Rehabilitation Center in Hender-son.

Graveside service for Mrs. Morris, 89, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in Evergreen Cemetery. Gene Roden's Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born Jan. 23, 1914, in Biardstown, she graduated from Texas Teachers College and received her teaching certificate.

She married James Edward Morris on Oct. 8, 1948, in Paris.Mrs. Morris resided in Henderson and had retired after 32 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. She was a member of First Christian Church in Paris.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Morris on June 22, 2000; and her parents, John Luther and Mary Nichols Satcher.

Survivors include two other daughters, Sherry and her husband Billy Johnson of Henderson, Monna Gail and her husband Louis Mathis of Texarkana, and another son-in-law, Randy Dryden of Snyder; a son, Lonnie Morris of Paris; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

Gladys Shaw

1915-2003

Funeral service for Lillie Gladys Shaw, 88, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the First Baptist Church Chapel. The Rev. Marty Akins will officiate.

Mrs. Shaw, a former resident of Snyder, died this morning in Denison after a lengthy illness.

Born July 1, 1915 in Snyder, she was a member of the First Baptist Church in Snyder.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Davis Shaw; two brothers, Nathan Wade and Clarence Wade; and a sister, Mrs. Millie Rains.

Survivors include a son, Max Shaw of Denison; a daughter, Jane Patterson of Abilene; a brother, Anthem Wade of Oklahoma; two sisters-in-law, Bird Wade of Snyder and Nell Outlaw of Morton; 7 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

John Covey

John Covey, longtime Scurry County resident, died shortly before noon today in Cogdell Hospital. Services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale.

Israel will still kill militants

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel will target and kill Palestinian militants in retaliation for a suicide bombing that killed four Israelis, senior security sources said today. Leaders of Hamas, however, will be exempt from such strikes because the group has halted its attacks, the sources said.

Thursday's suicide bombing came minutes after an Israeli air strike in Gaza killed three Islamic Jihad militants and two civilians. The violence came after a relatively calm period and threatened tentative steps to renew peace talks.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and his top commanders decided today to target militants from Islamic Jihad and the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — the group that claimed responsibility for Thursday's bombing, said security sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Since the start of fighting in September 2000, Israel has routinely hunted down and killed militant leaders — often in a manner similar to Thursday's helicopter air strike.

Holiday quiet in Snyder except for numerous arrests

• Arrests

A number of arrests were made in Snyder and Scurry County during the holiday period.

Several of the arrests were due to alcohol-related violations.

A report of a reckless driver resulted in the arrest of one subject at 12:31 a.m. today. A 28-year-old man was taken into custody on U.S. 84 one mile east of Hwy. 180 and charged with misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers responded to a report of a fight at Royal Trailer Park at 12:50 this morning, resulting in the arrest of a 39-year-old man for violation of probation.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody in the 1400 block of 36th at 2:55 p.m. Wednesday for motion to revoke probation.

A 16-year-old male was arrested in the 2100 block of 41st at 11:44 p.m. Wednesday and charged with misdemeanor DWI.

Two misdemeanor arrests were carried out on Tuesday evening on Hwy. 350. A 49-year-old man was taken into custody at 4:54 p.m. two miles south of Snyder. At 10:10 p.m. a 51-year-old man was arrested five miles south of the city.

A 21-year-old man was arrested on a capias warrant for minor in possession of alcohol for adult probation at 10:04 a.m. Tuesday.

• Accident

Two accidents, one with a minor injury, occurred on Christmas Eve inside the city limits.

An accident was reported at 10:14 a.m. Wednesday at the intersection of El Paso and Hwy. 180. The mishap involved a 1988 Ford driven by Henry Hines Hale, 64, of O'Donnell, and a 1994 Ford Ranger driven by James Carl Manley, 82, 4002 Irving.

A two-vehicle collision was reported at Town and Country north at 6:53 p.m. Wednesday. Involved were a 1984 Buick Regal driven by Louis Sanchez III, 26, 111 24th and a 1992 Chevrolet pickup driven by Thomas Jake Henry, 17, of 1584 Fuller Ranch Rd.

Sanchez was transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

• Burglary

An officer was requested at 2609 32nd at 9:43 p.m. Wednesday to investigate a burglary of a vehicle. A window was broken to gain entry and an unknown amount of change and a pair of eyeglasses was stolen.

• Theft

A representative of Rhodes Welding on Lamesa Hwy. reported on Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. of someone damaging a gas pump and stealing an unknown amount of gas.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28	Mon 12/29
61/38	50/28	53/28
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 61F. Winds SW at 15 to 25 mph.	Sunny and wind. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:44 AM Sunset 5:45 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 5:46 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 5:46 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–

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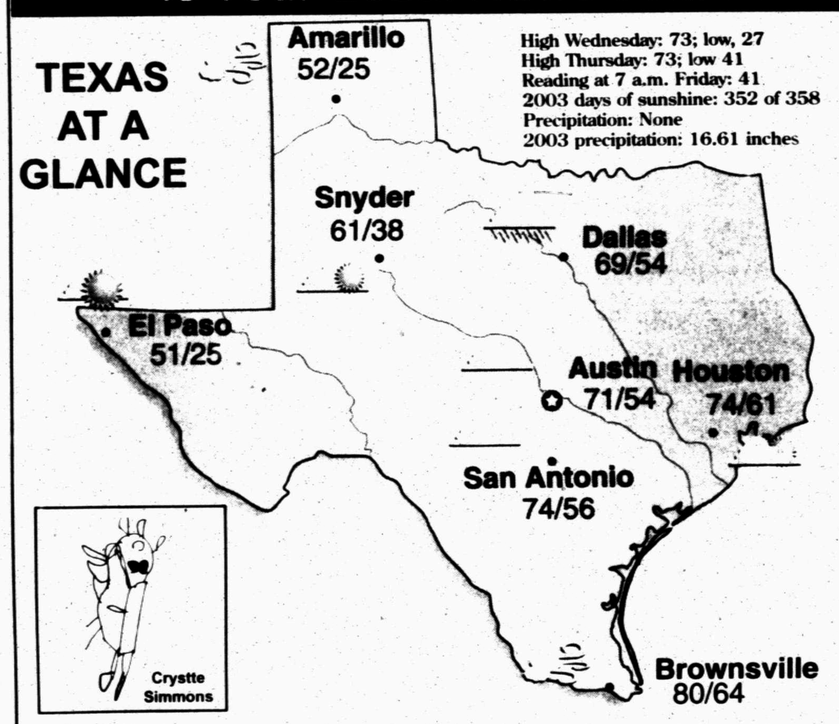

High Wednesday: 73; low, 27
High Thursday: 73; low 41
Reading at 7 a.m. Friday: 41
2003 days of sunshine: 352 of 358
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 16.61 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	66	45	windy	El Paso	51	25	mst sunny	Midland	61	34	pt sunny
Amarillo	52	25	windy	Fort Stockton	64	35	sunny	Raymondville	80	61	windy
Austin	71	54	cloudy	Gainesville	66	48	rain	Rosenberg	74	61	cloudy
Beaumont	73	60	pt sunny	Greenville	67	51	rain	San Antonio	74	56	cloudy
Brownsville	80	64	windy	Houston	74	61	cloudy	San Marcos	72	55	cloudy
Brownwood	69	49	pt sunny	Kingsville	79	62	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	68	53	rain
Corpus Christi	77	63	cloudy	Livingston	72	56	cloudy	Sweetwater	64	42	pt sunny
Corsicana	69	53	cloudy	Longview	69	55	rain	Tyler	68	54	rain
Dallas	69	54	rain	Lubbock	57	29	windy	Weatherford	67	47	cloudy
Del Rio	70	51	pt sunny	Lufkin	71	57	rain	Wichita Falls	65	44	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	60	33	sunny	Houston	74	61	cloudy	Phoenix	55	33	mst sun
Boston	44	29	sunny	Los Angeles	58	42	sunny	San Francisco	52	42	pt sunny
Chicago	48	43	pt sunny	Miami	75	63	pt sunny	Seattle	42	36	rain
Dallas	69	54	rain	Minneapolis	43	30	rain	St. Louis	55	49	cloudy
Denver	35	14	pt sunny	New York	50	32	sunny	Washington, DC	53	32	sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28	Mon 12/29
Low	Low	Low

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

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DEC 26 2003

Today's chuckle

Naked man gets stuck in chimney

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A naked man got stuck in the chimney of a bookstore early Christmas morning.

Don't worry, it wasn't Santa Claus.

The 34-year-old man was treated Thursday for bruises and abrasions at Hennepin County Medical Center after being found naked and lodged in the furnace flue at Uncle Hugo's Bookstore. He was expected to be charged with attempted burglary on Friday.

"He was lucky," said police Lt. Mike Sauro. "He was only stuck in that chimney for a few hours. It's kind of a happy ending, because if he had been in there until that store opened Friday morning, it's my judgment he would have died.

"He doesn't appear to be a hard-core criminal, just stupid."

Police suspect that the man was drunk when he climbed atop the one-story building and removed all his clothes to help squeeze into the chimney. He then started to slide down the 12-by-12-inch chimney shaft, Sauro said.

"He's not Santa Claus," Sauro said. "He's a really skinny guy. And he's lucky he didn't get cooked."

The man told police that he entered the chimney about 1 a.m. Thursday to retrieve keys he accidentally dropped down the shaft.

A passer-by called police around 9 a.m. Thursday, after hearing screams for help coming from inside the store. Firefighters broke into the chimney with sledgehammers and freed the man.

"The store is pretty well torn up," said owner Don Blyly, who came in Thursday to hang up signs for a sale to begin Friday. "This is not what I came in here for today, but that's what I have to deal with."

Organic beef may see boost

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Organic beef producers predict the U.S. mad cow scare will boost demand for their meat, which comes from animals fed only milk, grasses and grains from birth to slaughter.

Mad cow disease, officially known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, is believed to be spread through cattle feed containing protein or bone meal from infected cows or sheep. Although the government banned feeding cattle such products in 1997, organic food advocates say the law has loopholes and is poorly enforced.

U.S. organic beef standards, which took effect in October 2002, provide for certification of producers whose practices have passed muster with either a state or private inspector. The standards include an all-vegetable diet once the animal is weaned.

"We will now see a huge increase in the demand" for organic beef, which currently accounts for no more than 1 percent of U.S. beef sales, predicted Ronnie Cummins, national director of the Organic Consumers Association, of Little Marais, Minn.

Nick Maravell, owner of Nick's Organic Farm, said he sold all the beef from his small, but growing, Black Angus herd in Adamstown, Md., almost immediately after the autumn slaughter. Maravell, vice chairman of the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association, said he expects next year's crop of six animals to go just as fast.

Chicago-based Dakota Beef Co. claims to be the nation's largest organic producer, with 25 farms and processors under contract to produce beef that will start showing up in national supermarket meat cases in 2004.

Spokesman Seldon Moreland wouldn't predict the sales impact of the mad cow news, but said: "I can 100 percent assure you that certified organic beef is free of possible infection from BSE."

The same claim is made by some non-organic producers, including Denver-based Coleman Natural Products Inc. Company chairman Mel Coleman Jr. said the company also insists on an all-vegetable diet but not on organic feed, which must be certified as free from herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Some say the organic advocates are using the mad cow news to create panic over the food supply.

World Almanac

Friday, Dec. 26, 2003

Today is the 360th day of 2003 and the fifth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1606, Shakespeare's "King Lear" was performed at the court of King James I.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson, as a wartime measure, placed U.S. railroads under government control.

In 1933, the Nissan Motor Company (then known as Dat Jidosha Seizo) was founded in Tokyo.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address the U.S. Congress.

In 1972, President Harry Truman died at the age of 88.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Thomas Gray (1716-1771), poet; Mao Zedong (1893-1976), Chinese Communist leader; Steve Allen (1921-2000), comedian, actor; John Walsh (1945-), TV host and victims' rights advocate, is 58.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1908, boxer Jack Johnson knocked out Tommy Burns to become the first African-American heavyweight champion.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." — Thomas Gray

TODAY'S FACT: In 1951, the Metropolitan Insurance Company reported a link between early death and being 15 pounds overweight.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 1,700 — amount, in dollars, paid for Paul Gauguin's painting "Tahiti" in 1937.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 23) and first quarter (Dec. 30).

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James Garner signed deal to stay on show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Garner isn't leaving "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter" any time soon.

Touchstone TV, the producers of the ABC sitcom, have closed a deal with the veteran actor to continue on the comedy as a regular, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Garner started on the show in November following the sudden death of the sitcom's star, John Ritter, who played a harried dad and newspaper columnist.

Garner plays the father of the columnist's widow, who helps his daughter and three teenage grandchildren as they confront the realities of becoming a single-parent family.

Garner is set to return to "8 Simple Rules" on Jan. 5 after falling on the set last week and bruising his hip.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Smoking often causes poor circulation

DEAR DR. GOTT: My wife quit smoking six years ago, after a 20-year habit. She is now 53. However, her toes are red, sore and tingly all the time. Her HMO doctor refuses to send her to a specialist and insists that nothing can be done. Do you agree?

DEAR READER: Not necessarily. Circulatory problems go hand in hand with smoking. Your wife certainly could suffer from arterial blockage in her legs. This condition, called peripheral vascular disease, could be the reason her toes are so uncomfortable. This affliction did not improve when she stopped smoking because the blockage is permanent.

However, depending on the location and extent of the arterial obstructions, she may be helped by balloon angioplasty or bypass surgery. Both procedures re-establish blood flow to tissues deprived of oxygen. But first she'll need special testing, such as arteriographical imaging studies.

Even though she is a member of a Health Maintenance Organization, her physician should have vascular specialists he can call upon for assistance.

In my opinion, your wife needs the services of such a consultant. If there are no vascular specialists in your HMO, your wife's doctor has the right to refer her to one who is out of the organization — and, in my view, he should do so. If your wife's symptoms are not caused by treatable vascular occlusions, the specialist will withdraw from the case and, I suspect, advise her to be examined by a neurologist, because certain neurological disorders — such as neuropathy — could be the basis of toe pain and burning.

I believe that doctors who categorically refuse second opinions are leaving themselves at risk for liability. Such opinions are a valuable and necessary part of modern medical practice. And practitioners should welcome them when diagnoses are either unfavorable or in doubt.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I recently experienced a breathing disorder after a bad coughing spell. The cough caused my throat to spasm, preventing me from taking a full, unobstructed breath. The episode lasted about 30 seconds, occurred periodically for about two weeks and then stopped. What's the cause of this anomaly? Will it happen again?

DEAR READER: Violent coughing fits, which are often the consequence of seemingly trivial upper-respiratory infections, can cause muscular spasms in the throat that are frightening.

Fortunately, such spasms are not particularly dangerous and disappear once the underlying infection has abated. I don't believe that you need to worry about a repeat episode.

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

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