

MIXED NEWSPAPERS
DIS EL PASO 799

Husain Hereford, home of Debbie Bass

The Hereford Brand



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Inspecting the soldier

Christmas decorations can be seen in several businesses around Hereford. Kitty Gault of Kid's Alley straightens the head on the toy soldier decoration in the display case.

Low clouds prevent shuttle landing

By MICHELLE KOIDIN
Associated Press Writer
SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - NASA decided today to keep the space shuttle Columbia in orbit another day because low clouds prevented a landing in Florida.

Mission Control told the shuttle crew to plan to try again Friday morning, when the weather at Kennedy Space Center looked better. "We can always use another day in space," commander Kenneth Cockrell said.

As of a few days ago, the five astronauts thought they were coming down on Friday. They were told Wednesday the mission would be cut

short because rain and fog had been forecast for Friday. A jammed shuttle hatch and the failure of a navigation unit also played a role in that decision.

The hatch, which forced the cancellation of a pair of spacewalks, spoiled the 21-week flight, despite the successful release and retrieval of two satellites.

NASA learned the hatch was stuck last week when two astronauts tried to open it for a spacewalk. Engineers could not figure out what was wrong, and rather than prying it open and risking further damage, the astronauts were told to scrap their two spacewalks to practice construction for the international space station.

In the meantime, flight controllers had to come up with plans to force open the hatch because an emergency spacewalk would be needed to close the cargo bay doors if they jammed before landing.

The doors closed properly this morning, giving NASA confidence that there shouldn't be any trouble reopening and shutting them again on Friday. The doors have to be open in orbit to radiate heat from the shuttle but must be closed for the fiery descent through the atmosphere.

NASA's oldest shuttle rocketed into orbit on Nov. 19, carrying the oldest person ever in space and two satellites.

Besides the age record, Story Musgrave, a 61-year-old ex-Marine and surgeon, gained two other distinctions: He became the first to fly six times on space shuttles and the first to ride in all five shuttles.

Within hours of liftoff, the crew released an ultraviolet telescope for two weeks of free flight to look at stars and galaxies. They let go of the second satellite, a semiconductor-producing saucer, three days later and had a brief scare when it passed within 10 feet of the cockpit windows.

Columbia then led the saucer and the telescope for three days in an unprecedented orbital caravan that extended up to 75 miles.

The saucer had to be picked up a few hours early because the telescope was gaining on it faster than expected and NASA wanted to avoid any close calls.

Penny-pinching proposals by state comptroller Sharp can reduce state spending

Two-year savings of \$1.2 billion forecast

By MICHAEL HOLMES
Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN (AP) - Eliminating state government jobs, making certain college professors teach full loads and renewing drivers' licenses every 12 years are among ideas that would help Texas save \$1.2 billion over the next two years.

Those are among 428 penny-pinching proposals Comptroller John Sharp will make to the 1997 Legislature as lawmakers look for cash to fund government and, perhaps, fulfill Gov. George W. Bush's wish of providing property tax relief to homeowners and businesses.

The cost-cutting recommendations follow the fourth top-to-bottom audit of the state bureaucracy since 1991.

Sharp said Wednesday that the Legislature has enacted enough proposals from the three previous audits to save \$8 billion in six years.

"There are always incredibly strange things that government does that can be fixed," Sharp said.

Among key cost-cutting recommendations:

- Trimming 1,720 current state employees from the payroll, and eliminating funding for 6,600 "phantom bureaucrats" - state jobs that are on the books but not filled.
- Extending from four to 12 years the period during which a Texas driver's license would be valid and streamlining its renewal. A higher one-time fee would be good until age 60.

- Lowering state funding to colleges and universities where teachers don't spend sufficient time in the classroom.
- Charging prison inmates for health care.
- Reducing the number of local election dates each year from four to two.

If all recommendations were enacted by the Legislature, Sharp said savings would total \$3.5 billion over the next five years.

The savings are being proposed at the same time the governor is pushing to provide relief from the \$10 billion a year levied in local school property taxes. Property taxes make up the bulk of funding for public schools in Texas.

Cost savings suggested

AUSTIN (AP) - Here, at a glance, are some highlights of the 428 cost-cutting ideas proposed Wednesday by Comptroller John Sharp in his latest audit of state government, entitled "Disturbing the Peace."

- Sharp estimated that if the Legislature were to enact all recommendations, savings would total \$1.2 billion over the next two years and \$3.5 billion over five years.
- Renew driver's licenses every 12 years instead of four, and charging a one-time fee that would be good until age 60.
- Abolish the Texas Department of Commerce, creating a public-private partnership to oversee the state's economic development and tourism promotion efforts.
- Eliminate 6,600 currently vacant state jobs.
- Trim the work force by another 1,720 jobs through early retirement incentives, attrition and other efforts.
- Study the feasibility of raising money by merchandising Texas products, licensing Texas goods, advertising Texas attractions and selling outdated items and equipment now stored in state warehouses.
- Make prison inmates pay for health care. While 4.5 million Texans lack health insurance, taxpayers spend \$425 million a year on health care for convicts. The audit suggests inmates pay a \$3 fee per medical visit.
- Create a revolving fund under the state's child support enforcement program to provide health insurance coverage for children whose non-custodial parents fail to make child support payments.
- Strengthen collection efforts aimed at the 10,000 state workers who owe \$44.3 million, much of it in outstanding student loans and delinquent child support.
- Award free or discounted college tuition to the children of career public school teachers as an incentive to keep teachers in classrooms.
- Deliver school textbook updates over electronic computer networks so no child is reading an out-of-date book.
- Apply new computer technology to the fight against Medicaid fraud.
- Establish teaching load standards for all college and university professors and other instructors, then lower funding to those schools which fail to meet the requirements.
- Require college students who accumulate more than 170 credit hours to pay the costs if they wish to remain in school.
- Consolidate the administration of numerous state licensing agencies into a single department.

Last month, Bush proposed easing property taxes by \$1 billion, to be paid for by lower state spending and higher-than-expected government income.

Sharp said Wednesday that the state treasury is on course to wind up with a cash balance of about \$1.4 billion.

Add to that the \$1.2 billion in savings proposed by the audit plus expected revenue growth over the next two years, and providing at least some property tax relief might be easier.

Enacting his savings proposals,

Sharp said, "makes it an awfully lot less painful" for lawmakers to approve some measure of property tax relief.

Bush, a Republican, said he welcomed Democrat Sharp's money-saving ideas and predicted lawmakers would give them close scrutiny.

"I look forward to working with the Legislature as it develops a balanced budget that funds our priorities while offering the taxpayers significant relief," Bush said.

(See SHARP, Page 2)

Hey kids, send us your Santa letters

It's not too early for local youngsters to write their letters to Santa - especially if they want to make sure their letters are included in The Brand's annual "Christmas Greeter Edition," to be published on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Some school classes make a project out of the "letters to Santa," while children may send individual letters on their own (or with a little help from mom or dad). Some may want to add a hand-drawn picture for Santa.

For those who are a little old to be asking for gifts, we invite

youngsters to submit a Christmas essay about their favorite Christmas, what Christmas means to them, or another holiday topic.

Essays should be no more than 200 words. They should be neatly printed or typed. The best of the essays will be published in the special "Greeter" edition of the newspaper along with letters to Santa.

Letters and essays may be brought to The Brand office, 313 N. Lee, or mailed to Box 673. Deadline is Dec. 10 for submitting letters and essays.

Hot items disappearing from stores

Christmas shopping season barely underway

By RACHEL BECK
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - Barely one week into the holiday shopping season, the blood pressure is rising among moms and dads competing for the hottest, hard-to-find Christmas toys, like Tickle Me Elmo dolls and Nintendo 64.

As in the Cabbage Patch Kids craze of 1983 and the frenzy over Holiday Barbie last year, parents are using guerrilla-shopper tactics.

They're lining up by the hundreds before dawn at stores rumored to have the toys. In a phenomenon satirized in the new Arnold Schwarzenegger movie "Jingle All the Way," they're tugging and brawling to get a toy after the doors open.

"Grown people are willing to go pretty far for one of these dolls," said mother Jen Smith, who checked out other toys at New York's FAO Schwarz store after failing to find a Tickle Me Elmo. "It's pretty crazy." At a Target store in Davenport,

Iowa, a clerk handing an Elmo doll to a customer saw it intercepted by another customer. At a Best Buy store

Sesame Street character that giggles when you press its stomach. It sells for under \$30.

Tyco Toys Inc. is even flying the dolls from factories in China to the United States to get them here faster. The company will have shipped 1 million dolls between its July debut and Christmas.

"You can never plan a phenomenon," said Neil Friedman, who heads Tyco's Preschool division.

Also scarce is Nintendo 64, the new video game system that exploits advances in computer chip and software design to create 3-D play. The system costs about \$200 and each of its eight games costs about \$70. Many of the 1.2 million machines the company allotted for Christmas in this country have already been sold.

"It's too bad, because my boys are going to be disappointed if I can't find it anywhere else," said James Lynch of Nashua, N.H., a dad who has been searching for a Nintendo since the weekend.

Jason Donnelly, a 12-year-old from Coxsackie, N.Y., still expects to find a Nintendo under his Christmas tree.

"I told my mom that's what I want and she said she'd get it," he said. "She'll find it somewhere - she better."

Finding a Holiday Barbie is a perennial challenge. But this year you can't even find her new CD-ROM, which lets kids create their own fashion designs, print them and then make the outfits.

Many stores offered rain checks that guaranteed the toys by Christmas, but even the rain checks have been sold out in many places. Others are offering coupons to receive the toys in 1997.

Even parents who succeed aren't necessarily gloating. "I don't think I'll do it again," said Carmen Ruiz, who waited an hour at an Elizabeth, N.J., toy store last weekend just to get a Nintendo for her 13-year-old daughter.

Most popular toys in past

- By Associated Press
- Cabbage Patch Kids, 1983.
- Trivial Pursuit, 1984.
- Teddy Ruxpin, 1985.
- Lazer Tag, 1986.
- Pictionary, 1987.
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, 1988.
- Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, 1994.
- Holiday Barbie, 1995.

in Aurora, Ill., police charged a woman with battery after she slapped another woman who grabbed the last Nintendo box on the shelf.

Stores can't keep stock of Tickle Me Elmo, a plush doll based on the

UN ambassador becomes focus of speculation on cabinet post

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) - U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright has emerged as the focus of speculation for President Clinton's new secretary of state, even as senior aides caution

that the president still could make a surprise pick.

Clinton is keeping his counsel with Vice President Al Gore, chief of staff Leon Panetta and incoming chief of staff Erskine Bowles - and they're not talking. Several aides outside this inner circle call Albright the front-runner, a phrase that can be deceptive when Clinton's true intentions are so closely guarded.

Two senior White House officials involved in the decision-making process said Wednesday that Clinton would not go so far as to call Albright his front-runner. They said he had not yet focused on one candidate.

One of the aides said that while most signs were pointing to Albright, Clinton's thinking had not fully crystallized - and he still could settle on another candidate. Complicating the guessing game: The names of three finalists have not been made public.

The official made the assessment after a late-evening meeting of Clinton and his three top advisers. Another meeting was scheduled for today, and the president could settle on his foreign policy team at any time.

Albright, a hawk on Bosnia intervention and NATO expansion, is a loyal Clinton aide who appeals to his sense of history: She would be the first female secretary of state and would bring an inspirational biography to the job.

Albright, 59, is a naturalized American citizen, the daughter of a Czech diplomat whose family moved from Czechoslovakia to the United States when she was 11. Clinton is

drawn to candidates with rich personal histories, such as Polish-born Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who is a grandson of a czarist general and son of a Georgian army officer.

The other known candidates include: retiring Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia; former Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell; Richard Holbrooke, who helped negotiate the Bosnia settlement, and Thomas Pickering, former ambassador to Russia.

Aides expected Clinton's decision this week, but did not rule out a longer wait.

The U.N. ambassador was flying to Washington for a series of previously scheduled meetings today, but none of them were planned with Clinton.

Candidates to replace Defense Secretary William Perry include retiring Republican Sen. William Cohen of Maine, Nunn, CIA Director John Deutch, Deputy Defense Secretary John White and Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick.

Clinton also was said to be considering candidates from the defense industry, such as Bernard Schwartz, chairman of Loral Corp. and a Democratic donor; and Norman Augustine, head of Lockheed Martin Corp.

Cohen has been considered the front-runner, but senior aides say Nunn is getting increasing attention. Officials also said Clinton could even

(See CABINET, Page 2)

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Local Roundup

Windy and cool

Winds, 10-20 mph Thursday night and Friday, mark the weather forecast for Hereford. A high temperature of 60 degrees was recorded Wednesday and the mercury dropped to 25 degrees Thursday morning. The forecast calls for partly sunny skies Friday with a high in the mid-50s, after an overnight low of 30 to 35 degrees. Highs in the mid-50s to low 60s are on tap for the weekend.

News Digest

State

DALLAS (AP) - Action by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals that has forced 48 attorneys to handle the appeals of death row inmates is "mean-spirited" and "punitive" to both the lawyers and their clients, a State Bar of Texas official says.

AUSTIN (AP) - The state, hoping to protect the sole water source for some 1.5 million Texans, has adopted stricter pollution-control regulations for the Edwards Aquifer.

DALLAS (AP) - A North Texas couple whose son died of a misdiagnosed heart condition has won a million-dollar settlement in a malpractice lawsuit against three doctors and a hospital.

AUSTIN (AP) - Stiffer sentencing guidelines for violent criminals and a tougher parole board have helped Texas maintain the highest incarceration rate in the country, according to a new study.

AUSTIN (AP) - Managed health care groups should be legally responsible for injuries that could have been prevented if needed treatments hadn't been denied, according to a proposal going before the 1997 Legislature.

AUSTIN (AP) - The convictions of three Texas death-row inmates have been upheld, including a man who argued that his death sentence should be reduced to life in prison because he has the virus that causes AIDS.

NEW YORK (AP) - Not so long ago, airlines gobbled one another up like they were potato chips and decreased competition meant higher airfares. These days, there's a new ingredient in the mix, low-cost carriers, which could help keep the cost of travel down.

National

SUN CITY, Ariz. (AP) - An advisory panel concluded Wednesday that the government overstates inflation.

The panel, led by Stanford University economist and former Bush administration adviser Michael Boskin, proposed changes that would slash the deficit but raise taxes for millions of Americans and leave Social Security and government pension recipients with a smaller annual increase.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Several African countries are expected to submit names of new candidates for the top U.N. post after Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali suspended his candidacy in the face of unrelenting U.S. opposition.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Five years after the Persian Gulf War, researchers remain deeply divided over why thousands of veterans who fought are still sick. Several doctors claim their jobs are threatened because they are offering new theories that dispute government findings.

PARIS (AP) - Their gazes as piercing as X-rays, green-jacketed transit agents stare at Paris subway commuters, searching for a telltale lump beneath an overcoat or an unusual bulge in a shopping bag.

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. officials are intensifying their criticism of measures that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is taking against opponents, but they have carefully refrained from criticizing Milosevic himself.

ESQUIPULAS, Guatemala (AP) - Ten months ago, Pope John Paul II swooped down from storm clouds in a helicopter to address war-weary Guatemalans here, exhorting them to end Central America's last and longest war.

Emergency Services

Activities reported by law enforcement agencies Thursday:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Phone harassment reported in the 600 block of Avenue G.
- Two girls taken into custody for fighting at Hereford Junior High, then released to parents.
- 11-year-old boy reported missing in 100 block of Avenue C, later found and returned to parents.
- 14-year-old girl reported as a runaway in the 500 block of Avenue G, then found and returned to parents.
- Disturbance reported in 300 block of Avenue C.

-- Six traffic citations issued.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Dispatched to Arrowhead Mills in reference to smoke.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- 24-year-old man arrested to serve jail sentence.
- 38-year-old man arrested on warrant for harassment.
- 30-year-old woman arrested on two warrants of hot checks.
- 40-year-old man arrested on violation of probation.
- 49-year-old man arrested on violation of probation.
- Forgery reported.

Obituaries

BETTY LOUISE WORD

Dec. 4, 1996

Betty Louise Word, 64, of Hereford died Wednesday.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home Rose Chapel with the Rev. Ed Warren of Trinity Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in Rest Lawn Memorial Park.

Mrs. Word was born in Nowata, Okla., and moved to Deaf Smith County in 1956. She married Herman "Skeet" Word in 1956 at Clovis, N.M. She was a bookkeeper for an auto repair shop and a member of Community Church in Hereford.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Judy Word, in 1958.

Survivors include her husband; four daughters, Sue Straskulic of Dodge City, Kan., Paula Harrell of Hereford, Gwana Word of Lubbock and Pam Betts of Portales, N.M.; her mother, Ruby Brannon of Hereford; two brothers, Johnny Brannon of Hereford and Jerry Brannon of Las Vegas; three sisters, Alice Ash, Jean Powell and Donna Fortenberry, all of Hereford, all of Hereford; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Lions Club award

Boss Lion L.J. Clark, left, of Hereford Lions Club presents Lion Gary Billingsley, right, with a five-member Key award and pin for his recruitment of five or more new Lions Club memberships for 1995-96.



Finishing touches

Larry Alley attaches a bow to the string of garland in the Friendship Room of Hereford State Bank. After closing on Wednesday, the bank employees worked to decorate the lobby of the bank.

Party gains if GOP takes majority in Texas Senate, says governor

By MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - A Republican majority in the Texas Senate would be important for the party, but not necessarily decisive for policy making, Gov. George W. Bush said during a West Texas campaign fund-raising trip.

Bush was among a legion of high-profile Republicans at a luncheon Tuesday on behalf of state Rep. Robert Duncan, a Lubbock Republican vying for the Senate seat John Montford resigned to become Texas Tech's chancellor.

Duncan faces Langston, a Democrat who resigned as Lubbock's mayor to make the race, in next Tuesday's runoff election.

If Duncan wins, the GOP would have its first legislative majority since Reconstruction. Duncan and Langston were the top vote getters in a Nov. 5 special election, although Duncan enjoys a large financial advantage.

The Texas Senate traditionally has granted the lieutenant governor broad power, which could be endangered if the majority party isn't his own.

"I do believe it will be easier to get a conservative agenda through the state Senate in the long run," Bush said of a majority GOP Senate.

However, Bush said he doesn't believe that scenario would alter his congenial relationship with Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

"I think (a GOP majority) is important to show people who have worked hard in the Republican Party that we're making good gains," Bush said.

"I don't believe it's going to

change my relationship with the lieutenant governor, nor do I believe it's going to change the state Senate's relationship with the lieutenant governor."

The last legislative session went smoothly thanks to cooperation among Bush, Bullock and Democratic House Speaker Pete Laney.

Courthouse Records

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS

State vs. Consuelo Rodriguez, 24, theft; 30 days in jail, \$195 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Consuelo Rodriguez, 24, theft; 30 days in jail, \$195 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Consuelo Rodriguez, 24, bail jumping; 30 days in jail, \$195 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Jose Manuel Perez, 26, theft by check; 60 days in jail, \$195 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Dale Glover, 23, theft by check; \$50 fine, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Jesus A. Garcia, a/k/a

Jessie Garcia, criminal trespass, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Mark Balderaz, 17, possession of marijuana, under two oz.; 90 days in jail probated six months, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Jessie Zallar, 28, possession of marijuana, under two oz.; 90 days in jail probated one year, \$200 fine, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Jessie Zallar, 28, failure to identify; \$100 fine, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Jessie Zallar, 28, driving while license suspended; \$100 fine, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

State vs. Roy Sanchez, Rodriguez, possession of marijuana, under two oz.; 90 days in jail probated six months, \$100 fine, \$187 court costs, Nov. 26.

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Decline seen in numbers of jobless in last week

By JOHN D. McCLAIN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) - The number of American workers filing first-time claims for jobless benefits declined by 8,000 last week, the first drop in three weeks due in part to a shorter holiday work week.

The Labor Department said today that new applications for unemployment insurance totaled a seasonally adjusted 336,000, down from 344,000 during the week ended Nov. 23.

It was the lowest since 329,000 new claims were filed during the week ended Nov. 9, when the total fell by 3,000.

Many analysts had expected a decline of about 6,000 last week, partly because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday that reduced the number of days in which to file.

The less-volatile four-week moving average of new weekly claims edged up by 1,000 to 337,750, highest since 338,000 during the period ended July 27. It was the third straight advance.

Many analysts prefer to track the four-week average because it smooths out the spikes in the weekly reports.

During the week ended Nov. 23, 46 states and territories reported increases and only six registered declines. One reported no change. The state data is reported a week later than the national totals.

States with the largest increases were California, 19,564; Texas, 12,288; Minnesota, 3,429; Oregon, 3,175, and North Carolina, 2,427.

The biggest decreases were in Ohio, 1,725; Alabama, 501; Michigan, 486; Missouri, 325, and Indiana, 200.

support, employer's order to withhold from earnings for child support, Nov. 25.

In interest of Margo Ashley Trevizo, order establishing parent-child relationship, order for custody and support, Nov. 25.

In the marriage of Inez Mary Porter and Paul Thomas Porter, agreed final decree of divorce, Nov. 14.

John Stagner vs. Hereford Auto Center, Inc., order authorizing sale of personal property, Nov. 15.

John Stagner vs. Hereford Auto Center, Inc., orders approving claims, disallowing claims, establishing priority for payment of claims, etc., Nov. 15.

Jose Ruiz vs. Allsup's Enterprises, order of nonsuit, Nov. 19.

Felix Barrientos vs. Allsup's, order of nonsuit, Nov. 19.

In interest of Joshua Coronado, order establishing parent-child relationship, order for custody, support, employer's order to withhold from earnings for child support, Nov. 15.

In interest of Joshua D. Mendoza and Abraham I. Mendoza, order establishing parent-child relationship, order for custody, support, employer's order to withhold from earnings for child support.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - There were two winners in Wednesday's Lotto Texas drawing. The winning tickets were drawn in Houston and League City. The jackpot was worth \$4 million. The next drawing will be Saturday night.

The numbers drawn were: 3-4-7-11-14-28 (three, four, seven, eleven, fourteen, twenty-eight)

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-7 (nine, nine, seven)

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-2-4 (seven, two, four)

HEDC board hears reports

A report on conferences with dairy operators on building a facility in Deaf Smith County was given Hereford Economic Development Corporation directors Wednesday.

During a brief meeting, conducted by Rosendo Gonzalez, in absence of Cliff Skiles, board president, and Jerry Stevens, vice president, Mike Hatley said information has been furnished to the group.

He explained that the proposed dairy would employ about 60 persons, with a total of 8,500 head of dairy cattle.

Hatley also distributed new

publicity brochures that will be provided prospective business and industry.

Don Tardy advised the board that plans for a motion picture complex are still in the "fine tuning" stage.

"We're looking for sites and working on plans," he explained.

Attending the meeting, in addition to Gonzalez, secretary-treasurer, were directors, Craig Smith and Joe Artho; Terry Langehennig, attorney, Hatley and Tardy.

Next meeting of the board was set for Jan. 15.

THE HEREFORD BRAND

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G.G. Niman Publisher
Maury Montgomery Ad. Mgr.
Craig Niman Circulation Mgr.

Lifestyles

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: My daughter was 3 years old when her mother and I divorced. When "Tina" turned 17, she had a terrible fight with her mother and came to live with my wife and me. It wasn't long before she left our house because rules were something she decided she was "too old" for. Tina ended up quitting school.

I believe tough love works, or at least it might if everyone would stop giving my daughter handouts. Several people let Tina move in with them after hearing her sad story about how she had been "mistreated" by her parents. Within one year, she had lived in five different households. Keep in mind, Ann, that my wife and I had agreed Tina could move back home if she would follow the rules.

Tina is now 19, pregnant and still manipulative, selfish and lazy. She is on government assistance because I would not commit to pay for her pregnancy. We told her she is on her own until she decides to help herself.

Well-meaning people say things could be worse and Tina will end up just fine. I know things could be worse, but I don't believe Tina will be fine. We not only worry about her; we worry about that poor baby.

It would help us if everyone stopped giving in to her. All those people who allow Tina to live with them think they should be canonized for coming to her rescue. Actually, they are not helping her. They are doing just the opposite.

I say, it's time to stop blaming the parents, the schools, the economy, whatever. There comes a time when every person has to be accountable for her own self. -- A Hopeful Father in Texas

Dear Father: A helping hand can be a godsend, but as you pointed out, too much help can be crippling.

The last paragraph in your letter is one of the basic truths in life. Thank you for saying it so well.

Dear Ann Landers: My daughter was married three months ago and promptly sent thank-you notes for all the gifts she received.

It wouldn't bother me or "Melissa" if a guest decided not to send a gift, but of the 150 people who attended the formal (and expensive) affair, we have no record of having received a gift from eight of them.

If Melissa has not received a gift by now, should she worry that it was lost, stolen or misdirected, or should she assume the person simply didn't send one? We're concerned that she may inadvertently offend someone by not sending a proper thank-you note. Is there a gracious way she can find out whether or not a guest sent a gift without appearing mercenary? -- Perplexed in Florida

Dear Florida: There is no gracious way to ask a guest if he or she sent a gift. If I sent a wedding gift and no acknowledgment were received within six months, I would phone the store from which the gift was purchased and ask if it would do a trace. As a gift giver, I would be uncomfortable questioning the recipient.

Gem of the Day: In colonial days, free-roaming hogs were notorious for rampaging through the grain fields of New York City. The residents of Manhattan island chose to limit the damage caused by those roamers by erecting a long, permanent wall on the northern edge of what is now lower Manhattan. A street was built along the wall and was named appropriately "Wall Street."

This story is from the Farmer's Exchange and was reprinted by the Prairie Rambler, which added, "They may have put up the wall, but the hogs are still there."

Do you have questions about sex, but no one to talk to? Ann Landers' booklet, "Sex and the Teen-Ager," is frank and to the point. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.) ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1996 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



Old-fashioned Christmas tree

Members of the Deaf Smith County Historical Society, Betty Kriegshauser, left, and Kim Lawlis, apply finishing touches to one of the Christmas trees at the museum. All the old-fashioned decorations will be on display during the Christmas Tea and Open House from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Choirs will perform Christmas music, refreshments will be served and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be on hand to greet the children from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Holiday concert scheduled at Fellowship of Believers

The Hereford Chamber Singers will present a free holiday concert Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, at the Fellowship of Believers, 245 N. Kingwood. The performance begins at 4 p.m., following the annual Tour of Homes scheduled that afternoon.

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the holiday music and the refreshments which will be served after the concert.

Several well-known Christmas songs, including "I'll Be Home For Christmas," as well as lighter numbers such as "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and "Throw the Yule Log on, Uncle John" by P.D.Q. Bach will be featured. The sacred

Christmas musical, "Celebrate the Child Who is Light," created and arranged by Tom Fettke, will also be presented. Directing the performance will be Esther York. Accompanist is Linda Gilbert.

Hereford Chamber Singers is a community choir made up of members from all walks of life who get together once a week to sing because they love music. The choir will be performing at several other holiday events in addition to this free public concert. Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the group may contact Joan Bookout, president, at 364-0076.

Entries open for lighting contest

The Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the annual Christmas Lighting Contest again this year.

You may enter your own home or business, or nominate another home or business.

Entry forms are available from the Chamber office. Deadline for returning completed entry forms to the office is 5 p.m. Dec. 16.

Categories are residential-total home or window/door; and business-total business or window/door.

Previous winners may enter again but the entry must be submitted in a different category.

Judging will be Dec. 16, 17 and 18 with winners announced Sunday, Dec. 22. Deaf Smith County Bucks will be awarded to winners in each category.

Clinic will offer low-cost exams

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic at South Plains Health Care Providers, Inc., 603 E. Park, Hereford, on Dec. 13.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-

examination by a registered nurse. A minimum of 15 women needs to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns.

The total cost is \$70. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance.

All exams are done by appointment only. Call 806-359-4673.

Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: I read your column almost every day. I don't think you've had this hint before.

For those people like me who recycle cans and need to take the labels off—if you start taking it off by cutting to the right of the UPC symbol, the label always comes off whole.

This is also a good way to save the soup labels for school. —Judy Latour, Lake Shore, Minn.

We have received many letters from readers complaining that it is sometimes difficult and time-consuming to remove labels from recyclable containers.

We did some research and guess what? It seems that most of the recycling companies DON'T require labels to be removed. This makes it a lot easier for all of us to recycle.

All you need to do is call the recycler in your area to find out their guidelines. You may not have to remove labels, saving a lot of time and aggravation. And, a big Heloise hug for recycling. —Heloise

GIFT CERTIFICATE, PLEASE
Dear Heloise: I'm writing with a hint for December.

I am on Social Security and supplement my income by cleaning homes.

I love everyone I work for but I wish they would realize that at my age I have enough books, Christmas decorations and knickknacks. The gifts I get are not cheap but I'd love a gift certificate to a fast-food place to use when I'm so tired or a certificate for groceries.

Please don't think I'm ungrateful; I'm not. But I am sure there are

many of us out there in the same boat. —Somewhere in the Midwest

I'm sure there are and you're right too. Gift certificates make wonderful gifts for everyone.

DESK ACCESSORIES
Dear Heloise: Don't take any desk accessories to work that you don't want broken. After 22 years of office work I have seen many fancy broken coffee cups, flower vases and picture frames.

If you want to decorate, use plastic! It is also safer. —Ilena Holder, Hollywood, Ala.

SOUP HINT

Dear Heloise: This hint has helped in my kitchen. My husband and I enjoy all kinds of homemade soup.

It is started always with boiling water. If the meat to be stewed is dropped into the water slowly, keeping the water boiling, the meat seems to sear itself and not make foam in the water.

This works with beef, pork or chicken. —K.L., San Angelo, Texas

Doesn't a big bowl of soup seem just the thing for a cool winter evening? I have put some favorite soup recipes together and would love for you to try them. To receive a copy, please send \$2 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (55 cent) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, PO Box 795001, San Antonio TX 78279-5001. —Heloise

MOIST AND CHEWY COOKIES

Dear Heloise: To keep cookies moist and chewy, put a slice of bread in the jar. —Ann King, Macon, Ga.



Make your own gift bags to package holiday treats

Homemade holiday treats come in all shapes and sizes. When it comes to packaging them as gifts for friends, there's no need to buy expensive decorative tins or hunt for a perfectly shaped box. Instead, present goodies with panache and holiday flair in whimsical gift bags and festive tins the kids create. They're made from paper lunch bags and recycled cans.

should spray gold paint on the outside of the can. Let dry. Decorate with holiday stickers. Tie ribbon or gold cording through the holes for a handle. Set tissue in the can, fill with treats and tuck in a gift tag.

Watch "Donna's Day With Donna Erickson" premiering in January on your local PBS station.

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Peekaboo gift bags:

The window on these bags will tempt your friends to taste what's inside. On the front of a colored or brown lunch bag, draw and cut out a simple shape of a holiday symbol such as a Star of David or a Christmas tree. Decorate around the cut-out with buttons, sequins and other doodads from your craft box. Cut a piece of colored or clear plastic wrap larger than the opening. Glue the plastic wrap to the inside of the bag to cover the cutout. Fill the bag with cookies, bars, candies, nuts or dried fruit. Close the top of the bag by folding it down two inches. Punch two holes about one inch apart through the folded top. Run ribbon through the two holes and tie. Add a cookie cutter, ornament or jingle bells and a gift tag.

Cookie tins:

Save a medium-size vegetable, soup or coffee can. Wash and remove label. An adult or older child should use a hammer and nail to poke two holes opposite each other near the rim: Lay the can on its side, place the nail on the inside of the can and hammer it through to the outside. (Be careful not to hammer a hole into a counter top or table!) An adult

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Sports

Sub-varsity hoop tourneys planned here

Hereford will host basketball tournaments for boys' seventh, eighth and ninth grade teams today, Friday and Saturday.

All six Hereford teams - A and B teams in each grade - will play today at Hereford Junior High. All seventh and eighth grade games will be played in the HJH gym, while all ninth grade games will be played across the hall in Whiteface Gym.

The opponents and times for the Hereford teams' opening games today are:

- The ninth grade A team plays Canyon B at 5:30.
- 9B plays Valleyview A at 7.
- 8A plays Canyon A at 7:45.
- 8B plays Valleyview A at 4.
- 7A plays Canyon B at 6:30.
- 7B plays Valleyview A at 5:15.

All three tournaments follow an eight-team bracket format. The seventh and eighth grade tournaments include eight teams: Hereford A and B, Valleyview/Westover A and B, Canyon A and B, Dimmitt and Plainview. The ninth grade tournament has seven teams - all those teams except Plainview.

All second-round games - in winners and losers' sides of the brackets - will be played Friday starting at 4 p.m.

Saturday will feature seventh-place games at 9 a.m.; consolation finals at 10:15; third-place games at 11:30 and championship games at 12:45. The ninth grade bracket - with only seven teams - is a little different: Consolation at 9 a.m.; third-place game at 10:30 and championship at noon.

Herd cagers to play tonight

Hereford's varsity basketball teams go trophy hunting in tournaments in Plainview and San Angelo this weekend.

The Lady Whitefaces (4-3) are entered in the Concho River Classic in San Angelo. They play Fort Worth Arlington Heights at 6 tonight at San Angelo Central High School.

The Herd boys (3-6) play in Plainview Lions Classic, starting with a game against powerful Sweetwater at 6 tonight.

NCA teams split pair with Adrian

The Nazarene Christian Academy basketball teams met Adrian Junior High teams for a double header Monday, and both schools came away with a victory.

NCA nipped Adrian in the boys' game, 37-35. Chayse Rives led NCA with 23 points, and Jeremy Gonzales added eight points.

Adrian won the girls' game, 36-28. The scoring leaders for NCA were Lyndzie Torbert with 16 points and Lindsee Goforth with eight.

CCS hoop teams split two games

The basketball teams from Community Christian School in Hereford split a pair of games with Faith Temple School of Portales, N.M., Monday in Hereford.

CCS won the boys' game 65-39 behind the one-two scoring punch of Jantzen Louder (31 points) and Chris Hendershot (20).

Faith Temple pulled out the girls' game, 32-30. CCS' high scorers were Joanna Brumley with 10 points and Amanda Bustamante with 8 points.

Butler coming back with LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Outfielder Brett Butler, whose comeback from cancer last September was cut short by a broken left hand, has decided to play at least one more season.

Butler, 39, agreed to terms of a 1997 contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the team announced Wednesday.

"Brett has been a great contributor to the Dodger team and organization, and we believe he can make a major contribution to the team next season," Dodgers general manager Fred Claire said.

Butler played in just 34 games for the Dodgers last season, hitting .267 with eight RBIs and eight stolen bases.

It was discovered in early May that Butler had cancer of the tonsils, and he underwent surgery to remove a tumor. He rejoined the team Aug. 26 in Montreal, and was activated Sept. 6.



\$1,000 winner
Bobby Baker (right) accepts the \$1,000 he won in the final Brand Football Contest of the season. Presenting the cash is Sports Editor Jay Peden.

Texas CB seeing 'Huskers in sleep'

By CHIP BROWN
Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN (AP) - Texas cornerback Bryant Westbrook says he's seeing Nebraska players running the option in his sleep.

"They're like little sheep jumping over the fence, except that in my dreams the sheep are wearing red jerseys with an N on their helmets, and their names are Scott Frost, Ahman Green and DeAngelo Evans," Westbrook said.

The Texas (7-4, 6-2 Big 12) defense knows its toughest challenge of the season will come Saturday in the Big 12 championship game against third-ranked Nebraska (10-1, 8-0).

The Huskers' rushing offense, an option attack averaging 296.4 yards per game, is fifth in the nation. Texas' defense, ranked 64th in the nation, has been erratic against the run, yielding nearly 200 yards per game. But the Longhorns, riding a four-game win streak, are coming off their best game.

In a 51-15 victory against Texas A&M last week, Texas gave up just 227 yards, marking the Aggies' lowest offensive output in five years.

Texas cornerbacks Westbrook and Taje Allen say they expect to be providing a flood of run support on Saturday.

And that's OK with Westbrook, the hardest hitter on Texas' team, and

Astros open '97 vs. Braves

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Astros will open the 1997 season against the National League champion Atlanta Braves and also play five American League Central Division teams in interleague play, the club announced Wednesday.

After the April 1-3 homestand against the Braves, the Astros will play the St. Louis Cardinals, winners of the NL Central Division last year.

In interleague play, the Astros will square off against the Minnesota Twins on June 13-15 in the Astrodome.

Also in Houston, the Astros will play the 1996 AL Central champion Cleveland Indians and the Milwaukee Brewers. The club will go on the road against the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago White Sox.

one of its biggest trash talkers. "They're the champions of the north, and we're the champions of the south. It's going to be like that Civil War, baby," Westbrook said. "I hope they're ready because we're gonna be ready."

Allen says Saturday's game is a chance for the Texas defense and the team to prove the Longhorns' program has regained the national prominence it enjoyed in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s.

"It would be a real good opportunity to go in and prove ourselves against a team that's won two national championships," Allen said. "We have a chance to prove to the world that we're a good football team also."

Texas defensive coordinator Gary Darnell says he hasn't seen an offensive attack as complete as Nebraska's outside of the NFL.

"Green Bay, maybe," he joked.

Frost, at quarterback, lines up in the backfield with an array of I-backs including Green, Evans and Damon Benning. They follow the blocks of star linemen Aaron Taylor, Chris Dishman and Eric Anderson.

"It's almost impossible to have the run, the pass and the option, but they come as close to having all three phases as maybe any team ever in college football," Darnell said.

"When you play Florida and Florida State, you don't worry about the option. You worry about their running and throwing game, but when you play Nebraska, you've got to worry about all three."

Cowboys now lead league with six drug suspensions

IRVING, Texas (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys' sins are starting to catch up with them.

They've won three Super Bowls in the last four years, but also lead the NFL in another category, most players suspended (six) in the last 13 drug suspensions.

Owner Jerry Jones broke his silence Wednesday to put his spin on the latest scandal to tarnish the Cowboys' star, Leon Lett's one-year suspension for a second violation of the NFL's drug policy.

Jones said he heard speculation two weeks ago, but had no idea what was happening.

"My first knowledge of it was a minute before it went out over the AP wire," Jones said. "I was disappointed and was concerned for Leon. It was a surprise."

"Leon had been in a most comprehensive program with the best doctors. Over the last 13 or 14 months, he had been exemplary. I was dismayed at all the speculation. Now, I know."

Jones said he was most concerned about yet another scandal to hit the club. Michael Irvin missed the first five games of the season because of a drug bust at a motel room.

"This is a reflection (on the team) because one incident is one too many," Jones said. "We can do better and we want to do better and we'll stop at nothing to get better."

"There is not a sense that this is a team-wide thing. It's still up to

Dallas signs Childress

IRVING, Texas (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys on Wednesday signed five-time Pro Bowl tackle Ray Childress to shore up their defensive line depth after the drug suspension of Leon Lett. Contract terms were not announced.

Childress, a 12-year veteran, has not played in the NFL since the Houston Oilers cut him and his \$2.3 million salary in February to clear room under the NFL salary cap.

individual choices, and adults can make mistakes."

"I want to do anything I can to be supportive and make sure Leon can play again for the Cowboys," Jones said. "As an individual, I think the world of him."

Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman said the team's image has a black eye.

"We don't have a good image, we have taken some hits in the public relations department," he said.

Prior to joining the Cowboys, the 34-year-old former Texas A&M standout had spent his entire NFL career in Houston.

Childress, 6-6 and 272 pounds, was the Oilers' first-round draft pick in 1985.

The Cowboys on Tuesday lost Lett, perhaps the league's best defensive lineman, to a one-year drug suspension. Tony Casillas will take over Lett's starting job.

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Magic ties NBA's low-scoring mark with 57

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer

Two things come to mind when the number 57 is mentioned: Steak sauce and a Chevy.

Now there's a third: Orlando's latest point total.

The Magic tied the NBA record for fewest points in a game Wednesday night, sputtering through quarters of 16, 16, 14 and 11 points in an 84-57 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

It tied the record set by the 1954-55 Milwaukee Hawks and matched by last season's Philadelphia 76ers.

"The bright spot," Orlando coach Brian Hill said, "is we're 8-6 and not 2-12 right now."

It was a modest bit of humor from a coach on the wrong side of a laugh, but there wasn't much else Hill could do in the way of explaining. After all, his starting lineup included only one player, Horace Grant, who was in Orlando's starting lineup at the end of last season.

Nick Anderson, Penny Hardaway and Dennis Scott missed the game due to injuries, and Shaquille O'Neal left to sign with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's all relative when you take their three top scorers away, but we knew we had to take advantage of the situation," Cleveland coach Mike Fratello said. "It's hard to make up

the points those guys score. You just can't manufacture 40, 50, 60 points. That's hard. Where do you find those?"

In other NBA games, Utah crushed the Lakers 101-75, Miami clobbered Dallas 101-79, Phoenix defeated Golden State 118-87, San Antonio beat Philadelphia 113-103, Indiana drubbed Vancouver 127-80, Houston edged Boston 94-89, Detroit downed Atlanta 100-90 and New York defeated New Jersey 109-102.

Orlando's record-tying night could have been even worse if not for backup point guard Darrell Armstrong.

Armstrong had Orlando's only field goal of the fourth quarter and made a technical free throw with 33 seconds left for the Magic's 57th point.

Without it, the Magic would have broken the NBA record for fewest points.

"I gave it no thought," Hill said. "It's really no big deal. If we tied it, we tied it. If we had broken it, it's still a loss."

Terrell Brandon scored 22 points and Chris Mills 17 for Cleveland. The loss was the Magic's fifth in nine games at Orlando Arena, surpassing their total from all of last season when they began the year with 33 consecutive home victories and finished 37-4.

Rockets 94, Celtics 89
At Houston, Charles Barkley had 19 points and 27 rebounds as the Rockets, bolstered by the return of Olajuwon from a heart problem, bounced back from a loss at Toronto.

Olajuwon played 40 minutes and had 16 points, five blocked shots and seven rebounds as Houston improved to 16-2.

Jazz 101, Lakers 75
At Salt Lake City, the Jazz won their 12th in a row with ease.

John Stockton had three of his four 3-pointers and a 2-pointer in a 13-2 run that broke a 24-24 tie and put Utah ahead for good. The Jazz led by at least 10 the rest of the way.

Karl Malone scored 27 points and Jeff Hornacek had 13 as Utah moved within two victories of tying the franchise record for consecutive wins.

"I've never felt better or had as much fun as I have this season," said Malone, who sat out the fourth quarter as the Jazz coasted.

Heat 101, Mavericks 79
At Miami, the Heat improved their winning streak to nine, also with ease.

Tim Hardaway scored a season-high 33 points, hitting 11 of 13 shots and going 6-for-6 from 3-point range. Miami tied a team record by making 15 3-point shots, and Heat's 35 3-point attempts broke the team record.

"We were presented with so many open shots that we had to take them. It was ridiculous," coach Pat Riley said.

Pistons 100, Hawks 90
At Auburn Hills, Mich., Terry Mills scored 14 of his season-high 25 points in a span of 4 1/2 minutes in the fourth quarter and went 7-for-8 on 3-pointers. Grant Hill added 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and Joe Dumars also scored 22 as Detroit improved to 13-3.

Suns 118, Warriors 87
At Phoenix, the Suns won their second game of the season, opening a 27-point halftime lead and staying ahead by at least 18 the rest of the way.

A.C. Green and Michael Finley scored a season-high 21 points apiece and Danny Manning came off the bench to add 20.

The Suns made a trade earlier in the day, picking up swingman Darrin Hancock and a conditional second-round draft pick from Milwaukee Bucks for forward Chucky Brown.

Spurs 113, 76ers 103
At San Antonio, Avery Johnson had 18 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and seven in the final 1:06 as the Spurs won their third game of the season in 16 tries.

San Antonio had season-highs in points and field goal percentage (53

percent). The Spurs also blocked a season-high 15 shots, including a career-high nine by Will Perdue.

Pacers 127, Grizzlies 80
Reggie Miller scored 31 of his 36 points in the first half of the most lopsided victory in Indiana's NBA history. The Pacers also tied a club mark by hitting 11 3-point shots.

Vancouver played without three starters as they set new franchise-lows for margin of defeat at home, points given up at home and fewest rebounds (24).

"It was bad. We were bad. Everybody," Shareef Abdur-Rahim said. "(Injuries) aren't an excuse. I don't care if we were missing Wilt Chamberlain or Dr. J or whoever, we still shouldn't lose that badly to anybody."

Knicks 109, Nets 102
At East Rutherford, N.J., Patrick Ewing rebounded from an awful game with 30 points and Buck Williams scored 11 of his 13 in the final period for the Knicks, who lost by 24 to Miami on Tuesday night. Charles Oakley added 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Larry Johnson had 18 points.

Kansas defends top spot vs. Cincy

By The Associated Press

Kansas looked a lot more like a No. 1 team after halftime.

The Jayhawks trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half against No. 4 Cincinnati on Wednesday night before righting themselves in a 72-65 victory in the final game of the Great Eight in Chicago.

"They intimidated us in the first half. The way we played in the first half we were soft, and I don't think we're a soft team," Kansas coach Roy Williams said. "In the second half, we became more aggressive and got the ball to the basket instead of dribbling from side to side like we did in the first."

The Bearcats (2-2), who held the preseason No. 1 ranking and stayed on top for the first polls of the regular season, blew the 35-23 halftime lead when they couldn't overcome Danny Fortson's foul trouble and some terrible shooting from their veteran guards.

Fortson, who finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds, picked up his third foul early in the second half. While he sat out for 5:17, Kansas capped an 18-2 run.

Austin Croshere 14 for the visiting Friars (4-2).

Texas Tech 77, No. 11 New Mexico 68
The Red Raiders (5-0) won their 33rd straight at home and their second over a ranked team in a five-day span. Cory Carr had 25 points and seven assists for Texas Tech, which beat then-No. 25 George Washington on Saturday. Kenny Thomas and Charles Smith each had 19 points for the Lobos (5-1), which closed to 60-58 with 10:08 left. New Mexico's starters scored all but two its points.

No. 12 Clemson 82, Furman 55
The Tigers (5-1) rebounded from their loss to Minnesota on Sunday with the easy home win, but starters Terrell McIntyre and Harold Jamison were injured in the first half and didn't return. McIntyre hurt his right forearm and Jamison twisted his right ankle. Coach Rick Barnes described the injuries as "not serious." Greg Buckner had 15 points for Clemson, while Chuck Vincent had 14 for the

Paladins (2-2), who have lost 21 in a row in the intrastate series.

No. 18 Texas 82, Florida 64
Reggie Freeman had 22 points for the visiting Longhorns (3-0), who are off to their best start since 1990. The Gators (3-3) closed to 63-53 with 5:37 left, but Freeman hit one of his six 3-pointers to end the rally. Greg Stolt had 20 points for Florida.

West Virginia 101, No. 19 Syracuse 79
Gordon Malone had 25 points and Damian Owens and Adrian Pledger each had 24 for the Mountaineers (2-1), who had an 18-0 second-half run in matching the most points scored by an opponent in the Carrier Dome (Notre Dame, 1992) and becoming just the fourth team reach the 100-point mark against the Orangemen in coach Jim Boheim's 21 years. Jason Hart had 22 points for Syracuse (3-2), which has lost two games by a combined 56 points.

No. 20 Boston College 73, Rutgers 64
Antonio Granger was 5-of-7 from

3-point range and had 19 points for the Eagles (3-0) in their Big East opener. Danya Abrams added 13 points and nine rebounds for Boston College, which took control with a 14-3 second-half run that featured consecutive 3s by Granger. Geoff Billet had 18 points for the Scarlet Knights (1-2).

Houston 79, No. 21 Tulsa 77, 2 OT
Damon Jones scored a career-high 35 points, including a short jumper with 13 seconds left that put the Cougars (3-1) ahead 78-77. Houston trailed by 14 points in the second half and six in the first overtime. Shea Seals had 28 points for the visiting Golden Hurricane (4-2).

No. 25 Virginia 75, William & Mary 64
Norman Nolan scored 22 points for the visiting Cavaliers (4-1), who closed the first half with a 10-2 run to take a 33-31 lead and then opened the second half with a 28-8 burst. David Grabuloff and Bobby Fitzgibbons led the Tribe (3-3) with 14 points each.

"It was terrible, it was sickening to watch," Fortson said. "That's the No. 1 team in the country and if we had played the second half as hard as we played the first, we would have won the game."

Paul Pierce had all but two of his 17 points in the second half for the Jayhawks, who shot 27 percent in the first half while committing 12 of their 16 turnovers.

"I knew we'd come out strong in the second half. We're a veteran club and we're not going to give up on anybody," Pierce said. "I don't think I was being aggressive enough like I should have been in the first half. I was losing the ball, I wasn't going to the boards like I should have."

Damon Flint was 3-for-14 from the field and Darnell Burton was 2-for-17 for Cincinnati, which lost the No. 1 ranking after losing at home last week to Xavier, Ohio.

"We can't expect Fortson to score on every possession," Bearcats coach Bob Huggins said. "Kansas is No. 1. They deserve to be No. 1. But, I'm concerned about us, not Kansas."

Keith Van Horn had 14 points and 15 rebounds as the Utes (4-0) struggled offensively (35 percent overall, 2-for-14 on 3s), but still cruised. Don Faux had 13 points and eight rebounds for the visiting Thunderbirds (2-2).

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Cinema caught in dilemma of historical accuracy

By TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - On screen, he is a brooding, handsome dreamer - a haunted desert explorer who pursues the woman he loves obsessively and collaborates with Nazis in a last attempt to save her life.

But the Count Laszlo de Almasy depicted by Ralph Fiennes in the new film "The English Patient" seems unsettlingly benign to Elizabeth Pathy Salett, whose father was a Hungarian diplomat in wartime Egypt. He remembered the real Hungarian count as an amoral man who collaborated willingly with Axis powers in North Africa.

Therein lies the dilemma that has dogged cinema from the silent-era "Birth of a Nation" straight through to "JFK": Are filmmakers beholden to historical accuracy? And is "artistic license" simply another term for revisionism?

"Movies like this should be more

faithful to what actually happened. You can't just say it's a fictional portrayal, because it influences millions of people," said Ms. Salett, who wrote an essay Wednesday in The Washington Post describing the film as "amoral and ahistorical."

In her essay, the Hungarian-born Ms. Salett - who runs a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. - recounts how, while watching "The English Patient," the Almasy character kept striking her as familiar.

"I was increasingly stunned to see unfolding before me the depiction of (a) passionate hero who bore little resemblance to the man my father had described to me," she wrote.

True, perhaps, but beside the point, say the filmmakers who adapted author Michael Ondaatje's novel. After all, said director-writer Anthony Minghella, "This is fiction

based on fiction," a movie based on a novel.

"We did our research on the time, place, what was happening in that era, what the truth was. And we tried to reproduce that truth," producer Saul Zaentz said. "But human emotions, I don't think anyone knows what the truth is there."

The question, though, is relevant given the pop-culture juggernaut's increasing dominance of the collective consciousness.

In a market where nostalgia is simply another commodity, history becomes what sells best. And for this film, what sells best is a story of sacrifice and love.

"People say, 'How come Hollywood can't get it right?'" said Steven Alford, a liberal arts professor and film expert at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. "I don't think it's some craven attempt to misrepre-

sent history. But sometimes the stories film can tell don't mesh with the conventions of narrative history."

That happened with Oliver Stone's 1991 movie "JFK," which focused on assassination conspiracy theories. Historians worried it might replace historical canon; Newsweek called it "propaganda."

But while "JFK" was about history, "The English Patient" uses history only as a backdrop.

The real Almasy, according to Ms. Salett's father's papers, wanted to use a desert museum as a front for Nazi espionage. Its goal: the occupation of Egypt.

When the project was scotched, Ms. Salett said, Almasy blamed her father and put his name on a short list of arrests to be made when Nazi Field Marshal Erwin Rommel occupied the country. Her family, she said, escaped in a car along a darkened road near the Nile River - "one of my earliest memories."

"The film makes it look like he just gave a few maps to the Germans to save the woman he loved. And it makes it seem OK," she said.

"That's not to say there isn't poetic license, but it needs to be either more historical or more clearly fictional."

Ondaatje has said he knew little about the real Almasy or what

ultimately happened to him. And he was careful to include a disclaimer.

"While some of the characters who appear in this book are based on historical figures ... it is important to stress that this story is a fiction," Ondaatje wrote. A similar statement appeared in the film.

That, say many scholars, should be sufficient.

"Her argument seems to be that a historical disclaimer is not enough," said Jim Welsh, editor of Literature/Film Quarterly. "But if you're dealing with a work of the imagination, the fact that it may have sprung from some sort of historical context is simply beside the point."

Madonna wins artist achievement award at Billboard Music Awards

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Madonna made her first public appearance since becoming a mother and Mariah Carey was a double winner Wednesday at the Billboard Music Awards.

A svelte Madonna whisked into the Aladdin Hotel's theater from her limousine just in time to accept her artist achievement award, then hurriedly departed.

She said she hadn't wanted to spend much time away from her daughter Lourdes, "But then they said that Tony Bennett was going to give it to me, and I said, 'All right, she won't miss me for a few more hours.'"

Madonna won the artist achievement award while Carey and Boyz II Men won a special hot 100 singles

award for their song, "One Sweet Day," which has spent a record 16 weeks at No. 1.

Carey also won the hot 100 singles artist of the year award.

The 1996 Billboard awards, broadcast on FOX from the Aladdin Hotel's Theater for the Performing Arts, are determined by the magazine's year-end charts, which are based on a combination of record sales and radio airplay.

The winners are:

- Alanis Morissette, artist of the year.
- Brooks & Dunn, country single of the year for "My Maria."
- Carlos Santana, century award.
- Dishwalla, rock track of the year for "Counting Blue Cars."

- LL Cool J, rap artist of the year.
- Los Del Rio, single of the year for "Macarena."
- Madonna, artist achievement award.
- Mariah Carey/Boyz II Men, special hot 100 singles award for "One Sweet Day."
- Mariah Carey, hot 100 singles artist of the year.
- R. Kelly, R&B artist of the year.
- The Tony Rich Project, new artist of the year.
- Toni Braxton, R&B single of the year for "You're Makin' Me High"/"Let It Flow."

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Barney Google and Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell

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GOODY!! I'LL GO PLAY HIM SOME CHECKERS

TRICKY FEMALE!!

HELP WANTED

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

TIME FOR YOUR MID-MORNING SNACK

WHERE'D YOU GET THE NEW GUARD?

DAY CARE

Marvin By Tom Armstrong

I JUST CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND WHETHER WE SHOULD START TRYING FOR A SECOND CHILD, JEFF.

THE RIGHT TIMING IS SO IMPORTANT!

I KNOW

...AND NOW'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD TIME TO ASK MY OPINION!

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

MRS. BLUMSTEAD! MUST TELL YOU SOMETHING

THIS WAS THE BEST BIRTH-DAY PARTY I'VE HAD IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!

IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE?

WELL, YEAH... BUT I'M SURE HE MEANT IT AS A COMPLIMENT

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

SIR, I REQUEST THAT SARGE BE THROWN IN JAIL!

PVT. BAILEY, YOU KNOW THAT ALL REQUESTS MUST GO THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS!

SARGE, I REQUEST THAT YOU BE THROWN IN JAIL!

Television

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
Movie: Nutcracker Pr.	Good, Bad, Huckleberry Hound	I Love Lucy: First Show	(35) Avenues	Movie: Man's Favorite						
News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Suddenly	Seinfeld	Men-Badly	ER	News	Seinfeld	Nightline	
NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Best Nat'l. Geo.	(7-55) See You at the Nat	Brass Theatre	Computer	Charlie Rose					
Videos	Videos	(05) Movie: Death Warrant (1990), Robert Guillaume **	(05) Movie: Double Impact (1991) Jean-Claude Van Damme. **	Turning Point	News	Seinfeld	Nightline			
News	Wh. Fortune	High Incident	Murder One	News	Seinfeld	Nightline				
Fam. Mat.	Bzz!	Movie: One Magic Christmas (1985) ***	News	Wiseguy	News	Heat				
News	Home Imp.	Pooh and Christmas	Moloney	48 Hours	News	(35) Late Show				
Roseanne	Mad-You	Martin	Single	New York Undercover	Hercules-Jrns.	Mad-You	Martin	Real TV		
Sportsctr.	NFL Tonight	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at Indianapolis Colts	Sportscenter	NFL Great						
Waltons	Highway to Heaven	Rescue 911	700 Club	Three Stooges	Carson					
Movie: Halfback-Notre	Movie: The Silver Strand	Nicolette Sheridan. ** 'R'	Sherman	Full Frontal	Mommies	Movie: Road-Wellive				
Movie: Necessary Roughness	Scott Bakula	PG-13	Movie: Desperado Antonio	Bandaras. ** 'R'	Inside the NFL	Artis				
(5:15) Movie: Richie Rich	Movie: Haunted (1995) Aidan Quinn, Kate Beckinsale. 'R'	Movie: The Net (1995) Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Northam.	Movie:							
Movie: The Front Page	Movie: Mourning Becomes Electra (1947) Raymond Massey, Rosalind Russell. ***	Movie: The Feminine Touch (1941) ** 1/2								
Dukes of Hazzard	Life of Kenny Rogers	Prime Time Country	News	Club Dance	Dallas	Dukes				
Bey, 2000	Next Step	Wild Discovery	Movie Magic	Next Step	Traveler	Next Step	Bey, 2000	Wild Disc.		
Equalizer	Biography	Barry Manilow: Live by Request	Law & Order	Biography						
HopeGlori	Designing	Unsolved Mysteries	Movie: Empty Cradle (1993) Kate Jackson. **	Living	Mysteries	Mysteries				
FOX Sports News	FOX Sports	Football	Cycle World	Motorsports Hour	FOX Sports News	Sports				
In the Heat of the Night	Movie: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) Clint Eastwood, Chief Dan George. ***	Movie: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976)								
Doug	Rugrats	Alex Mack	Happy Days	I Love Lucy	Munsters	M.T. Moore	Rhoda	Taxi	Odd Couple	Bewitched
Highlander: The Series	Murder, She Wrote	Movie: Scrooged (1988) Bill Murray, Karen Allen. ***	Silk Stalkings	Big Date						
Tu y Yo	Movie: Barrio	Canaveral de Pasiones	Bienvenidos	P. Impacto	Noticiero	La Tocada				
Masters of War	Jazz Age	Civil War Journal	Automobiles	Year by Year	Jazz Age					
Drag Racing	Motoworld	NHL Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at St. Louis Blues	NHL 2Night	NBA 2Night						

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
Pooh	Mermaid	Wonderland	Umbrella	Groundling	Pooh Cntr.	Ducktales	Care Bears	Dumbo	Wonderland	GummiB
Today				Leeza		Geraldo Rivera	Leeza			Days-Lives
Nutrition	Nutrition	Sesame Street	Puzzle Place	Mr Rogers	Storytime	Reading	Arthur	Barney	Lamb Chop	
Brady	Bewitched	Little House on the Prairie	Boss?	Family Ties	Empty Nest	Griffith	(05) Matlock	Movie:		
Good Morning America			Live -- Regis & Kathie Lee	Caryl & Marilyn: Friends	Medicine Woman	News				
Freakout Fri	Freakazoid!	Woody	Bewitched	Griffith	Empty Nest	Charlie's Angels	Geraldo Rivera	News		
This Morning				Ricki Lake		Price Is Right	Young and the Restless	News		
Bobby	Quack Pack	Mask	Peter Pan	Fox After Breakfast	Maureen O'Boyle	K. Copeland	Paed Prog.	Matlock		
Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	PGA Golf		
Highway to Heaven	Waltons			700 Club		FIT TV	Rescue 911	Home		
Movie: Young Winston	Simon Ward. ** 1/2	PG	(10) Movie: Spirit of '76	David Cassidy.	(35) Movie: Made for Each Other	PG-13	Movie:			
Movie: There Goes the Neighborhood	Movie: Educating Rita	Michael Caine. *** PG	Movie: The Brady Bunch	Movie: PG-13	Smoke					
Movie: Our Miss Brooks	Movie: Night of the Comet ** 1/2	PG-13	(45) Movie: Legends of the North	Randy Quaid. PG	Movie: Portrait of Jennie					
Movie: A Life of Her Own (1950) Ray Milland. ** 1/2	Movie: Wise Girl (1937) Ray Milland. **	Parade	Movie: Irene (1940) Anna Neagle. ** 1/2							
(Off Air)	VideoMorning									
Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Assignment Discovery	Home Matters	Housesmart!	Dallas	Aleene's Crafts	Wildhorse			
McMillan and Wife			Lovejoy Mysteries	New Mike Hammer	Quincy	Equalizer				
Baby Knows KidsDays	Sisters	Debt	Our Home	Main Ingrid.	Handmade	Living	Our Home	Designing		
FOX Sports News	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Motorsports Hour	Cycle World	Sports			
Scooby Dooby Doo	Flinstones	Flinstones	Gilligan	Gilligan	Knots Landing	CHiPs	Thunder			
Looney Tunes	Chanukkah	Busy World	Rupert	Muppets	Allegra	Gullah	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Emmet O.	
Mighty Max	Sonic	Weird Sci.	Facts of Life	Movie: Fat Man and Little Boy (1999) Paul Newman. ** 1/2		Major Dad	USA Live			
Plaza Sesa	El Chavo	Cheespicio	Papa Solt.	Dr Perez	Dos Mujeres Un Camino	Divina Obsession	Morelia			
Classroom	History Showcase	Real West		Movie: Hitler's SS: Portrait in Evil (1985) John Shea, Bill Nighy. ** 1/2						
Flex Appeal	Bodyshape	Crunch	Training	Flex Appeal	Crunch	Gotta Sweat	Fitness	Flex Appeal	Bodyshape	Sports Babe

12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
C. Brown	Donald	Pooh	Movie: Babes in Toyland	Tommy Sands. ** 1/2	Tale Spin	Ducktales	Chip 'n' Dale	Goof Troop		
Days-Lives	Another World	Jenny Jones	Mauri	Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News				
Body Elec.	Washington Cathedral	Painting	New Garden	Kitchen	Wishbone	C. Sandiego	Science Guy	Creatures	Magic Bus	
(12:05) Movie: ** Up Periscope (1959)	Flinstones	Flinstones	Scooby-Doo	Taz-Mania	JonQuest	Saved-Bell	Saved-Bell	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	
Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Montel Williams	Rosie O'Donnell	News	ABC News				
News	Magnum, P.I.	Beauty and the Beast	Beverly Hills, 90210	Fam. Mat.	Dreams	Saved-Bell	Save 4-Bell	News		
Bold & B.	As the World Turns	Guiding Light	Dating	Newlywed	Day & Date	News	CBS News			
Matlock	Little House on the Prairie	Mr. Cooper	Step-Step	Batman	Spider-Man	Beetleborgs	Rangers	Fresh Pr.	Simpsons	
Golf: World Championship -- International Chmp. 1st Rd.	Golf	PGA Golf JCPenney Classic -- Second Round						Up Close	Sportsctr.	
(12:00) Home & Family	ShopDrop	Shopping	Aliens	Monster	Movie: Santa-3 Bears	C. Burnett	C. Burnett	Movie:		
(12:15) Movie: ** Johnny Dangerously	(1:50) Movie: Mazie Glenn	Close. ** PG	Movie: Educating Rita	Michael Caine. *** PG	Movie:					
Movie: Singles	Bridget Fonda. PG-13	(1:15) Movie: Forever Young	Mel Gibson. *** PG	Movie: Imaginary Crimes	Harvey Keitel. ** PG					
Movie: Irene	Movie: Miracle on 34th Street	Richard Attenborough.	Movie: Going Ape!	Tony Danza. ** PG	Movie: Forrest Gump	Tom Hanks. PG-13				
Movie: Irene	Movie: Night Into Morning (1951) Ray Milland. ***	Movie: The Tender Trap (1955) Frank Sinatra. ***	Movie: Washington Story							
Wildhorse	VideoPM	America's Country Hits	Dallas	Wildhorse Saloon	Club Dance					
Home	Housesmart!	Interior Mot.	Great Chets	Cuisine	Great Chets	Travelers	Go for It!			
Equalizer	McMillan and Wife	Lovejoy Mysteries	New Mike Hammer	Quincy	Debt					
Nurses	Movie: Her Final Fury: Betty Broderick	Last Chapter	L.A. Law	Commiss	Supermit	Debt				
Sports	FOX Sports News	Tennis Grand Slam Cup -- Quarterfinal	Playing	WAC Mag.	Big 12 Show	Hennings				
Thunder	How the West Was Won	Wild, Wild West	Movie: Waterhole No. 3 (1967) James Coburn. ***	In the Heat of the Night						
Emmet O.	Tiny Toon	Chipmunks	Nick in the Afternoon	Gadget	You Aftaid?	Rocko's Life	Clarissa	Tiny Toon		
USALive	USA Live-Love	USA Live	USA Live	Wanted	Top Cops	Wings	Renegade			
Morelia	Pecado de Amor	Cristina	Primer Impacto	Dr Perez	Noticiero					
Movie: Masters of War	Real West	Movie: Hitler's SS: Portrait in Evil (1985) John Shea, Bill Nighy. ** 1/2								
Sports Babe	NBA 2Night	NBA's Great	NFL Great	NFL Great	Auto Racing IndyCar -- U.S. 500	Sportsman	Drag Racing			

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
Movie: A Mom for Christmas **	(35) Movie: It Happened One Christmas	Marlo Thomas.	Movie: The Christmas Star							
News	Ent. Tonight	Billy Graham Crusade	Dateline	Homeland: Life						
NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week	Wall St.	Riverdance -- The Show	(15) Andy Williams Christmas	Gregorian Chant: Songs					
Videos	Videos	Grinch	(35) Flintstones Christmas Carol	(15) Movie: Honey, I Shrank the Kids (1989) Rick Moranis. ***	Nightline					
News	Wh. Fortune	Fam. Mat.	Sabrina	20/20	10-Fascinating People	News	Seinfeld	Nightline		
Fam. Mat.	Bzz!	Movie: The Rescuers Down Under (1990) ***	News	Wiseguy	News	Heat				
News	Home Imp.	Frosty	Frosty	Figure Skating	Nash Bridges	News	(35) Late Show			
Roseanne	Mad-You	Sliders	Millennium	Hercules-Jrns.	Mad-You	Martin	Real TV			
Sportsctr.	NASCAR Winston Cup	Speedweek	NASCAR Winston Cup Awards	Sportscen	Softball					
Waltons	Highway to Heaven	Rescue 911	700 Club	Three Stooges	Carson					
(5:30) Movie: Spirit of '76	Movie: GoldenEye (1995) Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean.	(15) Movie: The Road Killers ** 'R'	Bedtime	Latino						
Inside the NFL	Movie: The Getaway (1994) Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger.	Boxing Montell Griffin vs. James Tony	Mr. Show							
Movie: Forrest Gump	Movie: The Roa' Killers ** 'R'	Movie: Copycat (1995) Sigourney Weaver, Holly Hunter.	Erotic	Movie:						
Movie: Parade	Movie: Silver River (1948) Erol Flynn. ** 1/2	Movie: The Unfaithful (1947) Ann Sheridan. **	Movie: Nora							
Dukes of Hazzard	Championship Rodeo	Prime Time Country	News	Club Dance	Dallas	Dukes				
Bey, 2000	Next Step	Wild Discovery	Cyberlife-Buyer's Guide	Wings	Next Step	Bey, 2000	Wild Disc.			
Equalizer	Biography	Las Vegas: Gamble in the Desert	Law & Order	Biography						
HopeGlori	Designing	Intimate Portrait	Movie: Tequila Sunrise (1988) Mel Gibson, Michelle Pfeiffer. ** 1/2	Mysteries	Mysteries	Mysteries	</			

Area Events

MULESHOE

The Moonlight Homemakers Club of Muleshoe will host its 18th annual craft bazaar on Dec. 6 and 7 in the Civic Center.

Doors will open to the public at 10 a.m. Friday and close at 7 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Jennyslippers will serve a barbecue lunch on Friday and Santa will be present to have his picture taken with the children on Saturday.

AMARILLO

Festival of Trees '96 will be held at the Amarillo Garden Center, 1400 Sreit Drive in the Harrington

Regional Medical Center complex, beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday with a gourmet dinner among the trees, the central celebration of the festival.

Reservations are required and tickets are \$50 per person. A Festival Preview Cocktail Party, also amidst the trees, is planned for 7 p.m. Friday.

The Family Open House is Saturday from 12 noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for youth 12 years and younger.

Following the festival, the trees will be delivered to 11 community agencies including Presbyterian Children's Home, Amarillo Senior Citizens, Jan Werner Adult Day Care, Ronald McDonald House, Martha's Home, North Heights Children's

Home, E.J. Bivins Home for the Aged, Bivins Memorial Nursing Home, Harrington Cancer Center and the North Branch YMCA.

FRITCH

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (LAMR/ALFL) will host a Holiday Open House from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at the headquarters building and visitor information center at 419 East Broadway, Fritch.

Noted local author, Bob Izzard, will be present to sign copies of his new book *Mobeette*.

The public is cordially invited. Light refreshments will be served.

Smithsonian treasures are coming to Texas just in time for holidays

By KATHRYN STRAACH
The Dallas Morning News
"America's Attic" -- the Smithsonian -- has packed up some of its belongings and is headed to Texas.

"America's Smithsonian," a traveling exhibit featuring treasures from each of the 16 Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo, will be in Houston Dec. 6 through Jan 12 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The exhibition, which began in Los Angeles last February, is the Smithsonian Institution's big blowout celebration of its 150th anniversary this year.

Included are more than 300 major artifacts and national icons, representing the best of the Smithsonian's 140 million items. It's the largest collection of national treasures ever to leave the museums in Washington, D.C.

Some of the artifacts you'll find in the exhibition include art works by Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe and Andy Warhol. There's also Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet, Alan Shepard's Mercury capsule and his Apollo command module, a 1948 Tucker sedan and 4.5 million-year-old fossil shark teeth.

There also will be several of the inaugural gowns worn by first ladies, the ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz," Abraham Lincoln's top hat, and a 245-carat diamond necklace.

Many of the items hitting the road are priceless and irreplaceable making more than a few people nervous. As so appropriately described in the May magazine of Smithsonian magazine, "Telling the curators that they must release their most precious items is like sending your 16-year-old off in a car alone for the first time -- it defies every ounce of common sense, but you must do it anyway."

But sending these artifacts on a road trip is great news for those who find it hard to make the trek to Washington, D.C.

"It's nice to get out," says Vicki Moeser, public affairs specialist for the museums. "It seems to mean so much to people."

Houston, the sixth stop on the tour, is one of 12 cities -- more or less -- hosting the exhibition over a two-year period.

Some of the subsequent cities on the tour are being reshuffled and firmed up, including Dallas. Big D was originally scheduled to host the exhibit Feb. 3 to March 5, but is currently off the schedule. Seems the issue is money, says Ms. Moeser. It's possible things could be straightened out and the exhibit rescheduled for Dallas at a later date.

So far, the tour has been "wildly successful," says Ms. Moeser. The exhibit is currently in St. Paul, Minn., where more than 18,000 people visited in one day last weekend. J. Michael Carrigan, project director,

had previously predicted 8,000 to 10,000 would visit the exhibit daily.

Despite its success there, "I know everyone will be happy to go from St. Paul down to Houston," says Ms. Moeser. "It's already snowing in St. Paul."

Out of all the amazing artifacts, the most popular traveling the country are the ruby slippers from "Oz," says Ms. Moeser. The people in Kansas City love them because of the Kansas connection, and the people in St. Paul love them because Ms. Garland grew up nearby.

Another popular attraction is Lincoln's top hat, which has been in storage for the past 20 years. It's the hat he was wearing the night he was assassinated.

When the two-year exhibition ends in January 1998 and it's time to go home, maybe all they'll need to do is click the heels of those ruby slippers together three times.

But then they might end up in Kansas.

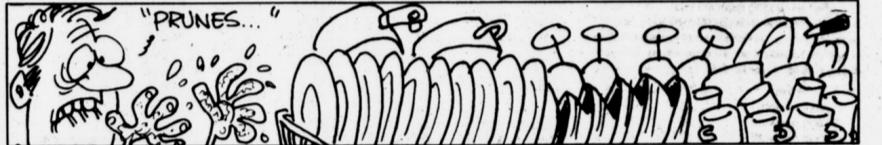
SPECIFICS: Admission will be free, but tickets are required. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis every day beginning at 9 a.m.; they will be stamped with an entry time for that day. If you like your plans more definite, order advance tickets for a \$3.50 per-ticket service charge. Call 1-800-913-TOUR.

The exhibition will be open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week (last admissions at 6 p.m.; on certain days, 4 p.m.).



Program on flag etiquette

Members of the local VFW, VFW Auxiliary and American Legion posts presented a program on flag etiquette recently at Bluebonnet School. The program included a slide presentation on the proper handling of the flag. Participating in the presentation were Earl Lance, Grant Hanna, Linda Dutton and Miles Caudle.



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Dan E. Warrick
Investment Representative

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Dec. 5, the 340th day of 1996. There are 26 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 5, 1933, Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

On this date:
In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1782, the first native U.S. president, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, N.Y.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1848, President James Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1901, movie producer Walt Disney was born in Chicago.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

In 1989, East Germany's former leaders, including ousted Communist Party chief Erich Honecker, were placed under house arrest.

In 1994, Newt Gingrich was elected the first Republican speaker of the House in four decades.

Ten years ago: The Soviet Union said it would continue to abide by SALT II treaty limits on nuclear weapons despite the decision by the United States to exceed them, but

warned that Washington was making a big mistake.

Five years ago: Samuel K. Skinner was named White House chief of staff by President Bush, succeeding John H. Sununu. Richard Speck, who murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died a day short of his 50th birthday.

One year ago: In the first hint of movement at the budget talks, White House officials and Democratic congressional leaders said they were preparing a seven-year budget-balancing plan. Former South Korean president Roh Tae-woo, four aides and a dozen top businessmen were indicted in a bribes-for-favors scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., is 94. Singer Little Richard is 64. Author Joan Didion is 62. Author Calvin Trillin is 61. Musician J.J. Cale is 58. Pop singer Jim Messina is 49. Actress Morgan Brittany is 45.

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A Great Gift!!! Texas Country Reporter Cookbook -- the cookbook everyone is talking about. 256 pages featuring quotes on recipes ranging from 1944 War Worker rolls to a creative concoction using Texas tumbleweeds. \$13.95 at Hereford Brand. 17961

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Eye Glass Frames for sale: Dr. Milton Adams, 725 Baltimore. December 7 from 9 to 6. 50% to 66% off. 33391

For Sale: 5 tires, like new, \$100.00. 407 Ross-Apt. A. Call 363-6010 and ask for Stan. 33401

For Sale: Full blooded German-Shepherds, 6 weeks old. Call 363-9063. 33402

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1A. GARAGE SALES

Christmas Garage Sale: Coca-Cola table, 4 chairs, trunks, Mickey Mouse items, antiques, household items, sleds. Start Thursday, 1 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. til ?? 126 Hickory. 364-3714. 33399

Community Bazaar Informal Flea Market Rummage Sale, Saturday, December 7, 9 to ?. Fellowship Hall of Summerfield Baptist Church. Go on Hwy. 60, turn right on Walnut Rd. Antiques, clothes, furniture and Knick-knacks and Christmas items.

3. VEHICLES FOR SALE

1982 Cadillac Eldorado, extra clean. Call 258-7752 or 258-7253. 33376

Nice 1994 Light Autumn Wood extended Z71 Chevrolet pickup. Loaded. 80,000 miles, \$16,000. Call Rodney Straffuss. 578-4393. 33386

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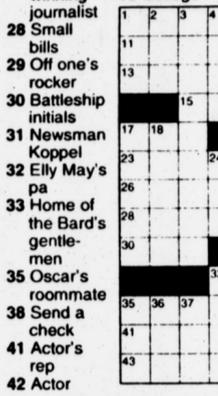
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CROSSWORD

by THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gave a hoot
 - 6 Stunned states
 - 11 1993 film set in the Andes
 - 12 Put forth
 - 13 Pie nut
 - 14 Suspicious
 - 15 Comedian
 - 17 Dict. abbr.
 - 19 Oolong
 - 20 Superlative suffix
 - 23 "My God to Thee"
 - 25 Director
 - 26 Pulitzer-winning journalist
 - 28 Small bills
 - 29 Off one's rocker
 - 30 Battleship initials
 - 31 Newsman
 - 32 Elly May's pa
 - 33 Home of the Bard's gentlemen
 - 35 Oscar's roommate
 - 38 Send a check
 - 41 Actor's rep
 - 42 Actor
- DOWN**
- 1 Upper limit
 - 2 Porter
 - 3 "Super Freak" singer
 - 4 Writer
 - 5 Signifies
 - 6 Triangular letter
 - 7 Lines of symmetry
 - 8 Zuider —
 - 9 Go astray
 - 10 Porker's place
 - 16 Toto, e.g.
 - 17 Pear variety
 - 18 College
 - 20 "Push-over" singer
 - 21 Lapidary concern
 - 22 In shape
 - 24 Legal matter
 - 25 CIA's predecessor
 - 27 Approve openly
 - 31 School
 - 33 Wall climber
 - 34 Takes in
 - 35 Beatles description
 - 36 Conceit
 - 37 "Jurassic Park" girl
 - 39 "Got a Secret"
 - 40 John Ritter's dad



GRAVE **ETICH**
RENEW **IDAHON**
AGATE **NIXON**
HILLO **SATIRE**
AMY **LAS** **SEED**
MESS **AGES**
STAY **NEED**
MASS **AGES**
BOZ **NEE** **GAP**
AMULET **DELI**
DEBUG **NADIR**
AGING **ATONE**
SANG **BANGS**

Yesterday's Answer

- VIPs books
20 "Push-over" singer 33 Wall climber
21 Lapidary concern 34 Takes in
22 In shape 35 Beatles description
24 Legal matter 36 Conceit
25 CIA's predecessor 37 "Jurassic Park" girl
27 Approve openly 39 "Got a Secret"
31 School 40 John Ritter's dad

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377/199c per minute, touch-tone / rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service. NYC

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For Rent: 3 - Office Suite, 800 sq. ft., clean, attractive, prime location. N. Lee & 25 Mile Ave. 364-0686. 33365

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For Rent: 3 BR house, Brick w/garage & fenced yard. 364-6444. 33394

For Rent: 408 A East 3rd St., 2 BR Duplex, \$240.00 month/\$100.00 deposit. Call 364-4610, leave message. 33395

11. BUSINESS SERVICES

Defensive Driving Course is now being offered nights and Saturdays. Will include ticket dismissal and insurance discount. For more information, call 289-5851. #C0023-004. 700

12. LIVESTOCK

For Sale: Peacocks
Beautiful, very tame, blue and green, breeding age cocks and hens, \$25 each, also almost full grown cocks & hens \$20 each, one solid white breeding pair, all birds penned and very healthy, hauling bags furnished, can be transported in car. 1-505-357-2644

13. LOST & FOUND

Lost: Strayed cattle, Branded Lazy Ten, left ear 1/2 moon cropped and other branded CW right hip & right ear cropped. Call 276-5337, 276-5343, or 276-5389. 33396

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Applications available at T&C Locations in Hereford & Dimmitt. Leave completed applications at store, Attn: Mr. Hendrix or send resume/application to: Town & Country Food Stores, 406 N. Broadway, Dimmitt, Tx 79412, Attn: Mr. Hendrix.

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A XYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-5 CRYPTOQUOTES
P Z P V X I A A Z W M Z Z W I Y I
P V Q G G Q I X P Z W G S Z M
T M S A Z T G Y W I X G S A C Q G Z
W M F I M T Y P I Q C P Q Z W I
X G Y A C. — X P A A P M N W M J A P Z Z
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EVERY MOTHER AND EVERY MOTHER COUNTRY HAS A FAVORITE CHILD.—STEPHEN LEACOCK

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--Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.
--Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition.
--Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Brand ads are billed by the word, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.
--Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.



To clean asphalt tile, damp-mop for day-to-day cleaning. Don't use solvent-based wax; the solvent can soften the tile.

Entertainment

Learning channel debuts miniseries on plane crashes

By JENNIFER BOWLES
AP Television Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) - From the opening footage of a wreck at the bottom of the shark-infested Atlantic to a look at the swampy remains of

the ValuJet crash, the Learning Channel's "Survival in the Sky" is not for white-knuckle fliers. Viewers of the miniseries are reminded more than once that flying is still the safest way to travel.

All four of the miniseries' one-hour segments air Sunday beginning at 7 p.m. EST. The individual segments will be rebroadcast Monday through Thursday at various times.

Aside from stark and deadly images from some of the world's worst air disasters, the miniseries also shows how investigators piece together bits of charred debris to determine what went wrong and how air safety can be improved through the tragedies.

There also are compelling tales from survivors' near-death experiences and how they deal with guilt.

"One of the reasons we did the miniseries was the fascination with airline disasters, but also from our point of view we tried to give people really good inside information and I think you get that," said Nancy Lavin, an executive producer for The Learning Channel.

"It also shows the National Transportation Safety Board's point of view on investigations and I think you feel as if you've got the inside track on what they do."

One tragedy mentioned but not profiled is TWA Flight 800, the Paris-bound 747 that exploded minutes after taking off from Kennedy Airport on July 17, killing

all 230 people on board. "It happened a little bit too late for us to get into," Lavin said.

NTSB investigators told The Learning Channel they would videotape the next time the agency's "Go Team" was dispatched to the scene of a crash. It so happened the next one involved a ValuJet plane slamming into three feet of water in the alligator-infested Florida Everglades, killing all 110 aboard.

"We flew over the accident site and all it was water," NTSB investigator in charge Greg Feith says in episode 4, "Crash Detectives."

"The airplane had submerged and we saw that it was going to be a hell of a job," he says. "There was this silence that came over everybody because we were all probably thinking the same thing: 'How are we going to do this?'"

With all the high-tech equipment employed to find the two black boxes, the flight data recorder was unearthed after someone simply stepped on it.

And it was Feith who discovered the most likely cause of the crash: 144 oxygen generators in the cargo hold one which ignited on takeoff, sparking a chain reaction that caused the fire that burned through the cabin floor.

Two-thirds of all accidents are the

result of pilot error, according to the miniseries.

Case in point is the opening segment of the Feb. 6 crash of a Boeing 757 that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean minutes after takeoff from the Dominican Republic. All 189 people, mostly German tourists, were killed.

"Investigators found that a cockpit instrument wasn't working," the narrator says. "The captain knew it, but took off anyway. Everyone aboard paid the price."

The submerged wreckage is "a lasting monument to a pilot's mistake."

Perhaps the most dramatic footage is in episode 3, "A Wing and A Prayer," aptly titled for its profile of a 1989 emergency landing of a crippled United Airlines DC-10.

En route to Chicago from Denver, the plane lost its tail engine and was forced to land in Sioux City, Iowa, cartwheeling into a ball of flames across the runway and adjacent cornfield. In the end, 112 died. Amazingly though, 184 survived.

Off-duty pilot Denny Fitch was credited with helping land the plane.

"I was an ordinary pilot who had an extraordinary day," is the way he put it in a telephone interview from his suburban Chicago home.

It took Fitch 16 months and eight surgeries to recover from the injuries, but he remains a pilot today.

Survivor's guilt, he found, was "incredibly bad," but was partially alleviated when he met with one of the survivors a year later.

"We started crying," Fitch recalled. "She said, 'I'm so glad to meet you, you're my hero.' I told her I was sorry I couldn't save her husband."

"God wanted him, let it go," she told him.

"That was a huge leap for me," Fitch said, "for somebody on the airplane to tell me it was all right."

In the end, it turned out that a fault in the engine fan led to the explosion, severing hydraulic lines and rendering the flight controls useless.

"As hard as we try we don't have perfection," Fitch said.



The world's tallest mountain measured from the sea bed is Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii.

This Week in Entertainment

Entertainment highlights during the week of Dec. 8-14:

40 years ago: The movie industry eased its Hays Code, permitting references to drugs, abortion, prostitution and kidnapping under certain circumstances and strengthening its ban on racial epithets. It was the first major revision since the code's formulation in 1930.

And the movie "Rock Rock Rock," starring Chuck Berry, Frankie Lymon, La Verne Baker and Johnny Burnette, opened in U.S. movie theaters. Berry sang "You Can't Catch Me."

35 years ago: The Beatles played their first gig in the south of England on a program with Ivor Jay & the Jaywalkers, billed as a "Battle Of the Bands - Liverpool versus London." Only 18 people showed up. Meanwhile, in the United States, the Beach Boys released their debut single, "Surfin'," written by Brian Epstein and Mike Love, documenting California's teen-age beach culture.

And "El Cid," starring Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren, had its U.S. premiere. The film had premiered earlier in London.

10 years ago: Henry Winkler, known for his role as "the Fonz" on TV's "Happy Days," made his movie directing debut. "A Smokey Mountain Christmas," starring Dolly Parton, was telecast by ABC. Parton wrote six songs for the TV movie.

And Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan, Estelle Getty and Betty White, TV's

thinks he's unpopular now. Wait until Christmas morning." -- Comedian Jay Leno, referring to President George Bush, during a visit to the White House.

Spoken one year ago:

"What amazes me most of all, is that Wallace and Gromit, which were just silly ideas in my head back as a student, have now become property, a sought-after property. Crazy?" -- Academy Award winner Nick Park, commenting on his popular animated film characters. Park was finishing "A Close Shave," a saga of romance and window-cleaning, premiering in Britain on the BBC at Christmas time. "Golden Girls," won Golden Apple awards as the most newsworthy female stars of the year. The award was presented by the Hollywood Women's Press Club. Pia Zadora and Mark Harmon won the Golden Apple as discoveries of the year.

Five years ago: Disc jockey Alan Freed, who coined the phrase "rock 'n' roll" was implicated in the 1960s payola scandal, was posthumously awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Freed's 1950s program in Cleveland, called the "Moon Dog Show," pioneered rock 'n' roll. Freed died in 1965 at age 42.

Spoken five years ago: "He bought socks for his grandchildren for Christmas. He

Names in the news

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Thanks, but no thanks for Mel Gibson.

The star of the "Lethal Weapon" and "Mad Max" three-picture series says he's down on sequels these days. "I've got more sequels than anyone except maybe (Sylvester

Stallone." Gibson joked to People magazine. "What's he on - Rocky 8??"

Gibson said he hasn't positively ruled out a "Lethal Weapon 4," but one thing's for sure. "I would like to say that I am not doing 'Hamlet 2.'"

for that Grand Finale

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CATTLE FEEDER (CME) 50,000 lbs., cents per lb.		CORN (CBT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.	
Jan 87 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2	Mar 87 54 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2	Jan 87 262 260 258 256 254 252 250 248 246 244 242 240 238 236 234 232 230 228 226 224 222 220 218 216 214 212 210 208 206 204 202 200 198 196 194 192 190 188 186 184 182 180 178 176 174 172 170 168 166 164 162 160 158 156 154 152 150 148 146 144 142 140 138 136 134 132 130 128 126 124 122 120 118 116 114 112 110 108 106 104 102 100 98 96 94 92 90 88 86 84 82 80 78 76 74 72 70 68 66 64 62 60 58 56 54 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2	Mar 87 264 262 260 258 256 254 252 250 248 246 244 242 240 238 236 234 232 230 228 226 224 222 220 218 216 214 212 210 208 206 204 202 200 198 196 194 192 190 188 186 184 182 180 178 176 174 172 170 168 166 164 162 160 158 156 154 152 150 148 146 144 142 140 138 136 134 132 130 128 126 124 122 120 118 116 114 112 110 108 106 104 102 100 98 96 94 92 90 88 86 84 82 80 78 76 74 72 70 68 66 64 62 60 58 56 54 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2

METAL FUTURES	
GOLD (CME Div NYMEX) 100 Troy oz., \$ per Troy oz.	
Dec 87 371 370 369 368 367 366 365 364 363 362 361 360 359 358 357 356 355 354 353 352 351 350 349 348 347 346 345 344 343 342 341 340 339 338 337 336 335 334 333 332 331 330 329 328 327 326 325 324 323 322 321 320 319 318 317 316 315 314 313 312 311 310 309 308 307 306 305 304 303 302 301 300 299 298 297 296 295 294 293 292 291 290 289 288 287 286 285 284 283 282 281 280 279 278 277 276 275 274 273 272 271 270 269 268 267 266 265 264 263 262 261 260 259 258 257 256 255 254 253 252 251 250 249 248 247 246 245 244 243 242 241 240 239 238 237 236 235 234 233 232 231 230 229 228 227 226 225 224 223 222 221 220 219 218 217 216 215 214 213 212 211 210 209 208 207 206 205 204 203 202 201 200 199 198 197 196 195 194 193 192 191 190 189 188 187 186 185 184 183 182 181 180 179 178 177 176 175 174 173 172 171 170 169 168 167 166 165 164 163 162 161 160 159 158 157 156 155 154 153 152 151 150 149 148 147 146 145 144 143 142 141 140 139 138 137 136 135 134 133 132 131 130 129 128 127 126 125 124 123 122 121 120 119 118 117 116 115 114 113 112 111 110 109 108 107 106 105 104 103 102 101 100 99 98 97 96 95 94 93 92 91 90 89 88 87 86 85 84 83 82 81 80 79 78 77 76 75 74 73 72 71 70 69 68 67 66 65 64 63 62 61 60 59 58 57 56 55 54 53 52 51 50 49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	

FUTURES OPTIONS	
CATTLE FEEDER (CME) 50,000 lbs., cents per lb.	
Strike	Call/Put
88	1.82 2.06 2.30 2.54 2.78 3.02 3.26 3.50 3.74 3.98 4.22 4.46 4.70 4.94 5.18 5.42 5.66 5.90 6.14 6.38 6.62 6.86 7.10 7.34 7.58 7.82 8.06 8.30 8.54 8.78 9.02 9.26 9.50 9.74 9.98 10.22 10.46 10.70 10.94 11.18 11.42 11.66 11.90 12.14 12.38 12.62 12.86 13.10 13.34 13.58 13.82 14.06 14.30 14.54 14.78 15.02 15.26 15.50 15.74 15.98 16.22 16.46 16.70 16.94 17.18 17.42 17.66 17.90 18.14 18.38 18.62 18.86 19.10 19.34 19.58 19.82 20.06 20.30 20.54 20.78 21.02 21.26 21.50 21.74 21.98 22.22 22.46 22.70 22.94 23.18 23.42 23.66 23.90 24.14 24.38 24.62 24.86 25.10 25.34 25.58 25.82 26.06 26.30 26.54 26.78 27.02 27.26 27.50 27.74 27.98 28.22 28.46 28.70 28.94 29.18 29.42 29.66 29.90 30.14 30.38 30.62 30.86 31.10 31.34 31.58 31.82 32.06 32.30 32.54 32.78 33.02 33.26 33.50 33.74 33.98 34.22 34.46 34.70 34.94 35.18 35.42 35.66 35.90 36.14 36.38 36.62 36.86 37.10 37.34 37.58 37.82 38.06 38.30 38.54 38.78 39.02 39.26 39.50 39.74 39.98 40.22 40.46 40.70 40.94 41.18 41.42 41.66 41.90 42.14 42.38 42.62 42.86 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Poor quality, low yield mark 1996 Texas pecan crop

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) - It has been a disappointing year for Texas pecan growers due to low yields, below average crop quality and extremely low prices, reports the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The projected Texas pecan crop for this year was 45 to 50 million pounds, which is normal for a light year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although the pecan harvest is not complete, it looks as if yields will be around 32 million pounds.

Bill Ree, Extension agent from College Station, said, "Quantity, quality and price is terrible."

"The drought just really hurt the pecan crop this year," Ree said. "The trees did not have enough rain to set a good crop."

Unfortunately, low yields are not

the only problem pecan growers are facing. The quality of the pecans that were produced is also poor.

Ree said that the drought and the pecan nut casebearer caused the quality problems.

He said, "The lack of water due to the drought did not really help the quality of the crop, but pecan nut casebearer infestations in some areas also were a problem."

Ree added that the reduced yields could be attributed partly to the fact that pecan trees are alternate bearers, which means that they will produce a heavy crop one year and a light crop the next.

Joe Pena, Extension economist from Uvalde, said that Texas was in an off year for pecans. He explained that Texas has a really good pecan

crop last year as did the rest of United States.

"Therefore, we have more carry-in stocks, which are pecans left over from last year, than we have had in 15 years," Pena said.

Wayne Scholtz, County Extension agent in Medina County, said the problems with the pecan crop this year are definitely a statewide problem.

"Growers all across Texas had a poor crop this year, but there is really no one thing that we can pinpoint as the cause," Scholtz said.

Guadalupe County Extension agent Devin James said that Guadalupe County has a very small pecan crop, if any at all.

Pecan growers are hopeful that next year's crop will be much better.

Ree said that if the growers get some good rains this winter, there is the potential for a good crop next year.

"Barring any unforeseen bad weather, winter rains would really help to get a good nut set and, therefore, a good crop next year," he said.

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors:

PANHANDLE: Moisture short. Pastures, ranges in fair to good condition. Cattle are in good condition and receiving supplemental feed. Wheat is rated fair to good. Sugar beet, cotton harvest are nearing completion. Sorghum harvest complete.

SOUTH PLAINS: Moisture

adequate to short. Cold front moved through late in the week bringing very cold temperatures and some moisture.

Sorghum, cotton harvests nearing completion. Wheat needs more moisture.

ROLLING PLAINS: Moisture adequate. Pastures, ranges in fair to good conditions. Livestock in good condition. Wheat planting is complete; some replanting due to insect pressure. Cotton crop rated poor to fair. Sorghum harvest nearing completion.

NORTH TEXAS: Moisture surplus to short. Pastures, ranges in poor to good condition. Wheat in good condition, but growing slow. Corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean harvests complete. Winter feeding of cattle has begun.

EAST TEXAS: Moisture adequate. Ideal growing conditions for winter pastures, but supplemental feeding continues. Pecan harvest nearing completion. Cotton and wheat harvests complete. Good fall vegetables harvested.

FAR WEST TEXAS: Moisture adequate to very short. Pastures, ranges in fair condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock. Cotton harvest nearing completion. Wheat planting complete. The freeze caused many pecans to fall; light, good quality crop.

damage from snow and ice storm. Fall gardening complete.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Moisture adequate. Freezing rain, sleet and snow hampered livestock feeding last week. Peanuts are being harvested. Yield prospects look favorable for most crops in the district.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS: Moisture surplus to adequate. Pastures, ranges in fair to good condition. First freeze occurred. Two- to three-inch rains received; rainfall halted field work. Cattle feeding continues; cattle market depressed in some counties.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: Moisture adequate. Pastures, ranges remain green, but are expected to go into winter dormancy after last week's freeze. Spinach harvest gaining momentum; making excellent progress. Fall sheep and goat shearing complete.

COASTAL BEND: Moisture adequate to short. Pasture, range conditions deteriorating slightly, but recent rains should help. Oats also helped by rains. Crop land is being fertilized in preparation for the 1997 crop. Cattle prices improving.

SOUTH TEXAS: Moisture short. Land preparation for spring planting under way. Sorghum, sugar cane, peppers being harvested. Pastures in need of moisture. Citrus harvest very active; crop quality excellent.

Retired couple uses own resources to keep commodities program going

By ANN GRAY
Beaumont Enterprise

BRIDGE CITY, Texas - Anyone passing by W.A. and Margaret Richter's garage might think they have a passion for pork and beans - or at times, corn, green beans and mixed vegetables.

What the Richters have is not a craving, but a compassion for 96 families the federal government left behind about a year ago when officials dropped a commodities distribution.

The Richters are Retired Senior Volunteer Program members who just couldn't say no to families who had come to depend on the federal commodities. Though residents can get help during the holiday season, some residents need help getting food items all year long.

"I may not have money, but I've got plenty of time, I always say,"

W.A. Richter said, "She's the boss and I do what she tells me."

For several years, the Richters were among about 15 RSVP members who worked to help distribute food on the first Thursday of the month at the Bridge City Community Center. After the government ended the commodities distribution in August 1995, the Richters decided to keep the program going using their own resources.

"We felt there was a need here in Bridge City," Margaret Richter said. "We have a lot of elderly people, but we also have young single mothers with children who need help."

A Du Pont Sabine River Works retiree, W.A. "Square" Richter collects cans donated at the golf course where he plays golf each morning. Others also donate cans.

"It's amazing how much money you can get from selling the cans,"

Margaret Richter said.

A men's group at St. Paul's United Methodist Church provides \$50 each month to buy flour or dried goods. A women's Sunday School class at the church is also adding a contribution that will help the Richters buy more food.

Several regular donations come from individuals who wish to remain anonymous.

"I have a friend in Beaumont who writes me a check for \$50 every month, no questions asked," W.A. Richter said.

The couple watch for sales on canned goods and purchase a mix of three canned vegetables. Market Basket in Bridge City, H.E.B. Pantry Foods in Orange, Kroger in Beaumont and Kmart Super Store in Groves let them buy the goods at sale prices in bulk, Margaret Richter said.

"The stores do not have to let us

buy their sale items in this quantity," she said. "But they've been good to let us have the sale price once we told them what we are doing."

Market Basket in Bridge City donates day-old bread and baked goods. The Richters freeze those goods in their own freezer and in freezers at the community center.

They keep canned goods in their garage and their breakfast room at times is crowded with sacks of flour or corn meal. A typical month's distribution of six items might include a package of spaghetti, two cans tomato sauce, a bag of rice and cans of vegetables.

"W.A. Richter said the flour, even on sale, is a relatively expensive item. He said they try to provide flour once a year.

W.A. also has a large vegetable garden and brings along peppers or tomatoes to share with the families. For some elderly folks who can't get out, the Richters take food to their homes.

On the night before the distribution, several RSVP members help load the goods into the couple's truck and van, set up tables and prepare for the next morning's distribution.



Trimming the tree
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