

The Hereford Brand



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GOOD GIFTS

Some presents for people are to help other people

By The Associated Press

These are some gifts for people that help other people:

- A spirited takeoff on swimsuit calendars comes from the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, a group devoted to research on spinal cord injury. The 1998 SWAT's UP (Standing With Attitude Today) calendar is illustrated with photographs of athletes, professionals and students who have spinal cord disabilities.
- The calendar is \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling from the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, 1600 NW 10th Avenue, R-48, Miami, Fla. The entire \$10 is a contribution, since all services to produce the calendar were donated.
- Talking thermometers, big-print kitchen timers, magnifying makeup mirrors and dozens of other practical helps to those with impaired vision are featured in The Lighthouse Catalog.
- For a catalog, call 1 (800) 829-0500. Proceeds from sales support vision rehabilitation services and programs for partially sighted or blind people.
- A holiday card featuring a drawing of Santa delivering a sackful of puppies to the door of The Seeing Eye benefits the organization that trains guide dogs for blind people in the United States and Canada.
- "Special Delivery," with a watercolor by Pat Garhart, is sold in boxes of 20 for \$13 each plus \$6.95 postage and handling for the first box and \$1 for each additional box. Also available is another design, "Holiday Hopes," by Patti Falzarano, which portrays three Seeing Eye puppies in a Christmas scene. Send checks to the Seeing Eye, c/o Parcel Plus, Chester Springs Shopping Center, Route 206, Chester, N.J. 07930. Credit card orders can be faxed to (908) 879-5661.
- Another card, with a holiday greeting in braille, benefits the Hadley School for the Blind in Winnetka, Ill.
- The cards are \$22, plus postage, for a box of 25. For information or orders, call (847) 446-8111.
- West-Mex food specialties - including a Three Soup Crate (\$16) and a Chili Fiesta gift basket (\$40) with two kinds of canned chili, canned Italian tomatoes, cornbread mix, and dry hot chilis - are available from the Women's Bean Project.
- The Denver-based project works with low-income women to help them become economically self-sufficient. For information or orders, call (303) 292-1919.
- Moonbabies are jewelry figures made from Austrian crystals, African woods, Peruvian clays, semiprecious stones and other exotic materials. The collections, designed by Ava Minsky Foxman, are available at department and specialty stores and aid the Pediatric AIDS Foundation and other children's charities.
- A new Moonbaby edition is The Good Princess pin honoring Princess Diana and benefiting the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund. The tribute pin, made with sterling silver and Swarovski crystal, is \$45 and available by special order, 1 (888) 666-6222.
- Merchandise ordered from World Vision's International Gifts of Joy and Hope will help meet needs of people all over the world - clean water, cure for diseases, and literacy among them. For a catalog, call 1 (888) 511-6511.
- Several generations of female pop singers - from Peggy Lee, Jo Stafford, and Margaret Whiting in the 1950s to Dolly Parton, Olivia Newton-John, Judy Collins and Vanessa Williams in the 1980s and 1990s - are represented in a new four-CD set, "Leading Ladies," that benefits the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations.
- The boxed set, produced by Reader's Digest Music, is \$54.96 and available by calling 1 (800) 282-7380.
- This year's choice for the Avon Breast Cancer Awareness Crusade is the Pink Ribbon mug (\$4), featuring a rose-and-ribbon design and boxed with an educational flyer about breast cancer.
- This charity already has donated more than \$22 million to over 250 breast health programs around the country. Order the new mugs from an Avon representative or by calling 1 (800) FOR-AVON.
- "Country Cares for Kids" is a holiday country music album from RCA featuring top stars or groups, with sales benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. A related radiothon spearheaded by Randy Owen, lead singer for Alabama, has in the past eight years raised \$58 million for the hospital group. The CD is \$16.98 and the cassette is \$8.98.

Candidates lining up

Staff and wire reports

Candidates have begun filing for the 1998 elections, opening a process that will shape a general election ballot on which no Democratic incumbent will be seeking re-election to any of the top six statewide offices.

The filing period opened Wednesday and runs through Jan. 2, at which time the Republican and Democratic fields will be set for the March 10 primary elections. Runoffs will be April 14.

In Deaf Smith County, incumbents dominated the first day of filing. County Commissioners Johnny Latham, precinct 1, and Lupe Chavez, precinct 2, both filed for re-election, along with County Treasurer Nan Rogers and Justice of the Peace Johnnie Turrentine.

The only non-incumbent to sign up for a spot on the March 10 ballot was Darla Hall, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for district clerk. Hall works in the district clerk's office.

The position opened up when Lola Faye Veazey, who has been district clerk for nearly 26 years, decided against seeking another term.

No Republican candidates filed Wednesday.

As Republican Gov. George W. Bush kicked off his re-election campaign in Midland, Democrats were assessing the impact of Attorney General Dan Morales' surprise decision to call it quits.

Morales was a draw with Hispanic voters and in a recent survey enjoyed the second-highest name recognition among Texas politicians, behind only Bush.

Morales' retirement decision followed that of the state's top-ranking Democrat, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who hadn't missed an election since 1974.

The other two Democratic in statewide office - Land Commissioner

Garry Mauro and Comptroller John Sharp - have their eyes on different prizes: governor for Mauro and lieutenant governor for Sharp, who filed Wednesday. That leaves Bush as the only one of the big six who wants to keep his current job.

Morales' departure kicked off waves of speculation about who else might run.

Three Republicans have announced for attorney general - Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson, former state GOP chairman Tom Pauken and former Texas Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn.

On the Democratic side, only Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Morris Overstreet was challenging Morales. Now, names are flying. They include: former attorney general Jim Mattox, state Rep. Paul Sadler of Henderson, Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and state Sen. John Whitmire of Houston.

Overstreet said anyone jumping in now would be a Johnny-come-lately.

"Now that Morales has dropped out of the race, I would not find it surprising if others announced to run against me. The people of Texas should really question the sincerity of anyone who announces now," Overstreet said as he filed.

Also filing for the Democratic attorney general nomination Wednesday was Gene Kelly of Universal City.

Other key races being decided next year are those for the Texas Legislature.

Republicans won 17 of the 31 Senate seats last year, giving them control of that lawmaking chamber for the first time since Reconstruction. Now their eyes are on the 150-member House, where Democrats hold an 83-67 edge.

NEWS

in brief

FROM SOUP TO NUTS: CENSUS BUREAU TAKES ITS MEASURE OF NATION

WASHINGTON (AP) - The urge to eat out compelled Americans to fork over a record \$209.5 billion in restaurants last year, with finicky and not-so-finicky diners spreading their patronage about equally between full service and fast food.

Not all food spending was on humans: There were an estimated 59.1 million pet cats in the United States in 1996, compared with 52.9 million pet dogs, according to the Census Bureau's annual soup to nuts measure of the nation, the Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1997.

More U.S. households had dogs than cats, but where cats were welcome they were more prolific. The 31.2 million households with dogs had an average of 1.7 each, while the 27.0 million households with cats averaged 2.2 each.

Reading, viewing and listening habits? The average person spent:

- 1,595 hours watching television last year, or just under 4.4 hours a day and rising.
- 2.9 hours daily listening to the radio.
- 45 minutes a day on recorded music.

REPORT: LIFE EXPECTANCY IN U.S. DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU LIVE

WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans have vastly different life expectancies depending on where they live, with some parts of South Dakota and the cities of Baltimore and Washington showing the worst rates, a study found.

Men in these areas have life expectancies similar to such developing countries as India and Bolivia - 61 years to 63 years, Dr. Christopher Murray of Harvard University said Wednesday.

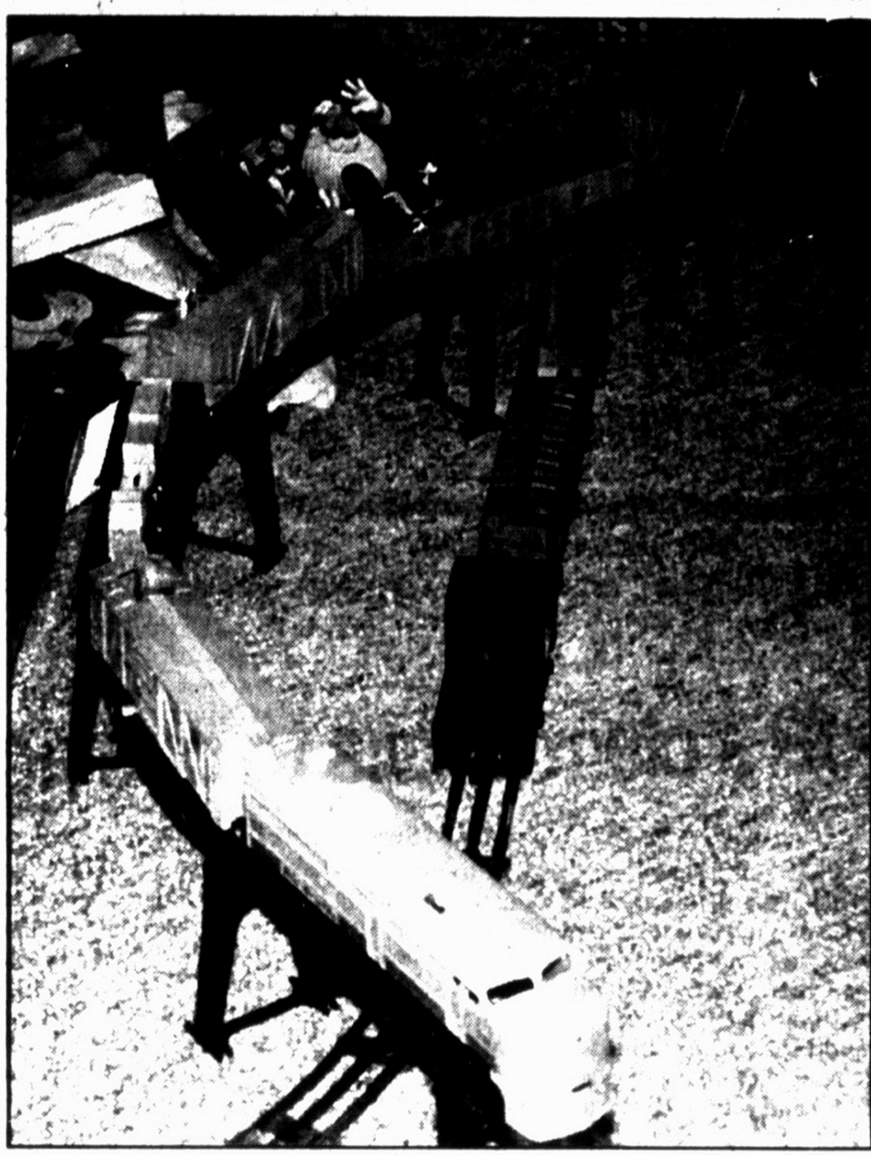
Worst off were male Indians in the unhealthiest section of South Dakota, who lived just 56.5 years, and black men in the nation's capital, who reached 57.9 years. In contrast, male Asians living in affluent counties in New York and Massachusetts lived to be 89.5, and Asian women lived into their mid-90s.

That stark difference is the sort found between poverty-ridden Sierra Leone and wealthy Japan - not the variation that is expected within the United States, Murray said.

"That's an absolutely staggering range," Murray said. "What's going on in the nation's worst counties" is obviously the \$64,000 question."

"The size of the discrepancy was the big surprise," agreed Dr. James Marks, chronic disease chief at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He said the CDC will study how to improve the unhealthiest counties.

Murray is performing a massive study of U.S. disease trends. His first results, presented Wednesday at a meeting organized by the CDC, are snapshots of life expectancies in different counties and in some county-sized cities.



Christmas trains

David Bone's Christmas train display will be on display this weekend just inside the west entrance of Sugarland Mall. There are at least 12 trains on display, with more possibly being added.

The cost is \$1 per person and proceeds go to the Christmas Stocking Fund. The display will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each Saturday before Christmas. The public is invited to come watch the trains and contribute to a good cause. Contributions to the Christmas Stocking Fund are being accepted at *The Hereford Brand*. Anyone wanting to contribute to the Christmas Stocking Fund may deliver a donation in person to the newspaper office at 313 Lee, or mail it to CSF, c/o *The Brand*, P.O. Box 673, Hereford 79045.

TDC: Sex offenders aren't being freed

By DIANNA F. DANDRIDGE
Staff Writer

Concern that many child molesters are being released under the mandatory release program is unfounded, according to Larry Todd and John Miller, information officers with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last month ruled that certain inmates were eligible and that new laws could not be applied retroactively.

The ruling stems from an appeal filed by Randy Sullivan Schroeter, a convict serving a three-year-term for indecency with a child.

As the uncorrected law was written, Schroeter has served enough calendar time and has earned good time credits to qualify for mandatory release.

"Mandatory release was initiated in 1987 as an incentive for long-time prisoners to behave and earn good-time credit," said Todd.

The original design of the mandatory release program allowed inmates to be released even before they were eligible for parole.

Nearly every session of the Legislature since has amended the mandatory release guides, changing the amount of flat time as well as the amount of good-time credits earned.

Laws, which were amended in 1993 and 1994, did not list offenders charged with indecency with a child in the exceptions.

The Legislature corrected the oversight during the past session, but the Court of Criminal Appeals has ruled that laws cannot lengthen the time served for an individual already serving time.

Miller said that only 60-100 individuals will fall through the cracks

caused by the legal loophole.

He also said mandatory release program provides society and officials with a few benefits when compared to someone who is released under direct discharge.

"Mandatory releasees are required to abide by all the same rules and guides as parolees," he said.

Inmates convicted of capital murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, first- and second-degree murder, sexual assault, first- and second-degree injury to a child or elderly, first-degree arson, second-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, indecency with a child or any felony committed in a drug-free zone are never eligible for mandatory release.

Even though the parolees are required to sign their parole certificate and mandatory releases are not, supervision remains the same.

Each inmate is classified upon entry into the prison system. Inmates are classified as line class 1, 2, 3 or trusty class 1-4. Most enter at the line class three level.

An inmate's entry level status determines the amount of flat time necessary before good-time credits may be applied.

Good-time credits are based strictly on the inmate's behavior after entering the prison. The offense is never considered when good time is being determined.

"On average, most eligible inmates serve at least half of their sentenced time, before being released," said Miller.

Inmates not eligible for mandatory release currently serve 80-85 percent of time before being paroled.

MADIKIZELA-MANDELA DENIES ORDERING DEATH TEEN-AGE ACTIVIST, OTHER ATROCITIES

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - Winnie Madikizela-Mandela today denied ordering the killing of a teen-age activist or committing other alleged atrocities almost a decade ago in the Soweto black township.

In long-awaited testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the ex-wife of President Nelson Mandela described as "ludicrous, and the worst lunacy," the charge that she ordered the death of 14-year-old Stompie Seipei in late 1988 or early 1989.

And she called charges that she ordered her former chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, to kill others "ridiculous."

Madikizela-Mandela's testimony followed eight days of statements by more than 30 witnesses. The Truth Commission is investigating 18 human rights abuses - including murder and torture - allegedly committed by Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club.

YELTSIN'S OFFERS TO CUT BACK NUCLEAR WEAPONS DOESN'T IMPRESS NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin's dramatic offers to make deep cuts in nuclear warheads and conventional troops failed to impress NATO defense ministers gathered here.

They've seen bold statements by Yeltsin before, not always backed up by action.

The Russian president has a penchant for the theatrical, particularly when on trips abroad. His impromptu announcements sometimes have astonished not only his audiences but his own aides as well.

Just last May, when he was in Paris for a summit to sign a charter creating a NATO-Russia Joint Permanent Council, a flush-faced Yeltsin surprised President Clinton and other leaders by pushing to the podium to announce Russia would no longer target NATO countries with its missiles.

What at first seemed dramatic was less so when experts pointed out that computers can untarget and retarget these missiles in a matter of minutes.

Then in October, while attending a Council of Europe summit in Strasbourg, France, an exuberant Yeltsin emerged from a meeting with President Jacques Chirac and unexpectedly blurted out that Russia would sign a convention banning land mines.

DECEMBER 4 1997

THE HEREFORD BRAND

Local Roundup

Recycling day Saturday

Community Christian School and Hereford Beautification Alliance will sponsor a recycling day from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot at St. Anthony's School. Plastic and glass will not be accepted. Acceptable items are bundled newspapers, aluminum, metal and car batteries.

Band booster meeting

The Hereford band boosters will meet Mon. at the High School band hall. Parents are encouraged to attend.

An old-fashioned tea

The public is cordially invited to attend an old-fashioned Christmas tea at the E.B. Black house Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. It will be hosted by the directors of the Deaf Smith County Historical Society as thank you for everyone who has visited the museum and E.B. Black house this past year.

Mostly cloudy

Tonight, becoming mostly cloudy with low around 20 and northeast wind 10-15 mph.

Friday, mostly cloudy with high around 40 and east to southeast wind 10-15 mph. Friday night, decreasing clouds and low around 20.

3- to 5-day forecast

Saturday, partly cloudy with high around 50.

Sunday, increasing clouds with a chance of rain late, low in the upper 20s and high in the mid-40s.

Monday, mostly cloudy with a chance of rain or snow, low around 30 and high in the mid-40s.

NEWS

in brief

DISABLED WOMAN REUNITED WITH POODLE

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - A 78-year-old disabled woman has been reunited with Oreo, her beloved black-haired poodle three weeks after she had to leave him behind in Missouri when she made an abrupt move back to her Arlington home.

Margaret L. Jones was reunited with her poodle on Wednesday when the dog was returned to her on an American Airlines flight arranged by Humane Society officials who learned of her plight.

"He's all I need for Christmas," she said through tears of joy as Oreo licked her cheeks.

Mrs. Jones had moved to Missouri about four months ago following the death of Don Jones, her husband of 52 years. She said she came back to Arlington after son, with whom she had been staying gave her the choice of "either the street, the Salvation Army or back home."

She went to her son's home for what was to have been a two-week visit, but she wound up staying four months.

The wheelchair-bound woman, who is diabetic, legally blind and hard of hearing, said she was put on a night train back to Arlington with no money, no clothing and no Oreo.

She said her son told her he would send her belongings, including Oreo, who wasn't allowed on the train to her the next day.

"I don't call him a dog," Mrs. Jones said. "He's my sweetie. I have just Oreo."

Mrs. Jones says Oreo is the only family she has left. She grieves everyday for her husband.

Her husband loved Oreo as much as she does, she said.

"Oreo wouldn't go near his chair after he didn't come home," she said. "He knew."

TWO-FAMILY FEUD CLAIMS FIFTH VICTIM

HOUSTON (AP) - A bitter two-family feud that dates back to Mexico more than a decade ago has claimed its fifth victim, a member of one of the feuding families says.

Three brothers were charged Wednesday with murder in the death Tuesday morning of Cleofas Orrusquieta Vega, who witnesses said was shot to death near a busy intersection during rush hour traffic as he was on his knees, begging for his life.

According to witnesses, Vega was standing at an eastbound bus stop on Westheimer Street when an armed man walked up. He ran through busy traffic into the street with the gunman shooting and in pursuit. Vega made it to a vacant lot, where he fell.

The gunman went up to Vega, fired several more times and fled in a waiting vehicle with the other two witnesses said. Vega died at the scene.

Police said Nicomedes Santibanez, 28; Abraham Santibanez, 32; and Apolinar Santibanez, 26, were arrested minutes later after they were seen on the Katy Freeway exchanging high-fives.

POSTAL INSPECTORS BATTLE MARIJUANA MAILING

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Drug traffickers are trying to get postmen to do their job, and postal inspectors want to put a stop to it.

"We don't want mailmen out there delivering dope," Jim Temmen, U.S. postal inspector in charge of prohibitive mailings for South Texas, said Wednesday. "It puts our employees at risk."

The effort to put a stop to mailing marijuana includes beefing up scrutiny of mail that passes through San Antonio after being shipped from Laredo and other cities on the Texas-Mexico border.

Postal officials say they'll make it worthwhile to anyone who helps them.

The Postal Service has offered a reward of up to \$1 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who ships drugs through the mail.

CADET'S CONFESSION OUTLINED IN BOOK

FORT WORTH (AP) - Diana Zamora told fellow midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy that she helped kill a 16-year-old Mansfield girl in a jealous rage, according to a new book.

She said she would do it again because the victim "deserved it."

"Blind Love," by Peter Meyer, is scheduled for release next month, about the same time that Miss Zamora's capital murder trial is scheduled to begin for the Dec. 4, 1995 slaying of Adrienne Jones.

The book includes portions of a statement she gave to Tarrant County investigators.

The confession to her then-fellow midshipmen before her arrest was repeated to local investigators by Miss Zamora, 19, the author says.

CLEANUP OF FORMER AIR BASE TO BE EXPENSIVE

LUBBOCK (AP) - It will cost as much as \$100 million to clean up decades of pollution at the now-shutdown Reese Air Base, officials say.

Officials said Wednesday it will cost the Air Force between \$10 million and \$20 million a year for two years and \$2 million to \$3 million a year for the next 20 to 25 years.

Until the contamination is cleared, the Lubbock-Reese Redevelopment Authority will have difficulty selling the base, said Tim Brecheen, interim site manager for the Air Force Base and Closure Agency.

Noncontaminated areas can be sold after the authority gets possession of them from the Air Force. But any part of the land can be leased indefinitely as soon as the authority obtains it from the Air Force, Brecheen said.

Officials scrap use-of-force guidelines

CLUTE, Texas (AP) - Proposed state guidelines on the use of force against jail inmates are being scrapped because of opposition from Texas sheriffs, according to a published report.

Jack Crump, executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, told the Brazosport Facts he proposed the new regulations after viewing a Brazoria County videotape, but has since changed his mind.

The proposal called for operators of county jails and for-profit prison facilities to submit for commission review individual policies on use of

force against inmates.

But the plan was expected to die at the panel's meeting today.

"Based upon input I've received, I am not recommending the proposal for adoption," Crump told the newspaper.

Crump and the nine governor-appointed members of the jail commission say the feedback from Texas sheriffs has been overwhelmingly negative.

A videotape of a September 1996 jail shutdown showed Capital Correctional Resources Inc., guards and Brazoria County deputies using

what officials declare was excessive force against Missouri inmates.

Eight sheriffs and one Texas representative have written jail commissioners to oppose the plan. Jail commission records show another state representative telephoned Crump's office to voice his concerns with the proposal.

Many sheriffs argued in their letters that the proposed regulations are unnecessary and an over-reaction to the Brazoria County videotape.

The videotape shows deputies and CCR employees allowing an attack dog to bite inmates while other

prisoners are hit, kicked, strip-searched, forced to crawl nude along the ground and shocked with a stun gun.

Larry Craig, the commission chairman who initially supported the proposal, said he also changed his mind on the issue.

"Probably, that's going to be history. We've had so many comments from sheriffs across the state," he said.

The FBI is reviewing the alleged attacks, which prompted Missouri prison officials to remove their 415 inmates from Brazoria County in August.

Students continue to welcome shooter's sister

WEST PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) - Kelly Carneal returned to classes for the first time since three students were shot to death and five others were wounded in the lobby of Heath High School - a horrible crime blamed on her younger brother.

Afraid she would be ostracized, she found instead classmates who welcomed her Wednesday with a

remarkable sense of forgiveness.

Principal Bill Bond said one student confided to him that he was uncomfortable being in classes all day with Michael Carneal's 17-year-old sister, a senior who is expected to be the class valedictorian.

"We talked for a long time, and we talked about anger and controlling that anger, and that anger is a natural

thing," Bond said. "There's some anger, yes, but he dealt with it and spent the rest of the day with Kelly. He understood that she's not the person who did this."

Meanwhile, Sheriff Frank Augustus said he had a "gut feeling"

that the 14-year-old suspect, a freshman, didn't act alone in Monday morning's shootings.

"I don't believe this boy planned this out by himself," Augustus said.

Augustus said, however, that he didn't anticipate other arrests.



Stocking fund donation

Hereford Lions Club President Pete Holcombe, left, presented a check for \$500 to the Christmas Stocking Fund during the Lions' weekly luncheon Wednesday. Speedy Nieman, Hereford Brand publisher, accepted the contribution on behalf of the anonymous CSF committee.

Roofs earn insurance discounts

AUSTIN (AP) - Texas home and property owners could save big on their insurance under a mandatory discount program for property with hail-resistant roofs.

Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer on Wednesday listened to consumers, roofers and insurance companies who said they support the idea. Some who testified proposed changes, which Bomer said he wanted to consider before deciding whether to approve the program.

If enacted, the discounts would apply to roofs installed after Feb. 1, 1998.

There are four classes of hail-resistant roofs. Depending on where homeowners live and the quality of hail-resistant roofs installed, discounts would range from 1 percent to 35 percent of annual premiums.

According to Bomer's department, insurance claims from Texas homeowners in 1996 amounted \$1.3 billion. About \$531 million of that roughly 40 percent—came from damage caused by wind and hail. The majority of that damage was to roofs.

Bomer said he is concerned that some Texans already have replaced damaged roofs with hail-resistant material, like harder asphalt and rubber, but would not get credit for it. He said the department could give insurance companies the option to extend the discounts to those property owners.

John Milem, a Dallas homeowner who's already replaced his roof, told Bomer the program as proposed would be unfair to him and other homeowners who have "done our part by putting hail-resistant roofing on our homes."

"It is clear that something must be done to reduce the losses from hail damage in Texas," Milem said. "It is unfair and unwise to do it in a way which disadvantages those of us who have already done our part toward that goal."

Bomer said he can't require insurers to offer the discounts retroactively. But he said he believes people who already have replaced their roofs with better-quality material should not be slighted.

Another concern is metal roofs. While metal roofing materials have met the standards to be classified as hail-resistant, the department said metal roofs would not be eligible for the discount.

That's because even if a metal roof doesn't rupture, insurers still would have to pay for cosmetic damages, like dents, that lessen the value of a metal-roofed home, department staffers said.

Jerry Johns, an insurance industry spokesman, said one solution would be to require owners of metal-roofed homes to share in the cost of replacing cosmetically damaged roofs in order to get the discounts. Bomer said he would consider that and other options.

Another concern is that hail-resistant roofing material is not widely available in Texas. Bomer said he believes the discount program would drive up demand for such materials and would encourage more roofing manufacturers to develop such products.

"Something has to be done," Bomer said. "Hail is a major, major driver in losses."

He added that in some areas of Texas, the additional \$600 to \$1,000 cost of hail-resistant roofing material would be recovered within a short time because severe hail storms have become more common.

"The priority is to mitigate the loss," he said.

UP's claims fails to convince customers

WASHINGTON (AP) - Union Pacific can't fulfill its promise to break the traffic bottleneck along its 36,000-mile system, customers told key federal regulators.

Executives of the nation's largest railroad on Wednesday asked the Surface Transportation Board not to extend a 30-day emergency order requiring Union Pacific to cooperate with Texas competitors. Union Pacific Chairman Dick Davidson said that while a backlog still exists, rail traffic is fluid and should return to normal by the end of the year.

Railroad customers scoffed at the claims of progress, and many who testified at the day-long hearing predicted the snarl would last through next March. Whether or not lines are "fluid" means nothing to shippers, said Larry L. Thomas of the Society of the Plastics Industry Inc.

"The key measure to customers is whether or not our products are being delivered on time," he said.

Linda Morgan, chairwoman of the

Surface Transportation Board, sounded skeptical as well: "We are hearing from users of the system that the situation is not resolved, and the board cannot ignore those comments. Are they all wrong?"

Morgan said the board would rule sometime Thursday.

Davidson brought along a veteran Union Pacific locomotive engineer to tell the regulatory board how gridlock has improved.

"I'd go to work knowing that I would have any where between a 12- and 16-hour day ahead of me," said David Martinez, a 22-year employee. "Now I go to work expecting trips between six to eight hours. I'm not exhausted like I was before. It's kind of like a breath of fresh air."

Union Pacific's year-old merger with Southern Pacific created gridlock along the 36,000-mile system that stranded grain harvests, clogged California ports and stalled production at Gulf Coast petrochemical plants, Northwest lumber yards and steel mills. The Surface Transportation Board had warned of further intervention if progress wasn't made by Wednesday.

The railroad said it is keeping up with orders for rail cars in several Midwestern states, where the third-largest corn harvest ever, 9.36 billion bushels, overflowed grain

elevators.

Orders are current in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Union Pacific said, and gridlock is easing along the central corridor that includes Nebraska and Kansas. Coal shipments are back to normal, officials said.

But U.S. Agriculture Department figures show that as of the day before Thanksgiving, at least 93.6 million bushels of grain were on the ground awaiting shipment, the vast majority in states served by Union Pacific. Michael V. Dunn, assistant secretary for marketing and regulatory programs, said grain shipments by Burlington Northern-Santa Fe had also declined - by 17 percent.

"Quite simply, there is a substantial amount of grain on the ground that should have been hauled to market long ago," Dunn said. "By UP/SP's own admission, there are more than 12,000 unfilled car orders from grain customers asking for more equipment to move newly harvested crops."

Union Pacific said reports showing a slowdown in its shipments were skewed by the Thanksgiving holiday, when Union Pacific shut down for 24 hours.

The Texas Railroad Commission, which has been harshly critical of Union Pacific's performance, prodded federal regulators to take more drastic action and force the railroad to divest itself of some 250 miles of track around Houston.

"Union Pacific has continued to insist on a total monopoly in the Texas market, and what we are asking for is free enterprise," said Charles Matthews, the commission's chairman. "Texas simply can't afford any more of this. We've been brutalized."

Union Pacific opposes further government intervention, finding the Railroad Commission proposal particularly objectionable.

"We have the greatest motivation of anybody in this room to fix our problems. We have 53,000 employees whose livelihoods depend on running a good business," Davidson said.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday it will hold hearings on the railroad's safety record. The board is investigating 14 Union Pacific accidents in the past year.

Obituaries

HERMAN L. HENDRIX

Dec. 2, 1997

Herman Lafayette Hendrix, 68, of Amherst, a former Hereford resident, died Tuesday at Lamb Healthcare Center in Littlefield.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday at 2 p.m. (MST) in Portales Cemetery in Portales, N.M., with Rev. Aaron Reed, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amherst, officiating. Arrangements are by Hammons Funeral Home of Littlefield.

Mr. Hendrix was born Dec. 18, 1928, in Caudell, N.M. He married Mardell Donnell on May 15, 1948 at Clovis, N.M. He worked as a mechanic and service manager for Case Tractor for 18 years in Hereford. He lived in Amherst for 13 years and was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mardell, of Amherst; a son, Herman of Tulsa; three sisters, Alice Stowell of Belton, Katherine Martin of Sweetwater and Paula Wier of Tuxedo, Ok.; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Emergency Services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Dec. 3, include the following.

Police Department
--An attempted suicide was investigated in the 600 block of Stanton.

--A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of Irving.

--An unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported.

--A runaway was reported in the 700 block of East Third.

--No accidents were reported.

--Officers issued five traffic citations.

Fire Department
--Fire fighters responded to a grass fire on East Highway 60 at the county line.

LOTTO

By The Associated Press

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

The lotto was worth an estimated \$25 million. If sales continue as expected, the jackpot will rise to an estimated \$33 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 for the latest game were:

1-9-15-19-24-40.

By The Associated Press

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

9-1-0

THE HEREFORD BRAND

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Lifestyles

Lufkin woman turns Christmas project into thriving business

By PAULA METZINGER
Lufkin Daily News

LUFKIN, Texas - Marill Gerth is rolling in dough -- thick, brown, sticky, spicy gingerbread dough.

The Lufkin woman has turned a family Christmas project into a thriving business where the oven never cools down.

Working at a pace that would send Santa's elves into a tailspin, employees at Gingerbread Delights by Marill were preparing enough 10-inch gingerbread boy and girl cookies to populate a city.

And like the gingerbread man in the familiar children's story, these gingerbread creations will run away to the shelves of Neiman Marcus, Dillard's, Nordstrom's and other department stores to add to the enchantment of Christmas in homes across the country.

"It started in Dallas in 1981, with

a gingerbread house on the mini-page of the newspaper. We had always done a birthday cake for Jesus and wanted to make a gingerbread house," Mrs. Gerth said. "I really did start in my kitchen with my family."

The first venture was successful and then came houses made for Girl Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, friends and family.

In 1983 the Gerths moved to Lufkin and she dreamed of starting her own gingerbread house business while working as a dental hygienist at the Lufkin State School.

"I've always known from the first I wanted to do gingerbread houses," she said. "There's no right or wrong. You can do it any way you want and if you think you made a mistake you can wipe it off and start over."

Mrs. Gerth said she would buy gingerbread house kits on the market

and knew she could make a better product.

And being a Texan, and more specifically a Dallas, Texan, she dreamed of marketing her gingerbread houses to Neiman-Marcus.

"I called (Neiman's) and said 'I have something I really want to show you'," she said.

The woman at Neiman's said just send us one, Mrs. Gerth said.

"Well, I just decided I would make one and take it to them and then they would have to see me. They just said leave it and we will call you. But that didn't dampen my spirits," she said.

She left the kit at Neiman's and came back to Lufkin to wait for a call.

Neiman's did call, but they wanted the houses assembled. Mrs. Gerth said she wasn't sure she could ship

(See PROJECT, Page 4)



Admiring the artwork

Handcrafted items like this gingerbread man ornament, butterfly pillow, snowman and angel will be offered during the Wesley United Methodist Church Arts and Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in the Hereford Community Center. More than 35 artists are scheduled to have booths. The Women of Wesley will have baked goods for sale. They will also serve lunch from a menu of chili, stew and baked potatoes with trimmings. Checking out these items are Christina Dominguez, left, and Nora Guerrero.

Woman of Year sought

The Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Woman of the Year.

The Women of the Year award recognizes an individual who has actively contributed to the community on behalf of the Women's Division and the Chamber of Commerce during the past year.

Persons submitting a nominee need not be a member of the Women's Division. Nominations should be in writing, giving qualifications and reasons why the person named should be considered. The letter does not have to be signed.

Nominations for Woman of the Year will be open until Dec. 15. They may be mailed to the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 192, Hereford, or they will be accepted at the office, 701 N. Main Street.

Tour of Homes set for Sunday

The annual Holiday Tour of Homes sponsored by La Madre Mia Study Club will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Featured on this year's tour are the homes of Robert and Camille Beville, 313 Sunset; Steve and Tonja Horrell, 218 Texas; and Mitch and Jan Reeve, 1919 Plains.

Tickets are \$5 each. They are available from La Madre Study Club members or at any of the homes on the day of the tour.



The word "dime" comes from the Latin word decimus meaning "tenth."

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Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 1997. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington said farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

On this date:
In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Wilson set sail for France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, President Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S.

participation in the United Nations.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a ceremony believed to have cost more than \$100 million. Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died in November 1996 at age 75.

In 1980, the bodies of four American nuns slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed. Five national guardsmen were later convicted of murder.

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity.

Ten years ago: Cuban inmates at a federal prison in Atlanta freed their 89 hostages, peacefully ending an 11-day uprising. The agreement provided for a nationwide moratorium on deportations of Mariel detainees.

Five years ago: President Bush ordered American troops to lead a

mercy mission to Somalia, threatening military action against warlords and gangs who were blocking food for starving millions.

One year ago: The Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward Mars on a 310 million-mile odyssey to explore the planet's surface.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 76. Game show host Wink Martindale is 63. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 60. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 55. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 49. Actor Jeff Bridges is 48. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 46. Actress Patricia Wettig is 46. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 42. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 38. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 35. Actress Marisa Tomei is 33. Actress Chelsea Noble is 33. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 24. Country singer Lila McCann is 16.

Thought for Today: "Beauty is the promise of happiness." - Stendahl Henri Beyle, French author and critic (1783-1842).

Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: Recently, my husband and I purchased a new queen-size bed along with very expensive sheets. I began to price comforters and found them way beyond our means at this point.

Until now, we have slept in two twin-size beds pushed together, ones that we each brought with us from home when we married. As a wedding gift, we received matching bedding, including two lovely twin-size comforters.

I got out my sewing machine and made 27 buttonholes in the edge of one and attached an equal number of buttons along the edge of the other. The comforter now drapes to the floor, so neither my husband nor I can complain that the other is hogging all the blankets. And to launder this huge blanket, I need only

unbutton. Also, if ever I need to have two comforters again, they are not ruined for separate purposes! — Lara MacPherson, Saint Thomas, Ontario, Canada

POKING UNDERWIRE
Dear Heloise: How does one keep bra stays from poking through and gouging a person? — Linda in Lubbock, Texas

Ouch! It does hurt, doesn't it! The best way to keep the wire from poking through is to make sure you are wearing the correct size bra. If it is too small, this may be causing the problem.

How do you know if the bra is too small? If the elastic rolls up, you're wearing the bra hooked on the loosest setting or there are pull marks on your skin, then it's time to try a

larger size or different style. Also, when laundering, be sure to follow care label instructions. Always fasten the hooks on the tightest setting.

If the bra is the proper size and you are washing it correctly, it may be a sewing defect. If this problem is occurring, especially with the same-brand bras, you may want to contact the manufacturer and/or switch brands.

Don't hang on to an old, worn-out, stretched-out bra! It doesn't fit, is uncomfortable and you deserve better! — Heloise

Send a money- or time-saving hint to Heloise, PO Box 796000, San Antonio TX 78279-6000 or fax it to 210-HELOISE. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

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4. Check and clean burners and adjust air mixture.
5. Check heat exchanger for cracks.
6. Check Gas valve and lines for leaks and adjust pilot light for energy efficient.
7. Check return air to heater and change out air filter.
8. Oil and check blower motor.

We will mount your Carbon Monoxide detector at this time.

Randy and Rachel Williams

Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday!

Please call and leave a message on recorder and we will get back in touch with you to set up an appointment.

Any time between 10:00 am. to 8:00 pm.

Monday thru Saturday

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Area Events

AMARILLO



TYLER TETERS

For the first time since its program began in 1989, Amarillo Boy Choirs are pleased to have a member from Hereford, according to Jerry Perales, director. Tyler Teters, son of John

and Cora Teters and a sixth grade student at Nazarene Christian Academy, is a member of the Concert Boy Choir.

He and 82 other boys will sing the joys of Christmas at the annual "Sounds of the Season" concert to be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 in Amarillo's First Christian Church, located at 3001 Wolflin.

The Preparatory and Concert Boy Choirs will perform a variety of traditional and modern Christmas selections, ranging from Franz Gruber's "Silent Night" to "A Holly Jolly Holiday" by Johnny Marks and Hillary Kinsale.

The 12-year-old from Hereford will perform two solos, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" and "Silent Night."

Special guests on the program this year will be the 68-voice Seventh Grade Girls Choir from Westover Park Intermediate School of Canyon Independent School District.

There will be no admission charge, but donations will be accepted. Tickets for the event are being

distributed by choir members as part of a contest to see which boys can be represented by the most people attending.

Everyone is invited to a dessert reception which will follow.

PAMPA

Everyone who enjoys singing -- or listening to singing -- is invited to be part of the "Sing-Along MESSIAH" set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 in the First United Methodist Church of Pampa. Pampa Fine Arts Association is sponsoring the sing-along.

There is no admission charge and no rehearsal. Panhandle residents are welcome to come listen to -- or SING -- the music from the popular Christmas oratorio, THE MESSIAH.

A reception provided by the church will follow the evening of music.

The First United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Foster and Ballard, across from the Post Office.

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I applaud you for addressing the issue of child abuse in your column, but you have not written about young girls being sexually abused by their brothers. I am sure a certain amount of "playing doctor" leaves no permanent damage, but what I am talking about is actual sexual abuse.

I was the victim of sexual abuse by not just one but two brothers. Now, at age 66, I still bear emotional scars from which I have never fully recovered. We were considered a respectable family, but my childhood was spent feeling worthless and ashamed. When I asked my mother for help, she blamed me and called me names I couldn't understand. My father was a kind and caring man, and I'm sure he would have helped me, but I didn't ask him because I was too afraid of my mother. I didn't know I could find help outside the home.

Please spotlight sexual abuse by brothers against their sisters and vice versa. Let the victims know that if they can't get help within the family, there are others who will listen and help them. Assure them they have done nothing wrong and should not feel ashamed. -- No Name, No Initials, From Your Home State of Iowa

Dear Iowa: Children who have

been sexually abused often try to abuse other children. An alert teacher can spot these young people, and when they do, they should make an effort to get them into counseling.

It is not easy to broach the subject with a parent (there may be vehement denials), but it is well worth the effort. Consider it an act of compassion and courage.

Dear Ann Landers: This item appeared in the want-ad section of the Kalamazoo Gazette. Here it is verbatim:

"Burmese Python -- Just over 5 feet long, with cage, heat rack, good with kids and adults. One year old. Price \$100."

What goes on over there in Michigan? Is it something they put in the water? Who in his right mind would want a snake for a pet? -- Grossed Out in Windsor, Ontario

Dear Ontario: Pythons are not poisonous. They kill their prey by encircling and crushing it. I have friends in New York who had a pet python, and they were crazy about it. They took "Herman" out of his cage periodically and gave him the run of the house. Be aware, however, that a python should never be left unobserved especially with small children or pets. The results could be disastrous.

Dear Ann Landers: May I respond to "The Other Woman and Not Ashamed"? I was once in her shoes, feeling sorry for an attractive, trapped married man. I made the mistake of encouraging him to divorce his wife and marry me. After 15 years, during which I helped him raise the children he had with his first wife, I learned he was running around on me. He finally left me for another woman.

I have just one question for "The Other Woman" because I have been asking it of myself: Why do you think he is attractive and wonderful when you know he is running around on his wife? And why does he blame his wife for the lousy marriage when she is at home with the children and he is out with you, cheating on her? The really wonderful married men are at home, enjoying their wives and children. They are not sneaking around with dummies like you -- and me, I might add. -- Been There, Done That in Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Jacksonville: It took courage to write that letter, and I thank you for it. I'm sure you opened a lot of eyes today and possibly put the dead hand on several illicit romances. Congratulations.

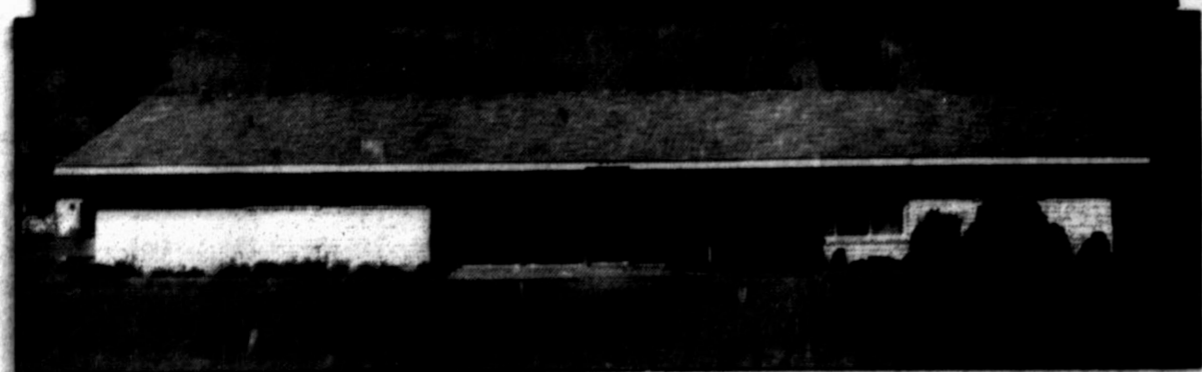
ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1997 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



Investiture and bridging

Junior Girl Scout Troop 282 bridged to Cadette level recently. The Cadette level opens up new, wider horizons with more opportunities for travel, friendships and experiences. Bridging to Cadette were, from left, Jessica Ripley, Danelle Haws, Angela Tickle, Stephanie Henson, Jennifer Lee, Clarissa Zamora and Jamie Lyons. In other ceremonies, Penny Martin and Marisela Cadena were invested into Troop 283 and Connie Martin was pinned as assistant leader to JoNell Lyons.

Doctor's Office Available



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Dr. Charles Hennessey is relocating to Amarillo and Dr. Bartlett closed his office. Total Office Space available. Recently remodeled, 7 examining rooms, reception area, 3 large offices, 2 reception offices, right across the street from the hospital. No long time lease needed, can be occupied immediately! Complete building space. 2,702 sq. ft. For more information, contact....

PROJECT

the finished product and asked for a summer to work on the shipping problem.

The summer of 1995, gingerbread houses left Lufkin and arrived in Dallas with varying problems.

They would call and say the icing fell off or the roof was broken, she said.

Finally, using double boxing, the product arrived in Dallas safe and sound and Gingerbread Delights by Marill had its first contract.

Not only for the houses, they also wanted a line of cookies, she said.

Mrs. Gerth and her elves, otherwise known as family, friends and friends of friends, started mixing and baking to fill Neiman's order.

Working out of borrowed space after regular hours in a local bakery and in her own home they managed to meet the order of the famous department store.

This year the company has moved out of borrowed space to its own building furnished with equipment purchased from a salvage company.

Customers have also expanded and the cookies are featured in Dillard's Christmas catalog and are marketed through Gourmet Food Products. Locally, Gingerbread Delight cookies are sold at "The Very Thing" and in Nacogdoches at "The Cottage" and "Coffee with Style at Schmidt's."

On a recent day workers were mixing, baking, icing, packing and loading boxes while a delivery truck waited in the drive. And the smell of freshly-baked gingerbread filled the air.

All around, stacked on top of one another and on stainless steel cooling racks were silver cookie sheets filled with gingerbread cookies in the shape

of boys, girls, snowflakes, Santas, angels and snowmen. There was a "morgue" filled with pieces of cookies that didn't make it and a "hospital" tray filled with cookies that needed to be re-decorated.

In the tiny office at Gingerbread Delights a subdivision of gingerbread houses filled a table top. The Texas house had a Texas-shaped door while the traditional Christmas house featured a door shaped like a Christmas tree. There was also a Black Forest Chocal, Noah's Ark, complete with animals and Mr. and Mrs. Noah and a nativity. All styles were fringed with white icing and decorated with assorted candies.

Workers at Gingerbread Delights

include friends and friends of friends who come in to deliver lunch and end up staying until an order is filled.

And most of the people mixing and icing and packing have full-time jobs and come to the bakery after hours.

Mrs. Gerth has also kept her job at the state school.

"I basically have two full-time jobs," she said. "It's wonderful to see the company come together and gel because of a dream."

And visions of gingerbread still dance in her head.

"I really believe this will be a Fortune 500 company some day," she said.

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Sports

On the Sidelines

NHL

Wednesday's Games
 Buffalo 4, Anaheim 0
 Boston 3, Philadelphia 0
 Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
 Montreal 2, Los Angeles 0
 Tampa Bay 2, Phoenix 1
 Dallas 4, Edmonton 1
 Detroit 4, Calgary 3

Thursday's Games
 New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Ottawa, 8:30 p.m.
 Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
 Toronto at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
 San Jose at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

NBA

Wednesday's Games
 Chicago 97, Boston 87
 Seattle 93, New Jersey 89
 Miami 94, Philadelphia 90
 Indiana 94, Minnesota 90
 L.A. Lakers 107, Denver 89
 Detroit 108, Phoenix 100, 3 OT
 Utah 115, Toronto 98
 Orlando 101, Vancouver 97
 Cleveland 95, Golden State 67

Thursday's Games
 Sacramento at Washington, 8 p.m.
 Charlotte at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
 New York at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
 Atlanta at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
 San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

NCAA Basketball

EAST
 Connecticut 88, West Virginia 75
 Drexel 65, Delaware 63
 Hofstra 64, Towson 56
 Holy Cross 63, Dartmouth 62
 Iowa 90, St. Peter's 72
 Md.-Baltimore County 87, Washington, Md. 79
 New Hampshire 75, Vermont 68
 Penn 75, Lehigh 73
 Princeton 63, N.C.-Wilmington 50
 Rhode Island 75, Brown 57
 Syracuse 80, St. John's 73
 Villanova 73, Georgetown 69

SOUTH
 Alabama 81, Texas A&M 64
 Cent. Florida 73, Winthrop 68
 Citadel 79, Charleston Southern 69
 Coastal Carolina 68, Mercer 63
 DePaul 56, Louisiana Tech 54
 Duke 93, UNC-Greensboro 37
 Florida 99, Duquesne 66
 James Madison 89, Morgan St. 79
 N.C. Charlotte 72, Old Dominion 44
 N.C.-Asheville 84, E. Tennessee St. 61
 S. Carolina St. 83, N. Carolina A&T 72
 SE Louisiana 82, Loyola, NO 53
 South Florida 81, St. Francis, NY 66
 W. Kentucky 58, Butler 49
 Wake Forest 81, Davidson 66
 William & Mary 80, Furman 57

MIDWEST
 Cincinnati 90, Alcorn St. 76
 Creighton 67, Grambling St. 51
 Detroit 73, Bowling Green 52
 Fairleigh Dickinson 75, Youngstown St. 69

FAR WEST
 Arizona St. 87, N. Arizona 76
 Boise St. 85, Idaho St. 68
 Cal Poly-SLO 117, UC Santa Cruz 71
 Denver 76, Loyola, Ill. 67
 Idaho 70, W. Montana 54
 Loyola Marymount 81, UC Santa Barbara 68

SOUTHWEST
 Baylor 73, Arkansas St. 68
 Texas 78, American U. 62
 Texas Christian 138, Delaware St. 75
 Texas Tech 80, George Washington 57

IN BRIEF

Brown to coach UT?

AUSTIN (AP) -- North Carolina's Mack Brown is the antithesis of former Texas coach John Mackovic.

An announcement that Brown will succeed Mackovic, who was fired and reassigned after going 4-7, is expected no later than Saturday, a source told The Associated Press Wednesday night.

"Mack Brown has committed to come to Texas. Everyone's ecstatic," the source said.

Brown, whose seventh-ranked Tar Heels are a candidate for an Alliance Bowl berth, was interviewed by Texas officials on Wednesday and was offered the job later in the day, the source said.

JV downs Dimmitt

Fru. staff reports
DIMITT -- The Hereford Whitefaces defeated the Dimmitt Bobcats 54-31 in boys junior varsity basketball action Tuesday.

Freshman Slade Hodges led three Hereford players in double figures with 18 points. Sophomore L.J. Vallejo added 16 points for the Whitefaces and Chase Rives had 10 points.

Hereford will play in a junior varsity tournament in Amarillo beginning today. The tournament will conclude Saturday.

Sports calendar

Thursday
Basketball
 Hereford girls, varsity, vs. El Paso Montwood at Concho River Classic, 4:30 p.m.
 Hereford girls, junior varsity, at Muleshoe tournament, TBA.
 Hereford boys, varsity, vs. El Paso High at Plainview Lions Club Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
 Hereford boys, junior varsity, at Amarillo tournament, TBA.

Ags don't want respect

COLLEGE STATION (AP) -- The Texas A&M Aggies aren't concerned about gaining respect when they play No. 2 Nebraska in Saturday's Big 12 championship game.

They figure they've lost that battle already.

"A lot of people don't like A&M, so if we won, they'd say Nebraska had a bad day," offensive tackle Chris Ruhman said. "In all honesty, people would probably call it a fluke."

That's probably what Nebraska

fans call last year's defeat in the Big 12 title game, when underdog Texas won 37-27.

The Aggies are 16-point underdogs for Saturday's game in San Antonio's Alamodome. But they don't really care if their victory would be labeled an upset.

"No one in the country thinks we can win and that's fine with me," Ruhman said. "We'll try to go out and surprise some people. I just want to be able to walk away from that game and say I gave it my all."

The Aggies are in the title game one year after a disheartening 6-6 finish in their first season in the Big 12. But maturity and improved offense helped A&M go 9-2 overall and 6-2 in conference play to win the South Division.

"At the beginning of the year, no one gave us credit or a chance to win the South Division," safety Rich Coody said. "Now we've won the South and have a chance to win the

Please see RESPECT, page 6

Horns' Williams wins Big 12 offensive honor

AUSTIN (AP) -- Texas running back Ricky Williams takes pride in being unconventional, from his dreadlocks and nose ring to his pierced tongue.

A soft-spoken, approachable San Diego native who frowns on trash talking, Williams is not even on scholarship.

That's because Major League

Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies have paid Williams' way at Texas ever since drafting him in the eighth round of the amateur draft in the spring of 1995.

He spent the last three seasons earning roughly \$1,300 per month playing outfield for the Phillies.

Please see WILLIAMS, page 6

ON THE ROAD

Whitefaces travel to Plainview tournament

By BOB VARMETTE
 Sports Writer

The Hereford Whitefaces are looking to find out how they stack up in West Texas basketball.

They'll find out beginning today. Hereford (0-4) will play in the Plainview Lions Club Tournament beginning today and running through Saturday. The Whitefaces will meet El Paso High at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon in their first-round game.

"It's going to be a tough tournament," Hereford head coach Randy Dean said. "They always have real good teams. It's a good measuring stick of where we are."

The tournament's high school bracket will have seven teams. After the Whitefaces and the Tigers tangle

Please see WHITEFACES, page 6



Photo by Julius Bodner

Hereford's Bryant McNutt goes to the basket Tuesday night against Dimmitt. McNutt had 22 points, but the Bobcats defeated the Whitefaces, 64-56.

Girls head south to look for consistency

By BOB VARMETTE
 Sports Writer

Consistency. That's what Hereford Lady Whiteface head coach Eddie Fortenberry wants to see as they get ready for the District 1-4A basketball season, which gets under way Tuesday when they host Canyon.

Consistency will be the emphasis for Hereford (6-1) when they travel to San Angelo to play in the Concho River Classic beginning today. The three-day tournament will conclude Saturday afternoon.

"We have to have consistency now," Fortenberry said. "We have to start getting consistent play. We knew that would be slow."

Hereford will play El Paso Montwood at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon in the first round of the 16-team tournament.

Fortenberry said he believes his team is further along this year than they were at the same point in the 1996-97 season. He now wants the Lady Whitefaces to concentrate on the minor problems.

"Game adjustments are a lot different than practice adjust-

ments," Fortenberry said. "In practice, you can stop and work on things. We won't be able to go into the hotel lobby and do that.

... On the floor, you have to do it fast. This will be good to figure out the little things we're doing wrong."

Hereford will look to improve in three areas, according to Fortenberry.

"We've turned the ball over a lot. We need to cut the turnovers. We have to do a better job of defensive rebounding. And third, we need to work on free throw shooting," Fortenberry said.

But Fortenberry reiterated he is pleased with the progress the Lady Whitefaces have made on the young season.

"We haven't had to reteach anything," he said. "We've picked up where we left off last year. We just have to polish it."

"And our conditioning is better," he added. "We're a better conditioned team than we were last year at this time. That certainly helps."

As far as injuries go, Hereford

Please see GIRLS, page 6



Photo by Julius Bodner

Hereford's Julie Rampley battles with Dimmitt's Amber Matthews as she attempts a shot Tuesday night during a non-district game at Kenneth Cleveland Gymnasium in Dimmitt. Looking on from behind is Lady Whiteface player Briar Baker. Rampley scored 15 points as the Lady Whitefaces won, 60-42.

Cowboys hope to stay alive in chase against Carolina

IRVING (AP) -- The Dallas Cowboys keep getting second and third chances. They figure Monday night against Carolina will be their last chance to stay alive in the NFL playoffs.

The Cowboys were headed for the NFC East's boot hill after a 27-14 loss to the Tennessee Oilers on Thanksgiving Day plunged them to a 6-7 record, the worst since the 1990 season.

Then came their sweet Sunday in which the New York Giants and Washington Redskins both lost. The Giants are now 7-5-1, while the Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles are 6-6-1.

"The NFC East is getting to be like the old NFC Central," said offensive tackle Nate Newton. "You don't know what's going to be there at the end of the year."

The Cowboys have won five consecutive NFC East titles.

"This league can't survive without the Cowboys," Newton said. "We need to be in the drama somewhere. We've tried to give this thing to the Giants and Redskins, but they don't want it. So, we'll take another chance against Carolina and see if we want it."

Defensive tackle Tony Casillas said the Cowboys are getting the feeling that 1997 might still be their year.

"The teams that are in position either don't know what to do with it, or don't want it," Casillas said. "Obviously, something is pointing in our direction as far as going and still having a chance to be in it after what has happened."

Wide receiver Michael Irvin said it's amazing the Cowboys are still in the playoff picture after they've played so poorly.

"You can call it a blessing or a punishment, whichever way you're

looking at it, we've still got a shot," Irvin said. "I was praying for Washington and New York to win it to put me out of my misery. I don't really want to sit here and say, 'What if, what if, what if.' That's a serious way to go through the next few weeks."

Irvin said the Cowboys are due some luck.

"I'm convinced we can make the playoffs," he said. "I think we've just got to come together. The offense has to step up and pull its weight."

The Cowboys face a task they haven't accomplished all year: winning three consecutive games.

"The rule of thumb says if you haven't done it yet, what makes you think you can do it now?" Irvin said. "But it's as realistic as we make it. It's just a matter of us getting it done."

Stars down Oilers

DALLAS (AP) -- The Dallas Stars have been cruising along with the best record in the NHL over the first third of the season. Now they must handle some bumps in the road after losing league-leading scorer Mike Modano for the next four to six weeks with a knee injury.

Modano suffered a Grade 3 tear of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee on a first-period hit from defenseman Bryan Marchment, but the Stars regrouped to beat the Edmonton Oilers 4-1 Wednesday night.

"It's difficult, but all teams go through this," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We'll miss him. We'll find out if the team can absorb this. That's the challenge."

Modano was hit on the right knee by the hip of Marchment on a hard check along the boards with 11:02 left in the first. Modano crumpled to the ice and was helped to the locker room. Stars medical personnel said Modano, who started the night with 15 goals and 23 assists for 38 points, would not need surgery.

Hitchcock also said left wing Benoit Hogue will be out for seven to 10 days with a hairline ankle fracture.

"You hate to lose key guys like that, but this team has faced adversity time and time again," Stars center Joe Nieuwendyk said. "Our game is not going to change. We get our offense from our defense and that will stay the same."

Referee Mark Faucette gave Marchment a five-minute major for kneeling and a game misconduct, although it did not appear that Marchment intentionally tried to injure Modano.

Edmonton coach Ron Low disagreed with the call, saying Marchment hit Modano with his hip, not his knee.

"Modano was trying to jump out of the hit and ran into Bryan's hip," Low said. "It's just a shame for Modano because you don't want to see anybody hurt. But it was a clean hit."

The Stars were expecting a physical game from the Oilers, and that's what they got as 93 minutes in penalties were called.

"I was proud of our club," Hitchcock said. "We've watched Edmonton play the last three games and there were a lot of undisciplined penalties, a lot of mean-spirited play. We had to be ready for it."

Girls

hasn't had any major ones. Fortenberry said. He said senior Julie Rampley was a little banged up from the volleyball season, but the only thing they've had to battle so far is a 24- to 48-hour flu bug.

"It's really been good," Fortenberry said. "That's a credit to their conditioning."

The Concho River Classic will provide the Lady Whitefaces with a tough test. In the bottom half of the bracket, where Hereford is located, are two playoff teams from the 1996-97 season -- Plainview and Midland High.

"Our bracket is loaded," Fortenberry said. "Plainview and Midland are two tough teams in our bracket right off the bat."

In other first-round games, host San Angelo Central will play Class 3A Brady in the top of half of the bracket at 7:30 p.m. tonight. El Paso Andress will play the only other District 1-4A team to make the trip to San Angelo, Amarillo Caprock, in a first-round game at 3 p.m. this afternoon.

El Paso Socorro will take on Lubbock Estacado at 6 p.m. and Denton Ryan will play Killeen Ellison at 7:30 p.m. in other games in the top half of the bracket.

Plainview meets El Paso Irvin at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon in the bottom half of the bracket, and San Angelo

Lake View will tip off against Sonora at 6 p.m. tonight. The bottom half of the bracket will also see Midland High play Arlington Heights at 3 p.m. this afternoon.

Two gymnasiums will be utilized during the three-day tournament. El Paso Montwood is pretty much a mystery to Fortenberry.

"We're clueless," he said. "It's hard to find out things about El Paso teams. That's not to say coaches up here don't do our jobs in preparing... but they (El Paso coaches) stick together. They won't tell you anything about each other."

Fortenberry said he expects Montwood to be small and quick, and that they will try to use their quickness to move the ball up the court.

"It's going to be a running game. We just can't let it turn into a sloppy running game. That's how it usually is against El Paso schools," Fortenberry said.

Another important thing to Fortenberry is team cohesiveness.

"Tournaments are a great time for team bonding," he said. "We want there to be some fun things at tournaments. It helps a bunch in getting to know each other and getting along with each other."

After all, you're going to be spending a lot of time with each other in a motel room."

Tech routs Colonials for 1st win

LUBBOCK (AP) -- Cory Carr scored 25 points, leading Texas Tech to an 80-57 victory over George Washington on Wednesday night, its first win after three losses.

The Red Raiders went on a 21-7 run at the start of the second half to open up a 59-42 lead. Carr began the scoring with four consecutive points and Rayford Young and Stan Bonewitz added six points each.

Yegor Mescheriakov led George Washington (5-2) with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

George Washington's 7-foot-1 center Alexander Koul, who came into the game as the Colonials' leading scorer at 14.3 points per game, was held to two points and three rebounds.

Tech built a 10-point lead in the first half on the strength of a 21-9 run. Reserve guard Archie Myers scored eight of his 11 points during the stretch, on 3-of-5 shooting.

Tech outrebounded the taller Colonials 38-32, the first time this season the Red Raiders won the boards.

The Red Raiders led 31-21 after two Bonewitz free throws at the 5:37 mark of the first half, but George Washington outscored Tech 14-7 to close out the half.

Francisco de Miranda, who was 3-of-3 in the first half, scored back-to-back baskets to pull the Colonials to within 38-35 at intermission.

For Tech, Young finished with 15 points, center Cliff Owens with 12 points and 8 rebounds, and Bonewitz with 12 points.

Mescheriakov was the Colonials' only player in double digits.

Respect

Big 12 championship."

Coach R.C. Slocum realizes his Aggies aren't as respected as the Cornhuskers. He sees the game as a chance to earn some recognition.

"We're playing the No. 2 team in the country," Slocum said. "They made Washington look bad early in the season and Washington is a good team."

Brandon Stewart, whose improved play at quarterback helped the Aggie turnaround, has seen his team discredited before.

"I can understand why people would discredit us playing Nebraska," Stewart said. "Two years ago, they discredited us in the Alamo Bowl with Michigan (the Aggies won, 22-20). From my standpoint, I feel we are capable of giving ourselves a chance to win."

Although the Cornhuskers are almost always capable of running away with the game, the Aggies believe they've learned a lesson from last year's humiliation of losing 51-15 to the Longhorns.

"I've never thought they (Nebraska) would blow us out," Ruhman said. "After last year with Texas, we're not going to get blown out again like that."

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Warriors terminate Sprewell

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- Latrell Sprewell had his \$32 million contract terminated by the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night in a bold and unprecedented reaction to the player's attack on coach P.J. Carlesimo.

The termination was made official in a letter to Sprewell from general manager Garry St. Jean.

"This was a unanimous decision by the Warriors organization that involves a clear matter of right and wrong," St. Jean said.

"There is no issue to compromise. Outrageous misconduct by players in professional sports has been tolerated

for too long. We are drawing the line. Some things are more important than winning or losing games."

The Warriors made the announcement immediately following their 95-67 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"This is the correct, moral and ethical thing to do," St. Jean said at a hastily called news conference.

Sprewell's agent, Arm Tellem, could not immediately be reached for comment. Bill Hunter, director of the players union, said a grievance would be filed.

It was the first time in NBA history a player has had his contract terminated for insubordination.

Whitefaces

in the 4:30 p.m. game, Lubbock Estacado and Andrews will tip off at 6 p.m. followed by Dimmitt and Canyon at 7:30 p.m.

Host Plainview will receive a first-round bye. They will play the winner of the Hereford-El Paso High game 8 p.m. Friday.

Dean said the good thing about a tournament is the experience it provides.

"We're getting three games out of it," he said. "Right now, we need as many on-court experiences as we can get our guys on the floor. We need to learn from the things we see and come across."

Inexperience has plagued the Whitefaces.

Hereford has dropped their four games so far this season, but have been in three of the four. Only Estacado has blown out the Whitefaces. The Matadors won 84-52 Nov. 25 in Lubbock.

Hereford dropped a four-point

decision to Tulia in their opener Nov. 18, 50-46. On Nov. 21, Class 5A San Angelo scratched the Whitefaces, 66-55.

Hereford lost another close one, to Class 3A Dimmitt Tuesday night in Dimmitt. The Whitefaced held a 45-41 lead early in the first quarter, but the Bobcats rallied, capitalizing on 12-for-17 free throw shooting in the last three minutes of the game to win 64-56. Hereford was 3-for-6 during the same time span.

The Whitefaces' first-round opponent is somewhat of an unknown commodity. Wednesday afternoon Dean said he was still trying to make phone calls to gather information on the Tigers.

But he is expecting them to be quick.

"I understand they're a full-court team. They like to press, and push the ball up the floor offensively," Dean said.

Williams

rookie league club in Martinsville, Va., and with the Class A Piedmont Boll Weevils.

He received a \$70,000 signing bonus in addition to the money that the Phillies put into a trust for his education at Texas.

But Williams' love affair with baseball appears to be on the wane after a season in which he ran for 200 yards a school-record six times and became the nation's leading rusher and scorer while piling up 1,893 yards and 25 touchdowns as well as a two-point conversion (13.8 points per game).

For his efforts, Williams has been named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year by The Associated Press.

The last player to lead the nation in rushing and scoring was Colorado's Rashaan Salaam in 1994, the year Salaam won the Heisman Trophy.

Williams easily shattered 1977 Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell's single-season rushing record of 1,744 yards, and he would be poised to break Campbell's all-time rushing yardage mark (4,443) if Williams decided to return for his senior season.

Among the only bright spots on a 4-7 Texas team, Williams helped bail out a struggling pass offense by carrying the ball a school-record 279 times, or roughly 25

times per game.

He averaged 6.8 yards per carry and 172.1 yards per game. He had a school-record 25 rushing TDs as well as eight 100-yard games.

Thanks to a thickly muscled, 220-pound frame and a powerful stiff-arm, Williams, who has been nicknamed "Little Earl" because of his similarities to Campbell, picked up 1,113 yards after contact this year.

"As far as what I did, I'm satisfied, although I thought I would have a chance at 2,000 yards," Williams said. "But as far as the team, I am really upset because I thought we had a chance to win a lot more games."

Williams said breaking all of Campbell's records wouldn't mean as much to him as NCAA records. "No matter what I do I will always be 'Little Earl' and this will be Earl Campbell's school," Williams said. "That's fine, because I'm not even from Texas."

Big 12 competitors would probably would like to see him go to the NFL.

"It hurts to tackle him," said Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons. "When you tackle Ricky Williams, you better have your brother, your sister and everybody else along with you when you try to pull him down."

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Reno wasn't always reviled by GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) - Attorney General Janet Reno said long ago that she'd be damned if she did and damned if she didn't. She didn't and she was, by Republicans - who used to be her fans, and who once blocked the special prosecutor law she decided not to invoke against President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

The lines were predictable. She said no, that there weren't grounds in the law to put an independent counsel on the case of fund-raising telephone calls by Clinton and Gore. They said she was catering to her boss, and called it a conflict of interest. Rep. Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the case "fuels a crisis of confidence," circling the wagons around the president.

"I know she has a reputation of independence but she has a reputation, at least in my mind, for inconsistency," Hyde, R-Ill., said. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have been models of consistency in all this, not in their campaign money conduct, and not in the way they've dealt with the law or the results of independent counsel cases over the past two decades.

Reno has used the independent counsel law to have outside prosecutors in six cases involving administration officials, more than any attorney general before her. By her strict - her critics say too narrow - interpretation, an independent counsel is not warranted by what Justice Department investigators learned about the telephone calls Clinton and Gore made for Democratic dollars for their 1996 campaign.

Ironically, her earlier independent counsel requests had irked Democrats, prompting signals after the 1996 election that the White House wouldn't mind seeing her go. She was not a Clinton insider to begin with, and she came to the Cabinet as his third choice after two prior nominees foundered.

When the anonymous sniping began, there already was controversy over Democratic fund-raising tactics. Reno had a reputation for independence, and Republicans would have erupted had she been replaced.

Soon afterward, though, the GOP pressure began for her to seek an outside counsel. Even before her decision on Tuesday, there had been GOP demands that she resign, even for her impeachment.

She says she is going by the book, requiring specific and credible evidence of a crime by a top official before there's a call for an outside prosecutor.

Conservatives generally want statutes interpreted literally and strictly, such as with federal judges and the laws and the Constitution.

In this situation, though, they want a broader reading. Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said that what the White House wants cast as a narrow legal question should be deemed a broad ethical question.

There are indeed broad, ethical questions about Clinton's fund-raising conduct, and not just telephone calls from the White House to monic-

WALTER R. MEARS

Washington Today

Democrats. His party took illegal contributions and has had to return them. Clinton tied supposedly independent advertising by the Democratic Party tightly to his re-election campaign. Bob Dole did the same thing with Republican Party ads, and said so.

"But that doesn't excuse President Clinton," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. Besides, he said, Dole didn't raise money in the Oval Office. Which went without saying, since he lost.

Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., said his campaign finance hearings produced "an unprecedented array of accusations," more than enough to warrant an independent counsel. The hearings faltered to an end this fall. A House investigation is still on, but without much impact so far.

Open, public hearings into abuses in campaign fund-raising would seem the more likely to stir change than the secretive proceedings of a prosecutor. But Republicans said the Democrats balked and blocked the kind of investigations that might have done so.

Then again, it was their turn. In another day, Republicans defended their own too. After a special prosecutor spent six years on the Iran-Contra arms and money case against a GOP administration, producing a Cabinet indictment and a memo that hurt George Bush just before he lost the 1992 election to Clinton, Republicans blocked a renewal of the independent counsel law.

Before he left office, Bush pardoned six Iran-Contra defendants in the case. Hatch was among those who said he should.

Ironically, Clinton and Reno urged renewal of the law, finally reinstated in mid-1994.

After Reno's decision on the fund-raising case, Hatch said she had changed her standards, recalling the appointment of the Whitewater special prosecutor. Back then, he said, she held that the appearance of a conflict of interest warranted an independent counsel.

But back then, the law had lapsed because of GOP opposition. And Clinton, under political pressure and seeking to clear the issue, told Reno to appoint an outside counsel, which she did by naming Robert Fiske, Kenneth Starr, still on the case, took over later that year, after the law was renewed.

Walter R. Mears, vice president and columnist for The Associated Press, has reported on Washington and national politics for more than 30 years.

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Kay Bailey Hutchison, 283 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-5922; e-mail, http://www.senator@hutchison.senate.gov

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JANET JACKSON

LOS ANGELES (AP) - An aspiring singer was ordered never to contact Janet Jackson or come within 100 yards of her and her employees.

Eric Leon Christian, 25, of Baltimore allegedly made harassing phone calls to the entertainer's agents, lawyers and employees at Black Doll Inc., and in letters physically threatened her.

Jackson received a temporary restraining order against Christian last month. A Superior Court commissioner made the order permanent on Wednesday.

"I was finished dealing with Jackson long before she went to court," said Christian, who didn't appear at the hearing. "So I can't contact her, so what? ... Anything that gets me away from the Jacksons will be good for my career."

Christian claims he sent a demo tape to Jackson and portions of his song "On and On and On" turned up in Jackson's song "Together Again" on her latest album "The Velvet Rope."

GEORGE SOROS

NEW YORK (AP) - George Soros took from his riches and gave to a group that helps the poor - the Robin Hood Foundation.

The Hungarian-born financier donated \$4.5 million Wednesday to the New York City foundation, which helps 95 local charities.

"I can recognize a good organization when I see it and this is one," said Soros, 67. "Rather than to set up my own organization, if I wanted to set one up I would do it the way they did it."

Soros' fortune is estimated at \$5 billion from trading in currencies and securities. He has committed some \$1.5 billion through his network of foundations in nearly three dozen countries, with much of the money going to promote democracy.

Half of Soros' grant must be matched by the foundation within three years.

The foundation has donated \$53 million over 10 years and expects to give out \$13 million next year. Soros announced his gift at the foundation's annual heroes' breakfast, in which each of three youth group leaders was honored with a \$25,000 check for their organization.

BRETT FAVRE

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - The hoax was no joke to Brett Favre.

KQRS radio station apologized for a hoax that led listeners to believe that the Green Bay Packers quarterback, who is married, was staying in a woman's hotel room.

The station also said it fired the morning show announcer known as Cabe (pronounced CAB'-ee) after he told them Wednesday that an "interview" with the woman was a hoax. Favre was angered by the report.

Cabe pretended to be a room-service employee at a hotel in Minneapolis, where the Packers played the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night. The station broadcast a 20-second exchange between Cabe and a woman who answered the door and said she wasn't Favre's wife and that he was in the shower. Then she slammed the door.

The station said Favre was not in the room and that it learned for the first time Wednesday that the woman was actually Cabe's accomplice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Names in the News

Favre went through drug rehabilitation last year after admitting to a painkiller addiction, but returned to lead his football team to a Super Bowl title last season.

PIERCE BROSNAN

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The latest

actor to play 007 is No. 2,099 on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Pierce Brosnan, who plays James Bond in the upcoming "Tomorrow Never Dies," received a star Wednesday before an adoring crowd.

Brosnan said he remembered strolling on the famed street as a

tourist 16 years ago.

"You look at all the stars, the people. You never figure you're going to end up on the sidewalk with a star," he said. "This is very cool. But above anything else, it's an honor."

FRANK SINATRA

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Frank Sinatra fans can send him birthday wishes the high tech way - on the Internet.

When logged on to www.sinatracenter.com, fans can send messages that will be delivered to him Dec. 12 on his 82nd birthday, spokeswoman Susan Reynolds said Wednesday.

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Glover to star in TNT movie about the 'Buffalo Soldiers'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Danny Glover, who rides shotgun with Mel Gibson as half the "Lethal Weapon" team, has played all-American war heroes, but never with more intensity and pathos than he does in "Buffalo Soldiers."

The saga of black cavalry soldiers in the Old West, which premieres on the TNT cable network at 7 p.m. CST Sunday, has a personal resonance for Glover.

Glover, who is 50, grew up watching Westerns with few black faces.

"There weren't black Westerns," he remarked. "It didn't torture me. I identified with the white faces. It wasn't until I was older that I could synthesize that there weren't black heroes. ... I didn't see the early Sidney Poitier movies until I was in my teens."

One Western with a black hero that Glover did see and viewed several times over the years was "Sergeant Rutledge," a 1960 John Ford film that starred Woody

Strode as a 9th Cavalry soldier unjustly accused of rape.

Now, as star and executive producer, Glover presents a robust movie that shows the whole spectrum of pride and prejudice faced by the soldiers of the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments. They were the Buffalo Soldiers who helped clear the way West for the rest of America.

The story of black cavalry regiments formed in the aftermath of the Civil War makes for drama that transcends the traditional shoot 'em up of genre Westerns. The story of "Buffalo Soldiers" shows that taming the West meant sweeping native people out of the way by any means necessary.

"Our aim is not to glamorize what happened," said Charles Haid, the director. "We simply want to tell this story and let the people draw their own conclusions."

Black soldiers policed the West, fought Apaches,

protected settlers and patrolled the U.S.-Mexican border. And they served, fought and died in an Army that would remain segregated until President Harry Truman dissolved color lines in the military after World War II.

For Glover, getting "Buffalo Soldiers" made became a personal mission to tell the story of the contribution of black soldiers in building America.

"The choices I make are connected to what I consider to be important," Glover said in an interview. "Like 'Buffalo Soldiers' ... the idea may be bigger than you are, and then, I am transformed by the idea."

The irony of the Buffalo Soldiers was that they performed their duty "in services to their country, and in spite of their country," Glover said.

Great stories about black soldiers' contributions to the American military are few because Hollywood fears limited commercial appeal, both Haid and Glover

observed. On the big screen there was "A Soldier's Story," and "Glory," while "Tuskegee Army" was produced for cable television.

Getting "Buffalo Soldiers" made took the kind of clout Glover has accumulated with his big screen success.

"There's only a few in position with enough leverage that can do that," he said, offering a short list of black leading men that include Morgan Freeman, Samuel L. Jackson, Laurence Fishburne and Denzel Washington.

And Danny Glover. Glover plays Washington Wyatt, a sergeant who has risen as high as he can in the ranks. Wyatt commands the respect of his men, and the admiration of his white commanding officer. But Washington has to suffer the indignities visited on all black soldiers by much of the all-white Army establishment.

**BRYAN WHITE
LEANN RIMES**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Bryan White and LeAnn Rimes will sing the praises of literacy at a fundraising event.

The country artists' Dec. 10 performance to benefit the Community Literacy Centers will culminate a two-day literacy tour in Oklahoma City, Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin said Wednesday.

She said White and Ms. Rimes will meet with students during the tour.

The private, nonprofit organization has taught more than 9,000 people, mostly adults, to read since 1987.

White is an Oklahoma native whose song "Sittin' On Go" hit No. 1 on country charts. Ms. Rimes' songs "Blue" and "How Do I Live" have crossed over to the pop charts.

ELIZABETH HURLEY
LONDON (AP) - Elizabeth Hurley accepted undisclosed damages Wednesday stemming from a tabloid story alleging that she would make herself available to any man who fancied her for \$20,100.

Headlined "Rent-A-Liz, It's A Bargain," the June 1996 story in the Daily Mirror contained a purported transcript of a phone conversation between a journalist posing as the sister of a man who "really fancies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Names in the News

Liz" and a model agency.

The article concluded with what Miss Hurley's lawyers termed a "grossly offensive" comparison between their client and Divine Brown, the prostitute who was arrested with Miss Hurley's longtime boyfriend, actor Hugh Grant.

Marcus Partington, representing MGN Ltd., the Daily Mirror's parent company, said the item about the model and actress was intended to be lighthearted.

The newspaper conceded the allegations were without foundation and should never have been published. It agreed to pay damages and Miss Hurley's legal costs.

RAUL CASTRO
VATICAN CITY (AP) - Raul Castro, Fidel's brother and vice president of Cuba, is in Rome as a tourist.

The Cuban embassy said Castro arrived Tuesday night from Beijing

and has asked to see several landmarks, including the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to visit Cuba Jan. 21-25.

Raul Castro heads Cuba's armed forces and has been endorsed by Fidel as his successor.

WELLINGTON STUART
MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP) - A man who has claimed for two years to be Whitney Houston's cousin failed to show up for a court hearing and a judge issued a warrant for his arrest.

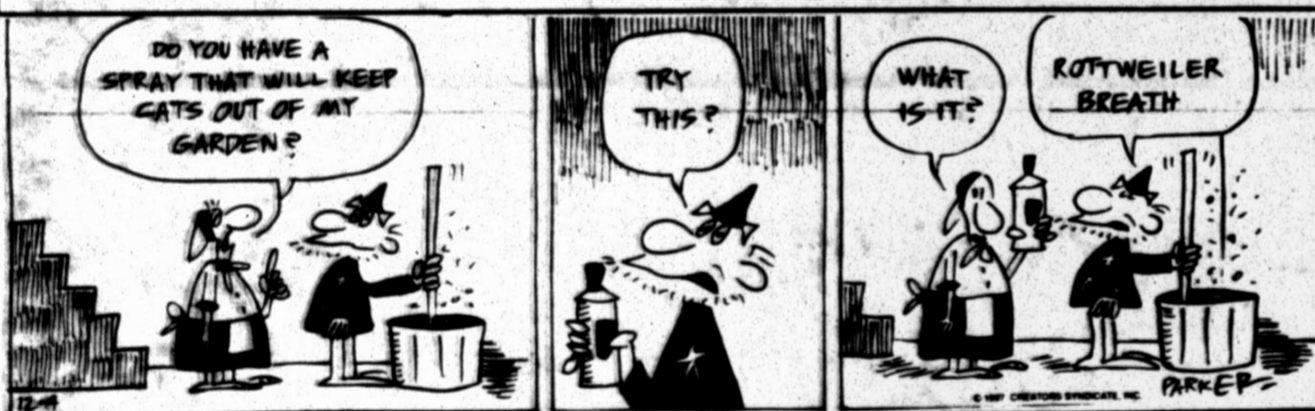
Wellington Stuart didn't show up Tuesday for the hearing to answer allegations that he violated a settlement agreement and is still using Houston's name.

The singer's lawyer, David Bauman, argued for criminal punishment.

Comics

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Marvin

By Tom Armstrong



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith

By Fred Loewell



Television

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
Spot	Movie: Ernest Saves Christmas PG	Inside Fb	(-35) Movie: In the Nick of Time	(-16) Movie: The Christmas Star						
News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Union	Seinfeld	Veronica	ER		News	(-38) Tonight Show	
NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Andre Rieu: The Christmas I Love	Yanni: Concert From The Taj Mahal and Forbidden City	Christmas	NewsHour						
(-05) Coach	(-35) Coach	(-08) Movie: Uncommon Valor (1983) Gene Hackman. ++ 1/2	(-20) Movie: Medicine Man (1992) Sean Connery. ++							
News	Fortune	Nothing Sacred	Cracker	20/20				News	Seinfeld	Nightline
Fam. Mat.	Coach	Movie: Escape From Atlantis (1997) Jeff Speakman.	News	Beverly Hills, 90210	Heat					
News	Home Imp.	Promised Land	Diagnosis Murder	Dallas	(-38) Late Show					
Grace Under	Mad-You	Single	Between	413 Hope St.	Soldier of Fortune, Inc.	Fraser	Roseanne	Real TV		
Sportstr.	NFL Tonight	NFL Football Tennessee Oilers at Cincinnati Bengals				NFL Sportscenter	Road			
Watsons		Movie: The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1996)	Hawaii Five-O	700 Club	3 Stooges					
(-15) Movie: Runaway Train PG-13	Movie: Sc-Fi Fighters Roddy Piper. ++ 1/2 FT	(-26) Movie: Cover Me Rick Rossovich. FT								
Movie: La Bamba Lou Diamond Phillips. +++ PG-13	Movie: Wounded Madchen Amick. FT	Tenacious D Inside the NFL								
(-5:00) Movie: House Arrest	Movie: Real Genius (1985) Val Kilmer, Gabe Jarrett. PG	Movie: The Glass Cage Charlotte Lewis.	(-50) Movie: Doubletap FT							
(-5:30) Movie: Luxury Liner	Movie: The Fortune Cookies (1986) Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau. +++	Movie: Inna La Douce (1983) Shirley MacLaine. +++ 1/2								
Duke of Hazard	Opry Christmas Past	Prime Time Country	Today's Country	Dallas	Dallas					
Glenn Steiner	Wild Discovery	Unknown	Movie Magic	Wings	Justice Files	Wild Disc.				
Law & Order	Biography	See Tales	Unexplained		Law & Order	Biography				
Intimate Portrait	Unsolved Mysteries	Movie: Terror in the Shadows (1995) Mercy Walker.	Headline: Life	Biography						
NBA Action	Sports	FOX Sports	NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Houston Rockets	FOX Sports News	Sports					
Lois & Clark-Superman	Movie: Escape From Alcatraz (1979) Clint Eastwood. +++	Rough Cut								
Doug	Rugrats	Alex Mack	Happy Days	Wonder Yrs.	Bewitched	I Love Lucy	Old Couple	Ted	News	M.T. Moore
Highlander: The Series	Walker, Texas Ranger	Movie: Stogil Or My Mom Will Shoot (1992) ++ 1/2								
El Quirido Isabel	El Alma No Tiene Color	Alguna Vez	Blavendo							
Why We Fight	In Search of History	Films	History Undercover	World at War	In Search					
World Cup	Boxing	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Chicago Blackhawks								

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
Goof Troop	Mermals	Pooh	Katie-Orbe	Bear	Wonderland	Chip 'n' Dale	Madeline	Mermals	Pooh	Jungle Cubs
Today				Leza	Garfield Rivers	Sunset Beach	Days-Lives			
Barney	Arthur	Sesame Street	Puzzle Place	Reading	Storyline	Mr Rogers	Barney	Katana		
Brady	(-35) Aspen	Little House on the Prairie	Mama	Mama	Griffith	Griffith	(-50) Madock	Movie:		
Good Morning America			Live - Regis & Kathie Lee	Martha	Gayle King	People's Court	News			
Tiny Toon	Captain	Animanics	PinkyBrain	Batman	MarinBick	Griffith	Griffith	Garfield Rivers	News	
This Morning			Ricki Lake	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Manhart C.	Paid Prog.	News Team
C-Bear	Casper	101Dalmats	X-Men	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Manhart C.	Paid Prog.	News Team
Sportscenter		Sportscenter		Sportscenter		Sportscenter		Sportscenter		Legends
Recess 911		Waltons	700 Club	FR TV		Diagnosis Murder	News			
Heroes	Movie: Summer School Mark Harmon.	(-15) Movie: Annie O (1995) Cocò Yaris, Jody Collins.								
Movie: Rock-A-Doodle ++ G	Movie: Solo Mario Van Peebles PG-13	Sports on the Silver Screen	Spill God	Movie:						
Movie: Unfaithfully Yours Dudley Moore.	(-15) Movie: Once Upon a Forest G	Movie: Desert Bloom Jon Voight. PG								
Movie: Laugh-Got Rich	Movie: Dance With Me Henry (1956) ++ 1/2	Movie: Accidents Will Happen (1938) ++	Movie: Smart Girls Don't Talk (1948) ++							
(Off Air)	Club Dance	Crook & Chase	Dallas	Alanna's Crafts	Wildhorse					
Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Assignment Discovery	Home Matters	Housemart!	Interior Motives	Home				
McMillan and Wife		Equalizer	Quincy	Northern Exposure	Law & Order					
Baby Knows	Kids These	Sierra	Designing	Almost	Our Home	Main Ingrid	Handmade	Commath		
FOX Sports News	FOX Sports News	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Outdoors	Fishing	Ollie Live!		
Scoby Dooby Doo	Flintstones	Flintstones	Gilligan	Gilligan	Spenser: For Hire	Pearl				
Looney	Rugrats	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Busy World	Muppets	Dr. Seuss	Gulsh	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Emmet O.
Gargoyles	Sailor Moon	Webster	Facts of Life	Strangers	Glenn B.	Wings	Movie: Any Which Way You Can (1980) ++ 1/2			
(-5:00) Desperate America		Malta	Volter a Empazar	Mariner						
Classroom	History Showcase	Holocaust		Real West						
Flex Appeal	Bodyshape	Crunch	Training	Perfect	Bodyshape	Fitness	Flex Appeal	NFL Great	NFL Great	NBA 24/7

12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
Tale Spin	Donald	Chip 'n' Dale	Tale Spin	Goof Troop	Timon	Aladdin	Dinosaurs	Growing	Growing	Brotherly
Days-Lives	Another World	Jenny Jones	Maury				Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News	
Body Elec.	Painting	Time Goes	Government	Government	Adventure	Adventure	Science Guy	Washington	Bus	
(12:05) Movie: The White Buffalo (1977)	Flintstones	Flintstones	Looney	Dreams	Saved-Bell	Saved-Bell	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.		
Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Port Charles	Pictionary	Roie O'Donnell	News	ABC News			
News	Empty Nest	Empty Nest	Wayeguy	Beverly Hills, 90210	Fam. Mat.	Dreams	Saved-Bell	Saved-Bell		
Bold & B.	As the World Turns	Guiding Light	Sally	Am.Journals	Edillon	News	CBS News			
Home Team	Medicine Woman	Little House on the Prairie	Spider-Man	Metallix	Quincy	Turtles	Boy-World	Roseanne		
Golf: World Championship - International Chmp. 1st Rd.	Golf	PGA Golf JCPenney Classic - Second Round	Up Close	Sportstr.						
(12:00) Home & Family	ShopDrop	Shopping	Bonanza-Lost	Allens	Monster	Movie: Santa-3 Bears				
Movie: Soul	Movie: The Lion in Winter (1968) Peter O'Toole, Katharine Hepburn.	Movie: Summer School Mark Harmon.	(-18) Movie: Annie O PG							
(12:05) Movie: The Bridges of Madison County PG-13	Movie: Mr. Write Paul Reiser. ++ PG-13	Storyliner	Movie: Airplane II: The Sequel ++ PG							
(12:15) Movie: ++ 1/2 Can't Buy Me Love	Movie: Weekend at Bernie's ++ PG	Movie: Iron Eagle IV Louis Gossett Jr.	Movie: Harriet the Spy							
Movie: Adventure (1945) Clark Gable, Greer Garson. +++	Movie: Cannary Row (1982) Nick Nolte. ++ 1/2	Movie: Montana Belle ++								
Wildhorse	America's Country Hits	Crook & Chase	Dallas	Club Dance	Duke of Hazard					
Home	Housemart!	Interior Motives	Great Chefs	Travelers	Wings					
Law & Order	McMillan and Wife	Equalizer	Quincy	Northern Exposure	Law & Order					
Commath	Movie: With Murder in Mind (1992), Robert Foxworth	Night Court	Night Court	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Supernat	Debt			
Cowboys	Golf Million Dollar Classic - Second Round	Woman's College Soccer: NCAA Div. I Semifinal	WAC	Big 12 Show						
(11:00) Pearl	Movie: Thunder Over the Plains (1953) ++ 1/2	Lonesome Dove: Baries	In the Heat of the Night	Kung Fu: Legend						
Emmet O.	Muppets	Looney	Beetlejuice	Gadget	Tiny Toon	Garfield	You Ain't! (Rock's Life)	Figure It Out	Tiny Toon	
Movie: Movie: Stogil Or My Mom Will Shoot (1992) ++ 1/2		Baywatch	Saved-Bell	USA High	Baywatch					
(12:00) Amadeo Enemiga	Gente Bien	Cristina	Primer Impacto	Club	Hotteloro					
Nautilus	Why We Fight	Holocaust	Real West	Nautilus						
NBA's Great	NFL Great	NFL Great	Drag Racing NHRA Champion Auto Stores Nationals	ESPN News	ESPN News	Sportsman	Paintball			

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
Goof Troop	Movie: First Kid Sirbed ++ 1/2 PG	(-15) Movie: D9: The Mighty Ducks Emilio Estevez. PG	Walt Disney Presents	Zorro						
News	Ent. Tonight	Players	Dateline	Homicide: Life	News	(-38) Tonight Show				
NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week	Close to You-the Carpenters	Pleasantwood Mac							
(-05) Coach	(-35) Coach	Grinch	(-26) Flintstones Christmas Carol	(-15) Movie: Harry and the Hendersons (1987) John Lithgow. ++ 1/2						
News	Fortune	Barbra	Boy-World	Barbra	Teen Angel	20/20				
Fam. Mat.	Coach	Movie: Children of a Lesser God (1986) William Hurt. ++ 1/2	Honeyynn	News	Honeyynn	Heat				
News	Home Imp.	Push and Christmas	Fam. Mat.	Step-Step	Nash Bridges					

NEWS

in brief

ASIAN FINANCIAL WOES FELT IN U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Shock waves from faraway financial problems in Asia are sending tremors through the American heartland. A survey of business executives by the Federal Reserve's 12 district banks detected the first signs of fallout. "Asian financial turmoil and currency weakness have adversely affected demand for manufactured and agricultural exports," the Fed said Wednesday. "Some districts report increased competition from imports." Economists said the sharp devaluation of Asian currencies such as the Thai baht and the South Korean won are slowing the U.S. economy by reducing demand for American products abroad and by slashing the price of Asian goods in the United States. "It is the first report where there was some talk of the Asian shock effects. There is some evidence it is dampening demand - not a lot, but a little," said economist Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

FAA PROPOSES CHANGES IN BOEING JETLINERS

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Federal Aviation Administration has proposed adding new safety equipment to airliners that would flush dangerous vapors from fuel tanks and insulate the tanks from heat sources. The changes would "greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the possibility of fuel tank explosions," such as the one suspected to have destroyed TWA Flight 800 last summer, killing all 230 people on board, the FAA said Wednesday. In a letter to James E. Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, FAA Administrator Jane F. Garvey said the agency was not ready to proceed on three other recommendations from the board for a variety of reasons.

TEAMSTERS SEND CAREY CASE TO BOARD

WASHINGTON (AP) - Teamsters President Ron Carey got a better opening to challenge evidence against him as the union's executive board referred allegations against him for an independent hearing. The action Wednesday means that the board took no position on the accusations that could lead to Carey's expulsion from the union and leaves his fate to a three-member, court-appointed review board. Carey has maintained his innocence despite two separate findings against him and has already appealed one of the findings - the decision barring him from running for re-election. "Ron Carey was a victim, not a perpetrator of this election fraud," said the appeal, filed Tuesday by Reid H. Weingarten of the Washington law firm of Steptoe & Johnson.

BILLY GRAHAM HOSPITALIZED WITH INFLAMED LUNG

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) - The Rev. Billy Graham was hospitalized with an inflamed lung after he developed a fever and chills that worsened during a Caribbean vacation. The 79-year-old world-famous evangelist is being treated with antibiotics and intravenous fluids for pneumonitis, or inflammation of the lung, said Carolyn O'Brien, spokeswoman for St. Luke's Hospital. She said he was in stable condition and resting comfortably early today. Graham has Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological condition. He was brought to Jacksonville because St. Luke's was the closest affiliate of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where he has been a longtime patient. Officials said they expected Graham to remain at the hospital for three days. He first became ill a week ago; doctors determined he should be hospitalized Wednesday. Family members at the home of his daughter, Anne Graham Lotz of Raleigh, N.C., had no comment. Graham delegates many responsibilities to his son, William Franklin Graham III, but still heads the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

FORMER CLINTON FUND-RAISER IN GEORGIA INDICTED

ATLANTA (AP) - The top Georgia fund-raiser for President Clinton during the 1992 campaign is accused in a federal indictment of accepting a bribe to steer \$500 million in bond business to a Wall Street investment firm. Michael deVegter allegedly accepted a \$41,936 bribe to help Lazard Freres & Co. gain an unfair advantage in bond business in Fulton County. He was accused of conspiracy and wire fraud. Also indicted Wednesday was Richard Poirier Jr., a former partner in the firm, which has agreed to pay \$12 million to settle civil charges of defrauding the county and investors in three municipal bond sales. The U.S. attorney's office said no charges are planned against the firm itself. Through their lawyers, both men denied any wrongdoing. DeVegter was a vice president in the Atlanta office of the Little Rock, Ark.-based investment firm Stephens Inc., the owners of which helped provide Clinton a \$3.5 million credit line at a critical stage of his 1992 campaign. Those finances are not related to the allegations made in the indictment.

ASTRONAUTS PACK UP FOR TRIP HOME

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - Wrapping up a two-week flight that has included a dramatic satellite rescue and an extra spacewalk, Columbia's astronauts today packed for the ride back to Earth. An early weather forecast looked promising for a landing Friday morning at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Early today, crewwoman Kalpana Chawla took a few minutes to accept a congratulatory call from the prime minister of her native India. Inder Kumar Gujral told the 36-year-old rookie astronaut that the Indian people are proud of her, and he asked her to visit after she returns to Earth. "Your journey has expanded the frontiers of science and technology and also at the same time you have built another new ... and strong bridge between India and America," Prime Minister Gujral said.

AU PAIR APPEAL GOES TO FULL COURT

BOSTON (AP) - British au pair Louise Woodward will have to wait until at least this spring to find out whether she can go home again. A judge sent the prosecution's appeal to the full state supreme court and declined to order the 19-year-old English woman back to prison for the death of a baby boy. In a hearing Wednesday that lasted only a few minutes, Justice Ruth Abrams said the full seven-member Supreme Judicial Court - the state's highest - would hear an expedited appeal in March, bypassing the lower Appeals Court. It was the latest twist for Ms. Woodward, convicted by a jury on Oct. 30 of second-degree murder in the shaking death of Matthew Eappen, her host family's 8-month-old son. The verdict was reduced to manslaughter two weeks later by the presiding judge, Superior Court Judge Hiller B. Zobel, and Ms. Woodward was released. Abram's action means that separate appeals from the Middlesex County district attorney and the defense, which wants Ms. Woodward exonerated, will be consolidated into a single case.

AUCTION SETS RECORD FOR AMERICAN PAINTINGS

NEW YORK (AP) - Works by Georgia O'Keeffe and John Singer Sargent sold for unprecedented prices in an auction that earned a record amount for American paintings. Sotheby's spokesman Matthew Weigman said the total of \$43.6 million earned Wednesday exceeded the mark of \$37.7 million for an American paintings sale, set at the company's auction in May 1989. Most buyers remained anonymous. But the purchaser of O'Keeffe's "From the Plains" was the Gerald Peters Gallery of Santa Fe, N.M., where O'Keeffe made her home for many years. The painting went for \$3,632,500 - the most ever for an O'Keeffe at auction and four times the top pre-sale estimate of \$900,000. Sotheby's said the highest price previously paid for an O'Keeffe was \$1.98 million in 1987. Six Sargents were sold for \$16.65 million, about half of that for his best-known work, "In the Garden, Corfu." The painting fetched \$8,362,500, well above the pre-auction top estimate of \$7 million. An unnamed New York dealer paid \$1.65 million for Sargent's "A Gust of Wind," surpassing a pre-sale estimate of \$700,000 to \$900,000.

DNA EVIDENCE LEADS TO RELEASE OF BROTHERS

BESSEMER, Ala. (AP) - Two brothers imprisoned for 13 years for kidnapping and rape were freed after new DNA tests showed the men were not the attackers. Ronnie and Dale Mahan were freed Tuesday by Judge Teresa Petelos, a day after a state forensic expert testified that semen found on the victim and her clothes excluded the Mahans as the rapists. The test was unavailable in 1984 when the brothers, of McCalla, were convicted. "I never gave up," Ronnie Mahan, 50, said after the hearing. "It'd be different if we were guilty. I would have understood. But we didn't do anything." Dale Mahan, 35, and his brother were freed on \$5,000 bond each. Prosecutor Arthur Green said the men would likely be tried again. They had always maintained their innocence, arguing they were together drinking the night of the assault. Each plans on suing the state for \$1 million. The New York Times reported today.

PROSECUTORS SPAR OVER INSIDER TRADING CASE

NEW YORK (AP) - A former Wall Street ethics monitor pleaded guilty to federal charges of securities fraud over the objections of angry state prosecutors who wanted to pursue her themselves. Marina Baridis, 29, was released on her own recognizance after entering her plea Wednesday. She apologized to the judge for cheating on Wall Street while she worked as a compliance officer, first at Smith Barney and then at Morgan Stanley. She said she received \$25,000 in one instance and \$15,000 in another for insider tips. She faces up to 15 years at sentencing March 3 on federal charges of conspiracy and securities fraud. Local prosecutors, who were pursuing similar state charges against Ms. Baridis and had videotaped her accepting cash, asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Theodore H. Katz not to accept the plea to the federal counts. "The parties are using the offices of the court to thwart the state's prosecution," James Kindler, first assistant to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, told the judge.

BOMB BLAST KILLS PREGNANT WOMAN OUTSIDE HOME

LOUISA, Va. (AP) - A bomb blast killed a pregnant woman who had walked outside to start her car in the pre-dawn darkness. She apparently had just picked something off the sidewalk. Tammy Lynn Baker "never knew what hit her," said Ashland Fortune, police chief in this town of 1,088 people about 50 miles northwest of Richmond. Police had no suspects in the 4:30 a.m. bombing Wednesday and said they were not sure whether the 24-year-old woman was the intended victim. Ms. Baker, who was due to give birth on Jan. 15, lived alone in a two-bedroom apartment near the business district. She was up early to go to her job as a payroll clerk for a construction company in nearby Charlottesville, Fortune said. "She was quiet, sweet, always a smile," said Sam Metallo, a director of Starview Management in Charlottesville, which owns the apartment. "She had no known enemies and no arguments." A neighbor heard a car start just before the explosion, so Ms. Baker might have been letting her car warm up when the bomb went off, the chief said.

GE EXECUTIVE'S WIFE GETS \$20 MILLION IN DIVORCE

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) - A divorce case that highlighted the value of a corporate wife ended with her being awarded more than \$20 million in cash, property and investments. Loma Wendt insisted she deserved exactly half of the estate as compensation for 31 years of marriage to Gary Wendt, chairman of GE Capital Services, the high-profit finance arm of General Electric Co. Anything less would be gender bias, she said. Her lawyers estimated the estate to be worth as much as \$100 million. Wendt insisted the net worth was far less - about \$21 million when they separated two years ago - but acknowledged that it nearly doubled to \$42 million since then. Mrs. Wendt would not comment on the fairness of the ruling Wednesday that finalized the divorce. Her attorneys said the ruling gave her half of Wendt's hard assets. They could not immediately calculate a total figure, but said it appeared she would receive at least \$20 million.



Send a Special Holiday Greeting in the Hereford Brand

Each year, the Hereford Brand publishes a "Christmas Greetings" section. This accent section is filled with local stories that relate to the spirit of the holiday season. Local and area merchants will also be expressing their hopes and thanks in this well-read section.



Peace On Earth
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Greetings
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 by THOMAS JOSEPH

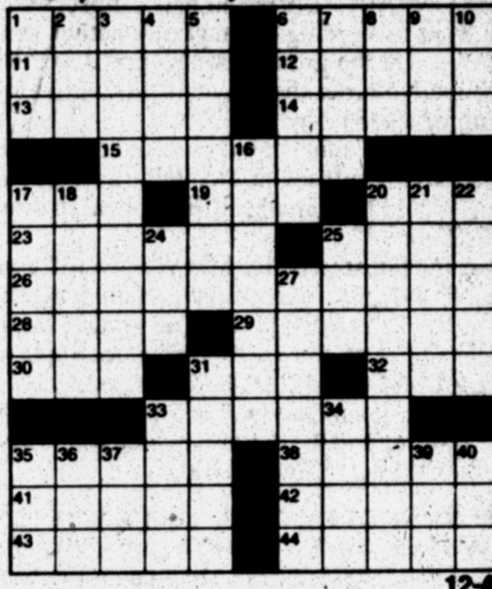
ACROSS
 1 Fixed chairs
 6 Like an alameda
 11 First month to Francisco
 12 Sprite
 13 Astronomer
 14 Happening
 15 Sofa
 17 Bull Run general
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 20 One of the Clametts
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 29 Soup server
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 31 Jiffy
 32 Rural gathering
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 38 Butcher's offering
 41 UFO flyer
 42 -- of Two Cities
 43 Granular
 44 Come to

DOWN
 1 Midding grade
 2 Plus
 3 Evening update
 4 Historic canal
 5 Donald Westlake book
 6 Exceed the limit
 7 Worker's home
 8 Sack
 9 Nolsy commotion
 10 Nonetheless
 16 Tiniest
 17 The Empire
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 20 Escape, of sorts
 21 Game host
 22 Plow pioneer
 24 Have dinner
 25 Tycoon
 27 Turner cutter
 31 Cheerful
 33 Boot part
 34 Singer James
 35 Machine part
 36 Corrida cry
 37 By way of
 38 Pub order
 40 Actor Olin

SCENE RAGA
TAMES AARON
AMASS ICING
TENT BREEZE
TRAPAS SOL
CATFIGHT
SEAN ARES
PAR CUT GEE
ALIGHT CHAN
NICOL POETS
EVAD IDAHO
LENS NADER

Yesterday's Answer

Strikes Back
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 Escape, of sorts
 Game host
 Plow pioneer
 John
 Have dinner
 Tycoon
 Turner cutter
 Cheerful
 Boot part
 Singer James
 Machine part
 Corrida cry
 By way of
 Pub order
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Times	RATE	MIN
1 day per word	.15	3.00
2 days per word	.26	5.20
3 days per word	.37	7.40
4 days per word	.48	9.60
5 days per word	.59	11.80

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
 Classified display rates apply to all other ads not set in solid word form with captions, bold or large type, special photography, all capital letters. Rates are 4.35 per column inch.

LEGALS

Ad rate for legal notices are 5.10 per column inch.

ERRORS

Every effort is made to avoid errors in word ads and legal notices. Advertisers should call attention to any errors immediately after the first insertion. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. In case of errors by the publishers an additional insertion will be published.

2. FARM EQUIPMENT

For Sale: Round Bale Hay, Sorghum Sudan, \$25.00 a bale. Call 276-5240. 35613

Custom CRP Planting: Call Kirk Marnell, at 346-2708 or 258-7326. 35618

3. VEHICLES FOR SALE

Wanted Chevy 3/4 T Pickup rearend for year 1948 thru 1968. Call 357-2449. 35555

For Sale: 1981 Toyota 4x4 Landcruiser. New Valve Job, \$2995.00. 364-8658 after 7 PM & weekends, 364-2617. 35593

For Sale: 91 Buick Rivera, Loaded - including a disk player and all works. White with blue leather interior. Clean, Good Tires, \$6700.00. Call Bob Sims at 364-4030 (daytime) or 3646903 (nights). 35634

See Us Before You Buy Marcum Motors Co.
 Clean Used Cars & Trucks
 413 N. 25 Mile Ave. - 364-3565

4. REAL ESTATE - CITY

For Sale: Only \$4995.00, 14x48 Mobile Home. 2 BR-A/C, Central Heat. Ideal to move to lake or great for couple. Call 364-6420. 35267

WANTED: 3 BR, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, in Hereford to trade for brick home in SW Amarillo, built in 1996. Call Tony 354-0646. 35566

For Sale: 3 BR Mobilehome on lot. \$2000.00 down. Call 364-7700. 35629

BANK LIQUIDATION
 ALMOST NEW
 4 BEDROOM 3 BATH
 ONLY \$53,000
 NO SALES TAX
 ALL OPTIONS INCLUDED.
 AC SKIRTING UNDER
 \$500 PER MONTH. SEE AT
 PORTABLES HOMES #2
 IN CLOVIS 505-762-3488
 (3500 Mabry Dr.) D1 772
 Se Habla Espanol

Preferred Mortgage Services
 1017 W. Park Ave.
 364-2060

5. HOMES FOR RENT

Best deal in town. 1 bedroom efficiency apartments. Bills paid, red brick apartments. 300 block West 2nd. 364-3566. 920

Nice, large, unfurnished apartments. Refrigerated air, two bedrooms. You pay only electric-we pay the rest. \$335.00 month. 364-8421. 1320

Self-lock storage. 363-6212. 1360

Eldorado Arms Apts, 1 & 2 bedroom unfurnished, apts. refrigerated air, laundry, free cable, water, & gas. 364-2302 or 364-4332. 18873

Need extra storage space? Need a place to have a garage sale? Rent a mini-storage. Two sizes available. Call 364-4370. 35526

For Rent: 1 BR apartment, \$200.00 month. No smoking, no drinking, references needed. Call 364-2179. 35547

Apartments for Rent: 2 & 3 Bedrooms. Stove & Refrigerator furnished. No deposit. Call 364-8805. HUD accepted! 35565

For Rent: 2 BR, 1 Bath with washer & dryer hookups. References required. Call 364-2613 after 6. 35621

For Rent: 2 BR trailer in Summerfield, \$250.00 month. Available immediately. Call 357-2331 after 5:30 or leave message. 35627

For Rent: 3 BR, Large Living Room, very spacious, close to schools. Must have references, \$600.00 a month. Call 363-6420. 35633

Apartment for Rent: 413 N. McKinley, 364-5088. Single or couple. \$225.00 a month, \$125.00 deposit. 35635

APARTMENTS:
 Blue Water Gardens
 HEAT, A/C, LIGHTS INCLUDED
 Rent based on income. Accepting applications for 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. CALL Debra or Janis TODAY for information & showings. 12-5pm (806)284-9881. Equal Opportunity.

Available Dec. 15
 Clean 3 bdrm. house across street from hospital on 3rd St. Central heat and air. 2 baths and w/d connections. Fenced yard & covered patio. Desire small family, no pets. \$350.00 per mo., \$100 deposit. For appointment call 364-8957

Need some furniture? Hereford's furniture stores offer a wide selection, and they invite you to shop through ads in The Brand. For best buys in furniture, look to The Brand!

6. WANTED

ROOFING, small hot ROOFS and General Roofing Repairs. Weldon Toews - 276-5763. 35079

Custom CRP Mowing, Kenneth Williams, Box 433, Vega, Texas, 79092. Call (806)267-2474. 35299

8. HELP WANTED

Hereford Care Center needs R.N.'s, L.V.N.'s, Medication Aides, & C.N.A.'s. Come by 231 Kingwood or call 364-7113. 33472

Kings Manor Methodist Nursing Home has opening for Med-Aides, CNA's, LVN's. Opening for weekend RN. Contact Kings Manor, 400 Ranger, Hereford. 34525

TEXAS REFINERY CORP. urgently needs person in HEREFORD. Write M. C. Hawkins, Dept. S-79045, Box 711, Ft. Worth, Tx. 76101-0711. 35456

Experienced Pen Rider Job Opening. Horse and Tack required. Great Plains Cattle Feeders. (806) 578-4291 or (806) 578-4379. 35552

NEEDED: Treatment Nurse, flexible hours available. Call or come by Hereford Care Center, 231 Kingwood, 364-7113. 35581

Bailing Rig Operator & Rig Helpers needed. Call Big T Pump at 364-0353, or apply in person at E NY Ave., Hereford, Tx. 35616

Home Attendant's needed to help with handicapped and elderly. Call 372-8480 - CBA Dept. 35617

Large Farm in Hereford needs experienced farm & ranch hand, good with machinery & cattle. CDL License preferred. Salary/Bonus. Contact 578-4239. 35620

Knowles Trucking, Amarillo, Tx. needs single & team OTR drivers. Must have CDL/Hazmet, 2 years experience. Good MVR. Competitive pay scales & benefits. Call 800-241-6679 or 806 371-7146. 35628

9. CHILD CARE

Experience Child Care openings for infants & toddlers under 5 years. Call Bonnie Cole at 364-6664. 35298

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Who is, Doug Caperton?

We Can Help!
 Slow Pay
 Charge Offs
 Reposs
 Bankruptcy
 1st Time Buyer
NO PROBLEMS
CALL NOW!!!
 TOLL FREE
 1-888-My New Auto
 Se Habla Espanol

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-CO733, McKibben ADS, 700

We buy scrap iron, metal, aluminum cans, all batteries, tin, copper & brass. 364-3350. 970

Garage Door and Opener Repair & Replacement. Call Robert Betzen, 289-5500. If No answer Call Mobile, 344-2960. 74237

We buy cars & pickups running or not running. We sell used auto parts of all kinds. 364-2754. 27574

Tree & Shrub trimming & removal. Leaf raking & assorted lawn work, rotary tilling & seeding of new lawns. 364-3356. 31572

Hereford Music Instrument repair - Guitar lessons, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Monday - Saturday. Call 363-1111, Sugarland Mall. 35260

Affordable Computers
 Service Supplies Upgrades
PCS
 Main • 364-6067

PLEASE HELP!

If you saw a woman fall or helped a woman from the floor after she fell, on October 6, 1997 at approximately 12:20 p.m., at the Yukon Convenience Store, East Hwy. 60, you are a witness with knowledge of important facts. The woman recalls a man, 25-35 years of age, brown hair, jeans, blue shirt, cap, slender build, who helped her up and asked if she was o.k. YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. Please call, (806) 364-8100.

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

State laws of forbidd discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of real estate based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is always the same. —Chinese Proverb

Writing Want Ads that really sell!

Unsure how to write a Classified Ad that will get results? Follow these pointers and you'll soon have an empty space in your storage room and cash in your pocket. For starters, look at ads which offer the same item/products. Get a sense of going rates and ideas for how to make your ad stand out. Once you're ready to write, begin with exactly what you're selling: "Dining room set, maple, six chairs." Then, remember these hints:
 --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 words, 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.

Santa Citipos Thrift Store
 All skirts & blouses are 50¢ each
 1306 E. Park Ave. • Open Thursday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm • Restocked Weekly

Who is, Hubert D's?

Save a handful of dollars when you see Brand Classified Ads. Call 364-2030.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion from Texas newspapers: The Dallas Morning News on philanthropic Texans: First, the feisty on-line magazine Slate stood Forbes' list of America's 400 wealthiest individuals on its head last year by listing the nation's most generous donors.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on phone company fraud: After a rash of complaints, the state Public Utility Commission has opened an investigation into what appears to be a pattern of fraudulent billing, called "cramming," by some phone companies.

Under the federal law designed to open competition, local phone companies such as Southwestern Bell act as clearinghouses to forward bills from the new companies that have entered the market to provide a wide range of services.

The principle of allowing competitors access to the billing network of the local companies is basically sound, at least until a market is mature, because as a monopoly the local providers had in place the entire infrastructure for all aspects of its business.

But such large, complex transitions to a deregulated market provide rich opportunities for error - and for unscrupulous people to exploit unwary customers. Southwestern Bell officials contend, fairly, that their company should not be held solely accountable for policing their competitors' activities.

The PUC should tighten its regulations, including the loophole that allows disconnection of service for failing to pay all or part of a bill, even if it is properly contested. Until then, customers should scrutinize their bills item by item. Check the list twice, and in the event of a misbilling, use this PUC complaint hot-line number: (888) PUC-TIPS.

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal on an AIDS success story: Since the earliest reports about a then-new virus that attacked immune systems, most of the news about AIDS has been tragic and frightening. No surprise there - epidemics generally are not the source of uplifting or encouraging stories.

But recent news about the declining number of children who are contracting the HIV virus at birth is encouraging, and it has justifiably been called a success story by Dr. Mary Lou Lindgren of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The number of American babies who are contracting the AIDS virus from their mothers during the birth process declined 43 percent between 1992 and 1996. The impressive drop was the result of the taking of the drug AZT by

HIV-positive expectant mothers after the first trimester of their pregnancies. Only about 8 percent of babies born to HIV-positive mothers who have taken AZT treatments will contract the virus, according to current statistics. Without the drug, the rate of HIV contraction at birth is 25 percent.

It points out the need for mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women. Doctors need to know before the 14th month of pregnancy whether the expectant mother has the AIDS virus so treatments with AZT can begin.

Mandatory HIV tests would slightly inconvenience expectant mothers and would add one more medical expense to their financial burdens. And civil libertarians say that the tests would invade the privacy of pregnant women.

But however inconvenient or intrusive the tests would be, there is no denying that such tests would help to save the lives of children whose mothers either did not know or were not willing to reveal that they had the AIDS virus.

Austin American-Statesman on Mackovic ouster: Beware of today's adoring fans, for they are tomorrow's harshest critics, a lesson likely not lost on dismissed University of Texas football coach John Mackovic.

After annihilating rival Texas A&M last year then improbably beating highly ranked Nebraska to win the inaugural championship of the Big 12 conference, Mackovic was king of the gridiron. A disappointing showing against Penn State in the Fiesta Bowl didn't much tarnish Mackovic's crown.

Going into this season, the Longhorns were ranked 12th in the polls. But the team was crushed by UCLA, struggled to beat Rice and suffered a humiliating loss to Baylor. A 4-7 season was too much for football-crazy Texas, and Mackovic was out.

The leaders of the University of Texas want a Top 10 football program, and Mackovic didn't deliver that. The leaders who run the University of Texas are for now firm in their stand that football is a way to bring prestige to the college and the state. And as long as they do, they will insist on a program that contends for the national title.

Waco Tribune-Herald on new Texas Constitution: The finest constitution of any government on earth is the United States Constitution. The strength of the U.S. Constitution comes from its brevity. It establishes the structure of government and lays out broad principles and rights.

Texas needs to rewrite its out-of-date, cumbersome and impenetrable constitution. The soundness of this approach is evident. America's 208-year-old constitution is the world's oldest active constitution. It has been amended only 17 times in the 206 years since the 1791 ratification of the Bill of Rights.

Besides, it has guided this nation to unparalleled power and prosperity. By contrast, the current 1876 Texas Constitution now has an unwieldy 377 amendments. A dozen more amendments were added this year.

And rather than simply stating broad principles, the Texas Constitution is used as a repository for legislation by public referendum. The Texas Constitution forces lawmakers to pass constitutional-amendment bills by two-thirds approval in each house before the proposed amendments go to voters in statewide elections.

Proposed amendments often do little more than handle routine legislative housekeeping chores. The result of this process is a document that is confusing to lawmakers and judges, not to mention the public. Constant statewide elections that force Texans to vote on matters of little or no concern to most people erode public participation in the democratic process.

Statewide constitutional elections are lucky to draw more than a single-digit percentage of registered voters. The need for a leaner, more efficient constitution is not new. The issue was debated for years before the Legislature in 1973 established a constitutional revision commission. Unfortunately, this praiseworthy effort did not produce results.

Two top Texas lawmakers have taken up this important issue again. Their call for a rewrite of the Texas Constitution deserves support. Sen. Bill Ratliff, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Robert Junell, head of the House Appropriations Committee, are putting their heads together to come up with a better way to rewrite the constitution.

They are considering passage of another proposed constitutional amendment that, in essence, would be a wholesale rewrite of the constitution. This idea is a slick way to eliminate some of the problems that accompany constitutional revision conventions. And, if it works, it would be better than the current ponderous document.

A better method, however, would be a new constitution modeled on a constitution of proven quality. As it turns out, there is no better model on earth than the U.S. Constitution.

Houston Chronicle on global warming summit: With the 10-day conference on climate change convened in Kyoto, Japan ... the endless debate over global warming and what to do about it is now joined on an international scale.

On the opinion and news pages of this newspaper alone in recent weeks has been an astounding array of scientifically convincing material on the issues - on all sides. Every viewpoint from "the sky is falling" to "the sky's the limit" for industrial laissez faire is out there.

One fact, however, is cogent - the science is unclear and divided. Much of the climate change forecasting is done with computer modeling that has been in use for some time and is improving. Even so, not even today's most high-tech computers can reflect the complexity of Earth's climate. Scientists don't, for example, fully understand how clouds form in the atmosphere, and their computers cannot simulate

that process. That's critical, because many scientists believe warmer temperatures will increase cloud cover throughout the world, which in turn would reflect more of the sun's rays and probably offset some of the warming. And that's just a tiny part of the scientific debate.

JOHN CUNNIFF

Business Mirror

Manufacturing alive, well and growing

NEW YORK (AP) - Economic statistics are as abundant and plain as salt, and often so colorless and predictable they add little piquancy to the daily news. But recently a jewel was found shining in their midst.

Not much was made of it immediately, but the ramifications have huge significance for the economy and all who contribute to and benefit from it - employers seeking to keep costs down, workers seeking a living wage, and consumers seeking stable prices.

Manufacturing productivity soared 9.8 percent in the third quarter of this year, the largest quarterly increase in 15 years. Assuming the rate, three times the long-term average, wasn't a fluke, consider some of the potential consequences:

- Productivity improvements account for perhaps half of all economic growth. - Based on government and industry figures, a final sale in manufacturing of \$1 results in a total increase in output through the entire economy of \$2.30.

- Again, based on government and industry calculations, each \$1 million of final sales in manufacturing equals 22 jobs. - Most export gains in recent years have been in manufactured goods.

The big gain in manufacturing productivity was part of an even bigger story, that of a productivity increase at the annual rate of 4.5 percent in the economy as a whole, including the service sector. That was almost double the annual rate in the earlier quarter.

More significantly, it suggested that the long productivity drought since the 1970s might be at an end. Productivity increases ranged around 3 percent in the 1960s, but then fell to less than half that in the 1970s and still were only 1.3 percent last year.

The alleged decline of manufacturing was often blamed for that drought. Articles and books were written about the burgeoning service economy and its centerpiece, the information industry. Service, it was said, was the future, manufacturing a relic.

Layoffs and plant closings in old manufacturing industries helped spread that notion, especially in communities heavily dependent on one company or industry. But rather than dying, manufacturing as a whole was clearing the past and reinventing for the future.

Since the early 1980s, manufacturing productivity has risen to an annual rate of 3 percent while the rest of the economy dragged. Jobs weren't added, it is true, but that was because technological advances, including the computer, raised output per worker.

Although the U.S. economy has grown tremendously since the 1940s, generally considered the ultimate manufacturing era, manufacturing in this, the electronic and information age, still accounts for roughly the same percentage of gross domestic product as 50 years ago.

It is even conceivable that its percentage of GDP will grow, because the manufacturing sector is not just the producer of computers, which symbolize the new productivity growth, but one of the biggest buyers and users of them too.

And what do we make of those old treatises about the demise of manufacturing? Had we the insight at the time they were produced we would have taken them with a grain of salt. Rereading them now, decades later, we find they have more the stale flavor of a bygone era than of the future they claimed to present.

U.S. workforce registers big gains in productivity

WASHINGTON (AP) - America's workforce registered the best productivity gain in nearly five years over the summer and early fall, laying the groundwork for a rising standard of living.

Non-farm business productivity grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.1 percent in the third quarter, the Labor Department said today. That was revised down from an estimate of 4.5 percent last month. It was the largest gain since the final three months of 1992.

Productivity increased a healthy 2.4 percent in the second quarter and a more moderate 1.4 percent in the first. Analysts say such robust productivity is unusual so late in an economic expansion. It's been more than six years since the end of the 1990-91 recession.

Seniors voting with feet on HMOs

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senior citizens vote with their feet when it comes to Medicare HMOs, with wide disparities in the number of participants leaving various health plans, a study concludes.

"Some plans are doing a far better job of luring people into plans than they are in getting them," said Tom Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a consumer health group that released the report today.

Seniors should look carefully at any HMO they are considering joining if a large number of people are leaving it, the trade group that represents HMOs agreed, but industry representatives also warned people not to jump to conclusions.

"There is no way to look at a single number that has no context around it and make a determination," said Rick Smith, vice president for policy at the American Association of Health Plans. "This is one isolated piece of information."

Unlike many people with private insurance, Medicare beneficiaries have a choice of health plans. Most choose traditional service, which allows them to see any doctor they choose. But an increasing number - now more than 5 million - are enrolled in HMOs, which restrict the choice of doctors but offer extra benefits like prescription drug coverage or eyeglasses.

Medicare beneficiaries currently may leave HMOs freely, although beginning in 2002, they will be allowed to change just once a year.

In its study, Families USA analyzed disenrollment rates for 1996 for the 158 HMOs with at least 1,000 Medicare enrollees. On average, 13 percent of a health plan's membership left each year. So if a typical plan served 1,000 people, 130 people left at some point during 1996, or about 11 each month.

The study found the disenrollment rate varied widely among HMOs, ranging from 2 percent to 81 percent. Sixteen plans had disenrollment rates over 20 percent.

About one in four people leaving an HMO left in the first three months, suggesting deceptive marketing, said the study. But less nefarious explanations also are possible. Seniors living in cities with lots of HMO competition are more likely to change plans. HMOs that are new to the Medicare market may take time to adjust to the rules of the game. And disenrollment rates for small plans may be high if even just a few people leave.

HMOs with the lowest disenrollment rates tend to be large, nonprofit plans that have been in business for a long time, Families USA said. These plans already have a stable base of members who are happy with their care and unlikely to leave.

Of the 10 HMOs with the highest 1996 disenrollment rates, four were operated by PCA, a company that was bought this fall by Humana. Humana spokesman Tom Noland blamed PCA's loss of members on the company's well-publicized financial difficulties, along with a change in networks that forced some members to switch doctors.

Noland said the rates will improve now that Humana has taken over these plans, noting the company was already working to improve patient retention by assigning a staff member to help new members navigate HMOs and learn their rules. Even before it bought PCA, Humana had several health plans with above-average disenrollment rates in 1996.

The agency that runs Medicare declined to comment on the report, but a study its own researchers published this fall found a 14.2 percent average HMO disenrollment rate for 1994. It did not compare HMOs with one another.

William Scanlon, an auditor with the General Accounting Office, said studies done for Congress have shown that about two-thirds of senior citizens who leave an HMO go to another health maintenance plan.

"It's not dissatisfaction with managed care. It's dissatisfaction with the plan," said Scanlon. Medicare HMO disenrollment data is not readily available to consumers now. But beginning next fall, under provisions passed by Congress this year, Medicare will make them - and a wealth of other comparative information about HMOs - available to the public.

Improving productivity is part of the explanation for why economic growth has been so strong and simultaneously inflation has sunk to a three-decade low in 1997. Fast productivity growth means corporations can hold the line on prices while earning increased profits and paying higher wages.

The Labor Department said first-time claims for unemployment benefits fell by 3,000 last week to the lowest level in five weeks. It was fresh evidence of a tight labor supply.

New applications totaled a seasonally adjusted 303,000, down from 306,000 a week earlier. It was the lowest since 299,000 during the week ended Oct. 25.

AXYDLBAAXR 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. 12-4 CRYPTOQUOTE LZR LZJQK Z DWQZB VGKK ZOEGB BFK SXZROB MEYUF YK ERXH Z OZXX OQZWRD YR BFQ FGO EV BFQ GRYCQWKQ- UFWYKBESFQW LEWXQH Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS FOOLISH TO TEAR ONE'S HAIR IN GRIEF, AS THROUGH SORROW WOULD BE MADE LESS BY BALDNESS.-CICERO

Schlabs Hysinger SERVING HEREFORD SINCE 1979 COMMODITY SERVICES 1600 West Park Avenue • 364-1281 Richard Schlabs Amber Gillich

CATTLE FUTURES and GRAIN FUTURES tables with columns for contract types, prices, and changes.

METAL FUTURES table with columns for contract types, prices, and changes.

FUTURES OPTIONS table with columns for contract types, prices, and changes.

NEWS

in brief

EMBATTLED BAPTIST LEADER APOLOGIZES
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - With federal and state investigations into alleged financial misdeeds hanging over him, the head of the nation's largest black church offered a 25-minute apology and said he will fight any effort to oust him.
 The Rev. Henry Lyons said he doesn't expect to face any criminal charges and again vowed to complete the two years left of his term as president of the 8.5-million member National Baptist Convention USA.
 "I have never, even up to this day, reached into the offering plate and taken money that parishioners gave to this church every single Sunday," Lyons said at a news conference Wednesday at his Bethel Metropolitan Church. "I have not taken a single dime from any church or from the convention."
 Authorities were investigating allegations that Lyons misused church funds and bought costly cars, clothes and jewelry as gifts for several women.

POSTAL VAN ROBBED BY SAW-WIELDING THIEF
COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) - A bold robber with a sharp saw carved a hole in the roof of a postal van and stole \$400,000, police said Wednesday.
 The suspect apparently cut the hole while the van, which is used to transport mail and cash, was in its usual parking spot at the Viborg post office in western Denmark.
 Then somewhere along the van's 47-mile journey Tuesday from Viborg to Aarhus, the robber entered the back of the van, collected the cash and climbed out through the hole in the roof.
 Postal and bank vans have become popular targets for robbers in Denmark because the vehicles are not armored and their lone drivers are unarmed.
 The postal service also uses clear plastic roofs on some vehicles to improve cargo area lighting.

RSPCA STOPS SENDING DOGS TO POLICE
LONDON (AP) - The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals stopped sending dogs Wednesday to police forces in England and Wales after reports that a German Shepherd died after being kicked during training.
 The dog, which collapsed Nov. 11 while on a week-long refresher course at the Essex Police Dog Training Center in north England, died from a hemorrhage caused by a ruptured liver.
 The dog's handler allegedly was ordered to kick the animal while it was tied to a pole to control its aggressive tendencies.
 The RSPCA said no dogs would be placed with any police force until the Essex Police completed an internal investigation.
 "We have to be particularly watchful, especially if the dogs we supply have already come from a home where they are badly treated," the society said Wednesday.

U.S. FIRM CONNED OUT OF \$3 MILLION IN GEMS
LONDON (AP) - A con man posing as a millionaire stole jewelry worth \$3 million from two Americans after persuading them to fly from California to show him a suitcase full of gems.
 The Daily Express reported that the con man told Bijan Jewels, based in Beverly Hills, Calif., that he was a relative of the billionaire Sultan of Brunei and wanted to buy a wedding present for one of the sultan's sons.
 Two Bijan employees flew to Britain last week in a private jet paid for by the thief, who they believed was a legitimate buyer.
 Scotland Yard said the theft took place Friday outside a hotel in central London, where the two met with the con man, who arrived with bodyguards and a fleet of limousines.
 "They handed over a quantity of jewelry," police said. "Later on that day, they realized that they were the victims of a theft."
 Police released no details about the diamonds, bracelets, broaches and watches that were stolen.

FRENCH, RUSSIAN ROCKETS LAUNCH SATELLITES
EVRY, France (AP) - An Ariane rocket has placed a Japanese telecommunications satellite and a German research satellite into orbit.
 The Ariane 4 rocket blasted off Tuesday night from Arianespace consortium's launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeastern tip of South America.
 Meanwhile, a Russian Proton-K booster rocket carrying a satellite intended to provide direct TV broadcasting for Luxembourg was launched Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
 The Japanese satellite, built by California-based Hughes Space & Communications, was positioned over New Guinea and will route telecommunications for Japan Satellite Systems Inc.
 The other satellite, an Equator-S built by the Max Planck Institute in Germany, will measure the effect of solar wind on electromagnetic fields on Earth.

INDIAN PRESIDENT DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT
NEW DELHI, India - India's president dissolved Parliament today, opening the way for early elections. The move came after none of the country's fractious parties could cobble together a government to replace the coalition that fell last week.
 The afternoon announcement by President K. R. Narayanan's office means it will now be up to election officials to set a date for new elections, which are expected to be held in early February - three years ahead of schedule.
 The election commissioner has said it will take at least two months to organize balloting in the world's most populous democracy. A new government must be in place in time to meet the March 15 deadline for presenting the annual budget.

GENERAL STRIKE SHUTS DOWN ISRAEL
JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli airports, railroads, government offices, banks and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange were shut down for a second day today after an all-night meeting failed to settle striking workers' grievances.
 The strikers ignored a national labor court injunction ordering some of them back to work.
 Up to 700,000 workers were idled by the walkout, which also paralyzed the national telephone and electric companies and other state-run companies. In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, trash piled up on the streets because garbage workers were on strike.

DNC debt being felt at White House

WASHINGTON (AP) - Holiday invitations to the White House are not yet in the mail, but the Clintons are already getting calls from people worried they won't make the cut for this year's guest list.
 "We've had to cut back; it's expensive. There are constraints and we have to live with them," said White House social secretary Capricia Marshall.
 With the Democratic National Committee struggling under millions of dollars of debt, President and Mrs. Clinton have pared their DNC-financed holiday party schedule from last year's 25 to 15 this season. Their guest list has shrunk by about 20 percent.
 This year, the DNC budgeted \$300,000 for White House parties, down from \$400,000 last year, said party spokeswoman Melissa Bonney.
 There was nary a "Bah humbug" uttered, though, as first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gave reporters a sneak preview of the White House's holiday decorations Wednesday.
 "We love parties. Who's counting?" she beamed from above a dangerously pointed, 3-inch Christmas tree brooch pinned at her throat.
 She showed off the mansion's 23 Christmas trees, 224 wreaths, 486 feet of garland and 1,464 bows of burgundy, red and gold - all assembled and decorated with a "Santa's Workshop" theme by 60 volunteers in four days. White House employees have been planning for the season since

mid-June.
 The president lights the national Christmas tree on the Ellipse, south of the White House, on Thursday.
 Mrs. Clinton said the extensive planning time came as the "biggest single shot I ever had," when the family first took over the White House in 1993. "I'd never been anyone who planned for Christmas much before mid-December, and then my husband and I would race around," she said.
 Budget crunch or no, the White House was not decorated on the cheap, thanks to handmade ornaments specially donated by more than 600 needlepoint stitchers, glass artists, students and fashion designers.
 Crowding the centerpiece tree, an 18-foot Fraser fir that scrapes the ceiling of the Blue Room, are miniature outfits for Santa and Mrs. Claus rendered by big-name designers.
 From Oscar de la Renta, a personal favorite of Mrs. Clinton, there's a red plaid hunting jacket with toggle buttons and a shearing collar. The red-hot Tommy Hilfier whipped up a red-white-and-blue ski jacket; Richard Tyler, a silver, lizardskin suit.
 As for the red-velvet underwire bikini top and matching high-cut panty designed by Los Angeles' Robin Piccone, the first lady promised: "Mrs. Claus is going to start her diet right after Christmas."

Iraqis try to set terms for checks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - While the U.N. Security Council seeks ways to improve the lot of Iraq's people, Baghdad has renewed demands to set terms for U.N. weapons inspections - terms rejected by the United Nations and the United States.
 Defense Secretary William Cohen said today that Iraq cannot dictate terms for inspections, including when they should end and what sites should be investigated.
 "For them to say you must have a different form of inspection is really the equivalent of the inmate telling the warden what the terms of his incarceration are going to be," Cohen said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. World Television.
 Cohen was in London to meet with his British counterpart, George Robertson.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, meanwhile, briefed the council privately today on the status of the U.N. oil-for-food program, under which Iraq can sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine.
 The plan expires at midnight. Both Iraq and the United Nations say it has failed to alleviate suffering, but the 15 council members have been at odds over how to improve it.
 Even if the plan is renewed, Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, said today that "unless we see a distribution plan approved... we are not going to pump any oil." That, diplomats said, could take weeks.
 Iraq blames the United States and the United Nations for a slowdown in aid delivery. Baghdad has about \$1 billion in unspent funds from oil sales that could be used to buy food even if it is not selling oil.
 Last year, the council relaxed crippling sanctions imposed in 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, touching off the Persian Gulf War. The change allows Iraq to sell \$2.14 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine.

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