

The Hereford Brand



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NEWS *in brief*

AMERICAN ACCUSED OF SPYING IN RUSSIA FREED, RETURNS HOME TO SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Accused of spying in Russia, Richard Bliss walked into a applauding crowd and open arms back home, the joyous bear hug he gave his dad tempered by uncertainty over how long he'll be able to stay.

Bliss, a 29-year-old field technician, stepped from a chartered Lear jet Thursday afternoon and entered a swarm of about 20 friends and family members who flew in from around the country to greet him.

"After a couple days of resting and spending a few days with my family, I'm very much looking forward to getting back to my job," Bliss said.

Amid the relief was a huge unknown: Will Russian officials will order Bliss back to Russia?

Bliss was arrested on espionage charges in late November, two days before Thanksgiving. He was installing a cellular phone system in the city of Rostov-on-Don, about 600 miles south of Moscow.

Pressure from Vice President Al Gore and others persuaded the Russians to let Bliss come home for two weeks under an agreement between his employer, Qualcomm Inc., and Russia's Federal Security Service - or FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

It appeared Russian officials might be softening their stance on a demand that Bliss return Jan. 10 to face spying charges. The Interfax news agency reported Thursday that the term of Bliss' stay in the United States had not been defined and Qualcomm officials confirmed that.

TENSIONS RUNNING HIGH IN SOUTHERN MEXICO FOLLOWING MASSACRE IN SMALL VILLAGE

ACTEAL, Mexico (AP) - It was a tense moment on an isolated highland road: Indians burying their 45 dead met up with a truckload of men they accused of being the killers.

The mourners pulled a man from the truck and began to kick him, but police moved in and broke up the scuffle. They arrested the 23 men on the truck for questioning and drove off, averting further trouble Thursday.

Tensions have been running high in southern Mexico's Chiapas state since masked gunmen burst into this mountain hamlet on Monday and methodically gunned down 45 unarmed people, including 15 children.

The victims were mostly sympathizers of the Zapatista National Liberation Army, which rose up in January 1994 to demand rights for the state's poor Indians. Survivors say the attackers were peasants from surrounding villages who belong to a paramilitary group linked to Mexico's ruling party.

Federal authorities have taken over the investigation into this week's killings, amid charges that state officials at best ignored the violence and at worst plotted it.

SOUTH KOREAN MARKETS STAGE TURNAROUND; IMF AGREES TO SPEED DELIVERY OF LOAN

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea's battered financial markets surged today, a dramatic turnaround on the first day of trading since an international decision to expedite delivery of promised loans.

After a Christmas holiday, the benchmark index jumped 7.2 percent and remained strong throughout the day. It closed at 375.15 points, up 6.7 percent or 23.7 points from Wednesday's close. The Korean currency, the won, closed at 1,498 to the U.S. dollar, compared to 1,836 Wednesday.

Fueling the climb was the announcement early Thursday that the International Monetary Fund and the Group of Seven industrialized countries would provide South Korea with \$10 billion by early January. The loans are part of a record \$57 billion bailout plan.

ARAB DIRECTOR PLANS MOVIE ABOUT DIANA, PAINTS HER AS TARGET OF BRITISH PLOT

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - An Arab world conspiracy theory about Princess Diana's death in a car crash, propounded in magazines, best-selling books and a court suit, paints her as the target of a British plot.

Now, a movie is in the works.

Director Khairi Beshera says "The Last Supper," will be about Diana's life, not conspiracies surrounding her death. But the notion that she was killed because she was about to convert to Islam to wed Egyptian Dodi Fayed, who died with her, is too popular to ignore.

"I have to deal with this even if it is naive," said Beshera, whose films have been shown at European festivals.

No such evidence of a conspiracy has been presented, and British officials have termed the idea absurd. But that has not stopped many in Egypt from imagining a plot by a British establishment aghast at thoughts of Diana converting to Islam, marrying Fayed and bearing a son named Mohammed who would be a half-brother to England's future king.

Diana, Fayed and the driver of their car died Aug. 31 in a Paris car crash. Investigators still are examining details of the accident, looking for a cause. The driver, Henri Paul, was legally drunk.

VIEWERSHIP FOR NETWORK EVENING NEWS SHOWS RISES, BUCKING PRIME TIME TRENDS

NEW YORK (AP) - Against all odds, the long national tune-out of Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather and Peter Jennings appears to be ending.

Viewership for network evening news programs is up compared with the same time last year, with gains at NBC and CBS offsetting a poor year for ABC's "World News Tonight."

The positive move is a surprise on several levels. It bucks prime time audience trends, where the networks are still hemorrhaging viewers, in a year with relatively few compelling news stories.

While happy about the trend, experts are at a loss to fully explain why. The remarkable competitiveness of the three programs played a role. So, maybe, did a near-death experience, exaggerated or not.

The average weeknight viewership this year is 32.6 million, up 2 percent from last year's 31.9 million, according to Nielsen Media Research. The audience share of the three shows is 50, up from 49, meaning half of the people watching TV at the time are watching one of the three shows.

White Christmas is late for most Texans

By The Associated Press

The white Christmas many Texans were expecting seems to have come a day late.

(Hereford had its white Christmas, however, as a quarter-inch of snow fell Christmas Day.)

In North Texas, some areas saw light snow this morning and light rain was expected to change to sleet in the south. Temperatures were in the low 30s. Winds were northerly at 5 to 15 mph.

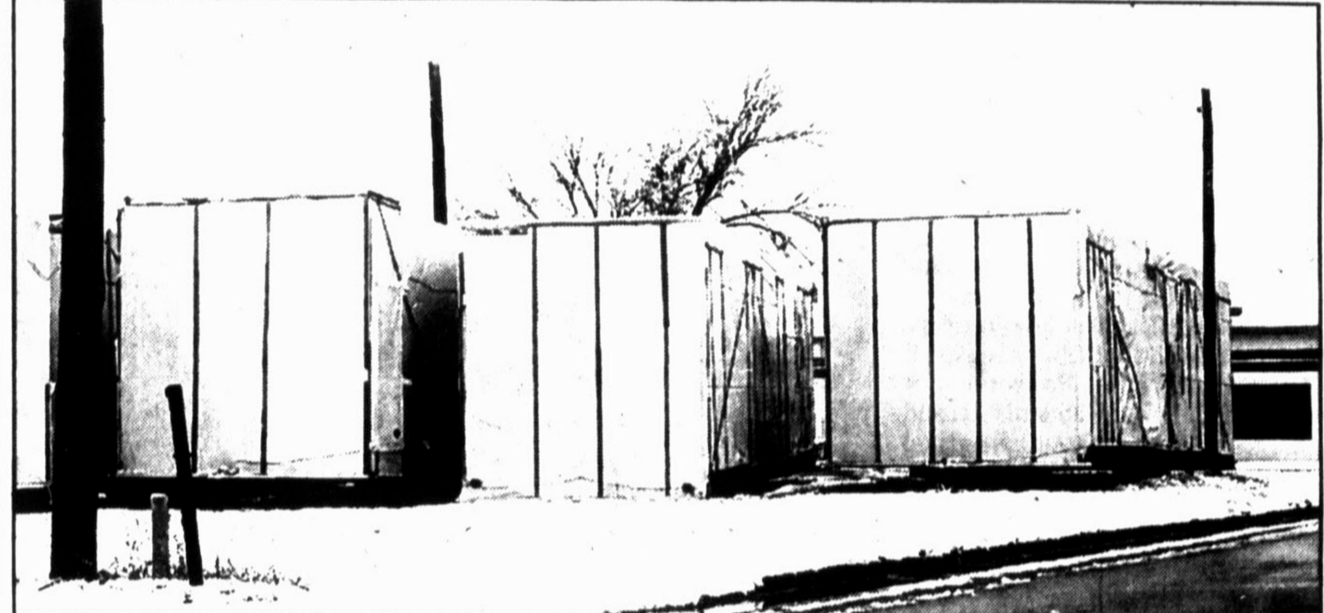
The forecast for North Texas calls for cloudy skies Saturday with snow likely to the northwest. A total accumulation of 1 to 2 inches is expected. Highs will be in the mid 30s. Lows will dip into the teens.

In South Texas, cloudy skies prevailed and many areas were covered with light rain this morning. Temperatures ranged from the 40s. Winds were northeast 10 to 15 mph.

The forecast for South Texas calls for cloudy skies and scattered areas of drizzle through Saturday. Lows will be in the 40s. Highs will reach the 50s.

In West Texas, skies were clear to partly cloudy this morning. Up to 4 inches of snow was reported in Hudspeth County while Haskell and Fisher counties each reported 2 inches of snowfall. Temperatures were in the teens.

The forecast for West Texas calls for snow over most areas Saturday. Highs will be in the 30s. Lows will be in the teens.



Waiting for new home

Several of the modules that will be installed on the construction site adjacent to Hereford Regional Medical Center are being stored on a vacant lot just off U.S. Hwy. 60. The modules should be put in place next week when a crane arrives in Hereford. The modules will be joined at the site to form a new medical office complex.

Merchants slashing prices

NEW YORK (AP) - With stores still filled with holiday merchandise, merchants set out today to make up for ho-hum holiday sales by offering deep discounts after Christmas.

From big retailers like Sears and Macy's to small mom-and-pop shops, merchants opened early this morning and cut prices to get shoppers into the buying mood.

"It will be one big bargain-hunting fest, especially after this Christmas," said Kurt Barnard, a retail consultant and president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report.

Before 6 a.m. today, about 30 people were waiting for the Wal-Mart in South Charleston, W. Va., to open.

Ann Alicea got up at 5:30 a.m. to make it to Filene's in Boston early today.

"Money's tight this year," she said after buying some holiday gifts for her 16-year-old daughter. "I really didn't do much shopping before Christmas."

Despite a booming U.S. economy and high consumer confidence, the holidays failed to meet the expectations of many retailers. Many consumers watched their spending; others gave non-traditional gifts like vacations and trips to spas.

"Everyone seems to be on a budget," Amanda Metzger said while shopping at the Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque, N.M., this week. "People's attitudes are awful this year."

Two years ago, retailers reported dismal sales, while 1996 was a mixed bag, with strong results at many upscale retailers and weak sales at some department stores and apparel chains.

Many merchants have a glut of inventory. For shoppers, that means good deals on things they didn't get for the holidays.

Newspapers on Christmas Day were already filled with store ads announcing bargains on everything from clothes to cookware, with discounts running as high as 70 percent. Retailers are betting on a surge of buying to help their bottom lines.

"It's obviously an important day," said Duncan Muir, a spokesman for J.C. Penney, which hopes discounts up to 50 percent off boost its lagging holiday sales.

Some of the best prices were found in apparel. A weak season left clothing and department stores brimming with merchandise. Bloomingdale's, Macy's and Lord & Taylor advertised markdowns on everything from boys' coats to men's neckwear.

Electronics stores also offered big discounts after suffering through another tough holiday season amid waning demand. There wasn't one new gadget that everyone had to have.

Prices were also cut on jewelry, though sales were strong during the holidays. Many merchants need to make room for their Valentine's Day collections.

Debbie Katz now waits until Dec. 26 to even think about holiday gift-buying. After all, those buying for people who celebrate Hanukkah or Kwanzaa still have a few days to pick up their presents.

And even for her friends who celebrate Christmas, Katz, a New Yorker, doesn't mind waiting to shop.

"So what if I send my gifts out a little late," she said. "I've saved myself a lot of money over the years."

Churches help poor families

By The Associated Press

Tammy Spencer was out of jail and off drugs. Sandra Padron was away from gangs and her ex-boyfriend's regular beatings. But neither woman had pulled her life together, not yet. Both were still on welfare, not sure how to find good housing, get a job or stay away from trouble.

Then local churches stepped in, matching each woman with a team of volunteers.

"They're like a crutch to hold onto," Spencer said. "I've never had anybody encourage me to do anything."

Aiding the poor is nothing new for America's churches, which have historically been there with hot meals, clothing drives and homeless shelters. But now, in pockets around the country, churches are adopting

a new approach.

They're acting as mentors: helping the poor find and keep jobs, arrange day care, budget their money and help their fragile lives together.

"We're asking them to look at the total person, where in the past they were just helping for Thanksgiving or maybe Christmas," said the Rev. Ronald Moore, field coordinator for Faith and Families in Mississippi, which has matched 485 families since 1994.

Mentors offer support and practical solutions to everyday problems. They hear about job openings and know who can fix a broken-down car.

Spencer, who moved to Austin, Texas, after being

See MENTORS, Page 9

AP TOP 10 Diana's death top story

By The Associated Press

The death of Princess Diana in a Paris car crash was the biggest story of 1997, according to the annual Associated Press poll of news executives.

The death of Mother Teresa that same week was the third biggest story, after the conviction of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. He received the death sentence.

Other stories in the Top 10, in descending order:

The bullish U.S. markets, the cloning of a Scottish sheep, the birth of septuplets in Iowa, the \$368 billion tobacco deal, NASA's Pathfinder mission on Mars, fundraising scandals that dogged the Democrats and the suicide of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult.

This was the 61st year that the AP conducted the poll.

Here are the top news stories of 1997, as selected by 190 Associated Press newspaper editors and broadcast news directors in the United States:

1. The death of Princess Diana
 2. The conviction and sentencing of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh
 3. The death of Mother Teresa
 4. Bullish U.S. stock markets
 5. The cloning of a Scottish sheep
 6. Birth of McCaughey septuplets
 7. Tobacco settlement
 8. Pathfinder explores Mars
 9. Fundraising scandals dog the Democrats
 10. Suicide of Heaven's Gate cult members
- The top 10 international news stories of 1997, as chosen by 119 newspaper, radio, television and news agency editors in 43 countries outside the United States:
1. Princess Diana's death
 2. Hong Kong handover
 3. Asian currency crisis
 4. Mother Teresa's death
 5. Tony Blair elected British prime minister
 6. Tourists killed in attack in Luxor, Egypt
 7. Deng Xiaoping's death
 8. Mideast peace process bogs down
 9. End of 4-month hostage crisis in Lima, Peru
 10. Scottish scientists clone Dolly the sheep
- Here are the top 10 stories of 1997, according to a survey that ran for three weeks on the AP's Internet site. More than 700 visitors to the site voted:
1. The death of Princess Diana
 2. The trial of Timothy McVeigh
 3. The death of Mother Teresa
 4. Hong Kong handover
 5. Pathfinder's Mars mission
 6. Cloned sheep
 7. Showdown with Iraq
 8. UPS strike
 9. Stock market turmoil
 10. Tobacco settlement

DECEMBER 26 1997

BACK TO WORK: Christmas fades quickly, Americans return to jobs

By The Associated Press

It's been 11 years since Christmas last fell on a Thursday, and back then nearly half of the nation's employers made the next day a paid holiday. Not this year - today is business as usual for most workers.

"Business is business," says Frank Messina, owner of a Philadelphia home appliance store. "It can't be any different just because it's the day after Christmas. Appliances need to get fixed."

A new survey found 36 percent of employers made today a paid holiday. That's down from 46 percent in 1986, when Christmas last fell on a Thursday, according to the Bureau of National Affairs, a Washington research group.

And just 10 percent will have a paid day off Jan. 2, compared with 22 percent 11 years ago.

Nearly every employer grants Christmas and New Year's Day off, with pay, but few U.S. companies feel the need to close shop on Dec. 26. Many other nations take off the day after Christmas, called Boxing Day in Britain and its former possessions, and St. Stephen's Day in several European

countries.

When business is good and unemployment is low, employers can't afford to take a break, said Sanford Jacoby, who teaches industrial relations at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"So what do you do? You say to your regular full-time people, 'You have to work the day after Christmas,'" he said.

For many small businesses, today's just another day at the office. All four employees of the AA Pawn Shop in Atlanta will be on duty for those who want to sell unwanted Christmas gifts, as will Brad Toll, the kind of person you want on duty if you get in a bind.

"We don't expect a lot of people to need us on that day," said Toll, manager of the Bail USA bail bond company in Camden, N.J. "But you never know."

Retailers are hoping for a big weekend. Nordstrom, the Seattle-based clothing store chain, starts a men's clothing sale the day after Christmas. Microsoft booted up today after two days off, but Intel, which makes the

chips Microsoft's programs run on, powers down for the long weekend.

Nintendo of America is taking the week off, but was to have 200 people staffing the phones today to help stumped game players.

The Big Three automakers close their plants and offices Christmas Eve and will reopen Jan. 5. That's a tradition in Detroit, but also part of the United Auto Workers' contract.

For some, working today means extra dough to pay off Christmas bills.

At Boeing Co., members of the machinists' union get double time plus eight hours holiday pay for each day worked between Christmas Eve and Jan. 2 - except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, when the aircraft maker is shut down. For top-scale mechanics who work at \$25.98 an hour, that's \$623.52 per day.

"There are more who want to work than have been offered it," said Connie Kelliher, spokeswoman for the union's District Lodge 751 in Seattle.

ELMORE LEONARD
BIRMINGHAM, Mich. (AP) - Elmore Leonard got his own day for Christmas.

Gov. John Engler proclaimed Jan. 16 "Elmore Leonard Day" in the mystery writer's home state.

Leonard will appear that day at a bookstore in Birmingham, his hometown.

The writer worked at a Detroit-area advertising agency while publishing five novels and 30 short stories from 1951 to 1961. Since the publication of "Glitz" in 1985, each of his novels has been a best seller.

In 1992, the Mystery Writers of America presented Leonard with its Grand Master Award. Many of Leonard's novels have been made into movies, including "Rum Punch," adapted into the just-released Quentin Tarantino film "Jackie Brown."

MARIEL HEMINGWAY
NEW YORK (AP) - Mariel Hemingway believes in luck, or maybe a guardian angel.

Grandfather Ernest committed suicide in 1961. Sister Joan has suffered from mental illness and sister Margaux died last year of a drug overdose ruled a suicide. Mariel, 36, said she's free of heartache.

"I should be really messed up," she said in the January issue of *In Style* magazine. "My obsessiveness - about the way I eat, the way I exercise - is what has gotten me through. And I'm terrified of drugs."

Hemingway, a Sun Valley, Idaho, wife and mother, said she believes Margaux's death was accidental.

"Not that it matters," she said. "She's dead. But she was doing so well, she had turned her life around, she had never felt more positive."

Hemingway said she no longer feels intense pressure to succeed as an actress. She was nominated for an Academy Award for "Manhattan" in 1979.

"I wasn't the kind of person to do all these crazy things, like get breast

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Names in the News

implants," she said, referring to surgery she had before appearing as a *Playboy* centerfold in "Star 80." The implants have been removed.

JANE SEYMOUR
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Jane Seymour said her recent trip to Poland was a way of remembering her Jewish heritage.

Asked to make a charity appearance in Poland, where her "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman" is a top-rated show, Seymour jumped at the chance to show her children where her paternal grandfather once lived.

"My grandfather escaped from the pogroms when he was 14 years old. ... He was really running for his life."

Seymour, Christian on her mother's side, said she considers herself "nondenominational."

As in years past, she made it a point to be back at her home near Bath, England, in time to sing carols and celebrate Christmas with her family.

JON TENNEY
NEW YORK (AP) - Jon Tenney's mug is turning up all over the place now that he's a sergeant on CBS' "Brooklyn South."

Tenney teamed earlier this year with Matthew Perry in "Fools Rush In" and his movie "Music From Another Room" is due out in April.

He's got several other movies in the works, including "With Friends Like These," which casts him as an actor married to Elle Macpherson, who plays, well, a supermodel.

"As successful as she's been as a model, she's still relatively new to acting. So there's a nice, innocent aspect to her work," Tenney said in

the Dec. 28 issue of *Parade* magazine.

In real life, Tenney is married to Mrs. Superman, Teri Hatcher, formerly of television's "Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman." Their first child - a daughter they named Emerson Rose - was born Nov. 10.

And Tenney's TV cop job has its perks - including "a happy cast that fell quickly into a tight ensemble," he said. "The wealth is spread over all that talent, so there's a nice work schedule."

CHARLTON HESTON
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Charlton Heston delivered his rendition of the Christmas story along with scoops of corn and mashed potatoes at the Los Angeles Mission.

"It's a good feeling to put a meal in some guy's stomach who may not have had a meal," said the actor who portrayed Moses in the 1956 movie "The Ten Commandments."

About 5,000 turkey and ham dinners were served on Christmas Eve.

With a black leather Bible, Heston sat onstage wearing a red apron and passionately read the story of Jesus' birth to a handful of people waiting for a meal.

Heston said he would like to wish "a happy Christmas and a prosperous to New Year" to all, even though "it's a thin bet this year."

Asked to elaborate, the 73-year-old Academy Award-winning actor put his hand dramatically on the arm of a reporter, leaned in close and said, "Saddam Hussein, Africa, China. Should I go on?"

KEITH RICHARDS
NEW YORK (AP) - Keith Richards thinks maybe the Rolling Stones are homebodies at heart, even if wild horses couldn't drag them apart when they're on tour.

"You can't go wrong with a band like this," the 54-year-old guitarist said in *Rolling Stone* magazine's Christmas Day issue.

On their Bridges to Babylon tour, the Stones are as high-energy as ever. Richards throws much of the credit to front man Mick Jagger and drummer Charlie Watts.

"Mick's singing better than ever, and Charlie's ... peaking," Richards said. "Charlie would always rather be at home. Same goes with Mick. But the minute you get onstage, everything changes. And then you realize how much you mean to each other and how much you dig doing it."

"It's like a dog ... throw me another one of those bones and we'll eat it forever," said Richards.

RICHARD RIORDAN
LAURA CHICK
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Mayor Richard Riordan and Councilwoman Laura Chick are trading in their angry bars of a year ago for some sweet talk.

Riordan and Chick buried the hatchet, agreeing to appear Jan. 27 in a sold-out reading of playwright A.J. Gurney's play "Love Letters," to raise \$300,000 for the soon-to-open Madrid Theater in Canoga Park.

"Sometimes politics makes strange bedfellows. This is a way to start the year on an up note," Riordan spokesman Noelia Rodriguez said.

"I picked up the phone and called the mayor and he immediately said, 'Yes.' He was laughing," Rodriguez said Tuesday.

Chick and Riordan got into a verbal row a year ago when the City Council voted to scale back the mayor's plan to beef up the police force.

MENTORS

From Page 1

released from a Denver jail, got control of her bills and developed a budget with her team's help. They encouraged her to move her three children out of a gang-infested neighborhood and helped her apply for housing aid. With their support, she decided to go back to school.

A religious woman whose answering machine implores callers to "have a glorious day in the Lord," Spencer, 28, had been on welfare her entire life. Last summer, after staying off drugs for a year, she left the rolls.

"My mom raised us on welfare and then the minute I got pregnant, I got on welfare," she said. "Now I can hold my head up high."

In Michigan, Padron's team helped her find housing for her family, including two young children and newborn twins. One volunteer tutored her for the high-school equivalency exam. Another helped her get a car.

"They're like my family now," said Padron, 24, who lives in Holland, Mich., the first place in the nation to put every able-bodied welfare recipient to work.

Soup kitchens and clothing drives still far outnumber mentoring programs, but this sort of one-to-one assistance is catching on. Statewide ventures are under way in Mississippi and Texas. Smaller programs are operating in Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, Indiana and a few other states.

"The landscape is changing. We're aiming now towards solutions to poverty rather than just service," said Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners*, a Christian political and cultural magazine.

Church interest in mentoring has grown with welfare reform. Like the new welfare paradigm, with its emphasis on work over subsistence, mentoring tries to change people, not just help them survive.

"Churches were not really transforming the lives of the families with this traditional money-for-rent, money-for-utilities, soup-kitchen stuff," said Amy Sherman, who studies mentoring and runs a small program at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Va.

Conservative churches, which lobbied for welfare reform, feel obliged to do more now that the rules have changed, said Richard Cizik of the National Association of Evangelicals.

"We've been quick to criticize but we haven't been so quick to put our hand into the plow to help people," he said.

And churches that opposed the 1996 welfare reform law, which ended the six-decade national guarantee of aid for the poor, feel compelled to help patch the safety net.

"All around the country you've got people trying to scramble quickly to put into place some kind of alternative," said Wallis.



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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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GO YE EVERY MAN TO HIS OWN HOME!

THE LORD WILL GIVE YOU A KING!

...SAMUEL AWAITS FURTHER WORD FROM THE LORD ON WHO SHALL REIGN AS KING...

AND NOW RESIDING IN THE LANDS OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, IS KISH...

WHOSE SON, SAUL, IS A GOODLY MAN, STRONG AND IN STATURE, TALLER BY A HEAD AND SHOULDER THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL...

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