

Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 135 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

WEDNESDAY, January 12, 2000

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD
HOME OF
Tiffany Mercer

Lawmakers to harvest ideas

Today's weather OUTLOOK

Mostly clear skies
Tonight: Mostly clear with a low around 30, west to northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.
Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high around 60, light and variable wind becoming south 5 to 10 mph.



Extended forecast
Friday through Sunday: Mostly clear, lows in the upper 20s Friday and in the upper 20s to lower 30s Saturday and Sunday, highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s.
Hereford weather
Tuesday's high, 71; low, 41; no precipitation.

■ **Combest and Stenholm discuss agriculture issues before starting to work on an overhaul of farm policy.**

Two West Texas congressmen who serve on the House Agriculture Committee spent Tuesday discussing agriculture issues before getting down to work on an overhaul of U.S. farm policy.

Committee chairman Larry Combest, a Lubbock Republican, addressed a crowd at the Bar H Steakhouse in Dalhart, while Charles Stenholm of Stamford discussed the farm policy overhaul with a Lubbock newspaper reporter.

In his appearance in Dalhart, Combest said his committee will conduct hearings around the nation to glean information from farmers and ranchers. If necessary, Combest said his committee would completely overhaul the 1995 Freedom to Farm Act.

Combest said he is going into the hearings without any preconceptions. He said he wants the ideas about how to overhaul U.S. agricultural policy to come from the producers.

Producers have been hammered by shrinking export markets, brought about in part by the 1999 financial crisis in Asia. As a result, the prices for wheat, corn, soybeans and other crops have plunged.

In its analysis of the farm export situation, the U.S. Agriculture Department stated the situation is unlikely to change this year, and farm



REP. LARRY COMBEST
House Agriculture Committee chairman met in Dalhart with Panhandle farmers and ranchers.

income is expected to fall by about \$7.6 billion to about \$40 billion, unless Congress intervenes with an emergency assistance package.

In October 1999, Congress did approve an \$8.7 billion

Area producers to meet to discuss farm troubles

AMARILLO — Farmers, ranchers and farm organizations from across the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles and eastern New Mexico will have an opportunity to discuss problems in agriculture this week at a special meeting.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Friday at the Texas A&M Research Center, 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West.

According to a press release, low prices for commodities have hammered the nation's agriculture industry, raising concern about erosion of this area's economy.

Farm and trade policy likely will see major changes this year, with congressional hearings expected to begin soon and significant changes in federal regulations governing agriculture are considered likely.

New policies may be influenced by others who do not necessarily have the area's agriculture interests at heart, according to the press release.

The meeting is designed to enable the area's farm organizations and independent farmers and ranchers to provide their ideas for how to deal with the problems affecting the industry.

For more information, call Don Kimbrell at (806) 948-1106.

agricultural bailout package, but some observers say similar legislation is unlikely in 2000, an election year.

Combest told the Dalhart area producers he is working

with Stenholm, the committee's ranking Democrat, on changes in the legislation governing farm policy.

Please see **FARM**, Page **A9**



PRESIDENT CLINTON
Tax plan would expand earned income tax credit by \$21 billion over 10 years.

Clinton enters tax fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is entering the election-year battle over taxes with a \$21 billion plan to combat poverty by expanding tax breaks for low-income people.

The White House described the initiative as part of an "opportunity agenda" that Clinton will unveil in his Jan. 27 State of the Union address to Congress. The overall program is designed to help all Americans share in the nation's growing prosperity.

Clinton, in a speech today to the Democratic Leadership Council, was to announce he will seek an expansion of the earned income tax credit, costing \$21 billion over 10 years. The measure could help Vice President Al Gore answer initiatives of former Sen. Bill Bradley, his rival for the Democratic nomination.

Bradley has proposed expanding the tax credit for low-wage workers as part of a \$9.8 billion "wholesale rescue effort" for the poor.

Clinton's initiative would require approval by an election-minded Congress, where Republicans and Democrats are deeply divided over the size of any tax cuts.

The earned income tax was created in 1975 to keep people working and to offset the payroll taxes they contribute for Social Security and Medicare. It also was intended to give people an incentive to stay off welfare. In 1993, a Democratic Congress approved the largest increase in the history of the program.

In 1998, taxpayers earning between \$10,000 and \$31,000 were eligible, depending on number of children they have. The average 1998 claim was \$1,459 for 19.4 million taxpayers.

USDA: 1999 one of driest years on record

The Associated Press

After another year of drought in Texas, farmer Rodney Ripple says he's just glad his wife, a school principal, has a job off the farm.

In 1999, Ripple grew half or less of the cotton he normally grows on his farm in Tom Green County in West Texas.

"When you've got a lack of rainfall and 100 degree plus days, that's just pretty hot on the cotton plant," he said.

Last year was one of the driest on record in the state, the Texas Department of Agriculture said Tuesday.

Agency spokesman Allen

Spelce said 36 Texas counties are eligible for disaster assistance because of drought declarations by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. Another 58 counties have requested such declarations.

Deaf Smith, Oldham, Castro or Parmer counties were not among those on the USDA list. Although there has been no significant rainfall in Deaf Smith County since October 1999, the county did receive 29.12 inches of rain during the year.

Rainfall totals in 1999 were below half of the annual average in several parts of the state.

South central Texas, which includes the Austin and San Antonio areas, received 15 inches of total rainfall, compared with a 34.48-inch annual average.

Rainfall in north central Texas, including the Dallas and Fort Worth areas, was 18.94 inches, compared with an annual average of 34 inches. The Edwards Plateau, including San Angelo, received 10.84 inches, which compares with an annual average of 24.01 inches.

Spelce said reservoirs are at a 22-year low. "Some ranchers are hauling water and moving live-

stock to other pastures," he said. "Despite last week's rains, some 71 percent of Texas ranges and pastures are in poor to very poor condition."

The real problem, officials say, is that the dry year followed two of the worst droughts of the century, in 1996 and 1998.

"If this was a one-year situation, it wouldn't be all that unnatural, all that significant," said Jeff Ripley, county extension agent in Tom Green County. "But three of the five years have been really bad."

"All of our surface water that's used to water livestock is basically gone," he said.

"They're having to be watered out of wells, and those wells are weakening as well. Crops have been a total disaster basically."

Hardest hit in the county was the wheat crop, and cotton was well below average, he said.

Texas Farm Bureau spokesman Gene Hall said \$8.7 billion in farm relief from Congress in 1999 saved several farmers.

"If not for that assistance, a lot of Texas farmers wouldn't be around in the spring," said Hall.

Please see **DRY**, Page **A9**

ROLE REVERSAL



BRAND Photo

At the 1999 Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce banquet, Women's Division President Kim Leonard (left) presented a bouquet of roses to Shannon Redwine, the recipient of the annual Woman of the Year Award. At this year's chamber banquet, roles will be reversed with new Women's Division President Redwine presenting the roses to Leonard, the Woman of the Year honoree.

Leonard named Woman of Year

By Becky Thorn
Hereford Brand Lifestyle Editor

In role reversals, Kim Leonard was named the 1999 Woman of the Year and Shannon Redwine was installed as the president of the Women's Division during the quarterly meeting Tuesday night at K. Bob's Restaurant.

During the first quarterly meeting of 1999, Leonard was installed as president and Redwine was honored as the

1998 Woman of the Year.

Redwine presented Leonard with a silver tray and a dozen long-stemmed roses and recognized her for having served more than one year as president of the Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce. Leonard completed the 1998 term of Nancy Denton, then served for 1999, using as her

Please see **WOMAN**, Page **A9**

Farmers face year of low prices, cut back planting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing another year of low grain prices, U.S. farmers have planted the smallest acreage in wheat this winter since 1972, the government said today.

Some 42.9 million acres are planted to various varieties of winter wheat, 1 percent less than last year and nearly 8 percent below 1998, according to the Agriculture Department's monthly survey of crop conditions and production.

About three-fourths of the wheat produced in the United States is a winter variety, which is planted in the fall and harvested the following spring.

Grain prices collapsed in 1998 and are expected to rebound only slowly over the

next several years because of the heavy production and big surpluses worldwide. However, USDA today projected slight improvement in the prices farmers are getting this year for wheat, corn and soybeans because of heavier-than-expected demand.

The price for wheat is expected to average from \$2.50 to \$2.60 a bushel, up 5 cents from last month's forecast. The price projection for corn was raised 10 cents to a range of \$1.70 to \$2.10 a bushel. For soybeans the projected range was raised 5 cents to \$4.50 to \$5 a bushel.

Kansas farmers are growing 9.8 million acres of wheat this winter, down from 10 million last year. Oklahoma's plantings are down to 6.1 million acres from 6.4 million in

1998. In Texas, where dry conditions either delayed or prevented seeding last fall, the wheat acreage is down to 5.8 million this winter from 6.2 million a year ago.

Many producers who have traditionally grown wheat switched to more lucrative crops last year, such as corn and soybeans, in areas where the growing conditions were adequate. "From what we're seeing, we're going to see the shift continue to both corn and beans," said Rich Nelson, a commodities analyst for Allendale Inc.

Total wheat production last year, including spring varieties, was 2.3 billion bushels, 10 percent less than 1998, USDA said.

Please see **CROPS**, Page **A9**



BRAND/Julie L. Carlson

Setting up — Members of the Friends of the Library have been at work this week setting up books for the group's annual book sale. The sale will be Friday-Saturday downstairs at the Deaf Smith County Public Library. The sale will be 5-9 p.m. Friday for members and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for non-members. Memberships are \$3 per person, \$6 per family.

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LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, January 12, 2000 • A3

Ginn credited for contributions made to Pilot Club of Hereford

Marcie Ginn was recognized as Pilot of the Quarter during the regular Tuesday breakfast meeting of the Pilot Club of Hereford in Hereford Community Center, catered by Shirley Wilson.

Credit was given Ginn for the entertainment features and congeniality she has shared with members over the months.

President Sue Hyer presided over the business meeting at which time Betty Sue Robinson announced the next Pilot Game Night will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Community Center. Robinson invited all members to mark their calendars and bring a partner for a night of fun, food and prizes.

Brenda Thomas said that the club's Mexican Stack Supper fund-raiser will be at the Community Center on Feb. 10.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is once again holding a "Bowl for Kids Sake" tournament and the Pilot Club will have a team bowling in the competition on April 1.

Yvonne Simpson announced that the club operations committee will conduct a membership drive in February, March and April.

Thomas, immediate past president of the club, had been selected to obtain a Past Presidents Plaque. She presented the plaque at the Tuesday meeting and it will be hung in the foyer of the Community Center.

Dianna Kimmel gave a re-



Recognized as Pilot of the Quarter was Marcie Ginn, left, as she receives a plaque from Hereford Pilot Club president Sue Hyer.

port of Anchor Club activities, stating that the November Thanksgiving dinner and December toy drive were successful. The Anchor Club will sponsor a Cow Patty Bingo fund-raiser in February.

Special guests at the meeting were Jodie Branum's mother, Lorraine Malamen from Minnesota, and her son

Chris Stark, who is home from college. Chris is a past president of Anchor Club. Other special guests were current Anchor Club members Ranuka George and Jessica Liscano.

The next Pilot Club meeting will be Jan. 25 with Margaret Bell presenting the program on "Pilot Information." All members are encouraged to attend and bring a guest.

At the Center

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Mexican stack, Spanish rice, pinto beans, salad fixings, tostados, pineapple; or sliced ham.

FRIDAY-Fried pollock with tartar sauce, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, peas and carrots, apple crisp; or cook's choice, applesauce.

MONDAY-Italian spaghetti with meat sauce, herbed green beans, tossed green salad, sherbet; or chicken and noodles.

TUESDAY-Beef brisket, hash brown potatoes, pinto beans, onion slices-pickles, coleslaw, apricot cobbler; or sliced ham, apricots.

WEDNESDAY-Chicken strips with gravy, mashed potatoes, French green beans, pineapple-cottage cheese salad, German chocolate cake; or roast pork with gravy, mixed fruit cup.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., oil paintings 9-11 a.m., DSHHC bp/bs 9 a.m.-noon, Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., line dance 10-11 a.m., HSCA board meeting 9 a.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

MONDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., line dance 10-11 a.m., doll class 1-4 p.m.

TUESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., Miracle Ear 9 a.m.-noon, Golden K Kiwanis noon.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., birthday social 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ceramics noon-4 p.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Thank You

The Ed Lacey family would like to thank all of those who sent flowers, cards and food. We would also like to thank Monsignor Blum of St. Anthony's Church and the Parish for the meal and all of the prayers. Thanks to the town of Hereford for everything you did. We also appreciate all the support from Rix Funeral Directors.

Sincerely, Priscilla Lacey, Eddie Lacey, Ann & Grant Davis and Lori & Phillip Betzen

Book by Brokaw is considered

A literary discussion of Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation," will be sponsored by the Singles Mingle group of First United Methodist Church.

Carole McGilvary will lead the discussion which will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at 225 Beach.

It is not necessary to be single or a member of the singles group to take part in this activity or others sponsored by the group.

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Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I read your column about rules for visiting the terminally ill. I wonder if you have a similar list for those of us who are

constantly besieged by company. As the only family members who live out of town, we have visitors every month of the year. I came up with a list of my own, and I hope you will print it.

1. For three days, you are company. After that, you are family. This means everything you do for yourself at home, you do here. This means wash dishes, clean your room, do your laundry, and so on.

2. Don't expect to be waited on. This is not a five-star hotel with room service. If you want room service, check into a hotel.

3. I am not your mother. I already have children. I don't need more.

4. I am not your tour guide. Want to see the sights? I've already seen them. Get a map. Rent a car.

5. If you want to stay somewhere for two weeks and do nothing all day long, go camping or take a trip to Bermuda or Hawaii. You can vegetate all you like, and no one will mind, as long as you pay your hotel bill.

6. Plan on going out or staying in? Kindly let the resident cook know your schedule so she (or he) can plan accordingly. Don't keep us in the dark unless you like a lot of

pizza.

A lot of people would appreciate seeing this in your column. Sign me — Driven Nuts by Company, No City Please

Dear Driven Nuts: You spoke for a lot of people today, and I thank you on behalf of those who have been taken advantage of because they were too timid to say anything. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'll repeat — no one can take advantage of you without your permission. Wake up out there.

Dear Ann Landers: "John" and I have been married 49 years. Thirty-three years ago, he had an affair with another woman. He ended it, and we never discussed it again. In my heart, it took me over a year to forgive and forget, but I wanted to save my marriage, and felt my harping on it would only send him back into her arms.

Two years later, I became involved in an affair myself with a married man. I ended it after two years, and to my knowledge, John never knew about it. Even after all this time, I am so filled with guilt and remorse that it is on my mind constantly because I've been living a lie all these years and I cannot forgive myself.

I believe a man is much less likely to forgive and forget about adultery than a woman, and that if I try to ease my conscience by confessing, I will be ruining a lot of lives. What do you think, Ann? — Needing Guidance in Philadelphia

Dear Philadelphia: After 29 years of being a faithful

wife, I would say your conscience should be clear. Forget about digging up those old bones. A session with a counselor or your religious leader might be helpful, but beyond that, I don't think you need to do anything more.

Dear Ann Landers: Norman Clarke in Millen, Ga., is correct. Many prescriptions are impossible to read. A competent pharmacist will not fill a prescription unless he or she is absolutely certain the medication is correct. If any doubt exists, the pharmacist should call the physician to verify the name of the drug and the directions.

Too many drugs sound alike — yet are for different medical problems or have different side effects. Tell your readers if there is the slightest doubt, they should check with their physician. — B. Wayne Carmichael, R.Ph., Dietrich, Ill.

Dear B.W.C.: Thanks for the alert. I love the way my readers help one another.

"A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" is the perfect little gift for that special someone who is impossible to buy for. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.

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Friends of the Library Book Sale
 January 14, 5 - 9 pm (Members Only)
 Memberships \$3 per person/\$6 per family
 January 15, 9 am - 5 pm (Open to Public)
 Bring in this ad and receive 1 book free.
 Deaf Smith County Library - Downstairs

Beta Sigma Phi



Rituals - Local chapters of Beta Sigma Phi - Alpha Alpha Preceptor, Alpha Iota Mu and Xi Epsilon Alpha - held rituals recently at Hereford Community Center. Beta Sigma Phi members receiving rituals were, from left, Shelley Lewis, Exemplar Degree; Debbie Holmes, Ritual of Jewels; and Jana Morgan, Pledge Ritual. All are members of Xi Epsilon Alpha. Hostesses for the event were members of Alpha Iota Mu.

Veleda Club examines contents of Indian trunk

Claudia McBrayer demonstrated the Indian Trunk in the Deaf Smith County Museum's Trunk program for members of Veleda Study Club when they met at the museum Monday.

While club members viewed the contents of the trunk, McBrayer explained that the Indians used every part of the buffalo. They ate the meat raw and drank the blood right after the kill.

She also told that men were married after their first battle, usually around age 25. They had more than one wife and the women did all the work, except hunting and fighting.

The women delivered their own babies and used soft rabbit

skins with leaves in them for diapers. They carried their babies on their backs everywhere they went.

Following the presentation at the museum, club members assembled in the home of Joyce Ritter for a business meeting. Roll call was answered with "family heritage."

The next meeting will be Jan. 24 at Margaret Zinser's for a program by Beverly Harder called "Button, Button." All members are asked to bring their button collection or favorite buttons.

Attending the recent meeting were Marcella Bradley, Juanita Brown, Frances Crume, Bettie Dickson, Mary Dziuk, Betty Gilbert, Ritter and Zinser.

Repairs to E.B. Black House are discussed during meeting of historical society board

The Deaf Smith County Historical Society Board of Directors held a meeting Tuesday to discuss repair and repainting of the historical E.B. Black House.

The board discussed ways and means to obtain funding for the projects to be worked on this spring at the E.B. Black House.

In a previous meeting, the Board of Directors voted to use the funds from the sale of the Centennial Cookbook to match

the grant offered by Stanley Black, grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Black. The remaining funds will be sought from the community through donations and memorials.

At Tuesday's meeting a committee was formed to compose a letter to be sent to various businesses and to publicize the fund raising campaign through the media and bring the issue before local clubs.

Looking Back

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2000. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not discriminate against law-school applicants because of race.

On this date:

In 1519, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died.

In 1773, the first public museum in America was established, in Charleston, S.C.

In 1915, the House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1942, President Roosevelt created the National War Labor Board.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a huge offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe.

4-H Trailblazers learn about animals in wild

The 4-H Trailblazers club met for their monthly meeting on Monday night.

The Trailblazers were presented with a wildlife program conducted by Deaf Smith County Extension Agent Mike Lloyd and club leader Jim Steiert.

The program focused on labeling animals in the wild as predator, prey or scavengers.

Various sizes of deer antlers were used as examples of deer living in different climates throughout Texas and various quantities of vegetation and water used for deer and wildlife to survive. As a special treat, Lloyd offered deer jerky to the club members.

Trailblazer members present were Chad Dollar, Shane Wilcox, Jordan Duggan, Kevin Prisk, Kelley White, Ryan Hoelscher and Levi Keeling.

The club's next meeting will be Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

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In 1964, leftist rebels in Zanzibar began their successful revolt against the government.

In 1966, President Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the United States should stay in South Vietnam until Communist aggression there was ended.

In 1969, the New York Jets defeated the Baltimore Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III, played at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

In 1971, the situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS-TV.

Ten years ago: Astronauts aboard the space shuttle Columbia retrieved an 11-ton floating science laboratory in a rescue mission that kept the satellite from plunging to Earth.

Five years ago: In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, an American soldier was killed and another wounded during a shootout with a former Haitian army officer who also was killed. Qubilah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, was arrested in Minneapolis on

charges that she had tried to hire a hitman to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan; the charges were later dropped.

One year ago: The Supreme Court limited state regulation of voter initiatives, striking down several methods used by Colorado to police such measures. Mark McGwire's 70th home run ball was sold at auction in New York for \$3 million to an anonymous bidder.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Luise Rainer is 90. Former South African President P.W. Botha is 84. Country singer Ray Price is 74. Singer Ruth Brown is 72. Singer Glenn Yarborough is 70. The "Amazing Kreskin" is 65. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 61. Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier is 56. Singer-musician George Duke is 54. Rock musician Cynthia Robinson (Sly and the Family Stone) is 54. Actor Anthony Andrews is 52.

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SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, January 12, 2000

Close, But No Cigar

Third-ranked Lady Dons survive Lady Whitefaces, 63-62

By Yuri Soto

Hereford Brand Sports Editor

It was a basketball game that was dubbed David vs. Goliath.

Goliath may have won. But David brought along a few slingshots to give the challenger quite a fight.

The Amarillo Palo Duro Lady Dons defeated the Hereford Lady Whitefaces 63-62 on Tuesday night, but not before Hereford's comeback made things interesting in the sec-

Ama. Palo Duro 63, Hereford 62

P-18 90 6 19-63
H-12 17 16 16-62

Palo Duro (77): Toya Gonzales 2-3 3-7 7; Joyce Benson 3-6 8-8 15; Juliana Morrison 5-8 2-2 12; Stacey Arkalife 2-5 0-0 4; Casey Jackson 8-10 7-9 25. Totals: 20-35 20-26 63.

Hereford (17-6, 1-1): Sarah Griffin 1-4 0-0 3; Valerie Guzman 8-14 0-0 18; Toni Eicke 4-7 1-2 9; Tiffany Mercer 2-3 4-4 9; Shyla Martin 2-3 0-0 4; Ashley Fangman 0-2 1-2 1; Tori Walker 6-11 7-9 19. Totals: 23-44 13-17 62.

Halftime — Palo Duro 38, Hereford 29. Three-Pointers — Palo Duro 1 (Morrison 1); Hereford 4 (Guzman 2, Mercer 3, Griffin 1). Fouls — Palo Duro 16; Hereford 22. Rebounds — Palo Duro: 22 (Jackson 9); Hereford: 17 (Walker 6). JV — Palo Duro 52, Hereford 39.

ond half.

"We knew Hereford had a good team and they have some kids that know how to handle pressure," Palo Duro coach A.J. Johnson said. "We knew it was going to be a big ball game for them and for us and when you consider we were playing in their court, we knew it was going to be a ball game. We didn't expect to come in their gym and run away with a win."

But early on, the Lady Dons looked like they were about to turn the game into a blowout.

Palo Duro, showing why it is the third-ranked girls basketball team in Texas, jumped to a commanding lead in the first period, thanks to forward



With her eyes closed? — Toni Eicke shoots the ball over Amarillo Palo Duro's Tawana Foster on Tuesday night. Eicke and the Lady Whitefaces nearly pulled off an upset against the third-ranked team in the state. Eicke finished with nine points.

Casey Jackson's inside baskets. A three-pointer by Joyce Benson with 5:15 left in the period put Palo Duro up 9-0.

But after a Hereford timeout, the Lady Whitefaces came back roaring with 10 points before the Lady Dons would call a timeout.

Baskets by Valerie Guzman, two free throws by Tiffany Mercer and a Mercer jumpshot kept things close.

"I just had to step up and

play this game because they were going to be very tough to beat," Guzman said, who finished with a season-high 18 points. "We played as tough as we could."

Palo Duro went back to Jackson inside as she finished the first period with 11 points and gave the Lady Dons an 18-12 lead after one period.

Hereford had trouble stopping the Texas Tech signee.

"We knew we had to shut

her down," senior guard Tori Walker said. "She was getting most of the rebounds and that's where she was getting most of her points, so we had to block her down, shut her down and keep her away from the ball and we knew we had to do that in the second half."

In the second period, the Lady Dons continued to attack the Lady Whitefaces through Jackson as she added four points in the period.

Jackson got help from Juliana Morrison who poured in eight points to keep Palo Duro in the lead.

But Guzman and Toni Eicke combined for 10 points to keep things within reach before halftime. Palo Duro led 38-29.

But Hereford would fight back.

"We were down nine and it took a lot of heart from us to

See DONS, Page A6

Cowboys fire head coach Chan Gailey

By Jaime Aron

The Associated Press

IRVING (AP) — Chan Gailey was fired as coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Tuesday, two days after the team was knocked out of the playoffs in the first round. The Associated Press has learned.

The firing was scheduled to be announced during a news conference later Tuesday, according to team sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gailey led Dallas to an 18-14 record over two regular seasons, but the Cowboys were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round both years.

Gailey, the fourth coach in the team's 40-year history,

leaves with the dubious distinction of being the first not to win the Super Bowl. His tenure also was the shortest.

There was no immediate word of a replacement. Washington coach Norv Turner, a former Dallas offensive coordinator, is still beloved by many players — especially quarterback Troy Aikman — but he's still under contract with the Redskins.

Jones is likely to be after an offensive-minded coach. Other hot commodities this offseason include St. Louis offensive coordinator Mark Martz and



Chan Gailey is fired as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys in only his second year of service.

See COACH, Page A6

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Dons: Herd nearly put nail in Palo Duro's coffin

From Page A5

fight back from that and we did, and it's part of playing the game," Hereford coach Key Harrison said.

A Guzman three-pointer started the comeback in the third period.

Then, a shot and free throws from Tori Walker helped the Lady Whitefaces get back into the game.

Shots by Shyla Martin, Toni Eicke, and a three-pointer by Sarah Griffin put Hereford up 45-44.

The comeback in the third period was helped by a technical foul on the Palo Duro bench with 5:52 left in the period. The infraction set up a four-point play for Hereford.

"Our turnovers killed us," Johnson said. "In that period, we had six points and eight turnovers, so when you turn the ball over more than score points, the other team is going to get back in the ball game."

"I was dumb enough to get

that technical foul and gave them two free throws and then they score, which made it a four-point play," he added. "If we can take care of our turnovers, we can execute and win games."

But Hereford ran out of timeouts in the second half and got into deep foul trouble, enabling the Lady Dons to eat away at the scoreboard from the free-throw line.

"When they got to the bonus, they really hurt us," Harrison said. "I spent some of our timeouts in the first half to settle us down, and at the end, we didn't have many left and we had to rely on memory."

While Palo Duro hung on to their lead with free throws, Walker kept things close with nine points in the quarter.

"We thought we were down by a lot at halftime, but we came out and saw the score, so we knew we were still in it," Walker said. "We came out hard and showed we could play with them."

After two free throws by Joyce Benson gave Palo Duro

a 62-59 lead, the Lady Whitefaces looked to cut down the lead to one point, but Walker's 12-foot jumper over Jackson bounced off the rim and Palo Duro took possession.

Toya Gonzales put the game away by converting one of two free throws before Tiffany Mercer's desperation three-pointer from 35 feet away at the buzzer.

"We knew we had to perform because they were coming in here as the big dogs and everybody didn't expect us to win and I knew had to play to the best of my abilities," Mercer said, who finished with nine points. "We are going to keep our heads up high and play to the best of our abilities and not get down because we lost."

The loss was a big moral victory for the Lady Whitefaces who now believe they have a chance against the Lady Dons.

"They're ranked third in

the state, so this is confidence when you get to play them that close," Walker said.

It's a big booster for the Lady Whitefaces as they entertain Pampa on Friday night.

"It's a long season and we

got to take one game at a time," Harrison said, whose team now drops to 16-5, 1-1 in District 3-4A play. "We can't let this game get us down and even if we had won, not get ourselves too high. We just got to go in and keep battling."

Guzman is one of the players whose confidence grew as she offered these astonishing comments.

"I hope this scares them," she said. "We got them at their place next time, so they're going down."

Coach

From Page A5

Gary Kubiak, Denver's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Martz could not be interviewed until the Rams season is over.

Jones was looking for a creative offensive mind who could also be a disciplinarian the last time around, when he was looking for a replacement to Barry Switzer. After a long search, Jones proclaimed "Chan's the man!" during a news conference announcing Gailey's hiring in February 1998.

The 48-year-old Gailey wasn't the answer in either area. The offense fizzled late in his first season and rarely clicked this season. In '99, Dallas led the NFL in penalties and penalty yard.

Gailey, who also was the offensive coordinator, believed in mixing things up to keep defenses guessing. It was in his contract that he called the plays, and his choices wavered between too radical and too conservative.

Gailey's approach didn't highlight the strengths of Aikman and running back Emmitt Smith.

The quarterback was often frustrated and he resorted to way too many dump-off passes. The biggest example of Smith being misused is the fact Dallas went 4-5 in his 100-yard games this season after being 53-9 in them the previous nine years.

The Cowboys went 10-6 in Gailey's first season, winning the NFC East and becoming the first team to go 8-0 in division play. Division rival Arizona got even by winning a first-round playoff game 20-7 in Texas Stadium. It was Dallas' first home playoff loss since 1983.

This season opened with three victories followed by losses in nine of the next 14. Four teams beat Dallas by scoring just 13 points; all four were on the road, where the Cowboys lost eight straight, including a 27-10 loss to Minnesota in a wild-card game.

The Cowboys wasted six fourth-quarter leads and were within a touchdown in the final quarter of two more. They were 1-7 in games decided by seven points or less, including 0-3 in games decided by three or less.

To Gailey's credit, the team never gave up on the field or became divided in the locker room. If players didn't like the offense, none of them said so publicly.

Jones also steadfastly supported Gailey. Midway through the season the owner said: "Our coach is one of the hardest-working people there is, and not just in sports. He's also one of the most creative."

Jones started clamming up after December losses to the New York Jets and New Orleans Saints. He said after the playoff loss that it wouldn't be appropriate to comment on his coach's future.

The pair met for an hour the day after the Minnesota knocked Dallas out of the playoffs, yet Gailey's job status was never discussed.

The coach said he knew it was in jeopardy because Jones "gets asked the question and he doesn't deny it. That's what I read in the paper."

When hired, the soft-spoken, even-tempered Gailey seemed like the perfect antidote to the stormy Switzer.

Although he'd never been an NFL head coach, Gailey had been an assistant for 10 years, the last two as Pittsburgh's offensive coordinator. He'd also been a head coach in the World League and he'd won an NCAA Division II championship at Troy State.

He may have been too laid back. Jones tried inspiring the team before its season finale by calling about 20 veterans into his office for a fiery pep talk.


In 11 years as owner, Jones has turned one of the most stable jobs in pro sports into one with quick turnover.

The next coach will be the fourth in eight seasons; Tom Landry had it for 29 years until being fired by Jones the day he bought the team.

Gailey, who was believed to be among the NFL's lowest-paid coaches at \$500,000 per season, has three years left on his contract.

The Cowboys are the fifth team to change coaches this offseason, joining New Orleans, Green Bay, New England and the New York Jets. Those five jobs remain open.

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Bush displays growing confidence

■ "He just seems more comfortable, more confident. There will be one or two answers in every debate that are too full of cliches, but there are many more where he gives a good, free-flowing response."

Stuart Rothenberg,
political analyst

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The scene was a true southern plantation, the trees draped in Spanish moss, the menu a Low Country favorite: roasted oysters.

George W. Bush, the Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate, stood at the podium and revved up his good 'ol boy routine.

"I have been to Boone Hall before, I want you to know. Old Tommy Hartnett (a former state senator and congressman) drug me over here when I

was campaigning for my Dad in 1988. It was for a Ducks Unlimited banquet. And since I don't drink, I remember it," Bush said as the audience erupted in laughter and cheers.

In the not-too-distant past, Bush squirmed when asked about mistakes in his life, admitting only to "youthful indiscretions," his decision to stop drinking and testily drawing the line there.

Now, embarked on a five-state swing to Michigan, South Carolina, Delaware, New Hampshire and Iowa, the GOP front-runner is displaying what looks like newfound confidence. One bit of evidence: the mischievous story like the one told Tuesday night during a campaign rally at the Boone Hall Plantation.

Gone is the uncertain look Bush wore in November as he stammered through a TV pop quiz about world leaders. Today he plunges into foreign affairs, Medicare, federal tax

policy. There's been a payoff from all of those briefings last year at the Governor's Mansion in Austin — the ones that had inspired outsiders' jokes and questions about the two-term governor.

Bush is still careful not to stray too far from the edge of his intellectual reservoir. But his effort in studying issues has filled in an important piece for a candidate who raised a record \$67 million last year and has a campaign operation that resembles a Fortune 500 corporation.



GEORGE W. BUSH

On a five-state swing to Michigan, South Carolina, Delaware, New Hampshire and Iowa, the GOP front-runner is displaying what looks like newfound confidence.

"I was impressed with him handling all the ad-libbed questions," said Ray Chadwick, 52, of Bedford, N.H., after hearing Bush speak. "It seemed to me he wasn't making things up as he goes along."

Bush's exposure to the media and the public is controlled. He often sleeps in a separate hotel from the traveling press corps and flies on a separate jet. Those traditional New Hampshire town hall meetings are the exception, not the norm.

The staff argues it does so for logistical reasons, and to help maximize Bush's cam-

paing time as he totes around the biggest media herd on the campaign trail. The Democratic presidential campaigns often have many of the same controls, but Bush's chief rival, Arizona Sen. John McCain, rides with reporters on his campaign bus and has made town hall meetings his campaign hallmark.

Bush's plan seems to be working.

"He just seems more comfortable, more confident," said political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. "There will be one or two answers in every debate that are too full of cliches, but there are many more where he gives a good, free-flowing response."

In debates and on the stump, Bush battles McCain over their tax plans as the two run neck-and-neck in New Hampshire. The senator tries to move beyond a controversy over letters he wrote a regulatory agency on behalf of campaign donors, but Bush casts

McCain as a Washington insider — and highlights his own terms as governor.

"Voters should trust me because I have a record of doing in office what I said I would do," he told reporters after former rival Elizabeth Dole endorsed him.

On another recent occasion, when publisher Steve Forbes, who is second to Bush in Iowa, aired the first of what the Bush campaign long had expected would be a series of attack ads, Bush media adviser Mark McKinnon expressed near-indifference to the criticism of the governor's tax record.

"My sense now is we won't flatter it with any attention," he said, although the campaign now plans to respond this week.

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AL GORE

"I will hound that other party's nominee from coast to coast and border to border, with a challenge to debate twice a week, accepting every format, accepting every invitation within reason."

Gore undaunted by Bradley's bid

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Tina Turner's raspy voice belted from the loudspeakers. "You're simply the best" as Vice President Al Gore, smiled his "thank you's" and shook every hand in the crowd like a man undaunted by Bill Bradley's latest offensive — like a man who had already won Iowa.

Bradley, Gore's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, had accused Gore earlier in the day of an inconsistent anti-smoking, anti-tobacco record. Bradley cited votes and statements from the 1980s, when Gore was in Congress, opposing higher cigarette taxes and tobacco advertising restrictions.

Trailing Gore by at least 20 points in statewide polls two weeks before the Iowa delegate caucuses, Bradley aimed for what he hoped would be an Achilles heel.

"I'm hitting tobacco because tobacco happens to be something I've hit for 18 years," Bradley said Tuesday.

His campaign's research on Gore's congressional record "lays out a very clear point in time when there was a disagreement over who supported big tobacco," Bradley said.

"I've been consistent over time with regard to tobacco and he hasn't."

Gore, who was in eastern Iowa boosting his own health care proposals, rejected Bradley's charge and said it "smacks of sort of desperate negative campaigning."

Within an hour of Bradley's remarks, Gore aides handed reporters summaries of three Senate votes that it said Bradley had cast in 1982 against higher cigarette taxes.

Gore met later Tuesday with about 400 supporters gathered at the University of Iowa. Working the room from corner to corner, Gore exuberantly grabbed the

microphone. "Did I miss anybody?"

He looked ahead and promised Democrats a tough general election fight.

"The first moment that it becomes apparent and accepted that a nominee has been chosen," Gore promised, "... I will

hound that other party's nominee from coast to coast and border to border, with a challenge to debate twice a week, accepting every format, accepting every invitation within reason."

Today, Gore was targeting undecided voters in Cedar Rapids, a key swing district, and reaching out to the labor unions of Waterloo to try to motivate potential ground troops for a get-out-the-vote effort for the Jan. 24 precinct caucuses.

"Obviously, 12 days out, you really want to get focusing on turning out your voters and getting to those who are undecided," Gore spokesman Chris Lehane said.

On another front, Bradley cut in Tuesday night on a New Hampshire radio interview with Education Secretary Richard Riley that the Gore campaign had promoted. Bradley telephoned station WSMN-AM and outlined his plan for new teachers and after-school programs.

Though Riley is campaigning for Gore, who has hammered Bradley with accusations of neglecting education, he conceded: "I don't think there is a whole lot of difference between Bill Bradley and Al Gore in terms of their belief in education."



BILL BRADLEY

"I'm hitting tobacco because tobacco happens to be something I've hit for 18 years. I've been consistent over time ... and he hasn't."

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