90th Yoar, Vol. Number 131 HUSTLIN' HEREFORD
HOME OF Mike Dominguez

Today's weather OUTLOOK Cold front moves across the state
 as a cold tront apporoached the region, bringng cooler skies.
North Texas skies will cover Nort Texas loday with highs
mostly in the 50s and lows tonight mostly in the 30 s. pect partiy to mostly cloudy skies today. Highs will range
trom the lower
an northern areas to the lower
 chance of showers across southeast Texas as well as
the coastal bend and crossroads regions mainly this at ternoon.
Texas wowever, West
will
enjoy ciear to exas win enjo clear reay
partly cloudy skies today through Friday, with highs in
the 40 s and 50 sind night lows in the 20s and
30s.

## 9

Cloar and cold Tonight: Clear and cold
with a low around 15, light and variable wind. warmer with a nigh in the lower 50s, southwest whin Extended forecast Saturday: Partly cloudy.
low 25 to 30 , warmer with a high in the upper 50 s. Sunday: Partiy cloudy, low
25 to 30 , warm with a high in the lower 60s.
and colder, Mostly cloudy 20s, nion in the mid-40s. Hereford weather Wednesday's high,
ow 21. no preciptation

Inside Today DEBATES In a feisty first debate of the new year, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley said AI Gore is stuck "in a Washington bunker, and the vice presiden accused his rival of leaving New Hampshire residents "high and dry" on health


- Democratic presi dential contenders joust over issues in first New Hampshire debate of year. - Page A9
- Tax-cut proposals are expected to be the major topic during tonight's one-hour Republican presidential de bate in New Hampshire. Page A9



## Uncertainty's increasing as primary season nears

Americans are moving away from deciding on a presiden gests, even as the campaign heats up and the first contest in lowa draws near.
Nearly three-fourths of the public say they hadn't yet picked a candidate, says a new poll on voter interest taken ter on the Press Politics and with Policy. That's compared Protests

- Cuban-Americans an gered by decision to send
6 -year-old boy back to 6 -year-old boy back to
father in Cuba. MIAMI (AP) government's decision to send
6-year-old Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba sparked angry pro-
tests in Miami, a rally in Cuba attended by Fidel Castro and comment from the White
House. But Attorney General Janet Reno today said she apElian simply went to school
in Wednesday spending the on Wednesday, spending the
day the decision was made in first grade as reporters staked out his location and the inter-
national tug-of-war over his tinued today with a trafic "He doesn't know what going on," said Marisleysi Plese BOY Pat


## Walcott ISD pleased with audit findings

Participants at the 3rd Annual Ag in the Classroom Fair had the opportunity to see actual sparks similar to those that appear when a conductive material comes in contact with high voltage power lines. Experts from Soutwestern Public Service Co. explained the usefulness several stops made during the fair, which was held today at the Deaf Smith County Bull Barn.

## "It is a depressing fact that The rise in the number of he American people seem to undecided potential voters les

 be less interested in the cam- than three weeks before Iowa's paign, less impressed by the Jan. 24 presidential caucuses caldbeen in a long time." said "We had expected the oppo Marvin Kalb, executive direc. site finding," said Harvard pro or of the center's Washington fessor Thomas Patterson, co $\begin{array}{ll}\text { The Vanishing Voter Project } & \begin{array}{l}\text { director of the project. "Appar } \\ \text { ently, the upswing in the Bra }\end{array}\end{array}$ plans to interview at least dley and McCain campaign 1,000 Americans weekly has served mainly to raise
through the November elec- doubts about all the candition - more than 50,000 vot. dates."
them tick. Please see VOTERS, Page A9 setback for new-home sales,
at that level
Economists had been pre dicting a slowdown in the redhot housing market since June,
when the Federal Reserve when the Federal Reserve higher in an effort to dampen such interest-sensitive sectors of the economy as housing.
Thirty-year, fixed-rate mortages rose to 8.06 percent last week, compared to 6.83 percent at the end of 199


By Donald M. Coope They're happy at Walcott
Indepentent School District Independent School District, and with good reason. The auditors have com-
pleted their examination of pleted their examination of
the school district's finances for Fiscal 1998-99 and they found improvement in the fund balance.
When the year ended Aug,
31, 1999, the school district's fund balance showed a surplus of $\$ 122,364$, nearly
double the showing of the double the showing of the pre--
vious year when the balance vious year wh
was $\$ 68,948$.
Superintendent Bill McLaughlin said he was par-
ticularly pleased with the ticularly pleased with the
fund balance, which he said is building up. "That was a surprise. We
didn't think it would be that

## New home sales decline by 7.1\%

WASHINGTON (AP)
Sales of new homes fell $7.1 \quad \begin{aligned} & \text { which was the biggest decline } \\ & \text { since December 1997, housing }\end{aligned}$ Sales of new homes tell big.
percent in November, the gest decline in two years, as higher mortgage rates started to have a bigger impact on sales activity.
The drop in single-family sales followed a bigg 9 percent October increase. Even with
the setback, the Commerce De. the setback, the Commerce Dehomes were so
ally adjusted ally adjusted
annual rate of 865,000 units
in November. in November.
New-home sales have
heen above an been above an
annual rate of 800,000 for a

## record straigh months

## preveicus record was a res

five-month
string of sales predicting a slowdown in the red-hot housing market since June, when started Federal Reserve rates higher in in effort to dampen such interestsensitive sectors of the economy as housing.
surprise. We
would be that
year.
Cornell \& Co. of Amarillo
conducted the audit.

Economists had been
morning. "Im happy with is "Of course, we'd like to build it up even more, but we do he said. he said.
Durin year, the dine 1998-99 school revenues of $\$ 950$ posted total $\$ 900,348$ in the previous sean Expenditures for the year ere $\$ 896,629$, down from chool year. in the previous $\$ 411,147$, jor expenditure, and instructional-related services. This line item was up Support service 1997-98. dents was $\$ 309739$, down from $\$ 311,514$ the previous December 1997, housing ual rate of 800,000 homes $r$ a record 23 rd straight Because housing and consumer spending have remained o strong, many economists are looking for the Federal Reserve to boost interest rates increases in
in increases in
an effort to slow economic
activity and activity and
keep inflation under control.
In a sepaIn a sepa-
rate report today, the Labor Department said that the Americans fil-
ing claims for unemployment by 33,000 last week, the big. gest increase in a year. The number of new appli-
cations for jobless benefits climbed to 309,000 for the week ending Saturday, the first bove this figure has been weeks. fallen by 7,000 in the previous Labor Department analysts stressed that the claims level often vola

## Chamber schedules banquet

 Tickets for the 2000 DeafSmith County Chamber of
Commerce banquet went on Commerce banquet went on
sale this week at the chamber office, 701 N . Main, and at the
local banks. Tickets, which cost $\$ 16$ each, also may be purchased from chamber mem-
bers and Hereford Hustlers. bers and Hereford Hustlers.
The banquet will be 7 p.m. Feb. 3 in the banquet room of the Hereford Independent
School Administration BuildSchool Administration Building, 601 N .25 Mile Ave.
Ellis Posey, a humoris thor from Georgetown, will be the keynote speaker. The banquet also will fea-
ture the presentation of the Here the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award. The Woman of the Year also will be recognized, as will the

Hetemo

## Local roundup

Lions accept nominations Past Presidents of the Lions Club are now accepting nomina-
ons for the Hereford "Citizen of the Year." Submit nominees ame and a short resume as to why he or she should be Hereford's Citizen of the Year. Nominations must be received y non on Jan. 11 at the Deaf Smith County Chamber of
Commerce or mailed to PO. Box 192 . Commerce or mailed to P.O. Box 192 .

## Ministerial Alliance meeting The Hereford Ministerial Alliance Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the Ranch House.

## Food Pantry collects Y2K food

 The Hereford Food Pantry, 609 Park Ave., will be taking special ollections of canned and staple goods which might have beenpurchased in lieu of possible 3 K problems, and which residents nay not have room to store. Hereford Food Pantry is open from 1 p.m. Monday and Friday. If unable to deliver the food to the
Hereford Food Pantry contact Saill Walker at $364-5163$ or Lajean Hereford Food Pantry contact Sally Walker at 364 -5163 or La

AC offers Hereford classes
Amarillo College will offer registration for Hereford cla Courses offered will include busineess administration, computer nformation systems, criminal justice, English, government history, math, office technology, psychology, reading and speech.
For more information contact Brian Hedrick at 363 .-7627.

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## News digest

## HUD to Insure larger loans

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a move to boost homeownership e Department of Housing and Urban Development is raising Secretary Andrew Cuomo said today that HUD has begun nsuring mortgage loans for single-family homes ranging from $\$ 121,296$ in communities where housing costs are low
limit of $\$ 219,849$ in areas with higher housing costs.
In 1999 the limits ranged from $\$ 115,200$ to $\$ 208,800$
"These higher loan limits will help create more homeowners,
nore home construction, more jobs and more economic growth, Cuomo said. "They will transform the American dream of Theownership into a reality for families across the nation."
The new loan limits are part of a regular annual adjustment HUD makes to account for rising home prices.

## Dry county gets DWI plates <br> JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) - Hundreds of license plates with he letters "DWI" have been issued to motorists in a dry rkansas county <br> The state Department of Motor Vehicles said it was only coincidence that Craighead County received that combination of letters, which are sometimes used to abbreviate "Driving While Intoxicated" While Intoxicated." 999 DWI plates to Craighead County and handed out 400 in the past three weeks. Three people have omplained, but only one turned in his new plate and asked for different one. <br> The department screens out license plates it deems inappro priate, but none of the agency screeners were bothered by DWI. Among the banned three-letter combinations are DAM, "Its all in the eye of the beholder," said Fred Porter, epartment administrator. "What could be screened by some

## Dead whales on Mexico's coast

 MEXICO CITY (AP) - Two dead whales washed ashoreeetween Tuesday and Wednesday on widely separated beaches The first, a gray whale, was found Tuesday on a beach nea
Tijuana, only about 5 miles from the U.S. border. Officials said hey had not determined the cause of death of the $25-\mathrm{fo}$ whale, which was estimated to weigh 6,600 pounds. The second whale, a humpback, was found dead on a beach Puerto Vallarta, more than 1,000 miles to the south of Tijuana. There were no immediate indications that the whale -
estimated to weigh about 9,000 pounds - had suffered any stimated to weigh about 9,000 pounds - had suffered any
injuries or disease, the government news agency Notimex

## Gulf Publishing sold, to go online


. with the intention of transforming the Houston an Internet powerhouse
Gulf will quickly evolve into a business that not only publishes information online, but also
The deal marks the first ownership change at Gulf, which
Ray L. Dudley started in 1916. The new owners are SCF Partners of Houston and Battery Ventures of Wellesley, Mass,
Each will pump $\$ 10$ million into the company, giving the venture capital firms a $50-50$ ownership split.
Gulf officials say their
Gulf officials say their company will continue its traditional
business lines, including publishing a stable of trade journals business lines, including publishing a stable of trade journals
that include World Oil, Hydrocarbon Processing and Pipe Line
\& Gas Industry

Resendiz wants trial moved HOUSTON - A drifter who was the subject of a high-profile
manhunt wants his Feb. 14 capital murder trial moved from Houston, despite a judge's decision not to guarant Houston, despite a judge's decision not to guarantee that it
would be held in one of three cities preferred by the alleged
serial killer.

## The Hereford Brand (USPS-242-060) is publand


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newspaper and
republication of special dispathes.
The Hereford Brand was estab

## Ag interaction



Learning from oxperte -. Fourth grade students from HISD, St. Anthony's and NCA left the classrooms today to get some first hand agricultural experience irom individuals who work in various ag lields. Texas Parks and Widilife departmen, epresented by Bill Rogers, left, discussed he agriculture, while Jeffery Carison demonstrated cotton ginning techniques.


## Competition reduces reliability

Temporary blackouts more common as more companies offer service

WASHINGTON (AP) - An Energy Department task force ays the electric industry's making America The group examined power
disruptions during peak elecricity demand last summer in Chicago, New York City, Texas and other areas in the mid-
Atlantic and Gulf Coast states. "Aging infrastructure and ncreased demand for power
have strained many transmision and
Flight delays not Y2K related
WASHINGTON (AP) - The tion said a computer problem today that caused flight delays of two or more hours
across the eastern one-third and is not believed to have Feen related to Y2K.
$\qquad$ ington center in Leesburg, Va
began experiencing problem transferring data about 6:15
a.m. EST, said
Drucella Andersen, a spokesman a
FA's headquarters in Wash ington. Normal operations re-
sumed at $9: 49 \mathrm{a} m$. sumed at $9: 49 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
"These problems caused an
overload in the computer verload in the computer
the center transitioned to backup system," she said. "The exact cause of the failure i not known at this time. I
does not appear to be Y2K does no
Delays were experienced by passengers traveling to or from Coston, John F. Kennedy delphia, Pittsburgh, Raleigh ional, Dulles Internationa and Baltimore- Faington In ernational, the FAA said.
The problem occurred computer that processes infor mation sent to the center in Leesburg from various rada trol centers around the Eas Coast as well as flight plan data filed by airlines and in
dividual pilots, said William Shumann, another FAA spokesman in Washington. "The backup system is safe, but it's a much slower system
with less capacity and so we whe to hold airplanes on the ground," he said
N. Yeve Letzier of Baldwin, .Yrvi, said in a telephone in- his wife called
the him from her cell phone afte LaGuardia Airport for two hours.
orce report. It said some utiliies, in focusing on surviving spending on areas aimed at eliability.
Increased electricity use and
ew demands caused by new demands caused by the
rend toward competition among power providers "are stressing the electrical system and increasing the risk of temduring peak demand periods, he report continued. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said cooperation
between industry and the government in dealing with the 2K computer glitch "was good step toward achieving But he said th
last summer was evidence that additional steps must be taken to ensure electricity reliability.
He urged Congress to enact legislation aimed at increasing
reliability of the power reliability of the power grids.
The interim report given to The interim report, given to final version expected in March, found that expectric utill-
ties were undergoing ties were undergoing fundamental change from operating
as local monopolies to becomas ling rivals in an increasingly competitive market.
The disruptions last summer "demonstrate that the nec-
essary operating practices, regulatory policies and technological tools for dealing with he changes are not yet in


\section*{ter in Nashua, N.H., delayed} | ter in Nashua, N.H., delayed |
| :--- |
| flights at airports in Masse- |
| chusetts, New Jersey and New |
| York. FAA officials said a |
| backup computer system was |
| used when the main computer |
| at the air traffic control cen- |
| ter experienced problems for |
| about three hours Monday |
| night. |

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for
Jan. 5,2000 , include the folPOLICE DEPARTMENT ncidents - A runaway was reported glas. The runaway was later ocated and released to a guardian.

- A forgery was reported in
- A civil matter was re
ported in the 600 block of
Union.
ported in the 1100 block of
West Park Aven
West Park Avenue, Value of stolen items is estimated ove
$\$ 50$ and under $\$ 500$. 0 and under $\$ 500$.
ported at Lass B theft was reported at Lake and Highway
385 . Value of the stolen items is estimated over $\$ 50$ and un der $\$ 500$.
- A two vehicle accident wa reported at U.S. Highway 60
and Progressive Road. No inuries were reported.
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- A 21-year-old woman was
entenced on a criminal tres pass conviction.
arrested and charged with vio ation of probation.
- A 22 -year-old man was
the report. The task force, made up of
power industry experts from power industry experts from industry, was asked to examine power disapuptions and electricity price spikes that oc-
curred during high electrieity curred during high electrieity
demand last summer. They included out Chicago, New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, the mid. ware, Mistic from Visisippinia to Arkansas Texas and Louisiana as well as some non-outage electricity grid disturbances in New En-
gland and the mid-Atlantic gland and the mid-Atlantic
states, The task force said com-
petitive pressures make it petitive pressures make it
more diffcult to coordinate the low of electricity since the parties participate. "Unfortunately the develop-
ment of reliablity management reforms, tools, technologies and operating procedures
has lagged behind economic reforms in the electric industry," said the report.
"In anticipation of competi-
tive markets, some utilities tive markets, some utilities
have adopted a strategy of cost-cutting that involves reTuced spending on reliability... The overall effect has been
that infrastructure for reliability assurance has been considty assurance
erably eroded."


## HEREFORD BRAND <br> Emergency services

rrested and charged with fail ure to stop and give informa -A 28 -year-old man was sen enced on a driving while in xicated conviction -A 31 -year-old man was ar rants for criminal non-support - A 24 -year-old man arrested and charged with violation of probation on a fetony aggra-
vated assault with a deadly weapon.

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

 Texas lotroryNo ticket correctly matched ll six numbers drawn weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said,
winning ticket would have been worth an estimated 4 million. field of 50 were $3-4-22-23-31-43$.
Saturday night's drawing
will be worth an estimated $\$ 7$ will be
million.

Pick 3
The winning Pick 3 numTexas Lottery, in order:

# LIEESTXIES 



Double celolpration - Cecil Oglesby, center right, owner Sid Shaw. Ogiesby Equipment employees and members of the of Ogiesby Equipment Company, Inc., received a certilicate of business retention committee also congratulated Oglesby on appreciation tuesday from the Deaf Smith County Chamber his 80 th birthday, The company has been in business in Hereforc Creators Syndicate


## Doar Ann

 ane is at the time - no May it re. C. in Nashville, Tenn. "Nancy io Doar romi 1 appreciate "Nancy in the wisdom in your comments.Lubbock" She said same subject from someone whe said same subject from someone
whe also disagrees with Naney: mother died, From lowal It is nonsense the family photo for the obituary that had been taken 40 years earwanted a photograph family flected the mother they knew best, and that her mother the way she to be remembered was young and vital,"
My mother is 66 years old, and as far as I am concerned, she becomes more beautiful every year. She has earned
every wrinkle and gray hair the old-fashioned way - by raising four kids, six
grandigids grandkids, and yes, a hus.
band. Why does society value
youth ahead of wisdom? Beauty is more than skin. deep. I do not agree with Nancy that most children
would select a photo for the obituary of "the woman who raised us, not the old woman
she was when she clied" she was when she died," I hope I do not need to make
that decision for many years to come, but when it happens, I will select the like-
ness of the beautiful woman


Another reason to subscribe call 364-2030

## Make basketball bash fun with giant cookie

Football fans have made top of the cookie to resemble
their pre-game taligating par- the lines on a basketball. Prick

 ketball fans should follow suit, minutes or just until center is and celebrate their favorite set; do not overbake, Immedi-
aport with a basketball bash. sport with a basketball bash. ately place chocolate chips on
Just invite the gang over the indentation lines, Lef cool. and serve up lots of healthful Mal Matentation lines, Lei cool.
giant cookie ( 12 servand hearty anaek foods and inge,
beverages. Then surprise your
Three Pointers" beverages, Then gurprise your "Three Pointers"
friends with a Glant "Blam. Bakketballs come in a
Dunk ${ }^{\text {I }}$ Bakketball Cookie for variety of colors, ranging from Dunk ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ Basketball Cookie for variety of colors, ranging from
deasert
orange to burnt orange to deasert, this great-tasting, orange to burnt orange to a
Bake chewy cookie in a deep-diah drops of food colors to achiev
pizan pan, then use chocolate the dough color you desire. chips to create lines and make 2 , If you don't have a deep. the round cookie resemble a dish plaza pan on hand, purbasketball "gLAM-DUNK" chase one of the convenlent
GIANT "Mosable pizza pans avaliable GAANT MLAM-DUNK", diaposable pizza pans available 11 eups buttermilk biscuit 3/4 eup packed light brown augar cup butter or marga. rine, melied
1 large egg uasiaile. found in the baking aisile. Work authly fully when placing the choce late chips on the baked cookio
to decorate. The chips will atick to the hot cookie.
1 teaspoon vanilla
8 drops yellow food color
4 drops red food color
$1 / 3$ cup semisweet chocolate ehips
In large In large bowl, atir together
biseult and baking mix, brown ugar, butter, egg vanilia and food colors unti well com. bined, Preas dough into a 12
$x$ luelnch round pizza pan
 ing a knife, make euta in the

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## SPORTS <br> A5 . Hereford Brand • Thursday, January 6, 2000

## Wrestling wins first match

Boys wrestling defeats Lubbock Estacado in dual matches, loses duals to Lubbock Coronado

Editor's Note: Due to late success against Lubbock reports, the wrestling team Coronado as he pinned Rodney
results were not available at Kennedy in 1:27 in a battle of press time on Wednesday. at 125 pounders. From StaffReports $\quad$ Kris Hammerbeck also won Whiteface wrestling team fi - The $1: 53$. nally got a team victory on Seth Pietsek was also victoTuesday night when it de- rious as he took care of Joel
feated Lubbock Estacado, 5148, this after losing a $58-46$ dual match against Lubbock
Most of the individual wins recorded by the Whitefaces but did record some impres. sive individual victories against Estacado.
Wlien Khalich, Terrence Mason and Kris Hammerbeck
all won by forfeit.
Seth Pietsek was the lone winner as he pinned Fabian pound division. in the 180 Other matches include Tim Schlabs pinned by Joseph Carrillo in a time of $3: 20$ in the 215-pound division; Trevor
Baird lost to Mark Gonzales 10-4 in the 152 -pound class; Jayson Torres defeated Tyler Yenzer 19-4 in the 160-pound division; and Jarod Rose de-
feated Randall Burrows $9-2$ in the 189-pound class. Luis Perez continued his


Rachael Rodriguez, shown here in practice on Wednesday, will participate in the Amarillo Girls WrestingTournament Saturday starting at 8 a.m. at Caprock High School. The boys team will be going to the Liberal, Kansas, Tournament.

## New Orleans Saints fire Mike Ditka

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Mike Ditka, who came to New "That's the bottom line. When you don't get it done, you're for Ditka. His previous worst mark was 5 -11 with the Bears in Orieans three years ago talking Super Bowl, is leaving with going to get out of there in a hurry",
Tegrets that he didn't get one more year. 60 -year-old Ditka said he had hoped to stay on as coach
Then "It surprised me," Ditka said after Saints owner Tom Benson despite the team's troubles but, with the firing, said he would fired him and 22 , assistants Wednesday. "I really untracked."
Ditka followed a pair of 6 -10 records with a $3-13$ mark this season, the second-worst in franchise history. The losses, poor play and apparent disorgaDitka for the first time in his tenure this season. "I walked to the door and started cheering," said
Saints fan Alan Cousin Sr a 46 -year-old U.S. Saints fan Alan Cousin Sr, a 46-year-old U.S. Potal him but I think the game has passed him by. The cost of the product wasn't worth it."
Beloved in Chicago for 11 seasons after leading
"Da Bears" to the Super Bowl in 1986, Iron Mike "Da Bears" to the Super Bowl in 1986, Iron Mike could not stop a downward slide in New Orleans. running back Ricky Williams, and Ditka ran out of chances.

"Iron" Milke
Ditka
for Ditka. His previous worst mark was $5-11$ with the Bears Also fired Wednesday by Saints owner Tom Benson were general manager Bill Kuharich, senior vice president Terry O'Neil and 19 assistant coaches. Benson described it as the
first step in returning the Saints to the spot the team enjoyed first step in returning the Saints to the spot the team enjoyed
in the late 1980 s, when it had its only winning years and made four trips to the playoffs.
"This was a dimfcult decision," Benson said. "Mike Ditka is
one of the greatest football people ever" one of the greatest
Financial terms of Ditka's departure were not disclosed, but he signed a contract extension two years ago. The new dea runs through 2002 and is reportedly worth $\$ 2$ million a year. Benson said the search for a new general manager and coach would begin immediately and continue until he find andidates to take us where our organization and our fans
Under Ditka, Chicago dominated the NFC Central with 52 regular-season victories between 1985-88. That was the most wins by an NFL team in any four-year period. and victories. He coached the Bears to six NFC Coth tenure See DITKA, Page Ae

# We cover the games peopl play. 

## Find out how well they did.

## Another reason

 to subscribe.
## 

HOUSTON (AP) - Jose Lima saw what the Houston Asee-agent market rether than when he decided to tent the ruickly traded him to the Now York Mets.
Lima, who endeared himself to Houston fans with hits lamboyance a arbitration.
Lima said Wedneedday accompanied to Now York,"
 they signed me long term, and I'm the happiest man in the world today
Lima, an afforthought in an eight-player trade with the Detroit Tigerr in ingen, has gone 37-18 in the past two seasons, incluaing $21-10$ with a 3.58
ERA last year as Houston won its third straight NL Central title.
"Jose waited for the opportunity, seized the opportunuty, took advantage of the opportunity and has become one of the best pitchers in the
National League," Astros general manager Cerry Hunsicker sald.
Lima, 27, is known for his on-mound exuber${ }^{\text {ance. }}$ Lik rally cap," rally cap," he said. "If you don't like it, don't play against me
Take the day off and enjoy it from the dugout. That's just Hunsicker
Hunsicker a button-down traditionalist, said he'd like to "I think what makes Jose unique is not his skill as pitcher but his willingness to express himself when he's not.
only out on the mound, but whenever he's in public, Hensicker said, "He"' not afraid of what people think. I realily Lima had been an unremarkable pitcher who had little major-league success, when, after an awful 1998 spring tratin
 oople laughed behind my b He answered with a $16-8$ season.
Lima drew , Lima said. he promised a 20 -win geason on ast spring when taik show.
"Phey say, There goes Lima again,'" he sald Peopie don't want to believe in me. But I believe mound, I think I'm the best pitcher on Earth the With December's trade of 22 -game winner Hampton to the Mets, Lima and Shane Reynold will anchor a rotation that likely will include Chris Holt and newcomer Octavio Dotel, Scot gery, also could have a spot if he's ready this pring.
Hunsicker said Tuesday he's pursuing another pitcher who could make the rotation. Such a deal
could be announced this week, he said. Lima, who made $\$ 2,225,000$ last year, would have been ligible for free agency after the 2001 season. He gets a $\$ 4.5$ million signing bonus that's payable over three years, $\$ 3.75$ million this season, $\$ 4.75$ million in 2001 and $\$ 5.75$ million in
2002 . He can earn a total of $\$ 2.25$ million in performance bonuses in the final two years of the contract.
Holt and outffelder Roger Cedeno are the only Astros still
eligible for arbitration.

## Sonics clamp

 on Spurs, 99-96SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Gary Payton and the Seattle
SuperSonice got a much. Bupersonics got a much.
needed lif at he expense of the gtruggling NBA champion
San Antonio Spurs. Payton had 24 points and 10 assists as the supersonice
beat the Spurs $09-96$ on Wednesday night for their second victory in seven games. ix antonio is $2-4$ in ite las "We came out" with intenaity and once you come out with intensity, you get everybody into it," Payton said, "Its
good for us, especially being good for us,
on the road.,
Horace Grant added 16 Horace Grant added 16
point, and Brent Barry had 13 for the SuperSonies. Tim Duncan had 24 points, and
David Robinson added 20 for he Spurs.
"Losing is never fun,", San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich
said. "We dug ourgelven a hole and it made it touigh for us to climb back. Seattle shot well. Payton acored seven straigh
points, the last two on a driv points, the last two on a driv.
ing layup, to give Seattle a
91.83 lead with $8: 00$ to play. But Avery Johnson hit con aecutive jumpers and Robinson made two free ehrows to bring 2;40 left.
Chuck Persen countered with a 3 -pointer with 1:50 re maining to make it 94-89. Af umper, Vin Baker made free throw and Payton had a layup to give Seattle a 97-9. ead with 18,6 seconds to pla closer than three points the rest of the way.
"Right now, overall, we are said. "A lot of these teams will not go to the playoffs, We are built for the playoffs. I have no doubt we have a chance to
win the championship. But we are not going to win it in the first week of January, Ou energy right now is not good. Seattle shot 47,7 percen
from the field and had second-chance points.
bout," Seattle coach Paul
Westphal said. "We got great erformances from our start rs, but we also got a lif
rom Greg Foster and Chuck Person. This is a a good a win as you are going to see. It came at a good time after
losing five-in-a-row and then going on the road:" San Antonio is. 12-9 at the Alamodome this season.
"We don't look at it We don't look at it as if
teams are better than us, said Person, who scored nine points in his return to Sar Antonio after playing for the spurs from 1994-98, "The night got away with the win. San Antonlo was coming on Tuesday night. Seattle led by an many a 15 points in the second quar er and had a 51.44 advan tage at halftime. Payton and
Ruben Patterson each scored 11 points in the first half.


## tenars nutomotive

 Fall Car Wash Faclity


three appearances in the
NFC title game and a Super
Bowl title in 1986. The Bears Bowl title in 1986. The Bears
were 18.1 that were 18.1 that year. After
the Super Bowl, Ditka was honored as coach of the year.
After being fired After being fired by Chi-
cago, Ditka worked as an NBC commentator for four years. He was hired by the Saints Ditka's first year was marked by sideline tantrums, yanking players out of games and even a threat to
which he rescinded later.
"With "With all the ranting and
raving that people saw, he raving that people sow, he
always left it on the field," quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver
said. "He had his say and
moved on. He was never de-
vious. He's a man's man and vious. He's a man's man and Ditka maintained close ties with Chicago, where he has a restaurant. His newly com-
pleted restaurant in pleted restaurant in New OrJan. 14.
Despite his Chicago connections, Ditka tried to adopt "I don't live in the past," he said in September, "This is my team now and this is my After he drafted Williams, Ditka donned a dreadlocks wig and formal attire and posed
with the running back in with the running back in a a national magazine.

Ditka played in five Pro Bowls, two league champion
ships $(1963,1971)$ and a Super Bowl during his NFL play ing career with Chicago, Phila delphia and Dallas.
He was the first tight end
to be inducted into the Pro to be inducted into the Pro
Football Hall of Fame. He was the NFL rookie of the year in 1961. Ditka was also an assistant
las in 1977.
Ditka's firing was the fift NFL coaching change since the end of the regular sea
son. Ray Rhodes of Green son. Ray Rhodes of Gree
Bay and Pete Carroll of New England were fired, and the New York Jets had a doubl
resignation resignation, with Bil
Belichick following Bili Parcells.


##  In the Classilieds. 


 second, Vokoun said, "It went through one of our players
legs and hit off the upper part egs and hit of the upper par
of my catching glove. It jus got enough of my glove to bounce over. They got a couple of lucky goals tonight:"
Guy Carbonneau, who as isted on Keane's goal, scored sisied on Keane's goal, scored
his finh with 4.9 seconds left into an empty net. Nashville got the only goal
of the first period when soott of the first period when scot
Walker scored his third at 16:56. Dallas tied it at 1 when Lind's deflection glanced o Re skate of Nashville's chin
Ronning and behind Vokoun at $10: 258$ of the second,
Stars defenseman Richar Stars defenseman Richar
Matvichuk left the game after Matvichuk lef the game after
the first period with the flu.


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he YMCA Basketball League is designed for elementary boys and girls grades Kthru 6th. All girls and boys are eligibe to play regardiess of athicetc abiny, Teams are coached by aduh voluncers. Every game is supervied and reierces are provided. The league sportsmanship. Every girl and boy plays in every game, We will have three divisions: K-5. 2nd, 3 rd \& $4 t$ hand 5 h \& 6 h grades, The teams wiII be drawn at the YN
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> LEAGUE FEE \& ELIGIBILITY: League tee wiil be $\$ 23.00$. Additional chiidren in same family $\$ 18.00$ each. ALI participants must be YMCA members. YMCA membership for youth are $\$ 7.25$ for three months. *** ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY RECISTRATION FORMIII***

SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarships are available for those who need and qualify for assistance. (Contact Weldon or Norma Jean at 364-6990)
LOS ANGELES (AP)
Eleanor RAoosevelt could De
the ubbect of and documentary, filmmaker Sue hers was "a wonderful story",
From anguished shilchood Prom angulthed ohild hood
to an important but diffeult to an important but dirmeult
marrige to her role aut
powerint woman on the Us. powernie woman on the U.S. Was unending drama in the lifo of what williams callas
America's preeminent firt lady of the contury.
Williams' facination of effort, sulted in "Eleanor Roonevele; A pronentation of PBS', "The
American Experience," documentary, narrated by and written by williams. p.me $\operatorname{CBT}$-hour Monday airs at at 8
antations. Stations.
Relyin
Relying on arehival film and
photoi, historiana memories of friends and fam. ily, the doeumentary oxplores: the personal and the poltical aspects of a woman in whom
the two were Inextricably united, Wullare sald sald. Images of Mra, Rooosevelt spouse, charming American troops in the Pacine during
World War II and helping eraf a human rights resolution for the infant United Nations show the sweep of her experr-
ence.
ent of The film opens with details oarry yoars: She wan born in Roosevelt, part of the Oyater
 and
coulin. doted doted on her but undereut by aleo hollism, Con , homely by her mother, who called
her ${ }^{\text {OHanny" }}$ her "Granny" and
openily mused opponly her munged
about her child's unattractiveness and prospects,
Eleanor
wai Eleanor
largely cut out of largely eut out of mother's headaches gave her
rare chance to rare chance to foel
loved. "The only way she could please
her mother was to $\qquad$ her foel better, soid williams The death of her parents. hor introduction to social ac. ing Frankiln and to the dash. family woon - and marital and child hood did not Eleanor's own to be a mother propare her such an the the friendahips. Hickock, that were Lorena to be more than platonic.

Camily are blase about the

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uncemportablo, the the ilimaker said.
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civil $r i g h t s$ that made her poiltically
controveralal dur. ing her time docades- long Inventigation by the Fod.
eral Bureau of $\ln$. vestigation. of her time, and to be speaking the
way phe did for the way she did for the
rights of African Americans in the 30 and 40 s , espe. cially during war.
time, muat have ust made people Id "She crazy," Williams Who were comfortathe people comfortable, as doaste very unwho "t upsetting the status Mra, Roosevelt managed to keep her belleft at the fore. in a tolevevision commercial for Good Luck margarine the money going, in part, to help her of onen fnanceially tro
ehildren), Willams aid. Comics

## The Wizard of Id

 Barney Google and Snufty Smith ${ }^{\circledR}$

By Mort Walkor
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## Television <br> 1revison

THURSDAY

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FRIDAY




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| NEW YORK (AP) Change the racial makoup | NBC hoe agred to syitem atioenlly find more minoritto | sago," Mhume sald. "It'e not to way that the others have |
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with exactly with exactly what you're selling: "Dining room set, maple
six chairs." Then remember these hints six chairs." Then, remember these hints: of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no percent - Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, colo mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and ${ }^{\text {condition. }}$ - Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate an 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
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times to reach you.


# Classifieds <br> <br> Bradley, Gore joust in debate 

 <br> <br> Bradley, Gore joust in debate}

- Former senator charges vice president is stuck 'in a Washington bunker,' while being forced to defend his health care plan.

> DURHAM N.H. (AP) - In feisty first debate of the
new year, Democratic presi-
dential candidate Bill Bradley said Al Gore is stuck "in
Washington bunker," and the Washington bunker," and the vice president accused his ri-
val of leaving New Hampval of leaving New Hamp. on health care.
> Bradley was more aggres ive than usual Wednesda night, forcing Gore to defend related to President Clinton Gore, armed with notecards and notepads, initially appeared the task of challenging Bradley's health care plan. Holding up a chart, Gore aid New Hampshire resident e left "eng and dry" would Bradley's proposal for near
universal health care cover Bre.
> Bradley, the former New nuch of his sabbatical from Washington, after leaving the Senate in 1997, said: "I'v been out talking to people in And quite frankly, they think lot of people in Washington stay too long and fight too
much." much." Gore is the national front
runner by far, but Bradley

has mounted a surprisingly cratic presidential nome Demo cratic presidential nomination
and is even or ahead in poll ing in advance of the first primary set for Feb. 1 in New Hampshire. That prompte Gore to allu
dog" status.
"Your underdog pitch brings
tears to my eyes," Bradley said wryly,
Said Gore
Said Gore: "I hope my upet victory brings tears on Feb. 1.
eyes The 60 -minute debate was their fourth of the campaign. Tonight, the six Republican
presidential candidates square off in the same University of New Hampshire theater. The two candidates agreed on the need for stricter gun
control laws and on letting gays serve in the military. But gays serve in the mintary. but would not appoint anyone to
the Joint Chiefs of Staff wh the Joint Chiefs of Staff who
disagreed with his position on disagreed with his position on
homosexuals in the armed forces.
Bradley suggested he would not need to resort to any such litmus test: "When you're president, you are commanderAnd soldiers are good soldiers. And they follow your orders ... whatever the policy is."
The rivals came prepared

## DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES - Here's how to work it:
AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used
or the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters or the three Ls. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters
postrophes, the e length and formation of the words are al hints: Each day the code letters are differen. CRYPTOQUOTE
FPLFCLXSEXRPL RO NZ
NPXXP - QRSOX GPLCOXZ. XGCL RLIHOXSZ, XGCL FPLFCLXSEXRPL. - ELISCU festctrc STOPS ABUSING ME. I'LL KNOW IM IN THE STOPS ABUSING ME, TLL KNOW
WRONG PEW. - HARRY TRUMAN

Schlabs $\square \substack{\text { SERVNG } \\ \text { HEREORD } \\ \text { SNO }}$ Hysinger
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Democratic presidential candidates Bill Bradiey (left) and AI
Gore staged a feisty first debate of the new year.
 issues - including development National Forest in Mountain New Hampshire - as well as national concerns.
Health care drew the sharpest distinction, with Bradley saying he was offended by Gore's claims that his proposal
would hurt minorities. Bradley wants to scrap Medicaid and give people vouchers to buy insurance. He also would open the federal employees health
care benefit system to all Americans.
"I think you're in a Wash-
ington bunker. And I ington bunker. And I can understand why you're in a bunraising scandals. There was the impeachment problem," Bradley said.

He suggested that the bunker had blinded Gore to the
need to expand access to health care. .We should have the leadership to get behind it and make it happen," Bradley
said. Russia, saying relations with Gore administration Clintonpushed hard enough to reduce the stockpile of nuclear weap. ons and had agreed to send aid to Russia oknowing, that Gore issuad a defense, saying, "I think that in spite of ing, " think that in spite of
the problems there have been
some successes." some successes."
Given the chance to ques-
tion one another, Gore asked tion one another, Gore asked
Bradley whether he believed bradiey whether he believed
he had erred by voting for President Reagan's budget cuts in 1981, in opposition to authorizing the ground war against the welfare overhaul signed by Clinton. Bradley de-
fended each vote. fended each vole.
Gore said, "I think all three in Congress, Gore voted
ing against the budget cuts and in favor of using force in Kuwait.
As vice president, he supported As vice president,
the welfare law.

## Voters

## From Page 41

When people were asked which candidate they sup-
ported, but given the ported, but given the option
of saying they hadn't picked one yet, 74 percent said they one yet, 4 percent said they
didn't support anyone. In November, 64 percent said they hadn't made a choice.
Texas Gov. George W. Bush was the choice of 13 percent,
Vice President Al Gore of 6 Vice President Al Gore of 6
percent, Arizona Sen. John percent, Arizona Sen. John
McCain of 3 percent and Sen. McCain of 3 percent and Sen.
John McCain of 2 percent. John McCain of 2 percent. percent or less. "I think that it's something
inherent in the political sys. inherent in the political sys-
tem, said Kalb. "Part of the explanation may be the rise explanation may be the rise
of Bradley and McCain - but of Bradley and Mcain - but
the larger explanation is that there is an unusually large disconnect between the poten-
tial voter and the campaign

- deep down, we don't know."

When people were asked whether they dalked about
the campaign or thought about it in the past day, nine out of The poll of 1,012 people was taken Dec. 28 through
Jan. 2 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points, larger for subgroups.
The poll is part of a broader
project that looks at the cam paigns, media coverage and public interest in the process. of a concern that fewer Amern cans are voting fewer Americans are voting at a time we
should be more proud of the system in which we live than just about any ot her time,"
Kalb said. "This is the Kalb said. "This is the surviv.
ing superpower, the country is ing superpower, the country is
at peace tial voter and the campaign

- deep down, we don't know." aren't people cheer
ing these developments?"

Tho Assoclated Press
Some results from a poll on voter interest taken for the
Vanishing Voter Project of the Shorenstein Center. The total can exceed 100 percent because of rounding
Which presidential candidate do you support at this time, or - Don't currently support a candid

George W. Bush, 13 percent.
Al Gore, 6 percent.
John McCain, 3 percent.
Bill Bradley, 2 percent
Bill Bradiey, 2 percent.
Steve Forbes, 1 percent.
Alan Keyes, 1 percent.
Support a candidate, but can't remember name, 1 percent.
Thinking about the past day only - during the past day have Thinking about the past day only - during the past day have
you been doing any thinking about the presidential campaign, or is
this something that you haven't been thinking about? you been doing any you haven't been thinking about?
this something that

- Yes, have been thinking about campaign, 11 percen
- Yes, have been thinking about campaign, 11 percent.
- No, haven't been thinking about campaign, 89 percent. No, haven't been thinking about campaign, 89 percent.
The poil of 1,012 people was taken from Dec. 28 Jan. 2 and has
an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) - tem of laws is based on the 10 With its message on yard
signs, book covers and the walls of courthouses and public classrooms, a Ten Com-
mandments
movement is pushing
nation

## ation.

ion earliti-abortion legislaon earlier, the right to disbecome a highopriority issue or Christian priority issue rank Flinn, an adjunct pro essor of religious studies at
Washington University in St. Louis.
Propon
Proponents argue that the
framework for



From Page A
want to make him feel bad." to apply for asylum.
On NBC's "Today" show this
"I always though On NBC " "Today" show this always thought this was
morning, she said the a place of morning, she said the boy a place of liberty, and they are
hasn't been told of the deci- not letting him keep that lib sion because it may not prove erty" Ms Gonzaloz said. ""ti"
final. Referring to his survival always about the fat final. Referring to his survival always about the father. What
two days at sea, she said, about the mother? That was two days at sea, she said, about the mother?
"There's been a miracle. I his mother's will."
still have hope there will' be David Abraham another one." there will be "It's very hard for us to tell him said.
Immigration and Natural-
ization Service Commissioner ization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner announced the
government's decision Wednesgovernment saying the boy and his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, had a "close and continuous relationship" even though the boy's parents were divorced.
Meissner said the elder Gonzalez "made it very clear
that he wants Elian returned that he wants Elian returned
to him as soon as possible." to him as soon as possible."
She said the child must be She said the child must
back in Cuba by Jan. 14. The decision was denounced
by lawyers for the boy's U.S. by lawyers for the boyseno
relatives, who asked Reno to reverse the decision and planned to ask a federal
for a restraining order. At her weekly news conference today, Reno virtually closed the door on any chance
she would reverse the INS decision. "Based on all the decision. "Based on all the
information we have to date, information we have to date,
I see no basis for reversing," Reno said.
She said she had not fully studied the letter from the family asking her to reverse
the ruling. She could not abthe ruling. She could not ab-
solutely rule out some change solutely rule out some change
"if any information we are not privy to" comes to light.
But she added, "Mrs. Meissner But she added, "Mrs. Meissner
did consult with me and fully agree with her decision."
The U.S. relatives contend the INS is violating its own
rules by not allowing the boy

David Abraham, an immigration law professor at the University of Miami, said the
family won't have much of a case. "There is no legal basis" to said. "If this return, Abraham said. "If this child came from
anywhere else, he would have been home within 48 hours." giving boy was found Thanks. ner tube clinging to an in mother, stepfather and nine others died while trying to reach Florida. He has since who say they could in Miami, etter life, The issue has led to huge
protests in Cuba, where Castro and others have demanded the oy's return. On Wednesday he Cuban government warned about the decision.
President Clinton said he
had honored a pledge to had honored a pledge to keep poiidics the INS decided "after an xhaustive review of the facts. exhaustive review of the facts,
Meissner said reuniting families "has long been a corner stone of both American immiThe boy, "who has bee through so much, belongs with his father," she said.
In protest
In protest, some drivers Miami's airport Wednesday waving Cuban flags, while hun dreds demonstrated outside the INS building as well as the home of the boy's Miami rela
tives. Some chanted: "If Elian tives. Some chanted: "If Elia
goes back, Miami will burn."

## Ten Commandments movement grows

Ten Commen by seeingTen Commandments, "but Ine In the court of public opin-
ion, Christian groups cannot willing to risk the try."
The Amerime im, Christian groups cannot
go wrong by promoting the ties Union disagrees.
In Kenticker
Livil In Kentucky, the ACLU filed suit Nov. 18 against McCreary and Pulaski counties and the he commandmes schools after icly displayed. The ACLU cites 1980 U.S. Supreme Court culing that the posting of the
commandments in schools amourted to an unconstitutional government promotion
of religion, which is forbidden by the First Amendment. Th uits are pending.
go wrong by promoting the en Commandments, says
Flinn, a First Amendment expert. "The opposition is immediately put in a weak position. Commandments don't belong in a courtroom or in a classroom, then automatically I look like I'm for murd Roy Moore, an Alabama cir cuit judge who refused to take down the commandments
posted in his courtroom in posted in his courtroom in 1995, has spoken at Christia
rallies across the country.

## Real Y2K bug hits;

 flu filling hospitals News digest
## PHILADELPHIA - They

 PHILADELPHIA - They sounds of winter: the sniming nose, the dry, throaty voiceand the grimace that follows and the grimace that follows Better get used to them, health officials say. The flu,
which struck the West hard which struck the West hard
last month, has arrived like a last month, has arrived like a storm-aiong the East coast,
flling hospital waiting roms
and doctors offces with ailing and doctors' offces with ailing patients. "It's bad all over the counMcNamara, chief of emergency Medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. The flu shot apparently is not doing its job, and from all
epports, it could be one of the worst seasons we've seen in years."
Patients at emergency out as much in the last couple of weeks. At McNamara's hos. pital, patients line the halls on gurneys, waiting for rooms.
Others huddle around rows of chairs waiting to be seen by a doctor. Other hospitals across the country are scrambling to are even turning people away due to overcrowding.
"If the trend continues the "If the trend continues the
way it is now, within the next month we are going to have a
great challenge to find beds to admit anybody in the state of Maryland," said Dr. Rick Alcorta, head of the Emer-
gency Medical Resource Cener, which tracks the status of hospitals in the Baltimore Alawite villagers awalt reunion with Syria GHAJAR, Golan HeightsStranded behind enemy lines
during the 1967 Mideast War, the residents of this Alawite village chose to accept Israeli citizenship rather than leave their homes on the banks of he three main tributaries to But the precious water in those tributaries could prevent their village from going
back to Syria as part of a peace deal with Israel, being
negotiated this week in

Shepardatown, W.Va.
Iorael will demand that any Golan territory it hands back to Syria exclude the area around the Hatsbani, Dan and
Banias rivers. The water runa Banias rivers. The water runs
into the Sea of Galilee, Iuraels main source of drinking wa${ }_{\text {ter }}{ }_{\text {As }}$ As Alawite Arabs - memwhich Syrian President Hafoz Assad belongs - many in Ghajar anticipate that the aides will work out an ar-
rangement that will either re. store their village to Syrian sovereignty or allow them to
join their families in Syria. join their families in Syria.
GOP alms at L-bor'B retracted propoeal
Cana in Congress - Republicans in Congress are vowing o investigate a Labor Depart-
ment decision to first lasue and then withdraw, a letter telling a Texas company it must extend workplaces safoty
protections to at-home work. protections to at-home work-
ers.
Labor Secretary Alexis drew the advisory letter amid critielsm from corpor
America and Capitol Hifl Herman sald the advisory
on at-home workers was an
on at-home workers was an
informal response to questions from a single company and
was not intended as a state. ment of policy
But Sen. Christopher Bond,
R-Mo., Insisted that "we caught R-Mo., insisted that "we caught cookle jar."
is not dead" be sure this idea man of the Small Business Orthodox patriarch

## honore Borle Yelteln

 JERUSALEM - On the sec ond day of his Holy Land pilgrimage, former Ruasian Presi grimage, former Russian Presi awarded one of the highesi hararded one of the highest
honors of the Orthodox church but couldn't escape problems Yeltsin, who stepped down last week, said he expected Russian troops to defeat Chechen rebels within two
months predicted that the Communists would not make a comeback in Russia's gen eral election in March,
Yeltsin spoke during a cer Yeltsin spoke during a cer
emony at the Greek Orthodor emony at the Greek Orthodox
Patriarchate in Jerusalem' walled Old City, where he and six Eastern European leader
were named "Knights of the were named "Knights of the
Holy Sepulcher."

## Clinton sees 'simple bill' as saving Social Security


phigipent
CLINTON
"H we juat dild that, a simple bill we could take Social Security
out beyond the life of the baby out beyond the life of the baby
boom generation. It here is a willingness to do It , 1 am certainly more than willing to do my part and to meet them haliway on it.

## Prices drop again on the Asian markets

NEW YORK (AP) - Stock Nasdaq composite Index, which Investors gravitated toward way prices plunged more than Prices were mixed today as suffered its biggest-ever point companies that do well during two years ago as the financial after a volatile start to the cerns about riaing U.8. Inter. In afternoon trading in Eunew year. Prices dropped est rates, was off 70.52 at rope, key market gauges were sharply in eariler trading in Asia, and were off more modastly in Europe.
The Dow Jones industria The Dow Jones industrial computer maker Gateway the average was up 76.63 at its quarterly earnings will fall in, 109.28 in late morning trad- short of Wall Streets expecta-
ing in New York, while the tions. Blue chip stocks rose as plan to fix crumbling achools polls say Democrats hold an advantage, even though Republicans have tried to im prove their image by, among spending for sehools pending for schoois.
Otherwise, Clinton's agenda consists mostly of efforts he pursued unsuccessfully last year, such as hate crime legislation, gun restrictions, a
minimum wage minimum wage increase, a patient's bil of rights and
boosting Social Security and Medicare. way prices plunged more than
two years ago an the financial down 1.55 percent in London, In Hong Kong, the Hang 0.69 percent in Paris and 0.34 Seng Index slid sharply from $\begin{array}{lll}0.69 \\ \text { percent in Paris and } 0.34 & \text { the outset, at one point com- } \\ \text { perg Germany. } & \text { Ing close to matching }\end{array}$ percent in Germany,
U.S. and European trading Wednesday's ominous matching 7.2 perwas calm compared with Asfa, Cent dive that was its worst where big declines have cone-day drop since October
brought back memories of the 1997 . ing in New York, while the tions. Blue chip stocks rose as brought back memories of the

WASHINGTON (AP) - The badly slanting the gun control debate they have become the "communications division of the anti-gun lobbyy" says the head of a conservative media
watchdog group that studied the issue.
The Media Research Cen.
ter, chaired by Brent Bozeli er, chaired by Brent Bozell eleased a study Wednesday
on two years of television on two years of television
news storles on gun control.
and The study analyzed the
morning shows and evening morning shows and evening
newscaits between July 1, newseants between July 1 and
1997 and June 30 , 1999 on ABC, CBS, CNN and NBC. In many cases, the study claimed, pro-gun themes were
not covered and gun proponents were not given air time. "There's a powerful perva. sive bias in the media, said
Oliver North, the former Iran Oliver North, the former Iran-
Contra figure who now hosts a political talk show on MSNBC and is a national board member of the National Rifle
Association. "This bilts of bias association. "This blitz of bia
having an extraordinary im pact on public policy and legal
that would devote interest sav-


#### Abstract

Ings from the national debt and the Social Security surplus to its truast fund.            The agenda is focused on a Medicar. program, which faces baby vency by 2034 as baby boomers retire, can be ox


## Conservatives claim TV has anti-gun blas

 CNN spokesman David aying, "We do not advocate por or against any particular and we stand behind position and we stand behindthe balance and fairness that oes into all our reporting," Calls made to the three other networks were
mediately returned. mediately returned
The issue of creasingly been in the newn as the nation has grappled with school shootings in places ike Littloton, Colo., Paducah,
Ky. and Pearl, Misa ky. and Pearl, Miss.
Bozell's group says ned 653 morning and evening news stories on gun policy saues and found that stories advocating more gun control sun control 357 to 36 or a ratio of 10 to 1 . The group saidd 260 stories were neutral,
Naomi Palas, spokeswonat Naomi Palas, spokeswoman
for Handgun Control said the or Handgun Control, said the
complaints were unfounded This is clearly unfounded
the comedy press conference with which to start off the new year."



